



Natural History Society news

The March 1 meeting of the Natural History Society was cancelled due to wintery weather, and was held instead on March 8. As usually happens when meetings are changed, the attendance was down, but it was still an informative and enjoyable evening. Dan McAskill gave an update on the Piping Plover Committee, which is sponsoring a project to do landowner contact in the Crowbush-Lakeside area, where one half of all piping plovers outside of the National Park are located. The Society has \$400 left in a bank account from a previous plover project, and it was decided at a recent executive meeting to earmark that money for other plover work.

There was a lot of discussion at the meeting about the proposed developments at Greenwich and Boughton Island, and Diane Griffin of the Island Nature Trust filled members in on what has happened to date.

Dr. David Kellum, an editor and author who has recently moved back to Prince Edward Island, treated members to an unusually entertaining evening with readings from his book My Very Bestiary. Dr. Kellum's way with words was an equal match to his storytelling skills, and the listeners were left wondering when he would be back. The Bestiary is available from Island bookstores and makes a wonderful gift for those who love nature and the English language.

The April 5 meeting saw better weather and a better turnout. Bruce Smith told members of the Nature Trust's need for funds to help fight the proposed development at Greenwich, and Rosemary Curley gave an update on Canadian Nature Federation activities. The CNF holds its annual meeting in Yellowknife on July 3-4, and Rosemary will attend. Diane Griffin filled members in on the Natural Areas Protection Act. P.E.I. is the ninth province to have an ecological reserves act.

Members were also asked to be on the lookout for neck-collared Canada Geese (a yellow collar with black lettering, 2-3" high). Any sightings should be sent to the Canadian Wildlife Service through Rosemary.

The Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas was the subject of the talk and slide show by Rosemary. It was interesting to note what kind of birds are turning up in each area, and to see a great collection of slides.

Coming events

- May 19: The annual meeting of the Island Nature Trust, 7:30 at the Farm Centre. Birgitta and Robb Ferguson from the Canadian Parks Service in Halifax will speak on National Parks areas on the Island.
- May 20: Arbour Day. For information, call Debbie Hearn, 369-4700.
- May 28: Francis Bain Birdathon. Here's your chance to get out and do some birding, anywhere on the Island you'd like, and any time during the day. Contact Rosemary Curley at Fish and Wildlife in Charlottetown for more information, or with the results of your day's count.
- May 28-29: Annual competition between birders in the Maritime provinces. Select teams try to wrack up the numbers.
- May 30-June 5: National Environment Week, 1988. Watch your newspaper for a calendar of events. For information, contact Andre Lavoie, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, 892-0311.
- June 4: Household Hazardous Waste Day. Part of the Environment Week action - contact Andre Lavoie, 892-0311. (See story on page 11.)