

Blomidon Naturalists Society Newsletter

**Summer 1995
Volume 22, No. 2**



SUMMER PROGRAMME

Monday Evening Meetings

Meetings are on the third Monday of the month and start at 7:30 p.m. at Acadia University, in Room 244 in the Beveridge Arts Centre. All meetings are open to the public and BNS members are encouraged to bring friends and neighbors.

June 19 "Dragonflies" by Tom Herman and Paul Brunelle. This will be a slide illustrated presentation on these fascinating insects given by two experts in the field. A supporting field trip will occur on July 8.

July-August: There are no evening programs

September 18, "Scoping Study for the Bay of Fundy" by Alison Evans, Centre for Estuarine Research. This study is collecting information to provide a better understanding of the current state of the marine ecosystem of the Upper Bay of Fundy. See page 8 of this Newsletter for more information.

October 16 "Under-water Photography in Rivers of the North Atlantic Coast" by Gilbert van Ryckevorsel. Gilbert is a diver with a naturalist's eye who has worked for years to record the freshwater eco-systems of our area and provide a global benchmark of such systems.

Summer Field Trips

Unless otherwise noted, meet at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre on Front Street in Wolfville at the time indicated. Leaders' telephone numbers are included to allow participants to confirm trips in the case of uncertain conditions. Everyone, BNS members or not, is welcome on all field trips.

Saturday, 8 July, 10:00 am: Dragonflies with Tom Herman and Paul Brunelle. This trip will allow us to see a variety of these fascinating creatures whose character and behaviour were described at the June evening meeting. Tom Herman 678-0383.

Saturday, 15 July, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm at Blomidon Provincial Park: "Parks Day". Guided nature tours of the interpretive trails which wind through hardwood, softwood, and mixed forests. Leaders are members of the BNS. This event is being organized by the Department of Natural Resources (Regional Services Division) as part of a nation-wide effort to promote parks. Advanced registration is preferred - see applications on page 44.

Saturday, 22 July, 9:00 am: Explore McGill Lake (Annapolis County) wetland complex with Graham Fisher, Parks Planner (902-662-3030). This is a candidate protected area (#27) featuring a diversity of wetland habitats from dry shrubby to wet marshy. All of this is in a small area and contains a large variety of plant communities. An all day outing which could be fairly strenuous so bring a lunch, rubber boots and fly repellent. (NOTE: Participants nearer the site, may want to join the trip at McGill Lake - contact Graham for details)

Saturday, 12 August, 11:00 am: (or meet at 11:30 am at the Tourist Bureau/ Visitors Information Centre at Windsor) **Watch shore birds of the Minas Basin** with Judy Tufts (542-7800). Bring a lunch, rubber boots and clothing suitable for beaches at mid-tide.

Saturday, 19 August, 1:00 pm: (or at 1:30 pm at Lumsden Lake Parking lot) Enjoy the plants and scenery on a walk from Lumsden Dam to Hell's Gate power plant with Ruth Newell (542-2095). A wide variety of plant life grows in these areas recently cut from hardwood forests.

Saturday, 26 August: View the constellations and objects of the Summer skies with the BNS astronomers: 9:00 pm at Grand Pre Parking lot. In case of clouds on Saturday evening, Sunday 27th will be an alternate date. Larry Bogan, 678-0446.

Sunday, 10 September, 1:00 pm: Explore Mud Lake Bog (near Black River Lake) with Marian Zinck (A Halifax Field Naturalist Field Trip to which the BNS is invited). Bring rubber boots and fly dope. Contact person Cathy Fulton-Strugnell 835-8289

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"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

The **Blomidon Naturalists Society** is a member of the **Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists**, the **Nova Scotia Trails Federation**, the **Brier Island Ocean Study (BIOS)**, and 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.

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ROBIE TUFTS YOUNG NATURALISTS

Three Robie Tufts Young Naturalists, Jonathan Ells, Charina Cameron and Jennifer Wright, were selected by their schools to attend the Kings County Science Fair in April.

Jonathan Ells put to good use the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Insects and Spiders* which he received as the 1994 Robie Tufts Young Naturalist. He, along with his partner Mitchel Brewster, entered a project called "*Spiders*". They received a gold medal and the Nova Scotia Institute of Science Award.

Charina Cameron, the 1993 Robie Tufts Young Naturalist, continued her work on bees. She determined the wing-beat frequency of honeybees during different behaviours, temperature and light conditions using a flight box, stroboscope, microphone system, light detector, UV lamps and computer. For her project, "*Photo Sonic Beebehavior*", she received a gold medal, the Service Master Trophy and Keeper Plaque for the Best Project in Physical Science (7-12) and the AECL Research Company Science Award.

The 1992 Robie Tufts Young Naturalist, Jennifer Wright, continued studying the birds at her bird feeder.

Her project, "*Bird Dominance*", was awarded a gold medal, Kemic Bioresearch Trophy and Keeper Plaque for best project in Life Science (7-12), and a sweatshirt of an osprey from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. She tied with Heather Cameron for the Best Project at the Fair and received the Weavexx Trophy and Keeper Plaque.

Both Charina and Jennifer were selected to represent Kings County at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Whitehorse, Yukon. Charina did exceptionally well at Whitehorse winning the Best Overall Project.

The Robie Tufts Young Naturalist Award was established by the Blomidon Naturalist Society in 1983, in memory of Dr. Robie Tufts, to encourage an interest in natural history.

Any residents of Kings or Hants Counties, fifteen years of age or younger, will be considered. The candidate should display an ongoing interest in any area of natural history: e.g., wildflowers, local birds, the life cycle on insects, geological collections, etc.

Direct questions to Irene Moore (678-4258), Chair, Robie Tufts Young Naturalists Committee, or the other members of the Committee: Lana Churchill (542-2186), George Forsyth (542-7116) or Sherman Williams (542-5104).

Nominations should be mailed, by September 1, 1995 to:

Irene Moore

Blomidon Naturalists Society

P.O. Box 127

Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0

They will be judged by the Executive Committee of the Society and the award(s) presented at the November 1995 meeting. The prize will be one year's membership in the Society and a field guide of the recipient's choice.

The list of Robie Tufts winners printed in the Spring 1995 Newsletter was garbled and is reprinted below in correct form.

RECIPIENTS OF THE ROBIE TUFTS YOUNG NATURALISTS AWARD 1984-1994

1984 Tammy Ashley, Newtonville

General interest in birds

1985 Paul Fairclough, Coldbrook

Ornithology - bird identification

1986 (1) Kasia Muldner, Wolfville

Display of the feeding habits of the Black-capped Chickadee

(2) Sean Timpa, Wolfville

Dedicated naturalist for several years in a number of fields

1987 Michael Jodrey, Hantsport

Herpetology - Study of snakes

1988 (1) Stephen MacPhee, Wolfville

Ornithology - Raised funds to adopt a Burrowing Owl

(2) Jelmer Wiersma, Bishopville
Kept records of local birds - especially of tree swallows and English Sparrows.

1989 (1) Jason Jolly, Cambridge

For hard work and compassion for animals. Earnings donated to Ducks Unlimited.

(2) Simon Onyschuk, Kentville
Project "Bugs Around My House" For enthusiasm for natural history.

1990 Matthew Buntain, W. Brooklyn
Interests in environmental issues waste management, and all of natural history.

1991 First Port Williams Scout Troop, Port Williams

Tree Swallow Nest Boxes.

1992 Jennifer Wright, North Alton

Study of food preferences of birds at feeders.

1993 Charina Cameron, Wolfville

Study of bees and related science projects.

1994 Jonathon Ells, New Minas

Keen naturalist with a collection of rocks and shells.



Kasia Muldner
Former BNS Young
Naturalist Award Winner
Graduates From Acadia

Kasia Muldner, former Robie Tufts Young Naturalist Award recipient (1986) graduated this spring from Acadia University with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Computer Science. During the 1995 spring convocation she received the University Medal in Computer Science and was recognized as a University Scholar. Kasia is an accomplished young artist who has been praised by Alex Colville. We wish her all the best in her future studies in Fine Arts at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

THE NORTH AMERICAN
ORCHID ALLIANCE

Interested in orchids!! The North American Native Orchid Alliance is a group dedicated to the conservation and promotion of our native orchids. Membership in the Alliance includes a subscription to the North American Native Orchid Journal. This publication will be produced quarterly in March, June, September and December. The initial issue will be sent in March and will consist of informative articles, illustrations and orchid news, including a checklist of North American Orchids, index to 1994 Orchid literature, book reviews and extensive information about the Alliance. Membership in the North American Native Orchid Alliance, which includes a

subscription to the Journal is US \$22 per year. Please address your correspondence to Nancy Webb, 84 Etna Street, Brighton, MA 02135. Membership/subscriptions received prior to June 1, 1995 will be offered a special price of only US \$18 for the first year.

Reprinted from: Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society, March 1995.

VOLUNTEERS
REQUESTED FOR LOON
WATCHING

For many Nova Scotians the presence of loons on a lake is considered an indicator of a wild and natural environment. However, researchers have growing concerns about the stability of our loon population. They recognize that the health of species, such as loons, which are at a high level in the food chain provide a good measure of environmental quality.

For a number of years loon surveys have been conducted in Nova Scotia. This year additional volunteer assistance is requested to help make both of these research projects more successful.

Canadian Lakes Survey

This survey has been conducted in Nova Scotia since 1991 and the local data is then reported to the Canadian headquarters in Ontario. In 1993 there were 139 Nova Scotian volunteers reporting on 174 of our lakes. So as you can see, there is already a widespread census which could

become an excellent year-to-year comparison if more volunteers participated.

For the lake survey, volunteers are requested to report on lakes over 10 hectares (25 acres) in size. It would be best to observe the lake several times throughout the breeding season, from mid June to the end of August.

Volunteers will receive a set of instruction and survey sheets. To assist with this loon survey contact:

Dr. Joe Kerekes,
Canadian Wildlife Service,
Bedford Institute of Oceanography,
Box 1006,
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2
Phone 902-436-6356

Kejimikujik Loon Watch - August 20th

Surveys of water-birds, carried out by Dr. Joe Kerekes of the Canadian Wildlife Service, began in Kejimikujik National Park in 1988. Since 1992 monitoring has concentrated on common loons with twenty-five lakes. The background study will continue in 1995, however, as a new approach volunteers are being sought to supplement the project for a one day "Loon Watch".

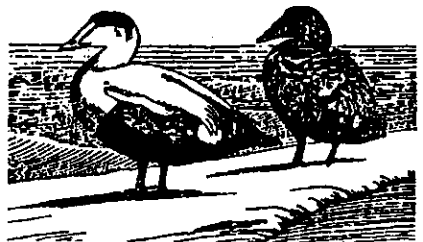
On Sunday, August 20, 1995, the first Loon Watch will be held. Volunteers, who are able to canoe, are being sought. These volunteers will disperse to different lakes and for a designated period of several hours will record every loon observed and its location. This survey will indicate

the total numbers of birds and their movements between lakes.

Volunteers should be experienced birders who are able to canoe and if possible, bring the canoeing equipment necessary. All participants will gather at the Kejimikujik National Park Visitor Centre by 8:45 a.m. sharp for a brief orientation session before dispersing to their assigned lakes. After the survey, a debriefing meeting will be held at the Visitor Center.

Interested participants should contact Peter Hope at Kejimikujik National Park (phone 902-682-2770 or write c/o Box 236 Maitland Bridge, N. S. B0T 1B0 including your phone number) before July 25.

Both of these surveys can provide meaningful assistance to biologists trying to understand and protect our common loons. Hopefully, you can volunteer your help and join in a good cause.



Common Eiders

Fundy Marine Ecosystem Science Project (FMESP)

From

**Alison Evans,
Acadia Centre for
Estuarine Research
(ACER),
Acadia University**

Date: 18 May 1995

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Environmental Conservation Branch, Environment Canada Atlantic Region, Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research (ACER) and Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) are sponsoring a 'scoping study' for the Bay of Fundy (Fundy Marine Ecosystem Science Project (FMESP)). We are in the process of compiling recent published research, technical reports, and proposals, monitoring studies and anecdotal information relating to Bay of Fundy environmental issues, with particular emphasis on the Upper Bay of Fundy. The intent is to develop a broad base of information from which a better understanding of the present state of the marine ecosystem of the region may emerge.

This project arises from a perception that significant ecological changes are occurring in the Bay. The root causes of these changes are unclear. In early April, 1995 several researchers met at Acadia to discuss the situation. They found that research conducted in the 1970's-

1980's, largely associated with the proposed tidal power activities, offered a good baseline understanding of the Bay, but that recent changes could not be explained or understood on the basis of existing knowledge. Some examples they reported are:

♦ CWS noted 'radically' different foraging behavior of shorebirds in the Upper Basin than had been recorded in earlier studies (1977). Preliminary observations of the site showed that the once firm intertidal substrate has become 'soupy' and that areas that once yielded up to 30,000 corophium/m² now appear to support none.

♦ Cottage owners and researchers note that, especially within the last 10 years, mud flat areas in the Bay are being converted to salt marsh. Consequently the shoreline and the use of the area are shifting. Interestingly most of the barrages were constructed about 20 years ago.

It is possible that we are just now witnessing some of the impacts that the barrages are having on the physical and biological communities - including human use patterns.

♦ Surprise finds include: oil on the shores of Parker's Cove, N.S. that originated from the oil spill in New Brunswick last year. Preliminary questions and theory suggest possible subcurrent translocation across the Bay.

♦ Recent activities to the Bay area such as baitworm, rockweed and

urchin harvesting raise questions about sustainability and impacts on seabirds and other components of the marine environment. Likewise the growing interest in aquaculture raises ecological and land-use issues.

◆ Activities such as land-use planning, recreational and ecotourism use of coastal lands are 'blossoming' in the region. Traditionally these disciplines have been addressed independently of scientific research and management. They are proving to be in some situations a formidable, yet always a necessary component to be factored into most scientific studies and the ecological equation as a whole. Maintaining ecological integrity balanced with human needs are desires are important to the success of any management plan - especially in coastal zone research and planning.

The April meeting initiated the launch of FMESP. It is a first step in identifying the ecological shifts or changes that may be occurring in the Bay and to comprehensively understand their cause and effect relationships. The meeting participants emphasized the need to focus on indicators of ecosystem health. They recognized that each discipline, considered separately, does not on its own identify the many issues currently of concern and a more interdisciplinary approach is essential. They concluded that many of these issues may be intricately interrelated and that present and future planning needs to be considered in terms of

the Bay of Fundy as a whole, dynamic system.

The ultimate aim of FMESP is twofold; 1) this synthesis will serve as a draft discussion paper that can be used at a workshop tentatively scheduled for this September (1995) at the Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, N.S. and 2) to identify research priorities and to stimulate research in order to assess and understand the Fundy marine ecosystem and its processes.

We are asking you to provide us with recent (since 1980) bibliographies, reports or published work (or their titles, abstracts and source of publications) that you have been involved with, or know of, that directly or indirectly involve the Bay of Fundy, again with an emphasis on the Upper Bay region. Information such as ongoing research, future proposals, areas of concern and anecdotal observations of ecosystem change is also being requested.

Your response by June 12, 1995 would be appreciated. The information and opinions you have are important. If you are not able to meet this deadline please call me or forward the information as soon as you can to the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research. If you are interested in attending, or contributing to the workshop in September, please indicate so on the attached checklist.

For more information or if you have further questions, please call me at

ACER

(902) 542-2201 ext. 1311.

A check list is available from ACER. The checklist and other information (bibliographies, reports, abstracts, etc.) may be sent to me at:

Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research

Acadia University, Wolfville
Nova Scotia B0P 1X0

Thank you for your time and interest. I look forward to hearing from you!

Alison Evans

(for CWS, ACER and CARP)

Project committee: Peter Hicklin (CWS); Peter Wells (ECB,BIO); Graham Daborn (ACER); Mike Brylinsky (ACER); John Percy (CARP)

THE
KITCHEN DOOR
FOOD SHOP

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Nova Scotia
542-3727

When you go out
take one of
our picnics
with you

BNS Executive 1995

The following are those BNS members serving on the executive of the Society. Included are their home phone numbers in case you have need to contact one.

President:	✓ Roy Bishop	542-3992
Vice-President:	Larry Bogan	678-0446
Secretary:	Lorna Hart	542-4470
Treasurer:	Harold Forsyth	542-5983
Past President:	✓ Tom Herman	678-0383
Directors:	George Alliston	542-3651
	John Harwood	582-3320
	Angus MacLean	679-5878
	Irene Moore	678-4258
	Jim Wolford	542-7650

National Conservation of Endangered Species summarized by L. Bogan

At the present time an important public process is taking place to try to establish procedures and regulations to preserve wildlife across Canada. The following are excerpts from a discussion document "A National Approach to Endangered Species Conservation in Canada" written by a committee of federal, provincial and territorial government wildlife officials.

Purpose:

To agree on a harmonized national approach to endangered species conservation in Canada

Goal:

To prevent any species becoming extinct as a consequence of human activity.

Proposed Approach:

A proposed national approach would address species in *ALL* taxonomic groups. The process for identifying those at risk would be objective and open to public participation. Species found in trouble would become subject to cooperative inter-government attention if they need it. Species and populations of local concern would be addressed by the appropriate jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction responsible for a species at risk would promptly indicate what actions it will undertake. The federal and all provincial/territorial governments would have a similar range of legal capabilities for

protection and rehabilitation.

To implement the proposed approach, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), should become an independent group of scientists, specializing in conservation biology, reporting to the ministers responsible for wild species management in Canada. It would consult with the public during assessment process, and report status designations directly to ministers. The committee would work closely with all jurisdictions and continue to be supported by a secretariat and a nation-wide network of experts on all types of species.

One of the most important implementation considerations is to establish regulations that all jurisdictions could use to protect and restore species at risk nationally - the discussion paper suggests the following minimum set of laws and regulations for each jurisdiction:

A. List those species that appear as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable on the national list.

B. Individually, or with other affected range jurisdiction, prepare a restoration plan for any species designated in (A) above within one year of listing. Plans will set out the specific actions the agency commits to undertake.

C. Have the legislative or regulatory capacity to include any or all options that may be specified by a recovery plan, as described below:

1. Prohibit any person from killing, injuring, taking, interfering, disturbing, the specified plant or animal

except as authorized.

2. Prohibit any person from possessing the specified plant or animal except as authorized.

3. Prohibit any person from trafficking the specified plant or animal except as authorized.

4. Provide the authority to define critical habitats on Crown or private land and prohibit any activity that adversely affects the specified plant or animal species in the defined area.

5. Provide emergency authority to the Minister to amend, modify or suspend any activity on defined Crown land which he believes would adversely affect a specified plant or animal species for up to one year, while a restoration plan is being prepared.

6. Provide authority for local governments (municipalities) to

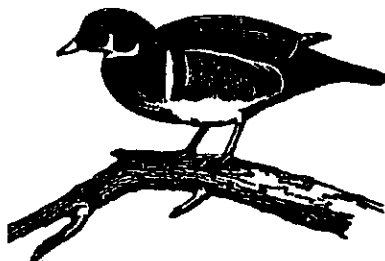
define land uses through zoning that are compatible with endangered/threatened plant and animal species needs.

7. Provide for similar maximum penalties for offenses respecting National endangered/threatened species.

8. Require that all government departments and agencies shall act in a manner that protects and restores the specified plant and animal species in the designated Crown or private land area of concern.

If you wish to contribute to the process or wish information on the Species Conservation in Canada, contact

Endangered Species
Environment Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3



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The Black River System: **Human and Natural History and Hydroelectric Development** **Part 2**

ISLANDS OF THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

**by Mark Pulsifer
Antigonish, N. S.**

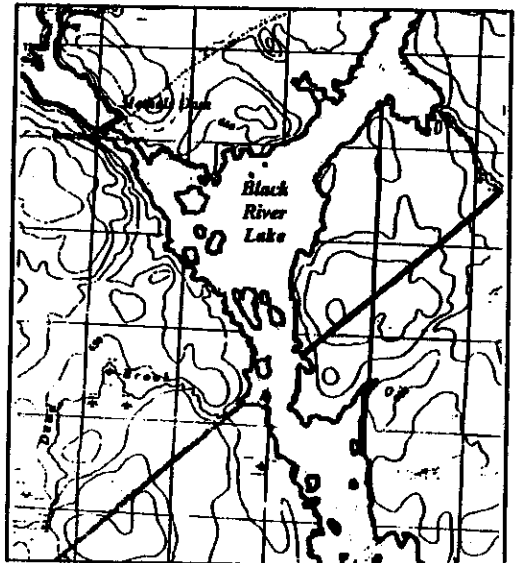
Regardless of their size or location, islands have fascinated geographers, biologists and curious naturalists of all ages alike for hundreds of years.

As a student of natural history and a biologist by profession, my own particular interest in islands began in 1978 with a chance conversation with Tom Herman, a population ecologist who had recently joined Acadia's biology department. Tom's interests at that time focused on differences in evolutionary strategies between small mammal populations on islands and the mainland. Needless to say that by the time we had finished talking Tom's passion for islands and mice kindled my enthusiasm, prompting eager thoughts of searching out previously unknown relict populations of small mammals along Nova Scotia's coastline.

The island we chose to work on was Isle Haute in the upper Bay of Fundy. Over the next few summers we came to know many new things about the deer mice on this

island. Not only were these mice the only species of small mammal on the island, but they displayed characteristics of long isolated populations such as, increased longevity, sex ratios that favoured males, reduced litter sizes and reduced levels of aggression in comparison to populations of deer mice on the mainland.

These differences between populations of deer mice on Isle Haute and mainland Nova Scotia became the basis for part of my M.Sc. work in the Black River and Gaspereau Lakes systems. Both of these flowages were suitable not only because of their proximity to Acadia, but because they contained islands of various sizes where I could introduce and then monitor experimental populations of



deer mice.

The intent of this research was to determine how mainland mice would respond when placed in a closed insular environment. Would they adopt certain strategies used by island mice to reduce aggression or reproductive output? Or, would they continue to behave as they did on the mainland where space and resources were potentially unlimited? Similarly we were also interested in knowing whether deer mice for Isle Haute would respond differently when placed on significantly smaller islands where resource availability was even more limited.

Two islands in each system were chosen as study sites. In the Black River Lake system the large island below Methal's Dam, and a smaller neighbouring island that I referred to as Porcupine Island were selected. Porcupine Island was so named after I happened upon a sodden "porky" desperately clinging to a rather small hardwood shrub several meters from anything resembling dry ground. At Gaspercau Lake the chosen islands were referenced as Stovepipe and Moose Islands on 1:50,000 topographic maps. In all cases the islands selected for this study were far enough removed from the adjacent mainland that the probability of deer mice successfully escaping by swimming was thought to be remote.

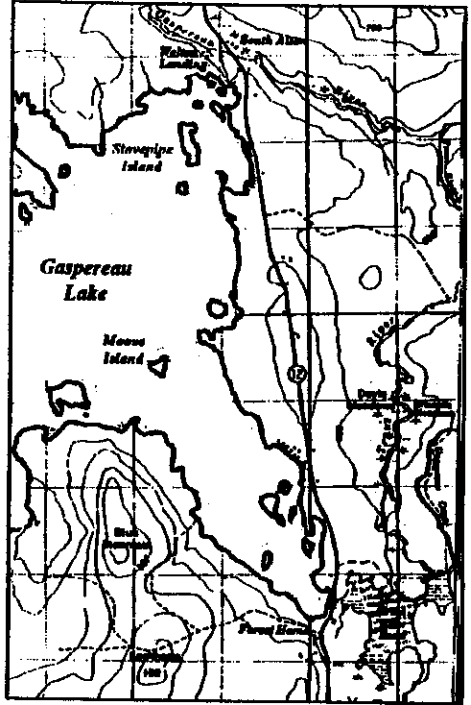
Prior to the introduction of any deer mice to the islands several hundred snap-trapping nights were spent trying to reduce, and if possible, eliminate any inter-or intraspe-

cific competitors whose presence if left intact would have confounded interpretation of results. When trapping efficiency eventually fell below 1% success the introductions were made. Each of the larger islands in both systems were populated with thirty-six deer mice, while the smaller of the two islands in each local received eighteen mice each. All deer mice were individually marked adults and sex ratios were 1 male for 5 females in all cases. These particular mice had previously been housed at Acadia in the Weston facility for upwards of several months. Prior to their release on the islands most of the mice had shown no indications of reproductive activity for several weeks. Interestingly enough however, these same animals when live captured only a few days later all exhibited signs of reproductive activity or receptiveness.

Over the course of the following months all the islands were live trapped to monitor the introductions on a regular two week on, two week off basis. Litters were born on each of the islands, home ranges were established and it certainly appeared that the introductions had been successful all way around. I remember fondly all the enthusiastic volunteers (and some not so enthusiastic recruits) that I managed to cajole into waking up at five in the morning before loading the boat and motor or canoe onto the car and then heading off to check hundreds of traps for the day. Good field work can only be accomplished with dedicated help and for the most part I had few com-

plaints. Few ever offered to help twice, but to some such as Carolyn, Doug, Philip and Elizabeth I am forever grateful. By the fall of the first year I had run out of help and with ice-up still weeks away I continued alone. Loading a twelve foot aluminum boat onto my '67 Chevelle quickly became an engineering feat in itself, and with the back seat stogged with paddle, life jacket, gas tank and 400 traps I would head out as usual. (In retrospect I have often wondered where good field vehicles go to die. Their contribution to graduate research has gone unnoticed and often times unappreciated. Often neglected, overloaded and forced to travel roads that shouldn't be called roads at all, these faithful field companions would give all they could until they could go no further.)

It seems to me now that after a few weeks of checking traps by myself, that winter couldn't come fast enough that first year. By spring however, I was anxious to return to the routine of trapping and canoeing. More importantly, I had to know how the mice had survived their first winter on the islands. By all accounts each of the introduced populations had done well the previous year, producing several litters and in some cases doubling the population size. My optimism was short-lived however, as were the mice. The initial trapping results were disastrous. No mice were captured on either island in the Black River system and in the Gaspereau, overwinter survival was



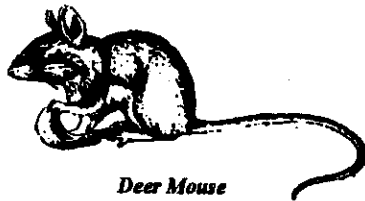
less than 15%. Follow-up trapping two weeks later showed no differences. The mice were gone. Live trapping from the previous summer and fall had shown that deer mice are relatively easy to catch. It was certainly common on the largest of the islands to catch every deer mouse introduced; so our failure to catch mice could not be blamed on the trapping. We had lost some mice to red ants (in traps) and there was some evidence of predation, but hardly enough to eliminate several dozen animals. Or so we thought. In retrospect, I should have considered supplemental food supplies for the mice to help them through that winter. Deer mice were not found on any of the islands prior to the

introductions. Perhaps for good reason. In this particular situation it appears that winter food supplies were the limiting factor. My introduction of a new species to an island with virtually no competition and seemingly adequate food supplies created a rapid population growth response often exhibited by colonizing species. However, the end result may very well have been an inability for the mice and/or environment to sustain themselves in times of limited resource availability.

Although it has been nearly fifteen years since this work was started and then abruptly ended, I don't think that I will ever forget the simple enjoyment of doing field work during those times. Despite the results and frustrations I find it impossible to complain. I remember too clearly the day I discovered bear tracks beside my own on the largest island in Black River Lake. Although large in comparison with other islands in the system, this particular island was only about six acres, and I couldn't help but wonder when our paths might cross. I never actually saw the bear that day but the anticipation of our meeting did cause me some concern. My time spent on Gaspereau Lake was equally memorable, but not as enjoyable for the simple reason that I found this lake to be unpredictable and at times dangerous, especially when canoeing alone. On one occasion I was caught in a freak wind storm, that with hurricane force propelled me nearly two kilometres in the opposite direction that I had intended because I was unable to

paddle into the wind and meter high waves. Similarly, I have become lost in fog banks that mysteriously blew in while I was canoeing, sometimes ending up on distant shorelines.

Relatively recent events have given me cause to cherish some memories of my time on Black River Lake more than others. It is impossible for me to think of Black River Lake without remembering Cyril Coldwell. He and I spent the best part of a day searching for a lesser black back gull that I had seen a few days before. In a manner that befitted both his style and our respect for the man, Cyril sat in the middle of the canoe resting comfortably on a life jacket while a friend and I paddled from Methal's to Tony Island and back in search of this bird. We never did find the gull, but in those few hours spent with Cyril. That day I learned more about Black River Lake, its history and its wildlife than I had ever known before. Acadia University eventually gave me my degree, but I'll always think of Black River and Gaspereau Lakes as my own classrooms in population ecology and natural history.



Deer Mouse

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A BOTANIST

by Ruth Newell
White Rock, N.S.

One of the more challenging endeavors for a plant enthusiast is the retracing of the steps of an earlier botanist. This is made possible through detailed writings of their botanical explorations which are often available in the literature. Usually the older the report, the more likely it is to contain interesting details concerning weather, misadventures, etc., as for example, M.L. Fernald's, "*The Gray Herbarium Expedition to Nova Scotia, 1920*" (RHODORA 23, 1921). This provides quite entertaining reading on the collecting experiences of a Harvard University Professor and colleagues in our province.

One local account of some of the plants in our own area can be found in David Erskine's M.Sc. Thesis entitled "Vascular Flora of the Vicinity of Wolfville". This was written to fulfil the requirements of a Masters Degree in 1948 at Acadia University under the guidance of Dr. E.C. Smith and Dr. H.P. Banks. This thesis is located in the Biology Department and should also be available to the public in the University Library.

One of the several areas of Kings County

covered in this thesis is the "White Rock" locality. This locality covers the lower reaches of the Black River as well as the Gaspereau River for about two miles upstream from the White Rock bridge. Due to its proximity to my home and to work, this has become a favourite area of mine to explore. Plus, having someone else's account of what plants to expect has added an interesting challenge to my botanical walks. Trying to relocate the same species that were reported for an area nearly fifty years ago can perhaps be more difficult than you might expect, as much can change in terms of the nature of the vegetation in that length of time.

Downstream from Hell's Gate in the short section of the Black River before it joins up with the Gaspereau River to form the White Rock Pond, Erskine lists some of the more interesting species that he found. These include Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), a close relative of the familiar Brown-Eyed Susan but which differs from it in having green

flower centers, lobed leaves and by being considerably taller; the somewhat rare grass, Wirestem Muhly (*Muhlenbergia mexicana*), Eastern Lined Aster (pubescence of stems occurs in lines) (*Aster lanceolatus* - known by Erskine as *Aster paniculatus*), an aster considered to be rare in the Annapolis Valley; and Blue Vervain, a rare



plant of rich river bottoms (*Verbena hastata*). Plants submerged and growing on the river bed included the turf-forming Needle Rush (*Eleocharis acicularis*), the curious submerged form of Arrowhead (*Sagittaria*) and the Ribbonleaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton epihydrus*, var. *nuttallii*). Of these seven species, the grass, the aster and the Blue Vervain remain elusive in terms of my efforts to relocate them. Last summer, N.S. Power provided the public with a wonderful opportunity to explore these sections of the Black and Gaspereau Rivers as well as the islands on the White Rock Pond by draining the holding pond for dam reconstruction downstream. It was at this time that I saw for the first time the large beds of the underwater form of Arrowhead which consists of vegetative basal rosettes of strap-like leaves. Upon being exposed to air these quickly began to die with new, more familiar growth coming up from their centers.

On the steep, wooded slope adjacent to and below the Power House at Hell's Gate, Erskine mentions, among other plants, the occurrence of a single tree of Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*). This is not a common species of ash in this part of Nova Scotia and having never found one in the wild, Reg. Newell (my husband) and I decided to try and relocate this particular tree last summer. We were however, unsuccessful. The slope is very

steep as well as tremendously seepy making it very difficult and slightly dangerous to navigate. As well, it is thickly treed making the task seem a lot like hunting for the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Going upstream from the White Rock bridge, along the north side of the Gaspereau River where there is a trail (currently maintained as a nature trail by N.S. Power) for approximately one mile, Erskine lists a wide variety of interesting species. Some of these are: Ground-Nut (*Apios americana*), a wild-edible whose tubers can be eaten either raw or cooked; Hog Peanut (*Amphicarpa bracteata*), a relative of the preceding species and somewhat similar in appearance to it as both are vines and have divided leaves, although the compound leaves of Hog Peanut have only three leaflets whereas those of Ground-Nut have five; Large-Leaved Aster (*Aster macrophyllus*), a purple-



Ground Nut

flowered, woodland aster with large, course basal leaves; Large-Leaved Avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), a yellow-flowered avens; the beautiful Purple Trillium (*Trillium erectum*), Black Snakeroot (*Sanicula marilandica*), a tall, herbaceous plant of rich woods and intervale soils with small white flowers; and the Tall White Bog Orchid (*Platanthera dilatata*) and the Tall Leafy Green Orchid (*P. hypoborea*). Erskine also notes the occurrence of "a great deal of *Rhus radicans*" which of course, is Poison Ivy and which is still considerably abundant along different points of both sides of the Gaspereau River.

Most of the plants listed above, can still be found today with a little effort. Bernard Forsythe reports that he can track down the Tall White Bog Orchid along this trail simply by following the rich fragrance of vanilla that this plant gives off when in flower.

Some plants that Erskine mentions in his thesis for the Gaspereau River, however, have been more difficult to relocate either because they were rare when he discovered them and still are rare or, because the habitat has changed to the degree that they have become rare over the years. Higher up the Gaspereau River in dry thickets, Erskine reports *Desmodium glutinosum* as common. This is the Pointed-Leaved Tick Trefoil of the Pea Family and is currently known from only 3-4 sites in Nova Scotia. Because of its current and historic rarity within the province, it seemed like a good idea to make an effort to

relocate this plant to determine it's current status. In late July of 1992, Bernard, Reg. and myself tried to relocate this plant on the Gaspereau River. At about one and a half miles upstream we discovered two flowering plants, right in the middle of the trail! All appropriate habitats up to this point were checked. We were excited to have refound this plant but at the same time, disappointed that there were only two plants and that their chances of survival were somewhat limited because of their location. Later on in the same summer, Reg. and I made a second trip out in an attempt to find more plants. Approximately one half mile beyond the first discovery we located about 20 more plants, these situated closer to the river and well away from the path. It would seem as though habitat changes may have diminished the population as Erskine reported this plant as common.

Another plant of some rarity which was discovered and collected by David Erskine from the upper regions of the Gaspereau River is the orchid, the Broad-Lipped Twayblade (*Listera convallarioides*). This is a small orchid with two opposite oval leaves midway up the stem and a loosely-flowered raceme of smallish green-coloured, inconspicuous flowers. This orchid is rare on mainland Nova Scotia. The only two collections from the mainland in the E.C. Smith Herbarium at Acadia University are David Erskine's from the Gaspereau River and a collection from Karsdale, Annapolis Co. by J. W. Johnson. It does, however, occur much more

Pointed-leaved Tick

Trefoil



frequently on Cape Breton Island. This plant presented another challenge to us as well as to Bernard Forsythe so when an opportunity arose to combine a down-river hike from Hwy. 12 to White Rock with a little botanical exploration, there were several quite eager participants including Bernard, Reg., myself and Ellis Gertridge. Our only information concerning the actual locality of this orchid from Erskine's thesis and the specimen he collected, was: "damp rocky bank in shade of trees, by Gaspereau River above White Rock". We also knew that he found it on the south side of the river where a trail comes down to the river. Now considering that between the New Ross Road and White Rock there is a lot of ground to cover, and that more than likely there is only one location of this plant along the river, the chances that we would find it were fairly slim. We did however, actually relocate what, we are fairly sure, was

Erskine's site and the population remains intact. The actual hike down the Gaspereau River from the New Ross Road to White Rock involves a full day of sometimes fairly rugged hiking without too much time for either birding or botanizing. It does however, provide some spectacular scenery and is well worth the effort.

While reading David Erskine's thesis in preparation for this article I discovered an exciting plant record which I had missed up to now. Under the section of his thesis where he lists the ferns for Kings County he gives a record for Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*). This being in rich woods at the White Rock Dam. We only know of one actual site for Maidenhair Fern within the province today (along the Meander River, Hants County). There are a lot of historic records for this fern but most suitable habitats have been lost through the years because of clearing practices. There is a good chance that the site mentioned by Erskine has been altered within the last fifty years to the degree that this rare fern no longer exists below the White Rock Dam but it would be worth a field expedition or two to check this out.

Besides the plants that David Erskine presents in his dissertation for the river systems of White Rock, there are additional species that have been discovered in the same area since his field work was conducted. A few of the more interesting ones are given here. The rare False Pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia*) was reported for the first time from the Gaspereau

River last summer. This small plant with delicate, two-lipped, lilac-coloured flowers with white centers was found growing in exposed gravel of the river bottom. Because of its preferred habitat, during summers of high water levels this plant may not make an appearance at all. Monkey-Flower (*Mimulus ringens*), a tall plant bearing showy, purple, snapdragon like flowers usually hides amongst the riverside grasses just upstream from the White Rock Bridge (Erskine does mention this plant as occurring in the area but in a bog above Hell's Gate rather than along the riverbank. Sweet Flag or Calamus (*Acorus calamus*) occurs at the edge of an island in the White Rock Pond. This plant although quite common within the province in marshes, along edges of ponds, rivers, etc. usually occurs with cattails and is so similar in appearance to them it often blends right in and it takes close scrutiny to detect them. Calamus lacks the brown fuzzy heads of cattails and bears instead a single, green, cone-like flowering spike directly from the side of the cattail-like leaves. This plant has also been used medicinally in a great variety of ways.

Finally, the wild strawberries of the shaded riverbanks of this area as well as the older willow trees are the remnants of a way of life long past. The strawberries bear white fruit instead of the familiar red berry and it is said that the occurrences of white wild strawberries within the province can usually be associated with former Acadian settlements or activities.

Thus one can perhaps speculate that long ago there was an Acadian grist mill along the Gaspereau River.

The species mentioned here are only some of the many plants associated with the Black and Gaspereau River Systems. No doubt there are plants still waiting to be discovered while some of those currently recorded for the area will disappear as the habitat evolves naturally or is altered by man.

Retracing the steps of a botanist is somewhat akin to following a treasure map. Whether or not you are successful depends on how detailed the available information, how much the landscape has changed and on just plain luck!



Maidenhair Fern

ORCHIDS OF THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

by Bernard Forsythe
Wolfville, N. S.

As I crossed the quaking Methals Lake bog each step was carefully tested with the end of my canoe paddle. So far I have not fallen through. A bit of risk makes my goal to see dragon's mouth, *Arethusa bulbosa* more rewarding. It is the only colony of this delightful orchid that I know of in Kings County. Most years there will be a plant or two of the rare bluish lilac colour form, or even a pure white specimen. This is only one of many species of native orchids one can find on the Black River System. Large impressive colonies of the other two pink bog orchids, calopogon and rose pogonia are at their best in mid-July. Another visit should be made in late July to enjoy the striking colour contrast of the white fringed-orchid, *Platanthera blephariglottis* with the rich greens of the bog.

Early in the season our best known orchid, pink lady's slipper will be found in the mixed growth woods around the lake while later on a careful search will turn up spotted



coral-root in its various forms. Each year a few yellow lady's slippers bloom beside a small stream. Sorry the exact location will not be revealed as it is the only place in Kings County that I have seen this beauty. There are several other orchids that are rare for our area which I have found near the lake. Blunt-leaf orchid, large purple fringed-orchid, and long-bracted orchid are examples. Some authors list southern twayblade, *Listera australis* as eastern Canada's rarest orchid. I have found several plants of this small orchid on the edge of two bogs near Black River Lake.



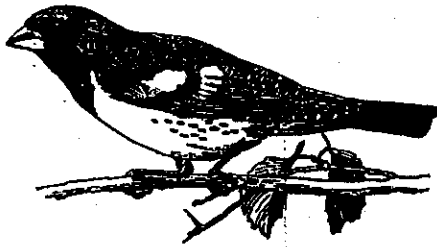
The diversity of habitat around the lake accounts for the rich variety of orchids to be found. A bit of looking in the many wooded swamps will turn up tall leafy white and tall leafy green orchids, little club-spur orchid, and heart-leaved twayblade. The tiny green adder's mouth is often spotted along the wood roads.


Several people living at the lake have checkered rattlesnake-plantain and both forms of large round-leaved orchid growing in their yards. The latter species is striking, especially if *Platanthera orbiculata* variety *macrophylla* is spotted. Its two leaves, the size of dinner plates lay flat on the

ground. The flower spike may be almost two feet tall covered with large whitish green blossoms that appear to have an internal light when seen in the shadows of the thick forest canopy.

A look along the ditches on the Methals Road will produce slender ladies-tresses in mid-summer. When the fall rains begin in September, nodding ladies'-tresses will occupy the same ditches. A close look should be taken as the similar looking yellow ladies'-tresses may be nearby, usually in a drier site. Some of these colonies were lost to recent road work, however in a few seasons they will be back as the ladies'-tresses like the lack of competition in a newly disturbed site.

There are a few more orchid species that I have found near Black River Lake. When these are all added together, it is clear how rich and valuable the area is in its diversity, as a high percentage of the forty odd species of Nova Scotia orchids occur here. Any of them will brighten the day of someone who enjoys wild-flowers. As I write this, the large purple fringed orchid comes to mind. A visit to a colony in late-July at dusk will be uplifting. The delicate light purple flowers glow in the fading light. Bend down to take in the pleasant fragrance they produce while you listen to the flute like songs of hermit and Swainson thrushes around you. A feeling of being at peace with the world will overcome you.





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**KINGS COUNTY
WILDLIFE
ASSOCIATION
&
THE GASPEREAU-
BLACK RIVER
SYSTEM**

**by Scott Cook
Black River, N.S.**

Kings County Wildlife Association (K.C.W.A.) enhancement efforts on the Gaspereau-Black River system began in 1972. Members of this association were concerned about the decline in the salmon run on the Gaspereau river and felt they could do something about it. After having contacted the N.S. Salmon Association, who indicated they were not interested, we purchased 30 "vibra" boxes from Vermont. These boxes had been used in U.S. and Canada for trout, but had never been used for salmon eggs. Through an agreement with the Department Of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) we angled salmon on the Gaspereau River in the spring of 1972. These fish were held at Coldbrook hatchery until the fall. After spawning, the eggs were put in the boxes (approx. 2 1/2" x 4" x 4") and placed in the Gaspereau River, above White Rock bridge at predetermined sites. By protecting the eggs in this type of box we could expect a hatch rate of approximately 80% compared to 10% which occurs naturally. Due to problems encoun-

tered with the spring run off with these boxes, the fish from the second enhancement project in the early '80's were stocked with the assistance of a Department Of Natural Resources (DNR) helicopter and using buckets to transport fry and parr to the river.

Some of the problems encountered during these projects were poaching, water fluctuations, resting pools being filled in, rock walls at Gaspereau nets and the Sparrow decision which gave aboriginal people food fishing rights. Recognizing the Sparrow decision could have an effect on the Salmon stocks on the Gaspereau River, K.C.W.A. contacted members of the Annapolis Valley Band and exchanged ideas on how they could become involved in conservation and protection of this valuable resource.

Due to poaching of salmon that spent the summer in White Rock Pond; the bridges and an area above and below the bridges were closed to fishing. This was accomplished after discussions with DFO, who also recognized this as a problem. 1995 will be the third year of the enhancement project for Atlantic Salmon on this river. In 1994, 27,000 one-year smolts were stocked from eggs collected in 1993. Due to the replacement of the original R.A. Jodrey dam at White Rock, a trap was placed in the fish ladder and all the salmon that ran the river to July 11/94 were captured and held at Coldbrook hatchery until the water levels returned to normal in the fall. From May 1/94 to July 11/94 this trap was

checked every morning by members of K.C.W.A. to insure any salmon in the trap were transported as soon as possible. The trap will be used this year to assess the stocks on the river. There are 22 salmon rivers in the inner Bay of Fundy and the Gaspereau River is the only one that supports a spring run of Multi-sea Winter Salmon.

In 1992, K.C.W.A. sponsored a cleanup of the Gaspereau River below White Rock Power plant downstream to tidewater. One hundred and forty concerned individuals took part, many from the local area, others from Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Ontario and two from Scotland. Three tons of trash were collected from approximately 7km of river. This included items as small as bottle caps to washers, dryers, car parts and a 60 lb propane tank full of propane. These items were deposited at Gaspereau net sites and collected by N.S. Power. Boy Scouts recycled what they could and the Municipality transported the rest to the landfill site. A barbecue held after the cleanup was money well spent and proved to us that people do care about the environment. Using the plans from 1992, with assistance from K.C.W.A., N. S. Power and N.S. Youth Conservation Corps conducted a second cleanup in 1994. As the water was down in White Rock Pond for reasons mentioned earlier, this area and three pools were also cleaned up during this project.

In 1987, with the cooperation of N.S. Fisheries, we installed a trout

incubation box for hybrid trout eggs. From this box, for 5 years, we stocked swim up fry in most of the small streams leading into the Gaspereau River, and Lumsden Pond, Duncanson Brook, Curry Brook and Indian Brook to mention a few.

In 1995, with government funding we hired 4 people to do an assessment of not only the streams of the Gaspereau-Black River System, but all major brooks and streams in Kings County. K.C.W.A. has assisted Canadian Wildlife Service on loon counts on this watershed. This is to determine present populations and detect any changes.

Three months before the proposed landfill sites for Kings County were released to the public, K.C.W.A. was contacted by Porter-Dillon (ie. the consultants), for information about the wildlife in these areas and what effect this type of operation would have on natural resources. K.C.W.A. made presentations at all of the public meetings held on this matter and opposed any proposal that would suggest putting a landfill site on the headwaters of any river system.

In 1987, K.C.W.A. were asked to assist in running a bass tournament on Black River and Little River Lakes. In 1990, we had an opportunity to take over this tournament, which we now run and raise approximately \$2000 yearly for conservation projects in Kings County. N.S. Fisheries attends this tournament to take scale samples and weigh fish to determine the health of these stocks. The headwater lakes of this system

are the most significant Small Mouth Bass fishing area in Nova Scotia.

Members of K.C.W.A. have assisted DNR personnel with tagging Striped Bass in the lower end of the Gaspereau River. This study determined that the fish in the Gaspereau River are the same stocks that frequent not only other rivers in Nova Scotia, but also the east coast of the United States. Wood Duck boxes supplied by Bowater were placed in the headwater lakes of this river system to encourage these ducks to establish a breeding population in this area. Blomidon Naturalists Society took part in this project also and cooperated with K.C.W.A. with maintenance of these boxes and nesting activities.

During the winter of 1992-93, K.C.W.A. approached N.S. Power with a plan to develop a nature trail on the north side of the Gaspereau River above White Rock bridge. N.S. Power agreed to prevent any forestry operations from taking place on land they owned in this area and to restrict any motorized recreational vehicles. In the spring of 1993, the Blomidon Naturalist Society were asked to help plan this trail and to identify any rare plants in areas that should be protected. With labour and tools supplied by N.S. Power and N.S. Youth Conservation Corps, K.C.W.A. financed a small bridge at the start of the trail and supervised the development of the remainder of this area according to a plan developed cooperatively by N.S. Power, Blomidon Naturalist Society and Kings County Wildlife

Association.

In 1989 funding was solicited from Seagrams of Canada to purchase "hook and release" signs to encourage fishermen to practice this conservation measure in areas where it was felt it was needed. These signs were placed on the headwater lakes of the Gaspereau - Black River system to ease the pressure on the Small Mouth Bass stocks, especially during spawning season.

In the spring of 1988, the Kentville Boy Scout Troop and members of K.C.W.A. spent three days camped in the bush at the outlet of Blue Mountain Lake, a headwater lake of the system. An unscrupulous forestry operator, using a bulldozer, excavated this brook which drained the lake. This enabled him to use the lake shore to access a stand of timber on the far side of the lake. Using elevation points supplied by the Department of the Environment (DOE) we built a "k" dam and returned the lake level to its original height.

The above are some of the enhancement projects carried out by K.C.W.A. or in cooperation with other groups on the Gaspereau-Black River watershed. I would be interested in knowing about other projects that have taken place and cooperating with other conservation groups on future initiatives. We plan to have a biological assessment of the watershed completed in the spring of '95, carry out a baseline water quality study and develop a volunteer watershed river watch program.

Natural History Articles and Reports

April 23, 1995 - JOINT FIELD TRIP WITH BNS and NSBS

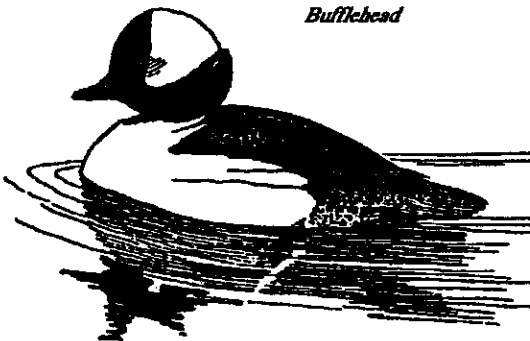
by Judy Tufts
Wolfville, N.S.

The trip began mid-morning with a scan of the Wolfville dyke area under cloudy skies and a threat of more light showers. The previous evening a Short-eared Owl had been sitting on a fence post and it was hoped that due to the dullness of this morning's weather we might have similar luck, but it was not to be. With a party of twenty in seven cars we next headed for the Port Williams sewage ponds where to the pleasure of the group we enjoyed satisfactory looks at a male Northern Shoveler, three Lesser Scaup (one being a female), a male Ring-necked Duck, Mallards, Red-winged Blackbirds and more than a dozen Tree Swallows, including the Tree Swallow with the 'white' fore-

head which was seen there in 1994 at the same nest box.

Van Nostrand's pond, Starr's Point, hosted a pair of Bufflehead while Canning's Aboiteau contained around 100 Canada Geese and a handful of Green-winged Teal. Unfortunately, the Minas Basin tide had receded so far out by the time we reached Kingsport that only Double-crested Cormorants and Scoters - Black and White-winged could be identified. The Red-throated Loons seen on the previous day from this same location were not visible on this trip. Although by this time the sun had come out, the wind really made it very cool in exposed areas like the Kingsport bluffs. It was decided to head to a fairly sheltered area for lunch - the Canning River Park. En route several Northern Flickers were flushed, an active Raven nest was observed, and Bald Eagles, mostly first and second-year birds were seen draped in trees around a chicken barn in Habitant where poultry carcasses were being offered as tasty morsels to these birds of prey.

Following lunch, a visit to Harris' pond in Canning produced eight male American Widgeon, Black and Mallard Ducks including one rather drab Mallard/Black hybrid, one Swamp Sparrow and a Chipping Sparrow. Our



trek to the Canard poultry pond paid off with first spring sightings of two male Blue-winged Teal, another male Ring-necked Duck, many Green-winged Teal and Black Ducks, while the pond surface was being skimmed by nearly two dozen Tree Swallows and one Barn Swallow. An attempt to find an adult White-crowned Sparrow coming to a feeder in Port Williams was fruitless, so at this juncture most participants decided to end their birding day mid-afternoon.

Five of us persisted on with more birding, heading to the Wolfville Sewage Ponds to see a pair of Glaucous Gulls and six Iceland Gulls. Our last effort was to Bishop's Pond, near Black River Lake, where on the edge of this pond the five of us, standing in rubber boots, revelled in the sound of winnowing Common Snipe overhead. We watched three Ring-necked Ducks (2 males), several hundred feet from us swimming between pond vegetation, while visibly searching for the reported occupants of the pond - Hooded Mergansers - when over the trees on the opposite shore line appeared an adult Broad-winged Hawk soaring for several minutes - a most welcome addition to our day. The final pleasure was when Bernice Moore spotted four Hooded Mergansers, a great way to end the field trip - 50 species were seen.

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Hawthorne	Privet
Oregon Grape	Bayberry
Daphne	Highbush Cranberry

1995 North American Migration Count (N.A.M.C.)

Saturday, May 13

by Judy Tufts

**Kings County Coordinator,
NAMC**

Wolfville, N.S.

I wish to thank the sixty three volunteers in Kings County who gave of their time on NAMC day this year to seeking, counting and tallying birds in designed areas. I also want to thank Dr. Roy Bishop, President, and the entire executive of the BNS for their generosity in sponsoring my work with the NAMC project. I am most appreciative of their support in helping offset costs of telephone calls, printing and mailing.

For those of you outside the boundaries of Kings Co., who also participated in this count, my thanks extend to you also. Your count tallies will show up in your own county tallies and will help produce a most interesting migration 'snapshot' of birds in Nova Scotia on that day in May. I believe there will be a few surprises when the final picture emerges. Let us hope that it will give us some optimism for the future of our neo-tropical bird species.

Although many species, especially warblers, appear to be slower-than-normal in returning to Nova Scotia this spring, partly due to the unseasonably cool weather, Jim Stasz, the NAMC Coordinator said that we are

not alone and this phenomenon was apparent throughout North America.

Looking over the final tally for Kings County, we counted a total of 118 species and 10098 individuals, whereas in 1994 we had 114 species and 8245 individuals. The number of feeding stations were the same but the number of volunteers had increased by ten. Perhaps the lower count of 1994 was due to the very rainy day that we had for the count day that year, or perhaps birders were more widespread and diligent in 1995. I would hope that it was partly due to the realization of the importance of the information that they would be providing. With years of data we will be able to judge the impact of the loss of habitat on abundance and distribution of our neo-tropical species.

Again, thank you for your enthusiasm and for a job well done. I could not have done this without your help and support. ----- Judy Tufts

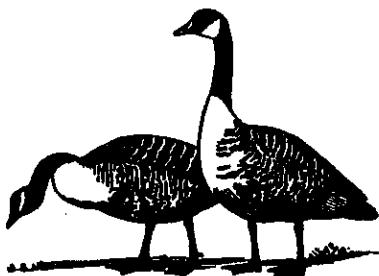
P.S. The following are some of the more interesting sightings:

-- A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with a black crown rather than yellow (by Mark Elderkin and Dave Jones in the Black River area).

-- A white (albino) hen Ring-neck Pheasant returning to it's winter feeding station that day at Jacklyn Parker's home in Forest Home.

-- An 'albino' American Robin in Avonport area again (by Sherman Williams and party).

-- A Leukistic Herring Gull (partial albino) in the County dump



SPECIES.....Number

Common Loon.....	8
D.C. Cormorant.....	64
Am. Bittern.....	1
Gt. Blue Heron.....	23
Canada Goose.....	13
Wood Duck.....	1
Gm. Wing Teal.....	13
Am. Blk. Duck.....	85
Mallard.....	32
Blue-wing Teal.....	19
Am. Wigeon.....	1
Ring-necked Duck.....	3
Lsr. Scaup.....	2
Common Eider.....	18
Black Scoter.....	1
Surf Scoter.....	95
Hooded Merganser.....	3
Common Merganser.....	4
Osprey.....	4
Bald Eagle (adult).....	8
(age?).....	2
N. Harrier.....	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	2
Broad-winged Hawk.....	1
Red-tailed Hawk.....	29
Buteo (sp.).....	1
Am. Kestrel.....	1
Merlin.....	4
Ring-necked Pheasant.....	106
Spruce Grouse.....	1
Ruffed Grouse.....	18
Killdeer.....	27
E. Willet.....	39
Spotted Sandpiper.....	3
Least Sandpiper.....	2

Common Snipe.....	9
Am. Woodcock.....	3
Ring-billed Gull.....	1
Herring Gull.....	1196
Iceland Gull.....	5
Glaucous Gull.....	2
Gt. Blk. Gull.....	560
Gull (sp?).....	30
Barred Owl.....	25
Chimney Swift.....	97
Belted Kingfisher.....	9
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker.....	12
Downy Woodpecker.....	62
Hairy Woodpecker.....	19
Yellow-shaft. Flicker.....	128
Pileated Woodpecker.....	8
Yel.-bellied Flycatcher.....	1
Least Flycatcher.....	2
E. Phoebe.....	3
E. Kingbird.....	2
Tree Swallow.....	316
Bank Swallow.....	6
Cliff Swallow.....	5
Barn Swallow.....	75
Gray Jay.....	3
Blue Jay.....	269
Am. Crow.....	534
C. Raven.....	109
Blk.-cap. Chickadee.....	395
Boreal Chickadee.....	14
Red-brst'd Nuthatch.....	133
Wh.-brst'd Nuthatch.....	19
Brown Creeper.....	3
Winter Wren.....	5
Goldn-crown Kinglet.....	29
Rby-crown Kinglet.....	92
Veery.....	6
Swainson's Thrush.....	2
Hermit Thrush.....	24
Am. Robin.....	793
Gray Catbird.....	1
Cedar Waxwing.....	60
Eur. Starling.....	742
Solitary Vireo.....	16
Red-eyed Vireo.....	5
Vireo (sp?).....	16
Tennessee Warbler.....	3
Nashville Warbler.....	1
Northern Parula.....	26
Yellow Warbler.....	10
Magnolia Warbler.....	3

Blk-thrtd Blue Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	222
Blk-thrtd Green Warbler	25
Palm Warbler.....	49
Bay-brstd Warbler	2
Black and White Warbler.....	32
American Redstart.....	7
Ovenbrd.....	21
North. Waterthrush.....	8
Common Yellowthroat.....	2
Rose-brstd Grosbeak.....	1
Am. Tree Sparrow.....	8
Chipping Sparrow.....	60
Vesper Sparrow	1
Savannah Sparrow.....	73
Song Sparrow.....	409
Swamp Sparrow.....	8
Wht-thrtd Sparrow.....	109
Wht-cwn Sparrow.....	1
Dk.-eyed Junco.....	148
Bobolink.....	13
Red-wing Blackbrd	308
Rusty Blackbird.....	8
Common Grackle	420
Bm-head Cowbrd.....	48
Pine Grosbeak.....	1

Purple Finch.....	119
Red Crossbill.....	10
Wht.-wing Crossbill.....	4
Am. Goldfinch.....	761
Eve. Grosbeak.....	209
House Sparrow.....	169
Mourning Dove.....	123
Rock Dove.....	85

SPECIES = 118

SUMMARY:

Observers..... 63
Feeder Watchers... 40 @ 29 Feeders

TIME:

On Foot..... 76.3 hours
By Car..... 40 hours
By Canoe..... 4 Hours
By Bicycle..... 5.5 hours
Stationary:..... 44.3 hours
Owling..... 1.8 hours
Feeder Watching:..... 76.5 hours

DISTANCE:

On Foot:..... 62.3 miles
In Car:..... 524.7 miles

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Eureka & Mei

Weather Summary - Spring 1995

Larry Bogan

Cambridge Station

The following table shows the summary of the weather statistics for Kings County as recorded at the Kentville Agriculture Research Centre. The second line of data for each month is the average for the month for the 30 year period 1961-1990

Month	Mean Temp (C)	Heat Days (C-day)	Rain Fall (mm)	Snow Fall (cm)	Total Precip (mm)	Bright Sunshine (hours)
March	-0.6	16.8	23.6	18.9	40.4	117.4
(30 yr ave)	-1.0	7.5	53.3	44.1	98.9	135.8
April	3.5	26.9	32.8	22.4	53.8	172.4
(30 yr ave)	4.5	38.2	71.6	17.1	91.7	150.8
May	9.4	142.1	46.6	37.4	84.0	177.5
(30 yr ave)	10.7	179.4	88.0	2.3	88.0	198.0
Period	4.1	185.8	103	78.7	178.2	467.3
(30 yr ave)	4.7	225.1	213	63.5	278.6	484.6

Temperature: Spring started out warmer when March was warmer than normal but then April and May each were almost 1 C cooler than usual. As a result the whole spring was 0.6 C cooler on an average.

Precipitation: The spring of 1995 was dry! We received 100 mm (4 inches) less during the three month period than is expected. The driest months were March and April. May had a near normal precipitation but was unusual in that the snows of early May provided 45 % of that precipitation! That amount of snow is 16 times the expected amount for May.

Sunshine and Heat: March and May were below normal in sunshine hours but April was sunnier than normal and as a result the three month period was almost normal in this statistic. The growing degree days above 5 C were only 82% of normal, mainly because of the cool May. The result was that we had late blooming and leafing of the trees.

TRIVIAL TIDBITS

Of Local Natural History

late August 1994 to

mid May 1995

selected and compiled

by Jim Wolford

Wolfville, N.S.

Skies/Tides

Nov. 29 - in early evening, a very bright fireball was viewed (from Kentville to St. Croix); a half-hour later, 2 lightning flashes and loud thunder (RB, JSB, CGC, JW, et al.)

Dec. 3&4 - the New Minas Astronomy Group viewed the tidal bore on the St. Croix and Meander Rivers (Advertiser).

Fungi

Sept. 16 - lots of field mushrooms (*Agaricus*) on Acadia U. campus and elsewhere in Wolfville (JW).

Sept.17 - spectacular assemblage of inky-cap mushrooms (*Coprinus*) on an area where a tree and stump were removed in 1993 in Port Williams.

Sept.29 - lots of shaggy-man mushroom (*Coprinus*) on a lawn in Port Williams (MT).

Flowering Plants

Sept. - of two American Chestnut trees near lower parking lot of Kentville Ravine, one had several fruits at top of tree; likewise, of two smaller trees on Acadia U. campus, one had fruits (JW).

Oct.20 - 150 Starlings were covering "berry"-laden bayberry bushes at the Guzzle, NE. Grand Pre (BBT, JT). (Also see Dec. 17).

Oct.22 - witch-hazel tree in bloom, adjacent to Acadia U. Biology greenhouse (JW).

Nov.12 - HFN field trip at Cheverie found early & spotted coral-roots and helleborine orchids (KTC).

Dec. 17 - several black-capped chickadees were eating bayberries on an isolated roadside bush w. of White Rock (JW).

Jan.1 - two very different looking kinds of red-osier dogwood? with red vs bright yellow stems, along the RR tracks near eastern edge of Wolfville - identities need checking in summer (BF, GF, HF).

Feb.3 - a dozen robins seen eating Rowan-berries (mountain-ash) in Wolfville (DJP). NB. - This winter most of Canada experienced a bumper crop of mountain-ash berries (JW).

Mar.20 - at Avonport, a "heart-nut" tree (type of walnut?) exuded sap for one day when two large branches were cut, and red-winged



blackbirds and black-capped chickadees feasted on the sap all day long (EWU).

Spring Flowers

Mar.31 - coltsfoot w. of Gaspereau (JW).

Apr.17 - Daphne at Woodside (AJH).

Apr.20 - hazelnut adjacent to Acadia Biology greenhouse (JW).

Apr.21 - alder catkins open in Wolfville (JW).

Apr.22 - aspen poplar catkins open in Wolfville (JW).

Apr.25 - red maple and American Elm in Wolfville (JW).

May 10 - trout lily, Dutchman's-breeches, fly-honeysuckle, and purple trillium, all adjacent to Acadia Biology greenhouse (not a "natural" site) (JW).

May 11 - sweet fern catkins open along RR at Greenwich (JW).

Invertebrates

Sept. 4 - freshwater sponges fairly common in a bay of Cloud Lake - large submerged rocks appeared to be "painted" light green (JW).

Feb.28 - three kinds of large sea anemones abundant in intertidal pool



Sea Anemone

& crevices e. of Baxter's Harbour (GM).

Sept.14 - my "pet" tarantula molted again (9 times in 8 years, since acquired as an adult? in fall/86) (JW).

Insects - Ephemeroptera

(insects in similar order of treatment as in insect books)

Sept.3 - a small 2-"tailed" adult mayfly landed on my hand, se. of Canning (JW).

Sept.6 - a small adult mayfly found inside Acadia Biology building (JW).

Insects - Odonata

Nov. 9&10 - small adult reddish skimmer dragonflies seen; two were flying "in tandem" (pre-mating) (JW).

Insects - Hemiptera

Sept.4 - large numbers of ripple bugs (broad-shouldered water striders) on surface of Cloud Lake (BNS, JW).

Insects - Homoptera

Nov.13 - branches of a residential willow tree "black with aphids" in Wolfville (HT).

Oct.17 - spiny witch-hazel galls abundant, on guess what trees? on Mt. St. Vincent University campus, Halifax; the galls were caused by and full of gall-aphids (NH, JW).

Insects - Coleoptera

Sept.3 - an adult burying beetle (black-and-red carrion beetle) landed on a whole roasted pig that was being carved, near Canning (SBN, JW, et al.).



Apr.21 - at least two large predaceous diving beetles seen swimming in "Coldwells' Pond," at Gaspereau, at night (BNS).

Insects - Lepidoptera

Aug.24 - on Jean Timpa's house in Wolfville, a caterpillar of a question-mark butterfly changed into a chrysalis (pupa), making at least 4 pupae there in total (see previous TRIVIA column Autumn 94).

Sept.9 - Jean's progress report: 2 of her 4 chrysalises released new adult question-marks (JT).

Nov. 6 - an adult mourning cloak butterfly along Wolfville RR tracks (JGT).

April 18 - same as above in Wolfville (BBT).

Nov. 19 - thousands of very late monarch butterflies migrating on Bon Portage Island (PCS).

Aug. 30 - a large caterpillar of a big poplar sphinx moth - a "hornworm" with no "horn" - found in Wolfville (JW).

Sept. 5 - above "hornworm" pupated on the surface of loose soil (normally hornworms bury themselves to pupate (JT).

Oct. 2 - many hundreds of black-and-brown woolly-bear caterpillars (of isabella moths) (see Golden Guide called "Butterfiles and

Moths") crossing several roads in Wolfville, on Wolfville Ridge, and in Gaspereau Valley (DKTT).

early Nov. to early Dec. - winter moths seen flying or sitting on screens in Wolfville and often abundant (BBT, JW). (Identifications just guesses based on time of year and appearance - beware that field guides show "winter moth" as a common name for several kinds of unrelated moths).

Insects - Diptera

April 18 - a large mating swarm (all males) of midges (non-biting flies) at Harris' Pond in Canning - and, for some reason the swarm was attracted to me (my clothe's colours? khaki jacket + blue jeans) (JW).

Insects - Hymenoptera

Apr. 27 - a new adult black-and-yellow mud dauber wasp found, with deformed wings, inside Acadia Biology Building (JW).

May 10 - a healthy mud-dauber seen flying outside Biology building (JW).

Sept. 28 - on Wolfville Ridge, a yellowjacket nest underground (small hole on surface) was found all dug up - comb-pieces strewn about, no wasps still present (MMP) - culprit was probably a skunk (TH).

Jan. 16 - on a very balmy 18⁰ C-day, both honeybees and sowbugs were active - the bees were at bird feeders on Wolfville Ridge (JGT, JT, RB).

May 15 - the entire cemetery at Greenfield had a large aggregation of solitary bees nesting in shallow bur-

rows in the ground (GF); as in two previous years, solitary bees can again be seen in Wolfville at the se. corner of Highland and Prospect (JW).

Contributors To Trivial Tidbits

RB - Roy Bishop
JSB - Sherman Bleakney
CGC - Claudia & Graham Cheeseman
BF - Bernard Forsythe
GF - George Forsyth
HF - Harold Forsyth
TH - Tom Herman
AJH - Avrii & John Harwood
NH - Nick Hill
GM - Gerry Manzer
HFN - Halifax Field Naturalists
SBN - Soren Bondrup-Nielsen
DJP - Dorothy & Jim Perkin
MMP - Mary & Mickey Pratt
BNS - Blomidon Naturalists Society
PCS - Peter Smith
BBT - Brenda & Bill Thexton
HT - Hilda Taylor
JGT - Judy & Gordon Tufts
MT - Miriam Tams
DKTT - Dianne & Kimberly & Trevor Thorpe
EWU - Eva & Walter Urban
JW - Jim Wolford

BNS BIRD NEWS WINTER/ SPRING 1995

by Richard Stern
Kentville, N.S.

RED-THROATED LOON -
Approx. 20 on the high tide at Grand Pre and Kingsport April 17 (JCT, RBS, JW) including 1 in breeding plumage.

GREBES 4 HORNED and 16 **RED-NECKED** - were seen by JCT along the Fundy Shore in Annapolis Co. March 15.

CANADA GOOSE - Approx. 2500 arrived in the early a.m. at Habitat and around Canning, March 21 (MAG). 160+ were still there by April 18.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 200+ off Porter's Point April 17 (RBS, JCT)

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 30+ Canard Pond, New Minas Sewage Pond etc. early April

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NORTHERN SHOVELER - 3 M.
Pt. Williams S.P. and New Minas
Sewage Pond., at times with F. birds,
early April (GF etc.).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - There
were 5 M. and 2 F. in Canard Pond
April 10 (JWW).

RING-NECKED DUCK - 1's and
2's quite common on local ponds and
sewage lagoons well into mid-May.
JCT saw 8 at New Minas S.P. April
20.

LESSER SCAUP - Several pairs
and singles on Canard, New Minas
and Pt. Williams Ponds early April
(JCT, GF etc.)

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE - The
male bird seen in early Jan. by GF
reappeared with a small flock of
Common Goldeneye and Common
Mergansers on the Cornwallis River
in Kentville 11 Feb. (RBS).

BUFFLEHEAD - Several indivi-
duals and pairs were noted on some
of the local ponds in mid-April by
JWW.

HARLEQUIN DUCK - JCT saw 3
males at Margaretsville March 15.
This seems to be a reasonably reli-
able spot to see this uncommon and
attractive species.

COMMON MERGANSER - Up to
12 in Canard Pond March- April
(RBS etc.)

BLACK SCOTER - 40+ on high
tide off Kingsport April 17 (RBS,
JCT)

TURKEY VULTURE - 1 and 2
birds have been seen on several
occasions in the Bridgetown and
Annapolis Royal areas in early May



(ME), possibly an eastward extension
of their provincial range, limited so
far almost entirely to Digby Neck
and the Islands.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - The
usual Kentville (Hockey's Woods)
bird was back on last year's nest by
late April (RBS), but did not appear
to be there when re-checked May 13.
One appeared at DJ's feeder on the
Wolfville Ridge April 2. This is
presumably the same bird that has
appeared there on and off over the
last couple of years, presumably
chasing smaller "feeder birds".

NORTHERN HARRIER - 1 nr.
Grand Pre Jan 22 (GA), and more
expected sightings in late April.

BALD EAGLE - Count - Jan 22
10:00 - 11:00, 33 observers, 405
(173 ad., 213 imm., 19 un-aged) -
highest numbers in Delhaven/ Pereau/
Medford area. The Greenwich pair
are once again building a nest in
Neary Pines, but in a different loca-
tion than the last 2-3 years. The
Walbrook nest active for the last few
years was again occupied April 11
(JWW). An adult has taken up
residence in a tree on the N. side of

the Cornwallis River across from Evergreen Nursing Home, Kentville (early May).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 1 along Wolfville Ridge on and off Dec. - late Feb. (BLF etc.). Presumably the same bird that visited the same area last year.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Birds were seen over the Black River Lake area (JCT) and W. Kentville (RBS) in late April.

RED-TAILED HAWK - The regular over-wintering leucistic birds were back at Sheffield Mills late Jan, and Gaspereau (via JCT). 51 birds on Eagle count, Jan 22 10:00 - 11:00. A bird was noted to be eating town pigeons Wolfville in early May (JWW).

MERLIN - A noisy pair was present in Canning during the 2nd week in April (MAG), and another pair was in Wolfville, near the University (PCS). Copulation was observed in this pair on April 26 (JWW).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Rare for Spring, one appeared at the E.end of the Grand Pre dyke April 17 and chased a starling, then headed off towards Boot Island (RBS, JCT).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - A leucistic female was seen by GR several times in Nov. It was all white with some brown on the tail feathers only.

AMERICAN COOT - 1 in a pond near Canning April 29 (JWW).

KILLDEER - 1 Sheffield Mills March 21 (NN), and others paired up

and displaying by early April.

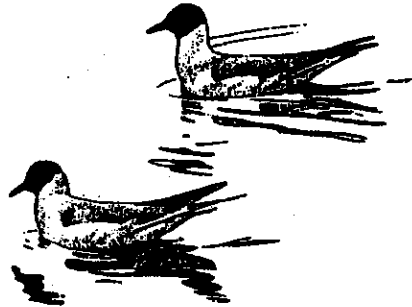
AMERICAN WOODCOCK - 1-2 birds heard displaying at dusk, Greenfield, April 11 (BLF, RBS).

WILLET - 2 were back in Wolfville Harbour, presumably local breeders, by approx. April 22 (PT).

ICELAND GULL - Up to 5 at Kentville and Wolfville S.P.'s all winter, and 8 at the Wolfville pond by April 17 (JWW).

GLAUCOUS GULL - Two 1st winter plumaged birds at Wolfville sewage pond April 17 (JWW).

HERRING GULL - What appeared to be a leucistic individual was at the Kentville dump May 13. The head, wings, body and tail were pure white, the eye was dark, the bill was pink with a dark tip, and the legs were pink. It was the same size and shape as the surrounding normal herring gulls, and didn't look right for either Glaucous or Iceland. (RBS).



BONAPARTE'S GULL - Quite rare in our area, 1 was seen at Wolfville S.P. by JCT on April 20, together with 6 ICELAND GULLS.

SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 near Church St. on Jan 29 and at other times since last summer (DK) - spot where breeding confirmed 1993. 3 were at the E. end of Grand Pre March 21 (JCT).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1 toot-tooting near (but not in!) BLF's nest box in Greenfield April 11.

BARRED OWL - By 4 May BLF had 10 pairs sitting on eggs in his nest-boxes.

SNOWY OWL - 1 along side of 101 near the Falmouth turnoff, late Jan, (via BLF).

GRAY PARTRIDGE - 3 at corner Saxon St. and Middle Dyke Rd. (DBH) ?date.

NORTHERN FLICKER - A bird with a pure white head was at Avonport March 29 (BAU).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - 1 was seen and heard singing all day in Coldbrook on the rather early date for this species of April 22 (AAM).

CHIMNEY SWIFT - 6 were at the Wolfville chimney (JWW), and 1 flew over Canard Pond (RBS) on May 10. 90 were coming nightly to the Wolfville Front St. chimney by May 15. A Merlin observed at dusk hunting swifts at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre in Wolfville, successfully killed and ate at least one (fide JWW).

EASTERN PHOEBE - One was back, at Gaspereau, by April 27 (LS).

LARKS, BUNTINGS AND LONGSPURS - A mixed flock of 50+ Horned Larks, 20+ Snow Bunt-

ings and 50+ Lapland Longspurs was feeding along the roadside at Grand Pre 12 Feb.(RBS).

TREE SWALLOW - 1st in area noted by BLF on April 16 Wolfville Ridge. Both BLF and JWW noted birds that were recognisable from 1994, by leg bands or head markings.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - 1 at KA's feeder, Wolfville late Jan., and noted to be numerous and singing on territory throughout our area by early May, as expected - this species is one of the earliest of the small migratory passerines to arrive in the spring.

AMERICAN ROBIN - At least 1000 feeding on old apples at the Scotian Gold plant in Coldbrook on April 7 (AAM), and several other large flocks of >100 around during the first 2 weeks of April.

NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1 New Ross early March (IR), 1 Canning Aboiteau (DH) 7 March, and others into early April in the same general area.

STARLING - Partial albino, mostly white with sandy-brown body, Grand Pre Jan 15 (JWW)

PINE WARBLER - 1 imm. at JWW's feeder intermittently from Dec. to March 25. An early **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** was near the railway tracks in Greenwich May 1 (LH). Many of our more "normal" breeding **WARBLERS** were back, singing on territory by May 13 -15.

NORTHERN CARDINAL - An adult female was in Wolfville March 30 (JET).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - 5 at Pt. Williams Sewage pond Jan 10 (JWW).

SWAMP SPARROW - A pair on territory in their usual spot by a brook W. of Kentville May 6 (RBS).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW - Several around in the 1st 2 weeks of April (s.obs.). - 7 returning migrants. A bird having the characteristics of a possible hybrid CHIPPING x TREE SPARROW was at AAm's feeder. It had a head like a Chipping, and other features typical of Chipping, but white edges to the tail feathers and a distinct yellow lower mandible like a Tree.

VESPER SPARROW - 1 E. end Wolfville Ridge mid-Feb (C. Stevens), and the usual birds were present by the 101 turnoff to Kingston on May 13 (JCT).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - 1 coming to MT's feeder in Port Williams in early April, and another at MU's feeder in Kingston May 13.

COMMON GRACKLE - 1st large numbers back March 20-21 (s.obs.).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - Still ++ at RBS's feeder in Kentville early May. A leucistic individual was there on 30 April, all white except for black wings, still with white stripes, and some slight darkness around the eye.

PURPLE FINCH - Good numbers around this spring, with both purple (2+ year old males) and brown streaky (females and males up to 2 years old) birds singing volubly all over the place - one of the more

pleasing signs of Spring!

RED CROSSBILL - Several individuals and pairs noted around the area (s.obs.).

EVENING GROSBEAK - A large influx to people still feeding sunflower seeds, by late April/ early May.

Contributors to Bird News:

GA - George Alliston
KA - Krista Arney
ME - Mark Elderkin
BLF - Bernard Forsythe
AJG - Jamie Gibson
MAG - Merritt Gibson
LH - Lorna Hart
DH - Doug Hickman
DBH - David and Bonnie Hutchinson
DJ - David Jones
DK - David Kristie
AAM - Angus MacLean
NN - Nancy Nickerson
GR - Geri Rafuse
IR - Ian Ross
LS - Linda Sacouman
PCS - Peter Smith
RBS - Richard Stern
MT - Miriam Tams
PT - Phil Taylor
JET - Jean Timpa
JCT - Judy Tufts
MU - Malcolm Uhlman
EAU - Eva Urban
JWW - Jim Wolford

Send Your Bird News For The Next BNS Newsletter To:

Richard Stern,
40 MacDonald Park Road
Kentville, Nova Scotia,
Canada. B4N 5C7
NSTN1813@fox.nstn.ca

Sources for Local Natural History Information

(compiled by Blomidon Naturalists Society)

<i>Information</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Home</i>
Rocks & Fossils	Geol. Dept., Acadia Univ.	542-2201	
Fish	N.S. Dept. of Natural Resources	679-6091	
Flora - General	Ruth Newell	542-2201	542-2095
Flora - Fungi	Darryl Grund	542-2201	542-9214
	Nancy Nickerson	679-5333	542-9332
Flora - Lichens	Karen Casselman	424-7370	633-2837
Flora - Seaweeds	Darryl Grund	542-2201	542-9214
Flora - 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	542-2201	542-7650
	Jean Timpa		542-5678
Birds - Hawks & Owls	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427
Birds - Falcons & Eagles	Peter Austin-Smith		542-2109
Mammals	Tom Herman	542-2201	678-0383
Amphibians & Reptiles	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604
	Jim Wolford	542-2201	542-7650
Seashore & Marine Life	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604
	Jim Wolford	542-2201	542-7650
	Graham Daborn	542-2201	542-5373
	Michael Brylinsky	542-2201	582-7954
Indian Prehistory	Ellis Gertridge		542-2816
& Archaeological Sites	James Legge		542-3530
Astronomy	Roy Bishop		542-3992
	Sherman Williams	542-3598	542-5104
	Larry Bogan		678-0446

JULY 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Canada Day
2	3	4	5 ☾	6	7	8 Dragonfly Field Trip
9	10	11	12 ○	13	14	15 Parks Day Blomdon
16	17 No Meeting	18	19 ☾	20	21	22 McGill Lake Trip
23	24	25	26	27 ●	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 ☾	4	5
6	7 Civic Holiday	8	9	10 ○	11	12 Shore Bird Field Trip
13	14	15	16	17 ☾	18	19 Botany Field Trip
20	21 No Meeting	22	23	24	25 ●	26 Sky Observing
27 Cloud Date	28	29	30	31		
<p>August 12 Perseid meteor shower will be ruined by the brightness of the nearly full Moon.</p>						

SEPTEMBER 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 ☾
3	4 Labour Day	5	6	7	8	9 ○
10 HFN & BNS Field Trip	11	12	13	14	15	16 ☾
17	18 BNS Meeting 7:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 ●	25	26	27	28	29	30

BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY

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Each member receives four issues yearly of the *BNS Newsletter*. The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a registered charity. Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations. The membership fee itself is not tax-deductible. Members may also join the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists through the BNS and will receive their quarterly newsletter; the membership is not tax-deductible.

Please enclose a cheque or money order payable to "Blomidon Naturalists Society" and forward to:

Harold Forsyth
R.R. 2 Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0

Number	Membership Classification	Price	Total
_____	Individual Adult	\$12.00	\$ _____
_____	Family	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	Individual Junior (less than 16 years old)	\$1.00	\$ _____
_____	Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists membership	\$5.00	\$ _____
	Tax-deductible Donation		\$ _____
	TOTAL		\$ _____

MyName _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone Number(s): Home _____ Office: _____

Membership Type (please check one):

Ind. Adult__ / Ind. Jr.__ / Family__ (# of family members__)

Subscription to *FNSN News*? Yes__ No__

Gift Subscription

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone Number(s): Home _____ Office: _____

Membership Type (please check one):

Ind. Adult__ / Ind. Jr.__ / Family__ (# of family members__)

Subscription to *FNSN News*? Yes__ No__

Please use additional sheets for more gift subscriptions.

**Pre-registration Form
Parks Day Events
July 15, 1995, 10:00 am
Blomidon Park, Kings Co. NS**



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone# _____

Please Register me for the following event (check one);

"Take a Hike" (A 5 km hike through the park and interpretive trail with a member of the Blomidon Naturalists Society.)

Kite Making Clinic (A family event for children of all ages. Materials supplied.)

Fee - \$1.00/event (to help cover costs)

Please include with form.

Pre-registration is available from June 19th to July 7th at the following locations:

1. Blomidon Park - Blomidon 582-7319

2. Dept. of Natural Resources

136 Exhibition St.

Kentville 679-6097

3. Tim Horton Donuts

Wolfville, New Minas, Kentville, and Coldbrook

Note: Pre-registration is not mandatory to participate in the events.

Each HIKER is eligible to win some fantastic natural prizes including a grand prize of a Canadian vacation for two. Other prizes will be awarded for best KITES, as judged by park staff in the kite making clinic.