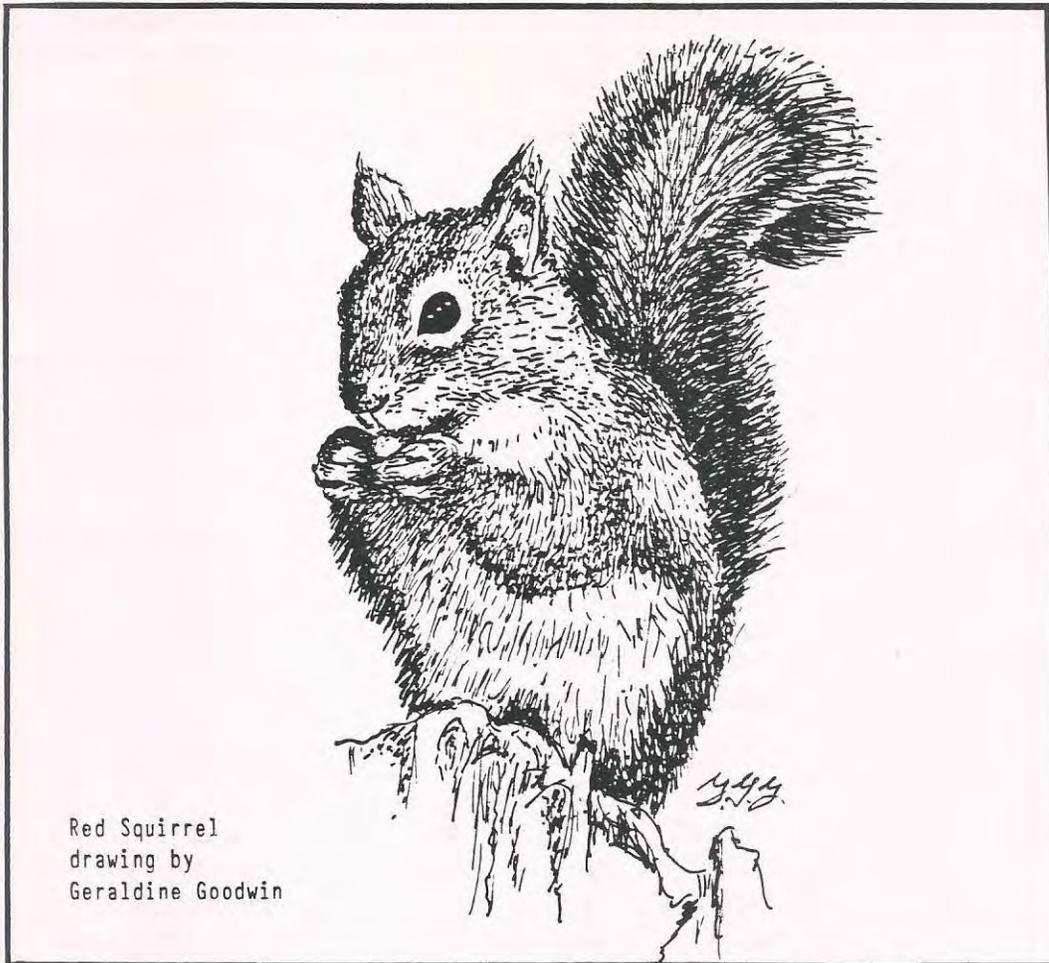


TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 411

April 1990



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TFN MEETINGS

General Meeting

Monday, April 2 at 8 pm - PLANTS TO ATTRACT BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN, an illustrated talk by Larry Sherk of Sheridan Nurseries

at 155 College St., 6th floor auditorium

- + from 7 pm to 8 pm - a display of the art of Mary Cumming
- + 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 St.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Monday, May 7

Dr. Nick Badenhuisen will give an illustrated talk on The Story of South African Plants

Group Meetings

These will resume in October 1990.

Editorial Committee

Helen Juhola (924-5806) 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3
Diana Banville (690-1963) 710-7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7
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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

I also think that a greater slice of decision-making powers should be shifted directly to the people. Governing should take on a deeper meaning than the exchange of favours among various platoons of power brokers who keep the system flowing, mostly in their own direction.

from SOMETIMES A GREAT NATION by Peter Newman, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1988.

TFN OUTINGS

April

- H 7
 Sunday
 April 1
 2 pm
 HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk
 Leader: Allan Greenbaum
 Meet on the west side of Weston Road opposite the west end of Sheppard Avenue West. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Humber, North York
- L 8
 Wednesday
 April 4
 1:30 pm
 LAKESHORE - nature walk
 Leaders: Jean Orpwood and Margaret Canning
 Meet at the corner of Cherry Street and Lake Shore Blvd. East. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Lakeshore, Toronto
- Saturday
 April 7
 10 am
 ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE - nature arts
 Leader: Joan Patterson
 Meet at the entrance to the Centre (west side of Don Mills Rd. just south of Eglinton Avenue East). Bring camera, sketching materials and stool or just come and enjoy. Lunch optional. West Don, North York
- Sunday
 April 8
 10 am
 HUMBER BAY PARK - birds & issues
 Leader: Marion Strebis
 Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd. West opposite Parklawn Rd. Lakeshore, Etobicoke
- L 9
 Wednesday
 April 11
 1:30 pm
 LAKESHORE - nature walk
 Leader: Eva Davis
 Meet on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd. East opposite the foot of Coxwell Ave. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Lakeshore, Toronto
- Saturday
 April 14
 10 am
 TODMORDEN MILLS - treasure hunt *
 Leader: Melanie Milanich
 Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Pottery Road, down the hill and west of Broadview and Mortimer. Wear waterproof footwear and bring work gloves. Garbage bags and refreshments (coffee, hot chocolate and apple cider) will be provided and washrooms will be open. Lunch optional. Don Valley, East York
- H 8
 Sunday
 April 15
 2 pm
 HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk
 Leader: Billie Bridgman
 Meet at the northwest corner of Finch Avenue West and Islington Avenue. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Humber, North York
- Tuesday
 April 17
 10:30 am
 DOWNTOWN - nature arts
 Leader: Diana Banville
 Meet inside the main entrance to Toronto City Hall (west of Bay Street, north of Queen Street West). Bring camera, sketching materials and stool, or just come and enjoy. Lunch optional. Toronto

* Every year someone finds money. The current record is \$20. Come out and see if you can top this.

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TFN 411 - 4

APRIL OUTINGS (cont'd)

L10
Wednesday LAKESHORE - nature walk Lakeshore, Scarborough
April 18 Leaders: Margaret Canning & Jean Orpwood
1:30 pm Meet on the southeast corner of Queen St. East and Neville
Park Blvd. (east end of Queen streetcar line). Walk will end
at a different public transit stop.

Saturday HUMBER FLATS - treasure hunt* Humber, York
April 21 Leaders: Nancy Fredenburg & Eva Davis
10 am Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Ave. West and Jane St.
Wear waterproof footwear and bring work gloves. Garbage bags
will be provided. Lunch optional.

Sunday BELT LINE - nature walk Don, Toronto
April 22 Leader: Bill Granger
10:30 am Meet at the Castle Frank subway station. Walk will end at a
different public transit stop.

Wednesday ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk Rouge, Scarborough
April 25 Leader: Eva Davis
10 am Meet at the northeast corner of Morningside Ave. and Finch
Ave. East. Bring lunch.

Saturday THORNCLIFFE PARK - nature walk Don, East York
April 28 Leader: Melanie Milanich
1:30 pm Meet on the south side of Overlea Blvd. at its eastern
junction with Thorncliffe Park Dr.

Sunday HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk Humber, Vaughan
April 29 Leader: Robin Powell
2 pm Meet on the northwest corner of Steeles Ave. West and
Islington Ave. The walk will end at a different public
transit stop.

* See footnote on page 3.

□

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.

BEGINNINGS

This month's contributor to our series is Billie Bridgman. Billie was a member of the TFN Board of Directors from January 1983 to 1985. For one year during that period she was program convenor. Leading club outings in Rowntree Mills Park has been an opportunity for her to share her love of the natural world with others. As you'll read in her reminiscences, she's also shared that love as the "eyes" of a handicapped friend. Thank you, Billie, for your story.

H.T.

My parents were musicians and naturalists, but not always in that order. When first married and living in Guelph, they hurried, after church on Sunday evenings, out to their "shack" on the banks of the Speed River. There they lived, exploring the woods and stream, and photographing the flora and fauna, until Friday. Then back to town to teach piano lessons and attend choir practice and church services as organist and soloist. I have been told that, out at the "shack", the flying squirrels swooped down upon their outdoor table for crumbs at dusk. And I've seen a photograph of a young great horned owl who adopted them and sat nearby in the evening watching with his yellow eyes. A few years later, on a balmy afternoon in June the Women's Institute ladies were enjoying their annual picnic in a sunny glade on the banks of the Speed. Much to their surprise and delight, around the bend of the river came a beautiful young woman in her bloomer bathing suit, walking in the shallow water, and pushing a small raft. On it sat a naked baby enjoying the ride immensely. That was a "beginning"!

I have always felt at home in the natural world around me. One very early memory is of sleeping under the open sky of Arizona on a canvas camp cot, gazing in childish wonder at the sky above and fantasizing about the dark shapes of the clouds as they moved through the last light of day. In the autumn of 1920, when I was three years old, and my brother fourteen months younger, my parents felt an urge to see California. They put aside their musical careers, sold everything except books and music, packed the two children and themselves into a "model T" Ford and drove south, camping out most of the way. How I wish I had more memories of that journey!

We finally settled down in Thistletown on the west branch of the Humber River; and from age six I became engrossed in the wonders of nature. Each spring I kept track of the birds in the area. Following the same route each day I observed their habits and habitat, learned their songs, and watched their nest-building and child-rearing. I actually saw a catbird's nest with a scrap of newspaper woven into it which said "House for Rent". I agonized with the yellow warbler pair when they found a gross cowbird's egg in their dainty nest; and was relieved at their clever solution to the problem -- to build a false floor over the offending egg.

For a few years their world was my world. And all interesting details were reported to Angus, a bright young man who had been crippled and blind since the age of eight. In good weather he lay on his stretcher-type bed under the maple tree near the community pump, and everyone stopped to talk. He liked to have everything described in great detail -- the feeling of holding a fluffy new sandpiper chick; how silly the parent killdeer looked, pretending to have a broken wing in order to lure me away from her four unprotected eggs placed among the stones by the river;

BEGINNINGS (cont'd)

the vivid colours of the oriole that came to pull off the coloured yarn from our clothesline for its hanging nest. To Angus, we would read nature stories, field guides, school text books, magazines, anything and everything. Eventually, he was able to write stories in Braille which were typed by his sister and sold!

Some of my outdoor experiences became speeches given at the School Fair in September. No helpful notes were needed; my talks were inspired by daily experience. And were delivered with youthful passion in the autumn sunshine from the back of Percy Barker's truck. During the long, barefoot summers I collected -- for the school fair -- pressed weeds, weed seeds, insects, butterflies and moths. This activity may be frowned upon today, but at that time it was a real learning experience. In the corner of our large and airy kitchen was a couch with a roomy bookcase at its head, and a convenient reading lamp. All the nature books were there, and the process of identification was an enjoyable social time.

Our family was considered to be "different" by our few neighbours. Firstly, my father made his living mysteriously as a musician in the "city". Secondly, my mother would rather walk up the river than make beds or do windows. Our kitchen window was large, and lacked curtains. On the ledge would be perhaps a fossil or two that someone had picked up by the river (as a matter of fact, our doorstep held a large, intriguing fossil), twigs bearing cocoons, twigs with leaves bearing voraciously munching caterpillars and mystery twigs awaiting identification. One such mystery twig, graceful and pretty, turned out to be black swallowwort. New at that time to the Humber Valley, it's now a scourge. Outside the kitchen window was fastened a large bird-feeding tray. Doing dishes was much less tedious when one could look a chickadee in the eye. When spring arrived, bringing new life and excitement, there would be a round galvanized wash tub in our back yard. Filled with river water, it waited to receive the creatures brought home by my brother and his friends -- mud puppies, catfish, turtles and more. After close observation they were returned to the river. The highlight of the season was the huge snapper, his jaws firmly clamped on a broom handle, borne proudly home by Jack and Sid for our awed inspection -- quite possibly the same snapper each spring.

My mother was different -- she "collected" people. Perfect strangers, encountered on a walk or at a gathering, and sharing a mutual interest, would find themselves invited to lunch. In this way illustrious naturalists, well-known writers, and other thoroughly interesting people found their way to our home. And the visit always included a talk with Angus. Nature-loving friends from Toronto visited on weekends, enjoying the quiet surroundings, the relaxation, and the congenial company. All this activity was very stimulating to a youngster without companions of her own age.

Our most frequent visitor was Grace Malkin, a kindergarten primary teacher at Orde Street School and a life-long family friend. Friday evening would find me sitting on the river bank by the main road waiting for the 6:30 bus from Weston. It was a thrill to see Grace step off that bus! She brought with her a wonderful air of excitement. And there was always a project. Grace wrote monthly nature stories for the Junior Red Cross Magazine and illustrated them with her own photographs. The early stories

BEGINNINGS (cont'd)

were later published in three lovely books. The neighbourhood children were very involved with the preparations for these stories -- collecting, identifying, being photographed with snakes and turtles and burs and crayfish and spiders -- whatever was needed. One late winter weekend we all collected tent caterpillar egg cases on their twigs, for burning -- a prize given for the most. It was my job to raise caterpillars and watch them through their life cycles. I sat up all night waiting for the first split in a darkening monarch chrysalis, then summoned the photographer from her sleep. With Grace we explored the woods, fields and river with great interest and excitement; there were wonders everywhere! In the ponds and streams were amazing creatures -- caddisfly larvae dragging their untidy cases, tiny worms like coiled wire, jelly-like masses with wonderful names like "Pectinatella". Our reactions and thoughts found their way into the stories. After all these years the tears still prickle behind my eyes when I read Grace's books to a grandchild.

There are scores of vivid memories of that interesting childhood. Once, in the northern woods, we happened upon a huge ichneumon fly drilling with coiled ovipositor into a fallen log -- an astounding sight highlighted by a shaft of sunlight. One sparkling, golden spring morning we visited our favourite ox-bow marsh on the very day when the grotesque dragonfly nymphs were climbing the cattails from the bottom of the pond, and splitting down their backs to release the shimmering dragonflies which sat drying their wings in the sunshine, then sailed off on the breeze -- not one, not two, but dozens of them! What a miracle to place a female luna moth on the inside of the screen door at night and find a male luna on the outside the next morning! And such a wonder to a child to listen to and feel the life stirring within a cocoon, and soon afterwards watch the emerged wet mass quiver and grow into a huge and beautiful moth! Once I lay on the forest floor and watched a bee force itself into a bottle gentian flower in order to pollinate; and later used the incident as a theme for a childish and dramatic composition concerning a bee which found itself trapped therein. I had to prove to my skeptical teacher that there actually was such a flower!

These are just a few reminiscences from a unique and stimulating childhood. During those early years, many people helped to create in me a perpetual sense of wonder and excitement concerning the natural world around me, and indeed daily life itself. They gave me a gift to cherish. I'll always be grateful to them. I never walk in the woods, fields, or along the streams without a strong sense that there will be something exciting around the next bend, and very often there is!

Billie Bridgman

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Good or bad, all our daily acts are seeds that will grow to a size we never dreamed of. Before taking any action, we ought to think twice about the consequences.

from "Frederic Back: The Man Who Spreads Hope" by Reine Degarie in ENVIRONMENT UPDATE, Vol. 9, No. 2, Dec. 1989

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE REPORT

One of the joys of co-ordinating this report is reading the unexpected sightings sent to me. Along with each list are fascinating observations of behaviour in snapping turtles and garter snakes and little gems of anecdotes and unexpected sightings. This year is no different. In the past there were smooth green snakes one year and yellow spotted salamanders the next. Last year it was water snakes sighted for the first time since 1982 in the Rouge. This year, once again, the Rouge is the source of the unexpected. For the first time since this summary began nine years ago, blue spotted salamanders and mudpuppies have been reported from the Rouge River. And map and Blanding's turtles have been seen on the Toronto Islands for the first time.

The comments are wonderful. Imagine the snapping turtle "whiling away its time in the stream flowing into the Humber". Thank you Irene Fedun. It reminds me of a warm spring day with a hint of summer.

In 1989 there were 110 records of eighteen species (237 animals were seen) between March 27 and November 7. We can summarize the dates of activity for amphibians and reptiles in our area as follows:

YEAR	EARLIEST ACTIVITY	LATEST ACTIVITY
1983	April 5	November 25
1984	April 2	October 16
1985	April 3	November 13
1986	March 29	October 15
1987	March 8	October 30
1988	March 26	November 14
1989	March 27	November 7

April is the best time to observe many of the secretive species when they are seeking sunny spots in which to warm their bodies and as they are actively searching for mates. Of course, this is also the best time to hear the calls of our frogs as the males try to attract the later emerging females to the breeding ponds. Those who are outdoors regularly are more likely to observe our amphibians and reptiles. Please send all your sightings to me or enter them on outings reports. It is important that even the most common species are recorded.

The global decline in the number of amphibians has been the subject of a recent symposium and found a large audience through numerous newspaper reports (see page 34). It is the regular and long-term reporting of distribution and numbers which contributes to our understanding of long-term population trends. You can play a role in determining just how healthy our amphibian populations are.

The mudpuppy and the blue-spotted salamander were found in the Rouge Valley and were the first recorded in a number of years for the Toronto area. School children conducting field surveys at Hillside School, an outdoor education school for the Scarborough Board of Education, were responsible for these important additions to our amphibian fauna. We hope such reports will become an integral part of data collection for the Toronto Amphibian and Reptile Summary. In fact, students visiting the school are recording the winter temperatures of the hibernating snapping turtle reported in the last newsletter (TFN 410).

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES (cont'd)

Red-back salamanders can be abundant in moist woodlands, the kind found in our river valleys and ravines. Chris Motherwell (whose 66 individual records made a significant contribution to this survey) found 13 in West Pond ravine after rain in June and another 33 after October rains! He also found a very sluggish red-back salamander on November 9 when the air temperature was 4°C. This is the latest sighting of this species since the summary began nine years ago. American toads were first observed migrating across roads on April 21, first calling April 30, first eggs May 15, first tadpoles May 17, last calling on June 20 after rain, first toadlet to emerge from the water June 28, and first to begin hibernating underground was dug up October 7 when the soil temperature reached 6°C. It is of more than passing interest to note that the snapping turtle mentioned in the TFN 410 entered hibernation on the same date (!) although the daytime highs were still in the 20°C range.

Wood frogs and chorus frogs were first heard calling on April 21 and 14 respectively. This is relatively late compared to last year when calling dates were April 1 and April 6 respectively and is indicative of the relatively cool spring we had last year.

The decline in some amphibians, previously referred to, was mirrored in Jackie Brookes' comment on green frogs: "I believe there are fewer each year. There are certainly raccoons around (and kids) and I guess visiting herons like them too!".

The characteristic "plonk" territorial calls of the green frog are usually at their peak the first week of June. Green frogs wait until ponds and marshes warm before they breed. Unlike our early breeders, green frogs can breed relatively late because they inhabit permanent bodies of water. These are needed for the tadpoles which take two years to grow before they are large enough to metamorphose.

The first snapping turtles found in 1989 were seen March 28 swimming in Grenadier Pond, even though there was a thin sheet of ice on the centre of the pond. The snapping turtle generated some interesting descriptions of behaviour from Chris Motherwell and Irene Fedun. On April 5, one of five turtles seen that evening "had its shell out of the water with its head submerged. It was mud covered and the eyes were not visible when its head was raised. There were jerky movements when the head was under the water and the turtle was in the same spot for over a half hour (fishing or scavenging?)" and "On September 5 I thought one dead at first, floating in the water, only the carapace visible. Suddenly, it started rocking back and forth, eventually a head popped up again. Then it sneezed, scaring the willies out of me. Eventually, I realized that there were two heads (mating?). After ten minutes, I left them locked in this unlikely embrace". And last year Irene Fedun observed a similar bout which was quoted in last year's report, but is worth repeating here: On July 3 "two very large turtles which seemed to be engaged in some sort of combat close to the west end of Grenadier Pond. They would both rise out of the water clumsily hitting each other with their flippers -- one would appear to climb on to the other one, etc. (it didn't strike us that they were mating but it was difficult to figure out just what they were doing)". Snapping turtles are known to breed in the spring. The preceding observations may be evidence of fall breeding or territorial battles, neither of which is well documented. This is

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES (cont'd)

surely worthy of further investigation.

Snapping turtles were observed laying eggs between June 13 and June 22. Five turtles were seen laying their eggs along the banks of the Rouge River on June 13. A snapping turtle laid eggs in the sand pile left from a new development. Turtles will use traditional egg laying sites even if we insist on building homes on them. For the eighth consecutive year several snapping turtles laid eggs in the front lawn of a home high above the banks of the Rouge River. In 1988 one turtle laid sixty eggs, but in 1989 a single nest had only twenty-seven eggs. The owners of this home are quite fond of their turtles and do not use their lawn sprinkler system until the eggs hatch!

As mentioned, a snapping turtle was observed digging a muddy hole in a spring-fed marsh as a hibernation spot on October 5.

Again, midland painted turtles showed up in some number. Kevin Irie spotted fourteen basking in the Humber marshes and Chris Motherwell counted thirteen in Grenadier pond. This turtle loves to bask in the sun and will use rocks or logs for this purpose. In fact the number of basking sites is a limiting factor on the number of painted turtles which may be found in an area. Painted turtles were observed laying eggs from June 19 until June 24. During this period, Mary Cumming found a painted turtle high above the wetland at Glendon College, and another turtle was found killed on Ellis Avenue, near High Park. Several years ago, a snapping turtle laying eggs was reported as having climbed a backyard fence on Ellis Avenue. Without doubt, turtles found abroad this time of year are searching for or returning from egg laying sites.

For the first time Blanding's turtles were reported in the East Don and on Toronto Islands. In fact, Helen Juhola managed to catch the East Don turtle and give an impromptu identification lesson before returning the turtle to the river.

Map turtles also were reported on the Toronto Islands for the first time and were seen frequently in Grenadier Pond. One Grenadier Pond turtle was observed with a paddle-like foot and with damage to the rear marginals. Headless snapping turtles in the Humber marshes and many legless and headless painted turtles I found in the Humber marshes several years ago are signs of raccoon predation, particularly on female turtles during the egg laying period when they are out on land.

Milk snakes were found to be using the same board over an extended period of time and, on one occasion, tail vibrating behaviour was seen, something which frequently leads to death for this species when they are mistaken for rattlesnakes. Snakes frequently use boards or cardboard to hide under while basking and these are the best spots to locate them on outings.

All red-bellied snakes found this year were road kills. The snakes were moving from a field, across a road, to a woodlot between October 16 and October 23.

Similarly, brown snake migrations to hibernation sites were observed between September 21 and October 31. The snakes, observed by Annette Simms moving from east to west across a path in Cedarvale Ravine, were also reported moving in the same direction in 1983.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES (cont'd)

Garter and brown snakes emerging from a hibernaculum on April 18 were observed entering the same spot on October 25. Both spring and fall the snakes would appear and become more active on warm days, only to disappear entirely on cold days.

After nine years of recording these observations, we still are being surprised by the abundance of habitats which harbour amphibians and reptiles. Equally surprising are the number and variety of behavioural observations which lead me, at least, to conclude that amphibians and reptiles are truly fascinating creatures.

Please record any observations of amphibians and reptiles along with the date observed, location (including side of street or river), number, size, and observations as to behaviour, calling, habitat, temperature or any other relevant information. As well, leaders of field trips should record any amphibians or reptiles encountered on the trip reports. Sightings can be sent to me or phoned to me at Metro Toronto Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill, Ontario, M1E 4R5, 392-5900.

Contributors in 1989: Reta McWhinnie, Dennis Clarke, Ruth Munson, Diana Banville, Helen Juhola, Molly Campbell, Norm Murr, Tom Mason, Gavin Miller, Irene Fedun, Sandra Richardson, Helen Huggett, Betty Greenacre, Joan Patterson, Allan Greenbaum, Joyce Cave, Ted Almond, Ken Andrews, Judy Hernandez, Annette Simms, Karin Fawthrop, Paul McGaw, Henry Markus, Chris Motherwell, Jackie Brookes, Andrea Beatson, Kevin Irie, Merle Young, Rob Nisbet, Donna Rice.

Species in 1989: Mudpuppy, Blue-spotted salamander, Red-back salamander, American toad, Gray treefrog, Western chorus frog, Green frog, Leopard frog, Wood frog, Snapping turtle, Midland painted turtle, Blanding's turtle, Map turtle, Red-ear slider, Milk snake, Northern brown snake, Red-bellied snake, Garter snake.

Bob Johnson



THE MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE (drawn from a mounted specimen by Mary Cumming) is our most common Toronto turtle. Decorated with red and yellow, it is easy to capture but should, of course, be returned to the wild immediately after a short examination - and not taken home, no matter how tempting, as our native turtles are protected by law.

ref. FAMILIAR AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES OF ONTARIO by Bob Johnson

BIRD REPORT

Birdwatching in April

Ever tried watching birds at night? No, not prowling for owls. I mean trying to see birds as they fly across the face of a full moon; and listening for night migrants as they pass overhead in migration. Scientists have used these techniques to study bird migration.

A lot of species of birds migrate at night. Almost all small birds migrate then. Some of the larger birds migrate at night as well as in the day -- loons, ducks, geese, and herons. Other birds migrate chiefly during the daytime -- hawks, crows and jays, and swallows for example.

The birds we see during the day, in migration, can be a fraction of the number of birds that pass through our area, overhead, during the darkness of night. Try some night-time birdwatching for a change. Hope for a clear night when there's a full moon and train your spotting scope or binoculars on the face of the moon. If migration is occurring that night, you may see the silhouettes of birds passing across the face of the moon. Unless they are large and distinctive species, such as geese or herons, you probably will not be able to identify them. It still is exciting to see migration in action though. The best time of night, researchers say, is between 10 pm and 1 am.

If the night is calm, you should be able to hear the call notes of birds passing overhead too. Some biologists use this as an indicator of the volume of migration on a particular night. Full moon dates in April and May, our big spring migration months, are: April 10 and May 9.

Good luck!

HOUSE FINCH

(from a photo by K. & S. Maslowski)

To distinguish the house finch from the purple finch, look for some brownish among the red of the face of the adult male and the brownish head of the female without a white eye-stripe or dark moustache.

This southwestern species which extended its range into southern British Columbia was illegally sold as cage-birds till about 1940 when the traffic was stopped and dealers released birds in New York. From there it spread, reaching Ontario by 1974, Toronto Region by 1978 and Metro by 1980. It is now among the commonest birds of Toronto's streets, especially where there are conifers.

Ref.: TFN 339:28 Apr.81 &
TFN Library files

Ross Harris



BOTANY REPORT

MUSHROOMS AND RELATIVES

Last year the TFN outings reports had so much to say about this branch of botany that it deserves its own report. First of all, there was a TFN outing to High Park led by John F. Morgan-Jones on October 1, and sixteen species were reported, even though the weather had been abnormally dry. Perhaps more typical conditions were prevailing on October 9, 1977, when thirty species were reported on such an outing to the same location with the same leader. Some of the species were the same on both these outings twelve years apart but others were discovered on the 1989 but not the 1977 outing and vice versa. Eva Davis prepared reports on the Rouge Valley on two dates: October 23, 1988, and September 7, 1989. As well, she prepared a report on species in a section of the Don Valley on October 8, 1988. Other information on Toronto species appear in reports of TFN outings not specified as mushroom outings, as well as in TFN newsletter articles, and material in TFN Library files. Using an extensive list received from Jack Parkin as a basis, we have come up with a list of 217 species. These were found in at least twenty-one locations in Metro.

These fascinating life-forms which dot our region in the fall are considered as belonging to the Kingdom Plantae by some authorities and to two separate kingdoms by others. They are often referred to as "lower" than, for example, mosses, ferns, conifers and flowering plants, and yet, if they evolved in response to opportunities provided by such plants, how can they be thought of as more primitive, it has been asked.

The "lowest" group in this field are the "slime moulds", two of which are listed by Jack Parkin as to be encountered here in most wooded areas. They are called "scrambled egg slime" and "wolf's milk slime". The other groups in this field of study have filaments which unite into conspicuous fruiting structures; the slime moulds have no filaments but creeping amoeba-like cells during part of their life before the spore-cases appear. TFN photographers have slides of some of these.

The second-lowest group called "Ascomycetes" (a group which is shared with yeasts and blue and green moulds) include the morels, cup fungi, and "dead man's fingers". Six such species have been found here, according to lists and reports to date.

The "highest" group in this field is called the "Basidiomycetes" (a group shared with rusts and smuts) and all the other species listed, 209, are part of it. It is the more conspicuous members of this group which concern field naturalists most, since in many cases they can be recognized in the field. They are often listed in their orders and/or families because they are many. Often enough they can be identified to the genus within the family, or even to the actual species. To date our records include a long list of those with gills, those with pores (including those which appear as "brackets" on trees), eight "coral" fungi, three "teeth" fungi, fourteen puffballs and their relatives including "bird's nest" fungi, "stinkhorns" and "earth star". Also listed are three "jelly" fungi which belong to this group though their spores are arranged differently.

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BOTANY REPORT - cont'd

▷ Jack Parkin has made a good offer for identification of mushrooms and relatives: "Colour slides, field notes, spore prints, and dried specimens mailed in a padded envelope are welcome. Identification and your slide will be returned." His address is: 33 Bowerbank Dr., Willowdale, Ont., M2M 1Z9. Phone number 225-8742.

▷ If you know of any lists or would like to help us compile a checklist for Toronto Region - especially Metro - please call Eva Davis, 694-8928.

DB

ref.: NON-FLOWERING PLANTS, Shuttleworth & Zim, A Golden Nature Guide
MUSHROOM POCKET FIELD GUIDE, H. E. Bigelow, Collier Books
MOULDS, Their Isolation, Cultivation, and Identification,
David Malloch, U. of T. Press
BIOLOGY OF PLANTS, Raven et al., Worth Publishers, 1971
SYNOPSIS AND CLASSIFICATION OF LIVING ORGANISMS, Parker et al.
two volumes, McGraw Hill, 1982

(We also have a list of material in TFN Library on the subject, including a bibliography supplied by Jack Parkin.)



Elm oyster (*Pleurotis ulmaria*) East Don, August 31, 1988. This species grows in a wound in a live hardwood. Here in Toronto it is mostly on Manitoba maple.
Ref. MUSHROOMS OF NORTH AMERICA, Orson K. Miller, Jr., Dutton Publishers, New York, revised 1981.

ED



*Stooping to pick up
a piece of string on the lawn,
there was a scilla!*

haiku by Diana Banville

MAMMAL REPORT

Time to review the decade concerning the status of our Toronto Region mammals. In 1985 we published a checklist which at the time we had discussed with Royal Ontario Museum mammal department staff. There were then 33 species considered to be in the Region. Of these, four have not been reported to TFN during the past decade. During the decade, we added two mammals to our checklist. The total is therefore 35, of which 31 have been reported to TFN during the 80's.

The total number of species reported for the year 1989 was 20, compared with 21 species in 1988. Here is the picture for the last year of the decade:

- SHORTTAIL SHREW: No report in 1989 (not even a dead one last year).
- PYGMY SHREW: (1) Sept. 11 East Point Park (reported as "not a short-tailed", so listed with this note under the only other species thought to be in our area. Does anyone know of another species which might be in the Region?)
- HAIRYTAIL MOLE: (2) Jan. 19 and Sept. 11, Thorncliffe area and East Point respectively. Reported as "mole". Assumed to be this species, since salient feature of the following species not mentioned...
- STAR-NOSED MOLE: (1) dead, TFN Outing to Colonel Danforth Park, Sept. 10. (Same location as last entry Oct. 28, 1987.)
- LITTLE BROWN BAT: (4) Two each at Highland Creek and on TFN Outing to Pine Point/Resources Rd. Ravine Outing, Sept. 11 and May 16 respectively.
- BIG BROWN BAT: (1) presumably this species. Described as "twice as large as the little brown bat". Only bat within Toronto Region, as far as we know, which could give the impression of such a "large" size. The only bat which is still larger in the general range is the hoary bat which was described as "rare" in Toronto in 1913 by James Fleming in Faull's THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TORONTO REGION. Seen Thistle-town, Etobicoke, April 24, at 14:40.
- RACCOON: (26) at least - 15 reports. Seen raiding grass seed stores, in trees asleep, descending tree, and tracks reported, in Rosedale, Pine Hills Cemetery, Richmond Hill, G. Ross Lord Park, Kortright Conservation Area, Willowdale, Guildwood Park, Wilket Creek, and Colonel Danforth Park.
- LONGTAIL WEASEL: None. This is one of the four not reported in the decade. Has anyone observed it recently within 50 km of the Royal Ontario Museum?
- SHORTTAIL WEASEL (ERMINE): None. Though there have been reports in the last two years.
- LEAST WEASEL: None. Not reported since 1987.
- MINK: None. It was reported in 1988.
- STRIPED SKUNK: (4) Reports of a dog sprayed at railway track near McPherson and Avenue Road, odour evidence near Eglinton Park and the East Don on TFN Outing Eglinton to Forks. (Sept. 2, Aug. 15, and Aug. 9, respectively). On Apr. 22 a dead individual examined on trail on the Don Valley Brickworks area. Described. No odour, no blood.

MAMMAL REPORT - cont'd

- RED FOX: (5) reported in 1989. First one March 25 evidence of scrapings on TFN Outing. On April 2 trotting south in ditch, looked in good condition, Whitby (map provided). On May 22 at Leslie Street Spit - watching the observer. On June 7 a large one was seen in Toronto, and on June 29 an individual observed in the Thorncliffe Park area.
- COYOTE: (3) sightings reported in the past year, the first north of Toronto in January, one July 12 in Town of Vaughan and a small individual in Thistletown, Etobicoke, backyards (with later examination of tracks as described in Murie's field guide), December 31.
- GROUNDHOG: (69) at least, in 40 reports. The first observation was in Thistletown, described as "fat, walking, then sunning self in snow down in the valley", a mild and sunny morning, Feb. 27. The next was Mar. 29, at Pine Hills Cemetery on a TFN Outing, apparently a pair with a den below them on a slope under a tree. Many reports from April to September inclusive of sightings, den-holes, conditions, weather and in one case, on May 13 in Richmond Hill, a female carrying her four young to another location. Last reported at East Point Park Sept. 11.
- EASTERN CHIPMUNK: (180) at least, in 37 reports. The first of this our "miniature hibernator" was observed in Metro Zoo core woods, April 18, on a woodland trail with much deadwood, although there were also a few outside the gates. In the parrot cage the bank with holes was noted, where this species had been seen on previous occasions, easily slipping through the mesh, apparently "freeloading". It was reported there later in the year, as well as in Earl Bales Park, Glendon (West Don), McKenzie Ravine (Castle Frank), Wilket Creek Park, Richmond Hill, Kortright Conservation Area, Town of Vaughan, Wilket Creek, Thorncliffe Park area, Taylor Creek, and the Rouge Valley. Observations included feeding, "kissing call", habitat ("with interrupted and silvery glade ferns"), tree-climbing. They take advantage of a private citizen's twice-daily feeding program in a parking-lot at the Rouge along with the birds. Reported in every month after April including one for the month of October on the 26th when two were observed in the Thorncliffe Park Area.
- RED SQUIRREL: (170) at least, in 37 reports. The only months in which this species was not reported in 1989 were February and November. Winter observations included two in January at Kortright Conservation Area (8 mostly at feeders) and Richmond Hill (1), and one in December at Wilket Creek Park (4) where a midden was also described. More reports were received the months of March to October from Kortright and Richmond Hill, as well as from the East Don and G. Ross Lord Park, behaviour being described ("chasing grey squirrel", "still harvesting cones - Sept. 3"), calling, scolding, feeding.
- FLYING SQUIRREL: (SOUTHERN) May 14 (1) in bird box. (NORTHERN none).

MAMMAL REPORT - cont'd

EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL: (400) approximately (in 54 reports, not counting the TFN Outings Reports.) Reported every month of the year - colour phases, feeding, digging, activity (chasing and being chased by red squirrel), basking, mutual grooming, moult, possible mange (pink showing on hide), size, reclining, aggressively seeking food from observers, seasonal pelage, gathering nest material (e.g. coloured paper), skeleton and tail on tree-branch, food (e.g. peanuts, Manitoba maple keys). Some English visitors at Metro Zoo were admiring the shiny black-phase squirrels in the core woods along their way. Perhaps there are no "melanos" in England where they have been introduced. Truncated tails were noted and one part of a tail was found on a TFN outing. On the Mount Pleasant Cemetery TFN outing on February 25, participants made a count of black phase (25) vs. grey phase (10) to send to Bob Stinson for his study. (See TFN 402:33 March 1989.) On the Prospect Cemetery TFN outing on Nov. 22, only black phase were reported - 15 of them.

BEAVER: (14) at least in 12 reports. Actually seen, five live, at Grenadier Pond Feb. 6; Humber Marshes (3) Mar. 24; West Don, Finch E., May 28 (watched feeding), one dead at Etobicoke Creek Sept. 23. Much evidence of beaver activity has been seen on Taylor Creek, Pine Hills Cemetery - two lodges under concrete buttresses of bridge ruins in January and in another location March 29, which was no longer there on August 23 outing. A handy chesterfield and TV set were apparently appreciated by the beavers while building their lodge. Willows and poplars were worked by the beavers in these and other locations such as Rowntree Mills Park and vicinity on the Humber, some species mentioned being weeping white willow and eastern cottonwood. The lodge on the Humber north of the Old Mill seen on Feb. 19 and 22 was built of eastern cottonwood and riverbank grape; it was built over a break in the bank with two holes in the ice at 10-metre intervals upstream from it and the cutting area a further 10 metres upstream. A Black Creek report has been promised.

WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE/DEER MOUSE: Only one report of a "mouse" July 21 in the Thorncliffe Park area, possibly one or other of these species.

MEADOW VOLE: (29) in 13 reports. A mother with five fully-furred young, with eyes still closed, was observed at East Point Park on Sept. 21. Earlier four adults were seen there, Sept. 11. Seven were seen at Richmond Hill June 29 - "all babies in two nests". An adult was seen there May 6. Other areas were Kortright Conservation Area, Moatfield Park, Taylor Creek (two dead), Newtonbrook Ravine, Leslie Street Spit (one dead in crotch of tree).

BOREAL REDBACK VOLE: None. Not reported in decade. (Please report if)

MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE: None. Not reported in decade. (any of these 3)

WOODLAND JUMPING MOUSE: None. Only one in decade. (observed within)

(Only report May 21, 1983, Thornton Bales Park.) (50 km radius in)
(recent years)

MUSKRAT: (14) at least reported, all sightings.

One of them swam from rock to bank-house of leaves and sticks on top of rocks, on the Humber, Sept. 2. First report March 16, Grenadier Pond. Otherwise seen in April, June, July and August. Swimming described, feeding behaviour, shyness/tameness. Other locations: Humber Flats, Don Valley Brickworks, Toronto Islands, West Pond (one dead on shore), Lower Don, Hogg's Hollow, Wilket Creek, Humber Arboretum. (Photographed and sketched on Toronto Island.)

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MAMMAL REPORT - cont'd

NORWAY RAT: None reported. (A white rat was seen dead in Keating Channel on June 14 - from a cargo? However, this would not be the same species; it is derived from the "black rat" which has never been established here.)

HOUSE MOUSE: (1) subway mouse reported, attracted by bread on the tracks.

AMERICAN PORCUPINE: None. (It has not been reported since June 2, 1984, at Pottageville Swamp - right on the edge of "Toronto Region".)

SNOWSHOE HARE: None. (None reported in the decade. If you have seen it within the 50 km radius in recent years, please report.)

EUROPEAN HARE: None. (No reports since 1984 and 1985 in G. Ross Lord Park and Etobicoke Valley.)

EASTERN COTTONTAIL: (67) at least, in 40 reports in every month of the year 1989 except October and November. Young were observed in Richmond Hill June 18 (4) and July 30 (3) and dead on lawn on Pitcairn Crescent in July. Adults were also observed at these locations as well as Ward's Island, Leslie Street Spit, Highland Creek area, Kortright Conservation Area, Town of Vaughan, Thorncliffe Park Area, Humber Bay East, south Humber, High Park, and Humber Arboretum.

WHITETAIL DEER: (6) in 5 reports. Jan. 11 two were observed among the firs at Kortright Conservation Area, resting. On May 7 one wandered up the hill at Humber Arboretum. Individuals were observed at Richmond Hill on May 20, June 18 and August 9, the last-mentioned identified as a doe.

Thank you, reporters! Ted Almond, Diana Banville, Alf Buchanan, Molly Campbell, Sandy Cappell, Adele Cassan, Joyce Cave, Dennis Clarke, Karin Fawthrop, Irene Fedun, Nancy Fredenburg, Walter Frey, Bill Granger, Ross Harris, Robert C. Hart, Helen Huggett, Alvara Jaramillo, Helen Juhola, Mark Kubisz, Paul McGaw, Joan McGill, Reta McWhinnie, Eileen Mayo, Meg Morden, Norm Murr, Joan O'Donnell, Joan Patterson, Betty Paul, Satu Pernanen, Don Peuramaki, Lorna Pinchen, Kevin Seymour, Al Shaw, Isabel Smith, Grace Somers, Merle Young, Larisa Zviedris.

Continue to send in your reports in this new decade, and any you may have from previous years, to me at #710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto, Ontario M4C 5L7.

Diana Banville

MAMMAL FIELD GUIDES:

Burt & Grossenheider, A FIELD GUIDE TO THE MAMMALS (Peterson Series)
D. & L. Stokes: A GUIDE TO ANIMAL TRACKING AND BEHAVIOUR (Stokes Guides)
Olaus J. Murie: A FIELD GUIDE TO ANIMAL TRACKS (Peterson Series)

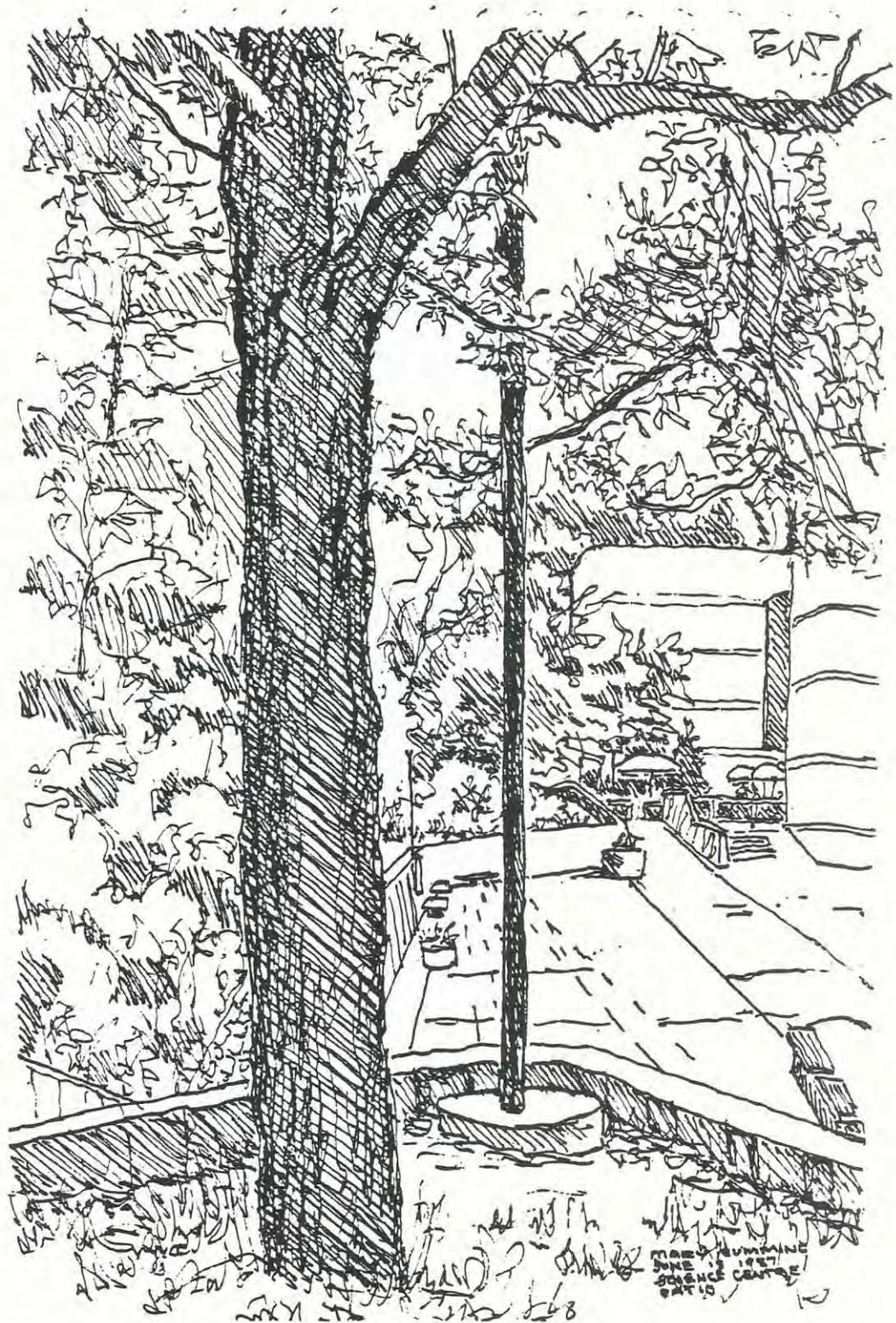
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A sliver of moon:
Both the dark side and the light
are with us tonight.

haiku by Diana Banville
January 28, 1990

View
of
the patio
which
overlooks
Ernest
Thompson
Park

field
drawing
at the
Ontario
Science
Centre
by
Mary
Cumming



OUTINGS REPORT

1989 Weather
Conditions

- Jan. 4 "-15°C clear, windy"- - Chine Drive, Scarborough Bluffs.
[Three people turned up but changed their minds.] "Cancelled -
too cold!"
George Comper
- Jan. 7 "-5°C dark, overcast, gloomy, drizzly" - R. C. Harris
Filtration Plant tour. "...there were huge waves smashing
against the sea-wall south of the Plant. The lawn, there,
however, was a mine-field of dog excrement."
Sandy Cappell
- Jan.25 "2°C winds 40 mph" - Eastern Beaches, "...flying sand...
lake like an angry sea...impressive."
Eva Davis
- Feb.12 "4°C mostly sunny, brisk winds" - James Gardens/Lambton Woods.
"Sky blue with fluffy clouds, like a spring day - but the
brisk winds brought you back to reality...skunk cabbage showing...
...very little snow."
Ilmar Talvila
- Feb.22 "0°C mostly sunny and nice" - Humber Valley. "The river was
frozen solid until we reached the stretch between the first
and second weir..."
Isabel Smith
- Mar. 1 "-7°C mostly sunny, west wind approximately 24 km/hr." -
Beltline. "It was a cold windy day with some snow flurries.
Most of the birds seen on or near feeders."
Nancy Fredenberg
- Mar. 8 "-16°C, -19°C windchill, sunny" - Windfield Park. "A very cold
morning but a good turnout...Walking was safe over crusty snow
and sand-spread walks. The sun broke through about 11 AM...
On Monday [the river] was frozen over in spots but on Wednesday
it was free-flowing."
Joan Patterson
- Apr. 2 "6°C, overcast, occasional sun" - Mount Pleasant Cemetery.
"...The red and silver maples were coming into bloom, some
fully out."
Emily Hamilton
- Apr.26 "15°C, warm and sunny" - West Pond. Listed in bloom: "Skunk
cabbage, mouse-ear chickweed, violets, coltsfoot".
Isabel Smith
- May 2 "10°C north wind. Rain." - High Park - birds for beginners
outing. "...Off we went, trying to see birds in the rain and
the darkening light. The birds' calls and songs were also
pointed out and as we were ending the walk, the white-throated
sparrow added his repertoire to the evensong."
Helen Smith

OUTINGS REPORT - 1989 Weather Conditions - cont'd

- May 3 "10°C, overcast, occasional sun" - Don Valley - Steeles to Finch.
 "...It was cold and raw and almost nothing was flowering. Trees and shrubs were in bud, but none had opened their leaves... plant growth was so retarded, we were trying to identify cotyledons. Willows were still flowering and trillium leaves looked like miniature versions..."
 Sandy Cappell
- May 4 "6°C, the only spring day" - High Park. "Since spring had been so cold, there were no spring flowers to be seen, and we looked in vain for the trailing arbutus. So we concentrated on the trees, which were still bare...one shrub of Manitoba Maple was flowering. I pointed out the protective value of anthocyanin in leaves, also pollination in trees with catkins..."
 Nick Badenhuizen
- May 7 "6°C, windy, cold and rainy" - Etobicoke Creek. "...lots of flowers in bloom but the petals were half-closed because of the miserable weather...with the rain [the fill at the top of the slope] was thick gumbo." [Twinleaf found but not Carolina spring-beauty].
 Isabel Smith
- May 11 "10°C - Rain!" - Burke Brook, Lawrence Park Area. "Four people braved the steady but light rain...we only went as far as the place where Burke Brook comes out from "underground" - it was in full spate. We enjoyed the trees though most were still leafless...the catkins were very conspicuous on the hornbeams and birches."
 Emily Hamilton
- May 17 "A very hot day, sunny" - Earl Bales Park. "We had lunch at a table outside..."
 Joan Patterson
- June 4 "21°C, sunny mostly" - Mount Pleasant Cemetery - East Section. "Very few shrubs were in full flower - many going into fruit and many with flowers just budding. All the shrubs need much pruning as there has been much winter-kill."
 Emily Hamilton
- June 11 "23°C, gorgeous!" - Warden Woods. "...especially after the James Baillie trip of yesterday ["windy, cool"] which was freezing." [Six species of butterfly were listed on this Warden Woods walk.]
 Eva Davis
- June 14 "16°C, dull and windy at times" - Lower Don. "...Started out cool...there were no mosquitoes...very enjoyable walk."
 [Yellow iris reported in bloom.]
 Graham Neville
- July 3 "27°C muggy, hot!!!" - Lower Don Valley. "Birds were very scarce - possibly they were smarter than us...Catalpa tree in bloom... we were able to pick up the blossoms which had fallen from the tree to admire and smell."
 Muriel Miville

OUTINGS REPORT - 1989 Weather Conditions - cont'd

- Aug. 2 "20° to 30°C, rain, thunder, lightning, about 20°C; about 30°C by the time we got home and it had stopped raining" - East Don - Lawrence to Old Mill. "Thanks to Graham Neville for pre-walking and helping along the way...vegetation was very wet and very tall...so we became very wet...among the trees it was very dark and in the open stretches the sky looked violent..."
Helen Juhola
- Aug. 9 "25°C sunny" - East Don - Eglinton to Forks.
"...poison ivy had spread and covered up the paths - most of the trip was on the railway (beside the tracks) which was good for viewing. This area should probably be visited only in April or May before the vegetation takes over."
Helen Juhola
- Aug. 12 "26°C high - mostly cloudy, warm" - Leslie Street Spit.
"Water level high - mud flats much restricted...therefore seven species of shorebird were quite good."
Don Burton
- Sept. 27 "15°C, bright, sunny" - Garthdale Ravine. "At 10:15 AM there was still frost on the grass here and there."
Sandy Cappell
- Oct. 7 "10°C, sunny with cloudy intervals" - Sherwood Park.
"The witch-hazels were in flower, still with some yellow leaves - the red maples had turned colour and showed up well in the sunshine. We enjoyed walking among the very tall trees...a remnant of the forest which covered the area where the city is now built."
Emily Hamilton
- Nov. 22 "-8°C to 0°C" - Prospect Cemetery. "Forsythia with several blossoms, highbush cranberry bushes heavy with fruit, rowan tree with heavy load of fruit, mockingbird feeding on Euonymus berries..."
Al Shaw
- Dec. 20 "-7°C sunny, cold" - Park Drive Ravine. "Cold, otherwise pleasant...no problems with slippery ice...squirrels eating Manitoba maple keys, a grey squirrel chasing a black one, and two robins."
Sandy Cappell

▷

Vivid fresh new greens,
bright blues and brilliant yellow,
light mauve; it's springtime.

Joyous sunshine, happy tears,
rains begin, drops drip from ears.

OUTINGS REPORT (cont'd)

NATURE ARTS

January-April 1989

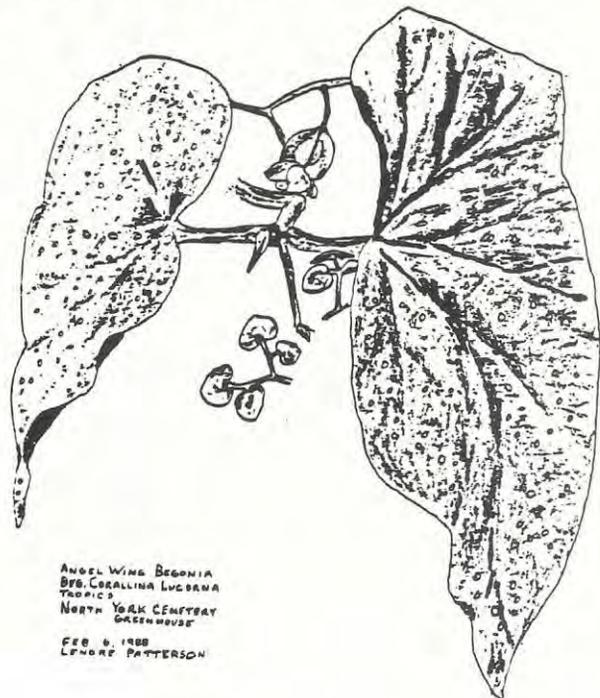
Photography is growing in popularity in our Arts group - and the annual "members' slide shows" are attracting members who do not participate in other arts outings. On February 4 at Newtonbrook United Church (Cummer near Yonge), organized by Betty Greenacre, twenty attended; ten of those brought their slides, already set up in a tray, and did their own "show-and-tell" segment of the program - and refreshments were served. On March 31 at Northern District Library (near Eglinton and Yonge) with Eva Davis, twenty-two attended; eight of those exhibited and a new member brought prints. Closed-off taps came on just in time for a coffee break.

Are there any more photographers who are willing to lead an outdoor outing? Some leaders give a short demonstration or some "tips" at the beginning of the outing and then give suggestions as problems develop. That is only one example; new leaders with their own ideas are very welcome.

A group interested in crafts met at Parliament Public Library, March 11; the leader, Edna Mattos, demonstrated the making of artificial flowers; others showed and explained how they made cards using nature or floral sketches and photocopy; or pressed flowers. Other crafts were copper enamel and needlework, also using a nature theme. Anyone who has done crafts or has a hobby with a nature or recycling theme, and would like to lead, or just give ideas for an "inning" please call the TFN office. (Always assuming, of course, no picking of wild plants and no use of butterflies, etc., from the wild. Most people use garden flowers only.)

On March 4, at the London Regional Art Gallery, there was an exhibit of miniatures and other works by Kate Taylor Cumming (Mary Cumming's mother). Many miniatures had been done on ivory (using a magnifying glass). There were four portraits of Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the Governor General of the time, done in 1939, on ivory 4" x 5", also portraits of Japanese students (friends of the artist) in costume, watercolours of flowers, and other portraits both in oils and watercolours. Ten members travelled by bus or train to see the exhibit. Of course, the leader was Mary Cumming. Lunch was in the cafeteria of the gallery, overlooking the Thames River.

On February 21, the group went to North York Central Library on Yonge Street, which is both a lending and reference library. After a few remarks about library cards, Dewey decimal system of numbering books (used throughout Ontario libraries) and about the library art gallery (nothing



ANGEL WING BEGONIA
 BFB, CORALLINA LUCERNA
 TROPIC'S
 NORTH YORK CENTRAL
 GREENHOUSE
 FEB. 6, 1988
 LENORE PATTERSON

OUTINGS REPORT - Nature Arts - cont'd

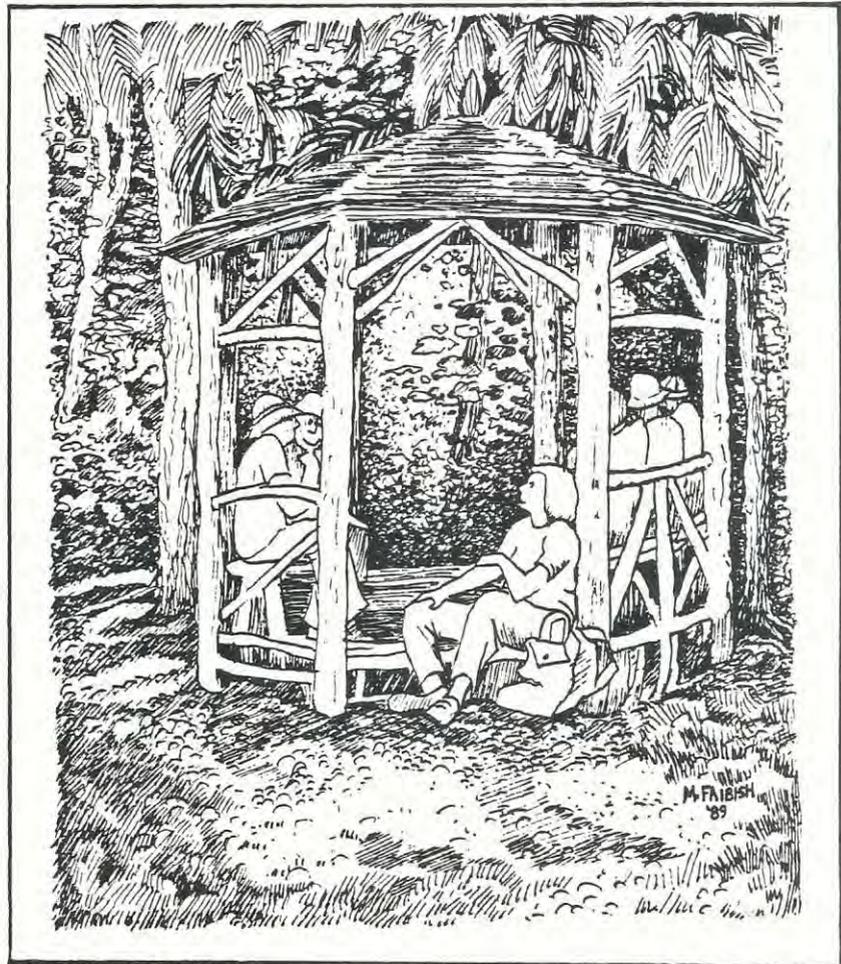
showing that day, unfortunately), we went to the second floor and looked at "loan art", magazines, and books about artists, painting, photography, and especially the oversized art books. Members pulled books that interested them and we sat at a large study table, looked at the books and discussed various aspects of art (our table was in a corner and no one was studying near us - it was a Tuesday morning). Lunch and more talk downstairs later in the North York City Centre.

In January, Diana Banville and group went to Union Station for "genre sketching". "Genre" in painting is a portrayal of scenes from everyday life. First the group referred briefly to booklets on the French Impressionists (who were the great exponents of genre painting). Then they sketched - people waiting in line, people sitting in rows, at the Lotto counter, and at the mmmmmuffin concession; of course, other people looked over their shoulders as they sketched!! Later at lunch at P.J.'s they shared their work and experiences, especially their observations of life and the personalities around them.

Of course, there were other "innings", Metro Zoo, Allan Gardens; and we are always looking for new leaders, new ideas, new places to work or explore. Call the TFN Office at 968-6255 and leave a message after the "beep". We'll call you back.

Joyce Cave

Lunch-time at
the gazebo in
Pine Hills Cemetery's
wildflower garden,
near Warden Woods,
June, 1980,
during a TFN
Outing.



FOR READING

BEYOND THE BLUE BOX: YOUR GUIDE TO WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING IN METRO TORONTO, published by Metro Toronto Works Dept. (SWEAP)

This 5"x7" booklet outlines ways to reduce, re-use and recycle common household items. Everything from aerosol sprays to coat hangers, from junk mail to mattresses, from books to wood is covered in the booklet. To order a free copy, call 392-5420.

THE CANADIAN GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE prepared by Pollution Probe in consultation with Warner Troyer and Glenys Moss, published by McClelland & Stewart, 1989 (\$14.95).

"How you can help -- Responsible shopping that won't cost the earth", says the cover of this new book. It is definitely a good buying guide for anything from eggs to light bulbs to refrigerators. The preface and foreword -- both worth reading--are written by Margaret Atwood and by Warner Troyer. The Introduction is significant, for it clearly outlines how we consumers make a difference to the environment, in our buying habits. It says: "When Green Consumers reduce their consumption of disposable papers, they put fewer polluting chemicals into the water near pulp mills, fewer emissions into the air above paper factories. With a reduction in garbage at the curb, garbage trucks need to make fewer trips to the landfill sites, so they use less fuel and reduce their exhaust emissions. And farmland is preserved that might have been used for more landfill sites".

This user-friendly book is well indexed and comprehensive in that it deals with subjects as diverse as acid rain, microwave cooking, seeds, vacations, and water use. About water, it states: "Edmonton meters all residential water, while Calgary is only partially metered. The result? Edmontonians use half as much water as Calgarians do. If you care about throwing too much good water down the drain, consider lobbying for municipal water metering". For gardeners and growers, the GUIDE suggests saving seeds, for "most seeds sold through catalogues and at gardening centres are hybrid seeds, bred by artificial techniques at seed houses. These engineered varieties have little or no resistance to insects and disease, so they are dependent on chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides for survival. Most do not reproduce well, so you must buy new seed every year".

This book is cross-referenced, colourful -- with drawings and graphs -- and for the most part, is practical; it's written for lay people, and includes informative statistics and history. However, there seems only one short reference to population and family planning, under Clothing and Toiletries, the moral of which is that one shouldn't litter with used condoms!

Although the problems of energy and waste are well stated throughout THE CANADIAN GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE, luxuries such as dishwashers, kitchen blenders and private urban cars are sometimes mentioned and suggested in a quite matter-of-fact, casual manner. Unquestionably, there is much valuable information in this book, but not for the confirmed, believing conserver, but for those who would be.

Helen Hansen

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PROJECTS

ONTARIO HERONRY INVENTORY

In 1990, the Ontario Heronry Inventory (OHI), a project of the Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) will compile a catalogue of the locations of all of Ontario's heronries, using information provided by amateur and professional naturalists across the province. Volunteers will also be needed to help census specific colonies of special interest. The second phase, in 1991, will be a province-wide census of as many colonies as possible. The OHI is hoping that as many as 300 heronries can be censused by volunteers. In a province the size of Ontario the contributions of volunteers are vital to the success of a project of this magnitude.

In 1980-81, LPBO conducted a similar survey and determined that the heron population in Ontario was healthy, with over 375 active colonies and an estimated 13,000 breeding pairs. However, the ensuing ten years have seen increasing pollution of lakes and streams, disturbance of nesting sites, acid precipitation, wetland drainage, woodlot cutting and continued human development in more and more remote regions. Now, LPBO wants to examine changes in the distribution and abundance of herons in the province resulting from these human impacts.

Anyone who knows the location of a heron colony, or is interested in participating in colony censuses in 1990 or 1991, can write to the OHI. Even if the heronry's location is the only information you can contribute, OHI would appreciate hearing from you, as it will make the inventory as complete as possible.

Anyone contributing to the OHI will receive biannual newsletters detailing the progress of the survey. Censusers will receive complete instructions on how to census their colony, with minimum disturbance to the birds, as well as all the necessary materials.

To report heronry locations, to volunteer to census a colony, or to obtain more information about the OHI, please contact: Bev Collier, OHI, LPBO, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0, or (519)586-3531.

Bev Collier, Coordinator OHI

Help Wanted

Suggestions? Want to help?

Bird Group meetings: Call Mary Noad at 233-6573.

Botany Group meetings: Call Dennis Clarke at 255-1696.

Environment Group meetings: Call Jennifer Low at 322-6899.

General Meeting Programs: Call Joan Patterson at 226-6501.

Nature Reserve: Call Robin Powell at 928-9493.

Outings: Call Alexander Cappell at 663-7738.

Newsletter: Call Helen Juhola at 924-5806.

Publicity (displays etc.): Call Eileen Mayo at 445-4621.

LURE BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR YARD

The concept of butterfly gardening is not new; it is a very popular past-time in England and the United States. Winston Churchill was probably the most famous butterfly gardener of this century. The gardens of Buckingham Palace have become famous because they provide sanctuary for many rare British butterflies.

You can attract as many as 50 different types of butterflies to your yard, simply by adding a few new plants to your garden. The secret lies in providing a wide variety of flowers and shrubs. Shade-tolerant plants are as important as those that thrive in the sun. Annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees will all provide food for butterflies. Flower colour is important too: some butterflies prefer oranges, reds and yellows; others are attracted to white, purples and blues. As a rule, simple flowers, rather than fancy double hybrids, are more attractive to butterflies. Try butterfly milkweed, arabis, sweet rocket, honesty, sweet William, white alyssum, cosmos, coreopsis, phlox, daisies, catnip, heliotrope, sea holly, asters, stocks, zinnias, yarrow, globe thistles, lavender, thyme, stonecrops, sweet woodruff, candytuft, verbena and gaillardia.

Some shrubs and small trees that are popular with many butterflies include butterfly bush, common lilac, mock orange, beauty bush, blackberry, potentilla, honeysuckle, hawthorn, weigela, sumac, rose of Sharon, spirea, privet, pussy willow and viburnum. Try growing some of these plants in masses, rather than as single specimens; the measure of your success will be the number and variety of butterflies you can lure to your yard.

Contrary to popular belief, butterflies do not harm flowers or vegetables; they usually visit to sip nectar from flowers -- just as honeybees do. In fact, butterflies are excellent pollinators and can improve your fruit and vegetable production. At times their larvae do cause damage in the garden; but most have very special food requirements such as grasses, common weeds and wildflowers. However, the cabbage white butterfly can be a pest. Its larvae eat plants in the cabbage family. If caterpillars are causing problems in your garden, it may be best to pick them off your plants; spraying is not recommended because it can harm beneficial insects as well.

Over the years, experiment with different colour and plant combinations to find out which plants are best for your area. All that remains is to purchase a field guide to butterflies, and sit back and see who drops in for a visit.

adapted from an interview with Katherine Dunster, Newsclips, University of Guelph in TRELLIS, May 1989 (Civic Garden Centre)

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RESURRECTION SYMBOL

White butterfly -
close enough to see
but not to touch.

Sr. Margaret Banville

ISSUES

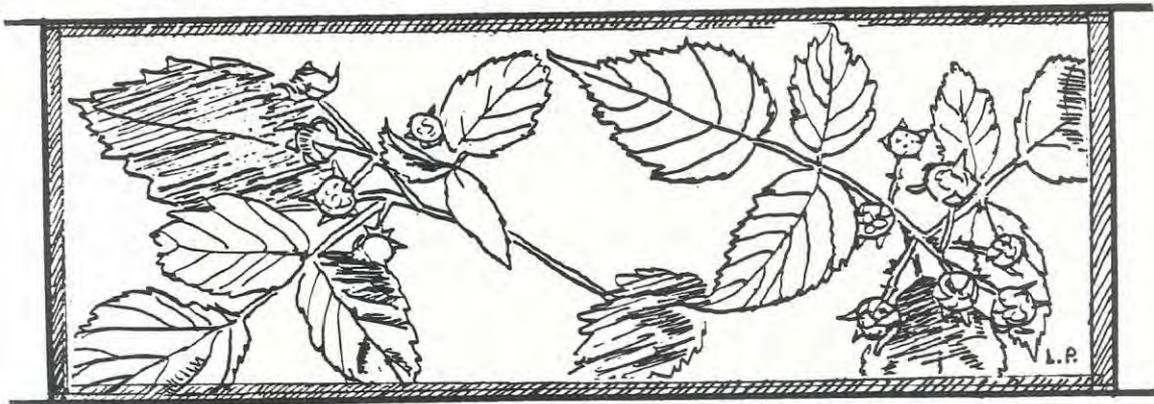
Habitat being changed at Rogers Reservoir

For many years Rogers Reservoir, north of Newmarket, Ontario, supported birds not frequently found elsewhere in the Toronto region: black terns, common moorhens, least bitterns, to name a few. More commonly seen were great blue herons, Canada geese, assorted ducks, and many red-winged blackbirds. Before several large trees came down, fishing ospreys could be seen. Last spring the picture was much different: many fewer birds, including ducks, and fewer basking turtles. When I asked the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for a possible explanation I learned that "a number of years ago" the Authority entered into a management agreement with Ducks Unlimited. Under this agreement, a "water outlet structure" was built in the late 1970s. It enables Ducks Unlimited to regulate the water levels in the wetland area adjacent to the viewing tower at the reservoir. This, in turn, controls the vegetative growth thereby enhancing the duck-breeding habitat. The program is ongoing. This spring it will be interesting to see whether the birds and turtles are back in the variety and numbers of earlier years or whether last year's conditions will be repeated. Some questions: What is the demonstrated effect on non-duck species of this kind of program? If it degrades the habitat of these species does Ducks Unlimited take steps to supply it nearby?

Perhaps some of our readers have had experience with wetlands being altered for the primary benefit of ducks. If so, please let us know. If you have any questions for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, its address is 120 Bayview Avenue, Box 282, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4X1.

Harold Taylor

Comment: Members may also want to ask questions of Ducks Unlimited - Ont., 240 Bayview Avenue, Suite 10, Barrie, Ontario L4N 4Y8. They are described as an international, private, non-profit, conservation organization dedicated to the perpetuation and increase of North America's waterfowl resources through restoration, preservation and creation of primary breeding habitat.



Black Raspberry with developing fruit - by Lenore Patterson, field sketch in St. John's Hospital grounds, June 14, 1986 (Newtonbrook Creek). Note the prickles in the fruit clusters; they are more sparse on the canes. Plant is not "bristly" like wild red raspberry. ref. SHRUBS OF ONTARIO by Soper & Heimbürger.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME

As the French so rightly have it. This is particularly true of pesticide use. We should not be fooled when a major company announces grandiloquently that it has stopped using 2,4-D "because of concerns for public health and safety". This does not mean it has given up employing toxic chemicals, merely that this particular chemical has got itself a bad press. In place of 2,4-D, CHEMLAWN, for instance, has switched to MCPA, but according to Denis Vincent, a pesticide expert with the Montreal Botanical Garden, MCPA belongs to the same family of chemicals as 2,4-D and will have similar effects.

As last month's newsletter recorded, Montreal's parks administration does not believe in spraying its city parks with pesticides. Lucky Montrealers! What will it take to get Toronto municipalities to examine why it is that with such a policy the city of Montreal does not yet appear to have been taken over by Triffid-like hoards of killer "weeds"? Obviously life goes on without the saving grace of pesticides. The same cannot safely and irrevocably be said of the reverse. More and more, medical evidence is that the long-term effects of toxic chemical application make for a poisoned planet and a debilitated species. Montreal doctor June Irwin asks: "Why do leaflets with the children's allowance cheques say not to give certain drugs to children under two? Why don't they [also] say you should not spray the grass they play on?" She answers her own question: "Because then they [government] would be sued for letting it happen".

That "5000 tonnes (of 2,4-D)...spread annually in Canada", reported by Denis Marinakis of the Montreal Daily News (1988), can be diluted by TFN members refusing to hand their precious plots over to the "lawn care experts". It really is a very simple equation: Planet Earth as against the billion dollar empires of the chemical industry plus the necessary refusal on the part of people to rethink the human drive to classify and control which first placed certain wild plants in the "weed" class. After all, without wild flowers there would be no garden flowers, and the categorization of which is what is entirely arbitrary.

Eva Davis

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As for governments...they must understand that environmental groups "may seem to be adversaries, but are in fact their closest allies. They carry tidings of the future, alerting us to issues that will become ever more urgent as time passes. The more these people criticize, attack and stick their noses into problems, the more they ought to be encouraged and supported, not thrust aside. They should be helped to perform their task instead of ostracized. They do not meddle for the fun of it, but because they recognize the pressing need for action.

from "Frederic Back: The Man Who Spreads Hope" by Reine Degarie in ENVIRONMENT UPDATE, Vol. 9, No. 2, Dec. 1989

SAVE THE OAK RIDGES MORAINE

A new and energetic coalition of citizen groups and individuals dedicated to the preservation of the Oak Ridges Moraine has been formed and is open to, and indeed, eager to recruit new members.

This beautiful, hilly, stony area, while being worth preserving in its own right, has great significance for Toronto itself. About 160 kilometres in length and 13 kilometres wide, the moraine stretches from the Niagara Escarpment to the Trent River. The flora and fauna here, even though they have yet to be fully documented, include a number of rare species.

Made up of gravel and till deposited by glaciers, it is a ridge between 1400 and 1175 feet high from which water flows south to Lake Ontario and north into the Kawartha lakes. While exploring it you might not realize that this region is the vitally important recharge area that it is, for the moraine itself has very few visible streams. This is because its permeable surface allows the water to disappear vertically into the ground, reappearing as springs along the slope of the moraine and into the rivers of the Don, the Humber, the Rouge and the Ganaraska watersheds.

Thus the Oak Ridges Moraine is a vital recharge area for the rivers and creeks which flow through the valleys of Toronto and adjacent regions. Due to its proximity to Toronto, the development pressures on it are enormous. Today, only 15 to 30% of the land remains in a natural and relatively undisturbed state. Gravel extraction, residential and transportation developments threaten the health of the moraine and, ultimately, the rivers of Toronto.

Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (also known as the STORM) coalition wishes to involve as many individuals and groups as possible in working to preserve the moraine. Especially needed are members active around, or interested in, the Humber. If you are interested and wish to know more, please contact Dorothy Izzard at 416-833-5816 or Don Alexander at 519-745-5542.



Elaine Farragher



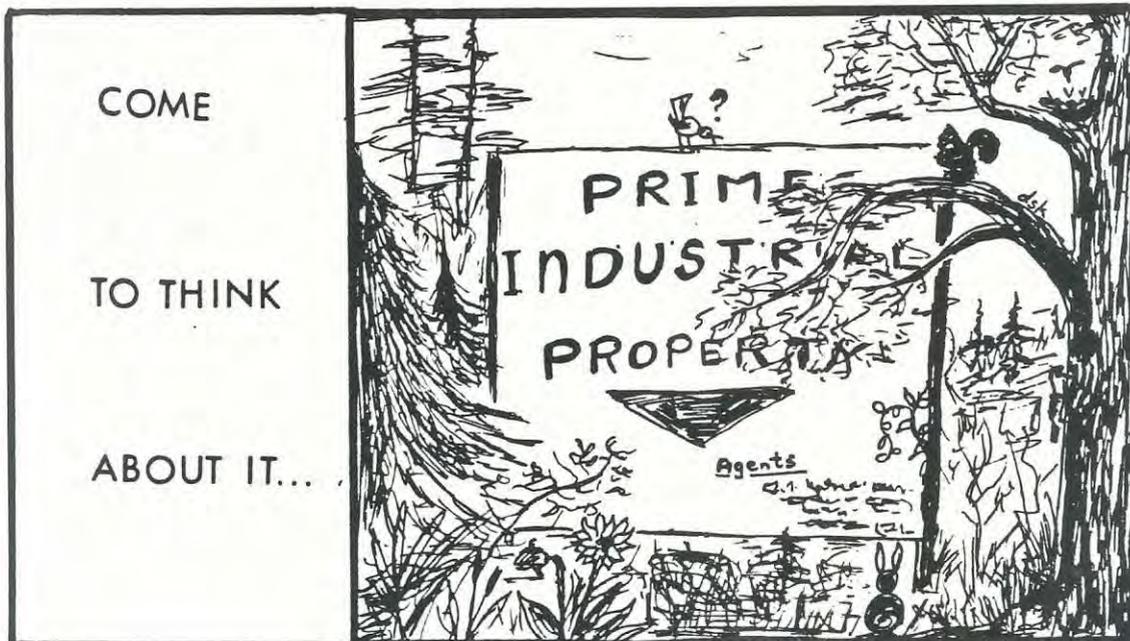
AN ALLIANCE FOR METRO TORONTO'S LAST GREEN DOOR

Colin Isaacs, former executive director of Pollution Probe, is supporting proposals for the new town of Seaton, proposed to be constructed on 7,000 of the 20,000 acres assembled by the Province of Ontario in conjunction with the now-terminated Pickering Airport.

According to Isaacs, the Province's goal is to have subdivision construction within four years. This would serve to provide an alternative to the environmentally destructive land development currently carried out by private sector developers. Isaacs believes a "green city" could be planned which would have an appeal similar to that of Loblaw's "green products" to the environment-conscious consumer.

The new town, housing approximately 100,000 people, would be built by a Crown Corporation whose formation would be announced in one to two months. It would be constructed in accordance with the designations of the Durham Regional Official Plan which allows for an outer industrial ring, followed by a residential zone and an inner commercial core. However, environmental group leaders believe such a designation (Seaton) in the Durham Regional Plan cannot serve as a basis for green city planning. For example, the commercial area separated from residential area stimulates automobile use. No attempt has been made to incorporate provision for urban wildlife. Further, for a meaningful effort to reduce stormwater pollution, many additional areas such as recharge areas and swales would have to receive open space designation.

With the four-year deadline for the first subdivision, development will proceed with an exemption from the Environmental Assessment Act, substituting a consultative process, for the 7,000-acre new town. The remaining 13,000 acres of open space are to receive the rather ambiguous status of a study area, making it likely that the entire area will be engulfed in urban sprawl, given the lack of firm preservation commitment.



Cartoon by Diana Karrantjas

This development pressure would undoubtedly encourage development ideas on the Federal land holdings adjacent, and the "Green Door" lands would be lost.

A far better plan, and one which would show commitment to preservation of agricultural lands, natural areas and historical features, for example, would be to transfer the entire 43,000-acre block of Federal-Provincial land to the ownership of a heritage trust which would keep the land from the speculative market while providing secure tenure to farmers and communities. Such a trust could incorporate preservation of agricultural, natural and historic areas.

In planning a "Green Door" protection strategy, a number of principles need firm establishment:

1. No Class 1 to 3 farmland or viable existing farms should be built on.
2. Valleylands, floodplains, aquifers, recharge areas, wetlands and important wildlife habitats must be protected from urban development.
3. There must be no sacrifice of historic sites.

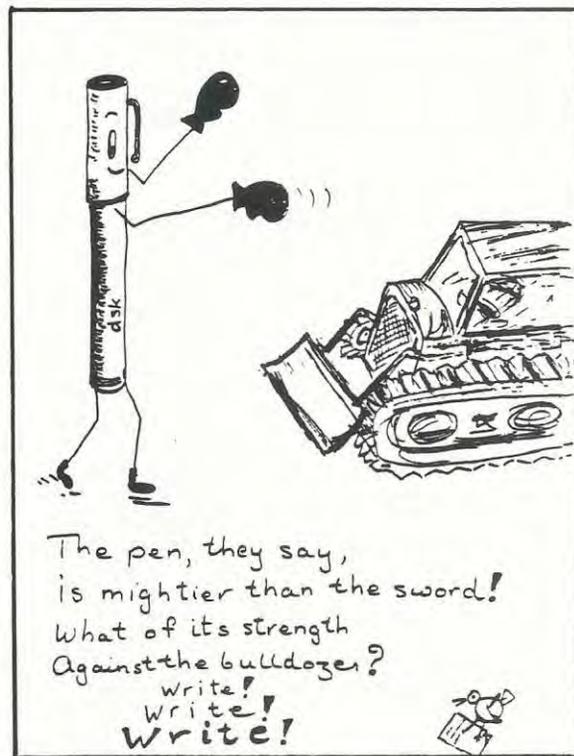
We would ask anyone concerned about the quality of life in our region to support the preservation of Metro Toronto's last "green door" by endorsing the above principles for land use planning and management. Let your elected representatives know about your concerns. For further information about the Alliance, contact Lois James at R.R. 1, Markham, Ont. L3P 3J2, 416-284-6409 or Fred Beer at 416-649-3876 or John Bacher at 416-964-8912 or Pat McClellan at 416-294-1396.

John Bacher



COME
TO THINK
ABOUT IT...

Cartoon by Diana Karrandjas



IN THE NEWS

LET EARTH HAVE ITS DAY

The date April 22 has special meaning for environmentalists: it marks the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day. In that memorable 1970 mobilization, which evolved from an idea by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, more than 20 million Americans, many of them students, rallied under the banner of Mother Nature. Their plea for action helped lead to the passage of America's Clean Air Act and the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The organizers of Earth Day 1990 hope it will have a similar galvanizing effect, that it will change individual behaviour and launch a decade of environmental activism. This time the event will be international, reflecting the recognition that all the major environmental threats are global in scope. Posters and ads [for the day] will carry the slogan EARTH DAY 1990: WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD? One of the main goals of Earth Day 1990 is to help broaden the environmental movement far beyond its upper-class, bird-watcher base.

adapted from an article by Jeanne McDowell in TIME, Dec. 18, 1989

THE COMPLEX HERITAGE OF THE GRAND RIVER

People in Brantford, grappling with chemical contamination of the river that supplies their municipal drinking water, find little comfort in Ontario's plan to designate it a heritage river. The possibility that a plaque may be erected to commemorate the history of the Grand River has little relevance to residents worried that their health has been compromised by what one called "big business, political powers and the profiteering part of our society". Fears about contamination in the Grand have been heightened by revelations that apple juice from a plant in St. Jacobs was contaminated with NDMA (the carcinogenic chemical N-nitroso dimethylamine) and withdrawn from the market, and by the fire burning in millions of tires at a storage dump in nearby Hagersville. Residents have demanded that the town of Elmira stop pumping NDMA-contaminated water from a well into a stream that flows into the Grand. The Regional Municipality of Waterloo hopes that pumping the water into Canagagigue Creek will prevent a contaminated plume in the aquifer from being drawn into municipal wells. The aquifer was contaminated by toxic chemicals from waste buried by Uniroyal Chemical Ltd. in Elmira. The company has been ordered by the provincial Environment Ministry to stop dumping waste into the town's sewage treatment centre. About 86,000 people in Brantford, Cayuga and the Six Nations Reserve in Ohsweken, where wells have been closed, get their drinking water from the river. Plans for the heritage designation of the river, announced by Natural Resources Minister Lyn MacLeod on Tuesday, involve recognition of the natural and human heritage features of the 400-kilometre river, the largest watershed in Southwestern Ontario. The designation confers no regulatory powers.

adapted from "Brantford residents want probe of chemical dumping into river" by Nina Aprile in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Feb. 22, 1990

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

FROG DECLINE CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL FEARS

Toads and frogs are dropping like flies. Zoologists say a mysterious, precipitous decline in the world's amphibian population raises troubling questions about the future of humans and the environment. To date, the evidence of a massive die-off of the world's amphibian population is largely anecdotal, but zoologists say it should not be ignored. David Wake of the University of California noticed a decline in the frog population in the meadows of the High Sierras and in the salamander and toad populations of Costa Rica's Monte Verde rain forest, raising his suspicions that the problem was widespread. It was then that he started a "frog log" in his computer. When his concerns began to circulate in zoological circles, the calls and letters started pouring in. Areas so far reporting dwindling or disappearing amphibian populations include Denmark, Hungary, southern Ontario and southern California as well as Australia. Zoologists say there is no ready explanation for the apparent amphibian die-off. They speculate the causes could include pesticide residues, acid rain, a gradual disappearance of ponds amphibians require to breed in, and growing salinity in wetlands. Other possible explanations include the contamination of wetlands with heavy metal toxins, higher doses of ultraviolet radiation from the sun (caused by a thinning of the atmospheric ozone layer), and even a lethal frog virus.

adapted from an article in the TORONTO STAR, Jan. 1990

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"AS NEAT AS A PIN"
seems to be the motto of this man (in appropriate T-shirt) who picked up some litter on his way to the basket. Sketched on a TFN Nature Arts outing to Queen's Park, August 6, 1988.



THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

April 1989, Toronto

This year April was very cool. The pattern of a ridge over western North America and an upper trough over the east persisted continuously all month. As a result, a northwesterly flow dominated the month from start to finish. (In contrast, Arizona and California had 30°C temperatures --like July -- most of the month.) The warmest it got at Toronto City was 16.2°C on April 26th; this must be the lowest monthly maximum for April in at least thirty or forty years. Away from Lake Ontario, the airport attained 19.7°C on the same day -- a little better. In all locations, March 27th-28th fared better than any day in April or early May. Monthly means of 6.2°C downtown and 5.1°C at the airport were the lowest since 1982.

The first half of April featured a strong upper level low directly over the lower Great Lakes, and cold temperatures were accompanied by snow-squalls on April 9th-11th. On April 10th especially the ground was repeatedly whitened by dense flurries which alternated with intervals of sun. Afterwards, from April 14th-28th, placid Arctic air and sun with variable cloudiness prevailed. This was a dry period, with only weak cold frontal passages from time to time. Moisture arrived from the south-east on April 29th-30th, and thunderstorms hit on the afternoon of April 29th, although it remained cool at ground level.

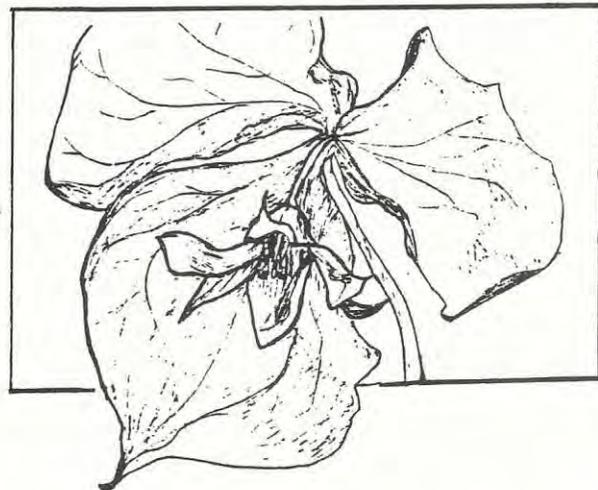
April was fairly dry with 35.4 mm of precipitation at the city and 41.1 mm at the airport. Snowfall amounts of 6-7 cm, coming between April 9th and April 13th were the most since 1979. But it was generally the driest April since 1985 because of the absence of any moist southerly flow. By the end of the month, the ground was quite dry in many places. Fitting in with the general pattern of unchallenged cool supremacy, the winds at Toronto Island averaged the lightest for any April at 14.7 km/h.

As might be expected, the vegetation was slow this month. Spring bulbs were a little late, and the woodlands retained their winter aspect into early May. There was some need for rain, and for warm temperatures, to get the growing season moving in an auspicious way.

Gavin Miller

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This red trillium was sketched in the field by Joyce Cave near Orillia, but it is also native to Metropolitan Toronto. Though it is not as abundant as the white trillium, it grows in many locations in the Don, Humber, and Rouge watersheds.



COMING EVENTS

The Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront will be co-hosting a Symposium on Urban Waterfront Industry: Planning and Developing Green Enterprise for the 21st Century. The public is welcome to attend. This event is to take place Tuesday, April 3 at 7 pm. Any person who wishes a copy of the Discussion Paper or who wishes to attend should contact the Commission at (416) 973-7185.

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club: Early Migrants at the Leslie Street Spit on Sat. April 7 at 8 am (all day). Meet at the entrance to the Spit. Bring lunch. Leader will be Herb Elliott.

Toronto Entomologists' Association (insects) monthly meeting will be on Saturday, April 28 at 1 pm in the lecture room of the McLaughlin Planetarium.

Metro's proposed waste management plan (known as SWEAP - Solid Waste Environmental Assessment Plan) is having a series of Public Information Forums with displays, videos, workshops and a chance to chat with Metro Councillors from 7 to 10 pm:

Monday, March 19 at North York City Hall, 5100 Yonge St.

Thursday, March 22 at the Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive

Tuesday, March 27 at the Auditorium Concourse of the North Campus of Humber College, 205 Humber College Blvd.

Thursday, March 29 in the Rotunda of Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. West

Tuesday, April 3 in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave.

Thursday, April 5 in the Municipal Building, 2700 Eglinton Ave. West

For more information, call 392-5420.

Photography Seminar, a seven hour seminar on photographing nature presented by George D. Lepp will be held by the Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs on Saturday, April 28 from 9 am to 5 pm at Earl Haig Collegiate, 100 Princess Ave., North York. To register, send \$40 to George Lepp Seminar, 280 Consumers Rd., North York M2J 1P8.

The Royal Ontario Museum's Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows Gallery of Birds, a new permanent gallery, will officially open on April 7, 1990.

Humber Arboretum - Sights, Sounds and Smells of Spring - April 1 and 8 and Vacationing Bird?! - April 29. Fun-filled family outings beginning at 1:30 pm. (A small fee will be charged per session.)

Nature Hike at Kortright Centre on April 21, 22, 28, 29 at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. (Entry fee.)

Canadian Wildflower Society Annual Plant sale at the Civic Garden Centre, (Wildflower Sale and Auction) on April 29 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Earth Day (see page 33). Watch the papers for announcement about many activities. See page 4 for TFN outing on that day.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Royal Commission on the Toronto Waterfront

Tues., April 17 at 10 am at the Commission Hearing Room: A green strategy for the Greater Toronto waterfront - public access to and along the waterfront and its river valleys

Wed., May 9 at 10 am: Waterfront transportation in the context of the regional transportation system

Tues., May 22 at 10 am: Environment and health (continued)

For more information contact the Commission at P.O. Box 4111, Stn. A., Toronto, Ont. M5W 2V4 or call (416) 973-7185.

Frogwatcher's Hike at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre from 7 pm to 9 pm on April 27. For more information call 416-336-1158.

Society of Ontario Nut Growers (SONG) spring auction at the Civic Garden Centre on Saturday, April 14 at 1:15 to 4 pm.

Tropical Nature: the enchantment of the rain forest - a 12 hour lecture series with an optional trip to the rain forests of Costa Rica. Call the University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies at 978-3901, or write the School at 158 St. George St., Toronto M5S 2V8.

Ways of the Woods day camp for children ages 8 to 12 at the Mountsberg Conservation Area for one- or two-week sessions during July and August. Call 854-2276 for details.

1990 Green Thumb Camp for children from 8 to 11 at the Civic Garden Centre, mornings or afternoons in July and August. Call 445-1552 for details.

Federation of Ontario Naturalists camps for Young Naturalists:

for children ages 13 to 15 - July 22 to July 28 on the Bruce Peninsula,

for children ages 10 to 13 - Aug. 19 to Aug. 25 near Westport, Ont.

For more details contact the Parkers at 428 Falconer St., Port Elgin, Ont. NOH 2C0 or call them at (519) 832-5928.

Hamilton Naturefest at the Royal Botanical Gardens on Sunday, April 29 from 10 am to 5 pm to celebrate Earth Week 1990. Admission \$2.50 for adults, \$1.00 for children. Call 1-800-668-9449 or 1-416-527-7962.

The Global Greenhouse Effect: What Can We Do? a forum to be held Mar. 20 at 8 pm at the St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. East. Free admission.

Ministry of Natural Resources' Viewing Days: Sunday, April 1 at Humber Bay Park East from 10 am to about 3 pm and on Sunday, April 29 at Rattray's Marsh from 10 am to 3 pm. For details call Angus Norman or Glen Hooper at 832-2761.

Black Creek Project: Work Day on Saturday, April 14 at Northwood Park (north side of Sheppard Ave. West - between Jane and Keele) at 10 am. Glen Harrington, landscape architect, will demonstrate bio-engineering. Celebration of Earth Day on Sunday, April 22 at the northwest corner of Jane and Steeles Ave. West at 2 pm to walk north. Call Rob Tonis or Chris McGuckin at 969-9637 (days) for details.

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TFN 411 - 38

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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Published eight times a year by the Toronto Field Naturalists, a charitable, non-profit organization, the aims of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage.

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<p>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION, 1965 \$.50</p> <p>CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 197250</p> <p>TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976 Metropolitan Toronto's important natural areas are described and recommendations given for their conservation and management; includes maps, bibliography and index 2.50</p> <p>FIELD CHECKLIST OF PLANTS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO, 1977 5/\$1.00 or25 ea.</p> <p>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS 2.00 ea. Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973 Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974 Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975 Survey #4 - Wigmore Ravine, 1975 Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976 Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1976 Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977 Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978</p>	<p>INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978) 10.00</p> <p>ANNUAL TFN INDEX25 ea.</p> <p>TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 .. 2.00</p> <p>A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSSES, 1985 2.00</p> <p>TORONTO REGION VERTEBRATE LIST (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals), 1985 5/\$1.00 or25 ea.</p> <p>TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST, 1985 .. 5/\$1.00 or25 ea.</p> <p>GUIDE TO THE TORONTO NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, LEASKDALE, ONT., 1986 2.00</p> <p>TORONTO ISLANDS: PLANT COMMUNITIES AND NOTEWORTHY SPECIES, 1987 ... 2.00</p> <p>TODMORDEN MILLS, 1987 2.00</p>
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\$15 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY
\$10 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE
Tax receipts issued for donations

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