

Survey  
in the Cap Lumière area  
(June 1983)

"Birds on the wing"

Prepared by: Linda King  
Interpretation  
CWS-Sackville

Preliminary Report  
September 1983



REPORT  
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1983



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Canada  
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Environnement  
Canada  
Service canadien  
de la faune

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 1590  
SACKVILLE, N. B.  
EOA 300

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1983

REPORT

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(June 1983)

TRANSLATION

"Birds on the wing"

Prepared by: Linda King  
Interpretation Program  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Sackville, New Brunswick

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the "Birds on the wing" survey is to determine, in a given population, what birds are known and what is known about these birds.

This survey was undertaken during the month of June 1983 in Kent county, on the east coast of New Brunswick. The persons questioned lived in three francophone villages, i.e. Cap Lumière, Richibouctou and Ste-Anne.

By finding out what a population knows about the birds, an interpreter will find it easier to decide upon the approach to take in informing people of the various activities of the Canadian Wildlife Service (migratory birds sanctuaries and national wildlife areas).



## PROCEDURE

In order to arrive at the goal: determine, in a given population, to what extent birds are known and what is known about them, three steps were required: preparation at the office, work in the field, and compilation of the data.

### Preparation in the office

The fact that the author of this report grew up in Cap Lumière and knows the region is an asset; this is why the Cap Lumière area was chosen as the site of the study. The study was in the form of a question-answer survey (see example 1).

Cap Lumière, Richibouctou and Ste-Anne are three small villages where most people live from the fishery. It was therefore natural to choose the wharves of each village, as these are the workplaces of the fishermen.

According to table 1, the "Birds on the wing" survey was done in 1983 on June 10 to 19 on the wharves of three different villages, i.e. Cap Lumière, Richibouctou and Ste-Anne. These three villages are located in Kent county on the east coast of New Brunswick (fig. 1). Seventy-four (74) questionnaires lasting five minutes each were answered: 37 at Cap Lumière, 17 at Richibouctou and 20 at Ste-Anne. More than 58% of the respondents were between the ages of 30 and 60, 18% were 30 years of age and younger and 24% were over 60 years old. Fishermen seem to be the best represented; 43% of the total respondents or 13 and 15 of these 32 fishermen were from Ste-Anne and Cap Lumière respectively. Workers other than fishermen, i.e. students, housekeepers, tradesmen and academics represented 33% of the total.

### In the field

The way of approaching people is very important. As an introduction, the government vehicle says it all, and for this reason, the name and identification of the person carrying out the survey were only given when requested. Introductions were made simply with a smile and a few words to explain the study. Once people agreed to grant a few minutes of their precious time, the interviewer went on to the questions. The persons questioned were chosen at random, i.e. - first come, first served.

Writing the answers clearly and accurately makes it easier to recognize the vagueness of an answer and immediately clarify it. The answers should be written down as rapidly as possible by the interviewer so as to save time and to finish the questions, after which the persons are politely thanked for their cooperation.

The interviewer should also be bilingual, as the work is done in New Brunswick, which has a mixed population.

Example 1.

Survey - Summer of 1983

East coast of New Brunswick

Name:

(these details are especially important for  
key interviews, so as to be able to contact  
these same persons again if necessary)

Address:

Location:

Time and date:

(Temperature):

Profession or trade:

Age group: 15 or less, 15 - 25 years, 25 - 30 years, 40 - 60 years,  
60 - 80 years, + 80

Questions

1. Do you like birds?                      Yes                      No  
    (All birds?)

Why?

2. What bird(s) do you like the most?

What bird(s) do you like the least?

What bird(s) do you hate?

How do you recognize them?

(At least one characteristic)

3. Regarding your favorite birds:

- when do you see them? (season, time of day...)

- where can they be found?

- are they in the same area all year?

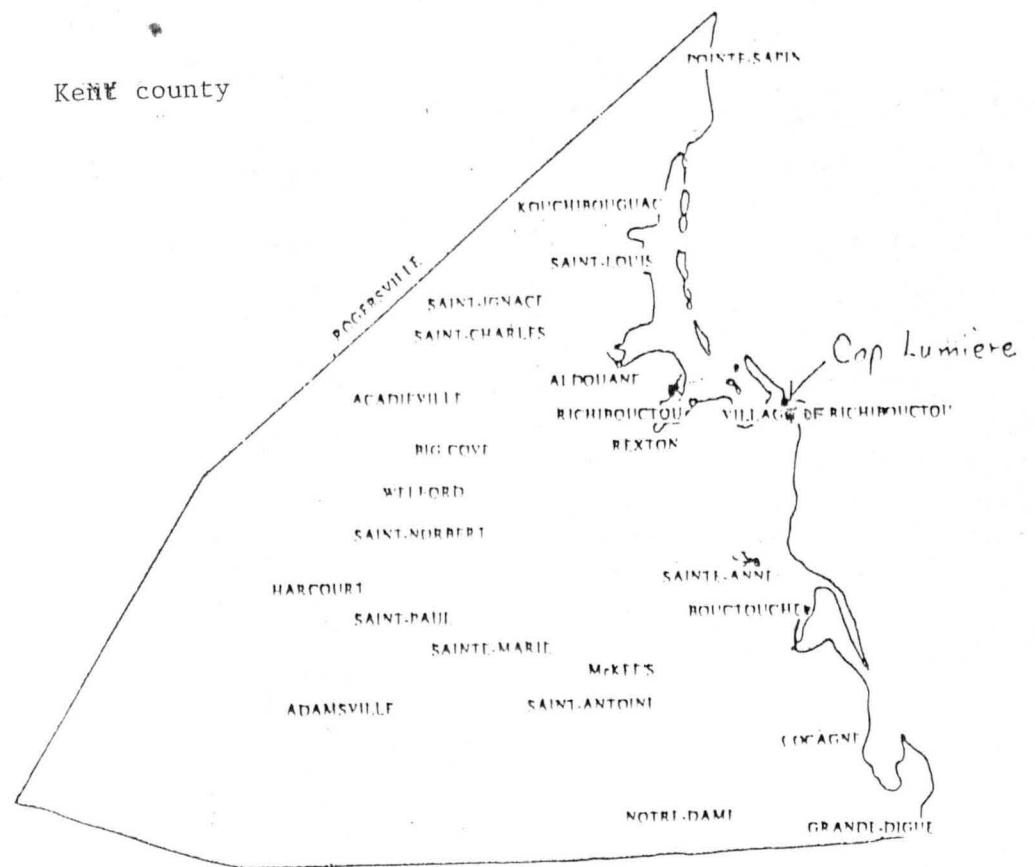
- why are they here?

4. What does your favorite bird need to live well and live a long life?

Approximate length of interview \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Kent county



New Brunswick

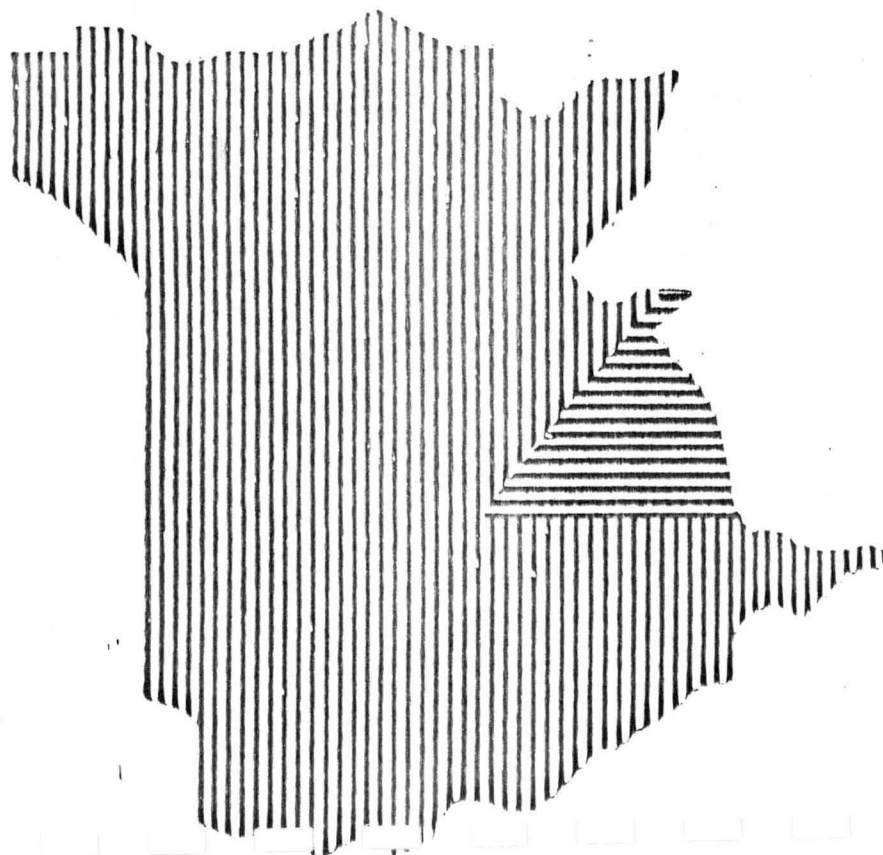


Figure 1.

Table 1. Summary of data from "Birds on the wing" survey

	Cap Lumière		Richibouctou	Ste-Anne	Total
	Interview	Questionnaire only			
Date (month of June)	10-11, 13-16, 19	10, 13-15	16	17	June 10-19 1983
Atmospheric conditions	inside	10, 13-sunny 14, 15-cloudy	morning-cloudy noon-sunny	sunny and windy	
# of questionnaires @ <u>±</u> 5 minutes each	17	20	17	20	74 20:30 hours
Age groups (yrs)					
15-25	1			3	4
25-30		2	3	4	9
30-40	4	7	3	8	22
40-60	7	5	6	3	21
60-80	5	6	5	2	18
Profession					
retired	4	4	2	1	11
unemployed		1	2	1	4
worker					
student				3	3
housekeeper	1	2			3
fisherman	5	10	4	13	32
tradesman	1	2	5	2	10
academic	5	1	4		10
other	1				1



The interviewer's personal appearance was informal and comfortable, but presentable. The impact of one's appearance when approaching people is yet to be determined. Does it make them feel more comfortable, inviting them to tell the truth and not omit details, or does it have little or no effect?

The interviewer should be pleasant and respect the opinions of others, but should not let him or herself be intimidated.

Finally, the person gathering the data must remember that the purpose of the study really is to gather information and not to "teach"; that will come later once the survey has been completed, compiled and analyzed.

#### Compilation of the data

Back at the office, the compiling of the data begins. Each question of the survey is individually summarized and then the data is regrouped in the form of tables, with the main points of each table summarized beneath it.

The last step consists of analyzing or interpreting the results.

In terms of time, a week of work in the field does not seem very long, but the compilation and interpretation of such a large amount of data may take two months or more.

## RESULTS

### I Summary of question 1.

According to question 1, one would think that everyone interviewed likes birds, but most people have at least one bird they don't like.

However, a few other persons like all birds without exception.

Here is a list of the reasons why birds are loved:

- pretty (beautiful colours)
- beautiful singing (bring cheerfulness and good humor in the morning; their songs bring a feeling of life; they don't have worries)
- good company
- eat harmful insects (flies, worms, mosquitos)
- clear lands by eating rubbish
- represent life (it would be boring without birds; they are a sign of life)
- natural (part of nature)
- the pleasure of hunting
- good to eat
- announce the arrival of spring
- comforting, encouraging
- because I would like to fly
- I like to observe them
- I like to feed them
- I don't know why
- Why not?

### II Summary of question 2

#### a - Table 2

Looking at Table 2, we note that the five birds most liked by people in the Cap Lumière area by order of decreasing importance are: Swallows, American Robins, Canada Geese, ducks and Blue Jays.

If we observe each village independently, Cap Lumière seems to have three favorite birds. They are Swallows, American Robins and Canada Geese respectively.

In Richibouctou, two birds stand out: the Swallows are best liked followed, once again, by American Robins.

But in Ste-Anne de Kent, the American Robin was in first place, with ducks a close second and then small black birds.

Another thing that leaps to the eye is the extent to which one particular bird is liked in a specific village in relation to the total; i.e. 75% of the people who like the Merganser best and 53% of those who prefer the Canada Goose are from Cap Lumière.

Table 2. The best liked birds

	Cap Lumière		Richibouctou	Ste-Anne	Total
	Interviews	Questionnaires only			
Gannet		1		1	2
Canada Goose	7	1	2	5	15
Mallard	2	1			3
Spruce Grouse and/or Ruffed Grouse		1	2	1	4
Great Blue Heron		1			1
Mourning Dove	1				1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	1			2
Horned Lark	1				1
Blue Jay	1	3	3	4	11
Gray Jay	2	1	2	1	6
Common Crow			1	1	2
American Robin	6	4	5	9	24
House Sparrow			1		1
Redwinged Blackbird		2			2
Chipping Sparrow		1			1
loons				1	1
goldeneyes	1				1
mergansers	2	1		1	4
eagles				1	1
gulls		1		1	2
terns		1			1
pigeons	1		1	1	3
owls		1	1		2
woodpeckers		1			1
swallows	8	9	8	5	30
chickadees		2			2
warblers		1			1
grosbeaks			1		1
sparrows			1		1
little yellow birds		3	1	1	5
singing birds	1	1			2
black bird with yellow upper body and wings	1				1
little black birds	1			6	7
ducks	4	1	2	8	15
migratory birds	1				1

Similarly, 85% of the people who place small black birds first on their preference list and 53% of those who love ducks are from Ste-Anne.

b - Table 3

Table 3 lists 16 bird species that are not liked, including three that are frankly hated.

The three birds less liked are the Common Crow (35%), the Starling (19%) and the Rusty Blackbird, which were mentioned by almost two thirds (70%) of the respondents.

Another 11% of the respondents give three birds that they hate: the Common Crow, Loons and Cormorants.

If we observe each village independently, we find that 32% of the people of Cap Lumière do not like the Common Crow, 27% do not like the Starling and 19% do not like the Rusty Blackbird. More than half (55%) of the people of Ste-Anne do not like the Common Crow. There is nothing significant in regards to Richibouctou.

c - Table 4

In table 4, we find that more than half (55%) the birds are liked because of their beautiful colours, and another 20% are liked because they are pretty; almost two thirds (72%) of the birds are simply liked for their beauty (nice colours, pretty, graceful).

Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the birds are liked because they are good to eat (especially ducks), 17% are liked because of their friendliness and another 17% for their presence during good weather (the summer).

Swallows, American Robins, as well as Canada Geese and ducks are the birds for which people gave the largest number of different reasons for liking. This corresponds to table 2, which indicates that the four birds most liked are Swallows, the American Robin, the Canada Goose and ducks, respectively.

Thus, pretty colours, good to eat, pretty, friendly and presence during the summer are the five reasons most commonly given.

d - Table 5

According to table 5, the reasons most often given for not liking birds are: bad natured, pest, ugly, they eat worms and seeds in the garden, along with fertilizer (herring) and corn.

Forty percent (40%) of the birds are not liked because they are considered to be pests. Another 40% are said to eat worms and seeds from the garden, along with fertilizer and corn. A third (33%) are described as bad-natured and more than a quarter (27%) are simply ugly.

Table 3. The less-liked birds

	LESS LIKED				
	Cap Lumière		Richibouctou	Ste-Anne	Total
	Interviews	Questionnaires only			
Northern Gannet	1				1
Great Blue Heron		1			1
Blue Jay	1				1
Common Raven	1				1
Common Crow	6	6	3	11	26
American Robin		1	1		2
Starling	8	2	3	1	14
Rusty Blackbird	3	4	4	1	12
Common Grackle	1	1			2
cormorants	2	1	2		5
mergansers	1				1
gulls	1		2	1	4
pigeons			1		1
woodpeckers		1	1		2
swallows			1	1	2
black birds		1	1		2
seed-eating birds	1				1
birds having an annoying cry in the morning		1			1
HATED BIRDS					
Common Crow	2		1	1	4
loons	1				1
cormorants	2		1		3



Table 4. Reasons why birds are liked

	beauty-			nice singing	rare	friendly	sign of life	vigorous (good workers)	announce			here during the nicest part of year	good to eat	hunting	remind one of youth	alarm clocks	eat	
	pretty colours	pretty	graceful						weather (rain, heat)	coming of fish	spring						insects	rubbish
Gannet	X									X		X						
Canada Goose	X	X			X								X	X				
Mallard	X																	
Common Scoter													X					
White-winged Scoter													X					
Ruffed Grouse and Spruce Grouse													X					
Mourning Dove	X																	
Horned lark											X							
Blue Jay	X					X			X									
Gray Jay	X					X			X									
Common Crow																X		X
American Robin		X		X		X					X	X					X	
Red-winged Blackbird	X																	
Chipping Sparrow		X				X												
loons													X					
goldeneyes	X																	
mergansers	X												X					
gulls			X															X
terns			X															
pigeons	X					X												
owls															X			
swallows	X							X	X		X	X					X	
chickadees	X	X																
warblers		X																
grosbeak	X																	
little yellow birds	X				X													
singing birds	X	X					X					X						
little black birds												X	X					
ducks	X								X				X	X				

Finally, the birds regarding which the greatest number of reasons for not liking are given are the Starling, the Common Crow, the Common Raven and the Rusty Blackbird, in decreasing order of importance. It should be noted that three of these four birds: the Common Crow, the Starling and the Rusty Blackbird, are the three birds less liked according to table 3. This can no doubt be correlated with the last observation of table 5 (the number of reasons for which they are not liked).

e - How do you recognize the birds?

Most of the people questioned recognize the birds mainly by colour, flight, form and song. These are the most often used identification criteria. Other criteria, as important as the former but less used, are: the silhouette, the habitat and the type of nest.

In regards to the source of learning, several persons learned from their fathers, while others don't really know where they learned, they can simply say that they know the birds.

### III Summary of question 3

a - Table 6

According to table 6, the people of Cap Lumière observe 11 bird species throughout the year.

The year is subdivided into four seasons. Spring seems to be the best season for birds, as 21 out of 36 (58%) species are observed then. Birds are also in good view in the autumn, when 14 out of 36 species (39%) are observed.

The summer and winter seem to be much less important, especially winter, when only one species of bird is observed. Eight species are seen in the summer, three of which are exclusive to that season.

b - Table 7

Table 7 indicates that 77% of the species are observed at all times of the day.

Four species are seen only from dawn to noon, of which three (3/4) are ducks. Three species are observed only from noon to dusk.

It should be noted that in this table, dawn means the first appearance of light in the morning, and dusk means just after the setting of the sun.

Table 5. Reasons why birds are not liked.

[illegible]

Table 6. Seasons in which the birds are observed

	All year	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Gannet		X			
Canada Goose		X		X(late)	
Mallard	X	X		X	
Oldsquaw	X				X
Common Scoter		X			
White-winged Scoter		X			
Common Merganser	X				
Ruffed Grouse/ Spruce Grouse	X				
Great Blue Heron		X			
Mourning Dove		X	X	X	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			X		
Horned Lark		X			
Blue Jay		X	X	X	
Gray Jay	X		X	X	
Common Crow	X				
American Robin		X	X	X(late)	
Bobolink		X			
Redwinged Blackbird		X			
Rusty Blackbird		X		X	
Common Grackle		X		X	
Chipping Sparrow		X	X	X	
goldeneyes				X	
eiders	X				
mergansers		X		X	X
gulls	X				
pigeons	X				
woodpeckers	X				
swallows	X	X	X	X	
chickadees				X	
warblers			X		
sparrows		X			
little yellow birds			X		
black bird with yellow upper body and wings		X			
singing birds		X	X	X	
little black birds		X		X	
ducks (wild ducks)		X		X	
migratory birds		X		X	

Table 7. Time of day when the birds are observed

	From dawn to noon	From noon to dusk	Any hour of the day
Gannet		X	
Canada Goose			X
Mallard			X
Common Scoter	X		
White-winged Scoter	X		
Ruffed Grouse			
Spruce Grouse			X
Great Blue Heron			X
Mourning Dove			X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		X	
Blue Jay			X
Gray Jay			X
American Robin			X
Bobolink			X
Redwinged Blackbird			X
Chipping Sparrow	X		
goldeneyes			X
mergansers			X
gulls			X
terns			X
pigeons			X
owls		X	
woodpeckers			X
swallows			X
chickadees			X
grosbeak			X
little yellow birds			X
singing birds			X
little black birds	X		
ducks			X
migratory birds			X
Total	4	3	23



c - Tables 8 and 9

Table 8 shows the various bird species found in different habitats. Two of the habitats are sub-divided into two sub-habitats: "inhabited area" is divided into habitation and road and "aquatic habitat" into freshwater and saltwater habitats.

The "anywhere" habitat involves only two bird species, i.e. the swallow and the American Robin, and it should be pointed out that these are the two best known species. Only one species is represented in the "in flight" habitat: a migratory bird (Canada Goose).

Around houses we find 11 species, of which seven are also found on the roads. The "land habitat" comprise 11 different species.

Finally, in the aquatic habitats we find five species in "freshwater" habitats, of which four are ducks, and 11 species in "saltwater" habitats; this sub-habitat is well represented.

Table 9 shows in greater detail the various locations contained in each habitat or sub-habitat as used in table 8. The figures found in the column on species number observed per location do not necessarily correspond to the number of species observed by habitat in table 8. Example: five species are observed on lakes and five species on rivers. But we should not conclude that this means there are 10 different species observed in the "freshwater" sub-habitat, since the five species observed on the lakes may be the same five species observed on the rivers, and this may lead to errors in the total number of species observed by habitat. Therefore, a total of five different species (according to table 8) is observed in the "freshwater" sub-habitat and not the sum total of the four locations regrouped in the "freshwater" sub-habitat, which comes to 12.

d - Why are the birds here?

For the people of the Cap Lumière area, the reasons for the birds' presence are very obvious and very simple. Four reasons were given: migration, reproduction, food and temperature.

According to some people, the birds are here because of migration, i.e. they are passing through to go further north to nest (reproduction). For others, the birds simply arrive in New Brunswick in the spring to nest (reproduce).

Food and weather were two other very common answers. Some people say that food supplies are low in their winter country, and so the birds must change territory (country) to find other food, and New Brunswick is a good place to come to in the summer.

In regards to the weather in New Brunswick, the best time of the year is the summer, so it is natural for the birds to do as the tourists do; they come in the summer when the weather is good and leave in the winter for warmer countries.

Table 8. Presence of different bird species in various habitats

	anywhere	in flight	inhabited area*		land habitat	aquatic habitat	
			habitation	road		freshwater	saltwater
Gannet							X
Canada Goose		X				X	X
Mallard						X	
Common Scoter							X
White-winged Scoter							X
Ruffed Grouse and/or							
Spruce Grouse					X		
Great Blue Heron							X
Mourning Dove					X		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			X				
Horned Lark			X		X		
Blue Jay			X	X	X		
Gray Jay					X		
American Robin	X		X		X		
Bobolink			X				
Redwinged Blackbird			X	X			
Rusty Blackbird					X		
Common Grackle					X		
Chipping Sparrow					X		
goldeneyes						X	
mergansers						X	
gulls							X
terns							X
pigeons			X	X			X
owls			X	X			
woodpeckers					X		
swallows	X		X	X	X		X
chickadees			X	X	X		
grosbeaks			X				
little yellow birds			X	X	X		
singing birds			X	X			
little black birds							X
ducks						X	X
migratory birds							X
Total species per habitat							

\*inhabited area implies the presence of human beings

Table 9. Detailed table of habitats

Habitats	Number of species observed by location
<u>In flight</u>	1
<u>anywhere</u>	2
<u>inhabited area*</u>	
habitation: around houses	13
around garages	1
around farms	1
in gardens	2
on lawns	1
in birdhouses	1
road: roadside	7
power lines	1
<u>land habitat:</u> in the fields	4
in the bushes	2
at the edge of the woods	3
in the woods	9
<u>aquatic habitat</u>	
freshwater: meadow	1
lake	5
marsh	1
rivers	5
saltwater: edge of the dunes	2
along the wharves	1
shores	5
edge of the cliffs	1
marshes	1
bays	4
at sea	3

\* inhabited area implies the presence of human beings

#### IV Summary of question 4

A list of the things that people in the Cap Lumière area do not wish for the birds includes:

- 1 - pollution
- 2 - oil spills
- 3 - pesticides: they kill the birds and since there are less birds to eat the insects, we are infested by an increasing number of budworm.
- 4 - destruction of habitats: i.e. towns are spreading and the country becomes part of the town.
- 5 - hunting for the pleasure of hunting: Americans kill ducks in the autumn for the pleasure of hunting and here (in New Brunswick) cormorants are killed simply because people hate them.
- 6 - bad weather (storms)
- 7 - sickness
- 8 - lack of food
- 9 - lack of water

The following suggestions were given to help birds have a better and longer life. Some say there should be many more feeders around houses, especially during the winter. Others would like to see more birdhouses to provide birds with places to build their nests. One person even suggested that a field of grain should be planted somewhere, such as in Kouchibouguac Park, to provide food for migratory birds.

In a word, birds need to be protected to be able to live well and live long lives.

## DISCUSSION

In general, everyone in the Cap Lumière area likes all birds, with the exception of one or two they do not like. People know some things about birds, but they seem to have a bit of difficulty understanding them as entities. One thing is certain; it is that a large number of these people show a particular interest in birds and it is up to us to make the next step in the right direction through interpretation.

It should be noted that this work was done in villages well known by the interviewer; thus, if this same person were to carry out other surveys in different villages, it would be very helpful to know what questions to ask first and to whom these questions should be asked, so as not spread panic among the residents of these small villages.

In addition, if another survey were to be done with fishermen and hunters as the target population, it would perhaps be best to carry out the survey during a fishing season involving the greatest percentage of fishermen, such as the lobster fishing season for example.

A few other questions should perhaps be added to the suggested questionnaire (appendix G) for better understanding.

One question could be whether the person needs his or her binoculars to recognize birds and if not, how do they recognize them. Another question could be whether the person takes along binoculars when going hunting. I think these two questions could possibly provide information that could be useful for interpretation.

In closing, let us hope that this work is a useful work tool for interpretation in the future.



## Appendix A

### Names of persons participating in the survey at Cap Lumière

#### Questionnaires only

1. Alban Robichaud
2. Aldéric Robichaud
3. Edgar Caissie
4. Antoine Daigle
5. Jean-Marie Maillet
6. Lionel Thibodeau
7. Ulysse Boucher
8. Rosario Richard
9. Emile Doucet
10. Freddy Richard
11. Jean-Guy Maillet
12. Maurice Doucet
13. Wallace LeBlanc
14. Edgar Richard
15. Rita Léger
16. Donald Arsenault
17. Annette Richard
18. Léo Richard

#### Interviews

1. Théodore Richard
2. Aurèle Allain
3. Sylvestre LeBlanc
4. Viola LeBlanc
5. Ferris Maillet
6. Emery Thibodeau
7. Joseph Daigle
8. Alyre Richard
9. Emile Léger
10. Rufineau Allain
11. Lina Daigle
12. Henry Richard
13. Carmelle Babineau
14. Ernest Boucher
15. Henri Allain
16. Raymond Thibodeau
17. Armand King
18. Lucille King
19. Henry Boucher

## Appendix B

### Names of persons participating in the survey at Richibouctou

1. John Thompson
2. Léo McKinnon
3. Sylvain Babineau
4. Ursain Daigle
5. Joachim Richard
6. Fred Blanchard
7. Edgar O'Leary
8. Aldéo Thibodeau
9. Normand Robichaud
10. Joseph Elward
11. Yvon Thiboutot
12. Ovila Johnson
13. Jean LeBlanc
14. René Richard
15. Oscar Vautour
16. Kenneth Callendar
17. Roy H. Long

## Appendix C

### Names of persons participating in the survey at Ste-Anne

1. Paul Nowland
2. Léonce Nowlan
3. Harold Robichaud
4. Jack Richard
5. Guy LeBlanc
6. Fernand Nowlan
7. Gérald Nowlan
8. Alphone Richard
9. Aquila Maillet
10. Jean-Louis Mallet
11. Joseph Robichaud
12. Edgar Caissie
13. Marcel Johnson
14. Mario LeBlanc
15. Donald Robichaud
16. Roger Caissie
17. Bernard Savoie
18. Ernest Caissie
19. Marcel Richard
20. Edgar LeBlanc

Appendix D

Original questionnaires for Cap Lumière

a) questionnaire only

b) interviews

Appendix E

Original questionnaires for Richibouctou

Appendix F

Original questionnaires for Ste-Anne

Appendix G

Suggested questionnaire



Survey - Summer of 1983

East coast of New Brunswick

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Address:

Time and date:

(Temperature):

Profession or trade:

Age group: 15 or less, 15 - 25 years, 25 - 30 years, 40 - 60 years,  
60 - 80 years, + 80

Questions

1. Do you like birds? Yes No

2. a) What bird(s) do you like the most?

b) Why?

3. a) What bird(s) do you like the least?

b) Why?

What bird(s) do you hate?

Why?

4. a) How do you recognize birds?

(At least one characteristic for each bird mentioned)

b) Where did you learn to recognize birds?

3. Regarding your favorite bird(s):

a) which seasons do you see them?

b) what time of day do you see them?

c) when they are not in this area, where are they?

d) why are these birds here?

6. What do(es) your favorite bird(s) need to live well and live a long life?

Approximate length of interview \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of interviewer

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 1590  
SACKVILLE, N. B.  
EOA 3C0

QL  
685.N65

K53

1983

REPORT

King, Linda

REPORT

QL  
685.N65 King, Linda  
K53 Survey in the Cap Lumiere area (June 1983).  
1983

Name

Date