

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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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.

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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Hugette Asselin
Craig Athrens & family
Kathy Bissett
Pat Black
Wendy Booth
Irving Dardick
Lynne Driscoll
Sara Gelfand
Lesley Howes & Vance Trudeau
Sara Jihna
Marcia Jones
Rebecca McNabb
Cynthia Moore
Lilly Ngoc Pham
Sylvia Potvin
Carrie Rabbe
Rick Simison & family
Elly Weisbrot & family
Geoff & Ellen Zeiss

Other Areas

Janet Lowe Sudbury ON

Dave Smythe
Membership Committee
August, 2002

A Tribute to Earl Godfrey

Eric L. Mills



1965 Canadian Museum of Nature (Catalogue number J-18764-2)

W. EARL GODFREY (b. Wolfville, Nova Scotia, 18 March 1910; d. Ottawa, Ontario, 8 June 2002)

(A definitive tribute to Earl Godfrey including an assessment of his scientific work and publications is in preparation for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* by E.L. Bousfield, Michel Gosselin, and Stewart MacDonald. Readers of *Birders Journal* may be interested in my personal assessment.)

Earl Godfrey is best known for his two editions of the great monograph *The Birds of Canada*, authoritative and beautifully illustrated, and a classic since the day of its publication in 1966 (the second, revised, edition appeared in 1986). The great virtues of this masterwork are its absolute accuracy, the information-filled conciseness of its species accounts, the beauty of its illustrations by John Crosby and Stewart MacDonald, and the little, appreciated notes on identification which make it clear that Godfrey was far more than a museum ornithologist. In fact, he was a outstanding field ornithologist with a talent for communicating the intricacies of field identification in writing and in person. And in addition to his accomplishments in *The Birds of Canada*, Earl was author of a series of monographs on regional avifaunas of Canada in a series produced by the (then) National Museum of Canada and in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. All of these led up to what he considered, from the beginning of his career in Ottawa, his life's work, *The Birds of Canada*.

But there was another and less appreciated side to Earl that I can describe. I first met Earl in 1947 or 1948, a recent successor to Percy Taverner (the author of the first *Birds of Canada*, 1934) as the ornithologist of the National Museum of Canada (now the Canadian Museum of Nature), after studying at Western Reserve University under Harry Oberholser. (Earl, like many others, was led to birds as a young man by Robie Tufts of Wolfville, Nova Scotia). I was about 12 years of age and at the beginning of an obsession with birds that continues to this day. As I recall, at that time my father somehow learned that there was an ornithologist at the National Museum, made an appointment, and took me, his bird-obsessed son, to see him. Earl met us in his "office," a bright but incredibly crowded corner on the fourth floor of the old Victoria Memorial Museum building at the end of Metcalfe Street. This began a long series of meetings between us that went on until about 1960, when I left Ottawa to begin graduate studies in the USA.

In the late 1940s Earl was already beginning the careful and intensive work that would lead to his own *The Birds of Canada*, first by bringing Taverner's notes into order, by beginning a series of field trips to all parts of Canada to add information on little-known avifaunas, by working up an impressive card-file (long before computers) of the occurrences of birds in Canada, by developing a network of correspondents throughout the country, and by encouraging birders of all kinds. In addition, there were the many routine tasks of the museum curator, such as working on displays and tending the Museum's bird collections. Quite unheralded, and certainly not encouraged, Earl promoted the exchange of specimens world-wide, so that Canada's national collection, going back to the days of John Macoun, became not just a Canadian one but significant internationally.

In his corner office and in the field, Earl had time for everyone. When I dropped in for a visit he would drop everything and chat for an hour at a time, asking what I had been seeing, giving me identification tips, telling me what he had been hearing from his network of correspondents, and taking me to the trays of study specimens to illustrate points. Later, when I began to travel to remoter parts of Canada, he encouraged me to publish accounts of what I had seen, providing stringent but fair editorial help. I was not alone. Everyone, but especially the young birder like myself, was treated like a special guest. Birding, and the more formal study of birds, took on a special radiance, one that has never faded with me, because of his enthusiasm and encouragement.

In the field, Earl was a master, and certainly would have been a worthy companion to Ludlow Griscom, the legendary field ornithologist of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. Yes, he was a collector, as befitted a museum ornithologist. But he was a superb field ornithologist who actually went birding for recreation, and who, like Griscom, developed field identification (rather than the traditional shotgun variety) to a fine art. He led field trips repeatedly for the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, pointing out with the greatest good cheer the field marks of "difficult" species like Ruby-crowned Kinglet to new birders and the inept. I still recall with the greatest pleasure doing the first Ottawa "Big Day" with Earl and Doug Savile in May of 1959 - no dry-as-dust museum-bound ornithologist there!

So although one can hardly ignore the pioneering importance and continuing significance of his great work *The Birds of Canada*, Earl Godfrey's influence was also wider and more subtle. He was an educator of all those who came to him with a sincere interest in natural history. He had a profound effect on my own interest in birds and I can attest that for several generations of young birders and ornithologists in Canada there has been no one more important. His memorial is his *Birds of Canada*, but equally in the personal legacy he has left us.

Eric L. Mills, Professor of History of Science, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.

Editor's note: W. Earl Godfrey was on our "Golden Anniversary" Membership List having joined the Club in 1947. He was awarded Honorary Membership in our Club in 1976. The editor would like to thank the Canadian Museum of Nature for supplying the photograph used in this article.

Red Squirrel Feeding on Remains of Grey Squirrel

Christine Hanrahan



The Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) is known to be an opportunistic feeder, consuming a variety of invertebrates (Banfield 1974, Sullivan 1991). It is also a significant predator of birds, feeding on a large number of eggs and nestlings (Banfield 1974, Dagg 1974, Dobos 1986, Forsyth 1985). Banfield (1974) suggests that it "will eat practically anything it can catch that will not eat it. It has been known to eat Deer Mice, Meadow Voles, young Cottontails, Robins, Bluebirds, Orioles and Ruffed Grouse." To this list Ellis (1996) adds "seeds, fruit, nuts, bark, buds, shed antlers, reptiles, insects, tree sap, pine cones, fungi (including mushrooms that are poisonous to humans). . ." The Red Squirrel is thus an omnivorous feeder with a wide varied diet. Of the references I searched, only Dagg (1974) notes carrion as a food source, while Sullivan (1991) refers to Red Squirrels as scavengers. I was unable to find reference to Red Squirrels eating Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) either as carrion or preying on live ones.

A few winters ago while walking on the recreational trail in the west end of Ottawa (between Corkstown and Eagleson Roads), I came across a Red Squirrel carrying the hind quarters of a black phase Grey Squirrel. It dropped this item when it saw me and ran up the nearest tree where it waited impatiently until I had examined the remains. When I replaced them on the snow and moved away a short distance, the squirrel quickly retrieved them, returned to its perch and began gnawing away on the legs for at least 10 minutes. It was clearly eating the flesh as well as gnawing on the bones as I was close enough to hear a grinding sound every so often and it sounded much like a dog with a bone. Eventually it moved off, still carrying the hind quarters. I then searched the surrounding



area to see if I could find the remains of the Black Squirrel. I could not, but the incident aroused my curiosity and elicited several questions.

Did the Red Squirrel attack and kill the much bigger Black Squirrel? Or did it come across the animal already dead and take advantage of some readily available food? Are Red Squirrels carrion eaters?

Red Squirrels are feisty, aggressive little animals chasing and sometimes killing anything that gets in their way (Sullivan 1991). However, the Grey Squirrel is considerably bigger than this species, weighing about 520-526 grams compared to 188-193 grams for the Red Squirrel (Banfield 1974). It seems unlikely that the Red Squirrel could attack and kill an animal more than two-and-a-half times its weight, at least not without some serious injury to itself. The squirrel I observed appeared unhurt.

I suspect that the squirrel came across the animal already dead and, given the very prolonged cold spell and deep snow cover at the time of my observation, took advantage of a readily available, if untypical, food source that provided much needed high energy fuel. I wondered if it had consumed more of the squirrel elsewhere and perhaps having been frightened off by something, grabbed part of the remains for eating later.

I'd be pleased to hear about other similar observations, for the incident may not be as isolated as I thought. You may contact me at vanessa@magma.ca.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Jim Robertson for permission to use his great Red Squirrel photo.

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Falcon Watch 2002

Eve Ticknor

This has been a season of ups and downs, starting well before Day 1 of the Watch. The first challenge was finding Horizon's nest! April came and went with no sign of it. Watchers nearby had only fleeting sightings of either Horizon or Connor, our adult Peregrine Falcons. I finally found the nest on May 5th, and confirmed three eggs by May 9th. We were in business!

Horizon chose to lay her eggs on the maintenance ledge at the southeast corner of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, just south of the first column in from that corner. Why was she so much later than usual? It could be that she had tried another location, found it not to her liking, and returned to the familiarity of "her" hotel. We'll never know for sure.

The first and, as it turned out, the only egg hatched June 10th. When it became apparent that the other two eggs weren't hatching, I notified the Canadian Peregrine Foundation, in case they had any appropriately-aged chicks needing a home. They did!

July 3rd - Banding Day! This would be a day to remember, especially for Chris Mikula, photographer for the Ottawa Citizen. Little did he know that his job description would include that of predator, defending himself from the attack of two very angry peregrines! It made for some superb photos.

The two foster chicks, Swift (female) and Grisou (male) were banded along with Horizon's own son, Summit, and all three were photographed prior to being put out on the ledge. The adoption was instantaneously successful!

Finally July 10th arrived, the beginning of our Falcon Watch. And, what a cold, windy day it was. Over the course of the next week we watched Swift and Summit exercising on the upper edge of their nest ledge. Grisou, being younger, wasn't ready for his appearance just yet.

Nine days later, both Summit and Swift took their first flights. Now our real work began. The first was Summit whose flight took him to the east side of the Centertown Place apartments on Slater St. near Lyon St. Here Jim O'Neil and I spent the next three hours watching as he alternated between resting and flapping, making his way down a series of window ledges until he was within a safe range for me to capture him.

I took him up to the nest ledge, whereupon he immediately took off for the top of Place de Ville's Tower A. He did not need further rescuing.

Meanwhile Swift had also taken off, unnoticed! It took several hours of searching, but she was found by a couple of employees in Tower C who saw her on the 2-story Podium Building on Queen St. There she stayed until the following afternoon, when her next attempt at flight landed her on the top of the wall around the Terrace at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (where, again, she stayed until the middle of the next day).

That evening we were treated to a spectacle never before seen in Ottawa. Around 8:00 p.m. Horizon suddenly flew down to land on the wall next to Swift and gave her half a pigeon! The next day Swift took off, this time bumping into Constitution Square's Tower 1. Her rescue was carried out by Gord McLean.

A few days later Swift again needed rescuing from Slater St., this time by Steve Farkas. All this while, Summit was busy practicing his landing techniques on various building tops. Neither were rescued again.

Concern now turned to Grisou, whose development seemed to be much slower than that of his siblings. For quite a while he sported a spectacular coat of white down with very dark "chevrons" on his back. It seemed to take much longer for his feathering to come in. On the 25th Tony Beck, while on roof duty, had a good look at him. He noticed a problem with his right eye and that he seemed to be having a breathing problem. The next day, Marcel Gahbauer joined Tony on the roof for some more observation. They were concerned at his lack of activity together with his other problems.

After much consultation, it was decided that a rescue attempt should be made in order to bring Grisou to the vet. This attempt was carried out by Marcel, and Leslie Hunt of the MNR, both knowing the great risk that Grisou would try to fly. Unfortunately he tried. He had a good, but brief flight before he landed on the terrace of Constitution Square. He was found dead by Roseanne Bishop, Daryl Seip, Jim O'Neil and John Harris (Security). To date the cause of his death is unknown. Although everyone was greatly saddened by his death, we still had two other chicklets to look after. Summit continued to improve his landings and other flight skills, while it took Swift a bit longer.

And so, we passed the last few days, watching our two chicklets in the skies, revelling in what their wings could do - playing talon tag, giving chase, knocking each other off Tower C's antenna, and knowing that they had no more need of us, as it should be!

The list of people to thank is endless, from all the support from people living and working in the area, to visitors from afar, to encouragement over the internet.

I give my wholehearted thanks to Terry Higgins and Susan Goods who engineered the volunteer schedules, and especially to Susan who took over for a week while I had to be away.

A big Thanks to Leslie Hunt for heading the Flagging Project on the C D Howe Building at 240 Sparks St, to Daryl Seip who gave much support during my absence, and to Marcel Gahbauer who spent many hours doing both.

Thank you to:

- * Dr. Tracey Poulton of Lynwood Animal Clinic for her assistance with Grisou;
- * Matthew McNaughton, Peter Stinson and the staff of the Crowne Plaza Hotel for hosting the Banding Ceremony, and assisting with the return of our chicklets to their ledge;
- * Ian Fisher, Yvon Morin and staff of the Constitution Square, especially John Harris and his Security staff for hosting the Orientation evening, and for assisting our volunteers;
- * The Ottawa Citizen, especially Chris Mikula, Zev Singer, Graham Hughes and Heather Bishop for marvelous coverage;
- * the staff at the Delta Hotel, including Diane Michaud for helping locate Swift; Christie Tamara and Bob Staples of Public Works for helping locate Swift; the commissionaires at Transport Canada for making sure their roof was safe for Summit;
- * Bill Riseborough for making our own falcon rescue box;
- * Frank Cestnik of ScotiaMcLeod and Norm LeCouvie of Sun Microsystems for new vantage points to watch and photograph our chicklets;
- * Jeannine Rumac of Centertown Place for making the capture of Summit possible;
- * the Constitution Square, Minto and the C S Co-op for our free parking;
- * Sandy Garland, our OFNC Webmistress, for all her postings;
- * Elizabeth LeGeyt for her support and updates in her weekly newspaper column;
- * Larry Neily for his postings on his website;
- * Arlene Williams and Nathaleigh McKenna Rochon for their daily updates year round and Nathaleigh's poem for Grisou;
- * Ashley Sokalski and Shannon Stone for assistance to the Co-ordinator.

The following were also instrumental in the Flagging Project at 240 Sparks:

- * Antonietta Peccia, Bernard Coulombe, Ross Chamberlain, Pierre Boucher and Jeff Bourgoyne of Brookfield Lepage Johnson Controls;
- * Andre Provost of Lundy Construction;
- * Keefe Primett and Joe Malone of Tempest;

- * Greg Cantrell of Jacques-Whitford Environmental;
- * Mark Nash of Canadian Peregrine Foundation;
- * Ross Hunter with Pud Hunter, Fiona Walker, Corey VanEs, Christie Curley, Brian Bezaire, Mel Radder, Ryan Robson, Al Hart and David Critchlow of the Ministry of Natural Resources;
- * Phil Maillard, Roseanne Bishop, Nancy Scott and Eve Ticknor, volunteers.

I also give a Huge Thank You to all our volunteers who put in over 1072 hours on shift! They were so dedicated that many stopped by when not on shift and stayed to help or who gave that one extra shift when called upon. They make each year possible.

In alphabetical order our volunteers were: Nel Ahmed, Pauline Aubertin, Micheline Beaulieu-Bouchard, Tony Beck, Claudette Bernatchez, Marian Bird, Roseanne Bishop, Celia Bodnar, Bill Bower, Art Bowker, David Burgess, Margaret Burgess, Barbara Chouinard, Ryan Clancy, Chrystal Coté, Gayle Duggan, Catherine Dumouchel, Stephen Farkas, Cathy Ferguson, Marcel Gahbauer, Susan Goods, Claire Haas, Jill Hawkins, Steven Heiter, Mark Hickman, Terry Higgins, Ron Hoffe, Lesley Howes, Ruth Hutchinson, Peter Iburg, Ian Jeffrey, Gregory Kam, Justin Kam, Meghan Kelly, Denise Killick, Marylou Kingsbury, Warren Kingsbury, Mickey Kostove, Maria Koulis, Karen Krzwzewski, Bernie Ladouceur, Danielle Lamarche, Gabriela Lartigue, Bonnie Mabee, Phil Maillard, Nadia Martin, Nathalie Martin, Marlene Mayfield, Bev McBride, Gordon McLean, Maxine McLean, Lorraine Montoya, Cynthia Moore, Cathie Morris, Garnet Muething, Jim O'Neil, Karen Palmer, Mike Passmore, Frank Pope, Rémy Poulin, Jack Ricou, Bob Roach, Dave Robinson, Natalie Rodrigue, Giselle Sadik, Renata Sander-Regier, Jim Sauer, Gerry Scarcella, Nancy Scott, Colin Selby, Heather Shaw, Michel Simard, Langis Sirois, Laura Smyk, John Sullivan, Dahlia Tanasoiu, Eve Ticknor, Christine Timmermans, Gilles Vautour, Laurie Wood, Jean Wylie, Nick Zeis.

Prescription For a Healthy Jock

Part 3:

I. Ecology

Charles Billington
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

The Jock River watershed is the major watercourse in the western part of the new City of Ottawa. It harbours some amazing habitats, wetlands, plant and animal species. According to the *Jock River Watershed Management Plan*, many of these need more study to be fully evaluated. But we do know that the general ecological conditions within the watershed vary from good in the headwaters section to poor in the lower sections between Richmond and the Rideau River. This decreased environmental health is attributed to a lack of forest cover, loss of riparian habitat, channelization of water courses and an almost 100% loss of wetlands in the lower reaches.

These general conditions have a strong influence on the distribution and diversity of species in the watershed. Such a pattern is common to many watersheds but is particularly apparent in the Jock where important agricultural activity and much new industrial and residential development are in progress.

Forests cover about 33% of the watershed with the largest areas occurring in the upper headwater areas. Within the City of Ottawa, forests are, for the most part, represented by small scattered woodlots. Of the twelve provincially rare animal species found in the valley, most are dependent on the wetland habitats for survival. Fourteen provincially significant plants have been recorded in the watershed including Prairie White Fringed Orchid, Ginseng and Pinedrops as well as many more regionally significant species such as the Northern Bog Violet, the Mingan Moonwort and the Checkered Rattlesnake-Plantain. The Ministry of Natural Resources has identified 14 Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs) in the watershed, most related to wetland features.

The diversity of fish species is relatively high at the mouth of the river with 30 species. The numbers decrease as you move upstream. Below Ashton, 15 species have been recorded while above Ashton the number of species is 18. Many critical fish spawning areas have been identified on the Jock. Walleye, Muskellunge, Smallmouth Bass and White Sucker are all known to spawn in the Jock. MNR classifies the Jock River and

its tributaries as a warmwater fishery. The most common sport fish in the main reaches of the Jock is the Northern Pike. The presence of Muskellunge is significant since the Jock is the only natural small "Muskie" stream in southeastern Ontario.



Mingan Moonwort (Botrychium minganense)
from Cody & Britton, *Ferns and Fern Allies*
of Canada

There remain many gaps in our knowledge of the complex ecology of the Jock watershed. Insects, birds, algae, macro-invertebrates, molluscs, aquatic plants all need comprehensive study. Much has been accomplished through the Canadian Museum of Nature's huge *Rideau River Biodiversity Project*. A team of professional scientists with help from community volunteers studied the biodiversity of the Rideau for three years ending in 2001. Much of the project information is now up on an amazing website at www.nature.ca/rideau for your review.

We know that the watershed and particularly the lower reaches (below Richmond) are under stress from loss and fragmentation of forest cover, loss of wetlands, deteriorated water quality, loss and degradation of riparian habitat and urbanization. The *Jock River Watershed Management Plan* lays out a three-year community work plan to start the process of rehabilitation and protection of the integrity of the watershed environment. By community I mean the full range of residents, families, private groups, agencies, government partners, community associations and business groups that have an interest in the continued good health of the valley.

The Plan calls for an initial slate of projects estimated to cost \$386,500 to start the flora and fauna management program. It identifies a number of action priorities. But

Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

The Awards Committee

It is time to think back and consider those OFNC members (and, in one case, even non-members) who, by virtue of their special efforts and talents, are deserving of special recognition. The Club has six awards: Honorary Membership, Member of the Year Award, George McGee Service Award, Conservation Award for OFNC Members, Conservation Award for Non-members, and the Anne Hanes Natural History Award. An elaboration of each of these categories is presented in this centre-fold, together with space to put the nominee's name and accomplishments. (Additional sheets can be used if needed.) If necessary, the Awards Committee will seek out more information on individuals nominated, but of course, the more information you provide, the easier it is for the committee to make a decision.

An informative article on the background of these awards, and a list of recent recipients, was published in Volume 33, Number 4, of *Trail & Landscape*. Last year's awardees were highlighted in the previous issue of *T&L* (vol. 36, number 3).

The deadline for the submission of nominations is December 15th, 2002.
Nominate as many individuals as you like, but be sure to give your reasons.

Return the nomination form to:

OFNC Awards Committee
P.O. Box 35069
Westgate P.O.
Ottawa, ON K1Z 1A2

If you have any questions regarding the nominations, feel free to contact Irwin Brodo, the Chair of the Awards Committee, at 723-2054, or fbrodo@cyberus.ca.

NOMINATION FORM FOR AWARDS

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

In the appropriate spaces please submit the names of those you wish to nominate for OFNC awards and your reasons for each nomination. The more information you provide, the more effective will be the assessment of nominees. Attach additional information if the space is inadequate. Nominations may be made for more than one person. The Awards Committee may contact you for further information regarding any of your nominations.

Name of Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

HONORARY MEMBER: This award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions by a member, or non-member, to Canadian natural history or to the successful operation of the Club. [Usually people awarded an honorary membership have made extensive contributions over many years. At present honorary membership is limited to 25 people.]

Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination _____

MEMBER OF THE YEAR: In recognition of the member judged to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year. [Members of the Executive are excluded from consideration.]

Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination _____

GEORGE MCGEE SERVICE AWARD: In recognition of a member or members who has (have) contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years. [Members of the Executive are excluded from consideration.]

Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination _____

ANNE HANES NATURAL HISTORY AWARD: In recognition of a member who, through independent study or investigation, has made a worthwhile contribution to our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural history of the Ottawa Valley. [The award is designed to recognize work that is done by amateur naturalists.]

Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination _____

CONSERVATION AWARD - MEMBER: In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a member (or group of members) in the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley, with particular emphasis on activities within the Ottawa District. [The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower in Ottawa.]

Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination _____

CONSERVATION AWARD - NON - MEMBER: In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a non-member (or group of non-members) in the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley, with particular emphasis on activities within the Ottawa District. [The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower in Ottawa.]

Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination _____

the primary recommendation is the replanting, rehabilitation and enhancement of the impoverished riparian vegetation zone along the river especially in the area below Richmond. This is where the war will be won or lost on the Jock. Conservationists know this area as part of the "Ribbon of Life"- the narrow band of land and the shallow water area where the water meets the shore. Scientists tell us that 90% of life forms in the watershed need a healthy ribbon of life at one point or another in their life cycle. Degradation of this ribbon is the first step towards loss of biodiversity. Of course, renaturalization of the ribbon has many other benefits for the environment such as erosion control and protection against pollutants or chemicals running in from the land. The Plan calls for a big stewardship effort to promote planting of native species of shrubs, trees and ground cover in the riparian zone. Further, the river and the tributaries need to be surveyed as to the extent and density of existing riparian vegetation with an eye to identifying target areas for replanting work.

Private landowners, the City of Ottawa, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), the Friends of the Jock River, and the provincial ministries all have key roles to play in working towards well-dressed waterfronts all along the river. The other major initiative for biodiversity protection is the recommendation to select a set of appropriate "indicator" fish and wildlife species and start monitoring those indicators on a regular, long term basis. If the indicators show signs of decreasing, it would be an early warning that the species are under stress and possible corrective measures could be taken.

II. Sustainable Land Use

Most people would agree that the single most influential factor in the health of a watershed is the type of land use that goes on there. This is definitely the case in the Jock River watershed in the western section of the new City of Ottawa. What happens on the land has a direct impact on the health of the river.

The Jock watershed is primarily a rural area with approximately 85% of the land designated as either Agricultural or Rural in official plans. The main farming areas are in the middle and lower sections of the river while the headwater lands are largely marginal farmland and forest. While there are a few villages in the upper and middle watershed (Ashton, Franktown, Munster), all of the large scale urban developments are in the lower reaches around Stittsville, Richmond, Barrhaven and the South Urban Community. Not surprisingly, the general ecological conditions within the watershed vary from good in the headwaters section to poor in the lower sections between Richmond and the Rideau River. The poorer environmental health is attributed to a loss of forest cover, loss of riparian habitat, channelization of watercourses and the

almost complete elimination of wetlands in the lower reaches.

Land use issues in the watershed include: 1) the different Official Plan designations and policies of the former five townships, two cities and one Region within the watershed (now being slowly harmonized within the new City of Ottawa), 2) a consistent decrease in the number and area of farms in the watershed, 3) the complex situation around stormwater management and sewage treatment, 4) the fact that presently 8,500 people are dependent on watershed groundwater for their drinking water and a major urban expansion is occurring in the south Nepean which will bring 60,000 new people to this watershed, 5) the evolving agricultural scene fired by the nutrient management discussions at the provincial level and biosolids discussion at the municipal level, 6) the large and active mineral aggregate industry in the watershed, and 7) the presence of the primary landfill site for the City of Ottawa draining, eventually, through dewatering ponds and surface swales into the Jock River.

Is it possible to improve or even maintain the current health of the Jock River watershed in the face of all of these changes?

The *Jock River Watershed Management Plan* says that with co-operation among all stakeholders, a little bit of money and some hard work, the answer is yes. Sustainable land use and healthy watersheds go together like sustainable regular exercise and healthy people. There is no reason why the Jock River should not improve in general health with the three year work plan laid out in the Watershed Plan. It identifies about \$235,000 of watershed health protection work in the area of Sustainable Land Use. The plan includes: promoting the use of environmental stewardship programs in the farming community (City of Ottawa and Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Programs, Environmental Farm Plans), doing a Riparian Corridor Project with a draft set of specific stewardship land use policies for discussion among landowners and city council, the preparation of development opportunity mapping to steer urban expansion away from sensitive environmental areas, the preparation of subwatershed plans on Flowing Creek and others with specific restoration/conservation strategies for smaller areas (the Master Drainage Plans for the South Urban Community act collectively as a subwatershed plan for the lower reach), and the effective enforcement of septic system regulations possibly including mandatory re-inspection programs on sale of property. In other words, thoughtful consistent preventative work along the Jock will slowly start creating the healthy watershed we all want. Just as consistent, sustainable exercise slowly brings about its results.

Land use is changing in the Jock watershed. Our "land use, planning and development" thinking and actions must change accordingly so that whatever happens on the land does not end up affecting the health of the Jock River. In combination with the other parts of the *Jock River Watershed Management Plan* (summarized for you in

the last four issues of *T&L*), we now have a roadmap for protecting the long term health of this beautiful river. The six major parts of the Watershed Action Plan are water quality, water quantity, community awareness, groundwater, ecology and land use. The Watershed Plan is a major achievement; all people with a stake in the health of the river (including residents, landowners, municipal representatives, environmental groups, farmers, government officials and business leaders) can now turn to a shared community document and work list that will lead to solid, healthy management of the Jock River into the future. It's time for us all to roll up our sleeves and start ticking our way down the list.

This is the final instalment in the summary series presented here in the pages of *Trail & Landscape*. It is a sincere pleasure to thank the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and *T&L* editor Karen Hamilton for their interest in getting the *Jock River Watershed Management Plan* story to the attention of the readers. I would invite anyone who wants to peruse the entire document and accompanying maps to visit the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca and find it under the Watershed Programs menu.

Bog Fund Raising Campaign - An Interim Report

Frank Pope

The main thrust of the campaign was a letter from President Eleanor Zurbrigg to every OFNC member in Canada, appealing for donations to support the acquisition of land in Alfred Bog. It is rare for the Club to solicit funds directly from members, the previous occasion being in 1988 when another major purchase of land in the bog was made. A reminder appeared in *T&L* a few weeks later in the form of a centre fold and an article on OFNC participation in protecting Alfred Bog. Julie Perrault's benefit concert at Rasputin's in August was fun and raised a significant amount of money.

At mid August, I am pleased to report that 210 donors have contributed over \$24,000. What a great start to the campaign. Thank you all.

Although the option to purchase this block of land expires in October, it is never too late to make a donation. In the event that we do not raise the full amount by the deadline, the Nature Conservancy of Canada hopes to arrange bridge funding to give us more time.

In the next issue of *T&L* I hope to present a full report on the campaign.

Book Review: Ontario Wildflowers. 101 Wayside Flowers.

Stephen Darbyshire



Kershaw, Linda. 2002 Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton. 144 pp. \$16.95.

This book is another in a wonderful series of natural history books by Lone Pine Publishing. Designed to be a handy non-technical guide for eager but uninitiated botanists, it is also a fascinating source of information to those familiar with many of our common plants. It is quite amazing how much information is packed into the slim, easily carried volume.

The title "*Ontario Wildflowers*" is a bit misleading since the book covers mostly common (often alien) plants that one encounters along roadsides, vacant lots and other disturbed areas. But the subtitle, "*101 Wayside Flowers*" clarifies the focus of the book. When trying to produce a book that includes some plants but not others the author is always faced with terrible decisions as to what to include and what to leave out. No two people would ever come up with the same list. Consequently I found some plants puzzling in their presence (e.g., Buckbean) and others conspicuous in their absence (e.g., New England Aster and the Chickweeds). For the most part, the species chosen are those most likely to be encountered without deliberate searching, the plants you can't help but see.

There are a number of sections to the book. Right at the beginning is a 5-page colour guide to flowers which sorts thumbnail pictures of all the plants by flower colour. A clever idea to give users a quick visual tool for identification. Following the colour guide is an introduction that covers some important basics and background including flower structure, tips for identification, noxious weeds, poisonous (or harmful) plants and information on pressing plants. Since many people enjoy picking wildflowers for decorative purposes, a very useful part of the introduction is a section with recommendations on picking wildflowers which explains why picking some species may be harmful to the plants or the picker. Specific recommendations on the "pickability" of each is given later in the species accounts and the reader is encouraged to freely pick any species that are abundant and non-native weeds. After the introduction is a dichotomous key illustrated with simple, but clear line drawings. The key does not identify individual species, but only goes as far as groups of 4 to 6 species. Even so, this additional tool for identification is a very useful way to narrow down the possibilities when trying to put a name on a plant at hand.

The species are divided into 5 colour-coded sections, depending on the flower and/or inflorescence structure (not the flower colour) and each of the 101 species has a full page devoted to them. Two colour photographs, a habit picture and a closeup of the flower, are provided. There are always compromises to be made in the illustration of plants. Whether one chooses to use photographs or drawings there are always details that are not well illustrated and/or confusing to the uninitiated. In this book I found it unfortunate that in some cases leaves are not well illustrated in the photographs, however, the clear and detailed illustration of the flowers certainly mitigates any lack of leaf images. Both the photographs and the reproductions are of excellent quality. A short description (including leaf structure and arrangement) is included with some general notes on habitat and distribution. Of greatest interest to most readers will be the general chatty notes which begin each species account and cover all kinds of interesting information such as various uses, name etymology, weediness and tidbits on ecology.

Although the book tries to be as non-technical as possible, some terminology and

specialized use of words is unavoidable. An illustrated glossary provides easily understood explanations of the terms used. Along with the glossary is a list of publications for further reading which includes several important and comprehensive identification guides. A few titles are notably absent, such as Jack Alex's *Weeds of Ontario*. Although, as it is temporarily out-of-print, it may have been deliberately excluded; I was surprised not to find it. There is also a one-page checklist of species near the end which seems to serve little value, but may be fun to use for the novice plant hunter.

The softcover book is rugged and printed on heavy, water-resistant paper so that it will stand up to the rigours of field use. The book may be aimed at an Ontario audience, but it is equally useful in southern Quebec and even into the Atlantic Provinces. For those seeking a guide to native plants of woodlands and specialized habitats, this will be a disappointment, yet it is an excellent introduction to the "wildflowers" which are commonly encountered along roadsides, vacant lots, old fields and disturbed habitats throughout most of the province. Congratulations to Linda Kershaw for producing a useful guide that will undoubtedly kindle an interest in botany for many without being overwhelming, and to Lone Pine for producing another high quality, yet very affordable, product.

For those wishing to view the book, the review copy will be placed in the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Library.

Information Requested Concerning the Richmond Lagoons

Eric Snyder

The Friends of the Jock River is interested in receiving information relating to fauna and flora observed at the Richmond Conservation Area (still known to many as the Richmond Lagoons). We desire records of observations made from between the present and the time when the Richmond Lagoons were initially put into operation, (i.e., sometime in the late 1960's or early 1970's. If possible, records should include an identification of observed organisms to species, numbers observed, the date of the observation, and an indication of the location within the conservation area where the observation was made. For bird species, records of breeding evidence would also be desirable. Please send information to Eric Snyder at easnyder32@hotmail.com.

Annual Fall and Christmas Bird Count

Chris Lewis

Fall Bird Count

The OFNC's 8th annual Fall Bird Count will take place from 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 19 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 20. This count encompasses the entire 50 km Ottawa District, which for the purposes of this count is divided into four sectors: two in Ontario and two in Quebec. The Fall Bird count has produced some excellent bird sightings over the years, as well as an interesting picture of what is out there in our region in mid-fall. . . but the "prime directive" of this event is to have fun. It is not necessary to go birding for the entire 24 hour period, a half day's participation is fine. All that is needed is some familiarity with identifying common bird species as well as an effort to count and take notes of bird numbers. Each sector has a leader who will give direction concerning areas to be covered and collect species totals and numbers of each species counted.

Then after all the field work, participants are invited to partake in some warm food and hot or cold beverages (at no cost) during the post count compilation at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday October 20.

Anyone interested in counting birds in Quebec, please contact Daniel St-Hilaire at 776-0860. For the Ottawa side, contact Eve Ticknor at 737-7551 or by email at sandbird@magma.ca. Daniel and Eve will contact the appropriate sector leaders who will in turn contact you.

Christmas Bird Count

This year's Ottawa - Gatineau Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday December 15. Contact Daniel St-Hilaire if you wish to bird on the Quebec side and Eve Ticknor for Ontario (the contact numbers are listed above). The Dunrobin-Breckenridge Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday December 28. Please register with Bruce Di Labio at 839-4395 or bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca.

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Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

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

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and 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 Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, 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. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until 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 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Saturday
5 October
10:00 a.m.

AUTUMN FLOWERS

Leader: Albert Dugal

Meet: South Gloucester at Blossom Park in the White Rose parking lot near Giant Tiger.

Come and see these late bloomers, mostly Asters and Goldenrods.

The various species can be difficult to tell apart, so here is your chance to learn them from a pro! Back issues of *T&L* 24(4):114-121 on Goldenrods and *T&L* 29(3):89-99 on Asters would be useful.

Bring a snack for this approximately 3-hour trip.

Tuesday
8 October
7:00 p.m.
Social

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING THE RIVERKEEPER PROJECT

Speaker: Dan Brunton

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

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

The Ottawa River is our most important natural feature, with more volume than all the rivers of western Europe combined. We have exploited and physically abused this river; vast sections of shoreline are severely degraded and much of the waterway is undrinkable - even unswimable. The recently-formed *Ottawa Riverkeeper* initiative has developed a program and secured the funding to remedy this situation. You are invited to hear Ottawa Riverkeeper President Dan Brunton describe why the Ottawa is worthy of such an effort and how this exciting new conservation initiative will dramatically enhance ecological protection and pollution prevention along the river, and how in the process, it may dramatically change the way we undertake natural environment protection in the Ottawa Valley and beyond.

Saturday
12 October
10:00 a.m.

MUSHROOM HUNTING

Meet: At the exit to Vars on Hwy 417 going east to Montreal.

Leaders: Mycologues Amateurs de l'Outouais

Join the Mycologues Amateurs de l'Outouais on a visit to the Larose Forest and meet the experts who can identify mushrooms and other fungi in the field. The Larose Forest contains large plantations of pines and other conifers which are good hosts for many large fungi. This forest is usually wet at this time of the year. This is your chance to learn about mushrooms and their allies, both edible and poisonous!

Saturday
19 October
3:00 p.m.
to
Sunday
20 October
3:00 p.m.

THE 2002 OTTAWA - HULL FALL BIRD COUNT

This annual one day event promises to be a lot of fun for both the professional and the amateur birders. Participants need not attend the entire 24 hour period. The day will end with a warm meal and drinks. Further information can be found on page of this issue of *T&L*.

Sunday
20 October
9:00 a.m.

FALL BIRDS II

Leader: Roy John

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the mall parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Participants will visit several locales in the Ottawa area. During this outing we will look for waterfowl and other migrating species. Bring a snack and a warm drink.

Sunday
10 November
10:00 a.m.

NATURE IN NOVEMBER

Leader: Geoff Burbridge

Meet: Gatineau Visitor's Centre (Take Hwy. 5 north, exit at Old Chelsea, turn left, then right on Scott Rd. The Visitor Centre will be on your left.)

Many think of November as a dreary time of the year when most animals have either migrated south or are preparing to hibernate. With keen observation, however, and a little luck you will be amazed at what can be found. Brave the early morning cold and discover what "lurks" in the wild at this time of the year. Bring lunch, warm clothing and good footwear.

Tuesday
12 November
7:00 p.m.
Social

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

FUN AMONG THE FUNGI

Speaker: Paola MacQuarie

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

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Found in between wilderness and civilization, mushrooms are not totally wild. They rely on humans and animals to move and to propagate. They are associated with several animals such as bears which feed on them, and also with various human activities. Paola spent her early years in Italy where she participated in mushroom hunting which is a well-developed tradition in that country. After arriving in Canada in 1984, she was able to renew her interest in our local forests. She will illustrate some of the important local mushrooms and show how they may be recognized.

Sunday
24 November
1:00 p.m.

BEHIND THE SCENES MUSEUM VISIT TO THE EOBM

Leader: Fenja Brodo

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the mall parking lot, junction of Richmond Road and Assaly Road.

The Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum (EOBM) in Kemptville invites you "backstage" to explore the rich collections of birds, mammals, invertebrates and plants housed in this unique museum. On display will be a new exhibit entitled "Master Carvers" featuring David Johnson's work complemented by nature's carvers, the Beaver, Pileated and other woodpeckers and additional surprises. The Limerick Forest diorama and other exhibits will also be on display.

Thursday
5 December
7:00 a.m.

WINTER BIRDS III

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Tim Horton's at the west end of Carling, near The Coliseum (formerly the Britannia movie theatres)

This outing will give everyone a chance to observe birds that stay over the winter as well as some lingering fall migrants. Bruce will likely visit the Lake Ducharme and part of the western section of the Ottawa River. Bring a snack, a drink and dress warmly.

Tuesday
10 December
7:00 p.m.
Social

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Speaker: Bruce Di Labio

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

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Bruce will give a history of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), will explain the nature of these counts and evaluate the trends and changes over the last 70 years. He will also give some useful information on identifying probable and potential species. People who may be interested in joining either or both the bird counts later this month will find this talk very informative.

Sunday
15 December

OTTAWA - HULL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Were you inspired by Bruce's talk and would like to try this annual event, or are you an avid participant? Brave the cold and join fellow birders on this annual count. Further details and contact numbers are outlined on page 153 of this issue of *T&L*.

Sunday
15 December
9:00 a.m.

BIRDS ALONG THE RIVER

Leader: Marc Garbaugh

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Many birds, including gulls and waterfowl, remain in the Ottawa area over the winter. During this outing you will discover those species which choose to stay along Ottawa's shores. Bring something to eat, a warm drink and be sure to dress warmly.

Sunday **DUNROBIN - BRECKENRIDGE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
28 December Here is another opportunity to participate in this annual event. Come out and see many of our winter residents. Check out page 153 of this issue of *T&L* for further details and the person to contact.

Tuesday **OFNC 124th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**
14 January **Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and
7:00 p.m. McLeod Streets.
Social At this meeting the Council for 2003 will be elected and a brief
review of the activities during 2002 will be given. There will also be
7:30 p.m. a statement of the Club's finances. Following the formal portion of
Formal the meeting, there will be an entertaining talk by Roy John, Chair of
program Excursion and Lectures committee, entitled "Bizarre Moments."
Everyone is welcome, in fact encouraged to attend.

Sunday **WINTER BIRDS**
19 January **Leader:** Ken Allison
9:00 a.m. **Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the
parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
Ken offers a full day outing to observe a number of birds that stay
over the winter. Gulls, waterfowl and other seasonal species in the
vicinity of Ottawa will be seen. Bring a snack and a drink, and be
sure to dress warmly.

DEADLINE: *Material intended for the January - March 2003 issue must be in the editor's hands by November 1, 2002. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Karen McLachlan Hamilton
2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON K2J 4S7
H: (613) 838-4943 e-mail: hamilton@storm.ca

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 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/>

WEBMASTER's e-mail
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