



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

### 50 YEARS YOUNG

Congratulations to the Atlantic Society of Fish & Wildlife Biologists, and all its members, both past and present, for 50 years of collaboration, research, communication, and partnership, all in the name of wildlife and conservation!

See Page 13 for a few snippets of information and pictures garnered from past newsletters, meeting minutes, and members.



50th Anniversary logo, designed by Robert Lyon Graphics of Sackville, NB.

<http://www.robertlyongraphics.ca/>

The ASFWB, as an early society, was part of a group called The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists. In 1963 several members decided to formulate a more focused regional society of fish & wildlife biologists, with membership to be accepted only from the Atlantic Provinces, but still loosely tied to this “parent” organization. Founding members of the *Atlantic Section, Canadian Society of Wildlife & Fishery Biologists*, (to be reorganized and renamed the Atlantic Society of Fish & Wildlife Biologists in 1984) are listed below. The meeting took place in Sackville, NB on February 22, 1963.

- Bruce S. Wright, Northeastern Wildlife Station, Fredericton, NB
- B.C. Carter, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Fredericton, NB
- Charles O. Bartlett, Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville, NB
- A.J. Erskine, Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville, NB
- Ludwig Carbyn, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB
- Frederick A. Aldrich, Memorial University, St. John's, NL
- Allen Rebeck, Mount Allison University, St. John's, NL
- J.E. Henri Legare, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Fredericton, NB
- John P. Kelsall, Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville, NB
- Merrill Prime, Dept. of Lands & Forests, Kentville, NS
- Neil vanNostrand, Dept. of Lands & Forests, Kentville, NS
- Arthur E. Patton, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS
- F. F. Gilbert, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS
- D.G. Dodds, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS
- R. Mc.G. Archibald, Animal Pathology Laboratory, Sackville, NB
- Harry Smith, Animal Pathology Laboratory, Sackville, NB

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# ASFWB Annual General Meeting Scientific Program—Day 1

## Day 1 (October 30th) \*Registration opens at 8 am

8:45 Welcome and opening remarks

### Plenary Presentation

09:00 **Jason Leblanc: History of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists**

### Management and Conservation

09:40 Richard Elliot: Estimating the magnitude of human-related bird mortality by sector within Canada

10:00 Anne Benoit: Conservation priorities for birds in the Atlantic region: what are the most important threats to birds in our region?

10:20 Laurel Bernard: Nature Conservancy of Canada – conservation planning work and opportunities for research partnerships

10:40 **COFFEE BREAK**

### Technological Advances in Fish and Wildlife Research in Atlantic Canada

11:00 Andrew Taylor: Technological advances in research on Atlantic Sturgeon – new approaches using ultrasonic and pop-up satellite archival tags

11:20 Freya Keyser: Temporal and spatial movement patterns of striped bass in the Minas Passage and Minas Basin, Bay of Fundy

11:40 Colin Buhariwalla: Movements and population characteristics of striped bass, *Morone saxatilis* (Walbaum, 1792), in the Mira River, Nova Scotia

12:00 Peter Porskamp: Passive acoustic detection of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Minas Passage, Nova Scotia, Canada

12:20 **LUNCH and ASFWB Annual General Meeting**

### Technological Advances in Fish and Wildlife Research in Atlantic Canada

2:20 Philip Taylor: Automated telemetry arrays: tracking broad-scale movements of terrestrial organisms

2:40 Diana Hamilton: Duration of stay and movements of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) during migratory stopover in the upper Bay of Fundy – application of the sensorgenome system

3:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

3:20 Zoe Crysler: Spring and Fall migratory movements of the Ipswich Sparrow

3:40 Jessica Stephens: Foraging movements of breeding and post-breeding Arctic (*Sterna paradisaea*) and Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) at multiple nesting sites

4:00 Tara Imlay: Where do migratory birds go? Determining migratory connectivity for swallows using geolocators and stable isotopes

### Wildlife Health

4:20 Allysia Park: Canada's response to white-nose syndrome: plans, infrastructure and actions

4:40 María Forzán: The Wood Frog, *Rana sylvatica* (*Lithobates sylvaticus*), as a model to study the pathogenesis and host-pathogen interactions of frog virus 3 (FV3)

**Mount Allison**  
UNIVERSITY

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## ASFWB Annual General Meeting Scientific Program—Day 2

### Day 2 (October 31st)

8:10 Welcome/Announcements

#### *Ecosystem Studies*

8:20 David Lieske: Beyond wetlands: taking a closer look at American Black Duck breeding success in agricultural landscapes

8:40 Lee Millett: Factors affecting productivity of duck brood rearing in small wetlands in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia

9:00 Christine McLaughlan: Spatio-temporal phenology of macroinvertebrates and bird use of a coastal wetland landscape near Aulac, NB

9:20 Kami Harris: The genetic diversity of *Borrelia* isolated from New Brunswick ticks

9:40 **COFFEE BREAK**

#### *Management and Conservation*

10:00 Kate Goodale: Linking stewardship program participation to farmer engagement in biodiversity conservation practice

10:20 Simon Greenland-Smith: Understanding how farmers value wetlands in Nova Scotia: gauging private land conservation potential

10:40 Matthew Mahoney: Assessing short term coastal dynamics to predict impacts from severe weather events on Piping Plover

11:00 Brook Beaulieu: Temporal examination of roadway passages on animals in Nova Scotia

11:20 Molly Simon: Altered environmental stressors and long-term effects on populations and habitats of Common Eiders on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore

11:40 **LUNCH**

#### *Management and Conservation*

12:40 Amie MacDonald: Population dynamics of invasive green crabs on mudflats in the Upper Bay of Fundy

1:00 Nora Spencer: Distribution and annual movements of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) in the Canadian Arctic

1:20 Mathieu Gregoire: Population characteristics of a winter kill of striped bass during a shutdown of the Trenton power plant, Pictou County, NS

1:40 **COFFEE BREAK**

2:00 Sean Blaney: Documenting climate-sensitive rare Arctic flora in northern Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

2:20 John Klymko: Maritimes Butterfly Atlas

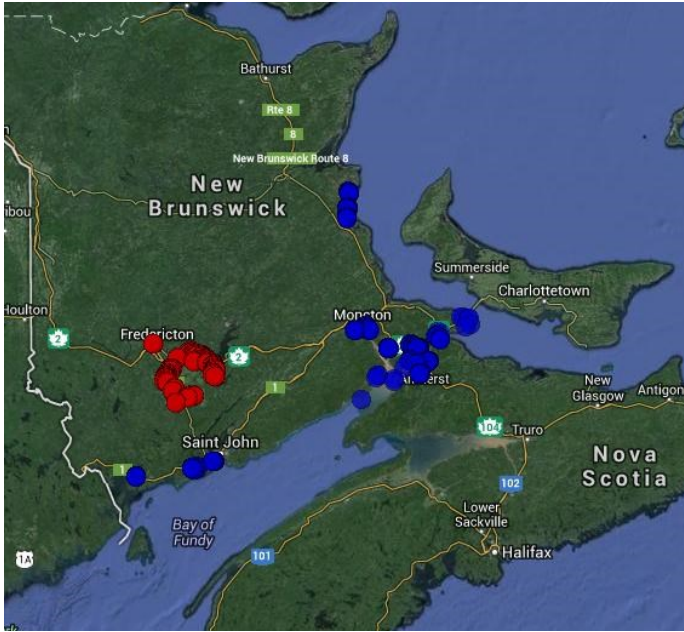
2:40 Sean Basquill: Role of the government wildlife biologist – current functions, common (mis)perceptions, and future directions



# From Nelson's Sparrows to Virginia Rails: Marsh Monitoring in the Maritimes

By: Margaret Campbell

Bird Studies Canada's (BSC) Marsh Monitoring Programs (MMPs) have been tracking population trends of secretive marsh-breeding birds in the Great Lakes Basin since 1995, Québec since 2002, and in the Prairies since 2008. In 2012, BSC, in partnership with other members of the NB and NS Eastern Habitat Joint Ventures (EHJVs) launched the Maritimes MMP.



Embarking on a new MMP when several other MMPs have already been established has some distinct advantages, not the least of which is that many of the data collection methods have already been well-tested elsewhere. That said, from the outset, the Maritimes program was destined to be a bit different than BSC's other MMPs because of the region's unique combination of coastal (saltwater) and inland (freshwater) wetlands. This meant that while we were able to use a similar survey design to those used elsewhere in Canada, we "tweaked" the survey for Maritimes wetlands. For example, although we use the same 3-visit, 15min. survey protocol with call playback as other MMPs, we change which bird species are broadcast during the playback portion depending on if we're surveying fresh- or saltwater marshes. So, in coastal habitats, we broadcast Nelson's Sparrow (which, unlike in the

Prairies, in the Maritimes it primarily occurs in saltwater marshes) and in freshwater, we broadcast American Bittern. Similar to the Prairies, we've selected the marshes to be surveyed using a stratified random sampling design rather than having volunteers select their own marshes. This is to ensure that smaller marshes in remote areas have an equal chance of being

surveyed as those near populated areas like Fredericton, or Saint John. Also like the prairies we're using Automated Recording Units (ARUs) to collect recordings of wetland species over several days and at odd hours (like overnight) thus gathering more data than we could possibly survey ourselves and maximizing our chances of detecting more elusive wetland species. Indeed, one ARU recorded a Yellow Rail (Species of Special Concern and a Maritime rarity) calling near Sackville, NB. We're also planning on using the recordings to calculate differences in different species detection rates (e.g., does the species call frequently and so we're more likely to find it or infrequently so it is tricky to detect) and site occupancy (i.e. when is the best time to hear a marsh bird, if it is indeed present at a site) so we can correct our population estimates based on the time of day and normal calling behaviour of various species.

So what's a typical day like surveying marshes in the Maritimes? Our first field season in 2012 was short, a 6-week period beginning in June and ending mid-July. Field crews spent a little over a month canoeing around Grand Lake, Saint John and Oromocto Rivers near Fredericton, NB hunting for wetlands and marsh birds. During that time, they ground-truthed 279 sur-

vey points, established 24 survey routes and found 86 species including Marsh Wrens, Black Terns and American Bitterns. The 2012 season came to a soggy end following a series of storms at the end of June that flooded the wetlands in our survey area. Many of our ARUs went for an unexpected swim, some were submerged for almost a week. Amazingly, despite the soaking, they survived and had recorded over 2,000 hours (above water).

This year, in mid-May, we sent two crews into the field, one to re-survey sites in the Grand Lake area surveyed in 2012 and the second to survey coastal wetlands around the upper Bay of Fundy and Northumberland Strait in NB. Early in the field season the Grand Lake team once again faced uncooperative, stormy weather. Water levels rose substantially following record levels of rainfall (e.g. 120mm in 24hrs in Fredericton) and, as a result, several marshes initially surveyed in 2012, became lakes and were no longer appropriate marsh bird nesting habitat. For the crew, the high water, coupled with wind storms, meant that the Grand Lake team had to forgo some of their planned surveys and instead explored new locations along the southern Bay of Fundy near Saint John, Saint George and in the Musquash Marine Protected Area. For some marsh birds, this meant nesting was delayed until later in the season. Other birds seemed to forge ahead and the crew heard a mind-boggling 13 Soras (more than detected on any survey in either year) at a single survey location on Gagetown Island in mid-June. The highlight for the Grand Lake crew was the Least Bittern, initially discovered by several keen NB birders at Wilkin's field near Fredericton, NB.

The rain that plagued the Grand Lake team wasn't as much of an issue for the coastal team - most coastal sites were less likely to flood. However, high winds made surveying impossible for several days at a time. The coastal team surveyed several tidal-marshes along the Petitcodiac River near Moncton, NB where a surprising num-

ber of Virginia Rails and American Coots were counted in marshes near busy walking trails. Nelson's Sparrows tended to be found in the short-grass salt-meadows near the mud flats of the northern Bay of Fundy, while the Willets made a huge racket (and appeared to be more prominent) along the Northumberland Strait.

So what's next for the MMMP? Over the next few months the ARU recordings and point count data will be analyzed and added to our models of species occupancy and abundance. Then preparation for 2014 begins. In 2014 we plan to continue to establish

survey routes in NB and begin expanding into NS, so if you or anyone you know is interested in counting Nelson's Sparrows while watching the sunrise over the Northumberland Strait or trying to keep track of multiple Soras while canoeing down the Saint John River, stay tuned for our soon-to-be-announced call for volunteers.

*The Maritimes MMP is partially funded by Wildlife Habitat Canada, the NB Environmental Trust Fund and the NB Wildlife Trust Fund, and is a partner project of the NB and NS Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV), Environment Canada, NB Departments of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Nature Trust of NB and the Department of National Defense – CFB Gagetown.*

## Rare Species Added Under NL Province's Endangered Species Act

In an effort to conserve and protect rare plants and lichen, the Provincial Government has added nine species under the *Endangered Species Act* as either endangered or threatened, the Honourable Tom Hedderson, Minister of Environment and Conversation, announced today.

One lichen and eight rare plants are being listed following assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

"Species listed as endangered are in imminent risk of extinction and those listed as threatened are species likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors limiting their survival," said Minister Hedderson. "I'd like to acknowledge the dedication of the committees involved in this process who were instrumental in ensuring the protection of the identified rare species as we conserve biodiversity for future generations."

The Graceful Felt Lichen/ Vole Ears (*Erioderma mollissimum*), Alaska Rein Orchid (*Platanthera foetida*), Cutleaf Fleabane (*Erigeron compositus*), Oval-leaved Creeping Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula* var. *ovalis*), Rock Dwelling Sedge (*Carex petricosa* var. *misandroides*), Feathery False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum* subsp. *racemosum*), Lindley's Aster (*Symphyotrichum ciliolatum*), Vreeland's Striped Coralroot (*Corallorhiza striata* var. *vreelandii*), and Bodin's Milkvetch (*Astragalus bodinii*), have been given protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Currently, the total number of species, subspecies and populations listed under the province's *Endangered Species Act* is 44 including 21 endangered, 10 threatened and 13 vulnerable species. For full background document and more pictures, visit <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2013/env/0927n04.htm>

Graceful Felt Lichen/Vole Ears (*Erioderma mollissimum*).  
Photo credit: Newfoundland & Labrador News Release, Environment and Conservation.



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Visit our website at  
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/environment/ASFWB/>

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## RECENT LITERATURE:

(Paste the available doi information into your browser and find the article/abstract.)

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**“I think we’re safe. He drives like a vegan.”**

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## **Forests under Siege - What will happen to Nature? *By Bob Bancroft***

Eastern forests are shrinking quickly under a barrage of clearcut harvests using high-tech machines that offer little employment for people in New Brunswick, Newfoundland or Nova Scotia. The Prince Edward Island government is taking a more careful forestry approach with certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) of their Crown land holdings. Elsewhere, provincial governments are being pushed hard by large, financially-troubled forest industries. Determined to feed a global wood demand driven by rising human populations, these industries also want to burn wood to produce electricity and lower their energy costs.

Classified as “Acadian”, most naturally-growing forests of Atlantic Canada contain a broad mix of trees with leaves (hardwoods) and with needles (softwoods). Each tree species has preferences regarding soil, moisture, and available light. Young sugar maple, yellow birch, hemlock, red spruce and others can grow on the forest floor in the moisture and shade found under taller trees. Eventually an old tree falls, and a young tree takes a growth spurt in its place. Trees that grow in forest shade may live as long as 450 years and eventually become the dominant species. Their wood is more valuable to humans.

Large-scale environmental disturbances, like fire, insect infestations or hurricane damage, were historically rare in most forests in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia (except for the Cape Breton Highlands). “Fire histories” in an area can often be traced to early logging practices and land-clearing by settlers.

Trees obtain nutrients from soils that have developed since the last ice age ended about 11,000 years ago. Needles and leaves act like solar collectors, also producing more energy for the tree. Favorable site conditions and space for roots in the ground give each tree a chance to thrive. On hot, sunny days a healthy forest offers cool shade, evidence its trees are capturing the sun’s energy and also cooling water in the forest floor that feeds streams.

Forestry in eastern Canada became a force in the 1700’s. Land clearing for settlements and farms, shipbuilding and lumber exporting began making significant changes. Tall white pines were marked and reserved as masts for English sailing ships. In the 1800’s sawmills used vast amounts of original Acadian forest hardwoods and softwoods. Some 300 years and repeated harvests later, those same sites are being swept clean for pulp, lumber and/or biomass. For centuries wood “biomass” was burned in homes for heating and cooking. Lately biomass includes wood processing byproducts, and cutting forests to use their wood to produce electricity. In 300 years we’ve gone from masts to moonscapes, while industry and government leaders baffle about environmental sustainability. Like many fisheries, the Acadian forest is in trouble from over-exploitation. Rehabilitation will take time.

The industry-preferred, cheap harvest method is clearcutting. A clearcut can be defined as a site where essentially all trees have been removed in one operation, leaving a large, open area that no longer has the forests’ protection from high temperatures and drying winds. The spread of clearcutting over eastern landscapes holds drastic environmental consequences for soils, wildlife populations, waterways, climate and humans. Leaving thin ribbons of trees along waterways and occasional, see-through clumps of trees on the landscape does not maintain a healthy environment. Large companies use mis-leading names for clearcutting, such as “variable retention” and “seed tree release”, showing only window-dressing regard for the future. They ignore the following:

- 1) Clearcuts encourage short-lived and “open ground” suited seedlings of species like poplar, wire birch, fir and white spruce to take over. Sure, something grows back - but not the same forest.
- 2) The resulting forest is even-aged, has fewer tree species and more vulnerability to insect and disease damage.
- 3) To be “industry” successful, new forests on clearcuts may require herbicides and softwood planting. This

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has been taxpayer-subsidized for decades.

4) Global warming may bring dry, windy climate changes that kill shallow-rooted softwoods.

5) Clearcuts make soil nutrients vulnerable to erosion from wind and rain. Nutrients important for tree growth (like phosphates and calcium) are removed with the harvested wood, washed out of the soil or blown away.

6) In dry periods, forest soils can regulate flows by gradually releasing their water into brooks and rivers. Clearcut brooks flush like toilets after heavy rainfalls, drying up in summer with widened, eroded channels. That difference can mean life or death for salmon and trout, frogs and other aquatic life. Humans also need cool, clean water. Why are we compromising nature's ecological services?

7) Erosion from clearcuts washes silt into brooks and rivers, filling spaces between the rocks where aquatic life takes refuge and smothering trout and salmon eggs that are laid in autumn and overwinter in gravel bottoms. Laws to protect waterways and adjacent lands are often politically and ecologically compromised, and sparsely enforced. Silt keeps flowing into brooks and on to the sea.

8) Exposed, hot, dry conditions on clearcuts kill off microscopic soil inhabitants that break down and recycle forest nutrients from dead wood.

9) Young clearcuts produce food that white-tailed deer and others can reach. But sprouts on a red maple stump do not have the nutrition value of a twig that grows from seed.

10) Many habitats essential for a wide variety of wild animals, plants and lichens formerly found in Acadian forests are missing in "forests" that follow clearcuts. Barred owls, for example, nest in a big tree with a large hole. Inhabitants displaced by clearcutting probably never find nearby "vacant" forests.

11) Biomass used to include leftovers from forest operations, like waste from sawmills. Now it's a commodity. Clearcuts are being "cleaned up" for it, leaving even less for nature. Pulp companies normally cut softwood forests and mixed wood (hardwood and softwood) forests to make their products. Now they are clearcutting hardwood forests for biomass to lower their energy costs, often with taxpayer's subsidies. Wood burning to produce electricity has an efficiency rate of about 30%. Is this wise use?

There are ways to harvest that let nature grow healthy new Acadian forests. Trees are removed using "partial harvest" methods that mimic natural gaps in the forest canopy, creating a more suitable environment for long-lived species of hardwoods and softwoods.

Biologists and other environmental folks are lobbying hard for harvests that maintain most forest communities of wild plants and animals. To be healthy, nature needs ecologically-sound forest management on at least 60% of the land base. Acadian forests represent a diverse portfolio of stable ecological investments whose "accrued interest and capital" since the ice age should not be plundered for quick profit. The current practice of clearcutting mixed Acadian forests will not sustain them.



Photo Credit: B. Hotelling

The industry folks who fund university researchers insist that clearcutting the forest every few decades is no problem - it will magically re-appear. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, they aim to increase harvests over larger land bases and channel more of nature's energy into fewer tree species, ignoring the devastating

ecological consequences this will have for wildlife and nature as a whole. Forestry professionals seem industry-led and too single-minded about growing trees. And the industry greed extends beyond nature's abilities to provide for all. Large, foreign-owned companies are liquidating our natural heritage while offering fewer jobs and little stability. Their allegiance seems to be to shareholders. They remind me of the tobacco industry decades ago.

It's time to rehabilitate these forests before they deteriorate to scrub or heath. Once a forested country, Scotland now has only 3% of its land base in trees. Half of the 3% is plantation. This process is underway in south-eastern Newfoundland.

Forestry planning needs to become in tune with nature's ways. The word "sustainable" needs to find the forest. Woodland owners, First Nations, scientists, naturalists, river associations, fish and game groups, boaters, watershed associations, and people who just love the woods should clear their heads, consider carefully and stand up together on this issue. To begin with, enact legislation that stops the "vultures" from clearcutting and destroying the remaining mixed Acadian forests for quick, personal profit.



Photo Credit: J. Roma

Are we not the stewards or caretakers? Do we have a land ethic? What will be left for future generations? Let's begin managing for ecologically-healthy, working forests.

**Do you have a research project, wildlife topic, event, or other related information you would like to see included in the Biolink? If so, email Jennifer Roma, Newsletter Editor, at [jennifer.roma@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.roma@gmail.com).**

**The newsletter is only as good as the information we get from our members. We are always looking for articles and pictures relating to the work that is done by you every day in the field. If it interests you, chances are it would interest other members to hear about it. Please send it along!**

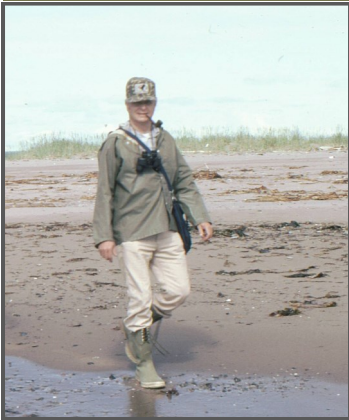
### **David J. Cartwright Memorial Scholarship**

The 2012-2013 recipient of the David J. Cartwright Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$950, is Ms. Monique Goguen. Ms. Goguen is in her 3rd year Bachelor of Science (environmental and natural resources) at the University of NB in Fredericton. Her achievements include being on the Dean's List for the 2011-12 year, President of the UNB Wildlife Society, and member of the Students for Sustainability Club.

This scholarship is awarded to students entering their final year in the BSc in Environment and Natural Resources. Preference is given to those declaring a major in wildlife. Candidates are awarded based on scholastic ability and a demonstrated interest in wildlife management.

This scholarship was established by the ASFWB in 1991, following the untimely death in a vehicle accident of David J. Cartwright in October 1990. Dave was a member and strong supporter of the ASFWB for many years and contributed to wildlife management in Atlantic Canada as Furbearer Biologist with the NB Department of Natural Resources & Energy.

Minutes of the 1985 ASF WB conference, held in Truro, NS show that in 1986 the membership fee into ASF WB would be \$2, and was to be raised to \$5 in 1987.



**ABOVE: Bruce Johnson, former CWS endangered species and environmental assessment biologist, and strong supporter of the ASF WB in its early days.**

Chairmans/Presidents in earlier years (as taken from minutes and newsletters provided by Colin MacKinnon):

- 1963—64: D.G. Dodds
- 1965-66: C.O. Bartlett
- 1967-68: Merrill Prime
- 1969-70: Bruce Wright
- 1971-72: Fred Gilbert
- 1973-74: Ian MacQuarrie
- 1975-76: ?
- 1977-78: Tony Duke
- 1979-80: Ross Alexander
- 1981-82: Bob Bancroft
- 1983-84: Bruce Smith?
- 1985: Steven Woodley
- 1986-87: Allan Smith
- 1988-89: J. Patch
- 1990-91: Anthony Duke
- 1991: Steve Anderson
- 1992-94: Colin MacKinnon
- 1994-96: Rosemary Curley

# OVER THE YEARS...

*Notes to wildlife managers, taken from "A Time for Unity", written by Robert E. LeResche, PhD, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, as excerpted from The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists Newsletter Volume 39, Number 4, December 1982.*



"...help both the hunter and the non-hunter toward an understanding of where the true satisfactions of hunting and other interactions with wildlife are to be found. Do not shrink from discussing – even teaching – ethics and concern for wildlife and for other human beings who love wildlife.

If you can do this one thing, you will expand the horizons of modern man tremendously, and create a concern that will never allow wild things to be forced from the earth. This is the function of a wildlife manager.

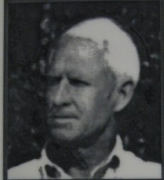
Minutes of the 1989 ASF WB executive meeting in Sackville, NB show that "the idea of a spring seminar met with support and it was decided to try and do one on the riparian zone for mid-April (1990), probably at Mount Allison."

Wildlife Biologist, Rudy Stoeck teaching dendrology in the field—Maritime Forest Ranger School





## 1996



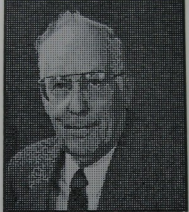
**Robie W. Tufts**  
August 11, 1884 - November 7, 1982  
11 août 1884 - 7 novembre 1982

Robie Tufts can truly be called the father of migratory bird science in the Maritimes. He is worthy of special recognition not only for what he did in his work with wildlife conservation, but in shaping the attitudes of a whole new generation of both professional and amateur conservationists.

Robie Tufts peut réellement porter le nom de père de l'ornithologie des oiseaux migrateurs dans les Maritimes. Il s'est distingué non seulement par son travail de conservation de la faune, mais aussi par sa détermination à façonner la mentalité d'une nouvelle génération de protecteurs de l'environnement, amateurs comme professionnels.

## 2004



**Dr. Donald G. Dodds**  
October 4, 1925 -  
4 octobre 1925 -

Don Dodds established the Wildlife and Animal Ecology program at Acadia University, and educated many of the wildlife biologists who served in the region in the 20th century. He knew that a good part of managing wildlife involves dealing with people, and illustrated many ideas in wildlife biology from personal experience.

Don Dodds a établi le programme de la faune et de l'écologie animale à l'Université Acadia et a transmis ses connaissances à de nombreux biologistes de la faune qui ont travaillé dans la région durant le 20<sup>e</sup> siècle. Il était conscient que l'aspect social constituait un volet important de son travail en gestion de la faune, et il a expliqué de nombreux concepts de biologie de la faune en puisant dans son expérience personnelle.

## Canada's Bat White-nose Syndrome CCWHC Coordinator

The Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) is pleased to inform you that Allysia Park has joined us as the Canadian national coordinator of the Bat White-nose Syndrome response program starting August 2013. Allysia is based in the Atlantic Regional Centre of the CCWHC at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown. Her major responsibilities are to assist the Executive Director of the CCWHC to coordinate and animate Canada's national response to WNS. This will include several actions, one of which will be to employ a national monitoring program to help identify bat roosts and hibernacula using the assistance of the public.

Allysia has an Honours BSc (2008) from Memorial University (St. John's), for which she wrote a thesis on bat foraging behaviour, and an MSc (2010) from Saint

Mary's University (Halifax) which she achieved under the supervision of Dr. Hugh Broders with a thesis entitled *Factors affecting the distribution and roost-site selection of bats on the island of Newfoundland*. Prior to accepting the WNS coordination position with the CCWHC, she worked as a GIS analyst with the Department of Environment and Conservation of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.



## New ASFWB Scholarship Established

We are pleased to announce that the next scholarship fund will be set up as a joint scholarship between Holland College and the University of Prince Edward Island. The anticipated award of \$1,000 annually will be given to a student completing their diploma in Wildlife Conservation Technology at Holland College and that has been accepted to the Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation program at the University of Prince Edward Island. This joint conservation program is a recent partnership between the two institutions that allows students who have successfully completed the diploma at Holland College to enter the degree program at UPEI, where they will be able to complete the program with 20 courses offered through the Department of Biology, in the Faculty of Science. This essentially means that a student can obtain a diploma and degree in Wildlife Conservation in a total of four years.

Details of the scholarship (name, criteria, etc.) are still being worked out and we will share the information as details become finalized. In the meantime, please help us get a good start to fundraising for this scholarship!

## Plover Travels from Newfoundland to Georgia

A Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) that was seen in Newfoundland has shown up again in Georgia. The banded bird, which was observed as part of a stewardship program on Second Beach, Grand Bay West, near Port aux Basques, NL was banded as an adult by researchers from Virginia Tech on September 23, 2012, on Cumberland Island National Seashore, off the coast of Georgia.

The adult, which had been an early nester and appeared quite strong, had been last seen in NL on Second Beach on July 10, 2013, when staff member Russell Wall observed it with another adult and a chick which was estimated to be 22 days old. On August 14 and September 4, 2013 it was seen again at the place where it was banded. This bird made it back safely from its breeding grounds near Port aux Basques, Newfoundland!

## Bat Monitoring

For full news release see <http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20130809004>

The Department of Natural Resources in Nova Scotia is asking people to report bat sightings, in response to White-nose Syndrome and its devastating effects on local bat populations. The public can report sightings of bats, including summer bat roosts and over-winter sites, by calling 1-866-727-3447 (toll-free) or by going online to [www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca).

Bats have recently been listed as endangered in NS, with over 90% of its populations being wiped out in just a couple of years.

## Nature Conservancy of Canada announces new Program Manager for PEI

The Nature Conservancy of Canada in Prince Edward Island has a new Program Manager in charge of its land protection and stewardship activities across the province. Biologist Julie Vasseur assumes the role vacated by Diane Griffin, who retired from the position earlier this year and accepted a volunteer position on NCC's Regional Board of Directors.

Vasseur has worked with NCC in the Atlantic Region since May of 2011 and during this time has done on-the-ground conservation work at numerous protected areas in Prince Edward Island including: Blooming Point, Boughton Island, St. Peter's Harbour, Governor's Island, the Conway Sandhills, Egmont Bay, and St. Peter's Lake Run.

"Almost 90 percent of the land on PEI is privately owned so the Nature Conservancy of Canada has talked with people and communities encouraging them to help play a role in saving ecologically important species," said Vasseur. "I look forward to approaching private land owners and sharing information with them on why NCC has identified strategic areas as priorities for conservation. I also welcome the opportunity to speak with government representatives, businesses and community groups about our work and how they may become involved. I also want to work with and build upon our valued donor and volunteer base across the province".

Vasseur graduated from the Wildlife Conservation Technology program at Holland College, and with Honours from the Bachelor of

Science in Biology from Moncton's Cran-dall University. She previously conducted research for a feasibility study concerning the reintroduction of the Northern River Otter to western watersheds and presented this to the annual PEI Trappers Convention.



## NEW STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN TO ADDRESS HUMAN IMPACT ON SUSTAINABILITY OF RIVERS

*News Release: June 19, 2013 from CRI, Fredericton, NB*

The Canadian Rivers Institute (CRI) today released a new five-year innovative research plan focused on protecting and improving the health of rivers. The timing of the research plan coincides with the recurring theme of river and water management headlines in the news related to changes to the Fisheries Act, concerns of hydro-fracking and other resource development, watershed management and plans for hydro-dams, to name just a few topics. With companies such as RBC distributing funding totalling more than \$2.3 million for water protection and preservation programs, water-related issues have become more pressing for the general public.

The goal of the plan is to ensure that the science of river sustainability is provided in a way that everyone can understand. "CRI science understands how human activities are affecting water quality and quantity in rivers, the abundance of fish and the health of aquatic life," states Karen Kidd, CRI Science Director and Chair of the Science

Directors Board. "This Plan will build on our successes and use our internationally-renowned team to address critical science needs about how all of the collective activities in a watershed affect the sustainability of rivers."

With three core areas of research in the science plan, the institute will deliver techniques and mechanisms allowing science to be quickly and efficiently integrated into river management policies. The CRI recognizes the importance of getting these tools into the hands of the public so that people can have an understanding of what is happening and in turn, be able to have an effect on policy changes. "We will work with water stewards and managers to ensure that the latest science and knowledge is accessible and available when decisions are made about how rivers are used," states Kidd.

For a complete copy of the research plan, visit [canadianriversinstitute.com](http://canadianriversinstitute.com) (CRI Reports).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Every year, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) holds hundreds of fundraising events that are open to the public. These events are held across the country. For information on an event in your area, go to <http://www.ducks.ca/events/> and select your province.

December 3, 2013, 2pm: *Understanding Animal Behaviour: How animals think, preventing fear memories, reducing stress* - Dr. Temple Grandin, Dalhousie University.

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/news-events/>

March 14-16, 2014—Aquaculture, Fisheries and Biology Conference, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

March 14-16, 2014—Environment Conference, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS

June 19-20, 2014—2014 International Conference on Wildlife Ecology, Rehabilitation and Conservation, Toronto, ON. <http://www.waset.org/conference/2014/06/toronto/ICWERC>

## ASFWB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

DATE.....

NAME.....

TITLE.....

AFFILIATION.....

TELEPHONE: (H).....(O).....

MAILING ADDRESS.....  
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EMAIL.....

REGULAR MEMBER (\$20): \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT (\$5): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive newsletters, notices, announcements, etc. by email \_\_\_\_\_ regular mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit your cheque or money order to Nic McLellan, Ducks Unlimited Canada, P.O. Box 430, Amherst, NS B4H 3Z5, [n\\_mclellan@ducks.ca](mailto:n_mclellan@ducks.ca), 902-667-8726. You may also pay with PayPal by visiting us on our web site at <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/environment/ASFWB/>