



TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 566, October 2009



Lake St. Anna, Dorset, watercolour by Eva Davis

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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, up to 500 words, of observations on nature in and around Toronto, reviews, poems, sketches, paintings, and photographs of TFN outings (digital or print, include date and place). Include your name, address and phone number so submissions can be acknowledged. Send by mail or email.

Deadline for submissions for November issue: Oct. 2.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Jenny Bull (co-editor), Eva Davis, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Elisabeth Gladstone, Mary Lieberman, Ruth Munson, Marilyn Murphy, Toshi Oikawa, Wendy Rothwell (co-editor).

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$30 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE (65+)

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

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

No GST. 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

2 Carlton St., # 1519, Toronto M5B 1J3

Tel: 416-593-2656

Web: www.torontofieldnaturalists.org

Email: office@torontofieldnaturalists.org



Sassafras in High Park, photographed by Wendy Rothwell

TFN MEETING

Sunday, October 4, 2009, at 2:30 pm

Sixty Years of Birding in Toronto

George Bryant, lifelong birder and longtime TFN member, will reminisce about his birding experiences and note significant changes he has seen over the years.

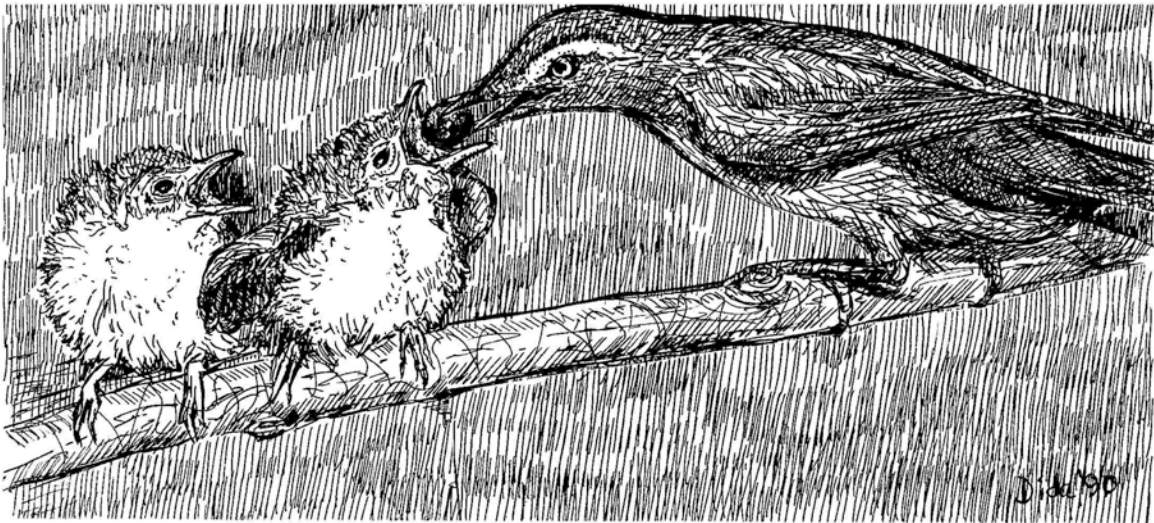
VISITORS WELCOME!

SOCIAL: 2:00 – 2:30 pm

**Room 001, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto,
75 Queen's Park Cres. East**

Emmanuel College is just south of the Museum subway station exit (east side of Queen's Park). Enter at south end of building, down a few steps on outside stairwell. **Wheelchair entrance:** Second door south on Queen's Park. Elevator inside to the right. Room 001 is one floor below street level.

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



Red-eyed Vireo drawn by Diana Banville from a photo by D.A. Spratt

Upcoming TFN Monthly Meetings

Nov. 1 *The Carden Alvar: A Rural Oasis*

Ron Reid, Executive Director of the Couchiching Conservancy, will look at the ecology and recent successes in the protection of Carden Alvar's habitats and improving access for visitors.

Dec. 6 *Aiming high (and dry): the Oak Ridges Moraine*

Mark Stabb, the Nature Conservancy of Canada Program Manager for central Ontario, will describe current projects to protect the natural features of this endangered ecosystem.

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 by calling 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.

- Thursday,
Oct. 1
10:00 a.m. **SERENA GUNDY PARK – Nature and Birds**
Leader: Ann Gray
Meet at TTC stop at the north-west corner of Leslie St. and Eglinton Ave. E. Bring lunch, binoculars and water. A circular route, about 3 hours.
- Saturday,
Oct. 3
10:30 a.m. **KEW GARDENS TO R.C. HARRIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT – Nature Arts**
Leader: Gail Gregory
Meet in front of the Beaches Public Library on the south side of Queen St. E. just west of Lee Ave. Bring lunch, art supplies, camera or notebook and anything you wish to share with the group after lunch. Easy return to starting point by TTC streetcar from the Neville Park loop. Enjoy it all from gardens and fall colour, to beachfront, to architecture. We will also plan some future Nature Arts outings, so bring your ideas!
- Sunday,
Oct. 4
2:30 p.m. **LECTURE – Sixty Years of Birding in Toronto**
Speaker: George Bryant
Emmanuel College, 75 Queen's Park Cres. E. See page 3.
- Tuesday,
Oct. 6
10:00 a.m. **HUMBER RIVER – Nature and Heritage**
Leader: Madeleine McDowell
Meet at the Old Mill subway station. Bring lunch. We will stop at Lambton House for lunch. Option to drop out there or continue back to starting point. The salmon should be running.
- Saturday,
Oct. 10
10:30 a.m. **ROSEDALE AND MUD CREEK – Heritage**
Leader: Janet Langdon
Meet at Rosedale subway station. Bring binoculars. Lunch optional. Duration 2 - 3 hours. Walk will end at Sherbourne subway station. Some steep hills.
- Wednesday,
Oct. 14
10:00 a.m. **THOMSON MEMORIAL PARK – Birds**
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at the northeast corner of Brimley Rd. and Lawrence Ave. E. Parking available at the community centre north on Brimley. Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Thursday,
Oct. 15
10:00 a.m. **DON VALLEY – Urban Nature**
Leader: Tom Atkinson
Meet at the southeast corner of Bayview and Moore Aves. We will walk to the Brickworks via Bayview Ave., the hiking trail which runs south-east from the Bayview Extension and Nesbitt Dr. to the Don Valley trail, then Pottery Rd. to the Brickworks, looking at the delights of this urban wilderness. If we are fortunate, some of the sugar maples along the hiking trail will be in full fall colour. At least a 2-hour walk. Bring lunch. Dispersal from the Brickworks any way you choose.

- Saturday,
Oct. 17
10:00 a.m. **GERMAN MILLS CREEK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Theresa Moore
Meet at the northeast corner of Leslie St. and Steeles Ave. E. Bring binoculars. Walk will end by 12:30 p.m.
- Sunday,
Oct. 18
9:30 a.m. **SUBURBS, SPRINGS, SEWERS AND SPRAWL – Lost Rivers Walk**
Leader: Helen Mills
A look at the evolution of the water supply system in a thirsty city. Meet at Roselawn Ave. just west of Avenue Rd. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community and RiverSides. For details, see www.riversides.org
- Tuesday,
Oct. 20
10:00 a.m. **HUMBER BAY PARK EAST – Birds**
Leader: Ann Gray
Meet at the southwest corner of Lake Shore Blvd. W. and Park Lawn Rd. Bring lunch and binoculars. Duration 3 hours.
- Saturday,
Oct. 24
1:00 p.m. **NORTH SHORELINE OF ASHBRIDGE’S BAY – Heritage and Gardens**
Leader: Joanne Doucette
Meet at the northwest corner of Woodfield Rd. and Queen St. E.
- Wednesday,
Oct. 28
1:00 p.m. **TAYLOR MASSEY CREEK – Nature Walk**
Leaders: Pleasance and Chuck Crawford
Meet at Kennedy subway station passenger pickup and drop off area. We will visit the Eglinton, Pine Hills, St. Clair Ravine, and Warden Woods reaches. Bring binoculars and a snack. Duration about 3 hours, ending at Victoria Park subway station.
- Saturday,
Oct. 31
10:00 a.m. **MORNINGSIDE PARK – Mushrooms**
Leader: David White
Meet at the first parking lot down the park road on the west side of Morningside Ave., south of Ellesmere Rd. Bring lunch and water, a knife, magnifying glass and basket for collecting mushrooms.

Ideas from the Outings Leaders' Workshop, continued from September newsletter

Part 5 – Benefits for participants, and how to achieve them

Compiled by Ruth Munson and Gail Gregory from the Outings Leaders' Workshop held January 17, 2009

What leaders hope participants will learn from the outing

- Gain an increased enjoyment of nature and heritage
- Learn species names and identification
- Become interested in the behaviour of birds, the attributes of plants, etc.
- Get knowledge of the areas, access points and routes
- Become familiar with the terrain across Toronto and its ecology.

Leaders' suggestions for how to facilitate this

- Introduce walkers to new places to enjoy nature
- Promote a friendly atmosphere
- Consider various knowledge levels
- Encourage participation through the sharing of knowledge
- Note and photograph interesting sights and environmental threats or damage
- Point out special vistas
- Reveal secret spots to see special sights
- Ask people who know the area if they would like to lead a future outing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Most members will be familiar with the attractive brochure, designed by Elaine Farragher and featuring members' artwork, which we have used for some years to promote the Toronto Field Naturalists. Our brochure is a key means of attracting new members. We hand it to visitors who participate in outings and use it as publicity at local events frequented by nature-lovers. We like members to pass it on to friends and acquaintances to encourage them to join.

As our supply of brochures became low, a decision had to be made whether to reprint or take the opportunity to adopt something new. While we were loath to part with the appealing design we have enjoyed using, the Board decided we should take a fresh look at how we want to communicate our identity and attract new members, making use of the artistic talents and technical facilities now available to us. For example, in this age of digital photography, many of our members are sending us wonderful images of nature which we increasingly feature in the newsletter. This has proved popular. We felt that similar use of colour photographs in the brochure would make it more eye-catching and enable us to better portray the extraordinary wealth of flora and fauna to be found in our city.

So the Board asked Pinky Franklin, whose primary focus as a board member is promotion of the TFN, to form a committee to design a new brochure. Pinky and committee members Corinne McDonald and Mary Lieberman have worked diligently and creatively to choose just the right words and images to convey who we are and what we do, in a way that will encourage people to become involved. It is heartening that all illustrations and photos in the new brochure are by our

members. I would like to thank artist Gail Gregory and photographers Jenny Bull, Peter Heinz, Norah Jancik, Margaret McRae, Peter Money, Yoshie Nagata, Robin Powell and Barry Tocher for their beautiful depictions of nature in Toronto and at our nature reserves.

We have received expert artistic and technical support from Warren's Waterless Printing Inc. Since it is important for a nature organization to be environmentally responsible, we are pleased that our new brochure will be printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper using a waterless printing process and bullfrog power.

A hearty vote of thanks to Pinky, Corinne and Mary for the excellent job they have done! When you see the new brochure (hopefully at the October monthly meeting), I trust you will be as pleased as I am.

The process of creating this promotional piece causes one to consider afresh the value of the TFN: guided walks, illustrated lectures and informative newsletter, all of which deepen our understanding and appreciation of nature; opportunities to help protect nature through advocacy and caring for our reserves; and the pleasure of sharing our love of nature with like-minded people.

Continuation of these activities depends not only on our annual membership dues and much volunteer support but also on donations given generously by members and supportive organizations. A sincere 'thank you' to all who included donations with their membership renewals.

Wendy Rothwell

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT *continued from next page*

also wood tangles and artificial dens which attract various species. Ralph stressed the importance of planning holistically and providing habitat for the full life cycle.

Ralph spoke of the complex nature of managing an urban wilderness. The human component requires infrastructure that blends with nature. 'Seed rain' from

a large city produces issues that Algonquin avoids. Gathering scientific data and educating school children are not always compatible activities. Still, it sounds as if Ralph and his colleagues are getting it right; natural selection is being assisted with a light-handed management plan. Wilderness is at our doorstep.

Corinne McDonald

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

The Importance of Parks

Sunday, September 13. Ralph Toninger, Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA); Land Manager, Tommy Thompson Park (TTP)

Ralph Toninger's claim to be an avid naturalist was evident in his presentation on the urban wilderness that is Tommy Thompson Park. The park, a.k.a. the Leslie Street Spit (among other names) began life in the early 1950's as a dump to receive debris from the city. Its evolution over the years into a centre of biological restoration took a number of turns (see www.Trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/tommy-thompson-park.dot for details).

Ralph credits naturalists in the city for redirecting the Master Plan toward making the landfill into a wildlife laboratory. Today, Tommy Thompson Park does not exist in isolation. Corridors connect it with the Don River, the Portlands and the Toronto Islands, encouraging an influx of wildlife and plant species. TTP has been called 'the Point Pelee of the north' with comparisons made between the numbers of human visitors as well as the numbers of breeding bird and butterfly species. Many people travel from Toronto to experience nature in Algonquin Park only to discover that TTP has more bird species than Algonquin!

The scope of activity in the park, from both wildlife and humans, is eye-opening. For example, highly mobile coyote families move between the park and other parts of the province. The park is an official IBA (Important Bird Area). Colonial water birds are doing well. There are currently 8000 pairs of breeding



Coyote pup at Leslie Street Spit
photographed by Ann Gray

cormorants, and resident Black Crowned Night-Herons make up 30% of Canada's population. Numbers of terns are increasing dramatically now that they have tern rafts on which to breed with less competition. The TTP Bird Research Area is in its seventh year of full data collection, providing data that puts birds on the agendas of planners and politicians. The park is also certified as a Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, noting "recaptures, returns and recoveries". A yellow warbler with the rather scientific name #2210-5811, banded in the park on May 20, 2003, has been recaptured 21 times and has made 10 trips between Toronto and Latin America covering 30,000 km. He returns to nest in almost the exact same location each year.

Ralph gave examples of the park's Natural Area Enhancement Plan, covering all parts of the continuum from basic protection through rehabilitation, enhancement and creation. The Cell One wetland creation and terrestrial planting caps contaminated sediment underwater and forms the largest coastal marsh in Toronto Harbour. Constructed shorebird habitat encourages shorebirds to stop by. Terrestrial enhancement provides winter protection with the planting of conifers in strategic areas. Embayments enhance habitat for fish and wetland dependent species. There is a plan to reintroduce wild rice. There are meadow and butterfly habitat enhancements;

continued on previous page



Common Terns on nesting raft at Tommy Thompson Park
photographed by Margaret McRae

BIRD OF THE MONTH – GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

Kinglets, both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned, are quite amazing little bundles of energy which luckily we can often encounter in Toronto. A bit larger than the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, they are smaller than warblers and weigh less than a quarter of an ounce. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is the smaller of the two. Both species are olive-grey and have wing bars. The bright crown feathers are sometimes difficult to see. The males raise these feathers when agitated. The easiest way to distinguish between the two species is by their quite different face patterns: the white eye-ring of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the black and white striping at the eye area of the Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Flocks of kinglets migrate through Toronto, between prime nesting areas farther north in Ontario's coniferous forests and wintering grounds in the United States. Golden-crowned Kinglets are somewhat more likely than their cousins to be found here at any time of year as a few nest in the area and small flocks regularly cope with our winters, despite a diet comprising mainly tiny insects, spiders and insect eggs. While hunting for food on the leaves and bark of trees and shrubs, they frequently flick their wings and seem never to keep still for a moment. When they're at lower levels, though, they can be easily observed.

These birds first made an impression on me one April during a Toronto Field Naturalists' clean-up at Todmorden Mills. A large flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets was actively feeding in the shrubbery through which I repeatedly passed while removing garbage. I have a particular fondness for independent birds which neither fear me nor beg from me and these busy creatures seemed totally oblivious to the intruder moving back and forth among them. They certainly brightened a spring clean-up day. The fall is an even better time to see them in flocks, often together with other small birds such as Black-capped Chickadees,

Dark-eyed Juncos and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

An essay in *The Best of the Raven*, published in 1993 by The Friends of Algonquin Park, details the astonishing nesting habits of these tiny dynamos which regularly raise two large broods during the very short breeding season. The female lays one egg per day, till she has a clutch of nine or ten eggs weighing a total of eight or nine grams, all this from a five or six gram mother. The spherical nest features "a small entrance hole and . . . large feathers are often arranged around this entrance with their tips all pointing towards the centre . . . permitting the adults to come and go and yet

significantly reducing the escape of heated air from the nest chamber." While the female incubates this clutch "the male doesn't have much to do, and so . . . he builds another nest! And, as soon as the young are big enough not to need their mother to warm them - a week or ten days before they leave the (first) nest - she has completed a new clutch in the second nest and has started to incubate there, leaving the first brood largely in the care of her mate. It usually works out (about the

time the male has finished up with the fledglings from the first nest) that the eggs in the second nest start to hatch and

he must turn his attention almost immediately to feeding the second lot of youngsters."

Golden-crowned Kinglets may be less colourful than most of the warblers, but dull? - never! Happily theirs is one of the good news stories in *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario 2001 - 2005*. Breeding bird surveys show increases in this species since the previous atlas 20 years earlier, while "migration data from (Long Point Bird Observatory are equivocal, showing no change in spring and a significant increase in fall during the last 10 years."

Marilynn Murphy



Golden-crowned Kinglet, photographed by Margaret McRae at the Don Valley Brickworks

Note: *The Raven* is the educational newsletter published by The Friends of Algonquin Park. For information about membership or their many publications, visit the bookstore in the Algonquin Visitor Centre call 613-637-2828 or see www.algonquinpark.on.ca.

FOR READING

Wings in the Wind

By Anne Merrill, The Ryerson Press, 1954

The TFN library recently received a copy of this book from the Winnipeg Public Library, and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading it. As some TFN members may recall, Anne Merrill wrote a weekly column entitled “Wings in the Wind” for *The Globe and Mail* in the 1940s and 50s. It was originally intended to be a short series during the spring migration in 1943, but was so popular that it kept going until 1954, when a decision was made to publish a collection of the columns in book form. It is described as “a chatty account of the highlights of an amateur’s years of bird-watching ... full of the sort of anecdote that one bird-watcher exchanges with another.”

Anne Merrill acquired her love of birds from her father during her childhood in Prince Edward County. Her infectious enthusiasm in listening to the songs and observing the behaviour of birds makes this book a delight. She did not claim to be an expert, and frequently sought advice from local naturalists and ornithologists, whose names are familiar to long-time TFN members – Dr. R.M. Saunders, editor of the Toronto Field Naturalists’ Newsletter, L.L. Snyder, Curator at the Royal Ontario Museum, Jim Baillie, also of the ROM, Francis Kortright, “a Toronto authority,” and Dr. W.W.H. Gunn, Executive Director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature), some of whose nature photographs are in TFN’s slide collection. She also mentions Mrs. J.B. Stewart, secretary of the Toronto Field Naturalists, and a moving picture presentation in Eaton Auditorium, which must surely refer to the forerunner of TFN’s monthly lecture series.

It is interesting to compare her bird sightings 60 years ago in such places as Toronto Islands and Grenadier and Catfish Ponds, with our current experiences. For example, she speaks of Virginia Rails and Gallinules (Common Moorhen) being commonly seen in Grenadier marsh. I have not seen them there in my frequent High Park meanderings.

Anne Merrill’s descriptions are so real and engaging that one feels one is right there with her. Reading this book is the next best thing to being out in the field – or perhaps even better due to her keen powers of observation. Her anecdotes may evoke happy memories for some TFN members. If you would like to borrow this book from our library, please contact us by phone or email and arrange to pick it up on a Friday morning.

Wendy Rothwell

Climate Wars

By Gwynne Dyer, PhD 244 pp. Random House, 2008

Climate Wars is an important addition to the rapidly growing literature on climate change. It clearly and vividly addresses all the major factors that will affect whether we will achieve a transition to a sustainable civilization without a drastic reduction in population. Dr. Dyer is well-known for incisive commentary, including 5 previous books on strategic and military matters.

Dyer’s conclusions are that to prevent dangerous amounts of climate change:

- the world needs larger and faster reduction in greenhouse gas emissions than currently proposed by any major government, namely reductions of about 4% per year to 2030, versus the 3% **increase** per year seen in 2000-2008)
- larger reductions are needed in rich countries like Canada to get poor countries to agree
- it is unrealistic to expect this to happen, so we urgently need to develop and test geo-engineering methods to prevent disaster while we work on eliminating the burning of fossil fuels. Possible geo-engineering measures include fertilizing the oceans, increasing the amount and reflectivity of clouds over the oceans by spraying water into the air from wind-powered ships, and adding sulfur to jetfuel to add sulfates into the stratosphere to reflect more sunlight
- drought and famine will create increasing flows of refugees and failed states which will sabotage the international cooperation needed to solve the climate crisis, unless measures to combat climate change start taking effect very soon.

The 2007 reports of the IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) sounded a fairly urgent warning, which many attacked as alarmist. But the situation is more serious than stated in those reports because:

- the 2007 reports are based on scientific reports published in 2005 or earlier, based on research often done years earlier given the time needed for analysis and publication. Recent evidence shows climate change happening faster than previously predicted
- the IPCC is appointed by the governments of all the major nations of the world, whose representatives had to agree to the wording of the IPCC executive summary. Since governments don’t want to be forced

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EXTRACTS FROM OUTING LEADERS' REPORTS

Nature Arts Photography Hike, Charles Sauriol Conservation Reserve, August 1.

Leaders: Yoshie Nagata and Joe Bernaske. This Reserve is a place we always wanted to return to since going on a TFN outing there years ago. It's one of the best places to walk and shoot real nature in the City of Toronto. Blessed with fine weather, we were welcomed at the entrance by thousands of beautiful wildflowers, and participants started to take photographs immediately. A trail along the Don River gave us plenty of opportunities for landscape photography. During the hike, we saw nobody else in the park and somebody said "I wish no-one would find this place!" A TFN walk is a good opportunity to explore this kind of area and to walk in the quiet wilderness and take photographs.



White Lettuce,
drawn by Eva Davis

Great Rivers of North York, East Don Tributary, August 5.

Leader: Alexander Cappell.

A willow and a wet ditch in Willesden Park were the first signs of a nameless creek we followed. The creek is mostly buried in a series of mowed linear parks until Glentworth Rd. on the south of which it gushes out of a pipe into a gabioned open sewer in a steep ravine with elecampane, sweet cicely, sumach and walnut growing on the steep slopes. We were greeted by two Red-tailed Hawks sitting low on a power pylon in the Finch hydro corridor. There were several bright yellow goldfinches. Where the grass was unmowed, it had gone to seed and looked like a prairie. We climbed up the hill at Linus Park and got a spectacular view of the CN Tower in the south, the Oak Ridges moraine in the north and miles of office and condo towers on Yonge St. in the east. A formation of Canada Geese flew low over our heads. We finished at the bridge at Sheppard and Leslie and as we looked south, the clouds broke up suddenly to show us the full moon rising, orange behind a veil of light haze.

[Sandy also forwarded a Toronto Star news clipping from 6 August about flooding in houses on Glentworth Rd. One house was flooded 5 times from May to June while the culvert was being replaced.]

Wildflowers, Taylor Massey Creek and E.T. Seton Parks, August 6.

Leader: Melanie Milanich.

We began on Main St. admiring naturalized front yards and entered the ravine at Lumsden. Along the creek we admired the bright showy tick-trefoils, the sweet smelling fragrant wild bergamot, the white lettuce in flower and the colorful blue vervain and Joe pye-weed. The invasive Himalayan balsam was spreading on the hillside. We went a short distance into the fen to enjoy the delicate hooded ladies tresses in full bloom and a turtlehead just coming into bloom. We also saw water horehound and grass-leaved goldenrod. For part of our walk the route was a bit rough and covered with red ants. At the parking lot near the DVP we observed some bright pink swamp milkweed....



Blue vervain, drawn by Diana Banville

Trees, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, August 8.

Leader: David Andrew White. ...On the north side in mulch beds there were button mushrooms (*Agaricus* sp.). Ash trees, mostly *Fraxinus excelsior*, had been marked – possibly because of the emerald ash-borer. Trees in addition to those reported seen in 2008 included sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*), dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) and wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*).

Sun Valley and Crothers Woods, August 9. Leader: Margaret McRae.

Among the plants we saw flowering were teasel (with monarch butterflies), zigzag goldenrod, fringed loosestrife, flat-topped aster, and purple loosestrife. We saw fruits of white baneberry, red raspberry, purple-flowering raspberry, choke cherry, may-apple, both false solomon's seals, and tree-of-heaven. Fungi included russula, false oyster, deer mushroom, coral mushroom and false turkey-tail. The city has created an excessively wide excavation for the new storm sewer running from Bayview to the treatment plant.



Red raspberry drawn by Joanne Doucette

Humber Arboretum, August 11. Leader: Carol Sellers.

The arboretum is having a problem with deer. One student told us that there was a herd of about 300! We noticed that some flower beds were protected by posts with fishing line strung horizontally about one foot apart. Apparently this is enough to keep the deer from poking their noses in. The once-lush rhododendron garden is almost decimated.



Flowering teasel, drawn by Eva Davis

Warden Woods, August 20. Leader: Melanie Milanich. ... We passed the location of the TFN garlic mustard pull and the work of the city's Stewardship group, cutting back invasive species such as dog strangling vine, Canada thistle, phragmites reed and white sweet-clover. We saw hog peanut and grass-leaved goldenrod in bloom. It was when we reached the turtlehead and Joe pye-weed that the sky suddenly turned dark and the thunder began to rumble and boom above us. Lightning flashed to our left and right. We were quickly drenched and found ourselves walking through torrents of rain several inches deep rushing down from the slope of the ravine and flooding across the pathway. Finally we took shelter at the entrance to an apartment building where one of our members looked back and pointed to a rainbow across the sky. Although wet and a bit shaken we were all safe and had had a very vivid and visceral experience of nature's power.

Natural Heritage at Lambton Park and Humber River, August 25. Leader: Madeleine McDowell. I used photos from the 1880s through the 1920s to describe the changes in the land formations we traversed. There have been 3 burns in the past 4 years in Lambton Park and much grass cutting has ceased. The oak regeneration particularly and native grasses are amazing! We saw an egret catch a fish and eat it. Construction for the past year and into the next on the Dundas-Humber viaduct is noisy and having an effect on wildlife. [Report includes a plant list of about 70 species!]

FOR READING, continued from page 9

into expensive and politically difficult action, conclusions are worded very cautiously.

For example, the effect of release of methane and carbon dioxide from thawing permafrost and warming oceans was not addressed in the IPCC report because the IPCC did not believe that good modeling of this process was available by the end of 2005. These processes may well cause climate change to become uncontrollable with greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increasing even if fossil fuel burning and deforestation are eliminated, unless the global average temperature increase from pre-industrial levels is kept under about 2°C.

Dyer brings us up-to-date on climate change science, likely impacts around the world, and what can be done. Most views stated are attributed to people who should know what they are talking about. And he brings the possible futures to life with vivid scenarios set in various parts of the world from 2019 to 2045. Some are happy scenarios resulting from incredibly sensible political deals reached in 2009; others are much grimmer, but more plausible if political inaction continues, such as war between India and Pakistan after the rivers flowing from India into Pakistan dry up, causing crops in Pakistan to fail. But Dyer also shows that the negative scenarios need not play out.

A thought-provoking book!

Bob Kortright

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A SATELLITE-TRACKED OWL

By Hazel Wheeler, Bird Studies Canada, published in *BirdWatch Canada*, Number 47, Spring 2009

In winter 2007-08, Bird Studies Canada embarked on the task of catching our first Short-eared Owl in southern Ontario for the purpose of satellite tracking. This project was launched with the hope of tracking the migratory movements of these nomadic and wide-ranging owls.

The Short-eared Owl is a widely distributed species found throughout North America, and occurring on all continents except Antarctica and Australia. While it was once fairly common, its numbers have declined over the last few decades. For such a ubiquitous species, our knowledge of the behaviour and ecology of Short-eared Owls is surprisingly sparse. Where are these owls going? How much time do they spend in their breeding and wintering grounds, or in transit between them? What kinds of habitat do they favour? They have a reputation for being nomadic, but to what extent is this true? These are the questions that satellite tracking can help answer.

It was a chilly evening on February 3, 2008 when we caught owl #80096 at her winter roost site in southern Ontario. Weighing in at 396 grams, she was large enough to sport her new satellite transmitter, sponsored by the Shell Environmental Fund.

Transmitters like the one used on #80096 represent the leading edge in satellite telemetry. Each one is solar-powered, weighs only 12 grams, and is about the size of a standard pink eraser. They are designed to give us precise information on location every few days, transmitting data over many months.

Owl #80096's movements through the remainder of February were unambitious. She stayed within an area of about 4 km² until mid-March, when the approaching spring stirred her to action. Her first big move was westward, into eastern Michigan, where she spent the first two weeks of April in agricultural fields, in habitat very similar to that in which she'd spent the cold winter months. Her next move presented a real change. From Michigan, she flew north to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula on Lake Huron. With no time to waste, she kept moving farther and farther north and east,

ultimately tracing a 2000 km path as she made her way to her presumed breeding grounds on the Ungava Peninsula in northern Québec.

This sub-arctic region of Québec, known as Nunavik, was part of the Northwest Territories until the early 1900s. By southern Ontario standards it is spacious and expansive. There are approximately 40 km² for every human inhabitant, most of them Inuit. There are few villages and fewer roads. Access can only be gained by air, or by a very, *very* long hike. It is a stark landscape of marshes and bogs, lichens and shrubs, and perhaps the odd stunted tree, doing its best against the permafrost and harsh arctic winds. For a Short-eared Owl looking for a place to breed, though, Nunavik looks like paradise.

We know where #80096 went, but what she did while she was there we can only guess. Did she raise a brood of young owlets? From May through July, she was consistently found within the same 1 km² patch of land. That would have offered more than enough time to raise a brood, but without direct observation, all we can do is speculate. As the arctic summer drew to a close, the shortening

days sent a primal message to our owl: it's time to move. At the beginning of October she was preparing for her migration south, and by Halloween she had travelled the length of Québec. Before long, she was back in the familiar winter fields of Haldimand County, just 20 km from where she had been caught the previous February!

For those of us here on the ground, watching #80096's progress through the year was an exciting journey, made all the more remarkable when she returned to the same wintering area. Will she head back to the same breeding location in Nunavik again this summer, and by the same route? Is her flight suggestive of a larger pattern for Short-eared Owls that spend their winters in southern Ontario? I know I'm eager to find out. For the owls though, it's just another season.



Short-eared Owl drawn by Diana Banville from mounted specimen at the R.O.M.

BSC's satellite-tracking program is part of a larger collaborative of international researchers studying Short-eared Owl ecology. This past winter, we deployed two more transmitters. To learn more about BSC's Short-eared Owl research, or to follow the movements of all three owls on our online 'Owl Tracker', visit www.birdscanada.org/research/speciesatrisk/seow.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

A Special Birthday!

The TFN extends congratulations to Eva Davis, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. An active member since 1976, Eva is one of the most prolific contributors to our newsletter. Employing her artistic and writing talents, she shares with us her delight in many aspects of nature, especially wildflowers, moths and mushrooms. Eva also enthusiastically makes the arduous trip from Brampton to the TFN office each month to serve on the editorial committee. Thank you, Eva, for your long and continuing valuable contribution to the TFN.

A TFN member honoured

It was heart-warming to see a tribute to TFN member, Jack Gingrich, in the autumn issue of *ON Nature*. Jack has been a member of Ontario Nature (formerly the Federation of Ontario Naturalists) for 50 years, during which time he has missed only one Annual General Meeting! He served two terms on their Board of Directors, 1968-1972 and 1978-1982.

In an interview with Jim MacInnis at Ontario Nature's AGM held in Southampton in July, Jack shared the story of how he first became interested in nature. While in his 20s, he used to listen to a popular music program on CJBC radio on Sunday afternoons. Occasionally he would leave the radio on long enough to hear the following program, which happened to be *Audubon Outdoors*, and this gave him the idea of participating in his first nature walk with a group led by the legendary Jim Baillie, assistant curator of ornithology at the Royal Ontario Museum. Jack said, "I vividly remember seeing my first horned lark. What a thrill! Even though I didn't even own my own binoculars at the time, I was hooked."

Jack has been a member of the TFN since 1958. He and his wife, Mary, first met at a TFN gathering. We commend Jack for his dedication to nature and the environment, as a member of both TFN and Ontario Nature.

Swallowtail Update

Further to September *Keeping in Touch*, Carol Sellers has sent this news of the butterfly eggs collected on the July 28th outing.

Two of my Black Swallowtails have emerged, both males, and the third should come out within the next few days. I'm assuming it's a female because the chrysalis is so much bigger than the other two. She was also the last to pupate.

A Visit to Carden Alvar, June 3 2009

On a glorious sunny June day, I was taken to see the Carden Alvar by staff from the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Our first sighting was of bird boxes and brilliant Bluebirds busily feeding their families like jewels in the sun. As we watched, a Brown Thrasher oversaw us, calling from a treetop. In spite of some



Indian paintbrush, photographed at Carden Alvar by Georgia Shank

poison ivy, we tracked in to see the prairie smoke, which was in bloom everywhere – cranberry-coloured clumps about a foot square and as high with delicate stems and round buds which open up to delicate hairy fronds. Then we drove to a fenced-in property where cattle roam keeping the grass short (essential to the loggerhead shrike) and where sneezewort and Indian paintbrush were in bloom. Then on again to see the big bluestem area donated to NCC though it was too early to see this year's stems.

We were then privileged to be taken to visit a loggerhead shrike conservation area. The area has thorn bushes scattered around. We saw a couple of birds in small barn-like structure through the telescope. At the work station we saw a nest and four eggs – white with greyish markings bigger than robin eggs. They have had success with 24 birds released to migrate south and only one hasn't returned. Some have mated with wild birds so they await a promising future for these endangered birds in Ontario.

A great day for me and a highlight of the summer. Thank you to the NCC.

Sheila Ryan

See www.wildlifepreservation.ca for information on the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery program, its endangered status and successes in rehabilitation.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Effects of Warm Weather on Insect Life

From Toronto Field Naturalists' Newsletter Number 4, December 1938

A very informative report of the effects of the long spell of warm weather this fall upon insect life has been sent to us by Dr. E. M. Walker.

The Indian Summer weather which prevailed during October and early November permitted various insects, notably dragonflies and grasshoppers, a longer lease on life than generally falls to their lot.

Two kinds of dragonflies are usually the last to linger after all other kinds have disappeared. These are a small red one, known as *Sympetrum vicinum*, and a larger dark-coloured one *Aeschna umbrosa* with greenish spots and two yellow stripes on each side of the body. Each of these dragonflies had already been recorded as late as November 1st, but this date was considered as very unusual, since they are generally gone by the second or third week of October.

This year the little red species has been found from time to time up to November 6th, when I saw a single individual at De Grassi Point, Lake Simcoe, and Professor Harkness reported seeing one of each kind on the same day at Mono Mills.

Grasshoppers of two species were still plentiful near Thornhill on November 5th and a few of the small striped ground crickets *Nemobius fasciatus* could be heard feebly chirping on the same day. The grasshoppers were the common red-legged species *Nelanoplus femur-rubrum* and the larger dusky grasshopper *Encoptolophus sordidus*. A female of the latter species was actually seen and photographed in the act of egg-laying.

On the following day both species were observed in a sunny field, where they were sheltered on the south side of a stone wall along the edge of a wood. The males were still flying actively and making the crackling noise which they produce in flight.

The severe frost of the following week put an end to the dragonflies and nearly all the grasshoppers. In fact, I thought they had completely disappeared until, on Sunday morning, November 20th, I visited the Don Valley below Armour Heights. For some time I found no trace of grasshoppers but eventually discovered that in the warmest available spots, at the foot of southern slopes exposed to the sun, there were still a fair number of both red-legged and dusky grasshoppers, and a mating pair of the former species was actually found on this remarkably late date.



Grasshopper, photographed by Margaret McRae

Young individuals of the green-striped grasshopper *Chortophaga viridifasciata* were hopping about in numbers among the dead leaves in the same situations. This species always winters over in the immature flightless stage and transforms into the winged adults in late May or/and early June. It was interesting to see these young grasshoppers of next year's brood associating with the last remnants of the late-maturing species of the present year. All had concentrated in the only spots left that were warm enough for active life.

The green-striped grasshoppers of 1939 will have run their course before the first red-legged and dusky grasshoppers reach maturity.

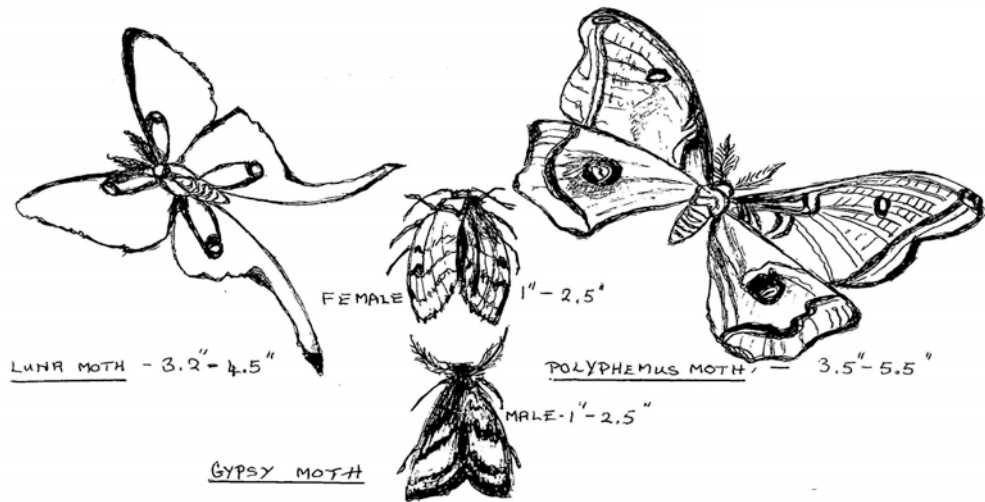
Water-striders *Gerris remigis* were still active on the surface of the small streams on this date.

Other interesting observations of insects during the past summer have come to our attention recently through the co-operation of Mr. Rutter, secretary of the Brodie Club. It seems that the Buckeye butterfly, a southern form, was unexpectedly common at Toronto last summer. (H. Southam) Unusual numbers of the curious praying-mantis were found in Prince Edward County by W.H. Lunn. At Point Pelee a number of rare mole crickets were collected by F.A. Urquhart of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology.

MAGICAL MOTHS

Butterflies have always received a great press, though moths far outnumber them (roughly 700 species of North American butterflies compared to some 8,000 or so North American moths). The reason, of course, is simply that of observation. One has to be a night bird, in every sense, to keep up with the moths.

I will always remember, while staying up north with a friend, how she burst into my bedroom and took me to a long and breathtaking viewing of a luna moth beating herself against the glass of the balcony screen, a nearly transparent, pale green creature in the moonlight, with long curved wings – truly it seemed like a being from another planet. On another visit, my friend again woke me, this time to take me to her



porch. She had left the light on, and the walls were plastered – literally – with moths of every shape, size and colouration. We stood exclaiming delightedly until dawn, by which time most of the moths had fallen to the floor and appeared to be in a daze. We did the same thing the next night. Then it dawned on us that our light was interfering with their life cycle. They needed to reach the darkness of the surrounding forest to mate, lay their eggs and die. Regretfully, we kept the porch light off from then on.

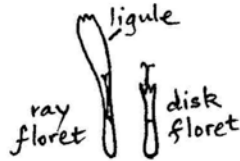
On another occasion, when I lived in Willowdale, I came downstairs one morning to find a Polyphemus moth, one of the giant silk moths, fluttering dementedly around the living room. How she had gained entrance is still beyond me, much less what she was doing in suburban Toronto. I closed the drapes and she immediately settled into a corner. During the night she left through the opened doors to the garden.

And lastly, two unforgettable experiences with a moth of a different hue: the small but destructive gypsy moth. Years ago I was cycling one evening past the construction site of the future North York General Hospital. The ground had been cleared, with only one huge ancient tree yet to be felled. It was netted from top to bottom in the silky cocoon of the gypsy moth, its strands stretching from crown to ground. The sun was setting and had turned the threads a shining pink. More to the point, each thread was alive with gypsy moth caterpillars, all of which had received the Categorical Imperative to be on the move. And move they did – up, under, over each other, in a frantic race to the ground, where they fanned out and disappeared in the long grass. It was a sight at once beautiful and repellent in its fecundity. On the second occasion, one evening while I was staying at a resort, there was an invasion of gypsy moths. They flooded the place! They were everywhere, on everything. I sat outside my cottage (might as well be crawled over outside in the night air as inside in sticky warmth) when the agitated landlord came and begged me to assure the two Americans in the adjacent cottage that the moths were (1) harmless and (2) transient. I did, but they left anyway. Not for them to put up with nature's presumptions!

On my first visit to Temagami, we arrived to find the registration office windows plastered with luna moths. The staff took them for granted!! On our leaving, the windows were covered in huge black Sphinx moths, which again the staff barely noticed. I suppose one can get used to anything, though in this instance I don't think I ever would. Could one take the Northern Lights for granted? I was never able to when I lived up North. We do, indeed, dwell on a magical planet, of which moths are one enchanting manifestation!

TYCs – TALL YELLOW COMPOSITES

In Toronto you can find a large number of yellow-flowered plant species in the daisy family (aster family, Asteraceae). Formerly called the composite family or Compositae, the “flowers” in this family are actually *composed* of a number of small individual flowers (florets) packed tightly together on a receptacle and called a “head.”



A quick review of the 3 types of composite head:

ligulate heads like a dandelion, made up only of **ray florets** –every floret has a ligule

discoid heads – button-like as in pineapple-weed, composed only of **disk florets**.

radiate heads like a daisy, with a centre of **disk florets** surrounded by a circle of **ray florets**

Below the head are rows of **phyllaries** (small green bracts).

Remembering how to distinguish them all can be frustrating for many of us with a limited memory. I need to continually review my field guide to remind myself which plant is a sow-thistle as opposed to a prickly lettuce. And what about those nippleworts? For this reason the handy catchall *TYC* or “tall yellow composite” has been invented so we can at least recognize that they are yellow-flowered species from a single family.

TYCs with **discoid heads** are a small group which includes some of the beggar-ticks (*Bidens* spp) and groundsel (*Senecio* spp). The species with **radiate heads** include the very tall sunflowers (*Helianthus*

spp), black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia* spp) with their dark centres, elecampane (*Inula helenium*) with its rows of large leafy phyllaries, and goldenrods (*Solidago* spp) with their masses of tiny heads.

For me, the hardest to remember are the many TYCs with dandelion-like **ligulate heads**. Many of these are European species which have become naturalized in Canada. They are quite hardy in the city landscape and we can often see them in the cracks of Toronto’s sidewalks. This group, all of which have milky sap, includes:

- dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
- hawkweeds, king-devils (*Hieracium* spp)
- lettuces* (*Lactuca* spp)
- sow thistles (*Sonchus* spp)
- goat’s-beards (*Tragopogon* spp)
- nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*)
- hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*)
- coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara* – actually radiate but can sometimes look ligulate if there are only a few disk florets, sap not milky)

So I did my homework again this summer and have organized it into an identification key that I hope will be helpful to those who love to name plants but need a little memory jog. Let me know if you find any errors.

Jenny Bull

* The lettuce you buy in the market is *Lactuca sativa*. Lettuce’s milky sap is the soporific that had such an effect on Peter Rabbit after his visit to Mr McGregor’s vegetable garden.

References:

ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario
Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide
The Wild Flower Key – British Isles and NW Europe
Flora of North America at www.eforas.org/families, check on Asteraceae
The New Oxford Book of Food Plants

A shade-coffee plantation is a lifeboat for migratory songbirds, a mini-ecosystem with towering tropical trees that shelter the coffee plants below, fertilize the soil and prevent soil erosion during heavy downpours. Shade-coffee farms provide alternative habitat for plants and animals, including migratory songbirds, which normally live in tropical forests....

Coffee lovers who drink the shade-grown brew can breathe in the rich, satisfying smell and imagine a Swainson’s thrush looking for insects among soggy leaves that litter the forest floor, or a drab Tennessee warbler flitting along branches, pausing to sip nectar from the blossoms of an avocado tree.

From “Birds of the Boreal: Incredible Journeys” by Bridget Stutchbury in *ON Nature*, Spring 2009, www.ontarionature.org

Some Toronto TYCs with ligulate heads

A. With basal leaves only (i.e. no leaves on flowering stem)

- no leaves at flowering time, flowering stem with scales, single head coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)
- leaves with lobed margins, flowering stem smooth, single head..... dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
- leaf margins smooth, several heads (rarely one only)
 - leaves and stem very hairy field hawkweed, king-devil (*Hieracium pratense/caespitosum*)
 - leaves and stem not very hairy smooth hawkweed, king-devil (*Hieracium piloselloides/florentinum*)

B. With leaves on flowering stem

i) leaf margins smooth, veins parallel:

- phyllaries longer than rays goats-beard (*Tragopogon dubius*)
- phyllaries not longer than rays meadow goats-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*)

ii) leaves with prickly margins – check out mid-stem leaves

- heads less than 1 cm wide, leaves with a bristly midrib beneath and pointed lobes at base.....prickly lettuce (*Lactuca canadensis*)
- heads more than 2.5 cm wide leaves with rounded lobes at base.....field sow-thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)
- heads more than 1 cm and less than 2.5 cm wide
 - leaves with pointed lobes at base ... common sow-thistle (*S. oleraceus*)
 - leaves with large curved lobes at base, margins very spiny.....spiny-leaved sow thistle (*S. asper*)

prickly lettuce
Lactuca serriola
prickly on midrib
underneath



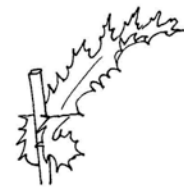
field sow-thistle
Sonchus arvensis
rounded lobes at base



common sow-thistle
Sonchus oleraceus
pointed lobes at base



spiny sow-thistle
Sonchus asper
curved lobes at base



iii) not as above

- upper half of largest leaves rounded, lower portion narrow with some lobes..... nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*)
- largest leaves shallowly lobed, tapering to the base..... hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*)
- largest leaves deeply lobed or only toothed, leaf base clasping..... Canada lettuce (*Lactuca canadensis*)
- leaf margins with a few teeth, lower leaves in a rosette common hawkweed (*Hieracium vulgatum*)

Nipplewort
Lapsana vulgaris



Hawksbeard
Lower and upper leaves



Canada lettuce
Lactuca canadensis



common hawkweed
Hieracium vulgatum
Crepis tectorum



WEATHER (this time last year)

October 2008

October was changeable but overall not far off normal. It was cool the first week or so, then became very warm over Thanksgiving but rather chilly most of the last two weeks. Thanksgiving was not quite as warm as 2007's freak heat wave, but it did reach 25° at Pearson on the 13th. A steadily-intensifying trough brought colder weather thereafter, with flurries off-and-on beginning on the 20th. Local light frost occurred as early as the 7th, but general suburban frost came on the 22nd and downtown frost on the 30th. Accumulating snow off the upper Great Lakes came down as far as the northern edge of the urban area on the 29th. A rapid warm up came in time for Hallowe'en.

The warm weather over Thanksgiving largely offset the colder spells so that the monthly average temperature was just fractionally below the long term normal (by about 0.4°). Downtown monthly mean was 10.2° while at Pearson it was 9.0°.

In spite of the frequent frontal passages, precipitation was relatively light and sunshine high this month. Precipitation was generally around 40 mm, thus about 20-25 mm below normal. The monthly sunshine total was a 185.3 hours, close to 40 hours more than normal and the highest since 1998, which had 201.5 hours.

Gavin Miller

IN THE NEWS

Whooping CraneCam

Extracted from Bird Studies Canada website, www.bsc-eoc.org

The world's first Whooping CraneCam was launched on July 29 and began streaming never-before-seen views of one of the world's most endangered birds, the majestic Whooping Crane. Visit the CraneCam at www.operationmigration.org/crane-cam to watch as pilots and crane handlers condition juvenile Whooping Cranes for their first migration. By mid-October, cranes and planes will be making their way south from Wisconsin to Florida, a journey of over 1200 miles that can take from 60-90 days to complete. The world's population of Whooping Cranes was on the verge of extinction in the early 1940s but has gradually made a comeback, thanks in part to a unique project designed to reintroduce a second migratory population into eastern North America. Each year since 2001, Operation Migration's pilots have led a cohort of captive-hatched and reared Whooping Cranes imprinted to follow an ultralight aircraft along a migration route between the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. Go to www.birdscanada.org and click on BSC News to read a feature article about Whooping Crane recovery from the Winter 2007 edition of *BirdWatch Canada*.



Sandhill Crane drawn
by Diana Banville

Long Point Waterfowl Studying Sandhill Cranes

Extracted from Bird Studies Canada website, www.bsc-eoc.org

In September and October of 2009, counts will be conducted concurrently on Manitoulin Island, St. Joseph's Island, and the mainland of the north shore of Lake Huron to estimate the size of the rapidly expanding Sandhill Crane population that uses this region as a staging area during late summer and fall. Long Point Waterfowl is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of waterfowl and wetlands in the Great Lakes Region. If you would like to volunteer to count cranes in September or October, or if you have information on the locations of large flocks of cranes on the north shore of Lake Huron between Sault St. Marie and Sudbury, including Manitoulin and St. Joseph's Islands, go to www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/bscnews

COMING EVENTS

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

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks – Toronto Ornithological Club

These outings are aimed at the intermediate birder but beginners are also welcome. Information: www.torontobirding.ca

Sat. Oct. 10, 8 am. All day. Late Migration Toronto Islands. Leader: Kevin Seymour. Meet at Toronto Islands ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. to catch the 8:15 ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring a lunch.

Toronto Entomologists' Association (TEA)

Sat. Oct. 24, 1:15 pm, Room 206, Victoria College. Biosurveillance: Using a Wasp to find Emerald Ash Borers.

Speaker: Phil Careless. Information: www.ontarioinsects.org

Rouge Valley Guided Nature Walks

Unless otherwise specified, meet at the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre, 1749 Meadowvale Rd., east on the Toronto Zoo on-ramp. No charge, but donations welcomed. Information: www.rougevalleynaturalists.com/upcoming_events or 416-282-8265

- Sun. Oct. 11, 1:30 pm. Check website for details
- Sat. Oct. 17, 10 am – 3 pm. Rouge Valley Eco Exploration Event.
- Sun. Oct. 25, 1:30 pm. Woodlands Park Guided Walk. Meet at Woodlands Park, 19 Reesor Rd. south of Steeles Ave. E.

High Park Walking Tours

2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10:30 am - noon. Meet at the benches across the road south of Grenadier Café. Donation requested. Information: 416-392-1748 ext. 5 or walkingtours@highpark.org or www.highpark.org

- Oct. 11. Tramping on the Trails. Leaders: Sophie and Mark Ellwood.
- Oct. 25. Autumn Splendour – Photo-buff walk. Leader: David Allen.

High Park Harvest Festival

Oct. 4. 12 noon to 4:30 pm. Colborne Lodge. Celebrate Nature in High Park with Ontario Nature, OPG and High Park groups. Activities for children and adults including birds of prey (program from University of Guelph), savannah tour, nature displays, information and craft tables. Information: www.highpark.org.

Science on Sundays

Royal Canadian Institute, J.J.R. MacLeod Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building, University of Toronto, 1 King's College Circle. Free. Information: www.royalcanadianinstitute.org or 416-977-2983.

- Oct. 18. A Life in Science (to be Continued!) John Polanyi, Nobel Laureate, Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto. Recipient of the 2007 NSERC Herzberg Award.
- Oct. 25. The Amazing, Changing, Aging Brain. Allison Sekuler, Ph.D., Associate Vice-President and Dean of Graduate Studies, Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience; Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, McMaster University.

The Market Gallery

South St. Lawrence Market, 2nd floor, 95 Front St. E. Free.

Extended to Nov. 7. Toronto Island Narratives, Past and Present. Contemporary artworks by Island artists will be featured alongside art and artifacts from the Toronto Island Archives. Note: Gallery is closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

Lost Rivers Walks

Information: www.lostrivers.ca

- Sat. Oct. 3, 1:30 pm. Amos Ponds, Rouge Park. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd., east on the Toronto Zoo on-ramp.
- Sun. Oct. 4, 1 pm. Lost Breweries of the Lower Don and Taddle Creek. Leader: Wayne Reeves. Meet outside Sherbourne subway station.

Ian Wheal Walks

Sat. Oct. 17, 2 pm. Swedish Logging Heritage Trail (Canadian Pacific Railway, North Toronto subdivision 125th anniversary). Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Ave. E. and Leslie St.

RESPECT – A Photo Odyssey Celebrating Canada's Boreal Forest

Until Oct. 12 outside Harbourfront Centre. Free. 80 Aerial Portraits. 9 Photographers. One incredible view.

Toronto Field Naturalists

2 Carlton St., #1519
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1J3

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Chester Springs Marsh, photographed by Margaret McRae