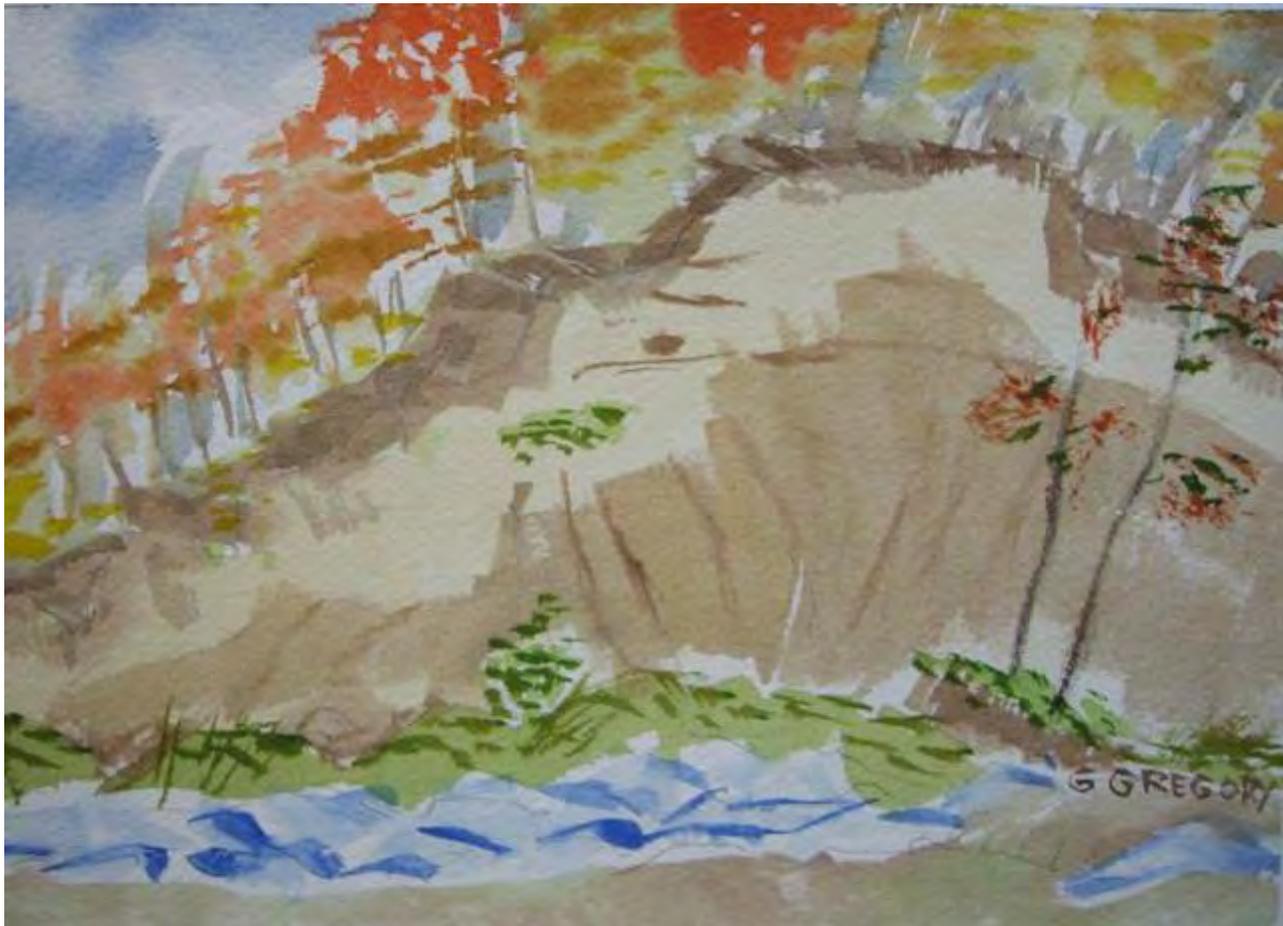




TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 598 October 2013



Eroded cliff at Warden Woods, watercolour by Gail Gregory (see p 2)

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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.

ISSN 0820-636X

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 200kB each*. In the accompanying email include location, date and any interesting story or other information associated with the photograph.

Deadline for submissions for November issue: Oct 3

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

Printing and mailing: Perkins Services Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & Outings	Margaret McRae	██████████
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Vice President & Monthly Lectures	Nancy Dengler	██████████
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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.

Toronto Field Naturalists

1519-2 Carlton St, Toronto M5B 1J3

Tel: 416-593-2656

Web: www.torontofieldnaturalists.org

Email: office@torontofieldnaturalists.org

NATURE ARTS



ON THE COVER: Gail Gregory writes: "The cliff in my painting is a home for bank swallows. I have watched them flying and landing at their nest holes. So an eroded cliff is a good thing too - home for bank swallows."

REMEMBER: TFN will be holding a Nature Arts Exhibit again at S. Walter Stewart Library in February.

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

Blue jay, graphite pencil and digital painting, by Joanne Doucette

TFN MEETING

Sunday, October 6, 2013

2:30 pm

Salamanders and the Threats They Face

*Matt Ellerback, salamander conservationist and advocate,
will describe salamanders of Ontario and what needs to be done to conserve them*

VISITORS WELCOME!

SOCIAL: 2:00 – 2:30 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 2:30 – 2:45

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.

Upcoming TFN Lectures

- 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

Toronto Field Naturalist Index

The Index for 2008 to 2011 newsletters is now available.

If interested, please email for an electronic copy or send a stamped self-addressed envelope for a printed copy.

Many thanks to volunteers Jane Cluver and Pleasance Crawford for their help in producing the index.

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.

Thurs CENTENNIAL PARK – Nature Walk

Oct 3 Leader: Claire Bergeron

11:00 am Meet outside the LCBO at Burnhamthorpe Mall. From Islington subway station take Burnhamthorpe bus # 50 to Old Burnhamthorpe Rd and cross street to mall. Bring lunch. A circular walk.

Fri TFN FOR ALL SEASONS – 90th Anniversary Celebration

Oct 4 Papermill Theatre, Todmorden Mills Heritage Site. Not to be missed! See page 6 for details.

7:30 pm

Sat BIG BEND, DON RIVER AND SLOPES – Nature Arts

Oct 5 Leaders: Ed Freeman and Ian Wheal

2:00 pm Meet at northeast corner of Parliament St and Winchester St. Walk will feature Riverdale Park, saved by Canadian Pacific Railway (1888-9) – a 19th century success story. Nature Arts attendees can do quick sketches along the route.

Sun TFN AGM and LECTURE – Salamanders and the Threats They Face.

Oct 6 Speaker: Matt Ellerback, salamander conservationist and advocate.

2:30 pm Northrop Frye Bldg. Room 003. See page 3.

Wed HOGGS HOLLOW AT YORK MILLS AND YONGE – Nature and Heritage

Oct 9 Leader: Peter Heinz

10:00 am We will examine the challenges faced by a community with its own mini-climate situated mostly on a floodplain. Meet at the south entrance to York Mills subway station, immediately south of the Shell station carwash. Bring binoculars and water. A 2-hour circular walk.

Sat BURNETT CREEK – Nature Walk

Oct 12 Leader: Alexander Cappell

10:00 am Meet at southeast corner of Bathurst St and Finch Ave W to follow this partly-buried creek, from a shopping plaza, through a linear parkette, treed suburban streets, a cemetery and a side-ravine with a secret entrance, till it meets the West Don River in a floodplain full of houses. Finish at a coffee shop at Bathurst St and Sheppard Ave W.

Sun BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE – Nature Walk

Oct 13 Leader: Claire Bergeron

1:30 pm Meet at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Take Steeles West bus #60 B or D from Finch subway station to Murray Ross Parkway and walk south, or bus #35 north from Jane subway station to Pioneer Village. Walk will end at Jane St and Wilson Ave for bus on Wilson Ave back to the subway.

Tues HURRICANE HAZEL AND THE HUMBER – Nature and Heritage

Oct 15 Leader: Madeleine McDowell

10:00 am Meet at Old Mill subway station. Walk to Lambton House for a tea break (or end). Salmon should be leaping.

- Sat **GUILDWOOD PARK – Birds, Plants, Fungi**
 Oct 19 Leader: Bob Kortright
 10:00 am Meet at the entrance to the Guild Inn at 201 Guildwood Parkway (TTC # 116 Morningside bus) for a loop walk. Bring binoculars and lunch.
- Sun **WALK THE GREEN LINE – Lost Rivers**
 Oct 20 Leader: Lacey Williams and friends.
 2:00 pm Meet at Caledonia Rd and Davenport Rd. The beach of glacial Lake Iroquois, the ancient trail that followed the shore of the lake, the headwaters of Garrison and Taddle Creeks; explore the remaking of a Hydro Corridor and plans for the Green Line, a linear park coming soon to an ancient landscape turned industrial, turning post-industrial. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community. See greenlinetoronto.ca
- Thurs **MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY – Nature and Heritage**
 Oct 24 Leader: Pleasance Crawford
 1:30 pm Meet at the Cemetery gate on the east side of Mount Pleasant Rd north of Moore Ave (via #74 Mount Pleasant bus). Bring binoculars. Circular walk lasting approximately two hours.
- Sat **ROUGE VALLEY, FINCH MEANDER – Nature Walk**
 Oct 26 Leader: Stephen Kamnitzer
 10:00 am Meet at the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre (Pearse House), east off Meadowvale Ave, north of Sheppard Ave E just opposite the Zoo. Accessible by TTC bus # 85 from Don Mills subway station and from Rouge Hill Go station. We will carpool to the start of the walk at the parking lot just north of the metal bridge on Meadowvale Ave. Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Sun **WYCHWOOD BARNES AND PARK – Nature and history**
 Oct 27 Leader: Kayoko Smith
 1:30 pm Meet at the southeast corner of Bathurst St and St Clair Ave W. Take subway to St Clair West station or streetcar from St Clair subway station to Bathurst St. Visit Eco-friendly, historical complex of Wychwood barns formerly streetcar maintenance facility built in 1913. To Wychwood Park, Toronto's hidden gem. We will visit Taddle creek which is still visible. End at Bathurst St and Davenport Rd. About 3 hours.
- Tues **HUMBER BAY PARK EAST – Birds**
 Oct 29 Leader: Anne Powell
 10:00 am Meet at the southwest corner of Park Lawn Rd and Lake Shore Blvd W. Bring binoculars. Morning only.



Scarlet sumac flames

Among autumn bronze and gold

Sets the hills aflame

Haiku by Elisabeth Gladstone
 Drawing by Louise Herzberg

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It seems only a few weeks have passed since my last report, not enough time for much to have happened other than continued work on the anniversary show and arranging outings and outreach events.

The main thrust in September is finalizing our 90th anniversary presentation for October 4 and starting rehearsals. It will be a good show and I hope it will be sold out. We have put a lot of work into it. I encourage you to attend.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Sunday October 6. We are losing Tom Brown and Corinne McDonald who are retiring from the board. Corinne has been a member for several years and we thank her for her valuable assistance with the lecture series. Tom just joined last year, but moved out of town and has found it difficult to continue. We appreciate the good job he did for us as outreach coordinator. Stephen Kamnitzer has joined the board to replace Tom looking after outreach. Vivienne Denton will also be joining the board at our AGM. She is on the newsletter committee and does a lot of work in stewardship programs. At the AGM we will be proposing a bylaw amendment regarding the audit, to allow us to do

a financial review instead of a full audit in future years. See page 15 for details.

Our outreach program has been active this year with walks and promotional tables at events. Please advise Stephen Kamnitzer (contact info on page 2) if you would like to assist us at events or lead walks for outside groups. We need more volunteers in order to handle all the requests we receive. We will be holding an outing leader's workshop on February 8 which any of you are welcome to attend. More information on that will be provided in the November newsletter.

We will be doing more work at Jim Baillie Nature Reserve rebuilding trails and removing invasive plants once the anniversary event is over. Contact Charles Bruce-Thompson if you would like to help with that. We want to reprint the Nature Reserves booklet, but would like to finish the trails before doing so.

I look forward to seeing you on a walk, at a lecture, our anniversary event or community meetings. Please let us know if there is any way you would like to help us.

Margaret McRae

TFN FOR ALL SEASONS!

Friday, October 4, 7:30 pm

Papermill Theatre, Todmorden Mills Heritage Site

67 Pottery Road, Toronto, ON. M4K 2B9

*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 at approximately 9 pm

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

- available online at www.torontofieldnaturalists.org.
Click on "buy online here" in the advertisement
- 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.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Painting Mammals from Life: Creating Colour Plates for Field Guides

Sunday, September 8, Fiona Reid, Departmental Associate, Mammalogy, ROM and Author, *Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America*

Fiona has authored and illustrated field guides to mammals throughout the world. Her talk centered on her work painting many small obscure mammals for the *Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America*. For many of these there is little reference material. She took us on an illustrated tour of some of the spots she visited to find and paint them, especially around the edge of the United States.

Fiona first sketches the layout of the page, incorporating a group of species as she wants it. She then catches each animal, paints it, and releases it unharmed.

In Florida, she managed to trap a beach mouse, which escaped in the car as she was painting it. This little specimen, rare because of feral cats, had to be trapped once more before gaining its freedom. Apparently, the relatively large eastern woodrat appears to love smaller traps. Fiona has had to take the trap apart to get the rat – now slightly squared – out!

Big Bend, Texas is a great spot for naturalists. A colleague managed to trap some pocket gophers who live underground with only their noses occasionally in view. She also painted three desert ground squirrels – the spotted, the 13-lined and the Mexican.

In Arizona, there are 25 species of bats. Fiona holds the bat in her hand as she paints, giving it a rest in a bag every so often. The bats are fed and watered and released at dusk. Southwestern bats have huge ears, which they use to listen for insect steps on the desert floor. Leaf-nosed or ‘whispering’ bats echolocate through their nostrils.



Fiona described California as the epicentre of chipmunk diversity. Several of them look so alike that you can only distinguish them by their unique calls. The red tree vole lives in large, multigenerational nests in Douglas-firs and eats the needles in spite of toxic oils. When their nest is poked, they parachute to the ground to avoid the predator, not knowing that the human kind work in pairs.

In the Pacific Northwest, she found a rare mountain beaver, a primitive rodent which is not a beaver and doesn't live in the mountains.

As well as showing slides of her work, Fiona displayed some of her original plates. Her paintings are both meticulously accurate and beautifully rendered. Her knowledge of the morphology, behavior and habitats of all these small creatures is enormous.

Fiona wanted to alert us to the difficulties facing our bats in Ontario. We have eight species. The five cave-dwellers are big brown, little brown, northern long eared, eastern small foot and eastern pipistrelle. The remaining three – hoary, silver haired and red – are tree-dwellers. Bats are suffering from white nose syndrome, a European fungus believed to have been brought here in 2006 by cavers. The mortality rate is 90-100%. Six species are affected, 5 of them in Canada.

Another risk is wind turbines. The noise intrigues the bat, which investigates. Bats caught up in the air pressure change caused by the turbine can die. Slowing turbines at low wind speeds can reduce fatalities. Fiona ended her talk with a plea for us to support our local bats.

Corinne McDonald

Above: American shrew mole, painted by Fiona Reid.

Fiona's artwork is available for sale and can be viewed at www.fionareid.ca. She also leads nature tours, featured on the website.

EXTRACTS FROM OUTINGS LEADERS REPORTS

Morningside Park, Jun 20. Leader: Orval White. We wandered into a huge field of skunk cabbage and had to stagger through the mud to get out.

Butterflies and Flowers, Bluffer's Park, Jun 22. Leader: Bob Kortright. We found a log covered with large lacquered polypores, one of our most beautiful mushrooms. At the east side of the meadow, we inched down the slope eroded by recent heavy rains, noting flax, a bedstraw, large-toothed aspen, balsam poplar, and autumn olive, where we were impressed with the magnificent view at the edge of the bluffs. Rain hastened our steps west where many were impressed with the naturalness of Midland ravine on the way back to our starting point.



Humber Marshes outing, June 9, leader Jim Eckenwalder. Photo: Nancy Dengler

The Uttermost Reaches of Upper Garrison Creek, Jun 25. Leader: Alexander Cappell. The flowering of the lindens was as spectacular as was the flowering of the black locusts at the beginning of June. A highlight was identifying a small mystery tree with tiny white flowers in a front-lawn garden as a persimmon (probably *Diospyros virginiana*).

Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Jun 26. Leader: Kerry Adams. The highlight was the red-necked grebes nesting on man-made structures on the lake. We saw three nests with breeding pairs. On two of the nests one of the parents had a baby chick on its back while the other brought small minnows for the young to eat. It was simply magic to watch.

Etobicoke Creek to Lakeshore, Jun 29. Leader: Ed Freeman. We had a good view of the geological Georgian Bay Formation and saw fossils in rock slabs in the creek bed. A large snapping turtle was seen by a participant on our route before we began our walk.

Pine Hills Cemetery, Taylor Massey Creek and Sugar Maple Lot, Jul 3. Leader: Jack Radecki. We inspected ash trees for emerald ash borer, looked at storm downburst damage, and noted the effects of climate change and Dutch elm disease. We saw an ebony jewel wing, gypsy moth egg cases, caterpillars and pupae, and a tiger swallowtail butterfly. Birds observed included: goldfinch, blue jay, cedar waxwing, chickadee and red-tailed hawk.

Central Waterfront, Jul 11. Leader: Pleasance Crawford. The theme of the walk was recent and coming changes along the Central Waterfront and in and near the Railway Lands. To illustrate how dramatic these changes are, we looked at printouts of 1989 photos and 1991 air photos of the area made from slides in the TFN collection. We walked east from Little Norway Park to Toronto Music Garden (where we heard The Bombadils' Celtic/bluegrass mix), Waterfront Children's Garden (abandoned this year), Spadina Quay Wetland (growing more and more wooded), Spadina Wavedeck, and HtO Park West. We then headed north on Lower Spadina, checking out Southern Linear Park and the new streets, parks, and art installations of CityPlace. After crossing the tracks via Puente de Luz, we continued north on Portland St. to the recently restored Victoria Memorial Square.



Guildwood Park outing, July 6, leader Orval White, after climbing the steep trail. Photo: Yoshie Nagata

Raymore Park, Jul 13. Leader: John Bacher. We walked through Lambton Woods old growth forest with sugar maple, white pine, white and red oak and good understory of mayapple and other native wildflowers such as Solomon's-seal. The rest of the valley is quite disturbed, except where black walnut is doing well. The heat of the day drew our attention to a large mowed grass area in Raymore Park where a lot more tree planting could be done. Birds seen included goldfinch, kingfisher, song sparrow, great egret, and barn, cliff, and bank swallow.

Insect Pollinators, Don Valley Brick Works, Jul 14. Leaders: Dave and Norma Barr. Pollinators were seen on blossoms of bee balm (*Monarda*) and sweet white clover; also flowering were bird's-foot trefoil, vetch, red clover, Queen Anne's lace. Main pollinators seen were bumblebees, honeybees and native bees; four-eyed milkweed beetles and cabbage white butterflies were also seen.

Glen Stewart Ravine, Jul 16. Leader: Bob Kortright. On the second hottest day of the year so far, it was great to enter the deep shade of the Glen Stewart Ravine under its red and white oaks towering over mountain, sugar, red and Manitoba maples, white and yellow birch, beech, black cherry, witch hazel, green and white ash, American elm, maple-leaved and cranberry viburnum, red-osier and pagoda dogwood, tamarack, and hemlock. The sturdy fences erected alongside the paths a couple of years ago have reduced trampling to allow the understory to regenerate, but the construction also destroyed some of the plants that were close to the path in the past. Participants marvelled at the cold streams that spring out of the ground within the park. The valley between Glen Manor Dr E and W had far fewer substantial trees, but the sides had been planted with many trees and shrubs, and were not mowed, allowing many wildflowers to grow among the shrubs.

Leslie St Spit, Jul 20. Leader: Bob Kortright. We observed similarities among spotted knapweed and bull, nodding, plumeless and Canada thistles, cow vetch and alfalfa - all purple. Among the many yellow flowers, we noted the similarities among sowthistle, hawkweed and the more familiar dandelion. Butterflies were harder to find, but many were delighted with their first monarch of the year early in the day. Most abundant were orange sulphurs (first of the year for me), followed by common sulphurs and summer azures. Those who stayed after lunch were treated to single red admiral and eastern tailed-blue, and several black swallowtails.

Lost Rivers, Jul 23. Leader: Alexander Cappell. We followed a buried branch of Lavender creek through the rugged hill country of the former City of York to where

the creek surfaces briefly as an open sewer. The valley walls here are steep and we climbed in and out several times. We saw trees in fruit, including black walnut, hawthorn, apple, plum, raspberry and grape (both riverbank and cultivated) although most of the fruits were unripe (and usually on private property), but we did eat some raspberries growing wild on a hillside. West of Prospect Cemetery is the Lake Iroquois shoreline (here running north-south) and we climbed down it on a stairway. We had three young (but very knowledgeable) children on the walk.

Beechwood to Forks of the Don, Jul 27. Leader: Margaret McRae. We noted some storm damage including a fallen telephone or hydro pole (possibly not in use) and fallen trees and erosion. We saw an ebony jewelwing and a great blue heron.



Great egret, Ashbridges Bay, Aug 13.
Photo: Lynn Pady

High Park, Jul 28. Leader: Ken Sproule. In flower were cup plant, elecampane, meadowsweet, wild parsnip, horsetail, purple-flowering raspberry and teasel. We also noted poison ivy, sweet flag, sassafras, striped maple and broad-leaved arrowhead. We saw a monarch butterfly in flight, many Japanese scarab beetles on various plants, and several dragonfly species: eastern pondhawk, blue dasher, whitetail, spotted skimmer and a black saddlebags. We heard a green frog and saw a Dekay's brown snake coiled on a teasel plant. Among birds seen were great egret, black-crowned night heron, wood duck and purple martin. There were many dead bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish at the eastern edge of Grenadier Pond. According to posted signs, insecticide for mosquito larva had been recently used in the retaining pond above Grenadier, as well as herbicide for dog-strangling vine in the wooded slope above Grenadier.

Continued on next page

Outings reports cont'd

Burke Brook, Aug 4. Leader: Janet Langdon. There were wild strawberries and evidence of woodpeckers in a tree stump. On a tree, we noticed a yellow fungus identified as chicken of the woods.

High Park, Aug 8. Leader: Wendy Rothwell. We explored a restoration site where a controlled burn had been done this spring. Native plants seen there included cylindrical blazing star, round-headed bush clover and harebell. On the tablelands we saw many gray-headed coneflowers. On the west side and down by Grenadier Pond cup plants are particularly prolific this year.



Great blue heron, Charles Sauriol CA, Aug 11. Photo: Yoshie Nagata

Milne Hollow, Moccasin Trail - Charles Sauriol Conservation Area, Aug 11. Leader: Ken Sproule. In flower were bergamot, red-berried elder, cup plant, tall sunflower, boneset, white snakeroot, Joe-Pye weed. In fruit: nannyberry, elderberry, grey dogwood. We observed a green stink bug nymph and many dragonflies: whitetail, spotted skimmer, green darner, black saddlebags, blue dasher. We saw an American toad, turtles and a great blue heron. The pond at Moccasin Trail Park was being treated for mosquito larvae. The stream feeding the pond was very milky white in appearance.

Duncan Creek, Aug 14. Leader: Alexander Cappell. Apparently, TRCA calls the creek Duncan Creek, not Duncan Mills Creek or Duncan Woods Creek. Buried, its bed is a broad, shallow depression at the Seneca College Newnham campus, wet ditches here and there, with sedges, cattails and weeping willows. On campus we found a grove of katsura and "experimental" raised-bed

vegetable gardens. A brief side trip in the Finch hydro corridor took us to the interfluvial ridge separating the East Don valley from the Duncan Creek valley, for a spectacular view of the East Don Valley and Yonge St condo and office towers to the west and the hills of the Oak Ridges moraine to the north. The creek comes above ground west of Don Mills Rd and is eroding the banks, exposing storm sewer pipes, eating away at a near-vertical sand cliff with fallen trees in the water and, at the cliff top, tilting trees soon to fall. Even root-stabilized turf on top looks as if it will eventually slide into the creek. As we climbed out of the valley, a turkey vulture glided overhead.

Past and future restoration sites, Lower Don Parklands, Aug 15. Leader: Scott Laver. We visited Domtar, Beechwood, Sun Valley and Cottonwood Flats restoration sites. We saw eastern kingbird, goldfinch, a variety of swallows, chimney swifts, a great blue heron and a variety of water fowl.

Taylor Massey Creek, Aug 17. Leader: Charles Chaffey. We encountered a tunnel-like grove of staghorn sumac before a more open part with luxuriant growth of wild cucumber. We viewed the newly constructed wetland, then took a side trail by the wooded slope to see large-leaved aster, and turned back to the wetland just west of Victoria Park Ave where a colourful variety of summer plants were in bloom, and one painted turtle and several mallards were seen.

East Point, Aug 24. Leader: D. Andrew White. Of interest were a willow with many cicada skins and a number of fungi: artist's conk, hawthorn rust, mica caps, scaly polypore. Hawthorns with hawthorn rust fungi had two kinds of spores on fruits and leaves. Ash trees generally had signs of emerald ash-borer (EAB). Evidence of woodpeckers seeking the EAB grubs and numerous holes from the beetle were visible.

Do you take photos on TFN outings?

We would love to receive more photos illustrating TFN outings. Please email to office@torontofieldnaturalists.org

Please rename your image files to include your name and subject (abbreviations are fine), and please reduce image files to 400 pixels. You can attach several image files to one email. Please include place and date and any other interesting information in the email.

If you are unsure of how to prepare image files for emailing, please contact us and we can help you through the steps.

Peter W. Hogg
Chartered Accountant

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members,
Toronto Field Naturalists
TORONTO,
Ontario.

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Toronto Field Naturalists, which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2013 and the statements of general fund operations, nature reserve and projects fund and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

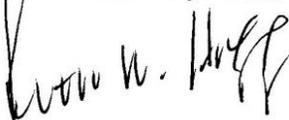
An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, income received is, by its nature, not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of income was limited to a comparison of recorded receipts with bank deposits.

Opinion

In my opinion, except for the effect, if any, of any adjustments that might have been required had I been fully able to verify income as referred to in the previous paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Toronto Field Naturalists as at June 30, 2013 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.



PETER W. HOGG,
Chartered Accountant
Licensed Public Accountant

TORONTO, Canada
September 5, 2013

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

As at June 30,

2013 2012

ASSETS

Current		
Cash - Operating fund	\$ 65,076	\$ 14,999
Money market fund	58,992	132,415
Guaranteed investment certificate	-	50,500
GST/HST receivable (Note 2(f))	1,651	400
Publication inventory (Note 2(g))	1,200	1,498
Photo library (Note 6)	10	10
Prepaid expenses	3,383	3,212
	<u>130,312</u>	<u>203,034</u>
Investments (Note 2(g))	<u>240,874</u>	<u>235,368</u>
Capital (Note 2(b))	<u>281,702</u>	<u>281,702</u>
Nature reserve properties	\$ <u>652,888</u>	\$ <u>720,104</u>

LIABILITIES

Current		
Accounts payable and accruals	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,281
Prepaid membership fees (Note 2(c))	8,856	8,390
	<u>11,056</u>	<u>10,671</u>

FUND BALANCES

Nature reserve and projects fund (Note 2(a))	\$ 641,832	\$ 709,433
General fund (Note 2(a))	<u>641,832</u>	<u>709,433</u>
	\$ <u>652,888</u>	\$ <u>720,104</u>

Approved by the Board:

Charles Crawford Director

M. M. M. M. Director

See accompanying notes

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS**

For the year ended June 30,

2013 2012

REVENUE

Membership fees	\$ 22,831	\$ 24,224
Publications	54	174
Donations	<u>15,550</u>	<u>8,375</u>
	<u>38,435</u>	<u>32,773</u>

EXPENSES

Newsletter, printing and mailing	9,989	9,580
Lecture series	6,609	6,151
Administration and member services	3,135	1,951
Audit	2,422	2,013
Outings	1,074	1,086
Telephone and internet	1,047	1,173
Office rent	<u>13,370</u>	<u>15,854</u>
	<u>37,646</u>	<u>37,808</u>

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

Transfer to (from) Nature Reserve and Projects Fund	789	(5,035)
---	-----	---------

FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR

	-	-
--	---	---

FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR

	-	-
--	---	---

See accompanying notes

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

For the year ended June 30,

2012

2013

CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR):		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses:		
General fund operations	\$ 789	\$ (5,035)
Nature reserve and projects fund operations	(68,390)	(57,626)
	(67,601)	(62,661)
Changes in non-cash working capital balances:		
GST/HST receivable	(1,251)	794
Inventory	298	50
Prepaid expenses	(171)	9
Accounts payable and accruals	(81)	(15)
Prepaid membership fees	466	(1,045)
Total Cash From Operations	(68,340)	(62,868)

INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

NET DECREASE IN CASH	(68,340)	(62,868)
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	433,282	496,150
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 364,942	\$ 433,282

Comprised of:
Cash 14,999
Investments 418,283

	65,076	14,999
	299,866	418,283
	<u>\$ 364,942</u>	<u>\$ 433,282</u>

See accompanying notes

- 5 -

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
STATEMENT OF NATURE RESERVE AND PROJECTS FUND OPERATIONS**

For the year ended June 30,

2012

2013

REVENUE		
Investment income	\$ 9,567	\$ 9,455
Bequests	68	10,247
Donations and rental income	700	750
	<u>10,335</u>	<u>20,452</u>
EXPENSES		
Property taxes and maintenance	3,516	3,829
Computer	1,037	-
Grants - High Park Nature Centre	18,000	20,249
Grants - Toronto Botanical Garden	12,500	12,500
Grants - Rouge Valley Foundation	10,000	-
Grants - Ontario Youth Summit	10,000	10,000
Grants - Royal Ontario Museum	9,672	9,000
Grants - Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	8,000	12,500
Grants - Toronto Wildlife Centre	6,000	10,000
	<u>78,725</u>	<u>78,078</u>

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

Transfer (to) from Operating Fund	(68,390)	(57,626)
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	789	(5,035)
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	\$ 709,433	\$ 772,094

See accompanying notes

- 4 -

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Toronto Field Naturalists (the organization) is a registered non-profit charity. The purpose of the organization is to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage. For income tax purposes the organization qualifies as a not-for-profit organization which is exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, the more significant of which are outlined below.

(a) Fund Accounting

The organization follows the restricted fund method of accounting. Separate funds are maintained to account for and to report on the separate activities or objectives as determined by donors or by resolution of the Board. The organization currently operates a General Fund and a Nature Reserve and Projects Fund. The General Fund is for the unrestricted funds received and expended for the day-to-day operating transactions of the organization. This fund is set to zero at the beginning of each fiscal year with any excess or deficiency of income over expenses being transferred to or from the Nature Reserve and Projects Fund. The Nature Reserve and Projects Fund reflects the income and expenses relating to the nature reserves, special events or purchases outside the normal day-to-day activities, and grants to other charitable organizations for purposes consistent with the organization's objectives. This is a restricted fund.

(b) Capital Assets

Capital assets are stated at cost and consist of nature reserve properties. No annual amortization has been taken on these properties.

(c) Revenue Recognition

Donations and bequests are recorded when received. Donations are allocated to the Operating Fund and bequests are allocated to the Nature Reserve and Projects Fund. Membership fees are recorded for a specific fiscal year and are amortized over the number of months remaining in the fiscal year at the time the membership fees are received. Membership fees received in advance are included in deferred revenue. All other income is recorded when received.

(d) Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. These estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the current events and actions that the organization may undertake in the future. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(e) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

(f) Rebates

The organization applies for, and has received in the past, rebates for 69% of GST/HST paid and 40% of the portion of the office

rent that is considered property tax. The rebates are accrued for in the period in which they are incurred.

(g) Investments

Investments are recorded at market value.

(h) Contributed Services

The organization depends heavily on the use of volunteers to provide services. Contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements due to the difficulty in determining their fair value.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The organization has designated its cash as held for trading, which is measured at fair value. Accounts receivable is classified as loans and receivables and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are classified as other financial liabilities, both of which are measured at amortized cost. Unless otherwise noted the organization is not exposed to significant credit or currency risk arising from these or other financial instruments.

Fair Values

The carrying values of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate their fair value due to the relatively short periods to maturity of the instruments.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The maximum credit exposure to the organization is represented by the fair value of the amounts receivable as presented in the statement of financial position.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The organization is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to investments with fixed interest rates.

4. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The organization's capital consists of cash and unrestricted net assets. The organization's capital structure is intended to meet or exceed internally set capital targets while addressing the need to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due. It monitors its capital by preparing annual budgets and monitoring actual results in comparison to budgeted amounts at regularly held Board meetings and is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

5. COMMITMENTS

The organization entered into a lease agreement for office space, at a cost of approximately \$16,500 per year. The lease will expire February 28, 2014.

6. PHOTO LIBRARY

The Photo Library consists of an estimated twelve thousand 35-mm colour slides, focusing on Toronto valleys, watercourses, shorelines, plants and animals and on the organization's properties and activities. The collection began in the early 1970's.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Background: Given the cost of the annual audit, and the fact that many other clubs do not do an annual audit, your board proposes that bylaw section 20 be changed to replace the requirement for an audit with a requirement that the financial statements be presented at the annual meeting, having been reviewed by a competent person independent of the board.

Proposed change to Section 20: Replace “...the **report of the auditor** shall be presented and the [Board] shall be elected” ...with ”...the **financial statements** shall be presented, and the [Board] shall be elected. The **financial statements shall have been reviewed by a competent person independent of the board.**” Delete “The auditor shall be appointed for the ensuing year at a remuneration to be fixed by the Board of Directors.”

This change requires a change in the provision in bylaw Section 5(b) which currently requires that “If an election (of members of the board of Directors) is required, it shall be by ballot mailed to all members. Ballots may be mailed to the

auditor... The ballots will be tabulated by the auditor ...”

Proposed change to Section 5(b): Replace “...**the auditor**”... with “**an auditor**”

The board also recommends a change in the required makeup of the nominating committee to correspond with long-standing practice.

Proposed change to Section 5(f): Replace “...Nominating Committee consisting of **three persons, including** the immediate Past-President as **chairman** and two members of **former** Boards of Directors...” with “...Nominating Committee consisting of the immediate Past-President as **chair**, and two **other** members of **the current or former** Boards of Directors...”

These proposed bylaw changes will be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting on October 6. If you have any questions or concerns about them, please do not hesitate to e-mail or phone the TFN office.

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE PRESENTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President:	Margaret McRae
Past President:	Bob Kortright
Vice-President:	Nancy Dengler
Secretary-Treasurer:	Charles Crawford
Directors:	
due to retire 2014:	Judy Marshall, Charles Bruce-Thompson
due to retire 2015:	Lynn Miller, Lavinia Mohr, Charles Crawford
due to retire 2016:	Alexander Cappell, Stephen Kamnitzer, Vivienne Denton

KEEPING IN TOUCH

I was a victim of giant hogweed (*Heracleum montegazzanum*). On a hot humid day with bright sunshine and with damp perspiration on my skin, my forearm came in contact with and lightly brushed a leaf. What looked like a second degree burn (luckily only about a square inch) developed. It looked like I had burnt it on an oven element; people would shudder looking at it... BUT, there was no pain at all!! This happened while I was pre-walking a TFN outing. On the walk I pointed out my injury and the culprit - very dramatic effect. Proud to be of service!!! The burn went away, with no scar left at all, as normal skin regrowth took place.

Ken Cook

Ed. Giant hogweed is from the Caucasus and central Asia. Inflammation occurs when the sap is exposed to sunlight. The plant makes it into the news almost every year. For a recent article, see <http://news.nationalpost.com/2010/07/13/giant-weed-that-burns-and-blinds-spreads-across-canada/>
Here is a photo from our September 2008 issue of TFN member Susan Weiss standing beside a giant hogweed plant. Photo by Margaret McRae.



I am so happy to be able to contribute my photos to your newsletter! I have a minor correction though. The wood duck family [on back cover of previous newsletter] was actually taken at the Brick Works, although of course there are wood duck families at High Park as well.

Miriam Garfinkle

As someone who has been nature-watching for decades, I am constantly amazed at how many new things there are to be seen everyday. This summer I saw two mallard duck behaviours I'd never seen before. Sitting under Centre Island pier where we had gone to look for nesting cliff swallows, we heard a sloshing sound coming from the shallow water. A group of male mallards were diving under the water, then bobbing up to the surface again. I've seen mallards dive underwater before but this time, one mallard eventually came up with a fish about 6" long, 1" diameter in its bill. While it was trying to position the fish to slip down its throat, a gull, which had been perched on the rail of the pier above, swooped down and stole it.



Another day I saw, for the first time, a female mallard working her way up a crack willow beside an Island lagoon. She hopped around all over the tree before flying down to join a male in the water.

Jenny Bull



We are not opposed to spelling opossum correctly. We regret the error in the last issue.

Ed

Opossum drawn by Ann Millett

DIVERSE LOCAL MEMBERS OF THE PEA FAMILY

The Fabaceae or Leguminosae (pea or bean family) is the third largest family, with about 730 genera and over 20,000 species, including important food plants. Many species, symbiotic with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, are used in enriching nutrient-poor soils. The TFN's *Vascular Plants of Metropolitan Toronto* (2nd ed. 1994) listed ten native species, belonging to five genera, and many introduced species. Previous articles have included a *Lupinus* species (May 2011) and two *Lespedeza* species (September 2011). This article is on species representing three diverse genera.

Desmodium canadense (Canadian tick-trefoil) is the most showy of three *Desmodium* species occurring in Toronto. *Desmodium* comes from *desmos* (bond or connection) and may refer to the bristly fruit segments (see *The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario*, 2004). This common species is widespread on local savannas and other open sites. It is up to 1.8m tall with 10 to 13mm flowers in an elongate terminal raceme. It blooms at any time from July to September. It has been recorded in southern Ontario as far north as the Georgian Bay eco-region and in southernmost eco-regions west of Lake Superior. Its range in Canada is from Nova Scotia to Manitoba. It also occurs in the central and northeastern U.S. The other local species are *D. glutinosum* (pointed-leaved tick-trefoil), uncommon but in the same environments as *D. canadense*, and the locally rare *D. nudiflorum* ("naked-flowered" so-called as the flowering stem usually lacks leaves), only recorded in the Rouge valley.

Lathyrus palustris (marsh vetchling) is one of two locally rare native vetchlings (the other is *L. ochroleucus* which has cream-coloured flowers). Toronto also has two introduced Eurasian vetchlings. The flowers of marsh vetchling are about 10 to 15mm long and occur in open few-flowered racemes. The TFN recorded it on the Toronto Islands, Scarborough Bluffs, and in the Rouge valley. I saw it in early July. An exceptionally wide-ranging species, it has been recorded across Canada and throughout all of the US except in the western interior and the southeast.

Apios americana (groundnut) is a locally uncommon vine. The Greek *apios* (pear) refers to its pear-shaped tubers. Its brownish-purple flowers, which are about 11 to 12mm, form very dense, almost globular racemes in leaf axils. It can bloom from July to September. It occurs in moist open forested areas and has been recorded in the Humber, Don, and Rouge valleys and at East Point and High Park. Its Ontario range is very similar to that of *Desmodium canadense*. It has been recorded from Nova Scotia to Ontario and in most states in the central and eastern U.S.

These species and some other native members of this family may still be in bloom in late September. Whether or not they are in bloom, a walk in the appropriate places will definitely remind you why *Desmodium* species are called tick-trefoils.

Peter Money



From top:
Canadian tick-trefoil,
Desmodium canadense;
marsh
vetchling,
Lathyrus palustris
ground-nut,
Apios americana



Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) – by the numbers

Results from count held February 15-18, 2013

Source: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/science-stories/2013summary>
<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/canada/USCan2013>

1st	global count from 7 continents, 111 countries and independent territories
4004	species reported from about 180 families (39% of world's species; 78% of families)
645	species reported from Mexico (highest species count – note species counts reflect both number of species in a region and participation rates)
244	species reported from Canada
179	species reported from Spain (highest for Europe)
12,599	lists from Canada
6,526	lists from Ontario
> 40,000	lists in North America reported northern cardinals, dark-eyed juncos and mourning doves
> 30,000	lists in North America reported downy woodpecker, house finch, American crow, black-capped chickadee, blue jay, and American goldfinch
5 million	red-winged blackbirds* and 1.5 million American robins reported from a Conservation Area in Missouri
700,000 to 1.1 million	snow geese reported from a National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri
50,000	flamingos at a National Park in Tanzania
45,000	black-tailed godwits in an estuary near Lisbon, Portugal.

* The report states “The trees in the surrounding area were leaved in black (as opposed to green in the spring) with Red-winged Blackbirds. This amazing report confirms the Red-winged Blackbird as one of the most abundant bird species in North America.”



Red-winged blackbird at Wilson Creek, May 19.
 Photo: Joanne Lynes.

WORD SEARCH

Top 10 birds in North American Great Backyard Bird Count

Cardinal	Junco
Dove (mourning)	Downy (woodpecker)
House finch	Crow
Chickadee	Blue Jay
Goldfinch	Titmouse

A S K D J Y A C D A D V D C
 J K L W N N K H W J V O O D
 A K G W H F A I J O V D K E
 D E O O C P E C L E R F K S
 A D L W N F C K K R E C D U
 B I D L I K F A A D I F E O
 L C F Y F F V D R V W E J M
 U D I F E A S E L D J N Q T
 E E N C S S K E F J I K S I
 J O C N U J D F D F F N O T
 A W H B O V C D I Y L K A P
 Y I Q O H C M K A D N V K L

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracted from "Changes in Ontario's Birdlife in the past 35 years" by Jim Baillie
Presented by the author to the Royal Ontario Museum, Oct 1956.
Printed with permission in TFN # 145, Jan 1957

One of the interesting undertakings that has fallen to the lot of the Royal Ontario Museum's Department of Ornithology has been the collection of data on the birdlife of Canada, particularly as they have concerned Ontario. About the most surprising conclusion, after studying this mass of accumulated records, is that the distribution of a great many birds in this province, and even the very presence here of certain species, is anything but fixed and predictable.

...Some birds have increased since...1922.

One is the Blue Jay. Less than 25 years ago, in the fall of 1933, ornithologists on the Museum's staff thought a mid-September migration of these birds southwestward through the Toronto region of sufficient interest to publish. Nowadays, such flights are annual phenomena, unworthy of special comment.

Another bird which has made a spectacular comeback throughout southern Ontario is the Pileated Woodpecker. From the early 1890s to the early 1930s there was scarcely an individual anywhere within

the Toronto region's 30-mile radius but, beginning in 1932, the species has gradually reestablished itself here and elsewhere throughout southern Ontario where it had become almost, if not quite, extirpated. Locally, it now frequents such places as Glendon Hall, Donalds Woods, Hogg's Hollow, the Old Belt Line ravine in Moore Park, and, in even larger numbers in outlying places.

Another species which has invaded Ontario from the west as a nesting bird, within my own recollection, is the Double-crested Cormorant. It is found along the Atlantic coast as well as in the southern Prairie Provinces but there was no record of it nesting in Ontario until 1920. And it is important to note that the

initial colonies became established on Lake Superior, indicating that our populations came from the west, rather than the Atlantic. Their subsequent spread eastward and southward confirms this supposition. At any rate, in 1932 they nested for the first time on Lake Huron, in 1936 on Georgian Bay, in 1938 on Lake Ontario and in 1945 along the upper reaches of the St. Lawrence River, around Gananoque.

The Cardinal, which first nested in Ontario at Point Pelee in 1901, first did so at Toronto in 1922. The

expansion of its breeding range beyond the local area – helped along by a big influx in the fall of 1938 from the Buffalo area – is shown by these initial nestings: Orillia and Port Hope (1939), Owen Sound (1942) and Tweed (1953).

The Carolina Wren first nested in Ontario at Point Pelee in 1905 and at Toronto in 1930, taking 25 years to expand its breeding range the 200 miles northeastward.

Turkey vultures have been expanding their range in southern Ontario annually.

Up to 1928 they had nested only in Essex, Lambton and Middlesex Counties. In 1928 they nested for the first

time in south Bruce, in 1932 in Grey, in 1938 in Norfolk, in 1943 in the Bruce Peninsula and at Georgetown, and in 1946 at Credit Forks.

More than welcome as a part of our breeding avifauna is the American Egret, a newcomer as a nesting bird in Ontario in 1953, when it nested at East Sister Island, in the western end of Lake Erie. Its increase and spread will be watched with interest.

Practically nothing is static in nature. Bird ranges are continually changing, some expanding, some contracting, some extending eastward, some northward.



With this drawing of a great egret, Diana Banville noted from a 1905 Ontario Nest Records Scheme report it "is a scarce but regular visitor to Toronto... closest breeding colony is in Simcoe Co."

TFN Grant Report: Trees for Toronto Species Web Pages – year 2

Update by Deb Metsger and Jenny Bull

The production of species web pages that we reported on in TFN 587, p 12, are continuing apace with the aim to eventually complete 200 species covering all the trees likely to be found on public land in Toronto. Thanks to the generous support of the Toronto Field Naturalists in 2012, a graduate of the Forest Conservation program was hired to assist with research and photography, and a programmer assisted with web page construction. With this help, web pages have been completed and published online for 60 species of Toronto trees, and pages for 40 more species are under development.

The species web pages are accessible from the ROM website at <http://www.rom.on.ca/trees> by clicking on the Fact Sheet link, or from the Canadian Tree Tours website at <http://www.canadiantreetours.org/trees.html>. The site can be accessed by a smart phone for use while strolling in the park. Or check out the tree pages from your home computer.

How does a species page work?

Each individual web page is comparable to a page in a field guide. It begins with the species common and Latin names, its place of origin and an outline of a leaf shape. This is

the same information found on the plaques that have been affixed to selected trees in selected parks (see example, below left).

The web page then describes and illustrates the distinguishing features of each species within four categories – Tree, Bark and Twigs; Leaves; Flowers; and Fruit. Each category expands from a summary to longer text and zoomable images depicting individual characteristics and seasonal change (see sugar maple flowers, fruit and fall leaves, at right).

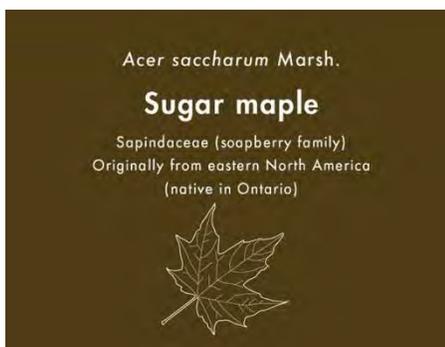
Once the species has been described, “Fascinating Facts” offers tidbits like how a tree got its name, where it originated, how it is used by humans and wildlife (see maple sap collection, bottom centre).

“This Tree in Toronto” puts the species in a local context, and “Where Can I See This Tree” leads you to the city parks where trees with identification plaques have been mapped on-line.

If you want to search for a different tree you can do so from the navigation bar at the top of each page by searching on either the Latin or common name, or by leaf shape. Click on the tab “What are the Tree

Species Pages?” for an explanation of the project, and an illustrated glossary to help beginners recognize the features needed to make identifications.

Thanks to TFN for helping us get this far. This is an ongoing project with more species being added as more parks come online with plaques. Keep watching and please give us feedback!



IN THE NEWS

New Biodiversity Ontario website

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) has launched a new website dedicated to biodiversity. Since 2002, ECO has been calling for a strategic plan of action to preserve and protect Ontario's rich biodiversity. The site presents 12 years of articles and reports covering topics such as Climate Change, Endangered Species, Invasive Species, Protected Areas, and Role of Government. Check it out at biodiversityontario.com

Grenadier Pond fish kill

From High Park Nature (www.highparknature.org) and The Torontoist at (torontoist.com/2013/08/a-fish-die-off-in-high-parks-grenadier-pond-perplexes-officials/)

As noted by outings leaders in their reports (p 9), an unusually large fish kill occurred in Grenadier Pond at the end of July. A variety of species that use shallow water was affected. Lack of oxygen from high temperatures or algal blooms was ruled out. Water and fish samples are being sent to the University of Guelph for analysis. No information yet on results of the tests.

TFN MEMBERS AND SISTER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NEWS

• TFN outing to Col Sam Smith Park

Margaret Bream wrote in the *Toronto Star*, Mar 30, about red-winged blackbirds heard on a TFN outing at Col Sam Smith Park in early March. The article is posted on Friends of Sam Smith Park blog at <http://friendsofsamsmithpark.blogspot.ca/2013/03/red-wing-blackbird-musings-from-toronto.html>

• TFN outings to Happy Valley and Rouge Valley

Margaret Bream wrote in the *Toronto Star*, May 10, about our attempts to see salamanders in early April, and then spring ephemerals in late April, in a year when spring was very cold. See: www.thestar.com/news/insight/2013/05/10/wild_in_the_city_cold_spring_thwarts_search_for_salamanders.html

• TFN outing on Leslie St. Spit

An article in *The Beach Mirror*, July 24, featured a TFN outing on Leslie St. Spit, focussing on butterflies and flowers, lead by Bob Kortright and. See: www.inside-toronto.com/news-story/3906605-butterflies-flowers-and-various-wildlife-found-on-leslie-street-spit/

• Lost Rivers:

Lost Rivers were part of a CBC documentary on buried urban rivers that aired July 17. "Lost Rivers" featured Toronto's Garrison Creek, as well as buried urban rivers

in Montreal, London, New York and Italy. See: www.cbc.ca/documentarychannel/feature-programs/lost_rivers/

An article in the *Toronto Star*, July 9, featured comments from Helen Mills of Lost Rivers about how the routes of some buried rivers have been so disturbed by development that there's nowhere for excess stormwater to go in a heavy rainfall. See: www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/07/09/toronto_flooding_lost_rivers_reappear_when_nature_takes_charge.html#mystars/users/registrations/new

• Friends of the Spit:

Once again, Friends of the Spit had to come to the defence of the wild and natural on the spit. An article in the *Toronto Star* Business section, July 30, reported on a company's desire to use this "vacant land" to site a number of wind turbines. See: www.thestar.com/business/2013/07/30/wind_farm_proposed_on_leslie_spit.html

• Maple leaf forever tree

A piece on CBC, July 26, that featured a large silver maple that fell in one of last summer's storms included comments from member Joanne Doucette on whether or not the tree was actually the inspiration for the *Maple leaf forever* song. See: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2013/07/26/toronto-maple-tree.html> LEAF will be holding a tour to see "how the wood will be used to honor the cultural significance of this historic tree". Check out their website at www.yourleaf.org/

Looking for a Volunteer

Do you follow nature and environmental news? We are looking for someone to contribute condensed news items for the Newsletter's "In the News"?

This ongoing task involves identifying current topics that are of interest and importance to TFN members and extracting background and current information about them from the media, organizations' websites, etc.

If you are interested please email office@torontofieldnaturalists.org and tell us a bit about your interests, time availability, and any research/writing experience you have had. Must be able to meet deadlines!

WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

OCTOBER 2012

Although October had its warm days and was another month of overall near-normal conditions (including normal rainfall until the last few days), the overall impression was of a cold, wet month. This was because of a strong cold snap during the Thanksgiving weekend and the lingering effects of Hurricane Sandy during the final week.

The monthly mean temperature of 10.2° at Pearson was actually 0.6° above the long-term average of 9.6° (although the long-term average includes some years before urban heat island effects influenced the airport strongly). Temperatures rose as high as 24.0° on the 4th and entered or flirted with the low twenties on several days later in the month. Thanksgiving weekend was another story, however, as a deep trough brought high winds and chill, along with lake effect snow north of the city. The daytime high on the 7th was only 8.5°. The first general frost (outside of downtown) was on the 13th,

when Pearson reported a low of -2.5°.

Hurricane Sandy was the other big story of the month. This storm merged with a front along the East Coast and became vast, affecting areas from the Maritimes to the western Great Lakes. Intermittent heavy showers and high winds affected Toronto from October 27th into the first couple of days of November. Wind gusts attained the 80-90 km/h range – lower than many thunderstorm downbursts but rather more sustained. The result on fairly soft, wet soils was that many trees came down. Total rainfall was 60-65 mm, spread over several days so there was no flooding. However, it made the October monthly rainfall about twice normal (127.2 mm downtown and 126.4 mm at Pearson Airport). Skies were persistently overcast, which meant that October had considerably less sun than normal over the month (110.8 hours with normal being 147.8).

Gavin Miller

Lathyrus “peas”



As well as the native and introduced vetchlings featured on page 8, other species of *Lathyrus* known as “peas” can also be seen in Toronto. (Note: edible peas are in the genus *Pisum*.)

Sweet pea, *Lathyrus odoratus*, and everlasting pea, *L. latifolius*, are both garden escapes (sweet pea is also found as a cut flower in florists’ shops). I’ve seen everlasting pea recently at both Highland Creek and Toronto Island.

Everlasting pea, *Lathyrus latifolius*, with pods at right.



Beach pea (*L. japonicus*) is a native circumpolar species very similar to everlasting pea. It used to grow in Toronto but is now extirpated (locally extinct). It can still be seen on the shores of other parts of the Great Lakes. It was a favourite of Mrs Simcoe, wife of the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. In 1793, following a trip to Toronto Island, she wrote in her diary: “...On the ground were everlasting [beach] peas creeping in abundance of a purple colour.”

Beach pea, *Lathyrus japonicus*, Lake Superior (left) showing immature pods, and Lake Huron, flowers and pods

Jenny Bull

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.

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.

- Oct 6. Hidden Treasures Scavenger Hunt. Walking Tours Committee
- Oct 20. Autumn Splendour Photo-Buff Walk. David Allen.

Mushrooms & Other Fungi 101, High Park

Sat Oct 5, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Leader: Richard Aaron. A workshop for adults, \$50. For information or to register: www.highparknaturecentre.com or 416-392-1748 x2

Ontario Science Centre, Omnimax Theatre

Flight of the Butterflies, a short IMAX film about the monarchs' journey starring and narrated by Gordon Pinsent.

Information: <http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca>

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 Oct 12, 2 pm. Lavender Creek: Dams and ponds, Shaktown to Corso Italia. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at the southeast corner of Dufferin St and Eglinton Ave W.
- Sat Oct 26, 2 pm. Lost creeks of Scarborough Bluffs. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet on the northwest corner of Kingston Rd and Warden Ave. 2 hrs.
- Sun Oct 27, 1 pm. Witches' Creek, Scarborough Bluffs. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at the southeast corner of Victoria Park Ave and Kingston Rd.

Harbourfront Centre

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

Crothers Woods Maintenance

Day

Sat Oct 26, 10 am - 12 noon. Join the Natural Environment Trails Program raking leaves off the trail to improve drainage on the trail next season.

Please bring your own rake/broom, some equipment will be available from the City of Toronto. Meet at Loblaws Trailhead (Millwood Rd and Laird Dr).

Info: trails@toronto.ca,

www.toronto.ca/trails,

www.toronto.ca/greentoronto/



The Don at Todmorden,
drawn by Leslie Mirylees

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Mourning dove, graphic pencil and digital painting, by Joanne Doucette