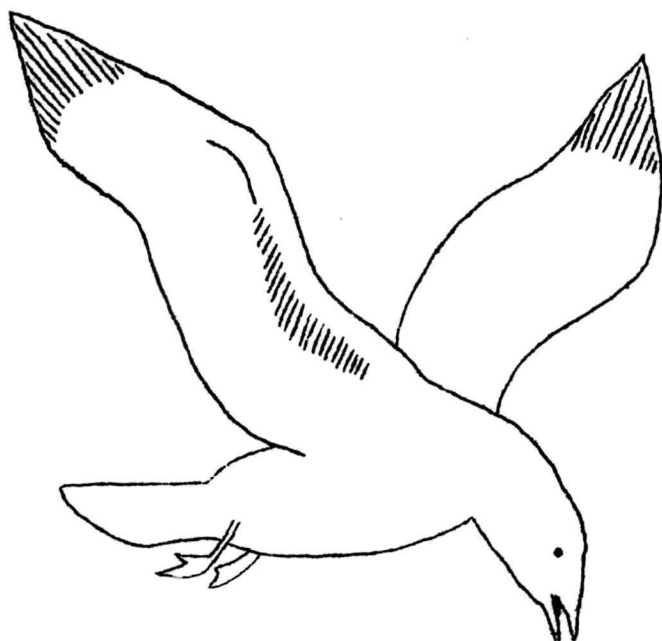


NATURE NOTES FROM ACADIA

VOL. 1

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JULY, 1932



ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

BAR HARBOR, MAINE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

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Volume 1

July, 1932

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George B. Dorr, Superintendent
B. L. Hadley, Chief Ranger
Arthur Stupka, Ranger Naturalist, Editor

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FOREWORD

Along with the inauguration of ranger-naturalist services at Acadia National Park, Nature Notes from Acadia makes its first appearance with this July issue of 1932. It is hoped that it may serve the same good purpose as served by similar publications in other National Parks.

Acadia, formerly Lafayette, joined the ranks of the National Parks in 1919. It lies off the rock-bound coast of Maine on Mount Desert Island, and has the distinction of being the first of the National Parks created in the eastern United States. It is famous for the beauty of its range of granitic mountains which cut through this roughly circular island in a northeast-southwest direction, for its numerous small lakes, and for its interesting types of natural vegetation. But most of all, perhaps, it is famed for its contact with the ocean along a rocky shore of great beauty.

So worthwhile are the Nature Notes of the western National Parks to those of us in the east who wish to become better informed as to their various forms of wild life, time of flowering of the wild plants, and other interesting natural phenomena, that it is hoped Acadia Nature Notes can be of similar interest, especially to the staffs of those longer-established western parks who have been pioneers, more or less, in this venture.

Since at present the ranger-naturalist services in Acadia are in charge of a temporary ranger-naturalist, this publication will be issued only during the summer months.

- Ranger Naturalist

SOME FLOWERS BLOSSOMING IN JULY ON THE
SUMMIT OF CADILLAC MOUNTAIN

Since Cadillac Mountain, the highest mountain on the Atlantic coast in this country, rises but 1527 feet above sea level, not many plants could be expected on the summit which are not also found in the lower regions. In fact, all plants mentioned here cannot be considered as rare in the lowlands. Frequent fogs which envelope the summit of this and other mountains on the island are partly responsible for homologizing the lowland and upland vegetation.

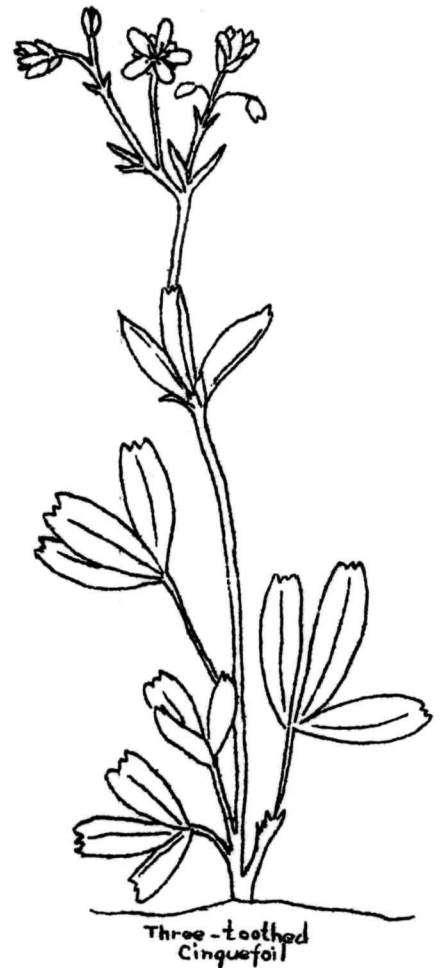
The American Meadow Sweet (*Spiraea latifolia*) and the Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*) are the commonest of July flowering shrubs. The Laurel belongs to early July while the Meadow Sweet tends to be more in evidence later in the month. The Pasture Rose (*Rosa virginiana*) is the only other conspicuous flowering shrub.

Perhaps the most common herb is the white-flowered Three-toothed Cinquefoil (*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*) which grows in so many of the rock crevices. The accompanying illustration shows the average size and usual habit of growth. In the more moist rock pockets where mosses have made fair growth the Mountain Sandwort (*Arenaria groenlandica*) blooms continuously, a veritable gem of a plant with its upturned bell-shaped creamy-white bloom.

Patches of the Small Cranberry (*Oxycoccus oxycoccus*) are to be found in blossom during July. Other bog plants are not uncommon on or near the summit.

Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), is to be found, but never in large patches. A few deep pink-flowered plants have been seen. Other flowering plants include the Bunchberry (*Chamaepericlymenum canadense*), Whorled Loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*), Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Red Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), and the Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*).

- Margaret Stupka



FISHING IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

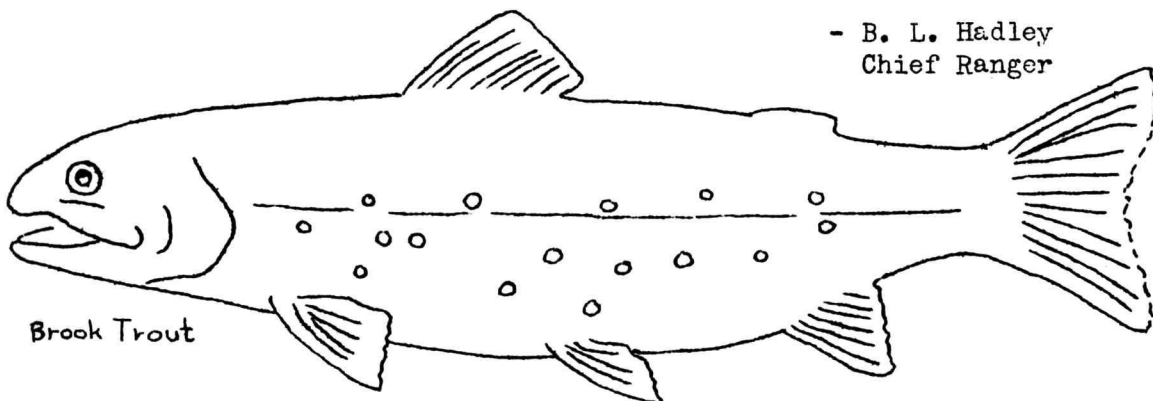
Maine has long been synonymous with fishing. For years the state has been looked upon as one of the finest of fishing areas in the eastern states. And justly has this been so since the waters of the inland regions have been and still are natural breeding grounds for fish.

Of late, with the common use of the automobile and the ever-increasing emphasis given to out-of-doors recreation, the state has been the object of extra fishing activity. Recognizing this, the state government has built up a system of fish hatcheries whose annual production augments very considerably the natural fish reproduction, and without which the game fish supply would by now have become exhausted.

Acadia boasts of several fine fishing lakes. The deep cold waters of Eagle Lake, Jordan Pond, Bubble Pond, the two Hadlock Ponds, Echo Lake, and Long Pond are natural fishing grounds. Since 1920 an annual stocking program has been in operation, the results of which are now becoming apparent. All ponds except Long Pond receive only the Eastern Brook Trout. Long Pond receives, in addition, the well known Land-locked Salmon.

The park receives its stock from nearby fish hatcheries and from the Federal Hatchery at Orland, Maine. Until 1928, it was customary to plant fry in the spring and larger fish in the fall. Now, however, only fish of fingerling size or larger are planted, and the results are much better.

But Acadia has yet another kind of fishing which is even more popular than the salmon or trout fishing. The sea which this park contacts offers a great sport to the fishing enthusiast and a catch much more certain than is the case with freshwater fishing. The rocky shore of the ocean-fronting parkland is a favorite resort of salt-water fishermen. Here they gather daily for such prey as rock cod, cunners, and flounders, not to mention the tomcod, sculpins, crabs and starfishes. In the open ocean haddock, hake, sea pollock and others are usually added to the catch.



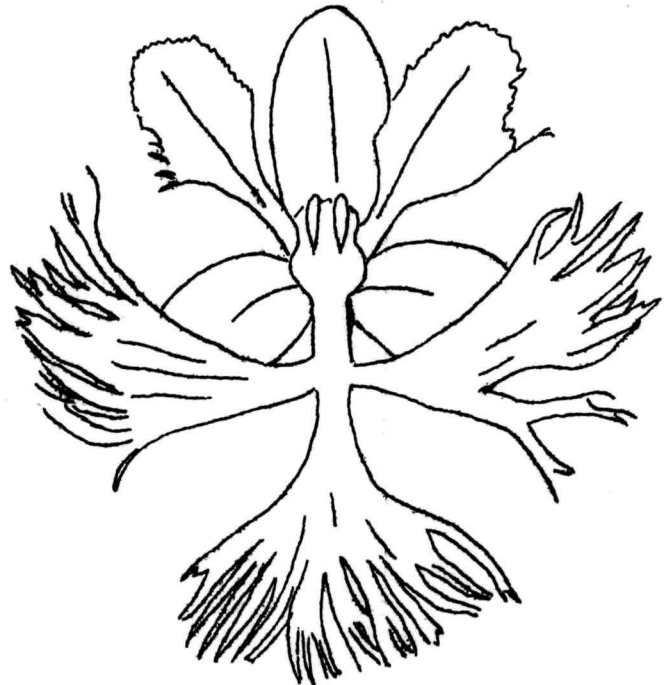
Brook Trout

- B. L. Hadley
Chief Ranger

CONCERNING ORCHIDS

We came upon it along the margin of the Tarn - a flower aristocrat, the Tall Purple Fringed Orchid. Noblest of all the fringed orchids, this species, *Habenaria grandiflora*, has been known to grow five feet high, although three feet is close to the average height. The delicate lavender flowers with their beautiful fringed lips fluttered in the breeze which rippled the surface of the Tarn, and as we gathered close about this floral gem the fragrance of its blooms was borne to us. Round about it were arched the fronds of tall-growing ferns which grew luxuriantly in this shaded retreat, while overhead a red-eyed vireo, the preacher of the woods, kept up his questions and answers. All these and others made up the habitat wherein our flower-prize grew. No one asked, "May I pick it to take home?", for all seemed to know that its home was here with the tall graceful ferns and with the vireo. To find such a gem was reward enough. What folly it would have been to pick it and to watch it die slowly on our hands!

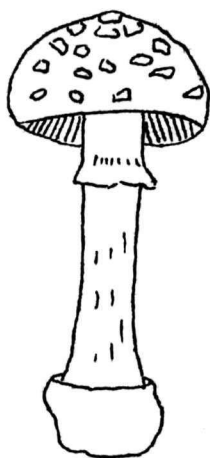
The Tall Purple Fringed Orchid is not exceedingly scarce on Mount Desert Island. In fact, as far as orchids go, it is a fairly common flower. But how few are its numbers as compared to what they might be on an island which furnishes so many ideal conditions for its growth! Luckily this flower is sometimes overlooked by vandals who mistake it for the abundant fireweed, but all too frequently it is pulled up and soon forgotten. Like its cousins, the lady-slipper orchids, it dies in some unattractive vase with others of its kind - no longer beautiful. Just because it is more rare and more lovely than the ferns with which it grew and because it is so much more approachable than the vireo, the orchid, like other lovely things in nature, pays the penalty of being too beautiful. Few acts of vandalism are more disgusting to him who truly loves the wild things than this careless picking of rare flowers.



Tall Purple Fringed Orchid

Some states protect their disappearing wildflowers by laws. This is a step in the right direction. But is it not better to protect them with understanding? When you pick an orchid you kill more than just the one lovely bloom - you forever destroy whatever chance it has to form its seed pods, ripen its seeds, and later give birth to others of its kind. That should give one something to think about. Love them - but leave them where they are.

- Ranger Naturalist



Fly Agaric
Poisonous

The Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) which is one of the most poisonous of mushrooms, has been found a number of times and seems to be common. The center of the white or yellow spotted cap is orange-red in color fading to yellowish toward the outer edge. Its warning signals are the basal cup and the ring on the stem.

One edible mushroom, the Nut-brown Collybia (*Collybia dryophila*) has been found rather frequently in mixed forests. Certain species of *Russula* and *Boletus* are common but these are seldom found in perfect condition since slugs, various insects, and some of the smaller rodents seem to feed upon them soon after they appear above ground.

In mid-June a party of four, guided by the Chief Ranger, visited the nest of the Bald Eagle which overlooks Frenchman's Bay in the southeast corner of Mount Desert Island. Upon climbing into the crown of a nearby tree an excellent view of the large nest containing a lone young occupant was had. The white-headed adult flew over as we approached the nest but made no attempt to come close. The nestling, almost fully fledged, appeared quite undisturbed by our espionage.

No remains of food of any kind could be seen in the nest. On the ground below, however, the skull of one crow and the skull, body bones, and wing feathers of one Herring Gull were found. The nest, made up of dead tree-limbs of varying length and diameter, is saddled in a tall red oak about 50 feet from the ground. So heavily wooded is the immediate vicinity that one unacquainted with the exact location of the structure would have more or less difficulty in finding it.

THE ACORN SHELL



Barnacles on a bivalve

Incrusting the rocks along much of the ocean front of Mount Desert Island lives the Acorn-shell or barnacle, an odd kind of marine crustacean. In places the rocks which meet the beating surf support so dense a coating of these animals that their aggregate resembles some enormous gray plasmodium creeping out of the sea and sending its arms wherever the spray dictates. The tide pools often contain lesser numbers of individuals and it is here that these animals in their little crater-like dwellings can be studied to best advantage. The stretch of rock-bound seashore between the Sand Beach and Otter Cliff, an area within the boundaries of Acadia National Park and only a short distance from Bar Harbor, is an excellent region wherein one can find the interesting Acorn-shell at home.

Until about a century ago the barnacle was believed to be a kind of mollusk - a sort of cousin to the clam and the oyster. After its unique life-history had been studied, however, it came to be classed with the crustacea or crab-like animals, a group to which it really belongs.

Upon hatching from the egg the young barnacle, called a nauplius, is free-swimming and bears no resemblance to the adult. In size it is almost microscopic. After swimming about and undergoing several moults it attaches itself by means of modified antennae to some rock or other object which becomes its permanent home. The barnacle then undergoes a metamorphosis during which time it attains its curled plume-like legs and a new shell. No food is taken in during this period of transformation to the adult form. Later its food consists of such minute animals as teem in the sea water. These are drawn into the mouth by a current created by a motion of the plume-like legs. Huxley described a barnacle as "a crustacean fixed by its head and kicking the food into its mouth by its legs."

This animal is sometimes called the "sea-acorn." The calcareous little crater is made up of six plates while the lid consists of four plates. In places they cover the rocks to high water mark in such profusion that one can readily understand that existence of the individuals is governed to a large extent by the availability of a suitable anchorage place. Attaching themselves as they do to sailing vessels, the barnacles become of economic significance. A few years ago it was estimated that these animals result in a total waste of about one hundred million dollars a year to shipping interests. Most of this amount was for such quantities of additional fuel as were needed in order to offset the retarding influence of the vessels' greater or less coating of barnacles.

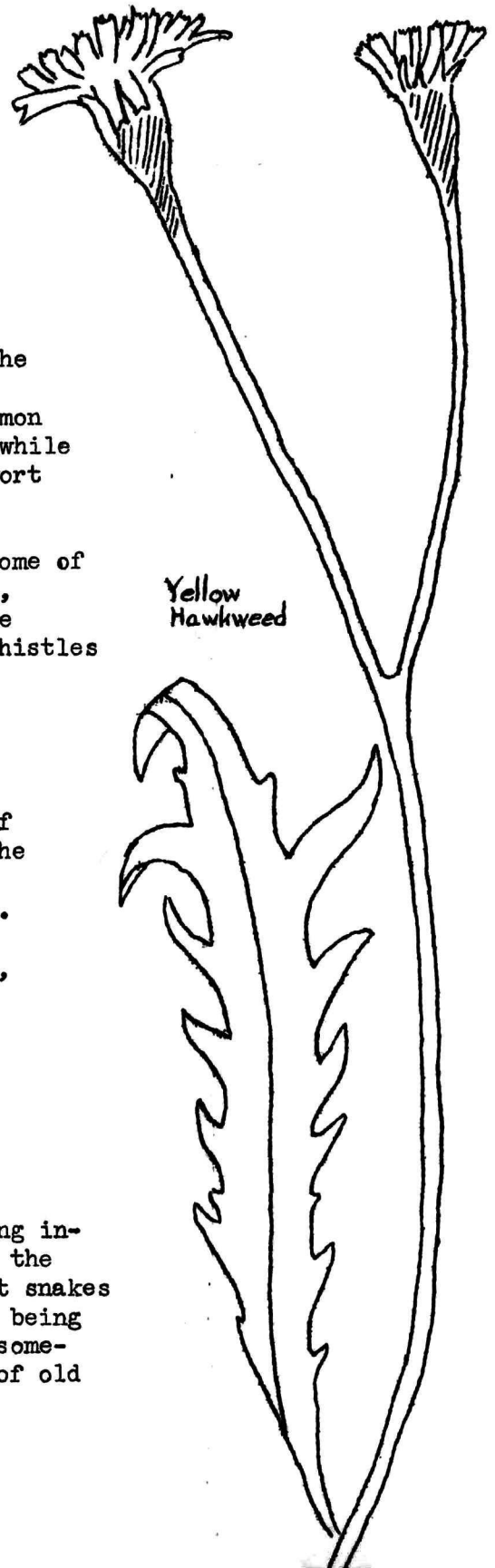
Throughout the month of July, yellow is probably the dominating wildflower color on Mount Desert Island. St. John's Wort, Evening Primrose, Buttercups, Yellow Hawkweed, and early Goldenrods grow in profusion along the roadsides while Swamp Candles, Sundrops, Whorled Loosestrife, Yellow Pond Lily, Bladderwort, and others are to be found in localized habitats.

White seems to be second only to yellow as the most conspicuous of July flower colors. Daisies, Meadow Sweet, Meadow Rue, Pearly Everlasting, Common Elder, and Three-toothed Cinquefoil are abundant while Yarrow, Shin Leaf, Arrow Leaf, and Mountain Sandwort add their bit to the white floral display.

Pink, lavender, and purple flowers include some of the most beautiful of July wild plants. Fireweed, Wild Roses, Sheep Laurel, Purple Loosestrife, Rose Pogonia, Steeplebush, Purple-fringed Orchid and Thistles are in full bloom during the month.

Those who have climbed to the rocky summit of The Flying Squadron during July must have heard the singing of White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, and Northern Yellowthroats while on this mountain top. The wheezy high-pitched notes of Cedar Waxwings are also to be expected there. The Hermit Thrush, without much doubt our finest wild songster, is often heard far down on the mountain side. Since July is so lacking in bird songs the above few are doubly welcome.

A number of common Garter Snakes, mostly young individuals, have been seen in the park. These and the Milk Snakes appear to be the largest and commonest snakes here. The Grass Snake and the Red-bellied Snake, being more secretive in habit, are seldom seen but are sometimes found under stones, boards, and loose bark of old fallen trees.



DEEP SEA FISHING POPULAR AT ACADIA

Fishing for Cod, Haddock, Hake, and other marine fishes has become a popular weekly ranger-guided activity at Acadia National Park. Parties, which so far have averaged 13 people, leave the Public Boat Landing at 6 o'clock in the morning and are scheduled to return at noon. Allowing for an hour to and from the place of fishing, this leaves fully four hours for deep sea sport. A charge of \$1.50 per person is made for hire of fishing boats.

So far the parties have returned with excellent catches, averaging approximately 30 pounds of fish per individual. The open ocean south of Egg Rock, off the southeastern corner of the island, has been the fishing spot selected by Park-ranger Charles T. Gay, who is in charge of this activity.

The first group, totalling 15 persons, went out in two boats on July 12 and returned with approximately 450 pounds of fish. More than 80 Cod and about 45 Haddock were landed. A lone Catfish, weighing 30 pounds, proved to be the largest fish caught and fell to one of the ladies in the party. A few Hake and Sea Pollock and one Flounder were also pulled in.

Cod and Haddock continued to be the fish most frequently landed by subsequent parties. A Cunner and a large Eel have swelled the number of species to 8.

Cases of sea-sickness on these trips are infrequent and many who previously have never been on the ocean return with no ill-effects. So enthusiastic have the fishing parties become that this new activity promises to be very popular, especially with the fishermen-tourists.