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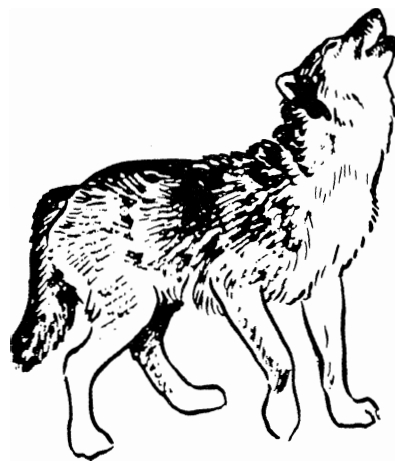
July 1972

Vol. 2 No. 7

DEFENDERS



KINDNESS IS BEFRIENDING
AND PROTECTING BEAVERS---
ONE OF MAN'S BEST FRIENDS



Algonquin Provincial Park, Canada -- During the summer months one of Canada's largest and most beautiful national parks is thronged with people. Much of the area is pristine wilderness, and there are only three places in the entire park where hotel accommodations are available. There are however, numerous designated camping sites, but they are occupied nearly to capacity throughout the entire summer.

One reason this park is visited by so many people is that it is not far from New York City. Its totally wild and natural setting is a sharp contrast to the city dweller who knows only the asphalt jungle for all but a few weeks of every year. Another reason is that this park is one of the last strongholds of the timber wolf, having one of the highest populations of wolves in the world. Even here the wolf is considered to be in danger of extinction. Park rangers estimate there are only about 40 wolves left, when the stable population used to number approximately 200.

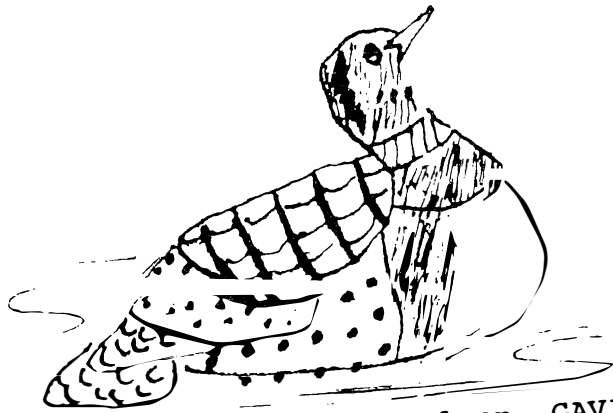
What attracts city dwellers to timber wolves? Park rangers regularly conduct outings for park visitors to hear these wolves howl. It is undoubtedly a unique experience, since the outings are extremely popular. We attended one such outing, meeting first in an outdoor auditorium in the park. The ranger showed slides of wolves, told about their life habits, then demonstrated how rangers howl like wolves. Usually only the pups respond to these howls, as the adults don't desire such close contacts with man. The pups are just learning to howl, and they respond readily, eager to practice their howling techniques.

The rangers had located the site of a wolf den and had been howling back and forth with the pups for several nights, preparing for this evening's outing. The night before, the wolf parents had moved the pups, apparently critical of the way their pups were identifying with the howls from the rangers. The rangers had found the new den site and led a caravan of some 200 cars several miles down the highway, off onto a logging road for another mile or two, where the howling experiment would take place.

Everyone was instructed to be as quiet as possible. When all cars were parked, headlights turned off, and people were standing quietly by their cars, the rangers, off in the woods, began to howl. Perhaps the wolf parents had moved their pups a second time. At least no wolves howled back. It made us wonder if man was infringing on the territory of these last remaining wolves, and possibly upsetting their natural way of life.

Howling to the wolves in this park actually led the way originally toward a change in attitudes toward the timber wolf. It revealed to scientists many interesting facts about wolves they hadn't known before. But the scientists have obtained all the information they could from howling to the wolves. Now the 'howl-alongs' are continued by the park rangers as a source of amusement for tourists, as well, of course, as helping people learn to understand and appreciate wolves.

Not hearing wolves howl was disappointing. But upon our return to the cabin we heard the eerie and hauntingly beautiful call of the loon from across the lake. This unusual bird was not responding to man's attempt to mimic its voice. This sound was the loon's spontaneous call to its mate across the lake. Here, I thought, is another solitary animal that chooses to live as far away from man as possible, in remote areas. It was even more gratifying to listen to the call of the loon, knowing man has not tampered with his way of life or threatened his chances for survival.



SILLY AS A LOON
---OR NOT SO SILLY AFTER ALL

FACT:

The common loon, GAVIA IMMER IMMER, actually flies under water and dives as deep as 200 feet for food. He can surface or dive just like a submarine and his well-oiled feathers are so compact they feel hard to the touch. 'Loonie' is so swift he can dive when he sees a gun flash and be safe under water by the time the bullet reaches him. He is clumsy on land, even unable to take off if he has eaten too much. Once airborne, though, he is an excellent flier. He can land or take off from water and not leave a ripple. 'Loonie' can fight fiercely in self-defense and is seldom bothered by other animals. He prefers quiet, solitary lakes such as found in the north woods. When 'Loonie' calls across the serenity of a wilderness lake the sound pierces the quiet sharply, leaving a feeling of sadness and loneliness. His hysterical laugh, however, sounds like that of a lunatic.

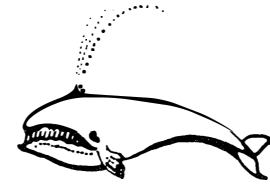
PURPOSE

Loons fit into the balance of nature, just as other free animals do. Their call, as well as their lunatic laugh, breaks the stillness of remote areas, adding interest and variety to the tranquil scene. Just as wolves seek to live in wilderness areas far from man, the loons' preference for remote, tranquil lakes may have a meaning for us. Each species requires a little different habitat. But every animal must have quiet times to be a complete being. Man is changing his habitat drastically and creating tremendous social pressures for himself, as a result. We need such remote, tranquil areas to escape to occasionally, as well as an occasional call of the loon to jar us out of our tranquil reverie.

Drawing by Brett Wright

KINDNESS:

We must recognize the importance of special habitats that certain animals must have. Helping to save these areas from development and the intrusion of man is the best way we can help these solitude-loving animals. We, too, must have solitude and tranquil moments. It is our best hope of learning--and remembering--where we belong in the balance of nature, as part of the earth's eco-system, where everything is inter-dependent.



DON'T SUPPORT WILDLIFE DESTRUCTION

Dolphins are being killed at an alarming rate when they follow tuna boats and get caught in the nets used to catch tuna. Dolphins respond better than many other animals to attempts by man to communicate with them. They are highly intelligent, playful, friendly sea mammals. Attempts to protect them by law have so far failed because they have been fought by the tuna industry. Perhaps the only way to get protection for dolphins is through the expression of public opinion. If you really want to help dolphins, ask your parents to stop buying tuna. Then write the company that processes the brand you would normally buy and tell them what you have asked your parents to do.

Animal welfare and ecology organizations are working together to try to save the whales. They are asking the International Whaling Commission to agree not to kill whales for ten years, so the whale populations can be brought back to safe levels. So far, Japan has refused to sign this agreement. One way to let this country know we're serious about saving whales is to refuse to buy any product made in Japan. Watch your local newspaper to learn what happens at this Commission, and whether or not Japan still refuses to sign the agreement.



Smokey the Bear is honored guest at a play given by two branch clubs, the "Prairie Dogs" and the "Polar Bears", at the E. R. Johnstone Training & Research Center. Five dollars, proceeds from the play, were sent to The Humane Society to help more animals.

SUPERBABY DEFENDS RODEO ANIMALS

The June SUPERBOY comic book, Volume 24, No. 187, has a story about SUPERBABY and his friend Gary, who has magical powers, coming to the rescue of mistreated animals at a rodeo. See if your friends have this comic book.

"HOT DOG" POSTERS

A dog can die of heat prostration within 20 minutes in a closed car even if the windows are partly open! Alert others to this! Order "Hot Dog" posters--12 for 25¢, to put on bulletin boards or under the windshield wiper of a car that has a dog in it. If you see a dog in real distress from the heat, ask managers at nearby stores to page the dog's owner on the loudspeaker. Give them the color and make of the car. If this fails, call the police. Stay with the car until help arrives.



THE FLOODING OF BEAVERDAM CREEK

Many little streams contributed to the major flood on the east coast late in June. One of these was Beaverdam Creek. Emptying into a larger stream that has a wide, deep bed like a small river, these waters in Northern Virginia finally make their way to the Potomac River and then out to sea.

Although the history of its name is not known, it is probable it was once famous for the number of beavers that built their dams on this creek. Their dams held high water in check and prevented flooding. No beavers are left now. They were all trapped for their fur. Now in flood times Beaverdam Creek overflows its banks and its water rushes into the larger stream with a current that destroys everything in its path. During this recent flood it washed out a bridge. Waters from the flood were 30 feet deep over the road. Beaver dams once abounded in the states that suffered from this recent flood. Now only a few beavers are left--not nearly enough to control flood waters as they used to do.

Man must learn the true value of beavers in nature's balance. We must protect them from being trapped or killed for any reason. Find out if beavers are trapped in your state by calling your local game warden or writing to your state Fish and Game Commission at your state capitol. If you have beavers, protect them. Protest laws that permit trappers to kill beavers. Learn too, if your state has a program of bringing beavers back to streams where they once held flood waters back with their efficient dams. Let us know what you learn about beavers where you live.

If You Love Your Dog, Prove It!



The Humane Society of the United States

Demonstrate your love for your dog by protecting him from harm. Follow these recommendations from The Humane Society of the United States:

- ❶ Keep your dog on your property at all times, except when walking him on a leash.
- ❷ Buy a dog license, as required by your local government.
- ❸ Have an identification tag made with your address and phone number. Keep it on the dog at all times.
- ❹ Get your dog the required rabies and distemper shots.

These measures will protect your pet's health and safety, and assure his return if he runs away.

Be a responsible pet owner.

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KINDNESS IN NATURE'S DEFENSE

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