

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Visitors welcome!

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Monday, February 3, 1969, at 8.15 p.m.
at the
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

FILM NIGHT!!!

'THE CONTINUING PAST'...A film on Geology and the work of the Geological Survey of Canada, established by Act of Parliament in 1841. The appointment of its first Director was in 1842. The G.S.C.'s history has been continuous since that date.

'TIDES OF FUNDY'...A fascinating study of the phenomenal tides in the Bay of Fundy on Canada's Atlantic coast, and how they affect the life of the region.

'CANADA: LANDFORM REGIONS'...A view of Canada from a helicopter, showing the nature and extent of the landform regions.

FEBRUARY OUTFINGS

Sunday TURNER TRACT - Birds and Cocoons (What you find, you can keep) Leaders:
Feb. 9 Members of the Toronto Branch of the Michigan Entomological Society, plus
9.15 & yours truly, Walter Hutton. Meet at the church at the corner of the first
10 a.m. road north of the Mohawk Racetrack, north of Campbellville, at 10 a.m. Those
wishing and those willing to give rides, meet on Yonge St. at Glen Echo Loop
(city limits) not later than 9.15 a.m. Warm clothing and suitable footwear
for snow are a must. Bring lunch.

Saturday MORNINGSIDE PARK - Birds Leader - Mr. John ten Bruggenkate
Feb. 22 From stop 34 on Kingston Rd., go north on Morningside Ave. 0.7 miles to the
9.30 a.m. park entrance on the north side of the bridge. As the road into the park is
not always kept open in winter, it may be necessary to park on Morningside
and enter the park on foot. Please investigate conditions before attempting
to drive in. Meet at the parking lot inside the park. Morning only.

Chm: Mr. Walter Hutton, 782-5955

BIRD AND BOTANY GROUPS A combined meeting of the BIRD & BOTANY GROUPS will be held on Thursday,
Feb. 20, at 8.00 p.m. at Hodgson School, Davisville Ave., just east of Mt.
Pleasant Rd. Parking entrance from Millwood Rd., one block north. Speaker:
Mr. M. D. Kirk, Resources Manager for the Grey-Bruce Conservation Authority,
Owen Sound. Topic: 'Birds and Plants of the Bruce Peninsula' (illustrated.)
Botany Group Chm: Miss Edith Cosens, 481-5013
Bird Group Chm: Mr. Clive Goodwin, 241-1572

JUNIOR CLUB Meet in the Museum Theatre for films and talks. Topic for discussion -
Saturday 'Mammals.'
Feb. 1
10 a.m. Director - Mr. Robt. MacLellan, 488-9346

INTERMEDIATE TFN members aged 16 to early 20's are invited to attend the meeting in
GROUP Room P-1, Ethnology Dept., ROM. Subject for this meeting, 'Entomology.'
Saturday Leader - Mr. Hugh Walker.
Feb. 1
1 p.m. Chm: Mr. Paul Catling, 698-3405

ECOLOGY AND Meet in Room 300 (third floor), College of Education, 371 Bloor St. West
CONSERVATION (at Spadina.) Topic: 'A Further Study of Biotic Communities.' Parking
GROUP at rear of building.
Tuesday
Feb. 11
8 p.m. Acting Chm: Prof. W. A. Andrews, 425-4607

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F.O.N. ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 25-27, 1969

As you all know by now, our Club will be the host club this year to the F.O.N. Annual Meeting. We need volunteers! Won't you please help?

A call to Mrs. Robson, or any of the executive will put you on our Volunteer's List.

The Newsletter Editor is getting especially desperate as no contributions have come in yet for that special issue of the Newsletter. Anything relating to the natural history of the Toronto Region would be particularly welcome.

For more ideas on what to write, call the Editor (231-1064.)

President - Mr. John A. Gingrich

Secretary - Mrs. H. C. Robson
49 Craighurst Ave.
Toronto 12 (481-1260)



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NEWS AND VIEWS

.....We are always grateful to people or organizations who boost our club, Audubon n Films or hikes. This month our thanks go to John Bradshaw who always gives a good boost to our Audubon Films and the various TFNC outings on his Saturday morning CFRB program Your House and Garden; 'Tiny' Bennet for mentioning our Audubon Films in his Saturday Telegram column, 'Tiny Bennet Outdoors'; CFRB who always announce each of our Audubon Films. Thanks!

.....The U.S.A.'s first choice for Secretary of the Interior, Walter Hickle, is worrying a lot of conservationists. In the past he has tried to open up Alaska's Kenai Moose Range for oil prospecting, has stated that he found little merit in 'conservation for conservation's sake,' and has worried that industries might be scared away if the U.S.A.'s scandalously inadequate regulations against water pollution were set too high. This man may soon become custodian of all the U.S.A.'s federal lands, forests and national parks - and the oil companies can hardly wait. A good assistant might be Ronald Reagan who once said that 'to see one redwood is to see them all' - much to the joy of the lumber companies of California.

.....The four day conference at Monte Carlo (reported in Time, Jan. 3 '69) was billed as a 'creative dialogue between sportsmen and scientists who share a deep and growing concern for vanishing wildlife species.' To demonstrate their concern they feasted first off at a sumptuous banquet on wild boar, pheasant, partridge and turkey. On view among the ladies were 8 leopard coats, 2 ocelot coats, a cheetah suit and a tiger jacket - while a speech was being made on the dangers that the fur trade poses to the world's great cats. The hostess, Princess Grace of Monaco, even showed up splendidly attired in a coat made of wild mink with matching turban. One speaker lamenting the wanton slaying

of alligators apologized profusely for the alligator belt he was wearing. And all the time, I suppose, everyone was shedding buckets of crocodile tears over the poor vanishing wildlife species.

.....'National Parks Conference,' (from Wildlife News, Vol. 4, No. 4, Autumn, 1968)
'Three major assumptions underlay deliberations of this conference: (1) The Canadian constitutional character makes the responsibility for provision of outdoor recreational and research space within the nation both complicated and unique. (2) The combined post-war phenomenon of affluence and disposable leisure time has given rise to accelerated public outdoor recreational demands which have placed radically increasing pressures not only upon our National Parks and outdoor recreational space, but all other landscape resources as well. (3) The problem of providing adequate parks, recreational and other types of open space areas has become one of the major problems in an accelerating urban society. Taking these assumptions into consideration, the following have been identified by this conference as major concerns for consideration by all levels of government in Canada: (1) There is a real need for clarification and definition of the functions of National Parks, their structure, purpose and potential in relation to the total system of outdoor, recreational and wilderness space in Canada; (2) The need for improved communication and co-ordination in park and recreation planning matters was made evident by this conference within existing governmental structures and particularly between government and the public. (3) There is need for assessment and integration of existing and proposed Municipal, Regional, Provincial and Federal legislation and policies relating to recreation and open space planning; in fact, for all land use and environmental resource use planning where duplication of efforts or shortages now occur. (4) It follows that there is now a current national need for an integrated national outdoor recreational planning framework within which to provide guidelines and co-ordination of federal, provincial and regional Park and recreation planning efforts. (5) There was also recognition amongst the varied disciplines and professions represented at this conference that parks and outdoor recreation space needs represent only one aspect of social-economic demands now being made upon our total environmental resource capabilities. This will call for an even broader examination of environmental inter-relationships.

It is now, therefore, strongly recommended that the government of Canada take initiative, in consultation with the provincial governments, in establishing an independent investigating body with suitable expertise and of Royal Commission or equivalent status. Such a body would develop recommendations for the development of a national policy for governing the use of land for preservation of outstanding national features and ecological systems; for the provision of the spectrum of outdoor recreational needs and for the provision of necessary research. Such a national policy should also identify federal, provincial, regional and municipal government roles as they relate to the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities for an urbanized Canada. The investigating body would also be charged with making recommendations relative to an organisational framework which will be necessary to achieve the objectives of policy co-ordination and communication. This body would further have the responsibility of assessing park and recreational needs in relation to other social demands now being made upon our environmental resources and those expected in the future. In view of Canada's unique constitutional nature, it is imperative that the investigating body be constituted so as to provide true regional representation. Time is of the essence in this matter. Human use presses rapidly upon Canada's parks, recreation areas and open spaces are rapidly accelerating, with consequent irrevocable damage, in many instances, to the resource base. This conference urges early action in meeting the challenge thus set forth.'

.....The fish are really biting these days in Florida. In fact one may even take a bite out of you while you're standing on your front lawn. Florida's newest menace is an

Asiatic walking catfish called Clarias Batrachus. Introduced in 1967 by a fish farmer, it is now frequently found scuttling across Ft. Lauderdale lawns at night on its stubby pectoral fins. It seems to thrive in brackish and fresh water and eats practically anything that happens along - shrimp, crayfish, minnows and the snails that Everglade kites prefer. It grows 2 feet long, can jump 4 feet out of the water and live out of the water for hours. A prodigious and pugnacious creature, it is fast eliminating native species such as bass and ordinary catfish.

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COMING EVENTS

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM: Free Sunday films at 2 p.m.

- Feb. 2 - 'See how they fly' (bird flight); 'A Trip to the Moon' (1902 fantasy)
'Lunar Landing' (Mission of Surveyor I); 'On the rocks' (??)
Feb. 16 - 'Eskimo Artist - Kenojuak'; 'The Reindeer Herders' (Lapland family);
'Like Rings on water' (Town planning)
Mar. 2 - 'SOS Galapagos'; 'The River must live'; 'Henry Moore.'

ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE: Free Saturday evening lectures, Convocation Hall, University of Toronto, at 8.15 p.m. Further information: 922-2804.

- Feb. 1 - 'Electronic Music' (G. Ciarnaga)
Feb. 8 - 'The Australopithecines and the African environment in which man evolved.'
(C. S. Churcher, Univ. of Toronto and ROM)
Feb. 15 - 'Clocks, Technology and Society.'
Feb. 22 - 'The World Ocean as a food resource' (G. Borgstrom, Michigan State Univ.)
Mar. 1 - 'Around the world in 90 days, Botanically speaking' (Richard Howard,
Director of Arnold Arboretum, Professor, Harvard Univ.)

CBC-TV: Feb. 16 - The Effect of Pesticides on our Environment.

FON: Feb. 21-23 - Algonquin Park Winter Weekend
April 25-27: Annual meeting at Seaway Towers Hotel

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REPORT ON OUTING - JANUARY 12, 1968

Since nobody (with the notable exception of Walter Hutton) has bothered to send the editor any reports on Club outings this season, the editor has decided to go out on the hikes himself and make his own reports. So here is the first hike of 1969 and the first report.

This outing was a bird hike along the Toronto waterfront and was led by Mr. Gordon Bellerby. As usual, we (family and I) arrived late at the starting place. This was partially due to my stupid 'luck' in missing the turn-off from Lakeshore Rd. and to my wife's insistence that there was 'a large hawk or something' flying over Grenadier Pond. A cursory glance showed that this something was only a very large redbill. At the starting place, the parking lot just east of Parkside Dr., we discovered about 25 bird-watchers looking at ducks. Among the usual golden-eyes, old squaws, scaup, etc., we saw 5 canvasbacks. At the next stop I arrived just in time to catch the tail end, so to speak, of a large hawk or something vanishing over the roof of the Argonaut Rowing Club. It proved to be an immature bald eagle. (Jim Baillie told me later it had been first

reported Saturday flying over Grenadier Pond.) Further stops were made at the CNE waterfront, Coronation Park and the foot of Bathurst St., but no new birds were seen. Along Unwin St. near Cherry Beach the entire group got good close looks at a small flock of redpolls. Ashbridge's Bay, our final stop, had a large concentration of gulls among which were 7 glaucous gulls.

Walking back through the garbage heaps to our car a small flock (5) of brown birds flew over my head and landed near Anja. Horned larks, I thought. Anja kept waving her arms and yelling about the 'funny-looking sparrows,' but I thought - horned larks. One of the juniors said, 'chipping sparrows;' my binoculars at 10 feet said, 'Lapland longspurs.' This was the trip highlight and a fitting climax to a fine outing.

Lapland longspurs have been like the will-o'-the-wisp to me. For nearly 20 years I have striven mightily to convert lumps of manure on plowed fields into Lapland longspurs but have always just failed. Any snow bunting with a dirty face would be changed quickly to a longspur and back again just as fast. Horned larks always changed into real longspurs when I wasn't looking or wasn't there. But now I had seen Lapland longspurs, those 'funny-looking sparrows,' unmistakably from 10 feet away. And I opened up my Peterson's to the Life List and replaced the feeble little tick-mark with a great big 'X'.

I was an honest man again.

Now for that Wilson's phalarope!

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (December 31, 1968)

Mr. N. H. Avis, 14 Lillington Ave., Scarboro; Miss Monica A. Connolly, 300 Athol Ave. E., Oshawa; Mrs. Evelyn Farley, Box 103, Scarborough; Miss Grace C. Harris, 356 Broadway Ave., Tor. 12; Mr. Lorne M. McKibbin, 156 Honeywood Ave., W'dale; Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Norgate, 40 Rathnelly Ave., Tor. 4; Mr. & Mrs. R. Tollman, 324 Salem Ave., Tor. 4.

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SOME BOTANICAL NOTES

Ginseng (Panax quinquefolium): The Hellyers have about 60 acres devoted to the cultivation of ginseng on their farm near Waterford, Norfolk County. The ginseng crop for Canada is worth about \$600,000 annually and most of it is shipped via Vancouver to Hong Kong and the Pacific Islands. The Chinese think ginseng root is a cure-all for most diseases and infirmities including lovesickness. There is no evidence that it works either as a drug or as an aphrodisiac.

Blue-green algae: That greenish scum on the surface of Rice Lake last summer wasn't mouldy detergent foam after all. Instead it was a mass of decomposition products formed by the activities of blue-green algae Anabaena and Aphanizomenon on the nutrients of the lake. It seems that the 'soup' is too rich. This makes for poor swimming but excellent fishing.

Ontario's forest history: A group under Dr. McAndrews of the Geology Dept., ROM, have been boring into the bottom of seven Ontario lakes in order to reconstruct the forest history of Ontario since deglaciation about 12,000 years ago. A study of the cores for pollen, seeds and leaves suggests that the deciduous forests of Ontario were 'invaded' by

coniferous forests about 2000 years ago. The lakes studied included Wilcox, Van Nostrand, Bass and Orr Lakes.

Weeds: Did you know that there is a Society devoted to weeds - or rather, devoted to doing them in? The Weed Science Society of America is holding its annual meeting Feb. 10-13 in Las Vegas, Nevada, during which 100 scientific papers will be presented on weed science and control. It's a good bet that the weeds will survive.

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FON News (Nov.-Dec.)

.....The Federation forwarded its views to the Ontario Dept. of Lands and Forests with respect to Algonquin Park.

.....Did you know that over 500,000 different chemicals are being inflicted on the environment?

.....Craig Campbell, 188 Lester St., Apt. 7-b, Waterloo, is interested in obtaining information on the timber rattlesnake which is thought to be extinct in Ontario by many authorities. He would appreciate receiving any records on the sighting of this snake in recent years.

.....The Nature Reserves Committee under chairman Dr. Bruce Falls has added new members Malcolm Kirk, Philip Gosling, Marion Shivas, Carol Rolfe, Joan Budd and Douglas Wilkins. It is actively investigating areas and hopes to announce a third FON sanctuary acquisition in the near future.

.....Brewer's blackbird has further extended its range and was found nesting this summer in Darlington Provincial Park just east of Oshawa.

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THE HEAVENS ABOVE - FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Feb. 1 - Sunrise at 7.36 a.m. E.S.T.; sunset at 5.28 p.m. E.S.T.

Feb. 2 - Full Moon

Feb. 23 - Mercury at its greatest elongation from the sun. Visible with difficulty as a morning star very low in the southeast just before sunrise.

Mar. 1 - Sunrise at 6.55 a.m. E.S.T.; sunset at 6.06 p.m. E.S.T.

Mar. 3 - Venus at greatest brilliance. Visible for 3 hours after sunset as an evening star in the southwest.

Mar. 4 - Full Moon

Mar. 17 - Annular eclipse of the sun visible over the Indian and Pacific Oceans. A bright ring of the sun's disk remains uneclipsed in an annular eclipse.

Mar. 20 - 2.08 p.m. E.S.T. - Vernal equinox. Spring begins.

Mar. 21 - Jupiter at opposition closest to earth. Visible soon after sunset as the brightest 'star' in the night sky.

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REPORT ON 1968 OUTINGS

Mr. Walter Hutton, our Outings Chairman, has sent me the following data about our last year's outings:

Total number of outings - 31, of which Botany - 7 and others - 24.

Attendance: Botany outings: 140 for an average of 20 per outing

Other outings - 1072 for an average of 45 per outing.

(The above attendance figures are somewhat low as some of the leaders failed to file reports.)

Total number of bird species seen: 176

High for 1 outing: 73 species, Toronto Islands, May 11 '68, the group led by George Fairfield.

Ed: Thank you, Walter, for the above report and thank you also for that highly amusing and hitherto anonymous contribution, 'The Spring Underwater Outing of the TFNC' (Sept-Oct Newsletter.)

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THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS

The Christmas Census sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club was held on Sunday, Dec. 22, 1968. A record number of species, 90, was seen by 115 observers. Here is the complete list of species seen, in order of abundance: old squaw (6632); house sparrow (2851); herring gull (2528); greater scaup (2315); mallard (2028); starling (1936); black-capped chickadee (1680); common goldeneye (924); tree sparrow (834); slate-colored junco (727); black ducks (652); ring-necked pheasant (457); bufflehead (310); ring-billed gull (304); American goldfinch (236); common redpoll (229); cardinal (208); downy woodpecker (190); Canada goose (183); white-breasted nuthatch (154); blue jay (127); common crow (120); song sparrow (80); red-tailed hawk (73); mourning dove (72); pine grosbeak (62); hairy woodpecker (52); evening grosbeak (46); common merganser (45); long-eared owl (38); sparrow hawk (29); great black-backed gull (26); golden-crowned kinglet (20); white-throated sparrow (20); canvasback (19); rough-legged hawk (18); great horned owl (16); northern shrike (15); robin (12); swamp sparrow (12); gadwall (11); brown creeper (11); ruffed grouse (9); field sparrow (8); yellow-shafted flicker (8); rusty blackbird (7); red-breasted nuthatch (6); Bohemian waxwing (5); red-winged blackbird (5); glaucous gull (4); Oregon junco (4); screech owl (4); eastern meadowlark (3); purple finch (3); pine siskin (3); winter wren (2); pileated woodpecker (2); American widgeon (2); redhead (2); king eider (2); rufous-sided towhee (2); goshawk (2); sharp-shinned hawk (2); common grackle (2); Cooper's hawk (2); red-shouldered hawk (2); cedar waxwing (2).

The following 23 singles: great blue heron, mute swan, lesser scaup, white-winged scoter, red-breasted merganser, marsh hawk, pigeon hawk, common gallinule, Iceland gull, snowy owl, barred owl, saw-whet owl, belted kingfisher, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, boreal chickadee, tufted titmouse, catbird, brown thrasher, hermit thrush, vesper sparrow, white-crowned sparrow.

Most of these birds will still be here in February - why not go out to look for them? Here's a little directory of addresses for the rarer ones:

Bohemian waxwing (2nd time only on census) - near Bathurst St. W. of Aurora.
redhead, mute swan - Coatsworth Cut (Ashbridge's Bay)
widgeon, Iceland gull - Sunnyside Beach
pine siskin - German Mills - E. of Thornhill
great blue heron - Rattray's Marsh
Vesper sparrow - Orr Rd. at Clarkson
gadwall - Clarkson, w. of St. Lawrence cement pier
catbird - Cedarvale

saw-whet - w. bank of Etobicoke Creek, north of Base Line
 red-bellied woodpecker - Nordale Cres. in Weston
 pigeon hawk - Islington Ave. at the Humber
 hermit thrush - Scarlett Rd.
 white-crowned sparrow - Guildwood Village feeder
 boreal chickadee - Pickering feeder
 gallinule - marsh at foot of Brock St. in Whitby
 marsh hawk - Centre Island
 canvasbacks - Toronto Island, off Ward's Island
 lesser scaup, red-breasted merganser - Port Credit harbour
 yellow-bellied sapsucker - Mineola Rd., Port Credit
 snowy owl - Lakeview power plant
 tufted titmouse, cedar waxwing - Robt. Gunn's house on Glenburnie Ave.
 pileated woodpecker - Staines Rd.
 white-winged scoter - Rouge River
 red-headed woodpecker - near Passmore Rd. and Nielson Rd., Scarboro
 brown thrasher - Hogg's Hollow
 belted kingfisher - Boyd conservation area
 meadow larks - King Conc. 7, near Kelly Lake
 barred owl - King Conc. 4 below Green Lane

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PLANT FAMILIES

THE NIGHTSHADE OR POTATO FAMILY (SOLANCEAE)

This rather small family of some 3000 species in 85 genera contains many plants of great economic importance. Besides the potato, such well known plants as the tomato, eggplant, pepper and tobacco are members of the family. Most of the species are tropical or sub-tropical herbaceous annuals of Latin America although some are small trees (*Datura*). Many important drugs are also obtained from this family. The flowers are nearly all large, perfect and complete (like petunia.)

There are about a dozen species in the Metro area of which 4 are mentioned in the Check List of Plants.

Here is what to watch for in identifying this family:

1. The flowers are large and conspicuous, regular, 5-parted and complete. The petals are usually united to form a tube, often of some length.
2. The calyx is 5-parted, the sepals being united below to form a calyx tube.
3. The 5 separate stamens are borne on the corolla and in some species press closely to the pistil allowing only the stigma to show.
4. The leaves are usually alternate and bad smelling.
5. The fruit is a many-seeded berry, often of great size (eggplant) composed of 2 locules or sections; or it may be a dry capsule.

Wildflowers, weeds: Buttersweet nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*); matrimony vine (*Lycium Halimifolium*); ground cherry (*Physalis heterophylla*); apple of Peru (*Nicandra physalodes*); Jimson weed (*Datura stramonium*).

Edible members: potato, tomato, eggplant, pepper.

Garden Flowers: petunia, schizanthus, browallia, salpiglossis, nierembergia, nicotiana.

Drug plants: Atropa (Belladonna and atropin), Nicotiana (nicotine); Solanum (solanin).

Chinese lanterns: The attractive orange-red calyces of Physalis franchetii are often used as indoor table decorations and the plant is well-known as the Chinese lantern. Less well known is the fact that some Chinese lantern plants have edible fruit. Tomatillo (P. ixocarpa) makes good jam or pies and can be grown in the Toronto area. Ground cherry (P. pruinosa) and Cape Gooseberry (P. Peruviana) are also edible and good.

Jerusalem cherry (Solanum pseudo-capsicum) - This greenhouse pot plant with the bright scarlet fruits is a popular florist's plant at Christmas time. If you have one from last Christmas, save the fruit and then propagate from seed for next Christmas. It grows easily.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Mr. Walter Jeanes (R.R. #2, Cannington, Ont.) has sent me two copies of Wildlife Review, a publication of the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Province of British Columbia. It is indeed a 'most interesting publication' and I hope to reprint something from it soon. In fact, why not right now? Here is what a sign over a park gate in Nairobi Kenya, says (as reported in Wildlife Review): 'The wildlife we have today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We hold it in trust and must account for it to those who come after.'

Mrs. Roberta Johnston (Toronto) gets the reward of 100 beggars-lice offered in the January Newsletter for information about Viper's bugloss. She writes, quoting from an old cyclopedia: 'The common viper's bugloss, a large annual plant, is a native of Great Britain and of most parts of Europe growing in dry places, not infrequently in cornfields. Its flowers are at first reddish and afterwards blue. It derives its name, viper's bugloss, from spots on its stem, which somewhat resemble those of the viper, and the property of healing viper's bites was therefore ascribed to it. Other herbaceous species are found in North and South America and other parts of the world. Shrubby species are found chiefly in the Canaries and South Africa.' ...

That takes care of the viper. The 'bugloss' comes from bu (or bos) - ox and glossa - tongue; probably from the shape and roughness of the leaves. I find that Mrs. Queenie Roseborough (Islington) is practically a next-door neighbour but that the birds at her feeder this January are many life-zones removed from mine. Whereas I see house sparrows, starlings and chickadees, she has visits from - well, read on!

'How can I get my housework done! Everything is covered with a new fall of snow, the sparrows are enjoying the bread on the back porch and the little Myrtle warbler who has chosen to stay with us this winter is hopping from the suet on the forsythia to the whole-wheat bread on the porch. She has sampled every piece of bread and prefers the whole-wheat. The two huge crows are back to see if there is any meat attached to the suet in the evergreen. Such a contrast between them and the warbler. Yesterday the temp. on the back porch was 32° and the sparrows and warbler had a lovely bath in the puddle on the porch which is slightly heated. On Sunday a huge flicker was feasting off an equally huge piece of suet near the iron railing. I find, as Mr. Ivor suggested, that suet and sunflower seeds bring most of the birds. We also have had this winter a female cardinal, a downy woodpecker and of course lots of chickadees as regular visitors. I suppose when they disappear for a few days they go down to the creek or the river where it is warmer. In the fall, I think November, we had a red-breasted nuthatch. The white-breasted ones

we have every year. We also had three or more pine grosbeaks in November. These and the red-breasted nuthatch which is smaller than I ever imagined are the only two new birds this year. Sorry - a yellow-bellied sapsucker, also. In the last few years we have had a red-headed woodpecker, towhee, female rose-breasted grosbeak, purple finch, redpoll, evening grosbeak, American goldfinch, slate-coloured junco, cardinals, cedar waxwings, Baltimore orioles, and of course red-wings, grackles, cowbirds, starlings, a humming bird, rusty blackbird, kinglets (golden and ruby-crowned), yellowthroat, catbird, phoebe, hawks, mourning doves, ring-necked pheasant. I don't know whether I ever mentioned the sparrow hawk who swooped down and took a baby sparrow off the forsythia and crashed into the kitchen window. The little sparrow was 'done in' but the hawk flew away after a spread-out rest on the porch. I'm sure a few birds are left out. We do very well, considering we are two houses from Islington Avenue.'

(Ed:- I'll say you do! How about 'lending' me a few birds - like a myrtle warbler or a flicker?')

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BOOK REVIEWS

Lorenz, Konrad. King Solomon's Ring and Man Meets Dog.

Most people will have heard of, if not read, the first of these two delightful books by this wonderfully eccentric, humane scientist. King Solomon's Ring is a classic in the true sense of the word. It has been produced in many editions and reviewed many times. Perhaps my recommendation is a little superfluous. However, I think the author would not find my enthusiasm amiss. Neither would the extremely fine translator from the original German do so. King Solomon's Ring is more general in content than Man Meets Dog. It is probably one of the finest animal books ever written. Konrad Lorenz has many tales to tell. There is the hilariously funny story of the imprinted ducklings and their encounter with their neighbours; the surprisingly horrific tales of the behaviour of the male deer and the peacock; the innate inability of the victor of many species to harm the vanquished in a fight; and the recounting of his long experiment with the ravens at his home on the Danube. Man Meets Dog is more specific, and deals almost exclusively with his knowledge and life-long observations of dogs, and, to a lesser extent, of cats. There is the chapter on the origin of fidelity in dogs, with the very convincing theory on the origins of the two types of dogs, one from the jackal and one from the wolf. There are chapters on the choosing, training, customs and habits, and facial expressions of the dog. Much of his writing is personalized so that one loves his beloved dogs almost as he does, and when the book is regretfully finished one parts from them as if from friends. Both books are illustrated throughout their texts, adding much to their charm.

- P.M.J.

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Elmer Talvila, Editor
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(231-1064)