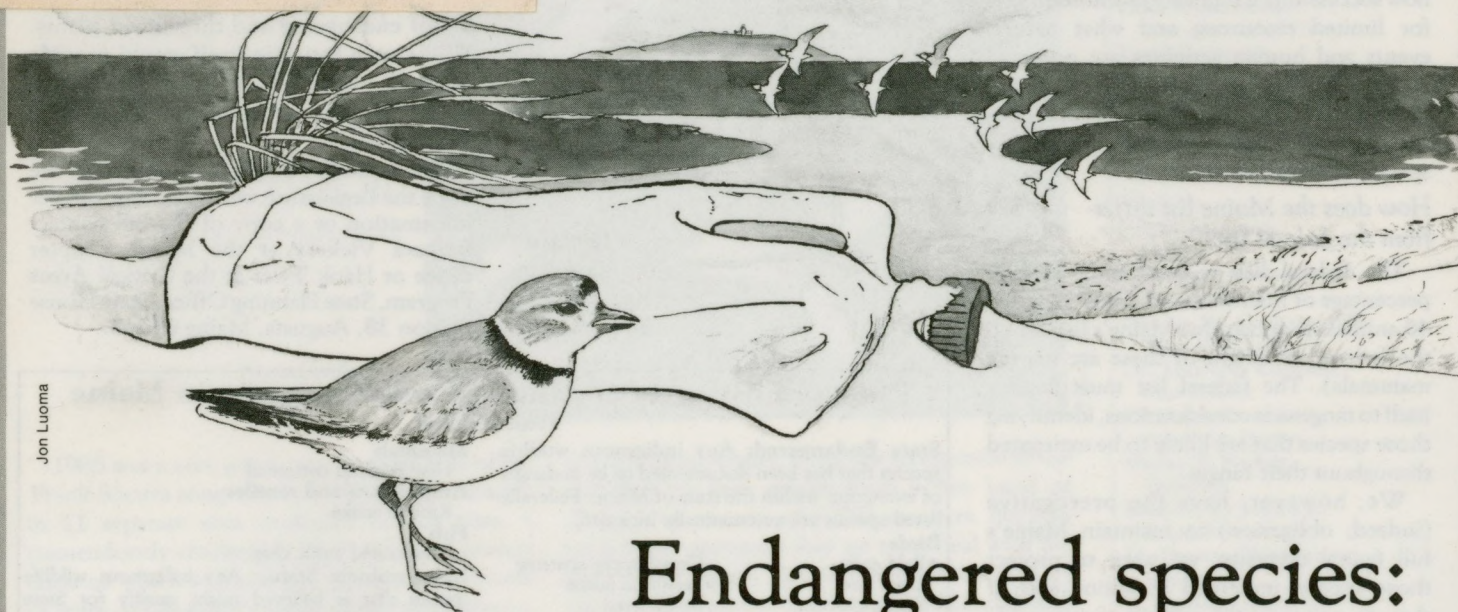


Maine Legacy

The Nature Conservancy

Storehouse



Endangered species: Protecting Maine's most imperiled wildlife

The Maine Endangered Species Act, enacted by the Maine Legislature in 1975, acknowledges that our wildlife—and the ecosystems they inhabit—are valuable for “aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific” reasons. The act concludes that Maine must do whatever is “necessary to maintain and enhance their numbers.”

Only one animal has received formal protection as a state endangered species: the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Until last year, the state simply did not have the scientific information necessary to develop a complete list of Maine's threatened wildlife.

In 1983, the Legislature established the Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund. This fund, created through the Nongame Tax Checkoff and administered by the Nongame Program of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, provides the money necessary to begin accomplishing the charge of the original legislation.

In early 1985, the Nongame Program polled more than 50 specialists in Maine and the region to determine the biological and ecological status of Maine's 400-plus birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. Categories and criteria were established and each species was assessed objectively to determine the category (if any) in which it should be placed.

All this work resulted in proposed lists that were presented at an Endangered Species Workshop in December. (See sidebar.) More than 130 people discussed and commented on the lists.

After a formal public hearing in early 1986, a final ruling made by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will

establish Maine's first comprehensive list of Endangered and Threatened wildlife species.

Rare or endangered?

If, by definition, all endangered species must be rare, are all rare species endangered? Simply put: no.

Rarity is a relative concept. A species can be rare if it has a few individuals occurring in many locations, or many individuals in a few locations. Peripheral or disjunct populations in Maine can be considered rare even though the species may be common elsewhere in the United States.

Further, rarity need not connote an intrinsic inability to compete with other species. A species adapted to a few specialized habitats may coexist quite successfully with other more common species. It can persist, even in small numbers, as long as natural conditions are maintained.

Piping plover (Charadrius melodus) nests at six breeding sites on sandy beaches in southern Maine. According to a Maine Audubon survey, 15 pairs nested in 1985.

to page two

Endangered species

from page one

An endangered species, however, is one that has suffered such severe population declines that it is in danger of becoming extinct. Even abundant species may become endangered from natural or human-induced causes. Endangerment is absolute; the species will disappear unless something is done to alter its current status.

A key to understanding the difference between rare and endangered is a thorough knowledge of a species' biology and ecology. We must know its habitat needs; how successfully it reproduces and competes for limited resources; and what natural events and human activities are potential threats to its security. Then we can distinguish endangered from rare and focus our immediate protective measures on the species that really need them.

How does the Maine list differ from the federal list?

The federal list protects only a small percentage of Maine's fauna. Only 10 of the 46 animals proposed for Maine's list are on the federal list (eight of these are marine mammals). The federal list must restrict itself to rangewide considerations, identifying those species that are likely to be extirpated throughout their ranges.

We, however, have the prerogative (indeed, obligation) to maintain Maine's full faunal diversity; we want to protect those species imperiled in Maine even if they do not meet the criteria of rangewide endangerment. Thus our list more closely reflects the status of Maine's fauna by identifying the species likely to be extirpated within the state.

How does listing help a species?

Foremost, the listing process is a significant step toward a complete understanding of Maine's fauna. State listing will focus research, management and protection dollars on more of Maine's animals than is possible through federal regulations. Official status will help ensure that Maine's most critically endangered wildlife are considered by planning and regulatory groups.

Will plants be protected by the same process?

The legislation enabling the Nongame Program to designate Endangered and Threatened species notably omits plants. Over the last 10 years the Critical Areas Program has developed a reference list of rare plants in the state and documented the status of many of these through statewide inventories. The Heritage Program has likewise developed a working list to establish

protection priorities. However, there is currently no law protecting any species of plant in Maine, nor is there even provision for an official state list of plants meriting protection.

There are two kinds of threats to plants. One is direct exploitation through picking, digging or commercial use. While such actions have caused near extinction of some cacti in Arizona and orchids in Florida, they are not yet a serious problem in Maine. Ironically, in fact, the species in Maine most vulnerable to inappropriate digging are those common enough to attract general attention and are usually not truly endangered or threatened.



Lapland
buttercup
(*Ranunculus
lapponicus*)

A far greater problem is the inadvertent destruction of habitat for rare plants. The surest protection for such areas is land acquisition. However, this is not always possible. An important additional measure of protection comes from the voluntary actions of landowners and through the permitting process of regulatory agencies. Clearly, an official list of state endangered, threatened and special concern plants would facilitate such voluntary protection and consideration by state agencies.

Accordingly, a bill developed by the State Planning Office (SPO) and submitted by Rep. Neil Rolde has been submitted to this legislative session. This legislation would authorize the SPO, working with independent botanists and institutions such as the Heritage Program, to create an official state list of endangered and threatened plants. While such listing in itself would provide no legal protection, it would encourage protection through voluntary cooperative agreements.

This would be a significant first step. We hope the Legislature will agree. For further information or a copy of the bill contact Barbara Vickery at the Maine Chapter office or Hank Tyler at the Critical Areas Program, State Planning Office, State House Station 38, Augusta, Maine 04333.

Proposed listing of endangered wildlife species in Maine

★ Federally listed

State Endangered: Any indigenous wildlife species that has been documented to be in danger of extinction within the state of Maine. Federally listed species are automatically included.

Birds

★ Bald eagle	Grasshopper sparrow
Least tern	★ Peregrine falcon
Piping plover	Sedge wren

Mammals

★ Finback whale	★ Humpback whale
★ Right whale	★ Sei whale
★ Sperm whale	

Amphibians and reptiles

★ Atlantic ridley turtle	Black racer
Box turtle	★ Leather-back turtle

Fish

none recommended

State Threatened: Any indigenous wildlife species that has been documented to be rare or declining within the state of Maine and that is likely to become Endangered in Maine in the foreseeable future. Federally listed species are automatically included.

Birds

★ Golden eagle	Roseate tern
★ Tundra peregrine	

Mammals

Canada lynx
Northern bog lemming

Amphibians and reptiles

Blanding's turtle	★ Loggerhead turtle
Spotted turtle	

Fish

none recommended

Species of Special Concern: Any indigenous wildlife species that could easily become Threatened within the state of Maine because of 1) suffering a noncyclic population decline, or 2) occurs in precariously small numbers, or 3) has a restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirement (as shown by documented evidence).

Birds

Arctic tern	Common tern
Harlequin duck	Water pipit

Mammals

New England cottontail
Amphibians and reptiles
Ribbon snake

Fish

Landlocked arctic char

Indeterminate Status: Any indigenous wildlife species that is believed might qualify for State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern status but about which insufficient data are available. Species in this category warrant further study, inventory or monitoring of population trends.

Birds

Black-crowned night heron	Horned lark
Orchard oriole	Least bittern
	Upland sandpiper

Mammals

Hoary bat	Keen's myotis
Red bat	Silver-haired bat
Southern flying squirrel	Yellow-nosed vole

Amphibians and reptiles

Brown snake	Tremblay's salamander
Wood turtle	

Fish

Redfin pickerel	Swamp darter
-----------------	--------------

State Extirpated: Any native species that has not been recorded in the state in the last 50 years and/or is believed to be extirpated from the state of Maine. Any State Extirpated species that is rediscovered should receive protective measures until sufficient data document the species' new status in Maine.

Birds

Eastern peregrine falcon	Eskimo curlew
Labrador duck	Great auk
Passenger pigeon	Loggerhead shrike

Mammals

Eastern cougar	Grey wolf
Sea mink	Woodland caribou

Amphibians and reptiles

Timber rattlesnake

Fish

none recommended



Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1985

Letter from the chair

*Painted trilliums,
Big Reed Pond*



Thomas Arter photo

1985 was a very good year, in the words of the Frank Sinatra song: nearly 2,200 additional acres in 11 separate sites protected in our state; a tremendously challenging Big Reed Pond project initiated which will eventually protect thousands of acres of old-growth forest in northern Maine; crucial additions to existing preserves such as Crystal and Woodland bogs; and most gratifying of all, the completion of the \$475,000 drive to protect Great Duck Island, home to 30,000 Leach's storm petrels—home indeed to 25 percent of all Maine's nesting pelagic birds.

1985 saw, under John Albright, an escalating Heritage Program, which rediscovered, with the help of professional and amateur naturalists, plants and animals not seen in Maine for over half a century. Board member Malcolm Coulter now heads a newly established committee to work with John as Heritage gains in impact and direction.

And 1985 saw Barbara Vickery at the head of an ever-growing number of enthusiastic volunteers who monitor our 23,000 acres spread over 70 preserves and other lands. Without the countless hours of time contributed by concerned amateurs (literally translated, "lovers") and professionals, The Nature Conservancy would be a hollow reed. For instance, some of Barbara's "army" built a new caretaker cabin on Damariscove Island, and field trips and the Stewardship Workshop brought us together in a spirit of camaraderie and mutual enjoyment of the outdoors.

What about 1986? For starters, this year will be

our 30th anniversary, a year for recognition of the fact that we have grown from a tiny band of "lovers" to an army of 8,250 members. But also we'd better recognize that we must deal with the tightening bands on endangered habitat as population pressures continue to build and as land prices seemingly tie themselves to the tail of Halley's comet.

I had the mind-stretching experience of attending a meeting of The Nature Conservancy's Board of Governors last December; where the talk was of "megasites" (like the 70-mile stretch of barrier islands along the eastern coast of the Delmarva peninsula) and strings of zeroes were added on to every estimate of acres and dollars; where representatives from Mexico, Peru and Venezuela exchanged views with the Conservancy's International Chair, Peter Stroh, on how best to save the winter habitat of our northern songbirds. It was stimulating to once again be caught up by the "can-do" attitude of Conservancy people who dream big but know the hard realities.

One of the realities, as Bill Blair, President of The Nature Conservancy, stated, is that with dwindling federal support for environmental protection, we must enlist even more support for land conservation from the corporate community and other private sources.

That goes for us in Maine, too, and might well be one of our goals for our 30th anniversary year.

Ellen Wells

TRUSTEES

Officers:

Ellen Wells,
Chairman, Falmouth
Alan Hutchinson,
Vice-chairman, Orono
Peter Corcoran,
Vice-chairman, Bar Harbor
William B. (Tony) Owens, M.D.,
Treasurer, Cape Elizabeth
Edward T. Richardson, Jr.,
Secretary, South Portland

Trustees:

Linda Alverson,
Oxbow
G. Robert Butler,
Kennebunk
George W. Cochrane III,
West Southport
Dr. Malcolm Coulter,
East Holden
Elizabeth Donnan,
Northeast Harbor
Sherry F. Huber,
Falmouth
Howard C. Johnson,
South Freeport
M. Thomas Juenemann,
Freeport
A. Bodine Lamont,
Falmouth
Charles Micoeau,
Portland
Peter Mills,
Farmington
T. Ricardo Quesada,
South Freeport
Ralph Robins,
York
Robert Stewart,
Cumberland Foreside
Carol A. Wishcamper,
Freeport
Myron Zimmerman,
Augusta

Maine Chapter
The Nature Conservancy
Post Office Box 338
122 Main Street
Topsham, Maine 04086
Telephone: (207) 729-5181

National Office
The Nature Conservancy
1800 North Kent Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Telephone: (703) 841-5300

LAND PROTECTION:

In 1985 the Maine Chapter completed 11 land protection projects ranging from Kennebunk east to Lubec into the great north woods. These projects included a number of preserve additions which filled out desired boundaries for preserves acquired as part of the Chapter's recent campaigns. Together, these land projects protect nearly 2,200 acres of truly outstanding natural areas.

Below is a synopsis of the Chapter's acquisitions during 1985.

Big Reed Pond

In November the Chapter acquired a five-year lease over 1,700 acres of old-growth forest in northern Maine. The owners of the property, the Pingree heirs, are working with the Conservancy to permanently protect this extraordinary forest—the largest old-growth stand left in New England. The property also includes several undeveloped ponds, including 90-acre Big Reed Pond.

Larrabee Heath

The Chapter acquired, by gift and purchase, three more large parcels to round out the Larrabee Heath Preserve in 1985. Originally acquired as part of the Islands of Life Campaign, and dedicated to the late John Howells of Bucks Harbor, the preserve now stands at 444 acres. The three 1985 additions enlarged the peatland preserve by nearly 50 percent and totaled 142 acres.

Woodland Bog

Another Islands of Life project, Woodland Bog, was expanded by 88 acres with the addition of two key parcels. One parcel, purchased from a local landowner, contains several very rare orchids within its cedar forest community. The second addition is an abandoned railroad bed which runs through the middle of this fragile preserve.



Crystal Bog

Thomas Arter photo

Crumple Island

The Conservancy's ownership in Crumple Island was expanded in 1985 with the acquisition of a 10 percent undivided interest in the entire island.

The dramatic 27-acre headland is home to at least five rare plant species. It is a well-known landmark in downeast waters, lying just south of the Chapter's largest coastal preserve, Great Wass Island.

Long Island

Robert Rimoldi donated the sixth and final section of Long Island to the Conservancy in December. The 17.8-acre addition completes his series of generous annual gifts which have protected this important sanctuary for bald eagles. Long Island is the largest undeveloped island in Cobscook Bay.

Butler Preserve

The Butler Preserve, which protects a half mile stretch of the Kennebunk River, was

further expanded through the generosity of local supporters.

Donald and Ann Buttfeld generously donated two acres of river front woodland, bringing the protected acreage to 14. Jane Butler and G. Robert Butler also made additional gifts of undivided interest in a six-acre section of the preserve. Bob Butler is a longstanding member of the Chapter Board.

Crystal Bog

The Chapter's largest preserve was expanded in November with a 235-acre purchase of the Crystal Bog Fen. Like the original preserve, the addition harbors several nationally significant plant species and is a state registered critical area. Crystal Bog Preserve now totals over 4,000 acres. A fund raising effort is now underway to pay for this important acquisition.

Kent Wommack

John Jensen leaves the Maine Chapter

In August, John Jensen accepted a promotion to Director of Development of the Conservancy's national office.

During John's seven years as Executive Director of the Maine Chapter, 68 land protection projects were completed and membership grew from 1,000 to 8,000. John's persistence and skills as a negotiator and fund raiser played a key role in the Chapter's growth. The Islands of Life and Great Duck Island campaigns are two of the more visible results of his hard work and dedication.

Mason Morfit, former Vice President and Director of Development of the Conservancy, has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Maine Chapter and will

assume his duties in the summer of 1986. In the interim, Kent Wommack will continue as Acting Director.

STAFF

John Jensen, *Executive Director* (to 8/85)
Kent W. Wommack, *Acting Director* (8/85 on)
Barbara S. Vickery, *Stewardship Director*
John J. Albright, *Heritage Program Director*
Amy Osterbrock, *Heritage Program Data Manager-Botanist*
Ruth Ann Hill, *Editor and Production*
Deborah A. Clark, *Administrative Assistant*
Jeanne M. Desjardins, *Secretary*
Barbara P. Clark, *Secretary*
Linda Temple, *Secretary*
Stanwood and Eth Hamblen, *Caretakers, Indian Point-Blagden Preserve*
John T. Beal, *Caretaker, Great Wass Island*



Black guillemot, Great Duck Island

Ed Gamble photo

STEWARDSHIP:

Once again, volunteers played a vital role in the major stewardship accomplishments of the year. A volunteer labor crew, led by Paul Dunn, built a new caretakers' cabin on Damariscove Island. Generous donations from the McEvoy Foundation, Brunswick Coal and Lumber, and several individuals helped significantly with the cost of materials. Another crew of hearty volunteers carried thousands of pounds of cedar over a mile to build a boardwalk on Great Wass Island.

Less obvious, but no less important, were day-to-day maintenance and monitoring by the volunteers who oversee over 110 preserves, easements and transferred properties. We were also fortunate to have help from a fine staff of caretakers and interns.

In 1985, just over 25,000 visitors signed in at the ten preserves with trails and registration boxes, a rise of two percent from previous years. Such numbers could overwhelm the preserves, but the hard work and attention of the Chapter's volunteer stewards, combined with the responsible behavior of most visitors, keep the preserves protected and in good shape.

The fourth annual stewardship workshop, held in Bar Harbor, drew a new combination of participants who enthusiastically discussed management of coastal islands. Field trips provided a chance for members and the public to explore and learn about the special places and diversity of life protected by the Chapter.

Research

Study of Great Duck Island's flora and fauna in the summer of 1985 began with a major natural resource inventory. Prelimi-

nary results have given us a better idea of the numbers and distribution of Leach's storm petrels and helped to identify future management requirements.

New rare plant populations were discovered at Woodland and Crystal bogs and inventories of selected endangered plant populations were repeated. Researchers sponsored by the Small Grants Program probed the mysteries of the blueback char's spawning habits, tested the acidity of fog on Damariscove Island, and expanded an annotated checklist of the fungi of Crystal Bog.

A catalog of research done on Chapter preserves was compiled and published, making this information easily accessible to professional and amateur naturalists.

Long-range planning

Planning for the future was one of the Science and Stewardship Program's most important areas of progress in 1985.

The Maine Chapter is currently responsible for 70 preserves and 47 additional management obligations, including easements, management agreements, leases, restricted transfers and trade lands. If the Chapter continues to protect natural areas at the current rate, by 1990 we will have 20 to 25 more preserves as well as 25 additional legal responsibilities. These new lands are likely to be large, remote and widely scattered—and to have significant species that merit regular attention and may benefit from active management. We also anticipate an expanded role in providing coordination and expertise for monitoring populations of the most endangered species, not only on our own lands, but throughout the state.

In addition, growing pressure for use of the preserves for scientific, educational and recreational purposes will itself require increased monitoring and maintenance.

These changes will make greater demands upon the Stewardship Program's management expertise, administrative capabilities, financial resources, volunteers, and staff. Fortunately, the Chapter's long history of strong support for stewardship is reflected in the program's present solidity. It is clear that we will continue to depend heavily on volunteers for custodial, technical and policy assistance. Nevertheless, long-range projections suggest that rising costs may outstrip annual earnings by 1990.

A long-range stewardship plan is being designed to anticipate the program's changing needs and develop a strategy to ensure that we will continue to have sufficient financial capability to meet those needs.

Barbara Vickery



HERITAGE:

The Natural Heritage Program represents the identification phase of the Chapter's work. The heart of the program is a computerized data base containing site information on occurrences of Maine's rare plants, animals and natural communities—our elements of natural diversity.

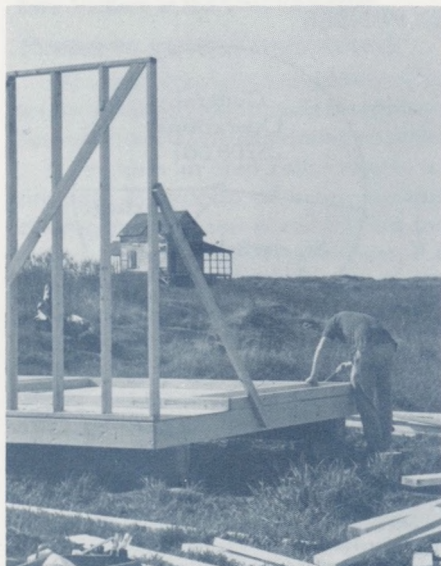
1985 was an exciting year. Researchers made many important new sightings and rediscovered six plants and two animals not seen in Maine for over 30 years. For example, they found the northern bog lemming, perhaps Maine's rarest animal, on Katahdin, just where it had last been seen 83 years ago. They doubled the known Maine population of an endangered orchid, small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*). The Heritage data base now contains over a thousand records.

Maine's endangered species were the subject of much discussion as the state began to develop a list of wildlife most in need of formal protection under Maine's endangered species act. Heritage was instrumental in developing criteria and proposed lists, which were considered at an Endangered Species Workshop jointly sponsored by the Critical Areas Program, the Nongame Program of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Conservancy.

Heritage also was a co-sponsor of the Maine Amphibian and Reptile Project, a network of over 100 volunteers who report their finds, adding much to our limited knowledge of Maine's reclusive amphibians and reptiles.

The Heritage Program depends in part on financial resources from outside the Conservancy and is actively seeking funding from public and private sources which will benefit from the growing information base.

John Albright



Ruth Ann Hill photo

Damariscove Island

FINANCES:

The strong and dedicated support of our membership allowed the Maine Chapter to meet many important goals in 1985, including the protection of 11 natural areas valued at over \$500,000.

The Great Duck Island campaign, launched in November 1984, was finished in the final days of 1985. This campaign attracted support from a higher percentage of our members than any previous effort, and brought many new members into the Chapter. Our membership ranks swelled to over 8,250, a new high.

With the help of Chapter trustees, we were also successful in soliciting several dozen new companies to support our land protection program. We are particularly grateful to count these concerned corporate citizens among our membership.

The Chapter benefitted from memorial funds—both previous and new—which honor individuals who had a particular interest in the protection of the natural world. These funds provide a continuing legacy that supports the Chapter's work throughout Maine.

We were also pleased to welcome 14 new life members, whose gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Chapter's Land Preservation Fund will provide a permanent source of support for operations and land acquisitions.

Thanks to a number of cost-cutting measures, each program—Operations, Stewardship and Heritage—ran significantly under projected costs for the year. The surplus created by these savings will be re-invested to further strengthen our identification, protection and stewardship efforts in 1986.

A special effort was made to keep stewardship costs down, so that stewardship endowments will continue to grow and generate sufficient income to properly care for our growing number of preserves long into the future.

Memorial gifts

Gifts in memory of the following individuals were received in 1985 by the Maine Chapter.

Genevieve Beckwith
Col. Newton G. Bush
Betty W. Davis
Ethel Moyer Dyer
Esther Ewing
Paul G. Favour, Jr.
William S. Grierson
Robert Jones
Arthur Kellam
Norton H. Lamb, Sr.
John C. Lee
Conrad Lindermann
Samuel F. Morse
John R. Newall
Ernest A. Niles

Richard Saltonstall, Jr.
Blanche Simoneau
Peg Lawrence
Kim Peppard
David Stocking

We appreciate this support and extend our sympathies to their families and friends.

Life members

We were pleased to welcome the following life members in 1985.

Anonymous
Mrs. William E.C. Bulkeley
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Davies
Mr. and Mrs. Ray M. Glynn
Peggy Haskel
Mr. Richard A. Larocco
Peter Mills, Esq.
Mr. and Mrs. Chester H. Pease
Robert and Janet Stewart
Marion Stocking
Lloyd and Ellen Wells

We were pleased to welcome the following donors of land, who were granted life membership in recognition of their gifts in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Butfield

Corporate memberships

Annual memberships in the Maine Chapter are available to corporations in four categories: Chapter Associate, \$1,000; Corporate Sponsor, \$500; Corporate Contributor, \$250; Corporate Member, \$100.

National Corporate Associate dues begin at \$1,000 and are split between the national office and appropriate state offices.

National Corporate Associates

L.L. Bean
J.M. Huber

Chapter Associates

Atkinson's Furniture
Diversified Communications, Inc.
Wood Structures, Inc.

Corporate Sponsors

Anonymous
Brunswick Coal and Lumber
Kennebunk Savings Bank
Key Bank
The Knowles Company

Corporate Contributors

Deering Lumber
Hannaford Brothers, Co.
Penobscot County Conservation Association
Peoples Heritage Bank
Ram Management Company
Seven Islands Land Company

Corporate Members

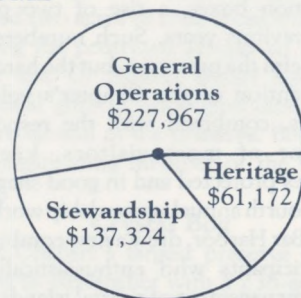
Abnaki Ski & Outing Club
Bubble-Up Car Wash
P.H. Chadbourne & Co.
Deck the Walls
Dionne & Brunette Associates
Eastland Realty
Equinox Schooners
Kittery Trading Post
Michael Mahan Graphics
Morong-Falmouth
New System Laundry, Inc.
Peter Coe Realty
Small Hydro-East
Union Trust Company of Ellsworth
WMGX



Ruth Ann Hill photo

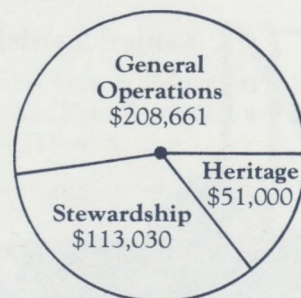
The following charts break down the Chapter's operating income and expenses for 1985, and are estimates derived from preliminary financial reports. They do not include major capital expenditures and land acquisitions. A complete, audited financial report on The Nature Conservancy will be published in the upcoming issue of *The Nature Conservancy News*.

INCOME



Annual appeal	30%
Membership dues	20%
Land protection fund	17%
National office subsidy	14%
Miscellaneous	7%
Stewardship endowments	4%
Foundation grants	3%
Operating reserve account	3%
Contracts	2%

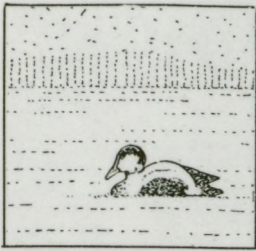
EXPENSES



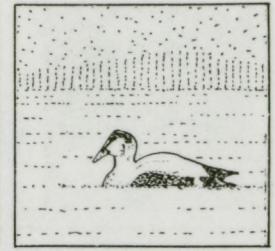
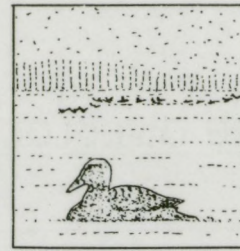
General operations	55%
Stewardship	31%
Heritage and identification	14%

Numerous cost-saving measures allowed the Chapter to meet the Board's goal of generating an operating surplus in 1985. This will be added to the Stewardship Endowment and Operating Reserve Account to help keep pace with inflation and provide for increasing costs associated with our landholdings and Heritage Program.

Kent Wommack



in the news



Congratulations

Thomas Cabot of Weston, Massachusetts, Chairman Emeritus of the Cabot Corporation, was recently awarded the President's Public Service Award of The Nature Conservancy. This award was created to recognize some of the most noteworthy contributors to the Conservancy's activities.

Mr. Cabot has had a long and varied association with the Conservancy. He generously donated the Cross Island Archipelago, consisting of seven islands in Machias Bay. These islands provide habitat for 40 percent of the country's razorbill auks and are home to bald eagles and eider ducks. He has also been an active member of the Conservancy's Corporate Relations Committee.

Many happy returns

Congratulations, monitors! You achieved a 96 percent rate of return for 70 preserves, 25 easements and 24 transfers. This is truly a remarkable success for such a far-flung volunteer network. Thanks!

Summer internships

The following positions are available for the coming summer:

- Damariscove Island Caretaker/Naturalists (two part-time)
- Douglas Mountain Caretaker (part-time)
- Stewardship Assistant

Deadline for applications is March 7, 1986. For more information, contact Barbara Vickery at the Chapter Office.

Preserve guides published

The Great Wass Island preserve brochure is now published. A gift made in memory of Samuel Morse made its printing possible.

A brochure for Step Falls Preserve is in progress. A product of many volunteer efforts, it will be sponsored by four local corporations: Small Hydro-East, P.H. Chadbourne Lumber Company, Sunday River Inn and Ski Touring Center, and Sunday River Ski Area.

New trustees sought

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees is seeking suggestions identifying people who would be interested in serving on the Chapter Board. Trustees are responsible for overall management of the Chapter, and help oversee Chapter finances, acquisitions, stewardship, publicity, and fund

raising. Representatives from throughout the state and with a variety of scientific, academic, professional, or business interests are desired.

Any member wishing to nominate a potential trustee should write to Mr. Robert Stewart, Nominating Committee Chairman, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 338, Topsham, Maine 04086. All suggestions must be received by March 20 to be considered.

The Landowner's Options

The third edition of *The Landowner's Options* is now available. Produced as a cooperative effort of the Critical Areas Program, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Nature Conservancy, this 37-page book describes alternatives for voluntary land protection in Maine.

Landowners interested in receiving a copy of this helpful manual should write the Chapter office for a free copy.



A brilliant deduction

Don't forget to make your tax-deductible contribution to the Maine Nongame Fund by using the checkoff on the Maine income tax form. Donations are the program's sole support.

Endangered species course

Maine Audubon Society is offering a mini-course that will examine the causes and consequences of our vanishing wildlife by focusing on the history, status and future of Maine's endangered and threatened plants and animals.

Course title: Maine's Endangered Species

Instructors: John Albright and Barbara Vickery

Dates: Thursdays (Feb. 22, March 6 and 13), 7 to 9:15 p.m.

Also, Sunday (March 16), 2 to 3 p.m.
—showing of TNC's new film *Garden of Eden*

Location: Maine Audubon, Gilsland Farm, Falmouth

Cost: \$24 for members of The Nature Conservancy or Maine Audubon

For more information, call or write Carol LeMere, Maine Audubon Society, 118 U.S. Route One, Falmouth, Maine 04105; telephone: 781-2330.

Memorial gifts

Gifts in memory of the following individuals have been received by the Maine Chapter:

Ethel Moyer Dyer
Paul Favour
Norton Lamb, Sr.
Samuel Morse
Major Thomas Nickerson
Richard Saltonstall, Jr.
Maud Stinson

We appreciate this memorial support and extend our sympathies to their families and friends.

New life members

Any gift of \$1,000 or more to the Maine Chapter Land Preservation Fund provides a life membership for the donor and spouse in the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. All such gifts provide a long-term source of support to help save land here in Maine.

We are pleased to welcome as new life members:

Peggy I. Haskell
Janet and Robert Stewart
Marion Stocking
Ellen and Lloyd Wells

Corporate memberships

We are pleased to have received support from the following companies and welcome them as Corporate Supporters of the Maine Chapter.

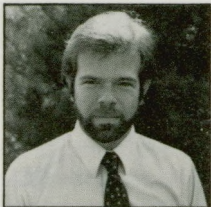
P.H. Chadbourne & Co.
Deering Lumber Co.
Dionne & Brunnette Associates
Diversified Communications
Michael Mahan Graphics
New System Laundry, Inc.
Ram Management Co., Inc.
Small Hydro-East

Maine Legacy

Volume 11, Number 1

Published six times yearly by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 122 Main Street, Post Office Box 338, Topsham, Maine 04086; telephone (207) 729-5181.

Subscriptions to this newsletter are available to members. Membership dues are as follows: Life, \$1,000 (one-time); Acorn, \$100; Supporting, \$50; Contributing, \$25; Family, \$15; Subscribing, \$10.



the director's corner

by Kent Wommack, acting executive director

The year was 1956. Rachel Carson, a respected scientist and author, was beginning research on a new book called *Silent Spring*. In spite of her many obligations, she met with other dedicated conservationists who wanted to start a local chapter of a land protection organization known as The Nature Conservancy. Convinced of the importance of "doing something practical about preserving [wildlife habitats]," Carson agreed to be the Maine Chapter's first honorary chairman.

This year we celebrate the Maine Chapter's 30th anniversary. Much has happened in the last three decades that would please Rachel Carson. Her warnings in *Silent Spring* about pesticide poisoning—which were initially denounced by many scientists—have been vindicated by the banning of DDT and increasingly cautious use of other pesticides. And the Maine Chapter, which she served as honorary chairman until her death in 1964, has blossomed into Maine's largest and most active land conservation organization.

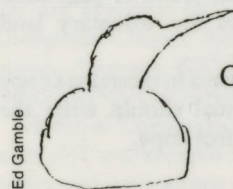
In the last 30 years, the Chapter has acquired over 23,000 acres of natural lands—habitats for bald eagles and seabirds, rare plants and old-growth forests. But, as Carson knew so well, truly protecting our natural heritage means continuous research and management, too.

Over the years, the Conservancy has gathered considerable knowledge about the biology and stewardship of rare and endangered species. Scientific research is often slow, painstaking and expensive, but the cost of poor information is high and can

mean the loss of a species or the unraveling of a natural system.

Even doing something as basic as preserving land by acquiring it requires solid information. Which sites provide critical habitat for the most threatened species? How much land must be protected to ensure their survival? How should we manage the land to enhance their recovery?

Our 30th anniversary is a time to proudly celebrate the Maine Chapter's accomplishments. It is also a time to rededicate ourselves to the mission and spirit of Rachel Carson—whose pursuit of scientific truth and eloquent commitment to the earth and all life saved more of our natural world than she would ever know.



Ed Gamble

Great Duck Island:

Thank you

In just over a year, Maine Chapter members raised the \$475,000 needed to acquire and protect Great Duck Island. Several loyal Chapter supporters showed strong, early commitment to the project by making exceptional leadership gifts. Hundreds of donors are now the proud owners of Leach's storm petrel burrows on the island.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous and prompt response of Chapter members that made the campaign to save Great Duck such a resounding success.



Thomas Arter photo

Big Reed

Big Reed Pond

In November, Pingree Associates gave The Nature Conservancy a five-year lease on 1,700 acres of old-growth forest in northern Maine. This tract surrounds undeveloped Big Reed Pond and is part of the largest known old-growth forest in New England.

The Conservancy and Pingree Associates are working out the details of a plan that will ensure the long-term protection of this extraordinary forest preserve. Thousands of acres of pristine forest may ultimately be saved, making this project one of the largest ever undertaken by the Chapter.

Notice to aviators

In cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, the grass airstrip on Great Duck Island has been officially closed and blocked to prevent all but emergency landings.

It's that time of year again

Remember, all donations to The Nature Conservancy made in 1985 are deductible on this year's income tax returns.



Drawing by Ziegler, © 1983, The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.



MAINE CHAPTER
Post Office Box 338
122 Main Street
Topsham, Maine 04086

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
The Nature Conservancy
Maine Chapter

0219294V-4B-014-02/86
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
STATE HOUSE STA #64
AUGUSTA, ME 04333

Annual report enclosed

Address correction requested.