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Feb 1967

Visitors welcome!

March Meeting

Visitors welcome!

Monday, March 6th, 1967 at 8.15 p.m.
at the
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Speaker: WILLIAM ADDISON

Subject: A NATURALIST'S TOUR THROUGH THE SOUTH NAHANNI VALLEY, N.W.T.
Illustrated with colour slides.

Mr. Addison, who is currently with the Research Branch, Ontario Dept. of Lands & Forests, at Maple, will discuss this interesting but not well known area where arctic and southern species of flora and fauna overlap.

A special rotunda display is being planned.

Outings

Sunday HIGH PARK - Birds Leader: Mr. Herb Elliott
March 19 Meet at the entrance to High Park, at Bloor St. W. and High Park Ave.
9.30 a.m. Morning only.

Saturday LONG POINT - Birds Leaders: Mr. E. Damude & Mr. J. Woodford
April 1 A bus will be chartered for this outing; the fare is \$5.00. The bus will
8.00 & leave the terminal at Bay & Dundas at 8.00 a.m. with no further stops for
10.30 a.m. passenger pick-up. It should arrive back in Toronto around 5.30 p.m.
Members wishing to go by bus must reserve seats by phoning Mrs. Eve Damude,
694-9007, March 21 - 30. Drivers, go west from Port Rowan to Hwy. 59,
south on causeway to bridge. Outing will start when bus arrives, around
10.30 a.m. Bring lunch.

BOTANY Meet on Thursday, March 16th, at 8.00 p.m. at Hodgson School, on
GROUP Davisville Ave. just east of Mt. Pleasant. Parking entrance from Millwood
Rd., one block north. Five excellent films will be shown. All TFNC
members are welcome to attend.

Chairman, Miss Edith Cosens (481-5013)

BIRD Meet on Monday, March 20th, at 8.00 p.m. at St. James-Bond United Church,
STUDY on the west side of Avenue Rd., two blocks north of Eglinton. All TFNC
GROUP members welcome.

Secretary, Mr. Gerald McKeating (293-8643)

JUNIOR Meet on Saturday, March 4th, at 10.00 a.m. in the Museum theatre.
CLUB Programme presented by the Insect Group. Adult visitors welcome.

Director - Mr. Robt. MacLellan (488-9346)

The 1966 issue of the Ontario Field Biologist can be obtained by sending 50¢ to
Mr. Donald E. Burton, 4 Donna Court, Willowdale.

WILD RIVERS OF NORTH AMERICA...Don't miss this Audubon film to be presented in person
by the photographer, John D. Bulger, at Eaton Auditorium on March 14th. Tell your
friends. Every ticket sold now puts \$2.00 into the TFN treasury as expenses were
covered by the sale of series tickets last fall. Eaton's box office opens March 4th.

President - Dr. Peter Peach

Secretary - Mrs. H. C. Robson,
49 Craighurst Ave.,
Toronto 12(481-0260)



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February 1967

Of Wet and Wilderness

It is a pleasant day, in summer, July 40th, 2067, as we soar over the Skyway in our magneto-gravity car to visit the Temple of Nature at Long Point. There in the large viewing room we gaze out through the thermal screen at a small expanse of dull brown water dotted sporadically with cattails and lined with anaemic looking sedges. The talking machine has turned on as we enter:

"Through the thermal screen you see the last remaining marsh in Ontario. It is being preserved as an historical curiosity--a tiny sample of a type of habitat once very common throughout the province. Over the past 100 years your government and its enterprising people have eliminated 1,653,000 acres of this undesirable habitat and replaced it with superharbours, superdumps and superapartments for our burgeoning millions. Of course this has inevitably resulted in the extinction of numerous forms of wildlife which inhabited these marshes and if you will turn to the gallery on the right you will see one of the finest collections of . . ."

Enough! Must this be?? Is there no hope--no better future for our wetlands and our wilderness?!

Yes--there is still hope. There is still a Long Point and a Coote's Paradise and a Bruce Trail. It is only January, 1967 and still time to preserve, to defend the wet and the wilderness that remain. But for many of our local marshes time has run out; for their preservation there is little hope.

One day last month as I was gloomily flipping the pages of The Financial Post and calculating my losses I came across a special section on Oshawa. One page exulted over a new harbour; one paragraph mentioned the filling in of the Second Marsh. Yes it's true--the Oshawa City Council with only one dissenting vote have decided to turn over the Second Marsh for harbour enlargement. Despite the fact that three of the incumbent councillors campaigned on a theme of conservation and preservation--but that was before the elections! According to some, the harbour expansion

will not be justified on economic grounds. Certainly the destruction of the 184-acre marsh will mean the loss of another important wildlife and recreational area-- a place where the little gull once nested and where the third highest total of ducks in North America were banded last year.

The Oshawa Naturalists are fighting back with their last weapon--a petition-- but hope is dwindling.

The good people of Oshawa (and Toronto too--we're no better!) would do well to listen to Mr. Raymond F. Dasmann, senior associate of the Conservation Foundation in Washington, D.C. In an article entitled "Green space going, going . . . !" (Sept. 26, 1966 in the excellent Christian Science Monitor series, "Call of the Vanishing Wild"), he says:

"Government support is needed for these forms of public outdoor recreation that are not popular, because the level of public awareness and education does not yet create a demand for them, yet are essential if the level of public appreciation of its natural heritage is to be expanded.

.....
"There is good reason to believe that natural areas within metropolitan regions will become increasingly essential as the distance between urban man and his natural heritage becomes greater.

"We ignore nature at our own peril.

"Up to the last century people nearly everywhere grew up on the land, with wilderness on the horizon, and unexplored lands somewhere awaiting discovery.

"There is reason to doubt that creatures with such a heritage can be for too long confined in an entirely artificial environment, such as some 'city of the future' advocates seem to prescribe for us.

"The human species might well adapt to such a life but at the cost of its own humanity, the loss of such qualities as a 'reverence for life' that add up to humaneness in mankind. There seems no good reason for risking such social evolution, for cutting ourselves off from our wild roots in the soil of our continent.

"The other alternatives require only a willingness to forego some quick profits from land, to expend a little more public and private money, and to plan rationally for our own future."

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Another development which I read about in The Wood Duck of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club shows that nothing is sacrosanct--not even Coote's Paradise Marsh!

In the February issue we read:

"Did you hear the announcement on Radio this past week--where the matter of putting an expressway through Coote's Paradise is to be considered by the Planning Board of the City of Hamilton!"

Coote's Paradise was decreed a Crown Game Preserve by the Provincial Government in 1927. It is a beautiful marsh where we have spent many a delightful hour studying the wild flowers and the birds. Let's hope those protest letters to the City Hall, to the Provincial Government and newspapers, nip this scheme in the bud! Why don't you write a letter too?!!

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In the face of all these threats to our "wilderness" what can we do?

Plenty!

First, we must protest--by letter, by phone and by personal contact (but not bodily!) We must protest to those in power--to the municipal government, to the provincial government, to the newspapers--anybody with influence to right a wrong--or prevent one.

Second, we must educate. Every ounce of support from that mass called "the public" will help our side of the scales and eventually tip it in favour of conservation over destruction. But we must attain enlightenment now--the future will be too late. No amount of enlightened sweat, prayers or tears will bring back a marsh just as it will not bring back a species.

Third, we must elect men to power who will represent the naturalists' interests. Someday, somewhere naturalists and conservationists must run for office on a conservation platform and--hopefully--get elected.

Fourth, we must pay--by contributing to those organizations which support our causes.

Fifth, we must re-create. The loss of a marsh or a wilderness is irreversible; like the extinction of a species it is -- final. But there are many areas which can not only be preserved but actually restored and improved and made useful again for the naturalist.

In a recent letter one of the T.F.N. members, Mr. Leo Smith, suggested that we undertake a tree planting program on one of the eroded, hilly areas which are all too common in our part of the province.

Preservation is good but restoration is better.

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Finally--not all is gloom and there are hopeful signs that Canada is becoming enlightened.

The Canadian Government has worked out procedures for concluding agreements with landowners whereby if they agree not to drain or fill the wetlands which they own or burn the vegetation around them they will be given a payment based on the value of the surrounding land. By this procedure it is hoped that most of the six million small "potholes" in the prairie breeding grounds can be saved.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has begun acquiring larger tracts of wetlands and other areas important as migratory habitats. Salt marshes in Nova Scotia and upland and shoreline habitat used by sandhill cranes in Saskatchewan have been acquired.

Now if we can persuade the Ontario Government to spend some of that \$195,000,000 of land acquisition money they still have (since 1962!)--perhaps on a Niagara Escarpment Park--then there is hope for Ontario's enlightenment as well.

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With the kind permission of Mrs. Le Vay and the Oshawa Naturalists' Club we reprint the following article from the December 1966 Oshawa Naturalists' Club Bulletin Supplement. It should bring back fond memories to all of us of the pleasures of a marsh.

The Cranberry Marsh

by Naomi Le Vay

Stretching along a shallow crescent of a bay, a few miles west of Oshawa, lies the Cranberry Marsh, commonly known as Le Vay's marsh. It is screened from the lake by a narrow margin of poplars and willows and thickets of alder and dogwood hem it in on the other three sides. This wetland of about two hundred acres is privately owned and not accessible from the public road and this has helped to make it an undisturbed refuge for a wealth of wildfowl of every kind. Long may it remain so! We have been careful watchers from the edge of the marsh for fifteen years and have seen some strange and many familiar birds either resting or breeding on the ponds.

In early spring the marsh is teeming with life. By mid-March legions of redwings begin pouring in, until every clump of last year's brittle reeds is ringing with their cheerful calls. As soon as the ice is out large numbers of wild ducks appear as if by magic on the brimming surface, resting, feeding, courting and splashing about in the clear water. As many as fourteen species can be seen at this time and they are joined occasionally by small flocks of Canada geese and this spring, at least, by three whistling swans, that lingered on contentedly for several weeks.

By May the numbers are reduced to seven or eight species, all presumed to be nesting, including the shoveler. A female bird was seen with fourteen downy ducklings in July, 1961. Single gadwalls have been sighted in June and July, but there is no evidence that these were breeding birds. One is suddenly aware of the arrival of coots, gallinules, pied-billed grebes, bitterns, least bitterns, Virginia and sora rails. In mid-May the black terns arrive in large numbers, noisy and aggressive in spite of their airy flight and graceful forms, and wherever there is the slightest hummock above the waterline, they build their frugal nests, often in full view from the shore.

All through May there is a fever of activity in the meadows and hedges on three sides of the marsh and the beaches are dotted with shorebirds. One day in late May we counted ninety-one species without leaving our adjoining half-acre. Some of these may turn out to be unexpected and exotic strangers. On May 21st of this year a small bird flew over, trailing a fabulous length of tail. Three seasoned observers were lucky enough to see and recognize a scissor-tailed flycatcher, incredibly far from home. In 1962 the first two glossy ibis seen in our time, alighted in the marsh on May 24th.

In June the fever of migration dies down, but the fever of raising and feeding families accelerates, and there is a constant clamour of voices and flash of wings back and forth across the ponds, now sprouting new spears of pale green rushes. But even now there is a possibility of rare wanderers from other parts, as on June 1st, 1956, when a golden eagle came down and was seen eating fish on the beach that borders the marsh.

By the middle of July the black terns begin to depart and the first small flights of shore birds alight in the shallows. Herons come in from neighbouring heronries and marsh hawks appear and start patrolling the shrinking waters. The autumn migration has already begun.

When August comes the terns have gone and the ranks of the redwings are thinning out day by day. New sounds are heard on the marsh, the mellower calls of plover, yellowlegs, pectoral sandpipers. Snipe and dowitchers become regular visitors. More and more mud flats appear and soon there will only be a few pools large enough to support the remaining ducks and shore birds. It was at this time some years ago that

a little blue heron wandered northward and found a refuge on the Cranberry Marsh. It was an immature bird in snowy white plumage and finding the habitat to its liking it lingered on for several days.

This year in August we found the least bittern which had evaded us all summer; we saw the first knot which we had missed in the springtime; we found a long-billed curlew on a nearby beach. For now we must start to watch the neighbouring meadows, beaches and copses for the flow of migration. The marsh has served as a breeding ground for hundreds of birds, and gradually it is almost deserted and lies silent under the autumn sky, except for the lonely calls of a few remaining killdeer.

Long before September small hawks are skimming over the marsh and more leisurely broadwings are drifting by, but this fall we miss the fantastic flights of thousands we have seen in other years. In the willows and dogwoods at the edge of the bog we spot a prairie warbler (September 1st), an olive-sided flycatcher (September 3rd), a yellow-throated vireo (September 16th), a parula warbler (September 16th), but these are only part of the constantly shifting scene of the autumn migration that passes through the land that lies between the marshes. On September 15th of this year, the Margaret Nice Ornithological Club found an immature kittiwake dead on the beach bordering the marsh. The writer had seen an adult kittiwake in flight over our cabin in December, 1960.

In October single hawks are still passing over; such interesting predators as goshawks and peregrines are sometimes seen. Flocks of white-throated and white-crowned sparrows stop to feed and great gatherings of blackbirds of all kinds crowd into the leafless elms or stream across the sky. This year the largest movement was of four thousand grackles that flew over in an almost endless skein. (One of our rare October sightings was a pair of ravens back in 1952.)

At the same time dozens of myrtle warblers are flitting in the dogwoods at the edge of the marsh, with smaller numbers of palm warblers and kinglets, an odd Wilson's warbler, redstart, yellowthroat, a Nashville or two--how the migration strings itself out, on and on into October and if it is mild even into November, with snipe and dunlin lingering on the mudflats!

Finally silence will fall on the marsh and soon only the muskrat houses will stand above the snow, and perhaps a great white owl will flit like a shadow over the sleeping rushes.

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From time to time the TFNC is asked for advice and help in matters pertaining to natural history, particularly of the local area. These requests come from organizations for children such as the Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, Youth Clubs, but they may also come from adult groups. If you are interested and would like to help in this worthwhile cause please fill out the application below and mail to our secretary, Mrs. Robson.

We are not looking for great knowledge but we are looking for enthusiasm. So don't be bashful, but be enthusiastic and fill out the form at the bottom of Page 11.

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The Federation of Ontario Naturalists at the present time is undertaking a distribution study of the Golden-winged Warbler together with the Blue-winged and hybrids. Observations of these birds would be much appreciated. Sight and nesting records, on territory or migration, as accurate a description of the locality as possible, and other relevant data is required. A report of no observation is equally valuable.

Similar data is also being sought for the Piping Plover.

Please send any data you might have to:

Mr. Gerald McKeating,
Federation of Ontario Naturalists,
1262 Don Mills Rd.,
Don Mills, Ont.

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Toronto Region Field Notes

Summer-Fall 1966

Introduction: This summary was compiled mainly from reports submitted by TFNC members. For the summer-fall period a total of only thirty such reports were received. This has made it impossible to obtain a complete migration and status picture for many species of birds. Let me take this opportunity to remind you that observations from all locations within the Toronto area (even your backyard) on common species are valuable; the reporting of rarities is not the prime objective of this summary. In order to continue this project effectively we must have increased support from our members.

John G. Woods, December 22, 1966

Meteorological Summary: The first half of June was mostly cloudy and wet; the latter half was climaxed by a heat wave that began on the 23rd; total rainfall 2.41 inches, average temp. 68.1°F. The first half of July was essentially sunny and dry, averaging 5 above normal. A little precipitation and seasonal temperatures occurred in the latter half of the month; total rainfall .82 inches, average temp. 73.7°F. August was basically normal in all respects; total rainfall 2.47 inches, mean temperature 69.7°F. The temperatures for the first two-thirds of September were near normal and the hours of bright sunshine. By contrast, the last third of the month was cloudy, windy and quite cool; total rainfall 2.44 inches, mean temperature for month, 60.5°F. The first two-thirds of October were dull, cool and dry. Sunny skies and cool temperatures during the rest of the month; total precipitation .60 inches, mean temperature 49.8°F. November was a very wet month with above average temperatures; total precipitation 5.79 inches, mean temperature 42.1°F.

The preceding was taken from the Monthly Meteorological Summaries published by the Meteorological Branch of the Department of Transport in downtown Toronto.

GAVIIFORMES: In late June and early July there were several records of Common Loons from East Toronto, much calling was heard during this time, nesting suspected. One adult in nuptial plumage was seen on 5 November with the last fall record on 26 November (1). From 15 Oct. to 12 Nov. there were no less than eight separate sightings Red-throated Loons of one or two birds.

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Two late Red-necked Grebes were seen in Oakville from 20 to 26

Nov. There was one late spring Horned Grebe observation 5 June (1). Between 5 Nov. and 12 Nov. numerous singles were sighted in the west end, last record 26 Nov. (2). An individual Western Grebe showed up in Oakville between 20 and 26 Nov. (D.P. et al.) The last Pied-billed Grebe was seen on 12 Nov. (1).

PELECANIFORMES: Only one report of Double-crested Cormorant for the entire summer and fall period has been received, 18 Sept. (1).

CICONIIFORMES: The last Great Blue Heron observation occurred on 20 Nov. (1); Green Heron 5 Oct. (1) and Black-crowned Night Heron 27 Sept. (1). Two immature Black-crowned Night Herons were seen on 14 Aug. on Toronto Island. The only report of Least Bittern we have received for the entire ornithological year came from High Park on 2 June (1) (E.P.) There was one late observation of an American Bittern from Ajax, 6 Nov.

ANSERIFORMES: In mid-November there was a slight indication of a movement of Whistling Swans; 11 Nov. (5), 12 Nov. (30). Mute Swans continue to make irregular occurrences in our area; 6 Nov. (2), 12 Nov. (1). There were seven reports of Canada Geese between 13 and 29 Oct. of an average of 40 birds each. The first Brant were seen on 24 Sept. (22), the last on 22 Oct. (2), with all records coming from west Toronto. Gadwall were frequently encountered throughout the fall, first observation 1 Sept. (1), maximum number of birds in one location 26 Nov. (8). On 15 Sept. the first Pintail were seen. There was one very late observation of Blue-winged Teal on 20 Nov. (2) at Whitby (E.S.) The first American Widgeon were reported on 20 Sept. (6). Port Credit continues to be the best area for this species--maximum (300) on 22 Oct.; sharp drop in numbers between 12 and 29 Nov. Wood Duck were plentiful on 18 Sept., in east Toronto, last observation 5 Nov. (1 m.) On 29 Oct. (5) the first Redhead were seen, on 22 Oct. (4) the first Canvasback. The last Ring-necked Duck was observed on 6 Nov. (1). Greater Scaup first appeared on 16 Oct. (150). The second half of October saw a major influx of this species into our area, maximum number 22 Oct. (560) in Port Credit. The first Common Goldeneye were seen on 22 Oct. (1 f.), Bufflehead 16 Oct. (1) with large numbers at Sunnyside on 5 Nov. (200) and Port Credit 12 Nov. (150). King Eiders were unusually plentiful with no less than eight records from 5 to 20 Nov., all of these from the Whitby Area. There was one late spring record of Oldsquaw 5 June (2), the first fall observation 2 Oct. (2 f.), with a large influx between 22 and 30 Oct. There were five reports of Common Scoter for the fall, average 5 birds, between 23 Oct. and 13 Nov. White-winged Scoters were sighted on numerous occasions between 15 Oct. and 26 Nov. (1 f.) Surf Scoters were generally scarce, occurrence period 23 Oct. to 20 Nov. with peak numbers on 29 Oct. (30). There were nine observations of Ruddy Ducks for the fall, first 7 Oct. (1), last 26 Nov. (1 f.), with a maximum of four on 29 Oct. Red-breasted Mergansers first appeared on 21 Oct. (6). Hooded Mergansers were fairly common until 13 Nov. (16), last report 27 Nov. (3 f.)

FALCONIFORMES: As usual, Goshawk observations were only occasional. Of interest is a very early sighting on 21 Aug. of an immature bird in Pickering (J.L.B.) Apparently there were no large movements of Broad-winged Hawks observed in Toronto this fall, due to adverse weather conditions; last record 23 Oct. (2). Rough-legged Hawks were first noted on 3 Sept. (3), since then fair numbers have built up in the Malton area, with a notable scarcity on the Ajax Flats. Marsh Hawks were also much reduced in numbers in the Ajax area, maximum 18 Sept. (4). There have been three good records of the rare Peregrine Falcon this fall; 30 Sept. (1), 8 Oct. (1), 15 Oct. (1) and two of the Pigeon Hawk 2 Oct. (1) and 29 Oct. (1).

GRUIFORMES: Common Gallinules were very abundant in mid-September in the Ajax area, with many juvenile birds being observed. Coot started to gather in small flocks in late September, with peak numbers being reached in the second half of October when

numerous flocks of 20-50 were observed throughout the area.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Perhaps the single most outstanding aspect of Toronto's fall was its spectacular shorebird migration. We have received reports of 26 of the 40 species which have been observed in Toronto throughout the years. The area responsible for this unusual concentration was Claireville where low water conditions exposed extensive mudflats. It has been impossible in many instances to establish first arrival dates because of the lack of summer reports. Semipalmated Plover were present in July and August, last fall observation 16 Oct. Killdeer were common from late July to mid-October when peak numbers were reached, 14 Oct. (150), numbers declined sharply thereafter. Toronto had a large fall population of Golden Plovers, with up to 250-300 at Claireville in early October, their earliest observation was 3 Sept. (3), the latest 13 Nov. (1). Throughout the fall Black-bellied Plovers were subordinate to Golden Plovers, their numbers averaged about 40 birds at Claireville during September and the first three-quarters of October; earliest report 21 Aug. (1), latest 12 Nov. (1). One of the more uncommon birds, the Stilt Sandpiper, was frequently seen at Clairville in late July, August and September, the first observation came on 26 July (1), the last 10 Oct. (1), with a maximum of four on 23 Aug. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was observed on four occasions: 3 Sept. (1), 6 Sept. (1), 24 Sept. (2) and 25 Sept. (1) at Clairville and Malton. Another rarity to crop up, was the Hudsonian Godwit first found on 22 Sept. (1), then on 30 Sept. (2), with the last record 4 Oct. (1). Purple Sandpipers have, as usual, been sporadic in occurrence, with reports on 5 Nov. (3), 12 Nov. (1) and 19 Nov. (1). The White-rumped Sandpiper was apparently quite rarely encountered this fall with only two reports being received: 6 Sept. (1) and 5 Nov. (1). There are reports of all three Phalaropes this fall: Red Phalarope 12 Nov. (1) (G.B.) and 20 Nov. (1) (D.P.) in west Toronto; the Wilson's Phalarope was observed on four occasions, the earliest being 14 Aug. (1), the latest 13 Oct. (1); Northern Phalaropes were seen on three occasions: 22 July (1), 24 Sept. (1) and 6 Nov. (1). Assorted Charadriiformes last fall dates: Ruddy Turnstone 22 Oct. (2); American Woodcock 29 Oct. (2); Common Snipe 20 Nov. (4); Spotted Sandpiper 6 Oct. (1); Solitary Sandpiper 6 Oct. (); Greater Yellowlegs 20 Nov. (1); Lesser Yellowlegs 20 Nov. (1); Pectoral Sandpiper 6 Nov. (1); Baird's Sandpiper 17 Oct. (1); Least Sandpiper 6 Oct. (); Dunlin 3 Nov. (4); Short-billed Dowitcher 6 Nov. (1); Semipalmated Sandpiper 8 Oct. (1); and Sanderling 21 Nov. ().

CHARDIIFORMES: Great Black-backed Gulls were apparently first seen on 4 Sept. (11). A concentration was noted on 15 Oct. when approximately 50 birds were observed on Toronto Island. From Port Credit comes a report of a Black-headed Gull on 22 Oct. (1) seen by George North. The only report of Caspian Tern came on 21 Aug. (8).

STRIGIFORMES: During late October and the first two weeks of November small numbers of Saw-whet Owls were noted in lakeshore roosts. Long-eared Owls were particularly scarce, with only two reports being examined. Fair numbers of Snowy Owls, first 20 Oct. (1) have appeared so far this fall. On 6 Nov. our first report of a Barred Owl came from Ajax.

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: There appears to have been a movement of Common Nighthawks at the very end of August, on 29 Aug. a pronounced migration of from one to fifteen birds were seen going westward from 1715 D.S.T. to 2015 D.S.T., on 30 Aug. ten birds were noted in one location. A late Chimney Swift was noted on 12 Oct. There was one very late report of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on 30 Sept.

PICIFORMES: A male Red-bellied Woodpecker was found in High Park on 18 Sept. He has remained to date. On 20 Oct. one late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen. So far this fall we have had a very poor influx of Three-toed Woodpeckers, there are only three reports of the Black-backed, each of a single bird on 10, 23 Oct. and 6 Nov., no observations of the Northern have been made known thus far.

PASSERIFORMES:

Tyrannidae: The following is a list of last fall dates for the flycatchers indicated: Eastern Phoebe 23 Oct. (1); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 23 Oct. (1) (D.P.), first 14 Aug. (1); Least Flycatcher 23 Oct. (1) (D.P.) and Eastern Wood Pewee 12 Oct. (1).

Hiruninidae: On 11 Aug. at dusk there were an approximate 2000 Swallows, mainly Barn and Bank moving through the area. There was a report of fairly late Barn Swallows 18 Sept. (2) and two very late observations of Tree Swallows, 20 Oct. (2) and 29 Oct. (2).

Corvidae: The second half of September saw good numbers of Blue Jays moving through our area. On 18 Sept. a light but steady movement was noted all day in Ajax and on 25 Sept. they were again reported as migrating all day in Scarboro.

Paradae: On 29 Nov. (2) Tufted Titmice appeared at an Oakville feeder and seem to have remained to date.

Troglodytidae: The last House Wren was seen on 9 Oct. (1), Winter Wren 20 Oct. (2).

Mimidae: On 21 Nov. one Mockingbird was discovered in Bronte, it appears to have remained to date.

Turdidae: Assorted last dates for Turdidae: Wood Thrush 4 Oct. (1); Hermit Thrush 19 Nov. (1); Swainson's Thrush 16 Oct. (1); Grey-cheeked Thrush 7 Nov. (1); and Eastern Bluebird 20 Oct. (2).

Sylviidae: A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen on 11 Sept. (1). As usual both Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Golden-crowned Kinglets were present in large numbers during the second half of October.

Motacillidae: Water Pipits appeared to have been numerous this fall; migration period 14 Sept. to 28 Oct. with maximum numbers in the second two weeks of October.

Laniidae: Our first report of a Northern Shrike was an early 16 Oct. (1).

Vireonidae: On 13 Nov. an extremely late Solitary Vireo was seen by (D.P.)

Parulidae: The following is a list of last records for Wood Warblers: Black and White Warbler 12 Oct. (1); Orange-crowned Warbler 13 Nov. (1); Nashville Warbler 23 Oct. (1); Magnolia Warbler 17 Oct. (2); Black-throated Green Warbler 17 Oct. (2); Chestnut-sided Warbler 12 Oct. (1); Palm Warbler 25 Oct. (1); Ovenbird 11 Nov. (1) (V.C.); Mourning Warbler 27 Sept. (1); and American Redstart 27 Sept. (3). First occurrences of fall are as follows: Canada Warbler 14 Aug. (1); Wilson's Warbler 28 Aug. (4); and Blackpoll Warbler 28 Aug. (2). Migration periods: Tennessee Warbler 3 Aug. (1) to 16 Oct. (1); Pine Warbler 29 Aug. (2) to 22 Oct. (1); Blackburnian Warbler 14 Aug. (1) to 20 Oct. (1); Myrtle Warbler 14 Aug. (1) to 12 Nov. (2); and Black-throated Blue Warbler 27 Aug. (1) to 17 Oct. (1).

Icteridae: A large flight of Red-winged Blackbirds was observed on 17 Oct. Rusty Blackbirds were first noted on 18 Sept. (1), small flocks common through October.

Thraupidae: Our last Scarlet Tanager observation was a late 16 Oct. (1).

Fringillidae: An Indigo Bunting was last reported on 16 Oct. (1) Bronte.

Generally, northern winter finches have been scarce this fall: only two Pine Grosbeak records, 12 Oct. (1) and 12 Nov. (12); first Common Redpolls 13 Nov. (+) and Pine Siskins 12 Nov. (8). Red Crossbills have been much more common than White-winged Crossbills this fall, there are five reports of it between 6 Nov. (4) and 29 Nov. (10) with only one of White-winged Crossbills 12 Nov. (4). The first Tree Sparrow report comes from 26 Oct. (10). There appears to have been a movement of White-throated Sparrows during the second half of September and the first half of October. Fox Sparrows were first noted on 12 Oct. (1) and last seen on 11 Nov. (1). On 2 Oct. (5) Snow Buntings were first seen in our area. Thereafter there have been seven reports with a maximum of 20 birds in one flock.

Records: This summary has been compiled from the records in the Wood Duck, the Toronto Bird-Finding Bulletin, and from personal reports by the following people: C. Allison, L. Barclay, G. Bellerby, D. Burton, P. Catling, H. Elliott, R. Gaymer, P. Iden, R. Mason, D. Mathers, G. M. McKeating, H. Nizankovskij, E. Parsons, V. Roach, Q. Roseborough, N. H. Smith, E. Stark, and J. G. Woods. Other observers: J. L. Baillie, V. Crich, R. Currey, J. North, D. Perks. Compiler, John G. Woods.

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Elmer Talvila,

Editor.

I am interested in helping the general public and specific groups to understand nature, and am willing to give some time to this work.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone _____ Time available _____

Particular subject of interest (if any) _____

Comments: _____

MAIL TO: Mrs. H. Robson, Secretary, TFNC, 49 Craighurst Ave., Toronto 12

