



# **Blomidon Naturalists Society**

Summer 2006 – Volume 33 Number 2

## **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**

Past president	Liz Vermeulen	681-0061
President	John Harwood	582-3320
Vice-president	Richard Stern	678-1975
Treasurer	Ed Sulis	678-4609
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John Belbin	765-3811
Harold Forsyth	542-5983
Glenys Gibson	582-1273
Jean Gibson	678-4725
Patrick Kelly	798-3329

The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a member of the Sable Island Preservation Trust and the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (Nature Nova Scotia) and is an affiliate member of the Canadian Nature Federation (Nature Canada).

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

Visit us on the web  
<[www.blomidonnaturalists.ca](http://www.blomidonnaturalists.ca)>

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Cover illustration by Sean Matthews, grade 2 winner of cover art competition.  
Drawing p. 11 by Rhiannon Rafuse, grade 3, Port Williams Elementary Illustrations by Mary Pratt (pp. 6, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 24)

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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 Jean Timpa by mail (25 Gaspereau Ave., #1, Wolfville, NS B4P 2C5) or by e-mail <jtimpa@ns.sympatico.ca>.

## **Upcoming newsletter deadline**

Fall, September 10, 2006

## **Editorial Board**

Chair: Jean Timpa (902 542-5678)

Committee: Merritt Gibson, Sherman Williams, George Alliston

Production: Doug Linzey

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

Advertising: Larry Friedman (902 584-3844)

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## EDITORIAL

### **This and That, Out and About**

The honour of your presence is requested this summer at the Green Dragon camps in various locations in eastern Kings County stretching over an eight-week period. For more details, see the item on page 28 by camp director Charlane Bishop. Charlane and two student helpers from Acadia will be putting on weeklong nature day camps and would appreciate extra hands and minds to show the campers the wonders of our good earth and waters. Develop a lesson plan on your own or with the leaders. You do not have to have a PhD in one of the sciences, or even any specialized academic background, but mostly rapport with the youngsters and the ability to say “ooooh, aaaah” at their marvellous finds. We want to help them find mysterious creatures and see the beauty in Mother Nature’s crafting, to help them express their discoveries in art, writing, or music, and to give them a sense of wonder, which hopefully they will keep and share with others for the rest of their lives. Please do contact Charlane soon. Camp season is upon us.

The honour of your presence is also requested next summer, especially August 1–5, 2007, when Nature Canada will be here in Wolfville for its annual meeting, talks, workshops, and – most importantly – field trips. Nature Nova Scotia is the official host, but whereas the party is going to be here in Wolfville we, the Blomidon Naturalists Society, have been asked to do a lot of the practical work for this grand occasion. Again, please see the article by Larry Bogan (p. 14) about this upcoming event and the need for hosts and hostesses in varying capacities. It will be a very real chance of a lifetime, so plan to be in Wolfville, plan to help make it the greatest gathering of natural history buffs ever, and make contact soon with the appropriate people to find out how you can help.

Today (as I write this) is the summer solstice, and our land is green and productive, spring having been mild and moist. Our gardens appear to be some of the best in years, and I hope all of you are nurturing at least some plants in the spirit of sustainability and survival of our earthly spaceship. Bon voyage wherever your travels take you this summer. Bring back lots of photos for slide shows and things for show and tell.

Jean Timpa, editor

## **Honorary Life Memberships**

At a recent executive meeting we realized that we had been remiss in not awarding honorary life memberships, not only to those people within our Society who had made outstanding contributions to it and to natural history education in general but also to other outstanding naturalists in Nova Scotia. Somehow, six years had gone by in the blink of an eye, so we are trying to catch up a bit. We awarded Mary Pratt in January for her longstanding professional art work in the newsletter and, of course, her general interest in our doings.

We are now asking the membership of BNS to submit names to any executive member for more awards. Please see front inside cover for contact information.

Among those who already so honoured are Robie Tufts, John and Rachel Erskine, Dr. Ken Harrison, Dr. Albert Roland, Cyril Coldwell, Jean Timpa, C.R.K. Allen, Curtis and Margaret Chipman, Bill and Brenda Thexton, Peter Austin-Smith, Dr. Sherman Bleakney, Dr. Larry Bogan, Sherman Williams, Ross Baker, Harry Brannen, Dr. Roy Bishop, Dr. Merritt Gibson, and Mary Pratt.

## **Special Request**

We are looking for old working binoculars and field guides (microscopes and hand lenses would be good, too) to use in our BNS Green Dragon nature camps this summer. As these are costly items donations would be greatly appreciated. See page 28 for more information on the camps. Thank you.

Charlane Bishop  
Naturalist coordinator, BNS Young Naturalist Program  
E-mail: <charlanebishop@gmail.com>  
Tel: 902 542-2217

Green Dragon lives and plays in river and stream  
as protector of all natural cycles on Earth.

# Blomidon Naturalists Society

## Summer 2006

### Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month (except July and August) in the auditorium of the KC Irving Environmental Science Centre, Acadia University. The Centre is on University Avenue, up the hill from the Acadia arena. Parking is available at Wheelock dining hall, along Crowell Drive immediately east of the Centre, at the Acadia arena, the student union building, or on Westwood Avenue. Everyone is welcome.

**Monday, September 18, 2006 – Standing Tall for Forests**, by Joanne Cook. Tired of clearcuts? Worried about more herbicide spraying near your land? Wondering how our forest industry has gotten into this state? Come and hear Joanne Cook of the Ecology Action Centre's Standing Tall Campaign for Environmentally Responsible Forestry. This presentation gives you the facts about forestry in Nova Scotia and suggests how to achieve some real changes that will preserve and protect our wild lands. Since the '60s, Nova Scotia's native Acadian forest, once a healthy, diverse mix of hardwoods and softwoods, has been systematically cut and replaced by spruce and balsam tree farms. Driven by pulp and paper mill demand, our forests are being clearcut at the rate of over 500 square kilometres a year. We have put all our forestry eggs in the softwood basket, and now the paper sector is teetering on the brink of disaster all across Canada. We need to change our approach to forests and forestry. Over the next 18 months, the Government of Nova Scotia is going to develop a new 10-year forestry strategy. The Ecology Action Centre comes with fresh new ideas about how we can all speak for our trees.



## Field Trips

Unless otherwise indicated, all field trips will begin at the Wolfville waterfront park. Everyone is welcome.

**Tuesday, July 11, 2006 – Acadia University Woodland Trails.** Ruth & Reg Newell (902 542-2095) will lead this week's regularly scheduled trail walk (every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. – see report p. 15). Take a leisurely stroll along the newly minted woodland trail system at Acadia University. Meet at the KC Irving Environmental Science Centre at 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, July 30, 2006 – Aylesford Mountain Nature and Historical Walk.** George Alliston will lead this walk on the 400-acre Aylesford Mountain property, located on the North Mountain of the Annapolis Valley and owned by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. Enjoy a walk through the woods and observe pockets of old forest, a vaulted brook, open meadows, and remnant signs of the area's agricultural past. During the walk, participants will also learn about the intriguing history of the property. Bring a hat, camera, comfortable hiking boots, long pants, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, lunch, snacks, and water. Hiking time will be approximately three hours, predominantly along footpaths, with some moderate to steep slopes. Register by calling Duncan Bayne at (902 425-5263) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, or register by e-mail <duncan@nsnt.ca>. Meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 9 a.m. or at the start of the walk at 10 a.m. (see the following for directions).

Take Exit 16 (Aylesford) off Highway 101 and follow signs north toward Victoria Harbour. At the T-junction in the road at the brow of the North Mountain, turn right onto Brow of Mountain Road (gravel) and travel 0.8 km beyond the twin transmission towers to the junction with the first road to your left (marked with a combination of orange and blue flagging tape on bushes). Turn left onto this road (unmarked but known locally as the Lightfoot Road, it looks like a wood road, but is a public road and can be

driven by car without difficulty by proceeding slowly and carefully) and proceed 1.7 km until you see orange and blue flagging tape at a Y in the road. Proceed 100 m along the left branch of the Y and park anywhere in the open area. The walk will start here at 10 a.m.

**Saturday, August 5, 2006 – Gaspereau River Trail.** Take an afternoon walk up the White Rock Nature Trail with Bernard Forsythe to look at midsummer plants and birds. If there is heavy rain, the trip will be rescheduled Sunday, August 6. Meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 1 p.m.

**Sunday, August 6, 2006 – Butterflies.** Watching the delightful fluttering passage of a butterfly is a favourite summer pastime for many. Peter and Linda Payzant (902 861-1607) will lead us through the grounds of Uniacke Estate Museum Park, looking at some of the many butterflies that can be found in Nova Scotia during late summer. For those wishing to carpool, meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 12 noon or meet the Payzants at the parking lot of Uniacke Estate Museum Park at 1 p.m. No rain date. The trip will be cancelled in the event of overcast conditions. Please register in advance by phone so that you can be contacted in case this happens. Bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and water.

**Saturday, August 12, 2006 – Fossil and Nature Walk.** Meet in the L.E. Shaw School parking lot, Avonport (Exit 9 on Highway 101) at 9:45 a.m. and join Sherman Williams (902 542-5104) for a fossil walk along the shoreline in the vicinity of Horton Bluff. The walk will be about four hours long, so bring a lunch. The trip will look at tides, shoreline erosion, tidal marsh, yummy Minas mud, drowned forest, rock formations, and Carboniferous fossils.

**Saturday, August 19, 2006 – Shorebirds of the Minas Basin.** Jim Wolford (902 542-9204) will lead a joint field trip with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to see the shorebirds of the Minas Basin. This is peak time for the thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers that stop here after their summer in the Arctic to fatten up before they fly nonstop to spend the winter in South America. There are lots of other shorebirds to see as well. We will first go to the Windsor sewage ponds, then to Grand Pre/Evangeline Beach. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Wolfville waterfront or 9:30 a.m. at the Windsor Tourist Bureau off Highway 101 at Exit 6.

**Friday, August 25, and Saturday, August 26, 2006 – Nova East 2006.** Atlantic Canada's longest-running star party will be held at Smileys Provincial Park near Brooklyn in Hants County. Some of the presentations and workshops, as well as the Saturday evening observing session, are open to the public. There will be one series of three workshops on the theme of how nighttime naturalists can migrate to the daytime universe. Nova East is hosted jointly by the Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the Minas Astronomy Group, and the Nova Central Astronomy Club. More information can be found at <<http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne>>.

**Sunday, September 10, 2006 – Kingsport Intertidal Mud Flats Fauna and Flora.** Jim Wolford (902 542-9204) will lead this joint trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists on an extra-low tide. The mud flats are absolutely full of diverse critters with fascinating life-histories and diets. See lots of shells, worms, crabs, shrimps, hydroids, snails, clams, fish, etc. Meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 8 a.m. or Kingsport wharf at 8:30 a.m. sharp to reach the low-tide mark by 9:30. Wear rubber boots or old running shoes that can be washed off afterward (we have access to a hose). Also bring snacks and drinks. Difficulty is moderate (walking in the mud is good exercise but can be tricky). The trip will be about three hours long.

**Sunday, October 1, 2006 – Canoe Trip.** Bring your canoe or kayak and join Ruth and Reg Newell (902 542-2095) for a trip down the Black River Lake system with a stop to look at interesting plants in the Methals Lake area. This trip will be at least six hours long. Bring a lunch, water, hot drinks, warm clothing, and, of course, life jackets, canoe, paddles, etc. If you have access to a life jacket but not a canoe there will likely be extra room in one of the canoes. Meet at 8 a.m. at Forest Home on Highway 12.

**Sunday, October 15, 2006 – Canoe Trip.** Larry Bogan (902 678-0446) will lead a canoe trip in the Cloud Lake Wilderness Area. This should be a great time of year to see the autumn colours reflected in the lake. There may also be a chance to stretch your legs with a short hike along a portage to see the northwest end of Frog Lake. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot of Avery's Market on Highway 1 in South Berwick (about a 30-minute drive from Wolfville).

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

# Art Competition

Periodically, the BNS president makes a report in these pages on the activities being carried out by your executive committee. Let me assure you that the finances of the Society are in good shape, the program committee is doing an excellent job of organizing the program for meetings and field trips, a summer Young Naturalists program is in place, and all is going well with the publishing of Merritt's *Within the Sight of Blomidon* – look for it in September. Meanwhile, I want to use my allocated space to tell you about the second BNS-sponsored Art and Nature Competition.

The competition was held in May at the Port Williams Elementary School. About 100 students from five classes took part. Mary Pratt and her panel of judges can attest to the fact that the standard of work was outstanding. Many of the works were sketched out-of-doors directly from nature. Teachers examined them and gave practical advice on composition and presentation of the works. The children enjoyed the whole experience a great deal.

On the first day of summer, and what a lovely day it was, I went to the school and presented the winners with their prizes in the presence of all the participants, their principal, and their teachers. Each participant received a BNS certificate of appreciation for having taken part. The winning entry in each group received \$15, second place \$10, and third place \$5. The first-place finishers were also presented with a BNS badge. \$10 prizes were awarded to the artists who produced the works shown here and on the front cover. There were a hundred winners in the competition, but here are the ones who got the prize money:

### Grades primary/1

Katlyn Dykens  
Austin Woodland  
Georgia Hall

### Grade 2

Tamarin d'Entrement  
Olivia Sweet  
Olivia Walker

**Grade 3**

Rhiannon Rafuse  
Cory Burgher  
Noah Mac Rae

**Grade 5**

Alex Jones  
John Deacon  
Matthew Lannon

**Grade 4**

Jenny Crouse  
Ross Bagnell  
Emily Sweet

**Cover Prizes**

Sean Matthews (grade 2)  
Rhiannon Rafuse (grade 3)

I am grateful to all the children who took part. I told them that if they didn't know what a naturalist is before the competition they should do now since each one of them has become one. I am also grateful to Wendy Spicer, the teacher who coordinated the competition, and to the principal, Cathy Woodford, who was so supportive.

John Harwood  
President, BNS



*Flowers with  
hummingbird  
– by Rhiannon  
Rafuse, grade 3*

SEEN IN THE WILD

## Hares, Swallowtails, and Black Flies

by Blake Maybank, editor, *Nova Scotia Birds*

I spent most of yesterday becoming familiar with the Sherbrooke Lake atlas square in interior Lunenburg County. I only managed to scout out one-third of the square, but was pleased to find 60 bird species in the process, with a number of confirmations. Tiger Swallowtail butterflies were everywhere, in abundance, more than I can ever recall seeing. Once the sun came out in mid-morning, they were omnipresent, 30 or 40 wherever I stopped, and I estimate I saw several thousand between 10 and 3. Other leps noted included Northern Crescents, White Admirals, Cabbage Whites, and Common Ringlets. There were lots of odes on the wing as well, but I didn't have time to investigate. Black flies were also abundant, especially in the dry uplands to the east of Sherbrooke Lake. In the cut-overs, whenever I was foolish enough to leave my vehicle, my headnet was overwhelmed by thick clouds of flies, making it impossible to see. The flies' abundance was positively Labradorian, if I may coin a phrase. No matter how quickly or deftly I re-entered my car, at least 300–400 flies would join me every time, making a survey of this area an almost impossible chore.

And speaking of abundance, it is also, apparently, a Snowshoe Hare year. I see them often, and on the Trafalgar Breeding Bird Survey we encountered 85 along the route. A good year to be a Great Horned Owl.

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*Originally reported June 22, 2006, on the NatureNS e-mail forum*

Here is Paul's MacDonald's response to Blake's account:

When I was in Cumberland County in May, the farmer told me the same thing. Although he allows hunters in the fall and they got a lot of rabbit pies, he said it made no apparent difference in the numbers. Coyotes were not coming near the lambs – they perhaps could get all the food they wanted in hares.

A story from yesterday about Swallowtails. They are abundant near the shore also, perhaps not as many as in the interior. They were feeding on my rhodos yesterday. Perhaps on the pollen, but I couldn't be sure just what.



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

One flew over to me, alighted on my belt and then climbed up my shirt. When it came to my neck it carried on and spent some time on my face.

Seemed to be licking my face – perhaps the salt from perspiration. After a few minutes it climbed up my hat and done its takeoff.

Unfortunately, nobody was there to take a picture, but it was interesting nevertheless.

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*Originally reported on the NatureNS e-mail forum*

## NATURAL HISTORY

# About the Swallowtails

by Jean Timpa

Since late May Canadian Tiger Swallowtail butterflies have been emerging from their overwintering chrysalises, and numbers have built to astounding proportions, as reported by many Nova Scotia naturalists. I would guess that the very mild weather this past winter, compared to the previous five long, bitter ones, made a great deal of difference in their ability to survive in their remarkably thin, unprotected chrysalid coats. Systematic entomologists, who tend to split butterflies into many species say we have our own species here in Canada (*Papilio canadensis*), which is very similar in appearance to the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), but ours is a bit smaller and has a few slightly different markings. Other sources lump them in with the Eastern Tigers.

Perhaps the fact that the larva is not a fussy eater is also cause for its abundance. It is listed as fond of birches, aspen, Black Cherry, various ash species, tulip trees, and others. The large eye spot on each side is just a camouflage mark and not a true eye. Supposedly it frightens off birds and other enemies who might be planning to dine upon it.



LARVA!

I once terrified my dad, who was busy gardening in Maine, by yelling “Tiger” very excitedly at sighting my first one. He was not yet too familiar with all the butterfly names, as I was just picking up on this lifetime interest. Of course he visualized the Indian cat coming through the hedgerow at him, so he dropped the spade as he jumped a few feet into the air and then scolded me properly for having nearly given him a heart attack. We laughed about it for many years afterwards.

**NOTICE**  
**Time and Tide:**  
**Nature Canada 2007 in Wolfville**

Nature Nova Scotia (Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists) will be hosting naturalists from all over Canada for Nature Canada’s 2007 annual conference and general meeting. From August 1st through the 5th, the conference will be using the facilities at Acadia University, and most of the activities will take place in the Valley area. Joan Czapalay, past president of Nature Nova Scotia, is chair of the organization committee. The committee is putting together the program, arranging for facilities, and has a website <[www.nature2007.ca](http://www.nature2007.ca)>.

Volunteers will be needed both for organization and the conference itself. Nature Nova Scotia relies on members of its societies (such as BNS) for volunteers. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Joan <[joancz@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:joancz@ns.sympatico.ca)> or me (678-0446 or <[larry@bogan.ca](mailto:larry@bogan.ca)>).

Larry Bogan, president, Nature Nova Scotia

**BNS FIELD TRIP REPORT**  
**A Walk on the Woodland Trails**  
by Tony Coakley & Laurel McIvor

Since the beginning of May, enthusiastic BNS and community members have been meeting each Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. to hike the woodland trails behind Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens. Each week there seems to be more life accounted for, new emerging plants, wildlife, other trail hikers, and an overall friendly group.

There is quite a variety of ferns throughout different sections of the trails, especially along the upper portion of the Acadian Brook. We were able to identify more than ten different species. We also found *Cypripedium acaule* (Pink Lady's-slipper), *Cornus canadensis* (Bunchberry), *Trientalis borealis* (Starflower), *Clintonia borealis* (Blue-bead Lily), and many other native understory plants that have been in bloom over the past few weeks.

Many birds were reported; latest additions include Ovenbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, and a Veery. While the mammals remain elusive, we have seen tracks of White-tailed Deer and Raccoons, and many signs of little critters.

One evening we were fortunate to have Ben Myles, an Acadia student who has been studying moss, join us. He was able to help identify the most common mosses and discuss their habitats and growing habits.

The walks are a pleasant way to share information, learn new things, meet great people, and get some exercise, while documenting the growth and development of this trail system. Hikes continue weekly until September 5. Everyone is welcome.



**BNS FIELD TRIP REPORT**  
**Early Spring Birds**  
**by Jim Wolford**

April 23, 2006 – About 40 people in a caravan of 16 cars turned out on this beautiful sunny, warm, and calm day.

Some of the people coming from the east noted the Bald Eagle nest just south of Highway 1 near the junction with Dyke and Eye Roads. Then the raven nest in the birch along Hwy. 1 at the east boundary of Wolfville was obvious.

First stop as usual was Bernard Forsythe's back yard on Wolfville Ridge to visit his Barred Owls. Bernard mentioned the dependence of this species on mature forests with large trees, since they are mostly cavity nesters. However, they are very adaptable to a variety of habitats as long as nestboxes are provided. Bernard has been providing boxes in many places now for many years.

Bernard's owls nest up to two weeks earlier than other Barred Owls because he gives them supplemental food through the winter. He knew his first egg this year was on March 18, and he expected to see youngsters inside the box. But neither of the two eggs had hatched; thus he suspects that this year they are infertile, which has happened in this box once before and of course happens occasionally to other birds. There were no food items in the box. And Bernard again was not attacked by the owls.

However, we got good views of both parent owls, first of the male perched nearby. When Bernard climbed the ladder, the female paused in the nestbox hole for a few seconds, then flew a short distance and perched in the open. Then she flew north and out of sight, but she answered Bernard when he called to try to give them food (they didn't come for the treat of wild meat).

Finally a couple of crows found and harassed the female and chased her right back into the nestbox, which was a spectacle for all of us to see. We also saw Purple Finches in the woods of Bernard's yard.

Next we all drove to my home with hopes of seeing “my” Golden-crowned Sparrow (which first showed up April 15). Despite the dreadful full sunlight, which made it difficult to see the sparrows’ field marks (and several varied White-throated Sparrows were present), five people are sure they saw the Golden-crowned. It’s too bad that the rest of us missed it in its very brief appearance.

Then we drove to the Bald Eagle nest east of Port Williams on the bank of the Cornwallis River. Many people noticed small birds flying to and from the bottom part of the nest and staying there. The consensus was that these were House Sparrows, which were probably nesting right in among the nest branches. The presumed female eagle that was incubating or brooding was joined briefly by her mate.

Next stop, quite nearby, was Van Nostrand’s Ponds, where we did the traditional walk around both of the ponds. Highlights here were two Canada Geese (possibly nesting on the cattail island), two (m/f) Blue-winged Teals, a Wilson’s Snipe, a female harrier being harassed by a crow high in the sky, a kingfisher, and a possible Swamp Sparrow. We all noticed a school of goldfish that someone had released (what an illegal shame) in the original pond, which now is mostly drained. Also we heard a couple of snoring Leopard Frogs calling in the small pond across the road. And a highlight for me was spotting an adult Milbert’s Tortoiseshell butterfly (this is a species that overwinters as an adult).

On our way to Canning, we stopped to view another Bald Eagle nest, this one north of the Canard River. Again we saw both adult eagles, and the presumed female was fidgeting with something in the nest; some of us with scopes could see that there were one or two tiny nestling eagles. At Harris Pond in Canning we spotted two pairs of American Wigeons, two drake Ring-necked Ducks, both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, two Yellow-rumped/Myrtle Warblers, a Muskrat, three Painted Turtles basking, and a Cabbage White Butterfly.

Our last stop was at Canard Pond, where we saw two Turkey Vultures soaring very high directly above us (spotted by sharp-eyed young keeners Luke and Keir), a soaring immature Bald Eagle, a Red-tailed Hawk, two drake American Wigeons, five Mallards (m/f pr + 3 drakes), a few hundreds of Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, a single Barn Swallow

(only two or three swallows seen all day, surprisingly), and mosquito-like adult midges (swallow food).

We saw lots of Song Sparrows all day, but right at our feet at the edge of the pond, an unseen Swamp Sparrow burst into very loud song; we chased it around, but it was a champion skulker.

Later someone from the trip e-mailed to ask if we saw the 20 Green-winged Teal and two Blue-winged Teals with them at Canard Pond.

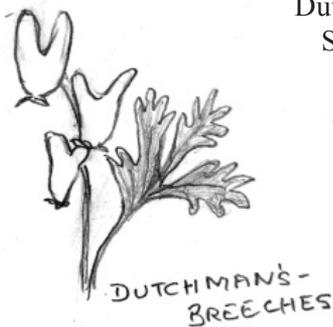
**BNS FIELD TRIP REPORT**  
**Cape Split**  
**by Sherman Williams & Jim Wolford**

May 20, 2006 – Despite a gorgeous sunny day that started cool but warmed up for the black flies, only about 10 people joined Sherman Williams and Jim Wolford. Quoting Jim, “I’m sorry that lots of people missed this really idyllic day not only out in the meadow at the tip, but the vegetation along the way was awesome!” At the beginning of the walk, the geology of the Cape Blomidon Peninsula was discussed and related to a coloured geology map of the area. Jim highlighted the very current issue concerning the proposed Digby Neck quarry for basalt and deep-water port, and how many critics think the entire North Mountain may be at risk, all for aggregate for export to New Jersey for road building (and Canada doesn’t even get royalties)

Everyone knows that this spring got going very early, so that we would have had to be out there in early May to see the best carpets of Spring Beauties against the brownish-tan forest floor before the greening. There were still oodles of Spring Beauties, but the forest floor was very green and the ferns and other vegetation were very advanced in both height and flowering.

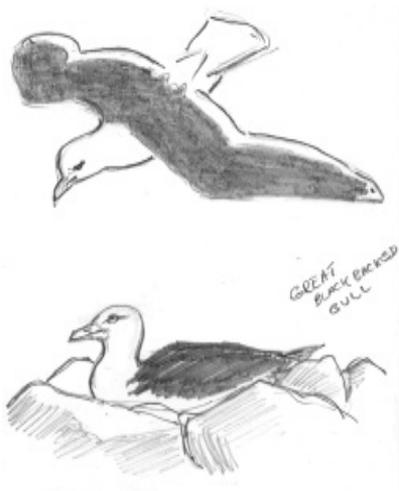
Here is the list Jim kept for the species found in flower, followed by a few that were very close to flowering: alder, Red-berried Elder, Goldthread,

Starflower, Blue Violets, common Dandelion, Wild Sarsaparilla (just starting to open flowers), Fly-honeysuckle, Toothwort, Purple (Red) Trillium, Spring Beauty, Striped Maple, Red Baneberry, Wood Buttercup (Small-flowered Crowfoot) (*Ranunculus abortivus*),



Dutchman's-breeches, Rosy Twisted Stalk, Skunk Currant, wild Strawberry, Gooseberry, Starry False Solomon's Seal. Almost in flower were Bunchberry, White (Green-flowering) Twisted Stalk, Solomon's-seal. Most awesome, besides the many species of ferns that were up quite high (Cinnamon, Wood, Lady, Ostrich, etc.), were the very lush clumps of flowering Rosy Twisted Stalk, Toothwort, and Purple Trilliums.

The entire effect of lushness at this time of year was something many of us were experiencing for the first time. Once reaching the open meadow at the tip of Cape Split, we first looked over the 50+ nesting pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls, and we quickly spotted at least three broods of downy chicks that were perhaps a week old. On the cliff ledges at least two Herring Gulls were spotted sitting on nests. An old raven nest was in a cleft in the cliff, but the lack of guano below it showed it had been either unused this year or unsuccessful. Two ravens were flying about, however, and may have had an unseen nest.



We also saw a Peregrine Falcon fly up from the cliff somewhere and then fly out of sight toward the north, possibly on a hunting trip for nestlings. Also at the tip we saw two migrant flocks of 15 to 20 or more Black-capped Chickadees; one flock took off and flew out of sight (perhaps northwest). Down in or on the water, we saw 60+ Gannets all flying west (about two-thirds adults, one-third

immatures), nine Common Eiders (3m, 6f), two Black Guillemots, a Double-crested Cormorant (which no longer nests on the Split rocks), a single seal (Harbour?), and a distant possible Harbour Porpoise. At the Split, sunshine surrounded us and the wind was nearly calm. Tide was near low and in the process of changing. While we ate lunch and watched the birds, the rush of the incoming tide increased its pace, becoming more audible as white-water currents began to surge around Cape Split and flow into the Minas Channel.

Along the trail, we heard at least four Winter Wrens, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, and Myrtle Warbler. We also saw fresh workings of a Pileated Woodpecker on the stump of a fallen tree (no doubt loaded with Carpenter Ants), a drumming male Downy Woodpecker, and a singing Bay-breasted Warbler – it was silhouetted against the sky, and almost no sound was heard when he sang. We saw and heard robins, but no other thrushes. We heard singing Purple Finches in at least two places, including the trailhead. Along the trail on the way back we encountered two or three small flocks of Black-capped Chickadees that were actively chattering and flitting about in the trees around us. Lastly, we also spotted a Spring Azure butterfly, a Seven-spotted Lady Beetle, a chipmunk, and a Red Squirrel.

**SEEN IN THE WILD**  
**Spring Birds 2006**  
by Mike McCall

Reports of this spring’s birding activity gives the impression that it was less interesting – from a “rare” or “unusual” bird perspective – than it has been for several years. The usual migrants appeared pretty well on time and the numbers don’t seem to be out of the ordinary. Except, perhaps, for the Chimney



Swifts. Opening night at RTNC was May 19, when 80 members of the airborne cast performed, but since then the numbers have been markedly lower than normal. Two Merlins made coordinated attacks on May 29, but swifts have been dealing with their dining habits for years, so it's doubtful that numbers are down because of them.

Jim Wolford's personal Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen in his yard several times in mid-April and attracted a lot of interest. Wolfville is also hosting several cardinals: Jake MacDonald's pair was feeding a new hatchling as early as April 23. Jake's yard must be particularly salubrious; "his" redbirds successfully raised three broods in 2005. Judy Tufts had hoped that the Great Egret seen near a pond on Church Street on May 11 would hang around for NAMC day two days later, but, alas, that was not to be. In Port Williams, Marg Russell heard a thump at a window, which led her to a female oriole on her deck. The bird flew away, but a male oriole's calling apparently went unheeded and the female was not seen again. On May 23, Maxine Hill in Wolfville saw and enjoyed her first Indigo Bunting, unable to believe how blue it was, and Glenys Gibson had a colour treat in Canning when two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed up on May 25. Speaking of colour, Lance Bishop reported a Purple Gallinule at Baxter's Harbour.



And finally, two raptor items. We are aware of five Bald Eagle nests in our area in which young are being raised, and a friend reports that a pair of Kestrels is busy feeding at least one young one in his New Minas back yard.

### **Dispatches from Abroad**

Since this issue's birding news is so thin I've cast around for something else in the birding line that might be of interest. Corporate scandal is much in the news these days, and since nothing sells more papers or makes law-abiding citizens think better of themselves than blasted reputations,

I looked for evidence of ornithological skulduggery in Kings County. Sadly (for me), the probity of local naturalists cannot be questioned. This was not the case abroad. Here is the tale.

In 1992, Pamela Rasmussen, a newly minted PhD, went to work at the Smithsonian Institution as assistant to the eminent ornithologist S. Dillon Ripley, who years earlier had co-written a ten-volume work on the birds of India. For his final oeuvre, the aging Ripley wanted to publish a definitive volume on the birds of India, where turbulent politics and localized record keeping had long prevented the full cataloguing of the avifauna. Because Ripley did not believe that photographs and eyewitness accounts were sufficiently diagnostic, he felt that museum specimens alone could be relied upon. But Ripley became ill, leaving Rasmussen to carry out the master's wish; she would thus be faced with the task of examining thousands of the 230,000 specimens collected in the 19th and early 20th centuries, now scattered in museums in the U.S., Great Britain, Europe, and India. The principal result of her work was the recently published and much admired *Birds of Southern Asia: The Ripley Guide*. A secondary outcome was the discovery of the greatest ornithological fraud ever perpetrated.

Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen was a career British soldier and avid ornithologist who between 1900 and 1925 had served in Africa, the Middle East, and India, collecting 25,000 specimens, which in 1954 he donated to the British Museum. Meinertzhagen's specimens had been the foundation of Ripley's earlier work on Indian birds. After all, Meinertzhagen's reputation as an international ornithologist had earned him honours and awards, a post as chairman of the British Ornithologists Club, and, eventually, a C.B.E. As it happened, Pamela Rasmussen was alerted to suspicions about the provenance of some of the colonel's skins; two Common Redpoll skins he claimed to have gathered in France in 1917 turned out to have been collected in Middlesex in 1884. If he was playing fast and loose with the truth about two redpolls, she wondered, were the rarer skins in his collection genuine?

In fact, many weren't; he had stolen skins from the British Museum and from the private collection of his friend Lord Rothschild and made up his own labels with false dates and locations. (Lord Rothschild, 63 at the time, sold 280,000 of his skins for \$225,000 in 1931 to pay off a peeress who

was blackmailing him over an old affair by threatening to tell his mummy). All 14 of Meinertzhagen's unique records for Indian species proved to be fraudulent. He was actually caught red-handed stealing skins in 1934 and 1935 and was questioned by Scotland Yard about pages missing from one of the museum's journals on parasitology, yet was made an honorary associate of the museum. In short, the old boys' club gathered around to protect one of their own, at the cost of scientific truth.

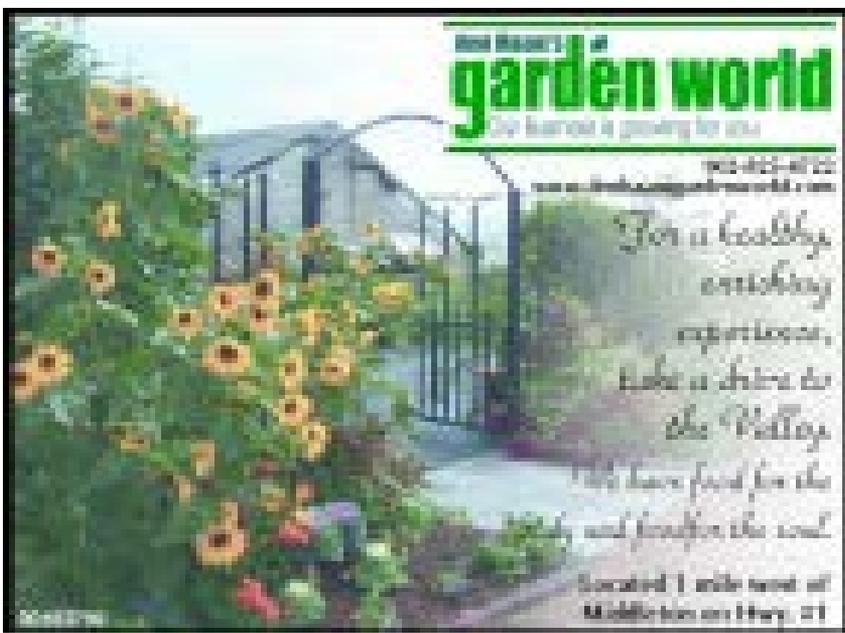
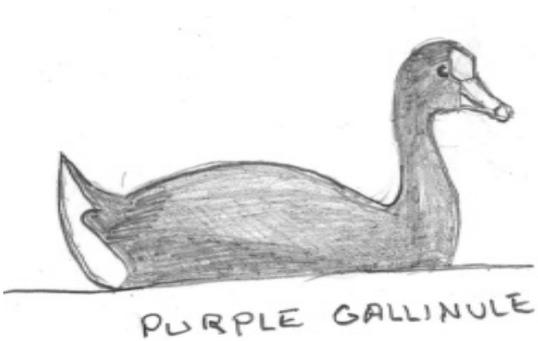
And it wasn't only his ornithological life that was not what he'd made it appear. Diaries proved to be full of invention; typed entries dated 1919 and in the '20s were proven (by analysis of paper and typewriter ribbon) to have been written in 1954. His wife, Anne, died of a gunshot wound while the two of them were supposedly practising with revolvers; it was ruled an accident, but there were no witnesses and no inquest was held. Anne was a serious ornithologist herself, and a theory has been advanced that she tumbled to his deceptions and threatened to expose him. Not long after her death (her will left Meinertzhagen the interest from her estate providing he did not remarry), he took under his protection a 17-year-old niece (he was 50 at the time), who became his protégé and lifelong companion. There are also strong suspicions about a ruse supposedly carried out by the colonel in Palestine in WWI, one that supposedly fooled the Turks into attacking the wrong place, allowing the British a much easier conquest of Jerusalem. It sounds so improbable that the word "hokey" popped into my head when I read it.

On the credit side, however, in his last years (he died in 1967), Meinertzhagen did publish *Birds of Arabia*, a work that has stood up well, and his memoirs, taken from his diaries, are important sources for historians of the First World War in British East Africa.

There is no doubt that Meinertzhagen made genuine contributions to ornithology, nor that he was a good soldier – daring, calculating, and fearless. But hubris apparently became his master. The good work he did sinks beneath the weight of the mountain of lies, deceptions, and thefts to which his ambition drove him.

The clubbiness of the establishment ornithologists in the U.K. has not changed much since Meinertzhagen's day. Rasmussen was chided by the reviewer for a leading British birding journal for excluding from her

book so many undoubtedly valid field operations. Maintaining the old boys' perspective, he sniffed, "Doubtless this reflects the fact that the authors are primarily museum workers." The French word *snobbisme* works equally well on the other side of the channel.



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## REPORT

# Nature Nova Scotia 2006 Annual Conference by Larry Bogan

- Do you know how much forest cover Nova Scotia has lost in the last decade?
- What were the forests of Nova Scotia like 400 years ago when they were pristine and undisturbed?
- What is the best time to cut hay and still allow Bobolinks time to raise their young?
- How was the population of Blanding's Turtles at Pleasant River discovered?
- What is the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, and what is its purpose?
- Is tidal power possible in the Bay of Fundy without building tidal barriers?
- What was life like for the Acadians farming and living beside the Annapolis Basin in the 17th and 18th centuries?
- How much salt marsh has been lost to dikes and other barriers, and can it be restored?

These are a few of the questions posed and answered at the weekend conference of Nature Nova Scotia (Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists) this year. The Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society hosted the conference on the weekend of May 26–28, 2006, at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre in Cornwallis. It was a time of educational presentations, field trips, and conversation. About 100 naturalists from all parts of Nova Scotia gathered that weekend to discuss and enjoy nature.

There were eight presentations and times for four field trips during the conference. The schedule is still available on the Nature Nova Scotia website <<http://naturens.ca>>. All the speakers were excellent, and the following is only a sample of what we learned.

Dave Colville, of Applied Geomatics Research Group at COGS <<http://agrg.cogs.ns.ca/>>, quantified the dramatic decrease in the forest cover in Western Nova Scotia from 1992 to present using satellite images. Over

the whole study area, a large fraction of the forests have been removed at an unprecedented rate. Dave also described a weather instrumentation network being setup across the Annapolis Valley to better characterize the microclimate from the Bay of Fundy to the Southern uplands.

Heather McLeod of St Mary's University described the natural environment as it existed before all the forests were disturbed, using writings from observers in the 17th century. The image is one of a marvellous natural environment with open forests of large trees and abundant wildlife. Alas, we will never see that again.

Brennan Caverhill, a student of Tom Herman's at Acadia, described his efforts and experiences with the community of Pleasant River in finding and preserving the largest population of Blanding's Turtles in Nova Scotia. By living in the community and involving the people with his project, Brennan found that they became interested in nature conservation and contributed immensely to the project.

During the weekend, more than a dozen static displays provided information about the activities of groups and organizations around the local area and the province.

The days started with an early morning (6 a.m.) field trip. We walked the shores of the Annapolis Basin listening to warblers in the trees and identifying wildflowers, while fog rolled in from the Basin. In the afternoons, the fog receded, to allow for the boat trips on the Basin. I chose to walk the rolling shoreline where the Melansons lived and worked in the 17th century (see <[www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/melanson/index\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/melanson/index_e.asp)>). The next afternoon, I watched ducks on ponds and listened to the burbling song of multitudes of Bobolinks on the Belleisle marshes.

The Federation's annual general meeting occupied a couple of hours on Sunday morning. In addition to the minutes and financial reports, Karen McKendry announced the new Young Naturalists Club, based in Halifax (see Nature Nova Scotia website) and Joanne Cook urged members to join the Standing Tall campaign (see <[www.novascotiaforests.ca/](http://www.novascotiaforests.ca/)>). The assembly responded by directing the board to work with the campaign in its effort to restore the Acadian forest in Nova Scotia. Doug Linzey was re-elected as secretary, and the member societies reported on their

activities during the past year.

Excellent weather occurred for the conference, and everyone agreed that the Annapolis Field Naturalists did a superb job on the conference this year. I remember, particularly, the last lunch shared with fellow naturalists, sitting in the sun on the deck of the conference centre overlooking the beautiful Annapolis Basin.

### **Links to topics covered at the conference**

#### **Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI)**

<[www.merseytobeatic.ca/](http://www.merseytobeatic.ca/)>

#### **Blanding's Turtle conservation and recovery**

<[www.speciesatrisk.ca/blandings/](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/blandings/)>

#### **Bobolinks on Belleisle marsh**

<[www.gov.ns.ca/NATR/wildlife/conserva/lateMaturing.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/NATR/wildlife/conserva/lateMaturing.pdf)>

#### **Recovery of Annapolis Basin salt marsh**

<[www.annapolisriver.ca/downloads/annapolissaltmarsh.pdf](http://www.annapolisriver.ca/downloads/annapolissaltmarsh.pdf)>

#### **Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve**

<[www.snbra.ca/reserves.htm](http://www.snbra.ca/reserves.htm)>

#### **Acadian forests**

<[www.novascotiaforests.ca/](http://www.novascotiaforests.ca/)>

<[www.ndpcaucus.ns.ca/Caucus/Reports/forestry\\_discussion\\_paper.pdf](http://www.ndpcaucus.ns.ca/Caucus/Reports/forestry_discussion_paper.pdf)>

## **SEEN IN THE WILD**

### **Strange Eagle**

June 13, 2006 – Mark Elderkin (NSDNR) reported a partial albino Bald Eagle foraging along the coast near Apple River, Cumberland County. Mark was about 250 feet off the ground in a helicopter looking for breeding sites of Peregrine Falcons when he saw the eagle flying below. It had a striking colour pattern: all-white head, tail, and back, while the wings were the normal dark chocolate brown. From his high vantage point, he couldn't see the colour pattern of the eagle's underparts.

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*(from a report on the Nature NS e-mail forum by Jim Wolford)*

**Wanted**  
**Naturalist Volunteers for**  
**BNS Young Naturalist Summer Camps**

We are pleased to announce that we will be carrying out a significantly expanded program of Naturalist Camps for children this summer. BNS will deliver the week-long camps in partnership with the Kentville, New Minas, and Hantsport recreation departments and Appletree Landing Children's Centre (Canning). Themes to be explored include Naturalist 101, Wetlands Day, Forest and Field, The Art of Conservation, and a field trip to Blue Beach, Blomidon Park, or Evangeline Beach.

After the success of last summer's weekly Naturalist Day pilot program with the Town of Wolfville, the town is offering a new eight-week Junior Naturalist Camp, with advice and support from BNS.

We are seeking the help of BNS members and other naturalists. Your participation is essential in providing an inspiring and memorable experience for 600 beginning young naturalists. Please consider spending an hour, morning, afternoon, or a whole day this summer exploring the outdoors and sharing your knowledge with the next generation of naturalists.

Please visit the BNS website <[www.blomidonnaturalists.ca](http://www.blomidonnaturalists.ca)> to view a July/August calendar listing camp dates, themes, and locations. If you can help, please contact me (see info below).

We have received generous support from community and government sources, including Environment Canada eco-action fund, NSDNR, New Minas and Wolfville Rotary Clubs, Kings County Economic Development Agency, Minas Pulp and Paper, and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens.

Charlane Bishop  
Naturalist coordinator  
BNS Young Naturalist Program  
E-mail: <[charlanebishop@gmail.com](mailto:charlanebishop@gmail.com)>  
Tel: 902 542-2217

# Eastern Annapolis Valley Weather

## Spring 2006

by Larry Bogan, Cambridge Station, NS

	Mean daily max. temp (deg. C)	Mean daily min. temp. (deg. C)	Mean daily temp. (deg. C)	Total precip. (mm)	Bright sunshine (%)
<b>March</b> (45 yr. average)	4.7 (3.3)	-3.5 (-5.2)	0.5 (-0.9)	12 (11)	149 (135)
<b>April</b> (45 yr. average)	11.0 (9.2)	1.4 (-0.1)	6.2 (4.8)	87 (90)	149 (155)
<b>May</b> (45 yr. average)	15.0 (13.2)	7.2 (4.9)	15.1 (10.6)	75 (97)	179 (199)
<b>Season</b> (45 yr. average)	11.5 (9.5)	1.7 (-0.1)	6.5 (4.8)	174 (228)	475 (495)

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

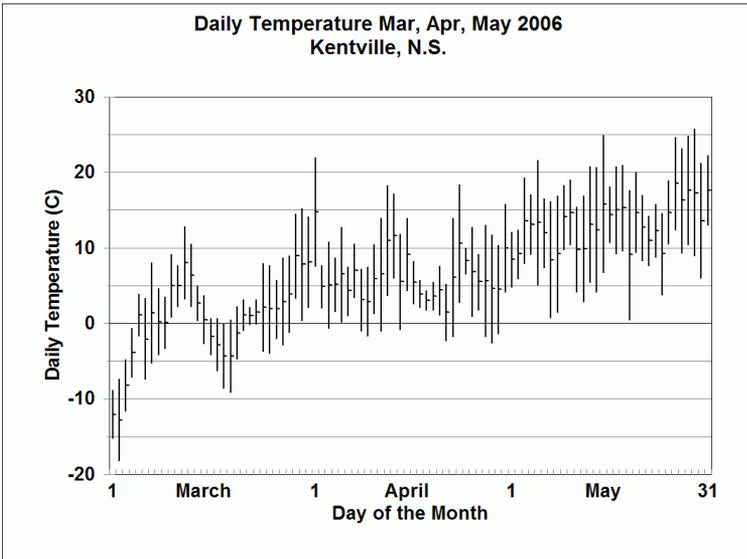
The spring was warm, dry, and sunny.

### Temperature

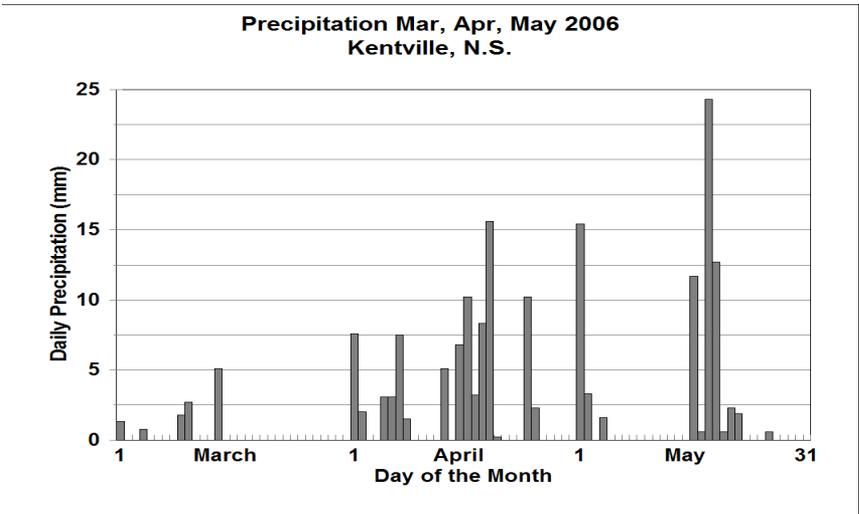
All three months had increasingly above-average temperatures as spring progressed – 1.5°C, 1.6°C, and 2.5°C, respectively, for March, April, and May. As a result, the whole season was 1.8°C warmer than average. You will see on the temperature chart that on the first of March it was quite cool, but the days quickly warmed and the 10 cm of snow we had on the ground all melted in a week. After March the temperatures stayed high, only infrequently dropping slightly below freezing.

### Precipitation

Our spring was dry mainly because March had only 12 mm of precipitation when one expects something like 110 mm. April had near normal precipitation, nicely spread out over the month. In May we had sporadic



rainfall, and gardens got quite dry. Only 75 mm fell of the expected 97 mm, mostly in the middle of the month. The dry March was responsible for the deficit of over 40% of the precipitation for the season. It appears the weather gods are attempting to compensate for the dry spring. As I write this, we are getting some of the much needed rain, and my rain gauge has measured about 95 mm of precipitation in the first week of June.



## **Sunshine**

As we progressed through spring, the conditions changed from being very dry and somewhat sunny to more moist and cloudy. March was above average in sunshine, but May was down 20 hours from the average. As a result, the sunniness of the spring was just about average.

## **Comment**

The information used here is from the Horticulture Research Centre in Kentville. Most climate data is available online from Environment Canada at [www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climateData/canada\\_e.html](http://www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climateData/canada_e.html), but does not include daily average wind speed or bright sunshine hours.

# **What's in the Sky?**

## **by Roy Bishop**

New Moon: June 25, July 25, August 23, September 22

Full Moon: July 11, August 9, September 7, October 7

Summer begins June 21 at 09:26 a.m. ADT, autumn, September 23  
at 01:03 a.m. ADT

## **The Naked-eye Planets**

Mercury is visible during June, very low in the northwest evening twilight about 10:15 p.m., below the stars Pollux and Castor. On the evenings of June 27 and 28, Mercury, Saturn, Mars, and the slender crescent Moon lie within 16 degrees of one another (look about 10 p.m.). On June 27 Mercury is below the Moon, with Saturn and Mars (in that order) to the left of the Moon. On June 28 Mars is below the Moon, with Saturn and Mercury (in that order) to the lower right of the Moon.

Venus continues to be visible very low in the east-northeast morning twilight, but by late September this “morning star” becomes lost in the dawn.

Mars is low in the western evening sky in June, but by late July it vanishes into the evening twilight prior to passing behind the Sun in October.

Jupiter is very bright but low in the southwestern sky on summer evenings. It vanishes into the evening twilight during October.

Saturn is not easily visible this summer. It passes behind the Sun on August 7 and emerges into the dawn sky late that month. On the mornings of August 26 and 27 Saturn and Venus are close together, low in the dawn twilight.

### **A Sublime Sight on July 20**

In the eastern sky that morning the waning crescent Moon passes across the Pleiades star cluster. Hope for a clear sky, and use binoculars or a small telescope to best experience this unusual sight. As the Moon moves slowly eastward in its orbit it alternately covers and uncovers some of the stars of the Pleiades. The show lasts from about 3:30 a.m. until the sky becomes too bright around 5 a.m.

### **Nova East**

Nova East is the annual star party hosted by the Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), the Nova Central Astronomy Club (NCAC) in Truro, and the Minas Astronomy Group (MAG) of Wolfville. Nova East is held in late summer around the time of the new Moon at Smileys Provincial Park near Windsor. This year Nova East is on the last weekend in August, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th. Viewing of the Sun and the nighttime sky for the public occurs on Saturday. If you wish to attend all events, including the talks and workshops, check the website <[halifax.rasc.ca/ne/](http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne/)> for more information and registration, and for reserving a campsite at the park. Anyone can attend. Families with children are especially invited. Last year more than 100 people attended Nova East.

### **Warmer in Summer**

Why is summer warmer than winter? A common misconception is that Earth is closer to the Sun in summer, causing the warmer days. However, Earth is closest to the Sun early in January (on January 4 this year) and will be furthest from the Sun on July 3. The variation in distance (only about 3 percent) augments the seasonal temperatures in the southern hemisphere, since January is midsummer and July midwinter in Australia. But even in Australia distance from the Sun is not the main cause of the seasonal temperature variations.

The main cause is the 23-degree tilt of Earth's equator to the plane of its orbit. As a consequence, in temperate latitudes the height of the Sun in the noontime sky and the number of hours the Sun is above the horizon each day varies dramatically during the year. In Canada the Sun is highest in the sky and daylight hours are a maximum in late June. In late December the Sun is lowest and the days are shortest. Both the angle of the Sun's rays striking the ground and the number of hours per day it is shining make summer warmer than winter. In summary: tilt is the reason, not distance.

You might expect the warmest days to be in late June and the coldest days in late December, since it is at the solstices that the tilt geometry is extreme. However, the tilt determines only heat input. Temperature is affected by both heat input and heat loss. Extreme temperatures occur when heat input equals heat loss. Not until a month or so after the solstices are these equal. Thus it is coldest in late January, warmest in late July. Similarly, it is the alternating imbalance between input and loss that makes late September warmer than late March, despite the angle of sunlight and hours of daylight being the same at both times of the year.

In tropical latitudes the tilt shifts the noontime Sun the same amount as it does in Canada, but the shift takes place high in the sky near the overhead point. Thus the angle of the Sun's rays does not vary appreciably from perpendicular to the ground (a mathematician would say that the sine curve does not change much for angles near 90 degrees), and the length of daylight remains near 12 hours per day year round. Hence seasonal temperature variations are minimal near the equator.

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## Blomidon Naturalists Society

# 2006 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

Ed Sulis  
107 Canaan Avenue, Kentville, NS B4N 2A7

No.	Membership classification	Price	Total
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_____	Junior (under 16 years)	1.00	\$ _____
_____	Federation of NS Naturalists membership	5.00	\$ _____
_____	Tax-deductible donation		\$ _____
_____	2006 BNS calendar (\$12 + postage)	13.50	\$ _____
_____	<i>Natural History of Kings County</i> (\$10 + post.)	12.00	\$ _____
_____	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 of the current year**

## **Sources of Local Natural History**

**(compiled by Blomidon Naturalists Society)**

<b>Information</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Home</b>
Amphibians & Reptiles	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-9204
Astronomy	Roy Bishop		542-3992
	Sherman Williams	542-3598	542-5104
	Larry Bogan		678-0446
Birds – General	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427
	Richard Stern	678-4742	678-1975
	Gordon & Judy Tufts		542-7800
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-9204
	Jean Timpa		542-5678
Butterflies & Moths	Jean Timpa		542-5678
Fish	NS Dept of Natural Resources	679-6091	
Flora – General Fungi	Ruth Newell	585-1355	542-2095
	Nancy Nickerson	679-5333	542-9332
Hawks & Owls	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427
Indian Prehistory & Archeology	James Legge		542-3530
Mosses & Ferns			
Mammals	Tom Herman	585-1469	678-0383
Rocks & Fossils	Geology Dept Acadia U.	542-2201	
Seashore & Marine Life	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-9204
	Michael Brylinsky	585-1509	582-7954

