



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Number 265

February 1972

Visitors welcome!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Visitors welcome!

Monday, February 7, 1972, at 8:15 p.m.
in the auditorium of the
ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION
252 Bloor Street West

Speaker: Mr. Donald H. Baldwin

Subject: Birding in British Honduras

While on the staff of the Department of Ornithology at the Royal Ontario Museum, Mr. Baldwin worked under the supervision of the late Jim Baillie in the collection and preparation of specimens. He was a member of the ROM expedition to British Honduras in 1966, which discovered two species of birds previously unknown in that country. In September of 1966, he went to Upper Canada College where he is now Science Master. He was the leader of two tours to British Honduras sponsored by the Canadian Audubon Society in 1970 and 1971.

Next month: Monday, March 6, 1972. Dr. Alan Emery, of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, will describe the Sublimos underwater project on the Bruce Peninsula.

February Outing

Sunday LAKEFRONT, HUMBER RIVER TO OAKVILLE - Birds Leader: Mr. Jack Sherrin
February 6 Meet at the lakefront parking lot just east of the mouth of the Humber
9:00 a.m. River. This will be a car cavalcade along the lakefront to Oakville to
look for winter rarities. There is the possibility of seeing Barrow's
goldeneyes and harlequins. The bringing of a lunch is optional as the outing may not
conclude until 2:00 p.m. Those who have room for extra passengers please phone Mr. Stu
Corbett (261-6807) on Wednesday, February 2. Those requiring a ride may phone on Thursday,
February 3.

In this issue, Mr. Clive Goodwin brings us up to date on our JIM BAILLIE RESERVE. A coupon is provided below for those who wish to contribute to this important project. No donation is too small -- or too large!

To: Mr. A. D. Fry,
250 Martin Grove Road, Islington, Ontario.

Date _____

I wish to contribute to the Jim Baillie Reserve. My cheque/money order in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed. Kindly send receipt for income tax purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

- JUNIOR CLUB Meet in the theatre of the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park.
 Saturday Visitors are welcome.
 February 5
 10:00 a.m. Director: Mr. Mike Singleton, 447-4197
- CONSERVATION Meet in Room 378 of the The College of Education, 371 Bloor St. W., at
 & ECOLOGY Spadina. Guest speaker: Prof. D. Galbraith. Subject: "The Flora and
 GROUP Fauna of East Africa", with coloured slides.
 Wednesday All welcome!
 February 9
 8:00 p.m. Chairman: Prof. Wm. Andrews, 425-4607
- FIELD Meet at St. James-Bond United Church, on Avenue Rd. just north of Eglinton.
 BIOLOGISTS' On-street parking can be difficult, but there are several private parking
 GROUP lots nearby on Eglinton. For details of this meeting please phone the
 Thursday chairman.
 February 10
 8:15 p.m. Chairman: Mr. Don Burton, 222-6467
- BOTANY GROUP Meet in the library of Hodgson School, Davisville Ave. just east of Mt.
 Thursday Pleasant Rd. (parking entrance from Millwood Rd., the first street north).
 February 17 Speaker: Dr. W. Baker, Shade Tree Research, Faculty of Forestry, University
 8:00 p.m. of Toronto. Subject: "The Dutch Elm Disease, Present--and Future?"
 Chairman: Miss Florence Preston, 483-9530
- BIRD GROUP Meet at St. James-Bond United Church. See Field Biologists' Group announce-
 Thursday ment above, for details. Speaker: Mr. Paul Catling. Subject: "What You
 February 24 Should Know About Owls".
 8:00 p.m. As Mr. Red Mason will be out of town on business until the end of
 February, he regrets that he will be unable to conduct the January 27
 meeting as previously announced. However, he has assured Bird Group
 members of an interesting evening as Mr. Barry Ranford will speak on
 "Birds of the Arctic".
 Chairman: Mr. Red Mason, 621-3905

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Volunteers wanted, to man our booth at the Sportsmen's Show, March 17 to 26, 1972.
 Please see page 13 of this Newsletter.

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We are pleased to welcome the following new members, who enrolled between November 28
 and January 12:

Mr. J. W. Burtoft, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Castle, Mr. Robert Day, Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Febbro,
 Miss E. Farrell, Mr. Donald Fraser, Mr. & Mrs. E. Hearn, Miss Anna K. Jones, Mr. S. C.
 Jones, Miss Sandra Mifsud, Miss Jill Miike, Mr. Richard Mulhallen, Mr. & Mrs. J. J. R.
 Nicholls, Mr. J. F. Peacock, Mr. Barry Ranford, Miss Frances St. Andrews, Mr. Michael
 Spencer, Mr. & Mrs. H. S. Watson, Mr. George Yamada.

President - Mr. Clive Goodwin

Secretary - Mrs. Mary Robson,
 49 Craighurst Ave.,
 Toronto 12, Ont.
 481-0260

"DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS"

by Bas and Rita Wigglesworth

We noticed in the most recent newsletter of the F.O.N. that there is planned a guided tour of South Texas, including Aransas and Santa Anna Wildlife Refuges. We thought that the following account of our family trailer trip from Toronto to South Texas and back might help some fellow birders make up their minds about the trip. You will see that we do not mention many western species that we undoubtedly saw on the trip as we had already recorded these on a previous trip to California and back.

We generally plan our vacations well in advance as our family includes seven children, the oldest seventeen. Actually it is more like a campaign that must be carefully mapped out to allow time to reach certain camp-grounds each night in different parks or forests. When travelling a long way, we like to wake up to the songs of different birds each morning.

Our first major stop was at Meramee Caverns Park in Missouri, where we found it impossible to oversleep because of the chatter of the birds. Included among these were many Bluebirds, Orioles, Brown and Rufous-sided Towhees, a variety of Wood Warblers, all the local Woodpeckers including the Pileated. At night the trees along the river bank took on the appearance of Christmas trees lit with millions of fireflies. Whip-poor-will lull you to sleep at night. While trying, successfully, to spot one of these in the dark, one of the older boys and myself spotted a fearsome-looking bug, about six inches long, chewing on the leaves of a bush. It had large mandibles and looked as though it would take pleasure in chewing on us, we retreated hurriedly, not bothering to mention it to the younger members of the family until the next day.

We stopped for lunch and a refreshing swim at Wichita Falls Wildlife Park in Oklahoma. This park features a large herd of American Bison wandering at liberty throughout the area. Besides seeing this herd of Buffalo up close, we were also fortunate enough to add a Lark Sparrow and a Townsend's Solitaire to our list. This was high, dry rugged hilly country. Earlier on this same day in a field by a lake we saw hundreds of Dickcissels, and Bob Whites could be heard through the entire area.

Our main objective on this trip was to see the birds of southern Texas, including those of Big Bend National Park. As we travelled further south-westward, the most numerous roadside bird changed from Eastern Meadowlarks to Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, to Mockingbirds and finally to Black-throated Sparrows and Pyrrhuloxias.

Ninety-five degrees in the shade, desert on all sides as far as the eye could see, except far to the West a range of brown mountains, that appeared to be hot and dry. We had arrived at the eastern entrance of "Big Bend National Park". The park building was deserted but there was available maps and literature and also some very welcome ice-cold water. After consulting the maps, we found that we had a choice of camp-grounds, one at the edge of the Rio Grande, the other in the Chisos Mountains. We felt that there should be some relief from the heat down by the river. Hoping for at least some shade, we headed in that direction.

Things were not bad enough, but then we began to encounter strangely-marked signs on the sides of the road. Examining these more closely, we found them to be labelled "Flood Gauges" and some were marked off in levels up to six feet. As we had arrived at the beginning of the rainy season, this gave us cause for some concern, however, we pushed on f-f-fearlessly.

Park Headquarters was located fairly close the paws of Panther Mountain at Panther Junction. As it was getting late and we had already selected our destination, we continued on our way. We were overjoyed to see the desert turn into a grove of blossom-filled trees. We pulled into the first available campsite located no more than a hundred feet from the Rio Grande. We could hardly wait to get out of the car, having

seen bright red, orange and yellow birds flying all through the trees. The birds proved to be Vermillion Flycatchers, Hepatic and Summer Tanagers, three types of Oriole, Hooded, Black-headed, and Bulloch's. We had never before seen coloured birds to match these except in a zoo.

In our hurry to identify these birds, we had not noticed the peculiar shape of our campsite and those surrounding it. Each site was an elevated pad complete with table and stove. The grassed areas between were lower and inter-connected with what appeared to be various sizes of pipes. The reason for this was obscure at the moment. The two older boys pitched their pup tent in one of the lower areas.

Night was coming on very fast and we found that our area was patrolled by two kinds of bats, a small gray one, and a larger brown one. Helping these to keep the site free of flying insects were pauragues, sweeping the river-banks and adjacent roads. Our preparations were carefully overseen by perching Turkey Vultures occupying grandstand seats on light poles and the eaves of the well-appointed and beautifully-kept, washroom facilities.

With the light of day came also enlightenment on the shape of our camp pad. The boys were flooded out of the hollow and water was running everywhere, carefully led off through larger and larger conduits to the Rio Grande itself. According to a Park Ranger, eighteen inches of rain had fallen in some parts of the mountains, which were miles away, and until that time there had been no rain for eight months.

The day was spent exploring our new surroundings, and of course trying to identify as many of the birds as possible. The variety of topography provided on the one hand, an impenetrable jungle on the north shore of the river, on the other, an actual desert which had not seen rain for eight months. My youngest daughter, 12, had to be rescued, actually, from the jungle which was complete with reeds and bamboo, ten feet high, interlaced with climbing vines. A nature path led through one section of this jungle, then up and out of it, to the top of a bare rock promontory which gave a breath-taking view of the river making its "Big Bend". The canyon walls on the Mexican side, depending upon the time of day, varied in colour from bright yellow to blood red, making a spectacular backdrop for the campsite. Some of the birds identified on this trail included a Ground Chat, Blue Grosbeaks, beautiful Painted Buntings, both Ground and Inca Doves. On another side trip we spotted along with more of the above, both Krider's and Fuertes Red-Tailed Hawks, Lesser Goldfinches and a house Finch.

Practically every tree at the camp was adorned with some kind of blossom; they seemed to be of the locust family. Hummingbirds of several different varieties darted everywhere but defied any attempt at identification, with our limited knowledge. A road-runner, for some reason or other, kept throwing himself at the base of one of the trees. Although we had seen many of them previously, this was the first time that we saw one acting as foolish as they are supposed to at times.

We intended to spend some time in the mountains, exploring the many canyons in order to track down at least one Mexican Jay, which inhabits this area only outside of Mexico proper. We set out along the well-maintained roads, travelling miles through hot, dry desert, then with relief we started a long climb into a lightly forested area, mainly evergreens, passing some heavily-forested canyons. The camp was located in a sort of central plateau, surrounded by bare rock outcroppings. The road down to the camp was very steep and complete with many switch-backs. Our first reaction was one of awe. Huge boulders were strewn about. How the road had been carved out was a mystery. We pulled into the side-road very carefully; in some places you could not see the roadway in front of you, it dropped off so suddenly. We were lucky again in finding a site available on the first run.

The trailer ramps were all on different levels and were generally the only flat spot at the site with the exception of the covered stone table and stove which were on another level further from the road. Well-appointed washrooms, showers, etc. were within a few feet.

The common birds of the area included Scaled Quail, Cactus Wren, Sage Thrasher, and Vultures soared about tirelessly. Great orange-winged wasps flew about. These were called Tarantula Hawks. The tarantula spiders were not so numerous, but when found were in no hurry to get out of the way. The local Tarantula was not the poisonous variety, but could inflict deep wounds with their two sharp fangs with which they drained the life from their prey. These wounds, if not taken care of, could become poisoned. We were warned to be on the look-out for rattlesnakes, especially at night because their heat sensors allowed them to take up a position by the side of a well-travelled trail and strike accurately at an unprotected leg, or a small warm-blooded animal as it passed in the dark.

On our first trip up one of the high forest trails we were fortunate to spot our Mexican Jay; we also saw a Pine Grosbeak, and other birds common to the high mountains.

Our trip down the mountains was slowed by clouds lying across the roadway. We took advantage of the opportunity to grab a piece of cloud as we passed warily through. Luckily, they were not extensive, for visibility was very limited. Although we had been in mountains far higher than these, we had never before driven through the clouds.

We spent the last day slowly working our way back towards the eastern entrance of the park. The only bird we could add to our list was a Say's Phoebe. We carefully scrutinized the eagles, hawks and falcons patrolling the cliff-faces and dry river beds for new specimens without result. We did not seem to mind the heat so much as we headed further south towards the Rio Grande Delta.

We expected to visit several wildlife refuges in the Delta, but this would depend upon weather, time, and our progress. These included: Falcon Dam, Santa Anna, Laguna Atascosa, and Goose Island near Aransas. We were fortunate in seeing all these and adding birds to our list that we may never see again.

Our first stop was at the Falcon Dam State Park, with appointments for trailers which left nothing to be desired. We made note of Mexican or Olivaceous Cormorants and many Boat-tailed grackles down at the water. Scott's Oriole and Curve-billed thrashers, the job of the latter appeared to be patrolling the fences.

We moved along very early in the morning so that we would have the rest of the day at Santa Anna. The first sight of the small directional signs and the unpretentious entrance was disturbing, but after crossing a couple of roads and some tracks it was as though we had entered a different land, with the woods gathering around us. We had not even arrived at the gate before Chachalacas were running over the roads and through the bushes using the branches as a monkey would. Groove-billed Anis were perched all about in the trees. So as not to block the road, we hastened towards the refuge headquarters and parking lot, that we might also explore more carefully on foot. We found it impossible to cover the grounds properly in the time that we had at our disposal, and had to go back to the car for transport. As we mentioned before, this was the rainy season. We were subjected to a couple of cloudbursts that soaked us to the skin. Changes of clothes, convenient facilities, and the bright sunlight, however, kept our discomfiture to a minimum.

We spent the rest of the day here, with lunch directly underneath the swinging, Spanish Moss nest of the Lichtenstein's Oriole. Green Jays and Tropical Kingbirds brightened up the trees. We were also able to add the following birds to our list,

first the Kiskadee and Weid's Flycatchers, Black-bellied Tree Duck, White-fronted Dove, Red-billed Pigeon, and finally, a Black-crested Titmouse. Other local varieties filled the place with song and chatter.

Starting out at daybreak the next morning, we visited Brazos Island before heading further up the coast. Here we became acquainted with the Laughing Gull, hundreds of Willets, Snowy and Semi-palmated Plovers. We were forever looking around to see who was laughing, we just couldn't believe that this sound came from a bird.

We moved eastward and northward along the coast deciding to take the grand tour of the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge. As this was off season from the spectacular flights of ducks, geese, and shorebirds, we had the whole place to ourselves. It was hot, dry, and uninviting until we reached the shallow bays and ponds that harboured many shorebirds yet. We caught sight of our first javelina in one of these ponds. We added the following birds to our list: Black-necked Stilt, Little Blue and Louisiana Herons, White and Snowy Egrets, this last we had been searching for, for a long time, Avocet, Black Skimmer, Least and Royal Terns. On our way out of the refuge we had the good fortune to discover a White-tailed Kite in the prairie grass.

We knew that the Whooping Cranes were all safely up in Wood Buffalo Park at this time of year, so our next stop was Goose Island State Park right next door to Aransas. This was a fisherman's paradise, all you had to do was throw in your line, (in the surf that is) and pull it out with a fish on it. There seemed to be hundreds of small structures with two walls, a floor, and a roof, complete with running water, and electrical outlets. Very convenient for campers to say the least. I would like to add here that at no time had the charge for an overnight stay been more than \$2.50, even with seven children. The only new bird that we could add to our list was the Piping Plover. There was no mistaking it, atop a piece of driftwood piping its head off.

The children organized hermit crab races in the sand around the trailer site. It was surprising the speed at which these creatures could move, considering that they were carrying their shell homes with them.

Time was running short and our only other major stop was Cape Kennedy, situated in the middle of Merrit Island Wildlife Refuge. Besides being introduced to all the fascinating space enterprises, a real eye-opener for the whole family, we also managed to add the following birds to our list, during, and after, the tour. Glossy, White and Wood Ibises, Anhinga, Brown Pelican, Man-O-War Birds, Double-Crested Cormorants.

Returning through the more crowded sections of the country was most uneventful from the standpoint of nature, as we did not have the time to truly enjoy it. Despite this, we felt that we had accomplished what we had set out to do, to see the birds of Texas.

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COMING EVENTS

Royal Canadian Institute

Information: 922-2804

Saturday evening lectures, Convocation Hall, University of Toronto at 8:15 p.m.

COMING EVENTS - cont'd

Royal Ontario Museum

Information: 928-3690

Free Sunday Films 2:30 p.m.

- February 6 World of Apu. A film classic by India's Satyajit Ray.
February 13 Technics/Three Studies in Jazz.
Island of Aldabra. An untouched island north of Madagascar has maintained unique forms of wildlife.
Requiem for a Faith. A survey of Buddhist practices.
February 20 Walking. Why Save Florence.
February 27 Canon. The Time of Man. Starting with the evolution of the earth, the film shows the interrelationship of creatures and environment in a new perspective.

Exhibitions

- Mineral Gallery: to Mar. 12 - Carved and ornamented mineral objets d'art, by George Stangl of New York.
Third Floor Rotunda: "What bird bones tell us" Feb. 15-Mar. 19.
Best time to visit this exhibit is on Feb. 25 (7:30-9:00) when Museum staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Lecture Series

"Through the Microscope" - Wednesday evenings 8:30 p.m., Planetarium Lecture Room. Free.

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Toronto Christmas Bird Count - 1971

This season's count produced a total of 33,949 birds and 92 species - a new record. There were no new species. Judging from the figures below this looks like an excellent year for winter finches.

Birds counted: Oldsquaw 5,811; starling 4,271; greater scaup 3,067; mallard 2,594; house sparrow 2,084; herring gull 1,955; black duck 1,562; common redpoll 1,494; black-capped chickadee 1,247; Canada geese 1,102; white-winged crossbill 988; ring-billed gull 865; pine siskin 850; slate-coloured junco 682; common goldeneye 645; tree sparrow 608; bufflehead 390; blue jay 312; ring-necked pheasant 233; downy woodpecker 220; American goldfinch 205; cardinal 202; evening grosbeak 195; white-breasted nuthatch 192; common crow 191; common merganser 186; cedar waxwing 169; red-tailed hawk 156; song sparrow 116; mourning dove 113; pine grosbeak 109; American widgeon 84; red-winged blackbird 75; red crossbill 65; American kestrel 60; brown-headed cowbird 56; gadwell 44; great black gull 39; rough-legged hawk 37; hairy woodpecker 27; robin 25; yellow-shafted flicker 20; winter wren 19; red-breasted nuthatch 17; purple finch 16; great horned owl 13; brown creeper 12; canvasback 12; whitethroated sparrow 11; golden-crowned kinglet 11; rusty blackbird 10; snowy owl 9; northern shrike 9; white-winged scoter 7; swamp sparrow 7; field sparrow 7; common snipe 6; mute swan 6; pintail 6; lesser scaup 6; hermit thrush 6; common grackle 5; belted kingfisher 5; ruby-crowned kinglet 4; hooded merganser 3; marsh hawk 3; red-breasted merganser 3; glaucous gull 3; screech owl 3; yellow-bellied sapsucker 3; ruffed grouse 3; long-eared owl 2; lapland longspur 2; fox sparrow 2; rufous-sided towhee 2; red-shouldered hawk 2; great blue heron 1; harlequin duck 1; green-winged teal 1; wood duck 1; goshawk 1; Cooper's hawk 1; American coot 1; Iceland gull 1; saw-whet owl 1; barred owl 1; mockingbird 1; brown thrasher 1; myrtle warbler 1; ring-necked duck 1; chipping sparrow 1.

Where they were found:

Clarkson - mockingbird
Beltline Ravine - goshawk
Pickering lakeshore - mute swans, Iceland gull
Schomberg - varied thrush
Lower Humber River - myrtle warbler
Toronto Islands - harlequin duck, ring-necked duck
High Park - coot, green-winged teal
Ashbridge's Bay - wood duck, Lapland longspur
Agincourt - saw-whet owl, towhee
Aurora - Cooper's hawk, great blue heron
Wilket Creek - chipping sparrow, fox sparrow

The barred owl is the "famous" one featured in the newspapers and was found in its usual spot back of the Central YMCA on College St.

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Birding on the Niagara

Are you looking for a good place to birdwatch in February? Try the Niagara River.. The following notes will tell you the best places to stop. They were written by ROBERT CURRY, Ancaster and appeared in BIRDING, Sept-Oct, 1971

A. Where the Niagara River begins. On both the lake and river sides of the Peace Bridge large numbers of ducks and gulls concentrate. Watch for Harlequin Ducks with the Bufflehead (two for the last two winters there) and, in fall, Franklin's Gulls with the Bonaparte's Gulls feeding over the water. The Sabine's Gull has been seen here almost every fall (not in 1970) in recent years sometimes staying for several weeks in the period from mid September to late November. There was a Black-headed Gull here in December and January of 1970-71 winter.

B. At the mouth of the Welland River in the village of Chippewa a drake Common Eider spent some 13 months in 1970 and 1971. This is an excellent bird inland.

C. Above the Falls make several stops. Check for Little Gulls among the Bonaparte's and for white-winged gulls among the larger types. One or more (5 last November) Black-legged Kittiwakes has been seen here practically every fall and winter recently. Scrutinize bare ledges of rock in mid-river for Purple Sandpipers at any time during fall, winter or spring.

D. Look into the Gorge from above or, better, walk down near the Maid-of-the-Mist Ferry Dock. This is the best place for Northern and Red Phalaropes in fall and excellent for any gulls. Always the possibility of a rare duck, gull or grebe here. Very good for King Eider,

E. Sir Adam Beck Power Station. Often thousands of large gulls in the gorge below around the power station outlets. One or more Thayer's Gulls are usually here in winter.

F. Check the river at the village of Queenston. There are almost always Little Gulls here and the Black-headed Gull has been picked out more than once.

G. Where the river enters Lake Ontario, birders check especially for King Eiders which are erratic but have been here in small numbers up to about 25.

ROBERT CURRY, 92 Hostein Drive, Ancaster, Ontario

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BOARD DOINGS

The fall meetings of the Board have been less preoccupied with the Jim Baillie Reserve this year, but there still has been plenty to talk about. We have decided on two loop trails which together will traverse most of the variations in habitat our woodland provides. We have yet to make a final decision on parking arrangements for a group outing, as there are several possibilities, all with advantages and disadvantages.

Members will not have been as deluged with requests for funds recently, but this is not to suggest we do not need money! We feel you should have a respite from the persistent hammering away, but we plan to be back to you, because we still need the cash.

The October Club meeting provided an amusing commentary on the hazards of being on the Board. At the earlier Board meeting much soul searching discussion had gone on about the merits of coffee at meetings. It can now be told that we were fairly evenly split on the issue, with perhaps a small majority in favour, but only subject to certain conditions. We decided on a "straw" vote at the meeting, and no one was more astonished than your President to find those present about 99% opposed -- almost exactly 99% in fact, as there were about 300 people there, and only about three tentative hands crept up when we asked for those in favour. In one way it is too bad, because coffee was one way of making the meetings more of a social occasion, but your views seemed pretty final.

You will know that we have been invited to install another display. This will be in February in the Lower Rotunda of the Royal Ontario Museum, as part of the R.O.M. Diamond Jubilee programme. So you will have seen our call for volunteers already, but unlike the Sportsmen's Show, where we are again participating, it need not be manned.

- Clive Goodwin

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Bird News from far and near

Toronto

This is a good year to see a barred owl. There's been one hanging around the YMCA at 40 College St. for most of the winter. Just walk in behind the Ward-Price Galleries and search all the porches and fire escapes you can find. Sometimes he migrates to the back of Fran's Restaurant or even the roof of Eaton's across the street.

Whitby

In case you missed it in the papers, Red Mason, our Bird Group leader, found 3 nests of little gulls in the Whitby marsh last June. Seven young hatched, the first known time that the little gull has nested successfully in the Western Hemisphere.

Rondeau Park

A corncrake was seen here in early September. This bird, related to our rails, is a common resident of Europe.

Nova Scotia

Those maritimers saw some queer birds last year on Seal Island. One week last spring a cave swallow was taken there far from its native Cuban haunts. The next week a good sight record was reported of a possible black-cowled oriole (ICTERUS PROSTHEMELAS). This bird was even farther from its home which is normally the West Indies and Central America.

Brandon, Manitoba

Leo Smith, our local bluebird expert, reports that the Brandon Junior Birders had a great season last year with their nest boxes. Besides assorted red squirrels, deer mice and starlings their boxes contained families of: house wrens 38, tree swallows 1400, mountain bluebirds 508, eastern bluebirds 135, and 3 crossbred nestings of eastern and mountain bluebirds all 3 of different combinations.

New Jersey

That Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge near Atlantic City is an amazing place for shorebirds. Last summer they reported, among others: a black-tailed godwit, a bar-tailed godwit; at least 3 ruffs all summer; various curlew sandpipers; black rails walking in plain sight; up to 11 avocets; and a lesser white-fronted goose. It sounds like a great place for a summer vacation for both birds and watchers.

Hawaii

A supposedly extinct bird, the KAUII OO, was located deep in Hawaii's Alakai Swamp by a biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He found a nesting pair with two young. He had to use a helicopter to penetrate into the tropical rain forests near Mt. WAIALEALE.

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The JAMES L. BAILLIE ORNITHOLOGICAL LIBRARY

The following letter was received last October by our club from David Mason, a Toronto firm of book dealers.

Gentlemen:

On behalf of Mrs. Helen Baillie, I would like to inform the members of your association of the disposition of the Ornithological Library owned by the late James L. Baillie, of the Royal Ontario Museum.

As many of you will be aware, Jim Baillie's library - formed meticulously over a period of some fifty years - was probably the finest reference collection on birds in private hands in Canada, if not North America.

Along with the books, which were heavily annotated and cross-referenced, it includes pamphlets, offprints, complete and near-complete runs of all the major and minor periodicals, Jim's field journals complete from 1920, his personal diaries, papers and two important unfinished manuscripts.

This collection has been purchased by the University of Toronto Libraries and the following arrangements have been agreed upon by Mrs. Baillie and the University.

1. The Library will be housed intact as a special collection in the Rare Books Room of the University of Toronto Libraries, and will be known as the James L. Baillie Ornithological Library.
2. The University has undertaken to maintain the Library's reference value by further acquisition of materials relating to nature study in Ontario and by continued periodical subscription, etc. so that naturalists will have a workable and up-to-date source for their studies.
3. All persons interested in Ornithology, whether professional or otherwise, will have free access to and use of the Library. Anyone who knew of Jim Baillie's unfailing interest and willingness to devote his time to all interested bird-watchers will not be surprised that this was Mrs. Baillie's most pressing stipulation.

It has also been possible, thanks to the co-operation of the Royal Ontario Museum and in particular to the foresight and sympathy of ROM Director, Mr. Peter Swann, that Jim's massive files of correspondence with naturalists throughout the world have remained intact and a part of the library.

The collection is currently housed at the University of Toronto's temporary Rare Book Room at 45 Charles Street East, Toronto.

While the cataloguing and sorting has proceeded very well, and a good part of the library is now available for use, the University has asked me to state that, given their pressing space problems in these temporary quarters, they will be unable to afford full access to the entire collection until they have moved into the Rare Books Room of the New Humanities Library presently under construction at St. George and Harbord Streets.

The new library is expecting to open sometime in 1972 and at that time Ornithologists and Naturalists will find that with the Baillie collection there, and the Royal Ontario Museum five minutes away, they will have at their disposal ornithological research facilities comparable to those anywhere on the continent.

Mrs. Baillie feels that this collection constitutes a large part of Jim's material legacy to nature study in Canada and expresses the hope that all his friends and colleagues will use it for their personal profit and the benefit of future generations of Naturalists in Canada.

Yours sincerely,

David Mason

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A WOLF QUESTIONS

by Patricia Weese

Do you equate self-defence with ferocity?
Aggression with curiosity?
Malice with predation?
A growl with a howl?
A fairy tale with the truth?
A snowmobile with a gun?
Then it is best that I am killed;
For with evil I am filled.
To you my worth is nothing
But the price my grey pelt brings.

* * * * *

Little Reviews

** The Closing Circle - Nature, Man and Technology; Barry Commoner. Written by the well-known environmentalist, this book gives a clear understandable explanation of how late it is to save our planet. Gives some gruesome case histories: Lake Erie, Los Angeles, Illinois. Read this book to get a better understanding of the basic laws of ecology.

** Northern Ontario Canoe Routes. 84 pages. Free from the Ontario Dept. of Lands and Forests, Parliament Bldgs, Toronto 5. Outlines 125 canoe routes from 1 day to 650 miles. Includes a map showing all the routes.

** CBC Publications, Can be ordered from: CBC Learning Systems, Box 500, Terminal 'A', Toronto 116. Some which might interest you are:

- Balance and Biosphere: lectures and interviews on pollution, population and environmental degradation (\$2.00)
- Science and Conscience: Eight discussions with famous scientists (\$1.75)
- A Place for Everything: ecological regions of Canada (\$3.50)
- Darwin and the Galapagos: by Lister Sinclair and John Livingstone (\$3.50)
- Animals and Man: \$1.25
- The Ecological Viewpoint: Forest insects and other examples (\$1.50)
- Why the weather: \$1.50
- The Ultimate Science: biology simply explained (\$1.50)
- The scientific revolution: \$1.50
- This Universe of Space: up-to-date account of astronomy (\$1.50)

** This Land, CBC-TV Jan, 26 at 8:00 p.m. "Picture it wild" will take you through Quetico Park.

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Kirtland's Warbler Appeal from the Detroit Audubon Society

Dear Friend:

The Kirtland's Warbler has never been as close to extinction as it is now. In 1961 this rare warbler numbered about 1,000. The 1971 summer census revealed only about 400 remain.

The main reason for the decline appears to be cowbird parasitism. If the cowbird can be controlled it is believed the warbler could make a comeback.

The cowbird control program can be put into effect only if funds are available. Government agencies have stated there are no funds for this program, therefore I appeal to your organization to contribute whatever you can to this effort to save the Kirtland's Warbler.

Send donations to:

Kirtland's Warbler Fund - Michigan Audubon Society
7000 North Westnedge
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

Sincerely,

Joe Bartell, President
Detroit Audubon Society

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Canadian National Sportsmen's Show donates to Reserve

Members will share the delight of Board of Directors to learn that a grant of \$2500 was given by the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show towards the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve.

Our approach to the Show for support was influenced by the recognition that preservation of natural land is a worthwhile conservation undertaking in itself. Our initiative was particularly significant, as no Conservation Authority exists in the Uxbridge Creek or adjacent watersheds and consequently the bottomlands of that area, with their rather unusual combination of northern and southern characteristics, were wholly unprotected.

We are very grateful to the Directors of the C.N.S.S. for supporting our work so generously.

...and the Mortgage is paid off!

Thanks both to the Sportsmen's Show aid and to the generous efforts of everyone in the Club, the Jim Baillie reserve is now wholly ours. Our fund-raising drive has passed the \$14,000 mark, and this money together with the Club's own reserves have enabled the mortgage to be paid off.

You will feel, with us, that this is a major cause for rejoicing. At the same time we must remember that the Reserve cost us \$18,000, and we needed another \$2,000 for expenses associated with it. So we are not really there yet - in a sense we have robbed Peter to pay Paul, and we must continue to strive for our target of \$20,000.

If you have not already donated, or if you would like to donate again (it is a new taxation year) there is a form elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Canadian National Sportsmen's Show, March 17 to 26, 1972

Don't forget - mark your calendar now for the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show in March. If any T.F.N. members did not previously appreciate the Show's valuable contribution to Conservation activities, they certainly should be well aware of it now.

Once again we will be assisting manning a co-operative exhibit at the Show. This year some of the same displays will appear but there will be many new exhibits, and this is always an excellent opportunity to spread awareness of conservation. As last year, the Conservation Council of Ontario (our President wearing his official hat) will be coordinating the display, but we need volunteers. If you can spare any time over this period please fill out the form which appears below and send it in. You do not need to be an expert conservationist to help - just have some spare time and a willingness to help.

- Clive Goodwin

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If you can help, would you kindly telephone Tom or Janet Arnett (461-8934), preferably after 6:30 p.m., or use the following form.

To: Mrs. Janet Arnett,
397A Danforth Ave.,
Toronto 279, Ont.

I would like to help out with the display at the Sportsmen's Show.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Preferred time:

Please specify date

Weekdays () 12:00 - 3:30 3:30 - 7:30 7:30 - 11:00

Saturdays () 10:00 - 2:30 2:30 - 6:30 6:30 - 11:00

Sundays () 1:00 - 5:00 5:00 - 9:00

I would prefer to work with Children's Section ()

Adult Section ()