

Christmas Bird Count 2020

The Wolfville count took place on December 19 and turned out to be a pleasant day to be out looking for birds. This year my sister and brother-in-law, Anne and Bernie Brown, who are birders living in Black River Lake, joined Pauline Meldrum and me covering the Black River area of the count. The Browns counted the west end of Davison Street giving Pauline and me more time over the remaining Black River area.

Only a few birds were found on woodland trails, most were around or near bird feeders. We were pleased to find several species of woodland finches not present in Black River during recent winters. Sunken Lake was still open producing a lone Hooded Merganser. Bald Eagles were over the whole area. We stopped for a lunch break along the open fields of Corkum and Burns Rd. A farm tractor working on the field helped us by flushing up a Red-tailed Hawk plus a flock of Snow Buntings.

The 24 bird species resulting in 515 individual birds being counted was higher than recent years in Black River. Following is the results of our birding day spent in this beautiful area of Kings County.

SPECIES	NUMBER	SPECIES	NUMBER
Hooded Merganser	1	Black-capped Chickadee	69
Ring-necked Pheasant	9	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
Bald Eagle	33	White-breasted Nuthatch	4
Red-tailed Hawk	3	Brown Creeper	1
Rock Pigeon	50	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
Mourning Dove	37	European Starling	94
Downy Woodpecker	2	Snow Bunting	25
Hairy Woodpecker	3	Dark-eyed Junco	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Pine Grosbeak	13
Blue Jay	45	Common Redpoll	5
American Crow	46	American Goldfinch	38
Common Raven	12	Evening Grosbeak	2

Bernard Forsythe

Leonard Levy's DBS Machine

Leonard Levy's "chicken berries" make a trip round the Lake, usually with me, his wife Mildred, and further afield every week. For those who don't know him, Leonard was diagnosed with Parkinson's nine years ago, at sixty years of age. So the last few years have been increasingly difficult with tremors that Leonard describes with some rich country language. Medication helped reduce the tremors until the last few years. Work was a challenge not to mention putting a nut on a bolt or trying to drink a cup of tea. And eating peas? "The d#!** things jump right off the fork".

Now, a month after being "turned on" with Deep Brain Stimulation, Leonard is back in the work line-up for Mildred and on the way to the barn early in the morning with son, Shawn.

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is a relatively new procedure here in Nova Scotia that a specialist may recommend when it's time; when medication stops working and before an otherwise healthy patient reaches seventy years of age. Leonard had this procedure on September 29 at the QEII in Halifax. A neuro surgeon, Dr. Lutz Weise, assisted by two nurses drilled through his skull and inserted an electrode into the part of the brain that causes tremors ... until the tremor stopped. The thin metal wires are designed to send electrical impulses to help control motor symptoms. Sounds simple but it took six hours, a large part of that time Leonard was awake, so the professionals could ask questions, watch the tremor and see exactly when it stopped. When the experts hit the sweet spot the end of the wire is "positioned correctly" and the wire is run down inside the body to connect to a neurotransmitter which is placed just below the collar bone.

continued on page 3

NATURE'S PANTRY AND PHARMACY

WILLOW (continued)

Nature's Rooting Hormone

Willow bark contains natural plant growth hormones which can be used for rooting new cuttings. One of the most amazing properties of willows is their growth! We can take advantage of this naturally occurring hormone, and make extracts that we can use to induce rooting on cuttings of other plants.

WILLOW WATER - HOW IT WORKS

Willow Water is a home brew plant rooting hormone that is easily made and can be used to increase the strike rate (growth of roots) of cutting that we're trying to propagate.

The way that it works can be attributed to two substances that can be found within the *Salix* (Willow) genus, namely, **indolebutyric acid (IBA)** and **salicylic acid (SA)**

Indolebutyric acid is a plant hormone that stimulates root growth. It is present in high concentrations in the growing tips of willow branches. Salicylic acid which is a chemical similar to the headache medicine Aspirin.

When we make willow water, both salicylic acid and indolebutyric acid leach into the water, and both have a beneficial effect when used for the propagation of cuttings.

Willow water can be made from cuttings of any tree or shrub in the willow family, a group of plants with the scientific name of *Salix*.

The more cuttings that are used and the longer they are soaked in water, the stronger the resulting willow water will be. These cuttings can be made at any time of year.

HOW TO MAKE WILLOW WATER ROOTING HORMONE

*Collect young first-year twigs and stems of any willow (*Salix* spp.) species, these have green or yellow bark. Don't use the older growth that has brown or grey bark. Remove all the leaves, these are not used. Don't waste the good green material though, compost the leaves or throw them in the garden as mulch. Take the twigs and cut them into short pieces around 1 inch (2.5 cm) long.*

There are a couple of techniques to extract the natural plant rooting hormones:

a) Place the chopped willow twigs in a container and cover with boiling water, just like making tea, and allow the "tea" to stand overnight.

b) Place the chopped willow twigs in a container and cover with tap water (unheated), and let it soak for several days.

When finished, separate the liquid from the twigs by carefully pouring out the liquid, or pouring it through a strainer or sieve. The liquid is now ready to use for rooting cuttings. The liquid can be kept for up to two months if it's put in a jar with a tight fitting lid and stored in the refrigerator. Remember to label the jar - what it is, the date it was brewed and the date it should be used by, which is 2 months from the date it was made.

Ed Schofield

Black River

... from the *Wolfville Acadian*

This column was originally printed in the *Wolfville Acadian* and was printed without the wife's name, as was the practice of the time. Where it is known we have included it in brackets.

April 8, 1948

Quite a number of friends met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy on the evening of Saturday last, it being the 35th anniversary of their wedding. A very pleasant evening was spent after which delicious refreshments were served, and all wished Mr. and Mrs. Levy many more happy years.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin (Ada) Ellis, of Victoria Beach, spent Easter at the home of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.W. (Mabel) Long.

Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long was a Sunday visitor at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard (?) Smith, of White Rock.

Our two school teachers have returned to their duties after having spent Easter Holidays at their respective homes.

Mrs. Freeman (Mildred) Ells, of Gaspereau, spent last week with Mrs. Frank (Hattie) Ells who was somewhat indisposed for a time.

The work at Methol's is progressing the snow having pretty well left.

April 15, 1948

Mr. and Mrs. Allison Chute and children Marilyn and Michael were Sunday visitors at the home of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long.

Miss Leona Lake, Wolfville, spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy.

We are sorry to report that Charlotte Eagles, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert (?) Eagles is ill with pneumonia. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Master Philip Long, who has been sick with scarlet fever for the past four weeks is now a patient at the BFM Hospital, Kentville, under observation. We hope that he will be able to return home soon.

We are glad to report that one of our oldest residents, Mrs. John (?) Schofield, who was very ill this winter is much improved, and able to do her light household duties.

January Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Next Month February 2021 TBA					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Directors Meeting 7:00-8 pm	12	13	14	15	16
17 Monthly Meeting 7:00-8 pm	18 Book Club 7-8 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 Heritage Meeting 7-8 pm	26	27	28	29	30



COVID 19
Prevention
Guidelines
in Effect



Masks
Must
Be
Worn

Stories from Black River Podcasts

Do you enjoy being read to? Have a listen to our "Stories from Black River". They are a combination of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and music, gleaned from members of the community - past and present and based on our own published and unpublished collections. We offer them, written and voiced by various members of the community, primarily for your entertainment - but with an eye to preserving our heritage and the voice of our community.

Presently we are working on winter stories and add more all the time. Click on the active links below and go directly to the podcast or to our facebook page or website. To date we have listeners in Canada, USA, UK, Australia & Mexico.

<https://anchor.fm/storiesfromblackriver>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1zMHYxDMwQ9uUjCNQSmN7U?si=m5N2VSsQQZufzSNR96dyQ>

Leonard Levy's Dbs Machine *con'd from pg 1*

Several weeks later, after the swelling went down, the doctor and nurses chose a setting on the transmitter which best suited Leonard. It's amazing to him and to all of us that he was no tremors at all now. All his motor skills are improving and he feels great. Now he has to build back the strength he lost.

What's even better is that the electrical impulses can be changed and I have the remote control! If he slows down working, I can turn it up! Those eggs will be delivered faster than ever.

Thanks everyone for your concern and good wishes. We are grateful to the wonderful health care we have here in Nova Scotia and to our good friends and Family.

Mildred Levy

NEWSLETTER *The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.*

<https://www.facebook.com/blackrivercommunityhall/>

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Classifieds...

PORCUPINE CREEK PRODUCTIONS - handcrafted by Nellie Schofield - nellieed.schofield@gmail.com. Tel: 902.542.5134

JESSICA MYRA - NATURAL FIBRE CREATIONS-mothermuse@outlook.com

JACK SPINNEY BRAIDED RUGS - local and handmade, 85 Upper Sunken Lake Road, Sunken Lake B4P 2R2 Tel: 902.542.1552

Looking for **KINDLING** for the winter season? Look no further. **Jack Spinney is offering QUALITY, DRY KINDLING** at the great price of \$5 for a full feed bag. Call Jack at 902 542 1552.

Birthdays

Brad Schofield	Jan. 6
Holly Chappus	Jan. 7
Jim McInnis	Jan. 8
Darren Gertridge	Jan. 9
Tasia Schofield	Jan. 13
Shawn Levy	Jan. 14
Elaine Schofield	Jan. 15
Amber Gertridge	Jan. 16
Brandon Schofield	Jan. 17
Marion Gee	Jan. 24
Jayn Kenny	Jan. 25
Pauline Murray	Jan. 29
Alisha Cassie	Jan. 31

Garbage in the Cornfields

A couple of weeks ago (October 30, 2020) I took a drive around my community. One of the many things I noticed was that the garbage bins cottages use in the area for waste had been removed. People who do not live in the area have always hauled their garbage to these waste facilities to avoid proper

Speedy Recovery

Brian Morrison has returned home after surgery at the QEII. He is wished a speedy recovery.

Mildred Levy's additional information on Parkinson's

DBS is the best solution but not everyone is eligible for this surgery. I have talked to people and they said they were scared to do it. Leonard spent many hours of testing for this procedure in Halifax.

We belong to a Parkinson's group in New Minas. We used to meet a couple times a month and it is good to talk to others that have Parkinson's. Since Covid-19 there hasn't been any group meeting.

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sorting and dump fees. Now that those bins have been removed I guess those who should not be dumping their garbage at the bins have decided the best place for them to dump it is in our fields. Click on the active link below to go directly to the facebook site. *from FB - Joel Sheffield post*

<https://www.facebook.com/joel.sheffield.37/posts/10223873174235523>

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Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by Clara Spinney

Nov. 27 -

Shawn Levy had 40 evening grosbeaks and a cardinal at his feeder.



evening grosbeak

Nov. 28 - Janet

Hiltz reports a flock of grosbeaks in her yard.

Nov. 29 - Had company this morning while I was having coffee - a merlin perching on a limb just outside my window.



cardinal

Dec. 1 - Janet

Hiltz informed me there are

mergansers at

the head of Sunken Lake, good to hear.

Dec. 6 - Big difference in population of some

of the small birds this year. The chickadee

count is way up plus both kinds of

nuthatches. There have been fewer

woodpeckers both downy and hairy.

Dec. 10 - Finally the mergansers have made

it down the lake as far as here. Not near as

many this year.

Dec. 15 - Reta phoned to tell me she now

has a cardinal. I am still waiting for one.

Dec. 18 - The day after our first snowstorm.

So many birds at feeders - my first

grosbeaks, not a flock, just one pair - so nice.

Telephone Clara 902.542.3180 with any of your

wildlife observations and she will add them to

her own or email: claraspinnney123@gmail.com

Santa Claus Parade

On December 18 The Greenwich Fire Department held a Santa Claus Parade in their district. The parade stopped at our Community Hall and Church. The whole area was festooned with lights, red fire trucks and Santa - we couldn't have had a better display of the Christmas Spirit.

