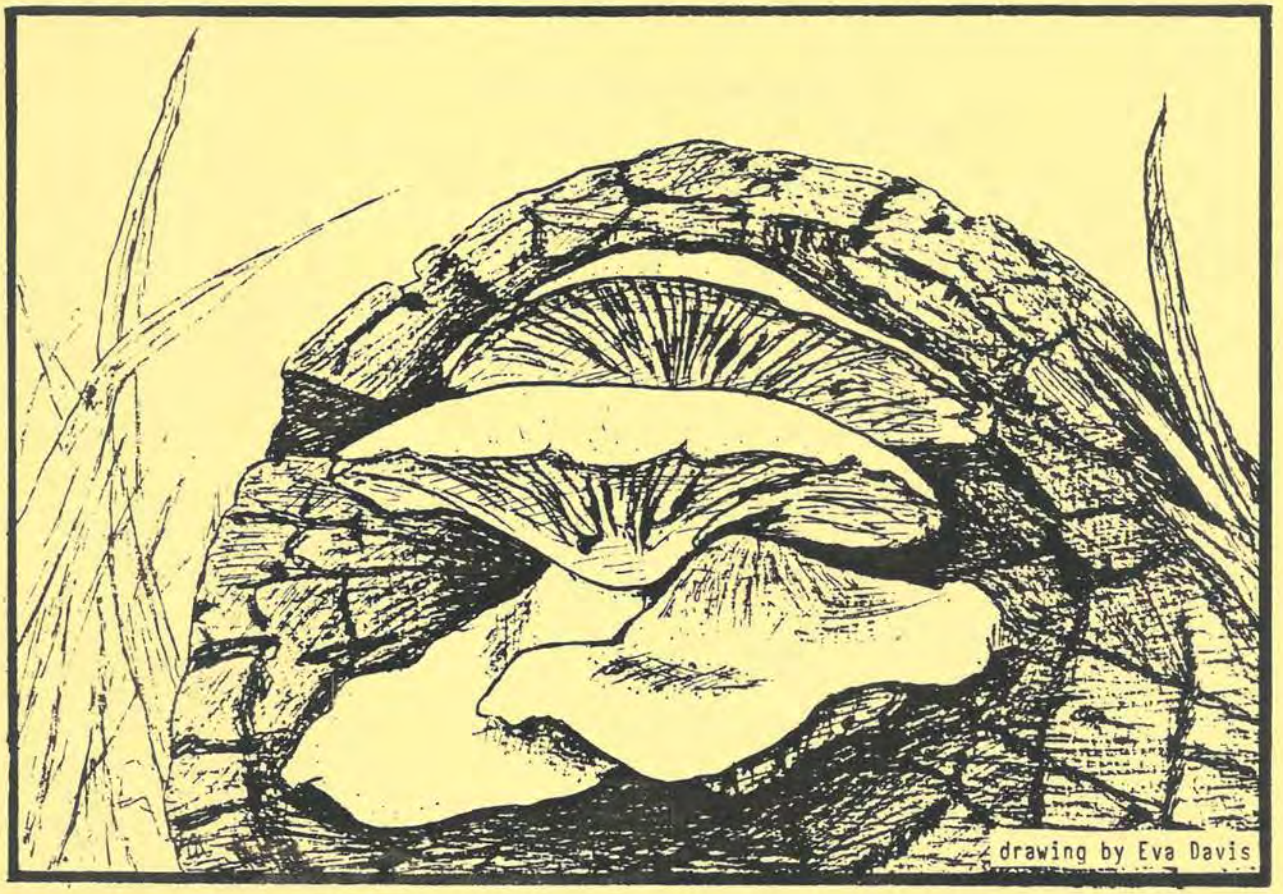
TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 414 October 1990



Inside

Amphibians & reptiles 8,25
Birds 6,8,24
Coming events 29
Ethics 21-22,23
Fungi, 1,2,16,26
Help wanted 24
Invertebrates 17-20,22,27
Issues - summary 5-6;
  Carleton Place 23, lakefilling 27
  ravine setbacks 27
Plants 25,26
Projects 7,24,26,27
Reading 14-15
Travel 21-22
Trees 16,26
TFN - displays 8; fee increase 7;
  history 10-11; library 13;
  meetings 2; newsletter 12;
  outings 3-4; President's
  report 5-6
Weather 28

TFN MEETINGS

General Meeting

Monday, October 1, 1990 at 155 College Street*, 6th floor auditorium

7 pm - TFN social hour

+ a display of the artwork of Geraldine Goodwin

+ an opportunity to purchase TFN publications etc.

+ a display of books produced by Natural Heritage/Natural Press (including a chance to buy Bob Johnson's FAMILIAR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF ONTARIO - $9.95)

8 pm - CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN ONTARIO, an illustrated lecture by Bob Johnson, author and a curator at the Metro Toronto Zoo

Group Meetings

Bird Meeting: Wed. Oct. 10 at 7:30 pm at 155 College St.*, Room 251
Dr. Baker of the Royal Ontario Museum will be giving a talk on his research on Oystercatchers. Everyone welcome.

Botany Meeting: Tues. Oct. 16 at 7:30 pm at 155 College St.*, Room 251
Members' night -- Bring a selection of up to 20 of your favourite or unusual botanical slides. Everyone welcome.

Environmental Meeting: Thurs. Oct. 18 at 7:30 at 155 College St.*, Room 251
Scarborough Bluffs - a vanishing landscape - slides and comments from John Bower, formerly commissioner of Metro Planning. Everyone welcome.

* Easy TTC access (building is one block west of Queen's Park subway station)

Free parking in the Board of Education garage on the west side of McCaul Street just south of College St.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Monday, Nov. 5 with Dr. Rupert Warren talking about lichens

This Month's Cover

OYSTER MUSHROOM (Pleurotus ostreatus)
drawing by Eva Davis

This mushroom with its white to yellow-brown 2-30 cm broad, moist, oyster-shell shaped cap (with no stalk) has the odour of anise and a pale lilac spore-print. Growing in single or overlapping clusters on hardwoods and conifers, it has been recorded in the Rouge Valley, in High Park, on Kingston Road, in Willowdale, as well as in Pottageville in Toronto Region.

ED/DB

TFN OUTINGS
October

Wednesday — FOREST HILL - drumlins & quarries — Toronto
Oct. 3 — Leader: volunteer needed
10:30 am — Meet at the southwest corner of Bathurst St. and Ridge Hill Dr. (north of Eglinton Ave. West). Morning only.

Saturday — WILKET CREEK - nature arts (photography) — West Don, North York
Oct. 6 — Leader: Betty Greenacre
10 am — Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Leslie Street just north of Eglinton Ave. East. Bring cameras, lunch, or come and enjoy.

Sunday — WARDEN WOODS - mushrooms — Taylor Creek, Scarborough
Oct. 7 — Leader: John Morgan-Jones
10:30 am — Meet on the east side of Warden just south of St. Clair Ave. East (outside the subway station). Bring lunch.

Monday — TORONTO ISLANDS - birds — lakeshore, Toronto
Oct. 8 — Leaders: Helen Smith & others
10 am — Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street in time to take the 10 am ferry. Bring lunch and membership card.

Wednesday — CENTRAL WATERFRONT - nature walk — lakeshore, Toronto
Oct. 10 — Leader: Dorothy White
10:30 am — Meet at the southwest corner of Bathurst St. and Lake Shore Blvd. West. Lunch optional. Walk will end at different transit stop.

Saturday — EAST DON - nature walk (fall colours) — East Don, North York
Oct. 13 — Leaders: Robin Powell & Dennis Clarke
10 am — Meet at the southwest corner of Steeles Avenue East and Leslie Street. Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.

Sunday — LAMBTON PARK - fall flowers & colours — Humber, York
Oct. 14 — Leader: Alfred Adamo
2 pm — Meet on the south side of Dundas St. West at Howland St. (first street east of the Humber River).

Tuesday — METRO TORONTO ZOO - nature arts — Rouge, Scarborough
Oct. 16 — Leader: Betty Paul
10:30 am — Meet at the zoo entrance on Meadowvale Rd. north of Sheppard East. Bring camera, sketching material or just come and enjoy. Lunch optional.

Wednesday — INDUSTRIAL WATERFRONT - nature walk — lakeshore, Toronto
Oct. 17 — Leader: Ruth Munson
10:30 am — Meet on the south side of Queen's Quay just east of Bay St. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Lunch optional.

▷

OCTOBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

Saturday Oct. 20 11 am	HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk Leader: Robin Powell Meet at the northwest corner of Steeles Ave. West and Islington Ave. Bring lunch.	Humber, Vaughan
Sunday Oct. 21 1:30 pm	OLD SHORELINES - glacial geology Leader: Ken Cook Meet on the south side of Queen Street East at Neville Pk. Blvd. (Neville loop). Walk will end at a different public transit stop.	
Wednesday Oct. 24 10:30 am	SHERWOOD PARK - nature walk Leaders: Eileen & Geoff Chopping Meet at the park entrance at the east end of Sherwood Ave., east of Mt. Pleasant and north of Eglinton Ave. East. Lunch optional. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.	Burke Brook, Toronto
Saturday Oct. 27 10 am	HIGH PARK - nature walk Leaders: Jerry Belan & Bill Edmonds Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West opposite High Park Ave.	Toronto
Sunday Oct. 28 2 pm	ROWNTREE MILLS PARK - nature walk Leader: Billie Bridgman Meet at the northwest corner of Finch Ave. West and Islinton Ave.	Humber, North York
Wednesday Oct. 31 10:30 am	CHERRY BEACH - nature walk Leader: Gavin Miller Meet at the southeast corner of Cherry Street and Commissoners St. Lunch optional.	

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.

□

The best time to plant a tree is 40 years ago. The second best time is today.

from "Your guide to financial freedom" by Ellen Roseman in GLOBE AND MAIL: REPORT ON BUSINESS, February 1988

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you for giving me the honour and the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to working closely with the Board of Directors and members, in continuing to promote the aims of the Club "to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage".

Our thanks go to Robin Powell for his contribution as President, and also for establishing a slide library and an extensive collection of mounted photographs on nature topics for use on our display units.

Thanks also to Phil Joiner for his contribution to the Club, after serving on the Board for the past eight years, and 1986-1988 as President.

As members become increasingly active with environmental and other issues, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep members informed of these activities and the effectiveness of TFN participation in these matters. Following is a synopsis of our involvement since the last Publicity Report in the May newsletter.

Displays: TFN Nature Information Centre in Sunnybrook Park - about 2000 visitors per season; "Discovering the Wild Don", a collection of more than 200 TFN photos on display at Todmorden Mills from May through the summer; a one-day display at the City of York Civic Centre for an environment meeting in June.

Litter removals: at Todmorden Mills, Humber Flats, Taylor Creek and for Environment Week, at six sites in the Don Valley.

Articles in the press: in the GLOBE AND MAIL TORONTO magazine, April 1990 and in THE TORONTO STAR, May 1990.

Radio: CBC interview on Metro Morning about impact of expanded Toronto Island Airport on natural environment

TV: Shirley Show, CFTO TV Channel 9, program on environment

Letters: to Ontario Hydro re use of herbicides in Hydro corridors (see news in TFN 413:8:SEP); to City of Toronto objecting to use of herbicides in parks (use to be eliminated in part of Withrow Park); to City of North York re herbicides in parks; to Metro re proposed motor boat races below Scarborough Bluffs (proposal refused); to Ministry of Natural Resources objecting to introduction of trumpeter swans (see page 8); to Ministry of the Environment reporting pollution in Taylor Creek at Warden Woods Park; to Trees for Today and Tomorrow suggesting that planting of native trees with aftercare would be preferable to present program of planting thousands of alien species; to Brock Township objecting to proposed golf course in Environmentally Sensitive Areas upstream from our nature reserve; to City of York objecting to sale of parkland for development; to City of Toronto enquiring about fish die-off in Grenadier Pond (see TFN 413:12:SEP); to North York Parks Dept. re planning for parkette at Yonge and Sheppard; to City of Toronto re Action to Restore a Clean Humber; to City of Toronto re acquisition of Belt Line lands from CN (City agreed to buy last link); to MTRCA re proposed development of golf course on a significant natural area along the Humber in the Town of Vaughan; to Metropolitan Toronto Chairman and Councillors expressing our concern about valley edge developments; to the City of Toronto Parks Department about damage to City trees.

▷

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

Speakers provided: at a meeting of North York University Women's Club; at the Women and Environments Conference in May; at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing re a development proposal for the Rosedale subway property (proposal which would have been destructive to the ravine was refused)

Leaders provided: for Earth Day walk in the City of Toronto; for tree conference tours of High Park (for City of Toronto Parks Dept.)

Brief: to Ministry of Natural Resources Wildlife Working Group who are preparing a new Wildlife Act for Ontario

Resource: TFN outings reports reviewed by MNR representative for bird sightings in Rouge Valley (for planning of Rouge Park)

Meetings attended: Crombie Commission hearings; with Ron Kanter re the Oak Ridges Moraine (brief also submitted); North York Environmental Committee re pesticides issue; Metro Parks re issue of baseball fields at East Point Park (committee deferred approval)

These activities were all attended to by TFN volunteers. If you have been involved with any environmental issues or would like to participate, please let me know by sending a note to our office at 20 College St., Unit 4, Toronto M5G 1K2.

Eileen Mayo
President

□

TWO SMALL OWLS...
of the same genus (Aegolius). The Northern Saw-Whet (R) may be seen at Toronto Islands and Leslie Street Spit, especially in October. It has occasionally nested in the Toronto Region. The Boreal Owl (L) has very rarely been seen here. It is a generally more northern bird than the former, with a wide range. In Eurasia it may be called "Tengmalm's Owl". (ref. TFN Library sources).

The two ink drawings are interpretations by Geraldine Goodwin of photos by Edgar T. Jones and Barry Ranford in BIRDS OF PREY in the BIRDS OF THE WORLD SERIES by John P. S. MacKenzie.

WE NEED A FEE INCREASE

Our average revenue per membership is $15.00 and our cost of operation per membership is now $18.56, so we have to increase our fees.

There is no alternative: not being a government we cannot deficit finance by spending the future of our children, and not being industry we cannot reduce expenses by cutting staff -- we have no staff, we are run entirely by volunteers.

The expenses of TFN have to be covered by the members who receive all the benefits of the club, provided by the hundreds of members who volunteer their time and expertise.

Our last fee increase was in 1982, but it was not sufficient in amount. By 1984 our costs per membership had risen to $18.59 and the Board of Directors was deciding on a fee increase when we were finally granted second-class postage status (we had been trying off and on since 1962) which reduced our costs considerably. (Our newsletter postage had been costing us more than the preparation and printing of the newsletter.) From 1985 to 1987 our costs per membership stayed relatively level at about $15.30. In 1988 costs began to rise again and in this past year were up to $18.56.

Inflation will keep increasing our costs in the future. Also if we can find a secure supply of satisfactory recycled paper, its use will add at least $3.00 per membership to our costs.

We do not want to increase fees every two or three years. The increase will have to be a large one so that fees will not have to be increased for at least five years.

Aarne Juhola
Secretary/Treasurer

[more next month]

□

FINE PAPER RECYCLING
A KRUSE PROJECT

Did you know that recycling a ton of paper can save 20 trees? The environmental committee of Kingston Road United Church is organizing a fine paper collection. The list is: bond paper - coloured or white; white lined paper; photocopier paper; computer paper; letterhead/bulletins; memos (not sticky-backed); pamphlets.

(We do not accept envelopes, gummed labels, cardboard, photocopy-paper wrappers, staples, fax paper, telephone books, newspapers, magazines, waxed or coated paper, paper towels or tissue, coffee cups.) Please follow our guidelines. You simply (1) Post the list near your collection box at home or the office. Soon you will know by heart what to save. (2) bring your filled containers to the church (975 Kingston Road) on Sunday mornings or on Mondays. A green box will be available in the Narthex for small deposits, such as used church bulletins. You will be helping to save our beautiful, oxygen-producing trees, reduce landfill waste, cut back on the use of dioxin, a highly toxic chemical used in bleaching paper.

(from a flyer distributed on Good Friday, 1990)

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Aug. 13, 1990

Thank you very much for your help in making our Simcoe Day Festivities a resounding success. Because of the participation of exhibitors like you Todmorden Mills was able to organize one of the best Simcoe Day programmes in our recent history.

This year the media and public response was double that of last year's, and we feel that, at least in part, this was due to the enthusiastic participation of our exhibitors. This year's attendance of approximately 600 visitors is unprecedented in our history but with your continuing support we hope to exceed this figure in 1991.

Once again I would like to thank you for your participation.

Basil Tonks for
William Frankling
Curator/Administator, Todmorden

August 16, 1990

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 1990, regarding the reintroduction of the trumpeter swan.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service have endorsed efforts in the past by Mr. Harry Lumsden to reintroduce trumpeter swans. The program is currently under review. Similar programs to reintroduce this bird are under way in the states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Snapping turtles have been a source of mortality for trumpeter swan cygnets when the latter are raised with mute swans as foster parents. Some snapping turtles were removed from one foster parent site to assist the establishment of birds in the initial stages of the program. I am advised that turtles were taken by a turtle trapper in only the first year of removals from this site. In two subsequent years, some turtles were live-captured and relocated from the same site. However, all removals ceased after 1986 and there are no plans to remove any snapping turtles in 1990. I understand that the release of captive-raised trumpeter swans is planned for this year. The raising and releasing of swans is controlled by the Federal Government.

I appreciate your concerns, and I share your interest in the welfare of snapping turtle populations. In April of this year, I announced new regulations which prohibit the commercial harvest and sale of snapping turtles, and regulate turtle harvests for personal consumption. A copy of the news release on this subject is enclosed for your information.

The interest of the Toronto Field Naturalists in the diversity of Ontario wildlife is appreciated. Again, thank you for writing.

Lyn McLeod, Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources

[See news on page 23.]

□

Michael Stevensen as John Graves Simcoe and Glenna Sims as
Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe arriving at Todmorden, Simcoe Day, Aug. 6, 1990

OCTOBER

All of a sudden
there was light:
The Sun's face lifted
above the dusky horizon,
somewhere.

All I could see
was Moon above
the balconied apartments,
still shining bright.

This Monday morning,
this is bliss!
Harvest of sunlight
is this.

I am a farmer's daughter
lost in a city,
a century ago.
Still the farmer's daughter,
still.

Larisa Zviedris

BEGINNINGS

In our continuing series we are pleased to feature this month the recollections of former President of the TFN, Jean Macdonald. In 1978 Jean joined the newsletter editorial committee. A year later she was elected to the Board of Directors. In Jean's words, "This led eventually to the offices of Vice-President and President and to considerable activity representing the TFN on environmental issues in the Metropolitan Toronto area". Among the issues that received Jean's devoted attention were the development of Tommy Thompson Park (Leslie Street Spit), the proposal to extend Leslie Street through the Don Valley, and the impact on the valley of the school on Lawrence Avenue East. Jean sadly recalls the development on Bloor Street adjacent to High Park. Despite much energetic protest the development was approved and many attractive trees were cut down. Several years later the site sat empty waiting for a buyer. Thank you, Jean, for your reminiscences and your determination to make Toronto a more pleasant place to live in.

H.T.

I cannot remember a dramatic beginning for my life as a lover of nature. At home we had chickens. I remember, as a child, taking one of the hens and holding its head under the water in the drinking trough "to see how it liked it" -- but I don't think that is what you are looking for! By the way, it didn't "like it" and I soon released the unfortunate thing. And carrying bunches of gorgeous dahlias to the school to the teachers somehow doesn't fit the category of beginning naturalist.

Birds are my real love and I think this began in my early teens. In high school there was a large glass-fronted case of bird specimens and it was part of the zoology course to identify twenty of these. This I found easy and it was perhaps just a step from there to identifying them in the wild. We lived in Windsor and what better place to be during spring migration. Marvellous birds passed through the garden and I was constantly jumping up from the dinner table because something was hopping around our large silver maple. When an identifiable one like a redstart came through, I was hooked.

As we didn't have a car I rarely got out of the city but more intimate experiences made up for this. One morning I looked out and there was a scarlett tanager in the full glory of its breeding plumage on a wire about twenty feet from the window. Another time from another window, and again resting on a wire was a hummingbird. I had only seen them on the wing and was deeply moved; so tiny, so fragile. Just below my bedroom window a cardinal nested in the honeysuckle vine. During the years that the cardinal shared our garden we were called by urgent "tsips" to replenish the sunflower seeds that we spread on a small tray on the porch. The bird would be at the tray before we were inside the house and I still think this showed an unusual level of confidence for a bird that I think of as somewhat shy. We had a wren that occupied our little wren house for years. One evening three fledglings, which had just that day left the nest, were distributed on the branches of the tree -- brown balls about the size of walnuts with their heads under their wings.

One day I came home from a shopping trip to find a box in the garden containing a cuckoo -- I think a yellow-billed -- that my family had "saved" for me to see. It had stunned itself on a window and was

▷

BEGINNINGS (cont'd)

recuperating. A wonderful chance to see one at close range. And then there was the American bittern. A neighbour brought it to me. I put it in a cage formed of screens leaning together and tried to feed it fish. After a few days it got out and I hope it made it back to the distant ditch from whence it had been kidnapped. (I think my father engineered a gap in the screens!)

The next stage in my development as a bird-loving naturalist was a membership in the Audubon Society of Canada. In the 1940s, if I remember through the mists of time, it was just starting up in Canada and we received "Canadian Nature" as part of our membership. This was the beginning of my continuing membership in what is now the Canadian Nature Federation.

In 1951 I moved to Toronto and this was the beginning, somewhat later, of my involvement with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. This led to a few summers at Billie Bear Lodge. There were also trips -- to Churchill, the Birds of Britain trip with Clive Goodwin, a former TFN President, and a trip to New England. It was here that a group of us were standing one night in a rather remote and dark road behind some cottages, softly murmuring and moving about -- a perfect scenario for a group of thieves or vandals. A police cruiser drew up and a couple of burly law-enforcers came over to check things out. They believed us when we said, "We're listening for a chuck-will's-widow".

I got into the TFN in a rather interesting way -- at least if my memory serves me right! I had made some field guide covers from "oilcloth" and had given the extras away. One of the recipients thanked me by giving me a membership in the TFN that I have maintained since that time.

There was another beginning: during outings with Jim Simon and others of like mind, I didn't become a botanist but developed an interest in fungi. I felt I was doing quite well until all the nomenclatures were changed and reorganized and I foundered. I still find them fascinating but unless they have very distinctive personalities I no longer get involved. For fungi lovers I should mention a marvellous specimen of Steccherinum septentrionale seen in the woods near the Siberia Inn near Barry's Bay.

Up to the Bruce and one more birding highlight when Jim Simon pointed out a pale, delicate little bird running along the sand: "See the piping plover?" I was especially happy to see it that day, perhaps 20 years ago, because I had never seen one. Today the piping plover is endangered and possibly is no longer in Ontario.

More recent trips are really not beginnings but I want to express my feelings about being able to approach to within arm's length the wonderful creatures -- birds and mammals -- in remote parts of the world. These wild things do not flee or hide but regard the human as a benign visitor to be ignored or looked at with curiosity. This is how man should live with other inhabitants of the planet.

Jean Macdonald

□

Between the two fields,
a river of fall flowers,
purple, white, and gold.

haiku by Helen Juhola

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

The 1989 INDEX to the TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST reveals that the subject most written about is the Environment, including conservation, ethics and issues. It represents about a hundred topics or 40%; the 82 topics in 1987 represented 34%. Ten years ago there were 25 such topics or 23%.

The next largest listing is that of Bird subjects, numbering 57 or 23%. It has gone up since 1987 when it was only 15%, quite a contrast to ten years ago when birds represented over a third of all topics in the newsletter (and that's not counting individual sight reports in cases where no further information was reported). Of the total number of nature-study topics in 1989, birds made up a third, somewhat below that in 1987. Ten years ago, birds accounted for half. Present proportions are more realistic in relation to the whole nature-study scene.

Plants (including trees and shrubs) with 41 subjects treated represented 16% of the total (24% of the nature-study subjects). A few mushroom topics are included here, although these belong to a separate kingdom. Though there are more plant subjects listed than ever before, percentages in relation to other subjects haven't changed much. (Perhaps the plant world ought really to represent about 45% of the nature-study subjects as it is so extensive.)

Mammal topics are increasing, with a count of 23, or 9% of the total (13% of nature-study subjects, though ten years ago they represented only 5% of those).

Amphibian and reptile figures are deceptive for 1989, showing only eight topics or 5% of the total. However, most of the material for that year was included in a comprehensive report, rather than in several shorter ones as in 1987. Ten years ago there were only three references in the newsletter to these animals.

Invertebrates show a higher number of topics than amphibians and reptiles but less volume. Ten years ago there were only a couple of references to this vast group which involves many fields of nature-study.

Fishes are enjoying an upsurge the last few years with five topics in 1987 and seven in 1989 - not very many but their position ten years ago was zero.

Other 1989 nature-study subjects included minerals, the sky, and weather - the last-mentioned representing 9% of the total subjects in the newsletter. The many TFN reports, just about fifty in all, provided most of the above statistics, as well as on other subjects such as nature arts, health, history, people, outings, projects, books, travel, camping, habitat and places such as parks and other lands, lakes and rivers, and of course our 1988 anniversaries of the club and the newsletter. There were fourteen reviews. Eighty authors participated (not including those reprinted from other publications) and sixteen illustrators.

What will the picture be for the nineties? "Short is beautiful" will be the motto - because of the economic crunch but mostly because of the environmental crunch. We'll be looking for articles of not more than 1,000 words, top limit (rather than 1,500 words). We predict we'll have just as much to talk about - if not more!

DB □

REPORT

TFN LIBRARY

Acquistion List, January to August, 1990:

BIRDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA by Kenneth Newman (a field guide)
THE CANADIAN GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE, 1989
SEEDS OF THE EARTH - a public or private resource? by P.R. Mooney 1979
THE GANARASKA WATERSHED - a study in land use, by A.H. Richardson, 1944
TASMANIA'S FOREST - a booklet in colour

THE PLANET TODAY, periodical, February, 1990
PROBE POST, periodical, Volumes 2, 3 and 4, 1990
GARBAGE, periodical, January/February, 1990
BIRDSCOPE, periodical, spring/summer 1990

Subject BEAVER: "The world of the lily-pond" - condensation of Hope Ryden's book in READER'S DIGEST
Subject MUSHROOMS: "Collecting mushrooms for scientific study" by David Malloch; flow chart for genus Russula; letter on Cortinarius
Subject TRUMPETER SWAN: Article from The NEW YORKER
Subject URBAN WILDLIFE: Glasgow folders
Subject BIRDS: Articles and 4-page paper "Profiles on risk status of Canadian Birds: 3 Loggerhead Shrike", by Martin K. McNicoll, including bibliography
Subject KARNER BLUE BUTTERFLY: Article
Subject TREES: Literature on conservation

We wish to thank the donors of this material: Len Bednarz, Mary Cumming, Jean McGill, Martin K. McNicoll, Melanie Milanich, Jack Parkin, Joy Pocklington, Gloria Somerville, and Mel Whiteside.

In our library files, we have unpublished manuscripts by TFN members on the subject of the tropics. These may be borrowed through the mails:

by Christine Hanrahan: "Feathered exotica, the trade in wild birds" (3 pages with bibliography and public participation information) "Questing for the Quetzal" (3 pages plus list of conservation groups).
by Joy Pocklington: "A visit to a heronry, Okavango Swamps, Botswana" (1 page); "Birdwatching in Botswana" (3 pages); "Pets at the bush camps in Botswana" (1 page).

Call 690-1963, if you are interested in any of the material listed in this report, or if you are interested in donating material. While we do not have a formal lending library, we keep a collection of reference books, and find homes for other nature books which our members do not need. We are particularly interested in helping members involved in nature programs, recent examples being the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's outdoor education program and Todmorden Mills Museum's nature study program. Your donations are being put to good use.

DB

□

Goldenrod nods at
purple bouquets of asters.
Warm autumn meadow.

haiku by J. Kenneth Cook

FOR READING

WOMAN BY THE SHORE AND OTHER POEMS by Robert W. Nero, Natural Heritage Book/The Collector's Choice, 1990, 64 pages, softcover, $9.95

The Woman in the title of this attractive, slim volume is Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, the renowned writer-naturalist. The Shore is on Ontario's Pimisi Bay where Mrs. Lawrence's keen observations of wildlife have enthralled several generations of her readers. Over her long lifetime many tributes have come her way but perhaps none more graceful than these poems published to honour her 96th birthday. Dr. Nero's affectionate regard is very evident: "I see her now / on a bench beside the bay / bird calls drawing her / out of herself, / words streaming through / her serene mind / a desire to write / making her blue eyes shine. / Listen to the loon / dear lady,let the voice of / the white-throat / send you my love". The 40 or so other poems are Dr. Nero's very observant glimpses into the world of nature in its many forms -- a feather on a windowsill, bees, a pet owl, juncos, a robin's nest, to name only a few. All royalties are being donated to the Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Nature Writers Award fund; an award established to encourage excellence in nature writing.

H.T.

CITIES UNDER SIEGE by Irene Paparo-Stein, Atlantic Press Publishing, 1988

Those who believe bureaucrats would cancel chemical spraying programs if they truly understood the risks to planet and species should read this. Irene Paparo-Stein's account of her Winnipeg battles at all government levels demonstrates that this issue is literally a fight to the death, with "keeping the economy going" the dominant political consideration.

Although Manitoba's mosquito is not the species carrying the sleeping sickness virus, the chemical industry mounts an encephalitis scare every spring, after which Winnipeg is doused with methoxychlor, a derivative of the now-banned DDT put out by the U.S.-owned Cyanamid Company. Mrs. Stein headed an anti-spraying group called, appositely, Citizens Against Slow Poisoning (CASP), and engaged world authorities who attested that methoxychlor is useless in destroying mosquitoes but extremely effective in destroying human health with acute and chronic manifestations encompassing cancer and birth defects. Scientific evidence was presented that safe biological controls had been used successfully for years in Europe and could be introduced at a fraction the cost. What also emerged from the Clean Environment Commission hearings was that municipalities rely upon provincial guidelines which rely upon federal registration -- even though the Pest Control Products Act forbids any advertising of endorsement, with the government assuming no responsibility for the product. Federal registration is not synonymous with safety clearance.

CASP lost the fight. Manitoba's provincial government simply quashed its own environmental impact legislation! Forced by methoxychlor poisoning to return to Toronto, Mrs. Stein has since worked towards achieving Ontario's belated (1987) Freedom of Information Bill. As well as illustrating the criminally irresponsible tunnel-vision of local government, this book is a warning to anyone contemplating a move to Winnipeg. The Mortality Atlas of Canada, joint product of Health and Welfare and Statistics Canada, shows

>

FOR READING (cont'd)

Winnipeg the highest cancer death rate in the country. Mrs. Stein now lives in North York where, of course, the battle -- as in most Metro municipalities -- is over the continuing use by parks administration of 2,4-D. We will doubtless hear further from this indomitable woman.

E.D.

THE OUTERMOST HOUSE by Henry Beston, Ballantine Books, 1928

"Nature is a part of our humanity, and without some awareness and experience of that divine mystery man ceases to be man. When the Pleiades and the wind in the grass are no longer a part of the human spirit, a part of the very flesh and bone, man becomes...a kind of cosmic outlaw, having neither the completeness and integrity of the animal nor the birthright of a true humanity...Man can either be less than man or more than man, and both are monsters, the last more dread."

Beston's book is a must for bird lovers. He refers endearingly to the varieties on his Cape Cod beach as the "ocean people" or "wader folk". Of birds migrating he writes "...their passing was more than music, and from their wings descended the old loveliness of earth which both affirms and heals". And again: "I saw a flock of geese flying...along the rift of dying, golden light, their great wings beating with a slow and solemn beauty, their musical, bell-like cry filling the lonely levels and the dark. Is there a nobler wild clamour in all the world?"

In 1928 he wrote: "What a stench modern civilization breathes...the town atmosphere is to be endured only by the new synthetic man". (What would he make of the nineties?) And prophetically: "The world today is sick to its thin blood for lack of elemental things". His final sentence is a plea to honour the earth.

This small book contains more gems than the Crown Jewels. These eulogies should be emblazoned in gold and hung in our schools, those institutions which "teach" children everything except awareness, much less reverence, for our cradle of being. Beston is a master of evocation.

E.D.

□

BOGGLES-THE-MIND DEPARTMENT

The girl on the streetcar dissected school activities with her friends. All agreed DISCOVERY was boring, but NATURE was okay. Unwisely, I asked what she liked about NATURE. She considered, then pronounced. "Well... we ate grasshopper legs."

This effectively silenced me. I hadn't the nerve to probe further (they caught grasshoppers? -- knowing some teachers' ideas on NATURE, this is not beyond possibility; they ate their legs?; raw or cooked?). This statement remains one, as Hamlet said of weightier matters, which puzzles the will. Can any member elucidate?

Eva Davis

BOTANY REPORT

The Biggest Trees in North York

The first Great North York Tree Hunt was organized by the Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments of North York and sponsored by Monarch Construction Limited in 1989. Fifty-nine different species of trees throughout North York were nominated by 159 people. The nominators of the largest tree in each species was presented with a commemorative book by Mayor Mel Lastman and Members of Council in recognition of their efforts in the Great North York Tree Hunt.

The tallest tree in North York is a soaring 117-ft. high basswood at 218 Strathallan Wood. The 13-storey-high giant towers over the backyard of its nominator, Mrs. Judy Schwartz. The heaviest tree is a mammoth silver maple with a 173-inch circumference at 23 Blythdale Road, nominated by Mr. Robert Falconer.

The list of winners has been sent to the Ontario Forestry Association so they can determine whether any of those trees should be added to the Honour Roll of Ontario Trees.

Three of North York's most ancient residents are challenging for recognition on the Honour Roll. The basswood on Strathallan Wood, an 85-foot high black locust on Old Yonge Street and a 95-foot high black walnut at 1 Doncliffe Place are among the tallest trees of their kind in the entire province.

Among the rare species identified by the tree hunt are a handful of stalwarts living on the extreme northern edge of the Carolinian forest. These remnants of Ontario's prehistory include a 54-foot high shagbark hickory at Glendon Campus and a 70-foot high black maple near the Ontario Science Centre.

One of the most surprising trees is a 50-foot high white cedar of the common hedge variety at St. John's Church on Donridge Drive. But the most exotic of all the trees nominated in the Great North York Tree Hunt is a group of 15-foot high palm trees which graced the entry to Bayview Village Shopping Centre during the summer of 1989.

Bill Granger □

Drawing by Eva Davis

Dryad's Saddle Fungus (Polyporus squamosus)

INVERTEBRATE REPORT

INSECTS

"Ten years ago it was not necessary for the entomologist to travel far beyond the city limits in order to secure good representation of species of any order of insects native to Toronto district. With the rapid growth of the suburbs of late years, however, many of the old hunting grounds have been cut up by new streets and converted into building lots, golf grounds, etc., so that the entomologist must go farther afield in order to provide himself with specimens of all of the species that once were obtainable within the city limits." 1913.

E. M. Walker in Faull's NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TORONTO REGION

Insects are still the most conspicuous and most frequently reported of the arthropods. Over the years our newsletter and outings reports have provided us with some evidence of the presence of at least sixteen of the insect orders, even though only about ten outings have been devoted primarily to invertebrates. Nature Walks and even bird and botany outings have been partly concerned with insects and other invertebrates. Following is some of the evidence on file:

BRISTLETAILS. 1913 list had nothing to say about silverfish and firebrat which are certainly in some of our homes. We could also meet them in some public buildings we visit.

SPRINGTAILS. These are also not treated in the 1913 work. The snow flea was reported in 1954 but the location not given. Springtail species are "in every handful of garden soil".

MAYFLIES. 14 species listed in 1913. Nymph of mayfly species was reported Sept. 12, 1987, at Greenwood Conservation Area, Duffin Creek.

DRAGONFLIES and relatives. 60 species listed in 1913. A list of 12 species common in Toronto is on file, representing five families of this order: Broad-winged damselflies, spread-winged damselflies, narrow-winged damselflies, darners and common skimmers. In 1939, 140 species were reported as resident in Ontario, with less than half those in the Toronto area, but others may be seen in migration, in numbers, especially the darner, Anax.

The first black-winged damselfly was reported in 1989 on July 2, in Wilket Creek where it was observed laying eggs. It was numerous in Downsview Dells July 23, where two forms were described: "Black body with white spot on wing-tip and brilliant green body with plain black wings." A damselfly species (2 individuals) was reported July 19 at Moatfield, dragonfly species October 4 at Newtonbrook and October 25 at the Humber in 1989. Unidentified dragonfly and damselfly species were listed in Ravine Surveys at Burke Ravine, Taylor Creek and the West Don in the mid-seventies.

GRASSHOPPERS and relatives. In 1913, the list included 41 grasshoppers, 10 crickets, 9 cockroaches (5 of them introduced on bananas). The praying mantis (2 species of which have been introduced here - the large brown and the small green) is not mentioned. We have egg cases in at least one collection and rough

▷

drawings on file. In 1913, one species of stick insect was described as "not uncommon". It has also been rough-sketched in the field.

In 1938, the common red-legged, the larger dusky, and the small red grasshoppers, and the small striped ground cricket were reported at Thornhill and Armour Heights vicinity. (That was the year the ice bug hatched in a biology lab of U. of T. - it did, however, hail from The Rockies - no pun intended.)

The cockroaches which are likely to be encountered here - not only in the home but in public places - are the German and the American. The oriental cockroach was encountered in public buildings in the past but we have nothing on file except for the 1913 list. Apparently the American cockroach is more recent here. (See also TFN 374:37-38 1985.)

Grasshopper species were reported in Park Drive Ravine in 1976 as well as in Taylor Creek. In 1978 they were on the West Don list. On October 4, 1989, they were reported as abundant on the Newtonbrook outing.

TERMITES. They apparently arrived in Toronto in 1938. They could easily be in some buildings visited by TFN. For tips on how to keep your buildings termite-free - before having to resort to chemicals - see Ontario Ministry of the Environment booklet TERMITES. (See also TFN 330:29 1980, and TFN 369:26 1985.)

STONEFLIES. Two species listed in 1913. In 1976 listed for West Don. In 1987 recorded (Sept. 12) and illustrated nymph stage, Greenwood Conservation Area, Duffin Creek.

EARWIGS. Reported 1970's, 1980's in house - brought in on swiss chard in numbers.

TRUE BUGS. 40 species listed 1913, including stink-bugs, squash-bugs, chinch-bugs, lace-bugs, shore-bugs, assassin-bugs, back-swimmers, water boatmen and others (not ambush-bugs). Bug species were reported in the 1980's at Taylor Creek Park and Serena Gundy Park of which sketches are on file, some with colour-notes. There is a record for August 24, 1894, of a water bug species at Milneford (now the corner of Lawrence East and the Don Valley Parkway) attached to a sucker - but nothing on file since. There are November records for 1938 for water strider, still active on stream-surfaces. It is on the West Don list in 1978. Milkweed bug is also on the last-mentioned list. Ambush-bug was reported on goldenrod in the Leslie Street landfill in 1977 and in the 1980's on TFN outings. A shield-bug illustrated here was recorded in Taylor Creek Park on August 18, 1983, on great lobelia - black, orange with greenish posterior, size .05 cm. A stink-bug, small, grey, was sketched at Taylor Creek Park - a dead specimen in a spider's web.

CICADAS and relatives. Two species of cicada and 50 species of their much smaller relatives, including spittlebugs, tree-hoppers, leaf-hoppers, aphids, and scale-insects were listed in 1913.

A record of August 4, 1951, was accompanied by detailed observations of a cicada in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. An early date for cicada droning was June 6, 1976, at Sherwood Park. That year it was also listed in Taylor Creek Park. In 1984 it was recorded in Leaside,

▷

Invertebrate Report - Insects - cont'd

described, and sketched from a specimen. In 1989 it was "buzzing noisily" on August 9 at East Don and "singing" in the Rouge Valley on August 26. Of its smaller relatives, a small brown hopper was recorded in Taylor Creek Park "fen" in 1987, leafhoppers were reported at Leslie Street landfill site in 1977 in the hundreds, spittlebug was listed for West Don in 1978 and "much in evidence" on May 30, 1987 in Taylor Creek Park "fen". Ca. 1976 aphids were observed on plants under examination, in Toronto, with a smooth aphid turning up on a smooth-stemmed plant and a spiny one on a hairy-stemmed. A report mentions aphids in city lawns and gardens in 1977, and no doubt they are still often there.

LACEWINGS and relatives. The 1913 list includes two green and three brown lacewings plus two related species. The 1977 report on city invertebrates mentioned above also mentions lacewings - preying on aphids!

BEETLES. In 1913, there was a list of 40 pages of beetle species, including tiger, ground, diving, whirligig, carrion, ladybird, click, death-watch, stag beetles, fireflies, weevils and others - many inconspicuous (see also galls).

We have a list received ca. 1984 of 13 Toronto beetle species. Beetle species are listed for the West Don, 1978. Water beetle species is listed for Taylor Creek, 1976. Evidence of leaf-miner is listed for Sherwood 1976 and West Don 1978. The ground beetle is also mentioned in the 1977 city report as being under wood on ground. The June beetle is mentioned in a report on birds feeding on the white grub in 1957. The 1913 list names 27 species of ladybird beetle. The two-spotted, 13-spotted and 3-banded were listed for Toronto in 1984. A 1979 sketch of a ladybird is on file, and a ladybird species was recorded in Taylor Creek Park "fen" May 10, 1987. The soldier beetle is also on the 1984 Toronto list and they were reported in Warden Woods June 11, 1989, on goldenrod - some mating. A small blue-green beetle was recorded in Taylor Creek Park "fen" on July 19, 1987. There is an account of an experience with fireflies at G. Ross Lord Park June 24, 1987.

CADDISFLIES. A list of 5 species appears in 1913, and it is listed for West Don in 1978. There is a record for September 12, 1987, at Greenwood Conservation Area, Duffin Creek with illustration of larva.

BUTTERFLIES and relatives. 58 butterflies appear on the 1913 list, as well as 19 skippers and 580 moths. We have a 1984 list for Toronto Region of 31 butterflies, 15 skippers, and 15 moths. For the West Don we have a list of 11 butterflies, 1 skipper, and 2 moths, 1978. Lists of 1980 and 1981 for Lambton Park plus the Bayview/Finch marsh include 30 butterflies, 14 skippers, and 2 moths. (See TFN 341:7-9 1981.) In 1987 we have a report for Centre Island on butterfly-flower relationship.

Common Wood Nymph or Blue-eyed Grayling

We have about 70 records, reports and listings for individual species for many locations in Toronto.

▷

Invertebrate Report - Insects - cont'd

FLIES. In 1913, over 200 species were listed.
In 1989, swarms of midges were reported at East Point on May 21, near the bluffs on TFN Outing. Syrphid fly species were recorded at Taylor Creek Park "fen", and described. A species of robber fly was reported as "near perfect mimic of a bumble-bee" on July 2 at Wilket Creek Park, and a species of blackfly in 1987 recorded at Greenwood Conservation Area, Duffin Creek, in the larval stage, and illustrated. Deer fly was listed at Taylor Creek, 1976, and biting mosquito species on the East Don August 2, 1989. A report of the fruit fly used in research is in TFN 170:8 (1960) - see also "Galls". Several colourful and delicate fly species have been drawn and described at locations along the Don. Bluebottle fly visiting goldenrod was reported visiting Leslie Street Landfill in 1977.

BEES and relatives. In 1913 about 350 species were listed including sawflies, gall flies, ichneumids, ants, wasps and bees. In 1978 bees, stinging ants and mound-building ants were listed for the West Don. In 1983 there was a halictid bee record for August 18 (in lobelia flower), green in colour. Wasp species were recorded at Taylor Creek "fen" on red clover April 26, as well as a large dark wasp on August 7, 1988, and typical "sandy-coloured" small ants and larger dark ants on May 30, 1987. At Ecology Garden, August 17, 1989, there was "lots of activity" with hornets around compost bin, as well as bees and wasps. Many honey bees were reported at Taylor Creek, September 20, 1989. The hornet(sp.) is on the Sherwood Park List of 1976. The yellow-jacket wasp is reported in TFN 320:16 (1978), first noticed at the C.N.E. enjoying hot dogs and ice cream. In 1984 it is recorded (TFN 367:13) at Kew Beach carrying another wasp while in flight, September 18. It's also recorded at Taylor Creek Park "fen" Aug. 17 and Sept. 18, 1988. The only report we have of a wasp-sting was when one of the yellow-jackets got into the reporter's sandwich - the wasp died, the reporter survived with a very sore lip!

GALLS. In 1913, 65 species of gall insects were listed, including aphids, beetles, moths, flies and wasps. In 1989 a list of 9 galls appeared in THE BULLETIN, No. 310, of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, caused by aphids, midges, gall wasps, sawflies, flies, and mites (these last being of the same class as spiders, and not insects). The most familiar to us are the goldenrod gall of a fruitfly and the "pine-cone" willow gall of a sawfly. The mossy rose gall is that of a gall-wasp. The colourful sumach gall has also been sketched and described (Morningside Park September 21, 1980).

"As more and more of the specialized habitats are cut down, weeded, paved and beautified, the whole animal fauna changes...sensitivity to almost imperceptible environmental changes means that insects can be a valuable indicator of the state of health of our urban environment. When [collections] are studied carefully...it is not hard to tell when change has gone too far...we should also be able to see the effect of renewing urban environment, reducing pollution, and of increasing the amounts of open green space so essential to the lives of our wild neighbours as well as ourselves."

David Barr, in "Does the City have you bugged?",
ROTUNDA Vol. 10, No. 1, 1977.

Send lists, records, and observations of insects in Toronto Region to Diana Banville, #710 - 7 Crescent Pl., Toronto M4C 5L7.

D. Banville

□

KOREA AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The environment was an important topic at an international event involving many of the world's churches. In early March, 1990, the World Council of Churches (WWC) held a convocation on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Seoul, Korea. The purpose of the convocation was to address issues of economic justice such as poverty, militarism and the ecological crisis. The WCC includes Orthodox, Anglican, and Protestant churches. I was present as an advisor and a member of the Youth Forum (which was composed of young adults of up to age 30). There were two areas of interest for naturalists at this conference: the theology of ecology and the land and condition of Korea itself. Unfortunately I had little opportunity to get outside of Seoul or identify the flora and fauna. However, here are two aspects of my trip: observations of Korea itself, and the conference. I was in Korea from Feb. 26 to March 17, 1990.

Korea -- I spent most of my time in Seoul, with the exception of a couple of days in a YMCA camp just to the northeast, and a day trip to Pukhan San (Pukhan Mountain) National Park, which extends into the northwest. The condition of the environment in Korea is a paradox. On the one hand, I found the air pollution stifling; on the other hand, it is obvious that the Korean people have a deep love for nature, and they are much less wasteful of land than we are. Trees are planted in the smallest of road margins, and the woodlands of urban parks have protected undergrowth. Vegetation is often fenced off from paths to protect it from trampling. There is no litter, and I do not remember seeing any vandalism.

When I looked at some of the parks in Seoul, I noticed that the vegetation was quite similar in structure to that of Toronto. It is a mixed forest, with oaks and pines as important species. The climate is roughly the same as Toronto's. The dominant trees are two species of oaks (perhaps Quercus dentata and Q. acutissima). These bear some resemblance to the chestnut oak (Quercus prinus) found in our Carolinian forests. The Japanese red pine (Pinus densiflora), which looks like a low, fine-textured Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris) is also important. Tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima) is native here; the Korean name for this species is "Odong Namu", which refers to its fast growth; it means that this is a tree that a father plants when a daughter is born, and which can then be made into furniture when she marries. I also identified Chinese chestnut (Castanea mollisima) which is resistant to the chestnut blight, and full-moon maple (Acer japonicum).

There were just two local birds I noted: black-billed magpies and great-tits.

Pukhan San is enthralling. The mountain is a spine of pure granite that rises over 800 metres out of the northern suburbs of Seoul and extends beyond the urban area. It was once a walled fortress, built around 2000 years ago but restored several times since. In spite of this very long human history and the occasional shaman doing a streamside ceremony, Pukhan San retains a wild aspect with steep pinnacles and mountain streams.

Rapid industrialization and urbanization have taken their toll in Korea. Cars are everywhere, as in North America, but the city is denser and so the congestion is even more severe. People use cars in spite of an excellent subway system, but with over 10 million people, it is difficult to provide really efficient transportation. The abundant heavy industry is not as subject to regulation as here and some neighbourhoods suffer from occupation-related diseases. The tap water in Seoul is not recommended, but this is due to heavy metals, not bacteria.

▷

Nuclear weapons are stockpiled in Korea, which has been a locus of tension since the Korean war. Many citizens are afraid. Recent changes in Europe have not affected the military situation; both North and South Korea are dominated by armies, and both blast invective and propaganda continuously.

Meanwhile the border is open to wildlife, and while humans get shot in the four kilometre wide demilitarized zone, this uninhabited stretch of land inadvertantly has become a wildlife refuge, home or stopping-place for some rare species including the Siberian crane.

The Convocation -- The relationship between environmental and human rights issues was emphasized. There was a strong call to recognize that it is the lavish lifestyles of the wealthy that contribute the most to ecological destruction, and that the poorer countries desperately need support and cannot be totally blamed for such things as tropical deforestation. Poverty, debt, and militarism are deeply entwined with Third World ecological problems.

I found the convocation to be a fascinating event, with many people participating from around the world. There was a sense of urgency among people from Latin America, Africa and the native peoples of our continent. To some degree, environmental concerns were set against human development issues, but they are profoundly linked. The just development of struggling nations is vastly different from the type of development that goes on around Toronto, both in terms of its effect on the environment, and in moral quality. Providing shelter for those without houses in Bangladesh, or food and agricultural support for Africans is vastly different from providing million dollar homes in the Rouge. Only those who have enough food and who do not live under the terror of death squads can direct their energies to environmental activism. The immediate priorities may thus vary in different parts of the world, but the goal is the same: a just and peaceful society and healthy, diverse ecosystems.

Gavin Miller

□

My Golden Guide rates the satyrs as "butterflies of rather dull colour, usually brown or gray". However, my photograph of this small creature (1.8-2.0") reveals a delicacy which is anything but dull. This satyr butterfly is a translucent dove-gray with light brown stripes, and there is a blue shimmer to its dark eyespots.

Eva Davis

ref.: BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS
by Mitchell & Zim,
Golden Press, New York

GOOD NEWS FROM CARLETON PLACE

"It meets no criteria as a wetland and it doesn't even qualify as a swamp or bog. It's a slag heap and no self-respecting crow would be found there". That's what a prospective developer of O-Kee-Lee Bird Sanctuary said after neighbouring citizens had banded together to save their threatened parkland within the town of Carleton Place near Ottawa (TFN 396). Due to public pressure and a group set up to support environmental interests in Carleton Place (The Riverfront Conservation Association, Inc. [RCA]), a 99-year lease given secretly by the town council to the Navy League Lanark branch to build a drill hall and boat launching area on 1½ acres in the northeastern section of O-Kee-Lee was rescinded as well as a 1985 by-law which created O-Kee-Lee bird sanctuary on April 24, 1987. Since then a more environmentally conscious town council has been elected and a river corridor study recommended that the former O-Kee-Lee sanctuary be preserved as a natural area. Two groups, the Riverfront Conservation Association and the newly formed Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, keep encouraging the restoration of O-Kee-Lee as a bird sanctuary. The fate of the rare hackberry trees in Carleton Place is on hold awaiting completion of the new sewage treatment plant and the choice of the site of a new highway bridge (TFN 406).

The news is good now. Thanks to the efforts of the Mississippi Field Naturalists, a grant has been obtained from the Employment and Immigration Environmental Youth Corp. Six students under the supervision of a recently graduated biologist and the Ministry of Natural Resources will be working from July 1 to August 31, 1990 exclusively cleaning up O-Kee-Lee, constructing footpaths and wooden lookouts, building a bridge over two ponds, building and placing bird boxes and signs and constructing wheel chair-accessible paths. With the students working a forty-hour week for two months great advances are hoped for in this very exciting project.

The RCA is considering applying for a grant from the Environmental Canada Partners fund, but this depends on the progress made this summer. Members of the RCA and the Mississippi Field Naturalists, town councillors and Ministry of Natural Resources officials toured the former O-Kee-Lee site in May assessing the feasibility of such a program.

How very fitting for the town of Carleton Place to embark on this project in its centenary year. Carleton Place was incorporated as a town on June 22, 1890.

Peter Iveson

□

INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

NEVER try to rehabilitate animals on your own! Experience counts for a great deal; take the animal to people who known how to care for it. If you cannot get the animal to experts, ask them for interim care procedures that will aid the animal until you can.

from THE QUILL, Spring 1990 (newsletter of Wildcare, P.O. Box 364, King, Ont. L0G 1K0

1989-90 A BOOM SEASON AT BIRD FEEDERS

Feeders of birds are shaking their heads across North America at the dents in their pocketbooks made by last winter's hordes of hungry finches. Pine siskin, a "boom-or-bust" species that periodically invades the southeastern U.S. in spectacular numbers, demonstrated that the 1989-90 winter was one of the "boom" years. Although not as abundant at southern feeders as in the invasion of 1987-88, siskins still made an impressive showing. Pine grosbeak and common redpoll also appeared at feeders in large numbers, mainly in northern regions, while purple finch was more abundant in the south. Joining these finches with a doubling of numbers over the previous winter was the little red-breasted nuthatch.

These invasions were documented by 8,000 volunteers across North America in Project FeederWatch, a cooperative survey of bird feeders run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and managed in Canada by the Long Point Bird Observatory.

What could be the cause of periodic dramatic increases in northern finches and nuthatches at feeders? These birds depend on the seeds of trees, especially conifers. Conifers produce bumper crops of seeds every few years, with little in between, perhaps to overwhelm with plenty the small mammals and birds that eat those seeds. The "off" years prevent build-up of large seed-predator populations that could gobble up all seeds in the big crop years, so the whole strategy leads to a better rate of seed germination. The birds are affected in turn. A big seed crop leads to increased population, and when food supplies are low the next season, a lot of birds head south in search of well-stocked feeders.

FeederWatchers also recorded increases in resident birds that eat tree seeds. Might these birds be responding to the same cues that bring northern finches out of the boreal forest? Project FeederWatch is in a good position to answer this question by continuing to document the numbers and kinds of birds at feeders across North America in the years ahead.

Project FeederWatch participants observe their feeders on one or two days every two weeks, from November to April. Their sightings are reported on computer-readable forms, so results can be quickly compiled and returned to participants in a newsletter before the next winter even begins. The newsletter also brings tips on feeding, unusual and amusing sightings, and authoritative information on the biology of birds commonly seen at feeders. If you would like to join FeederWatch for the 1990-91 season, send your $12 subscription to Long Point Bird Observatory.* We need your help!

adapted from an article by Erica Dunn in the LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY NEWSLETTER, Vol. 22, No. 2, Summer 1990 *[LPBO, P.O.Box 160, Port Rowan N0E 1M0] □

HELP WANTED

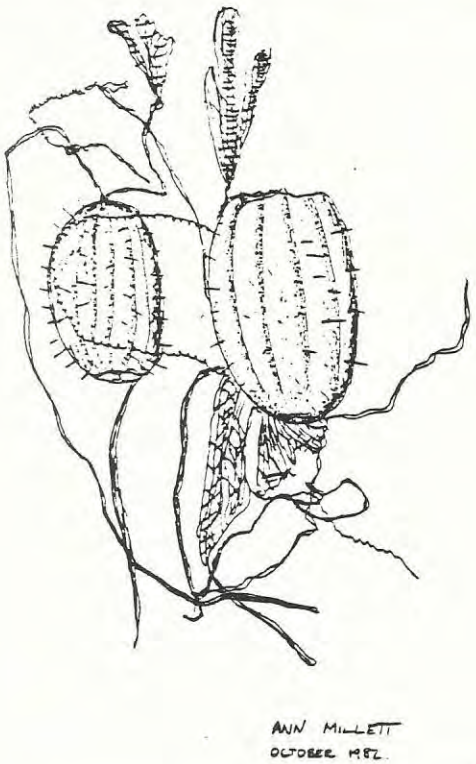
Kortright Centre for Conservation, Kleinburg, Ontario is looking for an education assistant and an energy assistant. Applicants should have an environmental background and an interest in sharing their knowledge with visitors to Kortright. Send resume to the Education Co-ordinator, Kortright Centre for Conservation, c/o MTRCA, 5 Shoreham Dr., Downsview, Ont. M3N 1S4 or call Robert Burchett at 416-839-2289.

IN THE NEWS

ONTARIO PROHIBITS COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF SNAPPING TURTLES

The Ministry of Natural Resources is prohibiting the commercial harvest and sale of snapping turtles and will regulate turtle harvests for personal consumption. (A pilot study conducted by MNR in 1988 and 1989 on the muscle, fat and liver tissues of turtles taken from industrial areas in southern and eastern Ontario showed substantial amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and low levels of the agricultural pesticides DDE, dieldrin and chlordane.) Until now Ontario has not regulated the harvest and sale of snapping turtles. The new regulations under the Game and Fish Act are being implemented in response to public concern over unregulated harvesting and its long-term effect on snapping turtle populations. Prior to implementation of the new regulations, commercially harvested turtles were sold primarily to markets in Ontario and the United States. Under the new regulations, people wishing to take snapping turtles for personal use may do so under authorization of a resident or non-resident sport fishing licence. There is a catch limit of two turtles per day and a possession limit of five turtles. Seasons have been established in some areas of the province to protect adult females during the period when they lay eggs. In northern Ontario, the season is open year-round. In most of southern Ontario, the seasons runs from July 15 to September 15.

adapted from a News Release of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, April 27, 1990
(For more information, contact Irene Bowman, Wildlife Branch (416)965-7641.)



THE WILD CUCUMBER produces a "bladdery-inflated" fruit - by October a hanging-lantern effect as in this field drawing by Ann Millett.

This plant grows naturally in all of Toronto's major watersheds. It ranges widely in eastern North America. In Ontario, it is on the check-list for the Bruce Peninsula but not on those for Killarney and Lake Superior Provincial Parks. It is found, however, as far south as Florida and Texas.

ref.: MANUAL OF VASCULAR PLANTS of northeastern U.S. and adjacent Canada

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

TREE PLANTING PROMOTED

The Ministry of Natural Resources has announced a foundation to help corporations, groups and individuals who want to improve the province's natural environment by planting trees. The Foundation, to be administered by the Ontario Forestry Association, will work closely with corporations and other groups to help design projects for tree planting. It will arrange a seedling supply, suitable land and enough people to plant the trees and ensure they get a healthy start in life. For more information contact the Ontario Forestry Association at (416) 493-4565 or the Ministry of Natural Resources in Sault Ste Marie at (705)945-6655.

from the REAL ESTATE NEWS, May 11, 1990

MUSHROOM MIX-UP FORCES RECALL OF DICTIONARY

A mix-up on the mushroom page is forcing a celebrated French publishing house to pull some 6,000 copies of one of its deluxe dictionaries off the shelves of Quebec bookstores. The move is part of an embarrassing world-wide recall of 180,000 copies of the "Petit Larousse en couleurs", an illustrated, 1,720-page tome that retails for $79.95 and is known as one of the French language's most dependable dictionaries. The potentially deadly mistake is on page 203, a full-colour plate illustrating a dozen or so varieties of mushroom. Somehow, little blue, red and black emblems indicating whether the mushrooms are edible, innocuous or deadly poisonous, got mixed up. For example, the lethal Amanita virosa is labelled innocuous while the puffball, a harmless but not particularly tasty fungus, carries the deadly-poisonous, black-emblem warning. Most of the mushrooms -- including the Amanita virosa, more commonly known as the Angel of Death -- are found in Canada. About 15,000 copies of the dictionary are sold in Canada each year -- 85 to 90 per cent in Quebec. The 1991 edition has been on the market since the end of July.

adapted from an article by Daniel Sanger in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Aug. 25, 1990

PURPLE WILDFLOWER THREATENS WETLANDS

Purple loosestrife is a dangerous beauty, a plant which came from Europe in the early 1800s and established itself in the Northeastern United States. The plant is a threat because it quickly takes over a marsh or wetland, crowding out cattails and other native plants and choking open water areas. Stands of loosestrife are too dense for birds and animals to use for shelter and the plant has little food value for wildlife. Vital fish spawning and nesting areas are crowded out of existence. It owes its success to the absence of natural insect enemies that keep it in check in Europe. A single plant can produce more than 100,000 seeds in its first year. So far the plant has resisted control efforts. Experiments aimed at killing young loosestrife plants by flooding them have shown some promise but more work is needed. Chemical sprays work but are frowned on because they kill or damage other plants. There are several varieties of loose-strifes and it is grown in some gardens. Biologists urge gardeners to help stem the plant's spread by refusing to buy anything described as Lythrum. Some plant experts want the plant declared a noxious weed.

adapted from an article by Peter Geigen-Miller in the LONDON FREE PRESS, June 20, 1990

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

"PUBLIC TRUST" OVER LAKEBEDS UPHELD IN U.S. COURT

A controversial landfill project in Lake Michigan was cancelled in July after a U.S. federal judge declared that it violated a key legal doctrine preventing U.S. states from selling Great Lakes shoreline and lakebeds. Under U.S. Supreme Court precedents taken from English common law, the state holds title to lakebed property. The ruling will likely provide additional precedents for local groups opposing projects on lakefront parkland in Kenosha and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In a landmark 1892 case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a state could no more abandon its public trust over a lakebed than it could fail to provide police protection.

from "Around the Region" in THE GREAT LAKES REPORTER, Vol. 7, No. 4, July/August 1990 [adapted]

CITY OF SCARBOROUGH ADOPTS 30 METRE RAVINE SETBACK

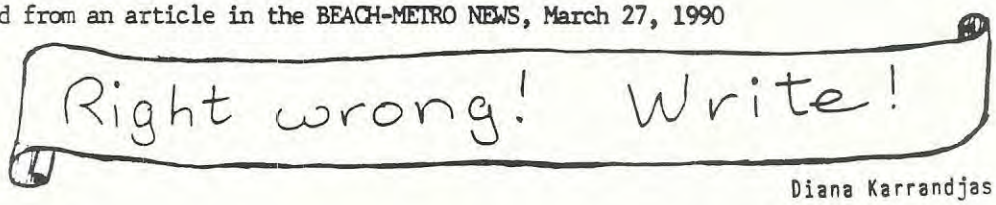
Scarborough Council, at its June 4, 1990 meeting, voted that "buffer zones adjacent to valleylands and watercourses will be negotiated on a site-by-site basis...using 30 metres along all ravines as a targeted goal, but not as a statuory requirement". This decision is just the first step in a long process. The next step is to start the official plan amendment process. This will incorporate the 30 metre setback into Scarborough's official plan so as to provide additional legal enforcement. Scarborough Councillors should be congratulated for this positive step forward and encouraged to secure this environmental protection measure by adopting the additional statutory requirements. Please write to Members of Scarborough Council, c/o Clerk's Office, 150 Borough Dr., Scarborough, Ontario M1P 4N7.

adapted from an article by Stephen Marshall in NEWS OF THE ROUGE, Vol. 16, No. 2, Aug. 1990

CITY SEEKS YOUR HELP IN GYPSY MOTH BATTLE

The Toronto Department of Parks and Recreation wants your help in fighting off an invasion of the Gypsy Moth caterpillar, an insect that feeds on leaves of all plants, though it prefers those of the oak tree. In Toronto the Gypsy Moth can be kept at relatively low levels if residents pitch in and destroy overwintering egg masses (some of which may contain as many as 1,000 individual eggs) found in their gardens. These masses are fuzzy, elongated, and about the size and colour of a dollar coin. The flightless females lay them on the underside of loose tree bark, fences, picnic tables, porches and patios, eavestroughs, or any scrap wood or equipment stored outside. Scrape them off, rinse in soapy water, then flush down the toilet. This can be done any time from September through April. Crushing the mass underfoot is an alternative when away from home. The Parks Department is monitoring the population levels and distribution with traps, but would appreciate knowing how many masses you find and destroy. To report egg mass removals, ask questions, or obtain an information pamphlet, call 392-7281.

adapted from an article in the BEACH-METRO NEWS, March 27, 1990



Diana Karrandjas □

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

October 1989, Toronto

This rather strange month featured the first measurable snowfall downtown in twenty years, hard frosts just north of a frost-free city, cold gloomy spells, a severe thunderstorm, and one of the most spectacular Indian summer periods in recent history which lasted the final ten days of the month.

Overall, October was slightly warmer than normal with mean temperatures about one-tenth to one-half degree above the average; it was the warmest October since 1984. The mean maximum at Lester B. Pearson International Airport was 15.4°C, the warmest since 1973. Precipitation was quite high; it was the wettest October since 1981 with 100.2 mm of precipitation downtown and 76.2 mm at the airport. Sunshine hours were about six hours above average and the most since 1983. Average wind speeds were well within the range for normal but there were sharp contrasts across the month. The odd weather this month in all meteorological categories can be attributed to big shifts in atmospheric circulation.

October opened with a trough over eastern North America and a ridge over the west. This has been typical of October over the past fifteen years. A couple of cold fronts moved through on Oct. 2 and Oct. 6. Thanksgiving weekend featured the usual stratocumulus cloud, northwesterly winds, and cool temperatures.

A change came on Oct. 11 to summerlike humid weather. Tropical air edged north from the central U.S.A. A squall line of severe thunderstorms arose on Oct. 14 over Michigan and raced eastwards to Massachusetts, passing over Toronto in the middle afternoon. This was the severest storm of the whole season, and the roll cloud was one of the most spectacular ever seen over the city. Pea to marble sized hail accompanied the storm, and lightning was almost continuous. There were no confirmed tornadoes, although funnel clouds were sighted west of Toronto. And winds gusted as high as 124 km/h at the Leslie St. Spit on the Toronto waterfront. Pearson's 104 km/h gust was the strongest gust there since May 2, 1983. On Oct. 16, a cold front replacing the muggy air brought more towering cumulus reminiscent of July but there were no confirmed thunderstorms.

A gloomy spell followed from Oct. 17 to Oct. 21 as a huge low hovered over eastern North America. Snow fell on Oct. 19, giving way to rain. Rain was abundant. Cloud extended from Greenland to Texas. Cool air associated with this circulation brought minimums below 10°C even to the Florida peninsula.

Massive high pressure built on Oct. 22, finally giving way on Hallowe'en afternoon. For nine days, we had almost cloudless skies and maximums approaching or exceeding 20°C. Records were set in northern Ontario: Timmins had 23°C on Oct. 25. Winds were generally below 5 km/h the whole time. This was the longest Indian summer spell since 1971.

Gavin Miller □

A brown curled leaf sails
boat-like over the tree-mirroring
forest pool.

haiku by Molly Campbell

COMING EVENTS

Rainforests - a special event at The Royal Ontario Museum from Oct. 24 to 28. Call 586-5549 for details.

Autumn colours by bike, an event of the Wildlfower Society on Saturday Oct. 6 at 8 am. Call 449-7907 after Oct. 1 for starting location and map.

Past Mistakes and Future Goals, a Black Creek Project event on Oct. 28 at 2 pm. Call 969-9637 for details.

Things to do and see in the dark -- a lecture by David Malin from the Anglo-Austral Observatory in Australia on Sunday Oct. 14 at 3 pm in the Medical Sciences Auditorium, University of Toronto. Call the Royal Canadian Institute at 928-2096 for more information.

Cancer and chemicals: how does risk assessment evaluate environmental hazards? -- a lecture by R.Stephen McColl of the Dept. of Health, University of Waterloo, on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 3 pm in the Medical Sciences Auditorium. See above.

Science education: Is anybody out there serious? -- a lecture by Bernard Shapiro, Secretary of the Cabinet, Government of Ontario, on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 3 pm. See above.

A two-hour walk in High Park with Gerry Belan of the City of Toronto Parks Dept. on Sunday, Oct. 7 at 1 pm. Walk starts at park entrance on south side of Bloor Street opposite High Park Ave. and ends at the Colbourne Lodge Fall Festival.

Forests for Tomorrow - hearings about the future and management of Ontario's forests - for information about meetings being held in Toronto, call 924-3619.

Todmorden Mills Fall Fair and Craft Show and Sale of traditional (circa 1900) and modern crafts on Sunday, Oct. 14 starting at noon.

Fall Flowers of the Rouge Valley, a Save the Rouge Valley System hike, at 1:30 pm on Sun. Oct. 28. Meet in the Caper Valley parking lot on Little Rouge River, Twyn River, east of Meadowvale Rd. (Call 287-1776.)

Waterfowl on the waterfront with Save the Rouge Valley System on Sun. Oct. 28 at 1:30 pm. Meet under the railroad bridge at Rouge Beach parking lot. Call 287-1776.

Toronto Entomological Association meeting on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 1 pm in the McLaughlin Planetarium lecture room.

Black Creek tree planting on Saturday, Oct. 6. Call 969-9637.

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk to see saw-whet owls with Hugh Currie on Toronto Island on Sat. Oct. 13 at 7:45 am. Meet at ferry docks to take 8 am ferry. Bring lunch -- an all day outing.

□

TFN 414 - 30

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

(416)968-6255

SECOND CLASS MAIL
Registration Number
6669

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION, 1965 ..... $ .50

CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 1972 ..... .50

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

FIELD CHECKLIST OF PLANTS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO, 1977
..... 5/$1.00 or ..... .25 ea.

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

INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978) 10.00

ANNUAL TFN INDEX ..... .25 ea.

TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 ..... 2.00

A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985 ..... 2.00

TORONTO REGION VERTEBRATE LIST (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals), 1985 .....5/$1.00 or .... .25 ea.

TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST 1985 . 5/1.00 or ..... .25 ea.

GUIDE TO THE TORONTO NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, LEAKSDALE, ONT., 1986 ..... 2.00

TORONTO ISLANDS: PLANT COMMUNITIES AND NOTEWORTHY SPECIES, 1987 ..... 2.00

TODMORDEN MILLS, 1987 ..... 2.00

VASCULAR PLANTS OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO, 1990 ..5.00

All publications are available at the monthly general meetings or may be ordered from Toronto Field Naturalists, 20 College St., Suite 4, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2. (Add $1.00 per item for postage and handling.)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

$20 FAMILY (2 adults - same address, children included)
$15 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY
$10 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE
Tax receipts issued for donations

Membership fees and address changes should be sent to:
20 College St., Suite 4, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

ISSN 0820-636X