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# ***N.B. Naturalist***

## ***Le Naturaliste du N.-B.***



DIANE MERCIER-ALLAIN  
'96





# N. B. Federation of Naturalists / Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

277 avenue Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5 Canada

The Federation is a non-profit organization formed in 1972 to encourage an understanding of nature and the environment, and to focus concern for the natural heritage of New Brunswick.

La Fédération est une organisation sans buts lucratifs formée en 1972 pour encourager une meilleure compréhension de l'environnement naturel, et pour éveiller le souci pour le patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

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**Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society,** P.O. Box 1565, Sussex, NB E0E 1P0; meets St. Paul's United Church Hall, 7:30 pm, 4th Mon., Sept.-June; quarterly newsletter.

**Moncton Naturalists' Club,** Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 857-4271 or 384-5212; meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

**Restigouche Naturalists' Club,** Box 591, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G9; 789-0107 or 753-7261; meets Campbellton Centennial Library, 7 pm, 1st Monday

**Saint John Naturalists' Club,** 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, NB E2K 1E5; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly *Bulletin*.

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Next deadline: May 1

Date limite prochaine: le 1 mai



## HAPPY BIRD DAY, NEW BRUNSWICK

A Message From the President -- Frank Longstaff



Like most of you, I became a naturalist through an interest in birds. To begin with, I watched them in the garden or while I walked through the woods. I couldn't identify too many species but I paid attention when they sang from a perch or flew overhead. Then I started to put up feeders. I still didn't know too much, but I was amazed at what came for the seed I put out -- not just the familiar Blue Jays and chickadees, but other birds as well -- small sparrow-sized birds that looked (in Peterson's apt description) as if they'd been "dipped in raspberry juice"; and raucous flocks of black and yellow masked bandits. I had to get a field guide to learn these were Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks, respectively. And so I progressed, from feeder to bird guide; from bird guide to binoculars.

All too often, people with an initial interest in birds never get past the point of wondering about what comes to the feeder. The interest is there, but they don't know how to take the next step. I was lucky. I found myself on a canoe trip organized by local naturalists. I was immediately impressed with the knowledge of the leaders who could identify, often by song alone, birds which seemed impossibly obscure to me. But it was the friendliness of everyone on the outing and their willingness to share their knowledge and enthusiasm that made such an impact. For me, a whole new world opened up, and I have never looked back.

To encourage more people to make the leap from fledgling feeder watcher to full-blown naturalist, the Federation is organizing a **province-wide bird day on May 25, 1996**. We have the cooperation of birders in every corner of New Brunswick and we will be mounting a publicity campaign to invite everyone with a spark of interest to join the fun. Although the outing is designed for members of the general public who want to learn more about birds, I hope plenty of NBFN members join in as well, to help the newcomers along.

The plan is to have a core of knowledgeable people in good birding locales across the province. Those who want to learn more about birds, and those who enjoy the avian pleasures of a spring morning, will gather at **9:00 a.m.** The leaders will break them up into manageable groups, then take them off for a ramble of an hour or so, identifying the different species and explaining their behaviour, as they go. Hopefully, the newcomers also will be encouraged to join the local or the provincial naturalist clubs. If there is a large response, who knows, this may become an annual event. But for the present, I will be happy if I have a pleasant morning in the woods doing one of the things I like best -- watching birds.

I hope many members of the NBFN join the ramble. If you have the interest and expertise to be a leader and want to help out, please give me a call. My office number is 832-1500 or you can reach me at home at 832-9087. **Happy Bird Day, New Brunswick!**

## NEW RESOLVE FOR A NEW YEAR

Inspired by internet communications gleaned from the American Bird Conservancy and "Beakly News", the editorial team of the *NB Naturalist* proposes the following New Year's resolutions for naturalists. We encourage all naturalists to do at least one more thing for wildlife and nature in 1996. Better yet, why not do one thing from each category? Please feel free to use our suggestions, or come up with your own ideas. Let's put a new 'spin' on the old tradition of New Year's resolutions.

### Learn more about nature:

Explore some aspect of natural history that is new to you.

Go on a nature outing to some place in New Brunswick where you have never been.

Volunteer at a park, natural history museum, herbarium or wildlife rehabilitation centre.

### Help contribute to our knowledge of New Brunswick's natural history:

Convey your nature observations to David Christie, so they can be published in the *NB Naturalist*.

Report interesting nature sightings to your local naturalist club, nature information line, E-Mail group or local nature 'expert'.

Assist with a breeding bird survey route, Christmas bird count, bird project (e.g., Project Thrush, Project Feederwatch), nest survey or other wildlife census.

Record your nature experiences in a diary, on video, on film or on tape recordings.

### Share your knowledge of nature and your love of nature with others:

Introduce someone, especially a youngster or newcomer, to the wonders of nature.

Take an individual or group on a nature outing.

Give someone a bird feeder, bird house or bat



house, along with advice on how to maintain it.

Write an article or do some artwork for the *NB Naturalist*.

Give a presentation to a group of young people, seniors, naturalists, colleagues or members of the public.

Donate a book, CD-ROM, video or recording on nature to a local library, school or group.

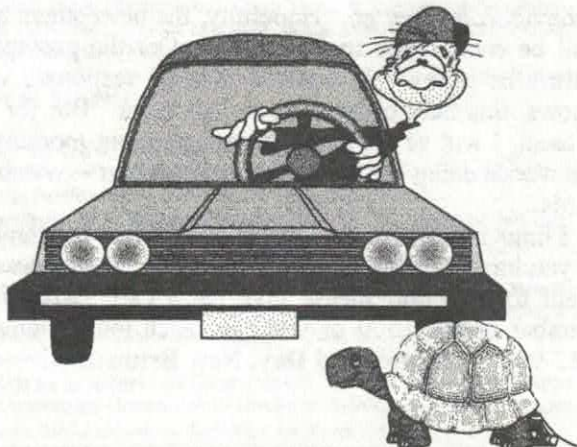
Become more active in a local, provincial or national naturalist group.

Let your local newspaper, radio station or television station know about nature-related activities, meetings, facts or interesting observations.

### Take action to help preserve and protect wildlife, wildlife habitats and natural ecosystems:

While enjoying nature, take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints.

Support a conservation organization by volunteering or making a financial contribution.



Drive carefully so as not to injure or kill wildlife.

Stop to help turtles or give other wildlife time to safely cross the road, being careful to prevent injury to yourself from the wildlife or motor vehicles.

Work with appropriate individuals and agencies to identify, establish and protect critical natural areas.

Design your property so it will be attractive to wildlife.

Find alternatives to using pesticides and other harmful chemicals on your lawn and in your garden.

Reduce bird mortality from window strikes by installing screens or other devices.\*

Keep your pets under control at all times so they cannot harm wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Assist with the clean-up of a beach, roadside, waterway, park or other natural area.

Plant a tree on Arbour Day.

Relocate native plants from areas imminently threatened with development or other habitat destruction.

Support reducing the amount of lights on towers and buildings during peak migratory periods.

Submit a nomination for the New Brunswick Department of the Environment's "Outstanding" river, lake or watercourse program.

### Become more political (and 'politically correct'):

Come out of the 'closet' — let your friends, relatives, colleagues and co-workers know that you are proud to be a naturalist.

Set a good example for others by being respectful of wildlife and wildlife habitats (i.e., having exemplary nature ethics), especially while seeking, observing or photographing rare species and during the breeding season.

Keep a record of expenditures that you make during your pursuit of nature adventures or to help you to more fully enjoy nature, and convey this information to politicians.

Whenever spending money to enjoy nature, make businesses aware that naturalists are a good source of revenue for them.

Get to know your municipal, provincial and/or federal politicians and urge them to support an important environmental cause.

Vote for pro-environmental candidates and support their campaigns.

Invite a politician to accompany you on a nature outing.

Write letters to the editor and call talk shows to emphasize the importance of wildlife and ecosystem conservation, being sure to provide specific information on what others can do to help.

Become familiar with legislation, policies and activities that may affect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and lobby to make improvements.

Support environmentally-friendly practices and businesses.

### Take the time to enjoy nature:

Have more fun, enrich your life and lower your stress by spending more time in the great outdoors.



\* One novel suggestion to help reduce 'window-strike' mortality is the installation of "Post-Its" on the outside of your windows. The little papers flutter, do not obstruct the view from inside the house, do not leave marks on the glass and really stay put — apparently for up to two years or more without falling off! The fine black netting used to keep birds away from fruit trees is another helpful alternative. It keeps birds from hitting the windows and isn't too objectionable to look through.



## LE MERLE-BLEU : L'AVEZ-VOUS VU?

Marie-Anne Gauvin et Gisèle Thibodeau — Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska

Depuis quatre ans le merle-bleu, un oiseau assez rare dans notre vallée, vient nicher dans les quelques nichoirs installés dans la banlieue d'Edmundston. Vous êtes peut-être une des personnes chanceuses qui l'ont vu ce printemps dans le parc Richelieu. Il a été observé ici et là à St.-Basile et à St-Jacques. Il n'a pas tardé dans ces parages mais il s'est attardé dans la région de St-Joseph. En fait, nous avons confirmé trois couples de merles-bleus qui se sont établis dans des nichoirs à dimension spéciale pour cette espèce.

Après un déclin sérieux, pour diverses raisons, dont une fut le manque de cavités, les ornithologues sont venus au secours du merle-bleu en leur offrant des nichoirs de style "petite cabane". Ce beau petit oiseau a bien accepté les nichoirs et depuis il connaît une



Photo par Marie-Anne Gauvin

repopulation de son espèce. Puis, le merveilleux c'est qu'enfin le merle-bleu a redécouvert le Madawaska canadien tant qu'américain.

Mme Gisèle Thibodeau, une des personnes privilégiées, raconte ses expériences avec le merle-bleu. "Il y a quelques années un couple de

merles-bleus firent leur apparition dans mon entourage et s'installèrent dans le nichoir d'un voisin. Durant une partie de l'été j'ai pu étudier certains comportements de ces charmants volatiles. Ainsi, j'ai pu observer le travail de la femelle à la recherche de matériaux pour construire son nid, le rôle du mâle au nichoir offrant de la nourriture à sa partenaire qui assure seule la couvaison. Lorsque les oeufs furent éclos, j'ai pu constater l'activité constante des deux adultes en quête d'insectes attrapés au sol afin de nourrir les oisillons piaillants au moment de la becquée. Quand les petits sortirent du nid, ce fut bien plaisant de les voir se balancer sur une ligne électrique à proximité du nichoir. Ils étaient quatre en compagnie de leurs parents qui continuaient toujours à nourrir leur progéniture.

Par la suite, en collaboration avec le Club d'ornithologie de la région, j'ai participé au projet MERLE-BLEU par l'installation de nichoirs. Quelle ne fut pas ma surprise en juin dernier de voir un couple de merles-bleus prendre possession de l'un de mes nichoirs lequel j'avais installé au milieu d'un champ dans la région de St-Joseph. Plusieurs amis et membres du club purent eux aussi se familiariser avec ces jolis merles-bleus à poitrine rousse.

L'an prochain, je garde espoir de revoir dans ma localité d'autres merles-bleus qui sauront m'égayer de par leurs chants et leur plumage pendant la saison estivale; soit le temps d'une nichée."

Pour plus de renseignements téléphonez au 735-4087 ou au 728-6403 ou écrivez à la *North American Bluebird Society*, Box 6295, Silver Spring, MD, 20916-6295. (Cette société comprend le Canada.)

## UPPING THE ODDS...HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR NATURE OUTINGS

To find out what's new in the N.B. nature scene, call:  
NB Bird Information Line - (506) 382-3825 (DUC-DUCK)  
Moncton Naturalists' Club Info Line - (506) 384-6397  
(384-NEWS)  
Les Amis de la Nature - (506) 532-2873 (532-BUSE)  
Down East Bird Line (Maine) - (207) 244-4116

To join N.B.'s naturalists in exploring "The Nature of Saint John", participate in:  
The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Annual General Meeting in Saint John, June 7, 8 and 9. Great field trips, lots of fun and comradery guaranteed! (see insert in center of this issue).

To learn from our neighbours through week-long workshops on natural history, contact:

Eagle Hill Field Research Station, Dyer Bay Road,  
P.O. Box 9, Steuben, Maine 04680-0009,  
Tel: (207) 546-2821

Internet: eaglehill@maine.maine.edu  
(many diverse topics from fungi to birding)

University of Maine at Machias (UMM)  
Institute for Field Ornithology, 9 O'Brien Avenue,  
Machias, Maine 04654  
Tel: (207) 255-3313 ext. 289

(warblers, seabirds, shorebirds, migration)

DETAILS AVAILABLE THROUGH NBFN CLUB REPS



## THERE ARE NO FLEAS LIKE SNOWFLEAS

Rob Walker



Yes, dear friends, there really is a snowflea (*Hypogastrura nivicola*, to be more precise). Don't worry, they don't ride around on your body and suck your blood the way real fleas do. In fact, the only resemblance between snowfleas and the real

thing is that they are both wingless insects that are great at jumping.

Well now, to be 100% factual, snowfleas don't jump; they flip. The group of insects to which they belong is known as the springtails. Springtails are found all around the world by the billions of billions in soil and decomposing vegetation. Every rotting log in the forest contains thousands of them. You probably have hundreds of thousands of them in your outdoor compost pile. Speaking of compost, that's where springtails fit into the web of life. They are very efficient recyclers, converting waste plant material into humus. Because of the fact that most springtails are only as big as the comma in this sentence, most people never get to see them.

The springtail's "spring" is a fork-like structure situated on the underside of the body behind the legs (despite the springtail's name, the spring device isn't a tail). It is folded forward and held in place by a catch. When the catch is released, the tiny insect goes

catapulting through the air. If you drop the business-side of a loaded, old-fashioned mouse trap on the floor, you will see in action the mechanical principle used by the springtail.

Warmed by the heat stored in the ground and protected by an insulating blanket of snow, snowfleas are probably active all winter long. In February and March, the strengthening sunlight progressively melts the upper levels of snow, causing the lower levels to become saturated with water. This floods the snowflea's habitat and cuts off most of the oxygen supply from above. Under this stress, the snowfleas crawl or swim upward. On sunny days, their metabolism speeds up and they assemble by the thousands in sheltered depressions. Human and moose footprints in the snow are great places for these tiny animals to congregate.

The snowflea get-togethers take place mainly in March and April. However, under unusual circumstances, such as the +20 degree temperatures we had on February 20, 1994, snowfleas appeared on the surface of the snow.

If you find a congregation of snowfleas, bend down and have a good look at them. All the flipping and bouncing about makes it look like a circus performance. Remember that snowfleas are harmless and that they are a sign that spring is not far away.

Reprinted from the February 25, 1994 issue of *Fundy Update*.

## EAVESDROPPING ON THE INTERNET

The following message was extracted from clandestine internet dialogues among elite New Brunswick birders:

"A successful foray for the Great Gray Owl has made Cecil Johnston the first person to have seen 350 species of birds in New Brunswick. A special commemorative plaque, or the addition of a "+50" stamp to Cec's 300 Club certificate, would be a totally inadequate means of celebrating such a milestone. What an opportune time to launch a new tradition! In recognition of Cecil's 350th, we should explore the possibility of commissioning for Cec a Great Gray Owl "bird-day" suit, emblazoned with a gold "350" on the breast. Imagine what a striking but fitting dimension that such a costume would provide at 300 Club events, sort of like the Shriners or the Grand

Knights of Malta. Let's establish a tradition that really gives incentive to those striving to achieve the very pinnacle of all birding achievements. Let your imagination go wild for a moment and conjure up a picture of a grand meeting of the grand pooh-bahs of the birding fraternity, say 10 years hence, all garbed in their various and splendiferous ornithological costumes and holding a fly-in at Col. Sander's or St. Hubert....."

**Congratulations Cecil!**





## SNOWFLEAS (AND OTHER SPRINGTAILS) AS SUSTENANCE

Article and Illustration by Rob Walker

In their preferred habitats, springtails swarm in incredible numbers. Just how big are those numbers?

George Scott<sup>1</sup> at the University of Cambridge investigated this question in November 1943 when he and his students set out to determine the number of arthropods in the soil of an English pasture. They estimated that 248.3 million springtails lived in an acre of this ground (that's 12 for every cubic inch of soil), and that they made up 23.2% of the total arthropod population. Only the mites, tiny relatives of spiders, were more numerous. Rich forest soil with a deep humus layer can have as many as 400 billion springtails per acre according to Kenneth Christiansen, one of the leading American authorities on springtails. His investigations agree that, next to mites, the springtails are the most abundant land animals with legs. It's interesting that some researchers have recently come to the conclusion that the springtails are not part of the insect family-tree at all, but are a separate evolutionary experiment in six-leggedness.

Springtails are in many ways the terrestrial equivalent of the copepods that make the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy such a rich pasture for Right Whales. So what are the predators that feed on springtails? Mites, pseudoscorpions, spiders and beetles all feed to some extent on springtails in the teeming invertebrate "cities" of the soil. On the surface film of ponds, swarms of Marsh Springtails (*Isotomurus palustris*) are eaten by fishes, frogs and ducks.

Could springtails in general, and snowfleas in particular, be food for insect-eating forest birds? Although we think of snowfleas as inhabitants of the humus layer where they can remain active all winter under a protective blanket of snow, they are also found in large numbers on the trunks and branches of trees. The cracks and crevices of the bark of spruces, pines and firs are especially good hiding places for them.

At the University of Vermont's Department of Biology, Bernd Heinrich<sup>2</sup> wondered if snowfleas might be an important food for Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*), the smallest (5 to 6 grams) winter bird of the New England states and Maritime provinces. These kinglets routinely survive temperatures as low as -30°C. In the summer the Golden-crowned Kinglet feeds on a great variety of insects; however, their winter diet was unknown. A close relative in Europe, the Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) is thought, on the basis of its foraging mode, to be a Collembolan specialist with Entomobrya springtails as its main winter food. Professor Heinrich wondered if Golden-crowned

Kinglets could be doing the same thing with the hyperabundant *Hypogastrura nivicola* as its food supply. He and Ross Bell investigated this question and recently published the results of their research in *The Wilson Bulletin*.

Between late November and mid-May, 1992 to 1994, they collected 16

Golden-crowned Kinglets in spruce/fir forests. Out of a total of 483 identified food items in the gizzards of these 16 kinglets, 287 (or 59%) were caterpillars; 95% of these were "measuringworms" of the moth family Geometridae. These small measuringworms (5 to 10 mm in length) were the only food items found in all 16 kinglets, with an average of 18 caterpillars per bird. What about springtails as Golden-crowned Kinglet food? Springtails were noticeably absent in their diet. Only one of the 16 kinglets had fed on springtails, and the four that it had eaten were of species other than *Hypogastrura nivicola*. Heinrich and Bell were surprised by these results, especially by the number of caterpillars hibernating in the treetops in the depth of winter. The food items were tabulated on the basis of number and not by volume. On a volume or weight basis the proportion of geometrid caterpillars in the winter diet of these kinglets would be much higher than what is shown above. By the way, a second aspect of this research project was to sample both conifer and deciduous trees in the study area for arthropods living on the bark in winter. Springtails were more numerous than any other group, 30 times more so than moth caterpillars.

Now we know what Golden-crowned Kinglets are feeding on in winter in the Northeast, and it's not snowfleas. But there are other birds that could be taking advantage of springtails as a winter food supply. The needle-thin curved beak of the Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) would be perfect for picking springtails off the bark of trees; but that's another study.



<sup>1</sup> Evans, H. E. 1968. Life on a Little-known Planet (Chapter 2: Cities in the Soil: The World of Springtails). E.P. Dutton & Co., New York, New York.

<sup>2</sup> Heinrich, B. and R. Bell. 1995. Winter food of a small insectivorous bird, the Golden-crowned Kinglet. *The Wilson Bulletin* 107: 558-561.



## THE BEAVER CLUB

Ann Lavoie

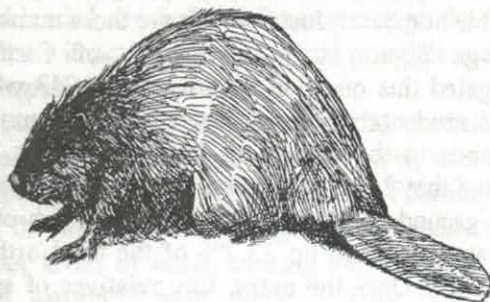
One of my greatest pleasures in life is spending time at this remote camp from where I write. It belongs to someone special and I am so fortunate to be able to come here.

The only visitors might be the occasional bird hunter in the fall, the Gray Jays who are daily clients for a free handout, and those creatures that pass through in the night or early dawn. The neighbours keep to their business and hopefully will not flood out the access road as their dam continues to expand.

The 14'x20' camp sits in a south-facing clearing surrounded by steep mountain sides, with a small brook directly in front. A cold clear spring located not fifteen feet from the east wall of the camp is invaluable: even during the record dry summer just passed, there was always a ready source of pure spring water.

What makes this camp so unique cannot easily be expressed in words. If you stand out in the clearing just off the porch and look completely around in a circle, you will see a rugged display of a mostly coniferous forest of huge old White Pine that dominates the skyline. There is also a mixture of spruce and Balsam Poplar, and a tangled mass of alders and dogwood can be found near the brook and growing densely on retired logging roads.

I have explored a good part of the surrounding area on foot or on snowshoes and was overwhelmed by the beauty of the old forest, the thick carpet of various mosses, and the layers of pine needles and cones that spread out under these majestic pines. For anyone who has ever been truly alone in an old forest, you will agree that a feeling of utter awareness best describes the mood. A range of sentiments from awe, happiness and respect, to a feeling of smallness, perhaps even fear or anxiety, will occupy your mind and there are those of us who consider it to be quite a spiritual experience. These are just some of the



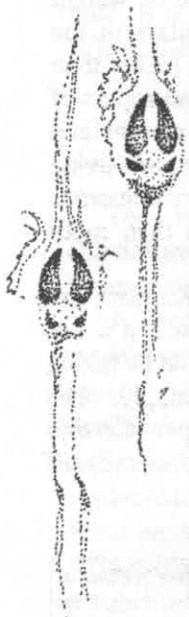
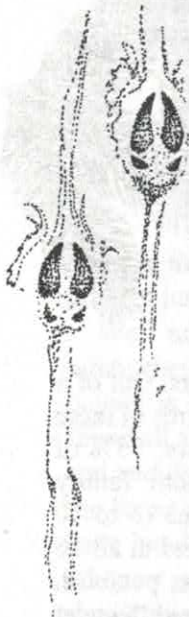
reasons why portions of the forest should be left alone, regardless if they blow down. These are special places where we can truly appreciate the beauty of nature, at home, in an old forest setting.

I was fortunate enough, while on these excursions, to come across several Pine Marten, a couple of Fisher, and many tracks of these elusive creatures. One of the marten sightings was quite a chance encounter. I was "scoutin'" the gulch, up the mountain behind the camp, when I spotted some recent excavation work at the base of an old softwood stump. I got down on my hands and knees to take a peek inside and was surprised and delighted to see a marten staring back at me. He must have been just as surprised, and probably felt quite vulnerable.

The exterior of this shingled camp is painted an eye-catching bright yellow with red trim and is skirted with old barn boards around the base. The woodshed is off to one side and the "restroom" is over there in the trees.

The interior of this isolated retreat is very cosy and comfortable. There are two small wood stoves. The one for cooking is called "The Beaver" and has a warming closet which is very practical. The other stove, "Number 24", was introduced at a later date and hauled in 3.3 km. on a toboggan in February, on what I remember to have been a gruelling but fun day. The reason for Number 24 was simple: the camp is insulated, but the floor is not, and The Beaver took an entire day to heat up the camp in winter. Now, with this compact yet efficient box stove, the interior can be very comfortable in no time.

The curtains are made from burlap, the double homemade bunk bed is bordered with burlap for a pleasing finish, and the underside of the sink corner is enclosed in burlap. Here's another use for this inexpensive yet attractive material: cover an old table



DA.



with a layer of hemmed burlap, place a topographical map of your area on top of the burlap, and finish by covering with clear, heavy, easy to clean plastic.

There is a special luxury item at this camp. Although it was quite an undertaking to install, it was well worth the effort of disassembling the doorframe in order to bring in the shower stall. Once the water is heated and mixed half and half, a shower bag is hoisted onto a large hook located above the stall (this is the tricky part of the job). There is enough water in this pouch for two showers, or one extended version, and the camp shower is even more appreciated than a shower at home. The water flows through a drainpipe into a rock-lined pit outside.

As winter fast approaches, I look forward to another season of snow and showshoeing, and pursuing one of

my favourite hobbies, namely tracking nature's creatures. They leave their signatures everywhere in winter and from this remote base camp it is common to run across interesting tracks like moose, fisher, marten, fox, coyote, bobcat, lynx, snowshoe hare, otter and a host of other mammals and birds.

As I throw another piece of wood into the stove, I reaffirm my good luck to be here where there are no generators, no electric lights, no phones, no 'civilization' noises, no hours to keep, certainly no T.V. and not even a radio. It is just a feel-good place in a very, very small part of our hectic world.



## WATCHING THE RIVER

Don Gibson

Believe it or not spring is almost here and with it comes one of the best times of the year to observe waterfowl. The brightly coloured males are very easy to identify. The swollen St. John River provides an abundance of feeding locations and an equal number of safe havens.

Almost forty species of ducks and geese have been recorded in the province and with a bit of effort and luck one could tally twenty-five or more between Mactaquac and Jemseg during spring migration. The following is a simplified guide of where to look.

At Mouth of Keswick, the fields near Highway #105 flood each year, providing an appealing spot for many of the dabbling ducks. A report of a Cinnamon Teal there a few years ago caused quite a stir and, although not a separate species, the Eurasian race of the Green-winged Teal is often encountered at this location. The traffic is generally light along this stretch of road but the shoulder is very narrow and there are not a lot of good places to park. Don't forget to take a quick jaunt out the Tripp Settlement Road.

Within Fredericton, there are a number of good viewing spots, such as the parking lot at the Irving bypass restaurant (at the junction of the Trans-Canada Highway and Woodstock Road), the Rural Cemetary, behind the Sheraton Hotel, behind the old Victoria Public Hospital, the Waterloo Row Green, and Carleton Park. A good scope is a necessity at these locations, as the ducks are usually in the middle of the river or at the far side.

Undoubtedly the main attraction is the Jemseg area, as the river flooding is very extensive here providing numerous pools that are easily viewed from close range. Beginning at McGowans Corner, make a quick check out the Lakeville Road then proceed down Route #2 where the flooded fields on your left and the swollen river on your right present a waterfowl bonanza. There is one drawback, however. This is the Trans-Canada Highway! The best time is between daybreak and 10 a.m., for after that the traffic picks up dramatically. For leisurely birding, very few spots compare to Lower Jemseg. Here, half of the vehicles probably belong to fellow birders, whose toughest decision is whether to look up for Ospreys or down for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Although waterfowl are usually your main target, don't forget that the following species have been seen here in recent years: Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Ruff, Turkey Vulture, Lesser Black-backed Gull and New Brunswick's first California Gull.



Reprinted from the October 1994  
Fredericton Nature Club Newsletter  
(Volume 1, Issue 2).



## BUTTERFLY AND MOTH ROUNDUP – 1995

Report and Drawings by Jim Edsall

A warm, dry and long butterfly season produced another bumper crop in 1995. Increased interest in nature in general and butterflies specifically led to an increase in sighting reports this year. However, I have fallen far short of my goal of converting all the province's birders to butterfly watchers. All in good time, I suppose.

**Black Swallowtails** were widely reported in small numbers. Two were near Hartland on May 21 (JPG, JJW, SL); two were in Centennial Park, Moncton on June 4 (JE); one was at Mary's Point on June 27 (DSC); and three were at Germantown on July 10 (DSC). Late specimens were one laying eggs on parsley in Moncton Sept. 2 (JE) and a worn male in Sackville Sept. 22 (JE).

Like last year, the **Canadian Tiger Swallowtail** was the most abundant species reported. In Albert Co., it was impossible to drive down the road without killing large numbers. They were on the wing from late May until the middle of July (m.ob.).

The **Monarch** was seen in good numbers and reported in May, June, August, September and October. They were not observed breeding in Fredericton this year but a small number returned to breed on the Orange Milkweed in the garden at the Shorecrest lodge on Grand Manan Island (CN).

The **Common Sulfur** was in normal numbers this year, reaching their peak in Sept. and Oct. with very large numbers at Mary's Point (DSC) and on Grand Manan (JE). It shared the distinction of being the latest butterfly reported, Oct. 31 at Fundy National Park (RJW).

The **Alfalfa Butterfly** was not as common this year as last but a few were reported, especially in Sept. and Oct., the latest coming on Oct. 31 at FNP (RJW).

The **Cabbage Butterfly** was, as usual, widely reported and a major pest in gardens throughout the area. A very early one was at Alma on Apr. 21 (DR) and a very late one on Oct. 31 was at Fundy (RJW).

**Mustard Whites** were seen at Keswick Ridge on May 13 (FNC).

The **Eyed Brown**, a marsh species, was reported at Germantown where three individuals were seen on July 10 (DSC).

**Inornate Ringlets** were reported at Mary's Point on June 16; South Branch, King's Co. on June 25 (DSC); near Harvey Station on June 25 (JPG, GB); and on

Hasting's Hill, FNP on June 28 (JE).

A new locality for the globally rare **Maritime Ringlet** was found at the mouth of the Bass River east of Bathurst on August 5 (JPG, AD, HRH).

**Silver Bordered Fritillaries** were at Mary's Point June 20 and 27 (DSC). Large numbers were reported at Shediac Bridge in August (ST).

A very rare species in this province, **Meadow Fritillary**, was at Big Salmon River on June 21 (DSC).

**Lesser Purple Fritillaries** were once again located at the old airstrip in Tabusintac in early August (RW).

A late **Atlantis Fritillary** was on Whitehead Is. on Sept. 15 (JE).

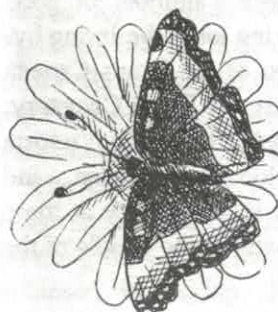
The **Question Mark** was fairly common on Grand Manan in September (JE). One specimen was so cooperative and showy that a large group of birders stalking a Hooded Warbler stopped to take in all its glorious colors.

An **Eastern Comma** fresh from hibernation was observed at Moncton on April 17 (JT). One in worn condition was at Sussex on May 28 (DSC).

Two **Grey Commas** were at Wolfe Lake, FNP on May 5 (JE) while there was still snow on the ground.

**Compton's Tortoise-shell**, normally rare in New Brunswick, had a good year, especially along the Bay of Fundy. One was seen several times in Sept. at Mary's Point (DSC). One was in Alma on Sept. 7 (RJW). On Grand Manan, several were reported in Sept. (ST) and one was observed sunning itself on a fishing shed on Whitehead Is. on Sept. 15 (JE, JW).

**Milbert's Tortoise-shell** was first reported on April 19 at Fredericton (JPG), May 1 at Mary's Point (DSC), and at Fundy on May 5 (JE). One was near the Mactaquac dam on May 14 (JPG), several were at Sussex on June 19 (JC), and a late one was at Cape Tormentine on Oct. 15 (JE).





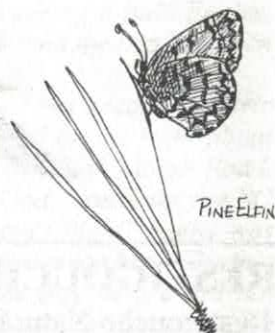
**Mourning Cloaks** were very common this year. They were both the earliest butterfly reported, Apr. 8 at Fredericton (JPG) and the latest, Oct. 31 in Alma (RJW).

One of the most abundant species of 1994, the **White Admiral**, was present in very low numbers in 1995.

**Viceroy**s were widespread this year. They were present in their usual spots on the Crowley Farm Rd. in Moncton from June 25 to Sept. 25 (MNC).

A late **American Painted Lady** was at Fundy National Park on Oct. 31 (RJW).

All six **Elfin** species were reported this year. In fact all six were located at the same site in Northumberland Co. near the intersection of Rte. 8 and the Blueberry Rd. north of Miramichi City in early June. Present in this area were **Brown Elfin**, **Hoary Elfin**, **Henry's Elfin** (very rare), **Bog Elfin**, **Pine Elfin** and **Banded Elfin** (RW). Several of these species were also at the airstrip in Tabusintac, just a few miles down the road in Gloucester Co. Other reports include a **Pine Elfin** at Nashwaaksis on May 14 (JPG); one **Brown Elfin** at Cotter Hollow, Kings Co. on May 27 (DSC); and two elfins, probably **Brown** on June 2 at Caribou Plain, FNP (TT).



PINE ELFIN

Gray Hairstreak  
(Strymon melinus)

Located in the same area off Rte. 8 as the Elfins were several **Gray Hairstreaks** in early June (RW), only the second recorded occurrence of this species in New Brunswick.

**Acadian Hairstreaks** were reported on the marshes at Daly Pt. and

Peters River in Bathurst in late July (RW). Others were seen along the St. John River in Fredericton in July (RW).

A **Striped Hairstreak** was present in a Moncton garden on July 23 (JE).

Many **Salt Marsh Coppers** were found at the Caraquet River on August 5 (JPG, AD, HRH).

**Silvery Blues** were common at Petit Rocher, Gloucester Co., on June 17 (JPG, HRH), as well as on

the Crowley Farm Rd. in Moncton on June 25 (MNC). One was at Mary's Point on June 8 (DSC), one was near Harvey Station on June 25 (JPG, GB), and one was near Hillsborough on July 1 (JPG).

**Greenish Blues** were reported near Tabusintac in early June (RW). Apparently this species is more common in the northern part of the province.

**Spring Azures** had a good year, first reported on May 5 at Fundy (JE) and flying well into July (JE, TT). One well-observed individual on July 8 was of the variety considered by some to be a different species, the "Summer Azure" (JE).

### Skippers and Moths:

**Pepper and Salt Skipper** — June 2, FNP (JE)

**Least Skipper** — 1st week of July, Fredericton (RW)

**Peck's Skipper** — (unusual second brood) Sept. 20, Moncton (JE); Oct. 15, Cape Tormentine (JE); Oct. 31, FNP (RW)

**Dun Skipper** — July 12, FNP (JE)

**Columbia Silk Moth** — June 22 and 24, Moncton (JE, MNC)

**Polyphemus** — June 24, Moncton (MNC); June 28, FNP (JE); July 14, Mary's Point (DSC). Reported fairly common throughout.

**Luna Moth** — several at FNP in June and July (DC, TT); common, Charters' Settlement (RW).

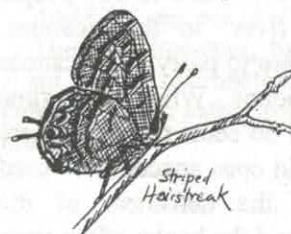
**Nessus Sphinx** — June 6, Moncton (JE).

**Hummingbird Clearwing Moth** — Reported abundant from many areas (m.ob.)

**Wild Cherry Sphinx** — June 24, Moncton (MNC) (very rare species)

**Canadian Sphinx** — June 29, Beresford (RW) (extremely rare)

**Gypsy Moth** — Sept 15, Castalia, GMI. Several males observed near pheromone traps (JE, JW).

Striped  
Hairstreak

**Hemlock Looper** — late August through October, Very common throughout Albert Co. (JE, DC, DSC)

### Observers and other abbreviations:

AD = Alison Dibble, CN = Cindy Normandeau, DC = Doug Clay, DSC = David Christie, DR = Doreen Rossiter, FNC = Fredericton Nature Club, FNP = Fundy National Park, GB = Gart Bishop, GMI = Grand Manan Island, HRH = Hal Hinds, JC = John Candy, JE = Jim Edsall, JJW = James Walde, JPG = James Goltz, JT = John Tanner, JW = Jim Wilson, MNC = Moncton Naturalists' Club, m.ob. = multiple observers, RJW = Rob Walker, RW = Reggie Webster, SL = Sarah Lancaster, ST = Stuart Tingley, TT = Tony Thomas





## CORNEILLE OU CORBEAU?

Roger Thériault — Les Ami.e.s de la nature



Ces deux gros oiseaux noirs communs de notre région sont souvent confondus, même par les ornithologues amateurs que nous sommes. Souvent notre attention est portée sur un de ces oiseaux au vol ou sur la cime d'un arbre. S'agit-il d'un corbeau ou d'une corneille? Lorsque les ornithologues anglophones ne sont pas certains, pour rigoler, vont simplement dire qu'ils ont vu un "craven" (crow/raven).

Les corneilles et les corbeaux appartiennent à la famille des corvidae. Ils sont omnivores (mangent à peu près de tout). Voici quelques détails qui vous aideront à les différencier.

### Grand corbeau:

- Plus grand (55 - 68 cm)
- Queue cunéiforme (forme plutôt ronde)
- Généralement solitaire
- Plane comme les rapaces
- Cris, croassement "cr-rok" ou "proc toc" métallique
- Plumes de la gorge allongées

### Corneille d'Amérique:

- Plus petite (43 - 53 cm)
- Grégaire
- Cri, "Ka"

Tous deux se sont adaptés à cohabiter avec l'homme. Ils sont des vidangeurs naturels qui nettoient les abords des routes, des parcs, etc. Cependant ils partagent aussi la mauvaise réputation d'oiseaux matinaux bruyants et de pilleurs de poubelle. Bon gré, mal gré, ces oiseaux rusés vont continuer à nous côtoyer.

Bonne chance dans vos observations!



## RESTORING THE RESTIGOUCHE

Irene Doyle and Allain Dufour — Restigouche Naturalists' Club



Mr. Dufour is the co-ordinator of the Restigouche Recreational Project.

A stretch of about 50 miles on the beautiful Restigouche River is now cleaner and safer for salmon and everyone who dares to "run the river".

In the summers preceding 1990, 250 to 300 people a day were "running the river" in their canoes. Unfortunately, many were there to party, their canoes loaded with food, beer, and liquor. When it was time to pitch tent, cook meals and do some partying, there were no boundaries. The wild open spaces were used to their fullest, much to the detriment of the environment. Salmon pools and the banks of the river became littered with garbage.

This very much concerned the Restigouche Salmon Club. In 1990, with the help of the Province of New Brunswick<sup>1</sup>, steps were taken to correct the situation. A project was organized to enhance and restore the beauty of the river. The first responsibility of the five employees was to clean the river from its mouth up to the Patapedia Campsite, about a mile above the "Million Dollar Pool". Step number two was to put up

camping facilities, including garbage barrels and bathrooms, for canoeists.

To give an idea of the extent of the problem, five half-ton pickup truckloads of garbage were removed from a single camp site in just one weekend! The next problem was education of the canoeists. Most people were very co-operative and responded positively, but a few were reluctant to change their ways, and some still will not use the toilet facilities.

Fortunately, five years later, people seem to be much more respectful of the river. There are two patrol teams that monitor about 25 miles of river daily. The fact that the rangers and the RCMP have also been patrolling by canoe has helped tremendously.

When the project was begun in 1990, it was difficult to find suitable workers, but now it is going great. We hope that it will continue so that the breathtaking beauty of the Restigouche can be maintained and enjoyed for years to come.

<sup>1</sup> But not the province of Quebec, which lies on the northern bank of the Restigouche River.





## DIVINE INTERVENTION: SHORTWAVE TO GOD

Jan Hammock -- Chignecto Naturalists' Club



"Kathy to God! Kathy to God!" Kathy stood looking heavenward and sent her message with great intensity.

"Comin' in!" God's answer was immediate. He could tell this was an urgent request.

"I need at least one Snowy Owl to be sent to the Tantramar Marshes for a sighting in the late afternoon of January 1, 1996," she said.

"Sure, no prob!" God replied. "Any particular spot you want it?" he asked.

"Yes, absolutely!" Kathy answered. The last time she had asked God for a particular sighting, she had neglected to agree with Him on an exact spot and had not been able to find the requested birds! It had been most embarrassing, since she was showing around a Master Birder, Boyd Pinfeather, who was visiting from New Zealand, and had requested that 8 Bald Eagles be flown in for the occasion. She had been confident that she would have no trouble seeing 8 Bald Eagles, but they remained hidden to her, and the trip had been an abject failure.

"I want it on the tippytop of the second electric tower in the line of towers located on the right about a slow five minute drive in on the High Marsh Road. Make him a really white one, God, 'cause they're SO impressive, and at least 24 inches high!" Kathy was explicit! No more accidental misses for her! The fact that she had seen one only the day before did not reassure her. Yes, it was likely that he would be somewhere around again, but one could never count on it! She needed to be certain!

"Sure enough, Kathy!" boomed God in a kindly voice. He liked Kathy: she was one of his best bird-supporters. "So who's the lucky first-time Snowy Owl spotter you plan to wow?" He asked.

"Janet Hammock!" she replied. "Janet has lived here for 21 years and has never seen a Snowy Owl! I think it is about time! Don't you agree?"

"Does she have eyes? Where has she been looking?" God asked incredulously. "Oh yeah, I remember her now! Always got her eyes glued and ears tuned to the old ivories! She sounds like a bird with her sweet music! She really appreciates the music of nature, and you know, Kathy, I think Janet will love the quiet, intimate beauty of my Snowy Owl! Its even more beautiful in its soft silence than my greatest songster creations: my Lark or my Nightingale! Yes, if I do say so myself, I do believe that the Snowy Owl is my most impressive feathered creation! Yes, Kathy, this a good move! I will have a Snowy Owl for you on the tower at about 4:00 p.m. on the afternoon of January 1st."

"Thanks, God!" said Kathy.

The rest is history. To this day, Janet cannot figure

out how Kathy knew that a Snowy Owl would be seen on the second electric tower at 4:00 p.m. on New Year's Day, 1996.

"There it is! I've got it!" Kathy pulled the van over and stopped. She looked through her binoculars and then handed them to Janet.

"What? Where?" Janet couldn't believe that Kathy had spotted one. All she could make out with her naked eye was a tiny white speck thousands of feet away, barely visible against the cold blue sky.

She peered through the glasses. "I don't believe it! There it is!" There was no mistaking the owl silhouette, even though it was still a small blob, very distant and with no real features that could be clearly identified. She took the binoculars away and again the owl was reduced to a tiny speck against the winter sky.

In the meantime, Kathy had set up her telescope on the tripod, and now she called to Janet: "Come and look! Don't touch anything, just look!" Janet looked. Now the blob was a definite owl shape, half blue-grey shadow, half brilliant white. As she looked, it moved its head, turned perhaps to look at her, and then soundlessly, as if in a dream, turned again away to meditate on the pink and golden snows of the marsh in the setting sun.

After a while, Kathy and Janet recorded their presence at that time and place with a photograph of the Snowy Owl and of themselves, and then they got in the van and drove toward home.

And God was pleased!

The van, however, had become so excited by the event that it overheated and had to be cooled down before it could safely transport the two happy birders home!



### Add zest to your birding: A tip from Kathy Popma:

"After many years of birding, while we still find it exciting, veterans often lose the sense of wonder that beginners have. While my yearly quest on the Tantramar Marsh for a Snowy Owl is always special, having someone to share it with, who responds like Jan did, makes it much more meaningful. If any longtime birder finds their energy and/or interest lagging, I recommend going out with a novice. Introducing someone to birding can help you to see with fresh eyes, and a rejuvenated spirit!"



## HEDGEMAIDS AND FAIRY CANDLES

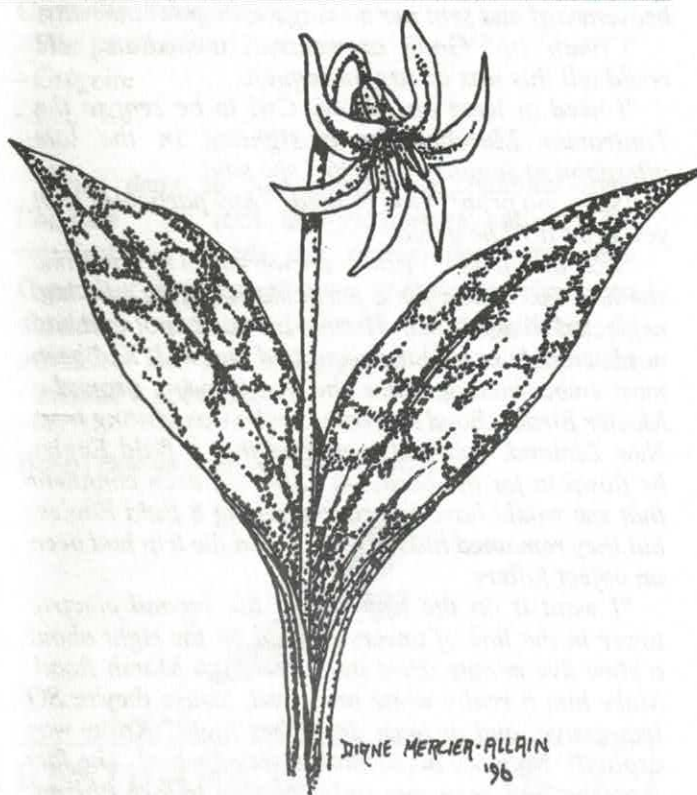
Book Review by Gart Bishop

When I came across this book while browsing through the botany section of a bookstore, its title made me think it belonged elsewhere. I soon discovered it was indeed in the correct section. A warm pleasant feeling washed over me as I quickly glanced through this gem.

The introduction opens with..."a wag once called wildflowers weeds with a press agent." This not only caught my attention but intrigued me to read on. In this book the reader will find some 80 of the most common plants in the north east of our continent (almost all of which are found in New Brunswick) described in a friendly genuine manner not found in field guides.

Grouped according to its growing season (spring, summer and fall), each plant's characteristics are woven into a colourful two to four page description that is written in a light non-technical style. The author begins by talking about the origin of the plant's common and botanical names. He continues with details of some of the plant's natural history, folklore, habitats, and even its place in literature. Each description concludes with a comment on the plant's abundance, and its suitability for transplanting.

Under the description for Trout Lily, noted naturalist John Burroughs (1837-1921) is quoted as preferring the name "fawn lily" because "...he thought the leaf mottling resembled the markings on a young

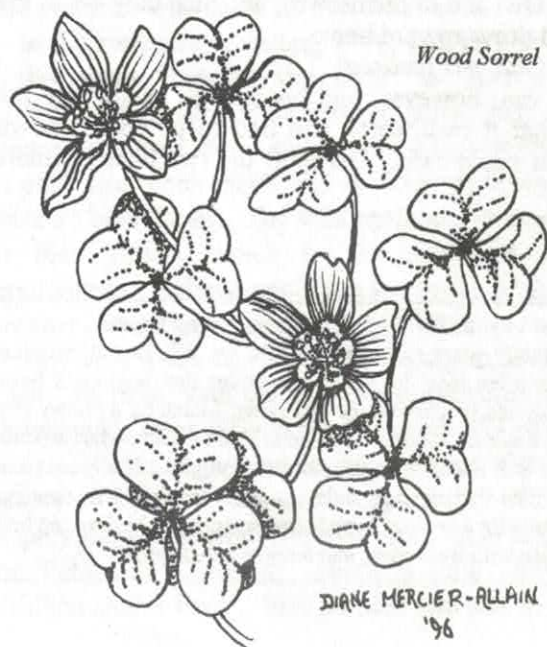


Trout Lily

deer ...Its two leaves stand up like a fawn's ears, and this feature with its recurved petals, gives it an alert, wide-awake look."

The introduction concludes with "...whether you see them in your yard, on a roadside or way off in the woods, enjoy wildflowers for the marvellous creations they are. They have been around for longer than humans, despite our carelessness and callousness. And they bring colour and beauty to a world that needs both."

This delightful book about our known wildflower friends belongs in the library of anyone interested in plants. Originally published in 1993, the paperback version was just released in the fall of 1995 and sells for \$21.95.



Wood Sorrel

Sanders, Jack. 1993. *Hedgemaids and Fairy Candles: The Lives and Lore of North American Wildflowers*. Published by Ragged Mountain Press, The McGraw-Hill Companies Customer Service Department, PO Box 5476, Blacklick, OH 43004 USA (1-800-822-8158).



## THE FLORA OF THE GRAND MANAN ARCHIPELAGO

Book Review by James Goltz

Much has been written about New Brunswick's natural history, including its flora, but a great deal of such information is accessible only to persons who have the time and patience to browse through archives. This revised edition of *The Flora of the Grand Manan Archipelago* makes both current and historical information on the vascular plants of Grand Manan readily available to New Brunswick's naturalists.

The work was originally authored by Charles A. Weatherby and John Adams and was published in 1945 by the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, as number 158 in a series of publications entitled 'Contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University'. The revised edition by Hal Hinds and George Flanders retains all of the original 1945 text, but provides a complete update on what has been learned in the subsequent fifty years, including previously unreported species, nomenclatural and taxonomic changes, and additional information on the plant species that have been reported from Grand Manan. The revisions are clearly marked in curly parentheses (i.e., "{}").

The new publication is a detailed list of what vascular plants have been found on Grand Manan and where they have been found. It documents the changes that have occurred during the past fifty years, as well as what has not changed. For example, many of the plant species reported by Weatherby and Adams from



Blue-eyed  
Grass

Southern Head surprisingly can still be found there, but now there are also new species such as the provincially rare Allseed (*Millegrana radiola*). For those naturalists who like a challenge, the new Introduction section contains a list of fifteen species that have not been seen on Grand Manan for at least half a century.

Although the original publication contained little information on how to identify or recognize Grand Manan's plant species, the revised edition is designed to assist with plant identification by cross-referencing with appropriate pages in Hinds' *The Flora of New Brunswick*. Common names are now provided in both official languages.

Of special note, the revised edition is greatly enhanced by twelve excellent botanical illustrations prepared by Dr. C. Mary Young and a colourful close-up photograph of Blue-eyed Grass on its cover (unfortunately the book fails to give mention or give credit to the photographer, Doris Mowry).

The revised work is marred only by an occasional small typographical error, such as the inadvertent omission of the name *Botrychium lanceolatum* in front of "var. *angustisegmentum*" on page one. Also, it might perhaps have been easier to recognize the various additions and revisions if they had been printed in a different font, rather than placed in brackets.

Congratulations to Hal Hinds, George Flanders and the Grand Manan Historical Society for providing for New Brunswickers, as well as persons visiting our province, a very useful and informative book that will help us all to enjoy more fully our nature forays on Grand Manan. As was so accurately written in the Publisher's Foreword, "Hal has tramped all over Grand Manan to make sure this work is exhaustive and accurate." Weatherby and Adams would no doubt be delighted that their "historical record" has been updated and can serve as an accurate benchmark for measuring floristic changes in the future. What will the Grand Manan flora be like in another fifty years?

Hinds, Harold R. and George H. Flanders. 1995. Revised edition of Weatherby and Adams' *The Flora of the Grand Manan Archipelago -- Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Grand Manan, Charlotte County, New Brunswick*. The Grand Manan Historical Society. (Printed according to demand by McMillan Press, Saint John.) Soft cover cerlox-bound publication available for \$23.00 (postage and handling included) from Marie Thomas, P.O. Box 218, North Head, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0. 156 pp.



## THIS IS A RECORDING.....

Grant Milroy — Ford Alward Naturalist Association

### TAPE RECORDER ASSISTED BIRDING ADVENTURES IN CARLETON COUNTY

Late last winter, David Christie sent me a recording of owl and rail vocalizations. It was my desire to make contact with some local owls. My interest in owls began late one fall afternoon a couple of years ago, when I spied my first silhouette of a **Great Horned Owl**. That experience whetted my appetite.

My first owling adventure was with Ansel Campbell who had previous experience. We tried the tape in several locations before we hit the jackpot. We had started playing recordings of the smallest owls first, so as not to scare them away by thinking we were the bigger ones. The silent form of a large owl had sailed overhead in the darkness, but that had been all. This time, we parked near the Florenceville dump at the foot of 'The Pinacle'. Almost before we got out of the car, tape recorder in hand, there it was. "OOH OOH OOH", its plaintive monotone whistle could be heard. Excitedly we found the right spot on the tape and began to answer back. It began to answer almost immediately. Our hearts pumped fast and furious. That's it! It flew overhead and landed in a branch not far from us. We played, it answered. It flew from vantage point to vantage point, checking us out. Would we make a possible mate? We followed it with our flashlight. Wow, what a view, magnificent! Its tiny body displayed its Godgiven beauty. We'd unwittingly stumbled onto a **Saw-whet**. As it turned out I made several more contacts with them but none were to be as good as that one.

But that wasn't to be all for our trusty little tape recording. Mid May had rolled around and Joyce and I were looking for a little get away. We booked into the Reid Farm Log Cabin just north of Knoxford. There is a wooded spot beside a small lake which held my first bitterns. While Joyce slept in the early morning, I got out for some great spring birding. Hermit Thrushes were waiting to be discovered. But low and behold while I was seated, waiting and watching in the woods, the silent form of a **Barred Owl** glided silently into view. This was another first for amateur birder me. Later, during the day, we could hear it hooting off in the distance. That evening while Joyce was preparing supper I tried the tape on the van

tapeplayer. Within seconds this great Barred was there flying overhead, investigating that familiar vocalization. Its ethereal hooted communication greeted our ears. It perched in several spots closeby giving us a wonderful, glorious view of its deep black eyes and marvelous plumage.

Another tape recording adventure which I just must share with you took place after discovering the presence of a **Virginia Rail** in a swampy arm of the Williamstown Lake near Bloomfield this past summer. Earlier I'd stumbled onto them with some friends. That made me want to test the tape again, this time using the rail recording. In the glow of a beautiful August sunset, my wife and I walked out to a duck blind where I had seen the rail before. Quietly we positioned ourselves and began to play the guttural "kid-ick dic-ick, ticket-ticket" quacks of this elusive, dark coloured, skinny, little marsh hen. Sure enough, our wait was not to be for long. Its answer came back just like the recording. Its funny grunt-like sounds greeted our ears from here and from there. We stared and searched and continued to play the recording. All of a sudden one flew up from the reeds and fluttered through the air about fifty feet only to disappear from view. A few more minutes passed and a scurrying took place amongst the cattails, then nothing. We stared some more, then another flurry of short shallow flight, to be followed by a few more of the strange little sounds. Then all was quiet. For a few fleeting moments we had entered the world of the Virginia Rail, thanks to David's trusty tape.

**Editors' Note of Caution:**  
The use of tape recordings is a very effective tool for detecting, attracting and observing birds. However, this technique should be used with discretion, taking care not to harass birds during their breeding season or bird species that are rare. If used judiciously, recordings certainly can provide great help in atlas projects, censuses (e.g., Christmas Bird Counts) and providing educational experiences.





## PROJET TANGARA – 1994-1995

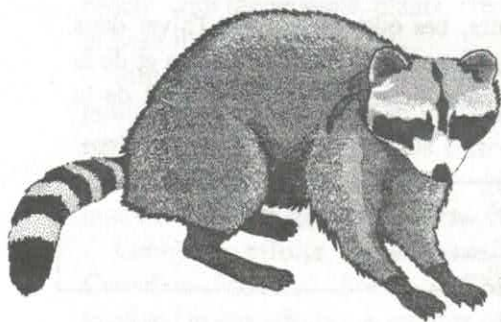
Gérard Verret – Le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska

*Gérard Verret était le coordinateur du Projet Tangara et est le coordinateur du Projet "Grive" pour le Club d'Ornithologie du Madawaska.*

Le Projet Tangara est un projet de recherches initié par le Laboratoire d'Ornithologie Cornell à Ithaca, New York. Ce projet pose une question critique concernant l'avenir de plusieurs espèces d'oiseaux migrants néotropicaux. La fragmentation des forêts réduit-elle le succès de reproduction de certaines espèces d'oiseaux?

La fragmentation de la forêt (c'est-à-dire la division des forêts en petits morceaux) est occasionnée par des chemins, des pratiques de bûchage, de l'urbanisme et d'autres développements humains. Des ornithologues pensent que la fragmentation des forêts cause des

dommages aux oiseaux des régions boisées parce qu'elle augmente la prédation et le parasitisme de leur nid. Les prédateurs tels que les rats



laveurs, les Corneilles, les chats et les Vacher à tête brune ne sont normalement pas vus dans des vastes forêts. Ils sont vus plus nombreux près des habitations humaines. Mais quand ces forêts sont découpées par des chemins ou simplement rasées, les prédateurs pénètrent plus facilement ces bois.

Les chercheurs ont décidé d'analyser l'hypothèse à savoir si les Tangaras vont nicher avec succès dans le plus grandes étendues de forêts plutôt que dans de plus petites. Les participants de ce projet rapportent des données pour vérifier si les quatre espèces de tangaras nord américains nichent avec succès dans diverses étendues de forêts de grandeurs différentes. Ces recherches nécessitent plusieurs observateurs d'un bout à l'autre du continent.

Les tangaras ont été choisis pour cette étude parce qu'ils peuvent être identifiés facilement par leurs couleurs et leurs chants. Le Tangara écarlate (*Piranga olivacea*) niche dans la plupart des états des États-Unis et le sud du Canada, incluant le Nouveau-Brunswick. Le Tangara vermillon et le Tangara à tête

rouge sont observés en migration dans la province, mais n'y nichent pas.<sup>1</sup>

En 1994 et aussi en 1995, une dizaine de membres du Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska ont participé à ce projet.

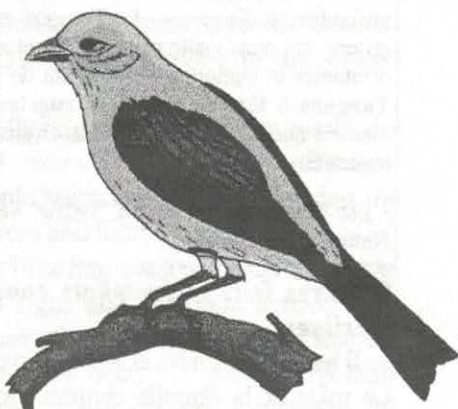
Le Tangara écarlate a été vu à cinq occasions dans le nord-ouest de notre province en 1994, mais seulement un couple y a été observé en 1995. Les résultats de ces données ont été expédiés au Laboratoire d'Ornithologie Cornell.

Cornell a publié les résultats du Projet Tangara dans son journal "Birdscope". En 1994, environ 2,200 points de recensements dans cinq provinces canadiennes et 43 états américains ont été étudiés. L'analyse statistique des données a confirmé que la grandeur des étendues boisées est déterminante pour la nidification du Tangara écarlate dans l'est de l'Amérique du Nord. La probabilité de trouver un Tangara écarlate est de 83% dans une étendue de 1000 acres, 68% dans 100 acres, et seulement 30% dans un acre. Il paraît que la grandeur de l'étendue boisée est moins importante pour le Tangara vermillon et le Tangara à tête rouge. Les résultats des recherches de 1995 seront publiés plus tard.

Maintenant, suite à ce projet, on connaît mieux les tangaras nord américains. De plus, un protocole pour faire des recherches sur une espèce d'oiseaux, partout dans un continent entier, a été développé et vérifié avec succès, employant des bénévoles bien formés.

Le Projet Tangara est terminé pour l'est de l'Amérique du Nord mais continue en 1996 dans l'ouest et le sud-ouest du continent. Un nouveau projet, Projet "Grive"<sup>2</sup>, commencera ce printemps. On espère que ces réseaux scientifiques serviront à réaliser notre but ultime: la conservation des oiseaux.

Pour plus d'information concernant ces deux projets, communiquez en anglais à l'adresse suivante: Project Tanager or Pilot Project Thrush, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Road, Ithaca, New York 14850-1999.





<sup>1</sup> Le **Tangara écarlate** est peu commun dans l'ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick et devient rare dans l'est de la province. Il n'arrive guère avant le 10 mai, mais il a été vu entre le 13 avril et le 22 octobre, les individus isolés y restant rarement jusqu'en novembre ou décembre. Le **Tangara vermillon** est une espèce errante qui nous visite principalement en mai comme migrateur printanier et quelques fois à la fin de l'été et en automne. Le **Tangara à tête rouge** est un vagabond très rare qui n'a été observé que six fois au Nouveau-Brunswick, principalement en automne.

<sup>2</sup> Les détails sur le Projet "Grive" vont être publiés dans le Naturaliste du N.-B.

### D'autres faits intéressants concernant le **Tangara écarlate**:

Il habite les forêts et les régions boisées décidueuses. Le mâle et la femelle chantent avec une voix rauque semblable à celle du merle ayant mal à la gorge. Les deux sexes font un cri aigu suivi par une note plus basse, rauque, c-à-d "tchip beurr", quelquefois combiné avec des chants.

Ils se nourrissent principalement de fruits et d'insectes tels que papillons, abeilles, chenilles et autres larves de coléoptères et de mouches. Le **Tangara écarlate** consomme beaucoup d'insectes nuisibles de la forêt: il peut manger jusqu'à 14,000 chenilles de la

Spongieuse (*Lymantria dispar*) par semaine! Ordinairement, ils fourragent dans les arbres de 20 à 60 pieds au-dessus du sol, mais de temps en temps, ils fourragent sur le sol, surtout s'il fait froid et humide.

Le nid est ordinairement situé dans un arbre mature, soit un conifère (pruche ou pin) ou à feuilles caduques (érable, chêne, frêne ou hêtre). Il est construit de 4 à 75 pieds au-dessus du sol, sur une branche horizontale, à environ huit pieds du tronc. Le nid est construit en une période de deux à sept jours et l'incubation des quatre (deux à cinq) oeufs, prend 13 à 14 jours. L'incubation est faite seule par la femelle mais le mâle nourrit parfois la femelle. Les oisillons demeurent dans le nid environ deux semaines après l'éclosion. La femelle et le mâle leur apportent de la nourriture en moyenne à tous les dix minutes. Dans les provinces maritimes, l'incubation des oeufs survient pendant les deux dernières semaines de juin. Les oisillons restent au nid jusqu'à la seconde semaine de juillet.

Etant migrateurs, ces oiseaux passent l'hiver dans l'Amérique du Sud à partir du sud de Panama et de la Colombie, à l'est des Andes, et au nord ouest de la Bolivie.

## PROGRESS WITH PIPING PLOVERS – FINALLY!

Roland Chiasson and Sabine Dietz

### Protective Measures on the Acadian Peninsula Produce Encouraging Results

Piper Project/Projet siffleur, a non-profit organization formed in 1988, directs many conservation projects but its main focus continues to be the Piping Plover of the Acadian Peninsula in northeastern New Brunswick. Vehicle and pedestrian activities on beaches continue to prevent plovers from raising their young to fledgling age throughout Eastern Canada. Accordingly, last year the project had the following conservation objectives:

1. Reduce human disturbance on six sites to try to increase fledgling success.
2. Set up a monitoring/education program on the six beaches.
3. Encourage appropriate use of beaches, restricted to specific areas.
4. Meet and inform landowners.
5. Promote designation of portions of coastal habitats, and establishment of seasonal beach closures.

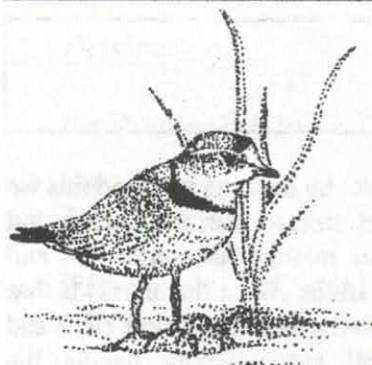
6. Encourage stewardship agreements with landowners.
7. Continue lobbying governments and organizations to protect the Piping Plover.
8. Continue negotiations with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to buy two or more Piping Plover beaches.
9. Continue school programs.

Excellent results were achieved with the first four objectives, moderate success with the second four, and no success with the last objective.

### Work done during the spring and summer of 1995:

Twelve Coastal Guardians (most of them biology students) and one research student were hired through the Department of Advanced Education and Labour with funds from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund. A grant from World Wildlife Fund Canada covered the salary of one assistant. General Motors of Canada (Oshawa) supplied us with a courtesy van. The New Brunswick Federation of





Naturalists was among the many sponsors who made this project possible.

The Coastal Guardians were employed for up to 15 weeks, mostly during peak times on the beaches. They

were identified with hats and T-shirts provided by the Piping Plover Guardian Program in Nova Scotia. They also carried photographs and brochures and, in some cases, telescopes.

Nest sites (200 to 400 square metres in surface area) were identified with at least four small signs, one big sign and a low lying rope fence with flashy yellow arrows pointing to the shore. Educational efforts were primarily focused on the beach. The message that beach users were given was one of "sharing of the beach" with the animals, plants, etc. This appeared to prevent most of the conflicts.

Information about the purpose of the project was published in a French and an English newspaper in this region (see back cover). This seemed to be effective, as "everybody" knew what was going on. Regular interviews on the local radio were given by staff.

Lobbying efforts were intensive. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) was actively involved in our efforts. A number of vehicle violations (over 60 in about 10 days) were documented for the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the RCMP, in order to prove that vehicles continue to be a serious threat to the survival of eggs and chicks on many of the beaches. Throughout the summer months a close contact was kept with CWS and RCMP.

No funding was available for school presentations, however staff gave weekly presentations to a summer camp in Tracadie. Teenagers from all over New Brunswick participated in these presentations. The monitors of the camp consulted with Piper Project staff before camping on the Tracadie Sandspit, an important Piping Plover habitat. The sandspit was used for camping without any harm to the Piping Plovers.

### Results:

The past summer season proved to be a very successful one for the Piping Plover in northeastern New Brunswick. This success was, without doubt, due to the efforts that were put into the protection of the birds by the twelve Coastal Guardians. The five

beaches that were intensively protected showed a fledgling success of 2.3 young per pair (including all nests lost to high water or other circumstances!), a success rate comparable to or even higher than that in National Parks. Similar techniques have also boosted the number of nesting Piping Plovers in the United States.

The presence of the Coastal Guardians made the contact with beach users easy and very effective. More than 400 people were kept from disturbing the nest sites, adult plovers and their young.

By the end of the breeding season, beach users had learned to associate signs and symbolic fencing with sections of beaches that have 'limited' access. Although some problems occurred with individuals consciously defying these fences, overall the compliance was excellent. This meant that 414 of 471 (87.9%) people contacted did not cause any prolonged disturbance, or did not come close to the fenced areas.

The experiences relayed by staff clearly showed that fences and signs are not enough. Control beaches had only signs and fences, and here poor success was reported with regard to keeping people out of the roped-off areas. Personal contact was the key to encouraging people to quickly pass along the shore through a marked area, discouraging them from lingering, or sometimes even inspiring them to turn around and not enter the area.

### Concerns for the future:

Despite the project's incredible success in 1995, there are some major concerns for subsequent years. A dependency on Coastal Guardians and roping has been created. If the program were to be discontinued, people may erroneously believe that if there are no zoned-off areas then Piping Plover are not present.

Presently, people seem to need precise directions on how to behave when in Piping Plover nesting habitat. The intensive efforts of the past season have to be kept up until people are able to tell when a bird is in distress, or where they should not linger due to the presence of the birds and their young. The beach users have to become more sensitized to the needs of breeding coastal birds. Without a program next year, the situation might simply revert to what it was in the past.

Our long term goal is to have people aware of certain key nesting areas that are not to be disturbed during nesting times (i.e., seasonally closed-off nesting sites). If this approach works then fewer Coastal Guardians will be needed in the future and conservation efforts can be applied elsewhere.

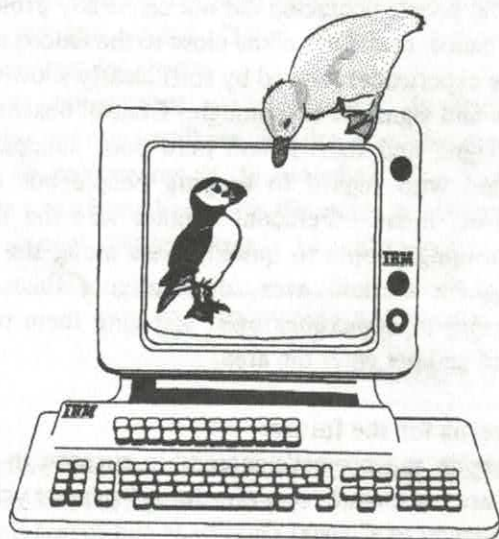


## NATURALIST ON THE NET

Stuart Tingley — [tingley@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:tingley@nbnet.nb.ca)

### Internet Discussion Group for New Brunswick Birders/Naturalists is Launched!

David Christie and I have started an informal e-mail discussion group for New Brunswick birders and other naturalists who have Internet access. At the moment we are calling the group 'NB\_Birds' but are searching for a better name which will be appropriate in both languages. We hope that the discussion group will improve communications among birders/naturalists in all parts of New Brunswick and act as a medium for the timely distribution of birding and nature news around the province.



We're hoping participants will regularly contribute news on bird and other nature sightings, field trips, meetings, etc. in their part of the province, or feel free to ask any questions they may have regarding bird distribution, behaviour, identification, or any other topic relating to nature. We'll have a great deal of collective knowledge and experience among the members of the mailing list and someone should be able to answer any questions that arise. While discussion will no doubt primarily be on birds, the list will be open to discussion of any field of natural history including mammals, plants, butterflies, etc. Of course, postings in either French or English will be welcome.

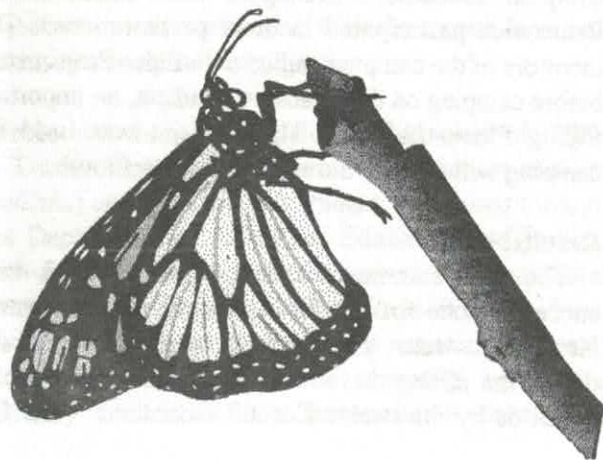
At the moment we have over 40 people on our mailing list and more people are joining every day. There have only been one or two postings per day but once spring migration gets underway we expect that to

increase somewhat. Also, by the time you read this we probably will have determined our new name and hopefully will have our mailing list automated and based at a computer at UNB. What this means is that you will send your messages to an address at UNB and a computer there will automatically handle the distribution of your message to everybody who is subscribed to the list.

Any interested birders/naturalists with Internet access who would like to participate in this mailing list/discussion group should send an e-mail to either David Christie ([maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca)) or myself ([tingley@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:tingley@nbnet.nb.ca)) so that we can add you to the list.

For those of you who already have a computer and modem but do not have Internet access, you may want to seriously consider getting connected. Prices for Internet access are falling rapidly in New Brunswick as competition is rapidly increasing. For example, here in Moncton, we currently have four major ISP's (Internet Service Provider) with others arriving shortly! If you are selective about 'surfing the net' and use your access primarily for sending and receiving e-mail, it is certainly possible to keep your monthly charges for Internet access under \$10, regardless of where you live in the province. Contact your computer dealer for advice on Internet access in your area.

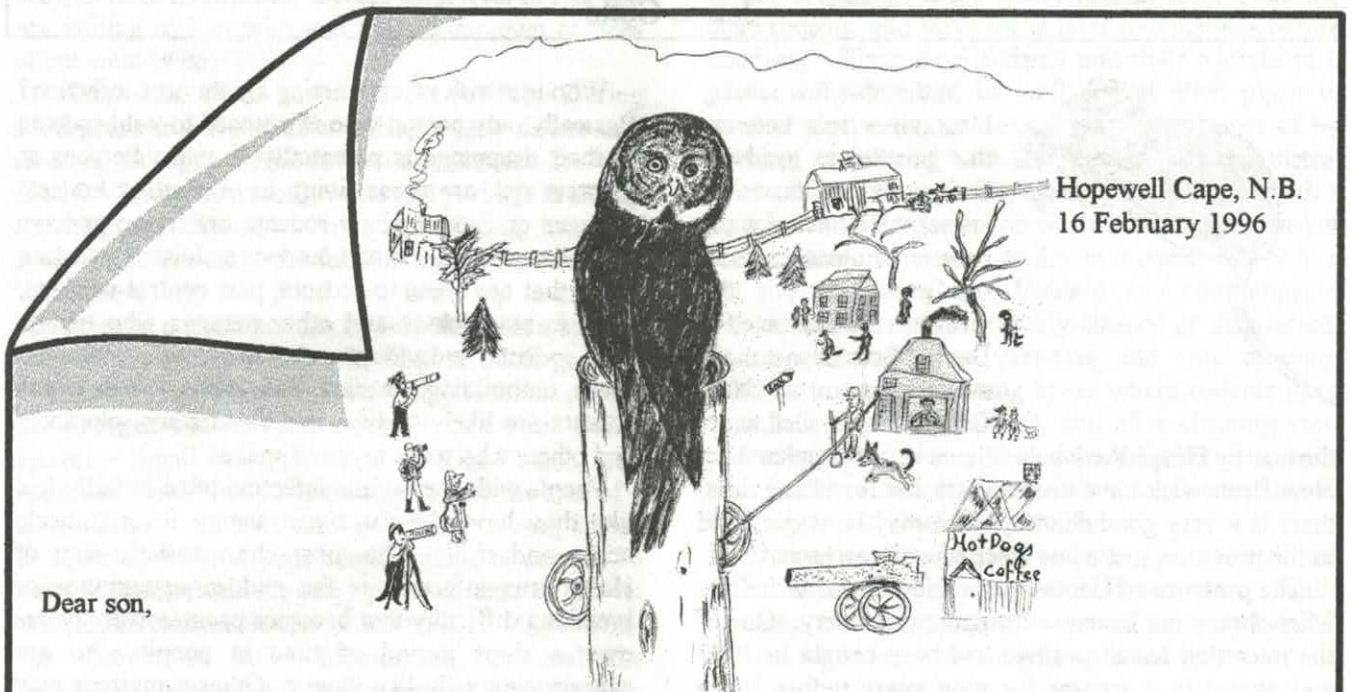
Once you get online and have joined the NB\_Birds mailing list, you'll want to start exploring other ways to access information relating to birds and other forms of nature. Believe me, you will be **OVERWHELMED** by the amount of information that is available for birders and naturalists online. I'll try to cover some of those sources in my next installment of *NATURALIST ON THE NET*.





## LETTER FROM ALBERT COUNTY

A local perspective on owls and owlers — composed by Mary Majka



Dear son,

Your Ma and I are OK, just hoping that winter is soon over. Maybe you already heard 'bout the news from down here. It's been in the newspaper, on radio and TV. Mary Majka told me people even heard it in Alberta. (Remember her? Used to take your class on nature trips. Still kicking around, crazy as a loon.)

A bunch of bird-watchers is driving us crazy. They keep coming here day after day. From Alma, Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, even all the way from Nova Scotia and the North Shore. All they want is to see some damn owl that's catching mice around our place pretty near every evening. They told me it's a great gray owl, or something like that. Comes from northern Ontario or out west, and is real rare here. It sure is a big bugger, I'll give them that, but it's pretty strange to drive hundreds of miles just to see an owl. Our old hoot owl's in the woodlot all year long.

First time I seen them, I wondered what the hell was going on. What were all those cars doing? We seen them park by the cannons, pile out and stand looking towards the river. It was just about dusk. I couldn't figure out what was going on. Ma said "Must be whales coming up the river." Then they all started jumping up and down like a bunch of monkeys, slapping each other and laughing like crazy. Some women even kissed and hugged. What a riot.

Well now, our little village ain't had so much excitement, I bet you, since they hanged that murdering fellow. But I wasn't around then. You should see their equipment -- the bird-watchers' I mean. I wouldn't want to guess what it costs, them telescopes, binoculars and cameras. One thing they sure have - patience! Yes sir, that they have. I talked to one woman. She came night after night four times before she seen it.

For somethin' to do, I been counting how many come. From the end of January, when that guy Christie from Mary's Point came and told them all, there's been lots. One night alone a hundred or more drove here and didn't see the bird. Talk about weird people, but they keep coming back. Your Ma gets nervous seeing them standing in the freezing cold for hours. We wonder how long it's gonna last. It turns out the owl wanders a bit. One day it's down by the Rocks, or even Demoiselle Crick, other times up near the old Bennett place. We been thinking about selling coffee and hot dogs out by the cannons. We might make a few bucks. What d'ya think?

Dad



## COSTS

### Registration (includes van trip):

Before April 26, 1996: \$20

After April 26, 1996: \$30

(Requests for refunds will be handled on an individual basis)

Note: Attendees who register before April 26 will be eligible for a prize draw.

## FOOD

Banquet - Buffet Style \$20  
(includes tips and taxes)

Chicken Forestière or  
Lasagna

Oven Roasted Potatoes  
Lemon Rice  
Garlic Bread  
Green Beans Amandine  
Honey Glazed Carrots  
Salads and Rolls

German Chocolate Cake or  
Cheesecake

### Box Lunches

If you want boxed lunches for either or both of Saturday and Sunday, please pre-pay (\$5.75/day) at time of registration. Box lunches for Saturday will be delivered to the lunch site at the Irving Nature Park; box lunches for Sunday should be picked up at the cafeteria.

### Complimentary

Morning muffins, juice, coffee  
Friday evening munchies

(Alternatively, cooked breakfast may be obtained for \$4 at the cafeteria)

## COÛTS

### Inscription (déplacements inclus)

Avant le 26 avril 1996: 20\$

Après le 26 avril 1996: 30\$

(Les demandes pour remboursement seront considérées sur une base individuelle)

N.B. Toute personne inscrite avant le 26 avril sera éligible à un tirage.

## NOURRITURE

Banquet - genre buffet: 20\$  
(taxes et pourboire inclus)

Poulet Forestière ou  
Lasagne

Pommes de terre rôties  
Riz au citron  
Pain à l'ail  
Haricots verts amandine  
Carottes au miel  
Salade et petits pains

Gâteau allemand au chocolat ou  
Gâteau au fromage

### Panier-repas

Si vous désirez recevoir un panier-repas le samedi et/ou le dimanche, assurez-vous d'inclure le payment (5.75\$/jour) avec votre formulaire d'inscription. Le premier vous sera remis au parc "Irving Nature" et celui du dimanche sera disponible à la cafétéria.

### Gracieuseté

muffins, jus, café chaque matin  
amuse-gueule le vendredi soir

(un petit déjeuner chaud sera aussi disponible à la cafétéria au coût de 4\$)



## ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants should make their own reservations. The listing below gives a selection from the large variety of accommodation in the City. It has been chosen to illustrate the range of prices available.

Please check rates when booking, and identify yourselves as participants in the NBFN meeting. Some hotels offer seniors' discounts

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### Campus Residence/ Residence universitaire

1. Sir James Dunn Residence  
UNBSJ  
Tucker Park E2L 4L5  
648-5755  
\$28.40 single/simple (incl. taxes/taxe comprise)  
\$41.50 double (incl. taxes/taxe comprise)  
Reservations: before May 1/avant le 1 mai

### Bed and Breakfasts/Chambres d'hôtes

1. Inn on the Cove  
Willa and Ross Mavis  
1371 Sand Cove Road E2M 4Z8  
672-7799  
\$55 - \$90 double
2. Shadow Lawn Inn  
3180 Rothesay Rd, Rothesay  
847-7539  
\$69-\$125 double

### Hotels/Hôtels

1. Delta Hotel  
39 King Street E2L 4W3  
648-1981  
1-800-268-1133  
\$91
2. Hilton Hotel  
One Market Square E2L 4Z6  
1-800-HILTONS  
\$99 - \$125

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PLEASE NOTE: The UNBSJ Residence is inexpensive and convenient. If you wish to stay there, it is important to book as soon as possible, since bookings are on a "first-come-first-served basis."

## HÉBERGEMENT

Les participants devront réserver directement. La liste ci-dessous donne une sélection de la grande variété d'hébergement disponible dans la ville. Les établissements ont été choisis pour illustrer la gamme de prix disponible.

Veuillez vérifier les prix quand vous ferez vos réservations et vous identifier comme membre de la FNMB. Certains hôtels offrent un rabais aux personnes du troisième âge.

- 
3. Hotel Courtenay Bay  
350 Haymarket Square E2L 3P1  
657-3610  
\$65.50

4. Howard Johnson Hotel  
400 Main Street E2K 4N5  
642-2622  
1-800-446-4656  
\$65

5. Country Inn (No/sans restaurant)  
1011 Fairville Blvd E2M 5T9  
635-0400  
\$66.95 single/simple  
\$81.95 suite

6. Comfort Inn (No/sans restaurant)  
1155 Fairville Blvd E2M 5T9  
674-1873  
\$71

7. Keddy's Fort Howe Hotel  
10 Portland Street E2K 4H8  
1-800-561-7666  
\$59

### Campground/Terrain de camping

1. Rockwood Park Campground  
652-4050  
Tenting \$13/day (1995 rates)  
Trailer and hookup \$15/day  
Camping: Tente - 13\$/jour  
Roulotte - 15\$/jour

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NB: La résidence de UNBSJ est bien située et très abordable. Si vous voulez y rester, veuillez faire vos réservations aussitôt que possible, puisque que les "premiers venus seront les premiers servis".



## FIELD TRIP AGENDA: JUNE 7-9

### Notes

1. Please remember to bring appropriate rainwear and other apparel, field guides, binoculars, and day packs. Check the field trip descriptions for any additional suggested items.
2. Transportation for the Saturday field trip (Trip C) will be by hired vans only. Participants will provide their own transportation for other trips. Vehicles will assemble in the parking lot of the UNBSJ residence.
3. Field trip C will be a bit different from past outings. Registrants for this trip will be transported to a sequence of five venues within the City of Saint John. Each visit will last about one hour. Transportation will leave the UNB residence at 8 am, and return at approximately 3 pm. The program is arranged so that participants will meet for lunch at the Irving Nature Park.
4. One of the vans on Saturday's Trip C will have a bilingual driver. If you would prefer to travel on this van, please indicate this on the registration form.

### ► **FRIDAY, JUNE 7**

#### **Trip A (Dave McCurdy)**

9:15 - 10:45 pm

#### **Whip-poor-will Walk**

Rockwood Park has long been home to a number of whip-poor-wills, a bird not easy to find in this province. We'll take a twilight walk to hear and perhaps see this vocal nocturnal species. Travel in own vehicles. Bring binoculars and a flashlight. Duration approximately 1.5 hours.

## HORAIRE DES RANDONNÉES: 7-9 juin

### Notes

1. Prière d'apporter le nécessaire pour les randonnées tel que vos imperméable, bottes, guides, jumelles et sac à dos. Vérifiez la description des randonnées pour autres suggestions d'items à apporter.
2. Le transport pour la randonnée du samedi (la randonnée C), sera par fourgonnettes louées seulement. Les participants devront fournir leur propre déplacement pour les autres voyages. Les véhicules se rassembleront dans le stationnement de la résidence de "UNBSJ".
3. La randonnée C, sera un peu différente. Les participants seront amenés à une série de cinq différents sites, tous à l'intérieure de la ville. Chaque visite sera d'une durée d'environ une heure. Le départ de la résidence de UNBSJ sera à 8h, et le retour est prévu pour 15h. L'horaire est établi de façon que tous les participants se rencontrerons au "Irving Nature Park" pour le lunch.
4. Une des fourgonnettes sera chauffée par une personne bilingue. Si vous voulez voyager dans ce véhicule, veuillez l'indiquer sur le formulaire d'inscription.

### ► **VENDREDI, LE 7 JUIN**

#### **Randonnée A (Dave McCurdy)**

21h15 - 22h45

#### **Randonnée Engoulevents bois-pourri**

Le Parc Rockwood abrite depuis longtemps un nombre d'Engoulevents bois-pourri, un oiseau difficile à trouver dans cette province. Nous ferons une promenade crépusculaire pour entendre, et peut-être même voir cette espèce nocturne et vocale. Voyage en vos véhicules. Apporter jumelles et lampe de poche. Durée d'environ 1.5 heures.



► **SATURDAY, JUNE 8**

**Trip B (Allen Gorham)**

6:00 am - 7:00 am

**For The Early Birds**

A leisurely general nature walk through the Tucker Park woodlot, adjacent to the UNB campus. Beginning with a spectacular view of the Kennebecasis River, expect a variety of interesting flora and fauna on this one-hour ramble before breakfast.

**Trip C (Ismail Patel, Donald McAlpine, Stephen Clayden, Jim Wilson, Kelly Honeyman)**

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**The Nature of Saint John**

A five-part trip entirely within the City of Saint John. Registrants will participate in each of the five segments, including lunch, with all transportation provided. Commencing on UNB campus, at 8 am, returning at 3 pm.

**1. The Explosion of Life**

The Geology of Saint John.

Leader: Ismail Patel.

A geological tour of the city, to inspect 500,000,000-year old rocks and fossils dating back to the early Cambrian period. Saint John sits on top of what was once an ancient ocean floor which predated the Atlantic. We'll stop at several sites of significant early fossil discoveries during the last century, where one can still find trilobites, brachiopods and trace fossils today. A pocket magnifier would be helpful.

**2. Tour of the New Brunswick Museum**

Behind the Scenes

Leader: Donald McAlpine.

A visit to the displays of the New Brunswick Museum's Natural Science Department on Douglas

► **SAMEDI, LE 8 JUIN**

**Randonnée B (Allen Gorham)**

6h - 7h

**Pour les lève-tôt**

Une promenade paisible à travers le boisé du parc Tucker, juste à côté de UNBSJ, nous commencerons avec un panorama spectaculaire de la rivière Kennebecasis. On peut s'attendre à une variété intéressante de flore et faune pendant cette excursion d'une heure avant le petit-déjeuner.

**Randonnée C (Ismail Patel, Donald McAlpine, Stephen Clayden, Jim Wilson, Kelly Honeyman)**

8h - 15h

**La Nature de Saint John**

Une tournée à cinq volets, entièrement dans la ville de Saint John, incluant le lunch, et avec le déplacement fourni. Le tout débutera à partir du campus de "UNBSJ" à 8h pour se terminer à 15h.

**1. L'explosion de la vie**

La géologie de Saint John.

Guide: Ismail Patel

Une tournée géologique de la ville pour examiner des roches datant de 500,000,000 d'années et des fossiles du début de la période Cambrienne. Saint John est située sur un fond d'une mer qui précède l'Atlantique. Nous nous arrêterons à quelques sites où d'importants fossiles ont été découverts le siècle dernier, et où on peut encore aujourd'hui trouver des trilobites, brachiopodes et autres fossiles. Une loupe serait utile.

**2. Tour du Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick**

Dans les Couliisses

Guide: Donald McAlpine

Une visite des expositions du Département des Sciences Naturelles du Musée du Nouveau-



### 5. Lunch at Irving Nature Park

Host: Kelly Honeyman

The Irving Nature Park, in West Saint John, was developed as an ecological preserve by the Irving family. Opened in 1992, the park now greets more than 120,000 visitors annually. The site provides a panoramic overview of Sheldon's Point, the Bay of Fundy and Manawagonish Island to the east, and the tidal flats and salt marsh of Saint's Rest Marsh to the west. Box lunches will be available for those who have pre-ordered.

### ► **SUNDAY, JUNE 9**

#### **Trip D (Allen Gorham)**

6 - 7 am

#### **For The Early Birds**

A leisurely general nature walk through the Tucker Park woodlot, adjacent to the UNB campus. Beginning with a spectacular view of the Kennebecasis River, expect a variety of interesting flora and fauna on this one-hour ramble before breakfast.

#### **Trip E (Jim Wilson)**

7:30 am - 1:30 pm

#### **Birding Charlotte County**

Charlotte county in southwestern New Brunswick is home to a number of birds that are more difficult to find in other areas of the Province. The extensive blueberry plains are attractive to numbers of Vesper and Lincoln's Sparrows and Brown Thrashers. Upland Sandpiper and Eastern Bluebird are sometimes present, and the coniferous and deciduous forests will yield a good variety of insectivorous birds. Travel in own vehicles. Round trip 5-6 hours. Bring a lunch and insect repellent.

### 5. Lunch au parc "Irving Nature"

Hôte: Kelly Honeyman

Le parc "Irving Nature", du côté ouest de la ville, a été aménagé comme une réserve écologique par la famille Irving. Ouvert depuis 1992, le parc accueille plus de 120,000 visiteurs par an. Le site présente une vue panoramique de Sheldon's Point, la Baie de Fundy, et Île Manawagonish vers l'est, et les battures et le marais salant de Saint's Rest à l'ouest. Les paniers-repas seront disponibles pour ceux qui les auront commandés à l'avance.

### ► **DIMANCHE, LE 9 JUIN**

#### **Randonnée D (Allen Gorham)**

6h - 7h

#### **Pour les lève-tôt**

Une promenade paisible à travers le boisé du parc Tucker, juste à côté de UNBSJ, nous commencerons avec un panorama spectaculaire de la rivière Kennebecasis. On peut s'attendre à une variété intéressante de flore et faune pendant cette excursion d'une heure avant le petit-déjeuner.

#### **Randonnée E (Jim Wilson)**

7h30 - 13h30

#### **Les oiseaux du comté de Charlotte**

Dans le comté de Charlotte au sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick, se trouve certains oiseaux assez difficiles à trouver dans le reste de la province. Les bleuetières sont attrayantes pour les Bruants vespéral et de Lincoln et le Moqueur roux. La Maubèche des champs et le Merle bleu son parfois présent, et les forêts de conifères et de feuillus rapporterons une bonne variété d'oiseaux insectivores. Déplacement en véhicules particuliers. Apporter lunch et chasse-moustique.



Avenue is always interesting, even though you see only a small fraction of the 300,000 zoology, botany and geology specimens which form the foundation for research, exhibits and public education programs. This is the most comprehensive natural history collection in the Maritimes and includes extinct bird species such as Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet, as well as bones of mastodons, skulls of whales, an Eastern Cougar and a wide variety of plant life, insects and fossils.

### 3. Rockwood Flora

Leader: Stephen Clayden.

Saint John's Rockwood Park is a 2200-acre natural area within the boundaries of the city which includes a number of freshwater lakes, open heaths, mixed forest, and well-established walking trails. Its limestone substrata favour an interesting variety of plant species, such as Yellow Lady's-slipper. Rhodora should be in full bloom. Aquatic vegetation includes stonewort, a representative of a group of algae, from which land plants may have evolved. This is a two-kilometre stroll with easy walking. A pocket magnifier will be helpful.

### 4. Peregrines and People

Leader: Jim Wilson

Saint John's Peregrine Falcons were the first success story in the Canadian Wildlife Service's Atlantic reintroduction program. A pair has been breeding on the Harbour Bridge since a nestbox was erected by the N.B. Museum staff in 1989. Our visit should coincide with heightened feeding activity as the parents ready the chicks for fledging within the next ten days. A great opportunity to see these birds hunting and attending young. We'll also visit a nearby breeding colony of Double-crested Cormorants, and Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. Bring binoculars and/or a scope. A scope will also be provided.

Brunswick est toujours intéressante, même si on ne voit qu'une minuscule partie des 300,000 spécimens zoologiques, botaniques et géologiques qui sont à la base d'expositions, de recherches et de programmes d'éducation publique. Celle-ci est la plus importante collection en histoire naturelle au provinces Maritimes et inclus des espèces disparues telles les Pic à bec ivoire, Tourte, Conure de Caroline aussi bien que des os de mastodontes, des crânes de baleines, un Cougar de l'est, et une grande variété de plantes, d'insectes et de fossiles.

### 3. La Flore de Rockwood

Guide: Stephen Clayden.

Le parc "Rockwood" est un aire naturel de 2200 acres à l'intérieure de la ville de Saint John qui comprend plusieurs lacs, landes, forêts mixte, et des sentiers bien aménagés. Son substrat calcaire favorise une intéressante variété de plantes tel que le Sabot de la vierge jaune. Le Rhododendron du Canada devrait être en pleine floraison. La flore aquatique inclus le Chara, un membre d'un groupe d'algues duquel les plantes terrestres sont peut-être issues. Une promenade facile de deux kilomètres. Une loupe serait utile.

### 4. Faucons pèlerins et humains

Guide: Jim Wilson

Les Faucons pèlerins de Saint John furent le premier succès en Atlantique du programme de réintroduction du Service Canadien de la Faune. Une paire niche sous le Pont Portuaire depuis 1989 quand le personnel du Musée y érigea un nichoir. Notre visite devrait coïncider avec une activité accrue alors que les parents tentent d'apaiser la faim de leurs oisillons qui quitteront le nid dans une dizaine de jours. Une belle occasion de voir ces oiseaux chasser et nourrir leurs petits. Nous visiterons aussi une colonie de Cormorants à aigrettes, et Goélands argentés et à manteau noir. Apporter jumelles et/ou télescope. Un télescope sera aussi disponible.



**Trip F (Molly Smith, Cecil Johnston)**

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Botany of Southern N.B.**

A half-day expedition to the Chance Harbour area to find a variety of bog and mixed woodland plants. Specialities include Curly Grass Fern, Screwstem, and the possibility of early orchids such as Bog Twayblade and Green Adder's-mouth. Bring along a lunch, waterproof footwear, and a pocket magnifier. Travel in own vehicles. Return to Saint John about noon.

Depending on water levels, the trip may continue on to the Hammond River area east of the city during the afternoon. We will explore the limestone-rich banks in search of Bird's-eye Primrose, Wide-leafed Ladies-tresses, and other plants of specialized distribution. Return to the city by 3 pm.

**Trip G (David Christie)**

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

**Fundy Intertidal Life**

The Bay of Fundy boasts some of the highest tides in the world. We'll reap the benefit of this by following the tide out the seafloor of Maces Bay. Low tide will be shortly after 1 pm, so this will enable us to spend the morning exploring for sea snails, sponges, crustaceans, worms, crabs and seaweeds. Travel in own vehicles, returning to the city by 2 pm. Walking could be moderately uneven, slippery in places. Bring a lunch and waterproof footwear.

**Randonnée F (Molly Smith, Cecil Johnston)**

8h - 15h

**La flore du sud du Nouveau-Brunswick**

Une excursion d'une demie-journée à Chance Harbour pour repérer une variété de plante des tourbières et des forêts mixtes. Les spécialités inclus Schizaea, Bartonie paniculée, et la possibilité d'orchidées printanières tel que les Liparis de Loesel et Malaxis unifolié. Apporter lunch, chaussures étanches et loupe. Voyage par véhicule particulier. Retour à Saint John vers midi.

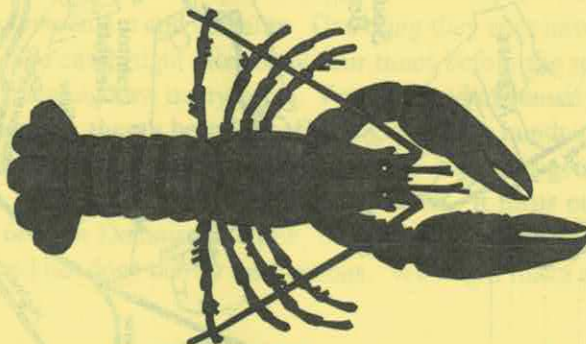
Dépendent du niveau d'eau, on pourrait continuer jusqu'à Hammond River, à l'est de la ville, pendant l'après-midi. Là, nous explorerons les rives calcaires à la recherche de Primavère laurentienne, Spiranthe brillante, et autres plantes de distribution restreinte. Retour vers 15h.

**Randonnée G (David Christie)**

9h30 - 14h

**La vie de la zone des marées de Fundy**

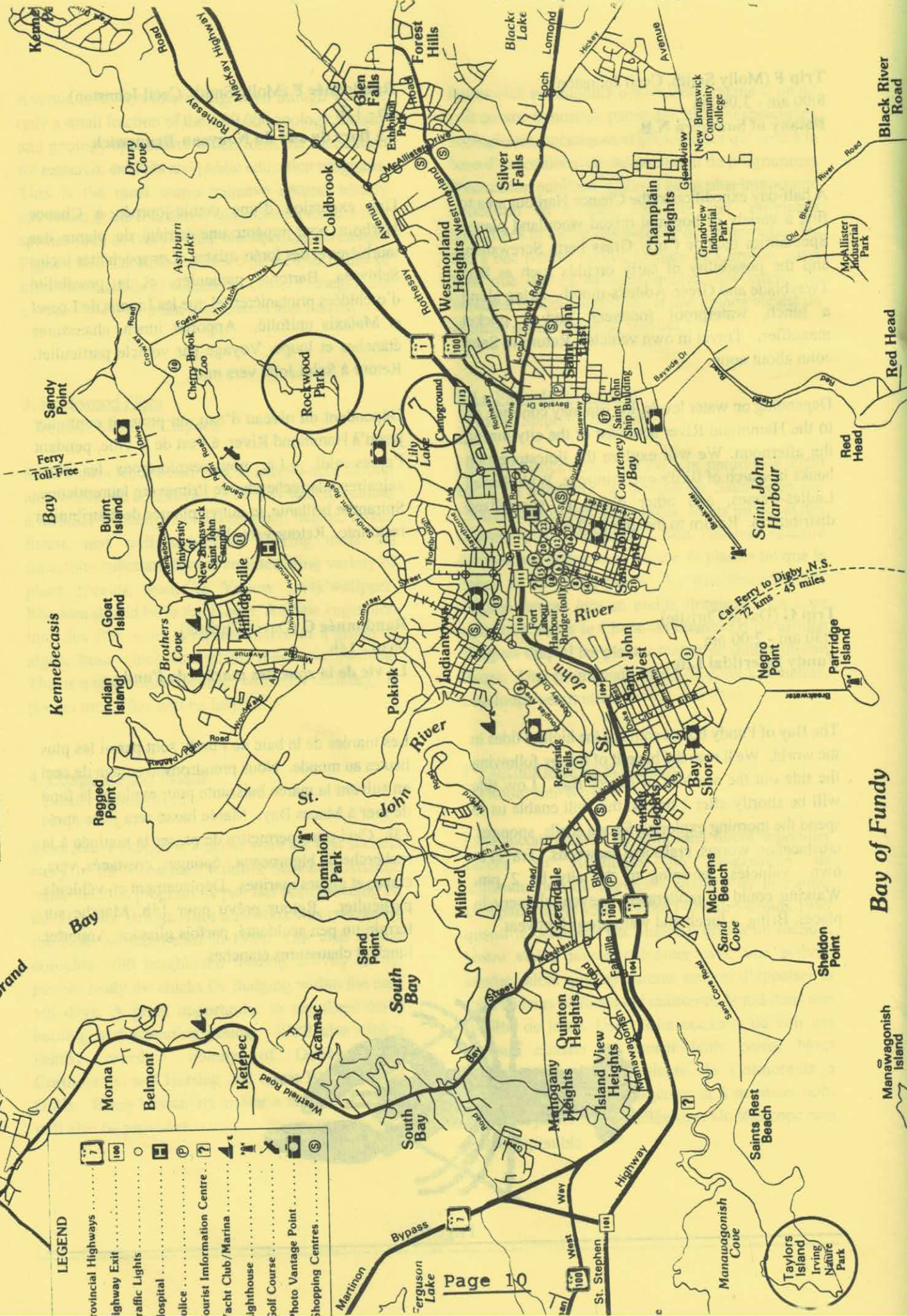
Les marées de la baie de Fundy sont parmi les plus hautes au monde. Nous prendrons avantage de ceci en suivant la marée baissante pour explorer le fond de mer à Maces Bay. Marée basse sera juste après 13h. Ceci nous permettra de passer la matinée à la recherche de bigorneaux, éponges, crustacés, vers, crabes et algues marines. Déplacement en véhicule particulier. Retour prévu pour 14h. Marche sur terrain un peu accidenté, parfois glissant. Apporter lunch et chaussures étanches.





# LEGEND

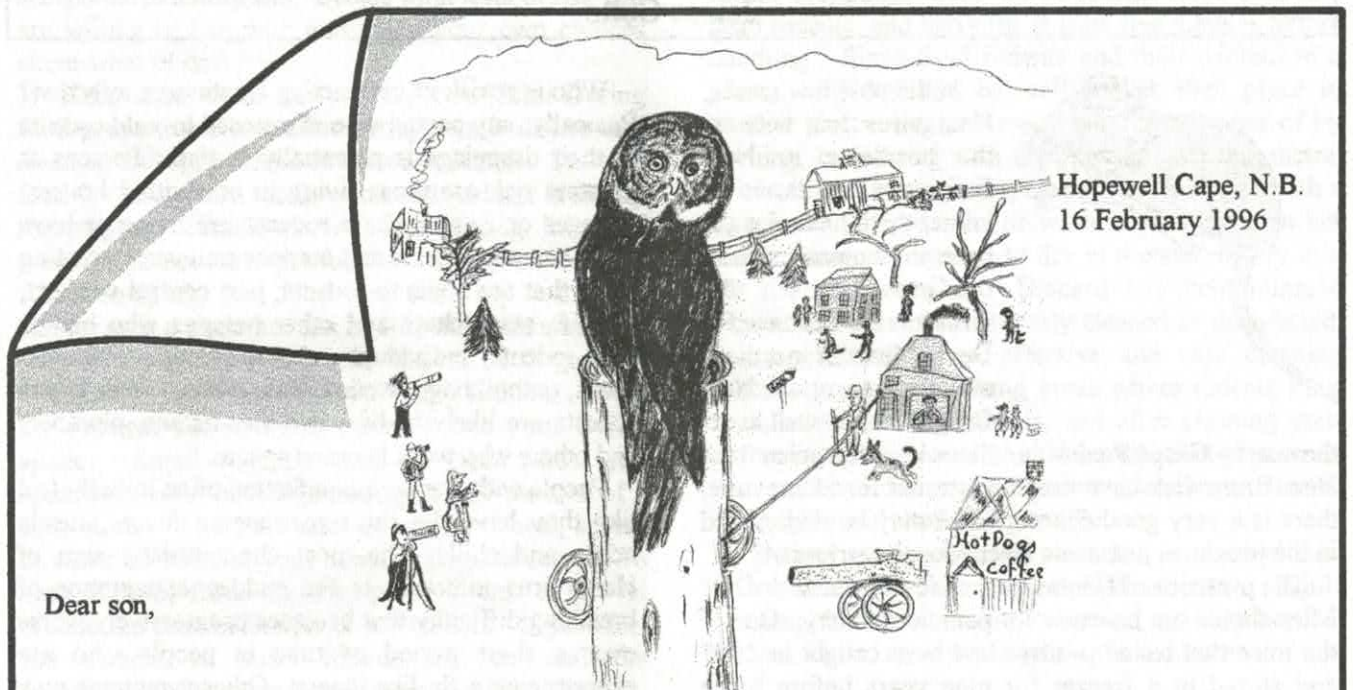
- Provincial Highways
- Highway Exit
- Traffic Lights
- Hospital
- Police
- Tourist Information Centre
- Yacht Club/Marina
- Lighthouse
- Golf Course
- Photo Vantage Point
- Shopping Centres





## LETTER FROM ALBERT COUNTY

A local perspective on owls and owlers — composed by Mary Majka



Hopewell Cape, N.B.  
16 February 1996

Dear son,

Your Ma and I are OK, just hoping that winter is soon over. Maybe you already heard 'bout the news from down here. It's been in the newspaper, on radio and TV. Mary Majka told me people even heard it in Alberta. (Remember her? Used to take your class on nature trips. Still kicking around, crazy as a loon.)

A bunch of bird-watchers is driving us crazy. They keep coming here day after day. From Alma, Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, even all the way from Nova Scotia and the North Shore. All they want is to see some damn owl that's catching mice around our place pretty near every evening. They told me it's a great gray owl, or something like that. Comes from northern Ontario or out west, and is real rare here. It sure is a big bugger, I'll give them that, but it's pretty strange to drive hundreds of miles just to see an owl. Our old hoot owl's in the woodlot all year long.

First time I seen them, I wondered what the hell was going on. What were all those cars doing? We seen them park by the cannons, pile out and stand looking towards the river. It was just about dusk. I couldn't figure out what was going on. Ma said "Must be whales coming up the river." Then they all started jumping up and down like a bunch of monkeys, slapping each other and laughing like crazy. Some women even kissed and hugged. What a riot.

Well now, our little village ain't had so much excitement, I bet you, since they hanged that murdering fellow. But I wasn't around then. You should see their equipment -- the bird-watchers' I mean. I wouldn't want to guess what it costs, them telescopes, binoculars and cameras. One thing they sure have - patience! Yes sir, that they have. I talked to one woman. She came night after night four times before she seen it.

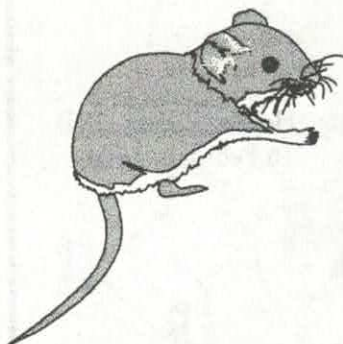
For somethin' to do, I been counting how many come. From the end of January, when that guy Christie from Mary's Point came and told them all, there's been lots. One night alone a hundred or more drove here and didn't see the bird. Talk about weird people, but they keep coming back. Your Ma gets nervous seeing them standing in the freezing cold for hours. We wonder how long it's gonna last. It turns out the owl wanders a bit. One day it's down by the Rocks, or even Demoiselle Crick, other times up near the old Bennett place. We been thinking about selling coffee and hot dogs out by the cannons. We might make a few bucks. What d'ya think?

Dad



**BE AWARE!****HANTAVIRUS**

James Goltz



In the past few weeks, Hantavirus has been in the headlines in New Brunswick. As far as we know, there have not yet been any human cases in the province, but the virus has been detected in Deer Mice in northern and central New Brunswick, as well as on the nearby Gaspé Peninsula. Since very few mice from New Brunswick have ever been tested for Hantavirus, there is a very good chance that it may be widespread in the province, just as its Deer Mouse carrier is.

The presence of Hantavirus in New Brunswick Deer Mice should not be cause for panic or anxiety. One of the mice that tested positive had been caught in 1987 and stored in a freezer for nine years before being tested. Therefore, Hantavirus has obviously been in the province for some time, quite possibly for many years, but we have only now become aware of it. This article is intended to provide naturalists with information on Hantavirus, so that human exposure can be minimized or, better yet, prevented. It would be great if we never have any human cases here.

Although Hantavirus-related diseases are well-known from other parts of the world, the first North American report of respiratory disease associated with Hantavirus was made in 1993. The North American disease is called "Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome" and seems to be quite different from the Hantavirus-related diseases that are known to occur elsewhere. Because we are dealing with a newly recognized disease, there is much that we don't know about it.

However, a lot has been learned about this disease in a very short time. Hantavirus is carried by rodents, primarily the Deer Mouse, but all wild rodents should be treated as if they might be carriers. The infected rodents seem to remain healthy, but are likely infected for life and shed the virus in their urine, feces and saliva. Transmission to humans is thought to occur mainly by inhaling the virus in airborne particles of dried rodent urine, feces or saliva, or rarely through rodent bites. It is believed that dogs and cats cannot spread the virus to humans, and the virus is apparently not transmissible from an infected person to other people.

Who is at risk of contracting Hantavirus infection? Basically, any person who is exposed to wild rodents or their droppings is potentially at risk. Persons at greatest risk are those living in or visiting houses, cottages or camps where rodents are living or have been; campers, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts visiting areas that are home to rodents; pest control workers, wildlife researchers and other persons who handle wild rodents; individuals who spend time in barns, sheds, outbuildings or other grain storage areas where rodents are likely to live; and electricians, plumbers and others who work in crawl spaces.

People with Hantavirus infection often initially feel like they have the flu, experiencing fever, muscle aches and chills. The most characteristic sign of Hantavirus infection is the sudden appearance of breathing difficulty that becomes progressively worse over a short period of time in people who are experiencing a flu-like illness. Other symptoms may include coughing, dizziness, malaise, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and pain in the chest or abdomen. At the present time, Hantavirus infection is fatal in about 50% of affected humans, but fatality can often be prevented if treatment is promptly given.

Most of the cases of Hantavirus Respiratory Syndrome have occurred west of the Mississippi. In retrospect, we now know that this disease has been around in the southern United States since at least 1959. In Canada, there have been at least seven human cases, all in Alberta and British Columbia. The Hantavirus from the infected Deer Mice in New Brunswick was identified as an 'eastern' variant of the virus. Although this strain has been associated with far fewer cases of disease and death than the western strain, it is capable of causing fatal illness in humans.

What can one do to prevent exposure to Hantavirus? The best protection is to avoid contact with wild rodents and their excreta. Try to make your living space unattractive to rodents by preventing their access to your food, water and shelter. Remember that the excreta of any species of vertebrates, including mice, likely contain microorganisms that could pose a hazard to your health. If you do have to handle wild rodents or their excreta, then take precautions to minimize your risk of exposure to the virus. A number of preventative measures have been recommended by public health officials, but not all of



these may appeal to naturalists. The recommendations that follow below have been modified to be more acceptable to naturalists. Decide what level of risk you are willing to live with and make your own choices about what to do.

**1. Keep clean so as not to attract rodents:** During food preparation and after eating, wash dishes and clean up any spilled food as soon as possible. Store all food (including bird food), water and garbage in sturdy rodent-proof containers with tight-fitting lids. If possible, do not leave pet food or water out overnight. When camping, seal food well and keep it in your vehicle or in a pack that can be suspended on a branch, well off the ground. Promptly dispose of all garbage in a sanitary, environmentally friendly fashion.

**2. Prevent the entry of rodents into your living space:** Small rodents, such as Deer Mice, can apparently enter buildings through a hole the size of a shirt button. Use steel wool or cement to seal, screen or cover all holes in your home, cottage or camp. To keep rodents from digging, place 8 cm. of gravel around the base of buildings and trailers. If possible, use cement to build foundations, or seal the foundations of wooden homes with metal roof flashing buried 15 cm. deep and rising 30 cm. above the ground.

When camping, use tents with floors and, if possible, avoid camping in areas where rodents are likely to live (e.g., near brush or wood piles).

Do not keep wild-caught rodents as pets.

**3. Discourage rodents from living close to your home or camp:** Keep bird feeders, gardens, trash cans, compost heaps and wood piles as far from your dwelling as possible. Woodpiles and trash cans should preferably be kept at least 30 cm. off the ground. Do not discourage predators such as owls, hawks, shrikes, weasels and snakes from living on your property. You may choose to keep vegetation well-trimmed in the vicinity of your living space. If preventative measures don't work, you may consider using some form of rodent control.

**4. Carefully clean up areas where rodents have been and use precautions if handling live or dead rodents:** Open doors and windows before cleaning, if possible. When handling live or dead wild rodents, or cleaning areas where rodents have been, wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves, clothing and footwear that can be easily disinfected, and consider wearing an appropriate mask that filters out dust mist (such a mask may be difficult to find) and protective eyewear (goggles). Take care so that you will not be bitten by wild rodents. When cleaning, try to avoid stirring up dust (i.e., do not vacuum or

sweep). It is best to liberally spray or splash disinfectant (a 1:10 dilution of household bleach) over rodent droppings, areas where rodents have been and dead rodents, and leave for at least five minutes before handling. Place dead rodents and their excreta in a plastic bag that can be well sealed, then place in another plastic bag and seal again, and dispose of by burning, or burying to a depth of at least one metre. While still wearing gloves, clean protective gear with a disinfectant, if possible, or wash it thoroughly in hot soapy water and leave it to dry in the sun, or dry in a hot dryer if possible. Discard any contaminated objects that cannot be properly cleaned or disinfected. Steam cleaning is an effective and safe cleaning procedure. After cleaning areas where rodents have been, after handling rodents, and after cleaning your protective gear, gloves should be disinfected prior to their removal and then you should wash your hands thoroughly and shower if possible.

**5. Do not eat food, drink water or use unsanitized dishes that wild rodents have had access to:** While camping, hiking or staying in camps, use only bottled, filtered, boiled or chemically disinfected water.

#### Additional Practical Advice:

If you have been exposed to wild rodents or their excreta within the past six weeks and develop symptoms that could be consistent with Hantavirus infection, especially difficulty breathing together with a flu-like illness, please contact your doctor or local medical facility as soon as possible, particularly if the breathing trouble came on fairly quickly (within a few hours) and is getting worse. Make sure that you inform your health care worker of your possible exposure to rodents.

Avoiding wildlife encounters of any kind may not be very appealing for naturalists, since we love wildlife and treasure wildlife experiences. Deer Mice are extremely common throughout New Brunswick but are nocturnal and not often seen. According to A.W.F. Banfield (1974) in *The Mammals of Canada*, the Deer Mouse gets its name "from its bicolored coat, rufous above and white below, which resembles the coat of a deer." They are very beautiful, sociable and interesting creatures that perform a useful function in distributing seeds, and eating weed seeds and invertebrates (including cutworms), as well as being an integral part of the natural food chain. If we have a good understanding of how Hantavirus is transmitted and take appropriate precautions, then we can continue to enjoy the antics of Deer Mice and other wild rodents, but at a healthy distance.



# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

## 1995-96

### David Christie

As last year, 44 Christmas Bird Counts were conducted in New Brunswick. Salisbury returned after a year's absence, but Kouchibouguac was cancelled because of a snow storm. Count effort was very similar to that in the previous year. Most counts had good weather, but Dec. 26 was a poor day in some areas.

The total number of birds, 139,261, was about 5% less than in 1994-95, when seeds and berries were plentiful over most of the province. This year there was a large cone crop only in the northeast. The number of species reported was 125, the same as two years ago and just below the record 127 last winter. It should be noted that not all the species reported each year are adequately documented. Included in this year's results is Northern Bobwhite, which represents recent introductions. (It was also seen but not counted at Saint John.)

The only species not previously reported on a New Brunswick count was a Townsend's Solitaire (Fundy National Park). Other rarities were Ruddy Ducks at Fredericton, Red-shouldered Hawk at Riverside-Albert (during count period at Saint John), Mew Gull at Saint John, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Harris' Sparrow at Moncton, Red-bellied Woodpecker at Lamèque, St. Martins and Saint John (during count period at Moncton and Jemseg), Hoary Redpolls at Florenceville, Perth-Andover and Sussex (during count period at Edmundston), and Gadwall at St. Martins.

Black-capped Chickadee numbers were up about 35% from the past 3 years, when they were also very common. Following the large influx of Northern Cardinals last autumn, the total counted was much larger than ever before. Hooded Merganser was also seen in record numbers.

Rock and Mourning doves, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, Northern Shrike, and White-winged Crossbill (in the northeast) were other particularly numerous species. Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll were widespread in moderate numbers. A substantial number of Snow Buntings included more than 5000 at Salisbury.

Pine Siskins have pretty well left the province this winter (less than twice as many as cardinals). Other species on the low side were Canada Goose, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Robin, White-throated Sparrow, and blackbirds. Boreal Chickadee and House Sparrow numbers were typical of the past five years, but well below 1960-75 levels; Boreals were three to four times as numerous then, and House Sparrows ten times as numerous!

You can check for yourself how the numbers of regular winter residents compare to normal by consulting the + and - ratings given beside their totals on the last three pages of tables.

*Results of some northern coastal areas and the inland counts are presented in the first two pages of the tables. Abbreviations and footnotes appear on the last page of the tables.*

#### Dalhousie (Dal) 11th year

Dec. 30, 08:30-16:00. Clear, increasing cloud in p.m.; temp. -20° to -15°C; calm. 100% snow-cover; fresh water frozen, salt water freezing during the day.

Raymond Chiasson, Irene Doyle, Roger Essiembre, Ron Essiembre, David Flynn, Margaret Gallant, Bob Gillis, Curtis Heppell, Mathieu Landry, Jerry Lushington, Mike Lushington (compiler), Don Mann, Pat McGorlick, Marlene Noel, Shirley Sharpe, Andy Watson.

#### Restigouche (Rst) 6th year

Dec. 17, 08:00-16:00. Mostly clear with cloudy patches; temp. -20° to -5°C; wind NW, 25, gusting to 40 km/h. Snow cover 89 cm; rivers and lakes mostly frozen, Chaleur Bay half frozen.

Ruth Bulmer, Jean Casey, Raymond Chiasson, Pierre D' Amours, Irene Doyle, Margaret Gallant, Carole Dubé, Doug Firlotte, David Flynn, Jean Gallant, Pam Godbout, Greg Guidry, Curtis Heppell, Lyman Hetherington, Jim Katan, Flora Kelly, Mathieu Landry, Ann Lavoie (compiler), Ben Legacé, Mike Lushington, Alan Madden, Annette Madden, David Malley, Don & Isabel Mann, Wayne Mann, Jean Miles, Claude Richard, Shirley Sharpe, Gladdie Swan, Sandra Thompson, Andy Watson, Foryst White, Denise Zyveniuik.

#### Salisbury (Sal) 4th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-16:00. Clear; temp. 0° to -1°C; wind NW, 18 km/h. Ground snow covered; some open water.

Chris Antle, Mike Antle, Brian Coates, Connie Colpitts, Pearl Colpitts, Bob Cotsworth, Jackie Decoste (compiler), Lloyd Decoste, Pat Fox, Shirley Hunt, Julia MacCallum, Dot O'Hara, Marjorie Sharpe, Robert Sharpe, Heather Silliker, Ron Steeves, Tina Steeves, John Tanner, Alma White, Don White.

#### Sussex (Ssx) 23rd year

Dec. 16, 07:45-16:30. Sunny with some clouds; temp. -18° to -5°C; wind NE, 4 km/h. 5-10 cm snow cover; still water frozen, running water open with ice at shore.

Tom & Laura Anderson, John & Wilma Arisz, Everett & Flo Arnold, Gert Bishop, Jim Brown, Thelma Brown, Michael Burns, Darren Byers, Anne Candy, John Candy, Barb Chestnut, Doug Dalling, Donald Delong & family, Gordon & Pearl Delong, Anthea Doyle, Vesta & Larry Howley, Judy Hutton, Roger Kaye, Anne Landry, Ron & Marion MacAfee, Gerald MacKenzie, Paul Martin, Beth McFarlane, Peggy McKenna, Barry McPhee (compiler), Jim McQueen, Betty & Walter Mitham, Anne Moffett, Doug & Donna Northrup, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Marilyn Powell, Peter & Beth Powning, Jim Proctor, Lois & Gunnar Ravn, Hubert & Evelyn Robinson, Marnie Robinson, Carol & Jack Smith, Tom & Freda Snowdon, Pauline Thibodeau, Eldon & Marie Thorne, Ruth Willis, Colby Yeomans.

#### Hammond River-Hampton (Htn) 23rd year

Dec. 31, 06:40-17:00. Clear in a.m., cloudy in p.m.; temp. -13° to -6°C; wind NW, 0-5 km/h. Snow cover 12-20 cm; most water frozen, small open patches in Kennebecasis River.

Ron Arseneault, Bob Barton, Todd Beach, Bill Brittain, Loretta Brittain, Don Campbell, David Christie, Margaret Churchill, Paul Clark, Barbara Crossley, Henry Darling, John Darling, Phyllis Darling, Linda Ewart, Gordon Foster, Jim Goltz, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Karen Gorham, Peggy Harding, Carol Henderson, Lowell Henderson, Jean Isaacs, Denise Johnston, Peggy Kelbaugh, Nancy Ketchum, Marion Lewis, Mary Loughery, Win MacAndrew, Jean MacDonald, Mary Majka, David McCurdy, Iris McCurdy, Susan McFarland, Harvey McLeod, Bill Nowlan, Juliette Nowlan, Alice O'Neil, Harry O'Neil, Linda Reid, Geoff Sayre, Angela Wilshaw, Peter Wilshaw, Brian Wilson, Gretchen Wilson, Jean Wilson, Jean Wilson (sr.), Jim Wilson (compiler), Kay Withers, Phil Withers, Tom Withers.

#### Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 26th year

Dec. 29, 08:30-16:30. Partly cloudy; temp. -10° to -4°C; wind W, 20 km/h. 5-10 cm snow cover; lakes frozen, brooks open.

Ford Alward, Jean Alward, Emily & Fred Barton, Marion Belyea, Anthony Carpenter, Jean Carpenter, Betty & Winston Carpenter, Lawrence Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Bruce Chase, Thora Connell, Iris Ferris, Imogene Gilchrist, Hanna Handajo, Margaret Hicks, Alan Howes, Enid Inch (compiler), Rhoda Inch, Lisa Jeffrey, Debora Kantor, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie,



Faye McCormack, Herb McGarrity, Lorne Moss, Mildred Moss, Charles Northrup, Audrey Perry, Nellie Perry, Doug Phillips, Dorothy Reece, Holly Reece, Joyce Robinson, Robert Ryder, Arnold Sleep, Catherine Sleep, Ethel Sleep, Jackie Straight, Joyce Thorne, Niven Thorne, Walter Thorne.

#### Jemseg (Jem) 33rd year

Dec. 30, 08:00-21:30. Overcast with light flurries; temp. -17.8° to -8.4°C; wind SW, 8 km/h. Snow cover; most water frozen except for small areas.

Susan Blair, Rod Currie, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, Andrew MacDougall, David Myles, Stacie Noyes, Marvin Palmer, Robert Palmer, Shirley Sloat, Owen Washburn (compiler), Ron Wilson, Willi Wolfe, Max Wolfe, Jim Yexxa.

#### Minto (Min) 8th year

Dec. 26, 08:30-17:00. Overcast, snow flurries; temp. 0° to +4°C; wind SE, 3 km/h. Snow cover 23 cm; water frozen.

Aaron Bailey, Loris Boucher, Linda Caissie, Lionel Girouard (compiler), Bill Mountain, Vincent Poirier.

#### Fredericton (Ftn) 40th year

Dec. 17, 07:30-19:30. Sunny; temp. -20° to -8°C; calm. Ground snow-covered; river frozen below Westmorland St. bridge, open above.

Chris Adam, Diane Allain, Denis Boyer, Graham Campbell, Moira Campbell, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Gerry Clayden, Susan Clayden, Cheryl Cougle, Jim Cougle, Merlene Crawford, Stanley Crawford, Rod Currie, Tony Diamond, Andy Didyk, Lucy Dyer, Jim Feltmate, Graham Forbes, Don Gibson (compiler), Margaret Gibson, Lionel Girouard, Angélique Gloss, Jim Goltz, Charlie Graves, Cliff Hartley, Harold Hatheway, Susan Hussey, Tony Little, David Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, Andrew MacDougall, Cathy MacLaggan, Milda Markaskas, Daniel Mazerolle, Brian McEwing, Barry Monson, David Myles, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Liese O'Hara, Margie Olive, Peter Pearce, Lionel Richard, Dwayne Sabine, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Mary Schousboe, Bill Seabrook, Jane Seabrook, Amanda Shaw, Darcy Shaw, Larry Shaw, Shirley Sloat, Muriel Smith, Greg Sprague, Jane Tarn, Richard Tarr, Leon Vietinghoff, Owen Washburn, Ron Wilson.

#### Mactaquac (Mac) 16th year

Jan. 1, 07:30-17:00. Clear; temp. -24° to -4°C; wind NW, 50 km/h. Snow cover 75-100 cm; water frozen except below dam.

Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Susan Clayden, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, Edward Keenan, Leona Keenan, David Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, David Myles (compiler), Peter Pearce, Shirley Sloat, Chris Turnbull, Pat Turnbull, Ron Wilson.

#### Thomaston Corner (TC) 3rd year

Dec. 28, 07:55-17:00. Cloudy with sunny periods; temp. -7° to -1°C; wind NW, 5-10 km/h. Deep snow cover; all lakes frozen.

Andrew MacDougall (compiler).

#### Stanley (Sty) 21st year

Dec. 16, 08:00-17:00. Sunny; temp. -15° to -6°C; calm. Snow cover 30 cm; water 30% open.

Gerald Bavis, Lorna & Peter Belyea, Dena Corey, Jean Dougherty, Thelma Fairley, Jim Goltz, Harold Hatheway, Rita Hughes, Connie & Roger Ince, Andrew MacDougall, Gisele MacRae, Hazel Millet, Ruth Munn, Irvine Munn, David Myles, Margie Pacey, Dawn Parker, Julie Singleton (compiler), Sharon Suttie, Robert Whitney.

#### Woodstock (Wsk) 32nd year

Dec. 27, 09:00-17:00. Clear; temp. 0° to -1°C; wind 10-20 km/h. Ground snow-covered; some open water.

Sheldon Anderson, Blair Avery, Leona Avery (compiler), Louis Beatty, Rev. T.S. Bellis, Jane Bernard, Earle Blackie, Mrs. Harold Bonnell, Earle Briggs, Duff Campbell, Moira Campbell, Mrs. Paul Clark, Gerald Demmings, Gerald Donovan, Mrs. Blair Findlater, Mrs. Melvin Fogarty, Mrs. David Fry, R.C. Gibson, Ruth B. Godwin, Charles Graves, Adam Hadley, Eric & Jane Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Malcolm Hall, Harold Harley, Ronald Hawkins, Ken Homer, Jack Lavender, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Edwin Marsh, Charles Matthews, Allie McBride, Herb McBride, Dan Myles, David Myles, Mrs. Roger Olmstead, Alex Patterson, Wayne Pelkey, Debra Price, Alma Speer, Karen Speer, Marten Speer, Robert John & Donna Speer, Arthur Spires, Mrs. Donald St. John, Alex Whiteway, John Williams, Gordon Wort, Mrs. James Yexxa.

#### Hartland (Hrt) 24th year

Dec. 26, 08:00-17:00. Snow; temp. 0°C; calm. Some bare ground; little open water.

Bud Belyea, Ross Belyea, Pearl Boyd, Elsie Briggs, Florence Britton, Arthur Bryant, Marta Bryant, Fred Burnett, Dell Buxton, Diane Clark (compiler), Mary Craig, Everett Culberson, Dorothy Davis, Marie Davis, Violet Davis, Doug DeMerchant, Cindy Derskin, Vera DeWitt, Walter Downey, Russell Fisher, Anna Fogarty, Wally Gallop, Dorothy Ginson, Winfred Glass, Billy Goodine, Paul Green, Clark Greer, Mary Hallett, Clifford Harvey, Shirley Hauth, Gordon Havens, Eugene Hay, Neil Hill, Pat Hill, Jane Hovey, Lorne Jones, Gary Kinney, Johnny Kirkland, Winnifred Lawrence, Winona Lindsay, Tom/Betty Markey, Lori MacDougall, Lee McKenzie, Harry McLean, Alton

Morrison, Jim Morrison, Harold Nevers, Vera Orser, Sheila Palmer, Charles & Lori Prosser, Elta Rideout, Dennis Rosevear, Nancy Schulze, Archie Shaw, Jeannie Shaw, Jack Smith, Marjorie Smith, Glenna Stephenson, Russell Stewart, Lorna Stokes, Clayton Swim, Gladys Tracy, Lloyd Trecartin, Ted Wallace.

#### Florenceville (Flo) 16th year

Dec. 26, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cloudy, snowing; temp. 0°C; wind NE, 10 km/h. Snow cover 5 cm; no open water in St. John River.

Donald Bell, Ann Brennan, Ansel Campbell, Robert Derrah, Harry Ebbett, Frank Gray, Raymond Green, Robert Green, David Hatt, Mrs. Eldon Higgs, Holland Kearney, Helen Lovely (compiler), Aubrey Lamont, Lorna Maddox, Les McIntosh, Janice Oakes, Barb Page, Dean Pryor, Marg Seymour, Richard Trafford, Joanne Upton, Harry Wolverton.

#### Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 13th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-16:00. Overcast; temp. -2° to -5°C; wind NE, 15 km/h. Snow cover 60 cm; brooks 90% frozen.

Flo Anderson, Mary Anderson, Jack Archibald, Mary Avery, Edith Buxton, John & Nan Curto, Wanda DeLong, Ronnie Derrah, Ron Fournier, Bobbie Gasgoigne, Myrtle Hemphill, Dorothy Laing, Marge Martinson, Carol Ann McBrine, Claude McBrine, Agnes McIntosh, Elsie McIntosh, Darlene McIntosh, Jean McIntosh, Sally McIntosh (compiler), Jean Pearson, Marion Pearson, Marge Spence, Marion Spence, Jessie Welsh.

#### Perth-Andover (P-A) 27th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-16:30. Overcast; temp. -3° to 0°C; calm. Snow cover 30 cm; fast water open.

Sandy Campbell, Ellsworth DeMerchant, Barbara Fenwick, Judy Hansen, Richard Jamer, Roy Leach, Henry Manzer, Judy McNally, Mary Jane Savoy, Frederick W. Tribe, Margaret Wallace, Murray Watters (compiler).

#### Plaster Rock (PR) 24th year

Dec. 28, 09:00-17:00. Overcast and dull; temp. -13° to -10°C; wind W, light. Snow cover 30 cm; some open water.

Daphne & John Anderson, Kathy Beaulieu, Yvon Beaulieu, Doris Crawford, Bob Finnamore, Irene Hollins, Bessie & Peter MacDonald, Carol & Marvin Mahoney, Diane Rabatich, Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Melissa Skinner.

#### Nictau-Riley Brook (Nic) 23rd year

Jan. 2, 09:00-16:30. Clear; temp. -28° to -15°C; wind N, 5 km/h. Snow cover 40-50 cm; lots of slush and ice running in river.

Juanita Black, Roger Jenkins (compiler), Rose McCullum, Leola McDougall, Diana McAskill, Bill & Wilma Miller, Joan Nevers, Joe Yacovino.

#### Edmundston (Etn) 9ième année

Le 16 déc., 08:00-15:00. Ciel clair; temp. -20° à -14°C; calme. Gel au sol avec neige; l'eau gelée par endroit.

Francine Bérubé, Anne Marie Beaulieu, Daniel Bouchard, Denise Boucher, Denys Bourque, Gilberte Cyr, Donna Dumont, Ginette Émond, Patrice Émond, Robert Émond, Luc Fournier (compilateur), Marie-Anne Gauvin, Françoise Grondin, Louise-Anne Lajoie, Colette Lavoie, Florida Lavoie, Madeleine Lavoie, Marie-Josée Leclerc, Dena Lentz, Vicky Lentz, Rollande Martin, Pierrette Mercier, Louis Morin, Gerald Pelletier, Monique & Don Plourde, Gilles Roussel, Jamie Savoie, Michaël Savoie, Gisèle Thibodeau, Gérard Verret (Club d'ornithologie de Madawaska).

#### Kedgwick (Ked) 6ième année

Le 28 déc., 09:00-16:00. Nuageux; temp. -4° à -2°C; vent NO, 7 km/h. 30 cm de neige; lacs et rivières 95% gelés.

Mariette April, Denys Bourque, Julie Bourque, Hélène Cimon, Pat Cimon, René Cimon, Arthur Desjardins, Cécile Desjardins, Solange Drapeau, Ginette Émond, Lilianne Émond, Pat Émond (compilateur), Danielle Lacoursière, David Robichaud, Julie Rochette, Jamie Savoie, Marie-Reine Simon, Roland Simon, Michel St-Pierre.

#### Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC) 18th year

Dec. 31, 08:30-15:30. Mostly clear; temp. -30° to -20°C; wind NW, 5 km/h. Snow cover 50-60 cm; waters mostly frozen.

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Wesley Jenkins.

#### Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 14th year

Dec. 27, 10:00-15:00. Overcast, then clearing; temp. -5° to -10° C; wind NW, 10 km/h. Snow cover 105 cm; river frozen.

Ron Gauthier (compiler), Charlie McAleenan, Eldon McLean, Rod O'Connell, Stewart Wells.

#### Paquetville (Paq) 8ième année

Le 30 déc., 08:00-16:00. Passage nuageux, neige légère du Nord; temp. -15° à -9°C; vent N, 0-15 km/h.

Marcel David, Jude Larocque, Jean-Maurice Losier, Roland Robichaud (compilateur), Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

#### Miramichi (Mir) 24th year

Dec. 26, 08:30-16:45. Mostly clear; temp. -10° to -2°C; wind 5-8 km/h. 38 cm



of packed, water-soaked snow, solid crust; only open water from man's activities.

Margaret Adams, Don Archibald, Robert Blais, Jeep Bosma, E. & W. Boudreau, Robb Bransfield, Monica Charnley, W. Chuen, E. & F. Connick, Phyllis Crowe, Wally Doucet, Barry Estey, Ann Gray, Tom Greathouse (compiler), M. Greathouse, Lloyd Groundwater, Linda Hartlen, R. Hartlen, Lionel Hébert, Keith Holland, Bud Jardine, John Keating, Robert Lisk, John Malinowski, Robert Martin, Leslie Matchett, Roscoe Mault, Lem McDonald, W. G. McIvor, J.S. & Margaret McKinnon, Georgia & Martin McLean, Floyd McNaughton, Sandy Mullin, Walter & Chris O'Toole, Carl Perry, Irma & Frank Powers, Mary & Ed Rawlinson, Kay & Joe Richard, Mary & Marvin Ripley, Eldon Rogers, Walter & Theresa Ross, Shirley Rutledge, Michel Steeves, Michael Svarc, Doug Underhill, Lyle Walker, Wilfred Walsh, Mary & Parker Wheaton, Bun Worrell, Theresa Zurich.

*Results of the following coastal counts are in the last three pages of the tables.*

#### Grand Manan (GM) 25th year

Jan. 2, 07:45-17:00. Partly sunny a.m., overcast p.m.; temp. -12° to -10°C; wind NE, 20-40 km/h. 0-5 cm of patchy snow cover; still water frozen, moving water partly open.

Jim Brown, Moira Campbell, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Tracey Dean, Charles Graves, Gloria Hobbs, Audrey Ingalls, Rodger & Elaine Maker, Peter & Carmen Roberts, David Sergeant, Andrew Sharkey.

#### Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 29th year

Dec. 26, 08:45-15:00 EST. Moderate to heavy snow; temp. -4.4° to -1.6°C; wind N/NE, 6-16 km/h. 16 cm snow cover; still fresh water frozen, moving water partly open.

Sidney Bahrt, Moira Campbell, Charles Duncan, Ralph Eldridge, Norman Famous, Leon Gin, Charles Graves, Ellen Johnson, Laurie Larson, Sally Lennon, Maurice Mills (compiler), Ann Simmons.

#### St. Andrews (StA) 35th year

Dec. 17, 08:00-16:00. 100% cloud cover, clear by noon, 100% cloud by 14:30; temp. -10° to -2°C; wind NE, light. 5 cm snow cover; lakes frozen, streams open, sea open with shore ice.

John Allen, Mindy Brown, Carola Cummings, Moira Campbell, Tracey Dean (compiler), Brenda Fullerton, Charles Graves, Dorothy & Ken Langmaid, Margo Mais, Frances & Don McLeese, Ursula Meier, Ray & Dick Peterson, Lee & Lonny Ryall, Peggy & Dick Saunders, Millie & Bev Scott, Tom Smith, Dave Stevens, Sandy & Mel Turner, Willa Walker, Gwyneth Wilbur, Marlene and Dick Wilbur, Marion Wilder, Walter Williamson.

#### Blacks Harbour (BH) 33rd year

Dec. 16, 08:00-17:00. Partly sunny a.m., mostly cloudy p.m.; temp. -7° to -3°C; wind NE, 20-40 km/h. Patchy snow cover 0-5 cm; moving fresh water partly frozen, still frozen.

Brian Dalzell (compiler), Halton Dalzell, Ralph Eldridge.

#### Lepreau (Lep) 32nd year

Dec. 16, 09:00-16:30. Sunny with clouds; temp. -10° to -5°C; wind N, 10 km/h. Snow cover ?; fresh water ?, sea calm.

Merv Cormier, Dave Forsford, David McCurdy (compiler), Eileen Pike, Roy Pike, Jim Wilson.

#### Saint John (SJ) 39th year

Dec. 30, 08:00-17:00. Clear until mid-afternoon with some clouds; temp. -16.4° to -5.6°C; calm. Snow cover 20 cm; light ice conditions, most water open.

Kathleen Alexander, Terri Anderson, Ron Arsenault, Mike Bamford, Joanne Billingsley, Ethel & Roly Bosence, Helen Brown, Ian Cameron, Moira Campbell, Linda Caron, Robert Carson, David Christie, Greta & Ken Clark, Stephen Clark, Stephen Clayden, Shirley Colquette, Hank Deichmann, Jeanne Finn-Allen, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Karen Gorham, Kit & Margaret Graham, Charles Graves, Juliette Hickman, Charlotte Hutchinson, Cecil Johnston, Denise Johnston, Ross & Willa Mavis, Don McAlpine, David McCurdy, Doreen McIntosh, Brenda McKnight, Maizie Melvin, Paul Mortimer, Ngairie Nelson, Rick Peacock, Joan & Ron Pearce, Dorothy Peterson, Aldei Robichaud, Marion Sherwood, David Smith (compiler), Don Smith, Evan Smith, Ian Stead, Edward Walters, Graham & Sandy Webb, Peter Wilshaw, Jim Wilson, Isabel Wills, Frank & Mitzi Withers.

#### St. Martins (StM) 15th year

Dec. 17, 08:15-17:00. Clear; temp. -10° to -7°C; wind NW, 15-35 km/h. Slight snow cover, ice-covered snow on side hills; open water on flood tide.

Brian Dalzell, Halton Dalzell, Shirley Hunter, Frank Kelly, Dianne Kelly, Ed LeBlanc, Jane LeBlanc, Ted Sears (compiler), Nancy Sears, Dennis Seeley.

#### Fundy National Park (FNP) 31st year

Dec. 18, ? am-? pm. Sunny, little cloud; temp. -8° to -2°C; wind ? Snow cover 30 cm; lakes frozen, most streams frozen with small running areas, sea open.

Théo Arsenault, Lisa Babineau, Anne Bardou (compiler), Ellen Bertrand, Betty

Betts, Regis Bourque, John Brownlie, David Christie, Alain Clavette, Barbara Curlew, Édouard Daigle, Jackie Decoste, Lloyd Decoste, Roger Dubois, Stephen Flemming, Ivan Hicks, Shirley Hunt, Anna Holdaway, Andrew Horrall, Shawn Horrall, Joe Landry, Roger LeBlanc, Mike Majka, Beulah Michelin, Freda Murphy, Margie Murphy, Doreen Rossiter, George Sinclair, Katherine Tingley, Brian Townsend, Karen Townsend, Gail Walker, Rob Walker.

#### Riverside-Albert (R-A) 27th year

Jan. 1, 07:20-17:15. Partly cloudy; temp. -17° to -10°C; wind NW, 8-30 km/h. Snow cover 10-60 cm; freshwater frozen; sea open.

Chris Antle, Anne Bardou, David Christie (compiler), David Clark, Barbara Curlew, Jim Edsall, Rick Elliott, Lars Larsen, Guy LeBlanc, Connie & George Lutes, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Nelson Poirier, Catherine Poussart, Suzanne Poussart, Yves Poussart, Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.

#### Hillsborough (Hil) 5th year

Dec. 30, 07:00-17:00. Partly cloudy; temp. -17° to -7°C; wind NW, 0-18 km/h. Snow cover 10-50 cm (crusted); lakes and slow-moving brooks frozen, tidal waters and fast-flowing brooks open.

Chris Antle, Mike Antle, Dwayne Biggar, Barbara Curlew, Jackie Decoste, Lloyd Decoste, Rick Elliott, Len Hawkes, Shirley Hunt, Freda Murphy, Margie Murphy, David Owen, Gail Walker, Rob Walker (compiler).

#### Moncton (Mtn) 34th year

Dec. 17, 07:30-17:00. Mostly sunny with frequent cloudy periods; temp. -18° to -4°C; wind NW, 10-30 km/h. Ground largely covered with 8-16 cm of snow; freshwater frozen except for fast flowing streams, tidal water partially open.

Chris Antle, Mike Antle, Anne Arsenault, Théo Arsenault, Marg Bartlett, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Valmont Bourque, Megan Brodie, Brenda Burzynski, Malcolm Campbell, David Christie, Brian Coates, Donald Cormier, Mario Cormier, Bob Cotsworth, Ted Currie, Cheryl Davis, Richard DeBow, Jackie Decoste, Lloyd Decoste, Charles Doucet, Denis Doucet, Gerald Doucet, Oscar Duguay, Mary Fownes, Rachel Gautreau, Derek & Madeleine Gemmell, Allan Gregoire, Susan Hoar, Charles Howell, Shirley Hunt, Jean Inglis, Ford Keith, Connie King, Dulcise Knee, Marc Laflamme, Oscar LeBlanc, Ron Léger, John Loch, Gwen MacKenzie, John MacKenzie, Cheryl MacLaggan, Gary MacLean, Ruth MacLean, Alice MacQuarrie, Josette Maillet, Mike Majka, Rose-Alma Mallet, Daniel Mazerolle, Gerald Mazerolle, Sharon McGladdery, Edwin Melanson, Wayne & Win Murray, David Owen, Henry Paul, Juliette Pellerin, Ron Pellerin, Nelson Poirier, Harold Popma, Kathy Popma, Mike Rae, Allan Raegele, Elizabeth Richard, Stan Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Edgar Savoie, Bill Scott, Marjorie Sheehan, Dwight Stubi, John Tanner (compiler), Mary Tanner, Peter Thompson, Ruth Thompson, Gail Walker, Rob Walker, Alma White, Don White, Vivian White, Doug Whitman, Phyllis Whitman, Bill Wood.

#### Sackville (Sck) 36th year

Dec. 19, 07:25-17:00. Clear; temp. -10° to -5°C; wind NW, 5-15 km/h. Snow cover ?; frozen.

Doug Bliss, Amy Bogaard, Paul Bogaard, Don Colpitts, Richard Elliott, Tony Erskine, George Finney, Nev Garrity, Gay Hansen, Hinrich Harries, Edward Hicklin, Peter Hicklin (compiler), Ron Hounsell, Rob Lyon, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Harold Popma, Kathy Popma, Al Smith, Danielle Thibodeau.

#### Cape Tormentine (CT) 34th year

Dec. 18, 07:45-17:00. Mostly cloudy; temp. -8° to -5°C; wind NW, 20-50 km/h diminishing to 5-15 km/h in p.m. 0-10 cm of fresh snow cover; fresh water frozen, salt water partly open with extensive areas of slush along NE coastline.

Paul Bogaard, Neil Burgess, Adam Campbell, Ross Galbraith, Nev Garrity, Peter Hicklin, Randy Hicks, Donna Johnson, Robert Lyon, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Al Smith (compiler).

#### Shédiac (Shd) 8ième année

Le 30 déc., 08:30-15:30. Ensoleillé, passages nuageux fin de l'après-midi; temp. -15° to -5°C; vent 20 km/h. Neige au sol 15 cm durcie et sèche; mer gelée aux baies de Cocagne et Shédiac.

Caroline Arsenault, Terry Arsenault, Théo Arsenault, Normand Belliveau, Ronaldo Bourgeois, Donald Cormier (compilateur), Léona Cormier, Charles Doucet, Éliane Daigle, Ricky Davis, Denis Doucet, Oscar Duguay, Lionel Gionet, Lise Gionet, Angela LeBlanc, Mike LeBlanc, Cécile Léger, Christelle Léger, Rose-Alma Mallet, Onide Maurice, Daniel Mazerolle, Gerry Mazerolle, Juliette Pellerin, Francis Richard, Edgar Savoie., Karen Tingley, Stuart Tingley (Les Ami(e)s de la Nature).

#### Tracadie (Tra) 9ième année

Le 26 déc., 08:15-15:45. Neige et pluie, brumeux; temp. 0° à +8°C; vent N-O, 20 km/h. Conditions sur terre et sur l'eau ?

Robert Doiron, Émile Ferron, Guy Hébert, Jude Larocque, Corrine Mallais, Jennifer Smith, Bruno St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre (compilateur).

#### Ile Lamèque (Lam) 23ième année

Le 28 déc., 08:00-16:00. Ciel clair; temp. -3° à +1°C; vent NO, 20 km/h.



## Conditions sur terre et sur l'eau ?

Denise Benoit, Gérard Benoit (compilateur), Joseph Benoit, Égide Chiasson, Marcel David, Émile Ferron, Jacques Guignard, Jocelyne Guignard, Léonce Guignard, Stéphane Guignard, Benoit Hébert, Guy Hébert, Jude Larocque, Corinne Mallais, Gertrude St-Pierre.

## Ile Miscou (Mis) 9ième année

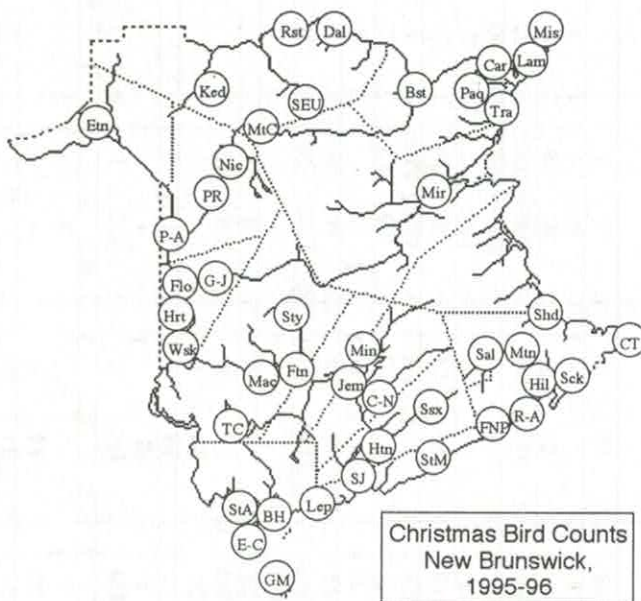
Le 16 déc., 08:30-16:00. Ensoleillé, temp. -15° à -4°C; vent SE, 0-10 km/h 60 cm de neige au sol, Eau libre de glace au nord, gelée ailleurs.  
Michel Chiasson, Marcel David (compilateur), Benoit Hébert, Jude Larocque, Gertrude St-Pierre.

## Caraquet (Car) 11ième année

Le 17 déc., 08:00-16:00. Ciel variable; temp. -9° to -5°C; vent NO, 30-60 km/h. 50 cm de neige au sol; eau gelée à 70% du territoire côtier.  
Marcel David (compilateur), Benoit Hébert, Lucie Hébert, Jude Larocque, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

## Bathurst (Bst) 13th year

Dec. 30, 08:00-17:00. Clear with afternoon clouds and a dusting of snow; temp. -8° to -13° C; wind NW, 10 km/h. 75 cm snow cover, good supporting crust; fresh water frozen, open water along coast.  
Bill Allen, Bert Demmings, Pierre Duguay, Mary Gauthier, Ron Gauthier (compiler), Gilles, François & Michel Godin, Leo Howell, Ann Marie Hocquard, Ann Lavoie, Charlie McAleenan, Eldon & Nora McLean, Jim Meagher, Rod O'Connell, Loraine Power, Floyd Ronalds, Pat, Liz & Michael Traynor, Stewart Wells.



### CBC TABLES FOLLOW ON PAGES 26 TO 30

Lunch break at Kettle Hole on the Southeast Upsalquitch, 1 km. downstream from Route 180, during the December 1994 Southeast Upsalquitch CBC. Back row, left to right are Stewart Wells, Rod O'Connell and Charlie McAleenan; in front are Ron Gauthier, Garry Goodwin and Alfred Arseneau. Photo courtesy of Ron Gauthier.

## FORSAKING FEEDERS FOR NATURAL FARE

Mike Lushington -- Restigouche Naturalists' Club

Reprinted with revisions from an article that appeared in Mike Lushington's column, *Grains of Salt*, in the September 6, 1995 issue of the *Campbellton Tribune*.

Last winter (i.e., the winter of 1994-1995) was a perplexing one for people who set out bird feeders. As a personal note, I don't remember having to refill feeders all winter. It must have been frustrating for stores which stock and sell bird feed: I know for a fact that many outlets had almost their full stock in the spring.

No, there had not been a disaster. There were, in fact, lots of birds in the woods, but they were scattered. People who are used to woods alive with bird song in June and July assume that because the woods are quiet in January there are no birds. This is often not the case, as wintering birds waste little energy in singing or flitting around. They eat and they rest to conserve as much energy as they can to combat the cold. Thus, if there is a plentiful food supply nearby, they will not travel about.

Last year, trees bore the heaviest fruit and seed crops seen in many a year. Mountain-ash were most conspicuous: in fact, the whole of eastern North America had this century's heaviest crop of these berries. The seeds and/or berries of spruce, fir, cedar, maple, Yellow Birch, wild cherry and Highbush Cranberry were plentiful everywhere. As a result, feeders were neglected as birds feasted on natural, preferred foods.

Actually it was a very easy winter for the birds -- and we saw proof of that all last summer. I have never seen Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Cedar Waxwings, American Goldfinches and other over-wintering birds in such numbers as they were during that summer. Obviously, the winter survival rates were very high, and the birds came through in health and strength. This, in turn, resulted in persistent nesting and breeding activity that was still going on into early September.



1995-96 CBC	Dal	Rst	Sal	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Min	Ftn	Mac	Sty	TC	Wsk	Hrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Etn	Ked	MtC	SEU	Paq
Snow Goose #	5	1		1									15											
Canada Goose																								
Green-winged Teal																								
Am Black Duck	5	6		357	*	*	1		98	17	*		1	*			2							
Mallard	4			256	*		*		13	4									9					
Com Goldeneye	35			1	70		*		127	200					*		4							
Barrow Goldeneye	61								*															
Bufflehead				2					1															
Hooded Merganser				9	41				74	37							11			2				
Com Merganser	7								5															
Ruddy Duck #				*	6		3		5	5	*		2	*	*		2	2	1					
Bald Eagle	1		1				*						1											
Northern Harrier		*	*	1	1	1			1		*			*			*	1						
Sharp-shin Hawk							1			1	1			1	1		*	*						
Northern Goshawk				4			3		1	2			2				*	*						
Red-tailed Hawk		1		1			16																	
Rough-leg Hawk		1		1																				
Merlin		*		1																1				
Gyrfalcon			15	17		2							20	11			1							
Ring-nk Pheasant						2																		
Spruce Grouse	2	5	3	14	7	8	10	*	8	3	3	*	5	*	7		3	2	3	8	6	2	1	*
Ruffed Grouse																								3
N. Bobwhite (a)			*																	1				
Ring-billed Gull																								
Herring Gull	7		7	4	168		3		100	35		2	*							73				
Iceland Gull	3				22																			
Glaucous Gull		1																						
Great Blk-bk Gull	4	5	16	9	66	*			420	81			8											
Rock Dove #	10	350	267	1631	147	110	97	82	1311	59		2	797	290	141		20	202	98	47	94	23	22	
Mourning Dove	3		70	405	217	99	45	13	494	82	34	*	136	211	128		29	4	45	51			34	
Great Horned Owl		*	1	*	2		*					*												
Snowy Owl							1									1								
Barred Owl		1		*	1		3		2							1		*						
N. Saw-whet Owl					*																			
Red-bellied Wdpkr							*																	
Downy Woodpkr	5	17	19	31	30	33	22	12	21	21	11	2	35	56	18		6	10	10	10	5	4	*	14
Hairy Woodpecker	3	24	15	27	13	37	22	6	37	21	28	3	48	57	21		6	14	7	11	6	*	19	
3-toed Woodpkr #							*					*						6						
Blk-back Woodpkr	*																					2	1	
Northern Flicker									1															
Pileated Woodpkr	1	3	6	4	2	1	6	1	8	6	7	*	5	1	2		1	2	1				1	
Horned Lark																								
Gray Jay	*		16	16	8	41	12	6	10	6	16	*	10	22	5		3	17	32	1	4	5	33	
Blue Jay	21	172	141	192	156	234	58	24	115	139	150	16	216	324	144		223	83	50	103	29	4	83	
American Crow #	10	11	164	1637	315	86	24	19	204	45	19	1	133	30	42		6	11	13	88	12	6		
Common Raven #	12	80	77	309	62	58	159	5	149	79	30	41	41	89	114		43	57	70	130	183	5	18	
Blk-cap Chickadee	73	375	541	479	680	544	381	108	994	526	357	133	555	508	193		259	163	85	453	77	18	249	
Boreal Chickadee						*					1				1		4	1	6	12	2	2	8	6
Red-br Nuthatch	3	22	26	39	18	30	10	4	78	18	53	42	38	17	8		24	20	31	15	13	1	4	30
Wh-br Nuthatch #		9	*	10	*	7	5	*	26	5	6		14	16	5		2	3	5	2				1
Brown Creeper		*		1	1	1	3		3	1	2		2						2					



1995-96 CBC	Dal	Rst	Sal	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Min	Ftn	Mac	Sty	TC	Wsk	Hrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Etn	Ked	MtC	SEU	Paq
Carolina Wren									*															
Golden-cr Kinglet	1	3	14	4	2		10		4	8	1	8					*			2				
American Robin			4						*											1				
N. Mockingbird			1	4		1				*														
Brown Thrasher																								
Bohem. Waxwing	*	36	9	12			31	12	17	47	1		19		18		*	37		6				
Cedar Waxwing													2											
Northern Shrike	*	*	3	5	3	*	7		1	3	*		3	3	4	1				4	1		*	
Loggerhead Shrike														*										
European Starling	79	190	1194	1669	387	295	289	78	1023	141	61	142	141	371	126	191	89	64	1	97	36		16	
Yel-rump Warbler				1																				
Pine Warbler																								
Northern Cardinal	*	4	2	8	9	1	2	*	7	*	1		14	7	14	2	5	3		2	1			
Rufous-sid Towhee																				1				
Am. Tree Sparrow			36	103	37	111	151	3	42	69	33	6	84	223	40	53	26	15		7			4	
Chipping Sparrow				20					5						8									
Song Sparrow					1																			
Swamp Sparrow				6	1				4	*						1		3						
White-thr Sparrow														1										
White-crn Sparrow				41	39	17	17		38	6	1		23	25	21	13	1	5						
Dark-eyed Junco	4	24				*																		
Lapland Longspur																								
Snow Bunting	60	65	5122	439	154	379	176	142	180	208	117	227	536	265	123	660	34	238	36	92	80		182	
Red-wing Blackbird				1																1				
Rusty Blackbird			3						9				1	1	*			2						
Common Grackle				2					1	2	1		1	*	*									
Brown-hd Cowbird				13		6																		
Pine Grosbeak	7	32	49	10	14	6	3		17	19	1	*	42	14	91	18	34	45	5	57	24	1	2	4
Purple Finch		8			2	3		2	9				23	30	30	8	14	5		3				30
House Finch						3			4				18	2	2					3				
Wh-wing Crossbill																								
Common Redpoll	14	75	240	152	130	204	162	100	110	47	104	2	141	204	139	7	174	41	9	122	1	9		48
Hoary Redpoll				3											1		2			*			*	
Pine Siskin	*	20		13	1	4		12	4	2			41			38	1	1	3	2	1		23	
Am. Goldfinch	15	170	75	118	124	16	7	28	108	44	1		117	67	20		20	3						
Evening Grosbeak	80	281	538	350	247	329	169	65	354	140	143	9	314	434	287	131	91	76	17	190	28		88	
House Sparrow		91	134	284	85	2	120		141	153	57	13	220	153	29	150	15	14		23	1		1	
Unidentified					1c		6d								31e									
TOTAL BIRDS	526	2034	8851	8746	3289	2671	2035	722	6395	2282	1314	649	3824	3404	1819	1901	1119	1039	382	1722	529	38	44	917
TOTAL SPECIES	26	31	36	51	41	32	35	20	49	37	30	16	39	28	35	26	28	34	21	36	20	8	8	24
Add. Spp. in Period	5	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	3	3	4	6	1	6	3	9	3	3		1		3	2	
Hrs on foot	11	26.5	2.5	29	7	6	13.5	?	93	9.5	9	1.5	3.5	3	3	4	1	3.5	?	8.5	4.5	5	12	6
Hrs by car	15	29.5	43.5	31	42.5	19	30.1	?	81	32	21	7.5	22	5	6.5	5	7	9.5	?	43.5	14.5	2	1	26
TOTAL HOURS	26	56	46	60	49.5	25	43.6	15	174	41.5	30	9	25.5	8	9.5	9	8	13	9	52	19	7	13	32
Km on foot	29	59	6	38.5	11	10	24.5	12	121	21	13	3	8	8	8	5	1	?	6	15.5	7	16	2	23
Km by car	75	492	606	381.5	642	327	322	122	941	405	332	138	348	128	56	140	150	?	70	590.5	310.6	35	60	277
TOTAL KM	104	551	612	420	653	337	346.5	134	1062	426	345	141	356	136	64	145	151	156	76	606	317.6	51	62	300
No. of observers	16	18	19	44	21	15	15	5	63	15	9	1	14	12	4	3	2	7	2	26	16	2	5	6
No. of parties	5	12	7	20	8	7	8	3	28	7	5	1	5	9	4	2	1	2	2	8	5	1	3	4
Feeder reports		17	1	10	30	26		1	62	20	11		36	62	18	22	10	4	6	4	3			



1995-96 CBC	GM	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtm	Sck	CT	Shd	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	NB Tot
Red-throated Loon	3	3	5	1	1	1	5	1	1												16 ±
Common Loon	20	12	30	22	13	7	1				2										107 +
Horned Grebe	5	11	37	9	19		1														81 ±
Red-necked Grebe	181	11	9	24	96												5	21			321 ++
Northern Gannet #																					26
Great Cormorant	38	177	4	42	*														*		261 +
D-crest Cormorant		7		2	*				*			3									7
Snow Goose																					5
Brant	*																				15
Canada Goose	6								*												*
Green-winged Teal									*											1	13 -
Am Black Duck	390	428	243	177	48	511	91	1	312	116	282	8		1						20	3115 +
Mallard	38	18	3	4		45	11	1	5	654	3										1059 ++
Gadwall							1														1
Greater Scaup	40	13	26	3	3									1							86 -
Lesser Scaup					2			1				1									3
Common Eider	575	238	1300	1300	302	7		1					8	33		142	8	10		3	3928 +
Harlequin Duck					6								233	97		412	21	59	20		6
Oldsquaw	88	83	184	530	19								7								1746 ±
Black Scoter					43																50 ±
Surf Scoter	14				17	1		1													33 -
White-wing Scoter	17	1	54	80	2	1		1													157 -
Com Goldeneye	75	33	17	39	73	164	18	11	5			2	77	58		50	2	4		14	1088 -
Barrow Goldeneye																19					100 ±
Bufflehead	71	115	120	86	58	59	7			8	4	13	5	76						9	517 ±
Hood Merganser #		7	1	9	12							2	26	7						1	40 ++
Com Merganser	16	1	12	20	20		2	1	75			2									443 ±
Red-br Merganser	83	59	19	34	18	89	*					*				8	10	18	2		375 -
Ruddy Duck																					5
Bald Eagle #	14	34	5	75	2	3	*		4	1	4		1	2	1						174 +
Northern Harrier	1		*	1	*	2	*				2	2		1	2					*	9 ±
Sharp-shin Hawk	1						*	1	1		3	2				3	1				22 +
Northern Goshawk						*	1	*	2		1	1	1							1	12 ±
Red-shoulder Hawk									1		3	3	1								1
Red-tailed Hawk			*				1	1													22 ±
Rough-legged Hawk			1	1						1	2	8									31 -
Merlin											1			*							2
Peregrine Falcon	1																				1
Gyrfalcon																				*	1
Ring-nk Pheasant	43			6	*				11	30	71	75	2	12	1						317 ±
Spruce Grouse				1								5			1		1				10 +
Ruffed Grouse				6		2	*	18	31	5	14	12	14	1	2	4			*		220 +
N. Bobwhite a		3	5								*										11
Purple Sandpiper	10	19		94	214		40		*												377 ±
Common Snipe	2		1			*			*												3
Com Blk-hd Gull #		22																			22
Bonaparte's Gull	350	286		68																	704 +
Mew Gull						1			*												1
Ring-billed Gull		153	8	22	13	25	3	3	*			2	2							*	232 +
Herring Gull	5850	1638	1045	1150	828	1872	275	68	122	103	1307	58	192	487	9	23	59	11	17		15565 ±



1995-96 CBC	GM	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	NB Tot
Iceland Gull	16	17		42		109	*	1	53	36	30	50	61	21		35	150	21	70	29	766 ±
Lesser Blk-bk Gull																					1
Glaucous Gull	1	1		8		1				2	1		2	*		2	10	3	1		33 -
Great Blk-bk Gull	760	440	240	215	77	304	5	3	5	80	1336	96	229	281	1	236	272	21	145	795	6197 ±
Blk-leg Kittiwake	1500	521		125	2																2148 -
Dovekie				1					*												1
Common Murre	3																				3
Thick-billed Murre	100			1																	101
Razorbill	1250			70	75																1395 +
Black Guillemot	14	18		62	6					68	1267	295	87	504	435		6	50		1	157 -
Rock Dove	244	244	22	230	24	817	32	2	42	117	622	245	46	197	30	223	48		90	80	10332 +
Mourning Dove #	78	21	123	25	32	323	65	27	73							54	138		68	24	4408 +
Great Horned Owl				1			*					1									5 ±
Snowy Owl									*		*	*						1			2 -
Barred Owl					*			1		*											9 +
Long-eared Owl		1				1					1	1					1				1
Short-eared Owl																					4
N. Saw-whet Owl																					1 -
Belted Kingfisher		1									*										1
Red-bellied Wdpkr	5	1	10	3	1	63	1	27	9	13	51	12	3	21	46	7	4	1	10	12	708 +
Downy Woodpkr	3		13	2	2	30	1	14	15	12	46	11	1	22	31	7	2	5	13	23	697 +
Hairy Woodpecker						*		1	*		*			*							7
3-toed Woodpecker				1																1	6 -
Blk-bk Woodpecker					*			*													
Northern Flicker	1						*			3	1	1	2	1					1		7 +
Pileated Woodpkr			3	4		1	*	1	1		1	1	1	3	2					1	80 +
Horned Lark		12				*	5				10						33				61 +
Gray Jay	65	7	65	14	12		3	7	20	5	19	20	1	5	33	1			3	3	428 +
Blue Jay	178	199	230	155	110	364	11	28	28	92	207	94	70	123	107	39	39	3	28	45	3890 ±
American Crow							128	12	73	103	368	306	115	262	12	32	52	20	17	28	5640 +
Common Raven	178	18	30	38	33	21	31	17	28	24	123	104	46	95	26	32	46	5	44	24	2804 ±
Blk-cap Chickadee	145	140	335	156	101	736	63	252	409	489	1116	730	380	877	535	165	315	123	155	162	15306 ++
Boreal Chickadee	5	2		4	3	6	8	18	23			16	20	4			60	18	6	*	264 -
Red-br Nuthatch	15	2	24	3	6	21	8	22	22	24	95	67	50	82	50	23	98	76	29	45	1325 ++
White-br Nuthatch			3		1	2	1	1		1	6	2		6			1		2	2	143 +
Brown Creeper	2		2			8	*	3	2		5	2		3							44 ±
Carolina Wren																					*
Golden-cr Kinglet	2	4	8	3	4	21	6	27	41	6	17	45	22	22				4	3		288 -
Ruby-cr Kinglet	1																				1
Town. Solitaire							1	1	5	3	1	1		3	2						1
American Robin		3	1	6	1	7	1	1			*				1						43 -
N. Mockingbird	1			1				1													11 ±
Brown Thrasher																					*
Bohem'n Waxwing	*		4	5	44				90	11	230	58	6	*	129						822 ±
Cedar Waxwing			7	7	7					1	13										30 ±
Northern Shrike	5	3		4	2	8	6	5	4	5	6	4	4	2	1	2	5		2	1	107 +
Loggerhead Shrike																					*
European Starling	1150	275	276	272	12	2657	166	22	191	410	1089	922	180	757	430	20	116	27	81	45	15778 ±
Yel-rump Warbler											*		34	6		*					40 ±
Pine Warbler											*										1
Northern Cardinal	15		6	1	2	2	2	2	2	*	7	1		1	5	1	*			4	131 ++



1995-96 CBC	GM	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	NB Tot
Rufous-sided Towhee	42	10	45	8	6	124	22	4	94	68	85	104	19	116	82	12	1	2		28	1915 ±
Am. Tree Sparrow																					8
Chipping Sparrow																					*
Field Sparrow																					1
Savannah Sparrow	12	4	1	13		15	4	2	7		1	2		3			1				90 +
Song Sparrow																					2
Swamp Sparrow	3	1		7	7				1	2	1	1		2	2						42 -
White-thr. Sparrow											1										2
White-cr. Sparrow											1										2
Harris' Sparrow																					1
Dark-eyed Junco	10	4	29	16	2	47	6	9	37	87	221	70	77	208	28	8	1	1	5	4	1147 +
Lapland Longspur						*						2									4 -
Snow Bunting	*	9	10	8	*	19	61		103	74	53	443	29	110	30	39	433	117	535	103	11691 +
Red-wing Blackbird									*		*		1	*							2 -
Rusty Blackbird																					5 ±
Common Grackle	*			6	3						4	1		*			2			1	32 -
Brown-hd Cowbird	9	1									2										36 -
Pine Grosbeak		8		13	17		7	49	18	61	41	44	9	57	32	2	5	16	2	41	917 +
Purple Finch		18	5		1	3					9					1	2		4	20	200 ±
House Finch		1	6		19						104			8					2	1	171 +
Red Crossbill							14			19					8				25	25	66 +
Wh-wing Crossbill						3		28	10	30	10	54	40	24	33	370	153	72	44	277	1207 +
Common Redpoll	8	61			182		1	9	2	16	392	52	101	240	145	131	144	43	81	29	3824 ±
Hoary Redpoll																					6 +
Pine Siskin		2			4				*		3			12		*				15	201 -
Am. Goldfinch	11	10	117		198		1	*	41	53	268	211	10	76	34	31	11			109	1987 ±
Evening Grosbeak					*	120	16	1	9	112	776	354	82	221	534	24	87	18	197	206	7246 ±
House Sparrow	38	115	90		274			11	16	24	197	88		87		29	30		141		2826 -
Unidentified		1 f			13 g					3 h			3 i		37 j						95
TOTAL BIRDS	13538	5493	4886	5334	2301	9531	1117	733	2044	2318	11189	4711	2301	5254	2820	2187	2375	766	1819	2292	139261
TOTAL SPECIES	56	58	50	63	42	63	40	48	44	40	60	55	45	49	34	34	41	27	31	42	125
Add. Spp. in Period	4	2			5	8	9	3	10	1	8	1		7		2	1		2	5	5
Hrs on foot	13	3.25	5	2		36.5	8	40.8	23.5	17	70	35.5	24.5	19	4	3	12	11.8	8.8	20.5	621 +
Hrs by car	25.5	22.5	12	13	15	41.5	8.5	17.3	20.5	26.8	81	40.8	26	17	20	25	28	10.7	20.8	3	969 +
Hrs otherwise	1.5 b	0.5 b		1.5 b																	3.5
TOTAL HOURS	40	26.25	17	16.5	15	78	16.5	58.1	44	43.8	151	76.3	50.5	36	24	28	40	22.5	29.5	23.5	1617
Km on foot	22	5.2	5	2		56.5	15	94.1	32	28.5	110	46.0	49.5	26	6	6	37.5	25.9	32.0	7	1054 +
Km by car	300	387.2	206	267	212	512	134.3	212.5	303.6	344.5	1055	457.0	426	531	168	366	328	94.4	265.8	108	13627 +
Km otherwise	15 b	1.6 b		15 b																	32
TOTAL KM	337	394	211	284	212	568.5	149.3	306.6	335.6	373	1165	503.0	475.5	557	174	372	365.5	120.3	297.8	115	14868
No. of observers	13	10	5	3	6	26	8	30	14	13	59	21	13	27	5	6	13	5	5	10	632
No. of parties	8	5	3	2	2	17	3	13	9	6	18	5-12	5-9	6	3	4	5	3	4	6	295
Feeder reports			18		27		2	3	2	2	20				41	1	3		1	10	473

## Abbreviations and Footnotes to the Tables:

Species name in boldface: 1st time on N.B. counts  
 Number in boldface: a local record high count  
 (for areas counted four or more times)  
 Number in italics: no details submitted or details not fully convincing

\* # recorded during count period  
 highest number a provincial record high count  
 recently released birds  
 by boat  
 1 sparrow sp.  
 1 woodpecker sp., 5 bird sp.

e 1 wren sp., 30 finch sp.  
 f 1 woodpecker sp.  
 g 1 Mallard x Black Duck, 1 Barrow's x  
 Com. Goldeneye, 10 gull sp., 1 warbler sp.  
 h 1 owl sp., 2 sparrow sp.  
 i 1 cormorant sp., 2 scoter sp.

j 37 black birds sp.  
 ++ much above average numbers  
 + above average numbers  
 ± near average numbers  
 - below average numbers  
 -- much below average numbers



## SHRIKE DISTRIBUTION VS. PREY AVAILABILITY

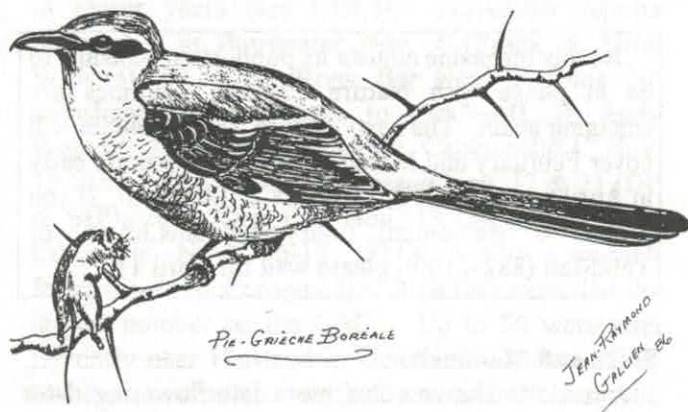
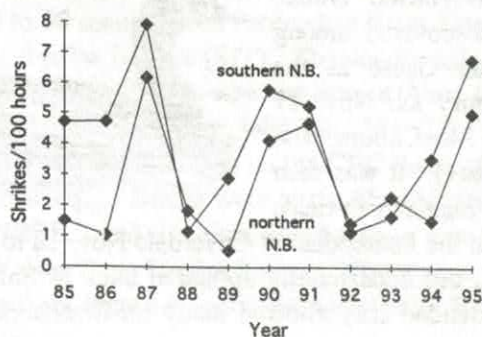
David Christie

In January there was an exchange on Birdchat (an Internet discussion group) about Northern Shrikes and whether or not there was a correlation between their wintering numbers and populations of various prey species, such as American Tree Sparrow, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and voles. Several people commented on the variety of species shrike catch in winter and suggested that they take whatever is readily available in an area.

I've noticed that Christmas Bird Count results generally show a 3 to 4-year cycle of Northern Shrikes in southern Canada, which suggests that shrike numbers are tied to the fluctuations of small rodent populations on their breeding grounds. The shrikes eat a variety of prey there, but when voles are abundant the shrikes' breeding success will be greatly enhanced and we experience a heavy winter flight. Here, on the wintering grounds, an abundance of one or a combination of prey species may support reasonable numbers of shrikes.

Brian Dalzell wondered why, in this generally good year for shrikes, a Christmas Bird Count on Cape Breton Island that had abundant small finches should produce only one shrike, whereas others in southern N.B. and western N.S. had few finches but several shrikes. I suspect the answer is that vole populations and vole availability (because of lesser snow depths) are more important indicators of good shrike habitat than are small bird populations.

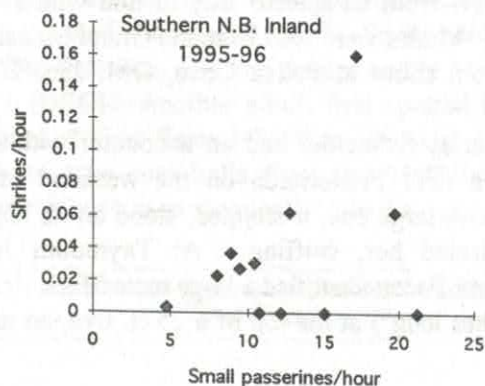
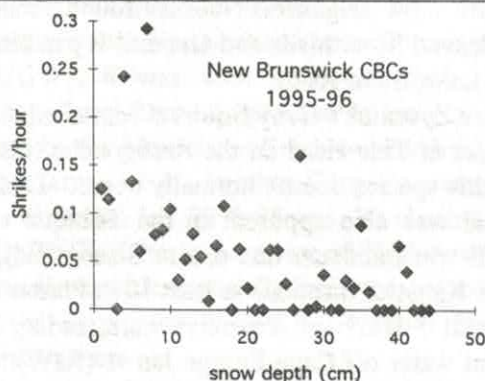
To test this, I plotted some charts of data from the 44 Christmas Bird Counts in New Brunswick this winter. The number of shrikes seen per hour against the number of small finches per hour (or of sparrows, or of small woodland passerines) produced a big cluster of points with no real pattern, but there was an obvious negative correlation between shrike density and snow depth. Areas with less than 10 cm of snow averaged about twice as many shrikes/hour as areas with 10-20 cm of snow, etc., and 85% of the counts that found no shrikes had more than 20 cm of snow. Thus, snow cover (and therefore vole availability) is suggested as being more important than bird populations.



Brian will be glad to know (since it supports his previous observations) that I also found that the abundance of bird prey does have an effect on shrike numbers. Shrikes were loosely correlated with small passerines in three of four regions of the province. When I at first lumped all the counts together, the Bay of Fundy coast, where snow depths were least and shrike numbers greatest, had obscured an association between shrikes and small birds elsewhere in the province.

The hypothesis emerging from this small exercise is that, at this latitude and season, availability of voles is the main factor influencing shrike distribution, but as snow depths increase then the availability of small bird prey becomes more important.

Reprinted from Birdchat, 8 Feb. 1996





# NATURE NEWS: NOVEMBER 1995 TO JANUARY 1996

David Christie

As this magazine adjusts its publication schedule to be in phase with Nature Canada, deadlines are changing again. The next "Nature News" column will cover February and March. Please send reports early in April to me at RR 2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0. If you prefer to use e-mail (maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca) or TalkMail (882-2100), please wait till April 11.

## Flora and Mammals

Jim Goltz shares some more late-flowering dates with us: **Black Mustard**, **Shepherd's-Purse**,



**Common Chickweed**, **Common Dandelion**, and **Fall Dandelion** at the Experimental Farm in Fredericton Nov. 23, and **Penny Cress** still in bud and bloom there during the thaw on Jan. 22! A gorgeous

**Seaside Goldenrod**, blooming when all the rest had long gone to

seed at Harvey Bank, near Riverside-Albert, Nov. 20 (DSC), had probably been injured by driftwood earlier. On Nov. 24 Ngairie Nelson found mustard, **Spiny-leaved Sow-thistle** and **Ground-ivy** in bloom at Spruce Lake, Saint John.

Denise Zyveniuk's **Gray Squirrel** continued through the winter at Tide Head on the Restigouche (fide ID), where this species doesn't normally occur. Last fall's dispersal was also apparent in the Tobique valley, where Erwin Landauer has one at Sisson Ridge and Laverne Rabatich mentions at least 10 in Plaster Rock.

At least 3 **Harbour Porpoise** were feeding in the turbulent water off Cape Enrage Jan. 1 (RJW). They withdraw from Chignecto Bay in mid winter. Two **Minke Whales** were seen from the Grand Manan ferry and from shore at Pettes Cove, GM, Jan. 20 (EP, RAM).

Beverley Schneider had an encounter with a **Pine Marten** near Fredericton on the weekend of Nov. 11-13. A large one, it stopped, stood on its hind legs and circled her, sniffing. At Taymouth Jan. 1, Margaret Pacey identified a large male **Mink** ("close to 24 inches long") at the top of a 25-ft. tree, an unusual

location for this species. When it noticed her dog, it raced down the tree and dived into the river. A female **Fisher** trapped at Milkish, near Bayswater, this winter was the first there in many years (fide KHD).

## Birds

There was lots of excitement for birdwatchers during this period: **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Tufted Ducks**, **Harris' Sparrow**, **Townsend's Solitaires**, **Barn Owl**, **Great Gray Owl**, cooperative **Cooper's** and **Red-shouldered Hawks**, and a **Cardinal** in almost every yard.

**Red-throated Loons** were still migrating Nov. 19. Small flocks were flying high to the SW, between Saint John and Digby, the largest group 17, the total about 70+ (SIT). About five **Common Loons** were also migrating then. Several **Commons** were noted on the Saint John River in Carleton County during the fall (GM), and the latest in Madawaska were singles at Edmundston Nov. 12 (GLT & Gérard Verret) and Lac Baker Nov. 13 (Benoît & Rita Clavette, GLT).

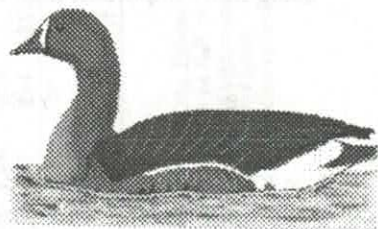
The last reported **Greater Shearwaters** were seen from the Grand Manan ferry Nov. 11 (30--fide BED). 250 **Northern Gannets** were fishing within a 3-mile radius of Gannet Rock Nov. 14 (fide BED). The last **Pomarine Jaeger** was in the Grand Manan Channel Nov. 4 (SJNC) and the last **Parasitic** one there Nov. 11 (fide BED).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** lingered till Nov. 22 at Edmundston (GLT). The only December report outside of Charlotte County was at Waterside Dec. 24 (Barb Curlew).

A **Great Blue Heron** was still at Edmundston Nov. 10 (JDB & MG) and one was at Norton Nov. 27 (Hugh & Janet Cunningham). The lone **Cattle Egret** of this fall was at Castalia Nov. 18 (BED).

An adult **Greater White-fronted Goose** was discovered among Canada Geese at the Salisbury s.l. Nov. 17 (Julie MacCallum, Ron Steeves+). It was seen fairly regularly in fields

and on the Petitcodiac at Coverdale Nov. 18 to Dec. 1 (v.o.), but occasionally appeared back at Salisbury. Its extended stay allowed many birdwatchers to see





this species for the first time. The few previous New Brunswick records have mostly been birds shot by hunters. A single **Snow Goose** was seen at Petite-Rivière-de-l'Île Nov. 1 (Julien Larocque).

Winter **Green-winged Teal** in addition to the CBC bird at Campbellton were at Castalia Dec. 5 (2--BED) and Mary's Pt. Dec. 22-25 and Jan. 26 (2--DSC; Lars Larsen). A **Gadwall** was at Eel River Bar Nov. 9 (NBBIL) and 6 at the Dalhousie s.l. about that time (ML). One discovered on the St. Martins CBC was still present Jan. 20 (TLS).

Brian Dalzell happily reports the good news that Letang Lake, formerly much polluted with pulp mill waste, is coming back to life. On Nov. 13 he saw 175 **Am. Black Ducks** on that body of water near St. George.

Anyone who has been following the Christmas Bird Count reports closely will have noticed that the Moncton area has by far the most **Mallards** in New Brunswick. In early December, Alain Clavette was pleased to have a few of these ducks visit his yard to forage for seed below the bird feeders. By Christmas the number had grown to 60 and Alain would have been quite happy to share them with others. Lots continued to visit throughout January.

Our first-ever **Tufted Ducks** in October were soon followed by more. On Nov. 16 a female was in the Petitcodiac River, below the mouth of Turtle Creek, at Coverdale (SIT+). The following day a different female with a less conspicuous crest and some white on its face was at the same place (SIT). A beautiful adult male, discovered with scaup at Indiantown, Saint John, Jan. 21 remained into February (EP+).

Distinguishing between **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** is often difficult in late summer and fall. Greater outnumbered Lessers three to one at the Dalhousie s.l. in October and November (ML), but most, if not all, of the 60 to 30 scaup on the Petitcodiac River Nov 16-18 appeared to be Lessers (SIT). The young male Lesser found on the FNP CBC was last seen at Alma Dec. 30 (RJW). A male at Saint John Jan. 22+ (DSC+) was probably one of those seen on the CBC there. At least three **Harlequin Ducks** were in the Shediac area Dec. 5-7 (NBBIL) and 35 were found during a survey of The Wolves Dec. 12 (Pat Kehoe). There were several reports from Point Lepreau. As many as 25 **Barrow's**



**Goldeneyes** were seen at Shediac Cape Nov. 4-13 (Paul Germain, SIT).

**Hooded Mergansers** seem to have been increasing in recent years (see CBCs). November reports included 3 at Bayswater Nov. 4 (Frank & Mitzi Withers), 50 at Eel River Bar Nov. 5 ("plus 2-6 anywhere else we chose to look"--ML & Andy Watson), 1 at Herring Cove PP, Campobello I., Nov. 10 (BED), 2 at Moulin-Momeault Nov. 12 & 21 (DP & MP), 20 at Oak Bay Nov. 13 (BED), and 5 at Coverdale Nov. 16-18 (SIT). 130 **Common Mergansers** at Cocagne Jan. 8 (RJW) exceeded the largest number on the CBCs. Up to 50 were seen regularly near Hartland in October-November (GM) and the same number at St-François-de-Madawaska Nov. 10 (JDB & MG).

**Ruddy Ducks** were at Great Pond, GM, Nov. 1-5 (2--SIT, PAP), Saints Rest s.l. Nov. 2-5 (1-6--SIT, JGW) and Coverdale Nov. 16-18 (9-11--SIT+).

**Turkey Vultures** were reported on Paulin Road at Ste-Marie-St-Raphaël, on Lamèque Island. Oct. 30 (Sylvain Paulin), at Riverview Dec. 6 (JE) and at Anagance Dec. 8 (if anybody knows who saw this one, please let me know).

A late **Osprey** was reported between McGowans Corner and Jemseg Dec. 4 (CLJ). November and winter records should be thoroughly documented because Ospreys are not inclined to linger and two-year-old Bald Eagles can have a pattern that is surprisingly Osprey-like.

An adult **Cooper's Hawk** has been unusually cooperative near Norton this winter. First noted Dec. 28 (JGW), it was seen numerous times through January along Route 1, perched in trees or chasing pigeons by the Moosehorn Creek covered bridge and a nearby farm (v.o.). Another Cooper's around Jones Lake, Moncton, Jan. 22 & 26 was also chasing pigeons (BED; DSC). This is the rarest of the three accipiters in New Brunswick, especially in winter, but the current increase in pigeons (see CBCs) could favour its occurrence here.

Also somewhat north of the normal winter range here is the **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Single adults were near Cap-Pelé Dec. 6 (Chris Adam) and at Mary's Pt. Jan. 1 (DSC). Another adult, first spotted by Lou McGuire at East Saint John Dec. 26, settled in and began to take suet balls from the McGuire's bird feeder! It was seen frequently into February (CLJ, EP+).

Greater White-fronted Goose and Tufted Duck illustrations by David Christie.



The latest **American Kestrel** was at North Head Nov. 29 (BED). Although only one **Peregrine Falcon** was found on the Grand Manan CBC, two were at Ashburton Head Dec. 29 (Andrew Sharkey).

The gray morph **Gyr Falcon** on the Edmundston CBC Dec. 16 was reported again Dec. 23 (Robert Émond). A similar bird was chasing pigeons at Woodstock Jan. 4 (Peter Papoulidis). Yet another gray Gyr was discovered sitting on the ice at the sewage treatment plant in Campbellton Dec. 31 (Raymond Chiasson, Mathieu Landry & ID). After about an hour, the falcon took off when some **Black Ducks** flew, caught one and ate it on the ice, an exciting experience for these observers. It remained for some time (ID) and a dark gyr was seen around the thermal power plant at Dalhousie later in the winter (ML).

There were **American Coots** at Musquash Nov. 11 (20--Scott Makepeace) and Coverdale Nov. 16-18 (2--SIT+); 2 at Long Pond, GM, through November were "frozen out, walking on the ice" on the 30th (BED).

Late shorebirds included **Lesser Yellowlegs** (fide BED) and **Pectoral Sandpiper** (4--SIT) at Castalia Nov. 1; **American Golden-Plover** at Woodward's Cove, GM, Nov. 3 (PAP); several **Black-bellied Plovers** and **Dunlin**, 12 **Red Knot** and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Castalia Nov. 4 (PAP); **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Mary's Pt. Nov. 25 (DSC); **Sanderling** at Long Pond Beach, GM, Dec. 2 (33--BED); **Greater Yellowlegs** at Castalia Dec. 5 (BED); **Killdeer** at St. Andrews Dec. 9 (Ann Bacon).

**Purple Sandpiper** should be added to the St. Andrews CBC as a count period bird; 40 were there Dec. 28 (MPh).

In addition to being found on the CBCs a **Common Snipe** was seen Jan. 3-4 at Douglas (feeding in running water below a spring--Brian Durance; BJS & PAP).

A first-winter **Laughing Gull** at Mactaquac Nov. 13-20 (Don Gibson+) was particularly unusual inland and late as well. Saint John's **Mew Gull** (European race) returned for a third season at the Saints Rest s.l., where it was seen fairly regularly from Dec. 22 into February (JGW+).

**Black-headed Gull** was reported at Friars Bay, Campobello, Nov. 12 (BED), Lamèque Nov. 12+ (Gérard Benoit) and Saints Rest, Saint John Dec. 22+ (NBBIL). 800 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Friars Bay Dec. 31 (Ann Bacon) substantially exceeded the tally during a snowstorm on the Eastport-Campobello CBC 5 days earlier.

Mike Lushington commented on the reduced

numbers of gulls in the Dalhousie-Campbellton areas this winter because of the replacement of the local dumps by a regional facility. A 1st-winter **Iceland Gull** Nov. 26 at the dump at Moulin-Morneault (Bert & Colette Lavoie, Georgette Thibodeau, GLT) was a noteworthy species for Madawaska County. An immature **Glaucous Gull** was inland at Rothesay Dec. 27 (MPh).

The most intriguing owl of the season was an emaciated **Barn Owl** found dead at Cape Tormentine in mid January (Austin Trenholm, fide JE). The bird had been noticed flying into an abandoned house a few days earlier. The few **Barn Owls** that turn up in the Maritimes are probably young that disperse in the fall and then have difficulty finding sufficient food in winter.

**Snowy Owls** were scarce. In addition to the two on the CBCs, one was at Charlo Dec. 29 (Ray McNair) and one on the Tantramar Marsh near Middle Sackville Dec. 31+ (Kathy Popma). A **Northern Hawk Owl** spent the winter at Évangeline, near Inkerman, Nov. 24 (Guy Hébert+).

Every few years, because of a large production of young, a shortage of mice, or unusually heavy snow conditions, numerous **Great Gray Owls** move southward from their boreal-forest home to areas of southern Canada and even the northern states. This was one of those years, but New Brunswick is so far east that only the occasional **Great Gray** ever reaches here. One identified by Andy Lesage in front of his home at Hopewell Cape Jan. 30 remained in the general area for more than 2 weeks (DSC, Mike Majka+). Reports from local residents suggest that it was present a few days before it was first identified.

On Jan. 3, at Waterville, near Hartland, Lloyd Culberson saw an owl which he thought was a **Great Gray**. He wasn't entirely positive and it could not be relocated. In winter, the somewhat similar **Barred Owl** is seen more frequently than usual during daylight, such as at Centennial Park, Moncton Jan. 1 (Lloyd Decoste), Halls Creek Trail, Moncton, Jan. 1 (OL), McGowans Corner Jan. 5 (PAP), Hammond River Jan. 13 (JPG+), and Fredericton Jan. 24 (JPG). Two **Barred Owls** were duetting before dawn at Summerville, near Bayswater, Jan. 2 (KHD).

A **Long-eared Owl** was at Douglas Nov. 10 (BJS). Up to 5 **Short-eared Owls** were seen at the Point Park marsh, Riverview, in the first half of December (Leroy Dobson+). Smaller numbers were there and several were on the Tantramar during January (NBBIL). One



at Net Point, GM, Nov. 4 (fide BED) and one at Douglas Nov. 7 (Marc Schneider) may have been migrating.

The **Red-bellied Woodpecker** flight continued to be obvious through November. Additional inland/northern records were at Petite-Lamèque from Nov. 6 into December (Jacques Guignard), near Youngs Cove Nov. 9 (D&SG) and at Bathurst Nov. 14 (Alicia Ward). There were mentions in five areas during the CBC period and the St. Martins bird was still present Jan. 20 (TLS). Wintering **Northern Flickers** continued through January at Alma (DR) and Riverview (Chris Antle, David Owen).

A **Carolina Wren** was seen sporadically at Don Gibson's Fredericton feeder, between Nov. 10 and Dec. 10 (v.o.) and two, differing in size and suggesting a male and female, visited a feeder near Youngs Cove from about Dec. 7 till at least the 17th (D&SG).

New Brunswick's first **Townsend's Solitaire** spent the winter of 1952 at a Woodstock feeder, but the very few recent ones have been seen just briefly. This winter was different. One was seen around a multiflora rose bush at FNP Headquarters from Dec. 18 to Jan. 4 (DSC+). Another was eating vine berries at Hammond River, Quispamsis, Jan 9-16 (JGW+); it had appeared a couple of days earlier but been unrecognized. An additional solitaire report came from South Bay, Saint John, Jan. 26 (Grace Lee). That bird was eating rose hips.

An out-of-season **Hermit Thrush** was seen several times at Fredericton Jan. 10-16 and found dead the 17th (Margery Acheson, May Bartlett, fide PAP). A late **Gray Catbird** was at Stanley Beach, GM, Nov. 10 (fide BED). Five **N. Mockingbirds** were defending berry hedges, mostly Japanese Barberry, at various locations on Grand Manan in the first half of November (fide BED). In addition to the areas where mockers were seen during the CBCs there was one near Norton Jan. 28 (Merv Cormier). A **Brown Thrasher** visited Dave Myles' feeder at Lower Prince William from November through Dec. 28.

Moderate numbers of **Bohemian Waxwings** were found throughout the province (see CBCs). In the Dalhousie area they were seen regularly in November, but less frequently by the end of the year. In southeastern N.B., at least, numbers seemed to increase in late January, when 61 were at Riverside-Albert and 35 at nearby Shepody Jan. 22 (RJW) and 80 at Alma Jan. 30 (DR). The following day, 18 stopped briefly at Dalhousie (Pat McGorlick). As usual, Cedar Waxwings were much less numerous on the CBCs.

One was at Gagetown Jan. 23 (PAP, SS).

Before Christmas, Paul Bogaard watched one of the many **Northern Shrikes** present this winter kill and carry off the first **Cardinal** he had ever had at his feeder at Westcock, near Sackville. (You have my sympathy, Paul.) On Nov. 6 a shrike was pursuing a **Red-winged Blackbird** at Lac Baker (DC). Both these are bigger than the shrike's usual mouse- or sparrow-sized prey, but ambitious shrikes have been known to kill birds up to the size of a Blue Jay.

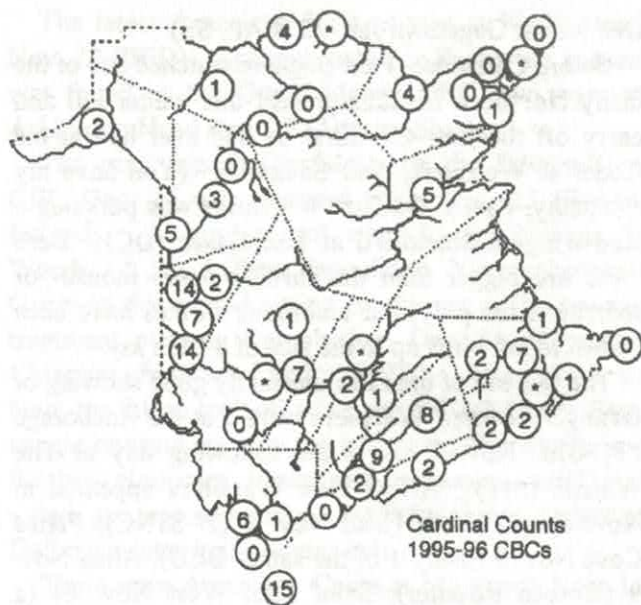
The tail end of the fall's unusually good showing of **Orange-crowned Warblers** were 2 at the Anchorage PP, GM, Nov. 1 and 2 the following day at The Whistle (SIT). A few **Pine Warblers** appeared in November: North Head Nov. 4 (2--SJNC), Pettes Cove Nov. 9 (likely 1 of the same--BED), Alma Nov. 9 (Doreen Rossiter), Saint John West Nov. 14 (a possible--Ethel Bosence), Pte-Alexandre Nov. 7 to Dec. 1 (Hilaire and Rose-Aline Chiasson), and Edgetts Landing Nov. 29 to Dec. 10 (male at feeder--Dwayne Biggar). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Alma Nov. 14 (SIT, RJW). Most winter **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are associated with bayberry thickets along Northumberland Strait (see CBCs) but occasionally one appears around feeders elsewhere, as at Salisbury (Tina Steeves) and Dieppe (TA), both in early January.

Other late warblers were a dull immature **Yellow** at Alma Nov. 4 (SIT, HCa, Connie Colpitts), a **Blackpoll** at Red Point, GM, Nov. 1 (SIT), and a **Wilson's** at Alma Nov. 6 (SIT, HCa, OL). The last, extremely bright golden-yellow below and olive-green above, seemed larger than normal and had a slightly different call note, leading Stuart Tingley to suspect it was a western subspecies.

The **Northern Cardinal** flight that began in October brought many more reports during November. Included were 3 at Lac Baker (DC; Gilles Rouseel), 4 at once at St-Amateur, near Paquetville (fide Benoit Hébert) and at least 12 within Fredericton (fide PAP). Newspaper reports (not necessarily trustworthy) mentioned 6 at a feeder in Stanley and 8 at Perth-Andover. Numbers dropped somewhat during December but never-the-less more than twice as many were found on the CBCs as in the previous record year (1993-94), and Cardinals were present in almost all settled parts of the province (see map on next page).

The **Indigo Bunting** season at Alma concluded with a blue-tailed adult Nov. 1 (DR) and a dull immature Nov. 3-4 (RJW, Gail Walker). Single **Dickcissels** were noted Nov. 6, at Fredericton (SS) and Mary's Pt.





(DSC). Two female **Rufous-sided Towhees** appeared in October at Rollande Lamarche's feeder at Edmundston. One disappeared, possibly caught by a cat, in mid November but the other remained until the CBC (MP, JDB). A towhee was also at Baie Ste Anne in November (fide Tom Greathouse).

A lingering **Chipping Sparrow** attended a feeder at Bancroft Point, GM, Dec. 10-15 (BED). A **Field Sparrow** seen till Nov. 10 (JGW+) at North Head, often associated with a small flock of Chippies. Field Sparrows were also at Grand Harbour Nov. 5 (PAP), and at Shediac Nov. 3-7 and from Nov. 29 till about Christmas (DD).

There was "a pronounced movement of **Fox Sparrows** at Grand Manan during the first two weeks of November" (BED); the last one was seen Nov. 22 at Bancroft Point (BED). In recent years this species has been scarce in fall. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Suzanne Rousseau's feeder at Lower Coverdale, near Riverview, from Jan. 12 (JE) into February is the second winter record in New Brunswick. A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Moulin-Morneault till Nov. 20 (DP & MP).

An immature **Harris' Sparrow**, the longest-staying and third well-documented record for the province, frequented Bob Cotsworth's Moncton feeder from Nov. 23 till Dec. 28. Bob graciously hosted dozens of birders.

Nov. 10 was a peak day for **Dark-eyed Juncos** with 500 on Campobello Island (BED) and 300 at North Head, including a "well-marked" female "**Oregon Junco**" (SIT+).

In addition to the very few blackbirds on the CBCs, **Red-winged Blackbird** was at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska Dec. 7-13 (FL) and Alma Dec. 8 (RJW), **Rusty Blackbird** at Barachois in mid December (2--Nelson Poirier), and **Common Grackle** at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska Dec. 12 (FL) and Riverside-Albert Dec. 15 (DSC & Mary Majka). Nine **Brown-headed Cowbirds** still at Seal Cove Jan. 22 were apparently foraging below the high tide line with a flock of starlings (Rodger & Elaine Maker).

A few **Northern Orioles** were seen in the first week of November and a late one was near Riverside-Albert Nov. 27 (DJC, AB). The much rarer **Orchard Oriole** was reported at Fredericton Nov. 2 (SS).

**Pine Grosbeaks** were numerous throughout the period. Some of the larger groups reported were flocks heading NW along shore at Robichaud the weekend of Nov. 4-5 (DD, NB); 25 flying east during a two-hour watch at FNP Headquarters Nov. 14 (SIT); 25 at Hillsborough and 20 at Daniels Marsh, near Hopewell Cape, Dec. 24 (BED, Halton Dalzell); and 25 at Keswick Ridge Jan. 3 (PAP).

Outside the southern cities, **House Finches** were reported Nov. 3-10 at Alma (RJW), Nov. 10 at Wilsons Beach (5--BED), and Nov. 14+ at Moulin-Morneault (including an orange male from Nov. 24--DP, MP+). 35 at Peter Pearce's feeder Jan. 5 greatly exceeded the Fredericton CBC total.

Be sure to notice in the CBC tables how heavily **White-winged Crossbills** were concentrated in northeastern New Brunswick this winter. There were smaller numbers in the southeast but very few elsewhere. On the other hand, **Pine Siskins** disappeared from most areas in November; the few seen at Christmas were mainly along the Saint John valley. **Common Redpolls** were more widespread, and abundant in some areas. Some feeders in the Shediac-Moncton area were visited by a hundred or more during January. A few **Hoary Redpolls** were distinguished among the Commons. A redpoll at my feeder at Mary's Pt. Dec. 6 had the generally pale colour and small bill of a Hoary, but didn't allow me to see its rump or its undertail coverts so that I could be positive of its identity. Hoaries were reported to the Bird Line a number of times in January. Ones I know of were at Moulin-Morneault Dec. 27+ (DP & MP), Shediac Jan. 5+ (2-1--DD), Dieppe Jan. 5-7 (TA), and Scoudouc in mid January (NB).

A washed-out brown **American Crow** that's been attracting attention at St. Martins the last couple of



years was still present in January (TLS) and a similar one was at Penobsquis Dec. 26 (DJC, AB). A whitish **Blue Jay** at Geary was featured on CBC-TV's "NB Now" in October and another partial albino **Blue Jay** was reported at Cap de Cocagne in November (fide DD). Ron Steeves hosted a partly albino **Starling** at Salisbury in December; only its wings were dark. A male **House Finch** at Moncton in early January had significant amounts of white on its head (Kathy Carter) and a female **Common Redpoll** at Mary's Pt. Dec. 7 had a sharply outlined white face, cheeks and throat and reduced red on its crown (DSC).

### Abbreviations

+	and following days or
+	and other observers
AB	Anne Bardou
BED	Brian Dalzell
BJS	Beverley Schneider
CBCs	Christmas Bird Counts
CLJ	Cecil Johnston
D&SG	Doug & Shirley Gibson
DC	Denise Cyr
DD	Denis Doucet
DJC	David Clark
DP	Don Plourde
DR	Doreen Rossiter
DSC	David Christie

EP	Eileen Pike
FL	Florida Lavoie
FNP	Fundy Nat'l Park
GLT	Gisèle Thibodeau
GM	Grant Milroy
HCa	Helen Carlsonz
ID	Irene Doyle
JDB	Denys Bourque
JE	Jim Edsall
JGW	Jim Wilson
KHD	Hank Deichmann
MG	Marie Anne Gauvin
ML	Mike Lushington
MP	Monique Plourde
MPh	Mark Phinney
NB	Norm Belliveau
NBBIL	NB Bird Info Line
OL	Oscar LeBlanc
PAP	Peter Pearce
RAM	Rose-Alma Mallet
RJW	Rob Walker
SIT	Stuart Tingley
SJNC	Saint John Nat. Club
s.l.	sewage lagoon
SS	Shirley Sloat
TA	Théo Arsenault
TLS	Ted Sears
v.o.	various observers



## A MOVING WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Chris Adam

During the summer and fall of 1995, I had occasion to make several crossings of the Northumberland Strait between Cape Tormentine and Borden. One evening in early fall, I came out on deck and observed about 25 Ring-billed Gulls taking advantage of the ferry's presence. It was dark, and the lights from the port (left) side shone out over the water in a large rectangle. I observed groups of from one to five gulls flying from the bow of the ferry slowly along the length of the rectangle of light, close to the water, foraging for marine life. When they reached the end they turned around and flew swiftly to the leading edge of the rectangle and resumed their foraging behaviour. This slow foraging and swift return continued for the entire time I was out on deck (about half the 45 minute crossing), and was amusing and fascinating. The light from the ferry shone on the



birds and made them appear as snow-white apparitions against the dark sky and water. There were no gulls on the starboard side of the ferry. The gulls probably used this moving window of opportunity for the entire width of the strait (approximately 13 km), and may have done so on many other trips.

Two things struck me about this behaviour. I was amused at the gulls' determination to reach the beginning of the window, and I wondered why they didn't do the whole thing in reverse order. Giving it further thought, I realized that foraging against the forward motion of the ferry would not allow much time to observe and pick up food items, but foraging with the boat, i.e. from stern to bow, would probably leave them behind and may expend too much energy. The gulls were doing just fine when I left them.