

*Saoghal na Gàidhlig...***The Gaelic way of living in the world**

Air Là na Sàbaid mu dheireadh dhen Chéitean, Mios na Gàidhlig, chaidh seirbheis uile gu léir 's a' Ghàidhlig a chumail aig Eaglais Chléirich Ephraim Scott 's an Acarsaid a Deas, leis an Dotair Urramach Aonghas Moireasdan ás an t-seann dùthaich a' searmonachadh. Cha b' e Moireasdanaich na sgìre a-mhàin—agus tha mòran dhiùbh air a' Chladach a Tuath!—a ghabh tlachd anns a' chéilidh a rinn e oirn.

Mar bu dual, chaidh salm a ghabhail, le Andreas Hiort a' togail an fhuinn. 'S e am fonn 'Stroudwater' a chaidh a chleachdadh dìreach mar a b' àbhaist do Dhòmhnall Niall Moireasdan (no Mac'Ille Mhuire), seirmeadair ainmeil á Loch Laomainn, a bhith 'ga sheinn. Chomharraich Màili Chaimbeul (a' bhean-phòsda Chamshron) puincean an fhuinn, leis na rìomhaidhean-ciùil, anns an leabhar "Fad air Falbh ás Innse Gall" le Dhòmhnall MacFhearghais (1977). Bidh cuimhne aig gu leòr air Màili mar bhean-stiùiridh dhan chòisir "Òranaiche Cheap Breatainn", mach á Suidnidh, gus an robh i còrr is 90 bliadhna a dh' aois. Dh'fhàs i suas a' dol gu seirbheisean Gàidhlig aig Eaglais Chléirich Knox, Aiseag Rois; agus bha i gu math cleachdte ri togail an fhuinn a chluinntinn a' sin agus ann an adhradh an teaghlach.

Tha cuimhne fhathast air seirmeadairean a' Chladaich a Tuath a fhuair cliù dhan t-seòltachd aca ann a' togail an fhuinn—leithid Tommy Thómais, Tommy Peigi, Calum Aonghas MacLeòid, Iain Alasdair Iain X, Alasdair, Coinneach agus D.J. Moireasdan, agus Donnchadh Mac'Ille Eathain, feadhainn bho'n liosta a thug Murchadh Mac'Ille Mhicheil dhomh an là roimhe.

Ged 's e traidisean na Galldachd a bh' ann bho thùs, ghabh Gàidheil na h-eaglais Phròsdanaich gu cridheil ri "cur a-mach na loidhne"(mar a theirear uaireannan ris an dòigh seo sailm a chur an aithne an t-sluaigh), 's buill a' choimhthionail gu léir a' cur an car fhéin air an fhonn, gun mhuinighin aca air inneal-ciùil ach air guth làidir an t-seirmeadair.

Aig an àm seo, tha feadhainn dhinn an sàs anns an traidisean seo a chumail suas ann an adhradh na h-eaglaise ann an Albainn Nuaidh. Airson bùth-obrach 'fhaighinn, cuir fios gu PARSONCN@gov.ns.ca no dèan fònadh gu 902-863-7462.

The Gaelic Way of Living in the World is written by Catriona Parsons and sponsored by...

On the last Sunday of May, Gaelic Awareness Month, an all-Gaelic ecumenical service was held at Ephraim Scott Presbyterian Church, South Haven, with the Rev. Dr. Angus Morrison from Scotland preaching. It wasn't only the Morrisons—and there are many on the North Shore!—who enjoyed his visit.

As was the hereditary practice of the Gaelic Presbyterian church, a psalm was sung, precented by Andreas Hirt. The tune was 'Stroudwater' just as it used to be sung by Don Neil Morrison, the well-known precentor from Loch Lomond, Cape Breton. Mae (Campbell) Cameron noted the music, together with the embellishments, in the book "Beyond the Farthest Hebrides" by Donald Ferguson (1977). Mae will be remembered by many for her association with "Òranaiche Cheap Breatainn", the Gaelic Choir out of Sydney, which she directed into her nineties! She grew up going to services at Knox Presbyterian Church, Ross Ferry; and she was quite used to hearing precenting there and in family worship.

Still remembered too are precentors well-known for their skill in "raising the tune", including those from the North Shore. In my recent conversation with Murdoch Carmichael, he reeled off the names: Tommy MacDonald, Tommy Peggy MacDonald, Malcolm Angus MacLeod, John Alick John X MacDonald, Alick, Kenny and D.J. Morrison, and Duncan MacLean among others on the list.

Although originally a Lowland tradition, Gaelic Protestants took with gusto to the "lining-out" method (as it is sometimes called), with the precentor singing out each line of the psalm and the congregation picking it up a capella to the chosen tune, adding their own ornamentation and relying only on the precentor's strong voice for accompaniment.

Currently some of us are working to continue the Gaelic psalm precenting tradition in worship in Nova Scotia. If your choir and/or congregation would like a workshop, contact me at PARSONCN@gov.ns.ca or by phone at 902-863-7462.

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Office of Gaelic Affairs
Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig

Strictly for the birds

by Bethsheila Kent

I had the great good fortune recently to spend some time birding in the Tarbot area with Bev Brett, another great, local birder who, as many of you know, regularly contributes sightings to this column. You'd think that Bev and I, both avid birders and, in Cape Breton terms, neighbours, would have many such opportunities, but that is not the case and our morning/early afternoon together was a real treat. Bev took me to some of her favourite birding 'hotspots' where I was shown the elusive, unusual flicker reported by both Jim Allen and Bev and witnessed, for the first time, a partially albino northern flicker. Its pale plumage literally shone in the morning light. And, as if that were not enough to make any birders day, on our way out, Bev and I were followed by a pair of newly-fledged grey jay. An excellent day and my thanks to Bev!

Spotlight on the Grey Jay:

The contrast between the grey jay and its first cousin, the showy and gregarious blue jay, is quite remarkable. The grey jay is the slightly larger of the two, measuring about 11" in length. A drab-coloured bird - grey, white and black - the adult grey jay has a white head and collar and black crown and nape. Its back

is a dark, slatey-grey and its wings show very faint markings. Its breast is pale, its stomach, grey, its underparts a crisp, clean white. It also sports a distinct dark stripe extending from eye to crown patch. Its bill is short and thick. Juvenile birds, such as the newly-fledged pair Bev Brett and I encountered are simply grey all over with a hint of a pale eye-stripe. Like their adult counterparts, the pair skulked, in tandem, through the lower canopy, one keeping slightly ahead of its sibling flitting in short bursts of level flight from cover to cover. So indifferent were these birds to our presence, one, braver than the other, left the forest cover several times and made attempts to land on my outstretched arm. Truly a magical experience!

Recent Sightings:

Once again there are few sightings to report with regards to birds and water. However, an outing to north Inverness County did turn up northern gannet offshore, double-crested cormorant and a few white-winged scoter. Closer to home, American black duck and mallard were noted on the ponds along the Bay Road, south of Baddeck, Canada geese at several locations, all the foregoing with young in tow. A few male ring-necked duck continue to linger at the pond at Nyanza and Bev Brett reported several of the same species on ponds on the eastern Highlands. Several great blue heron have been seen in flight from Ingonish to Baddeck Inlet and points between. A greater yellowlegs was spotted at Rear Munro's Point on the St. Ann's loop and belted kingfisher have been noted at many locations. The breeding pairs of common merganser at River Bennett have successfully fledged a number of offspring. Common tern are still on nests in several colony locations diligently watching the gulls noted for

predation of both eggs in nests and newly-hatched young. Herring, great black-backed and ring-billed gull have all been noted in their usual locations. As recently as June 16th, Wilson's snipe were still "winnowing" at Big Harbour; however I have not heard them since and assume they have settled down on nesting sites. A pair of common loon at St. Ann's made for a lovely sighting.

Landlubber Report:

Where to begin. Perhaps wood warblers again. Many of these active insect eaters have retired to their nests to get on with the business of continuity but many are still singing on territory and making for great sightings. Yellow-rumped, yellow, magnolia, blackburnian, black and white, northern parula, mourning, black and white, black-throated green, Wilson's and common yellowthroat were all noted this reporting period in suitable habitat. Flycatchers noted include a few least (always the last to arrive), alder and olive-sided. Given that the last-named species is considered rare for our area, we certainly

do encounter a large number of them! Thrushes continue to sing on territory with the hermit thrush's charming song filling the air wherever it is found. Several Swainson's thrush were heard during a recent hike; American robin,



too, continue to sing and a single, juvenile robin can thank Wanda MacDonald, North Gut, for rescuing it from marauders as it had fallen from its nest. Ovenbird were noted in many locations. Red-eyed and blue-headed (solitary) vireo were noted in good numbers, the later often emitting its strange, cackling laugh. Ground birds encountered include ruffed grouse and ovenbird. Bev Brett reported a spruce grouse at West Tarbot. In addition to the usual sparrows - song, savannah, chipping and white-throated, Bev and I managed a quick glimpse of my first swamp sparrow of the season, always a treat. Surprisingly, only a single Lincoln's was seen and heard this reporting period. Numerous golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglet continue to be very active; ditto for tree, cliff and barn swallow, all in suitable habitat. Black-capped and boreal chickadee, dark-eyed junco and red-breasted nuthatch have all fledged young. American goldfinch, purple finch and cedar waxwing were also recently observed. Common grackle and red-winged blackbird were found at Big Harbour, Big Baddeck and Nyanza; numbers of both blue and grey jay were also found. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are, quite literally, everywhere. Bev and I discovered a nest with a sitting male while out together and, of course, they are common at feeders throughout the County. Black-backed, hairy woodpecker and northern flicker were seen this reporting period. Evening grosbeak were both seen and heard at several locations. Raptors seen include northern goshawk reported by Bev Brett, many American bald eagle and good numbers of red-tailed hawk.

My thanks to Bev Brett and Wanda MacDonald for their recent reports. I can be reached at 295-1749 with your sightings.

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