

American redstart  
 House sparrow  
 Bobolink  
 Red-winged blackbird  
 Rusty blackbird  
 Common grackle  
 Brown-headed cowbird  
 Rose-breasted grosbeak  
 Purple finch  
 Pine siskin  
 American goldfinch  
 Savannah sparrow  
 Northern Junco  
 Chipping sparrow  
 White-throated sparrow  
 Song-sparrow



Sightings for the MBBA included a Kildeer doing a distraction display at Harmony Junction, nesting Yellow-bellied sapsuckers in the Townshend Woodlot, Souris Line Road, and a nest-building Evening grosbeak in the Valleyfield demonstration Woodlot. Meanwhile, in Mischouche, Diane and Kevin Griffin were able to "confirm" seven nesting species in 3 hours, finding nests of Flicker, Chipping sparrow, Robin, Starling, and House sparrow and observing nest-building by a Crow and a Blackburnian warbler.

The low daily total reflects the absence of most raptors, a slow return of flycatchers and poor luck with seeing usual goodies such as Mourning doves, Scoters and Eiders, and the more unusual shorebirds, woodpeckers, warblers and sparrows. Nevertheless, the day was a good excuse to explore the countryside and refresh memories of bird songs.

Participants were: Kathy Crockett, Rosemary Curley, Diane and Kevin Griffin, Geoff Hogan, Winston Johnston, Norah Longworth, Gerald MacDonald, Joyce MacLeod, Margaret Mallett, Arlene and Paul McGuigan and Sylvia Sterns.

# Legends surround wild carrot

BY BRUCE MacLAREN

The Wild Carrot (*Daucus Carota*), also known as Queen Anne's Lace, is by no means an endangered species! However it is a plant of some interest and perhaps it will be possible to present some of its more interesting features. Fifty or more years ago it was confined largely to the New Glasgow and Rustico areas of P.E.I. Since that time it has spread throughout the province and can be found on just about every roadside. It is also spreading into cultivated land and, at some time in the future, is almost sure to be a difficult weed.

First let us consider its origin. One write definitely states that it originated in Afghanistan. Other writers are a bit less precise, but it seems likely that the plant was first found in the Middle East. From there it found its way across Europe and eventually to England. From there it was a simple matter to get to North America. Apparently there is a record of it being grown in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1609.

The flower of Wild Carrot is in large clusters with up to 500 or more individual florets in a single cluster. The shape of the flower clusters resemble a lace pattern, hence the name Queen Anne's Lace. Very often, particularly in the larger clusters, a single floret will be found in the centre coloured red or purple. At one time these florets were believed to be poisonous; later it was thought to be a cure for epilepsy. A more romantic legend has it that Queen Anne, while crocheting, pricked

