

Mary's Point - Shepody National Wildlife Area

Harvey, New Brunswick

Coordinates: N45° 43.384 W064° 40.29

Geocaching.com code: N/A

Type of Cache: Virtual



Visitors must respect the “Do Not Cross onto the Beach” signs. These signs are typically up for 4-6 weeks during the sandpiper migration to protect critical shorebird roosting areas from disturbance.

Mary's Point is a 1200 hectare (2965 acre) wetland located just outside the community of Harvey. It is located within the **Shepody Bay National Wildlife Area**, which is administered by Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service.

Each summer, for 4-6 weeks beginning in mid-July, the extensive mudflats of this area, and of the upper Bay of Fundy, provide an important stopover and refueling site for over 2 million migratory shorebirds. Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) are the most commonly observed shorebird in this area and represent approximately 70% of the species' world population. The area is the only stop that these birds make on a 4,000 km (2,500 mi) journey from their summer breeding grounds in the Arctic to their overwintering home along the northern coast of South America.

In the early 1970s, naturalist Mary Majka and David Christie, along with biologists from the Canadian Wildlife Service began conducting the first shorebird surveys at Mary's Point. Their dedicated research confirmed the importance of Mary's Point as a shorebird migratory stopover area. In 1987, the area was officially named as Canada's first Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve and is now listed as a UNESCO Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

The Mary's Point Interpretive Centre, located at this site and open Monday to Friday throughout July and August, offers a range of exhibits, interpretive panels and educational materials for visitors to learn more about the history and value of this site. The Canadian Wildlife Service maintains a trail to access the shorebird viewing area (please follow regulatory signs and remain on the trail to minimize disturbance to wildlife).

Learn more about this area:

www.naturenb.ca/mpbirds/

www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/default.asp?lang=En&n=263DB5D8-1

Thank you to: Edith McCormack, Colin MacKinnon (Environment Canada), Ashley Sprague (NS Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture)



Vishalla Singh, CWS

Passport Question:

- On the “Grindstone Conservation Easement” interpretation panel, what are two birds species represented by photos?

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's (GOMC) 2012-2017 Action Plan identifies goals for three broad issues that benefit significantly from regional collaboration:

1. Restore and conserve habitat
2. Environmental and human health
3. Sustainable communities

More information on the GOMC, its partners and its activities can be found at www.gulfofmaine.org



Did You Know: In 1992, the Gulf of Maine Council presented an award to **Peter Pearce**, a marine wildlife conservation, naturalist and educator with Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service. In 1997, the Council presented an award to **Peter Hicklin**, for two decades of outstanding work with Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service on shorebirds and the ecology of the Upper Bay of Fundy. In 1996, **Mary Majka** received an award in recognition of her valuable contribution to shorebird research, the designation of Mary's Point and for her efforts to fundraise for the Mary's Point Interpretive Centre.