

# Nature Northwest

Winter 1998 Volume 52 Number 4



## THUNDER BAY FIELD NATURALISTS *Inside..*

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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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Deadline for submission of material is the first day of the month in which the issue will be produced.

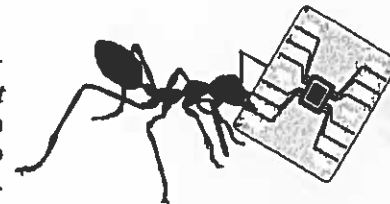
February issue ..... February 1  
May issue ..... May 1  
August issue ..... August 15  
November issue ..... November 1

### *Nature Northwest*

Editor: Pat Skula

#### Contributors

Birds: Nick Escott  
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Diane Clarke: Silver Harbour  
Partnership for Public  
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*Bird Studies Canada*: 1997/98 Annual Report  
*Nature Alert*: Canadian Nature  
Federation



## From the Editor's Desk

The glorious weather of this summer and fall is over. Reality hit hard with a foot of soft, mushy snow, turning the roads and walkways into slush traps. ...And when the plows and temperature drop hit the side streets, lane entrances turned into frozen Alps that even four wheel drives couldn't overcome. A bit too sudden? Well, two days freeze and five days thaw... maybe we are being eased into a stranger than usual winter.

The bright spot about the weather pattern is that enough precipitation has fallen before the ground freezes hard to make people with rural wells breath a little easier.

There has got to be some serious bird feeding done in my backyard. My fall bird count, ignoring the garbage day tourists, are three crows and a starling. The binoculars on my kitchen window sill are entering the ornament category.

The new computer keyboard is bilingual. The idea is to hit Alt something-or-other and it switches back and forth from English to français. However, it switches back and forth between français and something-or-other-not-necessarily English with a 75% correlation with any of the 3 sets of markings on the non-letter keys. Then there's the Alt Char key and the fact that the French do not use the apostrophe... and ? is over the 6...

Ahhh technology (technologie)... ..

*Pat Skula*



## Silver Harbour Conservation Area

Diane Clarke

For the readers of this newsletter who may not be familiar with the Silver Harbour Conservation Area, it is located approximately 12 km out Lakeshore Drive in the Municipality of Shuniah. It is a narrow strip of land 700 metres along the shoreline of Lake Superior, containing approximately 27.5 acres.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1979, the Township of Shuniah, as it was then called, passed Bylaw #1340 to amend Bylaw #1070 rezoning a portion of Mining Location 112, Savingny's Survey, to public open space. The Lakehead Regional Conservation Authority had purchased this property on the advice of the Conservation Areas Committee to provide public access and public use of the shoreline.

The old quarry is now a well used park and is not just a boat launch facility. There are picnic tables, barbecues, a nice grassy area, a shelter, public washrooms and a boat launch area and snowmobile ramp.

Approximately 60% of this property along the lakeshore is unique in that it is surrounded on the west, north and south by cliffs accessible only by a very narrow steep path accessing the plateau, which has a hiking trail with a wonderful view of the lake. The rest of the plateau is virtually untouched except for a survey cut done in the late winter of 1998.



View facing south from top of path

At the Committee of Adjustment Hearing on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998, Mr Eric Michaelson presented to the Conservation Authority for the severance of the north portion of the park for the purpose of a private drive to the property, Mining Location 132, owned by his family. This severance represents just slightly less than one quarter of the total park area. The Michaelson property is land-locked and their claim is that they intend to build a single family dwelling - although he did later in the meeting say that they may someday subdivide.

This drive would have to climb the west cliff face (in two stages of 20 feet and 45 feet extending the fill back to the picnic area. Although no one objects to the Michaelsons developing their property, we do object to the park being used. It should be held in trust for the public. There has been no attempt to explore the other options which do exist.

Over the objections of several presenters at the hearing, and a roomful of people, the Committee of Adjustment would not defer their decision to afford opportunity for the objectors to gather further information. The abutting owners only had five days notice and others only had twenty-four hours to prepare. The severance was granted.

Council held a public meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> 1998 for the consideration of passing a by-law to rezone the severed acre to 'RR' (Recreational/Residential) from 'E' (Public Open Space). Again there were deputations objecting to the rezoning, supported by a petition with 700 signatures and copies of letters addressed to the Minister of Natural Resources.

At the meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1998, council passed the rezoning.

There are currently four applications before the Ontario Municipal Board to appeal this decision. A date for the hearing is yet to be set.

The Conservation Authority claims this road is to their benefit and the public's to open up and fully utilize the balance of their property. We fail to see how a private drive can be used by the public. Even if people do trespass, access would now be available for all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and dirt bikes to a

now pristine plateau. The stated objective could be obtained by a staircase.

The other two abutting owners Mr Walter Ranta, and Montpré Iron Mines Ltd., have never been offered an opportunity to purchase and the Conservation Authority has steadfastly refused to reveal the purchase price. It has never been open for public tender. This appears contrary to the Policies and Procedures for disposal of Conservation Authority Land.

If you would like to offer support to the Friends of Silver Harbour Conservation Area, we certainly can use more signatures on our petition. It is to be presented to the Ontario Municipal Board Hearing.

Contact *Diane Clarke* at (807) 983-2788

We thank you for the opportunity to bring this issue to your membership..

# THUNDER BAY DISTRICT BIRD RECORDS - Fall 1998

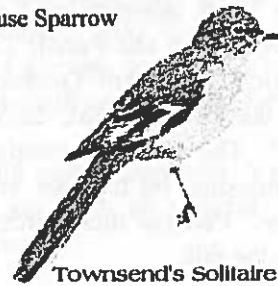
Nick ESCOTT

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=male and female pair, s-m=singing male on territory, juv=juvenile, migr=migrant, N=nest, E=eggs). Species in capital letters are considered rare in Thunder Bay District. Send bird records at the end of each month to Dr. N. G. Escott, 133 South Hill Street, Thunder Bay P7B 3T9, or e-mail to [escott@loon.norlink.net](mailto:escott@loon.norlink.net)

OBSERVERS: Jody Allair, Barry Atkinson, Dan Bascello, Deneen Brigham, Sue Bryan, Mary Cryer, Nicholas G. Escott, Rob F. Foster, Graeme Gibson, Allan G. Harris, Julian Holenstein, Rob Illingworth, Mike Jones, Irene Macdonald, Brian Moore, Stan V. Phippen, Brian D. Ratcliff, Penny Ratuszniak, Dave Speer, George A. Williams, TBFN = club field trip, TCBO = Thunder Cape Bird Observatory staff, et al = and others, m.obs. = many observers.

Common Name	M	Date	No	Plumage	Location	Observers
Pied-billed Grebe		08 03	2		Slate River Valley	IM
American White Pelican		08 01	8		Pikitiigushi Lake	JH,DBr
Double-crested Cormorant		10 24	1	circling	Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	NGE
CATTLE EGRET		10 12	1		Keefer Terminal	DBa
GR WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE		11 01	1	ad	Slate River Valley field	TBFN
Snow Goose		10 04	8	bluc	Kakabeka Falls	BM,PR
ROSS'S GOOSE		10 07	1		Rosspport	DS
BRANT		10 07	2		Rosspport	DS
Gadwall		11 01	4		Chippewa	TBFN
Redhead		10 10	40+		Hurkett dock	NGE,SVP
TUFTED DUCK	F	10 01	1		Chippewa	BA
HARLEQUIN DUCK		11 08-09	2	f	Bare Point	NGE
White-winged Scoter		10 15	11		Provincial Mill	NGE
Black Scoter		10 18	3		mouth of Current River	GAW
Oldsquaw	F	10 10	1		mouth of Nipigon River	NGE, SVP
Northern Goshawk		08 18	1	ad	5 km up Mawn Lake Rd	SVP
Golden Eagle		10 13	1		Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	TCBO
Peregrine Falcon		10 04	1		Thunder Bay	BM,PR
Sora		09 22	1		Mission Island marsh	BA
American Coot		10 04	40		Chippewa	AGH
Sandhill Crane		09 22	6		high over Centennial Pk.	JA
Black-bellied Plover	F	09 04	20		Mission Island marsh	GAW
American Golden-Plover		10 21	100+		Candy Mountain Road	GAW
Greater Yellowlegs		11 01	1		Chippewa	TBFN
Red Knot		11 01	1		Mission Island marsh	TBFN
Baird's Sandpiper	L	09 28	1		Rosspport	AGH,RFF
Common Snipe		09 22	1		Mission Island marsh	BA
American Woodcock		08 18	1		Slate River Valley	GAW
PARASITIC JAEGER		10 12-13	1	ad light	Chippewa	JA, m.obs
Mourning Dove		08 11	2		Empire Avenue backyard	IM
Barred Owl		09 05-06	1	calling	Cloud Lake	RFF
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		09 25	1		Memory Road	RI
Belted Kingfisher	L	10 04	1		Conmee Twp	BM,PR
WESTERN KINGBIRD		10 25	1		Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	GG et al
Red-eyed Vireo		10 25	1	banded	Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	m.obs.
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE		09 25	1		Dawson Rd. @ Mud Lake	MJ

Common Name	M	Date	No	Plumage	Location	Observers
Horned Lark	F	09 11	13		Great West Timber	GAW
White-breasted Nuthatch		11 08	1		Nipigon	BM
Golden-crowned Kinglet		11 01	6+		Chippewa	TBFN
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER		10 11	1		Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	JA
Eastern Bluebird		08 14	40+	flock	Ouimet Canyon Road	BDR
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE		10 25	3		Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	NGE et al
Bohemian Waxwing	F	10 18	75	flock	LPH	AGH
Orange-crowned Warbler		10 12	1		South Hill Street	AGH
Nashville Warbler		10 04	1		Terrace Bay sewage ponds	NGE,JA,SVP
Palm Warbler		10 04	1		Crystal Bay	SB
Black-and-white Warbler	L	10 24	1		Silver Islet	NGE,AGH,JA
Common Yellowthroat		10 04	1		Chippewa	AGH
Scarlet Tanager		10 13	1		Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	TCBO
Yellow-headed Blackbird		09 04	30		Mission Island marsh	GAW
NELSON'S SHARP-T. SPARROW		10 14	1	banded	Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	TCBO
Harris's Sparrow		09 26	2		Empire Avenue backyard	IM
Dark-eyed Junco		10 18	1	Oregon	133 South Hill Street	NGE
Lapland Longspur	F	09 22	2		Mission Island marsh	IM
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		10 25	1	imm	Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	m.obs.
Baltimore Oriole		10 25	1	f	Thunder Cape Bird Obs.	NGE et al
HOUSE FINCH		10 4-11	1	m	Marks Street feeder	BA,SVP
Red Crossbill		10 27	20		Marks Lake	GAW
American Goldfinch		11 09	3		Stanley	MC
House Sparrow		10 10	1	m	Hurkett dock	NGE,SVP



Townsend's Solitaire



Black-billed Magpie

## Loon Samplings

(from *Bird Studies Canada Annual Report, 1997-98*)



> ...More than 90% of the world's Common Loons nest in Canada. Canada's Global responsibility for the common Loon is therefore extremely high. Ontario and Québec have a high responsibility for the American Black Duck (as well).

> The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey now has a database of sufficient size and longevity that we can assess trends in loon productivity and lake health, and investigate some of the potential causes in changing productivity. Over the next two years, our Aquatic Surveys Coordinator will ... document the effect of acidity, contaminants, shoreline development and water level changes on the presence and breeding success of loons on lakes across Canada.... We will disseminate information and materials to educate Canadians about loons and their needs...

# Field Trips

## Fall Roundup, Nov 1

leader: Nick Escott

A total of 14 participants met at the Mission Island Conservation area at 8 am to start this all-day birding tour of the Thunder Bay area. A total of 52 species was tallied, including several unexpected birds. The highlights of the day were a very late RED KNOT at the Mission Island shore, a flock of RED CROSSBILLS in Slate River Valley, and both an immature ROSS'S GOOSE and an adult GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE in a large flock of Canada Geese feeding in a Slate River Valley field. Good looks were had of all of these birds, which remained in the same place for all to study at their leisure. Locations visited were Mission Island, Chippewa, the Correctional Centre, Slate River Valley, Boulevard Lake, Provincial Mill, the Marina, and Neebing Marsh. The marathon outing ended at 6:15 pm, the last bird being a magnificent ultra-dark dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk hovering stationary over a waterfront field, still hunting after the sun had set.



HARLEQUIN DUCK

**Harlequin Ducks at Thunder Bay.** A pair of female-plumaged Harlequin Ducks was present November 8 - 9 at the Bare Point water filtration plant on the shore of Lake Superior. Similar in size and appearance to the female Bufflehead, they have not one, but 2 white spots on their head: one behind the eye, similar to the Bufflehead, and one in front of the eye that extends from the forehead down to the cheek. Unlike most other diving ducks, Harlequins seem to like shallow water, and are often found very close to shore. This was true of these 2 individuals, who spent most of their time within a few metres of the rocky shoreline, sometimes climbing out of the water onto the rocks to preen. They were busily feeding on some unknown creature, perhaps a snail or crustacean, in the shallow water just offshore. Juvenile males and females look similar to the adult

female, so the sex can't be determined until the male starts to obtain his blue-and-white pattern in the late fall.

This is a rare duck in Thunder Bay District, and in northern Ontario; it is reportable to the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC). There are about 10 previous records from Thunder Bay District, but no documented records for the city of Thunder Bay. Two of the records have been from Whitefish Lake and Eskwanonwatin Lake, the remainder have been from Lake Superior, including Rosspoint, Neys, Caribou Island, and Thunder Cape.

In addition to the records from Thunder Bay District, there are reports annually from other Lake Superior sites such as the Minnesota north shore, Whitefish Point Michigan, and Sault Ste. Marie.

The Harlequin Duck has two disjunct populations: some live in western North America east to the Rocky Mountains, and winter on the Pacific Coast; there is another population in eastern Quebec and Labrador that winters on the Atlantic coast. So where do our birds come from? There are apparently also some Harlequin Ducks breeding on the east side of Hudson's Bay, in Quebec. Perhaps these birds head south to Lake Superior in the fall.

**Banded Sharp-shinned Hawk recovered in Mexico.** A sharp-shinned Hawk that was banded at Thunder Cape on Aug 28 of this year, was captured in a mist net exactly one month later, Sept 28, at the La Mancha Biological Station, 54 km NW of Veracruz City, on the gulf coast of Mexico. It was a hatch-year female that weighed 155.7 gm at Thunder Cape, and only 148 gm in Mexico. It is not surprising that it lost weight because it flew an average of at least 112 km per day, to cover the 3500 km between Thunder Cape And La Mancha.



<sup>1</sup>From Peterson, R. T., *Eastern Birds*

## Annual Silver Islet Thanksgiving Outing (October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1998)

Thomas Dyke

The day started out sunny at 0700 with the temperature at 4°C and the barometer reading 30". A heavy dew made the footing wet for the first part of the day. It was simply gorgeous with the forest in full colour. 14 people, including 3 kiddies started out down the peninsula. The area surveyed included Jo, Rita and Pickerel Lakes. The morning results, in spite of good weather, were slack.

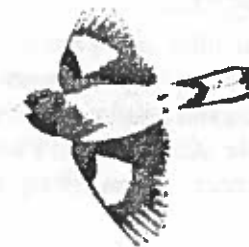
Heading for the Park, we combed down the resort, starting at Camp Bay, then the beach.

In AOU order, the birds seen were, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, (perhaps the 'best of the day'), Double-crested Cormorant, Mallard, Red-headed Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser. Our gulls were Ring-billed and Herring and our woodpeckers Flicker and Pileated, the latter being the 'second best' of the day. We saw a few Horned Lark, Gray and Blue Jay, Crow, Raven and Black-capped Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing and Starling. Our sparrows were Chirping, and Vesper and a few Dark-eyed Junco rounded out our slack list for such a fine day.

We did well in mammals: 2 each of deer and porcupine and one each of squirrel, chipmunk and muskrat, totalling 5.

A rainy drive to Beardmore resulted in a Gr B Eagle. Dorion reported a Turkey Vulture and female Rose-breasted Grosbeak there recently.

2



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

<sup>2</sup>National Geographic Society, *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*

## November First Late Migrants' Outing

Thomas Dyke

Over a gruelling 10 hours we circumnavigated the city, including Chippewa Landfill, Correctional Farm Slate River Valley, Twin City Crossroads, Boulevard Lake, Provincial Mill, the Marina and the McIntyre Floodway. We saw a commendable 54 species, mostly common, but 3 uncommon, and one rarity.

Right off the bat Dr Escott showed me a Red Knot (uncommon) for my 300<sup>th</sup> life's list species, to get the outing off on the right foot.

In MOU order, the birds seen were an uncommon White Breasted Goose, two gaggles of Canada Goose, 800, and 400, the most of that species I have ever seen. The rarity, a Ross's Goose was seen among the gaggle of 800. Our ducks were The Green-winged Teal, Black, Mallard, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveller, Gadwall, Widgeon, Redhead, Ring-necked, Greater and Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and then all the Mergansers - Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted. We saw an unusual 14 GB Eagle in the one day.

Our only raptors were four Rough-legged Hawks. There was a Coot and the shorebirds were Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Goldeneye, Greater Yellowlegs, the uncommon Red Knot and Dunlin. The gulls were Ring-billed and Herring. We saw many Rock Dove, then Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Crow, Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Also seen were Gold-crowned kinglets, Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Starling, Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Pine Grosbeak, 7 uncommon Red Crossbills, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, and House Sparrow for quite a list.

Our only mammals were three muskrat. On another note, a white butterfly flew by drowsily, nearly frozen.



## Whitefish Lake Field Trip

Allan Harris

The Whitefish Lake field trip was held on June 13 1998. Eight people in three canoes and a kayak took part. The objective of the trip was to conduct a survey of the Red-necked Grebes that nest at the west end of the lake.

We found 62 red-necked grebe nests and three hatched broods for a total of 65 families. This is the highest number of nests found in the 7 years of the field trip. The grebe population seems to be growing steadily since the early 1930's when it was discovered. In fact, this may be the largest red-necked grebe colony in the world.



Other highlights were a peregrine falcon on the cliff south of the lake and a bald eagle nest in a white pine at the west end. One female mallard had a brood of 32 young!

Allan Harris

Northern Bioscience  
136 S. Hill St.  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3V1  
(807) 344-7213 (Home)  
(807) 345-0810 (Fax)



### Action Alert

(from *Nature Alert*, Canadian Nature Federation)

The federal government is currently in the process of drafting new endangered species legislation. The contents of this legislation will ultimately decide the fate of many of our country's current, and future, species at risk. Please write the Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment to tell them that our nation's endangered species need strong federal legislation for their protection. Send your letters to: The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister, Room 308-S, Centre Block, Ottawa, K1A 0E6 and/or The Honourable Christine Stewart, Minister of the Environment, Room 658, Confederation Building, Ottawa, K1A 0H3

### Just a thought...

Remember the Tigris and Euphrates Valleys? They used to be referred to as part of the Fertile Crescent... First they cut down the trees, then they dug up the land...

Anyone looked lately?



## WANTED!



### TBFN needs

- ☛ Secretary
- ☛ Directors- at- Large
- ☛ Publicity
- ☛ Juniors Programs
- ☛ Membership

If we're lucky, some of these  
*maybe* filled by press time.  
(But 1999 is coming up  
fast.....)

## Manitouwadge Report

Marlene Turner

After such a beautifully warm Spring and Summer, it was followed up with an unusually warm Fall here, with pansies still blooming as of October 30<sup>th</sup>.

More than the usual numbers of Canada Geese stayed at our Golf Course for many days - some 200 at a time. They were enjoyed by the golfers, but unfortunately one got hit in the head and another on the leg. (Superficial - the birds seem okay). Foxes over the years have been the main problem, one season stealing balls constantly, as we've read of complaints on other courses. Most find it quite entertaining! This season, this was not an ongoing problem.

There are several locations in the community for migrating geese - ball diamonds, high school track and our new hospital grounds. One of our senior contacts for birding is now a resident there. He has greatly enjoyed the ongoing flocks on the grounds and the adjacent Lake Manitouwadge.

October 1<sup>st</sup> we had two juveniles on the golf course. One appeared injured. Although experts told us they were probably too young to be mates, they remained together as the last flocks passed through. Steve Wood, the golf course groundskeeper took quite an interest in the birds (with an eye to the possibility of reducing bugs) He spent the day of the 22<sup>nd</sup> trying to save the injured goose. The bird subsequently died, but valuable contacts were for coping with future injuries, including local people willing to transport such a bird or animal.

This year was unbelievable, with few blackflies or mosquitos. The course has several swampy areas and usually becomes unbearable in those spots. Steve is trying to get an Audubon program going with the schools, including tree swallow boxes.

In the spring of 1997 the Pukaskwa Staff led us in a hike on the golf course where we were introduced to the Philadelphia Vireo. A golf course has many opportunities for birders. We also learn bird identification

on televised golfing and other programs! Something new for those who perhaps cannot physically get to the bush.

A flock of twelve snow geese, four with white necks and eight with slate grey bodies fed in with the Canada Geese on the golf course. When they took flight, the flocked together, but returned with the others to the course. Very exciting for those of us who have never seen them before.

Late August, early September, we had a blackbird with a white ring on the neck and tail feathers flying in with the grackles. A birder later reported seeing it here in the 1997 Fall migration. In the last flocks of grackles, someone reported seeing a Cedar Waxwing with the comment that it looked funny seeing such a lovely bird with the grackles. Better than being alone, I guess!

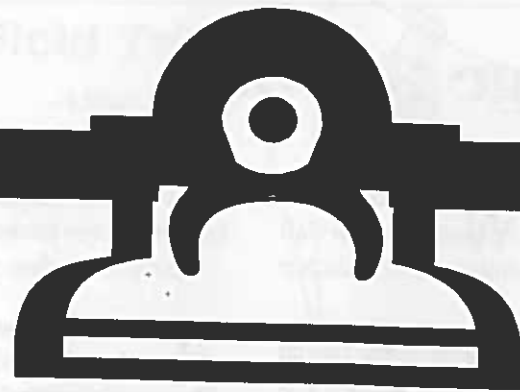
October 7<sup>th</sup>, two groups reported a strange bird while partridge hunting. It was described as smaller than a partridge with long beak and legs and gold on its chest. Dr Escott suggests it might be a Pectoral Sandpiper. We appreciate his help.

People are asking where all the winter birds are, but the weather is so lovely and most have not put out sunflowers yet. At our feeder, and in the bush to the back of us, we have Chickadees, Bluejays, Whiskey Jacks and flocks of snowbirds, but nor much more.



Pectoral Sandpiper

<sup>3</sup>Peterson, R. T., *Eastern Birds*



## Project 2000

### Nature Guide to Thunder Bay District

We are looking for good spots for naturalists visiting our area to find what interests them - birds, plants, bugs, trees, geology, etc.

- ☼ These places should be reasonably easy to get to from the major highways.
- ☼ Areas that are very fragile and sensitive would not be suitable.
- ☼ We need clear directions and where to park.
- ☼ What can be seen there and the best time of year should be included.

ANSIs, Conservation Areas, National and Provincial Parks can be included. We want to know about things that would interest a naturalist, but that could easily be missed if you don't know they are there.

Please send your suggestions to the

Thunder Bay Field Naturalists  
 Box 10037  
 Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 6T6  
**Attention: Nature Guide**

## Lands for Life

Julian Holenstein

The Lands for Life Round Table Consolidated Recommendations were released to the media at Queen's Park on Friday October 30th. Dismissing even the most sceptical reader, they have completely failed to protect wild areas on public lands in Ontario and to achieve the objectives given to them by the provincial government. The magnitude of their failure is described below. Less than 2% of the Lands for Life area is being recommended for protection (perhaps less if Conservation reserves are opened to mining as described below). Clearly the highjacking of the Round Table process by the forest and mining industries has been successful. We have provided a few examples of some of the most frightening recommendations below and we will be following this with a detailed analysis within the next week.

1. The Great Lakes Round Table has recommended opening existing protected Conservation Reserves (like the Ranger North old growth pine area in the Algoma Highlands and the Kikadjar Jack Pine Barrens on Highway 7) to mining.
2. The GLSL Round Table has recommended that MNR look at the use of "floating reserves" to complete the parks system. This designation involves creating a park, and then removing it when the industry wants to log or mine it.
3. Boreal East RT has recommended that trapping be used to "control populations and combat disease" in wilderness zones and nature reserves.
4. The Great Lakes Roundtable recommends that the lakes in parks be intensively managed to produce more fish for anglers.
5. The Roundtables have recommended that more snowmobile trails be built in parks.
6. The Great Lakes Roundtable recommends that hunting be "enhanced" in Conservation Reserves through "proactive habitat and game population management" (Rec # 207).

### Other Disturbing Aspects of the Recommendations

Some recommended land-use designations are being described by the MNR and the Round Tables as "protected" when they are not. Stewardship Reserves, Enhanced Management Areas, Heritage Waterways and Great Lakes Heritage Coastlines would be new types of designations for Ontario. *All would allow industrial activity, including mining and logging, to continue within them.*

Four members of the Boreal West Round table and one member of the Boreal East Roundtable refused to sign the Recommendations. Their letters and reasons for not signing were excluded from the Consolidated Report. The only reference to their concerns is found at the end of Section 2.5 and are called "exceptions to consensus". Although it is not stated, the reason that several of the members did not sign is because the Round Tables did not keep to their mandate to complete a protected areas system.

### Where to get a copy...

- MNR Offices and Information Centres or
- > website <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/lfl> or
  - > 1-800-548-5933 (toll-free fax) or
  - > Hon John Snobelen  
 Minister of Natural Resources  
 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Whitney Block  
 99 Wellesley Street West  
 Toronto, ON M7A 1W3  
 (Mark envelope *Lands for Life*)

### Other information

Partners FOR Public Lands WWW.WEB.NET/WILD

1-888-371-LAND

**General Meetings**

Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>: At St Paul's Church

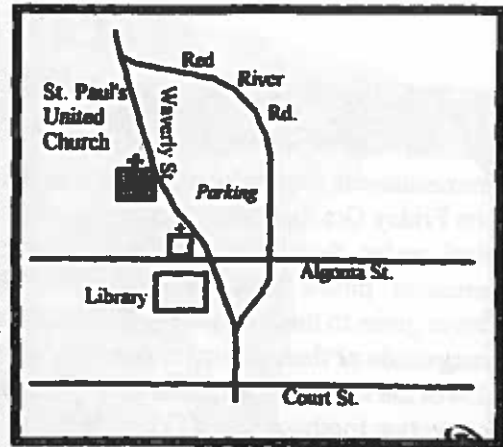
Members' Night: Bring Your 10 best slides

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> . At Columbus Hall, 301 May St

Annual Dinner Meeting, 6:00 pm

Guest Speaker

*Community Info Center  
626-9626  
Ann + Pru*



**The Last Word**

**Thunder Bay Field Naturalists - Information 1998**

The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists club is a non-profit organization dedicated to

- > the study of natural history
- > the wise use of resources
- > the preservation of natural areas
- > teaching the public to understand and protect nature

**Annual Membership Fees**

Family	\$22.00	Single	\$19.00
Students	16.	Seniors(65+)	16.
Corresponding	16.		

All memberships include a subscription to *Nature Northwest*  
Request for membership can be sent to the address below

**Mailing Address**

Thunder Bay Field Naturalists  
PO Box 10037  
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 6T6

**Meeting Dates**

4<sup>th</sup> Monday: September, October, November, January,  
March, April  
Annual Dinner Meeting is usually held in February

**TBFN Reps on Community Committees**

Bruce Hyer..... Brightsands.....7672022  
Deneen Brigham.....  
Proposed Nat. Marine Conservation Area. 345-7784.....

**Directors**

Past President .....	Jean Lister .....	344-3815
President .....	Dave Ellingwood ...	343-9415
Vice President .....	Brian Moore .....	344-2986
Treasurer .....	Betty Burke .....	344-3265
Recording Secretary .....	vacant	
Editor, <i>Nature Northwest</i>	Pat Skula .....	626-0089
Membership .....	Ann Schwar .....	346-0607
FON Representative .....	Myra McCormick.	345-6485
Director-at-large .....	Willard Carmean .	767-6300
Director-at-large .....	vacant	
Director-at-large .....	vacant	

**Appointed Positions**

Nature Reserves .....	Sue Bryant .....	345-6446
Bird Records .....	Nick Escott .....	345-7122
Programs .....	Myra McCormick	345-6485
Field Trips .....	Brian Moore .....	344-2986
Briefs .....	Julian Holenstein	345-7784
Juniors .....		
Publicity .....	Kerry Moffat .....	344-8745
Sales .....		

**Projects**

Thunder Cape Observatory	Nick Escott .....	345-7122
Peregrine Falcon .....	Brian Ratcliffe ..	768-8408
Bluebird Recovery .....	Jean Lister .....	344-3815
TBFN Website .....	Aarr Ertolahtie ...	7675985

**TBFN Website**

<http://www.batnet.net/~tbfm/index.htm>