BioLink

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The Official Newsletter of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists

Electrofishing Lake Brook ***(John Hayward Photo)***

Acadia Fund Over Halfway Mark

The Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists Donald G Dodds Scholarship Fund at Acadia University, launched in October of 2007, currently has a balance of $12,784.29 . "This is good news indeed" said ASFWB President Jason LeBlanc, who noted that the fund has grown faster than expected.

And there's more good news! Now that the $10,000 threshold has been reached, Acadia will be endowing the funds this year and hope to have the first award available for the 2010-2011 academic year. The payout typically varies with the economy, at 3 to 5%. LeBlanc notes "Thanks to all who have donated to make the scholarship a reality. It is important to keep contributing to reach $25,000 for a robust self- perpetuating fund that will support wildlife students for many years to come."

Smallmouth Bass Introduced to the Miramichi

by Rosemary Curley,
with significant editorial assistance from Mary Sabine
October 4, 2009

Smallmouth bass were first reported from the 221 hectare Miramichi Lake on Sept 26th , 2008 when an angler announced that he had caught one there earlier in August. When the Moncton Times and Transcript broke the news, the reaction was predictabley negative. "It's definitely detrimental to the local fish populations," said Sheri Strickland, spokeswoman for the provincial Department of Natural Resources. "It can be serious. It is serious". Likewise, Debbie Norton of the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee (MWMC) speculated that the introduction of smallmouth bass into the Miramichi River system could be devastating to the salmon and trout populations, as well as to the recreational fishing industry in the Miramichi region. The lake, near Napadogan, drains into the Miramichi River which is world famous for its Atlantic salmon

stocks. Within three days of the stunning report, fisheries biologists from New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and University of New Brunswick electrofished the lake shoreline and caught five young- of- the- year (YOY) bass. Over the next several weeks additional electrofishing was done in the lake and its outlet, the roughly five- kilometre- long Lake Brook, which enters the main Southwest Miramichi River. Gill nets, trap nets, fyke nets and angling were also employed. A total of 8 YOY bass were captured in the lake along with 6 YOY in the outlet, some as far as 300 meters downstream of the lake. Two older smallmouth bass (estimate 3-4 years) were also caught in the lake.

(Mary Sabine Photo)

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BIOLINK PUBLICATION

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http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/ASFWB/

In January, 2009 Department of Fisheries and Oceans hosted a meeting in Moncton to discuss the impacts of smallmouth bass on Atlantic salmon populations and the aquatic ecosystem and to conduct a risk analysis on bass impacts o the Gulf rivers.

Among the conclusions:

- When smallmouth bass are introduced into a water body, they prey heavily on smaller fish, can out-compete other fish species, and can become a dominant component of the food web.
- The overall risk to the aquatic ecosystem is considered to be high in the lake environment; smallmouth bass is expected to become a dominant component of the food web and to cause significant reductions in existing biota. The uncertainty is low.
- There is a high likelihood of widespread establishment of smallmouth bass in the Southwest Miramichi River and in the Gulf Region rivers in general.
- Riverine habitat is used preferentially by Atlantic salmon. Although the overall risk to salmon is considered moderate in the riverine environment, (albeit with high uncertainty) none of the consequences of smallmouth bass introductions will be positive for Atlantic salmon.
- The highest probability of controlling or eradicating non-native species is through the use of multiple approaches. The likelihood of success of controlling and/or eradicating the target species is reduced when control and eradication actions are delayed.

In 2009 the MWMC was awarded $25,000 from the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund and $19,550. from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund to continue containing smallmouth bass in the lake and outlet, assessing the extent of the bass invasion, and to remove any that were located. As of Sept 24th , 2009, they have removed 49 of the interlopers ranging from YOY to five- year-old fish. In the outlet, a total of 12 juvenile bass have been captured in the two years.

A mitigation committee composed of representatives from government, academia, NGOs, and industry are analyzing the growing data set and reviewing various options for containment and/or removal of smallmouth bass in Miramichi Lake and surrounding waters.

Since being introduced to waters in NS and NB, smallmouth bass currently known to occupy 188 lakes and rivers in Nova Scotia, and 69 lakes and 34 rivers in NB. For more information: http://www.dfo_mpo.gc.ca/CSAS/Csas/Publications/SAR_AS/2009/2009_003_e.htm

Containment fence at lake outlet. ***(John Hayward Photo)***

Sources: MonctonTimes and Transcript, October 15th, 2008

Barry LaBillois in Netawek Ikjilum Vol 4 Issue 4, 2009

Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Report 2009 003

Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation Website

Purple Finch ***(Scott McBurney Photo)***

Sick and Dying Birds in Your Yard

By Scott McBurney and Maria Forzan
August 7th, 2009

Over the past two summers, the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC), Atlantic Region has received numerous reports of sick and dying birds around bird feeders and water baths in people's yards throughout the Maritimes. The primary species affected are purple finch and American goldfinch, and a microscopic parasite, *Trichomonas gallinae*, causes their illness which is known as trichomoniasis (trichomonosis). This summer has been no different with widespread mortality of finches occurring throughout the region around people's homes. The CCWHC is interested in tracking this emerging disease problem to better understand its impact on wild bird populations, and would like to examine as many of the dead birds as possible. The CCWHC cannot advise or encourage members of the general public to handle dead birds. However, if an interested individual was inclined to collect a specimen, the following procedure should be practiced:

Place a plastic bag over hand and pick up the dead bird with hand covered by the plastic bag.

Invert the plastic bag over the bird and tie the top of the plastic bag. Wash hands well with warm water and soap. Deliver the dead bird in the bag to the local Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife or Canadian Wildlife Service office where it will be frozen and held for pick up at a later date.

Biologists, conservation officers and wildlife technicians have busy schedules and limited freezer space so it is up to their discretion to hold a dead bird for submission. Therefore, in Nova Scotia (NS) and Prince Edward Island (PEI), it is advisable to call the office prior to handling a dead bird to obtain their consent to cooperate. All submitted samples should have the following information included with them:

- Submitter's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if available).
- Date found, Location found and Number of dead or sick birds observed.

At this time, New Brunswick (NB) Department of Natural Resources is unable to participate in this targeted surveillance program. Howevver, you can record any mortality that might occur in NB by completing a Garden Bird Health Survey found on the CCWHC, Atlantic Region website http://atlantic.ccwhc.ca/ .

This fall, the CCWHC will pick up the birds that have been submitted in NS and PEI and examine them. Subsequently, a full diagnostic report will be sent to the person who submitted the bird(s) as well as the agency that held the specimen(s). This work would not be possible without public participation and the involvement of provincial and federal wildlife agencies. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. For further information, please contact CCWHC directly at 902-628-4314 or e-mail Drs. Scott McBurney (smcburney@upei.ca) or Maria Forzan mforzan@upei.ca

Identity of Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) in Atlantic Canada.

By Howie Huynh

October 5, 2009

The Canada lynx (hereafter lynx), *Lynx canadensis*, is a wide ranging felid in Canada. However, Lynx are extirpated from PEI and the NS mainland and are considered an endangered species in New Brunswick, and Cape Breton Island (CBI), Nova Scotia. They are faring better in insular Newfoundland (NF). The taxonomy of lynx remains mysterious, and populations in Atlantic Canada are now receiving greater attention. This is important for devising and implementing effective conservation strategies and management plans – the adage "you can't save what you don't know" applies here.

Probably the best mystery is the lynx from NF, *L. canaden-*

Working with lynx specimens housed at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. ***(Howard Huynh Photo)***

ASFWB 2008/09 FY Financial Sheet	to Sept 18, 09
Revenues	**Fiscal Year Totals ($)**
Parks Canada Donation	200.00
DUC donation	150.00
AGM Registration	1330.00
Student AGM Registration	270.00
Banquet Tickets	930.00
Silent Auction	660.00
50 / 50 tickets	60.00
50/50 winner donation	60.00
Spring Seminar Registration-Reg	495.00
Spring Seminar Registration-student	110.00
Regular Membership Fees	1000.00
Student Membership Fees	80.00
Merchandise	150.00
Subtotal	***5495.00***
Expenses	
Bank account fees/cheques	-48.23
AGM Banquet	-1298.16
AGM Facilities/lunch	-1209.51
AGM Student Award	-100.00
Newsletter	-109.73
Don Dodds Scholarship	-1856.00
Misc expenses (stamps, file box)	-11.87
Web Site Fees	-50.00
Spring Seminar Room and Meal	-1178.59
Spring Seminar speaker travel	-50.00
Subtotal	*-5912.09*
Balance Sheet 08/09 FY to Sept 18/09	-417.09
Bank Balance (Sept 18th, 2009)	**$1,402.00**

sis subsolanus, with the debate centering on whether the population described in 1897 should indeed be recognized as a distinct subspecies. In January of 2008, I decided to tackle this long-standing issue. On an impecunious budget, I visited and worked in many mammal collections, with several being housed in some of the world's largest and internationally renowned museums i.e., the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Boston); Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.); American Museum of Natural History (New York City); Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates (Ithaca); Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto); Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN) (Ottawa); Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh); the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History; and the New Brunswick Museum (NBM).

I collated morphological data from lynx voucher specimens spanning their entire geographic range with particular focus on those from Newfoundland. Given their past importance as a furbearer, lynx are relatively well represented in museum collections. Skins and skulls are the best features for identifying and discriminating mammals, with cranial material being most abundant in collections. I examined almost every intact lynx skull I could get my hands on, and measured the dimensions of several craniodental characters with digital callipers. Collaborating with Kamal Khidas (CMN) and Johannie Duhaime (MSc candidate at the University of Ottawa), we quickly assembled one of the most comprehensive data sets on lynx skull morphology.

(Howard Huynh Photo)

Lynx pelts deposited at the Canadian Museum of Nature.

Our findings, presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Zoologists at the University of Toronto and soon to be submitted for scientific publication, confirm that the lynx from NF are morphologically distinct. Their skulls are relatively smaller than that of their mainland counterparts, which is consistent with an "island rule" that seems to govern body size among mammals – i.e., medium to large-sized mammals are typically smaller on is-

lands than conspecifics on the mainland (dwarfism). NF lynx skins also have consistently manifest richer tones to the grizzled colouration on their pelage. Altogether, our results warrant retention of subspecies recognition of the lynx of NF.

The population of lynx from CBI has a unique ecological history. Lynx were once common throughout NS, but overharvesting quickly resulted in their extirpation on the mainland, with their last stronghold being on CBI. The construction of the Canso Causeway from mainland NS to CBI in the mid-1950s facilitated the arrival and establishment of other mesocarnivores such as coyotes (*Canis latrans*) and bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) that directly compete with lynx. As a result, the small and geographically disjunct population of lynx on CBI is currently restricted to the Cape Breton Highlands where deep winter snow excludes their competitors. Preliminary results of evaluation of a subset of lynx vouchers for CBI indicates that this population may also exhibit unique traits of morphological divergence. If lynx from CBI are taxonomically different, this makes a stronger case for their conservation.

Lynx in Atlantic Canada may face another, albeit more cryptic, threat as indicated by recently discovered lynx-bobcats hybrids in NB. Closely related species naturally hybridize in the wild, but such a union for endangered species like lynx may threaten the integrity of an already small population gene pool. Lynx-bobcat hybrids seem to inherit a mix of morphological characters from both parent species, and so far, all known hybrids are descended from lynx mothers and bobcat fathers. Considering that one voucher of a genetically confirmed hybrid from NB dates back to the 1980s, and that hybridization has been documented from other parts of the lynx's peripheral range where they overlap with bobcats (e.g., Minnesota), hybridization has likely been occurring for quite some time. The only sure-fire way of detecting hybrids is through genetic testing (by looking at several nuclear and mitochondrial DNA markers), but such an approach is not always feasible considering the resources required. With funding from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, I am collaborating with Donald McAlpine of the NBM, and Kamal Khidas and Roger Bull of the CMN to develop multivariate statistical models based on morphometric data from lynx, bobcat and known hybrid specimens, and applying them to putatively identified hybrids to determine model efficacy. If it works, it might help trappers, wildlife managers and museum curators to identify other hybrids in the future.

Conservation and management plans are dependent on correct taxonomy. Hence, the above taxonomic issues need to be resolved in order to justify and maximize resources devoted to protecting lynx in Atlantic Canada.

50 Years of Wildlife Education at Acadia.

By Glen Parsons
March 5, 2009

Planning is underway for a celebration at Acadia University in October 2011. In Don Dodds' book "Challenge and Response" he writes..." Dr. Chalmers Smith (Acadia) seemed to be offering me an opportunity to come there as a "visiting professor" and to set up the necessary courses which, combined with others, would lead to the equivalent of a wildlife degree. And so the embryo of a wildlife program began in 1961". So far an organizing committee has been formed and has come up with a list of graduates and addresses in order to keep everyone aware of the plans for the celebration. All Acadia Alumni who went through the program are encouraged to contact Glen Parsons parsongj@gov.ns.ca if they are interested in becoming involved.

Visit the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division's online newsletter "OurWildlife" at:

http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/publications/wildlife%20newsletter/our_wildlife_june2009.pdf

Federal Court Weighs in on SARA Critical Habitat

Verbatim from the website of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

September 14, 2009

The Federal Court has now delivered two recent decisions concerning the federal Species at Risk Act, S.C. 2002, c. 29 and the identification of critical habitat for species at risk listed in Schedule I of SARA (i.e.,a listed species). On July 9, 2009, the Federal Court quashed the Final Recovery Strategy posted by the federal Minister of the Environment for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Alberta Wilderness Association v. Minister of Environment, 2009 FC 710, because the Final Recovery Strategy identified insufficient critical habitat. On September 10, 2009, the Federal Court also quashed the Final Recovery Strategy for the Nooksack Dace by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in Environmental Defence Canada v. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, 2009 FC 878 for similar reasons. The decisions demonstrate that ENGOs are fully prepared to enforce the SARA in court, which will have important implications for project proponents.

http://subscription.osler.com/rs/vm.ashx?ct=24F76F1AD4AE4EE0CDD882A5D42E951C91907ABFDA9818CF5AE175767CEAC80BDF414

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At Abrams Village salt marsh

Conservation Volunteer Program Summer 2009

By Laurel Bernard

Sept 16th, 2009

Over 120 people joined forces with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) this summer as part of their Conservation Volunteer (CV) program in Atlantic Canada. Thirteen events were hosted in the region with over 600 volunteer hours directed to protection of ecologically significant areas.

The CV program provides Canadians an opportunity to help care for some of Canada's most important natural areas. Because it takes a lot more than just buying land to protect biodiversity, each event is designed to contribute to the long term health of protected areas. Daylong events allow volunteers to contribute to real priority work such as restoration (tree planting, seed collection); inventories and monitoring (birds, plants, insects); threat abatement and mitigation (ie. invasive species removal); and trail building and maintenance. For more information or to become involved, visit ww.conservationvolunteers. To sign up for the monthly electronic newsletter, visit MyNCC atd:

www.natureconservancy.ca

New Brunswick Biodiversity Strategy Released

Excerpts from NB Press Release June 18, 2009
(with a short introduction by Rosemary Curley)

New Brunswick is the first province in Atlantic Canada to prepare a biodiversity strategy, and it has coupled biodiversity conservation with sustainable use as suggested in the Biodiversity Convention. It notes on the one hand the low human population density in the province which has enabled wildlife habitats and populations to survive quite well to date, while at the same time stating that it is time to expand the human population as part of the plan for sustainable use and self-sufficiency. Such a balancing act is evident in many conservation programs today.

The comprehensive plan to conserve the New Brunswick's biological diversity was released in June by Natural Resources Minister Wally Stiles. The Biodiversity Strategy "will be a road map to achieving our twin biodiversity goals: conservation of the genetic, species and ecosystem diversity of New Brunswick; and the sustainable use and development of New Brunswick's biological resources," said Stiles. "With this plan we will be able to use our biological resources in such a way that we live off nature's interest without depleting its capital."

Among other things, the strategy reaffirms New Brunswick's commitment to work to achieve the national goals described in the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy (1995) and the Biodiversity Outcomes Framework for Canada (2006), and it identifies goals and outcomes that government, with willing partners, will work within its capacity to achieve. It addresses the importance of stewardship in biodiversity conservation, and the role that government can play.

SACKVILLE NB New Plant for Canada: Tall Horned Beakrush (*Rhynchospora macrostachya*), a new species for Canada, was discovered at Carrigan Lake, Queens County Nova Scotia in August 2009. Prior to the find, this species of Atlantic Coastal Plain affinity was believed to reach its northern limit in southern Maine. It was found by botanist David Mazerolle of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre in company with fellow worker Sean Blaney, and Sean Basquill and Lawrence Benjamin of Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. "It was the coolest thing we found in the last 10 years", said Mr Blaney. A journal note is anticipated. ***(D. Mazerolle Photo)***

"Now is the time to protect biodiversity, while New Brunswick's native plants, animals and ecosystems remain generally healthy. Here in New Brunswick we are still relatively rich in biodiversity as a result of good stewardship, resilient ecosystems and a low human population, so this is the opportune time to be conservation-minded as we work together to achieve self-sufficiency, and tackle challenges such as climate change." The strategy has widespread support within government.

Stiles said that achieving self-sufficiency by the year 2026 will involve increased industrial productivity and competitiveness, increased investment, the development of new markets, the diversification of resource-based industries, the establishment of an energy hub, and an increased population. "Self-sufficiency will greatly benefit the people of New Brunswick, but it also increases the challenges we face in maintaining biodiversity," said Stiles. "Given the increased risk to biodiversity posed by development, and the relatively good position we still find ourselves in today, the time is right for a biodiversity strategy that will work here, in New Brunswick."

The NB government intends to lead by example. "With the adoption of this strategy, our government will ensure that Crown lands, water and biological resources are used and managed in a sustainable manner to achieve our biodiversity goals," Stiles said.

The strategy was developed by staff from the departments of Natural Resources, Environment, Agriculture and Aquaculture, Local Government and Transportation. A draft version was circulated in 2008 to more than 55 stakeholders for review and input.

A Biodiversity Secretariat has been established within the Department of Natural Resources to provide advisory, logistical, planning and reporting support related to the strategy.

Exploding Moose Population posing Challenges for Gros Morne National Park, NL

Adapted from article by Cliff Wells The Western Star 23/06/09

TROUT RIVER - Jeff Anderson, the field unit superintendent for Parks Canada in western Newfoundland addressed the Great Humber Joint Council on June 20th and classified the exploding moose population there as one of the greatest ecological challenges to ever face Gros Morne National Park. He said it is a major issue that will need to be tackled in the near future. There has been study and debate for the past 30 years regarding the high density moose population of 4,800 - 12 to 15 per square kilometre in places. But the result of the moose preference for balsam fir browse is well known. Moose are changing the face of the park.

Anderson told his audience the parks mandate is to preserve the natural state representative of the west coast. Historically, he said, about 44 per cent of the park was boreal forest with about 90 per cent balsam fir. Now, after large-scale tree kills, such as with bugs or fires, the moose population is grazing on the young regenerating fir, so thistle and coltsfoot are allowed to grow. These plants are invading what used to be forest. "In some areas where we should have 20-year-old trees, we don't have any", Anderson said. "We're getting large areas of the park that are going from forested areas to non-forested areas and maybe even converting to grasslands and that's not a natural state of things for here. Our job is to protect that natural state." He said the issue is coming to a head where Parks Canada will have to do something about moose, but what that will be hasn't been decided yet.

Red-breasted Merganser *(Dwaine Oakley photo)*

Fall Hunt For Sea Ducks on PEI

The regulatory amendment creates a separate sea duck bag limit for: Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Longtailed Duck, eiders and scoters in Prince Edward Island. This limit is separate from the current regular inland duck limit.

This amendment also extends the hunting season to December 31st for these sea ducks listed above in Prince Edward Island. These amendments are intended to harmonize the Regulations across the Atlantic Provinces. Source: July 8, 2009 Canada Gazette vol 134, No. 14

Incidental Take of Migratory Birds in Canada

Canada seasonally hosts over 500 species of migratory birds, and it is the responsibility of Environment Canada to develop and implement policies and regulations to ensure the protection of migratory birds, their eggs and their nests.

While the Migratory Birds Regulations, under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, strictly prohibit the harming of migratory birds and the disturbance or destruction of their nests and eggs, many are inadvertently destroyed by activities such as mining, forestry and

agriculture, electrical generation and transmission, fishing, management of infrastructure, and urban development. This inadvertent destruction is called "incidental take" and is illegal. Environment Canada is proposing to amend the Migratory Birds Regulations to introduce new policy tools to improve the approach to managing incidental take of migratory birds and to conserving migratory bird populations.

The objective in managing "incidental take" is to support the long-term conservation and protection of bird populations with clear, effective and enforceable regulations that provide practical compliance alternatives for everyone.

This will involve

a) a clear regulatory strategy;

b) an effective implementation strategy;

c) a strong risk management framework;

d) a conservation framework; and

e) a broad consultation process.

Bird Conservation plans will be established for each Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) based on level 3 ecoregions of Canada. These plans will identify bird population objectives and recommend conservation actions. The plans will be the subject of targeted consultations.

For more in-depth information visit the source of this note: http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/mbc-com/default.asp?lang=en&n=17F9BCD1-1

Piping Plover - Needs for Research to Support Recovery

By Diane Amirault-Langlais, Canadian Wildlife Service, Atlantic Region Chair, Eastern Canada Piping Plover Recovery Team

As the Piping Plover is currently listed as endangered, a Recovery Strategy has been developed to fulfill obligations for recovery planning under the *Species at Risk Act*. Recovery Strategies summarize activities needed to recover species but also identify knowledge gaps that should be addressed in order to support recovery of the species. While some of the recommended studies have been initiated, much research remains to be addressed. The main research areas recommended in the Recovery Strategy are as follows:

i) Habitat-related research:

- the influence of invertebrate population distribution and abundance on habitat selection by plovers;

- identification of wintering grounds, threats that may exist there and wintering habitat conservation needs;

- characteristics of occupied habitat and comparing occupied habitat to apparently suitable but unoccupied habitat;

- the carrying capacity of habitats in eastern Canada and whether there is a need to protect or manage currently unoccupied sites in order to meet population recovery objectives.

ii) Research related to understanding threats:

- factors affecting reproductive success and survival (including adverse weather, oil spills, toxic chemicals, injury, and disease);

- identification of the predators of adults, eggs, and young and factors that may influence predation with the aim of developing management strategies to address predation;

- the impacts of all-terrain vehicles and other motorized traffic on invertebrate prey abundance and availability;

- the impact of sea level rise as a result of climate change on critical habitat designated under the *Species at Risk Act*;

- the response of plovers to disturbance, harassment, and habitat management.

iii) Research to evaluate management techniques:

- the success of ongoing recovery programs;

- the relative success of environmental assessment advice, of the accuracy of impact predictions for the purposes of environmental assessments, and of the effectiveness of recommended mitigation measures.

The Piping Plover Recovery Strategy is expected to be posted on the SARA Public Registry in the coming months.

Harlequin Duck Special Issue

Waterbirds Dec 2008 : Volume 31 Issue sp2

Congratulations to the authors !

No More Free Journals from NRC Research Press

by Rosemary Curley

Few things in life are free, but the National Research Council Research Press journals such as Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and the Canadian Journal of Zoology have been free online 'til now. This is soon to change! As a result of a review, the Government of Canada and the NRC have decided that the journals and services of NRCRP will be transferred to the private sector. After a 5% cut to NRC and other government departments, there'll be no more free articles on the Atlantic Cod, Atlantic Salmon, or otters in Terra Nova National Park.

A new not-for- profit entity will continue to publish Canadian and international research, and support Canadian scientific societies. The mission and objectives of the new publisher will remain largely the same as before. Since 2001, the journals have been provided electronically, free to all Canadians through support of the Federal Depository Services Program. This is still available in 2009.

However, the Depository Services Program can only provide funding to Federal Government publishers, which is why these journals will no longer be free. It is not known when free electronic access will be terminated, but definitely by the calendar subscription year 2011. Affordability will be a watchword with the new publisher.

Source:

http://pubs.nrc_cnrc.gc.ca/eng/publishing/RP%20Transformation%20Communique.html

Sandmining at West Point ***(Greg Wilson Photo)***

Sand Mining Comes to a Grinding Halt

PEI Gov't Press Release April 30th , 2009

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI - The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will no longer issue permits for sand mining on Prince Edward Island's beaches, Minister Richard Brown said today.

Following review of a study that looked at the impact of sand mining on erosion around the West Point lighthouse, the provincial government has decided that it can no longer allow the removal of sand from Island beaches, said Minister Brown. Sand mining, the excavation of beach sand, has been linked to the loss of coastal beaches – sometimes in areas well away from the mining site.

"The beaches and dunes of Prince Edward Island are beautiful parts of our Island landscape. But they are more than scenery, these beaches protect our shores from ocean erosion and provide a buffer against wind storms," said the minister. "Protection of our Island beaches is protection of the Island itself."

The department will continue to issue permits for removal of sand in cases – such as when sand has accumulated in a harbour – where the sand poses problems for boat traffic.

Wildlife Habitat Canada Celebrates 25 Years

by Rosemary Curley

The organization that made "Stewardship" a mainstream component of the operations of many non-government conservation organizations (as well as of government agencies) is celebrating 25 years of active encouragement in 2009. And money talks! Funded largely by the sale of duck stamps, WHC has given out over $ 57 million dollars for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat since its inception.

The $1.2 million grant allocation in 2008-09 has declined somewhat from that of the richer days of the mid '80s, but the mission to enlist the stewards has come a long way. In 1987, when I worked for government in the launch of

a WHC- funded wetland stewardship program, it was such a new approach that we spent quite a bit of time trying to pin down what it all meant. Now, according to Len Ugarenko of WHC " There is little need to debate the definition of stewardship, whereas simple recognition that stewardship is based on a wide set of intentions is sufficient for progress".

WHC has redesigned their website www.whc.org. and their logo

Declining Aerial Insectivores

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists held a workshop in Ottawa on Aerial Insectivores in March 2009, the results of which are given in the SCO Bulletin, Picoides Vol 22 (2), June, 2009 (online). The starting premise was that "Populations of aerial insectivorous birds appear to have declined, sometimes dramatically, over the past few decades. Independent analyses have illustrated these declines are a global phenomenon, occurring in Europe, the neotropics , and North America. " A major objective of the workshop was to construct testable hypotheses about the causes of the declines, which seem to be most severe in eastern North American populations.

Four potentially limiting factors were identified: (i) landscape change, (ii) toxic chemicals, (iii) climatic change and weather, and (iv) miscellaneous. Workshop outcomes included two tables of suggested approaches to address how and why aerial insectivore populations are declining. The top ten **data-mining approaches**, and top ten **new research projects** are listed.

L2F (Learn to Fish) Program, 2009 Wrap-Up

By Tara Marshall, Inland Fisheries Division
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

The L2F program, presented by the Inland Fisheries Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, has completed a very busy fourth year. Students, youth groups and educators enjoyed the interactive classroom component and were very excited to apply their knowledge in the outdoor fishing workshop. We have received many positive comments from students and teachers and are busy in planning for this upcoming spring session.

The program is geared towards youth aged 8-12 and consists of two main components: *classroom presentation* consisting of an introduction to freshwater sportfish in Nova Scotia, conservation education of freshwater resources, habitat characteristics, angling education (fishing basics made easy), and *outdoor presentation/lesson* consisting of a hands-on sportfishing workshop at a lake nearby. The angling education program recruits the next generation of stewards of our aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth.

This spring and summer the L2F program was delivered 33 times reaching youth from a variety of different backgrounds. The majority of the programs were presented in schools but some were done with cubs, scouts, youth at recreation day camps and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Inland Fisheries Division would like to thank all the supporting partners of the L2F Program. For more information on the Learn to Fish program, contact Tara Marshall at or call (902) 485-7028.

Josh Mailhiot Moves to the West Coast

Josh Mailhiot, MSc. a graduate of UPEI, has just begun a job as a biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. He worked in the trenches as an ecologist and environmental policy specialist in the Maritimes and in Ontario since graduation in 2007. Now he has moved to Nanaimo, BC, where he will be developing quantitative methods for assessing critical habitat for aquatic species-at-risk.

Good luck with your new job, Josh.

New Appointments At Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)

Andrew Boyne

Andrew Boyne is now Head, Species Recovery, responsible for delivering the species at risk program within the Atlantic Region, with an emphasis on recovery planning and implementation. He has worked for the CWS - Atlantic Region in the species at risk program since 1997 and has been acting as head of the Species at Risk Recovery Unit

since 2006. His work has focused on the recovery the Roseate Tern, Piping Plover and Harlequin Duck. Andrew chairs the Canadian Roseate Tern Recovery Team and the Atlantic Canada Tern Working Group. He was president of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists for four years and is currently past-president. Andrew graduated from Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, where he did his Honours thesis on small mammals. He received his Master of Science degree from McGill University in 1999, studying Herring Gull ecology in the Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve. He is stationed in Halifax.

Paul Chamberland

Paul Chamberland recently has been confirmed as Head of Program Planning and Coordination at CWS, Sackville, NB . A Montrealer, Paul obtained a BSc (Agr) in Wildlife Management from McGill, then worked with Ducks Unlimited and later as a National Park Warden in locales from Ontario to Newfoundland. In Fundy National Park he studied bears, leading to an MSc degree from Acadia University. Afterwards he moved from Terra Nova National Park to the CWS headquarters where he was the Science Advisor for Wildlife Trade, gaining experience in CITES and Alien Species issues. The call of the Maritimes was impossible to resist and in 2001 he moved to Sackville to work as the Regional Co-ordinator for the Habitat Stewardship and Ecological Gifts Programs. As Unit Head, Paul is responsible for the management of environmental assessment in the Maritimes, all regional CWS permitting, aboriginal liaison and in assisting the Regional Director on budgeting and reporting.

Kevin Davidson

Kevin Davidson is Manager of Ecosystem Conservation at CWS- Atlantic, responsible for the species at risk and habitat related programs in the Atlantic Region. Kevin pursued his post secondary education at the Universities of Victoria and Guelph resulting in a BSc in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and an MSc in marine biology and genetics. He began his career working on white-tailed deer in Ontario, and then moved to the Huntsman Marine Laboratory , St Andrews, NB, where he specialized in marine invertebrate taxonomy . In 1983.he began work as a salmon technician with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans He held a number of positions at DFO culminating with heading their salmonid hatchery, restoration and enhancement program in the Maritimes. In 1997 Kevin moved to CWS where he has been leading the development and delivery of the Atlantic habitat and species at risk programs for the past 12 years.

Dr. Kim Mawhinney

Dr. Kim Mawhinney , newly appointed Manager of Northern Conservation, is responsible for the management of the St. John's and Goose Bay CWS offices, and for the delivery of CWS programs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Kim received the Governor General's Award of Academic Excellence for both her MSc from Acadia University, where she studied Semipalmated Sandpiper migration through the Minas Basin in Nova Scotia, and her PhD from the University of New Brunswick where she researched Common Eiders and Great Black-backed Gulls in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine. During her student days she was able to receive support from CWS for her research and also undertook contract work to that end. Before joining CWS in a formal capacity in 2003, Kim worked on caribou in Gros Morne National Park and she was the species at risk co-ordinator for Atlantic Parks and National Historic Sites. Her work at CWS has included migratory bird research, species at risk programming and acting assignments as Unit Head for Species at Risk, Chief of Species at

Risk, and Manager of Population Conservation. She is located in St. John's, NL.

Dr. Martin Raillard

Dr. Martin Raillard has recently been announced as the Manager, Population Conservation Section, CWS- Atlantic Region Located in Sackville, NB, Martin is responsible for delivering the migratory birds and species at risk assessment programs in the Atlantic Region. He has a degree in Wildlife Biology from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and a PhD in Ecology from the University of Toronto. He started his career as an assistant professor in Environmental Science at U of T before taking on the job of Arctic Ecologist for Parks Canada for seven years. This work involved many months of fieldwork in remote Arctic locations, leading research teams conducting resource inventories and monitoring. After this he became Chief of Species at Risk Conservation for the CWS in Edmonton and then Manager of the Northern Conservation Division in Whitehorse, Yukon. Most recently, he worked as chair of an international polar program that brought all eight Arctic Nations together in coordinating their biodiversity monitoring and conservation activities. He led that project from the IUCN headquarters in Geneva, where he was posted in 2006/07. Before coming to Sackville, he spent 18 months in the Wildlife Science Division of Environment Canada.

Nova Scotia's First FUN (Families United with Nature) Event

By Tara Marshall
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture - Inland Fisheries Division

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters (NSFAH) launched the province's first FUN event on July 18, 2009 in Digby. The local hosts for the FUN day were Digby East Fish and Game Association. The one-day event took place at the Association's club house in North Range with instruction on two family oriented outdoor activities – fishing and camping.

The morning started off with families participating in the province's L2F (Learn to Fish) Program. The classroom component consisted of sportfish identification, freshwater habitat and environment, what fish eat, how old are fish and fishing tackle involving gearing up the rod. The outdoor component involved going to a nearby lake and applying what was learned in the classroom. Families headed to Haines Lake and tried their hand at fishing despite the rainy weather.

All of the families met back at the club house for lunch and then got ready for the afternoon portion of the event. The second half of the day included a hands-on session about the basics of camping. The classroom portion covered campsite selection, seasonal considerations and where to camp in Nova Scotia.

FUN partners include: Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection and The Trail Shop.

For more information on hosting a FUN (Families United with Nature) event contact Darlene Caldwell at (902) 798-4036

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- October 20-22, 2009. Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists AGM. Kouchibouguac National Park. Contact eric.tremblay@pc.gc.ca
- Nov 26-28 , 2009 Canadian Weed Science Society AGM, Delta Prince Edward, Charlottetown Prince Edward Island
- December 3-5, 2009. Species at Risk Stewardship Workshop. Old Ordhard Inn and Spa, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. contact Nicolle Davis 902-624-9888, email: nicolle@coastalaction.org, or visit www.coastalaction.org
- February 23 - 24, 2010. Nova Scotia Forest Health Conference (NSFHC), Holiday Inn, Truro, Nova Scotia. Look for web site or contact Chrissy Campbell for (902) 758 - 7238 campbecs@gov.ns.ca
- July 25_29 2010. Coastal Zone Canada 2010, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. January 15th, 2010 is the deadline for submitting abstracts to the international conference The theme is Healthy Oceans _ Strong Coastal Communities.

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