

and around Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, but most colonies are relatively inaccessible. On the Bird Rocks north of the Magdalen Islands, Gannets and Thick-billed and Common Murres nest in large numbers, but the colonies are quite inaccessible.

In order to see enormous concentrations of hundreds of thousands of birds one must go to Newfoundland. At Cape Saint Mary's, at Witless Bay, on Baccalieu and Funk Islands, seabirds in tremendous abundance carry on the squabbles and cares of their urban life. Cape Saint Mary's and Witless Bay are provincial sanctuaries, and visitors are offered guided tours.

The habit of nesting on high cliff ledges or isolated islands has served seabirds well over the centuries in protecting them from land predators. But nesting on islands does not protect them from oilspills, pesticides and poaching; Nor can it eliminate direct disturbance of humans (and their pets) at the breeding colonies. If one approaches a colony too close adult birds leave and their eggs and young are vulnerable to gull and crow predation, with sometimes disastrous results.

The seabird sanctuaries I have mentioned in this article are all carefully managed so that the thousands of visitors each year cause little or no disturbance. But there are hundreds of other colonies where no direct protection is provided (and this includes colonies on Prince Edward Island). All visitors must become informed as to which colonies are vulnerable to predation to avoid disturbance.

David Cairns  
Biology Department  
Laval University  
Quebec

ENVIRONMENT WEEK ACTIVITIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>	<u>WALK</u>
Mon., May 9	2:00 p.m.	Margo Guignon	Devil's Punch Bowl Park Rt. 254	Old Princetown Road
Wed., May 11	6:30 p.m.	Diane Griffin	Visitor's Parking Lot, U. P. E. I.	DeRoche Beach & Dunes
Fri., May 13	8:00 a.m.	Simon Lunn	Rustico Island Campground	Bird Walk



**Canada's exciting new  
Outdoor and Wild Life  
magazine for children**

Each colourful issue includes stories, photographs, illustrations, comics, puzzles, experiments, instructions for making things, nature exploration ideas, and many other activities.

Ten-issue subscriptions  
\$6 from OWL Magazine,  
59 Front St. E.,  
Toronto, M5E 1B3