

July-Oct 2023

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Publication Info

Current Executive

President: Dr Tony Diamond

Treasurer & Membership:
Doug Jackson

Webmaster: David Lilly

Newsletter Editor:
André Vietinghoff

Outing Committee

Judith Dewar
Maxwell Francioni
Jane Loughborough

*This Committee is open to
new members.*

Fredericton Nature Club



Newsletter Autumn 2023

Editor's Corner

Coin de l'Éditeur

Dear readers:

Happy autumn, Fredericton Nature Club members!

We on the Fredericton Nature Club executive sadly received from our long-serving President, **Dr. Graham Forbes** his resignation at the helm of our club after fourteen years of service. Citing the demands of career and other commitments, on the one hand, and the current strides that the club was taking, on the other hand, Graham said that for him, "it's time." In addition to his compilation of the newsletter during his first years, Graham found speakers for our monthly meetings, brought cookies and refreshments for the social time afterwards, suggested and led many club outings, arranged our meeting space, ensured that our club paid its dues to Nature NB, and advised others on the executive on various matters. It was always reassuring to experience Graham, with his wide knowledge and love of natural history, his calm presence, and his ever-present sense of humour at the front of the room at our

Chers lecteurs:

Bon automne, adhérents du Club de la Nature de Fredericton!

Les membres e l'exécutif du Club de la nature de Fredericton furent attristés de recevoir du **Dr Graham Forbes**, Président à la barre de notre Club depuis quatorze ans, sa demission. Invoquant les exigences de sa carrière et de ses autres engagements, d'une part, et les progrès que nous faisons actuellement, d'autre part, Graham révéla que "c'est le moment." En plus de sa redaction du bulletin du Club pendant ses premières années en tant que Président, Graham trouva des conférenciers pour nos reunions mensuelles, apporta des biscuits et des boissons au temps social, suggéra et mena beaucoup de randonnés du Club, organisa notre salle de réunion, veilla à ce que notre Club paye notre cotisation à Nature NB, et conseilla les autres membres de l' exécutif sur diverses questions. C'était toujours rassurant que c'était lui, Graham, devant la salle - avec sa vaste connaissance et son amour pour l'histoire naturelle, son personnage calme, et son sens de

Calendar

Oct 5: monthly meeting
Nov 2: monthly meeting
Nov 4: Introductory Birding, workshop1 (13:00-15:00)
Nov 18: Introductory Birding workshop2 (13:00-15:00)
Dec 7: monthly meeting
Dec 17: Fredericton CBC & potluck
Jan 4: monthly meeting
Feb 1: monthly meeting
Mar 7: monthly meeting
Apr 4: monthly meeting
May 2: monthly meeting
May 11: Global Big Day: Club birdwatching
June 7-9: Nature NB Festival of Nature in Woodstock



Balsam Poplar (*Populus Balsamifera*), aka., Bam. Hackmatack



Spruce Cone

monthly meetings. We will miss Graham on the executive. Fortunately, Graham will remain with our club. Thus, we will continue to benefit from his deep ties to the wildlife biology community at the University of New Brunswick and throughout the province. Moreover, he remains with us as an occasional speaker, a wise and seasoned member, and a friend. Thank you, Graham, for all you have done for our club.

Fortunately, the Club executive found a candidate willing to assume the mantle of the presidency for the 2023/2024 year in the person of a longtime member, **Dr. Tony Diamond**. Like Graham, Tony is a biology PhD. In recent years, Tony has given us several presentations including two on the Seychelles Islands where he worked both as a researcher and a guardian. He often participated on club outings and last spring his wife, Dorothy and he hosted a “spring fling” at their property in Stanley. Tony, the Fredericton Nature Club welcomes you on board our executive! We thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with you.

l’humour toujours présent. Graham va nous manquer au sein du Comité exécutif. Heureusement, Graham restera avec le Club; alors nous profiterons encore de ses liens avec la communauté de la biologie de la faune de l’Université du Nouveau-Brunswick et à travers la province. En plus, Il reste avec nous en tant qu’animateur occasionnel, en adhérent sage et expérimenté, et surtout en ami. Merci Graham, pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour notre club.

Heureusement, le Comité de l’Exécutif du Club a trouvé un candidat prêt à assumer le rôle de Président pendant l’année 2023/2024 – le **Dr Tony Diamond**, membre de longue date du Club de la nature de Fredericton. Comme Graham, Tony possède un doctorat en biologie. Ces dernières années, Tony nous a donné plusieurs présentations y compris deux portant sur les Seychelles où il a fait des recherches et, en outre, a agi en protecteur. Il a souvent participé aux randonnées de notre club, et au printemps dernier sa femme, Dorothy et lui ont organisé un événement printanier chez eux à Stanley. Tony, nous sommes heureux de vous accueillir au sein de l’Exécutif ! Nous vous remercions pour votre soutien et nous avons hâte de travailler avec vous.

Meeting Reports

Monthly meeting: Thursday, October 5, 2023

Presenter: Dr. Graham Forbes

Topic: "Don't E-Bird During Family Vacation: Natural History in eastern Newfoundland"

Attendees: 30+

Business Part of Meeting: Motions on membership costs See Finances section of newsletter and Membership information.

Presentation: Graham and Lee were originally planning a trip to Ecuador but chose Newfoundland as their holiday destination instead. Graham started off by voicing his problem with the app E-Bird that tends to monopolize the time of birders in the field. However, e-Bird was great in the search for a Black-Tailed Godwit in St. Johns and Steller's Sea Eagle near Trinity. However, e-Bird couldn't help him find the Curlew Sandpiper or Dovekie, but that was not e-Bird's fault! Graham presented nice photos of forest birds such as Blackpoll Warbler and Fox Sparrow as well as photos and even video segments of seabirds such as Northern Gannet, Common Murre, Thick-billed Murre, Kittiwake, and Atlantic Puffin. Vast numbers of most of these species could be observed at Witless Bay.

In addition to birds, the Forbes also viewed icebergs (not too close!) and at Mistaken Point, a UNESCO site, fossils of early marine life. Graham explained that hundreds of fossils were very visible in the rocks, though visitors are required to walk barefoot on the fossil area. Graham had photos of a few other animals including Caribou. Graham's presentation was an enjoyable one that has rekindled my own wish to visit Newfoundland.

Thank you, Graham!



Curlew Sandpiper (ill.)
(*Calidris ferruginea*)



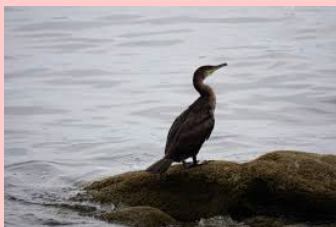
Black-legged Kittiwake
(*Rissa tridactyla*)



Northern Gannet
(*Morus bassanus*)



Common Murre (*Uria aalge*),
aka. Common Guillemot



Double-crested Cormorant
(*Nannopterum auritum*)



Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)



Monarch Butterfly Instar 1



Milkweed (*Asclepias*)



Monarch Butterfly caterpillar



Monarch Butterfly
(*Danaus plexippus*)

Outing Reports

Monarch Butterfly Blitz: Tuesday., 1 Aug. 2023, 6:00-7:30 pm

Weather: A bit breezy, sunny, 20-21 ° C.

Fredericton Nature Club Event Organized by Nature NB

Leader / instructor: Caitlyn Robert

Number of participants: 7 (Susan Belfry, Bonnie Flynn, Milda Markauskas, Marion McIntyre, Barry Monson, Kathy Power, André Vietinghoff)

This is the second summer in which Nature NB ¹ arranged for Fredericton Nature Club members to experience a “Monarch Butterfly blitz and the location was the same: the large milkweed patch on the parkette off Ferriss Street and adjacent to the Strawberry U-pick. instruction from Our enthusiastic coach, Caitlyn Robert, provided instruction, informing us that the informal name of the Nature NB summer study was Survey for Mission Monarch. She pointed out some fascinating facts like the following: one generation of butterflies reaches their destination of Mexico, but it takes three generations of Monarch Butterflies to return to New Brunswick. As well, Milkweed is the only food of this butterfly species. Seven participants, armed with clipboards, tally sheets, pencils, and identification guides, combed through swathes of milkweed to find and tally Monarch eggs, various phases or “instars” of Monarch caterpillars, Monarch Chrysalids, and hopefully adult Monarch Butterflies. Barry Monson was the first to find a large Monarch caterpillar; four of these were tallied this evening. I’m not sure whether eggs, other instars, or butterflies were tallied. Thanks to Alysha McGrattan for helping to organize and to Caitlyn Robert for her knowledge and enthusiasm in leading this blitz!

1. Our initial contact was Alysha McGrattan, the former lead for the monarch conservation and awareness program. The Sat. 12 Aug, 2023 issue of the Daily Gleaner featured an article, “Milkweed and the mission to save monarch butterflies” by John Chilibeck. which gave the history of the milkweed monitoring patch at the Sunset U-Pick: the growth of milkweeds to promote Monarch butterfly production had been approved by Sunset U-Pick owner Dave Walker upon the urging of Alysha. Alysha figured prominently in the article. A photo of Alysha next to milkweed plants appears in the article.



Canadian Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), aka, quatre-temps, crackerberry, and creeping dogwood



Claspingleaved twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*)



Photo by D. Busemeyer

Interrupted Fern (*Claytosmunda claytoniana*) or (*Osmunda claytoniana*)

Fredericton Nature Club Botany Walk

Date: Wed., 2 August 2023 at 6:30

Location: Killarney Lake Park

Leader: Susan Belfry; special guest/interpreter: Robyn Shortt

Weather: sunny, about 20 °C. Participation: Susan, Robyn and “budding botanists,” André & Virginia Vietinghoff

The botany walk date coincided with Robyn’s two-week term as artist-in-residence at Killarney Lake Lodge. Upon our arrival, Robyn showed us some of the photographs she had taken on the trails at Killarney Lake. Susan had brought along four field guides to New Brunswick and Atlantic flora and talked a bit about each of these. Susan took us on our own “private botany walk” on close-by trails. She started by pointing out some Pickerelweed blooming along the shore of Killarney Lake and then we moved to the woods where she discussed numerous wildflowers and ferns. The following are a small subset of some flowering plants: Bunchberry, Ghost (Indian) Pipe, Wintergreen, Creeping Snowberry, Moccasin Flower and the Dewdrop (False violet) in flower. There were several ferns and related plants such as the New York Fern, Interrupted Fern, Lady Fern, and the Prickly Tree Clubmoss. In fact, Susan was able to identify all ferns and wildflowers, although many were no longer in bloom. Towards the end of our walk, she took us behind the esker on the east end of the lake and showed me a Claspingleaved twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*) growing by a small



stream in the ravine. We were glad to be able to climb up the side of the esker that looked so



steep from the trail! Many thanks to Susan and Robyn for an enjoyable and informative evening in the woods. We hope that at some future occasion we can prevail upon Susan to lead a larger group of FNC members on a botany walk in the Fredericton vicinity.

There was a follow-up. Robyn Shortt invited Virginia and your editor to visit the Connell Memorial Herbarium where both Robyn and Susan volunteer to press plants, archive, and catalogue them ... among other tasks. This work is highly detailed. This visit occurred on 27 Sept. Thank you, Robyn and Susan!



Fig. 1 Robyn. Susan. Virginia, André



Belted Kingfisher (adult female)
(*Megaceryle alcyon*)



Great Black-backed Gull
(*Larus marinus*)



Lesser Black-backed Gull
(*Larus fuscus*)



Laughing Gull
(*Leucophaeus atricilla*)



Ruddy Turnstone
(*Arenaria interpres*)

Fredericton Nature Club Outing to **Grand Manan**

Date: Saturday, 9 September.

Weather: Foggy in morning, clearing and partly sunny later

Number of Participants: (8) Judith Dewar, Maxwell Francioni, Milda Markauskas, Carolyn McAllaster (new member) *, Barry Monson, Jobin Varughese (guest) *, Andre Vietinghoff, Virginia Vietinghoff

We caught a 9:30 ferry at Black's Harbour and returned from there with a 5:30 ferry. Milda and Barry drove onto the ferry and kindly allowed Judith and Maxwell to carpool with them. Carolyn, a summer resident of Grand Manan who hails from North Carolina, had joined our club two days prior to the outing. She graciously allowed André, Virginia, and Jobin to carpool with her. Jobin, a guest and PhD candidate, is in Fredericton for three months under the tutelage of John Kershaw who initially introduced him via email to Graham Forbes and Tony Diamond. Birding is a hobby of Jobin. Our two cars drove to agreed upon locations; one of these locations was where a western sandpiper had been reported, but we did not find it. On the ferry ride home we met club member, Derek Hogan and a friend.

Species tallied: Black Guillemot, Wild Turkey, Merlin, Mourning Dove, European Starling, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Common Eider, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, (Pomarine)? Jaeger, Common Murre, Black-legged Kittiwake, Bonaparte's Gull, Laughing Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Northern Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, American Crow, Common Raven, Blue Jay, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat.



Fig. 2: From L-R: Jobin, Judith, Maxwell, Carolyn, Virginia, André, Barry, Milda



Northern Harrier, or
Marsh Hawk
(*Circus hudsonius*)



Broad-winged Hawk
(*Buteo platypterus*)



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), aka
Fish Hawk



Sharp-shinned Hawk
(*Accipiter striatus*), aka Sharpie



Turkey Vulture
(*Cathartes aura*)



Red-shouldered Hawk
(*Buteo lineatus*)

Fredericton Nature Club Outing to **Greenlaw Mountain**

Date: Sunday, 24 September

4 Participants (from FNC): Graham Forbes (driver), Milda Markauskas, Peter Duguid, Judith Dewar + guest, Jobin Varughese

Raptor Watch under Official Counter, Todd Watts

The original outing had been scheduled for Saturday with Sunday as a rain date. Saturday turned out to be a fair-weather day. However, Todd Watts, the Official Counter decided that the best winds for the hawk migration would occur on Sunday and no doubt thought that this would be the most worthwhile date for participants. Some of us could not go on Sunday. Unfortunately, the count for the Sunday was small: 3 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle, 12 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Cooper's Hawk (immature), 1 Red-shouldered Hawk (immature), 2 Broad-winged Hawk, 1 unknown buteo, 1 unknown raptor Total: 22 species of raptors.



Fig. 3 from L.-R.: Jobin Varughese, Milda Markauskas, Graham Forbes, Judith Dewar, Peter Duguid



Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*)



Financial

CASH FLOW FROM 2022-23

New Membership and Participation Fees

Opening Balance as of Oct 1, 2022 \$ 1,311.23

Income:

12 Family Memberships \$300.00

20 Individual Memberships 400.00

Total \$700.00

Expenses:

Room Rental – Stepping Stone \$250.00

Nature NB Insurance 105.00

Web Services 207.50

Gift for Speaker 25.00

Total \$587.50

Excess / (Deficit) 112.50

Closing Balance as of Sept 30, 2023 \$ 1,423.73

New Fee Structure

On Thursday, 5 October 2023, Treasurer Doug Jackson presented a motion to 30+ FNC members at our first meeting for 2023/2024.

MOTION: That the current Fredericton Nature Club dues structure and annual amounts be amended to the following:

Adults \$20; Full-time post-secondary students \$10;

Under 18 years of age: FREE

Newcomers: one meeting and one outing \$2

RATIONALE: fairness to singles vs. couples; budget should not be in the red; under 18 free, so family category redundant; fees unchanged for at least 30 years

The **motion** was **amended** to **Adults \$25.00**

The vote in favour of the amended fee structure carried.



Dahurian Larch
(*Larix gmelinii*)
Above and below



Downy Birch
(*Betula pubescens*)
Above and below



Balsam Poplar
(*Populus Balsamifera*)

Outing Committee

The FNC outing committee was initiated by Alysha McGrattan and Claire Vézina of Nature NB to help us plan club outings and thereby free up the executive for other tasks. Judith Dewar, Maxwell Francioni, and Jane Loughborough have been serving on this committee, but there was a suggestion in favour of a rotating outing committee: different persons could serve at various times. We are looking for volunteers.

Announcements / News

The Fredericton Nature Club “Introduction to Birdwatching” on Nov 4 and Nov 18 is apparently full. Judith Dewar, Maxwell Francioni, and Milda Markauskas will be leading the beginner and intermediate programs.

Fredericton’s **2023 Audubon Christmas Bird Count** will take place on **Sunday 17 December**. All are welcome! In the past, the Fredericton Nature Club has played a major part in this enjoyable citizen science event. This year should be no different. However, we need a quadrant coordinator for the Southeast quadrant. Please contact the Fredericton CBC coordinator, André Vietinghoff at andre.vietinghoff@yahoo.com if you are interested in taking on this role.

Further to **Fredericton Christmas Bird Count on 17 Dec 2023**: The **potluck dinner**, limited to members of the Fredericton Nature Club, will take place in the Social Room of 149 Station Road, Fredericton. Doug Jackson, our Treasurer has kindly arranged for our access to this social room for the always enjoyable compilation dinner.

2 Billion Trees program: Rakshan Balachandran, the last Reforestation Organizer with Nature Canada, left his job to attend school; however, your editor contacted the City Forester, Richard Hall and and put him in touch with the people at Nature Canada who bear responsibility for the program. Hopefully, we will have closure on this issue now.

Book Review

Rawlence, Ben. The Treeline: the Last Forest and the Future of Life on Earth. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2022. 306 p. (ISBN 9781250270238; with b&w illustrations and a map.

In Treeline, Ben Rawlence, the author of two previous books and “the founding director of Black Mountains College, an institution devoted to creative and adaptive thinking in the face of the climate and ecological emergency.”¹ focuses on the boreal forest, the largest forest on the planet. This forest has been subject over millennia to the ravages of ice ages but is now moving north because of global warming – and in areas where they are already established, boreal tree species are also moving uphill. In lyrical prose the author describes visits to six areas on the globe in his pursuit of the boreal forest and specifically of seven species: Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) in Scotland, Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) in Norway, Dahurian Larch (*Larix gmelinii*) in northeastern Russia, White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) and Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) in Alaska, Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) in Canada, Greenland Mountain Ash (Sorbus) in Greenland.

In his pursuit of trees, the author visits cultural groups in the regions he visits and provides empathetic and eye-opening insights into the lifestyles and particular predicaments of these groups. Thus, in Finnmark province of Norway, Rawlence spends time with various Sámi, traditionally, reindeer herders. Downy Birch is important to the Sámi for medical reasons, the manufacture of tent poles, etc. Interestingly, the tundra on which the reindeer graze is also threatened by the growth of this keystone species. So ... it's complicated: keystone tree species are resilient species in the boreal vanguard but are not always fully compatible with traditional lifestyles.

In 2019, the author met Diana Beresford-Kroeger, “one of the foremost scholars of the boreal forest”², who suggested that Balsam Poplar is the species that Rawlence should look at more closely in Canada. This initiated a trip to the fly-in community of Poplar River, Manitoba, an Anishinaabe reserve. Balsam poplar is a tree sacred to the Anishinaabe. The author accompanied an Anishinaabe crew conducting a moose survey by motorized canoe down the Poplar River all the way to Lake Winnipeg. The author points out that the resilience of Balsam



White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)



Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
Above and below



Black Spruce
(*Picea mariana*)

FREDERICTON NATURE CLUB

Member information:

Revised as per the Fredericton Nature Club as per Oct 2023

Adult: \$25.00

Post-Secondary Student:
\$10.00

Under 18: Free

Drop-in Fee (non-members)

1 meeting & 1 outing: \$2.00

[executive](#)

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Nature NB is the umbrella organization for all nature clubs in New Brunswick, but is much more than that.

Visit their website at:

<http://www.naturenb.ca/home/>

The Fredericton Nature Club newsletter is a quarterly (seasonal) publication.

Contributions are welcome.

Some of our club members contributed photos that were used in this issue. Particular thanks to David Lilly, Graham Forbes, Peter Duguid, Milda Markauskas, Barry Monson, Robyn Shortt, Virginia Vietinghoff

Photographs/images in this issue that are not Identified are public domain images derived from Google Images.

Poplar and other aspen as well as of Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) is in part due to their adaptation to fire. Rawlence describes a typical northern Balsam Poplar, “Up close, the bark is very rough, cracked and furrowed into deep gullies, gray and black and slick with moss and black lichen. Four-inch-thick bark that doesn’t burn and doesn’t freeze. The inner bark has permeable membranes that permit the rapid movement of water out of the living tissue so that destructive ice crystals cannot form inside the cells.”³.

Some of the keystone species on which the author focuses are not abundant. In Scotland for example, the demand for timber almost eradicated the Scots Pine, though through the efforts of organizations such as Wildland Ltd. under conservation manager, Thomas MacDonnell, the Scots Pine is making a comeback in places. Greenland hardly has any natural forest at all, and Rawlence’s choice of Greenland Mountain Ash as the keystone species of the boreal forest in Greenland is unconvincing, though his chapter on Greenland is lyrical in its description.

While Ben Rawlence’s lyricism in describing the keystone species of the boreal forest and the effects of global warming on them at times verge on the mystical, Treeline is a work based not merely on research and idealism but on first-hand encounters with the boreal forest and the cultural groups that inhabit them. The author obtains much of his knowledge the hard way, witness, the narration, at times humorous, at times shudder-provoking, of his excursion to Siberia and of sleepless, extremely uncomfortable days crossing bumpy ice in a Trekol driven by two local yokels, Kolya and Kolya. Rawlence is certainly an idealist, but his knowledge is practical, vividly communicated through personal encounters with the boreal forest in its northward advance and with human groups inhabiting that environment.

1. “Ben Rawlence” in Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Rawlence
2. Ben Rawlence. The Treeline, page 176.
3. Ibid, page 267

Available from Fredericton Public Library under 581.73 RAW

Reviewed and recommended by A. Vietinghoff

Fredericton Nature Club website:
<http://www.frederictonnatureclub.com/>

Fredericton Nature Club public Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/FrederictonNatureClub/>

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Mountain Ash (Sorbus)



Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*)