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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse 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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Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

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Peter S. Boos and Family

Frances Burke

Adrienne M. Caldwell and Family

John R. Edwards

Carol M. Foster

Lisette Hardy

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Karen Kitz

Virginia E. Maclatchy and Family

Judy and David Makin

E. Jean Miller-Shea

Bruce Robinson

Marie-Jeanne Saunders

Anne A. Whitehurst



P.J. Mickey Narraway
Membership Committee
November, 1995

From the Editor

With this issue we are proudly beginning the thirtieth year of *Trail & Landscape*. Once again, the Excursions & Lectures Committee has provided a rich selection of activities for your enjoyment and the number to call to reserve your spot on a trip or other activity remains the same, 722-3050.

Ellaine Dickson has been the "Voice" of our Club, at that number, ever since 1978, *Trail & Landscape* Vol. 12, No. 3. That makes it seventeen years that she has mailed out Club brochures, signed us up for trips and answered innumerable questions. I understand that she regrets that she cannot handle that job for the moment. Now when you call you will hear the voice of Mickey Narraway, Membership Chairman.

As many of you know, Ellaine had a major heart attack in early September and she has been sorely missed at subsequent Club events and at the other end of the phone. We are pleased to tell you, however, that Ellaine is recuperating quite nicely and responding well to medication and other treatments. All of us wish you, Ellaine, a speedy and complete recovery.

In this issue you will find a wide variety of articles even though it is slimmer than it could have been. Just at deadline time I had to move out of a very roomy office in a comfortable building because the Canadian Museum of Nature, under pressure from Labour Canada, closed this and several other buildings and relocated its staff. This has necessitated a fax number change to (819) 953-9831. I now work entirely from my home.

These closures were said to be due to health and safety reasons. The collections remain where they are and will be accessible to staff one day a week under specific conditions specified by collections managers. It is hoped that this situation will be temporary. The proposed construction of a new collections and research facility in Quebec has been on hold because of the controversy of the site the Museum was given by Public Works – a rich cedar wetland forest with a diverse flora and some regionally rare plants and animals.

We would like to alert you to other telephone number changes made in the introductory paragraphs of "Coming Events." The Bird Status Line number is now 860-9000. It was changed so that no callers in the Ottawa-Hull area will have to pay long distance charges. The new number for Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais is 778-3413. Their Bird Status Line remains the same, 778-0703.☐

Birds of a Feather

Linda Jeays

Some days the poem won't come: won't splash onto
blank pages like a cardinal settling on snow.
Some days words merely scream and complain
like blue jays searching for shelled peanuts
(tossing out irrelevances) at the feeder,
and half-thoughts fuss and flutter nearby,
close kin to wild-tamed chickadees eager
to steal from an outstretched seed-filled hand.
Then a poet needs soft neat words in rows,
as carefully spaced as swallows along high wires,
craves lovingly paired ideas, mutual concerns
(say, mourning doves resting side by side,
tranquil on a stone ledge).

Emptyheaded days
are full of unfocussed images, camouflaged
brown creeper-style against furrowed tree bark,
bothersome as house sparrows under eaves.
The solution? Wait for crisp, sharp sunshine
when purposeful crowds of words invade awareness
like grosbeaks seeking winter's last fruit
among the skinny arms of crab apple trees
- handsome, confident, quarrelsome scratchings
greedy for attention, thought-provoking.

Murder Most Fowl

James D. Georgiles

“Murder most foul, as in the best it is;
But this most foul, strange, and unnatural murder.”
Shakespeare (Hamlet)

The seemingly murderous proclivity of American Coots (*Fulica americana*) documented in *Trail and Landscape* (Vol. 26, No. 4 1992 and Vol. 27, No. 3 1995), could be attributed to territoriality, but wanton killing within and without other avian species does occur.

Case One: I observed a female Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*) seize a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*) that was hopping nearby at the strand of the river. The duck did not try to swallow the hapless sparrow, but carried it into the river where she immersed it repeatedly until its struggles ceased. Then tossing it aside she left it lifeless to drift downstream. What prompted a placid Mallard to act in such a manner? It was not competition for food, there were no ducklings to protect; the act was purely spontaneous and profitless: was it murder, **Avicide One?**

Case Two: Attracted by squawking, I looked out of the window of my riverside home in time to see two male Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) engaged in fierce combat on the edge of the Rideau River. The battle raged on until the uppermost of the two combatants forcibly hustled the other into the river. Riding like a valkyrie on its victim, the victor, wings flapping, propelled it into deeper water, and by repeatedly thrusting its head below the surface deliberately tried to drown it. By the time I reached the scene the victim was well out of its depth, but the assailant still persisted with his nefarious intent by swooping down upon it in aerial assaults. A vigorous clapping of my hands distracted the bully and he flew off. The bird in the water, not about to “go gentle into that dark night,” commenced to swim by a series of regular propulsive thrusts of its semi-outstretched wings. Its efforts would have been in vain, for it was swimming away from shore and gradually sinking lower in the water. I jumped on the dock, grabbed a fish landing-net and whisked the drowning bird from the enveloping water and carried it to the bank. Frightened rather than ungrateful, the redwing hissed and pecked at my hand as I extricated it from the tangled net and laid its sodden form on a sunny patch of grass. It lay inertly there for about ten minutes then stood erect, wings open like a Cormorant drying out. After about half an hour in this posture the redwing flew off to

begin the first day of the rest of its life. Was this a case of attempted murder? Perhaps one bird had attempted to cuckold the other; if so, it would be a **Crime Passionelle**. ☞

Yellow Snow

Fenja Brodo

This year's heavy snowfall in November brought other surprises with it. Quite a lot of snow had fallen by mid-November. Then the first fat flakes that fell on Friday, November 17th brought down a heavy dusting of yellow powder, a sort of mustardy yellow. This covered the snow within a neat 2-3 m circumference around our silver maple tree, including the picnic table, and also stained the snow which clung to the branches and bark of this tree. My neighbours' gardens, what I could see of them, were covered in pure white snow and a short walk around our neighbourhood failed to uncover other such yellow snow patches.

The snow continued to fall and soon this yellow circle was veiled, but still visible, by a new covering of snow. I dug beneath the white top layer and filled a large jar with the yellow stuff and watched it melt to an odourless, tea-coloured liquid.

Usually the leaves of the silver maple have dropped and been raked and left to rot on our compost pile weeks before the first snow fall. This year, however, these leaves remained on the tree and endured their first strong frosts while still attached, rather than while lying on the ground. Freezing causes leaf cells to burst. I suspect that it was probably the tannins within the leaf cells that were released and washed down with the wet snow flakes to colour the snow surface. This seemed to be confirmed by the yellowish mark that I made in the snow by rubbing a leaf across the compacted surface.

I was surprised again on Friday, December 1st when once more I saw the snow yellowing around the base of the silver maple. It was paler than the first time but a distinct yellow all the same. (I am usually home on Fridays. Perhaps I missed this on other days.)

Other trees such as the oaks and American beech also hold onto their leaves in winter. I have never seen these trees ringed by a dusting of yellow on the snow. Has anybody else observed this phenomenon? ☞

Return of the Bears

Ian Huggett



Captive cub, Oméga game-farm. Photo by I. Huggett.

The large sow appeared relaxed and content after devouring the contents of the hiker's pack. With her black paws crossed and leaning against a spruce log, the black bear licked her lips and averted her eyes.

The backcountry campsite resembled a post lunch-hour school yard. Torn food wrappers were scattered like florescent plastic leaves.

When the camper started to gather up the empty oatmeal, noodles, and vegi-burger packages, their residue odours were too much of a temptation for the hungry bear. She raised her impressive muzzle, twitched her black rubber-like nose and salivated heavily. Shifting her massive bulk she slowly approached to reclaim "her" stolen meal. After two consecutive false lunges the bear charged the startled camper.

Agonistic behaviours and aggressive encounters, like the above that I observed in Banff National Park this October, luckily did not occur here in the National Capital region. Yet this fall over 160 black bears descended into the urban Outaouais.

Bears feed on green vegetation, flowers, the sapwood (cambium) of trees, bulbs, tubers and berries as well as insects, mammals and fish (Herrero 1985). They can gain up to 1 lb (0.45 k) of body fat per day before denning if they are in productive habitats.

Inadequate natural food resources forced about half of Gatineau Park's 200 bears to go beyond the park boundaries in search of alternative food (Michael Viens, National Capital Commission [NCC] Biologist, pers. comm.). Climatic conditions, particularly reduced precipitation, are believed to be responsible for the poor berry and mast crops this fall and the subsequent hunger among the bears (Marc Gauthier, NCC, pers. comm.).

Successional farm fields with abandoned apple orchards were the main attractant to the bears roaming the urban Outaouais. Most of these bears were sows with first or second year cubs. This suggests that the more aggressive adult males were hoarding limited resources inside the Park.

On September 1st 1995, the NCC, the Municipality of Hull, and the Quebec Ministry of Environment and Wildlife (MEF) set up a program to capture and relocate bears. Most of these bears were seen just outside the park along Lac des Fées and Montcalm Streets. Others became trapped and captured between Lucerne Boulevard and the Ottawa River.

Most wandering bears were treed, shot with a tranquillizer, and transported 200 km away. Adult bears were relocated near Low, Quebec at the dam on the Gatineau River, and Holmns Lake. Parc Oméga, a 1500 acre (607 ha) game-farm near Montebello, adopted over 20 cubs.

Approximately 180 bears returned to their capture sites in Aylmer, Gatineau, Chelsea and Hull (Jean Caron, Aylmer Police Dept., pers. comm., and MEF statistics).

By mid-September officials agreed to try to keep the bears out of urban streets by leaving food in an undisclosed location in the park. 140 lbs (63.5 k) of apples were dumped every 4 to 5 days. Fifteen to 20 bears fed at this site at one time. A total of 22,000 lbs (9,979 k) of apples were consumed by mid-October (Marc Gauthier, pers. comm.).

Bears are solitary most of their lives, except during their breeding season and at concentrated food sources. Hierarchical organizations among the bears occur at feeding aggregations. The most aggressive bears eat where and when they want to and mutual avoidance allows other bears to feed (Hornocker 1962). NCC conservation officers noticed this social structure occurring at their feeding site.

By October 2nd officials decided to terminate the feeding program to prevent the bears from becoming dependent on it. Bears that had developed a dependence upon the site were captured and relocated.

Park officials estimated the approximate bear population by calculating individual ranges and the carrying capacity of the park. Since no base line data on the population dynamics of the bears in Gatineau Park had been compiled, it was difficult to assess the number of bears remaining within the park and to distinguish how many bears were returning. The problem was exacerbated because not all released bears were systematically tagged. Normally females would range 7-10 sq. km and males about 42 sq. km (Laycock 1986).

Bear population densities in the Poltimore region, however, using radio-isotopes which are picked up in bear scats, was estimated to be 0.4-0.6 bears per sq. km, or approximately one bear per 2 sq. km. In La Verendrye Park the estimate was lower, 0.18-0.17 bears per sq. km. (François Goudreault, Biologist, Service de l'Amenagement et Exploitation de la Faune). It would be erroneous, however, to extrapolate these statistics to the whole Outaouais because of vast variations in habitat capability and environmental stressors throughout its approximately 20,000 sq. km.

The MEF put radio collars on three bears to determine, among other variables, range extensions and habitat preferences and to establish if they had developed a lasting preference to seek food at the feeding station. The bear is anaesthetized with a special gun that fires drug-loaded darts; each dart is carefully loaded with the amount of drug needed for the estimated weight of the targeted bear. The bear is then measured and weighed and a radio transmitter is attached by collar.

There are several other procedures which are standard for bear research, and the MEF chose some of these measures which were relevant for their purposes. The bear's upper lip is tattooed leaving a permanent mark. A pre-molar, just behind the canine tooth, may be pried out for making a cross section of the tooth to assess the bear's age. A blood sample may be drawn to be analyzed in a university laboratory as part of a study of the mysteries of hibernation. If the

bear is a female, a sample of milk may be taken and analyzed for raising cubs in captivity.

The largest bears caught here were a sow at 230 lb (104 k) and a boar weighing in at 330 lb (150 k), with the average sow weighing about 200 lb (91 k) (Marc Gauthier, pers. comm.).

Not all researchers are in agreement about the value of relocating bears. "The relocation of bears rarely works since most relocated bears either return or are killed or perish at their destination. Removal by translocation is often the same as destroying a bear" (Kunelius 1995). The effect of an intraspecific encounter after transplanting may increase the tendency of a bear to seek its original home range (Pearson 1975). "Relocated bears will usually find their release area already occupied" (S. Herrero, pers. comm.).

As soon as the bears were relocated outside the Gatineau Park boundaries they were exposed to greater hunting pressures. Within two weeks of the opening of the fall hunting season (mid Sept.) more bears were shot than during the total hunting season of last year (spring + fall, 120 days) according to MEF.

The survival rate of c.o.y. (cubs of the year) for 1994 in the Outaouais was estimated to be 70%. That year 560 bears were killed legally by hunters and trappers. In contrast, by the end of the 1995 hunting season, which extended between May 1st to July 4th and September 15th to November 19th, at least 1,000 bears were killed (legally) because of their increased accessibility to hunters. About 95% of these bears were killed by opportunistic hunters, that is those who were initially after a deer but found a bear. It is estimated that another 1,000 or more bears have been shot illegally in the province, many by farmers protecting their corn crop. Trappers have no limits on bears imposed upon them. One trapper in Quebec killed 60 in a single year. It is legal to sell animal parts in Quebec. A bear carcass, minus its gall bladder, can fetch \$200, a set of claws can fetch \$50 and the gall bladder is worth \$125 to \$500.

Most of the relocated bears from the Outaouais were reproductive females. Tragically, a large number of the cubs were separated inadvertently from their mothers despite the best efforts of conservation officers to relocate mothers with offspring. Sows send their cubs into hiding at the first sign of danger, making them almost impossible to find. While the mother is tranquillized and trucked away the cubs are more often than not concealed about 300 metres away. Only rarely are mother and offspring trapped together. Biologists anticipate that orphaned cubs will perish as a result of these relocations.

One US biologist in Pennsylvania has operated a successful program whereby orphaned bears were introduced into a potential surrogate mother's den. Ini-

tially the strategy was to track down a radio-collared sow, tranquilize her and force her cubs up a tree. The orphaned cub would be sent up the tree with the others. The sow, normally, would scent the strange cub and kill it. To mask the natural bear odours, Vicks Vapo-Rub was rubbed on the orphaned cub and into the sow's nostrils. This kept her from detecting the new cub. By the time the Vicks wore off, the sow would have licked all the cubs and they would have all ended up smelling the same (Alt 1983).

Cubs placed with surrogate mothers tend to run off into the woods. But if the mother is first confined with the orphans and they are kept hungry, then the cubs nurse and stay with the sow thereafter. Lactating mothers have raised up to seven cubs successfully (Alt 1983).

In most regions females den two weeks ahead of males. This would enable wildlife officials to have the opportunity to protect the females by manipulating the hunting season after females are in their dens, but before the males have gone to their winter quarters. A kill selected toward the males would leave the females to build up the population.



S.A. Edlund

A drop in temperature, air pressure, decreased day length and reduction in available food resources trigger denning, which in bears is more like a state of torpor than true hibernation. Most Outaouais bears would have denned by November 14th 1995.

The twenty cubs given to Parc Oméga in Montebello are expected to die of exposure or predation this winter. Seventeen of the 20 were released to fend for themselves on the reserve. Under natural conditions, the mother would teach them survival skills and guard her offspring through a second winter until June or July (Barry Hughson, National Park Service, pers. comm.). However, by November 13, 1995 many of these cubs had escaped into the adjacent town of Montebello. Three younger cubs were discovered living under inhumane conditions in a filthy, wet plywood enclosure. They were fed dried dog food,

conditioning them to commercial foods. If they were to survive and be released in the spring, that food conditioning might cause them to seek out populated areas leading to their eventual destruction.

One cub exhibited severe symptoms of intestinal parasites and had rubbed all the guard hairs off its rear. "The confined conditions in an enclosure concentrate the egg burden in feces which can then multiply the parasitic load to dangerous levels, often exceeding five times the number found under natural conditions. Unless the bears undergo stool analyses and appropriate medical treatment they run a real risk of death from 'superimposed parasitic load'" (Dr. E. Broughton, pers. comm.). Unless the cubs are removed to a heated enclosure and fed throughout the winter they will die from insufficient fat reserves by February (Broughton, pers. comm.).

Under ideal environmental and physiological conditions c.o.y. can survive winter independent of their mothers, but under human supervision, and providing they weighed 80-90 lb (36-41 k). This is three times the average weight of the cubs which were released at Parc Oméga (M. McIntosh, pers. comm.).

Attempts had been made to remove the three remaining cubs into safe keeping at McIntosh's bear rehabilitation centre in Huntsville, Ontario. However, the Quebec regulations prohibit the transportation of bears across provincial boundaries.

The cumulative impacts of over-hunting, illegal poaching, road kills and separation of mothers from offspring are expected to result in a record level of black bear mortality in our region.

One thing is certain, this year's reproductive success and productivity will have unnecessarily suffered because of insufficient review of existing research data on bear management and a lack of concrete baseline data on bear populations in the Outaouais.

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Vascular Plants of Libby Island

John R. Edwards

Environmental Youth Corps

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Libby Island is one of our newest nature reserves, and because it is in the Ottawa District, it is another interesting area for OFNC members to explore. The list of plants found on this island will give one an idea of what is there and what can be expected to occur in similar regions in southern Ontario.

Libby Island is a 19.2 ha. island in the Rideau River, 5 km northwest of the town of Kemptville, Ontario. From Ottawa, Libby Island may be reached by taking Highway 16 south to Dilworth Road, then going 1 km west to Rideau Valley Drive (Old Hwy 16), turning south for 7 km to River Road (note: Rideau Valley Drive changes to Cty Rd. 44 prior to crossing the bridge), and then west 1.3 km to the Libby Island causeway entrance at the southern end of the island. (see map on page 18)

The township of Oxford-On-Rideau owns the eastern half of the island, while the western half is privately owned. Until recently, Libby Island was used primarily for cattle grazing and was mostly open grassland. However, the majority of this grazing land is located in the west, with only a small amount occurring in the east (less than 25% of the total eastern, public area). The remaining 75% of the eastern part is a young deciduous forest composed primarily of ash and alder.

The township of Oxford-On-Rideau has been developing plans for the island since its purchase in 1992 from a private landowner. During the summer of 1995 two Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) students, under the direction of the township, constructed a 1.3 km multi-use trail which follows the eastern shoreline of the island. In addition, viewing platforms, a parking area (for 10 to 15 cars), and some signage have been established. Plans are currently being implemented to widen the causeway, to add picnic and washroom facilities, an Osprey nesting structure as well as interpretive signage to facilitate the interpretation of this small nature reserve. To this end, a vascular plant inventory has been prepared and this list may eventually be incorporated into a trail brochure.

Libby Island is unique with respect to nearby nature reserves (e.g., Baxter Conservation Area and Rideau River Provincial Park) in that it is adjacent to a Provincially Significant Class 3 Wetland. In addition, Libby Island is undergoing natural succession from an open grassland to a mature forest. This means that this is an evolving, ecologically interesting area with a variety of potentially suitable habitats for an increasingly wider range of flora and fauna. This list of vascular plants is the only inventory compiled on the natural history of Libby Island. So far little is known about other aspects of the island's natural history.

The list of vascular plants found on Libby Island deals primarily with the species occurring within the township's property, 9.1 ha. in the eastern half, plus a handful of species from the west. It was compiled during several outings to the island between July 25 and August 25, 1995, including a canoe trip around the island to identify aquatic and shoreline species. It should be noted that due to the time at which this survey was undertaken some spring ephemeral plants (e.g., violets), as well as some fall species (e.g., asters) that may occur on Libby Island, may not have been recorded. Species identification in the western half of the island was limited to examination from the shoreline and property edges.

Each species listed below is assigned to one of four categories indicating the primary area in which it is found to occur:

S Shoreline/River. Includes species found in and along the river, shoreline, and causeway.

F Fields. All open (non-treed) areas of the island.

T Trail. Includes species located in the forested areas of Libby Island, primarily along the trail.

W Western end of the island. (Those species observed only on the western end of the island.)

In addition, species have been noted as:

* Non-native (introduced) species.

! Voucher specimen collected.

R Regionally rare (Cuddy 1991).

P Provincially rare (Argus et al. 1982-1987).

Species having the designation "LG" are additional species identified by EYC students Meagan Loughlin and Sarah Godwin, but which were not encountered by the author. Since suitable habitats for these species exist on the island they were undoubtedly overlooked, possibly because of the late start of the survey.

Don Cuddy, who suggested that I undertake this project, is gratefully acknowledged for his assistance in species collection, identification, and verification. Meagan Loughlin and Sarah Godwin are also acknowledged for their assistance and contribution to this list.

List of Vascular Plants of Libby Island

EQUISETACEAE/HORSETAIL FAMILY		<i>Carex scoparia</i> /Broom Sedge	T!
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> /Field Horsetail	S	<i>Carex stipata</i> /Awl-fruited Sedge	T
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> /Water Horsetail	S	<i>Carex synchocephala</i> /Compact Sedge	W, R!
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i> /Common Scouring-rush	W	<i>Carex tenera</i> /Slender Sedge	F!
OPHIOGLOSSACEAE/ADDER'S TONGUE FAMILY		<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i> /Fox Sedge	F!
<i>Botrychium multifidum</i> /Leathery Grapefern	T!	<i>Cyperus hipartitus</i> /Two-stamened Cyperus	S
OSMUNDACEAE/FLOWERING FERN FAMILY		<i>Cyperus odoratus</i> /Coarse Cyperus	W, R!
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> /Royal Fern	T	<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i> /Three-way Sedge	S!
POLYPODIACEAE/FERN FAMILY		<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i> /Red-stemmed Spike-rush	W!
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> /Lady Fern	T	<i>Eleocharis obtusa</i> /Blunt Spike-rush	F!
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i> /Spinulose Wood Fern	T	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i> /Black Rush	S!
<i>Dryopteris cristata</i> /Crested Shield Fern	T	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i> /Wool Grass	F!
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> /Sensitive Fern	S	<i>Scirpus validus</i> /Common Great Bulrush	S
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i> /Marsh Fern	S	ARACEAE/ARUM FAMILY	
CUPRESSACEAE/CYPRESS FAMILY		<i>Acorus americanus</i> /Sweet-Flag	S
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> /Eastern White Cedar	T	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> /Jack-in-the-pulpit	T
TYPHACEAE/CATTAIL FAMILY		<i>Calla palustris</i> /Wild Calla	S
<i>Typha angustifolia</i> /Narrow-leaved Cattail	S	LEMNACEAE/DUCKWEED FAMILY	
<i>Typha latifolia</i> /Cattail	S	<i>Lemna minor</i> /Common Duckweed	S
SPARGANIACEAE/BUR-REED FAMILY		<i>Lemna trisulca</i> /Star Duckweed	S
<i>Sparganium chlorocarpum</i> /Green Fruited Bur-reed	S	<i>Spirodela polyrhiza</i> /Larger Duckweed	S
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i> /Giant Bur-reed	S	<i>Wolffia arrhiza</i> /Water-meal	S
NAJADACEAE/NAIAD FAMILY		<i>Wolffia borealis</i> /Dotted Water-meal	S
<i>Najas flexilis</i> /Bushy Naiad	S	JUNCACEAE/RUSH FAMILY	
POTAMOGETONACEAE/PONDWEED FAMILY		<i>Juncus bufonius</i> /Toad Rush	S!
<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> /Sago Pondweed	S	<i>Juncus dudleyi</i> /Dudley's Rush	T!
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i> /Richardson Pondweed	S	LILIACEAE/LILY FAMILY	
ALISMACEAE/WATER-PLANTAIN FAMILY		<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> /Garden Asparagus	T*
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> /Water Plantain	S	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i> /Canada Mayflower	T
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i> /Broad-leaved Arrowhead	S	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> /False Solomon's Seal	T
<i>Sagittaria rigida</i> /Sessile-fruited Arrowhead	S	<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i> /Merrybells	T
BUTOMACEAE/FLOWERING-RUSH FAMILY		IRIDACEAE/IRIS FAMILY	
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i> /Flowering-rush	S*	<i>Iris versicolor</i> /Wild Iris	T
HYDROCHARITACEAE/FROG'S-BIT FAMILY		<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i> /Blue-eyed Grass	F
<i>Elodea canadensis</i> /Canada Water-weed	S	ORCHIDACEAE/ORCHID FAMILY	
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> /Frog's-bit	S*	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i> /Helleborine	S*
<i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> /Tape-grass	S	SALICACEAE/WILLOW FAMILY	
GRAMINEAE/GRASS FAMILY		<i>Populus balsamifera</i> /Balsam Poplar	T
<i>Agropyron repens</i> /Quack Grass	F	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i> /Peach-leaved Willow	S
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i> /Redtop	T*	<i>Salix bebbiana</i> /Beaked Willow	S
<i>Bromus inermis</i> /Smooth Brome	F*	<i>Salix humilis</i> /Upland Willow	S
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> /Orchard Grass	F	<i>Salix petiolaris</i> /Slender Willow	S
<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i> /Barnyard Grass	F*	MYRICACEAE/BAYBERRY FAMILY	
<i>Elymus virginicus</i> /Wild-rye	F	<i>Myrica gale</i> /Sweet Gale	S
<i>Glyceria grandis</i> /Tall Manna Grass	W	BETULACEAE/BIRCH FAMILY	
<i>Glyceria striata</i> /Fowl Manna Grass	T	<i>Alnus incana</i> /Speckled Alder	T
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i> /Rice Cut Grass	S	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> /White Birch	T
<i>Muhlenbergia mexicana</i> /Satin Grass	T	<i>Betula populifolia</i> /Gray Birch	T
<i>Panicum acuminatum</i> /Hairy Panic Grass	W	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> /Blue Beech	T
<i>Panicum capillare</i> /Witch Grass	W	<i>Corylus cornuta</i> /Beaked Hazelnut	T
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> /Reed Canary Grass	S	FAGACEAE/BEECH FAMILY	
<i>Phleum pratense</i> /Timothy	F*	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> /Bur Oak	T
<i>Phragmites australis</i> /Common Reed Grass	S	ULMACEAE/ELM FAMILY	
<i>Poa compressa</i> /Canada Blue Grass	F	<i>Ulmus americana</i> /American Elm	T
<i>Poa pratensis</i> /Kentucky Blue Grass	F	URTICACEAE/NETTLE FAMILY	
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> /Prairie Cord Grass	W	<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> /False Nettle	T
<i>Zizania palustris</i> /Wild Rice	S	<i>Laportea canadensis</i> /Wood Nettle	T
CYPERACEAE/SEDGE FAMILY		<i>Pilea pumila</i> /Clearweed	S
<i>Carex arctata</i> /Compressed Sedge	T	<i>Urtica dioica</i> /Stinging Nettle	T
<i>Carex bebbii</i> /Behb's Sedge	F!	POLYGONACEAE/BUCKWHEAT FAMILY	
<i>Carex comosa</i> /Bearded Sedge	S	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> /Prostrate Knotweed	F*
<i>Carex crinita</i> /Fringed Sedge	T	<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i> /Pale Smartweed	S!
<i>Carex gracillima</i> /Graceful Sedge	T	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i> /Lady's-thumb	S*
<i>Carex intumescens</i> /Bladder Sedge	T!	<i>Polygonum punctatum</i> /Smartweed	W
<i>Carex lupulina</i> /Hop Sedge	F!	<i>Polygonum sagittatum</i> /Arrow-leaved Tearthumb	W
<i>Carex pseudo-cyperus</i> /Cyperus-like Sedge	F	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> /Sheep Sorrel	F*
<i>Carex retrorsa</i> /Retrorsed Sedge	F!	<i>Rumex crispus</i> /Curled Dock	F*

List of Vascular Plants of Libby Island

CHENOPODIACEAE/GOOSEFOOT FAMILY		ACERACEAE/MAPLE FAMILY	
<i>Chenopodium album</i> /Lamb's-Quarters	F*	<i>Acer negundo</i> /Manitoba Maple	LG
<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> /Oak-leaved Goosefoot	W*	<i>Acer ruhrum</i> /Red Maple	T
		<i>Acer saccharinum</i> /Silver Maple	S
CARYOPHYLLACEAE/PINK FAMILY		BALSAMINACEAE/TOUCH-ME-NOT FAMILY	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> /Mouse-ear Chickweed	LG*	<i>Impatiens capensis</i> /Spotted Touch-me-not	S
<i>Dianthus armeria</i> /Deptford Pink	F*		
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> /Bladder Campion	S*!		
<i>Stellaria graminea</i> /Grass-leaved Stitchwort	S	RHAMNACEAE/BUCKTHORN FAMILY	
		<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> /European Buckthorn	S*
		<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> /Alder Buckthorn	S*
CERATOPHYLLACEAE/HORNWORT FAMILY		VITACEAE/GRAPE FAMILY	
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> /Common Coontail	S	<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i> /Virginia Creeper	S
		<i>Vitis riparia</i> /Frost Grape	S
NYMPHAEACEAE/WATER-LILY FAMILY		TILIACEAE/LINDEN FAMILY	
<i>Nuphar variegatum</i> /Yellow Water-lily	S	<i>Tilia americana</i> /Basswood	T
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i> /Fragrant White Water-lily	S		
RANUNCULACEAE/CROWFOOT FAMILY		HYPERICACEAE/ST. JOHN'S-WORT FAMILY	
<i>Anemone canadensis</i> /Canada Anemone	S	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> /Common St. John's-wort	F*
<i>Clematis virginiana</i> /Virgin's-bower	S	<i>Hypericum punctatum</i> /Spotted St. John's-wort	W, R
<i>Ranunculus acris</i> /Tall Buttercup	F*	<i>Triadenum fraseri</i> /Marsh St. John's-wort	S
<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i> /Tall Meadow-rue	S!		
SAXIFRAGACEAE/SAXIFRAGE FAMILY		VIOLACEAE/VIOLET FAMILY	
<i>Penthorum sedoides</i> /Ditch-stonecrop	S	<i>Viola cucullata</i> /Marsh Blue Violet	T
<i>Ribes americanum</i> /American Black Currant	T	<i>Viola pubescens</i> /Yellow Violet	T
ROSACEAE/ROSE FAMILY		LYTHRACEAE/LOOSESTRIFE FAMILY	
<i>Agrimonia gryposepala</i> /Agrimony	T	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i> /Water-Willow	S
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i> /Round-leaved Serviceberry	T	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> /Purple Loosestrife	S*
<i>Crataegus mollis</i> /Downy Hawthorn	T		
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> /Wood Strawberry	S	ONAGRACEAE/EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY	
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> /Wild Strawberry	T	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i> /Enchanters Nightshade	T
<i>Geum allepium</i> /Yellow Avens	T	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i> /Willow-herb	S
<i>Geum laciniatum</i> /Cut-leaved Avens	F, R	<i>Epilobium coloratum</i> /Purple-leaved Willow-herb	S, R
<i>Geum macrophyllum</i> /Large-leaved Avens	S, R	<i>Oenothera biennis</i> /Yellow Evening Primrose	F
<i>Malus pumila</i> /Apple	T*	<i>Oenothera perennis</i> /Sundrops	F!
<i>Potentilla argentea</i> /Silvery Cinquefoil	F*	HALORAGACEAE/WATER-MILFOIL FAMILY	
<i>Potentilla norvegica</i> /Rough Cinquefoil	F*	<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i> /Northern Water-milfoil	S
<i>Potentilla palustris</i> /Marsh Cinquefoil	S		
<i>Potentilla recta</i> /Sulphur Cinquefoil	LG*	UMBELLIFERAE/PARSLEY FAMILY	
<i>Potentilla simplex</i> /Common Cinquefoil	F	<i>Cicuta bulbifera</i> /Bulbous Water Hemlock	S
<i>Prunus serotina</i> /Black Cherry	T	<i>Cicuta maculata</i> /Northern Water Hemlock	T
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> /Red Choke Cherry	T	<i>Daucus carota</i> /Wild Carrot	S*
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i> /Allegheny Blackberry	T		
<i>Rubus idaeus</i> /Wild Red Raspberry	S*	CORNACEAE/DOGWOOD FAMILY	
<i>Rubus occidentalis</i> /Black Raspberry	T	<i>Cornus foemina</i> /Red-panicle Dogwood	S
<i>Rubus pubescens</i> /Dwarf Raspberry	T	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> /Red-osier Dogwood	S
<i>Sorbus americana</i> /American Mountain-ash	T	ERICACEAE/HEATH FAMILY	
<i>Spiraea alba</i> /Meadowsweet	S	<i>Pyrola elliptica</i> /Shinleaf	T
FABACEAE/BEAN FAMILY		PRIMULACEAE/PRIMROSE FAMILY	
<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i> /Hog Peanut	T	<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i> /Fringed Loosestrife	T
<i>Apios americana</i> /Groundnut	W!	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> /Moneywort	W*
<i>Desmodium glutinosum</i> /Glutinous Tick-trefoil	T, R	<i>Lysimachia terrestris</i> /Swamp Candles	T
<i>Lathyrus palustris</i> /Marsh Pea	S	OLEACEAE/OLIVE FAMILY	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> /Bird's-foot Trefoil	F*	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> /Red Ash	S
<i>Medicago lupulina</i> /Black Medick	S	GENTIANACEAE/GENTIAN FAMILY	
<i>Medicago sativa</i> /Alfalfa	F*!	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i> /Closed Gentian	T
<i>Melilotus alba</i> /White Sweet-clover	S*		
<i>Trifolium aureum</i> /Hop Clover	S*	APOCYNACEAE/DOGBANE FAMILY	
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i> /Alsike Clover	S	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> /Indian Hemp	T
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> /Red Clover	F*	ASCLEPIADACEAE/MILKWEED FAMILY	
<i>Trifolium repens</i> /White Clover	F*	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> /Swamp Milkweed	S
<i>Vicia cracca</i> /Tufted Vetch	S*	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> /Common Milkweed	S
OXALIDACEAE/WOOD-SORREL FAMILY		CONVOLVULACEAE/MORNING-GLORY FAMILY	
<i>Oxalis dillenii</i> /Common yellow Wood-sorrel	F	<i>Calystegia sepium</i> /Hedge Bindweed	S
<i>Oxalis stricta</i> /European yellow Wood-sorrel	T	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> /Field Bindweed	S*
EUPHORBACEAE/SPURGE FAMILY		<i>Cuscuta gronovii</i> /Common Dodder	W
<i>Acalypha virginica</i> /Three-Seeded Mercury	T		
ANACARDIACEAE/CASHEW FAMILY		BORAGINACEAE/BORAGE FAMILY	
<i>Rhus radicans</i> /Poison Ivy	T	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i> /Large Forget-me-not	T, R*
<i>Rhus typhina</i> /Staghorn Sumac	S	VERBENACEAE/VERVAIN FAMILY	
AQUIFOLIACEAE/HOLLY FAMILY		<i>Verbena hastata</i> /Blue Vervain	F
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> /Winterberry	T		

List of Vascular Plants of Libby Island

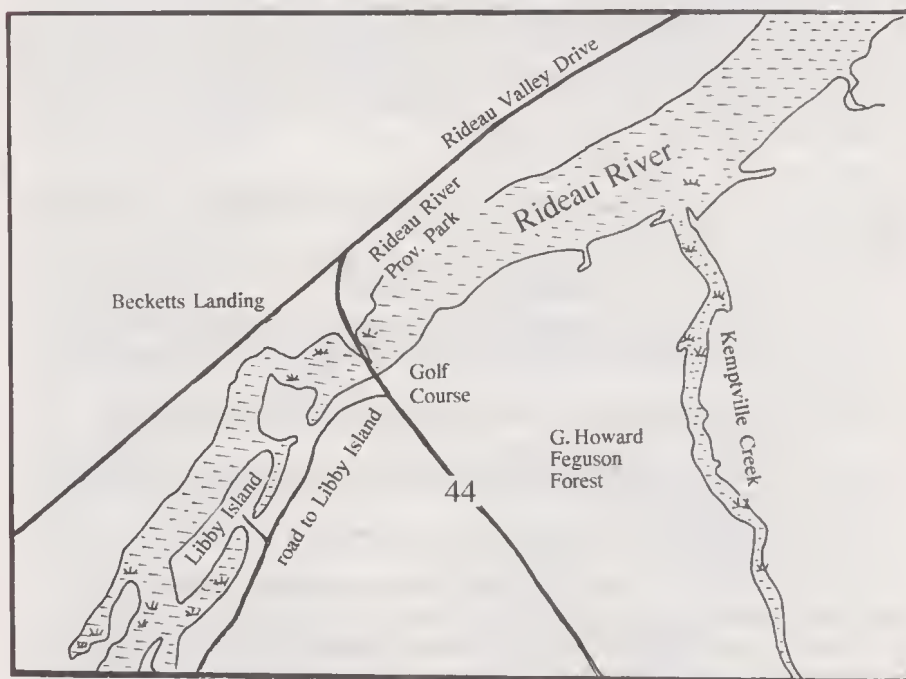
LABIATAE/MINT FAMILY		CAMPANULACEAE/HAREBELL FAMILY	
Lycopus americanus/American Water-horebound	S	Campanula aparinoides/Marsh-bellflower	S
Lycopus uniflorus/Tuberous Water-horebound	S	Lobelia inflata/Indian Tobacco	S
Mentha arvensis/Field Mint	T	COMPOSITAE/COMPOSITE FAMILY	
Prunella vulgaris/Heal-all	S*	Achillea millefolium/Yarrow	S
Pycnanthemum virginianum/Mountain-mint	F, R!	Ambrosia artemisiifolia/Common Ragweed	F
Scutellaria galericulata/Marsh Skullcap	S	Antennaria neglecta/Pussytoes	W
Scutellaria lateriflora/Mad Dog Skullcap	S	Aster lanceolatus/Panicled Aster	F
Stachys palustris/Marsh Hedge Nettle	W*	Aster lateriflorus/Calico Aster	T
SOLANACEAE/NIGHTSHADE FAMILY		Aster novae-angliae/New England Aster	F
Solanum dulcamara/Nightshade	F*	Bidens cernua/Nodding Beggarticks	W
SCROPHULARIACEAE/FIGWORT FAMILY		Bidens discoidea/Small Beggarticks	S, P
Agalinis tenuifolia/Slender Agalinis	F	Bidens frondosa/Devil's Beggarticks	S
Chelone glabra/Turtlehead	F	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum/Ox-eye Daisy	F*
Euphrasia nemorosa/Stiff Eyebright	S	Cirsium arvense/Canada Thistle	F*
Linaria vulgaris/Butter-and-eggs	S*	Cirsium vulgare/Bull Thistle	F*
Mimulus ringens/Monkey Flower	T	Coryza canadensis/Horseweed	S
Penstemon digitalis/Foxglove Beardtongue	F*	Erigeron annuus/Annual Fleabane	F
Verbascum thapsus/Common Mullein	S*	Erigeron philadelphicus/Philadelphia Fleabane	LG
Veronica scutellata/Marsh Speedwell	W	Erigeron strigosus/Rough Fleabane	F!
PLANTAGINACEAE/PLANTAIN FAMILY		Eupatorium maculatum/Spotted Joe-pye-weed	S
Plantago lanceolata/English Plantain	F*	Eupatorium perfoliatum/Boneset	T!
Plantago major/Broad-leaved Plantain	S*	Euthamia graminifolia/Grass-leaved Goldenrod	T!
Plantago rugelii/Rugel's Plantain	T	Hieracium aurantiacum/Orange Hawkweed	LG*
RUBIACEAE/MADDER FAMILY		Lactuca biennis/Tall Blue Lettuce	W
Galium mollugo/Smooth Bedstraw	T*!	Lactuca canadensis/Canada Lettuce	T
Galium obtusum/Wild Madder	S, R	Matricaria matricarioides/Pineappleweed	F*
Galium palustre/Marsh Bedstraw	T	Rudbeckia hirta/Brown-eyed Susan	F
Galium trifidum/Small Bedstraw	T	Senecio pauperculus/Balsam Ragwort	LG
Galium triflorum/Sweet-scented Bedstraw	LG	Solidago canadensis/Canada Goldenrod	F!
CAPRIFOLIACEAE/HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY		Solidago gigantea/Tall Goldenrod	F
Lonicera tatarica/Tartian Honeysuckle	S*	Solidago juncea/Early Goldenrod	F!
Sambucus canadensis/Common Elderberry	T	Solidago rugosa/Rough Goldenrod	F
Viburnum lentago/Nannyberry	S	Sonchus arvensis/Perennial Sow-Thistle	S*
CUCURBITACEAE/GOURD FAMILY		Taraxacum officinale/Common Dandelion	F*
Echinocystis lobata/Wild Cucumber	T	Tragopogon dubius/Goat's-beard	LG*
		Tragopogon pratensis/Meadow Goat's-beard	F*

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The following references were used for keying out species and determining ranges and significance.

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Map to Libby Island

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This not only helps in tracking expenses but also ensures compliance with tax regulations.

In the second section, the author provides a detailed breakdown of the company's revenue streams. This includes sales from various product lines and services. The data shows a steady increase in revenue over the past year, which is attributed to improved marketing strategies and operational efficiency.

The third section focuses on the company's financial health. It includes a balance sheet and a profit and loss statement. The balance sheet shows that the company has a strong asset base, while the profit and loss statement indicates a healthy bottom line. The author notes that the company's financial performance is a direct result of its commitment to quality and customer service.

Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the company's overall performance and future outlook. The author expresses confidence in the company's ability to continue its growth trajectory in the coming year. Key areas for focus include expanding into new markets and investing in research and development.

OFFICIAL 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 **April 15** to:

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

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Wine & Cheese Party

Friday, April 26, 1996, 7:30 p.m.

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

Help make this another festive evening by coming to our annual party and mingling with fellow naturalists.

Join us in honoring The Member of the Year and recipients of the Service Award, Anne Hanes Natural History Award, Conservation Awards and the President's Prize.

*Members are invited to exhibit photographic prints and original art on a natural history theme. The best overall colour or B. & W. photograph will be selected by ballot and a prize awarded to the lucky winner.

Mount display items for easy handling and bring them to the Unitarian Church between 4 and 7 p.m. on Friday, April 26th. Everything is to be taken home at the end of the evening. To reserve exhibition space and for further information contact Philip Martin (729-3218).

Prizes will also be awarded for the best Macoun Field Club displays. Children (primary or high school) who are OFNC members but not Macoun Field Club members are also encouraged to compete.

Name _____

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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 \$

Backyard Nestboxes

Sandra L. Dashney



Male Tree Swallow guarding the nestbox, 25 May 1995. Photo by S. Dashney.

For avid birders, there seems to be two distinct stages of becoming a serious birder. The first is to list all the birds you have seen in your lifetime or “lifers” as we like to call them. The second stage is installation of nesting boxes and feeders in your own backyard to observe birds in a more constant, close-up and entertaining way.

I’ve been birding for four years now and yes, I have all my “life” birds listed on a computer but my interest turned this spring to installing a few nest boxes in my own backyard. I purchased the boxes from Y’s Owl Co-op and on April 18, 1995 I anxiously installed a common box and a Tree Swallow box about 50 feet apart, and several feet above my cedar hedges. Within 45 minutes, several House Sparrows claimed the boxes and began hauling an assortment of grass, straw, and paper into these potential nesting sites. I was interested to see a male House Sparrow stuffing material in the box, only to have the female remove the material just as quickly and reassemble this to her own specifications. With both boxes containing complete House Sparrow nests, my neighbour decided to install a large, plastic Great Horned Owl, towering over one box and within four feet of my cedar hedge. (He’s apparently afraid of getting a

few bird droppings on his grass and has threatened to shoot the birds with a pellet gun. (I know what you are thinking, a neighbour with the mentality of a bird brain, although that is an insult to all birds.)

The sparrows had long abandoned their nests and so by 17 May I decided to remove the nesting material from the boxes, hoping that the birds were by now unafraid of this plastic owl.

Two days later, much to my surprise, Tree Swallows, who only raise one brood per season, began their flutter-flight display over the swallow box. They seemed to be constantly chattering their "cheedeep" call and I observed them in courtship, often "billing," whereby the male and female touch beaks several times, on top of the box. Each day the pair were very visible near the nest, shimmering like jewels in the sun with their iridescent steel blue feathers. Nest building once again began for the second time this month. It was fun to watch the swallows efforts to take large strands of stiff grass to the entrance hole and forcefully bend the material until it fit into the box. It was also interesting to note that these new tenants would not use the discarded material from the House Sparrow's nest which I scattered along the cedar hedge, below the box.

On 1 June, courtship displays ceased and incubation began. I decided to check in on the status and much to my delight there were six small white Tree Swallow eggs (the normal clutch is four to six) neatly arranged on top of one inch of loosely packed grass, an insulating lining of dark feathers (which appeared to be from the adults) and small pieces of white paper. The female appeared to do most of the incubating but the male would guard the nest box entrance when she left to feed. When she was ready to leave the nest, she would perch with her head and shoulders outside the nest box entrance. Once replaced by the male, he would take the same perching position.

I was away for two weeks during the hottest, driest weather in early June and expected to return to either an empty nest or "cooked" eggs. Again to my delight when on 23 June I opened the side door and observed at least five well-feathered nestlings, each arranged with their bills pointing into the corners. Both parents were making numerous trips into the box with bills full of bugs and mosquitos and leaving with fecal sacks to be dropped several hundred yards from the vicinity of the box. Tree Swallows are aerially superior. They fly, soar and dive like a fighter plane, several metres above the box in pursuit of flying insects.

On 27 June, I noticed one nestling perched for several hours with just his fuzzy grey head and shoulders visible through the nest box entrance. This same day I observed one of the fledglings leave the box and return back inside only to be

fed. Later this day a clutch of House Sparrows fledged from another neighbour's box and in a moment of confusion, two of these fledgling sparrows tried to enter the swallow box, only to be driven to the ground by the attentive and protective adult swallows. On 29 June I again observed a fledgling swallow perched ready for takeoff and by 30 June the box was empty. True to form, the adults and fledglings abandoned the breeding area and probably moved to the Innes Road marsh where other swallows and aerial insects are plentiful.

One advantage to backyard nestboxes is that the nesting activity brings other birds into the area, which for me included American Goldfinches, Barn Swallows, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Purple Martins, Killdeer and House Finches.

While I was at Y's Owl I also purchased a roosting box which I will install in the hedge during the winter. The box is about a foot square and actually has two roosting bars high up on the top for overnight perching. The entrance hole is in the lower front to avoid snow accumulation in the box. My plans for next year also include a Purple Martin house on one of those telescopic flag poles so that I can continue to check the status of my backyard bird life. I'm sure my 'bird-brain' neighbour won't be impressed!¹²

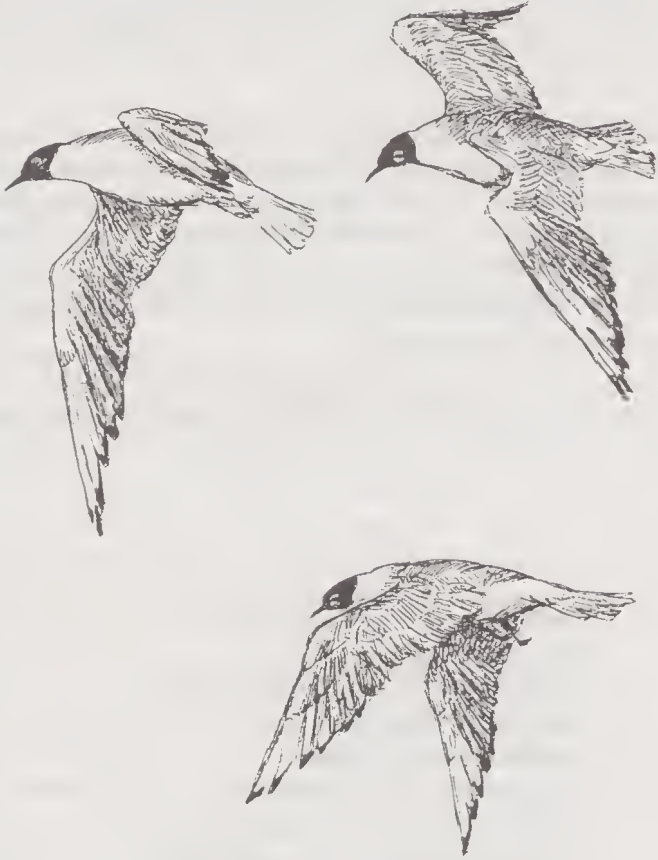
Light Trick

Robert Nero

Now is when our yard comes to life:
from the dreary emptiness of
leafless shrubs and trees and bare garden
everything is wondrous white –
one afternoon's fall of snow
gives new lines of grace, patterns
against the dark sky that astound,
our spruce and cedar trees have boughs
hanging to the ground,
and there's a glow at night
some trick of light
as if some inner moon shone
aroused by myriad snow flakes;
so I walk in snowlight tonight
enjoying the hushed stillness.

Spring and Summer Bird Sightings

Chris Traynor



Bonapart's Gulls seen here in June. Sketch by C. Lewis

Who among us does not look forward to the return of spring each year? After toiling through another Ottawa winter we all seek for signs that, no matter what last blast winter can throw at us, the end is in sight. I guess one of the advantages of being a birder is having the ability to detect spring's arrival without waiting for the clichéed first robin of spring. Still, despite this know-

ledge, March and April can still remind us that winter leaves only grudgingly. As recently as March of 1993 (remember the storm of the century?) we were reminded of this. I remember walking through Clyde Woods with the snow up to my hips. Last year nature was a little kinder and walking was easier with so little snow, and the weather was mild. Spring bird highlights were, unfortunately, as mild as the weather.

March

The annual arrival of geese and ducks to the Bearbrook-Riceville-Bourget areas was a little ahead of schedule this year. In the past the average dates for peak numbers of waterfowl here have been the 26th to 28th of March. This year **Canada Geese** numbers peaked at 50,000 at Riceville (March 19). This was not a particularly high total. It is not unusual for **Canada Geese** to number in the 100,000's. However, the 3,100 **Snow Geese** at Riceville on March 21 is an excellent number. Other waterfowl of note included the lingering **Barrow's Goldeneye** along the Ottawa River (generally noted east of the Champlain Bridge) and a rather attractive hybrid wigeon at Manotick. Its parentage may be open to speculation but it certainly was a striking bird.

Rough-legged Hawks are also attracted to the same flooded fields of the south east that attract the ducks and geese. Good numbers were seen throughout March with a high of 24 at Riceville (March 21) searching for soggy voles. A very co-operative **Merlin** in the Barnsdale-Twin Elm area posed for an OFNC outing (March 5). The bird remained perched in a roadside tree giving everyone excellent views through their scopes and binoculars. Inevitably, we drew the attention of the property owner, who came out to see what all the fuss was about. I wonder what it feels like from his perspective? Imagine having your quiet Sunday breakfast interrupted in this fashion?

The regular searchers who check Clyde Woods in the spring for owls had a disappointing time of it. Some years **The Northern Saw-whet** and **Long-eared Owls** are easily found; this year they were rare. However, nocturnal owling had its moments. Two parties, searching only the south west (March 18-19) tallied 32 **Great Horned Owls**, 15 **Saw-whets**, 6 **Barred Owls** and single **Long-eared** and **Eastern Screech Owls**. It was just one of those nights when every time we stepped out of the car something was hooting or tooting. It would have been interesting to have checked the entire district that night. **Snowy Owls** were still hanging around in March with a high of 7 (March 1) in the Richmond area. The erratic **Short-eared Owls** returned again to Wall Road where they have bred in the past.

Both the **Black-backed Woodpecker** and the **Three-Toed Woodpecker** were found in the Stony Swamp in March. A beautiful male delighted the OFNC

group at the Jack Pine feeders (March 5). Another Black-backed was present along the hydro cut off Riddell Road (March 18).

Pine Siskins were easily found along the Jack Pine Trail in March after having been rather elusive during the winter. In fact it was a pretty poor finch winter and we can only hope that we are due for a good show this winter. That's right! Even as you are reading, winter is upon us. Fortunately birding is a good remedy for getting through the winter happily.

April

Judging by the numbers of diving ducks that were showing up at the Burnside pit off Moodie Drive, it became apparent that there was some type of food source there. This spot, which to birds must appear as a small lake, is private property so it must be searched at your own risk. However, it is worth a gander to check it out. After viewing the ducks at the pit, we took a short hop over to the Nepean Dump and had excellent views of the larger gulls. Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were present into April, although in small numbers. The Lesser Black-backed Gull could be seen both here and along the river, usually at Ottawa Beach. A high of 4 were at the dump (April 20) along with small numbers of Greater Black-backed (16) and Glaucous (2).

While late summer is generally more exciting for shorebird viewing, the spring is not without its own rewards. Most shorebirds were on schedule but a Dunlin was early (April 22). Embrum sewage lagoons had (April 27) an unusual spring record for the Lesser Golden Plover. This bird is much easier to find in the fall.

As usual, Palm, Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers were the vanguard of the returning hordes of small brightly-coloured visitors to our forests. Actually, there were only trickles of warblers this spring. The days when warblers used to "drip" off the branches in Britannia Woods or Vincent Massey park seem to have been deposited in the attics of our minds, at least for the time being.

May

Yellow Rails again returned to the Richmond Fen. Despite the constant threat from cattails these birds continue to hang on there. At least six were heard (May 25/26) and this was a conservative estimate. If they were as common throughout the fen as they appeared to be along the railroad bed then their numbers might have been quite surprising. The other fen specialties, Sedge Wren and Least Bittern, were also reported.

Sandhill Cranes, although a local nester, are still a rare migrant through the Ottawa District. When they do show up they are generally single birds. This spring was no exception. Sightings from Ottawa south, Plaisance and the Embrum sewage lagoons were all of single birds.

The **Three-toed Woodpecker** was reported from the Riddell Road area (May 7) and it would not be a surprise, given how often they are reported from this vicinity, to discover breeding birds here. The similarity between this habitat and nest areas in Algonquin Park are noticeable. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were sighted in Clyde Woods (May 14) and again returned to their Breckenridge location.

As I mentioned in the April report, the warbler migration was not too remarkable. However, having said that, I will remark on it again anyway. Really the only species of note were several reports of **Cerulean Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Blue-grey Gnatcatcher**. Yes, I know the latter two are not warblers, but they are small, colourful and hard to see so they are included with the warblers. As was mentioned in the woodpecker item, habitat is the important factor to look at when discussing breeding birds. A good example of this is the **Boreal Owl** which has been found to breed as far south as New Mexico. Of course, altitude on a mountain has the same effect as heading up to the northern boreal zones. What has this to do with warblers you may well ask? Well, the three species I just noted are all excellent sightings for our area. If you head south to Chaffey's Locks, all three are relatively easy to sight (or at least to hear) as is the **Prairie Warbler** — rare in Ottawa. What this illustrates is the excellent diversity of habitat available to birds (and birders) within a short drive of Ottawa. So though we may have the occasional lacklustre season we really are in a prime location.

June

June is the time of year to see **Arctic Terns** along the Ottawa River. There is a short window in which to see them, then your chances are slim to none. This year they were reported from Britannia (June 7,8) with a high of 9 (June 8). The **Common Tern** was reasonably common, sighted along the length of the river. **Franklin's Gulls** were spotted at Deschênes Rapids (June 10,11) with one sub-adult and two adults being seen. This gull is considered a rare migrant through our area but this is the time to look for them. The **Franklin's Gull** is a striking slate gray gull with distinct black and white tipped primaries. It stands out easily amongst the **Bonaparte's Gulls**. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen in good numbers at this time as well.

July and August

Certainly the highlight of the summer, for birders in Ottawa, was created by the low water levels along the Ottawa River. Conditions at both Shirleys Bay and Ottawa Beach were the best they have been in years. Although Shirleys Bay no longer receives sewage from Watt's Creek and access is becoming a problem it was still a great spot to be. As well, the increasing sediment at Ottawa Beach

while not a true "mudflat" provides suitable feeding areas for all manner of shore-birds. It was great to see so many birds and birders back at Ottawa Beach. This is not to imply there were any great rarities — there were not — but everything was on schedule and easily seen. Both the **Short-billed Dowitcher** and **Baird's Sandpiper** were very noticeable this year, particularly the Baird's. This distinctive long-winged shorebird was reported in good numbers just about anywhere you bothered to look. **Ruddy Turnstones** were seen a few times at Ottawa Beach in both July and August but only in ones and twos. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen in the deeper water at Ottawa Beach as well as at Shirley's Bay. These tiny "spinning tops" always put on a good show with their distinctive feeding style. **Wilson's Phalarope** were again present at the sewage lagoons throughout the district where they breed. The rare **Red Phalarope** went unreported. A **Red Knot** in juvenile plumage was present at Shirley's Bay at the end of August (27-31). As many as five **White-rumped Sandpipers** were also seen. In fact, the last few days of August saw as many as 18 species of shorebird between Shirley's Bay and Ottawa Beach. It has been a while since that has happened. A powerful flyer, the tough to find **Whimbrel** put in a brief appearance (their appearances are always brief) at Ottawa Beach (July 23). Also a strong flyer and equally tough to find, the **Hudsonian Godwit** touched down at Shirley's Bay (August 27, 28) and was gone. These birds make very few landings on their southward migration so any sighting is certainly enjoyed.

While shorebirds were the highlight this past summer there were a few other goodies around. Two **Great Egrets** along the Huntmar Road (August 9) were likely the same birds seen frequently throughout the month at Shirley's Bay and Britannia (at least till the 28th at Mud Lake). While always a sight to see in Ottawa, the **Great Egret** does breed as close as Dickerson Island (east of Cornwall). Perhaps in a few years it will be a breeding bird of Ottawa.

Caspian Terns, a heavy billed tern that breed as close as the Kingston area, were sighted from Park Brebeuf in Hull (July 5) and from Ottawa Beach (August 15).

Finally, a good movement of warblers occurred at Britannia at the end of August and we all know where they are headed and what that means.

Recent Bird Sightings reflect the reports called in to the Bird Status Line augmented by the author's own records and personal communications to him from other birders. Thanks to all those who called in their reports. Keep them coming.☐

Late Fall Bird Count

Bruce Di Labio

The fall bird count was resurrected this year after being abandoned for over five years. Previously it had been held on Labour Day weekend. This year it was decided by the Bird's Committee to introduce a late fall bird count in late October to try something new. The count was held on October 29, 1995, and a surprising, total of 120 species was tallied by 64 field observers covering the Ottawa District. Weather on this day was unsettled. High winds and rain prior to dawn made any nocturnal birding uneventful and only a few owls were heard. The temperature ranged from 0° to 6°C but with the wind chill factor, it felt more like -5°C. The Ottawa River was high except for a few remaining sandbars and mudflats at Ottawa Beach and Shirleys Bay, and all sewage lagoons were high. This, combined with the late date of the count, resulted in few shorebirds.

Highlights for the day included 9 Sandhill Cranes, a record high for the Ottawa District, and, on Milton Road (Regional Rd. 31) near Carlsbad Springs, a Red-bellied Woodpecker that visited a feeder in Navan, as well as a Tundra Swan feeding with Canada Geese near Bearbrook. On the Quebec side, both Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers and a Boreal Chickadee were recorded. A total of 38 Ruddy Ducks, 24 at Shirleys Bay and 14 at various sewage lagoons in the southeast, was an impressive total. The most interesting late-lingerers were a Wilson's Warbler in the southeast and 9 Yellow-rumped Warblers (formerly Myrtle Warbler, a name which I personally prefer) in various areas. Most areas recorded small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls which was encouraging after the bleak winter of 1994-95. A remarkable total of 24 Northern Shrikes and 83 Rough-legged Hawks were recorded from all sectors. With all these species moving south, this makes me wonder if the winter of 1995-1996 will finally be the one that brings some exciting birding.

Overall it was a successful day and hopefully a fall bird count will become a regular event once again. Following the day's activities participants met at Riverpark Place for dinner and tallying of the results. I would like to thank all the sector leaders and participants for their combined efforts, and in particular Colin Bowen for typing the results, Mike Tate for providing the dinner and facilities for the compilation and Daniel St-Hilaire and Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais for organizing the Quebec sectors. I hope to see everyone again next year.

Bird Status Line Report for a Week in the Late 20th Century

Marianne Bluger-Neily

Several phalaropes and grebes
passing on spring migration
have been observed resting and feeding
at the east-end storm water treatment facility

There is news that the outlying sewage lagoons
are beginning to attract
a variety of migrant ducks and shorebirds

To sight black-backed woodpeckers
check any burn site in the northside bush

And for other picids – the snags
in the shallow floodplains of small dams

For late migrant warblers
scan the second-growth scrub
in abandoned lots behind the airport

For vultures and corvids
watch turnpike bridges
and the hydro poles and wires
by feeder roads to major town arterials

For gulls the dumps are best

And for raptors any pylons
close to clear-cuts

There have been no reports this week of any owls.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee
For further information,
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

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 E.M. 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. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.*

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 be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire. The Club number is 778-3413 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.

Attention, All Members!

1996 membership fees are now due. Please renew promptly; later renewals entail extra work and add to your Club's expenses,

We would like to keep our mailing list up to date so that members do not miss a copy of *Trail & Landscape*.

Tuesday
9 January
7:30 p.m.

OFNC 117th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature,
Metcalf and McLeod Streets.

The 1996 Council will be elected at this meeting and a summation of the various Committee activities in 1995 will be given plus a full disclosure of the Club's financial position. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of your Club. As an added bonus, the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Committee will present an overview of the great achievements they have accomplished during the past year.



habitat écologique
Fletcher
Wildlife Garden



Saturday
13 January
8:00 a.m.

WINTER BIRDING AT THE CORNWALL POWER DAM

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Blvd. at Smyth Road.

Overwintering gulls, waterfowl and seasonal species frequenting the vicinity of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam will be sought on the full-day outing. Bring a lunch, a warm drink and heavy winter clothing as well as proof of citizenship. (We may travel to the American side of the dam.) Transportation will be by private car.

Saturday
10 February
10:00 a.m.

SNOWSHOEING AT STONY SWAMP

Leaders: Sandra Dashney and Diane Cooper

Join the leaders for an adventure on snowshoes in the Stony Swamp area with an opportunity to see (and feed!) a variety of birds, identify different animal tracks and possibly spot a red fox or snowshoe hare. Participants must supply their own snowshoes and be prepared to travel 6 to 8 km on designated snowshoe trails over fairly level terrain. The outing will be limited to the first 16 people that register at the Club number (722-3050) before February 1. Meeting place and other relevant details will be provided to registrants after the cut-off date.

Tuesday
13 February
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
TWENTY SUMMERS IN THE NORTH: TRAVELS IN
THE EASTERN ARCTIC

Speaker: Tony Gaston

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

Tony Gaston holds a Ph.D. from the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at Oxford University. An avid birdwatcher from early days, he has worked as a research scientist for the Canadian Wildlife Service since 1975 on a number of projects involving the conservation of arctic and marine bird populations. He has been particularly interested in the demography of Thick-billed Murre colonies in the north, primarily on Prince Leopold Island. Tony's slide presentation will portray in vivid detail the life and times of a dedicated researcher north of 60°.

Sunday
18 February
9:00 a.m.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRIP TO THE MARLBOROUGH
FOREST

Leader: Don Cuddy

Participants should be prepared to ski 5 to 10 km over mostly flat terrain with various stops to observe signs of nature in winter. The outing will last about four hours with a break for lunch. The trip is limited to the first 14 people to register by telephoning the Club number (722-3050) prior to February 10. Meeting place and pertinent details will be divulged to registrants at that time.

Sunday
3 March
8:00 a.m.

WINTER RAPTORS OF THE OTTAWA AREA

Leaders: Bernie Ladouceur and Chris Traynor

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

This generous half-day outing will be in quest of various species of hawks and owls that may be frequenting certain fields and woodlots in the Ottawa area. Transportation will be by private car and warm clothing, a snack and a hot drink are strongly recommended.

Tuesday
12 March
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THE OLD FIELD FARM

Speaker: Philip Fry

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

Philip Fry holds a Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Art from the Sorbonne and has taught in the Visual Arts Department at the University of Ottawa for the past twenty years. Since 1985 he has been involved in the landscape restoration of a fifteen acre site south of Kemptville known as the Old Field Farm. Formerly the corner of an old farm property abandoned in the 1930s, it has been transformed under his guidance into an area more conducive to the establishment of natural flora and fauna. For his efforts at preservation he was awarded the 1993 Conservation Award by the Canadian Wildflower Society.

Philip's slide presentation will stress the importance of environmental ethics and call into question certain land use practices.

Sunday
24 March
2:00 am.
to
8:00 a.m.

EARLY MORNING OWLING

Leaders: Tony Beck and Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: Tim Horton Donuts, south side of Robertson Road, (i.e., Old Hwy. 7) between the Richmond Road turnoff and Moodie Drive in Bells Corners.

Experience the thrill of the chase as our two intrepid leaders once again seek to locate and identify the diagnostic calls of several nocturnal species of owls. The outing is limited to the first 20 individuals to register with the Club number (722-3050).

Friday
29 March
7:30 p.m.

BIRD SIGHT AND SOUND IDENTIFICATION EVENING

Instructors: Tony Beck and Monty Brigham

Meet: Community Gallery, Third Floor, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Participants will learn to identify a number of species that frequent the Ottawa District at varying times of the year, and gain valuable insights into bird behaviour and vocalizations. Tony's excellent slides, coupled with Monty's vast repertoire of diagnostic recordings, should provide for a most informative evening. This will be completely different from last year's presentation.

Sunday
31 March
6:30 a.m.
to
6:30 p.m.



BUS EXCURSION: SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Colin Gaskell

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Cost: \$20.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of Coming Events for details).

The Club's traditional spring excursion to Presqu'ile Provincial Park offers an ideal opportunity to study the diverse assortment of water fowl that congregate in the surrounding waters during their northward migration.

Date and
time to be
decided

**SPRING BIRDING ALONG THE FLOODPLAINS OF
BEAR BROOK AND THE SOUTH NATION RIVER**

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot near St. Laurent Blvd. and Smyth Road.

Come and observe the vast numbers of ducks and geese utilizing the flooded fields east of Ottawa as a migratory stopover. The exact scheduling of the trip will coincide with the optimum spring flood levels in the Bear Brook/Bouget area. Register with the Club number (722-3050) before March 25 to be kept informed of specific details.

Date and
time to be
decided

AMPHIBIANS IN SPRING

Leader: Stephen Darbyshire

The success of this outing is highly dependent upon favourable weather conditions.

Those registering with the Club number (722-3050) prior to March 25 will be notified of the precise particulars when a decision is reached to proceed with the trip. Rubber boots, a strong flashlight and a dip net (if possible) are recommended.

Tuesday
9 April
8:00 p.m.

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THE WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING**

Speaker: Bruce Di Labio

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

Bruce Di Labio, one of Ontario's foremost amateur ornithologists, has been exceptionally active within the Ottawa birding community for more than two decades. His observations, personal records and numerous articles in *T & L* have contributed significantly to our knowledge of birds in the region. For the past six years, he has been an integral member of the Canadian team that has participated each May in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey. The team has established an impressive record winning the overall championship in 1993 and 1995 and never finishing lower than third!

Bruce's illustrated talk will discuss the history of the event and the corresponding evolution of the Canadian contingent, as well as depict the various birding habitats in New Jersey and the exacting pre-tournament preparation required to become world champions.

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



**BUS EXCURSION:
HAWKS ALOFT AT DERBY HILL, N.Y.**

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Cost: \$25.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see

Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of Coming Events for details).

When weather conditions are favourable, the spectacle of thousands of hawks migrating over Derby Hill, New York, is an amazing phenomenon 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 excursion will be cancelled on the day before if the weather forecast for the eastern end of Lake Ontario is particularly unfavourable. You will be notified of any change of plan. Transportation will be a comfortable, washroom-equipped motor coach supplied by Carleton Bus Lines.

Friday
26 April
7:30 p.m.

**OFNC SOIRÉE WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND
ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

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

Saturday
and
Sunday
27 & 28 April

SPRUCE GROUSE IN ALGONQUIN PARK

Full details of this excursion will appear in the April-June
issue of *T & L*. ☐

Looking for a birding friend?

I am an experienced birder but without transportation and would like to meet a beginner (with a car) for afternoon, evening and/or weekend outings. I will gladly share expenses. I am an OFNC member and live in the Sandy Hill area. Please call Jeff Gravelle at 565-6045.☐

Any Articles for Trail & Landscape?

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 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 April-June 1996 issue must be in the editor's hands by February 1, 1996. Mail your manuscripts to:

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Editor, *Trail & Landscape*
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Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5
H: (613)723-2054; Fax: (813) 953-9831.

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