

# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Number 290

March, 1975.

Visitors Welcome!

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## MARCH MEETING

Monday, March 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: DR. DONALD GUNN

SUBJECT: Two Naturalists in Western Canada.

Last summer, Donald Gunn and his wife, Joan, headed west with their trailer on a three-month photographing tour. Most of the time was spent in the three national parks in Alberta, close to the B.C. border, and in British Columbia itself. The main purpose of the trip was to photograph the seven western orchid species but they also saw and photographed bald eagles on the nest on Vancouver Island; mountain wild flowers growing through the snow in mid-August, and the Calliope Hummingbird, the tiniest of the humming birds.

Dr. Gunn is an excellent nature photographer whose pictures have appeared in many magazines and books. He is a life member and Director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists; currently President of the Royal Canadian Institute, and is a long time member of both the South Peel and the Toronto Field Naturalists Clubs.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 7, 1975

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## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT in Huronia District

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is looking for interested persons to fill positions in visitor services and interpretive programs throughout the Huronia District Parks. A total of 21 positions are available from June 2 to September 2, 1975, in the following parks: Six Mile, Mara, McRae Point, Wasaga Beach, Bass Lake, Springwater, Devil's Glen, Earl Rowe. Salary averages about \$145.00 per week. Qualifications include expertise in one of the following fields: Natural sciences, environmental studies, geography, recreation, media design, sociology.

Applications for these positions may be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Huronia District Office, Midhurst, Ontario. LOL LXO. Attention: Parks Branch.

Deadline for receipt of applications is March 15, 1975 (more details available from the Editor: 231-1064).

JUNIOR CLUB      The Toronto Junior Field Naturalists Club will meet in the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park. The Ecology Group will be in charge. An entertaining film will be featured.  
Saturday      Director - Lyn Scanlan, (488-8321) after 5:30 p.m.  
March 1  
10:00 a.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL      Meet at St. James Bond United Church on Avenue Road, north of Eglinton Avenue. Club members are invited to attend. Help to prepare our recommendations about a report on Toronto.  
COMMITTEE      Chairman, Henry Fletcher (421-1549)  
Wednesday  
March 12  
8:00 p.m.

BOTANY GROUP      Mrs. Leila Gad will continue the "Wild Flower" identification lecture that she started at our January meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to use your guide book. If you have the Peterson's Field Guide for Flowers, or any other flower guide, bring it to the meeting. This will be our last meeting this season.

Location - Hodgson Public School, Davisville Avenue, just east of Mount Pleasant Road, enter the school from the east end. To park in the school yard enter from Millwood Road, one block north. The door at rear of school is open and we meet in the cafeteria in the basement.  
Chairman - Wes Hancock (757-5518)

BIRD GROUP      Meet at St. James Bond United Church (see above for directions).  
Wednesday      Lou Marsh will be our speaker. Lou's colour slides are terrific ..  
March 26      so, let's take a trip to see birds in the tropical areas. Everyone  
8:00 p.m.      welcome.      Chairman, Red Mason (621-3905)

NOTE: \*\*\*\*\*

OUTINGS FOR MARCH ... see back page for full details

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TIME TO MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

May 22 - 25, 1975 - Point Pelee - American Birding Association

Over 500 members are anticipated to attend. Register early. Guest speaker will be Dr. William W. H. Gunn, who will illustrate his talk with an intriguing "TV movie". The authors of your bird guides, Roger Tory Peterson and Chandler S. Robbins are among those expected to be in attendance. For full information contact: J. E. (Red) Mason, 265 Markland Drive, # 205, Etobicoke, Ont. M9C 1R5, phone: 621-3905.

May 26 - 30 - Symposium on Wildlife in Urban Canada, University of Guelph

Program will feature workshop sessions, panel discussions and presented papers. For further information and program outline contact: Office of Continuing Education, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ont.

June 6,7,8 - Trent University, Peterborough, Ont.

Annual meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. "Wildlife" in Ontario, will be the theme. Contact: Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 1262 Don Mills Road, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2W8 for full details. Phone 444-8419.

June 13,14,15,16 - University of Victoria, Victoria B.C.

Annual meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation. The theme of this meeting will be "Beautiful Mountains, Fragile Sea." Full details available from the Canadian Nature Federation, 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5K6

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Many thanks to all of you who wrote to the government protesting its decision not to act on the matter of non-returnable beverage containers. A cleaner environment and elimination of unnecessary waste are both in the best interests of all Canadians. I hope that the special interest that naturalists have shown in this issue will prompt the Ontario government to reconsider its decision.

I hesitate to ask you to write another letter but a further issue is before us that requires the sincere attention of all naturalists. It is the matter of duck hunting in Point Pelee National Park. I will summarize for you the facts on this issue and then suggest possible action you could take if you want to help put an end to this nonsense.

### THE FACTS

1. Point Pelee National Park is the only National Park in Canada in which hunting is allowed. Further, a letter in our files from the office of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs (which administers the park) states that "recreational hunting in a National Park is contrary to National Parks policy today".
2. Why does the government allow duck hunting in Point Pelee National Park? The letter referred to in point 1. also says "There is a special background to duck hunting in this Park which I should like to tell you about. It dates back to 1918, when an Order in Council established a Dominion Park on the former Naval Reserve area. That Order in Council also provided that the shooting of wild duck be allowed there each year under permit from the Commissioner of Dominion Parks. Our research indicated this was critical to the designation of the area as a National Park. Duck hunting has been permitted ever since. The attitude of a number of local residents continues to be that this commitment should be respected." I might add that the preceding quote seems to be the government's only excuse for delaying a ban on duck hunting. It appears in all of the form letters that they send to us and other interested naturalists.
3. In 1974, about 175 hunting permits were issued for Point Pelee. In the same year over 700,000 birdwatchers visited the area. It seems that the hunters are clearly out of place in this area. Yet, though small in numbers, the noise of their guns and the sight of their blinds in the marshes is disturbing to any sensitive naturalist who visits the area to witness the spectacular fall migration.
4. Over 1000 ducks were shot last fall in Point Pelee National Park. Although this is an appreciable number, I am more concerned about the fact that, for 4 or 5 days every week from early October to mid-December the ducks, which should be feeding and resting for the coming migration, are kept in a constant state of alert by the hunters.
5. Correspondence that interested persons have had with the government on this matter indicates that a little more pressure from us is all that is needed to force the banning of duck hunting in Point Pelee. In fact, at many times between 1947 and the present, the government came very close to phasing out this questionable activity. The local hunters simply talked louder than we did. To ban duck hunting, the government need only rescind Section 5 of the National Parks Game Regulations by a simple order in council.

6. Permitting hunting in this National Park establishes a dangerous precedent for other National Parks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Send your expression of concern to:

The Honourable Judd Buchanan,  
Minister of Indian & Northern Affairs,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

No postage is required.

2. In order to make sure that your letter receives due consideration, let Mr. Buchanan know that you already have the facts. For example, tell him that you are aware of the 1918 Order in Council that permits duck hunting. Then the standard form letter cannot be sent to you. Quote a few of the other facts and tell him that, just because the hunting was deemed suitable in 1918, does not mean that it is acceptable today.
3. Suggest strongly that you want to see it stopped immediately. We have been promised a "phasing out" before.
4. Please help by writing as soon as possible. I think that the minister just needs enough letters of protest that he can go to the hunting lobby with a large pile and say "Sorry, fellows, but the majority wins."
5. A letter (or a copy of your one to Mr. Buchanan) could also be sent to your local member.

..... Bill Andrews

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W A N T E D

Three opportunities are available for you to serve your Club in a leadership role:

1. Chairman of the Audubon Wildlife Films Committee. The person who accepts this position will understudy the present chairman during the 1975-6 season and take charge of this section of the Club's program in the fall of 1976.
2. Secretary for the Audubon Wildlife Films Committee. The person appointed to this position will be trained by the present secretary and commence duties later this year. This position carries an honorarium.
3. Chairman of the Program Committee. This person will co-ordinate the activities of the committee that arranges our monthly meetings. The present chairman will assist the newly appointed chairman in getting started in the job.

None of these jobs is unduly onerous and all present interesting opportunities to serve your Club. Please call your President, Bill Andrews, for further details on any of these positions.

(days: 928-3246; Evenings: 425-4607).

This continues the hike reports I started in the February issue. When information comes from the fall hikes these will also be reported. I would welcome reports for the Newsletter from hike leaders or members who were along on any of the hikes.

June 1 - Toronto Island, with John Kelley (37 persons attended). The group walked from Centre Island via the Sanctuary and Gibraltar Point to Hanlan's Point. It was a sunny warm day and an enjoyable hike. Enough birds to keep it interesting but not so many as to prevent covering the route in a reasonable time. A highlight was 5 Knots on the West beach. A female hooded warbler and common egret were seen by members who joined the group later on during the day. Total count was 72 species.

Editor's account: Although I didn't see the group I was also on the Island this day and also managed to see 72 species but somewhat different birds. I took the 6:30 a.m. ferry to Wards Island and came back on the 11:15 a.m. from Hanlan's Point. The big highlight for me were the flycatchers -- the Island seemed to be swarming with them and I managed to see all the common ones including olive-sided, Alder and yellow-bellied. Several Alder flycatchers were squabbling in some bushes on Centre Island and they called 'wee-bee-oh' vigorously in a husky voice. The sole olive-sided was 'hawking' for flies from a tall poplar at the far east end of Wards Island. My shorebirds were different also with sanderling, black-bellied plover, dowitchers and dunlin. It was really a great morning, especially for flycatchers.

June 1 - High Park with Prof. Morgan-Jones (10 persons). Excellent clear weather for this fungi walk. Not many specimens could be found but the group did see Polyporus, Psathyrella and Pleurotus. Dr. Badenhuizer helped with the vascular plants.

June 2 - Palgrave Wildlife area with Gerry Bennet and Jo Ann Murray (30). Perfect weather and a perfect hike. A pileated woodpecker flew over like a good omen just as the hike was starting. A good 60 species including both alder and willow flycatchers, olive-sided flycatcher, golden-winged and mourning warblers, and the rare clay-colored sparrow. The botany group got much help from Erna Lewis and Emily Hamilton.

June 4 - Wilket Creek Park with Prof. John Cranmer-Byng (31). No warblers. No vireos. Very few flycatchers. But lots of people. This evening walk was enjoyed despite the area being overrun with people, cars, dogs, cyclists and games players. But early morning would probably have produced more birds.

June 6 - Earl Bales Park with Walter Hutton (26). A cloudy cool evening. A little too late in the season for good birding but an excellent birding area earlier in the year. Believe it or not - they actually saw 5 red crossbills

June 8 - Mono Rocks Provincial Park with Jack Laird (9). I met this group just after they had seen the very rare hybrid Brewster's Warbler. Leo Smith and I had been looking at bluebird boxes here and there all morning and finally ended up at this new park. I missed the Brewster's but did see a dozen bluebirds. My day had started before 7:00 a.m. with birding in the Turner Tract where the highlights were 3 cerulean warblers and 3 golden-winged warblers singing. Also both cuckoos, cliff swallows and vesper sparrows everywhere. Another highlight - hardly any mosquitoes! The park is topographically very interesting with big mounds and an escarpment. With the group we observed a singing grasshopper sparrow, and saw 56 species of birds.

June 9 - Turner Tract with Vlad Trojek (12) A good morning for bird observations with the Alder Flycatcher ('wee-bee-oh!) and Willow Flycatcher ('fitz-bee') singing in close proximity. A good tally of 49 species including turkey vulture, golden-winged and mourning warblers and also one deer.

June 15 - Vandorf Bog with Stu Corbett (4). Very, very wet miserable day. The group located attractive clumps of royal and cinnamon fern, pitcher plants in full bloom, and the tiny insectivorous sundew. And it rained all the time.

June 22 - Halton County Forest with John ten Bruggenkate (15). John reports that the Turner and Robertson Tracts appear to be deteriorating badly through misuse and mismanagement. The shooting of groundhogs and crows makes the areas difficult for birds and birdwatchers. The group saw many plants and trees, an immature porcupine and many nesting bird species, including the yellow-throated vireo, golden-winged and blue-winged warbler.

June 23 - Bruce Trail with Erna Lewis (13). A delightful outing in beautiful rugged countryside with mostly sunny and pleasant weather. The group saw 24 ferns including such rarities as: narrow-leaved spleenwort, hart's-tongue, New York, Northern Beech and Bootts fern. Also 5 species of horsetails, 4 species of club-mosses and many blooming plants and trees such as: early coralroot, Northern comfrey, pagoda tree and mountain maple. Ron Scovell also provided some excellent leadership to an interested group.

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#### CHASING BIRDS IN WINTER (continued)

by Gerry Bennett

In the last episode of this gripping serial saga we had reached the plateau of having identified 100 species in Southern Ontario since December 1st and were poised to continue our quest to add as many more as possible by February 28th.

On December 28th I drove to the foot of Rees Street on the Toronto Lakefront and added the harlequin duck which is again wintering with a flock of blacks and mallards. It can usually be found in the water just behind the Canada Malting Co. building.

The next day, Arn Dawe and I did our every-other-Sunday census of Vaughan. At the corner of the 10th Concession and the King-Vaughan line we found a white-crowned sparrow in with a flock of tree sparrows.

New Year's Day involved an inspection of the area from Toronto to Hamilton. Dave Fidler, Grace Harding and I looked unsuccessfully for several unusual birds recently observed (including a sapsucker and a northern oriole) but the best I could do was add one species, a northern shoveler in the Dundas Marsh.

Returning to Hamilton, on January 4th, I finally found the northern oriole which has been wintering along Valley Inn Trail where a steep embankment is covered with sumac and buckthorn trees.

Up to this point, I'd had no success in several tries for a hermit thrush. Harry Kerr told me of one at Bronte, near the intersection of Walker's Line and the Queen Elizabeth Way and a two-hour search on the bright and mild morning of January 5th resulted in tracking it down.

On the 11th, I visited Niagara having talked to Dr. Harold Axtell of Fort Erie the night before to find out what "goodies" should be looked for. This paid off handsomely. With the help of our 'scope' four purple sandpipers were seen, visible at a considerable distance on a rocky ledge south of Goat Island. Although the sandpipers were in U.S.A., we were in Ontario so our Rules Committee allowed us to count them. Also found, just above the Falls, was a double-crested cormorant which has been there since November, a most unusual winter record. Walking down the Maid-of-the-Mist precipice resulted in finding a king eider which has been there for several weeks. As a bonus, a ring-necked duck and a Thayer's gull were also found. Our sixth addition of the day was one of several little gulls wintering with the thousands of Bonaparte's gulls at Queenston.

Shaking the grapevine, out fell a Harris' sparrow which I learned was feeding in Harold Lancaster's back yard in Welland. On January 18th, Dave Fidler and I drove over and found it easily. On the way we stopped at Tapleytown which is the most reliable place we know of to see gray partridges and there were 10 of them feeding under an apple tree in a farmer's yard.

The next day I made another of several trips to Bronte to look for a saw-whet owl which has been seen frequently. This time I had success as I just arrived as some other birders had found it about 4 feet up in a small white pine.

I now had a total of 114 species since December 1st in Southern Ontario with five more week-ends before my deadline of February 28th. (continued in the next issue)

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#### MUSHROOMS ANYONE?

If you are interested in eating, identifying, looking at or admiring mushrooms and other fungi then why not meet some fellow enthusiasts at the Mycological Society of Toronto. This is a group of amateurs with a variety of interests in collecting and identifying fungi. The Society was formed by people who attended extension courses on Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of Ontario given in the fall of 1973 and 1974 by Prof. Cain of the University of Toronto, Mycology Department.

Anyone with an interest in fungi, is heartily welcome to attend their meetings or field trips.

Next meeting: April 14, 1975 at Botany Building, U of T., Room 7, in the basement. 8:00 p.m. sharp. The building is at the n.w. corner of College and University Ave. Further information: Bill Newman, President, 223-2025  
Joan Fairhead, Secretary, 221-2094.

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#### NEW MINERAL MAP AVAILABLE

An Ontario Mineral Map (No. 2130) which lists mines, former mines and all known mineral occurrences of importance throughout the Province is now available from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Map scale is 1 inch to 25 miles and sheet size about 40 inches square...Cost is \$1.07.

May be purchased from Room 1509, Whitney Block, Parliament Bldgs., Toronto, or write to Ministry of Natural Resources, Division of Mines, Parliament Bldgs., Toronto, with cheque or money order made payable to the Treasurer of Ontario.

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## OUR FIRST WINTER BLUEBIRD

On January 16th my wife, Joan, and I decided we should try Cudia Park for birds. It was a cold blustery day with snow squalls. The park being on the Lake just east of the Scarboro Bluffs, allows you a good view of the water.

As we entered the park we noticed the Toronto Works Department had been busy driving trucks over the grass and leaving ugly ruts where once was beautiful green grass. This and the dumping of rocks and gravel at the top of the bluffs really upset us as these parks are becoming rare along the eastern lakeshore.

Scanning the lake for about ten minutes did not produce one duck which was unusual and disappointing so Joan suggested we try the trees to the north.

Climbing the hill we discovered to our dismay that someone had cut down about twenty mature trees. Why do they do this to us? How can we concentrate on birding when we have all these distractions? Just as I was thinking this was not our day for birds, something moved to our left and before I could raise my binoculars, Joan blurted out "Bluebird", and sure enough there it was sitting about twenty feet away. A male bluebird in all its beautiful plumage. As we stood there in amazement, it grew curious and came closer to have a look at us. After about 15 minutes of flying from tree to tree while circling us it took off over the hill. Perhaps to one of the birdhouses that are built on the edge of the ravine.

Leaving the park we decided winter birding is very rewarding after all. But if our ravines are not left in a wild state we may never again see an Eastern Bluebird in January.

..... John Thomson

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Author discovered -- I'm happy to report that Miss Aileen Nichol is the author of that delightful anecdote about the dunking Grackles in last December's Newsletter.

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... E.T.

## COMING EVENTS

### ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE

Information: 922-2804

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

March 1 - "CN Tower - More than One Claim to Fame". Illustrated. Mr. T. Eldon Dolphin, General Manager, CN Tower Limited

March 8 - "The Medieval House". Illustrated with colour slides. Mr. James Acland, B.Arch., M.A., F.R.A.I.C. Professor of Architecture, University of Toronto.

March 15 - "An Oil man Looks at the Arctic". Illustrated with colour slides. Mr. Maurice W. Crompton, Public Affairs Advisor, Imperial Oil Ltd., Toronto.

### ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Information: 928-3690

Sunday afternoon films 2:30 p.m. Sunday evening films 7:30 p.m.

WALKING TOUR - SUNDAY, March 23rd --through South Humber Park with Metropolitan Parks Commissioner Tom Thompson as tour guide. Further information: 367-8176.

### 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.

TORONTO ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB  
 Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory - January 5, 1975  
 Compiled by: C. E. Goodwin

ROUTE NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALS
Horned Grebe				1				1
Mute Swan	8						1	9
Canada Goose	31	158	288	584	328	342	57	1788
Snow Goose	1			(3)				1
Mallard	730	465	94	698	1315	653	419	4374
Black Duck	111	167	37	39	117	202	316	989
Gadwall			4		11	17	92	124
Pintail						2	1	3
Green-winged Teal						2		2
Am. Wigeon							9	9
Wood Duck	1						1	2
Redhead	8	22		5			75	110
Canvasback		1		8	1			10
Greater Scaup	64	111	22	857	699	2191	1128	5072
Lesser Scaup		1				6		7
Common Goldeneye	137	122	3	72	31	97	148	610
Bufflehead	49	8		278	81	50	45	511
Oldsquaw		61	3849	125	872	1766	57	6730
Harlequin Duck					1			1
Ruddy Duck						1		1
Hooded Merganser	1							1
Common Merganser	29	1	152	12		11	1	206
Red-breasted Merganser	4	9				1		14
Am. Coot	2			1				3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1176</b>	<b>1126</b>	<b>4449</b>	<b>2680</b>	<b>3456</b>	<b>5341</b>	<b>2350</b>	<b>20,578</b>

## ROUTES AND OBSERVERS

1. Whitby to Rouge River - D. Pace, L. Marsh, V. Trojek
2. Rouge River to Coatsworth's Cut - F. Bodsworth, M. Bodsworth, D. Hancock
3. Leslie St. to Cherry Beach - G. Lambert, G. Fairfield
4. Toronto Islands, E. Gap - P. Middleton, J. Kelley, G. Fairfoul
5. Parliament St. to Humber mouth - G. Bellerby, K. and G. Carmichael  
J. Cranmer-Byng, R. Geras, D. Troy
6. Humber to Watersedge Park - D. Perks, J. Lamey
7. Clarkson to Bronte - C.E. and J.E. Goodwin, D. Corbridge, A. Dawe

## TIME AND WEATHER

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

sunny, calm, lagoons and some river partly frozen, otherwise no ice. 35°F.

NOTE: 3 Snow Geese wearing coloured bands and present along the waterfront for some months are not included in the totals.

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## TWO PROGRAMMES -- ONE OLD, ONE NEW

- Clive E. Goodwin

This article will bring up to date two Club programmes; the first, the Toronto Bird Records Scheme, started last fall. The second, the inventory of natural areas around Toronto, was first proposed three years ago.

## TORONTO BIRD RECORD

The new reporting scheme has had a good response, although we always welcome new contributors. Now we have some experience and we can adjust the reporting plan to make things easier to handle. We do not need identifying write-ups on all species reported, and from now on we would like to hear about any birds seen outside the periods shown in the Migration Chart by a thick solid line. We only need identifying write-ups for birds seen on a date that is more than two weeks beyond any line (including dotted ones) in the Migration Chart.

Reports do not have to be elaborate affairs and can be sent in whenever you have a few noteworthy things to report -- we are interested in unusual numbers and movements and so on, as well as rarer birds.

Identifying write-ups seem to have scared some of you -- or rather the report form seemed rather overwhelming. Really there are degrees of rarity just as there are degrees of experience among birders. Reports of rare birds are kept on file in case anyone wishes to research that species at some time. As a rule we only need enough detail to assure a stranger that an observer knew what he was looking at. On a Carolina Wren, for example, a "commoner" rarity which is in especially good numbers at present, a write-up may say no more than: "Large wren, clear eye-stripe, plain reddish-brown back and buffy under." This eliminates Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, the two other species we have seen persons confuse with Carolinas.

All this assumes you have some experience with birds around Toronto and some knowledge of what is likely to be seen. Most of our reports are from such birders,

but the general rule remains the same for everyone: Tell us how you identified the bird in your own words. The importance of the report form is that it covers most of the points that a person reviewing your report might wonder about. Let's say you see a Prairie Falcon, a bird that has been reported a few times in Ontario: a key point in identifying it is the black patch in the "armpit" under the wings (the axillars). But a report that I once received saying simply "black axillars clearly seen" leaves a lot of doubt in anyone's mind. Could the black patch have been a trick of light? This would depend on the light conditions at the time and how the observer saw them - where the bird was and so on. Then again, Black-bellied Plovers have black axillars too. Is it just possible this was one of these freak tricks of sight when a bird looks like something else which is really quite different? So on a really rare bird a lot of detail is needed simply because the probability of error is greater.

We would re-emphasize that we are not trying to tell people what they have seen. You saw the bird, we didn't. Your written account is the permanent record of that sighting which is the basis for publishing it. Without such records the published reports become meaningless, as there is no way in which the information they were based on can be reviewed at a later date. Persons reviewing the reports then tend arbitrarily to ignore anything that seems unlikely and may even simply ignore the mass of accurate and useful information simply because a few records seem improbable. Hopefully the recording system with its careful reviews will avoid this difficulty.

In sum then, when you send information to John Kelley you are helping to build a set of Toronto records which will be of use to everyone. Some of you will have been sending material to Gerry Bennett, who is covering north and west of Toronto. By all means continue to do so, as the Toronto area records can be picked up by John from Gerry's reports. Actually the Toronto region reporting will now break down as follows:

Toronto (30 mile radius) - John Kelley, 2309 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Toronto  
M8V 1A9

Toronto North and West and outside the 30 mile limit - Gerry Bennett,  
R. R. 2, Woodbridge, Ont. L4L 1A6

Toronto North and east of the 30 mile limit - Bruce Parker, 100 Graydon  
Hall Drive, Apt. 506, Don Mills, Ont. M3A 3A7.

John hopes to have a brief report for a coming Newsletter on the events of the fall. Future reports will always depend on our collective input to him!

#### NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

I wish I could say that this programme was as lively as the last one, but its inactivity is really my fault, as I have not done much about it. Originally we wanted to have an inventory of natural areas with a view to future nature reserves. Our addition to the Jim Baillie Reserve seemed to make further areas rather unlikely for a while, but events are now showing that we should have a good inventory of our region, if only to know what we might lose.

The ravine project has shown well that we don't know a great deal about areas even at our own back door, and in the city all natural areas are important simply because there are so few of them.

Outside the city the matter is becoming more and more complex. Government agencies and others are planning developments everywhere, and no matter how we may decry growth it is clear that there are going to continue to be new highways,

power lines, gravel pits and the like, and even the most perceptive of us do not have any real answers as to how to turn these things off. But there is usually a fair range of choice as to where they will be located and for the first time agencies are really willing to listen about the rare orchids or whatever that might be in the way. But when put to the test our responses are often no better than "Well ev....". We cannot complain about losing things if we cannot tell people where they are. If we do tell people where sensitive areas are, then they can build these into their advance planning and avoid the locations if possible.

So, we would like to know about sensitive areas you know about. Last time I made this request the response was very poor, and in retrospect maybe I scared everyone a little. If you have a detailed inventory so much the better, but that is really not what is needed at this point. Aside from the areas in the Toronto Birdfinding Guide we know almost nothing about our area. Know of a nice little woodland marsh where wood ducks nest? Or a fine old stand of White Pine? Or a Henslow's Sparrow or Louisiana Waterthrush nesting station? Or a clump of showy orchids? This is the kind of thing we need to know about, so please send in the information. I would also like to know from persons with reasonable competence in some field (birds, botany) and who would be willing to do some travelling around in our area and looking at possible localities. If you have a station you think is significant, please send the details to me -- where it is and why you think it is important. If you wish the material kept confidential please let us know this also and we will not give the information out without first consulting you. If you can help please phone Joy or myself at .. 249-9503. Our address is: 11 Westbank Cresc., Weston, Ont. M9P 1S4

..... Clive E. Goodwin.

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MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - 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 and more 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. Call the Barretts, 425-5238, or send the underlisted slip indicating when you will be willing to help. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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

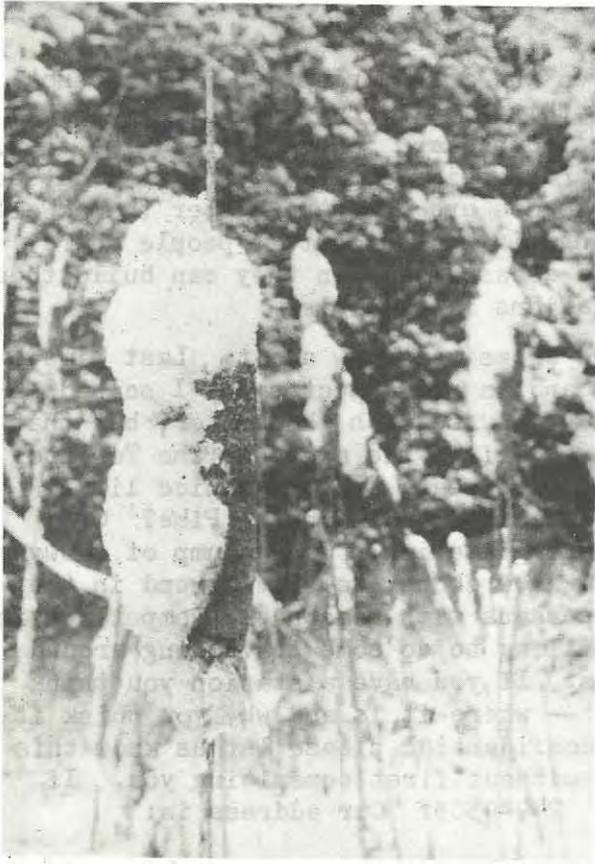
I can be available - dates \_\_\_\_\_

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# Along the White Trapezoid Trail

The four facing photographs were taken in late January along the white trapezoid trail from where it begins near the back boundary of the Jim Baillie Reserve to where it meets the blue rectangle trail. The white trapezoid trail has been blazed entirely within the 30-acre extension; it begins and ends in the large clearing in the southwest section. It is ready for your use. Walking it will give you a good idea of the character of this part of the property.

During the month of January we received our 500th donation to the Nature Reserve Fund to help pay for the new addition. Many of these five hundred donations were from individuals who were donating for the second, third, or fourth time. We are still hoping to hear from the more than half of our members who have not as yet given. We believe that the majority of you want your Club to be involved in land conservation. Please support our efforts!

- WE CANNOT PAY FOR OUR RESERVE OUT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES
- WE HAVE RAISED OVER HALF OF THE REQUIRED \$22,500.
- WE DID IT BEFORE (AND CLEARED THE MORTGAGE ON THE ORIGINAL 60 ACRES) LET'S DO IT AGAIN !

.....

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

1975, March

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

ALL LIFE ON EARTH

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

MR. GUY MOUNTFORT, International Trustee, Member of the Executive Council of the  
World Wildlife Fund:

We are just beginning to realise the fearful consequences of Man's technology on our fragile biosphere. Already our environment is seriously polluted, and already our diminishing recreational areas are overcrowded, so we must ask the question, as Peter Scott did yesterday, what is life going to be like for our children's children when there are twice as many people on this small planet?

Many of you will have read Professor Arnold Toynbee's sombre forecast of the inevitable growth of mammoth world cities in the early part of the twenty-first century. Science, undoubtedly, is going to find a means of feeding a doubled world population, but this is surely not the real point. The real point, as Peter Scott said yesterday, is what is going to be the quality of human life at that time. Shall we by then be reduced to mere automate living in a concrete and steel jungle surrounded by vast refuse heaps and deprived of the restorative beauty of Nature around us? Or shall we have sufficient foresight now, today, to recognise that like all animal species Man is also totally dependent on his environment?

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DR. JACQUES PICCARD, Designer of the Mesoscaphe, the first submarine built for  
scientific research:

We are, <sup>the</sup> only living beings which are able to commit collective suicide, and we are on the point of doing it. There are several ways in which we could do it. Let me just comment a little on one of the possible ways that I happen to know a little about, because it is my field -- the ocean. The ocean produces about 20% of the food of mankind, but that is not all. It is also producing, as Dr. Hoffmann pointed out, something like 50 or 60% of the oxygen of the atmosphere, the oxygen that we need for breathing and living. And it is also absorbing the excess of CO<sup>2</sup>, which is a poison gas. Now all of these actions are in practice made in the very, very thin surface layer of the ocean. And what are we doing for this? Are we respecting this layer of water of the ocean? Not at all. We are diverting into it about 1% of the total oil production of the world, which is for every year one million tons of oil. We are burning in the atmosphere something like 200 tons of lead every year, from which the main part ultimately arrives in the sea, and in addition to this, we are throwing in hundreds of thousands of tons of herbicides, of pesticides, of mercury, of super-detergents. We are just starting to kill this layer of the sea. Then this will, in the same way and at the same time, kill the protoplankton, the macro-zooplankton, the plankton, the small fish, the big fish, and ultimately

..... continued on page 17

(JIM BAILLIE RESERVE PLEDGE ON REVERSE)

every kind of life in the sea. We know that this is something which will happen if we do not do something, take some steps, active steps to change it ...

What can we do about it? Most people in the public consider that we cannot do anything because this is in the hands of governments, of very powerful politicians, of even more powerful industrialists, which need money and which are bringing on the market all these products we are using. But you know, nothing is produced if it is not consumed. We all here are the consumers and we can do something ...

I would like to say that it is very late; it might very well be that tomorrow will be too late, and in the very near future we will not have any more time even for congresses and meetings like this one. Sometimes I wonder if, instead of talking, we should not start to sing -- like the people of the "Titanic" when their boat was disappearing for ever.

..... to be continued

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#### CONSERVATION LAWS WITH TEETH - AND A NOOSE!

If you've ever had murderous thoughts towards people who thoughtlessly destroy our environment, perhaps you can understand the Russians. The killing of a Siberian tiger in the Soviet Union can mean the death penalty to the offender. This incredibly severe law has resulted in the species increasing from less than ten, twenty years ago, to over a hundred today.

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#### NEAR AND FAR PLACES TO VISIT

SAFARI '75 - August 1 - 24, 1975, to the National Parks of Kenya and Tanzania.

Norm Lightfoot, a naturalist/photographer, is once again off to Africa on Safari '75. The safari will include: A hike into the bush with a spear carrying game warden. Boat trips to see water birds such as the Goliath heron, white necked cormorant, etc. All the big game animals and superb scenery. For those interested please write direct to:

Norman R. Lightfoot, P.O. Box 641, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4B6.

ONTARIO NATURE TOURS CAN OFFER: (details from Hattie Beeton, 422-4830)

- .. March 9 - a visit to the Iroquois Nat. Wildlife Refuge in New York State
  - .. March 14,15,16,17 - Spring at Long Point, Ontario
  - .. March 22 to March 31 - Coastal Texas Tour
  - .. March 31 to April 6 - Southeastern Arizona
  - 7 .. Apr. 12 to 20; and Apr. 19 to 27 - Great Smoky Mountains National Park
  - .. April 12 and 13 - Springtime Birding for Beginners
  - 7 .. May 1,2,3,4,5,6 - Point Pelee Spring Birding
  - 7 .. May 7 - 9 - Pelee Island Visit
  - .. May 9 - 23 - Birding tour of Southern Ontario
  - .. May 16 - 19 - Cape May, New Jersey
  - .. May 18 - June 9 - Birding in Britain
  - .. June 11 - 25 - The Prairies and Churchill, Manitoba
  - .. June 27 - July 12 - Icelandic Adventure
  - .. June 28- thru-Sept. 6 - Killarney Canoe Trips (weekly)
  - .. June 25-July 5 - Bruce Peninsula Summer Workshop
  - .. July 5 - 19 - Newfoundland Tour
  - .. July 5-6 - Orchids of the Bruce Peninsula
  - .. July 15 - 21 and July 21 - 31 - Rocky Mountain Visit
  - .. Aug. 3 - 14 - South Nahanni Float Trip
  - .. Aug.16 - 29 - British Columbia Tour
- Plus - Moosonee in September; Bermuda in September; New Zealand-Australia in October.

## BOOK REVIEW

(The following appeared in the Ontario Naturalist, September, 1974 and is published with permission of the editor and Ottelyn Addison)

EARLY DAYS IN ALGONQUIN PARK, by Ottelyn Addison, McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, 1974, 144 pages. Hard cover, \$9.95; paperback \$4.95. Available from F.O.N. Bookshop by mail order only).

(Reviewed by Elizabeth Harwood)

The author is uniquely qualified to write about Algonquin Park. One of her earliest recollections is being taught to swim at Joe Lake shelter house while dangling from the end of a long pike pole. In successive summers under the guidance of her ranger father, Mark Robinson, she explored the wilderness trails, travelled the waterways, and became familiar with the wildlife and plants of the area. At a later stage, she was a camp naturalist and leader, guiding young canoeists through the perils of an Algonquin vacation. More recently her sons' scientific studies and wildlife photography have provided her with fresh enthusiasms and interest in the Park.

The book began as a collection of Mark Robinson's writings and photographs. Robinson was a gifted naturalist and woodsman who kept daily accounts of Algonquin weather, wildlife sightings and other events. His career spanned the years from 1907 to 1936 and he supplemented his Park activities by writing about nature for various magazines and newspapers. To amplify this material his daughter has collected information from government records, old maps, accounts by rangers and lumbermen, personal communications, and descriptions of the Park wherever they could be found including old and rare hotel brochures. Research for a book on Tom Thomson published in 1969 added to her knowledge of the Park and its many colourful personalities. The present text covers pre-Park history, the building of the railway, road construction, logging, wildlife and forest protection, hotels, summer camps, and the Canadian painters who immortalized the Algonquin landscape. More than 140 photographs are included.

In her straightforward and highly readable account, the author presents plenty of hard facts as well as old yarns and humorous stories that bring the past to life. The chapter describing the work of the rangers is especially interesting. Theirs was a hard and often thankless job. Neighbouring farmers felt they had every right to harvest furs as they had done long before the Park limits were set. Lumbering was a legitimate enterprise but it also gave the rangers trouble. They wound up being policemen, fire wardens, liquor controllers and full-time providers of first aid. They fished out the greenhorns who dumped their canoes and gave them lessons in respect for the wild. They kept track of the timber and game under their jurisdiction. They also did winter patrols. Robinson's account of one such trip in 1910 refers to a lucky find in provisions: "The next four meals consisted of ship-biscuits soaked in water and then fried in bacon fat. It tasted mighty good."

Encounters between camp cooks and bears, lumbermen and moose, elegant hotel guests and the vagaries of the weather, provide lively moments in the text. The book ends with a personal reminiscence in which the reader is given a glimpse of the Robinson household as it flourished in the Algonquin summer. A typically nostalgic detail is the reference to kindly conductors and trainmen who did their best to help entertain children on the long, slow journeys into the out-of-the-way spots of Ontario.

This is the first full-length account of Algonquin Park to be published since 1940. Newcomers to the area will find the book enjoyable and enlightening; oldtimers will find it excellent for reference use.

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THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST

A bi-annual journal presenting results of observation and research by amateur and professional naturalists. Published by the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club.

THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST, Vol. 28, No. 2, (December 1974) has just been published. Contents include:

Table listing contents: ON THE FLORA OF THE TORONTO ISLANDS -- PART 1, INSECTS ASSOCIATED WITH FLOWERING MUSK-MALLOW (Malva moschata L.) AT OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO, SPRING WARBLER MIGRATION AT TORONTO, 1973, General Notes, EARLY NESTING OF A MOURNING DOVE, DISTRIBUTION OF SUNDEWS (Drosera spp.) IN ONTARIO.

Back issues sell out quickly, but copies of issue #27 and Vol. 28, No.1, are still available. In issue #27, among other articles, R. D. Weir reports on the Snowy Owl invasion at Wolfe Island in the winter of 1971-2, Paul M. Catling examines the food of Snowy Owls wintering in southern Ontario, and William W. Judd writes of the insects associated with Flowering Elecampane (Inula helenium), near Owen Sound, Ontario.

Vol. 28, No. 1, contains a key to and discussion of four species of Sundew found in Ontario, by James E. Cruise and Paul M. Catling, and other articles including the 1973 report of the Ontario Ornithological Records Committee. This latter report, by Clive E. Goodwin, offers valuable guidance in the recognition of Long-billed vs. Short-billed Dowitchers and King vs. Common Eiders -- puzzling to many birders.

We invite you to join the many hundreds of serious naturalists, museums, and libraries now subscribing to THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST. Please use the order form below.

Toronto Field Naturalists' Club
49 Craighurst Avenue,
Toronto, Canada. M4R 1J9.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

A. Please send issue #27 #28(1) #28(2) of THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST (circle desired issues), at \$1.25 per issue \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. I wish to subscribe to THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST for \_\_\_\_\_ years commencing with Vol.29 (1975), at \$2.50 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

OUTINGS FOR MARCH - 1975

- Saturday LAMBTON WOODS - Birds Leader: Mr. Elmer Talvila  
March 1 Meet in parking lot of James Gardens, (Take Royal York bus from sub-  
9:30 a.m. way to Edenbridge Drive and walk east 0.4 mile). Morning only.
- Sunday CLAIRVILLE CONSERVATION AREA - Birds  
March 9 Leaders: Mr. Bruce White and Mr. Jerry White  
10:00 a.m. Meet on Wardlaw Crescent at Islington Avenue, just north of Albion  
Road. (Finch bus or Islington bus). There may be an admission charge.  
Bring lunch.
- March 13-21 Time to reserve your seat on the bus to LONG POINT. Telephone Mrs.  
Eva Hunt, 221-6303.
- Saturday WILKET CREEK - Birds Leader: Mr. Douglas Wilkins  
March 15 Meet at the first parking lot at the entrance on Leslie Street, just  
9:00 a.m. north of Eglinton Avenue East. (Eglinton East, Lawrence East or  
Leslie bus). Morning only.
- Sunday MORNINGSIDE PARK - Birds Leader: Mr. Gordon Lambert  
March 16 Meet in the first parking lot, immediately west of Morningside Ave.,  
9:00 a.m. by the pavilion. Drivers take 401 east to exit 61, then go south on  
Morningside Ave. 1.0 mile (Eglinton East 34B bus) Morning only.
- Saturday LONG POINT - Birds Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hutton  
March 29 An opportunity to see the whistling swans and other waterfowl. Reserve  
7:40 a.m. your place on the charter bus by telephoning Mrs. Eva Hunt, 221-6303,  
10:00 a.m. March 13 - 21. Confirm by sending the fare, \$6.50 payable to the  
Toronto Field Naturalists, to Miss Peggy Love, 484 Church St. # 1201,  
Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2C7. Cheques for this outing must be received by  
March 24th. Bring lunch

Bus Schedule

- 7:40 a.m. Bloor Street East and Yonge St. northeast corner.  
7:45 a.m. King Street West and University Ave., southwest corner.  
8:00 a.m. The Queensway and Islington Ave., northwest corner (Evans bus leaves  
platform 5, Islington subway station at 7:30 a.m.)  
10:00 a.m. Long Point. Drivers go west from Port Rowan to Hwy. 59 and south on  
the Causeway to the bridge.  
6:30 p.m. Arrive back in Toronto.

NOTE: To determine the number of buses to be chartered for T.F.N. outings,  
advance registration is required and cash cannot be accepted on buses.

Chairman - Harry Kerr (481-7948)

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Elmer Talvila, Editor, 12 Cranleigh Court, Islington

*Hold money until phoned*