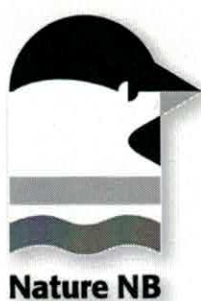


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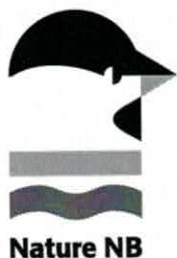


# Naturaliste du **NB** Naturalist



Cory's Shearwater • Biodiversity in Canada • Twinflower/ Linnée Boréale  
Tree Bark: Tough Body Armour with a Sensitive Side





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

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

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

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

Nature NB (NBNB/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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**Chignecto Naturalists' Club, c/o CWS, Andrew Mac-**  
farlane, Box 6227, Sackville, E4L 1G6, 364-5047;  
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**Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne,**  
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mercredi, sept. à juin; Le Gobe-mouche, mensuel.

**Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook, a/s**  
Valmond Bourque, 12 rue Desbarres, Memramcook,  
E4K 1E7, 758-1095, www.natureacadie.ca; réunions  
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**Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée,**  
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Lavoie); www.umce.ca/com1; réunions à 19h00,  
2ième mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska;  
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532-4583, ami.e.snature@gmail.com; http://picasa-  
web.google.com/Ami.e.snature; réunions alternant  
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Sept-May; newsletter.

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

**Miramichi Naturalist Club, President: Leonel Richard,**  
773-3774; lrichard@nbnet.nb.ca; www.miramichi-  
naturalistsclub.ca; meets 6:30 pm, 2nd Mon. in the  
Friendly Neighbor Senior Citizen Centre, Sutton Rd.

**Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield**  
Square P.O., Moncton, E1C 9N4, 384-6397; www.  
monctonnaturalistsclub.org; meets Church of  
the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 3rd Tues.,  
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Richard Fournier, Faculty of Forestry, Université de  
Moncton, 165boul Hébert, Edmundston, E3V 2S8,  
737-5050 ext 5258, organizes 5-8 outings/year, AGM  
in September. www.macle.com/botanyclub/home/  
html.

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

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



# In This Issue *Dans ce numéro*

Cover Photo / page de couverture, Red Admiral / le Vulcain,  
Photo: Joel Butler (photo taken June 2, 2010, in Darling's Island)

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## Nature News / Info Nature

Invertebrates / Invertébrés - Denis Doucet, ddodeguy57@gmail.com

Plants / Plantes - Sean Blaney, 364-2658, sblaney@mta.ca

Birds / Oiseaux :

November to January / novembre à janvier - vacant

February to April / février à avril - vacant

May to July / mai à juillet - Janet MacMillan, janetmac@nbnet.nb.ca

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

Members of Nature NB are encouraged to send their  
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SVP, si vous êtes membres de Nature NB faites  
parvenir vos observations nature aux compilateurs  
qui rédigent des rapports réguliers dans le Naturaliste  
du NB.

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

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

## EDITORIAL TEAM FOR VOL. 37 NO. 3

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## President's Message

Gart Bishop

For information on William Ganong, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Francis\\_Ganong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Francis_Ganong)

# Sounds of Nature

In the first week in July I found myself paddling in the early morning on the still waters of a small lake near Algonquin Park in Ontario. A strange ruckus started up that initially sounded a bit like an exuberant party of young people ... but at 6 am I knew that really wasn't a possibility. After careful listening and consultation with locals afterward, I learned I'd been privileged to hear a pack of wolves howling. While similar to our coyotes, there was something different about it that strongly suggested something new.

However, I can be easily fooled by sounds. Not long ago I was sitting in the woods having my lunch while being charmed by red-breasted nuthatches and common yellowthroat warblers, when I distinguished a wheezy bird which I thought was something new. After 'pishing' three or four times, the mystery bird emerged on a cedar branch in plain sight; it was none other than a black-capped chickadee and he gave the wheezy call followed by the characteristic 'chick-a-dee' call as if to make sure I had got an answer to my query. In May I was again puzzled by a bird that I ought to have known, but was fortunate enough to have the call identified by Jim Wilson as a Ruby Crowned Kinglet.

Sounds can be surprising. In the field not long ago, I was intently concentrating on a plant identification when startled by the snort of a white-tailed deer, and quickly looked up to be delighted to see him go bounding off across a wetland.

Sounds can also be very comforting. What can be more relaxing or

indicative of hot dry weather than sitting on your porch on a summer's evening listening to the clicking buzz of the cicadas. Similarly, the chirpings of crickets are one of the defining sounds of late summer and fall.

Water makes such a variety of sounds. Yesterday during a torrential downpour, I listened to the rain smashing down onto the pavement and splashing in puddles on the lawn accompanied by the distant rumblings of thunder. Following the rain, the much more subtle drippings of the water made its way downward from leaf to leaf. Last week at the base of a rocky slope while standing on moss-covered boulders, I could hear the distinct and pleasant gurgle of underground brooklets making music. In contrast, what can be more impressive than the crashing of waves on a rocky beach?

I wonder how much the sounds of nature have changed since the days when William Ganong (1864-1941) roamed our province. For sure the 'reeping' of nighthawks and 'chitters' of swallows are not as abundant. The mournful cooing of the Mourning Dove wasn't heard in New Brunswick 60 years ago, yet the scolding and chattering of vast flocks of passenger pigeons haven't been heard here for over 120 years.

The sounds of New Brunswick are the sounds of home to me. I don't recognize the maker of each noise I hear, and I may not really be aware of all the hundreds of sounds that play in the background when I'm walking in the woods. Yet, the sounds I heard on a recent trip to Australia unnerved me. I didn't know any of them; they were all

foreign, beautiful in their own unique way but totally unknown. Returning home I have taken great comfort in once again hearing familiar, though perhaps unidentified, sounds of New Brunswick.

This year I'm paying more attention to the natural sounds I hear, and will continue this practice into the future ... at least as long as I can hear them.

## À l'écoute de la nature

Par un beau matin calme du début juillet dernier, j'ai eu la chance de faire du canot sur un petit lac dans les environs du Parc provincial Algonquin en Ontario. Alors que je pagayais, j'entendis soudain un vacarme qui me fit d'abord penser à de jeunes fêtards un peu hors de contrôle. Mais à 6 heures du matin, cela ne semblait pas vraiment possible. Après une écoute attentive et un peu de consultation avec les gens du coin, j'en vins à la conclusion que j'avais eu la chance d'entendre les hurlements d'une meute de loups. Quoique semblable à des vocalisations de coyotes, il y avait une qualité au son qui m'indiquait qu'il s'agissait d'autre chose.

Reste que je peux facilement être induit en erreur par les sons. Il y a quelque temps, j'étais assis en forêt en train de prendre une collation tout en profitant de la présence d'une Sittelle à poitrine rousse et d'une Paruline masquée quand je devins conscient d'un autre chanteur aux notes aigües que je crus d'abord être quelque chose de différent. Après avoir « pisher » à quelques reprises, l'oiseau mystère apparut soudainement sur une branche de Thuya, juste à quelques mètres devant moi. Quel ne fut pas ma surprise de reconnaître notre si commune Mésange à tête noire, qui après avoir reproduit le son aigüé qui m'avait tellement intrigué, enchaîna avec son

si caractéristique « chick-a -dee-dee » comme pour confirmer sa réponse à mes questions. Puis en mai, je me suis posé d'autres questions sur un oiseau dont j'aurais pourtant dû connaître le chant. Heureusement Jim Wilson fut assez gentil de me l'identifier comme étant un Roitelet à couronne rubis.

Les sons peuvent être intrigants. Il y a quelque temps, j'étais sur le terrain, tout à fait concentré sur l'identification d'une plante, lorsque soudainement, je fus surpris par un son guttural à deux pas de moi. En relevant le regard quel ne fut pas ma surprise (et mon plaisir) d'avoir juste le temps d'apercevoir un chevreuil disparaître, en traversant de quelques sauts, une zone humide.

Un son peut aussi être réconfortant. Qu'y a-t-il de plus relaxant que d'être assis sur sa galerie par une belle soirée chaude et sec de l'été en écoutant le chant si caractéristique des cigales? De la même façon, le cri des criquets nous fait certes penser à la fin de l'été et à l'automne.

L'eau peut certainement produire une grande variété de sons. Hier, pendant un orage, je m'amusais à écouter le son que les gouttes faisaient en s'abattant sur l'asphalte ou encore leur clapotis dans les petites mares sur l'herbe, le tout sur fond de tonnerre occasionnel. Et après coup, alors que la pluie avait cessé, on pouvait

### Mot du Président

Gart Bishop



encore entendre le bruit, beaucoup plus subtile, de l'eau dégoutant de feuilles en feuilles.

La semaine passée, alors que je me trouvais à la base d'une pente abrupte, sur des rochers couverts de mousse, je pouvais clairement entendre le son si agréable d'une source coulant doucement sous mes pieds. Par contraste, quoi de plus impressionnant que le fracas des vagues d'une mer déchaînée frappant une plage de cailloux?

Et les sons changent avec le temps. Je me demande jusqu'à quel point les sons naturels ont changé depuis l'époque où William Ganong (1864-1941) arpentait notre province? Il est clair que le cri strident de l'engoulement ou le murmure des hirondelles n'est plus si présent qu'il devait l'être. D'un autre côté, les roucoulements de la Tourterelle triste n'étaient pas présents il y a 60 ans. Et que dire du piaillage assourdissant que devaient émettre les troupeaux de milliers de Tourtes voyageuses qui ont malheureusement disparu de notre environnement sonore depuis plus de 120 ans.

À mes oreilles, les sons du Nouveau-Brunswick sont les sons de « chez nous ». Je ne les reconnais malheureusement pas tous et ne suis probablement même pas conscient de tout les sons qui m'entoure lorsque je marche en forêt.

Mais, je me sens confortable dans cet environnement sonore. Par contraste, lors d'un récent voyage en Australie, les sons m'énervaient. Même s'ils étaient en soit magnifiques, le fait que je n'en reconnaissais aucun m'angoissait. À mon retour, je pris un grand plaisir à réentendre nos magnifiques sons naturels qui, même si je ne peux pas tous les identifier, font quand même partie d'un milieu où je me sens bien. Cette année, je vais prêter encore plus attention ou sons naturels qui m'entourent en tâchant de les étudier de plus près... du moins pour aussi longtemps que je puisse les entendre.

# Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)

## Botany Corner

Gart Bishop  
Sussex

This low creeping member of the Honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae) is always a delight to find in bloom. The pair of pale pink, five-lobed flowers hanging down from the top of a slender, wiry stalk are small (5 mm x 3 mm), but pack a wonderful perfume that is worth the effort of bending down to smell. Should you be so fortunate as to find a large colony forming a woodland carpet, you can smell the flowers as you stroll along. Its flowers last about seven days and are pollinated by small flying insects. They mature into small, dry, one-seed capsules 36 days after flowering, and attach to the furs and feathers of passing-by critters. Although it produces abundant seed, the seeds do not remain viable for much longer than a year.

This common evergreen woodland plant is found throughout New Brunswick in mixed woods and coniferous woods. The pairs of small (< 1cm) roundish leaves have a shallow scalloped margin, which, while distinctive, is easy to overlook. When not in bloom, one might confuse Twinflower with Creeping Snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), which differs by having smooth margined leaves that

alternate along the stem. On plants more than five years old, stolons (stems that lie on the ground) are produced, which allows Twinflower to spread abundantly in the woodland understory.

This perfumed beauty has been a wildflower favourite of many naturalists, including the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, after whom the plant is named. Its range extends throughout North America to Greenland and Eurasia. It is listed in the United Kingdom as a priority species for conservation as its populations have declined in recent years.

Although it is included in almost all wildflower guides, there is very little written about its ecology. Only casual mention is made of its medicinal use as a diuretic (helps promote the formation of urine by the kidney), anti-inflammatory, and antipyretic (something that reduces fever). It is considered incidental grazing food of elk, caribou, and ruffed grouse.



Graphic by M. Satterlee

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Jessica Scott  
Interim Executive Director  
Nature NB

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

## Nature NB Update: Summer 2010

In July, Adam Lanto was hired under the YEIP program as Nature NB's newest Program Coordinator. His first tasks were to finalize the fall issue of the Nature Kids magazine, and also to finalize the bilingual Birding Basics Kit. This kit includes a backyard birding identification guide, an educational poster, a presentation, bird-based list of activities happening around the province, a check list of New Brunswick birds, and an outline of existing programs for active birders.

In addition to providing the kit to educators, Adam and Nature NB staff will organize and lead several workshops throughout the province that will expose youth to birding basics through field trips and games. Information will be provided at these workshops on how to attract birds to the backyard, bird conservation, and what youth can do to help. The workshops will teach participants how to observe and record their sightings. Our young birders and their achievements will be featured in the Nature Kids magazine.

The Summer Youth Nature Camp (SYNC) girls have been having a busy summer preparing and leading the camps. They have completed both overnight camps in St. Andrews. At present, they are getting ready for the day camps at Killarney Lodge in Fredericton and Mapleton Park day camps in Moncton, all happening in August. The first St. Andrews camp welcomed 13 kids and the second had 24 kids. The St. Andrews camps offer the kids a unique experience by the

sea. Located at the Marine Science Center, the kids get taken out on the boat to examine plankton and take it into the lab to see and learn about it under a microscope. Not only do they go digging for worms, they get to go to the aquarium to learn about rare and common New Brunswick marine life. Each day at camp focuses on a different ecological theme. Kids play games and do activities based on climate change, water, animal life cycles, and wilderness survival activities that all have educational components. The main goal of the youth camps is to engage the kids to learn and appreciate New Brunswick's natural environment.

Greg Jongsma, our biodiversity coordinator, has been busy finalizing the volunteer monitoring kit. The kit is currently being reviewed by his advisory committee so he can begin the main Year 2 activity, which is to turn the monitoring kit into an online database for easy monitoring for participants. This will be an interactive online database that will show all environmentally significant areas (ESAs) in the province and what type of species can be found there. The voluntary monitoring kit can be taken out with the participant while searching for species for a quick reference and easy note making. Later, the participant can upload their results to the online monitoring database. The goal is to have all participants submit their findings to the online database so that an inclusive database of species at each ESA in New Brunswick is recorded and available to the public.



# Nature NB mise à jour :

## Été 2010

Jessica Scott  
Directrice par intérim  
Nature NB

En juillet, Adam Lanto a été engagé grâce au programme Éco-stages Jeunesse en tant que nouveau coordinateur de programme de Nature NB. Ses tâches principales consistaient à finaliser l'édition d'automne du Magazine Jeunesse Nature et également de compléter la trousse bilingue à l'introduction de l'observation d'oiseaux. Cette trousse inclut un guide d'identification d'oiseaux d'arrière-cour, une liste d'activités se passant dans la province, une liste d'identification des oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick ainsi que les grandes lignes des programmes existants pour les observateurs d'oiseaux actifs.

En plus de fournir la trousse aux éducateurs, Adam et le personnel de Nature NB prendront l'initiative d'organiser plusieurs ateliers à travers la province qui exposeront les jeunes aux principes de l'observation d'oiseaux par le moyen de sorties éducatives et de jeux. Les ateliers offriront de l'information quant aux moyens d'attirer les oiseaux dans les arrière-cours, ainsi qu'au sujet de la conservation aviaire et ce que les jeunes peuvent faire pour aider. Les ateliers enseigneront aux participants l'observation d'oiseaux et les façons de prendre en note leurs observations. Nos jeunes observateurs et leurs réussites seront mis en vedette dans notre magazine Jeunesse Nature.

Les filles s'occupant des Camps d'Été Jeunesse Nature ont eu un été bien occupé à préparer et à diriger les camps. Elles ont complété deux camps à St. Andrews et se préparent

présentement pour les camps de jours au Killarney Lodge à Fredericton et au Parc Mapleton de Moncton, qui auront tous les deux lieu en août. Le premier camp de St. Andrews a accueilli 13 enfants et le deuxième en a accueilli 24. Ces camps offrent à l'enfant une expérience unique bord de la mer. Lors des camps principalement localisés au centre des sciences océaniques, les enfants sont sortis en bateau afin d'y examiner le plancton et ainsi en ramener au laboratoire afin de l'observer au microscope pour en apprendre davantage. Non seulement ont-ils creusé à la recherche de vers, mais ils ont aussi visité l'aquarium afin d'apprendre au sujet de la vie marine au Nouveau-Brunswick. Chaque jour passé au camp met l'accent sur un thème écologique différent, autour duquel les enfants font des jeux et des activités à composantes éducatives basés sur les changements climatiques, l'eau, les cycles de vies animales et les activités de survie en nature. Le but principal des camps jeunesse est d'engager les jeunes à apprendre et à apprécier l'environnement naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Greg Jogsma, notre coordinateur du programme de la biodiversité, a été occupé à la finalisation de la trousse introductive pour bénévoles de notre projet sur la biodiversité. La trousse est présentement en cours de révision par son comité consultatif afin de lui permettre de commencer les activités principales de la deuxième année du projet qui consiste à transformer la trousse en une base de données facile à



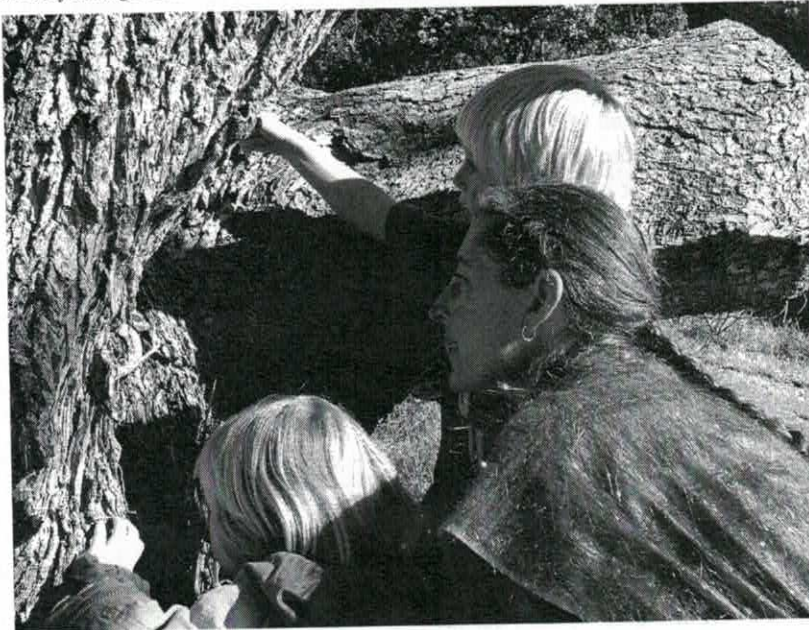
utiliser pour les participants. Il s'agira d'une base de données interactive en ligne qui mettra l'accent sur les aires écologiques significatives (AES) de la province et des espèces qu'il est possible d'y trouver. La trousse pour bénévoles peut être emportée sur le terrain par les participants en tant que référence ou afin de l'utiliser pour prendre des notes.

Plus tard, les participants pourront télécharger leurs résultats sur la base de données en ligne. Le but est que chaque participant soumet leur découverte afin de construire une base de données inclusive et disponible à tous, contenant les espèces retrouvées dans chaque AES du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Janet Barlow  
Halifax

Janet Barlow is the Coordinator of Sharing Nature Canada. An environmental educator and writer living in Halifax, she is also director of Sense of Wonder Environmental Education.

*Sharing Nature Tauranga Workshop  
Photo by Sharing Nature Worldwide*



## Bringing Children Back to Nature

Many of us have treasured memories of exploring the natural world as children and want to share nature's beauty with the children in our lives. But these days, children seem far removed from the outdoors. In *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, author Richard Louv tells of the many barriers we face in bringing children back to the wilds: extended hours of "screen time," lack of physical activity, and a general alienation from nature.

While most parents and educators acknowledge this situation, many are confounded as to how to bring children back to nature. They might think, "I'm not a naturalist. I don't even know the difference between a spruce and a pine tree!" They might lament, "Even if I owned a compass, I wouldn't know how to use it." They feel the urge to help children make a connection with the natural world, but feel powerless to facilitate that connection. Perhaps you feel the same? Luckily, you do not have to be an accomplished naturalist or wilderness survival expert in order to be the conduit for children's discovery (or rediscovery) of nature. All you need is sheer will and some activities to awaken kids' senses, minds and hearts. The following activities by nature educator Joseph Cornell are examples of fun and engaging activities that are easy to do, yet touch children deeply. Parents, teachers, community leaders, and anyone who lives, works or volunteers with children will find that such activities can greatly enhance any outdoor adventure.

### Flow learning

To assist in delivering the activities, Joseph Cornell developed a process



called Flow Learning that is meant to string activities together in a cohesive way. It mirrors how people learn, and gently guides participants, step by step, into deeper and more profound experiences of nature. Flow Learning has four stages:

1. **Awaken Enthusiasm:** represents playfulness and alertness, a stage at which the child is fully physically engaged in the activity.
2. **Focus Attention:** cultivates attentiveness to a subject or experience and leads to receptivity.
3. **Direct Experience:** involves absorption in an activity whereby the child gains an inner sense of the subject on an intuitive level.
4. **Share Inspiration:** builds on the uplifted mood produced by previous activities, introduces inspiring role models, creates group bonding and fosters reflection

These four stages work in concert with participants' changing energy levels, beginning with high-energy activities and gradually moving toward calmer and more focused activities. It is in this calm, focused state that children can most readily make those nature connections we seek to facilitate.

Here are some activities from Cornell's books *Sharing Nature with Children* and *Sharing Nature with Children II*, which are adaptable for different ages (find more detailed descriptions in the books). There are two important points to keep in mind as you embark on these activities with children. First, teach less, and share and experience more. Let nature be the teacher as much as possible. Resist the urge to spout facts and tell everything you know about what you see. Focus first on helping children experience

nature through their senses and feelings. Second, allow a sense of joy to permeate the experience. Through these activities, both adults and children can experience memorable moments of joyful play, heightened awareness of the life around us, empathy for living things and calm reflection. In all activities, hand out the props (if any) after you have explained the activity. This will ensure that the props will not distract the children from hearing your instructions. Have the props ready at hand and give them out quickly so the activity flows well.

### Owls and Crows

This is an excellent game for reviewing newly learned concepts.

- Flow learning stage: Awaken enthusiasm
- Group size: 6 or more
- Ages: 5–13 years
- Props: rope (3 meters long), 2 bandannas of different colors
- Time: 20 minutes

#### Procedure:

1. Divide the group into two equal teams, the Owls and the Crows.

Have the teams form lines facing each other, about 1.5 meters (four feet) apart, and place the rope between them. About 5 meters (15 feet) behind each team, place a bandanna, which designates the Home Base.

2. Make a statement aloud (see below for examples). If the statement is true, the

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Owls and Crows  
Photo by Sharing Nature Worldwide

The activities "Owls and Crows," "Unnature Trail," "Meet a Tree" and "Recipe for a Forest" were drawn from Joseph Cornell's book *Sharing Nature with Children*. "Sound Map" is from *Sharing Nature with Children II*. For more information, visit [www.sharingnature.com](http://www.sharingnature.com).

Owls chase the Crows, trying to catch them before they reach their Home Base. If the statement is false, the Crows chase the Owls. Anyone caught must join the other team. Before beginning, practice by giving a few easy statements and asking the players to point in the direction they would run.

If the answer is not obvious to the players (or if they forget which way to run), some of the Owls and Crows will run toward each other while others run back to their Home Bases. During the pandemonium, remain silent and neutral. When the action has calmed down, reveal the correct answer.

**Statements:** Statements should be as precise and accurate as possible for the age and experience of the players. For example, if you say, "The sun rises in the east," would that be true? For younger children it might be. But older students probably know that it is the Earth's rotation that makes it appear that the sun is rising. Here are some sample statements:

- **Sensory:** The wind is coming from behind the Crows.
- **Conceptual:** A deciduous tree keeps its leaves all year long.
- **Observational** (after showing them a leaf): The leaf had five points and five veins.
- **Identification:** This seed comes from an oak tree.

Other statements you might want to use are: Warm air rises; 'Habitat' means where a plant or animal lives; Birds have teeth; Ducks, turtles and squirrels are warm-blooded. Ask between 5 and 10 questions, depending on the age of the children. End the activity by counting how many Owls and Crows are on each

side of the rope, or end when all the players have joined one side.

### Unnature Trail

This game challenges children to look closely at their surroundings.

- **Flow learning stage:** Focus attention
- **Group size:** 1 to 30
- **Ages:** 5–13 years
- **Props:** Human-made objects
- **Time:** 15 minutes

#### Procedure:

1. Look for a trail going through an area with trees of various sizes, leaf litter, rotting logs and other plants. Mark the beginning and end of a 20- to 30-meter (65- to 100-foot) section of the trail (make sure it is wide enough for two people to pass). Ahead of time, secretly place 16 to 20 human-made objects along one side of the trail. Some of these should stand out (e.g., brightly colored balloons or fluorescent pink cockroaches). Others should blend with surroundings (e.g., rubber bands or clothespins). Keep the number of objects you have planted a secret.
2. Have the children walk the trail one at a time, trying to spot as many objects as they can. They are to remain quiet and not pick up the objects or point them out to others. Have them whisper in your ear how many objects they saw. Tell each child the total number of objects, and have each walk the trail again, trying to find more. Total "looking" time can range from 5 to 10 minutes, depending on the age and attention span.
3. After two rounds, go to one end of the trail and have the students tell you where the objects are, picking them all



up as you go. Discuss how camouflage and coloration helps animals hide in the woods. Then go on a search for small camouflaged animals (insects, spiders, etc.).

### Sound Map

In this activity, children listen to and record the sounds of nature around them. Flow learning stage: Focus attention

- Group size: 1 or more
- Ages: 5 years and up
- Props: index card and pencil for each person
- Time: 15 minutes

#### Procedure:

1. Select a site where your group is likely to hear a variety of nature sounds, such as a meadow, forest or marsh. Have each child find a special listening spot and settle down with a pencil and index card. 2. Have the children mark an X in the center of their cards. Explain that this marks the spot where they are sitting. When they hear a sound, they should make a mark on the card to symbolize the sound (e.g., wavy lines for wind, a musical note for a bird). The placement of the mark should indicate roughly the direction and distance of the sound.

3. Have everyone listen for 5 to 10 minutes. Afterwards, have everyone gather to share their sound maps. Meet a TreeStudents try to recognize a tree through senses other than sight.

- Flow learning stage: Direct experience
- Group size: 2 or more
- Ages: 4 years and up
- Props: blindfolds for each pair

#### Procedure:

1. Have the children pair off. One partner is blindfolded and then led by the other through the forest to a nearby tree. Tell

the children to stay within sight of you and not to go further than 10 giant steps away (for younger children) or 20 giant steps away (for older children).

2. The "blind" partners then explore the tree to feel its uniqueness. Guide them in this by telling them to touch the tree and rub their cheeks against its bark. Ask, Is this tree alive? Can you put your arms around it? Can you feel roots and branches? Is the tree older than you are? Can you find plants growing on it? animal signs? lichen?

3. When the "blind" partners are finished exploring (after about two or three minutes), have the seeing partners lead them back to where they began by an indirect route. Then have the "blind" partners remove their blindfolds and try to find their trees with their eyes open. Suddenly, what was once a forest becomes a collection of very individual trees. Partners change places so that both have a chance to meet a tree.

Safety precautions: Instruct children to be very careful when leading partners who are blindfolded or have their eyes closed. The sighted leaders should take their partner's hand or arm and gently pull in the direction they want to go. They should walk slowly as they lead



Unnature Trail - Brazil  
Photo by Sharing Nature Worldwide

their partners around, telling them when to duck under a branch and when to step over a log or root. Before playing, make sure the children are mature and calm enough to lead each other responsibly.

### Recipe for a Forest

This activity encourages appreciation of the diversity of a forest.

Flow learning stage: Share inspiration

- Group size: 2 or more
- Ages: 7 years and up
- Props: pencils and index cards

Procedure:

1. Give each child an imaginary ownership deed to one square mile or kilometre of land. Tell them that on this virgin plot, they are free to create their own dream forest, complete with as many trees, animals, mountains and rivers as they desire. Encourage them to let their imaginations run wild. To

encourage creativity, you can give some suggestions: e.g., "To make your forest beautiful and radiant, you might want to add waterfalls and windstorms, or perpetual rainbows...."

2. Have them list the components of their forest and then draw a picture of it. End by discussing with them whether their forests are able to maintain themselves year after year. For instance, see if they have included representatives of different trophic levels in the food cycle — plant-eaters, plants, and decomposers (e.g., ants, mushrooms, bacteria) — as well as subtle factors such as soil and climate.

### About Sharing Nature

For over 30 years, Sharing Nature Worldwide, founded by Joseph Cornell, has helped children all over the world feel close to nature. Cornell's award-winning *Sharing Nature* books have been translated into 20 languages and have made him one of the most highly regarded nature educators in the world today. The condensed activity descriptions in this article can be found fully described — along with many more activities — in *Sharing Nature with Children* and *Sharing Nature with Children II* by Joseph Cornell. For detailed information about Sharing Nature programs in the United States and Canada, contact Greg Traymar, Sharing Nature USA, [info@sharingnature.com](mailto:info@sharingnature.com), 530-478-7650, or Janet Barlow, Sharing Nature Canada, [wonder@senseofwonder.ca](mailto:wonder@senseofwonder.ca), 902-494-7644.



# Tree Bark:

## Tough Body Armour with a Sensitive Side

Warren Coleman  
Keswick Ridge

When someone mentions the word “bark”, we often think of different things: the woof of your neighbor’s dog, bark candy made by your grandmother, the exterior sheathing or bark on the maple tree growing in the front yard, or even polyurethane-based artificial bark for that ‘authentic look’. In this article, we’ll look at the tree’s outer bark, the first line of defense from such problems as disease, water loss, or insect damage. Fortunately for us, tree bark is also home to remarkable, environmentally sensitive plants.

### What Is Tree Bark?

The outer protective layer of a tree is the evolutionary result of coping with real and present dangers. Produced by a thin ring of dividing cells, the resulting outer bark cells are tailored for life’s adversities - particularly when they become tough, dead tissues. These tissues have a waterproof, thick-walled cellular construction that includes ‘chemical garbage’ from the tree’s waste materials. The result is a natural armour.

### One Person’s Trash is Another’s Treasure

Mother Nature is complex, subtle, and sophisticated as demonstrated by her production of bark. While microbes or insects may find most bark tissues unpalatable or even poisonous, humans have found a variety of uses. For example, we have developed spices (for example, cinnamon, *Cinnamomum* spp.), medicines (for example, willow, *Salix* spp.) and poisons (the strychnine tree, *Strychnos nux-vomica* L.) from the outer bark of a number of plant species.

A distinctive group of plants, however,

has evolved a flourishing lifestyle in this unique niche.

### The Homey Touch

Epiphytes, or ‘plants that grow on other plants’, occur globally and are a highly successful

adaptation to the evolution of trees. In New Brunswick, we are fortunate to see a variety of lichens and bryophytes such as mosses, hornworts, and liverworts (Figure 1). Clinging to the outer bark, these epiphytes

derive moisture and nutrients from rainwater and the air. Epiphytes also have a remarkable ability to withstand winds, extreme temperature, and desiccation. Since they readily absorb material from their surroundings, they also serve as excellent ‘bioindicators’ of our environmental health.

### Not Out of the Woods

Although epiphytes are tough organisms growing on the bark of our native trees, they are threatened by human activity. Dangers faced by these organisms are primarily loss of habitat due to habitat fragmentation as well as habitat loss due to excessive logging and global warming. For example, global warming has been linked to a doubling of tree deaths in old growth forests across the western U.S. Human activity has also led to more insidious effects on epiphytes



Figure 1 - Lichens, moss and an epiphytic liverwort (*Frullania* sp) growing on the bark of a red maple (*Acer rubrum* L.) in the Fredericton area.  
Photo by W. Coleman

such as poisoning by lead or mercury fumes carried in the air. For example, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment estimated that over two and a half tonnes of mercury were released across Canada from coal-fired electric power generation plants in only one year (2003).

These deleterious impacts will result in an increased loss of biodiversity -

particularly in such species as epiphytes. Unfortunately, we know very little about these unique organisms in Canada. As noted in a recent review of biodiversity information in Canada (Hyde et al. 2010), we need to do better. Increasing our knowledge and understanding of these inhabitants of tree bark will be essential for their future - and ours.

#### References

Hyde, D., Hermann, H. and Lautenschlager, R.A. 2010. *The State of Biodiversity Information in Canada*. NatureServe Canada. 54 pp. (ISBN 978-0-9813011-1-2).

For biodiversity information in Atlantic Canada, see <http://www.accdc.com>

For an introduction to the properties of bark, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bark>

For a description of epiphytes, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epiphyte>

For a description of bryophytes, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryophyte>

As an example of air-borne pollution, the state of lead pollution in 2003 at the Belledune power generating station can be found at:

<http://www.elements.nb.ca/theme/hazwaste/inka/milewski.htm>

Joanne Savage  
Quispamsis



Bicknell's Thrush  
Photo by P. Mansz

## A Search for the Rare and Elusive Bicknell's Thrush

On June 5 2010, fifteen members of the Saint John Naturalists Club ventured forth on a quest to view the species *Catharus bicknelli* commonly called Bicknell's Thrush (nicknamed "ghost" or "phantom" bird - with good reason).

Bicknell's Thrush is named for Eugene P Bicknell who, in 1881, heard a birdsong high in the Catskills that he didn't recognize. Eventually he noted a species similar to the Gray-cheeked Thrush but smaller. Bicknell's was considered a subspecies of Gray-cheeked and remained so until recognized as a separate species in 1995.

Bicknell's Thrush is the rarest songbird species that breeds in eastern North America. It is more often heard at dawn and dusk than seen and is a species of high concern. Breeding areas are in cool, damp, high country of stunted or regenerating Spruce/Fir. With it's more extensive range, Swainson's Thrush is an adversary for breeding territory.

Wintering grounds are mainly in the Greater Antilles. The migration route is a narrow band along the Eastern seaboard of North America. Breeding areas along this route have been identified as including mountainous regions of Vermont, New York, Ontario,



Quebec, Nova Scotia as well as in three spots in New Brunswick. One of the latter is in the Christmas Mountains and this was our destination.

We travelled to Riley Brook. Our accommodation was a rustic but comfortable lodge on the Tobique River (Bear's Lair). It was here we met our guides: Hubert (a Master's candidate who has devoted four years in study of B Thrush ; this being his last) and two other university students (Patrick and Julie) who assist him this year.

We soon gained much admiration for the threesome. They have abandoned normal lives for 2 1/2 months of the best season of the year to dedicate to this project. This year they are living on top of a mountain in three plastic garages with a small ceramic heater each. They have a generator that maintains a small freezer as well as recharging equipment. Water and gas are "imported" in large jugs. Related to storage, cooking facilities and infrequent shopping trips, food is mostly of the canned variety. They do have camp style showers, which related to weather condition offer mostly cold or barely warm water. The study involves locating the species, identifying nesting sites, monitoring same, banding individual birds, taking blood samples and can include application of small transmitters. Imagine the information they will amass! At approx 4 PM on June 5th, we headed for the mountains. That journey involved a drive of 1 - 1 1/2 hours that was an adventure on it's own. To say we were on secondary roads as opposed to the TCH would be a gross understatement! These roads were dirt, steep, rock and rut covered with a few wet, slippery areas thrown in for good measure. This made for a bone jarring ride; no complaints though as we

traversed a majestic area! Heads turned often as we enjoyed "birds eye" views of raptors perched on snags at eye level or below us soaring across valleys. Deer and mostly Moose were often observed, again often from the "up close and personal" perspective. Weather had been predicted to be cool, foggy and wet. This prediction was right on the money! Our enthusiasm was not dampened.

On the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup>, we returned to the lodge near dusk without a clear view of our objective. We had heard the songs and had seen swiftly flying creatures suspected to be Bicknell' Thrush but had no absolute sighting. We knew there remained "tomorrow".

June 6<sup>th</sup> 2010. Up with the birds [we hoped]. Just past the lodge we were escorted by a young bull Moose which trotted down the middle of the road before veering off on it's own adventure. Same bone-jarring ride. Again teased by songs and glimpses of the "ghost bird". At the last possible spot at which to view a Bicknell's Thrush magic happened!!!

A Bicknell's Thrush popped up from dense undergrowth to the top of a sparse tree and sang! Thus it remained for the next 7-8 min allowing every person in attendance a decent view!

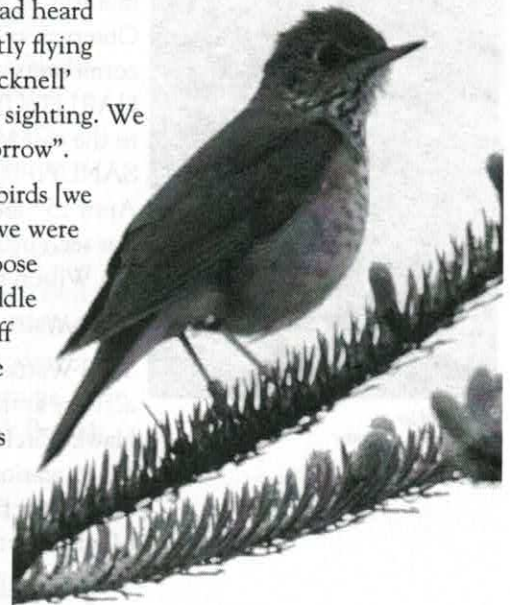
Sunshine (absent) could not have lit the faces of fifteen persons from SJNC nor those of our guides nearly as brightly as did our smiles (no matter that we were now experiencing another shower... WE HAD SEEN A BICKNELL'S THRUSH!!!!).

For additional information on the Bicknell's Thrush, see the following Web sites:

[www.Bicknellsthrush.org](http://www.Bicknellsthrush.org)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicknell's\\_Thrush](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicknell's_Thrush)

[www.hwww.ca](http://www.hwww.ca)



Bicknell's Thrush  
Photo by P. Mansz



Bicknell's Thrush  
Photo by P. Mansz



Janet MacMillan  
Moncton

## Nature News: Birds

May 1 - July 31, 2010



Pine Warbler  
Photo by M. Cormier

As spring arrived here in New Brunswick, many birders started to hear and see the migration of sea ducks overhead in the sky, along the coast and on some inland waterways.

Richard Blacquiere and volunteers began monitoring activity at the Port Lepreau Observatory for the movement of scoters, cormorants and loons. On April 14, five HARLEQUIN DUCKS were in the cove to the east. A small flock of PURPLE SANDPIPERS also were observed. On April 15<sup>th</sup> an IPSWICH SPARROW was seen by Richard Blacquiere and Jim Wilson to the east of the point.

### Hawk Watch

Todd Watts began sending reports of activity at the Greenlaw Mountain Hawk watch. He kept us updated on the migration of the Raptors and other birds that pass over the Greenlaw Mountain area. You can see all the data for these days by going to [hawkcount.org](http://hawkcount.org)

### Owl Survey

The owl surveys also took place in April. Participants reported hearing and seeing BARRED, NORTHERN SAW-WHET and GREAT HORNED OWLS. On June 9<sup>th</sup> Alan Madden and his wife Annette saw a group of gulls harassing something near the end of the Maisonneuve Dune near Caraquet. Alan was surprised to discover a SNOWY OWL crouched in the grass. Alan was able to get some photos. The owl spotted him and flew out over the water with the gulls in pursuit. This pursuit lasted about 5 minutes. The owl finally landed on

the shore about 1.5 km up the beach.

### Warblers, Kinglets and Vireos

The warblers started to make an appearance in mid April. Don Gibson reported a singing PINE WARBLER in Fredericton on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Roger Burrows and Brian Dalzell reported that a wave of YELLOW-RUMPED and PALM WARBLERS arrived on Grand Manan on April 16. On April 19<sup>th</sup> Hank Scarth reported that at his Long Reach cottage on the Kingston Peninsula there was a significant movement of at least 14 RUBY CROWNED KINGLETS into the trees next to his cottage.

Jim Wilson reported a BLUE HEADED VIREO at his home at Hammond River on April 20<sup>th</sup>

On May 31<sup>st</sup> John Tanner was birding when he spotted a possible LAWRENCE WARBLER on the utility wires on Route #490. (Moncton Info Line)

### A First for Sandhill Cranes

On June 1<sup>st</sup> it was announced that a breeding nest of SANDHILL CRANES was found in New Brunswick. During a routine aerial survey for waterfowl, 2 members of the Canadian Wildlife Service (Bruce Pollard and Randy Hicks) discovered an active SANDHILL CRANE nest near Chipman. This is a first such observation since breeding records have been kept for this species.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Chadwick reported an immature SANDHILL CRANE in front of his home at Civic #121 Route 133 in Grand Barachois feeding on worms. Another SANDHILL CRANE



was reported on June 29<sup>th</sup> by Grant Milroy around the cemetery in Argyle east of Juniper feeding on worms also.

### **Cory's Shearwater**

In May many birders visited Grand Manan to see the spring migrants but on June 30, Durlan Ingersoll observed and photographed a CORY'S SHEARWATER in the waters near the Prong – east of White Head Island. Keen birders returned to Grand Manan for pelagic boat trips in hopes of seeing a CORY'S SHEARWATER. This is a first documented record of a CORY'S SHEARWATER in New Brunswick.

Here are some more highlights for this period:

GLOSSY IBIS- at Bloomfield on April 13<sup>th</sup> by Joyce Robinson, 2 at Lower Jemseg on April 21 by Peter Pearce, St. Anselme March on 25<sup>th</sup> June by Gilles Bourque

GREAT EGRET - at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan on April 12 by Roger Burrows, Salisbury Decommissioned Lagoon on May 2 by Ron Steeves, Lancaster Lagoon on May 9<sup>th</sup> by Merv Cormier

SNOWY EGRET – Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan on May 14 by Stuart Tingley

LEAST BITTERN – at Wilkins Field, Fredericton on June 24<sup>th</sup> by Peter Pearce – both male and female, Cattail Marsh on Hampton Ferry Road on July 5 by Kier Shackleton Gigeroff

BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON – Golf course on Grand Manan on May 4<sup>th</sup> by Durlan Ingersoll, Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan on May 21<sup>st</sup> by Stuart Tingley,

GREEN HERON – Machias Seal Island on June 5<sup>th</sup> by Ralph Eldridge

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Route #955 between Cape Tormentine and Bayfield on May 24<sup>th</sup> by Stuart Tingley

VIRGINIA RAIL – first noted at Wilkins Field, Fredericton on May 23 by Peter Pearce and seen later twice with three chicks, Caissie Cape on April 29<sup>th</sup> by Stella Johnson.

SORA – Wilkins Field, Fredericton heard on May 5<sup>th</sup> by Peter Pearce and seen with two chicks, St. George Marsh on April 24<sup>th</sup> by Todd Watts, Sunpoke Lake on May 5<sup>th</sup> by Ron Wilson

COMMON MOORHEN – Wilkins Field, Fredericton on July 20<sup>th</sup> by Bonnie Jackson and on July 25<sup>th</sup> with three chicks by Peter Pearce

AMERICAN AVOCET – St. Andrews on July 10 by Jim Wilson

EURASIAN WIGEON – near Burton Bridge on April 24 by Gilles Belliveau, Ste-Anne-de Madawaska Lagoon on May 1 by Roy LaPointe, Tracadie Town Lagoon on May 20<sup>th</sup> by Frank Branch

REDHEAD – Richibucto Sewage Lagoon on May 10 by Irene LeBlanc

RUDDY DUCK – Arthur Street Lagoon, Memramcook on May 7 by Ron Aresenault

TUFTED DUCK – male, Tracadie Town Lagoon on May 20 by Frank Branch

AMERICAN COOT – St. Leonard Lagoon on May 17 by Roy LaPointe

UPLAND SANDPIPER – Route #499 Murray Corner area on May 24 by Kathy Popma and Ruth Miller

WHITE WINGED DOVE – St. Leonard on May 6<sup>th</sup> by Roy LaPointe

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE – Lameque on June



Virginia Rail  
Photo by M. Cormier



American Avocet  
Photo by M. Cormier



24 by Jude Laroque and Frank Branch  
WHIP-POOR-WILL – English  
Settlement on May 26<sup>th</sup> Julie Singleton  
THREE-TOED WOODPECKER – Kent  
Lake area on April 27 by Denis Doucet

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER  
– Kedgwick on May 5 by Pat Emond

NOTE: This is the last year for  
the collection of data for the  
Maritime Breeding Atlas.

Jim Wilson  
Quispamsis

## Cory's Shearwater Makes Provincial Bird List

For more than a dozen years, Durlan Ingersoll has worked as First Mate aboard whale and bird watching boats operated by Seawatch Tours out of Seal Cove on Grand Manan from June through September. He also fishes lobster with Captain Peter Wilcox in November and December. As a result he's out on the water almost daily for half the year.

During his time of working with Seawatch,

Durlan has become an expert on the spotting and identification of the whales and sea birds of the Bay of Fundy and he tries to examine every bird he sees in search of something new. He provided photos of NB's first documented

South Polar Skua in August of 2002 and since has provided images of at least two more. Last summer he managed to get pictures of an adult Long-tailed Jaeger near Kent Island – likely the first

photographed at sea in New Brunswick waters.

The NB Bird Records Committee maintains the Provincial Bird List on behalf of the NB Museum in St. John, New Brunswick. In order to add a new species the Committee requires a lone observer to get clear photographs or video or to get audio evidence the bird was there, to avoid any possibility of identification error. The contributor is also asked to complete a form to accompany the other evidence, that details the sighting. The form explains why the observer felt it must be that particular species. After the Bird Records Committee examines the documentation, an independent vote is taken by the five members to determine whether or not to add the species, based on the strength of the information provided. After that, all documentation is permanently archived at the NB Museum.

Years ago, Durlan set a goal to see and document a Cory's Shearwater in this Province. We see three other shearwaters in the Bay – the abundant Great and Sooty Shearwaters that breed in the South Atlantic during our winter and migrate here in their winters to feed, and the rare Manx Shearwater that nests in the North



Cory's Shearwater  
Photo by D. Ingersoll



Atlantic in summer. But Cory's Shearwater is different – it's a bird of warm offshore waters of the Gulf Stream and should be only an accidental stray to the cold Bay of Fundy. As a further indication of this, Durlan and several other experienced NB birders have examined many thousands of shearwaters over more than two decades without seeing anything that resembled a Cory's.

Cory's wasn't on the Provincial Bird List because no one ever submitted the necessary evidence. Although there have been a few reports in NB waters, most often by visiting birders, the possibility of error in identification could never be ruled out. Cory's Shearwater is quite a striking bird to those who study sea birds closely. Compared to our other shearwaters it's larger, has a paler body coloration, a different under wing pattern, a dull yellow beak and a manner of flight that immediately draws one's attention.

Durlan went so far as to make a special trip to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in the spring of 2005 to see and study Cory's Shearwaters and other pelagic birds in the Gulf Stream. He returned more determined than ever to find one here someday.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, the "Day's Catch" sailed out to waters near The Prong, southeast of White Head Island to check for early whales. Captain Wilcox and Durlan had a number of whale watchers aboard and the main focus was not on sea birds. But Durlan had his camera within reach. Suddenly he noticed a different bird approaching – a large pale shearwater with a rather lazy and floppy wing beat. As he got his binoculars on it the dull yellow beak was clearly visible and he knew immediately the wait was over. He started snapping pictures as the bird flew

past and he didn't stop until it was nearly out of sight.

Cory's Shearwater is now officially on New Brunswick's Provincial Bird List. Durlan's photographs are of sufficient quality that the Bird Records Committee easily agreed there can be no mistake. The Committee held a special vote to ensure it was added in time for inclusion in the forthcoming printed version produced by Nature NB, to be available later this year.

Only those who have spent a lot of time pelagic birding can appreciate how difficult it is to get clear images of distant birds at any time, let alone when an extreme rarity appears. A number of factors have to come together. Durlan was at the right place at the right time with the right equipment and had the knowledge, timing and available light to put it all together. Congratulations.

Since June 30<sup>th</sup> Durlan has reported two other sightings of Cory's in the same area, Laurie Murison on the "Elsie Menota" operated by Whales-n-sails Adventures reported at least one Cory's and another was photographed resting on the water near Machias Seal Island by sea bird researcher Catherine Jardine. Birders off southern Maine are also noting higher numbers than usual. It appears the record-warm water temperatures along the Eastern Seaboard and in the Bay this summer must be a factor in attracting this species.

See the following Web sites for additional information on Cory's Shearwater:

[http://www.oceanwanderers.com/Corys\\_Shear.html](http://www.oceanwanderers.com/Corys_Shear.html)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory's\\_Shearwater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory's_Shearwater)

<http://www.birdlife.org>

Cory's Shearwater  
Photo by D. Ingersoll





Warren Coleman  
Keswick Ridge

For a free copy of the report reviewed in this article, go to the NatureServe Canada Website ([www.natureserve.ca](http://www.natureserve.ca)) or directly to their publications section: <http://www.natureserve.org/publications/>.

To learn about biodiversity in more detail, you can obtain the following free PDF-formatted book online at Google Books (<http://books.google.com/>):

Wilson, E.O. and F.M. Peter (1988) *Biodiversity*. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. 521 pp.

See also <http://www.search.com/reference/biodiversity> for an online overview of biodiversity.

## Biodiversity Information in Canada:

### Piecemeal, Opportunistic, and Short sighted

As Canadians in the International Year of Biodiversity, we are committed to the health of our environment as reflected in its biodiversity from the gene to the ecosystem. We have even enshrined these aspirations within the Canadian Biodiversity Outcomes Framework ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity\\_Outcomes\\_Framework](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_Outcomes_Framework)). However, as this thoughtful NatureServe Canada report by Hyde, Hermann, and Lautenschlager points out, we have problems - we continue to find serious "gaps" in our knowledge of the myriad life forms around us. The authors of this report note, "Canada's biodiversity information requires dramatic improvement if it is going to serve Canadian needs". Put bluntly: we lack a number of basic tools necessary for conserving and protecting Canada's natural heritage.

The authors lay out this disquieting situation in a clear, methodical way. For example, did you know:

1. Canadians do not have ready access to biodiversity information needed to understand and correctly assess our impact on a complex world;
2. Canada lacks both an understanding of its species diversity as well as a monitoring and inventory program designed to provide vital information of these species; and,
3. Institutions in other countries (e.g., the United States) publish more primary information about Canadian biodiversity than Canada does. In other words,

Canada is not the master of its own house.

These and other deplorable situations indicate we cannot be effective stewards of our natural heritage until we address these problems at the local and national levels.

The authors present a compelling case for enhancing our ability to act in the best interests of current and future Canadians. Drawing on comments from a range of informed Canadians as well as biodiversity research, they lay out a range of positive approaches for strengthening our stewardship of the land.

As the current dominant species on this planet, we are approaching an evolutionary bottleneck where we must become wiser and integrate ourselves into a sustainable lifestyle if we wish to persist into the future. This NatureServe report provides a review of the incomplete state of biodiversity knowledge in Canada as well as a clear statement of how we can fix the problem. This report is essential reading for all Canadians involved in decision-making processes that affect our relationship with our environment.



# A Tale of Two Outings, or: Confessions of an Undisciplined Birder

Mike Lushington  
Dalhousie

It was early in the morning – ungodly early by some standards. It was 4:45, to be exact. I had just pulled into a parking place at the head of a beaver pond, shut down my truck, rolled down my window while I got my stuff together. Apart from the whine of mosquitoes and the pleasant banjo tuning of several Green frogs, it was silent – deep woods, early morning silent.

I was about to start my Breeding Bird Survey for the year.

I glanced at my watch, set the timer to 0:00, did the same with the trip odometer, and decided to get started. Right on cue, a Hermit thrush broke into song, followed by a robin. In the distance, I picked up the first verse of a Ruby-crowned kinglet and, a moment later, a Veery. Then my three minutes were up.

Back into the truck, and down the road for precisely (supposedly) .8 kilometres. Out of the truck, repeat the drill, record the birds – Hermit thrush (again), Ovenbird, Red-eyed vireo, robin – three minutes up, back into the truck and down the road for precisely another .8 kilometres – and repeat another forty-seven times over the next three hours. I travel some forty kilometers in .8 kilometer increments and record about a million starlings, grackles, and robins. I also manage to find about thirty other species within the restrictions of the protocol. No place, however, for the Great Crested flycatcher that popped up between stops, or the Barred owl that I discovered after the run was completed. I think back over the fifty stops and realize that about thirty-five of them

were compromised by traffic sounds.

Others seemed completely quiet until I was just about ready to move on – then birds began to pop up all over the place, too late to count or record. In short, my experience this morning has been one of some (mostly unrecorded) highlights and a good deal of frustration.

\*

A few days later, I find myself back at the same beaver pond. It is early (not ungodly early) – about 6:30. The sun is already up and the birds are singing. I let the dog out of the truck, grab my binoculars, and have a look around. I take the time to wander down the old road to where I can survey the pond while listening to the sounds. I start to list – this morning I am doing some surveying in one of the priority squares for the current Breeding Bird Atlas project. Then I decide to mosey up to a nearby old clear-cut and see what might be lurking in the brush along its edges. Something catches my eye and I spend the next five or six minutes waiting for it to reappear – my first Winter wren of the morning.

And so it goes. For the next three hours, I stroll. In one sense, I hardly go anywhere. In another, though, I have the time to examine five or six distinct micro-habitats, I find nearly forty species (this is a good place as I well know from previous experiences). In the whole time, I see one other vehicle. By the time I decide to pack it in for the day, I am feeling satisfied. It has been a good morning.

Which do I prefer, the atlassing work or that of the survey? Need you ask?




# NB United Way donations to NATURE NB

Did you know you know you can designate your United Way payroll deductions to go directly to NATURE NB? It's quite easy. Note the form below.

You would enter your information as usual. Under the section "Ways to direct your gift, 2) Other, B", on the line that asks Registered Charity #, fill in the following number: 8901 07972 RR0001. That will ensure the donation gets

directed to NATURE NB and that you receive your charitable donation receipt entered on your T4 slip.

For example, a \$5.00 donation per two-week pay would amount to \$130.00, which would help greatly towards the worthwhile projects the NATURE NB undertakes to help ensure that New Brunswickers continue to enjoy our beautiful nature. By Dianne Mercier-Allain

 <b>United Way / Centraide (Central N.B.) Inc.</b> 400 - 1133 rue Regent Street, Fredericton NB E3B 3Z2 Telephone (506) 459-7773 Fax (506) 451-1104 email: unitedwy@nb.aibn.com www.unitedwaycentral.com Business# 10816 0011 RR0001	
<b>Gift Form</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>"I believe in my community"</i></span>	
We do not sell or rent our donor lists	
<input type="checkbox"/> MR. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS. <input type="checkbox"/> MISS <input type="checkbox"/> MS. <input type="checkbox"/> DR, please print clearly	
NAME: _____ RETIREE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
ADDRESS: _____	
CITY: _____	PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
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EMPLOYER: _____	DEPT: _____
<b>My Total Gift is : \$</b>	
<b>THIS IS HOW I WANT TO MAKE MY DONATION:</b>	
a) PAYROLL DEDUCTION	
Please deduct \$ _____ x <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly (x 52) <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (x 26) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly (x 12) <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-monthly (x 24) Amount x # pay periods	Annual Total \$ _____
Gifts made through payroll deduction will appear on your T4 slip-complete tear-off section	
b) CASH OR CHEQUE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Post-dated cheque(s) attached	TOTAL CASH \$ _____ TOTAL CHEQUE \$ _____ TOTAL CHEQUES(S) \$ _____
*Make cheque(s) payable to United Way (Central N.B.) Inc. - See Note on bottom	
c) CREDIT CARD <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	
Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly gift in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ consecutive months beginning _____ <input type="checkbox"/> One-time gift in the amount of \$ _____ total min \$10	
Signature: X _____ Date: _____ M / D / Y	
The United Way of Central NB Endowment Fund enables donors to provide a long lasting gift to their community through a will, estate bequest, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not give permission to the United Way of Central NB to share my contact information with the Endowment Fund	
All Leadership donations of \$500.00 or more will be recognized publicly. Check this box if you wish to remain anonymous, otherwise, we will gladly recognize your contribution through events and community reports.	
<b>IMPORTANT! FOR YOUR PAYROLL OFFICE</b> If you made your gift through PAYROLL DEDUCTION, please fill out this section. This form will be processed by your employee Campaign Coordinator (ECC).	
Name: _____ Employer: _____ Department: _____ Employee #: _____	
I authorize my employer to deduct: \$ _____ x _____ pay periods for a total gift of: \$ _____ (Total gift should match amount in Section 1)	
X _____ Donor's Signature _____ Date _____	
*Note: If paying with cash or cheque, please have your ECC sign below that they received your donation and detach and keep this section as a temporary receipt for your records.	
_____ ECC Signature _____ Amount Donated _____ Date _____	




# Dons à NATURE NB avec Centraide

Saviez-vous que vous pouvez décider à qui vont vos dons de déductions salariales à Centraide? Vous pouvez désigner NATURE NB comme récipiendaire. C'est très facile. Voir le formulaire ci-dessous.

Vous remplissez le formulaire comme à l'habitude. Sous "Façons d'acheminer votre don, 2) Autre, B", il y a un endroit pour remplir le nom de l'organisme charitable à qui vous voulez faire votre. À la question où on vous demande le numéro de l'organisme, vous indiquez le numéro

d'enregistrement d'organisme de bienfaisance suivant : **8901 07972 RR0001**. Ceci assurera que le don se rende directement à NATURE NB et vous recevrez votre reçu de don charitable sur votre T4.

Par exemple, un don de 5\$ par paye aux quinzaine donnera un montant de 130\$ à NATURE NB pour les projets importants qui aideront à assurer une belle nature pour les néo-brunswickois. Par Dianne Mercier-Allain


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 400 - 1133 rue Regent Street, Fredericton NB E3B 3Z2 Telephone (506) 459-7773 Fax (506) 451-1104  
 email: unitedwy@nb.aibn.com www.unitedwaycentral.com Business# 10816 0011 RR0001

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## Formulaire de don "Je crois en ma communauté"

*Nous ne vendons pas ou ne louons pas nos listes de donateurs*

☐ M. ☐ Mme. ☐ Mlle. ☐ Dr. S.V.P. écrire clairement

NOM : \_\_\_\_\_ RETRAITÉ ☐ OUI ☐ NON

ADRESSE : \_\_\_\_\_

VILLE : \_\_\_\_\_ PROV. : \_\_\_\_\_ CODE POSTAL : \_\_\_\_\_

TÉLÉPHONE : \_\_\_\_\_ COURRIEL : \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEUR : \_\_\_\_\_ SERVICE : \_\_\_\_\_

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**Don Total : \$**

**VOICI MA METHODE DE PAIEMENT PRÉFÉRÉE :**

**a) RETENUE À LA SOURCE**

S.V.P. déduire \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Par semaine (x 52)  
☐ Toutes les deux semaines (x 26)  
☐ Par mois (x 12)  
☐ Deux fois par mois (x 24)

Montant x périodes de paie = **Total annuel \$**

Les dons par retenues à la source apparaîtront sur votre reçu T4 - remettez la partie détachable

**b) ESPÈCES OU CHÈQUE**

☐ Espèces **\$ TOTAL EN ESPÈCES**  
☐ Chèque **\$ TOTAL DU CHÈQUE**  
☐ Chèque(s) post-daté(s) ci-inclus **\$ TOTAL EN CHÈQUE(S)**

\*Chèque(s) payable(s) à Centraide (Centre du N.B.) Inc. - voir la note ci-bas

**c) CARTE DE CRÉDIT** ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

No. de carte de crédit : \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. : \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Don mensuel au montant de \$ \_\_\_\_\_ pour \_\_\_\_\_ mois consécutifs à partir du \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Un don ponctuel au montant de \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total min \$10

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ M / J / A

**FAÇONS D'ACHEMINER VOTRE DON**

**1) FONDS COMMUNAUTAIRE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Je préfère garder mon don dans ma communauté pour aider les gens qui en ont le plus besoin.*

*Votre don aux Fonds communautaire fournit un appui énorme à toutes nos agences en finançant des programmes et services qui soutiennent les gens, les organismes et les voisinages à travers tous nos communautés.*

*Merci de soutenir notre communauté*

**2) AUTRE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Je souhaite que mon don soit dirigé vers la chaîne canadienne enregistrée suivante.*

Nom de l'organisme charitable : \_\_\_\_\_ www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charitylists

Ville, Province : \_\_\_\_\_ Numéro de charité enregistré : \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Je ne donne pas ma permission au Centraide du centre du NB de partager des renseignements sur moi en tant que donateur avec le Fonds de dotation.

☐ Toutes les donations de « Leadership » de 500 \$ ou plus seront signalées publiquement. Cochez cette case si vous souhaitez rester anonyme, autrement, nous serons heureux de signaler votre contribution lors de nos activités et dans nos rapports à la communauté.

---

**IMPORTANT POUR VOTRE SERVICE DE PAIE**

Si vous avez fait votre don par retenues à la source, remplir cette section. Ce formulaire sera traité par votre coordonnateur de campagne des employés. (CCE)

Nom : \_\_\_\_\_

Employeur : \_\_\_\_\_

Section : \_\_\_\_\_

Numéro d'employé : \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Si vous payez en espèces ou par chèque, faire signer le présentes par votre CCE pour indiquer qu'il (elle) a reçu votre don. Détacher cette section et la garder comme reçu provisoire pour votre dossier.

Signature du CCE : \_\_\_\_\_ Montant de don : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

J'autorise mon employeur à déduire :

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ Périodes de paie pour un don total de : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(le montant du don devrait être équivalent à la section 1)

X \_\_\_\_\_ Signature du donateur \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Roger Moore  
Island View

*The Beaver Pond at Mactaquac  
(after heavy rain)*

Dark and cool, at first, the woods beneath the trees,  
then, in the distance, light over water.

The waters have risen to cover the wooden causeway.

Tadpoles, submerged, settle on warm wood.

They are blown up enormously: all tail, all head, with stubby legs.

The wanderers splash through warm waters, shoes in hand.

Beyond them, the lilies, yellow eyes gazing out from green pads:

Solomon in all his glory will not be arrayed like one of these  
when they finally flower. Waters squirm beneath a teasing breeze.

Stillness and shadow: the sun behind a cloud, the waters shifting,  
the clouds reflected, fragmented in the pond's rippled glass.

Waves spread searching fingers over the top of the beaver dam.

Beneath us there are more lilies, the beaver pond a lily pond now.

Somewhere close by, a beaver slaps his tail on the water.

We can hear him, but we do not see him. There is his lodge:  
a tepee of sticks on a green earth bank, thrust above the waters,  
amidst a fastness of shipwrecked masts: drowned trees  
stripped of all foliage, as barren as harboured masts,  
and the water balancing its shining scales. Above us,  
in a strip-jack-naked tree, four large black birds, coughing.



# Annual Nature NB Celebrations in Gagetown

Graham Forbes  
Fredericton

The annual Nature NB meeting was recently held in Gagetown, in some of the nicest weather possible for a long weekend in May. It was near 30°C each day and a light breeze kept the bugs at bay.

Gagetown and area is known for several natural features and it didn't disappoint: its apple trees (in full blossom), its orioles and warbling vireos (in full song), its wetlands along Jemseg and Grand Lake (wet), and the mosquitoes (actually not bad, as they were hiding from the wind).

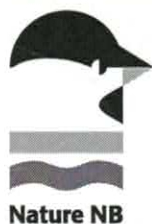
This year, the meeting was co-hosted by A Celebration of Birds of Gagetown and the Fredericton Nature Club/Nature NB. Many people made the weekend a success but many thanks go to Glenda Turner of the FNC, Vanessa Roy of Nature NB, plus Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Roberta MacKenzie, and Brigitte Noel of A Celebration of Birds.

The AGM was held on Friday night, followed by some dawn birding and over 25 outings and workshops. The trips to Nerepis Hills of CFB Gagetown, an area typically off-limits to the public, were popular and yielded a slew of

vultures. Microscopes were set up at Black Duck marsh for identifying willows, while others built bat boxes or painted for a day. There was also a nice memorial celebration for Enid Inch, a prominent Gagetown naturalist who passed away last year. Saturday's banquet was entertained by Nicholas Guitard, who talked of his joy of waterfalls in New Brunswick. And over \$1,700 was raised in the silent auction.

All in all, a lovely weekend. See you next year in Grand Manan!

*A Willow ID Workshop  
Photo by G. Forbes*



## Membership Card *Carte de membre*

924 rue Prospect St.  
Suite 110  
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E3B 2T9



## Devenez membres!

Joignez-vous à un réseau provincial de naturalistes; profitez d'un abonnement au magazine trimestriel *Le naturaliste du N.-B.*; recevez une invitation à assister à notre assemblée générale annuelle; découvrez d'innombrables possibilités d'apprendre sur la nature et participez à de nombreux projets et activités agréables.

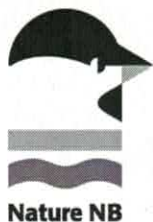
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