

T
227
20
5

TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

LIBRARY

JAN 2 1990

NEW YORK
BOTANICAL GARDEN



AH

Trail & Landscape

Editor & Production Coordinator

Joyce Reddoch

Associate Editors

Bill Gummer Peter Hall

Business Manager

& Typing Coordinator

Jim Montgomery

Graphics

Marc Guertin

Production Staff

Telephone Coordinator

Dorothy Greene

Proofreaders

Judy Hall

Allan Reddoch

Eleanor Thomson

Elisabeth Thomson

Mailing Team

Lisa Meyboom

Coordinator

Duncan Chaundy

Jennifer Chaundy

Gwen Jenkins

Views expressed in Trail & Landscape are not necessarily those
of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

The Ottawa Field ~ Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

W.K. (Bill) Gummer

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

Subscriptions to Trail & Landscape (libraries and institutions) \$17 per year (Volume)

Single copies of recent issues \$3.50 each.

Membership application, correspondence:

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Box 3264, Postal Station C

Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

Information:

(613) 722-3050

Second Class Mail — Registration #2777

TRAIL & Landscape[®]

Vol 20 No 5

Published by
The Ottawa Field - Naturalists' Club
Box 3264, Postal Station C
Ottawa K1Y 4J5

Editorial Address:
Joyce M. Reddoch, Editor
548 Rivershore Crescent
Gloucester, Ontario K1J 7Y7

from the Editor... - - - - -	186
Welcome, New Members - - - - -	186
At the End of Twenty Years - - - - -	187
Correction: <i>The Cup-plant in the Ottawa District</i>	190
Why So Many Pickled Fish? / Brian W. Coad - -	191
<i>In Memorium: Frank Heaton Bell</i> - - - - -	195
Book Review: <i>Orchids of Ontario</i> - - - - -	196
Addendum to <i>Marlborough Forest Update</i> - - -	198
Flying Squirrels at the Feeder / Tony Beck - -	200
Arboreal Ability of Weasels - - - - - J.W. (Jack) Holliday	204
Ottawa Region Bird Feeders / Gordon Pringle -	206
Recent Bird Sightings / Mark Gawn - - - - -	209
The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Ottawa District Christine Hanrahan and Bruce M. Di Labio	216
Update on Overwintering Common Snipe - - - Bruce M. Di Labio	224
Anecdotal Report on Kestrels in Downtown Ottawa Beryl Johnson	225
Robins as Foster Parents / Ray Holland - - -	226
Lark Sparrow New for the Ottawa District - - -	228
Bruce M. Di Labio	
Orchard Oriole First Specimen Record for the Ottawa District / Bruce M. Di Labio - - -	230
Birding Ottawa's Sewage Lagoons - - - - - Christine Hanrahan	232
The Ottawa Valley Fall Roundup - - - - -	240
The Sixth Annual Seedathon Bird Count - - -	246
Coming Events - - - - -	254

from the Editor...

The end of Volume 20 finds *Trail & Landscape* in a particularly strong position. Not only are excellent articles continuing to come in at a good rate, but there are capable people to help me carry through the editing and production stages of each issue. I have the support of associate editors, Bill Gummer and Peter Hall; a superb graphics artist, Marc Guertin; a reliable Business Manager and Typing Coordinator, Jim Montgomery; and all the production staff listed on the inside cover of every issue. There are, in addition, many people who have assisted by refereeing articles and serving as sources of special information.

Thank you all for helping achieve 20 years of publication.

Joyce Reddoch

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Elizabeth M. Bertoldi
Lynda Binkley & V. Howlett
Richard Carter & family
Sheila Coe & family
Kathleen E. Conlan
Peter R. Findlay
Dr. Ann Fraser
Rene C. Gauthier
Margaret Hartshorn & family
Gary L. Henson
Donald F. Johnson
Shane P. Jordan

Virginia R. Kaye
Margaret Kenny & family
Heidi E. Klein
Charles Landon & family
Donald F. McDonald
Catherine M. Parker
Art Peterkin
Barbara M. Price
Marguerite Seguin
Mollie Stokes
Frank B. Valentine
Brigitta Von Dulong

Other Areas

Dr. Walther Thiede, Germany

August, 1986

Eileen Evans
Chairman,
Membership Committee.

At the End of Twenty Years

To commemorate 20 years of *Trail & Landscape*, we asked three types of readers just what they get out of the journal. Jack Holliday writes from the local naturalists' point of view, and Joan and Don Gunn of Oakville, Ontario, report from further afield. Then Dan Brunton reflects on *Trail & Landscape's* place in the Club's history and how it serves the life science specialist of today.

Trail & Landscape, Twenty Years of Success

It's a Red Letter Day when, in among the telephone bills, pizza menus, letters advising that the chimney is in imminent danger of collapse, and envelopes of coupons, the mailman delivers the latest issue of *Trail & Landscape*. Other mail aside, one sits down to leaf through to find out "what's in" this issue and "what's up" in the coming months. A quick scan never succeeds, as the curiosity is bound to be attracted to one article or another. Time passes, and if one isn't careful, the plan for the day is ruined as the finish of one article leads only to the beginning of the next.

Trail & Landscape is, as the computer people say, user-friendly. It is written by us. The articles are not about far away places but about the back-yard spider, the unusual fish in a local stream, and always one or two about birds. We all seem to be birders. Most of us have a general interest in nature and some of us become especially interested in plants or butterflies or rocks, but a strange bird call will send all of us rushing for the binoculars.

There are, of course, those special issues, such as Francis Cook's *Amphibians & Reptiles of the Ottawa District* in Volume 15, Number 2; Peter Hall's *Mosquitoes of the Ottawa District* in Volume 15, Number 3; and the one I've almost worn out, *Butterflies of the Ottawa District* by Ross Layberry, Don Lafontaine and Peter Hall in Volume 16, Number 1. We hate to discard any, but the specials are sure to be retained. (Let's see now, was that a large Green Frog or a small Bullfrog we saw along the river?)

We owe a debt of thanks to the Editor, Joyce Reddoch, and her staff. Thank you, Joyce, for a fine magazine. Keep them coming so we may continue to enjoy Red Letter Days.

Jack Holliday
Ottawa, Ontario

A View from Members Outside the Ottawa Area

On a shelf in our bookcase is a long row of small periodicals, the covers changing colour for each year.

Truly objects of great value come in small packages. For us, *Trail & Landscape*, the neat, small publication of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, meets this description. Being members *in absentia* and never having participated in the club field trips or meetings, we find the articles contain much of general interest to us as amateur naturalists. The excellent photographs and drawings add much to the written material.

Although our subscription began a few years after *Trail & Landscape* was first published, the earlier numbers have been added and our set is now complete.

Throughout its lifetime, *Trail & Landscape* has maintained a very high standard of editing. We look forward with anticipation to future issues.

Congratulations and "Happy Twentieth".

Joan and Don Gunn,
Oakville, Ontario

Trail & Landscape as a Reference Source

One of the legacies of over a century of Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club activity is the richness of natural history information that exists for the Ottawa District. While *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* contains a wonderful and unique record of this material, its role as a depository of data declined as its national/international role expanded. The 1962 special issue concerning the geology of the Gatineau-Lièvre River area was the last review article discussing an Ottawa District topic. Although a special issue was planned after that concerning the Mer Bleue Bog, it was never produced.

From its very first issue in 1967, *Trail & Landscape* was seen as a vehicle for documenting District natural history information and for promoting the study of natural history, as well as conservation efforts in this area. The documentation of biological data and the conservation effort go hand in hand, of course. It's certainly difficult to address the protective or management needs of an area of land if little or no information is available for it.

Right from that first issue, valuable natural history information was being documented. The status of Skunk Cabbage in

the District, bird arrival and departure dates, and a 1960s view of future park needs in the Ottawa Valley are topics that were dealt with in Volume 1, Number 1. They all remain pertinent and valuable today. And that is so typical of well-documented life sciences information; rather than becoming dated and stale, it matures and becomes more valuable with the passage of time. As the overall decline in the quality of our natural environment continues, our knowledge of how things should be and once were may be increasingly dependent on documentation from days gone by. These insights may be even more important in guiding the restoration of protected areas or habitats in the future. Similarly, documentation of Club members' findings helps future members improve their skills as naturalists.

Many first records for the Ottawa District and Ottawa Valley have been reported in *Trail & Landscape*. Major review articles on such topics as fern allies, butterflies, herptiles, pondweeds, lichens, vascular plants, fish and invertebrates have highlighted issues within its 20 volumes. The on-going series of articles describing important natural areas and their significant resources is particularly useful. They have been successfully employed in developing conservation arguments in the past and will undoubtedly be used again.

Trail & Landscape is widely circulated within Canada, despite its orientation to the local scene, and indeed, is sent 'round the world. The quality of its articles and excellence of its production values have attracted the attention and applause of readers far and wide. *Trail & Landscape* titles have been cited in a large number of scientific and semi-scientific publications, including the *Publications in Botany* series of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, *The Plant Press*, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, *Ontario Birds*, *Atlas of Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario*, and so on.

Certainly one of the most valuable citations is in management and conservation studies conducted on behalf of federal, provincial and municipal governments. The data in *Trail & Landscape* are constantly being referred to by consultants and planners evaluating conservation questions. For example, in a 1984 ecological planning study of potential nature reserves on federal lands in the Ottawa-Hull area, 17 *Trail & Landscape* citations appear; 19 appear in an inventory of vegetation and flora of the Mer Bleue Conservation Area that was conducted the same year. It is hard to imagine a credible examination of the natural values of any area in the Ottawa District today without the researcher(s) checking the record in *Trail & Landscape* first.

The notices to members, excursion announcements, reports of the Council and so on have provided an important source of historical documentation. A record of the year to year flavour and concerns of our venerable and significant organization is

clearly evident in the pages of *Trail & Landscape*. In addition, many valuable articles dealing specifically with early Club history and/or personalities have been published in the journal, especially in and about the Club's centennial in 1979.

The 20 volumes of *Trail & Landscape* provide a wonderfully full record of natural history exploration and discovery since the late 1960s, as well as a remarkably faithful accounting of the conservation efforts that the Club has so purposefully undertaken. Fortunately for those readers who have only recently been receiving the journal, back issues are still available (for a very reasonable cost) for all numbers; what a terrific time to complete your set and travel back through two decades of achievement, success and dedication.

Anne Hanes and Joyce Reddoch are the only two editors *Trail & Landscape* has known, and to them and the army of support staff who have produced this delightful and important publication must go the credit for its tremendous record of achievement. It is in no small measure due to the assistance, insistence and constructive criticism of *Trail & Landscape's* editors, and the knowledge that one's article will be so positively presented, that so many authors have contributed so much interesting and valuable material.

Daniel F. Brunton
2704 Marie Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2B 7E4 ☐

Correction: *The Cup-plant in the Ottawa District*

page 136 of the September-October issue

Just for the record, the Cup-plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) occurrence at Burritt's Rapids had been known by Bill Gummer for a year or so before he and the Franktons went to see it in the summer of 1985.

Why So Many Pickled Fish?

Brian W. Coad
Ichthyology Section,
National Museum of Natural Sciences,
Ottawa K1A 0M8

The National Museum of Natural Sciences is familiar to most residents of the capital area through the displays exhibited in the "castle" at Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. But this is only one facet of a museum, and dotted around Ottawa are a number of buildings housing the scientific divisions*. These are generally not open to the public, but students from kindergarten to university occasionally visit, as do people with queries which cannot be answered by the museum's Information Centre.

Now, these visitors to our Ichthyology Section are more than a little surprised to see rank on rank of towering shelves laden with bottles and buckets full of very dead fish. There are over one million specimens preserved in alcohol, with detailed labels to tell what they are and where they are from. This does seem a little excessive at first glance. Why so many?

This is not an unreasonable question, and it is often followed by the suggestion that surely we need to have only one of each kind of species as a representative of Canada's fishes. This is to misunderstand what a research collection is all about.

A research collection is like a library; it stores information, in this case as pickled fish. Just like a library, there is a cataloguing system to find the information (fish) you want, and in this modern age, this information is computerized. The museum also stores vast quantities of literature on fishes and even two resident experts, but the pickled fish are the primary information source. What kinds of information can be gleaned from these fish?

God told Adam to give names to all the creatures, and Adam, being a good manager, has delegated this authority. Humans love to classify, to organize and to name things. This tendency has a firm practical base, and it is important to have names correctly tied to species which are in turn tied to real objects. With some objects, this is easy; they are few and distinctive. However, there are over 20,000 species of fish in the world and over 1,000 in Canada. Despite their mandate from Adam, profes-

* *Botany, Zoology, Paleobiology, and Mineral Sciences. Check Coming Events for details of a scheduled tour of the Ornithology Section of Zoology on December 2nd. JMR*

sional ichthyologists can and do make mistakes or disagree on what is a species or not. New species, new records of species from Canada, and unusual distributions are accepted only if they are vouched for by a corpse in a collection, and a well-labeled corpse at that. (See Coad (1985) for a lesson in how easy it is to make mistakes.) We in the Ichthyology Section always believe in your fisherman's tale, but we never enter it into our records unless you give us the fish!

So the collection serves to verify research because future workers can still examine the fishes used in past studies. Our oldest specimen is a blind, white fish, the Southern Cavefish, collected in August 1863 from the famous Mammoth Cave in Kentucky before Canada became a nation. Other museums have pickled fish hundreds of years old which are still examined by researchers. Without the specimens, work would have to be done again to validate or correct previous studies, a waste of time, effort and money, not to mention fish. We hold material in trust for future generations of fish researchers.

But why would we need more than one Northern Pike from the Ottawa River? This is a distinctive species; one specimen records its presence in the general area of Ottawa and a capital pike can surely represent Canada? This viewpoint misunderstands the nature of nature. The natural world is nothing if not varied. Our fascination with identical twins is their identical appearance; we know from lifelong experience that people vary greatly in appearance. So too with fish or any organism. An understanding of fish cannot be gained from a single specimen. We need more than one pike to begin to understand what forms a species. After all, there are male pike and female pike, adults and young, larvae and eggs.

The uses of the collections are many and varied. Some questions that pickled fish answer are as follows:

*** Are the pike in British Columbia the same as those in Ontario or Europe?** Geographical variation is a study for which museum collections are most valuable. If pike in Europe and North America are the same, then perhaps we can use work done elsewhere on their biology to manage our populations of this important game fish and save some money.

*** Where are pike found in Canada?** Distribution maps are compiled from documented collections. Pike are found only in the extreme northeastern part of British Columbia, for example. Fishermen's guides and the ever-popular field guides are based on collections, as are any number of popular and scientific books such as *Fishes of Canada's National Capital Region*, *A Guide to the Freshwater Sport Fishes of Canada*, and *Rare, Endangered and Extinct Fishes in Canada*. Distributional information can also help to develop new fisheries and manage old ones.

*** Can we have preserved specimens of these 20 species of Canadian fishes for an educational display in our local museum?** We can give or loan pickled fish for educational or research purposes because we have more than one of each species. I have even sent fish of a certain size because the recipients in a remote town in northern Manitoba had only small jars to put their display in. Think how intrigued children, and adults, on the prairies would be to see a shark from Canada's Atlantic coast, to touch its rough skin and feel its teeth, even if, or especially because, it is dead!

*** What is this fish?** Expertise at identifying fishes can be developed only where a variety of species is available for study and a variety of individuals show how any one species can vary. If you cannot name a fish correctly, then what you have to say about it is suspect. We identify whole fishes for various government departments and for the public, and serve as a training institution for scientific and technical personnel. We identify even small parts of fishes which come to us from many sources, including ornithologists who wish to know what their birds are eating, mammalogists with the stomach contents of a whale caught at Montreal, limnologists who found fish scales in a lake core, and archaeologists and palaeontologists who found fish fragments in the course of their work. To help in all facets of the identification process, we also maintain collections of scales, colour slides of live fish, complete skeletons and individual bones.

*** Did acid rain wipe out your favourite fishing lakes?** You say that giant pike were once common there, but I say it sounds like a fisherman's story. Collections are faunal surveys and can demonstrate how the environment has deteriorated or changed with time. They tell us *what* lived *where* and *when*. Conservation of fish depends on some measure of their rarity, and surveys, with the material preserved for study, enable us to spot which species are liable to be endangered.

*** Is this fish safe to eat?** Sales of tuna and swordfish were banned when mercury levels in their flesh were shown to be high. The presence of mercury was attributed to man-made pollution of the environment, but examination of specimens collected and preserved in museums from 1878 to 1946, when industries were less developed, showed mercury levels to be much the same as modern fish in some areas. It is still not advisable to eat large quantities of these fish, but at least this is one case where man is not wholly to blame. However, tests on Lake Erie fish show an increase in pollutants over time. The maintenance of collections through time and with enough specimens to allow some material to be removed for destructive testing can contribute to sound human health.

These are just some of the functions of pickled fish. The heart of a museum, therefore, is its collections. Without this heart, and the enquiring minds to study it and provide the world with information, a museum is dead. For more on museum collections, see Miller (1985).

I might add that our collections have had little or no effect on the survival of fish in the field. The numbers we have removed, although impressive in time and effort to catalogue and maintain, are but a minute fraction of the numbers still swimming. The entire National Collection weighs less than many single purse seine hauls that put fish on your table.

The Ichthyology Section welcomes visitors to the collections. We are not set up to handle large numbers of people nor are we designed to be an educational exhibit, but we would be happy to show interested visitors around and explain more of what we do.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Don E. McAllister, Curator of Fishes, Ichthyology Section; Claude B. Renaud, Department of Biology, University of Ottawa; and Dr. D.M. Jarzen, Curator, Paleobotany/Palynology, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, made useful comments on a rough draft of this manuscript.

Literature Cited

- Coad, B.W. 1985. Out damned spot! *Trail & Landscape* 19(2): 76-77.
- McAllister, D.E. and B.W. Coad. 1974. *Fishes of Canada's National Capital Region / Poissons de la région de la capitale du Canada*. Fisheries Research Board of Canada Miscellaneous Special Publication, 24. 200 pp.
- McAllister, D.E. and E.J. Crossman. 1974. *A guide to the freshwater sport fishes of Canada*. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Natural History Collection 1. 91 pp. (also available in French).
- McAllister, D.E., B.J. Parker and P.M. McKee. 1985. Rare, endangered and extinct fishes in Canada. *Syllogeus* 54. 192 pp.
- Miller, E.J. *Editor*. 1985. *Museum collections: their roles and future in biological research*. Occasional Papers of the British Columbia Provincial Museum, No. 25. x + 219 pp. □

In Memorium: Frank Heaton Bell

The Club was saddened in July to learn of the death of Frank Bell after an illness of nine months. Frank's original home was in Pennsylvania, where he completed his undergraduate degree at Waynesburg College in 1940. His graduate studies were interrupted by war service in Africa and Europe. He obtained his master's degree from West Virginia University, and he received his doctorate in plant pathology from Ohio State University in 1949.

Frank and his family moved to Ottawa in 1976 after a long professional career overseas that included 24 years of employment by government and industry in Bolivia, Peru, Japan and Spain. In Ottawa, he worked for a time on the bird study collections at the National Museum of Natural Sciences and later performed some contract work on the botany collections at the Museum.

Frank became an Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club member in 1977, and despite his quiet, soft-spoken manner, his presence was immediately felt. He always did his homework, and he was ever ready to share his knowledge, excelling as an outing leader and enjoying the chance to introduce new people to the plants and birds that filled so much of his life.

Starting with the Botany Study Group in 1978, Frank became a strong member of the Excursions and Lectures Committee, taking the chairmanship in 1980 and 1981, as well as serving on the Club council. He was largely responsible for coordinating all walks and outings, including the annual picnic.

Plants were Frank's profession, but the study of birds filled all his spare time, an interest that began when the birds of Peru first captured his attention. A comprehensive guide was not available at that time, yet many years later, he was able to identify several hundred species from his notes. Plagued by poor eyesight, he developed a superior ear for bird song. It was difficult to get him to admit it, but he was a devoted "lister", deriving great satisfaction from the number of species on his early morning walk list. The search for new life species took him back on excursions to Florida, California, Peru and Kenya.

After 1980, Frank concentrated his efforts more on bird-related activities. He had joined the Birds Committee and was a regular participant in the Bird Study Group. He was a frequent *Trail & Landscape* contributor, and in 1980 he became an associate editor of *The Shrike*, where he did more than his share of slogging through seasonal data write-ups as well as writing short articles on a variety of topics. The best of these was

his series on birding in the last century in Ottawa. In 1981 he joined the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project, and in 1984-85 he was a member of the Club's atlas committee doing especially valuable work reviewing historical records. He also taught courses on birds as part of the Ottawa Board of Education's continuing education program.

Frank always took pleasure in guiding visitors to Ottawa. He provided the groundwork for the bird walks during the Federation of Ontario Naturalists meeting in 1983, and before he became ill, he had completed all the outline of the field program for this year's International Ornithological Congress in Ottawa. A further disappointment was that he was not able to continue his work on a much-needed annotated checklist of the birds of Ottawa.

Frank received The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's Member of the Year award in 1984 for his contributions and for his quiet, steady influence. (See *Trail & Landscape* 19(4): 197-198 (1985).) The universal comment offered by all who knew him is that he was a true gentlemen.

We extend our sympathy to Frank's wife, Micheline, and their children, Allan, Monique and Veronica.

Gordon Pringle ▣

Book Review: *Orchids of Ontario*

by R.E. Whiting and P.M. Catling. 1986. The CanaColl Foundation, Ottawa, Ontario. 169 pp. \$12.95

Ontario orchid enthusiasts owe a vote of thanks to Emerson Whiting and Paul Catling for their contribution to the flora of the province, *Orchids of Ontario*. Ontario shares with New Brunswick and the Yukon Territory the distinction of having no published flora or even checklist. Ontario botanists must either make do with floras covering half a continent that say little about the province, or turn to the available floras of neighbouring areas such as Quebec or Michigan. Apparently Ontario is to be treated piecemeal. With two excellent works already out, Soper and Heimburger's *Shrubs of Ontario* and Dore and McNeill's *Grasses of Ontario*, this short list now includes the orchid family.

It would be difficult to find better authors for the task

than Emerson Whiting, a "corresponding" member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club who is a long-time student of the flora of Muskoka and who has published a number of articles on the orchid family, and Paul Catling, a recognized authority on orchids who is well-known to Club members.

The Introduction contains an account of the form and function of orchid flowers; a guide to the literature of eastern North American and particularly Ontario orchids; and a discussion of the protection of native orchids with a list of Ontario species that are endangered, threatened, rare or uncommon. At the end of the book is a checklist of Ontario species, varieties and forms; possible future additions to that list; a flowering time chart; a glossary; and an extensive bibliography. In addition, there are keys to the genera and the species.

The core of the book is devoted to the 60 Ontario species. For each there are a few introductory comments followed by the flower colour, the distribution and habitat, the flowering time, and, in some cases, remarks mainly on varieties and forms, and literature references. Distribution maps are collected in a separate section. Each species is illustrated by a black and white photograph or line drawing, usually of the flowers alone.

The highlight of *Orchids of Ontario* must be the distribution maps, which give us for the first time a comprehensive, detailed look at the occurrence of orchids in Ontario. The authors have followed the professional practice of basing their maps almost entirely on herbarium collections. (This practice ensures that the plant identity can be verified, although the location can still be confusing or incorrect.) As a result, field naturalists may well find that some of their stands of some species are omitted from the maps. Indeed, the maps for some species are a bit thin in the Ottawa Valley. Such omissions, with a few exceptions, are usually not too important, however, for they will not greatly change the general picture of the range of the species. Whiting and Catling are to be congratulated for plotting individual collections instead of showing a single spot for each county where the species occurs. The latter practice may be acceptable in an American state where the counties are small, square, numerous and almost the same size. In Ontario, the counties are none of these, spectacularly so, and, as a result, county records are misleading.

Another major contribution of *Orchids of Ontario* is the flowering date records based on Ontario records and given for each species by a chart for the whole province, with separate comments in some cases for northern and southern Ontario. These data are both interesting and useful, although they would have been more so if the authors' concept of flowering time and the mathematical meaning of the bars on the chart had been more precisely defined. It is not clear if the bars represent the extreme records or some more typical range.

It is also good to see a critical classification of the less common orchids. Species and varieties are assigned to four categories of rarity, while forms and hybrids are put in a fifth group. Only the native orchids are considered.

The most striking omission from *Orchids of Ontario* is the absence of plant or flower descriptions, except for a few details in some of the keys. The flowers, at least, are usually fairly well illustrated by the black and white photographs, but in a few cases these are not too clear, and in most cases, being converted from colour slides, are too contrasty. Curiously, for a few species, the plants photographed grew far from Ontario. A number of species are illustrated by line drawings, again of the flowers only.

Another significant omission relates to the pink-lipped form of Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis* forma *willeyi*), which the authors list as a possible addition to the Ontario flora. In fact, it has been part of it for a long time. James Fletcher made a collection at Patterson's Creek in Ottawa in 1879, and stands in the Ottawa area have been seen and photographed in recent years.

The only other point to mention is the use of the term saprophyte. As defined in the Glossary as "living on decaying matter ...", it can be argued that the term does not really cover the symbiotic or perhaps parasitic relation of the Coral-roots with certain soil fungi. Finally, very few typos were noticed, and these would not cause any confusion.

Most of the criticisms are fairly minor compared to the amount of information in the book. In summary, while neither a field guide nor a complete reference work, *Orchids of Ontario* will be essential for every serious student of the family in the province, for its distribution maps, blooming dates and conservation status details.

Allan H. Reddoch □

Orchids of Ontario is available at the Nature Canada Bookshop, 75 Albert Street, lower level, Ottawa, Ontario, (telephone 238-6134). The price there is \$11.65.

Addendum to *Marlborough Forest Update*

We regret that the *Literature Cited* was omitted from David White's article in the last issue. This section is printed below, followed by a correction to the status of Mountain Club-

moss in the Ottawa District.

Literature Cited

- Argus, G.W. and D.J. White. 1984. *Panax quinquefolium*. in Atlas of the rare vascular plants of Ontario. Part 3. Edited by G.W. Argus and C.J. Keddy. National Museum of Natural Sciences.
- Bayly, I. 1977. The Richmond wetlands. *Trail & Landscape* 11(1): 9-12.
- Brereton, N.T. 1984. The end of a saga? Natural Environment policies in Ottawa-Carleton. *Trail & Landscape* 18(1): 25-30.
- Chapman, L.J. and D.F. Putman. 1984. The physiography of southern Ontario. 3rd ed. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Geological Survey, Special Volume 2.
- Cody, W.J. 1978. The status of *Lythrum alatum* (Lythraceae) in Canada. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 92(1): 74-75.
- Dugal, A., A. Reddoch, J. Reddoch, D. White, C. Billington and S. Hamill. 1978. Response to the Conservation Lands Report of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. Conservation Committee, Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Mimeographed. 76 pp.
- Gillett, J.M. and D.J. White. 1978. Checklist of vascular plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region, Canada. National Museum of Natural Sciences. 155 pp.
- Reddoch, J. 1977. Prairie White Fringed-orchid - a new orchid for the Ottawa area. *Trail & Landscape* 11(1): 16-19.
- Reddoch, J. 1979a. Calcareous fens in the Ottawa District. *Trail & Landscape* 13(1): 16-27.
- Reddoch, J. 1979b. Mismanagement in the Regional Forest. *Trail & Landscape* 13(2): 46-50.
- White, D.J. 1977. Rare plant survey: revisions. *Trail & Landscape* 11(1): 22-25.
- White, D.J. 1985. A life science inventory of parts of the Marlborough Forest. Ministry of Natural Resources, Eastern Region, Kemptville. 226 pp.

Mountain Clubmoss (*Lycopodium selago*) is known elsewhere in the Ottawa District from only four other stations, three of which are in Quebec. □

Flying Squirrels at the Feeder

Tony Beck

Winter can often prove to be fairly uneventful when it comes to nature and wildlife. So we set up feeders in strategic places across the yard and purchase hundreds of kilograms of feed in the hope of attracting colourful birds and perhaps a rare species or two.

Each year we build up our hopes, but usually all we get are the ever-present chickadees, noisy Blue Jays and gluttonous grosbeaks. Feeders in the city have the added attraction of large numbers, but the problem is that a lawn carpeted with House Sparrows, Rock Doves and European Starlings can bore you to tears after a few days. Even if there are good things out there, the shorter days limit our birding time. It seems that I'm in the office for 95% of the daylight hours.

At last comes the weekend. I hop in the car and sweat my way through a two-hour drive on ice and snow finally to reach the peace of Quebec cottage country. After a five-day absence, the feeding station is down to a fistful of sunflower seeds. So I waste no time in filling the feeders back to the brim. Twenty-five kilograms later and its more chickadees, noisy Blue Jays and gluttonous grosbeaks. Oh well! At least the birds appear to appreciate our arrival.

4:30 p.m. and its dark already. Birding is done for the day. We throw a few logs on the fire and all sit down for a good, hearty supper. 7:30 rolls by and it's time to curl up by the fire with a nice tidbit of reading material.

Flash! Thud!

It looks and sounds as if a bird has landed at the front porch feeder. We put on the porch light and press our noses against the window.

"That's no bird!" exclaims one observer.

What had grabbed our attention was a strange creature about the size and shape of a chipmunk and sporting some mouselike features. This big-eyed, small-eared puffball the colour of beach sand was merrily nibbling away at the sunflower seeds from our main feeder on the north side of our feeding station. Only two metres away from our large living room window and with two powerful outdoor lamps beaming down on it, the feeder seems ideal for night-time observations.

Our attention was suddenly diverted to a similar creature spiraling up the bare birch tree next to the feeder. This fast and nervous lump of energy climbed to a perch high above the feeder. From there it teetered back and forth a few times, then jumped.

The animal opened into a flat square on leaping from the branch. The square sliced effortlessly through the air, until milliseconds before impact, its end was pulled forward into a parachute form that landed securely to the side of the feeder. It was at that moment that I realized my evening "avian" friends were none other than flying squirrels.

As the second little critter scampered into the seed tray, I figured that I had a good photographic opportunity. So I bundled up, threw an electronic flash and a 200 mm close-focus lens onto my 35 mm camera, opened the window at a snail's pace, and poked my head out the window. Much to my amazement, the squirrels appeared oblivious to my presence. At about 2½ metres from the subjects, I figured it was time to snap the shutter.



An energetic and well-adapted mammal, this Northern Flying Squirrel is showing the extra fold of skin from its wrist to its ankle. When its legs are spread out to its sides, this skin creates a "wing" which allows it to glide as much as 30 metres. Both photographs by the author.

Click! Flash!

A few thrown seeds, and dead silence for five seconds. The startled rodents looked around and then continued to munch away.

"I better try a few more exposures", I thought.

In order to do so, I pulled my entire body out onto the porch, focussed full-frame on the closest squirrel, and flashed!

Zing! Swish!

Like a tornado, the model squirrel twisted out of the feeder onto a branch, up to the top of the birch, and sprang into the air. With my mouth and eyes wide open, I stared in awe as the squirrel performed its glide. All four feet spread to the sides. The cylinder shape became a square. Without a sound, it flew through the air like a hawk in a thermal. Then this nocturnal creature twisted its long, flat tail and banked off to the left out of the light and out of sight.

Oddly enough, the second squirrel remained at the feeder, still feasting away in seed heaven. I continued to expose film on flying squirrel number two. After a roll of film and a set of flash batteries, I figured I was finally accepted as being a harmless but curious creature of the night. Satisfied with my photographic attempts, I decided to depart back into the cottage.

It was only minutes after that that one of the other on-lookers shouted, "Oh, look ... babies!" Peering back through the window, I noticed two more of the same critters only half the size of the previous two. Babies? Perhaps, but what would be raising little ones in the middle of December?

On careful observation, these smaller night squirrels looked exactly like the larger ones except the tail was proportionally shorter and appeared somewhat flatter. The cream-coloured belly looked lighter than the larger squirrels'.

One member of our party was leafing through a Peterson mammal field guide* and brought to our attention that there were two different species of North American flying squirrels. The larger Northern Flying Squirrel and the smaller Southern Flying Squirrel are very similar in appearance. Could we be looking at both?

A few minutes later, one of the larger feeder mates showed up above the feeder as the smaller two remained in the seed tray. With the window still open, we could barely make out some

* Burt, W.H. and R.P. Grossenheider. 1976. *A field guide to the mammals. Third edition.*

extremely high-pitched squeaks coming from the new visitor. It then crept down toward the seeds and came face to face with the smaller squirrel. No moments wasted, the squirrels exploded into a frenzy with seeds flying every which way and with blurs of tan-coloured little bodies flashing back and forth across the feeder. This brief scuffle left no one hurt, but the smaller squirrel had remained victor over the seeds, leaving the larger one to surrender itself to nibbling on the suet we had set up for the birds.

I believe the display I witnessed was much too aggressive an act for a baby. In fact, all the field marks have convinced me that we had the two different flying squirrels at the feeder. Having both is a little unusual. Range maps show that this region of Quebec at the extreme western end of the Gatineau range** is actually at the northern limit of the Southern Flying Squirrel. It is also one of the few places in North America where the Northern Flying Squirrel's range overlaps with the Southern's.



Identifying a flying squirrel as a Northern or Southern is not easy. This photograph shows the obvious field mark to look for, size. The larger Northern (right) is about the size of a chipmunk. The Southern (left) is a little over half the size of the Northern. Note also the lighter belly of the Southern.

** Leslie Lake near Otter Lake, 21 km northeast of Campbells Bay

Later that evening, both species ended up in the feeder, dining together very well-mannered and quite tolerant of each other. Ever since that night, I can expect an appearance by both species every winter evening I make it to the cottage. Even in wind, snow or rain they will make at the very least a single short visit.

After exposing many rolls of film on them, I have discovered that with a slow approach these tame creatures will allow close scrutiny with an amazing fearlessness. There have been times when they have even allowed me to stroke them like kittens or stick my own face into the feeder only centimetres away from them when feeding. On one occasion, these confident little jokers flew and scampered about normally while a Great Horned Owl was hooting from only a hectare or so away.

There is no worry about these little angels stealing much food away from the birds. They come to the feeder, have their fill, and then leave. Their total take is modest compared to the Blue Jays or even the day-time squirrels, which will take large quantities of seeds away and store them.

As mundane as the winter-nights' wildlife-watching can get, I can always look forward to being entertained by the little nocturnal clowns at the cottage feeder. They can give you many tireless hours of show time as long as you can position a feeder close to a mature mixed forest. These squirrels are quite common but rarely seen otherwise. Once you manage to attract them, they will become your winter nights' companions. ▢

Arboreal Ability of Weasels

J. W. (Jack) Holliday

My experiences with weasels are few and far between. Once in a hunting camp north and east of La Verendrye Park, a weasel came up over the end of my bunk. He stopped and looked at me. I froze, and looked back to see what his next move would be. Ten seconds later, he turned and disappeared. We figured he was after mice, which were abundant in the camp. It is usually like that. The weasel pops up unexpectedly, examines the human, then goes about its business.

I have read that weasels are good swimmers and do not hesitate to take to the water, but I have never seen one swimming. Groundhogs are good swimmers, at least the one I encountered a kilometre from shore in McGregor Lake was. I knew a Porcupine which would take a small swim every evening just at sundown. It would work its way along the shore to a rocky point, mumbling to itself and sampling vegetation along the way.

Then, gently, it would wade into the calm water and swim in a circuitous route back to the shore, where, after a vigorous shake, it would stroll into the woods in the Porcupine's usual unhurried way.

One sunny summer afternoon while working in the cottage garden at Val-des-Monts, Quebec, I idly noticed an Eastern Chipmunk scamper up a tall maple, hotly pursued by a Red Squirrel. They were both chittering away at one another, and I assumed the squirrel was chasing the chipmunk from the area where a few bread crumbs had been scattered.

At the very top of the tree, there was a brief encounter between the two, an anguished sound, then something dropped, caught a branch, limped across to another tree and climbed to the top of it. The chipmunk. The squirrel hurried down the trunk of the maple, crossed to the other tree on the same branch used by the chipmunk, and raced upward. There was another brief encounter, some angry noises, then the chipmunk fell again, this time to the ground, where it lay still.

Unable to see clearly what was happening, I hurried into the cottage to get my binoculars. Rushing back outside and with their aid, I quickly located the inert form of the chipmunk, a drop of blood on its nostrils. As I watched, the "squirrel", now clearly seen to be a weasel, came to the chipmunk, picked it up by the shoulders with its mouth, and, holding it high, carried it off.

Two days later, I saw a weasel, presumably the same one, chase a chipmunk to the top of a tall tree. This time, the chipmunk launched itself into space and came down with a thump about six metres away and, after a pause (to regain its breath, one assumes), scurried away.

I watched carefully for five minutes but was unsuccessful in again spotting the weasel. It probably returned to earth on the opposite side of the tree.

By the end of the summer, there were no chipmunks in the area. One can assume that the weasel had hunted them all down.

I was surprised at the speed with which the weasel could climb up the tree. As fast as a squirrel, and, for that reason, I assumed it was a squirrel. The colour was similar to the squirrel also. The weasel can go up and down the trees easily, but I did not see it make any attempt to jump across the two metres or so between itself and the chipmunk climbing up the next tree. Instead, the weasel ran down the tree, crossed on a branch, then ascended the other tree. Probably it does not have the jumping ability of squirrels. Chipmunks also do not jump from tree to tree with the same agility as squirrels, and once "treed" are easy prey for the faster weasel. ▣

Ottawa Region Bird Feeders for the Winter Season

Gordon Pringle

To our knowledge, there are 15 public bird feeders in the Ottawa area (Figure 1). These feeders are maintained by The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Le Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais (Hull), the Ottawa Duck Club and the National Capital Commission. The largest and best known stations are at the Mer Bleue, Davidson Road, Jack Pine Trail and Pink Road. The others are usually a single feeder with some suet. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club feeders are supplied with seed purchased with Seedathon funds, and all but the NCC-run feeders are looked after by volunteers. Listed below are the 15 feeders along with information on which organization supports them, the names of the volunteers who look after them, when known, and directions on how to get to them.

Characteristic feeder birds in the region are Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, Evening Grosbeak, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch. Feeding stations that include wild bird mixture instead of the traditional sunflower seed will usually attract American Goldfinch, American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco in addition to the ubiquitous House

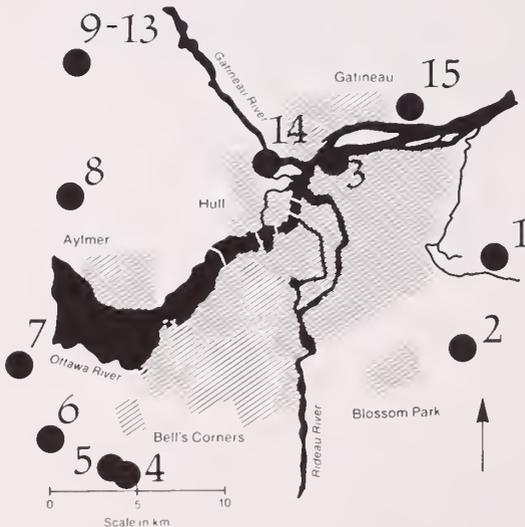


Figure 1. Public Bird Feeders in the Ottawa Area

Sparrow, European Starling, Rock Dove and Mourning Dove in the more urban locations. Recently, in the more urban locations, Northern Cardinal and House Finch are becoming regular. Red-breasted Nuthatch usually may be found at the Greenbelt locations, where the surrounding conifers also harbour Ruffed Grouse, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet. In winters that feature a finch invasion, all feeders may have numbers of Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill or White Crossbill.

Starting this year, Daniel Perrier (telephone 746-6716) will be coordinating the Club feeder program.

The following descriptions are for 1985/86. Some locations may be moved this winter, and if that is the case, an update will appear in a subsequent issue of *Trail & Landscape*. The numbering of the feeders listed below corresponds to the map.

1. Mer Bleue Conservation Area, Eastern Greenbelt

National Capital Commission - seed

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club - Daniel Perrier

From Highway 417, take Innis Road east to Anderson Road. Follow Anderson Road to Dolman Ridge Road on the left. The feeder is by the National Capital Commission buildings on the left.

2. Davidson Road, Southern Greenbelt

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club - George McGee, Bill Miller, Bill Holland

Take Davidson Road east from Conroy Road to the Pine Grove Picnic Area on the right. The feeder is on the left branch of the trail leading from the picnic area.

3. Rockcliffe Park

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club - Jean-Pierre Perrier

Take the Rockcliffe Driveway along the Ottawa River east from Rockcliffe Village. The feeder is at the tennis courts at the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club, on the right just after descending the hill.

4. Jack Pine Trail, Stony Swamp Conservation Area

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club - Roy Millen

Take Moodie Drive south 1.5 km from Knoxdale Road. Follow the trail from the parking lot on the left. This feeder has been our best south of the Ottawa River. Who knows how many children will always remember the delight of hand-feeding a tame chickadee or nuthatch at this popular feeder. There is usually a Barred Owl hidden in the surrounding woods or occasionally perched in the open. Ottawa's first Varied Thrush appeared here some years ago, and more recently a Boreal Owl was found here.

5. Stony Swamp Conservation Area, Western Greenbelt

National Capital Commission

Take Moodie Drive south from Knoxdale Road. Stop at the interpretation centre on the right at the power lines.

6. Kakulu Road, Kanata

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club - David Easton

Take Kakulu Road east from Labine Road (Castlefrank Road). The feeder was on the trail into the woods on the right last year. This year it may be put somewhere else in the area or it may not be operated at all because it was vandalized several times last year.

7. Range Road, Kanata

Ottawa Duck Club

Take Herzberg Road north from Highway 17B (Carling Avenue). Cross Sandhill Road and the railway track. Follow Range Road (Fourth Line) past Connaught Ranges on the right to near its end at a T-junction. The feeder is on the right. A Rusty Blackbird has overwintered regularly here for the past few winters. It is also an excellent nuthatch location, and last year had a Screech Owl.

8. Pink Road, Aylmer

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and Le Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais. The seed is shared by the two clubs, and volunteer labour is provided by the Hull club.

Take Vanier Road north from the Upper Aylmer Road, then turn west on Pink Road. Continue on Pink Road to just past Klock Road. Park at the sign on the right. The feeder is reached by a pathway to the left off the farm driveway. This is a large feeding station that has attracted excellent birds over the years. Occasionally it has Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee, and often a Northern Shrike is in the area. Also regular are Ruffed Grouse, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Raven and any invasion finches.

9. - 13. Gatineau Park The National Capital Commission operates five feeders along the ski trails in the park, at Keogan, Shilly Shally, Huron and Herridge Lodges, and at Lac Phillippe group camping site #2.

14. Lac Leamy, Hull

Le Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais

Take Boulevard Fournier to the Lac Leamy parking lot. There is one feeder near the parking lot and another on the trail that leads past the lake to the Gatineau River.

15. Lac Beauchamp, Parc Beauchamp, Gatineau

Le Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais

In Gatineau, the park entrance is on Boulevard Maloney between Boulevard Montcalm and Chemin du Lac. The feeder is on the right where you first reach the lake. □

Recent Bird Sightings



Mark Gawn

The months of June, July and August were cool and wet in 1986. While this weather had a detrimental effect on breeding success, it did cause some interesting shorebird fallouts during spring and fall migrations. Most of our locally breeding species were well into their nesting activity by early June; however, those species that breed in the short summer of the high arctic were still passing through to mid-month. In an indecently short time, by mid-July, the southward trek had begun. Confusing the issue further were a number of summer vagrants, non-breeding birds that show up in strange places. Rather than follow a chronological or checklist order, this account will pursue these four themes: spring and fall migrations, breeding, and summer vagrancy.

Spring Migration

It seems strange to be writing about spring migration occurring in the summer; nonetheless, some of the most exciting birding of the year is in early June when inclement weather grounds arctic-bound waders. Such a day occurred on June 1st, when 66 Ruddy Turnstones, 22 Red Knots and 50 Sanderlings "fell-out" at various points along the Ottawa River. The number of migrant waders seen on that and on other fallouts during the summer are recorded in Table 1.

The same day produced 26 Bonaparte's Gulls and the first five of the annual movement of Arctic Terns through our area. The number of Arctic Terns at Deschênes Rapids had increased to seven by June 3rd; three remained through the first part of the month and were seen by many observers. At Deschênes they were accompanied by three second-year Little Gulls. When first seen, the gulls were in classic immature plumage, with bold black W's on their wings. Two remained through the summer, generally being seen at either Britannia or Ottawa Beach, and gradually molted into adult plumage. This summering is unprecedented and might signal breeding in the future.

On June 7th, the crowd at Deschênes was joined by an adult Franklin's Gull. While this prairie species is rare in our area, it is seen with some regularity in early June, generally at Deschênes Rapids. The big attraction at the rapids is the abundant mayfly hatch. Thousands of Ring-billed Gulls gather

here in the late afternoon to hawk for insects before retiring for the night. The banquet at Remic Rapids was joined on June 6th by a Cattle Egret, which feasted on insects in the short grass alongside the Ottawa River Parkway at Parkdale. This, too, fits a pattern. Cattle Egrets have been spotted consistently in late May and early June over the past decade.

Table 1

MIGRANT SHOREBIRD FALLOUTS IN OTTAWA: JUNE-AUGUST 1986*

<u>Species</u>	<u>June 1</u>	<u>July 20</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>July 29</u>	<u>Aug. 21</u>
Black-bellied Plover	-	5	6	1	-
Lesser Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	1
Semipalmated Plover	1	20	26	4	54
Greater Yellowlegs	-	2	26	33	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	77	218	121	28
Solitary Sandpiper	-	8	21	-	3
Whimbrel	-	9	14	1	4
Hudsonian Godwit	-	-	2	-	260
Ruddy Turnstone	66	-	41	2	15
Red Knot	22	-	22	12	-
Sanderling	50	1	130	2	100+
Semipalmated Sandpiper	74	15	1,100	76	335
Least Sandpiper	-	26	30	1	54
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	-	1	-	-
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	1	9	3	13
Stilt Sandpiper	-	1	2	2	-
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	3	-	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	1	-
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	4	-	-
unknown	-	-	-	-	150

* Numbers derived from notes by Bruce Di Labio and the author

Small numbers of shorebirds, including Red-necked Phalaropes, White-rumped Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were reported to mid-June, usually at one or the other of the sewage ponds. Other northern breeders spotted going through included a small number of Brants, a high count of eight White-winged Scoters at Stillwater Park on June 5th, and an obviously confused Oldsquaw at the Casselman sewage lagoons on June 9th. In the rush to see the sexy long-distance travellers, some of the less glamorous migrants get overlooked. The fact that small numbers of passerines are still migrating through in early June was witnessed by a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Clyde Woods on June 4th.

Breeding Birds

And you thought atlassing was over! Not a chance. Now that the field work for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas has been completed, we can shift our attention to the Quebec side of the Ottawa District. In many ways this is more interesting country; despite its accessibility, much of the northern part of the Ottawa-Hull region is unknown to local birders. Surprisingly, participation in this latest project is poor. Nonetheless, progress has been made and can be expected to escalate in the remaining two years of the project. Results for the summer of 1986 are incomplete; however, some highlights include widely-distributed Yellow-throated Vireos and high counts of "northern" species not generally regarded as being part of the breeding avifauna of the Ottawa District. Examples of these latter include Evening Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Solitary Vireo, and many of the warblers such as Magnolia and Canada Warblers, typical of the northern Great Lakes forest ecosystem. Swainson's Thrush, for example, is common in upland deciduous areas around Poltimore as well as in the higher parts of Gatineau Park.

A family with recently fledged young confirmed breeding Golden-winged Warbler near Thurso, at the eastern edge of the District. On the same atlas square, a Lincoln's Sparrow carrying food to a hidden nest in a pine-studded field was not in the bog habitat favoured by this species at the southern edge of its range. It also represented only the third known breeding location for this species in the District. Other noteworthy sightings that turned up on the Quebec atlas work included Bay-breasted, Tennessee and Parula Warblers, all apparently breeding.

Southerners were also recorded; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to their nest site at Leamy Lake for the second year in a row, one of the few sites for this species in Quebec. The star avian performers at the International Ornithological Congress, held in Ottawa this June, were the Yellow-throated Vireos

that nested at the Champlain Lookout in Gatineau Park, seen by dozens of delegates. Undeterred by all the attention, the young fledged successfully. Another kilometre or so down the same woodland trail, a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers selected a beaver pond deep in the woods for their nest site. Other performers on the trail included breeding Philadelphia Vireos and a Northern Waterthrush nest under a log bridge. Not a bad place for a bird hike!

With the completion of the Ontario Atlas, summer birding on the Ontario side of the river declined somewhat. Nonetheless, some interesting finds were made. One of these was the pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers that built a nest near the Carp River. (See article beginning on page 216.) Unfortunately, the nest failed. It is not known whether this failure was due to poor weather or to human disturbance. Gnatcatchers are nervous birds, and are prone to abandoning nests if disturbed. Loggerhead Shrike numbers continue to plunge locally, with only a handful of sites being noted. Those found were all in traditional areas: Arnprior, South March, Munster and Dwyer Hill.

By all accounts House Finches have been wildly successful, with numerous reports of nestings from all over the city and beyond. Arnprior had its first ever nesting. Another species that is doing well is the Canada Goose, with many people reporting small groups. A few years ago, this species was virtually unknown in our area in the summer. Ring-billed Gull is yet another species whose numbers are expanding. Some Ring-billeds, however, are doing less well than others; the nests at Nepean Dump were ploughed under again this year. The thriving colony at Nepean Bay, where a pair of Common Terns bred, more than compensated for these losses.

Most June trips to the Richmond Fen failed to locate Yellow Rails; however, one was heard there on June 5th. The Fen is always a productive spot; other birds present included Least Bittern, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and the very rare Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The aptly-named Sedge Wren is common there, and another colony was located near Shirley's Bay. Ironically, despite receiving the best coverage of any Atlas square in our region, that area failed to produce a Sedge Wren during the five-year atlassing period.

A bird that, unfortunately, cannot (yet?) be placed in the breeding category for Ottawa is Peregrine Falcon. A number of young were released this year both at Hull and Arnprior; however, no birds from previous years returned to breed. An unusual sighting was of an adult at Richmond Fen in early June.

With the exception of the House Finch explosion, the most dynamic expansion of breeding birds into the Ottawa area over the past decade has been the growing utilization of sewage ponds by "prairie" species. With the Atlas, birders have begun to

realize the significance of these sites over and above their use by transient waders. The Ottawa area sewage ponds, in particular those in the east, have received adequate coverage only in the past few years. This coverage has paid off handsomely. Breeding Wilson's Phalarope has been confirmed, and this year a brood of Ruddy Ducks, suspected for several years, was found at Casselman. This sighting represents the first Ottawa District breeding record of this attractive duck. As a point of interest, it should be noted that this species has bred on the ponds at Vankleek Hill, at Alfred (both this year and last), and at St. Isidore de Prescott for the first time this summer. The other "prairie" waterfowl - Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Widgeon and American Coot - are all breeding at one or another, or all, of these lagoons. (See article beginning page 232.)

Summer Vagrants

This section is a catchall for anything that does not fit into any of the other categories. Perhaps the most interesting observations are those that foretell range expansions. In addition to the Little Gulls noted above, an admitted long shot, are Double-crested Cormorants. Large numbers of these cormorants were seen throughout the period, including 38 on July 13th. Most interesting was the half dozen or so that set up shop at Nepean Bay. They were frequently seen passing sticks to one another and placing them gingerly on the ground amongst the fuzzy baby Ring-billed Gulls. Double-crested Cormorants are exploding into Ontario, regaining the range that they had at the turn of the century. Breeding for Ottawa next year is almost a certainty, if it has not yet occurred. Herring Gulls breed on some of the larger lakes in the northern part of the District but have traditionally been scarce in the summer. This year there was a high count of 345 at Nepean Dump in mid-July, where the occasional Great Black-backed Gull was also seen.

Most intriguing were the two Sandhill Cranes just east of Mer Bleue from mid-June to mid-July. These birds behaved as if they were a mated pair and were always in one another's company. There are other summer records of this species for Ottawa, mainly from the vicinity of Richmond Fen. Sandhill Cranes are expanding in the northeastern part of their range and now breed in the Bruce Peninsula as well as just west of Algonquin Park. They might well find either the Richmond Fen or the Mer Bleue Bog to their liking. Let's hope so!

The highlight of the summer vagrants was the second year plumaged male Orchard Oriole discovered at McKay Lake. The bird was seen for about a week in mid-June before it wandered off. This is the fifth record of this species for Ottawa, and the first that has stayed around long enough for most observers to see it, albeit with some difficulty! Most local records have been in the late spring and early summer, and it has bred as

close to Ottawa as Gananoque. Accordingly, a singing male on territory might foretell a future breeding record here.

The remaining list of summer vagrants was a mixed bag of tricks that included a Common Goldeneye at Casselman on June 26th, a Red-necked Grebe on June 27th at Shirleys Bay, a Greater Scaup at the same location on July 13th, and a Bufflehead at Casselman through July. A Great Egret at Shirleys Bay on July 20th fits the pattern of summer vagrancy for this species, which now breeds at Cornwall. Up to three adult Caspian Terns were seen off and on, usually at Ottawa Beach, from the end of June.

Fall Migration

Due to confusion with both tardy northward-bound spring migrants and possible breeders, the exact date of the start of fall migration in our area is a bit fuzzy. Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers seen in late June at sewage lagoons could have been going in either direction. Another Solitary Sandpiper, on July 6th, was in possible breeding habitat near Poltimore. There are historical records of this species breeding in our region, but none in recent years. A particularly noteworthy early arrival was a Golden Plover at Green's Creek on July 7th, seen before access to this productive spot was denied to birders.

By mid-July, the shorebird migration had increased to a steady, if small, flow. On July 20th, a strong storm grounded large numbers of waders, mainly at Ottawa Beach and Shirleys Bay. On the 26th, there was a repeat performance, with impressive numbers moving into and out of Ottawa Beach all day. While the Whimbrels, Hudsonian Godwits and Red Knots stole the show, a flock of 86 Sanderlings at Ottawa Beach was an unusually high number for Ottawa. On the days following these fallouts, numbers evaporated along with the rain. A small system, on July 29th, dropped 12 Red Knots and a lone Whimbrel at Ottawa Beach, and there were a few further reports of Whimbrels at about the same time. The last fallout of the season was on August 21st, when four flocks of Hudsonian Godwits, totalling 260 birds, set an all-time record for Ottawa. Hudsonian Godwit was once a very rare bird, due to market hunting, but it has made a good comeback.

By late July, the numbers of gulls at Ottawa Beach in the evenings had started to increase, and included up to ten Bonaparte's Gulls in addition to the two Little Gulls, three Caspian Terns and a family of Common Terns. Also present was a Merlin, which regularly patrolled the area for less wary shorebirds.

While most of the sewage ponds were too full of water to attract many shorebirds, some fields south of the city were flooded, creating good habitat. In particular, the sod farms at

Manderley were productive, hosting up to six Stilt Sandpipers in August, a flock of Hudsonian Godwits on August 21st, and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

One of the more interesting things about early fall waders is that they are almost all adult and often retain their spring plumage. Thus, many of the knots, turnstones and Sanderlings seen in late July were still dressed in their colourful nuptial costumes. Somewhat less striking but still attractive in a subtle way were the gentle tones of the adult Baird's Sandpiper at Ottawa Beach on July 26th. This is a rarely-seen plumage in Ottawa. Even better was the adult Long-billed Dowitcher discovered at Shirleys Bay on July 28th and still present the next day. This is the first ever adult in Ottawa, our first in July, and a provincially-significant record. The bird was still in its spring finery and looked very exotic indeed amongst its more drab associates. A full report of this often tough-to-identify bird has been accepted by the Bird Records Subcommittee.

Passerines had also started to move by mid-July as demonstrated by the Swainson's Thrush found dead at the corner of Strathcona and Bank Streets on July 10th. By the third week of the month, Swainson's Thrushes were passing over at night in considerable numbers, and migrant warblers had started to appear at places like Britannia. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in unusual numbers in early August, with small parties being reported about the city. More intriguing were several reports of Red Cross-bills from late July on. These nomadic birds have a habit of erupting into our area. Given a good "cone crop" year, they may occur in high numbers.

By late August, swallows, including up to 5,000 Purple Martins, were massing along the Ottawa River. By month's end, cold winds from the northwest foretold the fall to come, and many birds had started to leave for another winter in warmer climes.

Acknowledgements: This report was based on the author's personal notes, updated by those of Christine Hanrahan, Bernie Ladouceur, and, in particular, Bruce Di Labio. ▣

* * *

THE NEW BIRD STATUS NUMBER IS 225-4333

* * *

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Ottawa District

Christine Hanrahan and Bruce M. Di Labio

Range in Ontario

Prior to the 1940s, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) was considered a vagrant in Ontario east of Toronto. Along Lake Erie, however, it was a regular, if not abundant, summer resident according to McIlwraith (1894). In 1932, a "noticeable invasion" of the species was observed in the Niagara frontier region along Lake Erie, and it was found almost yearly from that date on (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). Sightings from Ontario east of the Niagara area were reported occasionally after 1932 and somewhat more frequently during and after the 1940s (Figure 1 and Table 1).

The Toronto region had its first report on May 9, 1885 (Parker 1981), but subsequent sightings were few, and by 1930, only five records were known for the area. Nonetheless, after the first breeding record in June 1944, sightings of this species were made on a regular basis, with up to 20 birds found in 1981. Parker (1981) believes the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher to be a rare but established breeder in the Toronto area, mostly near Lake Ontario.

Oshawa has had regular sightings of a few birds from the mid-1960s, although breeding was known to have occurred at least twice prior to that period (1932 and 1959); a third nesting occurred in 1965 (Tozer and Richards 1974). In the Port Hope - Cobourg area, the first recorded observation was in 1954, and the first nest was discovered in 1975 (McDonald and John 1979).

The first reported Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Presqu'ile Provincial Park was in 1961, and since that time their numbers have increased, with up to five pairs breeding in recent years (McRae 1981).

Prince Edward County saw its first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on May 12, 1953, at Huyck's Point (Sprague and Weir 1984). The species didn't occur at Prince Edward Point until 1964, and breeding was not confirmed until May 20, 1979 (*ibid.*). However, between 1964 and 1979, the number of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers increased significantly, with three birds found in 1971 and 38 in 1976 (*ibid.*).

The first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Kingston area was observed at Barker Point in May 1953 (Quilliam 1973). Since 1960, Quilliam (1973) reports that it has been found regularly

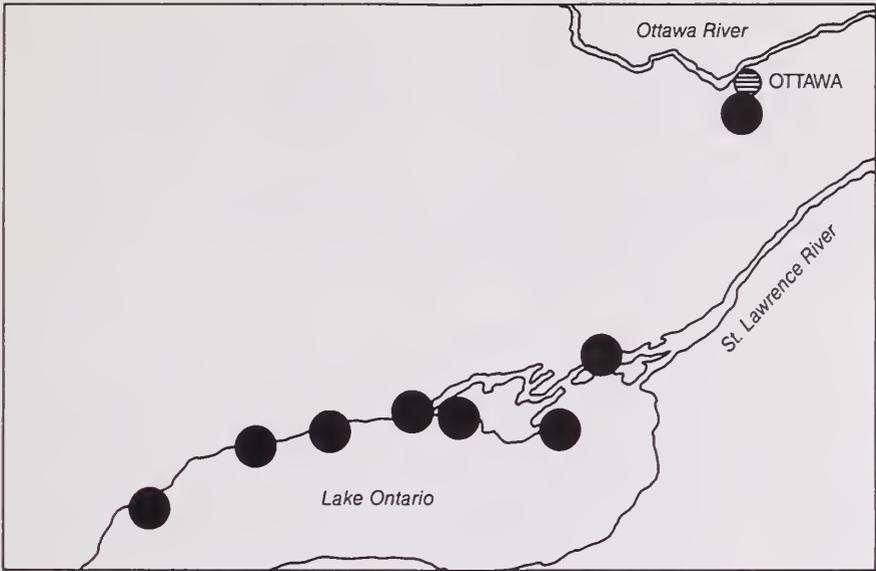


Figure 1. Locations where the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has been observed east of Toronto.

Table 1

Dates of First Observation and Breeding of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher East of Toronto

	First Observation	First Breeding
Toronto	1885	1944
Oshawa	1932	1932
Port Hope	1954	1975
Presqu'ile Prov. Park	1961	
Huyck's Point	1953	
Prince Edward Point	1964	1979
Kingston	1953	
Ottawa	1963	1986

every year.

Away from the Lake Ontario shore, the bird is noticeably scarce. In Peterborough County, Sadler (1983) reported only four records, while in the Muskoka - Parry Sound area, Mills (1981) found just two records. There is a single report of this species nesting at Wasaga Beach in Simcoe County in 1976. Although the largest concentrations of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher are along the Lake Ontario shore, this species has moved slowly northeast to the Ottawa District.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Ottawa District*

The first modern record for the Ottawa District comes from May 21, 1963, when one bird was observed at the Arboretum by members of an Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club walk (Brunton 1981). The next sighting was not until May 10, 1968, and at this time, Pittaway (1969) regarded it as a very rare spring migrant. During the early 1970s, there were occasional records to 1973, after which date a definite increase began with reports of spring and fall migrants, and also summer sightings. By the early 1980s, it was considered a regular spring migrant in small numbers (up to five individuals). Brunton (1981) refers to an undocumented record of A.G. Kingston's from May 26, 1892, wherein Kingston described what he believed to be a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Brunton considers the description conclusive and regards this as the first Ottawa District record.

The first breeding evidence for the Ottawa District was established on July 23, 1983, when two adults were found feeding two (possibly three) young birds near Carlsbad Springs (R. A. Foxall personal communication 1986). It is interesting to note that three adult Blue-gray Gnatcatchers had been observed in the same location earlier in the year on June 11 (*ibid.*).

Although Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed in several locations in 1984, no evidence of breeding was found. In 1985, however, a nest was discovered at Leamy Lake in Hull, Quebec, and at least one young was subsequently fledged (J. Dubois pers. com. 1986). Nesting was also suspected along the Huntley Town Line near Kanata after an agitated pair was observed on May 14th. Further sightings of these two birds continued through to mid-June (by BMD *et al.*). In 1986, a pair returned to both Leamy Lake and the Huntley Town Line.

The Huntley Town Line pair was observed to begin nest-building on May 8th, 1986, an activity which continued until May 14th when the nest appeared to be complete. During that time,

* *The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower.*

they were very defensive, fighting off all avian intruders including an American Robin. Bent (1949) says that the nest takes an average of one to two weeks to build. This is in accordance with our observations, which showed that the nest was finished in about seven days.

Both sexes participate in nest construction. Christine watched this activity for over an hour one day and observed that the male (Figure 2) did the majority of the work at that time. During this particular episode, the female spent a lot of time probing what appeared to be a partial nest in a willow tree about 100 metres from the nest site. Later, the male joined her, and together they pulled a considerable amount of material from this presumed nest and carried it to the new one. Harrison (1975) notes that the birds will sometimes tear up a partially completed nest and reuse the material to build another close by. He believes this behaviour may stem from awareness of possible discovery of the nest. Bent (1949) concurs and adds that human disturbance or nearby nest construction by another species are probable determining factors in a change of site. This particular pair did not seem disturbed by our visits; however, we were careful to observe their progress from some distance away with the aid of a spotting scope. An American Robin nesting directly across the road in a small shrub apparently had little effect on the gnatcatchers.



Figure 2. *The male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher building the nest.* Photograph from a slide by Ray Holland.

The nest was situated in the fork of a Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) about two metres back from the road and four to five metres above the ground (Figures 3 and 4). Bent (1949) gives the nest height as anywhere from a few metres up to 25 metres, with most being lower than eight metres. The choice of the willow for this nest site seems to have been dictated more by convenience than by any actual preference for this species. Indeed, Bent (1949) asserts that they will utilize any tree having the right size and conformation of limbs for nest-building purposes. It appears that the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has an affinity for nesting near water, at least in the northern part of its range (Bent 1949). Certainly, the proximity of the Carp River at this particular site and Leamy Lake at the Quebec site would lend some credence to this idea.

The nest itself was a small, delicately formed cup, the outside measuring 6 cm in diameter by 6.2 cm deep, and the inside measuring 3.8 cm in diameter by 4.2 cm deep. By comparison, an American Robin's nest is quite large. The outside is 16.5 cm and 7.6 cm deep, while the inside measures 10.2 cm in diameter by 6.4 cm deep. Externally, it was covered with lichen (*Parmelia sulcata* Tayl.), while the lining consisted of cattail down, soft leaf down and various grasses and fibres. The whole was bound together and to the tree by what appeared to be spider webs. Most written accounts of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest concur with this description.

Egg laying was assumed to be complete by May 18th when the adults were found sitting on the nest. Incubation normally takes about 13 to 15 days (Harrison 1978, Bent 1949). Therefore, we estimated that the eggs would be hatched on, or close to, June 1st. Both sexes take part in the incubation process, although we noted that the male of this pair was more often seen on the nest.

Normally the young are ready to leave the nest within 12 or 13 days of hatching (Harrison 1978). Using June 1st as the probable hatching date, we expected to see a flurry of feeding activity sometime after that date and fully-fledged birds around June 12th to 15th.

Once the adults were seen to be sitting on the nest, we felt strongly that disturbance should be kept to a minimum. Knowing the probable dates of hatching and fledging, we decided to visit the nest site only a few times between May 18th and June 12th. On each visit all appeared well. According to Bent (1949), the activity around the nest becomes very intense once the adults begin feeding the young. On June 9th, a visit was made to the nest site with every expectation of seeing adults busily feeding young. Instead, the male was sitting on the nest, and during the next 10 minutes, no feeding was noticed nor was the female seen or heard. However, the male did become very agitated and at one point left the nest for up to five minutes.



Figure 3. The nesting habitat along the Huntley Town Line at the bridge over the Carp River. The nest was in the willows on the left in Huntley Township.



*Figure 4. The male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the nest.
Photographs by Bruce Di Labio.*

On June 14th, the date on which we anticipated seeing fledged young, another visit was made. The site appeared deserted, and other than one brief bird call, no activity was noted.

On the evening of June 16th, during a heavy downpour, the nest site was again visited. The absence of any activity prompted Peter Dunn and Bruce to climb the tree and investigate the nest. It was found to contain two unhatched eggs and the bodies of two nearly fledged young. By the condition of the young birds, it was determined that they had been dead for at least two or three days. The nest appeared undisturbed, and no obvious signs of predation were noted. The nest and contents were retrieved and donated to the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Reasons for the apparent nest desertion by the adult birds can only be speculative. Predation on the parents would lead, of course, to starvation of the young. However, in the case of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, male and female birds share the feeding duties, and predation on both adults is highly unlikely. Human disturbance could have been a contributing factor. A large number of people visited the nest site regularly, and on some occasions, up to seven cars were reported to be parked beneath, and close to, the nest tree. Brunton and McRae (personal communication 1986) have noted that some nests located in areas of great activity did not suffer from the disturbance. However, birders should be urged to exercise caution and discretion when visiting any nest site. Photographers especially should be careful not to disrupt the nest by removing branches or other protective coverings or by remaining too close for a long period of time. This is particularly important in times of prolonged damp and/or cold when it is imperative that the adults not be prevented from brooding. Downy young can not regulate their body temperature and must be warmed periodically. In fact, it appears that the most likely cause of this nest failure was the unseasonably cold, damp weather of early June. Many other land birds faced the same weather-related nesting problems.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are normally double-brooded, and it is hoped that this particular pair will have nested again, with more success.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Irwin Brodo of the National Museum of Natural Sciences for identifying the lichen species, Dan Brunton for identifying the tree species, John Dubois for information on the Leamy Lake nesting, Roger Foxall for supplying information on the first Ottawa breeding record, and Ray Holland for the photograph of the gnatcatcher nest-building.

Literature Cited

- Beardslee, C.S. and H.D. Mitchell. 1965. Birds of the Niagara Frontier region. Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. 478 pp.
- Bent, A.C. 1949. Life histories of North American thrushes, kinglets and their allies. U.S. National Museum Bulletin no. 196. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 452 pp.
- Brunton, D.F. 1981. Rare bird sightings by A.G. Kingston. *Trail & Landscape* 15(4): 210-214.
- Harrison, C. 1978. A field guide to the nests, eggs and nestlings of North American birds. Collins. 416 pp.
- Harrison, H.H. 1975. A field guide to birds' nests. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 257 pp.
- McDonald, E. and R. John. 1979. Birds of the Port Hope & Cobourg area. Willow Beach Field Naturalists. typed manuscript. 39 pp. For information, write Roy John, 8 Aurora Cres., Nepean, Ontario K2G 0Z7.
- McIlwraith, T. 1894. The birds of Ontario. 2nd Edition. William Briggs, Toronto. 426 pp.
- McRae, R.D. 1981. Birds of Presqu'ile Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 74 pp.
- Mills, A. 1981. A cottager's guide to the birds of Muskoka and Parry Sound. published by the author. 209 pp.
- Parker, B.D. 1981. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Toronto region. *Toronto Field Natualists Newsletter* 344: 26.
- Pittaway, R. 1969. The birds of the Ottawa region. *Trail & Landscape* 3(1): 10-15.
- Quilliam, H. 1973. History of the birds of Kingston, Ontario. *Kingston Field Naturalists*. 209 pp.
- Sadler, D. 1983. Our heritage of birds. Peterborough County in the Kawarthas. Peterborough Field Naturalists. 190 pp.
- Sprague, R.T. and R. Weir. 1984. The birds of Prince Edward County. 2nd Edition. Kingston Field Naturalists. 190 pp.
- Tozer, R. and J. Richards. 1974. Birds of the Oshawa-Lake Scugog region of Ontario. Alger Press. 384 pp. □

Update on Overwintering Common Snipe

Bruce M. Di Labio

In a previous article, I reported on a Common Snipe (*Galinago gallinago*) overwintering during January-March 1984 on an open section of Beaver Brook in Kanata (Trail & Landscape 19(1): 16-17 (1985)). A year later, a Common Snipe was again found at Beaver Brook. It was first sighted on January 22nd, 1985, and since it was still present in early March, I presume it survived the rest of the winter.

This is not the only Common Snipe that apparently overwintered in recent years. In Cobden, up the Ottawa Valley approximately 125 km westnorthwest of Ottawa, a Common Snipe was found in late October 1984 at an outlet of the sewage treatment plant (Jacques Bouvier, personal communication). It was observed regularly through the winter feeding in the outlet stream, which remained open. It too was present to at least early 1985.

In the other article, I also mentioned that there were two records of Common Snipe from the Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Counts of 1970 and 1978. A third record has turned up; in 1983 a single Common Snipe was seen on the Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Count.

During last winter, the winter of 1985-86, there were no reports of sightings of overwintering Common Snipes. If anyone has any knowledge of other Common Snipes overwintering in this area during the past few years, I would be very interested in hearing about them. ▣

* * *

PARTICIPATE IN THE ONTARIO BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

You are invited to join the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey, which was begun in 1976-77 to document population size changes in our common winter birds.

You record the high counts of species at your feeder during a two-day period every two weeks, starting in mid-November, and the only requirement is that you be able to identify the common winter species (for example, to distinguish Hairy from Downy Woodpeckers).

To join the Survey or for further information, please write to the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0.

Anecdotal Report on Kestrels in Downtown Ottawa

Beryl Johnson

On Saturday, June 29th, of this year, I was looking out the window of my eighth-floor apartment opposite the National Museum of Nature Sciences, when I noticed a bird landing in the top of a large poplar tree on the northeast corner. The characteristic pointed wings and dark subterminal tail band reminded me that Mrs. Le Geyt had reported in her column in *The Citizen* that Ray Holland had seen a Peregrine Falcon in the area.

Dark face markings were evident through binoculars, but the non-descript brown and buff colour and tufts of down on the flanks led me to conclude that it was a juvenile. The youngster called plaintively on a single high-pitched note for 45 minutes while I kept vigil, hoping that a parent would come to the rescue. An adult finally arrived and settled lower on the same branch. Elation was swiftly followed by disappointment as I identified the chestnut tail, back and crown patch of an American Kestrel and not the anticipated Peregrine Falcon. The youngster, now obviously a kestrel, flew off toward Elgin Street about five minutes later, but the adult, as though searching, flew back and forth between the poplars before leaving in the same direction. These events took almost an hour and ended shortly after 8 p.m. on a bright evening with scattered cloud.

The following morning, a pair of adult kestrels alighted in the same poplar, where the brown-winged female perched for over 30 minutes, motionless except for an occasional flick of the tail. The slate blue-winged male moved on to shelter in the shade of a ventilator shaft on the Museum roof. A pair of pigeons strutting along an adjacent parapet provided a useful comparison and were definitely larger and more robust in appearance. On the same day, I observed a male adult in the poplar at lunch time and again on a final check at 9 p.m.

The next day, I made periodic surveys and was rewarded at 5 p.m. when a male kestrel landed on the sturdy limb of a poplar. For 15 minutes, he tore off and swallowed pieces from an unidentified source of food secured underfoot. Several extra gulps were needed to dispatch what looked suspiciously like the tail of a rodent. After preening briefly, he flew off.

I continued daily sightings for some time and so am reasonably confident that there are at least one male, one female, and one immature kestrel residing in the vicinity of the National Museum of Natural Sciences. Birds that have come within binocular range of my apartment window to date are listed below. The number will undoubtedly increase now that I have discovered the pleasure and rewards of birdwatching in downtown Ottawa.

Great Blue Heron	Purple Martin	European Starling
Canada Goose	American Crow	Northern Oriole
Ring-billed Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Common Nighthawk	American Robin	House Sparrow ☐

Robins as Foster Parents

Ray Holland

When Heather Pearl and David McDowell noticed Cedar Waxwings bringing nesting material to a White Mulberry tree in their garden, they knew that they were in for a treat. But they got more than they bargained for.

Everything started off naturally enough. The nest was completed and the female waxwing set about her duties of laying eggs and incubating them. The first of five eggs hatched 14 days later, and the rest soon followed. The busy parents paid no attention to the would-be photographers taking pictures of this event and carried on bringing a variety of foods, including honeysuckle berries.

Heather and David continued observing this daily routine, amazed at the growth rate of the young birds. Maybe this was the first hint that something was going on. For on July 25th David noticed an American Robin sitting beside the waxwings' nest. It had food in its mouth and began feeding the young birds. Strange as it may seem, the parent waxwings showed no sign of anxiety at this behaviour. Perhaps the robins had lost their own brood, but whatever the reason, these lucky youngsters were having a field day getting well-fed for breakfast, lunch and supper.

I visited David's and Heather's home on Keyworth Avenue in Ottawa on July 27th, when there were but two young remaining in the nest (Figure 1). The rest of the family was sitting all in a row on a branch of a nearby maple tree. But a new twist had already taken place.



Figure 1. The two young Cedar Waxwings still in the nest are about to be fed by the adult male American Robin. Photograph from a slide by the author.

The pair of robins had adopted the whole family now and was keeping the parent waxwings at bay. The female robin was bringing most of the food now, while her spouse guarded the nest and nearby young. The original parents could no longer approach their young and were ushered away at every feeble attempt to return.

By late afternoon of that day, the nest was empty and all five immature Cedar Waxwings had been reunited in the maple tree. Their parents watched from one corner of the garden as the new foster-parent robins continued to feed and guard over their new-found family. ▣

Lark Sparrow

New for the Ottawa District

Bruce M. Di Labio

On the morning of June 13, 1984, Jim Wickware discovered an adult Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) 4 km northeast of Dunrobin (March Township, Ottawa-Carleton R.M.) along the 6th Line (Regional Road 21) near the Thomas Dolan Parkway. He had first noticed the sparrow while working in his deciduous shrub nursery, Canavonda Nursery. After observing the bird for a while, he consulted his copy of Godfrey's *The Birds of Canada* and found that the species he was looking at was the distinctly-plumaged Lark Sparrow.

Later that morning, Jim contacted Richard Poulin at the National Museum of Natural Sciences, and by one o'clock, Richard, Jack Horner and I arrived at the tree nursery. After Jim showed us where he had last observed the sparrow, we each covered different sections of the nursery, and within 15-20 minutes, Richard flushed the bird from the grass. It flew a short distance, landed and disappeared again. Within seconds, Jack Horner and I were covering the area where the bird had vanished. It flew up in front of us and landed on a shrub near the house. Here it perched for a few minutes, giving us excellent views of its distinctive head markings.

During that time, I noted the following field markings through 9 x 36 Bushnell binoculars: pale, grayish-white underparts; a chestnut-coloured crown with a white median stripe; a white stripe above the eyes; a chestnut ear patch; a black molar stripe; a whitish chin; and a white area between the molar stripe and ear patch. The bill appeared dark and conical in shape. The tail appeared dark while sitting, but in flight the outer tail feathers were white, with the inner tail feathers tipped with white and the centre tail feathers dark-coloured, giving it a pattern similar to that of the Rufous-sided Towhee, not like the Vesper Sparrow. There was a black spot on the upper breast, while the nape had no streaks. The back had blackish streaks, and the wings were brownish with no obvious wing bars. In flight, the sparrow had an unstreaked rump. In size, the bird was approximately the size of a Song Sparrow. In habits, the bird was secretive and preferred running to flying. No calls were given during the period of observation.

After allowing us to view it for a few minutes, the bird then flew about 10 metres and vanished in the grass. We searched for it briefly but with no success. In the afternoon, other bird watchers came and combed the area, but they could not find the bird. Jim Wickware never saw it again either, although

he continued working in the area where he first saw the bird.

This observation represents the first record for the Ottawa District. The Lark Sparrow is a known vagrant in eastern Canada, occurring more regularly in the fall than in the spring or summer. From available records in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, I had anticipated that if one were to appear, it would be between late August and late October. But, birds being birds, they can occur any time they feel like it. As noted in a *Recent Bird Sightings* article (Hanrahan and Di Labio 1984), there were three fall records for the Kingston area (Weir and Quilliam 1980) to 1984. Subsequently, a fourth record was made when this species appeared at a feeding station near Camden East and overwintered. Another Lark Sparrow turned up in Algonquin Park in October 1985.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Jim Wickware for informing us of his find and Christine Hanrahan for helpful comments and suggestions on the manuscript.

Literature Cited

- Hanrahan, C. and B. Di Labio. 1984. Recent bird sightings. *Trail & Landscape* 18(5): 233-238.
- Weir, R.D. and H.R. Quilliam. 1980. Supplement to History of the birds of Kingston Ontario. Kingston Field Naturalists, Kingston, Ontario. ▢

* * *

AT THE NATURE CANADA BOOKSHOP

75 Albert Street, Lower Level
telephone 238-6154

A Birder's Checklist of Ottawa May 1985 \$.75 each

This list contains bar graphs that show the probability of seeing the birds listed on a typical day trip at any time of the year.

Ottawa District Bird Field List May 1986 \$.17 each

A list of all 329 species recorded in the Ottawa District with three columns to check off your observations in the field.

Orchard Oriole

First Specimen Record for the Ottawa District

Bruce M. Di Labio

On August 19, 1983, Stewart Dennison brought several dead birds to the National Museum of Natural Sciences on Holly Lane. Among them was a female Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*), the first specimen record and one of the few records for the Ottawa District (Figure 1). The bird had struck a window at Mr. Dennison's house on the River Road 5 km north of Manotick (City of Gloucester, Ottawa-Carleton R.M.).

Although the exact date was not written down at the time of discovery, Mr. Dennison recalled it to be around May 10th. It is interesting to note that the first major wave of migrants (flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles, etc.) hit Ottawa on May 7th and 8th, and it is likely that the Orchard Oriole was carried here by the same weather system.

Following this specimen record, a second-year male Orchard Oriole was photographed and banded at Innis Point by the Ottawa Banding Group (Trail & Landscape 17(5): 245-247 (1983)) on July 5, 1983 (Figure 2).

The Orchard Oriole is a regular migrant and a local breeder along Lake Erie and around both ends of Lake Ontario. Away from the region of the lakes it is a very rare migrant. The closest area to Ottawa where the Orchard Oriole occurs regularly is Prince Edward Point in Prince Edward County. In *The Birds of Prince Edward County* (Sprague and Weir 1984) it is listed as a "fairly regular rare to uncommon spring visitor. Rare summer resident." They determined the average arrival date to be May 14th; the earliest date was May 7, 1983.

Undoubtedly more Orchard Orioles will be found in the Ottawa District. The published records would seem to indicate that May 5-25 is the most likely time for one to appear. The most likely areas to find one are Britannia Woods, Vincent Massey Park, Rockcliffe Park and Clyde Avenue Woods following heavy movements of land birds which then are grounded for a while by bad weather.

Remember that if you find a dead bird and intend to donate it to the National Museum of Natural Sciences, write down the date and place and put the information with the body before putting it in your freezer. Your donation could turn out to be an unusual species.

My thanks to Dr. Henri Ouellet for permission to photograph the oriole specimens at the National Museum of Natural Sciences.



This female Orchard Oriole (above, bottom) is the Ottawa District's first specimen record. It resembles the female Northern (Baltimore) Oriole (top) but is smaller and has greenish-yellow underparts with no orange tinge.



The immature male Orchard Oriole banded at Innis Point on July 5, 1983, showed the distinctive black chin and throat of the species. It had a few chestnut feathers on the breast and a few black feathers on the top of the head. Both photographs from slides by the author. □

Birding Ottawa's Sewage Lagoons

Christine Hanrahan

Many people view birdwatching as an activity carried out in areas of natural beauty, undisturbed by human interference. In fact, some of our most interesting and productive birding locations are artificially created. Of these, sewage lagoons are especially noteworthy for the excellent birding opportunities they offer. The diversity of species is exceptional, and while shorebirds and waterfowl are the primary users of these lagoons, many other species can be observed.

Table 1 gives a list of some species known to have occurred on, or near, sewage lagoons. It is undoubtedly incomplete, and I would appreciate hearing about additions.

While spring and fall provide the most excitement, the nesting season holds its own appeal. In addition to the breeding species, some seasonally uncommon nonbreeders have either summered on lagoons or been observed, however briefly, during the summer months. Some species, Ruddy Duck in particular, are definitely increasing in our area, a trend almost entirely attributable to the favourable habitat offered by some of the lagoons.

The Ottawa District* contains nine sewage lagoons, and four others are located just outside the District (Figure 1). One of these lagoons, Green's Creek in Gloucester, has recently closed and its ponds have been drained. This was once an excellent place to see not only large numbers of migrating shorebirds but real rarities as well. The choice habitat provided by this particular lagoon, combined with steady coverage by a number of birders, resulted in such finds as Glossy Ibis, American Avocet and Sabine's Gull. With the closing of Green's Creek, Ottawa has lost a prime birding spot. In the west end, Watt's Creek sewage lagoon still exists but has long ceased to be worthwhile for birds, primarily due to changes in and around the lagoons. All other lagoons shown in Figure 1 are in operation, and most have had extremely interesting birds at one time or another.

While lagoons in the District's west end have been birded for years, those east of Ottawa came to the attention of most birders only during the course of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project (1981-1985). Indeed, the Russell lagoon was not generally known until 1983 when a couple of atlasers decided to check it out. Possibly the best lagoons to bird within the

* *The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower.*

Table 1

Species List for Area Sewage Lagoons

Common Loon	Marbled Godwit
Pied-billed Grebe*	Ruddy Turnstone
Horned Grebe	Red Knot
	Sanderling
American Bittern	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Great Blue Heron	Western Sandpiper
Snowy Egret	Least Sandpiper
Green-backed Heron	White-rumped Sandpiper
Glossy Ibis	Baird's Sandpiper
	Pectoral Sandpiper
Canada Goose*	Dunlin
Wood Duck*	Stilt Sandpiper
Green-winged Teal*	Ruff
American Black Duck*	Short-billed Dowitcher
Mallard*	Long-billed Dowitcher
Northern Pintail*	Common Snipe
Blue-winged Teal*	Wilson's Phalarope*
Northern Shoveler*	Red-necked Phalarope
Gadwall*	Red Phalarope
American Wigeon*	
Canvasback	Laughing Gull
Redhead	Franklin's Gull
Ring-necked Duck	Bonaparte's Gull
Lesser Scaup	Ring-billed Gull
Oldsquaw	Sabine's Gull
Surf Scoter	Black Tern
White-winged Scoter	
Common Goldeneye	Rock Dove
Barrow's Goldeneye	Mourning Dove
Bufflehead	
Hooded Merganser	Short-eared Owl
Common Merganser	
Red-breasted Merganser	Purple Martin
Ruddy Duck*	Tree Swallow
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Northern Harrier*	Bank Swallow
Red-tailed Hawk	Cliff Swallow
American Kestrel	Barn Swallow
Merlin	
Peregrine Falcon	American Crow
Gray Partridge*	Water Pipit
Virginia Rail?	European Starling*
Sora Rail?	
Common Moorhen*	Yellow Warbler
American Coot*	Yellow-rumped Warbler
	Palm Warbler
Black-bellied Plover	Common Yellowthroat*
Lesser Golden Plover	
Semipalmated Plover	Savannah Sparrow*
Killdeer*	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
American Avocet	Song Sparrow*
Greater Yellowlegs	Swamp Sparrow*
Lesser Yellowlegs	Snow Bunting
Solitary Sandpiper	
Willet	Bobolink*
Spotted Sandpiper*	Red-winged Blackbird*
Upland Sandpiper*	Eastern Meadowlark*
Whimbrel	Common Grackle
Hudsonian Godwit	Brown-headed Cowbird

* indicates breeding known to have occurred

? indicates breeding suspected

Note on Table 1: This list shows species observed on and around the lagoons themselves, in the surrounding pond vegetation, on the banks of the lagoons, and in adjacent fields; in other words, the area defined as lagoon property. It also notes some of the species found flying over the lagoons. Obviously, many other species fly across the lagoons than are shown, but the purpose here is to note only the interesting or the unexpected. Birds that nest elsewhere but feed on or over the lagoons (swallows, Black Tern) are also noted, as are species that have simply used the lagoons for momentary resting places (Common Loon, Ring-billed Gull).

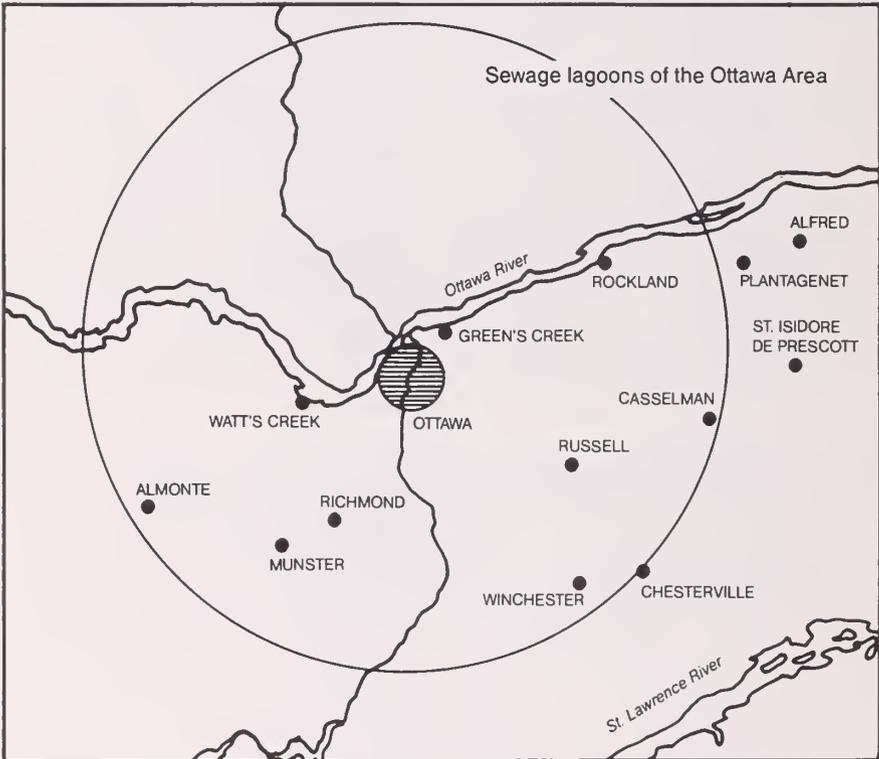


Figure 1. Note that Green's Creek lagoons are no longer in operation. For directions on reaching the other sewage lagoons, refer to Clive Goodwin's Bird-finding Guide to Ontario (1982). The use of topographical map 31G is also advised.

Ottawa area are those at Richmond (west) and Casselman (east). Alfred, just outside the District, is particularly interesting for the variety of birds found there during the summer and fall, not to mention having the distinction of hosting the only known (so far) family of Ruddy Duck in this part of Ontario. However, all lagoons have the potential to attract not only the "regulars", but also the unusual, and they should be carefully checked particularly during the migration periods.

Not all lagoons are equally productive for all purposes. Some provide better habitat for breeders, while their appeal for shorebirds is dependent on water levels. When high water levels are maintained, or when prolonged heavy rainfall causes the water levels to rise, the nutrient-rich sludge so attractive to shorebirds is absent. Therefore, the conditions so conducive to shorebird stopovers will not exist. Rarities can, and do, turn up anywhere. Thus, expecting the unexpected quickly becomes the norm when visiting these places.

It should be stressed that sewage lagoons are private property. Goodwin (1982) gives directions to many lagoons in his Ontario guide but advises that they are posted against trespassing. He does note, however, that birders are tolerated. While attitudes toward this kind of usage vary with the officials involved, it appears that they are heading in the direction of even greater tolerance. If you have any doubts as to whether you should enter one of these lagoons, telephone the appropriate municipality or the Ontario Ministry of the Environment office. Naturally, the authorities are anxious to avoid dangerous incidents, but so long as we behave in a responsible manner, we should continue enjoying the privileges of birding these unique areas.

In the write-up that follows, I have noted the place and year only for significant sightings.

Migration

Each spring and fall, large numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl pass through our area. Sewage lagoons provide them with much needed resting and feeding places on their long northward and southward journeys. It is during migration that good concentrations of Canada Geese, and puddle and diving ducks occur. Loons, grebes, herons, mergansers, rails and coots can also be found on lagoons. While most of these species move on, some remain to breed. Migration is the time to find interesting waterfowl, and species such as Canvasback, Redhead, Oldsquaw, and both Surf and White-winged Scoter have been located on area lagoons.

When water levels are low enough to expose sludge, shorebirds can be found in high numbers, and on occasion exceptionally large flocks may occur. Such was the case at the Almonte sewage lagoon in late August, 1974, when a mixed flock (composed primarily of both yellowleg species, and Spotted, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers) of thousands of shorebirds was noted (Stephen Gawn, personal communication 1986). In theory, any shorebird potentially can be found on any sewage lagoon, and it is worth checking all of them during migration. In addition to the commonly occurring species, some really interesting birds have been found. The first Ottawa record for American Avocet

was recorded at Green's Creek (1981) and for Ruff at Richmond (1977). Ruff has subsequently turned up on other sewage lagoons. Willet, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher are examples of the rarities which can be found by checking the lagoons diligently during migration. Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, Baird's Sandpiper and Red Phalarope are other unusual, albeit increasingly regular, visitors to the lagoons. At least 30 species of shorebirds have been recorded on area lagoons; for a list of shorebirds known to have occurred to date, see Table 1.

Other good finds during migration have included a Glossy Ibis (Green's Creek 1982), Snowy Egret (Almonte 1980, Green's Creek 1982), and Sabine's Gull (Green's Creek 1982). Other species have also been observed, some flying over the lagoons, others along the grassy banks, in the hedgerows, or in adjacent fields. Short-eared Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Franklin's Gull, Palm Warbler, Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Richmond 1985), White-crowned Sparrow, Water Pipit and Snow Bunting are some examples of the diverse species that have been found at sewage lagoons. If shorebirds and waterfowl are scarce, why not check for other species. Who knows what might be found.

Breeding Season

Certain sewage lagoons provide more suitable breeding habitat than others. Those with marshy areas, dense stands of cattails surrounding the edges of the lagoon and "islands" of vegetation in the lagoons themselves, offer important cover for waterfowl, rails, moorhens and coots (Figure 2). The grassy banks afford good nesting conditions for Wilson's Phalarope, while Spotted Sandpiper nests near the shore and Killdeer on the gravel paths around the lagoons (Figure 3).

The common breeders are Mallard, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, and (less so with the increasing hybridization with Mallards) Black Duck. Canada Geese have bred on a few lagoons in the area (Figure 4). The following species, once considered rare in summer, all have bred recently in small numbers on area lagoons and appear to be on the increase: Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall and American Wigeon. Wood Ducks, which nest in tree cavities, can be found with their young on sewage lagoons located close to woodlots, such as those at Almonte and Russell.

As noted in the Introduction, several species are now occurring more regularly in our area, and breeding has been confirmed. Ruddy Duck was first noted at the Casselman sewage lagoon in 1983. The following year (1984) saw another male at the same place, but by 1985, five birds were observed throughout the summer. In that same year, breeding was confirmed on the Alfred sewage lagoon when a family of young was found, and in



Figure 2. Casselman sewage lagoon, a good example of a well-vegetated lagoon



Figure 3. Unlike the Casselman sewage lagoon, the Russell lagoon lacks the surrounding vegetation that provides good breeding habitat.

1986, two families with five and six young were located at the same place. 1986 proved to be a good year for this species in our area with up to 12 birds observed on one day in June at Casselman, although eight males and one lone female were more regularly observed there throughout the summer. In August, a family of young Ruddy Ducks was found at Casselman, constituting the first breeding evidence for the Ottawa District. A pair was also observed at St. Isidore de Prescott sewage lagoon throughout the summer, and in August, a family of three downy young was seen there.

American Coot, never common in the area, has been seen less frequently in recent years. But it has bred on sewage lagoons from time to time, and these places are worth checking to find this species.

Wilson's Phalarope is likewise being observed in higher numbers. Fledged young have been seen around lagoons since 1975 (Di Labio 1986) and breeding was suspected. But not until 1984 were downy young found and photographed at Russell sewage lagoon (*ibid.*). During the summer of 1986, this species was found on most area lagoons, and eight fledged young were noted at St. Isidore de Prescott.

Not all birds go about the business of breeding; many non-breeders wander far out of range, and while not rare, are seasonally uncommon in our area. Sewage lagoons are as good a place as any to find wandering waterfowl and shorebirds. Some will linger throughout the summer, while others are observed for only a short period. In 1985, Casselman sewage lagoon had two interesting summering species. A female Canvasback was the first summer record for the area, while a Horned Grebe constituted only the second summer record. Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Oldsquaw, and Barrow's Goldeneye (Munster 1979) have all occurred on sewage lagoons during the breeding season. Lesser Scaups have been known to nest in our area on occasion. During the summer months, they have been seen on sewage lagoons, and in 1985 and 1986, a pair lingered for a while at the Alfred sewage lagoon.

The cattails bordering the lagoons are home to dozens of Red-winged Blackbirds. Meanwhile, the fields surrounding most sewage lagoons support a variety of species: Northern Harrier, Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpiper, Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Song Sparrows nest in the shrubby growth around the fields. All six species of swallows can be found feeding on insects over the water, and, where habitat is suitable, they can be found nesting in the immediate vicinity.



Figure 4. Ducks in the air over the Casselman sewage lagoon.
All photographs were taken by Tony Beck on July 27, 1986.

Information concerning species found at sewage lagoons came from a number of sources: sightings from both *The Shrike* and *Trail & Landscape* were used, as were data gathered by atlasers during the five-year Atlas project. As well, I used my own observations and those of Stephen Gawn. I would also like to thank Stephen for reviewing the article and for his comments and suggestions, and Tony Beck for his photographs.

For a more technical discussion of sewage lagoons in the west end, I would refer readers to a very interesting 1981 study by Bob Gorman entitled *Bird usage of the Ottawa-Carleton area sewage lagoon system including recommendations for development as bird observation areas*. A copy of this unpublished manuscript is in the Canadian Wildlife Service library on Woodward Avenue.

Literature Cited

- Di Labio, B.M. 1986. Downy young Wilson's Phalarope in Russell County. *Trail & Landscape* 20(3): 90-91.
- Goodwin, C.E. 1982. A bird-finding guide to Ontario. University of Toronto Press. 248 pp. ▯

The Ottawa Valley Fall Roundup

Bruce M. Di Labio

This year's Fall Roundup was held on August 31st, the Sunday of the Labour Day Weekend. A total of 175 species was recorded. There were close to 190 species known to be in the area, but weather conditions were not good for finding high numbers of species. The weather was pleasant, sunny and clear all day with a high of 25°C. Coverage was better than the Spring Roundup with 42 field observers, but still more people were needed.

The area of the Fall Roundup was the same as for the Spring Roundup, that is, the Ottawa District. The compiler was Bruce Di Labio and the four section leaders were Bruce Di Labio (southwest), Richard Brouillet and Bernie Ladouceur (southeast), John Dubois (northwest) and Jim Harris (northeast).

Rarities were few and far between. Most sections struggled to find unusual species except for the southeast. The most interesting observation was five Sandhill Cranes flying over the Russell sewage lagoon. Five is the highest number of Sandhill Cranes ever seen in the Ottawa District.

Other notables included one Hudsonian Godwit, two Red-necked (formerly Northern) Phalaropes, one Redhead and seven Ruddy Ducks, all at Casselman sewage lagoon. All the sewage lagoons in the southeast had interesting birds. The Winchester lagoon had a late Wilson's Phalarope, and the Rockland lagoon had 30 Ring-necked Ducks.

In the southwest, the sewage lagoons were not as rewarding. Richmond and Munster were quiet, and at Almonte, seven Lesser Scaup were the only interesting birds.

The exposed mudflats at Ottawa Beach and Shirleys Bay produced a number of shorebird species. At Shirleys Bay, five Red-necked Phalaropes floated around feeding off the dike, while five Baird's Sandpipers fed over the exposed mudflats amongst Semipalmated Sandpipers. It has been a good fall for Baird's.

A single Red-necked Phalarope along the shoreline at Constance Bay was one of the few records away from the traditional areas. At Deschênes Rapids, Great Black-backed Gulls, two adults and one immature, were observed resting on the exposed rocks. The low water level was a definite plus for the southwest.

On the Quebec side, the northwest and northeast did not fare as well as the Ontario side. Both areas lacked the necessary mudflats to attract shorebirds, and both areas are without

sewage lagoons. Even with these handicaps, both sections recorded some noteworthy finds. The northwest had five Red-headed Woodpeckers at Breckenridge, 34 Double-crested Cormorants between Hull and Deschênes Rapids, and a Northern Mockingbird and three White-crowned Sparrows.

In the northeast, the normally rich area for water birds between Masson and Thurso yielded below average numbers of ducks, although 11 species were recorded. Also along this stretch of the river, 40 Pied-billed Grebes, 70 Common Moorhens, six Black-crowned Night-Herons, and one Least Bittern were found.

I would like to thank all the section leaders and participants for their combined effort, and hope to see everyone again next year.

Ottawa Valley Fall Roundup Results

<u>Species</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>Total</u>
Common Loon			3	2	5
Pied-billed Grebe	4	1		40	45
Double-crested Cormorant	26	2	34	1	37*
American Bittern	1	4		4	9
Least Bittern				1	1
Great Blue Heron	52	19	9	54	134
Green-backed Heron	8	1		10	19
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1			6	7
Canada Goose	57	6		19	82
Wood Duck	155	6	15	150	326
Green-winged Teal	198	64		20	282
American Black Duck	128	56	23	32	239
Mallard	193	115	16	152	476
Northern Pintail	6	12			18
Blue-winged Teal	294	73	22	152	541
Northern Shoveler	37	2			39
Gadwall	2			1	3
American Wigeon		2	9	12	23
Redhead		3			3
Ring-necked Duck	8	30		2	40
Lesser Scaup	1		4		5

* Numbers do not add up to total given because the same birds were observed by different sections.

<u>Species</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>Total</u>
Common Goldeneye	3	1	1		5
Hooded Merganser	17	2		7	26
Common Merganser	6		30	3	39
Red-breasted Merganser	1				1
Ruddy Duck		7			7
Turkey Vulture	11	2	2	2	17
Osprey	6			2	8
Northern Harrier	6	15	2	8	31
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	12	3	4	24
Cooper's Hawk	3	1			4
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	1		3
Broad-winged Hawk	1	3		7	11
Red-tailed Hawk	6	10	2	2	20
American Kestrel	17	35	13	10	75
Merlin	2			1	3
Gray Partridge	4	5	3		12
Ring-necked Pheasant	1				1
Ruffed Grouse	6		3	7	16
Virginia Rail		1		1	2
Sora		5			5
Common Moorhen		7		70	77
American Coot		1		1	2
Sandhill Crane		5			5
Black-bellied Plover	2				2
Lesser Golden Plover		4			4
Semipalmated Plover	24	3			27
Killdeer	105	196	78	64	443
Greater Yellowlegs	1	4			5
Lesser Yellowlegs	21	4			25
Solitary Sandpiper	4	1	4		9
Spotted Sandpiper	36	7	6	4	53
Upland Sandpiper	3	4			7
Hudsonian Godwit		1			1
Sanderling	8	1	1		10
Semipalmated Sandpiper	124	14		1	139
Least Sandpiper	50	3	3		56
Baird's Sandpiper	7	1			8
Pectoral Sandpiper	8				8
Short-billed Dowitcher	1				1
Sandpiper species				6	6
Common Snipe	58	5		24	87
American Woodcock		4		1	5
Wilson's Phalarope		1			1
Red-necked Phalarope	6	2			8

<u>Species</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bonaparte's Gull	4		3		7
Ring-billed Gull	6,678	1,036	1,720	483	9,917
Herring Gull	1,380	7	600	24	2,011
Great Black-backed Gull	3		3		4*
Rock Dove	474	475	51	114	1,114
Mourning Dove	66	109	12	34	221
Eastern Screech-Owl	1				1
Great Horned Owl	11	9	1	3	24
Barred Owl	1				1
Common Nighthawk	92	52		1	145
Whip-poor-will	3			1	4
Chimney Swift	15	12		5	32
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	11	13	9	3	36
Belted Kingfisher	19	4	5	38	66
Red-headed Woodpecker			5		5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1		1
Downy Woodpecker	7	14	5	5	31
Hairy Woodpecker	6	4	8	5	23
Northern Flicker	53	42	18	39	152
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1	4		6
Eastern Wood-Pewee	51	18	13	25	107
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1			1	2
Traill's Flycatcher	6	6		3	15
Least Flycatcher	18	4	5	6	33
Eastern Phoebe	4	6	10	14	34
Great Crested Flycatcher	10	12	3	10	35
Eastern Kingbird	34	164	11	11	220
Horned Lark	34	116			150
Purple Martin	333	21	1		355
Tree Swallow	1,144	3,168	10	34	4,356
N. Rough-wing Swallow	4	1	2	1	8
Bank Swallow	11	17	4	1	33
Cliff Swallow	61	29	1	3	94
Barn Swallow	242	308	68	56	674
Blue Jay	77	98	46	53	274
American Crow	540	176	83	227	926
Common Raven			4	6	10
Black-capped Chickadee	175	101	52	198	526
Red-breasted Nuthatch	16	12	7	11	46
White-breasted Nuthatch	24	8	19	26	77
Brown Creeper	4				4

<u>Species</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>Total</u>
House Wren		5		1	6
Winter Wren	1			1	2
Marsh Wren	1	3		4	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet		1	6	1	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1			1	2
Eastern Bluebird	14		5	23	42
Veery	3	17	4	2	26
Swainson's Thrush	5	27		50	82
Hermit Thrush		1	9	11	21
Wood Thrush		1	1		2
American Robin	108	197	49	86	440
Gray Catbird	38	34	7	15	94
Northern Mockingbird			1		1
Brown Thrasher	2	1		1	4
Water Pipit		2			2
Cedar Waxwing	214	165	74	92	545
European Starling	886	7,790	242	1,679	10,597
Solitary Vireo	1		2	3	6
Warbling Vireo	18	8	2	15	43
Philadelphia Vireo	2	1	10	2	15
Red-eyed Vireo	24	6	10	12	52
Tennessee Warbler	13	9	10	35	67
Orange-crowned Warbler	1				1
Nashville Warbler	13	5	16	40	74
Northern Parula	1	4	3	1	9
Yellow Warbler	11	4		4	19
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6	6	9	9	30
Magnolia Warbler	6	11	4	37	58
Cape May Warbler	10	5	3	1	19
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	2	13	3	5	23
Yellow-rumped Warbler	41	18	17	69	145
Black-thr. Green Warbler	6	7	8	10	31
Blackburnian Warbler	1		9	8	18
Pine Warbler	4		3	1	8
Palm Warbler	3	25	1		29
Bay-breasted Warbler	13	18	6	5	42
Black & White Warbler	10	3	10	15	38
American Redstart	8	6	3	29	46
Ovenbird		8		6	14
Mourning Warbler	1	3	2	1	7
Common Yellowthroat	27	46	17	27	117
Wilson's Warbler	2	2		5	9
Canada Warbler	1	3	4	2	10

<u>Species</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Tanager	11	2	1	4	18
Northern Cardinal	3	2			5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	17	12	1	25	55
Indigo Bunting	1	1		2	4
Rufous-sided Towhee	1				1
Chipping Sparrow	35	18	46	54	153
Field Sparrow	1			2	3
Vesper Sparrow		8	2		10
Savannah Sparrow	31	129	3	31	194
Grasshopper Sparrow		1			1
Song Sparrow	164	28	38	92	322
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	1	3	1	9
Swamp Sparrow	15	13	2	14	44
White-throated Sparrow	29	21	28	128	206
White-crowned Sparrow			3		3
Dark-eyed Junco		4	29	1	34
Bobolink	212	127	28	255	622
Red-winged Blackbird	5,961	3,207	5	10,500	19,673
Eastern Meadowlark	15	23	14	3	55
Common Grackle	83	160	3	200	446
Brown-headed Cowbird	62	106			168
Northern Oriole	7	3		1	11
Purple Finch	6	26	3	7	42
House Finch	19	5			24
Pine Siskin	1	2	2		5
American Goldfinch	181	152	195	94	622
Evening Grosbeak	5	10	40	86	141
House Sparrow	430	187	27	446	1,090
<hr/>					
Number of Species	148	141	108	125	176
<hr/>					

□

The Sixth Annual Seedathon Bird Count

This winter our little feathered friends should not go hungry if they are feeding at the OFNC feeders. Well over 100 people sponsored this annual event, which took place on September 7th. Two teams took part this year, one more than usual.

Both teams had a very good day and a combined total of over 130 species. But don't worry, your donation is based on individual team totals. We would like to thank all the sponsors whose contributions will benefit the continued activities of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

TEAM A: Bruce Di Labio, Richard Brouillet, Bernie Ladouceur

By 3 a.m. we were on the road, listening for nocturnal species. After a few stops in the Nepean Dump and Munster areas, we heard a number of Great Horned Owls and a Northern Saw-whet Owl. At dawn, we were at Constance Creek along the Thomas Dolan Parkway. Many ducks were flying up the creek, including Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers and a large number of Wood Ducks.

Unsettled weather with moderate winds made us change our strategy a number of times during the day. We found land birds hard to find and missed out on the heavy movement of birds along the Britannia ridge. The Ottawa River was low, so shorebird watching was good for a change.

The highlight in the shorebird category was recording all three phalarope species in one day. We had one Red and one Red-necked at Shirleys Bay, and a single Wilson's along with a flock of six more Red-necked Phalaropes at Casselman sewage lagoon. This is only the fourth time all three species have been found in one day.

The afternoon was spent checking the southeast sewage lagoons and that move paid off. At Casselman sewage lagoon we found four Ruddy Ducks, two Lesser Scaups and a male Redhead. While driving through Russell, we flushed a family of Gray Partridge from the roadside.

With time running out and lots of species still to be found, we headed back to the Ottawa River for our final assault. As we drove down Parkdale Ave. towards Remic Rapids, an adult Peregrine Falcon landed on the Coates Building at Tunney's Pasture.

Quick checks along the river were fruitless. Our final stop, at 7:30 p.m., was at Constance Creek, where we recorded our last two new species for the day, a Sora and a Hermit Thrush, bringing our total to 129 species. Our milage for the day was 435 km.

Bruce Di Labio

Team B: Gordon Pringle, Tom Hanrahan

When the plans for this year's seedathon were being discussed by the Birds Committee, it was suggested that additional teams might be desirable since these teams could attract support from outside the body of regular contributors. In response to this idea, I decided to try a wheelchair day, hoping that this would add some variety to the event.

The guidelines for species counted on a wheelchair day are the same as on a conventonal day, except that the count must be taken from the wheelchair alone, with no other aid used in travelling from location to location. For the count, I chose the area from Andrew Haydon Park through Britannia on the Ottawa River. (Tom and I discussed how to treat species that he observed and that I missed. We kept the figures separate, and are reporting only the species that I observed so as to retain the wheelchair definition.)

We started at Ottawa Beach at 7:30 a.m. on a cold day with a brisk northwest wind, intermittent clouds and a high of no more than about 15 °C. Not the most pleasant day possible, but one that promised to keep shorebirds from moving out and might ground some interesting migrants. By 5 p.m. we had travelled to the upper end of Stillwater Park, reversed back to Britannia and then returned to Ottawa Beach for a total distance of 5.6 km.

It was, in fact, a reasonable day for shorebirds and perhaps an exceptional day for warblers. We encountered mixed flocks of 20 or more individual warblers regularly until mid-afternoon. However, the cool wind drove some of the common species into hiding. We missed American Robin!!! Red-winged Blackbird and Purple Martin also eluded us, but in the end I had 64 species, some of them not seen by Team A.

Gordon Pringle

Seedathon Bird Count Results

<u>Species</u>	<u>Team A</u>	<u>Team B</u>
Common Loon	1	
Pied-billed Grebe	1	
Double-crested Cormorant	18	8
Great Blue Heron	17	3
Green-backed Heron	1	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	
Canada Goose	10	25
Wood Duck	160	2
Green-winged Teal	240	
American Black Duck	140	40
Mallard	320	20
Blue-winged Teal	90	30
Northern Shoveler	57	
American Wigeon	1	3
Redhead	1	
Ring-necked Duck	15	
Lesser Scaup	2	
Common Goldeneye	2	
Hooded Merganser	6	2
Common Merganser	23	1
Ruddy Duck	4	
Turkey Vulture	1	
Osprey	2	1
Northern Harrier	2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2
Cooper's Hawk	1	
Northern Goshawk	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	
American Kestrel	2	
Merlin	1	1
Peregrine Falcon	1	
Gray Partridge	10	
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	
Virginia Rail	1	
Sora	1	
Common Moorhen	3	

<u>Species</u>	<u>Team A</u>	<u>Team B</u>
Lesser Golden Plover	1	1
Semipalmated Plover	25	6
Killdeer	47	12
Greater Yellowlegs	2	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	1
Spotted Sandpiper	4	3
Ruddy Turnstone	10	
Sanderling	2	5
Semipalmated Sandpiper	385	75
Least Sandpiper	2	3
White-rumped Sandpiper	59	20
Baird's Sandpiper	1	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	4
Dunlin		1
Common Snipe	1	2
American Woodcock	1	
Wilson's Phalarope	1	
Red-necked Phalarope	7	
Red Phalarope	1	
Bonaparte's Gull	1	
Ring-billed Gull	7,000	30
Herring Gull	403	5
Rock Dove	35	25
Mourning Dove	20	8
Great Horned Owl	10	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	
Whip-poor-will	1	
Belted Kingfisher	4	4
Downy Woodpecker	4	2
Hairy Woodpecker	2	
Northern Flicker	7	15
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	2
Empidonax sp.		3
Eastern Phoebe	2	
Great Crested Flycatcher		1
Eastern Kingbird	1	
Horned Lark	3	

<u>Species</u>	<u>Team A</u>	<u>Team B</u>
Purple Martin	1	
Tree Swallow	740	
N. Rough-wing Swallow	1	
Bank Swallow	37	
Cliff Swallow	2	
Barn Swallow	64	6
Blue Jay	12	4
American Crow	40	8
Black-capped Chickadee	16	16
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	2
Veery	1	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	
Swainson's Thrush	14	
Hermit Thrush	2	
American Robin	31	
Gray Catbird	16	2
Brown Thrasher	1	
Cedar Waxwing	65	10
European Starling	490	12
Solitary Vireo	3	
Warbling Vireo	1	
Philadelphia Vireo	1	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1	2
Tennessee Warbler	2	1
Nashville Warbler	2	1
Northern Parula	1	
Yellow Warbler	1	
Magnolia Warbler	4	1
Cape May Warbler	1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	50	12
Black-thr. Green Warbler	5	1
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1
Palm Warbler	1	
Bay-breasted Warbler	6	
Black & White Warbler	2	3
American Redstart	1	6
Ovenbird	1	
Mourning Warbler	1	
Common Yellowthroat	30	

<u>Species</u>	<u>Team A</u>	<u>Team B</u>
Scarlet Tanager		2
Northern Cardinal	1	2
Chipping Sparrow	7	
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	
Field Sparrow	1	
Vesper Sparrow	1	
Savannah Sparrow	30	
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	
Song Sparrow	20	3
Swamp Sparrow	10	
White-throated Sparrow	40	14
Dark-eyed Junco	1	
Bobolink	10	
Red-winged Blackbird	4,100	
Eastern Meadowlark	2	
Common Grackle	420	15
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	
Purple Finch		1
House Finch	2	
American Goldfinch	340	20
House Sparrow	15	6
<hr/>		
Total Species	129	64
<hr/>		

α

* * *

AT THE NATURE CANADA BOOKSHOP

75 Albert Street, Lower Level
telephone 238-6254

The Birds of Canada

by W. Earl Godfrey
\$35.95

This comprehensive work of reference covers all bird species known in Canada from historic times to the present. This newly revised edition is laid out for easy reference to 75 full colour illustrations, maps, measurements, habitat, fieldmarks, nesting, subspecies, range in Canada. Regular Price \$39.95.

Index to Volume 20

BIRDS

- Bird Feeders, Club, 33
- Bird Feeders, Ottawa Region, 206
- Bird Records Subcommittee in 1985, Activities of the, 58
- Birds of Ontario*, Book Review, 163
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Ottawa District, The, 216
- Burdock, Another Victim of, 29
- Christmas Bird Count Roundup, Fifth Annual, 62;
correction, 122
- Cliff Swallow Colony, 95
- Common Snipe, Update on Overwintering, 224
- Fall Birding from Morrisburg to Cornwall, 34
- Geese Going Home, Come Watch the, 61
- Gray Partridge, Are Male and Female Similar?, 67
- Green's Creek Sewage Lagoons No Longer Accessible to
Birders, 143
- Hawk Watching at Derby Hill, N.Y., 178
- Kestrels in Downtown Ottawa, Anecdotal Report of, 225
- Lark Sparrow / New for the Ottawa District, 228
- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas: Ottawa Region, The, 68
- Orchard Oriole / First Specimen Record for the Ottawa
District, 230
- Ottawa Valley Fall Roundup, The, 240
- Ottawa Valley Spring Roundup, The, 167
- Pakenham Christmas Bird Count, Correction:, 122
- Presqu'ile Park Field Trip, Annual, 176
- Recent Bird Sightings, 26, 53, 86, 154, 209
- Red-tailed Hawk Behaviour, A Note of Caution on, 57
- Ring-billed Gulls, More on Nesting, 60
- Ring-necked Pheasant in Ottawa - An Update, The, 60
- Robins as Foster Parents, 226
- Seedathon Bird Count, The, 30
- Seedathon Bird Count, The Sixth Annual, 246
- Shirleys Bay Causeway, Rules of Access to the, 52
- Sewage Lagoons, Birding Ottawa's, 232
- Twilight Symphony: Dawn Chorus, 108
- Wilson's Phalarope, Downy Young, in Russell County, 90
- Wolfe Island, March 2nd Trip to, 174

OTHER VERTEBRATES

- Flying Squirrels at the Feeder, 200
- National Capital Wildlife - 1985, 141
- Newts, The Mystery of Nineteen, 73
- Margined Madtom (*Noturus insignis*) in Canada, The, 102
- Porcupines and Salt, 92
- Snake, A Problem-solving, 145
- Weasels, Arboreal Ability of, 204

INSECTS AND SPIDERS

- Butterflies of the Ottawa District 1986 Update, 98
- Crab Spiders, Encounters With, 96
- October Aeronauts, 144

PLANTS

- Cup-plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) in the Ottawa District, The, 134; correction, 190
- Helleborine, The Reappearing, 22
- Lepiotas, 1985 - A Vintage Year for, 138
- Marlborough Forest Update, 131; addendum, 198
- Orchids of Ontario*, Book Review, 196
- Trail & Landscape Sock, The, 152
- What About Planting Someone Else's Wildflower Seeds?, 13
- Winter Wildflowers at Shirleys Bay, 16

LANDSCAPE, CONSERVATION

- Collecting on NCC Land, 49
- Don't Pick That!, 48
- Garbage, 50
- Marlborough Forest Update, 131; addendum, 198
- National Capital Wildlife - 1985, 141

CLUB AFFAIRS

- Award Winners, The Soirée:, 128
- Annual Soirée, Notes from the, 126
- Bell, Frank Heaton, *In Memorium*, 195
- Central Experimental Farm and The OFNC, The, 146
- Council Report, 4, 42, 124
- Macoun Field Club, The, 24
- New Members Night, 111
- OFNC Committee Members, 84
- President's Message, 2
- Welcome, New Members, 3, 82, 122, 186

Trail & Landscape

- At the End of Twenty Years, 187
- from the Editor..., 186
- Trail & Landscape* Circulation, 51
- Trail & Landscape* Deadlines, 5

FIELD TRIPS, See BIRDS

MISCELLANEOUS

- Collections of the National Museum of Natural Sciences:
 - Another Resource in Jeopardy, 6
 - Comet Has Come, The, 8
 - Comet Halley - March to May, 45
 - Federation of Ontario Naturalists Report, 82
 - Ice Ferns, 14
 - Ottawa Regional Science Fair, 47
 - Why So Many Pickled Fish?, 191

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Ross Anderson (224-7768), 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.

Saturday THE UNOFFICIAL FALL BIRD COUNT
1 Nov. Compiler: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)
Join in a survey of the late fall bird population of the Ottawa District. For more information, telephone the compiler.

Saturday GULLS AT THE CORNWALL AND BEAUHARNOIS POWER DAMS
8 Nov. Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)
8:00 a.m. Participants will visit two power dams on the St. Lawrence River to observe gulls. A site guide to Beauharnois can be found in the spring 1986 issue of *American Birds*. 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 limited number of participants will be accepted. To register and learn further details, telephone the leader.

Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
11 Nov. FROM ASHES TO FOREST
8:00 p.m. Speaker: Nick Lopoukhine
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Nick Lopoukhine is a terrestrial ecologist with the Natural Resources Branch of Environment Canada Parks who specializes in fire ecology and vegetation management. He will present the highly acclaimed film, *From Ashes to Forest*, coproduced by Parks Canada and the National Film Board. This film examines the changing views of vegetation management of Canada's National Parks. The spectrum of options ranges from fire prevention to the use of fire as a tool in the ecological dynamics of forest habitat. A discussion following the presentation will be encouraged.

Saturday GENERAL INTEREST WALK IN GATINEAU PARK
15 Nov. Leader: Philip Martin (729-3218)
9:00 a.m. Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences,
Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

This outing will provide an opportunity to stroll through the woods and observe how the natural world prepares for the onset of winter. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Transportation will be by private cars.

Tuesday TOUR OF THE ORNITHOLOGY SECTION OF THE NATIONAL
2 Dec. MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES
7:30 p.m. Leader: Henri Ouellet

Take advantage of this invitation to view the various components of the national bird collection. The collection comprises bird skins, specimens in fluid, skeletons, nests and eggs. You may also examine the distribution charts and extensive records that have been the product of research conducted on the premises and in the field. Dr. Ouellet is Curator of the Ornithology Section, Zoology Division, at the National Museum of Natural Sciences. This outing is limited to the first 15 people to register by telephoning the Club number (722-3050). Meeting place is 2379 Holly Lane.

Saturday LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER BIRDS
6 Dec. Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)
8:00 a.m. Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences,
Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

This half-day trip will visit several areas to see some of the interesting birds that make Ottawa their home as well as fall stragglers. Bring binoculars and/or a scope. Dress warmly and bring a snack. Transportation will be by private cars.

Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
9 Dec. ASTRONOMY FOR EVERYONE
8:00 p.m. Speaker: Mary Grey

Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

Mary Grey is Curator of the Astronomy Division of the National Museum of Science and Technology. She has an impressive background in stellar physics and latterly has been involved in the area of public education at the Museum. Her illustrated slide talk will provide an excellent introduction to the basics of sky watching without the aid of expensive optical equipment. Discover some of the more familiar constellations as well as certain nebulous objects through the marvels of astrophotography. There will be sky sheets for distribution and instructions on how to use them.



3 5185 00267 6581

Spring Excursion to Point relee

The Club is planning another four-day bus tour to coincide with the peak of spring migration at this world-renowned birding hot-spot. The trip is tentatively scheduled for the second weekend in May, but only if there is a sufficient early response. Those interested should contact the Club number (722-3050) as soon as possible.

* * *

NEW BIRD STATUS NUMBER: 225-4333

* * *

The 1987 Canadian Nature Federation Conference

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, SASKATOON

JUNE 5-8, 1987

To commemorate the centennial of North America's first Bird Sanctuary at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan, the 1987 conference will be held in Saskatoon.

The exciting field trip program includes trips as far north as Churchill, Manitoba, and as far south as the Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan - from tundra to boreal forest to aspen parkland to grassland.

The symposium will emphasize conservation on the Prairies - past and present.

For further information, contact Roger Taylor (731-9270) or the Canadian Nature Federation (613-238-6154).

DEADLINE: Material intended for the January-February issue must be in the Editor's hands before October 25 at the latest.

ISSN 0041-0748

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail - Registration Number 2777

Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and undeliverable Copies:

Box 3264 Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ont.

K1Y 4J5

Return postage guaranteed

02 C 2 -83208
HAMILTON NATURALISTS' CLUB
~~PO BOX 5182 STN E~~
HAMILTON ONT
~~L8S 4L3~~
Box 512
CALEDONIA, Ont.
NOA1AO