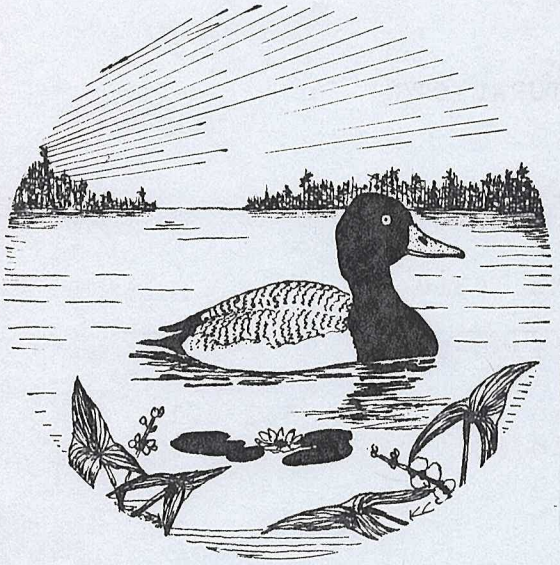

THE BLUE BILL

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T H E B L U E B I L L

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OF THE KINGSTON FIELD NATURALISTS

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IS THERE TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON CONSUMPTIVE USE OF WILDLIFE?: SUPPORT FOR NON-CONSUMPTIVE USE *

by Martin H. Edwards

(* Originally appeared in Trans. Fed-Prov. Wildl. Conf. 52: 107-110 (1988) and is reprinted here by permission.)

It is my contention that the current direction of wildlife management in Canada is out of date, because so much of it is aimed at single-species management; out of balance, because most of the research and management spending is for consumptive users, who are a decreasing minority; and sexist, because women comprise a tiny fraction of the consumptive users, but are equal participants in non-consumptive uses of wildlife.

Objective for Wildlife Management

What should wildlife managers try to do? The Word Conservation Strategy proposed three specific objectives for living resource conservation for sustainable development:

(1) to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems;

(2) to preserve genetic diversity; and

(3) to ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems.

These objectives have been strongly supported by the World Commission on Environment and Development in the Brundtland Report, "Our Common Future"; by the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) Governing Council and General Assembly in their report "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond"; and by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers in its "Report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy".

Policies of non-consumptive use enable all three objectives to be realized. Out-of-date management for single-species consumptive use can work against all three. As you all no doubt know, when there is an ecosystem with a harvestable component it is theoretically possible to remove a certain fraction repeatedly. The maximum that can be harvested repeatedly is called the "maximum sustainable yield". Resource managers often urge this as the ideal harvesting rate. If you harvest more than that

amount, the productivity declines and may stay lower for a long time.

As you also may know, the maximum sustainable yield notion for exploiting living resources is now being questioned. Much of current practice in fisheries, forests, and wildlife management is still based on this concept. But each species population is considered as a single resource stock capable of human exploitation. This approach leaves out the fact that species exist as components of ecosystems, and such components interact. Cropping and removing a high percentage of any species population can have immediate effects on the population of predators dependent upon that species -- along with scavengers, parasites, and organisms of decay and recirculation, which also make use of the so-called "harvestable surplus". Populations of existing or potential competing species may be favoured, along with populations of species upon which the species being cropped normally feeds. Other more subtle effects can also be anticipated.

A more conservative approach to the management and utilization of wild species is now being advocated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), based on broader ecosystem considerations and on continuing surveys, monitoring, analyses, and assessments of the consequences of any plan or ongoing utilization scheme. The risk of any irreversible change or long-term adverse effect brought about through utilization is to be minimized. The sum total of consumptive and non-consumptive values available from any ecosystem is to be optimized.

Of course, the World Conservation Strategy objective "to ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems" does not automatically imply that any utilization that is possible must of necessity be carried out. It is a management restriction, not an authorization.

Non-consumptive users are especially interested in maintaining biological diversity, which may be defined as "the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur". This includes the genetic variability with species and their populations, the variety of species and their life forms, and the diversity of the complexes of associated species and of their interactions and the ecological processes that they influence or perform.

If you manage habitat for moose or deer "production", you will of course incidentally be encouraging other species. But the "trickle down" theory of economic development -- if you take care of the rich, the poor will be alright -- has long been discredited. And so it is with the single-species management

approach. Non-game species and their ecosystems should be given higher priority. There is a clear need to shift the emphasis in research and training towards such areas as ecosystems and non-game species so that our academic and other institutions keep pace with the broadening appreciation of wildlife values by the public.

Management for the Users

Wildlife management has been called the science and art of studying and influencing the nature and interactions of habitats, wildlife populations, and human populations in order to achieve specific goals or benefits by means of the wildlife resource. How should wildlife be managed for the users? What are the current demands for consumptive and non-consumptive uses of wildlife, and what are the resources allocated by wildlife agencies to consumptive and non-consumptive uses? We have heard reports of the declining demand for consumptive use of wildlife and the increasing demand for non-consumptive use of wildlife, so the trends are clear. We have also heard what the wildlife agencies are spending.

Here is a quotation from Fern Filion's report, "Demand for Wildlife to 2001": "four out of five hunters would probably welcome an expansion of wildlife management programs to meet their broader non-consumptive interests . . . wildlife management agencies thus have a strong incentive to expand their programs beyond traditional concerns with hunting".

User Demands

I'd like to remind you of some numbers from the famous 1981 Statistics Canada National Survey of 100,000 adult Canadians as reported in the 1985 paper "The Importance of Wildlife to Canadians" by Fern Filion and others. With respect to attitudes, 82.8% of adult Canadians expressed some or great interest in participating in non-consumptive wildlife-related activities, whereas only 26.9% indicated some or great interest in participating in consumptive wildlife-related activities. So three times as many were interested in non-consumptive as in consumptive activities. Would this not lead you to expect that roughly three-quarters of the wildlife agencies' budgets should go to non-consumptive uses and one-quarter to consumptive uses?

With respect to actual participation in non-consumptive activities, 83.8% participated in indirect activities, 66.5% participated in residential wildlife-related activities (such as feeding, watching, and photographing wildlife), and 19.5% took special trips to encounter, watch, and photograph wildlife. Both men and women participated equally in these activities.

The 1981 survey found that 9.8% of the Canadian adult population hunted, but only 10% of these hunters were women. Thus, only 1.9% of Canadian women hunted in 1981, whereas 18% of Canadian men hunted.

Note that overall twice as many people (19.5%/9.8%) took special non-consumptive trips as participated in hunting. The sex ratio is truly remarkable: over 10 times as many women took special non-consumptive trips as hunted! Incidentally, a more recent survey of Alberta's hunters (by Boxall and Smith) showed that female hunters have never numbered more than 5.8% of Alberta's resident hunter population (which by 1984 had itself fallen to 8.0% of the eligible Alberta residents). So only 0.46% of Alberta's women hunted in 1984.

Resource Allocation

I said at the outset that the spending is out of balance. Based on the 1981 survey figures, you might expect roughly three times as much spending on non-consumptive as opposed to consumptive uses. Furthermore, current policy is very sexist, as women are being short-changed. Women might expect 10 times as much money to be allocated to non-consumptive as to consumptive programs. Even men might expect at least equal emphasis on non-consumptive programs. But what really happens?

If you look at the Wildlife Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, for example, you can find about five policy programs for game species, including:

- a trapping program, with a senior biologist and three support staff;

- a moose program, with a biologist and three support staff;

- a deer program, with a biologist and one support staff; and

- a small game program, with a biologist and one support staff.

There is, however, only one non-game biologist, but no policy program!

I don't have a budget comparison available, and they won't provide one, but I think that probably more than 85% of the budget is allocated primarily to game species. This leaves less than 15% for non-game species. It is clear that the Wildlife Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources concentrates heavily on managing a very small portion of the fauna of Ontario, namely the game species. Only one permanent employee, their non-game biologist, has the responsibility for all vertebrate non-fish species in Ontario, except for the less than 100 species of

wildlife that can be legally hunted or trapped in Ontario. Besides the 300 vertebrate non-game species, she is also responsible for all of the endangered species, the plant species that are not merchantable timber species, and the Peregrine Reintroduction Program.

I think you will have to agree that in this one agency, which may or may not be typical, there is a serious imbalance. I prefer not to call it a management problem so much as a fantastic management opportunity!

Conclusions

Clearly, the dramatic growth of interest in non-consumptive uses of wildlife has occurred without the full support or leadership of most wildlife managers. It is time to allocate a larger fraction of current resources to non-consumptive uses of wildlife. Of course, more money and people are needed, but wildlife managers should not wait for new money to act -- they should start redistributing staff and resources now!

It is important to recognize that non-consumptive users are low-impact users, and it will be easy to manage such uses sustainably. The potential for growth in public support and participation is there. When wildlife managers respond to the demand with clear initiatives, the additional public support will be a welcome change. Once again, these wildlife managers can lead the public and be given credit for serving the broad interests of all Canadians.

SPRING ROUND-UP

by Ron D. Weir

The KFN's 33rd Annual Spring Round-up occurred from 1500 hrs Sat May 19 to 1500 hrs Sun May 20. Six parties composed of 32 birders participated. Brisk westerly winds to 40 kph, accompanied by broken cloud on Saturday, provided the best birding weather. By midnight the winds were very light, but soon after they increased their strength from the southeast and rain began, which continued on and off for the next 36 hours. This cold rain (9 degrees C.), with strong easterly winds during Sunday morning, made birding difficult and uncomfortable.

Nevertheless, the 207 species tallied are the 3rd highest ever, surpassed by 210 in 1976 and 209 in 1988. The 1973-89 (17 year)

average stands at 198. Areas visited include Amherst I., Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, Canoe Lake Road, Collins Bay, Kingston City Area, Prince Edward Pt., Perch R. and other sites in New York State, and Wolfe I. New to the Round-up is the Red-necked Phalarope, which raises its cumulative total to 271 species. Species unique to a party are the following: Black-bellied Plover, Common Raven and Prairie Warbler by Party #1: Broad-winged Hawk and Rusty Blackbird by Party #2; Gray Partridge, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Sedge Wren by Party #3; Northern Goshawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Mourning Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow by Party #4; Mute Swan, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Sanderling, Red-necked Phalarope and Fox Sparrow by Party #5; Red-necked Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Arctic Tern, Long-eared and Short-eared Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hooded Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow by Party #6.

Other noteworthy sightings were the Red-throated Loon and Yellow-breasted Chat at P.E.Pt. The finding at P.E.Pt. of an 'Audubon's' Warbler, the western sub-species of the Yellow-rumped Warbler, is the first ever for the Kingston area. The abundant form in the east is the Myrtle Warbler. The following list was assembled from the checklists submitted by each party. Members of the parties are also listed below and the party coordinators are underlined.

Party 1: Faith Avis, Fred & Sylvia Cooke, Cecilia & Charles Francis, Bruce & Kim Tufts.

Canoe Lake Road, Amherst & Wolfe Islands.

Party 2: Kenneth Edwards, Ken Edwards, Mary Edwards

P.E.Pt., Squaw Pt., Collins Bay, Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, Canoe Lake Road, Amherst I.

Party 3: Hubert Bell, Art Bell, Carol Ann Bell, Lynn Bell, Scott Bell, Dick Cherry, Dale Clarke, Kurt Hennige, Constance McRae, Joe Percy.

P.E.Pt., Canoe Lake Road, Amherst I., local areas.

Party 4: Joel Ellis, Peter Good, Paul Mackenzie, Gus Yaki.

P.E.Pt., Canoe Lake Road, Amherst I., Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, local areas.

Party 5: Tony Empey, Rob Worona.

Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, Wolfe I., Perch River.

Party 6: Marg Brown, Martin Edwards, Alex & Janet Scott, Ron Weir.

Amherst I., Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, P.E.Pt.

OTHER: Joy & Wallie Beaupre, Dale Brown - several miscellaneous records submitted.

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Other	TOTAL
Red-throated Loon		1	1			1		1
Com.Loon	*	20	8	10	1	35		74
Pied-billed Grebe			2	1	6	1		10
Horned Grebe		1	1	2		1		3
Red-necked Grebe						1		1
D.C. Cormorant	*	*	150	100	200	120	25	400
Am. Bittern	*	3		1		4	1	9
Least Bittern		1	2	1	1	1		6
Gt. Bl. Heron	*	10	6	20	25	12	1	74
Green-b. Heron		2	2	1	3	3		11
Black-c.Night Heron	*	4	4	4	1	13		22
Mute Swan					1			1
Brant	*	*	300	250		450	600	1300
Canada Goose	*	*	30	6	8	41		55
Wood Duck	*	10	2	3	2			17
Green-winged Teal					1	4		5
Am. Black Duck	*					3		3
Mallard	*	*	25	40	12	30	1	98
N. Pintail		1	1	1	3	3		9
Blue-winged Teal	*	12	12	5	12	14	1	56
N. Shoveler		2	2	2	6			12
Gadwall	*	*	12	20	6	32		70
Am. Wigeon	*	2	3	3	1	2		6
Ring-necked Duck	2				1			3
Greater Scaup	*	5	5	5		15		20
Lesser Scaup	*	10	1	5	3	15		30
Oldsquaw	*	*	75	200	2	120		300
Black Scoter		1			1			2
Surf Scoter		18	12	15				18
White-winged Scoter		1	4	5		30		40
Com.Goldeneye						1		1
Bufflehead	*	4	1	6	1	7		19
Hooded Merganser		2		2				4
Com.Merganser	*	12	20	12		30		54
Red-br.Merganser	*	*	2	20	1	36		57
Turkey Vulture			1	6				7
Osprey		2	1	2	2			7
N. Harrier	*	*	6	10	2	8		20
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2					1	2
N. Goshawk				1				1
Red-shouldered Hawk	*	2		4				6

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Other	TOTAL
Broad-winged Hawk		1						1
Red-tailed Hawk	*	2	3	3	4	5		17
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1	1				2
Am. Kestrel	*	*	6	5	2	4		11
Peregrine Falcon					1			1
Gray Partridge			2					2
Ring-necked Pheasant	*	2				3		5
Ruffed Grouse	*	3	6	1	1	2		13
Virginia Rail	*	3	9	6	1	2		21
Sora	*	2	2	2		4		11
Com.Moorhen		1	1	1	6	3	2	14
Am.Coot					1			1
Black-b. Plover	2							2
Semipalmated Plover	*	1	6	1	15	2		19
Killdeer	*	*	25	30	20	30	*	105
Greater Yellowlegs	*	1	8	1	2	3		8
Lesser Yellowlegs	*	1	5	1	1	1		5
Solitary Sandpiper	2		2		3			7
Spotted Sandpiper	*	*	10	10	12	15		51
Upland Sandpiper	*	2	6	1	4	2		15
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	1	1				1
Sanderling					1			1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	*	2	1	1		5		9
Least Sandpiper	*	20	4	15	50	11		100
Dunlin	*	18	2	10	20	70		120
Short-billed Dowitcher					25	5		30
Com.Snipe	*	*	20	15	2	22	*	59
Am.Woodcock		2	3	6		30		41
Wilson's Phalarope	*	4	4	4	2	10		12
Red-necked Phalarope					1			1
Bonaparte's Gull		2				3		5
Ring-billed Gull	*	*	500	*	500	10000		10500
Herring Gull	*	*	20	10	6	25		41
Great Black-b.Gull	*	3	2	2	1	2		8
Caspian Tern	*	25	30	40	10	30		105
Common Tern	1	1	1	1				1
Arctic Tern						1		1
Black Tern	*	*	18	12	50	130		192
Rock Dove	*	*	50	*	12	15		67
Mourning Dove	*	*	50	25	12	30	10	127
Black-billed Cuckoo		3		2	1			6
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			1					1
E.Screech-Owl			2	1				3
Great Horned Owl	*	1	3	3	1	4		12
Barred Owl		1	1					1
Long-eared Owl						1		1
Short-eared Owl						1		1
Com.Nighthawk			4	4				8
Whip-poor-will	*	10	6	12		1		29

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Other	TOTAL
Chimney Swift	*	1		3	1	6		11
Ruby-thr.Hummingbird	*	1	3	1	1	4	1	11
Belted Kingfisher	*	1	7	1	4	2		15
Red-headed Woodpecker	*	1	1		1	1		4
Red-bellied Woodpecker						1		1
Yellow-b.Sapsucker	*	4	4	2				10
Downy Woodpecker	*	6	8	1	4	4	1	24
Hairy Woodpecker	*	2	2	2			1	7
Northern Flicker	*	4	10	2	6	10	3	35
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1						2
Eastern Wood Pewee	*	6	4	6		3		19
Yellow-b. Flycatcher		1				1		2
Least Flycatcher	*	10	3	10	2	5		30
E.Phoebe	*	1	2	1	2	3	1	10
Great-cr.Flycatcher	*	*	15	20	1	5	1	42
E.Kingbird	*	*	25	30	20	40	1	116
Horned Lark	*	*	2	10	12	12		36
Purple Martin	*	*	30	10	1	60		101
Tree Swallow	*	*	200	100	200	250	1	750
N.Rough-winged Swallow	*	*	40	30	12	45		125
Bank Swallow	*	*	20	10	1	1		32
Cliff Swallow	*	*	15	10		30		55
Barn Swallow	*	*	120	30	50	100	1	300
Blue Jay	*	*	10	10	6	10	1	37
Am. Crow	*	*	30	25	20	30	1	106
Com. Raven	2							2
Black-capped Chickadee	*	*	10	10	6	12		38
Red-br. Nuthatch	*	15	6	5		10		36
White-br. Nuthatch	*		2	2		1	1	6
Brown Creeper		1		2		2		5
House Wren	*	*	5	5	6	19		35
Winter Wren		2		1		2		5
Sedge Wren			1					1
Marsh Wren	*	*	2	4	3			9
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	*	6	4	1	2	10		23
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		10	6	3		4		20
E.Bluebird	*	19	25	15			1	40
Veery	*	2	3	6	4	1	1	17
Gray-cheeked Thrush			1			1		2
Swainson's Thrush		2				6		8
Hermit Thrush		1	2	1		1		5
Wood Thrush	*	10	18	15	12	10		65
Am.Robin	*	*	75	*	30	300	*	400
Gray Catbird	*	*	8	20	12	27	1	68
N. Mockingbird	*	1	3	1	2	1		8
Brown Thrasher	*	*	20	6	3	12	1	39
Water Pipit		1			1			2
Cedar Waxwing		100	200	25	12	4000		4100
Loggerhead Shrike				1				1

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Other	TOTAL
Eur. Starling	*	*	150	*	100	500	*	750
Solitary Vireo			1			10		11
Yellow-thr. Vireo	*	4		4		1		9
Warbling Vireo	*	*	12	10	4	10	1	37
Philadelphia Vireo		1	3			1		5
Red-eyed Vireo	*	*	30	10		6		46
Golden-winged Warbler	*	10	12	6				28
Tennessee Warbler	*	12	1	2		10		25
Orange-crowned W.		2				1		3
Nashville W.	*	10	6	6	3	8		33
N. Parula	*	1	1	1		2		5
Yellow Warbler	*	*	75	150	30	350		605
Chestnut-sided W.	*	35	15	15	2	27		94
Magnolia W.	*	30	12	25	5	13		85
Cape May W.	*	30	20	5	3	10		68
Black-thr.Blue W.	*	2	6	4		7		19
Yellow-rumped W.	*	200	50	100a	10	100		460
Black-thr.Green W.	*	20	20	12	1	20		73
Blackburnian W.	*	40	12	12	5			69
Pine Warbler		2	1	3				6
Prairie W.	1							1
Palm W.		4	1	3		4		12
Bay-breasted W.	*	30	4	10	3	5		52
Blackpoll W.		1			1	1		3
Cerulean W.		5	2	2		1		10
Black-and-White W.	*	30	4	6	3	10		50
Am. Redstart	*	30	15	5	3	26		79
Ovenbird	*	10	25	35	3	3		76
N. Waterthrush	*	6	2	4	2	3		17
Louisiana Waterthrush		1	1	1				1
Mourning Warbler				1				1
Com.Yellowthroat	*	*	8	10	20	20		58
Hooded Warbler						1		1
Wilson's W.		10	1	1		7		19
Canada W.	*	15	10	2	3	4		34
Yellow-br. Chat		1				1		2
Scarlet Tanager	*	18	9	12		10		49
N.Cardinal	5	1	6	3	5	10	2	32
Rose-br. Grosbeak	*	35	12	25	1	30		103
Indigo Bunting	8	25	5	10		15		55
Rufous-sided Towhee	*	*	7	4	12	10	1	34
Chipping Sparrow	*	*	20	50	50	200	1	321
Clay-coloured Sparrow		1				2		2
Field Sparrow	*	*	10	10	10	20		50
Vesper Sparrow	*			2	2	1	1	6
Savannah Sparrow	*	*	10	15	30	55	1	111
Grasshopper Sparrow		1	1	2		1		6
Henslow's Sparrow						1		1
Fox Sparrow					1			1
Song Sparrow	*	*	40	100	30	230	1	401

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Other	TOTAL
Lincoln's Sparrow				1				1
Swamp Sparrow	*	*	6	15	10	20		51
White-thr. Sparrow	*	10	10	6	20	8		51
White-cr. Sparrow	*	1	6	10	10	9	1	37
Dark-eyed Junco		1				1		1
Bobolink	*	*	30	*	30	250	1	310
Red-winged Blackbird	*	*	250	*	500	500	*	1150
E.Meadowlark	*	*	25	*	6	30	1	57
Rusty Blackbird		2						2
Com. Grackle	*	*	150	*	100	300	*	550
Brown-headed Cowbird		*	50	*	30	110	*	190
N.Oriole	*	*	8	20	30	22	3	82
Purple Finch	3	2	9	2				16
House Finch	*	2	40	2	12	10	1	67
Pine Siskin	*	2	15		50	5		72
Am.Goldfinch	*	*	50	30	50	40	1	171
Evening Grosbeak	*		2					12
House Sparrow	*		40	*	6	80	*	126
No. of Species	136	169	159	159	124	160		207

a - includes one "Audubon's" Warbler

****

A SENSE OF DEJA VU

Bald Eagle Survey in 1956-61 by Brockville Nature Club

by Faith Avis

There has recently come into the possession of the KFN a record book of the Brockville Nature Club from its inaugural meeting in October of 1956 to October of 1961. This little book is full of interesting notes, clippings from the Brockville newspaper and photographs. The inaugural meeting photograph features several well-known faces, albeit looking exceedingly young (that was, after all, 34 years ago!). Kingston Field Naturalists sent Helen Quilliam, Martin Edwards, George Stirrett and Alden Strong. Jim and Jane Bayly were there.

On the Brockville Nature Club's first Christmas census in 1956, they sighted one Bald Eagle. Kingston participants on that count were Helen Quilliam, A. Garwood, G. Stirrett, Mary L'Estrange, John Cartwright, Walter Lamb, Art Bell and Stewart Peters.

On their 1957 Christmas count they spotted 3 Bald Eagles. This inspired them to invite to speak to their club Charles Broley, the "Eagle Man" from Delta who banded 1200 Bald Eagles from his winter home in Florida and his summer home in Delta, Ontario. Broley was a retired bank manager who took up the study of eagles as a hobby at the age of 58.

By a curious coincidence, the very day Broley was to speak to the Brockville Nature Club, the Brockville newspaper carried a front-page article, complete with photograph, of a young hunter number Robert Watts displaying the wing spread of an immature Bald Eagle which he claimed he had shot in "self-defence". The newspaper article reads "Suddenly, out of nowhere, a huge eagle charged down at him. He fired twice and the big bird fell about 12 feet away on the shore. The bird's wingspread was measured at six and a half feet. The claws were two inches long. It was estimated that the eagle weighed about 20 pounds."

The paper goes on to note that both Jim Bayly, President of the Brockville Nature Club, and Charles Broley, "Eagle Man", declared that it was most unusual for an eagle to attack a human being. "Jim Bayly was emphatic in stating that seldom, if ever, would one of these big birds go after a human. He couldn't account for this freak case - but hopes that other hunters, hearing of it, won't become trigger happy fearing that the birds are dangerous." They also emphasized that it is illegal to shoot Bald Eagles. The hunter was eventually fined $37.50.

The 1958 Christmas census turned up one Bald Eagle. The 1959 census recorded no Bald Eagles. In 1960 there were reports of a number of nests in Leeds County and on January 26 two Bald Eagles were seen on the St. Lawrence and three others were reported in the vicinity. Mrs. Alma Wallis, photographer, and Mrs. Lily Watson came from Belleville and Jim Bayly helped them set up a blind in hope of photographing these birds at close quarters. There was a photograph and a report in the Brockville paper:

> "Jim Bayly says that there have been as many as 23 nests found in Leeds County in one year..... He explained that the eagles come to the back lakes during the summer, but in the winter they come down along the river as they are scavengers and go after fish and dead (or wounded) ducks. The eagle population is decreasing at quite a rate, much to the concern of naturalists all over the country. There is strong evidence to indicate that indiscriminate spraying of insecticides is causing sterility and death in eagles."

One Bald Eagle was recorded in the 1960 census. Three were reported in January of 1961 on Butternut Bay on the St. Lawrence River. On February 4, the Brockville Club report reads "Bob Hazzard observed 6 Bald Eagles in the air at one time from an

island near Jane's Creek. The last entry in the Brockville Nature Club's record book is 1961 October 15. It would be most interesting to review the records from 1961 to 1990 to trace the rise and fall of the eagle population wintering on the St. Lawrence River.

As readers of Blue Bill know, Gerry Smith of the Derby Hill Observatory started up a group of U.S. and Canadian naturalists to monitor the present population of Bald Eagles wintering on the St. Lawrence. This group has been surveying the river from January to March for the last three years. One of his reasons for starting this survey is a distinct impression that the Bald Eagle population, after a drastic decline over a period of years, is making a come-back, and that naturalists should be prepared to provide education to area residents on the habits of these birds to encourage them to protect them and their habitat.

We do not yet have the official record of all the sightings of this group for the 1989-90 season. Our own KFN team which has been doing the land survey from Ivy Lea to Brockville found fewer Bald Eagles this year - but that may be because of the strange weather and ice conditions. After an early cold snap, the weather turned warmer and there was a great deal of open water which meant the eagles were not concentrated in the smaller areas of open water, which are usual during the winter months, and were therefore harder to find.

GREAT HORNED OWL EATS GARTER SNAKE

by Gunter Voss

Encouraged by Faith Avis, Heinrich Dathe and Mike Evans, I want to share an observation from the Hamlet of Kepler, 1 km west of the south end of Loughborough Lake and 5.5 km northwest of Elginburg, Kingston Township, Ontario.

On three occasions in 1989, family members and I observed an adult Great Horned Owl in bright daylight from our house. The dates were Friday, 11 August; Sunday, 13 August, and Sunday, 27 August. We presume that we saw the same bird every time.

On 11 August three crows bothered the owl for a little while but then flew away. On 27 August a kestrel dived at the owl while it was flying up to a tall tree, but when the owl was perched, the kestrel left.

Much more happened while the owl was in sight on 13 August. Three of us saw the Great Horned Owl alight on a telephone pole north of our house, at a distance of about 36 m. We got our binoculars and watched the owl sit on the pole for over twenty minutes. During this time no less than ten species of perching birds followed each other "owl-hating": Tree Swallow, American Crow, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Field Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and American Goldfinch. Except for turning its head occasionally, the owl did not move.

Then the Great Horned Owl swooped across Kepler Road to a field with long grass, some 8 m away from us, and in the owl's talons struggled a garter snake, 65 to 70 cm in length. The owl now had its back and right side to us. The snake's head was to the right. Twice the owl pecked in that direction but pulled its head up high within a split second. We could not see whether the beak contacted the snake. All the while the owl shifted as if to get a better hold with its talons. Then the owl's head went down a third time, longer than before, and, as it pulled up, it had the torn-off head end of the snake in the beak. That chunk was eaten and then the rest of the snake was devoured in five more pieces similarly torn. The meal finished, the owl flew off and disappeared in woods south of our house. I did not time the capture and meal, but estimate it to have lasted between 5 and 8 minutes.

The entire observation took place around 1030 to 1100 hrs. While the owl was on the ground, no vehicle nor person passed Kepler Road.

Dr. W. Earl Godfrey in Birds of Canada does not mention reptiles as part of the Great Horned Owl's diet, nor does Claus Konig in Grzimek's Animal Encyclopedia. Even Alred Brehm in Brehm's Tierleben, a favourite natural history reading of my youth, does not shed light on this point. (He does mention, however, that the South Asiatic fishing owl has been seen catching snakes in daylight.) So I am grateful to Dr. Mike Evans for drawing my attention to an entry in Wm. Mansell's 1980 book, North American Birds of Prey. In it, reference is made to owl pellets containing less than 1% of remnants of crustaceans, amphibians, soft-shelled turtles and snakes - "horned toads to blacksnakes". But what does that tell us? Well over a hundred common names of snakes from eastern North America are listed in Roger Conant's field guide, and "blacksnake" is not one of them; worse, the horned toad is not even a snake (nor a toad) but a lizard. At Mike Evans' suggestion I have therefore written Wm. Mansell requesting clarification as to sample size, location and specific reference(s).

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Editor's Note: The following information is provided from the well known reference by A.C. Bent (Life Histories of North

American Birds of Prey (Part 2), U.S. National Museum Bulletin 170, Washington 1938.

"Almost any living creature that walks, crawls, flies, or swims, except the larger mammals, is its (Great Horned Owl) legitimate prey; it is not at all particular as to what it kills for food and will take what is most available and most easily caught." p.306

"Mr. Forbush (1927) tells of a man who came upon a Horned Owl in trouble with a black snake ***. Plainly the owl had caught the snake, but the reptile had twisted itself around the bird so that it was unable to fly, and fell to the ground with its prey. *** The Owl had grasped the snake about six inches (15 cm) below its head, but the part of the snake below the owl's talons had twisted itself around the bird tightly. There was at least one light turn around the owl's neck." The snake was killed, though neither antagonist had given up the fight, and "the owl was so weakened and helpless that it could not fly; it seemed to have been choked." p.310

"S.A. Grimes (1936) gives an interesting account of struggle between a Great Horned Owl and a large black snake, 46 inches (115 cm) in length. He found the owl "lying on its side with its wings outspread, trying its best to get its talons on a black snake that was coiled around the bird's abdomen just back of the breast bone and beneath the wings. The snake had gotten itself around the owl in a double coil. Six or eight inches (15-20 cm) of its head and neck and perhaps a little more of its tail were free, but the bird appeared to try only to get hold of the strangling coils around its body. It is easy to see that the bird could not possibly get its talons on that part of the snake tightly wound around its abdomen, but why the hooked bill was not brought into play is hard to understand." The owl was plainly exhausted but was able to make a feeble flight for about 100 yards (100 metres), with the snake dangling, and alight on a stump. As Mr. Grimes approached, the owl flew again and alighted on a log in a small pond, where a charge of shot ended the career of both combatants." p. 310.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

THE NAMING OF THE BETTY HUGHES TRAIL

by Faith Avis

On Saturday, 1990 April 28, approximately 70 members of the Kingston Field Naturalists and friends gathered in the KFN Otter Lake Sanctuary for a celebratory breakfast and the naming of the Betty Hughes Trail. Betty Hughes died in 1989 at the youthful age of 89 - "the same age as the century" as she loved to remind us. Betty was a long-time member of the KFN and kept the bird records for 17 years.

Members of the Hughes family present for the trail-naming were daughter Ann Carmichael, with her daughters Nonie and Susie, and Nonie's son; son Jack Hughes with his daughter Jennie; Andy and Meredith Hughes and their son (Andy is the son of Betty's oldest son, Robin).

The day was bright and sunny with buds bursting on the trees and early clumps of Hepatica, Dutchman's Britches and Bloodroot in full bloom, while the Trout Lily and Trillium were still in bud. A few Yellow-rumped and Black-and-white Warblers put in an appearance and an Osprey obligingly provided an appropriate fly-past during the trail-naming ceremony.

A superb breakfast of orange juice, sizzling sausage patties, fluffy buttermilk pancakes topped with local maple syrup and hot coffee was organized by Betty Gray, ably assisted on the spot by Betty Jo deGrace, Ruby Rogers, Nan Yeomans, Hugh Evans and others. Anne Robertson handed out excellent new maps of the sanctuary.

After breakfast, the company hiked the short distance to the lookout, where a fine wooden bench had been placed - built and installed by Peter Good, George Vance and Barry Robertson. Faith Avis gave a speech (excerpts from the speech follow this report) and the Betty Hughes Trail was suitably christened. Jack Hughes expressed the pleasure and thanks of the Hughes' family and told a most amusing story of a confrontation between his mother and a group of hikers who emerged from the trail with armsful of picked trilliums.

Peter Good hammered into place a beautiful hand-made wooden sign with bright yellow lettering created by Lynn Bell and the Betty Hughes Trail was officially open.

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY FAITH AVIS AT OPENING OF BETTY HUGHES TRAIL

We are here to pay tribute to a much-loved long-time member of our Club. I speak, of course, of Annie Elizabeth Hughes, much better known as 'Betty' to all of us who were fortunate enough to share with her a mutual enthusiasm for birding, for nature, and for life in general.

I want to read to you some lines from William Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey" which seem to me to express Betty's attitude to nature.....

".....For I have learned
To look on nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes
The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh, nor grating, though of ample power
To chasten and subdue. And I have felt
A presence that disturbs me with the joy
Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is in the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean, and the living air,
And the blue sky; and in the mind of man:
A motion and a spirit that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought
And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still
A lover of the meadows and the woods
And mountains; and of all that we behold
From this green earth; of all the mighty world
Of eye and ear, -- both what they half create
And what perceive; well pleased to recognize
In nature and the language of the sense
The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul
Of all my moral being."

One of Betty's very favourite spots was this sanctuary and, in particular, the exact spot where we are standing now. For that reason, the KFN decided to name this trail the Betty Hughes Trail. This handsome and rugged bench has been built and installed by KFN members Peter Good, George Vance and Barry Robertson. In this way, we hope to provide a lasting reminder of Betty and her indomitable spirit. Her spirit will, I am sure, share this bench with those of us who walk this trail, who stop here to rest and to contemplate the peace and beauty of this place, a reminder to us all of the importance of conserving and preserving such places of natural beauty.

And now, in a spirit of good fun which was a great part of Betty's charm - she loved to make a party out of any occasion - I am going to remind you of the famous jam jar and two flowered plastic glasses which accompanied Betty on most of her birding excursions. I do not know what became of those two wonderful plastic glasses but, as chance would have it, I <u>do</u> have a jam jar - with appropriate contents (Penfold's Australian Dry Sherry) with which I propose to christen the Betty Hughes Trail. As I sprinkle this christening libation of the trail, Peter Good will hang the beautiful and appropriate wooden sign hand-made by Lynn Bell. Please join me in three hearty cheers to the memory of Betty Hughes.

HIP HIP HOORAY! HIP HIP HOORAY!! HIP HIP HOORAY!!!

PRINCE EDWARD POINT, 1990 MAY 6 by Ron D. Weir

Rooftop frost and windscreen ice greeted the 27 participants and 2 leaders (Paul Mackenzie and Ron Weir) on this annual spring journey to Prince Edward Point. Sunshine without any breeze warmed the area to about 8 degrees C. before noon, which was barely sufficient to activate a few Garter Snakes. Map Turtles and a lone Blanding's Turtle basked in the sunshine along the harbour. Among the flowering plants were Spring Beauty, Round-lobed Hepatica, Dutchman's Breeches, Early Buttercup, and Yellow Violet.

A glassy-smooth water surface made it easy to identify the few hundred waterfowl present, which included 30 Common Loons, a Red-necked Grebe, and 6 Surf Scoters. Only 9 species of warblers were found, as all land birds were scarce. New arrivals for the year were an Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, Gary Catbird, and Yellow-throated Vireo. A female Blue-winged Teal in the Traverse area was flushed from her nest, which held 5 eggs. Most of the participants lunched in the helicopter pad adjacent to the lighthouse and were entertained by a Red-bellied Woodpecker in a nearby tree and by about 100 Bonaparte's Gulls frolicking offshore. The species total reached 100 for the day.

SPRING SEASON 1990 MAR 1 - MAY 31

by Ron D. Weir

Winter's icy grip was first loosened about mid-March and migrants that flooded in included geese, Black Duck, Mallard, Canvasback, Redhead and blackbirds. Seasonal weather followed until mid-April when usually warm conditions arrived. By late April, temperatures were well above normal. Some 17 species set earliest ever arrival dates of which 11 appeared between Apr26-May 1. Below normal temperatures then set in for most of May, which reduced the numbers of massive groundings by songbirds and southern overshoots. The only latest departure date was set by Bohemian Waxwing following this species' massive invasion into eastern Ontario.

Noteworthy concentrations were recorded for Common Loon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and Cedar Waxwing. A survey of nesting Red-shouldered Hawks along the road north from the KFN's Otter Lake Sanctuary resulted in finding 16 and 25 territorial birds Apr 21 & May 12 respectively. Six active nests were located. Range expansions and increased numbers continued to be noted for the N. Mockingbird, of which 9 pairs were found at 5

local sites and 2 isolated sightings, and the N. Cardinal, of which 6 nesting pairs were near Prince Edward Pt. First time sightings came from the Canoe Lake Road, and many more were detected within Kingston City. Rarities include Cattle Egret, Barrow's Goldeneye, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Arctic Tern, Mountain Bluebird, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Brewer's Blackbird.

LATEST DEPARTURE

Bohemian Waxwing	Apr 13 (5)	Gould Lake	A & H.H.	69 Mar 25

EARLIEST ARRIVALS

Tree Swallow	Mar 15 (3)	Amherst I.	AS	81 Mar 15
Golden Eagle	Mar 24 (1)	P.E.Pt.	JHE, RDW	82 Mar 25
Greater Yellowlegs	Mar 18 (1)	Wolfe I.	RDW	70 Mar 28
Caspian Tern	Apr 3 (1)	Kingston	RDW	85 Apr 4
Little Gull	Apr 13 (1)	P.E.Pt.	KFN	81 May 16
Brewer's Blackbird	Apr 1 (2)	Wolfe I.	JHE, RDW	84 Apr 20
Nashville Warbler	Apr 22 (1)	Snug Harbour	JHE, RDW	73 Apr 23
Gt.Cr. Flycatcher	Apr 26 (1)	Bath	I. Symes	74 Apr 28
Bl.thr.Blue Warb	Apr 26 (1)	Kingston	RR	82&84 Apr27
Indigo Bunting	Apr 28 (1)	Canoe L.	JHE, RDW	70 May 1
Philadelphia Vireo	Apr 29 (1)	P.E.Pt.	KFN	72 May 2
Red-eyed Vireo	Apr 29 (1)	P.E.Pt.	KFE, MCE	65 Apr 30
Cape May Warbler	Apr 29 (1)	P.E.Pt.	RDW	69&87 Apr29
Blackburn Warbler	Apr 28 (1)	Kingston	VPM	70&85 May1
American Redstart	Apr 29 (1)	P.E.Pt.	RDW	70 Apr 30
Orange-cr. Warb	May 1 (1)	P.E.Pt.	RKE, MCE	87 May 2
Yellow Warbler	Apr 28 (1)	P.E.Pt.	KH	70 Apr 27
Ch.-sided Warbler	Apr 28 (1)	P.E.Pt.	KH	70 May 2

SPECIES ACCOUNT:

Red-throated Loon - May 19-20 (1), P.E.Pt., KFN (rare in spring)

Common Loon - peaks Apr 13 (60), 21 (150) JHE, RDW, 22 (300) KH, 29 (100), all at P.E. Pt.

Horned Grebe - peaks Apr 3 (65), 21 (75), P.E. Pt., KFN

Red-necked Grebe - Apr 7-May 20 (12 in all), P.E. Pt., KFN

Cattle Egret - May 5 (1) Godfrey *fide* K. Chubb (status is becoming rarer)

Snow Goose - peaks Apr 3 (55) Wolfe I., GY; 28 (50) Squaw Pt., RKE

Brant - peaks May 19 (1300), KFN; 24 (1000), DB, both Amherst I.

American Wigeon - peaks Mar 24 (100), 31 (100), P.E.Pt., JHE, RDW

Canvasback - peaks Mar 18 (7700) JHE, RDW; 25 (2000) JHE, MJE; 26 (7000) RKE; Apr 1 (3000) JHE, RDW; 15 (1000) JHE, MJE, all Wolfe I.

Ring-necked Duck - peaks Mar 25 (600) Howe I., VPM; 24 & 31 (500) P.E.Pt., JHE, RDW; 18 (400) Wolfe I., JHE, RDW

Surf Scoter - Apr 22-May 20 (32 in all) P.E.Pt., KFN

Barrow's Goldeneye - Apr 13 (1 im m) P.E.Pt. harbour, RDW, JHE, WP (7th ever in spring)

Ruddy Duck - Apr 19 (1 m) Little Cat, JD; Apr 21 & May 1 (1 f), 27 (1 m) Amherstview Sewage Lagoon (A.S.L.) JHE, RDW *et al*.

Bald Eagle - Mar 13 & 16 (1 ad) Chaffey's Lock, M. McMahon; (wearing yellow wing tag with blue label).

N. Goshawk - Mar 9-May 27 (10 in all), KFN, 1 nest found

Golden Eagle - Mar 24 (1 ad) P.E.Pt., JHE, RDW (6th ever in spring)

Merlin - Apr 13-May 23 (6 in all), KFN

Peregrine Falcon - May 19 (1), A.S.L., SM, TE

White-rumped Sandpiper - May 25-27 (1), 28 (3), RW *et* al.

Pectoral Sandpiper - Apr 7 (1) Wolfe I., GY; May 27 (2) A.S.L., PG, JHE

Red-necked Phalarope - May 20 (1), Perch R., TE, RW (3rd ever spring record)

Little Gull - Apr 13 (1 ad), P.E.Pt., JHE, RDW, WP (8th ever spring record)

Lesser Black-backed Gull - Mar 14 (1 ad) Washburn, NLB; Apr 6 (1 2nd yr) Cataraqui R., RDW

Arctic Tern - May 19 (1 ad) Amherst I.. Bar, MHE, RDW et al. (2nd ever, only other one 1979 May 20)

Screech Owl - May 2 (1 ad + 5 young), Union St., Kingston, RDW

Snowy Owl - last one Mar 29 (1) Amherst I., AS

Short-eared Owl - Mar 3 (18) Amherst I., GY et al. (sudden influx)

Red-bellied Woodpecker - Apr 25 (1), May 10 (1), 17 (1), Amherst I. AS, JS (3 different birds); May 1 (1), 6 (2), 20 (1), P.E.Pt., KFN

Eastern Bluebird - May 19 (19 ad) P.E.Pt., KFN (apparently migrants for which this is an extraordinarily late date)

Mountain Bluebird - Mar 31-Apr 13 (1 m) P.E.Pt., RDW, JHE et al.; (1st ever for area).

N. Mockingbird - site #1 - 3 pairs, P.E.Pt., RKE et al.; site #2 - 3 pairs, Alcan property, Kingston, RKE; site #3 - 1 pair, Amherst I., RW, DB; site #4 - 1 pair Wolfe I., RW; site #5 - near Kingston airport, RW.

Bohemian Waxwing - Mar 3 (1), 10 (1), 10 (30), 29 (2), 30 (4), 31 (3), Apr 13 (50) P.E.Pt. & Kingston areas, KFN

Cedar Waxwing - peaks Apr 21 (1000), May 5 (1000), 20 (4000), P.E.Pt., KFN

Loggerhead Shrike - Apr 4-May 20 (7 birds), KFN

Blue-winged Warbler - May 9 (1) Little Cat., KFN; 14 (1) P.E.Pt., DB, DC; May 26-27 (1), Otter Lake Sanctuary Road, RDW

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler - May 19 (1 m) P.E.Pt., VPM, JHE (1st sighting of this Western subspecies)

Hooded Warbler - May 20 (1 m) P.E.Pt., RDW

Yellow-breasted Chat - May 19 (1), 20 (1) P.E.Pt., RKE, MHE, RDW

Summer Tanager - May 14 (1 f) P.E.Pt., DB, DC (5th spring record)

Blue Grosbeak - May 13 (1 f) P.E.Pt., RDW, JHE (3rd spring record)

Henslow's Sparrow - May 19 (1) Amherst I., RDW

Yellow-headed Blackbird - May 17-18 (1 m), near Dupont Kingston, Mr. & Mrs. Saunders, AR, RDW et al. (8th spring record)

Brewer's Blackbird - Apr 1 (2) Wolfe I., RDW, JHE (8th spring record)

Pine Grosbeak - last ones Mar 10 (8) P.E.Pt., KH

Red Crossbill - Mar 13 (6) Churchill Park, Kingston, RW

White-winged Crossbill - Mar 11 (20) Cataraqui Cemetery, RDW; 13 (1) Churchill Park, RW; Apr 28 (2) King Street, Kingston, RKE.

Common Redpoll - only ones Mar 3 (1) Collins Bay, MB; 11 (5) Cataraqui Cemetery, RDW

Pine Siskin - Mar 3-May 20 (numerous), nesting in Cataraqui Cemetery, RDW

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KFN CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

by Robert B. Stewart

The Kingston Field Naturalists' Conservation Committee has completed a second year of activities and now finds that the number of issues that require active participation of its members, requires some changes in the way in which the committee functions. This article reports on some of our activities in the past year, identifies issues in which we need to be activist, and indicates the committee's views on how we can function more effectively.

This committee began in 1988 with Dr. Paul Mackenzie as its first chairperson. This initiative was not the KFN's first venture into an activist role in conservation issues. In the past, the club president and various members of the executive committee were visibly active in many issues that reflected the club's concerns for wildlife and habitat conservation locally and further afield.

In the first year, Paul and the committee established workable terms of reference that distinguished between environmental concerns that affect wildlife and related environmental issues from issues affecting human health. This was done in recognition of our manpower limitations and that other groups would almost certainly be activist in human health issues. The chairperson of the Conservation Committee serves on the Executive Committee to facilitate communication and to ensure that the club President is consulted and involved when the Conservation Committee is speaking publicly on behalf of the KFN.

The various activities in the second year of the committee's operation were a continuation of most of the problems tackled in the first year, with additions. Locally, our chief concern has been with the biological integrity of the Little Cataraqui Creek area as a provincially significant Class II wetland. Proposals for development on properties within the City of Kingston and in Kingston Township on the edge of the wetland are of major concern. The government of Ontario's policy for wetland protection lies in the Provincial Planning Act which does not leave provincially significant wetlands immune from damage from development. We are further concerned that Bell's Swamp, long a favoured birding area for KFN members, while an integral part of the Little Cataraqui Creek ecosystem, is classed at a lower level of protection than the creek itself. Our committee would very much like to see this area brought into the public domain under the aegis of the Little Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority (CRCA).

The work in these areas of concern has involved the presentation of briefs to the government of Ontario regarding its Ontario Wetland Policy, to the City of Kingston regarding its Official Plan and proposed developments on properties adjacent to the wetlands, to Kingston Township with respect to its official Plan and development in wetland areas as well as the expression of our concerns regarding development on properties adjacent to the Lemoine Point CRCA area. On occasion, we have attended the meetings of Councils and Planning Committees of these two political bodies with respect to these issues and speaking to the briefs we have submitted. One of our members, Gary Ure, attends the meetings of the CRCA to keep us better informed of developments and programs within the CRCA region. His attendance, importantly, gives the KFN a visibility in that organization. A brief was also presented, and spoken to, at a CRCA meeting.

Recently, a proposed development on the north shore of Collins Lake involving a golf course and potentially four hundred houses on an 800 acre parcel of land has caused major concerns among the residents of the area. Mr. Alexander Sellers, a recent KFN member and resident in the Collins Lake area, has formed a group to attempt to ensure that any development maintains the quality of Collins Lake as Class I wetland. We "network" with Mr. Sellers group and have attended a Storrington Township open meeting with the respect to the proposed development.

The KFN was invited to comment to the Amherst Island council with respect to future directions that Island community should go with respect to development, and the Conservation Committee responded on behalf of the club.

The committee has taken an initiative in beginning to plan for a "landowner contact program" to attempt to provide for better habitat protection in the areas adjacent to the Rideau waterway between Kingston and Ottawa and along the nearby Frontenac axis. These are biologically important areas for wildlife and are coming under pressure for greatly increased cottage development as the land around the Muskoka and Kawartha lakes has become too expensive for the average citizen. Among our many concerns for this area is the knowledge that many warbler species are lost as nesting birds as forest habitat is diminished in extent. It has also been noted recently that the Wood Thrush is no longer a successful nester in some parts of the northeast U.S. as woodlots are fragmented with more "edge" allowing for serious nest predation by Cowbirds.

Our activities further afield have included letters sent by committee members to a commercial publication decrying the sale of bird skins collected from Southeast Asia in Canada; to the Federal Minister of Finance asking that Canada not support World

Bank loans designed to increase the rate of destruction of Brazilian rain forest, - our own profligacy in this area was duly noted. Letters have also been sent to the Premier of Ontario supporting the protection of the Rouge Valley and to MLA's supporting a "greener Toronto". These have noted self-interest to the extent that should Toronto begin to decay and collapse internally as have some U.S. cities, the rest of us would be bankrupt in an attempt to rebuild that city. These thoughts were expressed apart from migration corridors and other features relating to the important of urban wildlife.

The committee has suggested that the work of the committee be divided so that each member takes responsibility for one area. In some cases the work load would require more than one, such as the landowner contact program along the Rideau. Examples of an area of responsibility would be weekly contact with the Clerk's office in the City of Kingston to review the Council and Planning Committee agendas for items that are the committee's area of concern, to prepare or seek help in the preparation of letters relating to these, and attending Council and Planning Board meetings when these matters of concern are being considered. A similar committee position is needed for Kingston Township. A "networking" person is needed to communicate with other groups with similar interests and concerns such as the Little Cataraqui Creek Environmental Association. There are others. In some of these instances, two individuals would clearly be required. The committee believes that monthly meetings (September through May) are important for communication and action, and that the meeting place be rotated through the committee membership or that we seek the support of the KFN Executive for a central monthly site for our meetings. The committee also suggested that the secretarial duties for a particular meeting be those of that meeting's host. To assist in that task, it was suggested that each person reporting, speak to a written report.

Our committee needs help. If you are prepared to assist by taking, or sharing, responsibility for a given area, please contact the club president by mail and indicate your particular area of interest. We cannot protect areas that are important to us naturalists, as well as to the health and quality of life of all in our society, unless we are prepared to speak on behalf of many creatures that have no voice other than ours.