

HELP COMMUNITIES CONSERVE THEIR LOCAL IBA FOR ALL OF US

Stewards are needed to deter inappropriate land use and protect shorelines for endangered Piping Plovers at Eastern Cape Sable Island IBA.

Eastern Cape Sable Island Important Bird Area

Eastern Cape Sable Island's sandy beaches and mudflats provide year-round habitat for a diversity of birdlife. Spring and fall migrants include geese, loons, egrets, herons, seaducks, and cormorants attracted to the sandy beaches and mudflats. A rich landbird diversity including warblers, vireos, sparrows, and tanagers enjoys the island's inland forests, thickets, heaths and residential gardens in summer. Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones use the site as their winter home.



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This 15 km² IBA is at the southernmost accessible point of Nova Scotia.

Conservation Action

Much of the island's fragile shoreline is unprotected, privately owned, and threatened by inappropriate use. Easy access from nearby roads and residential areas makes for frequent disturbance of nesting and foraging birds. Our ongoing IBA Communities in Action project helps sensitize residents, protect shorelines for migrating birds, and benefit the surrounding communities through ecotourism.



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The Island's sandy beaches and mudflats are easily accessed by visitors, ATVs and unleashed dogs that disturb nesting endangered Piping Plovers and flocks of migrant birds.

Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds including this Semipalmated Sandpiper rely on Eastern Cape Sable Island.





Nature Canada's Priority IBA Program

Nature Canada develops long-term partnerships with our IBA Communities in Action program. We've supported over 150 projects by local partners –an investment of almost \$500,000 in on-site conservation at 100 IBAs.

From vast tracts of intact wilderness to fragmented urban environments, hundreds of sites in Canada are vitally important for breeding, migrating, and wintering birds, and the conservation of these sites is a cornerstone of effective bird conservation. Nature Canada is a co-partner in the international Important Bird Areas (IBA) program, which aims to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provides essential habitat for bird populations.

Of our 597 Important Bird Areas in Canada, Nature Canada highlights the sites of greatest biological significance, those facing the most imminent threats, and those offering timely conservation opportunities, in its series, *Natural Priorities: Protecting our Important Bird Areas*.

To obtain other fact sheets in our series, visit our web site at naturecanada.ca and click on Reports and Downloads.

Or call 1-800-267-4088 ext. 241 to request one.

About Nature Canada

Nature Canada is the Canadian co-partner (with Bird Studies Canada) of BirdLife International, a global alliance of conservation organizations working together for the world's birds and people. We are a member-based non-profit conservation organization with supporters in every province and territory. Our mission is to protect nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it.

We're informing IBA communities across Canada about the potential impact of ATVs on critical wildlife habitat. At Eastern Cape Sable Island, our site support group is installing signs to encourage ATV users to ride in less fragile areas.



Semipalmated Sandpiper

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For more information visit these Web sites:
naturecanada.ca • ibacanada.ca • birdlife.org