



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

• **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists October 6-8, 2010 Humber Valley Resort, Newfoundland.
For details see:
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/ASFWB/>
Or contact Casidhe Dyke
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Seeking Approval for Genetically Modified Salmon

by Todd Dupuis September 21st, 2010

Triploid Atlantic salmon combining genes from Chinook salmon and an ocean pout are being readied for production by Aqua Bounty Technologies of Fortune Prince Edward Island. The Genetically Modified (GM) Atlantic salmon grow to marketable size about twice as fast as conventional fish, enabling fisheries to increase profitability. Aqua Bounty needs to gain approval for the genetically modified fish

as a safe food from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at hearings beginning 20th September 2010 in Washington. If approved, the company has stated that the fast-growing fish (market size at 18 months vs. the traditional 30 mo) would be produced for the North American market in a land-based facility in Panama.

A number of organizations including the Atlantic Salmon Federation have voiced concerns with the plan. At least 1% of the fish will not be sterile, so for every 100,000 fish there could be 1000 capable of reproduction. There are genetic implications non-GM Atlantic salmon stock that the industry uses presently; crosses with wild stock have resulted in wild offspring with reduced fitness. The company suggest that the fish will not be released into the wild arguing that land-based operations are more secure. (See GM con't page 2)



Looking out for Chimney Swifts

by Karen Potter

Chimney Swifts were listed as a Threatened species under the Species at Risk Act in 2009. Since then, the Canadian Wildlife Service's Species at Risk Recovery Unit has been gathering reports of active and historic roost sites in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Chimney Swifts arrive in early May and roost communally in large chimneys. A roost is a gathering place during migration, a place for swifts to spend the night, or a shelter during inclement weather. Non-breeders may remain at a roost all spring and summer while the breeders disperse to nest. Six active roosts have been confirmed in N.S. and three in N.B., as well as several historical sites. The highest roost count

recorded for 2010 was 624 swifts observed by Ken McKenna entering the chimney at the Temperance St. School in New Glasgow, N.S.

With support from the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Fund for Species at Risk, Bird Studies Canada is coordinating a fall workshop. The purpose is to bring together those interested in Chimney Swift monitoring and conservation efforts to discuss a formal monitoring program for the Atlantic region. Contact Karen Potter, Species at Risk Recovery Biologist, CWS (Karen.potter@ec.gc.ca; 902-426-2578) for more information on the fall workshop or to report a historic or active roost.



Swifts drop into McGowan Lake chimney, July 19, 2010

"Releases of GM fish in the vicinity of wild salmon rivers could have dire consequences."

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

GM Salmon...

There is speculation that some countries that produce Atlantic salmon may want the stock for open sea pen operations. Chile was once the second largest producer of aquaculture salmon but operations have been knocked back in recent years due to disease issues. If Chile decides to use the stock and it performs as Aqua Bounty suggests, then the remaining producers may not be competitive. Even though the aquaculture industry in North America is on record saying it does not support the new technology, it may need to reconsider if it cannot compete on the world market. Open sea pen operations are notorious for leaking fish and mishaps with storms, accidents and encounters with large marine mammals are not uncommon. Releases of GM fish in the vicinity of wild salmon rivers could have dire consequences.

As of today, FDA veterinarians were recommending that more testing of possible allergens in the food product be done.

Source: Medical News today, Sept 21, 2010

Link:

<http://health.nytimes.com/health/guides/test/growth-hormone/overview.html?inline=nyt-classifier>

NB Man Fined and Jailed under Fish and Wildlife Act

25 August 2010

BATHURST Cooperation between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia enforcement officers and a little help from the public resulted in NB Provincial Court Judge Ronald Leblanc handing out a \$15,200 fine and 42 days of jail time to a poacher of moose, deer, and bear. Ronald Gauvin of Allardville was charged with two counts of hunting moose out of season, two counts of selling moose meat, one count of possessing an illegal deer, and one count of possessing an illegal bear.

Gauvin came to the attention of Department of Natural Resources conservation officers during a two-year joint forces operation with their Nova Scotia counterparts. Operation Millstream targeted the illegal sale and harvest of moose in the Bathurst area.

Source: Abbreviated from NBDNR Press Release

Geolocators Recovered from Bicknell's Thrushes

Reprinted with permission from BSC news

6 July 2010 - BSC Atlantic staff Joel Ralston and Avery Bartels have recovered two geolocators from Bicknell's Thrush in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. These tiny, data-collecting backpacks were placed on the birds in June 2009 and spent the last year logging sunrise and sunset times experienced by the birds carrying them. These data will ultimately be translated into location information indicating where the birds went on migration and during the non-breeding months. An additional eight geolocators have been recovered in Québec by collaborators with the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada.

The geocator project is being conducted as part of a range-wide study to examine migration patterns and wintering locations of this rare songbird that breeds in high elevation forest in northeastern North America and winters in the Greater Antilles. The project involves personnel from Bird Studies Canada, University of New Brunswick, Environment Canada, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, the State University of New York, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and the British Antarctic Survey. For more information on geolocators, visit the British Antarctic Survey

website <<http://www.birdtracker.co.uk>.

Cape Breton Marten Augmentation Project

by Peter Austin Smith



Marten historically occurred throughout much of forested areas of Nova Scotia as far back as 1867, approximately 1,000 marten pelts were shipped annually from the province, however only one pelt was exported in 1931, thus the species was provincially protected in 1933. Unregulated trapping in settlement times as well as habitat changes likely contributed to the marten's decline. Only a few persisted in southwest Nova Scotia and around the greater Cape Breton Highlands National Park (CBHNP)

More recently, individual sightings, track reports, and the occasional accidentally-trapped animal have turned up on the CB highland plateau and associated valleys. During heavy trapping activity for other furbearing species in 1979, 1980, and 1982, six animals were turned into the Department of Natural Resources, with none reported since. A marten was trapped in southwest Nova Scotia in 1979, and more have been trapped following a translocation project in Kejimikujik National Park between 1986 and 1994. The Cape Breton population was provincially listed as Endangered in 2001 and is currently persisting at very low numbers.

With such a small population in CBI and no nearby populations to supply immigrants, translocation or the release of captive bred animals is likely the best route to recover marten there. Translocation has worked well in other areas. Recent analysis suggests that the marten in Cape Breton are genetically similar to other northeastern North American populations, but suffer from low genetic variation.

A project was undertaken by Parks Canada, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and the Nova Scotia Marten Recovery Team to determine the feasibility of translocating wild, live-trapped marten, and/or releasing captive-bred marten to Cape Breton. The objectives were to determine if there was an adequate amount and configuration of marten habitat and prey in Cape Breton, whether there was a suitable source population available for reintroduction, potential interspecific impacts, and legal and implementation requirements. As well, a communications

plan, monitoring techniques and evaluation criteria were proposed.

In Northeastern North America, marten are closely associated with extensive stands of mature/"overmature" coniferous or mixed forest with tree cavities for denning. Deadfalls provide additional shelter for prey mammals and subnivean entry points in winter. Currently, in northern areas of Cape Breton there are about 50 000 ha of marten habitat, and habitat forecasts predict there will be over 100 000 ha in 2030. Eight potential reintroduction areas were identified based on the habitat, management zone, and status as protected areas. Initial releases sites were selected near the Trout Brook, North River, and Middle River Wilderness Areas, and at two locations (Cheticamp River and Aspy) within CBHNP.



Paul Tufts, Nova Scotia trapper and retired NSDNR regional biologist and Ed Coutreau, New Brunswick trapper, set a live trap for Marten in northern NB. The green boughs are used for camouflage.

Marten from New Brunswick were identified as the most suitable source population; it would be possible to remove 30-50 marten a year over three years, with a goal releasing 90-150 animals. Although there are captive-bred marten at Shubenacadie NS, it was decided wild caught marten would be more likely to survive translocation. NB marten were captured from spring 2007 to fall 2009. All marten were PIT tagged, weighed and had DNA (hair) samples collected for later analysis, if needed. Some male marten were radio collared to provide information on movement and habitat use. These animals continue to be monitored when helicopter support is available.

Marten Project (con't)

There are many project co-operators. Stora Enso, Parks Canada, and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources provided assessment. The Trappers Association of Nova Scotia, and Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources offered to assist with monitoring via radio-collared animals, track-plates, remote cameras, live-trapping, snow track surveys, carcass collection and incidental reports.

A total of 128 animals have been moved and released over a four year period. The different stages of the project will be evaluated at years two, five and ten. Are mortality rates acceptable, have the separate sub-populations been linked together, and is the population increasing into lowland areas? Is there is a free-living viable population of marten on CBI? Time will tell.



Martin Release

Unusual Summer on the Miramichi

by Rosemary Curley

The salmon sports fishery on the Northwest Miramichi took an unusual turn when Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Gulf Region issued a variation order on June 25th, restricting Atlantic Salmon fishing to catch and release only. The decision was made for

conservation purposes based on scientific assessments that predicted spawning escapement would be less than 20% of that needed to sustain a fishery on that system.

The surprise variation order stimulated the Province of New Brunswick to make refunds available to Crown reserve anglers affected by it. Natural Resources Minister Wally Stiles announced the refunds effective Wednesday, June 30th for 10 regular Crown reserve stretches and one daily Crown reserve stretch. Stiles elaborated "Given that successful parties have already paid for their respective Crown reserve licences, with the understanding that grilse can be retained, we have decided to offer refunds for the Northwest Miramichi and its tributaries should these parties not wish to participate in hook and release angling,"



Shortly afterwards things began to heat up. A good run of salmon did enter the system but DFO was forced to close angling on July 9th to all fishing methods in some tributaries of the Northwest Miramichi (Wilson Brook, Sutherland Brood and Indian Town Brook) due to the high water temperatures and fears of angling-induced mortality. According to Atlantic Salmon Federation, reports of salmon mortalities among both adults and juveniles were coming in from many different sources from all over the Miramichi system. Some have lamented that DFO reaction to the poor conditions was delayed too long, whereas in Newfoundland, DFO responds quickly to water temperature problems and there is an established protocol in place to conserve salmon. No doubt, with the unusual summer, it was a

learning experience for everyone.

Sources: DFO Close Time and Quota Variation Order 2010-063 NB DNR Press Release, 29 June 2010

DFO Close Times and Quota Variation Order 2010-072 ASF Website Reports June 25th and July 12th, 2010

Deer Ticks Showing up in Newfoundland

July 16, 2010

The Department of Natural Resources, Animal Health Division, is encouraging pet owners to examine their pets for deer ticks as a significant number of the ticks have been reported on pets in western Newfoundland. The ticks are responsible for spreading Lyme disease in animals; however, only dogs and humans are known to get sick from the disease.

"We have had two known cases of Lyme disease in animals in this province in the past, in 2004 and 2006, both in dogs on the west coast," said Dr. Hugh Whitney, Chief Veterinary Officer. "So far in 2010 we have seen 19 deer ticks from across the island, almost all removed from pet dogs, with one coming from a cat."

The symptoms of Lyme disease in dogs include lameness, loss of appetite, fever and loss of energy. Affected animals usually respond well to treatment Anyone finding a tick on their pet should remove it carefully with tweezers and take it to their local veterinary clinic where risk of Lyme disease infection can be evaluated.

Lyme disease is spread by deer ticks that attach themselves to migratory birds each spring. Between 10-15 per cent of deer ticks tested in NL carry the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. No human cases of locally acquired Lyme disease have been reported in NL.

The deer tick exists permanently in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with no known permanent populations in Newfoundland.

Source: Abbreviated from NL DNR Press Release

President's Message

Jason LeBlanc



When I planned to attend our 43rd annual meeting of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists which was held at the Bonne Bay Marine Station in Norris Point, Newfoundland in 2006, my goals were to simply give a solid presentation on some recent research, explore the area and network with colleagues from around the region. Little did I know that what I was getting myself into was four of the most interesting years of my career. I will, however, be ending my term as President at our 47th annual meeting. I hope to be able to see all of you in the beautiful Humber River Valley region of western Newfoundland in early October. It has been a privilege to serve as your President over the last four years. I continue to be overwhelmed by the talent pool in our region and the diverse list of disciplines that are represented by our membership. I have learned from so many of you over the last four years and have often been able to apply what some of you are doing to my own research. I strongly feel that this is one of the unique and exciting aspects of our Society. We do an excellent job at providing a venue for learning and sharing ideas and for keeping members informed about current problems and issues

in fisheries and wildlife biology around Atlantic Canada. I hope all of you will continue to exchange expertise and information and promote the wise use and management of fish and wildlife resources throughout our region. I also encourage you to celebrate your successes as well as those of your colleagues and fellow Society members.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to those of you who I have worked with on the Executive over the last four years. Our Society is where it is today because of your commitments, expertise and passion for what we represent. I am looking forward to continuing to serving the Society and the membership as Past President and other in capacities where possible. Please consider joining us at our 47th Annual Meeting and share your research, learn more about what others are up to from around the region and explore one of the most interesting ecological areas of Canada. I sincerely have enjoyed my term as President, thank you all for supporting the Society and I wish everyone well.

Changes to CEAA Implemented in Budget Omnibus

Back in April, the Green Budget Coalition denounced a move by the government to weaken the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). Proposed changes to the CEAA were contained in the 2010 budget bill, the Jobs and Economic Growth Act. Many of the proposed changes were not outlined in the Speech from the Throne, or in the text of the 2010 Budget. However, because they were included in the budget implementation bill, they were implicitly backed by the threat of an election.

As explained by Barry Turner, Green Budget Coalition Chair "The budget should not be used as a

mechanism for weakening Canada's environmental protection laws. These environmental laws are essential for improving Canadians' well-being and achieving sustainability, by reconciling economic, social, and environmental elements of development projects. Any proposed changes to these laws should be thoroughly reviewed by the House of Commons Environment Committee, and separately voted upon by parliamentarians, without an election hanging in the balance."

The Senate Committee reviewing the bill first voted to remove the offensive parts and the next day the full Senate restored them - Bill C-9 passed as it was. A signal was at least sent that it was the wrong process. One change facilitated fast tracking "Build Canada" projects, removing the need for normal assessment procedures. You can read the Bill on the Federal parliament website. Also, check out <http://www.greenbudget.ca>.

UPEI and Holland College announce joint Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation

June 1, 2010

Charlottetown, PE - The University of Prince Edward Island and Holland College have developed a joint Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation program that is set to begin in September. Students who have graduated from the two-year Wildlife Conservation Technology diploma program at Holland College are now eligible to apply for entry into the new degree program at UPEI. They will be required to complete two years of study within the department of biology in the Faculty of Science. This sort of "applied degree" is certainly a new feature in wildlife training in Atlantic Canada.

The Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation program combines the practical, theoretical, and analytical strengths of Holland College and the University of Prince Edward Island courses for students interested in obtaining more rigorous training in

wildlife conservation. Increased knowledge of the scientific and social issues involved in conservation management, combined with a more complete set of analytical skills, will provide graduating students with the tools necessary to address the complexity of problems in this increasingly important field.

"This new program is an excellent opportunity for our two provincial post-secondary institutions to offer a unique learning experience for students. We expect it to attract attention well beyond the shores of PEI," says Dr. Christian Lacroix, UPEI Dean of Science.

"Agreements such as this provide Holland College students with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of their chosen field" says Ben Hoteling, Learning Manager for the Wildlife Conservation Technology program at Holland College. "The Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation program will enable our graduates to enter the workforce fully equipped for the challenges ahead."

Scholarships & Awards

Dr. Neil Simon Memorial Scholarship

The Dr Neil Simon Memorial Scholarship Award was created in 2006 through the many donations of friends, family, and colleagues of the late Neal Philip Perry Simon (1973-2006). The annual scholarship, valued at \$1000.00 intends on providing financial assistance to residents of Labrador pursuing a post secondary diploma or degree in the natural resources, ecological, biological or environmental fields. The awarding of the scholarship will be based on financial need and/or school volunteer activities, academic ability and environmental conservation interests.

Application information can be obtained from:

The College of the North Atlantic,
Dr Neil Simon Memorial Scholarship
PO Box 1720 Station B
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL A0P 1E0
Postmark your application by March 31st of each year

Any questions can be directed to Valerie Sheppard (709) 896-6306 or email valerie.sheppard@cna.nl.ca.
Source: *Verbatim* from Can Field-Naturalist: 122(2): 194

Stan Rowe Home Place Graduate Award

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the third Stan Rowe Home Place Graduate Award

Next deadline, likely in December, will be announced shortly.

The Award is a cash award of at least \$1,000 granted annually and is available to a graduate student studying in Canada and engaged in research related to CCEA's Mission. Priority will be given to projects having an emphasis on an ecosystem or landscape-based approach to selecting, establishing or managing protected ecological areas.

More Information:

http://www.ccea.org/en_stanroweaward.html



Students from the Holland College Wildlife Conservation Technology program get practical experience in the field.

The science behind a wildlife biologist's pay

(Submitted by Whitney Kelly-Clark)

The Salary Theorem states that "Wildlife Biologists can never earn as much as business executives and sales people."

This theorem can now be supported by a mathematical equation based on the following two postulates:

1. Knowledge is Power.
2. Time is Money.

Now, recall from physics class:
Power = Work / Time

Since Knowledge = Power, and
Time = Money, then Knowledge =
Work / Money.

Solving for Money, we get: Money
= Work / Knowledge.

Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, Money approaches infinity, regardless of the amount of work done.

Conclusion: The less you know, the more you make

Kouchibouguac National Park - Piping Plovers, Predation and Plover Program

by Gabrielle Beaulieu MSC candidate
Dalhousie University
September 13, 2010

A remote camera monitoring study of Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus melodus*) nests in Atlantic Region Parks was set up to help investigate the threat that predators pose to Piping Plovers and how we might better be able to address these threats through modification of predator exclosures or through predator control. The study was initiated in 2008. It is part of an ongoing multi-year project aimed at boosting the Atlantic Canadian population of piping plovers, thereby enhancing the ecological integrity of the National Parks involved and incorporating visitor engagement. Not only does this project hold great scientific value in terms of behavioural ecology, but also the potential for public engagement through this study is without precedent. As an educational tool, interested visitors (and eventually internet users) could watch a live stream of incubating Piping Plovers on beaches within National Parks and learn about the threats facing plovers and the work being done within Parks to mitigate those threats.

In year 3 of the 4- year study, four nests were outfitted with video cameras amounting to over 600 hours of continual night and day footage. This footage will be watched and analyzed by an MSc student at Dalhousie University over the fall and winter months. From this footage, Piping Plover predators will be identified and the intimate nesting behaviours of breeding Piping Plovers described. We've already captured predation events on camera during the pilot years of this study; confrontations between a parent plover and a herring gull and the nonchalant way of a crow approaching a nest were of particular interest!

Our team of 7 summer students carried out a busy monitoring and recovery program in addition to installing and maintaining the remote video cameras. We also had several volunteers assist us with the placement of nest exclosures, beach closure signs and video cameras; Kouchibouguac National Park is hoping to develop a Piping Plover Volunteer Guardian Program in an effort to instill a coastal conservation ethic in local communities and Park visitors. Morale was high once nests started hatching in June.



A total of 10 pairs and two singles were on our beaches and of 11 nest attempts, we had 8 successful hatchings resulting in 18 fledglings! The number of nests and pairs is down slightly in comparison to 2009, however productivity is up amounting to 1.8 fledglings/pair vs. 1.6 fledglings/pair in 2009. A single Plover that had been banded in the Bahamas over the winter as part of a study coordinated by Dr. Cheri Gratto-Trevor arrived in early June on Kelly's Beach. This bird was later sighted at Cape Lookout, North Carolina, on fall migration!

Overall, this was a very successful year filled with sand, sun and little plover chicks tirelessly running and feeding along the beaches of Kouchibouguac National Park. We are looking forward to the results from our camera study.

(Left) Gabrielle measures a 3m point of reference from the edge of a plover nest for later use in video analysis of how far approaching predators are from the nest cup. The nest was the first to receive a camera and later yielded 3 fledglings after surviving a close call during a very high tide storm in early June.



The nighttime camera catches a red fox at a piping plover enclosure.

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New Hunting Season Regulations

NSDNR, June 23, 2010.

In an effort to attract more young people to the joys of hunting, changes to regulations will allow youth age 16 to 19 years of age to hold a guide licence.

They can serve as a guide when supervised by a licensed guide older than 19. Hunters 12 to 15 years of age will now be eligible to take guide courses.

In another rule change, hunters with a disability will now be permitted to hunt on their own, providing someone is available to help retrieve game.

Other changes will be:

- doubling of the bear snaring bag limit to two
- repealing the mandatory registration of bait sites for hunting bears, making it consistent with the regulations for snaring bear and hunting deer
- allowing the use of camouflage orange garments while hunting (in addition to blaze orange)
- allowing the use of crossbows in all hunting situations where conventional bows may be used, except the special open season for bowhunting deer
- allowing the use of .410 slugs for deer hunting and larger shot sizes (buckshot) for hunting big game, coyotes, furbearers and certain small game, as safe alternatives in higher populated areas where animals such as deer are creating problems.

Sable Island to become National Park

May 18, 2010

Natural Resources Minister John MacDonell and Jim Prentice, Minister Responsible for Parks Canada have announced that the province and the government of Canada will take the necessary steps to designate Sable Island as a national park under the Canada National Parks Act. A Canada-Nova Scotia Sable Island Task Group was asked to do the legwork to move the process to this stage.

"The national park designation gives Sable Island the highest level of protection of its natural and cultural features," said Mr. MacDonell. "The next step is to hear from Mi'kmaq and others as we work with the federal government on an agreement to conserve and manage the island for present and future generations."

Mr. Prentice said. "In this the International Year of Biodiversity, what better way to celebrate than by ensuring the long-lasting protection of Sable Island, its majestic horses and some of the rarest birds and wildlife in Canada by designating it a national park."

The ministers also announced that public consultations on the conservation, management and operational issues with the designation would begin soon. After consulting Mi'kmaq, the public, stakeholders and others, the governments will negotiate an establishment agreement to designate the area for protection under the Canada National Parks Act.

Sable Island is home to the Ipswich Savannah sparrow, and colonial nesting herring gulls, great black backed gulls, and common terns. It also supports the world's largest congregation of breeding grey seals, along with harbour seals. The wild horse population, fluctuating between 150 and 400 animals, was introduced shortly

after 1738. The island is 40 kilometres long, and is composed entirely of unconsolidated sand, stabilised primarily by vegetation cover and ocean currents. Its primary habitats are native grassland and mud/sand flats.

Final MBBA Field Season Complete

From BSC News

22 September 2010 — The last of five field seasons for the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas (MBBA) has just wrapped up. Volunteers, Regional Coordinators, and staff focused their 2010 field survey efforts on "priority" squares in several regions. The MBBA met its five-year goal of a minimum of 20 survey hours and 10 point counts in all priority squares. From 2006-10, volunteers and field staff spent 44,000 hours atlassing, and gathered close to 250,000 breeding bird records. MBBA staff, partners, and supporters extend a huge thank-you to all volunteers for this incredible effort!

The project now moves into a new phase of data analysis, and production of the book and web-based data products. The next imperative is to transform the immense dataset into easily-understandable and strategic information, and then to promote the use of this knowledge to guide the conservation actions needed to preserve wild birds and their habitats.

The Striped Bass Research

Collective www.stripedbass.ca

has been set up to promote communication in striped bass research. It is a great spot to share project news. A data portal is under construction to permit angler input and to store actual fish data online. Contact Trevor Avery at Acadia University, stripedbass@acadiau.ca to get involved with the site.



Biologist Joins Order of Prince Edward Island

Diane F. Griffin is one of three 2010 recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island announced on June 18th by the Chancellor of the Order, Her Honour the Honourable Barbara A. Hagerman, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.

Every day we hear of dangers to our environment due to inaction on climate change, the incapacity to stop oil spills at sea, and, closer to home, how a damaged fuel tank threatens the soil around a church, business or home. Such events seem completely beyond our control or influence.

Diane Griffin, born in Traveller's Rest PE to a farming family, and for some time a resident of Stratford, PE, whether employed at universities or within governments, has taught, written and developed policies on ecological issues to change how we think, to empower us with knowledge and to ensure that succeeding generations will, in the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, meet nature "face to face" and enjoy "an original relation to the universe."

This well-known biologist and naturalist has worked to maintain, restore and extend natural areas in Prince Edward Island, as well as in Alberta. Griffin is currently the P.E.I. Program Manager for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Her articles and talks, provincially and nationally, have influenced many

Biologist Joins Order of Prince Edward Island (con't)

people directly, distributing further the message that protecting the wilderness is within the power of everyone, and essential for the well-being of the whole planet. Griffin has been commended by many. In 2008 alone she received both the Hon. J. Angus MacLean Natural Areas award, presented by Island Nature Trust, and the Prince Edward Island Environmental Award.

Griffin's energy and determination in promoting smarter land protection have been seen in such things as her successful advocacy that valuable wetlands and dunes at Greenwich, once slated for condominium development, instead become part of the National Park. In Stratford she has been a supporter of the bus system as well as efforts to reduce light pollution through a dark-sky initiative. She has also taken fellow Rotarians out on nature walks

Those examples show us Griffin's capacities, and point out that when individuals take intelligent action to rescue parts of the environment nearest their homes, they contribute to the betterment of the province, the country and beyond. Our Island's culture is expressed, partly, in our stewardship of nature. When we take care of it we reaffirm, often in intangible but felt ways, some of our society's strongest beliefs, and hopes for the future. The English poet Milton considered it was "...an injury and sullenness against Nature not to go out, and see her riches, and partake in her rejoicing with heaven and earth." Diane Griffin enriched herself through her studies and labours, and by doing so has been able to help us partake in the beauty of the wilderness around us, which can seem imperilled by immense forces at times. She has also given us ideas and strategies for preserving both nature and our provincial identity.

Diane will receive her award on October 6th.



Mark McGarrigle, MScF, BScF, BSc (biol) began an 8 month contract with DFO Gulf Region, working on Species at Risk on July 26th. This follows an extended period with NB Fish and Wildlife Branch working on Gulf of St Lawrence Aster, the Cobblestone Tiger Beetle, and other NB species at risk. He is making the leap from forest to ocean—let's hope it is a soft landing.

Staff Changes at Nova Scotia Wildlife Division

Julie Towers, past Director of Wildlife, is the new Executive Director, Renewable Resources, NS Department of Natural Resources. Congratulations to Julie.

Mike Boudreau is the new Human Wildlife Conflict Biologist. This may involve Coyotes!

Randy Milton is seconded to Environment Canada-CWS where he is coordinating Eastern Habitat Joint Venture activities in Atlantic Canada.

Mike O'Brien is Acting Manager for Large Mammals, in addition to continuing as Manager for Furbearers and Upland Game.



Doug Archibald, Regional Biologist, Central Region has retired. He'll have more time to continue his hobbies such as canoeing. Congratulations, Doug!



Bob Petrie Now Nova Scotia Wildlife Director

Bob Petrie became Director of the Wildlife Division at Nova Scotia Department of Resources in Kentville, Nova Scotia in May 2010. He received his M.Sc. in Environmental Management from the University of London, U.K and a B.Sc. in Biology from Acadia

University. Bob started his career in 1991 with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment as an Inspector, working on areas such as watercourse protection, pesticides and other pollution control issues. From 2000-2005 he served as the District Manager in Yarmouth where he managed environmental issues in southwestern N.S. including mining and wetland developments. In 2005, he was appointed as the Regional Director for Western N.S. where, in addition to regional environmental issues, he led the development of a provincial information system for managing environmental field inspection data. As Director of the Wildlife Division, Bob is now responsible for wildlife, habitat and biodiversity programs in N.S. He lives in Hall's Harbour N.S. with his wife Karen.

Nette Retires

Tony Nette has retired from the Nova Scotia Wildlife Division. He began his career with a Biology Degree from St Mary's University in Halifax NS in 1977, with between study times spent being a Conservation Officer in the Yukon. He became a Management Biologist in YK in 1979. Tony worked his way back to Nova Scotia via Rocky Mountain House and Calgary, Alberta, landing a job with the Nova Scotia Wildlife Division in 1992. Over the years, his enviable projects included working on caribou, mountain sheep and goats, and moose, deer and bear in Nova Scotia. As NS Manager for Large Mammals, he was Chair of the Recovery Team for the endangered Nova Scotia Mainland Moose, and a Board member of the North American Moose Foundation. As an Adjunct Professor at Dalhousie University, he helped supervise 6 Masters' level theses on moose and bear in the past decade, which he greatly enjoyed! His research is

published in "Alces" and other journals.

Tony notes "Friday September 3rd was my last work day, then some banked holidays and I am off to the supposed greener pastures [Note herbivory reference] of the rest of my life. It has been a wonderful career but I look forward to doing a lot of things I just haven't had the time to enjoy"

He adds "It has been great being involved with the ASFWB and through the organization, staying in better touch with others in this field across the Atlantic provinces. The Society serves a very important need and opportunity for students to present their work and establish a network. Keep up the good work. All the best."

CWS Species at Risk Biologists Appointed for NL

Krista Baker has been appointed as Species at Risk (SAR) Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Atlantic Region, St. John's, NL, effective October 4, 2010. She has worked for CWS Atlantic region in the past; first as an intern in 2003 and then as a technician in the SAR program and a bander with the waterfowl program. She is currently finishing her PhD (Biology) at Memorial University, where her research examines small-scale interactions, trends in diversity and pertinent threats in Atlantic Canada's deep-sea ecosystem. She has a Master of Environmental Science degree from Memorial University and a Bachelor of Science degree from McGill University (Macdonald Campus). Krista has worked as an independent consultant and with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources as an aquatic ecologist. She has published a number of peer-reviewed articles and has written status reports for the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.



Peter Thomas was appointed as Senior Species at Risk (SAR) Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Atlantic Region, St. John's, NL effective 1 June 2010. He has worked with the CWS SAR program since 1999 and was acting in the senior SAR position since 2008. Peter's work has focussed on species assessment, recovery planning, and implementation for SAR in Newfoundland and Labrador, with particular emphasis on Piping Plover, Harlequin Duck, and Red Crossbill. Prior to working with CWS, Peter worked as a technician with Ducks Unlimited, and a biologist with the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Georgian Bay Osprey Society, and the Avian Science and Conservation Centre of McGill University. Peter did his undergraduate degree at Acadia University and received a Master of Science degree from McGill University (Macdonald Campus) where he studied the effects of low-level flying military aircraft on Osprey productivity in Labrador.

Receives Award of Professional Excellence



Rudy Stocek, retired wildlife biologist and bald eagle specialist, was presented with the Award of Professional Excellence from the University of Maine (Orono) Wildlife Ecology Program in June 2010. This recognition is awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding contribution to wildlife ecology, forestry, or related fields throughout their career.

There have been many graduates of the wildlife program since the formation of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit in 1936. Noting that many accomplished professionals from the program had not received the recognition they deserve, the Department of Wildlife Ecology initiated the award and recognizes several graduates each year. Past recipients make up an illustrious list. Congratulations to Rudy for being added to that roster.

Rudy has conducted research on the eastern cougar, osprey, common loon, and the bald eagle in New Brunswick, which he has studied for over 30 years. In 1995 he received the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists Award of Merit. After his retirement from the Maritime College of Forest Technology (previously, the Maritime Forest Ranger School), he published his book "Through the Eye of an Eagle" which landed him a 2007 Independent Publishers Award for best regional non-fiction.

Newly Appointed Biologists at CWS, Sackville

Samara Eaton has been appointed to the position of Senior Species at Risk (SAR) Biologist in the Sackville, NB office, effective September 13, 2010. Samara has worked as a wildlife biologist in Nova Scotia for over ten years, spending six years with the Wildlife Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. This included Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora fieldwork, SAR recovery planning, work on the NS Biodiversity Strategy, and several Habitat Stewardship Program projects, including an in-depth study of the role of municipalities in species at risk recovery in NS. She also worked for Park Canada, in collaboration with Environment Canada and NS DNR, on the completion of one of Canada's first SARA-compliant multi-species recovery strategies. Recently, in a consulting capacity, she has written the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone section of a national Ecosystem Status and Trends Report as well as SAR recovery action plans. Samara graduated from Acadia University where she completed her BSC and MSC. Her graduate work focused on yellow-spotted salamanders. Samara is also a notable athlete, having been named an Academic All-Canadian during her undergraduate degree.

Jen Rock has been appointed as Species at Risk (SAR) Biologist - Sackville, NB, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Atlantic Region, effective September 27, 2010. Jen was most recently a technician concerned primarily with Piping Plover conservation with Parks Canada's SAR program at their Atlantic Service Centre in Halifax. She has over ten years experience in the conservation and management of migratory birds and their habitat; especially SAR such as Piping Plover, Black-footed Albatross, Roseate Tern, Red Knot,

Ancient Murrelets and Marbled Murrelets. She has worked for a wide range of government, non-government and academic institutions and organizations including the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Canadian Wildlife Service, Dalhousie University, St. Mary's University, and Simon Fraser University. Jen did both her undergraduate and graduate work at Dalhousie University, the latter in conjunction with CWS, working on the foraging ecology of Roseate, Arctic and Common Terns at Country Island, NS.

Becky Whittam has been appointed as the Landbird Biologist, Population Assessment Unit, Canadian Wildlife Service - Environment Canada, Sackville, N.B. She has been studying birds for almost two decades. While obtaining an Honour's degree in Biology from Queen's University, she studied geographic song variation in breeding Yellow Warblers, from northern MB to southern ON. At Dalhousie University, where got her MSc, she studied impacts of predation on Endangered Roseate Terns. Becky spent 12 years working for Bird Studies Canada (BSC), including 10 years as Atlantic Canada Program Manager in Sackville, NB. In this position, in collaboration with a large network of partners and dedicated staff, she initiated, developed and led BSC's Atlantic Canada Program, including a diverse array of initiatives for bird and species at risk monitoring and conservation in the Maritimes. These included the Maritimes Nocturnal Owl Survey, the High Elevation Landbird Program, the Maritimes Beached Bird Survey and the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas. Becky attributes her career path to her Dad, Bob, who worked for the Canadian Wildlife Service in the 1980s as the director of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Wye Marsh National Wildlife Area, Midland, ON.



Whittam, Allard and Paquet

Dr. Karel Allard has been appointed as the Landscape Planning Coordinator, Ecosystem Conservation Section, Canadian Wildlife Service - Environment Canada, Sackville, N.B. Karel will contribute to habitat analysis and conservation initiatives that include work on identification of key habitat sites for migratory birds on Canada's Atlantic coast. Karel has undergraduate degrees in Biology and Education from the Université de Moncton, and completed his PhD in Biology at the University of New Brunswick. He undertook post-doctoral work with the University of Alaska Anchorage and afterwards coordinated the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas through its first year. Karel's early career included work as a park naturalist with Parks Canada. Throughout his career, he has been involved in various Environment Canada research and monitoring programs that have taken him beyond Canada's Atlantic continental shelf as well as to remote island seabird colonies in Canada's Arctic. Karel will be using this experience to support landscape conservation initiatives in Atlantic Canada.

Julie Paquet has been appointed as the Coastal Birds Biologist, Population Assessment Unit, Canadian Wildlife Service - Environment Canada in Sackville N.B. contributing to coastal bird monitoring and conservation initiatives. Julie has an undergraduate degree in Biology from the Université Laval, completed a Masters in Environmental Sciences at the Université de Sherbrooke, and an MSc in Biology at the University of New Brunswick. She has been with CWS in Sackville N.B. since 1999, where she started as a Wildlife Technician providing field and office support for various program biologists. She coordinated the volunteer-based Atlantic Canada Shorebird Surveys from 2001-2008 and operated the Amherst Point Migration Monitoring Station in its last year. From 2008 until recently, Julie was acting Landbird Biologist for the region, but she is pleased to now be returning her focus to the conservation of coastal birds in Atlantic Canada.

CWS Species at Risk Biologists Appointed in Halifax



Julie McKnight was appointed Senior Species at Risk (SAR) Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Atlantic Region, Halifax, NS, effective 1 June 2010. She has been acting in this position since September 2008. Julie started with CWS in Sackville, NB as an intern with the Science Horizons program in 2001 and has been with the Species at Risk Recovery Program ever since, though now based in Halifax, NS. She holds a BSc. (Honours) from Dalhousie University. and an MSc. in Biology from Acadia University where she worked with small mustelid predators. Julie has acquired a great deal of experience as a recovery planner and has coordinated the development of some of the first recovery documents under SARA. She has worked to recover Piping Plovers in Atlantic Canada since 2000 and recently has been focussing much of her efforts on the recovery program for Roseate Terns.

Karen Potter was appointed as Species at Risk (SAR) Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Atlantic Region, Halifax, NS, effective August 19, 2010. She has been acting in this position since January 2009. Her substantive

position was with Environment Canada as a program officer with the Education and Engagement Unit, where beginning in 2005. During that period she also had an acting assignment for two years with the Community Funding Programs Unit. Prior to working with Environment Canada, Karen worked extensively for environmental NGO's, including the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation and four years with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. As a result, she brings keen skills in education and outreach and great insight into the NGO community to the unit. She has also worked as an interpreter with Parks Canada. Karen graduated from Acadia University with a BSc (Honours) in environmental science.



In Memoriam

Donald Gilbert Dodds

1925-2010

Coldbrook, Nova Scotia: Donald Gilbert Dodds passed away May 5, 2010. Born October 4, 1925 in North Rose, New York, he was the son of Wells and Margaret (Langford) Dodds, loving husband to Pearl for almost 65 years, and loving father to Tracy and Kathleen. A graduate of North Rose High School, Don held

a, Phd from Cornell University. He was a pioneer in wildlife management in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, Canada, as a professor of Biology and Dean of Science at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia and on many government advisory committees. Don served the United Nations Development Program and the Food and Agricultural Organization at various times in Rome, New York City, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, and Trinidad. The author of more than 40 books and articles, Don was passionate about wildlife management and the state of our planet. He served his community in civic and fraternal organizations and with extensive involvement in his church, especially by singing in the choir.

His cremated remains will rest in York Settlement Cemetery, North Rose, New York.



Stanhope PEI: Jeremy Broome, MSc candidate at Acadia University presented on striped bass to the Atlantic International Chapter (AIC) of the American Fisheries Society on September 21, 2010. He also entered the contest for AIC bragging rights and his 86 inch blue shark landed July 30, 2010 off Eastern Passage, NS, landed him the "Lunkers Award", hands down.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 5-7 October, 2010. 47th Annual Meeting, **Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists**. Humber Valley Resort, Newfoundland. Contact: Casidhe Dyke CasidheDyke@gov.nl.ca
- 22-24 October, 2010. Atlantic Canada Association of Parasitologists (ACAP). Pictou, Nova Scotia at The Customs House Inn. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark Siddal (<http://research.amnh.org/~siddall/>), curator of Annelida and Protozoa at the American Museum of Natural History. Not to be missed. Contact Russell Easy reasy@dal.ca
- 28-29 October 2010: "Geomatics Atlantic 2010", Fredericton, New Brunswick <http://www.geomaticsatlantic.com>.
- 26-29 June 2011: People in Places: Engaging Together in Integrated Resource Management, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 5-7 January, 2012. Joint Meeting of Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research, Society of Canadian Limnologists, and Society of Wetland Scientists. Moncton New Brunswick Contact: Mark Hanson Mark.Hanson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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