

HORNED LARK

# Blomidon Naturalists Society

Winter 2001 – Volume 28 Number 4

## **Blomidon Naturalists Society**

*The primary objective of the Society shall be to encourage and develop in its members an understanding and appreciation of nature. For the purpose of the Society, the word "nature" will be interpreted broadly and shall include the rocks, plants, animals, water, air, and stars.*

(from the BNS constitution)

### **BNS Executive**

President:	George Forsythe	542-7116
Past president	Merritt Gibson	582-7569
Vice president	Mike McCall	678-6273
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The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a member of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, the Nova Scotia Trails Federation, and the Brier Island Ocean Study (BIOS). The society is an affiliated member of the Canadian Nature Federation.

The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a registered charity. Receipts (for income tax purposes) will be issued for all donations.

Visit us on the web

<<http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm>>

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PO Box 127  
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

Contributions to the BNS newsletter are always welcome. Members are encouraged to share unusual or pleasurable nature stories through the pages of the BNS newsletter. If you have a particular area of interest, relevant articles and stories are always welcome. Send them to Mike McCall by mail, RR 3, Centreville, NS B0P 1J0; by e-mail, <mikemccall@ns.sympatico.ca>; or by fax, 902 678-1812.

## Upcoming newsletter deadlines

Spring, March 24; Summer, June 23

Fall, September 29; Winter, January 5, 2003

## Editorial Board

Chair: Mike McCall (902 678-6273)

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Production: Doug Linzey

Distribution: Bill and Brenda Thexton, Judy Tufts, Lorna Hart

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Printed in Canada. For subscription information, see the 2000 membership fees form at the back of this newsletter. Please notify us at the above address if you change your address.

## Editor's Notes

No it's not a mistake. The insertion of the 2000 Christmas Bird Count summary (p. 14) is intentional. It didn't make it into last year's January issue, and since this small journal is a record of the club's activities (and of wildlife in our area) it seems appropriate to make sure that this record is preserved. You might also enjoy comparing the species and numbers (and the weather!) with the 2001 summary.

With many thanks and much regret we say farewell to Angus MacLean, who signed on pro tem as our birding correspondent some time ago and probably stayed longer than he'd intended. His detailed and accurate reports were always interesting and his presence in these pages will be missed. But nature abhors a vacuum, and I'm sure a BNS member somewhere out there will pop up to take over this very small task. Pop up on my telephone or by e-mail (see coordinates below) to tell me you you've always dreamt of a career in journalism, one that pays no wages but will let you chum around in the newsroom with luminaries like Roy Bishop (star reporter), Larry Bogan, who brings us weather direct from the front (warm or cold), the newsroom wag Merritt Gibson, and of course the irrepressible Jim Wolford.

We welcome Ron Buckley to our pages as he talks about our topography and the structure of our part of the earth (p.16).

And Harold Forsyth's summary of our financial health is a cheering one (p. 32). As a society, BNS doesn't vary much in size from year to year, but we are happily solvent.

New in this issue: a list of the BNS executive and directors; and the 2002 deadlines for getting submissions for the newsletter into the editor's hands. And a revised membership form provides an easy way not only to pay your annual membership but also to order books, calendars, and crests.

Mike McCall  
902 678-6273  
<mikemccall@ns.sympatico.ca>

# **Computerized Index of BNS Newsletters**

## **by Larry Bogan**

There is now a complete list of the articles, nature reports, etc. for all the BNS newsletters. This summer Craig Daniels, the BNS summer employee, went through all the newsletters on file (from August 1974 through summer 2001) and listed the articles and reports by Title, Author, Type of piece (business, nature report, article, etc.), Key words, Volume number, Issue number, Page number, Year, and Season (spring, summer, autumn, winter).

The information was recorded in a DBase III file format (\*.dbf), which is nearly a universally accepted format. Most databases and spreadsheets (and some word processors) will import .dbf files.

The approximately 250-kB database file will nicely fit on a floppy disk. I have made up a master disk with the database and a Windows shareware program called DBFView, which will allow you to view the fields and search on select words. It is not sophisticated enough to sort and write a report on the search, but it will allow you to find articles on, say, the Cornwallis River, or all the articles written by Merritt Gibson. And it will allow you to add to the database the contents of future newsletters.

The file is on the BNS website <[www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/](http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/)> for downloading. Or, on request to <[larry.bogan@acadiu.ca](mailto:larry.bogan@acadiu.ca)>, I will e-mail you a copy. If you need a viewer, I can give you a copy of the shareware program DBFView along with the database on one 1.44 MB floppy disk.

As other BNS newsletters are published, we will update the file.

A few statistics: As of summer 2001, there are 1,280 total entries, 203 of them with author Jim Wolford, 128 for which I was author, 430 with the keyword "bird," and 330 field trip reports.

You can determine other properties yourself.

If you do not have a set of BNS newsletters from which to read the older issues, a set is available in the Wolfville Library.

# Blomidon Naturalists Society

## Winter 2001/2002

### Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Beveridge Arts Centre, Room 244, Acadia University (just across main street from the Atlantic Theatre Festival parking lot, just west of downtown Wolfville).

**January 21, 2002 – Show and Tell** (in Patterson Hall, rooms 308 & 325, University Ave, 4th building on right up the hill across from the Acadia arena parking lot) Bring up to 15 slides or anything else (photos, books, magazines, fossils, nests . . . anything) to share with us, or just yourselves.

**February 18, 2002 – Trina Fitzgerald: The Atlantic Bird Observatory and Monitoring of Migratory Bird Populations via Banding on Bon Portage and Seal Islands.**

**March 18, 2002 – Phil Taylor: Conservation Challenges in West Africa.** Mt. Peko National Park in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), which is bordered by Liberia on the west, Ghana on the east.

**April 15, 2002 – To be announced.**

**May 20, 2002 – Martine Dufresne and Anne Mills: Wolverines, Woolly Louseworts, and Caribou – A Trip to Bathurst Inlet, Nunavut.** Martine and Anne will present a slide show on their two-week July trip to Bathurst Inlet in the central Arctic. Enjoy the beautiful rugged scenery, stunning flora, fauna, native history, and geology of an arctic oasis.

## Field Trips

Unless otherwise indicated, all field trips begin at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre (RTNC) on Wolfville's Front Street (look for the weird chimney in the NS Liquor Commission parking lot). Additional field trips may be announced at BNS meetings.

**Sunday, March 3, 2002 – Winter Waterbirds of Annapolis, Digby, and Margaretsville.** Leader Jim Wolford (542-7650). Meet at the RTNC at 9 a.m. Bring lunch and drinks (or lunch at Digby Little Stop (Irving?)), binoculars, scope, field guides, warm clothes, and a warm disposition!

**Sunday, April 28, 2002 – Pond Hopping for Ducks and Other Birds.** Leader Jim Wolford (542-7650). Meet at the RTNC at 10 a.m. This will be a joint field trip with the Nova Scotia Bird Society. Bring a lunch, optical devices, books, boots, clothes for weather, etc.

### Other Activities For Naturalists

**Jan. 26 & 27, Feb. 2 & 3, 2002 – Two Eaglewatch Weekends** at Sheffield Mills with pancake breakfasts, naturalist displays, crafts for sale, raffles, community suppers, and, of course, lots of eagles and (we hope) wintry weather. Well-known videographers Janet & John Foster may be here for several days.

**May 31 to June 2, 2002 – Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists Annual General Meeting and Conference** will feature talks on natural history, opportunities to meet members of various clubs, access to FNSN board members, etc. Hosted by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Watch for details in club newsletters or various websites. See, for example, the FNSN site: <<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN>>.

# **Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts: When Did They Start?**

by Merritt Gibson

I just read the field notes published by another naturalists society that include an article on Christmas bird counts (CBCs). The article states that this year is a special anniversary, “for it marks 50 years of Christmas bird counts in Nova Scotia” and a celebration is planned. Let’s have a celebration, but let’s get it right and mark the *real* start some 81 years ago. Nova Scotia has one of the earliest counts in North America.

The claim that Christmas bird counts started in Nova Scotia about 1953 has received much publicity during the past few years. I’ve even heard the announcement at BNS meetings. The truth is that Wolfville, with ancestors of the Blomidon Naturalists Society, held CBCs for decades before 1953.

I cannot document when they started, but Robie Tufts said he conducted the first one in 1921. I have checked with other birders who grew up under Robie’s influence, and they recall a similar date.

I can document the CBCs held through the 1930s, for I have copies of many of them. Robie published some 1930 CBCs in the *Ottawa Field Naturalist*, now the *Canadian Field Naturalist*, and you can check them at the Acadia library, as I did.

There was no CBC in 1940 (perhaps it was 1941?). John Erskine organized them at the time and none was held that year because, I believe, he was on sabbatical. Otherwise, CBCs were held under John Erskine’s leadership each year during the 1940s and into the 1950s. The problem year was 1952, for which we have no record. That means either that a count was not held that year (which I doubt) or that we cannot find a record of it (which is true). It does *not* mean the CBCs started at that time.

One statement repeatedly heard, even at BNS, is that CBCs have been held in Nova Scotia continuously since 1953. Strictly, the statement is accurate because of the 1952 dilemma, but it is misleading and unfair to



Robie Tufts, John Erskine, and the many who took part in earlier counts. Cutting Wolfville's three-decades-long tail off the Nova Scotian flow chart is a tidy technique that gives a more symmetrical chart, but it has also given some people the incorrect impression of the start date. The person who collates the Nova Scotia counts makes a tremendous contribution to birders in the province. In starting the compilation, while knowing the Wolfville record, the collator needed (reasonably) a date when a number of counts were held, and the break at 1952 was a convenient one. No other message was intended.

I took part in Wolfville's CBCs during the late 1940s and early 1950s with an impressive list of future birders, scientists, and conservationists. Lloyd Duncanson was one; he later joined the staff of the Nova Scotia Museum. Sherman Bleakney was another, later becoming a biology professor at Acadia and a noted authority on the natural history and history of the Minas Basin and dykelands. Ralph Mosher became professor of education at Harvard University and an active conservationist. Tony Erskine took part; he became an ornithologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service and author of many articles on birds, including the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces*. And David Erskine, later an authority in botany and geography, also participated. David researched and wrote the *Flora of Prince Edward Island*.

In earlier years, the name that stands out is Mary Forbes, who lived on Linden Avenue and once took a young boy into her garden to show him an oriole's nest. She died several years ago at the age of 102. The day before, with her daughter, she kept a list of the birds at her feeder, and her name is listed on Wolfville's CBC for that year. She took part in CBCs for some 60 years, and that must be a record – one that should be recognized!

Wolfville produced several internationally recognized ornithologists, and participation in the annual CBC was likely part of their background. Austin Rand led expeditions through the South Pacific islands and later became curator of the Chicago Museum of Natural History. Earl Godfrey, who became chief of zoology at the National Museum of Canada, wrote *Birds of Canada*. Stephen Gould led scientific trips through Newfoundland and Labrador and wrote, for that time, the definitive work on Wilson Snipe.

Ron Smith also led trips through the South Pacific (and was naturalist on the eight-month honeymoon cruise of George Vanderbilt and his bride on the yacht *Cressida*). He became curator of the museum at Queen's University and continued to band birds as he did while he was growing up in Wolfville with Robie Tufts. One bird that he banded at Queens was a chimney swift. That band was one of several later recovered in the Amazon and showed for the first time where Chimney Swifts went in winter.

These birders all grew up in Wolfville; it is an impressive list for a small community. They are all part of the heritage of the Blomidon Naturalists Society and, indeed, of all Nova Scotian birders. Let's recognize their achievements and keep them as a part of our history, and let's enjoy a celebration of the first CBC in Nova Scotia – perhaps 81 years ago.

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## **2001 Wolfville Christmas Bird Count** **by Joe Nocera and Trina Fitzgerald**

Despite an overnight snowstorm that threatened to linger into morning, the Wolfville Christmas bird count was conducted on December 15, 2001, marking another successful year in the long history of our local count. Overall, 82 species were counted on count day, with four extra species seen during count week. Forty-eight field observers participated, logging 157 party hours covering 1,008 km. Ninety-one feeder watchers also participated by observing at 76 feeders for 153.25 hours in total (we thank Jim Wolford for compiling these feeder-watch data).

This count generated many interesting observations. Several rarities were observed on count day: Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon (3), Killdeer, Lesser Black-backed Gull (3), Eastern Bluebird (2), Yellow-breasted Chat, White-crowned Sparrow (4), and Baltimore Oriole. Lesser Black-backed Gulls have become something of a regular fixture in this area, and may soon not warrant exception.

There were a few surprises in the top-ten species counted this year (see table 1); for example, American Black Duck and Canada Goose did not

make the list. Last year these species occupied the number 4 and 8 slots, respectively. Newcomers to the list are Common Redpoll and Blue Jay.

**Table 1: The ten species with highest numbers observed during the Wolfville CBC, 2001**

Rank	Species	Number counted
1.	European Starling	15,638
2.	Herring Gull	13,730
3.	American Crow	9,711
4.	Great Black-backed Gull	4,048
5.	Mourning Dove	2,123
6.	Dark-eyed Junco	2,087
7.	American Goldfinch	1,438
8.	Black-capped Chickadee	1,338
9.	Common Redpoll	1,187
10.	Blue Jay	1,032

During this count several species had their highest observed numbers in the recent history of the Wolfville count (since at least 1953). Most notable are the record highs of some of our most common birds: Mallard, Mourning Dove, and Dark-eyed Junco (see table 2 for a complete list of record highs for 2001). Observers were also treated to the largest irruption of Pine Grosbeaks in the recent history of the Wolfville count. Not since 1977 have Pine Grosbeaks been counted on the order of what was observed this year.

**Table 2: Species for which record high counts were obtained for the Wolfville CBC, 2001**

Species	2001	Previous high	(year)
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	(1994)
Mallard	678	670	(2000)
American Wigeon	2	1	(1977)
American Kestrel	4	3	(1979)
Iceland Gull	22	16	(1996)
Mourning Dove	2,123	1,683	(1998)
American Pipit	41	5	(1985)
Dark-eyed Junco	2,087	1,697	(1999)
White-crowned Sparrow	4	2	(1998)
Red-winged Blackbird	127	42	(1995)
Pine Grosbeak	288	261	(1977)

A few other changes from previous years are worth mentioning. This year we experienced a decline of about 60% from last year's count of American Black Ducks. A similar decrease has been seen recently in Rock

Doves (some folks might welcome this); this year marked the second lowest count in the past 30 years. Conversely, 13,730 Herring Gulls were observed this year, almost twice last year's number (7,031).

The evening gathering for chili and chowder at Acadia University was well attended. Many stories were exchanged. The Nova Scotia Bird Society had offered a free gift membership for a count participant, and we had decided that it would go to the youngest participant not already a member. Mick O'Neill was the lucky recipient. Congratulations, Mick.

For results from this count, and for all counts in the past 101 years, see BirdSource on the Audubon website <[www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/)>. Those who paid the \$5 participant fee will receive receipts along with a two-page summary of CBCs in our region from Bird Studies Canada.

### **2001 Species List** (Unusual species or numbers highlighted)

Common Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 704; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 1,007; Mallard 678; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 53; Common Eider 3; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 8; Long-tailed Duck 2; Common Goldeneye 9; Common Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 354; **Turkey Vulture** 1; Northern Harrier 12; Northern Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 10; **Broad-winged Hawk** 1; Red-tailed Hawk 129; Rough-legged Hawk 4; American Kestrel 4; Merlin 5; **Peregrine Falcon** 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 223; Ruffed Grouse 3; **Killdeer** 1; Ring-billed Gull 149; Herring Gull 13,730; Iceland Gull 22; Lesser Black-backed Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 4,048; Rock Dove 656; Mourning Dove 2,123; Barred Owl 4; Downy Woodpecker 73; Hairy Woodpecker 42; Northern Flicker 30; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 240; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 1,032; American Crow 9,711; Common Raven 429; Black-capped Chickadee 1,338; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 30; White-breasted Nuthatch 50; Brown Creeper 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet 76; **Eastern Bluebird** 2; American Robin 32; Northern Mockingbird 11; **American Pipit** 41; Bohemian Waxwing 9; Cedar Waxwing 35; European Starling 15,638; **Yellow-breasted Chat** 1; American Tree Sparrow 139; Chipping Sparrow 5; Savannah Sparrow 20; Song Sparrow 269; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 44; **White-crowned Sparrow** 4; Dark-eyed Junco 2,087; Snow Bunting 44; Northern Cardinal 6; Red-winged Blackbird 127; Common Grackle 34; Brown-headed Cowbird 59; **Baltimore**

**Oriole 1**; Purple Finch 7; **Pine Grosbeak 288**; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 1,187; Pine Siskin 75; American Goldfinch 1,438; Evening Grosbeak 138; House Sparrow 653

Total species: 82 plus four other species seen during count week: Wood Duck, Glaucous Gull, Great Horned Owl, Fox Sparrow.

### **Field Observers (48)**

George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Patricia Bernier, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Mike Boudreau, Dennis Brannen, Renske Buik, Brenda Coldwell, Peggy Crawford, Mark Elderkin, Trina Fitzgerald, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Merritt Gibson, Paul Illsley, Patrick Kelly, Meg Krawchuk, Angus MacLean, Stella MacLean, Pat Martin, Sheila McCurdy, Randy Milton, Terri Milton, Dawn Miner, Adele Mullie, Rina Nichols, Joe Nocera, Mike O'Brien, Mick O'Neill, Roger Pocklington, Stan Riggs, Barry Sabeau, Meg Scheid, Dave Shutler, P.C. Smith, Richard Stern, Phil Taylor, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Judy Tufts, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Lance Woolaver, Barry Yoell

### **Feeder-Watchers (91)**

Agar Adamson, Jim Amos, Diana Anderson, Peter Austin-Smith, Diana Bishop, Sharon Borden, Carol & Ron Buckley, Dick Cain, Lana Churchill, Neil Cloghesy, Sandy Connelly, Chris Cox (2 feeder reports), Debbie & Jim Daigle, Pat Davis, Ruth & Glen Davison, Pat Dix, Ev Eagles, Betty Eaton, Joan Eaton, Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Mary Ellis, George F. Forsyth, Hilma Frank, Mary Sue Goulding, Ed Hancock, Charlotte Harper, Eileen Harris, Sharon Harris, Lorna Hart, Gail Herbin, Maxine Hill, Marg & Bob Horne, Isobel Horton, Winnie Horton, J.P. Huang, Lana Isenor, Shirley Jackson, Dave Jones, Jean Leung, Del & Mac MacInnes, Ron Margeson, Shirley & Don Marston, Jessie Martin, Pat Martin, Eleanor & Bernard Mason, Sheila McCurdy, Rosaleen McDonald, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Linda & Andy Nette, Nancy Nickerson, Pam & Hugh Nickerson, Linda Pearson, Dorothy Perkin, Janet & Chris Pratt, Mary Pratt, Shirley Prescott, Ladny Richmond, Gordon Robart, Marg Russell, Linda Sacouman, Kathy Schaffner, Ruth Scott, Ed Shynal, Sandy Stevens, Chris Toplack, Dave Tracy, Gerry Trueman, Judy Tufts, Eva & Deanna & Walter Urban, Gertrude & Mohammed Waseem, Jackie White, Don Wright, Betty Yoell, Shirley & Earl Young

## 2000 Wolfville Christmas Bird Count by Jim Wolford

Sunday, December 17, 2000, was a truly miserable day – it rained nearly all day, plus strong winds for most of the day. Near-freezing temperatures in the morning meant lots of ice under feet and tires, then it warmed to almost 10°C in the afternoon. The poor day naturally affected how many species were seen as well as the numbers of each. Our low number of species seen (70 + 4 CWS) compares very poorly with our highest ever totals seen in 1999 (89 species + 5 CWS). The compiler was Ian Paterson.

45 field observers (bush-beaters) in 23 field parties put in 121.7 party-hours, 52.5 on foot, 69.2 by car. They covered 1105 party-km, 98.7 on foot, 1006.3 by car. 96 feeder watchers at 81 feeders put in 120.5 hours .

### 2000 Species List (Unusual species or numbers highlighted)

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 1,063; Green-winged Teal 9; American Black Duck 2,463; Mallard 670; Northern Pintail 6; Black Scoter 17; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 8; Common Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 11; Red-breasted Merganser 18; Bald Eagle 259 (148 ad., 111 imm.); Northern Harrier 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; **Red-tailed Hawk 110** (including **1 nearly all-white one** southwest of Canning (Angus M.)); Rough-legged Hawk 6; Merlin 1; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 274; Ruffed Grouse 6; **Common Snipe 2**; Herring Gull 7031; Great Black-backed Gull 1340; Ring-billed Gull 369; Iceland Gull 10; Glaucous Gull 2; Rock Dove 616; Mourning Dove 1211; Barred Owl 3; **Long-eared Owl** (1 CW); Downy Woodpecker 65; Hairy Woodpecker 18; Northern Flicker 38; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 5; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 611; American Crow 4767; Common Raven 368; Black-capped Chickadee 840; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 18; Golden-crowned Kinglet 86; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; **Marsh Wren 1** (+ 1 in CW); **American Robin 420**; **Northern Mockingbird 7**; American Pipit CW; Bohemian Waxwing CW; Cedar Waxwing 78; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 15,270; **Pine Warbler 1**; Northern Cardinal 2 (+ 1 in CW); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1**; American Tree Sparrow 108; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 29; Song Sparrow 250; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 74; Dark-eyed Junco 1208; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 22; Brown-headed Cowbird 11; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 37; White-winged Crossbill

CW; Pine Siskin 56; American Goldfinch 1040; Evening Grosbeak 59; House Sparrow 650

Total number of species seen on count day: 70 (plus four count week species). Total number of birds seen and identified on count day: 41,734. Also reported but not verified: a **Gray Catbird** in Wolfville. Also reported were 34 unknown ducks, 17 unknown sparrows, and 20 unknown finches).

**Field Observers:** Margaret & George Alliston, Patricia Bernier, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Mike Boudreau, Mark Elderkin, Trina Fitzgerald, Fred Forsyth, George E. Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Glenys Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Patrick Kelly, Meg Krawchuk, Linda Lusby, Pat Martin, Stella & Angus MacLean, Sheila McCurdy, Terri & Randy Milton, Dawn Miner, Carolyn Moore, Adele Mullie, Joe Nocera, Mike O'Brien, Ian Paterson, Pat & Roger Pocklington, Stan Riggs, Barry Sabeen, Meg Scheid, Dave Shutler, Peter Smith, Richard Stern, Brenda & Bill Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gerry Trueman, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Barry Yoell

**Feeder Watchers** (some overlap with above): Agar Adamson, Jim Amos, Diana Anderson, Peter Austin-Smith, Diana Bishop, Sherman Bleakney, Carol & Ron Buckley, Lana Churchill, Brenda Coldwell, Sandy Connelly, Ed Connolly, Susan & Chris Cox, Graham Daborn, Debbie & Jim Daigle, Pat Davis, Ruth & Glen Davison, Pat Dix, Ev & Ed Eagles, Betty Eaton, Joan Eaton, Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Mary Ellis, Bob Flecknell, George F. Forsyth, Hilma Frank, Mary Sue Goulding, Ed Hancock, Charlotte Harper, Eileen Harris, Sharon & Luke Harris, Lorna Hart, Avril & John Harwood, Blanche Healy, Gail Herbin, Janet Herbin, Maxine Hill, Bob Horne, Isobel Horton, Winnie & John Horton, J. P. Huang, Shirley & Doug Jackson, Sandy Kempton, Jean Leung, Linda Lusby, Ron Margeson, Shirley & Don Marston, Pat Martell, Jessie Martin, Pat Martin, Eleanor & Bernard Mason, Sheila McCurdy, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Nancy Nickerson, Pam Nickerson, Linda & Terry Pearson, Dorothy Perkin, Janet Pratt, Mary Pratt, Tom Regan, Ladny Richmond, Gordon Robart, Benita Rogers, Marg Russell, Gladys & John Saltzman, Mabel Sheffield, Ed Shynal, David Silverberg, Peter Smith, Sandy Stevens, Merriam Sullivan, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, Gerry Trueman, Eva & Deanna & Walter Urban, Gertrude Waseem, Don Wright, Betty Yoell, Sheila & Earl Young



## 'Twas the night before 330,000,000 BP by Ron Buckley

'Twas the day before the year 330,000,000 BP (with apologies), and all around the parking lot Blomidon Naturalists Society (BNS) members were looking for participants for the geology field trip to Blue Beach. Many creatures were stirring because it was Market Day at the Robie Tuffs Nature Centre, and everyone was there to buy carrots, potatoes, and apples. Soon, however, BNS members found each other and all departed in their PMs (people movers – read that as vans) for the Avonport Blue Beach.

Once on the beach we are asked to imagine ourselves standing in shallow water up to our knees. The date is 330,000,000 BP (years before present). The sun is high overhead and to the north of us because our North American continent has drifted on the earth's mantle and collided with the African continent so that we are located about 15 degrees south of the equator. Looking to the east we see a vast, shallow, open sea. Under our feet the mud is soft and black and really stinks of hydrogen sulphide (rotten cabbage) when disturbed by our footsteps as we walk around in the water. The shoreline is west of us several kilometres and consists also of soft dark mud with water-soaked tree branches, bark fragments, and the occasional sunken log.

On close examination of the mud under our feet we see worm burrows and discover that the mud is actively being "bioturbated" as these creatures work their way through the mud looking for the type of food that worms eat. As we examine a handful of this mud we discover fish teeth, dorsal-fin bones, the occasional rib cage bone. One member of BNS even discovers a portion of a fish tail that was tentatively identified by Barry Cameron as belonging to the genus *Radinichthys*. Perhaps more searching of these mud flats will produce the head portion of this fish and its identity will be confirmed.

Let's skip ahead a few thousand years to, say, 329,995,000 BP – to another layer of rock on this beach. (Geological note: Rocks are laid down layer by layer so that each layer represents a different time in history.) We still find ourselves on a beach, but this time the sea level is lower. Perhaps



the earth is going through a global cooling period and ice is building on one of the earth's poles, thereby capturing and removing water from the ocean and storing it in the form of ice. The shoreline that was once miles to the west is now much closer to us, and its deposits now consist of sand and silt with muddy areas, instead of all mud. The water is still shallow, and if we look closely we will find ripple marks in the sand just below the surface of the water. There are also other strange marks caused by these same water currents dragging branches along the sand. We also see spore-bearing pods from some kind of plant; perhaps we will see some of these plants later as we get closer to the shore.

But wait . . . there are other marks; some are curved and not like the drag marks made by the tree branches. The author of these marks is soon discovered to be a large fish. It swims by, looking for lunch, but in so doing it drags its tail in the mud and sand, making a groove. Hey . . . what's this? . . . big round marks in the sand. Why . . . they're footprints! Look, there are more, but smaller, tracks! We'd better watch out – all these amphibians may not be vegetarians.

It was time to move on in time and place. The place is a kame, or gravel deposit, in the location of present-day Wallbrook. The time is 15,000 BP. The earth is going through yet another period of global warming and the once present 2-km-thick ice sheet that has been around for 75,000 years is undergoing yet another melting period, but this time it looks as though the ice sheet will completely melt.

Water is running off the glacier at a great rate, creating rivers and bringing with it rocks and boulders that have been picked up in New Brunswick, Joggins, the North Mountain, and the Wolfville Ridge over the past 75,000 years. The rocks and gravel are being deposited not only in river beds and small lakes, but also in holes in the ice; hence the formations of the kame. This particular kame has evidence of avalanches, where large portions of ice and its contained boulders have been broken off the main glacier and dumped on fine-grained beach sands.

Let's examine some of these glacially transported boulders. The dark shale angular blocks of rock came from the Wolfville Ridge and are the nearshore portion of the mud deposits that we saw on the Blue Beach mud flats at the last stop. Some boulders contain tree trunks of the giant

clubmoss tree fern *Lepidodendron*, with its characteristic tire-track imprints. We see remains from another common plant, *Cordaites*, a seed-bearing gymnosperm tree, the ancestor of our horsetails. It has the characteristic ridged stems that look a bit like our present-day corn stalks, but they are not related.

Although these plants grew on land, they are preserved in what was once a shallow, muddy bay. It appears that on their death these trees fell into the water, became waterlogged, and sank in water that lacked sufficient oxygen to permit complete decay of the woody stems. The pyrite cubes (iron sulphide) in the rock indicates that the water was probably quite smelly from the hydrogen sulphide content of the ocean at the time.

Other rocks resident in this kame are pink granites from central New Brunswick, fossil-bearing sandstones from the Joggins area of Nova Scotia, and basalt lava from the North Mountain, with its characteristic gas holes filled with zeolites, agate, and, sometimes, amethysts.

It soon became time to reassemble in our PMs (people movers) and return to the present in time and place. It was enjoyable to take all of you on this trip in time and for our visit to 330,000,000 BP.



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## North American Migration Count – Spring 2002

A reminder to birders, feeder watchers, and anyone interested in counting birds:

The **eleventh annual spring North American Migration Count** will take place on **Saturday, May 11, 2002** – the second Saturday in May.

Please keep this day open on your calendar. You may be looking at a snowy outdoors as you read this issue of the BNS Newsletter, but keep in mind that spring is only a few months away and it is time to give some thought to NAMC 2002 and circle this important date on your calendar. All are welcome to participate; there's no fee.

If you need more information, please contact me:

Judy Tufts  
NS Coordinator for NAMC  
PO Box 1313  
Wolfville NS  
B0P 1X0  
Tel: 902 542-7800  
e-mail: <tandove@ns.sympatico.ca>



# Valley Birds

by Angus MacLean

RBS noted two early Red-throated Loons off Grand Pre Sep 21, and there were four there Oct 27 (JCT).

An adult Pied-billed Grebe was at Harris Pond Sep 14 (JCT), and likely the same one was still there Oct 19 & 26 (JCT). A few Red-necked Grebes were sighted off Kingsport Dec 15 (AAM).

A Great Cormorant was reported several times from Nov 18 to early December at Silver Lake, Kings (BLF, AAM, JWW). A rarity in Kings, it pays an occasional visit in the winter.

An Egret, reported as a Snowy, was seen at Aylesford Dec 11 (fide PBG).

Claire Diggins noted three Turkey Vultures near Middleton Sep 9, feeding on a road-killed porcupine. For a few years this species was a regular feature of the skies near Middleton and nesting was suspected. This past summer, however, there were no reports.

A White-fronted Goose, an imm., was found at Silver Lake, Lakeville, Kings, Nov 8 (JCT, JET). It was sporadically seen, always in the company of Canadas, until Dec 8, but proved elusive for most seekers. This is the second record for Kings. The first indication of the Canada Geese migration was JCT's observation of 100+ at Harris Pond on Sep 21. Flocks of 35–80 were often noted heading to and from their feeding area, but on the Wolfville CBC, 400+ were counted in the Kingsport area.

JCT found 2–6 Wood Ducks at various eastern Kings locales in September and October. A late female was at the NMSP on Dec 12 (AAM). A male Gadwall was found on Canard Pond, Kings, Nov 11 (BLF). There was a flock of about 300 Mallards in the Cornwallis R. near Port Williams Oct 26 (JCT). This was an impressive number, even by Kings County standards. Am. Wigeon were found in small numbers on all the ponds in eastern Kings, with a high of 35+ on Canard Pond Oct 31 (JCT). Blue-winged

Teal were present in low numbers in September and October. However, on Sep 5 RBS did find 20+ on Saxon St. Pond, Kings. Two male N. Pintail were on Canard Pond Oct 31 (JCT), and JWW had five at the NMSP Nov 6. A very late male was at Saxon St. Pond Dec 6 (JCT). Green-winged Teal were commonly encountered on all the ponds in eastern Kings this fall. Some flocks were large; e.g., 100 at NMSP on Nov 8 (JWW). Ring-necked Ducks are not found in the fall in large numbers. In Kings JCT reported small numbers (max. 7) from early August to Nov 1.

There were three Lesser Scaup at the New Minas sewage ponds Nov 6 (JWW). The exotically plumaged Harlequin Duck is a prize for many birders. There were two at Port George, Annapolis, Nov 4 (PBG), a favourite locale for this species in winter. A female Bufflehead was at Canard Pond Oct 26 (JCT), perhaps the same one that BLF saw a few days earlier near Hortonville. A collection of five Hooded Mergansers was at the Saxon St. Pond Oct 31, and a total of 15 was noted at two locations Nov 1 (JCT). Three spent some time at Silver Lake in early December, a partial compensation to some who missed the White-fronted Goose.

A rare winter lingerer, an imm. Broad-winged Hawk, was seen at Wallbrook Dec 15 (GMA). Another, or perhaps the same, was at Kingston on the same day (PBG).

Peregrine Falcons commonly spend the fall preying on the shorebird flocks at Grand Pre and Avonport. Two adults were reported this fall (m.o.). An imm. bird was noted near Wellington Dyke Dec 15 (AAM, SMM, Stan Riggs).

Following reports of Spruce Grouse in the last issue, Frances Stewart had a male on their property in Black Rock Sep 26-27.

An Am. Coot was at Canard Pond Oct 19 (JCT).

JET found a few Am. Golden Plover in a flock of Black-bellies along the Wolfville dyke Sep 21. JCT counted 100 Black-bellied Plovers Oct 3 at the WSP, but no Goldens with them. JET noted about 200 Black-bellied Plovers near the Wolfville dyke Oct 13, and there was still about 150–200 at Grand Pre Oct 27 (JET, BBT). An Am. Avocet put in a brief stay at the Windsor Causeway Sep 19 (G. d'Entremont, B. Moores). For some

reason yellowlegs have always found Harris Pond, Canning, a great place to hang out. Despite the water level being artificially raised about two years ago, JCT found 44 Greater and two Lesser Yellowlegs there Sep 14. (Unusually, a White-rumped Sandpiper was also there). There were still 21 G. Yellowlegs at Harris Pond Oct 19, five on Oct 26 (JCT). JET had 21 Greater Yellowlegs at Wolfville Harbour Oct 13.

There was a Hudsonian Godwit at the Wolfville dyke Oct 13 (JET). Once regular on the Grand Pre dykes, it is now considered a rarity here. On Sep 14 JCT noted 2–3 Red Knots and about 20 Dunlin with other smaller shorebirds at Evangeline Beach. Two Peregrines appeared and the flock departed quickly. There were a few Red Knots with the Black-bellies Sep 21 at Grand Pre (RBS) and there were also two at the WSP Oct 3 (JCT). At the WSP Oct 3, there were 40 Dunlin (JCT) and 10+ at Grand Pre Oct 28 (RBS, BLF).

There was an unusually large flock of Ring-billed Gulls at Wolfville Sewage Ponds Oct 28 (RBS, BLF). There was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Canard Pond Oct 19 (JCT) and two at Grand Pre Oct 27 (BLF). On Oct 14 there were three at Grand Pre (BLF). The huge gull flocks on Saxon St. contained four Lesser Black-backs on Nov 4 (AAM). Surprisingly all the Lessers seen were adult. One of the Lessers, seen first in August (BLF), had flesh-colored legs, an abnormal but not unheard of feature. So far two Glaucous Gulls have put in an appearance, an adult at Canard Pond Dec 8 (JCT) and an imm. Dec 16 with the huge flocks of gulls near there (AAM).

A number of Snowy Owls, 4+, showed up in Kings in late November. Unfortunately, most were emaciated and, I believe, most did not survive. There was one near Wolfville in late November that appeared healthier (Agar Adamson) and another at Margaretsville Nov 1 (fide PBF).

Mike McCall had one of those moments Sep 3 when a female hummingbird entered his greenhouse, became very tired after beating her wings against the glass and seemed to be on her last legs (wings?). Mike caught it, put its beak in a feeder where she gradually started to take in nectar and she then quickly buzzed off.



In the last report I omitted Mike McCall's sighting of a Great-crested Flycatcher in his yard on the North Mountain Sep 2.

The first report of Horned Larks was on Oct 27 when JET & BBT saw 30–40 at Grand Pre. They became common in December, mainly at Grand Pre, with a few flocks reported elsewhere.

A Barn Swallow was unseasonably late at the New Minas sewage ponds Nov 6 (JWW)

There was a major migration of Black-capped Chickadees in mid to late October. JCT commented on this and it was most noticeable to me during a hike to Cape Split, when hundreds were noted moving to the tip, presumably to continue to New Brunswick or perhaps to Cape Chignecto. This movement was earlier but even more pronounced in New Brunswick.

There was a group of five Eastern Bluebirds Oct 28 at Blueberry Acres, Sheffield Mills, Kings (BLF). This follows a presumed nesting in the

area this summer but the birds seem to disappear for extended periods. Later, on the Wolfville CBC Dec 15, two were seen in West Canard, Kings (DSH, Adele Mullie).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found in Greenwich, Kings, Oct. 21 (George Forsythe).

There were eight Am. Pipits at Grand Pre Sep 21 (JET). By Oct 3 they had increased to 70–80 (JCT). They sometimes winter along the Wolfville dykes.

Waxwings were numerous this fall. As the fall advanced most flocks consisted of Bohemians with a few Cedars.

Although late warblers were found in large numbers in Halifax and elsewhere along the south coast, few made it to the Valley. An Orange-crowned Warbler was near Wolfville Nov 29, a Palm Warbler of the western race was discovered at Greenwich Dec 28, and a Common Yellowthroat was present Dec 9 near Wolfville (BLF). Dave Jones had a sprightly visitor, a Yellow-breasted Chat, on his property in North Kentville Oct 23, and Peter Smith noted one at Wolfville Dec 15.

Two Clay-colored Sparrows were a surprise at Canard Dec 26 (BLF) and were still present Jan 1. A Vesper Sparrow was noted at Kingsport Dec 22 (BLF). A Fox Sparrow visited SHH's feeder in Tremont from Oct 29 through mid November, and JET had a tail-less individual at Bear R. Nov 11. Three White-crowned Sparrows were in a mixed sparrow flock at Habitant, Kings, Dec 15 (AAM).

The first Lapland Longspur reported was at Grand Pre Oct 3 (JCT). They were often found mixed in Horned Lark flocks in December, but BLF saw two flocks, one of 50, solely of longspurs, in late December.

A female Orchard Oriole put in a brief appearance at Berwick Dec 31 (Bob & Connie MacMahon). While there it took a bath, probably a bad choice for a species not adapted to winter conditions.

Purple Finches were unusually scarce this fall. SHH had five to her Tremont feeder Oct 10, and Bob Horne reported them at his New Minas





feeder Dec 15.

Common Redpolls made an appearance Oct 28 (GWT) at Wellington Dyke. From that time flocks were noted in many locales. One flock was estimated at about 150.

Pine Grosbeaks were widely found by late fall. Very attractive and unwary, they can easily be approached for close-up photos.

### **The reporters**

AAM	Angus MacLean	JWW	Jim Wolford
BBT	Bill & Brenda Thexton	MAG	Merritt Gibson
BLF	Bernard Forsythe	MAH	Matt & Andrea Kingsley
DSH	Dave Shutler	PBG	Pat & Barb Giffin
GWT	Gordon Tufts	RBS	Richard Stern
JCT	Judy Tufts	SHH	Sheila Hulford
JET	Jean Timpa	SMM	Stella MacLean

Annapolis & Kings refer to the counties; m.o. means “multiple observers”; NMSF is the New Minas sewage ponds; and WSP is the Wolfville sewage ponds

# Annapolis Valley Weather – Fall 2001

by Larry Bogan

Sunny and warm are the words to describe autumn 2001. We had 40% more bright sunshine than we should expect, and the average temperature for the period was 1.4°C higher than normal. The total precipitation for the three-month period was average, but unusual in that none of it was snow. A typical November will have about 13 cm of snow in the Valley. Autumn precipitation is also of interest because the summer of 2001 was so dry. All of this is obvious when you examine the weather statistics for the season compared with the 40-year average numbers (see table).

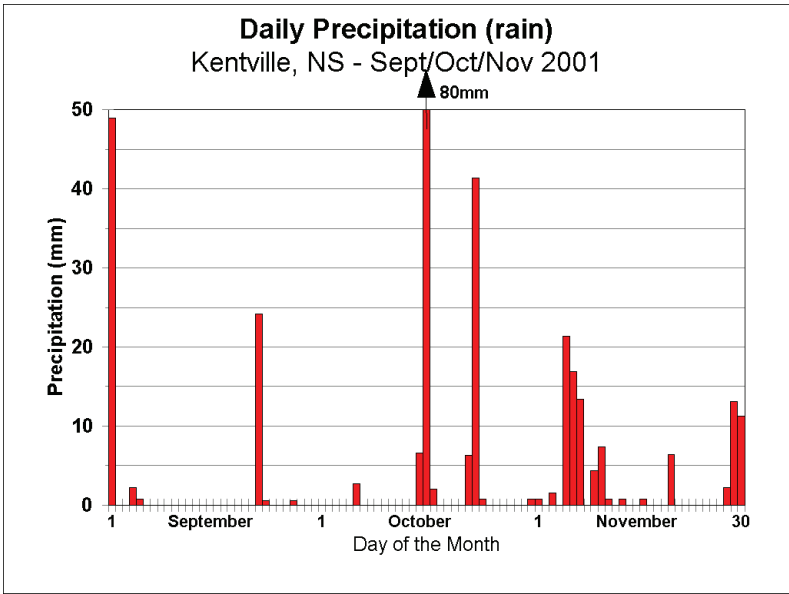
## Weather statistics, Kentville, fall 2001

	<b>Mean temperature</b> (deg.C)	<b>Rainfall</b> (mm)	<b>Bright sunshine</b> (h)
<b>September</b> (40 yr. average)	16.0 (14.5)	77.4 (93.4)	233 (163)
<b>October</b> (40 yr. average)	10.8 (9.1)	139.3 (105.7)	213 (138)
<b>November</b> (40 yr. average)	4.8 (3.9)	100.7 (116.4)	74 (73)
<b>Season</b> (40 yr. average)	10.5 (9.2)	317.4 (315.5)	520 (374)

*Source: Food & Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, NS.*

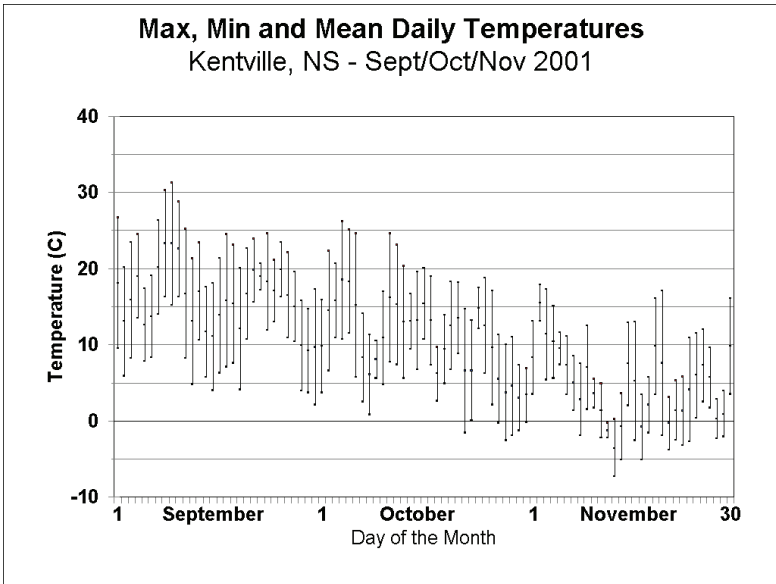
## Precipitation

During a two-day period around October 16, 87 mm (3.4 inches) of rain fell on Kentville. This is equivalent to three-quarters of the total rainfall for the summer and four-fifths of all the rain for the month. Most of the rest of the rainfall for that month occurred on one other day, October 23. The same, very uneven rainfall occurred in September with just two heavy rains producing the 93 mm for that month. November had below-average rainfall with a long, dry period (only 8 mm rain) from the 12th through the 27th.



### Temperature

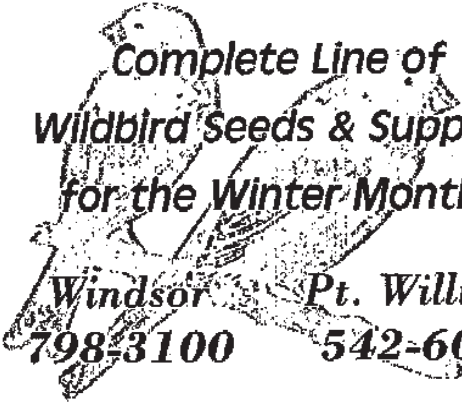
Frost was very late in coming this fall in the Valley. It was not until the end of October when the overnight temperature dropped below 0°C and not until November 12 that the daily mean temperature was below freezing. All three months had above-average mean temperatures.



## Sunshine


The warm autumn was due in part to the above average number of sunny days in September and October. In September there were 15 days (half the month) with more than nine hours of bright sunshine and only four days with fewer than four hours. October had 16 days with more than eight hours of bright shine. In contrast, November, which had near normal sunshine hours, appeared dreary, since it had 20 days with fewer than three hours of bright sunshine.

Ponds that normally have high water going into the winter now show low or zero water levels, which will affect our fish and amphibians. With the warmer-than-average weather here in the north, some birds delayed their migration. I know that the soaring pilots of Nova Scotia were still flying into the first week of December. The increased winds of late autumn provided ridge lift over the North Mountain of the Annapolis Valley to lift both the hawks and sailplanes in their flights along the ridges.



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# What's In The Sky?

## by Roy Bishop

New Moon: January 13, February 12, March 13, April 12

Full Moon: January 28, February 27, March 28, April 27

Spring begins on Wednesday, March 20, at 15:16 (AST)

### **The Changing Stars**

On summer evenings the bright central part of our Milky Way Galaxy glows in the southern portion of our sky. Six months later we are on the opposite side of our orbit around the Sun, facing the sparse outer edge of our galaxy. Nevertheless, the sky is still bright with stars: the summer multitudes of distant dim stars near the galactic centre have been replaced by a dozen or so very bright stars, the nearby galactic arm to which our Sun and its planets belong. Hence, we have the bright stars of frosty winter evenings.

### **Planets and an Occultation**

Saturn and Jupiter add to the splendour of the starry nights this winter. Both planets are well placed very high in our skies during the next few months, permitting good telescopic views of these huge worlds. Saturn was in opposition to the Sun on December 3 last year, Jupiter on January 1 of this year. In late January bright Jupiter is well up in the east as darkness falls, and Saturn is even higher in the southeast. Both giant planets are unusually close to Earth this winter.

The Moon occults (passes in front of) Saturn on Wednesday evening, February 20. Use binoculars for a good view of this rather rare event. (An occultation of Saturn will not be visible again from Nova Scotia until 2007.) The dark side of the Moon steadily creeps toward Saturn during the early evening and will cover the ringed planet at about 8:47 pm. An hour later Saturn will reappear at the bright right-hand edge of the Moon. Two nights later about 11 p.m., the Moon passes very near Jupiter.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, in June 2001 Mars was closer to Earth and brighter than it has been since 1988. Since last June we have been leaving Mars behind as Earth pulls ahead in its faster orbit. This winter Mars has dimmed considerably and is in the southwestern evening sky.

It sets in the west in late evening.

Venus passed behind the Sun (superior conjunction) on January 14 and will only slowly reappear low in the western evening twilight during February and March.

Beginning in mid April a rare grouping of all five naked-eye planets occurs in the western evening sky. See your 2002 BNS calendar for more information.

### **Big Moon and Big Tides**

The Moon is closest to Earth during 2002 on February 27. It is nearly as close a month later, on March 28. On both dates the Moon is also at its full phase. If the sky is clear and the ground snow covered, moonlight during these nights will be extra bright. Also, the combination of an unusually close Moon (perigee) aligned opposite the Sun in the sky will produce exceptionally high perigean spring tides a day or two later. According to the BNS calendar, the highest tides of 2002 occur on March 1 and March 30 (and again on October 8).

We are so fortunate in having ringside seats for the largest tides on planet Earth. Minas Basin is a magical place.

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## Blomidon Naturalists Society

### Financial Report – September 1, 2000, to August 31, 2001

Finances continue to do well and membership is at an all-time high, with almost 200 paid memberships representing about 400 members. Special thanks to those making donations to the Society during the year: Curtis Chipman, Arthur Irving, Minas Basin Pulp and Power, Jim Laceby and Blomidon Inn, Jim McLelland, Margaret Conrad in memory of Mary Frances Chegwidde, Charles and Charlotte Lennox, Brenda Coldwell, Owen and Janice Stephens, Rick and Janet Whitman, Gerald Porter, Brenda and Skip Hambling, Edward Eagles, Rev. William Bishop, Roger and Joan Boutilier, Charlotte Harper, David and Valerie Simms, Leslie and Neil Jordan, Barbara Graham, King and Ruth Butler, and Greg and Pat Bezanson. Thank you as well to Norm McGuinness for auditing the books.

Harold Forsyth, treasurer

### BNS – Balance Sheet

Year Ended August 31	2001	2000
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
Cash	\$ 5,858	\$ 5,197
Money fund	15,000	0
Mutual funds (1)	14,000	14,000
Accounts receivable	1,543	3,331
Inventory of books at cost	4,385	4,499
Inventory of crests at cost	364	378
	41,150	27,405
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current		
Payables and accruals	2,533	726
<b>Equity</b>		
Surplus	38,617	26,679
	\$41,150	\$27,405

Notes:

(1) Mutual Funds	Book Value	Market Value
Clean Environment International	\$7,000	\$3,305
Fidelity Global Asset Allocation	\$7,000	\$5,577



## BNS – Statements of Operation and Surplus

Year Ended August 31	2001	2000
<b>Revenue</b>		
Advertising	\$ 725	\$ 635
Books	250	193
Calendar	9,731	10,071
Crests	25	0
Donations	2,629	1,932
Federation Annual Meeting	0	4,969
Federation dues in	220	185
Grants: Career Summer Placement	1,824	2,662
Fly Project	9,775	0
Herpetology Atlas	14,500	0
GST rebate	1,260	812
Interest	109	14
Membership dues	3,213	2,882
Other	35	279
	44,296	24,634
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Administration	82	98
Awards and Meetings	738	747
Books	114	92
Calendar	7,021	7,147
Crests	14	0
Federation Annual Meeting	0	4,273
Federation dues out	180	200
Fly Project	9,315	0
Herpetology Atlas	9,688	0
Memberships	142	42
Nature Centre	219	253
Newsletter	2,193	2,991
Other	377	100
Summer Student	2,275	3,262
	32,358	19,205
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$11,938	\$ 5,429
Surplus, beginning of year	\$26,679	\$21,250
Excess of revenue over expenses	11,938	5,429
Surplus, end of year	\$38,617	\$26,679

## Blomidon Naturalists Society 2002 Membership Fees and Publications Prices

Each member of the Blomidon Naturalists Society receives four issues of the BNS newsletter annually. Because BNS is a registered charity, the society issues receipts for all donations. The membership fee itself is not tax deductible. Members may also join the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists through BNS and will receive FNSN News, the federation's newsletter. FNSN membership is not tax deductible.

Please send cheques or money orders in payment of membership fees and for publication purchases to

Harold Forsyth  
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No.	Membership classification	Price	Total
___	Individual adult	\$15.00	\$ ___
___	Family (number of family members ___)	18.00	\$ ___
___	Junior (under 16 years)	1.00	\$ ___
___	Federation of NS Naturalists membership	5.00	\$ ___
	Tax-deductible donation		\$ ___
___	2002 BNS calendar (\$12 + post.)	13.50	\$ ___
___	<i>Natural History of Kings County</i> (\$15 + post.)	17.00	\$ ___
___	Annotated checklist of Kings County birds	6.00	\$ ___
___	Blomidon Naturalist crest	5.00	\$ ___
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ ___</b>

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**Membership fees are due January 1, 2002**

**Sources of Local Natural History**  
**(compiled by Blomidon Naturalists Society)**

Information	Source	Office	Home
Rocks & Fossils	Geology Dept. Acadia U.	542-2201	
Fish	NS Dept. of Natural Resources	679-6091	
Flora - General	Ruth Newell	585-1355	542-2095
Fungi	Darryl Grund	585-1252	542-9214
	Nancy Nickerson	679-5333	542-9332
Lichens	Karen Casselman	424-7370	633-2837
Seaweeds	Darryl Grund	585-1252	542-9214
Mosses & Ferns	John Pickwell		681-8281
Birds - General	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427
	Richard Stern	678-4742	678-1975
	Gordon & Judy Tufts		542-7800
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-7650
	Jean Timpa		542-5678
Hawks & Owls	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427
Falcons & Eagles	Peter Austin-Smith		542-2109
Mammals	Tom Herman	585-1469	678-0383
Amphibians & Reptiles	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-7650
Seashore & Marine Life	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-7650
	Michael Brylinsky	585-1509	582-7954
Indian Prehistory & Archeology	Ellis Gertridge		542-2816
	James Legge		542-3530
Astronomy	Roy Bishop		542-3992
	Sherman Williams	542-3598	542-5104
	Larry Bogan		678-0446

