

# TRAIL & Landscape

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



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# Trail & Landscape

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## The Ottawa Field - Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879

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E. Franklin Pope

**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, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on local Club activities five times a year; and THE SHRIKE, a bimonthly newsletter on birdwatching in the Ottawa-Hull area, available by separate subscription.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$17

Family (yearly) \$19

Sustaining (yearly) \$40

Life (one payment) \$400

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### **Membership application, correspondence:**

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# from the Editor...

This is the first issue of *Trail & Landscape* to be produced by word processor. And many of you will say that it's about time; after all, the technology has been around for quite a few years now. But what really drove me to a word processor was the sheer volume of material that had to be handled for each issue. It certainly is about time!

Now that *Trail & Landscape* is running about twice as many pages per volume as in the first 13 years (272 pages compared to an average of about 130 pages), we simply cannot find the six volunteer typists needed to type the camera-ready copy from my typed layout for each issue. I have been typing the camera-ready copy as well for about half of each issue - in addition to editing, layout and production - and that was just too much. Only the ready availability of Sheila Thomson's typewriter kept the system from falling apart. Although Sheila depends on her typewriter full time, she cheerfully lent it to me to deal with the emergency situations of the past couple of years.

But now, with the word processor, I enter the text once, submit it to the volunteer proofreaders, correct the errors, and then work on layout. Then each page is printed, already numbered correctly, ready for me to attach titles and graphics before taking the completed work to the printer. That's still quite a lot of work, but at least it's manageable.

My word processor is based on Wordstar operating on a Unitron (Apple II+ clone). The Juki 1600 daisywheel printer and Triumph-Adler fonts were purchased by the Club for *Trail & Landscape*'s use from the Elizabeth Slasor Bequest. (See *Trail & Landscape* 18(3): 124 (1984).) My thanks to Allan Reddoch for setting up the system - it's his Unitron that I've colonized!

I am grateful to the many volunteer typists who have come to work on the National Museum of Natural Sciences typewriters over the years. Now, I hope that they have the time to make their expertise available to other Club Committees from time to time. I am grateful also to Dorothy Greene, who made at least a dozen calls to line up even three typists for each issue.

This issue has a longer-than-average 64 pages, reflecting partly the 13 pages devoted to reporting the Soirée and awards and partly the number of other excellent articles which have been submitted lately. There are at least as many more articles already on the word processor for the next issue - or two! ▀

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# Welcome, New Members

## Ottawa Area

Piero Arduino & family	Dan Lariviere & family
Julie Alleyn & family	Gordon Larose
Woody D. Armour & family	Thomas Layton
Gaetane & Jacques Beauddin	Connie L. Legg & family
B. Lynn & Roy Bieber	Gordon Lick & family
Bill Bitz & family	Hal & Jean Lilly
Mary Anne Brennan	Paulette Maheux
Richard Brouillet	Anne A. Mackenzie
Gilles G. Clairmont & family	Anne McDougall
Dennis P. Clarke	Rick McKelvey
Brenda A. Cole	Myrna A. McNamara
Dave Corkill & Irene Duncan	Danielle S. Metras
E.T. Currie & family	Alex Mills
Katharine M. Currie	Joan L. Morgan
Paul Davidson	Charles & Sheila J. Nicholson
Emilienne E.W. Dior	Isabelle Nicol
Joanne L. Dugan	Yvonne Paquette
Ruth Durance	Michael J. Peacocke
David Easton & family	Joseph R. Pearce
Brend J. Fooks & family	Vivian V. Pollock
Colin Fraser	Tim I. Power
Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Fraser	Catherine Rooney
Judith Fuller	Jim & Ronni Rusk
Wayne Girard	Mary Jane T. Sinclair
Pauline M. Haseldine	Alina E. Stahevitch
Jutta Heller-Sartarelli	Dianne Swim
Blon Hodgen	Manuel D. Tanchak
Marilyn Hodgen	Dr. Robert G. Taylor & family
Ray Holland	Eleanor Thomson
Douglas A. Hyde	Peter B. Tyler & family
Elizabeth R. Inhaber	K. Walton
Roy D. John	George T. Wilson & family
Bob E. King & family	W. Bruce Wilson & family
Kathy Krywicki	Irene Wisheu
Val Bernard Ladouceur & family	Hirohisa Yaguchi

## Other Areas

T.J. Beechey	I.D. Elphinstone
Cambridge, Ontario	Calgary, Alberta
Eirik A.T. Blom	G. Tom Hince
Bel Air, Maryland	Leamington, Ontario
Rotol S.Y. Blom	Robert W. Hounsell
Bel Air, Maryland	Waterloo, Ontario
Joseph B. Buchanan	Alan J. Keizer
Olympia, Washington	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Reese Lind  
Guelph, Ontario  
Bill Maw  
Toronto, Ontario

Chris Mroz  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
Randy Romas  
Willowdale, Ontario  
Larry A. Webber  
Duluth, Minnesota

June 1984

Barbara Campbell  
Chairman,  
Membership Committee

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## Letter: on John Kerr McMorine article

To the list of the many talents and achievements of *Trail & Landscape* and its contributors I feel I should add "mind-reading" in response to the content of the last, splendid issue. Of late I have particularly enjoyed the historical articles on early Ottawa area naturalists and was going to ask that one be prepared on the pioneer botanist J.K. McMorine when - *voilà* - there it was (*Trail & Landscape* 18(3): 142-152)! And an excellent one it was too!

I'd like to add one small point to that interesting story. In Bernard Boivin's excellent *Survey of Canadian Herbaria* (1980) he notes that the Queen's University herbarium contains ca. 2500 of McMorine's specimens - about 1300 more than were known when Edna Ross wrote her article on him. It is indeed a significant collection from those times.

PLEASE, let's have more of these articles. They are fascinating and significant windows into the important past activities of those who laid the groundwork of our knowledge of the Ottawa District (and beyond). Their great immediate interest aside, such articles become increasingly valuable documentary records as time goes by.

Dan Brunton  
Ottawa

# Council Report

Bill Gummer

## Conservation Activities

The Club's participation in matters of environmental use and conservation of our lands and waters continues to be very broad. Following the Conservation Committee's review of Ontario's wet-lands guidelines, a letter was sent by President Pope to Natural Resources Minister Pope outlining the Club's remaining concerns. Other matters of interest and concern in Canada that have been active in recent months include, for example: supporting the nomination of the Milk River Canyon in Alberta as a candidate ecological reserve; studying and seeking additional information on garbage processing from the Recycling Council of Ontario; possible effects of a proposed storm sewer into Britannia's Mud Lake; the question of the use of Banff National Park facilities during the 1988 Winter Olympics; the Ontario Hydro corridor between Kingston and Ottawa; and, of course, the status of Alfred Bog. (See also page 196.)

## Change of Officers

The Council accepted with regret the resignation of Gordon Hamre, Recording Secretary, and wished him good luck in his new work in the Northwest Territories, for which he will be based in Yellowknife.

The position of Recording Secretary will be taken up by Barbara Martin, and then her current position of Corresponding Secretary will be filled by Art Martell.

## Songs of the Seasons

The Council has authorized the production of 500 cassettes of Monty Brigham's *Songs of the Seasons*. Availability and costs will be announced later.

## The 1984 Soirée

This year's Soirée was another success, and the Council thanks the organizers for their energy and ability in assembling the many parts of such an interesting evening. Elsewhere in this issue appears the report of the Soirée, the citations for Honorary Members and award winners, and a tribute to the late Vi Humphreys. As a result of the raffle for Paul Harpley's *Canada Lynx*, the Alfred Bog Fund is richer by more than \$750.

## Excursion Etiquette and Responsibilities

The Excursions and Lectures Committee presented to the Council a document outlining conduct on field trips. This document updates previous articles and, after final editing, will appear in *Trail & Landscape*. One of the points of concern to the Council members is assuring recognition of the responsibility of leaders with respect to strenuous trips. It was agreed that more emphasis must be put on individual capabilities of participants before starting on actual trips. ▣

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# *Federation of Ontario Naturalists* *Report*

Dan Brunton

In the previous *FON Report* by Stew Hamill in the last issue of *Trail & Landscape* you were told of the many excellent projects and activities that the Federation is currently involved with, and Stew concluded with an appeal for additional memberships in order to support these efforts further. That need became even more apparent at the May Board of Directors meeting when we were advised that the year-end deficit was considerably larger than previously forecasted. Not that the Federation is in any significant danger (the shortfall is manageable), but it means that all aspects of the anticipated '84-'85 program must be trimmed. That can only dampen the tremendous momentum that has been developing in the Federation's conservation and members-services activities.

Although overall administrative problems were most important, a very significant cost factor was the loss incurred by the Nature Tours Program. This program involves travel to distant and often poorly accessible areas, and requires a considerable financial risk to the Federation. I recommended that we consider dropping the program as a direct FON activity, and, instead, licence some of the excellent professional tour companies (for a fee) to conduct particular tours that meet FON standards and requirements. In this way the program could continue without any loss possible, and the income from licencing could go towards the conservation program costs. An ad hoc committee has been established to evaluate this proposal, and we will be reporting back in the fall.

On an entirely positive note, the Federation has secured the purchase of an important parcel of land that expands the existing Petrel Point Nature Reserve on the Bruce Peninsula and is close



to finalizing purchase of a property in southwestern Ontario that is probably - hectare for hectare - the richest unprotected site for rare vegetation and flora in Canada. Both of these purchases represent important advances.

The Spring number of *Seasons* was a special issue on the Bruce Peninsula and is an outstanding introduction to that fascinating and biologically important area of Ontario. It's a *must* for all Ontario naturalists and can be obtained by non-members from the FON at 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8 for \$3.00. Coming hot on the heels of the excellent special issue on the Royal Ontario Museum, it is a real credit to the *Seasons* staff and is cause for optimism for future issues.

There has been a number of changes and additions on the Board of Directors this year. Russ Tilt (who brought the new FON display up to the OFNC Soirée this year) has retired after a two-year term as President and has been succeeded by Kingston's Bob Stewart. Bob has been a perceptive and energetic Director for years, and I'm sure will be an outstanding President. Eastern Ontario representation has been strengthened by the addition of OFNC member Heather Wilson as a Director-at-large, joining returning Ottawa-area Directors Stew Hamill and Roger Taylor, who continue to play active and important roles on the Board. In addition, I have been appointed by the OFNC Council to continue as OFNC representative to the Board for another year. The "Eastern Ontario Mafia" is well and growing! ▣

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## Call for Nominations for OFNC Council

A nominating committee has been chosen by the Council to nominate persons for election to offices and membership of the Council for the year 1985, as required by the Constitution.

We would like to remind Club members that they also may nominate candidates as officers and other members of the Council. Such nominations require the signatures of the nominator and seconder, and a statement of willingness to serve in the specified position by the nominee. Nominations should be sent to the Nominating Committee, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5 to arrive no later than December 15, 1984.

The Committee will also consider any suggestions for nominees which members wish to submit to it by December 15, 1984. It would be helpful if some relevant background on the proposed nominees were provided along with the suggested names.

Daniel F. Brunton,  
Chairman, Nominating Committee.

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# The 1984 Soirée

Peter Hall

Club members gathered again at the Unitarian Church on May 4th for the annual Soirée. Attendance dropped slightly from the previous year, but that gave everybody a little more elbow room to view the exhibits and meet their fellow members. (It also gave a little more wine, cheese and punch to those who did attend.) The quality of exhibits was very high this year. There was an increase in the number of exhibits from other conservation and natural history groups, including the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the National Capital Commission and the Rideau Trail Association. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was particularly honoured to have Russ Tilt, the President of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, bring along the Federation's exhibit in person, and many Club members had the opportunity to talk with Russ.

OFNC members were also active in putting together exhibits to entertain and educate fellow members. The Conservation Committee, the Butterfly Group and the Bird Banding Group were all represented. Individual members brought along their natural history art work and photography. Of particular interest were the bird carvings of Ellaine Dickson and the superb paintings and drawings by Brenda Carter and Barry Flahey. Barry recently took first prizes for several of his paintings at an art competition put on by the City of Ottawa.

This year it was decided to award a prize for the best nature photography. The judges for the competition were Karen Lehmann and Dorothy Black, two well-known nature photographers in their own right. The judges' first choice was a print of a Red Fox by Joseph Pearce. Honourable mentions were given to Claude Breton for his action shot of Laughing Gulls and to Bill Gummer for his landscape photograph of an Arctic fjord.

The first prize for photography, an Ellaine Dickson bird carving, was given out during the official awards ceremony. This part of the evening's activities also included a rousing speech by Club President Frank Pope and the presentation of the official Club awards. (See accompanying article beginning on page 170.) As well there was an eulogy for the late Vi Humphreys, who had been an influential Club member for many years. (See article on page 179.)

The Macoun Field Club was well represented this year, and Macoun exhibit judges Ernie Brodo and Stu MacDonald (both past chairmen of the Macoun Field Club) did not have an easy time in choosing winners. In the end, it was two of the Manga brothers

who took top prizes this year. David Manga, a junior, and Michael Manga, a senior, placed first and second for two studies they carried out in the Clyde Avenue woods. Heather Hunt, an intermediate, took third prize for her study of ants. In their summary the judges said they were very impressed with the versatility and depth of the studies.

The official part of the program ended with a draw for a print by Paul Harpley of a Canada Lynx. The proceeds of the draw went to the Alfred Bog Fund. Rick Leavens was the happy winner of the print. This made Rick a two-time winner at the Soirée as he walked off with the Member of the Year Award. But Rick was only one of the many winners who went away from the Soirée with a good feeling. ▣

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## Report on OFNC Raffle

Barbara Campbell  
Raffle Chairman

On May 4th the draw for the raffle was held at the OFNC Soirée. Ticket sales were a huge success, and a profit of \$766.80 was realized. The proceeds have been deposited into the Alfred Bog Fund.

Rick Leavens held the winning ticket and received the prize, a limited edition print by Paul Harpley, *Canada Lynx*. Congratulations, Rick, and we hope that you will enjoy this beautiful piece of art!

There were many people who helped make this project a success, and I wish to extend my thanks to them all. Special thanks go to Paul Harpley of Scarborough, Ontario, who very kindly donated the print and provided the seed for this raffle. Thanks also go to Inspiration Art Gallery, which framed the print.

I would also like to thank Bill Knight, who in his usual efficient way printed the tickets. Lastly, I would especially like to thank all those who distributed and sold tickets, and all of you who purchased tickets! Without your help the raffle would not have been as successful as it was! ▣

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# Honorary Memberships and OFNC Awards

## Awards Committee Members

At the 1984 Soirée four Honorary Memberships were presented along with the four Club awards for Member of the Year, Service, Conservation, and the Anne Hanes Natural History Award. Certificates with the winner's names in the fine hand of Anne Gruchy were presented by President Frank Pope, and the citations are reproduced below.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Dr. Irwin M. Brodo

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is pleased to confer Honorary Membership on Dr. Irwin Brodo, lichenologist and Chief, Botany Division, Natural Museum of Natural Sciences.

Dr. Brodo served for five years (1966-71) as Chairman of the Macoun Field Club, and subsequently continued to act as advisor to the senior group. He sparked an extremely active period in Macoun Field Club history, including acquisition of the use of a special nature study area at Bell's Corners, and introduction of an annual symposium in the senior group. He also organized the first wilderness summer camping trip with the Macoun Field Club, and devoted summer holidays (and those of his family!) to a wilderness canoe trip with Club members. During his chairmanship, the growth in membership of the Macoun Field Club and in members' contributions to the Club publication reflected his ability to fire young naturalists with enthusiasm.

Dr. Brodo was a member of the Council for ten years (1966-76) and served on various committees, including Finance, Publications and Education. As President in 1973-74, he provided effective leadership and direction in an early stage of the Club's involvement in conservation issues. In his 1974 address to the Annual Meeting he noted that more briefs and submissions on conservation issues had been produced by the Club than ever before.

He has served naturalists and the community well in supporting efforts to retain significant natural areas - locally, provincially and nationally. He has been active in the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, and was deeply involved in the struggle to save Gatineau Park from over-development, presenting briefs, writing letters and speaking on radio, television and in public fora. He was able to bring sound scientific knowledge and quiet good judgement to bear in influencing public and political attitudes toward nature conservation. Ottawans and



*Bernard Boivin (left) is shown receiving his honorary membership from President Frank Pope.*



*Stew MacDonald (left) and Ernie Brodo, both new Honorary Members, were the judges of the Macoun Field Club exhibits at the Soirée. Photographs by Ken Taylor.*

Canadians owe him their gratitude for acting so effectively on their behalf.

Dr. Brodo is Canada's foremost lichenologist. He has been generous in sharing his professional knowledge with the Club through field trips, workshops and lectures, as well as writing a series of lichen keys published in *Trail & Landscape* and designed for use by local amateurs. As author or co-author his name appears on numerous publications; 12 major papers, three book-length articles, 19 other papers and 15 reviews (in seven different journals) have appeared since 1961, and more are in process.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club honours Dr. Brodo as an outstanding scientist, conservationist and field-naturalist.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Dr. Bernard Boivin

Honorary Membership in The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is conferred on Dr. Bernard Boivin, FRSC, a nationally famous botanical taxonomist. He recently retired after many years with Agriculture Canada, during which period he served on the Council from 1950 to 1959.

Dr. Boivin was a student of Frère Marie-Victorin. He has been at the forefront of botanical explorations in Canada since the 1940s, when he returned from Australia where he served as a Japanese translator for the armed forces. In addition to taxonomic studies of a number of plant genera, he is the author of several major and important more-general works including a five-volume *Flora of the Prairie Provinces* (1967-81), a definitive floristic treatment of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba: *Enumération des Plantes du Canada* (1966-67), a detailed checklist of the Canadian flora, and the only comprehensive study of Canadian plant collections: *Survey of Canadian Herbaria* (1980).

Dr. Boivin has been a thought-provoking and at times controversial taxonomist who has published prolifically, and has motivated students and associates alike to embark on many studies. As the premier authority on the history of Canadian botany and botanists, he has accumulated a vast body of biographical data. He is currently attached to Laval University, Quebec, where he has taught a course on this subject and is continuing his botanical research.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is proud to add Dr. Boivin to its group of Honorary Members.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Verna Ross McGiffin

Verna Ross McGiffin of Pakenham has been a member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club for more than forty years. Until



*Verna McGiffin*  
*Honorary Member*

her move to Almonte, after retirement as an editor with Agriculture Canada, she was a very active participating Ottawa member, contributing her skills, time and enthusiasm to many Club activities. Following service on various committees she was a member of the Council from 1950 to 1956, always with constructive and innovative ideas.

She had a deep commitment to share her own enjoyment of natural history with others. During the 1940s, when many young people came to Ottawa for wartime employment, she gave unstintingly of her time, leading field trips for beginners and others, with a friendly and gracious welcome to hesitant newcomers.

It was Verna Ross who recognized the need for a Club newsletter to serve the many local members who felt themselves remote from the world of professional biologists and the scientific papers of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. With the Council's approval, she initiated the *Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club Newsletter* and served as its first editor.

It was she also who, in the 1940s, suggested that the Council authorize the formation of study groups, so that members could pursue special interests with like-minded amateurs. She was thus instigator and a founding member of the Fern Study Group, which evolved into the Traill Study Group, studying the

orchids and later the salamanders of the Ottawa area. She was also a founding member of the popular Bird Study Group.

In her Ottawa Valley home village of Pakenham she was an early participant in the Pakenham Christmas Bird Census and has taken part in this count since 1926. (See Trail & Landscape 15(5): 248-253 (1981).)

She and her sister Edna made many interesting discoveries and observations in and around Pakenham, and she generously hosted many a field trip to the area to share these discoveries - geological, zoological and botanical - with The Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. Her observations and studies in various fields of local natural history were always carried out with sound regard for scientific accuracy and earned her the respect of professional biologists.

Since she returned to Pakenham, many of her Ottawa Valley neighbours have benefitted from her broad knowledge of local natural history, in the fields of fossils, birds, plants, and also Indian artifacts.

In addition to adding much to our knowledge of the natural history of the Pakenham area, Verna's great contribution has been her unceasing encouragement of amateur naturalists, inspiring and guiding beginners to embark on the study and enjoyment of natural history.

#### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Stewart D. MacDonald

Honorary Membership is conferred on Stewart D. MacDonald, Curator, Vertebrate Zoology Section, National Museum of Natural Sciences, for his major contributions to knowledge and conservation in the Canadian north.

Stewart's interest has long been centred on the Arctic. Especially is his name associated with the Polar Bear Pass Natural Wildlife Area on Bathurst Island, the first ecological reserve in the Canadian north. Several organizations have been involved in one way or another in this development, but he has been an initiator and a pusher for decisive action since 1968, when a research station was set up in the area. He has used every opportunity to inform others of the site and why it is important that the area not be despoiled by commercial exploitation of natural resources. These efforts culminated in 1982 in the establishment by our government of Polar Bear Pass as the first such reserve.

It was again largely as a result of Stewart's efforts that tiny Seymour Island, 12 km north of Bathurst Island, was proclaimed a migratory bird sanctuary in 1975. This action was due to his recognition of the need to protect the, at that time, only



known breeding colony of the rare Ivory Gull in the Canadian Arctic, discovered in fact by him and Dalton Muir.

He was the first to record nesting of Ross's Gull in North America, in July 1976 in Penny Strait.

His many interests include the study of behaviour in birds and mammals, and he has contributed excellent photographic records. He is aware of the need for good communication between specialists and non-specialists, and has participated in this field through personal appearances, and on radio and television. This awareness is further exemplified by Stewart's involvement with young people. In 1965-66 he was Chairman of the Macoun Field Club, and he has since continued to share his experiences with Macoun Field Club members, treating them always as fellow naturalists. He has been quick to detect the spark of enthusiasm in students and to give them support and help in advancing their interests. Many were given their first chance to visit the Arctic by Stewart, and, whether or not they have continued in the scientific field, this experience has coloured their lives and given them a continuing feeling of responsibility toward this fragile region.

He is one who strives to popularize scientific subjects so that nonspecialists can understand and enjoy the information that exists, and see how it may be important from the viewpoints of conservation, of ecological balance, and of understanding natural life around us. Achievement of these goals by scientists like Stewart MacDonald is very important to the successful continuation of such studies, and we are pleased to recognize his efforts and accomplishments in our own far north by this Honorary Membership.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Dr. C. Richard (Rick) Leavens

The 1984 Member of the Year Award is presented to Rick Leavens for his extraordinary efforts in connection with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual General Meeting and Conference, held in Ottawa in the spring of 1983.

Rick was involved in virtually every aspect of the planning, organization and administration of the event. He served on the Organizing Committee, assisted with program development, and provided liaison with Carleton University. At the Conference he helped coordinate the exhibits, erected signs and acted as a troubleshooter. He helped field trip participants locate their buses, ensured that buses departed on schedule, checked that box lunches were prepared and distributed, and, in general, saw that everything ran as smoothly as possible. Rick also managed to find the time to lead one of the major field trips on the program: a canoe outing on the Tay River.

By many accounts the 1983 FON Meeting and Conference was "the best ever". The event could not have been nearly so successful without the tremendous efforts of Rick Leavens.

With all that, he maintained his usual contributions to the Excursions and Lectures Committee, arranging for leaders and speakers, and buses for selected Club outings. He also serves as general information coordinator for the Committee, assisting with preparation of *Coming Events* in *Trail & Landscape* and arranging for occasional publicity for Club events in the local news media. And he was involved in the organization of the Club Soirée last April.

The Club is fortunate to have members like Rick, who is one of those people always willing to take on that one additional task that needs doing. We are pleased indeed to give him recognition in this fashion.

SERVICE AWARD: Stephen J. Darbyshire

This award is presented to Stephen Darbyshire primarily for his commitment to the Macoun Field Club. A former member himself, he has been active with the Macoun Field Club for the past five years, and in 1983 he completed his third year as Chairman of the Macoun Field Club Committee. Stephen has chaired and led the Club almost singlehanded since assuming the chairmanship. This has required his attendance at meetings on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings during the school year, in addition to the occasional field trips of one or more days duration.

During this period he has dealt with growing problems of assuring leadership and appropriate meeting and study facilities. He has eloquently laid out for Club executive and Council and the members of the Club, through *Trail & Landscape* and at the Annual General Meeting in January last, the particular problems now facing the Macoun Field Club.

In addition to his Macoun involvement, Stephen was a Council member for several years, where he made important contributions to the formation of the Awards Committee as its first Chairman, to conservation issues, and to other Club activities. He continues to lead the spring amphibian hunt.

It is a pleasure to recognize these efforts with the 1983 Service Award.

CONSERVATION AWARD: Ernest A. Beauchesne and Donald G. Cuddy

The fight to preserve the Alfred Bog has been a dominant activity of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club over the past year and a half, and continues to be so. Many individuals have made



*Don Cuddy (left) and Ernie Beauchesne, winners of the 1983 Conservation Award*

important contributions to the efforts to date - but none more than Ernie Beauchesne and Don Cuddy, 1983 recipients of the Club's Conservation Award.

The whole issue would simply have died had Ernie not come on the scene when he did. It was he who encouraged, cajoled and propelled The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club into becoming involved in the useful and instructive Ontario Municipal Board hearing in May 1983, and it was he who made the preliminary arrangements for the first purchase of land from the Alfred Bog Trust Fund. Representing the Vankleek Hill Nature Society he was the "man on the scene" with first-hand knowledge of the bog and its nature. He played a major role in rallying public support and raising media focus for our joint endeavours to preserve the bog, and his effort continue.

Don Cuddy, on the other hand, provided low profile technical and logistical support that was equally invaluable. It was Don who marshalled the known life science data and presented them objectively and expertly to the media, to supporters and to the OMB hearing officers. His excellent *Trail & Landscape* article on Alfred Bog (*Trail & Landscape* 17(3): 147-163 (1983)) became the technical basis for many television, radio and newspaper interviews and was a persuasive argument for the need to protect the bog. Don also led excursions into the area, prepared displays,

briefed supporters, and provided vital advice to all concerned throughout the critical OMB period, and was a valuable fund raiser.

For any successful conservation endeavour there are obviously needs: enthusiastic, energetic and highly motivated people on-site, and an objective, competent foundation of data, management options, planning principles and commitment. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is pleased to recognize the outstanding efforts of Ernie Beauchesne and Don Cuddy in these aspects, and we owe them a great vote of thanks.

THE ANNE HANES NATURAL HISTORY AWARD: Bruce M. Di Labio

The Anne Hanes Natural History Award is presented to Bruce Di Labio in recognition of his interest, diligence and expertise as a birder and as a recorder of what has been seen in the Ottawa area and other localities of interest to the members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. A prolific contributor to *Trail & Landscape*, he records compilations of results of trip and special count projects, and presents his personal findings and those of others. This important practice ensures the availability of such records for present use and for the future. In addition to these records, many of which contain new data on sightings and occurrences in the area, Bruce, both alone and with others, has published records of specific unusual events - the Gray Kingbird, an albino Spotted Sandpiper, the overwintering Sandhill Crane, a rescued Northern Saw-whet Owl, the Barrow's Goldeneye at Champlain Bridge, and recently the sightings and records of Northern Gannets in our area and the record of the Great Gray Owl invasion last winter.

As well, Bruce contributes routinely to *The Shrike*, to *American Birds* of which he is Regional Sub-editor, and to *The Citizen* bird column. He has participated in the Canadian Wildlife Service shorebird migration monitoring program and in development of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, both activities requiring careful observation and much field time.

Bruce is well known for his interest in and availability to introduce out-of-town birders to our area, and for assisting in events and programs of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, the National Capital Commission, the Canadian Nature Federation, and as well of course the National Museum of Natural Sciences. The value and effect of his observations of birdlife are increased by these various contacts, which lead to exchanges and sharing of knowledge.

The assembling of observational and interpretative data for permanent records on the current distribution of bird species provides the necessary building blocks from which patterns of life history, movements and changes are built up across the country. ▀

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## A Special Tribute to Violet Humphreys

The Club has formalized a practice of recording officially special tributes to members who have passed on, and who in their Club careers have made outstanding contributions to Club activities and have notably assisted the Club in attaining its goals. The first of these tributes, prepared through arrangements by the Awards Committee, was read at the 1984 Soirée by President Frank Pope, in honour of Violet Humphreys. It is printed in full below.

### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO VIOLET HUMPHREYS Longtime member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Occasionally one is privileged to know an individual who radiates the qualities that characterize naturalists at their best. Such a one was Violet Humphreys, affectionately known as "Vi" to members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

For almost forty years Violet enriched the natural history community with her unique blend of sparkle, wit, joy, generosity and good humour. She had a lively interest in many areas of natural history, but her special concerns were ornithology, botany and photography. A keen and knowledgeable naturalist, she was always available to lead field trips and give nature talks, especially for children, beginners and the handicapped. She was seriously committed to the conservation of our natural heritage and the preservation of the environment. On these issues she held strong views, yet she was tolerant of the opinions of others.

Violet served our organization in many different ways, and always cheerfully and unstintingly. She never sought prestige or preferment. Instead it was her style and custom to serve quietly behind the scenes at necessary but often thankless tasks that brought little public recognition of her contributions to the smooth conduct of Club affairs. Her unfailing willingness to do her share, and more than her share, earned her the special regard of those who had the privilege of working with her on committees and special projects.

Violet Humphreys joined The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in 1946, and subsequently served a total of nineteen years on the Council, 1951 to 1961, 1966 to 1968, and 1971 to 1975. Over the years, she gave her constant, dependable support to many Club committees. Among these committees were Excursions and Lectures, Macoun Field Club, Bird Feeders, Federation of Ontario Naturalists Affairs, Membership, and Awards. She also devoted many hours to assisting with the Macoun Field Club in its early years.

In spite of all these activities, she still found time to contribute articles to *Trail & Landscape*.

Violet was an early proponent and an ardent supporter of the Rideau Trail Association. She was a longtime member of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, in which she took an active part. She also belonged to the Canadian Nature Federation.

As a member of the staff of the Education Division of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, she was for a time involved in nature education with children's groups, and in the care of the National Collection of Nature Photographs. Later, in the Zoology Division of the same body, she worked for many years under the direction of Dr. Earl Godfrey, and subsequently under his successor, Dr. Henri Ouellet.

Violet Humphreys' death in January of 1984 brought to a close this long and happy association with the naturalist community. Fellow naturalists remember gratefully her loyal friendship, the keen enjoyment of natural history that she delighted to share with others, and her years of service beyond the call of duty to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. □

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## Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

Nominations are requested from Club members for the following awards:

Honorary Membership  
Member of the Year Award  
OFNC Service Award  
Conservation Award  
Anne Hanes Natural History Award

Descriptions of these awards are given in *Trail & Landscape* 17(4): 201 (1983).

With the exception of Honorary Members, all nominees must be members in good standing.

Nominations and a supporting rationale should be submitted no later than December 15, 1984, to

W.K. Gummer,  
Chairman, Awards Committee,  
2230 Lawn Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2B 7B2 (telephone 596-1148).

# What Are These Rocks We Walk Upon?

Bill Gummer

Anyone walking trails in the Stony Swamp area must be aware of the fact that rock is often very close to the surface, and that the covering carpet of soil can nowhere be very deep. In places one walks on flat bare rock with the vegetation limited to crack joints that have been widened by erosion and have trapped drifting soil and mineral fragments. One can marvel at the growth that takes place on top of the rock, but what of the rock itself? What does it represent?

In the Jackpine Trail area, and the southern part of Trail 4 off Richmond Road, the exposed rock is *quartzose*. It contains quartz (silica) as prominent or chief mineral, and is hard enough that you cannot scratch it with a knife blade. Much of the rock sparkles on the surface as you walk on it towards the sun, again because of the quartz. Much of it is white and dense on a fresh surface. A simple hand lens will usually enable you to see tiny quartz grains like sand. It is a sandstone, about 450 million years old, the oldest of the generally flat-lying sediments of the Ottawa District - sandstone, dolomite, limestone and shale.

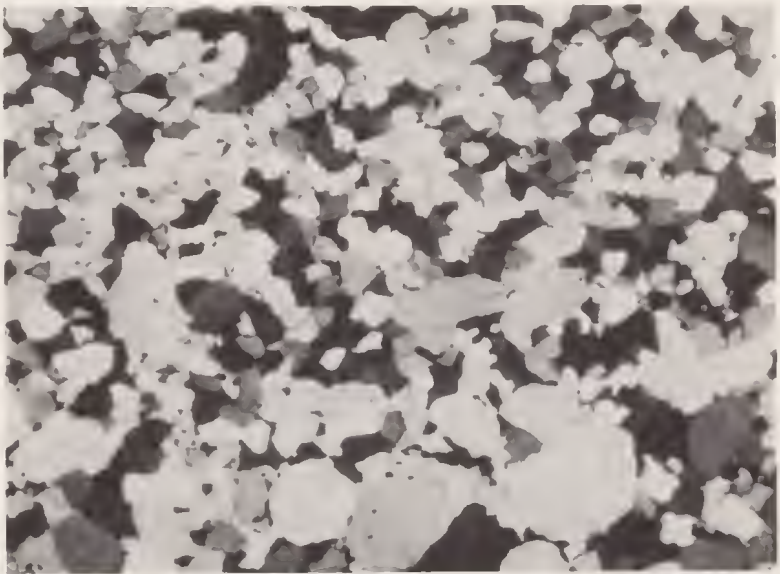


Figure 1 Stony Swamp Area, showing location of samples discussed in text (◇)

In several places the trails rise over low ridges exposing ledges of younger rocks that weather more smoothly on the edges, are gray or brownish gray, and contain more or less dolomite, a carbonate of both calcium and magnesium. In these rocks, the hand lens will often show tiny quartz grains embedded in the dense dolomite groundmass.

We can literally look into these rocks by using a microscope and tiny polished chips or thin sections. A proper thin section is 0.03 mm thick, a point where many minerals are translucent or transparent. Polarized light is used for study because minerals are crystalline and their crystal structure determines their optical properties, which are distinctive and can be used for identification.

These sections of rock samples from the locations marked on Figure 1 confirm that some rocks are essentially all quartz (Figures 2 and 3), while others, the younger rocks, represent a mixture of quartz and dolomite (Figures 4, 5 and 6). Rare grains of feldspar (another common rock-forming mineral) are to be seen, and some minute crystals that are likely zircon. The dolomite is a fine-grained precipitate and may or may not exhibit crystal outline or other structural features.

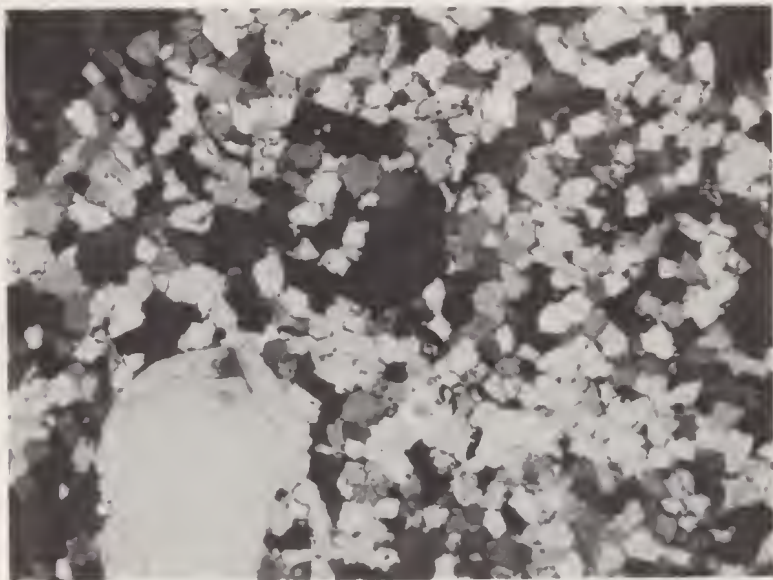


*Fig. 2: "Nepean Sandstone" from location 2, fig. 1, south of the Jackpine Trail. Quartz is the only mineral seen. Due to varied crystal orientation in the rock, some grains are white, some are black, and some are shades of gray. Note the close-fitting arrangement of individual grains. Original outlines of sand grains have been lost in the aging process, and only the larger grains give an impression of roundness.*

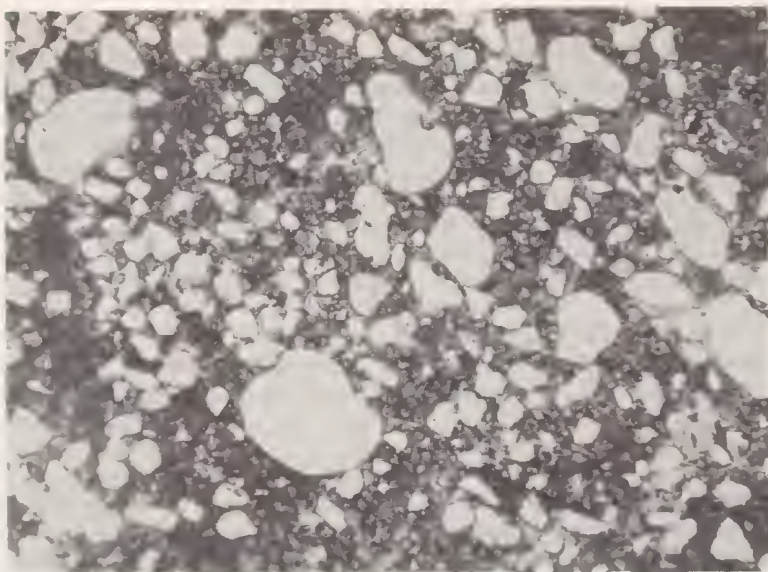


The quartz, however, provides an obvious key to the origin of these rocks. It occurs in grains up to 2 mm in long dimension, but many are far smaller. The striking thing about quartz is its shape - many of the larger particles are rounded, the result of water and perhaps wind action over a long time. Remember how pebbles on an active beach are usually round or ovoid? The shape shows in several photographs. The purity of some quartz rock indicates a long and thorough sorting by size and density.

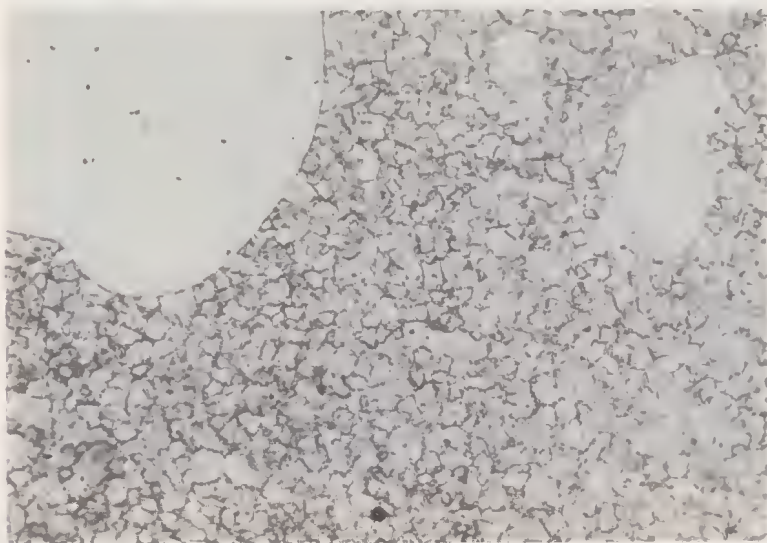
These hard, weathered, jointed rocks tell us that when they were forming there were elevated lands not far away, and that the rocks existing then were being attacked by erosion processes just as today. Those old rocks disintegrated into smaller and smaller particles, ultimately sand, that collected on beaches and other basins and that spread across the land as elevations were lowered and the sea level rose. The purest sandstone, now really quartzite in places, represents thorough sorting by moving currents. The mixed rocks show that at times conditions fluctuated so that both coarse and fine sediments were brought together into the same settling basin. That is why we see rounded quartz grains cemented in a carbonate matrix.



*Fig. 3: This sample represents the flat beds over which Trail #4 passes at location 5 off Richmond Road. Again it shows only quartz in this view. The large grain is clearly rounded.*



*Fig. 4: From the slight rise in the trail at location 6, this sample comes from younger rock than that of fig. 3. The rock contains both quartz and dolomite, the first in clear grains, many well-rounded, and the other forming the fine-grained, rather structureless ground mass. This rock represents a transition from the quartz sand period to the fine limey muds, both materials having been washed around together by changes in currents.*



*Fig. 5: From location 7, the ledge that crosses the trail, this rock is much more in the dolomite phase. The photograph shows two quartz grains, one very noticeably rounded, in a ground mass of dense carbonate. Some of the dolomite occurs in rhombohedral crystals.*

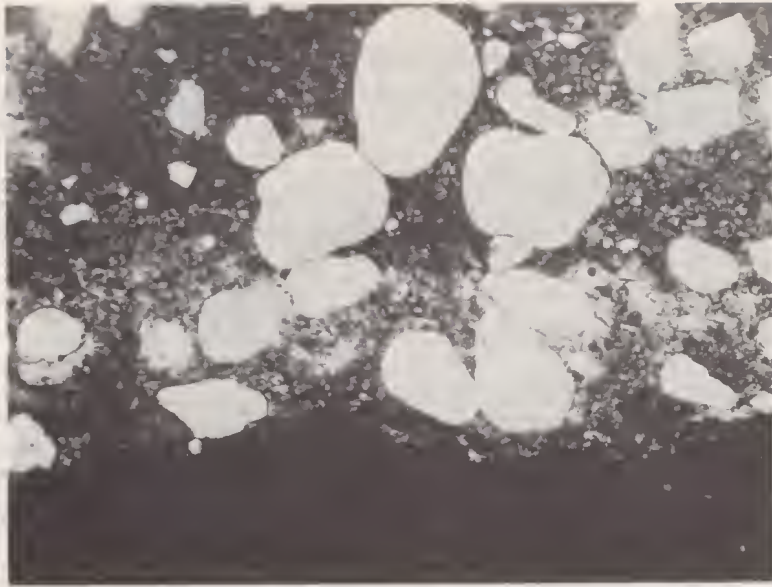


Fig. 6: Again from location 7, this sample shows in the upper part a layer of dolomite with rounded quartz grains over a layer of dolomite alone (lower part) that under these viewing conditions was essentially black, it is so fine-grained. On closer look it can be seen that there is a middle band in which the dolomite surrounding the quartz is more coarsely crystalline than that above - it lets more light into the slide.

In these samples there was no sign of fossil life. Younger rocks in the Ottawa District do contain a variety of fossils, including early corals - that makes one think of temperatures far above those of our winter conditions!

For the record, fig. 2 is magnification X30, crossed polarizers; fig. 3 is X30, crossed polarizers; fig. 4 is X30, one polarizer; fig. 5 is X70, crossed polarizers, red I plate; and fig. 6 is X30, one polarizer. Sections and photographs were prepared by C. Cooney. ▣

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### *Old Quarry Trail / The Making of a Landscape Sentier de la Carrière / La Création d'un Paysage*

The National Capital Commission has done a great job of introducing the interested naturalist to the geology of the Stony Swamp area. A pamphlet of the above title is available from the Commission or at the beginning of the Old Quarry Trail off Eagleson Side Road just south of Highway 7 west of Bell's Corners.

Take the time this fall to explore Stony Swamp with Bill's article (above) and the Old Quarry Trail pamphlet in hand. JMR

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# Recent Bird Sightings



Bruce Di Labio & Paul Davidson

The weather for the months of March, April and May was generally poor for birds. Towards the end of February the signs pointed to an early spring migration, but then on the 25th the Ottawa area was hit with a snowstorm. Most of the migrants up to that point, such as Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and Ring-billed Gulls, headed south. The weather stayed cold and windy until the last week of March. The temperature increased gradually through April, although the winds remained in the northwest for what seemed most of the month. This weather caused a slowdown in the northward movement of the birds. May was relatively uneventful for Ottawa.

One of the high points of the spring migration was the appearance for the third year running of a Peregrine Falcon. The birds were first noticed on March 25th on the R.H. Coats building in Tunney's Pasture at Scott Street and Holland Avenue. This bird was first observed by Richard Brouillet, who called in Bruce Di Labio to confirm the identification. On his way home, BMD observed, on the opposite side of the building, a roosting Gyrfalcon. Both birds used the Stats-Can building for the following five weeks, giving many local birders the opportunity to observe both falcons at once. It is quite rare to see both birds associating so closely.

Waterfowl arrived in numbers during the first week in April. Some of the first to make an appearance were Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals, Northern Shovelers and American Wigeons. Shirleys Bay was one of the better viewing areas for the ducks. Other places included Carlsbad Springs; the stretch from Black Bay to Masson was good for geese and puddle ducks. The latter did not show in any great concentrations this year.

On April 21st a Snowy Egret was observed flying along Bear Brook east of Carlsbad Springs for Ottawa's sixth record.

An exception to the poor waterfowl showings came on April 23rd when the heaviest flights of Canada Geese occurred. Approximately 50,000 individuals came through, and at certain times up to 15 separate flocks could be seen in one scan. An estimated 27,000 geese and 1,200 Northern Pintails were seen in the Thurso-Black Bay area alone. Two Sandhill Cranes also appeared on that

day, one migrating northwest over Dunrobin and a second flying over Ottawa near the Clyde Avenue Woods. There has been an increase in the spring sightings of Sandhill Crane over the last four or five years.

After a spectacular winter invasion of the Great Gray Owl, the numbers dwindled by mid-March. Seven migrant birds were sighted between April 7th and April 26th within the city limits.

House Finches staged a major eruption in the Ottawa area this spring. Over 30 birds were reported from the city alone. Most sightings were of lone birds or pairs, although a few feeders reported as many as six present at once. With numbers such as these, breeding would seem inevitable. The House Finch has been breeding for several years in Montreal and Kingston, with more recent records in Cornwall and Pembroke. The first breeding record for the Ottawa District was in July 1977 at Fitzroy Provincial Park.

One of the the few documented records for breeding Pine Siskins occurred during April. All the nests were found in coniferous trees within the city limits. Four young were fledged at the Wild Bird Rehabilitation Centre in Nepean. At least this many were known to have been raised in the wild.

As mentioned above, May was unusually quiet. Birds trickled in with no heavy movements noticed. One highlight was a Prothonotary Warbler on May 23rd at Britannia Woods. This was the first spring and fourth Ottawa record.

Between May 19th and 26th a noticeable movement of Brant took place. Most flocks numbered between 50 and 100 birds. A total of about 1,500 birds passed through Ottawa.

Mark Gawn spotted a White Pelican flying east past Black Bay on May 27th, the second Ottawa sighting of this species; the first was in May 1904 at Manotick. The bird was not seen again.

On the morning of May 25th, a flock of 44 Wimbrels was spotted flying over Lac Deschênes from Stillwater Park. Seventy-four Oldsquaws and 25 White-winged Scoters were noted from the same point.

To end the month, two breeding plumage Cattle Egrets were spotted along Bankfield Road near Moodie Drive. At least one bird was kind enough to stay around for two days, giving many people the opportunity to see it.

If you want a more detailed account of bird movements in and around the Ottawa area, subscribe to *The Shrike*. This bimonthly publication summarizes bird observations by daily and species totals. The data is also presented in tabular form. *The Shrike* is available through the Club address for \$5.00 per year. ▢

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# The Great Gray Owl Invasion Winter 1983-84

Bruce M. Di Labio, Richard Blacquiere and Richard Brouillet

## INTRODUCTION

The Great Gray Owl (*Stryx nebulosa*) is normally a bird of the northern boreal forest. Occasionally a few will wander to southern Ontario, southern Quebec or even the northeastern United States during the winter. But this is by no means a regular event, and birders always count themselves lucky to see one. The huge owl with its large facial disc, yellow eyes, and prominent mustache stripes is always the center of much attention when one turns up in the south.

This past winter there was an unprecedented movement of Great Gray Owls. There were numerous reports in an area stretching from Quebec City down through Montreal and Ottawa, and as far west as Sudbury. With over 500 owls reported, the major concentration seemed to be in the Montreal-Ottawa-Peterborough-Kingston region. In the Ottawa-Hull region alone, it was estimated that there were more than 100 different owls reported.

## CHRONOLOGY OF SIGHTINGS (SOUTHWARD MIGRATION)

The first sighting of a Great Gray came on December 8, 1983. During the next few days, a total of four were found, all around Shirleys Bay. Sightings so early in the winter are unusual, and there was speculation that this would probably be a good winter for them. Over the next week, a few more were found at various locations. However, the extent of the invasion became apparent on the evening of December 18th when the results of the Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Count were tabulated. A total of 23 Great Gray Owls were found within the count's  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius.

Great Gray Owls continued to arrive in the Ottawa-Hull area until early January when the numbers seemed to stabilize. During the second week of February, a small movement into the area was noted with a few reports from new locations previously without owls. During a mild spell in the last week of February, the birds began to decrease in numbers. The process was very gradual, but most had disappeared by late March. The last of the wintering Great Gray Owls was seen during the final week of April.



*Two of the Great Gray Owls that overwintered in the Ottawa District last winter. Photographs by Bruce Di Labio.*

#### HABITAT

On the breeding range, Great Gray Owls inhabit boreal forests, a land of conifer forest interspersed with bogs. During this past winter, they were found mostly near open fields surrounded by large trees. The large trees served as roosting perches during the day, and as vantage points for hunting. Some areas had scattered shrubs and saplings which the owls sometimes used as hunting perches. Late in the winter, the owls were sometimes found deep in woodlots, although, generally, they were forest-edge birds using the open fields as hunting areas.

#### DISTRIBUTION (Maps 1 and 2)

Towards the beginning of the invasion, the birds could be found almost anywhere, including within the city limits. By late December and early January, many had concentrated in specific areas. These areas were characterized by abundant prey species and good habitat. Some of the owls seemed to be successful at setting up defendable territories.

#### Areas of Concentration:

1. Shirleys Bay. Seven to nine owls were observed between December 8 and April 7, with five individuals being seen on the same day.
2. Carp-Kanata. Six to eight owls were observed between December 31 and early March, with a maximum of six birds seen on January 19.
3. Aylmer. Eight to ten birds were observed along McConnell and Vanier Roads from December 17 until April 2. The most birds seen in one day was seven.
4. Black Bay-Thurso. Five to six owls were observed from late December through mid-March, with a total of five being seen in one day.
5. Leitrim-Anderson Rd. Four to five birds were present in this area between December 31 and mid-March.
6. Navan-Bear Brook. At least four birds were seen in this area from late December through early February.
7. Green's Creek-Blackburn Hamlet. The first observation was made on December 18, and the last report occurred in early March. Four to five birds were in the area.

#### INTERACTIONS

Several intereactions were observed over the course of the winter, usually in areas of concentration. A typical interaction would begin when one owl transgressed the boundary of another's territory. The territory owner would acknowledge the invader by a head-bobbing display after eye contact with the other bird was made. Sometimes this action would be followed by a chase in which the owner would fly towards the invader and drive it away. Occasionally vocalizations would be uttered, including a low, soft hoot and a high pitched "yup" or "ya".

#### HUNTING HABITS

On several occasions, Great Gray Owls were observed to chase and capture prey, primarily Meadow Voles. The owls ate the voles whole, gulping them down head-first. The generally good condition of the owls banded indicated that they were successful hunters. The owls would take voles on top of and beneath the surface of the snow. The voles on the surface were probably captured by sight, while those under the surface of the snow were most likely located by sound. The capture of a vole by an owl leaves a characteristic plunge mark in fresh snow. These plunge marks were very common in the concentration areas.





Map 1. (left) Locations of Great Gray Owls reported in the Ottawa District. The numbers record how many individuals were sighted at each location. Map 2. (right) Areas of concentration of the owls. The numbers correspond to the areas listed opposite. If anyone knows of any additional sightings, please contact the authors. A complete and detailed list of sightings will be deposited in the Club file in the Public Archives for future reference.



Map 3. Banding Sites Banding took place as listed below. One bird was banded on each day, except two as noted (?).

1983		Feb. 2	Shirleys Bay
Dec. 18	Shirleys Bay	Feb. 4	Aylmer
Dec. 28	Aylmer	Feb. 5	Conroy Rd.
Dec. 28	Green's Creek	Feb. 12	Kanata <sup>2</sup>
1984		Feb. 18	Shirleys Bay
Jan. 7	Carlsbad Springs <sup>2</sup>	Mar. 10	Angers
Jan. 8	Aylmer	Apr. 1	Nepean
Jan. 14	Leitrim-Anderson Rd. <sup>2</sup>	Apr. 11	Arboretum
Jan. 15	Kanata <sup>2</sup>	Apr. 25	Majestic Dr. Nepean
Jan. 21	Aylmer <sup>2</sup>	Apr. 26	Clyde Woods <sup>2</sup>

## CASUALTIES

During the winter invasion, at least nine Great Gray Owls were killed or injured. As documented below, seven injuries or deaths were caused by trophy hunters or automobiles.

The Great Gray Owl's biggest downfall is its tameness and unawareness of the dangers caused by man. It is easily approached and can, therefore, be shot with great ease. Its other major problem is that it loses all awareness of its surroundings and can fly into the path of oncoming cars. It has been observed to fly directly into the side of a car, killing itself instantly. Amazingly enough, no owls were found starving, thus showing the availability of food was high and they had good hunting success. Earlier speculation at the beginning of the invasion that many birds were starving and would later die was not borne out in the Ottawa-Hull area.

### Casualties:

1. unsexed bird, Thurso, hit by car Dec. 19;
2. female, Carlsbad Springs, hit by car Dec. 29;
3. unsexed bird, Clarence Creek, shot Dec. 29;
4. female, Anderson Rd., shot Jan. 21, 1984. This bird was recovered alive and sent to Kit Chubb at the Avian Research Centre at Verona.
5. unsexed bird, Aylmer, Jan. 23, cause of death unknown because only the feathers were recovered;
6. female, Anderson Road, hit by car Jan. 24;
7. female, North Gower, shot Jan. 29;
8. unsexed bird, Vars, hit by car Feb. 1;
9. female bird, Blackburn Hamlet, with injured wing Mar. 4, and sent to Kit Chubb at the Avian Research Centre.

### APRIL SIGHTINGS (NORTHWARD MIGRATION)

The northward migration of Great Gray Owls was inconspicuous compared to the winter invasion. Most owls were gone by late March; however, seven late individuals were observed between April 7 and April 26. All sightings were made in an area of the city south of Richmond Road, east of Maitland Avenue, north of Meadowlands Drive and west of Bronson Avenue. The seventh bird was found just west of the Nepean Sportsplex.

All birds were observed roosting during the daylight hours and becoming active near dusk. Each bird was seen for only one day.

### April Sightings:

1. The first migrant was observed in Clyde Avenue Woods roosting in a cedar tree by T. Hanrahan, Jeff Crolla, and others,

April 7;

2. One bird was observed all day at the Arboretum roosting in a cedar tree, April 10. This bird was banded and released by R. Poulin and BMD;
3. A bird was observed at Farlane Boulevard sitting in a deciduous tree, April 20, by F. Bell and others;
4. One was found on Majestic Drive in a spruce tree being harrassed by crows by K. Nihei, April 25. This bird was banded by BMD;
5. Another was seen on Hillcrest Avenue roosting in a spruce tree, April 26, by BMD and R. Poulin;
6. Two birds at Clyde Avenue Woods were banded and released, April 26, BY BMD, J. Horner and R. Poulin.

#### BANDING RESULTS (Map 3)

With the large numbers of Great Gray Owls in the Ottawa-Hull area, a banding project was organized. Led by R. Poulin, the group banded a total of 24 owls.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this article: Richard Poulin (banding results), Mrs. E. Le Geyt (publicizing request for reports of sightings), Louise Damant (typing), Paul Davidson (editing), and all those who contributed sighting information.



*Bruce Di Labio (left) and Jack Horner with the two individuals they banded on April 26 at Clyde Woods. Photograph by Rick Poulin. ▣*

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## Two September Mushrooms to Collect with Care

Ross Anderson

Last fall, at Lac des Iles, we collected two mushrooms which are considered good edibles. Both of them were growing among poisonous species with a superficial resemblance. *Entoloma abortivum*, which is tan to creamy white in colour, next to the white to yellowish *Amanita virosa*, and *Leccinum subglabripes*, which is tawny-rufous, with *Amanita muscaria* coloured sandy-orange. (See Trail & Landscape 17(5): 262-265 (1983) for sketches of the two Amanitas.)

Be careful not to confuse the two! With that word of caution it is possible to report that both the *Entoloma* and *Leccinum* proved well worth collecting and were eaten for breakfast (two different breakfasts, of course).

The *Leccinum* is also known as the "glabrescent boletus". According to my Oxford Dictionary "glabrescent" means "hairy when young, smooth when mature". I am sure you wanted to know that! And "boletus" means that the mushroom belongs to a species in which the cap has pores on the under-surface rather than gills.

The *Entoloma* is called the "aborted entoloma" because, as we discovered, many specimens do not mature but grow into a globulous, lumpy mass a little like a puffball. The aborted form of the mushroom is found among completely mature specimens providing a way to distinguish this species, considered quite good to eat, from others which are not. ▣

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## Mushrooms / Les champignons

*Mushrooms - How to find and recognize them*

Two lab-lectures and a field trip will give you an opportunity to discover the fascinating world of mushrooms and try your hand at identification. Instructor: Dr. Scott Redhead

*Trouver et reconnaître les bons champignons*

Comment distinguez-vous les champignons comestibles des champignons vénéneux? Les différents critères et caractéristiques qui permettent l'identification des principaux champignons d'automne seront présentés en classe et lors d'une sortie sur le terrain. Professeur: Dr. Yolande Dalpé

Each course will take place on Sept. 25 and 27 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fee: \$45 (maximum 20 persons). For further information, contact the University of Ottawa Service for Continuing Education, 5 Osgoode Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5 (telephone 231-4263/2400/2453).



CRA 7-9-63

Entoloma abortivum / Aborted entoloma

This curious mushroom can be distinguished from other, possibly inedible species, by the lumpy "aborted" form which sometimes outnumbers the mature caps. We found both specimens good to eat, and some collectors class the lumpy form as a delicacy!



Leccinum subglabripes / Glabrescent boletus

This little boletus is a collector of odd names. Its stem is said to be "furfuraceous", which means "scurfy". "Glabrescent" means it starts out hairy and becomes smooth. In spite of that it is good to eat!

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# Conservation Update

Caroline Harris  
Secretary, Conservation Committee

To update the Conservation Committee report presented at the Club's Annual Business Meeting, here is a brief discussion of the issues of ongoing concern so far in 1984.

Despite losing the Ontario Municipal Board hearing which resulted in 40% of the Alfred Bog being zoned agricultural, the issue of the preservation of this valuable natural area is being kept alive. Under the direction of the Natural Areas Subcommittee, fundraising is still going on in order to acquire land for conservation in priority areas. (See Trail & Landscape 18(3): 108 (1984).)

Guidelines for wetlands management have been issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Committee plans to contact Minister Alan Pope to determine how these guidelines will fit into the long-awaited wetland policy for Ontario.

Hydro's eastern Ontario transmission line has been finalized after months of planning. We made our views known about proposed routes by attending advisory committee meetings, and we are neutral about the corridor which has been chosen. This route is the shortest, least-cost alternative and runs from the Lennox Generating Station south of Smiths Falls through Montague Township into the Merivale Transformer Station in Nepean.

In March, several of the Committee members enjoyed a cross-country ski trip along trails in the Marlborough Forest. The purpose of the field trip was to get an overall impression of the area for which a management plan is being written by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Our recommendation, voiced through the Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee, is that the Ministry produce an integrated resource management plan, including the inventory and zoning of natural areas for different user groups. We sent a letter of support to Rideau Township Mayor, Dave Bartlett, who feels that the forest management plan should encompass more than just timber production. Another field trip is planned to explore the possibility of trails and interpretive programs in the forest.

The Stewartville Swamp has been appraised, and money has been raised locally to buy the land. The appraisal is being assessed to determine whether to proceed with a recommendation that the Federation of Ontario Naturalists receive the donated money and acquire the land.

Charles Caccia, Minister of Environment Canada, halted the

construction of a marina at Pulpwood Harbour in Pukaskwa National Park because the public participation requirements of the management plan had not been met. The Committee is keeping in touch with the park superintendent and has offered to participate in the future planning process of the park.

A serious blow to conservation in Ottawa-Carleton was suffered when the Region's Planning Committee voted not to purchase the 200-ha Aselford-Bradley property on the Carp Ridge at its May meeting. Nobody from the Club was able to attend the Planning Committee Meeting, which was where public intervention should take place. Several Club members did attend and make presentations at a subsequent (June) Planning Committee meeting, but it appears to have been too little too late. We would like to encourage all the members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club to make themselves aware of conservation issues, especially those affecting our local area, and to let their elected officials know their views and concerns. ▣

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# Water Babies

## Larval Fishes of Ottawa and Vicinity

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### Part II. Anatomy of Larval Fishes

Daniel J. Faber  
National Museum of Natural Sciences  
Ottawa

This is the second of a series of four articles describing larval fishes. This article covers the external and internal anatomy of certain larval fishes. The third and fourth articles will describe and illustrate many of the larval fishes living in the Ottawa region.

Since larval fishes are the babies of adult fish, they are organized into the same families, genera and species. However, larval fishes do not look like adult fishes such as described by McAllister and Coad (1974) and elsewhere. What do baby fishes look like, and how are they different? Baby fishes start out life as swimming embryos; their bodies and internal organs are transparent but coloured with species-specific melanin spots. They begin without bones or scales, and range in length from about 5 to 15 mm (about the size of a mosquito).

One big difference from adults is that they do not possess fins, at least early in life, so other methods must be used to identify and classify them. The bottom line says that newly hatched fishes do not look or act like their adults. Because of this, ichthyologists should include descriptions of larval fishes in regional fish guides, as some Japanese authors already have done. In fact, larval fishes possess very different morphological, physiological, ecological and behavioural features from their adults. Certain of these features appear and disappear during several days or weeks. Since the basic morphological features of larval fishes do not always lend themselves to the same groupings as adult fishes, the systematics or taxonomy of larval fishes will not correspond exactly with their adults (Ahlstrom and Moser 1976).

The life of any fish - from the moment of fertilization until death in old age - can be subdivided into five artificial but definable and recognizable periods: 1) Embryonic Period, 2) Larval Period, 3) Juvenile Period, 4) Adult Period, and 5) Senescent Period (Balon 1975). Most fishes in our region develop and change gradually (in very small steps or stages) like true bugs (hemipteran insects) rather than with spectacular metamorphic changes as with butterflies (larva, pupa and adult). Despite the almost anomalous terms "larva", "larval fish", "fry", "eleu-



theroembryo" and others, these words are well established in the scientific literature and in the everyday vocabulary of fishery biologists. Au contraire, staff working at fish hatcheries avoid these "scientific terms" and use their own "hatchery jargon", such as "yolk sac fry", "alevins", "fingerlings" and so forth. To add to the confusion to specialists and non-specialists alike, numerous other terms are used in the scientific literature, depending upon author and continent (Ahlstrom and Moser 1981).

As has been mentioned, baby or larval fishes, with their distinctive morphological features, look very different from adult fishes. Certain larval structures or features that are transient or even ephemeral characterize their bodies. Gill slits (pharyngeal pouches) in the early embryonic life of birds and mammals are an analogous but classical textbook example. Because of their importance but unfamiliarity, certain of these transient anatomical structures will be discussed first. Only easily recognized structures will be mentioned.

#### TRANSIENT STRUCTURES

The finfold (figs. 1 and 2) is a transparent membrane which lies medially around the caudal part of the larva. It extends along the midline of the back from near the head, around the tail and then forward to the anus. A small, separate section of finfold extends forward from the anus to a position below the paired pectoral fins (fig. 4). The unpaired dorsal, caudal and anal fins are eventually formed from portions of this membranous tissue.

Yolk materials (fig. 1) consist of yolk (protein and so forth) *per se* and sometimes a sphere of oil (lipids) or a group of oil globules (not shown). Yolk materials are food reserves which diminish as physiological growth proceeds. Carotenoids normally colour yolk materials some shade of yellow or orange. The blood is colourless owing to colourless erythrocytes; haemoglobin in the blood increases with growth and becomes red some time later.

The notochord (fig. 2), an endoskeletal structure, extends mid-dorsally from the brain to the tip of the caudal fin (fig. 4). It is pliant, rodlike and formed of special vesicular connective tissue which serves as a foundation about which the backbone is eventually built. A small canal in the middle of the centra (vertebra) of adult fishes represents the location of the remnant of the notochord. Myomeres or myotomes (figs. 1 and 2) serve as the muscular system. Larval fishes show strong segmentation or metamerism as do all vertebrate embryos.

The pigmentation (figs. 3, 4 and 5) is different on each side of preserved larval fishes and consists of various melano-

phore maculae (black pigment spots) (figs. 3, 4 and 5) organized in species-specific arrangements. While alive, some larvae possess guanophores (white pigment cells, not shown) and/or xanthophores (yellow pigment cells, not shown). Pigment patterns and colours change gradually but completely as growth proceeds. Other anatomical and physiological features, which we are unable to discuss here, are also transient.

#### EXTERNAL ANATOMY

Most larval fishes that can be captured and seen in the Ottawa region are similar to Golden Shiner larvae. The external anatomical features shown here are specific for the Golden Shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*) but are similar to those of many other freshwater fish larvae. Figures 1 to 5 show three lengths or "stages" during the development of Golden Shiners. Most internal features are not shown here because these figures were drawn from formalin-preserved specimens in which the tissues have already turned from transparent to opaque. Internal structures are described in the next section.

The body (figs. 1-5) of the Golden Shiner is elongate and tapers gradually from head to tail. Mouth (fig. 2) is terminal; a pair of nostrils (fig. 3) lies between the mouth and eyes. Eyes (figs. 3 and 4) comprise opaque spherical lenses and black donut-shaped optic cups (figs. 4 and 5). At the back of the head is the operculum or gill cover (figs. 4 and 5) covering the gill filaments (fig. 5). The finfold (figs. 1, 2 and 4) persists from hatching until the beginning of the juvenile period. Fins which are identifiable include the paired pectoral fins (figs. 3 and 4) and the medial caudal fin (fig. 4). Dorsal fin, anal fin and paired pelvic fins are not yet formed.

Opposite:

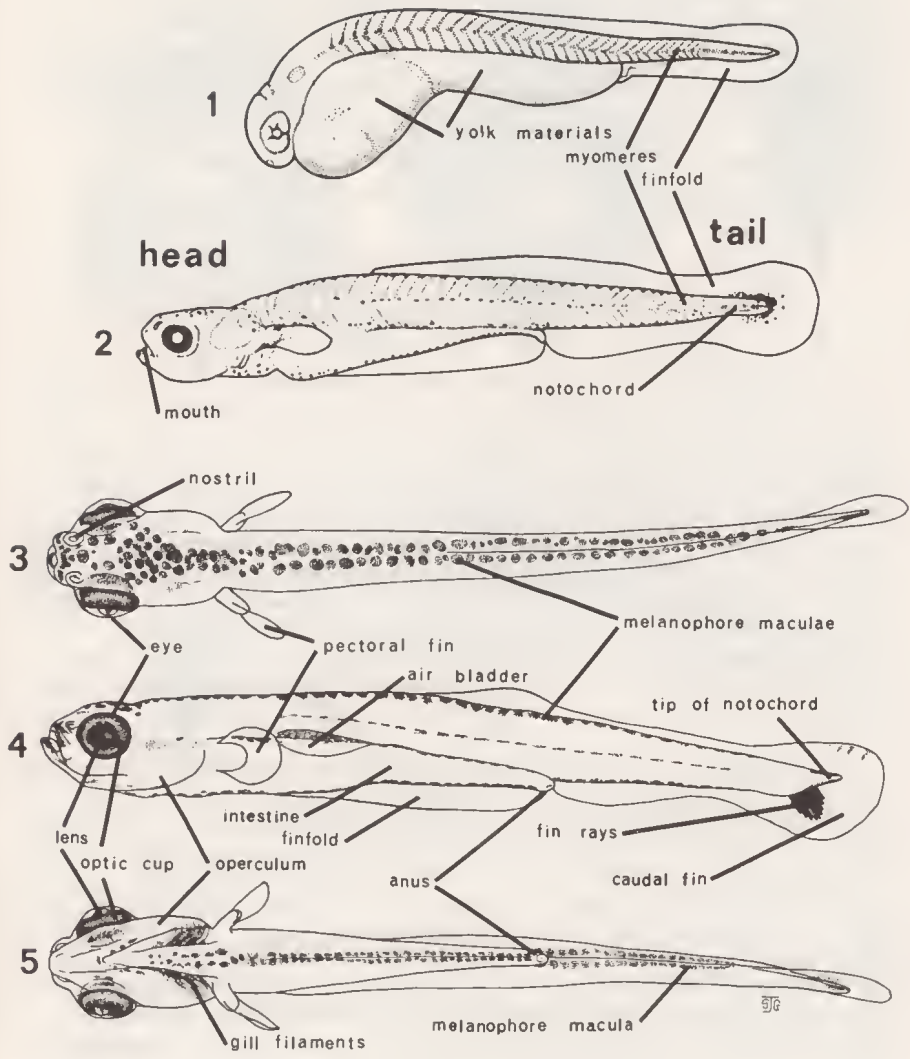
Figure 1. Lateral view of recently hatched larva of Golden Shiner (2.7 mm). Illustration from Snyder et al. (1977).

Figure 2. Lateral view of preserved Golden Shiner larva (4.6 mm) which is about five days old. Illustration from Snyder et al. (1977).

Figure 3. Dorsal view of preserved Golden Shiner larva (8 mm) which is about two weeks old.

Figure 4. Lateral view of Golden Shiner larva (8 mm).

Figure 5. Ventral view of Golden Shiner larva (8 mm). Figures 3, 4 and 5 drawn by Sally Gadd.



TRANSIENT STRUCTURES AND EXTERNAL ANATOMY OF LARVAL FISHES

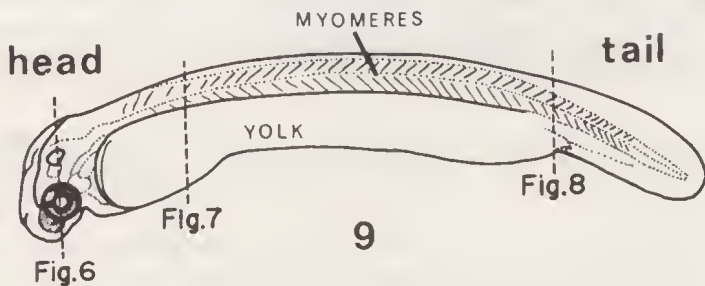
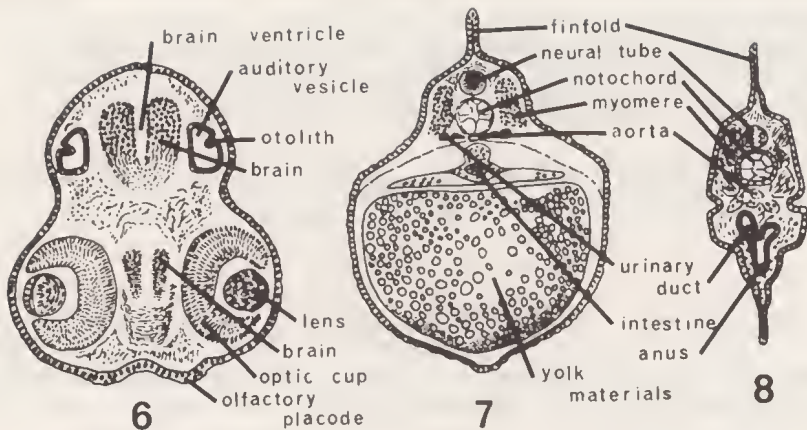
The intestine (fig. 4) is tubular and ends at the anus or vent (figs. 4 and 5). The tip of the notochord (fig. 4) is visible at the tail. Fin rays (fig. 4) are beginning to form in the ventral part of the caudal fin. The air bladder or swim bladder (fig. 4) is ovoid-shaped and filled with gas; it has an ovoid melanophore maculae over it. The pattern of pigmentation consists of various melanophores which occur in various places and on various parts of the body. Sometimes in response to light, temperature or neurohumors, these black pigment cells change from small and round to large and dendritic, or vice versa, while larvae are still living.

#### INTERNAL ANATOMY

The internal structures of preserved larval fishes are normally difficult to see because they are hidden by muscle tissues which have become opaque through preservation. Cross-sections of these three-dimensional, preserved, larval fish allow certain anatomical structures to be seen. Most larval fishes easily captured and seen in the Ottawa region are similar to White Sucker larvae. The internal anatomical features presented here are specific to the White Sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*) but are similar to those of other fish larvae. Figures 6, 7 and 8 show cross-sections of a White Sucker larva at three locations. Figure 9 shows these locations where cross-sections were taken. The anatomy of larval fishes is somewhat less complicated than that of their adults.

The central nervous system is relatively simple at this size. A neural tube (figs. 7 and 8) extends from the head into the caudal part of the body; a thickened portion occurs as the brain (fig. 6). The tubular brain surrounds a brain ventricle (fig. 6). Auditory vesicles (fig. 6) hold calcified otoliths (fig. 6) which aid in swimming and balancing. Cross-sections of eyes show spherical lenses (fig. 6) and surrounding optic cups (fig. 6). Olfactory placodes (fig. 6) develop as thickenings of the skin and eventually locate within the nostrils. Yolk materials (fig. 7) are composed of numerous constituents including proteins, fats, lipids, sterols, pigments, vitamins and salts. Myomeres (figs. 7 and 8) dominate the bodies of larval fishes. In the tail region (figs. 7 and 8) the neural tube is small and the notochord is large. Other circular structures shown include urinary ducts (urinary vessels, figs. 7 and 8), the aorta (blood vessel, figs. 7 and 8), intestine (food vessel, fig. 7) and anus (fig. 8).

\* \* \*



INTERNAL ANATOMY OF LARVAL FISHES

Figure 6. Cross-section through head region of newly hatched larva of White Sucker. Fig. 9 shows position of cross-section.

Figure 7. Cross-section through body region of newly hatched larva of White Sucker. Fig. 9 shows position of cross-section.

Figure 8. Cross-section through tail region of newly hatched larva of White Sucker. Fig. 9 shows position of cross-section.

Figure 9. Lateral view of White Sucker larva showing position of figures 6, 7 and 8. Illustrations redrawn from Stewart (1926).

This account of the anatomy of larval fishes has been abbreviated to make it informative and, I hope, interesting to non-larvalologists. The comparative anatomy of larval fishes has not been thoroughly investigated owing to its specialized nature, the large number of fish species known, and lack of financial resources.

In the next article, 17 larval fishes which normally live in shallow water habitats will be described and illustrated.

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# Seven Years of Mammal-watching on Mount St. Patrick

## Part II. Fisher, Weasels, Mink, Otter, Skunk, Coyote, Wolf, Fox

Sheila C. Thomson

FISHER: Four sightings of Fisher are recorded. On September 6, 1981, we caught our first tantalizing glimpse of a Fisher - a dark mammal with a bushy tail leaping along a sandy back road. The characteristic double pawprints in a long loping gait in the sand confirmed our snap identification.

On July 2, 1982, we had an excellent, if brief, view of a Fisher which crossed a back county road in car headlights. Black, short-legged, sinuous, with a bushy tail shorter than its body, it cleared the road in four unhurried, easy bounds and disappeared into the roadside vegetation. The animal seemed to be about three quarters of a metre long from nose tip to tail tip.

On October 16, 1983, daughter Eleanor had the good fortune to watch a Fisher from the cabin window. She had been sitting perfectly still, reading, when she glanced up to see a Fisher at the suet pole. She watched, fascinated, while it explored around the pole and feeders, staying so long that she finally went quietly for mammal guide and field glasses to check her identification. The Fisher stayed in sight for five or ten minutes before loping away. The following week we had another Fisher report. A Calabogie neighbour saw a Fisher cross the county road at our creek.

Before we learned to recognize Fisher droppings - black and tapering, and always deposited on a hump or mound in the middle of the trail - our early Fisher records were all of snow tracks. The usual track is a big double pawprint made by the loping animal. However, it not unusual to find walking tracks. The Fisher is a great traveller through the bush, covering so much terrain in its hunting that our winter woods are always laced with Fisher tracks. A winter outing without seeing Fisher tracks is so unusual that it is noted with surprise in the log book.

The Fisher is a woodland hunter, ranging through both conifer and hardwoods. In twenty years of roaming through Fisher country, we have found only five records of tree-climbing - one in Gatineau Park and four on Mount St. Patrick. From this we conclude that the Fisher is a terrestrial mammal, at least in winter. In the four climbs noted on Mount St. Patrick, Fisher

tracks led to the trunk of a tree, and a landing mark in the snow, complete with tail print, showed where it had leaped from the tree again and gone loping away. In one landing mark, the animal had sunk about 30 cm into soft snow.

On two occasions, we were at a loss to interpret Fisher tracks in the snow. In March of 1983, we came upon tracks of a Fisher walking on crusty snow. Between the pawprints, a strange drag mark, as if made by a finger-sized rigid stick, snaked evenly back and forth from right pawprints to left pawprints. We have no explanation.

On December 13, 1983, in a fresh early snowfall, there was great Fisher activity in one area, much walking about, and strange grovelling troughs here and there in the snow. One observer guessed that it might have been a young Fisher investigating its first deep snowfall!

We have a series of records of Fisher tracks associated with other animals. In January, 1977, we noted Fisher tracks that followed along on top of a Mink trail. On January 7, 1978, we came upon a spot where a Fisher had caught and killed a Snowshoe Hare. On January 29, 1978, we found a fresh Porcupine kill. The Porcupine had been dragged by a Fisher a short distance through the bush, partly eaten, and then hidden beneath the edge of a big snow-drifted boulder before the Fisher bounded away. The Porcupine was still unfrozen on a cold winter day. We guessed that we had interrupted the Fisher's meal. (See Trail & Landscape, 13(1): 14-15 (1979).)

In February, 1981, we found another snow record of a Fisher catching and eating a Porcupine. On January 29, 1982, our cabin guest, Gary Hanes, came upon tracks indicating interaction between a Fisher and a Ruffed Grouse, apparently without a successful kill. On April 11, 1982, Harry found Fisher tracks at a dead Short-tailed Shrew which was lying on the snow of a marsh. In March of 1983, we noted that a Fisher had visited a number of Muskrat mounds on our pond, had ripped one mound apart and, possibly, caught and eaten a Muskrat. Finally, in February of 1983, when two of us were sleeping out in an open tent on the snow, I was alerted by a low call with the timbre and pitch of a human voice, followed by sounds of movement on the snow behind the tent. (Actually, I thought that it was Harry, come to check that we were not freezing, before he crawled into a warm cabin bunk.) In the morning, the only tracks to be seen near the tent were those of a Fisher. I can only guess that the call came from the Fisher, expressing some emotion - surprise, curiosity, irritation - at finding two great mammals in its terrain where they had no business being.

Fishers are attracted to the cabin in winter when we put out suet feeders. They stay prudently out of sight when the cabin is occupied, perhaps smelling the smoke from the cabin stove, al-



though their tracks show that they come within a hundred metres, skulking just out of sight. Between weekends, however, they ramble freely around, their tracks wandering under the steps, up the suet pole and around the bird feeders. Once tell-tale tracks led up a snowy ladder and onto a cabin roof. Stored frozen suet in the attic may have been the attraction to the roof.

**WEASELS:** Weasel tracks pattern the snow of our bush every winter weekend, circling, zig-zagging, looping back and forth, as the small mammal hunts for prey. One bitterly cold January morning in 1981, when the thermometer had dipped to -37 degrees C and the bush seemed completely empty of animal life, we came upon a weasel's trail that ended where the weasel had tunnelled down under the snow on an open clearing. The mouth of the tunnel was mounded over with big frost feathers, indicating to us that the small predator was managing to survive in spite of the bitter cold and the scarcity of prey.

We have not been able to distinguish between the tracks of the Long-tailed and Short-tailed Weasels, although some of the tracks are certainly very much smaller and daintier than others. Even actual sightings have left us uncertain as to which of the two larger weasels were seen. We have not found evidence of the Least Weasel in our area.

On October 30, 1977, a beautiful pale frosted gray weasel appeared on the open bedrock near where I was sitting in the sun. About a third of a metre in total length, it was long, slender and slinky, with an alert little face. It peered in my direction with beady black eyes, and then eyed the feeder, where it could perhaps smell peanut butter. Suddenly it heard a chipmunk in the junipers and darted in after it. There was a frantic chase through the juniper tangle, and in a few seconds both animals raced out over the bedrock and down the hillside, where a sudden outburst of chattering and squealing was followed by silence.

On August 4, 1979, we found a small brown weasel with yellow-buff underparts lying dead on the county road. It was about Red Squirrel size but more slender, and we took it to be a Short-tailed Weasel. However, it had no white fur on the inner side of the hind legs, and thus it would have to be assigned to Long-tailed Weasel, if this pelage distinction is infallible. At the time of writing, we are uncertain whether we have a single record for Short-tailed Weasel. If even the very small weasels can turn out to be Long-tails, we cannot distinguish Short-tails in the field.

**LONG-TAILED WEASEL:** Our first Long-tailed Weasel, identified as such purely on the basis of large size, was seen running the logs of an old rail fence in November of 1978. The weasel was white, and very conspicuous as there was still no snow in the bush.

In January of 1979, a beautiful big weasel, about half a metre in length, appeared on the cabin clearing. White with a lemon-yellow wash to its fur, and a black tail tip, it darted around, up and down a big oak tree, back and forth between the bird feeders, feeding on fat put out for the birds, and carrying off a big lump of suet. It paid no attention to us human beings, returning twice to the feeders while we were moving about outside within six metres of it.

**MINK:** Five sightings of mink are recorded, all of them along stream banks or shorelines. A glimpsed Mink can easily be squeaked into full view, where it will hesitate, alert and curious, peering and sniffing in the direction of the squeaker. Once satisfied as to the source of the squeaking, it will usually ignore the human intruder, and simply continue to hunt, nose to the ground, investigating every nook and cranny along the shore. Winter tracks are not confined to water courses, but are often seen crossing through woodlands at some distance from the nearest creek or pond. Although Mink tracks are not uncommon, we have never found them to be numerous.

**RIVER OTTER:** Winter tracks of otter are not uncommon on Mount St. Patrick. Otter tracks in snow are so conspicuous and so distinctive that it is impossible to overlook or misidentify them. When travelling in snow, an otter leaves a trough nearly a quarter of a metre wide, punctuated at about three-quarter metre intervals with big outward-splayed double pawprints. This low loping trail is interrupted by long glides on the flat pond surfaces, and by gracefully curving slides among the trees when the otter travels down wooded slopes. It is not unusual to find an otter trail crossing overland from one drainage valley to another, but otters prefer to travel along streambeds from pond to pond. In February of 1978, we followed the trail of four otters travelling together along a stream valley. Often otters seem to have under-ice or under-snow routes along a stream, but their tell-tale tracks emerge to climb over each beaver dam along the route.

Shoreline tree roots or beaver dams are favourite locations for an otter's winter plunge hole. An otter will habitually come up through the same hole in the ice or snow to eat, and perhaps to bask in the sun for a while. The snow around a plunge hole is usually well trampled, and marked with the droppings from repeated otter visits. More than once we have noted where an otter had been lying beside a plunge hole long enough to melt the snow slightly. Snow tracks indicate that often, especially in cold weather, an otter will remain within a metre or so of the plunge hole when it emerges, returning down the hole instead of journeying overland. In January of 1984, we found wolf tracks around an otter plunge hole, but no indication of an encounter between wolf and otter. Once we saw where an otter had come up through a

plunge hole and indulged in some rolling and writhing in the snow before loping away across the pond.

Three sightings are recorded, all of otters playing in beaver ponds. A single otter was spotted in August, 1981, five otters were seen playing together in another pond in October, 1982, and a pair of otters was seen in a third pond in October, 1983.

**STRIPED SKUNK:** Only twice have we seen a live skunk within ten km of the cabin. Our only dead skunk, a road kill, had no fewer than nine crows and ravens at its odoriferous carcass.

**COYOTE:** The Coyote is the only mammal of the 30 listed here that we have not actually seen. We do not question its presence, however. In November of 1978 we first heard the yapping, howling and high-pitched squealing of a Coyote chorus that reminded us of a litter of half-grown pups playing together. When snow came in December, we began to see Coyote tracks. A Coyote has a long stride, compared with a fox, and it sinks more deeply in the snow. On many occasions during the winter of 1978-79, we came upon Coyote tracks in the cabin area. Several times we were able to determine that three Coyotes were travelling together. A favourite Coyote route that winter crossed our lane just below the brow of a hill, keeping out of sight of the cabin, and climbing up over the top of a high open knoll. Fresh Coyote tracks were seen as late as April 8 that spring, but no howling was heard from January 27 until late summer. Between August 11 and September 22, Coyotes were heard singing after dark on five different nights. Then, for some reason, we had no more definite signs of Coyotes for a full year.

In September of 1980, Harry climbed the knoll above the cabin after dark and for fun tried a few wolf howls at the moon. To his surprise, he was answered by high-pitched Coyote howls. Back at the cabin to report his discovery, he howled again, and again Coyotes answered. Once more, although we never once caught sight of them, we began to record Coyotes in our neck of the woods - pawprints in muddy creekbeds, droppings, tracks in fresh snow, and one night in December the howling, yipping and yapping of a full Coyote chorus. Next morning we found their tracks in the snow up on top of the cabin knoll. There were two more records of tracks in December, and then no sign of Coyotes near the cabin until the following October. They abandoned their old route onto the cabin knoll, and possibly moved back further into the hills.

In October and November of 1981, we recorded Coyote choruses at night, and then once again they disappeared from the area until the following spring. On March 20, 1982, we were treated to a Coyote symphony as we crossed a frozen lake just at sundown. From across the rolling juniper acres came high-voiced howling,

singing and quavering - almost yodelling, as one listener described it. Wilderness voices! Since then, for more than a year and a half we have had no more Coyote records.

In seven years of keeping records, what have we learned of Coyotes? Very little. We have merely recorded their presence, enjoyed their singing at night, and noted that they appeared to change territory several times a year. Perhaps they merely ranged less far from home terrain in some seasons, or struck out on the hunt in a different direction when they depleted sources of prey on one hunting route. We had the impression that their howling was triggered by the sudden discovery of our presence in their territory. We usually heard them howl after we arrived at the cabin on a Saturday evening, but never on a Sunday evening when we tried to draw out a performance for cabin guests.

**TIMBER WOLF:** Several Timber Wolves are a treasured element of our wilderness in the Madawaska Hills.

Our one sighting of a Timber Wolf did not come until January of 1982, but we had been aware of wolves in our hills since 1976, when we began to find their tracks as we explored the terrain on skis. Occasionally we measured tracks, trying to picture the size of the wolf that made them. One wolf, travelling in snow at what we judged to be a trotting pace left tracks one and a quarter metres from pawprint to pawprint. The paws were up to 9.5 cm wide. One wolf loping across a frozen lake left prints two metres to two and two-thirds metres from heel to same heel. Another track of a wolf, probably walking, measured three-quarters of a metre between pawprints. Once when we were curiously following the tracks of a large wolf, we saw where it came out to the edge of an old logging road and cleared the road in a great leap of four metres, leaving no tracks in the fresh snow on the road.

Often our route through the hills crossed the trails of solitary wolves, and sometimes we deliberately followed wolf tracks. Not surprisingly, we never caught up with a wolf, but we did learn a little about their habits. On the trail of one wolf which we had followed for some distance through the bush, we suddenly stopped and stared in disbelief. The wolf's trail unexpectedly divided into the tracks of two separate animals. We had been unknowingly following the trail of a hunting pair. Our own party split up here to follow both trails, and we discovered that the pair separated now and then by several hundred metres, coming together again at intervals as they moved along on the hunt through the bush. We followed this pair for about two km before abandoning their trail.

On another occasion, the only indication that we were following the tracks of two wolves, not one, came on the uphill climbs, where the prints of a second smaller animal, taking

shorter steps, registered along with the bigger prints.

We recorded a number of instances where it was obvious that two wolves were travelling together. Once we saw where a pair of wolves had stopped to sit in the snow, perhaps for a howl, before moving on. In December of 1980, on the trail of two wolves, we came to a trampled area on a pond, where the two animals seemed to have been romping together before trotting off again.

Wolf tracks, usually solitary, sometimes in pairs, tend to be tidy purposeful trails through the hills, but several times we have come upon evidence of horse-play, where two or several wolves have been gambolling, running and leaping about, apparently in play. In December of 1981, we returned from a short mid-day ski to discover that some time during our two-hour absence several wolves had been playing on our beaver pond. The tracks indicated that the wolves had been frolicking back and forth over the snowy surface of the pond. We wondered how close we had come to seeing them.

In April of 1978, we found wolf tracks at a deer kill, and evidence that the wolf or wolves had returned to the kill a number of times over a period of two weeks, until all but a few bones had disappeared. We have also found wolf tracks associated with kills of hare, muskrat and beaver, and once we found wolf tracks at the winter plunge hole of an otter.

On January 2, 1982, travelling silently on skis, we came out on a ridge above a small lake. The leading skier, Gary Hanes, was rewarded with an excellent look at a wolf on the ice of the lake below. The rest of us arrived at the edge of the ridge just in time to watch the wolf running for the shelter of the bush on the far shore. We stood discussing our good luck for a minute or two before Harry tried giving several wolf howls across the valley. His third attempt at establishing communication with the wolf produced an answering howl. In all, he elicited about four responses from the lone wolf, most of them single long howls, preceded by one or two deep-chested barks. The final response of the wolf, whatever its meaning, had a musical quaver and dip, a half yodel, in the middle of the descending howl. There were no replies from other wolves, although the howling rang through the valley and echoed off the hills.

On a subsequent trip to look for tracks on our wolf lake, we discovered the sleeping couches of four wolves, spaced out along the shoreline in grassy vegetation, with enough tracks and droppings to indicate that the lake was home territory for a wolf family.

A wolf's howl is the most exciting of all wilderness voices. Our wolves are not particularly vocal. Although we often see their tracks, we can count the times that we have heard their voices. One July evening in 1978, we listened to a pair of

wolves making contact with each other. As darkness fell, the silence of the bush was suddenly electrified by the call of a wolf, deep-chested, throaty, descending into a long mournful howl. It was repeated three times. From far away, so far that we could barely hear it, came an answering howl.

One clear still night in August of 1982, we had climbed to the top of an open knoll to look at the constellations. As we stood in the dark, stargazing, a wolf somewhere nearby treated us to a most melodious howl, with quavering tremolos and a surprisingly musical tune. An answer came faintly from the distance, and again the nearer wolf gave a long quavering musical howl. Silence followed, leaving us to guess at the meaning of the exchange - and the whereabouts of our wolf.

On an October evening in 1982, as we hiked home to the cabin at dusk, we were stopped in our tracks at the sound of wolves howling. Several wolves were singing in chorus somewhere within a kilometre of us. Wild music!

Finally, on New Year's Eve, 1982, we were delighted to hear the wolves howling when we trooped out into the snowy darkness to light candles on our New Year's tree. Fitting music for midnight festivities in the wilderness.

RED FOX: There are always foxes in the area. Most of our fox records are of winter snow tracks, which often prove more informative than actual sightings. From snow tracks we have learned that foxes spend a lot of time following hare trails and investigating grouse tracks. Here and there they dig down into the snow where there are no tracks on the surface, possibly smelling a vole or other small mammal. Fox tracks often lead up over the dome of beaver lodges, and once we noticed that a fox had sprinkled the entrance to the breathing hole before trotting down off the lodge again. (Picture the uneasiness of the beaver family dened up in the lodge, smelling the enemy at hand day after day.) Winter fox tracks are usually solitary. We have only one record, in April of 1983, of two foxes travelling together.

We have snow track records of foxes preying on hares, Red Squirrel and Ruffed Grouse. One grouse had been dug up from under the snow where it had tunnelled to shelter for the night. Foxes are not at all averse to eating animals found already killed. We have noted where a fox ate part of a porcupine left from a Fisher kill, and foxes are sometimes seen at highway road kills.

Twelve actual sightings are recorded, but only four of them gave us more than a fleeting glimpse. Once we surprised a fox with a dead Groundhog, which it abandoned to run from us. On two occasions we have watched a fox going about its hunting unaware of our presence, poking around with nose to the ground, sniffing

at logs and stumps, sprinkling a tree trunk.

On December 17, 1978, we encountered a fox which we judged to be rabid. It crossed the county road in our car headlights, and climbed the snow embankment. The animal was humped over in a peculiar manner, so that at first we mistook its silhouette for that of a Raccoon. As our car moved very slowly toward it, it turned back onto the road and approached us in a menacing manner, as though intending to attack. When within a metre or so of the car, it swerved aside and disappeared over the snowbank.

#### *Useful References*

- Banfield, A.W.F. 1974. The mammals of Canada. University of Toronto Press.
- Brown, N.R. and R.G. Lanning. 1954. The mammals of Renfrew County, Ontario. Canadian Field-Naturalist 68: 171-180.
- Burt, W.H. and R.P. Grossenheider. 1976. A field guide to the mammals. third edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
- Murie, O. J. 1954. A field guide to animal tracks. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
- Rand, A.L. 1945. Mammals of the Ottawa District. Canadian Field-Naturalist 59: 111-132.
- Whitaker, J. O. 1980. The Audubon Society field guide to North American mammals. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. □

CORRECTION: In Part I of this series in the last issue, a record for the Hairy-nosed Mole was left out of the paragraph on Star-nosed Mole (page 130).

"(Twice in Gatineau Park, after a particularly cold night, we have similarly found moles lying dead but apparently uninjured. Once we found a Hairy-tailed Mole on a lane crossing a meadow. ...)".

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# Annual Field Trip to Presqu'île

Astrid and Bruce Di Labio

This year's trip to Presqu'île was held on April first. The excursion was led by Bruce Di Labio and Bob Bracken. Twenty-nine enthusiastic birders met their leaders and the bus at Carlingwood Shopping Centre at 6:30 a.m. on a bright sunny day. On the trip down along Highway 7 the group was rewarded by the sight of two deer, a Ruffed Grouse, and an Eastern Bluebird, which flew across the highway. A coffee stop was made at Highways 37 and 401. Not wasting any time, the bus was boarded and on the road again in twenty minutes. At 10:30 the group arrived at Presqu'île.

The first stop was Presqu'île Marsh. Most of the area was ice-bound. One small bit of open water held a few Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes and Mallards. Continuing east along the peninsula on Bayshore Drive, we sighted a large concentration of diving ducks. The majority were Greater Scaups. Scattered among them were Canvasbacks, Redheads, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes and Oldsquaws. After closely checking through hundreds of Greater Scaups (it felt like thousands), we finally came across a few Lesser Scaups. Once locating the Lesser Scaup, we were able to gain direct comparison with the Greater Scaup, which was a good opportunity to give a lesson in Scaup identification.

Our next stop was at the lighthouse, which has become a popular place to have lunch and view the waterbirds. Large flocks of Common Goldeneyes, Oldsquaws, and a few Red-Breasted Mergansers were observed.

There were very few land birds in the park due to the late migration.

Our last stop in the Park was at Owen Point where thousands of Ring-billed Gulls were seen on Gull Island. The island is out in Lake Ontario, roughly a half km off the Point. This island hosts thousands of nesting Ring-billed Gulls in the summertime.

Out of the 31 species we recorded in the Park, there were 15 species of waterfowl. Last year's total for the Park was 47, reflecting the lack of birds on this trip.

The return route took in the Thousand Island Parkway where more Scaup and small numbers of Redheads and Canvasbacks were seen.

While travelling along the 401 east through Brockville, we spotted a Great Gray Owl roosting in a tree. A few years ago





*The lighthouse is a great place to have lunch and keep an eye on the waterbirds at the same time. Photograph by Bruce Di Labio.*

this observation would have caused great excitement, but after the winter's invasion of Great Gray Owls, the bus remained relatively calm.

As we approached Ottawa along Highway 16, we saw two Great Horned Owls sitting in trees, perched high, waiting for their supper.

The group arrived back at Carlingwood at 6:30 p.m. after a good day's birding.

We would like to thank Bob Bracken for his assistance, and the participants for their cooperation. ▣

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## Spring Excursion to Point Pelee

Next year's bus trip to Point Pelee will take place from May 16 to 20 if we get a good early response. If you are interested, register early by telephoning the Club number (722-3050).

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# Derby Hill Trip — 1984

Astrid Di Labio and Richard Brouillet

Since 1978, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has had organized field trips to Derby Hill to view migrating hawks. On occasion the trips have been cancelled due to bad weather. This year, conditions were favourable, and the trip proceeded.

Derby Hill is located in New York State along the southeast shore of Lake Ontario between Pulaski and Oswego. It is an approximately 300 km drive from Ottawa.

Drennan (1981) has explained better than anyone why Derby Hill is so great for hawks.

*The combined southern shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie comprise more than four-hundred miles. Hawks migrating north from southerly wintering grounds meet the lakes, which act as a natural barrier, causing raptors to veer westward or eastward and to then proceed north by way of a shore-hugging route. As one might guess, this shore-skirting maneuver tends to concentrate the numbers of hawks in a narrow flight path up the lakeshore.*

*Flights are most spectacular here when winds are from a southerly direction. When such winds blow, hawks migrate earlier in the day and continue flying later than in north or west winds. Generally the best flights occur when ground wind speed is 10 to 30 miles per hour. The best flights also occur on days when temperature exceeds that of several previous days and when barometric pressure is low or falling. Rising barometric pressure usually results in a weak raptor flight.*

As you can see from the above quote, this is why we can not guarantee a successful field trip every time, and why a few trips have been cancelled.

This year's trip was led by Bruce Di Labio and Steve O'Donnell. Forty-three birders signed up for the trip and departed for Derby Hill at 6:30 a.m. on April 29th. At the Canada-U.S. border we were treated with a surprisingly fast inspection (no more than 10 minutes), and our party started off into New York State.

Some hawks were observed from the bus, giving us a sample of what was to come. We arrived at Derby Hill in mid-morning to find that small numbers of Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawks were migrating. After lunch hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks could be seen at one time, in large spirals. By the end of the afternoon we had tallied well over 6,000 hawks, an incredible total!

The following table, prepared by Bruce Di Labio, shows a comparison of the results of past Derby Hill excursions, including 1984.

<u>SPECIES</u>	23 April 1978	22 April 1979	27 April 1980	12 April 1981	1982	29 April 1983	29 April 1984
Turkey Vulture	X	15	16				20
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-				-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X	400-500	50				300-400
Coopers Hawk	-	2	1				2
Red-tailed Hawk	X	40-50	13				40
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	2	-				8
Broad-winged Hawk	X	1,000-1,500	75	"very few"	"not held"	"cancelled due to weather conditions"	6,000
Rough-legged Hawk	-	40-45	-				9
Golden Eagle	-	-	-				1
Northern Harrier	-	50	6				8
Osprey	-	20-30	3				6
Merlin	-	1	1				-
American Kestrel	-	30	5				6
TOTALS	300	1,600-2,200	169				6,400

We hope to see you all again next year.

N.B. Please remember to register all new optical equipment in Ottawa before you go, and don't forget your birth certificate or passport.

#### *Useful References*

- Dickson, H.L. 1979. Derby Hill 1979. *Trail & Landscape* 13(4): 122-123.
- Dickson, H.L. 1980. Derby Hill 1980. *Trail & Landscape* 14(4): 138-139.
- Drennan, S.R. 1981. Where to find birds in New York State. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, N.Y.
- Murray, J.A. 1979. Derby Hill - April 23, 1978. *Trail & Landscape* 13(2): 44-45.
- [Reddoch, J.M.] 1981. Derby Hill (note). *Trail & Landscape* 14(4): 218. □

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# Tay River Canoe Trip

Isabel Bayly

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was out in force last June 17 when 34 of us took to the water in 12 canoes. The weather, a forecast of rain, turned out to be perfect - warm, sunny, with a light breeze bringing to us the heady perfume of Basswood flowers. It's a joy to be out on such a day.

And there was a lot to see. The canoes, strung out along the river, saw a variety of life. Ahead of us a dozen Turkey Vultures rose from their colonial roost, wheeled in the sky and dispersed to their various pursuits. All saw the American Bitterns at close range, were verbally criticized by the dozens of Red-winged Blackbirds guarding their nests in the cattails, caught sight of singing Cedar Waxwings, and heard all around the sounds of Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats. One lucky group at lunchtime saw a nest of five newly-hatched Black and White Warblers, the busy parents hovering, beaks filled with ever-needed food.

A highlight of the trip was the discovery of two Map Turtles, not common in the area. The more common Painted Turtle was spotted a number of times along the way. It was frog heaven - Bullfrogs and Green Frogs, mainly - and we were able to find all stages of the Bullfrog, from spawn through tadpoles to the giant adults. Bob Bracken pointed out freshwater clams feeding, their small siphons vigorously pumping water.

The plants rewarded us richly as well. Along the wet margins the Royal Ferns grew lushly, glorious and regal as always. The clear rapid waters offered eight species of Potamogetons, and all of us got to sniff the skunky *Chara* in the marshy inlet. In the still water of the marsh, the White Water-crowfoot was flowering, yellow Spatterdock was bright on the water, and, in addition to the carnivorous Common Bladderwort, we got to see the much less common Humped Bladderwort in flower. Among the sedges on the floating cattail mats, a single flowering Tufted Loosestrife stood out like a small golden candelabra. All around us we saw muskrat platforms, plus one swimming Muskrat, evidence of a large population in this miniature aquatic paradise.

It was a great day, and we were well rewarded. ▢

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## University of Ottawa Noncredit Courses

### *Mushrooms - How to find and recognize them*

Two lab-lectures and a field trip will give you an opportunity to discover the fascinating world of mushrooms and try your hand at identification. Instructor: Dr. Scott Redhead.

### *Trouver et reconnaître les bons champignons*

Comment distinguez-vous les champignons comestibles des champignons vénéneux? Les différents critères et caractéristiques qui permettent l'identification des principaux champignons d'automne seront présentés en classe et lors d'une sortie sur le terrain. Professeur: Dr. Yolande Dalpé.

Both courses will be held on the evenings of Sept. 25 and 27 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fee: \$45. (maximum 20 persons).

For further information, contact the University of Ottawa Service for Continuing Education, 5 Osgoode Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5, telephone 231-4263/2400/2453.

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## Natural History Workshops at Carleton University

The Department of Biology at Carleton University, in cooperation with the School of Continuing Education, has launched a series of workshops in natural history for interested people in the Ottawa area. Based in the new Natural History Centre in the Tory Building, the series consists of modules designed to reflect the changing seasons. The modules present the significance and relationships of the living world around us through discussions and outdoor workshops. Enrolment is limited to 15 participants per workshop. Transportation will be provided for the field trips. Co-ordinator of this series is I.L. Bayly of Carleton's Department of Biology.

### *Fungi, Mosses and Lichens Course No. CE997*

This three-day workshop will introduce participants to these fascinating but poorly understood organisms and their vital role in the natural ecosystem. Topics will include edible and poisonous mushrooms and little-known facts about mosses and lichens. Morning field trips will be followed by afternoon laboratory and lecture sessions. Instructor, W.I. Illman.  
Dates: September 19, 20 and 21; Fee: \$70. (or \$25/day) (Preference will be given to those registering for the entire session).

For further information, contact the Carleton University School of Continuing Education at 231-6660.

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# N.C.C. Programs

## FALL FANTASY

This autumn let the magic spell of nature enchant you! Participate in the National Capital Commission's nature interpretation program. These Sunday activities take place at the same time at both Stony Swamp and Mer Bleue Interpretation Centres. Programs are scheduled for 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Please note that the September 9 program takes place at Mer Bleue only. Telephone 828-3620 to find out about the Preschool Program.

- Sept. 9 NATURE'S WEAVERS (at Mer Bleue only)  
Very few people appreciate spiders. Most of us are petrified by them and it shouldn't be so! Come and meet the spider's best friend: Dr. Charles Dondale from Agriculture Canada. Program times for this day only: 10 and 11 a.m., 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.
- Sept. 16 IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!  
Discover the fascinating world of birds through the eyes of a researcher and a naturalist. A bird banding demonstration will be held. This program is offered in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Service.
- Sept. 23 WILD MUSHROOMS  
Of infinite variety in form and colour, mushrooms and other fungi are the extra-terrestrials of the plant world, and their way of life is as bizarre as their appearance. Specialists from Agriculture Canada will assist with this program.
- Sept. 30 FALL FANTASY  
Subtle smells and brilliant colours! Come with our naturalists into the forest and enjoy the magic spell of nature in autumn.
- Oct. 14 NATURE'S HARVEST  
Although the lushness of summer is gone, autumn is here in all its richness. Come and discover the abundance of seeds, grains and fruits.
- Oct. 21 TEETH AT WORK!  
Beavers, chipmunks, mice and other rodents are very busy at this time of year. Come and find out what they're doing and why!
- Oct. 28 FALL CLEANING  
Discover how nature recycles its garbage!

# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee  
Philip Martin (729-3218), Chairman

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

Wednesday AFTERNOON BIRDING FIELD TRIP  
5 Sept. Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)  
4:00 p.m. Meet: Ottawa Beach (just east of Andrew Haydon Park  
on Carling Avenue)  
The emphasis will be on shorebirds and migrants.  
Bring a snack for this outing, which will last until dusk.

Sunday BOTANY GROUP FIELD TRIP: FALL PLANTS  
9 Sept. Leaders: members of the Botany Special Interest  
9:00 a.m. Group  
The emphasis will be on the identification of goldenrods, asters and grasses. Bring a lunch for this half-day outing. Telephone the Club number (722-3050) to learn the meeting place and other details.

Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
11 Sept. Meet: Salon, National Museum of Natural Sciences,  
8:00 p.m. Metcalfe and McLeod Streets  
Admission: At least one natural history slide or a 50 cent donation to the Alfred Bog Fund.  
This will be an excellent opportunity to share with fellow members your favourite natural history slides and reminiscences of past trips, both local and far afield. Any number of slides up to a maximum of 15 will be welcome and up to 15 minutes will be allotted for each slide presentation. Those bringing the mandatory one slide need not speak if they do not wish to do so. Those bringing more than one or two slides, please contact Frank Bell (521-8046) to pre-arrange your presentation.

Saturday      BIRDING AT NAIRNE ISLAND AND CORNWALL POWER DAM  
15 Sept.      Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)  
7:00 a.m.      Participants will visit Nairne Island east of Morris-  
                 burg and the Cornwall Power Dam to observe shore-  
                 birds, gulls and migrating landbirds. It will be  
                 interesting to compare sightings with last year's,  
                 which were made on October 1. (See Trail & Landscape  
                 18(1): 53 (1984).) Dress warmly, wear waterproof  
                 footwear, and bring a hearty lunch for this all-day  
                 outing. Binoculars and/or scopes are essential.  
                 Transportation will be by private cars. Only a lim-  
                 ited number of participants will be accepted. Regis-  
                 ter by telephoning the Club number (722-3050).

Saturday      MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP  
15 Sept.      Leader: Andrée Juneau  
9:30 a.m.      Since only 20 persons can be accepted, participants  
                 must register and obtain further details by  
                 telephoning the Club number (722-3050)

Sunday        ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO THE MILL OF KINTAIL  
16 Sept.      Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences,  
9:00 a.m.      Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, front entrance  
Note time      The Mill of Kintail Conservation Area is owned and  
change.        operated by the Mississippi Valley Conservation Au-  
                 thority. With its scenic beauty, historical points  
                 of interest, and woodland and riverside trails, it is  
                 an ideal place for a picnic. Participants will be  
                 able to top off their picnic lunches with cheddar  
                 cheese, apples and cake, for which \$1.50 will be  
                 collected. The National Museum of Natural Sciences'  
                 Dinobus will be provided free of charge for transpor-  
                 tation courtesy of the Museum. Those wishing to go  
                 should register at least ten days in advance by  
                 telephoning the Club number (722-3050).

Saturday      BIRD WALK FOR BEGINNERS  
22 Sept.      Leader: Bob Bracken (728-3495)  
8:00 a.m.      Meet: Britannia Woods (entrance to the Britannia  
                 Filtration Plant. Bus #51 stops here.)  
                 The emphasis will be on shorebirds and migrants.  
                 Bring a lunch for this half-day outing.



Sunday SEVENTH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH THE OTTAWA RIDEAU  
30 Sept. TRAIL CLUB  
8:30 a.m. Leaders: Frank Bell and Colin Gaskell  
Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences,  
Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, front entrance  
Participants will have a choice of one of two general  
interest hikes, one easy and the other strenuous, in  
the Lac Philippe - Taylor Lake region of Gatineau  
Park. We hope that autumn colours will be at their  
peak. The Dinobus will be provided for transporta-  
tion, free of charge, courtesy of the National Museum  
of Natural Sciences. Bring a hearty lunch for this  
all-day outing, and wear suitable clothing and foot-  
wear. Only a limited number of participants can be  
accepted. Register by telephoning the Club number  
(722-3050) at least ten days before the outing.

Sunday BOTANY GROUP FIELD TRIP: FALL PLANTS  
30 Sept. Leaders: members of the Botany Special Interest  
9:00 a.m. Group  
The emphasis will be on the identification of golden-  
rods, asters and grasses. Bring a lunch for this  
half-day outing. Telephone the Club number (722-  
3050) to learn the meeting place and other details.

Tuesday	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
9 Oct.	RARE GULLS OF THE ARCTIC
8:00 p.m.	Speaker: Stewart MacDonald Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets Stew MacDonald is an authority on the birds and mammals of the Arctic. Among other accomplishments, he participated in the discovery of the only known Canadian breeding colony of the Ivory Gull and was the first to record the nesting of the Ross's Gull in North America. Stew is Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Wednesday AFTERNOON BIRDING FIELD TRIP  
17 Oct. Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)  
4:00 p.m. Meet: Ottawa Beach (just east of Andrew Haydon Park  
on Carling Avenue)  
The emphasis will be on ducks. Bring a snack for this  
outing, which will last until dark.

Tuesday  
13 Nov.  
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
SHARING A DREAM  
Speaker: Glen Threlfo  
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

Renowned Australian wildlife photographer Glen Threlfo will take us on a spectacular film journey through some of the most beautiful areas of Queensland and the Northern Territory. Included are the tropical city of Cairns and the neighbouring Atherton Tableland, wild and wonderful Kakadu National Park near Darwin, Carnarvon National Park featuring the spectacular Carnarvon Gorge, and the world-famous O'Reilly's Guesthouse in the Lemington National Park in southern Queensland. In just a few years, Glen Threlfo has established himself as one of Australia's foremost native photographers. He is visiting North America to promote a nature tour, and we are fortunate to have him come to Ottawa to show his superb documentary film and tell us about his tour. This is a unique opportunity. Don't miss it.

Weekend  
November  
16-18

BIRDING TRIP TO NIAGARA AND A CHANCE TO ATTEND  
NATURE NIAGARA '84  
Leader: Bruce Di Labio

The main purpose of the trip will be to observe the overwintering gulls and waterfowl that attract birdwatchers from many parts of North America.

\* \* \*

REGISTER

BY

Bonaparte's Gulls gather in the thousands, and rare gulls such as Kittiwakes, and Black-headed Gulls, Franklin's Gulls and Little Gulls often turn up. Last year's trip was described in the March/April 1984 issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

15 SEPT.

\* \* \*

Accommodation will be in Michael's Inn in Niagara Falls. The facilities include a dining room with open hearth and an indoor pool. Costs for two nights including bus fare but not meals are as follows:

Single occupancy (1 single bed)	\$121. per person
Twin occupancy (2 single beds)	92. per person
Triple occupancy (2 double beds)	85. per person
Quadruple occupancy (2 double beds)	75. per person

The weather is likely to be cold and damp, and participants should dress accordingly. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one.

The bus will leave at 5:00 p.m. on November 16 from the Travelways office at the corner of Innis and

Cyrville Roads (east of Highway 417). Have dinner before boarding the bus or bring a meal as no dinner stopover is planned. The bus will return to Ottawa on Sunday evening, November 18.

For those planning to attend the Nature Niagara '84 workshop and banquet (see below), there is an additional cost of \$30; for those planning to attend the banquet only, the additional cost is \$15.

The above prices for transportation and accomodation are tentative, based on 30 participants. Whether or not the excursion takes place at all depends on the response as of September 15, so please register early. Moreover, we cannot guarantee tickets to the workshop and/or banquet after that date. Register by telephoning the Club number before September 15. Payment in full should be sent before October 1 to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa K2A 0P7. Payment should be made by cheque or money order payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (after confirming price by telephone after September 16). Please indicate clearly for what you are paying (e.g. single occupancy, workshop, banquet) and include your phone number.

**NATURE NIAGARA '84** is a nature workshop and banquet at the Beacon Motor Inn, Jordan Station, Vineland, Ontario, on Saturday, November 17th.

The workshop, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will feature eight guest speakers including Kay and Larry McKeever to talk on such Niagara area subjects as gulls on the Niagara River, life in a Niagara hedgerow, and the special owl rehabilitation program.

The banquet, from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., will have a special guest speaker, possibly Roger Tory Peterson or Pierre Berton.

For those not combining this event with the November 16 to 18 weekend birding trip to Niagara (see above), send \$30.00 per person to Nature Niagara '84, P.O. Box 1681, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7K1, giving name, address, telephone number and name of club. Please make all cheques payable to Nature Niagara '84.

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**DEADLINE.** *Material intended for the November-December issue must be in the Editor's hands before September 1 at the latest.*

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