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250 Algoma St. N.,  
Port Arthur, Ont.

Fellow Field-Naturalists:

The new series of Audubon Screen Tours commence this month and tickets for the entire series are now available. These programmes have been well received during the past two seasons and it is hoped that all members will contact all their friends who do not belong to the club and interest them in purchasing season tickets. The Tours present the best in all-colour outdoor motion pictures on a variety of wildlife subjects.

Fran William Hall will present "The Four Corners" at the Fort William Vocational School on Thursday, September 25th. "Happy Valley" will be shown at the Port Arthur Technical School on Thursday, November 27th, when the nature team of Tom and Arlene Hadley will tell of canoe treks in northern Michigan. Robert C. Hermes will be here with "Bonaventure Diary" on Thursday, December 18th and on February 19, 1953 Walter H. Shackleton will present "Oddities in Nature". Howard Cleaves brings an outstanding film "Midnight Movies in Animaland" on March 5th.

Any members interested in meeting any of these speakers after the lecture should contact the secretary by phoning 4-1336. While it might not be possible to meet every speaker the executive will provide the opportunity to talk to one or more of the Audubon Tour lecturers.

Our FALL FIELD DAY will be held on Sunday, October 26th at Cavern Lake. Members will meet at Central School in Port Arthur at 9.30 a.m. and drive to the side road above the Dorion Fish Hatchery. A visit will be made to the bat cave and it is suggested that everyone brings a good flashlight. Last year nine banded bats were counted by Claude Garton when he visited the cave. Bring a lunch and wear warm clothing and good hiking boots.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists have asked us to co-operate in a study of fall hawk migration flights and the main watch days are on the week-end of September 20-21. Dr. A.E. Allin has been appointed to serve on the F.O.N. Committee on Study of Hawk Migration. Any migration movement of hawks observed on any day this autumn should be reported to him. The flight lines used by local raptors are unknown. In some localities the hawks move along lines paralleling cliffs, especially near the shores of large lakes. We hope to learn where to look for the migrating hawks this year so better observations can be made next year.

Please send the secretary any observations made during the past few months. We hope to publish our 1952 list of breeding records next month and to have it as complete as possible. Fall migration records are scarce and the last date that summer residents are seen would provide interesting information.

Yours sincerely,  
A.E. Allin, President.

Keith Denis, Editor.

FROM THE NOTEBOOK

THE CANADIAN LAKEHEAD - Edited by A. E. Allin.

As a whole, May and June were fine months but the period commencing May 11 was cold and wet with snow falling outside the Lakehead cities. Migration, which had commenced on March 18 with the arrival of herring gulls and crows, continued throughout the first few days of June, closing with the appearance of alder and yellow-bellied flycatchers and black-billed cuckoos. Chimney swifts arrived unusually early, appearing on May 5 although we had not previously recorded them before May 14 (1941 and 1947). On the cold and wet evening of May 13, we observed an example of an unusual bird phenomenon - reverse migration. Red-breasted nuthatches and Cape May, myrtle and palm warblers were moving steadily in a south-westerly direction accompanied by innumerable black-capped chickadees. Cape May warblers had never been reported so early previously and black-capped chickadees are ordinarily breeding at that time. The explanation of the movement is not immediately available but was probably associated with the unusual weather conditions present during that period.

Shore-birds are uncommon at the Canadian Lakehead but numbers were reported by C. E. Garton at Port Arthur on May 18, a week earlier than expected. A heavy migration on the night of May 23-24 brought a wave of redstarts and chestnut-sided warblers and lesser numbers of other species, including catbirds and brown thrashers both of which visit us but rarely. As a whole, I believe birds were more abundant than they have been for several years and this condition persisted into the breeding season.

A new species and an additional subspecies were added to the local bird list during the month. On May 24 participants in the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club Field Day observed two rough-winged swallows and on May 19, Dr. Allin saw a northern horned lark. Horned larks are rare visitors with us and those previously identified had been Hoyt's. It is difficult to explain the absence of the prairie horned lark since there are farm-lands which appear suitable for that subspecies. It will be recalled that a red-tailed hawk observed on April 11 was identified as Krider's.

Five members of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club, Dr. and Mrs. Allin and son David, Dr. and Mrs. W.P. Hogarth were privileged to attend the M.O.U. Field Day at Frontenac on May 17. It was a rare treat to travel from the black spruce-aspen poplar-white birch country typical of our own area and of Northeastern Minnesota, south 275 miles to a land of almost prairie conditions, its valleys wooded with oak, elm and maple. Red-bellied woodpeckers, prothonotary warblers, blue-gray gnatcatchers and the tufted titmouse were strangers to us and we were amazed at the numbers of brown thrashers, catbirds, Baltimore orioles and cardinals. The Canadian Lakehead is well within the Canadian Zone whereas Frontenac near the southern border of the Transition Zone is invaded by birds from the warm humid Upper Austral Zone to the south. This would partly explain why 138 species were observed at Frontenac and only 78 at Fort William a week later when we held our own Field-day.

The whistling swan is an uncommon migrant locally, a few being reported each spring during the last few days of April and the early part of May. During the summer of 1951 a swan was observed at Lake Shebandowan and there are reports that two have been seen during the summer for several years in the Nipigon Straits. This pair was again reported in 1952. A single bird was seen on Lake Nipigon in July by Lauri Manuel. Two were present in late July on the Kaministiquia River above Kakabeka Falls and one of these was seen flying over the river on July 25 by Colonel Dear. A swan spent the first two weeks of August on the same river at Kaministiquia Village, ten miles above Kakabeka Falls according to Mrs. Tuominen. Presumably the above birds are whistling swans but their presence so far south of their normal summer home deserves special study.

Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Lawrence drove to Rossport on May 18th, observing a cow moose, a flock of white-crowned sparrows, pileated woodpeckers, a flock of 15 Golden-eyes of mixed genders and tree swallows. At Silver Island on May 25th they saw a pair of Blackburnian Warblers, a male Purple Finch, 3 Harris Sparrows, besides song, vesper and chipping sparrows, barn and tree swallows, hundreds of chimney swifts at the old store, a Grey-cheeked Thrush, Kingfishers, Loons, a female American Nerganser, and Magnolia, Myrtle and Black & White warblers.

FIELD NOTES

Apr. 11	Pigeon Hawk, Rosslyn, G. Whitefield.	May 18	Nashville Warbler, Bill Addison
" 13	Woodchuck, Dorion, G. Whitefield.	"	Red-backed Sandpiper, P.A., C.E.G.
" 16	Bronzed Grackle, P.A., G.E.G.	"	Semipalmated Plover
" 19	Spring Peeper, P.A., Ken Eoll.	"	Semipalmated Sandpiper.
" 20	Ring-necked Duck, P.A., Addison's	"	Solitary Sandpiper
" 24	Lesser Scaup in bay, A.E.Allin	"	Sanderling
"	Greater Scaup	"	Connecticut Warbler
"	Redhead	"	American Pipit
"	Snow Geese (2)	"	Lapland Longspur
"	Little Brown Bats, P.A., Lawrence's	"	Barn Swallow
" 27	Blue-winged Teal, P.A., C. E. Garton	"	Bear Cub, McDiarmid, M. Drummond.
"	Baldpate	"	Skunk currant in bloom, C.E.G.
"	Sweet Coltsfoot Blooms, Denis'	"	Goldthread in bloom, K.D.
"	Phoebes common in area	"	Raccoon killed near Hymers.
"	Hundreds of Canada Geese on lake	" 19	Northern Horned Lark, A.E.A.
"	Selkirk's Violet, H. Rydholm	"	Least Flycatcher
" 28	Sharp-shinned Hawk, McTavish Twp.A.E.A	"	Bald Eagle, McVicar's Point, E.Bro.
"	Cooper's Hawk, Loon., L.S.D.	" 20	Rose-breasted Grosbeak, F.W.,A.E.A.
" 29	Pigeon Hawk, Ken Eoll.	"	Black-pollled Warbler
" 30	Tent caterpillars, P.A., H. Schmidt.	"	Magnolia Warbler
"	Dandelion blossoms, Betty Denis	" 23	Eastern Kingbird, A.E.A.
"	Ruffed Grouse Drumming, K. Eoll.	"	American Redstart
May 1	Whip-poor-will, Black Bay, R.Strong	"	Philadelphia Vireo
"	Old Squaw (Coween) "	"	Brown Thrasher
"	Pine Siskin, C.E.G.	"	Red Crossbill (pr) Kakabeka, R.Robb.
" 3	Marsh Marigold blooms, P.Addison Jr.	" 24	Oven-bird
"	Cliff Swallow, O'Connor Twp. A.E.A.	"	Rough-winged Swallow (Field Party)
"	Palm Warbler, C.E.G.	"	Catbird
"	White-crowned sparrow.	"	Chestnut-sided Warbler
"	Red-breasted Merganser.	"	Clay-coloured Sparrow
" 4	Wild Strawberry bloom,Boegh Pk.	"	Dragonflies (3 species)
"	Lawrence's	"	Pileated Woodpecker, Dorion,
"	Skunk Cabbage, Vickers Hgts. H.Rydholm	"	Mrs.Plunkett.
"	Horned Lark, C.E.G.	"	Least Sandpiper, K. Eoll.
" 5	Chimney Swift, F.W., A.E.A.	" 25	Gray-cheeked Thrush, Silver Island
" 6	Black & White Warbler, K.Eoll.	"	J.R.Lawrence's & M.J.Armstrong's
" 7	Black-throated Green Warbler, A.E.A.	"	Harris Sparrow
"	Common Suckers running streams.	"	Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Amythest
" 9	Holboell's Grebe, Mrs. W.P.Hogarth.	"	Willy Remus.
" 10	Whistling Swan, Mr. Wyrott	" 26	Brewer's Blackbird, A.E.A.,L.S.D.,
"	Iceland Gull., P.A. K. Denis.	"	W. Gunn
"	Lincoln Sparrow, C.E.Garton.	" 27	Nighthawk, P.A., Denis'
" 11	Double-crested Cormorant,W.J.Thompson	"	Canada Warbler, A.E.A.
"	Bay-breasted Warbler, C.E.G.	" 29	Black-billed Cuckoo, L.S.Dear.
"	Upland Plover, Neebing Twp., A.E.A.	" 31	Mourning Warbler, C.E.G.
"	Wild Plum (Prunus nigra) bloom.	June 1	Bobolink, Stanley, L.S.D., A.E.A.
"	Golden Corydalis bloom	"	Alder Flycatcher
"	Viola arenaria	" 2	Wilson's Warbler, P.A., K.D.
"	Viola pallens	" 4	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, F.W.
" 12	Tennessee Warbler, P.A. K.Campbell	"	A.E.A.
"	Black-throated Blue Warbler, K.D.	" 5	American Woodcock, L.S.D.& A.E.A.
" 13	American Goldfinch, Rosslyn.Anita	" 7	Osprey, Castle L., C.E.G.
"	Hautomaki.	" 7	Leconte's Sparrow, O'Connor Twp.
"	Cape May Warbler, A.E.A.	"	A.E.A.
" 14	Fairyslipper Orchid (Calypso bulbosa)	" 8	Wood Pewee, O'Connor Twp. L.S.D.
"	Vickers Heights, H. Rydholm.	"	& Allins.
"	Yellow Warbler, P.A., Mrs.Brooker.	"	Northern Yellow-throated Warbler.
"	Blue-headed Vireo, A.E.A.	"	A.E.A.
" 15	Virgin's Bower blooms, H. Rydholm	" 14	Black Tern(3) Whitefish L. K.D.
"	Chokecherry blooms	"	A.E.A., D.E.A., Common Tern (7)
" 17	Blackburnian Warbler, Bill Addison	" 19	Olive-sided Flycatcher,Gravel,REA.
"	Spotted Sandpiper, C.E.G.	" 21	Newt (2) Hazelwood L. Mr.Lonsdale
"	Orange-crowned Warbler	" 22	Red-headed Woodpecker, Kakabeka.
"	Northern Water Thrush	"	L.S.D.
"	Red-eyed Vireo	"	Sora Rail, O'Connor Twp. AEA & LSD..
		" 27	Great Horned Owl, Paipoonge Twp.
			A.E.A.
		July 1	Adult Tent Caterpillar. P.A. K.D.
		" 11	Long-earned Owl, Mrs.Allin.
		" 13	Short-billed Marsh Wren, Oliver
			Twp. A.E.A.

## RURAL SCHOOL FAIRS

The hope of interesting rural students in natural history induced the club to vote \$10.00 to be spent at each of three School Fall Fairs. The money will provide prizes for various natural history collections. Claude Garton is chairman of the committee appointed to take charge of these events. Other members of the committee are Dr. A. E. Allin, Ken Campbell and Keith Denis.

The Hurkett School Fair, sponsored by the Hurkett Women's Institute, will be held on Tuesday, September 16th. The prize list includes:

Special: - Identification of Woods. and Special: - Identification of Native Birds.

O'Connor School Fair, sponsored by the O'Connor Central Home and School Association, takes place on Friday, September 19th. The following classes of exhibits will be judged:

- Class 66 - Collection of Weeds, mounted and named.
- Class 58 - Model Bird House.
- Class 61 - Collection of Woods, named and mounted.

The Consolidated School Fair, sponsored by the Consolidated Fair Board, local associations, and the Departments of Agriculture and Education, is to be held on Monday, September 22nd at South Gillies. The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club Specials are:

- Class 71 - Collection of Native Commercial Woods (3" long, 1/2" Diameter, bark on, named and mounted)
- Class 79 - Bird Naming Contest.

### FALL RECORDS

- |         |   |         |   |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| Aug. 10 | Semipalmated Sandpiper, A.E.A.<br>Lesser Yellowlegs                                       | Aug. 15 | Greater Yellowlegs, A.E.A.  |
| 11      | NORTHERN PHALAROPE, Mrs. Murie<br>(Chippewa Park)   | 24      | Sanderling<br>Bonaparte Gull, Rod Philpot<br>(Silver I.)                            |
| 13      | Pectoral Sandpiper, A.E.A. & L.S.D.<br>BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER<br>Least Sandpiper, A.E.A. | 31      | VIRGINIA RAIL, the Allins (Lybster<br>Twp.)<br>Goldern Plovers, K. Denis (Rossport) |
| 15      | Solidary Sandpiper, A.E.A.  | Sept. 6 | STILT SANDPIPER, Alan Gordon (P.A.)   |

### CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS NOTES

Audubon Field Notes, Volume 6, No. 2, April 1952, is devoted to the 52nd Christmas Bird Count. 5151 observers in 433 censuses travelled 46,300 party miles (9,700 on foot) in 13,700 party hours afield to see 7,500,000 birds of 433 species. Red-winged Blackbirds composed 40% of the birds observed and of these 2,040,000 were seen at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee. The highest single count was 150 species at Los Angeles. All states and provinces participated except Nevada and Manitoba. There were 13 censuses in Ontario. At Toronto 65 observers in 16 parties went 130 miles in 87 party hours, seeing 15,349 birds of 68 species. Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club members to the number of 26 in 11 parties travelled 144 party miles in 40 party hours. Only 54 Brown-capped Chickadees were seen in North America of which we saw 14, the most of any place.

### SPRING OBSERVATIONS IN THE MARATHON PAPER LIMITS

by Ken Eoll and Ken Campbell.

- Apr. 22-25 at Pic River Valley: Marsh, Red-tailed, Sparrow & Rough-legged Hawks; Slate-coloured Juncoes, Chipping & Song Sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds, Starlings, Bronzed Grackle, Winter Wren, Northern Yellow-throat, Crow, Raven, Herring Gull, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Golden-eye, Canada Geese, Downy Woodpecker, Mink Frogs singing.
- May 11 at Marathon: Ruffed & Spruce Grouse, Horned Grebe, Redhead, Golden-eye, Ring-necked Duck, Winter Wren, Red-eyed Vireo, Hairy, Downy & Pileated Woodpecker, Flicker, Robin, Iceland Gull, Broad Winged Hawk, Red-tailed & Sparrow Hawk, Purple Finch. Many white-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, Vesper & Chipping Sparrows, Killdeer Brown Creeper; Spring peepers, and swamp tree frogs singing, Sweet Coltsfoot & Sweet White and Wood violets in bloom.
- May 15 at Marathon: Many White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, Vesper Sparrow, Killdeer, Bloom-bearberry, Birds eye Primula, Trailing Arbutus, dandelions, strawberry, Blueberry at Coldwell (6" snow at Stevens reported)

### A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand today as in what direction we are moving". Oliver Wendell Holmes, former Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court.