

BLOMIDON
NATURALISTS
SOCIETY



SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER
Volume 42 · Number 1



Snowy Owl, Lawrencetown Beach, HRM, March 2014 – RICK WHITMAN

❖ THE 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

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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. (Registration number: 118811686RR0001)

BNS NEWSLETTER

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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, 2015**

OUT & ABOUT

JEAN TIMPA, EDITOR

We seem to have hit a real freak show in our weather patterns since Christmas Day 2014, which was quite a bit warmer than Easter 2014, and then everything deteriorated in early January to bitter cold, shattering many records in the Maritimes. The jet stream moved and dipped to all-time lows to give us one blizzard after another, until we have unbelievable mounds of snow, icicles, and frightening masses of ice climbing our roofs – the ones that did not collapse, that is. More records for amounts of snow broken since record keeping was started.

Here it is the eve before spring, and we wonder if we will ever see green plants again! We don't wish to lose the snow quickly to flooding because we have enough monetary damage in so many ways already. Many of our predators are starving because of lack of their regular food, as wildlife rescue vets Hope Swinimer and Helene Van Doninck are being inundated with starving bobcats and many raptors brought in by a concerned public. Meanwhile, the small rodents are having a field day reproducing under the protection of the snow!

We are pleased to see some new contributors in this issue. I know that it's been hard to work up enthusiasm to write for the Newsletter this season, but you have come through. Thank you. And we look forward to hearing from many more of you in the future (note that our next deadline is now not far away: May 30).

A NOTE ON THE DESIGN

BY ANDREW STEEVES

This is twenty-eighth issue of the Newsletter that I have had the privilege of designing and typesetting for BNS, and volume 1 of number 42 seemed the appropriate moment to freshen the design with a few changes, including a change in typeface. *Cartier Book* was designed by the same designer as our previous type, Rod McDonald of Lake Echo, NS. It is both a revival and an extension of a typeface called *Cartier*, produced by the Toronto designer Carl Dair in 1967 – the first commercially released roman typeface native to Canada.

2016 BNS NATURAL HISTORY CALENDAR: CALL FOR PHOTOS

Photo submissions are invited for possible use in the 19th edition of our society's Natural History Calendar.

Submissions should be in electronic form: JPEG format, with file size between 300 KB and 3 MB. Photos should be of natural history interest, preferably taken in Nova Scotia. Please submit no more than ten of what you consider to be your most suitable photos. Suitability involves technical quality (sharp focus, not under- or over-exposed), composition (object of interest nicely positioned, no distracting background), content (a photo that calendar users will enjoy looking at for a month), and subject that is not too similar to photos appearing in recent BNS calendars.

Send submissions at any time to Roy Bishop: RLB@eastlink.ca, 902-542-3992. Deadline for submissions: Labour Day, September 7, 2015.

Calendar committee: Sherman Williams, Pat Kelly, Roy Bishop

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

BY KENT WILLIAMS, BNS PRESIDENT

Along with the stars and the oceans, we can consider what we make with our hands as a way to reflect on human destiny. Our urge to make things, to create things, is certainly as deep as the urge of the Sun to shine and the Earth to spin. Our destiny is woven into the mystery of creativity and time.

MARY EVELYN TUCKER, *Journey of the Universe*

As the Earth spins and starts another orbit around our shining Sun in 2015, we mark the beginning of a new year for BNS. Moreover, the schedule and meeting of our board has been full in planning to make this year engaging and to fulfill our society's mandate of providing education and connecting the membership and public to our roots of nature.

The board and a special ad hoc committee have met several times over the last three months with a commitment to reflecting, brainstorming, and recommending how BNS might attune and adjust our programming and general operation as a society to best serve the totality of the membership and live to the set mandate and vision. From these collective dialogues we have come up with four recommendations to bring forth to explore and act upon. They are as follows: (1) develop an interactive website that connects and engages, (2) survey and hear the voices of the membership, (3) educate and connect membership to explicit issues that matter, and (4) integrate educational programming into initiatives and issues that are emerging.

From these recommendations we are moving forward to explore and examine more fully their potential and, with careful consideration, act toward adapting and building these initiatives into the fabric of our BNS culture to better serve the members. We welcome all members to provide constructive feedback, and even to offer expertise or get involved with these areas of recommendation as

we explore them to their fullest (e.g., expertise on developing a new website).

This past few months, along with impactful winter weather, we have also had the positive impact and pleasure of connecting with fine presenters on important and engaging topics, with Acadia's Dr Michael Stokesbury on his research on the beautiful Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, and with Dr. Anna Redden and her research on ocean species and the effects of the tidal pilot projects in the Minas Passage. Moreover, I want to thank all the members who have come out for the meetings and shared their personal observations on the natural flora and fauna and the cosmos in our area, whether through the eagle and bird counts or just on strolls in their respective communities.

As we pause and reflect of the beauty of our connected land, we see that everything is always changing, not static, and we will see dramatic change and a time of renewal over the next couple of months as spring springs into action. Yes, to the relief of most, spring is here, and our local world will be teaming with new life. So until we meet again, please enjoy, and we look forward to hearing your stories next time we meet.



JACK MCMASTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., usually on the third Monday of each month, in Room BAC 241 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.

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015 – *Deep Woods Tales: Tall and True*, with Mike Parker, one of the greatest, and most prolific, storytellers of Nova Scotia wilderness and woodsmanship of our time.

Mike was born and raised in Bear River, a village steeped in guiding lore. He has been researching, writing, and talking about his native province for more than 25 years, during which time he has earned many accolades, including being known as Nova Scotia's storyteller. His three most recent books were bestsellers: *Gold Rush Ghost Towns of Nova Scotia*, *Buried in the Woods: Sawmill Ghost Towns of Nova Scotia*, and *Ghost Islands of Nova Scotia*. A graduate of Acadia University, Mike is a research associate with the Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies at Saint Mary's University. He will have a selection of his books on hand for sale (\$25 range).

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 – *East Africa at Last! A Photographic Wildlife Presentation*, with John Belbin. This is a photographic record of the first stage of an extensive "Road Scholar" educational exploration trip that took John from Nairobi, Kenya, through Zanzibar and several beautiful islands in the Indian Ocean to Sri Lanka. The presentation will concentrate on Kenya, as it was at the top of his bucket-list, and John had wanted to take a wildlife safari since he was in grammar school. He was very fortunate to have some of the best guides in

Africa with him for all of the Kenyan field trips. You will see wildlife close-ups from parks in the Nairobi area and from the Maasai Mara, the Kenyan portion of the Serengeti and one of the most significant animal refuges in the world.

John is a retired cartographic educator who spent 23 years at the College of Geographic Sciences campus in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, as cartography instructor, department head, and student services officer. In 1957, at the age of 16, John began his career in London, England. His first job was as a cartographer working on maps of British colonies and territories as they prepared for independence. He spent most of that time mapping places in Africa, which he desperately wanted to see. He even helped train people from most of those places. Until this Christmas, he had still never been to any of them.

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015 – *Annual Show and Tell Night*: Contributions from members and community; open to all.

This event was “stormed out” in February, and by popular demand we are giving it another shot! Come to view or bring along slides, pictures, specimens, collections, fossils, videos, computer stuff, favourite books and magazines, or anything that might be of interest to fellow naturalists. If you have digital, or pre-digital, content and would like to submit it in advance, contact James Churchill (jamesLchurchill@gmail.com).

Field Trips & Other Nature Events

Visit the BNS website for field trip maps and directions.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2015 – *Avon River Canoe Trip*. Leader: Patrick Kelly (902-472-2322, patrick.kelly@dal.ca). The Avon River offers a few advantages over the Herbert River: it is closer to most BNS members; you start and stop at the same location, so no time is needed to get cars to the other end; and on the way back you are going downstream – you can turn around whenever you like! The trip will be four to five hours long, depending on our pace. Bring

life jackets, canoe or kayak, and paddles, and you may need rubber boots to get into the river. 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. *Lifejackets must be worn on this trip.* Meet on the connector road between Exit 7 (Falmouth) and Highway 1 at 9 a.m. The plan will be to put in at Sangster's Bridge in Upper Falmouth and proceed upstream. Participants should register with the trip leader so they can be notified if there is a change of plans.

~~SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015~~ [Note: postponed due to weather, tentatively, to Saturday, May 16. Check with James] – Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up. Last year BNS, the Eco-Kings Action Team, members of the County of Kings, the Town of Kentville, and the Friends of the Kentville Ravine joined forces to clean up tributaries of Elderkin Brook (which flows into the Kentville Ravine). This year BNS will be registering another team, and we hope to join forces again with local garbage enthusiasts ... or at least those interested in helping beautify our local landscapes. Please let us know if you have a good location in mind or are interested in participating (James Churchill, jamesLchurchill@gmail.com).

~~SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015~~ [Note: postponed due to weather to Saturday, August 22] – Amethyst Cove Rockhounding and Photography, with Fundy Rocks members David and Chris Sheppard. Our last attempt to explore Amethyst Cove with Fundy Rocks was thwarted by damage caused by Hurricane Arthur. This year, we will give it another shot. David and Chris will accompany us on the trip, which includes a descent into Amethyst Cove and a trek along the shore. The descent to the cove is not for the faint of heart, and the trip will proceed only if the slope and the ropes are ice-free. Meet at the entrance to the Cape Split trail at 9 a.m. Fundy Rocks will check conditions before the trip, and we will use social media (BNS website, e-mail, Fundy Rocks Facebook page, BNS Twitter) to advertise trip postponement or cancellation). A rain date is set for Sunday, August 23.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015 – *Citizen Science Expo*. Wolfville Farmers' Market, 2 p.m. Have you caught the buzz about citizen science? Citizen scientists are dark-sky mappers, supernova hunters, butterfly chasers, Chimney Swift counters, bird-feeder watchers, milkweed planters, bat reporters, water-quality monitors, phenology trackers, GPS mappers, big-data crunchers, and DIY nature nerds. There are now hundreds of ways the average Maritimer can contribute to exciting and important scientific research while on a computer, in a workshop, or in the field. To find out what projects you or your family could get involved in and who (or what) could benefit most from your passion, time, and observations, join us at the inaugural BNS Citizen Science Expo for an afternoon of displays and presentations by organizations leading citizen science projects. This is a great opportunity for people of all ages to find a niche for their passions, and for organizations to promote their projects and recruit volunteers. If your organization would like to set up a display or give a presentation at the event, please contact the BNS program coordinator, James Churchill (jamesLchurchill@gmail.com).

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015 – *Tree Swallow Nest Monitoring Workshop*. Have you seen those strange wooden boxes at Miner's Marsh? They were built and installed last year by BNS and the Valley and Berwick Young Naturalist Clubs. Hopefully, some will be filled this summer with nesting Tree Swallows. In anticipation of this, we will be holding a nestbox monitoring workshop for all those who might be interested in helping to monitor nesting success in the boxes in the years to come – very easy and very rewarding! Arrival times, nest success, and other activity at these boxes is of great interest to local and international researchers. For example, Dalhousie PhD candidate Tara Imlay is studying factors influencing declines of aerial insectivores, like Tree Swallows, and will also be giving a banding demonstration at the marsh sometime in June. For the nest monitoring workshop, we will meet under the willow tree at Miner's Marsh at 10 a.m. Access to Miner's Marsh is at the back of the Kentville

Court House parking lot (87 Cornwallis Street, Kentville). Contact: James Churchill (jamesLchurchill@gmail.com).

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015 – *Nova Scotia Spring Migration Count*. Annapolis Valley coordinators: *Hants West, Falmouth*, Patrick Kelly (902-472-2322, patrick.kelly@dal.ca); *Kings County*, Larry Bogan (902-678-0446, larry@bogan.ca); *Kings County, Kingston area*, Sheila Hulford (902-765-4023); *Annapolis County*, Chris Pepper (902-483-6693, cpepper@ymail.com). Anyone interested in helping coordinate Annapolis County, or parts thereof, as a regional representative would be most welcomed by Chris.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 – *Historic Hants County*. Leader: Suzanne Borkowski (902-488-0345, 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 20, 24, 28; JUNE 1, 5, 2015 – *Maritimes SwiftWatch Spring Migration Roost Counts*. Individuals are encouraged to count Chimney Swifts at roost sites during spring migration on the above dates. These counts are part of a national monitoring effort to understand Chimney Swift population trends (the June 5 date is optional, but encouraged, to increase knowledge of regional activity). Nova Scotians are asked to continue searching for, and reporting, active nests and roosts in both anthropogenic sites (such as 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 (1-506-364-5196, marswifts@birdscanada.org), or consider sharing your sightings and roost counts on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Maritimes.Swifts; omit specific address information if posting here), on *NatureCounts* (www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/mar_swift/), or via *eBird*. For more information, see www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/acswifts/.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015 – *Blomidon Provincial Park*. Jim Wolford (902-542-9204, 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. Other pond life, spring plants/flowers, and birds will also be seen. 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.

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015 – *Herbert River Trail*. Leader: Patrick Kelly (w: 902-494-3294, H: 902-472-2322, patrick.kelly@dal.ca). This easy walk follows the rail bed of the former train that ran from Windsor to Truro via Kennetcook. It runs along the Herbert River for a good part of its length. 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.

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015 – *Cape Split Hike*. Make a trip to Cape Split with leaders Jim Wolford (902-542-9204, jimwolford@eastlink.ca) and Patrick Kelly (902-472-2322, 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 Scots Bay at 9 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015 – *New Birders' Walk*. Windsor. Leader: Patrick Kelly (w: 902-494-3294, h: 902-472-2322, 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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, TO SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015 – *Combined Nature Nova Scotia and Nature New Brunswick Annual Conference*. Hosted by the Chignecto Naturalists' Club, the centre of activity is the Tantramar Veteran's Memorial Civic Centre in downtown Sackville, NB. Local accommodation is available.

Registration will begin late Friday afternoon, and each group will hold its own AGM on Friday evening, followed by scheduled evening outings. The format consists of many Saturday and Sunday half-day and full-day field trips, presentations, and workshops that will require pre-registration. Youth are welcome. Applicants will be responsible for booking their own accommodations (special rates available with participating hosts). See the NNS website – naturens.ca – for details on program and registration. Current NNS federate members will receive a package in the mail.

MID-JUNE, 2015 – *Tree Swallow Banding Demonstration*. Miner's Marsh, Kentville. Dalhousie PhD candidate Tara Imlay is investigating factors involved in the decline of aerial insectivores – bird species that feed primarily off aerial insects. One component of this is to track indi-

vidual birds (by applying small leg bands), and to weigh and measure them. Tara will be involved with the Miner's Marsh Tree Swallow Project and extends an open invitation to attend a demonstration of adult and chick banding at the Miner's Marsh nestboxes in mid-June. This will be a fantastic opportunity to see birds up close and to get a glimpse into the world of aerial insectivore research. The date of the event will be determined based on breeding dates of birds that use the boxes, and ... as this is the first season of this project, we might not have any! Please stay tuned. Access to Miner's Marsh is at the back of the Kentville Court House parking lot (87 Cornwallis Street).

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015 – *Marsh Madness 2!* Miner's Marsh, Kentville. Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, but with some new twists this year. Contact: James Churchill (jamesLchurchill@gmail.com). Leaders: Several local wildlife and wetland experts.

Day creatures: From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., we will explore with local experts the biological richness of the marsh – including aquatic life, birds, terrestrial insects, and plants – using binoculars, nets, hand lenses, and field guides. Over lunch, Purolator will hold a “Tackle Hunger” cash BBQ and will be accepting donations for the local food bank.

Night Creatures: Beginning at 9:15 p.m., Andrew Hebda of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History will lead us on a search for creatures of the night: amphibians, marsh birds, bats (with ultrasonic bat detectors), and moths/flying insects (using lights and sheets). Prepare to be amazed by the biodiversity of the night.

Participants will learn about finding, observing, and identifying wetland species and ecologically responsible interaction with nature. This event is child and family friendly. Come prepared with sunscreen, rubber boots, dip nets, binoculars, flashlights (for the night), and food bank items. We're on the web: www.blomidon-naturalists.ca/marshMadness. Access to Miner's Marsh is at the back of the Kentville Court House parking lot (87 Cornwallis Street).

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2015 – *Butterfly Atlasing*. This trip will be in support of the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas, which has recently announced that it will continue into 2015. Given that butterflies tend to be active only in good weather, registration will be required by e-mail so that if the event has to be cancelled we can contact you. The trip will start at the Wolfville Waterfront at 10 a.m. and will go until 2 p.m. For more information on the atlas project, visit the atlas web site at <http://www.accdc.com/butterflyatlas.html>. To register for the event, contact jamesLchurchill@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015 – *Kingston Sand Barrens* – Leader: Ruth Newell (902-542-2095, ruth.newell@acadiau.ca). Sand barrens are one of the most rapidly changing, disappearing, and endangered ecosystems in Nova Scotia. As recently as the 1960s, mile after mile of the Evangeline Trail was surrounded by extensive open heathlands with scattered Red Pines. In pre-settlement times, the actual area of heathland is believed to have encompassed an area of approximately 200 km². Today it appears that less than 3 percent of the original heathland remains. (Catling et al. *CBA Bulletin* 37(1) (2004), http://www.cba-abc.ca/bulletin/vol_37_1.pdf)

The Kingston Sand Barrens are home to a number of the province's plant and animal species at risk, including Rockrose (*Helianthum canadense*, endangered in Nova Scotia), Wood Turtle (threatened in NS), and Vesper Sparrow (rare in NS). Ruth will take us on a tour of this incredible and sensitive ecosystem. Meet at the Wolfville waterfront at 9 a.m.

TBA, JULY 2015 – *National Moth Week Event: Mothing in the Valley*. National Moth Week (<http://nationalmothweek.org>) – a global citizen science effort to learn about, observe, and document moths in backyards, parks, and neighbourhoods – is being held, worldwide, during the last full week of July (18–26). This year, BNS will host its first incarnation of National Moth Week, led by one of Atlantic Canada's leading invertebrate experts, Jim Edsall. This event will

involve a combination of techniques for drawing moths and other nocturnal insects in close for observation and photography (e.g., baiting and sheeting). This event is family friendly and will be a great opportunity to view, and be inspired by, some of Nova Scotia's rich biodiversity that we rarely get to see! Time, date, and location to be announced soon.

TBA, JULY 2015 – *Blomidon Park Moth Out*. Blomidon Provincial Park. All ages. Leader: Jeff Ogden. This is a joint event hosted by Blomidon Provincial Park and BNS. Make your way to the Blomidon Provincial Park multi-purpose building for what promises to be a spectacular night of strange creatures, marshmallows, and camping out (if you like). We will begin just after sunset, when Jeff will fascinate us with lore of “insects of the night” and specimens available for hands-on discovery. During the night, we will commune around the campfire and periodically treasure hunt by checking on various trapping and sheeting stations for moths and other nocturnal insects. Bring a flashlight and camera. This will be an excellent opportunity for all ages to explore Nova Scotia's secretive winged night life. Attendees are invited to stay the night in the park campground if they like (www.novascotiaparks.ca/misc/make_a_reservation.asp). Time and date to be announced soon.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015 – *Minas Basin Shorebirds*. Leader Rick Whitman (902-542-2917, 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 and some large flocks. We may also see Peregrine Falcons, in which case we might see fewer shorebirds. We will meet at Evangeline Beach parking lot and walk toward East Point, North Grand Pre. High tide this date is 14.6 m at 2:17 p.m. The birds should be very busily feeding during our walk and will be pushed closer each hour by the tide. Meet at Evangeline Beach, North Grand Pre at 9 a.m. Some of the walk will be in the very muddy silt areas. Drizzle and very light showers will be tolerated. There is no rain date.

OTHER EVENTS TO WATCH FOR IN 2015 – A Swift Night Out 3 ...
Results of the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas ... New Monarch and
Milkweed Initiatives ... Identification of Raptors in Flight ... Brier
Island Hawk Watch

— *Field Trip* —

VALLEY BIRDING

BY PATRICK KELLY

March 8, 2015 – While it may seem hard to believe, this year’s trip had even more ice and snow than the 2014 version. We had a good turnout of about a dozen people, including a visitor from the United Kingdom who had not been out of Halifax yet so that, as she put it, anything she saw was likely to be new.

Our first stop was near Eye Road, where one Bald Eagle was sitting in the large eagle nest south of the highway, and a second one was in attendance for a brief period. While there, we were surprised to find about 25 Horned Larks running around on the lawn of the house on the opposite side of the road. Given the state of the roads on the dykelands and that we had seen larks, we turned around and made a quick stop at the Greenwich Irving station before continuing.

On the back roads northeast of Port Williams, we encountered 8–10 Bald Eagles, mostly immature, that were quite active in a low area behind a house, so we didn’t get a great view, although we did get good looks at a White-breasted Nuthatch that was exploring a tree at the side of the road. From there we could see another eagle nest in a treetop that was just up the road. While looking up at the nest, we noticed a flock of about 20 birds with bright white breasts. We confirmed that they were indeed Snow Buntings when they flew down to the house next to us. Most seemed happy to perch on the chimney and peak of the roof while others were feeding on something on the ground. They flew back up near the eagle nest, and some of them were hopping in and out of it. We guessed that

maybe the nest had recently been lined with plants that had seeds. The buntings scattered when an occupant of the nest arrived. It landed in the nest so heavily that some of us on the ground heard a branch crack!

The Wellington Dyke and the park at Canning were devoid of birds, as the water was totally frozen. Heading south from Canning, we came across an even larger flock of Horned Larks on the shoulder and in a field. There were 50–60 in this group. From there, we went back to Church Street and stopped at the reliable Red-tailed Hawk nest. One Red-tail was active in the tree next to the conifer that holds the nest. We also got a good look at a Downy Woodpecker that was feeding on suet. From here, our next stop was the home of Richard Stern, who had offered his house for a quick pit stop and to see what was going on in his back yard. I wasn't sure when we reached Middle Dyke Road if his house was left or right. Turing right, I quickly realized that I should have gone left. I decided to get us turned around on Newcombe Branch Road, and just as we got there another Red-tailed Hawk put on a good show. We got out of the cars and discovered two Common Ravens in a row of birch trees breaking off twigs with their beaks and flying off with an improbable number of them in their mouths. They could not have gone to their nest, as they were usually back within a minute of leaving. Someone also noticed two small shrews/voles that were popping out of the snowbank to run along the road and pop in again.

When we did get to Richard's place, we got a great view of a Northern Flicker as well as White-throated Sparrows and both male and female Ring-necked Pheasants. As with past years, the cardinals must have known we were coming and decided not to come to the party. Our last stop was Miner's Marsh in Kentville. This was where we saw our only ducks, as the water was still open. Most of them were Mallards, but there were some American Black Ducks there as well. The previous day, Richard had reported a pair of cardinals in "the usual place," which is the tangle midway along the path on the north side. We got to see the female Northern Cardinal first. She was on the snow hopping around. The male then flew into a nearby tree,

and the light made him into a brilliant display of red. There were not that many birds there; we got our first Dark-eyed Junco and a single Common Redpoll. Our last reportable species of the day was at the end of the path, where we heard a flock of Pine Siskins further back in the trees, and after 5–10 minutes, one of them finally came out where we could see it. Given the amount of snow and ice, I think everyone was surprised that we saw as much as we did!

— Into the Past with Robie —

**WOODS, WATER & SKY:
WRITINGS BY ROBIE TUFTS**

BY RACHEL COOPER

Robie Wilfred Tufts (1884–1982), of Wolfville, was Chief Migratory Birds Protection Officer for the Maritime provinces from 1919 to 1947. He was also founding president of the Nova Scotia Bird Society and author of the highly regarded *Birds of Nova Scotia*, first published in 1961. He held honorary degrees from Acadia and Dalhousie universities, and his papers are housed in Acadia University’s archives, including the manuscript for his small 1934 book *Some Common Birds of Nova Scotia* (the image shows the cover of a first edition of the book owned by Gerald Cudmore, Delhaven).

From the early 1940s to the 1970s, Robie Tufts wrote a regular column, “Woods, Water and Sky,” for the *Chronicle Herald*. A scrapbook of those columns (undated) was put together by Lloyd Duncanson, who joined the staff of the Nova Scotia Museum of Science in 1950 and later became its curator, and by Eric Dodge of Middleton, a young amateur ornithologist who died in 1955 at the age of 25. The scrapbook is now in the care of Mark Elderkin, Species at Risk Biologist, Wildlife Division, at the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. The scrapbook is destined for the Acadia archives, but BNS has been given the opportunity to look through it and publish a sampling of Robie’s columns.

Some columns provide vignettes of life at the time. Others deal

with wildlife sightings, hunting regulations, and concerns about falling numbers of songbirds.

Here is the first in the sampling, a column from 1943 that we can relate to in this harsh spring of 2015. After an unusually cold and snowy winter, people are wondering how to help one particular bird.



Woods, Water & Sky

By R.W. Tufts

Last Winter was characterized by excessively low temperatures, administered in prolonged spells, and this condition, aggravated by a rather heavy fall of snow, resulted in serious hardships for at least one of our resident game birds, the Hungarian partridge. Despite these unfavourable and trying conditions, which are known to have taken toll of these birds, a fair number came through, providing a nucleus for the 1943 breeding-stock. This bird lays large settings of eggs, often as many as thirty or more, and considering the numbers that survived the Winter, it was hoped and expected by those who are intimately concerned with them that, numerically speaking, they would make a substantial recovery.

At the end of the breeding season, however, their numbers were disappointing, and while they compared rather favourably with 1942 figures, they were considerably below those of the Fall of 1941 which in the Annapolis Valley at least, represented the all-time high for Hungarians. The commonly accepted theory offered by way of explaining the unsatisfactory numbers last Autumn, is that the heavy, cold rains of Summer killed many of the chicks.

It might be safe to say that food shortage in Winter (the result of excessive cold and deep snow), and prolonged spells of cold rain in Summer, are the two most serious natural factors with which this species has to contend in its new environment. There is, I believe, no evidence of outbreaks of disease among them, though there is some evidence that poison sprays, particularly the type used on potato plants, is killing off some of the covies. As for their natural enemies, which are many and varied, they appear able to withstand them.

A move is being made by the Halifax Fish and Game Association to do all possible to ease the heavy burden which nature imposes on these birds in Winter; and sportsmen and nature lovers generally will commend them. There is nothing any can do to regulate the amount of rainfall or the severity of the weather during the lean months of Winter.

It is felt that we can render assistance in Winter by artificial feeding. The question is, how best to go about it. In severe weather these birds come to farm yards, and there is practically the only opportunity to feed them, for they will return regularly after being given a first friendly reception. Hayseed, scraped from the floor of the haymow, is the most relished food for these birds in Winter, though they will take such grains as oats, wheat, barley, and so on. But with this they must have "grit" and unless they themselves know where to procure it, it must be provided, for otherwise they will waste away in the midst of plenty.

The Halifax Association, we are told, is about to offer prizes to boys and girls in Halifax and Hants counties, who are responsible for feeding covies during the current Winter. It has been brought to our attention that many persons in rural districts already are feeding Hungarian partridge in Winter. They do it because of humanitarian reasons, the while getting their own enjoyment from seeing the hungry birds enjoy the spread they prepare. It is well to put the hayseed or grain always in the same place and to have it there in the early morning.

The results of the prize offerings to be made in Halifax and Hants counties will be awaited with interest by all who have at heart the

welfare of these fine game birds. Friends of wild life are urged not to lose any opportunity to assist these birds during spells of bad weather.

In Nova Scotia the main centres of population of these birds are in Kings, Hants, Halifax, Colchester, Cumberland, and Pictou counties, with Hants probably having the greatest number.

— *Natural History* —

ANTHROPOMORPHISM OR REALITY?

BY BARRY YOELL

In the past couple of years we have observed Ruffed Grouse behaving in such a way that it is difficult to deny that they can experience very human characteristics.

In the first instance, a Ruffed Grouse flew headlong into one of our windows, killed itself, and fell some three metres from the house, in a flower garden. As it was late evening, we left it there, intending to move it next morning. In the morning, however, there was a sad sight. Another grouse (possibly its mate) was walking slowly around the corpse. The bird appeared to be overcome with grief. Its whole demeanor was extremely sad. It hardly noticed our presence and seemed totally focused on its dead mate/friend. It stayed for a full day.

The second episode was similar in that a Ruffed Grouse killed itself on one of the upper windows and fell some six metres from the house on the snow-covered lawn. At the time, we were not aware of this situation. We had heard an extremely loud bang but found no cause. It was at breakfast the next day that we noticed that crows and ravens were flying in an unusual pattern, closer to the house than was their norm. When we went outside to try to find the cause, we found a dead grouse, its breast de-feathered and half eaten by the corvus crew. There were a few feathers and a few spots of blood on the snow. I decided to throw the body out onto the ice-covered lake so that the crows, eagles, and ravens would have an



JACK MCMASTER

easier time. Within an hour, another Spruce Grouse appeared on the lawn and repeated the mourning routine, walking slowly around the feathers, blood spots, and indentation in the snow. Again, we had no doubt that this bird was extremely sad. All its body movements, even its posture, showed unhappiness. This one stayed for a couple of hours, then left.

We discussed these episodes at some length and concluded that we were not being anthropomorphic but that these birds were showing genuine emotion, great sadness at their loss.

Do you agree? have you seen similar evidence? (We all know that Bernard Forsythe has an owl who loves him!)

— *Natural History* —

WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS

BY NICK HILL

My scrapbook from Centennial Year holds glued and Scotch-taped pressed flowers from the woods of Rockingham: the Wild Lily of the Valley, Starflower, Wild Sarsaparilla, Yellow Clintonia, Moccasin Flower, and Cucumber Root, and even a wing of a Cecropia moth. I was 10 years old, new to Canada from Devon, and like John Muir rescued from industrial Scotland and dropped into Wisconsin, found

everything about Nova Scotia to be exotic and strange. From out of the hedgerows, fields, and adder-filled run-out heathland into a land of red-breasted thrushes and bullfrogs that sounded grand enough to be moose.

The woods were wild, and if you strayed, they said you could get lost in hundreds of miles of trackless forest – forest, a new word when not applied to the New Forest. A bit of a stretch, but back then most of Clayton Park was wild with streams and kids' tree houses; Highway 102 was a concept, and Rockingham's woodlands held wonders. Woodland wildflowers take time to develop, and Nova Scotia's woods were worth 10 of most of the woodland fragments I had known in England.

These Nova Scotian woods were different, and so was their diversity of the wildflowers. The English Romantic poets have waxed over the bluebells or Wood Anemones that grow carpets over woodlands of smooth terrain, and yet it never hit me until reading George Monbiot's *Feral* that these weren't wild. Monbiot claims the lack of diversity among the bluebells is the mark of a long-term, tamed ecosystem where woodland frequently grew up on previously farmed landscape. In contrast, in Nova Scotia, we still have woodlands with pits and mounds (or call them hollows and hummocks) that show they have never been farmed. Each pit is where the roots of a tree once were. When the tree falls, or "tips up," the rocks and soil around the tree roots is catapulted over, with the roots of the tree forming the pit. The tipped-up rocks and soil eventually settle down, the roots decompose, and the mound is made.

This May, the kids got off the school bus and we cut through a neighbour's pine wood. It was late May and I took in a perfume: the entire smooth woodland floor was a carpet of green and white of the Wild Lily of the Valley, and bees rapidly worked over the sweet-smelling flower spikes. It is a pine wood with Wild Lily of the Valley now, but decades ago, recovering from clearing, it would have had weedy Sheep's Fescue and hangers-on from the run-out farm days. How the Wild Lily of the Valley arrived can't be known, but I've heard that voles collect its large seeds in their winter stores,

and I've seen the evidence that Ruffed Grouse browse the fruit in fall and grind the surface of the seeds with the stones of their crop.

The re-wilding of this woodland speeds up as trees age and fall and make openings for other plants. The upturned roots of a tip-up of a fallen pine will attract a bird to perch, and its droppings may be filled with Wild Sarsaparilla. The gap where the tree canopy once was gives the plant rooting space and light. Sarsaparilla will set up calf-high platforms of leaves, and each year the plant grows will be recorded as a leaf scar at the base of its stem that runs along the ground. As the pine trunk rots down, Starflower that germinates from a seed reserve in the soil will develop roots (actually underground rooting stems, rhizomes) that track along the inside bark of downed logs, where they get moisture and nutrients.

The Moccasin Flower, or Pink Lady's-slipper, takes longer to become established. It must wait for a combination of conditions. One of its thousands of microscopic seeds must find its correct fungal partner in the soil, and the union with the mycorrhizal fungus gives the plant access to the soil mineral nutrient phosphorus. Moccasin Flowers are most common in pine woods, where they may be locally common but may disappear underground in some years and get their carbon through their fungal partner.

As tip-ups continue, some birds or voles that eat the blue berries of the beautiful Yellow Clintonia, also known as Blue Bead Lily, may bring the seeds to a moist pit. Here the plant will form circular patches of lush oval leaves produced by an organized system of closely spaced rhizomes. The pine wood now has five woodland flowers, and more will be added as long as there are woods close enough by that can be a source of more of the Canadian flora. We will wait for the pink-bellied Twisted Stalk and the False Solomon's Seal and wonder who will consume their fruit and disperse their seeds, and we will ask how long the seeds can survive in a woodland's soil.

It takes time. Not forever, but time, and it takes a neighbourhood of old forest patches that can bail out the former farmland and re-wild it. It takes animals, songbirds, grouse, bear (love sarsaparilla berries!), raccoons (love to show their territory by scating on downed

trees), and the voles. The most specialized and prized addition to the woodland flora takes the longest to enter the woodland community. The Cucumber Root, Cucumber Lily, or Indian Cucumber is widely scattered throughout Nova Scotian woodlands, but it is very patchy and often uncommon. Unlike the most common flowers – Wild Lily of the Valley, Starflower, and Wild Sarsaparilla – that have long underground stems, theirs soon develop crunchy white tubers that taste like cucumber. You will usually find these as small patches in woodlands with long histories of pit and mound. Young tubers produce a small above-ground star-like platform of leaves, similar to the Starflower, but older tubers produce an above-ground plant with a second platform of leaves that produces flowers.

The flowers of the Cucumber Lily resemble, in miniature and in yellow, the garden lily with its petals turned back. Why are these little lily flowers held underneath the second platform of leaves, hidden from human eyes? These lily flowers may dangle down to attract small fungus gnats, as a lily relative on the west coast does, but no one yet knows the answer. After pollination, the flowers fall, and green berries develop, and the same stems that once held the flowers down toward the ground now swing upward and project the berries up above the second leafy platform. A few large seeds are made in each of a few black berries, which are striking seen against the centre of the platform that has now turned scarlet. Who takes these berries and spreads seed to new woodland patches? If you have a woodland patch with pit and mound that you've been thinking you might thin for firewood or use for a supply of boards, check out your flowers with a youngster, and if you see a two-tiered Cucumber Lily ready to flower and fruit, watch out for the pollinators of the yellow bells and then, later, the animals that see red when the big black berries are presented and swallow whole these big seeded prizes.

Nova Scotia's woods are places of mystery and diversity. Landowners can watch their woods develop and help solve the unknowns.

The woods are sure taking a pounding, but they will always be here as long as we enjoy them and pass it on.

NATURE: ILLUMINATING THE PATHWAY TO OUR SPIRIT

BY KENT WILLIAMS, ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY,
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

January 17, 2015 – What is it about the natural world that attracts us as human beings? What draws us out into the woods, or for a walk along the shores of our seas – to adventure and exploration? Is it our instinctive cells and biological imprinting of our origins that draws us back to where our human spirit was born? I would suggest that connecting with nature is an opportunity to become whole with who we are as humans and to become aware that we are not something outside of the natural world and, as quantum physics theory and eastern mystics share, that we are forever interconnected with this world. On our present trajectory of human progress, with population growth, technology, and globalization, there is a great danger of our further separating and forever closing our pathways of connection to our sacred lands – and limiting our access to a world from where our human spirit was born.

The 1977 Nobel prize winner in chemistry, Ilya Prigogine, has suggested that one of the most pivotal points in human history was April 28, 1686, when Sir Isaac Newton presented *Principia* to the Royal Society. Newton presented his seminal work on the fundamental laws of motion (mass, acceleration, and inertia) in what we call classical physics. As Prigogine, Einstein, and others have suggested, this forever changed the way humanity viewed and acted in the world. These laws on how the world worked were embraced by the scientific authorities as absolute reality, setting up a deterministic, mechanized, and linear-viewed world, where all the universe could be explained through cause and effect; anything *not* explainable (like planet gravitational pull) was an act of God.

Unfortunately, this accepted perspective of the world was a demarcation for humanity in how we walked and interacted with

the natural world. The call of the wild became silent to humanity. Nature was seen by Adam Smith and Karl Marx – and still is today by the masses – as being part of the machine, and as something for us to dominate and exploit – a position we still maximize today in the name of progress. All may not agree, but I believe our history of being intimately interconnected with nature was lost through the Newtonian view of our world. Since that time, and into our present epoch, large swaths of natural environment continue to drastically shrink and disappear into history, and with it the origin of our human spirit.

From a selfish anthropocentric perspective, it is the connection to our human spirit – that sense of wonder, of setting free our intuition and emotions to use our genetic gifts of sensory and introspection to experience the beauty of our world – that is at risk. It is to feel the warm wind gently on our cheek, to see the perception of the setting Sun in all its colourful splendor, to hear the sounds of the rhythmic ocean waves curling and crashing onto the welcoming shore – and what really matters is to reflect and understand the meaning of all of these experiences on our lives. What makes us human is not iPhones, computers, and technology. What makes us human is our emotions and intuitive mind, the reflectivity of sensing how we fit into our connected world. Newtonian perspectives over the last three centuries have conditioned us to be dominated by our rational mind, that everything is linear and can be explained through science and God. This rational mind in combination with our present cultural embeddedness – which defines our lens of the world through the midst of competitive pressures and the fast-paced, often perilously unreflective, and action-oriented norms of today’s societies – does not leave space and time for intuitive thinking. It is this intuitive mind that emerges in the spaces and solitude of our “nature experiences.” The deeper and deeper we are able to experience this space, the more introspection, connection, and creativity we can gain to live a more fulfilling and meaningful life. The depths of these meaningful experiences leave us without ordinary words to describe, allowing for new creative ways for us

to sense, our world. This is a compelling argument to strive for an environmental ethic that protects our future. Harvard's biologist scholar E.O. Wilson eloquently supports this view:

The ethical imperative should therefore be, first of all, prudence.

We should judge every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity. We should not knowingly allow any species or race to go extinct. And let us go beyond mere salvage to begin restoration of natural environments, in order to enlarge wild populations and stanch the hemorrhaging of biological wealth. There can be no purpose more enspiriting than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us. (*Diversity of Life*, p. 351)

Moreover, it is not so much about saving our planet, Earth, that we must strive for. As my insightful father reminded me early in my life, the Earth will most likely exist long after humanity becomes extinct, so not to worry about "saving the planet." It is more about preserving our innate human spirit that gives meaning to our lives and helps us understand who we really are. It is biophilia, the subconscious connections to the rest of life, and the diversity of our planet that illuminate this intuitive pathway to our human spirit and cry out for an environmental ethic.

So I urge you to go for that walk into wild spaces, run that riverside trail, or sit on that sandy beach. Let your senses run wild and be free to connect with your human spirit. See the myriad of colours of the stormy winter sky, hear the singing trickle of the nearby stream, sense the boundarylessness between you and the looming trees and moss-covered rocks that surround you. This is the true great hope for our species, to evolve to a new level of consciousness, from *homo ignoramus* to *homo imaginus* – to create the world anew, one full of wonder, meaning, and fulfillment.

TAP-TAP-TAP-TAP

BY ROY BISHOP

I had just come indoors after shovelling and snowblowing, late on a cold February afternoon. Our sunroom was cool, so I dropped into an inviting chair before bothering to remove gloves, hat, coat, and boots. The Sun had set a few minutes earlier.

As I sat there gazing out at the piles of snow, a sound, tap-tap-tap-tap, interrupted my comatose contemplation. I had heard a similar sound in the sunroom many a time: a bird, usually a Downy Woodpecker or a flicker, pecking at its reflection in the glass panels of the sunroom roof. Again, a few seconds later: tap-tap-tap-tap. But the roof was covered in snow and ice. Neither could I see the culprit by looking up from my chair nor could a bird on the roof see its own reflection.

Yet again: tap-tap-tap-tap. It had to be a bird somewhere on the sunroom roof. But evening twilight was coming on. Any sensible bird should already be in the adjacent woods, settling down for the night, not hammering on the sunroom roof.

Curiosity aroused, I stepped outside and examined the roof from various angles. No bird anywhere on the roof ... it must have flown when I opened the door. Satisfied, I began to return inside, when from overhead: tap-tap-tap-tap. It was still on the roof! But where? I stepped back again to get a view of the roof. Tap-tap-tap-tap. An invisible bird? And again: tap-tap-tap-tap. This time I caught a glimpse of something moving: the top of a small black-and-white head appeared momentarily over the edge of the metal rain gutter. A chickadee?

“Go find a bed for the night, chickadee,” I thought. The gutter was too high to reach, so to shoo the bird away I picked up a long ski pole and slid its tip above the gutter where I had seen the small head. No bird flew out. A few seconds later: tap-tap-tap-tap.

Could the bird somehow be trapped in the gutter? I lugged an

eight-foot stepladder from my garage, stood it against the sunroom wall, and climbed up to where I could look into the gutter.

It was a chickadee! The tips of both wings were frozen to the sides of the metal gutter and, although I could not see beneath it, its feet appeared to be trapped in ice too. There it was, valiantly pecking at the ice, while exposed to the cold, clear sky, with night coming on. The temperature was -13°C . Back down the stepladder for a bottle of warm water!

Before melting the entrapping ice, I cupped one hand around the chickadee. I did not want a wet ball of fluff escaping into that frigid night. Immediately its tiny beak began giving the underside of a finger painful jabs. No wonder chickadees can crack open sunflower seeds! Obviously the little bird was still very alert.

To check it over and allow it to dry out, I put the chickadee in a cage (we once had a canary). Other than a few feathers left in the ice in the bottom of the gutter, the chickadee seemed okay. Like any wild bird, it did not like being in a cage. I left it in the cool, dark sunroom for the night, a towel draped over the cage to shield it from drafts. Later that evening, with a dim red light so as not to disturb it, I looked in the cage. A small, round ball of feathers was sound asleep on a roost.

The next morning at sunrise, I set the cage outside on the doorstep and opened the door. The chickadee immediately flew up to the gutter (!) and began eating snow, apparently for a drink. A few seconds later it ascended to a tree branch, and then off to a nearby hedge. Success!

How did the chickadee become frozen to the gutter? That day had been sunny but cold. In mid-afternoon the southwest-facing, dark-brown aluminum gutter would have warmed enough in the Sun to melt a bit of snow. Toward sunset, the water would have cooled, possibly becoming supercooled before freezing.

I have seen that happen to drops of water on metal surfaces. More than once I have poked a pencil at a supercooled water drop and seen the drop immediately turn to ice, leaving the pencil suspended from the metal surface by its tip. Instant ice glue! My guess is that,

to quench its thirst, the chickadee was seeking snow as it did the next morning, or maybe it saw the bit of water in the icy gutter. It touched the supercooled water and was instantly trapped in ice.

Fortunately, I had paused at sunset in a place where I could hear tap-tap-tap-tap.

— *Natural History* —

HUNGRY TIMES ARE DESPERATE TIMES

BY DAVE SHUTLER AND ADELE MULLIE

Everybody saw enough snow this winter, especially above-ground foragers like birds (and also folks that had to shovel). On our property, this year's March 15 snowfall buried the lower part of our feeders, and starvation seemed imminent for the beasties obliged to find food above the snow. On March 16, when we headed out to replenish our feeders, we observed a first sign of desperation from agitated Black-capped Chickadees. Each of us had a chickadee land on or right beside our snowshoes, the birds almost being trampled in the process. We have never tried to feed the birds on our property from our hands, so this degree of non-fear in "our" birds was novel.

After the March 18 snowfall, the posts on which we hang our feeders barely peaked above the snow, and our feeders were completely under the snow. So, we had to move the feeders up into branches of saplings that we are letting repopulate what had been the lawn of the previous property owners. This was followed by a second sign of desperation that was even more novel (at least for us). One afternoon, we watched a male pheasant easily reach and profit from the new-found accessibility of our feeders. Similarly, crows stood on top of the obscenely high snow and enjoyed the head-height suet and sunflower seeds.

Because the latest snowfall facilitated access to our artificial bounty, crows and pheasants found themselves competing for resources that were probably available almost nowhere else. In any case, a pair of crows impatiently waited one day as a pheasant slowly savoured

the contents of our sunflower feeder. At one point, we happened to peer out when one of the impatient crows grabbed the tail of a pheasant and give it a yank. This happened repeatedly (at least four times) before all the birds detected us and flew away.

Some superficial research surfing didn't turn up similar observations in the scientific literature, but a popular website (corvidblog.tumblr.com/post/37622242234/tail-pulling) provided photographic evidence of a variety of corvids engaged in this behaviour. Someone has got to teach these birds some manners!

— *Seen in the Wild* —

A FEATHERED FRIEND – A BIG OAK TALE

BY ROBERT DANSON

The following true story was written and submitted by Robert L. Danson, who recently became a BNS member. Bob was born in 1915 and celebrated his 99th year last September. His many life experiences kept him close to the ways of field, forest, and nature, living as he did: a farm boy, an industrial arts teacher, and a cottage owner nestled in the woods along the shore of a lake in Lunenburg County. Currently, he lives in Halifax, in his apartment at Melville Heights, a residence featuring independent living, just off Purcells Cove Road. The following is from a series of his life's recollections recorded in one of his memoirs titled Big Oak Tales. Big Oak is the name given to the family cottage where Bob, his late wife, Hazel, and their family frequently over the years enjoyed being in touch with nature. Tapping trees to make maple syrup was an activity in their family life that went with spring returning to Big Oak. Among his interests and activities, Bob enjoys the annual BNS calendars and reading the BNS Newsletter. —SHERMAN WILLIAMS

It was a sunny day in mid-April, and Hazel, and I had been at our cottage, Big Oak, for about a week making maple syrup. Supplies were getting low, and a visit to Maders Country Market was indicated. So I put on my cleated boots and left for the store, walking out the long lane to where the car was parked.

Walking was easy now, snow only remaining in patches because of the warm, sunny days we had been enjoying. Arrived at the small



general store, it was a pleasure to walk in, pass the time of day with Peter Mader, get a cheery welcoming greeting from clerks Warren and Marie, then pick up things I needed. I soon had two shopping bags full of groceries: meat, canned goods, bread, fresh fruit, milk, some homemade cooking, and a treat for the candy shelf.

Returning to the cottage, I had parked the car, backing it off the road into the lane, and was getting the groceries out of the trunk when a movement in the bushes off to one side of the lane caught my eye. Taking a closer look, I discovered it was a Ruffed Grouse making its way out of the bushes, and I watched as it came out on the lane and began to walk to where I stood. Fearful that the noise would frighten the bird, I didn't close the trunk lid and stood quietly watching as it came closer and closer. Finally, deciding that I could wait no longer, I picked up the two bags of groceries out of the trunk, closed the lid, and set out for the cottage, walking past the grouse, fully expecting it to fly off. But that didn't happen. To my surprise, it stood at the side of the lane as I passed, then turned and began to follow along behind, staying close by all the way to the cabin.

I went up the steps with my bags and, looking back as I opened



Bob at his desk August 2012. The desk, lamp, and T-square were made by Bob. At the time of his retirement, he was an industrial arts teacher at the Nova Scotia Teachers College.

the door, saw the grouse beside the big granite rock close to the steps. I told Hazel all about my experience, but of course she didn't believe such a tale. Decidedly not. When I took her out on the deck to show her the grouse, it was nowhere to be seen, leaving me with nothing to prove my story. However, that changed later, when she saw it following me as I went to the brook for a pail of water. The grouse had just gone under the cottage and came out when I went down the steps with my pail.

The grouse continued to stay with me every time I appeared, going along when I went across the bridge to tap trees on the other side of the brook. It stayed close by, but just out of reach, watching as I bored holes, hammered in spiles, and hung buckets.

The first time I started the ATV, preparing to go tap trees or gather sap, I was sure the noise would frighten the bird off. On the contrary, it seemed to enjoy flying alongside, keeping abreast as I rode along. When I was in the sap house it stayed by the door but could not be coaxed inside.

I tried feeding it with various grains and cereal with no success; it preferred to feed on the tender buds of fresh maple sprouts. I got so accustomed to its presence that I began talking to it, watching its head cock to one side when I spoke. We hoped the grouse would appear again when we went back to Big Oak in May, but in that we were disappointed, and the experience has never been repeated.

— *Nature Counts* —

KINGSTON XMAS BIRD COUNT 2014

BY WAYNE NEILY, COORDINATOR

December 24, 2014 – Our 47th annual Xmas Bird Count (XBC), in 2014, was a very interesting one. The total number of birds was down by about 3,000 from last year with its many record highs, but the 70 species was our second-highest total ever. We had about the same number of observers, but more time spent in the field, and so slightly more coverage than last year.

Numbers of birds at feeders were down everywhere because of the same mild, snow-free conditions that favoured the field observers. The same weather probably increased the numbers of waterfowl and stragglers, producing or tying some record highs and adding four new species for the 47-year history of the count (Northern Pintail, Hooded Merganser, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Western Tanager), bringing our all-time list to 124 species. Another new species (American Wigeon) was seen about 50 m outside the circle, but the observer could not be sure that it was with the ducks that circled back into the count area, so it will remain off our list for now.

The variety in the Bay zones was remarkable, with the Margaretsville team (Stern, Blackert, & 7 feeder observers) getting what is probably a zone record of 40 species, and the Kings Co. one (L. Neily, Rajnys, & 6 feeder observers) had 35. The inland zones had predictably less variety, but ranged from 18 to 30 species each, the lower number being the average in some years. The observer (RS) of most of the large alcids thought that they were likely Razorbills,

but could not be sure, and had an odd gull that may have been a hybrid. Getting alcids this far up the Bay of Fundy seems to be more common in recent years, perhaps a reflection of changes in their food supply. The number of Dovekies was quite surprising.

The variety of raptors (8) was also higher than usual, two well-documented Northern Harriers being most surprising, and reflecting the climate change. The number of eagles may be too high, as it is impossible to know which may have moved between zones, but it certainly represented a record high.

Winter finches were almost absent but have since returned in fair numbers (January). They seem to arrive this far southwest in the province later each year – perhaps a result of climate change?

See the items with asterisks below for new records. There are new highs for a few half-hardy species that are benefiting from the climate change and adapting to the presence of open fresh water.

THE COUNT AREA: 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, Nicholville, South Tremont, Nictaux Falls, and Middleton).

CONDITIONS: December 27, 2014, 06:30–17:30, 20:30–20:45. Temperature 4–6°C. Partly cloudy. Wind SW, 15–25 km/h. Snow 0–10 cm deep. Stillwater open, moving water open.

OBSERVER EFFORT: 107 observers, 23 in field in 10–11 parties (daytime), and 84 at 58 feeders. Time and distance: 261.0 h at feeding stations, 1.2 h and 9.6 km owling; total daytime field party-hours 91.4, and party-km 861.6 (27.7 h, 33.2 km on foot; 63.7 h, 828.4 km by car).

BIRDS OBSERVED: (H = high count; * = record high total for the 47 years of this count; L = low count) Canada Goose 7, American Black Duck 250*, Mallard 781*, Northern Pintail 10 (1st record, PK), Common Eider 56, Surf Scoter 1, White-winged Scoter 1, Black Scoter 5, *Melanitta* sp. 5, Long-tailed Duck 2, Bufflehead 1, Hooded Merganser 2 (1st record, DC, KC, KM), Red-breasted Merganser 5, *Mergus*

sp. 3, Ring-necked Pheasant 38, Ruffed Grouse 7, Red-throated Loon 2, Common Loon 9, Horned Grebe 3, Red-necked Grebe 1, Bald Eagle 26* (18a, 8i), Northern Harrier 2*, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Northern Goshawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 20, Rough-legged Hawk 2, Black-legged Kittiwake 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, (3rd record, RS, RB), Herring Gull 236, Iceland Gull 6* (3rd record, RS, RB), Great Black-backed Gull 8, Dovekie 17* (3rd record, 2 parties), large alcid (sp.) 39, Rock Pigeon 317, Mourning Dove 307, Barred Owl 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 3*, Downy Woodpecker 56, Hairy Woodpecker 42, Northern (Y-s) Flicker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 6, Merlin 1, *Falco* sp. (small) 1, Blue Jay 229, American Crow 7789, Common Raven 294, Black-capped Chickadee 693, Red-breasted Nuthatch 23, White-breasted Nuthatch 40, Brown Creeper 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 16, American Robin 2, European Starling 3045, Orange-crowned Warbler 1 (1st record, LN, LR), Yellow-throated Warbler 1 (2nd record, D&RK, CD), Western Tanager 1 (1st record, CH), American Tree Sparrow 8, Chipping Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 23, White-throated Sparrow 13, Dark-eyed (S.-c.) Junco 277, Snow Bunting 45, Northern Cardinal 14, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Common Grackle 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 79, Pine Grosbeak 6, Purple Finch 1 (L), Common Redpoll 34, Pine Siskin 67, American Goldfinch 694, Evening Grosbeak 10, House Sparrow 63.

TOTAL SPECIES: 70

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 15,763

OBSERVED DURING COUNT WEEK BUT NOT ON COUNT DAY:

None!

OBSERVERS (FIELD): Ron Blackert, James Churchill, Lana Churchill, David Colville, Keegan Colville, Claire Diggins, Dan Diggins, Jonathan Diggins, Michael & Christine Gemmell, *Sheila Hulford*, Patrick Kelly, Lyndon Kornelsen, Kristin McCurdy, Larry Neily, *Wayne Neily* (compiler – 562 Messenger Rd, Tremont, RR 6, Kingston, NS B0P 1R0 Neilyornis@hotmail.com), Daniel Penner, Kenley Penner, Louis Rajnys, Twila Robar-DeCoste, Richard Stern, Ron & Heather Wilson

OBSERVERS (FEEDER STATIONS): Spike & Carole Allen, John Anto-

niuk, Lauren Avery, Sharon Baker, Claire Campbell, Bob & Karen Campbell, Kathy Chapman, Tony Chaulk, John Collins, Cathy Crook, Kenneth Crowell, Ella & Howard Dalton, Valerie & Paul Despres, John DeCoste, David Diggins, Harold & Donna Elliott, Shirley Fahie, Barbara & Patrick Giffin, Lloyd & Mary-Lou Graham, Carol Gregory, Sheila Gubernt, Mark Hamilton, Charles Harvey, Donna & Ron Hill, Patricia House, Marilyn & John Hudgins, Sibella Hulford, Kelly Hutton, Sharon Hutton, Michael Inkpen, Mary Jones, Bob Kajdas, Ted Kajdas, Don & Ruth Kelly, Cathou Larocque, Lois Leadley, Andrea & Garry Leeson, Dave & Tonya Ludlow, Velma MacDearmid, Judy & Malcolm MacKenzie, Myrna Maye, Ethel McLane, Greg Miller, Jonathan & Jacquie Muers, Ruth Myers, Homer Noble, Wanda Ogilvie, Gerry & Lillian Pellerin, Darlene Prest, Debbie Proctor-Scoville, Noreen Reagh, Ron Rogerson, Kay & Sherley Sanford, Tony Scoville, Helen Sharp, Ralph & Marylyn Swinamer, Carman & Carolyn Townsend, Charles & Doris Tye, Judy & Malcolm Uhlman, Jake Waldner, Margaret Waldner, Margot Walker, Audrey Wellwood, Jane White.

Habitat analysis has not been requested by Audubon since the 1970s, but we have long wanted an updated one, and ours was revised in 2012 by David Colville of the Applied Geomatics Research Group: (Acadian) Forest 55%; arable land, shrubs, and early regeneration areas 27%; towns (“urban”) and roads 10%; wetlands 4%; sand and gravel (“bare”) 1%; salt water 2.5%; fresh water 0.5%. A more detailed version of this re-analysis, including a map, as done by David Colville, and a comparison to the 1971 analysis, will be provided to field observers and others on request.

WEST HANTS 2014 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

BY PATRICK KELLY, COORDINATOR

Sunday, December 28, 2014 – Mild (+4° to +7° over the course of the day) with drizzle and light rain for the entire day. As you would expect, the precipitation put a damper on a lot of birds. Only 43 species were seen, 12 below the average for this count (55). The total number of birds counted was 10,564 (average 10,933). Just over 60 percent were starlings.

Remarkably, this is the second year in a row to add new species to the count circle. George Alliston was scouting an area he had not done previously and found a Pied-billed Grebe in St. Croix. On the day of the count, it was still there, accompanied by two Hooded Mergansers, not only a high for the count but the last time a Hooded Merganser was seen on the count was 1991. The other new species was an Eastern Phoebe, which was photographed by Richard Stern in the Burlington area. While not a new species to the count, a Broad-winged Hawk reported by Susan and Andrew Harvie was in the same general area as the one reported in 2012. This is only the second time BWAH has been recorded on this count.

BIRDS OBSERVED: Canada Goose 201, American Wigeon 15, American Black Duck 427, Mallard 97, Common Goldeneye 2, Hooded Merganser 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 54, Ruffed Grouse 1, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Bald Eagle 18, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, Broad-winged Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 11, Ring-billed Gull 29, Herring Gull 157 (record low count), Great Black-backed Gull 7 (record low count), Rock Pigeon 300, Mourning Dove 339, Downy Woodpecker 14, Hairy Woodpecker 11, Northern Flicker 6, Eastern Phoebe 1, Blue Jay 271, American Crow 572, Common Raven 40, Black-capped Chickadee 604, Red-breasted Nuthatch 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 12, Brown Creeper 5, Golden-crowned Kinglet 5, American Robin 122, European Starling 6503, Cedar Waxwing 45, American

Tree Sparrow 22, Song Sparrow 20, White-throated Sparrow 14, Dark-eyed Junco 103, Northern Cardinal 8, White-winged Crossbill 12, Common Redpoll 3, Pine Siskin 16, American Goldfinch 425, Evening Grosbeak 60.

Party-hours totalled 56 h: 43 by car and 13 on foot. The total distance covered was 519 km: 494 by car and 25 on foot. The total times and distances were down from last year, as we had one area that was not totally covered. People also spent about half as much time walking as last year. Rain tends to do that!

There were two count week birds: a Great Horned Owl heard in the Burlington area and a Pine Warbler photographed in the Avondale area. We just missed out on a Red-winged Blackbird, which was first seen at a feeder in Windsor the day after count week and has survived the recent March blizzards.

As usual, I would like to thank all of those who helped in the field or as feeder watchers this year: George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Louis Coutinho, Tony Duke, Keith Lowe, Ryan Harvey, Andrew Harvie, Susan Harvie, Patrick Kelly, Peggy Kochanoff, Blake Maybank, John Robertson, Barry Sabeau, Andrew Simpson, David Simpson, Jamie Simpson, Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern, Kent Williams, Sherman Williams, Hannah Williams, Olivia Williams, Jim Wolford.

— *Nature Counts* —

34TH ANNUAL CYRIL K. COLDWELL COUNT OF EAGLES/RAPTORS

BY JIM WOLFORD

Sunday, February 8, 2015 – Today is our first attempt at the 34th Annual Cyril K. Coldwell Count of Eagles/Raptors in eastern King’s County. Weather conditions are nearly ideal, with continuing very cold temperatures with significant wind-chills plus heaps and heaps of piled up plowed snow along all roads (making some dykeland roads iffy

to impossible). Sky was brightly overcast, occasionally sunny, with super visibility (except for the walls of snow).

Sixteen field parties totalling 30 people covered designated areas for just one hour, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (to minimize double counting of individual raptors).

Bald Eagles totalled 575, a near record number. But because about 20 eagles departed Hortonville early in the hour and flew toward Avonport across the Gaspereau River, where another field party may have counted them, the true total would be perhaps 555. Of the eagles pigeon-holed as to age, 62 percent were adult, 38 percent immature.

Other raptors encountered were 68 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Rough-legged Hawks (1 light-phase, 1 dark), no harriers, no Peregrine Falcons, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Merlin, no Short-eared Owls, 1 Barred Owl (Bernard Forsythe at dusk), and 1 probable Snowy Owl (seen by Malcolm Miles near Hollow Brook Power House at Lumsden Reservoir, on a power pole in a cleared area of a big power line).

Other natural history observations included about 10 coyotes (NE dykelands at Grand Pre), 4 Hooded Mergansers, about 40 ravens (from just one observer), 1 robin, 150 Bohemian Waxwings, 20 Horned Larks, 80 Snow Buntings.

Bald Eagles were basically everywhere, but concentrations included 130 south & east of Canning, 115 in Sheffield Mills area, 70 in the Avonport area, 60 at the NE dykelands of North Grand Pre to Hortonville, 50 west & north of Port Williams. At 11:30 a.m., I noticed 20+ eagles being fed at the corner of Church St and Hwy 358.

Thanks to all participants, who now can relax – our next count will probably be about the same date in 2016.

**WINTER WEATHER 2014,
EASTERN ANNAPOLIS VALLEY**

LARRY BOGAN, CAMBRIDGE STATION

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	Mean (°C)	Total* (mm)	Snowfall* (cm)	Snow* (%)
December 2014 (30 yr. average)	4.8 (1.5)	-3.2 (-6.1)	0.8 (-2.3)	164 (113)	10 (63)	5 (42)
January 2015 (30 yr. average)	-1.4 (-1.3)	-11.6 (-9.8)	-6.5 (-5.6)	157 (103)	127 (79)	59 (56)
February 2015 (30 yr. average)	-5.4 (-0.5)	-14.7 (-9.2)	-10.1 (-4.9)	125 (85)	121 (53)	93 (46)
Season (30 yr. average)	-0.5 (-0.1)	-9.7 (-8.3)	-5.1 (-4.2)	446 (301)	258 (195)	49 (48)

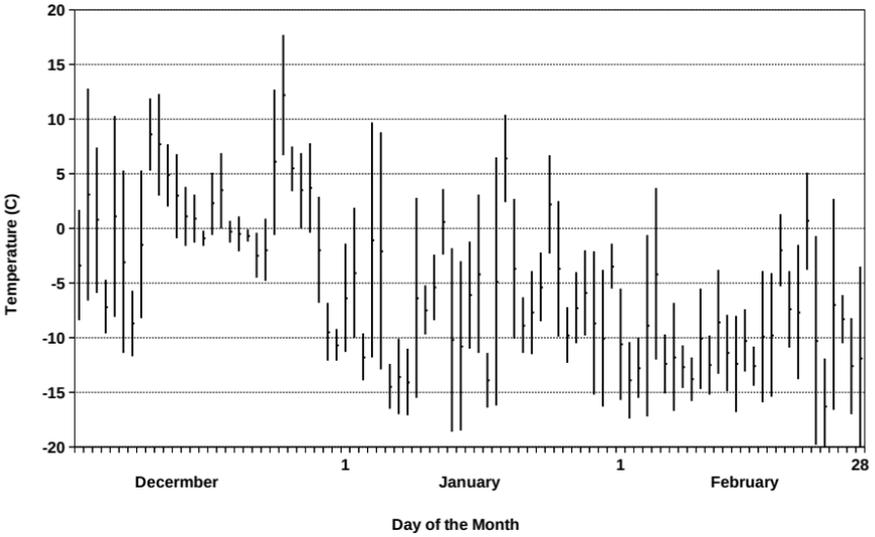
*Source: Environment Canada data for Kentville, NS (<http://weatheroffice.gc.ca>) and Canadian Climate Normals and Averages (Kentville). *Greenwood, NS (note: snowfall not available for Kentville, so all precipitation figures taken from Greenwood records). 30-year averages: 1981–2010.*

This winter was one to remember or, maybe, to forget. Both December and February were extreme, but in opposite senses. December was warm and rainy, while February was cold and snowy. We had a winter of very active weather in which the systems came through regularly and gave no long periods of any fine weather.

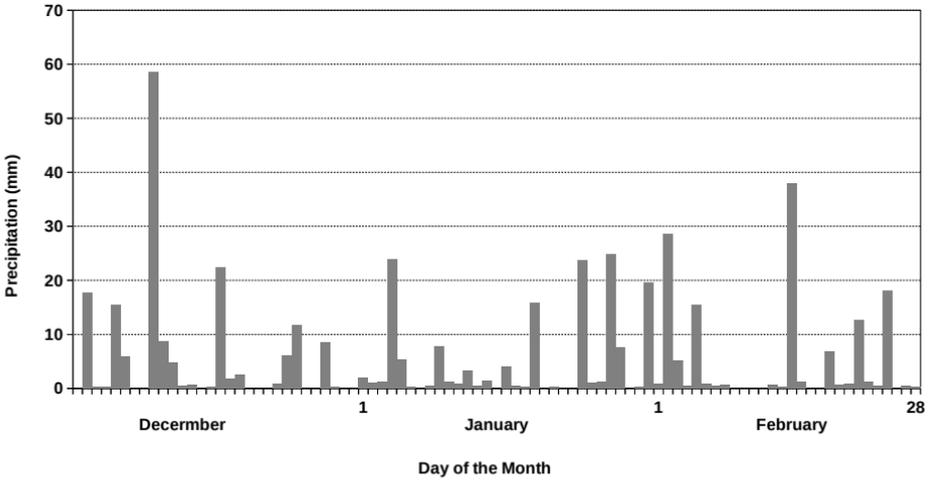
Temperature

The winter started out warmer than average and gradually got colder in the extreme. December was 3.1°C above average, January was 0.9° below average, and February was a huge 5.2° below aver-

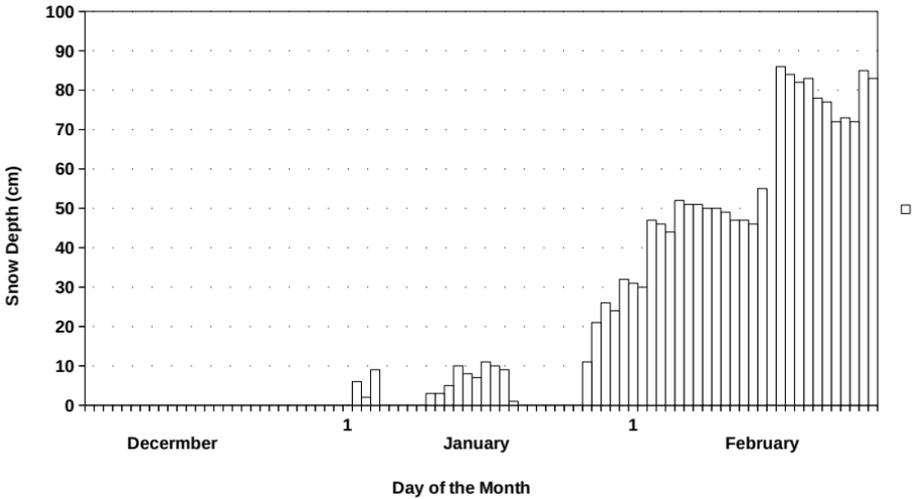
Daily Temperatures - Kentville, N.S.
December 2014, January and February 2015



Daily Precipitation - Kentville, N.S.
Dec 2015, Jan and Feb 2015



Depth of Snow on the Ground - Kentville NS
Dec 2014, Jan and Feb 2015



age. In February, the mean temperature got above freezing on only one day late in the month. The average for the whole season ended below normal by 0.9°.

Precipitation

The whole season had above-average precipitation, with 135 mm more (a normal month's worth) than usual. In December, precipitation was mostly rain, while in February it was mostly snow. I normally use the Kentville records for my report, but they have stopped reporting snow and rain separately and only give total precipitation. Greenwood does provide snowfall amounts, so I have included them in the table above. The precipitation was similar at both locations and the totals for the season were nearly identical. Note that in an average year the percentage of rainfall over these three months ranges from 44 to 58 percent. This year, we had 95 percent rain in December and only 7 percent in February; January was nearly normal. Some places in Nova Scotia set records for the

depth of snow, but in Kentville the record in February was 90 cm and we only got a maximum of 86 cm. Greenwood had 248 cm of snow fall in January and February, compared with the normal fall of 132 cm for those months.

The chart of snow depth on the ground in comparison with the graph of daily precipitation illustrates the change in precipitation during the season. The daily temperature chart shows how the temperature went down in January and stayed there. Only in late February is there an indication of some warming.

Astronomy

WHAT'S IN THE SKY?

BY ROY BISHOP

Highlights for April through July 2015:

APRIL 4: Full Moon

APRIL 18: New Moon

APRIL 19: Thin crescent Moon very low in the western twilight, about 20:40, with Mars (dim) and Mercury (brighter) to its right.

APRIL 21: Crescent Moon, Venus, and the Hyades star cluster are grouped in the western twilight (look between 21:00 and 22:00).

In April, Venus is very bright in the western evening sky. It passes within a binocular field of view of the Pleiades star cluster from the 8th to the 14th. Mercury passed behind the Sun on April 10 and reappears very low in the west-northwest evening twilight during the last dozen days of April. Look to the lower right of Venus, about 20:40 on the 19th and progressively later to 21:15 on the 30th. Jupiter is bright and high in the western evening sky.

MAY 3: Full Moon

MAY 18: New Moon

In May, Venus is very bright in the western evening sky. Mercury is low in the west-northwest evening twilight during the first week of May, to the lower right of Venus. Look about 21:30. Jupiter is bright, but not as high in the evening sky as it was last month. It is gradually drawing closer to Venus. Saturn is at opposition on the 22nd. It is highest in the south at 01:15 and 75 light-minutes distant from Earth.

JUNE 2: Full Moon

JUNE 15: Earliest sunrise of the year (05:30)

JUNE 16: New Moon

JUNE 19: Crescent Moon below Venus in the evening twilight

JUNE 20: Crescent Moon below Jupiter in the evening twilight

JUNE 21: Summer Solstice 13:38 ADT (longest daylight)

JUNE 25: Latest sunset of the year (21:08)

JUNE 28: Saturn 1° below Moon (locate Saturn!)

JUNE 30: UFO in evening twilight!! (see below)

In June, Venus and Jupiter decorate the western evening sky. As the days pass, the two planets draw ever closer together. Closest on the evening of June 30, the two brightest planets will be less than a Moon-diameter apart, with Jupiter above Venus, providing a striking sight in the fading evening twilight. Expect UFO reports! It is a line-of-sight closeness only, for Jupiter will be 12 times more distant than Venus. Jupiter's diameter in kilometres happens to be 12 times that of Venus, so in a telescope the two planets will look to be the same size (same angular diameter).

JULY 1: Full Moon

JULY 9: Venus brightest

JULY 15: New Moon

JULY 18: Crescent Moon close to Venus in western twilight (21:30 to 21:50)

JULY 30: Full Moon

Two full Moons in one month! That occurs about every three years

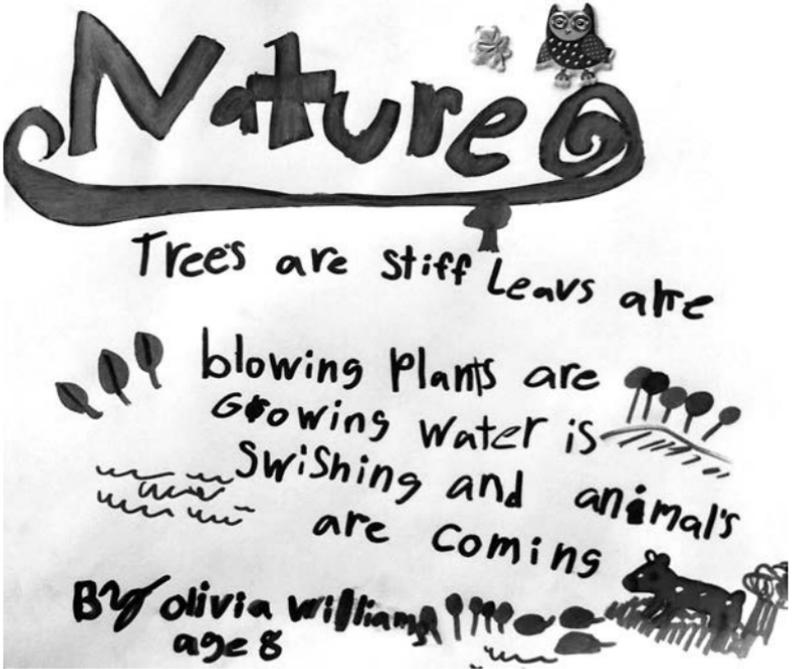
because the average time between successive full Moons (29.53 days) is shorter than the average length of a month (30.44 days). More rarely, two full Moons occur in January, none occur in the next month, and two full Moons occur two months later in March. That next happens in 2018. The second full Moon in a month is sometimes called a “Blue Moon,” although there is nothing blue about it.

NOTE: Weather permitting, the annual Nova East Star Party public sky viewing will occur at Smileys Provincial Park, near Brooklyn, on Saturday, August 15.

Poem

NATURE

BY OLIVIA WILLIAMS, AGE 8





DOUG LINZEY

North Medford and Minas Basin (as seen from the North Mountain)

SOURCES OF LOCAL NATURAL HISTORY

Compiled by the Blomidon Naturalists Society

Amphibians & Reptiles	Sherman Bleakney	H: 902-542-3604	
	Jim Wolford	H: 902-542-9204	
Astronomy	Roy Bishop	H: 902-542-3992	
	Sherman Williams	H: 902-542-5104	
	Larry Bogan	H: 902-678-0446	
Birds – General	Bernard Forsythe	H: 902-542-2427	
	Richard Stern	O: 902-678-4742	H: 902-678-1975
	Gordon & Judy Tufts	H: 902-542-7800	
	Jim Wolford	H: 902-542-9204	
	Jean Timpa	H: 902-542-5678	
Butterflies & Moths	Jean Timpa	H: 902-542-5678	
Fish & Wildlife	NS Department of Natural Resources	O: 902-679-6091	
Flora	Ruth Newell	O: 902-585-1355	H: 902-542-2095
Fungi	Nancy Nickerson	H: 902-542-9332	
Hawks & Owls	Bernard Forsythe	H: 902-542-2427	
Indian Prehistory & Archeology	James Legge	H: 902-542-3530	
Mosses & Ferns	Ruth Newell	O: 902-585-1355	H: 902-542-2095
Mammals	Tom Herman	O: 902-585-1358	H: 902-678-0383
Rocks & Fossils	Geology Dept., Acadia University	O: 902-585-2201	
Seashore & Marine Life	Sherman Bleakney	H: 902-542-3604	
	Jim Wolford	H: 902-542-9204	
	Michael Brylinsky	O: 902-585-1509	H: 902-582-7954

BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY 2015 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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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 _____

No.	Description	Price	Total
_____	Individual/ Family Membership	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	Junior (under 16 years) Membership	\$1.00	\$ _____
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_____	Blomidon Naturalist crest	\$5.00	\$ _____
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_____	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.



