# THE HALIFAX FIELD NATURALIST



No.108 September to November 2002



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Return addmess: HFN, c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 3A6



is incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act and holds Registered Charity status with Revenue Canada. Tax-creditable receipts will be issued for individual and corporate gifts. It is an affiliate of the Canadian Nature Federation and an organisational member of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, the provincial umbrella association for naturalist groups in Nova Scotia.

- **OBJECTIVES** are to encourage a greater appreciation and understanding of Nova Scotia's natural history, both within the membership of HFN and in the public at large. To represent the interests of naturalists by encouraging the conservation of Nova Scotia's natural resources.
- MEETINGS are held, except for July and August, on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Meetings are open to the public.
- FIELD TRIPS are held at least once a month, and it is appreciated if those travelling in someone else's car share the cost of the gas. All participants in HFN activities are responsible for their own safety. Everyone, member or not, is welcome to take part in field trips.
- **HFN ADDRESS Halifax Field Naturalists** 
  - c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6 EMAIL <hfnexec@chebucto.ns.ca>
  - WEBSITE <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/FieldNaturalists/fieldnat.html>
- FNSN ADDRESS Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6 EMAIL <doug@fundymud.com> (Doug Linzey, FNSN secretary and Newsletter Editor)
  - WEBSITE <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/hp-fnsn.html>
- **MEMBERSHIP** is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Nova Scotia. Memberships are available at any meeting of the society, or by writing to: Membership Secretary, Halifax Field Naturalists, c/o NS Museum of Natural History. New memberships starting from 1 September will be valid until the end of the following membership year. The regular membership year is from 1 January to 31 December. Members receive the HFN Newsletter and notices of all meetings, field trips, and special programmes. The fees are as follows:

	Individual Family Supporting FNSN (opt.)	\$15.00 per year \$20.00 per year \$25.00 per year \$5.00 per year	
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# **HFN NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **EDITORIAL**

This summer has been more normal than the last few years' were; it was cold enough in April to delay spring for two weeks but insects and plants soon caught up. There was reasonable rainfall, but not enough yet to replenish the water table. It was a comfortable summer.

The FNSN conference was the outstanding event. Meeting other N.S. naturalists and hearing about their clubs' activities was inspiring. The talks were sometimes depressing; so many issues need advocates – human activity must be planned better so that we do not overwhelm the environment. Fortunately many groups are working on this, some of them surprising – medical folk are praising honest dirt for developing strong immunities in children! My Mother, born in 1898, knew this; she just said it differently!

The value of observing and discussing nature, our specialiy, also became more obvious.

The abundant natural beauty of Halifax Regional Municipality was again revealed, but it is fragile. Coyotes in Hemlock Ravine bring diversity but they and the deer are under pressure from development. The fish-kill in Little Sackville River this summer was disheartening. However, salmon have ascended the river since, and if left alone it will restock from its tributaries.

Several people have contributed to this Newsletter; they always improve and strengthen it. They are appreciated!

- Ursula Grigg

# FNSN AND FOREST

FNSN's very new committee to prepare a Policy on Forest Management is going to need members. Anyone who is interested should contact our President, Bob McDonald, 902-443-5051. The committee will be convened by Mary Macauley.

# **FLYING SQUIRRELS**

Amanda Lavers is researching Flying Squirrels in southern Nova Scotia, which are slightly different from our regular N.S. species. She would be grateful for any recent flying squirrel photographs or body parts. Please phone **1-866-727-3467** (toll-free).

### **OBSERVATION REPORTS**

There's still time to report observations on Herps, Earthworms, and the 50 items on the Thousand Eyes list. Here are the contact coordinates:

#### **Herp Atlas**

Fred Scott/Sabrina Taylor, Herp Atlas Project Biology Dept., Acadia, Wolfville, N.S., B0P 1X0 Phone: 902-585-1313

Website: <http://landscape.acadiau.ca/herpatlas>

#### Wormwatch

WormWatch, Canadian Nature Federation 1 Nicholas St, Suite 606, Ottawa, Ont., K1N 7B7 Website: <http://wormwatch.ca>

#### Thousand Eyes

Phone: 902-424-7370 Fax: 902-424-0560 Website: <http://www.thousandeyes.ca>

# **NEW TRAIL**

The Bluff Trail, near Exit 3 on Highway 103, is open to the public though not yet finished. It's south of Timberlea on crown land, and is accessible by Halifax Transit Route #21.

For more information, contact Peter Romkey, at <nsplants@hfx.eastlink.ca>.



**NEW AND RETURNING** 

None for this quarter.

# SPECIAL REPORTS

## THE OWL PROWLER

I was out on the North Mountain on Thursday, 11 April, doing an owl survey. Without a doubt, it certainly let me attest to the effectiveness of owl recordings in stirring up everything in a neighborhood.

At the very first stop the wood frogs responded with a fine chorus to join in with the peepers. Some American Woodcock joined the party too, it sounded like several of them. Two stops later, in what I had thought was a relatively isolated location, the very first passage of owl recordings brought a thundering response which was totally unexpected. I had simultaneous complaints from at least a dozen cattle, five very loud dogs, a pheasant, and of course – the usual peepers and wood frogs.

If there were any owls in the area, they probably fell off their perches laughing.

Another two stops on, in another 'isolated' area, there was total silence until the first owl recording was played; then – chaos. Four or five dogs in a home considerably down the road went absolutely ballistic. The owner came out and put on a fine display of various curse words and locked up the dogs. Things began to return to normal until I played the second owl recording. More dog problems, more cursing. The owner leapt into his car and roared it past me on the road, glaring. He screamed into a driveway down the road, reversed, and repeated the performance, slamming into his driveway and then his house.

At the next stop, three horses materialised out of the night right behind me when I first showed up, and scared me half to death. By the end of the recordings they were trotting quickly and loudly round and round their field, obviously much inspired by the owl sounds. If I seemed a little gun shy the next day, I probably was; and I am sure that the owls were greatly entertained.

Were there any owls? Well there must have been, because several locals told me there were lots about. But – I only identified one. Obviously my particular route that night won't prove anything to anyone. Hopefully it can be changed in the future. In the meantime – I will give my nerves a rest!



### **FNSN CONFERENCE**

The Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists' annual conference began on Friday, 31 May in Halifax, at Mount St. Vincent University, hosted by the Nova Scotia Bird Society. The entire conference was well attended, with at least 100 registrants. On Friday night various displays were set up, including one by HFN arranged by Bob McDonald. FNSN President Joan Czapalay welcomed everyone with a few introductory remarks; then an award was made to Etta Parker for her long and continuing services to the protection of the endangered Piping Plover on Nova Scotian beaches.

Meteorologist Gary Lines made the keynote speech on "Climate Change in Atlantic Canada", which nicely set the tone for the entire weekend, whose theme was "Environmental Change – the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly".

This was followed by a nice social wine-andcheese evening for reacquainting ourselves with other naturalists from almost all our eleven affiliated clubs.

Each of the two following days began with early morning walks for plants or birds. These were followed by breakfast, and then presentations or meetings.

On Saturday, the four presentations were uniformly excellent and interesting. First was Dave McCorquodale's "Ups and Downs", concerning changes over the years in numbers of various species of Cape Breton Island's birds and how they are monitored. Marion Munro then took on "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly; a Short Visit to our Introduced Plant Species" in which she took us back to the days before, and during, the earliest times of European colonisation of North America. Marian listed various categories of non-native plants, different ways of looking at what is 'native' vs. 'alien', and then concentrated on a few examples of invasive plants like Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea) and Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria). She also told us of 20 more species of plants which have been discovered since the 1998 publication of Roland's Flora of Nova Scotia, revised and edited by herself.

Graham Daborn presented "Quo Vadis?" (which translates roughly as 'Where are we heading?') in terms of climate change, our estuaries, and coastal ecosystems. His lecture on our remaining saltmarshes was very forceful; there are only 75-85% of those we had before European settlement. Given present and projected human developments, plus likely climate change scenarios over the next hundred years, he said our tidal marshes are doomed to near extinction! This is because, with rising sea-levels, they will have nowhere to go in terms of relocating at the top of the tidal range. Thus we humans must somehow retreat from the coastline with our developments in order to prevent total loss of these ecologically very important marshes.

Next the Atlantic Salmon Federation's Fred Whoriskey presented "From Plenty to Endangered", discussing mostly the inner Bay of Fundy populations of Atlantic Salmon. These fish are highly endangered; they appear to be a separate stock, having a quite different marine phase in their life-cycle from other stocks, which migrate much further to sea (as far as Greenland). He discussed the various threats to the species, including changes to their spawning grounds, fishing (commercial fishing is now banned), and impacts from aquaculture (accumulation of waste, spread of disease and chemicals by water, and escape of breeding stock).

The very hot afternoon was spent on various local field trips, and followed by an ample banquet.

The banquet speaker was Randy Lauff, whose presentation title was the unrevealing "A Different Perspective". We were all flabbergasted when he launched into a discussion of habitats, (which fit right in with the conference theme), except that we humans were the habitats for our symbiotic/ parasitic 'guests'! After briefly considering our skin, lungs, and gut, etc., Randy concentrated on our hair and gave a detailed exposition on the human head louse. He took a long and painful time getting around to comparing his analogy of a human head of habitat-hairs with its lice, to a forest of trees with its various life-forms which depend upon them. (This included both living and dead trees, and also old-growth forests!) He used the head of his colleague Jim Williams, whose head sported a Mohawk-cut (like a forest corridor), and also completely bald areas (a clear-cut). I'm not sure how successful Randy was in eliciting our sympathy for the head lice whose forest was clearcut, but the whole thing was certainly memorable.

The following morning, after more early walks

and breakfast, we gathered for "Woods and Waters", a presentation by Bob Bancroft, assisted by his wife Alice Reed, the artist. Bob discussed current forestry practices in Nova Scotia and showed us how appalling they are. Don't listen to foresters' accounts of how ancient their nasty practices are - and how they are now remedied and environmentally friendly! He also discussed how forestry and other practices impacted our rivers and wetlands (recalling what Fred Whoriskey had said previously in connection with salmon). Bob apologised for his mostly 'bad-news' themes, and lamely tried to end on a somewhat positive note, emphasising that it is up to us naturalists, individually and collectively, to observe accurately and often, to report abuses as we see them, to keep ourselves informed, to support organisations which are combatting abuses, to write letter after letter, and to recruit others to our causes etc. (If he did not say quite all of these things, he certainly implied them - and more.)

The use of Bob Bancroft in this slot was an unabashed ploy to get people in the right place in time for the Annual General Meeting. This actually has been quite well attended in recent years, a very good sign, I think, and most or all of our member groups were represented by at least a few people, from as far away as Cheticamp and Yarmouth.

President Joan Czapalay opened the 2002 FNSN AGM by introducing the officers, then calling upon the affiliated club delegates to outline their activities. Most reported conservation activities in their districts, varying from trying to curb ATVs (Blomidon Naturalist Society), to runnning a nature store and upgrading trails (Les Amis du Plein Air), and looking forward to the Gulf of Maine Kayaking Expedition in late August (Chignecto Naturalists). Some reported their enjoyment of natural history and writing about it (Wild Flora Society, HFN).

Jill Comolli (South Shore Naturalists) spoke of their Issues Committee of four people, who research issues and then recommend action to the Club's Board. (FNSN later resolved to form such a committee as well.)

![](_page_4_Picture_9.jpeg)

By successful letter writing, Tusket River Environmental Protection Association had delayed opening of the Black Bull kaolite-quartz mine that was proposed for just outside the Tobeatic Reserve. Applause!

Some clubs have low membership, which restricts them, but are active all the same (Cape Breton Naturalists, Eastern Mainland, Wild Flora).

Sterling Levy of the N.S. Bird Society mentioned the interpretive sign put on Brothers Islands to protect nesting terns, the Important Bird Area programme on Cape Sable Island, and the society having adopted the Piping Plover Guardian programme, with coordinator Anna McCarron, who was present, in uniform, with a Piping Plover display.

Annapolis Field Naturalists was concerned with management plans for the Tobeatic Wilderness, and also with the local 2005 celebration of the 400th anniversary of European settlement.

This account does not begin to do justice to the range of interests reported by affiliates! This is a very active society.

Mary Macaulay was introduced as the Directorat-large. After the Treasurer's Report from Jean Gibson, appointment of Harold Forsyth as Auditor, and Joan Czapalay's President's Report, there were three Special Reports:

1. Barry Sawyer summarised the latest incarnation of the FNSN Board's Policy on Off-road Vehicles. It was approved.

2. Randy Lauff reported on FNSN's activities concerning non-native Species (context: wild Turkeys). He read a short statement of proposed FNSN Policy on Introduction of Non-native Species, which was **amended and then approved** by the meeting. Summary: that FNSN is opposed to any such introduction except in the case of biological control as a last resort.

**3.** The withdrawal of FNSN from the Nova Forest Alliance.

Background for reports **2** and **3** is in the April 2002 FNSN News and the May 2002 issue of Shunpiking.

Nominations: Vice-president – Bob McDonald; Secretary – Doug Linzey; Treasurer – Jean Gibson; Director for individual Members-at-large – Mary Macauley. They were all elected. Joan Czapalay remains in the second year of her term as President.

The weekend finished with more field trips, on an afternoon which had turned cold and rainy.

- Jim Wolford, with Ursula Grigg

![](_page_5_Picture_13.jpeg)

# HARRIET IRVING BOTANNICAL GARDENS

![](_page_5_Picture_15.jpeg)

The Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens in Wolfville opened officially in the third week of September, although some people seem to have visited earlier.

It is a tempting site, with more than 500 plant species – all from the Maritime provinces or local gardens, and nearly all of them are labelled.

The garden represents nine natural Acadian habitats on 2.4 hectares. It includes a marsh which was lifted in pieces from the Annapolis Valley and then reconstructed on the site, and already contains salamanders, which probably came with it. There are typical woodlands there, suitable for salamander hibernation.

The whole is a good site for birds, and of course the local Mallards have already discovered the marsh. It must have taken a long time to put together, collecting the plants mostly from places where construction is taking over undeveloped land.

The twinning of Highway 101 has been a gift!

It remains to be seen how well the place will be maintained, and how difficult it will be to preserve the habitats on artificial terrain and to prevent ducks from taking over. Meanwhile, this is a chance to see native plants growing, especially for people who live near enough to visit at different seasons.

Witch Hazel will be an aromatic delight in frosty air later this fall!

These Gardens are part of the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre, given to Acadia University in Wolfville. Nine houses were demolished to make room for it.

The Gardens are entered through a glass conservatory at 32 University Avenue in Wolfville, and are well equipped with benches to sit on and gravel paths for exploring dryshod. They are open every day from 7.30 a.m. until dusk.

It has been quite hard to come by information about the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens, but an excellent article by Kim Moar appeared in the Sunday Daily News on 22 September, and we will have learned more after our HFN field trip on Saturday, 28 September.

# **HFN TALKS**

### **OCEAN OF AIR**

#### 5 SEPT.

A nice surprise awaited us for our September monthly presentation – former weather forcaster Theresa Canovan of the Department of the Environment carried out a talk on weather on behalf of retired meteorologist Dr. Rod Shaw.

With a world map, she set the stage by reminding us that the great temperature differences that occur between our earth's poles and the equator is the main engine that drives the variability of weather. Those temperature differences cause the variability in high and low pressure areas and the winds. Temperature and precipitation are indicators of regional climates, while localised weather is more dependant upon wind direction and speed.

In Nova Scotia, our latitude, our nearness to the Atlantic Ocean and their currents, and our west coast mountains are the main factors that affect the weather we receive over the seasons, as the tilted earth revolves and circles the sun over the year. The Atlantic currents affect Nova Scotia's land temperatures, and also can give us massive amounts of fog. If the wind is out of the northwest, there will be no fog; if it is out of the south, there will be foggy conditions.

The Department of the Environment does two 'runs' of measurements a day, at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and automatically produces maps and isobar diagrams of weather measurement. The World weather Group has done this for 50 years. Also, the Canadian Weather Centre uses information from

# **FIELD TRIPS**

# BUTTERFLIES II DATE: Saturday, 6 July

![](_page_6_Picture_9.jpeg)

PLACE: Mount Uniacke Estate Park/Pockwock Rd.

WEATHER: Cloudy with sunny breaks, high 20°C. INTERPRETERS: Peter and Linda Payzant PARTICIPANTS: 11

This was the second HFN butterfly trip of the summer, and one of the objectives was to get an idea of the changes since the earlier trip on June 8. The weather was less than ideal, but not a total disaster, with mostly overcast skies.

The most abundant species were Ringlets and European Skippers. A month earlier, the first brood of Ringlets was just emerging, and there were no the U.S. weather Service as well. These weather measurement print-outs show interpreters how the jet stream changes and evolves, and detects the presence of lightning and hurricanes, among other things. When hurricanes come north from the U.S., they are weakened due to the effects of the colder Atlantic waters.

More recent technology, such as different types of radar (doppler) images, has made predicting the times of weather changes much more precise. For the twelve-hour weather forcasts, short-range techniques are used (no computer); beyond twelve hours, more math equations are utilised. Five-day forcasts are more difficult to predict precisely, and they are more of an 'outlook', or guide, to what might be going to occur – merely an indication of general conditions to come.

Questions about global warming were raised; Theresa said that certainly, weather records showed that the amount of  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere has greatly increased in recent centuries (glacier ice measurements show this).

Many more questions were asked, and Theresa appreciated sharing her answers with naturalists who are keen to know what will happen with the weather for their activities.

- Stephanie Robertson

![](_page_6_Figure_19.jpeg)

grass skippers at all. This time, we also saw Dun, Hobomok, Tawny-edged, and possibly Arctic Skippers.

The Silvery Blues were still around, although not very numerous. The Spring and possibly Cherry Gall Azures had been replaced by a few Summer Azures.

There were lots of Pearl Crescents, Silverbordered Fritillaries, and, especially on the Pockwock Road, good numbers of Harris's Checkerspots. This latter species was recently featured in an issue of American Butterflies, where it was noted that it is invariably associated with Tall White Aster (*Aster umbellatus*). Only one Silverbordered Fritillary was observed on the previous trip. Some species were notable by their absence. We only saw one or two Sulphurs, and no large fritillaries (Great Spangled, Aphrodite, or Atlantis). There were no Pearly-eyes, nor did we see any Ladies or Red Admirals. The knapweed was not yet in full bloom, and we depend on this plant in some of our locations to attract good numbers of butterflies.

There were a few White Admirals and Tiger Swallowtails (much more common a month previously), one Clear-wing Sphinx Moth (on Vetch), and a very few Virginia Ctenucha moths.

We were delighted to come upon a full-grown Leopard Frog, and two Garter Snakes, one of which we caught in the butterfly net and briefly detained. At the bridge on the Pockwock Road, we had a great view of a stunning Ebony Jewelwing (a damselfly).

![](_page_7_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Butterflies II Species Butterflies

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail **Clouded Sulphur** Summer Azure Silvery Blue Silver-bordered Fritillary Harris's Checkerspot Northern Pearl Crescent White Admiral Ringlet Dreamy Dusky Wing Arctic Skipper European Skipper Tawny-edged Skipper Hobomok Skipper Dun Skipper Virginia Ctenucha Ebony Jewelwing Frogs Northern Leopard Frog Snakes Maritime Garter Snake

Papilio canadensis Colias philodice Celastrina neglecta Glaucopsyche lygdamus Boloria selene Chlosyne harrisii Phyciodes selenis Limenitis arthemis Coenonympha tullia Erynnis icelus Carterocephalus palaemon Thymelicus lineola Polites themistocles Poanes hobomok Euphyes vestris Ctenucha virginica Calopteryx maculata

Rana pipiens

Thamnophis sirtalis pallidula

![](_page_7_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_10.jpeg)

#### SAMBRO LIGHTHOUSE

![](_page_7_Picture_12.jpeg)

Date: Saturday, 20 July Place: Sambro Island Weather: Warm and sunny Participants: Approximately 30

A history of the lighthouse was provided by Kathy Brown of The Lightouse Preservation Society. A synopis of that outline is included here to set the background for this outing.

The Sambro Lighthouse stands on a granite island about 2 nautical miles outside the entrance to Halifax Harbour marking an area of some 30 shoals. After Sydney, Australia, it is the second largest ice-free harbour in the world.

Nine years after the founding of Halifax, the governor tried unsuccessfully to build a light. Then, in 1758, the General Assembly of N.S. passed an act to establish a lighthouse, and appropriated 1,000 Pounds Sterling from alcohol duties plus taxes from using the harbour. The 60foot high stone building had a fixed white light and a weathervane, which were 115 feet above sea level. The operation of the lighthouse was not efficient, however, and the wreck of the Boston sloop 'Grandby' in 1771 provoked an investigation. The inquiry found that the keeper had been appointed by the Governor, and that the money he received from the taxes went into his pocket rather than into purchasing the fish oil which fuelled the light. Also, If no ship was in sight and the light went out, it was left unlit! Ships of HM Navy had, on occassion, even fired upon the lighthouse, in order to get the keepers to show a light.

Although it was recommended that the Navy take over the lighthouse operation, nothing was done, for we know that the civilian Matthew Pennell was in charge in 1772. However, by then the light had been replaced by a 'fountain lamp' with a flue, which carried off the smoke and kept the glass reasonably clear.

In 1834, the lantern had some 128 panes of glass that had to be kept clean. A critical Commission report followed, but it was not until 1864 that a new iron lantern was installed, with plate glass windows and a light with a reflector. Halifax fog was a perennial problem, and over the years the light was augmented by cannons, a steam-driven fog horn, bomb rockets, acetylene guns, and finally, in 1963, a diaphone.

In 1906, 22 feet were added to the height of the tower and a first-order Fresnel dioptric lens, made in France, was Installed. This light was one of

8

Canada's major beacons. Thirty-nine years after Confederation, the light was being staffed by the Coastguard of the Governwent of the Dominion of Canada.

In 1968, the classic iron tower was replaced with an aluminum one and a 36-inch airport beam replaced the huge lens. The latter can be admired in the Museum of the Atlantic, on Lower Water Street, Halifax. (Presently, the tower is 74 feet high from base to vane.)

Sambro Lighthouse is built of stone and sheathed with wood shingles, to prevent deterioration in the salt atmosphere. Originally white, the three red stripes were applied in 1908 to contrast with snowy conditions. The original, interior granite 44-foot tower of 1758 still remains.

Having served Halifax for 238 years, Sambro is now the oldest working light in British North America. An older light (1713) at Louisburg was destroyed when that fortress was taken. That light is still maintained by the Canadian Coastguard, but in 1988 was destaffed. It is first on the official list of eight Canadian lights which have been proposed to the International Association of Lighhouse Authorities for preservation.

In August 1998, the Canadian Coastguard began urgently needed restoration of the Sambro lighthouse tower. The concrete platform beneath the lantern is being replaced, and the whole of their wooden cladding is being renewed.

Three trips to the lighthouse has been planned; I myself was on the second, 11:30 a.m. departure with 11 other people. Dorothy McLeod, who kindly arranged the whole event, remained on shore to direct each trip. Leaving Sambro Head we set a course which took us past Inner Sambro Island, were a sailing boat was moored off an idyllic sandy beach. Soon we were offshore from Sambro Island itself, and could clearly see the lighthouse and the keepers' cottages. Rounding its south side, we entered a narrow harbour in a cleft of the rocks. The passengers of the earlier boat greeted us as we clambered up them. Tracey, who acted as a guide, was also there, and she gave us some written information on the lighthouse. We were then free to explore, but, to my chagrin, we discovered later it was to be spoiled somewhat by mobs of noisy birds.

The first thing I noticed was that the island was treeless yet had some interesting vegetation. We climbed up the path to the lighthouse which stands on the southern end of this granite pile. Its bold, three red stripes were quite striking in the sunlight as were the shrieks of the seagulls. Below the lighthouse was an immense, flat expanse of smooth granite which probably would have been suitable for a helicopter landing pad. Below us, the two houses and their shed were in disrepair, and had been vandalised. I was struck by a patch of rhubarb, which reminded me that this had once been an island of human habitation. Now, it was owned by the seabirds, who were barely tolerant of our visit. I did manage to walk to a small beach, but going north was a dismal experience, as terns and gulls screamed and swooped continously. As far as I know, there were only three sightings of nests in the grass and one had been abandoned.

It was soon time to return, as the third boatload was arriving. Skipper Dave kindly returned by a more westerly route, which took us close to Crystal Crescent Beach. Despite the sun, there were no sightings of naturists enjoying the beach! During the return trip, the captain showed us some photographs of a house that had been lifted from Sambro and then floated across to Sambro Head. Before we docked, we saw the house in its new location.

Many thanks to Dorothy McLeod and Skipper Dave Charters for a very pleasant visit to this historical lighthouse.

#### Sambro Island Species Plants

Horsetail Ground Juniper Buttercup Meadow Rue Mouse-eared Chickweed Irish Moss **Beach Sandwort** Sandwort Dock Sheep Sorrel Rhubarb Japanese Knotweed Crowberry Foxberry Blueberry Rose Root Chokeberry Silverweed Strawberry **Beach Pea Red Clover** Cow Parsnip Seaside Angelica Caraway Seaside Goldenrod Dandelion Mouse-eared Hawkweed Starry False Solomon's Seal Blue Iris **Blue-eyed Grass** Birds

Double-crested Cormorant Common, or Herring Gull Great Black-backed Gull Common Tern Guillemot

![](_page_8_Picture_13.jpeg)

- Pat Leader

Phalacrocorax auritus Larus argentatus Larus marinus Sterno sp. Fam. Alcidae

### HALIFAX PUBLIC GARDENS

![](_page_9_Picture_1.jpeg)

PLACE: Halifax Public Gardens WEATHER: Overcast with showers, about 14°C INTERPRETER: Sheldon Harper PARTICIPANTS: 8

Sheldon Harper, an HRM Parks & Recreation Gardener, gave up his Saturday morning to lead this tour of the Public Gardens.

The tour began at the greenhouses across from the Gardens on Sackville Street. These five greenhouses provide the workspace for the staff to produce and maintain most of the multitude of plants found in the Public Gardens and in other places in HRM. The gardening operation is a yearround activity which includes: starting most of the bedding plants from seed or cuttings; preparing and planting the beds in the garden; planting various bulbs and tubers as well; weeding and pest control (no chemicals are used); mowing grass; raking leaves and removing dead plants; preparing many of the perennials for winter; moving many of the less hardy plants into greenhouses for the winter; moving various bulbs into greenhouses to be dried and stored for next season; and then making preparations to repeat the cycle.

Their attention to detail even includes the production of their own potting soil to be used to start the plants for the next planting season. The newest of the greenhouses includes a small tropical conservatory in which an orange tree, fig tree, and various palm trees, cacti, and other tropical plants flourish.

We then went into the Public Gardens, which is considered to be one of the finest examples of a surviving Victorian Garden in North America. It dates back to 1836, when members of the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society set out to create a garden in Halifax. In the early 1870's, private gardens to the south were joined with abutting public gardens to the north to become what we know today as the Halifax Public Gardens.

It was Richard Power, the first Superintendent, who had the task of bringing these two gardens together and laying out the outstanding floral patterns that are still in place. From the late 1800's to about 1912, much of the garden statuary, fountains, gazebo, ornamental bridges, grotto, and other man-made features were added. The Public w Gardens are open from early May until mid November each year. The Gardens contain some 650+ trees, which are a mix of indigenous and exotic species from around the world.

A wide variety of floral beds are found – some of which include; mixed perennials, dahlias, gladiola, roses, and mixed annuals. The shapes and sizes of the beds vary as well. A couple of the more unusual shapes are the scroll beds and the serpentine beds. There are two carpet beds, which are characteristic of Victorian Gardens. These specialised beds are used to commemorate particular groups or events. The one we saw was a display in honour of the Windsor Gyro Club.

Some of the sculptures and structures found in the Public Gardens have some historical significance. The Bandstand was built in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, and the Nymph Fountain in 1897 for her Diamond Jubilee.

The wildlife encountered included Squirrels, Pigeons (Rock Doves), Starlings, a Crow, and a variety of ducks and geese. The ducks and geese have become a concern in the Gardens as they overgraze on the lawns in some places as well as destroying other plants and flowers. For many years staff and visitors have fed the ducks and geese. Their population has increased and many of them are reluctant to migrate in the fall due to the availability of food in the Gardens. So the staff no longer feed them and visitors are encouraged to refrain from doing so as well.

Even though the weather was less than ideal, the tour was most enjoyable and informative. Sheldon mentioned that the gardening staff are generally only too happy to answer questions from visitors about their work in the Gardens and the many varieties of trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers that grow there.

It occurred to me, that to truly experience the beauty of the Halifax Public Gardens, you need to visit it a number of times over the course of the whole season as the various plants go through their own growth cycles and there are many subtle or even dramatic changes to be witnessed from one week to the next.

- Ron Gallant

![](_page_9_Picture_15.jpeg)

### **KINGSPORT MUD-FLATS**

![](_page_10_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Picture_2.jpeg)

DATE: Saturday, 17 August PLACE: Kingsport, Kings County WEATHER: Sunny and hot, with an on-shore breeze

INTERPRETER: Jim Wolford PARTICIPANTS: 15

![](_page_10_Picture_5.jpeg)

The following excellent report was generously provided by the field trip leader, Jim Wolford, of the Blomidon Naturalists Society. This was a wonderful field trip, made so not only by Jim's knowledge, but also by his enthusiasm. At the first sight of the enormous blue hornworm in Jim's hand at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre we knew this would be an enjoyable field trip. Kingsport, chiefly a cottage community, backed by mixed farms and orchards, is near the mouth of Habitant Creek on Minas Basin. The beach gets enough recreational use to support an ice-cream stand, very welcome after our long hot walk. Though at low tide the mud flats stretch for what seems like miles, there were actually some swimmers in the water who looked askance at our rubber-booted group ambling across the mud with spades, buckets and cameras.

Here's Jim's wonderful report:

The Life of The "Yummy Muds of Minas"

(The above title is attributed to Sherman Bleakney.) Just before the trip, I found a full-grown Hornworm Caterpillar of a Sphinx Moth crawling on a sidewalk at the Acadia Biology building. This hornworm was mostly green, with diagonal whitish markings on its sides, and its posterior 'horn' was light blue. When I picked it up, it waved its hind end back and forth very rapidly, and I could see how the rigid, pointed horn might discourage some predators. I displayed the Hornworm and then released it adjacent to the Robie Tufts Nature Centre. I'm sure it was looking for some bare soil, where it could dig in and pupate just under the surface.

Fifteen people showed up, mostly from HFN, on an extremely hot, sunny day. We drove from the Wolfville Farm Market first to Wellington Dyke, north of Starr's Point, and stopped where the dyke crosses the Canard River. The mud of the north bank of the river was brightly greenish-golden in colour in the bright sunlight; I'm sure that the colour was from a very dense surface layer of photosynthesising diatoms, which are extremely important single-celled algae in 'glass' shells, in this mud-flat/salt-marsh complex. water-control structure on the Habitant River. We could also see, just downstream, an older aboiteau dam containing lots of stems of small trees.

At the Kingsport Wharf, I showed a variety of shells of clams and snails etc. that we might see on our walk. I also handed out 5 sheets of information on the tides and the fauna & flora of the Minas Basin.

After I pointed out Marram Grass on the sand dune, we first walked south from the wharf through the small salt-marsh to the wet, newly exposed upper intertidal mud. We could see a wide band of wall-to-wall Mud Snails, a feature I use to show that this intertidal mud has an incredible amount of life. These Mud Snails are partly scavengers and partly consumers of diatoms at low tide. Also we saw that the surface of the mud was covered with small bumps of material; each bump is indigestible, ingested material (castings) that sub-surface segmented worms have exuded and pushed to the surface.

In the salt-marsh there were lots of small Periwinkles with Mud Snails on the mud surface below the Cord Grasses.

Beyond the salt-marsh we could see a few dozen Sandpipers (probably Semi-palmated) foraging on the mud, and there were lots of gulls at the lower water's edge.

Back on the northern side of the wharf, we did our beach walk next, first to the east down to the water, then north to the sandstone outcrops, and then back to the wharf. Quickly we found shells of Slipper Limpets, and in the lowest intertidal zone we found living slipper-shells attached to rocks; they were often in 'sexy stacks', with a large female on the bottom and a smaller male on top. These are weird snails that behave like clams – i.e., they are sessile (non-motile) filter-feeders.

Other shells found on our walk were from Softshelled Clams, Surf Clams (or Bar Clams), Pandora Clams, False Angel-wings, Razor Clams, Blue Mussels, fragmented Moon Snails, and carapaces or upper shells of 3 kinds of crabs – Rock, Lady, and Green Crabs. We saw numerous apparent carcasses of crabs, but I showed that most of them in fact were the shed skins of crabs that had moulted in order to grow.

My shovel showed that the middle intertidal mud contained oodles of skinny, long, reddish-brown segmented worms called Heteromastus, along with their surface castings (bumps of sediment). We also saw Bamboo Worms, another kind of segmented Polychaete Worm, but no Bloodworms (a.k.a. Baitworms – which I know are present). We did see one long, flat, unsegmented, Nemertine, or Ribbon Worm.

In tide pools around rocks, we saw numerous Hermit Crabs, juvenile Sand Shrimps, and rope-

We stopped briefly at the Canning Aboiteau, the

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like castings of sub-surface worms. Several pairs of the Hermit Crabs were 'embracing', i.e., their front legs were locked together; I wondered if one of each pair was shopping for a larger snail shell for its future growth; in fact, we did see one Hermit Crab with no snail shell at all (had it been evicted? or had it moulted before it had a bigger shell to which to move?). Other kinds of crustaceans (like true crabs) embrace as a pre-copulation position, in which the male waits for the female to moult into sexual receptivity.

Rock Barnacles were covering everything that was hard, including rocks, Blue Mussels, etc. Seaweeds were not abundant, because of lack of substrates for attachment, but we did see two kinds of Rockweed (*Ascophyllum* and *Fucus*), green Sea Lettuce (*Ulva*) and filamentous Enteromorpha, whitish Laver or Nori (*Porphyra*), reddish Sea Oak (*Phycodrys*), Dulse (*Palmaria*), and one large blade of Kelp (*Laminaria*). Other plants seen, besides saltmarsh Cord Grass (*Spartina*), were a couple of large areas of coloured mud surface with bluegreen bacteria (genus not known to me) and a few brownish bushy clumps of colonial diatoms.

Seaweed-like flat dead skeletons of colonial bryozoans called Flustra (detached from subtidal areas) were covered with egg-capsules of Mud Snails. Similarly plant-like were numerous whitish colonies of hydroids or hydrozoans attached to rocks and to the mud surface; there are several common species of these tiny predators which capture small critters swimming in the water. Hanging underneath a large sandstone outcrop was an identifiable Hydroid, Obelia (now called Laomedea); most of us studied the complex life cycle of Obelia in introductory biology (the sessile, asexual, colonial polyps alternate with tiny sexual medusae or jellyfish). Another recognizable Hydroid was Pennaria; a few dead colonies of these from subtidal areas were seen.

Associated with or hidden under rockweeds on rocks were living Dogwinkles, snails which are major predators on both Barnacles and Blue Mussels, but we didn't see any of their eggcapsules.

At the low tide line, we were able to find only a few holes of Razor Clams; I dug up a couple of them, and we found a baby, which re-burrowed while we watched. If the tide had been a good low one (go back on Sept. 9 or 10), we would have seen thousands of closely spaced big holes of the Razor Clams.

Razor Clams are one of the favourite foods of the burrowing Moon Snails, for which we found only eroded partial shells (common); and there were no Moon Snail sand-collars, which are in fact just the way they lay their eggs. On a large outcrop of sandstone were lots of Blue Mussels and zillions of Barnacles. When somebody curious and gutsy tasted the water of a shallow tidal pool and exclaimed, "Wow! It's very salty!", it was a grand opportunity for me to point out that intertidal critters have to be very tough, necessarily being tolerant of extremes of salinity/ freshness, hot/cold temperatures, etc., when they are exposed by the tides for short or long periods at all times of the year. I forgot to add that tidal pools are great places for being able to watch submerged barnacles feeding by rhythmically throwing out their jointed, hairy legs for filterfeeding on organic particles and tiny organisms.

At the foot of the sandstone cliff north of the cottages was an eroded hole containing a Common Raven's nest.

On our walk back to the wharf, a small saltmarsh area yielded lots of small, stunted (too crowded) Soft-shelled Clams (think of fried clams). Also there in the upper intertidal zone, I was surprised to find in the sandy mud a dense bed of very large Mud Shrimp (*Corophium*) with their deep U-shaped burrows. Somehow during our long walk we had not noticed any other beds of these very important critters, the main food of the Semipalmated Sandpipers (as well as fish and other predators).

When we finally got back to the wharf, I offered hoses for washing off the mud, but only four of us took advantage of the hospitality of Merle & Richard Foot and then sat in the shade of their cottage for a while. Whew! Relief! Thank you!

I grabbed a wonderful ice cream cone at the wharf canteen, then tried to buy some wine at the Habitant Winery shop, which was closed at 10 minutes before their closing time! Somehow today I was very careless and did not put on any sunscreen, and I ended up rather badly sunburned, especially on my bald spot! (despite a straw-mesh hat on all day over my seasonally-conditioned pate!).

Two good guides to local seashore life are: <u>Seashores of the Maritimes</u> – a reprinting/revision of Merritt Gibson's out-of-print <u>Seashores Nature</u> <u>Notes for Nova Scotians</u>. It will hopefully be available in Oct. or Nov. 2002; and –

Eastern Tidepool & Reef – by Dr. Chris Harvey-Clark, 1997, Hancock House, Surrey, B.C.

- Jim Wolford

![](_page_11_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_0.jpeg)

This almanac is for the dates of events which are not found in our programme: for field trips or lectures which members might like to attend, or natural happenings to watch for, such as eclipses, comets, average migration dates, expected blooming seasons etc. Please suggest other suitable items.

Autumn is the finest season in Nova Scotia. It is mild, serene, and cool enough to be bracing, and the atmosphere is of a purity that renders it peculiarly exhilarating and health-giving. The "Indian summer" occurs sometimes as late as the middle of November, and lasts from three to ten days.

- William Murray, "The Progress of Nova Scotia" in Eighty years' progress in British North America (1864)

#### NATURAL EVENTS

- 21 Sept. Full moon this is the 'Harvest Moon'.
- 23 Sept. Autumnal Equinox at 01:54 ADT. Fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere.
- **30 Sept.** Average date for first frost in Halifax (i.e. Env. Can. says there is only a 1:10 chance for frost before this.) Look forward to 210 days of frosty weather.
- 6 Oct. Moon at perigee; extra large tides will occur.
- 21 Oct. Full Moon this is the 'Hunter's Moon'.
- 27 Oct. Daylight Savings Time ends (clocks are set back one hour to Atlantic Standard Time) at 02:00 ADT.
- 19 Nov. Full Moon.
- 19 Nov. Leonid Meteor Shower peaks.
- **19-20 Nov.** Penumbral lunar eclipse between 19:32 00:10 AST; "observers should be able to see a subtle yet distinct shading across the northern portion of the Moon's disk."
  - 22 Nov. Daily minimum temperature goes below 0°.
- 5-15 Dec. Earliest sunset of the year at 16:34 AST.
  - 7 Dec. Daily average temperature goes below 0°.
  - 19 Dec. Full Moon.
  - **21 Dec.** Winter Solstice at 21:12 AST: Winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere. But though the temperature drops, the days begin to lengthen.
- 27-31 Dec. Latest sunrise of the year at 07:51AST.
  - Sources: Atmospheric Environment Service, Climate Normals 1951-80 Halifax (Shearwater A) N.S.; Blomidon Naturalists Society's 2002 Calendar; Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Observer's Handbook 2002.

#### SUNRISE AND SUNSET ON FALL AND EARLY WINTER SATURDAYS

![](_page_12_Picture_22.jpeg)

- courtesy of David Lane, Burke-Gaffney Observatory, Saint Mary's University

#### ORGANISATIONAL EVENTS

Blomidon Naturalists Society: Indoor meetings take place on the third Monday of the month at Room 241 in the Beveridge Arts Centre, Acadia University, 7:30 p.m. Field trips usually depart from the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front St., Wolfville. For more information <a href="http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm">http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm</a>>.

**Burke-Gaffney Observatory:** Public shows at the Burke-Gaffney Observatory at Saint Mary's University are held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, except from June through September when they are held every Saturday. Tours begin at 7:00 p.m. between November 1 and March 30, and at either 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. (depending on when it gets dark) between April 1 and October 31. For more information phone 496-8257; or go to <a href="http://apwww.stmarys.ca/bgo/>.</a>

Friends of McNabs Island: For more information call Cathy McCarthy, 434-2254, Mike Tilley, 465-4563; or go to <a href="http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FOMIS/>">http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FOMIS/></a>.

**20 Oct.** "Fall Foliage Tours – McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park"; contact Cathy, 434-2254; or Carolyn, 477-0187.

**Nova Scotia Bird Society:** Indoor meetings take place on the fourth Thursday of the month, October to April, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. For more information, phone Peter Richard, 463-5612; or go to <a href="http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc/">http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc/</a>>.

- 13 Oct. "Cape Sable Island", with leader Murray Newell, 745-3340; or <murcar@klis.com>.
- 12-13 Oct. "Brier Island", with leader Fulton Lavender, 455-4966.
  - 13 Oct. "Cape Sable Island", with leader Murray Newell, 745-3340; or email <murcar@klis.com>.
  - 26 Oct. NSBS AGM, followed by a wine and cheese reception.
  - 28 Nov. "Hot and Dangerous: Paraguay and its Birds", with speaker Kristina Cockle.
  - 2 Dec. "Cape Sable Island", with leader Murray Newell, 745-3340; or <murcar@klis.com>.
  - 4 Jan. "Sewer Stroll I, Halifax/Dartmouth Area", with leader Terry Paquet, 452-3622; or <terrypaquet@hotmail.com>.

**Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society:** Holds monthly meetings and organises visits to lighthouses, including boat trips to islands. For more information, phone Dan Conlin, 424-6442; or go to <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/heritage/nslps/>.

Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History: For more info, go to <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/>; or phone 424-6099, 424-7353.

- **7 Oct.** "Alien Invasions Off Our Coast", an illustrated talk with Bob Scheibling presented by the Nova Scotia Institute of Science.
- **9 Oct.** "Wanderings of a Bulb Lover", with botanist John Grimshaw; presented by the Rhododendron Society Canada, Atlantic Region.
- **16 Oct.** "Beyond the Last Billion Years" a talk series; "The Mystery of Trace Fossils", with speaker Deborah Skilliter, Curator of Geology.
- **19 Oct.** "Fall Colours Walks", an outdoor hike at Uniacke Estate Museum Park, led by botanist Alex Wilson. Hikes to the Wetlands Trail (a.m.) and the Red Spruce Trail (p.m.). For more info, call 424-7353.
- 2-3 Nov. "Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale".
- 17 Nov. "Fossil Fair".
- **20 Nov.** "Beyond the Last Billion Years" a talk series; "Archaeology & Geology", with archaeologist David Christianson.
- **2 Dec.** "Vertebrate Biology in Microgravity", an illustrated talk with Dr. Richard Wassersug presented by the Nova Scotia Institute of Science.

Nova Scotia Nature Trust: For more information, phone 425-5263.

**19 Oct.** "Silent Auction and Dinner", with guest speaker Wade Davis, 'explorer-in-residence' with the National Geographic Society.

**Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society:** Meets fourth Monday of the month, September to May, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. For more info – Keith Vaughan, 445-9887; or go to <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~nswfs/>.

- 26 Oct. "Duncan's Cove Looking at Mosses", a walk led by botanist Wolfgang Maass.
- **28 Oct.** "Favourite Wild Places in Nova Scotia", a talk by Oliver Maass, N.S. Dept. of Env. & Labour Protected Areas planner .
- 25 Nov. "Australian Flora and Uluru (Ayer's Rock)", with speaker Charlie Cron.

**Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia:** Meets second Monday of the month, as well as the first and third Sundays of the month, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. Shows are held at Saint Mary's University, Theatre A, Burke Education Centre. For more info, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/PGNS/>; or phone Kenneth Moore, 826-1121.

**11 Nov.** "Seminar: How to Photograph the Night Sky", with Barry Burgess. **23 Nov.** "Fall Show".

23 NOV. Fail Show .

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Halifax Chapter):** Meets third Friday of each month at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 8:00 p.m. For more information, go to <http://halifax.rasc.ca>.

- compiled by Patricia L. Chalmers

# HALIFAX TIDE TABLE

![](_page_14_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **TABLE DES MARÉES**

2002

# HALIFAX HNA Z+4

	October-octobre November-novembre								December-décembre														
Day	Time	Feet M	Aetres	jour	heure	pieds	metres	Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds	metres	Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds 1	netres
<b>1</b> TU MA	0250 0925 1455 2205	4.6 2.3 4.9 1.3	1.4 0.7 1.5 0.4	16 WE ME	0450 1110 1655 2330	4.9 2.0 5.2 1.3	1.5 0.6 1.6 0.4	1 FR VE	0440 1105 1655 2325	5.6 1.3 5.6 0.7	1.7 0.4 1.7 0.2	<b>16</b> SA SA	0540 1210 1800	5.6 1.6 5.2	1.7 0.5 1.6	1 SU DI	0500 1145 1730 2355	6.2 0.7 5.6 1.0	1.9 0.2 1.7 0.3	16 мо LU	0535 1215 1810	5.6 1.6 4.9	1.7 0.5 1.5
2 WE ME	0410 1030 1610 2300	4.9 2.0 5.2 1.0	1.5 0.6 1.6 0.3	17 <sup>TH</sup> JE	0540 1200 1745	5.2 1.6 5.2	1.6 0.5 1.6	2 SA SA	0530 1200 1750	6.2 1.0 5.9	1.9 0.3 1.8	17 SU DI	0015 0615 1250 1840	1.6 5.6 1.3 5.2	0.5 1.7 0.4 1.6	2 MO LU	0550 1240 1825	6.6 0.3 5.9	2.0 0.1 1.8	17 TU MA	0015 0615 1250 1850	2.0 5.6 1.3 5.2	0.6 1.7 0.4 1.6
3 TH JE	0510 1125 1715 2355	5.2 1.6 5.6 0.7	1.6 0.5 1.7 0.2	<b>18</b> FR VE	0015 0620 1245 1830	1.3 5.6 1.6 5.6	0.4 1.7 0.5 1.7	3 SU DI	0020 0620 1255 1845	0.7 6.6 0.3 6.2	0.2 2.0 0.1 1.9	18 MO LU	0055 0650 1325 1920	1.6 5.9 1.3 5.6	0.5 1.8 0.4 1.7	3 TU MA	0050 0640 1330 1920	1.0 6.6 0.3 6.2	0.3 2.0 0.1 1.9	18 WE ME	0055 0650 1330 1930	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.2	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.6
4 FR VE	0600 1220 1815	5.9 1.0 5.9	1.8 0.3 1.8	<b>19</b> SA SA	0055 0655 1320 1910	1.3 5.6 1.3 5.6	0.4 1.7 0.4 1.7	4 мо LU	0110 0705 1345 1935	0.7 6.9 0.0 6.2	0.2 2.1 0.0 1.9	<b>19</b> TU MA	0125 0725 1355 1955	1.6 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.5 1.8 0.3 1.7	4 WE ME	0145 0730 1420 2010	1.0 6.9 0.0 6.2	0.3 2.1 0.0 1.9	19 TH JE	0135 0730 1410 2010	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.7
5 SA SA	0045 0650 1315 1905	0.3 6.2 0.7 6.2	0.1 1.9 0.2 1.9	20 SU DI	0130 0725 1355 1945	1.3 5.9 1.3 5.6	0.4 1.8 0.4 1.7	5 TU MA	0200 0750 1435 2025	0.7 6.9 0.0 6.2	0.2 2.1 0.0 1.9	20 WE ME	0200 0800 1430 2035	1.6 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.5 1.8 0.3 1.7	5 TH JE	0235 0815 1510 2100	1.3 6.6 0.3 5.9	0.4 2.0 0.1 1.8	20 FR VE	0210 0805 1445 2050	2.0 5.9 0.7 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.2 1.7
6 SU DI	0135 0735 1405 1955	0.3 6.6 0.3 6.6	0.1 2.0 0.1 2.0	21 MO LU	0200 0800 1425 2025	1.3 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.4 1.8 0.3 1.7	6 WE ME	0255 0840 1525 2115	0.7 6.9 0.0 6.2	0.2 2.1 0.0 1.9	21 TH JE	0235 0830 1505 2110	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.7	6 FR VE	0325 0905 1600 2150	1.3 6.6 0.3 5.9	0.4 2.0 0.1 1.8	<b>21</b> SA SA	0250 0845 1530 2130	2.0 6.2 0.7 5.6	0.6 1.9 0.2 1.7
7 MO LU	0225 0820 1455 2045	0.3 6.9 0.0 6.6	0.1 2.1 0.0 2.0	<b>22</b> TU MA	0230 0830 1455 2100	1.3 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.4 1.8 0.3 1.7	7 TH JE	0345 0925 1620 2205	1.0 6.6 0.3 5.9	0.3 2.0 0.1 1.8	22 FR VE	0310 0910 1545 2150	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.7	7 SA SA	0420 0950 1650 2235	1.6 6.2 0.7 5.9	0.5 1.9 0.2 1.8	22 SU DI	0335 0925 1610 2210	2.0 6.2 0.7 5.6	0.6 1.9 0.2 1.7
<b>8</b> TU MA	0315 0905 1545 2135	0.3 6.9 0.0 6.2	0.1 2.1 0.0 1.9	23 WE ME	0300 0905 1525 2135	1.6 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.5 1.8 0.3 1.7	8 FR VE	0440 1010 1715 2255	1.6 6.2 0.7 5.9	0.5 1.9 0.2 1.8	23 SA SA	0345 0945 1625 2230	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.2	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.6	8 SU DI	0515 1040 1740 2325	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.7	23 MO LU	0420 1010 1700 2255	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.7
9 WE ME	0405 0950 1640 2220	0.7 6.6 0.3 5.9	0.2 2.0 0.1 1.8	24 TH JE	0330 0935 1600 2210	1.6 5.9 1.3 5.2	0.5 1.8 0.4 1.6	9 SA SA	0540 1100 1810 2345	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.7	24 SU DI	0435 1025 1715 2310	2.3 5.9 1.3 5.2	0.7 1.8 0.4 1.6	9 MO LU	0615 1130 1835	2.3 5.6 1.3	0.7 1.7 0.4	<b>24</b> TU MA	0520 1055 1750 2340	2.0 5.9 1.0 5.6	0.6 1.8 0.3 1.7
10 TH JE	0500 1035 1740 2310	1.0 6.2 0.7 5.6	0.3 1.9 0.2 1.7	25 FR VE	0405 1010 1545 2245	2.0 5.6 1.3 5.2	0.6 1.7 0.4 1.6	10 SU DI	0645 1150 1910	2.0 5.6 1.3	0.6 1.7 0.4	25 мо LU	0535 1110 1815 2355	2.3 5.6 1.3 5.2	0.7 1.7 0.4 1.6	10 TU MA	0010 0715 1220 1930	5.2 2.3 5.2 1.6	1.6 0.7 1.6 0.5	25 WE ME	0620 1145 1845	2.0 5.6 1.0	0.6 1.7 0.3
11 FR VE	0605 1125 1840	1.6 5.9 1.0	0.5 1.8 0.3	26 SA SA	0450 1050 1735 2325	2.3 5.6 1.3 4.9	0.7 1.7 0.4 1.5	11 MO LU	0040 0750 1245 2010	5.2 2.3 5.2 1.3	1.6 0.7 1.6 0.4	26 TU MA	0640 1200 1910	2.3 5.6 1.3	0.7 1.7 0.4	11 WE ME	0105 0810 1310 2020	5.2 2.3 4.9 1.6	1.6 0.7 1.5 0.5	26 TH JE	0030 0725 1240 1940	5.6 2.0 5.6 1.3	1.7 0.6 1.7 0.4
12 SA SA	0005 0710 1215 1940	5.2 2.0 5.6 1.0	1.6 0.6 1.7 0.3	27 SU DI	0545 1130 1835	2.3 5.2 1.6	0.7 1.6 0.5	12 TU MA	0145 0850 1350 2105	4.9 2.3 4.9 1.6	1.5 0.7 1.5 0.5	27 WE ME	0050 0750 1255 2010	5.2 2.3 5.2 1.3	1.6 0.7 1.6 0.4	12 TH JE	0205 0905 1415 2105	5.2 2.3 4.9 2.0	1.6 0.7 1.5 0.6	27 FR VE	0125 0830 1340 2035	5.6 1.6 5.2 1.3	1.7 0.5 1.6 0.4
13 SU DI	0100 0815 1315 2040	4.9 2.0 5.2 1.3	1.5 0.6 1.6 0.4	<b>28</b> мо LU	0015 0655 1220 1940	4.9 2.6 5.2 1.6	1.5 0.8 1.6 0.5	13 WE ME	0300 0945 1505 2155	4.9 2.3 4.9 1.6	1.5 0.7 1.5 0.5	28 TH JE	0155 0850 1405 2105	5.2 2.0 5.2 1.3	1.6 0.6 1.6 0.4	13 FR VE	0305 0955 1525 2155	5.2 2.3 4.6 2.0	1.6 0.7 1.4 0.6	<b>28</b> SA SA	0225 0930 1450 2135	5.9 1.6 5.2 1.3	1.8 0.5 1.6 0.4
14 мо LU	0215 0915 1425 2140	4.9 2.0 4.9 1.3	1.5 0.6 1.5 0.4	<b>29</b> TU MA	0110 0805 1315 2035	4.9 2.3 5.2 1.3	1.5 0.7 1.6 0.4	14 TH JE	0405 1040 1620 2250	5.2 2.0 4.9 1.6	1.6 0.6 1.5 0.5	<b>29</b> FR VE	0305 0950 1520 2200	5.6 1.6 5.2 1.0	1.7 0.5 1.6 0.3	14 SA SA	0405 1045 1630 2240	5.2 2.0 4.9 2.0	1.6 0.6 1.5 0.6	29 SU DI	0330 1030 1605 2235	5.9 1.3 5.2 1.3	1.8 0.4 1.6 0.4
15 TU MA	0340 1015 1545 2235	4.9 2.0 4.9 1.3	1.5 0.6 1.5 0.4	<b>30</b> WE ME	0220 0910 1430 2135	4.9 2.3 5.2 1.3	1.5 0.7 1.6 0.4	15 FR VE	0500 1125 1715 2335	5.2 2.0 4.9 1.6	1.6 0.6 1.5 0.5	<b>30</b> SA SA	0405 1045 1630 2300	5.9 1.3 5.6 1.0	1.8 0.4 1.7 0.3	15 SU DI	0450 1130 1725 2330	5.2 1.6 4.9 2.0	1.6 0.5 1.5 0.6	30 MO LU	0430 1125 1710 2340	6.2 1.0 5.2 1.3	1.9 0.3 1.6 0.4
				31 TH JE	0335 1010 1545 2230	5.2 2.0 5.2 1.0	1.6 0.6 1.6 0.3													<b>31</b> TU MA	0525 1225 1810	6.2 0.7 5.6	1.9 0.2 1.7

#### **NATURE NOTES**

#### From 4 September Meeting:

Regina Maass went to Cape Chignecto, where there were plenty of ripe Gooseberries growing wild – good for camp meals. There were also Blueberries, Blackberries, Raspberries, and the commoner fruits. Black Guillemots were on the sea.

Peter Payzant reported a disappointing absence of butterflies in their usual areas, especially the fields at Mount Uniacke, and the road to Pockwock Lake. He thinks the droughty summer of 2001 may have interfered with breeding. Lepidoptera flying at present are mostly male Gypsy Moths, Clouded Sulphur Butterflies, and a few Mourning Cloaks.

Bob McDonald walked the Wards Falls Trail near Parrsboro, (described in Michael Haynes's latest book) and saw many butterflies, especially Fritillaries.

Elliott Hayes reported a party of Northern Loons on Ponhook Lake recently – about seven of them swimming up the lake in line, all yodelling but not distressfully. The leading bird stood upright, doing the penguin dance, while the rest swam after. When they had finished their display, they all went fishing.

Ursula Grigg reported that there were fewer summer bird species than ever in Halifax West; for the first time there were no Yellow Warblers at all. The Jays, Crows, and Ravens, which usually harrass the smaller birds and are mobbed by them, were preying on each other instead, which was much noisier.

Pat Chalmers is still visiting Frog Pond in Jollimore, seeing young Great Blue Herons and Pied Grebe, and on one occasion, a Solitary Sandpiper.

# **! BE AWARE – IT'S HUNTING SEASON !**

#### **Black Bear**

September 9 to October 26, excluding Sundays White-tailed Deer (Bowhunting)

Winte-tailed Deer (Bownunning)

September 28 to October 24, and December 9 to December 14, excluding Sundays White-tailed Deer (General Open Season)

October 25 to December 7, excluding Sundays

#### Moose

September 30 to October 12, excluding Sundays

**Ring-necked Pheasant** 

November 1 to December 15, excluding Sundays, in the counties of Annapolis, Kings and Hants. October 1 to December 15, excluding Sundays, in all other counties of the province.

#### Ruffed Grouse

October 1 to December 31,excluding Sundays **Rabbit (Snowshoe Hare)** November 1 to the last day of February, excluding Sundays

## **! NEXT DEADLINE !**

1 December for December Issue contributions to the Editor, HFN c/o NS Museum of Natural History