

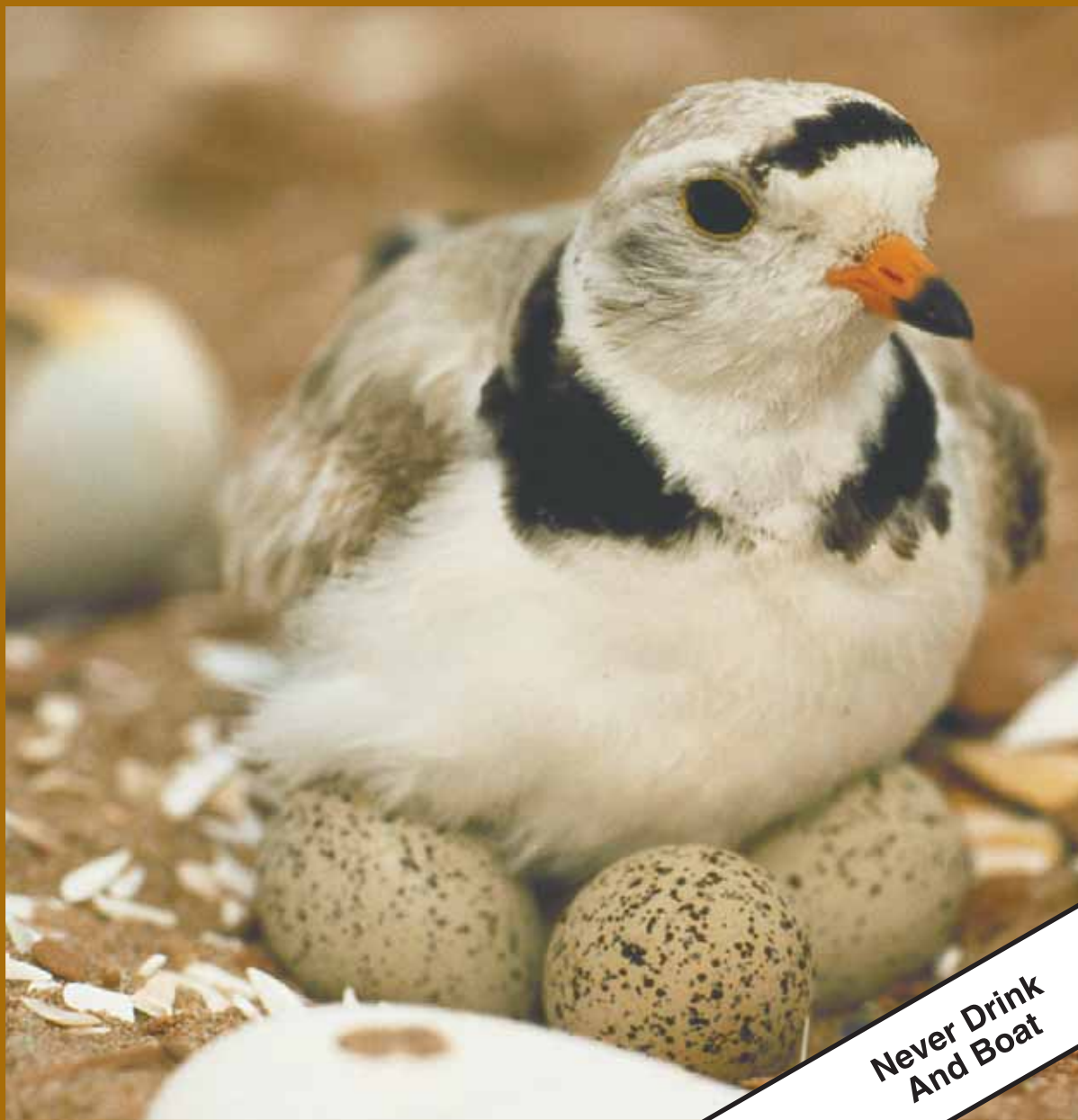
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VOLUME 10, NO. 3
SUMMER 2001
Family Camping
The Piping Plover
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NOVA OUTDOORS

SUMMER 2001

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Nova Outdoors

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of Anglers and Hunters



Vol. 10, No. 3
Summer, 2001
**STATEMENT
OF PURPOSE**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is interested in all aspects of the out-of-doors and is dedicated to the fostering of sound management and wise use of the renewable resources of the Province. We want to ensure that their economic, recreational and aesthetic values may continue for the benefit of this and all future generations.

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir,

Five years ago you published my letter regarding the proposed attack on gun owners as revealed in confidential government working papers shown to me when in Ottawa.

They were only working papers, but much of what I read is now reality.

Again, being in Ottawa this April, I was shown another government working paper.

Our enemies in the cabinet appear to believe gun registration coupled with license and transfer fees will rapidly decrease the number of firearm owners, but if the decrease is too slow their advisors have proposed a regulation that will make our current problems seem like mild irritants.

Under the new regulation proposed for cabinet study, every gun owner would be obliged to take his then registered firearm to a certified facility (after getting a

transportation permit) and leave it until the staff could obtain a used bullet and shell casing.

A picture of the bullet and the head of the casing would be fed into the RCMP computer along with the registration of the firearm.

The bullet and casing then forwarded to a federal storage depot.

All of this, of course, at the expense of the firearm owner.

When the firearm changed ownership, the whole procedure would be repeated to ensure that breech block, barrel and rifling had not been changed.

This proposal, if implemented, will be a disaster to our sport, yet have no effect on criminal use of firearms, but preventing crime has never been a mandate of those implementing gun laws.

Yours Sincerely,
D.R. MacInnis

President's Message

The NS Federation of Anglers and Hunters is one of more than 35 member organizations who have formed the Public Lands Coalition. The "Coalition" is looking for a shift in management approach to Crown lands, which constitutes only 20 percent of Nova Scotia's land base. Those of us who read and use toilet paper tend to understand that wood products are a valuable commodity. Mindful of that, a number of points can be made:



1) Nature is more than a "resource" solely for human consumption. "Natural Resources" could consider a broader set of values shared by many outdoor-oriented taxpayers.

2) Forest products in many sites can be harvested by more ecologically-friendly means than clearcutting.

3) Some Crown lands are special enough to be removed from cutting agreements. Many of the large companies with leases are considering and acting in this regard. Coastal lands and relatively pristine sites are examples where values other than wood fibre could prevail.

Why am I flogging this subject again? One biologist I know would cut Kejimikujik National Park (for personal gain) if allowed. It's time we set some limits about uses of public land - where he now cuts. Arguments focus on where and how much land should be set aside from "normal" cutting. A real stumbling block seems to be the status quo (leave it alone approach) about clearcutting.

In the Legislature Mr. Fage recently made the following statement during a clearcut debate: "... so, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, clearcutting is an accepted harvesting practice here in Nova Scotia, but it is only one of a number of accepted practices that would be employed on specific pieces of ground depending on the type of terrain, depending on the type of species that would be on that piece of property ..."

To quote one private forester, "Nova Scotia is being frantically flattened." Clearcutting is the method used in Nova Scotia 98.9 percent of the time. The Federation of Anglers and Hunters has spoken out about this wide-spread practice many times, and has a policy against its use.

Comparing Mr. Fage's statement to the statistical reality, makes one wonder if Nova Scotia is suitable only for clearcutting?

Continued on page 6

Executive Director's Voice



Natural resources are not inexhaustible and they need dedicated protection. TV and newspaper ads bombard us daily about the plight of endangered species, the health of our oceans and a dwindling global forest resource.

The state of our salmon stocks and some species of game birds is alarming, and except for the visible efforts of hunter and anglers' dollars working to help, not much else seems to be done about improving the lot for wildlife and their natural home.

However, there is some good news. The forests of Nova Scotia at least, just got a boost from the Provincial Department of Natural Resources when they decided to improve on the game enforcement efforts.

Not long ago I spoke to you about the proposal to get rid of the provincial conservation officer service in Nova Scotia and replace it with the increased presence of RCMP officers. That idea was doomed to fail from the beginning for a number of obvious reasons. First, it was not that the Mounties could not do the job, I'm sure they could to a degree, but once they started to prioritize calls for officers', wildlife issues would drop to the bottom of the list. Second and most important, is knowing that the men and women who deliberately went into conservation service as a career choice were better suited for the conditions that face Conservation Officers (COs) everyday.

The great news is, the situation has changed around completely. The existing Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers will all be brought together under one administration and formed into their own unit, and will be run more closely as a police agency than I believe they were run before. This is welcome news to most of the existing officers and is welcome news to my ears.

To better understand the improvements, it's important to appreciate how they used to worked before the change.

At one time there were (to round off numbers) 50 officers located in 25 offices or depots throughout the province. Two officers in each depot and a boss. This was normally the depot manager, at each location. So the province had 50 officers with 25 bosses who in most cases were not police trained or oriented. Separated from them was the Manager of Enforcement in Halifax and his assistant and staff. It had to be tough to plan something for all the officers to attend, like training, with that many people to coordinate, because remember the depot managers were also assigning the officers with other work that had to be completed.

All in all it was discovered that officers were not working an equal amount of their time on wildlife conservation. A rough guess was that only 40 percent of the officers' time was spent doing wildlife conservation work. This percentage was lower in some areas.

Yes, there will be a physical change in the number of officers available, they will be reduced. However, the exciting part is that our wildlife will receive an increase of over 30 percent in conservation officers' years. The reality is this, that the people who will be left to do the job,

will want to do it and will now do nothing else but enforcement work.

Let me back off that statement a bit. Some of these officers are also the best the province has to offer as forest firefighters, and will remain in an emergency capacity to work as firefighters if needed.

It certainly will bring about a lot more accountability on the officers in doing their jobs and should lead to some customized training in order to do their jobs better. More coordinated work can now be done with other agencies such as the Canadian Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans and the RCMP. I look forward to hearing about undercover work and surveillance to capture those who try and make an illegal living off of our precious resource.

It would not be a column of mine if I didn't get to use the "F" word once, that's Firearms. You all made me proud in your efforts to delay the license process and once again I'm asking that you not rush into the registration of your firearms.

We still have a year and a half to get that done, so let's not be in too much of a hurry. A number of things can happen to change the system, everything from dropping of associated costs to other related changes. Perhaps Minister MacLellan will consider voluntary registration. It meets the registration need of the government and it certainly would meet my needs. But don't hold your breath.

Your member of parliament and your members of the legislature will soon be returning from Ottawa and Halifax respectfully. It's time to get out and speak to them about your favorite subjects and remind them of constant watching of their time in the legislative chamber.

Remember to renew your membership, it is vitality important to the Federation and try to encourage one new person to join, perhaps start a young person out with a new membership.

Enjoy the summer and be safe. ✎

*Tony Rodgers E-mail:
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Disease Stalks Wild Game: Saskatchewan Hunting Industry Faces CWD Devastation

By Murray Mandryk

A two-year-old mule deer shot in northeast Saskatchewan last year has tested positive for the same chronic wasting disease (CWD) that's plagued the province's domestic elk herd.

Government officials are being cautious about the test results, but a former NDP cabinet minister and current director of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) has said any case of chronic wasting disease in a wild animal could be a "severe blow" to the province's big-game industry.

Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM) has obtained "suspicious test results" in a deer shot by a hunter in the Manitou Sandhills south of Lloydminster last November, government sources say.

The animal was shot about 10 kilometres south of an elk game farm where several animals had tested positive for CWD.

Chronic wasting disease, which affects elk, mule deer and whitetail deer, is part of a family of diseases that include mad cow disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. Scientists say the cause is unknown, there is no treatment or vaccine, and researchers don't know how it is transmitted among animals. There is no evidence chronic wasting disease can infect people.

Art Jones, SERM's communication director, would only confirm Wednesday there was one "suspicious result" emerging from testing on more than 1,400 elk and deer heads shot by hunters and tested by the department as part of an awareness campaign.

"To my knowledge, we have only the one suspicious test," Jones said. Jones added more samples have been forwarded to the federal laboratory in Nepean, Ont., and to the University of Colorado for testing.

He would not speculate on the impact a confirmed test result would have on the province's lucrative hunting industry.

However, former NDP environment minister Lorne Scott, now the SWF executive director, said the impact could be devastating.

"There would be virtually no chance of eradicating it if it's in the wild," Lorne Scott has said. "It would be a severe blow to the hunting industry and the animals themselves."

The newly elected president of the Saskatchewan Elk Breeders Association says no one should panic just yet. "There have been other times when they thought they had positive test results and they didn't," said Bob Kirkpatrick, adding that people should wait until the test results are confirmed. "We don't know if this

animal was close to an elk farm affected," said Kirkpatrick, adding even though it was close to the game farm, it may have never come near the elk. Moreover, no one knows if CWD is something that occurs naturally in wild game and has been there all the time, he said. "It's never been tested for before."

About 2,500 of the province's 28,000 domestic elk herds have been destroyed because of concerns about CWD. About three dozen had shown symptoms of the disease.

The federal government has handed out more than \$6 million in compensation to elk ranchers whose animals had to be destroyed. †

President's Message

Continued from page 4

No, but the ecological cost of clearcutting is not being factored into the financial costs to the clearcutters. It's a quick way to make a buck – at considerable environmental expense. Let me use another comparison. Banks accounts and nutrients in a forest have accrued principal and interest. Foresters can argue about "annual allowable cut" on a site, but the reality – in a province that was scoured by a mile-thick ice sheet only 13,000 years ago – is that clearcutting usually takes principal and interest from the "bank". In other words, the nutrient bank has less afterwards for the grow-fast, die-fast species like poplar, birch, pin cherry and balsam fir that frequently invade following clearcuts. They do attract wild animals like mice, rabbits, and coyotes.

Wildlife species whose habitat needs

include cavities, and older forest elements like sugar maples, hemlocks, red oaks and yellow birch are less fortunate. Many sites to be harvested still offer management options for more gentle forms of cutting that favour and encourage valuable species. These methods are being deployed on only 1.1 percent of the sites. Economic baffle-gab swirls regarding their use.

It's a bit strange that we set rules for the taking of wildlife like deer and trout to protect their populations, but refuse to set rules for the taking of forests that form habitats essential for their survival. As wildlife and forest policy ideals are ignored, advisors' to the Minister continue to muster flimsy arguments to prolong the frantic flattening, and limit the nature of the future forest for fish and wildlife.

Best wishes for the summer! †

Bob Bancroft

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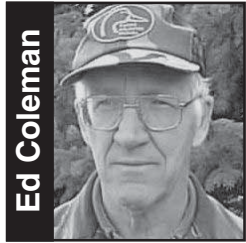
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Wild Turkeys In Our Future? – Maybe!

By Ed Coleman

Are we close to having wild turkeys in the province? And in the Annapolis Valley in particular? Don't expect anything to happen soon but it's a possibility.



Ed Coleman

At the April meeting of the Kings County Wildlife Association it was announced that the Department of Natural Resources is looking at a proposal from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) on introducing this bird. I contacted Natural Resources wildlife director, Barry Sabean, who confirmed that the NWTf had indeed submitted a proposal which is currently being reviewed by Department biologists.

The NWTf is a non-profit American organization that in their own words is "dedicated to conserving wild turkeys and preserving hunting traditions." Since 1973 the NWTf has spent more than \$130 million on projects benefiting wild turkeys throughout North America. Apparently the NWTf is willing to fund a turkey stocking program in the province. While I have no details on the proposal now in the hands of Natural Resources,

I understand that the NWTf has offered to provide \$60,000 to fund the importing and stocking of wild turkeys from Ontario. A biologist from the NWTf will be coming to the province shortly to discuss their stocking proposal with the Department of Natural Resources.

Nova Scotians have been flirting with the stocking of wild turkeys for decades. In 1957 the Department of Lands and Forests attempted to stock turkeys and failed. There have been various private stockings as well, most of which failed because pen-reared birds were used. In the 90s a stocking in Annapolis County appeared to take hold. This was contrary to the Wildlife Act which specifically prohibits the private stocking of turkeys, and there was quite a flap when the Department of Natural Resources threatened to destroy the flock.

When and if wild turkeys are introduced, most of the credit must go to the Digby East Fish and Game Association. The Association has been lobbying for nearly 20 years for a turkey introduction. In 1988 the Association hired a biologist from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to evaluate the potential wild turkey habitat in the Annapolis Valley. After a detailed study, the biologist concluded that there was a great potential for wild turkeys in the Valley. In his report the biologist said that the potential is "at least equal to, or probably greater than that in New Hampshire or Maine," which now have excellent wild turkey populations.

Despite this positive study and ongoing efforts, the Digby East group has been stymied in its efforts to have wild turkeys introduced. Apparently the government has been lukewarm about turkey

stocking, and I surmise, a bit afraid to make it a public issue.

In 1993 when I was preparing a magazine article on the possibility of turkey stocking, I interviewed the then wildlife director Merrill Prime. Mr. Prime said in effect that while turkey stocking would probably succeed, social and ecological factors stood in the way. "Everything and everyone must be considered before we can go ahead (with a stocking)" Prime said.



Nova Scotians have been flirting with the stocking of wild turkeys for decades.

Wildlife director Barry Sabean said that in reviewing the NWTf proposal, the principal focus "will be on the potential impact to ecological systems in Nova Scotia and whether or not the proposal provides enough detail to make an evaluation." While Mr. Sabean added that he is "not certain if other criteria will need to be considered yet," I'm sure the government will be thinking about how the general public, farmers, and the anti-hunting, anti-gun groups will react to turkey stocking. ↗

Ed Coleman is a well known outdoors writer who lives in Annapolis Valley, N.S.

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Public Participation In Wildlife Management

By Tony Nette

Unlike a farmer, a wildlife biologist can't easily know the condition of a herd, how many young are being born, how many die, are sent to market (hunted), stolen (poached), what they are eating, know precisely where they are, or even know how many there are. Each one of these measures is extremely difficult and often unaffordable to determine. Yet he/she should have this information to know if there is a problem that may threaten the population or herd. Further, the biologist is expected to recommend appropriate harvest levels or land-use activities to ensure the population of a given area is not jeopardized.

Note: "Wildlife" actually includes insects, amphibians, plants and even fungi, but regardless of species the same principles and concerns apply.

Many people think wildlife biologists spend most of their time in the field, enjoying fresh air and observing wildlife. That's not the case. Mostly they are planning projects, working on computers, reading reports, giving presentations, trying to raise enough money for a study or providing input on development proposals. In a best case scenario, a field researcher spends on average three days in the office for every one day in the field. And most biologists are no longer field researchers. The few wildlife biologists the province can afford to hire, can do little individually, in terms of field work.

If the Department of Natural Resources had an army of wildlife biologists with troops of trained technicians, it would still need a multi million dollar budget to afford the trucks, boats, radio collars, capture equipment, helicopters, computers, etcetera, required to gather this basic information. Though most Nova Scotians would agree we should know our wildlife well and ensure healthy populations are maintained into the future, how many are willing and able

to dig deeper into their pockets for the tax dollars necessary to support that army?

But the army exists. The job can be done and done well if we all understand and accept responsibility to do our part. Thousands of amateur naturalists, bird watchers, those with special interests and skills in botany, canoeists, school science classes, fishermen, hunters and trappers, all have opportunities to participate in a meaningful way.

Programs like the Nova Scotia Herpetofaunal Atlas (902-585-1313), the Coastal Plain Flora Monitoring Project (902-425-5263) and the Piping Plover Guardian Program (902-861-3624) are looking for someone with your skills and interests. Your next camping or canoeing trip may take you in a different direction and with a more specific purpose.

If you are a hunter, page 29 of the Nova Scotia Summary of Regulations Booklet lists 16 report forms or biological submission requests. Some are required by law, others (Deer Jawbone & Antler Measurements) offer an incentive such as the Deer Management Contributor jacket crest. We have tried to make it as easy and convenient as possible. The Small Game Report Card can now be sent in over the Internet at www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/doc/smgmwatr. The truth of the matter is,

the future of hunting depends on the ability to show it is not having a negative impact on wildlife. The only practical and economically feasible way to gather the necessary information, is through hunters themselves. Thousands of individual reports build a strong data set.

If you want to do more than just report, and would like to actually become involved with how wildlife and its habitat is being managed, most communities have a Naturalist or Fish and Game Club. Every club is looking for new members who are sincere and energetic. It's a time commitment but you might be surprised to know how strong an influence these organizations have on provincial program direction and wildlife management decisions.

The many thousands of eyes and ears, interests and efforts of the public, are required to manage our wildlife properly. The alternative, of hiring many more people to do surveys and run monitoring programs, is simply not going to happen.

"Something worth having, is something worth working for." Is our wildlife worth having?

Get involved. Do your part. ♪

Tony Nette is with the DNR Wildlife Division.

The Nova Scotia Federation Of Anglers And Hunters 2000 Funding Lottery Winners drawn March 31 in Truro

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The Piping Plover In Nova Scotia

By Jon Stone,
Canadian Wildlife Service

Many sandy beaches around the province provide ideal habitat for the Piping Plover, combining appropriate nest sites, food, and a protective background against which the birds are nearly invisible. These beaches also happen to be attractive for people who wish to enjoy the great outdoors.



Plovers like this one are on the beaches now trying desperately to protect their eggs and young from the many dangers that await them. Keeping motorized vehicles and unleashed pets off the beaches will go a long way to helping restore this endangered species in Nova Scotia.

The Piping Plover is a small, secretive shorebird, a little larger than a sparrow. There are fewer than 2,300 pairs remaining in North America. Of these, less than 100 pairs are found in Nova Scotia. Some of the places where they are found include beaches such as Martinique on the Eastern Shore which are also popular spots for recreational use.

The Piping Plover hides its eggs amid the gravel and broken seashells that mark the normal limit of the high tides. While the location provides good camouflage from predators. This leaves them

vulnerable to damage from humans, particularly all terrain vehicles and unleashed pets. Some areas with plover nests have signs posted by the Province to caution people away, while other areas actually have “symbolic” fences to help people steer clear of the nesting areas.

Plovers also rely on the beaches to take on fuel for their winter migration. From their nesting sites along the coast, the Plovers leave Nova Scotia and migrate south in late summer to winter in Cuba, the Bahamas, Mexico and the United States along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. Little is known about Piping Plovers on their wintering grounds.

Human disturbance of nesting Piping Plover is one of the main causes for their decline. During nesting and while the chicks are still young, they are extremely vulnerable to disturbance. People or their uncontrolled pets can cause nests to be abandoned, or young birds to be injured and die. Young have to feed constantly to gain the energy reserves needed for their fall migration south. Too much disturbance greatly reduces their chances of surviving.

Human presence on beaches also increases the numbers of natural enemies of the Piping Plover, such as foxes, skunks, raccoons, crows, and gulls. Garbage left on beaches not only is unsightly, it also attracts predators that may then eat young birds or eggs.

Throughout Nova Scotia as well as in other Atlantic provinces where plovers nest, there are volunteer based programs in place called “Piping Plover Guardians”. Dressed in bright red vests and hats,

Guardians spend a great deal of time watching out for the well being of these sensitive shorebirds. Without the efforts of volunteers such as those with the Nova Scotia Piping Plover Guardian Program, there would certainly be fewer plovers on the beach. The role of guardians is to educate and inform people, and gather further support in their mission to help protect the plover and its habitat.

While enforcement is a last resort, this summer, provincial and federal agencies will be increasing enforcement activities around the province to keep vehicles and unleashed pets off of protected beaches.

What you can do to help the Piping Plover

- Any dog or other domestic animal brought to the beach should be kept on a leash and under control.
- Do not operate ATVs on any beaches. It is illegal in Nova Scotia to operate motorized vehicles on beaches.
- Respect any fenced or posted areas for wildlife or the Piping Plover.
- If you know where a nest is located, or where Piping Plovers feed or roost, do not linger in the area. Report your observation to the Canadian Wildlife Service.
- Make sure trash is removed from the beach. Take it home.
- Learn more about other endangered species in your area.
- Learn more about Piping Plover, threats to its existence, and how you can be a responsible beach user near nesting areas.
- Contact an organization near you that works on Piping Plover conservation and protection. They will really appreciate your help, either by becoming a Piping Plover Guardian, or through assisting in other ways.

To find out about these groups and organizations in your area, contact the Canadian Wildlife Service regional office in Sackville, New Brunswick (1-506-364-5044). In Nova Scotia the Piping Plover Guardian Program may be reached at (902) 860-1263; Email: plover@istar.ca ↗

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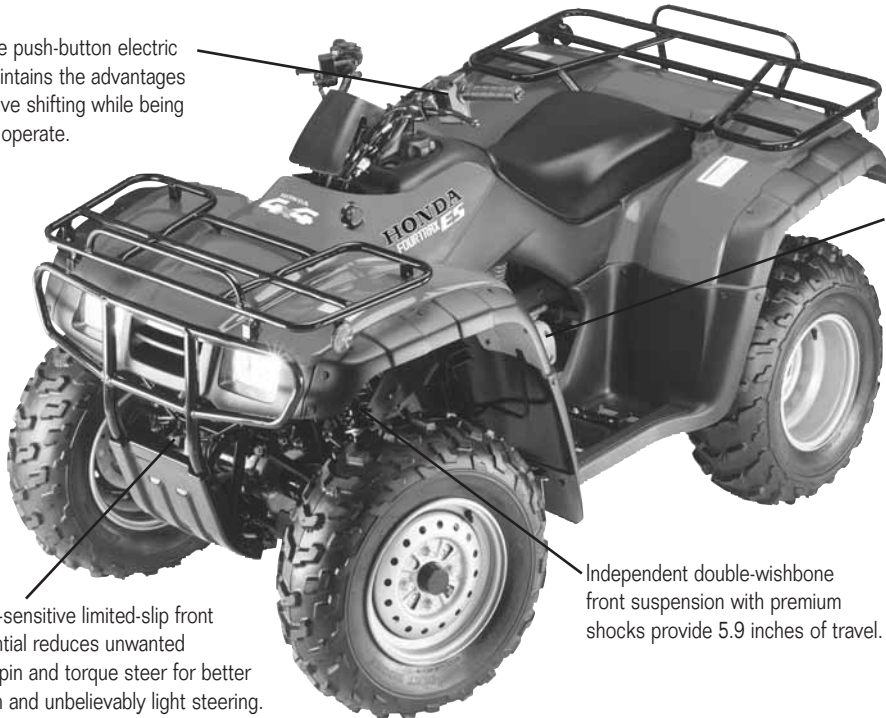
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Nova Scotia Waterfowler Heritage Day – September 22, 2001

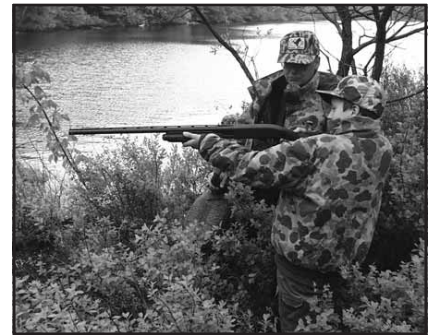
By Jon Stone,
Canadian Wildlife Service

This Fall in Nova Scotia, young people across the province will have an opportunity to discover what waterfowl hunting is all about. Through a cooperative initiative of Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, September 22 has been officially designated Waterfowler Heritage Day. Nova Scotia joins most provinces including New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in having this day set aside each year to promote the heritage of waterfowl hunting.

Qualified young hunters 12 years of age to under 18 years will be allowed to hunt migratory birds when accompanied by a licensed adult who serves as a mentor. Qualified young hunters must meet all mandatory federal and provincial safety testing requirements, including hunter and firearm training courses. In addition, young hunters must obtain a Nova Scotia

Provincial Wildlife Habitat Stamp and comply with all provincial and federal legislation. Young hunters will not be required to have a Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, while not requiring a Provincial Small Game Hunting Stamp is being considered for this one day only. If young hunters choose to hunt migratory birds during the regular season than they will require a Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and a Provincial Small Game Hunting Stamp.

Mentors, must be at least 18 years of age and hold a valid Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and a Provincial Small Game Hunting Stamp. Each mentor may accompany up to two qualified young hunters. Mentors are not permitted to use a firearm or have one in their possession on Waterfowler Heritage Day. Mentors are expected to focus their attention on providing guidance and advice on firearms safety, hunting etiquette, site selection, decoy setup and removal, waterfowl identification, hunting regulations, bag limits, non-toxic shot, dog handling and bird retrieval.



This fall, experienced hunters will be encouraged to introduce young people from 12 to 18 years of age to the heritage of waterfowl hunting in Nova Scotia. Above, 13 year-old Everett Stone gets some instruction on firearm safety from Lewis Thomson. (Jon Stone photo)

Participants are subject to all federal and provincial regulations which apply to waterfowl hunting and hunting in the province. This includes respecting bag limits, proper hunting methods, baiting and use of non-toxic shot.

Young hunters also need to apply for a firearms permit. Applicants can call the provincial firearms office at 1-800-731-4000, extension 6505.

Applicants should allow six weeks for processing applications and young hunters must have successfully completed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

Mentors should also consider taking their young hunters to a range prior to hunting, to have them become familiar with the safe use of shotguns and the use of clay pigeons to develop the skill necessary for safe waterfowl harvesting.

Waterfowler Heritage Day will provide qualified young hunters with an experience that reinforces and enhances their training and hunting skills in a safe, controlled and supervised environment.

CONTACTS:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Enforcement
Lewis Thomson (902) 426-1188
lewis.thomson@ec.gc.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources Enforcement
John Mombourquette (902) 424-5254
jamombou@gov.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Provincial Firearms Office
1-800-731-4000, extension 6505 ✎

Jury Awards Trapper \$190,000 For Friends Of Animal Tampering

An Alaska trapper, Eugene Johnson, won a jury-directed verdict totaling \$190,000 against Friends of Animals (FOA) and a wolf-biologist, Gordon Haber, whose work is funded by the animal rights group. The Tok, Alaska, jury found Haber guilty of violating that state's law prohibiting interference with lawful trapping in that state. In 1997, Haber freed a wolf from Johnson's legally set snare. The wolf died a few weeks later.

Friends of Animals, a Connecticut-based animal rights group led by Pricilla Feral, has led numerous efforts to outlaw hunting and trapping in Alaska. Animal

rights colleagues say Feral (who had her surname legally changed to better identify with the animals) is open in acknowledging her quest to make Alaska a vast animal preserve free of human interference. The Tok jury ordered FOA to pay Johnson \$150,000. Haber must come up with \$35,000 in damages, \$500 for the lost wolf, and \$3000 for expenses and damaged equipment.

Johnson took Haber to court after Haber distributed a video of the wolf release with Haber claiming full responsibility. Johnson felt Haber used the incident to harm the trapper's reputation and raise funds for anti-trapping animal rights groups. ✎

From the Ontario Fur Managers Federation website.

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- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2001. Entries postmarked after November 30 will be included in the next years draw.
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Family Camping A Fun Team Effort

As a parent of two adolescents, Ellen Henwood of Hants County has much to keep her busy. You might think camping would be out of the question. But for Ellen and her children, Rosemary and Timothy, camping is a joy and a great way to spend good times together.

"Camping is the key to survival for me," says Ellen. "As a single parent, I had a lot of doubts at first as to whether I could do this. But I quickly learned the skills I needed to make camping fun. And if you are not having a good time when you are outdoors, then why go?"

Ellen also participates in the Nova Scotia Provincial Parks' Campground Host Program. Hosts agree to stay two weeks in one of the provincial parks and offer other campers information about park amenities and nearby attractions. Some campers find watching Ellen cook a roast at her camp site to be quite an attraction.

Cook a roast? In a campground?

"Oh sure," says Ellen, as if this were the most natural thing in the world. "I experiment with different ways to cook outdoors. I have developed various types of ovens to make pot roast, bake potatoes, or bake biscuits and cookies. It may sound complicated, but it is truly easy. I also have a rule with my kids that each of us makes one meal a day. Well, sometimes my son or daughter might take shortcuts; Timothy may serve cold cereal for breakfast and Rosemary will make sandwiches for lunch."

Ellen laughs as she says this, but there is a serious undertone.

"I want my children to be independent and able to make good decisions. When we go camping, I give them responsibilities and duties, but I also ensure they

participate in the decision-making. It creates a feeling of team work and results in more time for fun things like biking and swimming," she says.

This year, Ellen is planning a 10-kilometre bike trek to Laurie Provincial Park near Fall River.

"The kids really want to do this and I have been thinking about it for some time. I want to try camping without a tent. We'll make a lean-to and cover it with tarps," she said. "For me, it's about testing myself and overcoming the fear of the unknown or things I haven't tried. Different people camp in different ways. Each time I go, I want to learn something."

Safety and security are paramount to Ellen.

"When I register at a park, I ensure the park attendants are aware that I am a single parent with two children. They know no one else should be in or around my campsite," she says.

She knows the benefits of taking her children camping.

"I think I have earned their respect. They see that Mom can do things like build a fire, and provide food and shelter outdoors," she says. "I have learned a lot about them too. When you are sitting around a campfire, there is no television, no computer and no video games. So, you talk, play board games and generally learn things about your children that you didn't know before you left that morning."

She cites last year's trip to McNab's Island as an example.

"Each of us thought the other had packed a flashlight. Well, we hadn't, so there we were with no lights. We went to bed early and played Tell the Truth for hours. The things I learned," says Ellen.

Ellen's daughter Rosemary knows what she likes best about camping.

"It gets us out of the house and we have a good time," says Rosemary.

Does the idea of leaving the house and housework behind and having a good time with your kids in the outdoors appeal to you?

"It is truly a marvelous time for me and for the kids," says Ellen. "My style of camping may not be for everyone, but for everyone the experience should be fun, low maintenance and no stress." As summer draws near, Ellen is keen to get outside. "Nova Scotia Provincial Parks are great and I intend to camp there and enjoy them as often as I can," she says.



Ellen Henwood demonstrates one of her experimental food cookers to a fellow camper. (Department of Natural Resources photo)

Ellen's Camping Do's and Don'ts

- Respect the environment; leave your campsite in good condition.
- Take duct tape; it is great for any fix-up chore you can imagine.
- Take lots of books; it is a great time to relax and catch up on your reading.
- Pack games, cards, pens and paper.
- Don't over-pack; the keep-it-simple rule applies, or you may as well stay home
- Don't tie up or bundle your sleeping bag; let it hang so that the fibres will not get compressed. Don't worry; camping should be fun ☺

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Nova Scotia Water Temperature Monitoring Project: Interim Report

By John MacMillan and Jason LeBlanc

Brook trout *Salvelinus fontinalis*, brown trout *Salmo trutta*, and Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* are members of the salmonid family and need cool water to survive. Brook trout are one of the most sensitive salmonids to warm water and avoid temperatures warmer than 20°C, whereas brown trout and Atlantic salmon are slightly more tolerant of warm water conditions. Climate change and poor land use practices associated with forestry, agricultural, and other development activities have increased warming of rivers in summer. The Nova Scotia water temperature monitoring project involved the work of many volunteers and community-based organizations (see Table). The purpose of the project was to understand how much salmonid habitat was affected by warm water temperatures and identify important cold water areas in river systems. The project methodology provided a relatively easy and inexpensive way to collect accurate temperature information on many sites. The results of the program indicated that temperatures in the main branch of many river systems warms above 20°C for prolonged periods in summer, resulting in a restriction of suitable habitat for brook trout. Water temperatures in tributaries (small streams) tended to remain cooler compared to the main river. When water warms to stressful levels, many individuals in salmonid populations migrate to colder areas. The colder areas could be located in the small shaded tributaries that flow into the main branch

of the river or in deep areas of pools and lakes. Thermal restriction of habitat can result in overcrowding of fish in cold water sites or refugia. Overcrowded populations are more susceptible to predation, parasite and disease transmission, and over fishing. For this reason, the number of trout in a system could be directly related to the amount of cold water habitat available in summer. The data collected in the survey is being used to develop river system maps to help identify where the important cold water sites are on each watershed. A student and professor at the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, are developing the maps that will be provided to the organizations and volunteers involved in the project. These maps could be used as guides for future habitat enhancement efforts and regulatory changes to help stressed populations. Beneficial initiatives could be directed toward those areas that may be of critical importance to

the summer survival of cold water fish populations.

Organizations and volunteers involved in the Nova Scotia water temperature monitoring project, 2000.			
Lead	Organization	River	County
Darren Hiltz	Sackville River Association	Sackville	Halifax
Carol Randall	LaHave Salmon Association	LaHave	Lunenburg
Garth Trider	LaHave Trout Association	LaHave	Lunenburg
Brooke Cook	Bluenose Atlantic Coastal Action Project	Mushamush	Lunenburg
Dave Dagley	Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters	Medway	Queens
Charles Trask	Tusket River Environmental Protection Association	Tusket	Yarmouth
Roland LeBlanc	Salmon River Salmon Association	Salmon & Meteghan	Digby
Roland Smith	Annapolis Fly Fishers	Nictaux	Annapolis
Amy Marsters	Clean Annapolis River Project	Annapolis	Annapolis
Peter Bagnall	Friends of Cornwallis River	Cornwallis	Kings
Mac Miles	Black River Environmental Committee	Black	Kings
Darrel Brown	Wildlife Habitat Advocates	Avon	Hants
Daria Langill, Ivan Polly	Cobequid Salmon Association	Salmon	Colchester
Danny Ripley	Cumberland County River Enhancement Committee	Philip	Cumberland
Bill Cardiff	Pictou County Rivers Association	East & West Pictou	Pictou
Leonard Forsythe	Margaree Salmon Association	Margaree	Inverness
Chuck Thompson	Cape Breton Sportfishing Advisory Council	Middle	Victoria
Duncan MacLean	Stewards of River Denys Watershed Association	River Denys	Inverness
Bob MacDonald	Mulgrave and Area Lakes Enhancement Project	St. Francis Harbour	Guysborough
Charles MacInnis	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	James	Antigonish

The 145 sites surveyed were categorized into cold water sites, intermediate water sites, and warm water sites based on their average temperatures between 10 June and 6 September. To demonstrate the sensitivity of the cold water sites to temperature change, 2°C was added to the

Continued on next page

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Stora Enso Establishes Forest Advisory Committee

Stora Enso's Woodlands unit has announced the establishment of a Forest Advisory Committee to assist the company in implementing sustainable forest management on company-managed lands.

The committee is made up of 15 volunteers from the seven eastern counties of Nova Scotia (Stora Enso's operating area) who are interested in how forestry operations affect woodlands, wildlife, the environment and the community. They will have an opportunity to influence the company's forest management decisions.

Stora Enso has consulted extensively with the public in the past, including participation in the provincial Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process. In addition, the company held six open house

sessions last year in local communities to provide the general public with an opportunity to make further input. Forest issues and values identified by this broad public consultation will be discussed by the committee. The committee will assist Stora Enso in identifying local indicators of sustainable forest management and provide objectives to be incorporated into the company's long-term forest management plan.

Russ Waycott, Stora Enso's woodlands vice president, believes that broad public participation is important to the company's vision of the forest resources for which it has responsibility. "The committee will provide the public with an opportunity to influence our day to day forest practices and provide input to long-term forest management decisions while also learning more about Stora

Enso's overall forestry program." Effective public input is essential to integrated forest management and Stora Enso's long-term forest management planning process.

John Kennedy, volunteer chair of the forest advisory committee, is pleased with the make-up of the group. "I am looking forward to working with this group of individuals who represent such diverse interests. Together we will help shape and provide direction to Stora Enso's future forest practices."

The Forest Advisory Committee meets monthly and will spend time initially familiarizing itself with Stora Enso's woodlands operations. ↗

Submitted by Stora Enso North America, Port Hawkesbury Mill, Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Water Temperature...

Continued from previous page

average temperature of the 145 sites surveyed. The 2°C increase resulted in a 75 percent loss in the number of cold water sites. Climate warming could have the most profound impact on cold water populations in the future; however, often current land use practices result in a reduction in the buffer zones around streams

that provide shade and help maintain cold habitats. Protecting and establishing buffer zones could result in a big improvement for salmonid populations that must use small, cold areas in summer. Many of the volunteers involved in this survey have undertaken habitat enhancement activities which have benefitted salmonid populations. Angling regulations have been used to benefit populations of trout restricted to cold water refugia. Trout Brook, a tributary of Lake Ainslie in Margaree River is a well known cold water refuge for trout in summer and special regulations have been used to protect trout in this area.

The interest in temperature monitoring has increased and another project is planned for the 2001 summer period.

Project sponsors include the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Nova Scotia Salmon Association. The Centre of Geographic Sciences is providing support to develop river maps for the project. Special thanks goes out to the community groups and volunteers involved in the project. We hope that their involvement in this worthwhile project will continue. ↗

John MacMillan is a Biologist and Jason LeBlanc is a Technician, for the Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Lewis Hinks, Atlantic Salmon Federation.



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Efforts To Eradicate Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle Continue

The public is advised that cutting and tree removal operations to rid Point Pleasant Park of the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle infestation are scheduled to resume.

This is the second year of the eradication strategy, being carried out under the auspices of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Canadian Forestry Service, the Nova Scotia Department of

Natural Resources and the Halifax Regional Municipality.


Spring inspections have turned up another forty-four (44) Red Spruce trees infested with the European pest. These trees will be taken down and incinerated off-site.

In addition, crews will be clearing up the more than 800 Red Spruce trees that were blown down, or knocked down, in the Park during the recent

winter wind storm. Portions of these trees will be used as bait traps to attract the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle.

Park users are advised that only certain roads and paths affected by the clearing operations will be blocked off to the public. Because of the extent of the cut last year, whole sections of the Park had to be closed. ↗

Halifax Regional Municipality




Again this year, eligible resident hunters will have the opportunity to hunt antlerless deer. Approximately 23,500 Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamps are available through a random draw.

Phone applications accepted until midnight August 31, 2001.

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- Call 1-900-565-DEER (3337). Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until midnight August 31, 2000.
- A non-refundable application fee of \$6 plus HST will be charged to the bill of the phone used to make the call. You may apply only once.
- **WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL** or between September 8 - 15, call the Draw Results Line. Toll-free: 1-877-535-1234 Halifax local: 493-1412 or starting Sept. 1 visit www.deerdraw.hmcgroup.ca

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Conservation

A Question Of Feeding Deer

By Tony Nette

When we experience an especially harsh winter, many people worry about how deer are coping. From the warmth of our homes and the daily routine of feeding domestic stock and pets, it is often assumed that we can and should help deer survive the rigors of winter by feeding them.

Background:

Deer have several natural adaptations that help them survive winter. These include a thick winter coat of hollow hair and the storage of fat through summer/fall for use during the winter. Deer also go to 'yards' during the deep snow period of winter. Yards are areas that offer the ability to move about easily because of reduced snow levels, while providing shelter and a nearby source of food. These yards are generally coniferous forests with a closed canopy which breaks the wind and helps intercept snow. Deer develop a network of trails within these yards as they travel to and from feeding. Throughout winter they keep the trails open for easy travel and

greater ability to escape predators. As well, when deer are grouped together, many eyes, ears and noses are very effective in detecting predators.



Deer have also adapted to our northern climate by reducing their activity during January, February. Their overall metabolism actually slows down

so they require less food – much like turning the thermostat down. However, despite these adaptations, adult deer routinely lose up to 20 percent of body weight during winter, regardless of the amount or quality of food present.

That is not to say that winter is not a problem to deer. On the contrary, each year a portion of the provincial deer herd will not survive winter, usually due to starvation. Snow not only covers much of their food (grasses, forbes, leaves and low shrubs) but their ability to move about becomes severely restricted when their sinking depth in snow reaches about 50 cm.

Continued on page 20

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Students Re-Planted Trees In Point Pleasant Park

Members of the Prince Andrew High School's "Class of 2001" will be marking their graduation this year by re-planting Red Spruce trees in Point Pleasant Park.

Sue Uteck, a keen supporter of the project and the Councillor who represents the District in which Point Pleasant Park is located, attended a kick-off ceremony at the Park on May 10. Master of Ceremonies

was Kelli-Anne Hogg, the project coordinator for the Prince Andrew/Woodlawn Environmental Enhancement and Conservation Association (PAWEECA).

The association, in partnership with the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee, has initiated the tree re-planting program to help re-establish those portions of the forest in the park that were devastated by an infestation of the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle.

The project has received generous support from Parks Canada, St. Mary's University, and staff and students at Prince Andrew High School.



Point Pleasant Park

The high school students re-planted the Red Spruce trees under the guidance of HRM Parks and Open Spaces staff. †

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Conservation...

Continued from page 18

The first animals to succumb to the rigors of winter are generally fawns and yearlings (which have little fat reserve to fall back on) and the old or sick. The amount of starvation depends on the severity of winter, quality of winter range and the number of deer competing for food in any given area.

A deer herd's ability to survive winter depends on several factors. First, the condition of deer going into winter is important. The amount of stored fat is a measure of energy available to draw on during winter. Then the severity of winter weather (duration of cold weather and depth of snow) will determine how much energy is needed. As well, stress through disturbance caused by humans, dogs or predators will use energy reserves, and finally, the amount of food available through winter. Together, these factors will determine if a deer will starve or survive. A very long and cold winter with persistent deep snow, will cause exhaustion of fat reserves and together with the lack of accessible food ... the result may be starvation and eventually death.

When winter has become severe, people often consider giving supplementary feed to deer. The issue of winter-feeding is not only a question of whether to feed deer or not, but one must consider when to feed, what and how to feed, and the costs and benefits of doing so. It must be done properly. The wrong method can harm or even kill deer.

Problems with Feeding Deer in Winter:

- First we must ask ourselves, "If we are successful in feeding deer properly, and as a result more deer survive the winter in good shape and give birth to healthy and strong fawns, what will the situation be next winter?" Eventually deer numbers will exceed the carrying capacity of the natural habitat and more deer will be dependent on our handouts. Can we keep the feeding program going at greater capacity each year?
- Even though fed, deer

will continue to browse on nearby natural foods. Eventually most natural browse in the area will be eliminated. The same site will have very little natural food to offer the following year.

- Concentrating deer around feeders near our homes, may cause a number of problems. Property damage in the area may increase by their browsing on ornamental shrubs and trees. They may become a hazard to local traffic as they move to and from the feeding site. Domestic dogs will begin chasing and even killing deer.
- Deer are more vulnerable to coyotes during deep snow periods. If deer concentrate at a supplementary feeding site that is not associated with adequate cover and opportunities to escape predators, they may be more easily taken by coyotes.
- Deer that are concentrated, regardless of snow depth, are more susceptible to disease.
- Improper diets are often fed. These lead to digestive upset and potentially death.
- If not enough food is provided or if it is not distributed properly, aggression and fighting will occur at the feeding site. Most often it will be the deer that need the feed most that will get the least.

For these reasons, feeding deer in winter is generally not accepted as a good management practice. The Department of Natural Resources generally discourages feeding deer except in special circumstances, and then it must be

done properly if our efforts are to actually be of overall benefit to the deer.

The Advantage of Feeding Deer:

First we must ask ourselves, "Why do we want to feed deer?" If it is to make ourselves feel good or to see more deer from our kitchen window, perhaps we should reconsider. These are reasons for our benefit, not necessarily for the benefit of deer.

The main reason for feeding deer is to prevent a large die-off due to starvation.

Further, if deer make it to spring in relatively good condition, they are more likely to give birth to strong and healthy fawns with an increased chance of survival.

Look for Part 2 of this article in our Fall issue.

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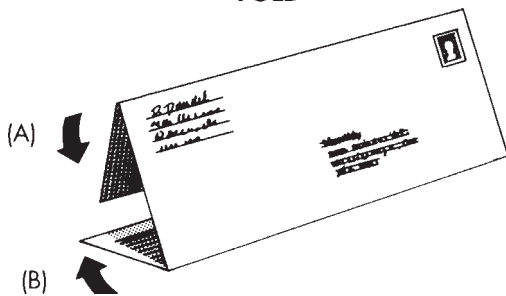
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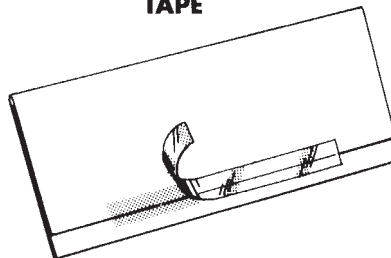
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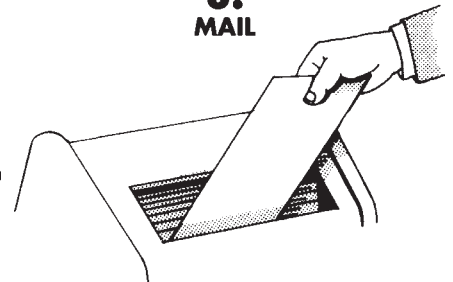
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