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A Survey of Some Black Duck Concentration Areas

September 1988

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REPORT

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**A Survey of Some Black Duck Concentration Areas**

**September 1988**

**M. C. Bateman**

**Canadian Wildlife Service**

**Sackville, N.B.**

**September, 1988**

## Introduction

Preseason Black Duck banding has been on-going in the Atlantic Provinces for over 40 years and has resulted in over 9000 recoveries. Most of the birds were banded in the Maritime Provinces. Approximately 700 Black Duck recoveries have been recorded from birds banded preseason in Newfoundland-Labrador compared to 3700 from birds in Nova Scotia, 3800 from birds in New Brunswick and 1200 from birds in Prince Edward Island. The usefulness of data from preseason banding is discussed in Black Duck Banding Requirements for the Atlantic Region (Bateman, 1988) and the draft North American Duck Banding Program - A Revised Approach prepared by the USFWS and CWS.

Preseason Black Duck banding in the Atlantic Provinces was integrated into the Atlantic Flyway Cooperative Banding Program in 1965. Since 1965 a more intensive banding project has been partially funded from that source. Bait traps, airboats and well trained retrievers were used to band Black Ducks in many areas of the Maritimes and insular Newfoundland. In 1981 emphasis was placed on banding in Labrador where only 1339 Blacks had been banded previously.

Recent review and updating of the preseason Black Duck banding project has identified requirements for banding in unsampled areas and in areas where information may be outdated or insufficient. The USFWS provided an aircraft and a pilot-biologist to carry out surveys for bandable concentrations of Black Ducks in 1988. The areas surveyed were primarily areas where concentrations of blacks had been reported, although up-to-date information was not available in most cases. The survey was flown to locate and/or confirm the presence of bandable concentrations of Black Ducks and to familiarize the biologists with the concentration sites.

## Results and Discussion

Most of the survey time was spent in Newfoundland-Labrador where there is less information available than in the Maritimes. However, the Northumberland Strait shoreline between Shemogue, New Brunswick and Lismore, Nova Scotia; some areas on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia; and the Saint John River, New Brunswick between Edmunston and Jemseg were flown. Potential banding sites in the Maritimes are, for the most part, accessible by road, and in many cases have been worked in the past. Newfoundland-Labrador has been incompletely surveyed and most areas are accessible only by aircraft. The survey was flown at an appropriate time for banding in Labrador and Newfoundland. A list of observed waterfowl is included in Appendix I.

Thirty or more Black Ducks were recorded on eight areas surveyed on insular Newfoundland (Table 1). Preseason banding has been carried out at four of those areas. The most successful bait station was operated at the Grand Codroy Valley where 100-400 Black Ducks were banded each year. Attempts to band at Newman Sound, the Upper Humber River and Cape Freels (in 1988) were relatively unsuccessful.

Fall concentrations of Black Ducks in Labrador are most common on the coast as indicated by the records from Groswater Bay and Double Mer (Table 1). A high proportion of the blacks banded at two coastal stations in Labrador were adult males. At <sup>Tuker</sup> Lake Harbour and Nutak adult birds made up over 60 and 99 percent of the blacks banded. Blacks banded at the only inland location successfully bait-trapped (Indian House-Park Lake) were 82 percent hatch-year birds. Concentrations at other inland areas can be expected to be made up of a high proportion of hatch-year birds.

**Table 1. Locations of concentrations of Black Ducks (Number of Black Ducks greater than 30) observed during aerial surveys September 7-17, 1988.**

Location	Number of Black Ducks
<b>Northumberland Strait</b>	
Little Shemogue Harbour	150
Spence Cove	50
Cape Jourimain NWA	78
Wallace-Fox Harbour (Wallace NWA)	129
Malagash Point	102
<b>Cape Breton Island</b>	
Judique	44
Mabou Harbour	63
McCormick (Lake Ainsley)	38
Nyanza (Bras d'Or Lake)	42
Mira River (to Victoria Bridge)	97
Indian Bay and Sediment Pond	100
<b>Insular Newfoundland</b>	
Indian Island	30
Grand Codroy Valley	246
Flat Bay - Stephenville	80
Upper Humber River	32
Newman Sound	30
Cape Freels and inland ponds	35
Musgrave Harbour	49
Roddickton	43
<b>Labrador</b>	
Lake 1250	33
Lake 1155	93
Eagle River	125
Eagle Lake	68
Sebaskashu Bay	34
Double Mer	151
<b>Groswater Bay</b>	
Snook Cove	80
Coast Snook Cove to Tab Island	99
Coast West of Snook Cove	248
Tinker Harbour	100
Pompey Island	75
Gull Island	30
Black Island	142
Coast west of Black Island	513
Tom Liscombe Brook	47
Snegamook Lake	328
Baikie Lake	75

**Table 1. Locations of concentrations of Black Ducks (Number of Black Ducks (cont'd.) greater than 30) observed during aerial surveys September 7-17, 1988.**

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Location	Number of Black Ducks
<b>New Brunswick - Saint John River</b>	
Edmunston to Grand Falls	162
Perth-Andover to Beechwood	109
Beechwood to Hartland	134
Woodstock	78
Mactaquac to Fredericton	166
Sheffield to McGowans Corner	36
Otnabog Lake	42
Foshay Lakes	35

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**Appendix I**

**Waterfowl observed during fixed-wing survey in  
Nova Scotia, Newfoundland-Labrador and New Brunswick,  
September 7-17, 1988**

Aircraft - CS 206; Pilot-Biologist - J. R. Goldsberry;

Observer M.C. Bateman

Airspeed- 110kt. Altitude 100-300 ft. above ground level

September 7.

Northumberland Strait Shoreline from Shemogue to Lismore

September 7. Little Shemogue Harbour	150 Black Duck, 1 Mallard
Spence Cove	50 Black Ducks
Cape Jourimain	78 Black Ducks
Mouth of River Phillip	11 Black Ducks
Mattinson Cove	12 Black Ducks
Wallace & Fox Harbours	129 Blacks, 18 C. Geese
Malagash Point	102 Blacks, 175 C. Geese
John Bay, River John	20 Blacks
Caribou Harbour	3 Blacks
Merigomish Island	10 Blacks, 35 Mergansers
Linwood Harbour	4 Blacks

Cape Breton Island

Troy	16 Blacks
Judique	44 Blacks
Mabou Harbour	63 Blacks
McCormack (Lake Ainsley)	38 Blacks
North Ainsley	14 Blacks, 3 Mergansers
Scotsville	0
Nyanza (Bras D'Or Lake)	42 Blacks
East Bay	12 Blacks

September 8

Mira River (to Victoria Bridge)	97 Blacks, 10 Mallard, 9 Mergansers, 1 Green W. Teal
Glace Bay	24 Blacks, 20 C. Geese
Indian Bay + Sediment Pond	40 + 60 Blacks



Insular Newfoundland

Port aux Basques to Connoire Bay

Port aux Basques	8 Blacks
Indian Island	30 Blacks
<del>Cing</del> Cing Cerf Bay	5 Blacks
Connoire Bay	10 Blacks, 30 C. Geese
Little Codroy Valley	4 Blacks
Grand Codroy Valley	246 Blacks, 20 GWT, 10 C. Geese
St. Davids	3 Mergansers
Flat Bay - Stephenville	80 Blacks, 8 GWT

Inland ponds east and north of Stephenville

North lake - Island Pond	0
River running into Little Grand Lake	0
Goose Pond	6 Mergansers
Sandy Lake	4 Blacks, 1 C. Goose
Adies Pond	9 Blacks
Upper Humber River Basin from R. Squires Park to Adies River	32 Blacks

September 9

Terra Nova River, Terra Nova Lake	2 Blacks, 39 C. Geese
Clode Sound	0
Newman Sound	30 Blacks, 20 C. Geese
Cape Freels and inland ponds	35 Blacks, 39 GWT, 40 C. Geese, 8 Merganser
Deadman's Bay inland ponds	12 Blacks, 2 GWT
Doting Cove	14 Blacks
Musgrave Harbour	49 Blacks
Arm West of Rocky Point	25 Blacks
2nd Arm west of Rocky Point	25 Blacks, 6 GWT
Carmonville	4 Blacks
Noggin Cove	0

September 10

Coastal Plain from Bonne Bay to St. Anthony

Gulls Marsh (Western Brook Pond)	8 C. Geese
St. Pauls	22 Blacks
Parsons Pond	11 Blacks, 15 C. Geese
River of Ponds	18 C. Geese, 1 RN Duck
Barr 'd Harbour	9 Blacks
Bartletts Harbour	3 Blacks
Reefs Harbour (inland pond)	12 C. Geese
Bird Cove	7 Blacks
Plum Point	6 Blacks
Forrester's Point	6 Blacks
Big Brook - Boat Harbour	
Bogs	6 Blacks
Hare Bay	1 Black, 210 Scoter, 40 goldeneye
Maiden Point	4 Scoter

September 13

Inland ponds and bogs West of Hooping Harbour, south of Cloud River	2 RN ducks
Roddickton (Inland Pond)	43 Black, 6 RN Ducks
Ponds south and east of Main Brook, Hare Bay	13 Black, 8 C. Geese

Labrador

Pinware River	14 RN Duck, 5 C. Geese
Ponds on upper St. Louis River	41 C. Geese

Lake 1250	33 Blacks, 43 C. Geese, 25 Scaup,
West of Lake 1250	16 C. Geese
St. Pauls River and head- water lakes (lake 1125)	16 Blacks, 17 C. Geese, 12 Mergansers, 28 Scaup
Lake 1155	93 Blacks, 76 GWT, 7 Scaup
Eagle River	125 Blacks, 10 Scaup, 45 C. Geese, 40 GWT,
Eagle Lake	68 Blacks, 33 C. Geese, 10 Mergansers 9 Scaup
Minipi Lake(east of Main L.)	25 Blacks
Kenamu River and ponds between Kenamu and Traverspine River	20 Black, 16 C. Geese, 7 RN Ducks

September 16

Gosling Brook	99 C. Geese
Upper Islands Lake Mekville	8 Blacks, 17 C. Geese, 14 Scaup
Bakeapple Island	26 C. Geese, 30 Scaup
Sebaskachu Bay	34 Blacks, 75 Mergansers, 7 C. Geese, 36 Scaup
Lowland Point	85 Surf Scoters, 5 mergansers
Valley Bay	200 Mergansers
Double Mer	151 Blacks, 57 Mergansers, 40 C. Geese
Rigolet	10 Blacks
The Backway	12 Blacks, 395 C. Geese, 138 Mergansers, 155 W W Scoters
Inland Ponds North of the Backway	10 Blacks, 2 C. Geese
Snook Cove	80 Blacks
Coast East to Tub Island	99 Blacks, 31 C. Geese, 38 Mergansers
River and bog Ponds	26 Blacks, 12 Pintail, 10 C. Geese, 25 GWT
Coast west of Snook Cove	248 Blacks, 48 Geese, 7 Scoter
Tinker Harbour	100 Blacks, 14 Mergansers

Coast West of Tinker Harbour	3 Blacks, 42 C. Geese, 35 Scoters
Pompey Island	75 Blacks, 3 GWT, 4 Mergansers
Gull Island	30 Blacks
Black Island	142 blacks, 57 C. Geese, 20 Scoter, 16 Eiders.
Mainland coast west of Black Island	513 Blacks, 70 C. Geese, 4 Mergansers
Tom Liscomb Brook	47 Blacks, 158 C. Geese, 4 GWT, 100 Scoters
Lake west of White Bear Lake	0
West MicMac Lake	190 C. Geese, 10 Mergansers
Naskaupi River at Rapids	40 C. Geese
Naskaupi Lake	12 Mergansers
Thomas River	0
Caribou Lake, Naskaupi River	10 Blacks, 145 Geese, 11 Mergansers
Wuchusk Lake	27 Geese
Unnamed Lake West of Bellyfish Lake	20 Geese
Snegamook Lake	328 Blacks, 40 GWT, 75 Geese, 14 Mergansers, 10 scaup,
Snegamook River	40 Geese

#### Smallwood Reservoir

Woods Lake	6 Blacks, 12 Geese, 63 Mergansers, 1 Scaup
Andre Lake	0
East of Wade Lake	12 Geese
Lobstick Reservoir	5 GWT, 30 Geese
Raft River and Lake	2 Blacks
Baikie Lake	75 Blacks + 1 Mallard, 10 GWT, 215 C. Geese

September 17

Unknown River	12 Blacks
Julian River	2 Blacks, 10 Geese, 2 Scoter
Ossokmanuan Lake(near Road)	4 Blacks
Burnt Lake	10 Blacks, 40 GWT

New Brunswick - Saint John River

Edmonston to Grand Falls	162 Blacks, 58 GWT, 11 BWT, 4 Mergansers, 4 C. Geese, 2 Mallards
Perth-Andover to Beechwood	109 Blacks, 35 Mallard, 27 C. Geese, 1 Merganser
Beechwood to Hartland	134 Blacks, 25 Mallard, 9 Mergansers, 8 GWT
Woodstock	67 Blacks, 13 Mallards, 24 C. Geese, 2 GWT 2 BWT
Meduxnekeag River Mouth	11 Black, 3 Mallards
Prince William	12 Blacks, 3 Mallards
Longs Creek	2 Blacks
Mactaquac to Fredericton	166 Blacks, 7+ Mallards, 1 Merganser 30 GWT
Oromoncto Island	4 Blacks
Burton	16 Blacks, 55 Mallard, 20 BWT, 25 Pintail, 10 Mergansers
Sheffield - McGowans Corner	36 Blacks, 40 BWT, 1+ Mallard
Coy Lake	8 Blacks, 5 GWT
Hart Lake	18 Blacks, 2 BWT
Upper Musquash Island	5 Mergansers
Otnabog Lake	42 Black, 26 Mallard, 15 Wigeon, 35 BWT
Foshay Lake	35 Blacks, 6 BWT, 1 Wigeon

Appendix I  
Canada Goose concentrations observed during the aerial surveys  
September 13-17

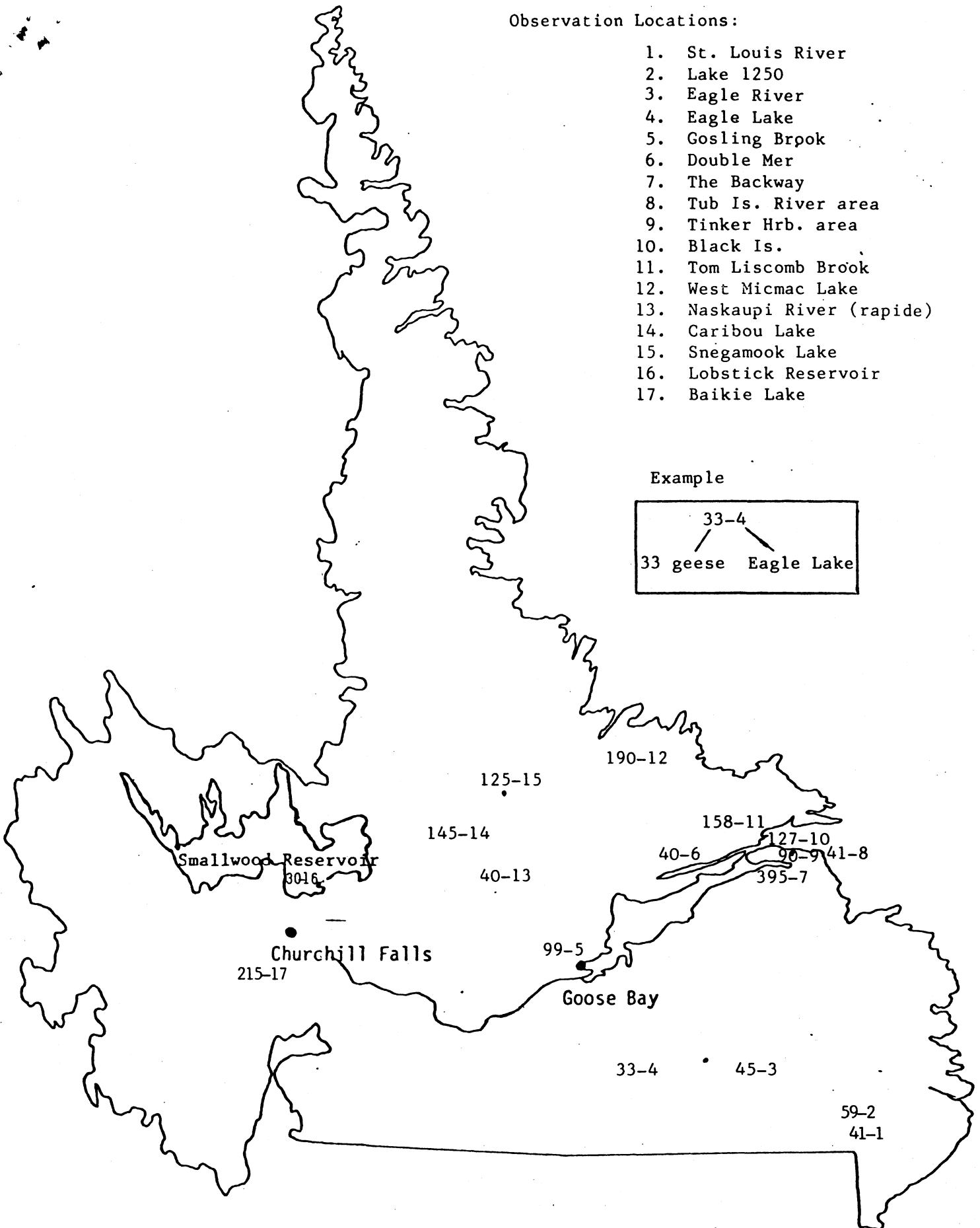
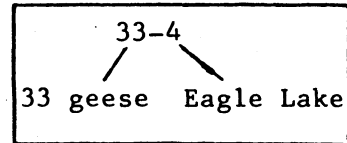
Canada Goose concentrations observed in Labrador during aerial surveys 13-17  
September 1988

Date	Location	No. of Canada Geese
13 September	Pinware River	5
	St. Louis River	41
	Lake 1250 area	59
	St. Pauls Rivers Lake 1125	17
	Eagle River	45
	Eagle Lake	33
	Kenamu River area	16
16 September	Gosling Brook	99
	Upper Islands Lake Mekville	17
	Bake Apple Is.	26
	Sebaskachu Bay	7
	Double Mer	40
	The Backway	395
	Island Ponds	2
	Tub Is. River area	41
	Tinker Harbour area	90
	Black Island	127
	Tom Liscomb Brook	158
	West MicMac Lake	190
	Naskaupi River (rapids)	40
	Caribou Lake	145
	Wuchusk Lake	27
	Belly Fish Lake area	20
Snegamook Lake area	125	
16 September	Smallwood Reservoir	
	Woods Lake	12
	Andre Lake	0
	East of Wade Lake	12
	Lobstick Reservoir	30
	Baikie Lake	215
	Unknown River	0
	Julian River	10
	Ossokmanuan Lake	0
Burnt Lake	0	

Observation Locations:

1. St. Louis River
2. Lake 1250
3. Eagle River
4. Eagle Lake
5. Gosling Brpok
6. Double Mer
7. The Backway
8. Tub Is. River area
9. Tinker Hrb. area
10. Black Is.
11. Tom Liscomb Brook
12. West Micmac Lake
13. Naskaupi River (rapide)
14. Caribou Lake
15. Snegamook Lake
16. Lobstick Reservoir
17. Baikie Lake

Example



Numbers of Canada Geese by location observed in Labrador during Black Duck aerial surveys 13-17 September 1988.