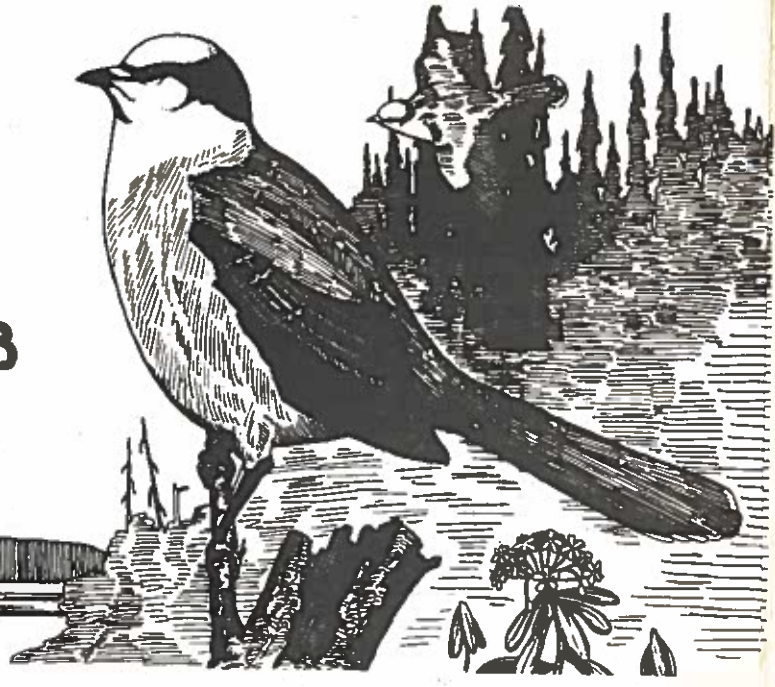


Vol XVII
No. 4

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December 1, 1963
Volume XVII, No. 4.

317 Morse Street,
Port Arthur, Ont.

Dear Fellow Naturalists:

The Annual Christmas Bird Census will be held on Saturday, December 21, 1963 - weather permitting. If the day is too unpleasant the census will be taken Boxing Day, December 26th. On this census every bird of every species is counted. The 7½ mile radius to be covered is roughly bounded by Chippewa Park, the Prison Farm Corner, Cartor Corners, Intola, and Bare Point. To avoid duplication please phone the editor MU 3-8815 who keeps track of where the different parties will travel. It is his duty to suggest areas to survey if someone already has been assigned a particular count area. Actually the census is usually a pleasant way of spending a day in the outdoors and still making a real contribution to the knowledge we have of wintering birds. Some unusual birds are often seen.

We hope everyone read Greg Clark's column in which he advocated we call the CANADA JAY the CANADA JAY. More on this later. Please write the editor if you have any earlier migration records or more brooding records than have been published. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. W. M. Knowles, President Joan Hobdon, Secretary Keith Denis, Editor.

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS FOR A NATURALIST

Poterson Field Guides, Binoculars, Scopes, Cameras, or a book on Natural History from the excellent list sent by the NATURE BOOKSHOP of the F.O.N. Or a wildlife recording from the "Sounds of Nature" series. Best of all a membership in the FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS - membership dues are Annual Single \$5.00; Annual Husband & Wife \$6.50; Annual Family \$7.50. All members receive the F.O.N. publication "The Ontario Naturalist" and the Family membership includes the paper "The Young Naturalist". A years subscription to "The Young Naturalist" makes a good present - \$1.00 a year. The address of the F.O.N. is Suite 301, 170 The Donway West, Don Mills, Ont.

THE NOTE BOOK

Newspapers can be a powerful force for the benefit of humanity, for what is read from their pages can make people realize the need for action when selfish or unthinking interests threaten the rights of the Canadian public. Newspapers also render a great service in presenting both sides of many controversial matters. Naturalists truly appreciate the courageous action many newspapers have taken in defence of nature and the right of the People to enjoy its wonders.

We have all read, with appreciation, the many articles published locally by the Times-Journal and the News-Chronicle; and though many may not have had the opportunity to read copies of the Atikokan Progress, it too is conservationally inclined. The Atikokan Progress for September 19th, 1963, had an article on the front page headed "NO MINING ON PARK LAND --BENIDICKSON" and quoted the Federal Mines Minister as saying that to permit mining activity within the parks "would introduce a foreign principle into the use of national parks resources". Other front page heads included "Wings and Tails of Grouse Species being Sought", and "Forestry Issues Warning Against Snaring Bears" and "Park Camper Charged for Shooting Bear". Two other articles dealt with tourism, which is increasing due to better access highways and the protection given our natural resources. It is newspapers like this that will make it possible to preserve the Quetico, and other Ontario Parks.

* * * * *

The advocates of insecticides came up with a new-to-us reason for their use, if we correctly interpreted the Ottawa report read this month. The reason is that the world faces a population catastrophe unless world food production can be greatly increased. The need would appear to be, on consideration of the problem, one demanding greater research in the field of developing fertilizers and in developing more productive strains of vegetable and animal life; plus strict regulations preventing the use of agricultural lands of high fertility for housing and industrial developments.

* * * * *

Members of the Walker Mineralogical Club of Toronto arrived at Wild Goose Park the evening of August 14th. Group leaders Dr. Walter Tovoll and Dr. Joseph A. Mandarino, both curators in the earth sciences division, Royal Ontario Museum, led parties to interesting sites for "rock hounds" during the next two days. Alan Stewardson, president of the Thunder Bay Lapidary Club, and several members of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club visited the group. Among the seventy-odd visitors was one well-known to many of our members - Ruth Marshall. (N.B. Some of us were lucky enough to see her on the TV programme "To Tell the Truth" one night this November.)

* * * * *

Laurits W. Krefting, M.S., biologist with the U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, visited our area to search local records for information on the moose herd at Isle Royale. He reviewed the information available through the archives of the Thunder Bay Historical Society.

* * * * *

H. Kenneth Campbell, once a very active member of our club and who now resides in Peterborough, delighted the seventy members who viewed his films at the auditorium of the Fort William Sanatorium November 23rd. One of the three movies, "Borcal Forest", contained many shots and recordings made locally. After the showing Ken told about the equipment used in making the films and answered many inquiries.

* * * * *

Robert Stein and Randolph Little, of Ithica, New York, were visitors June 20th, and went to Sibley Park to record bird songs. They are working on a three year project for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

BREEDING RECORDS - 1963 - THUNDER BAY DISTRICT

Common Loon	Aug. 8	2 young	Sibley Prov.Park	Marshall Bartman *
D.C. Cormorant	August	20 nests/30 adults & yg.	Conc I., Thundor Bay,	J. Murio (a drop from the 80 birds seen in 1962)
Great Blue Heron	July	colony	Black Bay	C. E. Garton
	Aug.	yg	Paipoonge Twp.	Mrs. Hamilton
Mallard	June 28	yg	Port Arthur	Dave Story
	July 12	6 yg	Noobing Twp.	A. E. Allin
	July 12	7 yg	" "	The Allins
	Aug. 2	8 small yg	Fort William	The Allins
Black Duck	June 3	4 yg	Fort William	S. Robb
	June	yg	Port Arthur	D. Story
Pintail	June 28	yg	Port Arthur	D. Story
	July 21	6 small yg	Port Arthur	A. E. Allin
Blue-winged Teal	July 18	10 newly-hatched yg	Fort William	A. E. Allin
Red-breasted Morgansor	Aug. 2	5 small yg	Fort William	A. E. Allin
Bald Eagle	June 18	adults at nest	Sunbow Lake	R. McCullough
	Summer	nest/ 2 adults	Squiors Lake	The Perrons
Pigeon Hawk	Aug. 17	1 yg	Fort William	A. E. Allin
Ruffed Grouse	May 24	8 eggs	Noobing Twp.	H. Quackenbush
	June 6	yg	Marks Twp.	Mrs. Killons
	June 9	nest/ 11 eggs	Paipoonge Twp.	Porrns, KD
	June 9	nest/eggs	Rainbow Prov.Park	R. McCullough
	June 20	4 yg	Sibley Park	Mrs. W.P. Hogarth
	June 22	1 yg	Paipoonge Twp.	Mrs. W.P. Hogarth
	July 28	8 yg	Sibley Park	A. E. Allin
	Aug. 25	6 yg	Ware Twp.	A. E. Allin
	Sept. 8	11 in covoy	Cloud Lake	The Allins
	Sept. 29	4 in covoy	Raith	Norman Denis
Killdeer	June 3	1 yg	Fort William	Marion Smith
	June 17	3 yg	Noobing Twp.	T. Perrons, KD.
Common Snipe	Apr. 30	winnowing	Noobing Twp.	Joo Raynak
	May 28	winnowing	Noobing Twp.	The Perrons, KD
Spotted Sandpiper	July 1	1 yg	High Falls, Pigeon R.	The Allins
Herring Gull	July 9	yg	Dorion Twp.	R. Robb, CEG.
	July	yg	Port Arthur	reported by pleasure
	Aug. 10	yg	Fort William	A. E. A. Craft
Ring-billed Gull	July 9	nest/eggs & yg	Granite I., Black Bay,	C. E. Garton
Belted Kingfisher	June 2	nest	Sibley Prov.Park	Edythe Denis
Yellow-shafted Flicker	May 20	excavating nest	Fort William	Robert Robb
	May 22	excavating nest	Port Arthur	Keith Denis
	May 31	excavating nest	Fort William	R. Robb
	June 2	nest (robin nest in top same tree,	F.W. Sinclair	Robb
	July 2	nest in birch	Dorion Twp	Mrs. H. Plunkott
	July 29	nest/ 1 yg	Amythest Harbour	Mrs. W.P. Hogarth
Pileated Woodpecker	May 11	excavating nest in aspen	Whitofish L.	Field Trip
	July	nest in old poplar	Noobing Twp.	Carl & Hilja Rydholm

Breeding Records - 1963 - Thunder Bay District

Red-headed Woodpecker	Sept. 7	1 yg	Paipoongo Twp.	A.E.A.	
Hairy Woodpecker	July	nesting holes reported, Sibley Park,			
Downy Woodpecker	June 23	nest	Whitefish Lake	Jack Lowcock	
Eastern Kingbird	July 1	nest/ 2 yg	Sibley Prov.Park	K. Donis	
	July 28	3 y $\frac{2}{3}$	Sibley Prov.Park	A.E.Allin	
Tree Swallow	May 29	nest box, very small amount nesting material			
	May 30	still very little nesting material but female building			
	June 2	1 egg			
	June 8	6 eggs			
	June 14	6 eggs			
	June 22	6 nestlings (above all the same nest)			
	June 8	nest complete in nest box			
	14	6 eggs (last observation June 22 still 6 eggs) *			
Bank Swallows	June 30	colony	Paipoongo Twp.	A.E.A.	
	June	nesting bank by Can. Car. largely removed and no evidence of any nesting.		K.D.	
Barn Swallow	July	nest	Middle Falls	Mrs. W.P.Hogarth	
Cliff Swallow	May	colony	Gillios Twp	Mrs. Kamstra	
	June 30	colony	O'Connor Twp.	A.E.A.	
	July 1	2 colonies	Pardee Twp	Allins	
	Aug. 11	2 pair feeding yg	Suomi	Allins	
	Sept. 1	yg being fed	Connoc Twp.	Allins	
Common Raven	July 13	yg present for a month,	Sturgeon Bay,	Mr. Scott	
Common Crow	June	nest/adults on nest Paipoongo Twp.			
Black-cap, Chickadee	Apr. 27	carrying nesting material into hole, P.A.,			R. Robb*
Red-breasted Nuthatch	May 11	nest	Devon Twp.	R. Robb*	
House Wren	June 14	nest built	Paipoongo Twp.	Mrs. E. Knowles	
	July 18	yg out of nest (same nest as above)			
	July 5	nest	Fort William	A.E.A.	
	May 29	nest box contained a few strands of dried grass			
	June 2	a few twigs had been added			
	June 14	completed nest filled box except for tunnel for entrance and exit			
	June 22	5 eggs			
July 10	5 nestlings. (end of this nest history)				
Robin	Apr. 16	nest almost complete	F.W.	A.E.A.	
	May 15	yg out of nest	Fort William	Mrs. G. Blako	
	May 22	2 yg in nest	Port Arthur	K.D.	
	June 6	nest/ female incubating eggs;	F.W.	A.E.A.	
	June 8	yg out of nest	Fort William	A.E.A.	
	June 10	5 yg blown out of nest, 1 survived; F.W.,			Don Potts
	June 10	2 yg fed by female	Port Arthur	K.D.	
	July 5	yg out of nest	Fort William	A.E.A.	
	Aug. 6	yg robin just out of nest, F.W.			A.E.A.
	Aug. 11	Robin carrying food	O'Connor Twp.	A.E.A.	
	Aug. 21	adults feeding yg on lawn F. W.			A.E.A.
	June 12	nest beneath cornice at roof level on horizontal part of evo trough - incubation began-			
July 5	nestlings almost full grown and noisy			Mrs. Hogarth	

Brooding Records - 1963 - Thunder Bay District

Eastern Bluobird	Nest begun May 29, completed June 2; June 8 to 19 there were 5 eggs in nest; one June 22 there were 5 nestlings; June 27 all were lying heads outward in a perfect rosotto. July 4 full grown, feathered, and ready to leave.		
	June 14 few strands dried grass		
	June 22 3 eggs		
	June 27 4 eggs (only 4 eggs when last seen July 4)		
	Aug. 25 3 yg	Oliver Twp.	A.E.A.
Starling	June 4 yg out of nest	Fort William	A.E.A.
	June 8 many yg out of nest	Fort William	A.E.A.
Yellow Warbler	June	nest, destroyed by house sparrow, F.W., Mrs. Hogarth	"
Myrtle Warbler	June 17	adult feeding yg. S.Bay, Amythost Harbour	"
Black-throated Green Warbler	July 29	adult with yg Amythost Harbour	Mrs. Hogarth
Blackburnian Warbler	July 29	adult with yg Amythost Harbour	Mrs. W.P. Hogarth
Chestnut-sided Warbler	July 7	4 yg in nest Black Bay	R. Robb & C.E. Garton
American Redstart	July 5	nest/ 3 eggs Fort William	A. Consaul
House Sparrow	May 9	carrying nesting material caused short circuit in Fort William - Fort William Hydro office.	
	June 7	nest in birdhouse Paipoongo Twp.	Mrs. Knowles
	June 15	yg out of nest Fort William	A.E.A.
	June 22	naked yg Fort William	Sinclair Robb
Red-winged Blackbird	June 2	nest/ 4 eggs Noobing Twp.	Allins
	July 1	2 yg out of nest being fed, Sibloy Park	K.D.
Brewer's Blackbird	Aug. 7	yg Fort William	A.E.A.
Common Grackle	May 30	nest/adult sitting Port Arthur	K.D.
	June	nest Noobing Twp.	A.E.A.
Evening Grosbeak	Sept. 11	yg. & adults Paipoongo Twp. (Migrants??)	AEA
Pine Siskins	Aug 17	many yg Fort William (migrants?)	A. E. A.
American Goldfinch	Sept(2nd week)	yg out of nest Fort William	Mrs. W. Rossor
Chipping Sparrow	June 15	nest/ 2 eggs Fort William	Mrs. MacDonald
	June 25	nest/chipmunk ate eggs, Lake Nipigon,	Mrs. A. Roberts, Duluth.
	July 29	adults with yg McGregor Twp.	Mrs. W.P. Hogarth
Song Sparrow	Aug. 10	adults/ 2 yg Fort William	A.E.A.
	June 17	nest/ 4 yg Port Arthur	E. R. Williams
	June 21	cat killed female and yg were dead by night (same nest as above - E. R. Williams)	
	July 7	nest/ 3 yg Dorion Twp.	Mrs. H. Plunkott

* The editor apologizes for mislaying a note. Please add these observations.
 Common Loon July 17 young riding on adults back, McGregor Twp., Mrs. Hogarth
 Tree Swallow July 7 yg out of nest Fort William Mr. Walton (another note)
 Black-capped Chickadee July 29 adult with yg; Amythost Harbour, McGregor Twp.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch July 17 adult feeding yg. McGregor Twp., Mrs. W.P. Hogarth
 Spruce Grouse Sept. 29 covey of 7, yg killed, Raith, N. Donis

A total of 51 species recorded in Thunder Bay District.

BOOK REVIEWS

HISTORICAL GEOLOGY by Carl O. Dunbar. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Second Edition, 1960. 500 pages including numerous illustrations. The discovery of radioactive chronometers have provided a valid means of measuring geologic time. In the prologue to this edition information is given on dating by (a) Uranium/Lead ratio; (b) Lead/Alpha-particle ratio; (c) Potassium/Argon ratio; (d) Rubidium/Strontium ratio; and (e) Radiocarbon. The work of establishing a geologic time scale that will show the absolute antiquity, instead of the relative dates based on the sequence of stratified rocks, is proceeding steadily and many of the advances are described. Radioactive dating, for instance, reveals the Laurentian granite of the Seine River area to be about 2,200,000,000 years old - much older than the "Laurentian" granite further east. Block diagrams show the relation of different rocks when this method clarifies the text. Pages 77 to 104 deal with Precambrian geology. Mention is made of the oldest known fossils which were found in Gunflint formation cherts. These fossils are microscopic but includes two kinds of extremely primitive fungi, two types of blue-green algae, and a possible flagellate. Chapter 18 deals with the Pleistocene Ice Ages and tells of the hope that a valid time scale will be found as work presently under way progresses. A very interesting book for the naturalist.

THE EVOLUTION OF NORTH AMERICA by Philip B. King. Published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. Pp.189; 1959. This well-illustrated book is filled with interesting facts. For instance, sima, the sub-oceanic crust, is a word coined by combining the abbreviations, not the chemical symbols, of its two commonest elements - silicon and magnesium. Similarly the sub-continent crust known as sial is dominantly composed of silicon and aluminum and are often seen as granites while basalt and its allies are typical of sima. The description of the Precambrian rocks of the Shield is interesting though it leaves a Canadian hoping a Dominion geologist will write our local Thunder Bay geology in detail when radiometric determinations have been made on this side of the border. The Keweenaw series, the youngest rocks, are stated to have piled up ten miles thick and the intrusive Duluth gabbro is about 1,100 million years old. How little we know about the ground we walk on! Worth reading!

THE GREAT WHITE MANTLE by David O. Woodbury. Published by the Viking Press, New York, 1962. Pp.214. This is the story of the ice ages and the coming of man, written in adventure-story style. Many intriguing points are raised. One is the thought that blueberries grow big and are plentiful after a hard winter but do poorly after a mild one because in the distant past the species developed in a very cold climate! And tillite - a conglomerate whose pebbles bear glacial striae. Many other ideas are revealed in the pages of this book.

NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF HYGROPHORUS By L. R. Hesler and A. H. Smith. 1963. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee. 432 pp. 116 figures. \$12.00 "The authors have added a large amount of new knowledge on this group of fungi. . . 216 species and 28 varieties and forms are fully described. In addition, useful and interesting notes on habitat, habit, distribution and relation with closely allied species are given." Extracts are from a review in The Canadian Field-Naturalist, Vol. 77, #3, written by Rene Pomeroy, Forest Biology Laboratory, Sillery, Quebec, P.Q. A book needed by the earnest student of fungi.

*** AND A NEW RECORD * * *

THRUSHES, WRENS and MOCKINGBIRDS

Volume 8 in the "Sounds of Nature" series, it presents the songs and calls of more than 100 birds of the 17 species of Thrushes, Wrens and Mockingbirds that are known to breed regularly in Eastern North America. Recorded by Dr. D. J. Borror and W. H. Gunn. From the F.O.M. Members' price is \$4.95 + O.S.T.