

# TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



T R A I L & L A N D S C A P E

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THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB  
- Founded 1879 -

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse 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*, devoted to publishing research in natural history. *TRAIL & LANDSCAPE*, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members.  
See inside back cover.

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# TRAIL *&* *Landscape*

Published by

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

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## DO YOUR THING -- BUT DO IT BETTER

To achieve better natural environments, we must become better naturalists!

This is the inescapable conclusion reached by a group of Toronto naturalists working to preserve and improve natural areas within their city. They have found that their most effective tool in making the political process work for them is knowledge: their own special expertise as naturalists. A brief case history is given in "Urban Biology: The Ravines of Toronto", a paper given by Stewart Hilts at the Canadian Nature Federation Annual Conference last August.

The Toronto Ravine Survey grew out of the concern of one member of the Toronto Field-Naturalists' Club for the deterioration of one small ravine park. When the Environmental Committee of the TFNC presented a report on it, "reaction was very positive, with numerous favourable letters, and a winter works program by the City Parks Department to correct the erosion problem - they had never had such useful input from local citizens!" With this encouragement a program was launched to gather information on many other ravines. Material was prepared to assist amateur 'raviners' to assess ecological quality, and a workshop was held. Hilts observes, "The project serves Club members by making basic biological field-work the focus of our political action. Not only does this enhance our political position on many issues; it also makes the best use of that particular expertise which amateur naturalists possess - skill in field biology and ecology."

The Toronto workers were surprised to find, in view of the number of members, so few good amateur botanists, ornithologists, and other experts "...in this very area where we could make the greatest contribution, few have the basic knowledge in biology to be able to help."

Does this have a familiar ring? In T & L we have repeatedly published appeals to club members to supply basic natural history information to the Natural Areas Inventory, for purposes similar to the Toronto Ravine Survey. The response has been underwhelming, to say

the least. Looking at the observation from Toronto, one might conclude that we are simply lacking enough experts. The Ottawa club, however, is particularly rich in experts; I dare say we have more professional natural scientists per head than any other field-naturalists' club in the country. Our dismal showing cannot be due to a lack of experts, but may in fact be a consequence of having so many! I suspect that when our appeals for help in assessing natural areas are read, many club members feel that their own contributions cannot possibly be worthwhile - "with so many experts in the Club, of what use is my little bit?"

This is the notion that must be shot down if our club is to achieve anything important in conservation of natural areas. We need to overcome both an unhelpful awe of professional expertise, and a false modesty about our own capacities in assessing natural areas. Professionals are too few even in our club (and too busy) to make enough field observations to get a useful inventory off the ground; their logical role is to interpret the data that come in. Non-professional club members must gather the field data, if they are to be gathered at all, and must ensure that they are adequate in quantity and quality.

How can we improve our performance? We can

- improve our understanding of the basic ideas of ecology and natural history through reading, lectures, workshops
- observe keenly and carefully whenever we are outdoors; try to relate our book learning to what we find there
- report observations (rare plants, notable trees, bird breeding areas, deer yards, other mammals, attractive natural areas, etc) to other club members who may use the information in a project, or add it to our 'corporate knowledge'; in particular to the Conservation Committee (chairman Allan Reddoch 749-5363).
- try not to reject or ignore observations because they seem unimportant at the time; their relevance or significance may only emerge when the total picture comes into focus.

... A. H.



THE **Slender Cliff-brake**

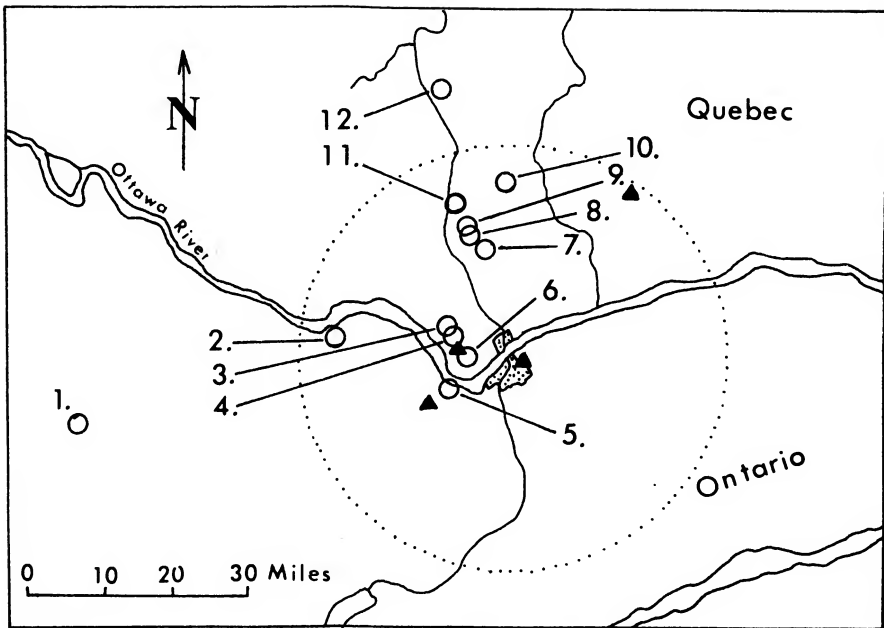
IN THE OTTAWA - HULL DISTRICT

D.F. Brunton and J.D. Lafontaine

The Slender Cliff-brake (Cryptogramma stelleri (Gmel) Prantl) is an inconspicuous little fern which is usually found on moist, shaded, calcareous ledges and cracks on cliff-faces, or on the earthen debris at the top of a cliff talus. As these areas are often not the easiest of places to get at, not many people have seen it in the Ottawa-Hull District, and it has traditionally been considered rare here. If you do come across it, however, you may just see hundreds...even thousands of fronds at a time. It frequently grows in dense mats which can completely fill all the available space at a site.

This Cliff-brake is a circumboreal species, occurring across North America from Alaska to Newfoundland and southward along the Appalachian Mountains. In the east it tends to be locally common in scattered localities. It is described as rare in The Ferns of the Ottawa District (Cody 1956), being known from only four locations. Today, that situation is dramatically different.

In 1968, Dr. W.G. Dore of the Biosystematics Research Institute found a small station at the Lafleche Caverns (Station 7 on map). Since 1971, 11 additional stations have been discovered. These include two (Stations 2 and 5) near Ottawa (Gillett 1971) and one near Mont Ste. Marie (Station 12) which was discovered by David White of Ottawa. The remainder were found by the authors, including the first record for the county of Renfrew (Station 1). Although most stations contain anywhere from a few to several thousand fronds, Stations 10 and 12 have many thousands of fronds.



▲ Stations reported in The Ferns of the Ottawa District

#### NEW STATIONS

- 1 on marble hilltop at Mountain Chute Dam, Calabogie, Renfrew Co., Ont.
- 2 on limestone ledges at Fitzroy Harbour, Ontario (Gillett 1971)
- 3 on gneissic cliff  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of Champlain Lookout, Gatineau Park, Que.
- 4 on gneissic cliff below Champlain Lookout, Gatineau Park, Que.
- 5 on limestone ledge, South March, Ont. (Gillett 1971)
- 6 near top of large calcareous cliff  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of King Mtn., Gatineau Park, Que.
- 7 on calcareous rock-face at Lafleche Caverns, Gatineau Co., Que.
- 8 on gneissic cliff near Wilson's Corners, Quebec (Brunton 1972)
- 9 on gneissic cliff near Wilson's Corners, Quebec (Brunton 1972)
- 10 on marble cliff 2 miles southwest of Poltimore, Gatineau Co., Que.
- 11 on marble cliff on east side Gatineau River, 6 miles north of Farrelton, Que.
- 12 on calcareous cliff at Lac Ste. Marie Ski Resort, Gatineau Co., Que.

Cobb (1956) states that the Slender Cliff-brake "...hides in deep moist shade and its few small delicate-green sterile fronds wither and disappear in the early summer. The fragile, slender, upright fertile leaves...disappear a few weeks later." Our experience is very different from his.

In the first place, the majority of these new stations were found in March and April when the very distinctive withered fertile fronds, sticking straight outwards from rock-faces, were easily observable. Also, we have found sterile fronds still fresh and green as late as October 23rd (Brunton 1972). In fact, a number of apparently evergreen sterile fronds were observed at Mont Ste. Marie on March 17, 1973.

It seems to be reasonable to say that the Slender Cliff-brake is fairly common in the Ottawa-Hull District, being locally abundant in scattered localities. This fern exhibits a strong preference for calcareous rock and is most frequently found on or near moist, rock and/or earthen debris of calcareous cliffs. We expect more stations of the Slender Cliff-brake to be found in or near the District -- particularly in calcareous areas of the Canadian Shield.

#### Literature Cited

- Brunton, D.F. 1972. More Slender Cliff-brake in the Ottawa District, *Trail & Landscape* 6:3 (92-93).
- Cobb, B. 1956. *A Field Guide to the Ferns*. Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Cody, W.J. 1956. *The Ferns of the Ottawa District*. Canada Department of Agriculture Publication 974, Queen's Printer, Ottawa.
- Gillett, J.M. 1971. Two New Ottawa District Stations for Slender Cliff-brake. *Trail & Lands.* 5:5 (130-132).



BOOKS OF INTEREST

- MAMMALS OF ONTARIO by Anne Innis Dagg  
A reference book covering every species of wild  
mammal found in Ontario \$6.50
- MAMMALS OF CANADA by A.W.F. Banfield  
Companion to "The Birds of Canada" \$19.95
- ROCKY MOUNTAIN WILD FLOWERS by A.E. Porsild  
A new authoritative guide illustrated in  
colour. \$5.00
- A NATURALIST BUYS AN OLD FARM by Edwin Way Teale  
\$11.50
- AMERICAN SEASHELLS by R. Tucker Abbott  
New Edition \$55.00
- OWLS OF NORTH AMERICA by Allan W. Eckert  
All species and subspecies illustrated in colour  
and fully described. Paintings and drawings by  
Karl E. Karalus. Boxed collector's edition.  
(Less expensive trade edition expected in May)  
\$55.00
- CONSERVATION BY THE PEOPLE by A.H. Richardson  
The history of the conservation movement in  
Ontario to 1970. \$8.50
- BUTTERFLIES OF THE WORLD by H.L. Lewis  
Full colour illustrations of over 5000 different  
butterflies. \$37.00
- MASTER BUILDERS OF THE ANIMAL WORLD by David  
Hancocks \$10.30
- THE PRIVATE LIVES OF ANIMALS by Roger Caras  
With 233 photographs, including 137 in colour.  
\$19.95

NOTE: The F.O.N. Bookshop has moved to Ottawa  
and is now being operated at the same location  
as the Nature Canada Bookshop at 46 Elgin Street,  
Suite 49, on Confederation Square. The combined  
stores stock over 1000 titles on natural history.  
Open 9:00 - 5:00 weekdays.

The CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION is the Canada-wide organization which provides a voice at the national level for all those interested in preserving and protecting wildlife and the environment, and promoting a greater understanding of the worth of the natural world. The Federation is composed of provincial and local naturalists' groups (including The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club), and individuals.



The Canadian Nature Federation publishes the exquisitely illustrated quarterly magazine NATURE CANADA which shows the intrinsic value and beauty of the natural world - its wilderness, parks, lakes, rivers, as well as animals and plants in their natural surroundings. In NATURE CANADA are explained many of the principles governing balances in nature - how and why life has survived for so long and increased in richness and diversity - what the laws are that make this normal world function - how living things are interdependent - how and why these natural systems are now being broken down and what this means to people. NATURE CANADA is designed to fill the need for authoritative, analytical and interpretive writing which will help Canadians to see into some of the important environmental questions in Canada and show them how to get involved in helping protect and preserve their natural heritage.

The Canadian Nature Federation makes its own studies of specific issues and presents its findings and views through briefs, at hearings, in its publications and in other ways.

Individuals or families may support the objectives of the Canadian Nature Federation and receive NATURE CANADA by becoming members of the Federation. Membership is for the calendar year: Individual \$8.00; Family \$10.00. Send your cheque to Canadian Nature Federation, 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa K1P 5K6.

Note: Do not confuse the Canadian Nature Federation with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. You can find out more about THAT organization on the next page!

Is the long uncertain love affair between naturalists ... and the organized sportsmen of Canada heading for the rocks?

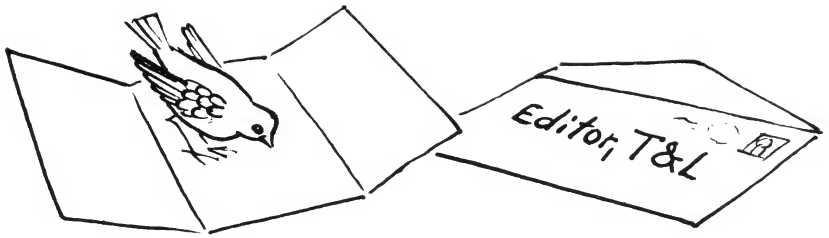
Two recent developments suggest that a clash is inevitable. First is the newly released policy statement by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters calling for all parks in the Province, including those designated primitive, such as Quetico and Polar Bear, and presumably also national parks, to be opened to sport hunting. Along with that recommendation is the Federation's support for commercial logging in parks motivated it would seem by the knowledge that cut-over forests tend to support larger populations of such desirable game species as deer and moose.

Second, is the decision of the Canadian Wildlife Federation to suppress its real identity as the national body representing all organized sportsmen in Canada including the aforementioned OFAH, and pose instead for the purpose of fund-raising as a naturalists' organization deeply concerned with overall environmental problems.

Working on the assumption that what people don't know won't hurt them, this deliberate image change is seen by the Canadian Wildlife Federation as an essential first step in its plans to extract half a million dollars a year from an unsuspecting public, including the great number of Canadians who would bitterly oppose any move to open up our parks for the slaughter of wildlife by hunters.

Reference in the press has already been made to the likely damaging effects on the fortunes of Canadian conservation organizations and their ability to continue production of their publications as a result of CWF's current campaign to sign up 50,000 so-called charter members at \$9.50 each. Nowhere in the glossy literature for this American financed promotion or the magazine that comes as part of the deal will there be any mention that the Canadian Wildlife Federation is dedicated first and foremost to perpetuating and enlarging the opportunities of hunters to hunt even apparently in our National and Provincial Parks.

(Guest Editorial in PARK NEWS reprinted with permission The National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada)



Dear Editor,

All my life I have been interested in the outdoors and have spent as much time as possible enjoying it. I have also been interested in the various things that walked, crawled, swam, flew or grew in the outdoors but not, I am afraid, with always the most kindly feelings.

When I was younger, I hunted and shot. It did not matter what got shot, I just shot for the warped satisfaction of being able to hold some wild creature in my hand. I am sorry now that I owe life to so many animals and birds but I know of no way to restore life.

At any rate I quit killing...if possible I will not even step on a living thing. I still like to be with the life that exists in the out of doors and so have turned to learning. In learning about birds, animals and plants I have found a fascination I could never match with hunting...

This is where I ran into problems. I find that with the passing years I can now see much better if aided by 8 x 40 binoculars. I also find that I no longer hear as well as I once did. So one thing led to another. I bought binoculars to help me see, then I found that with the assistance of a tape recorder and an earpiece I hear better. But things expand. I found that I could capture on tape some semblance of what I could hear in the ear phone and so got a better tape recorder and a better microphone. Now I have new troubles, and troubles that I think must plague nearly every bird lover.

Most of us set out on a day's outing with the intention of seeing and identifying as many varieties of birds as possible. I do the same with my recorder. ...it is fun but it certainly leads to some weird sounding tapes. I am now in possession of cassette

after cassette of mixed-up bird sounds, and those mixed up with wind noise, car noise, jet noise, train noise, snowmobile noise and people noise. I never realized how polluted with noise our life has become, even in the woods. I have a tape containing the "whisper" of a Black-and-White Warbler buzzing to a hidden mate but if her ears are no more selective than my recorder, all she can hear is a hound baying, a Great Crested Flycatcher "Weeping", wind whistling and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker pounding on a nearby tree.

I do have some moments that I like. For instance the Red-breasted Nuthatch that "Quanked" at me. He went 89 times without a stop. That even beats the best Whippoorwill I have. It brings back instant memories of a warm spring day, sitting near an old cedar tree in a field and one little nuthatch perched on a small sumac not 10 feet away telling me that the territory belonged to him. How about that hot July day with a Red-eyed Vireo high up in a big maple tree, or the quiet evening on the shore of a small river and a Pewee sleepily singing me to sleep.

It is a lot of fun ... but my short experience has left me wondering. I wonder how many club members do as I do, or how many would be interested in adding to their enjoyment. Perhaps, as a suggestion, the club could sound out the possible demand and find a way to lay on a short course on taping wildlife. I do not think many of us could go into the hundreds of dollars for this hobby and I do not think it necessary. Surely somewhere there is someone who is qualified to lecture and advise; someone who could suggest the necessary equipment and perhaps even purchases at a saving. I only suggest this as a topic of interest for winter projects.

Oh well! I shall wait for spring and the return of the birds so that I can be off again with my binoculars around my neck, my tape recorder in one hand and my microphone in the other...what? I just heard that there is a lot of fun in photographing birds too. All I need to carry is a camera, a tripod, a long lens....

J.S. Narraway  
20 November 1974

## The Federation of Ontario Naturalists

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists is a Provincial non-profit conservation and nature organization concerned with preserving and renewing our natural environment for the benefit and well-being of present and future generations. It is composed of over 60 nature clubs throughout Ontario, related organizations, and individuals. A full-time Executive Director and Field Service Staffs are employed.

Priorities are wildlife preservation including wild-flowers and endangered species; natural areas preservation; natural history services, education, research and publications; assistance to clubs and organizations; consultative, advisory or research services.

Three publications of the Federation are: the ONTARIO NATURALIST, an illustrated journal published quarterly, presenting natural history, environment and conservation articles; a bi-monthly NEWSLETTER which keeps members informed of Federation affairs, coming events, briefs, news from nature clubs; and the YOUNG NATURALIST, published 10 times a year, with full colour illustrations, written principally to attract readers aged 8 to 13.

The Federation prepares briefs on such matters as Wild Flower Preservation, Wolf Research, Wilderness Areas, Snowmobiles and Off Road Vehicles, Mining in National Parks, Rondeau Provincial Park; forwards resolutions on Endangered Species and Product Importation, Wetland Policy; Coalition for Wilderness, to appropriate governmental bodies; holds field gatherings; workshop weekends; canoe trips for all ages; nature tours in Canada and outside; conducts a mail-order service with over 1000 natural history items listed including books, sound recordings, field items, Canadian crafts, with discounts for members.

### THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS

1262 Don Mills Road Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8

Individual Membership \$10.00 a year	"Young Naturalist":		
Student \$5.00	Family \$12.00	1 yr \$3.50	2 yr \$6.00

Vi Humphreys



# OFNC Ann

*with BILL MASON  
as guest speaker*

*presenting one of his latest films*

We are proud to have as our guest speaker this year Bill Mason, one of North America's foremost wilderness filmmakers.

He has produced and directed many superb films, including Paddle to the Sea, The Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes, Blake, Death of a Legend, Cry of the Wild, Bowhead Whale, Wolfpack, and White Water Wilderness. His films have been nominated for two Academy Awards and Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes has won an equivalent award in England. Cry of the Wild has been a success throughout North America, grossing over \$5 million at the box office.

An artist at heart, he writes, shoots and edits his own films, and, for two of his most recent films has done his own narration. He is also an expert canoeist and is presently working on a series of films of detailed paddling techniques.

Bill is obtaining permission to show us a film which hasn't been seen publicly before. He will also give us a short talk on his experiences during his film career.

We're expecting it to be a very interesting and enjoyable evening. We hope to see you there.



# Annual Dinner

*Tuesday, April 15, 1975*

Dinner: 7:30 p.m. - Social hour 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Place: Centennial Ballroom  
Talisman Motor Inn  
1376 Carling Avenue (at the Queensway)

Reservations: To order tickets fill in the order form below and send it along with \$7.50 per ticket before April 1 to:

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club  
c/o Mrs. E.M. Dickson  
2037 Honeywell Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7

For further information contact Elaine Dickson (729-1554)

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## ORDER FORM

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_ tickets to the OFNC Annual Dinner at \$7.50 per person. Enclosed please find my cheque or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_.



## MONITORING

## OTTAWA'S WATERS

by Rick Wallace



Remember the proposed chlorination of Mooney's Bay? Sure you remember - that time the "Eco-Freaks" fought City Hall and the Provincial Ministry created to PROTECT our environment. That was the summer when Probe expended its entire water quality budget to stop the destruction of a significant part of the Rideau River. Whatever happened to that issue and those wonderful engineers who kept chanting, "Let's not hesitate/Let's chlorinate"? Well, those people who wanted to bring you a chlorine residue of 0.5 ppm are still there - still waiting to turn your Bay into a giant swimming pool.

The day after the politicians backed off on the chlorination issue, the front page of the Ottawa Citizen read, "Probe Wins - Chlorination Stopped". But Probe did not win and neither did the environment. The Rideau River, as well as other rivers and lakes, was simply granted a stay of execution for an undetermined period of time. That execution will be carried out the moment people like you and I become too secure in the belief that the problem has vanished. In truth, it was partly Probe's fault that the chlorination issue even went as far as it did. Summer after summer, through our water monitoring projects, we kept abreast of political manoeuvres in the field of water pollution. But then, we became too complacent. Someone forgot to attend a meeting - just one. Before we knew it, the City of Ottawa was in the market for chlorine to "purify" the waters of Mooney's Bay. As a result, Probe was forced to cancel four critical projects and direct valuable time, money and energy towards stopping the chlorination.

To prevent this from ever happening again, Probe has recently gathered together a group of concerned environmentalists to monitor water quality problems in the Ottawa/Hull area. In the very near future, this group will begin a research program into the problems of water quality in our region. This program will com-

mence with a complete search of all existing literature concerning specific issues. Using the Probe library, the various "instant retrieval systems" available to Probe, and other sources, an effort will be made to define clearly each problem, establish what action (if any) is being taken and then to lay the groundwork for action on the part of Probe. This action will take the form of summer research/clean-up programs, political pressure, media exposure, and ultimately, legal action.

This committee recognizes, however, the tremendous job that lies ahead. To be successful, more help is needed. To that end, the committee invites all Probe members (and all interested citizens for that matter) who are interested in water pollution problems to contact Probe (231-6329) for information concerning membership on the committee. Whatever your background, you are welcome to join.

reprinted from "Prober" with the permission of Pollution-Probe - Ottawa.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was among those organizations supporting Pollution Probe - Ottawa in its opposition to the chlorination of Mooney's Bay. The 1973 Research and Briefs Committee (Chairman: Allan Reddoch) provided evidence from the scientific literature to support the fact that chlorine harms a very wide range of aquatic life. The Committee pointed out, in addition, that the stable products formed by reaction of chlorine with organic compounds already in the water were very toxic and may well affect wildlife in a manner similar to DDT and PCBs. Furthermore, their presence can not be determined by the tests presently used to detect the amount of chlorine in the water.

Thus the Research and Briefs Committee felt that the experimental chlorination of Mooney's Bay should not be undertaken since considerable ecological risks were involved, and because it was not clear that chlorination would be useful because it may kill only the indicator bacteria and not the other pathogenic organisms present in the Rideau River's polluted water.

## POLLUTION PROBE - OTTAWA

- \* a citizens' organization concerned with protecting our natural resources and preserving our environment,
- \* founded in 1969 at Carleton University as a student organization to satisfy student demands for social action on environmental problems. It quickly expanded into an organization involving the whole community.

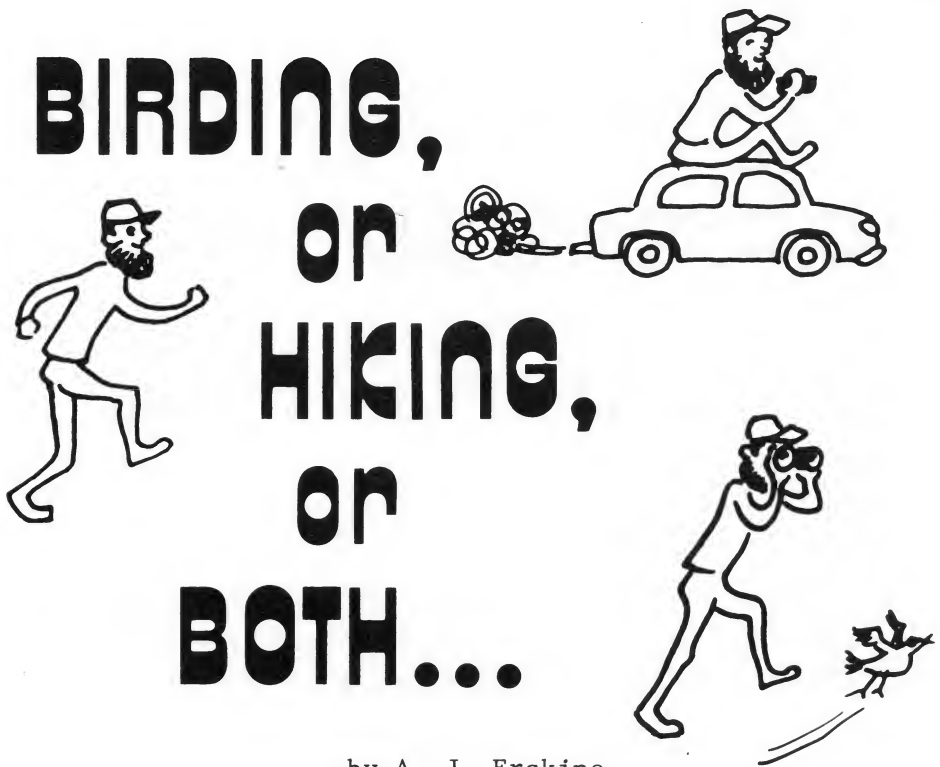
\* \* \*

- has initiated many educational programs to create environmental awareness and public concern; for example, Ottawa River Conference, 1970; DDT pickup, 1970; an environmental kit for teachers, 1971; teaching projects in local schools; summer projects in cottage areas; Ecological Shopping Guide, 1974.
- has lobbied various government levels for effective legislation in dealing with environmental matters; for example, initiating paper recycling and the setting up of receiving depots for recycling glass and tin in the City of Ottawa; bacterial sampling programs for Ottawa - Hull area beaches; briefs on various environmental topics including water pollution, air pollution, and solid waste management.
- operates from the Ecology Centre at 53 Queen Street, Suite 54 (Telephone 231-6329), where room is set aside for viewing films and slides, and a library provides detailed information on environmental subjects.
- is allied with Pollution Probe groups in Kanata, Nepean, Gloucester and Rockcliffe Park to work on environmental problems in the Ottawa - Carleton Region.

\* \* \*

Support the important work of Pollution Probe - Ottawa by becoming a member for 1975. Send \$8.00 (\$5.00 for students) to

Pollution Probe - Ottawa  
P. O. Box 4421, Station "E",  
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B4



by A. J. Erskine

The typical birder, whether in Ottawa or elsewhere, looks on a hiker as a different kind of animal, even if he too carries binoculars. Naturalists interested in birds are largely either people who look out of the windows of their houses to see what birds they have persuaded to visit their feeding tables, or else people who look out of the windows of their cars to see what birds they can find away from home, especially if those birds wouldn't have been expected to be there at that season -- or at all. Either type will walk a short way from house or car, to see that bird that insists on skulking behind the lilac bush at the end of the garden, or to get another species for the day's list in its known favorite spot behind the butts at Shirley Bay. Leaving house or car to hike, even with binoculars, just isn't birding to most birders. The 'bike gang' is not an exception to this rule; its members are typical car-birders who don't yet own cars and so use 10-speed bicycles until they can graduate to gasoline power. I know: I was the bicycling birder of Ottawa and Kingston in the early 1950's.

No one disputes the thrill of seeing an unusual bird, whether new for one's garden or for the district list, or merely one not seen every year. But when all the regular birds have been seen, and this takes only a few years, what then? During the past generation, the answer has usually been "Farther afield, and farther, and farther ...." We have club members who have been birding in Canada's high arctic, in Europe, in South America, probably even in Australia, and none of them is yet close to a world life list of 8,600 species of birds (that's all there are). So obviously that is one alternative when you run out of new birds in the local area, but equally obviously it is not a feasible alternative for most people with limited time or money. Other people, having exhausted the variety to be found within 50 or 100 miles, with occasional distant trips, simply give up and fade out of birding altogether (though not always from other aspects of natural history). There is also the possibility of a more intensive, more general, or more esthetic interest in birds on the local scene.

These different games usually involve either sitting or walking. The former is a familiar occupation in this city of office-bound federal employees, the latter a novelty to a generation raised to believe that a half-mile can scarcely be travelled without a car. Our feeder-watchers have been sitting all along, and some of them have even kept written records of the species seen at their feeders. Feeders are a major influence on the distribution of birds in winter, and particularly in areas such as Ottawa where the severe climate greatly restricts natural feeding opportunities. But aside from the general impression that most winter birds in our urban areas depend to some extent on feeders, practically nothing has been written on the effects of feeders. We don't even know how many feeders there are in a given area, though the ones where exotic species have been reported are common knowledge. A student at Carleton University, Roy Lidstone, is making a study of the numbers of feeders, the numbers of individual birds -- as well as of species -- using them, and the responses to use of different foods at a feeder. Most feeder-operators have a rough idea of the answers to such questions but have never written them down, because they have not taken the time to ask

the questions. Their interest is usually more passive, in waiting for the birds to come to them, so why would they actively seek out problems?

But more active people want to be out and doing, and in an Ottawa winter they will soon find that practically all the birds are in the city. This has been hidden by the emphasis on numbers of species, as one bird here and five miles to the next hot spot soon builds up the list -- one Hairy Woodpecker is as good as 50 Starlings or 200 House Sparrows when each is just one more species. Over the past five winters I have been counting birds, of all species -- yes, even Rock Doves and House Sparrows -- in various parts of the city and in the country outside. No one would guess from the weekly bird columns in the Ottawa papers, the Christmas count, or any other generally available source, that in winter there are 50 to 100 times as many birds per acre in residential areas in the city as in the fields and woods outside. Even if one excludes the introduced "feathered rats" as just vermin(!), the city areas hold five to ten times as many woodpeckers, chickadees, and so on. Only the native species that depend on open country, like Snow Buntings and Horned Larks, or that need larger areas of woods than survive in the city, like Ruffed Grouse, are easier to find away from the built-up areas. The water birds of course are a special case, as indeed is open water in our area in winter.

What has all this to do with hiking? Well, to count all these birds I had to walk, every street and avenue and crescent in each sample area. You get to appreciate the work of the city roads department better when you learn that the two subdivisions around your house have at least 10 miles of streets, all of which have to be paved, ploughed, salted, and otherwise kept up so that everyone can drive his own car downtown each day. And most people who read this will be saying, "He must be cracked to walk around in the city that much!" Not so, my friends, just interested in birds -- to the extent that walking around the city to count birds where they are appeals to me more than driving around the county (and much of the adjoining counties as well) in search for birds where they might be. I do prefer to walk for birding at any season, not solely in winter.



Perhaps this preference stemmed from my English parents, who walked as a matter of course and only bought their first car when I was 21, or from my poor eyesight, which frustrated me with failures to detect birds from a moving car, or merely from an innate restlessness that demanded physical activity -- what matter?.

Hiking as recreation of course does not depend on birds. The hiker naturalist may seek for plants, trees, scenery, solitude, fresh air, or any combination of these and many other features that we all recognize as parts of the natural scene -- and of other less "natural" scenes. The wilderness fanatic will argue that such things can only be really appreciated amid a virgin forest or from an untrodden mountain range. But to most of us, a quiet, pastoral countryside with little-travelled roads may be as attractive as a forest, and Gatineau Park is appreciated by more people with its parkway and trails than it would be without them. Small farming, and rural roads and trails, are all parts of our heritage, and often are esthetically and recreationally appealing, though with an arterial road every mile or so it is now difficult to find any quiet, pastoral countryside around Ottawa...

Many hikers do have some interest in birds, even to the extent of carrying binoculars, which have other uses as well. For some naturalists, hiking may be a way to reach a suitable place to watch the activities of a family of owls, or in which to search out the nests of warblers. For others, walking may follow a pre-arranged pattern in order to map the territories of singing birds and thus estimate their numbers in an area. Still others may be noting the situation in which each bird is met as they traverse various habitats. And always there is the possibility of just enjoying birds as and when one meets them, without any particular study in mind. The appreciation of the whistle of a Pine Grosbeak in a treetop or of a Three-toed Woodpecker hacking at a pine tree, in the course of one's morning hike around back roads, is just as valid a form of birding as if these had been the 19th and 34th species of a hurried motor tour of the Ottawa/Carleton region.



HANES '71

## Help Wanted

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE is your magazine, its pages ever available to give expression to your interests and concerns. It is one of the ways we club members keep in touch with one another, and the steady communication over the past eight years indicates the health of the OFNC. In our view, T & L must continue to be primarily a magazine by, as well as for club members. If you, dear reader, enjoy getting T & L and haven't contributed to it, we suggest you note that "by". Keep it in mind, and find a way to do your bit.

Material for publication -- verbal or visual -- is vital. In addition, somebody has to put it all together. The somebodies doing it now are five volunteers who know how much you appreciate all their hard work, but sometimes wonder if perhaps they aren't doing more than their share. The work is its own reward, and all that, but we are willing to share the joy. The fact is, we could use some help. There are practical things to be done: errands, mailing, typing, clipping, telephoning and such. Challenges galore, if you like them: research, interviews, reports on meetings, plan-watching, trend-summarizing and opinion-polling. And we'd dearly love to have an artist on tap.

Care to join us? This invitation is extended to readers with some free time, a desire to work for the club, and an interest in putting together a magazine. No experience needed (your Editors had none). As to talent, we are sure to uncover one or two you never knew you had.

Think about it, but don't think too long. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Anne Hanes 749-2400  
Joyce Reddoch 749-5363

APOLOGY We're very sorry, Lorna McCrae, that your name didn't appear with your fine article "A New Interpretation Programme from the N.C.C." in our January issue. Evidently we have gremlins who snatched the byline before it was printed. We hope that readers who enjoyed your piece now know who deserves the credit for writing it.

A few notes on  
THE ANNUAL MEETING

Forty-four staunch members of the OFNC turned out on the bitterly cold evening of January 20th for our 96th Annual Meeting. The affair was much like other annual meetings: it seemed to go on rather too long. This was no fault of chairman Ewen Todd who kept things moving, but was a result of a very long agenda. We wondered whether it couldn't be shortened somehow, or a break for refreshments called sooner.

The Club's business appears satisfactorily summed up in the reports of Committees. The President expressed a feeling of a lack of communication between club members and the Council. He hopes that regular monthly meetings will help to overcome this separation. A novel suggestion is to invite members to attend Council meetings as spectators (see note below). Those present were given a list of the Committees and their functions, with an invitation to join one and play a more active role in the Club's affairs.

The largest time-slot was given over to further discussion and eventual passage of the eight motions dealing with Amendments to the Constitution, proposed at the previous Annual Meeting. Elections went smoothly and the re-elected President paid tribute to our Past President, Irwin Brodo, and to the retiring members of the Council. There was deserved applause also for our refreshments convenor, Catherine O'Keefe.

An item which sparked some comment related to the method of nominating candidates for Council. To illustrate the thinking that has gone into this matter, Ewen read the latest draft of a relevant by-law, and urged those who are dissatisfied with the present procedure to make their views known to Council members who will deal with the by-law soon.

Hue MacKenzie of the Centennial Planning Group deplored the slim response to appeals for ideas on how to celebrate our 100th Birthday. To stimulate our thinking he gave a run-down of some interesting suggestions received so far, and asked for comments or ideas. That old chestnut, purchase of land, was brought out -- and shot down rather quickly. (It happens at every Annual Meeting!)

... A.H.

#### THE 1975 COUNCIL

President:	Ewen Todd
Vice-President:	Roger Foxall
Treasurer:	Pamela Sims
Recording Secretary:	Tony Erskine
Corresponding Secretary:	Chuck Gruchy
Additional Members:	
Bill Cody	Loren Padelford
Joe Dafoe	Allan Reddoch
Albert Dugal	Joyce Reddoch
Erich Haber	Arnet Sheppard
Don Lafontaine	Roger Taylor
Hue MacKenzie	Stan Van Zyll de Jong
Pat Narraway	Florence Weekes
Gerald Oyen	Harry Williamson

The Council meets every 3rd Monday (except July & August) in Room 1017 of the National Research Council building on Sussex Drive. Club members are welcome to attend.

OFNC EVENTS

IN MARCH AND APRIL

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee  
Roger A. Foxall (745-7791), Chairman

Members arriving by bus at meeting places for excursions can usually find rides with other members going by car. For further information call the excursion leader.

Sunday           FIELD TRIP: WINTER BIRDS AND OWLS  
2 March        Leader:       Stephen O'Donnell (737-5270)  
                  Meet:         Billings Bridge Shopping Plaza  
                  Time:         8 a.m.  
                  Half day trip; bring a snack.

Sunday           FIELD TRIP ON CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS  
9 March        Leader:       Harry Thomson (234-0845)  
                  Meet:         Supreme Court, Wellington Street  
                  Time:         9 a.m.  
                  All day trip; bring lunch and tea or soup.

Tuesday         SOME METHODS AND RESULTS OF STUDYING A LOCAL  
11 March        POPULATION OF EASTERN CHIPMUNKS BY LIVE  
                  TRAPPING FROM 1968 TO 1974. An illustrated  
                  talk.  
                  by Professor Don Smith, Department of Biology,  
                  Carleton University.  
                  Meet:         Auditorium, Ottawa Public Library,  
                          Laurier and Metcalfe Streets  
                  Time:         8 p.m.

Saturday        FIELD TRIP: BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE PARK  
29 March        Leader:       Joe Dafoe (820-1254)  
                  Meet:         Gate at entrance to Park  
                  Time:         8:30 a.m.

All day trip to see the large flocks of migrating water-fowl, which include often hundreds of Canvasbacks and Redheads. Those wishing to stay overnight may make arrangements with the White House (613-475-0004). All persons, whether intending to drive or requiring transportation, should call the leader before March 25.

Tuesday  
8 April MUSHROOMS OF THE OTTAWA AREA, an illustrated talk.  
by Dr. David Malloch, Biosystematics Research Institute, Agriculture Canada.  
Meet: Auditorium, Ottawa Public Library, Laurier and Metcalfe Streets  
Time: 8 p.m.

Sunday  
13 April FIELD TRIP: OWLS AND EARLY MIGRANTS  
Leader: Bill Holland (234-6705)  
Meet: Billings Bridge Shopping Plaza  
Time: 8 a.m.  
Half-day trip; bring a snack.

Tuesday  
15 April ANNUAL DINNER  
Meet: Talisman Motor Inn,  
Carling Avenue at the Queensway.  
Time: 7:30 p.m. (Social Hour 6:30 p.m.)  
Additional details may be found in the center-fold. Make your reservations early!

Saturday  
26 April FIELD TRIP: AMPHIBIANS IN SPRING  
Leader: Francis Cook  
Meet: Parking lot, Vincent Massey Park, Heron Road  
Time: 5:30 p.m.

A visit to the property of Mr. Cook near Kemptville. After the field studies the group will move indoors for a presentation of slides, general discussion and coffee. Flashlights and rubber boots will be useful. Dress warmly. The meet and journey will be organized by Anne Hanes (749-2400).

Sunday  
27 April FIELD TRIP: BIRDS AT RAMSAYVILLE MARSH  
Leader: Rick Poulin (232-4687)  
Meet: Anderson Road at CN tracks north of Russell Road  
Time: 7 a.m.  
Half-day trip; bring a snack and waterproof footwear

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