



The New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund Supports New Brunswick Wildlife in 2003

Fish Habitat Restoration:

Several groups have been working to clear the sediment and make New Brunswick streams more fish-friendly.

Cathy Beck, of the Richibucto River

Association, says her group has

been taking measures to cut the sediment and reduce fecal coliform. "It's exciting to see the water getting clearer

every year, and the fish population increasing," she says. This year, with the generous support of the NBWTF, members have built 8 km of fences, planted trees and grass, and created buffer zones to keep erosion from flowing into the streams. Farmers have also helped by building manure enclosures, restoring springs and installing nose pumps, so cattle can drink clean water without entering and polluting the streams.

The Hunting and Fishing Club of the Big Tracadie River worked to provide fish habitat by restoring the Clearwater Stream and continuing the classification of watercourses in the area. Vincent Comeau reports the group staged a successful "Field Day" in Tracadie-Sheila on September 14th to tell all about it. Two hundred people were there to watch the unveiling of a plaque thanking the NBWTF and the other supporters for making the work possible.

Monique Avery of Neguac, Coordinator of the "Comité sauvons nos rivières," is amazed at the transformation of the McKnight Brook. After installing 200 structures in the brook, Monique says, "Just a couple of years ago, you couldn't find any fish in the brook. Now people are catching 6-inch trout! We feel very fortunate to get the funding, and we are truly grateful."

Brent Stanley of the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee is crowing about New

Brunswick's best-kept secret. Thanks in large part to the funding that NBWTF provides,

cattle fencing, fording sites and cutting erosion with riprap have cleaned up the streams. Brent says "We now have New Brunswick's best fishing holes for sea-run trout and salmon. The Upper Kennebecasis attracts the fish because the water stays cold, and the watercourse restoration has created excellent habitat for the fish."

Wildlife: Wetland Management:

Heather Ward Russell, Coordinator of the Chignecto Agro Environmental Club in the Tantramar area, says the group has used funds this year from NBWTF and other sources to dig a wetland, erect a windmill to pump water into a cattle watering trough, and fence off the wetland streams. Heather says, "The farmers really support the project. Before the windmills, they had to truck tons of water every day. Now the cattle are getting better water at less cost. And the ducks like it, too!"

Andrew McInnis of Ducks Unlimited Canada says: "The Fund has been invaluable. The fact is, we just wouldn't be able to do the work we have done without them – they're crucial!" With support from the NBWTF this past year, Ducks Unlimited

Canada restored 15 one-acre small wetlands in fertile agricultural landscapes in central and southern New Brunswick.

Past landuse practices in these areas

have greatly impacted wetland habitat. The restored marshes are approximately 1 acre in size and an acre of buffer has been secured around each (30 year conservation agreements). Where appropriate wetlands and buffers were fenced to restrict livestock access. These small marshes will be well used by wildlife and contribute to biodiversity values in the NB agricultural landscape.

Biodiversity: Birds

Matthew Betts of the Greater Fundy Ecoresearch Group is another Fund booster. He says, "The Fund makes it possible for us to do our part for conservation. Our data will provide DNR with advice on habitat -- as we can predict which species would likely decline if we increase cutting rates, and which ones would increase." With the help of volunteers, the Group's "Habitat

Requirements of Forest Birds" project is tracking 35 forest indicator species at 700 sample points across New Brunswick. Matt says that knowing how various bird species respond to forest management provides important input to other studies which will impact the forestry industry -- and the wildlife of our province -- for decades to come.

In Saint John, Jim Wilson is pleased with the activities of his groups over the last year. "The money from the NBWTF has added real value to the great work our volunteers are doing to better understand and educate people about New Brunswick birds and other wildlife. The funding has enabled us to do things that we just couldn't have accomplished before."

The Sea Duck Migration Project, coordinated by Jim, encompassed two activities with the Saint John Naturalists' Club. The first, a migration study for which NBWTF funds a dedicated observer at Point Lepreau, helps track the migration patterns of Black Scoters, one of the least known species of sea duck. The birds winter in Georgia, move up the Atlantic seaboard to the Bay of Fundy and then up to the Bay of Chaleur. There they rest, feed and bond as pairs before continuing on to the eastern Arctic to nest, but exactly where is unknown. Although they flock in the Bay of Fundy and Bay of Chaleur in the hundreds of thousands, their

numbers have been declining, and now, through special radio tracking technology, naturalists hope to discover why.

The second project is a video that documents the Black Scoter migration along the New Brunswick coasts.

Produced by Midwood Media and Rowan Ridge Productions, it will be packaged with a teacher's education kit to get the word out to our youth. Because of the contributions by volunteers, the project will provide great value for the investment by NBWTF and other contributors.

Another project in the area, which the

NBWTF funds with the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee, is the publication of an annotated list of more than 400 species of birds that occur in New Brunswick. Highly qualified volunteers stretch the grant dollars by providing the content for free.

And volunteers -- 200 of them -- help to monitor populations of birds of various species, from Barred Owls and Bicknell's Thrush to Forest Hawks and the Pileated Woodpecker, all around the province, from the Nepisiguit highlands of Christmas Mountain to the Tantramar marsh. Ramsey Hart, of Bird Studies Canada in Sackville, underscores the value of the Fund's philosophy.

He points out that "the NBWTF funding is key to making these projects possible. What sets this fund apart from others is that the Council provides funding for long-term projects. It is the year by year support of many monitoring projects that creates truly reliable data. You can't put a clear picture together with a few snapshots," he says.

In short, the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund has done a lot over the past years to tell the world about our province's abundant natural resources, and it keeps developing ways to help our wildlife flourish.

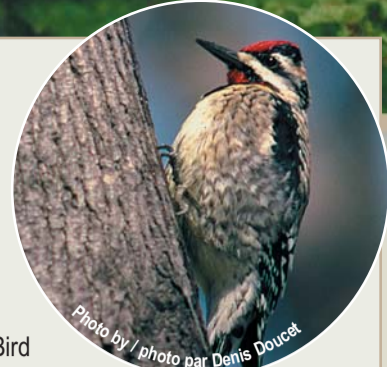


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