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VOLUME 34 NUMBER 2 PAGES 45-84 APRIL - JUNE 2000

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

Eleanor Zurbrigg

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.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) \$28 Sustaining (yearly) \$50
Family (yearly) \$30 Life (one payment) \$500

Benefactor \$500 Subscriptions to *Trail & Landscape*:
(libraries and institutions): \$28 per year (volume)

Postage for U.S. and other foreign countries please add \$5

Single copies of recent issues: \$6 each postpaid

Index to Vols. 1 - 20: \$10 postpaid; to Vols. 21-25 \$5 postpaid.

Membership application, correspondence:
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After 10 a.m.

Second Class Mail Registration #2777

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Published by
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2

Volume 34 Number 2
April – June 2000

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Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Walt Arkle & Pam Johnstone
Phill Atwood
Doug & Marilyn Anions
Jocelyne Bachelu
Thomas Bluger
April Cole & family
Jim Ferguson & family
Jennifer Hegyi
Mark Hetherington
Paula Hines & family
Jeff & Diane Holmes
Robert & Margaret Marler
Jane Keeler, Jake Morrison, & Jasmine Morrison-Keeler
Dan Mayo
Sylvie & Marcil Noel
Joseph Potvin & family
Patricia Russell & David Ward
Robert & Joanne Saunders
Paul Ward
Stephen Woolcombe

Other Areas

Thomas Crooks, Burlington, Ontario
Tom Maier, Amherst, Massachusetts
Paul Smithson, Edmonton, Alberta



Dave Smythe
Membership Committee
February, 2000

“Golden Anniversary” Membership List 1930-2000

*Dave Smythe
Membership Chair*

Joined in

1930	W. E. Ricker	Nanaimo	BC
1934	C. H. Kindle	Upper Nyack	NY
1935	J. E. V. Goodwill	Victoria	BC
1936	W. H. Minshall	London	ON
1942	R. Yorke Edwards	Victoria	BC
1943	C. Stuart Houston	Saskatoon	SK
1943	Mrs. Sheila Thomson	Ottawa	ON
1944	Mrs. Verna McGiffen	Arnprior	ON
1944	B. B. O. Savile	Ottawa	ON
1944	Miss Mary Stuart	Ottawa	ON
1946	C. Frankton	Ottawa	ON
1946	J. M. Gillett	Nepean	ON
1946	V. E. F. Solman	Ottawa	ON
1947	W. J. Cody	Ottawa	ON
1947	W. A. Fuller	Athabasca	AB
1947	W. Earl Godfrey	Ottawa	ON
1948	David Erskine	Willowdale	ON
1949	Henry H. Hildebrand	Corpus Christi	TX
1950	H.G. Lumsden	Aurora	ON

This year we added **H. G. Lumsden** to our list. The President has sent him a letter of congratulations and a silver pin to commemorate the occasion. □

The 121st Annual Business Meeting

Fenja Brodo

The ABM was held in the auditorium of the Canadian Museum of Nature on January 11, 2000. Thirty-six people attended. This meeting was inadvertently called for 8:00 p.m. rather than our usual 7:30 p.m., therefore it was agreed to begin the formal meeting at 8:30 p.m., thus allowing all attendees the traditional half hour to review the minutes of the previous ABM and the committee reports.

Dave Moore, the out-going President, chaired the meeting. The minutes were accepted as read. The following committee reports were read and accepted: Awards, Birds, Computer Management, Conservation, Education & Publicity, Excursions & Lectures, Executive, Finance, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Macoun Field Club, Membership and Publications. Full reports will be published in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

It was moved and carried that Janet Gehr be reappointed as Auditor for another year.

The following list of candidates for the 2000 Council was recommended by the Nominating Committee, and accepted by the members present. New members of Council are indicated by an asterisk.

Council Members

President	Eleanor Zurbrigg
Vice-President	Roy John*
Recording Secretary	John Martens
Treasurer	Frank Pope
Ken Allison*	David Hobden
Ronald Bedford	Terry Higgins*
Fenja Brodo	Philip Martin
William Cody	Bev McBride*
Francis Cook	Dave Moore
Sarah Coulber*	Bob Roach
Ellaine Dickson	Dave Smythe
Barbara Gaertner	Jim Sutton
Anthony Halliday	Stanley Rosenbaum
	Dorothy White

We were saddened to learn of the death of Council member Michael Brandreth. Three other members of the 1999 Council decided not to stand for re-election: Recording Secretary Garry McNulty, Colin Bowen and Cheryl McJannet. They were sincerely thanked for their contributions to the OFNC.

New Business:

Claudia Burns suggested that our monthly meetings be made more of a Club event rather than a public lecture, so that members would get to know each other better and to know the sorts of activities engaged in by the various committees of our Club. A lively discussion followed supporting this suggestion. Council was urged to have members present at the monthly meetings to answer questions from the general membership and to report on various Club functions and initiatives.

Stephen Darbyshire suggested that each of the committees should make periodic reports to members via *T&L*.

Sandy Garland proposed that the annual reports of the various committees be posted on the Club's web site <http://www.achilles.net/ofnc/index.htm>.

The featured speaker was Dan Brunton. He gave a presentation of the Club's history pointing out the important contributions made by the Club's founders and subsequent leaders. He talked about how the focus of our Club has shifted over the decades, with a greater emphasis recently on conservation issues, as reflected in articles in *T&L*. Dan brought several copies of the Club's earlier publications, showing how these have evolved over the years.

The meeting was adjourned, and all were invited to partake of refreshments and further discussion. □

OFNC Committees for 2000

Frank Pope

The following OFNC committee members were approved by the Council at its meeting on February 14th. Committee members may be added during the year as approved by the Council. The members listed below will operate your Club in 2000. Committee chairs appear in bold letters with their telephone numbers. Should you have any questions, comments, complaints or compliments pertaining to the operations of a committee, or should you desire to serve on a committee, please speak to a member of the relevant committee or give the chair a call.

AWARDS

Stephen Darbyshire
(231-5458)
Christine Hanrahan
Joyce Reddoch
Ewen Todd
Dorothy Whyte

BIRDS

Bev McBride
(827-8752)
Ken Allison
Colin Bowen
Emily Burton
Laurie Consaul
Bruce Di Labio
Christine Hanrahan
Greg Kelly
Bernie Ladouceur
Christina Lewis
Daniel Perrier
Gordon Pringle
Daniel St-Hilaire
Bev Scott
Colin Selby
Michael Tate
Eve Ticknor

BIRD RECORDS

(subcommittee)

Bruce Di Labio
(599-8733)
Colin Bowen
Bob Gorman
Paul Jones
Bernie Ladouceur
Gordon Pringle
Daniel St-Hilaire
Michael Tate
Chris Traynor

COMPUTER MANAGEMENT

Jim Sutton (730-7988)
Stephen Bridgett
Sandy Garland
Alan German
Sandra Gushue
Gordon Pringle
Bev Scott

CONSERVATION

Stanley Rosenbaum
(596-4288)
Roland Beshari
Lynne Bricker
Christine Hanrahan
David Hobden
Teri Keogh
Kristina Makkay
Philip Martin
James Matheson
Philip Matthews
Frank Pope
Bob Roach
Bill Royds
Ewen Todd

EDUCATION & PUBLICITY

(vacant chair)
Betty Campbell
Douglas Crombie
Terry Huzarski
Pearl Peterkin

EXCURSIONS & LECTURES

Philip Martin (729-3218)
Robina Bennett
Lee Cairnie
Ellaime Dickson
Eileen Evans
Rick Leavens
Roy John

FINANCE

Anthony Halliday
(230-3230)
Ron Bedford
David Burgess
Bill Cody
Terry Higgins
Frank Pope

FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN

Peter Hall (733-0698)
Claudia Burns
Sandy Garland
David Hobden

Taverner Cup
Jeff Harrison

Partner representatives

Janice Ife
Eric Moore

MACOUN FIELD CLUB

Rob Lee (623-8123)
Martha Camfield
Sarah Coulber
Laurie Consaul
Chris Drummond
Barbara Gaertner
Diane Kitching
Joseph Potvin

MEMBERSHIP

Dave Smythe (592-3011)
Elisabeth Kanasy
Verna Smythe

NOMINATING

Colin Gaskell (728-4582)
Dave Moore
Frank Pope

PUBLICATIONS

Ron Bedford (733-8826)
Fenja Brodo
Bill Cody
Francis Cook
Roy John
Elizabeth Morton
Joyce Reddoch ☐



Conservation Matters

David Hobden

February 2000

Federal issues

Endangered species legislation will be the subject of the Club meeting in March. By then the legislation should have been introduced. The proposals released by the Minister David Anderson, in December, suggest the legislation will be "too little and too late". Conservation Committee members are in process of making individual comments on the proposals.

Very closely related to this issue is the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, a review of which began last December. If Canadians had been more careful in their uses of the natural environment, the list of endangered species would be a lot shorter. The act was proclaimed five years ago and has not been a great success from the naturalists' point of view. Very few projects get full environmental assessments, partly because these assessments are both costly and time consuming. Our perception is that the act could be made more effective. The Conservation Committee will prepare a response in time for the March 31st deadline for the review of this act.

Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)

This is another piece of legislation that has been around for about six years. The Committee and all Club members should have availed themselves of the opportunity to use it. The Bill gives us, as members of the public, the right to know what Ontario Ministries are proposing, and doing, that will affect the environment. We can make comments and suggestions and have a right to know how they were taken into account. We can ask for investigations of apparent violations of environmental acts and regulations, and we can even sue a polluter over damage to a public resource.

There is an Environmental Commissioner who maintains an office to advise and educate the public on its rights, and who produces an annual report. The last report noted that, following recent budget cuts, Ontario's environmental ministries do not have the resources to do their jobs. In effect they only do what they are specifically asked to do if they have the money. If nobody complains about a problem, they do not see it. If somebody wants a "license to pollute" (my terminology) they get it unless somebody disputes it. We must refer to a web site www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/ebr to see what permits, regulations or

legislation are being considered and make our comments within a specified time frame. Because the web site listing exists, there is often no other attempt to publicize requests for permits and proposed changes to regulations. In January the Ministry of the Environment (only one of 13 Ministries covered by EBR) was dealing with 17 proposals for Ottawa-Carleton. These involved water, air pollution, and new waste disposal sites. The Conservation Committee cannot handle all the items that might need a response, so OFNC members who can, are advised to watch the site themselves and bring significant issues to the Committee, as well as responding themselves. We should also be telling local MPPs and the Government of Ontario that we need better laws and regulations affecting conservation and the environment, and that these laws and regulations are no good without proper government monitoring and enforcement.

Alfred Bog

Frank Pope reports that in the last two years two major events have occupied the attention of the Alfred Bog Committee. The first is the development of an Official Plan for the United Counties of Prescott and Russell; the second is the establishment of a provincial nature reserve under Ontario Parks, based upon the land owned by the Nature Conservancy (about 40 % of the 10,000 acre bog). Neither has reached fruition at this date. The Official Plan became law on December 31st, 1999, except for the wetlands policy, which has been appealed by private landowners interested in peat extraction. Quebec has protected its wetlands, while Ontario has not, so Alfred Bog is being used to supply peat to the Quebec market. The Ontario Municipal Board has scheduled a hearing for March.

Shirleys Bay

We have received a draft report for a Wetland Management Plan for the Shirleys Bay area which is mainly Department of National Defense property and includes the Connaught Rifle Range as well as the proposed "western bridge" over the Ottawa River. We are unclear as to the underlying purpose of the study. The report documents present conditions involving silting and pollutants from many years of sewage runoff trapped by the Causeway which blocks most of the mouth of the bay. Another problem is that the study area being DND land, is almost entirely off limits to the public and even to the consultants doing the study.

Deer populations

The NCC has asked for our opinions on measures to control the deer population in the western green belt. In the semi-urban conditions of the greenbelt with no predators and no official hunting, we are concerned that the deer

population could exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat. Then the deer would starve. Starving deer could damage the native plant communities in the area. Deer are very mobile and might well move to better food sources. We are not convinced that a problem really exists at the moment.

Petrie Island

At very short notice we responded to a consultant's report on the natural environment and interpretive concepts of Petrie Island. You can read the response on the OFNC web site (see inside back cover) under Conservation Committee. Look for lots of activity at Petrie Island this summer organized by the Friends of Petrie Island (FOPI). Information is available at the Island (Petrie Island is situated at the northern end of Trimm Road in Cumberland) or at the FOPI web site <http://www.petrie.mondenet.com/> or by phone from Al Tweddle at 824-1188.

Municipal Restructuring

We are concerned over what might happen to environmental initiatives of local councils under the non-elected Restructuring Commission. If it has to decide on one set of policies and by-laws for the new "Ottawa," will it choose the best or the worst? Which provisions of Municipal and Regional Official Plans will apply? Will the commission create a new environmental advisory committee to replace the existing ones on January 1st, 2001, or will it leave the whole matter for the new council to decide? The answers may be known by the time you read this. Will we also know how to influence the decisions being made? With less than a year remaining, the Commission's time lines for public consultations (if there are any) will necessarily be quite short.

Comments or more information

If you have questions, comments or new issues for the Conservation Committee, please contact Stan Rosenbaum, phone 596-4288 or email srosen@magma.ca. ☐

The Manning Bequest

Frank Pope

In "Letter from the President," published in the July-September 1999 issue of *T&L* (*T&L* 33(3):115), Dave Moore informed Club members of the generous bequest of \$100,000 to the OFNC from the estate of Tom Manning. The money has been invested in a GIC which matures in the spring. Recommendations for the use of this bequest have been collected by the Finance Committee which will present them to the Council at a meeting in the spring.

This is a significant amount of money and the Council wishes to keep members informed of the deliberations about the use of the funds. As of February 1st, the *T&L* deadline for articles, six submissions have been received. Most of the suggestions to date recommend that interest only be spent, the capital being retained for revenue generation, and that Thomas Manning's long term interest in the Arctic be recognized in some way.

Here is the list of the suggestions currently on file.

1. A fund to support publication in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* of selected papers or special issues dealing with northern North America, particularly those dealing with the Canadian Arctic. This fund would enable us to publish articles for which institutional support is unavailable, regrettably a situation that is becoming more common. It is estimated that the fund would generate enough revenue to publish 50 pages per annum.
2. A somewhat similar suggestion was that the Manning bequest become the core of an endowment fund, the goal of which would be to ensure the financial independence of the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*. With decreasing institutional support, a number of scientific journals have chosen this route. A caveat to the fund would be that it encourage the publication of original research on natural environmental values and features in northern Canada.
3. Split the interest earned. This suggestion was that half the interest earned on the bequest be used to support publication in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* of papers dealing with the arctic and the remaining money set aside for special projects and/or events.
4. Support mailing costs for Club journals. In view of the fact that the subsidy for the mailing of our journals continues to be in doubt, interest on the bequest be used to support mailing charges for the journals. Until the subsidy is cancelled, however, interest for the first year could be added to

the Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Fund and in following years made available for ad hoc special projects as decided by the Council.

5. Support field studies in the north. Keeping in mind the young naturalists in the Macoun Field Club and Thomas Manning's interest in the north, interest from the bequest be used to support research in the north by qualified young people who have established the necessary contacts but need money to pursue field studies in the north.
6. Invest part of the capital. About half the capital be invested in a commercial project, a more modest version of which has been profitable to the Club. The project envisages two products:
 - (a) an update of "Songs of the Seasons," adding frog and mammal sounds and producing it as a CD;
 - (b) a multimedia CD based upon Godfrey's "Birds of Canada" and its companion "Bird Sounds of Canada." This product would be produced in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Nature. It would involve setting up a special web site. □

The Great Canadian Bio-Blitz

Heather Hamilton

The Canadian Biodiversity Institute is coordinating the Great Canadian Millennium Bio-Blitz across Canada for the month of June, 2000. A Bio-Blitz is a community-based initiative linking specialists (amateur and professional) in taxonomy, ecology and natural history with the general public. The objective is to identify and record as many species as possible from as many taxonomic groups as possible within a defined area, and usually within 24 hours. It can be both scientifically rewarding and great fun.

This is the fourth year for the Bio-Blitz in the Ottawa area, and several events are being organised, some along the Rideau River corridor (including Chapman Mills and around Carleton University to Brewer Pond). In addition the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum will be holding Bio-Blitzes on the K & P Trail and in the Marlborough Forest. We need knowledgeable people and enthusiastic and interested participants to sign on. If you would like to be involved or need more information, or wish to suggest areas worth blitzing, please contact me as soon as possible at 826-2190 or admin@eobm.ca. □

Open House / Volunteer Day

Sunday, June 4, 2000
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre

(Just south of the traffic circle on Prince of Wales Drive; follow the signs to our Interpretive Centre (the second building).

Our active and multi-faceted Club is hoping to attract new members, and also to give current members an opportunity to involve themselves in the Club in a variety of ways.

Come out to....

- Meet the people behind your Club
- Talk with committee representatives (e.g., FWG, Conservation, Macoun Field Club (for young naturalists), Education/Publicity
- Find out what the Conservation Committee is doing on our behalf
- Sign up for the annual Falcon Watch
- Find out how to participate in a bird count
- Take a mini-excursion with one of our knowledgeable guides
- Enjoy displays and demonstrations
- See our web site in action
- Plant a tree
- Enjoy the FWG's Backyard Garden
- Consult the gardening and natural history resources in the library.

Bring your children, bring your friends. Most of all, learn more about what the OFNC is all about AND how you might become involved.

For more information call:

Deirdre at 722-0853

or email: OFNC@achilles.net

or visit the web site at <http://www.achilles.net/OFNC/>

□

FON Notes

Frank Pope

Spring 2000

When you think of nature reserves, does the Federation of Ontario Naturalists come to mind? Parks Canada, Ontario Parks, Conservation Authorities might, but FON? Actually, the FON owns nature reserves across the province, from the Stone Road Alvar on Pelee Island to the Stewartville Fen just west of Arnprior. The most recent reserve officially opened was the 200 hectare Kinghurst Forest near Chesley. A new FON nature reserve prospect is a 6000 hectare (15,000 acre) tract of limestone plain with 18 kilometres of shoreline at Belanger Bay on the south shore of Manitoulin Island. The OFNC contributed \$1,000 from the Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Fund to support the FON in this purchase. For each nature reserve, the conservation of a unique natural area is the primary objective and public access is controlled. The Stone Road nature reserve protects rare tall grass prairie habitat and the blue racer snake. The Stewartville nature reserve protects a colony of rare orchids and the Kinghurst Forest preserves a rare old growth deciduous forest. The proposed Belanger Bay nature reserve is an alvar habitat that is rare in the Great Lakes basin where virtually all of the alvar habitat in the world is located. Watch for short descriptions of individual FON nature reserves in the "Insider" sections of "Seasons" magazine.

The acquisition and maintenance of these reserves is a challenge. Sometimes the process begins when a property owner wishes to preserve a treasured natural area and offers the area as a significant gift. More often, local people recognize the significance of a natural area and, usually stimulated by a threat to the area, raise awareness of the area and collect money towards its purchase. If the area is deemed to have provincial significance, the FON contributes funds also and seeks partners to secure adequate funding to acquire the property. Once acquired, the property must be maintained and this can involve paying local taxes and liability insurance, monitoring the area, documenting the flora and fauna, as well as providing infrastructure. The FON Working for Wilderness project organizes volunteers to work on infrastructure projects such as trails, signs, paths and board walks. Local naturalists contribute by regularly monitoring sites for vandalism or unusual events.

Do any local nature clubs own nature reserves? Some do. The Kingston Field Naturalists has acquired a number of natural areas, their biggest being adjacent

to Frontenac Provincial Park. The Hamilton Field Naturalists also own nature reserves. The acquisition of land for nature reserves was the subject of heated debate by the OFNC in the early 1970s. The decision at that time was to support the acquisition of natural areas by others, rather than take title to property ourselves, and to use conservation money in other ways. The main reason given was the burden of assuming the obligations described above. Perhaps more significant, though, is the fact that, by publishing *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, the OFNC already makes a unique and significant contribution to natural history in Canada. This is indeed a major contribution and we may, in good conscience, leave the acquisition of natural areas to others.

Mark May 26 to 28 on your calendar for the 69th FON Annual Conference at the Best Western Highland Inn in Midland, Ontario. For information call Liz Schandlen at (705)526-8320, e-mail: schandlen@simcoe.net. As any of you who attended the conference in Ottawa would know, these are fun events.

The Canadian Nature Federation meets in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland, July 12-16. Check their website <http://www.swgc.mun.ca/cnf>.

This will be my last article as your FON Representative. Reflecting upon the position, I am amazed at the amount and variety of information that came across my desk, information of real interest to naturalists. Furthermore, it gave me a chance to meet the current leadership in the field. Dave Moore is your new FON Representative and I hope he enjoys it as much as I did. ☐

The Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards for Young Ornithologists

A week-long workshop in field ornithology is provided free to six selected, lucky applicants, 13-18 years old. Awards cover all direct costs of the workshop (accommodation, meals, travel while at Long Point, and professional instruction), but recipients are responsible for their transportation to and from Long Point. This is a unique opportunity for teenagers to enhance their knowledge and skills in the scientific study and aesthetic enjoyment of birds.

The workshop/natural history camp is held at Long Point Bird Observatory located on the north shore of Lake Erie, Ontario. This year it will take place from **Friday 28 July to Friday 4 August 2000**. Prospective participants are invited to request an application form from: Jul Wojnowski, Long Point Bird Observatory, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (fax 519-586-3532). **Applications are due 1 May 1999.** ☐

January 1st, 2000: A Drive in the Country

Linda Jeays

Thomas Mann wrote: Time has no divisions to mark its passage; there is never a thunderstorm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year. Even when a new century begins, it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols.

On the morning of January 1st, 2000, all is quiet in the nation's capital. As predicted, there are no thunderbolts from Mount Olympus, no horn solos from the angel Gabriel. True, some people have filled the midnight hours with firecrackers and noisemakers, but no loud celebration of beginning will give *me* sufficient courage to face the new century. I need a quieter sort of joy to help negotiate this significant moment in recorded Time: a glimpse of constants across the centuries.

12:30 p.m. I step outdoors, bundled up against double-digit windchill. A Mourning Dove flushes from the garden with the whistle of wings. A symbol of peace for the new century? This notion is quickly dispelled by a Blue Jay deep in the spruce trees. He screams a protest at some imagined insult.

My time machine is chilly as I check the gas gauge, and tumble binoculars and bird book, munchies and mittens onto the passenger seat. I need no map. I am off to familiar haunts: places where short one-act plays unfold, and I am often the only audience. The stage set changes surreptitiously with the seasons, sometimes overnight, as Arctic winds blow snow from plowed fields, midnight rains flood roadside creeks, or rising temperatures prime buds for daylight.

As I turn onto the highway, a solitary gull sails the sky. He is headed north, like me, to the river. At the rapids, the Mallards are already up and partying, riding the fast grey water backwards, sideways, forwards. When the course is run between the thin sliver of land and the shore, they lift straight from the water, circle and fly back upstream for another roller-coaster ride. Some pairs are more purposeful. The shiny green head of a Mallard drake catches sunshine as he bobs his head up and down, courting his female. He's out of luck – she's not yet ready to think of spring. She paddles over to visit the dark knot of Black Ducks dozing or preening lazily on dry land.

Along the shoreline, close in, a Goldeneye and a Bluebill are serious lunch companions, swimming surface-side for a while, then plunging underwater, between the shifting slabs of ice, in the never-ending search for mollusks. I ignore the hopeful chickadees looking for an outstretched, seed-filled hand, and rev the engine of the time machine.

Back into the modern age: past apartment blocks, their flat roofs picked out in pigeons; past salted sidewalks festooned with flurries of starlings; through the busy intersection where, three winters ago, a Snowy Owl sat on a hydro pole at dusk, watching the bright headlights of oncoming rush-hour traffic.

West, again. The large hawk at roadside is close enough that I see his beak and talons, but as I pull over, he takes flight across the highway, then out across scrubland, soaring on the spread of his red tail, landing in a tall winter-bare tree.

Now, into farm country. Sentinel crows along the way. Waiting for roadkill. The turn-off opposite the redbrick, silver-steeped church takes me past berry fields protected by windbreaks of standing corn, up to the brow of the hill where doves decorate brush, like partridges in pear trees. Fifteen birds. A quarter-mile away, down in wide fields of corn stubble, the tousled ginger-haired dog spots me and races back to work. He circles the time machine, gives a few warning barks and heads off into the nearby farmyard to stand on guard.

I coast gently down the hill and over the shallow-humped bridge. Now the centuries mix and mingle their postcard scenes: two fine chestnut horses and a foal nuzzle together in a white-fenced paddock; kids play shinny on the frozen bend of the river; neon-clad snowmobilers clamber up ditches and pause shuddering on the edge of the asphalt; cows in a huddle stretch their sagging necks into well-stacked bales of hay; leftover Christmas bows sag at awkward angles from shiny coach lamps; and a sturdy log cabin remains alongside newer homes – seasoned firewood piled at a safe distance from the dwellings, as it always was.

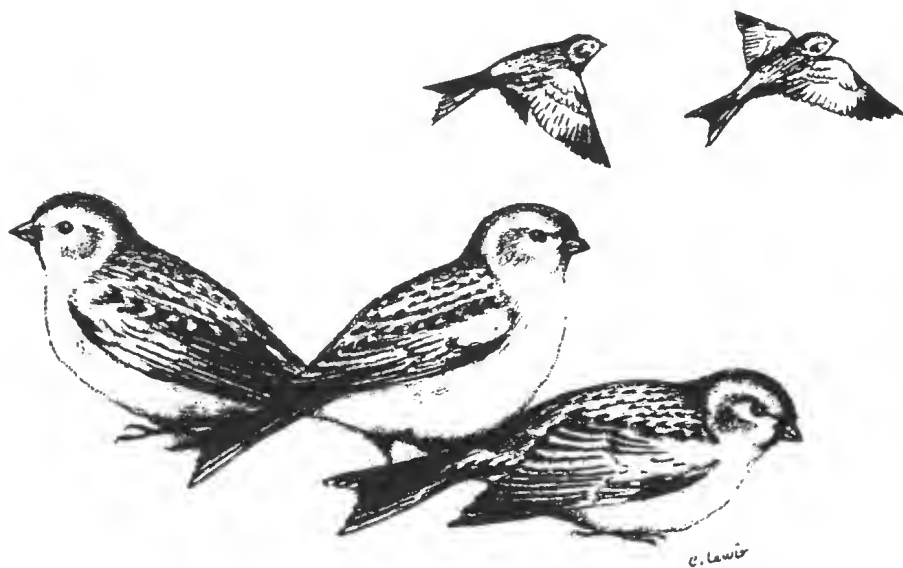
The time machine says 2:42 p.m. My feet are cold. I turn up the heater and drive on. Beyond the lagoons, a Rough-legged Hawk hovers over the stunted fields. His black wrist markings are clear as he wobbles on spread wings, correcting his balance. How many centuries have seen his white tail with its dark band? How long has he hunted in this place?

3:00 p.m. The Kestrel is high up on the string of roadside wires. He's a handsome male -- grey wings, black face markings, a rufous tail. He is watching the ditches for small scurrying creatures, waiting to deal out death with his tearing claws and sharp beak. The shrike at the tip-top of a sapling at the next intersection is in the same mood. His grey and white songbird feathers are fluffed

up softly against the cold, but his hooked bill and masked face betray his hard, predatory intentions.

I stop by the frozen trout pond, the empty deer yard, for the sake of the coming spring. Then north, until an erratic cloud of snowflakes – or snowbirds– pulls me off the highway and down a side road. Snow Buntings. Flickering black-and-white wings skimming the short-cropped, snow-dusted meadow; a tinkling musical song in winter's wilderness.

3:40 p.m. Satisfied, I head for home. It is only we timekeepers who need clocks and calendars. Nature has taken no notice of the beginning of this new century, but continues to follow the imperatives of hunger, the patterns of light and darkness, and the circular measure of the seasons.



Snow Buntings. Drawing by Christina Lewis

□

Simple Gesture

Robert Nero

All cold winter long
the blue jays came to our feeders
seven or more sweeping in with
a flourish of blue and white
scattering sparrows and siskins
challenging even squirrels
and quarrelling amongst themselves
with raised crests and stiff stance
but flying off in a loose flock.

One warm bright April morning
two jays slipped in quietly
one landed on the feeder shelf
the other on a nearby twig
then, in a tense silence, one jay
with seeds in its black bill
hopped over to the second jay
and gave it its food in a gentle
transfer from bill to bill;
for me, the watcher, recognizing
courtship wherever I see it,
a sweet moment of bliss. ❧

Urban Lichens

Irwin M. Brodo

Did you ever wonder why some greenbelt trees seem to be painted orange, or why your backyard trees are developing a grey scaly coat, or why certain trees are bright yellow where the rain flows down over the trunk? The gradual covering of our nearby trees with flaky or crusty colours is alarming to the uninitiated, but it's comforting for those who know something about lichens. For once, the "invasion of the aliens" is a welcome sight.

Lichens are curious life forms. They are really two organisms living together as mutually beneficial partners: a fungus, which makes up the dominant part of the twosome, and some green photosynthetic organism (either a green alga or a cyanobacterium, sometimes called blue-green algae) living and dividing among the fungus threads and providing sugars both for itself and the fungus. Lichens are tough 'critters' in many ways, able to withstand long periods of drought, for example, or actively growing even in winter, but they are notoriously sensitive to air pollution. The slightest amount of sulphur dioxide, a byproduct of burning fossil fuel and a contributor to acid rain, can upset the delicate balance of the lichen partnership or symbiosis causing the lichen to die. That is why we see so few lichens, if any, in large cities, and why it is exciting to see them returning to urban areas where they had once been nearly eliminated. The return of the lichens means that our air is becoming cleaner thanks to new clean-air legislation over the past few decades. Since lichens do absolutely no damage to the trees, their presence is to be welcomed.

The lichens we see making a home on the trunks and branches of roadside and backyard trees throughout the Ottawa region are known to be relatively insensitive to moderate levels of sulphur dioxide. The most sensitive species of lichens, such as the lungwort (*Lobaria pulmonaria*) and beard lichen (*Usnea* species), are still not seen in the city centre nor in most parts of the suburbs. They are among the most threatened lichens wherever they occur, and their natural range is diminishing throughout the continent.

Our "domesticated" species are generally found on trees having bark with a low acidity, i.e., relatively neutral in "pH," a scale used to express acidity. The higher the pH, the lower the acidity. Trees such as poplar, elm, and Manitoba maple are neutral-barked trees; species of oak or pine are low in pH; most maples are somewhere in the middle. The reason city lichens prefer neutral bark is simple: the acids formed when sulphur dioxide dissolves in rain water

(mostly sulphuric acid) are partly neutralized or buffered by the chemicals in the bark before the rain water reaches the lichens growing on the bark surface. Lichens also grow on rocks or soil, but the urban species inhabiting those substrates, except for the cladonias such as British soldiers (*Cladonia cristatella*), are generally very inconspicuous and hard to identify until you gain some experience. We'll ignore them in this article.

There aren't many species of urban lichens, and because they are neighbours sharing our living space, it is only natural to want to learn them first. I have prepared a short key as a guide to 16 of the most common lichens you are most likely to encounter on a Sunday walk around town or in a suburban neighbourhood. All but a few of the species are *foliose* lichens, which, like leaves, have clearly distinguishable upper and lower surfaces. A few are *crustose*, little more than thin crusts over the bark surface and so tightly attached to the bark that they cannot be removed intact without taking some bark with them. Foliose lichens can be very small, however, and their lobes can be little more than slightly uplifted scales. Hairy or shrubby lichens that grow out from a single point (*fruticose* lichens) are rarely pollution-tolerant enough to be on trees near towns. The only one likely to be seen as close as the Greenbelt Forest near Bells Corners or Leitrim is the tufted oakmoss, *Evernia mesomorpha* (Fig. 1).

The distinguishing features of lichens are often very tiny, so a good magnifying glass (5-10X) is essential for observing the characteristics mentioned in the key and even for determining the growth form of a given lichen. A few terms that need to be defined in order to use the key are listed at the end of the article, and many are illustrated in a schematic drawing of the thallus (Fig. 2). The chemical tests ("spot tests") given in the key are done with common kitchen chemicals. *KOH* refers to potassium hydroxide, but a very acceptable substitute is drain cleaner or household lye (sodium hydroxide). Mix about 10 pellets in an ounce of water. It is very caustic, so use the smallest amount possible, applying it with a tiny dropper, toothpick, or paint brush. The *C* referred to in the key is undiluted bleaching solution (sodium hypochlorite) such as *Javex*®, also used with a dropper or toothpick in extremely small amounts. "C + red" means that the medulla or lichen surface turns red when moistened with C. To test the medulla, you have to carefully slice or scratch away the upper cortex and algal layer to reveal the white (rarely pigmented) medulla below, and then moisten the medulla with the *K* or *C* reagent. The thallus or cortex is tested by simply moistening the surface of the lichen with the reagent.

The most commonly encountered foliose lichen on city trees is the hammered shield lichen, *Parmelia sulcata* (Fig. 3). In my garden in Parkwood Hills, it covers not only my maples but also the protected parts of my unpainted picnic

table. Its squarish, blue-grey lobes with a dented and ridged upper surface (like hammered metal) are easy to recognize. The ridges and margins eventually develop powdery soredia. Dabbing some KOH on the upper surface of the lichen changes the grey to yellow, and the white medulla beneath the cortex and algal layer turns blood red with the same reagent.

The candle lichen, *Candelaria concolor*, is almost as common as the hammered shield lichen. It is yolk-yellow in colour and has very tiny, deeply divided and frilly lobes bordered by granular soredia. The lichen has a special fondness for rain tracks, the areas on a tree trunk where the rain water collects as it flows from the crown to the tree base.

The mealy rosette lichen, *Physcia millegrana* (Fig. 4), is a grey lichen otherwise very similar to the candle lichen, with lacy, tiny lobes and granular soredia on the lobe margins. It is extremely common in our area on many types of trees.

One of the most brilliantly coloured lichens on suburban trees is the hooded sunburst lichen, *Xanthoria fallax* (Fig. 5). It is deep orange, with small, overlapping lobes that split at the tips between the upper and lower cortices, curling back and creating a sort of hollowed out "hood" containing coarse, granular soredia. Another very similar sunburst lichen, *Xanthoria ulophyllodes*, was recently discovered in the Ottawa region. Its powdery soredia are formed along the lobe margins and do not originate in hooded structures at the lobe tips.

It is no accident that all these common lichens produce lots of powdery reproductive particles or propagules. They serve as efficient mechanisms for the rapid spread of the lichen since each particle contains both elements of the symbiosis, the fungus and the alga. Some common lichens, however, lack such particles and have to reproduce either by simply breaking off a piece, or by spreading the sexual spores of the fungus, which have to germinate on the proper substrate and find the proper alga (not any alga will do). As chancy as this seems, some lichens are very good at it.

One common lichen without soredia or other vegetative propagules, is the hoary rosette lichen, *Physcia aipolia* (Fig. 6). It is a frequent resident of elms and poplars, forming round rosettes of narrow grey lobes. In the older central parts of the lichen, disk-shaped fruiting bodies with prominent grey rims are formed. The disks are basically dark brown or almost black, but the dark colour is almost always masked by a thick coat of grey particles (pruina) giving the disks a "frosty" appearance. The star rosette lichen, *Physcia stellaris*, is a very similar species and is also very common. The key will show you how they are distinguished, as well as how to identify the other frequently encountered city lichens around town.

Those readers interested in finding out more about lichens, especially the lichens found in the Ottawa-Hull region, can consult "Lichens of the Ottawa Region." Much more information and full colour photographs of all the lichens in this article (and 785 more from all over the continent) will be found in *Lichens of North America* (Brodo, Sharnoff & Sharnoff, in press).

I hope this article encourages you to take a closer look at the grey and yellow patches on tree trunks and branches in your neighbourhood. Take a hand lens along next time. It will make a Sunday stroll that much more interesting.

Key to Common Urban Lichens on Bark in Ottawa

- 1. Thallus bright yellow, orange or yellowish green 2
- 1. Thallus grey or brownish, no yellowish tint 6
- 2. Thallus yellowish green, with broad, rounded lobes; soredia in patches on upper surface of lobes *Flavoparmelia caperata* (Fig. 7)
- 2. Thallus bright yellow or orange 3
- 3. Thallus orange or orange-yellow, turning deep purple in KOH 4
- 3. Thallus yolk-yellow, unchanged in KOH 5
- 4. Thallus crustose; small "areoles" or patches breaking into granular soredia at the margins *Caloplaca microphyllina*
- 4. Thallus foliose, with small upturned lobes having granular soredia in crescent-shaped "hoods" at the lobe tips *Xanthoria fallax* (Fig. 5)
- 5. Thallus entirely crustose, with tiny granular scales or areoles less than 0.5 mm in diameter breaking down into powdery soredia .. *Candelariella efflorescens*
- 5. Thallus with at least a few tiny foliose lobes; lobes finely divided, with granular soredia along the margins *Candelaria concolor*
- 6. Thallus pale grey or steel grey; surface turning yellow with KOH 7
- 6. Thallus brownish, olive, brownish grey, or dark greenish grey; surface not reacting with KOH 13
- 7. Thallus without soredia, isidia, or granules 8
- 7. Thallus with soredia, isidia, or granules on margins or on lobe surface 9

8. Thallus lobes covered with vague white spots giving it a mottled appearance; lobe tips flat or slightly concave *Physcia aipolia* (Fig. 6)
8. Thallus lobes uniform in colour, without white spots; lobe tips tend to be slightly convex *Physcia stellaris*
9. Thallus with isidia on upper surface; lobes spotted with white dots (pseudocyphellae); lower surface pale brown; medulla C+ red, KOH- *Punctelia rudecta*
9. Thallus with soredia or granules; medulla C- 10
10. Lobes squarish, up to 3 mm across, the surface covered with a network of ridges and depressions; powdery soredia forming on many of the ridges and on the margins of the lobes; lower surface of lobes uniformly black; medulla KOH+ yellow changing to blood red *Parmelia sulcata* (Fig. 3)
10. Lobes tiny, mostly less than 1 mm across, not square, without ridges; all soredia along lobe margins or on lobe tips; lower surface of lobes white or tan; medulla KOH+ yellow or KOH- 11
11. Lobe tips inflated, hood-like, the hoods containing granular soredia; long hair-like "cilia" growing from lobe tips *Physcia adscendens* (Fig. 8)
11. Lobe tips flat, not inflated, without cilia 12
12. Lobes very finely divided and lacy, with granules or granular soredia produced on lobe margins *Physcia millegrana* (Fig. 4)
12. Lobes not finely divided and lacy; soredia concentrated in lip-shaped soralia at the tips of the lobes *Physcia dubia*
 Note:
Physciella chloantha, which is KOH-, can be very similar (see couplet 15).
 Its rhizines are abundant, whereas those of *Physcia dubia* are sparse.
13. Thallus olive to uniformly brown, closely flattened against the bark; lobes 1.5-4 mm across; granular soredia in irregular patches on the upper surface, not the margins, becoming yellowish where disturbed; medulla C+ red *Melanelia subaurifera* (Fig. 9)
13. Thallus dark grey to dark greenish or mottled brown, loosely or closely attached to bark; soredia mostly on lobe margins or tips (sometimes also on upper surface); medulla C- 14

14. Lobes 1-3 mm across, the tips always "frosted" with pruina; medulla white (or very rarely, pale yellowish); soredia along the margins of the lobes; rhizines branched like a bottle brush (see Fig. 2)
 *Physconia detersa* (in the broad sense)
14. Lobes small, under 1.5 mm across, not at all frosted; rhizines mostly unbranched 15
15. Medulla bright orange; soredia on the lobe margins and upper surface
 *Phaeophyscia rubropulchra* (Fig. 10)
15. Medulla white; soredia mostly on the lobe tips and margins
 *Physciella chloantha*

Glossary for use with the key (adapted from Brodo 1988).

areoles: tiny irregular patches of thallus.

cilia: hair-like appendages extending from the margins of the thallus or fruiting bodies.

cortex: the outer protective layer of a lichen thallus.

isidia: minute cylindrical or coral-like outgrowths of the thallus, covered with cortex and containing algae; functions as a vegetative reproductive particle.

granule: a spherical or irregular thallus particle that has a cortex.

medulla: the internal tissues in a thallus, generally composed of loosely packed, generally white fungal tissue, although pigmented orange or yellow in a few lichens.

pruina: white or grey frost-like particles on a surface.

pseudocyphellae: tiny white dots or pores seen in large numbers on the upper (and sometimes the lower) surface of some lichens; caused by a break in the cortex and the extension of medullary tissue to the surface.

rhizines: hair-like extensions of the lower cortex that generally serve to attach a foliose lichen to the surface upon which it is growing (the substrate).

soredia: vegetative reproductive particles of a lichen, generally powdery or mealy in appearance. They consist of a few algal cells entwined and surrounded by a layer of fungal threads; entirely lacking a cortex; generally produced in local masses called soralia, or covering large diffuse areas of a thallus.

thallus: the vegetative plant body of a lichen, i.e., everything but the fruiting bodies.

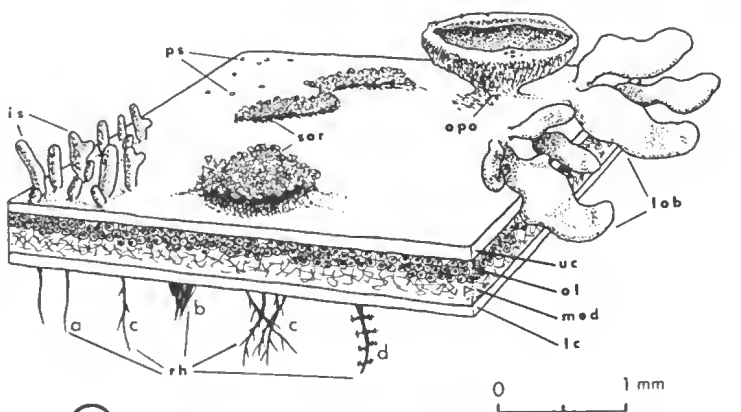
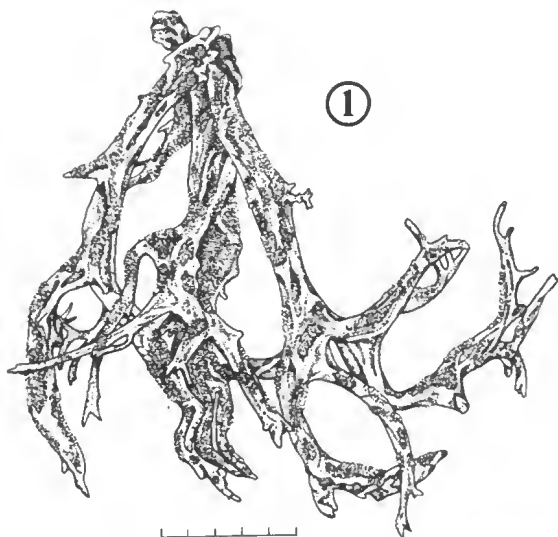
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Lichens of the Ottawa Region, Second Edition. Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club Special Publication 3: 1-115. [Available at the Canadian Museum of Nature boutique in English or French editions (\$9.95) or can be ordered by writing to the author (add \$2.50 for postage).]

Brodo, I.M., S.D. Sharnoff and S. Sharnoff (in press).

Lichens of North America. Yale University Press, New Haven, in collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Nature. [Publication costs for this book have been partly subsidized by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. (See <http://www.lichen.com>.) Tentatively scheduled for publication, autumn 2001.]

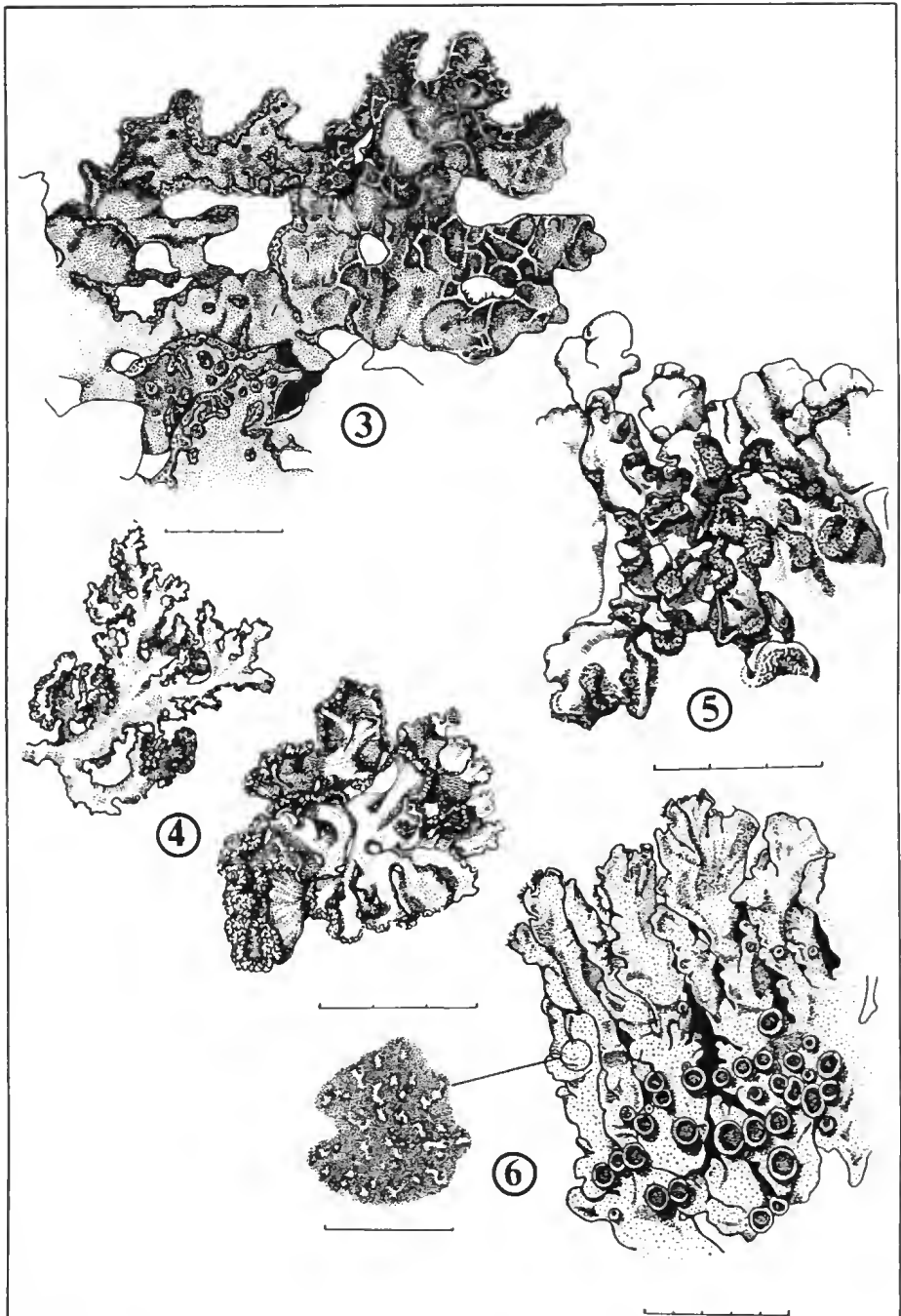


generalized approximate scale

Figures 1-2

1. *Evernia mesomorpha*;

**2. Section of foliose lichen thallus: *al*, algal layer; *apo*, fruiting body (apothecium); *is*, isidia; *lc*, lower cortex; *lob*, lobules; *med*, medulla; *ps*, pseudocypellae; *rh*, rhizines of different kinds (*a*, unbranched; *b*, tufted; *c*, forked; *d*, bottle-brush type); *sor*, soralia containing soredia; *uc*, upper cortex. Scale: each unit = 1 mm.
(All drawings in this article by Susan Laurie-Bourque, from Brodo 1988.)**



Figures 3-6.
 3. *Parmelia sulcata*; 4. *Physcia millegrana*; 5. *Xanthoria fallax*;
 6. *Physcia aipolia*. Scale: each unit = 1 mm.



Figures 7-10.

7. *Flavoparmelia caperata*;

8. *Physcia adscendens*;

9. *Melanelia subaurifera* (a, lobes; b, isidia
that finally break down into soredia);

10. *Phaeophyscia rubropulchra*. □

Results of the 1999 Taverner Cup Held May 29

Jeff Harrison



*The winning team with Taverner Cup,
from l-r: Ross Harris, Chris Traynor, Bruce Di Labio and André Charron.
Photo by Beverly Robinson.*

This year 75 participants in 18 teams, 9 competitive, and 9 recreational, competed in the 3rd Annual Taverner Cup Birding Competition. This corporate-sponsored event was held in eastern Ontario and western Quebec over a 24 hour period starting on Saturday May 29th. Birding conditions were excellent with weather in the high 20s, sunny with light winds. Despite the lack of strong land-bird migration, and the departure of most diving ducks, a record total of 212 species was seen.

The “Bushnell Nighthawks,” captained by Ottawa native Bruce Di Labio, with fellow birders Chris Traynor and Ross Harris and driver André Charron, won the Taverner Cup with a total of 183 species. Last year’s winner, the “Lee Valley Sawbills” captained by Mike Runtz, placed second with 176 species. “Focus Scientific Merlins,” captained by Tony Beck, placed third with 164 species. The Nighthawks had a remarkable 87% of all birds recorded on their list.



*Winners of the Fothergill Trophy,
l-r: Gordon McLean, Monty Brigham, Bev Scott and Colin Gaskell.
Photo by Beverly Robinson.*

Colin Gaskell, captain of "The Full Monty," and his team of Monty Brigham, Gordon McLean and Bev Scott won the recreational category and so the Fothergill Trophy, with a total of 126 species. "The Birdbrains" captained by Tim Brophy came second, winning the new Judith Wilks Trophy, with 121 species. The all-women's team, "The Motherflickers" captained by Chris Lewis, came in third, with 120 species. Competitive and recreational teams came from as far away as Fredericton, NB, and Leamington, Chatham, Barrie and Toronto, Ontario.

The winning team's strategy included a full 24 hours in the field starting at the Richmond Fen near Ottawa, then in sequence, Algonquin Provincial Park, Presqu'île Provincial Park, Chaffey's Locks, north of Kingston, the Ottawa area, and the sewage lagoons in eastern Ontario. They logged about 1,200 km.

In 1999 the organizing committee altered the Taverner boundaries to make them more intelligible to all participants and to encourage wider participation from outside our area. Now the boundary is the arc of a circle centred on Arnprior which cuts Lake Ontario at Port Hope, the bottom end of LaVerendrye Park and the whole of the island of Montreal. The southern boundary continues to be Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and the Quebec/New York State border.

About 100 people attended the Awards Banquet held in Ottawa on Sunday morning May 30th. The event was hosted by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Dr. David Bird, author, Gazette columnist,

and Professor of Wildlife Biology at MacDonald College, McGill University, was Master of Ceremonies. The event was catered by Dave Smith of "The Place Next Door." Bruce Di Labio and his team were presented with the Taverner Cup by Peter Hall, co-author of "Butterflies of Canada" and National Director of the Canadian Environmental Network. (Peter was a member of the Great Gray Owls team which finished fifth.) The Fothergill Trophy was presented to Colin Gaskell by Jeff Harrison, founder and coordinator of the Taverner Cup Competition. The Judith Wilks Trophy was presented to Tim Brophy by Judith's husband, Paul Carey.



*Winners of Judith Wilks Trophy,
back l-r: Tim Brophy, Jack Romanow, Emma Carey; front: Paul Carey with son Sean.*

Birding highlights included: Least Bittern and Sedge Wren (various locations), Snow Goose, Great Egret, Whimbrel, Forster's Tern (Presqu'ile), Brant, Black and White-winged Scoters, and a flock of 14 Arctic Terns (Lac Deschênes, Ottawa River), Yellow Rail (Richmond Fen), Loggerhead Shrike (various locations), Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, Red and White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin (Algonquin Park, in particular the Wolf Howl Trail), Wild Turkey (near Belleville), American Pipit

(various locations), Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged and Cerulean Warbler, Gnatcatcher and Louisiana Waterthrush (Chaffey's Locks area), Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Blue-winged Warbler (Ottawa), Brewer's Blackbird (Carden Plain) and Rusty Blackbird (Osborne Depot, north of Otter Lake, Quebec). Sandhill Cranes are now nesting at a number of locations in eastern Ontario. Cranes were heard at the Carden Plain and two were seen flying over Highway 401 near Napanee!

The full team results were as follows:

COMPETITIVE

Team Name	Captain	Corporate Sponsor	Total Species
Nighthawks	Bruce Di Labio	Bushnell Sports Optics	183
Sawbills	Michael Runtz	Lee Valley Tools	176
Merlins	Tony Beck	Focus Scientific	164
The Barrie Mighty Ducks	Judy Randall	Nottswasaga Valley Conservation Authority	157
Great Gray Owls	Jeff Harrison	Wild Birds Unlimited	152
Goatsuckers	Chris Michener	Our Natural World	150
Fringe of Point Pelee	Alan Wormington	Friends of Point Pelee	146
Outaouais	Daniel St-Hilaire	City of Aylmer (QC)	144
Nightjars	Gord Gallant	Nikon Canada	139

RECREATIONAL

Team Name	Captain	Total Species
The Full Monty	Colin Gaskell	126
Birdbrains	Tim Brophy	121
The Motherflickers	Chris Lewis	120
Tweachers	Janet Castle	113
Harlequins	Christine Cornell	107
The Roadrunners	Brett Groves	94
Jaywalkers	Joan Molnar	72
The Counting Crows	Stephane Guillot	62
Pileated Flycatchers	Phill Atwood	60

I would like to personally thank all those birders that entered the competition. In particular special thanks to Bruce Di Labio and Ken Allison for their continued strong support. Also thanks to our corporate sponsors who make the competition possible, they deserve our patronage. I would also like to thank Christine Hanrahan, Eve Ticknor and Greg Kelly who assisted with the species collation and the banquet, and Denis Brazeau and Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada for making the Neatby Building available.

The purpose of the Taverner Cup is to raise money for environmental projects and to raise awareness of the great diversity of wildlife habitats in eastern Ontario and western Quebec. The Taverner Cup has been modelled on New Jersey's World Series of Birding, which has been in operation for more than fifteen years. The "World Series" has been a huge success. It now raises over \$300,000 annually for wildlife projects.

Plans are afoot to create an eco-tourism related Birding Trail which would run through eastern Ontario. The three-season trail is intended to provide a marketing link between existing wildlife sites: provincial parks, ANSIs, conservation areas, bird observatories etc.; the Taverner Cup Competition; and local and regional birding and wildlife festivals. It is also intended to identify and promote new wildlife viewing sites. A birding trail using these components is proving to be a great success in coastal Texas. Birding trails are recognized as a terrific way for non-profit wildlife groups to effectively partner with business and government for their mutual benefit.

Taverner sponsor fees from local Ottawa contestants are used to support the operations of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Seventy-five percent of sponsor fees from non-local competitive teams were returned to their areas for their own wildlife-related projects. In 1999 these included:

- Nikon's sponsor fee was used to support the publishing of a new butterfly checklist by the "Friends of Presqu'île;"
- The city of Aylmer/Outaouais Bird Club used their partnership to purchase materials, build and install Wood Duck boxes along the Ottawa River in Aylmer;
- The Nottwasaga Valley Conservation Authority/Brereton Field Naturalists used their partnership to purchase materials to build and install bluebird boxes on NVCA property;
- The Friends of Point Pelee used their money to host a butterfly atlas project in Point Pelee National Park.

I am hoping that other naturalist and wildlife groups will enter the Taverner Cup competition to raise money for their own projects, and even better if they can integrate the Taverner fund-raising into the trail development.

This year the Taverner Cup will be held on Saturday, May 27th, 2000, and the Awards Brunch on Sunday, May 28th. Club members interested in forming a team or wanting more information should contact:

Jeff Harrison, 150 Wolseley Avenue North, Montreal West, Quebec, H4X 1V9;
(514) 486-4943; email: dha@videotron.ca □

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 Omithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire at 778-3413 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.

2 April
6:30 a.m.
to
6:30 p.m.



BUS EXCURSION: SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE

Leaders: Roy John and Colin Gaskell

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

Cost: \$30.00

(PLEASE REGISTER EARLY;

see the introduction to Coming Events for information, and previous issue for details.)

Be sure to set your clock forward one hour Saturday evening.

Tuesday
11 April
7:30 p.m.
Social;
8:00 p.m.
Formal
program

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
SPRING

Speaker: Isabelle Nicol

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

Shake off your winter blues and come and let Isabelle's slides give you a preliminary taste of coming events of spring in Ottawa. See previous *T&L* for additional details.

Friday
14 April
7:30 p.m.

OFNC SOIREE WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND
ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Meet: Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Avenue.

See the Centrefold of the previous issue for further details.

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

BUS EXCURSION: HAWKS ALOFT AT DERBY HILL

Leaders: Bernie Ladouceur and Roy John

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

Cost: \$30.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see the introduction to Coming Events for information. See previous *T&L* for further details).



Saturday
29 April
8:00 a.m.

SPRING WALK TO GILLIES GROVE

Leaders: Mike Runtz and Philip Martin

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

Gillies Grove near Arnprior is a 57-acre old-growth forest containing the largest remnant of the white pines that once covered the entire Ottawa Valley. White pines as old as 170 years and other stands of old sugar maple and basswood trees can be found, as well as a rare sedge, *Carex prasina*.

The Grove is also home to about 50 species of birds, including the elusive Barred Owl, Screech Owl and the Red-shouldered Hawk (which is classed as a vulnerable species). The OFNC has recently contributed towards the conservation of this area, which should give participants an extra stimulus to explore it!

BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS

The following walks of 3 or 4 hours duration are offered to novice birders.

Saturday	Time	Place	Leader
May 6	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Ken Allison
May 13	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Doug Craig
May 27	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Mopsy Stewart

* Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant on Cassels Road.



MAY EVENING STROLLS

These three informal walks are offered to expand members' general knowledge of local natural history. Children are most welcome on these outings. Wear suitable footwear and bring insect repellent.

Thursday 4 May 6:30 p.m.	BRITANNIA WOODS CONSERVATION AREA Leader: Dave Moore Meet: Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant on Cassels Rd.
Thursday 11 May 6:30 p.m.	JACK PINE TRAIL - Moodie Drive Leader: Frank Pope Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
Thursday 25 May 6:30 p.m.	TRILLIUM WOODS Leader: Joan Speirs Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Tuesday
9 May
7:30 p.m.
Social
8:00 p.m.
Formal
program

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

Speaker: Mark Murphy

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

The Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) is one of the most significant pieces of legislation in Canada. Learn how you can use this bill to influence, monitor, and participate in the provincial government's environmental decisions before they are finalised. Also, you can discover how the EBR gives you a mechanism to hold the government of Ontario accountable for the environmental decisions it makes.

Saturday
13 May
7:00 a.m.

WARBLERS OF THE GATINEAU HILLS

Leaders: Ken Allison

Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington at Kent Street.

Enjoy the splendour of spring in the Gatineau Park on a search for breeding birds, in particular the "gems of the forest," our wood warblers. Participants will learn to identify species by sight and song, as well as habitat selection. Highlights may include Cerulean and Mourning Warblers on territory. Bring a lunch, field guides and binoculars, and be prepared for varying weather conditions and the blackflies (the warblers love them!).

Saturday
13 May
10:00 a.m.
to
12 noon



CELEBRATE
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2000

Meet: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle.

This event highlights the return of migratory birds from the new world tropics of Latin America to their nesting grounds in this area. Join us at the garden and participate in a free guided birding walk. Explore informative exhibits about migratory birds and learn more about the fascinating life cycles of some of these long distance migrants. There will be plenty of free information on how you can help our feathered friends, with suggestions for making your garden more bird-friendly and safe, as well as how you can help protect habitats along their migratory route and in their wintering grounds in Latin America. For more information contact Christine at 798-1620 or email: vanessa@magna.ca

Saturday
20 May
8:30 a.m.

GENERAL INTEREST WALK AT MORRIS ISLAND

Leaders: Philip Martin and Dave Moore

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

Situated on a quiet part of the Ottawa River, the Morris Island Conservation Area has a wide variety of plants and animals, including birds, insects, turtles and snakes, of interest to naturalists. This nature walk will introduce you to several of the nature trails through woodland, rocky shore and water habitats. Please bring your field guides for identification, and a lunch.

Saturday
27 May
to
Sunday
28 May

TAVERNER CUP BIRDING COMPETITION

Coordinator: Jeff Harrison

Further details are on page 72 of this issue.

Saturday
3 June
8:00 a.m.

BRITANNIA BIRDS

Leader: Tom Reeve

Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, south side, Carling Ave. at Woodroffe Avenue.

Tom will lead participants on this morning outing through Britannia Woods and then along the Ottawa River at the Des Chênes Rapids and Shirleys Bay. Late spring migrants and birds on-territory should be on view.

Sunday
4 June
10 a.m.
to
2 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE/ VOLUNTEER DAY

Meet: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle.

See article on page 56 this issue for further details.

Saturday
10 June
4:30 a.m.

DAWN CHORUS AT THE RICHMOND FEN

Leader: Monty Brigham

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.

A splendid opportunity to see and hear fascinating species of birds that breed in the woods on the periphery of the Richmond Fen. Monty is an expert in the realm of nature recording. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent are absolutely essential for this outing.

Saturday

10 June

10 a.m.

to

12 noon



NATIVE PLANT EXCHANGE AND SALE

Meet: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle. This annual event at the FWG is a good opportunity to start or add to your own wildlife garden. Bring your surplus perennials — native wildflowers or good-for-wildlife species — and walk away with a new addition to your garden. Plants will be sold for a nominal price, but all donors are entitled to one free plant for each one donated. All proceeds go toward the upkeep of the FWG's Backyard Garden. Please bring plants to the Interpretive Centre no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the event. Plants should be in pots or plastic bags, clearly labeled with the plant's name. If you'd like to donate plants before that date or need assistance, contact Sandy (730-0714) or Claudia (224-7619).

Tuesday

13 June

7:30 p.m.

Social

8:00 p.m.

Formal

program

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

A VISIT TO THE ORINOCO

Speaker: Jack Gillett

Jack went several hundred kilometres by boat up the Orinoco River in Venezuela last October on a visit sponsored by the Humboldt Field Research Institute in Maine. The Institute focuses on the areas originally travelled by the explorer Alexander Humboldt. His talk will feature the Indian villages and the tropical flora of the jungle and of the highlands that he went through along the way.

Saturday

17 June

9:00 a.m.

WATER PLANTS AND ALGAE

Leaders: Lynn Gillespie and Philip Martin

Meet: Baxter Conservation Centre, on the Rideau River off Highway 16.

The Rideau River Biodiversity Project has used the Baxter Conservation Area as one of its sites for study. Participants in this long half-day outing will have an excellent opportunity to observe riverine and aquatic plants and some of the algae associated with them. Your opinion of "scum" (at least of the natural variety) will never be the same. Bring long boots for wading or a bathing suit, insect repellent, suitable field guides and a lunch. This excursion is limited to the first 15 persons who REGISTER BY TELEPHONING THE CLUB NUMBER AT 722-3050.

Saturday
24 June
9:00 a.m.

**FISH-WATCHING:
A NOVEL PURSUIT FOR NATURALISTS**

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Chris Lewis
Meet: Supreme Court Building front entrance,
Wellington at Kent Street.

An outing to identify some of our common species of fish by merely looking into the water. You don't have to capture them... a pair of binoculars and a bit of patience are all that is required. At Pink Lake, Gatineau Park, we should see the breeding stages of the fathead minnow, the northern redbelly dace and, possibly the rare three-spined stickleback. We will end up at the ponds at Andrew Haydon Park and use a seine net to get a close-up view of these often ignored vertebrates. Please leave your rod and reel at home on this half-day outing but bring along a sardine sandwich! The trip may be rescheduled if the weather is poor.

Sunday
25 June
9:00 a.m.

VISIT TO THE PURDON FEN CONSERVATION AREA

Leader: Robina Bennett
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road. The Purdon Fen, south of Almonte in Lanark County, is home to what is probably the largest colony of Pink Lady's Slipper Orchids in Canada. These tropical-looking plants are situated in a marsh at the bottom of a lush ravine and can easily be viewed from a boardwalk together with many other wildflowers such as the Leafy White Bog Orchid and the Pitcher Plant. Bring a lunch for this long half-day outing. There will be an opportunity to canoe and swim in the afternoon.

Sunday
9 July
9:00 a.m.

GENERAL INTEREST WALK AT THE PETRIE ISLANDS

Leaders: Stephen Darbyshire, Christine Hanrahan and Fred Schueller
Meet: Place D'Orleans Shopping Centre, NE corner of parking lot, by St. Joseph Blvd. (north side of WalMart). The large size of the Ottawa River has allowed the development of a number of habitats along its shoreline. The Petrie islands are interesting because they are seasonally flooded. Participants on this outing will have chance to see the unusual assemblages of plants and animals in and around the extensive marshlands, river shoreline, sandy habitats and flood plain forests that characterize these secluded islands. See "The Petrie Islands: Naturally Special" by Christine Hanrahan and Stephen Darbyshire in *T&L* 33(2); 59-73.

Tuesday
11 July
7:30 p.m.
Social
8:00 p.m.
Formal
program

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
WESTERN WILDLIFE

Speaker: Roy John

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

This talk had to be re-scheduled from February because of Roy's work commitment.]

Take a trip through Canada's West looking for wildlife that has adapted to dry summers and cold winters. Come and see magnificent cranes, colourful prickly pears and the graceful pronghorn.

Saturday
15 July
10:00 a.m.

BUTTERFLIES OF SUMMER

Leader: Peter Hall

Meet: Junction of Highway 416 South and
Highway 43 west side.

The Ottawa area has many beautiful butterflies but many of them are not easy to find. We hope to visit the Kemptville area where there are butterflies frequenting the open, prairie type country. You may expect to find two recently recorded species, the Gorgon Checkerspot and the Delaware Skipper as well as the common midsummer butterflies. Do not miss this chance to come out and enjoy these fascinating and beautiful insects as well as to have a lot of fun. Bring along your children, a lunch and a net, if you have one, as well as insect repellent (only for the biting flies!). Please REGISTER BY TELEPHONING THE CLUB NUMBER AT 722-3050 by June 30, so that you can be contacted if the trip has to be rescheduled, or if you need a ride.

Sunday
16 July
1:00 p.m.

FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP

Leader: Bill Arthurs

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

This will be an afternoon general botanical walk along the Dewberry trail in the Mer Bleue Conservation Area.

Participants should expect to see about 25 of the 54 species of ferns and clubmosses known from the Ottawa region.

Sunday
23 July
8:30 a.m.

THE DRAGONS OF MORRIS ISLAND

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Chris Lewis

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

The Odonata comprising the dragonflies and damselflies are an often overlooked and ancient fauna. The Morris Island Conservation Area with its wide expanses of relatively still water continues to be one of the most rewarding places to hunt for these insects. It offers a fantastic variety of species and habitat (55 species have been recorded to date) and promises a good time for all. Once again, join Chris and Bob and your fellow naturalists in exploring for these amazing insects in a stunning natural environment. Bring along a lunch and an insect net, if you have one, and try out your skill in capturing one of these dragons! Again, children are most welcome on this outing.

Saturday
29 July
9:00 a.m.

SHRUBS OF MER BLEUE

Leaders: Albert Dugal and Philip Martin

Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington at Kent Street.

The Mer Bleue Conservation Area is a large wetland complex inhabited by many woody plants and herbs characteristic of fens and bogs. You can easily examine many of these shrubs from the boardwalk which traverses the marsh and compare them with the more familiar plants around the margin. The group should encounter about 55 species during this half-day outing. Please bring along a lunch and any appropriate field guides that you may wish to consult. □

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*. We can accept e-mail, IBM-compatible diskettes, or submissions in traditional form—typed, written, printed or painted!

URL of our site:

<http://www.achilles.net/ofnc/index.htm>



WEBMASTER's e-mail
ofnc@achilles.net

DEADLINE: Material intended for the April- June 2000 issue must be in the editor's hands by May 15, 2000. Mail your manuscripts to:

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ISSN 0041-0748

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and Undeliverable Copies:

Box 35069, Westgate P.O.

Ottawa, K1Z 1A2

Return postage guaranteed

Printed by
LOMOR PRINTERS LTD.