



located at 9550 Inver Grove Trail (Dakota County Road 77), Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

The Katharine Ordway
Natural History Study Area

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MACALESTER
COLLEGE

ORDWAY
BULLETIN No. 56

SIGNS at ORDWAY

Since our purpose at Ordway is to maintain the entire area in "untouched" condition we would be following our policies if we erected no signs whatsoever on the property. Of course, it is not completely sensible to speak of "untouched" habitats when one considers that there are two railroads transecting the property, barge lines plying the River and daily plane flights over the property on their approach to Wold-Chamberlain Field; yet, within these proscribing circumstances, we seek to allow Nature to be the only modifying influence on these acres and thus to provide a more realistic "natural study area".

We have been forced, however, as a practical compromise to place NO TRESPASSING signs at a number of places around the property. This should be completely unnecessary since anyone short of a dullard either knows it is private property or has the good manners to inquire at the office building. There are some people, a few of them our own students, who have interpreted NO TRESPASSING as meaning that we do not want people to come onto the property. Of course "trespass" means to intrude without permission; we certainly encourage any and all visitors who wish to come and enjoy Ordway in keeping with our operating policies.

The trail signs are small and placed on posts about 30 inches from the ground, making them conspicuous enough but blending with the landscape. The trails have been selected with a great deal of thought toward the possible effects of erosion on the steep portions of the paths. This produces circuitous trails which sometimes become a challenge or annoyance to those who see no reason for not having a "straight trail" in order that they can "make better time". The practices followed at Ordway focus on conserving the area rather than making it "efficient".

One of the really foolish signs which we have erected is near the building and reads "Please! No Cats or Dogs". Since, generally speaking, neither dogs nor cats can read or comprehend it is incumbent upon the owners of these animals to interpret the sign on behalf of their charges. Our hope is that the owners of such animals will restrain their pets from running about unleashed as they have a drastic effect upon the birds and small mammals; indeed, there is some reason to believe that the intrusion even of leashed animals has a poor effect upon wild creatures, who are aware, by scent or sight, of the presence of these primordial foes, long since domesticated but retaining their predatory instincts.

R J CHRISTMAN,
Naturalist
Katharine Ordway Natural
History Study Area.

Sept. 20, 1977