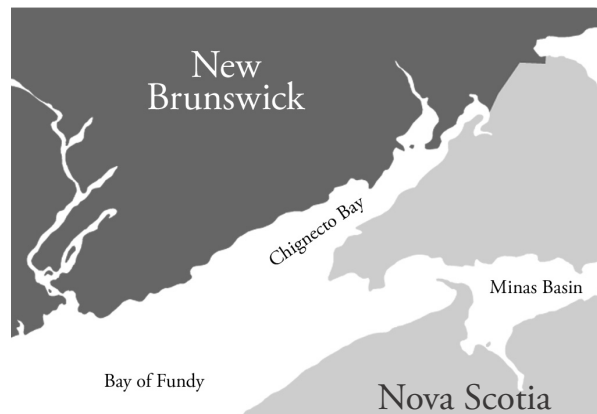


If you're a migrating shorebird, the Bay of Fundy is in the right place at the right time.

Each summer, shorebirds migrate from Arctic breeding grounds to their wintering areas in Central and South America, a distance of more than 10 000 km. Over two million shorebirds – including most of the world's population of Semipalmated sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) – make a pitstop in Fundy.

Fundy is an enormously productive wetland which is located about midway along the shorebirds' fall migration route. Its expansive mud flats contain a rich supply of potential forage for these hungry, exhausted birds. Most shorebirds complete the entire fall migration in a few long flights. Incredibly, Fundy is their only major refuelling stopover during the astonishing journey.

Shorebirds of the Minas Basin



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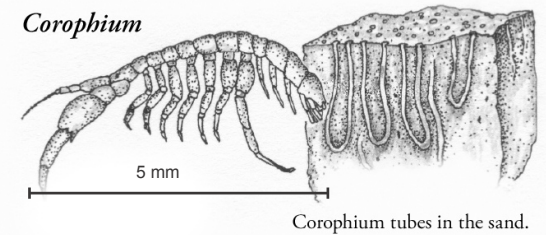
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Packing it on

Shorebirds funnel through the upper Bay of Fundy by the thousands in July and August. During the stopover, they focus on rapidly rebuilding their energy reserves to complete the trip south. Consequently, shorebirds feed furiously on the Fundy flats, preying on small marine creatures – particularly the mud shrimp (*Corophium sp.*) – that live in the fertile Minas muds.



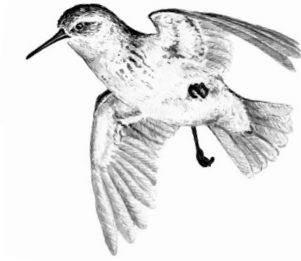
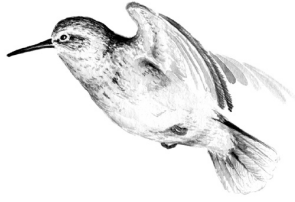
The importance of rest

Shorebirds feed in mud flats, moving as areas are uncovered by the shifting tide. When high tide submerges feeding sites, shorebirds rest (roost) in tightly huddled groups on upper beaches. At this time, shorebirds are highly vulnerable to disturbance. Intrusions at roosting sites cause resting birds to fly, forcing them to expend energy needed for completing the trip south.

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Sharing nature's bounty

Loss and disturbance of coastal areas threaten the health of wildlife that rely on salt marshes, mud flats, beaches and other habitat sprinkled along coastlines. Shorebird hotspots, such as Avonport, Kingsport, Summerville and Evangeline Beach, attract many visitors during summer, creating situations that can pose challenges to passing shorebirds.

Although brief, a shorebird's stay in Fundy is critical to its survival. At the height of the migration, people must be mindful to share the coast when shorebirds are present. Preserving the natural character of the Minas Basin requires balancing the needs of wildlife with those of people.

Caring for the land - stewardship

Private landowners around the Minas Basin are helping to conserve habitat for shorebirds. Because most of the coastline around the Minas Basin is privately owned, the involvement of private citizens is essential to the long-term protection of the region's natural character. Simple stewardship activities, such as maintaining undeveloped areas of shorefront and restraining pets, provide areas for shorebirds to rest and feed while allowing everyone to enjoy the Minas Basin's natural marvels.



Respecting Wildlife

If you visit the Minas Basin during the peak of migration (July & August):

- Supervise dogs and other pets.
- Avoid areas where shorebirds tend to gather.
- Look at plants and animals, but do not remove.
- Encourage other beach users to respect wildlife.

Please avoid disturbing shorebirds.

Thank you for supporting the conservation of shorebirds and their habitat.

For information contact:

Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, c/o
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division, 136 Exhibition St.,
Kentville, NS B4N 4E5
(902) 679-6091.

Illustrations: Robert Lyon and Twila Robar-DeCoste

Text & Design: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

The timing of shorebirds is impeccable. When they visit the Bay of Fundy in summer, the area's tidal flats are literally crawling with life! Snails, mud worms, mud shrimp, clams, and other creatures that live within the mud flats become active and very abundant once the summer sun has warmed the mud.



What an ideal situation for hungry shorebirds!
