



Nature Notes

By the Halifax Field Naturalists

For the Birds? Winter Bird Feeders

Birds are wild animals...should we feed them? Here's some food for thought from the Nova Scotia Bird Society and University of Alberta:

Although food can get scarce during the winter, and providing food can help birds survive the winter, sometimes bird feeders can cause unintentional harm.

WHAT IS THE HARM?

- Increases proximity of birds to each other relative to their behaviour while foraging for food in the wild, which can increase the likelihood of transmitting disease.
- The feeders themselves can be the cause of birds becoming sick, from mildewed and moldy seed.



TIPS FOR SAFE FEEDERS:

DURATION: Put out feeders after at least two hard frosts and remove when the ground thaws in spring.

REGULAR DISINFECTING:

At least once a month, each feeder needs to be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and allowed to dry completely before being set back outside with fresh seed (discard old seed).

LOCATION:

Select location to minimize strikes with windows (guidance can be found online).

November Events

ATLANTIC VIEW TRAIL

Take in saltmarshes, beaches, woodlands, headland bluffs and hopefully see shorebirds.

Date: Sat, November 2

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Duration: 2 - 2.5 hours

Location: Lawrencetown Beach Parking Lot

Registration is Required. Contact Bernie McKenna at 902-434-3202 or mckennab197@gmail.com

ISLAND LAKE & INGRAM RIVER WILDERNESS AREAS

Island Lake has 3,927 hectares of protected lands, and the proposed Ingram River has 11,000 hectares of the same valuable forests. Join us for a talk on the forest's current situation and beneficial proposals for future activities here.

Date: Tues, November 19

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History 1747 Summer St, Halifax (lower entrance)

For more info & to keep up to date on HFN Talks & Walks, check us out at <https://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca/>

Follow us on social!



Colin Stewart Conservation Award

HISTORY:

- Established in 2004 by the Halifax Field Naturalists (HFN) to honour the many contributions of Colin Stewart to the preservation of natural areas in Nova Scotia. Many natural areas we enjoy in the HRM can be traced back to Colin's work.

NOMINEES:

- An individual or group for significant conservation efforts in Nova Scotia.

POTENTIAL CANDIDATE? NOMINATE THEM!

- Due by November 30, 2024
- Nomination criteria and forms on the HFN website.