

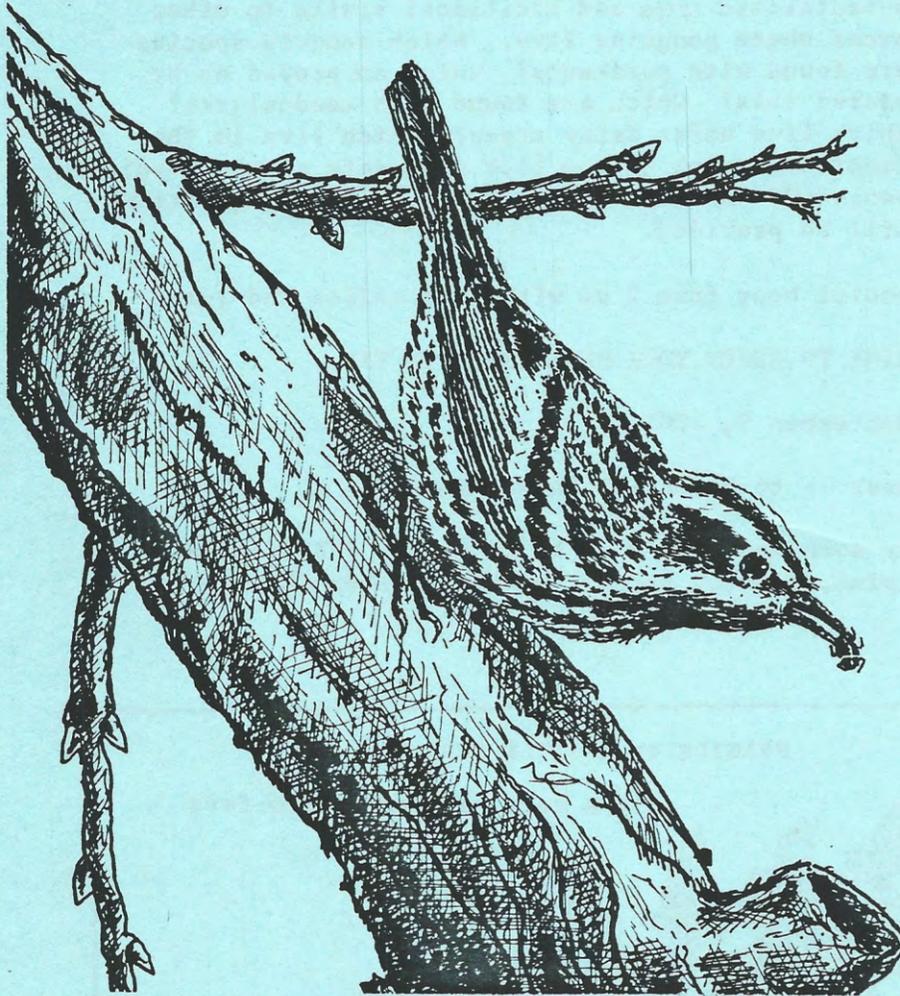
TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 500

SUMMER ISSUE

May 2001

"BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER"



Howell
8/3/01

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TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, May 6, 2001 - PENGUIN QUEST, an illustrated lecture by TFN member Dr. Peter Money, a retired geologist

at 2:30 pm
in the Northrop Frye Hall
Victoria University
73 Queen's Park Cres. East

- This talk is based on four Antarctic and/or Subantarctic trips and additional visits to other areas where penguins live. Which penguin species are found with parakeets? Which are preyed on by sacred ibis? Which are found with meadowlarks? Which live under daisy trees? Which live in the tropics? Which is the best candidate as the "typical penguin"? Answers to these and many more questions will be provided.

VISITORS WELCOME!

+ social hour from 2 pm with free coffee and juice

+ TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TFN

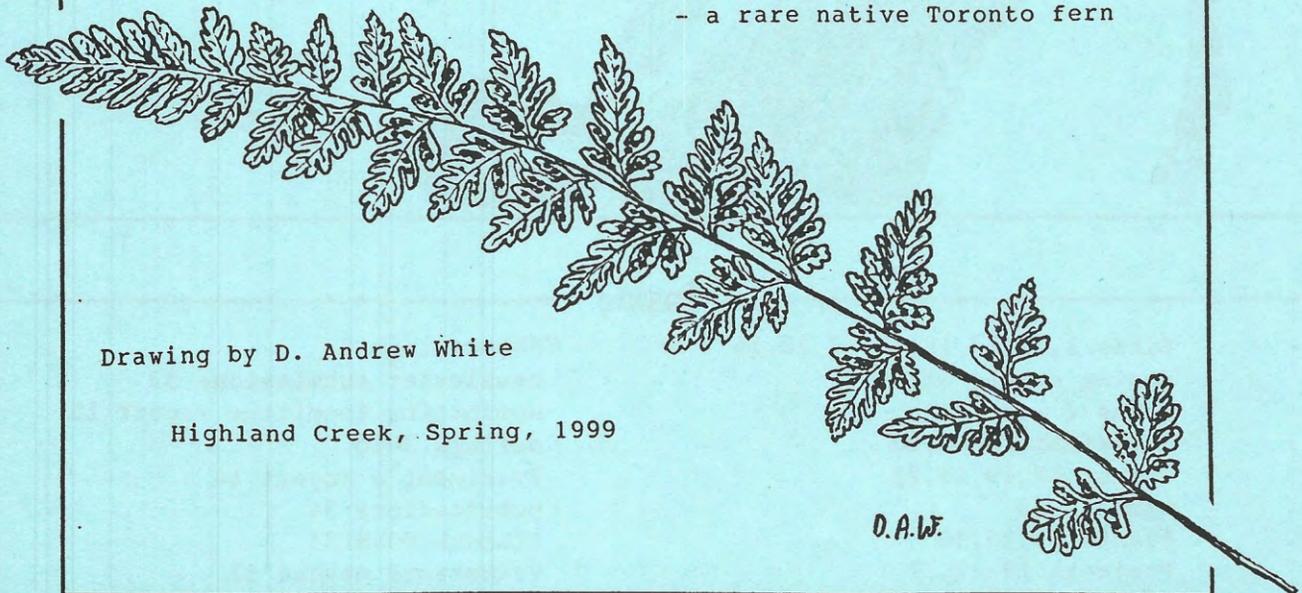
NEXT MEETING: Sunday, September 9, 2001

NEXT NEWSLETTER: September -- to be mailed in mid-August

TFN OFFICE - open Friday mornings from 9 am to 12 noon. Publications available as well as pins, decals, badges and hasti-notes (NEW).

FRAGILE or BRITTLE FERN

- a rare native Toronto fern

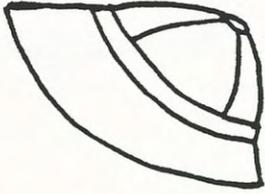
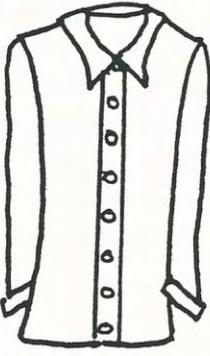
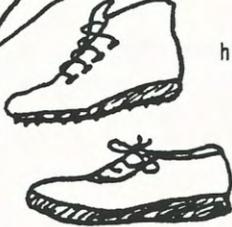
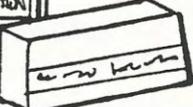
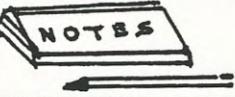
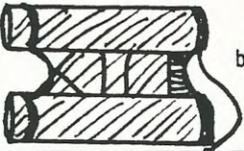
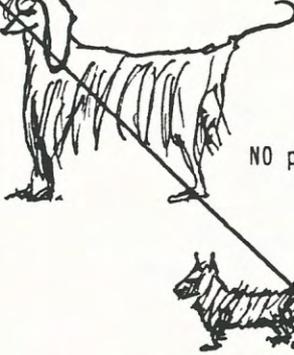


Drawing by D. Andrew White

Highland Creek, Spring, 1999

D.A.W.

FOR ENJOYMENT OF OUTINGS

<p>wide brim on hat for protection from sun</p> 	<p>long sleeves to protect you from: mosquitoes poison ivy thistles</p> 	<p>slacks to protect you from: mosquitoes poison ivy thistles ticks</p> 
<p>long socks to help you avoid ticks</p>  <p>hiking boots or running shoes</p> 	 <p>rainwear</p>	<p>sun glasses</p>  <p>sun screen</p>  <p>insect repellent</p> 
<p>free TTC RIDE GUIDE</p>  <p>Metro map</p>  <p>notebook & pen</p> 	<p>camera</p>  <p>binoculars</p> 	<p>thermos or flask</p>  <p>snack</p> 
<p>Bring your family and/or friends</p> 	<p>NO pets</p> 	<p>keys</p>  <p>money</p>  <p>TTC fare</p> 

REMEMBER ALSO TO BRING A PLASTIC BAG FOR GARBAGE ALONG THE ROUTE!

E.D.

TFN OUTINGS

REMEMBER: Children and visitors are welcome on all outings but please, **NO PETS!**
 To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules by calling 393-4636.
 Check the weather by calling 661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings which
 go rain or shine. [Telephone numbers should be preceded by 416.]

- Wednesday BELTLINE - nature walk
 May 2 Leader: Nancy Fredenburg
 1 pm Meet at the Eglinton West subway station.
 This walk is on level ground as we are following the route of a rail line --
 now a linear park past backyards with bird feeders, etc. The walk will end
 at Yonge St.
- Friday LAKESHORE RESTORATION PROJECTS - evening ramble
 May 4 Leader: Jason Thorne
 6:45 pm Meet outside the ferry dock entrance at the foot of Bay St.
 We will NOT be going to the Islands, but will be walking along the lakeshore
 to see various projects of the Toronto Bay Initiative (a joint outing).
- Saturday HARBOURFRONT - nature arts
 May 5 Leader: Mary Taylor
 10:30 am Meet at the Terminal Warehouse on the south side of Queen's
 Quay West at the foot of York St. (northeast corner of building).
 Bring what you need for photography, sketching or painting, and anything
 you wish to show the group when we compare our morning's work after lunch.
 Bring lunch.
- +
 Saturday RIVERDALE FARM & PARK - nature walk
 May 5 Leader: Peter Iveson
 2 pm Meet at the southeast corner of Sumach St. and Winchester St.
 This walk will take us through the grounds of the animal farm, perhaps down
 Old Winchester St. and across the Don Valley where we get a chance to see
 a number of restoration projects.
- Sunday TFN MEETING (See page 2 for details.)
 May 6
 2:30 pm
- Wednesday BROOKBANKS RAVINE - nature walk
 May 9 Leader: Roger Powley
 10 am Meet on the south side of York Mills Rd. at Fenside Dr. just
 east of the Don Valley Parkway. Bring lunch.
 The club published a ravine study of this area in 1974. Come and learn about
 the many changes to the lovely small tributary of the East Don River.

▷ SEE PAGES 32 and 32 FOR MORE WALKS AND EVENTS. ▷

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Thursday
May 10
6:45 pm
- EDWARDS GARDENS - evening ramble
Leader: Ethel Corbyn
Meet at the southwest corner of Leslie St. and Lawrence Ave. East.
This lovely garden is set in the Wilket Creek Ravine where we may also walk.
- Saturday
May 12
2 pm
- ANNE GWYNNE ESTATE - heritage walk
Leader: Ian Wheal
Meet at the southwest corner of Dufferin St. and King St. West.
This walk will take us through the former property of an early humanitarian and naturalist. We will be looking for signs of Willow Pond.
- Tuesday
May 15
1:30 pm
- PROSPECT CEMETERY - heritage walk
Leader: Ruth Munson
Meet at the cemetery entrance on the south side of Eglinton Ave. West which is west of Dufferin St.
This is a very large cemetery with a fine collection of trees and shrubs and interesting topography.
- Wednesday
May 16
6:45 pm
- CHATSWORTH RAVINE - evening ramble
Leader: Volunteer required. Call 416-593-2656.
Meet at the southwest corner of Yonge St. and Lawrence Ave.
This is the site of TFN's first "Ravine Study" in 1973. It is protected by ravine by-laws from development.
- Saturday
May 19
10:30 am
- ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk
Leaders: Carol & Murray Seymour
Meet at the northeast corner of Old Finch Ave. and Morningview Trail. Bring lunch.
This is a very long walk, finishing at about 4 pm at the Pearse House.
(Take the Nugget bus to the end of the line for the start of the walk.)
Many habitats and short, steep hills on this walk as well as plenty of birds and wildflowers.
- Sunday
May 20
1:30 pm
- BLACK CREEK - human & natural heritage
Leaders: Dick Watts & Madeleine McDowell
Meet at the southwest corner of Humber Blvd. and Avon Ave. which is just west of Weston Rd.
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community. This walk will be through parks and along streets.
- Monday
May 21
2 pm
- SCHOONERS AND THEIR MASTERS - heritage walk
Leader: Ian Wheal
Meet at the southwest corner of Bathurst St. and Queen St. West.
As we walk to the former "Queen's Warf" we will hear about Toronto's marine heritage.

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Tuesday
May 22
6:45 pm
- BLUFFERS PARK GEOLOGY - evening ramble
Leader: John Westgate
Meet at the parking lot of Bluffers Park at the foot of Brimley Rd. (about a 20 minute walk down the hill from Kingston Rd.).
Bring binoculars.
Learn about Toronto's ancient past as it can be read at the highest point of the Scarborough Bluffs.
- Thursday
May 24
10 am
- HIGHLAND CREEK & EAST POINT - nature walk
Leader: Blair Campbell
Meet at the corner of Beechgrove Dr. and Coronation Dr. (south of Lawrence Ave. East). Bring lunch and binoculars.
Spring wildflowers should be at their best in the valley. We will also have a look at the bluffs west of the mouth of the creek.
- Sunday
May 27
2 pm
- RUSSELL CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Helen Mills & others
Meet at the Bathurst subway station (northeast corner of Bloor St. West and Bathurst St.)
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community and several other groups. We will be walking south along streets and through parks.
- Monday
May 28
6:45 pm
- DEER PARK - evening ramble
Leader: Anne Scott
Meet at the St. Clair subway station on the south side of St. Clair Ave. East.
We will be looking at both the natural and built features of this neighbourhood.
- Wednesday
May 30
10 am
- HIGH PARK CREEK & RAVINES - nature walk
Leader: Ron Allan
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West opposite High Park Ave. Morning only.
This walk will involve some hill climbing.

▷

REPEL INSECTS

It's June and the bugs are on the wing, making life miserable for those whose bodies are attractive to the biting bugs. Help is at hand, however, and it's a readily available kitchen condiment: vinegar! Rub vinegar on wrists, hands, ankles, face, and throat to repel these pests. However, when bitten dab apple cider vinegar on bites and stings immediately to draw out the poison and prevent swelling. [See also pages 3 and 20.]

from VITALITY, June 2000

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday
June 2
8 am to
12 noon
- COL. SAM SMITH PARK - birds
Leader: Andre Vietinghoff
Meet on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. West at the foot of Kipling Ave.
This large shoreline park with its newly constructed wetland is a great place to find birds. Bring binoculars and your favourite field guide.
- +
Saturday
June 2
10:30 am
\$ entry
\$ fee
- METRO ZOO - nature arts
Leader: Melanie Milanich
Meet inside the zoo entrance which is on the west side of Meadowvale Rd., north of Sheppard Ave. East. Bring lunch.
Bring what you need for photography, sketching or painting and anything you wish to show the group when we compare our morning's work after lunch.
- Sunday
June 3
10:30 am
- HUMBER BAY PARK - nature walk
Leader: Roger Powley
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. West at the foot of Park Lawn Rd. Bring lunch.
This is another of our large shoreline parks which attracts wildlife. Many changes have taken place recently along this shoreline.
- Tuesday
June 5
6:45 pm
- TAYLOR CREEK - evening ramble
Leader: Gail Gregory
Meet at the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave., one block east of Woodbine Ave., one block north of Cosburn Ave.
This walk will be in the valley of Taylor Creek toward the forks of the Don.
- Wednesday
June 6
2 pm
- DUNCAN MILLS - nature walk
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Steeles Ave. East and Leslie St.
We will be following a little known tributary of the East Don River looking for natural heritage features.
- Tuesday
June 12
10 am
- JAMES GARDENS - nature walk
Leader: John Eastwood
Meet at the park entrance on Edenbridge Dr. which runs east off Royal York Rd. Bring lunch.
This park with the adjoining Lambton Woods is a great place to observe birds and wildflowers. Bring your favourite field guide and binoculars.
- Wednesday
June 13
6:45 pm
- HIGH PARK - evening ramble
Leader: Pat Jones
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West opposite High Park Ave.
Hopefully we will see the wild lupines in bloom. Since the park department's burn, the lupines are more numerous -- and a beautiful sight.

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday
June 16
10:30 am
- ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk
Leaders: Carol & Murray Seymour
Meet at the Pearse House on the east side of Meadowvale Rd. north of Sheppard Ave. East. Bring lunch, water and bug spray. This will be a leisurely ramble through woods and meadows and to a beaver pond. There should be lots of wild flowers, birds and insects.
- Sunday
June 17
2 pm
- IN SEARCH OF GARRISON CREEK - urban ecology
Leader: Joanne Doucette
Meet at the Christie subway station.
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community. We will be following streets and a series of parks, looking for signs of this long-vanished watercourse.
- Wednesday
June 20
9:30 am
- WEST DON VALLEY - nature walk
Leader: Ann Gray
Meet on the south side of Eglinton Ave. East at Leslie St. Bring lunch and binoculars.
This section of the West Don Valley is wide and deep and contains many habitats for us to explore.
- Thursday
June 21
6:45 pm
- COL. SAM SMITH PARK - evening ramble
Leader: Wayne Reeves
Meet on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. West at the foot of Kipling Ave.
Celebrate the summer solstice on the shore of Lake Ontario. Hopefully there will be a colourful sunset as well as plenty of birds and wildflowers.
- Sunday
June 24
10 am
- LESLIE STREET SPIT - nature walk
Leader: Ann Gray Joint outing with Toronto Bay Initiative
Meet at the foot of Leslie St. (about a 10 minute walk south from Queen St. East). Bring lunch, water and sunscreen.
This is level walking all the way, but there's not much shade so come prepared. Wildflowers and birds on the spit are spectacular.
- Wednesday
June 27
10 am
- EARL BALES PARK - nature walk
Leader: Phoebe Cleverley
Meet at the community centre at the north end of the park which is on the east side of Bathurst St., south of Sheppard Ave. West. Bring lunch.
This lovely large park is a great place to look for birds and wildflowers.
- Friday
June 29
6:45 pm
- VALE OF AVOCA - evening ramble
Leader: Josephine Butler
Meet at the St. Clair subway station on the south side of St. Clair Ave. East, just east of Yonge St.
Some restoration work has been done in this deep valley. Come and see how it's working.

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday
June 30
2 pm
POLISH SETTLEMENTS OF HUMBER BAY, MIMICO etc.
Leader: Ian Wheal
Meet on the south side of Queen St. West at Roncesvalles Ave.
We will visit 4 Polish railway communities from 1909-10, west of High Park.
This will be a long walk.
- Wednesday
July 4
11 am
TODMORDEN MILLS - insects
Leader: Merne Powers
Meet at the village entrance on the south side of Pottery Rd.
down the hill from the corner of Broadview Ave. and Mortimer
Ave. Bring lunch. This is particularly suitable for children.
This area contains several habitats -- a historic site, a herb garden,
a wildflower garden, a pond and a wild area. Bring binoculars.
- Thursday
July 5
6:45 pm
TODMORDEN MILLS - evening ramble
Leader: Allan Foster
Meet at the village entrance on the south side of Pottery Rd.
down the hill from the corner of Broadview Ave. and Mortimer
Ave.
This is the chance to learn about wildflower lore -- what the names of plants
mean and how they have been used -- the magic of plants.
- Saturday
July 7
10:30 am
DOWNTOWN - nature arts
Leader: Pat Chan
Meet at the King subway station (at the north entrance/exit).
Bring what you need for photography, sketching or painting
and anything you wish to show the group when we compare our
morning's work after lunch.
Depending on the weather, we may stay underground or we may visit a city park.
- Wednesday
July 11
6:45 pm
YORKVILLE - evening ramble
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at Ramsden Park on the west side of Yonge St. opposite
the Rosedale subway station.
This walk will be through parkland and streets.
- Thursday
July 12
10 am
DERRYDOWNS PARK - birds & butterflies
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Finch Ave. West
which is west of Keele St. Bring lunch and binoculars.
This time of year we will be looking for butterflies as well as birds in this
lovely ravine park.
- Saturday
July 14
10 am
ETOBICOKE VALLEY - nature walk
Leader: Diana Karrandjas
Meet on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd. West where it crosses
Etobicoke Creek. Bring lunch.
We will be following this valley north, enjoying shale beds and wildflowers
and birds.

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Sunday
July 15
2 pm
NORTH TORONTO GARDEN TOUR - urban ecology
Leader: Helen Mills & others
Meet at Eglinton Park (on the north side of Eglinton Ave. West, three blocks west of Yonge St.).
We will be meandering through streets looking for lost watercourses and special gardens. This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community.
- Tuesday
July 17
6:45 pm
LANES OF LEASIDE - evening ramble
Leader: Jo Croft
Meet at the northeast corner of Bayview Ave. and Sutherland Dr.
This is a lovely way to spend an evening -- exploring a neighbourhood's secret places.
- Wednesday
July 18
2 pm
EAST DON TRIBUTARY - nature walk
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Sheppard Ave. East and Leslie St.
We will see what happens to small creeks when subdivisions are built. Creeks are buried and linear parks are created -- but there are still surprises!
- Saturday
July 21
10:30 am
ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk
Leaders: Carol & Murray Seymour
Meet at the Pearse House on the east side of Meadowvale Rd., north of Sheppard Ave. East. Bring lunch, lots of water and a sun hat.
We'll enjoy the view from the highest point of land in the area and have lunch beside cool, woodland ponds.
- Sunday
July 22
2 pm
BURKE BROOK GARDEN TOUR - urban ecology
Leader: Helen Mills & others
Meet at the southeast corner of Mt. Pleasant Rd. and Wanless Ave. (one block north of Lawrence Ave. East).
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community. We will be looking at gardens and restoration sites.
- Monday
July 23
6:45 pm
\$ ferry tickets
TORONTO ISLANDS - evening ramble
Leader: Jenny Bull
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St.
As well as a ferry ride we can enjoy views of the city and the natural features of the islands.
- Wednesday
July 25
10 am
\$ ferry tickets
TORONTO ISLANDS - nature walk
Leader: Phoebe Cleverley
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. Bring lunch.
There is always lots to see at the islands -- wildflowers, birds, insects.
- Saturday
July 28
10:30 am
RENFORTH CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Robin Powell
Meet at the southwest corner of Bloor St. West and Markland Dr. which is west of Hwy. 427. Bring lunch.
We will be following this tributary of Etobicoke Creek through a series of parks.

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Sunday
July 29
1 pm
\$ ferry tickets
TORONTO ISLANDS - nature walk
Leader: Joanna Kidd
Meet at the Hanlan's Point ferry dock. This is a joint outing with the Toronto Bay Initiative.
Learn about plans for "restoring" some of the islands' most significant wildlife areas.
- Tuesday
July 31
6:45 pm
DOWNTOWN URBAN GEOLOGY - evening ramble
Leader: Kathleen Kemp
Meet at the steps of the Royal Ontario Museum, west side of Queen's Park just south of Bloor St. West.
This walk will be through the University of Toronto downtown campus and will end at Yonge and College.
- Wednesday
August 1
9:30 am
EAST DON PARKLANDS - birds & butterflies
Leader: Ann Gray
Meet at the northwest corner of Sheppard Ave. East and Leslie St. Bring lunch and binoculars.
This lovely stretch of valley has at least one oxbow pond and an interesting mixture of native and non-native plants.
- Saturday
August 4
10:30 am
+
HUMBER VALLEY - nature arts
Leader: Alan Power
Meet at the Old Mill subway station. Bring lunch.
Bring what you need for photography, sketching or painting, and anything you wish to show the group when we compare our morning's work after lunch.
- Saturday
August 4
2 pm
NEWTONBROOK CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the northwest corner of Drewry Ave. and Yonge St.
This is the first of two walks to follow this tributary of the East Don River from its source (almost) to where it meets the Don.
- Sunday
August 5
2 pm
NEWTONBROOK CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Bayview Ave. and Finch Ave. East.
This is the second walk to explore Newtonbrook Creek ravine. If the weather is right we will follow the East Don south to Sheppard Ave. East.
- Wednesday
August 8
6:45 pm
BELTINE - evening ramble
Leader: Nancy Fredenburg
Meet at the Eglinton West subway station.
We will follow the route of the old "Beltline Railway" to Yonge St.
- Thursday
August 9
10 am
G.R. LORD PARK - birds & butterflies
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at the northeast corner of Finch Ave. West and Dufferin St. Bring lunch and binoculars.
This large park contains a number of habitats including a small lake -- a great place for birds, butterflies and dragonflies.

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Sunday
August 12
2 pm
HUMBER VALLEY - heritage walk
Leader: Madeleine McDowell
Meet at the Old Mill subway station. Bring a snack.
This is a chance to learn about early times in the Humber and even some of the naturalists who have enjoyed the valley's resources. This walk will end at the Lambton House (at Dundas St. West).
- Wednesday
August 15
2 pm
HIGH LANDS OF THE DON - nature walk
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the northwest corner of Finch Ave. East and Leslie St.
Good views of Toronto and a secret ravine are the highlights of this walk.
Of course, we'll also be looking for birds, amphibians, reptiles and wildflowers.
- Saturday
August 18
2 pm
LITTLE NORWAY PARK & OTHER GARDENS - cultural heritage
Leader: Peter Iveson Joint outing with Toronto Bay Initiative
Meet at the southwest corner of Queen's Quay West and Bathurst St.
On this walk we will enjoy several waterfront gardens including the new music garden, learning about some of the garden plants (from all over the world).
- Sunday
August 19
2 pm
ST. JAMES TOWN - urban ecology
Leader: Helen Mills (and others)
Meet at the Sherbourne subway station (southeast corner of Bloor St. East and Sherbourne St.).
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community. We will be looking for signs of lost tributaries of the Don which once flowed through this very urban part of the city.
- Wednesday
August 22
10 am
\$ ferry tickets
TORONTO ISLANDS - butterflies
Leader: Ann Gray
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. Bring lunch and binoculars.
The Islands are at their best in late summer and early fall when flowers are blooming, birds are beginning to migrate and butterflies are abundant.
- Saturday
August 25
10:30 am
HIGHLAND CREEK - nature walk
Leaders: Carol and Murray Seymour
Meet at the southeast corner of Ellesmere Rd. and Orton Park Rd.
Bring lunch.
Hills and wet spots make this a challenging walk, but there is always plenty to see in this large deep valley -- for keen naturalists.

I hear crickets call.
They come out after the rain.
A welcome sound.

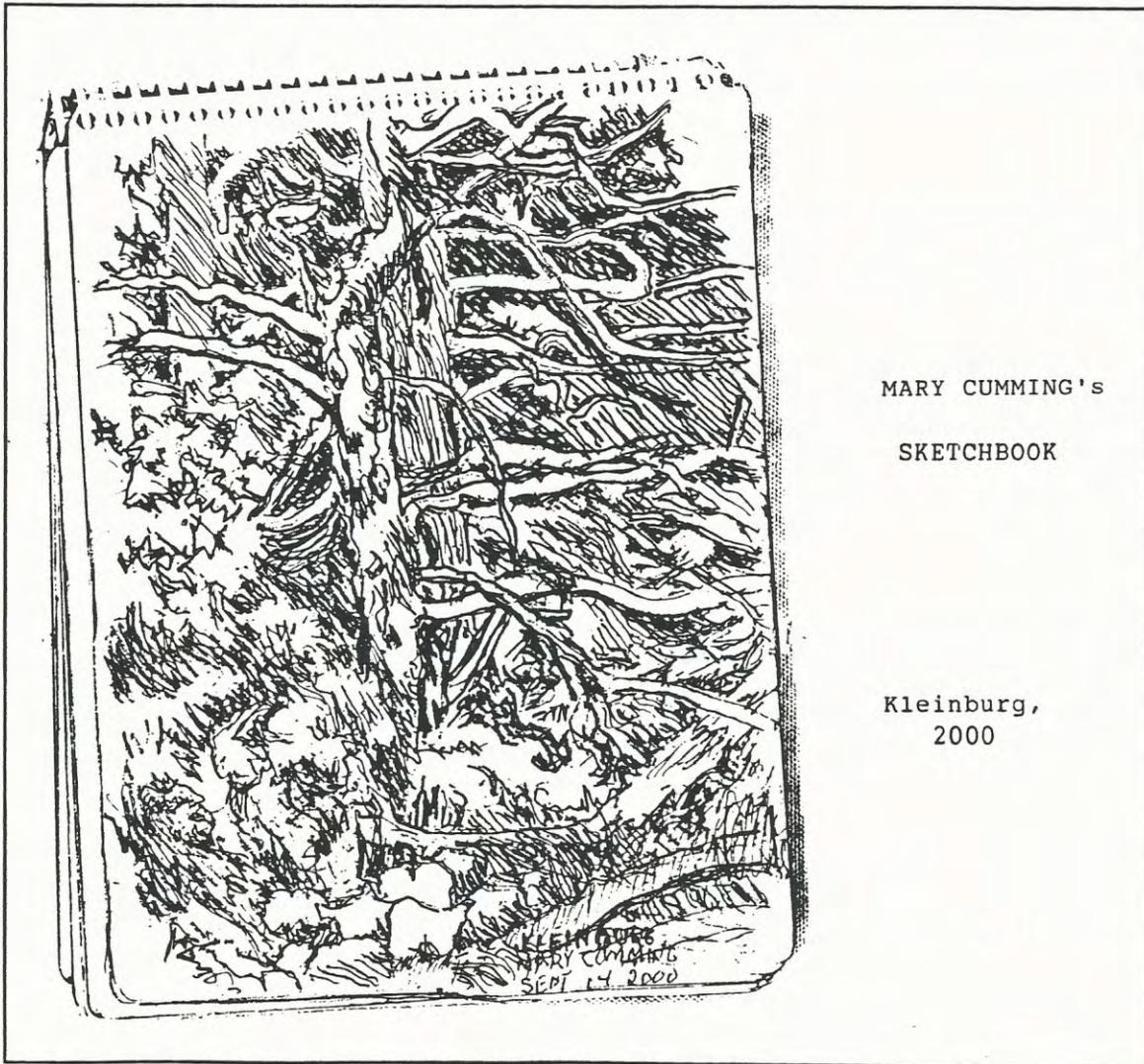
haiku by Melanié. Milanich
July 31, 1999

SUMMER OUTINGS (cont'd)

Sunday BURKE BROOK GARDEN TOUR - urban ecology
 August 26 Leader: Helen Mills & others
 2 pm Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Ave. East and Bayview Ave.
 This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community. We will be following Walmsley Brook north toward Burke Brook. Many interesting features to observe along the way including gardens, bird feeders, etc.

Wednesday TODMORDEN MILLS - insects
 August 29 Leader: Merne Powers
 11 am Meet at the entrance to the village, on the south side of Pottery Rd. which is down the hill from the corner of Mortimer Ave. and Broadview Ave. Bring lunch.
 This outing is particularly suitable for children and an excellent time of year for seeing many kinds of insects. Bring a magnifying glass or binoculars.

□



MARY CUMMING'S
 SKETCHBOOK

Kleinburg,
 2000

MARY CUMMING
 SEPT 14 2000

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At our April meeting, we had a large turnout of members, plus quite a number of new participants eager to hear Andy Kenney's presentation on an ecosystem approach to urban forestry planning and management. Prof. Kenney was most gracious in answering questions for half an hour or more. Judging by the number and calibre of your enquiries, you care a lot about our "urban and peri-urban forests" (to quote the professor) and have given the health and maintenance of our trees considerable thought. Certainly, the leafy canopy of our street, lawn, park, and ravine trees is one of Toronto's greatest assets. I would reiterate Andy's invitation to attend the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Conference and 70th Annual General Meeting to be held at York University, June 14 to 17, 2001. Its title is: "WOODS TALK, Community Action to Conserve Ontario's Woodlands". Andy Kenney is one of many distinguished speakers and facilitators. To quote FON President Mark Dorfman: "Our talk should include the issues of woodland fragmentation; loss of habitat and species at risk; erosion of ecological diversity and complexity; and climate change." For registration information, call Conference Coordinator Kim Geddes, 416-864-9027,
Toll-free: 1-800-440-2366, ext.225,
E-mail: fon@event-horizons.com

While we have not received a reply from Councillor Joe Pantalone, Tree Advocate, regarding our suggestion that Toronto adopt as its tree emblem the white oak, Andy Kenney told me that there is a committee formed to consider this, along with other possibilities.

As we enjoy the budding trees and spring ephemerals, as we spot our departing winter ducks and our returning migrants, let us remember that we need to undertake a coordinated effort to protect biodiversity. If, through indifference or a haphazard approach we allow our woodlands and wetlands to continue fragmenting and deteriorating, we will have fewer and fewer birds and we or our children may truly experience Rachel Carson's "silent spring".

I believe we amateurs in non-governmental organizations need to work together with professional environmentalists and land-use planners, and with our elected representatives to monitor development in our region, especially along the Oak Ridges Moraine. Population increase and land development are probably inevitable, but we need a strong and united voice for an ecosystem approach to the preservation of our natural heritage.

I regret the scarcity of TFN and other publications at our April meeting. We should have a much more extensive display for your interest on May 6th, including material on the Oak Ridges Moraine. You can also order from the TFN office (see back cover of this newsletter).

I look forward to seeing many of you
on our walks throughout the spring and summer.

Phoebe Cleverley

□

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Morris Sorensen, recommends the following slate of nominees to the Board for the 2001-2002 year:

President:	Robin Powell
Vice Present:	Karin Fawthrop
Past President:	Phoebe Cleverley
Directors due to retire in 2002:	Elaine Farragher Colleen Prentice Andre Vietinghoff
Directors due to retire in 2003	Helen Juhola Diana Karrandjas* Murray Seymour
Directors due to retire in 2004:	Alexander Cappell Nancy Fredenburg Aarne Juhola

TFN by-law No. 1, Section 5(g) provides that "any three members may submit, in writing, to the Secretary-Treasurer by July 15th the name of a candidate accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Such nominations shall be published in the September issue of the newsletter and the names of such nominees shall be added to the list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee". The Secretary-Treasurer is Aarne Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1B3.

According to TFN by-law No. 1, Section 5(b), "If an election is required it shall be by ballot mailed to all members. Ballots may be mailed to the auditor or deposited at the Annual General Meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. The ballots will be tabulated by the auditor who shall announce the results".

Morris Sorensen, Chairman
Nominating Committee

* Diana Karrandjas is known to members through her articles and drawings in the newsletter and from leading outings in Etobicoke. She is one of the founders of "Friends of Mimico Creek." □

Forget the litter.
Watch the chickadees feeding
young in the tall snag.

Haiku by Diana Banville
Taylor Creek, May 3, 2000

KEEPING IN TOUCH

March 5, 2001

Re: White-throated Sparrows

I recorded in my notes seeing a white-throated sparrow at our feeder on January 26, 2001. I saw it quite a few days around then but I only recorded it on January 26 when I finally took the time to identify it. What caught my eye originally was its striped head.

I also noticed it at the feeder again on the day I called the TFN office, Friday, February 22. I didn't realize it was special to have a white-throated sparrow at one's feeder in the winter until I read the "Keeping in Touch" letter in the March newsletter.

Linda R. Stemmler

March 5, 2001

Re: Mice

I have been meaning to share an experience I had with jumping mice. I was reminded of this when I read page 14 of May 2000 newsletter.

In the winter of 1994-95, I was living at 2292 Weston Rd. in a small apartment building that backed onto the Humber River. We started to get mice in the apartment, which is apparently common when your property backs onto a ravine. These were ordinary mice which came out when it was dark (usually), and scuttled along the floor, along the walls and behind the couch and stove. We trapped quite a few.

One Saturday, I came home around noon to find my boyfriend standing on the couch. He said "The mice have gone beserk". I quickly joined him there because they did indeed appear to have gone beserk. Here it was, broad daylight, and not only were they nonchalantly showing themselves and moving around the kitchen and livingroom, but they were jumping instead of scurrying along the floor by the wall.

This was six years ago so I'm not sure how accurate my memory is, but I remember them jumping about a foot off the ground, and I remember thinking that they must be juveniles because they were smaller than the ones we had trapped.

If these mice were the rare meadow jumping mice, we may have inadvertently made them extinct. At that point we put out poison (and insisted on the hole into the apartment being filled in). Sorry!

Linda R. Stemmler

Ed. note: Not to worry. Meadow jumping mice may not be rare in Humber Valley -- only rarely seen. If the jumping mice were smaller than the "ordinary mice" then the latter were not house mice but possibly white-footed or deer mice which are both common native species.

▽

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

April 2, 2001

This is to thank you for an excellent talk on Sunday, April 1. The speaker, forester Andy Kenney, was most interesting, articulate, and informative. However, I am most concerned about unchallenged disparaging remarks from the floor about cyclists who damage trees as they park their bikes. Of course, tree damage is unfortunate and regrettable, and certainly not deliberate on the part of cyclists. Sometimes they must use whatever is at hand to secure their vehicles.

As a member of North York Cycling and Pedestrian Committee, who attends meetings regularly, I know that organized cyclists ask the city over and over for more bike racks in public places. Any citizen can write and ask the city through their councillor to place more bike racks in specified locations - and we need more dedicated bike lanes too. Without bike and foot couriers, our roads would be more congested, our air more polluted, and there would be more noise, and more serious road crashes causing injury and death. Bike and foot couriers use renewable energy in their work, no fossil-fuels. In short, bike and hoof couriers provide a service which is truly environmentally-sound. Let's salute them -- they help to make this a greener safer city.

Helen Hansen

□



This Month's Cover

THE BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

More often than not, this is the first of the 30-odd species* of wood-warbler to arrive here in Toronto come early May. Nuthatchlike in behaviour, and to a certain extent appearance, the black-and-white probes trunks and branches for the abundant, sub-surface insects that other warblers cannot feed on until the insects emerge a few weeks later. For three years running, my first sighting of this little bird has been made on Toronto Island around Hanlan's Point. Preferring deciduous forests, these warblers can easily be identified spiralling down the trunks and branches of budding oaks and maples, sometimes pausing for a spot of "hover-gleaning" en route. Once the leaves appear, however, you'll find them a little harder to detect!

They are one of the few wood-warblers to be totally devoid of any colour, although the black-throated grey and blackpoll warblers both run a close second (the black-and-white can generally be distinguished by its behaviour, and at close quarters by its black cheek and white median crown-stripe). Like many of our warblers, they are often "heard but not seen".

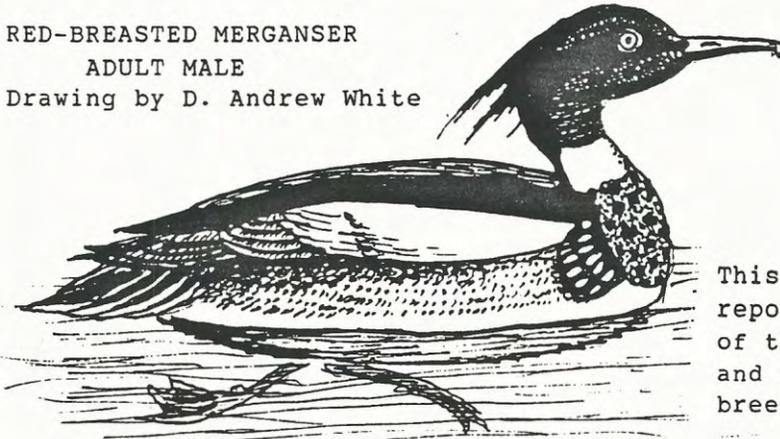
If studied at length with an ample amount of patience, this bird will generally lead you to its nesting site which will be located at ground level, typically tucked away in a thicket or between a tree's roots. Unfortunately though, as is the case with many other ground-nesting species, the clearing of bottom-land forests has led to the demise of breeding pairs throughout much of their former range. Still, it remains one of our most common warblers here in Ontario -- so dust off those binoculars and enjoy the monochromatic beauty of the black-and-white warbler this summer.

* I refer to the 30 breeding and migratory warblers that most commonly pass through the Greater Toronto region.

Alan W. Power

□

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER
ADULT MALE
Drawing by D. Andrew White



This species has been reported in every month of the year in Toronto and is an occasional breeder peripherally.

PROJECTS

THE NATURALIST'S ROLE

What is a naturalist? Our newsletter has the word "naturalist" in the name, but what exactly does it mean? Natural history, in one dictionary, is "the study of plants and animals". Naturalist is defined in two separate dictionaries as "a student of plants and animals". [One author says] "The study of nature is simply the study of the natural world around us, the rocks, plants, animals, stars, climate, and perhaps even ourselves, since we are a part of nature". As naturalists then, we are students of the entire ecosphere, including ourselves, and how we interact with other parts of it. As students, do we continue simply observing, or has the time come for us to share with other humans the things we have seen? Keeping detailed and accurate records of our observations provides information from which we can deduce trends, good or bad. Each bit of a puzzle is necessary and important... The simple recording of our observations in written form, whether it is in a diary or an article, is important. Some present day ecological restorationists delve into archives for journals, letters, and maps that might indicate what species or ecosystems existed in a location they wish to restore to past condition.... It is increasingly clear to many that volunteers and non-professionals can, and must play an important role in recording our natural history.... We can no longer rely on official institutions to describe our natural world; perhaps we never could. In our not so distant past, each one of us needed to be a naturalist for survival. It seems to us that we may have come full circle, and that each one of us must not only observe the world around us, but we must share our observations with others.

from "A Note from the Editors" by Marilyn & Ross Archibald in THE VICTORIA NATURALIST,
Vol. 57.5, Mar./Apr. 2001

OAK RIDGES MORaine ACTION

What You can Do to Make a Difference

- ▷ . Telephone Premier Mike Harris at (416) 325-1941 and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing at (416) 585-7000. State that:
 - . you are opposed to urban development on the Oak Ridges Moraine.
 - . you are concerned about the quality and supply of your drinking water.
 - . you want this irreplaceable area protected for its wildlife habitat and natural beauty.
- . Write to your own MPP and give him or her a copy of the letter you write to the Premier. The contact information for your MPP can be obtained by calling (416) 326-6300.

Letters, which become part of the public record, can also be sent, faxed, or e-mailed to:

▷ Premier Mike Harris Main Legislative Building Room 281 Queens Park Toronto, ON M7A 1A1 Fax: (416) 325-3745 webprem@gov.on.ca	and: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing 777 Bay St., 17th Floor Toronto, ON M5G 2E5 Fax: (416) 585-6470 mininfo@mah.gov.on.ca
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PROJECTS (cont'd)

HOW TO REPORT A SPILL IN A WATERCOURSE

Each year Toronto's creeks and rivers are the recipients of unwanted spilled chemicals. Many of these spills go unreported. It is vital that spills be reported so quick action can be taken to protect water quality. If you see, hear, smell, sense or otherwise detect a spill, please call the Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060. [adapted from CREEKTIME, Vol. 2, No. 3]

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD

Put it back where you found it, as long as there are no predators nearby. Do not put the bird back into the nest. If a predator is in the area, put the bird in a less conspicuous place. The young bird could be out of its nest for many reasons. The most common is that the bird is fledging; in that case, the best thing is to leave it alone. A parent is usually close by. If you definitely know that something has happened to the bird's parents, contact the nearest professional wildlife rehabilitator. Do this as soon as possible, because the chance of survival is much greater for the young bird when it is in the hands of a professional. Note: it is legal to transport wildlife to the proper authorities, but it is illegal to possess or rehabilitate wildlife without a proper permit or license. Fines could be imposed if you have a wild animal in your possession. The Toronto Wildlife Centre Hotline is 416-631-0662.

adapted from information in BIRDSCOPE, Vol. 14, No. 3, Summer 2000

WHAT PRECAUTIONS CAN I TAKE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF MOSQUITO BITES?

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts when outdoors for an extended period of time or when mosquitoes are active.
- Wear light coloured clothing.
- Consider the use of a mosquito repellent that contains the active ingredients permethrin (those products are only used on clothing, not on skin) or DEET (used on exposed skin only and should be used with caution).

from an article in the BRUCE TRAIL NEWS, Winter 2000, Vol. 38, #1

CAR SHARING

Twenty-four hour access to a fleet of cars stationed around the city for just \$2 an hour and 20 cents a kilometre. Call Autoshare at 416-340-7888.

from AT THE FORKS, Vol. 8, Iss. 1, Spring 2001

LAWN CARE

The City of Toronto has produced a 24 page lawn care booklet on how to "get a great lawn with all the trimmings". It tells you how to avoid pesticides and reduce your water use. Call 416-397-7100 for a free copy.

also The Toronto Environmental Alliance offers a step-by-step guide to making your lawn chemical-free and healthy. Call TEA at 416-596-0660.

adapted from AT THE FORKS, Vol. 8, Iss. 1, Spring 2001

PROJECTS (cont'd)

Toronto Field Naturalists Photo and Slide Library - Donations Needed

In our library we now have 12,000 + 35mm slides of Toronto's fauna, flora, location (river valleys, ravines and lakeshore) and TFN's nature reserves. There are approximately 450 + slides in the bird collection. This may seem a large number but there are many duplicates. Many gaps need to be filled. Below is a list of the many bird species missing from the library. Please send us your donations.

American Pipit	Indigo Bunting	Tern, Black
Bittern, American	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Thrush, Northern Water
Bittern, Least	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	Thrush, Swainson's
Blackbird, Rusty	Loon, Red-throated	Thrush, Wood
Black-Crowned Night-Heron	Meadowlark, Western	Turkey Vulture
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	Merlin	Warbler, Bay-breasted
Bobolink	Northern Cardinal	Warbler, Black And White
Common Moorhen	Northern Goshawk	Warbler, Blackburnian
Crossbill, White-winged	Northern Harrier	Warbler, Blackpoll
Cuckoo, Black-billed	Northern Shoveler	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	Oriole, Baltimore	Warbler, Black-throated Green
Duck, Green-neck	Oriole, Orchard	Warbler, Blue-winged
Duck, Redhead	Osprey	Warbler, Canada
Eastern Phoebe	Ovenbird	Warbler, Cape May
Eastern Wood Pewee	Owl, Barred	Warbler, Golden-winged
American Goldfinch	Owl, Short-eared	Warbler, Magnolia
Flycatcher, Alder	Plover, Lesser Golden	Warbler, Nashville
Flycatcher, Least	Plover, Semi-palmated	Warbler, Orange-crowned
Flycatcher, Olive-sided	Red Knot	Warbler, Pine
Flycatcher, Willow	Ruddy Turnstone	Warbler, Tennessee
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied	Sandpiper, Baird's	Warbler, Wilson's
Godwit, Hudsonian	Sandpiper, Least	Warbler, Yellow
Goose, Brant	Sandpiper, Pectoral	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
Grebe, Horned	Sandpiper, Solitary	Whimbrel
Grebe, Pied-billed	Sandpiper, Spotted	Wilson's Phalarope
Grebe, Red-necked	Sandpiper, Upland	Woodcock, American
Grosbeak, Pine	Scoter, Black	Wren, House
Grosbeak, Read	Scoter, Surf	Wren, Marsh
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	Scoter, White-winged	Wren, Winter
Gull, Bonaparte's	Short-billed Dowitcher	Yellow-breasted Chat
Gull, Iceland	Sora	Yellowlegs, Greater
Hawk, Broad-winged	Swallow, Northern Rough-winged	Yellowlegs, Lesser
Hawk, Cooper's	Teal, Blue-winged	
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated	Teal, Green-winged	

Robin Powell
TFN Photo & Slide Librarian

Cicada's drone ends,
but nightjar's twang not yet heard;
tired gulls flap lakeward.

Haiku by Arthur Wade

PROJECTS (cont'd)

IT WORKS FOR ME (PIGEONS & BALCONIES)

Happily, without any scientific research, merely a few hours of goal-oriented observation, I have devised at last a cheap, simple, do-it-yourself solution to the problem of pigeons on apartment balconies.

At Christmas, my first in my new apartment, I wrapped artificial evergreen garlands along the middle portion of my balcony railing and attached to them several traditional red velvet bows. In mid-January, I unhooked the red bows but left the garlands, to keep a small touch of greenery. In early February I noticed pigeons aggressively perching on the end portions without the garlands and persistently flopping to the floor, strutting, cooing and pooping. Sound familiar?

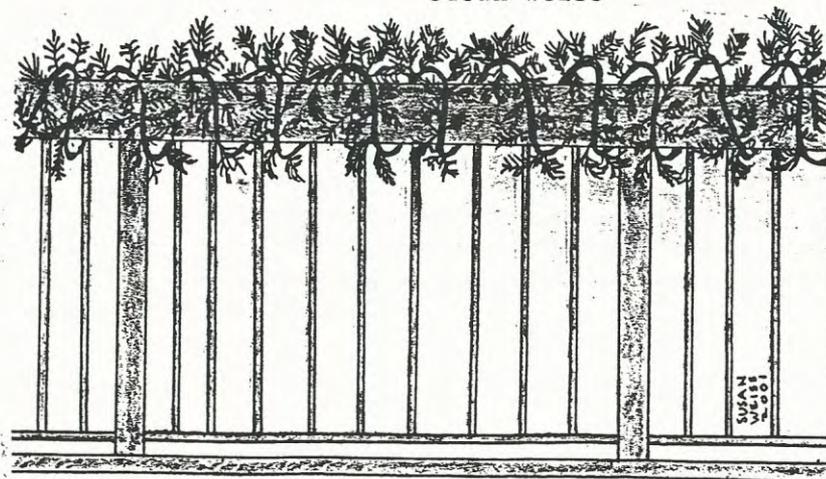
I noticed that they perched only on the bare railing at either end of the balcony, not on the stiff evergreen branches, wrapped along the middle. I did not chase them but patiently watched them through the window. They came in assorted pairs, sometimes threes, but the preliminaries took place on the railing, before they flopped to the floor.

Many residents in our building have paid big bucks to contractors to wrap their entire balconies in netting, which for me would be the absolutely-last resort. Instead, I went back to the hardware store where I bought the Christmas decorations, and found four more garlands -- a secret weapon I was lucky to find in March. Installation took 10 minutes.

The principle is this: in the wild, rock doves select cliffs and ledges in the open, or small, level patches of ground in preference to tree branches as places to strut and spin before mating. In urban habitats, balconies provide an ideal environment for mating and nesting especially when a railing provides smooth footing for scouting the site. However, these evergreen branches create a visual barrier for the feathered pests, and for several weeks, during the frantic mating season, no pigeons have approached my balcony, though they are on most neighbouring ones.

Perhaps this tip will help you or someone you know.

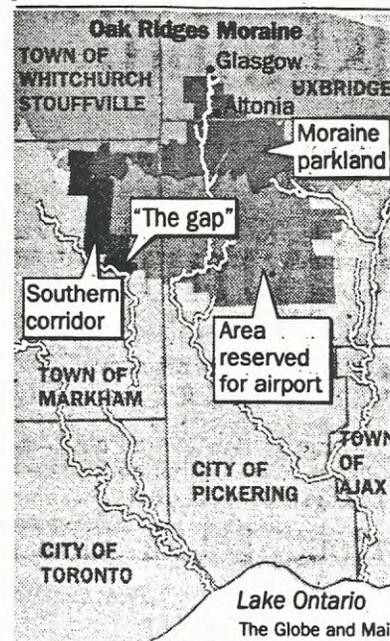
Susan Weiss



IN THE NEWS

FEDERAL LAND ON MORAINE TO BE PARK

A third of the federal land expropriated for a Pickering airport will be set aside as permanent green space, but an airport is planned on the rest of the area. More than 2,000 federally owned hectares on the Oak Ridges Moraine will become a park that might be managed in trust as part of the Rouge Park. Another 800 hectares will be protected in a corridor south from the moraine along the 9th Line in Markham to near Highway 7. The area of rolling, rural green space is equivalent in size to the land in downtown Toronto between Lake Ontario and St. Clair Ave. and between the Don Valley and Spadina Ave. The federal land would make it possible to create a continuous Rouge Park that extends from the moraine all the way south to Lake Ontario. The federal government also turned over to the Rouge Park management plan a 50-hectare federal property known as the Gap, at Little Rouge and Reesor Road in Markham.



from an article by Wallace Immen in the GLOBE & MAIL, Mar. 24, 2001

ONTARIO REJECTS POWER DAMS IN PARKS

Natural Resources Minister John Snobelen says the government isn't going to back a proposal to allow hydroelectric development in parks and nature reserves. Officials at Mr. Snobelen's office and at hydroelectric companies compiled a policy document that called for power-plant development in parks, increased dam safety and river management plans, among other steps. It would have overturned a long-standing government policy of not allowing the industry to use hydroelectric sites in parks.

an article by Martin Mittelstaedt in the GLOBE & MAIL, Mar. 8, 2001

NEW SOURCE FOR PAPER

Two Japanese firms have developed a method of making paper from discarded banana plants. One of the companies has just published an illustrated children's book on the new paper. More than 120 countries grow bananas, according to the United National Food and Agriculture Organization, and after the fruit is harvested the plants are cut down at the root and thrown away, resulting in massive amounts of waste. The new process could turn the waste into a cash crop and reduce the number of trees cut down by the paper industry.

from "Social Studies" by Philip Jackman in the GLOBE & MAIL, Feb. 26, 2001



NIAGARA RIVER BALD EAGLES RETURN

Starting in the middle of February, as many as seven bald eagles, including a mature adult male and a female nearing sexual maturity, have been sighted around Navy Island in the Niagara River, just upstream from the Canadian side of the falls.

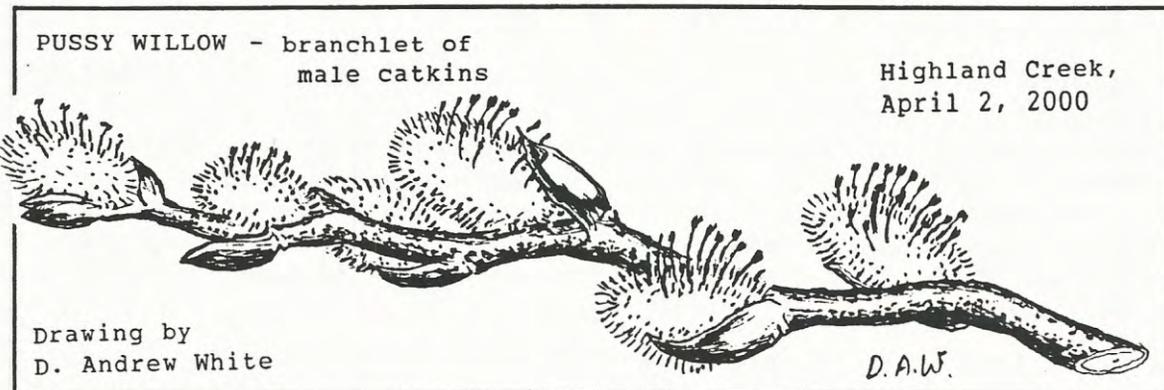
Three years ago, provincial biologists erected a nesting platform on the uninhabited island, hoping that eagles would again breed at the site, something that hasn't happened since the mid-1950s. There were no sightings until now, and the fact that so many eagles have descended on it at once has created a huge flap among ornithologists and wildlife experts.

The nadir for eagles was in 1980, when there were only three nesting pairs in all of Southern Ontario, all on the north shore of Lake Erie between Rondeau and Point Pelee. That year, none of the three pairs succeeded in reproducing. While the species continued to hold its own elsewhere in Canada -- eagles remained common in areas such as the Pacific Coast and Northern Ontario -- it was on the verge of vanishing in Southern Ontario. Last year there were 20 active nests in Southern Ontario, with a total of 28 young.

About the only part of their traditional range where eagles have not returned is the Canadian shore of Lake Ontario. Naturalists believe there were about 200 nesting pairs in Southern Ontario around 1900, a population that held its own until about 1945. The population decline began as industrial chemicals dispersed in the environment, starting in the mid-40s, with the release of large amounts of PCBs that were widely used in electrical equipment. The insecticide DDT added insult to injury when its use became widespread in the 1950s.

Early in the 1980s, while contaminant levels were still high, many eaglets had gross birth defects, such as crossed bills, that consigned them to premature death. Ontario eagles now live for about 15 years, about half the normal life span.

extracted from an article by Martin Mittelstaedt in THE GLOBE & MAIL, March 26, 2001



TORONTO'S FIRST COMMUNITY GARDENS

Beginnings of Community Gardens in Toronto -- Parkdale

Community gardens first appeared in Toronto in 1915. The idea for such gardens originated in Europe. Similar gardens were started in Minneapolis, Minnesota, but Toronto was the first Canadian city to adopt the idea. To Parkdale belongs the honour of the first such garden.

The concept of growing vegetables in vacant lots was considered by City Council, and the Rotary Club of Toronto was selected as the agency to initiate an allotment garden scheme. Over a dozen lots in different parts of the city were selected from those offered by their owners. Seeds were obtained from farmers in the district. The Rotary Club organized the administration of the sites and selected people to cultivate the individual allotments. The Club also organized the provision of tools for the project.

On Saturday, May 15, 1915 an inaugural ceremony was held at King Street West and Dunn Avenue. Two lots had been set up at the intersection, an 80' x 80' lot on the northeast corner, and a 40' x 100' one on the northwest corner. Twenty-two men and a number of women and children marched to the site with spades, hoes and rakes. Sir John Willison, Toronto newspaper magnate and publisher of the Toronto Globe and News, wielding a silver trowel, planted the first vegetables -- seed potatoes. Each plot was worked by one or two persons, with a foreman in charge of each section. The plots themselves were separated by wire fences, presumably to keep out animals and to reduce arguments over ownership of the produce which went to the families of the individuals working the plots.

Ian Wheal

□.

BLACK OAK

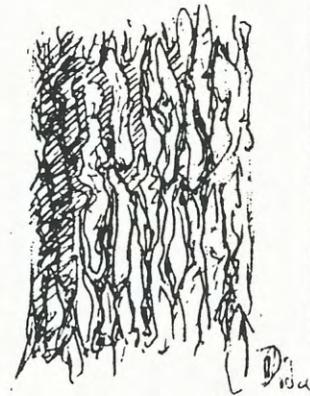
AND RED OAK

BARK PATTERNS

in the same
savannah setting -

side-by-side

among the lupines.



at close range -
black left, red right

Diana Banville, High Park,
June 3, 2000

TRILLIUMS

I am so thankful for those little jolts that remind me of how fortunate I am: over the years I've become aware of some of the infinite variety in the natural world. Sometimes it seems that I live in a different world than others. It's as if there's this other place, separated from our habitual sight by the most diaphanous of veils, but somehow occupying the same space. One day in Wilket Creek ravine while cutting across a bit of woodland towards the path, I noticed some trilliums glowing white and pink in the shade. At the same time I noticed a couple a little older than myself walking up the path, and on an impulse I said, "Oh look, pink trilliums." To my surprise the man rushed over and looked at the flowers.

"So these are trilliums."

"Yes, and they're pink. See, these over here are white, that's the colour when they're new. In some places there are red ones, a deep, rich red."

"So these are trilliums. Forty years in this country and this is the first time I've ever seen trilliums. I've heard of them, but I've never seen them before. They're beautiful, aren't they, these trilliums."

"Yes, they're beautiful."

"Yes. So these are trilliums."

He thanked me for showing him the trilliums.

I thanked him for showing me the trilliums.

Murray Seymour

□



Field drawing
by Diana Banville

THE TREES OF MOUNT PLEASANT

I promised I would share my discoveries of trees in Mount Pleasant Cemetery as I found them, and this morning I found a dandy. I was birding in Section 45 when I noticed a sapling with persistent leaves. My first thought was a young beech tree as the leaves were similar and beech trees don't lose their leaves in the winter. Fortunately this tree had a label. I have made a habit of trying to identify trees with labels before reading them, and then seeing if my predictions are correct. In this case I was way off base. The label read saw-toothed oak (*Quercus acutissima*). I knew this was not in my Mount Pleasant Cemetery tree guide so I rushed home to look it up. It was not listed in either of Peterson's guides so I checked my "old faithful", the "Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe" by Alan Mitchell. Common names are quite misleading so I looked under the scientific name "Quercus" for the tree. Mitchell calls the tree Japanese chestnut oak, so one can see that common names can be confusing. I found out this tree is from China and is very rare. If you wish to find this tree, it is directly opposite the pedestrian entrance on Bayview Ave. Just keep walking west in a straight line. It is only a few feet from the centre of the path.

Roger Powley

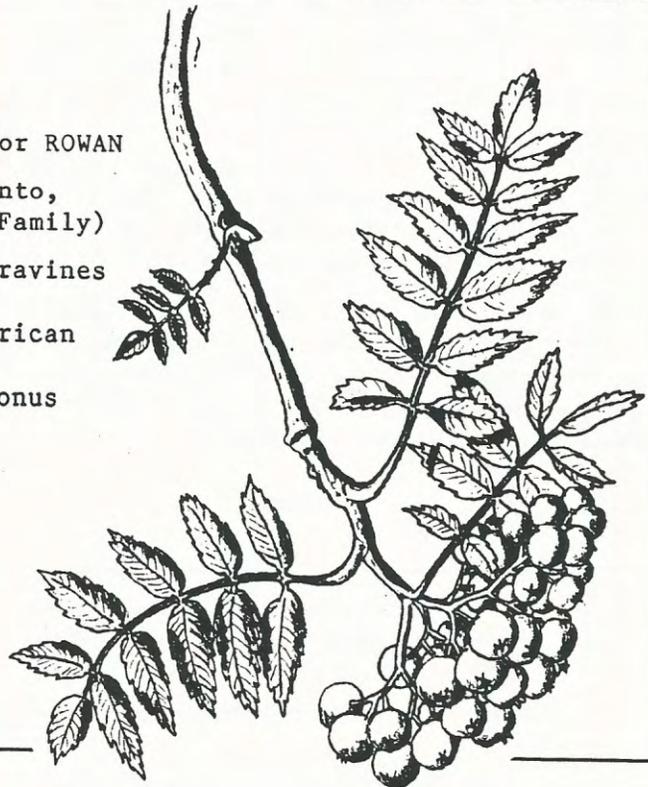
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THE EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN-ASH or ROWAN

is a familiar tree in Toronto, frequently planted. (Rose Family)

Tiny specimens turn up in ravines but the species is not established here. The American robin regularly wintering here finds the berries a bonus to our native fruits.

(Drawing by
D. Andrew White)



THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

May 2000, Toronto

This was a very strange month. An early heat-wave gave way to unsettled weather with torrential rains and even a few freak snowflakes. It ended up being warmer than the long-term average because of the early heat, but also the wettest in over a quarter-century.

The heat set in quickly as a ridge built up over the eastern U.S. Temperatures rose to 30.4°C downtown and 30.2°C at Pearson Airport on May 6th. This was the earliest occurrence of such temperatures since late April, 1990; although the 25°C+ weather at the end of March 1998 was more anomalous. Moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, combined with increasing instability, led to shower activity beginning on May 8th. A cold front passed through on May 10th, and a secondary system hit on May 12th, bringing with it torrential downpours. Downtown received 67.8 mm of rain. Parts of southern Ontario were flooded; they had been experiencing fairly consistent drought conditions in some cases since 1997. The rain may have exacerbated the Walkerton E.coli outbreak, as livestock manure would have been flushed into the water system. Water levels of some smaller lakes, for example, certain parts of the Kawarthas, rose to flood levels while the Upper Great Lakes, being much larger, remained close to historic lows.

Nor were May's surprises over yet, at least for Toronto. With the shift to cooler, unsettled conditions, a very interesting situation developed on the morning of May 19th. A small short-wave disturbance passed to our south in the morning. The air mass over Toronto was cool and dry. As light precipitation fell for a little while, evaporative cooling lowered our temperatures to about 5°C. A few snowflakes mixed with light showers before the system moved on and skies cleared, allowing readings to rise to 11°C or 12°C. This freak snow event, occurring in the face not only of a warming climate and an urban heat island, was Toronto's latest occurrence of a trace of snow since June 1, 1945, and it was the ninth latest such event on record (going back to 1840). The final days of May brought a bit more drying and seasonable temperatures.

With the unsettled conditions, May was slightly cloudier and windier than normal. It was the cloudiest, windiest, and coolest (in spite of being definitely warmer than the long-term average) since 1997. And it was the wettest since 1974 both downtown (with 135.2 mm of rain) and at Pearson Airport (with 124.4 mm).

▷

Three red-tails circle.
 "Tseeeeeeeear!" My stomach briefly knots
 with an ancient fear.

Haiku by Murray Seymour

WEATHER (cont'd)

JUNE 2000, Toronto

The heavy rains which began in May continued in June. Pearson Airport recorded 169.2 mm of rain, and downtown had 162.2 mm. This is well over double the normal amount, and the wettest on record at Pearson. Downtown, this was the wettest June since 1870 and the second wettest on record. Although there was some minor flooding, the benefits of the rain outweighed the liabilities, as the drought from mid-1997 to early 2000 in the Great Lakes basin was pretty serious. In addition, the rain was well distributed through the month. Thunderstorms were notable on June 9th with a mesoscale convective system in the morning; and on June 29th with an upper level trough. Severe weather that threatened on the evening of June 16th with a cold front did not make inroads into Toronto.

The rains were due to a persistent frontal boundary which moved back and forth across southern Ontario, also bringing with it some abrupt temperature changes. Most notable was on June 10th-11th. A warm front brought a shift from a cool breeze off Lake Ontario with a minimum of about 12°C, to a high of 31°C inland. The next day began muggy with readings reaching the high twenties by mid-day. The front shifted south again, and within a space of three hours, it dropped into the low teens with light rain.

With all this to-and-fro motion, monthly temperatures averaged close to normal: actually cooler than average by half a degree downtown and almost as much above at Pearson Airport. Sunshine at 219.3 hours downtown was about 34 hours below normal and the lowest since 1996. Winds averaged above normal. Pearson's average wind speed of 14.9 km/h was 2 km/h above normal and the highest since 1990, while Toronto Island's average of 14.5 km/h was the highest since 1981.

JULY 2000, Toronto

We had a remarkably pleasant July with oppressive heat virtually absent. It was the coolest July since 1996 with mean temperatures running 1.3°C below normal downtown and 0.7°C below normal at Pearson Airport. At no point did it reach 30°C -- the first such July since 1992 -- although it was somewhat humid the last few days of the month. This was the first cooler-than-normal month at Pearson since November 1997. Fresh, bright days were more often the rule than not.

Rainfall and thunderstorm activity was typically localized, with most of the action missing Toronto. Pearson reported 34 mm of rain and downtown 42 mm. This is in the approximate neighbourhood of half the average. Sunshine hours were less than 10 below the average. Wind speeds averaged slightly above the normal, often from the north, which contributed to the pleasant conditions and low air pollution levels this month.

▷

WEATHER (cont'd)

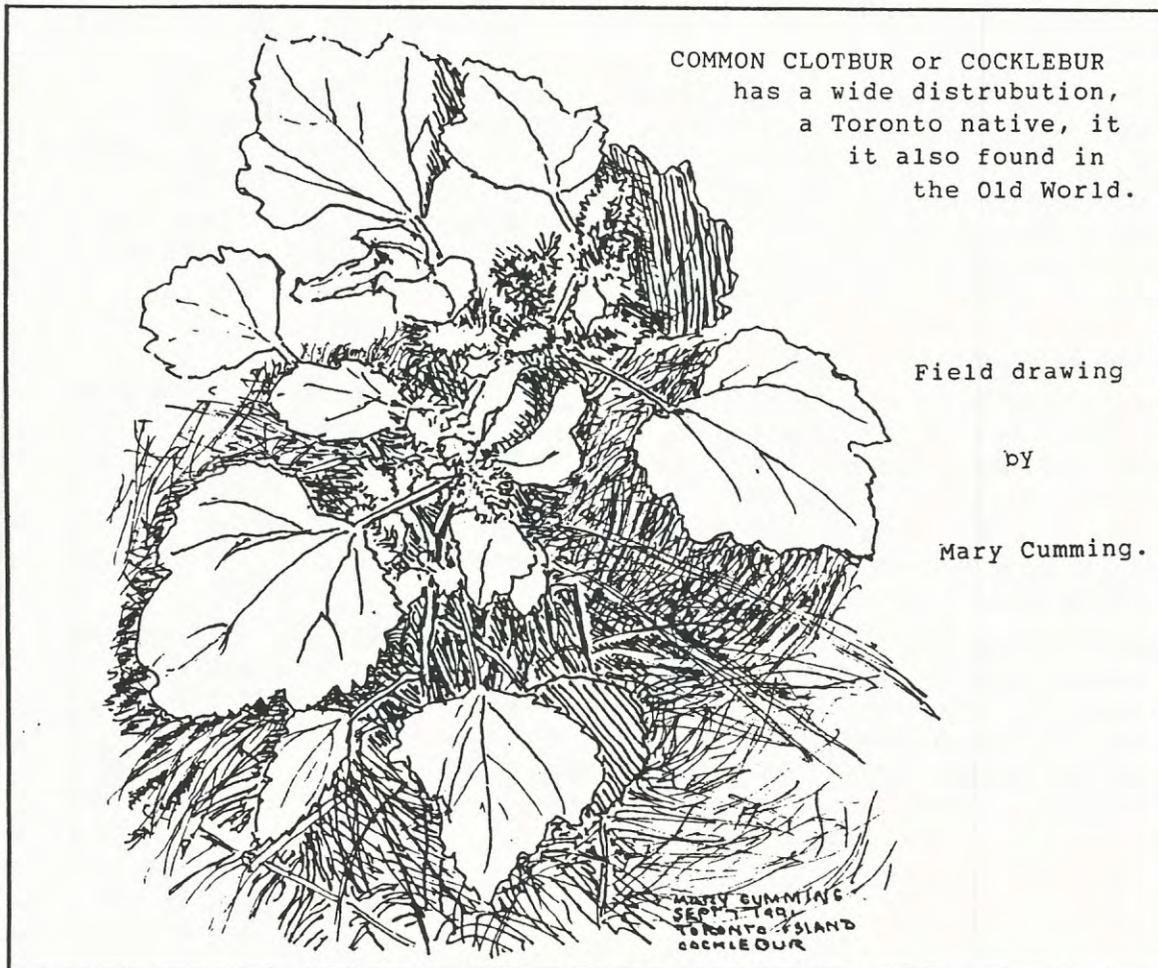
AUGUST 2000, Toronto

August was a more typical summer month and fairly quiet. Mean temperatures were near or just a hair above the 1971-2000 average, and precipitation was about half normal. There was an abundance of sunny to partly cloudy days with moderately humid conditions. The heavy rains of early summer had evaporated and conditions were actually rather dry. Showers were fairly light aside from one soaking rain in the early hours of August 23rd.

Temperatures popped over 30°C -- barely -- on August 8th for the first time since early May. On the other hand, a cold front on August 15th initiated a cool spell that brought an overnight low temperature of 9.3°C downtown on August 20th, the first reading below 10°C downtown in August since 1992 and, in fact, the lowest reading since 1986. Moderate heat and humidity returned for the very end of the month.

The relatively cool conditions of summer 2000, and the heavy rains of late spring and early summer, were beneficial for plant growth.

Gavin Miller



COMING EVENTS

Toronto Ornithological Club - Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks - aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners are also welcome. Free.

- Sat. May 5 from 7:30 am to 12 noon - Spring Migration in High Park with Bob Yukich. Meet in the parking area inside the Bloor St. entrance at High Park Ave.
 - Sat. May 12 from 7:30 am to 12 noon - Warblers in Lambton Woods with Don Burton. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Dr.).
 - Mon. May 21 from 7:45 am (all day) - Peak Migration at Toronto Islands with Verna Higgins. Meet at the Toronto Islands ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. to catch the 8 am ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring lunch.
 - Sat. May 26 from 7:30 am to 12 noon - Whimbrel and Late Migrants at Colonel Samuel Smith Park with Andrew Keaveney. Meet in the parking lot at the landfill at the foot of Kipling Ave.
- The next Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk will take place in September.

Toronto Entomologists' Association

- Sat. June 23 at 1:15 pm - Wings of Paradise Butterfly Conservatory. Meet at the conservatory entrance. For description and directions to Wings, see TFN 498 (March), page 18.
- Sat. July 28 at 10 am - Toronto West Butterfly Gardens. Meet at the entrance to G. Ross Lord Park opposite Supertest Rd. (at Dufferin St.). We'll visit the Environment Canada prairie garden and then carpool (if necessary) to the gardens at the Downsview Airport.
- Sat. Aug. 25 at 8 pm - Moth Night on the Rouge. Meet leader Tom Mason in the parking lot on Twyn Rivers Dr. Bring a flashlight. Please advise Carol Sellers (416-421-7398) if you plan to attend any of these outings.

North American Native Plant Society Wildflower Plant Sale (wildflowers, trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and ferns) - Sat. May 12 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie St.

Toronto Wildflower Society Wildflower Garden Tour - Sun. May 20 from 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets for this self-guided tour (\$10 for TWS members; \$15 for non-members) may be obtained from Carolyn King, 230 Burnett Ave., Willowdale M2N 1V8. For more details call (416)222-5736 or e-mail cking@yorku.ca.

The Market Gallery - June 30 - Nov. 4 - A Community of Artists (about the Guild of All Arts & Rosa & Spencer Clark), 95 Front St., 2nd floor, Wed. to Fri. 10 am to 4 pm, Sat. 9 am to 4 pm, Sun. 12 noon to 4 pm. Call 416-392-7604 for more information. ▽

Nature's bird feeder
lures American goldfinch.
The feast: Thistle seeds.

Haiku by Therese Paradis

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

High Park evening walking tours -meeting at Grenadier Cafe & Teahouse

- Tues. May 15 at 6:45 pm - native and non-native trees
- Tues. May 29 at 6:45 pm - topic to be announced
- Tues. June 12 at 6:45 pm - nature arts (bring sketchpad and pencils)
- Tues. June 26 at 6:45 pm - faerie lore *
- Tues. July 10 at 6:45 pm - birds and wildflowers
- Tues. July 24 at 6:45 pm - to be announced
- Tues. Aug. 7 at 6:45 pm - forest fire -- friend or foe?
- Tues. Aug. 21 at 8 pm - moth night *

* especially recommended for children

Walks are moderately paced and take about two hours. Wear appropriate footwear. \$2 donation suggested. Call 416-392-1748 or 416-392-6916 for more details.

Citizens Concerned about the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront

- Sun. May 6 at 9 am to 11 am - guided bird walk with Andrew Keaveney. Meet at the parking lot on Kipling Ave. for Col. Sam Smith Park. For more information call Barbara Keaveney at 416-252-7047.

Ian Wheal Heritage Walks

- Sun. May 6 at 1:30 pm - Maria St. Meet at the southwest corner of Keele St. and Dundas St. West.
- Sat. June 2 at 1:30 pm - St. James Cathedral Creek. Meet at the northwest corner of Queen St. East and Church St.
- Tues. June 26 at 6:45 pm - Parson's Creek. Meet at the corner of Eglinton Ave. West and Caledonia Rd.
- Sat. July 7 at 1:30 pm - Port Credit Chinese Market Gardens. Meet at the Port Credit GO station.
- Tues. July 10 at 6:45 pm - Grand Trunk Springs. Meet at the Coxwell subway station.
- Tues. Aug. 7 at 6:45 pm - Devils Dip (Hastings Cr.). Meet at the Donlands subway station.

Toronto Bay Initiative

- Sun. June 24 from 10 am to 12 noon - Water in the City - Meet at the Chester subway station.
- Sun. July 8 from 9:45 am to 12 noon - Eco-tour of Toronto Bay and Outer Harbour. Suggested donation of \$10 per person. Call 416-943-8080, ext. 227 to register.

Discovery Walks - 2 new brochures (Uptown & Downtown). Call 416-338-0338 to ask for copies.

Community History Project Heritage Centre, 719 Yonge St., 2nd floor
- photo exhibit, walks, etc. Call 416-515-7546 for more information.

Toronto Zoo - Environment Week Celebration - Sat. June 9 and Sun. June 10 from 10 am to 5 pm. TFN will have a display. Volunteers needed. Please call Andre Vietinghoff if you would like to help (free admission to the zoo if you do). Andre is at 416-232-9241. Shifts are from 9 am to 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm to 5 pm.



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 Registration No.
 09840

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 112-51 ALEXANDER ST. XX30
 TORONTO ON M4Y 1B3

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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.

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TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976 Metropolitan Toronto's important natural areas are described and recommendations given for their conservation and management; includes maps, bibliography and index\$ 8.00	GUIDE TO TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, LEASKDALE, ONT., 1986\$ 4.00
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Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978	All publications may be ordered from Toronto Field Naturalists, 2 Carlton St., #1519, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1J3. (Add \$2.00 per item for postage and handling).
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