





Konk-a-ree! One of the most distinctive and optimistic sounds that spring has arrived in Nova Scotia is undoubtedly that of the red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), one of our most distinctive and smartly-named birds. The shiny black males with the striking red “epaulettes” arrive in Nova Scotia wetlands in mid-March and set-up breeding territories, which they fiercely defend against threats from intruders including other blackbirds, raccoons, birds of prey, and even people too close to the nest! (IM)

MAY 2022

By the time the brown, streaky (and underrated) females arrive a few weeks later, each can choose the location that best suits their liking. Male blackbirds regularly raise broods with multiple female partners, in some cases up to 15 females to a male! Paternal studies on red-winged blackbird families indicate that offspring in the same nest are often sired by different fathers. These birds nest close to the water in stands of cattails. In case of a mishap, young birds can swim to safety if they fall from the nest into the water, an ability that they lose in adulthood. (IM)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2:15 PM 12.2 m For low tide + or - 6 h 1	2:54 PM 12.0 m 2 1797: Abraham Gesner (geologist) born at Chipmans Corner.	3:34 PM 11.6 m 3	4:14 PM 10.9 m 4	4:56 PM 10.2 m 5	5:14 AM 9.7 m 6 5:41 PM 9.4 m	6:01 AM 8.9 m 7 6:30 PM 8.7 m
6:51 AM 8.3 m 8 7:22 PM 8.2 m Mother's Day	7:45 AM 8.0 m 9 8:17 PM 8.1 m 	8:41 AM 8.2 m 10 9:12 PM 8.5 m 1994: Annular solar eclipse across N.S.	9:37 AM 8.7 m 11	10:30 AM 9.7 m 12	11:21 AM 10.9 m 13	12:11 PM 12.1 m 14 Moonrise: 6:59 PM
1:00 PM 13.3 m 15 Total Lunar Eclipse (See note) Frogs Croaking Moon  Moonrise: 8:21 PM*	1:49 PM 14.1 m 16 BNS Meeting 7:30 PM Moonrise: 9:45 PM	2:39 PM 14.6 m 17	3:30 PM 14.5 m 18	4:24 PM 14.1 m 19 1995: N.S. Duck Tolling Retriever named Provincial Dog.	4:48 AM 13.7 m 20 5:20 PM 13.3 m	5:46 AM 12.8 m 21 6:20 PM 12.4 m
6:47 AM 11.8 m 22 7:22 PM 11.5 m 1980: Mount St. Helens ash settles on N.S. 	7:50 AM 11.1 m 23 8:24 PM 10.9 m Victoria Day 1707: Carl Linnaeus (botanist, zoologist) born.	8:53 AM 10.6 m 24 9:25 PM 10.6 m	9:52 AM 10.4 m 25 1988: Red spruce chosen as Provincial Tree.	10:48 AM 10.5 m 26 2005: Paul Corkum, Acadia physics grad, elected Fellow of the Royal Society.	11:38 AM 10.7 m 27	12:24 PM 10.9 m 28 1890: John S. Foster (physicist, Fellow of the Royal Society) born at Clarence.
1:06 PM 11.1 m 29 1867: Ernest Haycock (geologist) born at Westport.	1:47 PM 11.1 m 30 2002: <i>Hylonomus lyelli</i> (reptile) chosen as provincial fossil. 	2:27 PM 11.1 m 31		May 1st: Sunrise: 6:07 AM Sunset: 8:23 PM Sun's maximum noon altitude is 60°. This month's daily sunlight period gains about 67 min.	APRIL 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Aquatic Invertebrate Identification

Unless you've been hiding under a rock, you probably know aquatic macroinvertebrate (critters with no backbones, that are visible to the naked eye) communities are one of the most important indicators of aquatic health. It is hard not to love aquatic macroinvertebrate larvae with their many squiggly legs, variable tails, their tiny charismatic faces, and adorable feeding habits. While anglers and freshwater biologists are well-versed in the wonderful world of freshwater macroinvertebrates identification, there is now an amazing, free website for learning to identify aquatic macroinvertebrates. Check out www.macroinvertebrates.org. (IM)

May 15–16: The Moon Falls Into Darkness

If the Moon orbited the Earth in the same plane in which the Earth orbits the Sun (the ecliptic), total lunar eclipses by now would be boring. There would be one every full moon, with half visible from Nova Scotia (if it were clear). The Moon's orbit is inclined at 5° to the ecliptic. This means that eclipses (both lunar and solar) can only occur during 35-day-long “eclipse seasons” which are six months apart. The Moon enters the umbra (the darkest part of Earth's shadow) at 11:27 PM, is totally inside the umbra at 12:29 AM (on the 16th), reaches maximum eclipse at 1:13 AM, and begins to leave the umbra at 1:54 AM. (PK)