

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 409

February 1990



Riverdale Animal Farm (Necropolis in background) by Margaret Bentley

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TFN MEETINGS

General Meeting

Monday, February 5 at 8 pm - WILD BIRD CLINIC (GUELPH) AND WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION, an illustrated lecture by
Karin Machin of the Clinic
at 155 College St., 6th floor auditorium

- + from 7 pm to 8 pm - a display of Owen Fisher's art
- + an opportunity to purchase back issues of THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST,
other TFN publications, hasti-notes, prints of selected newsletter
covers, pins, decals and crests
- + easy TTC access (building is one block west of Queen's Park subway stn.)
- + free parking in the Board of Education garage on the west side of McCaul
Street just south of College Street

NEXT GENERAL MEETING; Monday, March 5

Why Birds Sing - a birdsong movie explained by Dr. J. Bruce Falls

Group Meetings

Monday, February 12 at 7 pm - ENVIRONMENT GROUP MEETING

River valleys and healthy cities, what is the connection? David
McCluskey from City Planning will let us know as he tells us about
fixing up the lower Don River.

Meet in Room 251 at 155 College St.

Tuesday, February 13, at 7:30 pm - BOTANY GROUP MEETING

Dr. Nick Badenhuisen will show his slides and talk about the Flowering
Sonoran Desert of Arizona.

Meet in Room 251 at 155 College St.

Editorial Committee

Helen Juhola (924-5806) 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3
Diana Banville (690-1963) 710-7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7
Eva Davis (694-8928) 203-1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5
Eileen Mayo (445-4621) 405-44 Stubbs Dr., Willowdale M2L 2R3
Toshi Oikawa (425-3161) 1063 Pape Ave., Toronto M4K 3W4
Harold Taylor (225-2649) 264 Horsham Ave., Willowdale M2R 1G4

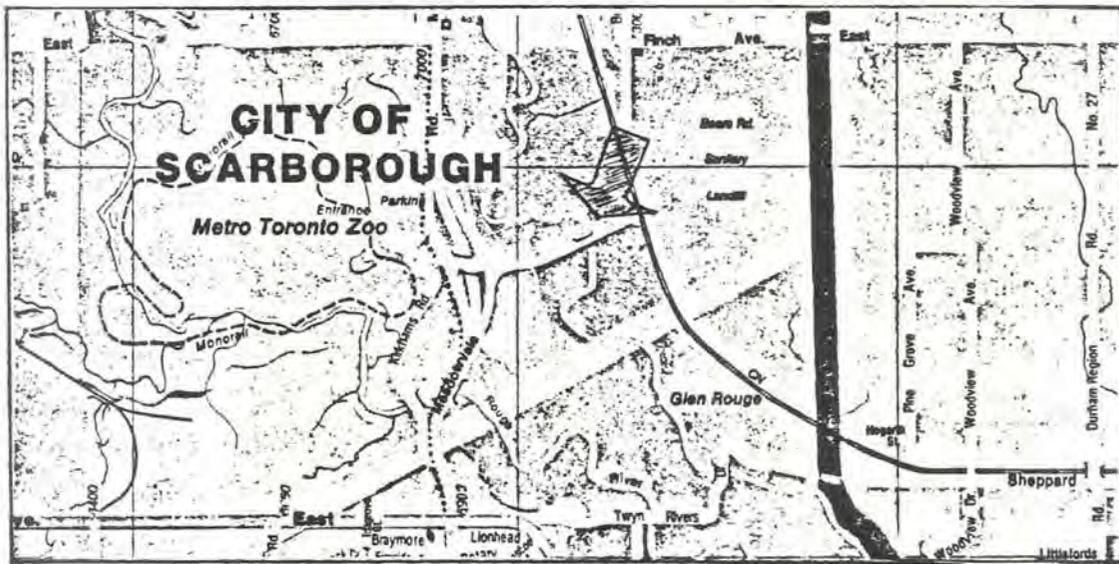
Please submit notices, reports, articles (up to 1,500 words in length)
and illustrations at least six weeks before the month in which the event
is to take place or the material is required to appear. Please include
address and telephone number so submissions can be acknowledged.

Send news clippings to Louise Herzberg, 59 Hillside Dr., Toronto M4K
2M1

TFN OUTINGS

February

- Saturday
 Feb. 3
 2 pm
 NEWTONBROOK UNITED CHURCH - nature arts (photography) North York
 Leader: Betty Greenacre
 Meet at the church which is on Cummer Avenue just east of Yonge Street (between Finch and Steeles). A projector and screen will be provided. Bring your favourite slides. Call Betty Greenacre (759-9956) if you have any questions.
- Sunday
 Feb. 4
 2 pm
 HUMBER VALLEY - Dundas to Eglinton Humber, York/Etobicoke
 Leaders: Phil Joiner & Diana Karrandjas
 Meet at the park entrance on the north side of Dundas Street West (just east of the Humber River). Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Wednesday
 Feb. 7
 10 am
 HIGH PARK - Tour of Greenhouses Toronto
 Leader: City Parks staff
 Meet at the park entrance on Bloor Street opposite High Park Avenue.
- Sunday
 Feb. 11
 1 pm
 BEARE ROAD LANDFILL - birds Rouge, Scarborough
 Leader: Karin Fawthrop
 Meet at the bridge over the Rouge (east of Meadowvale Road) (see map below).



- Wednesday
 Feb. 14
 1:30 pm
 LAKESHORE - nature walk Lakeshore, Etobicoke
 Leader: Graham Neville
 Meet on the south side of Lakeshore Road West at Parklawn Rd. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Sunday
 Feb. 18
 1:30 pm
 HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk Humber, York
 Leader: Helen Juhola & others
 Meet on the north side of Eglinton Ave. West at Emmett Ave. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.

FEBRUARY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Tuesday METRO ZOO - nature arts Rouge, Scarborough
Feb. 20 Leader: Alf Buchanan
10 am Meet at the zoo entrance. Bring cameras, sketching material
and stool or just come and enjoy. Lunch optional.

Wednesday LAKESHORE - nature walk Lakeshore, Etobicoke/Toronto
Feb. 21 Leader: Isabel Smith
1:30 pm Meet at the west end of the Humber streetcar line. Walk will
end at a different public transit stop.

Saturday ETOBICOKE VALLEY - tree buds and winter weeds Etobicoke, Etobicoke
Feb. 24 Leader: Dennis Clarke
2 pm Meet at the west end of Rathburn Road.

Wednesday WILKET CREEK - nature walk Wilket Creek, West Don
Feb. 28 Leader: Cathy Heynés
10:30 am Meet at the barn on the south side of Lawrence Avenue East,
just west of Leslie Street.

For Enjoyment of TFN Outings

- Visitors and children are welcome on all outings.
- Outings go whatever the weather.
- All outings are accessible by public transit (TTC 393-4636, Ride Guides are free)
- Metro maps are available for a nominal sum. Do get one!
- Walks are usually at a leisurely pace and begin and end at the same location unless indicated otherwise.
- Note taking, sketching, photography and collecting of litter are encouraged, the collecting of specimens is discouraged.
- Please do not bring pets on outings. Dogs have been found to interfere with the environment, viewing and safety on the trail.
- Useful numbers: Police 967-2222; pollution complaints within Metro 965-9619.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUR FIELD TRIPPING

Nature can, and will, recycle nearly anything we leave on her doorstep -- but it takes an astonishingly long time.

orange peel...2 weeks to 6 months; ordinary paper...6 months to 2 years;
plastic-coated paper...1 to 5 years; plastic bags...10 to 20 years;
camera film...20 to 30 years; nylon fabric or rope...30 to 40 years;
old boot soles...50 to 80 years; aluminum cans and pull tabs...80 to 100 years.

So next time you are in the woods and fields on a field trip, pocket your trash and, while you are at it, please pick up the cans or bottles that someone else has discarded.

from the "Pink Dolomite Saddle", "The Chippings", and others in STRATA DATA, 1989 (Sc. Gem & Min. Club)

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING GUIDE

1. The innermost layer should carry the perspiration away from the skin. Polypropylene, silk, or thin fine wool are best. Polypropylene is a fabric knitted of woven plastic filament. It is used in undergarments because it does not absorb moisture, so perspiration wicks away from the skin to evaporate and the wearer feels warmer. It is light and dries quickly.

The more traditional fabric for winter undergarments is wool. Wool can absorb up to 30% of its weight before you'll feel wet, and even when thoroughly soaked, it still provides insulation. To get rid of the wool's scratchy feeling, try rinsing it in cold water with just a dash of olive oil.
2. Polypropylene or lightweight wool socks make a good inner layer for your feet. Avoid cotton. Not only does cotton chill your feet, but damp cotton socks allow your feet to slide inside your boots causing blisters. Heavy wool outer socks reinforced with nylon will wear well and keep your feet comfortably warm.
3. Next should come a combination of clothing to provide the most insulation and best temperature control. Knitted wool and fast drying synthetic pile garments are most popular. Adjust the number of layers to match your activity level and the temperature. A lightweight wool turtleneck, a medium-to-heavy weight wool shirt or sweater, or an insulated vest, might be added. If you get too hot, strip off one of the middle layers and tie it around your waist.
4. Next should be wool knickers or pants. They are warm and will not readily become wet from melting snow. Pants can be made from 60/40 cloth (nylon/cotton), which provides some water resistance and an excellent windbreak.
5. The outer layer of clothing protects you from the weather. Choose a lightweight windproof, and water-repellent shell that "breathes". Nylon shells should be avoided in spite of their windproof qualities. You may be dry on the outside but soaked and chilled on the inside.
6. If your feet are cold, put on a hat!! Up to 70% of your body heat is lost through the top of your head. A tightly knit wool hat that covers your ears is best. For those of you bothered by wool, try an acrylic knit, but remember that it will not be as warm as wool.
7. Last of all come the mitts. For cold days, a two-layered mitt is best. The inner core should be made from wool or wool-acrylic blend for maximum insulation; the outer of nylon blends to provide windproofing. On warmer days, gloves may be worn.
8. As for footwear, make sure your boots leave plenty of space around your toes.
9. Sunglasses are important to protect your eyes from snowblindness.

adapted from "Cold Weather Survival Guide" by Grant Viponal in the Saugeen Field Naturalists NEWSLETTER, Jan./Feb. 1990

KEEPING IN TOUCH

November 8, 1989

You asked about our fish, and that's a long tale. There has been a very heavy run (swim?) of chinook salmon up the Sydenham River, a consequence of the river's being stocked several years ago by a sportsmen's club, with MNR approval. The fish are big and edible (supposedly), as Georgian Bay is not as polluted as the lower lakes. Therefore, great numbers of fishermen (and their money) have been attracted to Owen Sound during the fall. Especially on weekends, the bay has been nearly covered with boats, while the boatless fishermen stand almost elbow-to-elbow along the harbour walls. The salmon are said not to interfere with the spring-spawning trout. Thus, everyone is happy in the best of all possible worlds. Wrong! It seems that, in the enthusiasm for stocking the new fish one small detail was overlooked, intentionally, no doubt. Unlike the trout, the chinook salmon die soon after spawning. This is normal and natural, and no big problem in many places. When the river passes through residential and business areas, however, the resulting fragrance meets with something less than complete approval. All agree that something must be done, and city authorities, MNR officials, and the sportsmen are trying to find a solution that will not lean on the taxpayers too much. Allowing a pet food manufacturer to pull out the fish at the mill dam (fish ladder) seems to be the favoured plan at the moment. To the credit of those concerned, there seems to be less bickering and more cooperation than is normal on such occasions, so a solution may be found. Meanwhile, it's one more example of the folly of trying to improve nature.

Orris Hull
Owen Sound

Comment: This was accompanied by a clipping from the OWEN SOUND TIMES of Nov. 7, 1989, an article by Ellen van Wageningen entitled "Salmon removal may be given to a contractor". The article states that to remove the dead salmon of which there are between 6,000 and 10,000 would cost between \$15,000 and \$25,000 if they had to be hauled to a landfill site. Also, very few of the fish have been known to spawn successfully.

H.J.

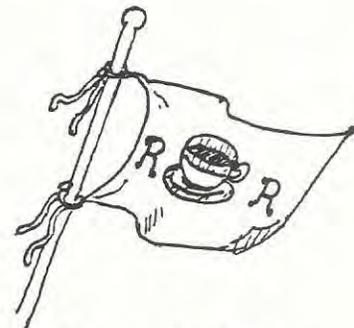


More and more
do you deplore
the plastic war?

Join the Reusable Revolution. We're compiling a list of places where you can get a coffee/snack/meal in porcelain or glass dishes with metal cutlery (without paying "an arm and a leg" for it.) Here are a few of them:

The Bay Restaurant/Cafeteria; "The Bay Street Car"; Cultures (some of them); The Marine Room, Eaton's; The Rainbow Room, Simpson's.

Have you any nominations? It's been commented, "It tastes better, too!"



DB

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Nov. 12, 1989

In the September 1989 newsletter, under the title "Ethics", there were 12 suggestions for saving money and the environment. I take exception to the fourth which urges one to cut one's lawn twice a week. We never remove clippings from our lawn, and it seldom gets cut more than once a week. But, a much more important consideration is how the grass is cut. If it is cut by an internal combustion engine, as many lawns are today, then it would be much better for the environment to cut it every second week! I deplore the excessive use of power lawnmowers; they are an insult to the ears with their unmuffled exhaust noise; and the exhaust fumes from their two-stroke engines are an insult to the environment. A few years ago the majority of people cut their lawns with hand-powered real lawnmowers. These machines are quite easy to push and provide an excellent form of exercise. Now almost everyone uses a power mower. An electric power mower is slightly more kind to the environment, but the best of all is the old-fashioned machine, which is still available. Surely today with the ecological disasters of acid rain and the greenhouse effect already upon us, the least we can do is cut our lawns with non-polluting methods or, better still, plant trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables in our yards instead of grass.

Jack Gingrich

Nov. 21, 1989

Returning from an outing -- out-of-town -- last Saturday on the subway, I was approached by a couple who, having noticed the TFN logo on my jacket, enquired if I was a "naturalist". I confessed that I was a member and asked if they knew about the Club. They wanted to know where they could walk in Toronto, lived in High Park area, and received a dissertation from Yonge to Pape, along with a viewing of the latest Newsletter, which I just happened to have along, and the hope that they would look us up in the telephone book and come along sometime. A little publicity may be a good thing!



Reta McWhinnie

Nov. 5, 1989

I'm enclosing an advertisement from LEISURE WAY magazine (CAA) which was brought to my attention today by an old friend from King City. I'd seen the picture but thought it was another "Franklin Mint" type of ornament. My friend has written letters to a lot of politicians, her M.P., etc., alerting them to this slaughter of birds.

Betty Greenacre

Comment: The ad showed a stuffed laughing thrush "imported directly from the far east". A call to the Federal Government (Environment Protection Service at 973-6467) confirmed that such birds are not protected -- unless they are listed as rare or endangered in their country of origin. Many letters and calls to politicians will be needed to stop this wasteful destruction of wildlife. Start by writing your own federal member.

H.J.

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Nov. 29, 1989

Thank you for your recent letter regarding land use and development in Ontario.

A great deal of misunderstanding has resulted from the staff working paper, "Reforming Our Land Use and Development System", that was released without the benefit of internal review and discussion in Cabinet. [See quote below.]

This Government is proud of Ontario's reputation as one of the world's leading jurisdictions in the areas of environmental awareness and protection. We are fundamentally committed to the principle of sustainable development, and to ensuring that environmental considerations are an integral component of an efficient and effective land use approvals process.

I would like to assure you that the document cited in recent media coverage does not represent Government policy. The document was a staff report which had not received Cabinet approvals at any level. Any proposed reforms to the land use planning process will involve thorough analysis and appropriate consultation with relevant parties.

At the same time, one of this Government's highest priorities is to ensure that we achieve an adequate supply of affordable housing. Improvements to the planning process may help to simplify the process, ensure better environmental protection, and result in timely, quality decisions.

The people of Ontario rightfully expect this Government to protect and maintain a high quality of life, not just for themselves but for their children and all those who choose to make Ontario their home. I believe most people realize that a healthy, growing economy is necessary if we are to enjoy the benefits of this lifestyle. Equally, we must all come to accept that a healthy environment is essential to achieving our economic goals. There will be many challenges, I am sure, to our current attitudes and decision-making processes regarding land use on the road to sustainable development but the outcome will be well worth our efforts.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

David Peterson
The Premier of Ontario

▽

*"Outdated protectionist perspective" you say?
"OUTDATED?" ...in OUR day?
"Protection" is a (comparatively)
modern concept indeed;
until recently (we thought)
there was no need.*

DB

"The existing policy framework and regulatory system reflects an outdated protectionist perspective rather than one built on the principle of sustained development."

REFORMING OUR LAND USE AND
DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM proposal,
Ontario Government, September, 1989

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Dec. 3, 1989

This year has seen a sudden expansion of the duck population on Taylor Creek. In September and again on Nov. 30, we counted 70 to 100 mallards. They congregate at the first foot bridge west of Dawes Road where they are fed often by park visitors.

If the creek freezes, what chance do they have of surviving the winter? If people don't keep feeding them? And what (if anything) should people feed them?

Dan and Silvia Wineland

Comment: Please read the following.

DON'T FEED THE GEESE, PLEASE

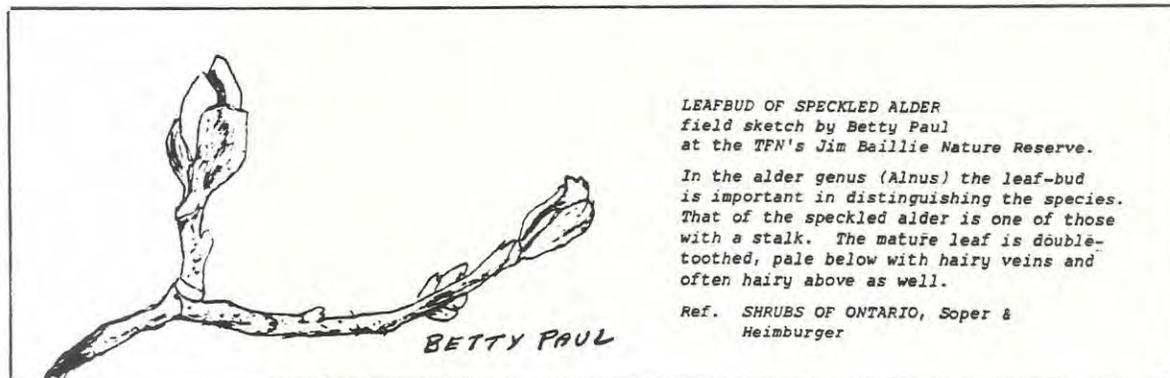
While feeding ducks and geese is a popular activity for young and old, it can be harmful for both the waterfowl and humans.

Come autumn, feeding waterfowl can interfere with their traditional habits of migration. In the wild, seasonal lack of food and open water serve as a stimulus to take flight. Feeding removes this urge, encouraging waterfowl to overwinter. Unfortunately with the coming of winter and poor weather conditions, enthusiasm for feeding often wanes. This marks the time waterfowl need food most and yet, man-made sources often cease to exist or are significantly reduced. Loading up on empty calories from a traditional diet of bread poorly serves the waterfowl and limits their ability to withstand the rigors of winter.

Regardless of the time of year, feeding waterfowl causes an unnatural high concentration of birds. This can not only contribute to the spread of diseases amongst the birds, but also to pollution problems as well. Fecal contamination produced by ducks and geese can have a significant impact on an immediate pond or lake and in areas downstream. It has been estimated that a flock of 100 ducks can contaminate 5 million litres of water daily, to the extent that swimming is unsafe.

Although people mean well when feeding ducks and geese, it is often in the best interest of the waterfowl and the general public, to allow the birds to find their own natural food.

from CONSERVATION CLIPS (Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority), Vol. 8, No. 8, 1989



LEAFBUD OF SPECKLED ALDER
field sketch by Betty Paul
at the TFN's Jim Baillie Nature Reserve.

In the alder genus (*Alnus*) the leaf-bud is important in distinguishing the species. That of the speckled alder is one of those with a stalk. The mature leaf is double-toothed, pale below with hairy veins and often hairy above as well.

Ref. SHRUBS OF ONTARIO, Soper & Heimburger

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Dec. 14, 1989

In the seven wonderful years in which I have been a member of TFN, I have often been moved to respond to something I've seen in the newsletter. This is the first time I've actually sat down and done so!

What moved me so much was the contribution of Rosemary Gaymer to your marvellous "Beginnings" column. Her descriptions of the energetic, yet wise little girl who scoured the countryside of her English home for specimens reminded me of how active and productive a smart little girl can be. Her description of meeting Grey Owl and of his effect on her eventually moving to Canada filled me with a renewed love of this, my own adopted country. And I loved her depiction of her studies with Jim Baillie at the R.O.M. I felt as if I was there myself!

Thanks to you and Ms Gaymer for this stunning addition to a most excellent series of articles.

Rosemary Aubert

December 1989

...the earthquake here (Los Altos) caused some excitement for a while. We were amazed to hear about all the damage as we came through with no problem either at home or work, although we sure felt it. Santa Cruz, near the epicentre of the quake, is 40 miles south of us; San Francisco and Oakland are 40 miles north, and there was much damage in certain areas in S.F. and Oakland, but relatively little around us. We were at work when it started and we took notice of the first mild shake, but when it began to increase and the building creaked and our equipment (big vacuum chambers) started vibrating, we dived under the nearest bench. By that time it sounded like a freight train was roaring by at high speed. It lasted 15 or 20 seconds, then the sudden silence was eerie -- just dust settling on everything. We decided it was prudent to leave, so I went through the building complex where I saw lots of papers and a few plastic ceiling tiles on the floor, and one broken window, but no other damage. We were fortunate that we had gone to work by bike as the traffic was bumper to bumper as everyone in the valley headed for home at once. The traffic lights were out because of power failures, so everyone treated the intersections as 4 way stops and politely waited their turns. The engineer I work with said it took him 1½ hours to get home -- 10 miles! We got home in a record 15 minutes (5 miles). About a foot of water had sloshed out of the pool along with the pool sweeper, but we found no damage. We heard someone at work say her son was swimming in a race at his school and when the quake hit, the water sloshed out and gently deposited him on the deck. Although the buildings we work in escaped damage, two of Hewlett-Packard's buildings were damaged -- one a rented office building is a shambles and will not be reopened. The other damaged building was a relatively new lab that was supposed to be super vibration free -- it will not be habitable for another couple of months. We have been warned for years about "the big one" so much has been done to prepare for it, and those that prepared came through ok, although the type of soil had much to do with the damage in S.F. and Oakland.

Mary West

□

BEGINNINGS

Like some other members whose recollections have appeared in this space, Jack Gingrich has worn many TFN hats. Before becoming president in 1968 he had had executive responsibilities for seven years, including heading the outings committee from 1963 to 1968. After his gavel-wielding term ended in 1970, Jack chaired the program committee, also the Audubon Film committee for two terms, the second term ending in 1983. During his presidency Jack had what he has described elsewhere as "probably the most dramatic week in my life". The exciting developments in that week led the TFN to acquire its cherished nature reserve at Leaskdale. We are pleased to present Jack's reminiscences of his early naturalists days, including his account of an unexpected but delightfully momentous meeting.

H.T.

My interest in nature came from the radio! While listening to CJBC one Sunday afternoon I discovered the program "Audubon Outdoors"; I became a regular listener. It was written and narrated by John A. Livingston, managing director of the Audubon Society of Canada (now the Canadian Nature Federation).

From this program I learned of the nature walks sponsored jointly by the Toronto Telegram and the Audubon Society. The first one I attended was near Newmarket in the late winter of 1956. Through binoculars kindly loaned by others at the outing I was thrilled to see my first horned lark. A few days later I bought a pair of 7 X 35 binoculars for \$60.00. I still use the same pair today; it was the best investment I ever made!

At the next nature walk I learned what field guide to buy (Peterson). I recall attending outings at Hart House Farm, Cedarvale Ravine and Rattray's Marsh. I was disappointed when these outings were discontinued.

I tried to learn bird identification on my own, but without much success. I recall hearing what I now know was a warbling vireo in the park behind my parents' home in Hespeler, and trying to identify it from the song descriptions in the field guide. I was so sensitive to the possible ridicule of people in my home town that I did not go into the park with binoculars to look at the bird!

Finally in 1958 I wrote to the Audubon Society of Canada to find out if they ran any field outings; they did not, but gave me the address of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club. I joined in time to attend the last half of the spring outings. Not long after, I also joined the Audubon Society and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

If at that time someone had told me that through the club outings and meetings I would meet many new friends, some of them my own age but of the opposite sex, that I would some day marry one of these, and that I would also become president of the club, I would not have believed it. Yet that is exactly what happened.

At first I attended outings only, but people at these outings kept urging me to come to the meetings also. I look back with amusement at my initial reluctance to attend (I thought I would not know anybody) because when I finally did, I was introduced to girl no. 1. I was so stunned by her personality and good looks that I can't remember what the lecture was about! After that I never missed a meeting for many years.

▷

BEGINNINGS (cont'd)

Can you imagine my disappointment when I learned that girl no. 1 was soon to depart for a year in Vancouver? By a curious coincidence, I spent my two weeks vacation in Vancouver that year.

On Saturday, January 16, 1960 I attended a Toronto Field Naturalists' Club owl outing northwest of Toronto. During the lunch stop Helen Smith, the driver of the car behind, asked me if I had room for two more passengers because she wanted to go home early. Since I had only one passenger, I agreed to accept two more. Two girls recently from England got into the back seat of my car. One of them aroused my interest slightly; her name was Mary Spiers. We also saw some owls.

Mary and I became very good friends but I was not interested in her romantically because I felt that my allegiance belonged to girl no. 1. We were part of a group of people who attended TFNC bird outings and also went out on our own. It was a mixed group of various ages, both sexes, some married and some single. We had great fun together, in the days before one had to worry about acid rain, greenhouse effect, and pollution.

I went to the November 7, 1960 meeting of the TFNC with the intention of voting for the proposed increase in fees from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per year. However, after various people spoke against the motion, I changed my mind. Therefore I tried to make a motion requiring the matter to be referred back to the executive for further consideration, suggesting that the basic fee should be low but with other categories such as supporting membership for those who could pay more.

The President, Fred Bodsworth, was kind enough to accept my motion but by the rules of parliamentary procedure, which were not familiar to either of us in those days, it was out of order. The members of the executive, while agreeing to reconsider, felt compelled to vote for the original motion. My motion probably should have been an amendment.

I felt that I had made a mess of things, and I wrote a letter of apology to the secretary. This is how I became known to the club executive and at the next election of officers I was asked to run. The dues fiasco was settled by vote at the next meeting: \$4.00 regular, \$6.00 family and \$2.00 corresponding.

In the meantime girl no. 1 was back from Vancouver but it gradually became apparent that she was not all that interested in me, especially when she kept telling me that I should be going out with Mary! By the time I smartened up to realize what a gem Mary was, she was going with someone else, and was also about to go back to England.

One more wet winter in England convinced Mary that Canada was the place she wanted to be. She returned in the spring of 1962 and our friendship blossomed into romance and we were married in September 1963.

After serving as a member of the executive for a few years, I became vice-president and president. I hope that my service to the club has repaid the debt I owe to it for providing me with many hours of happiness and with a marvellous wife.

Jack Gingrich

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BIRD REPORT

ONTARIO RARE BREEDING BIRD PROGRAM

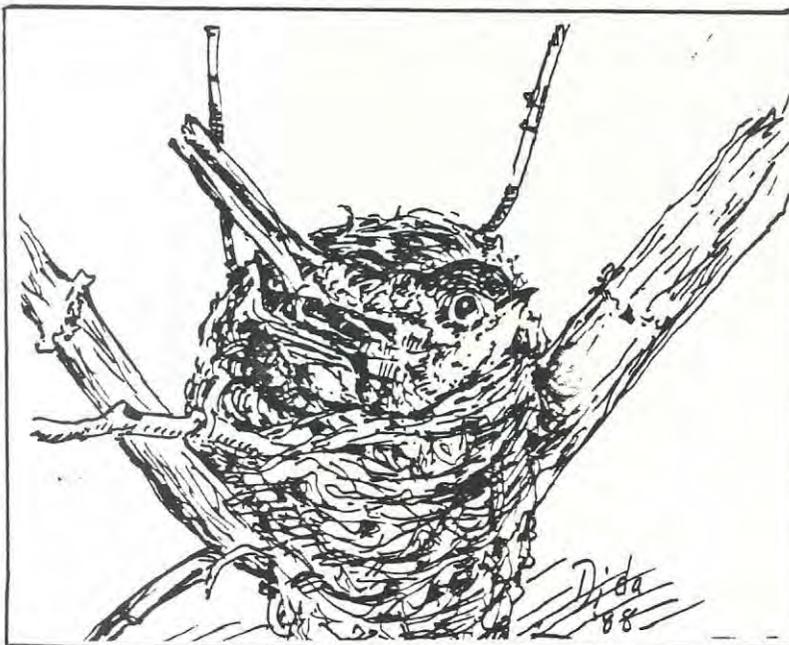
The Ontario Rare Breeding Bird Program (ORBBP) is a cooperative program co-sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Long Point Bird Observatory, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Field Ornithologists. It is a follow-up to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas which was a 5-year program which provided an up-to-date picture of the distribution and relative abundance of Ontario's birds. The ORBBP is a 4-year program which builds upon the results of the atlas project to aid in the conservation of Ontario's most threatened bird species. As was true with the atlas, much of the work will be done by a province-wide network of volunteer naturalists. The plan is to inventory those birds shown to be rare by the atlas project and those species already designated as "rare, threatened, or endangered" by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The result should be an up-to-date and comprehensive data base on the location and use of breeding sites of those species.

Information stored in the program's data base will be used in status reports and recovery plans and will be of value in assessing the significance of specific natural areas. It will have implications for the management of sites used by these rare species.

The hope is that the ORBBP will help naturalists and clubs learn more about the significant local species and natural areas in their region and help focus attention on local species and locations in need of conservation effort.

△ Copies of the ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO may be obtained by sending \$53.50 per copy ordered to the University of Waterloo Press, Porter Library, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.

adapted from information sent by Mike Cadman, Federation of Ontario Naturalists. For more information call Mike at 444-8419 or 519-885-1211, extension 6451. Also see pages 14 & 15.

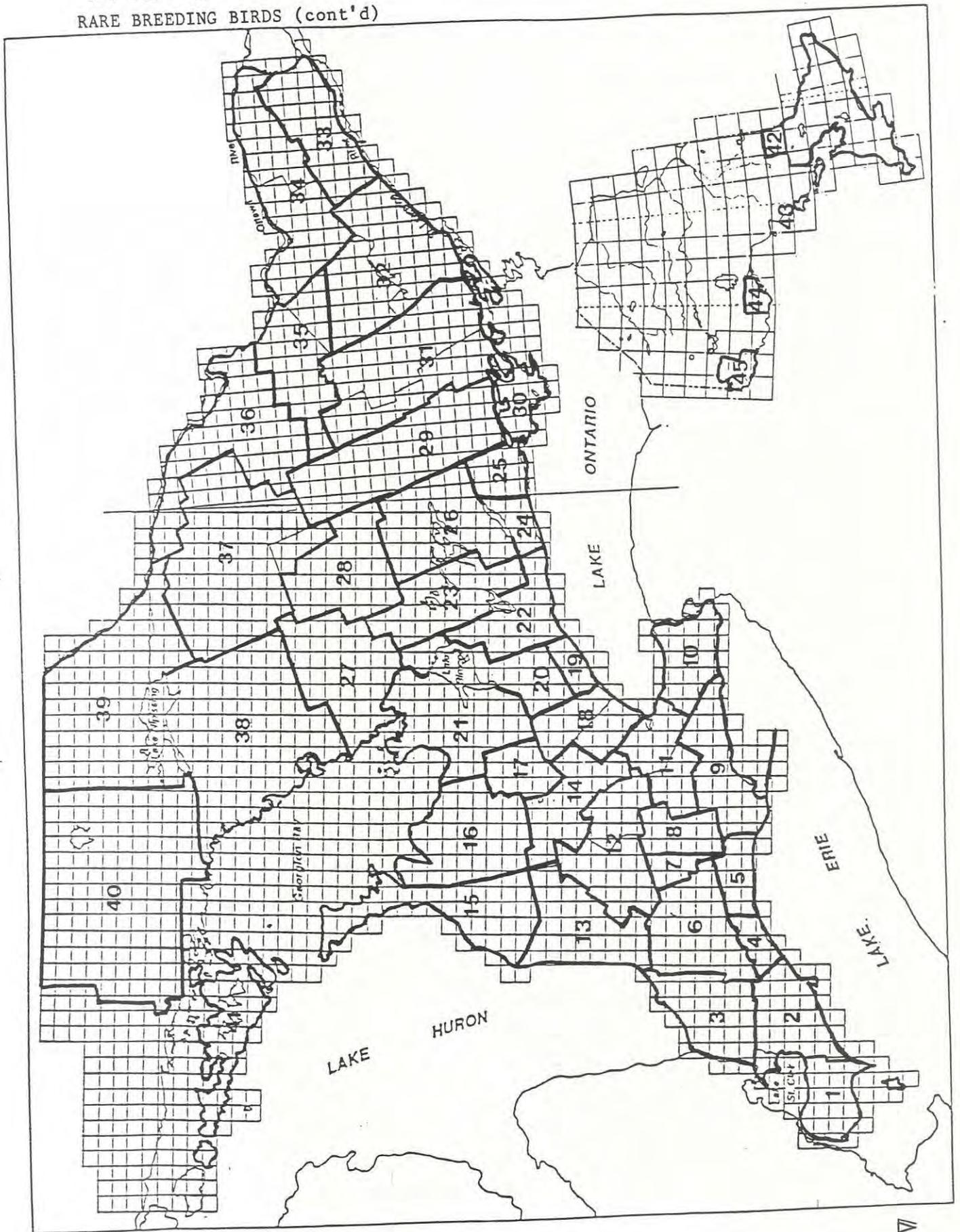


LEAST FLYCATCHER

from a photo by
G. K. Peck in
BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO
by Peck & James ROM 1987

This species prefers to nest in birch, maple, poplar and pine saplings. In Ontario it breeds across the province and into northern aspen groves. It frequently nests in Toronto Region (TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, B. Parker, TFN 1983).

TFN 409 - 14
RARE BREEDING BIRDS (cont'd)



RARE BREEDING BIRDS (cont'd)

OREBP REGIONS AND REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Aigonquin (37) Ron Tozer Box 219 Whitney, ON K0J 2M0 705-633-5592	Kent (2) P. Allen Woodliffe 30 Argyle Cres. Chatham, ON N7L 4T8 519-674-2673	Oxford-West (7) Don Bucknell RR #1 Salford, ON N0J 1W0 519-485-1174	Waterloo-Perth (12) Bill Wilson 550 Moore St. Cambridge, ON N3H 3B2 519-653-1274
Bruce (15) Mike Pickup Box 937 Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0 519-832-9223	Lambton (3) Scott Connop RR#2 Camlachie, ON N0N 1C0 519-899-4904	Peel-Halton (18) Peter Van Dijken 1316 Bronte Rd. Oakville, ON L6J 4Z3 416-827-3365	Wellington (14) Bryan Wyatt 63 Woodland Glen Dr Guelph, ON N1G 3S3 519-822-5871
Dufferin (17) Terry Osborne Box 496 Erin, ON N0B 1T0 519-833-9573	Lanark-South (32) Nora Mansfield 60 William St. E. Smith's Falls, ON K7A 1C7 613-283-1173	Peterborough (26) Doug Sadler RR #4 Peterborough, ON K9J 6X5 705-743-8978	York (20) Theo Hofmann 199 Arnold Ave. Thornhill, ON L4J 1C1 416-889-1554
Durham (22) Margaret Bain 210 Byron St. N. Whitby, ON L1N 4N1 416-668-6452	Middlesex (6) Pete Read RR #3 Kormoka ON N0L 1R0 519-472-2887	Prince-Edward (30) Terry Sprague RR #1 Demorestville ON K0K 1W0 613-476-5072	Huron (13) William Thompson 142 Bennett St. E. Goderich, ON N7A 4H4 519-524-4625
Elgin-East (5) Francis Hindmarsh 47 Murray St. Aylmer, ON N5H 2A4 519-773-337	Muskoka (27) Allan Sinclair RR #3 Bracebridge, ON P0B 1C0 705-645-2848	Renfrew-North (36) Jacques Bouvier 100 Eddy St. Pembroke, ON K8A 7X3 613-735-0366	Victoria (23) Donald & Barbara Cavin RR#3 Fenelon Falls, ON K0M 1N0 705-887-5196
Elgin-West (4) Harold Lancaster Box 701 West Lorne, ON N0L 2P0 519-768-2566	Niagara (10) Gordon Bellerby Box 1276 Niagara-on-the-Lake ON L0S 1J0 416-468-3961	Renfrew-South\ Lanark- North (35) Mike Runtz 51 Ottawa St. Arnprior, ON K7S 2P1 613-623-6975	
Essex (1) Cathy Watson 2-270 Patricia Rd Windsor, ON N9B 3B9 519-253-1908	Nipissing (39) Richard Tafel R.R.#2 Corbeil, ON P0H 1K0 705-474-4890	Simcoe (21) Bob Bowles 30 Esther Anne Dr. Orillia, ON L3V 3G9 705-327-1282	
Grey (16) Tom Murray Box 132 Owen Sound, ON N4K 5P1 519-833-9573	Northumberland-East (25) Steve LaForest Presquile Prov.Park RR#4 Brighton ON K0K 1H0 613-475-2204	Temagami (42) Susan Weilandt Box 1239 Haileybury, ON P0J 1K0 705-672-2587	
Haldimond-Norfolk (9) Jon McCracken L.P.B.O. Box 160 Port Rowan ON N0E 1M0 519-586-2909	Northumberland-West (24) Brian Olson 439 Division St. Cobourg, ON K9A 3R8 416-372-7312	Thunder Bay (44) Nick Escott 133 S. Hill St. Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3T9 807-345-7122	
Hamilton-Wentworth- Brant (11) Rob Dobos 1319 Book Rd. W. Jerseyville ON L0R 1R0	Ottawa-Carleton\ Prescott-Russell (34) Marg Benson 62-1900 Marquis Ave. Gloucester ON K1J 8J2 613-744-6045	Toronto (19) Luc Fazio 2347 Nikanna Rd. Mississauga, ON L7C 2W8 416-273-4596	

THE 1989 TORONTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 65th Toronto Christmas Count was conducted on Dec. 23, 1989. This was the year when revisions to the traditional routes were made to include only the official Audubon 15-mile diameter circle. Previous routes outside this inner circle are now covered by surrounding naturalists' clubs, thus eliminating duplication of effort.

Routes (18) were drawn up with the new centre of the circle moved south to Avenue Rd and Roselawn Ave., thus preventing overlap with Richmond Hill and allowing the inclusion of relatively new lakefill areas -- Leslie Street Spit and Humber Bay West.

Sixty-four birders spent a total of 160 party hours in the field, 127.75 on foot and 32.25 by car, covering 362.5 miles of the city. In addition, there were eight feeder watchers who spent a total of 29 hours counting the birds at their feeders. Seventy-four species of birds and 24,593 individuals were observed this year compared to 75 species and 18,661 individuals in this inner circle last year. (Additional Count Week birds, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, five Long-eared Owls, and a Short-eared Owl were also added to this year's total.)

Single sightings were: Northern Pintail (last seen in 1983), Hooded Merganser (another one was seen during Count Week), an immature Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin (last seen 1976), Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Eastern Screech Owl, Snowy Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Wren (last seen 1975), Hermit Thrust, Bohemian Waxwing (one seen in each 1985 and 1977), Chipping Sparrow (one seen in 1984 and 1976), Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird (32 in 1988), and Common Redpoll.

Other noteworthy birds were three Surf Scoters seen off the Island Nature School. Seventy-six Red-tailed Hawks more than doubled their past ten-year average. Five Sharp-shinned Hawks and several more reported during Count Week were the highest number ever of these hawks, for the inner circle.

No Northern Shovelers or Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported this year. Numbers of Redheads were down to eight, but it is expected that they moved out early with the onset of the cold weather conditions. Canada Geese were slightly lower. Black Duck continued to be low compared to the high ten years ago. Gadwall, 227, have not been this low since 1984; two-thirds were observed in the warm waters of the Sewage Treatment Plant at the base of the Spit -- the "Gadwall Capital of Toronto"?! Numbers of Greater Scaup have decreased from the 1000s (+ or -) that were recorded in the 1970s.

Only three pheasants were counted this year, continuing their rapid decline. The seven kestrel observed could be low due to the substantial snow cover (18 - 20 cm).

In spite of the very cold temperatures (-21°C to -9°C), winds were calm and the sky mostly clear, making counting a pleasant task. The Inner Harbour and Cherry Beach area were completely frozen as were the rivers, except at a few fast moving locations. Misty "smoke" over the lake cleared by 10:00 a.m., making visibility good.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (cont'd)

Oldsquaw, 4280, were way out on the lake actively flying in flocks of 50 - 25, and their numbers were up from the decline noticed over the past 20 years. Red-breasted Mergansers (134) were 4 - 5 times higher than the past five-year average. Four Wood Duck were counted, a record high.

Woodpeckers -- Downies, Hairies, and Flickers were all up in numbers and Downies reached a record high of 153. Nuthatches, too, were up -- 47 Red-breasted and 193 White-breasted, record highs. Other record highs were 503 American Crows, 513 American Robins, 821 Black-capped Chickadees, and 262 Northern Cardinals.

Sparrows were also more numerous this year. There was a record of 821 Dark-eyed Juncos, and more Song, Swamp, and White-throats were counted this year than in the past nine years. Seen close to the north-east circumference of our circle were 27 Purple Finches. A good berry crop this year could account for many of the above increases.

Every single inner-city species showed up in elevated numbers, continuing their increasing trends: Mourning Doves, 776 (530 in 1988), Rock Doves, 1966 (1342 in 1988), House Finches, 343 (322 in 1988), European Starling, 3349 vastly under-reported! (3664 were the last high count in 1984), House Sparrows, 1489 (also under-reported: 1021 in 1988). Are these increases due to the greater city coverage this year or to more feeders being put out?

Much appreciation is extended to the members of the TOC, TFN, and other naturalists' clubs in the area for their help in this count.

Beth Jefferson, Compiler,
Toronto Ornithological Club

□

A BIRDSONG TUTOR FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

(Two audio cassettes and booklet, produced by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. 1989)

The enjoyment of birds is not confined to persons with good eyesight -- individuals with less than adequate vision birdwatch with their ears. To help them recognize the calls and songs of about 60 birds, plus a few mammals, insects, and amphibians is the purpose of the Tutor. In two hours the tape narration takes the listener to city streets, suburban backyards, farms, fields, forests, lakes, wetlands, and, briefly, a seashore. At each habitat there is information about the species found there, plus their songs and calls, replayed for the listener in the best teaching tradition. Made clear are the differences between those sometimes confusing sound-alike songs of the robin, scarlet tanager, and rose-breasted grosbeak. The bubbling song of a marsh wren is replayed at $\frac{1}{2}$ speed so that, perhaps for the first time, one really appreciates this tiny bird's vocal virtuosity. The booklet accompanying the cassettes is printed in larger-than-newspaper type. The Canadian sponsor of this audio project is the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. More information and purchase details are available from the C.N.I.B., 1929 Bayview Ave., Toronto M4G 3E8. Call (416) 480-7446.

H.T.

□

OSPREY FISHING IN METRO TORONTO

From about the middle of August 1988 I went every night, about 8 pm, to St. Bernard's Hospital on Finch Avenue West to see my soon-to-be 101 year old mother-in-law, who was recuperating from a leg fracture (she is doing quite well now thank you), and to pick up my wife. Just north of the hospital I noticed the G. Ross Lord Park Dam and Conservation Area. One day while checking out the various birds flying about the park entrance I saw a big bird carrying something RED in its feet, flying about 50 feet above the lake. I nearly fell over when, with the help of my binoculars, I was able to identify the bird as an OSPREY! Never would I have believed anyone who said they saw an OSPREY FISHING in Metro Toronto. But there it was! and carrying something RED? Yep, it sure was! and it was a fish, a RED FISH!

The next evening I went there an hour earlier, hoping to see the osprey again. After a short while the osprey came into view and began its usual hunting behaviour...that is, fishing behaviour. It flew slowly over the lake, then hovered in one spot with its big, long wings flapping slowly and deeply, then abandoned its hovering flight to again fly slowly about. This happened several times. But then, suddenly from its hovering flight, it swept back its huge wings and dove straight down, head first until about ten feet above the water, then extended its feet in front of its beak, continuing its dive and hit the water in a mighty splash! The osprey seemed to disappear into the lake for a second or two and then with its great wings pumping hard, it slowly rose out of the water, carrying a red fish. As it flew away, it shook itself much as a dog does coming out of a lake, losing several feet of altitude in doing so. It circled once, gaining altitude, and disappeared north.

Well! After witnessing that magnificent spectacle I went there nearly every day immediately after lunch and saw the same awesome dive time and again. In time I explored all the various entrances and parking lots and wild areas, but I never came upon a nest. I saw the osprey nearly every day and discovered its four favourite trees on which it would devour its catch, or just sit there digesting the fruits of its labour. Several times there were two ospreys and twice I saw three at the same time. About the middle of September they were gone. They obviously went south hopefully to better places and a warmer climate.

Incidentally, the artificial lake is full of carp, most of which are a drab silver colour, but some are red like goldfish. Of course, the osprey catch the red carp because they are more readily seen from above.

This year again I saw osprey there from the middle of August to the middle of September. Next year? Oh yes! I'll be there hoping to see the mighty fish eagle catch red fish in Metro Toronto.

Teo Talevi

□

<p>A crystal dew-drop glinted on a weathered bough. A blue jay sipped it.</p>

haiku by J. Kenneth Cook

BIRDWATCHING IN FEBRUARY

It's still winter, isn't it? Well, maybe not... The days are certainly longer. There seems to be plenty more sunny days, even if the temperature is still pretty chilly. And the cardinals are singing! Well, maybe it isn't so wintry after all.

That's right. "Spring" migration, and even nesting have begun. Flocks of crows are beginning to move in, to supplement those that stayed the winter. Horned larks are moving along the waterfront, and may even be singing. Watch for their sky-high flight displays, and listen for their equally high, tinkling notes at Humber Bay Park or Tommy Thompson Park. There is a noticeable increase in ring-billed gulls around the city as they begin migrating back into Toronto as well. Great-horned owls and rock doves (do they ever stop?) are nesting.

Glaucous and Iceland gulls, the white-winged gulls, should be more common this month also, especially towards the end of February and into March. Since they are new to many beginning birders and since this is probably the best time of year to find them I would suggest that one of the best places to see these gulls is at Frenchman's Bay in Pickering. They like to loaf on the ice of the bay along with the much more common herring and ring-billed gulls. There could be several great black-backed gulls there also. Best viewing of south end of Frenchman's Bay is from Beachpoint. Scan the flock(s) of gulls carefully for the white wings. Look for gulls that are much lighter on the back than either herring or ring-billed gulls of the same age. Glaucous gulls are larger than herring gulls; Iceland gulls are somewhat smaller. Glaucous gulls are usually more common than Icelands, but neither could be termed abundant. You may find none, or you may see a dozen.

You can also view the bay from Bruce Hanscombe Memorial Park on the west side of the bay. Within Toronto I suggest checking the breakwater along sunnyside and over to Ontario Place.

Ross Harris

□

REDPOLL

*Little arctic charmer,
you thrilled my winter so,
as daily at my feeder
I watched you to and fro,
with your smart red cap
and your cheery ways,
you cheered me on those winter days.*

*But now the tundra beckons
and you must homeward be.
You know you're always welcome,
little wild bird, bold and free.*

Spara

poem by
Diana Karrandjas

BOTANY REPORT

The Loss of Rare and Endangered Woody Plants from Existing Landscapes

My favourite magnolia disappeared several weeks ago from a highly-priced residential neighbourhood in North Toronto, plucked from the lawn by a "landscaper" and replaced with three scrawny white birch trees in the name of landscape improvement. This was an exceedingly rare plant, *Magnolia liliflora* "Nigra", the only one I had seen blooming as a mature shrub in the Toronto area. I once tried to coax a purple lily magnolia into growing (let alone blooming) in Walter Gordon's garden, in a protected spot on Chestnut Park in downtown Toronto, but to no avail. By contrast, the mature shrub had grown quite happily for perhaps 60 years on the front (south) lawn of a house on Teddington park; I watched the house change hands last year and actually stopped to warn a landscape crew installing a new sodded lawn that their rototillers would damage the shallow magnolia roots; the shrub did not bloom this year and the new owners obviously thought that its prostrate form was unattractive, even though it leafed out very well.

In retrospect, I should have contacted the owners of the property; I would even have paid all costs to relocate this wonderful shrub to my own property or a public park.

I did contact the owners of a large house on Cluny Drive who bought the house next door and tore it down to build an addition on their own house. In the front yard of the former neighbouring house stands a mature *Magnolia acuminata*, cucumber magnolia, which was planted approximately eighty years ago. This native species is listed as "endangered" by the World Wildlife Fund's Carolinian Canada program. As soon as the house was demolished I went to the owners and told them how rare this tree is and offered voluntary consulting any time they needed advice on its care and preservation. I also telephoned the contractor and landscape contractor on several occasions to ask that soil and construction material not be heaped over the trunk of the tree, but as I write this, the tree has been badly abused by equipment and soil compaction for almost nine months. The crown is thinning, leaves have fallen prematurely, and survival is not a sure thing. I do have the assurances of the landscape contractor that the root zone area will be aerated and fertilized when construction is completed, and a snow fence has finally been erected around the tree to stop the construction equipment from crushing the root zone further.

I donated funds to pay for the planting of a *Magnolia acuminata* in a downtown Toronto park several years ago, and a specimen, grown from seed by Pat Tucker at the University of Guelph, was transplanted by tree spade. Maintenance has been carried out, with the wood chip mulch replaced several times and deadwood removed by City Parks staff and I am hopeful that this tree will thrive in future years. As always with parks plantings, establishment is a difficult thing.

Another fairly successful transplanting job was completed in my neighbourhood at the Kensington Co-operative Apartment this past spring; the underground parking garage had to be excavated because of leaks and salt damage and the thirty year old landscape trees and gardens above the garage were removed to allow excavation. Two trees in particular, a weeping false cypress (*Chamaecypress nootkatensis* "Pendula") and a native eastern redbud (*Cercis*

BOTANY (cont'd)

canadensis), both rare in this region, were transplanted with a tree spade to another location on the property, and have survived in reasonable condition. Again, I have suggested to the Co-op Association that fertilizing and more regular watering will assist these trees.

Not all transplanting is successful, and often the lack of aftercare causes the transplanted trees to die. This was the case on Lawrence Ave. West at the old Simpson's Warehouse site when the building and parking lots were rebuilt for new commercial uses. A line of thirty year old copper beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica* "Cuprea") stretched along the frontage and several had to be relocated for new parking entrances. A very good tree moving firm was employed, the trees were moved in early spring, but no follow-up care was given and they died during the hot summer drought. In this case, a little water and mulch would have saved the trees and the investment in moving them. I estimated that these trees would have been worth \$4,000 to \$5,000 each as landscape specimens.

Finally, many woody plants that are not trees but of great rarity and value in our urban landscapes, are frequently destroyed during "landscape maintenance", or even regular building maintenance, such as painting or roofing. A fifty year old Chinese wisteria was cut off at ground level last fall at a house being rebuilt by a general contractor. The cutting was done by a carpenter who thought the vine was an "old weed" and that the carpentry work around the doorway would look better with the "weed" removed. The general contractor is a friend; he had a terrible time explaining to distraught clients why the wisteria had been removed and this past spring he supplied a replacement plant which is a pale shadow of the former vine.

I know of many significant and rare plants around the greater Metro area, including a huge trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) located on the side of a Victorian brick two-story house at the corner of Ontario and Carlton streets. The house is now used as a restaurant, but its future use is not yet known and the building could well be demolished or rebuilt, with the rare trumpet vine being lost in the process. None of the plants mentioned in this article are located on public property, with the exception of the small cucumber magnolia in a Toronto park; none are therefore protected from damage or destruction by the Ontario Trees Act, the Municipal Act, or any other statute or bylaw. In rare cases of redevelopment, specimen plants or gardens may be preserved under the Site Plant Control provisions of the Planning Act, but this requires that the local municipality has adopted a Site Plan Control Bylaw which has identified rare or valuable specimens on the property to be redeveloped and has the political will to stop or modify development plans in favour of plant preservation. In spite of public outcry, the University of Toronto and York University have each cut rare specimens to allow more campus building in the past year.

The best collective defense against this wholesale uncaring destruction of our natural heritage seems to centre around private citizens intervening during the development or redevelopment stage. The following are helpful actions when a tree, shrub, vine or entire landscape near and dear to you is threatened:

BOTANY (cont'd)

1. Find out who the landowners are. Talk to them -- express your concern about the value of the plants on their property.
2. Determine if the site is subject to Site Plan Control, through your local municipal planning department. If Site Plan Control applies, then make sure that the Planning Staff are aware of the significance of the plants on the site.
3. Make sure that you have identified the plants correctly and that the plants you are advocating for preservation are healthy and sound. Nothing will make your argument weaker than rare species that turn out to be commonplace, or having your subject fall down in a light windstorm.
4. Compile lists of locations and species and work with a local garden club, naturalists' group or other knowledgeable people to circulate the information gathered to the property owners and the municipal planning staff before any development or relandscaping is proposed. An ounce of prevention... If trees are relocated, use a reputable tree-moving firm and ensure that wood chip mulch, fertilizer and especially water are supplied to the relocated trees for two to three years following the move.

Finally, if all other preservation efforts fail, continue to collect seed and to propagate from locally-collected (hardy) seed of rare and endangered plants. I have no seed from the lamented *Magnolia liliflora* "Nigra" and so this specimen truly is lost forever.

Bill Granger

from TRELLIS (Civic Garden Centre), November 1989

□

UNFOLDING HORSECHESTNUT

The natural range of this tree is limited to south-east Europe according to most manuals. It is widely planted in Europe and North America and sometimes reseeds. In Toronto it is a favourite street-tree. Leaves usually have seven leaflets and the flowers white with red and yellow markings.

The related buckeyes may also be found planted here, with yellow flowers and usually leaves of five leaflets. Some hybrids of horsechestnuts and buckeyes are also planted, with pink flowers.

Ref. - *THE COMPLETE BOOK OF GARDEN PLANTS* by Michael Wright, and TFN Library manuals.



MARY CUMMING
CRAWFORD LAKE
MAY 13, 1989
HORSE CHESTNUT

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Happy New Year! Here's a round-up of what went on in the October and November Environment Group Meetings last year.

October's subject - The future High Park

"It's no different than if the Mona Lisa got altered and we wanted to restore it to its original state".

That's how High Park master planner Jerry Belan described the strategy to make High Park better. So what constitutes a better park? That's a matter of opinion, as Jerry is the first to admit. In his opinion a good park "makes use of its natural assets and it stays in tune with the times".

Jerry pulled a few pages from his High Park "wishbook" to show us plans that are not yet realized, but under consideration by park officials -- new parking spaces (differently placed, not necessarily more), ideas for safer trails (well-lit but not to feel like a roadway), and a grand scheme to revitalize Grenadier Pond (yes, there are pike and bass in there!)

The plan will also determine what kinds of restaurants and recreational facilities will find a place on the 400 acres.

But perhaps the most ambitious aspect of the project is restoring the natural beauty of the park's three vegetation zones: boreal, Carolinian, and prairie. This means the black oak trees have to be nurtured, non-indigenous trees have to be taken out, and rare and otherwise significant vegetation have to be protected by being dubbed ANSI (areas of natural and scientific interest) regions by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

"We want to take the natural areas back to about 1850-1860, the time when John Howard donated the land for a natural park," says Belan. "It might take 15 years for the park to be re-naturalized."

The list of what should go into the park (more tennis courts?) and what should come out (those metal sculptures?) is long and changeable. Assorted interest groups constantly tug at Jerry's sleeves.

As for TFN, members will be glad to know Jerry's view guides the project and his vision is a green one.

November's subject - Environmental Sensitivity

November's meeting had an air of sleuthing about it.

Darlene Koski, volunteer and community services co-ordinator at the Allergy and Environmental Health Association (AHEA), Toronto, talked about substances that seem initially innocuous, but can reveal harmful effects with time. Of course, not everyone will be affected by the same materials nor to the same degree. So environmental sensitivity becomes a detective game of who, what, where, how and when?

Darlene says food, chemical, inhalant (i.e. dust, mould), and infectious allergies all can contribute to ailments of the body and soul. Environmental sensitivity is described in the AEHA literature as a

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT (cont'd)

chronic (i.e. more than 3-months) multi-system disorder where victims experience mild discomfort to total disability. Usually, the central nervous system and at least one other system are affected. It has been estimated that 30,000 Ontarians have this illness.

Anecdotes were supplied by Darlene to show the hazards are everywhere. She herself left teaching because indoor air and paint fumes in the school left her with chronic tiredness. She also tells the story of a neighbour's kids who became very ill from playing on a deck made from the green-stained wood often used in outdoor structures.

Some of the other irritants Darlene pointed out were poor heating and ventilation systems, carpet underpadding, particle board, foam mattresses, and polyester drapes.

Darlene's message is, if you don't feel 100%, it could be environmental sensitivity. And the only way to tell for sure is to make like Sherlock and narrow down the suspects. Eliminate them one by one until you've found the culprit.

Jennifer Low

□



YELLOW TROUT-LILY
is a common spring
wildflower of Toronto.
It ranges from west
Ontario and Nova Scotia
and Minnesota to Alabama
and Florida, more common
in the east than the
western extremity of that
range, according to
Gleason & Cronquist's
MANUAL OF VASCULAR PLANTS.
Drawing by Catherine
Holland in Brimley Woods,
May 17, 1989.

See also TFN 339:31
(April, 1981)

TFN Library Report

Acquisitions - September-December, 1989

We have received copies of papers authored by two TFN members:

"Natural resource management policy constraints and trade-offs in an urban National recreation area", from the PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN WILDLIFE, Chevy Chase, MD November, 1986, by John T. Tancredi.

"Ecological and human influences on Canadian populations of grassland birds" from INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BIRDS Technical Publication No. 7, 1988, by Martin J. McNicholl.

VULNERABLE CANADIAN SPECIES UPDATE NUMBER 6 by Martin J. McNicholl, published by International Council for the Preservation of Birds Canada Committee of the Canadian Nature Federation.

As well, we have received other material on the above two subjects, urban wilderness and birdlife:

article on "the greening of Birmingham" and additional papers on urban wilderness in the New York-New Jersey area; literature on the piping plover, bald eagle and peregrine falcon status in Ontario, and swallow migration.

Copies of periodicals include:

PROBE POST, Spring, 1989

ATRIA (Royal Ontario Museum), July-August, 1989

RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT NOTES, Vol. 6 No. 1, Summer, 1988
(on dune restoration)

Nature travel, conservation, ticks and Lyme disease, ravine-lot house controversy, Rouge Valley status, Temagami status, were further subjects of material donated, as well as animal pictures.

We thank the donors: Jerry Belan, Mary Cumming, Earl S. Dillon, Bob Johnson, Martin K. McNicholl, Gloria Somerville, and John T. Tancredi, for this interesting material.

DB

A "BEGINNINGS" FOLLOW-UP

After Edith Cosens' "Beginnings" appeared in our November 1989 issue, Edith received a letter of appreciation from Mary Robson, a very active worker on behalf of the TFN for many years. Mary asked that mention be made of the late Professor Jack Lehmann, an instructor at Billie Bear Camp, about which Edith had written. In Mary's words, "There are so many people, myself included, who owe him a very great debt of gratitude. He taught me a large amount of the botany I've ever known." Thank you, Mary.

CORRECTION

In reporting the death of Doris Heustis Speirs in our December 1989 issue, we made a mistake in Mrs. Speir's name. We apologize for this error.

H.T.

A NATURALIST'S CODE OF ETHICS

IF YOU LOVE THIS PLANET

1. Use the sun and the wind to heat, to cool, to moisten, to freshen, to power. Use your ingenuity. Clotheslines, sails, solar heaters and windmills are just a few of the very simple machines we can devise and use to harness clean, quiet, safe and inexpensive energy.
2. Shun plastics in favour of "natural" materials such as wood, glass, paper, cotton and leather. Most plastics generate noxious pollutants in their manufacture and even more in their disposal.
3. Avoid double packaging. It is wasteful and expensive, it deceives and pollutes. At the same time, look closely at the packaging on the things you do buy -- let your grocer know, for example, that you will not take eggs packed in styrofoam, one of our major pollutants, but only those that come in biodegradable fibre containers.
4. Turn it off -- whether it be a light switch or a faucet or an idling automobile. Dripping taps and unneeded lights use energy whose production puts stress upon the environment. In the same vein, insulate and turn that thermostat down.
5. Use your legs. The energy used in walking, cycling and climbing stairs is clean and beneficial.
6. Go public. If it's too far to walk or cycle, take a bus or train. If that is not possible, share a ride. When you must drive alone, plan your route to use as little gas as possible. And slow down. Conserve energy by driving slowly and using a smaller vehicle -- save money at the same time. It wouldn't hurt to keep expense records to convince yourself.
7. Plant a tree -- at least one for each child, or if you have no children, plant for your friend. If you have no property of your own, make a donation for the purpose to your local town or conservation authority. Trees cool and filter the air far more quietly and efficiently and sweetly than any air conditioner. They provide oxygen and they're so beautiful!
8. Eat less meat. It has been calculated that the production of one large hamburger requires the destruction of 80 square feet of rain forest (about the size of a suburban kitchen). There could also be some fringe benefits.
9. Avoid disposables -- they're just a way of burning dollar bills. It's cleaner and more profitable to recycle, mulch, and creatively adapt. (The humble javex bottle can become a scoop, funnel, buoy, lantern, doll, scarecrow, anemometer, bird feeder, dog dish, bird house, mask, puppet, marker, goalpost, seedling cover and who knows what else.) And while you're at it, make a game out of garbage day -- our household of four humans is down to less than one bag a week and the output is still shrinking.
10. Don't use aerosols. They can kill directly or at least foul the air we breathe. Worse, in a slow process of erosion, some of them are helping to destroy the protective ozone layer that encloses the earth's atmosphere.

ETHICS (cont'd)

11. Shout it out. When things hurt our environment, let your feelings be known -- to politicians, to manufacturers, to users.
12. Plant a garden. Everyone should grow some food -- even if it is only a little pot of sprouts on a windowsill. But do it organically.
13. Train your children to be environmentally sensitive. After all, it is their future we are trying to enhance. But don't make it a chore. Help them to see conservation as fun -- a game to test their ingenuity and a way to build.
14. Pray about it -- publicly and privately -- remembering always that the prayers we live are the prayers most likely to be answered.

adapted from an article by Linda Manchester in the SAUGEEN FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER, Sept./Oct. 1989 (based on "Regenesiis: a spiritual reflection on the eco-mess we're in" by David Thomas in THE LIVING MESSAGE, April, 1989.

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THE NORTHERN HAWK-OWL

This sleek, day-flying owl has only rarely been observed in the Toronto Region. It has lately been given the name "northern" to distinguish it from others in its subfamily bearing the name "hawk-owl" variously modified. It is, however, unique in its genus in the world. It has a wide Eurasian range as well as that in North America, according to Edwards, A CODED WORKBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, Vol. I.

The northern hawk-owl has been on the Christmas Bird Count for Toronto Region only a few times since 1925. It has no status between April and September, inclusive, according to Bruce Parker, TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983.

The ink drawing on the right was made by Geraldine Goodwin from a mounted specimen at the Royal Ontario Museum, on a TFN Nature Arts outing.



ISSUES

FORESTS FOR TOMORROW

The struggle to see that Northern Ontario's forests are treated as more than mere "fibre factories" will shortly be getting more publicity as the 18-month-old class environmental hearing moves from the seclusion of Thunder Bay to the glare of Toronto's TV cameras. Since May 1988, the Forests for Tomorrow coalition spearheaded by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists has been cross-examining the evidence provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources on how it has been managing Ontario's most important natural resource, its northern forest. Don Huff, the FON's Environmental Director, has been seconded for the next 18 months to work full-time on this hearing. As the recent battle over Temagami's old growth pine illustrates, the logging industry is now laying claim to almost every bit of accessible forest in Northern Ontario. Now that Ontario has reached the point where there is not enough forest left for everyone to have all he wants and leave enough for others, the current EA hearing will determine whether Ontario's forests will be managed in a way which will permit other users than the logging industry to enjoy their benefits.

It is not entirely a coincidence that MNR chose to present all its evidence in a centre with no TV satellite feed, and only one small newspaper, which ensures that relatively little of what MNR officials have been forced to admit under oath has appeared in most Ontario media. Interesting revelations that have appeared under cross-examination include statements that:

- the Ministry does not know how much forest there is in Ontario
- it does not know how effective its efforts at replanting logged areas have been
- it does not know what areas in Northern Ontario contain rare or endangered species of plants and animals
- despite the fact that Ontario has had some kind of timber management scheme operating for about one hundred years, there are virtually no studies on the environmental or even on the socio-economic effects of its timber management policies
- some 15% of the areas that have been logged cannot be regenerated by any known method (which raises the question of why cutting was allowed in the first place)
- according to sampling studies of replanted areas, more than half the trees that eventually grew in these areas were "non-desirable" species
- a "large" clear-cut (about 90% of all logging is done by clear-cutting) is one of about 2,000-4,000 hectares (4,000 hectares is about 15 square miles). The MNR's own biologist testified that these clear-cuts were much harder on wildlife than forest fires since, unlike forest fires, they did not leave wet spots and other pockets of vegetation, nor did they leave irregular edges that helped provide shelter.

Despite these revelations, the MNR continues to insist that present forestry practices are perfectly satisfactory, and it is backed in this by the forest industry. To send its team of 10 to 15 bureaucrats and lawyers from their Toronto offices to Thunder Bay, the Ministry has been spending \$400 a week per person of your tax money for air fares and probably at least the same amount again for hotel bills and meals -- in total, about three-quarters of a million dollars is being added to your taxes in order to have the hearing in Thunder Bay.

The Forests for Tomorrow coalition has been operating much more frugally,

FORESTS (cont'd)

thanks in large measure to the fact that the Canadian Environmental Law Association has donated the services of legal counsel free of any fees. It has also received some intervenor funding (i.e. funds provided from the Ontario government). However, Forests for Tomorrow has already had to raise about \$55,000, and for the remaining years during which this hearing now seems likely to continue, the coalition expects to need close to another \$300,000 since, when it comes time to present its case, it will need to hire its own expert witnesses, and use other lawyers with expertise in the appropriate areas.

If you agree that this hearing is vital for improving forestry practices in Ontario, the Forests for Tomorrow coalition could use your monetary support. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8. Also, if you think that Ontario's forests should be managed so that areas will remain for the enjoyment of all its citizens, or even that there will be enough left to sustain the lumber industry in a quarter century's time, let your local provincial member of parliament and/or the Premier know. The address of your member and of Premier David Peterson is Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1.

John Cartwright

from THE CARDINAL (The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London), No. 137, November 1989

ESCARPMENT NEEDS HELP

The Niagara Escarpment Plan is up for its five year review. The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) plans to carry out a special "Public Interest Submission to the 5 year review". This will involve preparing a discussion document, distributing it to citizens and groups concerned with the plan, to come up with a public consensus on how to strengthen the plan. It will have to cover staff expenses in collecting the data needed for the five year review, cover legal costs and research, keep the review in the public spotlight, be ready for any legal action that may be required. Thousands of developments have been approved as well as many amendments to the Plan. CONE needs to see what the effect on the environment has been so that it can prepare for the five year review.

Donations to help with this important work may be sent to CONE, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8. Receipts are issued for donations of \$10.00 or more.

EVERY LETTER WRITTEN IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION

Reta McWhinnie, TFN member, wrote to the producers of NORTHERN PERSPECTIVES, the bulletin put out by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, objecting to their use of plastic mailing covers. The executive director has since replied that future issues will be mailed in recycled paper envelopes as soon as the change can be implemented. This illustrates what the protest of one TFN member can achieve, and if each of our 2,000 members wrote even one letter a year on environmental concerns, we could indeed move -- or remove! -- mountains.

E.D.

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PROJECTS

GROWERS WANTED

Every spring the Canadian Wildflower Society holds a native plant sale where they sell about 2000 native plants to the public. The profits enable them to carry on their year round botanical program, including the production of WILDFLOWER magazine. Lots of volunteers are needed to grow, pot and deliver plants to the sale. Even a dozen seedlings grown on your window ledge are welcome. If you intend to donate, contact the Canadian Wildflower Society, 75 Ternhill Crescent, North York, Ontario M3C 2E4.

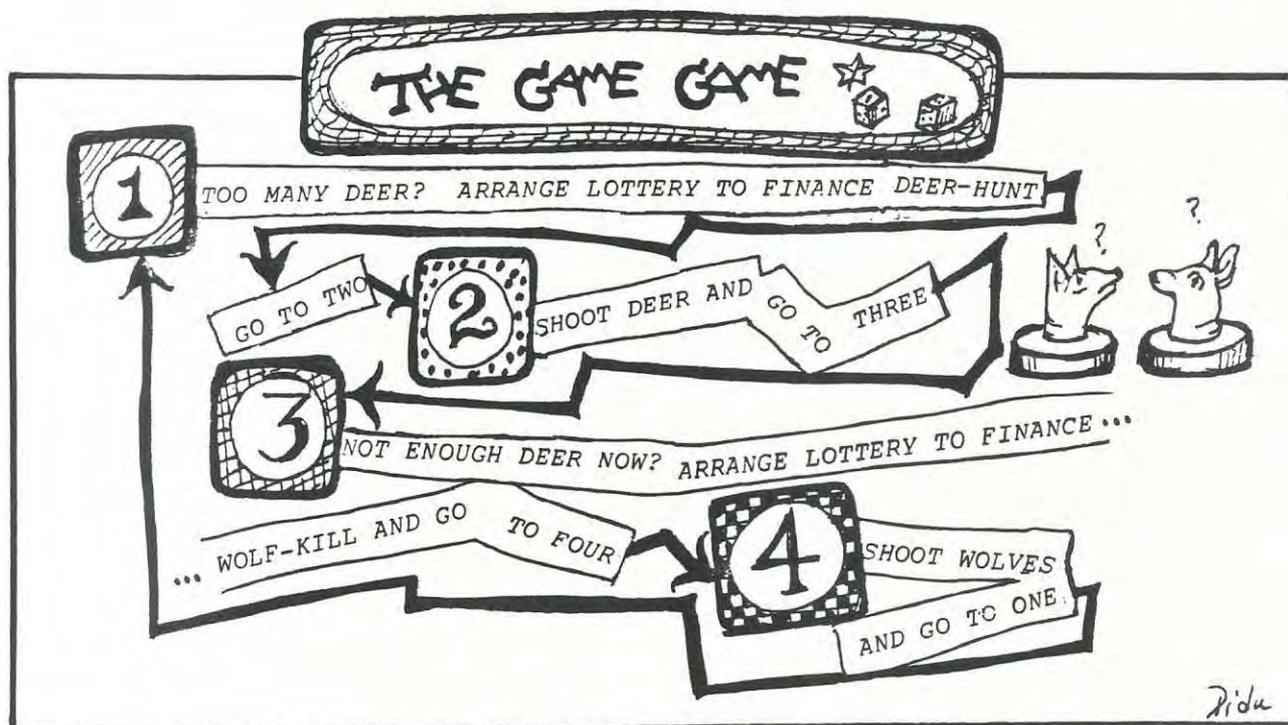
EXPLORERS WANTED

We are looking for members wanting to help document watershed outlets at the lakeshore both east and west of Metro Toronto -- take photographs of what is there (flora, fauna, landforms). Call Robin Powell at 928-9493 if you are interested.

CALL THE TOXIC TAXI

Old household and car batteries, cleaning products, paints, solvents, pharmaceuticals, bug killers, oil and greases are all household hazardous wastes which you must not throw out with your garbage. Take them to one of Metro's toxics depots (transfer stations) or call the TOXICS TAXI at 392-4330 to arrange for a pick-up of your household hazardous waste. A minimum of 10 litres of materials is necessary. All material should be in sealed containers and clearly labelled.

adapted from "How to get rid of obnoxious house guests" in SWEAP NEWS, No. 17, Sept./Oct. 89



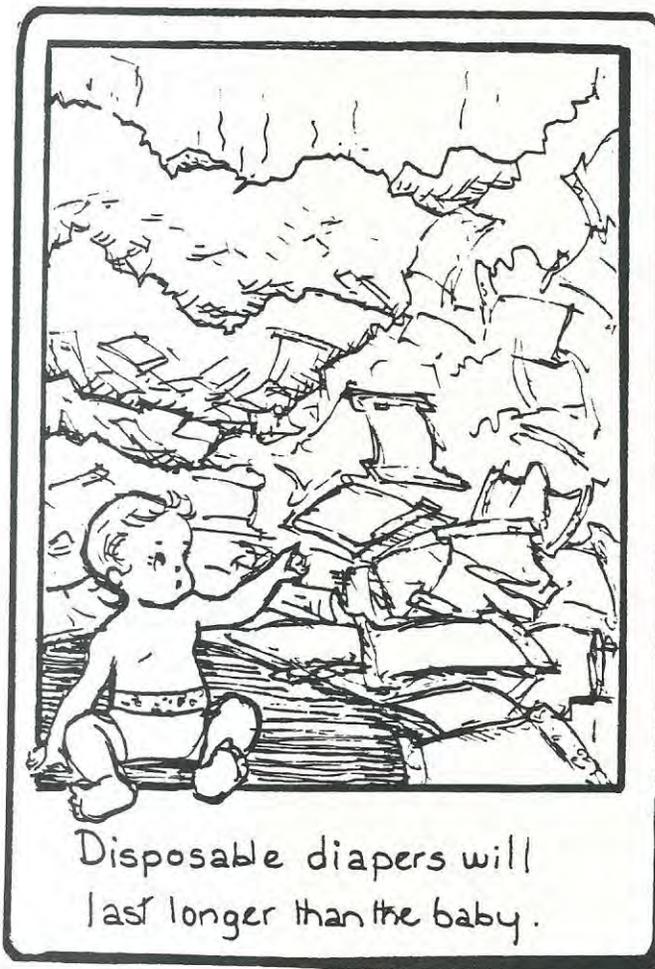
PROJECTS (cont'd)

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

Disposable diapers are choking up the country's rapidly filling landfills. According to "Environmental Action", Mar./Apr. 1989, diapers are the largest single product in the waste stream after newspapers and beverage containers. The diaper share is set to expand as more cities implement recycling programs that pull newspapers, beverage containers and other recyclables out of the disposal heap. What can we as individuals do about it?

Well, if we are using disposables, we can switch to cloth. If not, we can convince those that are to make that change.

△ Anne Marie Teillet and Florence Scott are trying to help by making available in all of Markham and part of Scarborough a cloth diaper fashioned after the disposable. It is superabsorbent, 100% cotton, fully washable, shaped like a disposable with velcro fasteners and comes in a variety of colours and patterns. Florence uses them on her nine-month old son, Steven. She's pleased that she's not only helping the environment, but saving money as well. These ladies can be reached at 471-8317 for more information on this unique diaper.



We can't wait for industry to make changes to the environment on their own. We, as consumers, must show them what we want to buy. Perhaps small business ventures like Anne Marie's and Florence's will pave the way.

Anne Marie Teillet

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THE BOTTOM LINE IS "REUSABLE"

Cartoon

by

Peg McEwan

IN THE NEWS

FOSSIL HISTORY BOOK TELLS THE TALE OF LAKES' ACIDITY

Scientists seeking to uncover the past of acid-damaged lakes have discovered a unique history book -- the glass-like remains of microscopic algae preserved in lake bottom mud. Without some kind of historical benchmark, scientists have fruitlessly debated whether remote lakes were always naturally acid or whether they became acid through industrial pollution. The same historical void has made it impossible to know when a lake has returned to its natural level of purity. In research published in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (August), three researchers at Queen's University show that in Swan Lake near Sudbury the numbers of certain species known as golden-brown algae have bounced up and down as acid levels have shifted. In the 1930s, in response to increased mining and smelting activities in the area, the balance of algal species began to shift. Golden-brown algae that thrive in acid began to increase, and those that need purer water decreased. Queen's scientists were able to differentiate the fossils because members of each species are covered with glass-like scales that have a unique pattern. Each year produces a separate sediment layer in the cores, much like rings in trees. The Queen's researchers, whose microfossil mud cores have produced an acid history of the lake stretching back to the middle of the nineteenth century, were able to check their biological record book against acid measurements made in the 1970s by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Shortly after tall smokestacks were installed at the Falconbridge Smelter in 1974, Swan Lake water was more acidic than tomato juice. As the smelter deposited less sulphur dioxide and other materials on Swan Lake, the acidity dropped. By 1987 the pond which is 15 kilometres from Sudbury had acid levels that would have supported brook trout, of all fish the one that best loves pure water. Similar results have been reported recently in British studies of Scottish lochs.

extracted from an article by Stephen Strauss in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Oct. 14, 1989

RUBBER BANDS KILLING FISH

Atlantic sturgeon caught by a commercial fisherman wears elastic band around its snout. According to a study, 8% of sturgeons caught in St. Lawrence River are affected by Canada Post rubber bands that are dropped by Quebec City postmen and then get into the river through storm sewers.

caption on photograph of sturgeon wearing rubber band in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Nov. 10, 1989

JUDGE JAILS FIRM'S OWNER FOR POLLUTION

The owner of a defunct Scarborough electroplating company has become the first person in Canada to go to jail because his company polluted the environment. Sam Siapas was taken to Toronto's Don Jail to begin a six-month sentence for ignoring court orders that his firm, B.E.S.T. Plating Shoppe Ltd., stop polluting Metro's sanitary sewer system. He was sentenced for contempt in October of 1988, but appealed the sentence and the conviction and has since been out on bail. He abandoned his last appeal on Oct. 30 and a motion calling for the sentence to be postponed was denied. B.E.S.T. Plating violated Metro Toronto's pollution by-law 49 times between 1981 and 1986 by dumping toxic wastes into the sewer system. The sentence should

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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

send a message to all other industries that pollute.

adapted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Nov. 7, 1989

THE KILLING FIELD OF CARBOFURAN

After three and a half years of study, in January 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made a preliminary decision to cancel the registration of granular carbofuran, a carbamate pesticide used primarily in cornfields. It has been known for more than 10 years to be toxic to wildlife, particularly birds. Since 1985, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has found 23 bald eagles in the Chesapeake Bay region which were victims of carbofuran poisoning. In California, liquid carbofuran killed 32 Canada geese after they had grazed in alfalfa fields, as well as 50 mallards and teal in a contaminated rice field. Although liquid carbofuran is not included in the proposed EPA ban, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has strongly urged the ban be extended to the liquid form as well. The EPA's rationale for not including the liquid form is that the granular form is more hazardous; the granules are often mistaken for seed or grit by foraging birds. The EPA now estimates that 2.4 million birds are killed each year by carbofuran poisoning. It has identified 130 species of birds believed affected by carbofuran, most of which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; nine under the Endangered Species Act. An OUTDOOR AMERICA (Winter 1988) article cites carbofuran as having caused "sporadic and sometimes extensive kills of fish". There is concern that contaminated fish and game fowl may be hazardous to humans as well, although no known studies of such effects are currently underway.

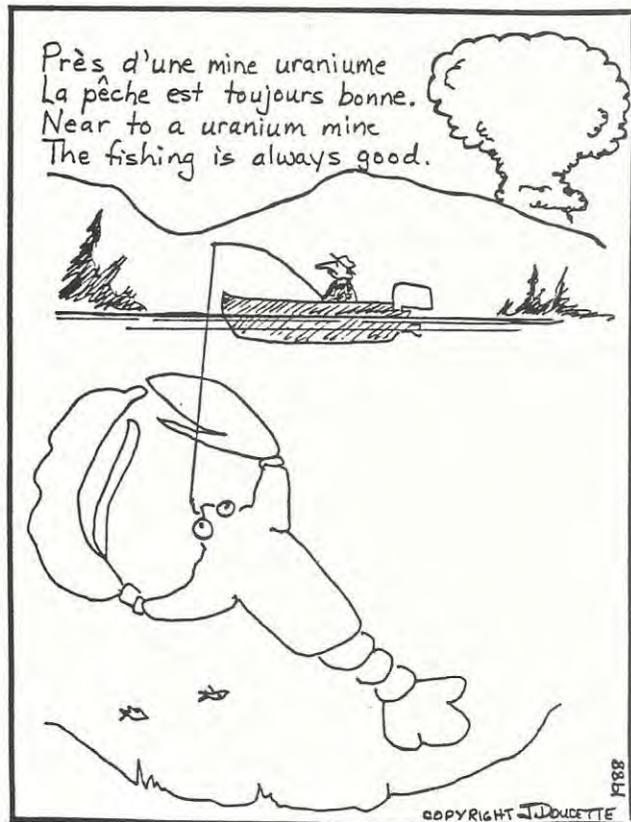
extracted from an article by Mary A. Knighton in EYES 12(1), 1989

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NUCLEAR NOTES

Indeed the problem of disposing of all wastes from nuclear reactors has become a matter of controversy...the spent fuel from both military and civilian reactors awaits a tomb tunneled into Yucca Mountain, a site scientists are questioning (it lies between two prominent earthquake faults and is 12 miles from a still-young volcano).

from "When a nuclear reactor dies,
\$98 million is a cheap funeral"
by Seth Shulman in SMITHSONIAN,
Vol. 20, #7, Oct. 1989



FOR READING

- JOURNEY THROUGH A TROPICAL JUNGLE by Adrian Forsyth, Greey de Pencier Books, Toronto, 1988, 80 pages, \$12.95. "It represents a significant contribution to the literature available on tropical ecology for young people...writing infused with humour, gritty reality and an unflagging sense of wonder": Bridget Ambrogio in PROBE POST REVIEWS, Spring, 1989.
- BUILDING A HEALTHY LAWN: A SAFE AND NATURAL APPROACH by Stuart Franklin, Garden Way, Pownal, Vermont, 1988, 168 pages \$13.95. Reviewed by William Bradley in PROBE POST, Spring, 1989.
- THE GREAT LAKES PRIMER, Pollution Probe, 1986, 64 pages, \$5.00.
 GREAT LAKES TOXIC HOTSPOTS MAP, Pollution Probe, 1985, \$5.00.
- WATER FIT TO DRINK? THE NEED FOR A SAFE DRINKING-WATER ACT, Pollution Probe and Canadian Environmental Law Association, 1981, 24 pages, \$3.50.
- A PROPOSED PILOT STUDY FOR ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT FOR METROPOLITAN TORONTO, Zenon Environmental Inc. Pollution Probe, 1986, 68 pages \$20.00.
- DOWN THE PIPE: A Review of Water Pollution Control in Ontario. Pollution Probe, 1986, 39 pages, 5 tables, \$6.00.
- UP THE STACK: (and into the foodbasket): Dioxins and Incineration. Pollution Probe, 1986, 12 pages, 3 tables, \$2.00.
- DRINKING WATER: MAKE IT SAFE, Pollution Probe, 1983, 50 pages, 16 tables, \$5.00.
- PROFIT FROM POLLUTION PREVENTION, by Monica Campbell and William Glenn, Pollution Probe 1982, 404 pages, \$25.00.
- BREAKING THE BARRIERS, Pollution Probe, 1984, 134 pages, \$15.00. Recommendations for improving handling of industrial waste.
- ADDITIVE ALERT by Linda Pim, Doubleday Canada, 1986, 143 pages, \$4.95 plus 55¢ for postage and handling.
- THE INVISIBLE ADDITIVES by Linda Pim, Dell Distributing, 270 pages. \$9.95 plus 55¢ for postage and handling.
- GAMMA IRRADIATION AS A MEANS OF FOOD PRESERVATION IN CANADA by Linda Pim, 1983, Pollution Probe, 53 pages, \$4.50.
- A BURNING QUESTION: Air Emissions from Municipal Refuse Incinerators, technical report. Pollution Probe, 1984, 73 pages, 30 tables, \$20.00.
- GARBAGE INCINERATION: Lessons from Europe and the United States, by Thomas Rahn. Pollution Probe, 1987, 35 pages, 7 tables, \$8.00.
- ECOLOGY HOUSE REPORTS. Reprinted 1988. Pollution Probe, \$6.00.
- THE GYPSY MOTH: A handbook for Cottagers and Home Owners. Pollution Probe 1987, 16 pages, \$2.00.
- THINK BEFORE YOU SPRAY! Alternatives to Chemical Pesticides. Pollution Probe, 1983, reprint. \$3.00

[The preceding 17 publications were listed in the Spring, 1989, issue of the PROBE POST. Available from Pollution Probe, 12 Madison Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2S1. Phone 926-1907.] ▷

The Ecology Store at Ecology House, 12 Madison Ave. is open Mon. to Fri. from 12 noon to 5 pm.

FOR READING - cont'd

THE ACID RAIN PRIMER. Pollution Probe Foundation. A new fourth edition. Many illustrations, great for students. 24 pages \$3.50
Available from Pollution Probe, 12 Madison Avenue, Toronto, M5R 2S1.

NO NUKES, Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power, by Anna Gyorgy and Friends, Black Rose Books, 478 pages, illustrated, paper back \$14.95.

THE NUCLEAR POWER GAME by Ronald Babin, Black Rose Books, 236 pages, paper back \$14.95.

THE SUN BETRAYED, A study of the Corporate Seizure of Solar Energy Development, by Ray Reece, 234 pages, Black Rose Books, \$12.95.

ECOLOGY AS POLITICS, by André Gorz, Black Rose Books, 215 pages, paperback \$12.95.

FED UP! The Food Forces that make you Fat, Sick and Poor, by Brett Silverstein, 160 pages, Black Rose Books, paper back \$14.95.

TOWARD AN ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY by Murray Bookchin, 3rd printing. "A stimulating, wide-ranging collection". Black Rose Books, 320 pages paperback \$14.95.

[The preceding six books are advertised in the Spring, 1989, PROBE POST. "Buy 3 books, get 2 books free". Available from Black Rose Books, 3981 Boul. St. Laurent, 4th Floor, Montréal, Québec, H2W 1Y5. Also available in hard covers, ranging from \$30 to \$35.]

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RECENTLY PUBLISHED

MAPLE DISTRICT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN, a plan to direct the management of the fish resources in the Greater Toronto Area, from the Credit River to Duffins Creek and Lake Simcoe to Lake Ontario. Copies are available for \$5.00 each from the Maple District Office of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7400, 10401 Dufferin St., Maple, Ont. L6A 1S9.

NEW LIBRARY

Canadian Waterfront Resource Centre Library, Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm, Wednesdays to 9 pm at the offices of the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront, Suite 580, 207 Queen's Quay West. Public is welcome. Inquiries, call 416-973-7185.

ONE OF "TEN WORST"

One of the most successful new forms of packaging in the past decade has been the Tetra Pak boxes, made by Tetra Pak Inc. of Aurora, Ont.

Last year, 930 million Tetra Pak cartons of varying size were sold in Canada. The rectangular containers are used for everything from iced tea to milkshakes. Once emptied, they are thrown away.

Because they are layers of three materials -- paper, polyethylene and aluminum -- they cannot be recycled. This means they end up at the local dump or as litter.

extracted from "Maker insists drink boxes save energy" in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Oct. 21, 1989

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

February 1989, Toronto

The core of winter has had a tendency to fall late the past four years, and 1989 was no exception. February was the coldest month in 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, and now in 1989-89. A core of frigid Arctic air moved into the Prairies at the end of January and eased southeastward several times in February. By the time it reached Toronto, some of the Arctic air's punch had been lost (mean temperatures were only about half a degree below normal), but it was still the coolest February in seven years in downtown Toronto.

One thing that did not reverse between January and February, however, was the continuing dry trend. Snowfall amounts were close to normal, but there was a lack of rain, and snow water equivalents were low. As a result, precipitation totals were less than half normal, and downtown had its driest February since 1980. Sunshine hours continued to run slightly above normal too.

The month opened as the bitterly cold air mass over the Prairies (with -30°C to -4°C temperatures there) sagged southeastward; our area got the margins of this and so it was only slightly colder than normal with occasional snow. After a brief milder spell around St. Valentine's Day, another high moved in with very high barometric readings, above 1045 millibars. And another cold airmass arrived on February 23 and dominated the weather to the end of the month and into March, again with some snow.

Gavin Miller

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EXOTIC GIANT SEDGES

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.

The cover of TFN:377 February, 1986, showed these two great sedges of Africa. Because of a bit of a mix-up with greenhouse labels, both were identified as forms of papyrus. It turns out that only the one on the right (growing among broad-leaved aroid plants) is *Cyperus papyrus*; it has deeply folded basal leaves and filiform terminal leaves. The species on the left is *Cyperus alternifolius* or "umbrella plant", grown as a potted porch plant, and naturalized in the West Indies and South America. Its leaves are flat and broad, even the terminal cluster, and alternately arranged. Next time we visit our Toronto greenhouses, we can compare them.



Ref.: MANUAL OF CULTIVATED PLANTS by L. H. Bailey et al. 1949

COMING EVENTS

A calendar of events and catalogue of courses available (horticulture, natural history, arts and crafts, general interest, etc.) at the Royal Botanical Gardens is now available for 1990. Write to RBG, Box 399, Hamilton, Ont. L8N 3H8 or call 416-527-1158.

The Wonder of Wood, a travelling exhibit by the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature at the Kortright Centre for Conservation from Jan. 13 to Feb. 24. (10 am to 4 pm).

Toronto's Changing Waterfront: Perspectives from the Past, a new exhibit of photographs on display at the Royal Commission offices, 207 Queen's Quay, 5th floor from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday from Nov. 3.

Parenting: It's a family affair at the G.A. Brown Middle School at 2800 St. Clair Ave. East, Feb. 25 from 12:30 to 4 pm. Adults and children of all ages are encouraged to attend this afternoon of information and entertainment organized by the Childcare Committee of the East York Community Development Council.

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 9 am for winter birding of the eastern marshes (Ajax to Whitby). Meet at the Pickering GO station to car pool. Bring lunch. Leader is Brian Henshaw.

Odyssey: the art of photography at NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC at the Royal Ontario Museum from Feb. 1 to April 29.

Toronto Entomologists' Association monthly meeting at the McLaughlin Planetarium at 1 pm on Feb. 24.

Mineral Exploration Classes at the Ontario Room Macdonald Block, 900 Bay St. starting Mon. Feb. 26 at 7 pm to 10 pm to Fri. Mar. 2. Basic course, no charge, free literature, everyone welcome. Enquiries at 416-368-0166.

Long Point Bird Observatory trips and tours - Volunteer workshop on Feb. 10, Winter Carolinian Trees on Feb. 11. For more information contact the LPBO Trips/FON Membership Trips, P.O. Box 1647, Port Elgin NOH 2C0.

Royal Canadian Institute lectures, Sunday afternoons at 3 pm in the Medical Sciences Auditorium, northwest of College and University. Free.

TFN → Feb. 4 - The Evolution of Memory in Birds, an illustrated lecture by Dr. David Sherry (JOINT MEETING WITH THE TFN.)

Feb. 11 - How Miraculous is Mathematics with E.J. Barbeau

Feb. 18 - The Cells and Molecules of Memory with Derek van der Kooy

Feb. 25 - Development of the body's blueprint with R.P. Elinson

For more information, call 928-2096. ▷

NOMINATIONS INVITED -- TFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TFN is looking for people interested in volunteering time, energy and initiative to serve as members of the Board. Please send your suggestions to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee: Phil Joiner (741-9947), 186 Thistledown Blvd., Etobicoke M9V 1K1. (The report of the Nominating Committee will be published in the May newsletter.)

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

CONFERENCES

Ontario Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Auction, Seminar and Conference
at Black Creek Pioneer Village, Feb. 2 & 3 - Growing Forests: Our Green
Estate. For more information, contact the Ontario Forestry Association,
Suite 209, 150 Consumers Rd., Willowdale M2J 1P9 or call 416-493-4565.

Canadian Organic Grower's Toronto Chapter's Spring Conference at the Civic
Garden Centre, March 31 from 9 am to 5 pm - Gardening without Chemicals.
For more information call Henny Markus at 535-7683.

The Canadian Wildflower Society Workshop at the Civic Garden Centre,
February 17 from 9:30 am to 4 pm - Wildflower Garden Workshop. For
more information contact the Society at 51 Wootten Way North, Markham
L3P 2Y5.

The Canadian Wildflower Society Spring Wildflower Sale and Auction at the
Civic Garden Centre, April 29 from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information
contact the Society at 28 Moore Ave., Toronto M4T 1V3.

Heritage Protection and Use (Professional Development Workshops) - Policy
Development for Managing Parks and Protected Areas at the University of
Waterloo on February 8 to 9. For more information contact the University at
Environmental Studies Bldg. 1, Room 345, University of Waterloo, Waterloo
N2L 3G1 or call 519-885-1211, ex. 2072 or ext. 3066.

Eastern Bluebird Conference at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington,
April 7. Write to W.F. Read, 2 - 165 Green Valley Dr., Kitchener N2P 1K3
for more information. □

CHILDRENS' CAMP

Fun, nature, and conservation at the Kortright Summer Day Camp for children
six to thirteen years of age. Two-week camps will be offered July 9-20
and August 6-17 at a cost of \$225 per child; one-week camps will be offered
July 23-27 and July 30 to Aug. 3 at a cost of \$115 per child.
To book a day camp, call Metro Region Conservation at (416)661-6600, ext. 256.

HELP WANTED

Students in their last years of high school, or first or second year
of university are needed from mid-June to Labour Day to work as Park
Naturalists or Museum Technicians at Algonquin Provincial Park.

Application forms or more information should be requested from:
 Park Naturalist, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 219, Whitney,
Ont. L0J 2M0 or call 705-633-5592
Final application date: Feb. 28, 1990

*"Good-bye to eighties!"
after three open winters,
underfoot, snow squeaks.*

*haiku by Diana Banville
Taylor Creek Park, Dec. 17/89*

TFN 409 - 40

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

20 College St., Suite 4
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

(416) 968-6255

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Registration Number
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TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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