

In 1984 the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas is considering subsidized trips similar to 1983's outing described by George Fairfield in the last issue of the Nastawagan, on the Winisk, the Attawapiskat, the Sachigo and parts of the Albany River. Trips will be at least three weeks in length and will take place during the period of mid-June to late July. Experienced canoeists and/or birders are still needed.

Also, canoe-attlassing outings varying in length from a weekend to two weeks are planned for Algonquin Park during June and July.

For more information about these trips, contact Mike Cadman, at the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, FON Conservation Centre, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2W8, or phone 416-449-2554.

ARCTIC SLIDE SHOW

On Tuesday, January 17th, 1984, David Pelly is to speak and show slides about his arctic travels at Harbourfront Queen's Quay in Toronto. David is a WCA member, regular contributor to Nastawagan, well established freelance writer and lecturer, and arctic aficionado. The audio-visual presentation will carry the audience across the barrens with scenes depicting the natural splendour of flora, fauna, sunsets, and ice-filled lakes. Admission is \$2. The evening, sponsored by the Harbourfront Canoe School, will commence at 7:30 pm.

WCA WHITEWATER INSTRUCTION

From the enthusiastic response to this year's training trips it appears that there are a number of WCA members who are anxious to upgrade their paddling skills. For 1984 we will be setting up a comprehensive whitewater training programme to accommodate you. This course, for novices and beginners, will include several evenings of films, seminars, and local flatwater practice; and a couple of weekends on the river. The organizers' philosophy will stress the need for mastering fundamental boat handling skills; and this will translate into lots of hard work in your boat. The only requirements are a canoe capable of safely handling moderate whitewater, and a personal commitment to attend regularly and to participate actively. Our get-togethers will start tentatively on April 1st. If you wish to take part, please call Bill Ness at 416-499-6389 by February 1 for registration. Members only, please. (Instructors: Jim Greenacre, Howard Sagermann, Rob Cepella, Bill Ness, Jim Morris.)

TRIP HOT LINE REMINDER

In Spring 1983 the Outings Committee arranged for Marcia Farquhar (416-884-0208) to offer a "trip hot line" service for members who were interested in putting together a trip at fairly short notice.

This service has been used by some members and has been a moderate success.

As a reminder, the trip hot line is intended as a means to contact other members when there is no WCA trip scheduled on a particular date, when the scheduled trips are full, or when last minute replacements are needed for unscheduled trips.

Marcia can also be called if:

- (a) members have not received their newsletter and want to know the outings programme,
- (b) members would like to indicate interest in a longer trip at a future date but missed newsletter deadline.

THURSDAY EVENING MOVIE NIGHTS

Every Thursday evening, starting January 5, 1984, I will be organizing a movie and slide night on various topics. If you have slides or movies you would like to show or would like more information on the time, topics or location, please call me after 5:00 pm. Howard Sagermann 416-282-9570, in Toronto.

This annual event, sponsored by the Mohawk Rod & Gun Club is a very enjoyable 13 kilometre race on the Humber River consisting of easy grade 1 water. It is a great place to meet other canoeists and see the wide variety of boats people are paddling. This year's race will be held on Saturday April 7, 1984; entry deadline is around March 31, 1984. For more information call Howard Sagermann at 416-282-9570.

1983 FALL WEEKEND

This year, the WCA fall meeting was held at Camp Tawingo, on the shore of Lake Vernon, near Huntsville. It was attended by a total of ninety people. Members spent Friday evening renewing friendships and watching a procession of seldom seen canoeing films.

Saturday morning dawned crisp and bright, and saw a few early-birds already on the lake, dodging the clouds of mist rising off the water. Following breakfast, Claire Brigden gave an interesting and informative presentation on wild edibles. Her talk culminated with the distribution of samples, the most impressive being a rabbit stew prepared by the Camp Tawingo staff and seasoned with some of Claire's natural sages.

For the remainder of the morning, Stewart McIlwraith demonstrated, with equipment and slides, the principles behind lightweight winter camping. His presentation will hopefully enable more members to participate in upcoming WCA outings, as the wilderness in winter is as beautiful and tranquil as during the warmer months.

After a fantastic lunch, those in attendance were treated to the talk and slideshows of Graham Barnett, Jim Greenacre, and Karl Schimek. Their topic was canoeing in the Barren Lands. Graham and Jim recounted their experiences on the Hanbury - Thelon, while Karl followed his adventures on the Copenmine. Their talk on the hazards and highlights of such trips was of benefit and interest to us all.

By this time, the great weather had induced us to hold the next session outdoors. While we basked in the glory of sunshine and fall colours, the Camp Tawingo staff gave members a look into the theory of paddle design, and manufacturing processes. Many questions were asked, and some paddle blanks were purchased to be finished off at home.

While the directors held a board meeting, other members were free to hike, swim, paddle, or just laze around in the sunshine.

Following supper was the superb oratory and slide presentation of the guest speaker, Brian Weatherhead, who lived in isolation for an entire year on the edge of a remote lake in northern British Columbia. There was a large gap in time between Brian's presentation, and the showing of members' slides, while we waited for the crowd that had gathered around Brian to abate. Gail Vickars then presented her slides of various WCA outings, as well as a pictorial of Lake Superior Provincial Park. Jim Greenacre gave us an insight into sea kayaking, as he showed slides of his journey to the Queen Charlotte Islands this past summer. Finally, I showed slides of a 1981 trip that I had taken on the Winisk River.

As so often happens, the weather for our outings on Sunday was forboding. But the drizzle of early morning had, by lunch-time, blown over, and we were treated to sunshine once again for the journey home.

Before closing the books on the fall meeting I should like to thank the following people for their help: Graham Barnett, Claire Brigden, Jim Greenacre, Stewart McIlwraith, and Karl Schimek for their presentations; Gail Vickars for running the garage sale, helping with registrations, showing slides, and generally being helpful; Bob MacLellan, Bill Ness, Karl Schimek, and Claire and Richard Smerdon for running the outings; Jim Greenacre for his slides; Rob Butler for being "The Bank" and lining up the guest speaker; Graham Barnett, Claire Brigden, Glenn Spence, and John Jorgenson (of Camp Tawingo) for input and support; and to all who attended and made the weekend a success.

John Wilson