

If bill passed Assessments 'frozen' until 1974

Farm assessment, as well as home assessment, will be frozen until

1974 if a bill introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Dalton Bales is passed. First announced, July 14, the bill proposes a freeze on all assessments. Bruce Taylor, Durham county farmer and executive member of the

Ontario Federation of Agriculture met recently with William Palmer, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. This freeze on assessment will apply to all property not just homes but farms, commercial and industrial prop-

erty too. This means that farmers won't be taxed out of their pants in the next few years," Taylor said. New buildings enlargements and improvements won't increase assessed values unless they increase total market value by more than \$2,500.

The bill does not rule out the right of farmers to appeal their present assessments. This freeze on property assessment until 1974 is preparation for a complete re-vamping of the system," Taylor said. The deputy-minister told me

his department was developing a new land value schedule for farm valuation. This schedule might be available for discussion in six months, but it'll be several years before the department is ready to revise all assessment-

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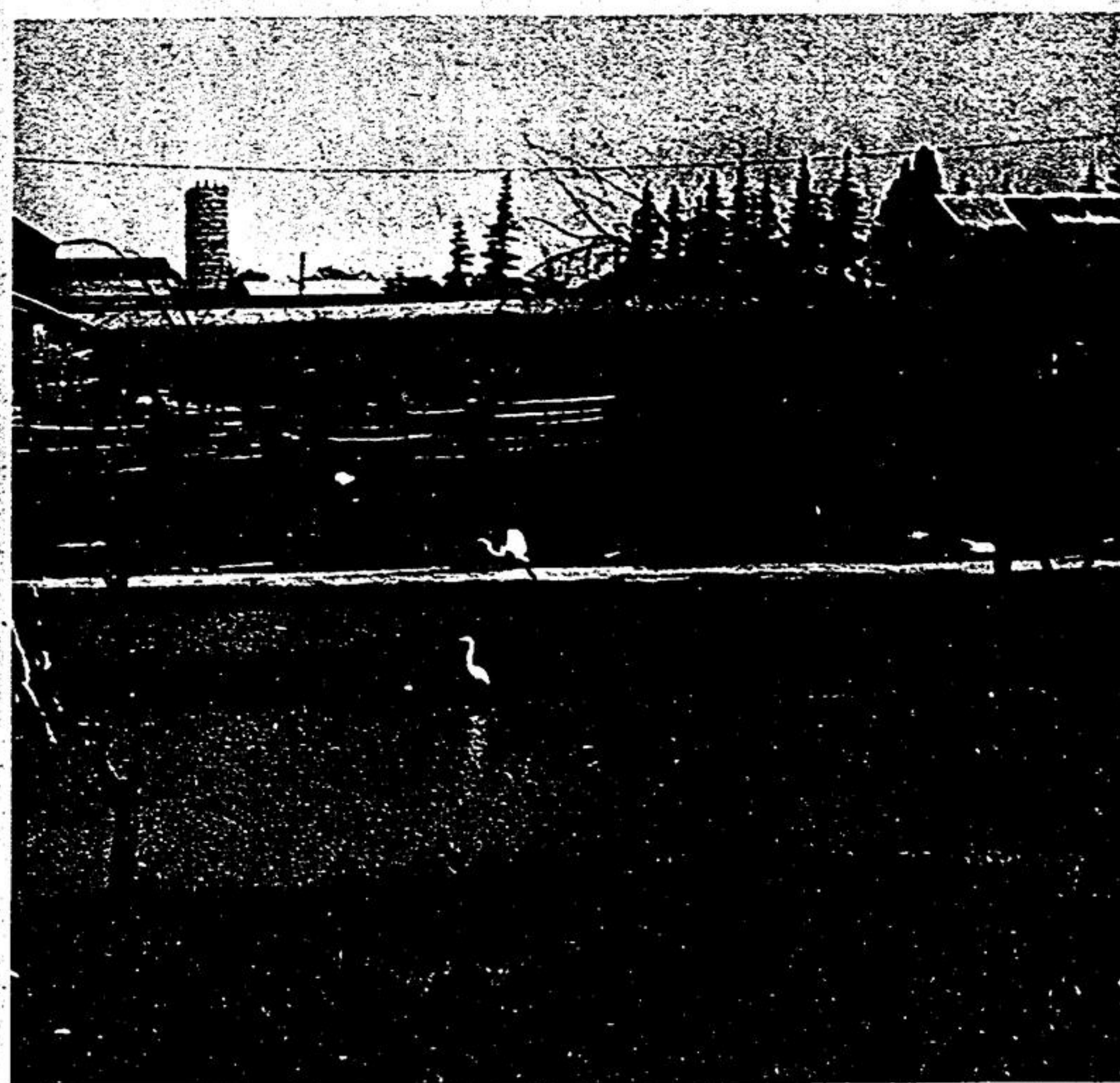
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Note . . .

ALL OFFERS IN THESE COUPONS ARE LIMITED TO PRESENT STOCKS AT THESE STORES THIS WEEK ONLY



A family of White Heron visit Markham farm pond

A family of three beautiful white Heron visited a farm pond, Saturday, on the property of Denton Brown, conc. 10, Markham, near 16th Avenue. A Tribune photographer was able to get close enough to two of the birds for this picture. —Jas. Thomas.

With binoculars and camera

Three boys enjoy bird-watching tour

By Edge and Betty

Pegg Most exciting to birders is that moment when a species comes within range of your binoculars for the first time.

Already the year 1971 has brought many reports of rarities. Some unfortunately could not be confirmed due to the fact that an authority was not available in time.

The Barkey's of Cedar Grove are among those people who waste no time in calling their friends when a newcomer arrives. In April it was a European goldfinch and on May 16 a Harris sparrow. We arrived in time to see the latter, our first, and like others, we were thrilled.

Royal Ontario Museum check lists show that both species have been seen fewer than a dozen times within thirty miles of Toronto.

Amazing to ornithologists were the number of glossy ibis coming to Ontario during the month of May. We saw our first at Point Pelee when a flock of 22 of these large southern birds

landed in a marsh as dusk fell. Reports of smaller flocks of glossy ibis have since come to us from Bowmanville, Prince Edward County and Whitby. Previous records in Ontario have been few and far between.

Always hoping to see something new, our interest in wildlife took us to Whitechurch Township, June 13. Companions for the outing were Jeff Williams and Brian Aida of Stouffville and Geoff Cowman of Frenchman's Bay. All three boys are fond of nature and their politeness, and respect for other peoples' property, is a credit to their parents as well as themselves.

As we drive westward through Ringwood our secretary Geoff Cowman checked off cowbirds, grackles and robins. After turning north on the 6th concession, we stopped to watch a flock of cedar waxwings by the roadside. Further north, there were bob-o-links, mourning doves, meadow larks and killdeer.

At the area known to us as the Vandorf Bog, we parked our car and listened to the beautiful songs of the wood thrush and veery, while cardinals, goldfinch, orioles and a cat bird joined in. The song of a Canada warbler fooled us for a moment, but the boys with their binoculars soon found it on a dead limb of a poplar tree. Other singing warblers nearby were chestnut sided, black poll and Maryland yellow throat.

At side road 15-16 we turned left, but the rasping call of a trail's flycatcher stopped us again. Several other members of his family were there also, a phoebe, pewee, kingbird and the great crested flycatcher - all these despite a rather cloudy and threatening day.

On several occasions the boys pointed out green herons. This little heron, our commonest, frequents ponds and marshy places.

After touring along the 5th concession, we turned to the 7th and proceeded northward to a dead end at the York City Forest.

Brian was familiar with a trail that lead eastward and said it was there that he saw his first ovenbird. We took the trail which skirted a pond where a number of anglers were pursuing their favorite sport. Not only did we hear the song of the ovenbird but we also found the nest of a red breasted nuthatch, again it was the first that any of us had ever seen. A small hole in a dead stub just east of the pond, was a busy spot as the parents flew back and forth carrying insects to feed their young. As we watched, the thought occurred to me that this old topless tree was once more a valuable one, not only to the insect eating birds, which found a home there, but also in a more round about way to man himself. As we retraced our steps to the dead end corner, a winter wren burst into its seemingly endless song and we found a new bird for Jeff - a vesper sparrow.

Recently a number of people have expressed the desire to know their native ferns. Perhaps we could have a get to know your ferns evening sometime during August or early September in the Claremont Conservation Area. If you are interested please drop us a line at R. R. 2, Claremont.

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