

CANADA GEESE NESTING ON P.E.I.

An increasing number of wild Canada Geese appear to be nesting on Prince Edward Island marshes. To 1976, only two entries of Canada Geese nests here were received by the Maritime Nest Records Scheme, but this summer John Clements, a student employed by the P.E.I. Department of the Environment, located 5 nesting pairs of geese in the Eastern Kings area. An additional brood was sighted by Gail Curry and Rosemary Curley at MacKenna's Marsh, where geese had successfully reared young in 1976.

The following are records of the Canada Goose broods sighted.

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number in Brood</u>
1 pair	Brooklyn Dam	5
1 pair	Prowse's Pond, Bellevue	6
2 pairs	Kilmuir (gravel pits)	5 + 3
1 pair	Finlayson's Pond, Pt. Pleasant	2
1 pair	MacKenna's Marsh, 48 Road	2

It seems likely that these nesting geese reflect a spillover from Moore's Wildlife Management Area since all known nests are located within an 18 kilometer radius of the sanctuary at Milltown Cross. Five of the 6 nests are located within 10 kilometers of the sanctuary, as the goose flies. Approximately 70 people on the Island hold Canadian Wildlife Service Permits to keep captive Canadas and it is also possible that the wild geese originated from captive flocks.

Most people welcome nesting geese to the Island, but landowner-geese conflicts could arise should numbers of breeding geese increase significantly. In one instance, a brood of wild Canada's on P.E.I. destroyed nearly an acre of peas by removing the blossoms.

At present, in the Atlantic Flyway alone, numbers of Canada Geese have increased from 400,000 in the 1950's to nearly 2 million geese! As yet, limited goose crop damage occurs on P.E.I., mostly during migrations and then in only localized areas.

For further information on the current status of Canada Geese the reader is referred to the following article in the latest edition of the P.E.I. *Environeer*, a quartely publication of the Department of the Environment.

Dibblee, Randall, 1977. Canada Geese in P.E.I. and the Atlantic Flyway.
Environeer, Vol. 5, No. 4 (Fall).

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