Fredericton Nature Club Newsletter

Autumn 2025

"Snowy Path" / Public Doman Pictures

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Photo by Robyn Shortt

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President: Milda Markauskas
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Editor's Corner

I am in the habit of browsing through the photos of Nelson Poirier's daily blog, Nature Moncton Nature News (*available via the Nature NB listserv*). Occasionally, the name that accompanies a photo surprises me. This was the case some time ago when I saw the name, Aerial Yellowjacket and asked myself, "What's that?" I was only aware of the term "Yellowjacket" applied to those rather bothersome and sometimes aggressive black and yellow wasps that made me bawl when I stepped into a nest as a 9-year-old and have made me wince more than once since then. However, I was in ignorance: there is indeed a species called Common Aerial Yellowjacket [1] (*Dolichovespula arenaria*) also known as sandhills hornet (stay away from sandhills!), and common yellow hornet. It turns out that "yellowjacket" or "yellow jacket" refers to several species in the genus *Dolichovespula* and the genus *Vespula* that include Eastern yellowjacket *(Vespula maculifrons), the* aerial yellowjacket *(Dolichovespula arenaria) and the* bald-faced hornet *(Dolichovespula maculata)*. (On reflection, my own encounters were probably with the smaller Eastern yellowjacket).

Anyhow, this led me to think about the names of biological species - collectively referred to by scientists as taxa. A taxon "is a group of one or more populations of an organism or organisms seen by taxonomists to form a unit ... If a taxon is given a formal scientific name, its use is then governed by one of the nomenclature codes specifying which scientific name is correct for a particular grouping." [2] One standard code is the binomial or binary nomenclature. Linnaeus was the progenitor of this system. Some of you will remember Dr. Stephen Heard's wonderful presentation to us at the 7 October 2021 Fredericton Nature Club meeting. This presentation was based on his book "Charles Darwin's Barnacle and David Bowie's Spider" - What the Names of Species Tell Us About Science and Scientists. You can read both the meeting report and my review of Dr. Heard's book on the Fredericton Nature Club website in the January-April 2022 issue of the FNC newsletter.

But I digress. Serious amateur naturalists may have the ambition to learn the scientific names, but most of us will use an English language name. The names familiar to you and the next person can vary a great deal and might reflect where you grew up or what you read. Here is a sampler of these curious variations: **Canada Jay** (*Perisoreus canadensis*) [3] also known as grey jay, gray jay, camp robber, moose bird, gorby, or whisky jack?; **Cougar** (*Puma concolor*) [4], also known as puma, mountain lion, catamount, and

Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) / courtesy, Shutterstock


Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) / courtesy, Nature Manitoba

Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) / courtesy, Shutterstock


Common Aerial Yellowjacket (*Dolichovespula arenaria*) / courtesy, iNaturalist Canada

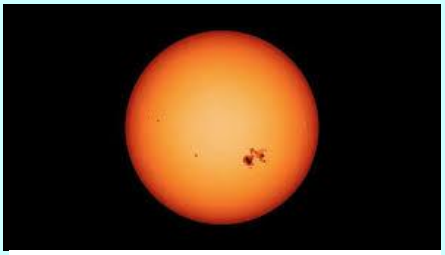
panther; **Brown Bullhead** (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) [5] also known as Bullhead Catfish, Barbot, Mudpout, Mud pout (these last 3 familiar to me), Mudcat, Horned Pout, Hornpout and who knows what else (I even wonder if there could be confusion based on the familiar names with the related species Black Bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*). Plants are not immune to multiple names, to wit, **Tamarack** (*Larix laricina*) [6], apparently also known as eastern larch, black larch, red larch, American larch, or hackmatack (I first encountered the word "hackmatack" when I moved to New Brunswick). There is also **Orange Jewelweed** (*Impatiens capensis*) [7], aka., common jewelweed, spotted jewelweed, jewelweed, spotted touch-me-not, or orange balsam. No doubt there are hundreds, maybe thousands of such variant names, and you can surely come up with many of them. Local names of taxa might reflect local or regional usage. While this can create confusion, it does add colour to the universe of animal names. Nonetheless, for standard English language names your best bet would be to consult a reputable, up-to-date field guide, a standard reference work for the animal family, or as a lazy way out (*like I did*), Wikipedia.

So … if you are contemplating ice-fishing this winter, make sure you know exactly what species you are after and choose the lake accordingly! In New Brunswick, the species, **Grass pickerel** (*E. americanus vermiculatus*) [8] a subspecies of **American pickerel** (*Esox americanus*), is widespread. It is a pike. In Ontario, anglers commonly use "pickerel" to refer to **Walleye** (*Sander vitreus*, also *Stizostedion vitreum*) [9], also called the walleyed pike, yellow pike, yellow pikeperch, or yellow pickerel… This fish belongs to the perch family (*Percidae*). Whatever your ice-fishing or other winter adventure, you will not have to worry about yellowjackets.

1. Dolichovespula arenaria. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolichovespula_arenaria
2. Taxon. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxon
3. Canada Jay. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_jay
4. Cougar. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar
5. Brown Bullhead. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_bullhead
6. Tamarack. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larix_laricina
7. Orange jewelweed. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impatiens_capensis
8. Grass pickerel. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_pickerel
9. Walleye. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walleye


Chain Pickerel (*Esox americanus vermiculatus*) / courtesy, PICRYL


Walleye (Sander vitreus) / courtesy, PICRYL



Sunspot / courtesy, Vecteezy

Northern Lights / courtesy, Public Domain Pictures

Parhelia / courtesy, Shutterstock

Rainbow / courtesy, Public Domain Pictures

Corona Mass Ejection / courtesy, Shutterstock

MEETING REPORTS

Fredericton Nature Club monthly meeting: **Thursday October 2, 2025**
Venue: **Stepping Stone Senior Centre**, Fredericton, NB
Guest speaker: **Curt Nason**
Title of presentation: "**Rainbows, Halos and Northern Lights**"
Attendance: **38** persons

Our President, Milda Markauskas, introduced the evening. There were few sightings. Milda spoke briefly about the President's report and asked the Treasurer and Secretary to speak about theirs. Milda then asked a former President, Dr Graham Forbes, to run the election since this was the first meeting of the year and, by our club Constitution, the appropriate occasion.

The three persons who were reoffering, namely, **Milda as President**, **Maxwell as Treasurer**, and **André as Secretary** were acclaimed. Our **new Vice-President, Larissa Simulik**, was introduced**. Barry Monson** moved that nominations be closed. **David Buck** seconded this motion.

Milda then introduced Curt Nason who had generously agreed to present to us in October as his presentation in April had been cancelled due to inclement weather. Curt dwells in Saint John. Incidentally, Curt has a column in The Telegraph Journal entitled "The Night Sky" with different topics on astronomy each week.

Roy G. Biv was on the first slide. "ROYGBIV is an acronym for the sequence of hues commonly described as making up rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. There are several mnemonics that can be used for remembering this color sequence, such as the name "Roy G. Biv" or sentences such as "Richard of York Gave Battle in Vain". [1]

Curt proceeded to talk about rainbows that, as we know, are caused by the refraction of light in raindrops. However, Curt described various rainbow phenomena of which most of us had little awareness, e.g., double rainbows in which the red appears at the bottom instead of the top, partial arc rainbows like red rainbows and fog bows, and full arc 360 ^{0} rainbows that can be seen from above, typically, from an airplane.

Curt then talked about other visual phenomena like supernumerary bows, iridescent clouds, coronas, haloes, parhelia (sundogs), sun pillows and subsuns, circumzenithal arcs, circumhorizontal arcs, and northern lights, and he gave brief explanations of the physics behind these phenomena. He proceeded to briefly discuss sunspots, prominences, coronal mass ejections, geomagnetic storms, auroral forms, and noctilucent clouds.

Thank you for a fascinating presentation, Curt. It was worth our wait!

1. "ROYGBIV." Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ROYGBIV

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*), displaying / photo by Kevin Kelly

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*), adult and fledgling / photo by Dr. Tony Diamond

Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*) and Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), MSI, June 2024 / photo by Ralph Eldridge

Fredericton Nature Club Meeting: **Thursday**, **6 November 2025**
Venue: **Stepping Stone Senior Centre**, Fredericton, NB
Guest speaker: D**r. Tony Diamond, professor emeritus at University of New Brunswick**
TITLE: "**Seabirds in a warming ocean: 30 years of research on Machias Seal Island**" [1]
ATTENDANCE: **36+**

Tony started off by noting that **Machias Seal Island** is managed by the **Canadian Wildlife Service** and by displaying a pie chart showing the status of the world's 346 seabirds of which 42% are threatened or near threatened and only 25% are stable populations. The next three slides include two photos of the island and a map situating the island in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine. M.S.I. is the largest seabird colony in the Gulf of Maine and a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Tony began research on the island in 1995.

Sea surface temperature around MSI is becoming warmer, and MSI seabirds' world is getting warmer while their food is getting less nutritious. 2012 was the year of greatest warming. Further slides show the Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), a pursuit-diver that nests among rocks but also in vegetated soil, which erodes over time; the Razorbill (*Alca torda*), also a pursuit-diver that nests in crevices among boulders; and, the Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) (bridled form), a third pursuit diver that in 2003 established a new colony, the southernmost in eastern North America. "Underground" Machias Seal Island also harbours a small colony of Leach's Storm Petrel.

Because of predation by Herring Gulls of Murre eggs and chicks, the nesting distribution of the latter species changed from open sites to caves without researcher assistance. Arctic Terns and Common Terns can be seen on MSI; both had a viable colony that was abandoned in 2006. Part of the problem with terns is that they are also threatened by gull predation. Tony stated that tern egg depredation on MSI increased after lethal control stopped.

The next sequence of slides was devoted to population trends and their causes with models by Sarah Durham. Here we begin to understand how much thinking, work, and attention to detail is required for valid research on biological topics, seabirds not excepted. Therefore, counting the nesting numbers of birds is uninformative unless we know about nest success and productivity. Determining the former requires the monitoring of marked nest sites while the latter requires banding and resighting (tallying banded birds) of many individuals.

A map showed collaborating seabird study sites in the Gulf of Maine while further slides graphically illustrated models and counts of the two auk species (Atlantic Puffin and Razorbill). Paradoxically, while rapid warming of the sea surface was expected to be unfavorable to cold-water species, one species' population (Puffin) has remained stable; another has increased sharply (Razorbill); and a third (Murre) has colonized and apparently thrived.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) / courtesy, Needpix.com

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), courtesy Pickpik

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) / courtesy, iNaturalist

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) / courtesy, 50 Ducks

The following colourful slides show the evolution of banding from plastic to readily readable metal bands.

Seabird trends can also act as indicators of changes in the marine environment. One of the amazing findings of the MSI researchers was that, beyond the fact that Puffin chicks fledge alone at night, at ~70% of adult size, Puffins are shrinking, i.e., becoming lighter. The next sequence of slides illustrates that to interpret changes in survival between nesting seasons we need to know where the birds go in winter; maps were shown of the results of GLS tagging of Mark Baran (puffins) and Mark Dodds (Razorbills). Brief results were shown of Stephanie Symons' work on feeding trips of nesting Puffins and Razorbills. Another UNB student, Quinn Carvey, showed that MSI puffins are genetically distinct from those nesting elsewhere in Canada.

Tony gave thanks to a number of organizations but especially to the **Canadian Wildlife Service** that has funded the seabird research on Machias Seal Island over many years.

Addendum: "What I forgot to say in my talk"

- Graham deserved a better answer to his question, how much time did you spend on the island? I would usually go at the start of the season (mid-May) for a week or so, depending on how experienced the crew was; another week or so in June, the busiest month, at least in the days when I was still fully mobile and could contribute to the physical work (that is, the first ten or twelve years), and in most years in mid-August about the time the pufflings fledged. In most years, the crew did not stay longer than that, so the season was about three months. Nowadays all I can do is band-resighting from one of the visitor blinds, of which there are four, three hours at a time. And tell stories of the 'good old days' when there were thousands of terns to attack you every day and keep you awake at night!

- Also, when Graham asked about rarities, I completely forgot to mention the two rarest – Tufted Puffin in 2014 and Ancient Murrelet in 2016 and 2017, both from the Pacific coast so must have reached the Atlantic 'over the top'. There was only one bird of each species. Northern Gannets have laid eggs or tried to in several years, between 2011 and 2018 but without hatching an egg, and not in more recent years.

- I described the stage at which Puffin chicks fledged (about 70% of adult weight, and able to fly), but not the Razorbills and Murres where, in both species, little chicks without fully developed wings are taken by their dad (not their mum!) to jump off the rocks into the water; they stay together for many weeks while the dad finds food for the youngster at sea. Tern chicks fledge fully feathered and able to fly, and most seem to accompany their parents at least in the first stages of migration in the fall.

- I should have mentioned that there have been two 'regime changes' in the ocean around the colony: one between 2000 and 2004 when an unusual amount of cold, fresh water, low in nutrients, entered the Gulf of Maine from the Labrador Current which is fed by melting ice from the Arctic; and another in 2010 when more water from the Gulf Stream (warm tropical water from the Caribbean) came in, also low in nutrients but with warm-water plankton and small fish which are low in fat because they didn't need to survive cold winters. So, there is more than warming and marine heatwaves to change in the ocean.

- I should also point out that there are no trees on MSI, nor any other kind of woody vegetation.

Thanks for a marvellous presentation, Tony!

Leach's Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates leucorhous*) / courtesy, eBird

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*) / photo, Peter Duguid

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) / photo, Peter Duguid

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) / photo, Peter Duguid

OUTING REPORTS

FNC Outing: **October Big Day**: **Oct. 11, 2025** from 8-10:30 am
Location: **Fields along the Gibson Trail in Marysville**
Leader: **Juan Sanchez**
Weather: 0 C., calm, clear, sunny
Report and photo submitted by: **Milda Markauskas**
Participation: **9** persons: Juan Sanchez, Derek Hogan, Peter Duguid, Sylvie Roy, Angie Cormier, Glenn Murdoch, Bob Gambol, David Buck, and Milda Markauskas
Bird Species: **22**

Wood Duck 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2
Mallard 10	Golden-crowned Kinglet 1
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 20	White-breasted Nuthatch 2
Wilson's Snipe 1	European Starling 3
Greater Yellowlegs 4	Hermit Thrush 2
Ring-billed Gull 3	American Robin 50
Downy Woodpecker 1	White-throated Sparrow 7
Eastern Phoebe 1	Song Sparrow 5
Blue Jay 3	Swamp Sparrow 1
American Crow 15	Yellow-rumped Warbler 3
Black-capped Chickadee 7	Northern Cardinal 2
	Dusky-eyed Junco 1

From l-r On October Big Day: Bob Gambol, Derek Hogan, Juan Sanchez, David Buck, Glenn Murdoch, Angie Cormier; photographer: Milda Markauskas

FNC Outing Date: **November 9, 2025** TIME: **10 a.m. - noon.**
Location: **Killarney Lake**
Leader: **Larissa Simulik**
Weather: 0 C., calm, clear
Report submitted by: **Larissa Simulik;** photo submitted by: **Maxwell Francioni**
Participation: **13** persons
Bird Species Tally: **15** species

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) / photo, Maxwell Francioni

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) / photo, Maxwell Francioni

Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) / photo, Maxwell Francioni

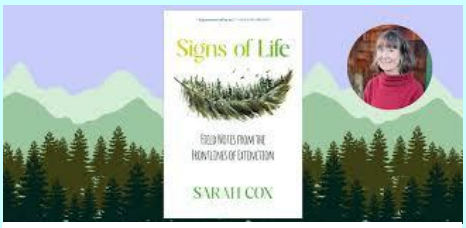
Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) /photo, courtesy Shutterstock

Species	No.	Species	No.	No.
Ring-necked Duck	100	Black-capped Chickadee	13	13
Hooded Merganser	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	4
Bald Eagle	1	Brown Creeper	4	4
Red-tailed Hawk (abieticola)	1	American Robin	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	Purple Finch	2	2
Canada Jay	1	Pine Siskin	1	1
Blue Jay	4	American Goldfinch	12	12
American Crow	4			

Here is the link to the eBird checklist for the day: https://ebird.org/checklist/S283799004

From l-r: Jess Blanchard, Derek Hogan, Sarah Fensore, Denise Weigum, Larissa Simulik, Mary Sabine, Rebecca Sabine / photo by Maxwell Francioni

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) / photo courtesy, Pixnio



Book Cover / courtesy, Ecojustice

Our own Dr. Graham Forbes makes an appearance in this book. The author consults him about a rare New Brunswick plant, Furbish's Lousewort


Furbish's Lousewort (*Pedicularis furbishiae*) / photo, courtesy Nature Trust of New Brunswick


"Streamside" / photo by Robyn Shortt


Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) / photo by Robyn Shortt

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Cox, Sarah. Signs of Life: Field Notes from the Frontlines of Extinction. Fredericton, NB: Goose Lane Editions, 2024

236 pages: ISBN 9781773102894 (e-book) ISBN 9781773102887 (print version)

Abstract: " What's to be done when only three spotted owls are left in Canada's wild? When [do] wolves eat endangered caribou, cormorants kill rare trees, and housing developments threaten a tiny frog? Environmental journalist Sarah Cox has witnessed what happens when we drive species to the brink of extinction. In Signs of Life, she tags along with the Canadian military, Indigenous guardians, biologists, conservationists, and ordinary people who are racing to save hundreds of species before it's too late. Travelling across the country, Cox visits the Toronto Zoo, home of Canada's only wildlife biobank, where scientists conserve living cells from endangered species in the event of future loss; tours Canada's military bases, home to some of Canada's last preserved ecosystems; and travels to Indigenous communities where land stewards are striving to restore the delicate ecological balance that has sustained people for millennia. Through the eyes and work of individuals who are bringing species back from the precipice, Cox delivers both an urgent message and a fresh perspective on how we can protect biodiversity and begin to turn things around. "-- Provided by publisher.

From New Brunswick Public Library System under call number, *via a hold*, as a regular print edition under call number **333.954216 COX**
Available from NBPLS via the Electronic Library New Brunswick Public Library System as a downloadable e-book (EPUB) at: https://elnb-bnnb.overdrive.com/media/10238123

Recommended

FINANCIAL PICTURE

Hi all! Hope you are staying warm as the nights grow longer and the days finally begin to cool. Thanks to the **thirty-seven** of you who have paid your memberships so far; accounting for the yearly fee for our website, **this puts our club's current funds at $2,837.85**. I encourage those of you who have not yet renewed your memberships to do so; as always, memberships are $25.00 payable by eTransfer to the club at **fredericktonnatureclub@gmail.com**, or by cash/cheque at our monthly meetings. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions and hope to you at future meetings and outings!

Maxwell Francioni
Treasurer, Fredericton Nature Club

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) / courtesy, Public Domain Pictures

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) / courtesy, Public Domain Pictures

American Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus or Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) / courtesy Shutterstock

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) / courtesy, Shutterstock

MISCELLANY

Audubon Photography Awards 2025: Winners
https://www.audubon.org/magazine/2025-audubon-photography-awards-winners?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20250917_null_apa-2025-winners&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20250917_null&utm_content=apa-2025-winners&emci=d0f8e620-ed8f-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=3212e8ee-df93-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=5432991

Audubon Photography Honourable mentions
https://www.audubon.org/magazine/2025-audubon-photography-awards-honorable-mentions?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20250921_null_apa-2025-honorable-mentions&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20250921_null&utm_content=apa-2025-honorable-mentions&emci=a125362d-6695-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=212ba2bf-1697-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=5432991

Correction: ***In the summer 2025 issue of the newsletter in the Monarch monitoring blitz report, Francie Morgan and Caitlyn Robert were incorrectly identified as members of the Nature Trust. They should be identified as Nature NB employees.***

Creamer, Ella. "Wainwright prize for nature writing awarded to memoir about raising a hare during lockdown," The Guardian, 10 Sept. 2025. https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/sep/10/wainwright-prize-for-nature-writing-chloe-dalton-raising-hare?utm_term=68c667f8f1114939daf993cd027a54d5&utm_campaign=Bookmarks&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=bookmarks_email

Team eBird. eBird Hits 2 Billion Bird Observations. 10 June, 2025. https://ebird.org/news/ebird-passes-2-billion-bird-observations

Grey, Shana. "Monitor traps show invasive bug rapidly spreading through city." Brunswick News, Sept. 19, 2025. https://mail.yahoo.com/n/list/folders=1&listFilter=PRIORITY/messages/77059?.src=ym&reason=myc

Mandelbaum, Brian F. "Buckle Up, Birders—This Winter Is Looking Finchy." Audubon Magazine. October 22, 2025. https://www.audubon.org/magazine/buckle-birders-winter-looking-finchy?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_20251024_joy-of-birds_%5baudience%5d&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20251024_joy-of-birds&utm_content=%5baudience%5d&emci=c868836c-6aaf-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&emdi=2688c8ee-05b1-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&ceid=5432991

Ranjit Daniels, R.J. "A lifetime of watching birds with a pencil, paper and patience [Commentary]." Mongabay, Oct 28, 2025, https://india.mongabay.com/2025/10/a-lifetime-of-watching-birds-with-a-pencil-paper-and-patience-commentary/

Team eBird. October Big Day – 11 Oct 2025. Cornell Lab, 5 Aug 2025, https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-2025

Membership:

Dues can be paid in-person, or via e-transfer to the club email address: frederictonnatureclub@gmail.com

2025/26 membership fees will remain as follow:

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

FNC website:
https://www.frederictonnatureclub.com/

Email webmaster at:
dlillynb@gmail.com

FNC group email:
frederictonnatureclub@gmail.com

Email our president at:
milda@nbnet.nb.ca

Email our vice-president at:
larissa.simulik@gmail.com

Email our treasurer at:
maxwellmfrancioni@gmail.com

Email the secretary at:
andre.vietinghoff@yahoo.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/

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. Image under Autumn 2025 heading courtesy,

Annexe: Mot de la Redaction

J'ai l'habitude de parcourir les photos du blog quotidien de Nelson Poirier, Nature Moncton Nature News (disponible via la liste de diffusion Nature NB). Parfois, le nom qui accompagne une photo me surprend. C'était le cas il y a quelque temps, lorsque j'ai vu le nom « Aerial Yellowjacket » (guêpe aérienne) et que je me suis demandé: « Qu'est-ce que c'est ? » Je ne connaissais que le terme « Yellowjacket » (guêpe jaune) appliqué à ces guêpes noires et jaunes plutôt gênantes et parfois agressives qui m'ont fait hurler lorsque j'ai marché sur un nid à l'âge de 9 ans et qui m'ont fait grimacer plus d'une fois depuis lors. Cependant, j'étais dans l'ignorance : il existe en effet une espèce appelée « Common Aerial Yellowjacket 1 » (Dolichovespula arenaria), également connue sous le nom de « sandhills hornet » (restez loin des dunes de sable !) et « common yellow hornet ». Il s'avère que les termes « guêpe jaune » ou « guêpe commune » désignent plusieurs espèces du genre Dolichovespula et du genre Vespula, notamment la guêpe jaune de l'Est (Vespula maculifrons), la guêpe aérienne (Dolichovespula arenaria) et le frelon à tête blanche (Dolichovespula maculata). (À bien y réfléchir, j'ai probablement rencontré la guêpe jaune de l'Est, qui est plus petite).

Quoi qu'il en soit, cela m'a amené à réfléchir aux noms des espèces biologiques que les scientifiques désignent collectivement sous le terme de taxons. Un taxon « est un groupe d'une ou plusieurs populations d'un ou plusieurs organismes considérés par les taxonomistes comme formant une unité... Si un taxon reçoit un nom scientifique officiel, son utilisation est ensuite régi par l'un des codes de nomenclature précisant quel nom scientifique est correct pour un groupe particulier. » 2 Un code standard est la nomenclature binomiale ou binaire. Linné est le précurseur de ce système. Certains d'entre vous se souviendront de la merveilleuse présentation que nous a faite le Dr Stephen Heard lors de la réunion du Fredericton Nature Club du 7 octobre 2021. Cette présentation était basée sur son livre « Charles Darwin's Barnacle and David Bowie's Spider » - Ce que les noms des espèces nous apprennent sur la science et les scientifiques. Vous pouvez lire le compte rendu de la réunion et ma critique du livre du Dr Heard sur le site web du Fredericton Nature Club dans le numéro de janvier-avril 2022 du bulletin d'information du FNC.

Mais je m'égare. Les naturalistes amateurs sérieux peuvent avoir l'ambition d'apprendre les noms scientifiques, mais la plupart d'entre nous utiliseront probablement un nom en anglais. Les noms qui vous sont familiers et ceux qui le sont à votre voisin peuvent varier considérablement et refléter l'endroit où vous avez grandi ou ce que vous avez lu. Voici quelques exemples de ces curieuses variations : Le geai du Canada (Perisoreus canadensis) 3, également connu sous les noms de geai gris, geai gris, voleur de camp, oiseau élan, gorby ou whisky jack; le couguar (Puma concolor) 4, également connu sous les noms de puma, lion des montagnes, catamount et panthère ; Le poisson-chat brun (Ameiurus nebulosus) 5, également connu sous le nom de poisson-chat, barboteur, mudpout, mud pout (ces trois derniers me sont familiers), mudcat, horned pout, , Hornpout et qui sait quoi d'autre (je me demande même s'il pourrait y avoir confusion en raison des noms familiers avec l'espèce apparentée Black Bullhead (Ameiurus melas). Les plantes ne sont pas à l'abri des noms multiples, à savoir le mélèze laricin (Larix laricina) 6, apparemment également connu sous les noms de mélèze de l'Est, mélèze noir, mélèze rouge, mélèze américain ou hackmatack (j'ai découvert le terme « hackmatack » lorsque j'ai déménagé au Nouveau-Brunswick). Il y a aussi l'impatiente orange (Impatiens capensis) 7, également connue sous les noms d'impatiente commune, impatiente tachetée, impatiente, touch-me-not tachetée ou baume orange. Il existe sans doute des centaines, voire des milliers de noms variés de ce type, et vous pouvez

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Calendar: Autumn '25/Winter '26 6:30 p.m. at the Stepping Stone Senior Centre

- December 4: Dr. Barry Monson on "Birding in Panama"
- January 8: Dr. Karl Phillips will talk about the wildlife he encountered on a 23-day trip to the Falklands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula
- February 5: Samuel Perfect will give a migration story about Long Point Bird Observatory
- March 5: Clara Thayssen
- April 2: Pat Nancekevill
- May 7: Larrissa Simulik

Ancient Murrelet (Synthliboramphus antiquus) / courtesy, iNaturalist

probablement en trouver beaucoup d'autres. Les noms locaux des taxons peuvent refléter l'usage local ou régional. Bien que cela puisse créer une certaine confusion, cela ajoute de la couleur à l'univers des noms d'animaux. Néanmoins, pour les noms anglais standard, le mieux est de consulter un guide de terrain réputé et à jour, un ouvrage de référence standard sur la famille animale ou, si vous êtes paresseux (comme moi), Wikipédia.

Alors... si vous envisagez de pêcher le brochet en glace cet hiver, assurez-vous de savoir exactement quelle espèce vous recherchez et choisissez le lac en conséquence ! Au Nouveau-Brunswick, l'espèce Grass pickerel (E. americanus vermiculatus) 8, une sous-espèce du brochet américain (Esox americanus), est très répandue. C'est un brochet. En Ontario, les pêcheurs utilisent couramment le terme « brochet » pour désigner le doré jaune (Sander vitreus, également Stizostedion vitreum) 9, également appelé brochet à yeux jaunes, brochet jaune, sandre jaune ou brochet jaune... Ce poisson appartient à la famille des percidés (Percidae). Quelle que soit votre activité hivernale, pêche sur glace ou autre, vous n'aurez pas à vous soucier des guêpes jaunes.

1. Dolichovespula arenaria. Wikipédia, l'encyclopédie libre. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolichovespula_arenaria
2. Taxon. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxon
3. Geai du Canada. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_jay
4. Couguar. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar
5. Barbeau brun. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_bullhead
6. Mélèze laricin. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larix_laricina
7. Impatiente orange. ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impatiens_capensis
8. Brochet maillé. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_pickerel
9. Doré jaune. Ibid. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walleye

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American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) / photo by Peter Duguid