



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Number 289

February, 1975.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Monday, February 3, 1975, at 8:15 p.m.

at

252 Bloor Street West

Entrance on the west side of the building via covered walk from Bloor Street (midway between the two exits (St. George and Bedford, of the St. George subway station. To park, enter from Prince Arthur Avenue, under the building (parking fee 50¢).

SPEAKER: Mr. Barry Griffiths, President, Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

SUBJECT: "The Lure of the North."

In an illustrated talk, Barry Griffiths will cover the birds, mammals and flowers of such far-away-places as: Bathurst Island, Ellesmere Island, Resolute Bay, Churchill, Baker Lake, Pelly Bay, Bathurst Inlet, South Nahanni River (National Park).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 3, 1975.

REMINDER: Final Audubon Wildlife Film for this season: Eaton Auditorium, 8:15 p.m.
Thursday, February 13, 1975 "Outback Australia" - Eben McMillan
(price per ticket \$2.25)

SPECIAL OFFER TO STUDENTS: Student tickets now available at \$1.25 on the evening of the showing at the Box Office (please present your student card)

OUTINGS FOR FEBRUARY, 1975.

SATURDAY HIGH PARK AND WATERFRONT - Birds Leader: Mr. Herb Elliott.
February 1 Meet in first parking lot on West Road, High Park, which is on
9:00 a.m. your right as you enter from Bloor Street West at High Park
Avenue. (subway to High Park). Morning only.

SUNDAY REAR OF BOYD CONSERVATION AND WOODBRIDGE AREA - Birds.
February 16 Leaders: Mr. Peter Wukasch and Mr. Dave Simpson.
10:00 a.m. Meet at north end of Pine Valley Road. Drive west from Hwy. 400 on
Hwy. 7 for 1.9 miles. (1 mile east of Woodbridge). Turn north and go
2 miles to top of this road. Park on side of road. Bring lunch.

SATURDAY LAMBTON WOODS - Birds Leader: Mr. Elmer Talvila
March 1 Meet in parking lot of James Gardens. (take Royal York bus from
9:30 a.m. subway to Edenbridge Drive and walk east 0.4 mile). Morning only.

Chairman, Harry Kerr, (481-7948)

- JUNIOR CLUB The Toronto Junior Field Naturalists' Club will hold its
 Saturday February meeting in the theatre of the Royal Ontario Museum.
 February 1 A very interesting and informative film on birds will be shown.
 10:00 a.m. Director - Lyn Scanlan, 488-8321 (after 5:30 p.m.)
- ENVIRONMENTAL Meet at St. James Bond United Church on Avenue Road, north of
 COMMITTEE Eglinton Avenue. A very interesting evening is planned and all
 Wednesday Club members are invited.
 February 12 Chairman - Henry Fletcher (421-1549)
 8:00 p.m.
- BOTANY GROUP "A close look at the identification of Ferns of Southern Ontario."
 Tuesday Stewart Hiltz will present us with a very detailed look at ferns
 February 18 in this part of the province, illustrated with slides. Bring
 8:00 p.m. with you any fern books or field guides you may have. You
 should leave the meeting able to identify most species of this
 area; a 'hand-out' on fern identification will be provided for
 those attending. LOCATION - Hodgson Public School, Davisville
 Avenue, just east of Mount Pleasant Road, enter the school at
 the east end. To park in the school yard, enter from Millwood
 Road, one block north. Enter school by rear door from yard.
 We meet in the cafeteria in the basement.
 Chairman - Wes Hancock (757-5518)
- BIRD GROUP Meet at St. James Bond United Church on Avenue Road, see above
 Wednesday for directions. Definitely a night you won't want to miss -
 February 26 mark it on your calendar! DR. DONALD GUNN will give an illus-
 8:00 p.m. trated talk on "birds from coast to coast." No need to tell
 you of the excellence of his photography. Come and enjoy this
 evening with us.
 Chairman - Red Mason (621-3905)

WANTED: Bird and Plant Lists

The Central Waterfront Planning Committee, on which the T.F.N. is represented by David Morin, is an inter-agency committee that is developing a data base of existing conditions along Toronto's Central Waterfront from Ashbridges Bay to the Humber River, including the Toronto Islands. An important part of this study is to document the existing natural environment, including resident species of birds, mammals, and plants.

Members having bird lists, plant lists or other information on the waterfront can make an important contribution to planning the future of this vital area.

We must submit whatever data we have by mid-February. Timing is therefore critical, and your rapid response is requested. Please contact:

David Morin, 255 Glenlake Avenue, Apt. 1003, Toronto. 766-5865.

Another aspect of the Planning Committee's work will be the establishment of Area sub-groups to deal with site specific issues of the waterfront. If you are interested in the future of Toronto's waterfront and would be willing to attend an occasional sub-group meeting to represent the naturalist viewpoint, your assistance is needed. Contact David Morin at the address above.

HELP WANTED: Someone who would like to take over the organization of the 'Literature Loan Table' at the monthly meetings for a year or two! For details call Leila Gad at 485-6635.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Every now and then a situation arises which demands that naturalists band together to make their voices heard. Such a situation is now before us.

Just before the Ontario Legislature recessed for the Christmas break, our Minister of the Environment, Mr. W. Newman, announced that his ministry will NOT be taking any action to ban the use of non-returnable beverage containers. This decision was made in spite of the fact that an environmental study of beverage packaging, produced for the government's Solid Waste Task Force, concludes that "any switch from the use of non-refillable soft drink bottles and cans to refillable bottles is beneficial to the environment." Environmental groups such as The Conservation Council of Ontario and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists provided the government with logical appeals for an end to non-refillable containers. Yet Mr. Newman chose to ignore all of this. To whom did he listen?

We know that throw-away containers are totally unnecessary. Many years ago we survived without them and a return to those days would eliminate much unsightly garbage, save the consumer money, and provide new jobs in the bottling plants. More important, a ban on throw-aways would indicate that the government is prepared to combat similar but more serious examples of waste. Hence Mr. Newman's decision is not very encouraging to those of us who care about broader environmental issues.

To make matters worse, Mr. Newman accepted a recommendation that the deposit on returnable containers be a mandatory 5¢. Any thinking person can see that, with no ban on non-refillable containers, this increased deposit will likely doom returnables. Further, Mr. Newman rejected a recommendation that retail outlets be required to carry beverages in returnable containers in the same sizes and brands as non-returnables. This rejection means that the consumer may not even have the option of buying the particular brand he wants in a returnable container.

Governments do not often make decisions that will decrease their popularity. Hence we can deduce that the government feels that most of us prefer to throw our beverage containers in the garbage. I think that we should let them know how wrong they are. If each of the 1400 members of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club wrote a letter to the government condemning this decision, I suspect that the government would give the matter another hearing. Please sit down now and write a letter to:

The Honourable William Davis,
Premier of Ontario,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario.

The following points may help you with your letter:

- 1) Express your disappointment with the government's refusal to ban non-returnable beverage containers.
- 2) Demand such a ban in the interests of a cleaner environment and as an indication of the government's desire to eliminate other forms of unnecessary waste in our society.
- 3) Demand an increased deposit on returnable containers. Suggest that it be high enough to ensure their return and insist that this must be accompanied by a total ban on non-returnables.

- 4) Be personable and ask some questions. A letter that must be answered is read more carefully than one that merely has to be filed by a secretary.
- 5) Include your name and address.

Please don't assume that everyone else will write a letter so you don't have to. I know that all of you want a cleaner environment and an end to waste that, in the long run, is beneficial to no one. I know, also, that naturalists are not too lazy to carry containers back to the store. Let Mr. Davis know this, too!

..... Bill Andrews

CHASING BIRDS IN WINTER (cont'd)

by Gerry Bennett

In last month's issue we referred to our quest of birds in Southern Ontario in the months of December, January and February.

I was disappointed in the weather pattern just prior to December 1st as the month arrived with a wintry aspect around Toronto, ponds being frozen and cat-tail marshes seemingly deserted.

On December 1st, Arnold Dawe and I explored the south part of the town of Vaughan. We found a few birds that are far from "automatic" in winter such as robins, kingfisher and golden-crowned kinglet but our total for a full day's observing was only 23 species, the other twenty being: Canada Goose, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, American kestrel, herring gull, ring-billed gull, rock dove, mourning dove, downy woodpecker, blue jay, crow, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, starling, house sparrow, cardinal, goldfinch, dark-eyed junco, tree sparrow and song sparrow.

The next day I started a one-week vacation with plans for birding along the Niagara River and the Lake Erie shore. Unfortunately, this followed a heavy snowstorm and my high hopes for some real winter specialties along the Niagara River didn't materialize. I did get an Iceland gull, a coot, some rusty blackbirds, a ruddy duck, lots of white-winged scoter and thousands of Bonaparte's gulls. Some other additions included canvasback, redhead, horned grebe, American wigeon, lesser scaup, common flicker, northern shrike and white-throated sparrow.

On December 4th I combed the Lake Erie shoreline from Port Maitland to Port Burwell. This again was disappointing as, not only had the unseasonably cold weather frozen the marshes, but places like Turkey Point and Long Point were infested by hunters and one scarcely dared get out of the car for fear of being mistaken for a black duck. However, there were some rewards. At one spot, my calling and squeaking routine called up both a red-bellied woodpecker and a Carolina wren. At another place, a heavy tangle of undergrowth produced a catbird. Probably the best birds of the day were two Brewer's blackbirds at a bird bath in the back yard of a house near South Cayuga. At Port Dover, a Bonaparte's gull was harassing a great blue heron and three glaucous gulls were resting on the pier. Out in the lake were a common loon and a red-necked grebe.

I arrived at Point Pelee at noon on December 5th and spent the afternoon. This was intended to be the highlight of the trip and indeed it was but it was a far

cry from my original hopes. The "dike marshes" were all frozen except for one tiny spot where a pied-billed grebe was feeding. A wood duck was noted standing on the ice in one of the irrigation ditches. A walk on the boardwalk in the Park rewarded me with two yellowthroats and a long-billed marsh wren. Touring the Nature Trail in the Post Woods produced a red-shouldered hawk, yellow-rumped warbler, rufous-sided towhee and brown thrasher. Near the tip, where some of the snow had melted exposing the forest floor was a woodcock, my first ever in winter. This was the climax to my four-day trip. I had intended to spend the next day at Bradley's marsh but, as it would likely be also frozen over, I returned home, planning to head east tomorrow.

Other birds listed not yet previously mentioned were: mallard, black duck, gad-wall, pintail, greater scaup, common goldeneye, bufflehead, oldsquaw, hooded merganser, common merganser, red-breasted merganser, marsh hawk, ring-necked pheasant, great black-backed gull, great horned owl, hairy woodpecker, horned lark, brown creeper, winter wren, eastern meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, common grackle, brown-headed cowbird, evening grosbeak, purple finch, field sparrow and swamp sparrow. This gave me 81 species by December 5th.

December 6th I drove to Kingston, examining the lakefront on the way and adding only a blue phase snow goose at Whitby.

The next day I visited the area around the Ivy Lea International Bridge where I hoped to find the resident wild turkeys. Although there were fresh tracks in the snow, they failed to lead to real live birds and I eventually had to leave without finding my birds. In the afternoon, accompanied by Betty Hughes, one of Kingston's best informed birders, I toured Wolfe Island and was rewarded by finding 10 snowy owls, a dozen Lapland longspurs, 5 short-eared owls and, best of all, at a Wildfowl Refuge on the south side of the Island, a peregrine falcon. A bonus was a black scoter noted from the ferry.

On December 14th I took part in the Richmond Hill Christmas Census. Ottelyn Addison showed me a screech owl sunning itself in a big cavity in a beech tree near Maple and I also added a snipe, which we kicked up along a small creek, plus pileated woodpecker and red-breasted nuthatch.

The next day, Arn Dawe and I did a census in Vaughan and found cedar waxwings in Kleinburg and a pine siskin in the Purpleville woods in a flock of tree sparrows. The siskin was most welcome as, to this date, there have been virtually no winter finches around at all.

On December 21st, the day before the Toronto Christmas Census, I toured our allotted area and found lots of snow buntings in both Vaughan and King. The next day our "official" census turned up a long-eared owl near Nashville and a black-backed three-toed woodpecker at the northwest corner of Rutherford Road and No. 27 highway.

On the Toronto Census, on the 22nd, Don Burton found two Savannah sparrows at a spot on St. John's Road, northeast of Aurora. The next day I hurried to the area after work arriving with just enough daylight left to find one of them.

On the Christmas break, with a few days off, I hurried here and there chasing several "goodies" that had showed up on the various census counts. On the 27th, I found a red-headed woodpecker which has been wintering in a small woodlot southwest of Whitby; three mute swans at Frenchman's Bay; a green-winged teal at the new Zoo. This gave me my first 100 species by December 27th.

(continued in the next issue)

FIELD TRIPS -- FUN -- FITNESS -- ON SKIS

Some of you may recall Peter Aerts' talk on Members' Night a few years ago called 'Along the Bruce Trail.' Peter has been with the Bruce Trail Association ever since it was formed in 1961 and for many years has been their hiking and ski co-ordinator. Starting January, 1975, Peter is taking leave from his High School teaching position to devote his full time to organizing and leading hikes, ski tours and sightseeing trips to the many scenic trails over the countryside. All these trips are open to our Club members and others.

Every Sunday a chartered bus will leave Keele Subway Station at 10:00 a.m. for the Niagara Escarpment or some other spot in the country where there are trails to walk or ski.

Hiking and cross-country skiing are regarded by many experts in physical fitness as two of the finest ways to stay fit or to become fit again. These outings can be shared by the whole family young or old because Peter makes it easy. The bus will always be waiting at the next road intersection so that you are never caught out too long before you can take a rest in your 'home away from home'.

The fare is \$5.00 if paid in advance; \$6.00 otherwise. Supervised children are half-price if willing to share a seat.

For more information and to book a seat for the next trip, phone Peter at 766-7800 or write to Peter Aerts, 75 Keele Street, Toronto, Ont. M6P 2J8

HELP WANTED - AT THE CANADIAN NATIONAL SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

The T.F.N. will again be taking part in the C.N.S.S. co-operative environmental exhibit which is organized by the Conservation Council of Ontario and funded by the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show itself. Our role is to help man the exhibit, and we need volunteers - volunteers - volunteers.

The dates: March 14 - 23

The place: The Coliseum at the C.N.E.

The times:

<u>weekdays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>	<u>Sundays</u>
12:00 - 3:30	10:00 - 2:30	1:00 - 5:00
3:30 - 7:30	2:30 - 6:30	5:00 - 9:00
7:30 - 11:00	6:30 - 11:00	Phone: 425-5238

Come and help, and see the exhibit, which this year will feature the theme: "The Living City." Call the Barretts, 425-5238, or send the underlisted slip indicating when you will be willing to help. We need at least 120 people!

TO: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Barrett
56 Killdeer Cresc., Toronto, Ont. M4G 2W8

I can be available - dates _____

- Shifts:(select one or more of the time periods above)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____

THE 50TH

TORONTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - DECEMBER 22, 1974

Area covered: Within a 30-mile radius of the Royal Ontario Museum.
Ice and snow conditions: Snow 2" - 3" deep. Streams and lake, ice free. Sunny in morning, clouding over in afternoon. Temperature 35°F

Time on foot: 115 hours

Time in car: 60 hours

Miles on Foot: 150

Miles in car: 480

113 Participants in 28 parties.

No. of species 90

No. of individual birds - 31,943

New species reported: Eastern Phoebe - Henslow's Sparrow - House Wren

BIRDS COUNTED

Gt. Blue Heron	2	Rock Dove	2072	Golden-crowned Kinglet	34
Canada Goose	1672	Mourning Dove	515	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7
Snow Goose	4	Screech Owl	4	Cedar Waxwing	104
Mallard	5049	Great Horned Owl	17	Northern Shrike	20
Black Duck	651	Snowy Owl	4	Starling	6647
Gadwall	28	Long-eared Owl	3	Common Yellowthroat	1
Pintail	10	Belted Kingfisher	5	House Sparrow	2823
Green-winged Teal	1	Common Flicker	22	Eastern Meadowlark	1
American Widgeon	75	Pileated Woodpecker	3	Red-winged Blackbird	2
Redhead	5	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Rusty Blackbird	2
Canvasback	16	Hairy Woodpecker	78	Common Grackle	20
Greater Scaup	1653	Downy Woodpecker	192	Brown-headed Cowbird	21
Lesser Scaup	6	Black-backed Three-		Cardinal	177
Common Goldeneye	250	Toed	1	Evening Grosbeak	157
Bufflehead	251	Eastern Phoebe	1	Purple Finch	9
Oldsquaw	2004	Horned Lark	15	Pine Grosbeak	6
Hooded Merganser	1	Blue Jay	379	Common Redpoll	2
Common Merganser	201	Common Crow	187	Pine Siskin	1
Goshawk	1	Black-capped		American Goldfinch	450
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Chickadee	1026	Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Red-tailed Hawk	116	White-breasted		Savannah Sparrow	2
Rough-legged Hawk	17	Nuthatch	156	Vesper Sparrow	1
Marsh Hawk	5	Red-breasted		Dark-eyed Junco	324
American Kestrel	95	Nuthatch	25	Tree Sparrow	568
Ruffed Grouse	21	Brown Creeper	26	Field Sparrow	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	114	House Wren	1	Henslow's Sparrow	1
Glaucous Gull	1	Winter Wren	13	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Great Black-backed		Carolina Wren	2	White-throated Sparrow	20
Gull	24	Mockingbird	1	Swamp Sparrow	17
Herring Gull	1302	Brown Thrasher	2	Song Sparrow	85
Ring-billed Gull	564	Robin	67	Lapland Longspur	11
		Hermit Thrush	5	Snow Bunting	1455

COMPILER - Harry Kerr

- NOTES: 1. More mallard ducks were seen than ever before and Canada geese were up sharply from last year's '747.
2. Common flickers, mourning doves, starlings, grackles and snow buntings also set records.
3. Black ducks and pheasants showed a sharp decline.

T.F.N.C. FIELD TRIPS - JANUARY to MAY, 1974

Just to whet your appetite for the forthcoming hikes this year here's a brief report of the field trips held during the first half of last year. The information was compiled by your editor from the reports sent in to Harry Kerr by the various hike leaders:

January 12 - High Park and Western Lakeshore, with John Kelley (26 persons attended). It was a sunny cold day with lots of ice but still good numbers of ducks were observed and glaucous and Iceland gulls as well.

January 27 - Serena Gundy Park, with Douglas Wilkins (22 persons). A windy and very mild day. Northern Shrike and purple finches were the highlights. No woodpeckers at all seen.

February 2 - Lambton Woods with David Broughton (13). A cold 5° and windy. Light snow provided excellent conditions for observing squirrel, rabbit, pheasant and mouse tracks. Some 20 species including a great horned owl were seen. The group then went to High Park and the Lakeshore and saw 13 more species, including 3 pintails, 7 rusty blackbirds, and a white-throated sparrow.

February 9 - Mount Pleasant Cemetery with Professor Morsink (40). Superb weather. A tree hike.

February 17 - Boyd Conservation Area with Walter Hutton (35). A beautiful day but very few birds were seen. However, they did record pileated woodpecker and redpolls.

March 3 - Morningside Park with Gordon Lambert (nobody came - except the fog!). Here is Gord's report in full: The day started with heavy fog (300 ft visibility) and a temperature of 30°. Everything was covered with a coating of ice as the fog hit. Very slippery and dangerous! No one showed up except 8 or 10 cars - to run dogs. Decided to set off alone and try to navigate the planned ice-coated trail. About 11:30 it suddenly turned mild and ice melted so fast it was like a shower in the woods. Most of the ice coating was gone in 15 minutes or so, but it was still very foggy. However I finished the walk as planned and wound up with the 24 species on the enclosed card. Also seen: raccoon; red, grey and black squirrels, cottontail rabbit, field mouse, common rat, muskrat.

March 16 - Humber Ravine, Wilderness Marsh # 6 area with Helen Smith (6). It was a miserable morning to start with, pouring rain, then clearing. The wilderness area was almost a quagmire. The Humber River was partially open and running.

March 24 - Sunnybrook Park with Bill Dibble (25). The bird count was not very good mainly because of the snow storm the night before. Some two inches of fresh snow, temperature 15° and very windy. Everybody had a good time, though.

March 30 - Long Point with Jo Ann Murray (34). Jo Ann's account was printed in the May, 1974 Newsletter.

April 6 - Eastern Lakeshore with Ross Harris (21). This hike covered Frenchman's Bay, Squires Beach Road, Corner Marsh, Cranberry Marsh, and the Whitby area. The highlight was the waterfowl - 21 species including a ruddy duck and 5 shovelers. The weather was sunny, cool and windy.

April 7 - Clairville Conservation Area, with Marilyn Armstrong (9). Cloudy with a constant drizzle of rain and snow made for extremely poor birdwatching weather. Still the group managed to look into the yellow eye of a singing rusty blackbird, watch a fox bounding over the mud flats and observe the family life of the great horned owl.

April 20 - Claremont Conservation Area, with Jack Laird (51). Many spring arrivals were spotted including brown thrasher and 6 bluebirds at Glen Major. The weather was clear, calm and warm.

April 21 - Bronte Creek Provincial Park with Don Perks (30). Our first hike in this new park which Don says should be excellent for May or September walks also. Some 41 species were observed nearly all land birds including 4 Myrtle warblers (I mean yellow-rumps!) and a very early least flycatcher.

April 27 - Toronto Islands with Dave Broughton and Warren Russell (47). A good crowd of both people and birds - 65 species seen. The weather was sunny with a light breeze and 65° temperature. Besides birds the group saw garter snakes, painted turtle and carp. It was an enjoyable trip.

April 28 - Cudia Park with John Foster (35). For many this was their first outing to this rather little known park near the Scarborough Bluffs. Wild flowers and trees were recorded.

April 30 - Lambton Woods with Elmer Talvila (35). Time 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Weather was a warm 60°. Rained at 8:30. Quite a good hike which ended with a thrill! At first it looked very unpromising with few birds to be seen and 35 people milling about not to mention some kids and a dog. I even tried some botany to get my mind off the lack of birds. But gradually things started to pick up. The first 'real' bird was a yellow warbler which I heard singing - but it was seen by only two people. Later we saw another (or the same one?) quite clearly and close - the whole group got it. Then a great horned owl made quite a commotion. I was expecting this bird as I see them in the woods here regularly. Most of the group saw it - but was bashful and hid its head behind a tree. A real surprise was a female scarlet tanager - very early! It was seen by only a few (one person called it a 'worm-eating warbler! Buck fever!) I also heard a very early wood thrush singing but couldn't locate it and a brown thrasher. These were too far away for the group to hear and identify - and they didn't believe me! On the way back we saw the great horned owl again, very clearly despite the dusk. Also a black-throated green warbler. But the big thrill came when most of the group had already left. It was now 8:30 p.m. and quite dusk and the rain was coming. Some 10 persons were still around talking when Warren Russell decided to play a screech owl recording on his tape recorder. Would you believe it - we got a screech owl over our heads in 3 seconds flat! What a response! It even answered back to us with a few quiet hoots or rather wails.

May 3 - Brookbanks Ravine, with Bruce Parker (30). A botany hike with special attention given to spring flowers and their distribution in the ravine. Each person got a sheet of paper listing and briefly describing 13 species which they would see in bloom. A good idea!

May 4 - Wilket Creek, with Douglas Wilkins (42). A beautiful sunny cold day. Only 4 species of warblers and 2 vireos were seen but these included Cerulean warbler and a white-eyed vireo. That's what I call quality!

May 4 - Jim Baillie Nature Reserve, with Charles Chaffey (20). The season was much less advanced here than in Toronto. Skunk cabbage, reniform-leaved violet and a few red trilliums were in bloom. Emily Hamilton and Leila Gad made a detailed exploration along the yellow triangle trail. A quick survey was also made of all the trails.

May 5 - Far Eastern Lakeshore, with John Foster (20). An exceptional day of birding in the Whitby and Oshawa areas on a somewhat coolish day. Highlights of 73 species seen were the surf scoter and little gull. More outings should be held in this area, with stops at Cranberry, Whitby, Oshawa marshes and Ritson, Courtice and Thickson Point woods, and don't forget to check the ditches!

May 7 - East Don, with Charles Chaffey (10). A botany hike in the St. Dennis Drive area of Don Mills. Sunny and cool evening.

May 9 - Glen Stewart Ravine, with Fred Bodsworth (13). An evening bird hike. Warblers were scarce but thrushes common. Over 100 white-throats streaming through the tree tops at dusk. Two colonies of trailing arbutus were located. One pair of red-headed woodpeckers were busy defending their nest hole against starlings.

May 11 - Presqu'ile Provincial Park, with P. Eden (63). Excellent weather but birds not exactly plentiful although 82 species in all were seen and heard, which is very good for this outing. All participants thoroughly enjoyed a close-up sighting of a somewhat stunned Big Brown Bat flopping about on the ground and in the bushes. A lengthy "performance" by a ruby-throated hummingbird was also much appreciated. Birds seen included pectoral sandpiper, 7 species of warblers, 11 species of waterfowl.

May 12 - Norval, with Don Baldwin (6). Continuous rain shortened the outing to 45 minutes which was sufficient for all the participants to get wet.

May 14 - High Park, with Miss Juhola (19). This evening hike followed the Nature Trail to the head of Grenadier Pond and observed both flowers and birds.

May 16 - Brookbanks Ravine, with Bruce Parker (2). An evening bird hike which saw mostly rain. Thrushes, including the gray-cheeked, were well seen and fairly numerous.

May 19 - Toronto Island, with George Fairfield (40). George says they had a very good outing with lots of inexperienced birders present who all got good looks at most of the species. The best find was a least bittern at a little pond near the maintenance buildings. There was a chat near the radio towers but they couldn't find it. (one in Lambton Woods also 4 days earlier - Ed.). Water was very high.

May 20 - Mono Township, with Leo Smith (44). A bright sunny day with a cool breeze. Of course they saw bluebirds!

May 21 - High Park, with Gordon Bellerby (20). An evening hike in fair and mild weather. A very satisfactory outing and everybody got good views of all 10 warblers seen and the 3 scarlet tanagers.

May 23 - Wilket Creek, with The Carters (33). A well planned evening botany hike with the Carters. Each hiker was given a list of 25 species in the order in which they would most likely be seen. Everybody got a name tag also. So you

learned to name the flowers and your fellow members too. Erna and Emily helped with the identifications and Mrs. Carter explained the scientific names.

May 25 - Hendrie Trail, with Rosemary Gaymer (15). Sunny and cloudy, windy and chilly. The hike was as much for botany as for birds. Among 10 warbler species, Tennessee warblers exceptionally common.

May 25 - Vivian Forest, with E. Franks (37). Cloudy and cool day. The very rare Kentucky warbler was among the 41 species recorded.

May 26 - Hart House Farm, with Emily Hamilton, Jack Cranmer-Byng and Bruce Parker, (65). A really large group spent a cloudy and cool day at the Farm looking at such things as a female Oriole building a nest, an adult porcupine feeding on the leaves of a small tree, some 60 species of birds including turkey vulture, black-poll warbler, pileated woodpecker, chipping sparrow and rose-breasted grosbeak. The dozen botanists saw many interesting plants but not much in bloom except yellow and blue violets.

May 26 - Moore Park Ravine, with Eric Nasmith (22). A good selection of land birds were present with 14 species of warblers and 4 flycatchers including the yellow-bellied and olive-sided.

May 28 - Glendon Campus, with Jack Gingrich (25). There was not much bird activity on this evening hike and birds were hard to spot because of leaves and drizzle. Many were identified by sound. Two young raccoons were seen high up in a tree crotch.

May 30 - Lambton Woods, with Emily Hamilton (14). A sunny pleasant evening botany walk. The spring flowers were over so the group turned their attention to ferns, trees and shrubs. The hawthorns were in bloom and wild geraniums were at their best. Five species of buttercups were noted.

(to be continued maybe)

DUCK HUNTING IN POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK

Would you approve of hunting privileges being extended in National Parks? As you know, Point Pelee is the only National Park in Canada where hunting is permitted. In a statement from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development made six years ago, in which were outlined no less than six "objections to the Duck Hunting Privilege", it is admitted by the Department itself that "it is contrary to National Parks Policy" ... "It weakens our position in dealing with the requests for hunting in other parks." (By Order in Council passed in 1918, provision was made for "a short season for duck shooting under special permit from the Dominion Government").

This year there was no decrease in permits issued .. 174+, or ducks shot .. 1000+.

It is obvious that there is no justification for the shooting of ducks to continue at Point Pelee in view of the conflict with present parks policy. Almost three years ago, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development stated that hunting "will be phased out", but as yet no changes have been implemented. The T.F.N., McIlwraith Field Naturalists, of London, Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Canadian Environmental Law Association are continuing to press for a meeting with the Minister to ask for action. For further information, ... contact:

Reta McWhinnie - 421-4537, Toronto.



VISIT THE RESERVE THIS WINTER

The Jim Baillie Reserve is yours to visit any time of the year. Why not make a point of heading up to Leaskdale one fine winter's day? A map giving directions was printed in the October newsletter.

Check out the winter birds, follow an animal's tracks through the snow, wander along a couple of the well-marked trails savouring the solitude and the crisp, country air. Perhaps you will see our porcupine friend in the trees on the blue rectangle trail where he has been for some weeks now.

In places where others have tramped before you, boots will probably suffice. In some areas not as well travelled or where drifting has occurred, snowshoes may be advisable.

Parking could be a problem if too many members plan to visit on the same day. Our new parking lot will not be open until spring but there should be room for a couple of cars in the entranceway. Another couple of cars should be able to park by the roadside on the east side of Uxbridge Brook.

Our new map showing the trail system as it has been extended throughout the entire Reserve will appear in one of our spring Newsletters. In the meanwhile if you would like information about the trails, please call ...

John ten Bruggenkate (425-6096)

H A L F W A Y T H E R E

Just prior to the close of 1974 we received 15 donations; 4 of these were for \$100. or more. We are grateful that so many people remembered the Reserve at this busy time of year. As of January 3rd we had received \$11,342. Our goal is \$22,500.

A word of explanation for our new members! In 1970 the T.F.N. launched its first appeal for funds to pay for the newly-acquired Jim Baillie Reserve, 60 acres of unspoiled countryside near Uxbridge. Club members responded so generously that we decided to take out a mortgage on an adjoining 30 acres.

WE NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN ...

... if we are pay off this debt !!

Club members have donated amounts ranging from \$1. to \$900. Commonly we receive donations for \$5. \$10. or \$20. If you haven't donated yet, and many of our members have not, we hope you will send along something soon.

TO: Stuart Corbett
52 Haileybury Drive
Scarborough, Ont. M1K 4X5.

1975, February

I enclose a cheque or money order for \$ _____
made out to the TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS as
a donation to the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve Fund.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(receipt for income tax purposes will be mailed to you)

WET LANDING HOOD ISLAND

by Joy Pocklington

In early May, I and sixteen other people from Ontario including some from Toronto, left Toronto and made our way to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific. In all we made twelve wet and dry landings on the islands, all different and exciting in their own way, and I'm going to describe here, just one not easily forgotten visit to one of the islands.

As our boat the Iguana approached the islands, the numbers of birds around the boat increased. Firstly we saw only band rumped petrels skimming the waves, then frigate birds, the magnificent and the great in silhouette against the blue, blue sky. Next the Galapagos Albatross, both male and female with their massive wing span flew by and over the boat. As we anchored many Galapagos Pelicans came to try to take the fish from the would-be fishermen.

We climbed down into the dinghy, and were taken through the blue rolling waves near to a sandy cove on Hood Island, here we clambered out into the sea and waded ashore. I had my shoes around my neck with my socks inside, and I sat on a lava rock, and proceeded to dry off my feet with my socks, and put on my shoes. Meanwhile on the next rock stood a Lava Heron who did not move just watched, and around my feet Galapagos Doves with their white eye ring, and pretty green and purple in their plumage picked around. I could hear the noisy sealions along the shore, and the crash and splash of the waves on the rocks, and overhead the boobies calling. Several Hood Mocking birds put in an appearance. Hood is a dry island and they are always looking for moisture.

In some sort of excited daze, I started walking over the rocks. We had been confined to the boat for days and it was great to be on land. I followed the markers, on both sides of me blue-footed boobies and masked boobies sat or stood on rocks and didn't move, just looked back. Most of them were young ones waiting for their parents to return from the sea with food. The Blue-footed boobies of course have a beautiful shade of blue feet. Later as one French lady sat on a stone to take photographs, a Blue-footed booby started to make courting overtures to her, offering her stones and bits of twig with his beak. Then I realized her blouse was the same colour as his feet and he thought she was a booby! The baby boobies are fluffy and white. These boobies are rather awkward on land, but when fishing they exhibit superb plunge diving like gannets. The blue booby makes no nest, just lays two or three eggs on the ground; the males are smaller than the females, and the males feed the chicks when they are small as they fish near the island, the females take over feeding the chicks later when they are larger as they fish further out at sea, and the chicks can wait longer but get more. The Masked Booby lays one to two eggs, and they incubate by putting their large webbed feet over the eggs like the Emperor Penguin. If two chicks hatch, the older chick kills the younger.

I walked around a rocky cove, and there were two American Oyster Catchers by the shore and a family of sealions lolling in the water making friendly overtures with their sleepy eyes. Many barnacles were scattered along the water line, and I remembered that Darwin collected these barnacles over a hundred years ago, and recorded the tameness in the animals and birds when he visited this very island.

Overhead, Frigate birds and boobies were flying and calling, and I walked over the rocks and terrain to where the Galapagos Albatross were nesting. These majestic birds sat patiently on their eggs; we could have touched them, but had been asked not to touch the birds or remove anything from the islands, and of course we complied. The albatrosses were a little bothered with mosquitos and

mites, but not as badly as had been reported on one previous year, when they deserted their eggs and flew off to sea. One pair were going through their beak touching bond ritual which is quite comical. It was May so now the albatross chicks were still unhatched, later they would develop into great fat clumsy chicks. They are fed by their parents sometimes only once a week with three to four pounds of fishy chick oil. Later after their plumage has changed they take off on their first flight which would last from one to two months. Hood is the only place in the world they breed, so I took many photographs which came out badly, Caramba!

Leaving the birds I made my way towards the blowhole, formed because of the way the volcanic lava cooled. Overhead flew a Galapagos Hawk, I was able to see one much closer later on James Island. I climbed down to a pool in the lava and saw for the first time marine iguanas. I sat for a long time watching these weird creatures eating algae on rocks under the water, and then crawling out to bask in the sun. They shoot salt out of their nostrils from time to time. I sat there and after awhile imagined I was back in prehistoric time when reptiles first crawled out of the sea on to land. These iguanas were actually a sub species; they have red markings on them, not found on other marine iguanas on other islands.

Reluctantly I set off back to the landing point where one of the sailors was swimming with two of the female sealions, he was making sealion noises, and had to watch out for the bull who would chase him away and might get rough. We returned to the boat for lunch; all talk was of film that ran out, and the amazing tameness of the birds and animals.

(Ed: Joy Pocklington has been a regular contributor to the Newsletter for many years but she has now left Toronto for London where she is a member of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists. I hope we continue to hear from you, Joy).

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF THE OSHAWA - LAKE SCUGOG REGION, ONTARIO, by Ronald G. Tozer and James M. Richards; The Alger Press Limited, Oshawa, 1974, 384 pages, hard cover, with 74 plates and drawings. \$7.50 + .50 for postage and handling. Available from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 1262 Don Mills Road, Don Mills, Ontario, or Mr. Richards, Leskard Road South, R. R. #2, Orono, Ontario, LOB 1M0.

This is a book which should be of great interest and considerable value to all Toronto area bird watchers and nature club members. Many of us have spent delightful hours and days tramping through the natural areas described in its pages and seen many of the birds listed. Whitby Harbour, Cranberry Marsh, Oshawa Second Marsh, Thickson Woods, Darlington Park are all places where I've birdwatched extensively this year and in the past.

The total area covered lies on the south between Cranberry Marsh (LeVay's Marsh) to just east of Bowmanville and on the north from Victoria Corners to Lake Scugog. This book I'm sure will make future trips to this area even more productive and enjoyable.

The main body of the book, some 350 pages, gives a species account of all 308 species of birds and 14 hypotheticals that have been sighted in the area. The birds are arranged in their normal taxonomic order from Common Loon to Snow Bunting. For each species its past and present status is explained, the migration dates, where commonly seen in the area and exact dates, locations, and observers of specific sightings. Nesting, eggs and breeding records are fully covered. Also unusual ob-

servations and dates are **recorded**. The observations are taken mostly from the records of local observers. Many of course are by the authors and members of the Oshawa Naturalists' Club, but I recognized the names of several past and present T.F.N.C. members including Jim Baillie to whom the book is dedicated.

The book is enhanced by some 36 photographs taken by Richards, showing habitats and special areas and 20 photographs of birds also by Richards. There are 18 attractive half-tone drawings of birds by Barry MacKay.

Other features include: a description of the topography, vegetation, climate, and life zones; an area checklist; Christmas bird counts in the area; specimens, Oshawa second Marsh banding records; nesting record of the Little Gull; blue-bird nest box project; cowbird parasitism; names and locations in the area; a bibliography; and a map.

This is an attractive book which every bird watcher or naturalist visiting the area will find useful.

.....E. Talvila.

ALL LIFE ON EARTH

World Wildlife Fund, Second International Congress, London, 17-18 November, 1970.
Extracts from Addresses (continued)

MR. PETER SCOTT, Vice-President of the World Wildlife Fund, and Chairman of the British National Appeal:

So I think we can say that surely there is a message. At its simplest, I suggest that the message is that there are too many people. I think it is really much more than that; it is that our twentieth century civilisation is too much preoccupied with material things, too much with maximisation, with quantity, and too little with quality. It does not adequately value the environment, including the natural environment, as a factor in the quality of human life. It does not adequately recognise the ethical, aesthetic and scientific values of wild nature to mankind, instead it values money, and virtually nothing else.

This is a world-wide trend. We shall go down to history as the money-worshippers.

I believe we have somehow to distinguish between the quality of living and what we have come to understand by the word "affluence" because I think they are two quite different things.

I would like to speak for a moment about over-population. Current calculations indicate that more than 230 people are born every minute, and that just under 100 die every minute. That produces 190,000 extra people each day. Fifty percent of all human beings on earth are now under 15 years old ...

When you begin to think of population in relation to resources, the present apathy of those in authority all over the world seems even more irresponsible and reprehensible ...

To those who think it is unnecessary or wrong to try to limit the number of people who come into the world, I would say that when we can feed and make life supportable for all existing human beings, that will be the time to think about the morality, or immorality of birth control.

In my view, real immorality lies in the failure to help people not to have unwanted children. We cannot so callously ignore the misery quotient of the world ...

Perhaps fears of large-scale eco-catastrophes will bring man to his senses in respect of the environment. Throughout history, of course, the threat from without has produced unity of purpose within human communities, all based on fear. Yet freedom from fear is one of the four freedoms to which man, perhaps hopelessly, aspires. Fear of hell fire is no longer a powerful incentive for good.

(to be continued)

THINKING OF SPRING - OF TRIPS - OF HOLIDAYS? Ontario Nature Tours can offer:

- .. A visit to the Iroquois Nat. Wildlife Refuge in New York State, March 9.
- .. Spring at Long Point, Ontario, March 14, 15, 16, 17
- .. Coastal Texas Tour, March 22 to March 31
- .. Southeastern Arizona, March 31 to April 6
- .. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, April 12 to 20; and April 19 to 27
- .. Springtime Birding for Beginners, Toronto area, April 19 and 20
- .. Point Pelee Spring Birding, May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- .. Pelee Island Visit, May 7 - 9
- .. Birding in Britain, May 18 - June 9
- .. Cape May, May 16 - 19

Details on the above, and many other trips, available from Hattie Beeton.
Phone: (416) 422-4830.

COMING EVENTS:

ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE:

Information: 922-2804

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

Feb. 1 - "Canada Goes Metric." Colour slides. Mr. Jack M. Bell, Metric Co-ordinator, Ontario Ministry of Education, Toronto.

Feb. 8 - "Environmental Education; Life-line to Tomorrow." Prof. Wm. A. Andrews, Department of Science Education, Faculty of Education, U of T., Toronto.

Feb. 15 - "Arthritis Today and Tomorrow." Slides and Film. Joint meeting with the Arthritis Society. Dr. M. B. Urowitz, Faculty of Medicine, U of T., and Wellesley Hospital, Toronto.

Feb. 22 - "Waterfowl" with a colour film, Mr. Bill Carrick, in charge of the African Section, Metropolitan Toronto Zoo.

March 1 - "C. N. Tower - More Than One Claim to Fame." Illustrated. Mr. T. Elvon Dolphin, General Manager, Canadian National Tower Limited.

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Information: 928-3690

Sunday afternoon films 2:30 p.m.

Sunday evening films 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS: "WILD AFRICA"

A showing of the most recent pictures by wildlife artist and photographer, Robert (Bob) Bateman, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISIE) 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 18, 1975. Tickets available from the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada, Box 864, Postal Station K., Toronto, 12, or phone 366-3697 (1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) Tickets \$1.50.