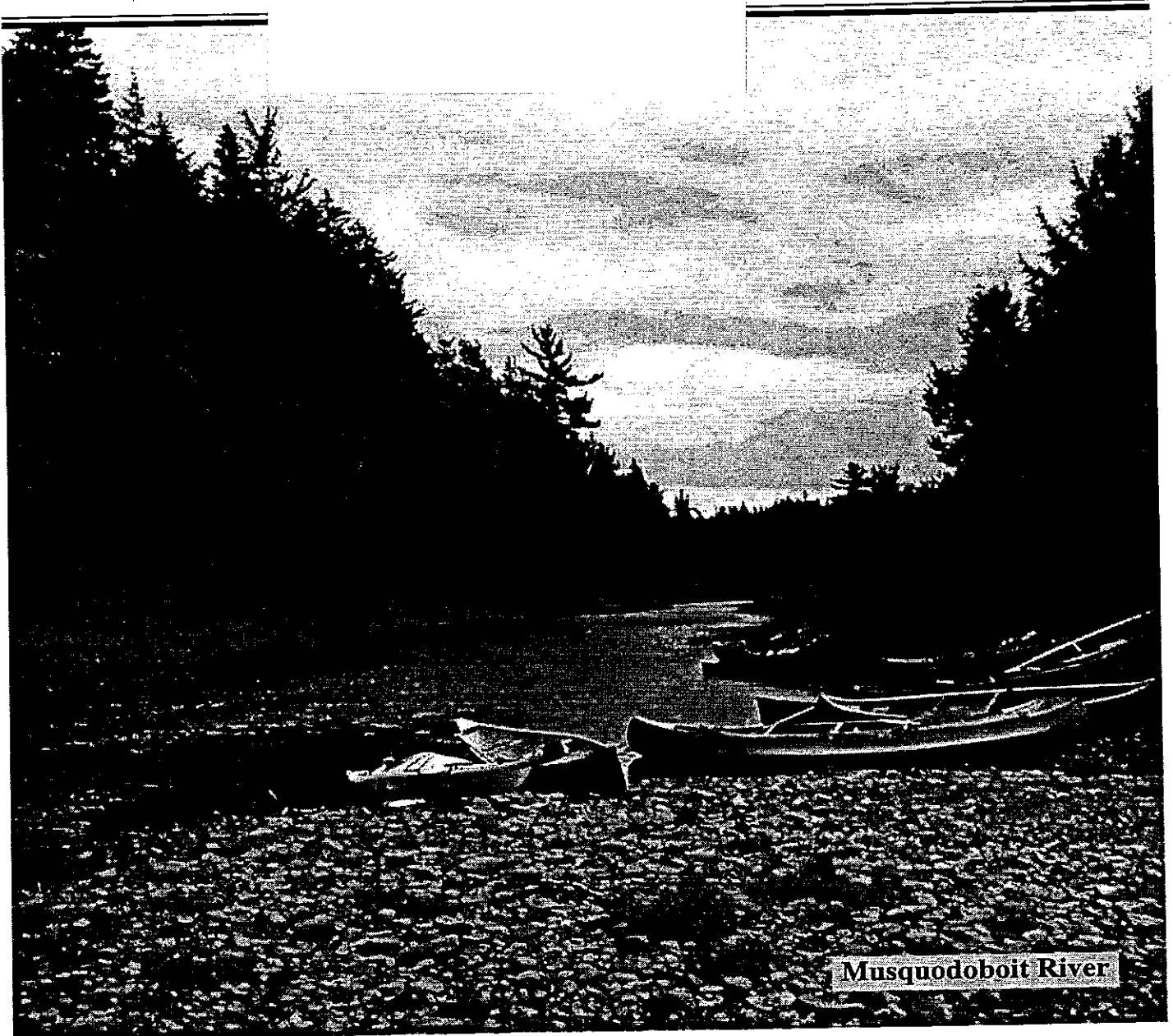


THE HALIFAX FIELD NATURALIST



No. 92
September to November 1998



Musquodoboit River

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

HFN

is incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act. It is a member organisation of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists and of the Canadian Nature Federation. It is registered for federal income tax purposes. Official receipts will be issued for individual and corporate gifts. HFN is a member of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists — the provincial umbrella association for Nova Scotia Naturalist groups.

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 8:00 pm 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 Post Halifax Field Naturalists
c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6

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Web Site <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/FieldNaturalists/fieldnat.html>

FNSN Post Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

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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 September 1 will be valid until the end of the following membership year. The regular membership year is from January 1 to December 31. Members receive the HFN Newsletter and notices of all meetings, field trips, and special programmes. The fees are as follows:

Individual	\$15.00 per year
Family	\$20.00 per year
Supporting	\$25.00 per year
FNSN (opt.)	\$5.00 per year

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HFN NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDITORIAL



Here's the fruit of a busy, beautiful summer — a Newsletter full of field excursions, sightings and discoveries. The weather was excellent, a warmish winter being followed by a spring which came on time and warmed up steadily to a summer of sunshine, heat and (unfortunately) drought. But the regime has suited many insects, and the migrant birds which depend on them found plenty.

Dragonflies and butterflies seem to have had a good year too, though some pools and marshes were reduced to muddy sloughs. The Tussock Moth unfortunately did very well indeed.

Nesting went well; hatching and fledging proceeded without incident, and birds which usually have second broods did so, while those which don't unfortunately left early.

At this year's Annual General Meeting, the President asked for more volunteers to help with various parts of the HFN mandate. Well, we are getting them! We have a very progressive Programme Committee; the Newsletter is duly receiving reports of the field trips, and notes of the talks for the record and for folks who can't join in very often.

We are trying to get back to the days when a report of something seen was accepted by the Museum as having scientific validity. This is why lists of species are being printed following excursions. Well, how do we know they were identified correctly?

We frequently have professional naturalists as leaders, or participants; we also have a lot of knowledgeable amateurs. If at least two knowledgeable naturalists agree on a species, and have identified it from reliable literature, it can be accepted as correct. If there is any question, for example if the species concerned is not previously recorded from Nova Scotia, some one will point this out, and perhaps another trip can be made to see if it can be found again. Birders have this down to an art, as anyone logging in to NatureNB or NatureNS will know! Plants stay put, and can be found again. Photographs or a bit of field collecting will settle other doubts.

The Museum also is assembling lists of literature and referees, and is taking an interest in our findings. Roland's Flora of Nova Scotia, revised by Marian Zinck, and the revised edition of Robie Tufts's Birds of Nova Scotia are accepted as standards. Any Peterson Guide is also acceptable, though some are rather too general for specific identification. Our records will finally be amended to agree with international lists.

We have taken on quite a challenge, but we are ready for it, and can feel proud to contribute to the current interest in biodiversity and population studies. After all, amateur naturalists did most of the work in the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries and enabled the establishment of the science of Biology, with all its branches. Darwin was an amateur when he set sail.

Travellers collected specimens and took or sent them to specialists, who published their descriptions. To this

day, many North American species have the letter L. for Linnaeus after them; he devised the binomial system (name consisting of genus and species), and worked out many inter-species relationships from material sent him.

To everyone who has laboured over events, lists, written reports, and has otherwise contributed to this Newsletter — *thank you!*



— Ursula Grigg

DAVID SUZUKI IN HALIFAX

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is sponsoring a talk by David Suzuki on Federal legislation to protect endangered species; this will take place on Friday 27 November, at a dinner at the Halifax Westin in support of Nova Scotia Nature Trust. The cost is \$40 a plate, and it is suggested that people make up parties to purchase a table for 10. There will also be a silent auction (for the benefit of NSNT) and some of David Suzuki's books for sale (a little money for CPAWS).

For more information, contact Bonnie Sutherland (NSNT) at 425-5263, or Colin Stewart at 466-7168.

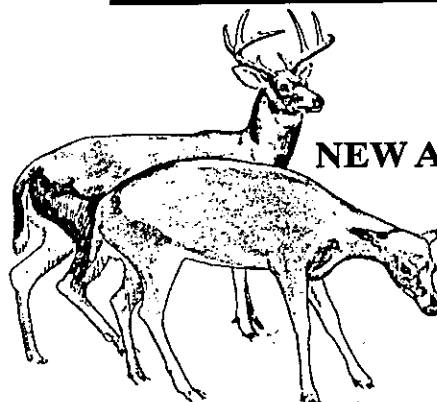
AWARD

HFN has been awarded a handsome plaque for supporting the Parks are for People Programme since this began. It will be kept at the Museum and exhibited at our monthly meetings.



MURRAY CUNNINGHAM

During the summer HFN lost Dr. Murray Cunningham, who was one of the earliest members and one of our most enthusiastic supporters. He bestowed on our club the handsome, wooden HFN 'stick' which announces our monthly sessions, and which he had designed and carved for us himself. Murray is missed, and so is his wife Patricia, who used to come with him.



NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

M. Zales
M. Hicking
Pat Clifford
Wendy J. Findley
Garry Mason
Janice Frost

HFN TALKS

WESTERN ECOREGIONS 3 SEPT.

Gerry Lunn is Curator of Visitors' Services at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, but by trade he is a field biologist, and he worked in parks in Alberta from 1980 to 1994, while living, incongruously, in cities.

He gave HFN a photographic tour of Waterton Lakes National Park — his favourite, which is perched on the United States border, adjoining Glacier National Park in Montana. It's a place of moods and spaces, with everything from bare mountains showing impressive stratification, to lakes, valley farmsteads enclosed with hedges, and forests and open prairie. Fall is short and leaf colour is gold and glowing, without the reds we are used to, and the fog - dragon's breath — billows among the mountains at all seasons. Winter is long, harsh and snowy.

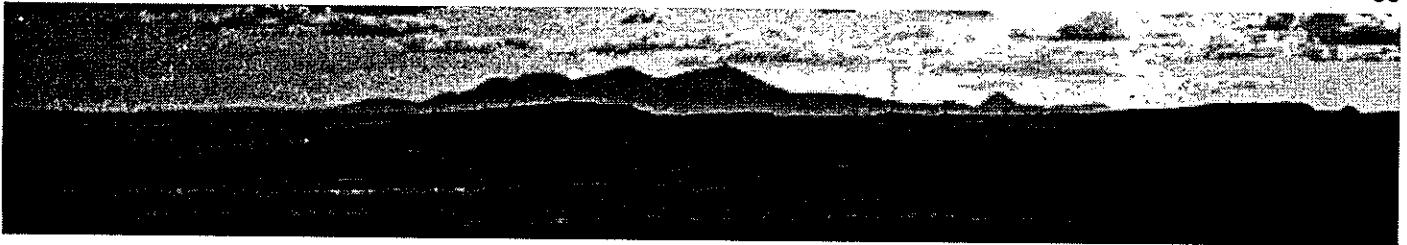
After some straight talk about risk-taking in the wilderness, especially of the dangers of hypothermia from

having inadequate clothing, Gerry took us to Kananaskis Country, just south of Calgary. This is the land of the big sky; suitably, Gerry showed slides of cloud formations and light. Then there were portraits: Butterwort, an insectivorous plant with sticky leaves, growing on mud; Calypso Orchids, Bear Grass, and Glacier Lilies, and a couple of Pronghorn Antelopes.

After a brief visit to Dinosaur Provincial Park, east of Calgary, where the rocks are littered with fossils, Gerry took us to the Okanagan, where in the course of a Big Day's birding, he saw a huge flock of Sandhill Cranes soaring on a thermal. There were also Black-necked Stilts feeding in a lake, and three Mountain Goats, on rocky ledges, looking as tough and capable as if they were the Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Gerry's Alberta could have been on the other side of the world from the Maritimes. Thank you, Gerry, for a memorable evening.

— Ursula Grigg



FIELD TRIPS

MARSH MEANDER

DATE: Saturday 23 May, 1998
PLACE: Akins Meadow, Falmouth
WEATHER: Sunny, breezy, warm
PARTICIPANTS: 19
INTERPRETER: Sherman Williams



May 23, 1998, was one of those fresh spring days that you dream about in the winter if and when you are tired of all the cold and snow. All over Akins Meadow plants and trees were blooming, and a profusion of birds was singing. The day was enhanced by the expert knowledge of Sherman Williams, our leader, as he guided us through the area.

Akins Meadow was part of the original Falmouth Township land grant in the 1700s. At that time, land was given to favoured people, who divided it into smaller grants. This piece consists of 144 acres situated north of Shaw's Bog at the base of the Grey mountains, outside of Falmouth, Hants County. It is bordered on the east by Bog Road. Sherman said that the land was hayed from about 1900 to the 1930s, and that some logging had taken place.

It was deeded to Thomas Akin in 1941 by the Sweet family, and was reported to have been left to Thomas's sons Edwin, Arthur, and Fred Akin in their father's will. The deed passed from the three Akins sons to the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources in 1986. The dam, with a built-in fish ladder, was erected in December 1986 (the date is stamped in the cement) and was instrumental in enlarging the marsh. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and Ducks Unlimited have formed a Co-operative Wetland Development Project

to oversee this land.

Besides identifying many species of flowers and plants along the route, Sherman gave a running commentary of interesting and valuable information. For instance, he explained the difference between the male and female flowers on the Striped Birch, and explained that the fungus growing on Birches is as natural as an apple growing on an Apple tree.

He showed us all the flowers and shrubs, and/or trees, belonging to the same family. The Heath Family (Ericaceae) contains woody plants which grow in acid *Sphagnum* bogs: Labrador Tea, High-bush Blueberry, Rhodora, and Lamb-kill. In the Rose Family (Rosaceae), we saw Apple blossoms, Hawthorn, Wild Strawberries, Choke Cherry, and Indian Pear. He pointed out the difference between a Fir, a Spruce and a Pine, and explained why they grow the way that they do. We also examined and compared bark on the different trees. Sherman uncovered a root of Gold Thread, which, as you would expect, is gold-coloured. He said it can be chewed to cure colds, canker sores in the mouth, and sore throats.

The fresh Raccoon tracks we saw were indicative of some of the local inhabitants; the area was also alive with birds. We were very fortunate to have Blake Maybank with us. Blake is an extremely knowledgeable birder, and identified more than 31 different birds. He can identify them by song alone, if necessary. We took occasional sound stops, where Blake would whistle to them, and the birds would sometimes approach, probably out of curiosity.

We had unscheduled entertainment during our lunch break. We had stopped at the top of the hill in a clearing to

eat lunch when a dragonfly drifted by; it landed and we looked at it for a few moments from afar. Peter Payzant agreed to try and catch it, which he did, and we were able to study it up close. Peter has the ability to catch, hold on to, and then let these creatures go back into their airy environment without harming them. It was very exciting to see the gold-like threads with little black v-shaped wedges that make up its wings! The brown body segments had light yellow stripes along the sides and on the side of his head. We were even able to examine the tiny antennae between its huge eyes, and the gold body underneath. This dragonfly, with a body length of about two inches and a wing length of about one and a half inches, was later identified as a Four Spotted Skimmer.

Unfortunately, I had to leave the group at this point to keep an appointment in the City. I understand that they continued on for a few more hours searching out many interesting things. I wonder if they ever found that great old tree that Sherman had stumbled upon earlier in the season!

— Elizabeth Kelzer

AIKINS MARSH SPECIES

Plants

Hazel
Purple Violet
Blueberry
Labrador Tea
Teaberry, Wintergreen
Rhodora
Lambkill, Sheep Laurel
Star Flower
Indian Pear
Hawthorn
Choke Cherry
Wild Strawberry
Bunchberry
Winter Berry
Partridge Berry
Blue Bead Lily
Wild Lily-of-the-Valley
Pink Lady Slipper



*Corylus cornuta**
Viola soraria
Vaccinium corymbosum?
*Ledum groenlandicum**
Gaultheria procumbens
*Rhododendron canadense**
*Kalmia angustifolia**
Trientalis borealis
Amelanchier sp.*
Crataegus sp.*
*Prunus virginiana**
Fragaria virginiana
Cornus canadensis
Ilex verticillata
Mitchella repens
Clintonia borealis
Maianthemum canadense
Cypripedium acaule



*tree or shrub

Sphagnum Moss
Interrupted Fern
Bracken

?
Osmunda claytoniana
Pteridium aquilinum

Birds (courtesy Blake Maybank)

Sora (3) *Porzana carolina*
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1) *Archilocus colubris*
Northern Flicker (1) *Colaptes auratus*
Downy Woodpecker (2) *Picoides pubescens*
Tree Swallow (10) *Iridoprocne bicolor*
Barn Swallow (1) *Hirundo rustica*
Blue Jay (3) *Cyanocitta cristata*
Northern Raven (1) *Corvus corax*
American Crow (5) *C. brachyrhynchus*
Black-capped Chickadee (2) *Parus atricapillus*
Golden-crowned Kinglet (1) *Regulus satrapa*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4) *R. calendula*
European Starling (10) *Sturnus vulgaris*
Blue-headed Vireo, Solitary Vireo (1) *Vireo solitarius*
American Robin (3) *Turdus migratorius*
Northern Parula (2) *Parula americana*
Chestnut-sided Warbler (1) *Dendroica pensylvanica*
Magnolia Warbler (4) *D. magnolia*
Black-throated Blue Warbler (1) *D. caerulescens*
Black-throated Green Warbler (2) *D. virens*
Blackburnian Warbler (1) *D. fusca*

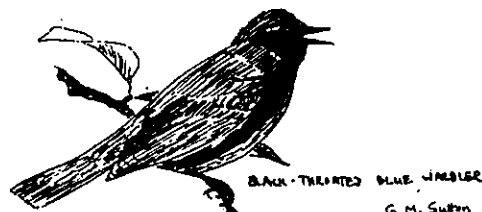
Ovenbird (4)
Common Yellowthroat (3)
Black-and-white Warbler (2)
American Redstart (2)
White-throated Sparrow (2)
American Goldfinch (2)
Red-winged Blackbird (20)
Rusty Blackbird (1)
Common Grackle (1)
Evening Grosbeak (4)

Seiurus aurocapillus
Geothlypis trichas
Mniotiltat varia
Setophaga ruticilla
Zonotrichia albicollis
Carduelis tristis
Agelaius phoeniceus
Euphagus carolinus
Quiscalus quiscula
Hesperiphona vespertina

Dragonflies

Four-Spotted Skimmer

?



CAPE d'OR — CAPE CHIGNECTO FIELD TRIPS

DATE: 6-7 June, 1998

PLACE: Cape d'Or; Cape Chignecto; West Apple River

WEATHER: mostly sunny

PARTICIPANTS: 14

INTERPRETERS: Jane and Maureen Mills

The Halifax Field Naturalists, the Wild Flora Society and the Nova Scotia Bird Society met for a weekend outing in early June. We enjoyed wonderful weather and great camaraderie. It was difficult at times to decide whether to look up at the birds, down at the plants or around at the spectacular scenery!

On Saturday our group of 14 joined Jane Mills for a hike on Cape d'Or. At the parking lot, we enjoyed the song and sight of a Lincoln's Sparrow. A few brave people followed our leader and Fran Spalding to the edge of a very high cliff to see two rare plants — Arctic relicts — *Astragalus robbinsii*. and *Oxytropis campestris*. We then trudged a lengthy but pleasant hike along the Fort Grunt Road. It was fairly easy walking along a woods road which goes past the old copper mine shafts.

We ate our lunch on the beach and returned by the old Brick Road to our car-pool spot. Some of our group drove to West Apple River, where we saw a Moose in the swamp, but no shore-birds through the fog which had moved in by late afternoon. On our return inland we had the joy of observing a Golden Eagle, which gave us some excellent views; the great bird was completely dark underneath.

The evening was spent with Maureen Mills, who led our trip to Cape Chignecto on Sunday. Maureen is on staff at the Park and knew all the best spots to take us.

After the Saturday trip, Mourning Warblers had been found at the parking lot, but on Sunday we saw and heard several pairs on the trail to Refugee Cove. The outing had a number of highlights: a male Blackburnian Warbler sang repeatedly from the treetops; a nest of Hairy Woodpeckers was located; a mystery plant was found (which Carl Munden and Cindy Spicer plan to identify for us); and a Peregrine Falcon which flew towards our look-off for a look of her own (it was a very large falcon!).

Some lucky(!) hikers saw a Black Bear, and most of us had a close-up look at a Ring-necked Snake. We enjoyed lunch at Refugee Cove before the long upward climb back to the cliff-top trail.

While some of the plants such as Purple Trillium and Solomon's Seal were past their prime due to an early spring, all of us hope that this will become an annual event of shared interests. Thanks to all participants who helped to make this such a memorable weekend; and a special thanks to the mother daughter team of Maureen and Jane Mills who took planned such a wonderful programme for us.

— Joan Czapalay

Cape d'Or Species

Two rare Arctic perennials, both in the Pea family

Oxytropis	<i>Oxytropis campestris</i>
Milk Vetch	<i>Astragalus robbinsii</i>

Two beauties, past their bloom

Purple Trillium	<i>Trillium erectum</i>
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>
Mystery Plant	(identification in next issue)

Animals

Reptiles

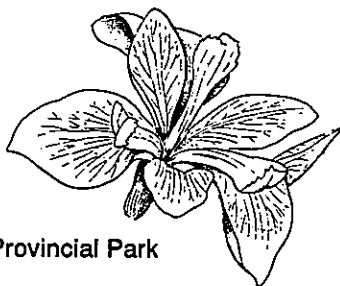
Ring-necked Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsi</i>
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Mammals

Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>

Birds

Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>
Lincoln Sparrow	<i>Melanospiza lincolni</i>



WILDFLOWERS

DATE: Saturday, June 20, 1998

PLACE: Gypsum Mine, Smiley's Provincial Park

WEATHER: Fine, warm

INTERPRETER: Heather Drope

PARTICIPANTS: >50

Way back in the winter, Carol Klar asked me to conduct a walk to see the Yellow Ladies' Slippers that grow in the Windsor area of Nova Scotia. I was delighted to be asked and little did I realize how successful it would be.

First, the media coverage was extensive; the walk was listed in the 'Parks Are For People' programme, and all the newspapers and radio and television stations picked up the information and gave us some free publicity. Second, CBC radio had interviewed me earlier in the week; all this publicity drew a party of over fifty individuals — an awesome crowd. They came to see the Yellow Ladyslippers and saw a few perfect ones. The Twin Flowers were also a hit. This group had come to see whatever we could point out, and there was indeed lots of variety for them.



There were three walks. The first was at the Gypsum Mine area which was extremely popular. There is absolutely everything in there and our large assembly spread out into smaller groups. One member found a small purple flower over by the marsh; out came about six field guides and ten people were trying to identify what turned out to be a Marsh Skullcap. Shortly after that, one participant showed us the shell of a baby Snapping Turtle. Some animal or bird had up-ended it and made a hole in the tummy, so it was just a shell with feet and tail attached. Shell remains of hatched baby turtles intrigued me; I had not realized that they were so leathery in texture.

The second walk took place after we ate a peaceful lunch under the big old hardwood trees at Smiley's. We meandered along a trail that follows the river, across the road from the park. This time of year there wasn't a great deal blooming there but the highlight was watching the female Mink that Clarence Stevens spotted; she was running along the opposite river bank. We also got a good look (a look only!) at Poison Ivy.

The third walk was on the only trail in the park itself, and our group was cut back by now to about half of its original numbers. On the way to the trail we entered an easy section of the fen to view the Showy Ladyslippers. They were in perfect bloom and the crowd, considerably, didn't go too far in because of the sensitive nature of that area. The highlight of the third walk, besides the Orchids, was seeing a Pileated Woodpecker. Some of the more hardy participants actually got a good look at the nest high up in a tree.

This was a field trip of perfect weather and perfect participation. What more could one ask for?

To prepare this list of finds for the day, three people helped me and I wish to thank them for I wouldn't have been able to put it together without them: Rick Ballard, Tony Bezanson, and Jim Taylor. We may have missed some plants but we can save them for another trip!

— Heather Drope

Wildflowers Species

— at Smileys

Meadow Rue
Garden Columbine
Star Flower
Cow Vetch
Birdsfoot Trefoil
Bunchberry
Wood Sorrel
Yellow Wood Sorrel
One-flowered Cancer Root
Orange Hawkweed
Field Hawkweed
Jack in the Pulpit
Blue Flag
Blue-eyed Grass
Showy Ladyslippers

Thalictrum pubescens
Aquilegia vulgaris
Trientalis borealis
Vicia sp.
Lotus corniculatus
Cornus canadensis
Oxalis acetosella
O. stricta
?
Hieracium aurantiacum
H. caespitosum?
Arisaema triphyllum
Iris versicolor
Sisyrinchium montanum
Cypripedium reginae

— at the Gypsum Mine

Blackberry
Serviceberry
Round-leaved Dogwood
Marsh Skullcap
Marsh Bedstraw
Twinflower
Mountain Fly Honeysuckle
Gypsum Ragwort
Blue Flag
Yellow lady Slippers

Rubus allegheniensis
Amelanchier sp.
Cornus rugosa
Scutellaria galericulata
Galium palustre
Linnaea borealis
Lonicera caerulea
Senecio pauperculus
Iris versicolor
Cypripedium calceolus

Ferns

Bracken
New York Fern
Sensitive Fern
Oak Fern
Lady Fern

Pteridium aquilinum
Thelypteris noveboracensis
Onoclea sensibilis
Gymnocarpium dryopteris
Athyrium filix-femina

Fungi

Coral Fungus
Fly Agaric
Birch Polypore
Artist's Polypore
Puffball

?
Amanita muscaria
Polyporus sp.
Polyporus sp.
?

Birds

Sora
Osprey
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Least Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Brown Creeper
American Robin
Cedar waxwing
Red-eyed Vireo
Common Yellow-throat
Northern Parula
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle
American Goldfinch
Red-winged Blackbird
White-winged Crossbill

Porzana carolina
Pandion haliaetus
Buteo jamaicensis
Falco sparverius
Charadrius vociferus
Actitis macularia
Columba livia
Zenaidura macrura
Dryocopus pileatus
Contopus virens
Empidonax minimus
E. alnorum
Iridoprocne bicolor
Hirundo rustica
Parus atricapillus
Certhia americana
Turdus migratorius
Bombicilla cedrorum
Vireo olivaceus
Geothlypis trichas
Parula americana
Pheucticus ludovicianus
Melospiza melodia
Quiscalus quiscula
Carduelis tristis
Agelaius phoeniceus
Loxia leucoptera

Mammals

Red Squirrel
Mink

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus
Mustela vison

Reptiles

Snapping Turtle (dead baby)

Chelydra serpentina

Amphibians

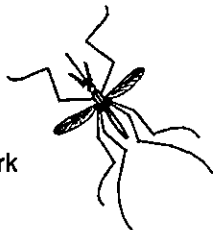
American Toad
Wood Frog

Bufo americanus
Rana sylvatica

Insects

Firefly
Bumble Bee

?
?



NIGHT INSECTS

DATE: Saturday, 27 June, 1998

PLACE: Porters Lake Provincial Park

WEATHER: Rain, wind

INTERPRETER: Jeff Ogden

PARTICIPANTS: Five adults, two children

Ideally, it would have been warm. It would have been calm. It would have been quiet. We would have seen lots of the insects which are so active after dark, and we would have gone to our beds with visions of wings in our heads.

In the event, it rained all day and was quite cold, and conditions hadn't improved by dusk. I think that Jeff Ogden was mildly surprised that anyone at all showed up, but the two car-loads of people were determined to learn something. And, we did!

We set up under a convenient picnic table with a roof, and Jeff got out his 'toys'; principally, an impressive display of insect traps. These included UV light traps of two kinds: the good old propane lantern with a white sheet on which the insects land when attracted to the light; and a miniature 'lobster-trap' type which is baited with a light-stick and then set under water in a lake or stream to catch aquatic insects.

There is an insect net for every occasion. Jeff showed us sweeping nets (very sturdy); collapsible butterfly nets for use in social situations when you don't want to be conspicuous; underwater nets for snagging water-born insects; and even the equivalent of a fireman's jumper-catcher, which you hold under a bush or tree while beating it with a short stick.

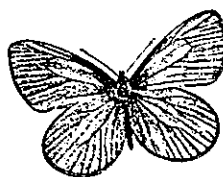
Jeff had brought along a tiny terrarium with two or three Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches — these are big, showy and very entertaining. And, if they should escape into the environment, no harm will be done because they won't survive the winter.

We also viewed some sample specimens of various orders of insects. The stars of the evening were the bizarre water bugs and beetles. Some of these were quite big, and in Jeff's words, "all of them will either slice, dice, or chop you". His Giant Water Bug had ended up in the collection after Jeff (in the spirit of scientific investigation) had encouraged it to bite him.

It soon became evident that we weren't going to see anything flying around in that downpour, so we adjourned to the lakeshore to sweep for aquatic insects. A few sweeps in the rushes yielded some tiny beetles, a couple of Mayfly larvae with curious feathery gills, and the prize of the night, a 6-inch long eel. One youthful naturalist pleaded in vain for a container — any container — in which she could take the eel home for further study. Alas, the adults happened to be fresh out of containers.

It was an entertaining and enjoyable evening, and it was a pleasure meeting Jeff and sharing his enthusiasm for the 'insects of the night'.

— Peter Payzant



WOODLAND BUTTERFLIES

DATE: Sunday 28 June, 1998

PLACE: Pockwock Watershed Road

WEATHER: Horrible

INTERPRETERS: Linda and Peter Payzant

PARTICIPANTS: 5

Rain forced the cancellation of this trip on the planned date, but the forecast looked promising for the 'rain date', so we decided to go. Even an hour before our scheduled start time, the forecast was still for 'sunny breaks in the afternoon'.

In fact, however, the actual weather turned out to be cold, overcast, and very windy. This type of weather is *not* conducive to butterfly watching.

At the site of the field trip, only one car arrived to meet the interpreters, who in fact were hoping that nobody would turn up! We considered the vile atmospheric conditions, and decided that a walk in the woods might be enjoyable anyway, so we parked the cars and strode off down the road into the Pockwock watershed.

As expected, we didn't see any butterflies. We did get a few small white moths of the genus *Crambus*, and we were able to find a few Crab Spiders on the Daisies. There were still a few Warblers and Thrushes singing, and we spotted two or three frogs in some of the roadside ponds. The few wildflowers which we were able to identify included Hawkweeds, Bluets, Lambkill, and a large, showy Pink Orchid.

Not a great day for butterflying, but that is the risk you take when you schedule a weather-dependent trip months in advance. Here's hoping for better luck next year!

— Peter Payzant



MAITLAND MARVELS

DATE: Saturday, 11 July, 1998

PLACE: Gray Gables Garden, Maitland

WEATHER: Wet, with thunder storms; dry in afternoon

INTERPRETERS: Margaret and Ivan Stinson

PARTICIPANTS: about 16

This was one of those trips that was well worth the torrential downpours, the thunder and lightning, and the wet feet just to see this beautiful area of Maitland which was first settled by the Mi'kmaq. It is situated near the old Acadian hamlet of Village Robert. It is Nova Scotia's first Heritage Conservation District and overlooks the Bay of Fundy with its tidal bore.

Despite the rain, we toured the lovely garden at Gray Gables Garden which forms part of the 78 acres of Eagle Country Estates. It fronts on the Shubenacadie River and borders the Maitland Mill Pond; the house was built in 1846. Over 75 species of perennials and annuals can be found here, along with various herbs, vines, shrubs, trees, and other plants. About 5,000 seedlings are set out each year, and flocks of birds and butterflies are said to find the place very interesting.

Next we went to the 'Meeting Place', which was originally a Royal Bank building. Community members had convinced the bank to donate the building and its contents; it is now used as a tourist bureau, and a centre where bake sales, meetings, or other community events can be conducted.

Eating lunch in a gazebo in Dawson Park gave us a view of the Bay of Fundy; while we ate, a Red-Tailed Hawk overhead drifted back and forth on the wind.

There is a lot of history in this town, as was shown by the lovely old houses. The sign on Frieze and Roy's thriving store stated that it was established in 1839. Further up the road is the William D. Lawrence house, built about 1870 and now a Historic Site. Across the road from the house is the site of the shipyard and wharf from which the William D. Lawrence, the largest wooden ship ever built in Canada, was launched in 1874. She was built just before the decline of the wooden ship as the mainstay of ocean-going trade. In 1864 the high point in Nova Scotia ship-building activity was reached at 73,038 tons; by 1887 ship construction in the Province had declined to 14,266 tons.

Another interesting site in this area, the three-acre Burntcoat Head Park, boasts a replica of the lighthouse built in 1913. The original was burned to the ground by the Government after it fell into disrepair. This area has the highest tides, with many viewpoints for observation of landscape and tides, and opportunities for bird watching, rock hounding, photography, walking, and hiking.

You can run the Shubenacadie River with professional rafters in many different tidal conditions, or visit River View Herbs garden and market. The market offers over 500 kinds of herbs and is open to visitors from 1 May until 1 September.

If you ever visit here, have a meal at the Captain Wm. Douglas House and Restaurant and watch the tidal bore wind its way up the Shubenacadie River. This is a 16-Room house, built in the 1860s, that has been designated a Municipal Heritage Property. You can stay at one of several Bed and Breakfasts; the Terranita, Foley House Inn, and Cobequid Inn are all restored Country Heritage Homes.

This is truly a beautiful place that I plan to see again, next time in sunshine!

— Elizabeth Kelzer



MOLLUSC HABITATS

DATE: Saturday 25 July, 1998

PLACE: Musquodoboit Valley/Dollar Lake Area

WEATHER: Fine and sunny

INTERPRETER: Derek Davis

PARTICIPANTS: 14 (2 children)

The purpose of this trip was to look at the habitats of land and freshwater molluscs (snails, slugs, and mussels). We left the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in several vehicles and proceeded to the Musquodoboit River by way of the Old Guysborough Road. The weather was particularly fine.

Our first stop was the bank of the river on Wyse Road (between Meaghers Grant and Wyse Corner). The mosquitoes were very active. A large pile of flood debris was examined for molluscs and many shells and live animals were seen. The most prominent was the amphibious Amber Snail, *Oxyloma groenlandica*, which was crawling on the river bank plants and in the debris. Its clear, gelatinous egg masses were also seen.

A sample of litter was taken to Dollar Lake Provincial Park, where snails could be examined under a dissecting microscope while we had lunch. Some people also visited the beach. Approximately 25 species of molluscs were later extracted from the sample, including the minute snails *Carychium exiguum*, *Planogyra asteriscus*, and *Strobulops labyrinthica*, not previously reported for the Musquodoboit Valley; and *Gastrocopta pentodon*, not previously reported for mainland Nova Scotia.

After lunch we visited woodlands in the park to look in leaf litter and under bark for snails and slugs. The ground was very dry and only a few specimens were seen; a snail, *Zonitoides arboreus*, and an orange slug, *Arion subfuscus*.

A final stop was made at Lake Egmont to see the habitats of freshwater snails and mussels as well as the great diversity of plants and birds at this particular site. In addition to some land and freshwater snails, we found live examples of the mussel *Anodonta cataraeta*, and of the pea clam, *Sphaerium simile*.

In all we recorded 32 species of molluscs with some being important records. Selected specimens will be deposited in the collection of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

— Derek S. Davis



PUBLIC GARDENS TOUR

DATE: Saturday 1 August, 1998

PLACE: Halifax Public Gardens

WEATHER: Hot and sunny

PARTICIPANTS: 40+

INTERPRETER: Sheldon Harper

ZINNIA



On this exceptionally beautiful summer morning, Sheldon Harper of the Public Gardens held the interest of over 40 persons as he gave us our tour; several of those attending were tourists who expressed their pleasure in having this opportunity to join in.

This Victorian Public Garden is considered to be one of the finest in North America. The idea began in 1760 when 235 acres of land that stretched from what is now Robie and Cunard Streets to South Street were designated to become a public Common. About 5 acres of this land was made available to the newly organized Horticultural Society around 1837 by the donation of two lots bordering on South Park Street; they had been bequeathed by the estate of Joseph Allison. The swamp land near the corner of Sackville and South Park Street was taken over in 1866 by Alderman John McCulloch, who envisioned developing Victorian gardens like those he had previously seen in Paris.

There were several buildings in the gardens at that time. One of them was the Horticultural Society's Lodge, where they held their meetings. It was demolished around 1904 and a new building was erected on the foundation. This building is now the canteen.

Richard Power, who had been an avid gardener in Lismore Castle in Ireland, became superintendent of the Gardens in 1872, where he stayed for over 45 years. Later on, his son and grandson would follow in his footsteps. Mr. Power was responsible for developing the paths and overall design of the swamp that lay to the west of Griffin Pond. The pond was also given a more pleasing shape by Mr. Power, as it used to be square. This area got its name from a Mr. Griffin, who was hanged on the island in the middle of the pond (before it was part of the Gardens, of course); this pond is fed by an underground spring.

In 1874 the Horticulture Society sold to the City the southern half of the Garden which it controlled. This part was combined with the half that Mr. Power oversaw to establish the present day Garden.

Around the typical Bandstand, built in 1887, are 32 floating flowerbeds, several of which contain brilliantly coloured begonias. The gardeners have lived up to their high standards of excellence again this year. The whole garden was an array of fragrant colour! The striking ornate Gate that stands at the southeast entrance was purchased from Scotland in 1890, and was originally installed at the old entrance which was opposite the YMCA on South Park Street. The Gate was moved to its present location in 1907.

The lovely nymph fountain near the northwest entrance was erected in 1897 to honour Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The fountain is enfolded by four flowerbeds shaped as a Queen's Crown. This whole area is enclosed by four large serpentine flowerbeds alive with colourful, aromatic flowers. In 1903 the Boer War Fountain was installed in the northeast corner of the Garden. It is surrounded by various species of Weeping Ash and Weeping Beech. These tall, weeping trees are achieved by grafting together two different varieties of the same species of tree; i.e., a Weeping Ash crown will be grafted onto an upright Ash for the base.

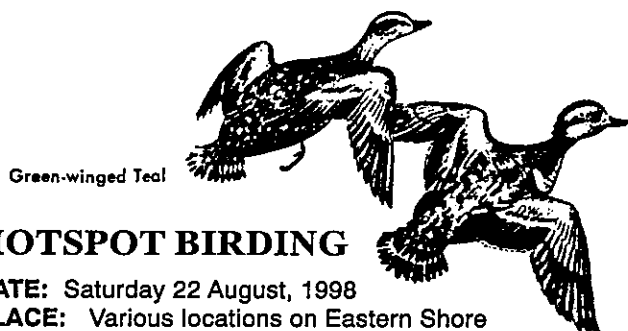
In about 1876, the present site of the children's playground housed the first public lawn tennis court in Canada. The first bridges were wooden; cement ones were installed in 1911. There are classical urns and three elegant statues representing Ceres, Diana, and Flora (goddesses of harvest, hunting, and horticulture respectively), resplendently surrounded by flowers and trees. These were made in London in 1874 for Sir William Young's home and bequeathed to the Gardens upon his death.

The Gardens' staff are proud that all of this splendour is achieved without the use of chemical pesticides. They use baking soda sometimes, but little else. Some of the trees appeared to have a blight because the leaves were turning brown at the edges; however Sheldon advised that it is nothing that would harm the growth of the trees. The trees are well cared for, and removed and replanted only when necessary.



Next June, be sure to visit and have a look at the large Tulip Tree with its beautiful lime-coloured leaves, situated just inside the Spring Garden and Sackville Street (northwest) entrance; it will be in full bloom with showy, tulip-shaped, orange flowers!

— Elizabeth Keizer



Green-winged Teal

HOTSPOT BIRDING

DATE: Saturday 22 August, 1998

PLACE: Various locations on Eastern Shore

WEATHER: Sunny and warm

INTERPRETER: Fulton Lavender

PARTICIPANTS: 16

Peter Payzant

I've been on a lot of birding field trips, and I have to say that this trip was as pleasant and enjoyable as they come. The weather was perfect, there was a tremendous variety of birds, and there was even one of those birding 'spectacles' which we will be talking about for months; a very large flock of Warblers bathing for quite awhile in a mud puddle, giving us a tremendous opportunity for extended bird-viewing.

The trip started at Hartlen Point, where we visited the woods and shore of Back Cove followed by the shoreline leading around to Devil's Island. After birding Tim Horton's parking lot, we went to Rainbow Haven beach for lunch, and more birds. Subsequent locations included Three Fathom Harbour, Conrad's Beach, and the Lawrencetown area. The outstanding weather and lighting conditions combined with an abundance of species to make it a perfect day.

Once again, Fulton Lavender's infectious enthusiasm and amazing powers led to a lot of very happy birders.

Elizabeth Keizer

Have you ever thought about getting out of bed at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday when you didn't have to, just to watch birds? Some people would answer, "Not on your life!"

Well, sixteen of us did just that. It was all worthwhile with Fulton Lavender in the lead. Having studied birds since the age of four, Fulton is one of the most impressive and knowledgeable birders in the province, and it is apparent from his whole demeanour. He not only knew what birds were in the area, but how many there were of each kind and where they would be at any given time of day. He was so exact in what he said about the birds' movements, it appeared as though he had made an appointment with them!

The weather was ideal. The air was not too hot, not too cool, and it was fresh and pleasant. We walked into the woods at Hartlen Point, seeing a few Warblers and a Cedar Waxwing on the way. Then Fulton encouraged us to stand quietly in a clearing and wait for a few minutes. We were rewarded with an abundance of Warblers and other birds that came quite close to bathe in a large puddle, sit in the trees, or play in the path. We were

delighted to see the Prairie Warbler, which is seldom seen in this area. It has yellow underparts, black stripes along its sides, and two black face marks, one of which goes right through the eye.

Leaving the woods, we headed to the beach.

Overhead a family of four Northern Harriers flew; impressive hawks they are indeed, with striking white rumps. Fulton was able to tell us that a flock of seven Semipalmated Plovers were coming in to land minutes before we were able to see them with our binoculars. He must have heard them long before we were aware of them. We were graced with many other shore birds as we made our way along the path overlooking the beach. I was pleased to get a wonderful view of a few Whimbrel as they flew low directly over our heads. Thank you, Fulton, for sharing your valuable and abundant bird lore with us.

Patricia Chalmers

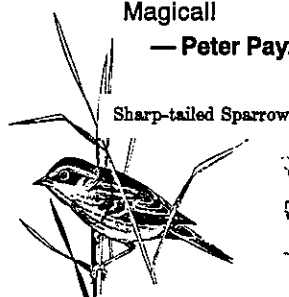
I personally saw about 70 species; the trip list reached 82. The migrants most in evidence included over a dozen species of Warblers and about 17 species of shorebirds. I think the 'best birds' were the Prairie Warbler at Hartlen Point, the American Golden Plover at Three Fathom Harbour, the Stilt Sandpipers at Lawrencetown Lake (1) and back of Conrad's Beach (2), and the Hudsonian Godwits (2) at the end of Sonia Drive near Conrad's (a spot new to me — what a pleasant place to look out over the water!).

The oddity of the day was an immature Black Guillemot swimming in the Lawrencetown River. There were Ospreys at every place we stopped, and Great Blue Herons — over 30 at Sonia Drive. There were both Bonaparte's and Black-headed Gulls at Conrads, and Common and Arctic Terns at Three Fathom Harbour.

The highlight of the trip came early in the day, when we enjoyed a wave of Warblers along the thickets behind Back Cove at Hartlen Point. In addition to a Northern Waterthrush seen and heard by some, and the Prairie Warbler, there were Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Black and White, and Parula Warblers, and American Redstarts flitting about in the trees, and back and forth across the road. There were also Alder and Least Flycatchers and both Chickadees. A mud puddle at a 'Y' junction in the road was a magnet for the birds in the dry weather, and we stood quietly in awe for some time to watch Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, and Parula Warblers taking turns bathing.

Magical!

— Peter Payzant, Elizabeth Keizer, Patricia Chalmers



Sharp-tailed Sparrow



Black and White Warbler

Hotspot Birding Species

Northern Gannet (1)
Great Cormorant (30)
D. C. Cormorant (100)
Great Blue Heron (30-40)
Green-winged Teal (60)

Sula bassanus
Phalacrocorax carbo
P. auritus
Ardea herodias
Anas crecca

American Black Duck (50)	<i>A. rubripes</i>
Mallard (1)	<i>A. platyrhynchos</i>
American Wigeon (2)	<i>A. americana</i>
Common Eider (60)	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>
White-winged Scoter (1)	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
Osprey (15)	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Bald Eagle (1)	<i>Haliaetus leucocephalus</i>
Northern Harrier(5)	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Merlin (2)	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Ring-necked Pheasant (3)	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Black-bellied Plover (50)	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Lesser Golden Plover (3)	<i>P. dominica</i>
Semipalmated plover (500)	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Killdeer (4)	<i>C. vociferus</i>
Greater Yellowlegs (10)	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs (40)	<i>T. flavipes</i>
Willet (2)	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>
Spotted Sandpiper (17)	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Whimbrel (12)	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Hudsonian Godwit (2)	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>
Ruddy Turnstone (25)	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling (45)	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper (500)	<i>C. pusilla</i>
Least Sandpiper (250)	<i>C. minutilla</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper (400)	<i>C. fuscicollis</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper (1)	<i>C. melanotus</i>
Stilt Sandpiper (3)	<i>C. himantopus</i>
Short-billed Dowitcher (50)	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
Common Black-headed Gull (3)	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Bonaparte's Gull (15)	<i>L. philadelphia</i>
Ring-billed Gull (50)	<i>L. delawarensis</i>
Herring Gull (++)	<i>L. argentatus</i>
Great Black-backed Gull (++)	<i>L. marinus</i>
Common Tern (25)	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Arctic Tern (4)	<i>S. paradisaea</i>
Black Guillemot (1)	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>
Rock Dove (++)	<i>Columba livia</i>
Mourning Dove (20)	<i>Zenaidura macrura</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (3)	<i>Archilocus colubris</i>
Belted Kingfisher (12)	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>
Northern Flicker (1)	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Alder Flycatcher (7)	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>
Least Flycatcher (6)	<i>E. minimus</i>
Barn Swallow (10)	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Blue Jay (11)	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
American Crow (++)	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Common Raven (5)	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Black-capped Chickadee (30)	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>
Boreal Chickadee (3)	<i>P. hudsonicus</i>
Golden-crowned Kinglet (2)	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
American Robin (2)	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Cedar Waxwing (6)	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
European Starling (++)	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Solitary Vireo (4)	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
Red-eyed Vireo (2)	<i>V. olivaceus</i>
Nashville Warbler (4)	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>
Northern Parula (5)	<i>Parula americana</i>
Yellow Warbler (30)	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Chestnut-sided Warbler (1)	<i>D. pensylvanica</i>
Magnolia Warbler (35)	<i>D. magnolia</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler (15)	<i>D. coronata</i>
Black-throated Green Warbler (3)	<i>D. virens</i>
Prairie Warbler (1 female)	<i>D. discolor</i>
Bay-breasted Warbler (2)	<i>D. castanea</i>
Black-and-White Warbler (10)	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
American Redstart (35)	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Northern Waterthrush (1)	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>

Common Yellowthroat (11)	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Savannah Sparrow (30)	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Sharp-tailed Sparrow (3)	<i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i>
Song Sparrow (10)	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
White-throated Sparrow (10)	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
Common Grackle (25)	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Purple Finch (5)	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>
White-winged Crossbill (1)	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>
American Goldfinch (15)	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>
House Sparrow (++)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>



MSVU ARBORETUM

DATE: Tuesday 1 September, 1998

PLACE: Mt. St. Vincent University Grounds

WEATHER: A beautiful, warm, clear evening

INTERPRETER: Catherine Deveau, Grounds Supervisor

PARTICIPANTS: 21

In December 1995, I had taken this same field trip with Catherine and 22 other hardy souls; hardy because on that particular day, it was overcast and bitterly cold, with the wind whipping up from Bedford Basin. We hurried a bit then as well as now, not to try and outdo the setting sun in order to be able to see things, but to keep warm! At that time of course, we could observe the winter benefits of well-planned 'seasonal' landscaping; the red berries on the female Holly, the beautiful curly branches of the Curly Witch Hazel, the red bark of the Osier Dogwoods, and all the other interesting colours and trunk and branch shapes only visible in winter.

On this trip, everything was lush and in full leaf, and other than the burgundy Japanese Maple leaves, the mauve Rose of Sharon flowers, and the fruits of the Staghorn Sumac, varying shades of green were the predominant colours.

Catherine highlighted for us the things to remember when planning a garden: the plants' natural growing ranges (latitudes in which they do best); texture, form, and how things behave and look by day and by night; visual attractiveness and whether the plantings may draw birds or butterflies; how plants appear and behave seasonally as to their fruits, flowers, fragrance, bark, twig shape, and colour; whether they are upright, large or small, low growing, or trailing; whether they are hardy, sensitive to drying winds, prefer sun or shade; and what their pruning requirements are for both health and appearance.

From the Rosaria Centre meeting place, we set off anticlockwise up and around the campus, passing first the Centre's beautiful climbers; Virginia Creeper, Boston Ivy, Climbing Hydrangea, and Climbing Euonymus — all of which are hardy, will do well in both sun or shade, and make excellent, colourful, lush disguises for mundane and ugly cement walls. (Virginia Creeper, however, can cause problems on brick walls; its suckers will grow into the mortar and cause it to crack, crumble, and eventually fall out.)

We passed the grounds' lovely Weeping Cedar; it resembles a particularly long-armed Christmas tree that someone has thickly decorated with matt-green tinsel! In landscaping parlance, it is known as a 'specimen tree', a species planted specifically to show off its unique and usually attractive characteristics. The Weeping Cedar has a wide range — from Alaska to the southern United States. On this trip, the contorted Witch Hazel was covered in leaves. They seemed to be abnormally curly, looking suspiciously as if something was wrong with them; but this characteristic of the leaves is one of the strange differences that makes it an interesting addition to a garden.

At this point, Catherine talked about the grounds' two ponds; their lilies; and the goldfish 'problem'. The goldfish are too hardy, and keep away the frogs by devouring the tadpoles. Some Hosta were near a wall here. There are four varieties on the grounds; they prefer a shady location.

Up the hill again and we passed a Honey Locust. It is a good shade tree that will withstand drought and it had done well this year. Further up again we passed a Sunburst Locust grown for its interesting form, and Crimson King and Royal Red Maples, which have been planted all around the campus, and which are well named for their brilliant reds. We passed a Eunonymus tree, relative of the Burning bush; it also turns red in fall but not as brilliantly as the Royal Red Maples. It is very hardy and global in shape. There were Smoke Bushes and Trees (two varieties on campus with slightly different colours); a Pyramidal Oak; and hardy Yew shrubs which like sun or shade and have red berries which attract birds.

The back of the Rosaria Centre was festooned with a solid wall of English Ivy; it remains green all winter. This year it had to be pruned and cut back quite vigorously. Striped Maples were in evidence; they are grown all around the Mt. St. Vincent Campus. It is a short native tree grown chosen for its distinctively striped bark. We saw a tree-sized variety of Hill's Yew. The Pfitzer Juniper nearby likes coolness, but in a sunny area. There was an immensely large Mugo Pine here also. It had never been pruned, thus its great size.

There are two showy Hibiscus family Rose of Sharons on campus; they were in full and vibrant flower, due to Catherine's vigorous spring pruning which encourages the new growth needed for flowering. These plants must have a sheltered area; they do not do well in the wind. Zone 5 is their northernmost range, and they will tolerate sun or part shade.

The second pond, much larger than the first, had been created as an 'Artistic Intersection'. However, some of the nearby trees were showing the deleterious effects of the heavy machinery required to make this artifact; one birch was leafless and dead. Catherine talked of the Bass introduced to this pond, brought in to try and keep the goldfish down to more manageable numbers! This pond was lily-strewn as well, and had a very large flock of starlings drinking from the beach at its far end.

We passed a small Ginkgo, or Maidenhair Tree, on the way up the hill to the President's house. This is a very hardy tree with a lineage that goes back 150 million years. Some participants learned for the first time of its reputed medicinal benefits on human memory. Up

further, on the President's house grounds, we tasted the fuzzy fruits of the Staghorn Sumac. It had a pleasant, mild, lemon flavour; but an *unpleasant*, cotton-wool texture! The garden at the house boasted Phlox, Coreopsis, Burning Bush, Spirea varieties, Laetris flower spikes, Potentilla, Oregon Grape, Holly (male and female), and a wonderfully immense Austrian Pine with branches like giant green bottlebrushes.

Back down the hill, we passed Black Walnut (fruitless, although my father's Black Walnut at Whynacht's Point has lots of nuts this year), and Indian Pear. Here also there were three of a very interesting variety of Forsythia; it was unusually short and dense, and did not grow those long weeping, whippy branches seen on the more common Forsythias grown around Nova Scotia.

We discussed the advantages of the naturally occurring colour variations of the Mount's Blue Spruce. We noted mature Rhododendrons, Junipers, Cedars, and Hemlocks. The Hemlocks are hardy and will tolerate sun or shade. I was surprised to learn that they can be pruned successfully.

We were shown three very small and newly planted specimens of a variety of densely-leaved Cypress; the needles were extremely compacted in a whirly, cabbagey, flowery-like form — very tempting to touch and stroke. We passed a dark burgundy Japanese Maple, and a 15-year old Flowering Dogwood; it had had a blooming season of five weeks this summer! There were cultivated Mountain Laurels; they do best as understory, shady plants. We saw also a Butterfly Bush, grown for its fragrance and attraction for butterflies; there was a Weeping Mulberry here as well. In and around these plantings was a groundcover of Bearberry, and shrubs of Purple Barberry.

There are lots of Mountain Ash on the grounds; one particularly giant specimen had been injected with liquid fertilizer into its cambium this year. It had not been doing very well due to advanced age and consequent suckering but this treatment certainly had produced a very vibrant and thick growth of leaves. There was a stand of Lindens (there are a number of varieties on the grounds); they are a truly hardy street tree and do well in cities. They will withstand drought, resist diseases, and they have a lovely fragrant flower to boot! A small Dawn Redwood (a *Metasequoia*) had been planted to replace a bigger one that had succumbed to large landscaping machinery.

We finished our visit back at the Rosaria Centre in the dark of the evening with a view of a Weeping Hemlock, Columnar Maples planted for their slender shape (in between the windows of the building so as to not interfere with the view), and the umbrella-like Camperdown Elm which is very popular for cemeteries (the shape, produced by grafting, gives a dense, canopied effect).

Thank you again, Catherine, for another informative walk.

— S. Robertson



ALMANAC

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.

Fall comes to Nova Scotia like the late fulfilment of a boyhood love, half forgotten for half a lifetime and then at once alive and golden, new and strange. The late-August easterlies and the line storms have blown themselves out. Slowly the slopes begin to blaze with the reds and yellows, wild splashes of cold dramatic fire along the sombre hills of spruce. The days are crisp and clear, or windless under a mild and clouded sky.

— Charles Bruce: The Channel Shore (1954)

NATURAL EVENTS

May-Oct.	Flight periods of the Cabbage Butterfly, the Clouded Sulphur, and the Alfalfa Butterfly.
late July-early Oct.	Flight periods of the American Painted Lady, Monarch, and Mourning Cloak.
16 Aug.-18 Oct.	Flight period of the Milbert's Tortoise Shell.
6 Sept.	Full moon; this is the 'Harvest Moon'.
late Sept.-Nov.	Annual movement of Atlantic Saury (a.k.a. 'Needlefish', <i>Scomberesox</i> sp.) through the Strait of Canso. The fish die-offs at the Causeway attract many birds.
23 Sept.	Autumnal Equinox at 1:37 a.m. ADT: Fall begins.
30 Sept.	Average first frost in Halifax (i.e. 1:10 chance that frost will occur before this date).
5 Oct.	Full moon; this is the 'Hunter's Moon'.
21 Oct.	Orionid meteor shower peaks.
25 Oct.	Return to Standard Time; turn clocks back one hour.
4 Nov.	Full moon; this is the 'Beaver Moon'.
17 Nov.	Leonid meteor shower.
22 Nov.	Daily minimum temperature goes below zero.
3 Dec.	Full moon; this is the 'Cold Moon'.
7 Dec.	Daily average temperature goes below zero.
13 Dec.	Geminid meteor shower peaks.
21 Dec.	Winter Solstice at 9:58 p.m. AST: Winter begins.

— Sources: Atmospheric Environment Service, Climate Normals 1951-80 Halifax (Shearwater A) N.S.; Colombo's Canadian Global Almanac, 1997 & 1998; Peter Payzant's compilation of butterfly data; and the personal observations of the compiler.



SUNRISE AND SUNSET ON LATE SUMMER AND AUTUMN SATURDAYS

5 Sept.	6:41	19:44	3 Oct.	7:14	18:52
12 Sept.	6:49	19:31	10 Oct.	7:23	18:39
19 Sept.	6:58	19:18	17 Oct.	7:32	18:27
26 Sept.	7:06	19:05	24 Oct.	7:41	18:15
			31 Oct.	6:51	17:05
7 Nov.	7:00	16:55	5 Dec.	7:35	16:34
14 Nov.	7:10	16:48	12 Dec.	7:42	16:34
21 Nov.	7:19	16:41	19 Dec.	7:47	16:36
28 Nov.	7:28	16:37	26 Dec.	7:50	16:40



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

ORGANIZATIONAL 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 <<http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm>>.

- 19 Oct. 'Leatherback Turtles: Summer Visitors to Nova Scotia', with speaker Mike James.
23 Oct. 'Tour the Autumn Sky', with leader Larry Bogan. Meet at 8:30 p.m.

Burke-Gaffney Observatory — Public shows at the Burke-Gaffney Observatory at Saint Mary's University are held on the 1st and 3rd Sat. of each month; tours begin at 9 p.m. From 1 Nov. on begin at 7 p.m. For more information phone 496-8257.

Dartmouth Volksmarch Club — Meets for organised walks, at least 10 km, every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Pick up their schedule at the Trail Shop on Quinpool Road, or phone 435-5252 for information.

Friends of McNabs Island — for more information call Dusan Soudek at 422-1045, or Mike Tilley at 465-4563, or <<http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FOMIS/>>.

- 27 Sept. 'Fall Beach Sweep'. Phone Catherine at 434-2254.
- 18 Oct. 'Fall Foliage Foray'. Phone Catherine at 434-2254.

Halifax Outdoor Club — Weekly outings meet at Bagel Works on Quinpool Road, for carpooling. Call the Hotline at 492-5450 for details.

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, 8 p.m. For more information phone 852-2428 (recording), or Joan Czapalay at 455-9892, or <<http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc/nsbsmain.html>>.

- 3 Oct. 'Hartlen Point', leader TBA. Phone 852-2428.
- 9-12 Oct. 'Brier Island Weekend', with leader Fulton Lavender.
- 17 Oct. 'The Pubnicos', with leader Gisele d'Entremont.
- 22 Oct. Annual General Meeting, followed by wine and cheese reception.
- 26 Nov. 'Soaring with Eagles', with speaker Larry Bogan.



Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History — For more information about programmes phone 424-6099 or 424-7353, or <<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/museum/mnh/>>.

- until 1 Nov. 'So Much to Sea', an exhibit for the International Year of the Oceans.
- 7 Sept.-31 Oct. 'Nine Frogs and a Toad', an exhibit from Quebec.
- Sept. 23 'The Big Picture', with speaker Tony Diamond.
- Sept. 30 'Are Bird Populations Changing?', with speaker Phil Taylor.
- Oct. 3 'Right Whale, Wrong Place: Big Bones on Display!', with leader Andrew Hebda.
- Oct. 4 'Taylor Head Rock Walk', with museum geologists.
- Oct. 7 'Species at Risk', with speakers Sherman Boates and Mark Elderkin.
- Oct. 10 'Fall Colours Walk', with leader Alex Wilson.
- Oct. 14 'Have the Swallows Returned?', with speaker Marty Leonard.
- Oct. 21 'Sable Island, A Special Fragile Place', with speaker Ian McLaren.
- Oct. 25 'Lichen Field Trip', with leader Karen Casselman.
- Nov. 18 'Reef Riff-Raff: Artificial Reefs in Our Waters', with speaker Chris Harvey-Clark.



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 information phone Heather Drope at 423-7032.

- 28 Sept. 'Member's Slide Night'.
- 26 Oct. 'The Desert in Bloom', with speaker Anne Mills.

Orchid Society of Nova Scotia — Meets second Sunday of the month, September to June, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. Orchids are usually on display before the meeting. For more information, phone Jean Hartley at 443-3080, or <<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/orchid.html>>.

- 3 & 4 Oct. Fall Show & Sale at the N.S. Museum of Natural History

Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia — Meets the 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. Special Seminars and Shows are held at Saint Mary's University, Theatre A, Burke Education Centre. For more information, phone Gilbert van Ryckevorsel at 463-2695, or <<http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/PGNS/PGNS.html>>.

- 20 Sept. 'Photographing Nova Scotia's Protected Spaces', with Oliver Maass.
- 18 Oct. 'Life on Sable Island in the 1950s', with Grace Ilsley.
- 21 Nov. 'Fall Show', Burke Education Centre at 8:00 p.m.



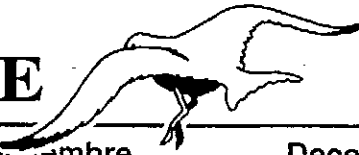
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Halifax Chapter) — Meets the third Friday of each month at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 8:00 p.m. For more information, <<http://halifax.rasc.ca>>. Public shows at the Planetarium in the Sir James Dunn Building, Dalhousie University, have been discontinued.



Remember, it's hunting season, so dress to be seen in the woods!

— compiled by Patricia L. Chalmers

HALIFAX TIDE TABLE

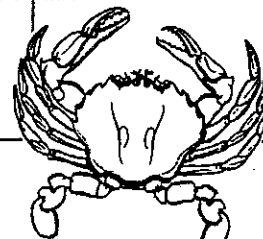
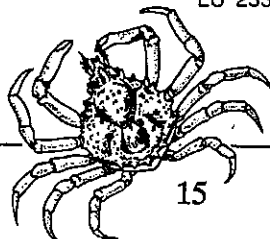
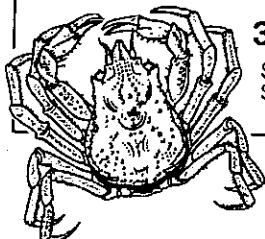


October-octobre

November-novembre

December-décembre

Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds	metres	Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds	metres	Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds	metres
1	0340	4.9	1.5	16	0520	5.6	1.7	1	0510	5.9	1.8	16	0010	1.6	0.5	1	0530	6.6	2.0	16	0010	2.0	0.6
	1000	2.0	0.6		1145	1.6	0.5		1135	1.3	0.4		0600	5.9	1.8		1215	0.7	0.2		0605	5.9	1.8
TH	1550	5.2	1.6	FR	1730	5.2	1.6	SU	1725	5.9	1.8	MO	1245	1.3	0.4	TU	1800	5.9	1.8	WE	1250	1.0	0.3
JE	2235	1.3	0.4	VE				DI	2350	0.7	0.2	LU	1830	5.6	1.7	MA				ME	1845	5.2	1.6
2	0445	5.2	1.6	17	0000	1.0	0.3	2	0600	6.6	2.0	17	0050	1.6	0.5	2	0030	1.0	0.3	17	0050	2.0	0.6
	1100	1.6	0.5		0600	5.6	1.7		1230	1.0	0.3		0640	5.9	1.8		0620	6.9	2.1		0645	5.9	1.8
FR	1655	5.6	1.7	SA	1235	1.3	0.4	MO	1820	6.2	1.9	TU	1320	1.0	0.3	WE	1310	0.3	0.1	TH	1325	1.0	0.3
VE	2330	1.0	0.3	SA	1815	5.6	1.7	LU				MA	1910	5.6	1.7	ME	1855	6.2	1.9	JE	1925	5.6	1.7
3	0540	5.6	1.7	18	0045	1.0	0.3	3	0045	0.7	0.2	18	0120	1.6	0.5	3	0125	0.7	0.2	18	0125	1.6	0.5
	1155	1.3	0.4		0640	5.9	1.8		0645	6.9	2.1		0715	6.2	1.9		0710	6.9	2.1		0725	5.9	1.8
SA	1750	5.9	1.8	SU	1315	1.3	0.4	TU	1325	0.3	0.1	WE	1350	1.0	0.3	TH	1400	0.0	0.0	FR	1400	0.7	0.2
SA				DI	1855	5.6	1.7	MA	1910	6.2	1.9	ME	1950	5.6	1.7	JE	1950	6.2	1.9	VE	2000	5.6	1.7
4	0020	0.7	0.2	19	0125	1.3	0.4	4	0140	0.3	0.1	19	0155	1.6	0.5	4	0215	0.7	0.2	19	0200	1.6	0.5
	0625	6.2	1.9		0715	5.9	1.8		0735	6.9	2.1		0750	6.2	1.9		0800	6.9	2.1		0800	5.9	1.8
SU	1245	1.0	0.3	MO	1350	1.0	0.3	WE	1415	0.3	0.1	TH	1420	0.7	0.2	FR	1450	0.0	0.0	SA	1435	0.7	0.2
DI	1840	6.2	1.9	LU	1935	5.6	1.7	ME	2000	6.6	2.0	JE	2025	5.6	1.7	VE	2040	6.2	1.9	SA	2040	5.6	1.7
5	0110	0.3	0.1	20	0155	1.3	0.4	5	0230	0.3	0.1	20	0225	1.6	0.5	5	0310	1.0	0.3	20	0235	1.6	0.5
	0715	6.6	2.0		0750	6.2	1.9		0820	6.9	2.1		0825	5.9	1.8		0850	6.9	2.1		0840	5.9	1.8
MO	1340	0.7	0.2	TU	1420	1.0	0.3	TH	1505	0.0	0.0	FR	1455	0.7	0.2	SA	1540	0.0	0.0	SU	1510	0.7	0.2
LU	1930	6.2	1.9	MA	2015	5.6	1.7	JE	2055	6.6	2.0	VE	2105	5.6	1.7	SA	2130	6.2	1.9	DI	2120	5.6	1.7
6	0200	0.0	0.0	21	0225	1.3	0.4	6	0325	0.7	0.2	21	0300	1.6	0.5	6	0400	1.3	0.4	21	0315	1.6	0.5
	0800	6.9	2.1		0820	5.9	1.8		0910	6.9	2.1		0905	5.9	1.8		0940	6.6	2.0		0920	5.9	1.8
TU	1430	0.3	0.1	WE	1450	1.0	0.3	FR	1600	0.0	0.0	SA	1530	1.0	0.3	SU	1635	0.3	0.1	MO	1550	1.0	0.3
MA	2020	6.6	2.0	ME	2050	5.6	1.7	VE	2145	6.2	1.9	SA	2140	5.6	1.7	DI	2220	6.2	1.9	LU	2155	5.6	1.7
7	0250	0.3	0.1	22	0250	1.3	0.4	7	0420	1.0	0.3	22	0335	2.0	0.6	7	0500	1.3	0.4	22	0355	2.0	0.6
	0845	6.9	2.1		0855	5.9	1.8		1000	6.6	2.0		0940	5.9	1.8		1030	6.2	1.9		1000	5.9	1.8
WE	1520	0.3	0.1	TH	1520	1.0	0.3	SA	1655	0.3	0.1	SU	1605	1.0	0.3	MO	1730	0.7	0.2	TU	1630	1.0	0.3
ME	2110	6.2	1.9	JE	2130	5.6	1.7	SA	2235	6.2	1.9	DI	2220	5.6	1.7	LU	2310	5.9	1.8	MA	2235	5.6	1.7
8	0340	0.3	0.1	23	0320	1.6	0.5	8	0520	1.3	0.4	23	0415	2.0	0.6	8	0605	1.6	0.5	23	0445	2.0	0.6
	0930	6.9	2.1		0930	5.9	1.8		1050	6.2	1.9		1020	5.6	1.7		1120	5.9	1.8		1040	5.9	1.8
TH	1615	0.3	0.1	FR	1550	1.0	0.3	SU	1755	0.7	0.2	MO	1650	1.3	0.4	TU	1825	1.0	0.3	WE	1720	1.0	0.3
JE	2200	6.2	1.9	VE	2205	5.2	1.6	DI	2330	5.9	1.8	LU	2255	5.6	1.7	MA				ME	2320	5.6	1.7
9	0435	0.7	0.2	24	0355	1.6	0.5	9	0630	1.6	0.5	24	0505	2.3	0.7	9	0005	5.9	1.8	24	0545	2.0	0.6
	1020	6.6	2.0		1005	5.6	1.7		1145	5.9	1.8		1055	5.6	1.7		0705	2.0	0.6		1120	5.6	1.7
FR	1715	0.3	0.1	SA	1630	1.0	0.3	MO	1900	1.0	0.3	TU	1740	1.3	0.4	WE	1215	5.6	1.7	TH	1815	1.3	0.4
VE	2250	5.9	1.8	SA	2240	5.2	1.6	LU				MA	2340	5.2	1.6	ME	1920	1.3	0.4	JE			
10	0540	1.0	0.3	25	0435	2.0	0.6	10	0025	5.6	1.7	25	0605	2.3	0.7	10	0055	5.6	1.7	25	0005	5.6	1.7
	1110	6.2	1.9		1045	5.6	1.7		0735	1.6	0.5		1140	5.6	1.7		0805	2.0	0.6		0655	2.3	0.7
SA	1820	0.7	0.2	SU	1715	1.3	0.4	TU	1240	5.6	1.7	WE	1840	1.3	0.4	TH	1310	5.2	1.6	FR	1210	5.6	1.7
SA	2345	5.6	1.7	DI	2320	5.2	1.6	MA	1955	1.0	0.3	ME			JE	2015	1.3	0.4	VE	1910	1.3	0.4	
11	0645	1.3	0.4	26	0525	2.3	0.7	11	0125	5.2	1.6	26	0025	5.2	1.6	11	0150	5.6	1.7	26	0055	5.6	1.7
	1205	5.9	1.8		1120	5.2	1.6		0835	2.0	0.6		0715	2.3	0.7		0855	2.0	0.6		0755	2.0	0.6
SU	1925	0.7	0.2	MO	1810	1.6	0.5	WE	1340	5.2	1.6	TH	1230	5.2	1.6	FR	1410	4.9	1.5	SA	1305	5.2	1.6
DI				LU				ME	2050	1.3	0.4	JE	1940	1.3	0.4	VE	2100	1.6	0.5	SA	2010	1.3	0.4
12	0045	5.2	1.6	27	0000	4.9	1.5	12	0235	5.2	1.6	27	0120	5.2	1.6	12	0250	5.6	1.7	27	0155	5.9	1.8
	0755	1.6	0.5		0625	2.3	0.7		0930	2.0	0.6		0820	2.3	0.7		0950	2.0	0.6		0900	2.0	0.6
MO	1300	5.6	1.7	TU	1205	5.2	1.6	TH	1455	4.9	1.5	FR	1330	5.2	1.6	SA	1515	4.9	1.5	SU	1415	5.2	1.6
LU	2025	1.0	0.3	MA	1910	1.6	0.5	JE	2145	1.3	0.4	VE	2035	1.3	0.4	SA	2150	2.0	0.6	DI	2105	1.3	0.4
13	0150	5.2	1.6	28	0050	4.9	1.5	13	0345	5.2	1.6	28	0225	5.6	1.7	13	0345	5.6	1.7	28	0300	5.9	1.8
	0855	1.6	0.5		0735	2.3	0.7		1025	1.6	0.5		0915	2.0	0.6		1035	1.6	0.5		1000	1.6	0.5
TU	1410	5.2	1.6	WE	1255	5.2	1.6	FR	1605	4.9	1.5	SA	1440	5.2	1.6	SU	1620	4.9	1.5	MO	1530	5.2	1.6
MA	2125	1.0	0.3	ME	2010	1.6	0.5	VE	2235	1.6	0.5	SA	2130	1.3	0.4	DI	2235	2.0	0.6	LU	2210	1.3	0.4
14	0310	4.9	1.5	29	0150	4.9	1.5	14	0440	5.6	1.7	29	0335	5.9	1.8	14	0440	5.6	1.7	29	0410	5.9	1.8
	0955	1.6	0.5		0840	2.3	0.7		1115	1.6	0.5		1015	1.6	0.5		1125	1.6	0.5		1105	1.3	0.4
WE	1525	5.2	1.6	TH	1400	5.2	1.6	SA	1700	5.2	1.6	SU	1555	5.2	1.6	MO	1715	4.9	1.5	TU	1640	5.2	1.6
ME	2220	1.0	0.3	JE	2105	1.3	0.4	SA	2325	1.6	0.5	DI	2230	1.3	0.4	LU	2325	2.0	0.6	MA	2315	1.3	0.4
15	0425	5.2	1.6	30	0300	5.2	1.6	15	0525	5.6	1.7	30	0435	6.2	1.9	15	0525	5.9	1.8	30	0510	6.2	1.9
	1055	1.6	0.5		0940	2.0	0.6		1205	1.3	0.4		1120	1.3	0.4		1210	1.3	0.4		1205	0.7	0.2





NATURE NOTES

Highlights From the Summer Months

Peter Payzant said that Fritillaries were still around in September and Sulphur Butterflies would be seen into October. The second brood of Silver Bordered Fritillaries was just emerging. His latest hummingbird sighting was on September 3rd; there is a competition for the latest date for this species, which is now migrating.

Shirley McIntyre commented on the display of live butterflies at the Museum, in a greenhouse on the outside deck.

Other Sightings

A Hummingbird Hawk Moth, flying in daylight, and a whale frolicking off the end of Point Pleasant Park in July, probably following mackerel. Some porpoises were seen there too, at about the same time. Horned Grebes were spotted in St. Anne's Channel, in the Bras d'Or, in mid-August.

Regina Maass saw plenty of Bald Eagles, with young ones, near Baddeck while she was on a canoing trip. She was especially glad to see this evidence of breeding, as she had learned that the taking of eggs for stocking in the United States had been very stressful for the Cape Breton population.

Linda MacKay had a chance to see an Osprey fishing, and also some large gulls tackling shore crabs.

Patricia Chalmers commented that the good crop of blackberries and spruce cones should ensure a Crossbill winter.

Two Pileated Woodpeckers spent some time hammering an old telephone pole in Rockingham Village on the first weekend in September.

! HUNTING SEASON IS UPON US!

Black Bear season	14 Sept. - 31 Oct.
Bow-hunters' Deer season	26 Sept. - 29 Oct. & 7 Dec. - 1 Dec.
Ring-necked Pheasant season	1 Oct. - 15 Dec.
Ruffed Grouse season	1 Oct. - 31 Dec.
White-tail Deer season	30 Oct. - 5 Dec.
Snowshoe Hare season	15 Nov. - 15 Feb.

**HUNTERS ARE ABROAD FROM 14 SEPT. TO 15 FEB.
REMEMBER — DRESS TO BE SEEN IN THE WOODS!**

! NEXT DEADLINE !

21 NOVEMBER FOR DECEMBER ISSUE

contributions to the Editor, HFN
c/o NS Museum of Natural History
Please phone 455-8160 to alert the editor