

# HERONS, CORMORANTS AND GULLS - WHERE DO THEY GO?

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Most people realize that many bird species migrate south in fall, but have you ever wondered exactly

where birds from Prince Edward Island go? Unfortunately, the answer is not available for the majority of the Island's species. To find out it is necessary to identify individual birds by using such techniques as dyes or specially coded leg bands. When a bird

wearing a leg band is found, the band (or the number on the band) should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington D.C. with the date of recovery, the recovery location, and the present condition of the bird. Because birds do not recognize political boundaries, the U.S. and Canada work together on this.

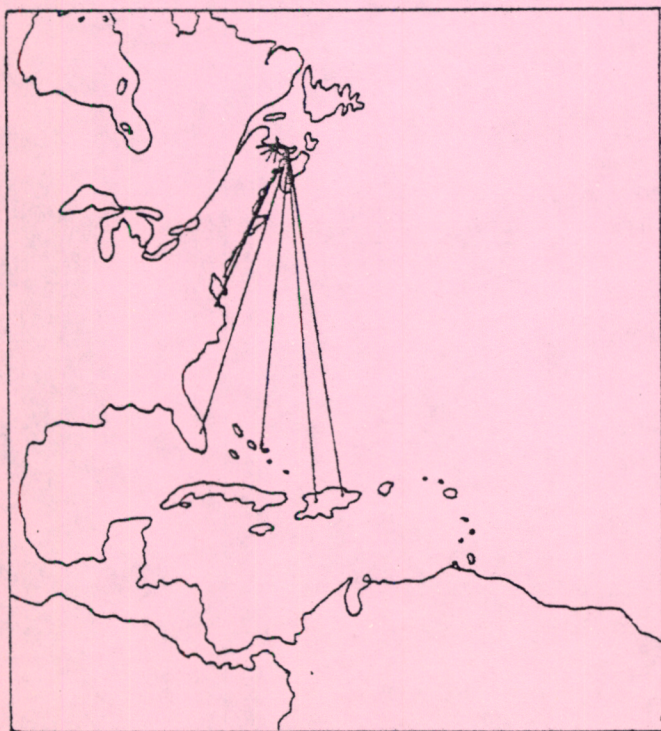
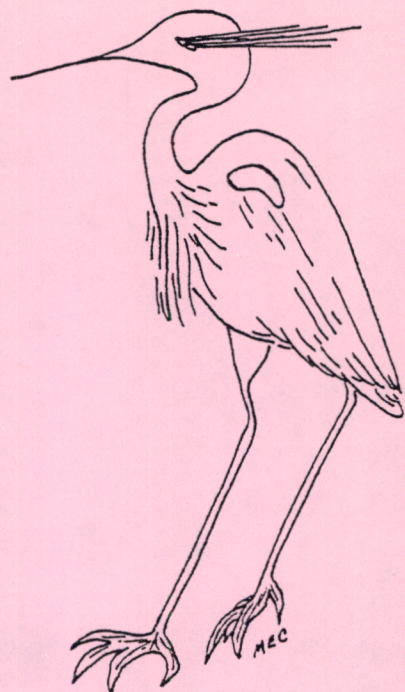


Fig. 1

In addition to the annual waterfowl banding program conducted on Prince Edward Island by the P.E.I. Fish and Wildlife Division there have been several other banding programs which have provided data on the migration of Island birds. It is the results of these programs that I will present here.

Between 1973 and 1976 I banded 290 Great Blue Heron chicks in a heronry located near Pownal. To date 11 of these have been recovered. The Great Blue Heron is widely distributed, breeding across southern Canada, throughout most of the U.S. and south to Mexico and the West Indies. As a result, P.E.I. herons