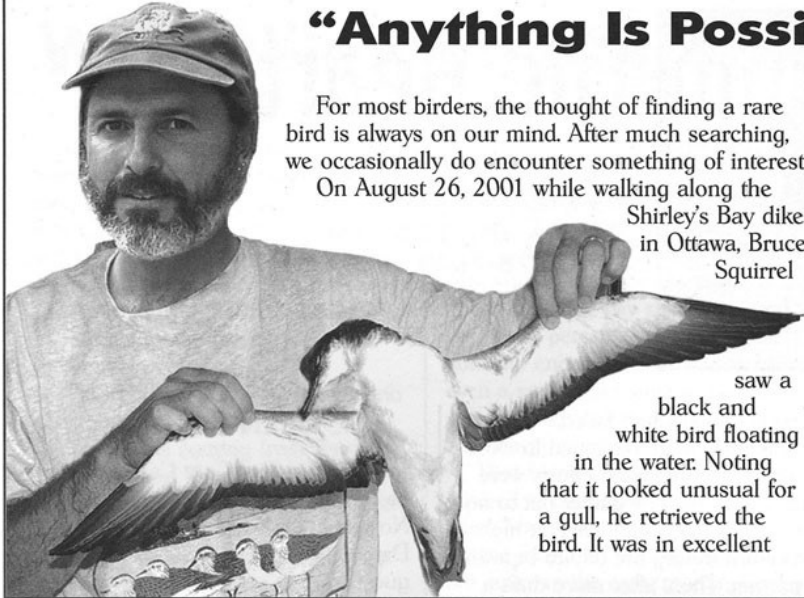


## **“Anything Is Possible !”** by Bruce Di Labio



For most birders, the thought of finding a rare bird is always on our mind. After much searching, we occasionally do encounter something of interest.

On August 26, 2001 while walking along the Shirley's Bay dike in Ottawa, Bruce Squirrel

saw a black and white bird floating in the water. Noting that it looked unusual for a gull, he retrieved the bird. It was in excellent

condition and appeared to have just recently expired.

A close inspection revealed it was a “tubenose” a nickname for petrels and shearwaters. These species normally occur on the ocean and are occasionally driven inland by storms. After consulting a number of field guides, the bird was identified as a Manx Shearwater, the first record for Ontario and amazingly the second time a shearwater had been found dead in the Ottawa area. The first was an Audubon's Shearwater near Almonte in September, 1975.

As the saying goes, “birds have wings” – anything is possible!

**Bruce Di Labio holding Ontario's first Manx Shearwater**