



NLNATURE.COM NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

WELCOME TO NLNATURE.COM NEWS!

Happy summer! Hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we've been having and has the chance to get outdoors and observe some of the fantastic plants and animals in our province.

Welcome to NLnature.com. You are receiving this Newsletter because you have signed up as a member at NLnature.com – Newfoundland and Labrador's website for plant and animal sightings. Thank you for taking the time to join our website and we hope you will visit the site often and continue to share sightings.

In this issue, we will present some highlights of the project, outline new features of the site, and tell you about some of the recent activity on the website. Visit nlnature.com often! Turn to pg. 2 to see how you can help!

WHAT'S NEW ON NLNATURE.COM?

If you have been a long-time member of NLnature.com but have not visited the site for a while, you may notice some changes. We encourage you to come back and keep contributing sightings!

- We have added a new interface for posting sightings. Now, you can start typing the name of the organism or a description and the field will auto-fill with likely possibilities, based on what is already in the database. Note that you can still add a completely new entry, you do NOT need to accept the auto-fill.
- The interface for uploading photos is more user-friendly
- We've changed the map on the home page so that it now shows the most recent sightings made all across the island in the past 7 days, with today's observations highlighted. You can hover over any of the dots and a balloon with details on the sighting will pop out. Clicking on the name of the sighting will take you to that record.
- There are new options on the menus on the left side of the screen. Check them out! These include an interface for searching for sightings and one where you can click on the names of major centres in the province and you will be taken to a map zoomed in on that area and showing the last 100 sightings made in that region.

NLNATURE.COM HALL OF FAME

- As of July 7, 2013, the website had over 329 members who have signed on, and who have collectively posted just under 1,000 observations.
- Our *most active member* to date is **Marcel Roy** (member since October 12, 2010) who has contributed over 200 observations.
- We have 4 members (**Marcel Roy**, **Marnhull**, **Cape Gannet** and **Lynette**) who each have contributed an impressive 40 or more observations!! Wow!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- NLnature.com has been in existence since 2009. Read a short history and background to the nlnature.com project on pg. 2
- We recently made major updates to the site to make it more user-friendly. If you haven't visited the site in awhile, you may wish to check it out. Read more about the updates on this page!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

We have several “unidentified” sightings logged. If you are good at identifying a particular group of species, please click the “unidentified sightings” link for a list of species that are currently not identified. To whet your appetite, here something posted by **Skyangel** on June 13, 2013 (observed Feb. 9, 2013). **Daria** thinks it is a **young bald eagle**. What do you think this is? Submit your opinions by posting a comment to the observation (note you need to be logged in to post a comment).



HOW YOU CAN HELP?

We would like to get more users on the site. Here are some ways you can help promote the site:

- Tell your friends about NLNature and encourage them to join!
- Keep submitting your own observations!
- If you know a lot about a particular group of plants or animals, please feel free to lend your expertise and comment on other members' postings.

Feel free to post a link to our site (www.nlnature.com) on your personal, business, or organization website, Facebook or Twitter accounts.

We have small information pamphlets available that give information about the site. If you have an organization or business that attracts people who are interested in Newfoundland and Labrador's plants and animals (including tourists) and would be willing to display these, please contact us at admin@nlnature.com and we will ship them.

INTRIGUING POSTINGS IN JUNE 2013

We recently did a promotional tour of the west coast, Great Northern Peninsula and south coast of Labrador and spoke to community groups, and people working in the tourism industry. The tour has resulted in more sightings from the west coast and GNP, including these interesting ones:

- A **coyote** by **Langlecriag**, observed on the Great Northern Peninsula on June 22, 2013
- **Giant squid** observed on December 5, 2004 in Colliers and posted by **Flynnsbeach**.
- A **Yellow Warbler nest** observed on June 19, 2013 by **Bill Dennis**. Bill notes that there was a nest here two years ago but not the previous one.
- An **Evening Grosbeak** observed on June 7, 2013 on the Bonavista Peninsula by **Peter Armitage** (with a note about tern declines on the islet)

A **bear with three (3!!) cubs** observed in Gros Morne National Park on May 29, 2013 by **Westhiker**

THANK YOU!

In June 2013 we toured the province presenting NLnature. We are extremely grateful to our hosts for their warm hospitality, including **Terra Nova National Park** staff (primary contact **Adie Hayes**), **ACAP Humber Arm** (**Sheldon Peddle**), **NL Outfitters Association** (**Keith Payne**), **Limestone Barrens Community Working Group** (**Dulcie House**), **Provincial Historic Sites** (**Kim Shipp**), **Wildlife Division, Dept Environment and Conservation** (**Cathy Regular**). We are also very grateful to **Dale Colburne**, manager of **Norstead - A Viking Village**, for her warm reception as well as to everyone else for their kindness and support!



ABOUT WWW.NLNATURE.COM

NLnature.com started in 2009 as part of a cross-Canada project examining how people use the internet to participate in a variety of environmental issues. Now, the site is wholly dedicated to collecting sightings of plants, animals and other features of interest to naturalists and outdoors people. The project is a joint research venture by researchers in the Department of Biology and the Faculty of Business Administration at Memorial University.