

THUNDER BAY FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB
Fort William - Port Arthur

April 8, 1950.
Newsletter Vol.4, No. 3.

P. O. Box 416,
Port Arthur, Ont.

Dear Fellow Naturalists:

Our president, Elliott Heslop, is in Toronto. He visited Niagara Falls a couple of week-ends and added a number of birds to his life-list. Meanwhile a letter from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists was received requesting information regarding our Annual Gathering. An executive meeting was held where it was decided to hold the spring outing at King George's Park on May 27th.

The dates for the Audubon Screen Tours are expected to be announced in the near future. 125 communities throughout the United States and Canada have enjoyed the Tours this year. Several of the cities have far smaller populations than either of our two cities, so it is expected that the Audubon Screen Tours will go over well here if everyone will go out and boost it. Some of the centres this year had to hold a matinee and two evening performances to take care of the number of people who wanted to see the Tours.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists Twelfth Annual Summer Nature School will be held in the Muskoka district at Camp Billie Bear on Bella Lake, from July 1st to 15th, 1950. The staff will include leaders in the field of nature education and Professor A. Coventry, Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, will be in charge of the educational programme. The \$70.00 fee includes the cost of instruction, board and lodging. The secretary of our club has application forms.

The Crows and Herring Gulls appeared in large flocks on the 23rd of March. Mrs. M. Knowles saw common Redpolls on March 29th and the following day Mrs. H. Plunkett saw a Richardson's Gull. L. S. Dear and Ken Campbell reported a flock of Snow Buntings on April 7th. Other migrants will arrive soon - please keep the secretary advised about new arrivals.

Hoping to see you at the Annual Dinner,
Yours sincerely,
C. E. Garton, Past President,
A. E. Allin, Vice-President,
Keith Denis, Secretary.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held at the Orpheum Grill, Port Arthur, at 6.30 P.M. on the 17th of April, 1950. We are fortunate in having as our guest speaker Mrs. R. M. Beckett. Her subject, illustrated with her pictures, will be "TUNDRA TRAILS AND NORTHERN SEAS". Ken Campbell will display a number of photographs of nature subjects and several members will exhibit mineral specimens. It promises to be an interesting and entertaining evening. Bring any of your friends who are interested in natural history.

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ERRATA

Please insert the following corrections in the "List of the Birds of Port Arthur-Fort William and Vicinity" which is included in this newsletter.

	No. Years Observed	Change to
Snow Bunting -	-	8
White-collared Junco-	No. Years Observed	- 12
Alt. Kingfisher	- Latest Arrival	- 7.5.45
Burn. Dove	- Earliest Arrival	- 23.4.40
Great Blue Heron	- Average Arrival	- April 25
Pied-billed Grebe	- Earliest Arrival	- 27.4.42
American Redstart	- Latest Arrival	- 24.5.39
Milv. Thrush	- Latest Arrival	- 31.5.47

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF PORT ARTHUR - FORT WILLIAM AND VICINITY

By A. E. Allin

Since the reorganization of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club in the fall of 1938 its members have prepared several partial lists of the local birds. These include "Winter Birds of Thunder Bay District"; "Beginners Guide to Common Birds of Port Arthur-Fort William and Vicinity" (March, 1938) as well as a supplement to the latter in March, 1939. A mimeographed sheet "Average Dates of Arrival at Fort William-Arthur for 122 Common Birds, 1938-1944" was issued in 1947. In 1940 Col. L. S. Honorary President, published his brochure "Breeding Birds of the Region of Thunder Lake Superior, Ontario." (Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute, Vol. XXIII, No. 49, pp 119-143)

The present article is largely based upon the observations of the club members and breeding records are those reported by Col. Dear as well as a few which have been since 1940. Dates of arrival are based on the records for 1938-1949 inclusive. The area covered includes the territory lying within a radius of fifty miles of the head cities of Fort William and Port Arthur in the District of Thunder Bay, Ontario. It has been principally prepared for the use of members of the Naturalists' Club and school teachers and their pupils who may wish a local reference when studying the local birds. It has therefore been made as practical as possible and in some instances the names may not be those recommended by our leading ornithologists. 239 species are included. Subspecies have not been considered except the readily distinguished Crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia l. leucophrys* and *Z. l. gambeli*) In the case of the Larks only Hoyt's (*A.a. hoyti*) has been definitely indentified. Specimens of a variety of the species have been forwarded to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology.

B - Breeding; M - Migrant; SR - Summer Resident; R - Resident; V - Visitor
W - Winter Resident; 14.3.42-3&9 - on 14 March in 1942, 1943 and in 1949.

MIGRANTS & SUMMER RESIDENTS: 154 Species & 1 additional sub-species.

ARRIVAL DATES

Species	Status	Earliest	Latest	Average	No. Years observed
Common Crow	SR occ. R B	14.3.42-6	24.3.40&49	Mar. 19	12
Ring-billed Gull	SR occ. WVB	11.3.46	3.4.40	20	11
Common Robin	SR occ. R B	20.3.46	19.4.39	Apr. 3	11
Common Cuckoo	M occ. W	13.3.49	20.4.44	3	3
Common Hawk	SR B	24.3.46	20.4.44-5	7	12
Common Meadow Lark	SR B	15.3.42	30.4.45	9	11
Red-winged Blackbird	SR occ. W B	25.3.38	22.4.43	9	9
Common Grackle	SR occ. R B	31.3.45	24.4.47	12	11
Common Sharp-shinned Hawk	SR occ. W B	23.3.47	19.4.42	12	4
Common Ring-necked Pheasant	SR occ. W B	24.3.46	1.5.38	13	11
Common White-bellied Sapsucker	SR B	31.3.48	28.4.40	14	12
Common Wood Duck	SR B	24.3.46	30.4.39&44	14	11
Common Purple Finch	SR occ. W B	18.3.45	29.4.47	14	11
Common Golden-eye	SR occ. R B	30.3.45	26.4.43	14	11
Common Sparrow	SR B	31.3.45	23.4.47	15	12
Common Crowned Kinglet	SR B	31.3.45	27.4.40&47	16	12
Common Creeper	SR B	2.4.45	24.4.39	16	12
Common Red-shafted Flicker	SR B	8.4.49	29.4.39	16	12
Common Sharp-shinned Sparrow Hawk	SR B	9.4.39	20.4.38, N1	16	10
Common Canada Goose	M	4.4.48	23.4.38	17	9
Common Mallard Duck	SR B	8.4.42	1.5.39	17	11
Common Fronted Goose	M	12.4.45	22.4.48	17	2
Common Hairy Woodpecker	M occ. W	31.3.43	26.4.49	17	4
Common Goldeneye Duck	SR B	31.3.45	4.5.40	18	11
Common Merganser	SR occ. R B	31.3.45	6.5.44	18	12
Common Lesser Plover	SR B	25.3.45	6.5.44	18	11
Common Screech Owl	SR B	17.4.41	11.5.47	19	8
Common Sparrow	M occ. W	6.4.46	30.4.44	19	12
Common Common Woodcock	SR B	3.4.42	30.4.43	19	10
Common Yellow Warbler	SR B	31.3.45	29.4.40&47	20	12
Common Sparrow	M	10.4.48	1.5.38	20	8
Common Meadow Lark	M	8.4.39	2.5.48	20	2
Common Eastern Bluebird	SR B	17.4.49	29.4.47	21	3
Common Kinglet	SR B	11.4.41	1.5.43	21	12
Common Crowned Kinglet	SR B	12.4.45	29.4.47	22	12
Common Scaup Duck	M	11.4.42	9.5.43	23	9
Common Common Kingfisher	SR B	18.4.41-2&6	7.4.45	24	10
Common Common Eagle	SR B	21.4.48	27.4.49	24	2

at: Migrants and Summer Residents (Continued)

Species	Status		Earliest	Latest	Average	No. Years observed
Trey	SR	B	19.4.42&6	30.4.39	Apr. 24	7
land Longspur	M		6.4.49	2.5.48	24	7
head	M		16.4.49	7.5.43	24	6
Goose	M		17.4.49	4.5.39	24	6
tern Pigeon Hawk	SR occ. W	B	19.4.47	4.5.42	24	8
arp-shinned Hawk	SR	B	19.4.47	28.4.40	25	3
orning Dove	occ. SV		23.4.42	26.4.42	25	2
tle-head	M		4.4.45	6.5.44	25	8
nt Blue Heron	SR	B	9.4.42	3.5.39	26	9
lplate	M		18.4.45&8	7.5.43	26	7
ty Blackbird	M		18.4.48	7.5.39	26	8
ater Scaup Duck	M		18.4.45	7.5.43	26	5
mon Loon	SR	B	15.4.45	1.5.41&8	26	7
ras-back	M		19.4.45	9.5.43	26	3
pp Sparrow	SR	B	17.4.49	30.4.41	26	8
te-throated Sparrow	SR	B	23.4.43	1.5.44	27	12
tern Phoebe	SR	B	18.4.48	6.5.44	27	12
r-billed Gull	occ. M		17.4.49	10.5.47	27	5
y-necked Duck	SR	B	18.4.45	14.5.46	27	11
ican Rough-legged Hawk	M occ. SR		3.4.49	9.5.48	27	5
-ailed Hawk	SR	B	18.4.48	5.5.40	27	6
en-winged Teal	M		25.4.43&8	5.5.42	28	5
annah Sparrow	SR	B	12.4.45	9.5.44	28	8
-breasted Merganser	SR	B	21.4.45	7.5.40	28	10
ed Merganser	SR	B	18.4.42&8	10.5.47	28	6
it Thrush	SR	B	23.4.41	4.5.42	28	10
er Sparrow	SR	B	18.4.45	8.5.49	28	9
-billed Grebe	SR	B	27.3.42	29.4.40	28	2
on's Snipe	SR	B	11.4.49	6.5.47	29	10
rtling Swan	M		15.4.45	7.5.43	29	6
er Yellow-legs	M		18.4.38	8.5.49	29	8
er Snow Goose	M		21.4.49	8.5.45	30	7
ter Yellow-legs	M		18.4.38	10.5.40	30	11
e Swallow	SR	B	24.4.39	10.5.38	May 1	12
-winged Teal	SR	B	21.4.48	7.5.39&43	1	9
-winged Hawk	SR	B	26.4.42	12.5.45-6	4	11
Siskin	SR occ. R		17.4.49	9.5.39&48	5	8
ping Sparrow	SR	B	27.4.48	12.5.47	6	11
pell's Grebe	SR	B	26.4.45	16.5.48	6	2
ean Bittern	SR	B	25.4.48	15.5.38	8	12
le-crested Cormorant	SR	B	21.4.48	25.5.40	8	10
ted Sandpiper	SR	B	27.4.41	18.5.46	9	8
er Wren	SR	B	26.4.42	25.5.46	11	8
ln's Sparrow	SR	B	28.4.45	24.5.43	13	9
-coloured Sparrow	SR	B	6.5.43	23.5.49	13	7
-crowned Sparrow	M		6.5.41	23.5.45	14	11
Swallow	SR	B	12.5.40	15.5.49	14	2
Warbler	SR	B	2.5.42	24.5.38	14	10
ary Sandpiper	M		10.5.42&7	23.5.48	15	5
ille Warbler	SR	B	7.5.39	26.5.46	15	12
arte's Gull	M		5.5.42	22.5.45	15	6
Swallow	SR	B	7.5.38	25.5.46	15	11
's Sparrow	M		12.5.40	21.5.39	15	4
eller	M		7.5.39	24.5.49	15	4
ink	occ. SR		12.5.38	20.5.39	16	2
-throated Green Warbler	SR	B	10.5.42	22.5.38	16	12
an Pipit	M		7.5.39	25.5.47	16	2
Wren	SR	B	10.5.41	22.5.44	16	12
Waxwing	SR occ. R	B	22.4.45	5.6.39	16	8
and White Warbler	SR		2.5.42	19.5.43	16	12
Grebe	M		11.5.47	21.5.49	16	2
's Sparrow	SR	B	6.5.39	24.5.41	16	10
's Sparrow	M		9.5.43	23.5.45	16	3
ail	SR	B	4.5.39	26.5.41	17	5
Warbler	SR	B	5.5.41	27.5.47	17	12
ia Warbler	SR	B	12.5.38&2	25.5.46	18	11
an Goldfinch	SR occ. R	B	12.4.45	20.5.38	18	12
ern Water-thrush	SR	B	11.5.41	26.5.46	18	8
-backed Thrush	SR	B	7.5.40	29.5.48	18	9
cticut Warbler	SR		15.5.41-2	22.5.49	19	4
rn Wood Pewee	SR	B	15.5.49	25.5.40	20	2

List: Migrants and Summer Residents (Continued)

Species	Status		Earliest	Latest	Average	No. Years observed
American Redstart	SR	B	12.5.43	24.5.48	May 20	11
Kentucky Warbler	SR	B	14.5.44	5.6.48	20	10
Military Vireo	SR	B	14.5.44&45	29.5.43	20	8
Ammer's Swift	SR	B	14.5.41&47	28.5.46	20	12
Wilson's Thrush	SR	B	23.4.48	31.4.47	20	10
East Flycatcher	SR	B	15.5.44&49	31.5.42	20	10
Eastern Kingbird	SR	B	15.5.43&49	25.5.47	21	11
Orange May Warbler	SR		15.5.42	29.5.43	21	9
Parula-bird	SR	B	15.5.41	28.5.38&49	22	11
White-winged Scoter	M		14.5.48	27.5.47	22	3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	occ. SR		20.5.44	24.5.39	22	3
Down Thrasher	occ. SR		22.5.45	24.5.42	23	2
Blackburnian Warbler	SR	B	15.5.49	30.5.42	23	10
Bipalmated Plover	M		19.5.48	29.5.41	24	5
Bank Swallow	SR	B	1.5.41	4.6.49	24	12
Blue-breasted Grosbeak	SR	B	20.5.45	27.5.39	24	6
Orange-breasted Warbler	SR		10.5.42	31.5.41	24	5
Wilsonian Curlew	M		24.5.48	24.5.49	24	2
Indigo Bunting	M		23.5.48	24.5.49	24	2
Red-backed Sandpiper	M		20.5.48	25.5.40	24	6
Least Sandpiper	M		24.5.48	25.5.40&49	25	3
Nutcracker-sided Warbler	SR	3	15.5.49	31.5.47	25	11
Philadelphia Vireo	SR	B	15.5.49	9.6.48	25	9
Black-capped Warbler	SR	B	18.5.41	31.5.47	25	8
Blue-eyed Vireo	SR	B	20.5.42&45	31.5.47	25	11
Black-bellied Plover	M		24.5.41	25.5.42&47	25	3
Rocky Turnstone	M		23.5.48	27.5.45	25	3
Orange-crowned Warbler	M		22.5.38	27.5.47	25	2
Parula Warbler	M		20.5.39	1.6.47	26	3
Ring Plover	occ. V		25.5.47	26.5.40	26	2
Maryland Yellow-throat	SR	B	16.5.47	5.6.39	26	11
Black-pollied Warbler	M		18.5.41	1.6.47	26	6
Bipalmated Sandpiper	M		22.5.38	5.6.45	26	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SR	B	24.5.43-4&9	4.6.45	26	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	SR	B	22.5.49	2.6.40	27	3
Chipping Tanager	SR		25.5.41	30.5.48	27	3
Blue-throated Hummingbird	SR		22.5.42	31.5.46	27	7
Orange Warbler	SR	B	24.5.42	31.5.47	27	6
Blue-cheeked Thrush	M		28.5.39	28.5.49	28	2
Orange Flycatcher	SR	B	14.5.39	3.6.49	28	9
Parula Warbler	SR	B	20.5.48	6.6.42	28	8
Blue-sided Flycatcher	SR	B	26.5.46	31.5.41	29	6
Black-bellied Flycatcher	SR	B	24.5.38	8.6.48	31	8
Black-billed Cuckoo	SR	B	29.5.49	9.6.38	June 4	6
Lesser Sandpiper	Fall M		9.9.45	7.10.44	Sept 21	6
Green Plover	Fall M		9.9.45	26.9.44	21	6

Notes: N1-also same date in 1940, 42 & 47; N2-also same date 1940 & 1942

UNCOMMON SUMMER RESIDENTS (No migration dates available) 10 species (All breed)

Black-throated Loon	Short-billed Marsh Wren
American Coot	Catbird
Ring-billed Gull	Brewer's Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Indigo Bunting
American Long-eared Owl	Barred Owl

WINTER RESIDENTS - 11 species

Species		FALL ARRIVAL DATES		Average	Recorded No. Years
		Earliest	Latest		
American Raven	N1	5.9.49	3.11.40	Oct. 4	8
Green Shrike		11.10.45	28.10.48	21	5
American Redpoll	NB2	13.10.44	2.11.40	26	5
Blue Grosbeak		19.10.41	9.11.43	28	9
Great Owl		25.10.41	30.11.46	Nov. 7	5
American Waxwing		6.11.40	1.1.43	Dec. 15	6

Winter Residents (Continued)

Rare Winter Residents for which no adequate migration dates are available

- Golden Eagle
- American Hawk Owl (A rare resident which Col. Dear found breeding on one occasion.)
- Great Gray Owl
- Richardson's Owl
- Hoary Redpoll

Notes: NB1-The Raven is occasionally resident and has been found breeding at Silver Islet. (Ken Campbell)

NB2-The Common Redpoll is a winter resident but is more abundant during spring and fall migration.

RESIDENTS - 18 species. (All breed)

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Crowshawk | Pileated Woodpecker | Blue Jay |
| Spruce Grouse | Hairy Woodpecker | Black-capped Chickadee |
| Ruffed Grouse | Downy Woodpecker | Hudsonian Chickadee |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse | Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| Great Horned Owl | American Three-toed Woodpecker | Evening Grosbeak |
| Snow-whet Owl | Canada Jay | White-winged Crossbill |

INTRODUCED: 5 species (All breed)

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Hungarian Partridge | Common Pigeon | House Sparrow |
| Common Pheasant | Common Starling | |

RARE VISITORS - 29 species

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| White Pelican | Willet | Wip-poor-will |
| Wood Duck | Knot | Purple Martin |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | Dowitcher | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Lesser Scaup | Marbled Godwit | Mockingbird |
| American Scaup | Hudsonian Godwit | Migrant Shrike |
| Goldeneye | Northern Phalarope | Pine Warbler |
| Common Goldeneye | Glaucous Gull | Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| Greater Prairie Chicken | Iceland Gull | Baltimore Oriole |
| Whooping Crane | Common Tern | Red Crossbill |
| Virginia Rail | Black Tern | |

REPORTED FROM THE WILD BUT PROBABLY ESCAPED FROM CAPTIVITY - 2 species.

- Mute Swan
- Ring Dove

EXTINCT - 1 specie

- Passenger Pigeon

LISTED IN LITERATURE BUT NOT RECENTLY REPORTED - 9 species.

(a) Agassiz, Louis., 1850. Lake Superior. With a narrative of the tour, by J. Elliott Cabot, Boston, 1950.

White-rumped Sandpiper

(b) Atkinson, G. E., 1894. A Summer's Collecting and Observations at Port Arthur, Ont. Biological Review of Ontario, Vol. 1, No. 4, Oct. pp 94-101.

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|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Arctic Loon | Great Black-backed Gull | Kittiwake |
| Audubon's Caracara | Ivory Gull | Smith's Longspur |

(c) Wilson, Alfred W. G., 1910. Geology of the Nipigon Basin, Ont. Canadian Department of Mines, Geological Survey Branch, Memoir No. 1, p 32. Ottawa.

- Gadwall
- Screech Owl

Atkinson's records for Audubon's Caracara and Smith's Longspur are authentic but the remaining seven species are listed as hypothetical.