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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

E. Franklin Pope

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the 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, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

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

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Membership application, correspondence :
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
Box 3264, Postal Station C
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

Information:
(613) 722-3050
After 10 a.m.

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Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Susan T. Athrens & Family
Marjorie L. Bond
David Corkill & Family
Eric Brown & Family
Peter W. Harris
Edward J. McKenna & Family
Fred W. Simpson
Claude Y. Tardif
Martha Webber

Other Areas

Robert R. Bateman, Tweed, Ontario
Dr. Isabel Bayly, Wakefield, PQ.
Amy Hicks, Elmvale, Ontario



Doreen Watler, Chairman
Membership Committee
February, 1992

Letter to the Editor

Four or five years ago, a dozen of our members, after the "Pembroke's Festival of Swallows," spent a few days in Algonquin Park. We were all delighted by the hospitality of different groups like the OFNC, CFN, Algonquin College and the staff of this marvelous Park. We enjoyed very much our stay over there, studying birds, mushrooms, wild plants and animals.

We even thought that this Ontario park was a very good example for our Quebec Parks, especially for "Mont-Tremblant Park." Now that it is getting all upset, as Dan Brunton is saying, we think we shall never try to go back, unless they stop that "ecological destruction."

Club des Mycologues Amateurs des Laurentides

Yolande Godard, presidente

Denise Lamarche, secretaire ☐



Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them in to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form -- typed, written, printed or painted! ☐

DEADLINE: *Material intended for the July - September 1992 issue must be in the editor's hands before May 15, 1992. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Bill Gummer
Editor, *Trail & Landscape*
2230 Lawn Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario, K2B 7B2
(613) 596-1148

The 113th Annual Business Meeting

Bill Gummer

This meeting was scheduled as usual for the second Monday in January, 1992, but bad weather forced a sudden cancellation and it was held on 11 February, the next Club reservation at the Museum. This in turn forced the cancellation of the scheduled talk on "Bears" by Dick Russell. These changes were advertised through the radio and by a notice placed in *Trail & Landscape* by the mailing crew. Our apologies to those who came on 11 February to learn about bears and were disappointed. Getting this sort of message to our more than 800 local members is a problem.

The Annual Meeting was a success, however, with more than 40 people in attendance. Libby Fox, Vice-President, ran the meeting until the new Council was elected. Enid Frankton shared the reporting duties and kept notes on action and business. (Roy John, our elected President for 1991 had resigned because of a transfer to Halifax.)

Highlights of 1991 activities.

Awards Committee is still concerned about the paucity of nominations for the Club awards and efforts are needed to rekindle interest in them.

Birds Committee operates a Bird Status Line and Rare Bird Alert System, and feels that both of these worked well and usefully in 1991.

Computer Management Committee continues to oversee and advise on Club computers, especially the *Trail & Landscape* equipment.

Conservation Committee, our largest group, presented Club positions on several local issues to the appropriate authorities, and also responded to proposals on Wetlands Policy and Wild Life Policy prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. We believe that our concern with regard to the Leitrim Wetlands has helped enforce some protection.

Education and Publicity Committee completed preparation of the first of proposed OFNC slide shows, and is considering others. This committee is revitalized and holds promise for continued usefulness to the Club.

Excursions and Lectures. There were 56 undertakings: 8 regular monthly meetings, 2 special events (Soirée and New Members Night, in conjunction with Membership Committee), 35 local trips, 9 longer trips including a 4-day visit to Point Pelee, and 2 workshops (plants and minerals). Thanks to all participants for helping the OFNC to maintain such a broad program.

Executive Committee. The big decision was to accept the responsibility of hosting the 1993 Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Planning for this is under way. The theme will be "Habitat - Natural Capital."

Finance Committee has procured insurance for Club members at all Club activities. It also coped with GST, for which considerable refunds were claimable. This Committee has taken over the sale of the remaining 5000 copies of "Nature and Natural Areas in Canada's Capital" from The Ottawa Citizen now that the latter has recovered its printing costs. All proceeds from the sale of this book now revert to our Club.

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden, now officially so named, received a tremendous amount of work during the year, including a good start on fauna and flora inventories, start of a nursery to provide selected shrubs and trees, construction of a dam to control sedge meadow water level, a bird-house building workshop, and installation of two Club-sponsored bird feeders. A full-time coordinator was hired through an Environmental Youth Corps grant. The garden operates under agreement among Agriculture Canada, Friends of the Farm, and the OFNC.

The Macoun Field Club remains very active, though a decrease in senior membership is of concern; recruitment is up in the younger groups. Juniors and Intermediates have set up a tree study program in the Macoun Study Area, and members will each follow their own tree through the seasons to learn its life pattern. Seniors built and placed a tern nesting-platform in Shirley's Bay, but no terns nested there in 1991. This undertaking was suggested to the Club by Canadian Wildlife Service, and CWS covered the costs.

Club membership records show a drop in local membership from 870 to 810 in 1991; other categories (rest of Canada, USA and "other") remained about the same. Our highest local membership, recorded in 1989, was 880. There were 669 in 1977, and a general increase in intervening years but with 3 years showing declines. We will watch this carefully.

Publications. *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* maintained its issue schedule as set the previous year, in spite of the Editor's involvement with a major move of Herpetology to Aylmer. *CFN* contained 13 additional Cosewic reports (35 last year). It goes to 573 institutions (236 in Canada) and 248 individuals (180 in Canada) in addition to Club members who receive it.

Fenja Brodo completed her first year as Editor of *Trail & Landscape*, and Mike Murphy's "Green Line" supplement kept members up to date on local environment issues. *T. & L.* volume 25 (4) contained a 5-year index prepared by Joyce Redoch. In Volume 25, 31% of the 164 pages was devoted to some aspect of birds.

In summary the Club has some concerns about membership losses, but the financial picture is very good. Much of the income increase was due to the publication of 6 issues of the *CFN* in 1990. Member's equity is at a high of \$178,661. Committees annually prepare a list of "goals" and many of these are attained, thanks to the active participation of Club members.

Council

The departure of our President, Roy John, to Halifax last autumn was a big loss. Roy had provided strong support in many Club activities including executive responsibility, birds, excursions, ethics and concern for the environment. His absence is felt. Other resignations were Libby Fox (a Vice President, and previously our Recording Secretary), Stewart MacDonald, Lynda Maltby, Christine Firth and Nick Stow. The new Council, approved at the 11 February meeting, is as follows:

<i>President</i>	E. Franklin Pope
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	To be announced
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gillian Marston
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	*Connie Clark
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Eileen Evans
Ron Bedford	*Ellaine Dickson
Barry Bendell	Enid Frankton
Fenja Brodo	Colin Gaskell
Steve Blight	Bill Gummer
*Lee Cairnie	Jeff Harrison
Martha Camfield	*Michael Murphy
Bill Cody	*Jack Romanow
Francis Cook	Doreen Watler
Don Cuddy	Ken Young

* Indicates new members, although Ellaine Dickson is far from "new" and is returning after a short absence, and Mike Murphy was actually voted onto Council last autumn. One great feature of this Council is that every one of our 12 committees is represented, 9 of them by Chairmen. □

OFNC Committees for 1992

Bill Gummer

In addition to the Executive Committee, we have eleven other busy committees, each with its own specific terms of reference, involving many Club members. At time of writing, 88 positions are filled by 76 different people. Our thanks to all these members who are so involved in the Club.

Committee chairs are listed first, with home phone numbers in all cases and in a one case, work number is included. Additional Club members interested in getting into committee work should make their interests known.

AWARDS

Enid Frankton (596-1256)
Bill Arthurs
Dan Brunton
Barbara Campbell
Fran Goodspeed

BIRDS

Tony Beck (820-9165)
Bruce Di Labio
(729-6267)
Ellen Radix (Sec'y)
Michelle Martin (Treas.)
Bernie Ladouceur
Daniel Perrier
Jack Romanow
Daniel St. Hilaire

COMPUTER MANAGEMENT

Mike Murphy (727-1739)
Suzanne Blain
Duncan Chaundy
Alan German
Ken Strang

CONSERVATION

Jane Topping
(1-924-2754; W: 954-2646)
Suzanne Blain
Steve Blight
Don Cuddy
Ken Dalton
Ian Huggett
Fern Levine
Lynda Maltby
Mike Murphy
Jim Reil
Phil Reilly

Renée Scott
Roger Taylor
Ewen Todd

EDUCATION & PUBLICITY

Ray Knowles (839-1799)
Lee Cairnie
Betty Campbell
Don Davidson
Nicole Defretière
David Moore
Tom Reeve

EXCURSIONS & LECTURES

Colin Gaskell(728-4582)
Robina Bennett
Ellaine Dickson
Eileen Evans
Doug Mallon
Carol German
Rick Leavens
Phil Martin
Catherine O'Keefe
Bruce Summers

FINANCE

Ken Young(231-6061)
Pierre Belisle
John Crittenden
Don Davidson
Paul Ward
Ex officio:
Ron Bedford
Bill Cody
Gillian Marston
Jim Montgomery

MACOUN FIELD CLUB

Barry Bendell (731-3306)
Martha Camfield
Ellaine Dickson
Barbara Gaertner
Paul Hamilton
Claude Haridge
Rob Lee
Patricia Whitridge

MEMBERSHIP

Doreen Watler
(728-0290)
Barbara Campbell
Eileen Evans
Elizabeth Greenc
Karen Richter
Ken Strang
Jean Valliant
Eleanor Zurbrigg

PUBLICATIONS

Ron Bedford (733-8826)
Fenja Brodo
Bill Cody
Francis Cook
Doreen Duchesne
Bill Gummer
Jim Montgomery
Elizabeth Morton
Joyce Reddoch

WILDLIFE GARDEN

Jeff Harrison (230-5968)
Robina Bennett
Don Cuddy
Judy Hall
Peter Hall □

A Special Tribute to George H. McGee

Bill Gummer



George McGee on the left and his close friend Bill Holland on a farm near Burritt's Rapids, May 1990. Bill and George birded together for many years.

The history of a Club like the OFNC always includes names that immediately ring a memory bell, and that become frequent references in Club discussions of its activities. We are sad to say that we have a new name - George H. McGee. George passed away on December 1, 1991. This is a great loss to the Club, but his stories and accomplishments will last into the future.

George, a graduate in Forest Engineering from the University of New Brunswick, joined the OFNC in 1960 and although our formal records show 31 years of performance as a member, we also know that he participated in Club activities for a number of years prior to officially joining the Club. He was a member of Council for 10 years, and President from 1964 to 1966. With his broad interests in nature, he took part in the work of most of the Club's committees. When he joined the Club, his first contribution was as editor of the Club Newsletter. This was the forerunner of *Trail & Landscape*, now in its 26th year.

When we think of George, most of us have birds in mind because that was where he put his emphasis. Lots of our members will have enjoyed "Birding with George", the title of many of his bird walks: the last was in 1988, when he also led a "Duck Waddle for Beginners". He introduced us to new lanes and special areas, and taught us how to listen to bird language. For some years he was co-ordinator of Club bird census efforts. Then he had a group of members who came out with him year after year; "George's Girls" were involved in many of the birding assignments with him, for example the production of data for the Breeding Bird Atlas. He became deeply involved in the education field, and gave many talks on birds, their life, their identification, and their role in nature. He set up a bird identification program based on his own slides and photographs, and used this in lectures presented at various high schools. In addition, he prepared educational kits on birds for use by others, including teachers in the school system. His efforts were not limited to the Club: he led many trips and talked to many groups outside the Club. George will be remembered for his interest in teaching young people about natural environment. His knowledge reached many in person, on nature walks, and in lectures he started in the early 1960s at the National Museum of Natural Sciences, and he was also on radio and television.

We believe that George's excellent work in the natural history field undoubtedly raised interest in our Club and helped it to grow significantly.

In 1980 George became an Honorary Member of our Club, joining a very select group of Canadians. In the autumn of 1991, the Club gave George's name to its Service Award; it is the first time that this has been done with one of the Club's unsponsored awards and it is one way of thanking George for his long history of energetic work in and out of the Club, teaching people about nature and its value.

We hope that this brief review will help emphasize the worth of George McGee. He will be sadly missed not only by those who knew him and were lucky enough to personally enjoy his enthusiasm and knowledge, but also by all those who have profited in one way or another from his accomplishments over those years. □



News and Views of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Elise Stevenson



*Construction of the sedge meadow dam.
Photo by Elise Stevenson, November 1991.*

1991 was a busy year for those involved with the Wildlife Garden as a number of new projects were undertaken. After much deliberation, the garden was given an official name. The Wildlife Garden Committee considered a number of prominent OFNC members and individuals associated with the history of the Central Experimental Farm and Agriculture Canada, and felt that naming the garden after James Fletcher would be most appropriate. Fletcher was instrumental in the founding of the OFNC in 1879 and was Chief of Botany and Entomology at the Central Experimental Farm from 1887 until his death in 1908. Because of his great influence in the development of botany and entomology in Ottawa and Canada, it was felt that Fletcher was an ideal choice.

The natural history inventory was one activity which received much attention last year. After spending many hours devising sampling techniques, Kim Taylor organized a group of volunteers to survey the site for small mammals. This dedicated bunch set out shortly after dawn armed with 'tracking tubes', sunflower seeds and recording sheets, much to the amusement of the Arboretum staff who on several unfortunate occasions accidentally fed the tubes to their lawnmowers. Data sets consisting of sheets of tiny footprints were

generated and are now in the process of being deciphered (for further details, see article by Ellaine Dickson).

An inventory of large mammals was also compiled. It seems that the site is attractive only to squirrels, rabbits and the odd jogger but we hope this will improve over time. The inventory of bird populations was continued by Bill Holland and his fellow early risers, and Peter Hall updated his record of butterflies visiting the garden. As well, a team of volunteers led by Robina Bennett took care of the trees planted in the nursery last spring by the Boy Scouts.

With the financial assistance of the Friends of the Farm and Drummond Construction Co., an earth dam was constructed at the top of the gully. Water draining from the eastern side of the Farm will begin collecting in this area in the spring -- if all goes well, we will soon be sowing the seeds to create a sedge meadow.

A very successful bird box workshop was held on November 23. Fifteen volunteers, led by Jim Wickware and Don Cuddy, made 53 boxes in one morning. They are presently stored in the Friends of the Farm building and will be put out in the garden at the end of March. Two bird feeders, obtained from the NCC, have been installed at the site behind the proposed interpretative centre.

A proposal was made to the Environmental Partners Fund for a grant to purchase plant and other materials needed for 1992. An application has also been submitted to the Environmental Youth Corps to renew funding for the Wildlife Garden Coordinator.

The Wildlife Garden Committee has an ambitious agenda for 1992. This includes completion of the baseline inventory, in particular plants and insects, planting of the sedge meadow and one of two new woodlots, and substantial completion of the model backyard garden. We will also be moving leaves from the stockpile, installing the bird boxes, and planting a test area for the butterfly meadow. Volunteers are needed for all of the above activities and, perhaps more urgently, to sit on the Committee to plan and guide the implementation. An information session will be held on Saturday, April 12 for OFNC and Friends of the Farm members interested in the project.

Plants and logo needed.

We will be planting over 1000 trees in the new woodlot and backyard garden this year. Maples, oaks, beeches, cherries and various other native species are needed for the woodlot, and small quantities of larger native and introduced species are required for the backyard garden. We also require sedges and wildflower seed. If you think you may be able to help or would like a copy of the complete plant list, please contact me at 230-3276.

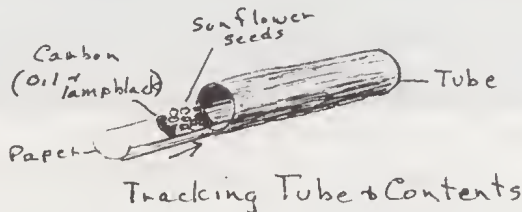
The Wildlife Garden is also in need of a logo! We are looking for a simple, distinctive logo which will be used on letterhead and promotional material such as T-shirts. Send your designs to the Club address, attention: Elise Stevenson. ☐

Our Tracking Record

Ellaine Dickson

Place: Fletcher Wildlife Garden
Trackers: Ellaine Dickson, Bill Gummer, Fred Sutherland
Helpers: Mickey Narraway, Desirée Salade
Photographer: Connie Clark
Equipment: 50 loaded tubes, sunflower seeds, maps, clipboards, pens and bright green flagging tape

Early in the morning of a hot, hazy, humid August day, our haversacks overloaded with short pieces of plastic drain-pipes, we staggered off to the "Sedge Bog" area of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Our only guidance had been an evening of orienteering with Kim Taylor who introduced us to the method of sampling using the drain-pipe tube traps and gave us a map of our "trap" line.



Overheard by a mouse and Fred near the ground-hog hole which was site #1 in the "Sedge Bog",

"Where's the hole? ..Pull out the paper."

"Don't forget the seeds."

"Did you put the number on?"

"Push the paper back in and make sure it lies on the bottom when you set it down."

"Can you still see the tube where I've hidden it in the burdocks?"

While Bill and I went on to site #2, Fred and Mickey were to set the next three traps, the first of these was in a cleanly mowed area.

"Fred, cover it up with more grass, we can still see it. We'll do the next three and #13 and you and Mickey do #9 by the barn and the three in the short grass."

"Those were easy, as long as we can find them again."

"The ones out on the lawn sure should be easy to find!"

Having done these, the four of us gathered again to consult our maps. I had colour-coded mine to distinguish the tree types. This made it much easier to follow.

Fred and Mickey went off to place tubes at the birch clump and the spruces, while Bill and I did the two crabapple trees and the black maple sites.

Tube #19 was easy to hide, under an elm with lots of long grass and dead leaves.

"There's a downy, should we mark that down?"

We knew we were to keep track of all large mammals (larger than chipmunk) and where they were seen but why not birds too? We decided we would.

Sites #20 to #24, in the ash grove, although flagged with pieces of weathered cloth, were difficult to find. The ground cover in here was not thick but seemed adequate.

On our way down past the mallow bank, we spotted a meadow vole and another mouse type. Perhaps the eavesdroppers?

Site #25 looked promising, a clump of poplars, with dead leaves, long grass and saplings beneath them. Fred headed off to the gravel pile and then to the ditch, while Bill and I placed tubes under a small walnut and a crabapple. The grasses, asters and goldenrod along the ditch provided good cover for our next four tubes. But the following two tubes under poplars were on small islands of sparse long grass in a sea of lawn.

Fred called "Bill, they are mowing the lawns at sites #32 and #35, I had a lot of trouble trying to hide the tubes there. I'll take #43 to #47 and go up the gully. I had better flag the sites in that mess!"

Bill gratefully agreed. "How are you going to make it through that tangle of dog-strangling vine, Fred?" (Prolific Black Swallowwort, *Cynanchum nigrum*)

At this point Fred's helper lost all enthusiasm, mumbling "See you back at the car."

A little later I remembered "#50 is to go under the pincherry."

"What pincherry!?! Let's put it under this crabapple. There are lots of asters and long grass here" Bill decided.

Sites #38 to #40 were to be set out in the "Backyard Garden". "There is a lot of cover here, but the grass is so thick, how will we ever find them again?"

Fred's helper offered "Fourteen paces from the crabapple cum pincherry and about six feet in from the path." And that's the way we did it.

Having placed a tube along the foundation of the white building, we finally hid our last tube near a tall thistle.

"Where's Fred?"

We hadn't noticed that he had been crawling up and down the steep embankment rather than struggling along the ravine. Finally he emerged at the end of the ravine. As if the dog-strangling vine weren't enough, he had collected a sample of arrow-leaved tear-thumb. This plant, *Polygonum sagittatum*, with its cruel hooks is uncommon for Ottawa and we added this to our records.

"Finished, pretty good time, only 2 hours."



*Desirée, Bill and Ellaine at Site 1, having recovered the tube and paper.
Photo by Connie Clark*

Six days later, September 3, we retraced our steps to gather up the tubes. We found some extra ones, we didn't find some of ours and four had been partially eaten by lawn mowers. One tube carried the note "Don't do this".

Now we realized what the rubber gloves were for. We put the messy black carbons in plastic bags and passed the record paper to Bill. He wrote the date and site number on each sheet and slid them carefully into an envelope to be passed on to experts for identification of the tracks. We decided to keep our own record of how well each tube was used. The patterns on the papers we collected resembled heavy stippling with a pen, with a few blots here and there, spilt tea stains and lots of mouse do-do. We could make out a few individual tracks, but our best set was a foot print of mud.



*Recovered paper "well used," i.e., lots of tracks and some droppings.
Photo by Connie Clark.*

Our visual mammal records were as follows:

	Aug 28	Sep 3	Sep 12	Sep 18	Oct 31	Nov 6
chipmunk	1	2	3	2		
red squirrel	1			1	1	2
black squirrel			1	2		
grey squirrel				2	2	
mouse spp.	2			1		
red fox	1 (dead)					

Our bird records include a kestrel, two sharp-shinned hawks, robins, downy woodpeckers, a hairy woodpecker, blue jays, flickers, song sparrows, house finches, goldfinches, chickadees, red-winged blackbirds and mallards.

The most prolific large mammals noted were dogs ... at least 25 breeds, all BIG.

□

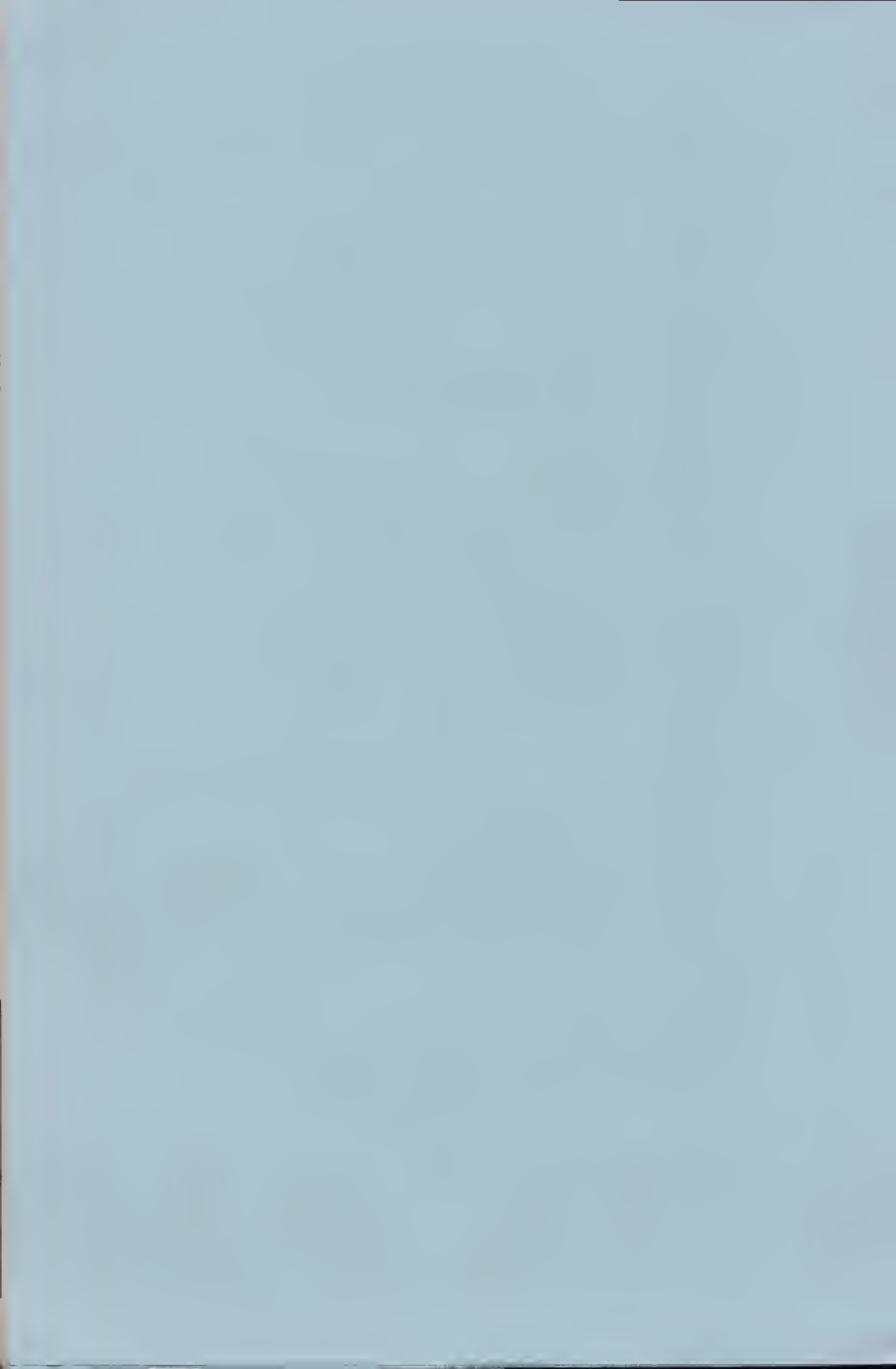
Of Chipmunks and Changing Landscapes

Kringen Henein



The morning air was fresh and full of promise. In the fields and fencerows, dew still hung on the vegetation and the woodlots resonated with robin song. It was too early for the mosquito battalions that would come with the warmth of the sun, and I collected my antenna, receiver, and notebook with a sense of enthusiasm for the task ahead. Out in the scattered remnants of the forests that once covered this agricultural landscape, a population of eastern chipmunks was already going about the daily business of making a living from the land. My task was to find and record the exact location of the twenty animals wearing radio collars.

For over a decade now, students at Carleton University's Landscape Ecology laboratory have been studying the effects of habitat fragmentation on a variety of species of plants, insects, birds, and small mammals under the experienced and imaginative direction of Dr. Gray Merriam. Clearing of land for agriculture presents a challenge to wildlife. There are several possible responses, from the complete disappearance of species at one extreme to expansion of range and use of new resources at the other. The goal of our research is to document the reaction of local species to habitat changes and develop some predictive capabilities that can assist planners and landowners with preservation of wild things.



O F N C S



PLACE: Unitarian Church Hall
30 Cleary Street
#2 and #18 Buses stop at Cleary Street and Richmond Road

RESERVATIONS: To order tickets, fill in the order form and send it along with remittance before **May 15** to:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
c/o Ellaine Dickson
2037 Honeywell Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7

Soirée

Wine & Cheese Party

Friday, May 29, 1992, 7:30 p.m.

- selection of wines
- non-alcoholic punch
- tea and coffee
- cheese and crackers
- fruit

Help make this another special evening by contributing your-photographic prints and art. Those members wishing to do so, please contact Philip Martin (729-3218) for confirmation or clarification before **May 15th**.



Prints and artwork must be mounted for easy handling. All items for display should be brought to the Unitarian Church between 4 and 7 p.m. on **May 29th** and taken home at the end of the evening.

The best overall colour or black-and-white photographic print will be selected by ballots cast by all club members in attendance and a prize will be awarded to the lucky winner.

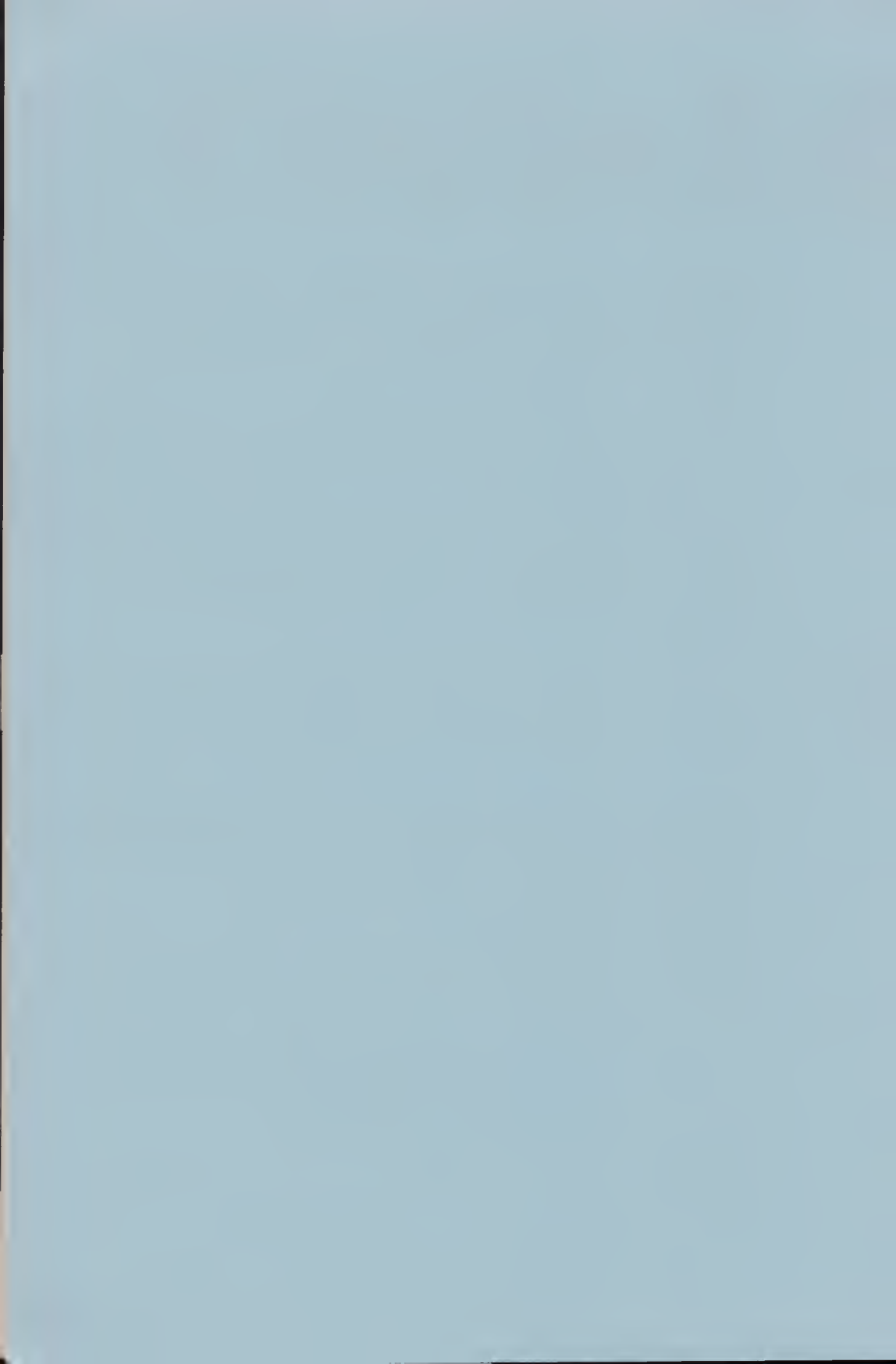
Prizes will also be awarded for the best Macoun Field Club displays. Children attending either primary or secondary school who are OFNC members but not Macoun Field Club members are invited to compete as well.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ phone _____

Please send me _____ tickets to the OFNC Annual Soirée at \$8.00(\$3.50 for students under 18) per person. Enclosed please find my cheque or money order for \$



My last three summers have been spent studying chipmunks in 200 hectares of farmland near Manotick, Ontario. Chipmunks are native woodland dwellers, but some previous farmland studies by colleagues have shown that these animals use the brushy, uncultivated areas along the edges of fields as well as remnant woodlots. Certainly they appear to persist in this type of landscape, but how? What are the critical factors required to keep their population healthy? What are the limits to their tolerance of fragmentation? These are the questions that have brought me out again and again to this morning landscape to find out who goes where and how often.

The data has been collected in two different ways: 1) using a mark and recapture method in which animals are live-trapped over a discrete area, ear-tagged and released, hopefully to be recaptured and 2) by means of radio telemetry. In the latter case, a small collar weighing about 5 grams is attached around the animal's neck. The collar bears a tiny transmitter and a battery with a life of up to 12 weeks. Each transmitter emits a unique signal that is picked up with a portable receiver and hand-held antenna. This technology lets you accurately locate the position of an individual animal from a distance of up to 100 meters. Over my three field seasons, I have placed 300 traps in four half-hectare woodlots and eighteen fencerows, and have radio-tracked over fifty individuals. During this time I have learned a great deal about chipmunks. Some of this is directly applicable to my research and some is of use only to enhance my sense of admiration and affection for these attractive, spunky little animals.

Let me digress from the research aspect for just a moment to share a couple of anecdotes with you. The first has to do with trappability. As is often the case with small mammals, there was considerable variation in the tendency of animals to enter the live-traps. Some individuals were consistently trappable. There was one young male who could never pass up an open trap. Sometimes I caught him two or three times in a single day. Peanut butter addiction is a terrible thing. Other chipmunks would be located by radio in areas with baited traps and never be caught. But the most interesting episode was my encounter with Houdini. The story goes like this: It was a pleasant summer afternoon between trap checks. The country lane was cool and shaded, and I was passing the time assessing the vegetation and structure of the fencerows where my traps were located. As I paused to identify a shrub, a slight movement caught my eye in the underbrush at my feet. I glanced down and spotted one of the little metal live-traps. It was closed, indicating a capture, but as I watched, a small paw appeared between the top of the door and the roof of the trap. Slowly the door was lowered to the inside and a small striped face appeared over it. The chipmunk looked carefully around, then climbed out and scampered away, letting the door snap shut behind it. This animal had figured out how to beat the system and I was suitably impressed.

When you spend a lot of time handling a species, you become well acquainted with a certain repertoire of responses, but occasionally there are surprises. So it

was with the Collector, the subject of my second tale. This chipmunk was given a radio collar, which she wore for three or four weeks. But as sometimes happens, the transmitter became damaged and stopped sending a signal. When this happens, we try to recover the collar as it can be repaired at a fraction of the cost of a new one. After a couple of unsuccessful attempts, I succeeded in capturing my lady. Sure enough, she still wore the silent collar. Captured chipmunks must be transferred from their trap to a mesh onion bag so they can be safely handled and tagged. I got my lady into the bag and cut the strap around her neck to free the collar. Unfortunately, however, I inadvertently cut a hole in the mesh at the same time. The following events occurred at great speed. The collar came off and fell to the bottom of the bag. The chipmunk twisted around and picked up the transmitter (which roughly resembles a chocolate covered raisin) in her mouth. She then turned, jumped through the hole in the bag and still carrying the collar, disappeared into the underbrush leaving me protesting helplessly. I never saw the collar again. She certainly considered it her property and had no intention of leaving it behind. Final score, chipmunk one, biologist zero!

The natural history of the eastern chipmunk has been well documented and my research has been conducted against a background of known demographics. In the Manotick area, chipmunks are active in the landscape from April until mid October, although I found them hard to trap before mid May and after the end of September. They are diurnal and live, on average, two or three years in the wild. Mating occurs in early spring, in or near the female's home area. Males expend considerable energy during this period in the pursuit of romance, and they may travel a considerable distance to find a receptive female. The female is responsible for rearing the offspring. The gestation period is 31-32 days, and the young remain in their mother's burrow until they are weaned at about 6 weeks of age. In early June she brings them out to show them the ways of the world. You might catch a glimpse of the family in log piles or leafy thickets. The youngsters are tiny perfect replicas of Mom. There may be an additional reproductive period in early summer, usually involving females at least a year old that did not breed in the spring.

The traditional habitat of chipmunks is woodland, and my data shows that some individuals in the agricultural landscape continue to use remnant wooded areas exclusively. However, many individuals made extensive use of more marginal habitat, such as fencerows, both as corridors to travel through the landscape and as home sites in their own right. Several females successfully raised litters in fencerow burrows, and adults of both sexes were observed there as well as juveniles. Fencerows that offer good cover in the form of trees or tall shrubs appear to be important extensions of the chipmunk's traditional habitat, providing access to seasonal food sources as well as mates and burrow sites. Ground debris such as fallen logs or rock piles is also a positive factor. Individuals were never found along grassy margins, or in the crop fields themselves despite the availability of new resources like corn in the latter.

Chipmunks overwinter in burrows and these winter havens are critical to survival. A poor choice can lead to death due to lack of insulation from the cold or flooding during warm spells. Less than half of my study animals made it through the winter and these were mostly individuals that had chosen burrows in sheltered, well-drained woodland. This implies a seasonal factor in the chipmunks' use of the landscape, and suggests that some woodland is essential for their persistence.

Radio tracking offered additional insight into movement behaviour. Individual variation was very large. Some animals remained in the immediate vicinity of their burrows day after day, never venturing farther afield than 40 or 50 meters during a season. Others wandered over great distances through woods and fencerows, sometimes covering over a kilometre in a day before returning to their home area. At least for some animals, exploration is an important feature of life in the fragmented landscape as food sources wax and wane over the season.

Both males and females are capable of extended movements, even those that are not wanderers by nature, as is demonstrated by the following incident. An adult female captured in a fencerow was transported in an enclosed live trap to a distant woodlot to be fitted with a collar. This procedure involves anaesthetizing the animal, attaching the collar, allowing a recovery period and then restoring the animal to its point of capture. During the recovery period, this particular female got away and escaped into the unfamiliar woodlot. However, she had no intention of remaining in the new surroundings. Within 36 hours she had returned to her home area, over a kilometre away. To achieve this she had to orient herself, travel through a network of unfamiliar fencerows and cross a creek. After her return, we monitored her for a further eight weeks during which time she was never located away from her home fencerow.

This example illustrates the degree of behavioural flexibility these animals possess and sheds light on their ability to survive in the fragmented landscape. Greater movement is necessary when resources are less concentrated in the habitat. There is evidence that animals in this population have (on average) larger movement ranges than populations studied in natural forest habitats.

Chipmunks in this farm landscape have been able to extend their range and continue to persist. We would like to be able to predict the limits to this. Accordingly, the field data will be used to build a simulation model that can test different landscape scenarios on chipmunk success and predict the habitat requirements for a healthy and viable population over time.

Previous work suggests that the connectivity of the landscape and the quality of the remaining habitat in woods and fencerows are of primary importance. If the animals have to connect suitable habitat patches to obtain a complete set of resources, the travel routes must offer sufficient protection from predators to support frequent successful trips. Otherwise the population will quickly decline. For chipmunks this means wide, brushy fencerows planted with trees

and tall shrubs. Although it may not be universal agricultural practice to leave these strips along the margins of fields, such a policy of 'intentional neglect' not only permits sharing of the land with wild creatures, it also provides a wind-break and helps to prevent erosion. Woodlots, which are important resources for many species, including chipmunks, can also be of economic benefit to land-owners. Preserving wildness locally in small ways may be a better idea than relying exclusively on costly conservation programs that focus on large reserves. By understanding how organisms use habitat and respond to changes in resource distribution, we have a better chance of encouraging their survival.

It is my hope that on mornings far in the future, when the dew lies fresh upon the fields and the mosquitos are not yet up, there will still be robin song in the woodlots and chipmunk exploration in the fencerows - a touch of local wildness in an increasingly domesticated world.☐

Can You Top This?

Ellaine Dickson

Shrike kill: A thud on the window made us look up to see a panic amongst a small group of goldfinches which had been at the feeder. One goldfinch lay stunned on the ground. Suddenly a northern shrike swooped in to attack this unfortunate goldfinch. Rather than tearing the little bird with his hooked beak, he struck it a few times. Using his beak, he picked it up by the neck and flew off with it. The small prey must have been too heavy, as the shrike didn't gain any more than a few feet in altitude in his flight to the bushes about thirty yards away.

Starlings and tent caterpillar cocoons: Noticing a starling running back and forth along the path next door, I stopped to watch. Suddenly the bird flew up to the wall and hovered there while he plucked a yellowish cocoon from between the bricks. He flew with his catch to the roof where he tucked it under a shingle and busied himself pulling the cocoon case apart to get at the contents. This process was repeated for the next few days while the mature caterpillars were making their cocoons. The starling cleaned the entire wall of cocoons and littered the roof with the empty cases. How did he learn this, and why doesn't he eat the caterpillars?

Northern oriole and tent caterpillars: Off and on during a day in early June, I watched an oriole diligently working in my black cherry tree. Thinking he was feeding on the many tent caterpillars, you can imagine my surprise when I went out to the garden. Below the tree, my rhubarb and lettuce leaves were covered with full-grown but dead, caterpillars. Each one had been squeezed just behind the head. I didn't see that bird actually eat any. ☐

" Quoth the Raven "

Michael Ross Murphy

In Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven", the poet's depressed and impressionable mind attributed powers of speech and prophecy to the bird of that name: "Quoth the raven, nevermore." Indeed, certain birds have entered our folklore by their apparent utterance of recognizable words or phrases.

Haven't you ever wished that some unidentifiable bird would tell you its name? Certainly I have, especially in the first exciting weeks of spring migration when my memory, with a year more rust in it, refuses to recall anything more than "I'm sure I've heard this song before!" Certain birds have been named for the words or phrases they seem to be saying and are usually placed in a category of *epynomous birds* or "*name-sayers*". Some birds I have listed do not sing (or are not as well known for their songs) but are most often recognized by characteristic non-vocal sounds they produce.

One difficulty with relying exclusively on an "English" translation to remember a bird's song is that the bird's vocal and hearing faculties far exceed our power to discriminate the details. Also, although a good "catch phrase" may match the pattern or cadence of the bird song well, it cannot conjure up a "sonic image" of a bird song you haven't heard before. Ironically, some birds I have listed, like the Black-Capped Chickadee, have songs or calls which can't easily be bent into a "meaningful" phrase but are easily recognized and remembered.

Various ingenious notation systems have been developed to try and record the astonishing variety of sounds - songs, chirps, whistles, buzzes, clicks and more - that birds can make. Unfortunately, none of these methods has achieved universal acceptance. Some have even tried to render birdsong in musical notation, complete with piano accompaniment, so that anyone who could read music could study and enjoy the music of birds. Composers such as François Couperin and Ludwig von Beethoven delighted in bird sounds and the Czechoslovakian composer Antonin Dvorak paid tribute to the Scarlet Tanager in the scherzo of his American String Quartet, Opus 76.

Attempts to scientifically study bird vocalizations have been made using specialized tools such as the "sonogram" to render visible the sound vibrations and details of their structure. Such investigations have resulted in some very interesting information about learning behaviour and population dynamics. For example, the song of a species that is distributed over a wide range has local dialects and the song in any geographic area gradually evolves over time.

We must bear in mind that birds do not usually produce sound for our benefit, but to communicate with other birds. "Here I am" messages keep flocking birds together, "I am here" information keeps feeding distance from others in the group, and "Watch out!" alarm calls are often specific to certain predators. Such "call" messages are used by adult birds of both sexes, while in most species only sexually mature male birds produce the typical songs and exhibit the singing behaviour used to establish and defend their territories in breeding season.

The following list of birds - both common and uncommon - offers a lexicon of "catch phrases" people associate with them. From the wide variation in the phrases I have compiled, it seems that people are suggestible indeed! Any former common names I came across in my readings are listed following the common and scientific names for each bird species. Many of the obsolete common names were based on sounds or words the bird was thought to "say". The list shown is necessarily limited by space and it excludes many easily mimicked but "non-English" calls and songs. I'd welcome contributions to my collection.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*),
Reedbird.

"Rob, Rob, Lincoln Lincoln, Lincoln."
"Bob-o-link."

Bob-White (*Colinus virginianus*), Quail.
"Ah, Bob White."
"Buck-wheat-ripe."
"Some-more-wet."
"Bob White."

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
"Birdy, birdy, birdy, birdy, birdy, birdy!"
"Purty, purty, purty!"
"Cheer, cheer, cheer!"

Black-capped Chickadee
(*Parus atricapillus*).
[song]
"Phoe-be."
"Come to me!"
"Spring's in!"
[call]
"Chicka-dee, dee, dee!"

Chuck-Will's Widow
(*Caprimulgus carolinensis*).
"Twixt-hell-and-white-oak."
"Chuck-will's Widow."
"Chip the widow's-white oak."

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*).
"See, see me, see me, see-um."

Black-billed Cuckoo
(*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*).
"Cuc-koo."

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*),
Black-throated Bunting.
"Dick, dick, dickcissel!"

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*),
Wake Robin, Golden-winged
Woodpecker.
"Flicker, Flicker, Flicker."

Great Crested Flycatcher
(*Myiarchus crinitus*), Wheep.
"Wheep!"

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax
minimus*).
"Che-bek!"

Olive-sided Flycatcher
(*Contopus borealis*).
"Quick, three beers!"

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*).
"Thief! Thief! Thief! Thief!"
"Jay! Jay! Jay!"

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*),
Killdeer Plover.

"Kill-deer! Kill-deer!"

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
(*Regulus calendula*), *Ruby-crested Wren*.

"See-see-see, where-where-where, just
look at me, just look at me, just
look at me, see-see-see."

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella
magna*), Marsh Quail, Field Lark.

"Spring o' the year."

"Spring-'most-here."

Common Nighthawk
(*Chordeiles minor*), Bull-bat,
Burnt-land Bird.

"Beer, Beer."

White-breasted Nuthatch
(*Sitta canadensis*).

"Yank, yank, yank!"

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*),
Orchard Bird.

"Look here, what cheer, what cheer,
whip yo, what cheer, wee yo!"

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*),
Golden-crowned Thrush, Accentor.

"Teacher, teacher, teacher, teacher,
teacher!"

"Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter!"

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), Hoot Owl,
Black-eyed Owl.

"Who cooks for you?"

"Who cooks for you-all?"

Eastern Screech Owl (*Otus asio*).

"Sarah! Sarah! Woe! Woc!"

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*).
[screech] "Fiend!"

[call] "Who's awake? Me too.
Who's awake? Me too..."

Eastern Wood Peewee
(*Contopus virens*).

"Pee-a-wee (pause) peer!"

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*).
"Phoe-be!"

Robin (*Turdus migratorius*).
"Cheerily, Cheerily, Cheerily,
Cheer up, Cheerily, Cheer up."

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*).
"Nel-l-l-l-ly-ly-ly-ly Bly-y-y-y-y-y."

Grasshopper Sparrow
(*Ammodramus savannarum*).
"X-Y-Zee-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e!"

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).
"Fitz! Fitz! Fitz! wee sir - wee sir - wits
wits!"

"Welcome to Campton, tra-la-la-la-
la-la lay."

"Welcome to Campton's flow'ring
meadows gay."

"Maids, maids, put on your tea kettle,
kettle, kettle!"

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*).
"Lord, Lord Bateman w-a-s a
n-o-b-l-e Lord, Lord, Lord!"

White-crowned Sparrow
(*Zonotrichia leucophrys*).
"My faith looks up to thee!"

"My song is ever of thee!"

"Sweetheart, come live with me!"

"Now hill and pasture gay."

"Smile with the flowers of May."

White-throated Sparrow
(*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Peabody Bird.

"Old Sam Pea-body Pea-body
Pea-body"

"Sow Wheat Pe-ver-ly, Pe-ver-ly,
Pe-ver-ly."

"All Day Whit-tl-in', Whit-tl-in',
Whit-tl-in' ."

"Oh hear me Ther-esa, Ther-esa,
Ther-esa!"

"Oh hear me dear-ie!"

"O Sweet Ca-nada, Ca-nada, Ca-nada!"

***Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).**
"Summer's coming, summer's coming!
Prattling birds say.
Summer's coming, summer's coming!
Coming this way!
Wildwood's sighing, winter's dying!
Hail, 'tis blythe May!
Wildwood's sighing, winter's dying!
Coming, June's day!"

**Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*),
Brown Thrush.**
"Shuck it, shuck it; sow it, sow it;
Plough it, plough it; hoe it, hoe it!
Hurry up, hurry up, plow it, plow it;
Harrow it, harrow it, hoe it, hoe it,
hoe it;
Scatter it, scatter it, seed it, seed it,
Cover it over, rake it, rake it, tut tut
Push it in, push it in, weed it, weed it,
pull 'em up
pull 'em up, leave it alone!"

***Swainson's Thrush
(*Catharus ustulatus*).**
"I love, I love, I love, I love you!"

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*).
"Come to me!"
"I am here."
"Sweetest singer."
"Warbling cheerily."

**Rufous-sided Towhee
(*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Swamp Robin.**
"Drink your teeeee!"
"Holy, gee!"
"Hot dog, Pickle-ickle-ickle."
"Sweet bird, s-i-n-ng."

***Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*).**
"Veery."

**Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*),
Preacher Bird, Red-eyed Greenlet.**
"You see it - you know it - do you hear
me? do you believe it?"
"Tom-Kelly - whip Tom-Kelly."

"Look up... way up... treetops ... do you
see it... I made it ... touch it not."
"Mr. Rich - Mrs. Rich - Mary -
and Anna."

**Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*),
Warbling Greenlet.**
"If I could see one, I would seize one,
and would squeeze one, 'til it squirts"

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*).
"Who are you there?
Go 'way - Get out!"

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)
"See me! I'm here, where are you?"
"Cherries... sweet cherries... have
some."
"Mary, Mary, come 'ere!"

**Black-throated Blue Warbler
(*Dendroica caerulescens*).**
"I am so lar-zee!"

**Black-throated Green Warbler
(*Dendroica virens*).**
"Lar-board watch a-hoy!"
"Cheese, cheese, a little more cheese!"
"Sweeping skies with a spy-glass!"
"Trees, trees, murm'ring trees."
"Sleep, sleep, pretty one, sleep!"
"T is, 't is, 't is sweet here!"

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*).
"You must come into the woods or
you won't see me"
"Sweet, sweet, sweet, kiss her."

**Chestnut-sided Warbler
(*Dendroica pensylvanica*).**
"I wish, I wish, I wish to see
Miss Beecher!"
"Pleased to, pleased to,
pleased to meet you!"

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*).
"Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet,
sweeter, sweeter!"
"Wheat, Wheat, Shredded Wheat!"

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) Common Yellowthroat

"Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will."

(*Geothlypis trichas*).

"Witch, witch, witchy!"

Carolina Wren

(*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).

"Witchery, witchery, witchery!"

"Teakettle, teakettle, teakettle!"

"Witchety, witchety, witchety, witch!"

"Get a penny, get a penny, get a penny!"

"Which-way-sir? Which-way-sir?"

"Don't you do it, don't you do it,
don't you do it!"

Which-way-sir?"

"Which-is-it? Which-is-it? Which-is-it?"

"Cheerily, cheerily, cheerily!"

"What-a-pity What-a-pity What-a-pity."

"Cheery, cheery, cheery, cheery,
cheery, cheery, cheery!"

"I beseech you - I beseech you -
I beseech you!"

Birds without song (yet often recognized by ear)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

(*Archilocus colubris*).

Whirring of wings and soft squeaks.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*).

Whistling of primaries, tailfeathers.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*).

Whistling of primaries; also "Peent!"
call during mating flights.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).

Drumming on breast.

*

SCARLET TANAGER

Moderato

Sun-ner's com-ing! Sun-ner's com-ing! Con-ingthis may!

SWAINSON'S THRUSH

Allegro

I love, I love, I love, I love You! I love, I love, I love, I love You!

VEERY

Song

O, Ve e ry, ve e ry, ve e ry, ve e ry

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House Wren Helpers

Mickey Narraway

House Wren nesting in Ottawa seems to be at an all time low. How about helping out these little guys? You may well add to your own pleasure as well as helping some good friends. A bird house with an entrance door measuring 1" in diameter will certainly discourage House Sparrows and may tempt wrens or even chickadees to nest and then feed their large family with your insect pests. You can still put up normal size boxes for the swallow-sparrow wars. Please call me care of the club number (722-3050) for recommended box dimensions. □

Second Annual Fine Art Auction

Saturday and Sunday June 20th and 21st, 1992.

The Friends of the Farm are approaching amateur and professional artists for support of this fund-raising activity, by donating a piece of art or a fine craft. This is a silent auction with the art on display in a spacious tented area near the rose gardens, on the grounds of the Farm. Artists will receive 20% of the cost of the sold items and an official income tax receipt for the remainder. Artists contributing will be given prominence in all publicity developed.

In 1991, the Friends of the Farm sponsored the first silent auction. It was an inspired success. The show attracted about 15,000 visitors. Over 80% of the donor items were sold.

The proceeds generated by these sales go directly to the volunteer organization, Friends of the Farm, which supports and enhances projects at the Central Experimental Farm. These include the development of the 18.6 acre Fletcher Wildlife Garden, trees for the Arboretum and ornamental garden maintenance.

The Friends of the Farm are dedicated to preserving the Farm's priceless location, in the heart of the city.

If you know of other artists who might be interested, please let them know. □

Birdsong Workstation

The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

Press a button on either one of the birdsong workstation computers and a menu-full of birding activities soars to the screen. Hit another button and hear beautiful birdsongs. Other choices allow visitors to learn why birds sing, discover how ornithologists identify birds by song, sketch a birdsong, check out Ontario's birdsong library, or learn about some of the ROM's current research. Both birdsong workstations are bilingual and mark the final instalment of the Outdoor Canada/The Sportsmen's Shows Gallery of Birds.

Opens April 15, 1992.

For further information call (416)586-5549. □

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee

For further information,
call the Club number (722-3050).

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.

ALL OUTINGS: Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing.

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours. There is a charge for parking in the museum lot.

Saturday

4 April

9:00 a.m.

TREES IN SPRING

Leader: Ellaine Dickson

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of parking lot at Richmond and Assaly Roads.

Come and enjoy an early spring outing while learning to identify trees before they leaf out. Bring a snack, a hand lens if you have one, and waterproof footwear for this half-day outing.

Tuesday

14 April

8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARI THROUGH EAST AFRICA

Speaker: Pat Hunt

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Join Pat on a spectacular journey through six national parks in Kenya and Tanzania. Her slide presentation will focus on the magnificent natural beauty of East Africa as well as the awesome concentrations of wildlife to be found there.

Sunday
26 April
6:30 a.m.
to
6:30 p.m.

BUS EXCURSION: HAWK MIGRATION AT DERBY HILL, N.Y.

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Bernie Ladouceur
Meet: In front of Loblaws, Carlingwood Shopping Centre.
Cost: \$25 (see Registered Bus Trips for details).
When weather conditions are favourable, the spectacle of thousands of hawks migrating through Derby Hill is well worth the bus ride. Please bring proof of citizenship for entry into the United States. Optical equipment in "new" condition should be registered with Canada Customs in advance of the trip. The trip will be cancelled on the day before if the weather forecast for the eastern end of Lake Ontario is particularly unfavourable. Those registered will be notified of any change of plan.

Sunday
3 May
09:00 a.m.

SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Leaders: Philip Martin and Ellaine Dickson
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, NE corner of the Parking lot at Richmond Road and Assaly Road
Come out and enjoy a taste of spring among the wildflowers at this exciting time of year. Bring a lunch and dress according to the weather. Who knows what thrilling discoveries await you?

Monday
11 May
07:30 a.m.

SPRING MIGRATION AT BRITANNIA

Leaders: Monday Morning Breakfast and Birding Group
Meet: Britannia Filtration Plant; Bus #18 stops here
Join the Monday Birding group and spend the morning seeking out the latest arrivals at the peak of the spring migration. Bring a snack, binoculars and waterproof footwear.

Tuesday
12 May
08:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

SPRING FLOWERS

Speaker: Dr. Erich Haber
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Once again Erich will enchant us with a presentation on that most popular of subjects - spring flowers. Don't miss this lecture. It will raise your winter-weary spirits as well as adding to your store of knowledge.

BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS

The following series of walks (of three or four hours duration) is offered for novice birders.

Saturday	Time	Place	Leader
2 May	07:30 a.m.	Britannia *	Bob Bracken
9 May	07:30 a.m.	Britannia *	Jim Harris
16 May	07:30 a.m.	Britannia *	Ron Curtis
23 May	07:30 a.m.	Britannia *	Tony Beck

* Entrance to the Britannia Filtration Plant; Bus #18 stops here

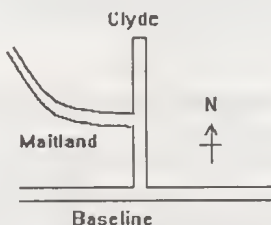
MAY EVENING STROLLS

These four informal walks are offered to expand members' general knowledge of local natural history. Children are most welcome on these outings. Bring waterproof footwear and insect repellent.

Thursday **SOUTH MARCH AREA**
7 May Leader: Ellaine Dickson
06:30 p.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, NE corner of the Parking lot at Richmond Road and Assaly Road

Wednesday **STONY SWAMP - TRAIL No. 5**
13 May Leader: Bill Gummer (596-1148)
06:30 p.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, NE corner of the Parking lot at Richmond Road and Assaly Road

Tuesday **CLYDE WOODS**
19 May Leader: Mike Murphy (727-1739)
6:30 p.m. Meet: Dead end at the north end of Clyde - from the Baseline Road go north on Clyde to the end



Tuesday **N.Y. CENTRAL RIGHT-OF-WAY**
26 May Leader: Ron Bedford (733-8826)
06:30 p.m. Meet: Elmvalle Shopping Centre, NE corner of the parking lot, St Laurent Blvd and Smyth Road

Thursday
14 May
09:00 a.m.

TRIP TO MARY STUART'S PROPERTY

Leader: Mary Stuart (820-5520)
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, NE corner of the Parking lot at Richmond Road and Assaly Road
At the old farm near Pakenham, wildflowers and birds await those free to ramble on a spring day. We will make one or two stops at points of interest on our way. This is always an interesting and delightful outing. Bring a lunch, something to drink (there is no drinking water), waterproof footwear, insect repellent, binoculars and anything else you might need. A hat is recommended. Call Mary the day before for any last minute instructions.

Friday
29 May
7:30 p.m.

OFNC SOIREE - WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

Meet: Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Street.
See centrefold for details.

Sunday
31 May
08:00 a.m.

MOTORCADE TOUR OF A BLUEBIRD TRAIL

Leader: Carson Thompson (1-267-5721)
Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling Ave at Woodroffe Ave
Participants will drive to the Perth Wildlife Reserve (road signs can be picked up on the Rideau Ferry Road off Hwy 43 between Perth and Smith Falls) Then we follow the Bluebird Trail, lunch (bring your own) will be in the vicinity of the Mill Pond Conservation Area. Carson is the manager of the Perth Wildlife Reserve.

Saturday
6 June
08:30 a.m.

BUTTERFLIES AND THEIR HABITATS

Leader: Bob Bracken (728-3495)
Meet: Westgate Shopping Centre, SE corner of the parking lot, Carling Ave and Merivale Rd
Join Bob on a 5 or 6 km walking tour of either Stony Swamp or the Carp Hills in quest of butterflies, the ephemeral jewels of nature. The group will explore a variety of butterfly habitats and identify some of the species unique to such areas. Bring a lunch, comfortable footwear and insect repellent (but not too much!) on this full-day outing.

Tuesday
9 June
08:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
AN INTRODUCTION TO ORCHIDS

Speaker: Bill Arthurs
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Learn what makes these high-tech members of the botanical world different from other plants, and gain insights into their lifestyles. Bill, a past President of the Ottawa Orchid Society and a former Vice-President of the OFNC, will discuss orchid habitats, ecology and fascinating pollination mechanisms and propagation methods.

Wednesday
10 June
04:00 a.m.

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE RICHMOND FEN

Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)
Meet: Tim Horton Donuts, on the south side of Robertson Rd (old Hwy 7) between the Richmond Rd turnoff and Moodie Dr.
An opportunity to see and hear some of the interesting species of birds that breed in the wetland fen and the peripheral woodlands. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent are a must for this outing. Please register by phoning Bruce prior to the trip.

Wednesday
17 June
08:30 a.m.

OUTING TO BILL'S FARMLAND AT BURRITT'S RAPIDS

Leader: Bill Gummer (596-1148)
Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling Ave at Woodroffe Ave
This will be a general interest walk to see various species of birds and wildflowers. Pack a picnic lunch and binoculars for this leisurely trip.

Saturday
20 June
10:00 a.m.

VISIT TO PURDON FEN CONSERVATION AREA

Leaders: Robina Bennett (829-0958) and Catherine O'Keefe
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, NE corner of the Parking lot at Richmond Road and Assaly Road
See the spectacular display of hundreds of Showy Lady's Slipper orchids in bloom. In addition to the Lady's Slipper you may also see the Leafy White Bog orchid, Pitcher Plant, Tufted Loosestrife and many other interesting plants. Bring a lunch and any wildflower guide books you may need.

Sunday
21 June
08:00 a.m.
to 08:00 p.m.

BUS EXCURSION TO CHAFFEY'S LOCKS: BREEDING BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Ellaine Dickson
Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling Ave at Woodroffe Ave.

Cost: \$25.00 (see Registered Bus Trips for details).
This excursion features a visit to the Queen's University Biology Station as well as the Skycroft Outdoor Centre. This area of the Rideau Lakes district represents a transition zone where many southern species of plants and animals reach their northern limit. Highlights may include Cerulean Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, Black-billed Cuckoos and the Black Rat snake as well as rare ferns and butterflies. The charge of \$25.00 covers the cost of the bus, use of the Skycroft facilities and the barbecue supper provided by the Biology Station. Remember to bring a lunch and binoculars. Please support the club by taking the bus. If you do go by private car you must register for the barbecue.

Sunday
28 June
01:00 p.m.

FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP

Leader: Bill Arthurs (225-6941)
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, NE corner of the parking lot, St Laurent Blvd and Smyth Road
This half-day outing will be a general botanical walk in two areas of Mer Bleu with a special emphasis on some of the local ferns.

Sunday
12 July
09:30 a.m.

WETLAND BUTTERFLIES

Leader: Peter Hall (733-0698)
Meet: Neatby Building, Central Experimental Farm, front entrance, one block west of the Irving Place-Maple Lane traffic lights on Carling Ave.
This all-day outing will explore the edges of several wetland areas west of the city. Our quarry will include Sedge Skippers, Hair Streaks, Coppers as well as some of the more elusive wetland butterflies such as the Harvester and the Baltimore. Bring a lunch and a butterfly net if you have one.
□

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The GREEN LINE



THE SHORT STORY...

Britannia Mud Pond

The City of Ottawa has begun a study to determine how to solve the annual basement flooding problem in the Britannia village. Among several alternatives being considered is one that has alarmed all naturalists and local residents. The cheapest (hence most politically-desirable) option is to use Mud Pond as a stormwater treatment pond. This would cost the City approximately \$8 million instead of \$13.5 million to route a pipe network around Mud Pond to an impoundment complex and into Pinecrest Creek just east of the Filtration Plant. Jill Brown, the councillor for Britannia, announced to the media that City staff have rejected the Mud Pond alternative since the engineering consultant, Novatech, could not guarantee that there would be no impact on the wildlife values of this Class 3 wetland. However, councillor Mark Maloney and others have declared that they want to take a closer look at the alternatives, since the cost differential is over \$5 million. Please pick up the phone and call your councillor (if you are an Ottawa resident). If you live outside the city, please write to Mayor Jacqueline Holzman, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, K1N 5A1, to inform her of the high value we place on Britannia and Mud Pond. Better still, come to the public meeting to be held at 7:00 pm on April 30th at Regina Street Public School in Britannia.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

The landscape architect, David Tomlinson, who designed the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, has won an award for the design. The project received a Regional Honour and a National Merit Award for outstanding Achievement in the profession of Landscape Architecture from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects in January. The Award is to be presented at a congress of the organization in Saskatoon on May 20th 1992. The jury commented favourably on the integration of professional and volunteer resources in a "landmark initiative".

Clyde Woods

Ontario Municipal Board hearings were held in late February and the Board, in a rare oral decision, approved a plan which will allow Assaly and the Region to subdivide and develop their lands, located to the south of Clyde Woods east of Clyde Avenue. As many OFNC members will know, this area is extremely valuable owl roosting and feeding habitat and has been designated as an Environmentally-Sensitive Area in the

Ottawa Official Plan and is an Area of Natural or Scientific Interest according to the Ministry of Natural Resources. In late March of this year, Walter McFee found a Long-eared Owl, and Richard Brouillet saw a grey phase Gyrfalcon and a Red-shouldered Hawk in Clyde Woods. When the development proceeds, Eastern Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher, and American Kestrel habitat will disappear under asphalt and back yards. However, the Plan of Development has addressed many of our concerns, including conservation easements placed on a large buffer area along the north side of the property to protect the NCC-owned Clyde woods. In addition, the plan makes it possible for the City of Ottawa to preserve the large cedar swamp area in the center of the site as part of the parkland dedication.

Leitrim Wetland

The wetland has now been formally surveyed and the boundary transferred to maps that will be used as a legal description for conveying the protected portion of the wetland into public ownership. Many issues remain, especially how to ensure that the wetland can be protected from damage caused by changes to the areas drainage and disturbance from construction and human habitation. Now that the landowner to the south has also been granted an urban designation - subject to a condition imposed by the Ontario Municipal Board that their portion of the wetland be adequately protected - the situation has become very complex indeed. The OFNC will continue to seek ways to protect this wetland, which is the most significant in Eastern Ontario according to Albert Dugal, an OFNC member and botanist with the Canadian Museum of Nature.

Sewell Commission Update

The Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario, known as the Sewell Commission, has finished defining its goals and objectives. Battle lines are already forming, as strong support for the environmental protection goals is being countered by warnings from the development community that the economic wellbeing of the province is at stake, with municipal officials trying to avoid being caught in between. The Commission will be publishing their second draft of their goals and their proposals for a revised planning process in their April newsletter as they move into the even more contentious realm of determining what process will be used to refine, recommend and implement these goals to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. To receive the newsletter, phone 1-800-267-4317 toll free.

Gatineau Park Master Plan Review - Gateway to Oblivion?

by Ian Huggett

Gatineau Park is to undergo piecemeal fragmentation which will unravel the very organic fabric which attracts people to it.

In accordance with its new mandate, the NCC is inventing development schemes to heighten the park's national profile. As part of a strategy to elevate the National Capital's image, park authorities plan to sell adjacent NCC landholdings which presently form wildlife corridors connecting the park to the Ottawa and Gatineau Rivers.

The NCC is proposing two alternative development concepts for the southernmost section of the park, the Gateway Sector, which is situated between Pink Lake in the west and Tache Boulevard in the east. Development of this sector could indirectly change the equilibrium in other, more ecologically sensitive sectors of Gatineau Park.

Described by NCC planners as "complementary development sites", these critical habitats will be sacrificed for, among other things, a proposed shopping centre complex in the Champlain Corridor, and a parking lot behind Universite de Quebec.

Planned access points into the Gateway sector will mean unlimited penetration from the populations of adjacent Hull and Aylmer. Only the current limited access routes and their relative inconvenience hamper this sector's total saturation by users. Displa-

ced recreationists, dissatisfied with the crowded conditions, will seek their outdoor experiences elsewhere in the park. The result will be an invasion of dislodged recreationists seeking less crowded conditions in more ecologically significant sectors.

"Limits of acceptable change" is a framework incorporated in park management which identifies how much use is acceptable or desirable. Park planners have set these limits disturbingly high - permitting any degree of environmental impact providing the trees remain standing. This allows the total liquidation of ground flora and subsequent soil compaction from users.

The Gateway sector would undergo a tragic impoverishment of vascular plant diversity and the organisms dependent on these communities.

As the southern section of the Park is biogeographically severed by the proposed McConnell-Laramée autoroute (which is 50% financed by the NCC), it becomes obvious that the Gateway is perceived by the NCC administration as a political liability to be sacrificed to satisfy political and urban pressures.

Conservation groups such as the OFNC and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society argue that parks are sensitive to urban encroachment. If the Gateway sector, as the southern front, falls, so too will the rest of the park.

Are we to let the NCC subdue, domesticate, and tame our public land into a manicured rendition, or Disney World of a formerly wild area? We who have enjoyed the wild beauty of Gatineau park owe our children the opportunity to enjoy it too.

GREEN LINE News Editor: Michael Murphy (613) 727-1739 / fax: 727-1245