



TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 597 September 2013



Wood duck. Watercolour by Audrey Campbell

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Toronto Field Naturalist is published by the Toronto Field Naturalists, a charitable, non-profit organization, the aims of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage. Issued monthly September to December and February to May. Views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or Toronto Field Naturalists. The Newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper.

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IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We welcome contributions of original writing of observations on nature in and around Toronto (up to 500 words). We also welcome reports, reviews, poems, sketches, paintings and digital photographs. Please include "Newsletter" in the subject line when sending by email, or on the envelope if sent by mail. Please re-name digital photographs with the subject and your name (abbreviations ok); scale your photos *to less than 1 MB each*. In the accompanying email include location, date and any interesting story or other information associated with the photograph.

Deadline for submissions for October issue: Sept 5

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Jenny Bull (co-editor), Vivienne Denton, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Elisabeth Gladstone, Judy Marshall, Ruth Munson, Toshi Oikawa, Wendy Rothwell (co-editor).

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$20 YOUTH (under 26)

\$30 SENIOR SINGLE (65+)

\$40 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY (2 adults, 65+)

\$50 FAMILY (2 adults – same address, children included)

No HST. Tax receipts issued for donations. Send membership fees and address changes to the TFN office.

Please note: TFN does not give out its membership list.

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NATURE ARTS EVENT 2014



House sparrow drawn by Joanne Doucette

TFN has once again been awarded a month-long exhibit at S. Walter Stewart Library in the juried competition held by the Toronto Public Library. Our time slot will be February 2014.

As in previous years, there will be a month-long art exhibit as well as a digital image show on the day of the art exhibit opening.

Hope you will all keep the show in mind and participate! Last year, about 60 TFN members attended on opening day.

If you haven't been on a Nature Arts outing before, please join us! Check the list of TFN outings for dates and locations.

Gail Gregory
Nature Arts Organizer

TFN MEETING

Sunday, September 8, 2013

2:30 pm

The Making of the Peterson *Field Guide* to the Mammals of North America

*Fiona Reid, departmental associate in Mammalogy, ROM,
will describe her many years studying mammals in the field and drawing them from life
for this completely re-done edition of a well-known classic*

VISITORS WELCOME!

SOCIAL: 2:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 003, Northrop Frye Bldg, 73 Queen's Park East

Immediately southeast of Emmanuel College, south of the Museum subway station exit on the east side of Queen's Park. Enter on either the west or north side of the building. The west entrance is wheelchair accessible.

For information: call 416-593-2656 up to noon on the Friday preceding the lecture.

TFN Lecture Series 2013-2014

- Oct 6 **Salamanders and the Threats They Face**, Matt Ellerback, salamander conservationist and advocate
- Nov 3 **The Flies We Despise: Reflections on the Wonderful World of Black Flies**, Doug Currie, senior curator of Entomology, Royal Ontario Museum
- Dec 1 **The Don River**, John Wilson, long-time veteran and former chair of the Task Force to Bring Back the Don
- Feb 2 **The Sky Above: Another Aspect of Our Natural World**, Paul Delaney, popular lecturer and astronomy professor at York University
- Mar 2 **In the Eye of the Beholder: A Study of Beauty in the Natural World**, Kyle Horner, wildlife photographer, birder and naturalist
- Apr 6 **The Reluctant Twitcher**, Richard Pope, a relatively normal birdwatcher who became a reluctant twitcher in 2007 and wrote a book by the same name.
- May 4 **Sand Dune Conservation**, Geoff Peach, co-founder of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

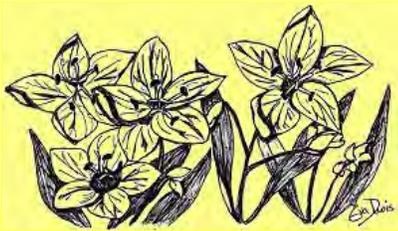
TFN OUTINGS

- TFN events are conducted by unpaid volunteers.
- The club assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained by anyone participating in our activities.
- Children and visitors are welcome at all TFN events. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- If you plan to bring children in a stroller, be aware that there may be steps or other unsuitable terrain.
- Please do not bring pets.
- To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules (www.ttc.ca or 416-393-4636).
- Outings go rain or shine: check the weather by calling 416-661-0123 so you will know what to wear.
- Wear appropriate footwear for walking on trails which may be muddy, steep or uneven.

- Tues
Sept 3
10:00 am **GARRISON CREEK – Joint walk with Life Institute**
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at Christie Pits Park across from Christie subway station. The walk will end at Harbourfront Centre. Bring binoculars. Bring or buy lunch if desired.
- Sat
Sept 7
10:30 am **WARD'S ISLAND – Nature Arts**
Leader: Joe Bernaske
Meet at the ferry dock in time for the 10:45 sailing to Ward's Island. Bring what you need for writing, photography or sketching. Bring any work you wish to share with the group after lunch. \$ for ferry. Bring or buy lunch.
- Sun
Sept 8
2:30 pm **LECTURE – The Making of the Peterson *Field Guide to the Mammals of North America***
Speaker: Fiona Reid.
Northrop Frye Bldg, Room 008. See page 3.
- Thurs.
Sept 12
10:00 am **LOST RIVERS IN ST JOHN'S NORWAY– History and topography**
Leader: Linda McCaffrey
Meet at Main subway station. During our March walk at St John's Norway Cemetery we found a lost river. Linda has now identified Tomlins Creek and traced its course from Norwood Park to Smalls Pond at Coxwell Ave and Dundas St E. Lots of local history. Morning only. Linear.
- Sat
Sept 14
11:00 am **CENTENNIAL PARK– Nature and Heritage**
Leader: Claire Bergeron
Meet outside the LCBO at Burnhamthorpe Mall. (Take Burnhamthorpe bus #50 from Islington subway station to Old Burnhamthorpe Rd and cross the street to the mall.) A circular walk. Bring lunch.
- Sun
Sept 15
2:00 pm **GERRARD PRAIRIE MEADOWS WHILE THEY LAST – Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Richard Anderson and John Wilson
Meet at Victoria Park subway station. The walk will tour a corner of the Taylor Creek watershed which will likely soon be lost due to development. A joint outing with the Toronto Green Community.
- Tues
Sept 17
10:00 am **HUMBER RIVER SOUTH - BIRDS**
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at Old Mill subway station. We will walk to the lakeshore. Morning only. Bring binoculars.
- Sat
Sept 21
10:30 am **BACK-LANE FLORA OF DOWNTOWN TORONTO – Nature Walk**
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the northeast corner of Bloor St W and Ossington Ave. Downtown back lanes are home to "weeds" and garden escapes. Some of Toronto's urban forest is in the adjacent back yards. We'll also find traces of some buried creeks (Garrison, Russell and Taddle). End near Bloor St W and Yonge St.
- Sun
Sept 22
11:00 am **ROSETTA MCCLAIN GARDENS – Monarchs and Hawks**
Leaders: Terry Whittam and Vicki Bondy
Meet 25 metres west of the fountain at the top of the bluffs. Bring binoculars, a chair and warm clothing. Outing will end about 3 pm. Lunch optional.

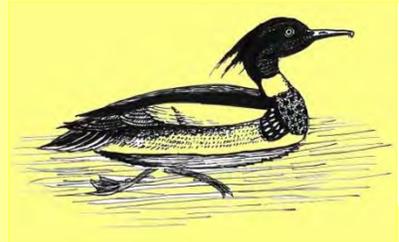
- Tues. **MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY – Trees for Beginners**
 Sept 24 Leader: Roger Powley
 11:00 am Meet at Davisville subway station. A circular walk, 2 to 3 hours. Bring lunch.
- Sat **WEST DON VALLEY – Nature walk**
 Sept 28 Leader: Ken Sproule
 10:00 am Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to Wilket Creek Park on Leslie St just north of Eglinton Ave E.
 A circular walk (2 ½ to 3 hours) through Wilket Creek, Sunnybrook and Serena Gundy Parks. Some hill climbing. Lunch optional.
- Sun **LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE – Nature walk and topography**
 Sept 29 Leader: Alexander Cappell
 1:30 pm Meet at the southwest corner of St Clair Ave W and Lansdowne Ave to walk the Lake Iroquois shoreline from Earls court Park north through the hill country of the former City of York. We'll cross the valley of (buried) Lavender Creek and end at Eglinton Ave W.

TFN FOR ALL SEASONS!



Friday, October 4, 7:30 pm

**Papermill Theatre,
 Todmorden Mills Heritage Site
 67 Pottery Road**



*Come and celebrate
 our history and love of nature
 on the occasion of TFN's 90th birthday.
 Members will present skits, readings
 and songs including sing-alongs.*

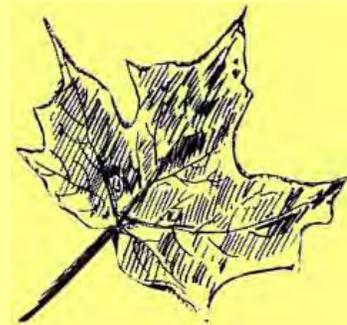
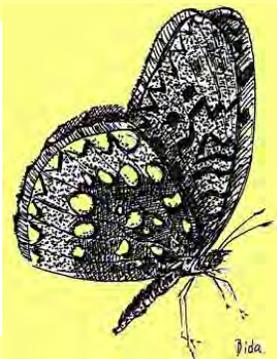
Cake, coffee and tea will be served at approx 9 pm

Tickets: \$15 Adults
 \$5 Children 6 to 12 years old
 (please, no children under 6 years)

--available at www.torontofieldnaturalists.org.
 Click on "buy online here" at the bottom of the
 event notice or

--visit TFN office on Fridays 9 am to 12 noon, or
 --send your cheque to the office, pick up tickets at the door

Please let us know if you need assistance getting up
 and/or down the hill to the theatre or if you can offer a
 ride from Broadview Avenue.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an interesting summer it has been! We had a long wait before the warm weather arrived and had very few butterflies this year. By the end of July I had raised only one monarch and had 7 caterpillars. Last year I raised 144 monarchs and 72 per year the previous 2 years.

We have made good progress with our 90th anniversary show, *TFN for All Seasons*. Tickets are now being sold online from our website and through the office and we will soon be starting rehearsals. See details on pages 5 and 13.

We had an active summer with outreach events: 12 walks for Park People plus walks for school groups, seniors, families, environmental groups, etc., as well as having a table at events. We need more outreach walk leaders, as some of the groups want walks in their own neighbourhoods which many of our leaders are not familiar with. Outreach walks this year were held in the Humber, the Don, East Don, G. Ross Lord Park, Highland Creek, Col. Sam Smith Park, the Leslie Street Spit, Glendon Ravine and Warden Woods. We also have Outreach walks scheduled for Earl Bales Park, Wigmore Ravine, the Bluffs, and McNicoll/Brimley area this fall. We had to turn down a couple because we couldn't find leaders to do their neighbourhoods. Please let us know if you could lead a walk somewhere for an outside group.

We are planning to hold an Outings Leaders' workshop this winter, likely on a Saturday, as we have added many new leaders in the last year and haven't had a training session for several years. Please let us know if there are topics you would like to have discussed. We will also hold a nature images show on February 1st and the Nature Arts group will have an exhibit at the S. Walter Stewart Library again this February (see page 2).

We hope to have a book sale this winter, probably before our December meeting, as a number of nature books have been donated to us. We may also have a raffle for Murray Speirs' 2-volume *Birds of Ontario* set and a Robert Bateman goldfinch print which were donated to us.

Some of us have been busy this summer attending meetings for environmental assessments, trail planning, etc. We can always use additional people to take part in these meetings. Let us know your interests and we can get you more involved.

I look forward to seeing you at some of our fall events, particularly the anniversary celebration.

Margaret McRae

TFN GRANTS AWARDED

The Grants Committee is pleased to announce that the following grants have been awarded for 2013-14. Detailed descriptions of the programs appear on TFN's website. Click on "About Us" and "Special Projects". We will publish reports in the newsletter throughout the year.

Organization	Amount	Project/program
High Park Nature Centre	\$17,000	Family Nature Walks, Naturalist Clubs, Small Wonders and High Park Rangers programs.
Ontario Forestry Association	\$5,000	Toronto Regional Envirothon for high school students
Ontario Nature	\$10,000	Nature Guardians Program for low-income and newcomer youth, including Youth Summit
Rouge Valley Foundation	\$4,600	Environmental and nature education programs
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	\$4,000	Bus Grants to enable school children to attend nature programs at Kortright Centre.
Toronto Wildlife Centre	\$10,000	Window into Wildlife Rehabilitation webcam to create awareness of urban wildlife issues
Toronto Zoo	\$6,000	Adopt-a-Pond Wetland Conservation Program
Total	\$56,600	

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Ecology of Breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers

Sunday, May 5, Doug Tozer, Ornithologist, Bird Studies Canada

Selection logging involves the removal of trees of declining health in maple-dominated forests in central and southern Ontario. As a result, the remaining trees have access to more resources. This practice produces more wood of higher quality in the long run. First, for health and safety reasons, the snags (dead and dying trees) must be brought down as they pose a danger to loggers. The challenge is that birds and other creatures depend on these cavity trees to build their nests. Doug's PhD research queried whether enough snags were being left behind as wildlife trees.

The study carried out in Algonquin Park looked at 16 stands of selection-logged maple and 4 stands of aspen. To determine what forest stand characteristics influenced breeding habitat quality, Doug measured 7 variables. One was the preference of the birds themselves based on the premise that the oldest birds return first and occupy the highest quality sites. The only way to tell the age of the birds is to catch them and examine the three stages of feather wear. The nests, however, can be 30-50 feet high, and the researcher does not like heights. We got an interesting look at the creativity involved in actual research when Doug described the contraption built from bits of leftovers atop a telescopic pole. This pole came into use to measure another variable, the number of eggs and nest success. A wireless camera displayed the contents of the nest on a monitor at eye level.

The trick was to insert the probe into the 3-4 cm hole 30-50 feet up. After visiting 415 nests, they got better at it. Luckily, yellow-bellied sapsuckers are resilient and none of them abandoned their nests as a result of the researchers' actions.

In the first year, they encountered a mystery. Day after day, they came upon nests destroyed by an unknown predator. Only after setting up an infrared camera did they catch a black bear, chewing a hole in the nest site. Finding 17% of 315 sapsucker nests and 2% of 54 hairy woodpecker nests depredated in maple stands, while none of the nests in aspen stands were affected, caused Doug to shift his study. The bear nest predation risk considered 7 variables and found that the age of the nest was the main risk factor. The nestlings make a continuous noise, loudest just before fledging. This probably attracts the bears. Another factor was the hardness of the wood surrounding the nest. It makes sense that the bear might give up if the wood was too hard, thereby ensuring the success of the nest.

The Ministry of Natural Resources used Doug's research to modify their guidelines for logging on Crown lands. Doug has the satisfaction of knowing his research led to the increase from 6 to 10 wildlife trees per hectare. Not a bad outcome for a researcher who doesn't like heights.

Corinne McDonald



From left:

Male yellow-bellied sapsucker about to enter a nest with a bill full of insects to feed to nestlings.

Photo by Brad Woodworth.

Doug using a Treetop Peeper to count eggs in a yellow-bellied sapsucker nest located 35 feet up in a maple.

Photo by Ron Tozer.

EXTRACTS FROM OUTINGS LEADERS REPORTS

Rosetta McClain Gardens and the Lakeshore Below, Apr 13. Leader: Bob Kortright. By the end of a brief introduction the downpour had abated. There were many golden-crowned kinglets, chickadees, red-winged blackbirds and robins mixed with some brown creepers, song sparrows, cardinals, white-breasted nuthatches, sapsuckers, and hairy woodpecker. A number of winter wrens were heard but not seen. On the lake were numerous red-breasted mergansers, red-necked grebes, and cormorants. The road below the bluffs was covered with bricks, stones and pieces of pavement thrown up by a strong storm during the winter – even expensive shore armouring may not last forever. The manicured park provided a contrast to the natural areas on the sides and bottom of the bluffs – spring bulbs and exotic trees.

German Mills, Apr 20. Leader: Theresa Moore. Our Earth Day walk was cold with intermittent light flurries. We collected garbage and recycling along our route. There were many red-winged blackbirds, robins and song-sparrows singing. Highlights included a white-throated sparrow, kingfisher, and a pair of wood ducks as well as bloodroot, violets and emerging shoots of mayapple.

Lost Rivers, L'Amoreaux Park, Apr 21. Leader: John Wilson. L'Amoreaux Forest, also known as Passmore Forest, compares favourably with Toronto's highest-quality urban forests. The Wendat First Nation former village, termed Alexandra archeological site, was inhabited 600 years ago and investigated in 2000. Although sadly it was later destroyed in housing development on Shepton Way, the interpretive signage is well done. Every ash in the forest is infested with EAB and will soon be removed. Other trees noted were basswood, butternut, beech, red oak, sugar and red maples, black cherry and choke cherry, all in early stages of budding. There are white pine, mostly in plantings, though one or two large pines persist at the north edge of forest. On the forest floor were wild leeks, spring beauty, bloodroot, trilliums, trout-lily and blue cohosh. There is also garlic mustard. Among birds seen: ruby- and golden-crowned kinglets, northern flicker, pine warbler, orange-crowned warbler (probably) along the creek and pied-billed grebe. A dam in lower pond and numerous tree stumps bear evidence to beaver activity. Fish evident in storm-water management were being predated by grebes.

Rouge Park, Apr 25. Leader: Peter Money. In view of the very late spring, a surprisingly large number of plants were just beginning to bloom. Most (bloodroot, toothwort, wild ginger, blue cohosh) were not seen blooming on pre-walk (April 22). Another surprise: no

definite signs of false Solomon's-seal, though these are fairly early spring ephemerals. We saw white trillium in bud and sharp-lobed hepatica in flower. Also seen were trout-lily, fringed polygala, wild columbine, early meadow-rue, mayapple, Virginia waterleaf, wild geranium and American wood anemone. We watched a mourning cloak butterfly fly and settle.

Guildwood Park to East Point Park and Grey Abbey Park, Apr 26. Leader: Gisela Bach. On this wonderful spring day, we noticed many birds and spring flowers and viewed the rugged Scarborough Bluffs from the shoreline. Arriving in East Point Park we visited the small pond, a wild habitat for birds and frogs. Along the Lake shoreline we noticed the usual litter: tires, shopping carts, styrofoam and many plastic water bottles.

Taylor Massey Creek, Apr 28. Leader: Margaret McRae. The newest wetland is finished and there are wood duck and swallow nest boxes there. The trout-lilies, bloodroot, Virginia waterleaf and nettle were flowering. Among birds seen were a red-bellied woodpecker and a phoebe. There were 3 red-eared sliders in the pond.

Swansea - Humber Valley, May 1. Leader: Ed Freeman. We followed the Humber River and walked around Grenadier Pond. Larch with young female cones were pretty, other trees not yet leafed out except for weeping willow in beautiful yellow green. We saw a brown snake.

7th Annual Jane Jacobs Walk, to celebrate Jane Jacobs' birthday and the halting of the Spadina Expressway, May 4. Leaders: Pleasance Crawford and Helen Juhola. This year, because TFN's Jane Jacobs Tribute Walk coincided with the weekend of Jane's Walks, it was listed on both organizations' websites and attracted 52 participants. Highlights included the timely flowering of the young yellow magnolia and the old saucer magnolia near the corner of Everden and Ava roads; a brown rabbit munching grass in Cedarvale Ravine; and the surprise of seeing another Jane's Walk crossing Glen Cedar Bridge just as we were passing below.

Rouge Park, May 7. Leader: Peter Money. It had taken less than two weeks for many species to progress from emerging leaves to full bloom (see Apr 25). They are called ephemerals for a good reason! There were a number of spring azure butterflies and a couple of mourning cloak; a black swallowtail landed and settled and we had a distant view of a tiger swallowtail. Among the birds we saw were tree swallows, great blue heron, red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, white-breasted nuthatch,

chipping sparrow, yellow warbler and rose-breasted grosbeak. We saw a garter snake and heard a green frog.

Yellow Creek, May 12. Leader: Ed Freeman. The trees were in full leaf. Invasives prominent, especially Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard. There was a large patch of trout-lilies just past their blooming.

Leslie St Spit, May 17. Leader: Bob Kortright. Joint outing with Bruce Trail club attracted over 60 people. Despite a fairly rapid pace consistent with identifying birds, trees and insects, we arrived at the bird banding station just as the last bird of the day, a tree swallow, was banded. The most unusual sighting was a groundhog about 10 feet up a tree – perhaps treed by a coyote.

Lost Rivers, Daylighting Wilson Creek, May 19. Leaders: Helen Mills, Zora Ignjatovic, Michael Cook. Helen talked about the former course of the creek, the Lake Iroquois shoreline, stream bank erosion, dumps and parking lot impacts along the edge of the creek. Zora introduced an urban agriculture project on Bartley Avenue. She planted the first part of the spiral butterfly garden in this permaculture project. Why did we bury this creek? See Michael Cook on this question at www.vanishingpoint.ca/why-did-we-bury-this-creek.

Guildwood Park to East Point Park, Scarborough, May 25. Leader: Gisela Bach. We saw false Solomon's-seal, poison ivy, great angelica and the invasive species knotweed, garlic mustard, dog-strangling vine and European common reed. We found a few *Polyporus squamosus* bracket fungi. Among birds noted were sharp-shinned hawk, red-breasted merganser, song sparrows, bank swallows and a hummingbird. As well as the usual trash on the Lake shoreline, we noticed used-up fireworks left on the beach.

Seneca College, King Campus, May 28. Leader: Charles Chaffey. In flower were yellow clintonia, twisted-stalk, Solomon's-seal, Canada mayflower, Jack-in-the-pulpit, wild calla and marsh marigold. We saw a great blue heron flying over the lake, a tree swallow flying over a field, a redwinged blackbird, a yellow warbler and a Baltimore oriole singing in a tree.

Nature Arts, Taylor Creek, June 1. Leader: Gail Gregory. We observed the most recent storm damage from heavy rains and discussed last fall's destruction of Taylor Creek bridges and gabion basket creek shores. This rain has damaged the replacement bridge shoreline but still useable. Enjoyed the pond where we noted the duck plumage differences and watched a hawk soaring. An immature hawk was spotted in a tree. Plants seen included toothwort, false Solomon's-seal, wild geranium and purple-flowering raspberry. We saw damselflies, tiger-swallowtail butterflies and heard frogs.

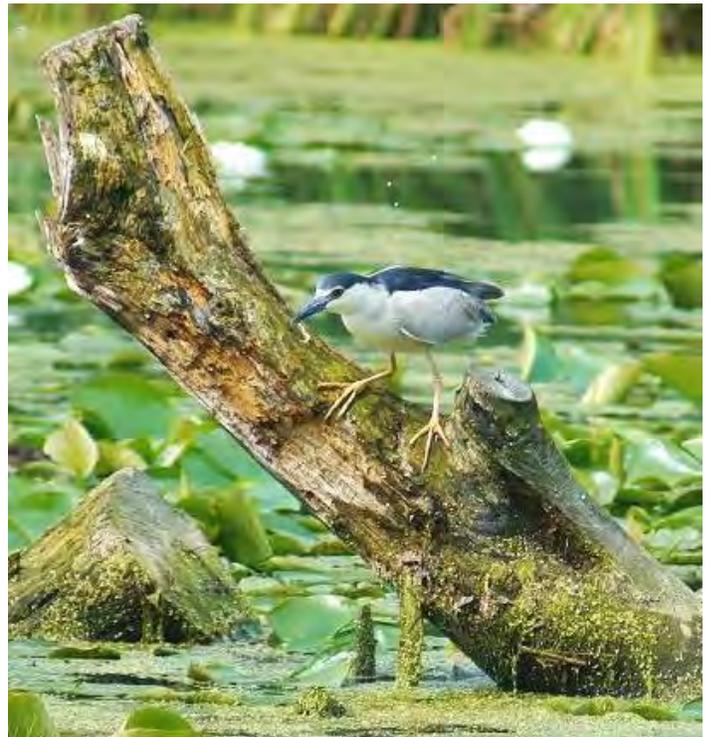
Cudmore Creek and Crother's Woods, June 5.

Leader: Ed Freeman. The trails were hilly with a couple of rough patches. There are interesting landforms and geology and good mature forest with a wide variety of trees. Among birds noted were goldfinch, indigo bunting and northern mockingbird.

York Cemetery, June 12. Leader: Jack Radecki. We noted red and white oak, English walnut, hackberry, evidence of emerald ash borer; also the resting places of Grand Duchess Olga and Tim Horton. Among birds seen were northern flicker, eastern wood-peewee, red-breasted nuthatch, house wren, cedar waxwing, northern cardinal, chipping sparrow, American goldfinch. We saw a tiger swallowtail butterfly.

Lost Rivers, The Garden District, June 16. Leader: John Wilson. We highlighted the courses of lost Rainbow or Normal School Creek, Taddle Creek and Crookshank Creek. We noted the persistence of parks and gardens at critical points along their former courses and some positive environmental actions, using water where it falls in gardens, parks and green-roofed buildings. Questionable development in the location of a naturalized playground should be mitigated to allow nature-deficient city-centre kids to play among living things, as they do at Moss Park playground and splash pad.

Continued on next page



Black-crowned night-heron in High Park photographed by Miriam Garfinkle

Outings reports cont'd

The following full-length reports are from outing leader John Bacher.

Threats to David Dunlap Forest, David Dunlap Observatory, May 11. Most of the dozen members participating had never seen the extensive 150-acre forest, approximately half of which is threatened by residential development. We were able to walk the perimeter of the forest and enter the property by the main entrance road, although not permitted to walk on trails within the forested section. We also walked through David Dunlap Observatory Park, which Richmond Hill recently was required to purchase for several million dollars from the developer who is attempting to build in the forest.

Since just a few days before there had been a negative Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing on the protection of this area, some of the walkers brought protest signs. Many motorists honked in support, especially as the hike walked down Bayview Ave. We learnt that school children have taken up a petition against the destruction of the forest and some wore placards during the hike.

According to the OMB hearing officer, although the official plans have been changed for development zoning, the changes must still be approved after more detailed studies determine if there will be any harmful impact to wildlife such as birds by the clear cutting of seventy acres of forest. Lack of approval could, at least in theory, prevent any construction or alteration of the site.

During the hike we found a sign that the developer is required to display, informing potential purchasers of lots that approvals had not yet been given. Since this warning sign had been vandalized, we pulled it upright so people will not be misled.

What makes the threat to the forest more odious now is the recent flooding of the Don Valley. Without the loss of the adjacent Langstaff Prison Farm Lands (funds from which were used to create the Toronto Atmospheric Fund), it would have been possible to create a magnificent urban forest with the David Dunlap Forest that would have had the potential to reduce flooding in the Don River.

Left: demonstrators against the loss of the forest

Right: silver maples at Coronation Park



Coronation Park: Toronto's Memorial to the Birth of Conservation, June 8. The park was created by a mass tree planting on August 1, 1938 by the Canadian section of Men of the Trees, a conservationist organization dominated by veterans of the First World War. Their campaigns had an important impact on Ontario through the passage of two major reforms in 1946. One was the Conservation Authorities Act, creating the legislative basis for watershed-based conservation authorities in Ontario that have been a major force in reforesting the southern portion of the province. The other was the Trees Act, which for the first time gave municipalities the power to restrict tree cutting on private land.

When the trees were planted in Coronation Park, each had a commemorative plaque. Most of the trees were silver maples representing the individual units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force of the First World War. Some trees honoured those who fought in the Fenian Raids, the North West Rebellion and the Boer War. In the middle of the planting was a circle of trees representing the Commonwealth Dominions, India and the Crown Colonies, which encircled a Royal (or English) oak that represented the newly crowned King George VI. The oak was from a forest in England with historical associations with royalty. Such oaks were planted across southern Ontario by Men of the Trees to use the Coronation and its associated dramatic parades as a way to promote the cause of conservation in the province.

Three years ago a TFN outing had noted that a number of plaques had been lost. It was evident that since then some plaques had been replaced and mounted above ground on a small concrete stand so that they will not be buried again. However, we found trees without plaques and plaques without trees (since dead trees were not replaced). Most of the plaques for the Commonwealth

Continued on next page



FOR READING

Biological Notes on an Old Farm: Exploring Common Things in the Kingdoms of Life

This book, which “encourages us to stop and look at the smaller organisms such as plants, fungi, insects and bacteria that play important roles in sustaining life on Earth” was written by Glenn Wiggins, former Curator of Entomology at the ROM, who died recently. In the 1970s Glenn initiated the ROM’s Gallery of Arthropods, which TFN members may remember, and which included live insects and recordings of insect songs. He specialized in aquatic insects. “Glenn was one of the top scientists in the ROM’s first 100 years, amassing a world-class collection and developing an outstanding scientific program in Entomology. He was truly a giant in his field and will be sorely missed,” said Mark Engstrom, a senior curator at the ROM.

Published by the ROM, the book received the Silver Medal for science in the Independent Publisher Book Awards, 2010. It’s available in the Toronto Public Library, at the ROM store and online.

Mistaken Identity? Invasive Plants and their Native Look-alikes: an Identification Guide for the Mid-Atlantic

by M J Sarver , A Treher, L. Wilson, R. Naczi and F B Kueh, Delaware Dept of Agriculture and USDA Natural Resources Conservation, 2008

Although this digital booklet is put out by Delaware Dept of Agriculture, many of the comparisons between similar looking invasives and natives are useful for southern Ontario. Here are a few examples:

- Norway and sugar maple
- White and red mulberry
- Oriental and native bittersweet
- Asian and native bush honeysuckles
- Hogweed and angelica and cow-parsnip
- Invasive and native phragmites

Available on-line at: www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf

More than Birds: Adventurous Lives of North American Naturalists

by Val Shushkewich
2012, Dundurn Press, 296 pp

Twenty-two chapters provide short biographies of North American ornithologists/naturalists, many Canadian or with Canadian connections. Murray and Doris Speirs, who were both life members of TFN, are among the 22. Murray published *Birds of Ontario* in 1985.

See reviews from Canadian Field Naturalist at:
www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/view/1423/1417
and Society of Canadian Ornithologists at:
www.sco-soc.ca/newsletter/Picoides26_1_2013.pdf

Would you like to review this book for a future issue of the newsletter? Please let us know.

Available at Toronto Public Library, in stores or buy online.

Beltline Trail Report available

The Beltline Trail study was completed April 2013. For further information and to see the report go to

www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/kay-gardnerbeltline/index.htm

Continued from previous page.

states were buried but our crew, who came equipped with trowels, dug up the plaques for India, New Zealand, South Africa and the Crown Colonies.

The only interpretive sign that tells the story of the park is in a state of disrepair. It fails to mention the conservation concerns of Men of the Trees that caused the planting to be undertaken: Ontario at that time was

suffering from spreading deserts and flooding caused by deforestation. Most disturbingly, young trees planted in recent years exhibited damage to bark from mechanical grass mowers. Coronation Park needs to be systematically maintained to follow its original plan and its inspiring story clearly told through memorials.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Although this spring I have been lucky seeing mammals, this afternoon was particularly rewarding. While strolling in Mount Pleasant Cemetery looking for warblers I came across a white tailed deer resting on a hillside.

I then went across the road where a red fox was lying on the lawn. He didn't seem to be afraid and although I was only feet away he put his head down like a cat sleeping. I then headed home, but not before a raccoon walked in front of me. This all happened within 5 minutes.

Last week I saw a cottontail, a groundhog and a mother raccoon with 4 young in the cemetery. I also spotted a muskrat in the Brick Works a week or so ago and a coyote at the base of the Leslie St spit.

I never get too close to wildlife as I hate to frighten them. I usually just watch them from a distance with binoculars for a short time.

Roger Powley, May 22

.....

I'm sending you a picture of the immature bald eagle that I saw today (May 20) at the Leslie Street Spit. I actually saw it land! There was some confusion about it being a golden eagle.

What an amazing time on the Spit with all the warblers and so many many kinds of birds! Someone saw a huge snapping turtle on the path and an opossum (I did not).



Miriam Garfinkle



Attached is my photo of a grackle with a black and white head that first came to our feeder in Etobicoke on March 10 and has stuck around – last seen April 3. Not sure how common this form of leucism is, but thought you might be interested in seeing the photo.

Sally Wilson

.....

Ed: We have been gratified to receive the following positive comments from members:

I thoroughly enjoy receiving the newsletter and wonderful photography. I hope I'll finally have time to enjoy some outings in the coming Fall.

Mary Wildridge

I am very impressed with the work you are doing with your people.

Mary Lund

Although I no longer live in Toronto, I enjoy reading the newsletter. I attended a walk in High Park last year and found it, like all TFN walks, enjoyable and educational. I hope to attend another walk when I visit Toronto again this September.

During the past year I was particularly drawn to the article Remembering Fred Bodsworth and the review of his book *Last of the Curlews*. I bought three copies for family members. It is an excellent book and I would not have known about it without the TFN.

Robert Foor

A donation towards your excellent newsletter.

Patricia Stone

I read your newsletter from cover to cover.

Doris Moffatt

In June I had the pleasure of spending several days' quiet retreat at Kingfisher Bay on Stony Lake in the Kawarthas. It was an idyllic spot and, in addition to drinking in the beauty of the scenery, I enjoyed three animal encounters.

While sitting on a small island early one morning, I glanced down and noticed freshly dug soil. Then, to my surprise, I realized that the creature responsible was still there – a snapping turtle preparing to lay her eggs. She froze completely still, presumably so that I would not see her. I took a photo and hastily departed. Later that day, I noted a large exposed hole in the spot but no sign of eggs. I hoped that my presence that morning had not frightened her away. To my relief, the following morning, the nest site had been covered, and there were two other disturbed areas nearby. I was told that snapping turtles often create decoy nesting sites to distract attention from the real one.



On a nearby island was an osprey nest. While the female stayed protecting two youngsters, I enjoyed seeing the comings and goings of the male. One evening I saw him perched high in a nearby tree and watched with interest as he ravenously devoured a large fish. He must have been hungry after spending the day providing for his family.



The last encounter was especially delightful – the lovely white-tailed deer in this photo. I was told she had a fawn, but unfortunately I didn't see it.

Wendy Rothwell

TFN for All Seasons, Friday, October 4, 2013

Volunteers still Needed

Rehearsals -- Wednesday, October 2,
2013 and also in September.

We still have a few positions open for volunteers:

- to play guitar or keyboard accompaniment for the show
- to help with preparation of the program for printing, promotional materials and scenery
- to assist the director, Richard Partington
- to help on the night of the performance: stage management tasks, box office, ushering, serving refreshments and cleanup

If interested in any of these positions, please contact

Margaret McRae: [REDACTED],

or

Richard Partington: [REDACTED]

Mudpuppies on U-Tube!

Members of Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club have made a great u-tube video showing them visiting an icy stream in mid-winter to watch mudpuppies going about their business unperturbed by the cold or the watchers. Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwZ98sJVdzc

Did you see mudpuppies this year? Please remember to send sightings with date and place to Adopt-a-Pond (see details in May 2013 newsletter).

TORONTO'S NATIVE and OTHER BELLFLOWERS

Bellflowers belong to the genus *Campanula*, a major genus (415 species) in the family Campanulaceae (about 90 genera, 2,550 species). Species belonging to this family occur worldwide in every environment except major deserts and Antarctica. About forty *Campanula* species occur in North America. Two are native to Toronto but locally rare.

C. aparinoides (marsh or bedstraw bellflower) has solitary white or very pale bluish flowers, less than 12mm long, on long (up to 1m) weak stems. It is summer blooming. Backward-pointing hairs on the stems allow it to climb over other plants. It is recorded through most of Ontario and from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan. It occurs across most of the eastern and north central US states as well as in Washington State. This is a rather inconspicuous species of wet meadows or swamps. It was recorded by the TFN in wet meadows on the Toronto Islands and in the Rouge Valley.

C. rotundifolia, the specific name referring to round basal leaves, is the harebell or bluebell of Scotland. It seems a peculiar choice to represent Scotland as its very wide distribution is from Arctic circumboreal regions as far south of the boreal zone as mountains in northern Mexico! Its North American range includes all of Canada and all of the United States except the southeast. The TFN's *Vascular Plants of Metropolitan Toronto* (2nd ed., 1994) recorded it here only in the Humber marshes and in savanna areas in High Park and Lambton Park. Here it may bloom from June to August. It has few-flowered small loose racemes, of violet-blue flowers about 20mm long (in Toronto), on thin threadlike stalks. This is a variable species. An Arctic form, common on Greenland, has deeper-coloured flowers, up to 30 mm long, and slightly thicker stalks. It was formerly classified as *C. gieseckiana*.

Anyone of Scottish heritage might ponder the fact that the "bluebell of Scotland" greatly preceded migrating Scots in much of the world. Whether Scots or noo, do try to spot this locally rare species and, especially if Scots, celebrate the occasion appropriately.

Peter Money



Below left: marsh or bedstraw bellflower (*Campanula aparinoides*)
Above: harebell (local form),
Campanula rotundifolia
Below right: harebell (Arctic form)

Photos by Peter Money



Rouge Valley “Environmental Education for All”

David Lawrie, Rouge Valley Conservation Centre

The Rouge Valley Conservation Centre's “Environmental Education for All” subsidy program sponsored by Toronto Field Naturalists has been a tremendous success! Despite a very slow start in the fall and early winter due to the public school teachers’ work-to-rule campaign, interest in the subsidy program picked up significantly in the spring. Many low-income school children who could not otherwise afford to attend outdoor-based nature education programming have been able to make great use of this subsidy. To date, the program has been able to support 250 school students, 35 summer campers and 9 children for our weekend program.

These children have been able to interact with nature and learn about local ecosystems that many others never get to see. They have been able to watch tree frogs grow from tadpole to frog, caterpillars change into butterflies, and threatened barn swallows raise their young and leave the nest. Our curriculum-based environmental programs provide an outdoor experience with hikes through the Rouge Valley with its unique Carolinian forests and 25 endangered species, as well as a range of creative and interactive indoor and outdoor activities creating experiences the children will carry with them for the rest of their lives.



The added benefit of these programs in a day of nature deficit disorder is that the kids really love our programs, and love being outdoors. Here are a couple of comments from the parents:

“Joshua is very happy and is having an awesome time at camp. He enjoyed the topics of reptiles and amphibians. The fee subsidy was a great help. We wouldn't have been able to put him into two weeks of camp if not for the fee subsidy. Your chosen staff are great, they are very friendly and nice.”

“Aaron LOVES going to RVCC! I think it's a great mix of learning about nature, being outside, and doing the indoor activities; of course the frog pond is a huge hit! He really loves learning about the world around him and the animals, insects and environment; RVCC helps him

learn all of that. It also helps when all the counsellors are amazing. Thanks for keeping the camp going! Aaron will be back next year I am sure.”

Funding from TFN makes a huge difference in the lives of children across the GTA! Many thanks from the Rouge Valley Foundation and Staff.

An intruder!

The most commonly seen bellflower in Toronto is creeping bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*). It's easy to tell it apart from our native bellflowers (see page 14) as it's very robust, usually growing in dense masses, with many flowers packed on each stem. Leaves are heart-shaped with tapering tips and coarse teeth. It flowers in July.

This Eurasian species has become invasive in North America in many natural habitats as well as in gardens, fields and along roadsides. It has persistent roots that may be missed when trying to dig out plants. The University of Wisconsin Invasive Plant fact sheet suggests digging “at least 6” deep to locate and remove all rhizomes and perennial roots.” It's tempting to leave it to flower in your garden as it adds a lot of colour, but it's so successful at seeding (3000 to 15,000 seeds per plant) that it's better not to take chances. Pull the flowering stems well *before* they go to seed!

Creeping bellflower's native relative, harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), is sometimes offered at High Park's annual native plant sale in May.



CICADAS, PRIME NUMBERS and SEX

At the recent TFN lecture “Insect Life Cycles,” presented by the terrestrial ecologist James Kamstra, a question was asked about the periodicity of periodical cicadas: Is it a coincidence that the number of years that cicada nymphs stay underground before emerging, 13 or 17 years, are both prime numbers? The speaker was unable to provide an answer.

Thirteen- and seventeen-year cycles are rare in nature, and are not particularly common even within the cicada superfamily Cicadoidea. Of the 2,500 or so cicada species that have been described, only seven exhibit this behaviour, and these are all in the *Magicicada* genus, which comprises four species that follow the 13-year cycle, and three that follow the 17-year cycle.

The simultaneous emergence of an overwhelming number of adult cicadas follows a familiar strategy employed by numerous species: sheer numbers ensure that at least a few will survive to reproduce – a strategy known as predator satiation. And presumably any predator that depended on *Magicicada* cicadas for lunch would have long died of old age before the 13 or 17 years were up. But this does not explain why the periodicity is confined to prime numbers.

Stephen Jay Gould, in his book *Ever Since Darwin: Reflections in Natural History*, suggested that the answer lay in predator avoidance through the predator’s inability to synchronise their cycles with those of the *Magicicada* cicadas. He wrote:

Why do we have 13 and 17 year cicadas, but no cycles of 12, 14, 15, 16, or 18? 13 and 17 share a common property. They are large enough to exceed the life cycle of any predator, but they are also prime numbers (divisible by no integer smaller than themselves). Many potential predators have 2- to 5-year life cycles. Such cycles are not set by the availability of periodical cicadas (for they peak too often in years of non-emergence), but cicadas might be eagerly harvested when the cycles coincide. Consider a predator with a cycle of five years: if cicadas emerged every 15 years, each bloom would be hit by the predator. By cycling at a large prime number, cicadas minimize the number of coincidences (every 5 x 17, or 85 years, in this case). Thirteen- and 17-year cycles cannot be tracked by any smaller number.¹

Since then other theories have been proposed. One suggests that periodicity inhibits hybridization (emergent

broods will be all of the same species; co-emergence with broods of different life cycles in the same locality will be rare, once every 221 years).² Another theory links hybrid inhibition to the Allee effect³ – achieving a critical population size that’s above an extinction threshold. There’s a large mathematical component to these theories (well beyond my comprehension), but they all reference adaptation to colder soil temperatures during the Pleistocene interglacial periods.

Whatever theory eventually proves to be correct, it is interesting to note how nature co-opts simple mathematical concepts, prime numbers and the Fibonacci sequence for example, and applies them in complex, surprising and, to me at least, satisfying ways.

Charles Bruce-Thompson



Cicada hiding in dried leaves in a stand of garlic mustard, August 2012. Photo: Jenny Bull

References:

1. Gould, Stephen J. (1977). *Ever Since Darwin: Reflections in Natural History* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.) pp. 98-102
2. Cox, R.T.; Carlton C.E. (1988) *Paleoclimatic Influences in the Evolution of Periodical Cicadas (Insecta: Homoptera: Cicadidae: Magicicada spp.)* American Midland Naturalist 120 (1): 183–193.
3. Tanaka Y.; Yoshimura J.; Simon C; Cooley J.R.; Tainaka J. (2009) *Allee Effect in the Selection for Prime-numbered Cycles in Periodical Cicadas*. Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A. 106(22): 8975–8979

IN THE NEWS

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) UPDATE

1. In the City-wide EAB management plan, over 8000 ash trees will be treated with TreeAzin™ this summer between June and September. Last year Urban Forestry injected over 4000 trees. Trees are tagged with numerical aluminum tags over-painted in green. The injection needs to be applied every second year and trees will be evaluated for their condition on a yearly basis. Criteria for selection of trees for treatment (all the criteria must be met) are:

- located in high use public areas on public property;
- within a significant park or golf course;
- with good overall health, limited branch dieback or decline;
- in areas where ash species make up a large percentage of the tree canopy.

2. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has approved the release of two stingless parasitic wasps from China as biological control agents to combat the spread of EAB. One wasp has already been released in limited areas in southwestern Ontario by Natural Resources Canada. The release of the wasps will be closely monitored through ongoing scientific studies. For more information see CFIA at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-protection/insects/emerald-ash-borer/wasps/eng/1371137262586/1371137530758> and USDA at www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/apr11/pest0411.htm?pf=1

ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE UPDATE

Agriculture Canada and Natural Resources Canada have announced that the Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALHB) has been successfully eradicated from Canada, following nearly a decade of collaborative efforts between federal, provincial and municipal authorities. As part of the eradication effort, nearly 30,000 trees were removed from the southern part of the City of Vaughan and the northeast part of the City of Toronto to prevent further spread. ALHB was last detected inside the regulated area in December 2007. It has never been detected elsewhere in Canada. See announcement at www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/newsroom/news-releases/2013-04-05/eng/1365168144940/1365168154936

WHERE ARE ALL THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES?

- the lowest number in 20 years of record-keeping overwintered in Mexico. See CBC website: www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2013/03/20/f-monarch-butterfly.html

- Journey North (a monarch research group) reports that a generation of monarchs may have been lost because, when the butterflies arrived in Texas, milkweed plants weren't far enough along because of a cold spring. See CBC website: www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2013/07/10/wdr-monarch-butterflies-milweed-crash.html

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ABANDONS ENDANGERED SPECIES

Extracted from a news release from Ontario Nature, Sierra Club Canada, David Suzuki Foundation and Earthroots, May 31, 2013, www.ontarionature.org

The provincial Cabinet announced today its approval of sweeping exemptions for industry under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA). Environmental organizations are incensed at the government's abdication of its responsibility to protect and recover Ontario's endangered plants and animals. The new exemptions lower the standard of protection for endangered plants and animals across many industries, including forestry, pits and quarries, renewable energy, hydro, mining, infrastructure development, waste management, and commercial and residential development. They also dramatically reduce government oversight of activities affecting Ontario's lakes, rivers, forests and wildlife.

Among the exemptions is a special five-year exemption for the forestry sector, which leaves forest-dwelling species like the threatened woodland caribou out in the cold. Listed as threatened in Canada in 2000, the woodland caribou has already lost about 50% of its historic range in Ontario and continues to decline, due to industrial activity. The costs of administering the ESA were one of the factors driving the decision. Environmentalists question, however, the wisdom of Cabinet's decision even from an economic perspective. A government study in 2009 determined the value of ecosystem services (pollination, carbon sequestration, soil retention, flood control, etc.) in southern Ontario alone at over \$84 billion per year.



Queens Park Briefing (www.qpbriefing.com/about-us/) reported that former Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield, "has reservations about the latest regulatory changes to the Endangered Species Act but is hopeful enforcement will be tough enough."

Continued on next page

WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

SEPTEMBER 2012

September continued the cooling trend from the intense warmth of spring and summer 2012 as temperatures fell to near normal for the month as a whole (actually cooler than normal during the second half of the month). The monthly mean of 16.4° at Pearson Airport was 0.1° above the long-term average. This all occurred while the Arctic sea ice reached a new all-time record low, beating the 2007 record.

Rainfall continued the pattern begun in mid-summer of being above normal, thus definitively erasing any lingering spring to early summer drought conditions across southern Ontario. Downtown and the airport had very similar total amounts (119.8 and 121.0 mm

respectively) that were significantly above the normal (about 70 mm).

September began with tropical influences dominating. It was fairly warm and humid. Temperatures stayed below the 30° mark, however. Thunderstorms associated with the remains of Hurricane Isaac hit on the 4th, bringing 30-50 mm of rain. A second more conventional disturbance brought similar amounts of rain on the 8th. This second disturbance also brought the first cool autumnal air mass of the season. Cold fronts were fairly frequent thereafter, with the 23rd being the chilliest day of the month (highs in the low teens). The morning of the 24th, it was 3.8° at Pearson Airport. The orientation of the jet stream allowed more cool air masses southward, partly offsetting the effect of a rather open Arctic.

Gavin Miller

IN THE NEWS continued

EXPERIMENTAL LAKES AREA (ELA)

You will have heard that Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the International Institute for Sustainable Development have signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the future of the ELA.

Research at the ELA has allowed scientists to produce evidence of the effects of single factors on freshwater ecosystems where the complexity of systems has made this impossible in other locations. Much of this research has resulted in policy changes. Some of the evidence that has come out of ELA:

- phosphorus in detergents (remember algal blooms in Lake Erie?)
- acid rain from coal-fired power plants (remember dead lakes?)
- mercury accumulation in fish from low-level background input
- synthetic estrogen from birth-control pills in feminization of fish resulting in population decline

Currently, experiments are looking at the effect of the new technology of nanoparticles within freshwater systems. Nanoparticles are so small they can pass through biological membranes and are set to be used in many consumer and industrial products and processes. For more information see: <http://www.iisd.org/media/press.aspx?id=244> and <http://www.experimentalakesarea.ca/researchhistory.html>

NEW DECISION ON CUTTING URBAN TREES

As reported to us by Edith George, a passionate advocate of Heritage Trees, a decision reached in May by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled that trees whose trunks grow across private property lines are the common property of both owners. If any part of the tree's trunk crosses the property boundary, it is a co-owned tree and one owner cannot injure or destroy a shared tree without the consent of the neighboring owner. Under the Ontario Forestry Act, violation of this provision could result in a \$20,000 fine and/or imprisonment. The ruling gives better protection to trees located on private property and helps preserve Toronto's dwindling tree canopy.



COMING EVENTS

If you plan to attend any of these events, we recommend that you contact the organizing group beforehand to confirm time and place.

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks – Toronto Ornithological Club

Aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners also welcome. Free to the public; no advance registration.

Information: www.torontobirding.ca

- Sat Sept 7, 8 am to afternoon. High Park - Fall migrants, raptors. Leader: Gavin Platt. Meet at the parking lot inside the Bloor St W park entrance at High Park Ave.
- Sat Sept 14, 8 am to afternoon. Leslie Street Spit - Fall migrants, raptors, shorebirds. Leader: Bob Kortright. Meet at the foot of Leslie St at Unwin Ave (south of Lake Shore Blvd E).
- Sat Sept 21, 8 am to noon. Lambton Woods - Fall migrants. Leader: Don Burton. Meet at James Gardens parking lot (access from Edenbridge Dr east of Royal York Rd, north of Dundas St W).
- Sun Sept 22, 8 am to afternoon. Durham Waterfront, Pickering-Oshawa Second Marsh - Fall migrants, shorebirds, waterfowl. Leader: Geoff Carpentier. Meet at Pickering GO Station - go a little bit east of the main parking lot to the overflow lot on Sandy Beach Rd - meet in southeast part of the lot.
- Sat Sept 28, 8 am to afternoon. Toronto Islands - Late fall migrants, raptors. Leader: Barry Coombs. Meet at Toronto Islands Ferry Docks at the foot of Bay St off Queen's Quay W to catch the 8:15am ferry to Hanlan's Point (\$6.50 ferry fee for adults; students/ seniors \$4).

High Park Walking Tours

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10:30 am to noon. Meet at the benches across the road south of Grenadier Restaurant.

Information: 416-392-6916 or walkingtours@highpark.org or www.highpark.org.

- Sept 1. Myths and Legends. Colborne Lodge staff.
- Sept 15. Who Goes to the Park? A poetic visit to sites from the well-known book.

Thickson's Woods Land Trust – 12th Annual Birds, Beavers and Butterflies Festival

Sat Sept 14. From Hwy 401 in Whitby, take Thickson Rd south of Wentworth St to the Waterfront Trail. Follow the signs.

Information: 905-433-7875 or www.thicksonswoods.com or Email: nature@thicksonswoods.com

LEAF – Tree Tenders Volunteer Training Course

Sept 24 – Oct 1 at the Toronto Botanical Garden.

This course trains people to be leaders in their communities to steward the urban forest and educate their neighbours. For information about content, registration and cost, visit www.yourleaf.org/tree-tenders-volunteer-training.

The Market Gallery

To Sept 14. South St. Lawrence Market, 2nd floor, 95 Front St E. Free. Building a City: people, places and Life in Toronto 1845 – 1899. Note: gallery closed Sun, Mon and holidays. Information: www.toronto.ca/culture/the_market_gallery.

Rouge Park Weekly Guided Nature Walks

Explore Rouge Park's trails with a Hike Ontario certified volunteer leader. Information: visit www.rougepark.com/hike, e-mail hike@rougepark.com or phone 905-713-3184 Monday thru Thursday.

Toronto Entomologists Association

Meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month. Information: www.ontarioinsects.org.

Lost Rivers Walks

Information: www.lostrivers.ca

- Sat Sept 7, 2 pm. Geology in War – Moat Fortress: Water in wild lands of Parkdale in War of 1812. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at southeast corner of King St W and Queen St W.
- Sat, Sept 21, 9:30 am. First Day of Gov. Simcoe's 1793 Journey up the Toronto Carrying Place. Commentary by Madeleine McDowell, in period dress, for the Humber Heritage Committee. Meet at 8 South Kingsway, north of The Queensway, Petro Canada station. A re-enactment of Simcoe's expedition in the form of a parade. Join and leave along the route. Ending before 2:00 pm at the gov'ner's 1793 campsite at the Humber River and Eglinton Ave W. Early drop off at Étienne Brûlé Park (Bloor St W).

Harbourfront Centre

Through June 2014. Nine Rivers City. A large-scale outdoor photographic exploration of Toronto's nine rivers. Information: harbourfrontcentre.com/visualarts

Ian Wheal Walk

Fri Sept 6, 6:45 pm. Physiography of Dufferin St: Parkdale to Corso Italia. Meet at southeast corner of Dufferin St and King St W.

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Wood duck family photographed in High Park by Miriam Garfinkle in July 2013