

BioLink

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



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October 23, 2014

Best Wishes and Congratulations to Rosemary Curley on her Retirement!

Written by Diane Griffin

Rosemary Curley earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1974. She then went on to earn a Masters of Science degree from Acadia University in 1983, studying the population dynamics and morphology of red foxes in PEI. After working at a number of jobs as part of the “paying her dues” phase, Rosemary became a biologist with the PEI Government, first as program manager for the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture and then as the Program Manager for Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation. As one can guess from that title, Rosemary covered many bases over the years. She advanced the protected areas program

under the *Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Natural Areas Protection Act*, and managed 29,000 acres of provincially-owned land for conservation purposes. She was responsible for the province’s Species at Risk and represented PEI on the Committee on the Status of

Endangered Wildlife in Canada. She enjoys reviewing the environmental assessment reports for proposed developments and naturally advocated for appropriate wildlife habitat protections during the permitting process.

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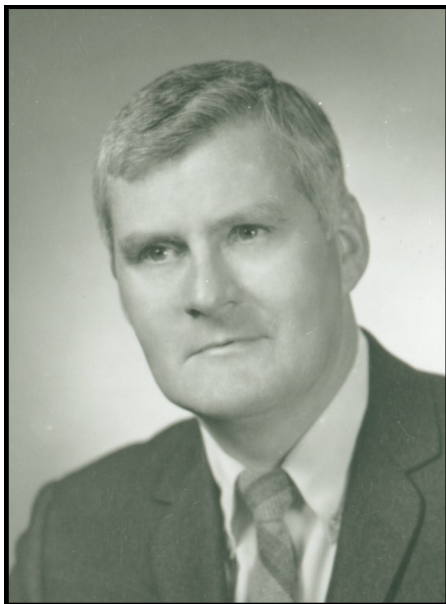
*“Retirement, here I come!
Ready or not, it shall be fun!”*

Don't miss this!

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Do you have a research project, wildlife topic, event, photos, or other related information that you would like to see included in BioLink? If so, email Danielle Quinn (danielle.quinn@acadiau.ca) or Holly Lightfoot (hlightfoot@birdscanada.org)! We're always looking for content ideas and photos from our membership!

The Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologist's Gilbert R. Clements Scholarship



The Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologist's Gilbert R. Clements Scholarship will be awarded annually, on the recommendation of Holland College, to graduating students entering the University of Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Program as full time students.

Potential candidates should have combined scholastic ability with a demonstrated interest and aptitude in wildlife conservation or management.

If you would like to donate to the scholarship

Online:

<http://www.hollandcollege.com/alumni-and-friends/give-to-holland-college>

Mail:

40 Weymouth Street
Charlottetown, PEI
C1A 4Z1

Phone:

902-566-9590

Cheques are payable to the Holland College Foundation. Please include a note and/or indicate the award name in the cheque memo.

We would like to thank all those who participated in the 2014 Spring Seminar entitled "Understanding and Managing Threats to Wildlife". It was an informative and enjoyable day, with many great speakers and we look forward to 2015. We also want to thank all those who are attending the 2014 Annual General Meeting in Terra Nova National Park, Newfoundland, and hope to have photos submitted from this beautiful location!

Do you have a suggestion for the 2015 Spring Seminar theme? We'd love to hear from you!

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Visit our website at:

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

Best Wishes and Congratulations to Rosemary Curley on her Retirement!

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Rosemary has been an active volunteer over the years, and served in various capacities in ASFWB, including President and newsletter editor. In addition to her professional work, Rosemary has been a major contributor to “spare time” projects such as the Christmas Bird Count, the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas and both Maritime Breeding Bird Atlases. Sharing her knowledge with others has been a long term objective, through public presentations and the writing of natural history articles in magazines and newsletters. The most recent project is authoring a chapter on the history of PEI wildlife as part of a book entitled Time and A Place: An Environmental History of Prince Edward Island. This will be co-published by the Island Studies Press and McGill-Queens University Press in March, 2015. She was a major player in the botanical surveys for the proposed new Flora of PEI, which is not yet published. Rosemary has also recently become the President of Nature PEI. In recognition of her distinguished career and volunteer work, Rosemary was presented with the Honourable J. Angus MacLean Award by the Island Nature Trust in 2006, the ASFWB Merit Award

Right Rosemary enjoys Porcupine Strand, Labrador, on her retirement trip. (Photo: Diane Griffin)



Left Rosemary receives the ASFWB Merit Award in 2012. She is pictured here with Kirby Tulk, Jason LeBlanc, and Mark Pulsifer.

in 2012, and a Heritage Award from the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation in 2013.

In celebration of her retirement, Rosemary travelled to Labrador in July after finishing her last day as a biologist with the PEI Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division. She camped, hiked, fished, bird-watched, collected butterflies and generally acted as a tourist during the two week journey. During this time, she caught no fish, but saw her

first-ever spruce grouse, and had some success with butterflies; this seemed a fitting way for a biologist to begin retirement!

Rosemary approaches this new stage in her life with her typical exuberance: “Retirement, here I come! Ready or not, it shall be fun!” The ASFWB wishes Rosemary the best in her ongoing adventures and looks forward to her continued involvement in the Society.



New Additions to Protected Natural Areas in New Brunswick

Written by Hubert Askanas

The New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce the addition of 141 Protected Natural Areas (PNAs) on Crown Land and 5 on Private Land this year. PNAs were first established in New Brunswick in 2003, by means of new provincial protected areas legislation. Their purpose is to protect the natural biodiversity of the province of New Brunswick, while allowing for low impact recreational, scientific, and educational activities. Since their inception, the number of PNAs in New Brunswick has been increasing steadily. It began with the designation of 10 core PNAs, and the reclassification of 20 existing "Ecological Reserves" and "Conservation Areas" as PNAs. In 2008, an additional 31 PNAs were designated, including one on private land. With the addition of the new PNAs in August, 2014, this gives a total of 273, 800 hectares of Protected Natural Areas in New Brunswick. The



Above A Monarch butterfly on Thatch Island, Grand Lake, NB, a Protected Natural Area. (Photo: Hubert Akanas)

most recent additions to the PNAs were identified based on several criteria through a multi-step process. An attempt was made to equalize the representivity of New Brunswick's protected areas across ecological regions. Under-represented areas were identified through a GAP analysis. A subsequent GAP analysis was performed on the enduring features (soil, elevation, slope, aspect, etc.) of each ecological region, to ensure representivity of these features. PNAs were then

selected from a pool of potential sites. Final selection criteria included, but were not limited to, presence of rare or endangered species, public and expert support, and old-forest patch size within it.

PNAs, along with other protected areas such as National and Provincial Parks, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, and National Wildlife Areas, provide a provincial network of protected land that contributes to the conservation of the province's biodiversity. Primarily, it is a way of ensuring that a representative portion of the province's natural landscape is left with little or no human disturbance. PNAs and other protected areas that fit within the guidelines set out by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas now account for 4.7% of the Province's terrestrial biome.

Additional information on PNAs, including interactive maps, can be found on the DNR website at:

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/natural_resources/ForestsCrownLands/content/ProtectedNaturalAreas.html

PNAs have been added to the Explore Eco NB app! This includes descriptions of individual PNAs within a google-maps based service. Download the app at:

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

New Research Study to Evaluate Piping Plover Survival, Migration, and Wintering Areas

Written by Sue Abbott, Bird Studies Canada

Despite limited population gains in Newfoundland-Labrador and Nova Scotia, the past six years have not been good for the recovery of endangered Piping Plovers in Atlantic Canada and Québec. This summer, Environment Canada initiated a five-year research project to evaluate adult and juvenile survival during breeding season and winter and to identify key wintering areas for Canada's population of *melodus* subspecies Piping Plover. A flagged band with a unique two-letter and/or number combination will be placed on the upper leg of adults and chicks (see photo). Coloured flags represent two plover breeding regions: black (and a limited number of white from 2013) for the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and grey for southern Nova Scotia. Success of this study depends on collective efforts to re-sight banded plovers throughout the



species' range. Adults and young banded on Atlantic Canada and Québec breeding beaches have already been sighted in the US (e.g., Florida, North Carolina and Georgia) and The Bahamas. Band re-sightings should be reported to Dr. Cheri Gratto-Trevor (cheri.gratto-trevor@ec.gc.ca) and include: 1) flag colour, code, and location on leg (e.g., upper right leg), 2) where and when you observed the bird and any other relevant information (e.g., seen with flock of Sanderling).

Above Female adult Piping Plover (upper right leg-grey flag [HJ]; upper left leg-silver) with an unbanded plover at Crow Neck, Shelburne Co., NS in July 2014. BSC is pleased to report that HJ and her mate (URL grey flag [CK]; ULL silver) successfully raised four young, two of which were spotted by Ronnie d'Entremont at Sand Hills Provincial Park, 3 Sept. 2014 (about 10 km northwest of Crow Neck). (Photo: Sue Abbott)

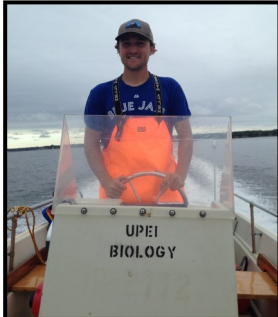
ARCTIC TERNS TELLING STORIES FROM THE NORTH



ARCTIC TERNS TELLING STORIES FROM THE SOUTH



In honour of another summer field season coming to a close, and a long winter of data entry and writing ahead of us, we want to share some of your great moments in the field.



Luke Poirier, Prince Edward Island



Jillian Arany, Antigonish, Nova Scotia



Lynn Symington, Prince Edward Island



Big Salmon River, New Brunswick
(Photo: Christine McLaughlin)



Bramber, Nova Scotia (Photo: Julia Whidden)



Torngat Mountains National Park, Labrador
(Photo: Matthew English)



Antigonish, Nova Scotia
(Photo: Brook Beaulieu)



*“Look! A trickle of water running through some dirt! I'd say our afternoon just got booked solid!”
— Bill Watterson*

Recent Literature

Looking forward to getting cozy with a good read this winter? Keep up to date with fish and wildlife research publications from Atlantic Canada and beyond.

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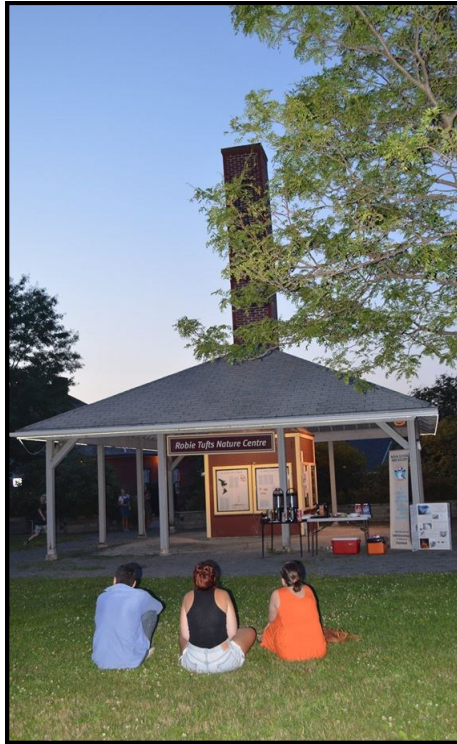
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Highlights from Maritimes SwiftWatch

Written by Holly Lightfoot

As part of Maritimes SwiftWatch over 125 volunteers monitored 17 known Chimney Swift roost and nest sites and submitted more than 170 observations. Other highlights this year in the Maritimes included 3 successful Swift Night Out Community events (Bear River, Wolfville, and New Glasgow) and volunteers finding 5 active nests in barns! We are also working with the town of Truro who have agreed to repair and preserve a chimney for the swifts, a new roost identified by SwiftWatch volunteers in 2013.



Left An audience enjoys watching the “Swift Spectacle” at the Robie Tufts Nature Center in Wolfville, Nova Scotia (Photo: Holly Lightfoot)



Left Young Chimney Swifts waiting for their next meal. The “halo” of swift spit above the nest is thought to help reinforce the nest. (Photo: Mark Elderkin)

Above Chimney Swifts on barn walls in East Dalhousie. Typically Chimney Swifts have to build new nests each year. However, because nests in barns are not exposed to the elements, the swifts can reinforce and reuse the nests in subsequent years. (Photo: Donna Crossland)

Maritimes SwiftWatch gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of the Environment, New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Walmart Evergreen, and the Sage Environmental Program.

We thank all SwiftWatch volunteers, and look forward sharing the rest of our 2014 results.

Information collected by SwiftWatch participants increases our understanding of Chimney Swifts and their habitat needs in the Maritimes. If you have observations or roost count data to submit, please contact us (marswifts@birdscanada.org or 1-506-364-5196).

Non-Lead Hunting Education and Non-Lead Ammo Exchange Program in Nova Scotia

Written by Helene Van Doninck
Through the cooperation of the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, the Halifax Wildlife Association and the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund, there is now a unique and innovative program in Nova Scotia which hopes to help convince hunters to voluntarily switch to non-lead ammunition. This program has two main components.

Education: Any interested group can request a presentation on lead poisoning and non-lead hunting. These presentations are given by

Helene Van Doninck DVM of the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

Non-Lead Ammunition Exchange Program: If hunters provide a box or partial box of lead ammunition, it can be traded for a full new box of non-lead ammunition at no charge. We are hoping to make this a five year program, and are currently in the second year.

Demand for both presentations and ammunition are growing, resulting in less lead in both wildlife and human food chains, and in the environment.

For **presentations**, please contact Helene Van Doninck.

Phone:

1-902-893-0253

Email:

helene.birdvet@hotmail.com.

For **ammunition exchange**, please contact Michael Pollard (Halifax Wildlife Association).

Phone:

1-902-830-4310

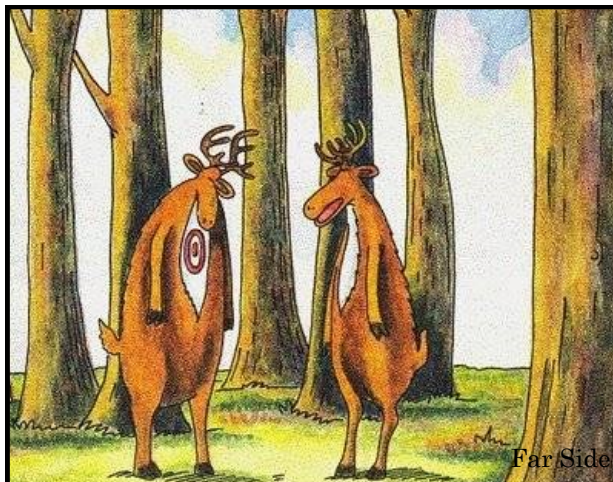
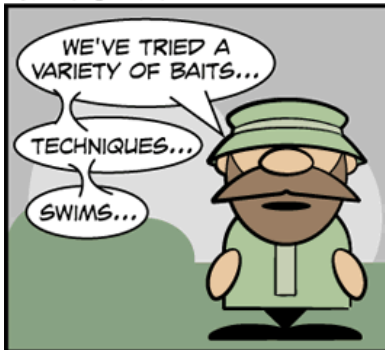
Email:

mikepollard@ns.sympatico.ca.

Whether in a deer stand or on a riverbank, we could all use some humor to help pass the time...

JACK'S PIKE

BY BRIAN ROBERTS



“Bummer of a birthmark, Joe”

Two hunters were dragging their deer back to their truck. As they passed another hunter, he said “Hey, I don’t want to tell you how to do something, but it’s much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction—then the antlers won’t dig into the ground.” The two hunters decided to try it. After about an hour, one hunter said to the other, “You know, that guy was right—this is a lot easier!”. “Yeah”, replied the other guy, “but we’re getting farther from the truck!”

Upcoming Events

4-6 November 2014: International Conference on Ocean Energy, Halifax, Nova Scotia. For more information, go to www.icoe2014canada.org

7 November 2014: The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute's Third Annual Conservation Science Meeting, Lunenburg Fire Hall, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. For more information, go to: <http://www.merseytobeatic.ca/conference.php>

6-8 March 2015: Science Atlantic Aquaculture & Fisheries and Biology Conference, Université de Moncton, Moncton, New Brunswick. For more information, go to: scienceatlantic.ca/conferences/

Spring and Summer 2015: Striped Bass Tagging Ambassador Workshops, multiple dates and locations around Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. For more information, go to: www.stripedbass.ca

Every year, Ducks Unlimited Canada holds hundreds of fundraising events that are open to the public, and encourage everyone to attend. For more information, go to www.ducks.ca/events

ASFWB Fish and Wildlife Research Grant

The **ASFWB Fish and Wildlife Research Grant** was established in the fall of 1994 to assist members who are conducting or supervising wildlife or fisheries research in Atlantic Canada. The grant provides funding up to \$500 annually for research projects. Any aspect of fish and wildlife research will be considered, but projects with applied management goals will receive preference. Applicants must be members of ASFWB. Projects that are largely government sponsored or funded are not eligible for this award. For more information, go to: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/environment/ASFWB/researchgrant.html>

ASFWB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

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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, N.S. B4H 3Z5, n_mclellan@ducks.ca, 902-667-8726. You may also pay with PayPal by visiting us on our website at <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/environment/ASFWB/>