

appeared on P.E.I. but I cannot recall when it was not present at Vernon River. There are many other sites where the blue lupin is common but in more recent years coloured forms began to appear. These are believed to be Russel lupins. They appear in a great variety of colours and, while in bloom, are most attractive. When the bloom fades and is replaced by seed pods, the plant is much less attractive.

Let us finish this article with purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria). This plant is very common in damp to wet ditches and is quite an attractive late summer roadside plant. It is easily recognized by the long spikes of purplish blooms.

Only the fringes of roadside plants have been touched at this time. Perhaps it would be a good idea to have a yearly article on this subject. In the meantime, I hope this has been of interest to some readers.

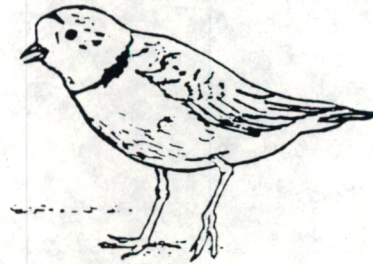
Editor's Note: The purple loose strife has escaped into many marshes where it is displacing native marsh plants and some of the animals associated with them. Once established, it is very difficult to control.

PIPING PLOVER SURVEYORS NEEDED

by Dan McAskill

The International Census for the Piping Plover will be in full swing the week of June 1st to 8th, 1991. The Society requires the assistance of a large number of volunteers for two aspects of this survey. The first aspect is the presurvey period (between now and June 1st) when an attempt will be made to identify as many of the breeding beaches as possible. A person hired on an Environment Week project will assemble information from all the existing surveys to date but we need the assistance of as many individuals as possible to report all recent Piping Plover sightings to the Society so that none of the recent breeding sites are missed.

The second phase of the project will be a coordinated survey of all known breeding beaches and as many other potential breeding sites on P.E.I. as possible. Since beach size varies, anyone who can offer a half day or more of time for surveying in the June 1st to June 8th period can be of real assistance to this international effort for the recovery of the Piping Plover.



As it is very important that the surveys be carried out in a consistent manner, a workshop on the survey techniques has been set up for May 15th at the Coles Building auditorium on Richmond Street (next to the Legislative Assembly). The survey and record card system is simple but the consistency of survey techniques will make the interpretation of the data much easier for our compiler. Hence the need for the workshop. Where possible, the beaches will be surveyed by two person teams under temperature conditions (neither too hot nor too cold) that ensure as much as possible that the survey will cause minimal disturbance to nesting Piping Plovers. The workshop will provide all the information you will need to help us out and will establish a standby plan if the weather is so bad during this week that we have to use the second week of June.

If you can assist the Society with this project please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 (evenings). If you will be summering in other parts of the