

Farm

Tribune

With binoculars and camera

# Bird watchers report rare species

Twp. of Uxbridge

## Must not be gravel pit for Metro — Muirhead

UXBRIDGE TWP. — A concern that Uxbridge Township will become Metro Toronto's "gravel pit" unless the industry is controlled was expressed by Township Councillor Clark Muirhead at the Ontario Municipal Board Hearing held to deal with the Township official plan and zoning bylaw. "Gravel operations in the township at present are 10 times as extensive as they should be," he stated farther.

According to 1967 assessment rolls, gravel holdings make up over 4200 of the township's 52,000 acre area, but, in that year, 28 of the operations assessed for business and commercial purposes, paid only \$23,710 of the township's half million dollar tax revenue, he said.

These operators, he added, produce 10 million tons of gravel annually, selling for over \$20 million.

Mr. Muirhead expressed a fear that, unless controls are enacted, pit operators will dominate the area, driving out residents with noise, pollution and deprivation of the

countryside. The noise, alone, from some pits totally dominates the surroundings, he said, and one does not have to be supersensitive to noise or beauty — within a half mile of a pit the din becomes intolerable.

Mr. Muirhead defended one part of the bylaw which came under the attack of the majority of those objecting to the zoning proposals.

This section zones only the area immediately surrounding the pit itself, as M3, the designation which permits gravel operation.

Lawyers for the appellants and their witnesses stated repeatedly that this clause would have an immensely detrimental effect on the industry as it would be necessary to apply for revision to the bylaw "every time they wanted to take out one more shovelful".

Mr. Muirhead said that it was the intention of the council to hear application for the rezoning during the winter of each year — the period during which the majority of the pits are closed. At that

time, he said, the operators could come before the township council and outline the area they felt was necessary for their operations during the forthcoming season. If there was no serious reason that the council felt the pit could not continue operation, the application would be approved, he stated.

Subdividers must go through this procedure, added Mr. Muirhead; as well, as any resident who wishes to put an addition on his home must apply for a building permit. It is only fair that the pit operators should do the same.

## County Holstein meeting

YORK CTY. — The annual meeting of the York County Holstein breeders will be held in the Community Hall at Vandonf, this Friday, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The morning session promises to be lively, according to Alan Wall, County Ag. Rep. The discussion surrounds breeding with George Jackson, Dalton Faris, Jack Gillespie and Allan Orr participating in the debate.

In the afternoon, the head man for Holsteins in Canada, Marland Murray, national president, will address the gathering.

Everyone is invited says Al, even if you only own a black and white dog or cat.

By Edging and Betty Pegg

PICKERING TWP. — During the past 10 years, interest in birds has taken us from islands in the Atlantic Ocean to the tops of mountains in the Rockies.

Most recently, they have taken us up and down the valley of Duffin Creek.

If our feathered friends are as well fed in other areas this winter as along the banks of Duffin, few if any will go hungry. Call it a hobby, a past-time or an act of conservation, but thousands of people, feeding birds and getting to know them, is becoming "the in thing".

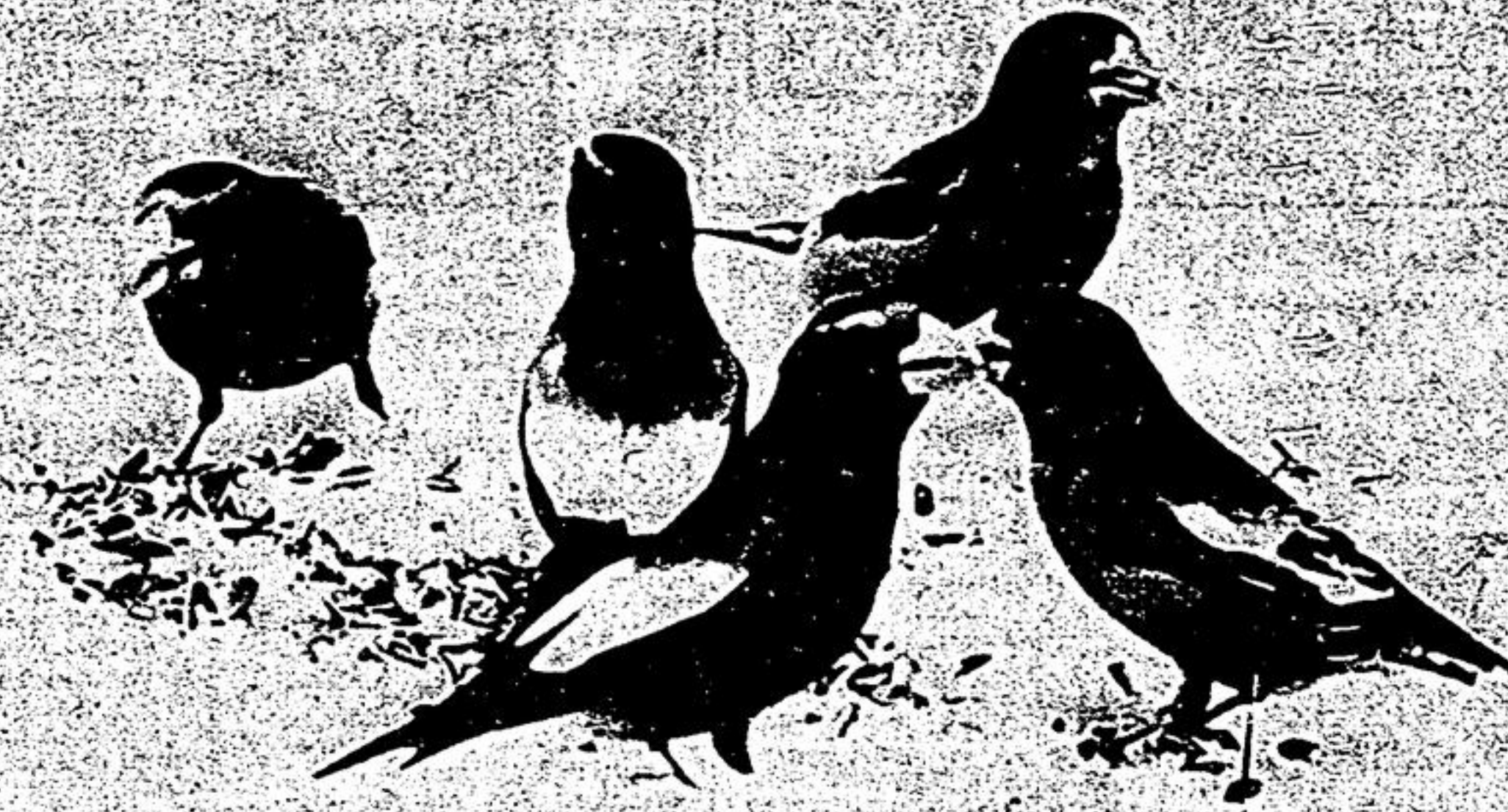
Many rare birds are turning up this winter and we extend our thanks to those who report them to us. For example — a Varied Thrush at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lowndes near Claremont has attracted people from far and near, all hoping to get a glimpse of it. We were fortunate enough to see it twice. It resembles the robin but has a black band on the breast and buffy wing bars. It marks the third time this bird of the far west has been recorded in Ontario.

A Hawk Owl that we spotted near Audley is the second record of the species for Pickering Township in the last 10 years.

Mrs. Dennis Ward, conc. 6, Uxbridge, is the first person to report 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches at her feeders. A flock of Mourning Doves come daily to receive a handout from Mr. Gallic, a resident near Balsam. Mr. and Mrs. Bowden feed a flock of Cardinals at their home east of Claremont. Evening Grosbeaks by the

dozens are welcomed each day by Mr. and Mrs. Currie whose new home is near the Claremont Conservation Area.

Few sights are more pleasing than the golden glow of the Evening Grosbeaks on winter snow. These birds, with parrot-like beaks, were formerly a western species. In recent years, however, they have pushed their way as far east as Nova Scotia. In the winter, large flocks move south to feed on the seeds of the Manitoba maple and sunflowers.



A flock of Evening Grosbeaks enjoy sunflower seeds on freshly fallen snow. — Betty Pegg

## Wins scholarship

CLAREMONT — Carole Anderson of Claremont is the recipient of the Ontario County Women's Institute Scholarship.

The presentation was made by Mrs. Jas. McCraith of Stouffville at 4-H Achievement Day in Ajax, Jan. 17.

Provincial and County Honor Certificates were presented at the same time.

The program supervisor in both York and Ontario is Mrs. Louise Gatenby, Newmarket.

Stranger: "Nice home you have here. Worth about \$20,000, I imagine." Owner: "Nope, it's worth every cent of \$35,000. You

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Jr. Farmers

## Awards banquet

ONTARIO CTY. — Keith Phoenix of Greenbank has been elected president of the Ontario County Junior Farmers for 1970.

The annual meeting was held Jan. 16 with the awards banquet the following evening in Greenbank United Church.

Other members of the executive are: vice-president Bob Hunter, Seagrave; secretary-treasurer, Kathy Parliament, Beaverton; and County provincial director, Ron Parish, Uxbridge.

ers won both the rifle shooting trophy and the boys' softball shield in the annual field day. Debbie Graham of Balsam was top girl competitor; Grant Mustard, Uxbridge, R.R. 2, was high boy. He also headed the 1-mile race. Brooklin captured the Drama Trophy.

## Machinery show

YORK CTY. — Farmers of the area are reminded of the big machinery show in the Toronto Exhibition Park, Jan. 28-31.

The Crop Improvement Convention is held at the same location.

The display space for farm machines is a sell-out, with many overseas countries showing all-new pieces of equipment.

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Licensed Public Accountant  
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Office & Residence  
"Wylie Acres", Musselman's Lake Rd., R.R. 2,  
Stouffville  
PHONE 640-3144

**LEONARD R. ROSENBERG & ASSOCIATES**  
Chartered Accountants  
81 Yonge St. N.,  
Aurora  
Telephone 884-7110

**THOMAS E. WITHERS**  
B.Comm., R.I.A.  
Chartered Accountant  
P.O. Box 192  
19 Church St. N.  
Stouffville, Ont.  
Phone 640-3378

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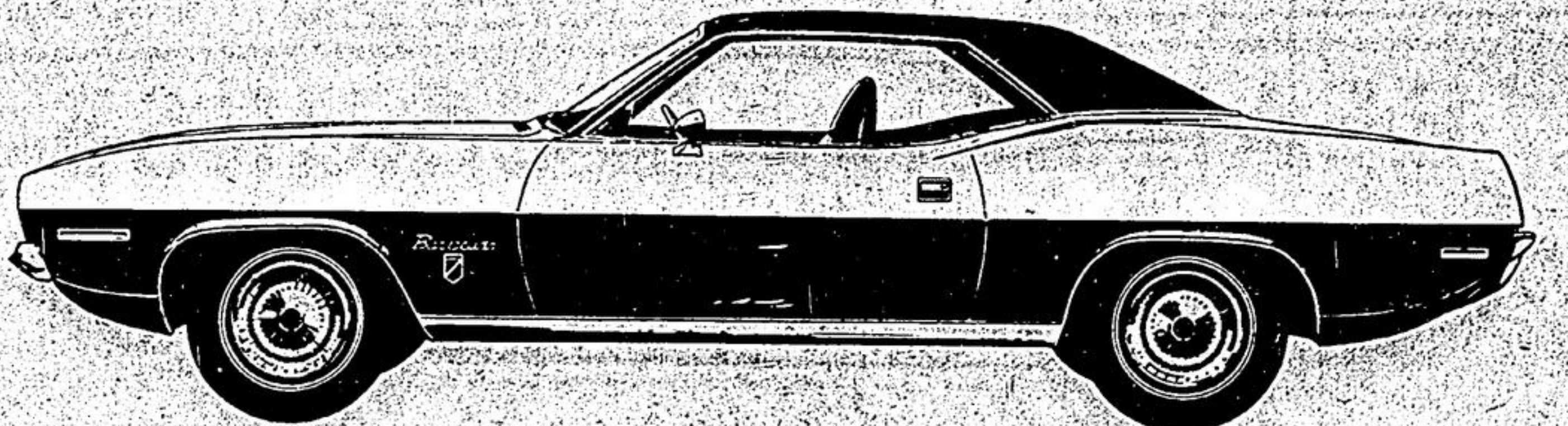
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