



The Katharine Ordway
Natural History Study Area

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ORDWAY BULLETIN
No. 100

MACALESTER
COLLEGE

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

COUNTING TO A HUNDRED at ORDWAY.

Whenever one does something on a protracted scale it is usually a good idea to stop occasionally and take a look at what he is doing. Sometimes it enables him to improve what he is doing; sometimes it convinces him to discontinue it. Regardless, it seems to me, it is a good idea to be circumspect about one's activities.

Looking back over the Ordway Bulletins - of which this is the one-hundredth and therefore a sort of "milestone" - I find some interesting things which have not yet caused me to make a decision to desist. A collation of the titles indicates that 27 bulletins (i.e. 27%) were principally concerned with Ordway itself and the student activities here; another 22 had to do with creatures and 11 with plants; 20 dealt with ecology, 15 were on the subject of birds and the remaining 5 were on general topics. Based upon this compilation there seems to have been a fairly good balance of discussions - the greatest number had to do with the Ordway property and what activities are being carried out; another 48% had to do with the living things on the property while 20% dealt with the environment and a tail-end 5% was on general topics.

It is difficult to make a judgement as to what this might mean in terms of emphasis at Ordway. Certainly our principal reason for existing is to deal with our students and to educate in such ways as can be done at a natural history study area. So, the 27% figure looks to be in line or on balance. Almost half of the topics discussed had to do with living creatures - birds, animals, insects and plants - and that seems to be an understandable amount of attention being given to these subjects. A fifth of the topics had to do with environment and perhaps that should be increased in view of the fact that more stress is (or ought to be) given to ecology and these relationships. "General topics" is something which can become a little too "general" and this may be distracting from our purpose.

Whatever the future ratio of topics may be it will be our intention to keep them appropriate to our operations at Ordway and in harmony with those things which surround us.

R J CHRISTMAN
Naturalist.

Dec. 10, 1981
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