

January-April 2022

## CONTENTS

### Editor's Corner

- Editorial / Le mot de la redaction

### Feature articles

- [Birds of Property #01415033 / Peter Pearce](#)
- [Fredericton Nature Club Presidents in the Past / Beverley Schneider](#)

### Meeting Reports

### Book reviews

- [Heard, Stephen B. Charles Darwin's Barnacle and David Bowie's Spider: How Scientific Names Celebrate Adventurers, Heroes, and even a Few Scoundrels](#)
- [Lloyd, Karen. Abundance: Nature in Recovery](#)

### Sundry

- [Calendar](#)
- [Executive](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Nature NB](#)
- [Publication Information](#)
- [Website](#)

# Fredericton Nature Club Newsletter



## Editor's Corner

Dear readers:

We hope that you were able to spend lots of time outdoors in exercise and nature observations since autumn 2021

This spring members of our club can look forward to plenty of activity. First, Nature NB's **Festival of Nature** will occur from **June 3-5** in Fredericton—so yes, we are the host club! We have plenty on our plate: volunteers from our club will be called on to plan and lead nature outings, provide advice to visitors, etc.

Secondly, the Fredericton Public Library in collaboration with Nature NB will put together beginner birder backpacks that will allow library patrons who are interested in experiencing birdwatching to do so. A few of us have already volunteered to lead birdwatching outings for beginners.

Finally, let's not forget about our own outings. Some of these will be in the spring; let's have our own bird outing(s) on May 14, Global Big Day. Some outings will coincide with the Festival of Nature; others can take

Chers lecteurs :

Espérons que vous ayez pu passer beaucoup d'heures en plein air en exercice et en observation de la nature depuis l'automne 2021.

Nos adhérents devront s'attendre à bien d'activités pendant le printemps. D'abord le **Festival de la Nature** de Nature NB se déroulera du **3 au 5 juin** à Fredericton—et oui, nous sommes le club hôte ! On aura beaucoup à faire: le club fera appel aux volontaires à planifier et mener des sorties nature, à fournir des renseignements aux visiteurs, etc.

Deuxièmement, la Bibliothèque publique du Fredericton, en collaboration avec Nature NB, créera des sacs à dos pour les ornithologues débutants qui permettront aux clients de la bibliothèque qui s'y intéressent, de découvrir l'ornithologie. Certains parmi nous ont déjà offert à conduire des randonnées pour les ornithologues débutants.

Enfin n'oublions pas nos propres randonnées nature dont certaines se dérouleront au printemps. Allons

## Current Executive

**President: Graham Forbes**

**Webmaster: David Lilly**

**Director-at-Large: Doug Jackson**

**Treasurer: Andre Vietinghoff**

**Newsletter Editor: Andre Vietinghoff**

## SOME IMPORTANT DATES

- **7 April FNC monthly meeting Stepping Stone**
- **5 May FNC monthly meeting Stepping Stone**
- **14 May Global Big Day Club bird outing(s)**
- **3 to 5 June Nature NB Festival of Nature: club-run nature outings**
- **21 June: summer begins**



White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) needles above and bark below. A prominent tree in the Ferris Street Forest Nature Preserve, Fredericton



place during the summer if we can find volunteers to lead them. All kinds of natural history outings including ornithological, botanical, entomological, geological, and even astronomical (sky's the limit) might be feasible and welcome ... if knowledgeable volunteers are available.

In this issue, by request from Peter Pearce, a former prominent member, we are including an article by him about what is now the Ferris Street Forest Nature Preserve. Bev Schneider, a former president, volunteered an article about past presidents. You will also find club meeting reports and two book reviews. Happy reading!



observer et identifier des oiseaux le 14 mai, le "Big Day" global. Certaines randonnées vont coïncider avec le Festival de la Nature; d'autres pourront se dérouler pendant l'été si des chefs d'excursions sont disponibles. Bien de sorties nature, y compris sorties ornithologiques, botaniques, entomologiques, géologiques, et même astronomiques seraient faisables et appréciées si on trouvait des volontaires qualifiés.

Dans ce numéro, sur demande de Peter Pearce, ancien bien connu de notre Club, nous vous offrons un article qu'il a écrit sur ce qui est devenue la Réserve naturelle forestière de la Rue Ferris. Bev Schneider, ancienne présidente, nous offre un article portant sur des anciens présidents. En plus, vous y trouverez des rapports sur nos réunions et deux revues de livres. Joyeuse lecture !

## Feature Articles

### The Birds of Property #01415033 \* / by Dr. Peter Pearce

This brief assessment of the avifauna of the property under consideration is based on the author's bird sightings (52 different species) during a dozen visits to the site in the summer of 2012 and reports of sightings (an additional five species) by other observers during that year and earlier. The author's long-term studies of birds in the capital region – with particular reference to Wilkins Field and adjacent lands, just one kilometre distant – helped to assess the likelihood of occurrence of other species of summer resident birds not seen during the visits as well as winter ones and spring and autumn migrants.



Purple Finch  
(*Haemorhous purpureus*)  
(Photo by David Lilly)



American Goldfinch  
(*Spinus tristis*)  
(Photo by David Lilly)



Pine Siskin  
(*Spinus pinus*)  
(Photo by David Lilly)



American Crow  
(*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

The property comprises three very different habitats frequented by birds – cultivated berry fields, a small wetland, and woodland. Although it is understood that development is proposed for part of the woodland component only, the other two may be directly or indirectly affected adversely and so are also considered here.

The extensive berry fields attract relatively few kinds of birds. During the harvest season fruit eaters such as Cedar Waxwings and American Robins may be seen. Among the several other species that take ripe fruits opportunistically, whether cultivated or wild, such as cherries and hawthorns, Northern Flickers are the most conspicuous. The surrounding woodland edges provide important escape cover for such birds. American Crows and Mourning Doves, often in small flocks, may be seen feeding on the ground through much of the year as probably can a number of open-country species such as Horned Larks and Snow Buntings in the late fall. A surprise drop-in in the spring of 2012 by a “venue” of ten Turkey Vultures was almost certainly the first such event. (For this component of the property score a total of ten bird species seen and another ten probably occurring.)

At the northern edge of the property is a wetland associated with the head of a small waterway feeding into Nashwaaksis Stream. About a dozen species of birds including Hooded Mergansers and other waterfowl and songbirds such as Red-winged Blackbirds are attracted to that open cattail marsh. There have been observations of Green Herons there. That’s a rare bird in New Brunswick which likes small ponds and slow-moving streams with woodland cover. The wetland may be accessed by several pathways and overlooked from the Ring Road. (For this component of the property score ten species of birds seen and another five probably occurring.)

On the east side of the lands is an extensive, pure stand of mid-aged White Pine, surely the finest such grove in Fredericton. Elsewhere there is mixed woodland with a wide spectrum of trees of uneven age, many representing species of the troubled Acadian Forest, a scattering of ancient White Pines, and small patches of trees of a single species. This splendid floral mosaic provides for a richness of birdlife. Species of birds that were seen by the author and others that quite probably occur as summer residents or passage migrant visitors in spring and fall include: five woodpeckers, six flycatchers, three vireos, four thrushes, 20 wood-warblers (the glory of New Brunswick’s terrestrial avifauna), eight sparrows, six finches, and 27 others representing an additional 18 families, giving a total of about 80 species. It is worth singling out the Pine Warbler, a bird associated exclusively with pines. In fact, the White Pine and the Pine Warbler – the



Common Raven  
(*Corvus corax*)



Northern Flicker  
(*Colaptes auratus*)



Mourning Dove  
(*Zenaida macroura*)



Cedar Waxing  
(*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

one so dominant, the other so unobtrusive – could be thought of as the property’s floral and faunal signatures. A few other birds of random note are secretive Great Horned Owls, noisy Pileated Woodpeckers, assertive Great Crested Flycatchers, and exquisite Black-throated Blue and Blackburnian Warblers.

This wonderland of birds, adjacent to suburbia, is so readily accessed from the Northside Trail (with its linkage to other components of Fredericton’s excellent network of trails) and easily explored on woodland pathways carpeted with shed pine needles to soften one’s tread.

To set development proposals in a broad wildlife conservation context it could be noted that forest birds as well as shrub and forest-edge species have suffered worrisome population declines in much of North America, including our region, over the last two or three decades. Habitat loss and fragmentation are thought to be among the most impactful causes.

So, in conclusion, it may be said that although the property is not unique from an ornithological perspective and as far as one knows harbours no “species at risk” – but Olive-sided Flycatchers and Eastern Wood-Pewees could occur there – it does nevertheless attract such a wide variety (over 100 species) of birds. In the world of nature, so important for our well-being, all such places are special. No community can have too many.

Property #01415033: It really is – and should continue to be – for the birds.

*\*This is now the Ferris Street Forest Nature Preserve*

### **Fredericton Nature Club Presidents in the Past / By Beverley Schneider**

The president of the Fredericton Nature Club has traditionally been an ambitious leader who has almost single-handedly led the work and activities of the club. That has not changed over the years with the extended work provided by the current president, Dr. Graham Forbes. This article lists some of the presidents from the past and is intended as an historical record. Information for this list has been gleaned from records left by Nettie Moore.

| President     | Year(s)          |
|---------------|------------------|
| William Varty | 1960, 1961, 1962 |



American Robin  
(*Turdus migratorius*)



Pine Warbler  
(*Setophaga pinus*)



Charles Darwin, founder (together with Alfred Russel Wallace) of the theory of evolution



Illustration by  
Maria Sibylla Merian

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Douglas Gibson     | 1963        |
| Nettie Moore       | 1964, 1965  |
| Andy Dean          | 1966        |
| Owen Washburn      | 1967        |
| John Francis       | 1968, 1969  |
| Tim Dilworth       | 1970        |
| Darrell Kitchen    | 1971        |
| Austin Squires     | 1972        |
| Hank Deichmann     | 1973        |
| Beverley Schneider | 1974        |
| Harold Hathaway    | 1975, 1976? |
| Michael Brzynski   | 1977, 1978  |

### Meeting Reports

Fredericton Nature Club Monthly Meeting 7 October 2021 at 7:00 pm  
Stepping Stone Senior Centre, Fredericton

Attendees: 15

Presenter: **Dr. Stephen Heard**, UNB biology professor

Title of presentation (based on recently published book): “Charles Darwin’s Barnacle and David Bowie’s Spider” —What the Names of Species Tell Us About Science and Scientists

Dr. Heard outlined the Linnaean system and briefly described the Code of nomenclature that is generally a two-part name and must include at least two letters. Names don’t have to be Latin in origin The first part of name is for the “family”; the second, is normally based on the discoverer of the species.

Dr. Heard discussed surprising species nomenclature such as *Heteropoda davidbowie*, a spider discovered in 2008 in Malaysia and named by Peter Jäger in recognition of the rock musician whose groundbreaking album was Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders of Mars. Dr. Heard talked at length about Maria Sibylla Marian, a pioneering female nature artist/naturalist who lived during the seventeenth and the first part of the eighteenth centuries. Chapter five of Dr. Heard’s book is devoted to Marian. Copies of Dr. Heard’s book, Charles Darwin’s Barnacle and David Bowie’s Spider: How Scientific Names Celebrate Adventurers, Heroes, and even a Few Scoundrels, were available for purchase and autographing by our speaker at the end of the meeting. A book review of this work appears in in this issue.



Day Lily  
(*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*)



Prairie Warbler  
(*Setophaga discolor*)



Eastern Hognose Snake  
(*Heterodon platyrhinos*)



Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)

Fredericton Nature Club Monthly Meeting 4 November 2021 at 7:00 pm  
Attendees: 18

Presenter: **Jane Loughborough**, member. Commentary on and contribution of some slides by **James Goltz**, member

Title of talk: "Gardening on the Granite in Georgian Bay".



Jane, her parents, and a brother have neighbouring cottages on **Bone Island** (*picture at left*) in Georgian Bay near Honey Harbour. Jane is an avid gardener but gardening on the granite can be daunting! Jane brings in boatloads of earth from the

mainland to add topsoil that will permit her plants to grow. Jane took beautiful photos of the plants that she planted or that grew naturally in her "rock garden." Jane also showed photos of a nearby protected wetland and of the species found there and talked about this area. Jim Goltz also included some slides and gave an interesting commentary on some of the species. In addition to beautiful garden flowers like Day Lily

and wildflowers like Cardinal Flower, Columbine, and Purple Violet, there were photos of birds such as the Great Blue Heron and Prairie Warbler (I only ever have seen one!) of reptiles like Hog-nosed Snake and Massasauga Rattler, and of amphibians like Leopard Frogs.



Bone Island in Georgian Bay

Fredericton Nature Club Monthly Meeting 2 December 2021 at 7:00 pm  
at the Stepping Stone

Attendees: 15

Presenter: **Don McPhee**, manager of NTSC; with assistant **Lyndsey Burrell**

Title of talk: "National Tree (and Shrub) Seed Centre of Canada 'The Backup Plan'"



The NTSC is in Fredericton and is the only such seed centre in Canada. Seeds are acquired in various ways but should be collected in the “softest”, least harmful manner. The NTSC boasts 12,000 genetically distinct collections. According to McPhee, collecting is the easy part. The backup plan is seed conservation.

There is lots of experimentation on storage and preservation of seeds. Seeds are tested for germination. They are tested, cleaned, and put in storage. Some seeds are conserved for special groups like First Nations. Other interest groups are provinces, universities, and conservation groups. Collecting of seeds at the NTSC targets twenty-two species of trees. Of special interest are tree species that are endangered such as Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)



Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)

McPhee and Burrell put up several fantastic display boards for both hardwood and softwood seeds that club members could gaze at after the meeting.

For more information about NTSC, access the website at: [National Tree Seed Centre \(nrcan.gc.ca\)](http://National Tree Seed Centre (nrcan.gc.ca))



Tree Seeds

Fredericton Nature Club monthly meeting Thursday, 3 February 2022 (The Stepping Stone meeting was chiefly cancelled due to the inclement weather forecast).

Attendance: The online meeting via Microsoft Teams (same date, same time) saw 8 parties and 13 persons in attendance.

Presenter: **Dr. Meghann Bruce** who is a lead in the investigation of various aquatic issues in the Fredericton area including cyanobacteria and Eurasian water milfoil.

Title: “What Are We Learning About Eurasian Water Milfoil in New Brunswick?”

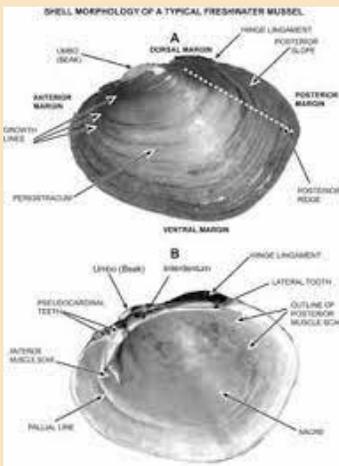


Eurasian Water Milfoil, aka., spiked watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)  
Above & below

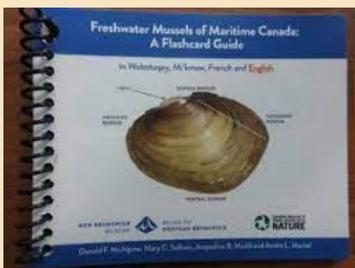
Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) “is native to Europe, Asia, and north Africa, but has a wide geographic and climatic distribution among some 57 countries, extending from northern Canada to South Africa.”<sup>[2]</sup> It is a submerged aquatic plant, grows in still or slow-moving water, and is considered to be a highly invasive species.” (Wikipedia). Dr Bruce pointed out that it looks like a bottle brush and that it has 4 leaves per whorl (sometimes 5) and 12 pairs of leaflets. While Northern Water Milfoil, not an invasive species, is green, EWM is reddish in colour. EWM



One solution to reducing the invasive species, Eurasian water milfoil through the use of weevils



Mussel morphology



Nature NB guide to mussels

is one of five most widely managed invasive aquatic plants. It is problematic because it outcompetes native aquatic flora and can affect ecosystem functions, recreational values, property values, water quality, etc. Because it is so hard to kill, it is often called the “zombie plant”: it has broad environmental tolerance and reproduces through fragments and can easily put out adventitious roots; the fragments are easily transported by boats and trailers. Moreover, EWM does not completely die in winter. EWM exhibits a rampant growth rate and tends to form a dense canopy at the water surface. Dr. Bruce first discovered EWM on the Saint John River in 2015 in one spot; now it is everywhere in Dr. Bruce’s study area on the St. John River and its tributaries as well as on the Washdemoak and Kennebecasis Rivers. EWM management in New Brunswick consists of various strategies including the following: a “clean, drain, dry” program that entails the scrupulous cleaning of boats and of other aquatic equipment before such equipment is moved in order to remove EWM fragments; physical, manual removal by divers, snorkelers, etc.; biocontrol through weevils that do feed on it in its native Eurasian habitat; herbicides; and combinations of the aforementioned options.



Meeting: Fredericton Nature Club monthly meeting Thursday, 3 March, 2022 at Stepping Stone

Attendance: 13 persons in addition to the 2 presenters

Presenter: **Sarah Cusack** and **Darren Michael Greeley, MSc candidates** under Michele Gray

Title: “Freshwater mussels: identification and habitat preferences in New Brunswick” (Cusack) followed by “Implications for management and conservation”

First presentation: “Freshwater mussels: identification and habitat preferences in New Brunswick”



Tidewater Mucket (*Leptodea ochracea*)

Although there are ca. 300 species of freshwater mussels in North America, New Brunswick has 10 species. Some of the ecological roles of mussels are as follow: ecosystem engineering, improvement of water quality, bank stabilization, provision of a habitat for algae, food source for numerous predators (gulls, otters, raccoons, sturgeon, etc.) Fish are required for dispersion of mussels. Mussels have a “lure”; when fish strike, the glochidia (singular is glochidium), parasitic



Yellow Lampmussel  
(*Lampsilis cariosa*)



Brook Floater, aka., Swollen  
wedgemussel  
(*Alasmidonta varicose*)



Eastern Elliptio Mussel  
(*Elliptio complanata*)



Alewife Floater Mussel  
(*Anodonta implicata*)

larvae of certain freshwater bivalve mollusks, which attaches itself by hooks and suckers to the fins or gills of fish. Mussel identification is difficult because, there is lots of variation, different species can look alike. The species that occur in NB are as follow: Greenray Mussel, Eastern Elliptio Mussel, Alewife Floater Mussel, Triangle Floater Mussel, Brook Floater Mussel, Eastern Creeper Mussel, Eastern Pearlshell Mussel, Tidewater Mucket, Yellow Lampmussel. The Dwarf Wedge Mussel is extirpated in NB. There are key identification marks. The two presenters are doing their research in association with the Gray Lab at UNB. They are also concerned with mussel rescue and relocation, SAR modeling, thermal preferences, movements of mussels, etc.

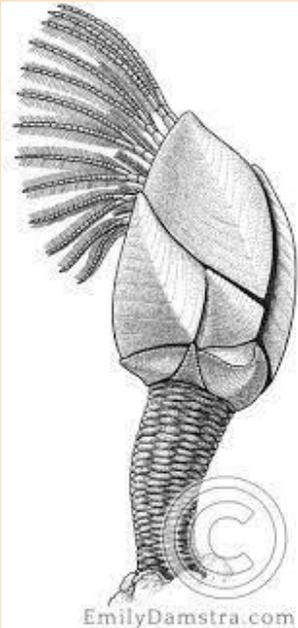
Second presentation: “Addressing knowledge gaps in the ecology of the Yellow Lamp Mussel”

The Yellow Lamp Mussel is a rare mussel in NB. Darren told us that many hours were spent snorkeling in the Saint John River and other watersheds and under 200 Yellow Lamp Mussels were found in their research area. However, other mussels exist in profusion throughout their research area. Some of the ways and means in addressing the knowledge gap were collection of fish, acoustic tagging and tracking of mussels, underwater cameras, high resolution habitat mapping. Some of the implications for management are following dispersal patterns of mussels, identifying host fish, identifying threats, identifying key corridors or reaches that are crucial for dispersion of mussels. Some conclusions are that interspecies relationships e.g., mussel/fish are complex; host fish presence in an area is insufficient.

The presenters brought with them for close viewing after the meeting the shells of different NB species as well as catalogues of mussels.



Dwarf Wedgemussel  
(*Alasmidonta heterodon*)



Gooseneck Barnacle <sup>10</sup>  
(*Regioscalpellum darwini*)



Carl Linnaeus, founder of modern taxonomy, i.e., the binomial nomenclature



“David Bowie’s spider”, a species of Huntsman spider (*Heteropoda davidbowie*)

## Book Reviews

**Heard, Stephen B.** Charles Darwin’s Barnacle and David Bowie’s Spider: How Scientific Names Celebrate Adventurers, Heroes, and even a Few Scoundrels. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 2020. 241 pages. ISBN 9780300238280

Available through NBPLS at Fredericton Public Library (downtown) under call number 578.012 HEA

With b&w ill. By Emily S. Damstra



In Charles Darwin’s Barnacle and David Bowie’s Spider, Dr. Stephen B. Heard, a University of New Brunswick biology professor, dips into the history of eponymous scientific naming since the time of Carl Linnaeus to come up with fascinating true stories about the humans associated with the Latin names of lifeforms and about why such names have been assigned.

Before the sixteenth century, lists of known species were manageable but, “Even in the seventeenth Century, the names-as-descriptions system was creaking under the weight of known biodiversity” <sup>1</sup>. Very long technical descriptions attached to the names only complicated the issue. Linnaeus invented the binomial system of naming whereby each name was to include both a genus (the first name) and a species (the second name), Heard points out “that Linnaeus opened the door to eponymous naming.” <sup>2</sup> whereby the species name can be used to identify and usually to honour an individual. In Chapter 2, “How Scientific Naming Works”, Heard makes it clear that scientific naming remains difficult if only because the identification of new species is itself problematic. Heard mentions the five Codes of which at least one must be consulted in



Maria Sibylla Merian, 1647-1717



Illustration by  
Maria Sibylla Merian



Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur  
(*Microcebus berthae*)

naming a new species; however, the Codes do allow for latitude in naming<sup>3</sup>.

Even the genus portion of the name can be in honour of a person, e.g., *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern magnolia) in memory of the French botanist, Pierre Magnol whose life and career Dr. Heard briefly describes. Subsequent chapters illustrate with detail and humour the multitude of reasons for which names have been assigned. The following is a small sample of the many names that crop up: *Aptostichas stephencolberti*, a spider named for Stephen Colbert; *Livyatam melvillei*, a fossil sperm whale for Hermann Melville; *Agra schwarzeneggeri*, a ground beetle for Arnold Schwarzenegger; *Aegomorphus wojtylai*, a longhorn beetle for Pope John Paul II; *Spurlingia excellens*, or Spurling's excellent land snail for William Spurling; *Strigiphilus garylarsoni*, a louse for Gary Larson.

Some chapters discuss remarkable individuals who have been memorialized through the Latin names of species. Chapter 5, "Maria Sibylla Merian and the Metamorphosis of Natural History" talks about a European female artist/naturalist who painted lifeforms in Suriname in the seventeenth century. Although she was largely forgotten in the nineteenth century, Merian is one of the more illustrious women whose memory has been kept alive partly through the names of species. Heard makes it clear that eponymous naming seems to have favoured occidental males and that women deserve more recognition through species names, but he gives them the credit that is their due: in a chapter entitled "Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer and the Fish from the Depths of Time", the author tells the story of the netting, preservation, and naming of a Coelacanth, a living remnant from prehistoric times named *Latimeri chalumnaei*; Courtenay-Latimer's perseverance in preserving this fish was instrumental in the identification of this famous prehistoric specimen. In "A Fly for Mabel Alexander", we learn about a woman who was truly an associate to her husband, Alex Alexander, a taxonomist specializing in crane flies. Similarly, the Epilogue, "Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur" pays tribute to Berthe Rakotosamimanana, a PhD in biological anthropology from Madagascar who taught hundreds of students, performed valuable research herself, and was the key contact for foreign researchers wishing to pursue lemur research and related studies in Madagascar. The mouse lemur, *Microcebus berthae*, is named for her.

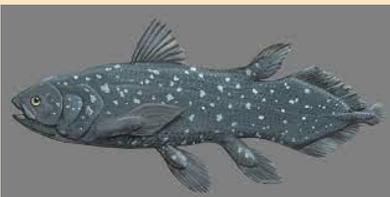
The chapter, "The Name of Evil" could perhaps have been renamed "Nefarious Names" or "Names of the Infamous." Certainly, the species name *Anophthalmus hitleri* and the genus *Caligula* have associations with two evil men, but many of the other persons who have received species names do not quite fit the category of evil. Later in this chapter Heard



illustration by  
Maria Sibylla Merian



Alexander von Humboldt



West Indian Ocean Coelecanth  
(*Latimeria chalumnae*), aka.,  
Gombessa, African Coelecanth,  
or simply Coelecanth

does raise the question, “What are we to make of the immortalization, via eponymous naming, of people whose conduct we might deplore?”<sup>4</sup> and argues that it is simplistic to divide people into sets of those who are “unambiguously good” and therefore worthy of immortalization and those who are “unambiguously bad ones”<sup>5</sup>. Such dialectic in which many sides of an argument are expressed appears often throughout the book and reflects the author’s sensitive and balanced approach to his topic.

Naming species after oneself is anathema to most taxonomists but in chapter, “Names from the Ego”, Heard demonstrates that such self-naming has occurred frequently, and that even illustrious scientists like Carl Linnaeus were not immune to this temptation: Linnaeus named the Twinflower *Linnaea borealis* after himself. Furthermore, in the chapter, “Eponymy Gone Wrong? Robert von Beringes’s Gorilla and Dian Fossey’s Tarsier”, Heard looks at seeming mistakes in the naming of species. Hence, *Tarsius diana* turns out to be a junior synonym at best, and anyhow, Dian Fossey had nothing to do with tarsiers. Chapter 12, “Less than a Tribute: the Temptation of Insult Naming” raises the shivery spectre of names that dishonour, e.g., *Sigesbeckia orientalis* that, once again, Linnaeus ostensibly used to strike back at a critic.

Among the many fascinating facets of naming that Dr. Heard explores in a chapter entitled “Names for Sale” are the use of auctions and sponsorship to carry on the work of taxonomy. Thus, the Madidi titi monkey was named *Callicebus aureipalatii* after the winning bid through an auction by an online casino, Golden Palace. Heard goes on to talk about BIOPAT, a German “sponsorship for diversity” that allows for the naming of new species for 2,600 euros per shot. While this arrangement is not as lucrative as the online auction, it does further the aims of taxonomy. The orchid, *Maxillaria gorbatschowii* (named after Mikhail Gorbachev) is one of the products of the BIOPAT scheme. The author points out that while some scientists are opposed to this kind of commercialization of science, “The right question is this: how is it that the science of species discovery is so poorly funded that its practitioners find it easier to auction off a name than to secure grant funding to conduct their research.”<sup>6</sup> Here once again, the author reminds the reader of the need to describe, classify, and name all living things.

The chapter, “Charles Darwin’s Tangled Bank” attempts to quantify naming. Who has been most honoured with names? Yes, Alfred Russel Wallace, Alexander von Humboldt, Joseph Dalton Hooker, the latter’s father, William Jackson Hooker, William Spurling, and many other naturalists have all been immortalized with species names that recognize their contributions. But Charles Darwin leads the pack. “So, while each of



Madidi Titi  
(*Callicebus aureipalatii*), aka.,  
Golden Palace Monkey



A Maxillaria orchid, possibly the  
species, *Maxillaria gorbatschowii*



Azure damselfly  
(*Coenagrion puella*)



Piatra Craiului Nat'l Park, Romania

Darwin's eponymous species, by itself, represents a celebration of his importance to science (and ditto for Wallace), the greatest honor is in the whole tangled bank. Perhaps it's the wisdom of crowds, with taxonomists around the world, working across the tree of life and deep into its history, combining to fix Darwin's name to species that, together, suggest the diversity of life itself." <sup>7</sup>.

This work alludes much to the love of collectors like Richard Spruce and of naturalists like Darwin, and of artists like Merian for their work. The chapters entitled "Richard Spruce and the Love of Liverworts" and "Love in a Latin Name." illuminate, respectively, the Herculean collecting labour of Richard Spruce whose true love was liverworts, and the motive of man-woman or family love behind all sorts of eponymous names. Dr. Heard's Charles Darwin's Barnacle and David Bowie's Spider is itself a labour of love that is remarkable for the passion that the author brings to the history of eponymous naming and for the beauty of the writing.

1. S. B. Heard. Charles Darwin's Barnacle and David Bowie's Spider. page 10
2. Ibid., page 13
3. Ibid., page 21
4. Ibid., page 70
5. Ibid, page 70-71.
6. Ibid, page 179
7. Ibid, pages 127-128

*Reviewed by A. Vietinghoff*

**Lloyd, Karen.** Abundance: Nature in Recovery. London: Bloomsbury Wildlife, 2021. 288 pages. ISBN 9781472989086

Available through NBPLS at Fredericton Public Library (downtown) under call number **333.72 LLO**



Karen Lloyd is an English environmental activist, journalist, mother, poet, and writer of non-fiction. Her parental home lies in the county of Cumbria in NW England where

Storm Desmond, to which she refers several times, caused massive flooding in December 2014. In this collection of essays united by the



Western capercaillie  
(*Tetrao urogallus*), aka.,  
Eurasian capercaillie, wood  
grouse, heather cock, Capercaillie



Great Bustard  
(*Otis tarda*)



Eastern Imperial Eagle  
(*Aquila heliaca*)



Common Crane  
(*Grus grus*), aka.,  
Eurasian Crane

theme of longed for abundance in nature, she travels to various European countries and areas of Great Britain to experience and describe nature and habitat and species recovery. The opening chapter, “A Primer for Abundance” introduces a primary theme of paying attention to and looking with a birder’s eye at abundance in nature and what this might mean in the Anthropocene “(the current geological age during which human activity is the dominating influence on our climate and environment)”<sup>1</sup>. This chapter concludes with the simple as well as metaphorical act of releasing a Willow Warbler that had been trapped in her home into the wild.

In a chapter entitled “Circumspect Dancing in Fields,” Lloyd describes a trip to Monfragüe National Park in Extremadura, Southern Spain where one objective is to view Griffon Vultures; here, wildlife and especially many species of birds can be found in abundance. Later she returns to Extremadura with a poet friend to view Common Cranes that stop over in the park in the tens of thousands. The author deplores the use of wind turbines that are responsible for the deaths of many cranes and other birds, but she revels in the abundance of Extremadura.

Three chapters including “Dust” and “Mrs. Janossy Goes Shopping for Cats” are based on trips to Hungary. In “Dust,” the rescuing of an injured songbird takes the author and her Hungarian friends to the Hortobágy Bird Rescue Centre where they view injured storks, birds of prey, and other birds. The author also describes her involvement in an art exhibit that includes a work by her friend of a Slender-billed Curlew—now believed extinct: Lloyd speaks with wistfulness of this bird but then turns her attention to a conservationist team’s efforts in the Kiskunság area to protect Great Bustards. “Mrs. Janossy Goes Shopping for Cats” takes place in Jászberény National Park where Hungarian naturalists are monitoring Imperial Eagles and trying to bring this bird back to its former abundance.

The chapter, “Eighty Fragments on the Pelican,” looks at conservation of the Megáli Prespa, Greece, its fauna and flora, and particularly its pelicans. The author writes, “The abundance that exists in Prespa is a mirror reflecting back to us the way our ecosystems once were and—yes, of course—how they could be again.”<sup>2</sup> Fair enough, but wolves in Holland? The author exhibits a nuanced, benevolent attitude in the chapter, “To Receive the Wolf” in describing how a group called “Wolven in Nederland” and other conservationists are trying to reintroduce wolves to the Netherlands, but the reader might well wonder if such a reintroduction is a wise idea given that wolves require vast tracts of wilderness.



Eurasian Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos arctos*), aka., European Brown Bear, and many other names



Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)



Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)



Piatra Craiului mountain Romania



Piatra Craiului forest Romania

“The Bear, The Taxi Driver and the Custard Cream,” depicts a visit by the author and her son Callum to Romania’s Carpathian Mountains to encounter Eurasian brown bears. Much of the action occurs in Piatra Craiului National Park where there is Swiss funding by Hansjörg Wyss, a billionaire who exemplifies “cathedral thinking” – “the fundamental understanding that we, the current generation, should hand down the environments under our care in the best possible state of repair.”<sup>3</sup> In Piatra Craiului there is also Romanian expertise to protect bears and other wild animals.

The author starts by poetically expressing her joy in swimming in lakes and tarns in a chapter entitled, “Human Resilience Training.” “Sometimes in midsummer, when I swim in the lakes or the tarns, I swim with the tiny blue darts of common damselflies ... Mercurial, illuminating the liminal, they sling transient, lissom nets of electromagnetic charge and purl azure stitches above the water lilies.”<sup>4</sup> Lloyd keeps the focus on the colour blue and wonders what it is like to be able, like whooper swans, to see the Earth’s blue magnetic field; this ability, based on a special protein in the eyes, is called agnetoreception. Lloyd turns her attention to the blue green of algal blooms and how these endanger humans and animals. She concludes the chapter in the way she began, by talking about the joy of swimming in a lake or pond. Lloyd also doesn’t begrudge beavers their right to swim in their chosen habitats without being shot or trapped. She describes her attempts to view and photograph European Beavers in Perthshire in a chapter entitled “Beavergeddon.”

Similarly, in “Dance Halls of Desire,” the author describes an outing to Strathspey, Scotland to observe Capercaillie, a large grouse and apparently one of Britain’s most elusive and iconic species<sup>5</sup>; she is fortunate to see several in flight. The author goes on to mention Cairngorn Connect, the biggest habitat restoration project in Great Britain: various Scottish conservation agencies are trying to protect and restore six hundred square kilometres of contiguous land; one of the goals is to reduce the fragmentation of the woods where the capercaillie dwell.

In a chapter entitled “Viewing Stations,” the author describes a trip to the Lakes District, the birthplace of literary romanticism in England and now a world heritage site. She first visits the Gowbarrow Hall farm managed by a family of farmers who have initiated a change from sheep farming to cattle farming, thereby improving the microbial aspect of the soil and the growth of grasses and other plants. Later, Lloyd muses about “what ...

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Photographs/mages in this issue  
that are not identified are public  
domain images derived from  
Google Images. The species  
represented are ones found in our  
lovely province of New Brunswick.

William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter might have to say if they could see things from this point in the evolution of the world.”<sup>6</sup> Lloyd imagines a conversation between her and Wordsworth and Potter. She also deplores the use of industrial farming that “rang the death knell for pollinators, invertebrates, and for ground-nesting farmland birds across most of the British landscape.”<sup>7</sup> In the spring of 2020, the author rides her bike into remote Swindale where various agencies have “undertaken a joint project to restore Swindale Beck (*read “creek”*) and bring scrub habitat and trees back to the land. Because of the restoration work, even “the Atlantic salmon has returned.”<sup>8</sup>

“Closer to home, in Deeping Fen in Lincolnshire, farmer Nicholas Watts put back the ditches and field margins around the edges of fields that were silent before he took over the farm ... Watts leaves uncultivated strips of land—over 30 kilometres at the last count—to provide corridors of connectivity that teem with teasel and poppies, with vetch and clover, dog daisies, knapweed and bugloss. And the barn owls return because now there are voles in the field margins and amphibians and insects in the ditches.”<sup>9</sup>

Karen Lloyd’s writing reflects awareness of philosophy, art, and poetry, and the last of these certainly informs her writing, making it both richer and at times more complicated. Overall, her deep knowledge and love of nature and of environmental problems have resulted in a book that is both timely and a worthwhile read.

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References

- 1, Karen Lloyd. Abundance., page 13
2. Ibid, page 181.
3. Ibid, page 218
4. Ibid, page 120
5. Ibid., page 159
6. Ibid, page 195
7. Ibid., page 198.
8. Ibid., page 190.
9. Ibid., pages 265-266
10. Illustration by Emily S. Damstra from book

*Reviewed by A. Vietinghoff*