

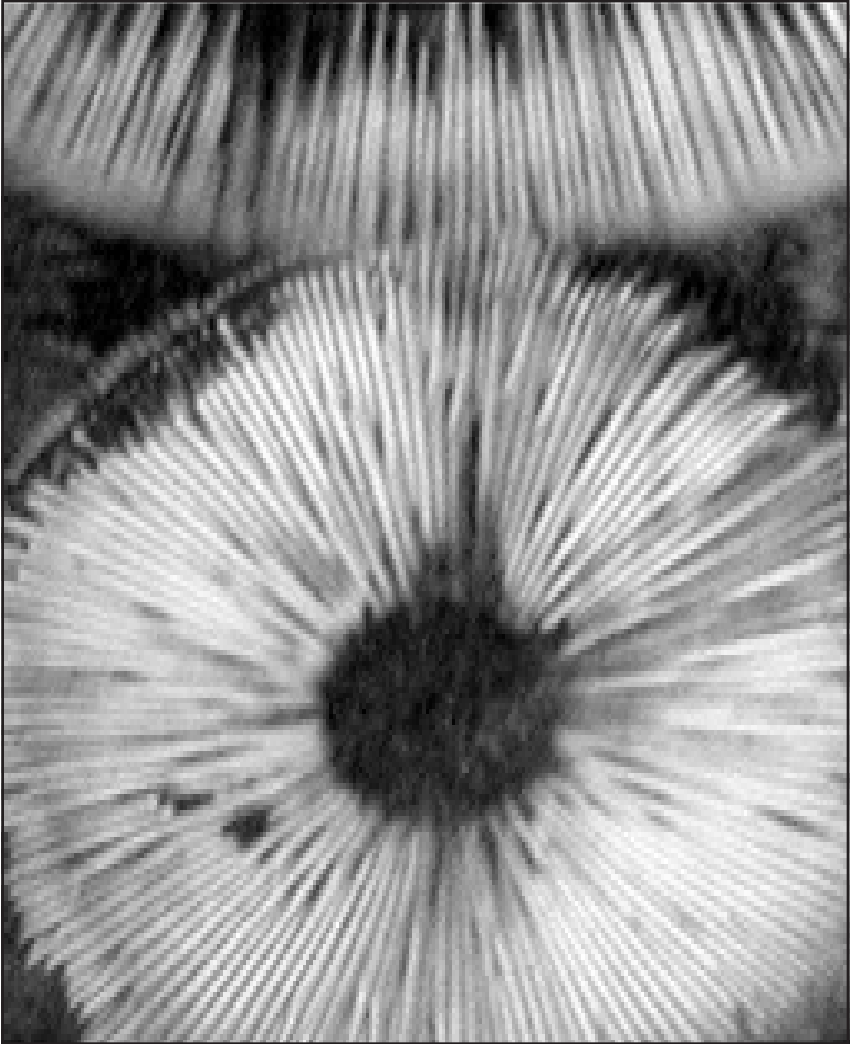
Federation of
Nova Scotia
Naturalists

NEWS

Volume 10, No. 2

October 2000

ISSN 1188-326X



Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (FNSN)

Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society (Rep: Jon Percy)

PO Box 576, Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0

Blomidon Naturalists Society (Rep: Larry Bogan)

PO Box 127, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

Cape Breton Naturalists Society (Rep: Betty & Rusty Gentile)

c/o Cape Breton Centre for Heritage and Science, 225 George St, Sydney, NS B1P 1J5

Chignecto Naturalists Club (Rep: Ken & Marge Nelson)

c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6

Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists (Rep: Randy Lauff)

c/o Department of Biology, St Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5

Halifax Field Naturalists (Rep: Doug Linzey)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/FieldNaturalists/fieldnat.html>

Les Amis du Plein Air (Rep: David Lawley)

PO Box 472, Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

Nova Scotia Bird Society (Rep: Joan Czapalay)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society (Rep: Barry Sawyer)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: <http://csensen@fox.nstn.ns.ca>

South Shore Naturalists Club (Rep: Jill Comolli)

c/o Jill Comolli, RR1, Rose Bay, NS B0J 2X0

Tusket River Environmental Protection Association (Rep: Bernie Deveau)

c/o C. Jacquard, Box 8A, RR1, Tusket, NS B0W 3M0

Members at large (Reps: Mark Brennan, Elizabeth Kilvert)

Associate Member – **Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society**

471 Poplar St, Cole Harbour, NS B2W 4L2

The FNSN purpose is to further communication and cooperation among naturalists and natural history societies in Nova Scotia. We also work towards a coordinated effort on the provincial level to protect our natural environment.

- We promote the enjoyment and understanding of nature by our members and the general public through education via publications, lectures, symposia, field trips, and other activities; through fostering the creation of nature centres and education programs; and by defending the integrity of existing facilities and programs.
- We encourage the establishment of protected natural areas, as represented in parks, nature reserves, wilderness areas, heritage rivers, and other such protected areas.

- We defend the integrity of existing sanctuaries by exercising constant vigilance against pollution and habitat destruction.

- We promote and engage in funding and research needed for protecting the integrity of all natural ecosystems.

- We encourage and engage in the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species, with special attention to the preserving essential habitats through: working for the inclusion of all major habitats in a system of protected areas; encouraging and facilitating the reintroduction of extirpated flora and fauna to their former ranges in the province; and encouraging and facilitating the restoration and enhancement of essential habitats.

FNSN is affiliated with the Canadian Nature Federation and is a member of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

Visit our website at <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/hp-fnsn.html>

or call Doug Linzey at (902) 684-0943 for more information.

FNSN

President – Martin Willison
Vice president – Joan Czapalay
Past president – Tom Herman
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Colin Stewart – Endangered Spaces
(

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Editor: Doug Linzey
telephone: (902) 684-0943
email: doug@fundymud.com

Mailing address:
FNSN News
c/o NS Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

From the editor

Nature's Millennium 2000: An Exploration of changes in Nova Scotia Natural History. That was the theme of the 2000 annual conference (the eleventh one) of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, held this year in Wolfville. Seventy-three naturalists met June 2–4 in Wolfville for the conference and annual general meeting, hosted this year by the Blomidon Naturalists Society.

Larry Bogan headed up a committee that included George Alliston, George Forsyth, Merritt Gibson, Elizabeth Vermulen, and Jim Wolford, with help from Lorna Hart.

Drawing on the superb pool of experience and talent in the Wolfville area, along with some eminent speakers from elsewhere, BNS put on a varied, inspiring, and informative program.

Speakers included Sherman Bleakney on the history and natural history of local dykelands; Fred Scott on the effect of climate change and global warming on wildlife; Elizabeth May on the history of Nova Scotia forests; Sherman Boates on recent developments in endangered species conservation; and Diane Griffin on the role of naturalists in the preservation of nature.

In this issue of *FNSN News*, Larry Bogan takes us on a few of the field trips and Jill Comolli tells us about some of the talks. The AGM minutes are presented on page 13 and the finances of the Federation as of March 31 are disclosed on page 15.

One of the welcome results of the AGM is the election of two new members to the board. Elizabeth Kilvert, of the Museum of Natural History, is the force behind the MacKay phenology survey. Mark Brennan has been active in seeking protection for forests and related habitat, especially in Pictou County, where he lives.

Check the back page for news on the 2001 annual conference and AGM. 4

AGM field trip: Cloud Lake Wilderness Area canoe trip

by Larry Bogan, trip leader

Sunday afternoon, 4 July 2000 – After a rendezvous at the Big Stop on Highway 101 and again at Berwick, eight cars carrying canoes and 16 paddlers drove up and out of the Annapolis Valley onto the southern granite uplands along the “Dahlhousie” road. We had to turn off onto a long gravel road and followed it 16 km west through wooded crown land to a beach and camping area on the north shore of Cloud Lake. This is the northernmost limit of the wilderness area, which actually encompasses Frog Lake to the south and more land west in Annapolis County.

The lake is completely within the wilderness area and undeveloped. A few camps used to exist on islands in the lake but have been removed. After launching our craft, we paddled among the numerous islands in the lake, staying on the downwind sides to make for a pleasant journey to the southernmost point in the lake. Here we gathered in a

small cove briefly out of the afternoon breeze. Along the way we encountered a couple of beaver huts but no loon or waterfowl.

Although, the cove is normally a pleasant place, the mosquito population made it uncomfortable enough to encourage moving on. Before leaving, we located the beginning of a portage to Frog Lake but did not explore it. Cloud Lake is a very pleasant lake, but we encountered no wildlife and not many birds were singing in the surrounding forest.

Because of the time required to organize and travel to the lake it was very late in the afternoon, and we paddled back to the put-in beach. We had only explored one end of the lake, but now the participants know how to access the area and come back for a more leisurely exploration. 4

AGM field trip: Canoeing the Cornwallis River

by Larry Bogan

Saturday afternoon, 3 June 2000 – At about 2:30 PM a flotilla of eight canoes and one kayak put into the Cornwallis river as weekend traffic roared by overhead on the Highway 101 overpass in Coldbrook. We drifted single file downstream out of earshot of this

noise into quiet pastoral scenes of cows grazing beside the river (and gazing at us) and swallows hawking overhead. After about a kilometre of winding left and right a tributary joined and widened the river to allow us to travel side by side.

Beyond a nice straight ½ km stretch below the Lovett Road bridge, the zigzag of this meandering river took over. The first half of the trip to Kentville is through pasture, but there are plenty of fence rows and trees. Numerous dead American elms line the river, with pileated woodpecker excavations prominent in all. Hawthorne and chokecherry were in bloom, with yellow warblers singing from them.

At this time of year, the water level was reasonably high and about ½ m below the bank. One could see mud marks on the vegetation indicating that the water level had been higher. As we paddled downstream the water level actually rose then lowered, while the current was first moderate, then slowed in the middle, only to increase dramatically at the end of the trip. The lower end of the river is tidal, and high tide occurred around 1 PM. By the time we ended our trip about 6 PM, the tide in the Minas Basin was low. This made for interesting river dynamics.

At high tide the flow of the Cornwallis is blocked, and the water overflows its banks and floods the surrounding intervals. We saw this midway through the trip as the flow of the river nearly stopped. When we finished the trip later near Kentville, the tide had dropped and the current had increased dramatically as the high level of pooled water drained rapidly into the lower Minas Basin. Getting out of the river was more challenging by the higher banks and swift flow of the river. It is not wise to travel farther down the Cornwallis during that part of the tidal cycle.

The trip was very leisurely and we stopped three times along the way: first to stretch our muscles, second for another rest, but more to do some birding behind and on a pleasant tree-covered drumlin beside the river. The last stop was to lift the canoes over a large hemlock fallen across the river.

Wildlife along the way included muskrat, deer, and turtles (painted?). In addition to the three species of swallows (tree, bank, and barn) and a chimney swift hawking over the river, we observed four species of flycatcher (kingbird, least, wood peewee, and alder). On the river itself, we scared up Canada geese, green-winged teal, mallards, and black ducks. We heard warblers: redstart, yellow, common yellowthroat, and black-throated green. We heard or saw white-throated, song, and savannah sparrows. The male red-winged blackbirds were dazzling with their red epaulettes. The list finishes with the usual crows, grackles, robins, red-tailed hawk, and, finally, rose-breasted grosbeaks. And at our stop a purple finch sat in the sun to show off both his colour and beautiful song.



The Cornwallis is a popular fishing river and we passed at least four or five fishers along the way. The last was at our take-out point and was very helpful in pulling the canoes from the river. We slid the canoes through the thick canary-grass to the parking lot of the Meadowview Community Centre, where we had left a car to ferry drivers

AGM field trip: Checking out the night sky

by Larry Bogan

Saturday evening, 3 July 2000 – After sunset, following the conference banquet, about 30 attendees assembled at Ridge Stile Park, on the ridge south of Wolfville. trip leader Sherman Williams and I provided a guide to natural objects in the night sky. The weather cooperated with a clear cloudless sky.

The first item of interest was Mercury. Because it perpetually follows the Sun through the sky, very few people have observed this planet. This evening, Mercury was in an advantageous position to be seen easily. It was low in northwest – a lone star in the evening twilight becoming more prominent in darkening sky as the sun moved lower and lower below the horizon. It was easier to pick out because there was a two-day-old, thin crescent Moon just below it near the horizon.

When the sky darkened enough to see the stars, Sherman pointed out the positions and shapes of the major constellations. I had set up my 33 cm diameter reflecting telescope and

showed the group some deep space objects, including

- double stars (Mizar and Alcor in the Big Dipper)
- globular clusters of stars (Messier 13 in Hercules)
- planetary nebula (Ring Nebula in Lyrae)
- open cluster (Messier 4 in Scorpius)
- galaxies (Messier 65 and 66 in Leo)

As the twilight died and many more stars became visible, Sherman pointed out additional constellations. Although some people had to leave to get a good night's sleep before the early field trips the next morning, others stayed until past 11 pm enjoying the brilliant celestial sights. As we were quitting, a bank of clouds moved in to shut the show down. All in all it was a successful evening with many compliments on the field trip. 4

Thanks to all the trip leaders:

Jean Timpa: botany walks Sherman Bleakney: dyke walk

Judy Tufts, Richard Stern, and Harold Forsyth: bird walks

Rick Penny and Randy Hill: photography

Ruth and Reg Newell: Gaspereau River Gorge walk

Ron Buckley: geology tour John Pickwell, Kentville Ravine walk

George Forsyth and Larry Bogan: canoe trips

Rick Ballard and Jim Wolford: provincial park walks

Sherman Williams: evening sky observing

AGM talks

The changing scene

by Jill Comolli

Saturday morning's speakers demonstrated the importance of dedication and long-term commitment in the work of naturalists.

Dr Sherman Bleakney, with over 50 years experience in biology and zoogeography in Nova Scotia, detailed the amazing detective work involved in the discovery and plotting of the first dyke built in the Wolfville area, the Wickwire dyke of 1806. This all came about by his accidental discovery of a mere corner of an 1808 map.

He described the evolution of dykes and abboitaux, and showed how the subtle colorations of silt deposits, the ecology of the sandstone terraces along Wolfville Harbour, and the lowest of Fundy spring tides yielded piece after piece of the cultural and natural history of this area. A minute study of the mud flats has revealed centuries old shells, 3,000-year-old oyster beds, and remnants of a 4,800-year-old forest of hemlock and red and white pine, all in the mouth of the Gaspereau River.

Dr Bleakney's work gives a full and dynamic picture of local history and attests to the skill of the Acadians in dyking 50-foot tides to make life there possible. He's not done yet, as he has just discovered the origin of the Black landing site of the Acadian deportation.

Dr Fred Scott, former curator of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, helped us explore climate change and its effect on terrestrial species. The complex and fragile interrelationships of phenology (the timing of seasonal plants and living things) became clear as Dr Scott detailed the effects of this region's decrease in precipitation, increase in rain to snow ratio, and drier summers. The critical timing of every single event in nature's seasons came to life as we saw how only one break in this delicate chain can force whole species to adapt or, if unable to adapt, to disappear. Recent climate changes have often been wild swings, as opposed to gradual long term change, which has an even greater effect.

Some of Dr Scott's work is on the Web at <http://www.tor.ec.gc.ca>.

Elizabeth May, director of the Sierra Club of Canada, sketched the changes that have taken place in Nova Scotia's forests since the Europeans arrived.

The Acadian forest was rich and diverse, dominated by hemlock, red and white pine, elm, oak, ash, and maple. This has changed with clearing for agriculture, shipbuilding, and export of timber, pulpwood, and woodchips. The tallest white pines were all taken by the British Navy for masts, and now we

Jill Comolli represents the South Shore Naturalists Club on the FNSN board. This article is adapted from the club's August 2000 newsletter.

can't even provide our Bluenose with a mast from Nova Scotia forests.

Experts have been warning about the degrading of our forests since 1909, but industry and governments have responded with ever-increasing cutting. Ms May warned that if things continue as they have, our trees will go the way of our fish.

On Sunday Dr Sherman Boates, manager of the Department of Natural Resources Biodiversity Program, spoke on conservation biology, which he described as the emergency ward of ecology. He described the efforts of the many groups working on endangered species, some of which occur only in Nova Scotia. He urged us to make ourselves familiar with these species and look for them whenever we are out in the natural world. For details check the website <http://www.species2000.org>. 4

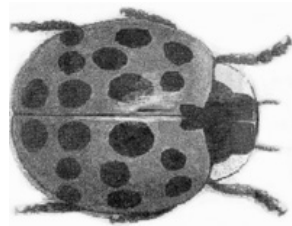
FNSN board member Jon Percy contributes to Bay of Fundy conservation

Fundy fact sheets

The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) has released three new Fact Sheets. Written by Dr Jon Percy and produced and published by Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans, these new publications cover three Fundy-related topics: the effects of fishing on sea floor habitats (Issue

14), the challenge of understanding change in the sea (Issue 15), and the need to conserve salt marshes in the Bay of Fundy (Issue 16).

All BoFEP Fact Sheets are available on the Internet at <http://www.auracom.com/~bofep/factsheet.htm>. For hard copies, contact Peter Wells (peter.wells@ec.gc.ca) or Graham Daborn (gdaborn@acadiau.ca). 4



Five-year CNF study Lady Beetle survey ends

Another exciting educational project, the Canadian Nature Federation's Lady Beetle Survey, has come to an end after five years. We'd like to thank the thousands of people who helped in this highly effective citizen science program. "Spotted," the final report that details their findings is now available. To receive a copy of the Lady Beetle Survey final report – or a full-colour bilingual lady beetle survey poster – contact CNF at 1 800 267-4088. 4

From CNF's Nature Matters (Fall 2000)

Federation president, Martin Willison, encourages Nova Scotians to call “pesticides” what they really are

Whatever you call it, it’s poison

I would like to encourage people to use the terms “poison” and “biocide” in place of “pesticide,” except where pesticide is clearly appropriate. Killing living things using chemical means is to use a poison. If done for aesthetic reasons, this involves the use of a biocide, not a pesticide. The word “pest” refers to something that causes real harm to humans, such as a plague organism. A chemical used for killing is only a pesticide if it is used specifically to kill a pest, and hurts little else.

Most of the killing done using biocides is done out of ignorance and hate. People indiscriminately kill plants in their lawns because they have been taught to do so by a culture obsessed with control. They kill home and garden insects indiscriminately, without knowing anything about their various roles in the garden system. This is kept going by manufacturers and sellers whose only concern is to gather money for themselves. They advertise their destructive evil using undisguised messages of hate on television.

Let’s tell it the way it is: the killing substances that are spread around for artificial purposes are biocides, which means that they kill life. The biocide manufacturers have created a culture

of hatred, making harmless creatures into something that people hate, in order that these ignorant people will buy poisons they don’t need. It’s a filthy business, even worse than the peddling of addictive drugs like tobacco and cocaine, which mostly kill the user. 4 [Adapted from a post to the sustainable Maritimes mail list 23 April 2000]

New Web-based “encyclopedia of life”

Nature goes online

NatureServe, a new online “encyclopedia of life” was developed by the Association for Biodiversity Information (ABI). It provides authoritative conservation information in a searchable database at <http://www.natureserve.org>.

Science (September 22, 2000) describes NatureServe as “a 25-year trove of field data on the plants and animals of the United States and Canada.” It holds information on more than 50,000 species, dealing with endangered status, distribution, life history, habitat requirements, and references. It also details threats to species and management strategies for their protection.

NatureServe is the first searchable Internet database for the ecological communities of the U.S. and Canada. It provides the most comprehensive, in-depth information on rare and endangered species currently available.

Colourful distribution maps show where each species and ecological community occurs, plus how rare or common it is across its range.

NatureServe is a partnership among ABI, the Natural Heritage Network, and The Nature Conservancy. Its data represents a quarter-century of field work, ecological inventory, and scientific database development by a network of hundreds of botanists, zoologists, ecologists, and data managers from U.S. Natural Heritage programs and Canadian conservation data centres. For the first time such data is easily accessible to the public .

What's included? All native North American species, subspecies, and varieties of vascular plants; all native North American vertebrate species and subspecies of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes; native North American invertebrate species and subspecies tracked by the Natural Heritage Network, including comprehensive coverage for freshwater mussels, crayfishes, butterflies and skippers, underwing moths, tiger beetles, stoneflies, dragonflies and damselflies, and freshwater snails; selected native North American species of non-vascular plants including lichens, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and some fungi; all documented ecological communities in the U.S. and Canada; all established non-native vascular plants and selected non-native animals. 4

Ted D'Eon Making a Difference

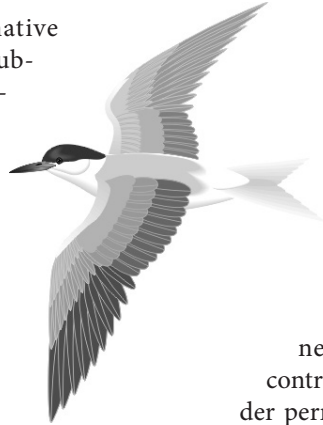
The Brothers are two small islands off the southwest coast of Nova Scotia, about one kilometre from West Pubnico, where Ted D'Eon lives. Ted is a local pharmacist who has been interested in birds since he was a young child. He has turned his passion into action, helping to save the endangered roseate tern. He

has been successful in attracting the interest of many people to his pursuit and then turning their interest into action.

Ted has spent many hours monitoring the terns, placing nesting shelters, and controlling predators under permit. And his efforts have been fruitful — the number of nesting pairs has steadily increased from 20 in 1991 to 61 in 1999. Today, 50 percent of the Canadian roseate tern population nests on the Brothers.

Recently, Ted has expanded his bird conservation work to attracting northern gannets with decoys and sound to Gannet Rock, a historical gannet colony in the area. 4

[Adapted from IBA News Canada (Summer 2000)]



Post-election update

Endangered species legislation dies

by Laura Telford

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) died on the order paper when the election was called. This is particularly sad given that there seemed to be strong will within the Environment Committee reviewing the bill to push for amendments that would strengthen it in several key respects. There also appeared to be a softening on the part of government toward accepting changes.

During the weeks leading up to the election call, the Committee heard from government departments such as Environment, Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Parks, and Indian and Northern Affairs, and from non-government groups such as the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and the Species at Risk Working Group.

The Minister of Environment, David Anderson, testified before the Standing Committee on September 19. The Committee expressed concern that they were wasting time because the Minister had said earlier he would not consider substantive changes to the bill. At this meeting, the minister said he would be open to constructive changes, but warned the Committee against major structural changes that would

“destabilize” the bill. The minister did not elaborate on what changes would be acceptable.

DFO appeared before the Committee on September 20 and reported that SARA is a “logical extension” of its powers under the Fisheries Act. DFO agreed to look at several issues such as rollover of the current COSEWIC list and negative-option “billing” (in which Cabinet would have a certain amount of time to take species off the scientific list, and the “legal list” would comprise the remaining species) and report back to Committee.

Parks Canada testified to the Committee on September 26 that the “National Parks Act is adequate for the protection of all species and species at risk.” Its position is that SARA will “reinforce and compliment” the department’s current powers, which are apparently sufficient to protect endangered species within national parks. The Committee observed that if Parks believes the National Parks Act already has mandatory habitat protection, then it shouldn’t object to adding the same in SARA.

Lastly, the Department of Indian

Laura Telford is the Canadian Nature Federation’s conservation campaign coordinator.

and Northern Affairs (DIAND) presented on September 27. It was clear that DIAND officials had not been briefed to expect specific questions about COSEWIC or habitat protection. They agreed that mandatory habitat protection within federal jurisdiction seemed a reasonable proposition. They committed to look into the Department position on rollover of the COSEWIC list and report back.

On October 17, the Committee heard from the Species at Risk Working Group (SARWG), which consists of environmental groups such as the Canadian Nature Federation, the Sierra Club of Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and two industry groups: the Mining Association of Canada and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association (CPPA). Never before has a Canadian Parliamentary committee heard from such an alliance of interest groups.

Charles Caccia, chair of the committee and a long-time friend of the environmental movement, began by observing that, now that it had become obvious an election would be called, he hoped the new government would ensure SARA was reintroduced as quickly as possible. The Committee's tone was completely different from that adopted when interviewing government departments. Members of all parties observed that if industry and environmental groups could develop a common vision for the Species at Risk

Act, why couldn't government? Most members had only good things to say about the presentation. (The brief is on the CNF Web site at <http://www.cnf.ca>).

Because of the mini budget, the appearance of environmental organizations before the Committee was cancelled, but the Committee did hear from COSEWIC before the election call. COSEWIC recommended that it remain at arm's length from government and that the listing process be as transparent as possible. COSEWIC scientists believe that the cabinet should have final authority over the list of species at risk, and they recommended that the cabinet should be able to remove species from the legal list of species at risk.

These deliberations became academic when an election was called. For the second time now, an endangered species bill has died on the order paper, and we will have to begin the process of getting endangered species legislation again when a new government is formed.

CNF and its environmental and industry partners will be pushing for the new government to introduce legislation to protect Canada's endangered species as quickly as possible in the next term. We would prefer that the government amend the legislation to address some of the issues raised during the Committee hearings before reintroducing a new act. 4



Minutes of the 2000 AGM

President Martin Willison called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM with 35 people in attendance.

Because the minutes of the 1999 AGM in Cheticamp had not been circulated prior to this meeting, and member organizations and members at large did not have time to review them, Bernie Deveau moved, seconded by Jim Wolford, that the minutes be approved in principle. Any errors or omissions could be referred to Martin for correction. Carried. It was requested that the minutes of 1999 and 2000 be published in FNSN News and posted on the website.

In business arising from the minutes, Stephanie Robertson asked about the number of issues of the newsletter. Doug Linzey, editor, responded that we hope to publish more issues this year.

Martin Willison presented the president's report, highlighting activities covered in the four quarterly board meetings held during the year:

1) FNSN has been working closely with Roland Chiasson, one of the Maritimes community conservation planners for the Important Bird Areas program (see report below).

2) The Herpetology Atlas project is in its second year and has gathered a great deal of valuable data. The steering committee has received \$8,000 so far and needs continuing support.

3) Martin has met with the Minister of Natural Resources to discuss regulations for use of ATVs. An interdepartmental committee that was set up six

years ago, then disbanded, has been re-established. FNSN has insisted that it have a non-government representative.

4) Two letters have been written about exotic fish introductions; a meeting with the Minister of Fisheries is expected to follow.

5) The Canadian Nature Federation is working to strengthen Canada's proposed endangered species legislation. FNSN has taken part as the Nova Scotia representative.

6) Martin attended the Canadian Nature Federation conference. He reported that Nova Scotia is regarded as a leader in biodiversity monitoring, citing the Breeding Bird Atlas, the Herp Atlas, the MacKay phenology project, and the work of the Museum of Natural History. The Federation will continue to be involved in this sort of effort.

Jim Wolford presented the treasurer's report (see p. 15). The funds shown as being owed to NS Nature Trust and to C. Stewart have been paid. FNSN expects to have its charitable status renewed, but has not yet heard from Revenue Canada in this regard. Randy Lauff moved, seconded by Barry Sawyer, acceptance of the treasurer's report. The motion carried following discussion of two inquiries from the floor: the Federation has had no paid positions since 1990, when an executive director was hired for one year only; we need to keep some funds in reserve with which to respond to urgent concerns.

Tom Herman presented the Nominating Committee slate of officers: Pres-

ident, Martin Willison; Vice-president, Joan Czapalay; Treasurer, Jim Wolford; Secretary, none. Pat Chalmers moved and Jill Comolli seconded acceptance of the report. Carried (Note: Joan Czapalay agreed to function *pro tem* as secretary).

Each of the 11 federate member clubs appoints one director to the board. Members at large nominated and approved the appointment of Mark Brennan and Elizabeth Kaizer as their representatives to the board.

Other Business:

1) Martin reported that he and Tom Herman had attended a meeting on the marine environment in Waterloo. He feels the Federation should focus more on marine issues, and that we should urge an inquiry into the health of the world's oceans. Doug Linzey, seconded by Jim Wolford, moved that FNSN support Martin's initiative in asking that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans strike an independent body to report on the status of marine ecology integrity. Carried.

2) Martin reported on deep sea corals, the "old growth forests" of the ocean floor. A World Oceans Symposium will be held in Halifax July 30 to August 3. Jill Comolli moved, seconded by Joan Czapalay, that Derek Jones – a South West Nova fisherman who has a fine collection of coral and a lot of information about it – be invited to attend the symposium, and that FNSN offer him an honorarium to cover expenses not to exceed \$1,000. The board will work out the details. Carried.

3) Roland Chiasson, IBA community conservation planner for the

Maritimes, reported on the three Nova Scotia sites approved for IBA funding: The Brothers islands, for protection of the roseate tern (grant to NSBS and Ted D'Eon of West Pubnico); Pomquet beach, for protection of the piping plover (grant to the Pomquet area fire department); Bird Islands, for protection of the great cormorant colony (the Province and NSBS own the islands). Other sites being considered are in Cape Breton (for Bicknell's thrush) and Cape Sable Island. Some fundraising proposals may be undertaken.

Roland emphasized a need for us to work with our member groups to develop ecotour ethics that will provide protection to species and habitats. The meeting congratulated Roland and his partner, Sabine Dietz, on their work.

4) Minga O'Brien of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust reported that NS Power has been asked for conservation easements for four different parcels of land (including Mosher's Mountain, Big Indian Lake, and the Gaspereau River). Martin wrote a letter of support, indicating that the Federation agrees with the Blomidon Naturalist Society regarding the Gaspereau property.

5) Jill Comolli announced that the 2001 AGM will be sponsored by the South Shore Naturalists, probably in Lunenburg in late May or early June.

Jill proposed a vote of thanks to Larry Bogan, Merritt Gibson, and all of the Blomidon Naturalists for a great conference.

Randy Lauff moved to adjourn. 4
[Minutes recorded by Joan Czapalay]

FNSN annual financial statement

to 31 March 2000 (unaudited)

Balance in account 31 March 1999 (A)	\$39,641.98
Funds received (B)	56,405.14
Memberships	\$809.00
Organizational	\$325.00
Federate	430.00
Individual	54.00
WWW grant for Endangered Spaces (C)	18,750.00
Redemption of CSB	36,800.55
Bank interest	45.59
Operating Capital (D = A + B)	96,047.12

Disbursements (E)
85,370.45

Endangered Spaces coordination (F)	81,116.14
Long-term debt payment (to C. Stewart)	914.00
Newsletter expenses	342.94
Bank service and maintenance fees	0.60
Herp Atlas design & printing	2,606.02
CNF membership	40.00
CNF affiliates meeting expenses	313.95
1999 AGM board meeting expense	36.80
Balance in account 31 March 2000 (G = D - E)	10,676.67
Funds allocated to Endangered Spaces Campaign	
Balance 31 March 1999 (J)	63,596.63
Balance 31 March 2000 (K = J + C - F)	1,230.49
Funds available for Federation use* (L = J - K)	9,446.18
(\$12,250.43 in 1999)	

*Long-term debt: \$914 (payable to C. Stewart end of next fiscal year)
 *Owed to NS Nature Trust: \$1,500 (raised by Blomidon Naturalist Society in 1994-95 fiscal year)

Annual Meeting 2001

2001 - South Shore Odyssey

Mark your calendars now! The 2001 Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists conference and annual general meeting will be held in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, from June 1 to 3. Our hosts will be the South Shore Naturalists Club.

Details will be available in late winter. Keep your eye on the Federation website:
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/agm2001.html>
Contact Jill Comolli (pross@ns.sympatico.ca) for more information.

