

NATURAL HISTORY UPDATE

FEBRUARY MEETING: The meeting was held Feb. 5 at the Public Health Building. After the usual reports from Dan McAskill (CNF), Pat Doyle (INT), Rosemary Curley (CEN) and Evelyn Meader (Acid Rain), there were several discussions about logging the virgin forest on Moresby Island in B.C., CWS financial cuts, and (closer to home) the fishermen of PEI wanting to have open season on cormorants. Geoff Hogan outlined the "plan of attack" to hopefully prevent any change in legislation regarding the cormorants' protected status and has sent letters to the prov. Minister of Cultural and Community Affairs George McMahon and copies to Fish and Wildlife. The field trip to Potts Sleigh Ride in Bonshaw was held Sat., Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. It was a great day for a ride, despite the "speedy" horse pulling the sleigh. The speaker for the evening was Rosemary Curley, who gave us a rather soggy view of the Saint John River in full spring flood last year during her work with a Ducks Unlimited project. Thanks, Rosie.

MARCH MEETING: The March meeting was not held until March 12 due to bad weather the previous week. Geoff Hogan gave an update on the cormorant situation. The provincial minister responsible (George McMahon) has said he would like to see further studies of their feeding habits before changing the legislation. Dan McAskill gave a report on CNF's financial status - the members voted to send \$100 donation to CNF to help defray costs. Regarding the Moresby Island, CNF is involved with other groups in trying to save the natural area but the area is strictly a provincial one (cutting rights, etc.) and the provincial government and MacMillan-Bloedel have strong voices. Direct any letters of protest to Premier William Bennett and the MacMillan-Bloedel Corp. Dan also suggested that if PEI wishes to host a CNF annual meeting in 1989 (NHS's centennial year) then it would be advisable to start planning now. The Island Nature Trust will be drawing the winning lottery tickets on March 15 and the fund-raising dinner is planned for April 12 with Charlie Farquharson as speaker. Tickets are available for \$25 from INT members. At the public meeting held in February, INT learned the best way to change the environmental curriculum in schools was to talk to school principals who have the most influence within the schools. The Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain will be getting a \$50 membership renewal from NHS to help keep the supply of news releases, etc. coming - Evelyn had a substantial amount of items from the group. Barb MacDonald gave an informative presentation on the Galapagos Is. including slides of the fauna and flora - particularly the iguanas of the archipelago. Thanks, Barb for a most enjoyable evening. It certainly enlightened us as to what the islands are like.

Anyone interested in receiving a complimentary issue of "Birdfinding in Canada" please send your name and mailing address to Jane Symmes, Box 1716, Charlottetown, C1A 7N4. I'll forward the list to the publication. The monthly newsletter covers bird sightings from coast-to-coast, including a section called "Birding the TCH" describing routes to birding hot-spots along the way, articles such as Pembroke Swallow Roost, September on the Golden Horseshoe - interesting reading to avid birdwatchers. Please send info as soon as possible - preferably by the end of April (for forwarding).