

should be made payable to the Canadian Environmental Defence Fund and note on your cheque that the donation is for the Friends of the Oldman River. Send your cheque to Canadian Environmental Defence Fund, 347 College St, Suite 301, Toronto, M5T 2V8. For more information, contact Friends of the Oldman River, 455-12th St. N.W., Calgary Alberta T2N 1Y9.

# Coming events

- January: A Birds of Prey exhibit at the Eptek Centre in Summerside. The exhibit is from the Provincial Museum of British Columbia.
- Feb. 6: The Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island (ECOPEI), the new environmental group that has formed to look at a broad range of interests and concerns, will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Basilica Recreation Centre on Richmond St. in Ch'town. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Feb. 7: UPEI professor Earl Wonnacott will speak on astronomy at the February meeting of the Natural History Society. Please note new time of 7:30 p.m. instead of 8 p.m., at the Farm Centre on University Ave. in Charlottetown.
- Feb. 16: On the third Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m., the Lady's Slipper Naturalist's Society meets at the Eptek Centre in Summerside. For more information on speakers, contact Elsie Cannon at 436-9078.
- March 7: Monthly meeting of the Natural History Society, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm Centre.
- March 16: Regular meeting of the Lady's Slippers Naturalists, at the Eptek Centre in Summerside, 7:30 p.m.
- June 11-14: Canadian Nature Federation annual meeting at UPEI in Charlottetown. The theme is "A Century of Change - the Island Way". For registration kits, write to P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 7K4.
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## BIRDER BADGE TAKES FLIGHT

The Canadian Nature Federation, in co-operation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, has developed the "Birder Badge" to reward participants for their achievements in bird study.

The primary focus of the Birder Badge will be young people, although there are no age restrictions. The program will build on existing activities of nature groups, adding structure and providing incentives for participants, and will use formalized, nationally standardized criteria for recognition of pro-

iciency in amateur ornithology. A combination of field and classroom sessions will be most suitable.

Badges will be awarded to participants for their skill in identifying birds by: sight and sound; knowledge of theory (e.g. bird anatomy, use of binoculars, adaptations of birds for flight, etc.); and participation in conservation activities (e.g. bird walks, bird habitat enhancement, assisting with bird atlassing, etc.). All three aspects of the program must be met for each badge level.

Eight badge levels have been defined; three beginner, three intermediate and two advanced levels. A participant can achieve the first beginner level simply by participating in the required field trips. The next two beginner levels, leading to moderate proficiency, are accessible to anyone who is willing to study birds over a short period of time. Intermediate levels bring the participant to a level of competence in the identification of birds. The advanced levels will require continued dedication for several years.