

Hooters hear hoots

I only hope the neighbours didn't hear us. Ten people out playing recordings of owls and hooting, the full moon shining, who knows what they might think? Rosemary Curley led the group down a dirt road off the Baldwins Road on March 25. The group had good luck with the weather and even better luck with the owls.

The first stop was a stand of white spruce near an overgrown field. A very strange cry, short and heard only once, came from the woods when a recording of a long-eared owl was played and what it came from is anyone's guess.

After a walk down the (fortunately frozen) road to a section of hardwood, a large owl flew very close to the birders in response to a recording of a barred owl. It was assumed to be a barred owl or a curious great horned owl.

A little farther down the road brought the sounds of a great horned owl calling quite steadily. As the group got closer, playing a recording and hooting, the owl kept responding but seemed to be getting farther and farther away.

Everyone was quite pleased with the results of the outing, which drew people from Charlottetown and Morell as well as the Montague area. Some of those on the Owl Prowl had never done anything like it before and were not members of the Natural History Society. They expressed interest in doing it again, so another prowl will likely take place in Valleyfield soon.



GREAT HORNED OWL

Objectives of the N.H.S.

Some of the newer members of the Natural History Society probably haven't had a chance to look over the constitutional bylaws of the Society. Here are the objectives as spelled out in subsection II:

1. to join together as a provincial body the nature lovers and other interested persons of P.E.I. for the exchange of information and the keeping of records;
2. to protect insofar as humanly possible the FLORA and FAUNA of the province;
3. to promote, encourage and enjoy the study of Natural History;
4. to create in the public mind a greater appreciation of the value of our wildlife and its habitat;
5. to hold educational meetings and demonstrations designed to further public knowledge of our own Natural History;
6. to assist, work with and support other organizations, government bureaux, or other agencies having similar or allied objects.



The Island Nature Trust has a new telephone number at their office at Beaconsfield. You can reach Diane at 892-7513.