

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 517

September 2003



"LAWRENCE PARK RAVINE" site drawing by Mary Anne Miller

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TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2003 - ALGONQUIN WILDLIFE
an illustrated talk by Norman Quinn, Park
Biologist.
at 2:30 pm

at Emmanuel College
75 Queen's Park Cres. East

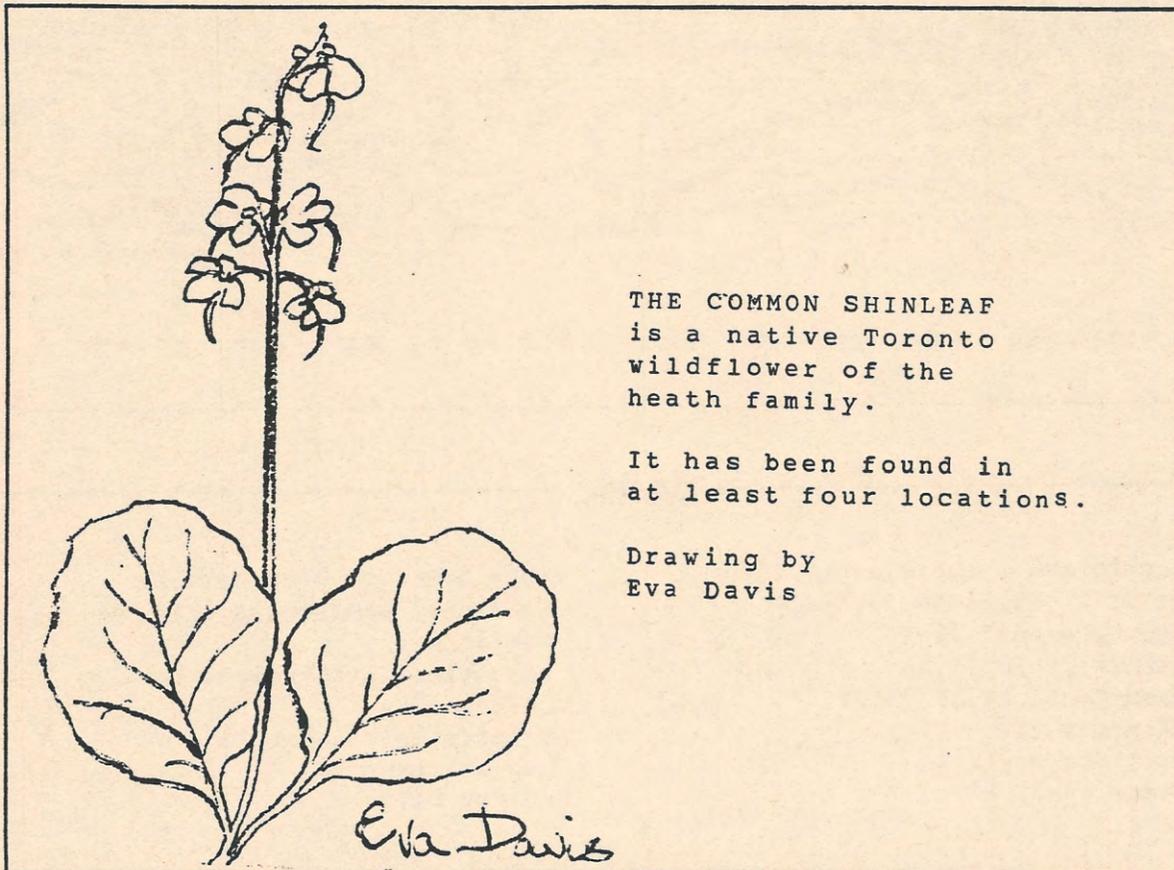
We will learn about wildlife research in the park including its history, people and science. He will also have with him his new book "Algonquin Wildlife: Lessons in Survival".

VISITORS WELCOME!

- + ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - The financial statements will be presented and the directors introduced, just before the talk.
- + Social Hour beginning at 2 pm with free coffee and juice
- + Memberships and miscellaneous TFN publications will be for sale.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, Oct. 5, 2003

NEXT NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER (to be mailed in mid-September)



THE COMMON SHINLEAF
is a native Toronto
wildflower of the
heath family.

It has been found in
at least four locations.

Drawing by
Eva Davis

Eva Davis

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 416-393-4636.
 Check the weather by calling 416-661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings
 which go rain or shine.

- Monday
 Sept. 1
 10 am G.R. LORD PARK - birds & wildflowers
 Leader: Heather Mackey
 Meet at the northeast corner of Finch Ave. West and Dufferin St. Bring lunch.
- Wednesday
 Sept. 3
 1:30 pm WARDEN WOODS - insects
 Leader: Merne Powers
 Meet at the southeast corner of Warden Ave. & St. Clair Ave. East.
- Saturday
 Sept. 6
 10:30 am HUMBER VALLEY - nature arts
 Leader: Mary Cumming
 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.
- Sept. 7 TFN MEETING - See page 2 for details.
- Wednesday
 Sept. 10
 2 pm LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE - nature walk
 Leader: Alexander Cappell
 Meet at the southeast corner of St. Clair Ave. West & Caledonia Rd. Walk will end at Bathurst St.
- Saturday
 Sept. 13
 9 am to noon SAM SMITH PARK - birds
 Leader: Andre Vietinghoff
 Meet at the foot of Kipling Ave. on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd. West. Bring a snack and binoculars.
- Sunday
 Sept. 14
 2 pm LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE - nature walk
 Leader: Alexander Cappell
 Meet at the southeast corner of Bayview Ave. and Moore Ave.
 Walk will end at Yonge St.
- Tuesday
 Sept. 16
 10 am to 12:30 pm GERMAN MILLS PARK - nature walk
 Leader: Theresa Moore
 Meet at the northeast corner of Steeles Ave. East and Leslie St.
 Bring a snack and binoculars.

Make sure that, in this most glorious of months, you take time to see what's at your feet. And if you feel inspired to write down your thoughts and feelings about what you observe and think you have a story to tell, [do it].

from "Editorial" by R.K. Cox in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 21, No. 5, May 2003

SEPTEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday
Sept. 20
10 am ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk
Leader: Kathleen Doherty
Meet at the Pearse House on the east side of Meadowvale Rd.
north of Sheppard Ave. East. Morning only.
- Sunday
Sept. 21
2 pm LOST CREEKS OF THE WEST DON - urban ecology
Leader: Helen Mills
Meet at the southeast corner of Finch Ave. West & Bathurst St.
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community. We will be
shown black cherries & white pines & Burnett Creek ravine.
- Wednesday
Sept. 24
9:30 am HUMBER VALLEY - heritage walk
Leader: Madeleine McDowell
Meet at the Jane subway station. Morning only.
- Saturday
Sept. 27
10 am to
5 pm TFN NATURE RESERVES - a day in the country *
Leaders: Robin Powell & Jerry Spevak
Call 416-593-2656 if you want to attend. Leave your name and
telephone number and send a cheque for \$15 to cover the cost
of the bus. Bring lunch and waterproof footwear. The bus
leaves from the south exit of the York Mills subway station
(on Old York Mills Rd. just east of Yonge St.) promptly at
10 am and will return there at 5 pm.
We will be visiting our three properties and will have lunch at the Jim
Baillie Nature Reserve after which we will explore the property.
- Sunday
Sept. 28
10:30 am EAST POINT PARK - nature walk
Leader: Chris Hope
Meet at the south end of Morningside Ave. and the east end of
the Guildwood Parkway. Bring lunch.
- Tuesday
Sept. 30
1 pm TODMORDEN MILLS - nature walk
Leader: Miriam Webster
Meet at the entrance to the village on the south side of
Pottery Road, downhill and west from the corner of Broadview
Ave. and Mortimer Ave. We will tour the wildflower reserve and learn
about recent developments.

\$ bus
fare

* To avoid carrying weed seeds to our nature reserves, please clean footwear before going.

□

As our native plant societies face the future, surely we should give priority to the fundamentals of conserving species in the wild, spending more time studying and preserving them and less time planting and manipulating them. Our watch words and our message to all should be, Save Habitat!

from "Native Plant Societies and Grassroots Conservation" by Stanwyn Shetler in
WILDFLOWER 19(2), Spring 2003

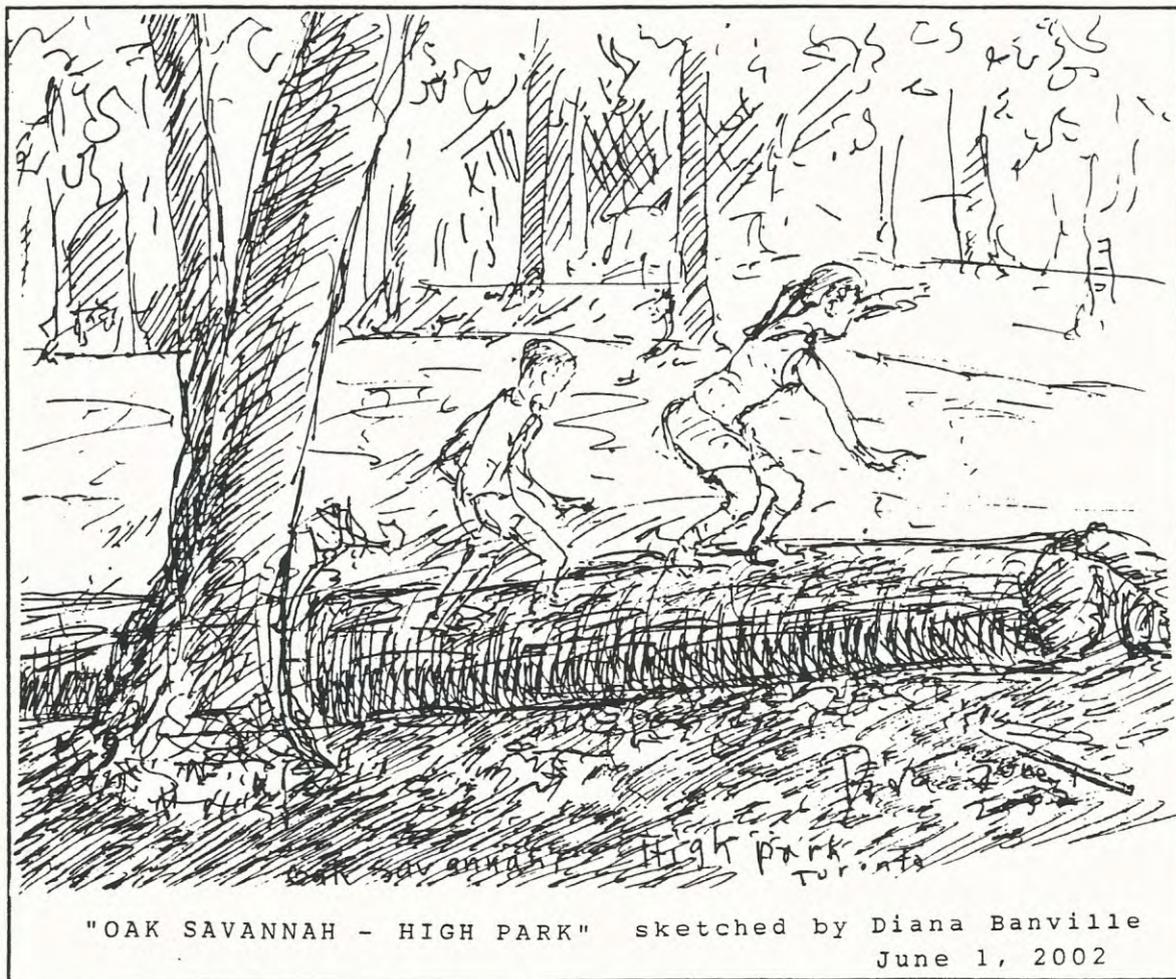
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Compared to the weather last summer, it's been a good year -- neither too hot/humid nor too cool. I hope this continues. Although West Nile virus has been detected in many dead birds, no human cases of the virus have been found yet. As never before when I wander Toronto's valleys and ravines, each mosquito bite takes on special significance.

By early summer, the TFN had successfully completed the purchase of a third block of land south of the Emily Hamilton Nature Reserve. To help TFN members better understand what's been recently purchased, aerial photography was done for the entire Emily Hamilton Nature Reserve. I plan to show these 35 mm colour slides at one of our upcoming monthly meetings. I hope to see many of you at our annual general meeting on Sunday, September 7th, and Saturday, September 27th on the bus trip to our nature reserves.

Robin Powell

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REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To The Members Of
Toronto Field Naturalists

I have reviewed the Balance Sheet of Toronto Field Naturalists as at June 30, 2003 and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Operating Surplus and Changes in Financial Position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's Directors.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, my review was made in accordance with generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Corporation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the organization derives revenue from donations and publications, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory review. Accordingly, my review of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records of the organization and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, net income, assets and operating surplus.

Based on my review, except for the effect of adjustment, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to completely review the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Toronto, Ontario
July 8, 2003



ALISTAIR J. KENNEDY
Chartered Accountant

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
(incorporated without share capital under the laws
of the Province of Ontario)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT JUNE 30, 2003

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 87,928	\$ 95,255
Inventory at Cost	<u>3,472</u>	<u>3,220</u>
	<u>91,400</u>	<u>98,475</u>
Other Assets		
Photo Library at Cost	<u>9,650</u>	<u>9,650</u>
	<u>\$101,050</u>	<u>\$108,125</u>

LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,070	\$ 642
Membership Fees Received in Advance	8,570	10,720
Rent Recovery Received in Advance (Note 3)	<u>-</u>	<u>1,315</u>
	<u>9,640</u>	<u>12,677</u>

OPERATING SURPLUS		
Operating Surplus	<u>91,410</u>	<u>95,448</u>
	<u>\$101,050</u>	<u>\$108,125</u>
Working Capital: Dollars	\$ 81,760	\$ 85,798
: Ratio	9:1	8:1

NATURE RESERVES - RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Current Assets		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 94,860	\$216,500
Property and Equipment		
Land	<u>281,702</u>	<u>175,278</u>
	<u>\$376,562</u>	<u>\$391,778</u>
Operating Surplus		
Reserve for Future Expenditures	\$ 94,860	\$216,500
Property	<u>281,702</u>	<u>175,278</u>
	<u>\$376,562</u>	<u>\$391,778</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Robert Powell (Director)

Barbara Jubalski Director

The accompanying 'Notes to Financial Statements' are an integral part of these financial statements.

UNAUDITED



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND OPERATING SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
REVENUE		
Membership Fees	\$ 19,225	\$ 20,105
Publications	<u>284</u>	<u>204</u>
	<u>19,509</u>	<u>20,309</u>
EXPENSES		
Outings	\$ 2,001	\$ 1,185
Meeting Expenses	2,657	2,155
Newsletter, Printing and Mailing	11,376	10,750
Other Printing Expenses	298	765
Other Mailing Expenses	1,226	1,383
Accounting	1,070	642
Advertising and Publicity	391	179
Office Supplies	1,120	868
Telephone	491	499
Rent	9,963	9,888
G.S.T. Rebate	<u>(1,925)</u>	<u>(1,083)</u>
	<u>28,668</u>	<u>27,231</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	(9,159)	(6,922)
Interest Income	<u>924</u>	<u>1,306</u>
Net Income (Loss) before Donations	(8,235)	(5,616)
Donations	<u>4,197</u>	<u>5,372</u>
Net Income (Loss) for Year	\$ <u>(4,038)</u>	\$ <u>(244)</u>
Operating Surplus, at Beginning of Year	<u>95,448</u>	<u>95,692</u>
Operating Surplus, at End of Year	\$ <u>91,410</u>	\$ <u>95,448</u>

The accompanying 'Notes to Financial Statements' are an integral part of these financial statements.

UNAUDITED

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**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003**

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Income (Loss) for Year	\$(4,038)	\$ (244)
Decrease (Increase): Inventory	(252)	90
Increase (Decrease): Current Liabilities	<u>(3,037)</u>	<u>(1,729)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Cash for Year	<u>(7,327)</u>	<u>(1,883)</u>
Cash at Beginning of Year	<u>95,255</u>	<u>97,138</u>
Cash at End of Year	\$ <u>87,928</u>	\$ <u>95,255</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS - Nature Reserves		
Receipts		
Designated Donations	\$ 4,300	\$ 16,300
Interest Earned	<u>1,970</u>	<u>3,512</u>
	<u>6,270</u>	<u>19,812</u>
Current Expenditures		
Property Taxes & Maintenance	<u>(3,243)</u>	<u>(3,680)</u>
Capital Expenditures		
New Fence & Gate	18,243	-
Land Purchased in Uxbridge Township	<u>106,424</u>	-
	<u>(124,667)</u>	-
Increase (Decrease) for Year	(121,640)	16,132
Restricted Cash at Beginning of Year	<u>216,500</u>	<u>200,368</u>
Restricted Cash at End of Year	\$ <u>94,860</u>	\$ <u>216,500</u>

The accompanying 'Notes to Financial Statements' & Notice to Reader are an integral part of these financial statements.

UNAUDITED

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**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AT JUNE 30, 2003**

Note 1: Status and Objects of Organization

Toronto Fields Naturalists is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and as such is exempt from Income Taxes. The objects of the Organization are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage.

Note 2: Significant Accounting Policies

Capital Assets

Capital Assets are recorded at cost. Other than the nature reserve property, the organization does not own any capital assets.

Nature Reserves

Donations received for the Nature Reserves are segregated on the financial statements, and are to be used solely for Reserve purposes.

Contributed Services

The Organization depends heavily on the use of volunteers to provide services. Because of record keeping and valuation difficulties, these contributed services are not recorded in the Accounts.

Note 3: Commitment

In 1999, the Organization was forced out of their offices. \$3,943 was recovered from the former Landlord to cover the increase rent expense for the balance of the lease. \$1,314 was applied to 2001, \$1,314 to 2002 & \$1,315 to the current year.

The organization's current lease expires February 28 2004 with the following rental commitment.

	<u>8 months Ended</u>	<u>Rent</u>
Building	February 28 2004	\$ 8,196

UNAUDITED

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TFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2003 - 2004

President: Robin Powell, 504 - 1017 Seneca Ave., Mississauga L5G 3X5
(905-278-4798)

Vice President: Diana Karrandjas, 15 Allan Park Rd., Toronto M8Z 3S9
(416-233-6856)

Past President: Phoebe Cleverley, 506 - 110 The Esplanade, Toronto M5E 1X9
(416-369-0546)

Secretary-Treasurer: Aarne Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3
(416-924-5806)

Other Directors:

Alexander Cappell, 109 - 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., Willowdale M2R 2Z4
(416-663-7738)

Elaine Farragher, 23 Wright Ave., Toronto M6R 1K9
(416-537-5877)

Karin Fawthrop, 347 Beechgrove Dr., Scarborough M1E 4A2
(416-282-6044)

Nancy Fredenburg, 807 - 360 Ridelle Ave., Toronto M6B 1K1
(416-781-8550)

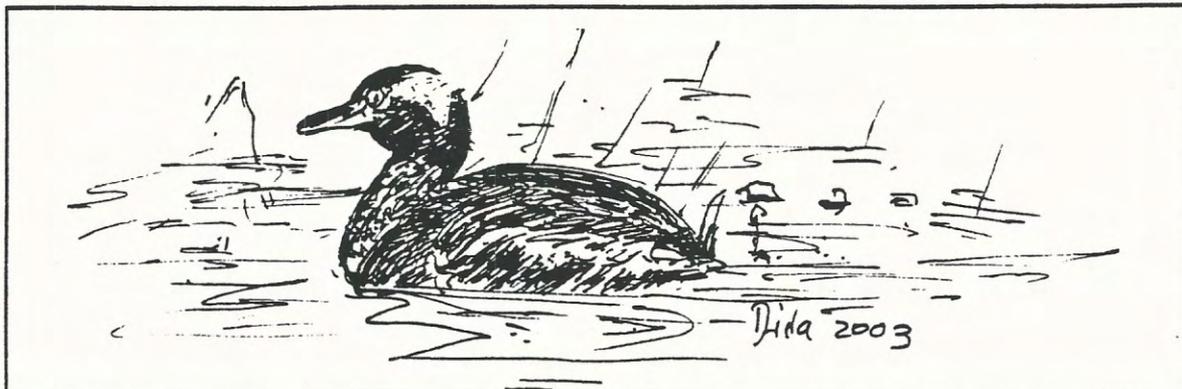
Gail Gregory, 17 Westlake Cres., Toronto M4C 2X3
(416-538-4713)

Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3
(416-924-5806)

Jerry Spevak, S 66 Kydd Lane, RR2, Sunderland LOC 1H0
(705-357-3593)

Alex Wellington, 63 Pauline Ave., Toronto M6H 3M7
(416-532-3777)

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"Horned Grebe" drawing by Diana Banville
based on photos in TFN files

KEEPING IN TOUCH

April 10, 2002

HUMBER OBSERVATIONS

A year ago (April, 2001) while walking along Hooke Avenue in West Toronto Junction, I noticed a squirrel climbing a tree. By the time that I noticed him (or her), the squirrel was level with the roof line of the three-story Victorian row house, to which the leafless tree was very close. The squirrel scrambled a little higher, with difficulty, and went out on a limb. What had caught my attention was the peanut butter jar which he was carrying, and which he dropped onto the cobblestone pavement below. When it hit the ground, the lid came off. The squirrel scrambled down the tree, ran over to the jar and proceeded to eat the remains of the peanut butter from the plastic jar.

.....

For several years now, a skunk has periodically lived under my gardening shed. The skunk was back this spring, briefly. I then noticed that the opening at one side was dug out much larger than previously. My cat proceeded to guard the windows overlooking the garden each night in May and early June.

One night, about midnight, I looked out where she was looking, her tail lashing, to see an opossum perambulate up the garden and straight under the shed. There was evidence of coming and going for another couple of weeks and then nothing. After, my neighbour saw a fox in the side drive.

In July, while doing some evening gardening, I heard digging and crunching on the far side of the shed. As I was craning my neck to see past the bird bath, I caught a glimpse of black and white movement indicating the return of my skunk companion. From the front entrance (immediately below my door to the shed) strolled a six-inch perfect miniature skunk, who sat, squirrel style, surveying its world. I took myself and my trowel into MY house very quickly. The raccoons and skunks in my area are suffering distemper and I have not seen my fellow gardener for a month.

.....

On September 21st, during our annual Humber Heritage Committee [See page 28.] re-enactment of the first day of Lieutenant Governor Simcoe's 1793 journey up the Toronto Carrying Place we observed six great white egrets in the west pond of the Humber Marshes.

Madeleine McDowell



The value of doorstep nature is being taken more and more seriously as our own numbers expand and we crowd closer together. The latest study to verify its importance shows that nature in or around the home -- including houseplants and the view from the window -- can help children living in urban areas cope far better with stressful life events. What better justification for celebrating and encouraging the small and significant close to home?

from "Editorial" by R.K. Cox in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 21, No. 6, June 2003

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

May 13, 2003

A WRITHING MEAL

In early September 2002 on a hot day more suited to July or August, we spotted a ring-billed gull with a long struggling object a few feet off the rocks of our Georgian Bay island. Not an eel, obviously ...but?

Soon the gull wrestled the object to the rocky shoreline to reveal a water snake, at least two feet long. Over the next half-hour the struggle continued -- snake wriggles free, gull snaps it up again, shakes it, bangs it on the rock, usually but not always grasping it by the head or just below. Eventually, the gull manoeuvres the snake head first into its beak. Then the long, slow process of swallowing the still writhing snake. Twenty minutes and gone, the gull standing looking smug, satisfied, and only slightly engorged.

It is said that ring bills can digest anything. And that obviously includes snakes of no mean length. A first, at least for us.

George and Kittie Fells

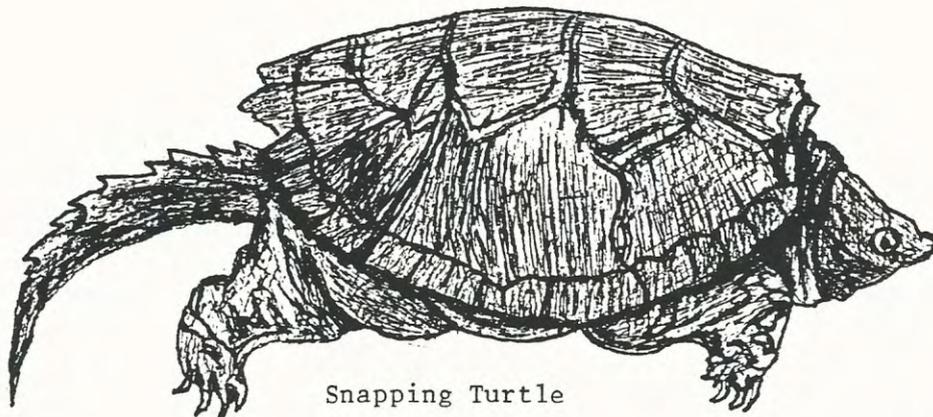
May 26, 2003

TURTLES

In the early part of August 2002 when playing golf at the Woodlands Golf Course in Brampton, I noticed a movement in the muddy water. It was a snapping turtle about two feet in diameter. I have never seen a turtle in the stream, especially this area that is usually very shallow. The turtle only stayed for a few minutes, then disappeared in the muddy waters of the West Humber River.

It brought back memories of a large snapping turtle in a small stream at a golf course near Markham nearly thirty-five years ago. This turtle was very aggressive when the turtle's area was approached. The turtle was so well known that when the turtle died, or was killed, it was noted in the Toronto Star.

George R. Crawford



Snapping Turtle

(drawing by Eva Davis)

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

June 9, 2003

I have been very interested in following the species of birds in my North Toronto garden over the years.

The noisiest birds have always been many crows and blue jays.

This summer the scene has changed dramatically. I have not heard one crow in my whole area and there have been no shrieking blue-jays in my garden or any neighbouring gardens.

On the plus side there seem to be more cardinals nesting than ever before, and the robins appear to be less fearful. They wander around the worm-filled lawns when humans are very nearby.

I miss the blue-jays they are so colourful -- I don't really miss the crows!!

I wonder if this change is related to the West Nile virus threat. I also wonder what we as humans are doing to our environment to bring about such uncertainty.

Doris Tatay

July 2003

BACKYARD MINK NOTES

On December 16, 2002, it was 12°C with snow on the ground and a mink was in our backyard [which backs onto David Balfour Ravine]!

On February 19, 2003 it was back -- drinking from our heated bird-bath. Our last sighting was March 3.

The yard next door has a deep pond with exotic fish. When it was drained for spring cleaning, not a fish was to be found. We timidly told the neighbour about a mink patrolling the area. On July 1, 2003, fish-bones were lying on the stones beside the re-stocked pond!

Adele Cassan

- Ref. 1. Audubon Field Guide to North American Mammals
2. National Geographic Book of Mammals

□



- drawing by Adele Cassan

PROJECTS

TREASURE HUNT FOR BIRDS

A birdathon where participants record the live and dead birds they encounter who have hit buildings will take place from September 27 to October 12. Search for birds anywhere: an industrial park, a mirrored office building, your local school or even at home. We hope you will make every effort to rescue the injured.

A fundraiser for FLAP, its purpose will be to collect data on window strikes and to educate the public. In the decade that FLAP members have been rescuing birds we've seen a steady decline in the numbers of ovenbirds (among others) while the total number of birds accumulated has doubled.

The more we know about the collisions, the greater our chances of convincing architects, window manufacturers, engineers, property managers and the average person that we must address this major cause of bird mortality now. Contact FLAP at 416-366-FLAP to get involved.

from an article in TOUCHING DOWN, Newsletter of The Fatal Light Awareness Program, Spring 2003

ON TRACK...AND TRACKING CHANGES

Results of the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas can be compared with the first, conducted from 1981 through 1985.

The three species showing the largest proportional increase in the number of squares in which they have been reported are the Trumpeter Swan, Peregrine Falcon, and Wild Turkey.

Two of the next largest proportional increases are also for birds that have benefited from being introduced. The Mute Swan from 17 squares to 84, and the House Finch from 187 squares to 615. Canada Goose, 1233 from 944; the Eastern Bluebird, 792 from 737.

Other species showing considerable increases in the number of squares reported include: Black-billed Magpie, Bald Eagles, and Merlins. Some southern species are expanding north in the province. For example, Carolina Wren, Hooded Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse.

A few species have been reported in far fewer squares. The Chimney Swift, the Common Nighthawk, and Whip-poor-will, American Woodcock, and Gray Partridge.

Several species at risk have also shown marked contractions: the Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrikes, Northern Bobwhite, Henslow's Sparrow.

For more information on the project and how to get involved, or to view Atlas results in data summaries or map form, web page: www.birdsontario.org or contact the Atlas office at e-mail: atlas@uoguelph.ca toll free phone: 1-866-900-7100.

extracted from an article in BIRDWATCH CANADA, Number 23, Spring 2003

PROJECTS (cont'd)

CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

Do you keep forgetting to gather your Canadian Tire money together for your next trip to the store? Why not just donate it to FLAP and save yourself the bother? FLAP could redeem the money for bird nets, paper bags, a ladder for those hard-to-reach birds and other useful items. Send your Canadian Tire money to FLAP and put it to good use. Fatal Light Awareness Program, Royal Bank Plaza, Lower Concourse, P.O.Box 20, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2J1

from an article in TOUCHING DOWN, Spring 2003

Species only enlist our help when they "fail". If they then begin to succeed, to become mobile, adaptive, sassy, we ignore them or, more likely, treat them with abuse or contempt.

Conservation is as guilty as industrial farming. Beginning as a commendable concern for the threatened, it is becoming fixated with scarcity and species purity. The common mongrel things of the Earth can expect no quarter.

from "Nature Cure" by R. Mabey in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 21, No. 7, July 2003

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER

Requested: Essays (no longer than 500 words), reviews (no longer than 300 words), poems, cartoons, sketches and newspaper clippings.

Subjects: plants, animals and natural areas in the Toronto region, especially reports of personal experiences with wildlife, including locations, dates, and any sources consulted.

Please include your name, address and telephone number so submissions can be acknowledged. With newspaper clippings, include source and date of each clipping.

Time dated material such as notices of meetings should be submitted at least six weeks before the month in which the event is to take place.

Send material to: Toronto Field Naturalists
2 Carlton St., #1519
Toronto, Ont. M5B 1J3

Editor: Helen Juhola

Poetry, Art and Nature Observations: Diana Banville

Assistants: Patricia Brind, Eva Davis, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg,
Toshi Oikawa, Marilyn Murphy, Robin Powell

Printer: DM Printing

Mailer: Perkins Mailing Services

UNPREDICTABILITY, THE FUN OF BIRDING

One of the joys of birding is that it's full of surprises; delights await those who keep their eyes and ears open, often when least expected. This is particularly true during May migration and this May offered me many treats.

May 4th: This was a very slow birding day at Toronto Islands but Louise Orr quickly spotted a blue-winged warbler, a bird I hadn't seen in several years. After teasing us for about 15 minutes it came out to give a good show, complete with song. Later, while we were eating lunch, another winner, a hooded warbler, put in a brief appearance. Our day's total of only 5 warbler species, was made memorable by these two quite unexpected and beautiful birds.

May 10th: After a miserably cold morning on the Toronto Islands, I was heading for the Hanlan's Point ferry when I was rewarded with a gorgeous male scarlet tanager. More often seen in the treetops, this obliging bird was about four feet above the ground, sitting quietly amidst a background of brilliant yellow, a forsythia in full bloom, and flitting around the tanager was a black-throated blue warbler. The contrasting vibrant scarlet, yellow and blue were stunning. On my way home I stopped at Necropolis Cemetery where a yellow-breasted chat had been reported the previous day. Chats are notorious skulkers of dense thickets and in Ontario are generally found only in a few southwestern areas such as Pelee Island. I knew I'd need a lot of luck. This bird, however, surprised me with two very brief but excellent looks, first on a bare tree branch, then on the grass, my first chat in Ontario.

May 17th: During an afternoon ramble through Mount Pleasant Cemetery I was drawn to another section by a singing thrush and was amazed to find warblers, 13 species in all, feeding on the grass, apparently taking advantage of some abundant insect emergence. Warblers, usually seen only by craning one's neck at the treetops, were now all around me on the ground. To have in binocular view at one time 3 chestnut-sided warblers, then 4 different warblers, then 2 male black-throated blues, then a pair of blackburnians was truly a rare delight. The gleaning warblers were joined by a veery, a Swainson's thrush and a pair of rose-breasted grosbeaks and the thrush continued singing throughout.

May 21st: From the Queen streetcar a great egret was spotted quietly fishing in High Park's lower duck pond, just west of Parkside Drive. I got off and walked back for a better look. By the time I went by on the streetcar again a couple of hours later, the egret had disappeared from view. This is another striking bird which I don't see every year, but as last year Toronto had its first ever confirmed nesting of great egrets, perhaps this will become a more common sight.

Keep looking and you never know what you might spot, sometimes unusual and beautiful birds, sometimes more familiar birds exhibiting interesting behaviour. May is the favourite month of many birders but surprises can pop up any time.

Marilynn Murphy



LARGE WEEDS OF HIGH PARK

High Park is bordered to the north by Bloor Street and to the south by the Queensway. Two large valleys containing small creeks define the east and west sides. Spring Creek on the eastern border gushes from an underground sewer, flowing south through the park and then entering the Lower Duck Pond. On the west Wendigo Creek emerges from a large culvert underneath Bloor Street and flows south into the marshy edge of Grenadier Pond. These two creeks are liberated only briefly. North of High Park they have been converted to storm sewers; at Grenadier and Duck Ponds the water is again channelled into drains and eventually enters Lake Ontario.

What is significant about the two creeks in their oversize glacier-created valleys is that they support the two most natural areas in High Park. On some trails through the valleys you can almost seem to be in an undisturbed natural area. But to a person familiar with Ontario's native plants, something seems very wrong. Most of the trees and shrubs seem foreign and out of place. And in fact, they are. For the past two centuries High Park has been exposed to very high human pressures - native plants have been dug up and removed while non-natives have been planted in many areas and soil that has been disturbed has become a refuge for weed seeds. The wide variety of non-native plants in High Park reflects the extent of these anthropogenic changes.

Regardless of whether they are called weeds, aliens, non-natives or introductions, most of these plants have been here for less than 200 years. Although originating in Europe or Asia, they often bear a close resemblance to American species. Many are not treated in popular field guides, making it more difficult to determine what is native and what is introduced.

Here are my observations about the non-native trees and shrubs of High Park.

Coniferous Trees:

Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*) Abundant. These squat trees with long dark needles are a prominent feature in the park. They have all been planted and are now gradually being removed and replaced by native species.

Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) Abundant. This tree was planted in many areas in the park. After decades of use in North American tree plantations it was discovered that the species spreads and is invasive! In High Park, individual trees are now being selectively removed.

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) Common. A row of these trees west of the upper Spring Creek ponds was planted about 100 years ago. Immediately beside these trees is an area where park staff dumps leaf litter. This spot is excellent for migrating birds. In spring and fall kinglets flit about the spruce branches while sparrows, towhees and thrushes forage in the leaf dumps. I hope the area remains intact forever.

▷

LARGE WEEDS IN HIGH PARK (cont'd)

Deciduous Trees:

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) Abundant. Unfortunately, this tree has become a very significant component of many of Toronto's ravines. It looks like our native sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) but the leaf stalk is longer and has a milky sap. The dense shade and possibly root chemicals from the species prevent other plants from growing underneath the canopy. Often there is only bare soil under the tree. In some areas in the park (e.g. Parkside Avenue) it has become the only tree species.

Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) Uncommon. Some large old horse chestnuts grow near Colborne Lodge. Once a common feature of Toronto's neighbourhoods, horse chestnuts are seldom planted now.

Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) Common. This tree and its very similar hybrid with white willow (*Salix X rubens*) line the stream banks and pond shorelines.

European Linden (*Tilia cordata*) Common. Often planted along city streets and open areas in the park, the odd linden has taken seed in the woodlands.

Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*) Abundant. Although American elm (*Ulmus americana*) has made a remarkable recovery from Dutch elm disease, Siberian elm is still the most common elm in the park.

Scotch Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) Uncommon. Scattered individuals of this tree can be found in the hillside gardens and west of Colborne Lodge. Two large lobe-like teeth on a round leaf distinguish it.

Silver Poplar (*Populus alba*) Common. Escaped clones occur north of the Grenadier Restaurant.

Carolina Poplar (*Populus X canadensis*) Uncommon. This hybrid between the European black poplar (*Populus nigra*) and our eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) looks like the latter but both trunk and branches are very straight, the branches rising at a precise 45° angle to the trunk.

European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) Uncommon. Planted in the northeast corner of the park, this tree is very similar to our native white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) except for the inky black buds.

White Mulberry (*Morus alba*) Abundant. This is one of the most serious invasive pests throughout High Park. In mid-July, you can locate large trees by the call notes of kingbirds, orioles and blackbirds gorging on the succulent fruit.

Sweet Cherry (*Prunus avium*) Common. Now one of the dominant trees in the Niagara area, particularly on the escarpment, a large horizontal corky spot lenticel is the best field mark for this species.

Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) Uncommon. Despite the invasive nature, I love the fragrance of their snowy white flower clusters on an early June morning.

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LARGE WEEDS IN HIGH PARK (cont'd)

European Black Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) Uncommon. A recent arrival in the park, this small tree grows on the creek banks almost in the water. The catkins that persist over winter readily distinguish it.

European White Birch (*Betula pendula*) Uncommon. Most of the white birch we now see in southern Ontario is this species. It is quite invasive and covers large areas of Wards Island and Wainfleet Bog. It is distinguished from our native white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) by the dark triangular patch on the trunk just below each branch and the dark base to the trunk.

Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) Common. Found near the greenhouses and several other sites in the park, this infamous weed tree is distinguished from sumacs by the numerous leaflets which are foul smelling when crushed.

Shrubs and Vines:

European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) Abundant. Buckthorns are probably the most significant invasive species in High Park. Robins and starlings eat the bitter fruits and then show no restraint in defecating. The result has been the creation of pure stands of this shrub on slopes facing the Queensway.

Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) Common. Scattered amongst the more common European buckthorn, this shrub maintains its anonymity by having no distinctive field marks.

Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) Common.

Morrow's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*) Common.

Bell's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera X bella*) Uncommon. The slopes of Deer Pen and Spring Creek Roads are covered in honeysuckles. Tartarian has pink flowers, Morrow's has yellow, and their hybrid Bell's has pink flowers fading to yellow.

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) Uncommon. There is a persistent patch of this planted rose near Wendigo Pond. All native roses have large pink petals; this introduced species has small white petals.

Wayfaring Tree (*Viburnum lantana*) Uncommon. Found in several locations in the park, this shrub is so unremarkable that I seldom recognize it!

Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) Common. Another invasive found in several sites throughout the park, the thorny black branches and brilliant yellow wood distinguish this shrub.

Spindle Tree or Burning Bush (*Euonymus europaea*) Common. The green winged branches and persistent pink-husked orange fruit readily distinguish this shrub. It is quite invasive and now is found throughout the forest understory.

Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) Common. Most bittersweet in southern Ontario is now this invasive look-alike. It differs from our native species in that the orange fruits are in the branch axils, not at the tips. ▷

LARGE WEEDS IN HIGH PARK (cont'd)

Honourary Mention:

Japanese Knotweed or Mile-A-Minute (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) Common. This herbaceous perennial grows quickly into what looks like a bushy shrub. In places it lines the creek floodplains. To date it has thwarted efforts at removal.

Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*) Abundant. This is a native species but given any opportunity will spread rampantly like a true non-native invasive. I was shocked on one occasion to find robust specimens growing in Buenos Aires, Argentina! Also called ashleaf maple, it is our only maple to have compound leaflets.

George Bryant



GOLD -- BY ANY STANDARDS

Wordsworth's paeon was to a host of golden daffodils. This year, roaming Brampton's extensive ravine system, I have been endlessly enchanted by the more prosaic, but no less golden, hosts of dandelions. Emblazoned in meadows, poured over fields, gilding the grass verges -- the late severe and lengthy winter seems to have brought them back in fighting fettle.

Inevitably, this has produced the customary knee-jerk reaction of lawn-owners seeking the salvation of Warning Signs, along with the accompanying chemical stench. I have, however, encountered the occasional gardener on all fours, perseveringly digging, and have been unable to resist thanking him/her for not further poisoning the planet.

What puzzles me is the equally knee-jerk reaction of parks managers -- one would think that some 40 years plus literally countless tonnes of sprayed toxins would have taught them that It Just Doesn't Work. If they must save us from this menace, mowing prior to the plant's release of all those silvery parachutes would be far more to the point, and would keep an army of staff gainfully employed -- a solution which, unavoidable noise apart, would at least not poison air, groundwater and soil, along with all the creatures which live therein.

Quebec is the undisputed leader in the anti-chemical movement. The towns of Cote St.Luc and Hudson in la belle province have banned pesticide use altogether; in fact, the latter was taken by CHEMLAWN all the way to the Supreme Court, the company arguing that municipalities did not have the power to control local pesticide use! (Whose land is it anyway??). The Supreme Court disagreed and upheld the power of municipal governments to restrict pesticide use within their communities (2001). Toronto is in the lengthy process of banning pesticing on public and private land. Other towns in Canada have long since moved against 2,4-D application, and abroad, Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand and Australia have all banned high profile pesticides. It can be done! (Brampton, alas, has not yet joined the band of Movers and Doers.) So write to your local councillors, your parks people, your MPPs. And let's hear it for the Fabulous "Weed"! Think of dandelion wine. Think of all those minerals and all that vitamin C in leaves and flowers. Think of all the earth aeration those indefatigable tap roots achieve. Think of the sameness of grass everywhere with not a smidgen of gold in it!

Eva Davis

□

Poison on the grass Coming silently to all: Arsenic in my tea!
--

haiku by Diana Karrandjas

IN THE NEWS

BUG HITS TRADE IN RARE ANIMALS

The SARS virus may yet be good news for the world's endangered animals, victims of an illegal Chinese habit of eating rare species. China has raided tens of thousands of markets, restaurants and kitchens to crack down on the trade and consumption of protected animal species.

The operation, code named Spring Thunder, is part of China's belated battle to stop the spread of the SARS virus, which some medical experts believe may have originated from the wild game that Chinese are so fond of consuming. 170,000 forestry police raided 14,900 animal fairs and 67,800 hotels and restaurants across the country. Officials confiscated 838,500 endangered animals and arrested 1,428 suspects.

from an article in TORONTO METRO, May 1, 2003

IN WAKE OF COYOTE ATTACKS, WARNING ISSUED FOR 2 PARKS

The public is being urged to stay away from two north Toronto parks where four joggers were bitten by a coyote. The two parks are G. Ross Lord near Finch Avenue and Dufferin Street, and Earl Bales Park at Sheppard Avenue and Bathurst Street. The parks are connected by a green-belt. The animal is coming out during the day and attacking people without provocation. Coyotes normally are timid and come out in the evening. It is likely that the animal has been fed by humans and has become used to them.

Two joggers were attacked in G. Ross Lord, the first on May 26 and the second on Sunday, [June 1]. Two others were bitten in Earl Bales Park. None of the bites were serious, but three punctured the skin.

Active coyote dens have been found in the parks. Officials believe only one coyote is doing the attacks. Coyote sightings should be reported to the Toronto Animal Services at 416-338-7297.

from an article in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, June 6, 2003

COYOTE BITES 4 in T.O. PARKS

People who must enter either park should not:

- . Approach the coyote;
- . Go into the park alone;
- . Leave children unattended;
- . Let dogs off leashes.

People who encounter the animal are advised to:

- . Not run away;
- . Make noise by yelling and clapping;
- . Call animal services at 416-338-7297 or police at 416-808-2222.

from an article in TORONTO METRO, June 5, 2003

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

CANADIANS HAVE BEEN STOOD UP BY SPRING

This spring, the southern part of Ontario, all of Quebec and all of the Atlantic provinces were colder than normal. For these regions, periods of spring have been among the wettest as well. Rain has been a staple across the eastern part of the country this spring, with Toronto seeing 153 millimeters of rain compared with an average of 66 millimeters, making it the second-wettest on record.

from an article by Jonathan Fowlie, in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, June 7, 2003

INVASION OF THE GREAT LAKES

This week, the House of Commons fisheries committee warned that something must be done to stop the steady introduction of exotic species to the Great Lakes, saying 15 additional creatures entered the lakes during the 1990s despite constant warnings about the problem. The committee said it was appalled that Canada has no mandatory regulations preventing ocean-going ships from exchanging their ballast water in the lakes, the main point of entry for new species.

In 1989 a team of researchers set out to document the number of foreign life forms in the Great Lakes region. They found 139 species, including 59 plants, 25 fish and 14 mollusks. At last count, the total had hit 162. Some of these species have been deliberately introduced, such as Pacific salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout; others, such as zebra mussels, sea lampreys and the predatory goby fish, entered on their own through canals and aboard ships.

The flip side of introducing new species is the elimination of native ones. Half the alien creatures now living in the Great Lakes arrived after the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959, offering exotic species a free ride in the holds of hundreds of foreign ships that visit the system each year. Ships require ballast water for stability; they flush it out and suck it in, depending on how much cargo they are carrying. By doing so, they can transfer hundreds of species -- whether they be fish eggs, insect larvae or plankton -- from one part of the world to another.

Under mandatory regulations in the United States and voluntary ones in Canada, ships are required to exchange their ballast water off-shore before entering the Great Lakes. That way, the theory goes, ships will flush out any creatures they picked up from brackish, coastal waters that may survive in freshwater. But it is only a temporary solution. There is always sludge left over in ballast tanks where creatures can survive, and a relatively cheap and environmental way to kill them aboard the ship does not exist.

extracted from an article by Mark Stevenson, in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, May 31, 2003



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

RIBBITING CASE OF ILLICIT FROG TRANSPORT

Police officers pulled over a speeding car in York Region. It was carrying: 123 bullfrogs, 10 live snapping turtles and two Midland painted turtles. They were likely destined for dining tables in Toronto but ended up back in Lake Scugog and cost the Toronto-area man transporting them -- 47-year-old Sun Huynh -- a \$10,000 fine. He was convicted Monday under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of illegally transporting bullfrogs and snapping turtles.

from an article by Philip Mascoil, in THE TORONTO STAR, June 18, 2003

DEER ON VIAMEDE CRES AND RESTWELL CRES!

On several occasions, a herd of deer come up from the East Don River ravines and feed on bushes on Viamede and Restwell. A particular favourite spot for them are euonymus bushes.

from an article in the BAYVIEW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER, June 2003

CANADA'S NATIONAL PEST

When Europeans arrived in North America, beavers were abundant. By some estimates, a population of 60 million was living from the Arctic Ocean to Northern Mexico. During the peak of the fur trade, about 200,000 pelts a year were sold in Europe. But by the 1930s, beavers were extirpated -- made locally extinct -- throughout much of their Canadian range, and extremely rare elsewhere. In Manitoba, so few beavers were left alive by the 1930s that the province brought animals from elsewhere to re-establish a healthy population. By the early 1990s, the few had turned into 200,000. Now the number is up to at least 600,000.

In the wild, high populations would be brought into balance by disease outbreaks and predators, such as timber wolves or black bears. Besides causing floods through their dam building, beavers have a major ecological impact through the mainstay of their diet, tree bark. One beaver can cut 216 trees in a year, one for each working day of the week, and in order of preference eats aspen, poplar, willow and birch. They will also eat apple trees and will tuck into conifers if desperate for food. They tackle surprisingly big trees, even ones as thick as a man's waist.

Beavers are moving from rural areas and are now becoming a common fixture in many cities, where trees are abundant and predators rare. Calgary has an estimated 1,500 to 3,000 living within the city limits. Toronto, the country's most populous city, also has beavers, which have taken up residence along the waterfront and on the city's major rivers, such as the Don, the Rouge and the Humber. There have been concerns that beavers may chop down trees at Toronto's waterfront yacht clubs, causing damage to sailboats, but in these areas many trees have been protected by metal screen trunk wraps to foil the rodent's sharp incisors.

extracted from an article by Martin Mittelstaedt, in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, June 28, 2003



SWAMP COTTONWOOD (POPULUS HETEROPHYLLA),
ANOTHER NEW TREE FOR CANADA

In the past 25 years southern Ontario has been the region of several discoveries of tree species new to the flora of Canada: Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*), Hill's Oak (*Q. ellipsoidalis*), Pumpkin Ash (*Fraxinus profunda*), Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) and Bear Oak (*Q. ilicifolia*). One might have thought that trees, being such large life forms, would have all been known by now in this well studied area. However, one additional species, known in four sites on similar habitats in nearby Michigan, was recently discovered!

During an inventory of Bickford Oak Woods (or Clay Creek Woodland, south of Sarnia), a stand of Swamp Cottonwood (*Populus heterophylla*) was found. This find helps confirm the local as well as national importance of Bickford Oak Woods, which was recently secured by the Nature Conservancy of Canada with assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and other partners. Bickford Oak Woods is scheduled to become a provincial reserve.

from an article by Gerry Waldron, John Ambrose and Lindsay Rodger, in NHIC NEWSLETTER, Winter 2003

INSURERS TURN UP KYOTO HEAT

Big Europe-based insurance companies are considering denying some coverage to companies that aren't doing enough to reduce output of the gases believed to be contributing to global warming.

Amid fears of shareholder lawsuits against emitters of so-called greenhouse gases, a Zurich-based global insurance titan plans to start mailing out questionnaires in the next few weeks in which it will ask customers of directors-and-officers insurance what they are doing to prepare for imminent government restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions.

Behind the insurers' moves is the Kyoto Protocol, the international treaty that seeks to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The treaty hasn't yet been ratified by enough countries to put it into effect, and the United States has rejected the document. But European countries, working with the European Union, are expected to impose caps on greenhouse gas emissions starting in 2005, and other countries are expected to follow. When the insurance companies are debating things, they're debating them because they're beginning to see there may be practical consequences. And when that happens, you've got to pay attention.

extracted from an article by Jeffrey Ball, in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, May 7, 2003

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In Japan, dragonflies have long been revered as symbols of courage, strength, victory and happiness.

from a review by Richard Jones of "Dragonflies" by Steve Brooks in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 21, No. 7, July 2003

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

September 2002, Toronto

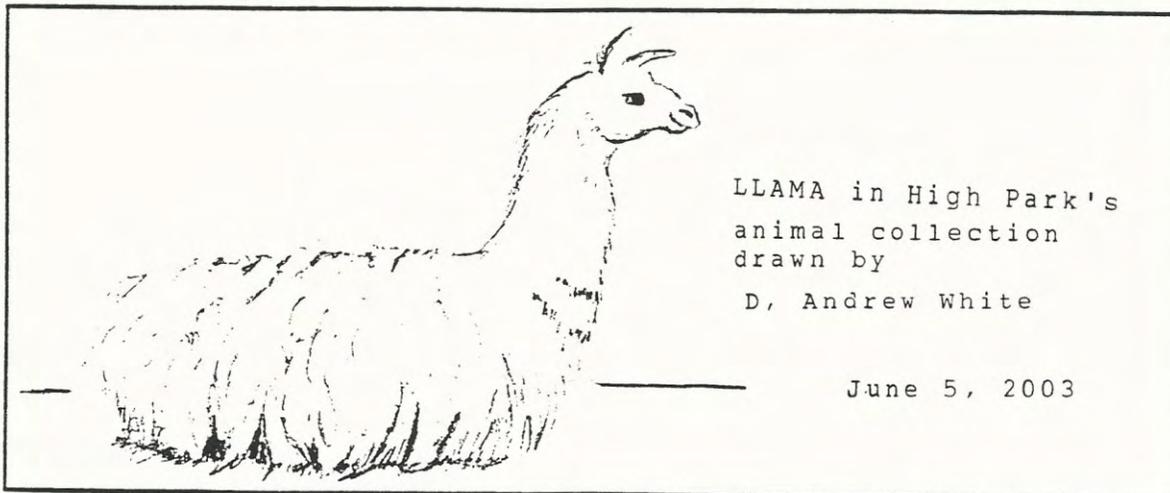
This was the warmest September on record, with worsening drought conditions until thunderstorms on the evening of September 14th brought the first soaking rain since July 29th. The mean temperature was 20.9°C downtown, which beat the record of 20.4°C in 1961. (However, the mean maximum of 25.6°C was the second highest on record, after 1921's mean maximum of 26.1°C). Pearson Airport reported a monthly mean of 20.2°C, which was almost 5°C above normal and easily beat the 1961 record. There were six days with temperatures of 30°C or more at Pearson Airport, which brought the annual total to 40. The June to September period was the warmest on record at Pearson, while the May to September period tied 1998 as the third-warmest on record, because May was so cool. The heat peaked on September 10th, when it reached 34.8°C at Pearson and 33.8°C downtown -- an exceptionally late date in the calendar for such heat. The rest of the month "cooled" down to moderately above-normal temperatures.

Precipitation was 59.2 mm at Pearson and 58.6 mm downtown, about 20 mm below normal. The rains on September 14th were fairly light, but the remains of Hurricane Isidore brought soaking rains on September 27th. About 30 mm fell, between 7 am and 4 pm. This was the first rainfall of over 20 mm at Pearson since April, although more had fallen in July downtown.

Sunshine was very high again, as might be expected, with 236.3 hours total -- not as high as the somewhat similar September of 1998, but about 40 hours above normal. Winds were moderately above normal at Pearson but slightly below at Toronto Island.

Gavin Miller

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COMING EVENTS

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

- Sat. Sept. 13 from 8 am to 12 noon - Fall migration at Lambton Woods with Don Burton. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Dr.).
- Sat. Sept. 20 from 8 am to 12 noon - Fall migration at High Park with Steven Favier. Meet in the parking lot inside the Bloor St. entrance at High Park Ave.
- Sat. Sept. 27 from 8 am (all day) - Shorebirds and other migrants at the Leslie St. Spit with Norm Murr. Meet at the foot of Leslie St. Bring a lunch.

Toronto Entomologists' Association meeting
Call Alan Hanks at 905-727-6993 for details.

Mycological Society of Toronto meeting
Call Vello Soots at 416-444-9053.

Rouge Valley Conservation Centre (416-282-8265)
● Thurs. Sept. 25 at 7:30 pm - Fall scenes (a nature notes presentation) at Pearse House.
● Sun. Sept. 14 at 1 pm - Bird Migration walk starting at Pearse House.

Save the Rouge Valley System (416-282-9983)
● Sun. Sept. 28 at 1:30 pm - nature walk beginning at Pearse House

The Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough - Wonders of the Earth gem and mineral exhibit - Sat. Sept. 13 from 10 am to 6 pm and Sun. Sept. 14 from 11 am to 5 pm at Mid-Scarborough Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Ave. East (at Kennedy Rd.). Admission: \$3 for adults, \$1 per child. Call 416-282-5319 or 416-438-8908 for more information.

Reenactment of Gov. Simcoe's journey up the Toronto Carrying Place - Sat. Sept. 20 beginning at 9:30 am and ending about 2 pm. Walk will begin at the Rousseaux site on the Kingsway just north of Lakeshore Blvd. West. This event is sponsored by the Humber Heritage Committee. Call Madeleine McDowell at 416-767-7633 for more details.

Toronto Bay Initiative
For information about restoration events, call 416-358-0443.

Don Valley Brick Works open house - Sun. Sept. 14. Call 416-661-6600, extension 5283 for more details.

Bird Studies Canada - Annual Members Meeting - Sun. Sept. 14 at Port Rowan. Bird banding demonstrations from 7 am to 10 am; meeting at 1 pm. Contact BSC, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0 or Marjorie Hagglund at 519-586-3531 or 888-448-2473 mhagglund@bsc-eoc.org



COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

North Toronto Green Community - Lost River Walks

- Sun. Sept. 14 at 1:30 pm - The Gerrard Prairie with Ian Wheal and Ed Freeman. Meet at the Victoria Park subway station south entrance at Denton Ave.
- Sat. Sept. 20 at 2 pm - Highlights: the Foxwell Allotments and the York Community Services Organic Garden with Dagmar Baur. Meet at the corner of Jane St. & Woolner/Foxwell.
Call Peter Hare at 416-482-3032 or Helen Mills at 416-781-7663 for further information.

Ian Wheal heritage walks - call 416-570-6415 for details.

- Sun. Sept. 7 at 3 pm - Among the Green Hills of the Don. Meet at the southeast corner of Sumach and Winchester St.

High Park walking tours - begin just south of Grenadier Restaurant in park

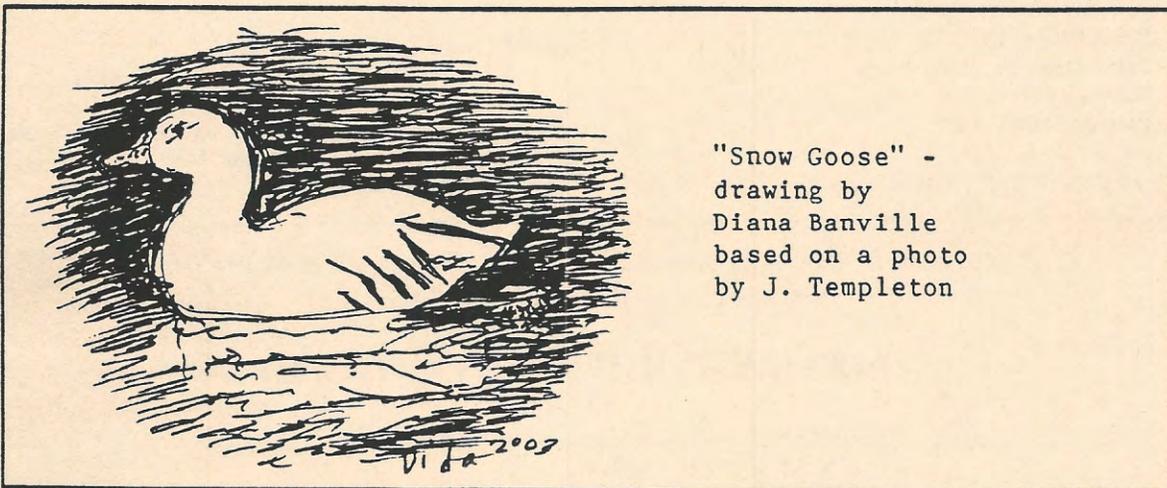
- Sun. Sept. 7 at 1:15 pm
- Sun. Sept. 21 at 9 am Bring binoculars - Birds of Fall
Call 416-392-1748 or 416-392-6916 for more information.

Ecology of the Night - an international symposium: Darkness as a biological imperative - Sept. 22-24 at Muskoka. www.ecologyofthenight.ca for more information. Call FLAP at 416-366-FLAP for more information.

A Passion for Birds at the Benare Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Rd. North, Mississauga. Call 905-822-1569 for more information.

- Sat. Sept. 13 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm - Live birds of prey demonstration
- Sun. Sept. 14 from 2 pm to 3 pm - Oology - the study of egg collecting, a historical and present day perspective, a lecture by Mark Peck of the Royal Ontario Museum. + from 3 pm to 4 pm - Be a bird mimic: a bird song identification workshop by Lionel Normand of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

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"Snow Goose" -
drawing by
Diana Banville
based on a photo
by J. Templeton

TFN 517 - 30

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\$20 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE
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