

MAKE ROOM FOR BIRDS IN THE CITY

Globally significant numbers of waterfowl rely on the contaminated shoreline of Battures de Beauport and Chenal de L'Île d'Orleans IBA, Quebec.

Battures de Beauport Important Bird Area

The wide mudflats and marshes of Battures de Beauport IBA are critical habitat for globally significant concentrations of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Spring and fall migrants include thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers and American Black Ducks, and hundreds of Green- and Blue-winged Teal and Common and Red-breasted Mergansers. More than 30 shorebird species forage on the Beauport flats, including Short-billed Dowitchers, Killdeer, and Dunlin.



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This 27 km² IBA lies on the shores of the St. Lawrence River in an industrial area east of Quebec City.

Battures de Beauport supports globally significant concentrations of waterfowl including this American Black Duck.

Conservation Action

The Battures de Beauport mudflats are heavily polluted and sandwiched between shipping traffic in the turbulent waters of the St. Lawrence River, and a highway, railway and industrialized urban area adjacent to the shore. But nature can win even against these odds—with our help. An Environment Canada project to restore the river sediments is underway. Our IBA site support group, Nature Quebec, has completed an IBA conservation plan that identifies further site conservation objectives, from revegetating eroded areas and constructing an observation station, to ensuring emergency-response preparedness in the event of chemical spills. Nature Canada will help raise community awareness of the IBA's ecological value, and generate government support for site conservation.



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Snow Geese are one of many species that use this IBA for migratory stopovers and are facing contaminated mudflats, polluted waters, and heavy traffic by land and sea.





Nature Canada's Priority IBA Program

IBA conservation planning is especially important in urban environments. We mobilize local stakeholders in developing science-based workplans together, a process that helps ensure community support for long-term site conservation. To date, conservation plans have been developed for 150 Canadian 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.

Thousands of volunteers have helped conserve IBAs by surveying bird populations, building nest boxes, erecting signs, removing invasive species, planting native grasses, and promoting awareness of the value of wildlife.



Semipalmated Sandpiper

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