

Provincial Parks Come Alive

Provincial parks are once again beginning a more active time of the year. While many animals were present all winter, to keep hardy skiers and snowshoer's company, most birds flew south to places where food and accommodations were easier to come by. These birds are beginning to return. The wide variety of park lands from coastline through marshes, fields, and softwood and hardwood forests, lend an opportunity to chart the returning dates of various species. Why not keep a record for a park near you.

Mammals are also beginning to become more noticable. The red squirrel, who spent some of the winter under the snow, especially during the stormy weather, will now object vigourously to tresspassers ~~entering~~ his domain. The chipmunk and some species of mice, who have spent the winter in hibernation may now be seen. Toads, frogs, and salamanders have also begun to make their appearance. Their voices around the ponds and bogs are a sure and loud sign that spring is here.

Most of all, parks seem to be at their most hospitable at this time of year. The insects have not yet made their debut. Many of us look forward to going out on a walk without slogging through the white stuff, as well as a chance for the first barbeque/picnic of the year. All of the parks are open, although park personnel are not yet present. If you are looking for a place to go on a walk, why not try the self-guided trails at Strathgartney, Devil's Punch Bown or Green Park. Brochures for these can be obtained from the Provincial Park Officers in Charlottetown (892-7431) or Mill River.

The provincial parks are yours, why not use them.