

February 2016



Nature Moncton

*Celebrating Over
40 years*

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February 16th Meeting Program

**Pre-meeting presentation: Determining Migratory
Connectivity for Semipalmated Sandpipers**
Presenter: Nicolas Lecomte

Semipalmated Sandpipers were historically one of the most widespread and numerous shorebird species in the Western Hemisphere. However, the species appears to have experienced significant declines at core nonbreeding sites in northeastern South America (e.g., Suriname, French Guiana, and Brazil). On the breeding grounds, declines have occurred in the eastern Arctic, but populations are stable or increasing in the central and western Arctic. To better understand the causes of population declines, Nicolas Lecomte, a professor at U de M., has with others, documented the movements and migratory connectivity of Semipalmated Sandpipers using geolocators. To date, this is the first synchronous geocator deployment across a species range. They also deployed 30 geolocators at a single wintering site in Suriname in December 2013. This presentation will tell the story of this ground-breaking work. Understanding the migratory connectivity of these populations of a widespread yet declining shorebird is critical to identifying the causes of declines and ensuring the effectiveness of future targeted conservation efforts.

As always all are welcome.

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MINUTES of the NATURE MONCTON January 19th, 2016 General Meeting

HELD at the Rotary Pavillion, Rotary Park, Moncton, New Brunswick.

PRESENT: About 38 members.

John Foster **called** the meeting **to order** at about 7:02 p.m. AST and welcomed those present.

He asked whether there were any **Guests** and one person introduced herself.

As it was Members' Night, Mr. Foster introduced the **presenters**, Louise Richard who delivered a fascinating presentation on *Yellowstone National Park* and Brian Stone, who shared his beautiful photograph collection entitled *A Winter Walk in the (Mapleton and Irishtown) Park*. Mr. Foster shared a photograph of his own showing Japanese beetles attacking a rose blossom near Liverpool, N. S.

Nelson Poirier then spoke on *The Information Line Then and Now*, outlining how the service began in 1993 with a Panasonic recorder and evolved over 23 years to an email list with photographs. Kat Atkinson had helped him set up the current Blog Spot featuring full resolution photographs and they have a group of approximately 20 experts who collaborate to identify specimens in pictures.

The Break then took place at about 8:10 p.m. Following the **Break**, the meeting resumed at 8:31 p.m. Susan Atkinson, a member of the Executive Committee, chaired the business part of the meeting.

Ms. Atkinson began by reporting that the President, John Foster, had submitted his resignation to the Executive Committee on January 11th. She thanked John for his lengthy and dedicated service as Club President and Mr. Foster received a warm round of applause from the audience.

Ms. Atkinson then reported that the Minutes of the December 8th, 2015 Monthly General Meeting and Annual General Meeting had just been circulated by email and asked if anybody had any errors or omissions to report. None were raised. UPON MOTION by Secretary John Filliter, seconded by Peggy Bohus, it was resolved to approve of the Minutes as circulated.

The Chairperson then requested Treasurer Margaret Fanjoy to present her Financial Reports. Ms. Fanjoy first presented her November 2015 Financial Statement on the screen and noted that included payment of rent for the Rotary Pavillion until the end of 2016. UPON MOTION by Ms. Fanjoy, seconded by Dale Gaskin, it was resolved to approve of the November 2015 Financial Statement as presented. Ms. Fanjoy then presented her December 2015 Financial Statement on the screen and asked if there were any questions. UPON MOTION by Ms. Fanjoy, seconded by Shirley Hunt, it was resolved to approve of the December 2015 Financial Statement as presented.

Louise Richard reported that she had obtained a third \$500.00 grant of \$500.00 to the Club from Imperial Oil last year but didn't know whether this would continue now that she has retired.

In the 50-50 Draw conducted by Dale Gaskin, Susan Atkinson won \$15.00. Other draw prizes were won by Elsie Gallant (a calendar) and Diane Hebert (a wildflower guide). The chairperson noted that Mr. Gaskin was hoping to be replaced as organizer of the 50/50 Draw and invited members to volunteer for the role.

The Chairperson then called for **Reports from Committee Chairpersons.**

Louise Nichols reported for the **Activities Committee** (formerly called Field Trips, Workshops and Meeting Programs) that upcoming events included the *Bird Feeder Tour* on February 13th, a presentation on *Banding Semipalmated Sandpipers* by Nicolas Lecomte on February 16th, a Workshop by Pam Novak on *Wildlife Rehabilitation* on February 20th, and a Workshop on Pond Life by Wayne Fairchild on May 14th.

Nelson Poirier had nothing to add to his earlier report on the **Information Line.**

Shirley Hunt reported on the **Membership**, noting that there were now 68 paid-up members. She also passed out receipts that she had prepared for several new members.

Susan Atkinson reported on the **Newsletter** and the **Club Website**. She related that the website was still down because our previous host had had it shut down. They were still fighting over this. When it is reactivated, this development will be reported on our blog.

David Cannon reported on the January 11th meeting of the **Irishtown Nature Park Committee**. Thirteen of the fourteen members had been in attendance and had made considerable progress on their initiatives. They are updating their five-year Management Plan and incorporating as a non-profit corporation. The City of Moncton is planning to spend \$200,000 to upgrade the John Howard Trail this year and the Park is working to improve the success of the Eel Ladder. A video on *Wintertime Fun in the Park* is being produced and INP is part of the 2020 Forest Plan, which includes a trail link running from INP past Moncton High School to the McLaughlin watershed and eventually down to Mapleton Park. The Park's Facebook and Twitter accounts are being linked to the City of Moncton website and they are planning to expand the INP Committee to include several new positions, including a second representative of Nature Moncton. Volunteers were invited to apply to David or to any member of the Nature Moncton Executive.

Roger Leblanc of Nature Moncton, who is now a regional representative on Nature New Brunswick, was not present to report on Nature NB news.

The Chairperson asked if there had been any rare bird sightings of late. Dale Gaskin reported Crossbills and Grouse at his home at Dawson Settlement. Louise Nichols had seen a flock of 150 Cedar Waxwings on the U de M campus. A Mockingbird had been observed near Jones Lake. Nelson Poirier reported an immature White-crowned Sparrow and a Brown Thrasher had been seen on the Taylor Road. American Sparrows were also reported.

Under New Business, the Chairperson noted that John Foster had resigned as President and the Nomination Committee would be seeking candidates for President as well as Vice-President. John Filliter added that it was urgent for the Club to recruit members to fill these positions as otherwise the Board of Directors will lose its quorum when the Treasurer goes south next month.

The Chairperson announced that the next monthly meeting will be held on February 16th. There being no further business, the meeting was **adjourned** at 9:08 p.m. AST.

Verified and approved by:
Susan Atkinson, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted by:
John Filliter, Secretary

From the Editor's Desk:



Courtesy of Brian Stone

Nature Moncton's Newsletter

One would have expected by now I would have this down pat! Well, somehow my template for this month and all of my 2015 .doc file issues have mysteriously vanished. After an unfruitful and extensive search of my current system I searched and was able to find a usable template on my old computer (Whew ☺). The days are getting longer and with that comes the increased strength from the sun so can spring be far off. The groundhogs indicated an early spring so let's get out and enjoy the waning winter events before its too late. Making plans for the new life sprouting from the ground will come soon enough.

The **Activities Committee** has a full slate of Presentations, Workshops and Outings planned so watch the Info-line and the Newsletter for updates.

Because of the lateness of this issue going to press I can report that although the temperature was frigid the wind was light so a dozen or more members braved the elements to visit some members' feeders on Feb 13th during the **Annual Bird Feeder Tour**. I believe over 25 species were observed. Many thanks to the NM members who happily offered to show off how they attract their winter birds. Many thanks to the Renton's and the Poirier's for the sumptuous feed that was provided. Your kindness and generosity was very appreciated.

Nature Moncton's Website: www.naturemoncton.org

Remember: the purpose of the Newsletter is keep our members informed of the monthly meeting minutes, announcements, reports of our club's field trips, workshops and other matters of interest. Please feel free to let me know of items of interest or comments.

Another Reminder: please renew your membership. Your contribution is vital to the success of the Club.

Deadline for submission(s) for the March Newsletter is Monday February 29, 2016

Submissions can be sent by:

- 1) Email: susanatkinson29@gmail.com
- 2) Telephone: 506-384-2332 to make arrangements to deliver article(s) or photo(s) which you cannot email.
- 3) Leave the material with Susan at any monthly meeting.

Calendar of Nature Moncton Field Trips, Workshops and Presentations

Everyone is welcome to participate in our activities

All meeting presentations, workshops and field trips are posted to the NM Info-Line (384-6397) or sent to your email during the week leading up to the event. They are also published in the What's Happening in Moncton. Keep checking the as they are subject to change.

Louise Nichols is our Activities Committee Co-ordinator and she and the members of the Committee are always seeing input and suggestions from members. All ideas are welcome. Contact Louise Nichols at nicholsl@eastlink.ca

Workshops:

Pre-registration is requested as some events have a maximum or minimum number of participants. It also assures effective planning and to allow for contact to be made in the event of changes. Pre-register with Judi Berry-Steeves at 506-387-4778 or at jbsteeve@nbnet.nb.ca. A modest \$8 fee is charged for workshops which are held at the Tankville School, 1665 Elmwood Drive, Moncton.

Field Trips:

Generally, no fee is charged. For outings car-pooling is organized to allow seats be available for those who need rides. If car-pooling, please remember to share the gas costs.

Date 2016	Event	Presenter/ Outing Leader
Ongoing	“Impromptu Outings” – These outings visit sites in the Greater Moncton area and are designed for everyone and are usually accessible to those who have limited time or mobility. They can take place at any time and will last 2-3 hours at the most. Timing will be dependent on nature’s schedule. Listen to the Info Line 384-6397 and be ready to go.	Various
Saturday Feb 20, 2016	Atlantic Wildlife Institute: Wildlife Response Network The Atlantic Wildlife Institute, located near Sackville, NB, encourages learning about the vital relationship between people and nature. The focus of the institute is on hands-on learning and research, rooted in a program of rescue, rehabilitation and release of displaced wildlife. This workshop will give an overview of the creation of the Network and how it helps determine legitimate wildlife crisis scenarios. Pam and Barry will give examples of typical calls to the institute about wildlife, AWI response protocols, how they train their 1 st responders, and the Do’s and Don’t’s of when to intervene.	Workshop with Pam Novak and Barry Rothfuss
March 15, 16	The Canadian Wildlife Service in the Maritimes: our role and your contribution. In this presentation, she will give an overview of CWS’s role nationally and regionally in wildlife conservation, and will discuss the value of data collected by Maritime naturalists and birdwatchers in the delivery of the CWS mandate. Many different projects will be discussed including work on Piping Plover and Roseate Tern, Chimney Swift, sea ducks, shorebirds, swallows and more.	Becky Whittam, Head of Population Management; Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Environmental Stewardship Branch

Nature Moncton Nature Information Line Celebrates a Birthday

The Nature Moncton Nature Information line is about to celebrate a birthday. The actual date of the first outgoing message was hard to identify until Janet MacMillan was able to find a bill from NBTel for a phone hook-up charge dated August 17, 1993. This bill gives the Line an official birth certificate, so we are now able to say it has passed the stormy teenage years and announce its 21st birthday.

Volumes could be written on the thousands of nature reports members and friends have contributed over those 21 years that allowed us all to appreciate and enjoy Mother Nature's community all the more.

The idea for the Line came up while on a field trip in a van in June, 1993 with some chatter about how wonderful it would be if members could share their nature observations and experiences with others in some way. The notion of a number that people could call where they could leave a recording of their observations sounded like a good solution and everyone present resoundingly agreed, but the great idea went to rest until August, 1993 when Heather Silliker asked why it had not been acted upon. As a result of Heather's prompt, we immediately checked out some telephone answering machines to find there were units that would fit our needs so decided to go ahead and get a phone hook-up and give it a try which all happened surprisingly quickly. We tested the outfits and gizmos with guinea pigs Heather Silliker, Cheryl Davis, Bob Cotsworth, Alma White, and Nelson Poirier making test reports for a week. It seemed to work okay so we spread the word at the September, 1993 Moncton Naturalists' Club meeting. The Information line suddenly got very busy, and we were off and running.

The telephone number chosen of 384-NEWS was the brain child of Cheryl Davis.

In 1993, of course, Internet use and digital cameras were yet to become involved.

The first big technological development occurred with the coming online debut of the Listserv NatureNB developed by David Christie, Eileen Pike, and Stuart Tingley. Stuart Tingley transcribed the April 12, 1996 Nature Information Line message to the NatureNB listserv on April 17, 1996. We were joining the information highway!

Suddenly more volunteer transcribers of the daily message offered their services and many eager transcribers have faithfully typed out the daily (almost) freshly minted edition to NatureNB for 21 years. Special notice should be given to Alma White and Dave Christie who were dedicated transcribers of the Line when it first appeared on NatureNB and are still transcribing today. Many others have transcribed the Line from one to several years. Other folk such as John Tanner, Janet MacMillan, and Bev Taylor took turns editing when Nelson was away.

Since its beginning, the Information Line has benefitted from a number of other technological advances. When cell phone technology became more common, the use of the Information Line spiked again as reports could be made and shared more quickly and from farther afield. The onset of email changed things considerably enabling reports to be sent in writing, thereby improving the accuracy of information. Finally, the increased popularity of digital cameras made it easy for nature observers to include photos with their reports, giving their observations an important visual dimension.

Yet despite these incredible technical advances, the ancient technology of the telephone answering machine continues to be the basis of this daily Information Line that is livelier than it has ever been. Many of us feel the telephone is a thing of the past, but the Nature Line clicks on and off all hours of the day and night, making us making us realize Alexander Bell's invention is not yet ready to become a museum piece.

In our present email world, the transcribed Nature Information Line is delivered to approximately 1000 people daily with lots of forwards to others.

The success of the Line (thought to be the only one still operating in Canada) is very much to the credit of our nature reporters who continue to share each day their observations and thoughts.

Time to sing "21 candles"!

Related Items of Interest



Nature NB E-news is a monthly email sent out sharing news and upcoming events. Would you like to be added to the distribution list?

Send an email to nbfm@nb.aibn.com and ask to be put on the distribution list for Nature NB E-news.

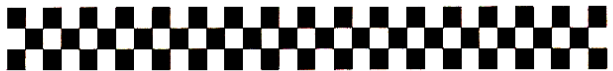
Not a member of Nature NB but would like to find out more?

<http://www.naturenb.ca/becomeamember.aspx> or Visit Nature NB at <http://www.naturenb.ca>

The advertising in the Newsletter, at a cost of \$10.00 per issue, provides some additional club revenue. J & P Farm Services, one of our regular advertisers, also supports members by offering a 10% discount if you show your NM membership card.



Courtesy of Brian Stone



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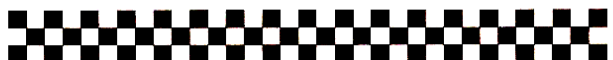
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EMAIL: _____

DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE DAILY NATURE INFO LINE & PHOTOS BY EMAIL?

YES _____ NO _____

DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

YES _____ NO _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES: SINGLE \$25 FAMILY \$35 STUDENT \$10 PAID \$ _____ CHEQUE CASH RECEIPT #
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PLEASE CHECK or WRITE, AS APPLICABLE:

ACTIVITY	WILLING to LEAD: if applicable	WILLING to HELP: with others or on a committee	JUST INTERESTED in PARTICIPATING & ENJOYING MY MEMBERSHIP!	ANY NEW SUGGESTIONS /COMMENTS FOR THIS ACTIVITY? (write on back of form if not enough room)
BIRD ALERT				
WORKSHOPS				
FIELD TRIPS				
PUBLICITY				
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT				
MONTHLY MEETINGS /PRESENTORS				
WAYS & MEANS FUNDRAISING				
PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION				
NEED TRANSPORTATION				
TRANSCRIBING DAILY INFO LINE				
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, example: website, archiving documents				
EXECUTIVE ROLES: VP, Treasurer, Secretary, or Executive Committee Chair				Nomination suggestions:

Payment: cheque payable to 'Nature Moncton'

At any monthly meeting see Shirley Hunt (Membership committee) or mail completed form & cheque to mailing address:

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