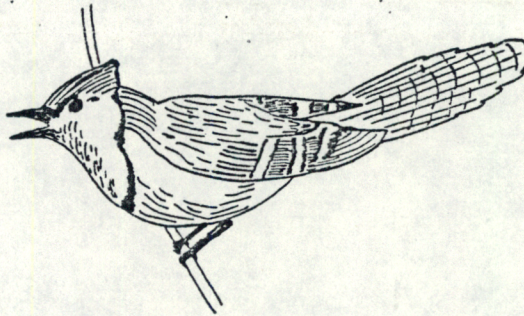


Winter in P.E.I.'s Provincial Parks

To some winter is a time to bundle up and stay close to the warmth of the woodstove or furnace. To others it is a time to escape to warmer climates. But for the luckiest it is a time to dress warmly and to enjoy the outdoors. There is no better method of moving quietly through the woods to observe wildlife, perhaps take some photographs and get some exercise, than on skis. Animals also leave tracks informing you of their presence and you may be able to determine their activities, even if you are not lucky or stealthy enough to see the animal themselves.

To those whose primary goals are exercise and recreation, the groomed cross country ski trails at Brookvale, Mill River and Brudenell Provincial Parks may be of greatest interest. These parks each feature approximately 40 km of groomed trails as well as complete equipment rental. Even on these developed trails you can see tracks of many of P.E.I.'s familiar wildlife. At Brookvale there is also a downhill ski program with all the necessary equipment available for rent as well as a toboggan hill with toboggans available.

For others who are more interested in getting off the beaten path, the "closed parks" may be exactly what you are looking for. During the winter park visitors are rare and you will likely have the whole park to yourself. One note of caution, however, there are no park officials on hand to help you, so please exercise a little more caution than normal. Choose a place to park where it will not be hazardous to you or other oncoming vehicles. It is always wise to carry emergency equipment in the car during winter months. A blanket or two, first aid supplies, extra clothing may be very rewarding in the event of a mishap.



Group Winter Programs

Leaders of various groups may be interested in participating in the self-guided nature trail using the snowshoes available at two provincial parks. These programs which are available at Brudenell and Mill River Provincial Parks, feature a 2 km trail, and are accompanied by marked station stops as well as a booklet discussing what can be viewed from that stop. This program may be of particular interest to teachers as the trails which have been developed are tied in with the science curriculum for grades 4 and 6. For further information on these programs please call Bruce Smith at P.E.I. Provincial Parks 892-7431 ext. 282.