

PREVENT DISASTER IN CANADA'S OCEAN WILDERNESS

Scott Islands Group IBA supports 2,000,000 breeding seabirds – the largest concentration in the Canadian Pacific. While the 5 islands are provincially protected, the surrounding waters await federal designation as Canada's first Marine Wildlife Area.



This remote and rugged IBA spans 1,440 km² of land and sea north of Vancouver Island.

Scott Islands Important Bird Area

The steep coastal cliffs and rocky wave-battered shores of the Scott Islands are home to almost half of BC's breeding seabird population. Among those nesting here are hundreds of thousands of Cassin's Auklets, thousands of Rhinoceros Auklets and Leach's Storm-Petrels, and hundreds of Pelagic Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots.



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The islands are also home to nesting Bald Eagles, and the marine waters are foraged by diverse non-resident species such as White-winged Scoters. The IBA supports one of world's largest Steller Sea Lion rookeries, and the ocean teems with life from drifting microscopic plants to dazzling Humpback Whales.

The marine areas around the Scott Islands are important foraging sites for visiting seabirds like this Black-footed Albatross.

Conservation Action

While the Scott Islands themselves are provincially protected, the ocean where birds forage up to 100 km offshore remains at risk from shipping traffic, fishing activity, and potential oil spills. Although a moratorium on offshore drilling was declared in 1971, exploration leases are still held, and the threat of offshore petroleum development continues. Resulting oil spills could obliterate the seabird population.



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To prevent this disaster, Nature Canada will continue its campaign to push the federal government to finally protect the entire IBA—including its open seas—as Canada's first Marine Wildlife Area.

Nearly 90% of Canada's Tufted Puffins breed at the Scott Islands IBA.



Nature Canada's Priority IBA Program

Nature Canada fought to bring legislation to protect birds oiled at sea into law to ensure that shipping companies are accountable if they illegally dump bilge oil in Canadian waters. The new law could prevent the deaths of hundreds of thousands of seabirds annually.

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.

Remote natural areas like the Scott Islands are especially vulnerable to the introduction of predator species—an unnatural disaster that has already occurred on two of the IBA's five islands, neither of which now supports nesting seabirds.



Horned Puffins

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