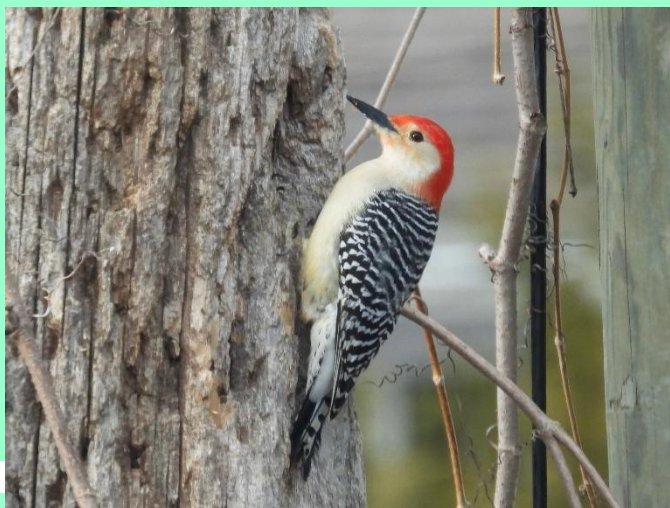




# FREDERICTON NATURE CLUB



*Red-Bellied Woodpecker / photo by Peter Duguid*

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

### Current Executive

**President:** Milda Markauskas

**Treasurer & membership:** Maxwell Francioni

**Webmaster:** David Lilly

**Secretary:** André Vietinghoff

**Past President (ex officio):** Dr. Tony Diamond



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Yellow-rumped Warbler / photo by David Lilly

## Editor's Corner

Greetings!

Now that dependably sunny weather has arrived, we can afford to laugh about the cool, damp spring, but it wasn't a laughing matter for the persons – both club members and non-members – who participated in this year's World Migratory Bird Day on May 10. In spite of the wet weather, we had 10 participants at one point during the 7 a.m. walk led by Maxwell Francioni, and 11 participants on the 9 a.m. walk led by club member Dr. Derek Hogan and Caitlyn Robert of Nature NB. See the report in this newsletter issue.

Sometimes, I idly wonder whether the Fredericton Nature Club should expand its focus beyond nature walks and monthly presentations to community work like neighbourhood litter clean-ups, advocating on behalf of environmental causes, and the like. Could we get a table at community events to hand out club pamphlets and answer questions?

In any case, the Executive plans to put together a survey to be sent to club members during the summer to find out what we are doing right, what we might consider changing, and where you would like the club focus to be.

Hoping to see some of you at the Festival of Nature next weekend and/or at upcoming outings like the Burpee Flats walk in mid-June. Until our nature trails cross again ... wishing you a happy, healthy spring and summer!

*Translated by **DeepL.com** (free version)*

## Le mot de la redaction

Salutations !

Maintenant que le soleil est au rendez-vous, nous pouvons nous permettre de rire de ce printemps frais et humide, mais ce n'était pas un sujet de plaisanterie pour les personnes - membres et non-membres du club - qui ont participé à la Journée mondiale des oiseaux migrateurs de cette année, le 10 mai. Malgré le temps pluvieux, nous avons eu 10 participants à un moment donné pendant la promenade de 7 heures dirigée par Maxwell Francioni, et 11 participants à la promenade de 9 heures dirigée par le Dr Derek Hogan, membre du club, et Caitlyn Robert, de Nature NB. Voir le rapport dans ce numéro du bulletin.

Parfois, je me demande si le Club de la nature de Fredericton ne devrait pas élargir son champ d'action au-delà des promenades dans la nature et des présentations mensuelles pour se consacrer au travail communautaire, comme le nettoyage des débris dans les quartiers, la défense de causes environnementales, etc. Pourrions-nous demander une table lors d'événements communautaires où nous pourrions distribuer des dépliants du club et répondre aux questions ?

Quoi qu'il en soit, l'exécutif prévoit d'organiser une enquête qui sera envoyée aux membres du club au cours de l'été pour savoir ce que nous faisons de bien, ce que nous pourrions envisager de changer, et ce sur quoi vous aimeriez que le club se concentre.

Nous espérons voir certains d'entre vous au Festival de la nature le week-end prochain et/ou lors des prochaines sorties comme la marche sur les plaines de Burpee à la mi-juin. En attendant que nos sentiers se croisent à nouveau, nous vous souhaitons un printemps et un été heureux et sains !

*Traduit avec **DeepL.com** (version gratuite)*

## FINANCIAL PICTURE

Hello, all - I hope you are enjoying the warming weather outside now that the rain has given us a break! It seems we may be in for a wet Summer. For your financial update: the current standing balance of the Fredericton Nature Club account is **\$2,407.79**. The principal expenses for the past period are the renewal of our website's hosting fees, and the purchase of gift cards which we present to our speakers at the end of each meeting.

Membership payments are concentrated in the fall when the club year begins, so the club has not gained more than a few payments since my last update. In the future, we may consider changing membership renewal dates to operate on a personal basis, based one year out from your last payment. Nature Moncton has recently switched to this model, and it is popular with other hobby clubs I am a part of. We will need to investigate the bookkeeping involved to manage this kind of system. Of course, for those of you that pay in October regardless, this will involve no change to your schedule - it should simply be a gain for members who are curious about joining our club later into the club year, but are perhaps hesitant of not getting "a full year's worth" for their membership fee.

Cheers,

Maxwell Francioni  
Treasurer, Fredericton Nature Club



*Purple Martins / photo by Maxwell Francioni*

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Winter Finch Report (NB): 2024/2025 / by Dr. Derek Hogan

Winter, with its short days, cold weather, snow and ice in the woods and on the roads, is a difficult time of year for birding. The colourful warblers, songful thrushes, and energetic shorebirds have all flown south to warmer climes for the winter (and some birders are not far behind). The winter bird community in New Brunswick is made up of a few, hardy, resident species that can be hard to find in good numbers in the cold and dimly lit days. But while the weather outside is frightful, the finches can be so delightful. One of the few birding bright spots in winter is the return of winter finches from their boreal breeding grounds. Colourful and raucously noisy at times, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeaks, and Crossbills can fill our woods and feeders at a time of year that seems bleak for birding. One of the joys of winter finch watching is the anticipation of seeing what, in fact, the winter might bring. Boreal breeding finches are not guaranteed each year. If food is plentiful and conditions mild, boreal finches can stay over winter in the far north. At times when there is a dearth of food or if the summer breeding season was so successful that the population suddenly booms beyond the capacity of the forest, finches will leave the boreal forest for southerly destinations in search of food over winter. These sudden influxes of finches are called ‘irruptions’ and can result in hundreds or even thousands of finches descending on prime habitat to ravage the trees for food. The Finch Research Network compiles data throughout the boreal forest each year on food resources and finch populations and put out an annual Winter Finch Forecast, telling birders what they can expect for the coming winter. In this report I compare the forecast for 2024 – 2025 to the winter that was for finches in New Brunswick. I used data from eBird checklists to summarize the number of finches, from which species that were seen, in each county in New Brunswick between 1 December 2024 and 28 February 2025. I accounted for the fact that each county differs in the number of eBirders by calculating two key metrics: 1. The percent of checklists submitted that had an observation of a particular species. I termed this “Detection Rate”; 2. The average number of individuals of a species reported on each checklist when a species was observed. I termed this “Observations per unit effort (OPUE for short)”. Below are species-by-species accounts, summarizing where finches were found, and how abundant they were. I compare this winter’s collective eBird observations to the [Winter Finch Forecast for 2024-2025](#). I hope you enjoy this summary of the winter that was.

#### **Pine Grosbeak**

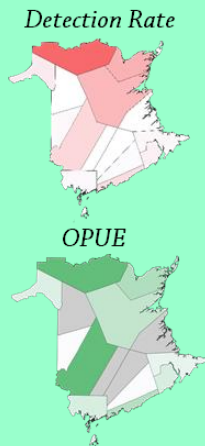
**Forecast:** “Most Pine Grosbeaks should remain in the boreal forest with some flight into their traditional wintering areas in western and southeastern Canada and northern New England states.”

**Report:** Pine Grosbeak largely matched the forecast this winter. This species was observed in only 6 counties. Overall observations were few (142 birds in total on 33 checklists) and spotty throughout the province. The highest detection rates were in the



northwest of the province in Restigouche and Madawaska counties. Madawaska and Westmoreland had the highest observations per unit effort. York county had only 4 birds observed on a single checklist.

### Purple Finch



**Forecast:** "...the majority should leave Canada... Still, we anticipate small numbers will remain in southern Ontario eastward to the Maritime provinces."

**Report:** Purple Finch defied the forecast this winter. The species was widespread, being observed in 11 of 15 counties. 739 total birds were observed which is the highest count in the last three winters, and double the number observed in winter 2023 – 2024. The highest detection rates were in the north and east of the province in Restigouche, Gloucester, and Northumberland counties. These same three counties also had the highest observations per unit effort. York county had 115 Purple Finch on 40 different checklists throughout the winter.

### Redpoll

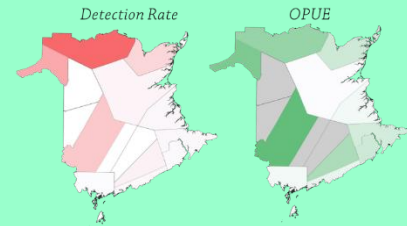
**Forecast:** The boreal forest had a widespread average Birch seed crop and above average Alder seed crop in winter 2024 - 2025. "This widespread food source... should hold most Redpoll north... Areas south of the boreal forest from Lake Huron eastward into New England appear to have scattered areas of good White and Yellow Birch crops surrounded by no seed."

**Report:** Redpoll were largely absent from the province in winter 2024 – 2025, matching the expectations of the forecast. Only thirty-three birds in total were observed across four counties. York county had twenty-six total birds on six checklists, by far the most observations in the province. This year was quite a departure from the last two years which saw irruptions of Redpoll totaling 1600 and 1250 birds in 23-24 and 22-23 respectively.

### Pine Siskin

**Forecast:** "Many Pine Siskins will remain in the boreal and western mountains this winter. Areas from Manitoba eastward affected by Spruce Budworm infestations have a poor cone crop. Siskins that bred in these areas will be on the move. While band recoveries show siskins will move straight across North America from coast to coast, there should be some small movement south in the eastern half of the United States this fall in search of food."

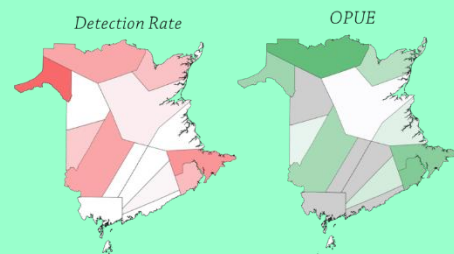
**Report:** Pine Siskin were widespread in the province this winter found in eleven of the fifteen counties; however, their numbers were considerably lower than the last two winters at least up until the end of February. Low numbers were in line with forecast predictions. The highest detection rates were in our three northerly counties Restigouche, Madawaska, and Gloucester. York County, however, saw the highest observations per unit effort followed by Madawaska County, indicating that large flocks of siskin were patchy in distribution across the province this winter.



### White-winged Crossbill

**Forecast:** “With a good White Spruce crop across most of the boreal forest and good multi-species cone crops in the western mountains, most White-winged Crossbills should stay in the boreal.”

**Report:** White-winged Crossbill certainly defied the forecast this winter. “White-wings” were widespread and abundant this year being observed in ten counties numbering in the hundreds or thousands of observations in five of those counties. White-winged Crossbills were the second most numerous in the province this winter, surpassed only by the Evening Grosbeak. The north of the province saw strong detection rates as well as York and Westmoreland counties. The greatest observation per unit effort was in Restigouche followed by Albert and Westmoreland counties. York County also saw a strong presence of White-wings this winter, and large flocks remained in Odell Park for weeks. White-wings were largely absent from the Fundy coast.



### Red Crossbill

**Forecast:** “Red Crossbills, primarily the Northeastern Type 12, are common in the Adirondacks and eastward into Nova Scotia, feeding on the Red Spruce crop...The Red Crossbill types are usually impossible to identify without recordings of their flight calls.”

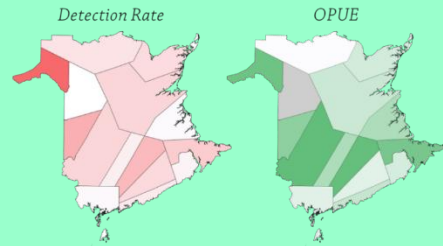
**Report:** Winter 2024 – 2025 showed a marked uptick in Red Crossbill sightings across the province compared to the previous two winters. However, that is not to imply they were very common at all. In total, 331 Red Crossbill were reported on 60 checklists compared with 25 birds, and 67 birds in the last two winters respectively. “Reds” were most visible, with the highest detection rates were in Albert, Westmoreland, and York counties. Red crossbills were largely absent from the Fundy coast.

### Evening Grosbeak

**Forecast:** “A widespread and diverse berry crop across the eastern boreal forest in 2024... provided the families of fledging Evening Grosbeaks with an ample food source... By the

end of August, many areas with ample berries were barren... With a visible movement at Tadoussac in early August, there should be a moderate flight of Evening Grosbeaks southward this fall. Evening Grosbeaks should visit areas from the Maritime provinces south towards Pennsylvania.”

**Report:** Evening Grosbeak was the most abundant (5520 observations on 449 checklists) and widespread winter finch in 2024 – 2025 being observed in all counties across New Brunswick except Victoria. The greatest detection rates were in the north and west of the province as might be expected. The greatest observations per unit effort were through the middle of the province from west to east. York county had the greatest observations per unit effort.



*Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch squabbling / photo by Denise Weigum*



## MEETING REPORTS

**Presenter: Dr. Graham Forbes**

**Title: COSSAR (The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk) and COSEWIC (The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada)**

**Meeting Date: 6 March 2025**

**Attendance: 30**

Graham reviewed the “Listing Process for Endangered Species” and, provided an overview of the categories of species that are “extinct,” “endangered,” or “threatened,” giving numerous examples of each. Extinct species are those deemed to no longer exist anywhere; examples are Dodo (Mauritius) and Yangtze Dolphin (China). Two New Brunswick species that are now extinct (everywhere) are Sea Mink and Great Auk. “Extirpated” denotes local extinction. In our province, Woodland Caribou and Grey Wolf are extirpated species. Lazarus species are ones thought to have been extinct until one or more living specimens were found. e.g., Cahow (Bermuda). The Ivory-billed Woodpecker may be a Lazarus species, but most ornithologists consider it extinct.

Graham projected pie charts showing “threatened” species. He argued that legislation to protect such species arises, in some measure, from guilt over what has been done to these species, but also from the value that people place on such species. To list or not to list as threatened is sometimes a function of public reaction and politics. In the United States, government enforces the protection of listed species on public, private, and state levels, but there is a backlog of 3,000 species. The local yokel philosophy of “shoot, shovel, shut up” can mean that highly endangered species are still killed with impunity.

In Canada, SARA, the Species at Risk Act, is based on a public science model. COSEWIC, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, determines the status; then, there is a ministerial review and a protection/recovery plan at the federal level. Each province also has its own act to classify endangered species. COSEWIC consists of subcommittees, e.g., a taxonomic expert subcommittee that meets twice a year for five days each time. COSEWIC scientifically focuses on the data but has no legislative power. Its findings and recommendations are often reflected in SARA. Examples of species named in SARA are Atlantic Cod, Peary Caribou, and Spotted Owl. For action to protect a listed species, there must be evidence of a decline or a risk.

Further categories from most to less dire (cry wolf!) are critically endangered, endangered, threatened, special concern, and not at risk. “Endangered” connotes a high risk of extinction in the wild; action is required. Threatened or vulnerable signifies that there is a risk that a species will become endangered. Special concern means that a species is close to qualifying as threatened; there is no recovery plan at this level. For some species the designation, “data deficient” applies.

In New Brunswick COSSAR, the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk, an expert committee founded in 2019 and comprising NB Museum staff, university professors, and Indigenous knowledge, uses COSWEIC reports localized for our province and has an influence on the NB version of SARA. In New Brunswick, the Bank Swallow and Olive-sided Flycatcher are considered endangered while the Yellow-banded Bumblebee, Eastern Painted Turtle, and Canada Lynx are of special concern.

Graham addressed problem areas that could influence rescue efforts. One of these is generation length, i.e., the average age of breeding; another is misleading information on charts/graphs that mistakenly herald an improvement in the numbers of species, e.g., Atlantic Cod. Geographic criteria are also important. Is the range very small or fragmented? Two species living in a restricted habitat are the Badger in Ontario and the Vancouver Island Marmot. Population viability analyses must be used carefully. Other problems are the availability and reliability of historical data, the age of specimen collections, and search effort. Hybrid species can pose a problem. The Eastern Wolf falls under the designation of hybrid species. Listing is not the same as recovery. Recovery requires a plan and the identification of critical habitat.

Graham pointed out that the public tends to support the protection of rare species. Jane Loughborough, member, backed up Grahams's assertion with the example of the Massasauga Rattler in the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario where public education has done much to promote tolerance and protection of this species.

Graham, thank you for providing comprehensive information that is vital to those of us who are interested in natural history and in the protection of plant and animal species. Yours was an important, thorough, and informative presentation.

Presenter: **Michele Coleman**

Title: **Mining for today's needs. Reclamation for tomorrow's uses**

Meeting Date: **10 April 2025**

Attendees: **20+**

Michele's 30+ slide presentation was based on her work as Environmental Coordinator for NB Coal Ltd (retired in 2020) in the Minto/Chipman area.

How, why, and to what extent should mined land be reclaimed are some of the questions Michele addresses. "By the 1980's, the reclamation goal of the NB Coal mines then became to establish wildlife habitat with the focus on" contouring for future use and promoting natural revegetation, using natural succession to create habitat diversity to produce a functional ecosystem." Michele addressed some of the issues affecting the outcome of regenerating mined land including natural succession in our Acadian forest, seed sources, soil amendment and other natural revegetation issues. With clear, colourful photographs, Michele illustrated natural revegetation success of mining land reclaimed at various intervals from five to twenty-five years. Her remaining slides ask, "Is creating

natural habitat diversity worth it as a mining legacy?” with the caption, “Ask the residents.” These slides show a diversity of wildlife and plant life in reclaimed areas.

Thank you, Michele, for your presentation that was concise, beautifully illustrated, and thoughtful. Your presentation reassures us that at least some mining companies, specifically NB Coal, take the reclamation of mined land seriously.

Presenter: **Maxwell Francioni**

Title: **My birding trip to the outer banks in North Carolina in May 2024**

Meeting Date: **10 April 2025**

Attendees: **20+**

While the outer banks in North Carolina were the chief destination, Maxwell’s trip started in Virginia. From the Norfolk airport Maxwell drove through the Chesapeake Channel Tunnel to the Delmarva Peninsula and the Kiptopeke State Park where Laughing Gulls, White Ibis, Black Vulture, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Grasshopper Sparrows, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black Skimmer, and Boat-tailed Grackle were among the many species Maxwell identified and photographed. Here he also photographed Atlantic Ghost Crab and North American Racer.

Part II of the presentation focused on North Carolina starting on Pea Island with Piping Plover, Seaside Sparrow, Tricolored Heron, and Willetts. After a side excursion to see the first “big bird,” i.e., airplane, the Kitty Hawk, Maxwell ended up at Cape Hatteras National Seashore where among other birds he viewed three Tern species: Least Tern, Gull-billed Tern, and Sandwich Tern. Maxwell participated in a pelagic trip during which Brown Boody, three species of Petrel, and three species of Shearwater were noted. Rough seas made for an uncomfortable return trip. There was also a four-hour ferry trip back to the mainland, specifically, the Cape Lookout National Seashore. The final thank you slide is a beautiful shot of Leach’s Storm Petrels skimming over the surf.

Thank you, Maxwell, for a very enjoyable presentation. Most of our members enjoy birds, but you took us to exotic birding locales that not all of us will have the opportunity to visit.



*Great Blue Heron / photo by Peter Duguid*

Presenter: **Larissa Simulik**

Title: **Kungsfågel och Fika: my year working at Ottenby Bird Observatory, Sweden**

Meeting Date: **1 May 2025**

Attendees: **30**



Photo by Larissa Simulik

*Before the presentation, our President, Milda Markauskas addressed the issue of nametags: our club will defray the costs of new magnetic name tags that are valued @ \$15.00 ea. and that will be purchased from Bens Trophies & Awards for all club members. Milda also asked Tony to introduce his guests, Ben, and Sarah Diamond, who hail from England and are on tour in*

*Canada in their camper van.*

Larissa began her PowerPoint presentation with a map of Sweden pinpointing the island of Öland where the Ottenby nature reserve, and specifically Ottenby Bird Observatory, is located on the southern tip of the island. A key feature for birds and birdwatchers on Öland is the presence of the world's largest alvar. Another feature is the Långe Jan lighthouse, the tallest in Sweden.

The Ottenby Bird Observatory opened in 1946 in connection with Bird Life Sweden. One of the tasks of the observatory is to monitor research project data sent to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

One of the first bird slides is of a Eurasian Wren stuck in a mist net. The backlog of birds caught in mist nets on any one day is kept in black boxes until they are ready to be banded and released. Among the many bird species caught this way and photographed by people at Ottenby were Chaffinch, Eurasian Blackbird, European Robin, Goldcrest, Ortolan Bunting, Red-breasted Flycatcher, and Willow Warbler. An amazing photo that Larissa shared was one of four Long-eared Owls.

In July/August one of Larissa's main jobs was catching shorebirds in specialized cages and participating in a shorebird nest survey. The most common captured bird caught was Dunlin. Other captured shorebird species included Broad-billed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, and Ruff. Larissa reported that a Ruddy Turnstone caught at Ottenby was a nine-year-old bird previously banded in South Africa. For the shorebird nest survey, Lapwings comprised 90% of found nests. Finding nesting Dunlin is difficult but Larissa found Dunlin chicks!



Photo by Larissa Simulik

Larissa also participated in a Middle Forest Survey (ok except for the numerous ticks!), Green Toad Survey, and June Survey - Sweden's version of a breeding bird survey. She

talked about how the June survey was one of the best birding days she has ever had because of the number of species she recorded on that day. She also got a taste of the Duck Trap which was a long-term avian influenza monitoring project. Larissa once had two hundred and thirty ducks in a trap at one time. She also co-authored a DigiGuide, Ottenby's online resource for ageing and sexing birds, on Eurasian Teal.

*Larissa, thank you for your enthusiastic, competent, and enjoyable presentation about the birds at the Ottenby nature reserve and of your experience at the Bird Observatory!*



*Långe Jan lighthouse / photo by Larissa Simulik*



## OUTING REPORTS

### **City Nature Challenge**

**Joint Event: Nature NB/ Fredericton Nature Club**

Organizer: **Cassandra Boulanger, Nature NB**

Outing expert: **Susan Belfry, FNC**

**Nature NB** support staff: **Francie Morgan**

Date: **Saturday, 26 April 2025** from **9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Weather: Cool, overcast

Attendance: **8**

Nature NB issued the challenge mid December 2024 and the FNC advertised on our Facebook page and via email that “The City Nature Challenge / Bioblitz will be hosted by Nature NB and the FNC. It will be on Saturday April 26 from 9-11 am starting from Killarney Lake Lodge. We will be using the iNaturalist app to document the flora and fauna that we find throughout the park. Everyone welcome.”



Susan Belfry led us on a loop through the southwestern section of Killarney Lake park. Participants were asked to photograph and identify various biotas using the iNaturalist app. Most attendees seemed to be having fun. Lots of plants, fungi, etc. were photographed. Capturing sounds using iNaturalist proved not workable

for the editor as sound recordings took forever to upload and prevented quick further use of his cell phone. The forecast rain started to fall just as we finished our event at 11 a.m.!

Thank you, Susan, Francie, Milda, Derek, Sylvie, Angie and Glenn, for your participation!



*photo by A. Vietinghoff*

## Hyla Park bird walk

Outing leader: **André Vietinghoff**

Date: **Saturday, 3 May 2025** at 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Attendance: **10**

On a cool, overcast morning Fredericton Nature Club members spent a couple hours birding at Hyla Park. Attached is a list of the 26 species tallied:

American Crow	Mallard
American Goldfinch	Northern Cardinal
American Robin	Ovenbird
Belted Kingfisher	Pine Warbler
Black and white Warbler	Purple Finch
Black-capped Chickadee	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Canada Goose	Red-winged Blackbird
Chipping Sparrow	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Common Grackle	Swamp Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco	Tree Swallow
Downy Woodpecker	Warbling Vireo
Evening Grosbeak	White-throated Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler

*Thank you, David, Nancy, Phil, Bob, Laurie, Glenn, Angie, Juan, and Denise for your participation in this outing!*



*Photo by Laurie Janes*



*Photo by A. Vietinghoff*



## World Migratory Bird Day

### Joint Event: Nature NB/ Fredericton Nature Club

Date: **Saturday, 10 May 2025** with outings at **7:00** and **9:00 a.m.**

Outing Leaders: **Maxwell Francioni (7:00); Derek Hogan, Caitlyn Robert (9:00)**

Weather: cool, overcast, light rain

Attendance: **10** (7:00 a.m.); **11** (9:00 a.m.)

The meeting spot for the early walk was the baseball diamond at the SW end of Odell Park (south/top end of the Botanic Garden). Maxwell was the designated leader with Larissa Simulik assisting. Because of the rain, it was difficult to use the apps, Merlin and eBird, and more difficult than in fair weather conditions to use binoculars. After the first hour, three people had abandoned and the rest of us walked another hour in the woods in a loop ending back at the upper parking lot.

Caitlyn Robert and Dr. Derek Hogan enthusiastically greeted the hopefuls for the 9:00 a.m. walk in the Odell Park lower (north) parking lot. The weather conditions were much the same as for the early walk. We were fortunate that we didn't experience the same day's afternoon weather: pouring rain.



*First four from l. - r. Angie, Francie, Caitlyn, Juan; at r.: Derek. Apologies to the remaining who are not identified; photo by A. Vietinghoff*

**World Migratory Bird Day: Combined Stats**

Sp. Count	Species	1st hr Ind. No.	2nd hr Ind. No.	7 a.m. Tot. # Ind.	9 a.m. Tot. Ind.	both walks Total # Ind.
1	Accipitrine hawk sp.	0	0	0	1	1
2	American Crow	3	3	6	5	11
3	American Goldfinch	6	5	11	10	21
4	American Robin	4	3	7	0	7
5	Black and white Warbler	1	0	1	0	1
6	Black-capped Chickadee	6	7	13	15	28
7	Blue Jay	1	1	2	1	3
8	Blue-headed Vireo	0	0	0	5	5
9	Brown Creeper	0	1	1	0	1
10	Chipping Sparrow	3	2	5	1	6
11	Common Raven	0	1	1	0	1
12	Eastern Phoebe	2	0	2	1	3
13	Great-crested Flycatcher	1	0	1	0	1
14	Hairy Woodpecker	0	0	0	1	1
15	Hooded Merganser	1	0	1	0	1
16	Mallard	0	0	0	2	2
17	Northern Cardinal	1	0	1	1	2
18	Northern Parula Warbler	0	0	0	3	3
19	Ovenbird	0	1	1	0	1
20	Pine Siskin	0	2	2	0	2
21	Red Crossbill	0	0	0	15	15
22	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3	4	0	4
23	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	1	0	1
24	Song Sparrow	6	1	7	2	9
25	Swainson's Thrush	0	1	1	0	1
26	White-breasted Nuthatch	0	1	1	2	3
27	White-throated Sparrow	1	0	1	4	5
28	Winter Wren	0	1	1	1	2
29	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	0	1	1
						Grand Total individual birds
29	<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	38	33	71	71	142

## Warbler Walk – Carman Creek

Date: **Saturday, 31 May 2025 8:30 – 11:00**

Outing Leader: **Maxwell Francioni**

Weather: 14 ° C. – 15 ° C., overcast calm

Attendance: **15**

A good turnout after the outing had been canceled the previous weekend. All but a few participants were Fredericton Nature Club members. Maxwell maintained and submitted the eBird list on which the table below is based. It started to rain after we were done.



*Photo / by A. Vietinghoff*

Species Name	Count	Species Name	Count
Blackbird, Red-winged	9	Phoebe, Eastern	2
Cardinal, Northern	1	Redstart, American	10
Catbird, Gray	3	Robin, American	2
Chickadee, Black-capped	5	Sparrow, Chipping	2
Crow, American	4	Sparrow, Song	3
Dove, Mourning	4	Swallow, Barn	8
Finch, Purple	2	Swallow, Tree	3
Flycatcher, Least	4	Veery	6
Goldfinch, American	6	Vireo, Blue-headed	1
Goose, Canada	5	Vireo, Red-eyed	7
Grackle, Common	2	Warbler, Black-and-white	3
Heron, Great Blue	2	Warbler, Chestnut-sided	1
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated	1	Warbler, Northern Parula	4
Jay, Blue	2	Warbler, Pine	1
Kingbird, Eastern	3	Warbler, Yellow	2
Mallard	8	Waterthrush, Northern	5
Nuthatch, Red-Breasted	1	Waxwing, Cedar	6
Oriole, Baltimore	2	Woodpecker, Downy	3
Osprey	1	Woodpecker, Hairy	1
Ovenbird	3	Wren, Carolina	1
Pewee, Eastern Wood	1	Yellowthroat, Common	2



## **BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Heinrich, Bernd.** Summer world [electronic resources]: a Season of Bounty. Tantor Media Incorporated, 2009.

1 audiobook (approx. 8 hrs.): digital, unabridged; ISBN: 9781400181759

*“As the snow melts and the spring approaches, the animal kingdom awakens. In Summer World, Bernd Heinrich, the bestselling author of Winter World, brings us an up-close and personal view of that awakening and rebirth.*

*Almost all life on the surface of the earth derives its energy from the sun, either directly through photosynthesis or indirectly by consuming plants, making summer the time when nature is most active - feeding, fighting, mating, and nesting. From frogs, wasps, and caterpillars to hummingbirds and woodpeckers, Heinrich explores these animals’ adaptations for surviving and procreating during the short window of summer, and he delights in the seemingly infinite feats of animal inventiveness he discovers there.*

*Infused with his inexhaustible enchantment with nature. Summer World encourages a sense of wonder and discovery for the natural world and its busiest season.”*—Abstract from Libby.

It should be noted that the summer that Heinrich describes is a season he experiences and explores, experimentally, through observation, and viscerally near his Maine cabin. That seasonal environment is not unlike that in New Brunswick and makes this book particularly relevant for New Brunswickers.

Available on loan from NBPLS via the Electronic Library New Brunswick (Libby for portable devices; OverDrive for desktop computers) in unabridged format as a downloadable audio file (MP3). Read by Mel Foster.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

**Rundell, Katherine.** Vanishing Treasures [electronic resources]: a Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures / Katherine Rundell. New York: Doubleday, 2024.

1 e-book: digital; ISBN: 9780385550833

Originally published in 2022 in Great Britain as The Golden Mole by Faber & Faber.

Contents: The wombat -- The Greenland shark -- The giraffe -- The swift -- The lemur -- The hermit crab -- The seal -- The bear -- The narwhal -- The crow -- The hare -- The wolf -- The hedgehog -- The elephant -- The seahorse -- The pangolin -- The stork -- The spider -- The bat -- The tuna -- The golden mole -- The human.

*“The world is more astonishing, more miraculous, and more wonderful than our wildest imaginings. In this brilliant and passionately persuasive book, Katherine Rundell takes us*

*on a globe-spanning tour of the world's most awe-inspiring animals currently facing extinction. Consider the seahorse: couples mate for life and meet each morning for a dance, pirouetting and changing colors before going their separate ways, to dance again the next day. The American wood frog survives winter by allowing itself to freeze solid, its heartbeat slowing until it stops altogether. Come spring, the heart kick-starts itself spontaneously back to life. As for the lemur, it lives in matriarchal troops led by an alpha female (it's not unusual for female ring-tailed lemurs to slap males across the face when they become aggressive). Whenever they are cold or frightened, they group together in what's known as a lemur ball, paws and tails intertwined, to form a furry mass as big as a bicycle wheel. But each of these extraordinary animals is endangered or holds a sub-species that is endangered. This urgent, inspiring book of essays dedicated to 23 unusual and underappreciated creatures is a clarion call insisting that we look at the world around us with new eyes - to see the magic of the animals we live among, their unknown histories and capabilities, and above all how lucky we are to tread the same ground as such vanishing treasures.”—Abstract in New Brunswick Public Library Services online catalogue.*

Winner of numerous awards. Of great interest to naturalists and the general public, less so, to biologists ... although singular facts and vivid writing make for very enjoyable reading for anyone.

Available on loan from NBPLS via the Electronic Library New Brunswick (Libby for portable devices; OverDrive for desktop computers) in **unabridged** format as a downloadable E-BOOK.

*Also available from NPBLS in print (208 pages) form under call number **591.68 RUN** by placing a hold in the online catalogue (2 copies in the library system but not at FPL)*

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



*White-throated Sparrow / photo by Denise Weigum*

## Miscellany

Berkoff, Maddie. "A Sweeping New Report Shows U.S. Birds Declining Sharply Across a Range of Habitats." *Audubon Magazine*, March 13, 2025 at: [A Sweeping New Report Shows U.S. Birds Declining Sharply Across a Range of Habitats | Audubon](#)

City of Fredericton. "Environmental Dashboad" at [https://environment-fredericton.hub.arcgis.com/pages/dashboard\\_eng](https://environment-fredericton.hub.arcgis.com/pages/dashboard_eng)

Cornell Lab, All About Birds. [Best Bird Videos: 21 Favorites from Our Macaulay Library](#). Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, March 5, 2025. At: [Best Bird Videos: 21 Favorites from Our Macaulay Library | All About Birds](#)

"Fredericton's Urban Forest Strategy." EngageFredericton at <https://engagefredericton.ca/urban-forest>

NBISC. "Zebra Mussels Detected in Saint John River Watershed for the First Time" New Brunswick Invasive Species Council. at <https://www.nbinvasives.ca/blog/zebra-mussels-detected-in-saint-john-river-watershed-for-the-first-time>

Poitras, Jacques. "Ottawa, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia strike deal on Chignecto funding: N.S. minister says he's putting Canada first with \$650-million cost-sharing agreement." *CBC News New Brunswick*, March 20, 2025 at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/ottawa-nb-nb-deal-chignecto-isthmus-funding-1.7488579>

Team eBird. [eBird in Action: State of the Birds 2025](#). eBird, 14 March, 2025 at [eBird in Action: State of the Birds 2025 - eBird](#)



*Summer Tanager / photo by Milda Markauskas*

## **Fredericton Nature Club Member Information**

Annual membership, Fredericton Nature Club:  
\$25.00 per adult; \$10.00 per student; Free for children  
Two for a twoonie: 1 meeting and 1 outing.

Membership payment via e-transfer to: [frederictonnatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:frederictonnatureclub@gmail.com)

Our 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](mailto:dillynb@gmail.com)

**Nature NB** is the umbrella organization for all New Brunswick naturalist clubs.  
“Nature NB is a non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick’s natural heritage through education, networking and collaboration” – from their website.  
website: <https://www.naturenb.ca/>

## **Publication Information for newsletter**

The Fredericton Nature Club newsletter is published four times a year, i.e., seasonally. Contributions are welcome! Please contact the editor at: [andre.vietinghoff@yahoo.com](mailto:andre.vietinghoff@yahoo.com)

Photographs/images in this issue are contributed largely by members. Those not identified are public domain images derived from Google Images.  
Main photo contributors for this issue are Peter Duguid, Maxwell Francioni, David Lilly, Milda Markauskas, Larissa Simulik, Denise Weigum, and your editor. Many thanks!

For future issues, the editor welcomes your nature-related book reviews, your nature photography, and your nature articles - preferably about New Brunswick, and better still, the Fredericton area.