



The pelican, first sighted on Black Pond on Tuesday morning, was still there Wednesday. (Courtesy of Waldron Leard/CBC)

CBC . CA News - Full Story :
Pelican sighting in P.E.I. a rare treat
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CBC News

Pelican sightings are so rare in P.E.I. that when Wade MacKinnon got a call this week about a pelican near Souris, he thought it was a prank.

It wasn't.

The provincial conservation officer went to check the report Tuesday morning from a woman about an injured pelican on Black Pond and found a healthy —and impressive — bird.

He said the pelican, with its three-metre wing span, large bill and black wing bars, is very difficult to mistake.

"He wasn't injured," MacKinnon said. "I got about 100 metres from the bird and he flew off and soared over me for about 10 minutes and then sailed off to the west. It was soaring above me and it was quite impressive."

Waldron Leard, a resident of Kingsboro not far from Black Pond, saw the bird on the pond Wednesday morning.

"This thing this morning was something majestic," Leard said. "I never, ever dreamed of seeing something like this in my life."

Leard said he did find a long-dead pelican washed up on a P.E.I. beach in 1987, and he has seen them in Florida, but described this sighting as very special.

There have been sightings of a pelican in Maine and New Brunswick. New Brunswick naturalist David Christie believes this is the same bird.

Christie said the bird is normally found in western North America and nests on the Prairies. He believes the pelican was sent off course by unusual weather, and may end up in northern Cape Breton or the Magdalen Islands next.

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