



Number 268

# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 1972

## MAY MEETING

Monday, May 1, 1972, at 8:15 p.m.  
in the auditorium of the  
ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION  
252 Bloor Street West

Speaker: D. R. M. SAUNDERS

Subject: A NATURALIST IN THE ROCKIES

Dr Saunders will present a general look at the animals, plants, and scenery of the Canadian Rocky Mountains with particular emphasis on alpine meadows and the wild flowers growing in them. Illustration with colour slides.

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GROUP MEETINGS - There will be no group meetings in May.

OUTINGS - Please see the other side of this sheet for important notices.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who enrolled between March 11 and April 2: Miss Muriel E. Allan, Miss Ann Aspden, Mrs. G. R. Bain, Miss Vera Burrage, Miss Katherine S. Clough, Mrs. Anne Denis, Mrs. Roger Fellows, Mr. Robert H. Hillmer, Miss Margaret R. Hiltz, Miss Susan C. Howell, Mr. Bob Knudsen, Mr. & Mrs. F. J. McGuigan, Mrs. Muriel MacDougall, Mr. James R. Michie, Miss Joyce Millar, Miss Sharon Mulholland, Miss Carolyn Powell, Dr. E. Racicot, Miss Carman Roberts, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Roberts, Miss Joanne Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Robt. F. Stevenson.

The Jim Baillie Nature Reserve Fund still needs your support. All donations will be gratefully received -- large or small.

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 \_\_\_\_\_



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This will be the last time I will be giving you an account of the activities of the Board, and as this newsletter will coincide with the Annual Meeting, perhaps my comments can also serve as an Annual Report of sorts.

This year has not been marked by the dramatic events of 1970-1, but the Club has progressed steadily towards its objectives. The mortgage on the Jim Baillie Reserve has been paid off, trails have been laid out, and a good start has been made towards a full inventory of the plants and animals found there. We have had some discussions on future management, and the April Board meeting will be looking at these matters again. In other directions we have participated in - or sponsored - the two displays referred to elsewhere in this newsletter, made contact with government or other agencies as appropriate, and maintained and expanded the programme of outings and other membership services.

Our analysis of your questionnaires is far from complete, but your response seems to suggest a good degree of satisfaction with your Club and the programme it provides. This is very satisfying to a Board given to some soul-searching and searching for dissenting comment. One area which we used to gain some idea of how you thought we should order our priorities was related to money: would you be willing to pay more to see us more active in certain ways? We did not necessarily have an increase in fees in mind, but more money would permit more service, and we wondered how you would respond.

There was really only one area where you opted for more activity: 71% of you would be willing to pay more to see us more active in conservation and environmental issues. Couple that with the interest many of you indicated in conservation (some 25% said it was their first interest) and ecology (over 15% their first interest) and there is a clear mandate for us to become more active environmentally.

Perhaps an indication to you of our present level of activity would be in order: the last meeting of the Board was a good example. On March 23 we had received the Policy Proposals on the new Bronte Creek Provincial Park. We had hurriedly prepared a brief, and it was approved by the Board for presentation the following evening (March 28) at a Public Meeting in Oakville. We then had a letter from naturalists in Bow Valley, asking for our support in opposition to the Village Lake Louise Proposal in Banff National Park, by the deadline of April 4; from naturalists in Pickering asking us to write letters opposing the airport; from the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers on their "Man and Resources" programme, where we are somehow supposed to poll your views on environmental matters for a meeting in June; and from the Canadian Preparatory Committee for the U.N. Stockholm Conference on the Environment asking us to respond to a major working paper by April 17. We were already working on a "rush" inventory of natural areas for the Department of the Environment, and the F.O.N. wanted to know if we wished to participate in a questionnaire to election candidates!

We will respond to most of these issues, but obviously they present us with major challenges in terms, not of money, but of resources of time, manpower and knowledge. Superficially the Toronto club should be able to command ample resources in these fields, but in practice the three small senior-level clubs, and even the presence in the city of F.O.N. Headquarters, tend to dilute available skills here. So those members who are interested and who have skills to offer are urged to make their availability known to us.

But this is a rather negative note on which to end. It is also a false note, because some problems in a specific area of our programme should not be allowed to overshadow the enormous contributions made by our members. As last year, I am at a loss to single out specific contributions - there are too many, and they have been too diverse. The heaviest loads, however, have necessarily devolved on our group chairmen, the members of the Board, and our Officers. Perhaps my most fitting conclusion is simply, thank you all.

- Clive Goodwin

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MORE BERMUDA GLIMPSES

by: Elmer Talvia

Wednesday, Hungry Bay

The sea was much rougher today and the breakers were growing like an empty stomach at Hungry Bay. In the middle of the mangrove swamp surrounding the bay a conversation was taking place.

"Wishee - wishee - wishee." "Chip."

"Wishee - wishee - wishee." "Chip - chip."

Birds were scarce today, for besides the northern water-thrush, only a black and white warbler and a redstart found us attractive or curious enough to come calling. But we were a game bunch (and getting gamier by the minute) so we sat for quite a while making bird talk and munching on a patch of nearby New Zealand lettuce.

The swamp we were huddled in was no doubt the 'best' mangrove swamp in Bermuda. It looked like everybody's idea of a mangrove swamp; low lying shrubby trees with thick impenetrable masses of roots, long pendulous fruit hanging down to the brackish water. Like the red mangroves in the Everglades.

But there was another tree growing here, the black mangrove, which was quite different. It had a thickish gray trunk, it stood upright and was some 15 feet taller than the red mangrove. It had no props or suckers but it did have 'knees' for breathing, like the cypress trees I saw once in Reelfoot Lake. Its fruit, which we found lying about, was a small, light green elliptic capsule quite different from the long thin torpedoes of the red mangrove.

By this time our stomachs were indeed beginning to sound like the angry breakers on Hungry Bay. So David Wingate and I went back across South Road to Camden House to get the lunch box while the group disported itself about the rocks. That means they went looking for a flat place to sit.

As I hustled back along the path with the life giving cargo I was lucky enough to see two of the famous Hungry Bay tree climbing crabs scuttling off to safety. David and I, the tour leaders, were the only ones in the group to see them. So justice was served.

And lunch was served on the rocks.

Several green parrot fish were busy eating also, scraping algae off the rocks below. I marvelled that they could stick so close to the rocks without being smashed on them by the surging water. I thought of myself clinging tenaciously to my "Mad" magazine on the surging subway - and quickly thought of something else.

Before leaving we spent some time looking in the tide pools. We found glasswort or salicornia, a curious fleshy plant which comes apart like a horsetail. We saw several pretty red sea anemones and black prickly sea urchins. I picked up a large Portuguese man-of-war which had been washed ashore. Carefully - they sting. Crabs were also plentiful and almost quicker than the eye.

Among the rocks the tassel flower with its little yellow bloom was just opening up. Seaside heliotrope was also curling open. A small clump of marsh rosemary was growing beside the path. Further away from the rocks the path enters a fine allspice and bay grape woods. Here we saw some familiar Canadian plants: poison ivy, virginia creeper, maidenhair fern, and a house plant, the sword fern. Near the old stone wall where the path begins was a large clump of creeping dayflower.

For me, a most interesting find was the nondescript night blooming cestrum. I grew one years ago in our basement. At 10 o'clock on a spring evening - you could set your watch by it - the whole house would be filled with the most overpower scent: a thick almost tangible aroma. For me it was pure heavenly ambrosia but for others, the rest of the family, it was a suffocating cloying stink. Since three headaches count for more than one 'high', we don't have the CESTRUM anymore.

After lunch we set up a shuttle service. While some were examining the interesting historic displays at Camden museum others were shuttling off in the truck to Devil's Hole to look at groupers or proceeding to the Aquarium/Zoo to look at everything else. A lone merlin hovering over South Road watched this migration of the 'oakies'!

At Camden I rummaged about (carefully) through the bird trays and produced a fine specimen of a cahow, brought it outside into the light where it was duly photographed.

At Devil's Hole we listened to some rote spiel while we watched groupers, turtles and sharks swimming about below. This place has been in business since 1843 and is still making money. A tourist trap but interesting and worth seeing - at least once.

At the Aquarium/Zoo there was much more to see and it was free because we were from the Bio. Station. There is something here for everybody: coral and shells and sunken treasure; monkeys and malingoes; Galapagos tortoises and penguins. I found the original watercolours for Beebe's "Half Mile Down" interesting. Also the samples of native woods and the prints of native flowers. But above all else, the fish tanks. These seem to get better each year.

While the group was enjoying it all, I went across to Flatts for a drink with our genial Portuguese truck driver, Joe Madeiros. We had soda pop.

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That evening we saw David Wingate and Nonsuch Island again through the magic of an Audubon film on Bermuda. And that marvelous underwater world I had glimpsed at Nonsuch Bay.

Later some of us met in the relative luxury of the second floor. (They have their own toilets there.) And we opened bottles of Heinekin's soda pop and laughed at the thought of snow.

Afterwards I walked about the station grounds listening the to Bermuda spring peepers calling to each other in unison.

It was a clear starlit sky. The heavens were close but a bit shaky.

## BOTANY GROUP

At the final meeting of the Botany Group of the T.F.N.C. for this year, we were very pleased to have Mr. Les Griffin share with us some memories of the Bruce. Mr. Griffin has visited the Bruce Peninsula on several occasions and has collected some beautiful coloured slides of the area, particularly many of the wild orchids and other plants that are the specialty of the Bruce. There was a large attendance at the meeting, and we all enjoyed seeing some of the treasures of the Bruce Peninsula again through Mr. Griffin's eyes.

The Botany Group will resume its monthly meetings in the fall, but in the meantime the members hope to enjoy the outdoors and to see firsthand some of the flowers and plants that we have been seeing on the screen and hearing about at our meetings during the past winter.

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## BE GLAD YOU ARE A NATURALIST IN CANADA

Excerpt from "The New Face of China" - by Peter Schmid (page 153)

At present there is a new campaign in full swing, as part of the production drive - a campaign for the extermination of the sparrows. One sparrow, it is officially calculated, consumes so and so many grammes of rice a day. Hence a hundred thousand sparrows consume so and so many tons per quarter, or enough to feed a village for this or that length of time. Therefore - get rid of the sparrows. The campaign is being waged with the customary radicalism. Extermination targets are laid down for every village. During my stay in Canton entire offices were closed for half a day and the officials sent off to bag their sparrows with gun or sling. I have watched fathers on their Sunday walks with their children peer up into the trees, shotgun in hand. Needless to say, the victims are not only sparrows, but anything on the wing. To me this bird-slaughter, more than any political injustice, has become the symbol of human folly. To liquidate counter-revolutionaries is, of course, brutal, but that is the way of revolutions. But to extend the war of annihilation to those little creatures which sow not, neither do they reap, yet their Heavenly Father feedeth them -- this is simply revolting. Not to mention those weed seeds and pests which our useful feathered friends get rid of. And what happens to the minds of children who are no longer allowed to stroke a dog or to throw crumbs to the birds? How miserable is this materialism which is intent only on filling the belly! It confirms in an almost uncanny way the words spoken to me in Shanghai by a clever Chinese woman: "The capitalists treat the people like cattle; the Communists treat them like tractors."

-- Submitted by Miss Etta Weinert

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Anyone planning to vacation out west in August is invited to attend the following:

-- '72 Conference of the Canadian Nature Federation (formerly Canadian Audubon Society at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Aug. 17-20. For information contact Canadian Nature Federation, Box 1582, Edmonton, Alta.

-- Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) at Grand Forks, North Dakota, Aug. 21-25. They say: "Anyone vacationing in this area is invited to attend." Further information from Mrs. John Lueshen, President, Inland Bird Banding Association, Wisner, Neb. 68791, U.S.A.

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SECOND ANNUAL JIM BAILLIE BIRD WALK -- APRIL 30, 1972

Take a walk with us to see the spring bird life in your city! Members of the Toronto Ornithological Club are ready to help you find and identify the birds at the four best locations that can be reached with or without a car. The date is Sunday, April 30; all walks begin at 7:30 a.m.

Here are the locations and meeting places. Walks last about three hours. The pace is slow (about a mile an hour).

1. TORONTO ISLAND - Meet at the Ferry Docks on the city side at 7:30 a.m. The island, site of the Toronto Nature School, is the resting place of migrating birds crossing the lake from the south. Many exciting bird finds have been made there.
2. HIGH PARK - Meet at the top end of Grenadier Pond on the west side at 7:30 a.m. This spot can be reached from the restaurant parking lot; or by coming up Ellis Avenue from Queen Street; or down from Bloor Street. High Park, Toronto's largest and most easily accessible park, is a rewarding place to look for birds.
3. THE BELT LINE RAVINE - Meet at the northeast corner of Moore Park, at Moore Avenue and Welland Avenue at 7:30 a.m. This eastern part of the former Belt Line Railway has grown back to a treed and shrubby haven for migrating birds. Sixteen species of birds have been found to breed there in a recent survey. Other natural and scenic features are the magnificent heights of Chorley Park, and the revealing excavation of the Toronto Brick Works Quarry. Toronto's geological past is laid bare in this vast digging.
4. WILKET CREEK PARK - Meet at the parking lot at 7:30 a.m.; off Leslie Street opposite the Inn on the Park. This park chain includes Serena Gundy, Edwards Gardens and Ernest Thompson Seton Parks. They include a tributary of the Don River and offer varied cover for many birds.

This unique day of birds walks is the second annual outing dedicated to the late James L. Baillie, dean of Toronto field birders and inspiration to at least two generations of enthusiasts. Jim showed they way for the city dweller to find joy in the vibrant birdlife at our doorstep. Come along and meet us, park that polluting gas monster, stretch your legs and enjoy the city's green areas. You'll feel like a new person.

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REFLECTIONS ON A POND

by: Eileen M. Nicol

Three years ago I worked in a 12th floor office on Adelaide Street. We were close to Eatons and Simpsons and thought it was great.

From my window could be seen the walls and roofs of many giant buildings and through a space between them, a glimpse of Lake Ontario, sullen and grey in winter and sparkling in summer with the white wings of sail boats adding to the scene.

In February 1969 the office moved to a new building in Don Mills with nothing to offer, no shops, no view of the Lake - NOTHING.

The first day we moved in I realized my mistake as I glanced out of the third floor window at my side. I watched the traffic on the Don Valley Parkway backing up, the route I had hitherto travelled, then raising my eyes slightly I viewed a large piece of land, snow covered at this time of year. To one side a snow covered pond with a curious mound of sticks in the middle, a little further left another pond with a mound at one edge. I am a fledgling naturalist, so when someone said these were

muskrat houses, I looked in the Audubon Encyclopedia before I was convinced. Then my interest sharpened and I longed for spring.

Every day without fail I walked down the sidewalk which skirted one edge of the field. Then, one day in March, a day of pouring rain when I was the only person abroad, I heard the call of a redwing. I was elated. There were many redwings in the shrubs and trees and though perhaps for years they had sung their territorial claims to each other, that day they sang for me alone.

When the snow and ice melted it left three small ponds which were connected by channels and swampy patches. Bulrushes grew in quantity and the redwings nested there. Later in the summer only one pond remained and everything else dried up.

Every morning upon my arrival at work the first thing I did was to look across at "MY" ponds. One day to my surprise there were two Canada geese on the pond and a while later some mallards came down too.

Some days there was no sign of life other than the redwings clinging to the bulrushes and flirting their tails. Other days there were geese and ducks resting on their way north. As the seasons progressed something new presented itself each day; the frog chorus in full voice, killdeer circling and crying, song and savannah sparrows, kingbirds, crows, kestrel and an occasional red-tailed hawk, white and yellow sweet clover, cow vetch, cinquefoil, butter and eggs, meadowsweet, chickory and goldenrod.

I watched swallows swooping and darting over it, tadpoles swimming in it, a mallard and her brood of twelve floating on it, bulrushes and wild flowers growing around it and the pond, the centre of it all, reflecting back the living beauty surrounding it.

Then an apartment at the end of the street was completed and work started on a small plaza. Though the field itself was not touched, the land adjoining was churned up by the work equipment going to and fro. I began to wonder what effect all the activity would have on the wildlife. There was a constant stream of people exercising dogs, catching frogs, plucking wildflowers and throwing a variety of objects to and at the ducks. In the fall the muskrat started to build up his house but it was never completed for he disappeared.

The following spring work was started on a new apartment. Trees were cut down and the trilliums, which by law people are forbidden to pick, were ploughed under with gay abandon by the contractor's bulldozers. There was a marked decline in redwings, the sound of the frogs diminished considerably and the killdeer spent a lot of time circling the workmen's heads in agitation.

How long can this little haven escape being destroyed altogether? Are all wild and beautiful things destined to the same fate which befell a pair of Canada geese which nested there last spring? These geese nested very close to the road and were constantly harrassed by people standing over the brooding bird. I had always thought of Canada geese as well able to defend their nests but neither of this pair so much as opened their beak in defiance. In spite of all this four eggs hatched one Thursday. The four goslings were seen on the pond on Sunday and by Monday morning all four had disappeared without a trace. I never even saw them, purposely keeping away from the nest and urging all others to do the same. The parent geese, after staying around the nest site for a few days disappeared too.

While this place has been a source of great delight to me, it is also one of much heartache for how much longer will the pond be there, how much time before the only reflections on the pond are my own in retrospect.

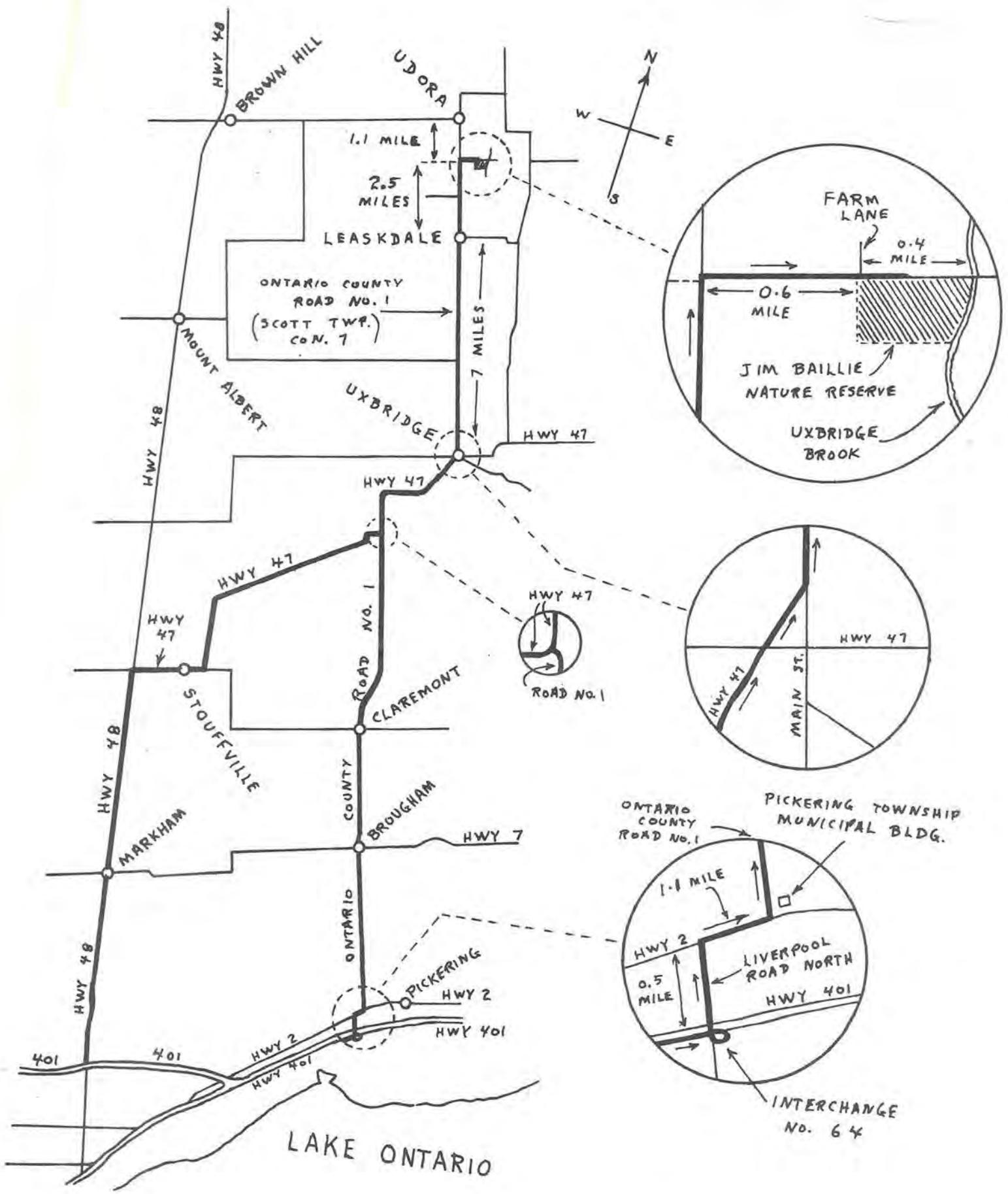
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Directions for reaching the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve  
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COMING EVENTS

Royal Ontario Museum

For information, phone 928-3690

- May 9 - June 11 'Quartz, quartz, quartz.' Third floor rotunda exhibit.
- Aug. 22-Oct. 16 'The Royal Ontario Museum or Nature's Biographer'  
Exhibition Hall. All the museum departments have participated  
in preparing this major exhibit. Don't miss it.

Gallery Tours. Check with R.O.M. for subjects and dates.

Conservation Council of Ontario and the Soil Conservation Society of America  
announces a Conference on 'Erosion: Causes, effects, controls' April 24-25,  
The Skyline Hotel, Toronto. For further information: call The Conservation  
Council of Ontario at 366-1387.

Pickering Spring Festival

- May 13-14 Pickering will show the citizens of Metro what will be destroyed if  
the Airport goes in. Further information call Gord Willson 294-1812.

Metropolitan Toronto Parks

For information: Syd Nicol 367-8176

Walking tours with Commissioner Tommy Thompson

May 14 - Outdoor breakfast followed by a walk in Highland Creek Park.

June 11 - Walking tour through the Central Don Park complex.

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CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF BELT LINE WALKING PARK

The walk along the Belt Line held last Spring was so successful and enjoyable that it  
is felt another Spring walk would be timely to focus attention on the fact that the  
establishment of the Belt Line as a walking park is not yet an accomplished fact.

Will you therefore come, bring your friends, your children, and publicize it in any  
way you can.

THE DATE IS SATURDAY, MAY 13. TIME 1:30 P.M. MEETING PLACE - ORIOLE PARKWAY AND  
CHAPLIN CRESCENT.

Alderman David Crombie will give a thumbnail sketch of the Belt Line walk-way to date.

Further information from Mrs. M. Carin, 488-7134.

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Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority offers two naturalists programs  
this summer at Albion Hills and Claremont Conservation Field Centres.

1. Man and his Environment: for teachers and other adults. July 4-27. Cost \$195.00
2. Summer camps: for boys and girls.

For a brochure and additional information write to: Metropolitan Toronto and Region  
Conservation Authority, 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, Ont. or call 630-9780.

If a birding trip to the tropics interests you then consider the Asa Wright Nature Centre in Trinidad. One of our members, J. Satterly has seen 150 species there during four trips. For further information write to J. Satterly, 15 Aldbury Gardens, Toronto 12, Ont. or call 483-5477.

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Summary of questionnaires returned (sent out last year to all members):

1. Main interests: Birds (104), conservation (66), botany (56), ecology (44)
2. Type of monthly meeting preferred: Talks (106), films (97), travelogues (67), panel discussion (30), other (2)
3. Have bird feeder: 77
4. Refreshments after meeting: No (55), Yes (26)
5. More meetings: No (47), Yes (14)
6. Better newsletter: Leave as is (47), No (26), Yes (20)
7. More active in environmental issues: Yes (71), No (14)
8. Another reserve: Yes (45), No (18)
9. Class of membership: Single (118), family (37), student (6), corresponding (9)
10. Age range: to 24 (14), 34 (21), 44 (32), 54 (43), 64 (37), 65 and over (29)

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Two successful exhibits ....

Thanks to everyone who helped make our two exhibits, Nature in the City at the Royal Ontario Museum; and Environment 72 at the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show, successes.

Particular thanks to Dr. Margaret Knight for co-ordinating the Museum display. Tom and Janet Arnett did an outstanding job co-ordinating the volunteers for Environment 72, a major task in itself.

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Jim Baillie Reserve Plant List

Some interested members of the club have prepared a list of plants which have been observed growing on our Reserve. This list will probably be published in the fall. To contribute observations or for further information please call JOHN TEN BRUGGENKATE 425-6096.

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.... A new 48 page booklet called 'Solid Waste; The Proceedings of a National Seminar on Opportunities for Recycling and Reduction at Source.' (yes - it was printed on recycled paper). Available from The Conservation Council of Ontario, Suite 604, 11 Adelaide St. West, Toronto 1, Ontario.

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## LETTERS

.... Could you possibly have a list of Committees entered in the Newsletter, with the duties of each Committee in detail, so everyone would have a clear picture of what is entailed? I am sure if we had this in the Newsletter, people would respond more readily to working in the Committees. Perhaps you could have one committee described in each Newsletter.

Ed Waltho.

(We will try to oblige you next fall, Ed, if somebody will do the writing.)

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For years I've been one of those TFN members who read the newsletter, go on an occasional field trip and nothing more. In other words--all take and no give.

This spring I was asked to take phone calls from members volunteering to work at the Conservation Council display at the Sportsman Show.

I volunteered, and volunteered my husband too. It certainly wasn't hard work--just jotting down the name, address and phone number of anyone who called us.

As Sportsman Show time arrived, we drew up a schedule, trying to arrange it so that there were enough volunteers at the display at all times. Some people could only work at one specified time, while others had more time to give and were most co-operative, volunteering to work four or five periods.

As neither of us had worked at the display in past years, we were at a bit of a loss when volunteers wanted to know what they would be required to do. When the show started and we had the opportunity to gain some experience in both the adult and children sections of the display, we found out that the jobs were both amazingly simple and enjoyable.

In the children's section, (where my husband and I 'filled in' most because very few people seem willing to work in this area), we had only to encourage children to draw a picture of an animal, and reward them with an "Environment 72" button. I thought I was 'no good with kids', but the experience proved to be genuinely rewarding.

Kids from one to 15 years stopped to have a try. Some of the older ones proved to be intently aware of environmental problems and produced very sophisticated drawings. Talking to them, and watching the children of all ages express their interest in nature was a job--not at all like work. One side point: the "draw an animal here" booth was one of the very, very few free activities at the Sportsman Show for children.

During my brief stint on the adult booth (an information post) I had the opportunity to talk to several people who were already interested in conservation issues but had never heard of groups like ours. Feeling somewhat insecure about my technical knowledge, I didn't look forward to working in the adult booth, but found introducing people to TFN, FON, Sierra Club, etc., was very rewarding. A little enthusiasm, I found, was all that was needed. I just wish now I could have spared more time for that aspect of the display.

Many volunteers for the Conservation Council exhibit came from FON, Sierra Club, the Algonquin Wildlands League and Camp Allsaw, but by far the majority were TFN members. Yet we were short of volunteers, and some people were pressed into service five times or more. As mentioned above, my husband and I were members for several years before we overcame the inertia and volunteered. If only the other non-volunteers in the club could experience the pleasure we did at the display this year, I'm sure there would be no shortage of volunteers next time round.

Janet Arnett.

## BRONTE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

Last fall the Ontario Government announced its intent to establish the 1,500 acre Bronte Creek Provincial Park. This March a Policy Recommendations Report was issued by the Bronte Creek Park Advisory Committee. Since the park will be only 25 miles from the centre of Toronto it will undoubtedly be used by many of you. Hence the Report was read with interest by your Club Executive and a reply forwarded to the Committee in the form of a brief. I thought you might be interested in the Report and our brief so here are some highlights from each.

The park will be located to the north west of the intersection of Bronte Road (Highway 25) and the Queen Elizabeth Highway. Excluding the north east corner around Palmermo its boundaries will be the Q.E.W. on the south, Bronte Road on the east, Highway 5 (Dundas St.) on the north and Burloak Drive on the west.

Within its boundaries will be many features interesting to the naturalist. The Bronte Creek with its Niagara-like gorge flows the full length of the Park from the north west to the south east corner. Geological features include a grotto, a cave, a buried valley and a cemented till. Some fine mature trees are growing along the valley rim which has excellent examples of upland dry forest and terraced forest. Other habitats include prairie grass, orchards, a farm, spruce and pine hedgerows, hemlock slope forest and forest transition zones.

The intention is to provide an urban-oriented year round day use recreational park. For this purpose it is well located being 25 miles from some 1,500,000 people and 50 miles from 4,000,000 people. It is intended to be used for a variety of recreational activities such as camping, picnicking, sports and nature study.

Despite the expected heavy use it was heartening to note that preserving and protecting the natural environment, especially the valley area, will have top priority in all park planning. Some fragile areas such as the prairie grass, forest stands and buried valley will only be available for nature study and scientific purposes. No buildings or structures or pesticides will be permitted in them. (Dead trees and stumps will be left as they are and the only 'lumbering' will be the removal of dead elm trees.) The valley bottom and slopes will have a controlled nature trail. Hiking trails will be located on the valley rim. Noisy highways and sports areas will be buffered from other areas probably by tree plantings.

Our club brief was quite favourable to the Report recommendations. In particular we were pleased with the full protection of the total valley area; the passive appearance objective; the emphasis on environmental research; the special facilities for the elderly and handicapped; the careful provision for transportation planning.

However we did put in some of our own recommendations and warnings too.

"Motorized recreational vehicles are particularly undesirable as one snowmobile can destroy the quiet enjoyment of a whole trail-full of hikers, cross-country skiers or naturalists."

Any "new and exciting activities" should be carefully considered with regard to their possible impact on the more passive quiet activities such as nature study.

"Don't write off the lower environmental areas." Rows of planted conifers with the lower branches left on provide habitats for many animals and birds such as owls.

"Snake fences and grown hedgerows should not be tidied up."

Sterile orchards and logged woodlands can be enriched by the planting of berry shrubs.

A good management plan is important especially for the proposed artificial lake east of the park. This lake could become an excellent stop-over for wild waterfowl.

"The trails should be made easy for the elderly and infirm who would need frequent shelters and rest spots."

Control any demands for more transportation and camping.

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All in all, the Report seems to provide an intelligent approach to the development of an urban-oriented park. I am looking with great interest to future developments to see how closely the recommendations are followed. It is expected that the park will be opened in phases with the simple facilities ready by the summer of '73. Meanwhile, the newsletter will keep you posted on future developments.

- Elmer Talvila,

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WORLD YOUTH.....ECOLOGY.....THE INTERNATIONAL 12

1972 is the year of ecology. Currently, governments are preparing reports for the UN Conference on Human Environments to be held at Stockholm on June 6-16, 1972.

It is logical that the youth of the world should have a voice. They must be able to address the international body as to what kind of a world they want to inherit. The International Youth Conference on the Human Environment in Canada last August, 1971 provided this vehicle. Over 200 young scientists and activists from 75 countries participated. They gave country reports, reviewed the UN agenda and prepared regional and workshop reports about the world environment. Upon the invitation of the UN, IYCHE selected 12 delegates (2 from every continent) to represent the world youth in Stockholm.

The message of the youth has to be delivered. It is possible only if the International 12 can proceed to Stockholm. BRING THEM TO STOCKHOLM. Act now. Send a contribution to:

International 12 Fund  
Box 40, Sundquist Hall  
University of Wisconsin  
Superior, Wisconsin 54880  
U.S.A.

(For more information, contact the editor)

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... The Credit Valley Trail is now open. The first section of a walking trail which will eventually stretch from Lake Ontario to Terra Cotta is now open. The completed section of 5 miles starts at the village of Norval and runs beside the Credit River up to the dam at River Road, Georgetown. A second section will soon open, if it isn't already, between River Road and Glen Williams. Family memberships in the club are available at \$3.00/family. Volunteers are needed to help clear the trail and build the bridges. For further information write to: Credit Valley Footpath Club, 67 Wanita Road, Port Credit, Ont. or call Port Credit 274-4070.

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## PEOPLE OR PLANES

A Club member, Patricia Pegg, has written to me expressing her concern over the proposed new airport in Pickering Township. She included some literature printed by the 'People or Planes' citizen group which makes disturbing reading. Since many of you take field trips and outings to this area I am printing some of the remarks which have particular concern for naturalists. There isn't space for the entire piece but you can get it by writing to People or Planes, P.O. Box 159, Claremont, Ont. or by phoning 649-2118.

Here are some excerpts:

- tremendous amounts of noise, vibration, and air pollution will spread
- wildlife will be annihilated; migratory birds fly over Pickering
- three conservation areas will be destroyed; eight affected
- the only remaining countryside within reasonable distance of Metro will be denied to the people
- the \$26,000,000 new Toronto Zoo will be jeopardized
- a remaining example of early Canadian settlement, century old farms, and Centennial homes will be gone.
- miles of land with archaeological value will be sacrificed
- a second international Toronto airport is NOT needed
- the cost will be \$100.00 of tax money for every adult in Canada

"Progress often replaces that which is priceless with that which is merely costly."

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### ALGONQUIN WINTER WEEKEND

by Ed O'Connor

The excited barks and howls went on for several minutes that seemed longer. We had our answer from the wolves. Standing here on the highway under a sky full of stars and looking into the black treeline of the park it was easy to forget about the bus parked nearby and the other people. For a little while there was just you and the wolves.

As the last sound faded Gus Yaki grinned and made the comment, "We forgot to tell you. There's another group of naturalists over there."

The wolf howl was a highlight of the weekend, but it was only one of a continuous string of them. Even the weatherman was kind to us, with mostly sunny skies and just a scattering of light snow on Sunday. Roads and trails were mostly clear or hard-packed.

The members arrived at staggered times on Friday, from early afternoon 'til 1:00 a.m. with some of the F.O.N. staff getting an early start on preparations. For Linda Anderson it was a long afternoon and evening of standing by to register people in the Council Room. We lit the fire and turned down the lights for 'atmosphere' as Linda pointed out. (We have to blame someone for the smoke.)

Next morning, after breakfast, we boarded the two buses with skis and snowshoes for the trip to Algonquin Park. Somewhere along Highway 60 we bailed out and took to the woods, with some laughs as several of the women tried to follow on foot. Seems the snow was waist deep once you stepped off the road. It was on our way back to the road that we met the friendly Grey Jays, but I suppose it takes a little while to spread the word. In any case we weren't going to get away without paying a toll charge of some food. The little fellows followed us about, landing on the snow at our feet or a nearby bush. I saw one land on the ski tip of a member and look up hopefully at the wearer. They took the food from our hands and seemed eager to pose for our cameras and I wondered if they took us for Walt Disney talent scouts. I fell in love with one that posed, unruffled, two feet from my camera. For the first shot he looked at the lens, then turned his head. I haven't decided whether he gave me his good side or was merely looking for the food.

At lunch time we again boarded the buses for the museum where we sat in the snow of the parking lot to eat the lunches provided by the school. Here again the Jays showed up, both Blue and Grey, and I think they ate more than we did.

We divided into groups afterward and headed out over trails and old logging roads. There we found the tracks of many small mammals as well as deer. The snow was white and pure (unlike our city slush) and sparkled in the bright sunlight. On a head count we later found we'd sighted sixteen species of birds - not a record for a day but enough to show we had our eyes open on the trail.

Sunday morning was a time to look over the local deer trails and we divided into two groups for this. I elected to go with Gus Yaki's group to the deer yard. We found the way heavy with deer tracks and furrows where they'd pushed through the deep snow. Tracks were difficult to read because of snow texture and depth but I did find one well preserved wolf print in crusty snow. The large pads showed clearly. We also added a few more birds to our list for the weekend.

Looking at the weekend from any standpoint it had to be a great success. One lady member summed up our own feelings as we got into the cars when she said, "I've changed my mind. I want to stay here for a week."

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... Over 67,000,000 seedlings are growing in the Ontario Lands and Forests nursery fields. The trees are mainly (90%) white and black spruce. Last fall they sowed over 36,000,000 tree seeds expected to produce 8,750,000 seedlings in 3 years. The crop forms more than 22 miles of seedbeds in 19 acres of nursery fields.

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231-1064

Elmer Talvila, editor  
12 Cranleigh Court  
Islington, Ontario

# THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST

Published by the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club

THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST is an annual journal devoted to the results of amateur and professional research and observation in the field of natural science in the province of Ontario.

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by William W. Judd

BIRDS OF THE ATIKOKAN AREA, RAINY RIVER DISTRICT, PART 2  
by Shirley Peruniak

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