

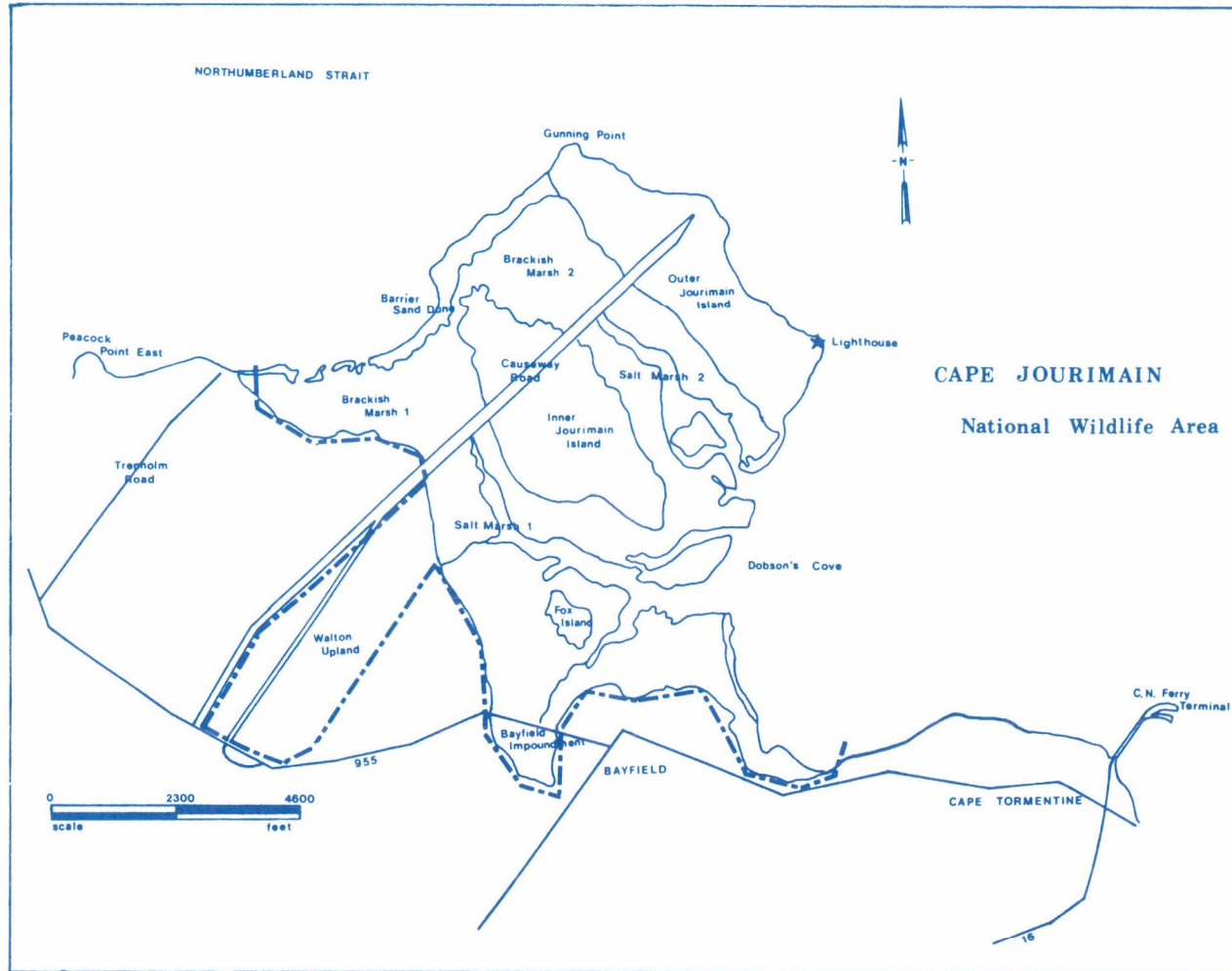


### CANADA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA PROGRAM

Under the National Wildlife Area Program the Canadian Wildlife Service has been acquiring important wildlife habitats since 1966. Today, more than 40 National Wildlife Areas exist across Canada that protect more than 32,000 ha of habitat. The primary thrust of the program has been to preserve wetlands for migratory birds but lands have been acquired for other wildlife. Individuals areas vary in size from a few hundred hectares up to 6000 hectares. Some sites protect breeding and migration habitat while others protect coastal wintering habitat. Habitat types vary from inland freshwater marshes to coastal salt marsh, tidal flats or barrier beach ponds.

Once an area is fully purchased, it is normally managed according to a management plan drawn up in collaboration with biologists working for the province in which the area is located. The management plan recommends development procedures, if necessary, in order to enhance the area's usefulness to wildlife populations. In addition, it defines the number and nature of activities permitted within an area. Generally, activities not related to renewable resources are prohibited unless they have a positive or neutral effect on wildlife or its habitat. Wildlife-oriented activities such as photography, fishing, bird watching, hunting and trapping are usually permitted. All activities are controlled via issuance of permits or posting of notices under the authority of the Wildlife Area Regulation of the Canada Wildlife Act.

National Wildlife Areas are dedicated to our precious wildlife heritage — please use them with utmost care and consideration.

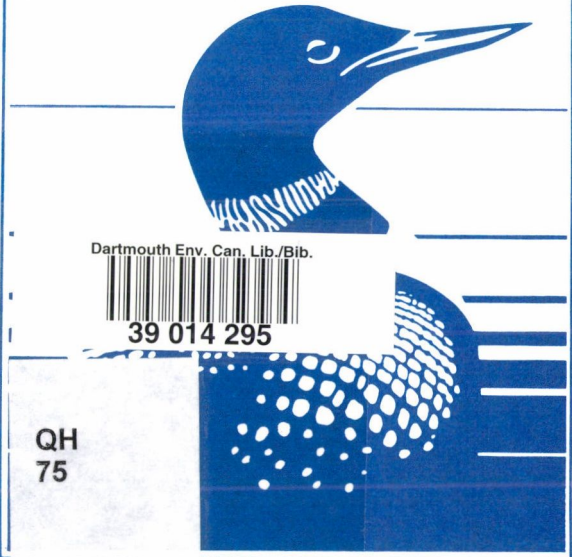


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## CAPE JOURIMAIN

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## CAPE JOURIMAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA

### Location and Description

Cape Jourimain National Wildlife Area borders on the Northumberland Strait at the southeastern extremity of New Brunswick, some eight kilometers northwest of Cape Tormentine. It is owned by the Government of Canada and administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service. It was established as a National Wildlife Area in 1979.

The 640 hectare National Wildlife Area is made up of a complex association of salt marshes, brackish marshes, barrier beach, sand dune and upland (Figure on back leaf). The natural salt marshes on the southeast side of the roadway bisecting the area are vegetated largely by cordgrass, while sago pondweed flourishes in the brackish ponds on the opposite side. Entangled rhizomes and roots of dune grass stabilize the barrier sand dune which in turn holds out the tides from the marshes inside. Most of the upland is covered by grasses, shrubs and stands of young evergreens and successional deciduous species, but there are also two unusual forest types — a stand of red oak and a stand of eastern white cedar which, although small, enhance the ecological interest of the wildlife area.



### History

Many of the present features of Cape Jourimain National Wildlife Area reflect a history of human activity which has been varied and at times intensive. Large coastal marshes like those at Cape Jourimain were especially attractive to early settlers, and when diked to keep out the tidal waters they provided productive pasture and hay land. Diking of the marshes was soon followed by settlement of the two wooded islands that, together with the marshes, from the Cape. A road was then built across the marshes to Inner and Outer Jourimain Islands, and the families that homesteaded there soon converted the woodland to farmland. A lighthouse was erected

on Outer Jourimain Island in 1870 to ward off ocean vessels, but there were also advantages to be gained from the protruding Cape. For several years up to about 1900, the outer island was the mainland terminal for ice boats that were hauled and rowed by six men teams to and from Prince Edward Island, providing a winter communications link with the mainland.

Between 1915 and 1920, the dikes that had stood for nearly 100 years were badly damaged by a series of storms, and when restoration failed seawater once again invaded the marshes. With the dikes gone, access to the islands was difficult, and the people grudgingly had to move. For the next 30 years, there was little activity at the Cape other than some waterfowl hunting, clamming and fishing along the shores.

With the 1960's came a revival of activity at Cape Jourimain. This time instead of horses with drags and men with spades, heavy machines were used. In a relatively short time, prominent road and railway beds cut across the marshes and linked the islands to the mainland. These were to be the approaches to a causeway-bridge linking New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Although the idea went no further than that, the rock-filled roadways remain as important and prominent features of the landscape.

Consequently, and not by design, two large brackish ponds have formed on one side of the road while salt marshes remain on the other. With that change, the value of the area for wildlife increased considerably. Traditional pursuits such as waterfowl hunting intensified with the increased abundance of waterfowl as well as better access. Birdwatchers, naturalists and wildlife photographers soon came to appreciate the importance of the area for its abundance of common as well as not so common wildlife inhabitants. Biological research and surveys have furthered the awareness and appreciation of those values. To ensure that it remains as it now is, the 640 hectares comprising Cape Jourimain have been established as a National Wildlife Area. Perhaps now after some 150 years of changing use and values, the area will experience a long period of stability providing an important service for which it is well suited.

### Wildlife

Waterfowl and shorebirds are the most abundant and conspicuous wildlife inhabitants at Cape Jourimain. Waterfowl are present year round



except for a few months during the winter when the shores and marshes are frozen solid. The Black Duck is the most persistent resident and is present as long as there is open water. It is also the principal nester, preferring the brackish ponds as rearing habitat. Normally Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Blue-winged Teal nest as well, and during other times of the year many more species are present. Small flocks of Canada Geese, present during migration and early winter, prefer the saltmarshes and intertidal flats. Diving ducks including Ring-necked Duck, Scaup, Common Goldeneye and occasionally Redhead frequent the brackish ponds, and sea ducks including Common Eider, scoters, mergansers and Oldsquaw occur primarily in the coastal waters around the cape.

The brackish-salt marsh complex and the shore outside the barrier sand dune attract a diverse group of shorebirds. Some 20 species frequent Cape Jourimain regularly, and 30 species have been observed in recent years. Although small numbers stop briefly during spring migration and a few species remain to breed, the most spectacular concentrations occur when southward-moving birds stop over during mid to late summer. Joining with Willet, Killdeer, Common Snipe and Spotted Sandpiper that breed at Cape Jourimain are regular migrants including Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Least, White-rumped and Pectoral Sandpipers and occasional migrants including Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Phalarope and Golden Plover. Also observed occasionally is the Ruff, a European species.

Great Blue Herons are common summer residents at Cape Jourimain, while other long-legged waders that have visited the marshes in recent years include Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret and Louisiana Heron. Common Terns nest on small raised islands in the marsh, and Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls are year-round residents. Joining

them in late spring are Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls, while Glaucous and Iceland Gulls are regular during the winter months. Black-headed and Little Gulls are occasionally encountered during late summer and fall.

The uplands bordering the marshes are covered largely by old-field vegetation and young growth woodlands which afford habitat for a variety of song birds. Several species nest there, many others stop over during migration and some remain for the winter. Even the lighthouse provides nesting sites for a substantial Cliff Swallow colony.

Ospreys are commonly observed over the marshes during the summer and fall. Marsh Hawks hunt for mice along the dunes and Kestrels hunt the old fields. Rough-legged Hawks and occasionally Snowy Owls replace them during the winter months. Red-shouldered Hawk and Peregrine Falcon have also been observed at Cape Jourimain in recent years.

Mammals are not a conspicuous component of the wildlife at Cape Jourimain although a variety of species inhabit the woodlands, old fields and marshes. Small mammals including voles, mice, shrews, red squirrel and snowshoe hare are the most abundant, but it is not uncommon to observe red fox and occasionally even a bobcat.



### How to get there

Cape Jourimain National Wildlife Area is situated to the immediate northwest of the Canadian National Ferry Terminal at Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick. Cape Tormentine is reached by taking highway 16 at Aulac on the Trans Canada Highway near the New Brunswick-Nova Scotia border. Highway 955, a coastal road leading northwest from Cape Tormentine borders portions of the Wildlife Area's southern boundary and passes through a section of marsh just west of Bayfield. Access to the main portion of the area is gained by turning onto the abandoned causeway approach off highway 955 some five km west of Bayfield.

### For additional information contact:

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Sackville, New Brunswick  
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