BREEDING SEASON

Most species are particularly sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season, between early April to mid-August. Try to limit noise, disturbance and tree removal during this time.

- Leave nests and dens undisturbed until the young have left.
- If it is considered essential to move an active nest or den, contact the Wildlife Division or your local DNR office before proceeding. Permits are required for this type of activity.

BE A GOOD STEWARD

Actively participate to ensure wildlife habitat is protected. Exchange ideas with friends, neighbors, and other cottage users. Report interesting wildlife sightings, particularly of species at risk, to the Wildlife Division.

REMEMBER:

- Migratory birds and their nests are legally protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. For more information on your responsibilities under this Act, please contact the **Canadian Wildlife Service: 1-800-668-6767, or visit www.ec.gc.ca.**
- Species at risk and their residences are protected from disturbance, harassment, injury and death under the provincial *Endangered Species Act*. For more information, please contact the **Wildlife Division at 709-637-2025**.
- Follow hunting and trapping regulations and guidelines according to the *Hunting and Trapping Guide*, and angling regulations and guidelines according to the *Angler's Guide*.
- Keep domestic animals under control. Dogs and cats running free can harass and/or kill wildlife.

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Environment Canada Environnement Canada

INTERVALE

Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre
Centre de données sur la conservation du Canada Atlantique

WILDLIFE DIVISION
Headquarters: 709-637-2025
St. John's: 709-729-5384
Happy Valley-Goose Bay: 709-896-5107
Salmonier Nature Park: 709-229-3915

REGIONAL DNR OFFICES
Western: 709-637-2409
Eastern: 709-256-1450
Labrador: 709-896-3405

Newfoundland and Labrador Hunting and Trapping Guide
env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/hunting/hunttrap.pdf

Newfoundland and Labrador Angler's Guide
env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/angling/index.html

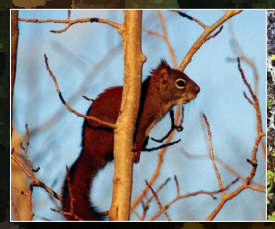
WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION FOR COTTAGE OWNERS

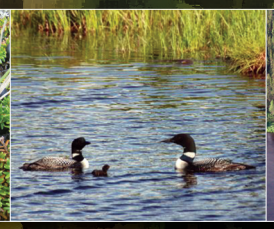
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Newfoundland Labrador
Environment and Conservation

A HAVEN FOR WILDLIFE AND YOU

Cottages are often located in areas of important wildlife habitat. It is vital that cottage owners act responsibly and respectfully to prevent harm to wildlife and minimize the impact of development on the environment.





KEEP IT NATURAL

Keep your cottage area as natural as possible. Natural habitat surrounding cottage areas are often a haven for wildlife, such as birds.

- Retain wetlands and maintain natural shorelines around water bodies.
- Minimize tree removal. Keep clumps of trees with understory rather than single trees, to maintain protection for foraging birds and other wildlife.
- Maintain vegetation links between forest patches surrounding cottage areas. Connecting passages can provide both food and protective cover to wildlife.
- Snags, brush piles and standing dead trees provide important habitat for a variety of wild animals.
- Use native species in gardens to help support the surrounding ecosystem. Native plants attract wildlife such as butterflies and birds, which are fun to observe. They are also hardier, more affordable, and require minimal maintenance. Non-native species may become invasive.

NO PESTICIDES OR POISON

The use of poison to kill wild animals is prohibited under the Wild Life Act.

- Do not use hazardous chemicals, such as antifreeze, as a tactic for dealing with nuisance animals. These chemicals attract other animals and are likely to harm them. Snap traps can be used to remove rodents from your cottage. Contact your local Department of Natural Resources office for help with nuisance animals.
- There are restrictions on pesticide use for lawn care under the *Environmental Protection Act*. Avoid the use of chemical pesticides or fertilizers. Use alternative pest and weed management whenever possible, such as insecticidal soaps and horticultural oil.

KEEP YOUR COTTAGE TIDY

Keep your area clean from garbage and debris.

- When leaving your cottage, remove food, bird feed and garbage that can attract bears and other wildlife to the area.
- Ensure potentially hazardous materials, including gasoline and oils, are stored in proper containers to minimize spills and leaks.

BIRDS AND BATS

Providing nest boxes or nesting platforms for birds and bats, and feeders for birds in your cottage area is a wonderful way to enjoy native wildlife. Bats and many bird species will help suppress unwelcome insects.

- Minimize the risk of bird strikes with windows and other clear surfaces by using non-reflective substitutes, awnings, screens, tinted films or decals.
- Ensure feeders are placed away from windows or other transparent surfaces that may result in collisions.
- Ensure feeders and nest boxes are cleaned regularly to prevent disease transmission.
- Bird seed may attract bears. If there are bears in your cottage area, consider other ways to enjoy wildlife.
- Birds sometimes mistake an uncapped chimney for a tree cavity. It is important to cap your chimney to minimize bird mortality and to reduce fire hazard.

Cottage owners can be great stewards for wildlife and natural areas. To learn more about the animals and plants found near your cottage, visit the Wildlife Division website: env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife

Photos of wildlife courtesy of: Millard Bennett, marten; Donna Reid, fox, squirrel and loons; Loretta Crisby-Whittle, Red Crossbill (front); Karen Brake, Red Crossbill (inside). All other photos: Wildlife Division.
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