undoubtedly surprise you by suddenly disappearing

flapping with very long gliding phases. It will

body. See if you can spot one flying low, alternating

by the patch on its rump, where the tail meets the

here. This includes the Northern harrier, recognizable

looking for rodents, birds and frogs, which abound

Many species of birds of prey fly over the marsh

before reappearing out of nowhere.



and call. their red caps yd bəñifnəbi but can be easily well camouflaged cranes are very Parents. Sandhill and flying with their



Resident dinosaur?

They're the largest and most sun on higher ground in the marsh to warm up. Prehistoric-looking snapping turtles bask in the

endangered species in Canada. the protection of spring, they leave in Quebec. Every primitive turtles found

be careful. This is an by cars. So please, Facebook: @amisrnflacstfrancois often, they're hit roads. All too Suole sapplnous eggs in the gravel the marsh to lay

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AND AND TANDITAN

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LES AMIS DE LA RÉSERVE

Distance: 3.9 km

DIGUE AUX AIGRETTES

DISCOVER THE

ZIOĐNART-TNIAZ-DAJ

Lake

National

Saint-François

Wildlife Area

Dundee (Quebec) 105 1Lo

7600, Pointe-Fraser road

8062-492 054

Picking plants and flowers,



up to 7,000 eggs in late spring.

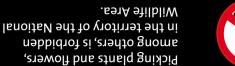
terrestrial of our frogs, a northern leopard frog can lay

trail, it's like being in a nursery! Considered the most

northern leopard frogs. There are so many on this

Take a look at the ground—you'll probably see some

Watch your step





Digue aux Aigrettes [egret dike] is an oasis for birds and offers a world of discoveries. You can observe many rare, magnificent species on this trail, including the sandhill crane. So, take the time to stop, observe and listen. You're in for a few surprises.

Before you set out on your adventure, please read the national wildlife area regulations.



Have you noticed you're walking on a dike? It was built by the Canadian Wildlife Service in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited Canada to maintain the water level needed to sustain a marsh. The dike is also an excellent habitat for plants and wildlife. As well as being a breeding area and sanctuary for various species, it's teeming with food.

Tall white visitor

The great egret is easy to spot in these green surroundings. Its tall, white figure seems to shine in the marsh against the contrasting colours of the background. You can quickly identify this heron when it flies by its S-shaped neck. Incredibly patient, great egrets can stay still for a very long time waiting for prey. All summer long, they satisfy their appetites with frogs, fish, reptiles, small mammals and birds.



Remnant of glaciers

It's unusual to find a cedar grove in the heart of a marsh because these trees usually like dry soil. However, these conifers grow here because of a rare phenomenon—a moraine ridge formed by the accumulation of rock and sediment that was trapped,

transported and deposited by the last glaciers. Since the ridge is high, it drains quickly, leaving the soil dry.

Regular visitors

With their green crest and colourful feathers, wood ducks are captivating birds. They can perch on branches—an unusual habit for ducks—and, being arboreal, they nest in tree cavities, which have become increasingly scarce. To rectify this problem,

special nesting boxes resembling natural tree cavities have been installed for them. Keep your eyes peeled for these distinctive nesting boxes.

Spot the invader!

Common reed (Phragmites australis) is impossible to miss as it dominates the landscape. This alien species is considered invasive because it spreads very quickly and hinders the growth of other plants. Exotic common reed threatens the ecological

balance of wetlands by producing litter that dries the soil and reduces the water level, thus affecting various plant and animal species.



Every July, thousands of feathers cover the ground. The reason? It's moulting season for ducks. For two to three weeks, they have to hide in the marsh from predators because they lose their wing feathers, which prevents them from flying! They regrow

new ones at the end of the summer,

just in time for fall migration.

Feathers

everywhere!

Little snack?

The wild rice we eat is produced by the southern wild rice plant (Zizania aquatica). Native to eastern central North America, this grass was introduced in this marsh for the aquatic wildlife. Dabblers and Canada geese love the grains, as do smaller birds, such

as buntings, red-winged

blackbirds and soras.

Do you see the humps in the marsh? They're lodges built by muskrats from rushes and cattails. First, these rodents create a mound from vegetation and mud. Then, they make an entry hole under the water.

The final step involves strengthening the exterior walls with another layer of mud and vegetation. Muskrats can stay underwater without breathing for up to 20 minutes—a useful skill when it comes to building their homes.



