



ISLAND

NATURALIST

SPECIAL ISSUE - A VOICE FOR NATURE

The History of the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island

Nature PEI

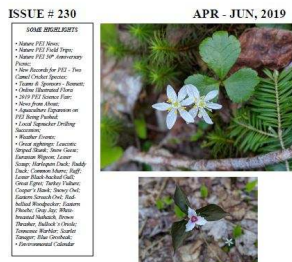
Part II - 1989 to 2019

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Introduction;
- Mandate;
- Monthly Presentations and Field Trips;
- Island Naturalist Newsletter;
- Citizen Science Initiatives;
- Out of Province Excursions;
- Internet Presence;
- Philanthropy;
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A Voice for Nature

The History of the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island

doing business as Nature PEI

Part II - 1989 to 2019

by J. Dan McAskil

Introduction:

As part of its 50th anniversary, Nature PEI (Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island Ltd.) committed to celebrating this special anniversary throughout 2019 and offering thanks to the many individuals who have assisted the Society in so many ways. It celebrated the anniversary in style with a very well attended five-part introductory birding course, an August weekend-long series of events which brought together members from its early days and new members alike, and a co-celebration of the Society's 50th and the Island Nature Trust's 40th Anniversaries at Deroche Pond. In addition, it ran its full suite of programs including nine monthly meetings with speakers, field trips, citizen science activities and the release of four issues of the *Island Naturalist*. Nature PEI also supported and judged the natural history



50th Anniversary Greenwich field trip
August 2019 David Wake collection



Early Society field trip
Margaret Mallett photo

exhibits at the PEI Science Fair, made releases on pressing environmental issues and submissions to public consultations related to natural history, and advocated for a curator of natural history, an assistant for collections and support facilities within a provincial museum having a strong natural history component. The goal of updating the Society's history during the last 30 years was not achieved during the 50th anniversary year. This document fulfills that goal and supplements the history of our Society's first 20 years that was prepared by Margaret Mallett and was published in the Society's November - December 1989 *Island Naturalist* Issue #107. Both are available on the Society's website at www.naturepei.ca.

Mandate:

The Society's mandate is described in six objectives, namely:

- To join together as a provincial body the nature lovers and other interested persons of Prince Edward Island for the exchange of information and the keeping of records;
- To protect, insofar as humanly possible, the FLORA and FAUNA of the province;
- To promote, encourage, and enjoy the study of natural history;
- To create in the public mind a greater appreciation of the value of our wildlife and its habitat;
- To hold educational meetings and demonstrations designed to further public knowledge of our natural history; and
- To assist, work with, and support other organizations, government bureaus or other agencies having similar or allied objects.

In 1989, the Executive Council reviewed the Society's constitution which dates back to at least 1978. Mr.

Wendell MacKay prepared a Discussion Paper in 1990 on the Society's mandate and a variety of changes ensued to improve their delivery. The Society's elected board is called the Executive Council (Executive). The Executive manages the day to day activities and, within its objects, establishes the Society's direction on various issues. In an effort to further enhance citizen science and delivery of its objectives, the Executive established an Organization Renewal Subcommittee (Dwayne Oakley, Bonnie McOrmond, Dan McAskill and David Seeler) in 2002. That Subcommittee made suggestions and recommendations in February 2003 respecting increasing the use of subcommittees, increasing our public profile and membership, raising funds and recruiting speakers and field trip leaders. The Society held A Brainstorming Meeting in September 2013, Future Direction meetings in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019, and initiated 50th Anniversary Meetings in 2018 and 2019 which both planned for its anniversary celebration and its direction on projects. These sessions were augmented by the monthly Executive Council meetings.



Society crest developed from Clare Martin's original logo design

The Society's constitution was reviewed in early 1991 as part of the Discussion Paper outcomes. Concerns were increasing over litigation challenges to environmental groups and the Society decided to incorporate. Thanks to assistance from Mr. Tom Matheson, on June 3rd, 1991 the Society received its Letters Patent incorporating the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island Ltd. Its provisional directors were Barbara Currie, Mary Beth Harris, Patrick Wootton, Carolyn Meincke and Dan McAskill. On January 7th, 2013, the Society amended its bylaws to add the Newsletter Editor position and the editor's mandate to the Executive Council, the use of electronic notifications, and the ability to do business as (d.b.a.) Nature PEI. As part of its Nature PEI rebranding, in 2014 the Society developed a new logo replacing the original designed by Clare Martin. It acquired the trade name "Nature PEI" which provides provincial rights in 2015. In 2017, the Society changed its letter head message from "To protect as far as humanly possible the plants and animals of our Island" to "Supporting citizen science since 1969".

Monthly Presentations and Field Trips:

Unless nature intervened with a storm or some other challenge, from 1989 to 1994 the Society held a brief monthly business meeting and educational presentation during the first Tuesday evening from January to May and from October to December. In conjunction with discussions with other Executive members (See Appendix 1), the Society's two Directors booked speakers as well as field trip leaders and implemented measures to make the public aware of these events.

On its 25th anniversary in 1994, it voted to establish June meetings and September field trips but the June public meetings with speakers were not held regularly until 1999. These meetings started at 7:30 pm with a business meeting that included reading of the previous meeting minutes and sighting reports followed by a lunch with treats brought by members. The Society had its urn to prepare hot water for tea, coffee, or hot chocolate. This was followed by a guest speaker who, in the first few decades, used projected 35 mm slides and addressed questions, or, less frequently, overhead projector slides or one or more short videos. By 2004, Kodak Carousel Projectors were no longer being manufactured and the conversion to digital technology was underway. By 2010, computer projection of digital images had replaced slides and, in some cases, the internet was being used to access support material. In 2017, a speaker provided her presentation using Skype. Some of our members offered presentations on their travels and nature experiences so members had an opportunity to experience nature in Costa Rica, Australia, Antarctica, the Southern Ocean, India, Hawaii, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Newfoundland & Labrador, Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Northwest Territories, and, in one instance, a circumnavigation



John Calder being presented Society's gift mug at Beaconsfield's Carriage House by Connie Gaudet Nov. 6, 2018
Gerald MacDougall photo

across Canada and United States. To expand the breadth of presentations or to address a topical issue, the Society periodically recruited out-of-province presenters and, where necessary, supported their travel costs. In 2016, the Society initiated the presentation of ceramic mug speaker gifts crafted by Ron Arvidson, a member and frequent contributor, as a token of our thanks to presenters.

As these meetings included reading of the minutes, they sometimes ran until 10:00 pm. To alleviate the lateness, the business portion was shortened and, in 1994, the Society's Executive Council (board) meetings conducted the majority of the business in separate meetings. Weather permitting, annual general meetings (AGM) were held in January to address Executive Council membership nominations, finances, constitutional changes, and other business matters.



Nature PEI's Annual General Meeting and 50th Anniversary launch on January 8, 2019
Dan McAskill photo

The Society rented the Farm Centre at 420 University Avenue in Charlottetown from 1987 until December 2012 for its monthly presentations and meetings. During joint consultations between the Society and the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation (Museum) on the Museum's natural history mandate, the use of the Carriage House for our presentations was explored. Thus, on January 8th, 2013 during the Society's AGM, Dr. David Keenlyside, Executive Director of the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, welcomed Society members to Beaconsfield's Carriage House in Charlottetown for the Society meetings. With one exception, they have been held there since. The Society makes an annual donation to the Museum to help defray Beaconsfield Carriage House's operating costs. During the past 30 years, the Society hosted 295 presentations and workshops.

As with all organizations, there's an ebb and flow of energy and membership. By its

50th anniversary, the Society had over 100 members and was attracting great turnouts to public presentations (40 to 100 people). It had a full slate of officers on its Executive Council, coordinators for citizen science projects, sighting and author contributors, and willing presenters and field trip leaders. There were periods when membership had declined significantly and attendance at meetings was down as low as 15 on some evenings in the 1990s. To improve its membership base and attendance at presentations and field trips, the Society established an electronic notification system for presentations, held field trips and other nature events, increased its public presence in print and electronic media, ran membership recruitment campaigns, offered bird identification courses and workshops, offered prizes for Environment Week radio contests, and developed membership brochures. It periodically staffed Society booths at the National Forestry Week, National Environment Week displays, Forestry Open Houses, Winter Woodlot Tour, and Farmer's Market in Charlottetown, and ran regular field trips. Ron Arvidson, the Society's Field Trip director commenced the Birding Your Patch initiative in 2016 to encourage members to lead a field trip. Ben Hoteling and Dwaine Oakley of Holland College's Wildlife Conservation Technology (formerly Renewable Resource Management) encouraged their students to attend the Society's presentations, bird counts, and field trips.



A Birding Your Patch Society Summerside boardwalk field trip led by Donna Martin
May 19, 2019 - Donna Martin photo

Island Naturalist Newsletter:

In late 1989, Dan McAskill became the Newsletter Editor for the *Island Naturalist* Issue 107. He released a questionnaire to identify member's thoughts on what was liked, not liked, and desired in the newsletter. Education, enhancement of citizen science, documentation of records with dates (phenology), and communications were foremost in the recommendations for betterment. At that time, membership was \$4 for a single person and \$5 for a family. A subcommittee was established in 2010 to recruit a newsletter editor and to explore newsletter

content and its production. Additional content contributors were established but the Society has been unable to locate a new editor. Over the past three decades, 125 issues were produced. During this period, significant changes were made to the *Island Naturalist* in response to the Society's ongoing attempt to address opportunities and challenges.

One of the most significant changes in the newsletter itself has been the technology used to produce and record the various elements. Personal computers and software (capacity, speed, storage, etc.), email systems, and the necessary line speed to transmit images improved. Image recording technology changed from 35mm slides and prints to digital imagery. Digi-scoping was introduced which allowed the capture of close-up animal images and digital zoom cameras became readily available. More members and observers used Citizen science documentation systems (e.g. Christmas Bird Counts, e-Bird Canada, Bird Hotlines, PEI Bird ListServ, iNaturalist, University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) Robertson Library's Digital Island Collection), digital mapping systems, and digital sound. Social media were developed and many people started posting bird, plant and other nature images on the internet. A "Birding on PEI" Facebook site was established by Alma Currie in 2011 and Ron Arvidson took over as administrator shortly thereafter and, in 2013, Sharon Clark joined the administrative team. This site encouraged bird image posting that enabled documentation of both common and rare birds. As well, other Island Facebook sites appeared, apps (application software to run mobile devices) were developed that integrated sightings and recording systems, and other tool use became available which allowed gleaning of rarer bird sightings and other animals and plants sightings for the *Island Naturalist*.

The *Island Naturalist* arises from the contributions of its readers and the gleanings of sightings, stories, and nature events from various sources. In the early 1990s, most of the contributions came via postal mail and during our meetings, workshops, and field trips. In more recent years, emails and other internet sources have predominated. "Birding on PEI" Facebook and eBird Canada's Recent Sightings postings for PEI observations have been especially important.



Dwaine Oakley collecting a digital bird image through his telescope (digiscoping)
Dwaine Oakley collection



A colouring book of Prince Edward Island Birds
Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island
Island Wing's Colouring Book
by Geoff Hogan and Gary Schneider
with Illustrations by Connie Gaudet

In 1989, the *Island Naturalist* was produced bi-monthly and composed on an elementary word processing software system, printed, and then images were pasted in manually with transparent tape. There were no photographs but, when there were illustrations available, they were used. Connie Gaudet's illustrations from *Island Wings*, the Society's 1988 colouring book by Geoff Hogan and Gary Schneider, and illustrations from the Dover Colouring Book series were used. Starting with Issue 121 in 1992, a number of skilled illustrators began contributing their work. These included Carmel Smith-Bachand, Jacqueline Badcock, Kate Poole, Donald Wilkinson, Hal Hinds, Erich Haber, and Rudy Stocck. In Issue 163 in 2002, Dwaine Oakley's digi-scoped photo of a Great Egret graced the cover and became the first picture in the *Island Naturalist*. By 2010, inclusion of photographs with captions were becoming more common and now photos of various animals and plants are a dominant feature.

Once prepared, the *Island Naturalist* was then black-and-white photocopied and printed two-sided by the Government of PEI's Queen's Printer. This was done in exchange for the Society's promotion of Provincial Parks and their education programming. The Newsletter Editor retained the membership list and printed labels for its members, school libraries, and its reciprocal exchange of newsletters to other naturalist clubs. Linda Thomas

and her family packaged and distributed the newsletters and delivered them to the Queen's Printer for distribution with the Society paying for the member's postage. As part of a general cut in a provincial department's printing in 1994, the Society was forced to produce the newsletter utilizing private printing companies (Clark's Printing, Kwik

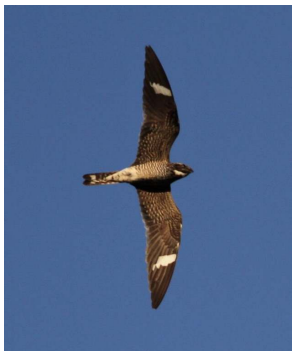
Kopy Printing, and Staples). The considerable cost to do so meant a review of membership fees and newsletter production. Thus, in 1994 the newsletter production goal became four copies per year, the membership costs went to \$16 from \$12 per year, and the School librarians were asked whether or not they wished to receive it. The school library copies were distributed through the Queens Printer until 2007. After that, the copies were delivered to the School Board for distribution to those school librarians who expressed interest. In 2007, membership fees were increased to \$20.

With the availability of an Acrobat Reader software conversion tool, the Society began offering colour electronic versions of the *Island Naturalist* in 2006 so members could choose either the electronic format or the black and white format newsletter. The costs of a printed colour version were too high to produce the newsletter in colour.



If you have not already done so, please renew your 2008 membership

The feature columns in the *Island Naturalist* have varied over the past three decades. Regular columns include: the President's Reports (See Appendix 1); News from About and Animal and Plant Sightings (compiled by Dan McAskill); Christmas Bird Counts, Bain Bird Count, Autumn Birding Classic reports (team members); PEI Science Fair column (Society's Judges for a given year); David Seeler's PEI Winter Bird List, Bird Records on the Island in Review, and Shorebird Counts in PEI National Park; Some Highlights (proposed by Lorne Yeo); Nature PEI News (compiled by Barbara Dylla); and the Environmental Calendar (Society's Program and Field Trip Directors and Dan McAskill). Other columns have been more variable and dependant of what was happening within our community or were opportunistic. These include: Naturalists in Action (various authors); Rare Bird Reports (various observers); Colouring Pages - Island Wings (Connie Gaudet and Dover Colouring Books); The Wildlife Corner (Dan McAskill); and Bird Monographs (Donald Wilkinson).



Common Nighthawk
Donna Martin photo
submission for *Island
Naturalist* Issue #227

Citizen Science Initiatives:

The term citizen science refers to the collection of observations, usually by volunteers, and the documentation of these observations in a systematic manner so that the data can be analyzed, usually by scientists or other skilled individuals, to increase scientific knowledge. The Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) are the longest running citizen science initiative in North America and were developed by the National Audubon Society in 1900. Commencing circa 1999 in Canada, they have been coordinated by Birds Canada (formerly Bird Studies Canada). The systematic elements include specific area (circle of 24 km diameter with a designated centre), a single day recording period between December 14th and January 5th, listing of weather conditions, recording of effort (number of counters, time in which they recorded observations, etc), number of birds by species, and total number of count day species, count period species, and special aspects.

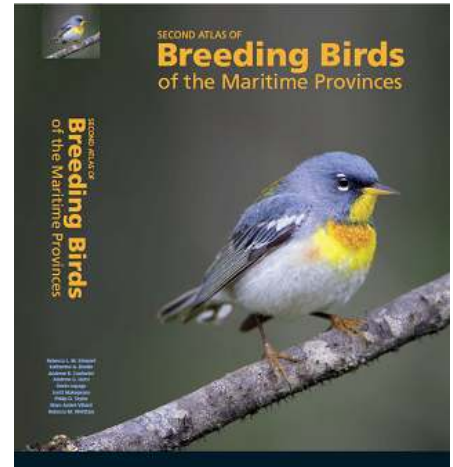


2016 East Point Christmas Bird
Count participants at East Point
Lighthouse deck
Dan McAskill photo

One of the primary objectives of the Society is to compile, retain and share the Island's natural history records. During its first 20 years, the Society held over 100 public natural history presentations, coordinated and published the PEI National Park and Hillsborough Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), recorded the Montague Christmas Bird Count sightings, contributed hundreds of plant and animal sightings, contributed records to four Field Checklist of Birds of Prince Edward Island editions (numbers 1 to 4), produced two books and reprinted 1,000 copies of its colouring book *Island Wings*, hosted dozens of field trips including some to New Brunswick, coordinated the PEI Piping Plover surveys and conservation programs, and its various newsletter editors and contributors published 106 issues of the *Natural History Newsletter* or the *Island Naturalist* (Mallett, 1989).

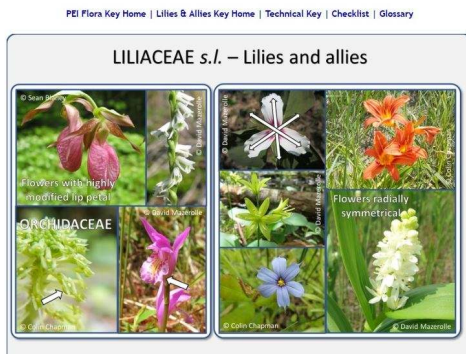
Since 1989, the Society has been increasingly proactive in documenting natural history and species management and conservation efforts. Some of its primary contributions are described below.

The Society was a co-developer and sponsor for both the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces* which covered 1986-1990 and was published in 1992 and the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces* which covered 2006-2010 and was published in 2015. Rosemary Curley coordinated the Island's efforts for the first atlas and years 2 through 5 of the second atlas. David Seeler coordinated the first year of the second atlas. The following Society's members surveyed breeding birds for both of these atlases, namely: Bill Bowerbank, Ray Cooke, Rosemary Curley, Wanda Curley, Brian Dalzell, Randy Dibblee; Diane Griffin, Meike Keunecke, Gerald MacDonald, Wade MacKinnon, David & Kathleen MacNearney, Scott Makepeace, Dan McAskill, Arlene & Paul McGuigan, Geraldine Peters, Dwayne Sabine, Stephen Farmer; and Gary Schneider. The following Society members surveyed breeding birds for one of the two atlases: Mark Arsenault, Ron Arsenault; Roger & Lenore Andrew, Ron & Anne Arvidson, Eleanor Beagan, Ross Bernard, Jean Blanchard, Sharon Clark, Elwood Coakes, Marion Copleston, Barb Currie, Lou Daley, Brian Dalzell, Fiep de Bie, Lois Doan, Victoria Doan, Greg & Sandra Feetham, Shirley Gallant, Edwin Gillis, Bob Harding, Caleb Harding, Beth Hoar, Geoff Hogan, Theresa Hughes, Nelson Hurry, Winston Johnston, Glen Kelly, Dan Kennedy, Cathleen MacCormack, Barb MacDonald, Gerald MacDougall, Rosanne MacFarlane, Robin MacNearney, Margaret Mallett, Eric Marcum, Gisele Martin, Kathy Martin, Bonnie McOrmond, Dwaine Oakley, Roberta Palmer, Bruce Pigot, Tony Reddin, Ruth Richman, Jennifer Roma, Glenn Saunders, David Seeler, Doug Sobey, John Somers, Bruce Smith, Sue Stephenson, Jim Sutton, John te Raa, Linda Thomas, Liz Townsend, Barb Trainor, Trevor Wadman, Winifred Wake, Jean Watts, Donald Wilkinson, and Mary Willms.



Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces 2015 cover

Key to Lilies & Allies of Prince Edward Island



Online Illustrated Flora of PEI - Lilies and Allies Segment 1, 2018, ACCDC, PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation and Nature PEI

Commencing in 2003, the Island Nature Trust, ACCDC, the Province, and a committed team of volunteers conducted plant surveys to increase our knowledge of plant biodiversity across PEI. The goal was to create a new flora of PEI in book form. Over 33,000 new records were assembled many of which represented plants species new to PEI. The Society donated \$1,500 towards the publication of a new flora of PEI in 2005. In preparation for developing this new flora, the plant records were digitized by ACCDC, the herbarium sheets from the Trust were donated to Acadia University's E.C. Smith Herbarium and ACCDC collected hundreds of pictures. Despite the Trust's attempts, funding could not be found to complete the flora between 2006 and 2015. In 2016, a Flora of PEI team was formed consisting of Dan McAskill (Chair)(NPEI), David Keenlyside (PEIMHF), Sean Blaney (ACCDC), and Rosemary Curley (NPEI). Because of the price differential, it was agreed that an *Online Illustrated Flora of PEI* would be produced. After consulting with the Trust, the Society took on the

fund raising leadership of publishing a new flora of PEI. Thanks to funding support from PEIMHF, PEI Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund, Nature PEI, and individual donors, the first two of four segments of the *Online Illustrated Flora of PEI* were completed and a third was in progress by December, 2019. (It was completed in March, 2020.)

Up until 2012, Christmas Birds Counts (CBCs) registered with the National Audubon Society were asked to collect and submit a \$5 payment for registration for each field counter. In 1999, Bird Studies Canada (now Birds Canada), took over the collection of fees. The registered counts in 1989 were the PEI National Park and Hillsborough counts. These continued throughout the 30 year period as did the unregistered Montague CBC. The data for the registered counts were entered into the CBC computerized data management system and the data for all the counts were reported in the *Island Naturalist*. Dan McAskill served as coordinator for the PEI National Park

and Hillsborough CBCs while Gary Schneider, Ruth Richman, and Scott Sinclair coordinated the Montague CBC. Thanks to Vernon Laux, the East Point Christmas Bird Count was registered in 2001 and Vernon became its coordinator until 2007. There was no count in 2008. Dwaine Oakley took over coordination duties for the Society in 2009. Besides the camaraderie of the members on the various teams in each count circle, there were sumptuous potlucks followed by birding highlights associated with two counts. Kudos go to the Parks Canada staff (Jean Ouellette, Maurice Roy, Jesse Francis, Arja Page, Darla Saunders, Peter Murphy, Barb MacDonald, Kara Grant, Kimberlee Trainor, and Bob Harding) who gave up part of their weekend to co-host the PEI National Park Count and to the Society members who provided their homes to host the Hillsborough potluck supper. The latter included Diane and Kevin Griffin, Dan McAskill, Robin Phillips, Fiep de Bie, Hans Gelens, Serge Serviant, and Arlene and Paul McGuigan. Commencing in 2018,



2017 Hillsborough CBC Potluck participants at Diane & Kevin Griffin's Kevin Griffin photo



2017 PEI National Park CBC Potluck participants Nature PEI photo collection

Montague CBC participants had the opportunity to share their highlights of the day and enjoy a beverage of their choosing at Copper Bottom Brewery in Montague. Periodically some of the East Point counters assembled at a restaurant in Souris to discuss the morning's results.

Utilizing Environment Week funding from Environment Canada and assisted by volunteer surveyors, the Society employed a staff person to lead the 1991 International Piping Plover Census surveys outside of the PEI National Park, conduct landowner contact programs, and work on

Hillsborough Pier's tern colony management. These studies were published so that researchers in Canada and United States could access the information. Society members also served on Atlantic Canada Piping Plover conservation committees until the Island initiatives were assumed by Island Nature Trust staff.

Efforts to better document animal and plant surveys were discussed by the Society and some of its committees during the past 30 years. Good data is accurate. Thus, the Society focused on improving the skill level of naturalists and invited them to actively submit their sightings, whether recorded in the *Island Naturalist* or on e-Bird Canada, Great Backyard Bird Counts (GBBC), iNaturalist or PEI Nature Tracker. Because of the high level of interest in birds, the Society focused efforts on honing the skills of birders and recruiting new contributors to our birding community. As MBBA Regional Coordinators for PEI, Rosemary Curley held clinics to recruit and train participants in the first and second breeding bird atlases while David Seeler did this in year one of the second atlas. Depending on the year the course was held, Ray Cooke, Dwaine Oakley, Dan McAskill, Eric Marcum, and Brendan Kelly delivered the four to six evening introductory birding courses as well as single evening presentations on specific groups (e.g. waterfowl, winter birds, raptors (owls and hawks), and warblers).



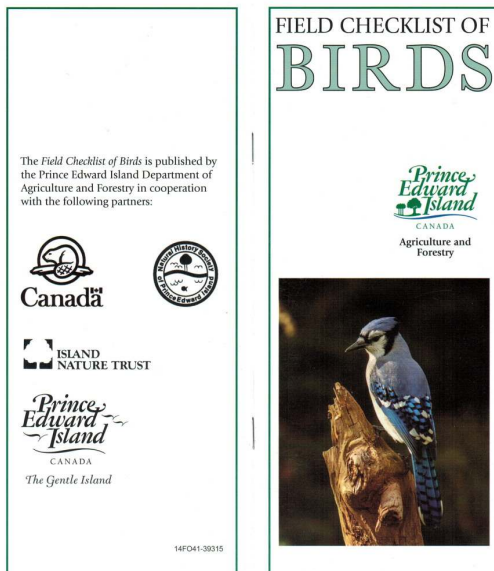
Society Piping Plover media coverage 1991 Dan McAskill photo

Not counting Christmas Bird Counts, Bain, or Autumn Birding Classic counts, the Society hosted at least 147 field trips during the past 30 years covering terrestrial, freshwater and coastal habitats. These trips proved to be a fun and powerful tool to both recruit interested people and to build skills in birding as well as providing a greater appreciation on how animals and plants utilize and interact with habitat. The only pelagic birding field trip from an Island port was the one aboard Captain Jeff MacNeil's boat out of North Lake, PEI on August 25, 2005.

To enhance the ability of the Society to document records of rare species observed on PEI, the Society developed a Species Documentation Form in 1991. It was revised and updated in 2011. The revised forms which focused on rare birds included a request for detailed notes, sketches, and or photographs. The Society actively discussed implementing a hotline for reporting unusual bird species to PEI in 1990 but the cost was prohibitive. As a result, the Society established a phone call-out system for interested individuals for rapid dissemination of rare birds sightings in late 1990. The call-outs to members enhanced the ability of those who maintained Bird Life Lists (listers) to try to find reported rarities and encouraged better documentation of rarities found on PEI. The submitted rare bird documentation forms are retained by the Society. With the improvements in email service, the Society converted this service to an E-mail list in 2002. In February of 2003, David Seeler obtained approval from UPEI to establish the PEI-Birders ListServ which notified interested individuals of rare sightings on PEI. This Service eventually became a significant asset to PEI birders and various Government agencies. Since 2012, with the improvement in, and the availability of digital cameras, the Society has received more good quality bird images and videos for documentation of rarities. This information was and continues to be made available by the Society's Newsletter Editor to the general public through the *Island Naturalist*. With the development and implementation of eBird Canada, iNaturalist, and Island Facebook pages such as Birding on PEI, more birders are reporting their sightings and contributing images to the public record. Various cell phone apps have been developed to assist with field identification of birds through field marks and audio recordings that permit identification of unknown bird songs in the field. Sighting can now be geo-referenced (latitude and longitude) and ultimately these apps provide the ability to submit images and recordings for identification by experts.



Nature PEI Introductory Bird Course field trip participants at Pigot's Trail entrance June 1, 2019
Ray Cooke photo



2014 Field Checklist of Birds
Province of PEI

The animal and plant records in the *Island Naturalist* include the date. This has allowed our seasonal knowledge of when bird species were present or when plants started flowering (phenology) to be expanded. This information has allowed the updating of four editions of the *Field Checklist of Birds of Prince Edward Island*. Our plant, bird, and weather records could potentially allow the exploration of the phenological impacts of climate change. In 2015, several Society members assisted in the development of UPEI's *Climate Diary* to better document phenology and allow analysis of these records in the future.

Besides birds, the Society initiated or contributed to surveys of the Island's amphibians, butterflies, spiders, lichens, slugs, snails, and flowerflies (hover flies). The Society's coordination, recruitment, and training efforts for amphibians was led by Dan McAskill; for butterflies (6 year Maritimes Butterfly Atlas) by Rosemary Curley, John Klymko (ACCDC), and Donna Martin; for flowerflies by Rosemary Curley and John Klymko; and for spiders, slugs and snails by Kyle Knysh, Bob Harding, Caleb Harding, Mark Arsenault and Rosemary Curley. These surveys were financially supported by the Society, PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund, PEI Fish and Wildlife Division, and ACCDC. The majority of the collections were donated

to the New Brunswick Museum as the Island did not have a satisfactory facility. These collections have been featured in at least three scientific papers, one on lichens in 2015, one on Orthoptera in 2017 and one specifically on Nature PEI's spider initiatives in 2019. These various efforts led to the documentation of a many first occurrence records for animals and plants on PEI.

The observations recorded in the *Island Naturalist* are the longest running primary record of animal observations on PEI. For over 30 years, the Society has sent copies of the *Island Naturalist* to the National Library and to UPEI's Robertson Library. In 2014, on behalf of the Society, Dan McAskill approached Mark Leggott, Donald Moses, and Simon Lloyd of Robertson Library on the digitization of the then 212 published issues so that these records could be readily available to researchers. They accepted this project and scanning was completed in 2015. Part of this biodiversity initiative was the goal of having a search engine that would allow a single search entry to provide all the records for that word or combination of words. This was partially achieved in 2020.



Kyle Knysh presenting Nature PEI Spider Workshop in 2015
Dan McAskill photo



Inaugural Autumn Birding Classic fund raiser team members Linda Thomas, Ray Cooke, and Roberta Palmer 1995
Dan McAskill photo

Combining the need for better PEI records on autumn migration and the need for funding to purchase natural areas, the Society and the Island Nature Trust established the Autumn Birding Classic fund raiser in 1995. That year, the Society fielded a birding team of Ray Cooke, Roberta Palmer, Linda Thomas, and Dan McAskill to collect pledges, do the birding as a big bird day event (duration of up to 24 hours), and record the results in the *Island Naturalist* while the Trust led the publicity and coordinated pledge collections and tax receipts. In memory of Neil Bennett's many contributions to Piping Plover and conservation on PEI, the title was changed to the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic in 2000. Over the years, the membership of the first team has evolved with the most frequent contributors being Ray Cooke, David Seeler, Dwaine Oakley and Dan McAskill. But, more importantly, up to six teams are now fielded and collect pledges. Besides the 25 years of autumn

bird records, \$47,917 was raised for natural areas conservation!

The Society in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) Canada 150 celebration conducted its first BioBlitz on June 16-17th, 2017 at the Trout River Natural Area in Carleton and submitted reports to iNaturalist, CWF, PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund, and the Island Nature Trust. In partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Society assisted with the Mel and Camilla MacPhee Natural Areas BioBlitz in Kingsboro on July 6th, 2019. In addition to these two, Nature PEI members participated in a PEI National Park BioBlitz in June 2017.

In recent years, feral cats and domestic cats that forage outside homes have been identified as the largest mortality factor for birds and a significant predator of small mammals. The Society has documented the number of roaming cats during Society bird counts. It consulted with Nature Canada on its programs to reduce the impact of cats, ran articles in the *Island Naturalist*, corresponded with the PEI Humane Society to encourage programs reducing impacts, and hosted Dr. David McRuer to present "The Impact of Free-roaming Cats on Wildlife, Environmental, and Human Health".

The Society has also implemented a variety of other citizen science initiatives including International Migratory Bird Day, Super Watch, Big Bird Days, A Big Sit (observation of birds from a fixed point), Owl Hoots, Breeding Birds surveys, and Shorebirds and Seabird surveys. In addition, a variety of other field trips including those on Wildflowers, Lichens, Shore Plants and Animals, Frogs and Salamanders, International Butterfly Day,



Canadian Wildlife Federation - Nature PEI Trout River BioBlitz 2017

Greenwich Dunes, Dragonflies and Damselflies, Woodlands, Marshes, Snowshoe Walks, and Spring Warblers were hosted. Young naturalists were invited to these events. Many Nature PEI members also participated in Birds Canada's Nocturnal Owl Survey.

Out-of-Province Excursions:

The Society hosted five off-Island field trips during the past 30 years and all were great fun. Three of these were weekend field trips utilizing a 15 passenger van and sharing the costs. One couple on the first trip used a cabin while the balance camped in tents. The meals were prepared communally with pre-cooked roasts for sandwiches at lunch. Of course, there were a few treat pick-ups to augment snacks and there were even readings from William Henry Drummond's *The Voyageur* around the campfire on two of these. These field trips were at Grand Manan on Aug. 28-30, 1992; Les-Iles-de-la-Madeleine on Aug. 27-29, 1993; Brier Island in Sept. 16-18, 1994; Port Elgin Nature Interpretive Centre on July 9th, 1999; and The Joggins Fossil Cliffs on October 27th, 2013. Dan McAskill coordinated the first three while Michelle Johnston coordinated the 4th and Ron Arvidson, Bonnie McOrmond and Ian Scott the 5th.



Lunch break during Society's Magdeleine field trip August 1993
Dan McAskill photo

Internet Presence:

Outside of emails, the Society did not have a presence on the internet until 2000. That year, the Society accessed funding under VolNet Program of Industry Canada to assist with acquisition of a computer and an Internet Account. Robin Phillips, a Society member, created the Society's website and established its email address nhspei@isn.net. She programmed it using HTML. In 2005, Dan Kennedy took over as web administrator and expanded its content. Eastlink took over isn.net websites, service prices increased, and the Society's website moved to an Eastlink domain in 2008. The Society decided to redesign the website and commissioned a person to initiate this work. A new domain was commissioned but the programmer changed jobs and was unable to complete the work. The website remained dormant because of the ongoing editing challenges and costs with a HTML based

Nature PEI

Nature PEI – supporting citizen science since 1969



- About Us
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- Donate – Flora of PEI
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- Contact us
- Mammals of PEI
- Trails

Nature PEI's Website Header

website. In 2010, a subcommittee of Ian Scott (Chair), Serge Serviant, Dwaine Oakley, and Dan McAskill assessed needs and, in January 2011, the first version of the new website utilizing WordPress and the naturepei.ca domain was released. It was tested by members and the second version was released in 2012. Ian Scott led this work and has maintained it since that time. The site now features columns on: About Us; Calendar; Newsletter; Executive; History; Get Involved; Young Naturalists; Birds of PEI; Pictures; Comments; Donate - Flora of PEI; Links; Blog; Membership; Contact Us; Mammals of PEI; and Trails. The Society established a PayPal account in 2012 and modified its website to take memberships. In 2019, the ability to take donations for the Online Illustrated Flora of PEI was established.

In 2012, Ian Scott initially created Nature PEI's Facebook site and Ron Arvidson and Ian added content and administered it since its creation. A Facebook Photo contest with prizes for plants, non-vertebrates, wildlife in winter, and youth category was held in 2016. Julie Vasseur created a Nature PEI Native Plant Facebook site in 2014 and it was revived in 2016. However, uptake was poor and it is no longer active.

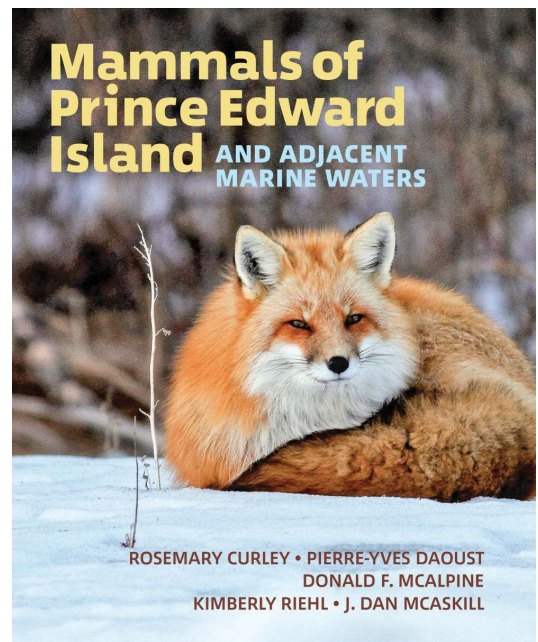
Philanthropy:

In 1992 to 1994, the Society re-initiated its Bain Birdathon as a fund raiser with the specific purpose of raising funds for the Geoff Hogan Biology Honours Research Fund at UPEI. These birdathons raised \$4,500 to bring the principal in this fund to \$25,000 which allowed the first award to be made in 1994. Since it is funded by interest on the principal, this award continues to support natural history projects.

The Society held a quilt raffle in 2003 organized by Donna Martin for the acquisition of a Canon Rebel digital camera and tripod to document its bird banding efforts at Holland College's Cameron's Island Bird Banding Station at Point Prim. In 2004, Sharon Clark suggested the addition of a raffle for items donated by members during the lunch portion of our monthly meetings to help support the PEI Science Fair natural history exhibit awards. These have proved to be a resounding success and have raised revenues which have supported both the natural history awards but also served as a contribution to our citizen science funding applications for a variety of programs. Three additional Society raffles were held and these helped fund its citizen science initiatives.

As memorials to Margaret Mallett, Ruth Ross, and Les Homans who had each made significant contributions to the Society, the Society made donations for land acquisition to the Island Nature Trust. In 2017, it donated to the Mary Majka Scholarship Fund in memory of this New Brunswick naturalist and historian's many contributions. Society members formed Baillie Birdathon Teams to raise funds in 2003 and 2006.

Utilizing profits from sales of its three publications and the co-hosting two Canadian Nature Federation conferences on PEI, the Society created a dedicated fund called the "Book Fund" in its early years. This fund was created to help support publication of Island nature books and, sometimes, to lever funds to assist in procuring funds to support nature-based projects. Since 1989, the Society has contributed \$ 7,072 which helped enable the publication of *Online Illustrated Flora of PEI*, *Island at the Centre of the World: the Geological Heritage of Prince Edward Island*, and *The Mammals of Prince Edward Island and Adjacent Marine Waters* and obtain Wildlife Conservation Funding grants on lichens, spiders, slugs, snails, a bioblitz, flowerflies, and Oriental Bittersweet. For the three books listed above and the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces*, the Society either hosted the launch or assisted with them. It also issued letters of support to work on Forest Resource Development Agreement funding (1993), banning of lead shot (1994), Irving Whale cleanup (1994), forest restoration (2006), Nova Scotia Museum lichen guide (2006), completion of Stratford to Iona Confederation Trail expansion (2012), Bird Studies Canada PEI marsh monitoring program (2015), expansion of Natural Areas Protection Act designations (2016), and Canada Nature tree planting at Charlottetown well fields (2019).



Cover of *Mammals of Prince Edward Island and Adjacent Marine Waters*
2019 Island Studies Press at UPEI

Special Events and Initiatives:

The ambiance of its gatherings of members and friends and the willingness of people to lead and serve on its various committees, field trips and other initiatives have been mainstays of the Society's continued success. The sharing of good food and the discourse doing so has certainly been an important aspect. This has included home baked treats at Society presentations, potlucks, picnics and field trips. Thanks to the many bakers and hosts who have helped celebrate our get-togethers.



By 1990, concern was increasing over the decline of Common Terns. The Common Tern colony on the Hillsborough Bridge piers was being predated by a few Great Black-backed Gulls nesting on the piers and Double-crested Cormorants had started perching on the piers. After considerable research and a special meeting, the Society intervened installing recommended non-destructive cod line barriers. Within the day of their installation, the gulls learned to drop in between the lines over the colony and launch themselves through the lines. The lines were removed and, for a number of years, the gull nests and eggs were removed as permitted by the Canadian Wildlife Service.



Hillsborough Bridge Piers gull enclosures installed by Nature PEI 1991 - crew leaving and terns nesting
Ben Hoteling and Dan McAskill photos

Besides being a founding member of the Society, a long-serving Treasurer and author of the Society's 1969 to 1989 history, Margaret Mallett was a professional photographer who documented the Society's field trips and nature. After Margaret passed away, her family donated her nature slide collection to the Society. On several occasions after that, her slides were featured during our presentation evenings. As slide projectors were no longer available and the Society wished to use this imagery, Gerald MacDougall scanned the slides and Julie Vasseur prepared a table with the captions Margaret had made on the slide mounts in 2017.

In March 2002, Geoff Hogan, one of the Society's core leaders for protection of Island nature, passed away. The Society

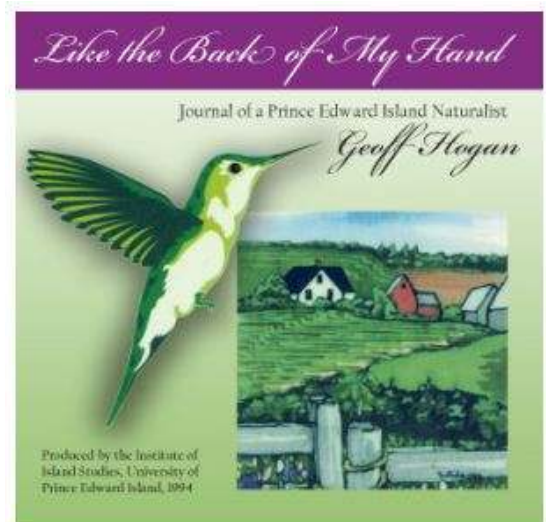
helped celebrate his many contributions by making a donation to the newly established Geoff Hogan Biology Honours Award at UPEI and by hosting a booth at the UPEI's Institute of Island Studies' "Through Geoff's Eyes: A Tribute to an Island Naturalist and Gardener" held at Carrefour de l'Isle-St.-Jean.

From 2007 to 2014, the Society partnered in the delivery of seven Hillsborough River Bald Eagle Festivals through an early morning birding event followed by breakfast. Society members Leslie MacIsaac and Bonnie McOrmond led a Birds and Breakfast in 2003 and Bonnie McOrmond and Dwaine Oakley led one in 2006 at the Dalvay Interpretive Centre Birds and Breakfast. In conjunction with City Cinema in Charlottetown, the Society invited members to the bird documentary film "The Messenger" in 2016.

Awards:

Our Executive Council has prepared many award nominations for either individuals or groups for their exceptional contributions to nature on PEI. In light of its mandate and its work with the Museum, many of these were for the Museum's Natural Heritage Activity Award.

In 1990, the Society was awarded the PEI Environment Week Award in the organization category.



Geoff Hogan video produced by Institute of Island Studies, UPEI in 1994



PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation Award of Honour presented to Dwaine Oakley and Ben Hoteling by Lieutenant Governor A. Perry in February 2017
Government of PEI photo

The Society's spider team members were co-recipients of the James Fletcher Award for best article for issue 132(4) of the Canadian-Field Naturalist for the paper submitted by JJ Bowden, KM Knysh, GA Blagoev, R Bennett, MA Arsenault, CF Harding, RW Harding, and R Curley titled "The Spiders of Prince Edward Island: experts and citizen scientists collaborate for faunistics" published in Canadian Field-Naturalist 132(4): 330-349.

Advocacy for Nature:

Part of the Society's mandate is to protect nature and to assist, work with, and support other organizations, government bureaus or other agencies having similar or allied objects. The Society has been very active in this perspective with dozens of submissions for public consultations on legislative and policy changes by the provincial and federal government, letters to ministers and committee chairs, attendance at government workshops, especially those of PEI National Park, and completion of questionnaires and surveys. These cover the spectrum of topics from land use and protection, wind, peat moss and biomass harvesting, aquaculture, pesticides, and road rerouting/construction proposals to water quality and extraction, habitat management, species introduction (wild turkey), Piping Plover, cormorant, Common Tern, sea duck kills, and coyote populations on PEI.

While it has advocated for the establishment of a provincial natural history museum since the Society was established, this has been a paramount objective throughout the past 30 years. The Society has met with and made submissions supporting this with Premiers Pat Binns, Robert Ghiz, Wade MacLauchlan, and Dennis King and many of the ministers responsible for the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation. In this light, it participated in museum and heritage reviews (Ernst and Young in 1993, IRIS Group in 2008, Cultural Consultation Strategy in 2017), submitted opinion pieces and letters to the editor of the Guardian and Eastern Graphic, conducted interviews with CBC Radio, and attended Annual General Meetings of the PEIMHF to advocate for the creation of a curator of natural history and an assistant, collection and specimen storage space, and the creation of a capital fund which included funds for collection management for a provincial museum featuring natural history. The Society worked with Dr. David Keenlyside, Executive Director of the Museum, and Curator of Natural History Boyde Beck on a nature anthology of Island Magazine articles as well as an Island bird photographic display for Eptek but funding was not found to support them. In 2019, it prepared and presented a paper entitled "PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation Nature-based Program Opportunities" to the Museum's Board and Executive Director to encourage progressive steps to improve the Museum's delivery of its natural history mandate. In addition, Society Executive Members met frequently with Dr. Keenlyside on the development of nature based initiatives respecting Museum publications, exhibitions, and other projects. As well, Ian Scott represented the Society on an Ad Hoc Museum Advisory Group formed in 2019. The Museum financially co-supported the development of Segment 1 and 2 of the *Online Flora of Prince Edward Island* and publication of *The Mammals of Prince Edward Island and Adjacent Marine Waters*. Nature PEI has submitted many nominations for candidates for various PEIMHF Heritage Awards particularly the Natural Heritage Activity Award.



Dr. Elliot Urdang donating fossil tracks found on PEI to PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation at Dr. John Calder's October, 2016 presentation to Nature PEI



Neil Bennett Autumn Bird Count Fund Raiser Youth Team 2017 - Island Nature Trust photo

The Society was a founding member of the Island Nature Trust and appoints a representative to its board (see Appendix 1). It has partnered with the Trust in delivering educational workshops, bird seed sale fund raisers, field trips, and fund-raising initiatives such as the Autumn Birding Classic fund raiser. As well, it collaborated on responses to various development proposals, surveys (Piping Plover and other endangered species), communication outreach efforts, and much more. It has also donated funds to the Trust for land acquisition and Piping Plover management.

Up until 1995, the Society was represented on the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) Board of Directors. Financial challenges required significant downsizing of CNF programs and staff in 1995. That year, the board was restructured and

Brenda Penak, the Society's director, resigned. The Society has continued to support various Nature Canada initiatives including establishment of Important Bird Areas in the Maritimes, representation on the Atlantic Nature Network, attendance at Nature Canada's 2010 AGM at North Cape PEI, signing their petition on Bill C-42 the Animal and Plant Protection Act, providing periodic donations, signing the Protected Places Declaration in 2019, and attendance by Gerald MacDougall, Nature PEI Vice-President, at Nature Canada's Nature Day 2019 which included a meeting with Members of Parliament, a Town Hall meeting with Minister McKenna, and ancillary workshops with nature groups. Nature PEI also participated in regional teleconferences with Nature Canada. As the latter were held during business hours, in 2008 the Trust replaced the Society as the Island affiliate for Nature Canada's teleconferences.



Nature Network Maritime representatives at Ottawa Nature Canada meeting April 2019 Shannon Arnold, Vanessa Roy-MacDougall, Senator D. Griffin, & Gerald MacDougall (L-R)



Piping Plover displaying at North Lake May 2017 - Donna Martin photo

For many years, the Society was the principal non-government organization advocating for Piping Plover management on PEI for areas outside the PEI National Park. Much of this field work was done with volunteers coordinated by a Society employee hired through Environment Week funding while Society volunteers covered the administration and employee management. All Environment Week funding was cancelled in 1993. Fortunately, the Island Nature Trust was able to take the leadership on this initiative.

After the closure of the Canadian National railway system on PEI, the Rails to Trails organization was established to advocate for creation of a cycling and walking trails along its corridor. Dr. Charles Keuper became the Society's representative on it. Rails to Trails became Island Trails in 1995.

The Society served on the committee that led to the establishment of the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCF). At various times, a Society representative served on its application review process. Concerned with the lack of money being granted to nature conservation, in 2014 it requested the addition of a biodiversity representative on the WCF's committee. In 2015, Rosemary coordinated two UPEI Science 444 student projects. The first conducted online surveys with those purchasing the new WCF Conservation License Plates and the second to sort and identify spiders. The Society also submitted a series of applications for projects to improve occurrence information for various species groups on PEI (see above).



Besides its collaboration with PEI National Park on citizen science initiatives (Piping Plover, BioBlitzes, Birding and Breakfast), the Society has participated in consultations on various PEI National Park stakeholder reviews and management documents. It provided input on Park's infrastructure expansion or removal initiatives including those at Robinson's Island, Greenwich and Cavendish Grove and advocated for better enforcement of illegal activities affecting Piping Plover. In response to the Society's concerns over loss of bird viewing area access, the Park established a small parking and viewing area at Brackley Marsh North, one of the foremost hot spots for shorebirds, waterfowl, and Nelson's Sparrow.

One or more Society members served on: the General Status of Wild Species in PEI (2005, 2010), Endangered Spaces Coalition (1993), the Government of PEI's Coyote Control Committee (2001), Canadian Wildlife Service's Bird Conservation Plan (2009) and Maritimes Land Birds (2015), the PEI Invasive Species Council (2014-19), and Aquaculture Committee (2019). As well, the Society assisted with the Canada Wide Science Fair when it was held at UPEI in 2011.

Thanks:

The natural history conservation movement on PEI remains vibrant. Our thanks to the dedicated volunteers who commit their time and resources which are essential for many conservation initiatives throughout the Island. A special thanks goes to the many Executive Council members (see Appendix 1) who performed their Society roles for their position and the many other tasks they willingly completed to make the Society function. Thanks as well to the many presenters, field trip leaders, *Island Naturalist* contributors, citizen scientists, lunch coordinators, potluck hosts, meeting hosts, raffle contributors, donors, members, individuals, agencies and employees that have assisted the Society over the past 30 years. Finally, thanks to Rosemary Curley, Bob Harding, Dwaine Oakley, Ian Scott, and David Seeler for providing comments on the draft text for this history.

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Front Cover Illustrations:

Top left - Birders summoned via the PEI-Birders ListServ and emails to V. MacIntyre's in Corran Ban to see the Island's first Harris Sparrow in May, 2007. Dan McAskill photo

Top middle - The Harris Sparrow observed at V. MacIntyre's May 2007, Dwaine Oakley photo.

Top right - Spider workshop participants being taught collection techniques at the J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery on 2015. Dan McAskill photo

Bottom left - Front cover of *Island Naturalist* Issue #230 with "Some Highlights" column, one or four issues for its 50th anniversary year.

Bottom middle - Diane Griffin and Kathy Martin during PEI National Park Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 18, 2016. Clare Martin photo

Middle right - Ian Scott presenting C. Apars with Natural History Society Award at the 2014 PEI Science Fair. Diane Griffin photo

Bottom lower right - Cecropia moth at Summerville on Jun. 23, 2017. Bob Harding photo.

Some Island Wildlife:



Black Swallowtail at Charlottetown
Aug. 16, 2016 Nicole Murtagh photo



Skate at Argyle Shore Jul. 24, 2014
Lois Doan photo



Water Shrew West Point
Dec. 1, 2016 Julie Vasseur photo



Buckbean at Bedford Bog Jun. 7, 2019
John te Raa photo



Hedgehog Mushroom Valleyfield
Oct. 13, 2018 Rosemary Curley photo



Lichen-marked Orbweaver at Corraville
Aug. 13, 2020 Barry Cottam

Appendix 1. Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island Ltd aka Nature PEI Executive Council members and Island Nature Trust representatives 1989 to 2020.

Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island - Executive Council & Other Appointments from 1989 to 2019									
8 Dan McAskill - September 17 2020									
Year	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Director Program	Director Publicity then Field Trips	Past President	Editor	INT Rep MHS Director
1989	Sue Stephenson	Patrick Wootton	Gerald MacDonald	Dan McAskill	Ruth Richman	Jean Oullette	Rosemary Curley	Gary Schnieder	Bruce Smith
1989	Patrick Wootton	Sue Stephenson	Gerald MacDonald	Dan McAskill	Ruth Richman	Jean Oullette	Rosemary Curley	Gary Schnieder	Bruce Smith
1990	Patrick Wootton	Wendell MacKay	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Ruth Richman	Peter Klaussen	Sue Stephenson	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1990	Patrick Wootton	Wendell MacKay	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Vacant	Peter Klaussen	Sue Stephenson	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1990	Patrick Wootton	Wendell MacKay	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Vic Toews	Mary Beth Harris	Sue Stephenson	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1991	Barbara Currie	Mary Beth Harris	Carolyn Meincke	Dan McAskill	Vic Toews	Don Wilkinson	Patrick Wootton	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1992	Barbara Currie	Mary Beth Harris	Carolyn Meincke	Sue Stephenson	Roberts Palmer	Don Wilkinson	Patrick Wootton	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1993	Barbara Currie	Mary Beth Harris	Nora Stephenson	Sue Stephenson (to Mar 1)	Linda Thomas	Don Wilkinson	Patrick Wootton	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1993	Barbara Currie	Mary Beth Harris	Nora Stephenson	Ben Hoteling (Mar 2 - Dec 31)	Linda Thomas	Don Wilkinson	Patrick Wootton	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1993	Barbara Currie	Mary Beth Harris	Ann Wootton	Ben Hoteling (Mar 2 - Dec 31)	Linda Thomas	Don Wilkinson	Patrick Wootton	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1994	Ray Cooke	Mary Beth Harris	Jean Watts	Alma Steeves	Linda Thomas	David Cairns	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1995	Ray Cooke	Mary Beth Harris	Jean Watts	Alma Steeves	Meika Keunecke	David Cairns	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1996	Ray Cooke	Mary Beth Harris	Jean Watts	Jim Jenkins	Meika Keunecke	David Cairns	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1997	Ray Cooke	Mary Beth Harris	Jean Watts	Jim Jenkins	Meika Keunecke	David Cairns	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1998	Ray Cooke	Mary Beth Harris	Jean Watts	Jim Jenkins	Meika Keunecke	Murray Russell	Barbara Currie	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
1999	Ben Hoteling	Mary Beth Harris	Michelle Johnston	Jim Jenkins	Meika Keunecke	Murray Russell	Ray Cooke	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
2000	Ben Hoteling	Jim Jenkins	Lois Doan	Michelle Johnston	Meika Keunecke	Eric Marcum	Ray Cooke	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
2001	Ben Hoteling	Jim Jenkins	Lois Doan	Michelle Johnston	Meika Keunecke	Eric Marcum	Ray Cooke	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
2001	Jim Jenkins	Ray Cooke	Lois Doan	Michelle Johnston	Meika Keunecke	Eric Marcum	Ben Hoteling	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
2002	David Seeler	Dwaine Oakley	Lois Doan	Arja Page	Eric Marcum	Bonnie McOrmond	Ben Hoteling	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
2003	David Seeler	Dwaine Oakley	Donna Martin	Arja Page	Eric Marcum	Bonnie McOrmond	Ben Hoteling	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
2003	David Seeler	Dwaine Oakley	Donna Martin	Arja Page	Eric Marcum	Sharon Clark	Ben Hoteling	Dan McAskill	Bruce Smith
2004	Dwaine Oakley	Ron Arvidson	Fiep de Bie	Arja Page	Eric Marcum	Sharon Clark	David Seeler	Dan McAskill	Fiep de Bie
2004	Dwaine Oakley	Ron Arvidson	Fiep de Bie	Nanette Gauthier	Eric Marcum	Sharon Clark	David Seeler	Dan McAskill	Fiep de Bie
2004	Dwaine Oakley	Ron Arvidson	Fiep de Bie	Vacant	Eric Marcum	Sharon Clark	David Seeler	Dan McAskill	Fiep de Bie
2005	Dwaine Oakley	Dan Kennedy	Fiep de Bie	Vacant	Bonnie McOrmond	Sharon Clark	David Seeler	Dan McAskill	Fiep de Bie
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2007	Dwaine Oakley	Dan Kennedy	Beth Hoar	Rosemary Curley	Jennifer Roma	Jennifer Roma	David Seeler	Dan McAskill	Dan Kennedy
2008	Dwaine Oakley	Dan Kennedy	Beth Hoar	Rosemary Curley	Jennifer Roma	Anne Bergstrom	David Seeler	Dan McAskill	Dan Kennedy
2008	Fred McCordle	Dan Kennedy	Beth Hoar	Rosemary Curley	Jennifer Roma	Anne Bergstrom	Dwaine Oakley	Dan McAskill	Lynn Douglas
2009	Fred McCordle	Vacant	Beth Hoar	Rosemary Curley	Vacant	Anne Bergstrom	Dwaine Oakley	Dan McAskill	Lynn Douglas
2009	Fred McCordle	Vacant	Beth Hoar	Rosemary Curley	Vacant	Vacant	Dwaine Oakley	Dan McAskill	Lynn Douglas
2010	Diane Griffin	Ian Scott	Beth Hoar	Rosemary Curley	Rosemary Curley	Lois Doan	Fred McCordle	Dan McAskill	Lynn Douglas
2011	Ian Scott	Dwaine Oakley	Whitney Kelly-Clark	Rosemary Curley	Christina Pater	Lois Doan	Diane Griffin	Dan McAskill	Lynn Douglas
2012	Dwaine Oakley	Barbara MacDonald	Heather Fenton	Susan Stephenson Whitaker	Christina Pater	Ron Arvidson	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Lynn Douglas
2012	Dwaine Oakley	Barbara MacDonald	Heather Fenton	Vacant	Christina Pater	Ron Arvidson	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Lynn Douglas
2012	Ian Scott	Barbara MacDonald	Heather Fenton	Vacant	Christina Pater	Ron Arvidson	Dwaine Oakley	Dan McAskill	Barbara MacDonald
2013	Ian Scott	Vacant	Barbara MacDonald	Don Jardine	Rosemary Curley	Ron Arvidson	Diane Griffin	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2013	Ian Scott	Julie Vasseur	Barbara MacDonald	Don Jardine	Rosemary Curley	Ron Arvidson	Diane Griffin	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2014	Ian Scott	Julie Vasseur	Bonnie McOrmond	Don Jardine	Rosemary Curley	Ron Arvidson	Diane Griffin	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2014	Rosemary Curley	Vacant	Bonnie McOrmond	Don Jardine	Diane Griffin	Ron Arvidson	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2015	Rosemary Curley	Gerald MacDougall	Diane Griffin	Don Jardine	Bonnie McOrmond	Ron Arvidson	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2015	Rosemary Curley	Gerald MacDougall	Diane Griffin	Don Jardine	Vacant	Ron Arvidson	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2016	Rosemary Curley	Gerald MacDougall	Robert Harding	Don Jardine	Diane Griffin	Julie Vasseur	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2017	Rosemary Curley	Gerald MacDougall	Robert Harding	Don Jardine	Connie Gaudet	Luke Peters	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Randy Dibblee
2018	Rosemary Curley	Gerald MacDougall	Robert Harding	Francine Desmeules	Connie Gaudet	Kathleen MacNearney	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Gerald MacDougall
2019	Rosemary Curley	Gerald MacDougall	Robert Harding	Francine Desmeules	Connie Gaudet	Barbara Dylla	Ian Scott	Dan McAskill	Gerald MacDougall

Note: In 2014, the Newsletter Editor's position was created in the Society's Constitution