July 12, 1959.

Dear Murray:

Thank you ever so much for telling me of your and Queenie's observations of Hairies and Downies feeding their young. I am keeping your letter for reference and to quote from it.

Yes, I have many similar observations of young pecking from their parents' bills both while still in the nest and out of it. Your letter was valuable because it helped to put more emphasis on it. And so sharpened my attention on the behaviour.

When the young are about to come out I have noted that the rate of feeding usually drops. The parents seem to keep the young on a below-satiated level, so to speak. This has the effect upon the young of making them eager for food. When the parents then arrive with food (young ones) they push themselves out to get at the food in their bills. I believe that this is a very important part of their emergence and more than once I have seen a young one, after uncountable pushings-out half way, finally almost tumble from the nest and take wing. It is during these eager grabs for food that I have seen sons and daughters catching hold of father's or mother's bills and with their tongues get at the food and pull it out. Sometimes there is nothing left in the bill, but son wants lots more. So he pecks at father's bill, he pecks hard and ruthlessly because he is still hungry, and sometimes he even grabs hold of mother's breast feathers and she does not like it and evades him. Then develops the parents' avoidance technique which inhibits the feeding drive in the parent because the young are too eager. One phase of this is the closed bill of the parent at which the young picks and from which he actively gets the food that is intended for him. This is my version of how it comes about and of course all these reactions are carried out with a lot of variating intensities and slightly different results. What occurs inside the nest, I have of course not seen. But it is likely that the same manner of feeding starts much earlier, at least as early as the young begin clinging to the wall of the cavity and what I call "corridor feeding" takes place.

At this time, however, the rate of feeding is at its peak and the young are not kept below satiated level, except probably occasionally. Everything has to have a beginning and it is possible that occasional hunger states in the young at this stage starts him on his food grabbing methods.

Thank you and Queenie very much indeed for making me think this over more carefully.

Both the Hairy and Downy have a"gluk" or "glek" food call. How would you express the answering "chittering" or "kickering" of the young? I know at once when the first young Hairy is in the "wings" of the FS for the first time by the sound of him. The baby food call is absolutely recognizable. I have more difficulty hearing the Downies, they are not so loud, but they have their own versions of the "mutual calls".

Good luck with your Lincoln. I am sure that it will be a wonderful and well thought out contribution. Isn't it wonderful when you see the ending of an achievement like that? I don't yet with the woodpeckers. This copying is time-consuming, but, as Doris says, it is worth while and it helps "getting you into" the things that you have seen and dissecting them.

We are much looking forward to your visit August 4 - 7.

As ever

Lorine

Pimisi Bay, August 20, 1959, a hot and lovely summer day.

My dearest Friends:

I meant this to catch you at Dorion, but Fates ordered differently. I hope however that you got the forwarded mail? There was only one piece, but it looked important. Days pass, as you saw them passing when you were here, as an assembly-line pushes the one event into the other; and I have looked in vain for a moment to write to you. Thank you for your most appreciative letter, such a nice and sweet and kind and loving one. We loved seeing you here and looking after you and be with you and talk with you. And as always, so many things remained undone despite the sequence of days you so generously gave us. We do appreciate no end that you back-tracked so far to be with us. From that we could not doubt that you loved coming. Thank you for all the enjoyment this gave us, as you so often have given before of your loving thoughts and deeds.

Now we are with you in thoughts and hope that you are having the most marvellous time with all the comrades 'in wings'. Some day I shall be with you all again in that inspiring company. Please give my best greetings to each and every one I know - and if darling Margaret is there, hug her and kiss her from me - not too hard for she is such a frail and lovely flower.

Your description of Bigwin Inn was quite impressive, but my days have passed for the enjoyment of such fusses and frills. I do not think that it belongs to the Wilds. The price too was impressive and if that is the kind of money we shall be asked to pay for room and food, I shall not be coming. For me it would not be worth it. Speaking of meetings, we had the nicest people call in on us the other night. They were going to Regina and you might see them. They were Mr. and Mrs. Burton Whitman, Brunswick, Maine, and their godson, Daniel Hartman. He was the most attractive young lad I have ever met (this said without a speck of exaggeration), a very fine member of la jeunnesse inspirée. That there are such alive, growing and maturing, (and I think of your two daughters too) is mankind's high hope. It was a very nice visit, but only all too short. We offered the house, but they had to make tracks to be where they are when you get this.

Running out of paper, so I am writing on both sides. -- I was absolutely impressed by Doris' Swedish. It is perfectly amazing how well you have mastered as much as you know already, all alone, without the benefit of speaking practice. We always used to say that one cannot learn a language fast and well except by being in the country and hearing it all the time. Then your ear gets tuned in. You are learning Swedish without your ear being tuned in and that represents a lot more effort and concentration. I am so very happy that I can talk to you in my own language and you will understand.

Warblers -- did you speak of warblers? Ever since you left there have been veritable waves of them coming into our flowers and into the trees and by Len's Ponds. Most numerous have they been on days before cold fronts. They must have felt the decreasing temperature in the north where they were and so took off and got here a bit ahead of it, still flying in the warm air. For the past three years, ever since the disastrous 1956 spring, we have not seen anything even remotely resembling a wave. It is a wonderful sight and a wonderfully hopeful feeling to stand nonplussed with the glasses glued to the eyes, unable to identify more than a fraction from pure confusion and movement. So far the Nashvilles appear in the majority, but the juvenile plumages, the confusing fall warblers, are in such majority that the nesting success can have been no less than outstanding. We dare ask the question: are the Warblers really going to stage a successful come-back? Bar fall and winter disasters, the Loghouse Territory may once again contain the colourful flitting hordes. -- And the nesting success will dwindle. -- And so it goes. Give us only enough time to perceive the Great Rhythm!

Len sends his best. We are so much looking forward to his holiday in another week. And then in the end of September, when all the trees stand aglow, another Swedish cousin and his wife will come a-visiting. He is a birder, who went birding with me when we saw the swans, see AUK General Notes Vol.?, and who remarked: "What is that on the lawn?" (we were doing the Haga park) He lifted his glasses. "Oh, Homo sapiens I believe." It will be a wonderful time to show them the north country - if I can only keep the House on the Point warm!

Love and love from Lorne

October 19, 1959.

My very dearest Doris:

Hardly could you have given me a more convincing and sweet token of enduring friendship than your phone call just an hour ago. No excuse exists that I did not write so that you would not feel worried and I promise faithfully not to let it happen again. Perhaps the feeling that a short note to you will not do, because there are always so many things to talk about with you, prevents me from just dashing off a word when time is lacking for a major epistle. But you must never worry, for if anything should happen of such a serious nature that I could not write, it is a pre-arranged thing that Len will inform you. This, I hope, is reciprocal between us, as Blaine would also let me know if anything should happen to Margaret, and so I shall trust Murray to inform me, as he has faithfully done in the past when you had your serious illness. Withal I am touched and blissful at heart over your loving solicitude.

Your second letter about "Miss Preston's" and Lucie's arrivals here heeped glowing coals upon my head and I decided to sit down and write you a long letter this very minute that I am now doing it. It has been impossible to write week-ends lately, for Len has been working so hard on various things to winterize the house, apart from the new window in the bedroom which we did get in, his second masterpiece along that line, that I felt it necessary to lay everything aside to help him with what I could. He also dug out a whole log at the back of the house and laid a whole new draught-free foundation of cement and stones. You have no idea what a difference that made to the warmth of the floor especially in the bedroom. Then he started to mend the chinking between the logs with a special stuff that is supposed never to fall away. This took us two week-ends and would be finished but for the cold spell that came yesterday with frost and snow. About half a day's work is left. Meantime I have been putting in the storm windows, a task in which each one is a work of art with its club moss and lichens, and then the cleaning and polishing. I do not know where the hours have run away, but all of them have been full. Perhaps also that the mean tempo slows down a bit at sixty-five, but so imperceptibly that one hardly notices it.

And speaking of sixty-five, I have you down on my list Doris

October 25 - not to be forgotten. I shall be thinking of you on your day of Jubilee more lovingly than ever - you, my friend, of the radiant personality - I know of no better way to describe this special lustre which you seem to possess. I could not wish any better thing than for you to go on, from day to day, being just as you were, from day to day past. It was a lovely day when we met for the first time, do you remember? Others, too, felt a significance of the day. It has lasted now for 15 years, in terms of essence a lifetime already. Why, I do not really know, for the parts composing this bond are of such different origin outwardly, but there is something enduring in common which needs not even a name.

I have written Betty and I hope she got it addressed to Tenafly. It is regretful she moves so far away as it seems, although with her no place on earth would be far away did she wish to span the distance. The reason for which she must move is also regretful, but we may hope it will have the desired effect on Herbert's health. I wrote her just after I got your September 16 letter in which, opening it today, I meet again Lars' letter which I should have returned to you long ago. Perhaps he is a bit cynical in his talk of "love?" Doubtless, he has had his experiences and I do not know either Gina or Napier. I hope, by the way, that Napier's marriage is turning out all that could be wished for. What one wishes for most in any marriage is the never-ebbing power of resilience and adjustment, based on the bond of love growing ever more unbreakable. I enclose with this my last letter from Lars (please return). I think it will interest you to hear of the Swallows. His reference to you comes from my telling him about your interest in Sophia von Knorring and the connections with the Mannerheims. I don't think we ever speculated about his grandfather's mother, so it is likely he got mixed up too from my letter which I wrote in Swedish and/7/may not have expressed myself very well. I also enclose a dissertation on Anciente Torontoe, which may amuse you and Murray as it did us. (Do not return.)

Here is a note from Len: Dear Doris: I have found that when birds hit windows and do not die, the best thing is to pick them up at once and submerge their heads into cold water. On innumerable occasions have I thereby succeeded in reviving unconscious and apparently dead birds. Note from Louise: The dousche in cold water apparently stops any haemorrhage that may occur in the collision with the window - the bird revives quickly and suffers less ill-effect, apparently, than when left alone. We are glad that your beautiful

Swainson's Thrush revived. The theme of birds from around Pimisi Bay this fall is rich. For years the White-crowns have not been as abundant although in past years I have seen more on occasion. They are still present but only last-ditch stragglers. Robins too have been numerous and a wee Winter Wren passed over a week at Len's Ponds, that is we thought it was the same one seen several times in the same place. The Chickadees ebbed to an almost unheard-of number of 1 or 2 visitors at the FS last week of September and early October, but then they began showing up again. Where did those first early fall ones go? Did you see them? The very same pattern occurred in the Blue Jays, although the complement at the FS never reached such a low ebb as the Chickadees. But during last week, old banded ones began to come in again, birds that for several years have spent their winters with us. Where did the other early-fall-Blue Jays go to? Did you see them? Our family of Gray Jays are our worst profit-eaters and a joy and amusement to watch. Lucy will get her fill with the sight of those, as she wishes, but no Brown-heads can we procure on command. The young Grays have now completed their moult into the first winter plumage and look much like the grown-ups. One may, however, know them by their frontal "penny" spot being darker grey than those of their parents. This is sometimes hard to judge if old and young are not in sight together. But the clou of this fall, ornithologically speaking, was the amazing sight of nineteen (19) Surf Scoters swimming upon Pimisi Bay. This was on Oct. 8 on my walk from Kennedy Lake. I spotted them far out in the bay near Richardson's Point. By a super-lucky chance they elected to swim my way and slowly reached the bay below the highway where I stood motionless. Here I could observe them at no greater distance than about 150 feet, I could even hear their soft gruntings (mutual recognition notes) as they dove and came up, dove and came up. I stood there for over 10 minutes to note every fieldmark, for I was not sure what they were, all brown, 2 whitish spots on the side of the head, dark bill, whitish belly. Kortright put me straight - nothing easier to identify, have you but seen them once, than juvenile Surf Scoters. A first for me, a first for my Pimisi Bay list, a third for the Region. It is a fascinating thought that this little flock of ducks flew from the Northwest Territories obliquely across the northern expanse of Canada to come down at Pimisi Bay just when I was looking. I saw one of them again the next day, more of them may have been there. I did not look, having seen them once was enough of a thrill.

Then there was the visit of the cousins from far, far away. They finally turned up one evening - I had expected them by the afternoon bus from Montreal, but me and the welcoming turkey dinner got a frightful disappointment when they were not on it. Shortly before the evening bus was due, a bad storm lurked on the horizon. Len sent me to Mattawa to intercept the bus and bring them home safely. In pouring peltering rain I got them off the bus and into the little truck. We drove home with the night illuminated by lightning flash es. Rain poured down on the road, the truck, the windshield, we could not hear the drone of the motor for thunderclaps and my dear cousins got a spectacular first view of the darkly silhouetted mighty contours of this north land. They were impressed. I recalled the night of the Hurricane when you were here. In the same way as then, we ran through the flooding path up to the softly shining loghouse. Followed several wonderful days and they saw the brilliance of the fall colours as I took them around on all the backroads I could think of. Sven is very interested in birds, so we birded - Anna, his darling wife, is motherly, interested in people mostly. She too had her day when I took them to view the Dionne "estate" and to shop at a supermarket. Meantime, you can imagine that everything piled up, reviews, letters, for at least 2 weeks I have not looked at the woodpeckers. But it was a lovely visit. Sven and his brothers and sisters used to spend all their summers with us at Svensksund- there was so much to talk of from that time and the present. After they left, every time I dreamt, I dreamt of Sweden, the old places, the old spots and activities, but always with those involved in my Canadian life peopling the dreams, mixed up with all the others of Swedish memory. It is a curious thing to be double-nationed.

What work occupies you these days? Is it the Lincoln Sparrow or the EGs? I was surprised to see the EGs today, seven of them, 2 Fs, 5 Ms. They did not stay. Tree Sparrows and Juncos are now coming through this region in fair numbers. I expect many more of the Trees; there are more Juncos than there were last spring, more than my pair must have been successful in raising two broods.

I quote from my new friend, Susanne Langer: " Significant Form is the one quality common to all works of visual art. (This was in answer to the question: What distinguishes the Greek vase, as an artistic achievment, from the hand-made bean pot of New England?) "Beauty is just expressiveness... true aesthetic form....is expressive form." What do you think?

Many, many happy returns and loving thoughts from home to home,

Yours
Life friend
Lois.

Answered Nov. 26/59

November 15, 1959.

Dearest Doris:

What weather! I look out upon a snow-heavy scene from yesterday's snowfall. It shows only 4 inches on the snowstick but about 8 inches fell, with some melting away before the cold front came. Such rains! Seldom have we seen the water in the lake so high at this time. Little Bay is frozen solid - Big Bay will be by tomorrow morning. But that is not a record. However, the freeze-up came a little too fast for us - one likes to be more gently eased into the frostful season.

Thank you for your good letter. Did I hit The Day on the right date? All of a sudden I thought I had not. I am so glad that you had such a wonderful day. No, one needs not be a day older though one passes a milestone. You sounded like la jeunesse doré, such warmth, such joy, such enthusiasm, in your voice. That comes from full and good and useful living - effortlessly. I believe not in keeping young, but in being young. I believe not in growing old but in accepting age. There is an enormous difference. Selye says "never put up resistance in vain" by which he exhorts the gentle art of accepting and adapting to the inevitable changes. Many, many happy returns and with each a little more wisdom, a little clearer insight, a little deeper knowledge. What better can I wish you - or you me?

I did not know I wrote anything especially good on our highways. If I did, I am most happy and use it as you wish. You saw that Surf Scoter on McFarland Lake. I checked. Now a little Hooded Merganser is still and alone swimming about in the freezing water. It will be gone tonight, or perhaps tomorrow. I thought you would like Susanne Langer's definition. She is good, has a delightful sense of humour, has a clear and concise style of writing and gives examples, ordinary everyday examples, to clarify her points, which is awfully helpful for the layreader. You would not be in sympathy with all her views, however, but there was contact on one point which was good. At the moment I have finished with her and am reading Tinbergen's delightful CURIOUS ANTURALISTS. This is Margaret's book which Ruth Rhomas sent to me to read and I am to send to you when I am through with it. You will love it. It is not heavy, but rather popularly written. And you will be delighted with his sense of humour. In one place he says: "to become British one must start very young...." and many more such little captivating asides.

I was most interested in the clipping you sent on the Russian reaction to the Stratford Festivals. Can we take anything so sincerely written as pure propaganda? I know that this article sincerely expressed what these Russians thought, for I lived with Russian theaters and actors for over a year and I recognize every word, every feeling, every reaction. I could hear my friends in Petrograd saying just that when they saw a good play, good acting, good staging. It seems to me that the quality of their Values is emerging more and more clearly as we come into greater contact - what they are working for, caring about, sacrificing for. I recognize them as more akin to the kind of values we had in Europe than what we are made to swallow here through our magnificent "media". Doris, I am sometimes fed to the teeth with all these terrible vulgarities, all this parvenue thinking. Why should we constantly cater to the lower mediocrities instead of striving after the high ideals?.....We have a good deal of fine stuff on CBL daily, for which I am glad. Now I can listen to it with our new and better radio. I could go on.... but I shall not.

We have still a Whitethroat at the feeding station. There were 3, now there is only one left. I fear for its survival, not because it could not stand the cold, but because it is too shy. Blue Jays, Gray Jays, Chickadees, Red Nuts, White Nuts, Hares, Shrews, Woodpeckers crowd it out from the feeding spots. Len and I have made a special shelter for it, two packing-case-sides stood up with longends together like a pitched roof. There it feeds, snow does not get in there and cover up everything. But it is too shy. In life one must be neither too shy nor too bold, neither too aggressive nor too meek, neither too many nor too few. One must constantly keep the perfectly balanced relationship between the ever changing environment and oneself. So that this little bird who has lost the drive to migrate in time and who is too shy to compete with sufficient insistence about the existing food supply is accumulating a lot of odds against survival. I wonder about the personality of Mrs Stevenson's Whitethroat who stayed one winter at Kirkland Lake. The little Cape May Warbler of the below-zero-November-weather 1950 had all what it takes to throw its tiny weight around and so get enough food into itself to keep alive. But it did not see the Shrike.....

This is to go off now. Len just came home from snowploughing. Did a splended job, roads as smooth as smooth. Also that is an art when done expertly. Warmest love from our home to your home. With sisterly affection, and love,

Lotte

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
January 5, 1959.

Dearest Doris:

As I have written to Sylvia, you, too, must have a little note today to tell you how perfectly thrilled we are with the super Viewer and the entrancing prospect of seeing the photographic works of art of the dear and sweet and lovable "Nicers". No one but you could have thought out such a thing and we are delighted and grateful and everything nice of feeling, that must come with such a surprise. Please tell them all and know yourself of the marvellous effect of your loving kindness deed.

Christmas this year would have been totally perfect if poor Len had not fallen ill with a very severe attack of sciatica. I do not know if you ever experienced it - but it is about the most depressing and painful thing. There have been sleepless nights and much misery, but now there is an improvement, apparently thanks mostly to my light bulb contraption, which I have rigged up on a stool striding the bad leg. The doctor said: Bake him! And that, by Jimmini, we are doing three times a day. It is good when one can do something about something. Then the feeling of frustration disappears. We hope that he will be on his feet again in perhaps another week. Meanwhile, my time is fully occupied with doing all the chores and nursing a bed patient and cooking and doing the house. I have time for nothing else, it seems. My Christmas mail is not even being attended to with due dispatch. What luck that dear Lars could not come! This time it was luck - otherwise it would have been regretful. I was so glad for his nice, nice letter and I am writing him at length as soon as I get the required minute. I suppose the address is quite simply University of BC. It was from pure tactfulness that I have not written him lately. He has been altogether too, too, occupied to be burdened with replies. This year, for the first time in 14 years, I missed doing the Christmas Count. You can understand that I could not leave Len alone for a whole day. If I had tried to combine both duties, none

would have been done well. So I gave up the Count. Hazel apparently was going to take one, so that will have to do for the Region. I thought at the start of the winter, that we would have quite a birdy winter. But no, so it did not turn out. The feeding station is a lively place, to be sure, but when I go out I see nothing but ravens nowadays. Earlier there were small flocks of Redpolls here and there along the roadsides. The avian highlight was Blue Jay courtship-feeding between a pair on December 26. Never, never, have I seen that so early. But why resident Blue Jays should not begin to feel the stirrings in their hearts in December, when the woods begin to reverberate with the Hairies' territorial drummings, is a question I cannot answer. Isn't it an interesting thing with the reawakening of the reproductive impulses - so slow in some - so fast in others. Why Downy should not be created in the same way as the Hairy in this respect is another interesting question. Downy lies just in the middle between the slowest (Hairy) and the fastest (Sapsucker, Flicker). He starts by appearing in his territory in the end of March, beginning of April. That is when you hear his first drumming in these parts. It may be different in other parts.

It is 7 below zero right now and I must go to the post office before night sets in. It will be a cold night, the sky is crystal clear, the trees stand like statues, glittering sharp of contour. The sun still lingers and illuminates the other side of Pimisi Bay, but soon there will be twilight and all the little birds will have gone early to bed. They are all sitting on their feet today. It is too cold without woollen stockings, poor things. Love to you both from us,

Lorus

January 25, 1959.

Dearest Louise:

Many happy returns of your birthday, January 30th. May you have a very happy day with many bird guests to enjoy outside and with, we hope, Len feeling like himself again. It does seem startling to realize in how many ways events in our lives aparallel each other. We were both born in 1894. You came on the birthday of one who became a great American President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I arrived on the birthday of another United States President and another Roosvelt, on the birthday of Theodore. We both remarried in the same year, 1939, and very dear men who are both younger than ourselves by some years. We are both very happy. We lost our beloved mothers within a few years of each other and both had to do many things in helping to settle the estate and divide the many possessions. Thereafter we were both the richer in the world's goods but both are especially grateful for the culture bequeathed to us by our mothers rather than the material possessions which we acquired. Both of us maintain a bird feeding station and are doing work on the life history of birds.

We hope that Len is very much better. We were all so sorry to hear about the sciatica and our deep sympathies went out to Len. The baking system sounded like the right idea and your letter mentioned some improvement which we hope has continued steadily. Give him our best wishes for a complete recovery.

At the Annual Meeting of the MNOC at Janet;s last Thursday, Sylvia read your lovely letter. At once Queenie said: "That is the very best letter that Louise has written to the club. May I have it to use in my column?" It was handed over to her. We all liked the way you described things, using such vivid words. I am sending to you a copy of Ida's report which was read at the meeting. Our various husbands came for the potluck dinner after which scrummy event we looked at Janet's wonderful slides taken in Nova Scotia and in Ontario. She has marvelous slides of sapsuckers and will be sending you a set. We are glad that you like the reviewer. Actually the idea came from Sylvia and not from me. We all thought it a very good idea and Sylvia bought the viewer. So to her goes the credit and not to me. But we are all happy that you are pleased. In time slides will reach you.

Of course I was very glad to get your letter written in the New Year. Your observation of the very early courtship feeding of a pair of Blue Jays coincided with our own. When Lars was here, one morning I was by the kitchen window and saw one of our jays fly up and present a sunflower seed to its mate (in the lilacs). This was about December 20th, before Christmas, and we were amazed at such an early evidence of courtship feeding.

In January, this month, we heard the drumming of the Hairy Woodpecker. A pair were here on Jan. 21st. They both flew to the tall elm stub above the driveway, in which a pair nested the spring you were here. You will remember the hole near the top of the tree. The very top blew off in a storm and we had it removed and planed off, about 10 inches above the woodpecker hole. Well, on Jan. 21st at 2:00 p.m., (mist and freezing rain without) the male Hairy flew up to the nest-hole and commenced working around its outer edge. The female remained lower down on the tree, and staying quite still. The male worked for a few minutes and then commenced going into the hole as far as the shoulders. This he did a number of times. Then he suddenly flew right down to where the female was and landed almost on top of her so that she flew off and he took the very spot that she had occupied, for a minute. Then he went up to the hole and worked around its edge again for about 3 minutes. She came to one of the feeders for suet.

On January 23rd, two female Hairy Woodpeckers were in view, in the lilacs. One of them commenced hitching up a branch and switching her head from head to side in an exaggerated way, while pointing the bill straight into the air, or, almost pointing slightly backwards, that is, the head was held so straight that sometimes it seemed to be pushing backwards. No doubt she was intimidating her rival who flew off with the demonstrator directly behind her.

We notice that the Hairy Woodpecker is a much earlier feeder in the mornings. He or she comes with a clarion call just after we have heard the first Cardinal and about an hour before the first Downy Woodpecker appears.

We have a dozen or more Purple Finches here and they have been a joy to watch. We also have a few Tree Sparrows, an Oregon Junco and a few Slate-colored, and yesterday 4 Evening Grosbeaks eating lilac buds and then a dozen flying high overhead going south. We are deep in snow and the temperature at the moment is 2°F. Last Sunday we went up to Barrie in the morning where we saw what we hoped to see-- a handsome flock of Bohemian Waxwings; also 3 flocks of EGs, and three Pine Grosbeaks (the latter at Midhurst forestry station). It was a thrilling day for us.

Lovingly yours,

Answered Feb-3/59

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, January 26, 1959.

Dearest Doris: I have just finished to write my Will, which had to be reorganized and re-written now as you can well understand. I have taken great pains over it to make it succinct and clear, to make it not too hard to execute for my dear executors and to make it just with those who survive me and safe and right for the precious treasures. So I have had to take my time over it. Now Len approves of it and I feel rather satisfied that it could scarcely be improved upon. Remains to submit it to my lawyer, Mr. Gould, for his approval from the legal viewpoint and the signing. I am anxious to have it accomplished and everything else destroyed. One never knows ----- This is one reason why your sweet and lovely and descriptive letter from Ottawa has been left unanswered for so long.

Another reason is that Len and I have had quite a tough time of it lately with his illness. After two weeks in bed at home, Dr. Bowers wanted him into hospital for special treatment and X-rays. Then Dr. Bowers deserted us, as he sometimes does when he needs a holiday, poor man, but he got us in the hands of Dr. Wallace instead, who has been quite marvellous in every way. It seems that a slipped disk in the spine is a prolonged and annoying affair which is not cured overnight. Len is now in his third week in hospital, on a hard board with a weighted extension on his back. Coupled with this, he got into quite a nervous upset that threatened shock treatments. But thanks to Dr. W.s great understanding and skill Len seems be getting out of it now rather nicely, which is such a great blessing. I am going up to see him every other day, was there yesterday and was so glad to find him with good courage and definitely improved. He may be able to get home for my birthday, although I doubt it. After he gets home he will have to have a week or two of rest, of course. It is a wonderful thing that he has accumulated 20 weeks of sick-leave in the past few years, having been in such fine health all this time. So we really have so much to be grateful for. Perhaps he will not be able to get back on the grader again - but that too may have its special meaning and turn out to be a good thing. One never knows. Meanwhile, during the days when I am at home alone, I have been able to catch up with quite a bit of all that has been neglected for so long, including the Will, and I am now almost at the end of clearing the decks, or desks, for concentrated work on the woodpeckers. And I did also read and review the Norris' Sittidae paper, which met with Robert Hamilton's wholehearted approval. So far so good. Remains the Deep River talk, but I am thinking of that and it is

shaping up.

I loved to hear everything about Lars' visit with you and I have written him a long letter quite a while ago. So that he must not feel himself neglected, which well he might with regard to me. I do hope he will come east again before he leaves - but he is perhaps going home the other way. Do you know anything about this? How terrible for poor Irma. I have in mind to write her and will do so too. Perhaps this, too, is for the best with the insurance to create for her a new fine kitchen completely to her taste. Your letter was so vividly written and I am enjoying reading it now all over again for the"severalth" time. Thank you for sharing your Christmas Census results. Quite good and interesting, weren't they? I was sorry I could not go out, I might have seen EGs, quite a few finches and Redpoll s, which are around although not in very great numbers. The nicest we have at the F S at the moment are 3 darling Brown Creepers sitting pat on the pine trunk and gorging themselves on peanutbutter and the Ravens who fly over or sit watching in a tree near by, hunching up their shoulders, looking down, cocking one eye in that funny way birds have to discover the titbit that may be below, dropped by a squirrel or blue Jay, or deliberately put out by me. It is also very interesting with the red squirrels' wedding behaviour. I thought it rather/for early this in mid-January. But it is going on; and I have seen two pairs, or one pair twice, making lovely love together on an altitudinal branch. A lot of caressing goes into this both with forepaws and muzzle. We have two deer yarded up around the Loghouse. With the greatest effort, for the snow is very deep, I got a fresh cedar and planted it in the backyard. But they have not sniffed it yet. Snowshoe hare is still "in peak" and there are no foxes. Are they not murderous around Toronto in this respect?

What lovely Christmas presents you got! We were also very nicely supplied, especially by Len's family. They are so exceedingly generous. Our nephew Leonard Grover achieved his first term of his first pre-Med. year at the T.U. with flying colours. We are terribly U of T proud of him. How he does it, we do not know, for all is not well with his poor darling mother. And that must be a terrible hardship for the young ones. The other day I got the first vacuum cleaner I have ever owned. It is a Singer flat style, that stores in a very small space. You have no idea how dustless the house is. The fogs of dust that used to be visible dancing wildly in the beams of sunshine through the windows have cleared into an amazingly crystal-clear atmosphere. Now I can see my furniture, not as before through a

haze. And the labours it saves, a m a z i n g! Now I go over the whole house once a week in two hours and never touch it in between. There is time for so much more to do - wonderful! I have just finished investing the money. On the advice of my bank manager and Mr. Borden, who wrote me two nice letters on the subject, I got Bell Telephone and Bank of Commerce shares and Province of Ontario bonds, new issue. I wanted to get some shares of your bank too, but there was not enough money; no use dividing it up too much. However, I think that now, once the money gets active, we shall both feel the difference of welcome reinforcement to the income.

Tell your daughter Barbara that I think of her often since our last good meeting and it would be terribly nice some time to have her and hers, her fine husband, visit us. I think that we would all enjoy each other.

And now I shall end for today. If the intervals between letters sometimes get to be too long, it is not because I do not think of you. Blessings upon you and Murray and love to you both always from us.

Lucy

The yearly Christmas letter from Harrison F. was as full of content and activities and family blessings as usual. He, too, takes a "dim view" of the Griscom-Sprunt Warblers.

Verse for Today

A Cardinal and Snow

Piercing the whitness,
Arrow of flame,
A beautiful, crested,
Cardinal came

When snow stopped falling,
To linger there,
On shimmering branches,
As though aware

Of two who watched
From a window, stirred,
At beauty of snow,
And a red, red bird.

—WINNIFRED A. HORNE

Ottawa, Ont.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, February 1, 1959.

Dearest (almost) Sister: Thank you for your sweet birthday letter and your loving thoughts that accompanied it. I have so much to thank you for - your loyalty and your sincerity - most of all your stimulating and inspiring friendship borne and sustained by your love - by your capacity of loving, rather, which I think is not of common degree - for the close contact with your personality which is extraordinarily endearing (I hear Murray thump his desk). Blue and you, shining eyes and a radiant smile - that is the constant picture I bear of you in my mind. That is what you looked like when I met you at Malton, that last time after the exhausting flight in the night across the ocean with my head filled with funny heavy feelings. What a sight that was! Like dew in the morn - it gave me new strength, new vigour, fatigue was all forgotten. That is how I think of you now and ever. Yes, much in our lives is alike, yet much in us is dissimilar, although complimentary in the strangest way. Like pieces in a puzzle, altogether different in form and colour, they fit precisely into one another. It occurs to me that our business is to learn how this puzzle should be laid wider and wider, fitting one piece into another. Then, finally, the parts must create a whole. Only when we break it up with hostile attitudes and lack of will to understand does it get all mixed up and we ourselves out of place. Sometimes however, you have to break a part that cannot otherwise,than being torn up by the roots, be reset in harmonious order. The most difficult thing seems to me to judge exactly when such a more or less violent upheaval is justified. Look at Cuba - to take an opportune example - doubtless it <u>was</u> very, very wrong, but is it right now with all the sacrifices, all the effort? To me it looks awfully wrong again. This kind of thing happens in personal lives too and seems to me to be the hardest events in which to know the rightness of things. The thought on my 65th birthday for what it is worth. Sixty-five - quite a lot of years looking back - yet so very few. I would need lots more to reach any kind of real goal, such as I envision it now, although in some instances maturing may occur overnight. I have just read Mother's "The History of my Life" which she wrote in the years 1929-34. She tells of her childhood, youth, and married life in a rather full and well-written account. She interrupts it almost in the midst of a sentence and then tells no more. I have wondered why - she had

lots of time and an easy pen. How much easier to understand the course of events, the reasons why things happened as they did,after time gives perspective to the story!

Thank you for the MNOC Annual Report. There was no "please return" marked on it but I am returning it - perhaps you need it for your files. It seems to be the original. I cannot recall having written any specially good letter to Sylvia and Nicers, but if I have, how glad I am if I succeeded in expressing the thoughts I had about them well. They are an inspiring bunch, aren't they? Tops in everything, one might say. We are terribly much looking forward to the first batch of slides to look at with our wonderful viewer.

Len is still in hospital and we are both getting a bit tired of the situation. When I saw the doctor last week and asked when he would be able to come home,he said: He must be able to walk first." I never realized such an ailment would take so long time.

How interesting with your Blue Jays also beginning to court. I am not so surprised, however, about that, since you are 200 miles to the south of us. But possibly the difference of a few hundred miles latitude may not play much role in the onset of courting behaviour in residents, in whom everything happens in the extension of time and with slow graduation. Your notes on the Hairies' behaviour is highly interesting and coincides precisely with all my findings. Now it would be nice to know if this pair is the same that nested in the elm. If yes, where did they nest last year? If not, the attraction of the same nesting situation on different individuals would be an interesting observation. Inspection of the hole and insipid working on it is very early, but probably has no more meaning than an abortive matting attempt I have seen in January. Or rather all the meaning of such a combination of circumstances, warm sun, sight of hole, time of day perhaps, etc., etc., which made the bird suddenly <u>feel</u> that way. The aggressive behaviour of the two females is very typical at this time when establishment of nesting territory and site is at its height from January to March. The one wanted to show the other in no uncertain terms no dice her being there, schoo, schoo. The pointing of the bill, back deeply concave, "switching" her head from side to side, the faster she goes the more excited she gets, she rises on her feet, holds herself out from the trunk with the tail tightly depressed on it. She probably said something too ee-yick-eeyick, or something. Nobody could stand up against such a show, such

a threatening demeanour, at least not yet. Later perhaps, the intruder might put up a better resistence, especially if she were a widow or a young bird meaning to breed for the first time and not yet having neither mate nor land. But, then, such a young bird would have to have a bit of tenacity of character too; a timid personality would not. What psychological effect in the bird world have not movement, colours, and opportunity of time! This kind of thing is what I want to talk about at the Deep River Science Club. The fatal hour is nearing. I wish I could see a Bohemian Waxwing. Hazel thinks there are some at West Ferris, but she has not yet produced the identity diagnosis.

I am enclosing a little note to Murray re the Will.

Much, much love - oh yes, I forgot to tell you - I had the nicest, sweetest letter from Betty Carnes with fine words about chickadee paper in the AUK. She is doing wonderful things with her capacities of fund raising. Isn't amazing the way she does it? I could never, never, nor could you, you once said. Yet I think you could better than I. Again much, much love,

Louie.

About the Hairies, the courtship ritual between mates is almost identical with the Aggressive Display, you would have to see a male and a female doing it at the right epoch, to be certain which kind it was. Further evidence how closely related aggressiveness and love is among birds, psychologically speaking. Is it pehaps so with all living things???

February 8, 1959. Sunday.

Dearest Doris:

A wee note to thank you for your good thoughts on my birthday, your kind good wishes for Len, and your praise of the weight paper. Len is still in hospital, but it seems he is getting up a bit today and he is also getting physio-therapy. Perhaps he will get home by the end of the week. I will try to get up there today if I can get the truck started. I have had trouble with that lately which is so frustrating, isn't it. It had a motor-tune-up recently.

I haven't even looked through the chickadee paper for typographial mistakes, but the diagrams look good, don't they! A Mr. Richard Brewer from the University of Illinois asked for a reprint and more data on the chickadees. Reprints have not arrived yet, but I sent him some data on the nestings of which there was not very much. Apart from the weights my observations on the chickadees have been casual. Do you know Mr. Brewer, or is he a newer edition?

On February 4 came to my feeding stick a lone male Evening Grosbeak. If you have never heard a silent EG, this was one, which to me is a most significant event. It throws the meaning of the pteer call in sharp relief. If it were what we call a call note or merely a location note, he would give it even though he is entirely alone just to say that he is here. But he does not. He has not uttered a note since he came. The presence of others must release the pteer call. Hence it is above all a contact note, I think. How he came to be totally alone is another interesting speculation. Also of particular interest is that when I first saw him he was on his head deep in the cocoanut. How did he know that there were sunflower seeds in this nut hanging on this contraption that he cannot have seen before in his life? He was completely at home with the circumstance of gleaning his seeds from the nut. Was he once upon a time your bird? He saw of course the chickadees take seeds from the nut. The puzzling thing is the speed with which the process of daring was completed. The day before yesterday I banded him, No. 52-155709. He wears a gold band on his left tarsus, hence his name GOAM, pronounced Gom. Last night he moved his roosting place closer to the house and appeared upon the scene with the first chickadees

Just now he is sitting on the stick gorging on sunflower seeds with a Blue Jay looking down upon him from the roof, crest lifted. He still has not said a word.

There was another male EG and I am hearing loud pteers. It seemed incredible that GOAM could be alone for any length of time. The Blue Jays are terribly put out.

Now no more for today,

Lovingly,

Louise

Had a sweet letter from Margaret. She said she was "extra proud" of me.

And a note to Murray about the Will.....

Oh, I nearly forgot.... that quotation of Coues's is one of the most beautiful. I am copying it for my daily records. Thank you for giving it to me. I am deeply impressed.

Answered Feb. 23/59

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
February 18, 1959.

Today 39 years ago Gleb and I fled for our lives in the dark night and a terrific snowstorm from Archangel in northern Russia right into the arms of the Bolsheviks and the catastrophy which eventually ended that epoch of my life.

Dearest Doris:

Your letter was balm to the heart and the mere thing of speaking to you and have you speak back to me and Len have changed things, or rather the way that they appear.

Dr. Bowers has returned and he has a way with him that excuses all. The supporting trust is restored of one who you know will know how to get things straightened out right. He and the other two doctors are working together, and the other two were awfully good and kind and interested, which last is of such importance and a blessing when it exists.

Dr. Bowers wants Len to come back home for a time and we all hope that a restful and good time at home will perform the miracle of getting Len walking again and his mind settled, the tensions relaxed. I realize that so much will depend on me, how loving and subtle I can be to prevent stress situations. If I can prevent myself from getting stressed when he gets stressed, all will be well. The soothing hand, the soothing word, the soothing look, the soothing kiss, is what I shall have to practise hard, The realization of the demands is perhaps half the battle won.

What you said about living just one day, one hour, at a time, is the word of Wisdom. We shall practise that too. This is the right answer. Not cross bridges until we come to them. I ought to know - it has been one of the most amazing experiences of my rather shifting life. Perhaps we shall never get to the "bridge"of having to go to Toronto for treatment or, at least, things may look very different then. There would be one wonderful thing connected with it, seeing you again, and thank you for your sweet invitation.

All I see before me on the feeding stick is yellow. Four EG males are trying to get on it and glean sunflower seeds from the cocoa nut and mink dish. I am not spreading the seeds out for them easy, they will have to work for them. All seem to be banded. I have 3 more band Nos to give you: 52-155710-11-12, all males with greening bills.-09 and -12, the first of these numbers I gave you in the last letter, have wing measurements of 110 and 111 mm. respectively, you may like to know. I did not measure the two in between, stupidly.

Description
loose-leaf

Speaking of yellow, my what a marvellous attribute that eye-brow line is, margined with darkest colour, even over the nose to create a wondrous feature. A marking of exquisite beauty when the bird is at peace in its heart, like the ominous threatening brow of Mephisto when roused and an exciting situation lifts all the feathers on its head, almost mimicking the tufted ears of this image of threat that we men have created.

What exactly is a location note? A call that a bird utters to give its location, presumably to acquaint others of its whereabouts? Why would not this call then be uttered also when the bird is alone, just in case somebody did or could hear it?

to think out how

The most wicked problems are arising in my woodpecker study / to call phases of behaviour by their right names. In some of these things there are no precedents. Thank you for the reference. But there will be so much to say and to explain about behaviour that there will be no room either on the pages nor in my brain to touch on any other aspects. I am getting awfully excited about this woodpecker study, it is thrilling work, as you it to be too.

We have got a package of slides from Janet. I am hardly able to keep my hands off them, but I have decided that they are not to be opened, not to be looked at, until Len returns home and then we shall have a wonderful hour with them. The slides are safe here and I shall return them by insured mail to Janet as soon as we have looked enough at her masterpieces.

I see now a fifth male EG without bands on either leg. GOAM is still here, comes every day, and getting dominant. He was a bit meek at first, especially about the Blue Jays.

Thank you for the loving helping word, my love by return,

Lorine

Have kept all the newsletters for Len when he comes home.

Just had South Peel Club some club! I became an Honorary member and am getting their Bulletin. If I go to Toronto I must get together with them.

Had a marvelous letter from Aaron Bagg. All's well around Chickadee.

March 17, 1959.
Answered March 26/59 EG record filed.

Dearest Doris:

Thank you for your sweet letter of appreciation for the little reprint. With all these nice words said about my paper, I have always in mind your tremendous work, your outstanding effort and contribution in the making, and I always feel like saying: Wait until you see something real in scientific and ornithological endeavour! Still it is well to accept the kind and good words as an encouragement and inspiration to go on and on, doing better and better all the time, in all humility.

Thank you for contacting Marshall, which, although not mentioned, I feel that you did. The result was fine and I got some slides that I used. However, it was the first time I ever used slides and I do not think that I managed outstandingly well with them by any means. I found them slightly distracting. On the whole, I am not wholly satisfied with my Deep River prestation. It was not as good as Buffalo. I missed the good practising the MNOC gave me beforehand. Besides, I feel that I took my subject too generally, I am not good at lecturing, definitely, I have no training, I have not learned to fit my thoughts into a suitable form, a comprehensive form. This is where I missed out at Deep River. I do much better as raconteur, a descriptive sort of talk is much more my gebit, I think, where I can make it alive with my own felt experiences. So that I have thought since that if I ever am required to do any more talks, I would tell The Story of MAR and from there, perhaps, branch out occasionally into more general behaviour as a sideline and not as the theme. Do you see what I mean? Anyway there were more people at the meeting than I expected there would be and I can only hope, against my better knowing, that they did not return home too disappointed. When questions were asked afterwards I could not hear clearly and that was a horrible drawback. What to do about it I don't know, the doctor does not want me to have an aid yet. Everybody were very kind indeed about it and they did say many nice things to me afterwards. On the whole, I had the most wonderful time. Dr. James who took me around is a geneticist (is this the right word?) and we had wonderful talks. I spent the whole afternoon of Friday at the "Project" at Chalk River. And, oh, what a place! And oh, what people who work there! and how marvellously they explained the gist of the Thing (which is the Reactor), so that even I, in all my dense ignorance, could fathom a little of what it is all about. I hope I did not

ask too many idiotic questions, but all of it was more than fascinating. The next morning Dr. James' charming wife, who is American, took me to see the Forestry Station at Petawawa. There we met Dr. Fraser who spoke of you. An awfully nice Australian, Dr Yateman, took us around. Afterwards we had coffee at his house in front of a darling bird-feeder where fed Chickadees and "White Nuts" and a red squirrel. Gathered with us there were 3 Danes and 2 charming Estlanders and there was a Babylonish mixture of tongues at odd moments, as you may well imagine. Mrs. Yateman was apparently Norwegian of extraxtion, if not of birth. The Station is a fine establishment whose primary preoccupation is research. It was wonderful to find these two significant "Projects" in the enchanting setting of the Ottawa Valley, all intensely aimed at peaceful research and the improvement of human knowledge of life and its endless implications. Single-mindedness here - if you ever want to find it "distilled". Stimulating beyond words. Chalk River is the Atom of Peace truly. There is only one flaw - can it help it? The residue of the used-up uranium - if I understood Dr. Nichols right - that comes out of the Reactor, is sold to the U.S. to produce the atomic bomb that triggers the hydrogen bomb. Imagine how much better that probably could be used! More useless and insane than ever before did the sabre-rattling and brinkmanship seem to me after Chalk River, where the possibilities of, one might almost say, miraculous enlightenment into the complexities of nature and its animate part, Life, appear breathtaking and inexhaustible and, with all that, impressively simple and logical when known, when thought out, when realized. For me it was a wonderful experience to go to Chalk River and I am asked to come back with more time to go through it. It would be very tempting - especially in moments when one felt despair of humanity. Here is the Spirit that is indestructible. Why is it so hard for us to be humbly receptive?

Herewith the Bagg correspondence. I think it is now in order to send him a reprint. As you see he has not asked for one. There is no haste returning it - whenever convenient will be fine. Irma and Sylvia have both written me lovely letters. Now I am relieved from the talk, my correspondence will get its due. Len is going up to see the doctor today, probably, we hope, for the last time. Doctors are terribly expensive necessities. Len hopes to go back to work after Easter, which I think is something of a miracle, considering how things looked a week or two ago. Len has a tremendous power of stay-with-it-ness deep down inside. Lacking this almost entirely, I admire this part of him enormously. We are having the most wonderful time these days while he is regaining his strength and equilibrium. The EGs are still here and the ground is covered with seed shells. No females. There were EGs at Deep River too at the James' feeding station. Their bills were still bone yellow. Three deer are coming down the path every day. Len is getting good exercise keeping them in fodder. Love, love to both of you from us,

Lovingly

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
May 23,1959.

Received May 27. Answered same day.

Dearest almost sister Doris: What a calamity with your arm and very painful must it be at first! I have only had a broken bone once when my pony fell over my leg and it did hurt, so that I remember that I cried. How in the world did you do it? I hope that you had a good doctor set it, so that it will knit together again as it should. I imagine that you fell, letting your hand and arm take the brunt of the shock, and then a bone is easily broken. Hazel phoned me yesterday evening apparently immediately after she got your message. Poor darling you! It will cramp your style for a little while, but if it is comfortable in the cast it will not be for long. So accept, dear one, all our very best wishes for a rapid recovery - all whole again and in one piece, very, very soon.

Thank you for your nice letter. But why the distant "Affectionately yours"? Did you not feel particulary loving when you wrote? Or were you merely distraite? It sounded foreign. It was an awfully good thing that you did not come on Victoria Day week-end. The weather was miserable and you would have been cold and humid in the House on the Point. There will be much nicer week-ends to come later on and we are eagerly looking forward to your summer visit. We are hoping for a bit fewer visitors this summer than last, because Len wants to finish off what there is to do in the little house this year. It would be good, however, if you could give us a tentative idea when you think it will be that you can come as soon as possible, so that we can keep the house empty around that time. It will be wonderful to see you and to show you everything. Poor Murray didn't see so much in the evening and all the things are not on their right places. This will take some time and there are problems.

Your plans for next summer sound marvellous and how lucky you are to be able to do such things both for yourselves and for your darling Adèle. Next time I come to Toronto you must arrange that I see her - she was such a little girl when I saw her and according to Murray she must be something very special. I am not surprised at all with such a mother ----- not to mention the grandmother at all, at all. Everytime that I hear my first Chestnut-sided Warbler for the season I think of Adèle; rather curious this association, but on that day when she and Barbara and you came - I remember that happy visit as if today it happened - I had just seen and heard the first Chestnut-sided Warbler that season. Sunshine and the scent sunwarmed pine

needles upon the spring air also belong to this association. If you have any drawings of the Museum-to-be, do bring them when you come to give us a look-see.

The EGs are still here but in a much thinned-out company. Up to, but not including, yesterday two Unattached Females were prominent at the FS (feeding station). Yesterday and today only married couples have been on the scene at the sunflower seed cup, either one pair coming a few times, or two or three pairs coming in relays. When the whole flock was here a Female banded on the left leg (I banded mine on the right leg) was among them. I tried to catch her, but in vain. Six Females and 3 Males got into the trap but not she. Their numbers were: 52-155719 through 27. I have no idea where they intend to or are nesting, not the exact spot, but that some pairs are nesting, or going to, at not too great a distance seems very likely. I would have difficulty ~~in~~ finding them as I would scarcely hear their more muted "nest-notes" that would betray them. It is rather exasperating with this not-hearing, as for instance espying a Parula singing for all he is worth atop a tree and not hearing a word what he is saying, just the bill goes soundlessly. The same goes for the Blackburnian - cannot hear him. Another annoyance is to hear a song which is almost unrecognizable because I miss hearing so many of the higher or lower notes. Thus, yesterday I had to listen - and listen - to realize I was listening to an exuberant utterance of a Winter Wren. But what ho, someday I'll have an aid, but my doctor says the time has not come yet, for I do hear quite a lot - like the Whippoorwill from across the lake.

Before returning to the EGs, these last days from May 19 until, but not including, today we have seen migration here. Warblers have come through, I would say in dribbles, fairly steady dribbles at that, with perhaps one or two very minor "waves" thrown in. Nowhere near the multitudes of yore. Ovenbirds were fairly numerous on the one "This is the Day of the Ovenbirds", but less than formerly are evidently settling on territory. They and the Chestnut-sided are the most numerous of the warblers, the Myrtles seem to have picked up since last year - it looks as if two pairs are going to nest on the Loghouse Territory. Robins are more numerous than we have seen them for many years, but the destruction of the Peninsula as an abode of wildlife may be a factor in the amazing circumstance of 4 pairs nesting within an area of 200 square feet

between the house and the garage. The nests are at distances of between 50 and 75 feet from each other. We have been surprised at finding very little intolerant behaviour between these close neighbours. Only at one time I noticed it when the As objected to the Bs nesting across the path. So there were skirmishes, mostly "supplanting attacks",all along the path which obviously afterwards became the boundary between the As and the Bs. The four territories are kind of elliptic in form with the nests in one end and respective foraging areas within the elongation of the other end. Mud supplies are available to all without the need of trespassing. So this is the story of our Robins.

Now to return to the EGs. I have made a note on their alarm note of highest intensity. I have heard it once in particular when I surprised a male bathing in Len's Pool. It is a hoarse "jerp", ejaculated once - like any of us might cry out at the shock of surprise. Since then I have recognized it a few times more.

Note on Courtship: A male responded to the proximity of the Female by 1) raising all the feathers on his head, which made him look as if he had on a black homburger edged with the fluffed yellow of the eyebrow-line; 2) he dropped his wings so that the black and white design thereupon became prominently enlarged; 3) he raised his tail high above his back and spread it a little, displaying thereby the long bright yellow undertail coverts. He thus sat, making no advances. The attention of the Female was not so much on him and his pretty sight than on another female whom she chased by "supplanting attacks". On another occasion, or perhaps it was one or two other occasions, I noticed perhaps the same male displaying again in similar fashion. But there was never any approaches, as a male in love will advance towards the object of his emotion, just this. So I began to suspect that his display was less courtship than submissiveness;and the reason was this that a Female gave a Threat display at him ~~while~~ en she wanted the feeder for herself. This Threat display was a curiosity in itself because it was a "Pointing display", à la woodpecker, energetic pointing of the bill first left then right (and so on) gaping. So far I have only seen the straight Pointing display - the bill pointing towards ~~towards~~ the Intolerable Object without motions right-left. So this was a novelty. Anyway,the Male flew and left the Female in sole possession. Presently, however, another Male with less timidity of soul, I gathered, chased the Female from the stick

with complete lack of chivalry. In the final analysis of the whole sequence as it involved the entire cast, I therefore felt that there was something different in the courtship behaviour, if we should call it that, than what I first thought. (This is one reason why I cannot understand the real advantage of using blinds, except in certain situations and with certain detailed purpose in mind, since blinds are bound to exclude the many-varied environmental impacts upon the animal's behaviour.)

This is a delicious chickadee picture which I witnessed the other day and hope to paint to you with all its delicacy and grace: One little Chickadee flew up in a pine and perched on a branch with his wings, involving just the primaries, vibrating humming-bird-like. I thought at first this was a female begging for food. It was not. Presently he left the branch in a peculiarly moth-like flight making a hovering descent. Then I saw the female perched on a little branch of a shrub a few inches from the ground. He hovered an instant above her, looking down on her, then descended upon her as she tipped her tail upwards to receive him, the wings of both vibrating in a soft blurr. They moved apart like in a slow-motion dance. Again he hovered, descended upon her and they met in elfin touch. A third time the whole sequence was repeated at high intensity, the hovering, the slow-motion dance, the coming apart. Then the emotions of the pair subsided visibly and as the male for the fourth time took wing to hover and descend, the female moved away from under him. This move obviously released the high nervous tension under which both had acted - the female shook herself and began preening, the male started to feed. .....

Our old hare is back for the fourth year. One evening not so long ago she came gallumphing up to Len. (Nobody gallumphs except in Alice's and our Looking-glass worlds.) Len said: "She is back," loud so that I could hear. I got out in a jiffy with bread in hand, calling: "Kom, kom, kom." She came. That is the whole and wonderful story.

Will write you soon again. Meanwhile my fondest thoughts go you-wards, Len's good wishes, much, much love to you both from us.

Lovingly

Konrad

What about the CNR and you ???

June 2, 1959.

Dearest Doris:

Imagine sitting down with a broken arm in a cast and pick out a whole long letter to me with one finger! It was a great surprise - thought the letter was from Murray at first. Thank you, darling Yours Affectionately! I was so glad to hear of the steady improvement and from what you said about the treatment, I can see that all is being done as it should. What a horrendous fall you had! Just exactly the kind of thing that would have happened to me, had my kitchen been as narrow as yours. That I would have forgotten the open oven-door entirely, is self-evident. I understand precisely how you broke what bone in the wrist. With the set-up and in the circumstances you could not have escaped. But all is well and there is something to learn from all events.

I am exceedingly happy to know that your premises will not be affected by the CNR. The fear came to me especially strongly during the metamorphosis of the Peninsula. We are getting used to the loud voices and, as Len says, the season is very short, and we are a screened-in Separate. Isn't it amazing luck that we got all this shoreline from the road-way back around the corner beyond the House on the Point? Also, Len says, it is not right that we should have everything to ourselves. It is right that it should be shared, even though many of those, who will be sharing it, will not appreciate it quite in the same way as we do, who have lived with it and in it for 25 (yes, it is twenty-five) years.

We are keeping the House on the Point for you the whole week of July 26, so that you are free to come any day and stay, we hope, more than one measly day and night. We are now putting the finishing touches on the guesthouse which now contains most of the furniture that stood in the Loghouse formerly. We shall have everything in it complete, except perhaps a spring mattress for the couch, which we thought we could leave to next year. We are dipping rather deeply into the Savings to get the floors tiled in the kitchen and sunroom and a new truck, believe it or not, to be delivered on Thursday.

The EGs disappeared on May 24 and for five days we saw nobody. Then one of the banded males came for sunflower seeds and he has visited the FS ever since,

all alone. Only today I have not seen him. But he may be here when I am not here and at night I check on the sunflower seeds in the dish. If there are hulled shells in it, he or somebody has been here. I have no inkling where they nest - it may be quite far away. They seem to go south from here, but they are not in Green Woods, so far as I can tell. They may be on the hill beyond in the pines or in the thick stand of evergreens beyond that. There are of course a hundred and one places where they can be. I was surprised to see the lone male back. It may be of significance, perhaps he lost his mate.

If the EGs temporarily have ceased providing the interest at the FS, others are doing their best to make up for it, unknowingly of course. The back lawn is full of blackbirds, the whole population of all four marshes seems to be there, wives and husbands and soon, by every sign, young ones will be there too. Never in the FS annals have we had so many Cowbirds - two whole pairs without a triangle. Another wonder and delight was the return of a pair of Gray Jays, now the two having become a gay fivesome, flying in to the sticks as if they belonged only to them. The young ones are an amazing sight, all dark gray breasts, heads and necks, with only a vestiginal sign of adult marking on the side of the cheek, with light-coloured beaks, the exact colour scheme from base to tip being pink, could you ever believe it, then light, light grey, with only the very utmost tip beginning to turn black. They look and talk crow-like, spookified, in fact with their dark dress and "blanched" mouths. They have enormous long flowing tails, to what one might expect in so young a bird, and the sheen of blue woodland water on their backs. I hope my description is vivid enough for you to perceive the sight in your mind's eye.

Calamity ended all four Robins' nestings. Verdict - too exposed without leaves on the trees and too many predators, what with all the squirrels and blue jays and gray jays touring that part of the premises, coming and going and on the transverse. Len is going to shoot all of them - he says - but he has not done so yet. I say, better luck next time. One pair retired to Green Woods, another went across to the barren Peninsula, it seems, and two remain in some area, 3 and 2, it seems, in hiding and well, I hope, for the success of the next clutches of eggs. Two of the pairs hatched young at the first attempt, one brood surviving until about the fifth day, the other disappearing almost as soon as hatched.

Otherwise we do live with a greatly thinned out population of birds in our areas.

One would indeed be a poor observer, deaf or not, failing to realize that we are indeed seeing a change taking place in our avian world. Those affected are the thrushes, the Hylocicla species, the warblers and the flycatchers. There are spots, most favoured habitats, were concentrations of these woodland birds may be found. But if one studies the situation more closely, he finds that the territories are enormously scattered and often enlarged to the utmost of their practical limits. By this we must not think that birds in general are disappearing. So far as I can see they are not. But the particular ones aforementioned are being replaced by others, by jays, by blackbirds, by starlings, by woodpeckers. I have a feeling, for I cannot see to the ends of the event, that we are witnessing a slow evolutionary change of the avifauna and we can see it only because several factors temporarily combined to make it evident to even us, nearsighted and short-lived creatures. These factors include poison spraying, inclement migration weather, variously caused shortages of food, encroachments upon usable habitats. We are witnessing perhaps only an adjustment. But we feel sad that we are not seeing as many warblers as we have been used to seeing, that we cannot hear the lovely singing of our marvellous thrushes. We loved these birds, but I have been thinking, should we be sad? Is not this sadness born from our too subjective attitude and understanding? Had we never seen a warbler or heard a thrush, would we not think differently if the jays and the blackbirds and the starlings which now seem to be replacing them were suddenly to fall for time's and evolution's grinding axe? These are only my wee thoughts as I wander among the spring-dressed trees and watch and listen to the woodland bird, one here, another there, at tremndous distances from each other, comparatively speaking.

Today it is a year since darling Mother died. One thought is foremost in my remembrance - the blissful kind of death she got. Imagine just sitting on a chair and vanishing in spirit! I feel that this was her beautiful reward for all her efforts, all her love, all her devotion and striving. And so, why be sad? It is best to use one's emotions with discrimination and not be sad when there is no sadness. Several of Mother's fiends have written. One used what I thought was a lovely phrase. She wrote: With a warm greeting from home to home. (Med en varm hälsning från hem till hem). So with this I end this letter - with love from home to home.....

Most loving Louise

Copy MNOC (with my love)

MAY 1958

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L.C.Lawrence,
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No data May 1 and 28. Of the remaining 29 days, 13 were mainly cloudy and 16 clear. On 12 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 17 below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 51.0° F. Warm fronts passed Apr. 14, 27; cold fronts Apr. 1, 11, 14, 22, and 27. Cold spells with mostly northerly winds prevailed May 1-10 and 21-29 with a brief warm spell May 16-20. Maximum temperature of 78° F. on May 17 and minimum of 25° F. on May 13. Snow fell on May 9.

Feeding station: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 M; Hairy Woodpecker, 5 M, 5 F; Downy Woodpecker, 4 M, 4 F; Gray Jay, 2-1; Blue Jay, 4-6; Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 10-6 (est); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2-1; House Wren, 1; Robin, 1 M; Veery, 1-2, one of them a returned banded bird; Redwing, 1 M, 1 F; Slate-coloured Junco, 30-5; Tree Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 10-2; Song Sparrow, 3.

Migration: Most of the migrants came through with the spell of warm weather and favourable winds during the third week (see table), but the scarcity of birds in general was noticeable. Two thirds of the first-seen dates were later than the mean dates for the past 13 years. If one excepts the birds which had wintered at Pimisi Bay, by the end of May only about half the usual number of birds were established on territory in the Pimisi Bay study area. Some warblers, such as the Ovenbird, Waterthrush, Myrtle Warbler, all finches including Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Purple Finches, all flycatchers and thrushes, not including the Robin, showed an even lesser density.

Of these approximately two of every three of the usual number of breeding pairs were missing.

Migration data in relation to 13-year Mean Dates:

Time	No sp.	EARLY: No sp.	Average days	LATE: No sp.	Average days	NORMAL	No data No sp.
1st week	11	2	7.0	4	8.2	1	4
2nd week	10	1	10.0	6	3.8	1	2
3rd week	21	5	2.4	11	5.5	1	4
4th week	10	1	6.0	6	10.3	-	3
	52	9		27		3	13

LOON AND GREBES: One pair of loons established themselves at Pimisi Bay. Three Pied-billed Grebes recorded in various places, more than we usually see.

HERONS AND BITTERNS: Very few records.

GEESE AND DUCKS: Almost all the migrating ducks left. Very few Golden-eyes. One pair of Blue-winged Teals found late in the month at Burbot Lake, Calvin Twp.

HAWKS: The hawks are apparently increasing both in numbers of individuals and species. Kestrels were especially numerous in migration. On May 21, LCL observed a migration of hawks. He counted 21 flying straight from east to west until they struck a thermal updraft and began circling and soaring, reaching a great height, finally to disappear quickly into the blue. He could not identify them positively without glasses, but on checking all the details we judged that most probably they were Red-shouldered Hawks.

SHORE-BIRDS: A Semi-Palmated Plover, a common species at Lake Nipissing, was recorded for the first time at Pimisi Bay. Killdeers continued fairly numerous, but Spotted Sandpipers were comparatively few.

GULLS: Hardly any Herring Gulls seen at Pimisi Bay and very few even along the Ottawa River at Mattawa where they are usually quite common.

GOATSUCKERS: Whippoorwills few, Nighthawks unreported.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS: Swifts very scarce and Hummingbirds few.

KINGFISHERS: Quite numerous in the field, but none nesting this year at Pinisi Bay.

WOODPECKERS: Flickers' peak date of migration May 7, Sapsuckers May 8. Except at Pinisi Bay, Sapsuckers generally scarce and Flickers fewer than usual.

FLYCATCHERS: Very scarce, only Kingbirds and Phoebes seen in small numbers; by the end of the month only 1 Least and 1 Olive-sided recorded; Wood Pewee, Traill's, Crested Flycatchers unreported.

SWALLOWS: All species very late in arriving and very scarce. On May 15 LCL reported seeing 2 Martins at Bonfield; first time the species is recorded in this locality; previously reported nesting at North Bay.

CORVIDAE: Crows less numerous than usual (LCL, LdeKL).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS: Chickadees and Creepers few. On May 23, the Red-breasted Nuthatch breeding in the study area arrived at the feeding station with 3 full-fledged young in train, a record early date for such an event.

THRUSHES: Robins in fair numbers but fewer than usual. In the early morning of May 14, over 20 of them were found resting in the trees, having apparently just completed a night's flight. Hermit Thrushes very scarce, also Wood Thrushes and Swainson's, Veerys by far not as many as usual. Grey-cheeked unreported.

STARLINGS: Counted in the hundreds. Many pairs nesting in natural cavities along the roads, at farms, and along the edges of the fields.

VIREOS: Very scarce. Solitary and Philadelphia unreported.

WARBLERS: The migration of warblers was "thin", no waves, only "dribbles"; peak dates May 18, 20, and 26. All first-seen dates late. Notably scarce were Ovenbirds, Myrtles, Waterthrushes, Black-throated Blue Warblers. Most numerous were Mourning Warblers, Redstarts, Black-throated Greens.

MEADOWLARKS AND BOBOLINKS: The Meadowlarks finally settled on territories in fair numbers although not as numerous as usual. On May 22, a flight

of over 40 Bobolinks, all males, was observed concentrated in a swampy spot. This was quite a remarkable sight. On May 20 and 21, lesser numbers, also all males, were seen in other places. This is as many migrating Bobolinks as we have ever seen before.

BLACKBIRDS: According to counts, less than half of the usual number of Redwings nesting in the Pinisi Bay marshes and this decrease in the species was noted also in other places, e.g. the Bonfield marsh, Burbot Lake. No Grackles at Pinisi Bay, but this species appeared quite numerous elsewhere.

FINCHES: Most species scarce, except Pine Siskins which came through in medium-sized flocks on May 25, 26. Goldfinches found locally in small numbers. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Purple Finches very few, Indigo Bunting unreported. On May 29 a flock of 15 Evening Grosbeaks were observed "budding" in aspens at Eau Claire, all females so far as could be ascertained.

SPARROWS: Migration peak dates May 13 to 22, Juncos May 1 to 9. Small to medium number of birds in all species, White-crowns most numerous, Swamp Sparrows scarcest. On May 15 a White-throated Sparrow with much white in its plumage appeared at the feeding station, crown partially white in a broad line from front to back and dotted with small dark spots, two broad white areas saddling the bird one in front of the other across the shoulder region.

APRIL
MAY 1958

OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence,
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

LITTLE BROWN BAT: With a warm front on April 20, the bats came out of hibernation from our loft. When we wrecked one of our chimneys on May 24, we found the bats' nest tucked into a small space between the wall and the chimney. About 25 of them flew out and circled around in bewilderment. We found no young ones or, if there were any, they must also have emerged perhaps clinging to their mothers. A cake of guano, about a foot square, had accumulated from the bats' use of this place dyring the past 20 years. Almost before the wrecking was completed, the bats returned and are now housed in the loft and under the eaves.

BLACK BEAR: On May 7 a Bear came to our dump, but made off in haste, crashing through the bushes, as I came out. No reports of bears elsewhere in our region.

EASTERN MINK: Both observers reported sighting minks at various localities. One was seen several times trotting on the edge of the melting ice at Pimisi Bay.

STRIPED SKUNK: The den under the shed was abandoned on account of ice conditions. A large tomcat trespassing on the premises at night was probably largely responsible for the skunks' disappearance from the neighbourhood of our house. The only place that thereafter showed signs of skunk habitation was located about half a mile to the SW.

SNOWSHOE HARE: Hares still very abundant. On April 17 a doe appeared in rather advanced stage of pregnancy. She was in full moult, patchy brown and white. The females apparently moult earlier than the bucks. The latter showed much white in pelage still in late May. On May 30, the old "tame" doe appeared and unhesitatingly

came to hand. It is a mystery where she spends her time when she is not in the neighbourhood of the house during the entire winter half year. This doe is now at least 3 years old. The first very young hare was seen May 30 and it was then as large as a slightly over-sized bun.

EASTERN CHIPMUNK: LCL reported the first Chipmunk out of hibernation on April 11, a late date. At Pimisi Bay the Chipmunks emerged so late that one must speculate on the reason why. The first one seen did not appear before April 25, when their emergence in other years has often been recorded in March. We believe that the reason was ice conditions, similar to those which occurred with the skunks. These condition/s were apparently caused by the weather, much sunshine during the day and very cold nights. Ice formed like glaciers filling holes and depressions and would be a formidable obstacle for a small Chipmunk to penetrate. But once they did come out, there were quite a few of them, among them several old ones known personally. One had lost an ear, another had omitted to grown a new tail in place of the one he lost last spring. The way this crippling occurs belongs to the unsolved mysteries.

RED SQUIRREL: All the females showed signs of advanced pregnancy in late April. The young of several of the females were born in May. The females began moulting in early April; the "Mephisto hairs" on the ears of several known individuals disappeared. The males lagged behind the females in the moult and their performance was much less conspicuous; with them it seems to be more of a slipping into a new coat then with the females, many of whom wore their "winter pants" still at the end of the month.

WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE: Signs observed indicated a decrease of the population.

CANADA BEAVER: Abundant everywhere and being severely suppressed because of road damage. One dam under Pimisi Bay bridge. Tail-splashing tour on April 16, the same day the ice went out of the lake. A large double dam, ¼ mile W of Pimisi Bay, burst, cascading silt-filled stagnant water down our ditches into the lake. Repairs going on full speed the next day and beaver lake rapidly rising to former size and depth.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, April 24, 1958.

Answered Apr. 28.

Dearest Doris:

Thank you for two Monitors with interesting articles on Russia which I have not yet had time to read thoroughly as to comment on them. And also for a good and sweet letter. But I still do not know the day of your departure, although I have asked about it three times. Do please tell me. I am enclosing the Summaries with this and would like to know to whom I should send them during your absence???? I would also like to know when you may be expected back again after your Great Adventure??????

I was most interested in the woodpecker behaviour when meeting a shrike. Wing-flicking certainly is a movement of intimidation and is used both intra-and inter-specifically. Did not the woodpecker point its bill first in one direction, then in the other, and make itself long and flat and all feathers sleek? That belongs to the whole pattern. Wing-flicking is an aggressive motion of lesser intensity than wing-opening. For then the woodpecker's nervous tension increases and it passes over from wing-flicking, rises on its short legs to give the impression it almost stands on its toes while opening its wings stiffly, all the white faintly checkered undersides turned towards the enemy, head up and bill pointing, and in this pose it wobbles like a drunken sailor. You can imagine the effect on any beholder, bird or man whoever he may be.

I am immensely impressed by all the work you are doing on the EGs. That is perfectly wonderful. And aren't you clever and scientific to be able to find out and think out all those highly technical things. You must have read an enormous lot. I know I could never do it and I beginning to look forward to your monograph with rapt anticipation. I thought it would never be written. I am full, full of admiration, my dear Doris. We will all be terribly proud of you when your work is born in print. I can well understand how pressed you are for time these days. One is excited too before such a trip and concentration comes not too easily, I know. I am looking for no letters now or later while you are on the trip, you will tell all about it in your good time and I hope you will keep a diary. I only want the shortest answer to above questions please.

And here is another one. If I should want to contribute something to

the Bulletin, a review of Sloane's"How you can foretell the Weather " which I think is very much worth a review, weather and birds and animals all being of the same Nature, whomeshould I send it to in Murray's absence???????? Is anyone else reviewing it??????

I have written Durango, no answer yet, but he will look for you for sure if he is there and you may look for him amongst the Swedes. He will know about you anyway. I don't know if my new friend, Ernst Torp Pedersen, will be going. I must ask him and you ask for him among the Danes. He is doing some amazing work on the Crossbills, as I told you, and would there not be something of common interest in your closely related species?

Eddie Mitchell and her husband moved to Victoria when he retired, had a lovely house there and were so happy. He is devastated, poor man. She was stricken suddenly just as they were receiving a few guest for dinner, died a few hours later, never regaining consciousness from a cerebral haemorrhage. Such a very wonderful kind of death it seems to me. He saw the change coming over her, but her last words were: I am perfectly well, game as she was to the end.

We have bought the furniture, sofa and two chairs of the Vilas rock maple cherry-maple finish. They have not arrived yet. I am wondering how they will look and I am afraid they will necessitate a lot of changes, new drapes and rearrangements, to get the comfortable homogenous look we envision for our livingroom. There was a limited choice of covering and we had the sample for several days, putting it everywhere to see how it would look. It is very good material, durable and artistic in design. The only thing I am doubtful of is that there is white in it, not much, but a little. Cream, off white, would have been better. But I suppose we can adjust to it.

Len got on famously with the kitchen during his holidays, short as they were. I have now a counter that runs the whole length of the window wall, 36 inches high to match the Frigidaire range, and oh, what a blessing it is not to have to bend the back all the time when doing dishes and preparing food. He even made a so called cove for the toes, so that you don't kick the bottom of the counter cupboards all the time. There is still a great deal to do, but I have lots of patience waiting for such

a wonderful thing as that remodelled kitchen. The next thing, we are waiting for good weather to take down the chimney. This had become a firetrap, old and cracked as it was after the storm, and we don't need one for the new range and with the oil heating. There will be a new chimney in another place for the heater, one of those Firechiefs which are guaranteed fireproof.

Bill Gunn and friend dropped down on us last week. They stayed for 4 days, a little too much for the cooking of three meals a day, which tired me. We are no longer as young as we used to be, are we! When nothing was anything for either one of us. Do you remember that day when we went out at 3 a.m. and came back via Eau Claire, you still going strong, but I very nearly a wreck? The friend was very nice, they were both very nice. They did a lot of recording, mostly of Downy Woodpeckers, which established the fact that the Downy has a "mutual recognition" note, which I thought it must have, but which I had never heard. It came through on the tape as clear as anything. They also made an interview with me which was meant to be for the so called Roving Reporter on the CBC. But it was so signally unsuccessful, me being stupidly nervous, that I have asked him not to use it. My Swedish interview was so successful, I don't know what happened here.

Now it is getting late, somebody broke into Len's workshop this morning, forced and broke the lock, took quite a few tools, though none of the best, a whole can of oil. It makes you feel jittery, especially if it was done by locals, and it would be horrible to go down there one morning and find the truck gone. Len is upset, I am upset, but we will calm down. Much, much love to you both from us,

Louise

Received May 15.
Answered " 16.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, May 12, 1958.

Dearest Doris:

I have been trying to get ahead on some work on Gray Jays, hence the non-letter-writing spell. This to explain why you have had to wait so long for an answer for your lovely impromptu letter of April 25, telling of the lovely morning and all the wonderful things that you saw from your window and your telling thrilled me too, for I could imagine all so very well, even to the fragrance of the air, which must have been evident too. I am still more thrilled about your wonderful work on Bent's, which elicited such a good letter from Wendell Taber. I am all admiration that you are able to do this very difficult work and to think that now, at long last, your immense patience and meticulous gathering of facts is bearing visible fruit. And does it not seem to you something of an anti-climax to find that all these thousands of words written down and filed, all this tremendous amount of notes which you have gathered over the long years, can be crammed into a few pages of written text and make sense and really tell what you do know, although it took such endless years to form and to develop the knowledge? But I do not think that the written text does tell totidem verbis of the labour of creation and that only those who can read between the lines and who have had similar experience do know and fully understand.

This is being written before the summary is ready. As I said, I have been working on another project and not had time to write it up yet. So that you will not see the April doings at Pimisi Bay, although I shall tell some of the events now. The report will be sent to Mrs Hanson and perhaps I shall do the review too when things get a little less hectic than they are just now. I am much considering giving up reviewing. It takes too much time. Nor do I think that this dividing yourself up into small parts is good, doing all kinds of things and nothing really thoroughly. My main task ahead is to get the woodpecker study written, now the field work is practically all done. And apart from that I should write the book on Pimisi Bay and the denizens of our forest. The years count, day folds into day, just like turning over of a page, and there will be less left at each sundown, the only regret being the work that is not done.

The trip going through Öresund, with Sweden on one side and Denmark on the other, all around the Falsterbo tip where the bird station is, up the east coast, past Öland and Gotland, and into the Finnish Gulf. There you will probably have all good weather and a still sea. I wish Len and I could have gone too -- but one should not wish for what cannot be had, when we have so much. It gives me a kind of nostalgia to know you going there, because I know and feel that you will see these sights and breathe this air with a greater capacity of enjoying and understanding it than ordinary voyageurs.

The time is drawing very close to your exciting departure and I shall be with you in thoughts. It will be such a wonderful experience for you both, I know, not the least the boat trip in lovely spring weather, I hope, going through the cool waters of the north.

Can you imagine that we have got the furniture. It was a very exciting day when it came. Len and I had prepared her room by taking the sofa down to the House on the Point. There it will serve as a good second bed instead of the other one we had there, that was awkward and

not very comfortable. We have two of the old chairs down there too, so that there is lots to sit on and lie down on down there. I think that the furniture is very good, It has a "cherry-maple" finish that tones perfectly with the old grandmother antiques. The design is good, moderately colonial, well finished, good workmanship, wooden arm-rests, spring cushions that one sits comfortably in without drowning, as one does on airfoam. The covering looks gay and blends rather well into the whole, the background being rather more wine-red when seen en masse than I thought it would be. So that it goes well with the rugs and also with the old chairs. The new sofa now stands opposite the fireplace with the big table with books and lamp at the back and it is light enough not to look clumsy there in the middle of the room. One armchair is by the SW window in the corner by the bookshelves and it is flanked on the other side of a small table by one of the grandmother chairs. The other armchair is on the other side of the fireplace. Perhaps you will come up for Labour Day weekend and see it for yourselves and bring us news from overseas. That would be wonderful. We made a very good deal with a new furniture store in North Bay, run by a rather nice Polish Jew who has not been very long in the country and who was entranced when he saw our place the time he came to settle the deal. In fact we never thought that we could afford to get just this furniture, which was ~~xxxxxx~~ the only kind that we really wanted after having investigated all Simpson's, Eaton's, and every other furniture store in North Bay. But Mr Metz knocked off 20 percent, why we still do not know. But all is paid for and it is ours forever.

Now I must prepare dinner and then go and fetch Len. Next weekend we take down the chimney in the kitchen and that will be a job. You will see a very different place when you come to visit us next after the Great Adventure. Thank you for the Monitors, I nearly forgot. I only wish that people who go into Russia would accept it as another world, the same as a chickadee is different from blue jays, make no comparisons and love them as they are, not as they would like to make them. All my love to you, from us both to you both,

Frank

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, Canada. June 15, 1958.

Dearest Doris: Thank you for your lovely little special letter about Mother. As always you hit upon just the right words that gave my thoughts food and direction. Adjustment - yes, that is the right word for what I must do now. And for Her, the Beloved one, all is well. All is so good as it could be, Doris. She went without knowing. At dinner the evening of June 2, she just sank together and never wakened. A few minutes later she was gone. Just an hour or so before she had written me the sweetest letter, so loving, so devoted, so bright, talking of her having gone to vote on the conservatives the day before, about de Gaulle and what this would mean to France. Most of all she spoke of how much she was looking forward to seeing my friend Doris, how she would invite you for lunch with her, how she wanted you to stay at the Villa Foresta hotel from where you had the most beautiful view of Stockholm. This letter I received five days after she was dead. It is like a legacy of love added to all her other legacies of love she has given me throughout our lives. Yes, you see that everything is very well indeed with my Mother.

I am not going over now. I am in close contact with the executor of her will who is an awfully nice man, a distant connection of ours, whose business for years has been to handle estates. We did not judge it wise for me to go over now as I am not necessary for the inventory and the journey is so costly. Perhaps I shall go over in September or perhaps next year. We feel that the estate must be settled first so that we know where we are at. I feel that she left me, above all, an inheritance of culture down from past generations in all that belonged to her and that she loved. And I must take special care in disposing of it, in using it, so that it will not get lost through me. I am sure that you will understand this in the special way I mean it. We must have time to think this over before we act.

I would have liked to know where you are going to be in Stockholm but you did not mention the hotel you were going to stay at in your letter. I would have liked to welcome you to my country in some way, by a letter or a cable. Just so that you would know I was with you, though not in person. The Göta Kanal trip is something very lovely, I know, I have gone part of it. I think that you will go through Bråviken with Kolmården on one side, a lovely mountain range with a white marmor quarry. When you look south from the quarry, which shines like a beacon in the sun, you will look into the bay of Svinesund. At its SW corner is the place where I was born; but the house will be nestling among the trees so that you will not see it. Along the shores is where we watched the Ruffs play and the Lapwings raise their young and the Crested Grebes nesting and carrying their young on their backs. I can see it in my mind's eye so vividly.

Thank you for your long letter written aboard the Grimsholm, such lovely details about all that happened and that, too, I can vividly imagine in my mind's eye. I have danced with Ove Sehested, the Danish ambassador, many times during the year I was "out" in Copenhagen. I do not know whom he married. I do not wonder at all at the courtesy shown you. You are a particularly attractive and gracious lady and the Swedes have a good eye for the "real stuff". What a lovely welcome you got at Helsingfors. I am thinking of you today at Lemsjöholm. Give my warmest greetings to Lars. He was born a baron. He is a true aristocrat and a brilliant intellect, wrapped up in one, a most unusual product of a fine land.

I had such a nice letter from Queenie who had heard the broadcast, at least part of it, and liked what I ~~have~~ said. Those who did hear it said that voice and enunciation were good, which is nice to know. Voice means much in a broadcast. I can well understand that it slipped your mind, for you must have been more than distracted those last days before the big journey.

I have got Dr Selye's book and am taking it down in big chunks. It is fascinating reading. He must be a very brilliant mind. It's somewhat alike to reading of Madame Cury and her great work of research, thrilling beyond measure. Those are truly great things in man's history. He should not defile them with abuse of his knowledge and the planet that bore him.

We have absolutely no birds. That is, hardly any. The cry is loud of the great scarcity of birds all over this continent. My silent forest is a forest as empty as the desert is bare. I thought at first that half of the usual complement of birds did not return. Now I think that 2 out of every 3 is missing of all migrants. The destruction along the coast of birds that battered themselves todeath on TV towers was frightening. All the south is being poisoned by the fire-ant toxicant controls. The weather, the destruction of habitats. If this goes on we shall see no more migrant birds in a comparatively short time. All that will be left will be non-migrants who will not run the imposible risks of those long journeys. And we shall see a great evolutionary change in the avifaunal world, due to our own predations, for the most part. The hawks that became protected have increased undoubtedly, judging from what we have observed here. How will they live without prey? How will the resident populations show their powers of resistence Will this be the end of the Starlings? I am only asking and thinking. I do not know the answers. All my love to you both, to you from us, Lorne

FIRST FOLD HERE — PLIEZ D'ABORD ICI

AEROGRAMME
AIR MAIL · PAR AVION

FINLAND

Mrs. J. Murray Speirs,
c/o Doc. Lars von Haartman
Zoologiska Institutet, Järnvägsgat. 13
HELSINKI
FINLAND

CANADA 10¢ POSTAGE POSTES

SECOND FOLD HERE — PLIEZ ENSUITE ICI

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — NOM ET ADRESSE DE L'ENVOYEUR

L. Lawrence,
Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen,
Ontario, Canada.

NO ENCLOSURE PERMITTED — NE RIEN INSÉRER

TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPEZ ICI

CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPEZ ICI

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, August 7, 1958.
Answered August 14

Dearest Doris:

This is a little note to welcome you both back to Canada after your long and wonderful adventure in far lands. I hope that you got my letter addressed to England? I have by far not been as good in writing as you have been and you have no idea how much I have appreciated your long and descriptive letters. Now I shall be most interested to know about your month in England, if you met Svardson and Fabricius, etc., etc. I hope that your home-coming will be as happy and satisfying as your departure was exciting. There is nothing like home, however wonderful all other places may be.

It has now been decided about my journey to Sweden. I fly over August 31 so that our planned week-end here will have to be postponed until some other time. I am sorry about that and awfully sorry I shall be away during all Len's month of holidays which he had saved up for September this year. But Len felt that it was necessary for me to go and settle everything. Quite all is not plain sailing due to the former brother-in-law; all very unnecessary fuss and disagreeable aftermath. Len also felt that the best time for me to leave was while he was able to be at home all the time and look after the home. I depart direct over Montreal-overseas, but on the return journey I have made plans for staying over one whole day with you Oct. 2 to 4, if a visit then would be convenient to you both? I simply cannot think of going a whole year without meeting you and hearing first hand of your overseas tour in toto. So that I hope that this will fit in with the plans that you may have at that time. Are you going to the AOU meeting Oct. 14-19?

I am appallingly behind with all my work because there have been so many distractions and interruptions and I have felt tired, no doubt because of much emotional strain. I have at long last answered by individual letters all who wrote and all who sent flowers and that list was long. Even if it does take time to answer like that, and not by these horrid impersonal cards; but I felt I wanted to be personal with all those good and kind people who loved Mother. I hope to see many of them. We are taking Mother's ashes to our plot near the place where I was born and I shall myself set the urn in my father's grave as she wished. I am so happy now that I shall be able to do that myself. My only remaining aunt, who is now nearly 90, has written the sweetest letters and invited me to stay with her at Allonö, a beautiful old estate where we spent so much of our childhood

days, not very far from Svensksund. It will be kind of nostalgic to visit these places and of my early life, that I have thought of ~~x~~ dreamt about but never seen for nearly 50 years. What is a lifetime? One may well ask.

July came to us here with a lot improved weather as compared with the awfully cold and wet June. At the moment we are having wonderful real summer, although it is getting quite dry so that our flowers wilt and we have to water at night. The Bannermans are in the House on the Point at the moment, but it is now a separate unit with its own refrigerator working fine, little kitchen nook, AND toilet which is really a dream in pale olive-green and brown. This works beautifully and no one interferes with the other, but we spend the evenings together and have parties for each other either here or down there. Really an ideal arrangement for long-period visitors. Margaret Marsh and Sylvia Hahn were supposed to come for a week in later August. I wrote the other day and asked that they would come as soon after August 16 as possible because of my departure. Have not heard. Yesterday we made an excursion to Kiosk in Algonquin Park. I had expected more beautiful and exciting country than we found it and birds certainly were very scarce, all except the Swallows which have apparently had a good nesting season despite the dearth of insects at the start and which were flocking on the hydro wires like black beads on a string in certain places. At the moment ~~black~~ chickadee parties are beginning to be noticeable in the early mornings here and there with their trains of warblers and vireos, meandering about feeding, going north and east and west, but not yet south. The feeding station is full of birds, three broods of Blue Jays taking up much room and filling the air with noises, some of the greyish-faced young still shivering wings and looking ridiculous every time a bald-headed parent in full moult comes near. Our only pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches furnished us with proof for a second time of their addiction to double-broodedness, in that they conducted two sets of fluffy fledglings to be presented at the feeding station, one in May and the other in July. It is an interesting fact that only those pairs which have become <u>resident</u> at Pimisi Bay, of which we have only had two, have shown positive proof of double-broodedness. Are we watching an evolution of behaviour? Another interesting visitor at our feeding station is our Raven, one of a family of 5, two adults and 3 young, who relishes the kitchen scraps I put out especially for it. You have no idea how much room <u>it</u> takes up

as it walks about with its Mae-West-swing -gait. But no one objects, not even the squirrels. The last ones are now busy hoarding cones from a fairly good coniferous crop and have got their faces all smeared with gum. The hares are our special delight this year. Our three-year-old doe appears now and again and comes to hand as soon as I go out and call her. There is some relation between these appearances and the birth of her litters. We have seen 3 generations grow up this summer, the last being represented by two delicious miniatures, both with white stars in the middle of their foreheads and a predilection for my parsley, grown on a 1'x 1' plot in a depression of the rock. I had to harvest it to save some of it in jars on window sills. Have I told you I got the new range? I think I did. It is continuing to be the best plaything I have ever had in all my life. How I cook! How I bake! You have no idea. We have not yet seen the hydro bill.

And so to end, with our most loving welcome back to us again from us to you,

as ever

Ronnie

Look, the pen! It is a peach.
Jean likes having a mad absorbing
time with Selye. He
is a superlatively brilliant
man.

Love again!

The Summaries Jean -
July will be coming before
I leave - I hope

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, August 25, 1958.

Dearest Doris:

You have been more than marvellously good in writing to me during your long and interesting journey. I feel very strongly how much and lovingly you have thought of me during this time and my heart's warmest appreciation and gratitude for your love and friendship. Your letters have been a source of thrilling interest and enjoyment, all of them, and of satisfaction and endearment. I am indeed a very privileged person to have such a close almost sister as you. Now I am so glad that my coming in October is suitable to the Cobble Hill household. According to my schedule, I shall be arriving on Flight 341 from Montreal at 9.05 a.m./ Oct. 2, I hope that will not be too early for you, but it will give us almost a whole day extra apart from Oct. 3. I do hope that it will not interfere with the MNOC meeting which usually falls on the first Thursday of the month, doesn't it? I also hope that it will not tire you too much. If I could betake myself to some point closer to you that would make it easier for you, do let me know.

I think that it would be a great disappointment to Len if I did not return home when planned on Oct. 4 and I know that you will understand. We have come still closer to each other now since darling Mother is no more. Also it is more difficult for him to stay alone after he begins work again after the holiday. I must be there to care for my beloved. From that point of view the planning of this journey went exceedingly well, the time of separation will go very fast, both being busy with important matters of the common welfare, Len with the house, I with the inheritance. I still do not know how to plan everything, what to do with all the things. It seems impossible until I get there. My dear cousin who visited us two years ago while he was working for the UN in Jamaica and his very efficient wife have promised all help. Not only that, they have postponed a vacation trip to Italy to stay with me until Sept, 20. I was touched by this kindness and ceased feeling lost when I heard of it. They have been simply marvellous to me all this time. If my darling sister had been alive, it would have been the loveliest thing to settle this estate for the two of us together. But I shall try to be very poised, very firm, very just and kind in my thoughts. Difficulties often lie in unfortunate wordings, when a simpler form or expression would

have avoided all that. Perhaps it will be simpler then I think, once I get there to confront the whole situation.

I am so glad that you are going to the AOU meeting. It is good to keep the contact with the ornithological world as carefully as you do. I am planning to be very much present at the Wilson meeting next spring and I shall give a paper on the woodpeckers. I have also taken a momentous decision. I shall do no more reviewing, no more recoding, no more summaries. I shall devote all my time to writing, to work out my woodpecker study first and foremost and then to write another book on the birdlife at Pimisi Bay as I have seen it. Sylvia Hahn will be the illustrator. I feel that I must henceforth deliver myself from all other pressure and make myself free for the writing of what I have seen and heard and studied in all these years. I think that it will take up the rest of my life. It is high time I do this without remorse or regret. One must go on and on, follow the rhythms.

I have not bothered Lars by writing him letters which he would feel he had to answer. He has been much too busy all this summer and all this year, I have felt. But you told me about his going to BC and isn't that a wonderful thing for him. I shall not be able to get to Finland this time, and Lars would hardly be there anyway at this time. But Len and I are distantly planning a real trip to Scandinavia by boat, a long and restful sea voyage together some day after Len retires and we can both be at leisure and we can have somebody dependable to stay here while we are away for 3 or 4 months. I feel it in my bones that we shall have that journey some day Len and I, when we shall have time for everything and everybody of all the great Flach family and Lars and Lemsjoholm too and all the cousins in Denmark. The only person this time that I shall go all out to see is Svärdson. I hope he got that job at the Riksmuseum and it will be easy. You did not see him, did you?

Sylvia and Margaret just left this morning. They had not extra good weather but I think that they enjoyed themselves all the same. They were constantly out in the canoe, climbing around the cliffs, painting masterpieces and "unmasterpieces", in the last of which Margaret thought she excelled. Never have we and all the animals been

so photographed, and all and sundry obliged with most natural poses, even the Old Doe, the snowshoe hare that eats from the hand and comes as you call. I sat for the portrait, but I am afraid that Sylvia thought she did not succeeed with it very well. There is a likeness but not a very great likeness. It is the model's fault I am afraid. I was so dead tired after the Barrowman visit which had lasted two weeks and they would not go to bed at night and I simply cannot stand a never-ending day into the late hours and then up again before dawn. The first three days I could not keep my eyes open during the sittings and naturally it is hard for an artist to get life into a somnambulist. So she got a wrong start, which seems to be a very difficult thing to correct. The same happens quite often in the writing too. We were both charmed by Sylvia. She has something elfish Peter Pan-ish that makes you love her. For a whole afternoon I sat behind her out near the dam and watched her paint a lovely scene with blank water, trees, and one waterlily swimming in its own reflection. It was an experience to watch her work. Her greatest cleverness lies in design, in the drawing of the line. How sure she is! How altogether true! She is naturally modest and only the true and great artist can be that, I think. Margaret Marsh is one of those very few people who wear exceedingly well. Her sense of humour, her very great sincerity, her lovely face, she has very great assets. It has been a lovely week for us with these two awfully nice Nicers. We love them both.

Must end now and this will probably be my last to you before the journey. How I shall be able to get the summaries done, I do not know. The June and July ones are half prepared. I shall try my best anyway and in case of success you will get them less letter later. Much, much love to you both from us,

Lovingly

Lucy Maud

(Mrs Ewan)

Answered Sept. 9

SHERATON–MT. ROYAL HOTEL
MONTREAL, CANADA

Sept 1. 1958

Dearest Doris,

I shall write just as long as the ink in my beautiful new "Doris" pen holds out to tell you the adventures today that I have experienced on this amazing journey. First let me inquire about you. How did you get through yesterday's hail storm of which I read in the paper today and the wrath of which I too experienced. It hit just as our plane came in for a landing at Malton. We were pretty shaken up, first time I have ever really needed the safety belt. They would not let us alone, but diverted the flights to Trenton

SHERATON–MT. ROYAL HOTEL
MONTREAL, CANADA

where we stayed for 2 hours in the Officers mess. When we took off as long last after the storm passed eastwards, there was a large flock of Ring-bills right on our very fore-way. I had visions of feathered bodies flying in all directions, but in some miraculous way we slipped over and above them with no calamities whatever. How we could lift the metal bird in so short a distance is beyond me.

Returning to Toronto, I made almost direct connections out to Montreal. The passenger agent who handled this matter suddenly said: "I have read and liked your letters from your flights to Sweden in the newspapers.

He was a nice young man who belonged to the Toronto Field Nats. Funny was it is! Now I have been stranded here in Montreal since last night. They won't let us up until 4 p.m. it is now said. Flight has been postponed four times. Apparently the skies are not safe. We are very comfortable with food and hotel room found. The TCA is tops. They even sent a cable for me to Sweden to inform of the delay. Today I took a long walk up on top of Mount Royal. Thought there might be some migrants coming through on the cold wave. Not a one. List: 2 crows, 1 Starling, 4 grey squirrels.

There is a "heirs' meeting" tomorrow at 2 p.m. Jakob likely not be there.

and what they can do without me I do not know. I shall be poised, hold my horses in ~~Hitch~~ Tight, disallow, i.e. not permit, greed to reign and Mother's will be done. Hope I can keep all these good resolutions. May not be easy under our particular circumstance, but it is worth a good try. No fun with things that go too easy. I am awake, much looking forward to my visit with you. Hope storms will not interfere too much then. You will hear from me again. All love

Louise

SUNDAY September 7, 1958

Dearest Doris, Just a wee word to
tell you that the important meeting
of the heirs for the signing of the
settlement of the estate went off
in all peace and concord - as by
a miracle. Our homme d'affaires
is a very splendid person and I think
this miracle happened thanks to his
adroit and diplomatic "underground"
work. There were no discords. It was
exactly as Mother would have wanted
it. I am now doing the great work
of sorting out everything. It is dreadfully
hard to make the decisions as to what
all is done justly and satisfactorily.
I have a free hand with the giving of
gifts and objects of remembrances
and it is a soul-uplifting thing to think
out what would please this one and
that one of Mother's many many dear
friends. The weather is treacherous
but I have hardly been out. This must
be done first. That is why I am here.
I have heard a few Mockbirds Tuesday
morning go to bed in the trees near a church
their little Thrush notes. I have seen

Sunday Sept 7, 1958

Dearest Doris, Just a wee word to tell you that the important meeting of the heirs to the signing of the settlement of the estate went off in all peace and concord - as by a miracle. Our homme d'affaires is a very splendid person and I think this miracle happened thanks to his adroit and diplomatic "under ground" work. There were no discords. It was exactly as Mother would have wanted it. Jean now doing the great work of sorting out everything. It is dreadful hard to make the decisions so that all is done justly and satisfactorily I have a free hand with the giving of gifts and objects of remembrances and it is a soul-uplifting thing to think out what would please this one and that one of Mother's many many dear friends. The weather is treacherous but I have hardly been out. This must be done first. That is why Jean has. I have heard a few Mockbirds Tuesday Tuesday go to bed in his room a whole

Then I go to my cousins estate in Denmark for a rest of about a week. And then back to Canada and you and my beloved in the Log house. All is very well. I go about and cry a little bit here and there as I meet up with the memories & but else and I am at peace. Love to take Lois

ÖPPNAS HÄR · OPEN HERE · OUVREZ ICI · HIER ÖFFNEN

AEROGRAM

FLYGPOST PAR AVION

7.9.58 22-23

7.9.58 22-23

SVERIGE 40

Mrs Doris Anastasia Speirs
Cobble Hill, R.R. No. 2
Pickering, Ontario
Canada

Klara Jungbergat. 50
Stockholm, Sweden

AVSÄNDARE
SENDER
EXPÉDITEUR
ABSENDER

FLYGBEFORDRAS ÖVER HELA VÄRLDEN UTAN TILLÄGGSAVGIFT. BEFORDRAS ICKE SOM AEROGRAM, OM NÅGOT LÄGGES INUTI.

GODKÄNT AV KUNGL. GENERALPOSTSTYRELSEN

Thank you for your letter. Today was the 5th day since I left Stockholm. I am now in Malmö and will be here for a week. Then I go to Copenhagen. Then I will have been away 15 – 21 days. I am sorry that I have not written more often. Please

Then I go to my cousin's estate in Denmark for a rest of about a week. And then back to Canada and you and my beloved in the Lord home. All is very well. I go about and cry a little bit here and there as I rest up with the memories of her life and I have at peace. Love to both of you

AEROGRAM

FLYGPOST PAR AVION

SVERIGE 40

7.9.23 10-23

7.9.23 22-23

Canada

Mrs Doris Travis Spears
Cobble Hill, P.R. No. 2
Pickering, Ontario
Canada

AVSÄNDARE
SENDER
EXPÉDITEUR
ABSENDER

Klara Lundquist. 50
Skeckholm, Sweden

FLYGBEFORDRAS ÖVER HELA VÄRLDEN UTAN TILLÄGGSAVGIFT. BEFORDRAS ICKE SOM AEROGRAM, OM NÅGOT LÄGGES INUTI.

GODKÄNT AV KUNGL. GENERALPOSTSTYRELSEN

Klara Lundquist, Nybro

Klara Lundquist. 50
Skeckholm. Sweden

Mrs Doris Travis Spears
Cobble Hill. P.R. No. 2
Pickering. Ontario
Canada

Dear Doris and Spears. Today I am 50 years old. I received a letter from Elsie and Elma in the church yesterday and a telegram from Elsie. Then I will have been away 15 - 21 days to see some fine people. Then I go to my cousin's estate in Denmark for a rest of about a week. And then back to Canada and you and my beloved in the Lord home. All is very well. I go about and cry a little bit here and there as I rest up with the memories of her life and I have at peace. Love to both of you

Answered Oct 24.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, October 20, 1958.

Dearest Doris:

A little note today which I hope will reach you just after your return from the AOU meeting. I hope that you had a wonderful time and that you will tell me all about it by and by. Was Margaret there?

Thank you for your sweet letter of the 12th, as well as all the trouble you had over the suitcase, not the least of which was the telephone call. I did love to hear your voice too, as if in the next room. But I do think that business calls should be paid by him whose business was transacted by it. However, perhaps I can do your business some day in the same nice way and, meanwhile, a hug and a kiss for all you did. Very shortly afterwards the suitcase found itself at the North Bay Customs where my friend took care of it. A few days later I brought it home and Len received all his presents for which he was duly happy and contented. I also found in it the book I had brought over for Sylvia and am sending it off to her today. I do not know if she reads French. It is Rolland's book on Michelangelo.

I went up to see Doctor Bowers on Friday because my condition was not very satisfactory despite a week, almost, in bed. He discovered that I had contracted a good dose of sinusitis as a result of flying with a head cold. It helped greatly on the morale to know exactly what was what and now "harmony" is being regained, step by step. I know it will take some time and Len is an angel of patience, so that all is very well indeed.

On my return home I found an invitation to give a talk at the Deep River Science Club, all expenses paid and a conducted tour of the Chalk River plant thrown in. I have accepted, on Len's advice, and I am going to talk on Birds of my Forest, much the same theme as I used at the Buffalo Clubs. The date is March 12, 1959, and as I shall be in the midst of the woodpeckers at that time, the preparation for the talk should not be either too difficult nor time-consuming.

The proof-reading of the chickadee paper was really quite amazing. Pages and pages of MS without signs of editing. I hardly believed my eyes as I had expected a tremendous lot of alterations. I have ordered 100 reprints, so there will be one coming for your library and one for the MNOC. I know it will be the same with your Bent contribution, such beautiful, beautiful work you did.

Our forest too is glowing and I can hardly remember the leaves remaining on the trees for so long. We have very little use for the new oil heater, although it functions to perfection, Len having done such a marvellous job installing it. We are beginning to look for the furniture this week and it will be very exciting when it comes. I can still not imagine how that tremendous-sized "lift" will ever get here, all in one piece. Our agent is very encouraging. He says for me not to worry, he will see to everything. I am still worrying.

We have had hundreds and hundreds of Redwings in the reeds up to October 17; so noisy they were that even I could hear them. Last night at dusk a flock of Geese came over and appeared to go down on Talon Lake, where they probably had to run the gamut of guns, poor things. There are many Blue Jays at out feeding station, several new migrants among them as well as resident old birds. The usual complement of Hairies are mistreating our houses when lard pudding and suet run low. Chickadees there are too, but not many, a few Brown Creepers. The last of the White-throats and Songs have left and yesterday a few Juncos came meandering through the premises. Ducks are not many, but there are a few just arrived from the far north. These are an awful temptation for the trigger-happy guys in passing.

Much, much love from us to you both, a little letter must go off to Margaret too today.

Lovingly ever

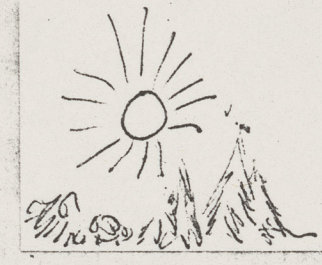
Lovie

Dear Murray:

Here is a little cocoanut feeder like we have. We thought that your chickadees might like it. As mentioned, we put peanutbutter in top part and sunflower seeds in bottom .

With all our best wishes,

Len and Lorna



Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, January 14, 1958.

Dearest Doris:

Here is a big package of things which I shall come to in the course of this letter, but first I must thank you for a letter from you written December 30 and thank-you to Murray for one written December 31. I have also to thank you for one or two copies of the Monitor, containing articles on Russia. Some of them brought back a lot of memories, an essence which no one who has not really been touched by the spirit of Russia can ever quite experience. I am so glad that you liked the little shawl. When I packed it I did not have the steam iron which Len gave me for Christmas. I did not dare press it with an ordinary iron, lest it would flatten the whole puff-puff of it. Perhaps you will be able to do it, perhaps it does not need it. The pattern is extraordinarily simple for so intricate a result and I loved doing the whole thing, knowing you wanted it and would appreciate it. There is a good loving thought worked into every stitch.

Thank you for the census record. Results seem to have been unstartling everywhere. The club at North Bay, with a very big effort, got a very small list. Mine was average with no outstanding features as in the last few years, as you will find when you look at the end of Summary. I would have liked to get the Shrike in, but I did not see a one that day. Of course, Murray knows that he has a tab on the Summary for what he can glean from it for his worth while Worth Noting. The feeding station, as usual, is the most interesting place in all the neighbourhoods. The 8 Gray Jays are quite a crowd and if they cannot oblige with a discoverable nest this year, it would be disappointning. I thought the pairing of the Brown Creepers interesting. I did not know before that this might happen before nesting time. I have had no earlier evidence of it and, of course, we have not seen Durango's life history study of the species yet. Do you know of any previous report from anyone anywhere of such findings? I was much interested in Murray's comments on the Sharp-shins and Cooper's. My birds also "freeze" for Sharp-shins and also very definitely for the Shrike, but they "mobbed" the little Richardson's Owl. The Redpolls mobbed the Shrike. Was that because it sat in the open that time in full view and the small birds had the advantage of being a crowd? Danger was slight. Our chickadees sometimes, before they get used to them, react to the flight of a Gray Jay by crying alarm and dashing for shelter. I mean that they react in this way only when the jay is in flight, not when perched, when they apparently recognize it for the

comparatively harmless thing it is. They react also for the flying shadow of the jay. Apparently its shape, long tail, short head, dark, together with the quality of the flight, silent, owl-like, are what cause the small birds to make this mistake. But why should Sharp-shins and Shrikes cause the freezing reaction and not the dash-for-cover move? Is it because these two hunt by detecting the movement of small things and the frozen small thing eliminates the sign-stimulus? Cooper's also looks for movement, but your small birds reacted to it as to man. Scolding and dashing for shelter - no freeze, both too large? "I dash to cover," says the birdie, "and I am safe for you cannot go where I can. And once I see you first, which is easy out of the corner of my sharp eye because you are large and frightening, your chance of catching me is practically gone. Of this I chant and cheep and behave like mad!" What do you think?

I had the loveliest long, imagine, letter from Svärdson. He will be delighted to meet "paret" Speirs and to show you what he can of Stockholm and of course the laboratory at Drottningholm. He knows Murray's work well with the lampreys. However, he does not know if he will be able to get to the congress at Helsinki, because he has just reached a momentous crossroad in his career. He has applied for the post of Professor of the Department of Vertebrates at the Riksmuséet (Swedens National Museum) and has apparently a good chance of succeeding. This affair of the final choice will be brewing all through the spring, until the Order in Council is finally passed in July. This, he says, will naturally cramp his style considerably in some respects, as well as an engagement he has of lecturing in England some time in July. But he still has hopes that he will get to Helsinki and meet you there and then for with later in Stockholm. So now you know the situation. The one thing will bring about another and Lars will see to it that you meet all that can help you. I have no doubt that you will have a marvellous time and they will all love you. And you will be delighted with Svärdson, above all, for he is special, and with Fabricius and Durango, whom you will meet, I am sure.

I have discovered from my records that we had a "green" Christmas in 1949. That one lasted only three days, whereas this one lasted 9 days. It was interesting with the hares sitting so tight while the ground was bare. You could almost step on them before they moved. The 32 shot at Mattawa were all used for food by a family who has difficulty getting ends to

meet. And the slaughter was not done during the critical bare period, the prey had a little bit of a chance. What is your reaction to the Lands and Forest's new aggressiveness against wolves? I am extremely negatively impressed.

The bulky thing in this envelope is a draft of the skunk story. I would appreciate your reading it critically and then telling me what you like and what you do not like in it. I think it can be polished a great deal more, certainly the English, perhaps also the composition, some more detail here, a little less there, perhaps. But I would like very much to hear your reactions before I start working on the final version, in which I want also to incorporate a few good suggestions that Len made. Can both you and Murray spare me a little time for it? Please make your suggestions on the back of the page to which they refer, best in ink so that they do not vanish.

Len started to make a special shelf for the Check-list. He ended by creating three. On one of these the Check-list has its being together with a row of Petersons right at my very elbow. A score of times I have already referred ~~it~~ to it. It is an invaluable asset.

For the moment I am enthralled with Karl von Frisch's The Dancing Bees. Hereafter I shall gaze upon a bee with a vastly changed outlook, even without having to acquire the ultra violet sight. In one place, discussing the bee's ability to discriminate colours and her sensation at the sight of them, he terminates the paragraph with these words: "For no man's eye has ever looked into another's mind." There are countless little sagacities like this dropped into the text, which have delighted me, apart from the utterly fascinating story of his research into the life of the Bee, Have you read it?

This now is the end of this letter. Love to you both from us,

Louise

Mrs Hunt is doing extraordinarily well to everybody's delight. She is moving towards her 85th birthday Feb. 5.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, February 5, 1958

Dearest Doris: (Darling Mother's 85th birthday)

What a magnificent letter I got from you, the best and most substantial one for a very long while. The loveliest token of your warm and constant (almost) thinking of me, which I accept and appreciate with the heartiest reciprocal feelings. And now to answer it.

We are so glad that Murray (and you) liked the little cocoanut. For a long time I had been worying about Murray not having got any kind of Christmas present this year. Len said: "Let's make a cocoanut feeder!" Splendid idea! So I chose it at our "super market" at Mattawa and Len made it and there you are. The small fry like it, don't they? I love to see our wee chickadees with frost in the whiskers of a below zero morning, all fluffed up and with crooked tails from the night's roosting pose, huddling on the warm edge of the cocoanut and a roof over their heads in cosiest comfort. For the cocoanut is warm after having been indoors all night and the peanut butter is soft and it is nice to sit on food that can be had just for the pecking. We might make you another one for next Christmas.

Thank you for your good wishes for the birthday. The exact date is January 30, the same as Roosevelt's, the death of Gandhi, and perhaps many other important events besides the incipient breath of this humble person. Murray has once told me the exact date of yours, isn't it October 18? I remember it ahead of time, then forget at the precise moment, when is the great day?

I am glad that you like Slippers. Mr. Cameron was very lavish in his praise, but don't you believe it turned my head. On the contrary, reading it through again after an interval of no-see, a lot of shortcomings stared me in the eye. It needs much polishing still, I do not like the beginning, there could be more and better details here and there, and, above all, much smoother-running style in many paragraphs. It will be interesting to see your suggestions.

Thank you for the Bent quotation on the Creepers, which I could well have unearthed myself, had I thought of looking. Silly! But it is interesting to see, again and again, how the close relationship of birds reflects in their behaviour. With greater knowledge, study may lead to still better classification of some species.

Mr. Cameron was telling me that a Porcupine that lived with him for 2 months never raised its quills. He said that from the zoological viewpoint the Slipper

article required no changes, which remark I found extremely gratifying.

To return to the Creepers, they could not get in and roost under the porch any more. Len put on a marvellous door with a window last fall, so that it is now like a miniature vestibule. Makes a lot of difference to the drafts through the door of the sunroom. But they might sit on the ledges of the front porch, might they not!

Ihave searched high and low for my October Bird-Banding. Cannot find it. They usually send me two copies, reward for reviews. How interesting that you met Lars' sister and how very exciting about your Art Gallery commission. You will <u>feel</u> Finland all right. You cannot escape feeling it, the impact is so strong, in the air, in the clarity and purity of its atmosphere, harsh, strong, beautiful, unadulterated, and so real that it is as if the Finns constantly carried life in their bare hands, without gloves,like we do. I am sure that you will have no difficulty in finding what you want, except perhaps an embarras de richesse. It is very wise to pass up the official fieldtrips. They are strenuous, because they last with the sun. The Leningrad plans are stupendous, to say the least. But if you go there for only one day, you might as well not go at all. You will see nothing, hear nothing, feel nothing. But if you go for more than one day, you may sniff a smell and see a sight and perhaps get a feeling at even so small a touch,that there,in that vast and amazing land, lives a humanity perhaps not so far removed from ours, perhaps fundamentally not so different from ours, with a lot less than we have in some ways and a lot, a lot,more in other ways. Leningrad is the most majestic city I know. I adore it. New York is nothing beside it. It has b r e a d t h. You will find the breadth in the slow-flowing river Neva and in the proportions. Go to the low blood-red Winter Palace, that I searched for for days without realizing I had seen it, because it is not impressive like a fairy castle. Go to the Kazan Sabor which you cannot miss right on the Newski Prospect, the long broad street that runs from the Neva to the Leningradski ~~Vogzal~~ Vogzal (Station) and beyond to Smolensky Lavri whic and now has another name which I cannot ~~now~~ remember. The Kazanski Sabor is built like St Peter's in Rome with semi-circular colonnades. I lived for a while just behind the catherdral in one of those little streets. Walk on the Nabersjnaja along the Neva and you will see the Peter-Paul Fortress facing you and that enormous river and you will know that here lived

Tchaikovsky's Pigovaja Dama (the Queen of Spade). And, oh, there is so much, go into the cathedral, the doors were always open in my time 40 years ago, and the incense and the smoke of the candles will give you a sniff of one of Russia's fundamental odours. And look at the new, so much of which I never saw, but/birthpains of which I lived through in part. That too is a reality, something of that which Hammarskjöld calls "the price of an evolution". If you can come out of Russia without your heart beating quicker and your head full of thought-provoking sensations, you might as well not have gone in there at all. I love Russia, as I love Sweden, and as I love Canada, each for the very essence of which they consist, powerful and strong of character, incomparable, each for itself alone, and I belong to all, from the past, into the present, and beyond into the future.

I am sending you this little book written by Dag Hammarskjöld. In my opinion it is a masterpiece of subtle thought and literary taste. The motto(which you may read inside the laurel wreath on the cover)of the Swedish Academy,where Hammarskjöld recently took his father's seat,is: "Genius and Taste." Mother sent the book to me for my birthday, well aware of my admiration for D.H. and I thought that now,when you are going to sniff the smells of Sweden, this would be a good introduction and you might like to read it. Please return.

Would you like me to write to Fabricius and Durango? You are sure to see Fabricius most probably at the Congress, possibly also at the Sötvattenslaboratoriet at Drottningholm, if he is not on his holidays. I do hope that you will be able to see his chars or perhaps some other as wonderful evidence of his amazing work. I think that your meeting is probably fated to happen somewhere, sometime, on that trip. Not so with Durango perhaps. In July, worse luck, he and his family will in all likelihood be away somewhere doing fieldwork. He is a high school teacher and may not have the leisure to go to Finland at that time. I can write and find out.

All here is well. I have not checked on the Gray Jays by banding and there may be more of them than I think. A lot of chasing is going on when the members of a pair and what seems to be an "odd" unbanded bird meet up at the feeding sticks. The pairs keep very close to one another, but they are not courtship-feeding as the Blue Jays may start doing any day, if they have not already, me unbeknowest. Back in December, no, in late November

even, the first drumming of the Hairies was heard, a whisper of a drumming only, a first essay of the music to come. These woodpeckers are now very conscious of territory and there the pair of last year is found often, if they have survived, together as of yore, displaying, hitching up- up-up, pointing, flapping their wings, and crying ee-yick, yick-yick- yick, yicki-yicki-yicki, well you know all the variations, chasing any other Hairy that dares intrude. A pair whose territory straddled the main woodpecker highway to the feeding station for a few years were in action almost constantly all day long with hardly ever a peaceful minute to themselves. The reproductive sensations of the Downies are still dormant and will so remain until the end of March. On January 17 I heard the first lovely little Chickadee song eeee-lulu, the first song caught by my ears, too late, too late, to be the first of the season, which in all likelihood was sung already in the end of December or very early on the new year.

Must end now and get down to my banding records. If you had not mentioned them, I would have left them until May. Love to both from us,

Louise

P.S. Len wants a new sofa and chairs in the living room. Do you think that some good maple dittos would fit? There must be no padding on the arms and the sofa should be possible to sleep on in case of emergency. Len has a yearning to do away with the "makeshifts" and finally have a home with "real" things in it. We are about to prepare for oil heating for next year, which is a very momentous decision and business. We are planning on a good space heater, designed to cope with all our 5 000 cubic feet, when the bedroom is built, and an electric range, involving the elimination of more than one source of fuel to be toted in from the garage. The coal does not give the even heat that this house requires to keep comfortable in all weathers.

P.P.S.S. What do you think of the re-vamped Preview? Is it not a P E A C H! My house is full of music from 6 a.m. onwards, sound so voluminous at times that the roofs of the loghouse can be imagined sighing with delight.

January 24, 1958.

Dear Louise:

I would like to be able to spend the whole day with you, as there are so many items of interst to tell you. I am sorry to have been late in offering you my best wishes for your birthday. The actual date has escaped me, so when you write next will you let me make a note of it in my old birthday book of school days, before I forget it again? So remember to give me the date when you write. You and Barbara are both January girls--a nice month to be born in because the days are already getting longer and there is more light to enjoy each day. Lawren Harris the artist has told me that he cannot do creative work at all towards the end of the year. But when January comes he feels the creative urge again very strongly. He is a theosophist and although I do not know very much about that belief, I know that its adherents are sensitive to times of year and have their own mental concepts of photperiodicity.

Murray and I have been delighted with tye story of Slippers. We both chuckled and felt gulpy over it. I read it aloud to Murray as soon as it came and I believe he wrote to you soon thereafter. As soon as a free time evolves we shall go over it all very carefully and write down any suggestions that come to us. Because of the need to get our banding data to Ottawa this month and because of other urgent matters (Murray has been deep in BULLETIN business) we are not getting the MS back to you as quickly as we should have done. Bear with us a little longer, because we don't want to hufty over it.

We are also grateful for the Bird and Mammal Summary from Pimisi Bay. Murray is gleaning from it for the "Worth Noting" column and I shall be taking it to the next MNOC Meeting. (This is to be at Irma's and she is going to take us to see the Hawk Owl still in her district.)

Your letter of January 14 was full of interest. We thought that your Christmas bird count was good and especially when you could'nt walk across the lake as usually done. To have 8 Gray Jays is in itself phenomenal. Perhaps this will not happen again in another 10 years.

You will be finding the steam iron indispensable. Murray gave me one for my birthday a few years ago because at that time I had been going to Mother's to do any special ironing as she had a steam iron. I am delighted with mine. The beautiful blue angora scarf does not need pressing really. I would not want to take any of the "puff-puff" out of it. I am wearing it each day with my grey Chinese kid coat and the color of the blue with the grey is a joy. And the scarf is so warm and snug in the coldest weather. Thank you again for it and the loving thoughts that went into the knitting of it.

The little coconut feeder is a great success. It hangs at eye level right outside the kitchen window beyond the feeding ledge and not in its way. Squirrels have not paid any attention to it so the supply of peanut butter on the upper half of the bell is lasting quite remarkably long, despite the fact that chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers are all enjoying it. The sunflower seeds on the lower half do not last long at all, as a continual succession of chickadees help themselves all through the day. So it is being filled and refilled. We enjoyed the little sprig of cedar which came with your card and brought a bit of Pimisi Bay enchantment with it.

Concerning your question about previous reports of the pairing of the Brown Creeper in the winter, I have found this in BENT's Life History study (Bull. 195:65):

Mrs. A. L. Wheeler (1933) reports the roosting of creepers on the porch of her house. She says: "For the last two winters I have been having some Brown Creepers clinging to the rough stucco in the entrance of our front door. Last winter there were two of them. They came about 4 o'clock, seldom later; they would fly to the bottom, then climb to the top, and 'snuggle' close together in the corner. I put protection near to keep the cold wind off them, but they would not

come near until I removed it. They paid no attention to persons passing through the door, although they were within easy reach."

C O P Y

I wonder where your little pair are spending the nights? Better examine your entrance!

How good that you heard from Svärdson and so kind of you to write him about us and our visit to Finland and Sweden. If he is unable to get to the Congress than we shall look him up when we get to Stockholm. Especially we want to meet him. Also Murray is very anxious to meet Fabricius and Durango--all juts famous names to us at present. I just came across William H. Drury's fine article in the October, 1957 issue of BIRD-BANDING yesterday. (When the magazine came, I read your interesting reviews and Margaret's and little else at the time. It was intensely interesting to us to read about the work being done in Finland, some of which we knew of course from Lars' lectures at the AOU and Toronto University. Dr. Drury speaks so highly of Lars' work and apparently stayed at Lemsjoholm and describes the estate. He was greatly impressed with the high calibre of the Finnish ornithological work and thought that America could learn a great deal from Finland.

When in Ottawa in the New Year, I had luncheon at the Chateau Laurier with Lars' sister, Mrs. Sigurd von Numers. She is a delightful person--very tall as is Lars, very natural and of a happy temperament. She thinks that Lars worries far too much--about the estate and its management, succession duties to be paid to the state, etc. She said "his head is in the clouds" and it is very hard for him to have to think about agriculture, etc. She was over there all last summer trying to help him and hated to leave him with many problems still unsolved. She is so pleased that we are going over; also that Lars has the Congress which is taking up so much of his time just now that he has little time left in which to worry. She seems like a most sensible woman, and we had such a happy time together. She has written me charmingly since, and has sent from the Finnish Legation three lovely books: "Art in Finland", "Facts about Finland" and a large art journal called "Ornamo" in Finnish Decorative Art.

The National Gallery at Ottawa and the Toronto Art Gallery have asked me to select 60 paintings in Finland to be shown in a Finnish exhibition in Ottawa and Toronto in the fall of 1959. The von Numers are going to give me all the help that they can and already have given me names of those whom I can consult and told me about artists of top rank. Lars also will help no doubt if he has any free time which I rather doubt with the Congress on his hands. I have not written to him yet about this new job of mine. Martin Baldwin of the Toronto Art Gallery (its Director) would like me to select 10 paintings by 6 living artists--so that Canadians can get to know the work of these six through seeing a representative number of their paintings. Alan Jarvis, Director of the National Gallery has given me an absolutely free hand to select what I think would be best. The National Gallery will make all the arrangements and bring the pictures over. They may tour from coast to coast. I am hoping that Finland will want a reciprocal collection from Canada, and this is what will probably occur.

What I would like to do is to feel out the country artistically and select pictures that feel like Finland--so that a visit to the Finnish exhibition would be a little like a visit to Finland. There is in Jan Sibelius' music the many moods of Finland--the sombre grandeur, the deep shadows, the sudden touches of sun, the intense beauty. It is a land of striking contrasts: there is roughness nad hardness; there is a fragile sensitivity. I want to see the work of Helena Schjerfbeck and Pekka Halonen--and of paintings both old and new. We shall be renting a car as soon as we get to Helsingfors, and after the Congress is over shall be able to visit the various art galleries and private collections and studios as Murray feels that the official field trips will be far too strenuous for me (sometimes they walk many miles as you know, over rough terrain and think nothing of it), we expect to see just about as many birds on our own, as we visit the various parts of the country on a birding-art-finding tour. It will all be fascinating. We may stay in Finland through all of June. We may get up to Lapland.

There is just a chance, if we can get the right official papers, that we shall go by bus from Helsingfors to Leningrad. Just for overnight, perhaps. Would'nt that be exciting? I have purchased at Eatons a little language guide. This shows tiny pictures of many things you might want and has phrases in English, Swedish, Finnish and Russian to which you can point if in Sweden, Finland or Russia and yoh would'nt need to say a word. It looks after one's needs in every way when travelling--what you should say, what they would reply, etc. With this book in my hand I would not be afraid to tackle Leningrad.

P. S. At 10:15 this morning I looked out the livingroom window at the snow falling gently over the greyed landscape. Suddenly my heart almost stopped iwth joy for there was a Red Fox runinging across the lower field. His coloring was of a warmer bronw than the color of the weeds above the snow. He was long and lithe; running as a dog might run when on a special mission. With a rare grace (and thank heaven no cars were coming) he bounded across the road and up the bank over the frozen creek; and so to the Lawton's big field. The last time I saw a fox it was from the same window. At that time he was hurrying across the lower field but travelling eastward not westward. The bounded up our band not up the Lawton's and streaked across to the woods. Today he had come out of the woods and was going westward. Sheba has been begging to go out at night recently and makes for the woods. Has she made friends with the fox? I remember at Dorion how she would beg to go out when we suspected she had made friends with the bear.

MNOC (with my love)

JANUARY 1958 — SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence,
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No data Jan. 7. Of the remaining days, 17 were mainly cloudy and 13 clear. On 20 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 10 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 11.5 °F. Warm fronts crossed the region Jan. 5, 10, 12, 25, and cold fronts Jan. 1, 6, 11, 31. A cold spell occurred Jan. 2-4 and a warm spell Jan. 25-31. The maximum temperature of the month, 38° F., was registered on Jan. 26, the minimum, 18° below zero F., on Jan. 3. The thickest cover of snow measured 8 inches on Jan 31 and the thinnest, 4½ inches, on Jan. 6.

Feeding Station: Hairy Woodpecker, 7 M, 13 F; Downy Woodpecker, 3 M, 3 F; Gray Jay, 8; Blue Jay, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 35-45 est.; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2 M; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 M, the female disappeared about Jan. 14; Brown Creeper, 2.

General Notes: DUCKS: one or two Common Goldeneyes in the rapids of the Amable du Fond river; no ducks at Mattawa.

RUFFED GROUSE: observed only once at Pimisi Bay, 2 individuals, but on Jan. 3 ten were seen at dusk budding in the poplars that stood along the edge of a tamarack swamp in Calvin township.

WOODPECKERS: Hairy Woodpeckers further increased at the feeding station; none seen in the field.

CORVIDAE: 8 Gray Jays still being counted at the feeding station, none seen in the field; Raven common sight at Pimisi Bay and along the Highway 17 between Bonfield and Mattawa, 4 recorded Jan. 26;

LCL reports 4 American Crows wintering at Mattawa.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, AND CREEPERS: the Chickadees appeared to decline in number during the second week, but became more numerous again during the fourth week when their estimated number rose to at least 45; no Borealis seen; the female White-breasted Nuthatch disappeared but was replaced by a second male; the Red-breasted female disappeared about Jan. 14 and the Shrike, although not seen, was the suspected predator, nuthatch feathers found on the ground near the feeding station; the pair of Brown Creepers remained intact.

FINCHES: all species exceedingly scarce or unreported; one Pine Grosbeak recorded at Pimisi Bay and LCL reported seeing a few eating salt from the highway near Deux Rivières.

Mammals: Very few observations. See February report for summary.

Copy MNOC (with my love)

FEBRUARY 1958 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO.

Observers: L. C. Lawrence,
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.

Weather: No data Feb. 4. Of the remaining days, 18 were mainly cloudy and 9 clear. On 15 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 12 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 11.7° F. Warm fronts crossed the region Feb. 18, 21, 23; cold fronts Feb. 8, 19, 22. A cold spell occurred Feb. 9-18 and the period Feb. 23-28 was blessed with warm winds. The minimum temperature of the month was 13° below zero on Feb. 12 and the maximum 38° above F. on Feb. 24, 26, and 28. The thickest cover of snow was measured at 17½ inches on Feb. 25 and the thinnest, 7½ inches, on Feb. 16.

A brilliant display of aurora borealis occurred Feb. 10. It was fully comparable with anything we have seen before in northernmost Norway and Russia. The whole sky, down to the southern horizon, was alight with large diffused patches of red, green, and yellow. The pines appeared like yet-black motionless silhouettes against this illuminated background, and the trees, the house, and the feeding-sticks cast their shadows upon the snow. The most amazing feature was the steady light with only the occasional "drapery" waving across the celestial dome ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ or a spearhead of brilliance swooshing toward zenith. It lasted all night and only the dawn paled its splendours.

Feeding station: Hairy Woodpecker, 8 M, 12 F; Downy Woodpecker, 3 M, 3 F; Gray Jay, 8; Blue Jay, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 45-50 (est); White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, 1 F; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 M, 1 F; Brown Creeper, 3.

General Nots:

DUCKS: Common Goldeneyes seemed to concentrate in the open rapids and eddies of the Amable du Fond River, counts up to 12 obtained; 1 Common Merganser seen floating down the Ottawa River on a tail wind.

WOODPECKERS: Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers maintained their high numbers at the feeding station; none seen in the field.

CORVIDAE: The same 8 Gray Jays which arrived in the fall still continued to visit the feeding station; 2 others seen in the field near Mattawa. Blue Jays scarce; word was received of an interesting recovery: a Blue Jay, banded as an adult on January 3, 1956, at Pimisi Bay, was shot (why?) at Henderson, Tennessee, on December 18, 1957. Common Ravens seen or heard almost daily at Pimisi Bay and patrolling the highway to Mattawa, high count of 4 Feb. 22. 2 to 4 Crows wintering at Mattawa.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS: Chickadees numerous, some increase in numbers 2nd and 3rd weeks, also seen in the field. There was some movement in nuthatches and creepers: one female Red-breasted and a female White-breasted appeared and stayed, a transient Creeper was chased away by the resident pair.

FINCHES: LCL reported 2 Pine Grosbeaks east of Mattawa Feb. 26 and 35 Common Redpolls, apparently northward migrants, feeding on weed seeds at Mattawa Feb. 28. The Redpolls alighted on the head of the observer, perhaps mistaking him for a fence post.

SPARROWS: LCL also reported seeing 25 Snow Buntings east of Mattawa Feb, 26.

JANUARY
FEBRUARY 1958

OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence,
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.

Short-tailed Shrew: Having been fairly numerous in the fall around the feeding station, shrews became scarce and signs of their visits, tracks, tunnels, and sight records, were entirely lacking.

Red Fox: The first track during the whole of the winter seen Feb. 7.

Red Squirrel: Irregularly quite numerous. Since they congregate at the feeding station from considerable distances, some travelling at least ¼ mile, their visits largely depend on the weather. On stormy snowy days and sometimes on very cold days, they stay home and only those that live on nearby ranges show up. The greatest number gather on days just after cold, stormy and snowy weather, when their appetites have acquired an added edge. Reproductive behaviour, "singing" and chasing, noted in the end of February.

Flying Squirrel: A few visit the feeding station every night, but the weather regulates also their comings and goings.

Deer Mouse: Also these seem to have gone into an eclipse. Tracks in the field are scarce and there were no signs of their presence around the house. Northern Shrikes have frequently been hunting in the area this winter and may have had some effect on the populations of shrews and mice, although no positive proof was found.

Snowshoe Hare: Tracks still abundant in the area, but few hares actually seen.

White-tailed Deer: A yearling and a larger older deer wintering in the close vicinity of our house. Browse for winter use is notably dwindling.

MNOC (with my love)

MARCH 1953 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO.

Observers: L. C. Lawrence,
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No data Mar. 4. Of the remaining days, 15 were mainly cloudy and 15 clear. On 29 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 1 day below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 23.7° F. A maximum of 50° F. was registered on Mar. 29 and a minimum of 13° F. on Mar. 8. The weather throughout the month was unusually even in character and temperature with chilly frosty nights and sun-warmed days, no marked warm or cold spells. A maximum snow cover of 13½ inches was recorded Mar. 2; the snow began disappearing by the middle of the month and measured not more than 5½ inches Mar. 31.

Feeding station: Hairy Woodpecker, 20; Downy Woodpecker, 6-8; Gray Jay, 8-0; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, estimated 45-10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2-0; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 2-0.

Migration: Despite the good and comparatively mild weather that prevailed in this region, the movement of early migrants was remarkably slow. Only 4 species were recorded. First to be seen were 2 Horned Larks Mar. 17, first migrant Crow on the same date, 6 days later than the 13-year Mean Date, first migrant Starling Mar. 26, 4 days late. On the Ottawa River which is always open because of the strong current, 1 Herring Gull was seen Mar 21, 17 days earlier than the Pimisi Bay mean date of the species.

General Notes:

DUCKS: Scattered records of Common Goldeneyes on the Amable du Fond River.

HAWKS: Single Goshawks, apparently migrating, seen Mar. 2 and 10.

WOODPECKERS: An exodus of Hairy Woodpeckers to the nesting ranges, too far for every day visiting at the feeding station, left 12 of them in the immediate neighbourhood. With the addition of 2 returns, 1 M, 1 F, the Downy Woodpecker population reached the highest level on record in the Pinisi Bay area for the pre-nesting season.

CORVIDAE: The Gray Jays dispersed to their nesting territories where they usually remain in very close attendance; by the end of the month, except for rare occasions, they ceased visiting the feeding station. Blue Jays scarce, only occasionally encountered in the field. The Ravens retired to the nesting grounds east on the Mattawa River and were much less often in evidence than previously. Crows began invading the region in numbers during the 3rd and 4th weeks; peak count of 23 Mar. 21.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS: Most of the Black-capped Chickadees, the White-breasted Nuthatches, and the Brown Creepers departed with no new ones filling the empty spaces.

SHRIKE: A Northern Shrike came to the feeding station Mar. 1 and hunted without success.

FINCHES: Except for the Common Redpolls, whose northward migration tapered off in numbers, all other species unreported.

MARCH 1958

OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Red Fox: Tracks observed on different occasions of at least 2 animals.

Northern Coyote: Tracks measuring 3½ inches as well as a dropping of the same animal, containing the hairs of deer and/or snowshoe hare, found Mar. 11. There were no dogs in the neighbourhood at that time.

Eastern Mink: One animal seen fishing on several occasions around a patch of open water.

Striped Skunk: First tracks of the skunks out of hibernation Mar. 1. The next day one tried to get under the shed where the others have spent the winter. It returned the next night and dug large holes around the shed and the following night many skunks gave plenty evidence of having been out and having fed from the dish. During the 4th week the melting snow caused an inundation under the shed and the skunks left for other habitations.

White-tailed Deer: Loud braying heard Mar. 27. After this, the signs of the deer disappeared from the immediate neighbourhood of the house.

Return this to Davis

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APRIL 1958 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No data Apr. 1. Of the remaining days, 9 were mainly cloudy and 20 clear. On 27 days, the daily mean temperature was above and on 2 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 31.7° F. Warm fronts on Apr. 20 and 28; cold fronts on Apr. 6, 24, 29. A cold spell lasted from Apr. 7-10 and warm weather with mostly southerly winds from Apr. 13 to 22. It snowed on Apr. 6 and 25; the thickest cover of snow, 3 inches, was measured Apr. 1; all snow was gone Apr. 20. The ice went out of Pimisi Bay Apr. 16, five days earlier than the 23-year Mean Date.

Feeding station: Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Grey Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 2-4; Raven, 1; Crow, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 10 (est.); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3-2; Robin, 1; Redwing, 1; Slate-coloured Junco, 1; Oregon Junco, 1, Apr. 29-30; Song Sparrow, 3-4.

Migration: Very few migrants came through during the first half of the month when the days were bright, the nights unusually cold and northerly winds prevailing. Increased movement, however, occurred with the coming of the warm spell in the middle of the month; Apr. 16, 17, and 18 were peak migration dates.

Migration Date in relation to 13-year Mean Dates:

		EARLY:		LATE:			
Time	No sp.	No sp.	Average days	No sp.	Average days	NORMAL No. sp.	NO DATA No. sp.
1st week	2	-	-	2	5.5	-	-
2nd week	12	6	3.3	4	7.2	-	2
3rd week	14	6	5.3	3	9.6	1	4
4th week	7	1	2.0	4	4.2	-	2
	35	13		13		1	8

GENERAL NOTES:

LOONS AND GREBES: Generally scarce. First-seen and peak date Apr. 24 for Common Loon, count 2.

HERONS: First-seen and peak date for Great Blue Apr. 16, count 8.

GEESE AND DUCKS: Medium-sized flocks of Canada Geese Apr. 14-27. Several duck species came in early, but the number of individuals was lower compared with other years.

HAWKS: Quite numerous both at Pimisi Bay and in the field. This was especially true of Marsh Hawks. Our impression was of a general increase in hawks, due perhaps to protection.

SHORE-BIRDS: Killdeer and Woodcock comparatively numerous.

GULLS: Herring Gulls appeared fewer than usual, especially at Pimisi Bay, but this scarcity may be only local.

GOATSUCKERS: unreported.

KINGFISHERS: Arrived earlier than their 13-year mean date in fair numbers.

WOODPECKERS: Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers abundant at Pimisi Bay and also recorded in the field quite often. Peak date for Flicker migration Apr. 21, but numbers low.

FLYCATCHERS: Phoebe first seen on time relative to its mean date, but numbers low.

CORVIDAE: Blue Jays quite common both at Pimisi Bay and in the field. Nesting Gray Jays, the same which spent the winter at Pimisi Bay, occasionally seen. Peak dates for Crows Apr. 17, 28, 29, their number lower than usual.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS: A fair number of Chickadees nesting in the Pimisi Bay study area, only one pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches, which is much fewer than in most other years. White-breasted unreported. Creepers appeared fairly common in migration.

THRUSHES: Very late first-seen dates. Robins peak date Apr. 21, but few; Hermit Thrushes very scarce.

STARLINGS: counted in the hundreds.

WARBLERS: The Myrtle Warbler, the only warbler arriving in April, remained unreported.

MEADOWLARKS: appeared very late and in small numbers.

BLACKBIRDS: Peak of migration Apr. 16, 17, 18.

FINCHES: Only 2 Evening Grosbeaks recorded; all other species unreported.

SPARROWS: All species arriving late and few in number; peak date Apr. 23.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

STANDARD TIME

PK ENBA 031 8 Rutherglen Ont Oct 27-58 850AM

Mrs Doris Speirs
RR 2
Pickering Ont

Loving thoughts all good wishes on your day.

Len and Louise.

COPY

C O P Y

November 2, 1958.

Dearest Louise:

It was such a surprise on my birthday to get yours and Len's lovely wire of greatings for my day. It made you seem so near and I knew you must feel what pleasure you had given me by this thoughtfulness. They telephoned the wrree in and then mailed it to me so I enjoyed it wtice over. Thank you both!

It is Sunday evening and Murray has been working on the BULLETIN. Now he has a Sibelius record on. We have two long playing hi-fi records of Sibelius music and they are full of wonderful Scandinavian essences for ear and heart. We think it is thrilling music. We were able to attend one session of the Sibelius festival in Helsingfors, as I probably told you at the time, and shall never forget the glorious music and tremendous crowd of earnest listeners.

You will have heard about our bande Blue Jay called "Goldie". He was first banded here on March 17 1950, by Lucie McDougall. He was retaken here on March 25, 1956, when we added a gold band to his left leg. During last year (1957) he was seen on March 4 and again on November 13 and 15. By these dates we knew he was a spring and fall migrant. This year he appeared on April 11 and this fall on Oct. 28 29, 31 and today, November 2. Always he is seen by us first as he stands on the very top of a yellow corn cob and hacks away at the grains of corn. This is his unfailing pose when we first glimpse him. Is'nt it wonderful that he has been coming for so many years. We wish that we had added the gold band earlier in his ~~career~~. He may never have missed being here spring and fall since 1950, although we did not record seeing him in the fall of 1956 after the gold band had been added. But since then we have been on the lookout for him each spring and fall. You do miss so often what you are not looking for and see what you are looking for.

On October 31 we heard Evening Grosbeaks outside at 1:00 o'clock. There was a flock of about ten in maples at the top of the hill. They flew off to the SW calling. But this morning a flock of ten were here at 7:30--8♀♀ and 2♂♂s. They were eating Manitoba maple seeds from the gree at the top of the driveway which had been especially planted for them about 11 years ago. It was so good to see them in the tree with the bright morning sun pouring over them as they fed. One of the males was as dark as brooksi. From the Man. maple they flew into the sumacs; had a good feed of this aciduous fruit and then flew donw to the cattail pond for long drinks. There is water shining in the pond these days and we were glad it was not frozen this morning. What a thrill to have the beloved grosbeaks here again.

It was good to know that the suitcase arrived safely and that Len was pleased with his presents as of course he would be. Your next news will be about the huge box of furniture etc. If your agent is not worried about it, of course you should not be. No doubt great care will be taken. Do let me know when the mighty shipment has come as I am so interested to hear about everything.

This week, on Thursday, the MNOC will be at Irma's for the field trip. We should see lots of juncos and Tree Sparrows as they are beginning to appear now. She has a good place for these small fingillids. Did I tell you that Dr. Wolfson asked for you and was pleased to hear about your paper for the AUK. For the first time he called me "Doris". A number of the bird people that we saw in Finland and have been seeing at meetings for years now call me "Doris". We do all seem like one big family. Dean Amadon says :Doris" too and this time I did'nt feel so afraid of him. He gave a very good paper at the meeting.

(With my love)

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JANUARY 1957 BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN THE LAKE NIPISSING AND PIMISI BAY AREAS, ONTARIO

Observers: H. Petty, R. I. Snow, T. C. Mackie, M. Higgs, L. C. Lawrence.

Compiler: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence. Nipissing Field Naturalists.

Weather: No data Jan. 29. Of the remaining days, 13 were mainly cloudy and 25 sunny. On 11 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 19 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 11.5° F. Warm fronts crossed the area Jan. 3 and 21; cold fronts Jan. 4, 9, and 22. A cold spell lasted Jan. 13 to 18 with a mean temperature for the whole period of 9.4° below zero F.; a thaw occurred Jan. 20 to 22 which bared rocks and patches of ground on southern slopes and with a mean for the period of 32.0° above zero F. A maximum of 43° above zero F. recorded on Jan. 22 and a minimum of 25° below zero F. on Jan. 13 and 15. The thickest cover of snow, 18 inches, was measured Jan. 12 and the thinnest, 9½ inches, on Jan. 23.

Feeding-stations: At PIMISI BAY: Hairy Woodpecker, 14-19, Fs still outnumbering Ms 2:1; Downy Woodpecker, 2 M, 2 F; Blue Jay, about 20; Black-capped Chickadee, 6 to 15 to 10, approx.; White-breasted Nuthatch, banded M returned Jan. 24; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, 1 F; Brown Creeper, 2 to 3.

At LAKE NIPISSING (HP, TCM): Hairy Woodpecker, 1 F; Downy Woodpecker, 1 F; Blue Jay, 3 to 6 HP, 1 TCM; Black-capped Chickadee, 2 to 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, 1 F; Starling, 1 lone bird to Jan. 4, HP, 2 TCM.

General Notes: MACKIE: A few Common Goldeneyes feeding in the rapids of the Amable du Fond and Ottawa Rivers Jan. 18 and 21 (IdeM); R. I. Snow reported large rafts of ducks seen Jan. 6 at Thorne on the Ottawa River near Temiskaming, Common Goldeneyes, 50, American Mergansers, 30, counted.

RUFFED GROUSE: Only a few seen at Pinisi Bay.

WOODPECKERS: The number of Hairy Woodpeckers increased slightly at Pinisi Bay. The number now visiting the station there is the highest recorded in any winter in the past 21 years. Many of these are returns. It is probably not a question of movement from any greater distances, but rather a foregathering at the feeding-station of birds resident in the outlying territories around Pinisi Bay in order to supplement an apparently insufficient supply of woodpecker winter foods. The number of Downy Woodpeckers is also larger than usual.

CORVIDAE: Blue Jays continued numerous, some often being seen outside the feeding-station areas. No Canada Jays. At least 2 of the family of Ravens at Pinisi Bay still present. TCH reported the species unusually numerous near Tilden Lake north of North Bay. Wintering Crows found both at North Bay and Mattawa.

TITMICE AND NUTHATCHES: Black-capped Chickadees were still unusually few, although some increase was observed at Pinisi Bay in the middle of the month which levelled off again towards the end. The White-breasted male is the first of 25 nuthatches of both species banded since 1942 that has ever returned after an absence of more than 3 months. Of these, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches have become permanent residents; the male now present is on his 5th winter and the female on her 2nd, both having been paired since she arrived in Oct. 1955.

STARLINGS AND HOUSE SPARROWS: continued scarcer than usual at North Bay (HP).

FINCHES: A flock of 12 Evening Grosbeaks seen at West Ferris Jan. 27 (HP); At Mattawa a flock of 35 to 40, mostly males, was seen at 09.30 Jan. 7 eating salt from the highway slightly west of the town; on Jan. 21

presumably the same birds were seen coming off the night roost in a grove of tall pines at 08.30, then flying off in the direction of the highway. At Deux Rivieres 4 were seen on the road at 14.00, of which 2 at least were males (ICI) Plenty of Manitoba maple samaras left both at West Ferris and Mattawa (HP,IdeM). Three to 4 Purple Finches observed at West Ferris (HP,TCM). American Goldfinches were observed during 3rd and 4th weeks, mostly, in flocks of from 12 to 40 at West Ferris (HP) and from 6 to 49 at Pimisi Bay where they fed on the seeds of the white cedar. A few Common Redpolls at West Ferris (TCM) and 2 Red Crossbills, a pair, seen eating salt from the highway at Pimisi Bay.

SPARROWS: A flock of 25 to 30 Snow Buntings seen by MH at North Bay Jan 20.

Mammals: At Pimisi Bay: Red Foxes are generally scarce, very few tracks. Wolves appear to be absent. Eastern Mink and Short-tailed Weasel (tracks and animals) seen quite frequently. Short-tailed Shrew, White-footed Mouse, as well as Varying Hare might almost be termed abundant, judging from tracks and animals seen. Red Squirrels, among them a few known individuals, staged a come-back at the feeding-station, probably due to foods in storage running short. Three White-tailed Deer feeding at the house.

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FEBRUARY 1957

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE LAKE NIPISSING AND PIMISI BAY AREAS IN ONTARIO.

Observers: H. Petty, T. C. Mackie, M. Higgs, S. Higgs, R. L. Snow, T. C. Cusson, L. C. Lawrence;

Compiler: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence;
Nipissing Field Naturalists.

Weather: No data Feb. 26. Of the remaining days, 15 were mainly cloudy and 12 clear. On 23 days, the daily mean temperature was above and on 4 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 11.7° F. Warm fronts crossed the area Feb. 9 and 24; cold fronts Feb. 10, 23, and 26. Maximum temperature of 41° above zero F. occurred on Feb. 7 and 25 and a minimum of 17° below zero F. on Feb. 11. The thickest cover of snow, 18 ½ inches, was measured on Feb. 17. Unusually mild weather prevailed throughout most of the month. A heavy thaw on Feb. 25 and 26 brought out extensive patches of bare ground in open fields and on southerly slopes. Open water appeared in most rivers and some creeks with strong currents.

Feeding-stations: At PIMISI BAY: Hairy Woodpecker, 7 M, 13 F; Downy Woodpecker, 2 M, 2 F; Blue Jay, about 20; Black-capped Chickadee, 20-15; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, 1 F; Brown Creeper, 3.

At LAKE NIPISSING (NP): Hairy Woodpecker, 1 F; Downy Woodpecker, 1 F; Blue Jay, 2 to 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 2 to 5, a few more evidently transients appeared Feb. 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, 1 F; Starling, 2 to 4.

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General Notes:

DUCKS: Two Common Goldeneyes and 1 American Merganser were in the rapids of the Amable du Fond River at Eau Claire on Feb. 15 (LdeKL); RJS and TCC saw 2 Black Ducks, 50 Goldeneyes, and 3 Red-breasted Mergansers on the Ottawa River between Mattawa and Thorne on Feb. 28.

HAWKS: One American Goshawk flew over the town of Mattawa just before dusk on Feb. 15, identified by LdeKL on character of flight, size, colour, rounded wings and long tail.

RUFFED GROUSE: Seemed rather scarce, 1 record Pimisi Bay, 5 for Lake Nipissing (HP).

WOODPECKERS: Two records of Pileated Woodpecker Feb. 25 and 27 (LdeKL, HP); at Pimisi Bay the Hairy Woodpeckers reached an all-time high in number visiting the feeding-station at one season (20 hand-counted); some new arrivals were "locals" which had not been seen since their first capture as juveniles.

CORVIDAE: Blue Jays continued numerous at both feeding-stations and on occasion individuals were also seen in the field; 2 Ravens patrolled the highway between Rutherglen and Eau Claire.

TITMICE AND NUTHATCHES: From Feb. 10-11 an increase of Black-capped Chickadees was noted at Lake Nipissing (HP,TCH); at Pimisi Bay a slight increase was noted during 1st and 2nd weeks which thereafter vanished, leaving the species still very scarce in comparison ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ with the February populations of other years. No change in the number of Nuthatches of both species.

SHRIKES: One Northern Shrike seen at Lake Nipissing (HP).

STARLINGS: All records only of wintering birds. HP reported

examination of nest-holes quite prevalent and, on Feb. 6, attempted copulatory behaviour.

FINCHES: ICL reported 6 Evening Grosbeaks at Deux Rivieres and Bissett Feb. 17; at North Bay M and S Higgs saw 5 on Feb. 14, 47 on the 16th, 39 on the 18th, and 12 on the 25th; Purple Finches and Common Redpolls scarce; small flocks of Pine Siskins seen at Lake Nipissing (NP, TCM) and 3 arrived at Pimisi Bay Feb. 26; apparently rather stationary flocks of Goldfinches observed both at Lake Nipissing and Pimisi Bay (NP, IdeKL), highest count at Pimisi Bay of 41 on Feb. 18.

Mammals: At least 7 Short-tailed Shrews inhabited the premises around the feeding-station at Pimisi Bay and found fine living from the food dropped on the ground. They travelled through a myriad of tunnels in the snow banks and some of them became tame and fed from the hand. The Red Squirrels further increased and up to a dozen were often seen at one time. The 3 White-tailed Deer wintering in the Lawrence territory tracelessly disappeared. Predation by two-legged wolves strongly suspected in view of the persistent roaming of these in the neighbourhood (as judged by tracks and individuals seen) and the fact that the four-footed variety have been absent or very scarce in the area throughout the winter (see also the January summary).

Copy for the MNOC (with my love)

MARCH 1957

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE LAKE NIPISSING AND PIMISI BAY AREAS IN ONTARIO.

Observers: H. Petty, M. Higgs, S. Higgs, H. Willoughby, T. C. Cusson, S. McLaren, L. C. Lawrence.

Compiler: Louise de Kirilina Lawrence.

Nipissing Field-Naturalists.

Weather: No data Mar. 4, 5, and 26. Of the remaining days, 9 were mainly cloudy and 19 clear. On 24 days, the daily mean temperature was above and on 4 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 23.7° F. Warm front Mar. 11; cold front Mar 15. A cold spell Mar. 3 to 5 produced the lowest temperature of 1° below zero F. on Mar. 4 and 5; a warm spell occurred Mar. 13 to 16, with a maximum temperature of 57° above zero F. on Mar. 14. For the rest the weather was characterized by cool nights and sun-warmed days. After a six-inch fall, the thickest snow cover, 14 inches, was recorded Mar. 20; by the end of the month the snow had disappeared from open fields and southern slopes almost completely, while the drifts in the bush were still deep.

Feeding-stations: At PIMISI BAY: Ruffed Grouse 1 F; Hairy Woodpecker, 2♂, females still in the majority; Downy Woodpecker, 3 M, 3 F; Canada Jay, 1; Blue Jay, about 15; Black-capped Chickadee, 15-10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2♂, 1 F; Brown Creeper, 2; Starling migrant Mar. 12, 2 ; Pine Siskin 15-8; Slate-coloured Junco, Mar. 27, 1 M.

At RUTHERGLEN (SML): Starling migrants Mar. 13, 3 to 89; Junco Mar. 21, 1; Tree Sparrow, Mar. 15, 3-8; Song

Sparrow, Mar. 17, 1-3;

At LAKE NIPISSING (NP): Hairy Woodpecker, 1 F; Downy Woodpecker, 1 F; Blue Jay, 2-6; Crow, 4; Chickadee, 2-4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 H; 1 F; Starling, 4-6; Junco, Mar. 16; 2.

Migration: 1st week: Migrating Crows first seen at Rutherglen, cawing, two on Mar. 3 and seven on Mar. 4 (SML); first seen at Pinisi Bay Mar. 5, six days earlier than 13-year Mean Date.

2nd week: First migrating Starling seen at Pinisi Bay Mar. 12, seven days earlier than the First-seen Mean Date. The warm spell Mar. 13-16 let through some early migrants, a Tree Sparrow and an American Robin furnished earliest first-seen dates on record for the region both on Mar 15 (SML) (checked LdeKL).

3rd week: Early migrants continued arriving; a Song Sparrow at Rutherglen (SML, identified by two observers according to Petersen) toppled another record when it was first seen Mar. 17, as did two Juncos at North Bay and Lake Nipissing on Mar. 16 (NW, NP).

4th week: The blackbirds began arriving, notably the Red-winged at Pinisi Bay Mar. 27, the Rusty at Lake Nipissing Mar 27 and Bronzed Crackle Mar. 29 (NP), but in small numbers and none breaking any records, although all were a week or more earlier than the Pinisi Bay First-seen Mean Dates for the species.

General Notes: DUCKS AND GEESE: Five Canada Geese flew low over the water at the Sturgeon River, seen by St. Pierre and reported by TCC (no date given), Mar. 25/1945 previous earliest date. A few wintering Goldeneyes and American Mergansers seen in the open swift water of the Amable du Fond River (LdeKL).

HAWKS AND EAGLES: On Mar. 12, at Deux Rivieres, LCL and L. Montreuil

observed two large birds sitting on the ice of the Ottawa River and feeding on something. They turned out to be two adult Bald Eagles, the white heads and tails of both plainly visible, their great size dwarfing that of a Herring Gull which was flying around at the same time obviously waiting to get in on the feed. From the vantage point of the Look-Out Hill, the observers watched the eagles for some 10 minutes and saw them on the ice as well as circling in the air above the open water of the river. Both were familiar with Bald Eagles from previous occasions and Montreuil has knowledge of a nest about half way between Mattawa and Temiskaming, which he found occupied 4 years ago.

RUFFED GROUSE: Observed several times in numbers of from 1 to 3 (HP, SHL, LdeKL). The hen visiting the feeding-station at Pimisi Bay was a beautiful red phase specimen with copper sheen on tail, secondaries, breast, and front part of the flanks.

OWLS: On Mar. 14, at dusk, a small owl flew away from the feeding-station at Pimisi Bay, where apparently it had been watching the shrews. Certain identification not possible. This is the only owl record.

WOODPECKERS: At Pimisi Bay, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers continued to appear in record large numbers, several more individuals, returns and new birds, added themselves to the crowd.

CORVIDAE: Three Canada Jays seen (SHL, LdeKL); one stayed at Pimisi Bay 3 days. Blue Jays decreased, many of the wintering birds departed from the area. Two resident Ravens at Pimisi Bay. Migrating Crows appeared unusually early, but not in great numbers.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS: Black-capped Chickadee continued exceedingly scarce at Pimisi Bay. White-breasted Nuthatches stationary. The pair of Red-breasted at Pimisi Bay were joined by strange male Mar. 31. Pair of Creepers stationary at Pimisi Bay.

THRUSHES, SHRIKES, STARLINGS: On Mar. 31 HP got highest count of 9 Robins. Two Northern Shrikes Mar. 19 and 31 (HP). Starlings increased during the 3rd week at Rutherglen (89 on Mar. 19 SML) and during the 4th week at Lake Nipissing (48 on Mar. 31, HP), 500 Sturgeon Falls Mar.19, (MH).

FINCHES: A pair of Evening Grosbeaks seen west of Rutherglen Mar. 5, 2 males and 1 female at Pinisi Bay Mar. 19, a lone female with greening bill at Pinisi Bay Mar. 22, complete all EG observations reported. Singing Purple Finches seen/heard both at Lake Nipissing and Pinisi Bay, (HP, LdeKL). Pine Siskins in small numbers, highest counts 10, flight-song and display observed at Pinisi Bay (HP, SML, LdeKL). Goldfinches in rather large numbers at Pinisi Bay regularly throughout the month, on occasion found roosting in pines near the house, highest count of 93 Mar. 21, moulting noticeable at the end of the month. Red Crossbills generally scarce, 6 Mar. 11 (SML). Also White-wings not numerous, a few records at Pinisi Bay and Rutherglen, 7 on Mar. 10 (SML).

Mammals: Short-tailed Shrews continuing numerous. Fresh tracks of one Fox, fresh tracks of large Mink around open water at Pinisi Bay bridge. Weasels appear scarce. Varying Hares starting to change colour. First Eastern Chipmunk out of hibernation at Rutherglen Mar. 13 (very early date). Red Squirrels females moulting and showing pregnancy. Deer Mice numerous. One White-tailed Deer left at Pinisi Bay, fresh tracks seen farther east and west, one seen on north side of the lake.

Copy MNOC (with my love)

APRIL 1957 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE LAKE NIPISSING AND PIMISI BAY AREAS, ONTARIO.

Observers: H. Petty, T. C. Mackie, T. C. Cusson, S. McLaren, L. C. Lawrence.

Compiler: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence. Nipissing Field Naturalists.

Weather: No observations Apr. 23, 27, 28, 29, 30. Of the remaining 25 days 11 were mainly cloudy and 14 clear. On 17 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 8 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 31.7 °F. A warm front passed Apr. 20 and a cold front Apr. 21. One long cold spell occurred Apr. 1-14 and warm spells Apr. 19-20, 22-26. Maximum of 75 degrees F. was registered Apr. 25 and minimum of 16 degrees above zero on Apr. 3. The thickest cover of snow, 9 inches, was recorded Apr. 1 and all snow had disappeared by Apr. 24. Pimisi Bay was free of ice Apr. 24 and Lake Nipissing Apr. 30 (NP).

Feeding-stations: At PIMISI BAY: Ruffed Grouse 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 M; Hairy Woodpecker, 2, Fs in majority; Downy Woodpecker, 4 M, 4 F; Blue Jay, 15-2; Crow, 1; Chickadee, 6-4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 M, 1 F; Brown Creeper, 2; Robin, 1 M, 1 F; Red-winged Blackbird, 1 M; Pine Siskin, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 2; Tree Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 1-2.

At LAKE NIPISSING (NP): Hairy Woodpecker, 1 F; Downy Woodpecker, 1 F; Blue Jay, 5-2; Robin, 1-3; Starling, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 1.

Migration: 1st and 2nd weeks: While a few migrants, notably some of the Hawks, came through during the first week, the unseasonably cold weather which occurred in the south and mid-western states and the persistent cold spell in the north during the first part of April were undoubtedly factors slowing down migratory movement in this region and delaying the first arrivals of many species. The warming trend in the end of March may account for the very early appearance of Marsh and Sparrow-Hawks, male and female of the first species on the same day (HP, IdeKL), while HP reported the Song Sparrow 23 days later than the previous earliest first-seen date at Lake Nipissing.

3rd and 4th week: With the warm front on Apr. 20, migration appeared to surge northward again. For the whole of the region, the first-seen dates of 18 species were recorded in the 3rd week and 12 in the 4th. Three of the last broke previous known records, Whippoorwill Apr. 26 (LCL, IdeKL), Brown Thrasher Apr. 25 (HP), and Chipping Sparrow Apr. 20 (SML).

General Notes: LOONS AND GREBES: The Common Loon was first seen at Lake Nipissing Apr. 24; no Grebes.

CORMORANT: One bird, presumably a Double-crested, appeared flying towards Lake Nipissing Apr. 27, observed by HP for several minutes through binoculars, identification based on dark belly, full-sized tail, and characteristic shape of head. There are a few previous records for the region of this species.

SWANS, GEESE, AND DUCKS: Three flocks (9, 26, 50) of Canada Geese at Lake Nipissing and Pinisi Bay seen by HP and IdeKL, peak date at Sturgeon Falls Apr. 17, when TCC reported 200 resting at the mouth of the river; Ducks generally scarce both at Lake Nipissing and

Pimisi Bay, but at Deux Rivieres, 40 miles east of Pimisi Bay, SML reported finding a large concentration of ducks on Apr.24-25, including Mallards, Baldpates, Teals, as well as some Canada Geese, (counts not reported). Here also SML found 2 Whistling Swans, identified by their black bills and photographs were taken of the pair. No previous record exists of this species for the District of Nipissing, but there are for Westmeath, south of Pembroke, Renfrew County (see Lloyd and Farming, Can. Field-Nat. 62:2:47-65).

HAWKS: Migration of hawks occurred during the 1st and the 4th weeks in particular. Marsh Hawks unusually numerous.

WOODPECKERS: Ten pairs of Hairy Woodpeckers were nesting within a radius of one half to one mile of Pimisi Bay and 4 to 5 pairs of Downy Woodpeckers assembled in the area for pre-nesting activities. Migration peak of Flickers and Sapsuckers occurred during 4th week, the first species more numerous than the last which was rather scarce. The first female Sapsucker arrived the day after the first male was seen at Pimisi Bay.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, AND CREEPERS: All scarce at Pimisi Bay.

WRENS, THRUSHES, AND KINGLETS: Winter Wrens still very scarce. Robins numerous, counts of 2-32 at Lake Nipissing (NP) and of 2-15 at Pimisi Bay; Hermit Thrushes and both species of Kinglets unusually scarce.

BLACKBIRDS: At Pimisi Bay the influx of males occurred during 3rd week, first female seen 28 days after the arrival of the first male, and an influx of females occurred on Apr. 26; Bronzed Grackles were numerous locally.

FINCHES: All species exceedingly "spotty"; no Evening Grosbeaks;

Purple Finches numerous locally; 2 pairs of Pine Siskins and 1 pair of Red Crossbills were nesting in the vicinity of Pimisi Bay; American Goldfinches disappeared practically altogether.

SPARROWS: Slate-coloured Junco exceedingly scarce at Pimisi Bay, but counts up to 60 obtained at Lake Nipissing by HP; Tree Sparrow also scarce and movement across the fields thin; HP reported an influx of White-throated Sparrows Apr. 26; peak of Song Sparrows during 3rd week, high count of 16 (HP).

Mammals: Fresh tracks of Woodchuck found in the snow around the doorway of its burrow ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ on Apr. 3; at Pimsi Bay the first Chipmunk, a male, came out of hibernation Apr. 2, two other males appeared with tails missing; Red squirrels became very numerous at the feeding-station, most of these females nursing young. Beaver at Pimisi Bay first seen Apr. 22. Snowshoe Hare very abundant, at least half a dozen mothers in the study area, four seen at the same time around the house. The braying of White-tailed Deer heard several times.

First-seen Records for Pimisi Bay:

	No. sp.	EARLY: No. sp.	Average days	Range	LATE: No. sp.	Average days	Range	NORMAL: No. sp.	NO DATA No. sp.	Days of main movement:
1st week	4	2	12.5	9-16	-	-	-	1	1	Apr. 3,4
2nd week	4	1	2.0	-	2	5.5	5-6	-	1	" 8
3rd week	7	1	1.0	-	4	7.8	4-16	-	2	" 22
4th week	9	3	7.0	2-13	3	4.7	2-7	1	2	" 25,26
	24	7 (29%)	7.0	2-16	9 (37%)	6.2	2-16	2 (8%)	6	

First-seen dates at Pimisi Bay (early or late in relation to 13-year Mean Date):

EARLY:	Date	Early days
Canada Goose	Apr. 17	1
Black Duck	" 14	2
Marsh Hawk	" 3	9
Am. Sparrowhawk	" 3	16
Whippoorwill	" 26	13
Tree Swallow	" 23	6
Cowbird	" 24	2
Total species:		7

LATE:	Date	Late days
Herring Gull	Apr. 13	6
Belted Kingfisher	" 22	6
Yellow-shafted Flicker	" 21	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	" 21	5
Eastern Phoebe	" 23	5
Winter Wren	" 25	7
Hermit Thrush	" 22	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	" 22	16
Bronzed Grackle	12	5
Total species:		9

NORMAL:	Date
White-throated Sparrow	Apr. 25
Song Sparrow	" 4
Total species:	2

NO DATA:	Date
Hooded Merganser	Apr. 21
Cooper's Hawk	" 25
Red-tailed Hawk	" 7
Red-shouldered Hawk	" 25
American Woodcock	" 22
Eastern Meadowlark	" 6
Total species:	6

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MAY 1957

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE LAKE NIPISSING AND PIMISI BAY AREAS, ONTARIO.

Observers: H. Petty, T. C. Mackie, H. Willoughby, M. Forrest, M. Johnson, L. C. Lawrence, S. McLaren.

Compiler: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence. Nipissing Field Naturalists.

Weather: No observations May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 27. Of the remaining 25 days 11 were mainly cloudy and 14 clear. On 16 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 9 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 51.0 ° F. Warm fronts passed May 22 and 26; cold fronts May 9, 13, 23, and 27. A cold spell occurred May 14-19 and a warm period May 6-8. Maximum temperature of 77° F. was reached May 7 and the minimum of 27° F. on May 16. Snowflurries May 15.

Feeding-stations: At PIMISI BAY: Sapsucker, 1 M, 1 F; Hairy Woodpecker, 10 M, 10 F; Downy Woodpecker, 5 M, 5 F; Blue Jay, 2 pairs; Chickadee, 2 pairs; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 M, 1 F; Robin, 1 pair; Wilson's Thrush, 2 pairs; Red-winged Blackbird, 1 pair; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1 M; Junco, 1 M; Chipping Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 2 pairs; Song Sparrow, 1 pair.

At LAKE NIPISSING (NP): Hairy Woodpecker, 1 F; Downy Woodpecker, 1 pair; Blue Jay, 1 pair; Robin, 1 pair; Starling, 6; Baltimore Oriole, 1 pair; Chipping Sparrow, 2-3; Song Sparrow, 1 pair.

Migration: 1st week: The cold spell which lasted the whole of the first week (NP report) in all probability accounted for the very slow

movement of migrants. In this week only 4 first-seen dates were recorded for the whole area (6 species at Pimisi Bay, 2 of these already reported by HP in April were much later here).

2nd week: 21 species made their first appearance (13 at Pimisi Bay of which two thirds were late). HP reported 7 species first seen on May 9 during the passage of a cold front and at Pimisi Bay the largest number of migrants were seen on May 15 after a cold front. Counts of individuals were unusually low.

3rd week: May 17 was a peak date of migrants both at Pimisi Bay and at Lake Nipissing, HP recording 5 and IdeKL 9 species first seen. This was a day of Swallows and Sparrows, peak date for White-crowned Sparrow at Pimisi Bay with a count of 65. On this date, too, a large concentration of Northern Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs was seen in a field, moving around together and feeding across the plowed furrows. The count of 25 Larks and 45 Longspurs, estimated before the whole flock lifted, is probably rather conservative.

4th week: Migration slowed down considerably and the daily counts of birds both at Pimisi Bay and Lake Nipissing remained exceptionally low. A feature of this spring migration was the appearance of the females together with or very soon after the males in many species where there usually is a definite interval between the arrival dates of the sexes and due apparently to the retardation of certain males by unsuitable weather and the speeding on of certain females by warmer winds. Noted was also the connection between the numbers of certain species and their first seen dates, low numbers and lateness of arrival belonging together, and vice versa.

General Notes: LOONS AND GREBES: Common Loons appeared far fewer than usual; no "singing" heard at Pimisi Bay; Grebes not recorded.

HERONS AND BITTERNS: Very few records of Great Blue Heron; one American Bittern "pumped" at Pimisi Bay for 3 days.

DUCKS: Very few; Hooded Merganser most numerous at Pimisi Bay; HP observed 2 Baldpates at Lake Nipissing (sexes not given), her first record of the species but the second for the region.

HAWKS: Red-shouldered Hawk seen most often at Pimisi Bay, but Broad-wings missing altogether and Sparrowhawks fewer than last year.

SHORE-BIRDS: Records of Killdeer, Snipe, Woodcock, and Spotted Sandpiper, but very few of each species.

GULLS AND TERNS: Herring and Ring-billed Gulls in small to fair numbers; HP reported 1 to 14 Bonaparte's Gulls at Lake Nipissing during 3rd week; May 24 a Black Tern was observed for nearly an hour at Pimisi Bay, a beautiful creation in the opinion of Edeki, the height of gracile movement and form, and a first record for her, although at least 10 exist for the region.

CUCKOOS: Absent.

OWLS: TCM furnished the unusual record of a Great Grey Owl on May 6; it was sitting on the aerial of the Bishop's house in the middle of North Bay; TCM who is a careful observer looked at it through binoculars from the street below with ample time to make sure of all field-marks.

GOATSUCKERS: Whippoorwills scarce; only one Nighthawk seen May 31 (HP).

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS: Chimney Swifts scarce; Ruby-throated Hummingbirds exceedingly few, one seen at Pimisi Bay and a pair at Lake Nipissing.

WOODPECKERS: Sapsuckers few but Flickers rather numerous; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers continued very numerous at Pimisi Bay; on May 16

a male American Three-toed Woodpecker was observed at Pimisi Bay for more than half an hour at a distance of 20 feet; it was feeding industriously on the trunk of a fallen spruce, scaling off the bark and finding wonderful snacks underneath, the 3rd known record for the region.

FLYCATCHERS: All species exceedingly scarce.

SWALLOWS: Tree Swallows numerous, Barn and Cliff Swallows seen in fair numbers; a few Bank Swallows observed at Rutherglen (IdeKL, SWL).

CORVIDAE: Blue Jays numerous at Lake Nipissing.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS: All species very scarce.

MOCKINGBIRDS, CATBIRDS, THRASHERS: HP furnished full details of a Mockingbird seen at Lake Nipissing on May 9; the bird perched at eye-level at a distance of 10 to 15 feet and as it moved the observer was able to follow it for 3 or 4 blocks; it was seen again in the same locality on May 10 and 11; Catbirds and Thrashers in fairly good numbers at Lake Nipissing, no records for Pimisi Bay.

THRUSHES: In all the area the Robins appeared unusually numerous; Wood Thrushes scarce, one record for Pimisi Bay; Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes exceedingly scarce; Grey-cheeked Thrush no record; Wilson's Thrushes not as numerous as usual; Bluebirds existing in certain localities;

VIREOS: Solitary Vireo very scarce and Red-eyed Vireo considerably decreased at Pimisi Bay; two records of Philadelphia Vireo (HP).

WARBLERS: With the exception of the Mourning and Canada Warblers, all other species very scarce; Myrtle Warblers exceptionally so in all areas and several species, usually seen in migration, such as the Black-capped, Cape May, and Parula Warblers, were entirely missing.

TANAGERS: LGL reported seeing 5 males in full plumage together in one

spot at a Calvin Township road on May 17.

FINCHES: All species, except Purple and Goldfinches, scarce or absent.

SPARROWS: Chipping, White-crowned, and Song Sparrows fairly numerous; Savannah, Vesper, White-throated, and Swamp Sparrows not as common as usual; the Lapland Longspur record on May 17 was the first for Pinisi Bay in the spring, all males in full plumage.

Mammals: At Pinisi Bay, the first litter of young Red Squirrels appeared at the feeding-station on May 26.

MIGRATION DATA FOR PIMISI BAY, MAY 1957

First-seen Dates (early or late in relation to 13-year Mean Dates):

EARLY:	Date	Days early
American Bittern	May 5	5
Eastern Kingbird	" 17	5
Olive-backed Thrush	" 16	1
Tennessee Warbler	" 10	6
Yellow Warbler	" 9	9
Oven-bird	" 9	1
Indigo Bunting	" 27	6
Total species:		7

NORMAL:	Date
Cliff Swallow	May 17
Northern Yellowthroat	" 15
Total species:	2

NO DATA:	Date
Sharp-shinned Hawk	May 23
Black Tern	" 24
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	" 16
Crested Flycatcher	" 25
Northern Horned Lark	" 17
Bank Swallow	" 20
Red-breast. Bluebird	" 23
Bobolink	" 17
Vesper Sparrow	" 17
Field Sparrow	" 9
Lapland Longspur	" 17
Total species:	11

LATE:	Date	Days late
Great Blue Heron	May 6	12
Spotted Sandpiper	" 12	1
Chimney Swift	" 22	5
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	" 31	11
Least Flycatcher	" 15	3
Barn Swallow	" 17	11
House Wren	" 17	1
Wood Thrush	" 20	5
Wilson's Thrush	" 15	3
Ruby-crown. Kinglet	" 6	13
Cedar Waxwing	" 30	1
Solitary Vireo	" 16	3
Red-eyed Vireo	" 22	5
Black and White Warbler	" 20	14
Nashville Warbler	" 10	2
Magnolia Warbler	" 15	3
Myrtle Warbler	" 6	12
Black-thr. Green Warbler	" 18	4
Blackburnian Warbler	" 18	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	" 18	5
Northern Waterthrush	" 7	1
Mourning Warbler	" 24	1
Canada Warbler	" 23	2
American Redstart	" 20	2
Baltimore Oriole	" 22	3
Scarlet Tanager	" 23	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	" 14	1
Savannah Sparrow	" 17	15
Chipping Sparrow	" 8	3
White-crowned Sparrow	" 13	1
Swamp Sparrow	" 6	9
Total species:		31

First-seen Records:

	No. sp.	EARLY: No. sp.	Average days	Range	LATE: No sp.	Average days	Range	NORMAL No. sp.	NO DATA: No. sp.	Days of main movement:
1st week	6	1	5.0	-	5	9.4	1-13	-	-	May 6
2nd week	13	3	5.3	1-9	8	2.1	1-13	1	1	" 9, 15
3rd week	22	2	3.0	1-5	13	6.1	1-15	1	6	" 17, 18
4th week	10	1	6.0	-	5	3.4	1-11	-	4	" 23
	51	7 (14%)	4.7	1-9	31 (61%)	5.2	1-15	2 (4%)	11	

Answered Feb. 4/57

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, January 28, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

Unfortunately, I cannot announce the arrival of your long-awaited book even in this letter. What has happened I do not know. As I said to Murray, I should have begun foraging for it in July. Now, what would you like to have for next Christmas???? It is totally dismaying for the giver to be the victim of such retardation. I did my best, Darling Margaret did her best, the book-seller did not do his best. Or perhaps he did?!

This is an in-between-day. My type-writer riband is worn to a frazzle and will not produce a decent MS until it gets changed. I am going to town tomorrow. It will, however, very well print a legible letter to you, my sweet and beloved friend, and your long and lovely communication of January 18 urgently requires acknowledgment with thanks and hugs and kisses. There, you got them.

I am distressed about the news of the death of Lars' father. I can imagine how upset he must be, especially if the situation with regard to Lemsjöholm has thereby become critical. I have lived through the same kind of thing, I know exactly all that is involved. I wonder how many brothers and sisters he has, who is the eldest, what his mother is like. Lars himself seemed to me a very sensitive kind of person, so that he is probably going through a very hard time. I have written. He told me of his sister's home in Ottawa being destroyed.

I am glad that the "Nicers" enjoyed part of the summaries. It is dreadful how I got behind all that kind of work this year. I must try to do much better in the next anno, not the least for Bill Gunn's sake. I had such a lovely letter from Irma, but have not written her yet. Please tell her I am going to answer it and not to despair. Who is your President????????

So Clive Barfoot is also interested in Starlings. There seems to be a great upsurge of interest in this good old common species. We have been collecting and sending in all our data to a Mr. Timothy Myres (English origin?) at the University of British Columbia and to Dr. deVos and Mr Collins. Mr. Collins came and gave a talk to the NFN at our January meeting and we had again such a lovely evening in Miriam's cosy place. We are so grateful for all she has done for the club. We are embarking on a nest-box study of the Starlings on behalf of Collins and de Vos. My friend Sheldon is setting up two boxes at Rutherglen and I am to be his assistant research worker. It is all very fine. And is it not wonderful that all of a sudden all our notes on the commoner have become of value! It goes to show - nothing shall ever be written down in vain.

I have just critically read 4 chapters of Margaret's Precocials. She just takes my breath away. Anything so meticulously well done you cannot imagine, anything so fascinating and instructive is hard to think of. She is 73 and going blind and not in perfect health and vigour, yet she is capable of another masterpiece. And does she not look sweet? You have the LIFE pictures, of course, and the one with her two daughters.

I thought it could not have been Florence who was in hospital, but Gladys. Somehow I could not connect such a thing with Florence, I do not know why. Did Gladys break her hip? That is a very long session, but I am so glad to know that she is making good progress. Please give Florence my best remembrances and tell Gladys that I am concerned about the welfare of all Doris' sisters. And, oh, how lovely it was of you to write to Mother. She was delighted, she thought it was the loveliest letter. And is she not amazing at 84 to write such good English? She writes to Len occasionally.

You did not send me your Christmas Census list. We sent ours to Godfrey. We made two, one for North Bay and one for Pimisi Bay. Godfrey thought both should be published, I had a letter from him today. This will please the club in their first great effort. We are having our annual dinner in February and I shall tell you all about it

after the event has taken place.

You may have to make the bed in the spare bedroom for me sooner than you might have expected. I have been asked to be the guest speaker at the Buffalo Audubon Society Annual dinner on May 1. They offered both a fee and all expenses paid and besides Axel wrote such a sweet letter, such a very persuasive one, inviting me to stay with them, etc. It was impossible to refuse. I (just this moment I nodded good evening to the little buck that came down to the back lawn to feed on the cedar boughs Len brought in yesterday. He stamped his foot, meaning: "All right, hallo, hallo, my mood is not altogether relaxed yet."), as I said, I have taken as my theme "Birds (and Beasts) I have known". Thought I would just continue where I left off last time, 10 years ago, and go on to relate our gradual realization of all about us, which crystallized in our special interest in bird/animal behaviour, followed and illustrated by the numerous incidents I can dig up out of the records. If I ever get that far without perishing from stage fright. It is so long since I stood before an audience, and I am much older, but I am thinking of how easily and smoothly you did it and try to do the same. So at the end of that trip, if you are still around Pickering which you may not be, it would be lovely to spend a day or two with you and SEE, at long last, your library, this room of wonder that now has become famous (ref. Miriam Higgs). Of course I will not come if the moss book is not there. I simply could not.

I have entirely revamped the Flight North article, taking into account Murray's good critical discussion and studying a bit more. I have made it into a migrating story in general, getting away from the ~~more~~ localized setting, which I think will give it a more general appeal. Feel I am achieving a more forceful style of composition and with all the polishing that I am doing, no end to it, I hope that it will be better than it was. I will send you a copy of the final version just to re-check on things.

The program for the spring-winter is very full, reviews for Bird-Banding, the chickadee weight study finale, a skunk story, reams of notes to be type-written. The woodpecker study will be next winter's main job, if all continues as before.

I had the most delightful letter from Svärdson. Such a pity all of it is written in Swedish, so that I cannot send it to you. Among other interesting things, he relates how a young Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) became "conditioned" to his island because it successfully caught a Mallard hen on the way to the nest. He just sat and waited. Sooner or later someone would start moving to go foraging and, plunk, the young Goshawk was on the spot. Svärdson estimates that more than 100 Mallard eggs never hatched because the hawk killed 11 out of the 20 hens nesting on the island. Now S. and a few others had worked very hard to get the Goshawk protected, because it was terribly prosecuted, and just succeeded. S. felt he could not be the first one to go and ask special permission to shoot his killer. "The hunters," he says, " would have got too good a laugh." What he learned from the experience, he feels, was worth all the sacrifice. The most extraordinary thing was, that so long as the hawk was there the crows and magpies would not go near the island. There laye dozens of eggs exposed in the abandoned nests, or only slightly covered with down, but the crows did not come to take them. "A fantastic situation. Once more I got a good lesson in the complicated way nature works. How difficult is it not to be certain about calling anything destructive or beneficial! Had not the hawk taken the ducks, but only sat out there on the island, he would have been very beneficial by keeping the crows away."

Now it is getting late and I must fold up the riting apparatus. Going to town early tomorrow. The deer walked off when I went out with the ashes. My dinner is waiting. Len is in Mattawa, but was home, as I said, for the week-end.

Much, much love Louie

P.S. I can <u>well</u> understand how you can both think better when you are in your private compartments.

Answered Mar. 14/57

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, March 6, 1957.

Dear Doris and Murray: I have long wanted to sit down to answering your three February letters and to talk of many things, but two weighty reasons have prevented me. First I had to complete the chickadee weight paper. It needed great concentration, as you well will understand, going through all the arguments, polishing sentence after sentence, drawing the diagrams. We shall now see what it will look like after it goes through Dr. Wolfson's and Dr. Storer's hands. That will show its "marks".

Then, imagine, what happened to me! I was called to sit on the Grand Jury for the spring assizes of the District of Nipissing. We sat for two days and were lucky to get through that fast. Such an experience! I am trying to sort out my impressions and thoughts about it, what I did and what I could have done. Generally speaking, we all tried to fulfill our duties to the best of our abilities according to the oath. It is, however, rather awful suddenly, out of a blue sky, to be faced with having to make such momentous decisions, to take on onerous responsibilities of this kind. Last night and today, when it is all over, I am asking myself these questions: Is doing one's best good enough if it could have been done better under the circumstances? Does the meticulous procedure of the jury system to ensure complete impartiality and the uttermost honesty of thought and act outweigh the disadvantages of ignorance and inexperience inherent in random-picked jurors? At the moment I am very much in doubt of that. This, however, not so much with reference to the case we had to decide on, but regarding the inspections we had to make of all the public institutions and in particular the jail. I very much doubt the value of such an inspection and, although we wrestled valliantly to render a good kind of report to the judge, I now feel that, at most, it was naive. For instance, we could see that the jail was very clean, that the food was fairly well cooked and cleanly served, that the menus did not want either in quantity or quality to measure up to minimum standards of nourishment for strictly sedentary consumers. But how could we know <u>anything</u> of the problems faced by jailers and prisoners alike in that inhuman institution at such an extremely cursory glance? A penal institution, such as we saw yesterday, in all its spotless cleanliness and immense adequacy, is to my mind highly uncivilized. Do you know that I found those steel-cages in which men and women lived incarcerated months, years, more inhuman and soul-destroying than any bolshevik prison I was ever in in Russia - and

I was in quite a few of them! With this and our abattoirs in mind, I am today asking: Are we civilized? Our realization that we are not is our only redeeming safeguard. Our thought and act toward changes and improvements are the only forces we can employ against our inhumanities. I had such an opportunity to employ these forces in a special way and I feel so strongly that my very ignorance, the impossiblity of fully realizing, or even partly realizing, from pure inexperience, prevented me from employing them to the full extent of which I could have been capable. I think that to get any value whatsoever out of a Grand Jury inspection we should, each one of us, have lived a day, a whole day, the life of the institution we had to inspect. As to the case we sat on, I feel we did a better job. Here we had our own experience of life to help us, plus what I thought was a rather masterly piece of instruction from the judge. He mingled in two ideas into his evenly spoken information and advice - "you must also be the guardian of the accused".... "you must prevent personal vengeance from playing any part"... or words to that effect. They stuck with me and helped me decide my vote. We found No Bill and thereby released a man to his family who had been in prison for four months because he was too poor to raise bail. It was a very serious charge though not involving life. It was good to be instrumental to such an act and I have no doubts about the rightness of it, thank heavens. But how well I can understand now the possibility of miscarriage of justice, for I realize now how extremely easy it would be for the altogether conscientious juror to reach an impasse where it would be extremely difficult to decide exactly and without prejudice of any sort what is the rightness.

Yes, was it not sad with Dr. Van Tyne! I felt very badly about it, Margaret tells me he was only 53. Mr. Berger told me in a very nice letter he wrote, asking for a reprint of the Harmonious Association article. One could feel what a real grief it was to him. He said he had met you on the day you were at Ann Arbor. What kind of man is he? I know him only through his learned papers and this letter which gave me a glimpse of a very fine personality. It will be very difficult and be a long time before the space Dr. V. Tyne left can be filled. He was the first one to write me on the vireo study, such a very kind letter it was too.

Now a word about my proposed visit. Would you really be there at that time and

could I really occupy your guestroom for a night and a day or two? The question seems to be - would you like me to come on the week-end before or after May 1st? The Heilborns have asked me to stay over one of these week-ends, so before telling them which one ~~it would be~~ (makes no difference to them apparently) I thought I would ask you, just in case you might be flying off to your Lincoln Sparrow grounds. I thought I would fly whatever way I would travel direct to or from Buffalo, so as to make it in one day, and go by bus the other way over Toronto. I can ill spare more than a week at the most ~~of that~~ important woodpecker nesting-time.

I had lunch with Hazel the other day and saw your ~~most~~ interesting notes on the paper you gave at the FON meeting. It was very helpful to me to see how you had done it and I have also taken all your good advice to heart. I should be able to give them a good talk on bird and animal behaviour and it is important that I do to fill the bill, not at all figuratively speaking. I shall do my utmost to keep my mind on this and push the fears into the background. As soon as I have got my reviews done (March 20 deadline), I shall start working on it in earnest. I am creating the "skeleton" now as I go along, but it will take all of that month to work out the "flesh and blood" in detail.

So glad that you thought well of the Flight North in the newest version. Even what you saw has had some further polishing, especially the introduction, making it more general, the descriptions more accurate, better composition, sentence formation. I have made such a nice acquaintance in Miss Mitchell who is one of the Normal School teachers. She joined our club and has been here a few times. She also does reviewing and was interested in my writing. She showed me Louis Darling's book on the Mallard,GREENHEAD, and I wondered if you had had it reviewed in the Bulletin? It may be too late, it was published in 1954. It is one of the best popular stories I have seen, principally meant for the young sets but for that reason equally enjoyable for the adult amateur naturalist. Most informative, I thought, and absolutely sinless from the point-of-view of anthropomorphism. She also showed a volume of Dr. Allen's bird biographies, such delightful things with all their little personifications. Through Miss M. the fact was also revealed to me that Dr. Berrill's wife, Jacquelyn Berrill, is a very able nature writer, not to speak of

her considerable talent as an artist and illustrator. She published a book of childrens' animal stories in 1953, written and illustrated by herself, and illustrated another similar publication before that, I cannot quite remember the name of either, Woodland Stories and Seashore stories, or something like that. Have you seen or heard of them?

I had a letter from Lars v. H. He was very dejected, said that he was nearly crazy from all the affairs of the estate and hoped it would be at an end soon so that "one can again become a human being." He did not mention the fate of Lemsjöholm, I do hope that he can keep it. He said he had a feeling when he started the journey to America, that it would be his only opportunity for a very long time and how glad he is that it came about. "Now at least I have the memories of this wonderful journey when things become too sad." He said they had done a Christmas Count at Lemsjöholm according to the "American modell" (Swedish) and got 600 birds, mostly Fieldfares and Redpolls (Carduelis flammea). He said that in Finland the winter had been "fantastically" mild and that all the winter birds had been chased away by the cold fall, so that there were none. He said he was so happy over your letters, asked me to tell you and to say that his present affairs with the State, which he likens to a vulture upon the dead, drains all his energies and time ~~at present~~ takes us all his. I think he needs just to be shown we are thinking of him. We can talk of so many things and cabbages and kings, just to distract him a bit. I am writing to that effect soon.

Here there are also signs ~~at present~~ of an early coming of spring. Bare spots are showing, the river is breaking up and Len nearly shocked me to death the other day, coming home dripping from head to foot having gone down on the ice. The ax he just happened to have with him saved his life. My heart absolutely stopped when I thought of the margin on which his life hung on that occasion. He told me he was going out on the ice but I was deep in some writing and it would have been at least an hour before I would have realized anything was wrong, much, much too late had he not been able instantly to swing himself up from the depths. The ax and the solidity of the ice around the hole were the miracles.

I saw my first migrating crow yesterday, Sheldon saw 7 the day before and heard them caw so there was no mistake about that. It is two days before their mean date. The first migrating Starling has still until the 12th to go before it is late. Sheldon has both his starling boxes up and a new notebook all ready for observations. He said he

saw Field Sparrows the other day, but we worked it out to be English instead. We have had quite a few Pine Siskins in sight lately which is not surprising in view of the cedar cones. And the Goldfinches are just as fond of the cedar seeds, a new discovery I made the other day. I was just wondering where the winter finches were this year and was pleased to know from your letter and notes to Hazel that they were north of us. There is a subtle interplay of factors working at times upon the movements of the "irruptive" species, not only food always, not only population densities every time, one, and then the other, and then the one, and sometimes both, or perhaps still others. It is this wonderful "nuancing", these subtle differences, this seldom quite exactly the same, that makes nature study such a fascinating thing. It is such a challenge to our prehension, to our powers of realizing the finest implications in what we see and hear.

What you wrote about the EG foot interested me no end. It reminded me of what Dilger said on the adaptation for occupying its precise ecological niche that lies in a bird's body-size, bill-size, tail-form etc. Otherwise he is horribly dry, Margaret did not like his behaviour study on the thrushes, too lifelessly scientific I think she thought it was. I am catching up on my reading, fortunately, so that I shall come to it for a thorough study pretty soon. So far I have just scanned it. I thought a very great deal of Nero's Red-wings and wrote and told him so and Dr. Emlen's Cliff Swallows is fascinating to me showing many instances of behaviour parallel with what I have seen in my woodpecker, another confirmation of the systematic importance of behaviour patterns.

A very interesting thing happened today with the Downy Woodpeckers. Female B of last year, RAF, returned and she <u>immediately aroused sexual behaviour</u> in her mate of last year which has been staying here all winter, despite the fact that he has been in constant society with two other females before she arrived. Did he recognize her? How? Why? He must have, must he not? I was just wondering the other day if she would be back and what would happen then. There has not so far been any signs of sexual behaviour between the two males, MB and GAM, and the two females, AGF and Unbanded F, which have been here together all winter. It upsets my theory that the territory is the match-maker in most instances. The Hairies have paired long since. It is interesting to note the persistency of the drumming of the females at at this epoch. Every time I look it is a female sitting at her favourite sounding post

tapping out her call. The males are there, so it appears unnecessary from the male-calling point-of-view. I have looked for signs of hole-boring but seen none yet. It should begin soon, but that is definitely a male business. And perhaps her main object in drumming is that he shall know she is there, the same as a male passerine sings to keep in contact with his nest-building and family-raising female. The day before yesterday I saw and heard the Pileated drum for the first time. What mighty blows!

Chickadees still not numerous, two come to hand but there is not a great competition so that it does not happen so very often. There are 4 pink-snouted, grey-silk-coated Short-tailed Shrews that come to hand, such a dainty nimbling they do at the fingertips. Something has happened to our darling Deer, It comes no more and we suspect our neighbours who are poor enough to need meat for dinner. The last time we saw it, it came on to the back lawn from out of a backdrop of blazing northern lights, the daintiest silhouette with big ears flicking and forefoot stamping against the illuminated snowy contour of the hill beyond. It fed to its heart's content while the sheets of the aurora wafted dramatically above him. His appetite completely stilled, he made prancing jumps to the thick spruce 35 feet off. There he laid down, peaceful, oh, so peaceful and secure, under the drooping branches. All we could see above the curve of the snow was his big ears flicking and very occasionally the black point of his nose at times when the radio got a bit loud. We found that he was directed to the cedars Len fixed for him by scent rather than by sight, although both senses probably play a role in food-finding.

This has been written with plenty of interruptions for I have had two traps going. Now my letter has reached such length that you will surely not want to spend more time reading it. I hope the book arrived at very, very, long last. It left here last week. The first one apparently got lost in the mails, which is surprising for it happens seldom, and lightning does not often strike twice in the same place. With it and with this goes my love and many good greetings from us to you.

Donald

Len got on the permanent staff January 1st, all safe and hunkydory on that score. His chief came here and offered him an office job, but unfortunately it involved

considerably less salary than he gets now, without possibility of reaching as high as he can as a unit operator (about 300 a year more than he gets now), and moving to North Bay. It was a lucky thing that he did not have to take it and so he gratefully bowed out of that picture and remains on his machine, and this I think with a much lighter heart now, when he could have got off the machine but did not from his own free will. There is a great difference. There was no great hesitation about it and I had no part in the decision, which is all to the good.

Received Mar. 15/57
Answered " "

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
March 13, 1957

Dearest Doris:

The shortest message with the Summary. Love and kindest greetings to all the "Nicers".

I am so glad that you liked the book, such a very small present.

Loveliest spring weather today after the Marchiest weather yesterday. Crows flew cawing over the Loghouse this morning and the day before yesterday the first migrant Starling (seen by me) appeared at the feeding-station. It had spots on the feather dress and its bill shone beautifully yellow.

Nobody wants my FLIGHT NORTH, it seems. There must still be something wrong with it. I am terribly saddened.

I did give you the recovery record of my male EG, banded March 9, 1951, at Lebanon, NH, USA, Dec. 4, 1955, didn't I? Suddenly thought of it and do not remember.

Much, much love,

Louise

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, March 22, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

Many, many thanks for two lovely letters written so close upon one another that I received them on the same day. I am terribly excited about my visit with you. To think of all we shall discuss and all there is to see of new things and "aspects" at Cobble Hill. Naturally, in the midst of spring, my woodpeckers have difficulty to let me have any time off at all, so that I am packing as much as possible into the shortest possible time. Thus I have thought that if I arrived by the late day bus on Saturday April 27, I could stay with you until May 1st, when I would have to leave for Buffalo, thought by bus. Would this suit you? I am going to town on Tuesday and shall then decide how to travel and find out times of arrival and I will let you know the result soon after. I think there is a bus that leaves North Bay in the early afternoon and probably arrives at Toronto some time around 20.00. I could get off at the Lansing cut-off, or whatever it is called, or any other place that might be more convenient to you than going to the terminal. Whenever I get these wonderful opportunities to take a little trip, I always regret that Len never comes too; but he seems impossible to persuade and always comes up with the most plausible excuses to stay quietly at home.

So glad that you wrote Lars. This will space our letters very nicely, as I wrote the other day. I said to him that no one expects him to be a good correspondent, which he regretted he was not. I said, he was a scientist with his head filled with most important things that left scant room for the conventionalities and that we wrote simply because we liked to keep in contact and to show him how much we appreciated him. Hope you agree, that I spoke the right thing for both of us.

The little Downy chase you described is exactly what might be expected. So far as I have observed, all purely aggressive behaviour is female against female and male against male, never male against female, or vice versa. I have watched a continuous instance of aggressive behavior between two of my females that lasted over 50 minutes. Energetic action - pause - energetic action - pause,

it went like that interminably. The male was there too, took no part, but when the battle surged at highest intensity around him, he clung to the underside of the branch, out of the way, peeped forth and watched the tremendous tournament. I thought of Mr. Milquetoast. It had such an effect on the male, however, that the whole show ended up with him flying to a stump and doing frantic displacement hole-boring, that was soon abandoned as the nervous tension relaxed. Have you ever held a Downy in the hand and unfolded its wing, so that you could see the wonderful pattern of the underside? At the highest aggressive displays, Downies and Hairies stand on tiptoe and open their wings at the adversary and, if their tension rises to highest pitch, they wobble. The effect is thrilling, perfectly thrilling. I am sure that I get at least as thrilled and excited as they are, when I watch. So that you are not at all "interpretive". Your little downy could not stand the proximity of another female in what was, to all intents and purposes, her range. But she would not behave like that at any other season, except when her reproductive tendencies began to stir within her. At all other times, the behaviour pattern would be weakly performed, if at all, short-cut, without any intensity.

All of the female woodpeckers I have ever known have been very "drummy". They have periods when drumming is most intense and that depends on various circumstances. I have a widow Hairy which has drummed ever since New Year, but I think that she has acquired a new mate by now, because this intense drumming has ceased. I have to check on that.

Your discussion on animal individuality was highly interesting, because we have appa ently exactly the same experiences on this subject. As you learn to know animals personally, the most amazing subtle individual differences emerge, as clear as day, and you know them apart sometimes by a sense you hardly know how to express. Undoubtedly, animals, birds, know each other apart in the same ways, by differences in behaviour, looks, voice, mannerisms. My point was this, that the degree of acute recognition depends on the biological need of a given moment or on the established habit of the individual or species. For instance Red Nuts know each other exceedingly well and so do Blue Jays and a host of other birds.

Sheldon 9 of 12 early dates for 3 species, incl yellow-bell. 2 Robins nest building
Robin, Wilson Thrush, Red-eyed. 2 Robins nest building

But from all my studies of the woodpeckers, the personal recognition between mates is a thing that develops rather slowly through the courtship season and depends more on the territory, inasmuch as a male and a female come to the same territory rather independently of each other, and then through all these chases and displays and drummings and hole inspections, etc. gradually establish recognition of each other, simply through habit of seeing each other often, more and more often. There may be, of course, some degree of remembered recognition between mates that have been paired in an earlier season, as for instance the incident with RAF, which seemed to indicate, but only these wonderful chance observations may give you the necessary proof of such subtle modifications. Without these blessed chance observations, which come only as you spend endless hours watching, proof of such things as various degrees of recognition is often hard to come by. It took me four years before I could establish the fact that a certain kind of ritualized behaviour during hole-boring, common in the sapsucker, had its counterpart in all three of the other species of my study. I always thought it ought to exist, but I could not be sure until I saw it in fact. Emlen says in his wonderful Cliff Swallows: "The only objective was to interpret bird song (behaviour) is in terms of its causes and effects; the situations which induce it and the responses which it elicits." I always think that over again and again to learn to chose the right words in expressing what I have seen without intermingling my feelings about it, which may be right or wrong. Yes, the uniqueness of the individual is the most marvellous notion to contemplate in all its implications. It is the very gist of life. This is what makes the study of nature so fascinating, and the more so, the more intensely one realizes the meaning of it. There are never, for this reason, two situations exactly alike and behaviour, accordingly, is never exactly the same. But we may, with care, generalize on broad lines when we accumulate enough knowledge and experience on a specific thing. This is how I feel about it and I know that you look upon it quite along the same lines, to express myself carefully with due consideration of your individuality.

Olli

All my love -- I must end -- there is still so much to talk about. Oh, the blessing of a congenial sister-friend like you!

Louise

C O P Y

April 11, 1957.
6:30 A.M.

Dearest Louise:

Thank you for your last lovely letter. As I have just been out feeding the birds, I was thinking of you who may be doing the same thing at the same time. Then I decided to write you at once while the inspiration was upon me.

First of all: about your arrival in our region--an event which fills us with joy. Murray thinks that your idea is an excellent one, that we meet your bus on the Saturday at the junction of Highway No. 11 (Yonge Street) and the Lansing Cut-off (Sheppard Ave.). When you go to North Bay next, will you please find out at what time your bus will be at Sheppard Avenue. Let us know, and we shall be there. Probably the car will be parked on Sheppard Avenue on Sheppard Avenue just west of Yonge Street, where there is less traffic. We shall be there well before your bus in all probability, but should there be a delay from some unforeseen circumstance, go into the little store at the corner and wait for us there (in case it should be raining or chilly). As we like to be early for such glad events, it is scarcely likely that you will have to wait for us.

Irma Metcalfe is reviewing your book on the mosses and liverworts for the next issue of the Federation BULLETIN. Her review has come and it is good. And she has now returned the precious book. We have a moss in the front garden which has its spores all erect and springlike this past week. I must go out and identify it.

When out feeding the birds, chickadees were anxiously at hand waiting to go down to the table. The pretty fee-bee note was ringing out from the woods and answered by a bird close at hand. A small flock of redwings flew by over my shoulder, and a cowbird dipped over my head. From the west field, a meadowlark sang. A pair of cedar waxwings flirted with each other on an elm branch; courtship behaviour no doubt. The little female Oregon junco minced about under the table while a handsome male slate-coloured, scratched the weed seeds under the lilacs. A pair of blue jays screamed with appreciation when the fresh sunflower seeds appeared. As I put suet into the log holes, a downy waited patiently. From the lower field, a song sparrow sang. He is singing now.

Sheba and I took a woodland walk yesterday after lunch. The hepaticas are out and the first spring beauties. Pussy willows and sapen pussies are soft and silvery. The swamp tree frogs and the wood frogs were singing. Sheba flushed a pheasant, a gorgeous male. It is some years since we had a pheasant on the property, and he was a delight to see (even though not a native bird).

When you come, we must have a few woodland walks. There is so much to see and rejoice over this time of year (any time of year). The MORNING HIKE TO SEE HEPATICAS of MNOC takes place here tomorrow. We are hoping that the field sparrow will arrive today or early tomorrow for them. He always sings from the little wild orchard. The vesper sparrow is about due too. We have not seen a flicker yet, so he is another possibility. Our phoebe is back.

Murray has been in bed since Saturday with a cold. However, he was up off and on all day yesterday doing Federation business at his desk, so is almost himself again. He did get in some reading which is a luxury and which he enjoys very much.

Please tell Len that sometime he simply must come down with you and see us. It would give us such pleasure to show him around.

Received April 10
Answered April 11

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
April 6, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

Just a few lines to say that I have decided to fly down. Connections are excellent, I can get back and forth in five hours, whereas it would otherwise take me 2 days and a half. Such a saving of time and fatigue.

So I am leaving North Bay with the afternoon plane that arrives at Malton at 5.25 p.m. on Saturday April 27. Would it be convenient for you to fetch me so very far away from Cobble Hill? If not, I can get to you quite well, I think by the airline buss to downtown and from there on to Pickering.

I have made reservations to leave for Buffalo on Wednesday morning, May 1, but do not know the exact time that the plane leaves yet.

I am tremendously looking forward to the trip, especially to see you and Murray and Cobble Hill. Please let us take things easy with time to be together and not too many engagements. I am thinking of last time, when you outdid yourselves in everything to give me the most marvellous time, you dears, which I also did have. I do hope that I shall be able to do a good job with the talk. I have "lectured" Len and he has been so helpful with many good suggestions and discussions on the best way to do it.

What do you think of our Margaret hopping the Rockies to southern California? Such a good thing for her, I thought, and she hugely enjoyed the flight, anyway. Must end, love, love, love, Louie

Today a Robin and a Song Sparrow sang for the first time.

Have a sweet letter from them. We're due to get ours here any day now.

Len has seen two Bald Eagles on the Nelson River at the same time, imagine! More details in Summary.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
April 17, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

Thank you for two sweet letters. How wonderful that you will able to meet the afternoon plane at Malton. I looked up the map with Hazel yesterday and saw that the 401 would take you almost there. To my horror I also realized that we would have got into a bad mix-up with the bus. It does not run on Highway 11 any more, but on 400, and that would have been almost as far away from Pickering as Malton. How lovely to have dinner at the Guild! I shall enjoy that very much indeed for several reasons, the lovely situation, artistic surroundings, and last but not least, no cooking troubles for you, no dishes.

It seems from your letter the plans are for two quiet days at Cobble Hill when we can see everything and talk of everything and watch birds and have a glorious time. You have no idea how I am looking forward to <u>being</u> with you. It is the nicest thing about this trip, definitely, in my estimation, all else also very lovely, but that <u>the best</u>. The MNOC meeting will be wonderful. How I shall enjoy meeting them all again! I shall gladly give a little talk, some part of the Buffalo project perhaps. I am planning to talk of the Stationary Naturalist and Bird-watcher, the importance of his work, the methods, etc., the importance to him of the common species, the common behaviour, the common movement, etc. I am going to talk of chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches, comparing a little their behaviour at the feeding-station, in the field, nesting etc. Then there will be a section on the squirrels, what happened when all the metaphorical barriers of our feeding-station were let down and everybody was invited in, something on squirrel predation, how it works. Then there will be the main section on the woodpeckers, and I will talk on the drumming, displays, hole-boring, etc., etc., drawing comparisons between the four species, incidents, etc. etc., many new data that have never been published. The little skunk will come at the end. I gave you this resume so that you can chose what part you

think would interest the MNOC most. My talk at Buffalo has to last at least an hour, I have been asked. I am basing most of it on incidents and the behaviour of particular individuals so as to make it easily digested.

I would love to go to the Crest, so often I recall the lovely evening we spent there and they must have made a tremendous success of their work, I follow closely all reviews, etc. But I think that it would be to make the day too full just before the Crucial Day in my program. The plane for Buffalo leaves around 10 a.m. or a little after on Wednesday, and I would like to be very rested and well "composed" for the evening of that day. Could we therefore leave this treat until next time, darling Doris?

How thrilling if you go to Finland! You will see Lemsjöholm and meet all my Swedish friends, Svärdson, etc., you will love him. I do hope that you will go to Sweden too and perhaps visit my darling Mother.

Won't we discuss behaviour when I come, I am thrilled about the courtships you have seen. It is very interesting to analyse every single movement by comparison with other species, for one thing, in relation to the precise situation, and in relation to the sequence in which the movements occur. Little by little you may then realize the degree of motivation the bird experiences and how this affects the partner or the other bird invclved, which may not be a partner. You also learn to discern the factors of the situation and the environment that influence the bird's behaviour and the subtle interplay of the whole combination that produces the given performance. I often think of play upon a piano in this connection, sometimes a simple lyric piece with clear, distinct notes, pure and simple, and then, again, a most complex composition with a vast array of harmonies and perhaps discords producing a highly intensive effect.

Thank you for the card on Owen. I have made this one of the main references for the chickadee weight paper, Margaret sent it to me. It was immensely useful and brought out many interesting points of comparison. I also used a Norwegian paper by Haftorn on the weights of Great Tits.

All my love. See you very soon. Desmond

Separate sheet for your friends the Argues. Thought you might like to see it en route.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, May 7, 1957,

Dearest Doris: I had such a wonderful time with you and Murray and thank you of all my heart for having me and for doing so much for me and for being so good and sweet to me in every way. I enjoyed every moment to the utmost, all the field-trips, the star-gazing, the woodcock expedition, and not the least the MNOC meeting. Most of all I enjoyed talking to you and to Murray and discussing things and listening to your thoughts and experiences. And thank you, dearest Doris, for taking me to the airport, such a long, long way, and for staying with me to the last, all of which are token upon token of your friendship. Murray must not think that I appreciated any less his kindness to meet me and to take us to that lovely dinner at the Guild. I cannot forget the consommé with sherry in it, nor the speckled trout. I gained two pounds on all the good food, but that will soon go off me, tramping through the bush in search of my woodpeckers.

Now I am sure that you can hardly wait to hear of the crucial evening at Buffalo. There was a big crowd in a large church hall, a long head-table sent out four long arms down the room and I did not see any place that was not filled. My many friends were there and it was lovely to see them. Dinner was not especially good, being mass-produced and chilled from waiting, and the seats were hard, you know, kind of woody hard. But the atmosphere was very gay and animated and that was what counted most. There was quite a longish amount of club affairs preceding my introduction, but it came at last, Mr. Mitchell saying many kind words and telling of his visit at the Loghouse last summer when not I; but the skunk, was at home. After my first sentence I felt the audience coming with me and my heart forthwith popped back from the throat and peacefully began beating in its appropriate place. Sentence took sentence, the one subject interlaced with the other. I talked on the way I worked and on objectivity, the Rousseau quotation, then went on to the woodpeckers. By the time that was finished the hour was up. So I said that I thought they had listened to me long enough. A cry went up: More, more..... Tell of the skunk! So I told of the little skunk and ended up with him going to sleep under our bed and giving comfort notes, softly, softly: tuck, tuck, tuck, my voice trailed away. It was very effective. They stood up and applauded, well, it seemed to me for a full minute, because I had to bow several times to acknowledge their enthusiasm. I felt like a better primadonna - and then everybody, I do think it was almost everybody, (for I shook hands ad infinitum, it seemed,) came up and said

so many nice things to me. Axel and Betty were lavish in their praise, too, so I really do think that I actually "filled the bill". And was that not wonderful? You can hardly,(oh, yes you can because it has happened to you often,)imagine how good I felt.

Next day we went birding at the Old Orchard Wildlife Refuge and there wa saw at least 7000 Canada Geese assembled on two small lakes. Otherwise migration was very slow because of the cold weather. We got 51 species that day and travelled about 100 miles. Axel took the day off in my honour and we were four in the party, a very amusing and rather nice person, extremely"American", if you know what I mean, whose name was Kay McCann, with us. She was enthusiasm personified. And Betty, the sweet person, is more madonna-like than ever both in manner and looks. Oh, what a beautifully peaceful person she is! And Axel is so nicely Swedish, that it couldn't go off him, not one bit of it. The second day we were five in a party and went birding along the Lake Erie shore on the Canadian side. The weather alone prevented it from being a most wonderful day. But we had lots of fun all the same.

My visit with my sister-in-law the next day was good and in the late evening Len brought me back home to the sweetest place in all the world. But the Whippoorwill was not singing because it was too cold. We flew through one of those magnificent sunsets of the north lands. Suspended in a fantastic world of deep blues, reds, orange to soft pinkish toward zenith, I could see Georgian Bay at the same time as I glimpsed Lake Nipissing in the north. And on the horizon toward Sudbury, there was an elongated trail of dense smoke from I don't know how many forest fires. The hazard is extremely high at present and it is near 80° F. and tinder-dry around the Loghouse.

I met Mrs Hermes at Buffalo, wife of the Screen-tour Hermes. She was telling me that her husband had photographed a courting sequence of a Venezuelean dove, she could not tell whether it was the Inca or which one. This sequence of movement and behaviour was apparently almost exactly alike to the one you described to me. If you should want details at any time, the Hermes would be very glad indeed to give them to you, she said. And do you know that the courtship movements of the Whippoorwill is also very alike to those of your Mourning Doves. There are only the owls and the cuckoos that separate these two species according to the check-list. Any time you want to, I can find all my notes on the Whippoorwills and send them to you. Now it is getting late and I must go and fetch Len home. The

3)

Waterthrush heard today for the first time, a Bittern is pumping in the marsh every evening, early morning, a wee Myrtle Warbler has taken up territory around the Loghouse. Yesterday I found the nesting hole of Sapsucker Pair A, and both A and B Flickers are back, the As being somewhat put out, as it appears, because their tree of last year fell down. I am watching all further moves which are interesting. Female B had lots of trouble this morning with a strange female invading her territory and wanting to stay and possess both territory and male. And no woodpecker male stands up for himself under such circumstance, any more than a female would if roles were reversed. It is fascinating to watch. When, if, are you leaving? Hope this reaches you in time. End of chapter. Thank you both again and again for all! Love from us to you,

As ever

Louise

Bird Watching

By Marjorie Meredith



Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

It was my priviledge, the other day to meet a person who is both gifted and charming. Mrs. Louise de Kiriline Lawrence is a pen member of the Margaret Nice Ornithological Club. She was on her way to Buffalo to give a lecture there on the Hairy, the Downy, the Yellow-shafted Flicker and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Murray Speirs I spent a good part of a day in her company at Cobblehill. We took a hike through the Speirs property to see the birds and wild flowers, especially the trilliums, that carpeted the woods. After lunch Mrs. Lawrence talked to a group of us about her Woodpeckers.

She has spent over five hundred hours observing the four Woodpeckers which nest around her home, set almost in the northern wilderness at Pimisi Bay on Lake Nipissing. Hour after hour would be spent in sitting quietly near to the nest of one of these birds and as the years passed she began to find that certain habits were dominant in all the species.

The drumming o f the Woodpeckers was the first big surprise. In the spring and indeed long before most people think spring has arrived, her Woodpeckers were beginning to think of nesting. The migrating birds were coming into her area and the resident ones were responding to the mating instinct. The Hairy Woodpecker is a resident bird there during the winter, the Downy only moves out of the territory if food becomes short but the Flicker and the Sapsucker migrate south. While the temperature was still freezing hard but the sun beginning to feel warm again, she noticed the Woodpeckers drumming on the tree trunks, or anything that would give out a carrying, hollow sound. She discovered that the birds were not drilling holes into the bark of the tree to uncover grubs underneath. Instead they were transmitting messages to other Woodpeckers, that spring was on the way, that the time had come for mating.

This instinct to drum was so prominant that Mrs. Lawrence was able to trap an unsuspecting Flicker and to band the bird before letting him go. Her husband had left a spade resting beside a tree and somehowe the Flicker found that a drumming sound upon, since it was very hard. By moving the spade several times and leading the bird towards a trap she finally placed it inside the trap and the bird went in too. There she was able to quickly band it and to let it go again. Flickers are difficult to band since they are timid. Now she was able to watch this banded bird, which she called Mar, to check on its behaviour.

The drumming o f the Woodpeckers is a big ritual at the mating season. It goes on for several days always between female and female or male and male. She discovered that all the actions of the birds at this pre-mating period was aggressive as if the birds were trying to dominate by displaying.

Many of us have seen Flickers opening wide their wings to show the brilliant yellow underparts in this spring dance. Mrs. Lawrence says that usually this is still part of the rising crest of emotion and again takes place aggressively between male birds or female birds. At some point a pair decide to mate and must secure a nest. But before that takes place the birds seem to know about their most beautiful feathers and these are what they display. The Downys and Hairies have very beautiful white feathers which requires a difficult twist of their wings to display, the Sapsuckers show the brilliant red crest under their beaks by blowing out these feathers. Plumage is always the reason for demonstration.

Finally a pair has mated and has located a desirable hole in a tree for a nest. The male bird does most of the nest construction in all of these species excepting the Downy Woodpecker. In this case the female bird spends about as much time as the male hollowing out the hole for the nest, which is made up of a few sticks at the bottom of the hole. The task of nest selecting and hollowing belongs to the male bird in the other species.

When the eggs are hatched there is the big problem of keeping them warm, since they might freeze if they were left to the cold temperatures: the nights often register below zero while Woodpeckers are hatching their young ones.

Next week I would ike to finish this article about Mrs. Lawrence's interesting observations of the Four

Please return

Bird Watching

By Marjorie Meredith



Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

(Concluded)

Spring comes to the birds much earlier than it seems to do to us humans. We expect warm air, wild flowers blooming and everything turning green. Perhaps the bird considers the number of daylight hours in which to find food to be criterion. The four Woodpeckers that Mrs. Lawrence has studied, the Hairy, the Downy, the Flicker and the Sapsucker, consider it is spring as soon as the days become a little longer. They mate and nest while the thermometer still plummets down below zero. So they have the problem of keeping the eggs warm before they are hatched out.

This uncovered another curious behaviour habit of the Woodpeckers. They nest in holes in the trees which they hollow out to form a gourdlike compartment where the eggs are laid in a rough nest of sticks and bark. At given intervals during the day the male bird returns to the nest to take his period on the eggs. On his arrival he bobs back and forth casting a shadow across the opening with his head. The female bird sees the shadow and carefully peers out to check who is at the entrance. When she is sure it is her partner she flies off the eggs and he settles on them to keep them warm. This bobbing across the opening occurs in all the four species.

The birds are very conscious of the importance of this nesting hole in the tree. Before they lay the eggs and incubate them the male bird will fly to the opening and show the hole to the female or again the female will show it to the male. Mrs. Lawrence said that it took her four years to find this habit out. Downys and Flickers usually peek at the edge of the opening to tell the bird inside that they are there. The Flicker prefers old holes in the trees, though he will take as long as any of the rest to clean it out and refurbish it. Sapsuckers choose trees where other Sapsuckers have nested or take holes that have been used before. One Sapsucker chose a nesting site that had six other holes where nests had been. The branch was so old that it cracked up when he began hollowing and so he was forced to move to another site.

Mrs. Lawrence found that the four species followed the same pattern once the fledglinge were in the nest. The male bird remained on the nest during the night while the female returned a t sunrise to take up her vigil during the day. She said that the Sapsucker did very little hole boring at the breeding territory. They caught the running sap at the top of the branches which occurs in the cold weather of their breeding season.

Once all the birds leave the nest no one returns. It has fulfilled its purpose. Soon the birds are on their own.

Mrs. Lawrence is a person with so many diverse currents in her history, I would like to tell about one or two events that many of us will remember well. When the Dionne quintuplets were arriving in the world Dr. Dafoe needed a nurse with skill beyond any ordinary nursing tecnique. He turned to Mrs. Louise de Kiriline Lawrence. He felt that those five babies would never have survived without her intelligent assistance and later King George V decorated her for her skillful work at that delivery.

Earlier she had been subjected to some very gruelling experiences during World War I and left her homes in Denmark and Sweden because of the great tragedies occuring then. She came to Canada where she is becoming a figure in the world of ornithology because of her intensive study o f the birds around her quiet and secluded home at Pimisi Bay in Northern Ontario. In Europe she was a noted person because of her distinguished family; today in Canada, she is becoming another person of note because of her excelent work here.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, June 14, 1957.

Dearest Doris: You may be wondering that you have not heard from me for so long and especially deserving of prompt attention and a big hug was your lovely, sweet, and sisterly letter of May 18, which expressed so much joy over my little success at Buffalo. But here it is now, all my warmest thanks and appreciation of your sympathy. Your fine way of giving me confidence and encouragement helped a lot and I am sure that you must have thought of me in a special way at the moment when I arose to address the audience, for as by magic all fear left me and, as you told me to be, I was just my own self. After that the whole thing was like a spring freshet, altogether uninhibited.

Since I returned home you may imagine that I have been busy and these reports, which are herewith enclosed, were squeezed in between woodpecker watches and other important spring observations. Also they require quite a bit of work, there is much material that has to be properly coordinated. I think they will give you all a pretty good picture of the ornithological happenings in our region in their present form. With my love to you all of the MNOC. I am reviewing Allen's book on the Vanishing birds for the Can. Field-Nat. and there are 2 French and one Swedish journal to do for BB before July 1st, not to speak of the bird-banding records which should go in before the month is over. So that this little letter is squeezed in between these things, else it would not be with you until July.

I can understand you welcomed the Ottawa decision, even though it was negative. All is for the best and out of the web of possibilities the good chance develops in its own right time. I did not write about the Bulletin for the June Directors' Meeting, I thought I would save it for the fall meeting as my final utterance, when there will also probably be more directors attending.

Now I am very curious about your Lincoln progress, how many nests you have found, what you have seen and heard. Your first arrival did not seem too comfortable with a cold and dark house and no water, even though the Pine Siskin sat atop the tree and sang. I hope all is now much better, although we are not having ideal summer weather for June. We have put our coal fire on and off half a dozen times, always happening to let it go out just before the arrival of a cold front. Now it is out and going to stay out, but this morning it was chilly and humid enough for a real good wood fire.

Counting a low average of two fledglings to a pair, there are at present at

least 40 Hairy Woodpeckers loose in our forest. All of the 10 pairs have apparently been successful, for all these birds are colour-banded and all carry food or bring a youngster without eye-ring to the tables. It is really something. Interesting to see the ensuing behaviour when several parties meet and excitement rises under pressure of the presence of the many. (A squirrel is trying to eat through the window pane to get a hand-out. I gave it to her, and all is well. One came in last night and sat herself on my type-writer and would not leave; it was warm and cosy and it poured rain outside). Returning to the woodpeckers, the young do not distinguish their parent, everybody with something in the bill is a parent whom begging behaviour should be shown. The parent, under pressure, knows its own young and chases the young that does not belong, although,when there is no one around except a parent and a young that do not belong together, the begging young often induces the strange parent to feed it. I am finding that, first, you have to know "normal" behaviour, that is behaviour that follows the undisturbed rhythm. When you know that thoroughly, then it becomes exceedingly interesting to find out what happens when the rhythm is disturbed, for instance when one of the mates disappear or a nestling dies. It is then that the significance of certain behavioural patterns becomes evident, and the relative insignificance of others. It kind of crystallizes the character of the behaviour of the species and/or the individual. This is the "experiment" of the watching technique. And it is extraordinary how patient and indefatigable watching and observation always in the end brings out the right answer to any riddle, provided, oh, provided, there is no end to the searcher's time and patience. It is the grandest exercise as the very antidote against the poison of human vexations; it undoes the pressure of mad speed and false conclusions. This spring I have had some interesting cases. One male Sapsucker became a widower on or about the 7th day of incubation, another male Sapsucker became a widower on or about the 3rd or 4th day of nestlife. You may perhaps realize how important was every the slightest nuance in the behaviour of these two males. One thing, for instance, the female and not the eggs proved the prime releaser for normal behaviour in the first case and the young but not the female in the second. So that my woodpecker study is a rhythm study by the watching technique.

I am slightly horrified at the many little inaccuracies in dear Queenie's write-up. Hope few dyed-in-the-wool ornithologists will read it. Where did she get the persistent sub-zero weather from? And the sticks and bark in the nest? The little anthropomorphisms are

easier to forgive in view of the readers addressed. Queenie sent me a sweet letter, over a month delayed for lack of adequate address, post office omitted (and how they found Pimisi Bay on the map speaks rather well for the efficiency of the institution), and several clippings of other articles of hers. She is doing awfully good conservation work, isn't she! I had also a very nice letter from the Argues asking for all data available on the White-throats. She did not mention anything about the dubble-brooded data I sent you for them. Whatever happened, never mind, I will copy all my notes on the species and send to them as soon as I can get around to it.

I do not know if you heard, but it appears that poor Miriam Higgs is very seriously ill at hospital. According to what Hazel told me over the phone it is critical. Our club has been very inactive all spring and I have wondered why. It is clear now, Miriam has not been well for quite a while, it seems.

Len is creosoting the whole house and I am whitening all the chinking. It looks beautiful when completed, the dark earthen colour, broken by immaculate white on the grey rock in the green forest under the blue sky. Such peaceful and harmonious colour schemes. We are also in the throws of purchasing an electric refrigerator. There is some disharmony between purse content and price, but I saw the dream the other day and because it is last year's model there may be a possibility of settlement in harmony with all aspects. It had a zero-freezer at the top, pull-put shelves, etc., and automatic defrosting. Do you know anything about the automatic defrosting? Some say it is good, others would much rather not have it. I am hesitating much because of this. It will be a life-time contrivance. The Servel machine goes down to the House on the Point for visitors who wish to do their own cooking and for rent. It is worth nothing, or almost nothing, in a deal, but may be invaluable if we succeed renting the house in summer part time.

My love to you both and Len sends all his best,

Louise

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, August 14, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

This is a "short" note to say that I, that we, are delighted over the prospect of your visit on the week-end of August 24-25 and only sad that this was not one of the long ones, so that you could stay over a whole day. If you could drop me a wee postcard with indication of your approximate schedule, time of arrival, etc., I could plan the mundane things, such as eating, with the less interference with our actual being together. Let us hope for good summer weather. But even without that we shall not miss out on anything, to be sure. You are the very most welcome people in the world. I am sorry that little Rosemary cannot come with you. Tell her I shall much look forward to her visit another time. Perhaps some day she might come up here on her own.

We enjoyed both Murray and Bobby Taylor when they were here and the woodpeckers did not enjoy getting into the net. But what a wonderful way of catching birds safely.

When we heard of the last storm in your area we were afraid for you. And I would wanted to write you at once, but almost expected that you would be up that first long week-end in August, so that you might hardly get the letter. I am surprised that Audrey was the one that caused so much trouble. It really sounds quite bad and I do hope that your insurance policy covers all of the reparations well. Then it will become a blessing in disguise, for you will hardly have known, that the state of affairs was such, that water could do so much damage. What is it you call the Baby House?

I am so glad to hear that Miriam has come through her difficulties with such courage. I will pay her a visit next time I get to town. It would be nice if she could save the NFN from extinction. As far as I am concerned, I intend following Wendell Taber's and Margaret's long-standing advice to "leave little works alone" for others to do. Thus club work is out of my range, but inside Hazel's and Miriam's and others'. If I can keep up and improve my reviewing and make good use of my accumulated material, which has reached quite sizeable proportions since the day I first met you, I think there will be enough important work for me to fill the rest of my days to the brim - and over. Do you know that I published 7 titles and 22 reviews during 1956. I was quite surprised myself. Also to my intense surprise I was approached the other day by the principal of Mattawa High School. He

asked if I would be interested in doing a short article for the Year Book of a French-Canadian encyclopedia, cannot remember the name at the moment, and in giving talks on nature at his school. He is coming one of these days to discuss the details of such activities, for I am interested in both. I would not mind an appointment to give nature talks in the schools around here, which conceivably might be the result of the Mattawa principal's request.
I am also expecting an English ornithologist here on the 20th, a Mr.Tutt, (tut-tut-tut),who is, like me, a woodpecker fancier. I have seen some of his fine work on the Green Woodpecker, Picus viridis, whose acquaintance you will make in the Finnish woods for sure. So that when Mr. Tutt wrote, I knew him at once. He is coming here with a Mr. van Opfel, I think his name is, who is a member of the Audubon Society. Do you know him? I must leave you now. I have at long last finished the filing job very much to my own satisfaction, not only that it is done but the way it is done. I do not think that there is one title among my modest 550 that hereafter I cannot find at once. How awfully much do I not regret having neglected to study your wonderful filing methods when I was with you Last spring. Such a lost opportunity that was! I did not realize then that I should need it.

The summary for July will be ready by the time you come and also the review I promised Murray.

Love to you both from us,

As ever

Lorus

How I would love to have your data on the Hairy nesting in the elm outside your windows.

What a pity the cavity was smashed. The same happened to my Flickers' nest and what happened to the young inside then is a complete mystery. That also was Audrey.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
September 8, 1957.

Dear Murray:

This is just a short little note to go with the promised review. Hope you find it adequate.

Please tell Doris thank you for her sweet letter and tell both yourselves, that this household has no dearer friends whom they love to see than you two.

Today Len is knocking out the wall in the kitchen for the new windows and the past week has been somewhat hectic with unexpected visitors. But all is very well indeed.

There will be a proper letter for Doris coming with the summary which I am attacking tomorrow. The reviews, B-Bs and yours, had priority this time. I have also started on your Russian reprints and intended the abstracts to go with this, but the visitors upset plans. They will be coming along too and it is amazing how the language is coming back to as I read every sentence aloud to myself.

Love to you both from us,

Louise.

Stockholm Ö. 14/9
57.

Dear Mrs. Speirs! It was a great pleasure to receive your dear letter with all the kind words about your & Mr. Speirs' visit at the Loghouse - I did appreciate it and the loving heart which need dictated every word in it! Also Louise has described your visit & how happy she & Len were - & always are, when you come to see them. I am happy as long as I can make some things for Louise, my darling daughter, I love her so much - My health is not quite good & I must confess that I feel very tired and must rest frequently - but I have a great peace and am resigned at heart! I would love to meet you & your husband next Year!

Much love from yours affectionate H.d Flach



Fru Hillevid Flach
Jungfrugatan 50
Stockholm



Mrs D. Murray Speirs

Cobble Hill. R.R.2

Pickering, Ontario

Canada

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, September 17, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

Here at last I am sitting down for a good chat with you to accompany the summary herein enclosed. Please excuse the bad copies. Why carbonpaper sometimes frizzles up and makes "paths", I do not know.

Thank you for your sweet letter. As I said in letter to Murray, we appreciated the lovely implication of your travelling so far to be with us for a little while and the House on the Point could not house more desirable visitors or beloved friends. It was lovely of you to write to Mother about your visit and us. How deeply she appreciated it you will know from these words: "It was so wonderfully sweet of Mrs. Speirs to send me such a kind letter about her visit - such things are so extraordinarily comforting and show consideration and thoughtfulness for others..." I fear that my darling is failing very rapidly and that you will not see her next year when you come to Sweden. She seems to be very exhausted and her writing shows the decline more than anything. But she is harmonious and peaceful and all is well. You will probably hear from her. I told her that my friend Doris is a person she would approve of highly, in every possible way, and I gave her a description of you so vivid, you will be there beside her alive, blue eyes and all.

Your overseas trip seems to be shaping up beautifully. It will all be a wonderful experience. How you will love looking at all the seabirds from the ship and in May there will be migrants over the sea too, I imagine. According to Margaret's last letter, it does not seem impossible she will take off, too, for Helsinki.

Have you information of the Evening Grosbeaks at Deep River and apparently all along the Quebec side of the Ottawa River? It appears to have been a very good year for them there, too, this summer. If not, you can get details from Mr. Ivan Ophel who is the biologist of the Chalk River plant. Mr. Tutt was telling me about it. Mr. Ts visit was most successful. A very enthusiastic birder at 71, he is exceedingly knowledgeable, especially on behaviour. We had some wonderful talks and discussions and exchange of information and ideas on woodpecker behaviour in particular. He was happy and interested in everything, a delightful gentleman indeed. All our animals behaved to perfection. He

was thrilled one evening, when we sat by the open door at the back in the dark, and the skunk and the flying squirrels performed beside us as if we were not there. He thought our hare was amazing. He said he had never seen such a hare before, especially when she hopped right in on the sunroom mat to nibble bread from our hands. Imagine that, perfect confidence in the benediction of the situation. It is a wonderful thing, at the same time as it is a grave responsibility to have the birds and the beasts come willingly out of their frames, so to speak, and for us to keep them immune from any dire consequences. This leads me on to mention our woodpecker problem. They are simply pecking our houses to pieces. Big holes are gouged out of the new trim Len put on. The garage is a mess, the hydro mast and gable trim of the Loghouse show deep workings, I found peckings on the House of the Point the other day; and that is calamitous because we are not there to defend it when attacked. I rush out with a big broom and smack it on the wall with a tremendous bang to chase them away. I have sat down to reason the thing out. We have never before had anything like this happen in all the years we have been here and feeding birds. Nor have we ever before had so many Hairy Woodpeckers. The Downy apparently do not react that way. So that all started with an unbalance between the species and the environment. To put the finger exactly on the nature of this unbalance seems difficult. Numbers certainly was a major factor, congregation in a limited area. Food and competition for food, another; too many came to eat at the same time. There were various reactions to this frustration, but for a Hairy Woodpecker pecking at something quite hard so he feels it and makes a good noise without actual/drumming is so utterly natural that it is the next gesture to anything he does or feels or experiences. On what to peck? On dry stumps, dry twigs, rotten wood. Holes are attractive, white wood is attractive, all kinds of woodpecker workings are attractive. I have been wondering if one part of the unbalance did not consist in too few such attractive sites, as compared to woodpecker numbers? I imagine that the number of sites needed for a certain number of woodpeckers to maintain equitable balance would be extremely elastic. All this balance is just a feeling, only a proportion, something quite definite, yet not at all definte. In some individuals this pecking reaction would be stronger than in others, so that the threshold of/reaction in such a one would be low, permitting the pecking to happen without the attraction to site having time to work.

The eaves and the corner trim of the houses lie exceedingly conveniently in line at the feeding station. Once pecked,a working is started,and we can only camouflage it by dabbing it with creosote, but the depression is there and as attaractive as a knot hole to the birds with the quick reactions. Immediately, this leads to ritualization, habit formation. The fact that only two or three Hairies are responsible for the damage and that their attacks happen only at certain times of the day,when they come along,seems to uphold these deductions Now the question is this - how shall we lead them out of it? Is there a counteracting measure which may be evolved, short of the disappearance of the main culprits? I have not been able to answer that question yet; meanwhile I have the broom and the creosote and there may be a migrating hawk to help. We are not the only ones who suffer from woodpecker damage. Lars v. H. and Mr. Tutt told me of tremendous holes in buildings, made by their woodpeckers,and in the States they seem to have great trouble with the Pileated attacking hydro poles and telephone posts in some localities. And Len is getting very impatient, having his good labours all ruined from just a peck. But what a peck it turns out to be!

By means of a cross-but saw Len and I,ourselves,gouged out the wall in the kitchen. In this stark and naked aperture, Len's skilful hands have now inserted the duckiest double window you can ever imagine. That is the start of my 20-year-old kitchen dream. Don't tell anybody there is any fun in getting things too easily,with no room for the long, long dream,late to be fulfilled!

More warblers have been going through here these last few days than I have seen in the past two years. Mostly Myrtles today,in fall dress with flashing lemon-yellow patches. The world around us is golden-green, a background particularly enhancing the purples, reds and yellows, the heavenly blues, of the last blooms of the summer.

Now I shall have my lunch and then write to Margaret. Love to all the "Nicers". Greetings and love to you both from us,

Louise

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, October 9, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

With these summaries you shall have a letter also. The summaries are, of course, with my love to the MNOC, with Murray allowed to pick therefrom what he likes for his Worth Noting column.

How are you? We are well. No flu yet; I almost wish we would catch it at the start, the intensity of the infection always seems to increase towards the end of an epidemic. We have it all around us, schools are closed.

Everyone of the Swedish words Murray wrote was spelled correctly, as if he had done nothing but write Swedish all his life. Your effort to master the language is noteworthy. You will be conversing with Lars in pure Swedish by the time you get there, which will be a great surprise to him. You may see my darling Mother after all, she seems to be very much better again after her little heart session. I can understand that the matter of "en" and "ett" seems confusing. So far as I know there are no rules, you are born with the sense of it, or know it not at all. Ett bord and Det vackra bordet go together and En stol and den vackra stolen go together. The indefinite article Ett, the definite article Det denote the same gender and so does the sur-fix et in, for example, bordet. But why bordet is neutrum and not so called den-genus, I cannot tell you. Borden would mean several tables. En and den and the surfix en in singularis belong together to den-genus. Have I made it seem still more complicated perhaps? Whatever can be simply masculine or femine is, of course, much simpler, dottern hon, sonen han, but why människan (man) should require the feminine pronoun hon always, no matter of what sex, seems a peculiarity that must have originated in the womb.

You will observe from the summary that your blue jay flights were a sequence of movements of the species at least as far north as Pimisi Bay. The observations fit precisely, don't they! Two days ago a Canada Jay arrived upon our scene. It took to the feeding-sticks like a veteran and it has now found every other available food supply, suet spots, etc. It is the loveliest bird, all softly grey, with a flight like a sigh. It vies for dominance with the Blue Jays, Red-wings, and Woodpeckers. Black, white, and red are colours of threat-meaning in nature, each separately, or some, or all together, combined. The Redwings achieve dominance merely by its black, with or without enlargement posturing or exposure of the ravissants

epaulets. At the moment they rather have it over the others, their threat device is so solid. Skunks shine in the dark like lighthouses on a beach. But they could not shine without their white stripes and their peculiar design excites the beholder. Skunks' eyes also shine red in the dark, like those of the Whippoorwills, like moving Chinese lanterns. Nature is so wonderful, the essence of effectiveness and consequence.

Operation "kitchen-window" was an enormous success, I am happy to report. Len created the solidest-looking, the nicest-looking window imaginable. It has a good-sized sill upon which I can place flower pots. We are going to have live ivy as a curtain in due time. Len "mended" the log-wall outside so perfectly, that he who does not know there was a big hole in it would never believe it. The window itself is white, ivory-white, the frame honey-coloured, like the sunroom. It lets in a lot more light and I can see the sky without twisting my neck out of joint, as I did peering aloft from the former low window. We are both thrilled and it augers well for the success of the whole metamorphosis.

I think that this touches upon all the subjects mentioned in Murray's nice letter of Sept. 16.

The past week has been out of this world. Never have we seen such autumn colouring that endured for so long. I have no words whereby describe it. The air, the composition of each vignette as seen, panoramic or micro-local, the combination of the hues in all the nuances of the rainbow, the scents and fragrance of the musty earth, the brilliance of the sun, the mystic transparancy of the moonlight at night, left you with a wonder that such immensely encompassing beauty exists. It started to turn yesterday, when the gold became russet-brown. Today the leaves, having fulfilled their appointed term of duty, are being released from their sockets and falling softly without a wind. All is as it should be.

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed letter from Dr. Dymond. I was, very much indeed, but have not answered it yet. I aim to go into the matter more thoroughly and make it a section of my woodpecker study. Woodpeckers in Finland seem to eat up barns, according to Lars. I shall have to contact him, and Pynnönen, and others. Somebody wrote something in either the AUK or the Wilson Bull. on this subject. I shall have to find it. Does Murray have any suggestions on references elsewhere? What is the publication

on Stress that Dr. Dymond refers to? The squirrel and woodpecker problems are being dissolved gradually with a decrease in numbers. By means of a flyswatter I have succeeded in conditioning the squirrels not to beg at the door while they are allowed to approach me "in the field" and there bid for their courtesy ball. This saves the door and the windows. Only one of them acquired the inclination of making bed-material out of our laundry on the line. We are able to control this by watching aided by the throwing of a broom like a javelin should the squirrel gain the line unobserved. Nevertheless, he succeeded in tearing a hole in Len's hole-proof sock last week and my bright red flannelette nightie proved a temptation beyond control. Fortunately, I saved it just in the nick of time. As to the malfaisant woodpeckers, the broom used as a javelin has also been an effective deterrant, provided the culprit is taken "red-billed"in the act. The broom is a very good weapon - it breaks no windows, kills no one, just makes the birds sit up and take notice, which is exactly what the woodpeckers do. Like images of the mute question: What new craziness is this? they look at me, in a person their look would spell reproach. When I persist chasing them, flinging the broom after them, they fly off giving loud kick-kick-kick calls. It is a great game.

The wild skunks are tame. This was achieved in a trice. I sat down on the backsteps where they get their food simply. They came, performed at first a few hesitant gestures, sniffed, backed up with tails aloft. Curiosity got the better of them. They nosed my hand, took the food by pouncing. The prey might escape, that is why they pounce. It didn't. Then they took the food gently. An interesting situation arose. One of them got behind me, close up at my back he was sniffing around, while the dominant little one was in front. She is impetuous, you know. The one that was behind is of an even steady temperament, a very nice skunk. I could not watch both. I sat like a statue. Nothing happened. I need not have worried. The skunk is perfectly "safe" up to a certain point. The spray is pure defence. The favourable circumstance must include a certain element that induces a back-to-the-wall situation. That is the releaser of the spraying. Once you know that, you can quite easily avoid releasing anything. Aggression in the skunk does not include spraying, unless the above situation arises. It includes buffeting, pushing, jostling, squealing, growling, and outright attacking by biting, then fighting, rolling on the ground, violent, sometimes

seemingly vicious, but no release of scent. End of skunk discussion.

Oct. 10. Today there are 3 Canada Jays, two chasing one in a lively performance of supplanting attacks amid a great deal of loquacity, alternated with glide-flights from one feeder to another. Chuck, chick, koo, yoo, are among the notes heard. Also that "mirthless laughter" khrae.

Meseems there is a birthday coming up pretty soon - or has it passed? I have never got used to thinking of you as being born in the fall, you always seem to me like a spring child, which is meant as a very nice compliment. But this time I remembered and I am thinking of you everyday with love and all my best wishes. Many, very many, happy returns, my almost Sister.

Now I shall end this to you and then write to Svärdson. Imagine I have not got that done yet. It may be quite a long while before I get an answer, these scientists are unreliable with reference to correspondence, especially the Europeans. I always remember how exceedingly prompt Dr. Van Tyne was. He always answered letters. Was that not a fine In Memoriam that Mr. Mayfield wrote!

Love to you both from us.

Puss och kram
(Kisses and hugs)

Din varmt tillgivna "syster"

Louise

Please return for Whittaker - [illegible]

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, November 15, 1957

Dearest Doris: Sit back! This is going to be a good exhaustive letter so that you will not reproach me for its tardiness. First, thank you for many things, especially that you came that lovely day a month ago. You looked so radiant and sweet, despite the sad mission that brought you north, a great harmonious atmosphere about you, "everything good." I am sure that your coming must have been a solace to all, Stan H. especially. I wrote to him as I said I would. I suppose the poor lonely man is so upset, trying to adjust to the new life, that he hardly knows what he is doing. Perhaps Hazel wrote and told you that the club had a meeting and decided to go on "for better or for worse". It seems to me that if you really want to do a thing, there need be no worse about it. I know that Miriam felt it was both foolish and sad that so much failed when she could no longer lead.

Thank you for your lovely letter of Oct. 21. We were a little bit worried about your long trip home alone with the Tomato and followed you in thought and I can well understand that Murray was relieved when he found you safe at home. Even though you are a sure and skilled driver and exceedingly clever in managing your strength, these fatal moments occur when the unpredictable coincidence happens. Hence it was good to know that all was well. What play by Tchekov did you hear? Three Sisters? I have seen that played at least twice by the Moscow Art Theater, you know those famous dramatic artists that are the cream of them all. Most of the Russian classics are deeply stirring.

Thank you for the return of JRs letter and the much appreciated reference. Did you see Svärdson's invasion birds article yet? I thought it fascinating and revealing, a very fine piece of work, as one would expect from him. Very useful to you, it seems to me, with reference to your EG distribution problems. Such a stupidity I did not ask for two reprints while I was at it. I have not got even one yet, he, probably, has not either. We know it takes time. I shall hold the copy of British Birds belonging to Margaret, just in case you would like to have it before I return it. Margaret certainly would not mind so long as she got it back in the end. Did you see Whittaker's marvellous study on anting? I have just started it. What an amazing piece of work, a most important contribution.

Did you see or hear of my remarks in connection with the Statement of F.O.N. objectives and policies? I was wondering what you thought of it. I had such a nice

second letter from JR with reference to it, to them, my remarks. Isn't he doing marvellous things for our Federation? Does he not give inspiring leadership? What a wonderful way of "retiring"! The eternal youth of the mature mind. And to speak of wonderful things, isn't it reassuring to meet young people, like those who were visiting you, who have developed into responsible and well-balanced characters! So often, it seems to me, that we do not deserve that they should have cleared the shoals so adeptly, when the guidance we collectively have given them has often been so poor. But there are a lot of these young people. We have come in contact with so many of them, such as Len's niece and nephew, all the boys from Cornell who have visited us, your lovely daughters. There are a lot of good people to make our world good. At the moment I am reading a fascinating study in psychology. I have never thought in that way before with the least bit of knowledge what it means. I find it revealing. How "natural" and "correct" all things are in relation to given circumstances!

Thank you also for Monitor with the page about Russia. I have driven in a troika several times with the pacer in the middle and the two galloping horses on each side. I agree, there is no way of driving as thrilling. The sleigh is full of hay, fragrant, the bells are jingling on the "douga", that thing that goes over the Russian horse's neck like an arch and which is springy and holds out the shafts from the sides of the horse so that he can move freely, fast like the wind. How many times have I not harnessed my Russian horses. There was a trick to it, but not hard to learn. There was charm and character to old Russia, much that was good, all that was simple and plain and "natural", evolved from the earth and the land, that enormous, marvellous land, stretching through two continents, north to the pole, south to the tropics, and other things that were not so good that evolved from human excess. But the die-hard old things of Russia, that were pushed out because there was no more room for them in the new rhythms of things and that will not recognize the real events, that will not let go of what was once, are nothing but living corpses, because their purpose and meaning is dead since they refused to follow the rhythm of evolution. How true a feeling Gleb had about these things, like a seer. He knew what would happen if he quit. He would do, or die doing it, the only purposeful thing a man with integrity could do under the circumstances. And now, look what is happening! There is something tremendous behind all this, something great and true, something that neither the Bolscheviks, nor anyone else can destroy, something

the beginnings of which, or perhaps rather the roots of which, I was allowed to perceive at Rostov-on-Don, in the midst of the Siberian taiga, something stirring and alive and selfless, selfless like the work our own great men, such as Van Tyne, Rowan, a host of others all over the world, whose curiosity and thought are greater than their ego. It is this that has now launched these space balls with the energy of man's creative mind in the best sense of its meaning, and in which feat the Bolscheviks had no more responsibility than to create certain favourable conditions. Sputnik - s means with, putj - road, nik - fellow, sum total - fellow traveller. Do you appreciate the wit! How is the West now going to keep from being a "fellow traveller", oh, naughty word!?

Herewith the Summary which I hope the "Nicers" and Murray will enjoy. We think Len and I are doing fine with all the means at our disposal. All first sight records have been gone into with great thoroughness to eliminate any possibility of mistake. The future will prove them, like it did the Green Heron. For the rest I have been busy with the skunk article which I am trying to write. Hence the reason why you have not heard from me. I cannot break off and turn on again as easily as of yore. So I have to stick until the phase is done. Len is busy with the kitchen and doing exceedingly well under the greatest difficulties with crooked walls and all kinds of popping-up surprises that throw out all his calculations. To get a cupboard straight from the front he has to sculpture the back, literally, with plane and chisel. This is the wall of the window, the others should be less of a problem. I am glad you liked the window. When all its surroundings are completed I think that it will be perfect both in proportion and from the practical view-point.

We have had a little bit of cold weather, but mostly warm above normal. Len has sighted the first Snowy Owl, which will appear in the next summary. We have 5 Canada Jays at the feeding-station, 3 females, judging by wing-measurement, and 2 males. Two twosomes are paired, became pairs after they arrived, for none of them came together. There was lots of wing-"gauzing" to accompany it and lots of notes, all kinds of interesting ones. The two pairs come together, that is the members of each pair do. Anyone happening in upon the premises at the same time is battled and chased with utmost vigour. The poor odd one, Y-a f, sometimes has a hard time of it. We are so happy about our new "red Nuts" that came to replace our beloved old ones. And today a sweet female"White Nut" also appeared upon the

(over

scene, very hungry, judging by the tremendous effort she puts into tugging pieces of suet. Chickadees are again on the increase and one comes to hand wherever it sees me, giving a loud chick-a-dee-dee-dee in my ear when, in my distraction, I do not notice it. I am glad it survived. Now its behaviour will be followed by other daring ones, so that, perhaps, there will be no break. The skunks have gone to sleep. Now the temperature has got to go up into the upper 40s, to 50, before they awaken for a bite to eat. I always see to it that food is there on such nights to check on them. So there you have us all at Pimisi Bay. Now Len wants his dinner soon and I must leave you. I do so sending you herewith my love and most sisterly devotion. From us both to you two,

Louie

C O P Y

December 12, 1957.

Dearest Louise;

It is three week ago since your very lovely and appreciatdvdy long letter arrived and the interesting October Summary. Many thanks from both Murray and myself.

I did so enjoy being with you after my sad North Bay trip. I received a very touching little letter from Stan. Higgs written on the train as it sped at about 60 miles an hour to its destination further west. Norma has written to me too. They are both in as good shape as one could hope for under the circumstances. Norma seems so much softer and gentler than she used to when her mother was with her. She really appreciates her mother now and is continuing to learn from her example.

We saw Tchekov's "Three Sisters" at the Crest Theatre over a year ago and found it most moving..."deeply stirring" as you say. The play over the radio was about a young lawyer who had a bet with a Moscow plutocrat and millionine of the old school that he could survive intellectually if he was confined in as in a prison for ten years. The stakes were high. The aristocrat, much against his will and better judgment took the young man up. He confined him in a cottage on his estate and had him minidtered to only by a servant who brought him food and books from the library daily. And so the young man lved for the allotted ten years. But a tremendous change took place in him. He went through every stage of ennui, self-analysis, mental torture, numbness spiritually--all this for the stake--a great deal a money. In the final years, when he had aged beyond recognition, he began to awaken to a sense of true values. Money ceased to seem in the least important, the good of humanity and spiritual values to be all-important. He became a sort of hermit-saint and found great peace of mind. When the final day came and he met with the plutocrat--that was a thrilling scene. The millionaire had discovered that if he paid the lawyer the stake agreed upon, he himself would be a pauper. He thought he would poison him in the drink they would have together. But when he offered the lawyer the full amount to his amazement it was all refused. The young man, now looking like an old man, had no interest atdl in money, wanted none of it. He went his way, free, unpoisoned and apparently happy. The whole play was quite an experience to listen to; I am sorry I do not remember its name.

I was able to get Svardson's invasion article from the library of the ROMZ and have borrowed it until after Christmas. Certainly it is a very important paper and I simply must have a copy. Perhaps I could get one from your friend when we go to the Congress next summer? It is too long to type out. Thank you for telling me about it as I would have missed it otherwise. We do not take "British Birds".

I have also been reading another important paper with which you must be familiar; Hinde's "Comparative Studies of Certain Finches" (Canary, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Hawfinch, Crossbill, Brambling and Chaffinch). It too is most fascinating and especially interesting because of my grosbeak work. Some of the behaviour is comparable--similar or nearly so; again there are differences that are no doubt generic. I was able to make a copy of most of Hinde's paper and this has taken me about 4 days solid work. But, as with the Svardson paper, I do need to have it on file for reference.

All is well here and I wish the [illegible]ing were longer. I have to depart now.

Copy MNOC (with my love)

JUNE 1957

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN LAKE NIPISSING AND PIMISI BAY AREAS, ONTARIO.

Observers: H. Petty, L. C. Lawrence.

Compiler: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.

Weather: No observations June 26. Of the remaining 29 days, 11 were mainly cloudy and 18 clear. On 15 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 14 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 61.6 °F. Cold fronts passed June 1, 25, and 29; warmest weather occurred June 21-23 with maximum temperature of 85° F. on June 22; a cold spell lasted from June 1 to 9 with a minimum of 39° F. on June 5 and 8. On June 28-29 the aftermath of hurricon Audrey passed over the region. It brought torrential rains that lasted almost uninterruptedly for 44 hours, raising the lake-levels several feet, bursting a beaver dam at Pimisi Bay and causing large wash-outs, inundated the marshes, causing lakes and rivers to form in every depression, drenching birds and birds' nests. High winds occurred in the afternoon of June 29 at the passage of the front, toppling trees and disrupting telephone and hydro-lines. The barometer dropped to 28.30 inches, the lowest I have ever seen it, just before the winds reached peak velocity. At this time the wind turned west which saved the Loghouse establishment at Pimisi bay from serious damage.

(not mid) Audrey late June

Feeding-stations: At PIMISI BAY: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 M, 1 F, F disappeared 1st week; Hairy Woodpecker, adults with young, all 10 pairs successful, 20-40 (est); Downy Woodpecker, 5 pairs with young, 15-20 (est); Blue Jay, 2 pairs with young, 4-10; Crow, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 4-2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, 1 F, F disappeared

very numerous

pair ie

1st week, M the day of the storm; Wilson's Thrush, 4; Red-winged Blackbird, 1 M, 1 F; Junco, 1 M; White-throated Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 2.

At LAKE NIPISSING: Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 2; Starling, 10-12; Chipping Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 1.

General Observations: LOONS, HERONS, DUCKS: all scarce, only lone individuals seen occasionally.

HAWKS: Broad-wings very scarce; Marsh and Sparrowhawks fairly common.

CUCKOOS: One Black-billed heard at Pimisi Bay June 14; otherwise very scarce.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS: Chimney Swifts found locally in fair numbers; Ruby-throated Hummingbirds breeding exceedingly few and far between.

WOODPECKERS: Known nest failures occurred among the Sapsuckers and Flickers, caused by the disappearance of one of the adults and, in one case, the storm toppling the stump in which a nest was located; at least 10 pairs of Hairy Woodpeckers and 5 pairs of Downy fledged young successfully as known by banding. By conservative estimate the Hairy population at Pimisi Bay temporarily must have reached 40 and over and the Downy between 20 and 30 birds. Predation of a hawk, believed a Sharp-shinned, was observed at least once, when a young Hairy was caught at the feeding-station. The American Three-toed Woodpecker was seen again at the same place as on May 16 on June 10 with the evidence of its foraging considerably increased.

FLYCATCHERS: Phoebe and least Flycatcher breeding pairs conspicuously scarce; Eastern Kingbirds scarce; Traill's reported fairly

numerous at Lake Nipissing, but scarce at Pimisi Bay; Wood Pewee scarce; Olive-sided unreported.

SWALLOWS: Generally fairly numerous, especially Tree Swallows.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS: Chickadees still very scarce at Pimisi Bay, although 2 pairs breeding there are known to have fledged young; the two Red-breasted Nuthatches, one resident at Pimisi Bay for 5 years, the other 3, disappeared, one due to predation, the other died during the storm; Creepers unreported.

THRUSHES: Breeding pairs of Robin were found unusually common, but all other species scarce to very scarce. Throughout June the silence of the birds at Pimisi Bay has made the forest seem almost ghostly.

WAXWINGS AND VIREOS: Cedar Waxwings scarce at Pimisi Bay, fairly common at Lake Nipissing. Red-eyed Vireos, the most common song-bird, were few and far between; one pair nested in the Pimisi Bay study area where usually 6 to 8 pairs may be expected to breed. Solitary Vireo unreported.

WARBLERS: Most species very scarce, especially Myrtles, Blackburnians, and Redstarts; pairs of Ovenbirds breeding in the study area much fewer than usual, but Chestnut-sided, Mourning Warblers, and Yellow-throats were present in usual numbers.

BOBOLINKS AND MEADOWLARKS: LCL considers Bobolinks as abundant as he has ever seen them; Meadowlarks present in usual places.

BLACKBIRDS: The storm inundated the marshes and brought the breeding-season of the Red-wings to an abrupt halt earlier than usual; the exodus to the fields immediately after was notable.

FINCHES: All species except Goldfinches scarce. L.C.L. reported the single Evening Grosbeak record, 2 males and 1 female June 24, 5 p.m. at Eau Claire crossing. Crossbills unreported.

SPARROWS: Juncos and Chipping Sparrows scarce, Song Sparrows, Savannah, and Vesper Sparrows found in good numbers; White-throated and Swamp Sparrows not as common as usual.

Mammals:

Little Brown Bat: at least 15 were discovered under the north gable of the Loghouse; more are known to inhabit the east eave and the south gable.

Timber Wolf: LCL saw a large one in Calvin township June 5 as it stood in silhouette on top of a hill before crossing the road into the bush. He had ample time to make sure that it was not a dog.

Striped Skunk: one with a large pendulous growth between its forelegs visited the feeding-station every night, eating voraciously from dish of food.

Snowshoe Hares: very abundant all over the region. Going from Pimisi Bay to Eau Claire, 8 miles, we have counted up to 15, of which many were young ones. One pair, a buck and a doe, live around the Loghouse and are tame.

WOODCHUCK: seem less numerous than usual, one pair lives in study area.

Eastern Chipmunk: appears on the increase after some years of comparative scarcity.

Red Squirrel: several litters of young and their mothers have created a serious overpopulation at Pimisi Bay. The crowded conditions with ensuing shortage of food intensified competition beyond a healthy normal. This highly increased the nervous tension of the animals and resulted in many types of displacement activities, some of which tended to become very destructive. In an amazingly short time, some displacement activities became ritualized in some individuals.

Flying Squirrels: not numerous.

To the MNOC

JULY 1957

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS AND MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO.

Observer: L.C.Lawrence

Observer and Compiler: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No observations July 2 and 25. Of the remaining days, 10 were mainly cloudy and 19 clear. On 5 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 24 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 67.0° F. Warm front passed over the region July 21 and a cold front on July 9. A cold spell endured from July 1 to 6 with a minimum temperature of 41° F. on July 3 and the warmest weather occurred on July 18 and 19 with a maximum of 83° F.

Feeding-station: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 M, disappeared after July 15; Hairy Woodpecker, 40 to 15; Downy Woodpecker, 20 to 15; Blue Jay, 12-15; Black-capped Chickadee, 2-4; Robin, 2-1; Wilson's Thrush, 5-2; Red-winged Blackbird, 1 M; Junco, 1 M; White-throated Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 4.

General Observations:

LOONS AND GREBES: Loons continue rather scarce, no young observed; all species of Grebes unreported.

HERONS AND BITTERNS: Great Blue Herons observed frequently by LCL in the townships of Calvin and Bonfield, 3 seen on July 22; in the same localities Bitterns recorded many times, at Eau Claire 2 seen on July 18 (LCL).

DUCKS: a Scaup drake in summer plumage observed by LdeKL at Pimisi Bay on July 8; extension of white on wings not seen, nor the colour

of the gloss on the head observable in the early morning light but judged by the whiteness of its flanks, it was a Marila nearctica rather than affinis; ducks otherwise scarce except for a few Wood Ducks at Kennedy lake; no broods of ducklings seen by either observer.

HAWKS: LCL recorded Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks quite regularly in the townships; Broad-winged Hawks scarce; several records of Marsh Hawks and Sparrowhawks numerous, although both species disappeared from certain localities they inhabited in recent years; two excellent observations of Pigeon Hawks, one an old female (IdeKL).

RUFFED GROUSE: scarce; apparently none of young in the Pimisi Bay study area survived the storm in late June.

GOATSUCKERS: Nighthawks very scarce at Pimisi Bay, but several seen at North Bay; Whippoorwills not numerous.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS: Swifts not numerous; Hummingbirds continuing generally scarce.

WOODPECKERS: Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, all 15 pairs producing fledglings, were abundant at Pimisi Bay; Sapsuckers rather scarce, but Flickers reported in daily counts of from 5 to 12, decreasing notably during the 4th week (LCL).

FLYCATCHERS: all species scarce to unreported.

SWALLOWS: began flocking during the latter part of the month; Barn Swallows most numerous, a count of 150 obtained July 29 (LCL).

JAYS AND CROWS: Blue Jays numerous at Pimisi Bay, but not frequently seen elsewhere in the townships; Crows in fair though not abundant numbers.

WRENS: House Wrens few; Winter Wrens unreported.

CATBIRDS AND THRASHERS: in the townships LCL reported Brown Thrashers numerous in suitable habitats.

THRUSHES: Robins continuing numerous over the whole region; nesting success at Pimisi Bay low, possibly owing to the abundance of small mammals; other species few to very scarce.

STARLINGS: although no second broods were recorded in the nest-boxes at Rutherglen, LCL reported the species abundant often obtaining daily counts of two to five hundred.

VIREOS: Red-eyed Vireo scarce, very few heard singing either at Pimisi Bay or along the highways and by-ways; other species unreported.

WARBLERS: all except Chestnut-sided, Mourning Warblers, and Yellowthroats, continuing scarce and no migratory movements observed.

BOBOLINKS AND MEADOWLARKS: Bobolinks numerous, but observations of both species decreased markedly after the haying.

BLACKBIRDS: Bronzed Grackles observed in large flocks at or near settlements; Cowbirds numerous (LCL).

FINCHES: all species except Goldfinches scarce; Evening Grosbeaks unreported.

SPARROWS: Song Sparrows abundant; Savannah, Vesper, and Chipping Sparrows quite numerous; Juncos still very, very scarce.

Mammals:

Black Bear: visited the Pimisi Bay feeding-station July 25, leaving ample evidence of his passage.

Red Fox: all signs lacking.

Striped Skunk: the animal with the "pendulous growth" proved to be a mother nursing a litter of 4 kits; two of these were runts; by July 19 all were weaned and the mother began losing her tolerance of them; one kit disappeared after July 24 and the rest after July 26, while the mother continued to come to our doorstep to feed.

Red Squirrel: diminished in number at the feeding-station, most of the young ones disappearing.

July 1957 Summary of Observations on Birds in Lake Nipissing Area Ontario

Observer: Hazel Petty.

Weather: II days were mainly cloudy and 20 clear. Temperatures at 6.00 a.m. : on 9 days, 40°F. - 48°F.; I3 days, 50°F. - 58°F.; 9 days, 60° F. - 66° F. High temperaturesfor day: on 5th, 59° F.; of remaining days, 5 were from 60 - 68° F.; I9 days, 70 - 78° F., 20th, 82°,; 29th, 85° and no record for 4 days.

Feeding Station: Hairy Woodpecker, I female with 2 young till 7th, then only one young and female through remainder of month. Downy Woodpecker, I male on I8 days and I female from 20th - 27th. Robin, 2 adults with a young one coming occasionally . Starling, Ist - 25th, I - I0 adults and young; 26th - 3Ist, I or 2 young with an adult at odd times. Cowbird, I young, 7, 8, II and I4 - I6th; Chipping Sparrow, 2 or 3 adults till 7th, on 8th the first young one appeared and they increased to I2 young by the 29th. Song Sparrow, I, I5th - 3Ist.
On I5th a young House Sparrow came, apparently it had followed some Red-wings and Grackles which came through our yard. This was the first time I had ever seen the species here or any closer than Ferris Village, at least one mile from here.

General Notes: DUCKS : Common Merganser on the I8th a flock of 20, all young with the exception of 2 or possibly 3 adult females, I0 on 22nd, and 25 on 28th mostly young.

GROUSE: A female with at least 4 almost fully grown young.

FLYCATCHERS: Traill's heard singing again for frist time since June I7th; Least very scarce with no young noted so far. Olive-sided, I reported by T.C. Mackie on 6th, also I Purple Martin on his property

SWALLOW: .....at Sunset Park, West Ferris. He also has noted that the martins are definitely much more numerous in North Bay this year.

Barn and Cliff Swallows; a flock of at least I00 on 5th. Following a storm with very strong winds and torrential rains about I00 miles to the north of North Bay, we got a day of strong wind with heavy rain beginning about noon. In late afternoon a friend phoned to say that a large flock of swallows had been milling about her home all afternoon. I went about 5.30 p.m. to see them and found them, then, milling about and swooping to road level, in lee of a fairly dense stand of Scotch Pine. They were all either Barn or Cliff with a number of young of each species and with them I0 or I2 Tree swallows which were most likely resident birds as they had been seen regularly in that vicinity. This was a very unusual occurrence as I have rarely if ever seen Barn and never Cliff swallows in that vicinity.

NUTHATCHES: Red-breasted, 2 fully feathered young on I4th.

HOUSE WRENS: Adult feeding 2 young, out of nest, I3th.

THRUSHES: Robin; young birds do not seem very numerous in comparison to number of adults seen in area since arrival in spring. Veeries not as numerous as usual.

VIREOS: Red-eyed fairly numerous.

WARBLERS: Very scarce with the exception of Yellow and Maryland Yellow-throats.

Bay-breasted in Fall plumage seen on 20th.

BLACKBIRDS: Baltimore Orioles less numerous than usual and last one seen on 7th. No sign of young so perhaps our aftermath of hurricane "Audrey" proved disastrous to their nesting success. First mixed flock of Red-wings, Grackles and Sterlings through our yard on 16th and again on 28th a much larger flock. At both times they arrived about 6.30 a.m. as though they might be dispersing from a communal night roost. Red-wing young very numerous and young Grackles fairly so.

SPARROWS: Young of Chipping appear to be quite numerous but other species not noticeably so.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, December 11, 1957.

Dearest Doris and Murray: Just as I was getting ready to send off the Summary came your wonderful Christmas Present, with capital letter. That is a wonderful volume to own and I thank you of all my heart. It will certainly turn out even more useful than Anderson's Recent Mammals which I have beside me as an eternal reference book. Len will have to make a special shelf for it so that it can stay at my elbow. I am accumulating so many books which I need to have beside me. Yours is the most, most appreciated addition. Thank you again.

Here is the Summary and, as you will note, with quite a few things of interest. The Black-bellied Plover is apparently the latest last seen on record. Such a pity it should have died. I cannot forgive myself I did not dissect it to see if it was a male or a female. The incident with the Shrike was of particular interest because of the similarity of technique with that of the Sharp-shin. I was interested to see the Shrike use its feet to such an extent. I thought it was generally observed, that it didn't, and the weakness of its feet is always emphasized. The event seems to indicate that the natural sequence of motions of an avian predator tends to ensure the killing of the prey before it is torn to pieces, but that any disturbance may put the bird out. Nothing disturbed the Sharp-shin, but one of the Canada Jays made aggressive movements, an incipient flying-at attack, at the Shrike while it sat on the ground. The Shrike reacted by plucking at the Chickadee's feathers, but as the jay did not carry out its threat movement to the full, the Shrike instead lifted and escaped with the prey, while the jay made a second flying-at-it attack, chasing it from the premises. I think that the plucking at the feathers was a re-direction movement - it wanted to attack the jay, could not, attacked the prey. What I mean is, that a predator which is disturbed at the crucial moment may eat the prey while it is alive from pure "nervousness", but that in the order of nature the swift kill comes first and the eating after. How do you feel about it? Do you know of instances to contradict this?

The Cardinal was a great thrill, as you may well imagine. We hoped that she would have stayed; but perhaps it was better for her that she went on. I think she did go on. The Blackbird was also interesting. We wondered why it stayed so long.

And then it went, as if it felt in its bones, that a cold spell was coming and the hard pickings at the feeding stick would not be enough to keep it alive. At least, we shall probably know next spring that it went and was not "taken". It is marked.

Mother took the flu and then contracted pneumonia and was and is still, I fear, critically ill. Luckily she has a very good doctor, whom we found for her when I was with her, and he got her immediately into the best hospital in Stockholm. Again I am torn between two duties, to my husband and home and to my mother, and if you can say a word to help me I would be grateful. I feel that my duty to home and husband is primary and/it is not fair to leave Len in the midst of winter and thus to add dreadfully to his hardships. I feel that this is right and the darling Mother understands and we said good-by to each other two years ago. The complication lies with the relatives who do not know the kind of difficulties we have and who think that I am neglecting my daughterly duty in a disgraceful way. If you, who can look at the thing objectively, would give my thought a little boost in the direction you think is right, please do.

Today we have lots of snow, the contours are billowy white, the trees snow-weighted. Len made a new feeder for the chickadees, a cocoanut cut in half and the two halves joined by three wires 2 inches long. It hangs on the big feeder's corner. The top half, inverted downwards, is filled with peanutbutter and the bottom half which is upside-up is filled with sunflower seeds. The chickadees sit in it and pick at the peanut butter-roof. It is very successful. The work in the kitchen is creeping along. Len has not much time to himself. The cupboards on either side of the window are finished, beautifully handworked in every respect. Len closed in the porch off the sunroom with a beautiful door with a French window in it. The porch is now like a room, a very small room, that holds the warmth in and shields the entrance from the weather. It is such a great improvement, like your enclosed porch off the kitchen.

I am making a scarf for Margaret, similar to the one I am making for you. Do you think she will like it? I have not heard a sound from Dr. Svärdson. It will come.

Wasn't it wonderful with the rating "Worth Noting" got? All my love,

Louise

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario,
December 18, 1957.

Dearest Doris:

As I have come thus far with my Christmas writing, to my last and dearest friends, you and Margaret, I ran out of Christmas cards. You will therefore have to imagine this to be the pretty longish design with the two White-winged Crossbills of the FON variety. The fragrant little twig in the corner is there to help give the festive note to the illusion and bring you herewith our good wishes and blessings for the Happy Season and the New Year.

Thank you for your good letter of December 12. Imagine having looked at those two words for years and consistently missing the presence of the two letters you pointed out. You need not, in the least, be diffident about suggesting the correction. I am only too, too glad to be duly corrected. Thank you also for the Monitor you sent with the interesting articles on Rimsky-Korsakov and "Three Sisters". Speaking of composing --- music, don't you miss the morning music hour on CBL, now replaced by "Preview"? I do very much indeed and wrote and told them so. I think they like to hear what we listeners have to say.

The darling Mother is apparently recovering, albeit slowly, one might almost say painfully. She even wrote a little letter in her own hand, so tired and shaky, poor darling, but vivid and clear of thought. The prospect at the time of writing of leaving the hospital and returning home for Christmas was both agreeable and a little frightening

to her, I think, which under the circumstances is so natural. How I wish she were with us now. We asked her many times, but she would have died from isolation and ennui even if we had created a palace for her as we planned. Darling Mother is of the social kind, she has to have her visitors. I only hope that she will be able to live out her life in her own home. It means everything for her, anything else would be a great misfortune to her.

I am glad you got the invasion article. I have Hinde's study and am reading Marler's on the Chaffinches now. I have still not heard anything from Svärdson, but he usually does write eventually. How very worth reading the last Worth Noting was! Murray outdid himself and from start to end it made excellent reading, apart from it giving a clear and interesting picture of what happened in the Province, "naturally" speaking. I never dreamed that my little passings-in-review would gain such prominence. Did you omit the Yellow-headed Blackbird intentionally?

It is getting very late and I must end. Our love and very best wishes to you both from us,

Len

and

Lonie.

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AUGUST 1957 — SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence, Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.

Weather: No observations Aug. 22. Of the remaining days, 12 were mainly cloudy and 18 clear. On 7 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 23 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 64.8° F. Cold fronts passed Aug. 4, 20, and 26. A warm spell lasted from Aug. 1 to 4 with a maximum temperature of 81° F. on Aug. 2; the minimum of 39° F. was recorded on Aug. 21.

Feeding-station: Hairy Woodpecker, 13-15; Downy Woodpecker, 15-13; Blue Jay, 10-15; Black-capped Chickadee, 4-10; Robin, 1; Wilson's Thrush, 2, both disappeared Aug. 26; Myrtle Warbler, 1 Aug. 28-31; Red-winged Blackbird, 1 M; White-throated Sparrow, 6-7; Song Sparrow, 4-2.

Migration: The strongest movements of migrants, Warblers in particular, were noted on Aug. 11, 13, 18 and 19, 27, 28 and 29.

General Notes: LOONS AND GREBES: Loons continuing scarce; Grebes unreported.

HERONS AND BITTERNS: Great Blue Herons and Bitterns appeared quite commonly in our daily records; on Aug. 19 a Green Heron was observed at Pimisi Bay (LdeKL); it flew up at a distance of about 30 feet and was identified by its small size, rather dark bluish-green colour, and yellowis-orangy legs.

DUCKS: These birds began assembling in the ponds and along the shores. Blacks, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers, were comparatively numerous; Goldeneyes unreported.

HAWKS: Cooper's Hawks were reported fairly common in the townships by LCL, as were Marsh Hawks; a splendid sight was a Pigeon Hawk seen at close range on Aug. 2 and another, probably migrating, seen on Aug. 30; 2 Broad-wings were seen migrating on the thermal currents Aug. 29; Sparrowhawks quite numerous.

RUFFED GROUSE: very scarce.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS: Nighthawks and Swifts unreported; during 3rd and 4th weeks a few Hummingbirds made stop-overs among the blooms at Pimisi Bay and one resident female was there too.

WOODPECKERS: Hairy Woodpeckers continued numerous, a few old ones reappeared after the moult while a few young ones disappeared; Downy Woodpeckers declined in number, of the adult birds all but 2 or 3 departed; Sapsuckers very scarce; Flickers not numerous.

FLYCATCHERS: migrating Kingbirds observed up to 4th week, but in smaller numbers than usual; Traill's and Least scarce; Wood Pewee and Olive-sided unreported.

SWALLOWS: up to the 4th week migrating swallows seen almost every day in flocks of from 10 to 150; Tree and Barns most numerous.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS: all unusually scarce.

THRUSHES: Robins continuing quite numerous, but other species spotty or rather scarce.

STARLINGS: abundant, daily counts ranging from 100 to 300.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS: all species of Vireos exceedingly scarce or unreported; in comparison with the last two years, the Warblers showed slightly increased; Yellowthroats were most numerous during August.

BOBOLINKS AND MEADOWLARKS: during 3rd week we observed migrating Bobolinks in fair numbers, peak count 60; Meadowlarks quite numerous on their breeding locations.

FINCHES: on Aug. 28 ICL reported seeing 4 Evening Grosbeaks at Bonfield, first record since June; Purple Finches not numerous; Goldfinches seen in fair numbers in many places.

SPARROWS: Juncos exceedingly scarce; Chipping Sparrows and White-throats quite numerous; Savannah and Song Sparrows unusually abundant along the roadsides in open country.

AUGUST 1957 — OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence and Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Little Brown Bat: frequently seen at dawn and at dusk in rather large numbers around the house.

Eastern Mink: L.C.L. saw one large specimen near Kaipuskong Falls Aug. 29.

Striped Skunk: Mother skunk present every night; one of the young kits seen alone Aug. 29.

Snowshoe Hare: young and old hares seen frequently, espceially at Pimisi Bay, but fewer noted killed on the roads or popping back and forth along the roadsides than in the past 2 months.

Eastern Chipmunk: rather abundant both at Pimisi Bay and elsewhere.

Red Squirrel: abundant at Pimisi Bay; several records of individuals seen in open places, such as roadsides along the fields and on farmland.

Flying Squirrel: a family with 1 young appeared at Pimisi Bay.

Muskrat: one observed at Pimisi Bay Aug. 12.

Woodland Jumping Mouse: on Aug. 20 a curious event occurred. Four mice were found dead on the lawn and one dying, all within a few morning hours. The posterior part of the dying mouse was paralysed and it died the next day. The only explanation of this mass death is, that the mice ate ants poisoned by an ant-trap containing thallium. Measurements:

1)	male	length	8	10/16	in.;	tail:	5	12/16	in.;	hind foot:	1 4/16 in.
2)	female	"	9	6/16	in.;	"	5	12/16	in.;	" "	1 4/16 in.
3)	"	"	9	14/16	in.;	"	6	1/16	in.;	" "	1 4/16 in.
4)	"	"	9		in.;	"	5	10/16	in.;	" "	1 3/16 in.
5)	"	"	9	2/16	in.;	"	5	8/16	in.;	" "	1 4/16 in.

White-tailed Deer: LCL observed 3 on the Kiosk Road Aug. 19.

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SEPTEMBER 1957 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO.

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.

Weather: Fourteen days were mainly cloudy and 16 clear. On 10 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 20 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 56.2°F. Warm fronts passed Sept. 2, 19, 21, and 24; cold fronts Sept. 4, 10, 14, 20, and 23. A comparaytively cold spell lasted from Sept. 4 to 10 and from Sept. 25 to 28. The minimum temperature of 32° F. occurred on Sept. 28 when also the first killing frost reached into the forest at Pimisi Bay, about a week earlier than usual. Maximum temperature of 76° F. was recorded on Sept. 1.

Feeding-station: Grouse (Grey phase), 1; Owl, 1, according to its size it could have been either a Horned or a Barred Owl, we saw it in very dim light and could not agree on the principal field-marks; Hairy Woodpecker, adult M 4, F 6 and at least 2 young birds; Downy Woodpecker, adult M 2, F 1 and at least 2 young birds; Blue Jay, 15-4; Black-capped Chickadee, 2-14; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, arrived Sept. 26; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 1-3; Slate-coloured Junco, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 2-15, arrived Sept. 19; White-throated Sparrow, 7-15; Song Sparrow, 2.

Migration: In the period Sept. 13-26 a greater number of Warblers migrated through the area than seen since the two cold springs occurred in 1956 and 1957. Daily records noted "Warblers streaming through the forest", "waves of Warblers coming through almost all day without cessation" with peak dates on Sept. 17, 18, and 19 (LdeKL). LCL reported more birds

on the move across the fields and lanes than he had "ever" seen. Peak dates Sept. 19 and 23; most numerous Warblers, mostly Myrtles, and Sparrows, mostly White-crowns.

General Notes: LOONS AND GREBES: Loons seen quite often during 3rd and 4th weeks, an adult with a half-grown young Loon at Pimisi Bay Sept. 22 and 29; Grebes unrecorded.

HERONS AND BITTERNS: Great Blue Herons appeared almost daily on our list with 2 in a day a few times. No Bitterns.

DUCKS: Blacks and Wood Ducks congregated on a small lake east of Pimisi Bay; two male Wood Ducks seen on Sept. 25 were coming into winter plumage; first small group of Ring-necked Ducks were noted Sept. 28.

HAWKS: the migration of Hawks this fall was unusually good for Pimisi Bay; Cooper's Hawks migrating high in the sky or through the fields recorded more often than Sharp-shins; a Marsh Hawk attacked an immature Herring Gull over Pimisi Bay Sept. 18, the gull escaped by alighting on the water; at a certain locality along the Amable du Fond River, on the Kiosk road into Algonquin Park, LCL saw 9 Red-tailed Hawks on Sept. 24, 4 on the 25th and 1 on the 26th, identification based on careful observation for at least 10 minutes in excellent light and Peterson's Field-Guide; 2 American Merlins seen Sept. 16 and American Kestrels daily, peak number 7 on Sept. 19.

COOTS: LCL saw 3 American Coots on a small lake near the northern boundary of Algonquin Park; identification with help of Peterson's Field Guide.

WOODPECKERS: Yellow-shafted Flickers conspicuous during 3rd and 4th weeks, peak number 58 on Sept. 26; Sapsuckers very scarce; Hairy

and Downy Woodpeckers at Pimisi Bay decreased.

CORVIDAE: one Canada Jay Sept. 23 (LCL); all the young Blue Jays at the feeding-station departed during 1st and 2nd weeks, remained only a few banded adults, but in the townships the species often seen singly or in smaller groups (LCL, IdeKL); Northern Raven (apparently resident family) 4 seen on Sept. 16 and 24; Crows established peak dates during 3rd and 4th weeks, 212 seen Sept. 16.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS: all three species scarce, creepers unreported; a minor influx of Black-capped Chickadees occurred in conjunction with the warbler movements, 14 on Sept. 23, which pestered out towards the end of the month; LCL reported 2 White-breasted Nuthatches on Sept. 13; no Red-breasted except the one that appeared at the feeding-station and stayed on.

THRUSHES: peak number of 27 Robins on Sept. 27; a minor movement of Olive-backs during 2nd week; Bluebirds seen 6 on Sept. 6 and 12 on Sept. 27.

KINGLETS, STARLINGS AND VIREOS: slight increase apparent in both species of Kinglets, Ruby-crown 4 on Sept. 19; Starlings abundant, 460 on Sept. 6 and 445 Sept. 16, their numbers decreasing during 4th week; Vireos still very few and far between.

WARBLERS: notable increase apparent, especially in Nashvilles, 4 identified Sept. 18, Black-throated Blues, 4 on Sept. 23, Black-throated Greens seen all 3rd week, Myrtles present in numbers all 3rd week, 45 on Sept. 17.

BLACKBIRDS: Red-wings began roosting in the reeds at Pimisi Bay in considerable numbers, 182 counted Sept. 30; on Sept. 17 and 18 a curiously light-coloured bird was observed among them, "altogether

pale in appearance, with white or very light buff or beige patches on back, wings, and shoulders. It contrasted sharply with the other Red-wings as it flew in the midst of the formation." The next day it was seen again, this time while perching. Before it flew I could now distinctly see that there was no white in the plumage, but the light colouring was created by overly large buff edgings of the feathers and/or areas. This led me to believe it was rather an unusually light-coloured immature Rusty than an "unnatural" Red-wing; Grackles, peak number 200 on Sept. 27 (LCL).

FINCHES: only two species reported: Goldfinches in fair numbers, adult male feeding well-grown young on Sept. 13, Pine Siskins, 3 on Sept. 25.

SPARROWS: Slate-coloured Juncos still very few, although a slight increase occurred during 4th week, when young birds migrated through the region; White-crowns appeared during 3rd week and their migration rapidly reached its peak during 4th week, when road-sides, hedges, fences, and farm yards, were literally swarming with them, peak count of 210 identified White-crowns on Sept. 25, but at least double that number must actually have been seen; the White-throat migration was inconspicuous by comparison; they came through during 1st, 2nd, and 3rd weeks, 20 recorded Sept. 21, but only a few resident birds remained to the end of the month.

SEPTEMBER 1957 OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Eastern Racoon: An animal was found killed by a car on the highway bordering our property.

Black Bear: One large bear came down the path at the back of our house, looked around, turned around, went away, and was not seen again. LCL reported 60 bears killed during the late summer and early fall by the farmers on the concessions south of Pimisi Bay, township of Calvin.

Striped Skunk: Four denned up under our shed. So far as we can recognize individuals by looks, it appears to be the old female and 3 of her kits. Two of these are large and full-grown and one very small, but distinctly dominant.

Snowshoe Hare: Three very young and very small hares with white stars in the middle of their foreheads appeared upon the scene. On Sept. 27 the buck was already changing colour, becoming white on legs, belly, and the outside part of the ears; the female, having not yet started to change colour, was not seen after this date. On Sept. 30 a dead hare was found, apparently killed by the Owl which visited the feeding-station on Sept. 25. The hare was an adult but not recognized either as the female or the buck.

Red Tree Squirrel: Notably decreased at the feeding-station, but quite frequently seen in the field.

Large Tree Squirrel: On Sept. 8, Henry Burton of Rutherglen reliably reported seeing a Black Squirrel which came into the tree in his farm yard. He was able to observe it well and for quite a long time. It was still there when he left, but when he later returned to look for it, it had gone. This location is almost exactly 46 degrees and 15 minutes N. latitude, 10 miles north of Algonquin Park and on a line with Bissets where LCL saw 2 Black Squirrels on Dec. 28, 1956.

To the MNOC (with love)

OCTOBER 1957 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO.

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No data for Oct. 29. Of the remaining days 15 were mainly cloudy and 15 clear. On 19 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 11 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 42.6° F. Cold fronts crossed the region Oct. 9, 18, and 24. Warm spells occurred Oct. 5-9 and 13-18, of which the first one brought particularly lovely weather with the autumn colouring as beautiful and long-enduring as we can remember; a cold period lasted Oct. 24-30. Maximum temperature of 69° F. on Oct. 8 and the minimum of 23° F. occurred Oct. 25. First snowflurries came with the cold fronts Oct. 10 and 24 and snow covered the ground to a depth of 1½ inches Oct. 24 to 26.

Feeding-station: Hairy Woodpecker, 3-4 M, 7-8 F; Downy Woodpecker, 3 M, 3 F; Canada Jay, 1-3; Blue Jay, 4-6; Black-capped Chickadee, 10-15; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1-2 M, 1 F; Robin, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 4-1; Slate-coloured Junco, 1-10; Chipping Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 1.

Migration: Dates of greatest migratory movement were Oct. 2, 3, 4 (ducks, crows, robins, pipits, blackbirds, sparrows), Oct. 19 (geese), and Oct. 25 (gulls).

General Notes: LOONS AND GREBES: a few Common Loons, some in autumn plumage; one record of Pie-billed Grebe Oct. 15.

DUCKS: during 1st and 4th weeks seen in larger numbers than in the past few years; Redheads identified again for the first time in several years; 2 American Scoters observed on Pimisi Bay Oct. 5 (IdeKL) at length through 8 x 30 binoculars at a distance from shore of about 150 feet; identification based on all over dark colour and whitish cheek patches; a first sight record for the species for the Lake Nipissing-Pimisi Bay region.

HAWKS: unidentified hawks recorded twice during 1st week; latest fall date on record for American Merlin Oct. 11; a few Rough-legs 3rd and 4th weeks.

RUFFED GROUSE: not numerous.

GULLS: half a dozen Herring Gulls migrated over Pimisi Bay Oct. 24 and a concentration of at least 74 milled around a certain spot on the Ottawa River at Mattawa Oct. 25.

OWLS: Barred Owl heard hooting on Oct. 16 and another, probably the same species but not identified with certainty, seen Oct. 31; this is more owls than we usually record in the fall.

WOODPECKERS: both Hairies and Downies increased at the feeding-station, a few old birds returning after the moult; about 2 young birds of each species staying on for the winter.

CORVIDAE: during the second week Canada Jays came conspicuously into the picture both at the feeding-station and elsewhere in the field, peak count of 5 on Oct. 15 and 29; Blue Jays 2-3 pairs of old birds at the feeding-station and also observed in the field not infrequently, peak count of 11 on Oct. 22; Northern Raven resident family of 5; Crows disappeared, except at Mattawa, after the second week.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, AND CREEPERS: increased slightly during the

4th week; a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived at the feeding-station Oct. 30 and stayed.

THRUSHES: peak of Robin migration during 1st and 2nd weeks, peak count 27 on Oct. 2; Hermit Thrushes few, disappeared after Oct. 8, Bluebirds after Oct. 10.

WARBLERS: a lone Magnolia Warbler seen by both observers on Oct. 18, the latest date on record for the species.

BLACKBIRDS: On Oct. 29, just north of the town of Kiosk, Algonquin Park, LCL saw a striking-looking Blackbird with orange-coloured head, neck, and part of breast, for the rest "darkish brown-speckled". It was seen perched at first at a distance of about 15 to 20 feet in a swampy place near the Amable du Fond River and afterwards in flight. There appears little doubt by that this was a Yellow-headed Blackbird male in unworn autumn plumage, a first record for the species in the Lake Nipissing- Pimisi Bay region. Migrating Red-wings roosted in the reeds at Pimisi Bay, peak count of 301 on Oct. 7, until the beginning of 3rd week; one male which has been visiting the feeding-station all summer and fall remained after the others left.

FINCHES: all species unreported.

SPARROWS: Juncos in migration showed a slight increase over the past one or two years; White-crowns numerous, peak count of 192 on Oct. 4; White-throats rather scarce; Tree Sparrows not especially numerous; first flock of Snow Buntings whirled across the fields Oct. 22.

OCTOBER 1957 OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Eastern Racoon: Two found dead on the highway, killed by cars, in the township of Bonfield and one live animal seen crossing the road in the township of East Ferris, all within the 1st and 2nd weeks of the month.

Eastern Mink: A large mink appeared at the feeding-station Oct. 14. It stayed and was seen several times climbing the trees to reach the suet suspended at heights of about 5 feet. On Oct. 18 another mink appeared. One chased the other and there was a short but fierce battle which ended with a scream and the injury of the left hind-leg of one of them. The injured mink remained in the neighbourhood and was seen dragging its leg, now climbing the trees only with difficulty. On October 30 a meeting took place between one of the skunks and the mink, which resulted in a thorough spraying. After this the mink disappeared. During the late part of the month we saw an unusually great number of minks also in the field, peak count of 4 on Oct. 30 (LCL).

Striped Skunk: The first signs of bed-making by the skunks under the shed were noted Oct. 9. Every night they were out and fed on the porch except during the cold spell lasting from Oct. 24 to 27.

Snowshoe Hare: These were much less in evidence than previously both at the feeding-station and in the field, although the fresh snow which fell Oct. 11 and 24 showed many tracks especially in swampy places.

Eastern Chipmunk: The last Chipmunk coming to the feeding-station disappeared into hibernation Oct. 17.

Red Tree Squirrel: About four of them still frequenting the feeding-station. Bed-making was their chief occupation during the month.

Canada Beaver: Dam construction went on under the Pimisi Bay bridge, first at one end until it was broken up by highway workers, then at the other end until this also was destroyed. Thereupon the beavers moved the dam in under the bridge, half-way between the ends of the culvert, where it still remains and will be more of a problem to remove, the water being quite high. The beavers took their material from our shore. Together with several saplings, they toppled six poplars with base diameters of from 6.4 to 14.6 inches into the water, giving us a much more airy outlook over the lake.

MNOC (with my love)

NOVEMBER 1957 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PI'ISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No data Nov. 26. Of the remaining days 24 were mainly cloudy and 5 clear. On 24 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 5 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 31.1° F. Warm fronts crossed the region Nov. 14, 16, 19, 23, and 27; Cold fronts Nov. 9, 15, 17, 19, 24, and 30. A warm spell lasted from Nov. 1 to 7 with the maximum temperature reading of the month 55° F. on Nov. 1. A cold spell endured Nov. 24-27 with the minimum temperature of the month 9° F. on Nov. 26. Snow fell on 9 days between Nov. 9 and 30, but never more than a cover of 1 inch remained on the ground.

Feeding Station: Hairy Woodpecker, 5 M, 10 F; Downy Woodpecker, 3 M, 3 F; Canada Jay, 2 M, 3 F; Blue Jay, 4-6; Black-capped Chickadee, 20-30 (not hand-counted); White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 F appeared Nov. 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 M, 1 F; Brown Creeper, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 1 M disappeared Nov. 24 the first day of the cold spell (see Weather); Cardinal, 1 F (see General Notes).

General Notes: LOONS AND GREBES: Common Loons few, last date Nov. 4, a bird in autumn plumage; Grebes unreported.

GEESE AND DUCKS: At least 30 Canada Geese flew over Pinisi Bay Nov. 3 and this was the last date seen; Common Goldeneyes, Hooded and American Mergansers in small numbers during the first two weeks; a group of 2 to 3 Hooded remained up to Nov. 25, after which they were no longer seen.

HAWKS: One Rough-legged Nov. 1, the last of the group.

RUFFED GROUSE: Two resident on home territory at Pimisi Bay, but very few observed in the field.

SHORE-BIRDS: On Nov. 6 LCL picked up a freshly killed Black-bellied Plover from the road in Bonfield Township near a swampy place. It had a broken wing and other injuries, but was otherwise in excellent condition. It was brought home for positive identification. An unusually late date.

OWLS: On the same date, LCL saw the first Snowy Owl of the season. It flew up at a distance of no more than ten feet from him and he had a good view of it for certain identification.

WOODPECKERS: Hairy Woodpeckers must be rated as numerous at Pimisi Bay and not seldom seen also in the field; the number of Downies visiting the feeding station at this time is the greatest on record.

CORVIDAE: Four of the Canada Jays at Pimisi Bay paired and the fifth associated itself with one of the pairs, an entirely amicable relationship; the species also seen in the field quite frequently; a few Crows remained at Mattawa, apparently to winter there; one flew over Pimisi Bay Nov. 16; if this was a migrant, a very late date.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, AND CREEPERS: The Chickadees staged a come-back at the feeding station and it became once more a lively place of congregation towards the end of the month; White-breasted Nuthatches were recorded several times in the field, apart from the one that came and stayed at Pimisi Bay; Red-breasted and Creepers scarcer.

SHRIKES: A Northern Shrike appeared at the feeding station Nov. 4. It caught a Chickadee in its claws, bore it to the ground and sat on it

until it moved no more. Then the Shrike flew away carrying its prey in the feet. This very same killing technique was once observed in a Sharp-shinned Hawk which bore a White-throated Sparrow to the ground and sat on it until it was still, before carrying it off in the talons. The prey is quickly suffocated by the impact, squeezing talons, and weight of the predator.

FINCHES: On Nov. 18 a female Cardinal came to the feeding station, fed on grain and lard pudding on the ground, stayed for 3 days, then disappeared. This is our second record of a Cardinal in the Pimisi Bay area. The first one was a male which arrived Dec. 9, 1941, a year of notable dispersal of Cardinals northwards, and stayed all winter until April 11, 1942, when it disappeared. We know now, better than before, why Doris Huestis Speirs calls her female Cardinals "Lipstick". Otherwise, finches were scarce or unreported; 7 Common Redpolls seen Nov. 18, one Red Crossbill eating salt from the road on Nov. 26.

SPARROWS: Last Tree Sparrows, 45, Nov. 1; a single Lapland Longspur Nov. 6.

Fruition: Cones very scarce on all evergreens and almost no fruits hanging from the maples and ashes.

NOVEMBER 1957 OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Striped Skunk: The Skunks under the shed went into what might be called partial hibernation on Oct. 31. They came out and fed in the nights of Nov. 8, 14, 16, 18, 23, and 29. The mean temperature of these days ranged from 44.3° F. to 34.7° F. On one day when it was warmer, mean temperature of 45.0° F., they did not come out. A relationship seemed to exist between the days the skunks came out and the six cold fronts recorded during the month, each of which followed the day after emergence in the night.

Red Tree Squirrels
Flying Squirrels: A few of each species visiting the feeding station.

Deer Mouse: Appears abundant judged by the many that come into the house and their tracks found in light snow.

MNOC (with my love)

DECEMBER 1957 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN THE PIMISI BAY AREA, ONTARIO

Observers: L. C. Lawrence,
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence

Weather: No data Dec. 23. Of the remaining days 20 were mainly cloudy and 10 clear. On 24 days the daily mean temperature was above and on 6 days below the Normal Daily Mean of the month, 15.7°F. Warm fronts crossed the region Dec. 6, 13, 15, 18, and 25; cold fronts Dec. 2, 7, 10, 14, 24, 27. A cold spell lasted Dec. 11-13, with the minimum temperature of the month, 12° below zero, on Dec. 13; a warm spell occurred Dec. 18 to 26, with the maximum temperature of the month, 48°F., on Dec. 19. The thickest cover of snow, 6 inches, was measured Dec. 11, but it was all gone Dec. 20 and the ground remained bare until Dec. 29. Pimisi Bay froze solid Dec. 4, 5 days later than the 22-year mean date.

Feeding station: Hairy Woodpecker, 6 M, 11 F; Downy Woodpecker, 3 M. 3 F; Gray Jay, 5-8; Blue Jay, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 30-40 (est.); White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 M, 1 F; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 M, 1 F; Brown Creeper, 1-2; Northern Shrike, 1.

General Notes: DUCKS: Despite the late freeze-up of the lakes and much open water appearing again during the warm spell, ducks were scarce; only 2 male Common Goldeneyes seen on the Amable du Fond River during the Christmas count, but none on the all-open Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers at Mattawa.

OWLS: One Great Horned Owl heard hooting Dec. 7.

WOODPECKERS: A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, on range at Pimisi Bay, were seen occasionally; again this year the Hairy Woodpeckers must

be considered numerous with females in the majority, as is usual in the winter; Downy Woodpeckers at a record high for wintering birds of this species.

CORVIDAE: 3 unbanded Gray Jays appeared at the feeding station on Dec. 24 and joined the 5 banded ones already there, but none seen in the field; Blue Jays five times fewer than last winter at the feeding station, a few occasionally seen in the field; a family of Common Ravens at Pimisi Bay and there appears to be others also at Bonfield and Mattawa; no Crows seen at Mattawa by compiler, but LCL reported 1 flying over the dump Dec. 31 (not included in census).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, BROWN CREEPERS: Black-capped Chickadee more abundant at Pimisi Bay than last winter, although not by any means reaching any peak record; no nuthatches recorded in the field apart from the five at the feeding station; a second Creeper joined the first one at the feeding station on Dec. 25 and these two apparently paired since they thereafter came and fed always together.

SHRIKES: Northern Shrikes were more frequently recorded than for many a winter; one again seen at the feeding station and an immature observed at Mattawa, being "mobbed" by a flock of Redpolls.

STARLINGS AND HOUSE SPARROWS: Very few of these wintering either at Bonfield or at Mattawa.

FINCHES: Small flocks of Pine Grosbeaks recorded 4 times, eating salt on the highway; Common Redpoll reported twice, 30 seen Dec. 13; All other species unreported.

Christmas Count: December 31. Common Goldeneye, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 17; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Gray Jay, 8; Blue Jay, 6; Raven, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 40 (est.); White-breasted Nuthatch, 2;

Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 2; Starling, 3; Pine Grosbeak, 7; Snow Bunting, 28. Total: 14 species, approximately 132 individuals.

OBSERVATIONS ON MAMMALS

Short-tailed Shrew: Tracks and several individuals seen often around the feeding station where plenty of food falls on the ground.

Striped Skunk: The skunks under the shed slept November 24 through December 19 when, on the second day of the mid-December warm spell, they came out in the night and fed. On December 20 they came out again early in the afternoon and also at night, when there was a discharge of scent near the house for an unknown reason. In that same night one of them, in its attempt to cross the highway at a distance of about 500 feet from the den, was killed by a car. No skunks or tracks were seen after this episode.

Red Tree Squirrel: Again increased in number at the feeding station, estimated 10

Snowshoe Hare: Still very abundant. A hunter at Mattawa showed LCL 32 hares which he had shot for food in the course of two days. During the period December 18-29, when the ground was bare, the hares were very hard to flush, moving from cover only with the greatest reluctance. The scarcity of foxes was still noticeable.

Pimisi Bay, Rutherglen, Ontario, December 26, 1957.

Dearest Doris: I want to write you special to tell how utterly grateful I am for your "word" in the question of darling Mother. I needed just this confirmation of my own strong feeling that my place was with Len unquestionably by a dearest friend whose view would be entirely objective and whose thought I could trust implicitly. I want to be with Len above all else and he does need me and he and the home and I are one. Mother and I are one, too, but differently, in another way. If I did not love Mother so deeply as I do, neither would I be able to love Len as deeply as I do, so as to stay with him under the circumstances. I am sure that Mother herself is in full accord with this, for we penetrated deeply into this question when I was with her and we understood each other. Now when I have talked with you and you have said what you did say, I can disregard the interference of the others. This came to be a haunting anxiety that attached itself like a leach to the renewed situation with Mother. Thanks to your helping thought I am now, all at once, fully capable of ignoring it, now and forever more. You are a wonderful and sweet friend, Doris, thank you of all my heart. Len, too, has been so wonderful to me and we are agreed upon what is to be done in all events. If I have to go to Sweden for the settlement of things, it will be at a time when Len can best be without me. The chief actors of the play will know their cues exactly and speak them, without being influenced by the reactions of the galleries.

Thank you and Murray for the valuable membership in the WOS. I hope an annual meeting of this august society will be arranged in Canada for 1959. For the first time I would be able to attend, I hope, I hope.

We had a good Christmas with Len home and dinner here on Christmas Day with some nice little friends who live on a farm at Bonfield, a couple, like ourselves, who are interested in the good things, like to read and to discuss all kinds of questions. For the first time since we came here to live we have had a "green Christmas". Imagine this place in the midst of winter without a speck of snow! Len has had a very leisurely time indeed. The ice on the lake is under water and how I shall get around for Christmas Census I do not know, except by car. I usually take a jaunt across the ice and down the portages of the Mattawa River, looking for ducks. The bush is full of food for the winter birds, yet the feeding place is full of them. We have 8 Canada Jays. The skunks came out, awakened by

the unusual "heat" apparently and, to my intense sadness, one of them got killed on the highway as it crossed from north side to south ~~wise~~ side. I went to identify it, rolled it over with a stick to find the marks of recognition and then I pulled it out of the way of cars to the decency of the roadside and the thick dead grass there. It is absolutely amazing how the scent literally attaches itself to objects. I smelled of skunk for days after without having touched the poor little animal or anything,except the stick,with which it had been in touch. It is as if the scent floats upon the air and adheres. As regards the emergence of the skunks and the cold fronts, the liason between these two factors I believe now is more of an accidental than actual nature. The warm period <u>after</u> the warm fronts which usually lasts until the cold front is due to arrive, appears to be the thing that counts in getting the skunks out. It needs further study.

Allra käraste hälsningar till dig och Murray och ett rigtigt Gott Nytt År till er båda från oss,

With love and love

