

Summer 2025



CONTENTS

[Books](#)
[Editorial / Mot de la redaction](#)
[Executive](#)
[Financial Picture](#)
[Membership](#)
[Miscellany](#)
[NatureNB](#)
[Publication Information](#)
[Outing Reports](#)
[Website](#)



EXECUTIVE

President: **Milda Markauskas**
Vice-President: **Larissa Simulik**
Treasurer/membership: **Maxwell Francioni**
Webmaster: **David Lilly**
Secretary: **André Vietinghoff**
Past President: **Dr. Tony Diamond**

Fredericton Nature Club Newsletter



Editor's Corner

Dear readers:

You have surely read or heard about the proposed **Sisson Mine Project** in the media. "Sisson Mine is a proposed tungsten and molybdenum mine which would be sited near the town of Stanley, 60 km North-West of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The mine would be among the world's largest tungsten mines, with reserves equating to 227 kilotonnes of elemental tungsten (W). The claim owner, Sisson Mines Ltd., proposes to mine 30,000 tonnes per day of ore which contains on average 0.06 per cent tungsten trioxide (WO₃) and smaller amounts of molybdenum ... The mine would generate large quantities of potentially acid-generating tailings. To minimise acid production and leaching of toxins, including arsenic, from the tailings and waste rock the operator proposes to submerge the tailings and waste rock in a large tailings storage facility (TSF - or "tailings pond")."¹

Given that Canada, and most specifically New Brunswick, needs rare minerals, given that a site with such minerals has been located, given that this will provide jobs and boost our provincial economy, it is the editor's view that the Sisson mine project should proceed. However, it cannot be done with lax environmental measures. In fact, any type of tailings pond is inadequate because if there is

Mot de la redaction

Chers lecteurs:

Vous avez sûrement lu ou entendu parler du **projet de mine Sisson** dans les médias. « La mine Sisson est un projet d'exploitation de tungstène et de molybdène qui serait situé près de la ville de Stanley, à 60 km au nord-ouest de Fredericton, au Nouveau-Brunswick, au Canada. Cette mine serait l'une des plus grandes mines de tungstène au monde, avec des réserves équivalant à 227 kilotonnes de tungstène élémentaire (W). Le propriétaire du terrain, Sisson Mines Ltd., propose d'extraire 30 000 tonnes par jour de minerai contenant en moyenne 0,06 % de trioxyde de tungstène (WO₃) et de plus petites quantités de molybdène... La mine produirait de grandes quantités de résidus potentiellement acidogènes. Afin de minimiser la production d'acide et le lessivage des toxines, notamment l'arsenic, provenant des résidus et des stériles, l'exploitant propose de submerger les résidus et les stériles dans une grande installation de stockage des résidus (TSF ou « bassin de résidus »).«¹

Étant donné que le Canada, et plus particulièrement le Nouveau-Brunswick, a besoin de minéraux rares, étant donné qu'un site contenant ces minéraux a été localisé, étant donné que cela créera des emplois et stimulera l'économie de notre province, l'éditeur estime que le projet minier Sisson devrait être mené à bien. Cependant, cela ne peut se faire avec des mesures environnementales laxistes. En fait, tout type de bassin de résidus est inadéquat, car s'il existe un risque, même infime, de fuite, cela représente une menace intolérable pour



Nashwaak River aerial photo
/ Nashwaak Watershed
Authority



Nashwaak Watershed
Association logo



Nashwaak River / photo
by Nashwaak Watershed
Association



Nashwaak Watershed /
Nashwaak Watershed
Association

a danger, however, remote, of a leak, there is an intolerable threat to the Nashwaak watershed. The Honourable David Coon, MLA for Fredericton-Lincoln emphasizes the need for dry stack storage that would eliminate the need for a massive tailings pond and dam altogether. ² First Nations in New Brunswick don't seem to favour the Sisson Mine project either ³, and their concerns must be addressed.

Yet the project does seem to have some momentum. ⁴ Andrew Ing, the CEO of Northcliff Resources talks about a 5-year timeline to commence and says that we are at the feasibility study phase. ⁵ Let's make this project truly feasible but with the highest environmental standards and with the approval of First Nations and biologists. What is your opinion about Sisson Mine project? Send a letter to the editor of the newsletter.

On a different note, the survey of club members, promised in the spring 2025 issue, did not take place this summer. We are hoping to conduct this survey during the autumn.

Finally, the executive committee is pleased to welcome on board **Larissa Simulik** who has agreed to serve as **Vice President** of our club!

Translated with DeepL.com (free version)

le bassin versant de la Nashwaak. L'honorable David Coon, député provincial de Fredericton-Lincoln, souligne la nécessité d'un stockage à sec qui éliminerait complètement le besoin d'un immense bassin de résidus et d'un barrage. ² Les Premières Nations du Nouveau-Brunswick ne semblent pas non plus favorables au projet de la mine Sisson ³, et leurs préoccupations doivent être prises en compte.

Pourtant, le projet semble avoir pris de l'ampleur. ⁴ Andrew Ing, PDG de Northcliff Resources, évoque un délai de cinq ans avant le début des travaux et indique que nous en sommes actuellement à la phase d'étude de faisabilité. ⁵ Faisons en sorte que ce projet soit réellement réalisable, mais dans le respect des normes environnementales les plus strictes et avec l'accord des Premières Nations et des biologistes. Que pensez-vous du projet minier Sisson? Envoyez une lettre à la rédaction du bulletin d'information.

Dans un autre ordre d'idées, le sondage auprès des membres du club, promis dans le numéro du printemps 2025, n'a pas eu lieu cet été. Nous espérons mener ce sondage à l'automne.

Enfin, le comité exécutif est heureux d'accueillir **Larissa Simulik**, qui a accepté d'occuper le poste de **vice-présidente** de notre club !

Traduit avec DeepL.com (version gratuite)

1. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. "Sisson Mine." Wikipedia, n.d., https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisson_Mine

2. The Honourable David Coon, MLA for Fredericton-Lincoln in a response to an email from the editor of the FNC newsletter, July 31, 2025.

3. Logan Perley. "Latest Sisson Mine approval leaves First Nations, conservation groups uneasy: Tailings pond for proposed mine north of Fredericton requires damming two fish-bearing brooks." CBC News, July 22, 2019, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/first-nations-conservationists-concerned-over-federal-approval-sisson-mine-1.5216851>

4. Jennifer Sweet. "Sisson tungsten mine one of several critical mineral projects eyed by N.B. government." CBC News, June 7, 2025, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/sisson-mine-project-revival-1.7554589>

5. John Chilibeck. "Mining CEO gives potential start date for big project to dig up critical minerals." The Daily Gleaner, May 14, 2025 reprinted in the Penticton Herald, https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_0b4259ce-dec5-5cf6-8e5a-5895bae37215.html

OUTING REPORTS

OUTING: WILKINS FIELD/BURPEE FLATS

DATE: 14 JUNE 2024 TIME: 9:00 a. to noon

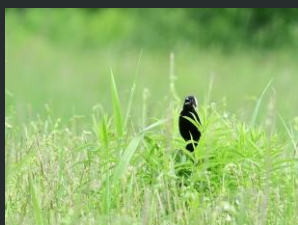
WEATHER: SUNNY, CALM, WARM

LEADER: MILDA MARKAUSKAS

PARTICIPANTS: 14, mostly members, 2 non-members



Sora (*Porzana carolina*) /
photo by Peter Duguid



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) singing /
photo by Derek Hogan



Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) / photo by
Derek Hogan



American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) / photo by Denise
Weigum



Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) / photo by Peter
Duguid

Species Identified	#	Species Identified	#
Bittern, American	1	Oriole, Baltimore	1
Blackbird, Red-winged	2	Rail, Virginia	1
Bobolink	8	Redstart, American	13
Catbird, Gray	1	Robin, American	4
Chickadee, Black-capped	7	Sora	3
Cormorant, Double-crested	1	Sparrow, Chipping	2
Cowbird, Brown-headed	3	Sparrow, Savannah	9
Crow, American	1	Sparrow, Song	9
Eagle, Bald	1	Sparrow, Swamp	5
Flycatcher, Great-crested	2	Starling, European	3
Flycatcher, Least	2	Swallow, Tree	5
Flycatcher, Willow	1	Veery	6
Goldfinch, American	7	Vireo, Red-eyed	3
Grackle, Common	6	Vireo, Warbling	1
Hawk, Red-shouldered *	1	Warbler, Black and white	2
Heron, Great Blue	2	Warbler, Yellow	12
Jay, Blue	2	Waterthrush, Northern	1
Junco, Dark-eyed	2	Waxwing, Cedar	4
Kingbird, Eastern	2	Woodpecker, Downy	1
Kingfisher, Belted	1	Wren, Marsh	3
Mallard	1	Yellowthroat, Common	5
Total species	42	Total # Birds	152



From l.-R: Susan Belfry, Sylvie Race, Glenn Murdoch, Milda Markauskas, Angie Cormier, Maxwell Francioni, Peter Duguid, Barry Monson, David Buck, Karl Phillips, Bree Blair, Derek Hogan, missing, met group later: Brenda Boucher / photo by A. Vietinghoff



Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) / photo by Denise Weigum



Great crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) / photo by Peter Duguid



Winter wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) / photo by Peter Duguid



Northern house Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) / photo by Peter Duguid



White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) / photo by Denise Weigum

FNC BIRD WALK ON FREDERICTON PARKS & TRAILS DAY
DATE: 21 JUNE 2025 TIME: 9:00 – 10:30 A.M.
OUTING LEADER: André Vietinghoff
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 13
WEATHER: temp. ranging from 18 C. to 20 C. at 10:30; sunny, a bit breezy; winds WNW; Windspeeds from 13-18 KPH with gusts to 33 KPH.

Stephen Marr, President of the Fredericton Trails Coalition, asked us to participate in the Fredericton Parks and Trails Day, given that we had participated in previous years. Although our walk occurred before the main events of that day, the FTC kindly listed the walk in their schedule of activities. About half of the participants were members. Among the non-members was a mother with two children. Although the tally of 18 species was low, most participants seemed to enjoy the outing. The species list follows:

American Crow	Mallard
American Goldfinch	Northern Cardinal
American Redstart	Osprey
Cedar Waxwing	Red-eyed Vireo
Chipping Sparrow	Rock Pigeon
Downy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	Veery
Gray Catbird	White-breasted Nuthatch
Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler, American



EVENT: **MUSHROOM WALK AT ODELL PARK** (not an FNC outing)
CO-HOSTS: **NASHWAAK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** and **SOCIÉTÉ MYCO NB SOCIETY**
OUTING LEADER: **ANTHONY BROOKS**
DATE: **JULY 14, 2025**
REPORT BY: **MILDA MARKAUSKAS**

The Nashwaak Watershed Assoc teamed up with Société Myco NB Society to host a guided mushroom walk through Odell Park On Monday July 14th, guided by fungi expert Anthony Brooks (*a FNC member*)! The group enjoyed a leisurely stroll through the woods, uncovering and learning about an incredible array of fungi species! There were about 35 participants including five FNC members. It was a lovely morning, but the weather had been warm and dry, so not many mushrooms were coming up, but we did find a few and Anthony shared his wealth of knowledge about plants and mushrooms.



EVENT: MONARCH MONITORING BIOBLITZ

LOCATION: **Sunset U-Pick, 49 Ferris Street, Fredericton**

ORGANIZER: **NATURE NB STAFF, FRANCIE MORGAN & CAITLYN ROBERT**

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: **ANGIE CORMIER** (FNC member)

DATE: **THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025** Time: **18:00-19:30 h.**

WEATHER **Warm, overcast**

ATTENDANCE: **6**

Milkweed plants are the sole host for the eggs and caterpillars of Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) of which two species, Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), are native to New Brunswick. In this survey, Common Milkweed was the milkweed species present onsite, whereby 255 stems were counted in intervals of five with 18 caterpillars, six eggs, and zero chrysalids found on leaf undersides. Two adult butterflies were observed (adult observations are not limited to occurrence on milkweed only).

Magnifying glasses and reference guides were supplied, because although eggs are distinguished from other objects by their upright, conical shape, they are only about 1 mm long¹ and can be difficult to discern from droplets of milkweed sap or aphids. Likewise, at lengths² of 2-45 mm caterpillars can also be overlooked or misidentified without a magnifying glass, sharp eye, or any experience. As such, Francie and Caitlyn of NB Nature Trust are knowledgeable and adept at confirming sightings and could be called upon.

This was a joint event of Nature NB, Fredericton Nature Club, and NB Nature Trust and was part of the annual North America-wide event held from July 25 to August 3, 2025.

Survey results were sent to Mission Monarch, a citizen science research project run by the Insectarium of l'Espace Pour La Vie in Montreal. Data collected from this and other surveys will be used to help understand where Monarch breeding habitats are located, in order to protect them.

1. Mission Monarch (n.d.) *Look for Monarchs* [online]. Available from <<https://mission-monarch.org/wordpress/steps/get-ready/monarch-identification/>> [August 13, 2025]

2. ... (n.d.)



All photos by Francie Morgan and Caitlyn Robert of Nature NB – with thanks!

FNC website address:
[Fredericton Nature Club](#)
 - Home

Email webmaster at:
dlillynb@gmail.com

FNC group email:
frederictonnatureclub@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:

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

Recent issues of [NB Naturalist](#) can also be found on their website.

Photographs/images in this issue that are not identified are public domain images derived from Google Images. Contributors to this issue are: David Blaney, Peter Duguid, Derek Hogan, Francie Morgan, Caitlyn Robert, André Vietinghoff, and Denise Weigum. Organizations that contributed are: Nashwaak Watershed Association. *Apologies to anyone mistakenly omitted from this list.*

The [Fredericton Nature Club newsletter](#) is published four times a year, summer, autumn, winter, spring

Email newsletter editor:
andre.vietinghoff@yahoo.com

FINANCIAL PICTURE

Hi all! I hope you have been enjoying the Summer so far and staying cool. Going into the Fall season, the funds in the club treasury stand at **\$2,407.79**.

The Fredericton Nature Club's 2025-2026 year is almost upon us! Members typically pay their dues in October when the meeting season begins. Dues can be paid in-person, or via eTransfer to the club email address: frederictonnatureclub@gmail.com.

2025 membership fees will remain as follows:

- \$25 individual
- \$10 post-secondary student

Please note that, continuing from last year, family memberships are no longer offered by the FNC. Thanks for your understanding and hope to see you all in October!

Maxwell Francioni
Treasurer, Fredericton Nature Club

MISCELLANY

Cornell Lab. [eBird: monthly recap, June 2025](#). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, July 11, 2025. <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQbgJJnQQPvWPRGVVHGGrkQfLzld>

Cunningham, Sean. "UNB researchers find Canada's oldest puffin on island off Grand Manan" Telegraph-Journal, July 14, 2025. https://tj.news/fredericton-west/unb-researchers-find-canadas-oldest-puffin-on-island-off-grand-manan?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=BNI%20News%20Morning%20DG%20Tuesday%20Campaign%202025-07-15&utm_term=Morning_Email_DG

Daniel Oliker, one of three Canadian researchers on Machias Seal Island who discovered the 33-year-old bird, says the island belongs to the birds, not Canada or the United States. Our past-president, Dr. Tony Diamond was cited several times in this article.

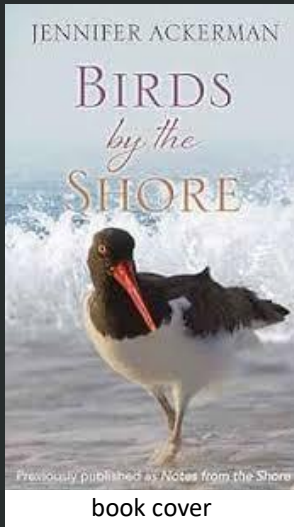
Drystek, Emily. "The best free nature apps." [Landlines: the Nature Conservancy of Canada Blog](#). Nature Conservancy of Canada, Oct 8, 2021. At: <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/blog/archive/the-best-free-nature-apps.html>

Heimbuch, Jaymi. "12 Apps That Will Turn You Into a Nature Expert." [Treehugger](#), April 3, 2018. At: <https://www.treehugger.com/apps-that-will-turn-you-into-a-wilderness-expert-4864044>

Saint Mary's University. Office of Innovation and Community Engagement. "Unwelcome worms: researching invasive jumping worms in New Brunswick." OICE, August 1, 2025. At: [Unwelcome worms: researching invasive jumping worms in New Brunswick | SMU News and Events](#)

Introduces the research on invasive earthworms by Dr. Erin Cameron, an Associate Professor of Environmental Science at Saint Mary's University.

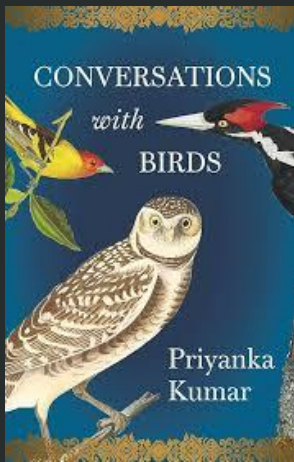
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



book cover



Snowy Plover
(*Anarhynchus nivosus*)



Book cover



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Ackerman, Jennifer. Birds by the Shore: Observing the Natural Life of the Atlantic Coast. Illustrated by Karin Grosz. Thorndike, Maine: Center Point Large Print, 2019.

223 pages: ill. ISBN: 9781643582528

Previous ed. Published in 1995 under title: Notes from the Shore.

Abstract: "From the bestselling author of *The Genius of Birds*, the revised and reissued edition of her beloved book of essays describing her forays along the Delaware shore"-- Provided by publisher.

The editor finds the new title a bit misleading. Although shorebirds receive attention, the book also covers other aspects of seashore natural history.

Available from the New Brunswick Public Library System at Fredericton Public as a large print edition under call number **LP 917.5104 ACK** and in NBPLS as a regular print ed. Available via a hold under call number **917.9104 ACK**

Recommended

Kumar, Priyanka. Conversations with Birds. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2023. Pbk. Ed. 281 pages: illustrations ISBN: 9781639550807

First published in 2022 and with black and white illustrations drawn by John James Audubon and engraved by Robert Havell Jr., these are unusual conversations about birds with readers.

"How grateful I am for the chance to join this generous author's lyrical, intimate, and revelatory conversations with birds!" —Sy Montgomery, author of *The Soul of an Octopus*. "Birds are my almanac. They tune me into the seasons, and into myself." So begins this lively collection of essays by acclaimed filmmaker and novelist Priyanka Kumar. Growing up at the feet of the Himalayas in northern India, Kumar took for granted her immersion in a lush natural world. After moving to North America as a teenager, she found herself increasingly distanced from more than human life and discouraged by the civilization she saw contributing to its destruction. It was only in her twenties, living in Los Angeles and working on films, that she began to rediscover her place in the landscape—and in the cosmos—by way of watching birds. Tracing her movements across the American West, this stirring collection of essays brings the avian world richly to life. Kumar's perspective is not that of a list keeper, counting and cataloguing species. Rather, from the mango-colored western tanager that rescues her from a bout of altitude sickness in Sequoia National Park to ancient sandhill cranes in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife



Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)



Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*) adult and chick / courtesy, Good Free Photos



American Three-toed Woodpecker(s) (*Picoides dorsalis*) / photo by David Blaney

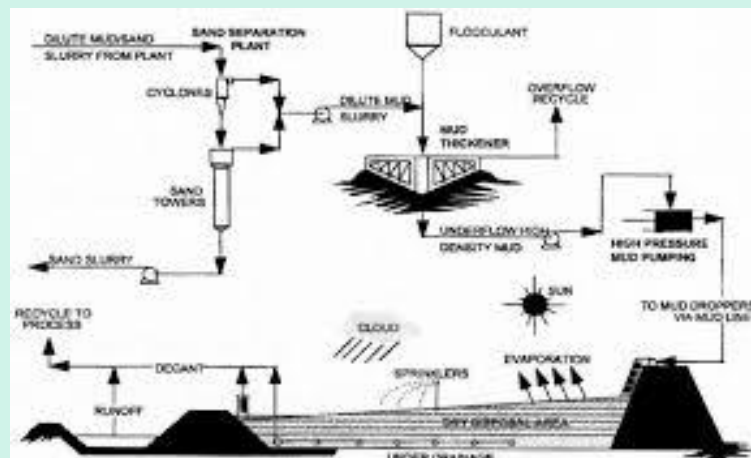


Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) / courtesy, Good Free Photos

Refuge, and from the snowy plovers building shallow nests with bits of shell and grass to the white-breasted nuthatch that regularly visits the apricot tree behind her family's casita in Santa Fe, for Kumar, birds "become a portal to a more vivid, enchanted world." At a time when climate change, habitat loss, and the reckless use of pesticides are causing widespread extinction of species, Kumar's reflections on these messengers from our distant past and harbingers of our future offer luminous evidence of her suggestion that "seeds of transformation lie dormant in all of our hearts. Sometimes it just takes the right bird to awaken us." – Abstract from Amazon

Found neither in New Brunswick public libraries nor in the Electronic Library New Brunswick, this is nevertheless a highly original and well-written account of one woman's love for birds. Available as a paperback from Amazon for \$24.75 and on Kindle for \$11.99. Can also be ordered in paperback for \$27.95 from Indigo Chapters Coles Canada.

Recommended.



Dry stack storage diagram / courtesy of Research Guide

