

TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB - Founded 1879 -

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: *THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST*, devoted to publishing research in natural history. *TRAIL & LANDSCAPE*, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members.
See inside back cover.

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TO AN EDITOR ON A LONG TRAIL

Dear Anne,

As this issue of Trail & Landscape goes smoothly off to press, a landmark has been reached. Ten years ago, in March of 1967, the first issue of T&L made its appearance, having been given a somewhat hesitant blessing by Council. The project was suggested by Ted Mosquin, and was approved cautiously 'for one year only' as a Centennial Project of the Club.

For Club members, this has been ten years of enjoyment of one of the best nature club publications in Canada. (We are discriminating, if not modest.) For you, it has been ten years of dedication and hard work, laced with behind-the-scenes emergencies and tragi-comedies. It's time now for you to pause long enough to laugh, groan, and congratulate yourself, as you look back over the triumphs, disasters, and absurdities of the past ten years as Editor.

The title Trail & Landscape (symbolizing natural history and conservation) was chosen after much serious deliberation. Perhaps few of us now remember that another title, suggested by you, almost won out over T&L. The Muddy Boot had impact. It had relevance. In the end, however, we were swayed by the consideration that the libraries of, say, Biosystematics Research Institute, or the National Research Council, might hesitate to subscribe to such an unlikely title. But for several years Muddy Boot, or more familiarly, the Boot, was code name for T&L to the staff.

Reminiscing, it seems to me that that first year or two of production consisted chiefly of rushing from one crisis to the next. I like to think that the members scarcely felt a ripple on the surface as the editorial and production staffs came up with solutions to one impossible situation after another. My own duties were many and varied, but my most important function was to dissuade the Editor from committing suicide (a slight exaggeration - but, honestly, every issue seemed to produce its own particular crisis). I remember one night receiving a hasty and despairing call from you to acquaint me with the 'current' crisis. The plates for T&L were being prepared at that very minute, but something had gone arwy with the paging, and one page was blank! Would I fill it with something ... anything ... right away? I hastily tossed off a page of unpremeditated philosophy. (You always preferred solid natural history to fuzzy philosophy.) I suspect that you then wished that you had taken my first wicked solution ... to leave the page blank, with a caption to the effect that it had been reserved for all those articles that the members had failed to submit. At any rate, that hastily scribbled emergency page was the one thing from all that carefully prepared issue that was reprinted by another natural history magazine, elsewhere in the province. This is the kind of thing that makes editors cynical.

We were often short of copy in those first years. I remember your plaintive wail, "The editors were asked to edit this magazine, not to write it!" I undertook to solicit manuscripts, an innocent enough activity, but one that gave rise to at least two more episodes in our unbroken chain of crises. On one of these occasions, involving fraudulent pretences to authorship, you felt it prudent to intervene between me and the culprit, restraining my Irish impulses.

Well, Anne it's been a long up-hill trail, at times through barren landscape. Of the original staff, only you and Harry have survived to the ten-year check-point. By the way, congratulations are due, too, to Harry, who has achieved some kind of production miracle by piloting fifty-two issues of T&L through the wilderness of page proofs and postal regulations, mock-ups and mailing lists, captions, plates, negatives, layouts, and printing deadlines - into the hands of the membership, error-free (almost) and on time!

Citations for faithful service must go also to many others: to your present trusty staff; to Onie, typing away in the eerie empty halls of the Museum often into the early hours of the morning; to Dr. Lemieux and his secretaries at the Museum; to John Marquardt, our courteous and helpful printer, and to Ken, his right hand man; to a long succession of cheerful proof-readers, emergency typists, photographers, illustrators, arrangers of tedious details (thankless task!) - in fact, to many anonymous members who have helped out on many occasions; and, of course, to all the naturalists who have taken the time to share their knowledge and experience with the rest of us on the pages of T&L. This impressive demonstration of support and co-operation has helped to turn our 'Centennial Project' into a success story.

But the basic calibre of a publication is always a reflection of the calibre of the editor, and to the editor belongs full credit for it. You may take it as an indication of our appreciation of you and your fellow editors that we look forward eagerly to each new issue of T&L, we enjoy it, and we are proud of it!

See you further along the trail.

Sheila

Sheila Thomson was Assistant Editor of Trail & Landscape from 1967 to 1970, and OFNC President 1971 and 1972. Harry A. Thomson is T&L's Production and Business Manager. Onie (Leone) Brown has typed the Final Copy for most issues of T&L from the first years of publication.

The 1977 Council

The Ninety-eighth ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was held in the Auditorium of the National Research Council on the last evening of January, 1977. As the event took place between the preparation of this issue of Trail & Landscape and its appearance in your mailbox, we are unable to report on the meeting here. Complete details of the annual Reports to Council of the various committees of the Club will be published in the next issue of The Canadian Field-Naturalist. The officers of the Club for 1977 will be:

President:	Roger Foxall	
Vice-President:	Roger Taylor	
Treasurer:	Barry Henson	
Recording Secretary:	Diana Laubitz	
Corresponding Secretary:	Sally Armstrong	
Others:	Elizabeth Beaubien	Jo Ann Murray
	Bill Cody	Marsh Ney
	Jane Diceman	Gavin Nicholson
	Albert Dugal	Gerry Oyen
	Tony Erskine	Giles Patenaude
	Chuck Gruchy	Ken Strang
	J. E. Harrison	Stan Teeple
	Hue MacKenzie	Stan van Zyll de Jong

The Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month except July and August. Interested members are welcome to attend. Check location with a Council member.

ANNUAL MEETING

NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
OTTAWA - HULL CHAPTER

Dr. David M. Baird, director of the National Museum of Science and Tecnology, and author of several books on the National Parks of Canada, will present his personal views concerning parks and the parks system. His talk will be illustrated with his own spectacular photographs of our National Parks.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14,
NATIONAL MUSEUM, AUDITORIUM
Metcalf & McLeod Streets
8:00 p.m.

visitors & new members welcome

John Macoun

A PRE-EMINENT NATURALIST

Sally Armstrong
(Sally Pawley)

The fascinating story of John Macoun deserves to be told on the pages of *Trail & Landscape* not only because he was an active member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, but because he was an outstanding naturalist who greatly influenced the study of natural history in Canada.

John was 13 years old when he and his family left the horrors of the Irish potato famine and immigrated to Canada. Young John worked as a farm laborer, and later became a farmer. So began Macoun's botanical studies, a passionate endeavour which must have filled every spare moment he could squeeze from a busy farm life. On Sundays, he habitually discussed his observations of plants and wildlife with another farmer. One Sunday, this friend presented him with an old book listing the plants of Northumberland and Durham counties in England. By studying this book and others that followed, he gained valuable basic knowledge on which to build his career.

After some time he became a teacher, but still crammed his spare moments and summers with plants and the study of botany and related sciences. In 1868 he became Professor of Natural History at Albert College in Belleville. By the time the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was founded in 1879, Macoun had become the Chairman of the Botany Department and was well on his way to becoming a renowned scientist.

John Macoun was the Club's first corresponding member. In the first winter of the Club's existence, he visited Ottawa and attended a *soirée*, during which he expounded enthusiastically on the personal benefits attainable through the study of natural history (see *T&L* Vol 10 No 4 p84, 1976).

During a summer of botanical work in the Lake Superior country, Macoun chanced to meet the renowned Canadian surveyor Sanford Fleming, who was surveying the Canadian North-West with a view to planning a possible railroad route. Realizing what value botanical observations would add to his surveys, Fleming invited Macoun to accompany him. Unable to resist, Macoun took leave of absence from Albert College and embarked on the first of what were to become six treks across the rugged Canadian west.

Macoun's incredible energy and enthusiasm were recorded by a companion on that initial survey. In his book "From Ocean to Ocean", G.M. Grant writes:

"At whatever point the steamer touched the first man on shore was the botanist, scrambling over the rocks and diving into the woods, vasculum in hand, stuffing it full of mosses, ferns, liverworts, sedges, grasses and flowers, till recalled by the whistle that the captain fortunately always sounded for him... This morning the first object that met our eyes on looking out the stateroom window was our botanist on the highest peak of the rugged hills that enclose the harbour of Gargantua."

and

"The sight of a perpendicular face of rock, either dry or dripping with moisture, drew him like a magnet, and, with yells of triumph, he would summon the others to come..."

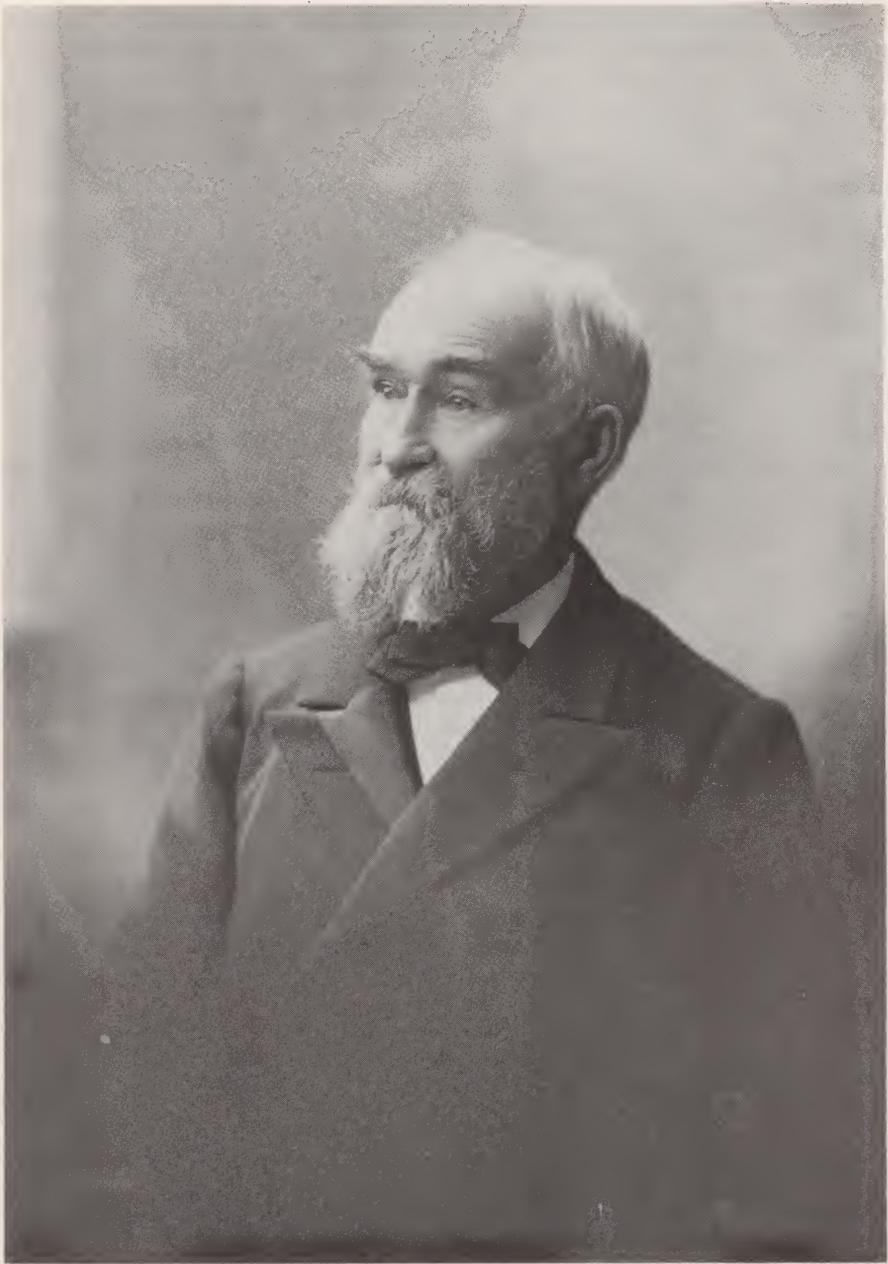
and

"Awakened at eight a.m. by hearing a voice exclaiming 'Thirty-two new species already; it is a perfect floral garden.'"

Macoun accomplished three very important things through his exhaustive reports of this initial expedition. He brought botany down from its classical ivory tower onto the good brown earth by demonstrating that botanical studies could be applied to practical problems. He described vegetation patterns as influenced by soil, topography, and climate, and was the first to reveal the resources of Canada's North-West by relating these patterns to agricultural potential. He showed that by delineating the resources of the west, botanical knowledge could predict future agricultural development and settlement patterns. He thereby helped solve a pressing national puzzle: the best route for the promised railroad.

The OFNC invited Macoun to speak to the Club in March of 1881. So successful was the lecture that the Governor-General requested that it be repeated. In April, Macoun redelivered the lecture to a huge audience which became as enthusiastic as was he about "The Capabilities of the Prairie Lands of the Great North-West, as shown by their flora and fauna".

Macoun's outstanding achievements led to his permanent appointment in 1882 to the post of Dominion Botanist for the Geological Survey of Canada. This was apparently the realization of a life-long dream. At the age of 50, he had come a long way from farming and Sunday botanical discussions.



JOHN MACOUN (1831 - 1920)

Professor Macoun was OFNC President for 1886-7. He was photographed in January, 1902 by Topley (#83226C).

Public Archives Canada (PA-33784)

When he moved to Ottawa to take up his position, he became an active OFNC member. He was elected president of the club for the year 1886-1887, during which he urged the establishment of "one grand museum...".

When a club for young naturalists was formed to foster a love of all wildlife and an understanding of conservation, who better to name it after than John Macoun? He was deeply involved with both sponsoring institutions: the OFNC and the National Museum. But more than that, he was always an enthusiastic young naturalist at heart. He believed that scientists needed an understanding of the basic laws of science, but above all, he believed in self-education through field work, with wilderness as the classroom. Macoun would gladly have lent his name to a young naturalists' club. Perhaps Ernest Thompson Seton's introduction to Macoun's autobiography best illustrates why this must be so:

INTRODUCTION

IT is just thirty-eight years ago since first I came in contact with John Macoun. I was a young man then, riding and farming on the prairies of Western Manitoba, but my thoughts were not on the farm. My eyes were ever turning to the wild life about me—the birds and flowers. I was suffering too, amid the pleasure of it, suffering from the knowledge-hunger—the total absence of books and guides. Botanies were indeed scarce in those days, and I had made a collection of prairie flowers (now in the St. Louis Herbarium) with only the popular names attached; in some cases they were names which I had given them, for lack of better.

Then I met a government official at Winnipeg, who said: "Why don't you write to Professor John Macoun at Ottawa? He is the best naturalist in Canada and is one of those big men who always are ready to help a student."

So, without introduction of any kind, I sent a preliminary collection of plants to Macoun, asking if he would name them for me. His answer is before me now, in his own handwriting:

OTTAWA, August 15th, 1884

My Dear Sir:

"I reached home yesterday, after having been absent about nine weeks and, in going over my correspondence, find yours.

"Any assistance I can give regarding botany you can always have for the asking, so do not be backward in that line.

"The names of your plants are as follows: (Here follows a long list.)

"Your plants are all common forms on the prairie except No. 23, (*Physalis lanceolata* Michx.) which, as far as I know to the contrary, is rare. I would like to know the exact locality where found, etc.

"Wishing you every success in botany and ornithology, and agreeing with you, in the deep interest attached to the birds of the West, I am, dear Sir,

Truly yours,

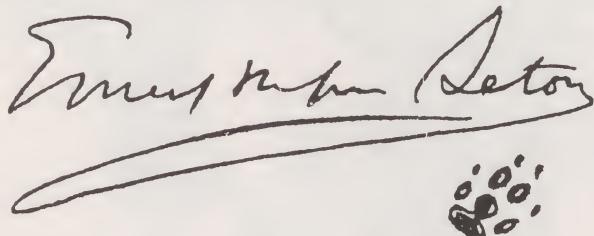
J. MACOUN.

"To E. T. SETON, ESQ."

That letter, written entirely in his own hand, is characteristic of the man and his life. With nine weeks mail piled on his desk he, nevertheless, unselfishly paid first attention to the student who sent him specimens and craved his help.

The friendship thus begun continued through life. Many other students of botany and lovers of nature found this same portal to his heart, their common interest in the wild things.

His universal kindness and helpfulness, and his vast erudition in natural science, combined with the fact that he was the pioneer naturalist of Canada, with official recognition as such, have given him a permanent place in our records, as well as in our affections. He will be remembered by posterity as the father of exact natural history in Canada, and I am proud indeed of the chance to stand among his mourners, who yet rejoice that our standard-bearer died in the fullness of life and the fullness of success.



Ernest Innes Seton

May 8th, 1922.

Sources:

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Macoun, John. Autobiography of John Macoun, M.A. Ottawa: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, 1922.

Waiser, W.A. "Macoun and the Great North-West", unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Saskatchewan, 1976.



Macoun Field Club's photo of John Macoun

MACOUN FIELD CLUB

Joanne Dean
Past President of the Seniors

The Macoun Field Club is a group of budding young naturalists, from grades four through thirteen, who are interested in learning something about the natural world. It is divided into three groups: Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors. We meet in the Activity Centre of the Victoria Memorial Museum, and we are very grateful to the National Museum of Natural Sciences for letting us use the room. At our weekly meetings we have talks by OFNC members, museum personnel, or fellow club members on some aspect of natural history, or films, workshops or discussions on club activities. There are field trips interspersed throughout, with the Seniors having one every Sunday. Often, trips are made to the Macoun Study Area,* a plot of land allocated to us by the National Capital Commission. Situated near Bell's Corners, it is easily reached by bike or bus. Investigations are carried out there such as studying the beaver ponds and their varying levels, forest types, and nesting birds. The Seniors sometimes lead nature walks for other groups and have helped plan and build nature trails.

At the end of August the Seniors have a ten-day canoe trip travelling through a part of Algonquin Park or La Verendrye Park. There are about fourteen people on a trip and they are able to see and study natural history in an area different from that around Ottawa.

A small magazine, "The Little Bear", is produced at the end of each year. It is full of articles written by members of the club on their studies or on subjects that interest them.

We are very grateful to our leaders for devoting so much of their free time to help us young people. Dr. Dave Gray is Advisor to the Seniors. Jerry Fitzgerald (NMNS) and Arnet Sheppard (OFNC) are the new co-chairmen of the whole club, and supervise the activities of the Juniors and Intermediates.

The club is enjoyed very much by its members; we all learn a lot, and not just natural history. After spending a few years meeting together and sharing field trips, sometimes under difficult conditions, we learn to work together as a group.

* See T&L Vol 7 No 5 pp 115-117 (1973)

NATIVE ORCHID LOCATION SURVEY

Joyce Reddoch

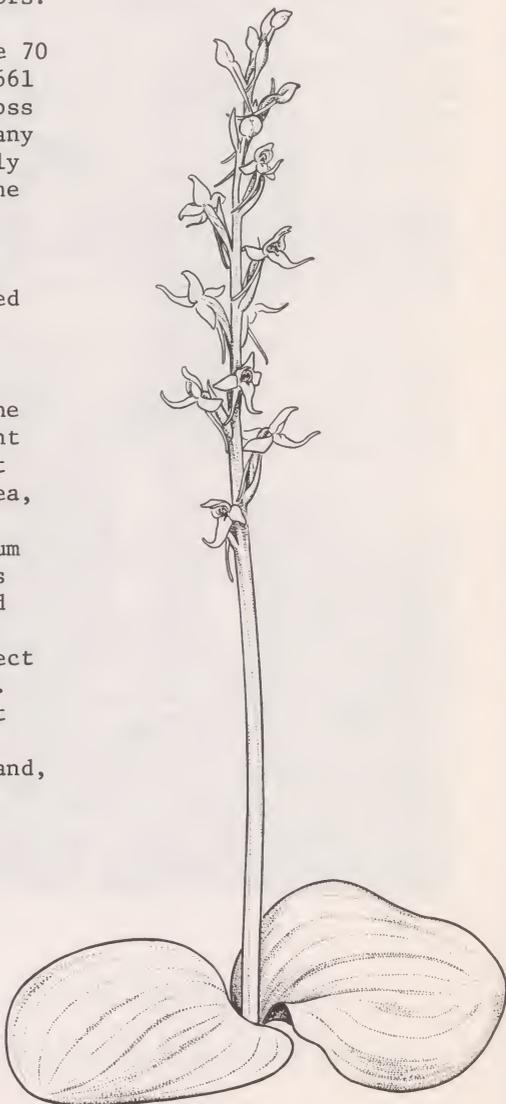
Ten years ago, in the very first issue of T&L, Ed Greenwood announced the Orchid Location Survey which he had initiated a year earlier. Ed's concept was to record the locations and abundances of the native orchids growing across Canada. The project was supported by The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. After Ed left Ottawa in 1969, co-ordination of the project was carried on by Hue MacKenzie and then by Bill Petrie. Since September 1976, Allan Reddoch and Joyce Reddoch have been co-co-ordinators.

During those 10 years, some 70 participants have generated 11,661 records of orchid locations across Canada. Never before have so many data been collected on one family of flowering plants. This is the kind of work which dedicated amateurs can do well, but which professional botanists have no time to do. And there is no need to sacrifice even one plant in the process.

By 1975 participation in the survey had declined to the extent that members decided to restrict activity to the Ottawa Study Area, and to turn over the Survey's records to the National Herbarium for safekeeping. Access to this data will continue to be limited strictly to serious researchers who appreciate the need to protect orchid colonies from collectors. The records include an excellent concentration of data covering parts of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Southern Ontario

Platanthera hookeri

illustrations: Anne Hanes



*Small Round-leafed Orchis	<u>Amerorchis rotundifolia</u>	1
*Putty-root	<u>Aplectrum hyemale</u>	+
*Arethusa	<u>Arethusa bulbosa</u>	3
*Grass Pink	<u>Calopogon tuberosus</u>	22
*Calypso	<u>Calypso bulbosa</u>	+
*Long-bracted Green Orchid	<u>Coeloglossum viride</u> var. <u>virescens</u>	38
*Spotted Coral-root	<u>Corallorhiza maculata</u>	76
pure yellow variety	var. <u>flavida</u>	1
*Striped Coral-root	<u>Corallorhiza striata</u>	12
*Early Coral-root	<u>Corallorhiza trifida</u>	129
typical variety	var. <u>trifida</u>	-
pure yellow variety	var. <u>verna</u>	-
*Pink Lady's-slipper	<u>Cypripedium acaule</u>	243
albino form	forma <u>albiflorum</u>	4
*Ram's-head Lady's-slipper	<u>Cypripedium arietinum</u>	29
Yellow Lady's-slipper	<u>Cypripedium calceolus</u>	215
* large variety	var. <u>pubescens</u>	-
* small variety	var. <u>parviflorum</u>	-
*Showy Lady's-slipper	<u>Cypripedium reginae</u>	99
Helleborine	<u>Epipactis helleborine</u>	377
*Showy Orchis	<u>Galearis spectabilis</u>	41
*Downy Rattlesnake Plantain	<u>Goodyera pubescens</u>	19
*Creeping Rattlesnake Plantain	<u>Goodyera repens</u> var. <u>ophioides</u>	33
Tesselated Rattlesnake Plantain	<u>Goodyera tesselata</u>	40
*Loesel's Twayblade	<u>Liparis loeselii</u>	106
Auricled Twayblade	<u>Listera auriculata</u>	2
Southern Twayblade	<u>Listera australis</u>	+
Heartleaf Twayblade	<u>Listera cordata</u>	10
*White Adder's-mouth	<u>Malaxis monophyllos</u> var. <u>brachypoda</u>	101
*Green Adder's-mouth	<u>Malaxis unifolia</u>	127
two-leaved form	forma <u>bifolia</u>	+
*White Fringed-orchid	<u>Platanthera blephariglottis</u>	6
*Club-spur Orchid	<u>Platanthera clavellata</u>	15
*Tall White Bog-orchid	<u>Platanthera dilatata</u>	8
*Tuberclad Orchid	<u>Platanthera flava</u> var. <u>herbiola</u>	14
*Large Purple Fringed-orchid	<u>Platanthera grandiflora</u>	3
albino form	forma <u>albiflora</u>	+
*Hooker's Orchid	<u>Platanthera hookeri</u>	118
*Tall Northern Bog-orchid	<u>Platanthera hyperborea</u>	199
Green Fringed-orchid	<u>Platanthera lacera</u>	40
Prairie White Fringed-orchid	<u>Platanthera leucophaea</u>	3
Blunt-leaf Orchid	<u>Platanthera obtusata</u>	77
*Large Round-leaved Orchid	<u>Platanthera orbiculata</u>	47
*Small Purple Fringed-orchid	<u>Platanthera psychodes</u>	211
albino form	forma <u>albiflora</u>	+
*Rose Pogonia	<u>Pogonia ophioglossoides</u>	30
Case's Ladies'-tresses	<u>Spiranthes casei</u>	2
*Nodding Ladies'-tresses	<u>Spiranthes cernua</u>	199
*Slender Ladies'-tresses	<u>Spiranthes lacera</u>	110
Shining Ladies'-tresses	<u>Spiranthes lucida</u>	4
*Hooded Ladies'-tresses	<u>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</u>	14

* *These species are listed in James Fletcher's Flora Ottawaensis of 1893.*
+ *Old herbarium and/or literature records exist.*

The common names are, for the most part, those used in Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region by F.W. Case.

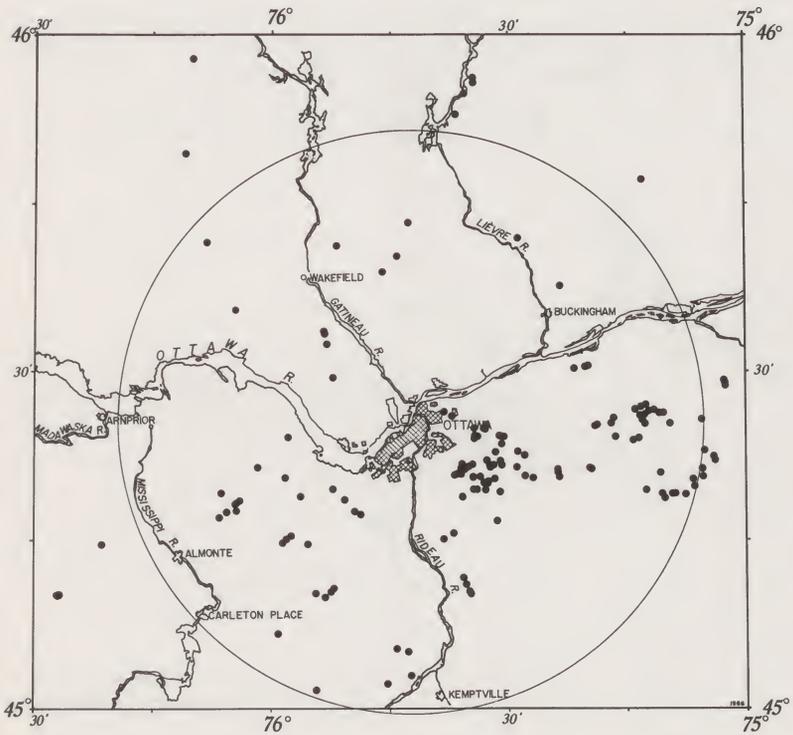
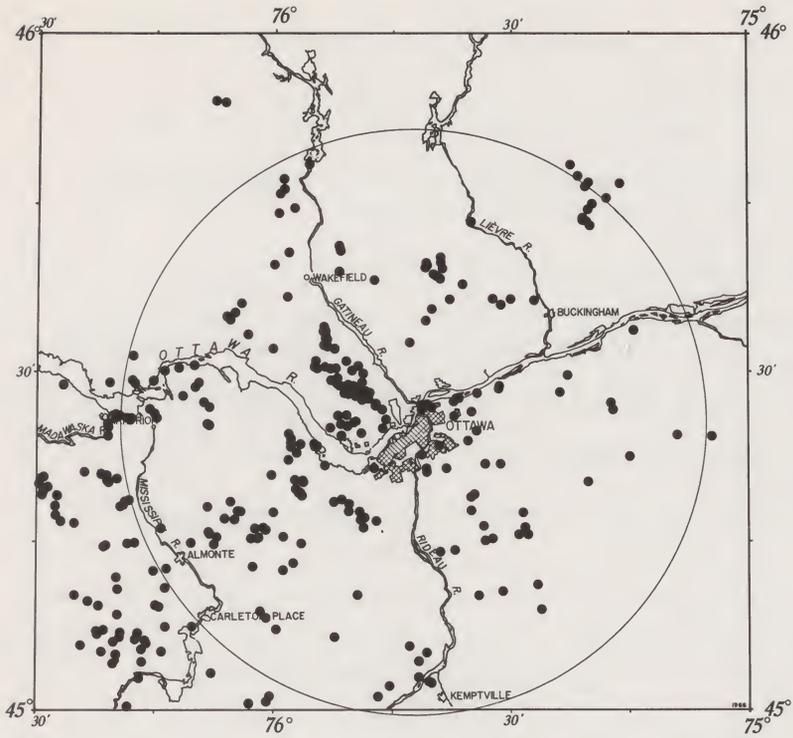
The botanical names are those used in The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada by C.A. Luer. Usages which are different from those you may be familiar with include Amerorchis and Galearis for Orchis, Platanthera and Coeloglossum for Habenaria, and C. tuberosus for C. pulchellus. However, for Spiranthes intermedia, S. casei is used (Catling and Cruise, Rhodora, 76(808), 526 (1974).

From the Ottawa Study Area the Survey has collected 2,824 records on 39 species of orchids. Two new species and one new variety have been added to the Ottawa list. The new discoveries are Hue MacKenzie's Auricled Twayblade, Ewen Todd's Prairie White Fringed-orchid, and Anne Hanes' yellow variety of Spotted Coral-root. Still to be discovered are three species which are known from old records - Putty-root, Calypso, and Southern Twayblade.

The data from the Ottawa area are giving us valuable information about characteristic sizes of orchid colonies, and about relative abundances and distributions of the various species. The two maps on the opposite page show the distributions of two species: Helleborine (top) and Nodding Ladies'-tresses (bottom). Helleborine, a naturalized species, is the most abundant wild orchid. It grows wherever there are woodlands throughout the area. In fact, the presence of dots on this map practically records where orchid hunters have been; the absence of dots in wooded areas, such as the central portion of Gatineau Park, points out where additional work must be done. On the other hand, the distribution of Nodding Ladies'-tresses seems to be restricted to acidic sands such as those adjacent to the Mer Bleue. The distribution of other species may be correlated with other ecological factors.

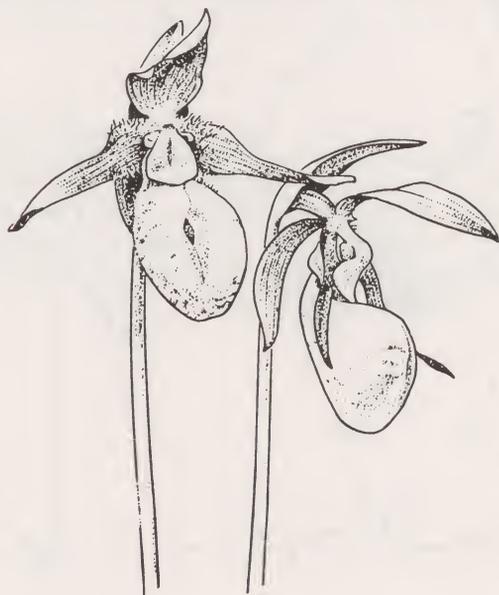
The work of the Survey has also resulted in a growing knowledge about specific orchid habitats and about the blooming dates of the various species in the Ottawa area. More research needs to be done on these topics, but, on the whole, the information about the orchids as they occur in the Ottawa area is ready to be written up. Hopefully we will accomplish this task in time for the Club's Centennial in 1979. In the meantime, if you know how to read a map and can recognize the orchid species, you are welcome to join us in further exploration.

THE OTTAWA STUDY AREA: As you can see by the maps on the opposite page, the Ottawa Study Area covers somewhat more territory than does the traditional 30-mile circle of the Ottawa District superimposed on it. Originally, the rectangular form of the Study Area was chosen to minimize problems in computer mapping of the data.



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- E.W. Greenwood PRAIRIE WHITE FRINGED-ORCHID 2(4), 110 (1968)
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- W.G. Dore A REMARKABLE PLANT - THIS HELLEBORINE! 2(6), 146 (1968)
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flowers of
Pink Lady's-slipper



OFNC



with

KAY and LARRY McKEEVER

presenting slides on
THE OWL REHABILITATION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

We are pleased to announce that Kay and Larry McKeever will be our guest speakers at this year's OFNC Annual Dinner. The McKeever's are renowned for their work in the unique owl hospital that they have operated in their home at Vineland, Ontario during the past 11 years. Other birds of prey are also treated but owls are their principal specialty. Every attempt is made to nurse the birds back to full health and when possible they are released back into the wild. For the remarkable work that they have done in this area the McKeever's have been granted the White Owl Conservation Award.

Kay and Larry will present and discuss slides of their hospital and their owl rehabilitation program. The program is aimed at effective treatment of the bird's injuries, and is followed by a period of flight and hunting therapy in specially designed outdoor flight pens. The McKeever's' own account of their work appeared in the August 1975 issue of Ontario Naturalist and, more recently, in the January 1977 issue of (appropriately) OWL, the Canadian magazine for children.

With these fascinating speakers on hand it adds up to a great evening. We hope to see you all there.

Annual Dinner

Tuesday, April 19, 1977

Dinner: 7:30 p.m. - Social hour 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Place: Centennial Ballroom
Talisman Motor Inn
1376 Carling Avenue (at the Queensway)

Reservations: To order tickets fill in the order form below and send it along with \$10.00 per ticket before April 1 to:

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
c/o Mrs. E.M. Dickson
2037 Honeywell Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7

For further information contact Elaine Dickson (729-1554)

ORDER FORM

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

_____ phone _____

Please send me ___ tickets to the OFNC Annual Dinner at \$10.00 per person. Enclosed please find my cheque or money order for \$ _____.



A BIRD FEEDING STATION IN AYLMEER, QUEBEC

John Dubois

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is now sponsoring another experimental winter bird feeding station; this time in Aylmer, Quebec.

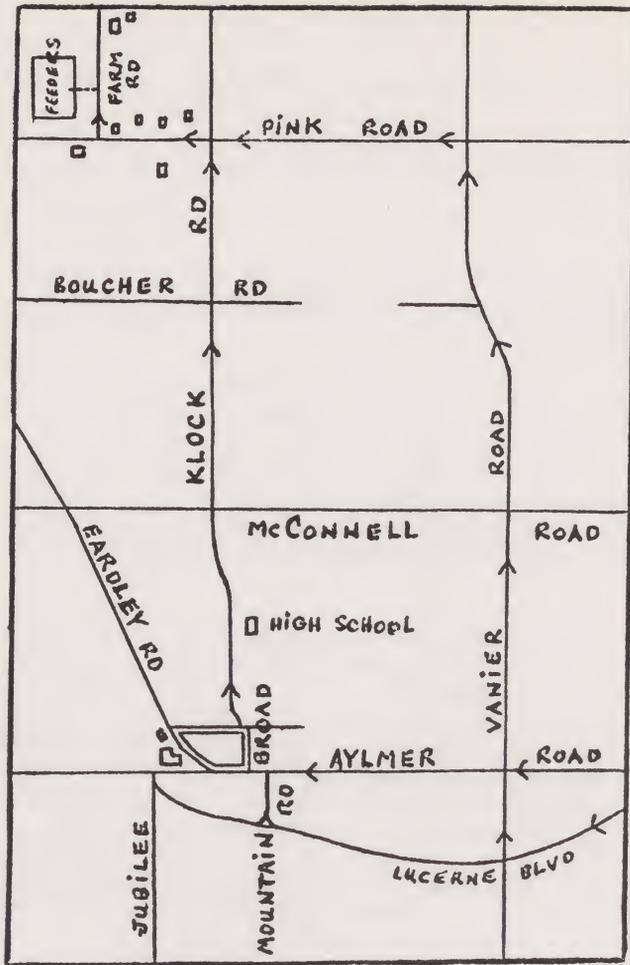
In 1976, the suggestion for a bird feeding station in Aylmer was brought up at the August meeting of the OFNC. In September the Council had approved and accepted it, and in November they donated \$125.00 towards the project. By mid-November the station had reached near-completion. Feeders were erected, and within a period of three days, several species of birds were in to investigate and entertain at its opening.

The area was chosen for several good reasons. It is within the proximity of Aylmer and easy to find. The area is privately owned and secluded from any urban developments. The part-deciduous and coniferous woods, in addition to surrounding farmlands, attract great numbers of spring and fall migrating birds. A variety of winter birds can find suitable habitats and food (when available) of their choice. It is also excellent for its other wildlife, vegetation and aesthetic values.

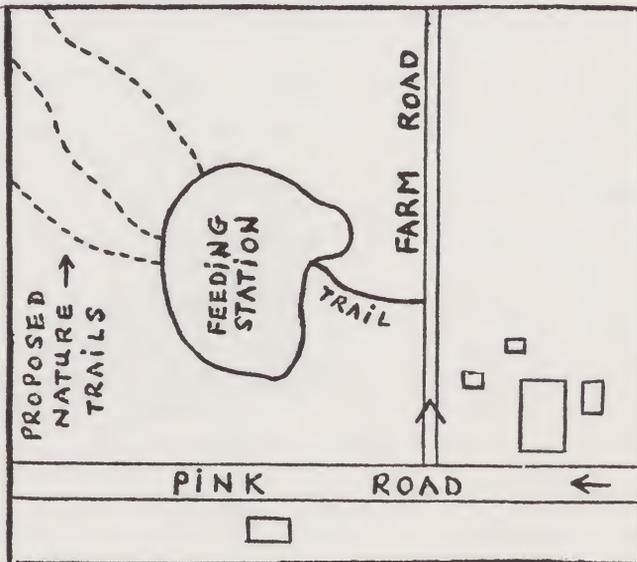
To this writing (January 17, 1977), there have been 17 species of birds seen at or near the feeders, and 9 more species seen within a half mile of the station.

Asterisked birds were seen feeding on either seeds or suet provided.

Cooper's Hawk	*Black-capped Chickadee
Red-tailed Hawk	*Boreal Chickadee
Ruffed Grouse	*Red-breasted Nuthatch
Herring Gull (flying over)	Bohemian Waxwing
Ring-billed Gull " "	Northern Shrike
Rock Dove	House Sparrow
Great Horned Owl (heard)	*Evening Grosbeak
Owl (Aegolius sp.)	*Purple Finch
*Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Grosbeak
*Downy Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
*Blue Jay	*Dark-eyed Junco
*Gray Jay	*Tree Sparrow
Common Crow	*White-throated Sparrow



GENERAL LOCATION MAP



Enlargement of BIRD FEEDER AREA

The feeding station is a new concept for Aylmer, and I feel that the area will attract not only birds, but naturalists and many people throughout the Hull-Ottawa region. By next winter, I hope to provide a proper parking area, washroom facilities, a natural blind for bird photography, a book in which to record the species and numbers of each species of bird seen during each day, and nature trails for cross-country and snowshoe enthusiasts.

The easiest way to get to the feeding station is to proceed west on the Aylmer Road until you get to Aylmer. Follow through into town (on Main Street) until you see a Texaco gas station on your left-hand side. Turn right on Broad Street (after the gas station) and proceed north for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile or so until you see a high school (Polyvalente Grande Riviere) on your right-hand side. Continue north on Broad Street until you meet the Klock Road. Proceed north on Klock for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles until you reach the Pink Road. At the corner of Klock and Pink Roads (on your right-hand side) you will notice a rock quarry. Turn left on Pink Road and continue west for $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile until you come to a farm road on your right. Watch for feeding station signs. Drive into the farm road for 100 yards and park your car on the side of the road. Then just follow trail signs which will lead you to the feeders (see map).

Another way to get to the station is to proceed west on Lucerne Boulevard (lower road) or Aylmer Road (upper road) until you reach Vanier Road. Turn right on Vanier Road and drive north until you get to the Pink Road. Turn left on Pink and proceed west for approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 miles until you reach the farm road (see map).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Lonnie Moore for providing the land for the station, and the OFNC for supporting me in a worthwhile project. Also, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Milton Moore for their kind support.

Note: For those who have enjoyed a visit to the Moore feeding station, you might show your appreciation by writing to

Mr. Lonnie Moore
Pink Road
Aylmer, P. Quebec

Any suggestions concerning the station should be sent to

John Dubois
45 Brook Street
Aylmer, P. Quebec
J9H 2Y3

Once again November and December proved to be dreary months for birding in the Capital region. Extremely cold weather in December drove most of the water dependent birds south. Hence the reason why very few exotics remained for our Christmas Bird Count (hereafter CBC). However, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club created a new feeder on the Pink Road north of Aylmer (see p 54). The feeding station, maintained by John Dubois, attracted a few boreal species early in November. Also, the garbage dump on the Cook Road, which is in its second year of operation, provided a new site for observing northern white-winged gulls that return to Ottawa each year at this time.

The Common Loon remained on the Ottawa River near Remic Rapids until December 12. Horned and Red-necked Grebes were last seen on November 11 at Shirleys Bay. In previous years, which have been somewhat milder, these species have stayed with us until the CBC. The last Great Blue Heron was located on December 1 and most of the ducks had disappeared by late November. A notable find was two Snow Geese, one at Ottawa Beach and the other at Shirleys Bay, which were last observed at the end of November. Our winter resident, the Barrow's Goldeneye, which is no doubt the same male that has been seen here for the past seven years, was easy to find in his old haunts at Kitchissippi Lookout.

Raptor reports were very low during this season. There were no Rough-legged Hawks seen after December 5 in the area. Very few Red-tailed Hawks were found anywhere by December 1 and the last Marsh Hawk was observed November 26. The CBC, for the first time in many years, failed to produce a single buteo. However, it is of interest that eight individual Goshawks were tallied on the CBC, which ties the North American high for this species, set a few years ago at Carleton Place. The only Merlin report of the period was seen on November 21 and there were no Peregrine reports received at any time in November or December.

Even though most of the shorebirds leave our area by late October, a few species manage to stay with us until mid-November. An astounding number of 40 Pectoral Sandpipers were located on November 6 at the Munster Hamlet sewage lagoon, and on the following day, Greater Yellowlegs, Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Dunlin also departed for more southerly regions. White-rumped Sandpipers, although never very common, were observed in their greatest numbers towards the end of October, with many of these reports coming from both sides of the Ottawa River. The last White-rumped was seen on November 14. A Common Snipe remained in the area until November 20 when he also found it too cold.

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls stopped by the dump on Cook Road near the end of November and lingered on at Deschenes Rapids until the day after the CBC. Thayer's Gulls were again correctly identified at both dumps in Ottawa and Aylmer, the last staying until December 5.

Owls generated the greatest amount of excitement during this season. Bruce Barrett discovered a Boreal Owl near the Moodie Drive feeder in early December, and most interested observers managed to see this particular bird as it quietly sat in a nearby cedar tree. Another Boreal Owl appeared on our CBC, which is the second record for this species. In both cases, the owl was located by travelling flocks of Blue Jays and Chickadees. It is also noteworthy that at least three reports of Hawk Owls were received, one at Bristol Mines on November 13, one at the Arboretum during the first week of December, and another at Old Chelsea in December. The former two were never confirmed but the latter still remains behind the Old Chelsea Public School at the time of this writing. Few reports have been received of Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls and Snowy Owls. For the first time in years the Snowy was not seen on the CBC and presently there are only two or three birds in their old haunts between the Fallowfield Road and the town of Richmond. Other notable finds included a Long-eared Owl flushed on the day of the CBC, as well as a Saw-whet Owl heard calling north of Hull.

In winter, the Ottawa-Hull region is a focal point for birders wishing to find Three-toed Woodpeckers. For years now, the CBC has produced the North American high for both species. But in 1976 an incredible count of 29 Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers was amassed by the participants on the CBC. Three years ago the North American high was only 8. And yet, there were only 4 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, not much of an even split! Another amazing report comes from Karl Diedrich, who along with five other people, observed a Red-headed Woodpecker sitting in a maple tree at Carleton University. Unfortunately, this bird was seen one day after the CBC. It is the first winter record for Ottawa, although there have been winter reports from Kingston.

Another incredible report was a flock of 5 Yellow-rumped Warblers seen feeding on seed matter caught in the ice on the Ottawa River at Val Tetreau on December 4. Another bird was still present with a flock of chickadees in Aylmer at the time of the CBC, and yet another of these warblers was utilizing the suet at a feeder in Kanata and is still maintaining itself (Jan.)

Nothing spectacular in the finch world with the exception of Purple Finches which seem to be everywhere. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks are low in numbers, Redpolls are scarce this season, and Goldfinches are abundant throughout the area. Crossbills of both species can be found locally only at Old Chelsea. One astounding sparrow find on the CBC was 16 White-throated Sparrows which is more than 4 times our all-time high. Also, a solitary Swamp Sparrow was located in the loosestrife vegetation along the Ottawa River in Lucerne.

Most of the bird records during this period were established by the information compiled on the CBC. It would appear that most of the fall residents have departed early and that the winter inhabitants are about to arrive. Readers should be aware of possible finch invasions and exotic owl finds during the winter months ahead.

that HELLEBORINE again!

Helleborine appeared in my backyard garden first in 1964; it was pulled up. Four years later it appeared again; it was dug up (see T&L Vol 2 No 6, 1968). Last summer, 1976, it came up again, about ten feet away from where it was before (among the radishes), in the garden path - see photo.

I must boast. My garden is essentially weed-free; it is hand-weeded early and regularly for annuals, and there are no perennial weeds. I think I know every plant in my 33 x 115 feet of central Ottawa. Admittedly, Oxalis and Acalypha almost have me beat. But, when a newcomer bursts up through the tender soil, I see it!

Helleborine, Epipactis helleborine, may be an orchid -- but, it is also an insidious weed. It was first reported in 1879 near Syracuse; it is now spread over a good part of the eastern U.S. and Canada. Many notes have been published on its occurrence and spread in North America, but little has been said about how it spreads, and why it occurs where it does.

Each capsule must produce over a thousand seeds; there are usually 20 to 30 capsules per stem. The seeds are essentially microscopic and blow widely on the slightest breeze. Seedlings have never been reported. The preserved specimens all show mature flowering plants, generally pulled up from about 4 to 10 inches below ground.

It is believed that the seedlings grow underground for several years. When enough body and strength is built up, the Helleborine sends a reproductive shoot to the surfact, flowers, is fertilized by insects, and sheds another million or so seeds to the countryside. It is an insidious weed indeed.

Helleborine was first collected in the Ottawa District in 1932 at "Rockcliffe" by Clyde Patch. In Ed Greenwood's 1967 orchid survey (T&L Vol 1 No 1) it was the most common of our orchids. (See also p 49 of the present issue.) In my 1966 survey of Mont Ste. Marie (Plant Research Institute, Feb. 1967) it was recorded as "rare, numerous plants in rich woods only at Jules". By August 1976 it was here and there in almost any place you looked, even down in the primaeval Cedar Swamp where three native orchids had evaded grazing and drainage.

Helleborine is usually a weed of natural habitats. That is why it is of concern to naturalists, rather than farmers. It invades deep woods where all other species are native. Its flowers are green, pink or maroon - not particularly attractive. It should certainly be eliminated from our flora. How? I do not know.

Bill Dore



The surprising Helleborine dug up on 23 July 1976, and propped against a shovel, to show its thick roots which were about eight inches below the garden path.

GREEDYBEAK DAYS

Sharon Godkin

Here it is Evening Grosbeak season again, and none has yet appeared at my feeder. In previous seasons I have been entertained by a flock of these greedy, vociferous birds. They often awakened me early with their insistent clamor, demanding that I hurry out and fill the feeder. Impatiently they percolated among the branches of the small naked maple tree just behind the fence, chiding me for making them wait for their breakfast. Shivering in the morning cold, I would shuffle on snowshoes to the feeder pole, detach the feeder, and retreat to my warm basement to ladle it full of sunflower seeds. When I returned, they would greet me with eager shrieks and swirl overhead. Hardly before I had secured the feeder onto its pole, they began landing on its roof and on the dry sunflower plants fastened to the pole. Sometimes one would apparently mistake my head for that of a sunflower plant and momentarily alight.

Back inside, I would quickly prepare breakfast and hurry into the living room to watch the morning performance of the one-feeder grosbeak circus. I think these exuberant birds have everything a bird-feeder-watcher could desire: a tendency to tameness, a feeding schedule which brings them to the feeder at the same times every day, colourful plumage, and, above all, boisterous personalities. There is rarely a dull moment when a flurry of grosbeaks flashes in to feed.

One of the first things I learned about the behaviour of these colourful clowns was that they are seemingly irresistibly drawn to a supply of sunflower seeds. I once saw a diagram depicting the composition of a woodcock as 98% earthworms. I'm sure a similar representation of an Evening Grosbeak as 98% sunflower seeds would be equally accurate!

Next, I learned that grosbeaks will accept only sunflower seeds. I discovered this when I committed the ultimate sin - I offered a "wild bird seed mix" to my voracious flock. I had run out of sunflower seeds during the middle of a week and was unable to buy more, so I refilled the feeder with a commercial seed mix I happened to have on hand. The grosbeaks greeted the feeder as enthusiastically as usual, but after landing to feed, they peered at the seeds in disbelief. Scratching like chickens, they ejected fans of seeds across the yard, but refused to eat.

Finally, when they were all certain of the feeder's contents, they returned to the maple tree from which they loudly and persistently proclaimed their indignation at such a betrayal. And there they assembled every morning for the rest of the week, fluttering among the branches like restless autumn leaves. Their plaintive calling would have convinced me that I was starving them to death had the feeder not remained stocked with seeds, and had I not known that these birds were regularly stuffing themselves with sunflower seeds at three nearby feeders. Finally, they sifted through the seed mix for the sunflower seeds it contained. The fussies did this by vigorously foot-slinging all the seeds out of the feeder and all over the yard. When I subsequently presented them with sunflower seeds, they ravenously forgave me my transgression. However, the incident resurfaced next spring - my lawn sprouted the most incredible assortment of exotic plants!

The most characteristic behaviour of my feeding grosbeaks was squabbling. The first birds to land briefly on the feeder were so busy wrangling with challengers that they could scarcely snatch a seed. Birds gained a position on the feeder by noisily pecking and bluffing away another, only to be attacked and themselves dispossessed before they had a chance to feed. Eventually, a few of the most pugnacious, intrepid males would commandeer the feeder, and the brawl would subside for awhile. The rest of the flock would have to pick through the husks and seeds scattered below the feeder.

My feeder is just large enough to permit four grosbeaks to feed in an uneasy truce - one at each corner, nearly beyond pecking reach of the nearest rivals. These birds would be periodically challenged, and finally one or two would be driven off. The remaining defenders usually accepted one new bird, but the arrival of two strangers simultaneously or in quick succession usually caused them to leave. The noisy contest for possession of the feeder would then resume and continue until another indomitable quartet became established.

The difficulty of reproducibly identifying a particular bird makes it almost impossible to be certain of any social ranking. However, the large degree of individual variation in aggressive behaviour would seem to indicate that there may be a "pecking order" established during feeding. A bullied bird almost always moves off rapidly, and quickly selects and intimidates another bird. Some birds seem able to peck and charge nearly any other bird, while others seem to initiate aggression rarely, if ever. Females in general seem less aggressive than males and to occupy lower ranks. Nevertheless, some females successfully hold positions on the feeder. I have never seen the feeder in total female possession, and usually only one female is present.

Such speculations of a social hierarchy probably indicate that the writer has been imbibing too freely of Konrad Lorenz! The following observations were less casual.



Oops!!



Facing the problem.



Just a bit higher...



...success!!

One season I fed and was entertained by a flock of about forty grosbeaks. The crowding resulted in constant noisy turbulence. One morning I noticed a female attempting to pluck seeds from one of the drooping sunflower heads.

The maturing heads lose their heliotropism as the flowers die, and droop earthward as the seeds ripen, until the mature dried heads face the ground. Birds can remove the seeds only by standing on the edge of the disk and stooping forward until nearly upended to reach underneath the disk. The grosbeaks had picked the smaller heads clean in this manner, but the larger ones retained central clusters of unreachable seeds.

The head this female was determined to pluck was very large, with many unobtainable seeds. Again and again she clung to the very edge of the disk and after studying the seeds, slowly and carefully bent over the edge. With wings fluttering, she stretched and stretched. Suddenly, gravity would overwhelm her grip, and tail-over-pate she would tumble towards the snow. Marvellous acrobatics always saved her from an undignified crash. She would perch for long moments on a small sunflower head just below and to one side of the large head. With beak slightly agape, she tilted her head one way, then another, to study the problem from all angles before resuming her seedless endeavour. She fed on the snow occasionally, but I never saw her obtain a seed from the sunflower. She seemed to become more obsessed with the problem as the day progressed, and spent longer periods on her thinking perch after each tumble. Finally, she began to flutter underneath the seeds, peer at them, and return to ponder the problem.

Grosbeaks have incredible acrobatic abilities. By holding their bodies nearly vertical, fanning their tails, and flapping their wings vigorously they are able to hover for a few seconds. While thus suspended they can vocalize at, beak-wrestle with, and kick at a hovering antagonist. Males frequently squabble in this way. Now it appeared that this female was going to discover a new use for hovering.

As soon as she learned how to stay directly beneath the seeds, she tried to reach up and pluck one. But her lovely olive neck was still too short! Soon, however, she was deftly plucking seeds one-at-a-time and returning to her perch to husk and eat them (triumphantly, I thought).

The next day, two females were expertly hovering and plucking seeds. The following day they had been joined by a male, and together they pecked the last seeds from the sunflower heads.

Evidently Evening Grosbeaks are capable not only of solving unique problems but also of learning from one another. I think solving the unreachable seeds problem was quite a feat for a mere bird-brain. I feel privileged to have witnessed it, and hope that I may again host and be entertained by a flurry of boisterous grosbeaks.

CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR GATINEAU PARK

Last fall the National Capital Commission released its Conceptual Plan for Gatineau Park. Unlike most planning documents which we encounter, this Conceptual Plan was written from a background of concern for the natural environment. And this concern was evident in the Plan's presentation of the past history of the Park, the Park's resources, the analysis of the role of the Park, and the preliminary proposals for development and use.

The Commission invited special interest groups and the general public to submit comments and briefs on the Conceptual Plan. The Conservation Committee of the OFNC discussed the Club's concerns and decided to submit a brief. The 9-page brief was prepared by Allan and Joyce Reddoch, and was presented by Allan Reddoch to the Commission at a hearing on November 24, 1976. Reception of the brief was very favourable; detailed information in the brief will be brought to the attention of the planning team responsible for the next stage - preparation of the Master Plan.

The OFNC brief began by pointing out that since the Club's founding nearly one hundred years ago, members have gone to the Park to explore it and to learn about natural history. In recent years the Club expressed its concern about the Park by meeting with officials of the Commission in 1965, and in a brief containing a list of specific points which was submitted in 1968.

The present brief commended the Commission for its extensive research in preparing the Plan and for the comprehensive ecological approach used. It expressed support for the Plan's designation of Conservation Areas to preserve such natural features as Chelsea Ravine, Folly Bog, Black Lake, Hopkin's Hole, the Escarpment, and the relatively inaccessible central area. The brief supported the plan for a multi-faceted interpretation program and the need to control the levels of public use in various areas.

The OFNC submission commented in detail on the special management problems of Chelsea Ravine, Folly Bog, Black Lake and Hopkin's Hole. Then the brief pointed out the omission of certain policies related to managing the Park - guidelines on forest management which would leave the conservation areas in a natural state, protection for vegetation against the collecting, digging and picking to which it is presently subjected, transportation within the Park, and between the Park and the City, and specific protective legislation for the Park.

While the Conceptual Plan had defined most of the larger significant natural areas, the brief stressed the importance of maintaining and referring to an inventory of significant small-scale features. By referring to an inventory and by on-the-ground inspections before development began, the Commission could eliminate the sort of destruction of botanical and wildlife areas which has occurred in the recent past.

-Joyce Reddoch-

Paul Matthews with Richard Poulin

This is the second of five articles in a series, each covering the same period of time as the issue of Trail & Landscape in which it appears.

To start off, we must sadly remark on the uncertain status of the best birding spot in the Ottawa area: Shirleys Bay. It seems that the dyke will be closed this year because of a change in procedure at the neighbouring rifle range. Only time will tell if this indeed happens, but we will assume in this article that Shirleys Bay dyke will be off limits in '77. If this does not occur, however, be sure to use this spot as much as possible.

March is the month to try to see the winter birds you have missed earlier in the year, because most of them will soon be gone. Both species of crossbill are examples. There is a great new feeder north of Aylmer (see pages 54-55 in this issue) which is supporting many species this winter. GRAY JAYS are very probable there and BOREAL CHICKADEE (33) is a possibility if you still lack either of these two species.

There was a HAWK OWL in Old Chelsea at the time of writing (January). Take Highway 5 north until you reach exit 7 and proceed right, once off the highway. There is a school on the left about a half mile from the exit. The HAWK OWL should be in this area. You might check if it's still there with someone knowledgeable before going.

Since SNOWY OWLS are relatively scarce this winter, you might still be looking for them behind the airport (Leitrim & Armstrong Rds). This is a good place to see HORNED LARK (34).

Be on the lookout for GREAT GRAY OWL, in semi-open country with some cedar patches especially, throughout March. It would be a good idea to go to the Carlington ski hill woods (north end of Clyde Ave) a few times during the period from the last weekend of March to the middle of April. Most owls are a good possibility there. Other spots for them are the woods and fields behind Shirleys Bay. With luck, you can pick up BARRED OWL (35), LONG-EARED OWL (36) and SAW-WHET OWL (37). For those who are interested in hearing owls, a night trip up to the Poltimore area should be organized in early April. Here one is virtually assured of hearing BARRED OWL and SAW-WHET OWL. For SHORT-EARED OWL (38), trips should be made to Fallowfield Rd, or to Leitrim Rd near Limebank Rd. The best time of year for this is when the snow is almost all gone. By walking the fields you may be able to flush one.

At about the time the ice break-up on the river occurs, you might go to Britannia and check the ice above the rapids for early waterfowl. During the weekend of the 9th-10th of April, a must trip is to Harwood Plains on the road near Constance Lake. Turn right at Harwood Plains and proceed to a small gravel pit on the left overlooking the lake. The birds of prey will arrive from the lake side. A warm day with a nice blue sky and a wind coming from the south would be the best to hope for. Here, there's a good chance for TURKEY VULTURE (39), COOPER'S HAWK (40), SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (41), RED-TAILED HAWK (42), RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (43) and ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (44). A follow-up trip that can be made the next weekend involves checking the river for waterfowl, then driving out to Harwood Plains again to see if you find the hawks you missed before. There are blue-bird boxes in this area, so you should be able to see EASTERN BLUEBIRD (45) here. You'll almost certainly have seen AMERICAN KESTREL (46), and possibly LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (47), on the way.

FOX SPARROW (48) is definitely an April bird. Rockcliffe Rockeries off Acacia is a good bet to see one of these distinctive sparrows.

Another must trip consists of going to Carlsbad Springs when the fields are flooded. This excursion will probably be most rewarding during the weekend of the 23rd-24th of April, but it would undoubtedly be a good idea to check things out on the previous Sunday because one would hate to be too late.

This trip means going east along Russell Rd through Carlsbad Springs until you get to a large sweeping turn to the left, approximately one mile from the town. Turn left onto a concession road at this point and go about a half mile and down a hill. There will be thousands of waterfowl here. There is also another great spot: continue for about one and a half miles after the big turn along Russell Rd until you cross over a small cement bridge. Turn left onto a dirt road and proceed for about one mile. Again, there should be a great number of waterfowl here. You should get: CANADA GOOSE (49), SNOW GOOSE (50), MALLARD (51), BLACK DUCK (52), GADWALL (53), PINTAIL (54), GREEN-WINGED TEAL (55), BLUE-WINGED TEAL (56), AMERICAN WIDGEON (57), SHOVELER (58) and WOOD DUCK (59).

There's also a chance of finding ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE and SHORT-EARED OWL if you lack these species. Be especially on the lookout for PEREGRINE FALCON, a great bonus bird that might be attracted by the large numbers of waterfowl. LAPLAND LONGSPUR is a possibility too for those of you who have missed it so far this year. Also at this time you might follow the river from Masson to Thurso and see what you can see. There are some good places for GADWALL (a rare duck) as well as the other puddle ducks, and the road along the river to the east from the Masson Ferry can be very good for migrant land-birds.

By exploring the river from Britannia to Shirleys Bay you should be able to see HORNEED GREBE (60), PIED-BILLED GREBE (61), RING-NECKED DUCK (62), GREATER SCAUP (63), LESSER SCAUP (64), COMMON GOLDENEYE (65), BUFFLEHEAD (66), HOODED MORGANER (67), COMMON MORGANER (68), HERRING GULL (69) and RING-BILLED GULL (70) during the course of April. GREAT BLUE HERON (71), KILLDEER (72), MOURNING DOVE (73), EASTERN PHOEBE (74), COMMON FLICKER (75), AMERICAN ROBIN (76), COMMON GRACKLE (77) and SONG SPARROW (78) are all very common miscellaneous birds which should have been seen while checking for rarer species. If not, GREAT BLUE HERON and KILLDEER will be common in all areas with large bodies of water during late summer and fall; and MOURNING DOVE can be seen on farmland, PHOEBE near old buildings or small (preferably wooden) bridges, COMMON FLICKER in city parks, AMERICAN ROBIN and COMMON GRACKLE in back yards, and SONG SPARROW in areas of brush.

Perhaps the last day of the month, Saturday the 30th, can be used to go to Ramsayville Marsh. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (79) will be prominent there. TREE SWALLOW (80) and COMMON SNIPE (81) should be around too if you've missed them before. In the nearby fields there will be EASTERN MEADOWLARK (82).

Up the road (Anderson Rd), there is a trail opposite the EMR Geomagnetic Laboratories which is worth walking. Finding AMERICAN WOODCOCK (83), RUFFED GROUSE (84), RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (85) (you'll no doubt have seen this species earlier since it decided to stay the winter this year), BROWN CREEPER (86), HERMIT THRUSH (87), BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (88), PINE SISKIN (89), DARK-EYED JUNCO (90) and WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (91) shouldn't pose too much of a problem.

By going to the end of Ridge Rd (turn left on Ridge Rd off Anderson when coming from the EMR Laboratories) and looking at the pond over toward the right you will probably see MARSH HAWK (92). There should be a couple of PIED-BILLED GREBE as well, if you are lacking this bird.

Finally, a good spot for ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (93) in late April is the Rideau River near Carleton University.

If LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE is giving you problems, the fields between where the Queensway ends and Shirleys Bay usually hosts a few breeders. Those birdwatchers who have bird song records should remember that now is when one should learn those songs. An area to check whenever possible during this period of time is Carlington ski hill woods north of Clyde Ave. Remember to read the bird columns in the papers to find out where the rarities are.

If further details are required as to the places mentioned in this article, don't hesitate to contact Rick Poulin at 232-4687.

OFNC EVENTS IN MARCH AND APRIL

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Roger Taylor (731-9270) Chairman

Saturday
5 March

FIELD TRIP ON CROSS COUNTRY SKIS
Leader: Harry & Sheila Thomson (234-0845)
Meet: Supreme Court, Wellington Street
Time: 9:00 a.m.

All day trip: bring lunch and hot beverage.

Tuesday
8 March

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
BAT BEHAVIOUR
Speaker Dr. Brock Fenton
Meet: Activity Centre, National Museum
of Man, Metcalfe and MacLeod
Time: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday
13 March

FIELD TRIP: OWLS AND WINTER BIRDS
Leader: George McGee (733-1739)
Meet: Billings Bridge Shopping Centre
Bank Street at Riverside Drive
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Half day trip; bring a snack and binoculars

Sunday
27 March

BUS EXCURSION: BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE PARK
Leaders: Roger Taylor (731-9270) and
Jeff Harrison (232-8456)
Departure Dominion Store, St. Laurent
Points: Shopping Centre at 6:00 a.m.
Loblaw's, Carlingwood
Shopping Centre at 6:20 a.m.
Cost: \$12.00 per person

All day bus trip to see the large flocks of migrating waterfowl, usually including hundreds of Canvasbacks and Redheads. All persons wishing to make this trip should send a prepaid reservation to Jeff Harrison, 33 Glen Ave, Ottawa K1S 2Z6 to arrive before March 20. Name, address, phone number and departure point should be included with cheque or money order made payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Expected return time is approximately 6:00 p.m. Bring binoculars, waterproof footwear and enough food for the day.

Tuesday
12 April

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
MEMBERS' SLIDES NIGHT: SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Meet: Activity Centre, National Museum
of Man, Metcalfe and MacLeod
Time: 8:00 p.m.

Members are requested to bring slides featuring Spring wildflowers for an informal presentation and get-together.

Sunday
17 April

FIELD TRIP: WATERFOWL AT RAMSAYVILLE AND
CARLSBAD SPRINGS

Leader: Rick Poulin (232-4687)
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre
St. Laurent Blvd at Smyth Road
Time: 7:00 a.m.

Half day trip; bring snack, waterproof footwear, binoculars

Tuesday
19 April

ANNUAL DINNER

Meet: Talisman Motor Inn
Carling Avenue at the Queensway
Time: 7:30 p.m. (Social Hour at 6:30 p.m.)
Speakers: Kay and Larry McKeever

Additional details may be found in the centrefold.
Make your reservations early!

Sunday
1 May

FIELD TRIP: BIRDS AT RAMSAYVILLE MARSH

Leader: Brian Morin (824-8606)
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre
St. Laurent Blvd at Smyth Road
Time: 7:00 a.m.

Half day trip; bring snack, waterproof footwear, binoculars

— Contributors, please note ! —

DEADLINE: Material intended to appear in
the May to August issue of T&L should be
IN THE EDITOR'S HANDS (not in the mail!)
by March 11, at the latest.

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