

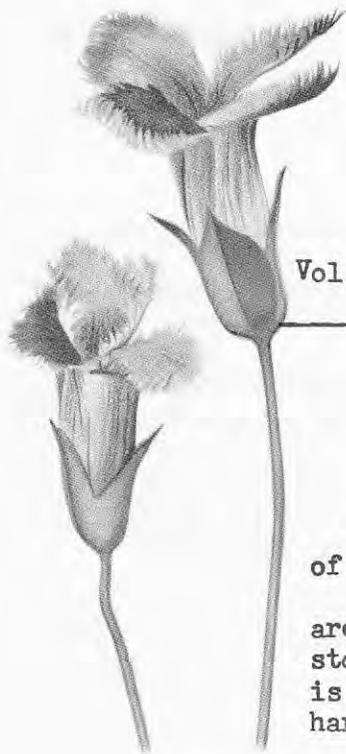
THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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WINTER

"WINTER FORECASTS ITS SHADOW"

Autumn has concluded and winter is upon us. The beauty of color is gone and leaves have fallen.

When the nights are long and biting and the days, at best are short. Presently come high winds and blizzards, sleet storms and zero weather. Where the wind and the dusk are, all is silent, white and sad. At this time animals and birds are hard hit.

After the days begin to grow longer, but still long before spring, you realize that there is a lot more winter bird life than most people suspect.

Sunflower seeds, suet, small seeds and crumbs will bring the birds right to your window, such as Goldfinches, Cedar Waxwings, Song Sparrows, Cardinals, Nuthatches, Chickadees and Juncos.

How fitting these lines by Blake are at this time -

"He withers all in silence and his hand
Unclothes the earth, and freezes up frail life."

OBSERVATIONS FROM A HELICOPTER

Your editor accompanied by daughter Janet and granddaughter Judy had the rare privilege on Christmas day to return from southern Minnesota by Helicopter.

It was a thrill one doesn't obtain from an airplane or Jet. As soon as we were airborne we were close enough to earth to enjoy every detail of the picturesque winter scene below.

An incredible sight of clusters of small towns and lakes. Village after village with its various houses nestled among groves of bare trees.

With farms near at hand, farms with silos and barns standing boldly against the horizon, and folded over all was the blanket of freshly fallen snow. The entire scene seemed like a lovely painting of a winter scene.

The sun dropped to a majestic setting in the southwest, it has now reached its solstitial turning and sets the earliest of the year.

Soon farm lights appeared and many bright Christmas lights were in evidence.

This was an experience one doesn't have the opportunity of having very often.

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PROGRESS OF THE GARDEN

The membership of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was increased by 38 during the past year.

The continued interest and support of all members of this fine project is most earnestly solicited. It is a pleasure to be associated with an organization like this.

As we start the 20th year of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden and the 19th year of the publication of the quarterly, Fringed Gentian, we are happy to salute 235 members.

The old headquarters or shelter building was moved into the garden in 1912 and has been replaced by the beautiful new building dedicated to Mrs. Martha Crone, who was Curator of the garden for 26 years. It has been designated as the Martha E. Crone Shelter Building.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

It is in winter that we are looking for signs of spring. The Red-osier Dogwood shows brighter color before the buds begin to burst. It gives winter cheer with its red twigs.

Winter storms bring birds from the north. They come in great numbers to stay through the cold weather.

It has been noted that Juncos are very fond of bacon drippings that has been spread on the bark of trees. If the bark is rough enough, they can get a footing, while feeding, otherwise a small perch nailed to the tree assists them greatly.

Bittersweet and Mountain Ash hold their drupes all winter, therefore, they are beneficial for many birds.

The Duluth Bird Club on Sunday, January 3rd, counted 45 species of birds on their 22nd Annual Bird count, in an area near Duluth.

This is a remarkable number of birds so far north in the dead of winter. It proves the birds are extending their range.

DID YOU KNOW

That the Beavers are rodents? They are aquatic in habit and spend a great deal of time in the water, however they never touch fish or any other animal food.

They subsist entirely on a vegetable diet, consisting mostly of bark and tender shoots.

File this issue with the others in your "Fringed Gentian" green cover.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members:

I wish to announce the following Nominating committee which will convene in the month of April to prepare a slate of nominees for the eleven member Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. Our 1971 Annual Meeting will be in May and we hope you will attend to cast your vote.

Nominating Committee:

Mr. Walter E. Lehnert, Ch.	922-4463
Mrs. Preston S. Haglin	922-5700
Mrs. Edgar F. Zelle.	377-0594
Mr. Kenneth E. Avery	926-6266
Mrs. Reginald Faragher, ex-officio	

I have listed the phone numbers of the committee. They will welcome any suggestions you may have.

Now, may we ask your further help? To our deep regret, Mrs. Martha E. Crone has resigned from her job as Sec'y-Treas. and Editor of the Fringed Gentian effective as of May, 1971. Those of us who know her so well can understand why Martha, after all these years of devotion to the "Garden" should want some care-free years for Friends, family and her north-woods home.

Our Board of Directors has empowered me to choose Mrs. Crone's successor. If any of you would be interested yourself or have a suggestion of some other person to be Sec'y-Treas. or to edit the Gentian or both, as Mrs. Crone has done, will you contact me as soon as possible. I am sure there is a lot of talent within our group and to one of you the Gentian would be a great challenge, as would the post of Sec'y-Treas. to spearhead our membership now that we have the Martha E. Crone Shelter so beautiful and paid for. We shall have a Board meeting soon, as I don't think I should do this alone.

What a Happy New Year for the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

Any a Happy New Year to all you blessed people who have co-operated and helped me so much these past three years that I have been your President.

Catherine S. Faragher

DIPPER OR WATER OUZEL

Following the report a year ago of this bird at the Poplar, Temperance and Cascade rivers, along the north shore of Lake Superior, it has been seen several times. This being a western bird and had never been seen here.

It would be interesting if this bird would become a resident of this area. The falls and cascades of the rivers along the north shore should be to his liking. He is a joyous and lovable little fellow, about the size of a robin, clad in a plain waterproof suit of bluish gray.

Both in winter and summer he sings sweetly, cheerily requiring no other inspiration than the stream on which he dwells. He sings in heat and cold, calm or storm, ever attuning his voice in sure accord. Low in the drought of summer and the drought of winter, but never silent. Dark days are the same to him as well as sunny.

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MIDWINTER

By the end of the year the gardens are fast in a sleep that will hold through the winter. Especially the deepening cold of January and the coldest bite of all - February's ice, sleet, thaws and freeze.

Anyone who takes snow as a matter of course is ignoring one of the most fascinating and beautiful of the phenomena of weather.

From the beauty of the individual flakes to the formation of a snowdrift.

The great silence of a snowfall in a heavy forest is broken only by the soft slipping of white burdens from weighted branches or the less frequent snap of a breaking bough.

The miracle of falling snow transforming the world. The drifts so pure and exquisite.

The stars seem to have rekindled their fires in winter.

Yet we start to feel the magnet of spring at work within us. To think in a few short months we shall again be planting for the spring season, for March is called the "Wakening Moon".

IN MEMORANDUM

We were saddened by the loss of Mr. Carl W. Rawson, who passed away in December. Mr. Rawson was a charter member of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. Condolences are extended to the family.

MEMORIAL

A memorial was received from Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Tusler, in memory of Mr. Harold Fisher who recently passed away.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Mr. & Mrs. Francis B. Bradley who became members since our last report.

A gift contribution was received from Mrs. Myrtle Mahoney. It was greatly appreciated.