

TORONTO BIRDFINDING GUIDE



by Peter Iden

INTRODUCTION

The seeds for this birdfinding guide were planted more than thirteen years ago. Having come to Toronto from the European Continent, there was nothing available in printed form to guide me to the favoured birding places in this region. Saunders' book "Flashing Wings" was of some help but, alas, too many of his haunts had already given way to the bulldozer! In the late fifties a few of the choicest places were assembled by Dr. D.R. Gunn into a mimeographed leaflet for the annual meeting of the Canadian Audubon Society in Toronto. These few pages formed the nucleus of my earlier attempt to write a Toronto birdfinding guide (1962). But the idea of a guide only for the Toronto Region was soon abandoned when someone suggested a guide for the entire Province of Ontario. I did not know then that the F.O.N. was already in the process of preparing its "Ontario Naturalists' Guide". So when this tremendously successful book made its appearance in 1964, what was more natural than to turn my thoughts to a birdfinding guide for all of Canada? This project is now well under way. Several hundred contributions for this work have already been received from all parts of the country. That a separate guide only for the Toronto Region is now making its appearance may be attributed primarily to the numerous requests from many of the over 150 birders who in the past three years have faithfully contributed and subscribed to the Toronto Birdfinding Bulletin. The fact that Toronto is hosting the eighty-fifth meeting of The American Ornithologists' Union in this Centennial Year of 1967 played an important part in the decision of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club to sponsor this birdfinding guide.

This book would not have been possible without the help of some of the most knowledgeable birders in the Toronto Region. Much of the information presented in this guide was contributed by expert observers who have had many years of active birding experience in the Region. The names of these contributors are shown after each section. Several sections had to be re-written to suit the overall style of the guide; Any errors and omissions that may have occurred are the compiler's responsibility. Special thanks are due to James L. Baillie, who read the manuscript and made a number of suggestions, and to Hugh M. Halliday, who provided the cover photo of the Saw-whet Owl.

It is to be expected that this guide will have to be reviewed in about five years from now. The City of Toronto and its outlying areas are spreading out at an unprecedented rate, and in this rapid process of growth some of the now favoured birding place will undoubtedly be eliminated or reduced to a below average interest status. Constructive criticism and ideas for future revisions of the Toronto Birdfinding Guide would be appreciated.

August, 1967.

26 Bloomington Cres.,
DOWNSVIEW, Ontario.

A CANADA CENTENNIAL PROJECT
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BIRDING IN THE TORONTO REGION

The area defined as the "Toronto Region" lies roughly within a half circle of 30 miles in diameter, with its center at the Royal Ontario Museum, Queen's Park and Bloor Street West. The periphery of the 30 mile circle reaches Oshawa to the east, Burlington to the west and Newmarket to the north. Because of the location of Toronto on the north shore of Lake Ontario, the Region includes more than 80 miles of highly productive lake frontage. Situated in the center of the area generally referred to as Canada's "Golden Horseshoe", the Toronto Region is not only the country's most populated area, but it is without doubt also the most intensively birded part of Canada.

Watching birds in this huge area requires a somewhat different approach than in most other places. Visitors are urged to contact active members of one or more of the local natural history groups, preferably before actually arriving in Toronto. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Canadian Audubon Society can be of great help in this respect. With their aid it is almost always possible to find someone interested in guiding visiting birders through the Region. It is also advisable to come prepared for early morning birding. In most places the early hours of daylight are relatively undisturbed. At other times, and particularly during weekends, there is considerable activity - walking, fishing, boating etc. - by the general public in many of the places mentioned in this guide.

In contrast to many "inland" birding areas, a telescope is a definite asset, and in many locations, an absolute necessity. Along the lakeshore in winter and during the spring and fall migrations of waterfowl and shorebirds it becomes an indispensable tool for the active birder in the Toronto Region. The local newspaper columns (Jim Baillie's "Wildlife" in the Telegram and "Things to see and do" in the Globe & Mail) are also quite helpful in giving guidance to visiting as well as resident naturalists. Jim Baillie's column in particular gives details on bird movements and birding places, and many of the local field outings are mentioned in the Globe & Mail.

Two bird checking lists are used by Toronto birders. The official Toronto Region "Field-checking List (1964)" is published by the Royal Ontario Museum. Also used is the "Field check-list of Birds (1964)", which is printed for all of Ontario by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Only very few new birds have been added to the Toronto Region check list in the past decade.

THE STATUS OF BIRD SPECIES IN THE TORONTO REGION

Very little printed information is available on the status and abundance of the 322 species on the Toronto Field-checking List. Saunders' and Baillie's list of arrival and departure dates, published in 1947 in "Flashing Wings", is still in wide-spread use throughout the Region. As far as the abundance of individual species is concerned, nothing has ever been published collectively on this subject. Whatever information the visitor desires must be painfully extracted from many years of back issues of the several natural history publications, or from the memory banks of long time birders.

With this complete lack of information in mind, the author of this book is now compiling all available abundance records into a single "status list". Originally this list was intended to form part of this book, but neither time nor space available were sufficient. It will therefore be published in "The Ontario Field Biologist" later this year (The Ontario Field Biologist - an amateur-scientific journal published annually by the Toronto Field Biologists' Club. Business address is 4 Donna Court, Willowdale. Publication address is 26 Bloomington Cres., Downsview, Ont.).

It will be attempted to show the status of all 322 species recorded to-date in the Toronto Region, with indications of frequency, abundance, and occurrence. This information will be presented in concise check-list manner. Separate copies of this status list will be available from the Business Secretary of the Toronto Field Biologists' Club at 25 cents each, plus postage.

MAPS OF THE TORONTO REGION

Most of the birdfinding places in the Toronto Region can be easily located with the aid of the "pin point" map on the center spread and a standard street map of the city. This type of map is available from most service stations, or from news stands and variety stores. An excellent street map is the one published by Chromo Lithographing Co. Ltd., 70 Coronet Rd., Toronto 18. Called the "B.J. Map and Guide of Metropolitan Toronto and Outlying Areas", it is in pocket book format, extremely handy to use, and covers not only all residential areas within a 15 mile radius of the City Hall but also the outlying areas to Bronte in the west, Richmond Hill to the north, and Bay Ridges to the east. The B.J. map is well worth its rather high price.

The Toronto Region is covered by the following topographical map sheets (scale 1:50,000 or $1\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1 mile): Bolton 30 M/13 west and east halves; Brampton 30M/12 west and east; Hamilton 30M/5 west and east; (Alliston 31D/4 east); Newmarket 31D/3 west and east; Markham 30M/14 west and east; (Toronto 30M/11 west and east); Oshawa 30M/15 west. The sections in brackets are of little use in locating birdfinding places; the Toronto sheets do not show any street names and the Alliston section covers only a minute part of the Toronto Region. Topographical maps of 1 : 50,000 scale and larger are available from the Map Distribution Office, Dept. of Mines & Technical Surveys, Ottawa, or from the local Map Distribution Office in the Parliament Buildings, Queen's Park, Toronto. To a limited extent they are also stocked by some of the larger stationery and book stores in the city.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The majority of birdfinding areas listed in this guide may be reached by public transportation (streetcar, subway, or bus). For information on routes, schedules etc. it is advisable to contact the twenty-four hour information service of the Toronto Transit Commission at their listed telephone number. Out-of-town birders should write to the T.T.C. at 1900 Yonge Street, Toronto 7, Ontario. A few of the outlying birding areas may also be reached by the Greyhound Bus Lines Service.

The Toronto Island Ferry Boat Service is operated by the Municipality of Metro Toronto Parks Department. In winter the large ferry boats are replaced by a smaller boat, but regular services are continued. Telephone or write the City Hall, c/o the above Department, for information and time tables on the ferry movements.

NATURAL HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE TORONTO REGION

The Toronto Region is more than adequately blessed with clubs, federations and societies, catering to people with an interest in any branch of natural history. Toronto is the home of no less than a dozen natural history groups:

The Toronto Field Naturalists' Club

Largest and most influential group in the Region. Founded in 1923. Offers an extremely active programme of indoor meetings (monthly, October to May); year-round field outings; Audubon Screen Tours. Membership exceeds 600. Meetings are customarily held in the Royal Ontario Museum. Publishing a monthly news-letter since 1938.

The Toronto Junior Field Naturalists' Club

The only junior club of the Region (several other groups have junior membership). Formed about 1931/32. Operates independently under the auspices of the T.F.N.C. Membership exceeds 300. Publishing quarterly "Flight" magazine. Meetings are also held in the R.O.M.

The Toronto Field Biologists' Club

Successor to the Intermediate Field Naturalists (1944 to 1953). Most active in field work in the Region. Publishing "The Ontario Field Biologist", an annual amateur-scientific journal. Membership is about 40. Meetings monthly, September to May.

The South Peel Naturalists' Club

Founded in 1952 to provide a natural history group for people living in the western areas of the Toronto Region. The S.P.N.C. meets monthly, October to April, with an active programme of field outings and lectures between meetings. Membership exceeds 200. Publishing the "South Peel Naturalist", a mimeographed monthly.

The Richmond Hill Naturalists

The natural history club for the northern section of the Region. Has about 75 members; a seasonal programme of indoor meetings with field outings and occasional lectures for the public, September to May. Publishing a monthly "Bulletin".

The Toronto Ornithological Club

An ornithological club with restricted, all male membership of about 50. Founded in 1934, the T.O.C. took over responsibility for the annual Christmas Bird Census from the Brodie Club in 1946, and started the annual mid-winter Waterfowl Inventory that same year. Meetings are held monthly from September to June, usually at Hart House, University of Toronto. Non-member attendance by invitation only. No publications.

The Brodie Club

Oldest group in Toronto; founded in 1921. A private club with limited membership open to scientists only, both amateur and professional. Closely associated with the R.O.M. and its staff. Monthly meetings in the R.O.M., September to May. Attendance by invitation from members only. No publications.

The Margaret Nice Ornithological Club

A female ornithological club with a restricted membership of about 20. Founded in 1952. Meetings monthly at member's homes. No publications.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists

The organized voice of all naturalists' groups and individual naturalists in the Province of Ontario. Over 60 federated clubs and associate organizations in Ontario, various parts of Canada, and in the United States. Founded in 1931. Adult membership is about 4,000, and there are over 21,000 members in the junior category (Young Naturalists' Club). The F.O.N. is prominent in many fields, sponsoring a number of publications including "The Ontario Naturalist", research studies and investigations in natural history, the Bruce Trail, an annual summer camp, regular field gatherings and workshop weekends in various parts of the province.

The Ontario Bird Banding Association

The O.B.B.A. operates the Long Point Bird Observatory, the only bird banding station in North America where permanent Heligoland traps are in use. A warden is employed during six months of the year. Fall bird banding facilities are also operated by the O.B.B.A. at the Point Pelee Bird Observatory. Its members (over 100) are active in various banding and research projects in the Province of Ontario. Meetings are held monthly, September to May, at members' homes in the Toronto Region, with an annual meeting at the R.O.M. Publishing a monthly newsletter and the quarterly "Ontario Bird Banding".

The Canadian Audubon Society

Requires no introduction to naturalists all across Canada. It has been based in Toronto ever since its inception in 1949 (as the Audubon Society of Canada). Publishing the "Canadian Audubon" magazine.

Only two of the organizations mentioned above have permanently staffed offices in Toronto. They are the Federation of Ontario Naturalists at 1262 Don Mills Road, Don Mills (phone 444-8419) and the Canadian Audubon Society at 46 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto 7 (phone 925-3891). Both are able to provide names and addresses of individuals associated with the various local groups to anyone who wishes to establish contact with local birders.

CEDARVALE RAVINE

Special Features and Records: A well-known and popular birding area in the heart of Toronto, excellent for spring and fall migrants. Totally surrounded by urban development, the ravine contains a large variety of habitats which provide nesting sites for at least thirty common species. Usually productive in winter (20 or more species) due to sheltered location with ample cover, permanent stream and numerous feeding stations in adjacent gardens. Cardinals are common year-round residents, probably more common than anywhere else in the Toronto Region, and Great Horned, Barred and Long-eared Owls are regular winter visitors. Northern finches such as Evening Grosbeaks, redpolls and crossbills have been frequently recorded in winter. In migration Prothonotary, Worm-eating and Prairie Warblers have been among the rarities recorded.

Directions: The ravine is a narrow valley extending in a more or less south-easterly direction from Ava Road and Strathearn Road (two blocks south of Eglinton Ave. W.) to Boulton Drive (two blocks north of Dupont Street, between Spadina Road and Avenue Road). It is separated into upper (Cedarvale Ravine) and lower (Nordheimer Ravine) sections by commercial construction north of St. Clair Ave. W. Its total length is about two miles. It passes under three bridges: Glen Cedar Road, Bathurst Street and Spadina Road, from north to south. Since the most productive parts are between Spadina Road and Glen Cedar Road, the best entry points are: 1) the Spadina Road bridge, just south of St. Clair Ave. W. (St. Clair streetcar stop); 2) the Bathurst Street bridge half-way between St. Clair Ave. W. and Eglinton Ave. W. (Bathurst bus stops at Burton Road just north of bridge). Access to the lower section is from Boulton Drive, where a small lot affords parking for cars. In winter, when access from the bridges may be quite hazardous due to ice and snow conditions, it may be wiser to enter the ravine via Sir Winston Churchill Park, or via Millbank Ave. and Glenayr Road, or via Cedarvale Park at the north end (please refer to city map).

(D.E. Burton, R.E. Pannell)

BELTLINE RAVINE

(also called Old Belt Line Ravine)

Special Features: The ravine is centrally located and convenient to reach by public transportation. About 75% of it is covered with a heavy growth of large trees, mostly Black Willow, White and Red Oak, White Elm and Sugar Maple. On some May mornings the ravine is alive with migrant birds. Nesting birds are those typical of the Toronto woodlands.

Directions: From Mount Pleasant Road and Heath Street (street car stop) walk or drive east on Heath to the foot bridge over the ravine. This is often one of the best vantage points, as it is at tree-top level. Cross the bridge and walk down into the ravine. A dirt road (closed to car traffic) runs the length of the ravine. Walk north a few hundred feet to its top end. This is one of the best areas during migrations. Turn back and follow the road for nearly a mile until you see the Don Valley Brick Works quarry on your left and a paved walk running up the Hill through Chorley Park on your right. You may now either retrace your steps to Heath Street, or cross Chorley Park to Douglas Drive and board a Rosedale bus to Yonge Street Subway.

(G. Fairfield)

TORONTO ISLAND

Special Features and Records: Actually a chain of islands separated by numerous channels and small bays, the "Island" is one of the best all-round birding places in the Region. The open lake, the Toronto Bay and the small, sheltered lagoons offer excellent waterfowl birding both during migrations and in the winter months. Long sandy beaches, particularly along the western shore of the Island (Island Airport Beach) are attractive to many species of shorebirds in migrations. In addition to these attractions, which are quite worth considering on their own merits in a densely populated area such as Toronto, there is a fifty-acre section of comparative wilderness aspect, well supplied with trees, dense underbrush, marshy patches and open areas. During the peak of

spring migration (mid-May) it is possible to list close to, and probably even over 100 species in a single birding day. Fall migration is also spectacular at times and includes many hawks moving west along the lakeshore. But the most outstanding feature, and one which has put Toronto "on the map" as far as ornithological specialties are concerned, is the fall migration of Saw-whet Owls. As many as 45 of these birds have been seen by one birder in a single October day, and up to 125 are banded each year!

Directions: The Island may be reached by the Toronto Island Ferry Service, which leaves at regular scheduled times from the foot of Bay Street or York Street. Car parking space is available near the ferry dock. In spring and fall, take the ferry to Centre Island. After crossing the bridge at the little tea house, turn right (west) and follow the water's edge until you reach a fence near a group of radio towers and the sewage plant. The natural area begins here; continue along the water's edge, first in a northerly, then in a westerly direction. Eventually, you should return along the shoreline of several channels to the sewage plant. From April 15 to July 15, the entire "sanctuary" area is closed to the public (posted); only members of local naturalists' groups, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Canadian Audubon Society are permitted to visit the area (it is advisable to carry membership cards!). After leaving the sanctuary, you may wish to retrace your steps to Centre Island or continue on to the Hanlan's Point ferry dock. This walk may quite easily take in a half day or more, depending on the birding conditions.

In spring, and particularly in fall, a walk along the open shoreline of the lake from Centre Island to Hanlan's Point is suggested for shorebirds. The Island Airport beach is the least disturbed of all beaches, but walking along this stretch is restricted. A telescope is an absolute must here, as well as along the other shorelines. The sanctuary section may be worked in as a branch trip, starting and finishing at the Natural Science School near the sewage treatment plant.

In winter, take the ferry to Ward's Island and walk, first east to the Eastern Gap, then returning west either entirely along the open spots in the lagoons and Toronto Bay. Because of the size of the Island, the winter walk is best taken in company of one or

several local birders. It is better than a six-mile walk and there are some good spots known only to local bird watchers. A bus service connects the two eastern ferry docks during the winter, with stops in between. There is no winter ferry service to Hanlan's Point.

A colony of Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns, formerly resident on Mugg's Island, has now moved to the bayshore between Centre Island and Hanlan's Point and can be seen from the ferry connecting the two points.

Best Times for Visits: Good at any time of the year; excellent to outstanding during migrations, and always interesting in winter. Peak periods as in other parts of the Toronto Region: migrant waterfowl in April, and in September/October; wintering waterfowl from October to March/April; shorebirds in May and July/August to October; warbler peaks mid-May and mid-September; landbirds in general April/May and September/October; hawks in September; Saw-whet Owls first week of October to second week of November (peak mid-October).

Remarks: Considerable changes have taken place on the Island during the past few years. Eventually, the area that is now the sanctuary will disappear, but for migrating and offshore birdlife the Island will always remain a top spot. (with C. Hopkins)

GRENADIER POND AND HIGH PARK

Special Features: One of the finest areas within the reach of the Metropolitan transportation network. Grenadier Pond is good for waterfowl in small numbers during both spring and fall. Wading birds and shorebirds also occur in small numbers, and the little swamp at the north end can yield marsh species at any time of year. The wooded ravine to the north of the Pond, and the path along the west bank are the best areas for landbirds, particularly during migration. The ponds in the south-east section of High Park, along Spring Road off Parkside Drive, have collections of native and exotic waterfowl and migrating landbirds in season.

Directions: The north-east corner of High Park may be reached by taking the subway to Keele Street; from there you can either walk or take the street car along Bloor Street West to Ellis Park Road (Clendenan Ave. or Glendonwynne Road on the north side). Walk down Ellis Park Road and turn east at the foot of the hill down Wendigo Way to the north end ravine (Wendigo Ravine). The well marked path along the west bank of the pond starts from the east side of Ellis Park Road just south of Dacre Crescent. The south end of the Pond is accessible from the foot of Ellis Ave. at Queen Street (street car stop).

Best Times for Visits: Good throughout the year. This is a heavily used park, particularly during the warmer weather; for this reason early morning visits are recommended, particularly for waterfowl. Systematic observations over two years have provided 190 species. Periods of heaviest movements are: Waterfowl - April; September to freeze-up. Shorebirds - July and August. Hawks - September. Landbirds - April and May; September and October. Winter visits should yield overwintering landbirds in the Wendigo Ravine and the marsh, ducks in the open areas on the ponds, and possible winter finches in the conifers and birch trees. (C.E. Goodwin)

HUMBER RIVER MARSHES

A series of "ponds" with wide marshy fringes, along the lower Humber River between Bloor Street West and The Queensway. Once there were eight of these marshes, but clean-up operations north of Bloor Street and highway construction along the lake-shore have reduced their numbers to five. The upper of the remaining marshes are relatively undisturbed due to limited access. All of the common marsh birds of the Region have been recorded here; the marshes are still excellent places to find migrating waterfowl and, at low water level, shorebirds. Marshes 2 and 3 are particularly good for waders, mainly in fall. Large blackbird roosts in late summer and fall, a good wintering bird population and perfect conditions for many passerine species, both migrants and summer residents, make the Humber marshes excellent year-round birding areas.

Directions: Follow Bloor Street west from the R.O.M., or the Gardiner Expressway west from downtown Toronto to the South Kingsway; then refer to "vantage points and access" for detailed directions.

Vantage Points and Access:

- Marsh No.2 : May be viewed from the parking lot at the foot (south end) of Riverside Drive, where it meets the South Kingsway. Access by car is from The Queensway just west of the South Kingsway bridge (0.7 mile), where a road leads into the Sewage Plant parking lot.
- Marsh No.3 : View from Riverside Drive, directly above the marsh; park at the foot of Riverside and walk north along the river bank to the marsh.
- Marsh No.4 : Access on foot only, by walking north from marsh No.2, or south from the Humber Boulevard near Riverwood Parkway.
- Marsh No.5 : Follow Riverside Drive north to Riverside Trail (or south from Bloor St.W.); park on Riverside Trail, which is a dead end street, and walk down the embankment (left).
- Marsh No.6 : May be reached by continuing upriver along the east bank from marsh No.5, or by walking south from Bloor Street.

Best Times for Visits: Good throughout the year. Marshes 2 to 4 are often disturbed by boats moving along the river, and by fishermen and adventuring boys; early morning visits are therefore recommended. April is best for spring waterfowl, and September to November for fall ducks. Shorebirds at low water in fall, July and August. Landbirds at any time but at their best during migrations, April-May and September-October. Winter visits are often quite productive.

Remarks: The Humber Boulevard, which now runs south from Dundas Street West, past the Old Mill and under the Bloor Street viaduct, to the vicinity of the Humber Yacht Club, will eventually link up with The Queensway. As the most productive of the

marshes are those on the east bank of the Humber, and the Boulevard follows the west bank, little interference is expected in marshes 3, 5 and 6. Marshes 2 and 4 may eventually disappear, but they are the least interesting of the five. Rubber footwear is advisable when visiting the area in spring.

HUMBER RIVER : OLD MILL SECTION

(also called Etienne Brule Park or Home Smith Area)

Special Features and Records: Although much of this area, which stretches north from Bloor Street West to Dundas Street West along both sides of the Humber River, has been cleaned up, it still remains an excellent place to watch migrants both in spring and in fall. Bonaparte's Gulls stop over regularly; look for possible Little Gulls among these, as there have been several sightings of this species on that section of the river. Look well among the ducks on the Humber; quite a number of species have been recorded there; the prize find was a Harlequin Duck during one winter. When conditions are right in dry years, some shore-birds may stop over.

Directions: Two access routes are suggested: for the east bank of the Humber River, travel west along Bloor Street past Jane Street; just before entering the viaduct over the Humber, turn north (right) into Riverside Drive or Old Mill Drive, which lead to Old Mill Road and the Etienne Brule parking lot. To reach the west bank and the Humber Boulevard, which leads down through the entire area, travel west along Dundas Street and turn south (left) immediately after crossing the Humber River viaduct.

Best Times for Visits: Spring and fall migrations are the best times; during the winter a few ducks are always present.

LAMBTON WOODS AND JAMES GARDENS

Special Features: A fine mixed woodland with some tamarack and cedar bog sections. James Gardens are heavily used, but the woods to the south along the river are usually less dis-

turbed. The Humber River may provide some ducks, and shorebirds in early fall. The woods have a wealth of breeding landbirds, and are attractive to many species of winter birds.

Directions: Follow Dundas Street west to Scarlett Road (one traffic light past Jane Street); go north on Scarlett, passing first over the Black Creek, then over the Humber River; just north of the Humber turn west into Edenbridge Drive and go a little less than a mile to the James Gardens parking lot.

Best Times for Visits: A rich breeding avifauna exists. Interesting species that have been observed during the breeding season - but not necessarily breeding - are Great Horned Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-winged Warbler and Mourning Warbler. The more common breeding species are those typical of the Toronto Region. The best time for observing breeding birds is during June. A large colony of Bank Swallows is located over the river at one point. Good but not exceptional for migrant landbirds, when James Gardens is often more productive than the more extensive woodlands. A well marked path runs through the woods. The evergreens attract many winter birds, and feeding stations in James Gardens are also productive in winter and early spring.

(C.E. Goodwin)

YORK UNIVERSITY/GLENDON HALL/SUNNYBROOK RAVINE COMPLEX

Special Features: This area particularly in its lower reaches, is similar in many aspects to the Edwards Gardens/Wilket Creek Park/Serena Gundy Park complex, on which it borders. It is composed of typical ravine land; however, the formal parkland aspect is completely missing and the valley is wider, much more open than that of the Wilket Creek. The East Branch of the Don River flows through the valley. Birdwise, it offers many of the attractions of the neighbouring valley, with certain species - Eastern Bluebirds, for instance - that are not found in the closed-in Wilket Creek area. The York/Glendon/Sunnybrook ravine is also generally better in winter for finches and both three-toed woodpeckers.

Directions: The northern section (York University/Glendon Hall) may be reached by entering the Don River Valley through the York University campus, at Bayview Ave. and Lawrence Ave. East. Walk either north or south in the valley; both routes are good. For the southern (Sunnybrook) section, proceed from the Leslie Street and Eglinton Ave. East parking lot (below the Inn on the Park) as in the previous section, but continue upriver along the wider East Branch of the Don, not along narrow Wilket Creek. It is also possible to park east of the Sunnybrook Hospital and to walk down into the ravine behind the hospital.

(with B.B. Geale)

EDWARDS GARDENS/WILKET CREEK AND SERENA GUNDY PARKS

Special Features: The three parks are operated by the Metropolitan Toronto Parks Department. They form a contiguous area of 161 acres which is still being expanded. They are located in Leaside. Edwards Gardens is a highly formal landscaped area and as such of minor interest to the naturalist. Serena Gundy Park combines elements of both the formal and the natural. It is in Wilket Creek Park that we encounter acres of more or less natural mixed woodland and ground cover with its attendant wildlife. The principal value of this area is that; (a) it retains a portion of natural forest and bushy ground cover within the city and (b) is accessible by T.T.C. buses as well as by car.

Directions: Most easily approached by car from the central city by going east along Eglinton Ave. East (for Wilket Creek and Serena Gundy Parks) or Lawrence Ave. East (for Edwards Gardens). Consult a Metro Street Plan. By streetcar, subway and bus, board an Eglinton Ave. East or Lawrence Ave. East bus from the Eglinton subway station.

Best Times for Visits: During the height of the summer many citizens use the parks for picnics and walks. The naturalist will want to be out early in the morning or in the evening to enjoy the woods and wildlife at their best. The periods of spring and fall migrations are undoubtedly the best, especially spring when in Wilket Creek the birds can be enjoyed amidst a profusion of wildflowers. A great variety of birds have been recorded here in re-

cent years. Occasional sightings of Pileated Woodpeckers in summer and occurrences of both the Loggerhead (summer) and Northern Shrikes (winter), along with both three-toed woodpeckers in winter.

Vantage Points: It is recommended to start your walk from the Leslie Street Parking Lot located immediately below the Inn on the Park. Walk down into the park alongside the creek which is the east branch of the Don River. Observe in the high bluff on the opposite side of the river a breeding colony of Bank Swallows. Belted Kingfishers have also nested here in recent years. When the wooden bridge is reached over a small tributary creek (Wilket Creek) you may turn left for Serena Gundy Park or right alongside the creek to walk north in the direction of Edwards Gardens. The latter route is recommended. Climb the left hand bank of the ravine immediately by any of several faint trails and you will find the least visited area in these three parks. Here you may encounter a variety of species including the local Ring-necked Pheasants. Any meadowland species on hand will be seen here through the fence of Sunnybrook Hospital. It is this open ground to the north which will be added to the park.

Remarks: Wilket Creek is one of several Metro Parks where signs invite you to "Please Walk on The Grass". Citybound naturalists and visitors alike will enjoy their walk - on the grass or a carpet of dead leaves in Wilket Creek Park, an area which typifies the rivercut ravines of this part of Ontario.

(D.H. Baldwin)

TAYLOR'S BUSH PARK/DENTONIA PARK/METROPOLITAN PARK COMPLEX

(The area as a whole is also known as Taylor's Creek or Jones' Creek, and the Metropolitan Park as Providence Bush)

Special Features and Records: Over 200 species have been recorded in the area. There is nothing special, except that in spring and fall passerine migration is still good. Many species have left the area due to the pollution of the Don River which flows through the area. Others have left due to human interference, construction work, and a general clean-up policy such as in Taylor's Creek and Dentonia Parks; although they all occur on migration.

Directions: Follow Highway 5 (Danforth Ave.) east and take either Coxwell Ave. and Drive, Woodbine Ave., Main Street, Dawes Road, Victoria Park Ave., Pharmacy Ave. or Warden Ave. north to park boundaries. Any of these streets will give access to various parts of the overall ravine. A walk through any part of the park is usually productive. In places it is rough going since the erosion in some areas has washed away portions of the well-used paths. Distance varies from 5 to 7 miles from Royal Ontario Museum.

Best Times for Visits: Spring: late April to end of May. Fall: August to mid-October.

Remarks: The area is actually one continuous green-belt from Todmorden Park west of the Don Mills Road/Don Valley Parkway interchange, through until St. Clair Ave. East and Warden Ave. are reached. The western parks (that is west of Dawes Road), especially Taylor's Creek Park, have been cleaned up to some extent and camp fire rings built into convenient areas. Dentonia Park is now out-of-bounds for naturalists since it has been made into a Metro Golf Area. Byng and Metropolitan Parks, although interfered with in some areas, are by far the best and most rugged of the parks. The main trees are Black Willows along the Don River. The valley is rugged and deeply cleft in places, with maple, beech, White Pine and Hemlock in most areas, and White Cedar in patches on the lower slopes.

(R.C. Long)

METROPOLITAN TORONTO LAKEFRONT:

Special Features and Records:

The Metro Lakefront stretches west to the limits of Metropolitan Toronto at Long Branch (and slightly beyond for the purposes of this book), and east to the Scarborough East Townline which forms the eastern limit of Metropolitan Toronto. The most populous section of this 25-mile stretch is undoubtedly the lakeshore between the Humber River and the West Gap. This is also the most interesting area as far as birds are concerned. The breakwater wall is a favourite resting place for gulls at all times of the year and for terns in migration. Look for Glaucous and Iceland Gulls among the thousands of wintering Herring

Gulls. Great Black-backed Gulls are present all winter. Bonaparte's Gulls and Common Terns are numerous in spring, and occasional Caspian Terns are seen. Ducks are numerous in winter inside the wall, and many thousands more are found just outside on the open lake.

Directions and Vantage Points:

Because of limited access from the westbound lane of the Lakeshore Boulevard, a west-to-east course is suggested when birding along the lakeshore. Driving east from the Humber River mouth, following are the recommended stopping points:

Sunnyside Section:

Sir Casimir Gzowski Park:

Two parking lots, one at the foot of Windermere Avenue, the other at the foot of Ellis Avenue.

Sunnyside Swimming Pool and Beach:

This widest water area inside the breakwater wall may be viewed from a very small parking lot at the concession booth just west of the pool.

Palais Royale Parking Lot:

Access just west of the footbridge over Lakeshore Boulevard.

Boulevard Club Parking Lot:

A private club parking lot, but access is easy in winter.

Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club and

Argonaut Rowing Club Parking Lots:

A favourite spot for Canvasbacks and other ducks is in the basin west of the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club.

Exhibition Park Section:

The "Aquatic Drive" skirts the entire Exhibition Park lakefront. It consists of two sections, the first starting just east of the Argonaut Rowing Club, the second immediately west of the foot-

bridge crossing Lakeshore Blvd. from the Exhibition Park. It is a one-way street with the only exit at Coronation Park, opposite Princess Gate.

Toronto Bay Section:

Western Channel (West Gap):

Turn south at Bathurst Street; the parking lot at its foot offers a good view of the Gap and part of Toronto Harbour.

Loblaw's Parking Lot:

Toronto Shipbuilding Company Dock:

Piers No. 4, 6 and 7:

Canada Steamship Lines Parking Lot:

Access to these vantage points is from Lakeshore Boulevard. At most times of the year they are closed to the public but in winter they are often open and offer excellent views of different sections of Toronto Bay and Harbour.

Cherry Street:

At present closed south of Lakeshore Blvd.; go east to Don Roadway, south to Commissioners Street, west again to Cherry Street.

Polson Street:

Turn west off Cherry Street less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below Commissioners Street; excellent view of eastern Toronto Bay.

Cherry Beach and East Gap:

At the foot of Cherry Street. Good for lake ducks, gulls, shorebirds; Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings in season. It is necessary to walk west from the beach parking lot for a view of the Eastern Channel and the lake beyond; the lighthouse pier is an excellent lookout point.

Foot of Leslie Street:

The entire lakefront between Cherry Street and Leslie Street is undergoing considerable changes as a result of land reclamation. The only place that has been consistently good both for wintering and for migrating waterfowl as well as for shorebirds, is the area at the foot of and east of Leslie Street (the shoreline of the Ashbridges Bay Sewage Disposal Plant).

Ashbridges Bay and Coatsworth Cut:

Turn south into the beach parking lot at the foot of Coxwell Avenue. The bay is to the west and is good for ducks and shorebirds when it is not disturbed by yachts and motorboats. A stroll along the boardwalk may also be productive at times.

Beaches Park:

Follow Lakeshore Blvd. east to Queen Street; turn east and go to Kippendale Avenue; go south to Kew Beach Avenue; north again on Kenilworth Avenue to Queen Street East; south again on Lee Avenue to Alfresco Lawn. The boardwalk continues along the beach and offers several good vantage points; by far the best spot is the so-called "Kew Beach" section with its protective breakwater.

Scarborough Bluffs:

The Scarborough lakefront consists of an unbroken chain of nine miles of whitish clay and sand cliffs, which are 350 feet above the lake level at their highest point. Apart from their scenic beauty, the cliffs offer excellent vantage points for the observation of birds migrating along the lakeshore. Preferred watching points are:

Foot of Chine Drive:

Follow Kingston Road (Hwy.2) to the first stoplight east of its junction with Danforth Avenue. Chine Drive is the first road running south from Kingston Road, east of this light. Walk down the path at its foot into the ravine and to the lakeshore. A good place for migrating birds; winter finches are found here every year; Screech Owls may be heard and, occasionally, seen; Carolina Wrens have been recorded here on more than one occasion; the lake is always good for waterfowl in season.

Highland Creek:

The bluffs end at the mouth of Highland Creek. The Sewage Treatment Plant clearing basins north of the railway bridge are at times an excellent place for shorebirds, as is the creek when the water level is low. The beach is still quite good for shorebirds; flocks of Whimbrel are seen here occasionally (in migration). To reach the mouth of the creek, turn south off Hwy.2 onto Beechgrove Drive, just before reaching the Highland Creek

bridge. Go south on this winding road until you cross the rail-
way tracks, then turn east and follow a dirt road to the creek.
While in the Highland Creek area, it may be well worth looking
into the Highland Creek Conservation Area, which stretches
north and south along the creek from Hwy.2. The southern part is
known as the Colonel Danforth Area, the northern section is
called the Morningside Area. Both areas offer good birding, par-
ticularly during migrations. Access is from Hwy.2.

Best Times for Visits: As for the eastern and western sections
of the Toronto Region. Whimbrel move through the Region with
exacting regularity during the last week of May.

WESTERN LAKEFRONT, PORT CREDIT TO BURLINGTON

Special Features and Records: From September until late May the
western lakefront is one of the most productive areas for migra-
ting and wintering concentrations. Jaegers and Purple Sandpipers
are frequent in season, and nowhere else in the Toronto Region
are King Eiders seen with such regularity. The winter population
of ducks is impressive and of great variety, and large migrating
flocks of loons, grebes and ducks stop over along most of the
western shore. Both Red-necked and Horned Grebes are found in
considerable numbers. Ducks include all species common to the Re-
gion, plus the three scoters. Gadwalls in winter are regular,
though mostly single, and the occasional Barrow's Goldeneye and
Harlequin Duck is also seen. Swans and geese occur each year but
not in large concentrations.

Directions and Vantage Points: The area defined as "western
lakefront" stretches from the foot of Highway 10 at Port Credit
to the westernmost limit of the Toronto Region at Burlington
(or roughly between 15 and 30 miles west from the R.O.M.). Access
to all vantage points is from Highway 2 (Lakeshore Road). Although
the area is serviced by Gray Coach Lines and the Canadian National
Railways Commuter Service, private transportation is preferable.
The western lakefront is much more developed than the eastern lake-
front, and where the latter features (at least at the present

time) extensive fields and open areas, the West is one continuous chain of commercial and urban developments. As a result, access is limited almost exclusively to roads which run down to the lakeshore. There is only one marsh area (Ratray's Marsh), and its future is still not secure as such. Following are the best and most productive vantage points (for convenience, the junction of Highway 10 with Highway 2 - Lakeshore Road East - has been designated as "Mile 0", and distances of all turn-off roads are given from this point; distance between the R.O.M. and "Mile 0" is 16.5 miles):

Mile

- .0 Foot of Highway 10 (Huronario Street) and Canada Steamship Lines Pier, Port Credit:
Drive south from Highway 2 on Highway 10, following the bend of the road to the parking lot east of the CSL shed. The rock-and-dirt "pier" is an excellent place from which to view the large concentrations of wintering ducks. Snowy Owls are frequent, as are shorebirds in season.
- 1.1 Pine and Maple Avenues, Port Credit:
These two streets meet at the Lake, where there is a very small park. Many wintering ducks, particularly in the bay to the west.
- 2.0 Tennyson Avenue, Lorne Park:
An exclusive "private" road, with a cliff at its foot which affords a sweeping view of the lake.
- 2.5 Shoreline Park, Lorne Park:
Turn south at Owenwood Drive and follow Echo Drive and Parkland Avenue to this tiny lakefront park.
- 2.6 Bexhill Road/Ratray's Marsh:
(also known as Lorne Park Marsh or the Ratray Estate)
The last remaining large marsh area along the western lakefront of the Toronto Region. Total area of the former estate of Major J.H. Ratray is some 200 acres of lakeshore, marsh, stream, brush, woodland and meadows. A good area for herons (Great Blue, Green, Black-crowned Night) and bitterns (Least and American), rails (Virginia and Sora), Wood Ducks, Black Terns and Long-billed Marsh Wrens. The marsh-and waterbirds, together with the birds of the varied habitats surrounding the marsh area make it possible to accumulate a list of 100 species in a single "May Day". In fall the list is augmented by hawks moving west along the lakeshore. The marsh

is private property but naturalists are tolerated. In recent years there have been valiant efforts, by local naturalists at first, and then by the Nature Conservancy, to preserve the marsh in its natural state. These efforts have been only partially successful, and construction of a subdivision has started in one part of the estate.

3.2 Watersedge Park, Clarkson:

Turn south at Meadow Wood Road and follow it to Country Club Crescent and into Watersedge Road. Returning along Meadow Wood Road, turn west onto Orr Road. The woodland Park at this point quite frequently has winter finches in season. Follow

4.5 Orr Road to Highway 2, which runs north to south at this point. Turn south.

5.6 Lakeside Park, Clarkson:

This small Toronto Township Park is a good lookout point over the sheltered "bay" formed by the Refinery pier to the east and the Cement Company pier to the west.

5.8 St. Lawrence Cement Company Pier, Clarkson:

Without any doubt the best location on the western lake-front. This is a private (Company) pier but birders are tolerated. All the west shore specialties have been recorded there at one time or another. It generally pays to spend more than just a few minutes on the pier, because all birds flying along the lakeshore must pass there, and many stop to rest, especially shorebirds, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings.

7.8 Ninth Line Road, Oakville

9.6 Trafalgar Road, Oakville

9.9 Navy Street, Oakville

10.3 Kerr Street, Oakville

11.7 Westdale Road, Oakville

12.6 Coronation Park Boat Ramp

12.8 Coronation Park entrance

13.2 Third Line, Bronte

14.4 West River Street, Bronte

14.8 Cudmore Street, Bronte

15.4 Cities Service Park

15.5 Shell Canada Ltd. Pier

16.0 Burloak Road and Pig & Whistle Inn, Burlington

- 17.2 Appleby Line
18.5 Walker's Line
19.3 Sioux Lookout Park, Burlington
19.8 Guelph Line, Burlington:

This is perhaps the best place to see King Eiders from mid-November to mid-December. Up to 26 have been seen at one time, but two or three are a good average. Search with care, for almost all King Eiders recorded there are immatures and must be picked out from hundreds of other ducks.

- 20.9 Foot of Elizabeth Street, Burlington
21.0 Foot of Brant Street, Burlington
21.3 Brant Inn parking lot

From here you may return to Toronto via the Queen Elizabeth Way.

Best Times for Visits: October for jaegers; late fall until early December for Purple Sandpipers; late fall (mostly) but also early May (sometimes) for King Eiders; October through March for wintering ducks; late March to early May for migrating loons, grebes and ducks; Whistling Swans mid-March to early April; Canada Geese last week of March to third week of April.

Remarks: The western lakefront is the most southerly breeding area in Ontario for the Red-necked Grebe. There has been a noticeable decline in their flocks in the past decade. Longterm observers in the Toronto Region feel that this may be attributed in part to the great increase in the use of powered pleasure boats along the lakeshore. Telescopes are a "must" at any time. Birding along the western shores is rewarding even under bad weather conditions because it may be covered entirely from the car window!

(in co-operation with Donald Perks)

EASTERN LAKESHORE

Special Features and Records: A great variety of habitats: marshes, beaches, open fields, woods and scrub make this area a particularly rich one for the birder. Its chief attractions, however, lie in its wet spots and along the lakeshore proper where waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds, herons and their associates congregate during spring and fall and which winter visitors such as Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings find to their taste. Virtually all the waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns on the R.O.M. Toronto Field checking list (1964) have been seen on this route. There is no reason why they should not continue to do so in spite of the threat of urban development. (R.M. .)

Directions and Vantage Points: For all points along the Base Line Road, follow Hwy. 401, or Hwys. 2 and 401 east to the Liverpool Road Interchange (No.64); turn south and go about 100 yards to the Base Line Road. From here on refer to instructions under the respective sections. For directions to the mouth of the Rouge River and to Moore Road also see the respective sections below.

Rouge River Mouth

Follow Hwy. 2 or Hwy. 401 east; turn south at the first Interchange after the two meet (No. 63, Sheppard Ave./Port Union Rd.); turn east almost immediately onto Island Rd. and follow the top of the west bank of the Rouge River past the golf club. When this road comes to a T intersection close to the railroad, take the unpaved road east to the river mouth. The marsh has Black Terns, grebes, Common Gallinules and ducks in season. A canoe trip up the river should produce Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a good variety of other summer woodland birds as well as Green Herons, bitterns and Great Blue Herons. The valley is good for northern finches and birds of prey in winter. (J.M.S.)

Moore Road

This road, which is called White's Road north of Hwy. 2, can be

reached only from Hwy. 2. It is the second road running south and the fourth road running north off Hwy. 2, east of the Rouge Valley bridge. Follow it south until it comes to a blind end. For about a quarter mile it is bordered by swampy woodland. This is a very good spot for migrant warblers. (J.M.S.)

Frenchman's Bay

From Liverpool Rd. and Base Line Rd., proceed directly south past Bay Ridges subdivision to the lakeshore, Frenchman's Bay being to your right (west). This body of water, which is called Frenchman Bay on the topographical maps, may nowadays be best seen from this east side road, i.e., from the bridge near the lake. Another good vantage point is the bayside end of the dirt road that runs west just north of the bridge. The bay is at its best for birders in late fall, winter and early spring. Otherwise it is disturbed by boaters, fishermen etc. (R.M.S.)

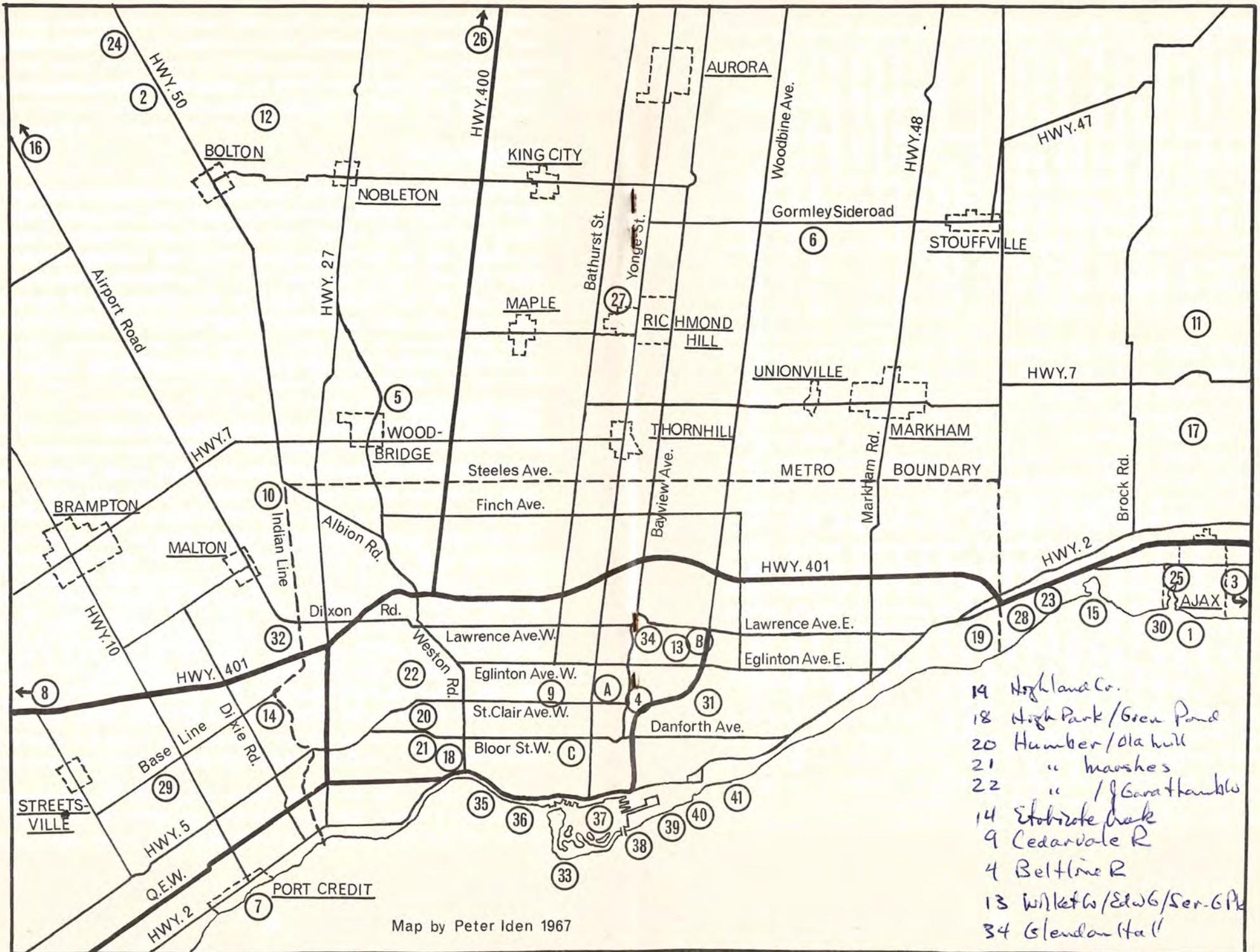
Pickering Marsh

(also called Corner Marsh or Duffin's Creek Marsh)

From Liverpool Rd. travel east for 1.5 miles along the Base Line Road to Squires Beach Road; turn south. A cedar bush flanks this road for a third of a mile; good for roosting owls: Long-eared, Saw-whet and possible Barred and Boreal Owls in the wintertime. Continue south to the next intersection, then east for one-half mile to a right angle bend in the road (giving this marsh its name, Corner Marsh). This marsh, a widening of Duffin's Creek, is best seen from the north side of the corner. Wood Ducks, Black Terns, American Coots, Common Gallinules and Long-billed Marsh Wrens are summer residents. The best times here are, however, early spring and the fall when shooting is not on. Mudflats develop if the lake level permits, and shorebirds are numerous then. (R.M.S.)

Squire's Beach

Continue south from the Corner Marsh outlook to the lakeshore and Squire's Beach. The lake cove here is noted for the fall



- 14 Highland Co.
- 18 High Park / Green Pond
- 20 Humber / Old Mill
- 21 " marshes
- 22 " / Garathambles
- 14 Etobicoke Creek
- 9 Cedarvale R
- 4 Beltline R
- 13 Wilket / Edw G / Ser. G Pt
- 34 Glendon Hall

- 33 Island
- 35 W. Beaches
- 36 Exh. Park
- 37 Harbour
- 38 Cherry B
- 39 Leslie St.
- 40 Ashbridge Bay
- 41 E. Beaches

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO PIN-POINT LOCATIONS ON CENTRE SPREAD MAP

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Ajax Flats/ Rotary Park | 24) Palgrave Conservation Area |
| 2) Albion Hills Conservation Area | 25) Pickering Marsh |
| 3) Base Line Areas | 26) Pottageville Swamp |
| 4) Beltline Ravine | 27) Richmond Hill Pond |
| 5) Boyd Conservation Area | 28) Rouge River Mouth |
| 6) Bruce's Mill Conservation Area | 29) Sandford's Pond |
| 7) C.S.L. Pier, Port Credit | 30) Squire's Beach |
| 8) Campbellville/ Milton Heights/
Speyside complex | 31) Taylor's Bush/ Dentonia/ Metro-
politan Parks complex |
| 9) Cedarvale Ravine | 32) Toronto International Airport |
| 10) Claireville Reservoir | 33) Toronto Island |
| 11) Claremont Conservation Area | 34) York University/ Glendon Hall/
Sunnybrook Ravine complex |
| 12) Cold Creek Conservation Area | 35) Sunnyside Lakeshore Section |
| 13) Edwards Gardens/ Wilket Creek/
Serena Gundy Parks | 36) Exhibition Park Section |
| 14) Etobicoke Creek Valley | 37) Toronto Bay and Harbour |
| 15) Frenchman's Bay | 38) Cherry Beach/ East Gap |
| 16) Glen Haffy Conservation Area | 39) Foot of Leslie Street |
| 17) Greenwood Conservation Area | 40) Ashbridge's Bay |
| 18) Grenadier Pond/ High Park | 41) Eastern Beaches |
| 19) Highland Creek Areas | |
| 20) Humber River/ Old Mill Area | |
| 21) Humber River Marshes | A) Canadian Audubon Society |
| 22) James Gardens/ Lambton Woods | B) Federation of Ontario Naturalists |
| 23) Moore Road | C) Royal Ontario Museum |

congregation of Red-necked Grebes; also good for loons, scoters and the occasional Western Grebe, jaeger and other rarity.

(R.M.S.)

Ajax Flats and Rotary Park

Return to Base Line Road. Turn east, cross Duffin's Creek and turn south again after $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile onto Rotary Park Road (not posted), soon passing the Ajax dump to the west. Rotary Park lies at the foot of this road (about 2 miles), and forms the east bank of the mouth of Duffin's Creek as well as fronting on the lake. Good marsh pools along the creek may be seen by walking north along the bank. This side of the Pickering Marsh is often referred to as the Simcoe Point Marsh or the Rotary Park Marsh. The woods along the east bank harbour owls in winter, notably Barred Owls, and are good migration watching spots.

To reach the Ajax Fields, more commonly called the Ajax Flats, return along Rotary Park Road, to an obscure dirt lane about a mile north of the lake. Follow this road east and then south again to the lake. It wanders through the fields and along the bluffs for more than three miles, eventually returning to the Base Line Road past the Ajax Hospital. In winter because of snow and at times of heavy rain this lane may be impassable. The Flats are excellent for seeing hawks, both during the fall migration and during the winter; for owls (Snowy and Short-eared), Northern Shrikes, red-polls, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings in winter. Several lookout points along the lake bluffs can be very rewarding if migrants are on the move. A good place, for example, to look for passing Whimbrel during the fourth week of May. The rocky beaches have been visited by Purple Sandpipers in late fall. (R.M.S.)

Shoal Point Woods

From the center of Ajax, go east along Base Line Road for 1 mile, to Shoal Point Road. The woods are 1 mile south of here on both sides of the road. This is one of the reliable wintering Barred Owl spots; Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls are also found and in the nearby fields, Short-eared Owls. The area is good for spring and fall migrations of passerines, and a number of species are known

to nest or summer in the woods, including Green Heron, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Whip-poor-will, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Waterthrush and Canada Warbler. From mid-November to early March the woods can be easily traversed on snow and ice; in spring rubber boots must be worn. May is the best month. The woods are usually dry in fall and the going is easier; mid-August to end of October. Any naturalist entering this rugged cedar-maple-birch-poplar area must be prepared to do considerable walking and put up with thick tangles and thorns. The birds are there! The woods are some 50 acres in extent and privately owned, but naturalists are tolerated as visitors. (R.C.L.)

Shoal Point Marsh

(also known as Ajax Marsh)

From the Shoal Point Road woods continue south to the bridge or lake. Topographical maps give Richardson's Point as a reference. A good spot for the study of nesting Black Terns. The ponds are good both in spring and fall for waterfowl and if the water level is low, for shorebirds. More than twenty species of waterfowl have been recorded on the ponds, and twenty-six species of shorebirds on the lakeshore, marsh flats and nearby farm fields. Among these have been Whistling Swan, Mute Swan, Snow Goose, Piping Plover, Willet, White-rumped, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes. Least Bittern occurs, Virginia Rail and Sora are common and the Common Gallinule is abundant. A special feature is the fact that both Long-billed and Short-billed Marsh Wrens breed in the area (the former in the cattails, the latter in sedge). The marsh is usually open from early April onward; ducks mid-April to mid-May, shorebirds after this. Breeding month of June is best for terns and marsh wrens. In fall the mudflats are often good for shorebirds, mid-July to end of October.

The Shoal Point Marsh is privately owned. Farmers along the east side do not generally object to naturalists skirting their fields at the marsh edge to get to the shoreline. Permission to visit the western fenced area should be obtained from Mr. L.G. Hough, who regards his section of the marsh as a sanctuary. An alter-

nate route of approach is from Ontoro Beach Road, further east along the Base Line Road. Take it down to the Range Line, then west to the farm, and walk down to the lake and west along the bluffs to the marsh. (R.C.L.)

Base Line Marsh

(southern section referred to as Whitby Hospital Marsh)

The Base Line Marsh takes its name from the Base Line Road, which cuts through the marsh about 2.75 miles east of Duffin's Creek, or 1.50 mile west of Whitby. This marsh area is easily seen from the road, but a walk along its perimeter, either north or south, is sometimes quite productive. Its bird population is much the same as that of the other marshes along the eastern lakefront. Shovelers have nested here. This marsh and its feeder creek (Lynde Creek) empty into the lake to the west of the Whitby Hospital grounds. An approach to the southern part of the marsh may be made via the southernmost road leading from the main Hospital entrance road into the Hospital grounds along the lake. Go west along the lake to a little parking lot. This is private property and should be respected as such. LeVay's Marsh or Eastbourne Marsh, a half mile west of the Whitby Hospital Marsh, is another excellent spot, but there is no good road to it and visitors are discouraged by the private owners of that marsh. (R.M.S.)

Whitby Harbour and Marsh

This bay just inside the eastern extremity of the Toronto Region is a noted spot for waterfowl and shorebird concentrations both in spring (April and May) and in fall (August to November). Although known as Whitby Harbour, it is actually a bay off Lake Ontario, having a channel dredged out of its mouth to allow access for a few Lake freighters. The bay itself is quite shallow with marsh along much of its shoreline. A small stream enters it from the east (Pringle Creek). Water level is controlled by the lake, and when the lake water level is low ideal conditions are found for shorebirds, providing resting and feeding areas in spring and in fall. Although noted primarily for shorebirds and for waterfowl,

Whitby Harbour and Marsh has many other interesting species that nest in the marsh areas and also pass through during migration. Interesting is the hawk migration in September along the shore and over the bay and marsh. The ever present gull population has produced some rare and surprising species; Black-headed and Little Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake and Forster's Tern have been seen, as well as Parasitic Jaeger and Eared Grebe. The west side of the marsh and part of the harbour may be seen by going east along the lakeshore from the bottom of the Whitby Hospital main entrance road. To get to the east side of the same harbour-marsh area return to the Base Line Road, go east to Brock Street and turn south. As the marsh edge appears on the west side of the street a lane will be seen going west; follow this - the last 200 yards will have to be done on foot - to the water's edge. Ducks congregate to the west and north especially; shorebirds prefer the area to the south and east. For the harbour proper return to Brock Street, turn south, cross the bridge and drive on to the dock section; follow either the dock or the road to the eastern breakwall where it is possible to park. From this side an excellent view of the western breakwall may be had, often crowded with gulls of several species, terns, and even shorebirds. Watch also the eastern beach and the lake beyond the lighthouse pier. Almost all the waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns known to Toronto birders have been recorded in this area. (T.H. and R.M.S.)

Best Times for Visits: SPRING: Much migration takes place along the lakeshore and all points should provide interesting observations. The Pickering Marsh and Whitby Harbour and Marsh are the best congregating points for waterfowl. FALL: Similar to spring except that the shooting season causes considerable disturbance. At that time the birds are scarcer in the marshes and observers should proceed with care. Shorebirds are more evident in the fall, provided always that the lake water level is low enough. WINTER: The eastern lakeshore route is one of the best winter birding areas as the results of the annual Christmas Count demonstrates. Between 30 and 38 species were discovered. Both Frenchman's Bay and Whitby Harbour are favoured resting spots at this season for

gulls and ducks and so are good places to look for Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, unusual wintering ducks and Snowy Owls.

(R.M.S.)

Remarks: Most of the eastern lakeshore area will suffer progressively from expanding industry and urbanization during the next few years. The new atomic power plant at the east end of Frenchman's Bay, the extensive housing developments around this bay, the new buildings on the Whitby Hospital grounds and the reconstruction of the Whitby Port are examples of this trend. At the same time the open water areas are likely to remain, as will the lakeshore beaches, Duffin's Creek and other good spots. Because of this the area will continue to be attractive to both birds and birders. (R.M.S.)

(The Eastern Lakeshore section was composed from separate contributions by R.M. Saunders = R.M.S., R.C. Long = R.C.L., Tom Hassall = T.H., and J.M. Speirs = J.M.S.)

CLAREMONT & GREENWOOD CONSERVATION AREAS

Pickering Twp., Ontario Co.

30 M/14 East half

Special Features: None; both areas offer pleasant walks along nature trails through a variety of habitats; all common landbirds are present in season. Claremont is about 400 acres in size, Greenwood about 600 acres.

Directions: To reach Claremont Conservation Area, follow Hwy. 7 east for 20 miles (from Hwy. 11) to the Greenwood Side-road (2 miles east of the village of Brougham); turn north and go about 1 mile to park entrance. For Greenwood Conservation Area, turn south off Hwy. 7 about 1.75 miles east of Brougham. Both turnoffs are posted.

Best Times for Visits: June for nesting birds; winter finches and owls in "good" years.

Remarks: Entry fee \$ 1.00 per car. Nature trail with guided hikes on weekends, spring to fall.

BOYD CONSERVATION AREA

Vaughan Twp., York Co.

30 M/13 East half

Special Features and Records: This 1000-acre, well-wooded Conservation Area is visited frequently by Toronto birders, as it combines convenient inland birding close to the city with pleasant surroundings and public facilities (swimming, picnic tables, fire places etc.). Summer residents (breeding) include Cardinal; Indigo Bunting, Mourning Warbler, White-breasted Nuthatch, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. In some years a Pine Warbler may be found in the south-east corner of the area. There is a large Bank Swallow colony in the northern section of the area, in a huge disused gravel pit. Great Horned Owl and Pileated Woodpecker may be expected at any time of the year. In winter, northern finches visit the area, particularly the Hemlocks along the nature trail and at the back (east end) of the area. Both three-toed woodpeckers are often seen in winter. In late May when migration is at its peak, a list of 65 or more species may be expected in a day's birding within the area's boundaries.

Directions: From Hwy. 400 go west on Hwy. 7 for 3 miles to Woodbridge; turn north on Islington Ave. and go 2 miles to park entrance. To reach the rear of Boyd Conservation Area, turn north $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Hwy. 400 onto Pine Valley Road; go 2 miles to the top of this road; walk straight on into the valley or uphill to the right into the upper mixed woodlot.

Best Times for Visits: Worth visiting any time of the year, but most rewarding during spring migration. A walk along the one-mile nature trail is suggested; in winter the rear (east end) of the area is often more interesting.

Remarks: Entry fee \$ 1.00 per car. Guided walks along the nature trail from spring to fall. (G. Bennett)

COLD CREEK BOG

King Twp., York Co.

30 M/13 East half

Special Features and Records: This 100-acre tamarack-cedar-spruce bog forms part of the 450-acre Cold Creek Conservation Area, an area that has been set aside especially for sportsmen (target practice, archery, dog trials etc.). It is not visited very much by Toronto birders and consequently, very few records are available of its bird life. The bog enjoys complete protection; its avifauna is similar to that of the Pottageville Swamp, which is treated elsewhere in this guide. Eastern Bluebirds have been known to nest in the more open areas of the Conservation Area, and most of the birds of open farmland habitat are present in season.

Directions: Travel west via Hwys. 401, 400 and 7 to the intersection of Hwys. 7 and 27; go north to the village of Nobleton (9 miles); turn west and go 2.5 miles to the Cold Creek Road; turn north and go 2.5 miles to the park entrance.

Best Times for Visits: The month of June (breeding month); presumably quite productive during migration but few records are available.

Remarks: Entry fee of \$ 1.00 per car, as in other Conservation Areas. The Supervisor's wife is extremely interested in natural history and will guide visitors through the area on request.

POTTAGEVILLE SWAMP

King Twp., York Co.

31 D/4 East half

Special Features and Records: This is the only large northern type swamp close to Toronto. It contains close to 1,000 acres of dense Tamarack, White Cedar and Black Spruce with willow scrub near the streams and hardwoods on the higher ground surrounding the swamp. The ground cover features typical bog plants such as Labrador Tea, Pitcher Plants, Showy, Pink and Yellow Ladyslippers. Common nesting birds are Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Veery, Black-and-white, Nashville and Canada Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat and White-throated Sparrow. There is a Golden-winged Warbler "colony" in one section of the swamp.

Directions: Follow Hwy. 400 north from Toronto to the Aurora cloverleaf. Go west 0.75 mile to Concession 6, King Twp. Travel north for 2 miles to the first east-west road. Park on the shoulder just south of the canal that borders the Holland Marsh market gardens. Walk west along the south side of the canal and the swamp is on your left. Cross one small stream and continue on about 500 yards. Cut into the swamp and work your way back to the road, using a compass to maintain a generally easterly direction. To reach the more southern portion (mixed deciduous-cedar-balsam swamp) proceed from Hwy. 400 west to the village of Pottageville, then north from the center of the village 0.75 mile to where the road (a) turns east, (b) branches over a tiny creek into low deciduous woods and (c) is continued north by an impassable right-of-way leading straight ahead into the swamp. The main road (a) leads east about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then north about 1 mile on dry ground along the south-east margin of the swamp, at the foot of the deciduous woods overlooking it. This road peters out beside the swamp in the vicinity of the Golden-winged Warbler colony. The right-of-way (c) continues north into the heart of the swamp, where it can no longer be followed. The hardy naturalist may continue to the northern (tamarack-cedar-spruce) section of the tract.

Best Times for Visits: During the month of June, when most other birding spots are unproductive, Pottageville Swamp is at its best. May and June are best for the interesting boreal flora. In winter, when the swamp is frozen except for spring holes, there is the chance

of a good variety of winter birds.

Remarks: This is an area recommended only for the hardier naturalist. The swamp is well supplied with windfalls, thick bush and potholes. Tough clothes, waterproof boots, insect repellent and compass are necessary to explore the tract. The area is privately owned and visited almost exclusively by naturalists; there is very little there to attract the general public.

(G. Fairfield & R.R. Tasker)

RICHMOND HILL POND

Vaughan Twp., York Co.

30 M/14 West half

Special Features: The Pond and the surrounding wooded area are good in spring for waterbirds and warblers. The fall migration of warblers and other species is quite rewarding. During twelve months in 1966-67, 14 species of waterbirds and 22 species of warblers were identified.

Directions: From Toronto, follow Hwy. 11 (Yonge Street) north to Richmond Hill. Turn west (left) onto Benson Ave.; drive to Lucas St., jog right, then left again to Rumble Ave. Proceed to the end of Rumble Ave. and park. The Pond area begins there. At the end of Rumble Ave., a good view may be had of the Pond and marsh area by going through the fenced area on the south side. A walking trail with several branches runs north from the end of Rumble Ave., then swings west around the Pond through the bottomland woods; later it leads through pine and hemlock woods.

Best Times for Visits: Last week of March until end of May; warbler peak about mid-May. Mid-August until end of October; usually some waterfowl in November.

Remarks: The Pond area is owned by the Municipality of Richmond Hill; the whole area now consists of 23 acres of which 9.5 acres is water. About 2.5 acres on Rumble Ave. are slated for building lots, the remainder becomes parkland. The area features pine and hemlock woods adjoining a golf course. A branch of the West Don feeds the pond. Along the stream are moist willow, dogwood and highbush cranberry tangles with some cattail marsh. Rubber boots are advisable in spring.

(O.E. Devitt)

BRUCE'S MILL CONSERVATION AREA

Markham Twp., York Co.

30 M/14 West half

Special Features: None; pleasant walking along nature trail through a variety of habitats; all common woodland birds of the Region may be found here. The area is about 270 acres in size.

Directions: Follow Hwy. 7 east for 3.8 miles (from Hwy. 11) to Don Mills Road; turn north and go 6.9 miles to Gormley Side-road; turn east (sign to Stouffville) and go 2 miles to park entrance.

Best Times for Visits: June for nesting birds; winter finches and owls in "good" years.

Remarks: Entry fee: \$ 1.00 per car. Guided weekend nature hikes spring to fall.

ALBION HILLS CONSERVATION AREA

Albion Twp., Peel Co.

30 M/ 13 West half

Special Features: A large 850-acre area of predominantly deciduous (sugar maple-beech) woodlands and rolling grassland, mostly cleaned up for picnics and day use. Around the fringe there is considerable land undisturbed by visitors to the area, with a rich breeding avifauna. Grasshopper Sparrows nest here; Ruffed Grouse are common in the woods, and Pileated Woodpeckers are seen frequently.

Directions: Travel west on Hwys. 401, 400 and 7 to the intersection of Hwys. 7 and 50; turn north on Hwy. 50 and go 15.3 miles to the park entrance (6.3 miles north of the Town of Bolton).

Best Times for Visits: June for breeding birds; also good in migration; not so good in winter.

Remarks: Entry fee \$ 1.00 per car. Guided nature hikes spring to fall; there is a short nature trail but it is best to ramble off into the extensive woodlots south of the trail.

PALGRAVE CONSERVATION AREA

(also called Palgrave Forest and Wildlife Area)

Albion Twp., Peel Co.

30 M/13 West half

Special Features: A little-used area of some 800 acres of mixed woodland, swampy areas and open grassland; very few bird records are available for this area; several pairs of Eastern Bluebirds breed each year in boxes put up by the M.T.R.C.A.; a good area for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Directions: From Albion Hills Conservation Area, proceed north for 1 mile to Sideroad No. 25; turn west and go to next intersection (1 mile); just after passing the bridge, turn north and go 1.5 miles to Palgrave Conservation Area.

Best Times for Visits: A rich and varied breeding avifauna exists, and June is the best month for nesting birds; the area should be quite interesting in migration, and the many coniferous trees should be excellent for winter finches and owls.

Remarks: Palgrave is one of the least known birding areas in the Toronto Region. It provides hours of undisturbed birding in a large variety of habitats. It is best to follow the cleared strips where the tall grass has been cut and where no trees have been planted. Walk straight north from the pond near the parking lot and follow the line of bluebird boxes all around the area, a walk of about 5 miles. There is at present no admission charge because the area does not have sufficient facilities for the public.

GLEN HAFY CONSERVATION AREA

Albion Twp., Peel Co.

30 M/13 West half

Special Features and Records: None. A 750-acre park with a large sugar maple-beech woodlot and some evergreens, and considerable open grassland. Most common woodland and grassland species are found at Glen Haffy.

Directions: Travel west on Hwys. 401, 400 and 7 to the intersection of Hwy. 7 and Airport Road (village of Woodhill, 3 miles west of Hwy. 50); go north for 18.8 miles to park entrance (passing through the villages of Sandhill, Mono Road and Caledon East).

Best Times for Visits: June (breeding time); spring and fall migrations.

Remarks: Entry fee \$ 1.00 per car. Rugged nature trail with guided hikes on weekends, spring to fall.

CLAIREVILLE RESERVOIR

(also known as Claireville Dam; Claireville Conservation Area)
Toronto Gore Twp., Peel Co. 30 M/12 East half

Special Features and Records: A top spot in the Toronto Region for waterfowl (spring) and shorebirds (fall). Officially opened on September 14, 1964; the first of about fifteen similar flood control dams and reservoirs to be constructed by the Metropolitan Toronto & Region Conservation Authority. More than twenty species of waterfowl are seen in spring at Claireville, among others Whistling Swan, Canvasback and Ruddy Duck. Twenty-three species of shorebirds, among them White-rumped, Baird's, Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwit and Wilson's Phalarope (all more or less scarce in the Region), were recorded during the first fall coverage. More recent records include Common Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and a Ruff.

Directions: Follow Hwy. 401 west to the Airport Expressway (Interchange 44); travel north for 5 miles. Total distance from Royal Ontario Museum 22 miles. Private transportation only.

Best Times for Visits: SPRING: extensive flooding north almost to Hwy. 7 attracts many species of waterfowl, LAST WEEK OF MARCH TO END OF APRIL; some shorebirds are usually seen after this. FALL: mudflats on main reservoir outstanding for shorebirds, some waterfowl, MID-JULY TO MID-NOVEMBER.

Vantage Points: Indian Line bridge over railway tracks $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Claireville; Steeles Avenue bridge west of Claireville; shorebirds frequent the section north of the railway bridge; waterfowl frequents both sections and may be seen from the dam and from both bridges. A walk around part or all of the reservoir is usually most productive. In spring a good lookout is

above Wiley's bridge, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west on Steeles Ave. and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north on the Eighth Line, overlooking the floodlands.

Remarks: Claireville Dam and Reservoir are owned and operated by the M.T.R.C.A. The main reservoir is fenced at present; much of the surrounding area is slated for suburban development but a proper Conservation Area is to be established as a "buffer belt" around the reservoir. It is to be expected that the attention of birders in future years will be directed toward the Ebenezer Dam and Reservoir, which will be constructed a few miles north of Claireville. The Claireville Reservoir itself is to be utilized extensively for recreational purposes (boating, fishing), but it should continue to be a good "off-season" birding area (early spring and late fall). In the upper reaches of the reservoir the woodland fringe offers excellent birding. Future plans for these woodlands look very promising from a birder's point of view. In its finished stage the Claireville Conservation Area will consist of over 150 acres of developed "recreational area", including nature trails, and a permanent reservoir of some 120 acres.

Other M.T.R.C.A. projects: Apart from the more than a dozen Conservation Areas, most of which are mentioned in this guide, the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has completed plans for a total of fifteen flood control dams and storage reservoirs, to be constructed on the tributaries and main branches of most of the rivers flowing through the Toronto Region. The Claireville Dam was the first of these projects to be completed. Construction of the other fourteen dams should take place in the next decade or two. Because most or all of these reservoirs will probably turn out to be havens for waterfowl and shorebirds similar to Claireville, it appears that Toronto is looking into a bright future as far as birding is concerned!

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

(also known as Malton Airport)

Toronto Twp., Peel Co.

30 M/12 East half

Special Features and Records: Most of the common species normally associated with the open fields, grasslands and wastelands of the Toronto Region are found on the Dept. of Transport property. This includes Upland Plover (nesting); Black-bellied and American Golden Plovers (fall migration). The Airport in winter is the only place in the Region where one can always find Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks, even when none or very few are reported from other places. In "good" years the predator population numbers 50 and more, with up to a dozen Snowies.

Directions and Vantage Points: The Airport, because of its size, is best covered by car, although there is a bus service from the city. Most of the area is out of bounds; a drive with several stops around its periphery is usually quite rewarding. One or two stops along the southern boundary (Hwy. 401 between Airport Expressway, Interchange 44, and Dixie Road, Interchange 43) are recommended. It is here, when the fields are ploughed, that plovers are seen in the fall. Hawks and Snowy Owls are always present in winter, although the latter may be somewhat difficult to spot on snow. Parking is not allowed along this section of the highway, but brief stops are tolerated.

Continue west to Dixie Road and leave Hwy. 401, going north 0.75 mile to Britannia Road. This road runs east into the Airport Property to the Control Tower. The fields on either side are also good for plovers in season.

Return to Dixie Road and continue north to Derry Road East (2 miles); go east on Derry Road to the Fourth Line East (0.9 miles), which dips into the Airport Property to the south. After stopping there, continue east on Derry Road to the village of Malton (1.8 miles), then southeast to the Airport entrance (2 miles to traffic light). Turn right into the Airport.

The top level of the Car Park above the Terminal is the best place from which to scan the entire Airport for Snowy Owls. Coming out of the Terminal, follow signs to the Service Road

which skirts the eastern boundary of the Airport and finally returns to the Airport Expressway and Hwy. 401. The entire round trip is about 14 miles; distance from R.O.M. to Airport Expressway = 15 miles.

Best Times for Visits: First week of May to August and September for Upland Plover and other summer residents; mid-September to mid-October for Black-bellied and American Golden Plover (the fields must be ploughed!); October to April for hawks and Snowy Owls.

Remarks: Very little change is expected in years to come. Although the Dept. of Transport, in conjunction with other agencies, has cleaned up the Airport ground quite extensively and has successfully controlled a number of species that are not desirable around airports, very little has been done to successfully discourage the species mentioned in this section.

SANDFORD'S POND

(also called Britannia Pond)

Toronto Twp., Peel Co.

30 M/12 East half

Special Features and Records: Actually a small slough-like area which is mostly dry in summer and fall, the "Pond" has been a favourite spring shorebirding place for many years, and will most likely remain so for years to come. Most of the common shorebirds of the Region pass through Sandford's Pond each year, although never in great numbers. Common Snipe, Virginia Rail and Sora have been recorded regularly, and Blue-winged Teals stay to nest.

Directions: From Hwy. 401, travel south on Hwy. 10 (Huronario Steet) to the Base Line (2.5 miles); turn west and go $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile to Mavis Road. The Pond may be viewed from the Base Line or from Mavis Road.

Best Times for Visits: Spring migration only: last week of April to end of May.

Remarks: Sandford's Pond is sufficiently far removed from present suburban developments to last at least another five to ten years. The area is private property and should be respected as such; the birds may be easily spotted from the car and it is absolutely unnecessary to jump fences or to disturb the birds by walking into the surrounding meadows.

ETOBICOKE CREEK VALLEY

Toronto Twp., Peel Co.

30 M/12 East half

Special Features: A good place to see most of the woodland birds of the Region. The creek varies from spring flood to a sluggish trickle in summer, and is seldom completely frozen in winter. The adjacent flood lands support a tangle of willows and other low cover. The valley slopes are mixed woodland with some large ancient trees and an open forest floor that is covered with wildflowers in spring. The level land at the top of the valley has an open deciduous bush, going over into open fields with brushy edges and fence-rows. This varied habitat offers the possibility of up to 55 or 60 species during spring migration. Most of the woodland birds of the winter are also found in the valley.

Directions: Travelling west on Hwy. 401, leave the highway at Interchange 44 (Airport Expressway). Leave the Expressway again almost immediately after entering it, following signs into Carlingview Drive (formerly Renforth Drive), then into the Service Road and south again to Richview Road. You are now south of Hwy. 401. Turn west onto Richview Road, then south onto Indian Line or Sixth Line and go to Base Line. Etobicoke Creek is 1.6 miles west of where these three roads meet.

Best Times for Visits: Spring and fall migrations bring a great number of species to the valley, late March to early June, and September into October. In winter, both species of crossbills, redpolls and three-toed woodpeckers have been recorded, as have Great Horned Owl and Pileated Woodpecker. Also a good place for migrant and wintering hawks.

Remarks: There are several trails, both along the creek and through the woods on the east bank of the valley; it is also possible to walk along the top of the valley on either side. The area north of the Base Line bridge is fenced and much less visited by the general public than the southern section. Subdivision housing has reached Burnhamthorpe Road, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the Base Line. The farmlands adjacent to Etobicoke Creek will no doubt give way to housing. Although some of the valley will probably be cleaned up, much of it will remain in its present condition as floodland.

(E. Nasmith)

CAMPBELLVILLE/ MILTON HEIGHTS/ SPEYSIDE COMPLEX

Nassagaweya and Esquesing Twps., Halton Co.

Special Features and Records: This area is a very large section (over 30 square miles) of varied terrain, situated in Nassagaweya and Esquesing Townships of Halton County. Although only the eastern section of the area is actually within the Toronto Region, it is unquestionably one of the finest areas for breeding songbirds within a reasonable distance of the city. It attracts for example, 14 breeding species of warblers, amongst the over 111 species of birds known to have bred within its boundaries.

Its approximate boundaries have been arbitrarily designated as Hwy.401 to the south, the Guelph Line to the west, the No.15 Side Road to the north, and Hwy.25 to the east. The area is covered by three topographical map sheets: Brampton 30 M/12 West half, Hamilton 30 M/5 West half, and Guelph 40 P/9 East half.

The terrain is heavily wooded over much of the area with almost pure deciduous stands, many mixed stands, and six large reforested areas of conifers owned and managed by the Halton Region Conservation Authority (Turner Tract, Britton Tract, Cox Tract, Mahon Tract, Currie Tract, Robertson Tract). These tracts occupy about $1/6$ of the total land area and are the best areas for finding breeding species. Many beaver dams are present and as a result there are extensive flooded areas of dead trees and marsh vegetation. On the eastern side of the area the Niagara Escarpment runs due north from Hwy.401 to Speyside, and it attracts at least a dozen pairs of Turkey Vultures which nest in crevices along it.

The dense understory in the second growth deciduous woods attracts a large and dense breeding population of songbirds such as the Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wood Thrush, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Golden-winged, Blue-winged (and hybrids), Nashville, Cerulean and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, and White-throated Sparrow.

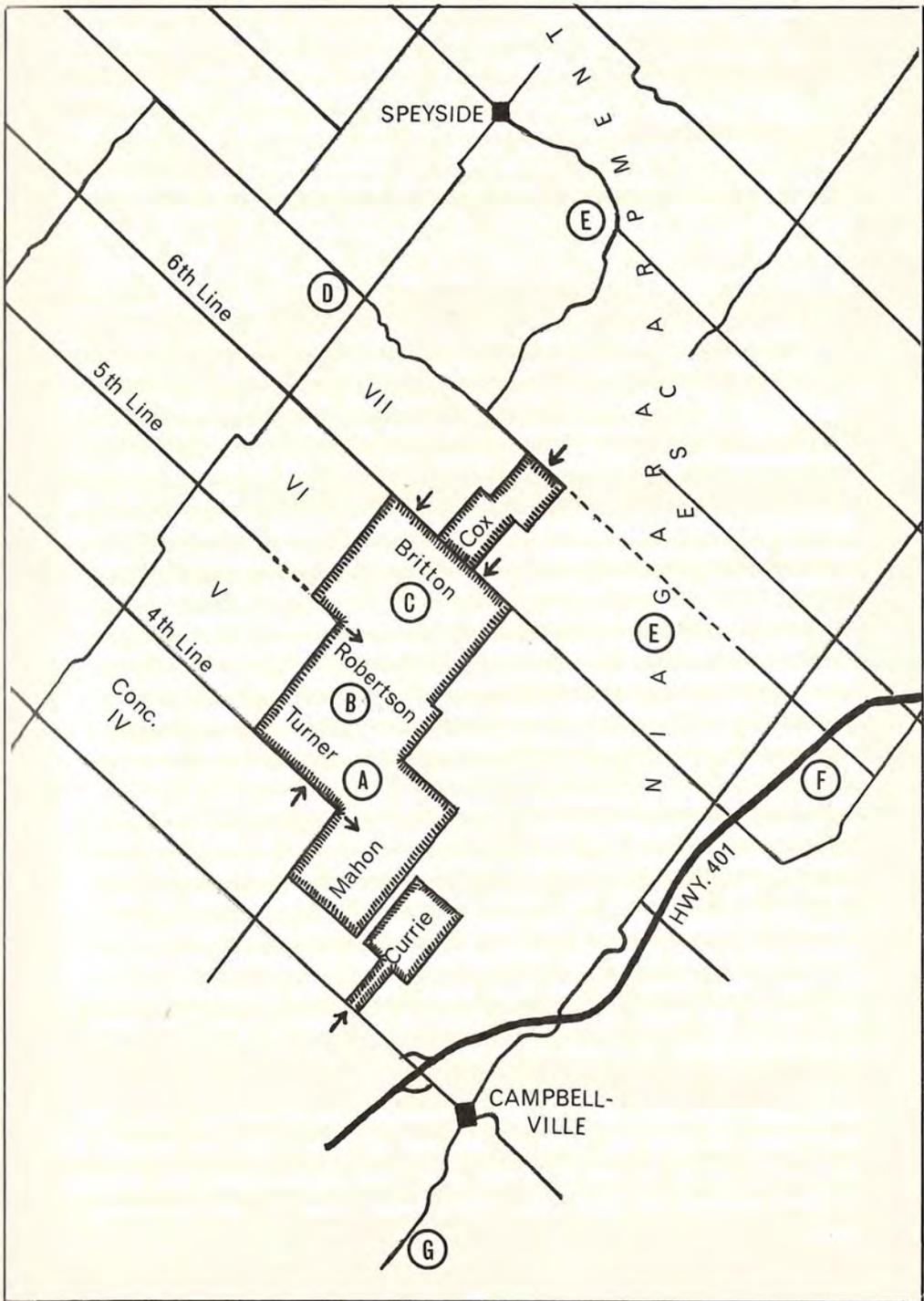
The many dead stubs in the beaver-flooded areas supply nesting sites for Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Great Crested Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, six species of woodpeckers, and Common Grackle. The Goshawk, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, and the Great Horned Owl are relatively common breeding birds in the denser woodlots.

The conifer plantings and clearings attract Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Traill's Flycatcher, Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Vesper, Field and Song Sparrows, among others.

Directions: For Speyside, the Niagara Escarpment and the Sixth Line, follow Hwy.401 west to Hwy.25 (Interchange #39) and turn north. For Turner Tract and the other reforested areas leave Hwy.401 at the Campbellville Interchange (#38), go north and then east (see map).

Principal Areas: Although almost the whole area can be productive, the locations of special interest are as follows (see map):

- (A) Turner Tract - the best known of the reforestation tracts - see special section on this area.
- (B) Robertson Tract - enter by foot about 100 yards north-west of the right-angle bend in the 4th Line.
- (C) Britton Tract - enter by foot on either of two entrances on the 6th Line.
- (D) Nassagaweya Town Line Area - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north-west of No.15 Side Road; a flooded area on the right and a mixed woodlot on the left.
- (E) Niagara Escarpment - proceed onto escarpment on foot by turning right off the 6th Line immediately north of No.5 Side Road.



- (F) Kelso Conservation Area - a 350-acre area with a dam creating an 80-acre reservoir; with exception of escarpment very little wooded area.
- (G) Campbellville Cedar Bog - a consistent breeding area for American Woodcock, on the south-east side of No.5 Side Road, 1 mile south-west of Campbellville.

Best Times for Visits: Since this is primarily an avian breeding area the best time to visit it is in the spring and summer (April to August). (G.K. Peck)

TURNER TRACT

Nassagaweya Twp., Halton Co.

40 P/9 East half

Special Features and Records: The Turner Tract is noted for the number of Carolinian species that breed in it compared to the Toronto area. These species in order of decreasing numbers are: Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Blue-winged Warbler. Brewster's Hybrid is found, but to-date Lawrence's Hybrid has not. A number of other tracts, Currie, Britton, Cox, Mahon and Robertson between Turner Tract and Spey-side also contain the above species but have not been examined in the same detail. For directions to Turner Tract see previous section. Turner Tract covers parts of lots 10 and 11, Concession V, adjacent to the 4th Line. It covers an area around two old beaver ponds immediately east of the road. The north area (adjacent to and north of the north pond) can be approached by a road (barred to cars) about 500 yards north of the bend in the 4th Line. The south area can be approached by following a road along the 4th Line south of the road bend. This road proceeds south 400 yards and then turns east (barred to cars). Total distance from the R.O.M. is about 45 miles.

Best Times for Visits: Spring - summer: for breeding birds the best time is from May 24th to the end of June. Winter: access is difficult owing to the snow and poor road conditions. The number of bird species is very low, often fewer than 10 species being seen.

Remarks: Turner Tract contains a variety of habitats which accounts for the large number of breeding birds (probably 70 species). The total number of species seen is 120.

Adjacent to the 4th Line is a tributary of the Oakville Creek and eight old fields, three of which are now mixed conifer plantations with scattered thorn trees. The birds breeding in these plantation areas are, among others, Robin, Field, Chipping and Song Sparrows, Rufous-sided Towhee, Golden and Blue-winged Warblers, Eastern Kingbird, Catbird, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Mourning Dove.

The creek formerly was dammed by two beaver dams (now broken) and contains areas of drowned trees and willows. Here Mallard, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird (rare), Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle and Swamp Sparrow are the commoner breeding birds.

To the east, and south of the above are areas of second growth hardwood forest, while to the west of the 4th Line, White Pine is dominant. At the edge or in these woods, some of the breeding birds are: Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-throated, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Cerulean Warbler, Pine Warbler, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Purple Finch.

Frequent visits during the breeding seasons of 1964-67 indicate a population of at least 20 pairs of Golden-winged Warblers, 10 pairs of Cerulean Warblers, and 5 pairs of Yellow-throated Vireos in an area of 200 acres.

(J.& P. Satterly - with help in the field at different times from K. Carmichael, T.S. Farley, D. Pace, J. Sherrin, W.W. Smith, and J.D. West)

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