

HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER

c/o Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, N. S.

HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 1976

NUMBER FOUR

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month, at 8 pm; in the lounge, fifth floor of the Biology building in the Life Sciences complex at Dalhousie University. See maps below.

Field Excursions are held at least once a month.

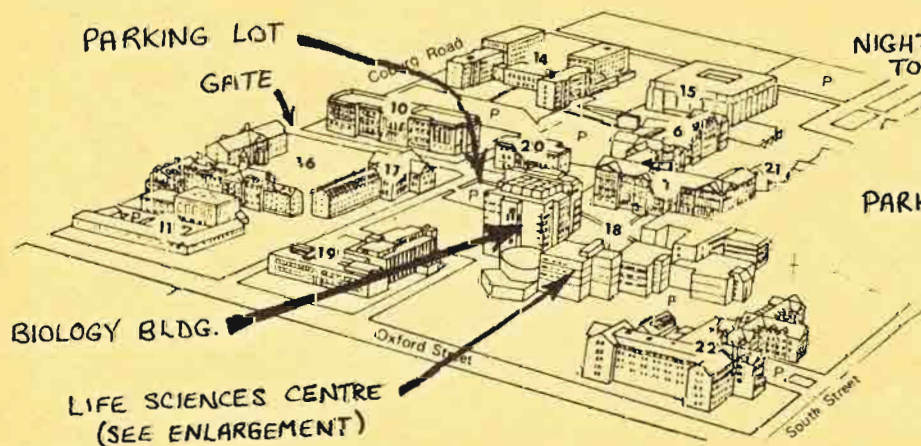
Membership is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Nova Scotia. Membership is available at any meeting, or by writing the Halifax Field Naturalists, care of the Nova Scotia Museum in Halifax. Fees are two dollars yearly.

Executive for 1975-76

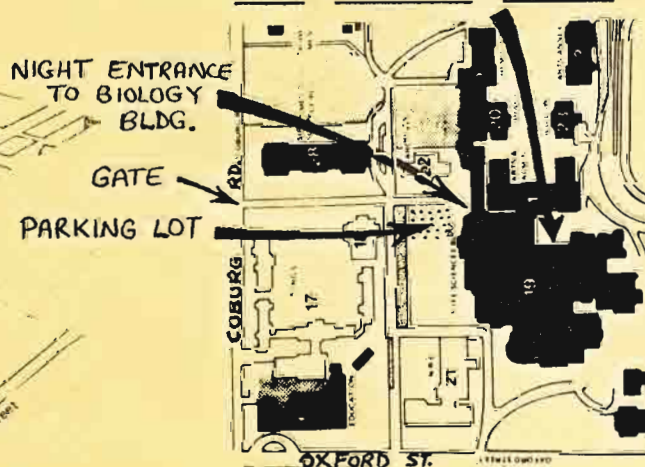
President	Paul Keddy	422-7238 evenings
Secretary	Winnifred Cairns	455-9513 evenings
Newsletter	Debra Burleson	429-4610 daytime
Program Committee .	Scott Cunningham	
	. Anne Linton	
	. plus other executive members	

Mailing address Halifax Field Naturalists
 c/o Nova Scotia Museum
 1747 Summer St.
 Halifax, N. S. B3H 3A6

DALHOUSIE CAMPUS



LIFE SCIENCES CENTRE



Spring and Summer with Halifax Field Naturalists

We have our upcoming activities pretty well worked out, but things are always subject to change and more suggestions are always welcome.

April 10: Sugaring-off excursion. Contact Anne Linton for details, 422-2977.

April 13: Regular Tuesday at 8 meeting. April's topic is Ecological Reserves in the Maritimes, with Alex Wilson and Dr. Joe Harvey.

April 21: Kejimikujik Park planning workshop, with Peter Hope, Chief Park Naturalist. 8pm at Dalhousie.

Some rainy night in April: the great annual amphibian migration field trip. Leave your name and phone number with Debby Burleson if you want to come, 429-4610.

May 11: Regular Tuesday meeting. John Gilhen, herpetologist with the Nova Scotia Museum, will tell us about the Reptiles and Amphibians of Nova Scotia.

May 15: at 1pm, afternoon trip to a freshwater pond.

May 30: A full day at Cape Split to watch for spring warblers and wildflowers. Meet at the Biology parking lot at 8am, or at the beginning of the Cape Split trail at 9:30.

June 8: Regular Tuesday meeting. A Naturalist at Peggy's Cove, speakers yet to be confirmed.

June 5: Day trip to McNab's Island. Boat leaves Shearwater wharf at 8am, cost about \$3.

June 12: Afternoon trip to the heath, bog and rocky shores of the Peggy's Cove area.

See you there!

HFN Kejimikujik National Park Planning Workshop

By Paul Keddy

A master plan for Kejimikujik National Park is being prepared. It will provide guidelines for the management, preservation, and future use of the park.

National Parks (Parks Canada) is encouraging citizen participation in the planning of Kejimikujik. As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, there are conflicting points of view as to the priorities of national parks. The National Parks Act states,

"The National Parks of Canada are hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment...and the National Parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Yet, there is continued pressure upon them for highways, larger campgrounds, showmobiling trails, and the balance between development for recreation and complete preservation has always been a delicate one.

To encourage citizen involvement, Parks Canada has prepared a Master Planning Kit, with information on the park, as well as a questionnaire for citizen input. Citizens requesting this kit will be put on a mailing list, and kept up to date on future master planning events.

In order to help members and the invited public to better appreciate the special natural values of Kejimikujik and to understand some of the management problems involved, we are sponsoring a workshop in April. Peter Hope, Chief Park Naturalist at Kej, has offered to attend the workshop and give an illustrated talk on both the natural history of Kej and some of the management problems that exist. He will be well-supplied with Master Planning Kits, and each person attending will be able to fill out a questionnaire for personal input. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

We urge all interested members to attend, especially those who have visited Kejimikujik. Feel free to invite your friends along too.

Workshop date: Wednesday, April 21, 8pm, fifth floor lounge of Dalhousie Biology Building (our usual place)

If you cannot attend, write for a Master Planning Kit from: Superintendent, Kejimikujik National Park, P. O. Box 36, Maitland Bridge, Annapolis Co., N. S. BOT 1N0; or, telephone 1-242-2770--it costs about 50 cents.

Questionnaires must be submitted by May 1 of this year.

Come to Glooscap Country for a Maple Syrup Festival

From Saturday, March 27 to Saturday, April 17, in Cumberland, Colchester, and East Hants Counties.

If you can't come sugaring-off with HFN, why not go on your own?

The festival presents an opportunity for people of all ages to tour the sugar woods and see the trees being tapped and follow the process through to the finished product of maple cream maple syrup, and maple butter.

The Maple Sugar Industry has a long history in Nova Scotia, a history of ups and downs. In 1900 in Cumberland alone farmers marketed more maple sugar than was produced in all of Nova Scotia in 1972. The industry suffered a decline when syrup producers found they could sell their maple trees to the coal mines, sawn up into mine packs. Now the maple syrup industry is coming back.

The Department of Tourism has provided dates of sugaring-off parties and traditional Church Suppers of pancakes, syrup and beans and homemade brown bread. Visit a sugarbush, then enjoy the food and friendliness of the Maple Syrup Festival!

Saturday, April 10: Collingwood Community Centre, 4-6
Fenwick United Church Hall, 12-6

Saturday, April 17: East Leicester Community Hall
4-6:30

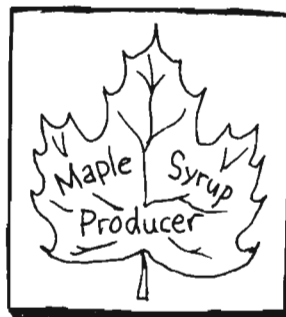
West Leicester Community Hall
4-6:30

Parrsboro Band Hall, 4-6

April 16 and 17: Mapleton Church Basement
Information on sugarbush tours,
10-4
Supper, 4-6:30

And everybody has maple products for sale: sugar, butter, cream

WATCH FOR THIS
ROAD SIGN



February 15 Excursion--the Old Annapolis Trail

by Lyndon Jensen

Trying to revive a mosquito larva found in a chunk of ice within a pitcher plant while two gray jays watched us from a commanding view atop two tall spruces is just one of many memories of approximately 30 people who participated in our February field trip to the Old Annapolis Road hiking trail, just a few miles from Tantallon on highway 3. The low-keyed previous billing of a "visit to coniferous woods in winter" was an apt description of the trip for the experienced naturalist, but to the novices among us it proved to be much more than this; indeed it was a valuable learning experience.

Thanks to a pre-field trip collection of labelled twigs by Anne Linton and a short talk on the diagnostic characters of both coniferous and deciduous trees by Scott Cunningham we all soon became enthusiastically involved with identifying different kinds of trees--a sometimes tricky problem with no leaves around to help.

The red tips of red maple, the fuzzy branches of the red spruce, the yellowish tinge of the bark of the yellow birch, the fingernail-like flat buds of the willows were some of the things we all looked for.

Besides identification, a consideration of such things as why certain pine trees had their terminal branches dead and how wild tight clumps of tiny branches in spruce (witches' brooms) got that way, came up.

Identification of shrubs was left to the experts amongst us who pointed out a wide variety--Salix, leatherleaf, honeysuckle, bayberry, Labrador tea, to mention a few. Quite often a story on their particular usefulness as fragrances for candle making or tea brewing followed.

Our perspective went even closer to the ground as the field trip progressed: mayflowers we seen to be in bud, winter-green leaves were chewed and purple sphagnum moss presented a puzzle. A touching scene was to see three or four of our more enthusiastic members on hands and knees pointing out several one inch sized withered plants such as twinflower and trying to tell the rest of us of their beauty in the spring.

The only animal seen was a red squirrel lazily chewing on some bark (cleaning his teeth?). However, many subtler traces of animal presence were seen: hoarfrost around the entrance of a hole at the base of an old stump, a tree stripped clean of bark by a porcupine, the cleanly nipped tips of small trees and shrubs eaten by rabbits, the new tips of spruce scattered

on the ground by squirrels, and finally tracks of squirrels and rabbits in the snow. The reason for the peculiar configuration of the rabbit tracks was ably demonstrated by one of our members who turned into a rabbit for a few minutes.

Besides the gray jays mentioned already, the "whisch-whisch" calls of our guides brought a number of black capped chickadees within view.

The day proved to be a feast of the senses with the clear clean winter air and bright sunshine and the many unique fragrances amidst a background of groans and low thundering of the nearby mirror-smooth lake ice.

I congratulate the leaders of the trip and thank them on behalf of all of us who enjoyed this winter view of Nova Scotian wood.



February Meeting: The Beavers of Tobeatic

by Marcus Waddington

Neil van Nostrand, a wildlife biologist with the N. S. Department of Lands and Forests, presented an engaging account of his research of beavers in the Lac Rossignol area, southwest of Kejimikujik National Park. Using slides to elucidate his topic, Mr. van Nostrand described the characteristics peculiar to the beavers of this region, and also outlined the general natural history of the species (Castor canadensis).



Castor canadensis canadensis

The eight acre experimental area used by the Department is typical of the beaver habitat in the western part of the province. It is relatively sterile and boggy, affording few of the brooks and streams that beavers prefer. Lacking abundant aspen and balsam poplar upon which the beaver relies in the eastern part of the province, western beavers must supplement their diet with aquatic plants such as water lilies and cat-tails and less desirable terrestrial plants such as hardhack, sweetgale and willow shrubs. Certain of the slides shown were particularly informative or interesting--the beavers' haul-runs, cut over red oaks of large size, food boughs and dams. Mr. van Nostrand observed that the dams in the experimental area were much smaller than those in more favourable habitat. Furthermore, he found that the population, through changes in normal behavior patterns, had attuned to the unfavourable habitat and maintained itself within fairly sharp limits. For example, of beavers taken at random in the spring of 1961, none under five years old were pregnant. Normal break-up of families lagged, kits remaining for

more than the customary two years with their parents. When trapping conditions were normalized, however, the number of pregnant females increased, and the number in the litter and size of individual kits also increased. Mr. van Nostrand speculated that stress, a consequence of trapping, may have influenced the sudden change in population growth. Concerning the beavers' response to the habitat, he noted that in a boggy habitat where dams served no practical purpose, some younger beavers constructed them while the older beavers did not. One wonders whether dam building is innate or learned behavior or a combination of the two. Moreover, given that the quality of the habitat has a direct effect on population patterns, one is curious about the exact nature of the mechanism controlling population--is it sexual, or more generally physiological? Banfield, in Mammals of Canada, has remarked that the beavers' "breeding habits", like "many aspects of its life its life history, are still unknown". Mr. van Nostrand's presentation certainly served to stimulate the audience to find out more about this mammal's life history.

Nature Made It First

by Tim van Zoost

Have you ever found yourself in the woods and suddenly remembered that you left your chewing gum behind? Well, don't panic yet, with a little effort and know-how you'll be able to satisfy your ravenous desire with a succulent piece of spruce gum!

First, select a choice spruce tree. Remember that you can easily roll spruce needles between thumb and forefinger, where as with flat fir needles this is difficult. Look for signs of sap or balsam leaks, and then begin searching the edge of the leak for crystalline bubbles of balsam. You don't want the sticky stuff but the round nodules which may be dark grey and scaly in nature. With your jack-knife scrape the grey surface off the nodule. If it is pinkish inside you have found a good one; if it is white or opaque, it is best to leave it alone for reasons I will mention later.

Once you have obtained the pinkish nodule, chip it off the tree, scrape the remaining scales or dirt from it, and pop it into your mouth. Please don't bite it yet; wait until it warms up and softens unless you can spare a set of teeth.

When it has begun to soften, carefully begin to chew it. If you have the right type of nodule as I described, it should be quite enjoyable. If not, the taste may not be too pleasing. In any case your gum escapade should prove to be quite interesting. For those with poor luck, it seems you'll just have to resort to chewing a blade of grass.

Book
Review
by Paul Keddy

A Field Guide to Wildflowers of
Northeastern and Northcentral North
America
Roger Tory Peterson and Margaret
McKenny (1968)

There are many wildflower books on the market today. A great flaw in many of them is the small number of species they cover--some of the wildflowers you find (even the commoner ones) may not even be listed. This makes identification much more difficult, as you can't tell whether you are making a mistake in identification, or whether the plant simply isn't in the book.

This book, like many of the others in the Peterson series, is excellent. Except for certain troublesome groups, like Smartweeds (even the botanists can rarely make up their minds here!) this book contains the vast majority of wildflower species you are likely to encounter.

The plants are divided into sections based on flower color (white, yellow, orange, pink, red, and blue-purple). Within each section plants are subgrouped on the basis of certain similarities. For example, "four petals, terminal clusters", "sunflowerlike plants", "pink flowers of marsh and meadow". Each species has a brief description; habitat and geographic range are also given. A drawing is given for most, and colour plates included for certain striking groups. Symbols in the margin give the family in which each plant is found.

This is a non-technical book, for the beginner. It avoids the long, terminological text which one finds in books such as the Flora of Nova Scotia. If you are especially keen, you may want to identify your plant in the Peterson Guide, then check the Flora for a more exact description of its range and status in Nova Scotia.

The Peterson Guide is $7\frac{1}{2}$ " by $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (oops--19 by 12 cm) and so can easily be put in a knapsack or squeezed into a pocket, with luck.

The Field Guide to Wildflowers is available in several Halifax bookstores. It is also available by mail from the Canadian Nature Federation in Ottawa. Price: roughly \$6.00 for paperback, and \$8.50 for hardcover.

The EEL

I don't mind eels
Except as meals.

The Cow

The cow is of the bovine ilk.
One end is moo, the other, milk.

Ogden Nash

The Second Annual Hayes Cave Bat Census

by Debby Burleson

Is human presence affecting the bat population of Hayes Cave? Nine cavers spent a sunny March Sunday counting the bats to help answer this question.

Coveralls, hardhats, gloves, boots, flashlights and miner's headlamps made us a strange-looking group as we hiked across the gypsum lands on the way to the cave cliffs. Christmas fern and beechdrops decorated the snowless muddy ground. We forded a fast, very cold stream in fine Boy Scout fashion--one log and a guide-rope--with only a single wet foot in the group. Then a scramble 40 feet up to towering white cliffs, and we lowered ourselves into the small cave opening.

That small opening gives no clue to the size of the cave within. Twelve hundred feet long it is, with some chambers of over twenty foot ceilings and so wide our beams barely reached the opposite wall. Farther in, the passage narrows, at one point reaching a fifteen foot vertical chute and finally an ever-narrowing crawl.

The bats were roosting throughout the entire length of the cave, with greatest concentrations about half-way in. We all moved quickly and quietly to the end of the cave, then in pairs were assigned count areas. Each area was counted twice, and the average of the two counts recorded.

The bats of Hayes Cave are mainly the Little Brown Bat, and hang inverted by their toes, some singly, some in tight bunches of ten or more. Some were carefully wedged in cracks in the ceiling. Hanging length of this bat is three to four inches, and wingspan about eight inches. After two hours of nine people rattling about, several bats awakened from hibernation and flashed silently through our beams. Their squeaking noises, at barely audible frequencies, gave an eerie note to the proceedings.

The bats were censused last in 1972, and found to be five thousand strong. Our 1976 count was 4000 ± 250 --a decrease, but not as large a one as some of us expected.

Hayes cave was recommended as a bat preserve by the IBP, about which we will hear at the April meeting, but no steps have yet been taken to protect it.

Behold the duck.
It does not cluck.
A cluck it lacks.
It gnacks.

It is specially find
Of a puddle or pond.
When it dries or sups,
It bottoms ups.

O.N.

A Seaside Preserve

by Ralph S. Widrig
Lockeport

Editor's note: Ralph is a long-distance member of HFN. When he wrote for membership he mentioned his preserve on the South Shore, and it seemed a natural place for a field excursion. Ralph has kindly agreed to host us for a weekend camping trip in July, timed to catch the best of the heath, bog and shore creatures. It's bound to be one of our favourite outings this summer.

Everyone interested in natural things has probably, at one time or another, come across a setting of unique beauty, an unspoiled spot which seems almost out of place in the altered environment which has been passed on to us by earlier generations. Perhaps it was a secluded beaver pond, a mountain meadow carpeted with wild flowers, a surf-washed ocean headland, or a clear stream lined with ferns and mosses. And then, perhaps subconsciously, we began to wonder if our secret little paradise would still be there in the years ahead, and if there might be something we could do to preserve it.

Twelve years ago, shortly after moving to Nova Scotia, I happened to take a fork on a lonely road leading to the sea on the southwestern coast, and, at its terminus, an uninhabited ocean setting of haunting beauty lay before me. The balance of the day was spent in exploring the area, rich in vegetation and bird life, and on the way home I wondered how long it would be before this special little hide-away would be discovered and brought into conformity with the usual development.

Several years passed, the memory of that day by the sea having been all but forgotten, when one morning the phone rang. A person was inquiring if I wanted to buy "50 acres of shore property". It was described as having some good wood on it, had never been "cut", and he could show it to me "right now". I had a strange feeling as he directed me down that lonely road; "turn left at the fork and follow to the end". That afternoon we retraced the very steps I had taken before, and by nightfall the grassy headland lying east of Johnston Pond Beach had a new owner.

The concept of a private sanctuary preserving the flora and fauna of an area richly endowed, whether large or small, had occurred to me before and this seemed to be the opportunity that doesn't come along too often. What should be done with the place, if anything? The property comprised a half-mile of surf-washed rocky beach which made out to a grassy point near the center. Behind the grassy point a stand of young white spruce enclosed a two-acre pond. A high esker then traversed

the property for its full length, treed with mature white spruce. Behind the esker lay a sphagnum bog edged with black spruce, larch and maple. Then there was another and higher esker covered with a mixed forest of white spruce, balsam fir, larch, red maple, and birch. Native rhododendron, laurel, and labrador tea grew together in the open areas, and fragrant bayberry was everywhere.

From the highest esker the terrain dropped steeply to a fresh water lake, and a short time after the original 50 acres was purchased a 20 acre parcel extending the property to the lake was also acquired. This resulted in a single tract of land where, in the space of one-half mile, a transition could be observed from the restricted vegetation of the bold ocean front to predominantly hardwood on the fresh water side of the dividing high esker, to dunes and a sand beach adjoining nearby.

Over the years a trail system has been established to provide access and facilitate the observation of birds, animals and plants. Deer, bear, moose, otter, hare, wildcat, raccoon, fox, and seal are among the animals that have been observed, and 154 species of birds have been counted in the immediate area including a regular wintering flock of Harlequin ducks, a stray Cattle Egret and Green Heron, and on the beach at Johnston Pond, a nesting pair of Piping Plovers. Seaside plants including glasswort and sea blite grow at the edge of a smaller pond which is actually tidal, giving way to crowberry, juniper, and mountain cranberry on the grassy slopes preceeding the first stands of white spruce. The sphagnum bog, relatively small and rather protected, is the host of the native orchids arethusa, pogonia, and calopogon, as well as cloudberry (bake-apple), cotton-grass, pitcher-plant, and sundew. Ferns and a wide variety of mushrooms are in abundance, nourished by the mists and fog of summer, together with mosses and lichens in zones of filtered sunlight. In short, a cross-section of life itself, each form doing its own thing in a protected, non-multiple-use preserve where those with guns, snares, saws, and snowmobiles may not trespass.

To acquire and preserve a beautiful and unique part of our environment, to discover its ecological secrets, and to witness its changing moods through the seasons and through the years can, I have found, be an experience that has little counterpart.

Danger at Admiral's Cove

by Joseph T. Foy

reprinted from Uusun, vol. 4 no. 2, Newsletter of the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax.

Editor's Note: Admiral's Cove is one of the proposed regional parks discussed at last November's HFN meeting, and the site of our March excursion.

Imagine that you are driving from Halifax towards Bedford on the Bedford Highway. As you pass the Halifax City limits near the Travelers Motel, you look off to your right across the water. The Basin narrows here; a small island snuggles in the narrows close by the far shore; the shore line behind it headlines a sheer rock facing, and in front of that small cliff lies a little cove: Admiral's Cove.

A prominent house appears to the left of the island and the cove on the very tip of the point jutting furthest into the Basin; this house marks the end of Shore Drive and of housing development to date. To the right (eastwards) lies one of the large pieces of untouched shoreline on the Basin, stretching over 1500 feet to the edge of the DND property surrounding the ammo dump. North from this shore, between the NDP property and the back yards of the homes on Shore Drive, is an undeveloped woods over one-half mile in length, extending almost to the Dartmouth Highway. Halfway between the shore and the highway stand two high cliffs. Crowning the highest face is a magnificent rock over-view known as "the eagle's nest". These steeply-ridged woods, covering altogether about 125 acres, are largely in good shape, and were to form one of the two regional parks in the Bedford-Sackville area: the Admiral's Cove Park.

In 1971, when P. B. Dean submitted his Natural Environment Survey to MAPC, he proposed a regional park running from the shore to a line several hundred feet behind the cliffs, and encompassing about 70 acres of land. However, when the map of the MAPC plan was released in 1973, the area designated for the park was substantially larger in size, running far beyond the cliffs and covering an additional 50 or so acres of land. It was this larger view of the park which was included in the Regional Plan when it was approved by the Provincial Cabinet in April, 1975. In that plan, now law, about 125 acres is designated for the Admiral's Cove Regional Park.

There are, however, several problems. The boundaries of the proposed park are not yet fixed by legal description. Those woods have been owned for years by MacCulloch and Co. Ltd., who have

been planning a prestige housing development of that land. Only 13 acres near the cliffs is now owned by the people of Bedford. And last spring, just before the Cabinet decision implementing the Regional Plan, the County of Halifax gave preliminary approval to the development's first phase, near the Dartmouth Highway. The regional development permit MacCulloch also needs has been temporarily withheld pending a departmental decision on the park proposal. The appeals of Bedford residents have been sympathetically received, but they were warned (1) that no monies have yet been provided to buy any of the land in any of the proposed regional parks, and (2) that the Provincial Government could well encounter serious legal problems if it attempts to withhold approval for development on private lands without compensating the owners. Both problems are deadly serious; almost all the lands in all the proposed regional parks are not publicly owned (including the lands in the Halifax watershed area).

In theory at least, the Provincial Government could provide the Department of Municipal Affairs with the money to buy the lands for all the regional parks. But failing that, the department will probably have to negotiate with the present owners, trading off parts of the parks in order to get agreement to preserve other parts. Whatever happens in the end, the Admiral's Cove Park will probably set the precedent for the other proposed regional parks in the Halifax-Dartmouth-Bedford-Sackville area.

A Natural History Lecture Series at the Nova Scotia Museum

To celebrate springtime, N. S. Museum Science staff will present four evening talks on natural history. All are on Wednesday evenings, in the Auditorium of the Museum on Summer St. No registration is necessary, and everyone is welcome. A special invitation is extended to members of the Halifax Field Naturalists and their friends.

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|----------|--|
| April 14 | Dr. Derek Davis, "Spring in the Sea" |
| April 21 | Barry Wright, "House and Garden Insects" |
| April 28 | Alex Wilson, "Spring Flowers" |
| May 5 | John Gilhen, "The Not-So-Silent Spring" |

Who's Who in Conservation

by Paul Keddy

The preservation of wildlife and habitat diversity is something which we as naturalists all have a concern in. Many people across the province and across Canada share our interest in the outdoors and our concern for its future. In each issue of our newsletter, we intend to look at other groups who in some way share our values, and whose existence we should be aware of. This is the first in the series.

National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada

Worried about the futures of national and provincial parks in Canada? Perhaps you should be! Constant pressure exists for tourist development, hydroelectric power, logging and mining. Canada's national and provincial parks need continual public support if they are to be effectively protected.

This should certainly ring true with Maritimers! We recently lost a large piece of Cape Breton Highlands National Park (the Cheticamp Lake area) to be flooded as a reservoir for the Wreck Cove Hydroelectric Project. There is still some pressure to return the area to the Park, but it depends upon environmental and engineering studies now under way, as well as federal-provincial politics.

Kejimikujik National Park also has an uncertain future. The Mail-Star had a large editorial last fall calling for extensive development within the park so that it would assist the tourist promoters' profit picture in that area. Apparently the Mail-Star doesn't realize that National Parks are supposed to protect natural areas which have outstanding national significance, and not serve as Coney Islands. Kejimikujik Park is now undergoing a process called Master Planning. Decisions made in the next year will become part of a master plan which will dictate future management policies in the park. Needless to say, the decisions made in the next year could be critical to the quality of the natural environment within Kejimikujik Park.

The NPPAC are a national body which was formed in 1963 with the basic aims of encouraging the expansion of our present parks system, and promoting the wise use of existing parks.

They publish a newsletter and a journal called "Park News". The last issue of Park News included articles on highway plans in Banff National Park, proposed boundary adjustment of Kluane National Park in the Yukon, a province by province survey of park protection available for Canada's wild rivers, an article

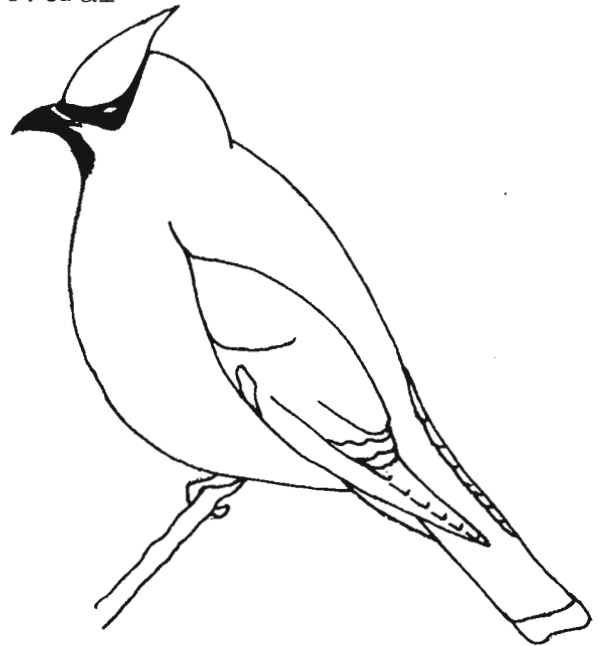
on the Missinaiki River in Northern Ontario, proposing it as a wild river park, and a feature of the threat of power development to Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland/

The NPPAC has 2500 members across Canada. Student membership is \$4, regular membership \$10, family membership \$13. The address to write to for more information is NPPAC, 47 Colborne St., Suite 308, Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1E3.

Bohemians Invade Dalhousie

by Winnifred Cairns

A group of rather interesting visitors seen about the Dalhousie campus on several occasions in March was a flock of some 45 Bohemian Waxwings. Although these birds breed in western Canada, they move eastward and southward in winter, and small flocks occasionally show up in Nova Scotia. Waxwings are smaller-than-robin sized birds which are most easily recognized by their crested heads. Bohemian Waxwings have a soft brownish-gray plumage, a black throat patch and eye mask, white wing patches and a yellow tipped tail. The small red wax-like appendages sometimes present on the wingtips are the feature which has given the birds their name. Waxwings eat insects but the bulk of their diet comes from small fruits and berries. Appropriately enough, our visitors were first observed perched in hawthorne trees eating the haws.



Hertford and Ciboux: the Bird Islands

by Anne Linton

The Bird Islands lie off the east coast of Cape Breton, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Cape Dauphine. Hertford, the inner island, is about seven-eighths of a mile in length and one-sixteenth of a mile wide. Ciboux Island is somewhat larger, being over a mile long and slightly less than one-eighth of a mile wide. Both islands are made up on tilted carboniferous (Mississippian) sedimentary rocks, mainly coarse conglomerates and sandstone, and in general are flat-topped and rimmed with cliffs reaching as high as one hundred feet. (Smith and Schofield, 1959)

Ninety-six species of plants were found on the islands by E. C. Smith (co-author of the Flora of Nova Scotia) and W. B. Schofield in 1959. Most of these are commonly found in similar habitats on the near-by coastal areas of Cape Breton Island. In the large open field areas, the common grasses are dominant, such as Red Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass. On the exposed cliff-tops Ground Juniper, Three-toothed Cinquefoil, and Black Crowberry dominate the flora. Remains of dead Balsam Fir on Hertford and a few stunted white Spruce on Ciboux indicate that the islands may once have been wooded. In addition to many other more common species, the rare bluegrass Poa alpina was found on Ciboux, the only record of this species in the province.

These islands of course have long been known as the nesting site of many species of seabirds. A survey done by the Canadian Wildlife Service (Lock 1971) showed seven species of seabirds nesting on one or both of the Bird Islands. These included the Herring Gull (300 pairs), Great Black-backed Gull (750 pairs), Great Cormorant (398 pairs), Black Guillemot (20 pairs), Leach's Storm Petrel (?), Razorbills (50 pairs), and Common Puffin (50-70 pairs). The Razorbill and Puffin are both very rare in Nova Scotia, and breed in numbers only on Hertford and Ciboux.

In the past, both islands have been subjected to considerable disturbance by man. A light was established on Ciboux in 1863 and was maintained by a full-time keeper and his family until 1952. Fishing shacks have been built and intermittently occupied on Ciboux, and large flocks of sheep have been pastured for many years on Hertford. The seabirds have not only suffered from the encroachment of sheep on their breeding grounds, but have been taken by fishermen through the years as traditional sources of meat and eggs. Presently, a tourist sight-seeing boat, catering largely to ornithologists, is the only disturbance to some of the many species of seabirds which nest there. (IBP-CT Report, 1974)

Steps are now being taken to protect these unique islands from future disturbance. Recently, the N. S. Department of Lands and Forests has adopted an island management plan which is designed

to protect these islands off our coast which are valuable sea-bird nesting sites. Both Hertofrd and Ciboux are designated for such protection, and will be known as Wildlife Management Areas under a regulatory act now being drafted by the Department. Under the new legislation, human activity on the islands will be restricted during the nesting season (May-July). Signs will be posted on the islands describing the seabirds nesting there and the possible effects of disturbing them while they are laying and incubating their eggs. Puffins, for instance, are very susceptible to disturbance during this time and may desert the egg if provoked.

Initial steps have then been taken to manage and protect these islands. These will be followed up by continued observation and possible habitat improvement, aimed at increasing the success of the nesting seabirds. The outlook is promising for well-monitored protection for these unique coastal islands.

References:

Ecological Reserves in the Maritimes, 1974. Region 7, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island. International Biological Program--the Conservation of Terrestrial Communities Section (IBP-CT).

Lock, A. R. 1971. Census of Seabirds Nesting in Nova Scotia Canadian Wildlife Service.

Smith, E. C. and W. B. Schofield 1959. Contributions to the Flora of Nova Scotia VI: Notes on the Vegetaion of the Bird Islands. The Canadian Field Naturalist, Vol. 73 pp 155-160.

Can you see the forest for the trees? Derek Sarty certainly can, and we owe him our thanks for the excellent job he did designing our promotional poster. This poster was destined to be places throughout the Halifax-Dartmouth area to attract members from circles which otherwise may not be exposed to HFN publicity. Derek is a professional artist, and many of us will recognize his style in posters and illustrations around town.

The Halifax Field Naturalists

Ross Alphonse	Halifax	M. J. Harvey	Halifax
Ross Anderson	Dartmouth	Frank Hennessey	Halifax
Daniel Andrews	Spryfield	Barbara A. Hinds	Halifax
Cheryl Bays	Halifax	Stephen Homer	Halifax
Joanne Bishop	Halifax	Paul Hughes	Halifax
Heather Black	Country Hrbr.	Sam Jackman	Halifax
Mary L. Blackford	Halifax	Lynden R. Jensen	Halifax
Wendy Boyachuck	Halifax	Jordan Family	Enfield
Kathy Brawn	Halifax	Debbie Kaetz	Halifax
Paul Brodie	Halifax	Kasdan Family	Halifax
Megan Broner	Halifax	Heather Keddy	Carleton, Ont.
John E. Brownlie	Boutilier's Pt.	Keddy Family	Halifax
Debra Burleson	Halifax	Eleanor Kennedy	Halifax
Candace Butcher	Halifax	Mary Kenny	Halifax
Winifred Cairns	Halifax	Jim Kerr	Halifax
Jim Cleveland	Armdale	Estelle Laberge	Spryfield
Shirley Cohrs	Halifax	A. W. Linton Family	Halifax
Marion Collie	Halifax	Anne Linton	Halifax
Ralph Connor	Dartmouth	John Lindley	Halifax
Eric Cooke	Halifax	Zoe Lucas	Halifax
Janet Crosbie	Timberlea	William Lutwick	Rockingham
Christopher Corkett	Halifax	Barbara MacDonald	Halifax
Desmond Cousens	Halifax	Clive S. MacDonald	New Waterford
Nancy Cousens	Halifax	Bob & Wendy MacDonald	Halifax
Nancy Covington	Halifax	Don MacDougall	Halifax
Scott Cunningham	Halifax	Linda Marks	Halifax
Clarence Daisley	Halifax	Andrew McLaren	Halifax
Gudarz Davar	Halifax	Ian McLaren	Halifax
Lorraine Dicks	Halifax	Lee Mawdsley	Halifax
Carol Donaldson	Halifax	Susan Mayo	Halifax
Mrs. Noel Durling	Annapolis Ryl.	Lauren Michell	Halifax
Janet and Peter Eaton	Halifax	Robert Moser	Halifax
Rosemary Eaton	Cole Harbour	Joe Murphy	Halifax
Brian Emmett	Halifax	David Patriquin	Halifax
Cathy Enright	Halifax	Joanne Peck	Halifax
Pat Evans	Halifax	Ralph Peters	Halifax
Jim Feltmate	Halifax	Gunner Peterson	Halifax
Sylvia Fullerton	Halifax	Claude & Marielle	
Brian Gifford	Halifax	Phaneuf	Spryfield
Vicky Glines	Halifax	E. C. Pielou	Halifax
Alan and Gail Golding	Halifax	Gertrude Pitcher	Bridgewater
Caroline Grant	Halifax	Roger Pocklington	Dartmouth
David and Linda Gray	Fredericton	A. D. Pointing	Toronto
David Green	Halifax	P. J. Pointing	Mississauga
Gunderson Family	Halifax	Mary Primrose	Halifax
Brian Hagell	Halifax	Sandra Read	Halifax
B. H. Hardie	Halifax	Mary Rice	Halifax

membership list continued ...

Judy Robins	Halifax	M. Muriel Smyth	Armdale
Barbara Robertson	Halifax	John Sollows	Halifax
W. Robertson Family	Dartmouth	Sheila Stevenson	Halifax
Rick Rofihe	Rose Bay	Colin Stewart	Halifax
Peter Rombough	Halifax	Travers Family	Dartmouth
David Ross	Halifax	van Feggelen Family	Halifax
Howard Ross	Halifax	Tim van Zoost	Halifax
Harriet Rueggeberg	Spryfield	Marcus Waddington	Halifax
Harry Ruggeberg	Spryfield	Whiting Family	East River
Alan Ruffman	Armdale	Ralph Widrig	Lockeport
Derek Sarty	Halifax	Scott Wilson	Halifax
Barbara Shaw	Bridgewater	Margaret A. Woodside	Halifax
Bill Silver	Halifax	Doris Young	Halifax
J. H. Slayter	Armdale	Mt. Allison U. Library	Sackville
Jerry Smith	Halifax	Dalhousie U. Library	Halifax
William J. Smith	Halifax	New Options Farm	Milford

We think this list is current to March 19, 1976.

If you would like to correct an error or omission,
contact Winnifred Cairns, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Nova Scotia Bird Society has an active field trip program planned for this year, and have invited HFN members to attend any of their excursions. Here is their schedule:

May 9	Dartmouth, Morris and Russell Lake
May 16	Greenhead Road, Halifax
May 19	Suzie Lake
May 29	Hants County field trip
June 19	Yarmouth
July 24	Green Bay and Broad Cove, Lunenburg County
Aug. 22	McNab's Island
Labour Day	
weekend	Brier Island
Sept 25	Cheticamp Island
Oct. 2	McNab's Island
Oct. 9,10,11	
	Seal Island
Oct. 23	Amherst
Nov. 6	McNab's Island
Nov. 20	Eastern Shore

HFN members wishing to go along on a Bird Society trip can contact a Society member for details of times and transport. Several birders attend HFN meetings, or HFN executive can help put you in touch.

Constitution of the Halifax Field Naturalists

These articles have been proposed by the executive of HFN. The subject will be discussed by the membership at a future meeting, and we will vote acceptance of this or some amended form.

Article 1: Name

The organization shall be called the Halifax Field Naturalists.

Article 2: Aims

The organization shall have two basic aims:

(1) Education of members and the public at large to an increased appreciation of Nova Scotia's natural history. Field excursions will be an essential part of this program. Meetings, newsletter, symposia, etc. will complement field trips.

(2) Protection of our natural heritage, so that the biological diversity and productivity of Nova Scotia are maintained. Wherever possible, the non-consumptive uses of resources shall be emphasized.

Article 3: Membership

Any person interested in the aims of the organization may become a member upon payment of the membership fee. Honorary membership may, on occasion, be granted at the discretion of the executive.

Any member who consistently conducts her/himself in a manner contrary to the aims of Article 2 in such a way as to seriously damage the public image or role of the organization, may, upon a unanimous vote of the executive, have his/her membership cancelled.

Article 4: Executive Officers

The elected positions on the executive shall be:

President

Secretary-Treasurer

Program Committee (2 members)

Members at Large (2),

to be elected as in article 5. In addition, an Editor shall be appointed by the executive to serve as a member of the executive.

Article 5: Nomination and Election of Officers

Election of officers will occur at the Annual General Meeting. Prior to this, the executive will appoint a nominating committee, which will nominate at least one person for each position on the executive except for the

two members at large. Members can nominate candidates for each position including members at large at the Annual General Meeting immediately following the presentation of the list compiled by the nominating committee. A seconder is required for each nomination. The candidate receiving the plurality of members votes will be elected to the position. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot.

Article 6: Meetings

General meetings shall be held once a month. Meetings of the executive shall be held when it is deemed necessary. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in January of each year in lieu of the General Meeting. Voting procedures at meetings will follow the Roberts system. A 51% majority vote is required to pass a motion.

Article 7: Impeachment of Officers

In order to introduce an order of impeachment, a member must be supported by at least four other members at the meeting. The member may then present the charge and his justification for it. After a general discussion of the charge, a general vote shall be held. A two-thirds majority is necessary for impeachment. The vacated position shall be filled as in Article 8.

Article 8: Resignation

In the case of resignation of an executive member, the executive is empowered to appoint a substitute to fill the post until the next Annual General Meeting.

Article 9: Finances

A financial report, including sources of income and expenditures, shall be prepared annually and presented at the Annual General Meeting. It shall also be printed in the following newsletter.

Article 10: Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional amendments shall be presented by the executive only. One month notice (minimum) must be given in the newsletter prior to a vote on a constitutional amendment. The vote shall be taken at a general meeting. A two-thirds majority is necessary to amend the constitution.

About this newsletter...

This is the official newsletter of the Halifax Field Naturalists, published every two months through the courtesy of the Nova Scotia Museum. We welcome articles from members or non-members--reports of field trips, nature notes, book reviews, observations, highlights from other publications, notices, drawings, anything pertaining to the natural history of Nova Scotia. Material for the May-June issue should reach the Museum by Friday, May 14.

Membership in the Halifax Field Naturalists is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Nova Scotia. Membership fee is two dollars annually, family membership three dollars. Come to a meeting or write care of the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax.

name _____

address _____

occupation or interests _____

suggestions for programs? _____

Moving? We're thinking particularly of our student members, but if you are moving be sure to give us your new address. Field trips, meetings, and the newsletter will continue through the summer, and we would like to keep all our members informed of HFN activities.

We're Moving, too HFN is considering changing our place of meeting to the auditorium of the N. S. Museum. Seating is more comfortable, projection facilities good, and the building is perhaps a bit easier to find than our present site, especially for new members. Museum facilities become available in the summer or fall. If you have strong feelings one way or the other, please let a member of the executive know.

