



As I sit down to write this, the temperature is hovering around 30 degrees Celsius, the birds have all settled into nesting routines, and I long for the cool days of spring. I hope that many of you are participating in the Ontario Rare Breeding Bird Program. If you don't yet know what this is, contact the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont., M3B 2W8 (416-444-8419) for details. It is a most worthwhile project, so please participate if you can.

In the last Newsletter, I asked for information on the whereabouts of several of our members. Most of those have since been located, but do you know where Anne Pennington, Elizabeth Garwood and Ruthann Gairdner are? We've also misplaced Robin Cunningham, Beverly Delidow, Marion Strebis, Anne Nash and Terry Pratt. They may not think that they're lost, but we do!

Out-of-Towners: A fairly high percentage of our members do not live in Ontario. I try to be fair and include national and international items, but it has been suggested that they would like more input into the Newsletter. If any of you would like to write me with inclusions about your projects, favourite areas or the like, please send me details and I will publish them as space permits.

Reminder: Some time ago I initiated two column ideas that were for a time very successful - "Regional Reports" and "Short and Tweet". Correspondence, of late, has been underwhelming. Please forward your stories immediately for inclusion!

Field Trips: The trip to Simcoe County, led by John Olmstead, was unfortunately very poorly attended. It is a shame since this geographic region can be most interesting.

On the other hand, twelve OFO members made the pilgrimage to Rainy River in early June, joining the FON group of ten. Collectively they had a super time recording Western Kingbird (nest), Magpies, Sandhill Cranes, agitated and likely nesting Marbled Godwits, Piping Plovers, twelve Yellow Rails, Leconte's Sparrows, hundreds of Pelicans, Western Sandpiper, plus the other unusual species of the area. The FON group tallied 160 species, while OFO members found over 120. Thanks go out to Dave Elder for his capable leadership.

The OFO Pelagic has only thirty spaces available. If you've been putting off sending your money, please do so now! Send a cheque for \$45.00 made out to "OFO Pelagic" to Bob Curry, 92 Holstein Drive, Ancaster, Ont., L9G 2S7.

The OFO sponsored trip to Peru in 1990 has been cancelled due to the unsafe political climate in that country. We hope this does not cause anyone undue inconvenience.

Raffle: As part of the fall AGM, the Board has decided to run a raffle for the Audubon print "Great Egret" that was donated by the Tryon Mint. (See the enclosed brochure for other exciting prints to be raffled at a later date and for special purchase offers. Tryon advises that since the printing of the brochure, the prices have risen somewhat, and interested parties are requested to contact them for latest price revisions.) We are looking for members who would be willing to sell tickets now and throughout the summer. Ticket books contain ten tickets, which sell for \$5.00 each. So get your book of tickets now and do your part to help us in this special fund-raising project.

An enclosed flyer will also give you more information on the exciting program for the fall meeting in Scarborough. And finally, remember to get your entries in ASAP for the Swish Maintenance Photo Salon. Winners will be announced at the AGM.

In the News: (1) The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Maine is now available for \$9.00 (U.S.) from Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Public Information Division, 284 State St., Station #41, Augusta, Maine, 04333.

(2) The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State is likewise available for \$29.95 (U.S.) from Cornell University Press, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, N.Y., 14850.

(3) The International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) has announced that 1029 of the world's bird species are considered threatened. They have published a list with comments for all of these species. Copies are available for 9.50 British pounds from the ICBP, 75 Albert St., Suite 203, Ottawa, Canada, K1P 6G1 (ICBP Technical Publication No. 8).

(4) Another group of "Friends" has recently been formed. The "Friends of the Teaching Rocks" - a group designed to protect the rock carvings, native ceremonies and natural resources of Petroglyphs Provincial Park - is now fully operational. For information on membership, projects, publications and goals, please contact them at Friends of the Teaching Rocks, Box 900, Woodview, Ontario, K0L 3E0.

My wife, Valerie, who is a devout non-birder often coins phrases that must be familiar to many of the one-sided birder marriage partners. How often have you heard? "If you can get up at 5:00 a.m. and drive 300 km. to see a stupid bird, then surely you can take the kids to the park". Stay tuned for more quotable quotes from my itinerant spouse!

Calls For Information: (1) Allen Woodliffe (30 Argyle Cr., Chatham, Ont., N7L 4T8) advises that he has complete sets of the Auk from 1975 to 1980 inclusive for sale at \$2/issue, \$6/volume or \$30 for the full set of 24 issues.

(2) The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund wishes to advise that it is accepting funding requests for projects to be run in 1990. Contact them c/o LPBO, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont., NOE 1M0 (Attention: Michael Bradstreet, Secretary). In 1989, ten grants were awarded for work in Ontario, the Maritimes, Alberta, and Newfoundland.

(3) The Ministry of Natural Resources is planning a three year study of wildlife habitat and wildlife use of the Hudson Bay and James Bay coast. While the details are still being worked out, participants are being sought to assist with protocol and field work. If you are interested, contact Dr. Chris Davies or Ms. Nancy Wilson at MNR, P.O. Box 190, Moosonee, Ont., POL 1Y0. We will provide more information as it becomes available from MNR.

(4) The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has published some information on the finchless winter in the northeast in 1988-89. The data is based on their FeederWatch Program. The finches were indeed absent from many areas, but Evening Grosbeaks showed up in large numbers in the Northern Great Plains, and Pine Siskens in the northwestern U.S. Elsewhere numbers were down 75-100% below last year's invasion. Contact them for further information or to participate in FeederWatch at the LPBO address above.

Quotable Quotes: "What do you mean you need new binoculars? They're going to cost how much!"

Short and Tweet: On June 9, 1989, Geoff Carpentier observed a pair of Canada Geese tending fifty-one goslings at the Port Perry lagoons. Only one to three other adults were noted at the site during the period. None of these were with young.

Wade Scorns found a Common Nighthawk nest in 1988 in the city of Peterborough. The nest was located in a window well at one of the local funeral homes.

Geoff Carpentier located a Common Grackle's nest in a Mountbatten Juniper in the city of Peterborough in 1989. The birds reused last year's nest, without any apparent reconstruction of rehabilitation. The young fledged successfully in early June.

Join A Group: Many environmental **groups** are springing up. Most address themselves to a single issue. Here are some of the most recent ones that have come to my attention:

(1) Ontario Environment Network (News on the environment, publishes "Network News") P.O. Box 125, Station P, Toronto, Ont., M5S 2Z7.

(2) Environmental Action Ontario (Campaigning against excess packaging) 95 Robert St., Toronto, Ont., M5S 2K5.

(3) Temagami Wilderness Society (Trying to save the Temagami Wilderness from logging) 19 Mercer St., Suite 307, Toronto, Ont., M5V 9Z9.

(4) Save The Rouge (Creation of a Natural Heritage Park) 40 Fairfax Cr., Scarborough, Ont., M1L 1Z9.

(5) Canadian Foundation for World Development (Involved in many environmental projects) 2441 Bayview Ave., Willowdale, Ont., M2L 1A5.

(6) Toronto Environmental Alliance (A co-ordinating group for many environmental associations) 456 Spadina Ave., Toronto, M5T 2G8.

(7) Society of Canadian Ornithologists (Works on many ornithological projects, publishes Picoides) Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845-102 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 0M6.

(8) Friends of the Earth (New publication on Organic Gardening) Suite 701, 251 Laurier Ave. W., Ottawa, Ont., K1P 5J6.

(9) Western Canada Wilderness Committee (Working to save Brazilian rainforest) 103-1520 West 6th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1R2.

Quotable Quotes: "I don't care if Tilley hats are 'in', I'm not wearing one".

Membership Dues: It is with some regret that the Board must announce that the membership rates will be going up effective January 1, 1990 to \$20.00. The good news is that if you renew prior to that date, you get it for the old rate (\$17.00).

FON Representative: We desperately require a new rep. to liaise with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Kayo Roy has done an admirable job for us and we sincerely thank him for his efforts. If you can help, please contact us immediately.

Ontario Birds: Regrettably Don Fraser has decided to step down as Editor of Ontario Birds effective almost immediately. We need someone NOW to come forward and assume this portfolio. If you can do it either alone or with a friend or know of someone who can handle the job, please call Margaret Bain immediately at 416-668-6452. Don has done a good job with a difficult task. We extend our heartfelt thanks for all his work and effort.

And In Closing: I should like to print an excerpt from "News From ORRF - The Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation" that I found most entertaining. "Readers ... may remember Sikorsky ... the Short-eared Owl that lives with us, the owl that still thinks mashed potatoes are a landing pad and that hazards like lamps and people are just a little ground fog over the runways ... Kay reports that she and Larry live with 128 owls of 16 species. They took in 138 owls in 1988 and released 79 back to the wild!"