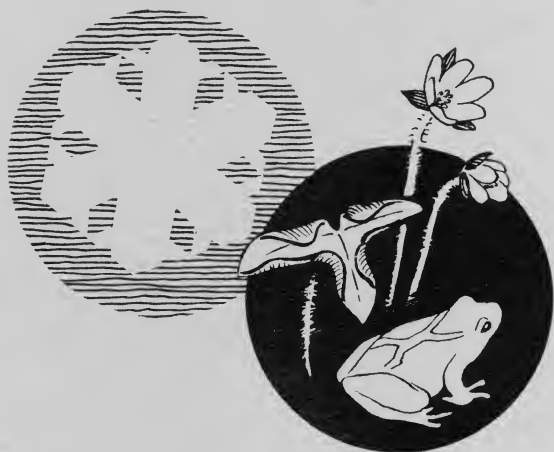


# TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

- Founded 1879 -

President: Mr. Hue MacKenzie, 228 Royal Ave., Ottawa  
Secretary: Mr. A.W. Rathwell, Can. Wildlife Service

Objects of the Club: To foster an acquaintance with and love of nature and to encourage and publish original research in natural history.

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

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

Membership: Active membership (\$5 annual fee) includes subscription to The Canadian Field-Naturalist. An Associate membership (\$3 annual fee) is available to local naturalists, entitling them to join in field trips and similar Club activities. All Ottawa Valley members, both Active and Associate, receive TRAIL & LANDSCAPE; other members may receive it on request.

Application for Membership should be addressed to:  
Miss L.G. Howden, Treasurer, Box 3264 Postal Stn. C,  
Ottawa 3.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER

# TRAIL & *Landscape*

Published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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# **M**essage from the **P**resident

Greeting fellow members, and welcome to this new venture of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. TRAIL & LANDSCAPE has been planned as an attractive periodical to be issued every two months. Each number will contain feature articles of local interest on natural history, and on conservation. Regular sections, such as Coming Events, the Explorer's Corner, and a question and answer department, will be provided. Every member should find interesting reading in each number.

For this first issue, Bill Dore has contributed a fascinating article on Skunk Cabbage, an odorous but attractive member of our plant community. The accompanying photograph of the plant was made from an outstanding colour slide by Mary Stuart. The reader interested in botany will also take note of Ed Greenwood's report of the activities of the Orchid group.

Birdwatching activity will be approaching the annual peak as this appears in print. May I wish all a successful season with at least one outstanding find during the year for each of you. I am sure you will find the articles by Gary Hanes on spring arrival dates, and by Ron Pittaway on bird mortality, interesting and informative.

Ted Mosquin has given us a look at what the future may hold for naturalists in the Ottawa Valley, in an article which ought to start us thinking and planning for action now.

Conservation is a topic occupying the thoughts of many people these days, including the Council of this Club. We have devoted one special meeting of Council to this topic, as a result of which Ted Mosquin is looking further into such questions as the legal position of the Club with respect to the holding of property, the problems of raising money, the need for fencing, posting and caretaking, and others. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists through its Executive Director, Mr. James Woodford (who will be our Speaker at the Club Dinner), has offered to advise us. He has provided a report of a symposium on the problems of land acquisition for conservation purposes, held by the South Peel Naturalists Club last year. It is expected that a brief report on our progress will be made at the Annual Dinner.

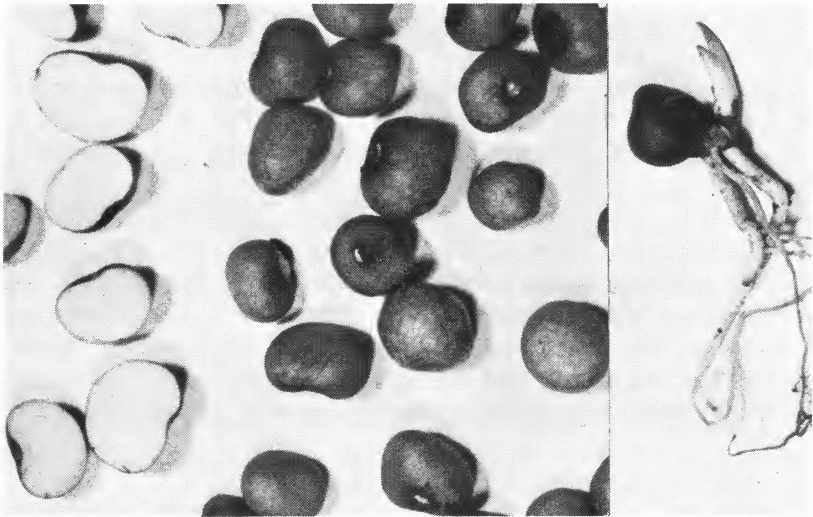
Take note of the date of our 1967 Dinner which will be held on Tuesday April 11 at the Eastview Hotel. Reservations will be necessary this year and will not be accepted after April 4th. More details are given on page 28.

Council has voted \$500 for the publication of five issues of TRAIL & LANDSCAPE in 1967. This centennial year is certainly an appropriate time to begin a new venture such as this. On behalf of all of you I congratulate the Editor, Anne Hanes, and the members of her editorial board: Sheila Thomson, who is also chairman of the Excursions and Lectures Committee, and Ted Mosquin, who conceived the idea of this journal and sold it to Council. May they be assured of support, encouragement and material for publication, so that the task they have undertaken may prove rewarding.

Hue MacKenzie



SKUNK CABBAGE in bloom at Osgoode Station,  
beginning of April - Photo by Mary Stuart



SKUNK CABBAGE SEEDS (natural size), like golden pebbles, are left smooth and clean on the ground when the plants decay in the fall. On the left some are cut across to show the solid white meat and thin skin; on the right, one seed from the previous season has grown into a new plant. All gathered at the Osgoode Station site, 2 October 1966.

## SKUNK CABBAGE RARE IN OTTAWA DISTRICT

William G. Dore

Plant Research Institute  
Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Few Ottawa residents have ever seen Skunk Cabbage except in pictures. The patch at Osgoode seems to be the only one in the 30-mile zone around the city. Other occurrences are at Perth, Wolfe Island, Prescott, Sheek Island (now flooded out), Cornwall Island, and Summertown, - 35, 85, 30, 40, and 50 miles away in a general southerly direction, and these are the only other sites known in eastern Ontario. Plants along Kazabazua Creek, about 70 miles north of Osgoode, represent the only occurrence in that direction.

Why should a wild plant that grows so vigorously, flowers regularly, and produces sturdy seedlings be so sparingly scattered in our area, particularly when there is so much black swampy land around suitable for its growth! In southwestern Ontario and on down throughout the eastern States, Skunk Cabbage grows thickly in almost every wooded or grassy swampland. There everybody knows it as the first plant to flower in the spring, - a true 'harbinger of spring', even though poets are not wont to write much about it. It is claimed that a certain amount of warmth develops within the thick spathes themselves and this speeds up the flowering process, so that sometimes this harbinger of spring blooms even in the preceding December or November.

It is easy to get to the town of Osgoode, 20 miles due south of Ottawa, but you will need the accompanying chart if you wish to find the Skunk Cabbages in the early spring when their well-camouflaged liver-spotted spathes are striking up through the deep layer of dead grass. Park along Main Street, Osgoode, or go up the short lane along the railroad tracks on the north side of Main St., then walk northward along the tracks about a hundred feet. In the latter part of May, or in June or July, there will be no difficulty at all in seeing the clumps of large bright green leaves with characteristic odour when crushed.

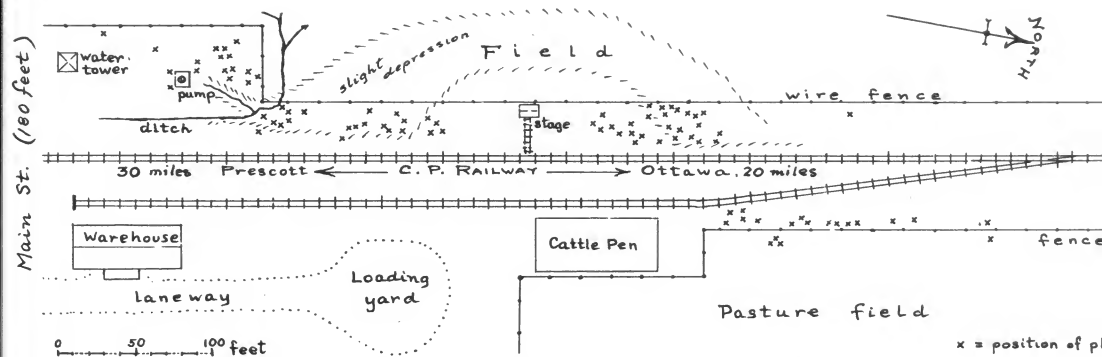


CHART OF SKUNK GABBAGE (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) AT OSGOODE - 1957

There were 86 plants along the railroad right-of-way in 1957 when the above chart was made. One was dug up to photograph the retractile roots and another has been removed to get a chromosome count but all the rest should still be there. The plants grow to be very old, pulling themselves deeper into the soil until about a foot of stem is buried, and are essentially indestructible. (Good references on the age and structure of the plants are: "The Methusalah of the Plant World" by J.M. Shull, in *Journal of Heredity*, XV: 443-450, 1924, and "Les Spadiciflores du Québec" by Frère Marie-Victorin, in *Contribution No. 19*, Institut Botanique, Montreal, pages 30-41, 1931.) At Osgoode the plants are absent beyond the fence, eliminated by ploughing or grazing, or absent for another reason which may become obvious later.

Our veteran botanist, Herbert Groh, discovered the Skunk Cabbage at Osgoode 35 years ago and recorded it in his Weed Survey notebook of 1932. Subsequently, several persons have been directed to the site to study or photograph the plants. The Section Foreman once told me, "this is the only place the Skunk Cabbage, Skunk Tobacco, Skunk Rhubarb, or Whatever-you-call-it grows around here."

But looking back into the matter, we realize that Mr. Groh only rediscovered the site of an old specimen which has been preserved in the National Herbarium, labelled "near Ottawa, Cowley, 1899". Now, R.H. Cowley



was a full member of our Club, but apparently one somewhat recalcitrant and reluctant to yield more details of his find. He made another specimen more indefinitely labelled, "Ontario, in springy places, R. H. Cowley", without locality or date. At Queen's University, Kingston, there is another, simply, "R. H. Cowley". We think the three specimens must have come from the same site, the same as encountered by Mr. Groh, a third-century later. Fortunately we find that James Fletcher, guiding Father of the Club, put down something definite in print. In his "Botanical Notes" (Ottawa Naturalist XIII, page 77, June 1899) he says, "SYMPLOCARPUS FOETIDUS - Abundant in a swamp about one mile from Osgoode. Collected by Mr. R. H. Cowley early in May. Not before collected in the Ottawa District". Fletcher probably did not go out to Osgoode to check Cowley's information, but accepted it as given. Today, one can look a long time in much swampy land 'about a mile from Osgoode' and not find a trace - nary a whiff, as one might say - of Skunk Cabbage! The plants are concentrated only at Osgoode, or more accurately, at Osgoode Station according to the map name. In Cowley's time, however, Osgoode landing on the Rideau and West Osgoode (which is to the east!) were more important places than Osgoode Station, and about a mile on either side of it, so perhaps the old directions were adequate enough.

When entering into speculation as to why Skunk Cabbage should occur as a single patch, highly localized at a site such as Osgoode Station, and how and when it got there in the first place, one should be aware of the discussion on distribution given by Drs. Soper and Rao in their paper "An Interesting Spring Harbinger" (Bulletin Federation of Ontario Naturalists No. 79, 18-22, 1958) where all the factors of soil, postglacial migration and extermination, aboriginal transport, and dispersal by means of wind, water, birds and animals are considered.

Explanation of incidence can be a fascinating and involved matter but one to which the observant naturalist can contribute. Note that the seeds of Skunk Cabbage are large, abundant, heavier than water, lie loosely on the ground, and germinate quickly on the surface. One might even risk to test their flavour. (The taste of the seeds has not been recorded in the

literature. The Author would be interested to know if the finding of others corroborates his.)

Apparently, the local occurrence at Osgoode Station has some relationship to the position of the railroad. Which came first, - the railroad or the Skunk Cabbage? According to Chief Engineer Colpitts of the C. P. R., the trackage was constructed between 1852 and 1854, over 45 years before Cowley found the Skunk Cabbage. The plants, of course, could have been there before that, but it seems that they would have colonized a wider area than they have.

It is the contention that a single seed of Skunk Cabbage was brought there, like a weed, in some ballast to build the railroad or in some dirt from the cattle cars shunted onto the siding by the cattle pen and just opposite the old well and railway watertower. Recently it has been found that near Prescott there is a large swamp filled with Skunk Cabbage and some plants actually grow along the side of the C. P. R. at a point about four miles north of Prescott, so transport seems likely from that direction, albeit some 30 miles away from Osgoode Station. It is also understood that the line was originally built, and the main flow of early traffic came from Prescott on the St. Lawrence Front towards the newly developing town of Ottawa.

Well, if the seeds were carried along via the railroad, why did they not also drop at Ottawa station, or at other points along the line? They probably did; but at Osgoode Station there happened to be a flowing well (now derelict) supplied by an artesian spring which gave a little habitat of oozy ground just suitable for that first stray seed to germinate and survive.

This conclusion, tenuous as it may be, should be checked but it seems plausible this rare and only colony of a strange, pleasantly obnoxious, denizen of the swamp in the Ottawa District represents just an inadvertent introduction since settlement.

(It is not implied that this same proposition applies equally to the stand of Skunk Cabbage along Kazabazua Creek, or to others in Eastern Ontario.)

## ON PLANNING FOR OTTAWA VALLEY PARKS

Theodore Mosquin  
Box 91, Aylmer E., P.Q.

A scientific study, published recently in the United States, forecast that in less than 100 years from now many parts of North America will have developed into gigantic super-cities (called megapolises). One of these cities will extend from somewhere west of the present town of Ottawa eastward along the Ottawa Valley to Montreal, and then southwestward in a scarcely interrupted continuum to Toronto, Cleveland, Detroit and on to Chicago! Similar megapolises will grow between Boston and Washington, in Texas, Florida, the Vancouver-Seattle area, California and the arid southwest. During this time, new cities, many of which will be the size of the present city of Ottawa, will blossom out in regions which today are considered to be wilderness. Can anyone imagine the problems that this super-civilization will create for civic leaders, scientists, engineers and political leaders?

Let us consider for a moment the problem of recreation. How, with such unprecedented and massive population growth, can man develop laws by which he can maintain an environment that will give future urbanites a healthy and meaningful life? How, at the same time, can he prevent the extinction of numerous species whose very homes and habitat are being destroyed in the process of making more room for our own species? How much planning and how much random development will we permit in these, which are at present, relatively healthy inter-city lands?

Mayor Don Reid of Ottawa may have had some of these problems in mind when he stated recently that Ottawa cannot plan the development of areas beyond its present limits, for the simple reason that the city does not have any jurisdiction over these lands. It is a paradox of our times that governments responsible for the lives of hundreds of thousands of people cannot control these regions, but that various developers, small operators, and land speculators have a free hand in them. Yet these areas beyond our present city limits are precisely the ones that future civic leaders will have to administer!

In a recent study of recreation needs in the United States it was discovered that most urban dwellers (and in the year 2067 nearly all persons will be urban dwellers) prefer to find recreation facilities within a relatively short driving distance of their homes. Therefore one of the most important (if not the most important) answer to our future recreation needs, will be large parks, variously developed, located within easy reach of the densely urbanized regions. Yet, under present laws, cities have no way of gaining control over such potential park lands except by expanding their limits. Such expansion is not often easily possible and usually takes place in small stages, only after the area to be acquired has become criss-crossed with random developments of many kinds. Such lands are not only expensive to purchase for park purposes, but their acquisition by civic authorities is bound up with legal and administrative tangles and complexities. These lands cannot readily be divided and restored in a way that would adequately fulfil recreation needs, and the new residents are too often forced to seek even their simplest recreation needs by extended motoring trips.

It is clear that legislation permitting present cities to anticipate their park needs for the next hundred years is badly needed. If such future park lands could be purchased today, then the Citizens of the Ottawa Valley Megapolis, when they are out celebrating Canada's 200th birthday, would certainly be grateful to us. The alternative - cities on the models of Los Angeles and Toronto - is unacceptable.

The Ottawa of today is, of course, unique among Canadian cities in that the Federal Government has acquired by purchase two large areas, the Green Belt and Gatineau Park. Both areas will be increasingly used for recreation purposes, but Gatineau Park has the added function of preserving a home for many animals and plants which could not easily survive in more direct competition with man. These two pieces of federal land may seem large to us today, but by the standards of the year 2067, these lands will seem much smaller indeed. Their importance should not, however, be underestimated.

It seems a matter of urgency therefore that present-day Canadian cities seek legislation to permit them to purchase large blocks of land that will serve as parks where natural values can be retained for people's enjoyment. City dwellers, since they are becoming the dominant group in society, must also bear the responsibility of seeing that certain of these park areas are maintained almost exclusively for the use of wildlife species many of which are now threatened with extinction. The extinction of a species is an awesome and final thing and no civilized society should permit it to happen. Only with careful planning and good laws, can such parks be created and maintained to serve the dual needs of human recreation and wildlife preservation. Naturalists, like most other people, have much to gain by actively encouraging the setting aside of such parks.



## Conservation News



### GOOD NEWS FROM QUEBEC FOR NATURALISTS

Two recent developments in our neighbouring Province will provide exciting opportunities for exploration and study by local naturalists.

over...

The Canadian International Paper Company will create a Nature Centre at their Harrington Forest Farm property, located north of Grenville on the Rouge River. This 15,000 acres of woodlands and waterways will draw many visitors from the Ottawa and Montreal areas. They will find attractive recreation there: picnic sites, an auto trail, hiking and lookout trails. And they will enjoy learning something about resources management while visiting the demonstration fish pond, tree nursery and sugar maple camp. The naturalist will want to see these, and the waterfowl pond, nature trails and the natural area, tree and plant identification sites and fish control dam.

Especially valuable will be the educational function of this excellent centennial project. The Company will provide in the Farm area, facilities for lectures, accomodation for organized groups, a library of wildlife and resources management literature, films and slides. CIP has already been active in providing summer training camps for youth organizations such as Scouts and 4H Clubs. Other groups, schools and universities will be invited to the Harrington Forest Farm for teaching and research.

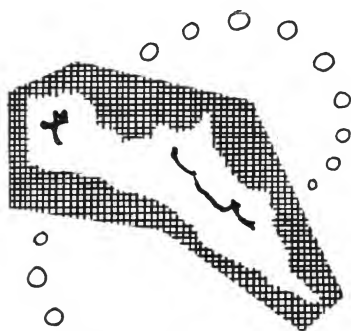
Naturalists applaud this major contribution to conservation in the Ottawa Valley.

AND EVEN CLOSER TO HOME...

Three hundred square miles of western Quebec will become a new provincial park this year.

PAPINEAU PARK, a block of land east of Highway 35, contains some 200 lakes, with many sandy beaches. Pulp and paper firms, who will retain their timber rights, have built several good roads in the area. Eighteen private fish and game clubs will lose their licences, and the areas they leased will now be open to the public. Work on access roads is to begin this spring; only part of the park will be ready for use this year.

Ottawa naturalists welcome the news of this new park.



*Let's look at*  
**GATINEAU  
PARK**

In Gatineau Park in April, the woods vibrate with a sound as typical of wilderness as the call of a loon or the howl of a wolf. You will be mystified when first you hear it, or feel it.....a strange throbbing sensation in the air around you.. In a minute or two you will feel it again, and then again. Beginning with slow deliberate beats, it quickly speeds up, to end in a muffled whir. April has come back to the Park, and the grouse are drumming again.

Astride a favourite drumming log, the male grouse makes the woods vibrate to the beat of his wings, in a rhythm all his own. Biologists tell us that this is the mating song. The resulting "music" is hard to describe, but in Gatineau Park, in April, the woods are throbbing with it.

You will not likely catch sight of the drummer unless you stalk him with patience, and with plenty of time for the game. By advancing several cautious steps each time the drumming comes, an hour or more, perhaps, should bring you your reward. The drumming itself is an astonishing performance, culminating in an exciting blur of feathers and sound.

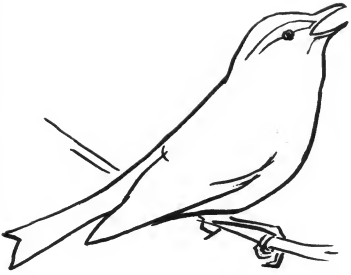
Sheila Thomson



View of Fortune Lake, Gattineau Park

National Film Board photo by Chris Lund





# Bird Notes

## HOW MANY BIRDS HAVE YOU KILLED LATELY?

Just how destructive to bird life can you be without realizing it? Birds are marvellous and it is no wonder so many people become personally involved with them. This can often be very harmful. Take the practice of photographing young birds in the nest. It doesn't matter how skillful the photographer may be to replace branches and to avoid exposing the young to the elements, nest photography carries a high mortality. The older birds may be frightened off. Predators such as dogs, cats and squirrels may follow the manscent to the nest. And, while the photographer is fussing, the young birds are not being fed. It is no surprise that nest photography is now forbidden in several wildlife sanctuaries in the United States.

Another common problem is nestlings dying in bird houses. Young birds die from many causes. Poorly constructed bird houses are often the reason. Lack of ventilation kills many birds. All bird houses should have air holes or slits about hole high. Or, they may drown if you forget to put a drain hole in the floor of the bird house.

What about bird feeders? They are generally safe, but watch the use of glass and metal. The edge of glass should never be placed so that it contacts the bird's head or bill. A deep cut may result in the bird bleeding to death. If you want a transparent front on your feeder, use plastic instead. Plastic can be sanded down and rounded smoothly. Everyone knows that a wet hand on an iron fence in cold weather will stick and tear skin painfully. It is quite likely that frosty metal may do the same thing when it contacts a bird's wet foot. The metal suet holders are especially dangerous to woodpeckers as they might lose an eye. In general it is better to avoid metal on a feeder when metal would be in contact with feeding birds.

What about insecticides? Unfortunately they do kill birds. So be careful with your bug sprays. You may not need them if you are kind to the birds. It is well to inquire from your local Agricultural Agent what sprays are safe to use and when to use them.

So be careful and remember our birds.

Ron Pittaway

RUFFED GROUSE could not be found in the Britannia Christmas Census area this year in spite of a thorough search of every remaining habitat by a group of enthusiastic and competent observers. Its absence from an area where it could always be found in previous years demonstrates that wildlife cannot survive in the wild state if suitable habitat is destroyed.

T. Mosquin

## *When do the birds arrive?*

### SPRING BIRD MIGRATION CHART FOR OTTAWA

On the following two pages you will find a chart showing the average arrival dates of our more common spring migrants. The dates were taken primarily from our own records covering approximately the last ten years, and are the average of the dates on which we first saw the bird for the year. I also used some data of Hue MacKenzie's, for which I thank him, and a list published many years ago by Hoyes Lloyd (Canadian Field-Naturalist 58, 143, 1944). The very extensive records of R. M. Saunders and J. L. Baillie for the Toronto area were referred to as well, as a check on my dates.

Of course this list must be regarded as preliminary, since it is based on relatively little data. There is much more available around the city in the files of some of our more senior members and if someone were to undertake the job of processing it I feel sure they would be glad to see it being made available to others.

G. R. Hanes

FEBRUARY

23 Horned Lark

23 Purple Finch

MARCH

4 Common Crow  
 18 Red-winged Blackbird  
 24 Hooded Merganser  
 25 Song Sparrow

26 American Robin  
 26 Brown-headed Cowbird  
 27 Herring Gull

28 Common Grackle  
 29 Killdeer  
 29 Eastern Meadowlark

APRIL

1 Scaup  
 2 Pied-billed Grebe  
 3 Mourning Dove  
 5 Canada Goose  
 5 Slate-colored Junco  
 6 Great Blue Heron  
 6 Bufflehead  
 6 Eastern Phoebe  
 7 Wood Duck  
 7 American Woodcock  
 8 Tree Swallow  
 9 Marsh Hawk  
 10 Ring-necked Duck  
 10 Belted Kingfisher  
 10 Rusty Blackbird  
 12 Golden-crowned Kinglet

14 Pintail  
 14 Yellow-shafted Flicker  
 15 Common Snipe  
 16 American Widgeon  
 16 Vesper Sparrow  
 17 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
 17 Loggerhead Shrike  
 18 Eastern Bluebird  
 18 Savannah Sparrow  
 18 Fox Sparrow  
 19 Blue-winged Teal  
 20 Common Loon  
 20 Green-winged Teal  
 20 Broad-winged Hawk  
 21 Hermit Thrush  
 22 Shoveler

22 Osprey  
 23 Barn Swallow  
 23 Purple Martin  
 23 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 24 American Bittern  
 24 Winter Wren  
 25 Sora  
 25 Field Sparrow  
 25 White-throated Sparrow  
 26 Chipping Sparrow  
 26 Swamp Sparrow  
 27 Greater Yellowlegs  
 29 Rough-winged Swallow  
 29 Brown Thrasher  
 29 Myrtle Warbler  
 30 Lesser Yellowlegs

## MAY

1	Bank Swallow	10	Virginia Rail	15	Magnolia Warbler
2	Cliff Swallow	10	Veery	16	Dunlin
3	House Wren	10	Warbling Vireo	16	Swainson's Thrush
4	Upland Plover	10	Black-throated Blue Warbler	17	Semipalmated Plover
4	Whip-poor-will	10	Baltimore Oriole	17	Long-billed Marsh Wren
5	Chimney Swift	10	White-crowned Sparrow	17	Red-eyed Vireo
5	Palm Warbler	11	Great Crested Flycatcher	17	Tennessee Warbler
6	Spotted Sandpiper	11	Least Flycatcher	17	Bay-breasted Warbler
6	Nashville Warbler	12	Wood Thrush	18	Scarlet Tanager
6	Yellow Warbler	12	Parula Warbler	19	Least Sandpiper
6	Northern Waterthrush	12	Blackburnian Warbler	19	Wilson's Warbler
6	Rufous-sided Towhee	13	Catbird	20	Common Nighthawk
7	Solitary Vireo	13	Ovenbird	20	Canada Warbler
7	Black-and-White Warbler	13	American Redstart	21	Black-billed Cuckoo
8	Common Gallinule	13	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	22	Eastern Wood Pewee
8	Eastern Kingbird	14	Chestnut-sided Warbler	24	Blackpoll Warbler
8	Black-throated Green Warbler	14	Yellowthroat	25	Least Bittern
9	Cape May Warbler	14	Bobolink	29	Traill's Flycatcher
10	Green Heron	15	Ruby-throated Hummingbird		

AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATES FOR SOME SPRING MIGRANTS AT OTTAWA



Members'



## EXCHANGE



....wherein club members share their observations, discoveries and experiences of interest to naturalists, and publish requests for information.

Readers are invited to submit questions on natural history topics. The editors will attempt to obtain answers to be published with the questions.

\* \* \*

**SQUIRREL-PROOF BIRD FEEDER** : Ira and Peter Hill recommend to us their Satellite Bird Feeder. A clear plastic globe, holding about a week's supply of seed, it is specially designed so that squirrels can neither tip it nor get at the seed. The Hills, who have an extra feeder if any member is interested, obtained theirs from New York (address upon request). "Absolutely squirrel-proof" Ira claims. Phone 749-8422

**WINTERING MOCKINGBIRD** : Members Sadie Landon and Alison Dickison report carrying fruit to the mockingbird which has settled down to spend the winter at the home of Mrs. F.G. Maskell, in Courtland Park. The mocker has been feeding on juniper berries and rose hips. At last report, Mrs. Maskell had succeeded in getting it to eat raisins, against the day when the garden fruit runs out.

WANTED : PILEATED WOODPECKER : Can someone reward our hard-working treasurer by helping her to get her first sight of a Pileated? Luella has been heard to offer a treat (gastronomic) to the one who shows her that we really do have a woodpecker as big as a chicken.

LOOK TWICE AT HAIRYS : Sheila Thomson asks that you take a second look at any Hairy Woodpeckers coming to your suet, in hopes of spotting one of her banded birds. Some fifty banded Hairys have been released near Meach Lake in the past five years, and some may well have found their way to local feeders.

BOG PAL ? Joyce Dunston, a newcomer from South Peel Naturalists' Club, is looking for other naturalists who would be interested in delving into the Mer Bleue Peat Bog with her.

TRAILING ARBUTUS : Mrs. A.E. Richards, some of whose fine wildflower photos you saw on Members' Film Night, would appreciate help in locating a colony of trailing arbutus to be photographed this spring.

PRIMITIVE SPORE PLANTS : We have about us a number of relict plants, most intriguing descendants of some of the earliest migrants from the watery marsh onto land. A study of these forms, both local and exotic, is instructive in building our notions of relationships among groups of land plants.

Our understanding is extended by knowledge of ancient form that have left their remains in rocks as old as four hundred million years.

Here is a field of study worthy of the attention of field-naturalists, with most satisfying rewards awaiting our enquiry.

W. Illman

Want to know more? Dr. Illman will oblige us with a lecture-demonstration on this subject on March 15. See notice on inside back cover.

THE EDITOR'S MAILBOX :

: YOU ARE INVITED TO FILL IT

In future issues of T & L, this section will be expanded to print your comments, opinions, suggestions, challenges, arguments. Factual natural history observations will be included in the Members' Exchange. Here we hope to see your LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. Terse and pithy ones we'll print as is. If yours is a rambling style it need not deter you from sharing your thoughts with other members. The editor may feel moved to summarize this one, or quote excerpts from that one, as editors will do to make a tidier page. We'll do our best to keep the nuggets.

We would like to hear your views on Conservation. All naturalists are in favour of it, we assume. Hunters and anglers actively support conservation measures - to preserve habitat for game and fish - but their efforts will not necessarily save a spectacular orchid colony from the bulldozer. As a club, do you feel we should leave the preservation of natural areas in the Ottawa Valley to governments and the CIP ?

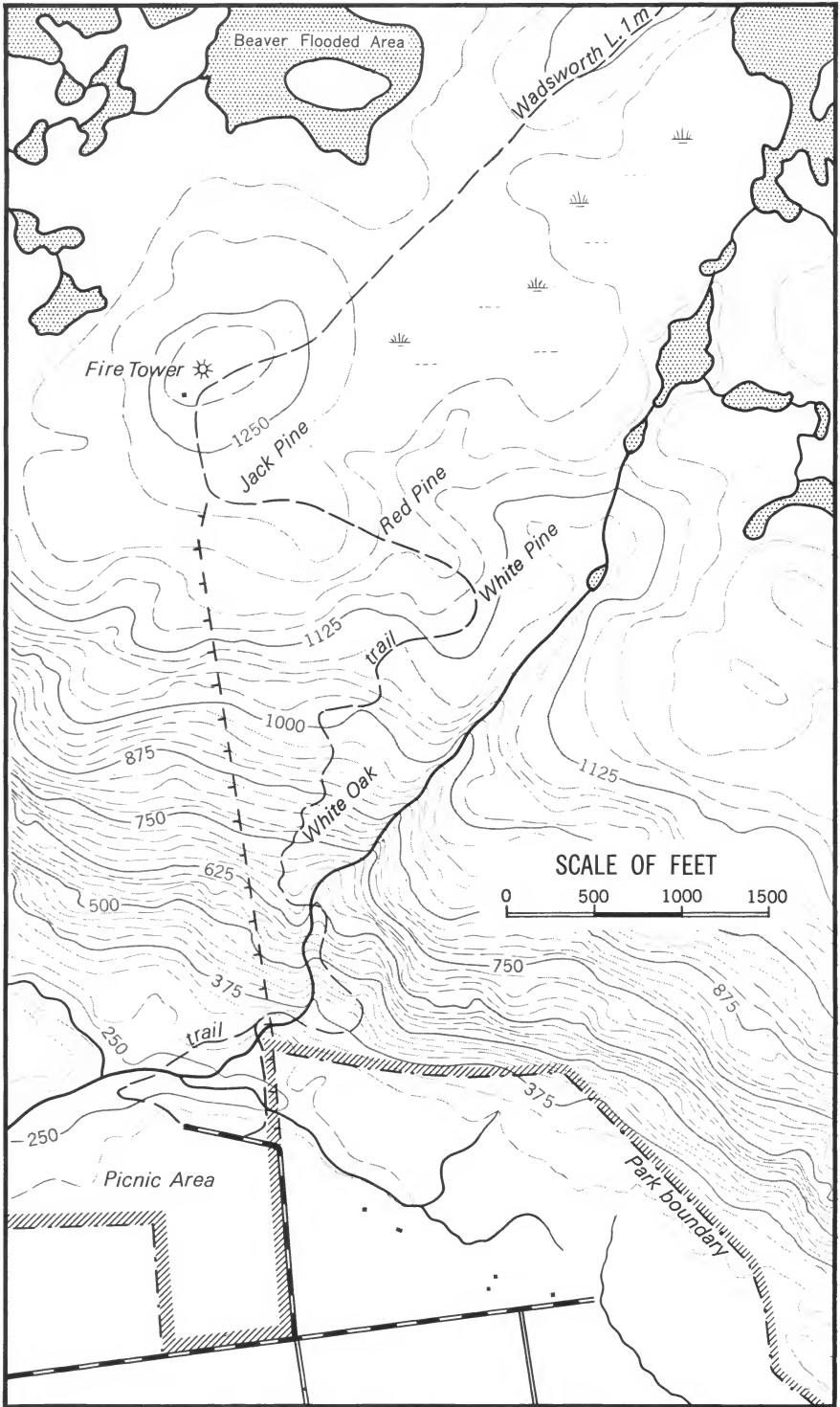
You can use this space to enlist support for your particular fight against injustice to wildlife... suggest the formation of a study group... rail against the Powers That Be... view with alarm. We promise to read it all and print what is printable!

\* \* \*

Before turning this page over to you, the editors wish to express thanks to those members of the Club who have helped put TRAIL & LANDSCAPE in your mailbox: our typist, Joyce Dunston, and our mailing room volunteers, Harry Thomson, Georgina Benns, Fran Davies, Hope Hughes and Alison Dickison. Special thanks to Gary Hanes for sundry services and invaluable help.

Any Club member with a little free time who would like to be associated with this exciting new venture is invited to get in touch with one of the editorial staff. In addition to practical help, we are looking for the loan of an electric typewriter for future issues, as the cost of rental has been a rather too large item in our budget.

# LUSKVILLE FALLS



H.A. Thomson



## Explorer's Corner

### THE LUSKVILLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL on the Eardley Escarpment

Follow Highway 8 northwest of Aylmer and turn right just before Luskville along a road marked LUSKVILLE FALLS and drive about a mile to the NCC picnic ground (see map on previous page). Daytime camping is possible in spring, summer and fall, with water and cooking places provided. In winter you will have to walk the few hundred yards to the picnic area. In deep snow, snowshoes or skis are needed for the ascent of 1000 feet to the summit. The trail up the escarpment offers a sweeping panorama of the Ottawa Valley below and of the towns, farms and river in the distance.

The origin of the escarpment is of interest. It seems likely that a large block of rock slipped downward along a series of fractures. The present escarpment would form the north side of the fault block and the Ottawa River and paleozoic rocks now occupy the space above the down-faulted block. Much of the escarpment is composed of gneissic rocks, granite and pyroxenite with minor crystalline limestone. The lower part is steep and rocky. Other notable features of this escarpment are King Mountain and the Champlain Lookout.

The white oak (Quercus alba) is common about one-third way up the trail and a few large scattered trees are also found right at the foot of the mountain. This species, common much further south, reaches its northern limit on these warm sunny slopes. The red oak (Quercus rubra) is the only other oak on this part of the escarpment. All three species of pine that are native to the Ottawa Valley are found along the upper part of the trail. (see illustrations on opposite page).

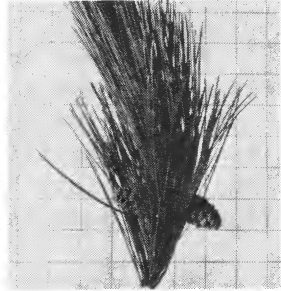
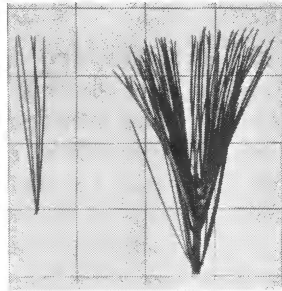
For those who wish to explore further, the area north of the summit is wonderful beaver country and contains much wildlife that beaver dams always make possible. A compass may be needed in this area as trails are few. Take along a lunch, guidebooks, camera and binoculars. The walk to the summit and back takes 3 to 4 hours but a leisurely trip can last all day. The trail offers many wonderful vantage points for sunset-watching.

T.M.

JACK PINE

WHITE PINE

RED PINE



NEEDLES short, curved  
two in bundle

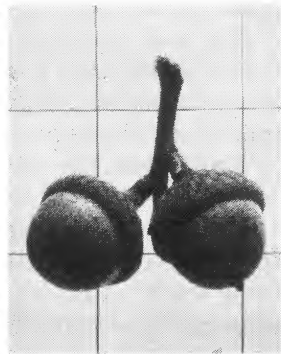
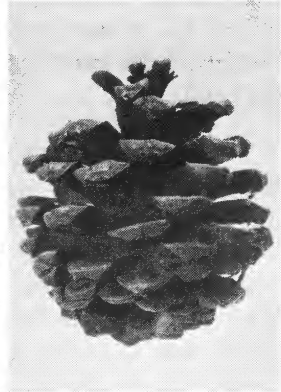
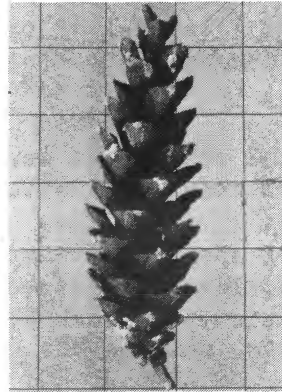
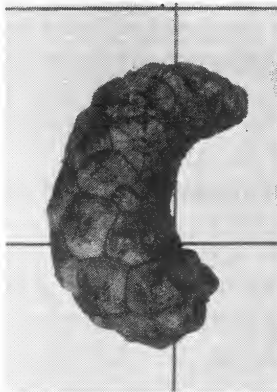
longer, straight  
five in bundle

long, straight  
two in bundle

CONES often curved  
as below

much longer  
than wide

ovoid, shorter



WHITE OAK leaf  
rounded lobes

RED OAK leaf  
pointed lobes

RED OAK acorns

Photos courtesy: Department of Forestry and Rural  
Development, Ottawa

## ORCHID LOCATION SURVEY

Early last spring a small group of orchid enthusiasts was formed to begin the recording of site locations of native orchids. The project was conceived as a useful scientific endeavour of a type which professional botanists have no time to do and which has never been done before.

Participants in the project record in an agreed format the species, abundance and location of any orchids encountered. Each week or two during the growing season the results are turned in to a central location and accumulated to form the basis for a consolidated listing. Copies of the annual lists are given to a senior staff member of the herbarium of the National Museum of Canada and of the Department of Agriculture.

Collation of the results of work in 1966 has reached a point permitting the following assessment of the overall results:

- a. Total number of species found 37
- b. Total number of locations (species x places) 913
- c. Number of locations for each species as given in list on opposite page.

The success of the first year's work is most gratifying to the group, and it is intended to continue the project for at least several years. Active collaboration is invited from members of the Club who are able to put considerable effort into this activity wherever they may be - the whole of Canada is included.

Because of the very real danger of destruction of orchid colonies by collectors, the reports made on this work will be distributed very sparingly, with appropriate safeguards. The only sure way to obtain the lists is to become an active member of the group. Any person seriously interested is invited to apply to the group coordinator:

Mr. E. W. Greenwood  
P.O. Ramsayville, Ont.

Telephone: Area code 613  
822-2587

Number of Locations of Orchid Species

<u>Arethusa bulbosa</u> L. - - - - -	1
<u>Calopogon pulchellus</u> (Salisb.) R.Br. - - - - -	16
<u>Corallorhiza maculata</u> Raf. - - - - -	11
<u>Corallorhiza striata</u> Lindl. - - - - -	2
<u>Corallorhiza trifida</u> Chat. - - - - -	31
<u>Cypripedium acaule</u> Ait. - - - - -	69
<u>Cypripedium arietinum</u> R.Br. - - - - -	14
<u>Cypripedium calceolus</u> L. var. <u>pubescens</u> (Willd.) Correll -	80
<u>Cypripedium reginae</u> Walt. - - - - -	52
<u>Epipactis helleborine</u> (L.) Crantz - - - - -	142
<u>Goodyera pubescens</u> (Willd.) R.Br. - - - - -	4
<u>Goodyera repens</u> var. <u>ophioides</u> Fernald - - - - -	8
<u>Goodyera tessellata</u> Lodd. - - - - -	4
<u>Habenaria blephariglottis</u> (Willd.) Hook. - - - - -	6
<u>Habenaria clavellata</u> (Michx.) Spreng. - - - - -	4
<u>Habenaria dilatata</u> (Pursh) Hook. - - - - -	6
<u>Habenaria flava</u> var. <u>herbiola</u> (R.Br.) Ames and Correll -	9
<u>Habenaria hookeri</u> Torr. ex A.Gray - - - - -	29
<u>Habenaria hyperborea</u> (L.) R.Br. - - - - -	73
<u>Habenaria lacera</u> (Michx.) Lodd. - - - - -	3
<u>Habenaria leucophaea</u> (Nutt.) A.Gray - - - - -	1
<u>Habenaria obtusata</u> (Banks ex Pursh) Richards -	36
<u>Habenaria orbiculata</u> (Pursh) Torr. - - - - -	18
<u>Habenaria psycodes</u> (L.) Spreng. - - - - -	52
<u>Habenaria viridis</u> (L.) R.Br. var. <u>bracteata</u> (Muhl. ex Willd.) A.Gray -	4
<u>Liparis loeselii</u> (L.) L.C.Rich. - - - - -	37
<u>Listera convallarioides</u> (Sw.) Nutt. - - - - -	1
<u>Listera cordata</u> (L.) R.Br. - - - - -	3
<u>Malaxis monophyllos</u> var. <u>brachypoda</u> (A.Gray) Morris and Eames -	49
<u>Malaxis unifolia</u> Michx. - - - - -	32
<u>Orchis rotundifolia</u> Banks ex Pursh - - - - -	1
<u>Orchis spectabilis</u> L. - - - - -	5
<u>Pogonia ophioglossoides</u> (L.) Ker-Gawl. - - - - -	11
<u>Spiranthes cernua</u> (L.) L.C.Rich. - - - - -	75
<u>Spiranthes gracilis</u> (Bigel.) Beck - - - - -	22
<u>Spiranthes lucida</u> (H.H.Eaton) Ames - - - - -	1
<u>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</u> Cham. - - - - -	1

## Naturalists' Spring Banquet

Big decisions have been made on your behalf in the arrangements for this year's banquet. Your committee is frankly delighted at having as guest speaker such an eminent naturalist as James Woodford. We know you will enjoy the cosy atmosphere and the excellent food for which the Eastview is famous. Plan now to join us in renewing old acquaintances and making new ones at the spring banquet in April. It promises to be  
A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE GATHERING OF NATURALISTS.

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 1967 at 7 p.m.

Place: The Eastview Hotel, 200 Montreal Road

Speaker: Mr. James Woodford, of Toronto, Executive Director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists

Tickets: Three dollars for a full course turkey dinner

Transportation and Parking: The number 2 Rideau bus stops at the door. There is parking in two adjacent hotel lots, and legal parking on the west side of Cody Street.

Telephone Reservations: Make your reservation now. Please call Miss Sadie Landon (235-1161) or Miss Anne Banning (235-8759) NO LATER THAN APRIL 4. Please note that it will not be possible to make last-minute changes in our total number of reservations.

Sheila Thomson  
E & L Committee

Original articles on natural history or conservation, black-and-white photos and drawings, for use in future issues, will be gratefully received by the editors of  
TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

## COMING EVENTS

Thurs. March 2: Bird Songs. A refresher course, using recordings of bird songs. Conducted by George McGee and Gary Hanes. Room 359, National Museum, at 8 p.m.

Wed. March 15: Primitive Spore Plants, Ancient and Relict. A demonstration-lecture by W. Illman at Carleton University, H.M. Tory Bldg. for Science, Room 592, at 8 p.m. See page 21.

Sat. April 1: Migrating Ducks and Hawks. An all-day field trip to Presqu'ile. Meet at Britannia Drive-In Theatre at 4 a.m. A 3-hour drive (175 miles) each way is involved. Bring a lunch and dress for biting cold. Those interested please contact Monty Brigham (728-0855) or Ron Pittaway (684-5719).

Tues. April 11: Annual Spring Banquet, Eastview Hotel. Reservations must be made by April 4. See page 28.

Sat. April 15: Bird Outing for Early Spring Migrants. Meet at the restaurant at Shirley's Bay at 7 a.m. Please be prompt. Late-comers will not be authorized admission to the birding area. Leaders: Monty Brigham and Ron Pittaway.

Thurs. April 20: Salamanders. An evening field trip to Gatineau Park to see some of our native salamanders. Spring chorus of frogs should also be in full swing. Meet at Health & Welfare Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, at 7.30 p.m. Bring a flashlight and rubber boots. Be sure to dress warmly. Leader: Gary Hanes.

Sat. April 29: Field Trip into Gatineau Park. Leave Health & Welfare Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, at 8.15 a.m. Take Pontiac Highway, turn off at Eardley, and meet leader T. Mosquin, at Park entrance on Eardley-Masham Road at 9 a.m. Bring a lunch and wear climbing shoes.

Tues. May 4: Warbler Songs. A chance to refresh your memory before the main warbler migration reaches Ottawa. Gary Hanes will conduct this meeting, using warbler recordings. National Museum, Room 359, at 8 p.m.



PLANT RESEARCH INSTITUTE SPRING SHOW

March 12-27 inclusive

This centennial year flower show will be held in the main greenhouse ranges on Maple Avenue at the Central Experimental Farm. This show will feature spring bulbs, such as Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, as well as Iris, spring-flowering shrubs, Lobelias, Hydrangeas, Delphiniums, etc. Also included will be a number of native spring wildflowers.

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