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## ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

- Nov. 12, 13, 19 - Coastal Zone Policy meetings will be held in Montague on Nov. 12, in Crapaud on Nov. 13, and in North Rustico on November 19. Each meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Department of Environment for meeting places.
- Nov. 19 - Rails to Trails will hold a public meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. on November 19 at the Trinity United Church in Charlottetown. There will be a panel discussion on how to start a trail in your community.
- Nov. 20 - the Pesticides Advisory Committee will hold its public hearings at the Dutch Inn in North River starting at 1:30 p.m. and starting at 7:30 p.m. If you wish to make a presentation please contact Theresa Mellish at 368-5618.
- Nov. 27 - Agro Co-op and the Natural History Society will host a winter bird identification and feeding workshop at the Farm Centre starting at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 3 - The monthly meeting of the Natural History Society will feature Dan McAskill with a presentation on backyard and forest wildlife enhancement. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Farm Centre.
- Dec. 15 - P.E.I. National Park Christmas Bird count day. Refer to page 6. Contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 for further information.
- Dec. 22 - Montague Christmas Bird Count day. Refer to page 6. Contact Gary Schneider at 838-2678.
- Dec. 28 - Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count day. Refer to page 6. Contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351.
- January 7 - The Society's Annual Meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by Diane Griffin's presentation "Where are We Going".

## PROBABLE WESTERN SANDPIPER

by Ray Cooke

On July 23rd, at Brackley March I was watching a group of Semipalmated Sandpipers and noted that one bird looked different from the others. My initial impression was that the bird was a Western Sandpiper.

At a distance of 12 to 15 meters using a 25X scope several distinct field marks were visible. The trait that best set this bird apart from the birds that were near it was the long bill which curved downwards. The bill was clearly longer and more curved than the bills of the birds it was with. The bill also seemed to be thicker at the base and more tapered at the tip. The legs of the bird in question were dark in colour and webbing was not seen. A reddish crown and ear covert were also present. The crown and cheek patch were separated by a white superciliary line. The bird in question also had 5 reddish scapulars that showed some fraying and which faded as they progressed posteriorly. The scapulars had a reddish center with a black tip. A very faint white edging was noted on the first pairs of scapulars. The bird also seemed to have a very slight primary projection. Heavily marked streaks on the breast seemed to fade centrally but the markings along the flanks continued to the vent and almost to the undertail coverts.

The bird was probing in the mud when observed. As it was near the