

MORE ON THE BIRDS

The bald eagle has returned for the 15th year to the West River Causeway and his favourite birch tree. Bill Morrell has seen the eagle on two occasions and Bob Thompson reports seeing it on January 23.

Also on January 23, Gerard MacIntyre saw an adult bald eagle at Clarks Creek, Fort Augustus.

Mr. Douglas Piercey of 3 Sunset Drive reports that a flock of 30 Bohemian Waxwings has been using his feeding station since December 23 and Mr. Dick Sterling saw a robin on January 22 in Charlottetown.

- Rosemary Curley
Fish & Wildlife Division

MELANISTIC SHOWSHOE HARES ON P.F.I.

The snowshoe hare (often called a rabbit) is distributed across the Canadian provinces, the Yukon, parts of the Northwest Territories and in most of the northern United States. It has been introduced into Newfoundland and Anticosti Island.

The ability of the snowshoe hare to change color with the seasons is well recognized. However, instances of a color mutant which is completely black (melanistic) have been recorded, and in such cases the hare remains black year round.

Ralph Bird (1955) has collected records of melanistic hares from Ontario, Quebec, P.E.I., Saskatchewan and New York. In addition, a melanistic specimen was obtained in Maine (Aldous, 1939), and a specimen from Shelbourne County, Nova Scotia, prepared by Barry Sabeau in 1972 is now in the museum collection of Acadia University. At present, the only black hare in the National Museum of Canada collection was taken in the vicinity of Charlottetown, P.F.I.

The following are further records of melanistic hares from Prince Edward Island. In some cases the dates are not exact.

<u>Date</u>	<u># Seen</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
late May 1970	1	Clarks Creek, Ft. Augustus	Daryl Guignon
June 1970	1	Ft. Augustus	Dan McAskill
Oct. 12, 1970	1	Pisquid	Dan McAskill
Nov. 1970	1 (shot)	Upton	John Bain
Jan. 7, 1971	2 (shot)	Pisquid Pond	Art Smith & Randy Dibblee
Aug., 1971	1	Georgetown Royalty	Rosemary Curley
Oct., 1971	1	Little River Rd (near Sailors Hope)	Daryl Guignon
Winter 1971-72	2 (seen a day apart, one shot)	Glenfinnan	John Bain and Doug Wood
mid-May, 1972	1	Pisquid	John Bain
June 1, 1972	1	Mooneys Creek (Morell River)	Randy Dibblee
June 15, 1972	1	Martinvale	D. H. Black
mid-May, 1973	1	Baldwins Road	John Bain
June 6, 1974	1	Glenfinnan	Maurice Coady
Summer 1974	1 (young)	Pisquid Pond	Percy Horsley
Oct. 1, 1974	2	Harmony	Randy Dibblee
Jan. 11, 1974	2 (shot)	Baldwins Road	Art Smith & Clare Birch
July 1, 1975	1 (young)	Milltown Cross	Reggie Martin
Nov. 24, 1975	1	Pisquid	Walter Stewart
Nov. 29, 1975	1 (shot)	Donagh	Bill Batchilder
Dec. 2, 1975	1 (snared)	Village Green	C. MacKinnon
Dec. 3, 1975	1	Piusville	
Dec. 7, 1975	1 (shot)	St. Georges	John Clements
Dec. 10, 1975	1 (snared)	Village Green	Clarence Ryan
Dec. 20, 1975	1	Lorne Valley	Employees of Fish & Wild- life Div.