

Painted trillium  
(*Trillium undulatum*)

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# Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (FNSN)

**Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society** (Rep: Wayne Morgan)

PO Box 576, Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0

**Blomidon Naturalists Society** (Rep: George Alliston)

PO Box 127, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

**Cape Breton Naturalists Society** (Rep: Betty & Rusty Gentile)

c/o Cape Breton Centre for Heritage and Science, 225 George St, Sydney, NS B1P 1J5

**Chignecto Naturalists Club** (Rep: Ken & Marge Nelson)

c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6

**Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists** (Rep: Randy Lauff)

c/o Department of Biology, St Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5

**Halifax Field Naturalists** (Rep: Doug Linzey)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/FieldNaturalists/fieldnat.html>

**Les Amis du Plein Air** (Rep: David Lawley)

PO Box 472, Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

**Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society** (Rep: Christoph Sensen)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: <http://csensen@fox.nstn.ns.ca>

**South Shore Naturalists** (Rep: Jill Comolli)

c/o Jill Comolli, RR1, Rose Bay, NS B0J 2X0

**Tusket River Environmental Protection Association**

c/o C. Jacquard, Box 8A, RR1, Tusket, NS B0W 3M0

**Members at large** (Rep: Larry Bogan)

Associate Member – **Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society**

471 Poplar St, Cole Harbour, NS B2W 4L2

The FNSN purpose is to further communication and cooperation among naturalists and natural history societies in Nova Scotia. We also work towards a coordinated effort on the provincial level to protect our natural environment.

- We promote the enjoyment and understanding of nature by our members and the general public through education via publications, lectures, symposia, field trips, and other activities; through fostering the creation of nature centres and education programs; and by defending the integrity of existing facilities and programs.
- We encourage the establishment of protected natural areas, as represented in parks, nature reserves, wilderness areas, heritage rivers, and other such protected areas.

- We defend the integrity of existing sanctuaries by exercising constant vigilance against pollution and habitat destruction.
- We promote and engage in funding and research needed for protecting the integrity of all natural ecosystems.
- We encourage and engage in the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species, with special attention to the preserving essential habitats through: working for the inclusion of all major habitats in a system of protected areas; encouraging and facilitating the reintroduction of extirpated flora and fauna to their former ranges in the province; and encouraging and facilitating the restoration and enhancement of essential habitats.

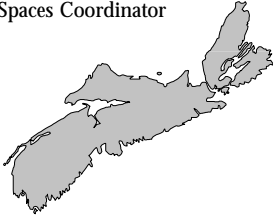
FNSN is affiliated with the Canadian Nature Federation and is a member of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

Visit our website at <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/hp-fnsn.html> or call Doug Linzey at (902) 429-5997 for more information.

# FNSN

President – Martin Willison  
Vice president – vacant  
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## From the editor

Successful retail businesses have a familiar mantra: location, location, location. An analogy for successful species might be habitat, habitat, habitat. Like Tim Hortons or Frenchys, which seem able to survive anywhere, some species got lucky – thriving and adapting easily to our human way of life. But most natural species need pretty specific conditions to survive over the long term.

Certainly, one of the most endangered habitats worldwide is the wetland in all its various guises. It's a rare voyage by car outside the city on which one doesn't see fresh evidence of human encroachment on wetlands. It's a rare natural-history publication that doesn't include some wetland-related story.

Here's a random sampling of material that passed recently through the FNSN mailbox:

*The Wetlander* is a newsletter of southeastern BC's Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, which hosts a summer flock of the threatened western population of White Pelicans. The challenge: not to scare away the flock. The question: "how to keep people informed about the remarkable occurrence, without increased public interest disturbing them as they forage and loaf in the wetlands."

Of the more than 30 seminars and workshops offered this year by Eagle Hill Field Seminars in Maine, no fewer than nine directly involve wetland habitats.

In August, Quebec City hosts the week-long Millennium Wetland Event, at which will occur – among many other things – the 21st annual meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists, the 11th congress of the International Peat Society, the 6th International Association of Ecology Wetland conference, and the 9th symposium of the International Mire Conservation Group.

"Conserve our Mire" – now there's a slogan!

# Adopt-A-Highway

The **Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society** is considering joining the Adopt-A-Highway program.

This strikes me [editor] as a good way for a naturalist club to combine some public service with a different kind of studying nature. Highway margins and medians, and their various natural and unnatural features, provide a marvellous study ground for an extremely abundant form of habitat.

The Adopt-A-Highway program is an international roadside litter cleanup initiative. In Nova Scotia, the program was started by the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, the Lions Clubs, and Clean Nova Scotia. It became official in 1997. The Departments of Environment, Tourism and Culture, and Transportation and Public Works, and the Resource Recovery Fund Board continue to be strong supporters.

Each spring and fall, volunteers carry out roadside cleanups in their communities. During the spring 1999 cleanup, at least 900 volunteers covered more than 340 km of roadway, collecting more than 3,000 bags of garbage and 480 bags of recyclables.

Each volunteer group chooses a 5 km section of roadside with a commitment to perform two cleanups annually. The group must also adhere to safety requirements and provide responsible on-site monitors. Permits, safety vests, garbage bags, and flagging materials are provided to the volunteer groups.

Highway signs are installed along the adopted section of roadway to give recognition to the volunteer group.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Highway Program, contact:  
Adopt-A-Highway Program  
Box 550  
Truro, NS B2N 5E3  
E-mail: gkeith@cadmin.nsac.ns.ca  
Tel: (902) 893-6520  
Fax: (902) 893-6393

## TREPA joins program for students

The Gulf of Maine Institute without Walls: Canadian Maritimes Millennium Initiative, with funding from the Canadian Millennium Partnership Program, will bring students out of the classroom into the Tusket River watershed for some hands-on learning. They will be able to share their experiences with fellow students doing similar things in their own local areas throughout the Gulf of Maine basin.

This example of authentic community-based environmental education will be sponsored jointly by TREPA and the Southwest Regional School Board. Adult mentors will work with students on issues related to local watersheds. The program is based on the belief that learning through doing, in apprenticeship and partnership with adults, is the most effective way to help prepare youth and their communities to secure a rich and sustainable future.

See the TREPA website for continuing information: [www.trepa.com](http://www.trepa.com).

# The Blanding's turtles of Keji

The Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingi* (Holbrook) of Kejimikujik National Park in Nova Scotia are returning, thanks to more than 30 years of effort from a determined group of people.

The Blanding's turtle, named after its discoverer in the 19th century, is more likely to be found in central North America, in and around the Great Lakes. However, an isolated population was first discovered in the area now known as Kejimikujik National Park in 1948. Concerns were raised when subsequent studies turned up few juveniles. Other problems, such as nesting in roadsides and the increase of predators and scavengers – likely the result of involvement in and around the national park – led to their listing as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada in 1993.

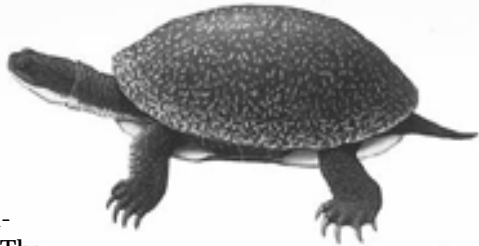
“Having this distinction may have helped raise awareness of the recovery plan for the Blanding's turtles,” says Cliff Drysdale, ecosystem science manager at Kejimikujik National Park. The goal of this plan was to realize a self-sustaining population within the turtle's historical range in Nova Scotia.”

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*Originally published by Parks Canada in Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's Natural Parks, 1:5 (October 1999)*

To do this, park personnel had to determine habitat requirements and availability, implement habitat protection and manage clarify their understanding of the habits and life history of this creature, and stabilize the age structure through increased recruitment into the breeding population.

“The recovery program included a number of missions to help improve the size and health of the population,” says Drysdale. These included using screens to protect nests from predators, closing trails into nesting sites, and carrying out ecological restoration. “We removed a dam from Grafton Lake because it had forced the turtles to go overland on their way to lay eggs. Some of them laid their eggs on the sides of gravel roads,



perhaps because the terrain resembles the rocky beaches where they normally lay.” This combination of efforts is intended to increase the number of turtles that reach breeding age.

The Kejimikujik team feels there is still a lot to learn to support population recovery, and the study of these genetically significant turtles continues.

# Deep-Sea Corals of Nova Scotia

by Martin Willison

## INTRODUCTION

Corals are colonies of small animals related to sea anemones (coelenterates). The animals, known as coral polyps, make a collective home for themselves by secreting a skeleton of some kind on which the colony lives. The secretions are characteristic of the species and can become very large.

Many people believe that corals are found only in the waters of tropical oceans and seas. This common misapprehension is a result of the fact that reef-forming corals are found only in the tropics. Reefs are, by definition, close to the surface of the water. Coral reefs are easily seen by anyone who visits a tropical paradise because they are just below the surface of the water near the shore. In colder waters, such as those near Nova Scotia, corals are usually found at depths of 200 metres or greater, far from shore. Many fishermen haul up corals accidentally in their fishing gear, but some fishermen are unaware of what they are. In Nova Scotia, fishermen often call them “trees,” and some believe that the “trees” are fossils rather than living organisms that are important parts of marine ecosystems.

Unfortunately, scientists and fish-

eries managers have paid very little attention to deepwater coral species, and as a result they are being seriously damaged by fishing activities. The most damaging techniques involve dragging heavy nets and their associated gear over the bottom of the ocean to capture groundfish like cod, haddock, pollock, redfish, and grenadier.

The saying “out of sight, out of mind” applies strongly to deep-sea corals. Because they are tucked far away in the deep ocean, corals are out of sight for most people, and their potential importance in providing critical habitat for fish and other marine organisms in deep-sea marine ecosystems has been largely ignored.

The accompanying photographs illustrate three deep-sea coral specimens collected by fishermen in the region of Nova Scotia. About 20 species have been described as present in the region, but some of the records come from the 19th century, and the status of some of these species is unclear. These animals are so poorly known that it is highly probable there are also species in waters near Nova Scotia that have never been described. This large specimen of *Paragorgia*

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*Martin is with the Dalhousie Department of Biology and the School for Resource and Environmental Studies.*

## PARAGORGIA

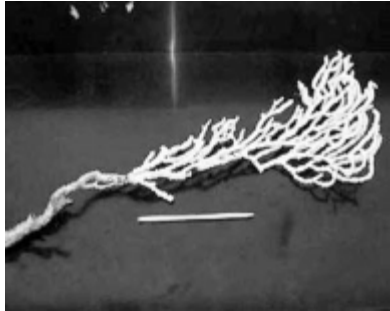


*Paragorgia arborea* (Linnaeus, 1758)

*arborea* shows the branched morphology found in many deep-sea corals. The specimen was collected from the Fundian Channel, which lies between southern Nova Scotia and Georges Bank in the Gulf of Maine, at a depth of about 200 fathoms (360 m). *Paragorgia* species are members of the order Scleractinia, or “horny corals.” *Paragorgia* species are somewhat spongy in texture when alive, unlike most of the scleractinians. Fishermen call this species “bubblegum tree” because it is usually orange or pink, has a lumpy surface texture, and can be as large as a small tree (5 m high or more).

## PRIMNOA

The most plentiful deep-sea coral species in Nova Scotian waters appears to be this primnoan, known locally as “sea corn” or “red trees.” It is highly branched and comparable to a bush, as opposed to the tree-like bubblegum coral (*Paragorgia*). Fishermen report that *Primnoa* grows in dense patches where it has not been cleared away by nets dragged across the bottom. Each coral animal is called a “polyp.” The *Primnoa* polyps are crowded onto the branches of the skeleton, where they feed by filtering particles out of the water flowing past. Unlike reef-forming tropical corals, deep-sea coral polyps do not form symbiotic associations with photosynthetic microorganisms. This specimen was collected off southern Nova Scotia.



*Primnoa resedaeformis*  
(Gunnerus, 1763)

DEEPSEA CORAL ATTACHED TO  
HARD SUBSTRATE



This specimen of *Primnoa resedaeformis* was hauled up on a longline by fishermen working in the region of the northern peak of Georges Bank. It is amazing that it was not ripped from the rock as it came up. This is testimony to the remarkable hardness of the calcium carbonate coral skeleton of this holaxonean coral (a suborder of Gorgonacea).

Most corals require a hard substrate on which to establish. Coral polyps are sometimes lost from parts of the secreted skeleton. In this case, the bare skeleton has been secondarily colonized by large barnacles. Many other species find the bare branches of dead corals to be excellent substrates for colonization, and recolonization by coral polyps can also occur.

PARAMURICEA

This species sometimes grows on the same skeleton as *Primnoa resedaeformis*. Whether they compete for space aggressively, or coexist is unclear. In this case, the *Paramuricea* is a small colony at the base of the coral skeleton. Local fishermen call it “black coral” because the secreted skeleton is black, as opposed to the white skeleton that appears to be secreted by *Primnoa*. In this specimen, the broken coral base has alternating black and white rings suggesting that *Primnoa* and *Paramuricea* have alternated in occupying the niche created by the skeleton they made together. This interpretation is speculative and is an illustration of the general lack of knowledge of these beautiful but mysterious animals of the deep.



*Paramuricea grandis* (Verrill, 1883)



# Rideau River Biodiversity Project

Over the past three years, the Rideau River system in Eastern Ontario has been under study. Here are two items from the winter 2000 issue of the Rideau River Biodiversity Project newsletter.

## World's Smallest Plant

The world's smallest flowering plant, *Wolffia*, is alive and well in the Rideau. In fact, the Rideau boasts two types of *Wolffia*, commonly known as watermeal. Both are native to the area, although they are near the northern edge of their natural ranges. *Wolffia* occurs throughout the system . . . They prefer river edges or slow moving backwaters where they serve as part of duck and fish diets. While most aquatic plants have filamentous leaves to facilitate the absorption of nutrients and gases, the watermeal's survival strategy is to be very small. A handful of these floating plants would easily number over a thousand individuals. This diminutive nature allows for the easy absorption of nutrients, and exchange of life gases, directly from the water to all parts of the plant.

## Weeds Are Habitat Too!

Weeds get a bad rap. We love to hate them, whether they're in our gardens or our lakes and rivers. But water weeds – a.k.a. aquatic plants – play an important role in the life of a river. They provide habitat and food for animals such as snails, insects, and worms. These, in turn, make excellent catches for fish, birds, frogs, and turtles. Last summer, scientists took samples at six locations along the Rideau and identified that over 120 species of invertebrates live and feed in the weed beds. Tracking these invertebrate animal populations over space and time enables scientists to monitor the condition of the river and keep a close eye on introduced species whose populations might be increasing, and out-competing local animals.

## On the ATV front

Larry Bogan of the Blomidon Naturalists Society prepared a report for the BNS conservation committee on ATV activity, specifically in the Scots Bay-Cape Split area.

The report includes before and after photos and a map of the area. You

can see the report on Larry's website: <http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~larry/ATVs/atvrally.htm>

A number of residents in the Scots Bay area and landowners along the trail don't want to see ATVs on the Cape Split trail and other trails in the area.

# Letters to the minister

On 31 January 2000, FNSN president Martin Willison wrote two letters to the minister of Natural Resources, Ernie Fage.

## Re: Introduced Fish Species

Honourable Ernest L. Fage  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 698  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T9

Dear Mr. Fage,

Many animals and plants have been introduced to Nova Scotia from other parts of the world, and some of these have caused problems. Most of our weeds are alien species, as are some forest pests and disease organisms. Most people are aware of at least some of the problems created by these invading alien species. Fewer people are aware of the problems caused by the introduction of fish that “come from away” and wreak havoc in our lakes, streams, and waterways.

The Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists represents over a thousand Nova Scotians in eleven local clubs around the province. We delight in Nature’s richness, including that in the province’s fresh waters.

Among the introduced fish of concern are the following: smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, brown trout, and rainbow trout

These alien fish consume, or compete with, native fish. Among the

reasons for concern is the status of Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia. Many rivers are devoid of salmon, and commercial salmon fisheries have now been completely eliminated (even recreational angling has been eliminated from most rivers). Brown trout compete with salmon, particularly juveniles, for food. In the Grand River (Richmond County), only 42 salmon returned last year. We have been informed that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has requested that COSEWIC list the Bay of Fundy salmon stock as endangered.

In view of your joint responsibility for fisheries, aquaculture, and natural resources, we believe you are in a strong position to deal with this difficult issue. In the past, introduced fish have been spread by the provincial Department of Fisheries and by anglers.

The Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists wishes to know what actions your department plans with respect to this serious issue. Representatives of our organization would like to meet with you to discuss this matter.

Yours truly,

Martin Willison  
President, FNSN

## Re: "Other Harvestable Wildlife"

Dear Mr Fage,

According to the 1999 Nova Scotia [General Wildlife] Regulations, for which your department is responsible, several species are listed as "other harvestable wildlife." The Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists wishes to draw your attention to this section of the licensing regulations and inform you that we are strongly opposed to the hunting of some of these animals (see details below).

The Federation represents over a thousand Nova Scotians who belong to clubs such as the Nova Scotia Bird Society, the Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society, and the Blomidon Naturalists Society. There are eleven clubs in the Federation at present, and two others have recently shown interest in joining.

The Federation opposes permitting the hunting of the following animals for which the province may currently grant a permit. In each case we provide our rationale for opposition.

1. *Bullfrog*: Amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders, and their relatives) are declining all around the world, and this can be seen in Nova Scotia as well. We should not be encouraging people to assist in this decline. We do not believe that anyone in Nova Scotia needs to hunt bullfrogs. In addition, the general public has difficulty telling one frog from another. For example, people sometimes say that they saw or heard bullfrogs in Antigonish County or Cape Breton

Island, but they do not exist in these parts of Nova Scotia. Clearly, other frogs are being misidentified as bullfrogs, and may be mistakenly hunted as such.

2. *Snapping Turtle*: As is the case with frogs, reptiles are also not thriving at present. Hunting turtles will lead to further decrease in their numbers. In addition, several of our turtle populations are very low, and the general public may not correctly distinguish one from another. Notably, the Nova Scotia population of Blanding's turtle is listed as a threatened species by COSEWIC, and scientists have recorded that the wood turtle is declining in the province. We do not believe that anyone needs to hunt snapping turtles.

3. *American Crow*: It is unclear to us why this is listed as a huntable species. No one eats them to our knowledge, and no parts of them are sold for other products. We are not aware of any real harm that is done to property by crows. They eat grasshoppers and other pest insects, which is good for farmers and gardeners. Crows recycle our garbage by populating our landfills and eating food scraps, and, as with the previous two species, the possibility for misidentification exists. Can the general public tell the difference between a crow and a raven? We believe that the inclusion of crows on the list of "other harvestable wildlife" is inappropriate.

In addition to these specific objections, we note that the Department of Natural Resources also lists the following as "other harvestable species": coyote, red squirrel, and shrews. We wish to know why these species are listed, and for what purposes they may be hunted. Can they be killed simply for target practice? Why would anyone kill shrews, and why would the Province of Nova Scotia license the act of doing so? Shrews eat insects and do no harm to property. Some species of shrew are rare in the province and are very difficult to identify. We suggest that their listing is the result of old-fashioned prejudices about the habits of shrews that have no scientific basis whatsoever. The

anachronism should be corrected.

Representatives of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists would like to meet with you, together with relevant staff from your department, to discuss these matters of concern. We would also like to take the opportunity to raise our concerns for retaining wildlife habitat in the province. We are favourable to improving the system of parks, wilderness areas, and Special Places.

Please note that we have also written to you in your capacity as Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture about the risks posed by the introduction of alien fish to fresh waters in the province.

## The minister responds . . .

Dear Dr Willison:

Thank you for the letter of January 31, 2000, regarding the hunting of several species of "other harvestable wildlife."

Up until 1994, all of the species currently listed as "other harvestable wildlife" were classed as "non-protected wildlife" and could be hunted all year round with no restrictions. The list also included all reptiles and amphibians except Blandings turtles and ribbon snakes. In 1994 we revised the regulation so that most of the species could only be taken in order to protect property and most reptiles and amphibians were removed from the list. We continued to allow for the general hunting of

five species which had some history of legitimate use and for which a specific conservation concern had not been identified.

Bullfrogs and snapping turtles may only be taken from July 15 to September 30, and we are only aware of a few individuals who are harvesting them for food. To date, we have no evidence to suggest that these harvests are a conservation concern but are prepared to take action if problems are identified.

Crow hunting has a long tradition in Nova Scotia and there is no evidence that hunting has any impact on the population level. They are eaten by a number of people and several interest-

ing recipes are available. Crows certainly serve important ecological roles, but they also cause property damage, with most complaints coming from home gardens, garbage, and winter roost sites.

Shrews are included with some other small mammals (rats, mice, voles and moles) because they sometimes cause property damage and this allows property owners to take action without requiring a permit. The damage caused by shrews is normally limited to their feeding and contamination of stored

foods. They cannot be “hunted” except in defence of property, and we in no way encourage their general exploitation.

I would be happy to provide you and representatives of the Federation with more details on these and other subjects personally, and I encourage you to contact my office at 424-4037 to schedule a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest L. Fage  
Minister

## Aquaculture threat

Dr. David Nettleship wrote to the former provincial minister of fisheries. His letter is a benchmark document for concerns about the establishment of net cages in St Margarets Bay. The letter was forwarded to FNSN by Elaine Kew of the Atlantic Raptor Rehabilitation Centre. A portion is reproduced here.

The immediate problems these farms pose to our avian populations are:

1. The present farm at Franks George Island on the east side of the bay, is a stone’s throw from Wedge Island, a sanctuary for the Roseate Tern, which as you know still remains on the endangered list.

For this and many, many other reasons, some environmental, some socio-economic, we have been working for over a year to have this farm (150,000 steelhead trout) relocated to a more suitable site outside of the bay.

2. There is an application for a new

2.88 ha net cage farm at Horse Island, North West Cove, on the west side of the bay. This farm will be a direct and definite threat to the cormorants on Horse Island, which has the biggest colony of Double Crested Cormorants we have.

Because of the threat to cormorants, other avian and marine wildlife, and our lobster fishery, and the possible loss of recreational boating anchorage – not to mention the inevitable degradation to coastal waters from a farm that size – we hope the minister of fisheries will reject this new application.

# Important Bird Areas in Nova Scotia

Three priority Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are being put forward for immediate conservation efforts in Nova Scotia. Roland Chiasson, IBA community conservation planner, Maritimes region, met with the board of FNSN in January to gain support for the three sites. Each meets the stringent IBA criteria outlined below. Each proposed IBA will have a conservation plan:

1. The Brothers (Roseate Tern breeding) just offshore from Lower West Pubnico in Yarmouth County.

Elements of the conservation plan will include continuing monitoring, public education on the three tern species and gull species that nest and interact on the islands, collection and study of addle eggs and dead terns, and creation of a wildlife management society.

For a thorough briefing on The Brothers and Roseate Tern breeding, see Ted D-Eon's Web site <<http://fox.nstn.ca/~deonted/ted.html>> and follow the links for terns.

2. Pomquet Beach (Piping Plovers) on St Georges Bay in Antigonish County

Elements of the conservation plan will include continuing support of the guardianship program, school programs, and controlling ATV access.

3. Bird Islands (Great Cormorants) in St Anns Bay, Victoria County

Elements of the conservation plan will include creation of a wildlife

management area, a local awareness program, and summer surveys.

The following information is excerpted from the IBA for Canada website <<http://www.ibacanada.com/main.htm>>.

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a site providing essential habitat for one or more species of breeding or non-breeding birds. These sites may contain threatened species, endemic species, species representative of a biome, or highly exceptional concentrations of birds.

IBAs can be identified under four main categories: sites regularly holding significant numbers of threatened species; sites regularly holding endemic species or species with restricted ranges; sites regularly holding an assemblage of species largely restricted to a biome or a unique or threatened community type; and sites where birds congregate in significant numbers when breeding, in winter, or during migration. IBAs are identified according to their significance (based on specific bird population thresholds) as either globally, continentally, or nationally significant.

The community conservation planners guide local communities in the development and delivery of the IBA program. The goal is to stimulate the setting of local priority conservation actions at the IBA site via straightforward conservation plans written for,

and in conjunction with, local groups and interested individuals. In most cases, IBA conservation plans will be implemented by local IBA groups. To help support local IBA initiatives, the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada have developed the IBA Community Action Fund. The fund's main function is to support high priority conservation initiatives identified in the conservation planning phase.

Emphasis of the fund is on local conservation action. All projects must occur within an officially recognized IBA, contribute to the conservation of the birds and habitats for which the site has been identified, and implement activities where a clear need is demonstrated. Eligible IBA sites for each new funding cycle will be provided by the Canadian Nature Federation.

The maximum annual grant is \$5,000, based on a one-to-one match of cash, in-kind (e.g., materials or volunteer time), or a combination of both. Grants up to \$10,000 may be approved for exceptional projects for which the proponent has secured a two-to-one cash match.

While multi-year projects may be

approved in principle, funding is awarded on an annual basis.

Individuals and not-for-profit organizations, such as a natural history society or university, are eligible for IBA community Action Fund grants.

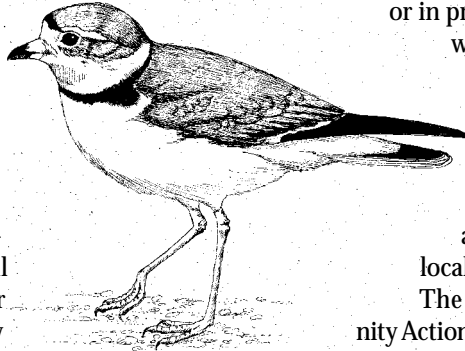
To be eligible for funding, the project area must have a conservation management plan in place or in progress. Priority will be given to IBA projects that lead to concrete results and that involve and benefit the local community.

The IBA Community Action Fund will fund projects under three areas: conservation, education, and research (lower priority).

It's too late to apply this year, but the program is ongoing and expanding into subsequent years.

The role of FNSN in the Nova Scotia IBA program is to act as a catalyst and information centre. The federation does not intend to apply directly for IBA funds, but will encourage and support legitimate applications.

Although some 30 areas in the province could qualify for funding, the board agrees with IBA of Canada that the three sites outlined in these pages should be priority for 2000.



**Check out the IBA for Canada website:**

**<<http://www.ibacanada.com/main.htm>>**

# Annual Meeting 2000

**Nature's Millennium – a look at the changes in local natural history over the last 1,000 years, and considerations of what is needed to preserve what we have for the future.**

**June 2–4, 2000**

Location: Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

Host: Blomidon Naturalists Society

Talks, field trips, banquet, picnics, annual general meeting. For further information, keep an eye on the FNSN website.

Please note that a full slate of officers for the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists will be elected. Nominations will be called for president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

To register, fill in and mail the enclosed registration form or print a copy from the website. See you there.

**FNSN MEMBERSHIP** is available in conjunction with memberships in the member organizations listed inside the front cover, for \$5.00 — contact the membership secretary of your organization.

Group, corporate and other category rates are available. Individual membership, available directly from the FNSN, entitles you to a quarterly newsletter and a vote at the AGM. Please fill in the following information, include a cheque or money order made payable to the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, and mail to:

FNSN Membership Secretary, c/o 6360 Young Street, Halifax, NS B3L 2A1

Please check one:

- Single adult \$12     Family \$15     Student/Senior \$10  
 Donation \_\_\_\_\_     Need receipt for income tax purposes (over \$10.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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