

STUDY LAUNCHED FOR NATURAL SCIENCE CENTRE

Through the federal-provincial tourism development agreement, a study has been launched to determine the feasibility and develop the concept for a natural science centre. A consultant will be selected shortly for the study.

The Natural History Society through Mary Beth Harris will be involved in working with other agencies who have an interest in this project including the University, the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation, the Island Nature Trust, the Cavendish Tourist Association, and the Community Museums Association. More information will be available at the Society's regular meetings as the consultant gets to work.

KESTREL NESTING BOX PROGRAM

David Lemon, a holder of a master bird banding permit, started a nest box establishment program for Kestrel's on Prince Edward Island this spring. He installed 31 nest boxes and already 8 of these have become the home for Kestrel's in central and eastern Prince Edward Island. David will be monitoring the success of this program.

OBSERVED - A CHIPPER EVENT

by Donald Wilkinson

On Tuesday, May 19 I was sitting on the patio doing some reading. A male Chipping Sparrow flew past me heading for a leaf-less maple tree. It immediately mated with a female sitting in the branches. The mating took 2-3 seconds and then the male moved to a branch a couple of feet away. After about 15 seconds the female lifted her tail whereupon the male immediately went over to her and mated once more; this also taking 2-3 seconds.

The male then went back to his previous branch and wiped his beak rapidly two or three times on the branch. He then flew over to our bird feeding table and took some seeds. The female flew to the bottom of the garden and sat on the top wire of a wire fence. After 25-30 seconds the female was heard to chip in the rapid, familiar churring of a Chipping Sparrow. The male immediately flew from the feeder and sat momentarily beside the female. The female lifted her tail whereupon the male mated with her once more. The female flew off out of sight, pursued by the male. And so life goes on...

NEWS FROM ABOUT

The presence of the largest known population of thread-leaved sundew, *Drosera filiformis* in Canada, in the Swaine's Road Bog in Shelbourne County Nova Scotia led to the Minister of Environment's decision not to approve a peat mining project which would have posed an unacceptable risk to the plant.

(adapted from Blomidon Naturalists Society Newsletter 19:2; originating from the Nova Scotia Wildflower 2:2)

