

Provincial Parks This Spring

Provincial Parks are once again beginning a more active time of the year. While some animals were present all winter, to keep hardy skiers and snowshoer's company, most birds flew south to places where food and accommodations were easier to come by. These birds are beginning to return. Have you heard the geese or red winged black birds yet? They're here. The wide variety of park lands from coastline through marshes, fields, and softwood and hardwood forests, lend an opportunity to chart the returning dates of various species. Why not fill in the accompanying record form for a park near you.

Mammals are also beginning to become more noticable. The red squirrel, who spent some of the winter under the snow, especially during the stormy weather, will now object virorously to tresspassers entering his domain. The chipmunk and some species of mice, who have spent the winter in hibernation may soon be seen. Toads, frogs, and salamanders will also make their appearance. Their voices around the ponds and bogs were a sure and loud sign that real spring is here, even if it is already spring according to the calendar.

Most of all, parks seem to be at their most hospitable at this time of year. The insects have not yet made their debut. Many of us look forward to going out on a walk without slogging through the white stuff, as well as a chance for the first barbecue/picnic of the year. All of the parks are open, although park personnel are not yet present. If you are looking for a place to go on a walk, why not try the self-guided trails at Strathgartney, Devil's Punch Bowl or Green Park. Brochures for these can be obtained from the Provincial Park Officers in Charlottetown (892-7431) or Mill River.

The Provincial Parks are yours, why not use them.