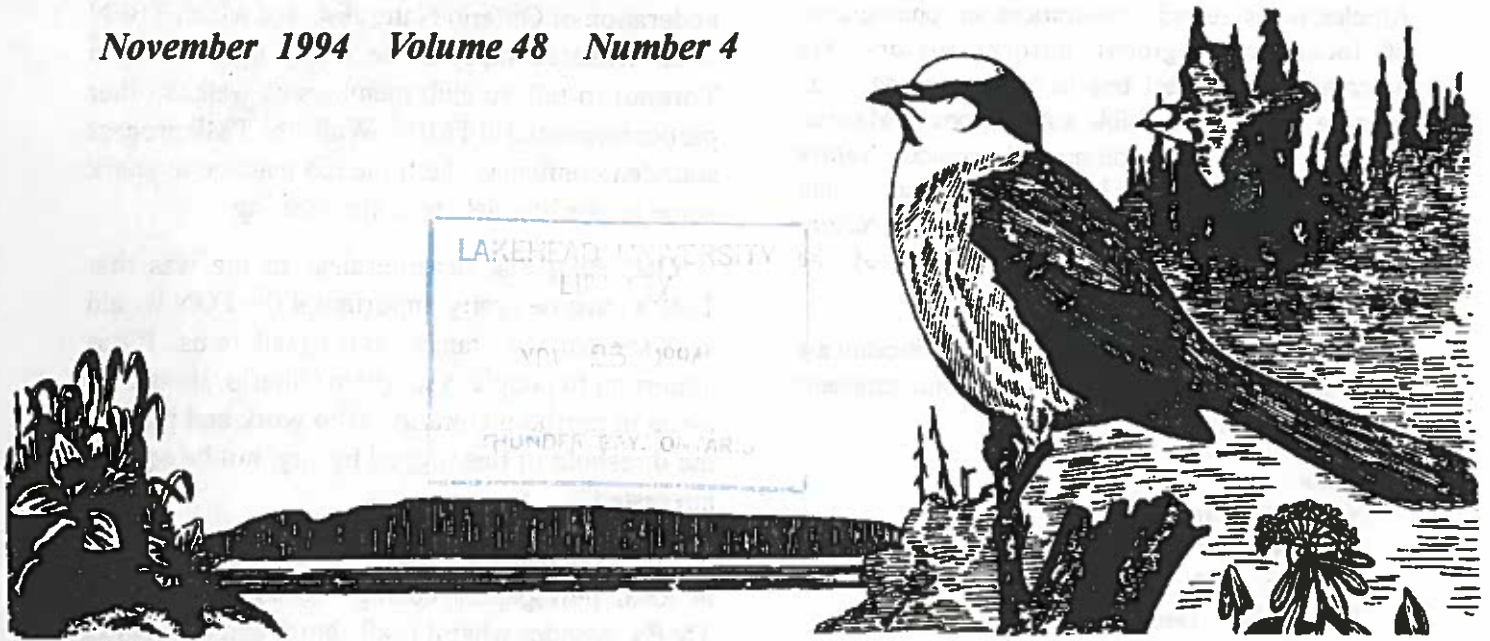


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ISSN 0836-4702

# Nature Northwest

November 1994 Volume 48 Number 4



## THUNDER BAY FIELD NATURALISTS

### Inside...

Editor's Quill.....	2	Birds .....	1 1
Bulletin Board .....	3	Sandhill Cranes Nesting .....	1 1
Project Peregrine .....	4	Baillie Birdathon .....	1 2
Quarterly Quotes .....	5, 14	Field Trip Reports .....	1 3
New & Noteworthy Plants .....	6	Off The Shelf .....	1 4
New Grass Species in District..	8	General Meetings Schedule ...	1 5
Atikokan Area Bird Notes .....	9	Upcoming Field Trips and	
Juniors Thank Body Shop .....	9	Boxing Day Bird Count.....	1 6
Bird Records - Fall .....	10		



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### Editorial Policy

*Nature Northwest* is a quarterly publication of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists. Each volume of *Nature Northwest* (ISSN 0836-4702) consists of four issues published in February, May, August and November. A subscription to *Nature Northwest* is a benefit of membership.

Articles, notes, records, illustrations and photographs of local and regional natural history are welcome. Please feel free to contact the editor in advance regarding possible submissions. Material accepted is subject to editing and revision. *Nature Northwest* is intended to be informative and thought provoking. Therefore, views expressed in *Nature Northwest* are not necessarily those of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists or the editor.

Your ideas, suggestions and constructive criticisms are also welcome. All written submissions and comments should be addressed to:

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P.O. Box 1073  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7C 4X8

Deadline for submission of material is the first day of the month in which the magazine is produced.

February issue ..... February 1  
May issue ..... May 1  
August issue ..... August 1  
November issue ..... November 1

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## Editor's Quill

At the September TBFN meeting, a guest speaker addressed the topic of Timber Management Plans (TMP). Chris Lompart of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (of which TBFN is an affiliated club) made a trip up here from Toronto to talk to club members as well as other parties interested in TMP's. While the TMP process sounded confusing, the topic did manage to spark some interesting debate at the meeting.

One thing that became clear to me was that TMP's must be pretty important if the FON would send someone to Thunder Bay to talk to us. If it is important to people in southern Ontario, should we living in northern Ontario, who work and play on the threshold of this rugged beauty, not be equally interested?

Yet, how many times do we see quarter-page ads in local newspapers calling for public input on TMP's, wonder what it is all about, and then shrug our shoulders in futility as we turn to the next page.

I have decided to finally dig into this issue and try to understand the significance of timber management plans to wildlife, recreation and the economy. I am going to make an appointment to view the Dog River-Matawin TMP (see next page) and see what one of these beasts looks like and why we are so intimidated by them.

I would encourage all members to examine a TMP at some point in the next year. *Nature Northwest* will have articles outlining some parts of Timber Management Plans to help you learn more. The TBFN executive are also interested in knowing if a few members would like to sit in on a TMP workshop (see Page 3).

TBFN members can have a say in how forests are managed. The FON is hoping that we will take a greater interest in Timber Management Plans and help ensure the long-term sustainability of Ontario's forests.

# Bulletin Board



## Now Available Directory of Great Lakes Educational Material, fifth ed.

The International Joint Commission is pleased to introduce this Directory of interest to citizens and educators in the Great Lakes. The Directory is a new and improved edition, featuring alphabetical title index as well as short descriptions and ordering sources for more than 700 audio-visuals, books, booklets, computer programs, directories, instructional materials, newsletters, pamphlets and special reports.

To receive a free copy of the Directory, contact the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office at (519)257-6734/35 in Canada.

### From Our Sales Corner

T.B.F.N. MUGS \$5.00  
T.B.F.N. CRESTS \$3.00  
BIRD CHECKLISTS \$0.50  
FLORA OF T. BAY CHECKLISTS \$3.00

Items can be purchased at our General Meetings or by calling Terri McClymont at 622-8185. Proceeds from the sale of T.B.F.N. items help to fund special club projects.

### BRING AND BUY SALE

The November 28th meeting will feature this annual treasure-trove of craft and culinary wonders. Bring a few loonies and help support the club.

## Public Review of Draft Plan 1995-2015 Timber Management Plan for the Dog River-Matawin Forest

The MNR is inviting the public to review the above-noted plan. It can be viewed until Friday, December 16, 1994 at the MNR Thunder Bay District Office on James St. Call Bill Wiltshire during regular office hours at (807)475-1157 to arrange an appointment.

The draft plan identifies timber harvest, forest regeneration, road construction, access management strategies and alternatives to accommodate tourism operations, fish, moose, heritage sites and other values in the Dog River-Matawin Forest.

The Dog River-Matawin Forest encompasses a large area to the west and northwest of Thunder Bay. It includes the area south of Highway 11 from Shabaqua Corners to Quetico Provincial Park; between Highway 11 and 17 from Shabaqua Corners to English River; and north of Highway 17 from Dog Lake westerly and along the CN Graham line.

Further opportunity for public input will occur during the 'Inspection of Approved Plan' from Friday, February 17, 1995 to Monday, March 20, 1995.

## Interested in Conserving Our Forests?

Would you be interested in participating in an informal workshop to find out more about Timber Management Plans? If a response is shown by a few members, we will arrange to have some 'experts' guide us through the process and show us what to look for in TMP's. Contact David Ellingwood (343-9415) if you would like to discuss this further.

# PROJECT PEREGRINE - 1994

by Harold Kish

**P**rior to the 1960's, the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus anatum*, was a summer breeding resident of Lake Superior's north shore. This continental subspecies vanished from their rocky eyries, primarily the result of man's use of agricultural pesticides (DDT and its metabolites) in the environment.

In 1973, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the University of Saskatchewan initiated the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program. In 1989, the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources, launched Project Peregrine in an attempt to reintroduce this species to the Superior north shore.

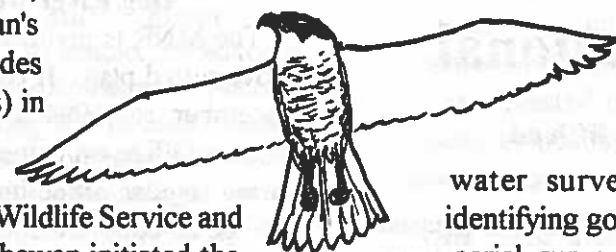
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*"...sixty-two Peregrine Falcons were hacked..."*

---

From 1989 to 1994, sixty-two Peregrine Falcons were hacked at Sturgeon Bay, Sleeping Giant Provincial Park and Ruby Lake. Encouraged by the initial success of the release, the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists sought support for a comprehensive habitat and nesting survey to determine the long-term success of their efforts.

**A**s part of the National Peregrine Recovery survey undertaken every five years, a boat survey of potential nesting habitat was completed by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in June and July of 1990. Although two birds were observed at Little Trout Bay, near the U.S./Canadian border, breeding could not be confirmed.



In the summer of 1993, a partnership was developed between the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Environment Canada, World Wildlife Fund, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Morning Star Charters and Canadian Helicopters to undertake a comprehensive water, air and road survey. While the water survey proved instrumental for identifying good habitat and territorial pairs, aerial surveys proved the only means of locating nests and confirming nesting success.

In 1994, the partners focussed efforts on aerial surveys, with an emphasis east of the Nipigon River where Peregrine Falcons had been reported, but nesting locations remained unconfirmed.

Topographic maps, navigation charts, historic records and recent sightings were assembled and utilized to determine a flight path which would cover the best suited breeding habitat of the Peregrine Falcon.

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*"The search covered all 1993 nest sites..."*

---

At 7:00 a.m. on June 30th, 1994, a team of four observers from the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists and Environment Canada departed on an eight hour flight. The search covered all 1993 nest sites and included good habitat on the island archipelago south of Superior's coast between Nipigon and Rosspoint.



## PROJECT PEREGRINE RESULTS

Five breeding sites with successful hatches have been confirmed for the north shore of Lake Superior. An additional two territorial pairs are suspected. A total of seven adult birds and eleven young were observed during the survey.

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*"...seven adult birds and eleven young were observed..."*

---

Nesting success averaged 2.2 young per nest. Fledgling success remains unknown.

## DISCUSSION & SUMMARY

**A**fter a quarter of a century, the Peregrine Falcon has returned to Lake Superior's north shore.

Their return is credited to active and intensive hacking programs in both Canada and the United States. Although there were no confirmed leg band sightings in 1994, a total of five adult falcons have been identified as those from either U.S. or Canadian Peregrine Falcon Recovery Programs in past surveys.

In the short-term, reintroductions of the Peregrine Falcon to Lake Superior are an apparent success. Long-term viability of this species is yet to be substantiated.

Five territorial pairs reside dangerously close to two Areas of Concern (Thunder Bay and Nipigon Bay) identified by the International Joint Commission for Remedial Action Plans. One pair feeds exclusively from the Thunder Bay Harbour and the Kaministiquia River, downstream from one of Thunder Bay's largest pulp and paper mills. Continued efforts will be necessary to monitor the return of the falcon and to determine if bioaccumulative and toxic substances will have any measurable affect on their reproductive success.

The success or failure of the National Recovery Program on Superior's north shore will be realized over the next decade. Long-term protection of critical breeding habitat will be necessary to sustain a viable breeding population for this endangered species.

Through the development of strong partnerships, government, industry and conservation organizations will be able to assist managers and research scientists with an indication of the health of not only this species, but also the ecosystem it inhabits.

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## ~ Quarterly Quotes ~

People are beginning to suspect that the greatest freedom is not achieved by sheer irresponsibility. The earth is common ground and we are its overlords, whether we hold the title or not. Gradually the idea is taking form that the land must be held in safe keeping, that one generation is to some extent

responsible to the next; and that it is contrary to the public good to allow an individual to destroy almost beyond repair any part of the soil or the water or even the view!

- E. B. White



## Some New and Noteworthy Plants for Thunder Bay District

by Allan Harris

The Checklist of Vascular Plants of Thunder Bay District consists of over one thousand species. Every year new plants are discovered in the district. Recently, 21 species have been added to our list. They include both new discoveries and older collections in other herbaria. The species are being reviewed for inclusion in future editions of the checklist.

### Stemless Locoweed

(*Oxytropis viscida* Nutt.)

In September 1994, Sue Bryan and Al Harris discovered a population of stemless locoweed at South Fowl Lake, on the Minnesota border. Several hundred plants were growing at the base of a cliff on loose, fine talus and in cracks in the bedrock. This is an arctic-alpine species with disjunct populations here and on the Gaspé Peninsula. Stemless locoweed is known from the Minnesota side of South Fowl Lake and had apparently been collected at North Fowl Lake on the Ontario side, but no local specimens are in the Garton Herbarium.

The sensitive habitat at South Fowl Lake is very vulnerable to erosion and should not be disturbed.

### River Bulrush

(*Scirpus fluviatilis* (Torrey) A. Gray)

Approximately 20 plants were found in shallow water at South Fowl Lake by Sue Bryan and Al Harris. This large, distinct species with triangular stems is common at Lake of the Woods and Fort Frances. None of the South Fowl Lake plants had flowered and they were smaller than typical plants farther west. This species apparently has been collected in Thunder Bay District before, but no other local specimens are in the Garton Herbarium.

### Smooth Fleabane

(*Erigeron glabellus* Nutt.)

OMNR biologist Wasyl Bakowsky discovered this prairie species near the Stanley Cemetery west of Thunder Bay last summer. Larger than the common Philadelphia fleabane (*E. philadelphicus*), it is found in Manitoba and western Minnesota with a disjunct population at Duluth, but had not previously been collected in Ontario.

The relict prairie community at the Stanley Cemetery has other species unique to Thunder Bay District including Drummond's Thistle (*Cirsium drummondii*), Flodman's Thistle (*C. flodmanii*), and Hoary Puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*).

All these species are well-represented in herbaria and should not be collected.

### Heart-leaved Arnica

(*Arnica cordifolia* Hook.)

In July of 1994, a population of heart-leaved arnica was discovered in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park near the Thunder Bay Lookout. Another population is known from Ravine Lake, about 15 km south. The habitat consists of mixed balsam fir-white birch-trembling aspen forest with typical understorey species. The Sibley Peninsula is the only place in Ontario where this Rocky Mountain species can be found. This is not an addition to our checklist, but the discovery of a new population of this provincially rare species is noteworthy. With its opposite, heart-shaped leaves and showy yellow flowers, it is easily recognized and should be looked for at other locations on and near Sibley.

### Farwell's Water-Milfoil

(*Myriophyllum farwellii* Morong)

This aquatic species was collected by Wasyl Bakowsky in 1993 on the Nipigon River south of Nipigon. It is an eastern species near the northwestern edge of its range. It may be more common and widespread in Thunder Bay District, but overlooked because of its similarity to other milfoil species.

### White water crowfoot

(*Ranunculus subrigidus* Drew)

Another aquatic collected by Wasyl Bakowsky in 1993 on the Nipigon River. It was common in quiet, shallow bays. Possibly more common and widespread, but overlooked.

The following 16 species are older collections from other herbaria which were not included in earlier editions of the checklist. The records are from the Natural Heritage Information Centre database.

### Wall Rue

(*Asplenium ruta-muraria* L.)

Collected in 1937. A herbarium specimen exists, but exact locality is not given. Eastern United States with disjunct populations on the Great Lakes.

### Standing Milk Vetch

(*Astralagus adsurgens* Pallas)

Prairie species collected by Claude Garton in 1950 at a railroad embankment in Current River. Possibly introduced.

### Milk Vetch

(*Astralagus agrestis* Dougl. ex D. Don)

Prairie species collected by Claude Garton in 1950 at a railroad embankment in Current River. Possibly introduced.

### Lance-leaved Grape Fern

(*Botrychium lanceolatum* (S. Gmelin) Angstrom)

Collected near Marathon in 1939. Eastern species at the western edge of its range.

### Sedge

(*Carex ormostachya* Wieg.)

Collected at Schreiber in 1937 and by Wasyl Bakowsky in 1993 near Jessie Lake north of Nipigon. Eastern species.

### Blue Wild Rye

(*Elymus glaucus* Buckley)

Collected by John Macoun at Pine Portage in 1884. Also collected at Michipicoten Island in 1931 and 1964. Beaches and shores. A western cordilleran species.

### Boreal Bedstraw

(*Galium kamtschaticum* Steller ex Schultes and Schultes)

Collected on Michipicoten Island in 1964. Pacific coast species with disjunct populations in eastern North America.

### June Grass

(*Koeleria macrantha* (Ledeb.) Schultes)

Collected in the 1950's at a sandy site near Port Arthur. Prairie species with several disjunct populations in the east.

### Canby Blue Grass

(*Poa secunda* J.S. Presl in C.Presl) (= *Poa canbyi*)

Collected on cliffs at North Fowl Lake in 1973. A prairie and mountain species disjunct in the east.

### Clinton's Club-rush

(*Scirpus clintonii* A.Gray)

Collected by Claude Garton in 1970 at "Black River Gorge, 3 mi east of Thunder Bay".

An eastern species near the western edge of its range.

### Pale Great Bulrush

(*Scirpus heterochaetus* Chase)

Collected at McEwen Lake near Allan Water. Found in shallow water at river inlet. Possibly more common and widespread, but overlooked.

### Roundleaf Ragwort

(*Senecio obovatus* Muhlenb. ex Willd.)

Collected in 1941 in damp woods on Michipicoten Island. An eastern US species with disjunct populations on the Great Lakes.

### Arctic Campion

(*Silene uralensis* (Rupr.) Bocquet)

Arctic species collected in 1954 on Coates Island in Lake Superior off the Black Bay Peninsula.

### Stiff-leaved Goldenrod

(*Solidago rigida* L.)

Collected on railroad embankment near Neys. Prairie species; possibly introduced.

### Oval-leaved Bilberry

(*Vaccinium ovalifolium* Smith)

Numerous collections from Michipicoten Island in rocky woods. A western species disjunct in the Great Lakes region.

### Heart-leaved Alexanders

(*Zizia aptera* (A.Gray) Fern.)

Several collections near Marathon on railroad embankments are thought to be introduced. Another collection from 1912 at a rocky hill south of Nipigon may represent a native population. A western species.

I thank Natural Heritage Information Centre biologists Wasyl Bakowsky and Mike Oldham for providing access to the NHIC rare plant database and for providing details on other collections.

### A New Grass Species in the Thunder Bay District

by Erika North

The presence of the European Sweet Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) in a rural area outside of Thunder Bay has been confirmed. It is an introduced species but smells the same on drying as out native sweet grass (which also occurs naturally in Europe). This 'new' grass species has persisted

in an old lawn area that had always been mowed until this last spring and summer. Fortunately for the grass, it was able to flower and reveal its identity. Its origin was undoubtedly from a meadow mixture brought over by the original Finnish homesteaders, possibly more than 50 years ago.

## Atikokan Area Bird Notes - Fall 1994

by Dave Elder

From August to the end of October, the weather in Atikokan was, in a word, delightful. Generally warm to mild temperatures and little precipitation were the norm for the period. October in particular was exceptionally pleasant with only a couple of light snowfalls that were gone by the following day.

There was a price for the good weather, however. Most migrants took advantage of it and flew on by the area without stopping. Fall rarities, always eagerly anticipated, were largely non-existent and even expected species, such as Snow Geese, were hardly seen. Pine Grosbeaks, usually the harbingers of winter weather, normally make an appearance the second week of October. This year, the first were not recorded until the last few days of the month.

Warblers, flycatchers and vireos all started moving south in early August and most were gone by the second week in September. Sparrows, including Harris' and Fox, followed close behind with numbers peaking the second week of October. Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos and Snow Buntings are currently the group representatives.

Of particular interest were two Tundra Swans on the Namakan River, about 60 km southwest of Atikokan on October 4. They were only the second fall record for the area. Common Redpolls were first noted on October 11 but have since disappeared.

American Robins were present in the area the first three weeks of October in unprecedented numbers. There were hundreds in town and probably thousands in the area. An incredible Mountain Ash berry crop likely attracted and held these migrants.

American Goldfinches, always a scarce bird here after mid-September, have been regular visitors to local feeders in flocks of up to a dozen birds. Most feeder operators do not recognize the fall plumage of this species and numerous phone calls were received inquiring about the identity of the tiny, olive-green birds.

Bohemian Waxwings have been present in the area for the past two weeks in flocks up to 50 birds. Again, the Mountain Ash berry crop is likely the attraction and accountable for an earlier than usual appearance. Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers moved through the area as usual during the latter part of October and a few hours spent in the bush would usually be rewarded with sightings of one or both species.

As a late note, 32 Bald Eagles were at the Atikokan town dump on November 5. WOW!!

So now we wait for the snow and watch to see what lingering species will hang on for the Christmas Bird Count.

Dave Elder is an avid birder in Atikokan.

### A Special Thanks to the Body Shop

The Thunder Bay Junior Naturalists recently received a generous \$317 donation from 'The Body Shop' at Intercity Shopping Centre. This donation recognizes the Juniors' community involvement in natural history and our local environment.

The Body Shop's financial assistance is a tremendous boost for our Juniors and it is expected that these new funds will be used to enhance their 1994/95 programs schedule. Although plans have

not been finalized, one field trip suggestion might include a boat visit to the Nipigon River Nature Reserve. This would provide the Juniors with an opportunity to learn more about the important role of protected areas and to explore the various wildlife habitats found at this site.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the Juniors program, please contact Heidi Strobel at 767-8418.

# THUNDER BAY DISTRICT BIRD RECORDS

- FALL 1994 -

The listed records include first (F) and last (L) reported migration dates, and notes on plumage (ad=adult, imm=immature, m=male, f=female, pr=pair, s-m=singing male on territory, juv=juvenile, migr=migrant, N=nest). Species in capitals are considered rare in Thunder Bay District. Send bird records at the end of each month to Dr. N. G. Escott, 133 S. Hill St., Thunder Bay P7B 3T9.

**OBSERVERS:** Steve Anderson, Doug Asquith, Dan Bascello, Al Baxter, Sue Bryan, Nicholas G. Escott, Geoff Gooding, K. Joan Hebden, Sharon Illingworth, Mike Jones, Irene Macdonald, Sylvie Mauser, Brian Moore, Annette van Niejenhuis, Stanley V. Phippen, George A. Williams, Wally Zarowski. TBFN = club field trip; TCBO = Thunder Cape Bird Observatory.

COMMON NAME	M	DATE	NO.	PLUMAGE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
Great Blue Heron		11 05	1		over Hwy 61	MJ,SM
CATTLE EGRET		10 17-24	1		Geraldton	S.Anderson
GR. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE		09 22	1	ad	Correctional farm	D.Bascello
Northern Shoveler	L	10 10-16	2	f	Correctional farm ponds	NGE
Gadwall	L	10 10	1		Chippewa	IM
HARLEQUIN DUCK		10 26	1	f	Chippewa landfill	GAW,AB
Black Scoter		10 05	10		Thunder Cape	TCBO
Hooded Merganser		10 14	150		Caldwell Lake	SB
Bald Eagle		10 25	28	migr	Thunder Cape	TCBO
Rough-legged Hawk		11 05	5	migr	Chippewa	TBFN
Golden Eagle		10 30	10	migr	Thunder Cape	TCBO
Peregrine Falcon		11 05	1	ad tundrius	Slate River Valley	TBFN
Sandhill Crane		09 01	24	migr	Lake St. Joseph	SB
American Golden-Plover		11 05	1		Mission Island Marsh	TBFN
Hudsonian Godwit		10 09	1		Boulevard Lake	Irene Trigg
WESTERN SANDPIPER		08 13	1		Thunder Cape	TCBO
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	L	08 16	1		Correctional ponds	GG
PARASITIC JAEGER		10 08	1		Thunder Cape	TCBO
Bonaparte's Gull		08 12	4	ad	White Lake	SVP
Thayer's Gull		11 05	2	imm	John Street landfill	TBFN
Common Tern		09 01	10		Lake St. Joseph	SB
Mourning Dove		10 20	6		Thunder Cape	TCBO
Short-eared Owl		11 03	1		Thunder Bay Airport	NGE
Northern Saw-whet Owl		10 13	100	migr	Thunder Cape	TCBO
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	L	09 22	1		Memory Road	SI
Red-headed Woodpecker	L	10 20	1		Thunder Cape	TCBO
Cliff Swallow	L	10 25	1		Thunder Cape	TCBO
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE		08 19	1		Chippewa	Ren Craig,GG
Eastern Bluebird		10 28	15		Memory Road	SI
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD		10 30	1	m	Pass L.Rd.E.@ Rd.#5	BM,AVN
Gray Catbird	L	09 01-29	1		Slate River Valley	BM,AVN
Black-thr. Blue Warbler		10 26	1		Thunder Cape	TCBO
Yellow-rumped Warbler		10 28	1		106 Elmwood Crescent	DA
Pine Warbler		10 15	1		Thunder Cape	TCBO
Bay-breasted Warbler	L	10 23	1		Thunder Cape	TCBO
HOODED WARBLER		10 15	1	ad banded	Thunder Cape	TCBO
Lapland Longspur		10 07	30+		Pass Lake field	KJH
Snow Bunting		10 28	450		Mission Island	WZ
Red Crossbill		08 02	170		Thunder Cape	TCBO

# BIRDS

by Nick Escott

## Thunder Cape Bird Observatory

Another season is over at the Observatory. Migration Program Manager Dave Shepherd, his wife Julie Cappleman, and long-term volunteer Dave Boyle finally packed up the mist nets and binoculars on November 3 and headed home to Guelph, Ontario (except Dave Boyle, who will be heading home to England after a short stay in Guelph).

This fall, the fourth consecutive year at the Cape, has been the quietest yet for songbirds and rarities, but some incredibly high daily counts for certain raptor species were tallied (see Bird Records). Over 400 Sharp-shinned Hawks and over 400 Northern Saw-Whet Owls were banded, with 92 Saw-Whets banded on one night alone!

## SANDHILL CRANES NESTING IN THUNDER BAY DISTRICT

Summertime sightings of Sandhill Cranes have been increasing over the past ten years in Thunder Bay District, and local breeding has been suspected for some time, but a nest has never been found. In the summer of 1993, I found a nest in a string bog near Geraldton.

Stan Phippen and John Woodcock were doing Forest Bird Monitoring Surveys for the Canadian Wildlife Service in June 1991, northwest of Geraldton, and heard Sandhill Cranes calling. John returned there on June 20, 1992 and walked in to a bog not far from a logging road near Nebula Lake. He found 4 adult cranes and two small fluffy young birds, about the size of grouse, already walking about.

On the evening of June 15, 1993, I walked in to the same bog. It is a string bog, a fairly long narrow wetland with alternating ridges and shallow pools, like the corrugations of an old-fashioned washboard. The pools are about a foot deep and 10 feet across;

Our ultimate goal is to make the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory an independent and self-sufficient operation, and, with this in mind, I would like to urge all our TBFN members to support the Observatory by taking out or renewing a membership in TCBO, by adopting a banded bird, by making a tax-deductible donation, or by buying TCBO T-shirts. TCBO members will receive at least 2 newsletters per year which will give much more detailed and extensive information on the birds, the people, and the goings-on at the Cape; please join TCBO when you send in your TBFN renewal!

For details on financial contributions, bird adoptions and T-shirts, you can contact any TBFN executive member.

the intervening ridges are composed of moss hummocks with scattered, stunted and dead black spruce and tamarack trees, no more than about 10 feet high and 4 inches in diameter. Buckbean grows in the pools; pitcher plant on the moss hummocks; it all "bounces" as one walks on it, indicating that the entire vegetative mat is floating.

This is the central strip of the bog. Down each side of it is a zone of somewhat larger and more closely spaced, but still stunted, spruce, tamarack, and cedar trees. Here, Palm Warblers can be seen and heard singing. Yet further away from the centre of the bog is an area of more luxuriant vegetation: verdant black spruce trees with a rich understory of moss hummocks and scattered swamp birch shrubs, Labrador tea, and occasional yellow ladies' slippers. Here, where the trees open up a bit to provide sunny glades, the elusive Connecticut Warbler sings his persistent song, sometimes from a hidden perch in a tangle of dead branches well up in a black spruce, other times as he forages for



insects in tangles close to the ground. The Frigga's Fritillary butterfly lazily flies about the swamp birch and Labrador tea on the forest floor.

Shortly after reaching the centre of the bog, I saw an adult Sandhill Crane silently walking along parallel to my path, but in the opposite direction. It sometimes pulled some moss up from the ground as though feeding, but obviously found nothing to eat, and dropped the vegetation. Occasionally it drooped its wings, but it remained silent, and stayed fairly close. As I proceeded in the direction I had previously determined, the crane started making some low croaking calls, and began following me. As I was wading through one of the many shallow pools, I noticed a yellowish object in the water. On closer inspection, it was a small fluffy baby crane, hunkered down so that only the beak and the top of the head and body were above the water surface.

I slowly stepped away from the baby. It got up and started walking; the adult slowly and rather circuitously ambulated back to it, and they walked off together along the edge of the pool, a beautiful sight in the setting sun.

Then I came upon the nest quite by accident. I saw two large black-and-gray feathers at the lateral edge of one of these ponds, next to a large moss

hummock. The hummock was about 4' in diameter, right on the edge of the pool, with 3 dead stunted trees growing from the outer edge of it. The centre of the hummock was flattened over a circular area about 2' in diameter, and a thin layer of small sticks and grass had been placed on the moss. This platform was about 1' above the water level in the pool. A few feathers littered the area, also some irregular pieces of white membranous material (egg-shell membrane?), but the birds had gone.

I returned to the same spot the next day but could not find the cranes. Instead, my presence was discovered by several territorial Greater Yellowlegs, who incessantly scolded and screamed at me as they flew in circles about me and landed on the tops of the stunted dead snags. They also obviously had young nearby, and their raucous screaming allowed their own babies, as well as the cranes, to keep well clear of me.

Sandhill Cranes probably nest in the Pearson Township wetlands, and the Trewartha Peatland near Upsala, and have been seen in the summer in Slate River Valley and the Candy Mountain area. They probably nest in all these places, but because they are very wary and prefer inaccessible boggy areas, it would be very fortuitous to actually find a nest.

## Congratulations Baillie Birdathoners!

TBFN participants in the 1994 Baillie Birdathon have raised \$1964.85. Of this amount, \$491.21 has been returned to the club and is targeted for the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory.

The remainder of the money is divided between the Long Point Bird Observatory (organizers of the Birdathon) and the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund. LPBO uses its proceeds to fund its many programs monitoring Canada's bird populations. The Baillie Fund provides grants to worthy bird research and conservation projects across Canada.

TBFN had a fine showing in the Birdathon, ranking ninth in the Province for total money raised.

Thank you to all Baillie Birdathon participants: Allan Baxter, Evelyn Brooks, Andrew Bryan, Susan Bryan, Rob Foster, Allan Harris, Mary Ellen MacCallum, Myra McCormick, Brian Moore, Erika North, Gary Roy, Susan Van Ael, Annette van Niejenhuis and George A. Williams.

## Trip Reports

Saturday, October 1, 1994

Chippewa Landfill

Submitted by: Tom Dyke

Field Trip Leader: Irene MacDonald

A small group of five members explored Chippewa Park and the landfill site. It was a grand and sunny day (+5°C), but slack for birding with very few birds.

Our list of only 28 common species included:

Red-necked Grebe	Double-crested Cormorant
Snow Goose (3)	Canada Goose
Black Duck	American Widgeon
Ring-necked Duck	Lesser Scaup
Common Goldeneye	Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser	Common Merganser
Kestrel	Merlin
Coot	Lesser Golden Plover
Herring Gull	Ring-billed Gull
Downy Woodpecker	Hairy Woodpecker
Horned Lark (15, incl Hoyt's race and 1 hybrid)	
American Crow	Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Dark-eyed Junco	

Our mammals were one chipmunk and our butterflies were a Mourning Cloak and a Sulphur Yellow.

Saturday, October 8, 1994

Silver Islet

Submitted by: Tom Dyke

Field Trip Leader: Tom Dyke

Our group of five members combed Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, stopping at Joeboy Lake, Rita Lake, Pickerel Lake and Lake Marie Louise. We then checked the Islet. Although the forest was in resplendent and breathtaking full colour, birding was poor.

Following is our list of 11 species of birds observed during the trip:

Common Loon	Canada Goose
Lesser Scaup	Common Merganser

Ruffed Grouse	Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull	Gray Jay
American Crow	Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee	

Saturday, November 5, 1994

Late Fall Migrants

Submitted by: Tom Dyke

Field Trip Leader: Dr. Nick Escott

The weather was cloudy and cool (mean temp. +3°C) for the TBFN's annual fall 'big day'. Thirteen people began the day at Mission Island Marsh. From here the group moved on to cover the Cargill weed patch, Chippewa, Correctional Centre, Slate River, John Street landfill, Boulevard Lake, Provincial Papers and the Marina. We finished the day near the Airport looking in vain for a Short-eared Owl.

Our commendable list of 52 common species included:

Common Loon	Canada Goose
Green-winged Teal	Black Duck
Mallard	American Widgeon
Redhead	Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup	Common Goldeneye
Bufflehead	Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser	Bald Eagle (4)
Northern Harrier	Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk	Peregrine Falcon
Coot	Lesser Golden Plover
Herring Gull	Ring-billed Gull
Thayer's Gull	Rock Dove
Mourning Dove	Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker	Horned Lark
Blue Jay	Black-billed Magpie
American Crow	Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin	Water Pipit
Cedar Waxwing	Northern Shrike
European Starling	Tree Sparrow
Song Sparrow	Lapland Longspur
Snow Bunting	Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark	Common Grackle
Pine Grosbeak	Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin	American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak	House Sparrow

**Shield Country: The Life and Times of the Oldest Piece of the Planet**

Written by: Jamie Bastedo  
 Publisher: The Arctic Institute of North America of The University of Calgary  
 Printed: 1994  
 No. Pages: Paperback; 280 pages incl. 3 maps and 20 pages of colour photos  
 ISSN: 0840-4488;4  
 Price: \$20 + postage and handling  
 Reviewer: Joan Hebden

This is a handsome 271 page book with many maps, diagrams and photographs in both black and white and colour. In addition to its table of contents, it has a detailed index, many pages of references and a glossary of terms used.

Although the writer lives in Yellowknife and takes much of his material from that particular part of Canada, much of the information is applicable to the Canadian Shield in other parts of Canada, including our own area.

The writer, described as "an environmental consultant and intrepid naturalist" writes with warmth and love about his part of the world. His explanations of geological phenomena are the clearest I have read anywhere. While his examples

are taken from the Yellowknife area, the big picture involving the rocks and glaciers applies nicely to our country around Thunder Bay.

He divides his material into three sections: the making of a landscape, today's landscape and tomorrow's landscape. His information about animals and insects are clear and sometimes startling. The lists of birds and plants common to specific habitats are equally clear and useful here, as our habitats are similar: coniferous forest, deciduous forest, wetlands and shores of rivers and lakes.

This readable, well-illustrated and well-bound volume is an up-to-date source of information and delight to local naturalists in particular. It will make a useful addition to a naturalist's library.

**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS???**

Have you particularly enjoyed a nature book you read recently? Share your reading experiences with other readers of *Nature Northwest* through a brief book review. All amateur critics are welcome.

Books should be of recent publication and can cover any nature-related topic, such as plants, birds, animals, parks management and so on.

Send your reviews to the Editor, *Nature Northwest*, care of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists.

~ Quarterly Quotes ~

The most alive is wildest. Not yet subdued by man, its presence refreshes him. One who presses forward incessantly and never rests from his labours, who grows fast and makes infinite demands on life, will always find himself in a country or wilderness.

- Henry David Thoreau

Unlike man  
 A tree must shed  
 Its leaves and show the  
 World its true nature.

- John Charles Amesse

**GENERAL MEETINGS - Fall 1994 to Spring 1995**

**LUNAN HALL**  
 St. Paul's United Church  
 349 Waverly Street  
 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

All scheduled meetings (except the Annual Dinner) are held in the "Lunan Hall" at St. Paul's United Church. We look forward to meeting new members and renewing old friendships.

Please note that meetings begin promptly at 8:00 p.m. so that we will finish early enough to have time to socialize after the presentation.

**Monday, November 28, 1994**  
 "Fire as a Factor in Forest Ecosystems of Northwestern Ontario"

Fire has long played an important role in the development and maintenance of forest types in this region. Have we been giving fire enough credit? Bill Addison will examine this 'hot' topic.

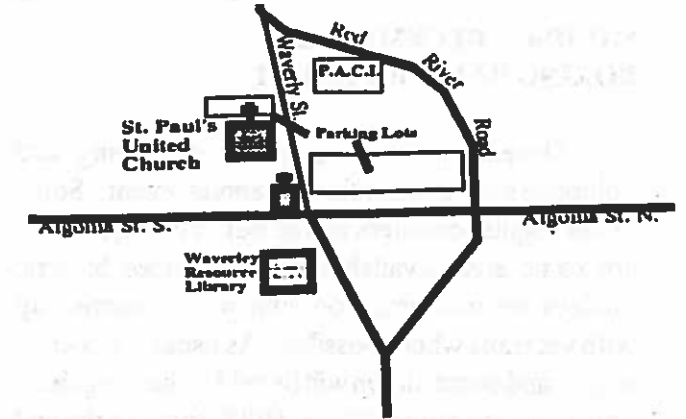
**PLUS Bring and Buy Sale!**  
 Unique gifts and delectable delicacies.  
 Don't miss this one!

**Monday, January 23, 1995**  
**ANNUAL MEETING and Members Night**  
 Bring along your ten best slides of 1994 to share and tell!

**February, 1995**  
**ANNUAL DINNER**  
**Columbus Centre, May St. & Arthur St.**

Join us for a delicious buffet meal; followed by:  
**"Betty's Butterflies:  
 A Betty Walker Retrospective"**  
 We honour the memory of one of TBFN's most gifted photographers with a showing of the best slides from her remarkable collection.

The Columbus Centre is located at the southwest corner of May St. and Arthur St.



**Monday, March 27, 1995**  
**"Native Perspectives"**

There are profound differences (and perhaps some surprising similarities) between Native and non-Native outlooks and attitudes toward the environment, conservation and resource use. Professor Dennis McPherson, Chair of Lakehead University's Indigenous Learning Department, has spent many years researching and teaching on these matters. We invite you to join us for this presentation by one of the region's most thoughtful and dynamic educators.

**Monday, April 24, 1995**  
**"First Aid for Owls and Other Raptors"**

Over the last few years, Jack Stewart, an animal control officer with the City of Thunder Bay, has devoted much of his spare time to the rehabilitation of injured owls and birds of prey. Jack is a lively raconteur, with a wealth of offbeat animal stories to tell. He may even bring some feathered clients to show us.

