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Survey for Black Duck Concentrations
in Western Labrador - September 1993

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REPORT

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**Survey for Black Duck Concentrations
in Western Labrador - September 1993**

prepared by
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Sackville, NB**

Introduction

Black Duck management depends on the ability to determine harvest distribution and to monitor harvest rates. The value of these parameters is in large part determined by the sample of banded birds. The banded samples should be distributed throughout the major breeding range. There are several areas in the Atlantic Provinces from which a sample of banded Black Ducks has never been obtained. One of those areas is western Labrador. A banding station near Julian River-Baikie Lake has succeeded in banding only 331 Black Ducks in six years. Black Ducks no longer concentrate in the area, possibly due to habitat changes. This is a report on an aerial survey of selected wetlands in an attempt to locate a bandable concentration of Black Ducks in western Labrador.

Methods

The survey was flown in a Cs 207 on wheels (owned by Norther Lights Air Service, Goose Bay). The areas to be surveyed were selected based on prior information that suggested concentrations of Black Ducks might be present. The areas were surveyed at ground speeds of 120-130 km/hr and an altitude of about 30 m agl. Topographical maps (1:250000) were used for navigation and recording sightings. The pilot and one observer carried out the survey.

Results and Discussion

A fixed-wing survey of selected areas in western Labrador was flown on September 22, 1993. A total of 7.9 hours was flown. Areas selected for survey were Minipi Lake, Fourmont Lake, Flour Lake, Baikie Lake, Atikonak Lake, Lac Joseph, Ashuanipi Lake and Crossroads Lake. (Figure 1). Weather on December 22 was sunny, +6 degrees celsius, winds west at 8kt. All of the planned survey was not done because weather was unfavourable (foggy) on previous and subsequent days. Because of the bad weather Ashuanipi Lake and Crossroads Lake were not surveyed.

No large concentrations of Black Ducks were recorded (Table 1). Fourmont Lake was the most productive for Black Ducks (51 birds) and Baikie Lake was most productive for Canada Geese (200 birds). Not all wetlands were surveyed in the extensive areas of Atikonak Lake and Lac Joseph.

Local reports of concentrations of Black Ducks at Crossroads Lake and Ashuanipi Lake could not be confirmed or disproved.

Summary and Recommendations

No large concentrations of Black Ducks were recorded. The largest number (51) was observed on Fourmont Lake. It is recommended that Crossroads Lake and Ashuanipi Lake be surveyed in 1994.

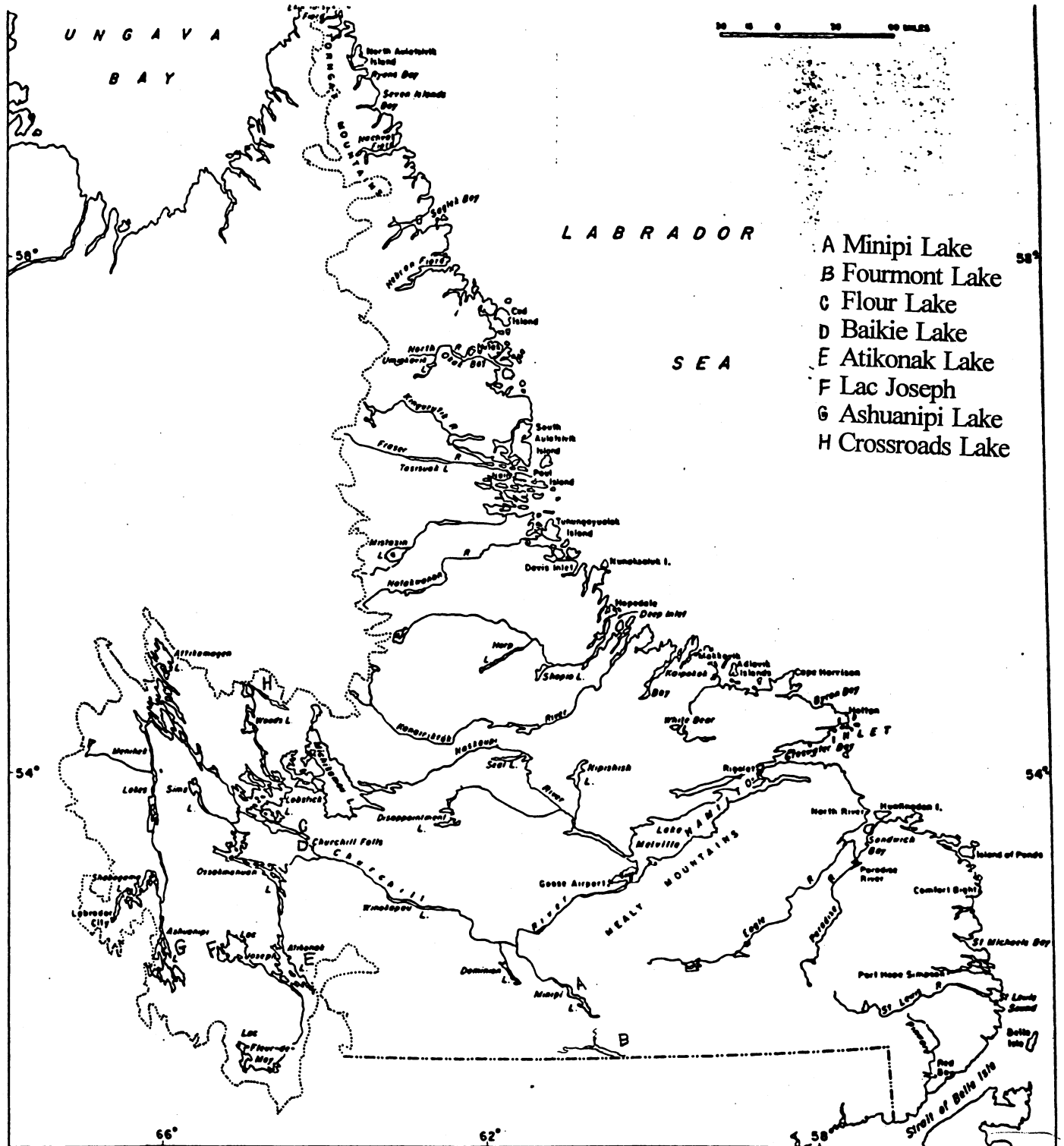


Figure 1. Locations of areas selected for fixed-wing survey in Labrador, September 1993.

Table 1. Waterfowl observations recorded on a fixed-wing survey of selected lakes in western Labrador September 22, 1993.

Location	Black Duck	C. Goldeneye	C. Scoter	Merganser	C. Goose	Total
Minipi Lake	9				11	20
Fourmont Lake	51	9			55	115
Flour Lake			3			3
Baikie Lake				1	200	201
Atikonak Lake	4				6	10
Lac Joseph					11	11
Total	64	9	3	1	283	360