

# MACALESTER COLLEGE

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55105

■ DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

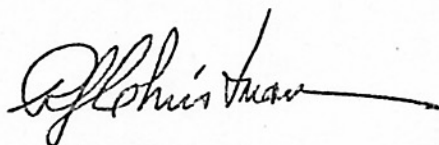
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Subject: SOLITUDE at ORDWAY.

Someone - probably a city dweller, and a subway commuter at that - has commented that "the quiet was deafening". This phenomenon in nature-walks is not unusual for city-dwellers, long accustomed to the mundane noises of their daily lives. It takes some adjusting, too.

Winter is the quiet times at Ordway for by then most of the sounds of nature have been quieted by migration and by hibernation and inactivity. In contrast to the melodiously noisy springtime filled with bird-calls the winter woods are subdued and the principal sound comes from the crunching of the snow and the occasional cheery "dee-dee" of a Chickadee or the raucous alarm call of a Blue Jay.

Perhaps our closest approach to real solitude is only an illusion of solitude but that seems well worth the while; 'though it may not be complete and at best is only transitory, nevertheless it is real - all the more so because we, ourselves, have brought it about in our attempts to discover it.....



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Naturalist,  
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