

CONTENTS

Editor's Corner

- Editorial / Le mot de la redaction

Feature Articles

- "Our Eastern Chipmunk: Chippy" / by Dorothy Diamond
- Fredericton 2023 Christmas Bird Count

Meeting Reports

Outing Reports

Book recommendation

Sundry

- [Dates to Note](#)
- [Executive](#)
- [Financial picture](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Nature NB](#)
- [Publication Information](#)
- [Website](#)

Current Executive

President: Dr. Tony Diamond

**Treasurer and Membership:
Doug Jackson**

Webmaster: David Lilly

**Newsletter Editor: Andre
Vietinghoff**

Fredericton Nature Club Newsletter - Winter 2024



Editor's Corner / Le Mot de la redaction

To date 2023/24 has been a good year for our club with increases in membership and activities. The monthly presentations have been popular, and events cater to various interests. This issue includes an article by Dorothy Diamond, a summary of the Fredericton Christmas bird count, and the usual outing and meeting reports.

In the meantime, some "shout-outs" are in order. The Fredericton Christmas Bird Count compilation dinner was a success thanks to Doug Jackson who arranged for the use by count participants of the social room in the condominium building at 149 Station Street where he and Bonnie Flynn reside. Eighteen field counters shared a potluck dinner and information about their count day. Many thanks to Doug and Bonnie for providing directions and access to the facilities and for setting up and clearing the tables at the end of the evening. Furthermore, this room was free for the club.

Another big shout out goes to Judith Dewar who has organized and catered the social time preceding all our club's monthly presentations at the Stepping Stone Senior Centre since October. Arriving early to set up and leaving late after cleaning up, Judith has used club funds to purchase delicious snacks and refreshments. Club members really are enjoying the social time from 6:30 to 7:00 on the first Thursday evening of the month. Thanks Judith!

Jusqu'à présent, 2023/24 a été une bonne année pour notre club, avec une augmentation du nombre de membres et d'activités. Les présentations mensuelles ont été populaires et les événements répondent à des intérêts variés. Ce numéro comprend un article de Dorothy Diamond, un résumé du recensement des oiseaux de Noël à Fredericton, ainsi que les rapports habituels sur les sorties et les réunions.

Entre-temps, quelques mentions spéciales s'imposent. Le dîner de compilation du Recensement des oiseaux de Noël de Fredericton a été un succès grâce à Doug Jackson qui a organisé l'utilisation par les participants du recensement de la salle sociale de l'immeuble en copropriété du 149, rue Station où il habite avec Bonnie Flynn. Dix-huit compteurs de terrain ont partagé un repas-partage et des informations sur leur journée de comptage. Un grand merci à Doug et Bonnie pour avoir fourni les indications et l'accès aux installations, ainsi que pour avoir installé et débarrassé les tables à la fin de la soirée. De plus, cette salle était gratuite pour le club.

Un autre grand merci à Judith Dewar qui, depuis le mois d'octobre, a organisé et servi le moment social précédant toutes les présentations mensuelles de notre club au Stepping Stone Senior Centre. Arrivant tôt pour préparer et partant tard pour nettoyer, Judith a utilisé les fonds du club pour acheter de délicieuses collations et des rafraîchissements. Les membres du club apprécient vraiment ce moment de convivialité qui a lieu de 18 h 30 à 19 h le premier jeudi soir du mois. Merci Judith !¹



Eastern Chipmunk
(*Tamias striatus*)

Other Canadian Chipmunk Species



Least Chipmunk
(*Tamias minimus*)



Red-tailed Chipmunk
(*Tamias raficoada*)



Townsend's Chipmunk
(*Tamias townsendii*)



Yellow Pine Chipmunk
(*Tamias amoenus*)

Feature Articles

“Our Eastern Chipmunk: Chippy” / by Dorothy Diamond

The Eastern Chipmunk living in our rock walled garden is a constant friend all summer long. It has been there a few years now, ever since the nearby bird feeder attracted it. We see it every day, or rather we see one or two or three every day, but we cannot tell them apart except in late spring when we see one chasing (probably the male) another (probably the female) up and down all through the rocks and flowers. This summer we were treated to the knowledge that babies were born somewhere in the rocks, as they appeared with a mother. There were three young, and we were able to take these adorable photos from inside, through the living-room window. I even saw one try to suckle the mother, but she was having none of it then. The young chased each other all summer, and now have disappeared into their respective dens dispersed through the forest beside our house. There are plenty of rock walls there, left behind by the original farmers. They live solitary lives and do not den together.



Apparently in winter, the chipmunk does not really hibernate, but rather goes into a torpor with slowed metabolism, then wakes every few days to eat from its stores of food. It can survive a core body temperature of 0-4 degrees C! Once in a while, if the weather is good, it will be seen above ground, but not for long if there is snow. Right now, in November, our chipmunk has disappeared below. They eat all kinds of seeds, nuts, acorns, berries, insects, and even baby mice, bird eggs, and baby birds. Like all rodents, they are omnivores.

The chipmunk has huge cheek pouches in which to carry food back to the den. We have a ring-side seat to its antics at the feeder all summer, as it runs back and forth with stuffed cheeks bulging on either side of its ears, it seems. We put a baffle below the feeder, mainly to discourage squirrels, but the chipmunk likes to use it as a sort of exercise pole, never tiring of going up and down even when it must know it cannot reach the feeder above it. We notice it likes to eat several kinds of flower heads, including daisies, as the petals are often found scattered about. I once found a chipmunk coming out of a hole in the ground in the flat woods with no rocks in sight, so it must be quite capable of digging down into soil in any location it wants to. It can stand its ground next to a red squirrel but runs from a gray squirrel.



The sounds coming from a chipmunk are amazingly varied. It likes “chip” when it is warning of potential mammalian danger, and also there is a “chip-trill” while running to safety, but the loudest is a “tok-tok-tok” which means a perched aerial predator. This does not sound at all like a chipmunk, but if you think it is a bird making that

sound, you are mistaken. A researcher named Burke Da Silva reported in 1994 in the Journal of Wildlife Management these clues into chipmunk language.

References: Curley, R. et al. 2019. Mammals of Prince Edward Island and adjacent marine waters.



Dark-Eyed Junco
(*Junco hyemalis*)



Canada Jay, or Gray Jay, Grey Jay
Aka Whisky Jack or Camp Robber
(*Perisoreus canadensis*)



Golden-crowned Kinglet
(*Regulus satrapa*)



Painted Bunting
(*Passerina ciris*)



Scissor-tailed flycatcher, aka Texas bird-of-paradise, Swallow-tailed flycatcher
(*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Fredericton Christmas Bird Count 2023

Although our club is not strictly “for the birds,” it does seem that not only in the spring and other warmer seasons but also in the winter that birds remain a primary interest, hence, the popularity of Fredericton’s Christmas Bird Count. For the number of species seen, 2023 was the second highest* count year in the last 20 years: 49 participants (including feeder watchers) put in an effort resulting in a tally of 57 species + one hybrid (Black Duck/Mallard) and a whopping total of 8,298 individual birds. December 17 was a day with no snow on the ground and no precipitation. Temperatures ranged from -6 in the morning to +5 mid-afternoon. Although still water was mostly frozen, the river was open.

In 2023 the species with the highest counts were: Herring Gull (1,218), American Crow (1,071), Rock Pigeon (853), and Black-Capped Chickadee (831), and Mallard (611) (*and although such stats may not be what they are “quacked” up to be they represent our contribution to citizen science locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally*). Downy Woodpecker matched their look-alike bigger cousins Hairy Woodpecker with a count of 44 species. Common Redpoll was uncommon with 2 individuals. Species for which only 1 individual was counted include: Wood Duck, American Goshawk, Merlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, White-crowned Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. There was a complete dearth of Pine Grosbeak and Snow Bunting. New Christmas count species for Fredericton for 2023 were: White-crowned Sparrow and Wood Duck.

Complete information about the 2023 Christmas bird count is found on the FNC website at: [Fred Bird Count 2023 \(frederictonnatureclub.com\)](http://Fred Bird Count 2023 (frederictonnatureclub.com))

* According to the Audubon database, where one can access historical count data, the year 2005 was the highest with 59 species. That year was also a high participation year with 63 participants and 146 hours of counting. The 2022 CBC was close with 56 species tallied.

Meeting Reports

Meeting Date: **Thursday, November 2**

Presenter: **Dr. Derek Hogan**, member

Title of Presentation: South Texas: A Snowbird(ers) Paradise

Number of Attendees: 27

*Your editor was overseas when this talk took place, but Derek kindly sent a PowerPoint presentation derived from his original presentation to the club. On early screens, we see a map of Texas, interesting and amusing facts about the Corpus Christi area, and even food and restaurant recommendations ... but the main entrée is **BIRDS**. Thus, the next map compares New Brunswick with its 72,907 km² and 434 bird species with Nueces County, TX with its 3,020 km² and 487 bird species. A slide entitled “What makes a location ‘Birdy’?” precedes slides giving and illustrating the answers: low latitude, a diversity of habitats, bordering or within a biogeographic transition zone, in a migratory corridor. The last of these slides is illustrated by vivid photos showing migrant bird fallout; for example, two photos of a small patch of ground covered with Indigo and Painted buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bullock’s Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, and many others. A subsequent sequence of maps showed the following “best places to stay in south Texas” with “Birds galore”:*

- South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Centre
- Oso Bay Nature Preserve and Learning Centre
- Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge



Crested Caracara, aka Mexican eagle
(*Caracara plancus*)



- Port Aransas Nature Preserve: Leonabelle Turnbull Learning Center
- Pollywog Pond Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hazel Bazemore County Park
- Padre Island National Seashore

For all these birding hotspots Derek provides bird photos – some with range maps – that include Long-billed Thrasher, Groove-billed Ani, Painted Bunting, Olive Sparrow, Least Grebe, Green Jay, White-tipped Dove, Couch’s Kingbird. Further photos show raptors in flight and a Caracara on the ground. *This is a talk I wish I hadn’t missed but South Texas is on my birding bucket list.*

Meeting Date: **7 December 2023**

Presenter: **Stephanie Merrill, CEO, Nature Trust of New Brunswick**

Topic: the work of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick to grow the private conserved land network in NB ... and the organization's vision for expanding conservation in the province.

Attendees: 27+

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick = Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick website is Nature Trust of New Brunswick .

“The Nature Trust of New Brunswick was founded in 1987 as an incorporated, charitable land trust active in conserving and stewarding nature preserves for the benefit of present and future generations of all living beings.”¹ The mission of the organization is to conserve, steward, engage. Land conservation measures are as follow: full ownership through gifts of land, bargain sales, or life estates, leases, conservation easements through which the landowner retains ownership, and private land stewardship, i.e., voluntary stewardship on the part of landowners under consultation and the advice of the Nature Trust staff.

Stephanie pointed to the 2023 Conservation Plan of the Nature Trust that lists its 3 broad goals: protect habitat with outstanding biological, geological, aesthetic, or historical value; conserve corridors that increase connectivity between existing conserved lands within and beyond provincial borders; and, Integrate climate change resilience into conservation planning. Each of these goals has four or more specific targets.

The Nature Trust stewards more than eighty nature preserves in New Brunswick with a high concentration of these in the Saint John River Valley and in the Bay of Fundy area. York County alone boasts about twenty nature preserves including Hyla Park (under a lease with the City of Fredericton) and the Ferris Street Forest and Wetland. However, Wilkins Field/Burpee Flats is not a Nature Trust preserve though the Nature Trust advised the City on its conservation.

Although Stephanie made it clear to those attending the meeting that New Brunswick is currently blessed with numerous nature preserves, the Nature Trust of New Brunswick is not resting on its laurels. On the contrary, the Nature Trust seeks to raise \$10,000,000 by 2030 to double the amount of land it protects. Ways to get involved with this worthy organization are visit their website, follow them on Facebook, Twitter, etc., sign up to be a “Friend of the Nature Trust.”

From: Nature Trust of New Brunswick. Conservation Plan. Fredericton, NB: The Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Inc., 2023, p. 3



Cuban tody
(*Todus multicolor*)



Bee Hummingbird, Aka.
Zunzuncito or Helena hummingbird
(*Mellisuga helenae*)



Cuban Trogon or tocororo
(*Priotelus temnurus*)



Resplendent Quetzal
(*Pharomachrus mocinno*)

Meeting Date: **Thursday, 4 January 2024**
Presenters: **Tony and Dorothy Diamond**
Title: Birds and Culture of Cuba
Number of Attendees: 30

Tony and Dorothy spent from 15-25 March 2023 in a party of twelve on a birding tour of Cuba with Birds Caribbean, <https://www.birdscaribbean.org/caribbean-birds/> whose Executive Director Lisa Sorenson was a trip leader. Tony's PowerPoint presentation focused on birds while Dorothy focused on socio-cultural aspects of Cuban life.

An early slide of a map of the Caribbean area placed Cuba within the Greater Antilles context. Subsequent slides showed karst landscapes with hills, over-grown scrub pastures, and natural and artificial wetlands. After spending some time at Playa Larga, the tour group visited the gigantic Zapata Swamp where many endemic species are found.

Among the beautiful bird species, many of them endemic, that Tony's photos illustrated were: King Rail, Northern Jacana, Zapata Wren, Zapata or Cuban Sparrow, Greater Antilles Grackle, Cuban Pygmy Owl, Cuban Green Woodpecker, West Indian Woodpecker, Fernandino's Flicker, Cuban Oriole, Cuban Black Hawk, Giant Kingbird, Blue-headed Quail Dove, Western Spindalis, Cuban Tody, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Cuban Bullfinch, Cuban Parrot, Cuban Parakeet, Cuban Grassquit, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Tawny-shouldered Blackbird, Crescent-eyed Peewee aka Cuban Peewee, Cuban Emerald Hummingbird, and Bee Hummingbird (the smallest bird in the world).

Dorothy then shared slides of farms, museums, cityscapes like Ciudad, Cuban automobiles, and other facets of Cuban life.

Thank you, Dorothy and Tony, for sharing your Cuban birding and cultural experience in an hour of lovely photos - a most enjoyable presentation!

Meeting Date: **Thursday, 1 February 2024**
Presenter: **Barry Monson, member**
Title: A trip to Costa Rica with Barry and Milda, winter 2023
Number of Attendees: 30+

"What a wonderful trip! We arranged our tour through Exodus Travel, stopping at six National Parks and natural areas. There were ten of us in a van, along with an excellent guide and driver. We covered a broad patch of natural history, with lots of birds, reptiles, and other critters." Barry's presentation covered some of the highlights, *but unfortunately, your editor missed the presentation due to illness and was therefore unable to make notes.*



DATES TO NOTE:

FNC Meeting: 7 March 6:30 p.m.
Stepping Stone Senior Centre
Presenter: Claire Ferguson NBISC
Topic: New Brunswick Invasive Species Council

FNC Outing: 9 March 3 p.m.
~~Sleigh ride at Sandwith Farm~~
Cancelled

FNC Meeting: 4 April 6:30 p.m.
Stepping Stone Senior Centre
Presenter: Jim Wilson
Topic: Monarch Butterflies

FNC Outing: 13 April 9 a.m.
Local waterfalls trip
Leader: Doug Jackson
Meet for carpooling, Odell Park

FNC Meeting: 2 May 6:30 p.m.
Stepping Stone Senior Centre
Presenter: Serge Collin
Topic: Atlantic Salmon Federation

FNC Outing: 11 May 9 a.m.
Migratory Bird Day in Odell Park
Leader: André Vietinghoff
Meet in Odell Park lower parking lot

FNC Outing: 18 May 9 a.m.
Killarney Lake (birding)
Leader: whoever wants to be
Meet at Killarney Lake lodge

FNC Outing: 25 May 9 a.m.
Salisbury wetlands
Leaders: Doug Jackson & Bonnie Flynn. Meet for carpooling, Odell Park

Nature NB's Festival of Nature
7-9 June in Woodstock

Outing Reports

FNC Outing: Sunday, 21 January, 2024

Destination: Downriver (Jemseg and parts beyond)

Participants (9): Graham Forbes (outing leader), Maxwell Francioni, Doug Jackson, Katherine McKenzie, John Francis Mcloughlin, Milda Markauskas, Barry Monson, Clara Thaysen, André Vietinghoff

It was about -7 °C. and somewhat overcast when we met at Odell Park at 9 a.m. I left the group before 11:30. It was sunny in the afternoon and very windy with gusts up to 30-35 kph. Species seen: American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Common Raven (Odell Park), Rock Dove, Snow Bunting, Tree Sparrow, Wild Turkey.



American Tree Sparrow
(*Spizelloides arborea*)



Common Raven
(*Corvus corax*)



Black-capped Chickadee
(*Poecile atricapillus*)



Snow Bunting
(*Plectrophenax nivalis*)



American Crow
(*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)



Rock Dove
(*Columba livia*)



Wild Turkey
(*Meleagris gallopavo*)

- 1. French version of editorial
Traduit avec DeepL.com (version gratuite)

**FREDERICTON NATURE CLUB
member information**

Annual membership, Fredericton Nature Club:

\$25.00 per adult
\$10.00 per student
Free for children
Two for a toonie: 1 meeting and 1 outing

Membership payment via e-transfer to frederictonnatureclub@gmail.com
Doug Jackson, Treasurer, prefers e-transfer but will also accept cash or cheques

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

Email webmaster, David Lilly, at dillynb@gmail.com

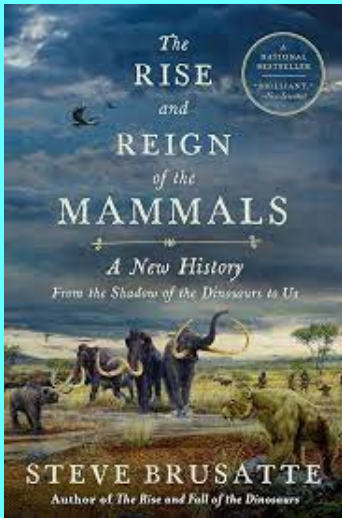
Nature NB is the umbrella organization for all nature clubs in New Brunswick, but they are much more than that. Visit their website at: <http://www.naturenb.ca/home/>

The Fredericton Nature Club newsletter is published twice a year. Contributions are welcome. Please contact the editor at: andre.vietinghoff@yahoo.com

David Lilly, Carol Wakeham, and Dorothy Diamond offered photos. – many thanks! Unidentified photographs are public domain images derived from Google Images. Many are eBird and iNaturalist photographs.

FREDERICTON NATURE CLUB – FINANCIAL PICTURE FEB 2024

	Budgeted	As of Feb 1	%age	
INCOME				
	\$	\$		
Memberships (45 Adult)	1,125.00	1,225.00	109%	
	\$	\$		
Memberships (10 Student)	100.00	10.00	10%	
	\$	\$		
Drop-in Fees	10.00	\$ -	0%	
	\$	\$		
Merchandise Sales Profits	60.00	73.75	123%	
Total	1,295.00	1,308.75	101%	
EXPENSES				
	\$	\$		
Insurance	137.00	\$ -	0%	
	\$	\$		
Room Rental	400.00	400.00	46%	
	\$	\$		
Website	285.00	278.28	32%	
	\$	\$		
Administration	25.00	\$ -	0%	
	\$	\$		
Gifts to Speakers	120.00	120.00	14%	
	\$	\$		
Snacks	120.00	80.00	9%	
Total	1,087.00	878.28	81%	
	\$	\$		
Excess / (Deficit)	208.00	430.47		
	Adult/Student	Individual / Couple		
Year	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-2021
Members	50 / 1	19 / 14	16 / 11	12 / 13
Total	51	47	38	38



Docodonta



Morganucodonta



Repenomamus



Woolly Mammoth

Book Recommendation

Brusatte, Steve. The Rise and Reign of the Mammals: A New History, from the Shadow of the Dinosaurs to Us. 1st Harper Large Print Edition New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2022. ISBN: 9780063242061

700 pages with illustrations by Todd Marshall and Sarah Shelley. Includes bibliographical references and index.

Available from NBPLS, Fredericton Public Library in large print under call number **LP 569 BRU** at Fredericton Public Library; also available on hold from other New Brunswick Public Libraries at **569 BRU**; also available as an electronic resource in E-Book format through NBPLS's OverDrive at: <https://elnb-bnnb.overdrive.com/media/6664223>

Contents: Introduction: our mammalian family -- Mammal ancestors -- Making a mammal -- Mammals and dinosaurs -- The mammalian revolution -- Dinosaurs die, mammals survive -- Mammals modernize -- Extreme mammals -- Mammals and changing climates -- Ice age mammals -- Human mammals -- Epilogue: future mammals.

New Brunswick Public Library Service online catalogue Summaries:

"Renowned paleontologist and New York Times bestselling author of *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs* Steve Brusatte charts the extraordinary story of the dinosaurs' successor: mammals, which emerged from the shadows to rule the Earth"-- Provided by publisher.

"Beginning with the earliest days of our lineage some 325 million years ago, Brusatte charts how mammals survived the asteroid that claimed the dinosaurs and made the world their own, becoming the astonishingly diverse range of animals that dominate today's Earth. Brusatte also brings alive the lost worlds mammals inhabited through time, from ice ages to volcanic catastrophes. Entwined in this story is the detective work he and other scientists have done to piece together our understanding using fossil clues and cutting-edge technology." -- inside front and back jacket flaps.

Eye-opening, even startling, written with verve –Your editor.

