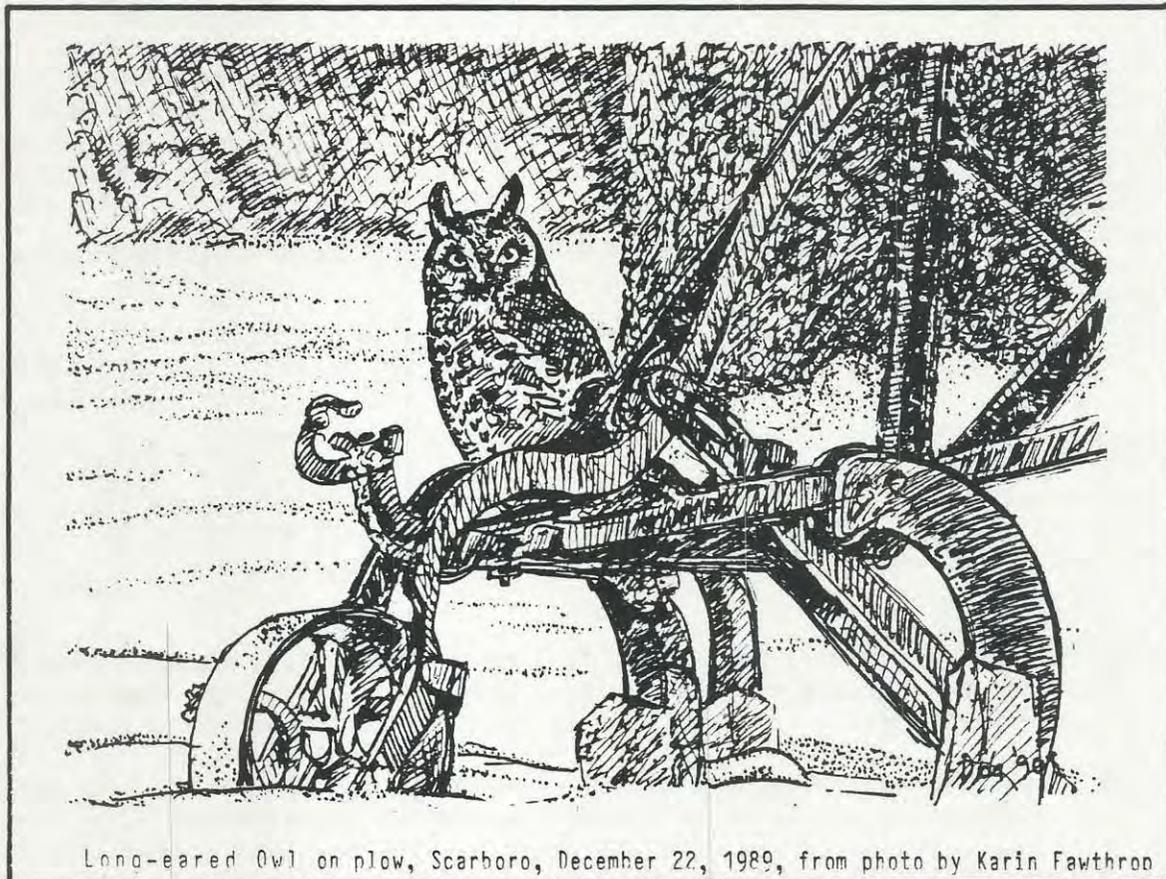


TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 416

December 1990



Long-eared Owl on plow, Scarborough, December 22, 1989, from photo by Karin Fawthron

Inside

Amphibians & reptiles 9, 12-20
Birds 1,7,9,14,17-18,21,24,27
Coming events 29
Dinosaurs 8
Grants 28
Invertebrates 9,19-20
Issues 6,12,21,22,29
Mammals 9,20,23
Plants 10-11,22,27

Reading 9,15,16
Scholarships 28
Trees 5,23,29
TFN - art 27,28
 fees 8
 meetings 2
 outings 3-5,13-14
 President's report 8
Weather 21,25-26

TFN MEETINGS

General Meeting

Monday, December 3, 1990 at 155 College Street*, 6th floor auditorium

7 pm - TFN social hour (includes an opportunity to purchase TFN publications, etc., a display of the artwork of Geraldine Goodwin, an opportunity to purchase booklets produced by Susan Kiil (see page 16), and a chance to buy field guides, rare bird books, and coffee table books at bargain prices (a project of Ron Scovell and Joan O'Donnell)).

8 pm - NATURE EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
an illustrated lecture by Skid Creasey of the Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre *Original*

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Monday, February 4, 1991 with Dr. Martin McNicholl speaking on Conservation and Birding + special business meeting (see pages 7,8)

Group Meetings

Bird Meeting: Wed. Jan. 9 at 7:30 pm at 155 College Street*, Room 251
Erica Dunn will tell us about FeederWatch, a project for those who feed birds, which is run by the Long Point Bird Observatory.
Everyone welcome!

Botany Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 7:30 pm at 155 College Street*, Room 251
Dr. Nick Badenhuiizen will show slides and tell us about the vegetation around Norman Wells in the Northwest Territories. Everyone welcome!

Environment Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 pm at 155 College St.*, Room 251
Ian Deslauriers of the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority will discuss some of his findings about walking and bike trails in England, Scotland and Germany. Everyone welcome!

* Easy TTC access (building is one block west of Queen's Park subway station) also Free parking in the Board of Education garage on the west side of McCaul Street just south of College Street.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no general meeting in January and no group meetings in December!!

You will receive your next newsletter (barring strikes, etc.) in mid-January. We don't send one out in December. HAPPY 1991!

Icy blue shimmers
Reflect from a frozen pond,
Brown ragged rushes.

Haiku by Kenneth Cook

TFN OUTINGS

December

- Saturday
Dec. 1
10 am
ALLAN GARDENS - nature arts
Leader: Mary Ann Miller
Meet at the entrance to the greenhouses (on the south side of Carlton St. just east of Jarvis St.) Lunch optional. Toronto
- Sunday
Dec. 2
11 am
ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk
Leader: Robin Powell
Meet at the northeast corner of Sheppard Ave. East and Meadowvale Road. Bring lunch. Rouge, Scarborough
- Wednesday
Dec. 5
10:30 am
LAKESHORE - nature walk
Leader: volunteer needed
Meet on the south side of Kingston Rd. at Brimley Rd. Lunch optional. Walk may end at a different public transit stop. Lakeshore, Scarborough
- Saturday
Dec. 8
10 am
COL. DANFORTH PARK - birds
Leader: Karin Fawthrop
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Kingston Rd. at Col. Danforth Trail. Lunch optional. Highland Creek, Scarborough
- Sunday
Dec. 9
2 pm
HUMBER COLLEGE GROUNDS - nature walk
Leader: Phil Joiner
Meet at the southwest corner of Hwy. 27 and Humber College Blvd. West Humber, Etobicoke
- Wednesday
Dec. 12
10:30 am
LAKESHORE - nature walk
Leader: Graham Neville
Meet on the south side of Kingston Rd. opposite Bellamy Rd. South. Lunch optional. Walk may end at a different public transit stop. Lakeshore, Scarborough
- Saturday
Dec. 15
10 am
LAMBTON WOODS - birds
Leader: Ilmar Talvila
Meet at the park entrance on Edenbridge Dr. east of Royal York Rd. Lunch optional. Humber, Etobicoke
- Sunday
Dec. 16
10 am
HUMBER BAY PARK EAST - birds
Leader: Ross Harris
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd. West opposite Park Lawn Rd. Lunch optional. Lakeshore, Etobicoke
- Tuesday
Dec. 18
10:30 am
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM - nature arts
Leader: Geraldine Goodwin
Meet at the museum entrance on the west side of Queen's Park just south of Bloor St. West. Lunch optional. Bring sketching materials and stool or just come and enjoy. Toronto
- Wednesday
Dec. 19
10:30 am
GUILDWOOD PARK - nature walk
Leader: Eva Davis
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Guildwood Pkwy. opposite Galloway Rd. Lunch optional. Lakeshore, Scarborough

DECEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

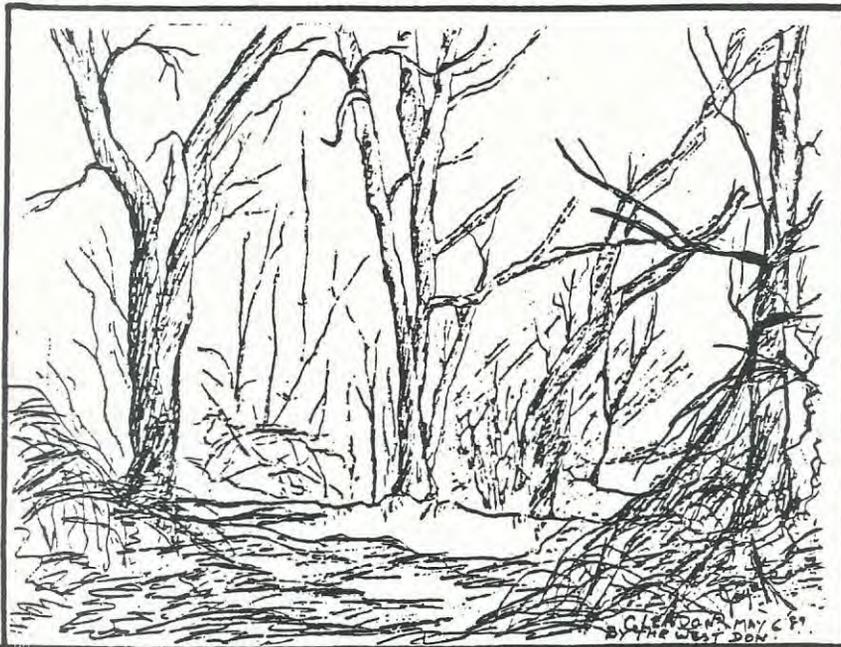
- Wednesday WILKET CREEK - nature walk West Don tributary, North York
 Dec. 26 Leader: Eileen Mayo
 1:30 pm Meet just outside the barn on the south side of Lawrence Ave.
 East just west of Leslie Street. Walk may end at a different
 public transit stop.
- Sunday DON VALLEY - nature walk Don, Toronto
 Dec. 30 Leaders: Aarne & Helen Juhola
 1:30 pm Meet at the Castle Frank subway station. Walk will end at a
 different public transit stop.

January

- Wednesday EAST DON - nature walk East Don, North York
 Jan. 2 Leader: volunteer needed
 1:30 pm Meet on the south side of York Mills Road at Silverdale Ct.
 (first street east of Don Mills Road).
- Saturday NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY - nature arts North York
 Jan. 5 Leader: Volunteer needed
 10:30 am Meet at the library entrance on the west side of Yonge Street
 just south of Park Home Ave. Bring sketching materials and
 stool or just come and enjoy. Lunch optional.
- Sunday OLD SHORELINES - nature walk Scarborough
 Jan. 6 Leader: Ken Cook
 2 pm Meet on the south side of Kingston Rd. at Wynnview Court.
 Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Wednesday ALLAN GARDENS - nature walk Toronto
 Jan. 9 Leader: Dr. Nick Badenhuisen
 10:30 am Meet at the greenhouse entrance on the south side of Carlton
 St. just east of Jarvis St. Morning only.
- Saturday TORONTO ISLANDS - birds Lakeshore, Toronto
 Jan. 12 Leader: Ann Millett
 10:30 am Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. in time to
 catch the 10:30 am ferry to Ward's Island. Lunch optional.
- Wednesday PINE HILLS CEMETERY - nature walk Taylor Creek, Scarborough
 Jan. 16 Leader: Eileen Mayo
 1:30 pm Meet at the cemetery entrance at the northeast corner of
 St. Clair Ave. East and Birchmount Rd.
- Sunday OLD SHORELINES - nature walk Scarborough
 Jan. 20 Leader: Ken Cook
 2 pm Meet at the subway entrance on the east side of Warden Ave.
 just south of St. Clair Ave. East. Walk will end at a
 different public transit stop.

JANUARY OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Wednesday JARVIS COLLEGIATE - nature arts Toronto
 Jan. 23 Leader: Harvey Medland & Betty Paul
 10:15 am Meet at the school entrance at the southeast corner of Jarvis St. and Wellesley St. East for a tour of George Reid's art to be followed by a visit to the St. Lawrence Market. Bring cameras and sketching material or just come and enjoy. Lunch optional.
- +
- Wednesday MIMICO CREEK - nature & history Mimico Creek, Etobicoke
 Jan. 23 Leader: Bob Given
 1:30 pm Meet at the northeast corner of Bloor St. West and Islington Ave. We will be visiting Montgomery Inn. (Entry fee) Walk may end at a different public transit stop.
- Saturday BURKE BROOK - nature walk West Don tributary, North York
 Jan. 26 Leader: Gavin Miller
 2 pm Meet at the northeast corner of Lawrence Ave. West and Avenue Road. Walk may end at a different public transit stop.
- Wednesday WINDFIELD PARK - nature walk Wilket Creek, North York
 Jan. 30 Leader: Joan Patterson
 10:30 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of York Mills Road just east of Bayview Ave. Lunch optional.



WEST DON VALLEY,
 a field sketch
 by Joyce Cave
 on a TFN Nature
 Arts Outing
 below Glendon.

Between 1974 and
 1978, eighty-four
 species of trees
 and shrubs were
 identified in this
 area for TFN's
 Ravine Survey
 No. 8.

Editorial Committee

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KEEPING IN TOUCH

Oct. 9, 1990

Thank you for your letter of July 19, 1990 in which you expressed concern over the water quality of the Warden Woods Massey Creek tributary of the Don River. I too share your concerns about a situation where our environmental laws may be contravened.

My staff from the Central Region Office have made a preliminary assessment of the area and have found that this stream receives water from many sources. Like many relatively small urban streams, tributary sources include drains which collect storm run-off from city streets and contributions from other sources if sewer capacities are exceeded. Days after a storm, the water from such tributary sources can still comprise much of the flow in the receiving stream changing the natural water quality and possibly giving rise to the situation which you described.

My ministry has recently undertaken a water pollution control program (the Municipal and Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA)) which should soon affect the quality of waste water received by Ontario's streams and lakes. Industrial discharges made directly to natural receiving waters will soon be required to meet more stringent controls contained in new regulations now being enacted. As part of this strategy, my officials are also working with Ontario's municipalities to have them enact sewer use by-laws which seek to control the quality of wastes which may be disposed to sewers.

The City of Scarborough has an on-going waste water quality monitoring program which seeks to identify drains contributing contaminants to city streams. When discovered, possible sources of these contaminants are investigated and responsible parties have been fined. City of Scarborough officials (396-4808) are aware of a number of storm drains depositing contaminants into Massey Creek and they are presently investigating possible sources. Volatile solvents are among the contaminants identified.

While increased regulatory controls and other programs arising from MISA are expected to improve the environmental quality of Ontario, the possibility of illegal clandestine activities still exists. If you should happen to witness such activities or have information which could assist my officials in identifying a contravention of Ontario's environmental laws, please report your observations to either the local office of my Ministry (424-3000) or to the Spills Action Centre ((416) 965-9619) after normal working hours. My staff will respond.

Julyan Reid
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division
Ministry of the Environment, Ont.

*This January day
I walk a welcome-carpet
beneath flamboyant trees.*

Joy Pocklington
Durban, South Africa

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

You will now be aware of the need for the TFN to increase its membership fee in the coming year. Aarne Juhola has explained the need for this in three articles appearing in the newsletter. A membership vote will be held at the February 1991 monthly meeting. I hope you will be in agreement with your Board of Directors that the increase is justified and that you will still be getting your money's worth. The outings, general meetings, special group meetings and newsletter will all maintain the same high quality as in the past.

Sincere thanks are extended to Irene Fedun and William Gilmour and their sponsors for raising \$214.17 for the TFN by their participation in the 1990 Baillie Birdathon, a project of the Long Point Bird Observatory. Members are encouraged to take part in this event as it is one means of conserving Canadian birds. Less experienced birders will be assisted in identification of birds by those with more experience. More information will follow in the April or May newsletter.

The Todmorden Mills display of more than 200 photographs from the TFN photo library, held from May to October, was seen by more than 4,000 visitors. On Simcoe Day alone approximately 600 visitors saw our display. Our thanks go to Bill Frankling, former curator/administrator at Todmorden Mills.

A volunteer is still needed for the Environment meetings. This involves arranging for a speaker for 5 meetings each year. Only 2 of the spring meetings remain to be set up.

Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year are extended to you and yours.

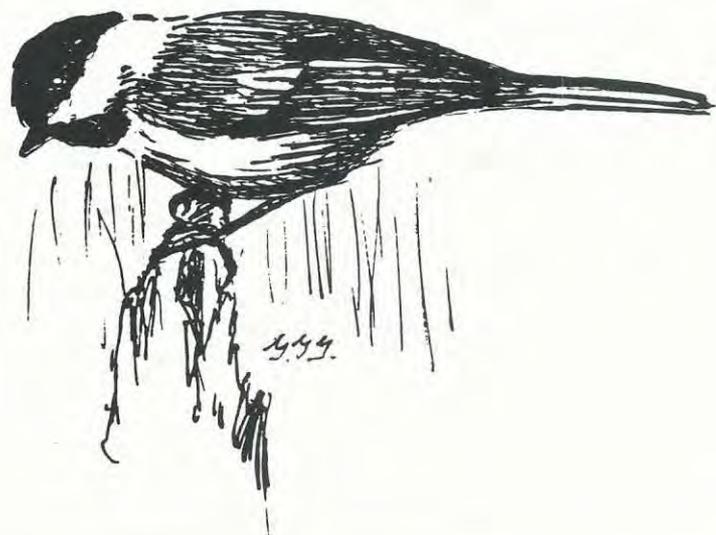
Eileen Mayo

□

THE BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, a familiar Toronto bird in all seasons, usually nests in stumps, its favourite being birch, from three to twelve feet above the ground, though occasionally higher or lower - one nest having been discovered even below ground level.

Drawing by Geraldine Goodwin from a photo by Harold V. Green.

ref.: BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO, Volume 2, by Perck & James.



FEE INCREASE FINALE

In previous months I have set out our costs of operation and the value you receive for your membership. Now I will deal with our current financial position.

We do have a surplus position. That has built up over the years from two sources. The first, and most obvious, is from cash donations from members. The second is from donation of time by members which resulted in lower expenses.

In both cases the donations were made to the organization and not to subsidize the fees of other members. As a result, the surplus will not be used to provide cheaper memberships.

The surplus, or a portion of it, will be used when the time comes to purchase further nature reserve lands.

At its October 24, 1990 meeting your Board of Directors approved a fee increase of \$10.00 per category of membership, effective July 1, 1991.

At the February General Meeting, in a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, the membership will be asked to approve that increase. If you have read these articles you will know why it is needed. Be there.

Aarne Juhola
Secretary/Treasurer

□



Triceratops, a horned, crested dinosaur up to twenty feet long plentiful in western Canada up to perhaps 65 million years ago, was drawn by Mary Cumming from an animated representation at the Royal Ontario Museum on a TFN Nature Arts Outing.

Ref.: THE WORLD WE LIVE IN by L. Barnett et al., Golden Press & ROTUNDA magazine of Royal Ontario Museum Spring 1989

CHRISTMAS GIFTS YOU DON'T HAVE TO WRAP

Part Two - Here are some more suggestions:

Magazine subscriptions

ORION Nature Quarterly -- published by the Myrin Institute, 136 East 64th St., New York, N.Y. 10021. Annual subscription \$14 plus \$7.36 postage. (\$U.S.) This well-produced quarterly looks at wildlife and conservation issues worldwide. Contributors this past year have included such well-known naturalists as Barry Lopez, Adrian Forsyth, and Jane Goodall. Individual copies are available at Lichtman's Toronto stores.

Memberships

Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) -- the umbrella group for about 75 Ontario organizations. Your individual support of the FON helps Ontario wildlife and its threatened habitats. Members receive SEASONS, the excellent quarterly magazine. Annual fees: Individual \$29, Family \$36, Student \$22, Senior or senior couple \$23. FON, 365 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8.

And not to forget our own

Toronto Field Naturalists (TFN) -- whether the person on your gift list is a budding naturalist, a veteran, or someone inbetween, he or she will be welcome at the stimulating indoor meetings or at any of the more than 150 outings held during the year. And the more members we have, the greater is the TFN's influence on Toronto's makers of the policies that affect our local wildlife. Please see page 30 for fees and our office address.

H.T.

□

TO ALL WILDLIFE REPORTERS - a reminder...

Please mail reports of your observations of Toronto Region* species as soon after the end of December as possible, so that our records and local status tables can be completed for the year 1990.

BIRDS, MAMMALS, INVERTEBRATES: Mail to TFN c/o D. Banville, #710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto, Ontario, M4C 5L7. (If you have any checklists or evidence of additional species of PLANTS, we'd appreciate receiving this information as well.)

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES: Mail to Bob Johnson, Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, P. O. Box 280, West Hill, Ontario, M1E 4R5 (or phone him at 392-5900 ext. 227).

Don't forget, we need to know WHEN, WHERE, HOW MANY, as well as WHAT you noticed. Thanks to you, it's going well.

*"TORONTO REGION" = within 48 km radius of Royal Ontario Museum.

Table 1. Selected List of Indoor Plants Which Are Effective in Purifying Air. (Based on the NASA Study.)

Air-purifying Plants	Role in Air-purification
<i>Aglaonema</i> 'Silver Queen' Silver Queen, Chinese evergreen	Effective in benzene removal. Its efficiency could be increased through massed planting.
<i>Chamaedorea seifrizii</i> Reed palm, bamboo palm	Very efficient in the removal of formaldehyde, especially given its large leaf surface area. Also effective in benzene removal.
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i> 'Vittatum' Spider plant	Removes formaldehyde effectively, despite a relatively small leaf surface area.
<i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i> Pot mum	All-round air-purifier, effectively removing all three gases.
<i>Dracaena deremensis</i> 'Janet Craig' Janet Craig	Very effective in benzene removal.
<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> 'Massangeana' Striped corn plant	Very effective in formaldehyde removal.
<i>Dracaena marginata</i> Madagascar dragon tree, red-edged dracaena	Effectively removes all three pollutants.
<i>Ficus benjamina</i> Weeping fig	Evaluated for the removal of all three gases, but its effectiveness is mostly in the removal of formaldehyde.
<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i> Gerbera daisy	A champion in the removal of benzene and trichloroethylene. Also, significantly removes formaldehyde.
<i>Hedera helix</i> English ivy	Removes all three gases. Its effectiveness may be enhanced by increasing the size or number of plants used.
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> 'Laurentii' Variegated snake plant	Removes moderate amounts of formaldehyde and trichloroethylene, but significantly removes benzene.
<i>Spathiphyllum</i> 'Mauna Loa' Peace lily	Very effective in removing trichloroethylene and benzene.

Table 2. Sources of Indoor Air Pollution and the Corresponding Air-purifying Plants.
(Modified from "Facts" — an information sheet put out by the Foliage for Clean Air Council)

Pollutant	Sources:	Air-purifying Plants
Formaldehyde		
	Foam insulation, plywood, clothes, carpeting, furniture, paper goods, household cleaners	Spider plant Reed palm (bamboo palm) Striped corn plant Pot mum Variegated snake plant English ivy Gerbera daisy Madagascar dragon tree Weeping fig
Benzene		
	Tobacco smoke, gasoline, synthetic fibres, plastics, inks, oils, detergents, rubber	English ivy Madagascar dragon tree Janet Craig Pot mum Gerbera daisy Peace lily Silver Queen Variegated snake plant
Trichloroethylene		
	Dry cleaning, inks, paints, varnishes, lacquers, adhesives	Gerbera daisy Pot mum Peace lily Madagascar dragon tree English ivy Variegated snake plant



GROWING INDOOR PLANTS AS AIR PURIFIERS

It has always been a reassuring fact that plants release oxygen into the air through the process of photosynthesis. Moreover, it has been an accepted belief that indoor plants are a potential means of air purification. In recent years, the spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*) was thought to be the plant that best fulfilled this role.

During the 1970s, increased energy efficiency in building design resulted in less fresh air exchange indoors. Meanwhile, North Americans were spending up to ninety percent of their time inside these buildings. It was also discovered that synthetic building materials emitted various organic compounds, which were associated with a variety of health problems. These were collectively identified as a condition called "sick building syndrome".

In the mid to late 1980s scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the U.S.A. evaluated more than a dozen common indoor plants for their potential to remove some of these chemicals from the air. The chemicals tested were benzene, trichloroethylene and formaldehyde. These gases are given off from such common sources as gas stoves, furniture, drapes, insulation and carpets. Results from the NASA study estimated that one potted plant per 100 square feet of indoor space cleans the air in the average home or office.

The following dozen popular house or interior landscape plants have been evaluated for their ability to remove more than one pollutant.

Species	Common Name	Light Needs
<u>Family: Agavaceae</u>		
<i>Dracaena deremensis</i> 'Janet Craig'	Janet Craig	low
<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> 'Massangeana'	striped corn plant	low
<i>Dracaena marginata</i>	red-edged dracaena	medium
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> 'Laurentii'	variegated snake plant	low
<u>Family: Araceae</u>		
<i>Aglaonema</i> 'Silver Queen'	Chinese evergreen	low
<i>Spathiphyllum</i> 'Mauna Loa'	peace lily	low
<u>Family: Araliaceae</u>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	low
<u>Family: Compositae</u>		
<i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i>	pot mum	medium-high
<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>	African daisy	medium-high
<u>Family: Moraceae</u>		
<i>Ficus benjamina</i>	weeping fig	medium
<u>Family: Liliaceae</u>		
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	spider plant	medium
<u>Family: Palmae</u>		
<i>Chamaedorea seifrizii</i>	bamboo palm	medium

adapted from an article by Alfred W. Prescod in PAPPUS, Vol. 9, No. 4, Autumn 1990

□

GREEN SPACES SAFER PLACES

In September a forum on planning safer parks for women was organized by the City of Toronto Safe City Committee with the City's Parks and Recreation and Planning Development Departments.

Among the recommendations for anyone designing or redesigning parks were the following:

- maps should be provided at entrances and key locations in parks
- maps should include locations of entrances, exits, washrooms, telephones, staff and police
- entrances and facilities (washrooms and telephones) should have no hidden areas
- park entrances should include an obvious meeting place with telephones
- parks used at night should be well lit, though night use of parks is not recommended

Literature available on the subject of safety:

"The Safe City: Municipal Strategies for Preventing Public Violence Against Women" a report adopted Sept. 19, 1988 by Toronto City Council, 16 pages, available from Safe City Committee, 18th floor, East Tower, City Hall, Toronto M5H 2N2 for \$5.00. Call 392-0403.

"Women and Environments" (Special Issue on Urban Safety), Fall 1989/Winter 1990, available for \$4.00 from Centre for Urban and Community Studies, 455 Spadina Ave., Toronto M5S 2G8.

"Women's Safety Audit Kit", available from 158 Spadina Ave., Toronto M5R 2T8. Call 392-3135.

Joan Patterson



WALKING SAFETY

1. There's safety in numbers, so don't walk alone in parks. Join a group (such as the TFN).
2. Whenever possible, walk during daylight hours. If you must walk at night, wear light-reflecting or light-coloured clothing.
3. Be thoroughly familiar with your route. Know the location of phones, etc.
4. Listen to your instincts and be willing to vary your route if you sense that you are in danger.
5. Avoid walking in deserted or poorly lighted areas.
6. Be aware of who is around you at all times.
7. Don't acknowledge or respond to verbal harassment.
8. Carry a whistle or bicycle airhorn to summon emergency assistance.
9. Don't wear jewellery (chains, medallions, rings, expensive watches, etc.)
10. Tune into your surroundings -- not out; avoid wearing headphones.
11. Always carry some form of personal identification (including medic alert ID if applicable) in case of emergency.

adapted from SAFETY PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL PARK, a pamphlet from the New York Road Runners Club

OUTINGS REPORT

NATURE ARTS

September-December, 1989

Twice each month, once on a Tuesday and once on a Saturday, we go on an outing or "inning", armed with sketch books, pencils, watercolours, and/or cameras to record our own personal view of the scene around us. True! That is what we do; but if that sounds intimidating to you - a new member or "beginning" sketcher or photographer - come along for the company, to enjoy the surroundings and see what everyone else is doing - you are welcome! Plan to stay for lunch; the group (usually small enough to gather around one or two tables or place our folding stools in a circle in a shady spot in summer) makes lunch a social gathering where work is passed around and ideas shared.

In September, rocks, trees, other plants, and a view of the Kew Beach shoreline were done from Ashbridge's Bay. At Edwards Gardens, both sketchers and photographers participated, as was the case in October at Wilket Creek Park, when the beautiful colours reflected in the creek were enjoyed. At Metro Zoo, in the rain, after sketching in the African pavilion, the group met for lunch at McDonald's, showed their

work and discussed composition. Five participants later went to view a watercolour show at the North York "Y" on Sheppard Avenue.

In November, there was the gallery-hop in the Yorkville area and on another outing the Koffler Gallery was visited.

In December, at North York Centre, skaters on the rink were sketched outdoors and from the Central Library windows. Indoors, drawings of bamboo trees and the fruit market were produced. Later, some time was spent at the ethnic festival in North York City Hall, where there were tables of food, tree decorations and other crafts for sale, and ethnic dancers entertained.



(drawing by Mary Cumming in the Montgomery Inn tea room on a TFN Nature Arts outing - with fellow-sketcher)

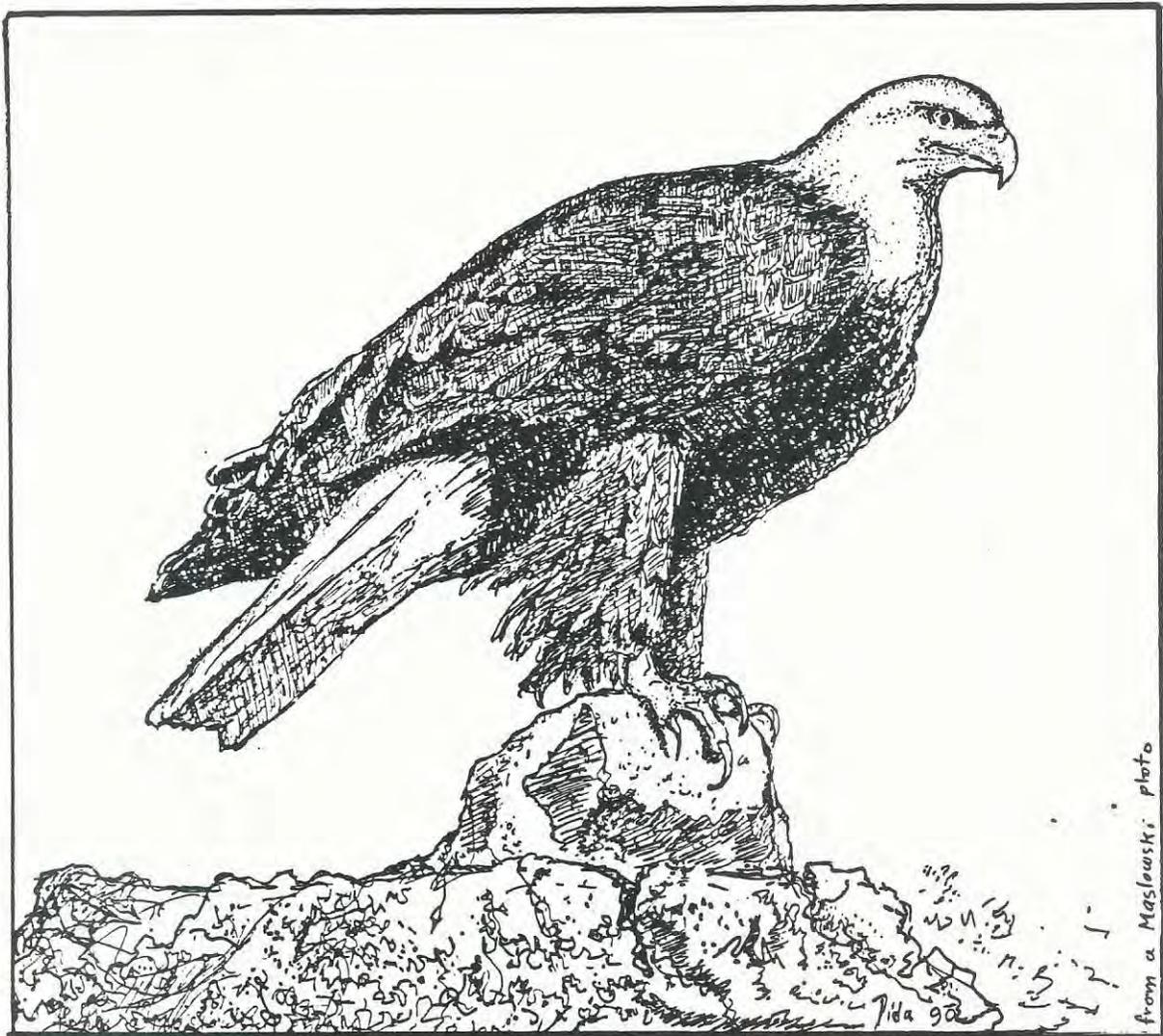
TFN 416 - 14

NATURE ARTS GROUP REPORT - continued

The Royal Ontario Museum, with its Out of Africa exhibition and the recently opened European gallery providing inspiration for drawings - was the setting for the last gathering of the year. Lunch in the cafeteria sparked an animated appreciation of the participants' work and discussion of their other activities and coming arts events. Holiday greetings were exchanged before we went our separate ways.

Joyce Cave

□



from a Maslowski photo

THE BALD EAGLE is not considered "endangered" in Canada, apparently because of the still large coastal and boreal populations, but is on the Ontario list, because of decreased numbers since the 1950's, especially in southern Ontario. Its Canada-wide status is discussed in the Canadian Nature Federation paper, *VULNERABLE CANADIAN SPECIES UPDATE NO. 6, 1989*. G. R. Bortolotti, in the *ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO*, says North Ontario numbers recovered rapidly after the DDT ban in 1972.

FOR READING

RESCUE THE EARTH! CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GREEN CRUSADERS by Farley Mowat, McClelland and Stewart, 1990. \$6.95 (paperback)

The Conversations range from viewpoints diverse as tolerance of hunting if necessary for land preservation (Monte Hummel, World Wildlife Fund, Canada) to adamant condemnation of the "enormous, unnecessary carnage of sport hunting" (Peter Singer, author of ANIMAL LIBERATION). Readers will have their favourite persons. I was impressed anew by Brian Davies's indefatigable fight which has diminished -- though not stopped -- Newfoundland's seal hunt (more than 70,000 seals were killed in 1988), and by Stephen Best of the International Wildlife Coalition whose efforts resulted in the European Community's ban on seal products. Vicki Miller, who has turned what Mowat describes as the "staid, grey" Toronto Humane Society into a formidable force, stresses that "We can't maintain this mindless consumerism that fuels what we call the first world", and is emphatic about the evils of factory farming. Elizabeth May, of the spruce budworm battle, has a chapter on "Gaia Women" which illumines the innumerable women who started and maintain the environmental grassroots movement. Michael O'Sullivan (World Society for the Protection of Animals) demolishes Establishment humbug about achieving a "humane" trap and lambasts the fur industry's cynicism in exploiting what it calls "native culture", as does John Livingston who believes that the fur trade has destroyed the aboriginal cultures of North America. Both condemn the equally horrific business of fur farms. (It takes one metric tonne of feed -- often the flesh of other wild animals -- plus 15 foxes to make one fur coat; three metric tonnes of feed plus 45 mink to make one mink coat.) O'Sullivan is unyielding in rejecting the "cultural" tradition of rodeos.

The book is not a comfortable "read". Learning the extent of human rapacity never is, but if we are to assist in preserving our world we must have no illusions about the opposition. Mr. Mowat offers, incidentally, a vital clarification: with the exception of the International Wildlife Coalition and the partial exception of the World Wildlife Fund, ALL conservation organizations and most government departments with the word "wildlife" in their title represent the hunting, fishing and trapping fraternities.

His last words encapsulate our dilemma: "We are like yeasts in a vat -- mindlessly multiplying as we greedily devour a finite world. If we do not change our ways, we will perish as the yeasts perish -- having exhausted our sustenance and poisoned ourselves in the lethal brew of our own wastes".

E.D. □

The modern environmental movement, though it has shifted its emphasis from preservation of precious resources to the control of pollution caused by our industrial and agricultural practices, declares our dependence on the Earth and our responsibility to it, and thus derives pretty directly from the 19th century travelers, philosophers, artists, writers, divines, natural historians and what TIME has called "upper-class bird-watchers" whose purpose was to know it, celebrate it, and savour its beauty and rightness.

from "It all began with conservation" by Wallace Stegner in SMITHSONIAN, Vol. 21, No. 1, April 1990

PROJECT

Susan Jackson Kiil has lived in Toronto all her life. Born and raised on the Don Valley in the Bennington Heights area, she now lives in the Beach area overlooking the Glen Stewart Ravine. She was a geography teacher in a junior high school in North York, then moved to publishing as a developmental editor to produce social science books and other materials for elementary and secondary schools. In the past fifteen years, Susan has focused her time and caring on her family and community, though she has found a few spare moments to work with Freeman Patterson on his six books, to review manuscripts for friends and publishers, and to record her own thoughts about raising children and awareness in this era of unprecedented transition. Following is her description of her "conservation" project.

Recipes for resolving global tension and slowing environmental degradation have existed for many years and new ones spring up with each new crisis. They are now becoming more finely tuned and more urgent as speculation about the plight of our planet changes to hard fact. WHAT WE CAN DO FOR OUR CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENT: A CONCISE GUIDE evolved from my own need to put all the facts and figures into perspective and to translate this into a lifestyle that would have as little negative impact on our living Earth as possible. Then I summarized it into a form that I could carry with me, and that I could easily communicate to others.

The printed version of this guide began as a handout at an evening organized for parents at Williamson Road Public School where Helen Juhola (from the TFN), Steve Smith (Public Focus), and Linda Lynch (Environment Watch) gave valuable insights into "How we can participate with our children in learning about nature in our area and creating a clean, healthy environment." I later expanded it into the eight-page booklet for a group of parents in Scarborough who had started their own community environmental organization (F.A.T.E.). The response to it encouraged me to distribute it more widely, to environmental and other organizations, schools, book stores, and individuals. Reviews in publications such as the TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST (Sept. 1990) have helped to bring it to the attention of many people.

MY EARTH BOOK: ECOLOGY FOR CHILDREN is for children of all ages, but particularly for 7 to 10 year olds. It explains the big concepts in their terms, in the way they see the Earth. It encourages them to actively examine their natural world and our human-made environment, to care about what they have, and to work with others in rebuilding a world we can all live in. The illustrations by my 15 year old daughter are intended to give children the confidence and enthusiasm to record their findings and insights with their own pictures and colours.

These two books are available through me at E B Publications, 28 Beaufort Rd., Toronto M4E 1M7 and the December General Meeting of the TFN. The proceeds from their sale are directed to local initiatives and to organizations dedicated to the establishment and preservation of wilderness areas.

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR OUR CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENT: A CONCISE GUIDE is \$2.00 or \$1.00 each for ten copies or more.

MY EARTH BOOK: ECOLOGY FOR CHILDREN is \$5.00 or \$3.00 each for ten copies or more.

Susan Kiil

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THE LONG-EARED OWL AS A DIURNAL HUNTER

"...I believe long-ears to be one of the most nocturnal of all owls."

Lewis Wayne Walker, THE BOOK OF OWLS

"It is almost exclusively a nocturnal bird, seldom flying abroad except at night or in the deep dusk of morning or evening twilight."

Leon Augustus Hausman, BIRDS OF PREY OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

There is a common misconception ~~that people have to travel~~ to far-off lands, like Africa or the Amazon, in order to witness unusual occurrences in nature. They are just as likely to happen in your own back yard. [See cover.]

The long-eared owl is consistently cited in natural history books as being one of the most nocturnal of owls. However, during the last decade, at the base of the Leslie Street Spit, -- I've found that this owl has been surpassed in its daytime activities by only snowy and short-eared owls.

The following account is from notes taken on January 25th, 1987. The day was clear, and cold, with very intense bright sunlight. Temperatures hovered around the minus twenty range. There was a fairly thick blanket of snow on the ground.

I arrived at the base of the spit at about 2 pm and noticed a long ear perched on some rocks. It was constantly alert; making use of its acute vision and hearing -- spinning its head from side to side. It flew up on to the lowest branch of a small cottonwood -- continuing its surveillance of the nearby ground. After about half an hour it fluttered up into the air, just brushing the tip of the sweet clover, and dropped down on to a vole. It made a half-hearted effort at dismantling its prey and then swallowed it whole. After sitting on the ground for another ten minutes it flew over to a low post a few feet away and resumed its visual and aural inspection of the adjacent countryside.

Throughout the afternoon, the owl was continually active and alert. However, its behaviour was totally unlike the short-eared owl which hunts on the wing. This is a little surprising since the two owls are morphologically very similar. The long ear was never in the air for more than a minute. When it did fly, it was never more than three or four feet above the ground and usually after it had detected the presence of a vole from a perch. Perches included rocks, about 30 per cent of the time, posts, about 30 per cent, and very low branches, about 35 per cent. The remaining 5 per cent accounts for the time the owl was in flight.

The owl continued to be active until after twilight and there was no significant change in behaviour. Between two o'clock and sunset I saw it capture two voles and it may have caught a third when it dropped out of sight behind a mound of rocks.

This owl, when roosting, can look very much like a broken branch, stretching out its body and leaning to one side. This pose was taken only when the owl detected the presence of people walking

Long-eared owl
(Asio otus)



© DON PEURAMAKI



LONG-EARED OWLS (cont'd)

dogs nearby. The only other encounter of the day occurred when one of the wintering kestrels hovered overhead and excitedly expressed its concern with a verbal outcry.

Whether or not this behaviour is typical of long ears, I can't say. However, before the base of the spit was bulldozed, it was quite often used as a hunting territory during the fall, winter and early spring. Recently, my only sightings of long ears have been in the area between Cherry Beach and the base of the Spit, and they have been of roosting individuals -- not active ones.

We can go to exotic lands to see unusual occurrences in nature. And, we should make every effort to preserve rainforests and tropical habitat. But sometimes, the right combination of environmental elements makes it just as likely that we'll see something unusual in Toronto, on the waterfront. This can happen, however, only if we preserve some of the suitable natural areas that act as magnets for these migrating, wintering, and nesting creatures. Don't bulldoze them all.

article by Don Peuramaki from the NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN WATERFRONT RESOURCE CENTRE,
Vol. 3, No. 2, May 1990 □



THE RED-TAILED HAWK
is the most frequently reported Toronto hawk, as a breeding bird, migrant or wintering species. It is less frequently seen in summer than in the other seasons. In fact, none has been reported to TFN in July or August in the past three years. In the adult, the rufous of the tail, in a good light, and/or (in the most common light colour-phase) its whiteness below are good identifying features, sometimes with the band of dark across the abdomen evident.
(Drawing is from a photo by Tony Beck in *TRAIL & LANDSCAPE*, 1988.)

DB

Ref.;

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA
Golden Press

ON SAVING BULLFROGS

One day last fall, toward the end of September, I was on the grass behind our house, not far from the pond, when I heard a soft cry. It was so faint, so barely there, that at first I ignored it. The way you do, you know, when you're not sure something is real. But the cry was repeated. A soft, almost a sighing sound. I thought perhaps it was some distant bird or other animal. It seemed to be coming from far away, from the deep woods on the other side of the pond. But it was repeated, and suddenly I realized it was closer -- much closer -- than I'd thought. It seemed, in fact, to be coming from the pond itself, floating up from the shore near which I was standing. So I went down and looked, not expecting to find anything. For some reason, the sound seemed persistently unreal.

But I found a bullfrog, lying on the surface of the water. Something was wrong with him, and at first I couldn't see what it was. I thought he'd been injured in some terrible way. As I watched, he opened his mouth and repeated that strange, soft, exhausted cry. He was a little fellow, only a few inches in length. He lay with his head out of the water. His legs were splayed as if he were caught in mid-jump, yet he did not move. Underneath him, where his soft, white belly met one of his legs, something looked wrong. I was afraid to look closely, afraid I'd see some hideous, gaping wound for which there could be no hope of healing. But I did look. And gradually, only gradually, because I was looking at something I didn't know how to see, I made out a piece of bark that he seemed to be resting on, or partly astride. I kept looking, and gradually saw that the piece of bark was not bark at all. It was an enormous beetle. A beetle at least two inches in length, attached to the bullfrog's thigh.

Immediately I seized the beetle, holding both his sides, and squeezed him, gently, telling him to let go. As I did this, a voice inside me warned: "You are Interfering With Nature, Jeannie. You are not supposed to do this." I told the voice to go to hell and squeezed harder. The beetle put his legs out, made swimming movements, but did not relinquish his hold. I gave up squeezing, then let go myself, and tapped him -- not too sharply -- on his carapace. That did it. After a moment he detached himself, swam down into the weedy growth just under the surface, and disappeared. The bullfrog was now free, but his left leg hung useless, injured in some way.

I moved my hand toward the bullfrog and he swam a few inches downward, into the weed. He must have been nearly exhausted, because he hung there, still in plain view, and did not try to get any further. I was glad of that: he had gone in the same direction the beetle had gone. I moved my hand under him, herding him gently back to the shoreline. I noticed he didn't use the left leg as he swam.

Taking my hand away I watched him protectively for a while. After a moment or two he moved again, coming right in under the clump of grass on which I was squatting. I saw then that there was an overhang, and that he'd been able to hid beneath it. He seemed secure there. He had disappeared, except that the left leg, the wounded one, hung back in the water, powerless and limp. Nevertheless, I felt he had a chance there, and that the leg could heal, so I left him, with fervent wishes for his speedy recovery.

Later I learned that the little animal whose meal I had interrupted was a Giant Water Bug (*Lethocerus americanus*) and therefore not, in fact, a

SAVING (cont'd)

"beetle" at all, but a true bug of the Order Hemiptera, Family Belostomatidea. I was relieved to learn that Lethocerus injects an anaesthetic saliva into its victims and that my bullfrog, therefore, would have been only temporarily impaired. But happy as I was with this new data, I was still left with the ethical question: should I have interfered with the little guy's business in the first place?

I decided I should. I remembered a story I'd read somewhere about a Buddhist monk discovered on a beach, painstakingly carrying stranded sea animals, one by one, from the inhospitable sand back to the saving water. A passerby asked him what he was doing this for, since there were thousands and thousands of the little animals washed up on the beach, and the monk's activity could not possibly make a difference to them all. "No," the monk replied realistically, "But it will make a difference to each individual I save."

It is just conceivable, bearing in mind the decline in bullfrog numbers over the past decade, that by saving this young individual I did a good turn for the species. But that was not the reason I attacked his attacker -- taking great care, by the way, not to harm (apart from robbing him) the Lethocerus. I was not thinking in terms of statistics and populations when I went to the bullfrog's aid.

No. What I was responding to was that soft, exhausted cry.

Jeannie Coulthard

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THE CANADA LYNX has more prominently tufted ears than the bobcat and is larger - with larger feet for walking in snow. It has a black tip all round the bobbed tail, not just half-way round as in the case of the bobcat which was once an uncommon resident of Toronto (the Canada lynx a migrant). For more about mammals which roamed Toronto within living memory, see TFN 351:7-8:'82 and TFN 367:22:'84.

Drawing by Geraldine Goodwin from one of her photos taken at Metro Zoo.



IN THE NEWS

U OF T CEREMONY CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF WEATHER REPORTS

The 150th anniversary of uninterrupted Canadian weather reporting was celebrated Sept. 5, in a reenactment on the University of Toronto campus, just a few feet from the site of Canada's first weather office. It was called the Toronto Meteorological and Magnetic Observatory then, and was not entrusted to civilians as it is now. It was the private responsibility of the British Army, specifically the artillery's master gunner. In 1853 the British military asked the University of Toronto to take over weather observation. At the time of Confederation, July 1, 1867, the weather observatory became the property of the Dominion of Canada, which set up a national weather service. But Toronto remained the weather capital of Canada. Terrestrial magnetism was a big fad in those days, and this is how Toronto claimed its weather fame. Lt. Charles Riddell of the British Artillery found Montreal's rocks lacking, magnetically. He found the soil he wanted in Toronto.

adapted from an article by Jim Lewis in the TORONTO STAR, Sept. 6, 1990

GLASS DOOR KILLS TINY BIRD THAT CONQUERED ATLANTIC

A small thrush that apparently flew off-course all the way across the Atlantic reached a bird sanctuary in Britain -- only to die there after crashing into a plate-glass door. The gray-cheeked thrush -- rarely seen in Britain -- is thought to have been blown by strong winds off its migratory path from a summer home in Canada to South America. It died when it flew into the door of the visitor's centre at the headquarters of the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust at Slimbridge. The body is preserved in a refrigerator so that it can be stuffed by a taxidermist and put on display.

from an article in the TORONTO STAR, Oct. 1990

ONTARIO SOFT DRINK COMPANIES MUST MEET REFILLABLE QUOTAS

Ontario soft drink companies have six months to comply with the regulation requiring that they sell at least 30% of their products in refillable containers. After April 1, 1991, companies not complying with the regulation will be charged. Environment Minister Ruth Grier says the new government's agenda for waste management will emphasize reduction at source and reuse over recycling. She also re-affirmed the government's commitment to the National Packaging Protocol, which set a nation-wide target of sending 50% less packaging to disposal by the year 2000.

from a News Release of the Ministry of the Environment, Oct. 15, 1990

▷

*Is this the same creek,
this winter day, in black bed
with pillows of white?*

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

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WANTS TO INCREASE USE OF CONSERVATION AREAS

The Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is pushing a \$49 million proposal to spruce up Metro's conservation areas and parks in the hopes of boosting flagging attendance. The five-year plan calls for the development of a regional trail system, water slides, equestrian parks and adventure play areas. Under the proposal, \$5.4 million would come from the province, \$1.2 million from the regions and Metro and \$34 million from private and other sources. About \$5.7 million would be raised through park revenues and another \$2.6 million from foundation funding. The proposal has not yet been approved by the various levels of government.

Plans for the Boyd Conservation Area include a water play area, with a pool and tube ride, an adventure play area with miniature golf and creative playground equipment, an expanded recreation and education centre that is also geared to adults and a working farm or equestrian centre. The proposal also calls for a craft workshop, wildlife programs, a fishery management pond and upgrading of the Kortright interpretive centre.

Plans for Claireville Conservation Area include a golf course, expansion of an existing campground, an expanded equestrian facility and improvements to the water park. Improvements to the Greenwood Conservation Area would include outdoor swimming with a water play area, a conservation day camp, family campground and an adventure play area. Petticoat Creek Conservation Area improvements may include small water slides and water-play activities and an adventure play area.

adapted from an article by Gail Swainson in the TORONTO STAR, Oct. 25, 1990

WILD BERGAMOT, one of the showier wildflowers in the mint family, with its comparatively large heads of flowers in light shades of purple, is a common native Toronto plant of all our major watersheds. In Toronto, it has been reported in bloom as early as July 13 and as late as August 23. Strangely, it has been encountered much north of here, in the Severn Valley, on September 3.

The field-sketch is by Mary Cumming. It grows by the TFN NATURE CENTRE at Sunnybrook Park.

Isabel Smith & Diana Banville



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

PROSPECTING THE HUMAN BODY

Each of us is "worth" more today than ten years ago because the price of minerals which comprise us has risen. Copper, zinc, phosphorus, iron, calcium, lithium, chromium -- we are walking mines, and each mineral has a relative in a museum case. For instance, healthy adults carry about three pounds of calcium, mainly in teeth and bones. Don't assume all calcium is white, however. Calcium, in the mineral calcite, comes in green, blue, gold, orange, brown, and may be shaped like trees, grapes, or birds' nests. We each contain about one and a half pounds of phosphorus, and one of the phosphorus minerals is the lovely green/blue variscite. Thanks to television ads, we know our bodies contain iron. Our systems have about four ounces -- enough to make one nail. But without iron we would need 200 gallons of blood, instead of twelve pints, to carry oxygen to every cell. In the museum iron can be seen as magnetite or meteorite. Other minerals occur in such small amounts that they are known as trace minerals -- like chromium. Chromium helps insulin get sugar into our cells after meals. In the museum chromium is found as the fiery red crystals of crocoite. Zinc helps wounds heal quickly. There are a dozen forms of zinc, some which fluoresce and others of gem quality. Copper exists in our digestive systems. Outside the body the dazzling blues and greens of copper minerals include azurite and malachite. A Navy test discovered that people living where water is rich in molybdenum and strontium have fewer cavities, but in the collector's cabinet molybdenum looks nothing like a cavity fighter. It is the deep orange of wulfenite. So, from copper to calcium, lithium to zinc, it's a wonder we don't clank when we walk or send the airport metal detector into hysterics.

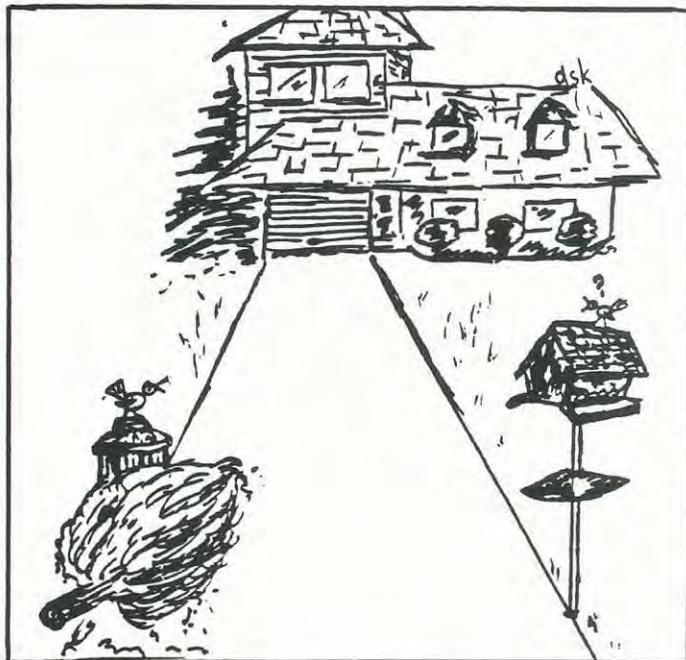
adapted from The Ontario Field Trippers Guild *DIGGER'S DIGEST*, Vol. 6, #5, 1989

□

COME

TO THINK

ABOUT IT...



Cartoon by Diana Karrantias

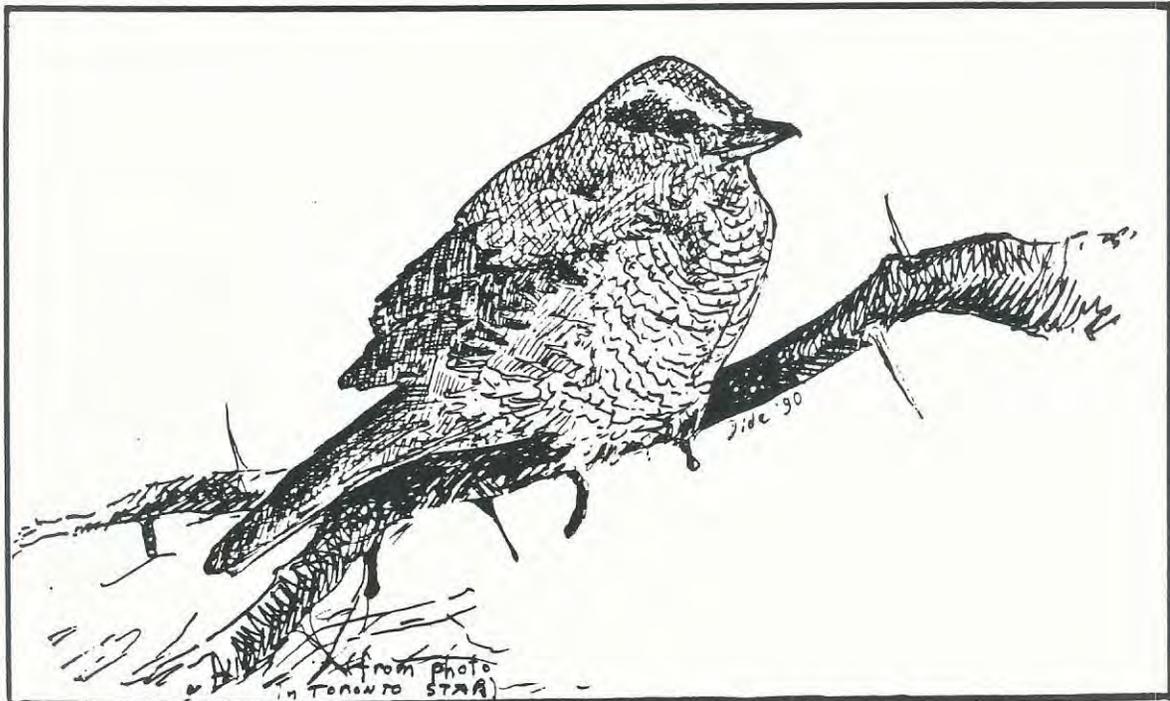
ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN THE NATURAL WAY

This fall, for several days after the Thanksgiving holiday, my Willowdale backyard hosted flocks of white-throated sparrows. With smaller numbers of juncos and white-crowned sparrows, the white-throats were headed south. Particularly attractive to the white-throats were the seeds of some dwarf cosmos plants, *Cosmos sulphureus*, I believe. Some of the birds swung between the few remaining flowers to get at the seeds. Other ("terra firma") individuals made repeated upward jumps from the ground. A few weeks earlier I'd watched a cardinal make similar leaps.

Another cosmos, the familiar tall, waving, lacy-leafed variety (*Cosmos bipinnatus*), attracts autumn visits by American goldfinches. I like to think these delightful swingers and swayers are the same birds that turn up later in the year at the distlefinch feeder and keep me company through the winter.

Perhaps you have been attracting the birds with flowering plants, shrubs and trees. If you would like to share your good news, please write us. We'll report your happy voices in a future Newsletter before planting time next spring.

H.T.



December 27, 1989...In my backyard [Brimley & St. Clair] one northern shrike, killing and eating a sparrow.

December 28, 1989...Shrike appeared again. However, all small birds disappeared and he flew away.

Karin Fawthrop

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

December 1989, Toronto

The coldest December of this century ended in the 1980s not only in Toronto, but also across much of North America. At the peak of the cold, records were broken from the Northwest Territories right down the Florida peninsula and into Mexico.

The average temperature in downtown Toronto was -7.8°C , the second lowest on record (1876 was colder). This is truly remarkable, especially given the impact of the urban heat island and the global warming trend that has dominated the news climatologically in the 1980s and that seemed to be appearing in actual records. At Lester B. Pearson Airport, the mean was -10.1°C , which is a full two degrees lower than the Toronto mean of -8.1°C in 1876. It was also the coldest month in Toronto since January, 1982, and one of the coldest months on record in the southern United States and in eastern Canada.

With the cold, it was quite dry. Snowfall amounts were close to normal, but rainfall amounts were in the 4 mm range only, because there were so few days above freezing. Total precipitation downtown was 35 mm, the lowest for a December since 1960. Snowfall totals were 42.2 cm downtown and 30.6 cm at Lester B. Pearson, the highest for December since 1983.

Sunshine hours were about 11 hours above normal at 86.1 hours, and wind speeds were lower than average, which mitigated the cold. Storm systems for the most part stayed well to the south until around Christmas.

The month was relatively consistent from start to finish, with a few brief rises above freezing early and at the very end. Early December had cold outbreaks mostly confined to eastern North America; December 3rd brought uncomfortable wind chills and some snowfall activity quite early in the season. A larger cell of Arctic air eased across most of the continent about Dec. 5th and dominated until around Christmas. There were occasional snowfalls. The snow-cover, which in January 1989 was well north of Toronto, was south to the Gulf of Mexico just before Christmas! Forty-below readings across the Prairies eventually translated into -25°C at Lester B. Pearson on Dec. 22nd, followed by snow and freezing rain in Florida a day later.

Finally, milder air began to infiltrate the West, slowly spreading east. Record cold persisted from eastern Ontario to the Maritimes until Dec. 29th-30th, when a warm front brought extensive fog, some freezing rain, and a thaw to welcome the Nineties.

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*Reed canary grass -
even it is to be noticed
this winter morning.*

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

THE WEATHER (cont'd)

January 1990, Toronto

The Nineties began with the warm trend of the late Eighties returning with a vengeance. This was one of the warmest Januaries on record in our area, following on the heels of the coldest December in more than 100 years. Toronto City reported its third-warmest January on record, the warmest since 1933. The monthly mean temperature was actually above freezing (+0.5°C). This is about 5 to 6 degrees warmer than average. Most stations in the area, with records not dating back to 1933, had their mildest January. Precipitation was below normal again, with snowfall totals moderately low but still the highest since 1987. Rainfall was slightly above normal, in the neighbourhood of 23-26 mm. Sunshine at 83.6 hours downtown was 9 hours below normal and the least since 1979.

Mild conditions which began on New Year's Eve continued right through the month, with only one cold outbreak, on January 12th-13th. This was a decidedly weak arctic airmass in the Toronto area, with a minimum of -11.9°C downtown and -13.1°C at the airport. However, it did not penetrate into the southeastern United States. Unsettled weather with showers prevailed the rest of January, although there was a cooler period with some snow Jan. 19th-21st and a general synoptic snowfall on Jan. 29th with about 10 cm of snow. Overall, the mild conditions were remarkably continuous, and the absence of low temperatures striking. The monthly minimum was the mildest on record.

There were some powerful frontal disturbances with very warm, moist air bringing autumn-style storms. A strong disturbance passing through on the afternoon and evening of Jan. 25th brought high winds sweeping across Toronto, and some local heavy showers. Lightning was noted to the south that evening. On Jan. 27th, some record high temperatures in the neighbourhood of 10°C occurred.

Gavin Miller

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STORM OVER THE CITY

*From doomed evening sky
of charcoal shot with gold,
the torrent fell.*

*The ancient promise
of remission followed:
The spectrum-hued arc.*

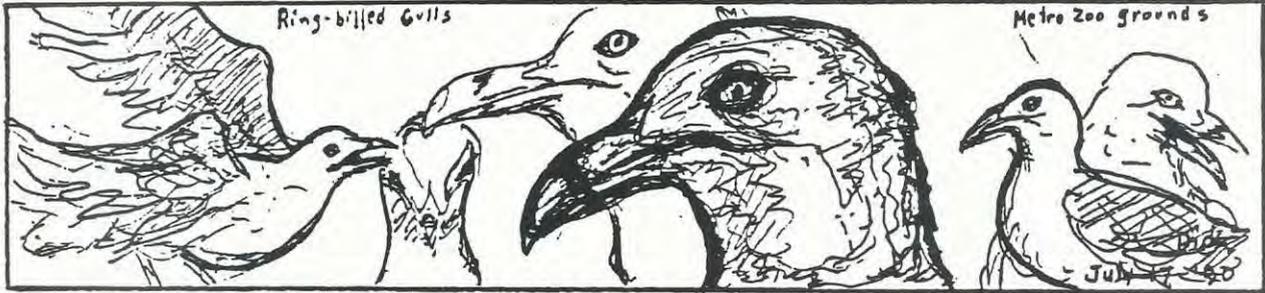
*The human mole, in metal carapace,
dared not lift his eyes from the car ahead.*

*Thus elemental majesty winged past.
But few perceived it.*

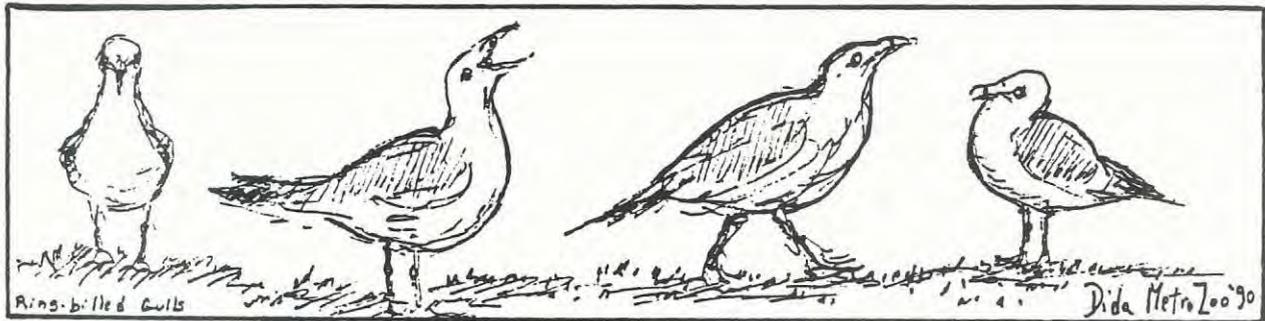
Eva Davis



These are samples of the sizes needed for illustrations for the newsletter, SO...



If you would like blanks sent to you, call 690-1963, OR...



draw up your own frames. They need not be to these sizes, BUT... should be in black ink, of subjects of interest to Toronto naturalists.

ALSO...



Please show date, place and subject under each, AND... don't forget your signature!

CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS

To encourage and assist University and College Students residing or studying in the Metropolitan Toronto Region who wish to broaden their knowledge of conservation through study, travel and practical experience, four scholarships of \$1,000 each are available through the B. Harper Bull Conservation Scholarship Awards Program administered by the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto. The deadline for acceptance of applications is Thursday, February 28, 1991. For further information and applications write The Executive Co-Ordinator, The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, Ont. M3N 1S4.

GRANTS FOR BIRD PROJECTS

Do you have plans for an individual or club project on birds that needs some extra funding? The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation may be able to help. You are invited to apply for a grant. The deadline for submission of applications is January 31, 1991. For further information, write to the Secretary of the Fund. Baillie Fund application forms and instructions may be obtained from Mark Stabb, Secretary, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0. (Telephone 519-586-3531) The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund is funded primarily by Long Point Bird Observatory and co-operating naturalists' clubs from proceeds from Canada's annual Baillie Birdathon. By taking part in the Birdathon, individuals and clubs can help support the Fund and clubs can keep a share of the proceeds for their own projects. Information on participation in the Birdathon may be obtained from Doug McRae, Birdathon Co-ordinator at Long Point (see address above).

TO ALL ILLUSTRATORS AND CARTOONISTS...

First of all, thank you for the number, variety and quality of the drawings being submitted. The illustrations are a very important aspect of the newsletter and, according to our feedback, are much appreciated. The printing method used is the most economical: Photocopy. The best registration is obtained when strong black, but not too thick, lines are used. Solid black does not print well - save it for the darkest accents only. Shade with parallel lines, cross-hatching, and/or stippling. You can get all the values you need - from dark to light - in this way. It just depends on how close the lines or dots are spaced. Avoid using light marks for the lightest shading - try stippling. Remember, in black-and-white, "values" = "colour".

As with articles, illustrations and cartoons most appropriate are on subjects of animal and plant life and natural areas in the Toronto Region, familiar structures in our parks, TFN activities, environmental issues, and relevant humour. Keep drawing!

DB

COMING EVENTS

Owls: Birds of Prey in Canada at the Royal Ontario Museum from December 21 to Jan. 27. Call 586-5549 or 586-5551.

Winter Gulls, a free bird walk sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club on Saturday, Jan. 19 at 2 pm to dusk. Meet in the parking lot at the foot of Windermere Ave. for a walk from Sunnyside to Humber Bay. Leader will be Alvaro Jaramillo.

Welcome Christmas Past (a Victorian Christmas), at Todmorden Mills from 12 noon to 5 pm on Dec. 2.

A FOREST ENVIRONMENT SHOW: the 42nd Annual Meeting, Auction, Seminar and Conference of the Ontario Forestry Association to be held on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1 and 2 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Richmond Hill. Call 493-4565 for details.

Zebra Mussels -- mitigation options for industries, a two-day conference on Feb. 11 and 12 in Toronto. Call 416-592-3087 or 416-592-3037.

Catch the Gardening Spirit, a special day on Sunday, Feb. 17 devoted to the problems of the city garden. Fee \$55. Call 445-1552 to register for this program at the Civic Garden Centre.

If I had a dream..., the Garden Club of Toronto's Flower Show, will be held from Feb. 27 to March 3 at the Civic Garden Centre. Adult tickets \$6.50, seniors and students \$5.50, children (5 to 12 yr.) \$1.00.

Discovering "natural" Toronto, a display of colour photographs from the collection of the Toronto Field Naturalists from Jan. 2 to Jan. 31 at Yorkville Library (2 blocks north of Bloor, just west of Yonge).

Sunday afternoon lectures on Science sponsored by the Royal Canadian Institute at 3 pm at the Medical Sciences auditorium. Call 928-2096 for details of program starting Jan. 20, 1991.

Rouge Valley walk on Sunday Jan. 27 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Meet at the parking lot at Caper Valley (on Twyn Rivers Dr., 2½ miles east of Meadowvale Rd.) Leader will be Jim Robb. Call 439-8489 for details (after 6 pm).

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CHRISTMAS TREE THIEVES BEWARE!

The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) is increasing its surveillance of Authority-owned lands during the Christmas season. The Authority is on the lookout for persons cutting down trees, as well as those operating all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles or poaching on Authority lands. These lands include conservation areas, waterfront parks, and education centres. All are posted.

Should you see anyone engaged in these unlawful activities, you are asked to call MTRCA at (416)661-6600, ext. 218.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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

(416)968-6255

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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

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