

# Blomidon Naturalists Society



SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

Volume 41 · Number 1





*Grey Jay.* RICK WHITMAN

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❖ THE BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY ❖

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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*

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George Alliston 542-3651

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Denyse Kyle 365-2504

Jean Timpa 542-5678

Barry Yoell 542-9240

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**BNS Newsletter**

The Blomidon Naturalists Society Newsletter is published quarterly (March, June, October, & December) by The Blomidon Naturalists Society.

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**Editorial Board**

*Chair:* Jean Timpa (542-5678)

*Committee:* George Alliston, Denyse Kyle

*Production:* Doug Linzey, Gary Dunfield, Andrew Steeves

*Distribution:* Denyse Kyle, Ed Sulis, Mary Anne Sulis

Typeset in Rod McDonald's Laurentian & Slate Sans by Andrew Steeves. Printed offset and bound at Gaspereau Press, Kentville, Nova Scotia.

THE BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 2350

WOLFVILLE, NS B4P 2N5

*www.blomidonnaturalists.ca*

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BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY  
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:

1 – 25 GASPEREAU AVENUE  
WOLFVILLE, NS B4P 2C5  
*jtimpa@ns.sympatico.ca*

Digital photographs should be submitted to  
*doug@fundymud.com*

**Submission deadline for Summer:  
May 30, 2014**

## *Out and About*

by Jean Timpa, editor

THIS winter has been altogether too long and just plain too much of lots of negative weather. You can't but help knowing what I mean unless you live far away from here, and even that might not help! We have a dearth of concerns environmentally but are not supposed to express those thoughts any more because King Midas' nerves are not up to it. He is not in the mood to put up with tree huggers and Monarch lovers with left wings and so has invoked new rules about our sinful ways. Here are some jollies instead, which were very difficult to find and may not have much relevance to BNS.

I was encouraged to hear that our haddock stocks on George's Bank are now back to where they once were. These wonderful, tasty fish have not made a complete comeback in other areas in which they once existed, but with continued proper management maybe there will be good news from those areas soon. One can hope that levels and size of other species, especially cod and native salmon, will come back too.

The snow will, hopefully, melt gently to fill our wells and water tables. Apparently, when snowflakes come down they pick up nitrogen, and so it seems at least to be a useful partial fertilizer source wherever it lands, at no cost all over Nova Scotia.

I saw on CTV for several nights recently – and I am sure many of you did too – that a Nova Scotia lady on a whale-watching boat off Baja, California, was slapped in the face by a rowdy Gray Whale who came close to the boat. Or was it the other way around because the boat is not supposed to be too close to the animals? Slapped her across the face, but only gently and merely surprised but did not hurt her. What was it trying to say? If she was there on a vacation and

coming back here, wouldn't that make a wonderful talk for us, with videos of the encounter? The title of her whale of a tail/tale could be The Biggest Slap in the Face Anyone Ever Received! How many tonnes were behind that blow? More than George Forman, Ali, or Joe Palooka could withstand. Good thing it was a graze. She only turned slightly and laughed.

Our best news is that we in BNS are about to enter in our 40th year of existence, so Happy Birthday to all of us and the past members who created our group and kept us moving along at a substantial and steady rate all these years, taking on all sorts of challenges to keep us puttering along if not a little faster sometimes. Special events are being planned and will be announced at meetings, on our website, on Twitter, and in future Newsletters.

We also want to encourage members from the Halifax Field Naturalists, the Nova Scotia Bird Society, and other nature societies that may have been sadly mothballed to come out to our events – always, but especially to join us this year for partying. Perhaps we can help revive some of your groups? Miriam and Gini take note! Bring a couple of carloads if you can. There were once groups in the Chignecto, Antigonish, and Barrington areas. Ghosts of tree huggers past are welcome to come introduce yourselves! We need to talk.

As planning editor of the Newsletter, I would love to have you reminisce about your last 40 years, whether or not it was all here in sight of Blomidon or partially somewhere else. What changes have you seen the natural world, which you so obviously love? Any old photos from back then would be appreciated, too. They can be sent directly to Doug ([doug@fundymud.com](mailto:doug@fundymud.com)).

In the meantime, read or re-read 1984 and *Animal Farm*!



## *Board of Directors Report*

By John Owen, BNS president

**T**HE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on Monday, November 18, 2013. The existing slate of executive and board members was reinstated for another one-year term. The treasurer's financial report was received and appeared in the Winter 2013 issue of this Newsletter.

Your board had a regular meeting on February 20, 2014. The following is a summary of the meeting and discussions.

**BNS BURSARY:** No suitable candidates were selected for the bursary. Further discussions with Acadia are planned to ascertain that the bursary be communicated more widely at Acadia to increase the number of applicants.

**BNS 40TH ANNIVERSARY:** In 2014 BNS will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. The celebration will be a family picnic at the Kentville Research Station to be held on a Saturday in July or August. Once the date has been established the BNS membership will be notified.

**FINANCE, MEMBERSHIP, GREEN DRAGON PROGRAM:** The current balance of the BNS bank account is \$12,600, and there is \$72,900 in the endowment fund. Members have been slow to submit dues, but we expect to have 165 members.

As reported last month, the board felt it was prudent to review the Green Dragon program to determine if it meets the objectives of the Blomidon Naturalists Society and if it should continue under the existing or a revised format. The program will not be run in 2014 in its current format, mainly due to finances and recruiting suitable

leaders. Plans are to contact the Young Naturalists Club in the Valley and have a representative attend the next BNS board meeting to determine if BNS can achieve its objectives by supporting the Young Naturalists.

**TWITTER ACCOUNT:** BNS has recently established a Twitter account (@BNS1974), which currently has 60 followers.

The next BNS board meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2014.



BRIAN MCKIBBIN

## Upcoming Events

We will be holding several special events in 2014 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of BNS. Watch the Newsletter, our website ([www.blomidonnaturalists.ca](http://www.blomidonnaturalists.ca)), the BNS and NatureNS e-mail lists, BNS Twitter feed (@bns1974), and other local media for information as the schedule of events unfolds. We will also be holding a special speaker series throughout 2014 – *BNS: 40 Years and Counting* – featuring local experts reflecting on changes observed since the early days of BNS and providing vision for the decades to come.

### MEETINGS

*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., usually on the third Monday of each month, in Room BAC241 of the Beveridge Arts Centre of Acadia University on the corner of Main Street and Highland Avenue, Wolfville. Parking is available off Highland Avenue, on Acadia Street, and at the parking area around the Robie Tufts Nature Centre. Everyone is welcome.*

### 👉 BNS: 40 YEARS AND COUNTING 👈

**Monday, April 21, 2014** – *The Evolution of Birding Culture: Examples from Nova Scotia and Elsewhere*, with Ian McLaren.

Ian McLaren is an emeritus professor at Dalhousie University's biology department, which he joined in 1966. He has been a field naturalist (admittedly focused on birds) since age 12, but was educated (at McGill and Yale) into a professional life as a marine ecologist, working on the life histories and population biology of marine plankton, seals, and other marine life.

**Monday, May 19, 2014** – *Old-growth Forest Remnants in the Maritimes*, with Jamie Simpson.

Jamie has a background in biology, forestry, and law. He has worked as a forester, arborist, writer, and advocate for sensible forestry practices. He has received awards from the Nova Scotia Environmental Network and the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters for his conservation work, as well as the Environmental Law award at Dalhousie University. Jamie is the author of *Restoring the Acadian Forest: A Guide to Forest Stewardship for Woodlot Owners in the Maritimes* and *Journeys Through Old Forests: A Narrative Guide to Eastern Old-Growth Forests*.

**Monday, June 16, 2014** – *The Kentville Ravine: Past, Present and Future*, with Ken J. Harrison.

Ken worked as a biologist with Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service in Fredericton for more than 30 years. His work centred on forest disease identification and introduced forest pests. Ken currently lives in the Annapolis Valley.

#### FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER NATURE EVENTS

**Saturday, April 5, 2014** – *Amethyst Cove Rockhounding and Photography*. Building from the success of the first trip with BNS in October, 2013, Fundy Rocks member Chris Sheppard (@ScotianHiker) and Don Crowell will join BNS for a second rockhounding and photography trip to the Cape Split area. This trip will comprise a descent into Amethyst Cove and a trek along the shore to Amethyst Cove proper. Meet at the parking lot to the Cape Split trail at 9 a.m. This will be a strenuous hike and appropriate gear is required for the steep climb down and up: appropriate gear includes good boots and good gloves for gripping ropes. Chris will check on conditions, and a decision will be made by 7 a.m. on the day of the hike as to whether the hike will proceed. Notification will be posted on [www.facebook.com/FundyRocks](http://www.facebook.com/FundyRocks) or you can contact Dave at 542-3390.

**Saturday, April 12, 2014** – *Herbert River Canoe Trip*. Leader: Patrick Kelly (472-2322, patrick.kelly@dal.ca). The Herbert River is fairly easy, with lots of water at this time of the year, and it covers a great variety of terrain. There may be spots where it is running a bit faster, or where there are new obstructions from the trees, etc. that have come down over the winter, so we may have to wade in a few places or stop to scout out a bend. The trip will be four to five hours long, depending on our pace. Bring life jackets, canoe or kayak, and paddles. If you have access to a life jacket but not a canoe, there will likely be extra room in one of the canoes. Check with the leader to be sure.

Meet at the Newport rink parking lot at 9 a.m. Take Exit 5 from Highway 101 and follow Highway 14 east for about 10 km to the village of Brooklyn. At the cenotaph, keep left and follow Highway 14 north for just under 1 km. At the intersection (Petro-Canada station), Highway 14 turns right. Continue straight on Highway 215 (Note the YIELD sign. You do NOT have the right of way!) The rink is on the right as soon as you exit the intersection. We will be leaving some cars there as we will actually be putting into the river farther upstream. Rain date: Sunday, April 14. Please register with the trip leader so you can be notified if there is a change of plans.

**Saturday, April 19, 2014** – *Clean Across Nova Scotia*. Joint event with the Friends of The Kentville Ravine Society. Last year nearly 15,000 Bluenosers participated in this province-wide community clean-up (see the map of 2013 participants here: <http://clean.ns.ca/programs/waste/cleanacrossns/clean-up-locations/>). This is as simple as choosing a location and showing up. We will register a BNS/FKRS team this year to clean up Elderkin Brook just north of Prospect Road, Kentville. Over the years Elderkin Brook was accessed from this location and used for camping, picnics etc., and considerable litter remains. If interested in joining the effort, or if you have a vehicle that can be used to help transport garbage from the site, please contact Ed Sulis (edmasulis@ns.sympatico.ca) or James Churchill (jamesLchurchill@gmail.com). Otherwise, meet us at the Exit 12 Big Stop at 9 a.m.

**Saturday, May 10, 2014** – *Nova Scotia Spring Migration Count*. Annapolis Valley coordinators: *Hants West*, Patrick Kelly (Falmouth) – 472-2322 (patrick.kelly@dal.ca); *Kings County*, Larry Bogan – 678-0446 (larry@bogan.ca); *Kings County (Kingston area)*, Sheila Hulford – 765-4023.

Anyone interested in helping coordinate Annapolis County or parts thereof as a regional representative would be most welcomed. Contact Chris Pepper – 483-6693 (cpepper@ymail.com).

**Sunday, May 11, 2014** – *40th Anniversary Cape Split Hike 1*. This will be a joint trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists. Take a trip to Cape Split with leaders Jim Wolford (542-9204, jimwolford@eastlink.ca) and Patrick Kelly (472-2322, patrick.kelly@dal.ca). There will be interpretive stops along the way. Spring wildflowers and birds should be abundant. This walk requires good footwear, and people are reminded to stay away from the edge of the cliff. You should bring water with you and a lunch, as we usually do not get to the end of the trail until lunch time. Meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 8:15 a.m. or at the start of the trail in Scott's Bay at 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 17, 2014** – *Birding in Kings County Forests* – Rick Whitman (542-2917, rick.whitman@ns.sympatico.ca). This joint trip with the Nova Scotia Bird Society will focus on forest species at two locations south of Wolfville. The Greenfield location is a wonderful mature coniferous forest. The Peck Meadow location is also attractive with more hardwoods. There are uncommon species possible at both locations. We'll take our time and make a day of it, but the Greenfield section may be adequate for some. We'll eat lunch there. Meet at the wharf parking lot off the east end of Front Street in Wolfville at 9 a.m. Dress warmly, wear waterproof boots, and bring a lunch. No rain date. Drizzle or light showers will be tolerated.

**Sunday, 18 May, 2014** – *Blomidon Provincial Park*. Jim Wolford (542-9204, jimwolford@eastlink.ca) will lead a walk from the campground about 2 km to a seasonal pond that has the very rare and

beautiful fairy shrimp. We will also see other pond life, spring plants and flowers, and birds. We will visit a lookoff toward Five Islands Park, across the Minas Basin. BNS members can meet and carpool from the Wolfville Waterfront at 9:15 a.m. or meet Jim at the Blomidon Park registration building at 10 a.m. The trip will finished by 1 p.m.

**Monday, May 19, 2014** – *Historic Hants County*. Leader: Suzanne Borkowski (488-0345, [suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca)). Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of Mount Uniacke House. Take Exit 3 off Highway 101 and drive approximately 8 km along Route 1 toward Windsor. Uniacke House is on your left. The main gate will be locked, but the second gate (coming from Halifax) will be open. We'll start by exploring some of the grounds at Mt. Uniacke, then continue along back-country roads through Hants County. Bring a lunch to be enjoyed at Smileys Park. Trip may last until 4 p.m. (option to leave early). No storm date for this trip.

**May 21, 25, 29, and June 2, 2014** – *Maritimes SwiftWatch Spring Migration Roost Counts*. Maritimes SwiftWatch participants will count Chimney Swifts at roost sites during spring migration on these dates. This is part of a national monitoring effort to understand Chimney Swift population trends. Nova Scotians are asked to continue searching for, and reporting, active nests and roosts in both anthropogenic sites (e.g., chimneys) and natural areas. To share a Chimney Swift sighting, report a new roost or nest site, or help monitor an existing site, please contact Maritimes SwiftWatch ([marswifts@birdscanada.org](mailto:marswifts@birdscanada.org), 1-506-364-5196), or consider sharing your sightings and roost counts on their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Maritimes.Swifts](http://www.facebook.com/Maritimes.Swifts) – omit specific address information if posting here), Nature-Counts ([http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/mar\\_swift/](http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/mar_swift/)), or eBird. For more information, see <http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/acswifts/>.

**Saturday, May 24, 2014** – *40th Anniversary Cape Split Hike 2*. Patrick Kelly (472-2322, [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca)) and Sherman Williams

(542-5104, [shermwms@eastlink.ca](mailto:shermwms@eastlink.ca)) will lead the trip. Meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 8:15 a.m. or at the start of the trail in Scots Bay at 9 a.m.

**Friday, May 30, to Sunday, June 1, 2014** – *Nature Nova Scotia Conference and Annual General Meeting*. Held at the Gaelic College in St. Anns, Cape Breton, this year's event will include a hike to the Usige Ban waterfalls and a boat trip to look at seabed creatures. The Young Naturalists Club of Nova Scotia will be participating. Additional details are available on the Nature Nova Scotia website ([www.naturens.ca/node/106](http://www.naturens.ca/node/106)).

**Saturday, June 14, 2014** – *Herbert River Trail*. Leader: Patrick Kelly (494-3294 (w) 472-2322 (h), [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca)). This easy walk follows the rail bed of the former train line that ran from Windsor to Truro via Kennetcook. It is a great walk for spotting both birds and floodplain vegetation. Meet at the Newport Rink parking lot at 9 a.m. Take Exit 5 from Highway 101 and follow Highway 14 east for about 10 km to the village of Brooklyn. At the cenotaph, keep left and follow Highway 14 north for just under 1 km. At the intersection (Petro-Canada station) Highway 14 turns right. Continue straight on Highway 215 (Note the YIELD sign. you do NOT have the right of way!) The rink is on the right as soon as you exit the intersection. Bring insect repellent. We should be done by lunch. No storm date for this trip.

**Sunday, June 15, 2014** – *New Birders' Walk*. Windsor. Leader: Patrick Kelly (494-3294 (w) 472-2322 (h), [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca)). Pre-registration is required! This trip is geared for those who have always had an interest in birdwatching but were not sure how it was actually done. Bring binoculars and field guides, if you have them. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot for the Windsor Tourist Bureau, which is just north of Exit 6 (Water Street) on Highway 101. We should be 1–2 hours and will visit a few different types of habitat in the town of Windsor. No storm date for this trip.

**Saturday, June 22, 2014** (tentative date) – *Marsh Madness!* Miner’s Marsh – an inter-generational bioblitz in downtown Kentville, led by several local wildlife and wetland experts. Contact James Churchill (681-2374, jamesLchurchill@gmail.com). Starting early in the morning we will explore the biological richness of the marsh, including aquatic life, mammals, birds, and plants using binoculars, nets, hand lenses, microscopes, and field guides. During a dusk walk we will search for amphibians, bats, and nocturnal marsh birds such as Sora. Participants will learn about finding, observing, and identifying wetland species and ecologically responsible interaction with nature. GPS units will be available to “geo-locate” the species we find. This event is child- and family-friendly. Watch [www.blomidonnaturalists.ca/marshMadness](http://www.blomidonnaturalists.ca/marshMadness) for final event details.

**Saturday, July 26, 2014** – *Swift Night Out*. 7:00–9:15 p.m. Our second annual evening of Chimney Swift celebration during Wolfville’s Mud Creek Days. The night will begin with talks by Chimney Swift experts at a nearby venue, and at dusk we will witness the spectacular nightly roost as the endangered swifts chitter in the sky and dive into the Robie Tufts Nature Centre chimney (downtown Wolfville) for the night. Official counting of birds will begin around 8:10 p.m. Watch [www.blomidonnaturalists.ca/swiftNightOut](http://www.blomidonnaturalists.ca/swiftNightOut) for final event details.

**Saturday, August 2, 2014** – *Milkweed and Monarchs* – Larry and Alison Bogan. Meet at the Bogan house (6539 Brooklyn Street, Brooklyn Corner) at 10 a.m. or meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 9:30 a.m. to travel to Brooklyn Corner together. During the trip, participants will look at the Common Milkweed in the Bogans’ field and survey for eggs and caterpillars of the Monarch butterfly. Alison and Larry will explain the process of raising the Monarchs from egg to adult and how they tag the adults for migration. We will also look for other butterflies that might be in the field. The field is a Monarch Waystation, and the Bogans will explain how an area can get such a designation. If any one wishes to transplant milkweed to their garden to make habitat for Monarchs, bring a plastic bag to carry some roots.

Alison has a butterfly garden and will show and describe the flowers and plants there.

**Saturday, August 9, 2014** – *BNS 40th Anniversary Picnic Celebration*. We will be holding this special event at the Kentville Ravine picnic grounds – a special place for BNS over the past four decades. There will be a full day of activities planned. Stay tuned for details!

**Saturday, August 16, 2014** – *Minas Basin Shorebirds*. Leader Rick Whitman (542-2917, rick.whitman@ns.sympatico.ca). This field trip will focus on the shorebirds that visit the Minas Basin to fatten up on mud shrimp and other foods on their way south. We should see at least 4–6 species. We may also see Peregrine Falcons, in which case we'll see fewer shorebirds. We will meet at Evangeline Beach and walk toward East Point at North Grand Pre. High tide this date is 6:20 p.m. and will be 13.0 m high. The birds should be very busily feeding during our walk. Meet at Evangeline Beach, North Grand Pre, at 1 p.m. Some of the walk will be in the mud/silt areas. Drizzle and very light showers will be tolerated. There is no rain date.

**Friday, August 22–Sunday, August 24, 2014** – *NOVA EAST 2014*. 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. *NOVA EAST* is hosted jointly by the Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Minas Astronomy Group. More information can be found at <http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne>.

#### OTHER EVENTS TO WATCH FOR IN 2014

*Citizen Science Night* – a night to showcase and foster our DIY spirits (inspired by our annual Show and Tell nights)

# *The Blomidon Naturalists Society – 40 Years*

by Roy Bishop

## INTRODUCTION

THE year 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of the Blomidon Naturalists Society. Few volunteer groups survive that long. BNS has several things in its favour, not the least of which are the richness and beauty of nature in the Wolfville area.

You are reading one person's summary of BNS, its history, and its accomplishments to date. I mention the names of several individuals without whose support and dedication BNS would not be celebrating four decades. To limit the length of the article, I have left out the names of many others who have contributed to BNS, such as the secretaries, treasurers, vice-presidents, directors, most members of the Newsletter editorial board, and those who assist in the distribution of the Newsletter. For those omissions, I apologize. Any other significant omissions are entirely my fault.

## THE BEGINNING

Bob Lamberton, an instructor in the classics department at Acadia University in 1973–74, was the first to promote the idea of a Wolfville-based natural history society. Bob had a strong interest in birds (he served as president of the Nova Scotia Bird Society in 1975) and was a good friend of one of Wolfville's most able naturalists, the late John Erskine. Early in 1974 Bob circulated a notice asking for the names of those who would be interested in joining a natural history group.

On March 5 that year, an organizational meeting was held in Acadia's Wheelock Lounge. Among the 59 present at that meeting and who are still BNS members in 2014 were Peter Austin-Smith, Roy Bishop, Larry Bogan, Jean Timpa, and Sherman Williams. Also present were Cyril Coldwell, John and Rachel Erskine, and Ellis Gertridge.

Roy Bishop and Larry Bogan wrote the BNS constitution four days later, on March 9. On that day, in sight of Cape Blomidon, the society was named, and the following oft-quoted words were written:

*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.*

That broad mandate is a second thing favouring the Blomidon Naturalists Society.

#### THE EARLY YEARS

The first public meeting of BNS was held on March 26, 1974, at the Wolfville High School, with Sherman Bleakney as the featured speaker. His topic was "An Introduction to the Diverse Habitats of Kings County." The first of the society's many field trips occurred three days later, an astronomy evening at Roy Bishop's home.

Despite a promising start, a low point for BNS occurred a few years later, in 1978 and 1979, when attendance at meetings became embarrassingly small, and few members were willing to serve on the executive. Fortunately, the pleas of Larry Bogan and Jean Timpa were heard. When Peter Austin-Smith accepted the presidency in March 1980, he did not mince words:

*When the BNS was formed, it was not viewed as just another organization offering a series of monthly seminars for a largely passive membership! It was, and is, intended to be a fully active, strongly*

*motivated group composed of members having a common interest in natural history. Mere dues-paying members are not enough! Active participation is required from all of us if the BNS is to be restored to full health.*

That wake-up call from the president's chair hit a nerve. BNS recovered to become the largest, most active natural history organization in Atlantic Canada.

#### MEETINGS

The central activity of the society is its public meetings, usually held on the third Monday of each month, except for July and August. During the first three years, meetings were held at the Wolfville High School, but in 1977 the venue was moved to Acadia University, where it continues to this day. Acadia provides a meeting room at no charge to BNS, a much-appreciated benefit for the society.

Meetings include reports of natural history sightings and a special speaker. Often the February meeting is the annual Show & Tell night, at which members are invited to present photos and other items of interest to fellow naturalists.

For posterity, and to highlight the wide spectrum of natural history promoted by BNS, here is a selection of 41 of more than 350 talks sponsored by the society from 1974 to 2014, one from each year, with dates, speakers, and topics. On the dates that they addressed BNS, the oldest and the youngest speakers appear at the beginning and the end of the list, respectively. Some individuals have spoken to BNS several times but are cited here only once:

- 1974: SEPTEMBER 16 – Robie Tufts, *Birds and Their Ways*
- 1975: MAY 27 – Albert Roland, *Native Plants of Nova Scotia*
- 1976: FEBRUARY 23 – Donald Dodds, *Atlantic Salmon*
- 1977: DECEMBER 5 – Tony Erskine, *The Boreal Forest and Its Birds*
- 1978: FEBRUARY 20 – Peter Austin-Smith, *Berries for Birds*
- 1979: MAY 14 – Andy Dean, *Natural History of a Woodlot*

- 1980: APRIL 21 – Jim Wolford, *Springtime Amphibian Activity*
- 1981: FEBRUARY 16 – Tom Herman, *Some Mammals of Nova Scotia*
- 1982: MAY 17 – Ken Harrison, *Mushrooms*
- 1983: JUNE 20 – Reid Dexter, *Nova Scotia Weather*
- 1984: JUNE 18 – Mike Dadswell, *Fishes of Minas Basin*
- 1985: SEPTEMBER 16 – Roy Bishop, *Halley's Comet*
- 1986: MAY 12 – Gary Saunders, *Trees of Nova Scotia*
- 1987: NOVEMBER 16 – John Gilhen, *Amphibians and Reptiles of Nova Scotia*
- 1988: APRIL 18 – Scott Cunningham, *Coastal Areas of Nova Scotia*
- 1989: OCTOBER 16 – Robert Ogilvie, *Special Places in Nova Scotia*
- 1990: NOVEMBER 19 – Mary Primrose, *Wandering in Nature*
- 1991: FEBRUARY 18 – Bernard Forsythe, *Natural History Observations*
- 1992: JANUARY 20 – Sherman Bleakney, *The Esthetic Muds of Minas*
- 1993: JANUARY 18 – Colin Stewart, *Endangered Spaces in Nova Scotia*
- 1994: APRIL 18 – Sherman Williams, *Annular Solar Eclipse of May 10*
- 1995: NOVEMBER 20 – Merritt Gibson, *Nature in Your Own Backyard*
- 1996: JULY 8 – George Archibald, *Cranes, Their Biology & Problems*
- 1997: DECEMBER 8 – Larry Bogan, *Soaring with Eagles*
- 1998: JANUARY 19 – Richard Stern, *Birding in Manitoba*
- 1999: JANUARY 18 – Bonnie Sutherland, *The Nova Scotia Nature Trust*
- 2000: NOVEMBER 20, *Zoe Lucas – Sable Island*
- 2001: MARCH 19 – Harry Thurston, *Shorebirds of Fundy*
- 2002: APRIL 15 – Graham Daborn, *Tides of Change in Fundy Research*
- 2003: NOVEMBER 17 – Jeff Ogden, *Mosquitoes and Ticks*
- 2004: OCTOBER 18 – Chris Mansky, *Ancient Shores of the Bay of Fundy*
- 2005: OCTOBER 17 – Martin & Marjorie Willison, *Whither Human Society?*
- 2006: MARCH 20 – Patrick Kelly, *Stamping Out Nature*
- 2007: APRIL 16 – Twila Robar-DeCoste, *Painting Nature*
- 2008: SEPTEMBER 15 – Len Wagg, *Wild Nova Scotia*
- 2009: OCTOBER 19 – June Swift, *Cultural & Natural History of Brier Island*
- 2010: OCTOBER 18 – Robert Raeside, *Climate Change: Yea or Nay?*
- 2011: NOVEMBER 21 – Bob Bancroft, *Restoring Wildlife Habitat*

2012: APRIL 16 – John Klymko, *The Maritimes Butterfly Atlas*  
2013: MAY 20 – Carolyn Mallory, *Common Arctic Plants*  
2014: MARCH 17 – Kathryn & Nathan Gray, *Supernova Superstars*

#### FIELD TRIPS

Hundreds of field trips have been held by BNS, providing encounters with “rocks, plants, animals, water, air, and stars.” Many people have led these sometimes cold, dark, wet, windy, muddy, and exciting encounters with the natural world.

What field trips were held during the first 12 months of the society’s existence 40 long years ago? Here they are, in chronological sequence, with topic, leader(s), and date:

The Night Sky (Roy Bishop, Larry Bogan, Sherman Williams)

MARCH 29, 1974

Geese, Snipes, and Frogs at Lower Canard (Sherman Bleakney)

APRIL 21

Early Migratory Birds (Bob Lamberton) APRIL 27

Glacial Geology (Ron MacNeil) MAY 4

Black River Lake Canoe Trip (Larry Bogan) MAY 12

Spring Birds in Wolfville (Oscar Morehouse) MAY 18

Cape Split (Roy Bishop, Sherman Williams) JUNE 8

Low Tide at Black Rock (Millie Evans) JUNE 23

Centreville Bog and Canard River (Graham Daborn) JULY 13

Eagle Nests at Black River Lake (Cyril Coldwell) JULY 20

Geology and Fossils at Horton Bluff (Roy Bishop) AUGUST 3

Cape Split (Darryl Grund) AUGUST 10

Evangeline Beach and the Dykelands (John Kearney) AUGUST 11

Perseid Meteors at the Rotary Park (Larry Bogan) AUGUST 12

Mushrooms in the Kentville Ravine (Ken Harrison) SEPTEMBER 7

AND OCTOBER 7

Rocks of the Wolfville Area (Harold Nathan) NOVEMBER 23

Trees & Shrubs in Winter (Sam van der Kloet) JANUARY 25, 1975

Visit to the Micro-World (Darryl Grund) FEBRUARY 22

In recent years a few individuals have gone far beyond the call of duty, leading field trips time and time again. In alphabetical order, those tireless, dedicated, field trip leaders include (and I apologize for not recording the names of all field trip leaders):

George Alliston, Peter Austin-Smith, Charlane Bishop, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Ron Buckley, Murray Colbo, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Tom Herman, Patrick Kelly, Angus MacLean, Wayne Neily, Reg & Ruth Newell, Rob Raeside, Richard Stern, Jean Timpa, Judy Tufts, Rick Whitman, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford.

#### BNS NEWSLETTER

The enduring record of BNS is its quarterly Newsletter. Indeed, while preparing this summary I examined 158 numbers of the Newsletter. Jean Timpa created this publication in the autumn of 1974, and except for a 16-year break, she is still its editor 40 years later! We are indebted to Jean for her unfailing enthusiasm and dedication.

The Newsletters record the monthly meetings, field trips, society business, nature observations by members, and articles on the natural history of Kings County and the surrounding area. Many of those articles contain information and insights that can be found nowhere else. Many issues of the Newsletter are available on line, together with a searchable index (see <http://blomidonnaturalists.ca/node/4>).

A few BNS Newsletters have been special topic issues, “collectors editions,” each containing several articles on specific areas of Kings County:

- SUMMER 1994 (21:2): Cornwallis River Corridor, Part 1
- AUTUMN 1994 (21:3): Cornwallis River Corridor, Part 2
- WINTER 1994 (21:4): Black River System, Part 1
- SUMMER 1995 (22:2): Black River System, Part 2
- AUTUMN 1996 (23:3): Blomidon, Part 1
- SPRING 1997 (24:1): Blomidon, Part 2
- SPRING 1998 (25:1): Fundy Shore, Part 1

AUTUMN 1998 (25:3): Fundy Shore, Part 2

WINTER 1999 (26:4): The Millennium

Several members are involved in the production and distribution of the BNS Newsletter, but it is the editors who provide the initiative, the continuity, and much of the work:

1974–87: Jean Timpa, assisted in various years by Larry Bogan, Roy Bishop, Lynn Coldwell, and George and Margaret Alliston

1987–93: George and Margaret Alliston

1993–95: Mark Elderkin

1995–99: Susan Montonen

1999–02: Mike McCall

2000–present: Doug Linzey (production/associate editor)

2003–present: Jean Timpa

#### PROJECTS

In addition to monthly public meetings, field trips, and newsletters, BNS has undertaken or been part of several other projects:

1974: Wolfville Christmas Bird Count (annually)

1979: First Eagle Count, organized by Cyril Coldwell

1980: BNS Logo, designed by Lynn Coldwell

1980: Work began on the book *A Natural History of Kings County*

1982: Incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act (June 1)

1983: Robie Tufts Young Naturalists Award

1984: Two awards for the annual Annapolis Valley Regional Science Fair\*

1988: Nature Notes column in the *Kentville Advertiser*†

1990: Robie Tufts Nature Centre (dedicated July 7)

1990: Hosted the inaugural meeting of Nature Nova Scotia

1992: The annual Sheffield Mills winter Eagle Watch began

1992: *A Natural History of Kings County* published

1993: *Birds of Kings County*, An Annotated Check List published†

1993–94: Short-eared Owl Project  
1995: Hosted the annual meeting of Nature Nova Scotia  
1997: Provincial approval as a designated conservation organization  
1997: Brochure and crest produced  
1997: Endowment Fund established  
1998–present: Annual Natural History Calendar†  
2000: Wolfville Waterfront Park opened (July 1)  
2000: Hosted the annual meeting of Nature Nova Scotia  
2004: Shorebird observation platform, Evangeline Beach  
2005: Art and Nature Competition for elementary schools began  
2005: Green Dragon Young Naturalists Program began‡  
2006: Published Merritt Gibson's book *Within the View of Blomidon*  
2007: Nature Canada annual conference, in Wolfville  
2008: Andrew Steeves began designing and Gaspereau Press began printing and binding the BNS Newsletter (35:2)  
2012: Minas Basin Stewardship Committee formed  
2013: BNS bursary for an Acadia student established

\* *In recent years, John Belbin has represented BNS.*

† *These occurred because of the leadership of the late Merritt Gibson.*

‡ *Harold Forsyth has led the Green Dragon Young Naturalists program.*

#### COMMITTEES

Over the years several committees have been part of the administrative structure of BNS, including:

Calendar Committee

Conservation Committee

Newsletter Committee

Nominating Committee

Program Committee

Robie Tufts Nature Centre Committee

Robie Tufts Young Naturalists Award Committee

Stewardship Committee

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Through Honorary Life Memberships, BNS recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the society and/or to knowledge of the natural history of Kings County and Nova Scotia generally. The following have been so honoured († *deceased*):

1981: Robie Tufts†	1995: Ross Baker†
1981: John Erskine†	1995: Harry Brennan
1983: Rachel Erskine†	1999: Roy Bishop
1983: Ken Harrison†	1999: Merritt Gibson†
1985: Albert Roland†	2000: Sherman Williams
1988: Jean Timpa	2006: Mary Pratt
1988: Cyril Coldwell†	2007: Bernard Forsythe
1989: C.R.K. Allen†	2007: Judy Tufts
1990: Curtis† and Margaret† Chipman	2007: Jim Wolford
1991: Bill† and Brenda Thexton	2008: Harold Forsyth
1994: Peter Austin-Smith	2010: Doug Linzey
1994: Sherman Bleakney	2011: Bob Bancroft
1994: Larry Bogan	2011: John Harwood

## BNS PRESIDENTS

The existence, longevity, and achievements of the Blomidon Naturalists Society are due to the interest and support of many people who care about the natural world. Yet the society could not survive without those few who have been willing to step forward to oversee its activities, to speak on its behalf, and to conduct the monthly meetings and the meetings of the board of directors. Here are the society's presidents during the past 40 years:

1974–75: Sherman Williams	1980–82: Peter Austin-Smith
1975–76: Cyril Coldwell	1982–85: Richard Stern
1976–80: Larry Bogan	1985–87: Jim Wolford

1987–89: Sherman Williams  
1989–90: Peter Austin-Smith  
1990–94: Tom Herman  
1994–97: Roy Bishop  
1997–99: Randy Milton  
1999–01: Merritt Gibson

2001–03: George Forsyth  
2003–05: Liz Vermeulen  
2005–08: John Harwood  
2008–11: Rick Whitman  
2011–present: John Owen

#### CONCLUSION

Seven years ago, when reflecting on the longevity of the Blomidon Naturalists Society, Jean Timpa summed it up well:

*Good luck has certainly come our way, but tenacity, perseverance, time, organization, and willingness, just to name a very few real ingredients in our being at this moment, have been the mainstay. The magic of teamwork has certainly worked wonders. Thanks be for all of it, to all of you.*

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#### UNNATURAL HISTORY

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## *Forests under Siege – What Will Happen to Nature?*

by Bob Bancroft

**E**ASTERN forests are shrinking quickly under a barrage of clear-cut harvests using high-tech machines that offer little employment for people in New Brunswick, Newfoundland, or Nova Scotia. The Prince Edward Island government is taking a more careful forestry approach with certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) of their Crown land holdings. Elsewhere, provincial govern-

ments are being pushed hard by large, financially troubled forest industries. Determined to feed a global wood demand driven by rising human populations, these industries also want to burn wood to produce electricity and lower their energy costs.

Classified as “Acadian,” most naturally growing forests of Atlantic Canada contain a broad mix of trees with leaves (hardwoods) and with needles (softwoods). Each tree species has preferences regarding soil, moisture, and available light. Young Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, Hemlock, Red Spruce, and others can grow on the forest floor in the moisture and shade found under taller trees. Eventually, an old tree falls, and a young tree takes a growth spurt in its place. Trees that grow in forest shade may live as long as 450 years and eventually become the dominant species. Their wood is more valuable to humans.

Large-scale environmental disturbances, like fire, insect infestations, or hurricane damage, were historically rare in most forests in New Brunswick, PEI, and Nova Scotia (except for the Cape Breton Highlands). Fire histories in an area can often be traced to early logging practices and land-clearing by settlers.

Trees obtain nutrients from soils that have developed since the last ice age ended about 11,000 years ago. Needles and leaves act like solar collectors, also producing more energy for the tree. Favourable site conditions and space for roots in the ground give each tree a chance to thrive. On hot, sunny days a healthy forest offers cool shade – evidence that its trees are capturing the Sun’s energy – and in the forest floor, cooling water that feeds streams.

Forestry in eastern Canada became a force in the 1700s. Land-clearing for settlements and farms, shipbuilding, and lumber exporting began making significant changes. Tall White Pines were marked and reserved as masts for English sailing ships. In the 1800s, sawmills used vast amounts of original Acadian-forest hardwoods and softwoods. Some 300 years and repeated harvests later, those same sites are being swept clean for pulp, lumber, and biomass. For centuries wood biomass was burned in homes for heating and cooking. Lately, biomass includes wood-processing byproducts and wood obtained

by cutting forests to produce electricity. In 300 years we've gone from masts to moonscapes, while industry and government leaders baffle-gab about environmental sustainability.

Like many fisheries, the Acadian forest is in trouble from over-exploitation. Rehabilitation will take time.

The industry-preferred, cheap harvest method is clear-cutting. A clear-cut can be defined as a site where essentially all trees have been removed in one operation, leaving a large, open area that no longer has the forest's protection from high temperatures and drying winds. The spread of clear-cutting over eastern landscapes holds drastic environmental consequences for soils, wildlife populations, waterways, climate, and humans. Leaving thin ribbons of trees along waterways and occasional see-through clumps of trees on the landscape does not maintain a healthy environment. Large companies use misleading names for clear-cutting, such as "variable retention" and "seed tree release," showing only window-dressing regard for the future. They ignore the following:

1. Clear-cuts encourage short-lived and open-ground-suited seedlings of species like poplar, Wire Birch, fir, and White Spruce to take over. Sure, something grows back – but not the same forest.

2. The resulting forest is even-aged, with fewer tree species and more vulnerability to insect and disease damage.

3. To be industry-successful, new forests on clear-cuts may require herbicides and softwood planting. This has been subsidized by taxpayers for decades.

4. Global warming may bring dry, windy climate changes that kill shallow-rooted softwoods.

5. Clear-cuts make soil nutrients vulnerable to erosion from wind and rain. Nutrients important for tree growth (like phosphates and calcium) are removed with the harvested wood, washed out of the soil, or blown away.

6. In dry periods, forest soils can regulate flows by gradually releasing their water into brooks and rivers. After heavy rainfalls, clear-cut brooks flush like toilets, drying up in summer with widened, eroded channels. That difference can mean life or death for salmon and

trout, frogs, and other aquatic life. Humans also need cool, clean water. Why are we compromising nature's ecological services?

7. Erosion from clear-cuts washes silt into brooks and rivers, filling spaces between the rocks where aquatic life takes refuge and smothering trout and salmon eggs that are laid in autumn and overwinter in gravel bottoms. Laws to protect waterways and adjacent lands are often politically and ecologically compromised, and sparsely enforced. Silt keeps flowing into brooks and on to the sea.

8. Exposed, hot, dry conditions on clear-cuts kill off microscopic soil inhabitants that break down and recycle forest nutrients from dead wood.

9. Young clear-cuts produce food that White-tailed Deer and others can reach. But sprouts on a Red Maple stump do not have the nutrition value of a twig that grows from seed.

10. Many habitats essential for a wide variety of wild animals, plants, and lichens formerly found in Acadian forests are missing in "forests" that follow clear-cuts. Barred Owls, for example, nest in a big tree with a large hole. Inhabitants displaced by clear-cutting probably never find nearby "vacant" forests.

11. Biomass used to include leftovers from forest operations, like waste from sawmills. Now it's a commodity. Clear-cuts are being "cleaned up" for it, leaving even less for nature. Pulp companies normally cut softwood forests and mixed wood (hardwood and softwood) forests to make their products. Now they are clear-cutting hardwood forests for biomass to lower their energy costs, often with taxpayer subsidies. Wood-burning to produce electricity has an efficiency rate of about 30 percent. Is this wise use?

There are ways to harvest that let nature grow healthy new Acadian forests. Trees are removed using *partial harvest* methods that mimic natural gaps in the forest canopy, creating a more suitable environment for long-lived species of hardwoods and softwoods.

Biologists and other environmental folks are lobbying hard for harvests that maintain most forest communities of wild plants and animals. To be healthy, nature needs ecologically sound forest management on at least 60 percent of the land base. Acadian forests rep-

resent a diverse portfolio of stable ecological investments whose accrued interest and capital since the ice age should not be plundered for quick profit. The current practice of clear-cutting mixed Acadian forests will not sustain them.

The industry folks who fund university researchers insist that clear-cutting the forest every few decades is no problem – that it will magically reappear. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, they aim to increase harvests over larger land bases and channel more of nature’s energy into fewer tree species, ignoring the devastating ecological consequences this will have for wildlife and nature as a whole. Forestry professionals seem industry-led and too single-minded about growing trees. And the industry greed extends beyond nature’s ability to provide for all. Large, foreign-owned companies are liquidating our natural heritage while offering fewer jobs and little stability. Their allegiance seems to be to shareholders. They remind me of the tobacco industry decades ago.

It’s time to rehabilitate these forests before they deteriorate to scrub or heath. Once a forested country, Scotland now has only 3 percent of its land base in trees. Half of that is plantation. This process is underway in southeastern Newfoundland.

Forestry planning needs to become in tune with nature’s ways. The word “sustainable” needs to find the forest. Woodland owners, First Nations, scientists, naturalists, river associations, fish and game groups, boaters, watershed associations, and people who just love the woods should clear their heads, consider carefully, and stand together on this issue. To begin with, enact legislation that stops the vultures from clear-cutting and destroying the remaining mixed Acadian forests for quick, personal profit.

Are we not the stewards or caretakers? Do we have a land ethic? What will be left for future generations? Let’s begin managing for ecologically healthy, working forests.

## *Little Split Cove*

by David Sheppard

**O**CTOBER 26, 2013 – Blomidon Naturalists Society sponsored the hike to Little Split Cove. It was a gorgeous autumn day, and while we didn't find many collectible agates, the entire adventure was a worthwhile experience. *Photos by David Sheppard.*



*Our destination on this spectacular autumn day was Little Split Cove, guiding a group that was made up of 7 members of the Blomidon Naturalists Society and 23 Fundy Rocks followers, including 5 from the Tideways Co-op.*



*Part of the group having lunch. Seventeen went with Chris Sheppard to the Sea Spires and the rest remained with me on the beach searching for agates.*



*Four of the participants. The ages ranged from early 20s to 70s. Everyone was successful, although the beach did not give up as many prize agates as I had hoped.*



*Two of my co-residents from the Co-op. Five Tideways friends joined us for the trek.*



*The fishers had bigger things to search for than rocks!*

## *Snow Geese*

by Nancy & Reinhard Zollitsch, Orono, Maine

REINHARD and I had always wanted to see the annual migration of the Snow Geese in Quebec, and in October 2012 and October 2013 we finally made the trip. We stayed at a motel in Sainte-Anne-de-Baupré, just northeast of Quebec City. This was the perfect spot to see the huge flocks of Snow Geese gathering along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

We drove to the nearby Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area and walked out to the observation blind at the river's edge. We of



REINHARD ZOLLITSCH

*Snow Geese at Cap Tourmente*

course brought our own binoculars, and we also used the high-powered telescopes in the blind. A solid mass of thousands of white Snow Geese spread out over the mud flats in front of us (almost 50,000 in 2012 and 40,000 in 2013 on the days that we were there). What an unforgettable sight!

The geese are migrating from the High Arctic to the southeastern shores of the United States (especially Maryland and Virginia), and they stop at Cap Tourmente to feed on the rhizomes (sort of support roots) of the American Bulrushes in the tidal mud flats. Reinhard spotted two special individual geese and reported them to the naturalist on duty, who was delighted to mark them down on the official record sheet: one was an adult Snow Goose with a yellow band around its neck, and we could even read the number. The goose had been banded in 2012 on the island of Bylot, north of Baffin Island. The other was the so-called “blue goose,” or blue morph of the usually white Snow Goose (it looks greyish blue). Fascinating. We found it a distinct privilege to witness such a spectacle of nature, with the Snow Geese feeding, others flying over, and the constant sound of their voices in the cool fall air.

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CLUB NOTES

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## *Eco-Kings Update*

by Janet Whitman

THE Eco-Kings Action Team, a group made up of representatives from the councils of Kings County municipalities and other interested local groups including BNS, works to foster environmental sustainability in Kings County. Eco-Kings has recently received funding for a study to assess the feasibility of a rapid transit commuter bus service between the Annapolis Valley and Halifax. Grants for this

project have been received from the Green Municipal Fund of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and from Nova Scotia Moves, a grant program that supports locally based solutions to sustainable transportation challenges facing communities across Nova Scotia.

Another current Eco-Kings initiative is the hiring of a student sustainability coordinator to work with the Kings County municipalities on a variety of projects related to environmental sustainability this summer. The position will be funded by the municipalities, and the hope is that it will inspire the hiring of a permanent regional sustainability coordinator in this area.

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NATURE COUNTS

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*Kingston, NS:*  
*Christmas Bird Count 2013*

by Wayne Neily

OUR 46th annual Xmas Bird Count (XBC) in 2013 was good in many ways but may have seemed like a letdown after last year's record. We had a good number of observers but no effort records, and so slightly less coverage than last year. The weather allowed us a day between storms, but the bay was rough, winter finches were almost absent, many small roads were blocked by snow, and these factors and the slight coverage drop reduced the total number of species to a more average 58. Again, none of them were new to the cumulative list for our count, which remains at 120.

See the items with asterisks below for new records. These are new highs for half-hardy species that are benefiting from climate change (despite this winter's snow and cold) and adapting to the presence of feeders provided by humans. The near-doubling of the record for

pheasants probably reflects not only last year's mild winter but also a declining interest in hunting game birds. The rarest bird, a White-crowned Sparrow was at Frank Hawkins' Wilmot area feeders, where in 1981 they had our count's only Harris's Sparrow!

**Kingston, NS, 44°59' N, 64°57' W** (all points within a 24-km diameter, centre intersection of Bridge and Main Streets in Kingston, as described in 1969, to include Margaretsville, Dempsey Corners, Aylesford, Nicholsville, South Tremont, Nictaux Falls, and Middleton).

**Conditions:** December 21, 2013, 06:30–17:30, 20:30–21:00. Temperature 0° to 5°C. Wind NE, 0–5 km/h. Snow 20–40 cm deep. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Morning and afternoon mainly overcast, foggy, light rain.

**Observer effort:** 117 observers, 23 in field in 10–11 parties (day-time), 94 at 57 feeders. Time and distance: 287.0 hours at feeding stations, 2.5 hours and 7.0 km owl-ing; total field party-hours 77.5 (day), and party-km 774.0 (day) (15.75 hr and 18.0 km on foot, and 61.75 hr and 756.0 km by car).

**Birds observed:** (NOTES: H = high count; \* = record high total for the 46 years of this count; L = low count.) Canada Goose 87, American Black Duck 156, Mallard 406,\* Common Eider 17, Surf Scoter 1, White-winged Scoter 5, Long-tailed Duck 3, Common Merganser 12, Red-breasted Merganser 11, Ring-necked Pheasant 119,\* Ruffed Grouse 8, Common Loon 10, Horned Grebe 1, Bald Eagle 14\* (12a, 2i), Sharp-shinned Hawk 5, Red-tailed Hawk 28, Rough-legged Hawk 1, *Buteo* sp. 1, Herring Gull 67, Great Black-backed Gull 1, *Larus* sp. 2, Alcid (sp.) 1, Rock Pigeon 457, Mourning Dove 1,251,\* Downy Woodpecker 68 (H), Hairy Woodpecker 71 (H), Northern (Y-s) Flicker 7 (H), Pileated Woodpecker 9, Northern Shrike 1, Blue Jay 743,\* American Crow 7085, Common Raven 286, Horned Lark 120, Black-



capped Chickadee 1112, Red-breasted Nuthatch 39, White-breasted Nuthatch 66, Brown Creeper 4, Golden-crowned Kinglet 12, American Robin 99, European Starling 3825 (H), Cedar Waxwing 29, **Pine Warbler 1** (6th record, AY), American Tree Sparrow 6, Chipping Sparrow 1, **Savannah Sparrow 1** (7th record, DPa), Song Sparrow **48**, \* White-throated Sparrow 33, **White-crowned Sparrow 1** (3rd record, MG, JR), Dark-eyed (S.-c.) Junco 464, Snow Bunting 104, Northern Cardinal **27**,\* Red-winged Blackbird 5, Common Grackle 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 139, Pine Grosbeak 7, Purple Finch 2, Pine Siskin 2, American Goldfinch **1,437**,\* Evening Grosbeak 112, House Sparrow 124. **Total species: 58. Total individuals: 18,755.**

Observed during **count week** but not on count day: **Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Barred Owl.**

**Observers (field):** Brian & Mary Barkman, David Colville, Keegan Colville, Claire Diggins, Dan Diggins, Michael Gemmell, Barbara & Patrick Giffin, **Shirley Harris, Sheila L. Hulford**, Brian Jones, Kevin Kornelsen, Lyndon Kornelsen, Kristin McCurdy, Jonathan Muers, Larry Neily, **Wayne Neily, compiler** (562 Messenger Rd, Tremont, RR 6, Kingston, NS BoP 1Ro Neilyornis@hotmail.com), Daniel Penner, Twila Robar-DeCoste, Jason Rogers, Roger Short, Richard Stern.

**Observers (feeder stations):** Spike & Carole Allen, John & Sandy Antoniuk, Ron & Sharon Baker, Al & Gloria Blizzard, Bob & Karen Campbell, Kathy Chapman, Tony Chaulk, David & Heide Cogswell, John Collins, Cathy Crook, Kenneth Crowell, Tom & Elizabeth Cushing, Ella & Howard Dalton, Valerie & Paul Despres, Bea Deveau, David Diggins, Harold & Donna Elliott, Shirley Fahie, Bobby Featherstone, Joan Featherstone, Lloyd & Mary-Lou Graham, Mark Hamilton, Lilli Hand, Donna & Ron Hill, Patricia House, Marilyn Hudgins, Sibella Hulford, Kelly & Sharon Hutton, Michael Inkpen, Ted Kajdas, Jack Keddy, Russell & Roseann Keddy, Don & Ruth Kelly, Cathou Larocque, Andrea Leeson, Dave & Tonya Ludlow, Velma MacDearmid, Judy & Malcolm MacKenzie, **Patricia MacMillan**, Myrna Maye, Jason McInnis, Colleen & Jason McKinnon, Ethel McLane, Greg Miller, Sandy Morrison, Jacque Muers, Dar-

lene Palmer, John & Susan Paull, Gerry & Lillian Pellerin, Noreen Reagh, Ike & Janet Reid, Mable Robar, Wendy Rodda, Ron Rogerson, Kay & Shirley Sanford, Howard Selig, Helen Sharp, Ralph & Marylyn Swinamer, Charles & Doris Tye, Judy & Malcolm Uhlman, Chris Waldner, Jake Waldner, Margaret Waldner, Margot & Mel Walker, Mary Lou Ward, Audrey Wellwood, Robert Wolfe, Ann Young [feeder observer coordinators **bold-faced**].

(For our habitat analysis update, see the Kingston 2012 XBC report in BNS Newsletter v40 n4.)

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NATURE COUNTS

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## *Wolfville Christmas Bird Count 2013*

by Alison Bogan, compiler

**B**NS sponsors the Wolfville CBC, the most recent of which was held on Saturday Dec. 14, 2013. The date is selected months in advance with hopes of benign weather; alas the weather gods frowned on us, serving up frigid temperatures and cold winds. Kudos to the 56 field observers who collectively logged 66 hours on foot as well as 67 hours by car searching for birds. Reports from 76 feeder watchers added to the days' total. The Boates/Bishop family welcomed two members of the Young Naturalists Club and their parents, who joined them for a bit to become initiated into the joys of winter birding.

The result of this effort was 67 species reported and a total of 22810 individuals. Four additional species were reported during count week, the three days before and after count day. Two firsts for our count were a Yellow-throated Warbler and Bullock's Oriole. Other rarer bird sightings were Black Guillemot and Palm warbler. Record

numbers of individuals (as reported for our count to the National Audubon for the last 27 years) were Mallard (1518), Iceland Gull (50), American Robin (1156), Pine Warbler (3), Palm Warbler (20), and Northern Cardinal (85). Bald Eagle was the most numerous raptor at 243. Thanks to efforts at late afternoon / dusk 3 species of owls were reported: Great Horned, Barred, and Short-eared. A complete list of the species and numbers reported and names of participants has been posted on the BNS website.

A big thank you to all those who made this years CBC another success – to Jim Wolford, who organizes and compiles the feeder watchers, the Sterns, who graciously host the post count pot luck, Judy Tufts, who helps organize the pot luck, and all the intrepid field observers and faithful feeder watchers and cooks and bakers who keep us well fed at the potluck. Everyone’s contribution is important to the success of this exercise in citizen science.

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NATURE COUNTS

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## *West Hants 2013 Christmas Bird Count*

by Patrick Kelly, coordinator

SUNDAY, December 29, 2013: The 2013 count was held on a typical winter day with an overcast sky, moderate winds, and temperatures a few degrees below freezing. Due to a knee injury I was not able to “work” in the field, but during my time at home I was finally able to update the maps for each area within the circle. There are 12 areas, which sets the minimum number of teams needed to cover the circle, and with the new maps there should be a lot less overlap. The biggest change this year was that after hosting the potluck for as far back as people can remember, Beth and Frank Woolaver decided

that it was getting to be too much at their age. I volunteered to host it at my place, and we all signed a thank-you card for the Woolavers.

A total of 52 species were seen, which is below the average for this count (56). The total number of birds counted was 7,856 (average 10,947). Most of the variation in total birds is due to fluctuations in the number of starlings from one year to the next.

While the number of species may be down, we added three species to the count circle. A **Blue-winged Teal** was spotted at the back of the Maplewood Cemetery in Windsor by Suzanne Borkowski. Blake Maybank's group was in Smileys Park when they spotted a **Belted Kingfisher**, and several people were able to observe the **White-crowned Sparrow** that had been coming regularly to a feeder at the Chester Road home of John Robertson, one of the count's regular contributors.

While not new to the count, some rare birds did show up. The last **Northern Pintail** was recorded in 2001, and 2003 was the last year for **Fox Sparrow**. **Northern Shrike**, **Gray Jay**, and **Boreal Chickadee** had not been reported since 2009.

We were only 10 shy of tying last year's of 136 Mallards. On the other hand, last year's new record for American Robin (261) was unique, with only 7 seen in 2011 and 10 this year. We did manage to set a new high for **Song Sparrow** (52) and **American Goldfinch** (998). Given that it was not a redpoll winter, we were lucky with a singleton, something uncommon with redpolls.

Here is a list of all species seen. **Boldface** indicates species for which only a single bird was found.

Canada Goose 25, American Black Duck 296, Mallard 126, **Blue-winged Teal 1**, **Northern Pintail 1**, Common Merganser 7, Ring-necked Pheasant 119, Ruffed Grouse 7, Bald Eagle 32, Sharp-shinned Hawk 5, **Northern Goshawk 1**, Red-tailed Hawk 26, Ring-billed Gull 26, Herring Gull 191, Iceland Gull 2, Great Black-backed Gull 33, Rock Pigeon 300, Mourning Dove 677, **Belted Kingfisher 1**, Downy Woodpecker 29, Hairy Woodpecker 25, Northern Flicker 16, Pileated Woodpecker 6, **Northern Shrike 1**, Gray Jay 2, Blue Jay 579, American Crow 590, Common Raven 69, Horned Lark 30, Black-capped

Chickadee 399, **Boreal Chickadee 1**, White-breasted Nuthatch 14, Brown Creeper 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 11, American Robin 10, European Starling 2464, American Tree Sparrow 86, **Fox Sparrow 1**, Song Sparrow 52, White-throated Sparrow 32, **White-crowned Sparrow 1**, Dark-eyed Junco 232, Snow Bunting 131, Northern Cardinal 12, Red-winged Blackbird 4, **Common Grackle 1**, Pine Grosbeak 15, Purple Finch 65, **Common Redpoll 1**, American Goldfinch 998, Evening Grosbeak 68, House Sparrow 33.

Party-hours totaled 64:30, with 38:10 by car and 26:20 on foot. The total distance covered was 631.5 km, with 575.5 km by car and 56 km by foot.

There were two count week birds this year: a Snowy Owl and an Eastern Towhee.

As usual, I would like to thank all of those who helped in the field or as feeder watchers this year: John Belbin, Suzanne Borkowski, Louis Coutinho, Tony Duke, David Fieldsend, Nic Fieldsend, Ryan Harvey, Andrew Harvie, Susan Harvie, Patrick Kelly, Peggy Kochanoff, Blake Maybank, Bob McDonald, Wendy McDonald, Neil Robarts, Sheila Robarts, John Robertson, Barry Sabean, Andrew Simpson, Brenda Simpson, David Simpson, Jamie Simpson, Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern, Kent Williams, Sherman Williams, Alex Wojcik, Jim Wolford.

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NATURE COUNTS

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## *Cyril K. Coldwell Eagle Count 2014*

by Jim Wolford

**F**EBRUARY 2, 2014 – This was not a bad day weather-wise for our 33rd Annual Cyril K. Coldwell Count of Eagles and Other Raptors of Eastern Kings County. The sky was overcast with generally

good visibility, and temperatures were about 2°C, with little or no precipitation. Snow cover on the ground was near total but very shallow. And the dykeland roads were all driveable, a definite improvement over many past counts.

Thirty-five observers participated in 16 field parties, from 10 to 11 a.m. Just one hour minimizes the double-counting of eagles, but otherwise our count is much like our regular Christmas Bird Count. Each field party has an assigned area; the locales covered extend from Scots Bay south to Black River, and from Avonport west to Kentville, including all areas in between those extremes.

## RESULTS

Bald Eagle: **388 total** (231 adult, 153 immature, 4 of unknown age;  
adult/immature ratio =  $231/153 = 60\%/40\%$ )

Red-tailed Hawk: 59

Rough-legged Hawk: 2

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2

Merlins (Pigeon Hawk): 2

Gyr Falcon: 1 (whitish-plumaged)

hawk sp.: 1

Barred Owl: 1

Northern Shrike: 2

One day earlier, Bernard Forsythe and Rick Whitman found 2 Short-eared Owls at northeast Grand Pre and 2 Great Horned Owls north of Noggin's Farm Market, Greenwich.

For the Bald Eagles, largest numbers were 75 in northeast Grand Pre (mostly on the ground), 70 northwest of Port Williams (between the Cornwallis and Canard Rivers), 53 north and west of Canning, 44 in the Avonport area, 35 along the Gaspereau River. James & Lana Churchill reported two Bald Eagle nests that had adult eagles attending them (at Scots Bay & Blomidon).

We had some problematic groups of eagles in the area east and north of Grand Pre, and we that hope such enigmas cancel each

other out and that we at least approximate a good estimate of the numbers around on this date.

Other wildlife of interest seen during the count included 4+1 Coyotes, an Eastern Grey Squirrel, thousands of Black Ducks, hundreds of Great Black-backed Gulls, 2 Hooded Mergansers, 1 Kingfisher, 60 Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Cardinals, and 1 White-winged Crossbill.

Our history of this unscientific count (just once a year, and very weather-affected) goes back to 1979 and only 22 total eagles. Cyril Coldwell started putting out agricultural and trapping carrion back in the mid-1960s at Gaspereau. Gradually, the eagles increased in numbers, but in 1991–93 there was a huge jump of numbers of eagles from 148 to 442 for eastern King's County. Why so sudden is a mystery, but the general increase paralleled the growth of the poultry industry.

After 1993 our annual count totals have fluctuated mostly between 300 and 400 eagles, but extreme high counts were 525 in 1997 and 580 in 2000. Our 2013 total was 293 eagles.

Cheers, and thanks to all of the participants in this year's count: Margaret & George Alliston, Peter Austin-Smith Jr, Charlane Bishop-Boates, Sherman Boates, Pia & Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Gabrielle Breault, Lana & James Churchill, Peggy Crawford, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Glenys Gibson, Pat Hawes, Erika Holland, Eleanore Howard, Stella & Angus MacLean, Debbie Mander, Sheila McCurdy, Terri & Randy Milton, Terry Murphy, Mike O'Brien, Ian Paterson, Stan Riggs, Emma & Mike Tichenor, Judy Tufts, Rick Whitman, Hannah & Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford.



# Winter Weather 2013, Eastern Annapolis Valley

Larry Bogan, Cambridge Station

WE have really had winter this year. It was the year of the “polar vortex,” a cold air mass over the Arctic that periodically swept down over Canada. Weather systems travelled along the edge of that air mass and repeatedly passed over the Maritimes to provide more than the usual days of precipitation followed by periods of very cold air.

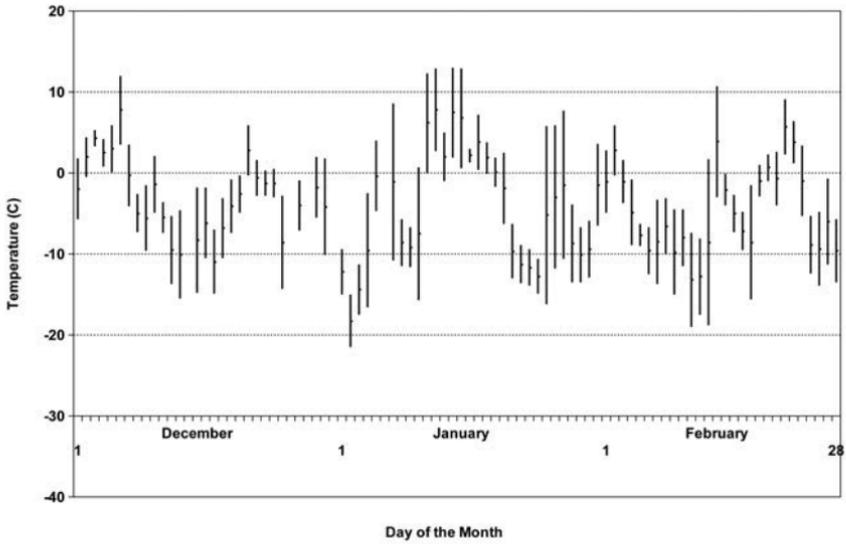
	Temperature			Precipitation
	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	Mean (°C)	(mm)
<b>December 2013</b>	0.6	-9.3	-2.9	196.0
(30 yr. average)	(1.5)	(-6.1)	(-2.3)	(122.0)
<b>January 2014</b>	0.3	-8.9	-4.3	105.0
(30 yr. average)	(-1.3)	(-9.8)	(-5.6)	(116.0)
<b>February 2014</b>	-0.5	-8.4	-4.5	125.0
(30 yr. average)	(-0.5)	(-9.2)	(-4.9)	(101.0)
<b>Season</b>	0.2	-8.9	-3.9	426.0
(30 yr. average)	(-0.1)	(-8.3)	(-4.2)	(339.0)

Source: Environment Canada data for Kentville, NS (<http://weatheroffice.gc.ca>) and Canadian Climate Normals and Averages (Kentville).

## TEMPERATURES

When you look at the overall mean temperature of the winter, it was 0.3°C above normal. Here “normal” is an average of the same peri-

Max, Min, Mean Daily Temperatures  
Dec 2013, Jan-Feb 2014 - Kentville, N.S.

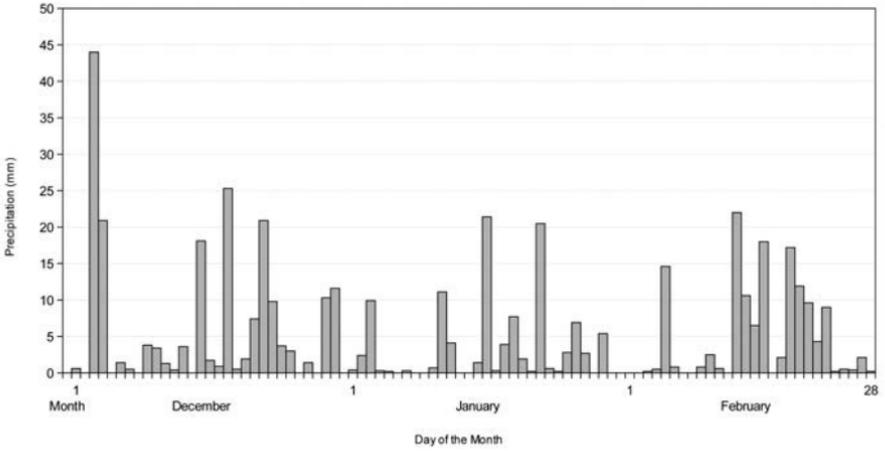


od over the 30 years from 1981 to 2010. But the average minimum temperature was  $0.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  below normal, the maximum  $0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  above normal. The swings in temperature were  $0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  larger than the average, mostly to the cold side. Monthly, December was colder, January warmer (by  $1.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and February a little warmer than normal. We all remember the marvelous January thaw in the middle of that month when we lost all of the piles of snow on the ground. The mean temperature stayed above freezing for nine days during that period, and it rained.

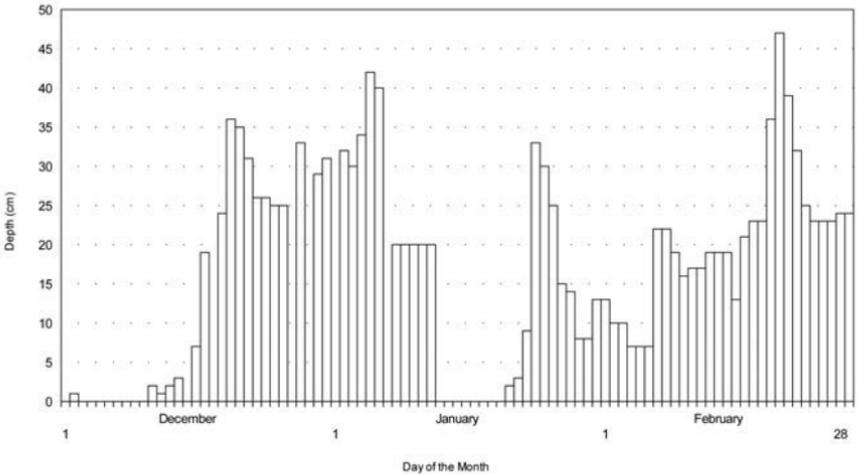
#### PRECIPITATION

We had 87 mm of precipitation more than a normal winter, most of it being snow. The largest fall was rain (about 64 mm in two days) at the beginning of the season, then it kept coming all winter, but as snow. Normally over this period we have precipitation on 50 of 90 days, but this year we had over 68 days with some form of precipitation (see precipitation chart). Because of the colder temperatures,

Daily Precipitation  
 Dec 2013, Jan-Feb 2014 Kentville, N.S.



Depth of Snow on the Ground  
 Dec 2013, Jan-Feb 2014 Kentville, N.S.



that was in the form of snow. As you can see in the chart of snow depth, we had about 25 cm for December and early January, then after the thaw it built back up to nearly the same depth by the end of February.

## SUNLIGHT

Because of the frequency of precipitation, December and January were very cloudy and dark months. February was better, with a few bright periods and sunny days. To get a record of solar radiation, I have added a solar sensor to my weather station. You can see my records on the Weather Underground ([www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)). My recording is not reliable enough to report here, but you can see the results for the last week of February – at <http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=INOVASCO38&day=24&year=2014&month=2&graphspan=week> – which was a particularly nice sunny week.

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## ASTRONOMY

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

by Roy Bishop

#### HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH THROUGH JULY OF 2014

**March 20:** The equinox, spring begins at 13:58 ADT

**March 26:** Blomidon Naturalists Society 40th anniversary

**April 8:** Mars at opposition (see below)

**April 14:** Mars closest to Earth; Full Moon & total lunar eclipse tonight (see below)

**May 10:** Saturn at opposition

**May 14:** Full Moon

**May 23:** Meteor shower tonight? (see below)

**June 12:** Full Moon

**June 15:** Earliest sunrise of the year (05:30)

**June 21:** 07:52 Solstice, summer begins

**June 25:** Latest sunset of the year (21:08)

**July 3:** Earth furthest from Sun (aphelion)

**July 12:** Full Moon

**July 15 (approximately):** Sandpipers begin arriving in Minas Basin

#### A TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

Weather permitting, you have a chance to see the Moon pass through Earth's dark umbra shadow in the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 15. The start of the eclipse at 01:54, as the Moon begins to enter Earth's penumbral shadow, will be undetectable. By 02:58 it will be obvious that the full Moon is in trouble as it begins to enter the umbra shadow. Totality begins at 04:07 and lasts until 05:25. If sleep is a priority, yet you don't want to miss seeing this impressive celestial event, the prettiest part of the eclipse will be from about 03:55 to 04:10. The Moon will be low in the southwestern sky, so you will need a clear view in that direction. And use your binoculars!

#### A NEW METEOR SHOWER?

A small comet, designated 209P/LINEAR, was discovered in 2004. It has a short period of slightly more than five years, and will next be at perihelion on May 6. Calculations indicate that Earth will pass through dust particles from the tail of the comet in the hour or two before dawn on May 24. All the debris trails from the comet, from 1803 through 1924, are predicted to intersect Earth's orbit this May. Astronomers do not know how strong the shower might be; it could be a *storm* (1000 or more meteors per hour), or it might be barely noticeable. It could last for mere minutes, and there could be more than one peak of activity. Any meteors that appear will radiate from low in the northern part of the sky.

If the sky is clear Friday night, May 23, I shall set my alarm clock for 1 a.m. and go to bed after supper. I do not want to miss what could possibly be the strongest meteor shower in many years! Even if there are no meteors, I will enjoy communing with the night, and by 4:30 a.m. I will see Venus and the waning crescent Moon decorating the eastern dawn twilight.

#### MERCURY AS THE EVENING “STAR”

Few people have seen and recognized Mercury. This spring the innermost planet is easily visible from the 7th to the 17th of May as the brightest star-like object very low in the evening northwestern sky. Look about 9:15 p.m. on the 7th and progressively later as the days go by, until about 9:40 p.m. on the 17th.

#### VENUS AS THE MORNING “STAR”

Venus left the evening sky early in January, passed between Earth and Sun, and reappeared in the dawn sky later that month. From March through July, Venus is the unmistakable, very bright morning “star” low in the eastern dawn twilight. As the weeks go by, Venus shifts gradually toward the left, from the southeastern sky toward the northeast.

#### RED MARS

In mid-April this year, Mars, the red planet of myth, fiction, and robotic exploration, is at its brightest, nearest to Earth, and visible throughout the night. It rises in the east near sunset. The “red” planet is not quite correct. Mars is pale orange in colour, but that colour makes it unmistakable in the sky during April, when Mars is nearest and brightest.

The bright star near Mars this spring is Spica. Spica serves as a reference point highlighting the westward shift of Mars as it undergoes retrograde motion during March, April, and early May. That appar-

ent backward motion is our fault, a consequence of our faster orbital motion as Earth laps Mars in its eastward orbit.

Mars presently is “near” Spica only in the sense that they are approximately at the same place in *our* sky. In mid-April, Mars is 5 light-minutes distant from Earth, but Spica is 250 light-years from Earth, some 26 million times further away. If you attempted to build a scale model of Earth, Mars, and Spica, with Earth and Mars placed one hand-span apart, you would have to locate Spica in France.

Mars is unique in that it is the only other planet showing a visible surface. Mercury is too small, too far away, and too close to the Sun to reveal its surface to Earth-based telescopes. Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are veiled in clouds.

During April a small, good-quality telescope having an aperture of 100 mm or greater will reveal the Martian disk, with its surface markings and north polar cap, which is tilted toward Earth in April. Views of those features are limited to only a few weeks at slightly more than two-year intervals, when Earth catches up to and passes Mars as the two planets orbit around the Sun.

#### GIANT JUPITER

Although well past its January 5 opposition, Jupiter remains well placed in the early evening sky during March through May. It is high in the western evening sky, dropping lower as the weeks go by. Jupiter, the brightest star-like object in the evening sky, outshines Mars, but unlike pale-orange Mars, Jupiter is white in colour. Binoculars will reveal its disk and one or more of its four Galilean satellites.

#### RINGED SATURN

Saturn lies a fair distance east (left) of Mars this spring. Saturn rises south of east near midnight in March, and progressively earlier as the weeks pass. By May it rises near sunset and is at opposition on the 10th. Good-quality binoculars will reveal Saturn’s non-star-like shape (oblong), but a small telescope is needed to reveal its spectac-

ular rings. As mentioned above, Mars is pale orange in colour, and Jupiter is white. Saturn is dimmer than Jupiter, and creamy-white. All three planets shine steadily, unlike the brighter stars, which often twinkle as their thin beams of light pass through Earth's turbulent atmosphere.

DISTANT URANUS AND NEPTUNE

The two outermost planets will be well placed in the autumn sky this year. Neither is visible to the unaided eye. To see them, call on a knowledgeable amateur astronomer who has a telescope!

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POEM

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*The Soul of this Place*

by Deirdre Dwyer

The soul has shape, size, and colour  
to the Wabanaki “who live where day breaks.”  
So what would they say of this place?

I'll venture it's larger than the long curve  
and sweep, wanderlust of the Cape  
that, winter-long, calls  
when we're elsewhere.

Stretches its long arms  
to us when we finally drive her way.  
So large she can't help but peek  
over restless hills.

I'll say it's shaped like words  
in the log: Mom "puttering," loose  
and as long as her hair  
which she'll braid. Oh, the thick strands  
and the hour's generosity.

It's in drawings: Dad "splitting wood"—  
she may have meant snoring,  
balmy snooze after lunch—  
but her sketch of a round mountain  
—shape and size repeating—  
implying heft, the axe.

It's in that plummet, charged  
and smithied slice, gray steel blade,  
slim triangle—  
thwack,  
kathunk  
on stump: wood, halved  
and quartered, holds your soul.

Or part of it.  
It's shaped and ripens  
like apples, red cabbage that blooms,  
sprawls across the field, multi-leaved  
and layered, icy plum-  
and grackle-fringed.

# BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY

## 2014 Membership Fees & Order Form

Members receive four issues of the BNS newsletter annually.

As a registered charity, BNS issues receipts for all donations.

Members may also join Nature Nova Scotia through BNS.

(Neither BNS nor NNS membership is tax deductible.)

NAME

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ADDRESS

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POSTAL CODE

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E-MAIL

TEL

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*In signing this membership application, I/we hereby waive & release the Blomidon Naturalists Society, its executive committee and members, from all claims for injury and/or damage suffered at any function or field trip organized by the Blomidon Naturalists Society.*

SIGNATURE

DATE

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No.	Description	Price	Total
_____	Individual/ Family Membership	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	Junior (under 16 years) Membership	\$1.00	\$ _____
_____	Nature Nova Scotia Membership	\$5.00	\$ _____
_____	2014 BNS Calendar	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	Natural History of Kings County	\$14.00	\$ _____
_____	Within the View of Blomidon	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	Checklist of Kings County Birds	\$5.00	\$ _____
_____	Blomidon Naturalist crest	\$5.00	\$ _____
_____	Blomidon Naturalist hat	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	BNS Calendar Photos (Screensaver)	\$10.00	\$ _____
	Postage: (calendar \$2) (parcel \$6)		\$ _____
	Tax-deductible Donation		\$ _____

(Registration number: 118811686RR0001)

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address cheques or money orders to Blomidon Naturalists Society for membership and other purchases to: **Ed Sulis, 107 Canaan Avenue, Kentville, NS B4N 2A7.** Due date is January 1 of current year.



# SOURCES OF LOCAL NATURAL HISTORY

Compiled by the Blomidon Naturalists Society

TOPIC	SOURCE	OFFICE OR HOME TELEPHONE
<b>Amphibians &amp; Reptiles</b>	Sherman Bleakney	H: 542-3604
	Jim Wolford	H: 542-9204
<b>Astronomy</b>	Roy Bishop	H: 542-3992
	Sherman Williams	H: 542-5104
	Larry Bogan	H: 678-0446
<b>Birds – General</b>	Bernard Forsythe	H: 542-2427
	Richard Stern	O: 678-4742 H: 678-1975
	Gordon & Judy Tufts	H: 542-7800
	Jim Wolford	H: 542-9204
	Jean Timpa	H: 542-5678
<b>Butterflies &amp; Moths</b>	Jean Timpa	H: 542-5678
<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife</b>	NS Department of Natural Resources	O: 679-6091
<b>Flora:</b>	Ruth Newell	O: 585-1355 H: 542-2095
<b>Fungi:</b>	Nancy Nickerson	H: 542-9332
<b>Hawks &amp; Owls</b>	Bernard Forsythe	H: 542-2427
<b>Indian Prehistory &amp; Archeology</b>	James Legge	H: 542-3530
<b>Mosses &amp; Ferns</b>	Ruth Newell	O: 585-1355 H: 542-2095
<b>Mammals</b>	Tom Herman	O: 585-1358 H: 678-0383
<b>Rocks &amp; Fossils</b>	Geology Dept., Acadia University	O: 585-2201
<b>Seashore &amp; Marine Life</b>	Sherman Bleakney	H: 542-3604
	Jim Wolford	H: 542-9204
	Michael Brylinsky	O: 585-1509 H: 582-7954