



The Katharine Ordway  
Natural History Study Area  
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MACALESTER  
COLLEGE

ORDWAY  
BULLETIN No. 61

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

### ATTENDANCE at ORDWAY: A Recapitulation

A matter of interest to us is the number of people who visit Ordway and make use of the study facilities here. In general, there are three classes of such visitor/users: students who perform class or individual studies on location and for whom Ordway is an outdoor biology laboratory; classes or groups which attend for a group tour usually conducted by the Ordway staff; and casual or unscheduled visitors.

Group I - Students is the most important group for our consideration and we are heartened by indications of increased usage by this group. Approximately 55% of our attendance in 1977 was made up of college students as contrasted with 38% for the past 7½ years; also there is a growing usage by the sister members of our college consortium, a move which we endorse and encourage.

Group II - Tours consists largely of public school children of both primary and secondary levels; we also encourage private schools and groups other than schools, such as deaf and retarded children; obviously our facilities are somewhat limited for such usage. There has been a decline in these tours and the big reason has been the cutback in budget funds for busing students on field trips. Last year approximately 40% of our visitors were school children of such groups as contrasted with 57% over the entire period of 7½ years.

Group III - Casuals makes up an important portion of our visitors for it includes many alumni and friends of the College, who have been staunch and valued supporters of our activities. We welcome them in general and also on a personal basis.

While numbers per se cannot convey a complete picture we are nonetheless inclined to read such reports somewhat as we would read a financial statement and numbers do come to mean something. In the 7½ years from July 1970 a total of 13,181 visitors have made contact with Ordway and have left their mark.

Cold figures such as given here (and tabulated oversheet) certainly do not afford a comprehensive insight into Ordway although they do reveal one facet thereof. It is obvious that the impact of fifty school children in a class group spending an hour or so is quite different from that of five or six college students spending a 4-weeks' summer session during which they daily make collection of specimens. (One shudders to think of the impact of a troop of healthy, "red-blooded" Boy Scouts camping for a weekend; we do not permit such camping groups as their activities are antithetical to our existence.) There exists a rather fine edge of definition between "suitable" and "over" usage and therein lies the task which continually faces us.

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This is a breakdown by annual totals and by type of visitor.

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	Total
<b>Colleges:</b>									
Macalester College	79	554	324	488	482	297	256	432	2912
Augsburg College	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	16	29
Concordia College	-	25	-	-	30	21	14	16	103
Hamline University	-	-	152	25	49	43	24	39	332
Inver Hills Junior College	-	-	26	132	143	194	380	127	1002
College of St. Thomas	-	62	16	19	21	16	32	15	181
Metropolitan State Univ.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Univ. of Minnesota	-	35	13	1	-	-	-	-	49
Secondary Schools	76	223	108	243	159	71	84	45	1009
<b>Elementary Schools:</b>									
District #199	34	34	333	467	239	576	113	209	2005
Others	608	1313	531	880	612	167	111	87	4309
Non-School Groups	11	26	34	133	97	25	159	78	563
Individuals	25	39	113	188	94	70	680	75	684
	<u>833</u>	<u>2311</u>	<u>1650</u>	<u>2576</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1481</u>	<u>1265</u>	<u>1139</u>	<u>13,181.</u>