

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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TFN MEETINGS

Monday, February 3, 1992 - BACKUS WOODS AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

at 8 pm

155 College St.

6th floor auditorium

an illustrated lecture by Rolf Struthers
- Located near Long Point on the north shore of Lake Erie, Backus Woods has never been logged. This fine example of a Carolinian (southern) forest growing at its northern limit was threatened with plans to remove logs a number of years ago. Our speaker will discuss the ecological history of this property and the strategy for its management.

from 7 pm

to 8 pm

in the foyer

outside the auditorium

- TFN SOCIAL HOUR

- memberships and publications for sale
- a display of the photographs of Alf Buchanan
- sale of "The Culture of Nature" by Alex Wilson (see page 16 for article by Alex and page 13 for information about this important new book).

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 2, 1992



COOPER'S HAWK
is most often seen
in the spring and
fall in Toronto
Region, during
migration, but
visits feeders,
as a predator,
at other seasons.
It has been known
to nest in the
region in the
past.

Ref.:

TORONTO REGION
BIRD CHART, 1983

by Bruce D. Parker

&

TORONTO REGION
RECORDS

TFN OUTINGS

February

Sunday
Feb. 2
1:30 pm

TAYLOR CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Melanie Milanich
Taylor Creek, East York

Meet on the east side of Victoria Park Ave. at the subway station (north of Danforth Ave.)
A good time of year to explore the grounds of the old Massey Estate. At the turn of the century, these lands were part of a dairy farm far from downtown Toronto. Come and look for natural history clues to the various past uses of one of Metro's beautiful parks.

OUTINGS GO, WHATEVER THE WEATHER, AND ON TIME! (DON'T BE LATE.)

Wednesday
Feb. 5
10:30 am

TORONTO ISLANDS - nature walk
Leader: Ann Millett
Lakeshore, Toronto

Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. Bring a hot drink and a snack and WARM clothes.
The Island can be an exciting place to visit in the winter with ducks from the far north spending the winter in the bay and, if we're lucky, dramatic ice formations along the shore.

\$ ferry tickets

WEATHER INFORMATION: 676-3066

Saturday
Feb. 8
2 pm

NEWTONBROOK UNITED CHURCH - nature photography
Leader: Fran Elliott
North York

Meet at the church which is on Cummer Ave., one block east of Yonge St. (north of Finch). Bring a selection of up to 20 of your favourite coloured slides, or just come and enjoy the photos. A projector and screen will be provided.
A great chance to show off your favourite photos from your travels or taken on TFN outings. You may even have a project or lesson to illustrate!

BRING A FRIEND. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Sunday
Feb. 9
11 am

HIGH PARK - discovering plant lore
Leader: Richard Aaron
Toronto

Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West opposite High Park Ave. Snack optional.
Bring your favourite tree or flower book along. If it is too cold to look things up we may retreat to a coffee shop. Dress warmly and be prepared to enjoy learning the winter look of wild plants.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME ON ALL OUTINGS.

Wednesday
Feb. 12
10:30 am

MOATFIELD PARK - nature walk
Leader: Sig MacKay
East Don, North York

Meet at the southeast corner of Sheppard Ave. East and Leslie St. Snack optional. Morning only.
We'll be looking for winter birds and signs of mammals. A good time too to admire the shape of the valley and learn how the trees and shrubs look in the coldest part of the year.

FEBRUARY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Saturday
Feb. 15
10 am
WILKET CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Morris Sorensen
Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Leslie Street north of Eglinton Ave. East (opposite the Inn on the Park). Dress warmly and you will be surprised how interesting our parks can be in the winter. You should see chickadees and red-tailed hawks, squirrels and maybe rabbits. As well there are huge trees to admire, much history to learn about, and the companionship of like-minded people.

Wilket Creek, North York

PLEASE LEAVE PETS AT HOME.

Sunday
Feb. 16
1:30 pm
SUNNYSIDE BEACH - birds for BEGINNERS
Leader: Helen Smith
Meet on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. West at the foot of Ellis Ave. Walk will end at Roncesvalles Ave. Since 1923 members of the Toronto Field Naturalists have found this to be one of the best places to observe wintering ducks and gulls in the city. Bring binoculars, bird book, and a note book. Oh yes, and dress warmly!

Lakeshore, Toronto

TORONTO ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB BIRD HOTLINE: 350-3000.

Tuesday
Feb. 18
10:30 am
ATRIUM ON BAY - nature arts
Leader: Diana Banville
Meet at the fountain at the east end of the lower level (outside Fabricland). Bring sketching materials or just come and enjoy. Lunch is optional. The atrium is on the north side of Dundas West between Yonge and Bay. The drawing topic will be indoor plants.

Toronto

SKY INFORMATION: (416) 586-5736.

Wednesday
Feb. 19
11 am
ALLAN GARDENS - exotic plants
Leader: Dr. Nick Badenhuisen
Meet at the greenhouse entrance on the south side of Carlton St. between Jarvis St. and Sherbourne St. A visit to the greenhouses is as good as a trip to Florida at this time of year, and many of the plants are labelled and you have an expert to tell you interesting lore about them.

Toronto

TTC ROUTE AND TIMETABLE INFORMATION: 393-INFO.

Sunday
Feb. 23
1:30 pm
TORONTO WATERFRONT - human & natural history
Leader: Bill Frankling
Meet on the south side of King/Queen at Roncesvalles. Walk will end at a different public transit stop downtown. This is another joint outing with the WATERFRONT GREENWAY GROUP. Come and enjoy the waterfront and learn about the problems of keeping/restoring our links to the lakeshore.

Lakeshore, Toronto

AIR OR WATER POLLUTION TO REPORT? CALL 424-3000.

FEBRUARY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Wednesday DONALDA GOLF CLUB - nature walk East Don, North York
 Feb. 26 Leader: Eileen Mayo
 10:30 am Meet on the south side of York Mills Rd. at Silverdale Cr.
 just east of Don Mills Rd. Walk will end at a different
 public transit stop. Morning only.
 Enjoy this section of the East Don which is "off limits" during the golf
 season. Forested slopes and side ravines provide lots of shelter and food
 for wintering birds, squirrels, raccoons and rabbits.

□



THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD these days breeds in Toronto Region largely because of nest-box projects such as the King/Vaughan bluebird trail - though one nest there, in 1990, was built in a natural cavity in a dead birch. That year five were fledged from one of the boxes in the High Park allotment gardens, the first for some years in Metro. None returned in 1991, but the project is young.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nominations for the TFN Board of Directors are invited each year in the February newsletter (see page 26). Board members are selected from members who show an interest in promoting the objectives of the TFN. The Board consists of 12 members who are elected for a term of 3 years. Because the club is run entirely by volunteers, directors are expected to be able to attend public hearings and meetings about environmental issues and write letters to politicians expressing TFN concerns and views. Speakers for slide presentations and displays must be arranged; outing locations and leaders must be organized; and directors during the past year, for example, represented TFN on a number of committees including the Waterfront Greenway, the Rouge Watershed Plan, the Belt Line Park Committee, the Humber Heritage Committee. Speakers for monthly meetings are found and the auditorium and equipment booked, and pamphlets and volunteers must be obtained for the Nature Information Centre in Sunnybrook Park. Several directors also serve on the Newsletter Committee. If you would like to get involved in any of these activities, please leave your name and number with a message on the TFN answering machine. Call 968-6255. We always need volunteers!

The Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront submitted its final report to the federal and provincial governments in December of 1991. TFN was invited to submit further comments for incorporation before this. A letter was sent outlining our concerns about the proposed development of East Point Park. Members are encouraged to submit their own views on environmental issues.

Our activities change from time to time to reflect the interests of our members. During 1990 and 1991 our out-of-town bus trips were not well attended. This year our only out-of-town bus trips will probably be to our own nature reserve. Many excellent out-of-town trips are available from a number of sources which are listed from time to time under Coming Events in our newsletter.

Eileen Mayo

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BLUE VERVAIN

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Nov. 5, 1991

We were delighted to receive your donation of \$50.00 [for] Mr. Ian Delauriers' speech. This contribution is being directed in support of our environmental rehabilitation campaign to restore a section of the East Don River...an area known as the Charles Sauriol Conservation Reserve.

This project is receiving very favourable support and thanks to the contributions of many corporations, individuals and, particularly the Rotary Club of Toronto, more than \$145,000 has been donated to date, which will match approved government grants.

Again, thank you very much. Your continued interest and support is very important to the environment.

Waneeta Robertson
Executive Co-Ordinator
The Conservation Foundation of
Greater Toronto

Nov. 5, 1991

Your November newsletter contained a review by Eva Davis of the book "Green Rage: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization".

In the review, Eva states "the author's contention is that mainstream environmentalism has become mired in 'respectability' and that it is the so-called radicals...who are the true descendants of Thoreau and Jefferson." Do I hear admiration for the radical environmentalists' lawbreaking and attempts to change society to their aims only? Whether this opinion belongs to the author alone or to Mrs. Davis as well, I couldn't more strongly disagree with this belief.

As a "mainstream environmentalist", I actively seek out and nurture relationships with various government agencies, developers and the public. It is only through such partnerships that we have been able to accomplish our goals over the past two years. Working within current systems and changing them from within (by making friendships with those with the power to change normal operations, and showing them that all environmentalists don't want to be their enemies) we have been able to encourage a number of companies and agencies to consider and work with the environment a lot more carefully than before. We could not have accomplished this with Greenpeace or Earth First tactics.

My point is this: "mainstream" environmentalists have and will progress much further in helping the environment, by taking positive action in partnership with private citizens and companies, than "radical" environmentalists' screaming rage and inaction ever will; in fact, they may even hurt the cause because of the enemies they make for all of us.

Rob Tonus
Manager, Black Creek Rehabilitation
Project

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KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Nov. 12, 1991

In the fall I wrote requesting information on trumpeter swans and other swans and where my class of Grade 3 students at Broadacres Junior School in Etobicoke might be able to see swans. My request was quickly answered by a phone call from Diana Banville. She encouraged me to write the Ministry of the Environment and Harry Lumsden. Children in my class wrote letters and have received a great deal of current information. Harry sent our class correspondent a beautiful poster and she was thrilled. We learned of a Trumpeter Swan Society in Minnesota and have written for information regarding membership.

We have read The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White, The Lost Trumpeter by Ross E. Hutchins and Koh Ho, The Trumpeter Swan. These are wonderful children's books.

We learned that trumpeter swans can be seen on Toronto's waterfront. We are hoping to see one.

Thank you again for being such a tremendous resource.

Judy Shiels

Nov. 26, 1991

Thank you for your letter of August 21, 1991. I apologize for the delay in responding to you, but due to our consultant, Gartner Lee, acting as our contact for outside interested parties, we did not receive your correspondence until recently.

Consumers Gas installed a 36 inch gas main across a tributary of the Humber River last fall. I believe that this is the work to which you referred in your letter.

Unfortunately, when installing pipe of this diameter, a great deal of construction equipment is necessary. For instance, five side booms were needed to hold the pipeline in the air when the Humber River was spanned. Also, access of construction equipment to that location was restricted by the Humber River on the east, and the Thackeray Landfill and a CNR embankment to the south. The only means of access for pipe hauling trucks and other construction equipment was through the Rainbow Creek area east of Martin Grove Road. This required the construction of a temporary road on the right-of-way from Martin Grove Road to the Humber.

Both the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) were fully aware of Consumers activities and we received no negative comments with regard to the work until we received your letter.

The concerns that Toronto Field Naturalists have raised have been noted. We will consider installing barriers so that workers do not accidentally drive vehicles beyond the work area. Consumers Gas is confident that your and other organizations' concerns will be addressed in the "Environmental Impact Assessment" report which Gartner Lee is preparing through the Ontario Energy Board review process.

[See pages 20-22 for more
about Rainbow Creek.]

L. Lawler, Project Manager
Consumers Gas

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KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Nov. 13, 1991

The Canadian Society of Zoologists Canadian Zoological Collections Advisory Committee is conducting a survey of collections of zoological specimens other than terrestrial arthropods. All sizes of collections will be included but the emphasis is on locating and surveying small or potentially orphaned collections. Because the intent is to ensure the preservation of collections of systematic importance, the Society will request information only about specimens with collection data (at least locality and date).

The Canadian Heritage Information Network will support the project by entering the data into a database on their mainframe computer. The results of this survey will be compiled, summarized and published as hard copy or electronically. Addresses or information on contents of individual collections will be made public only with permission.

We are particularly interested in locating small private collections held by scientists now retired or no longer active. Please forward information to Dr. Mary Needler Arai, Chair, CSZ Canadian Zoological Collections Advisory Committee, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4 or telephone (403) 220-5281 or FAX (404) 289-9311.

Mary Needler Arai

Dec. 1991

...We did get up to B.C.'s extreme NE in July. We saw Connecticut and Palm Warblers, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

While in that part of the province, we visited Linda and Steve, in Mackenzie. Linda had a contract to study Grizzly Bears at the town dump. I spent a night in the observation tower with her, and we saw 10 bears, 6 adults and 4 cubs. Towards dawn, a Timber Wolf arrived and began to "play" with a Grizzly cub. They took turns chasing one another about, the little bear running as hard as it could, and the wolf just loping along, with the cub's mother looking on. Eventually when it was quite light, the sow persuaded the cub to stop playing and return to the forest for the day. When we left, the wolf was rummaging in the dump, alone. The whole episode was wonderful to see, and made us forget how tired and cold we were. Earlier, 3 cubs of another sow had run right under the tower on their way "home". Their mother followed...until she smelled us, and became very agitated. After several minutes of "whoof"-ing and snorting, she followed her cubs, perhaps thinking they were headed straight for some sort of danger. When she passed beneath the tower, we smelled her...very strong smell! We did some whoofing and snorting of our own!

Jo Ann (Murray) MacKenzie
Surrey, B.C.

Tree top melody
in February sunshine.
House finches singing.

haiku by Helen Juhola

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Nov. 27, 1991

On behalf of the East York Parks and Recreation Department and the Nesbitt Park Community I would like to thank you for your support in our clean up program on Nov. 2, 1991.

Our Department was very pleased with the results of this community event and hopes that many people will be able to enjoy the ravine much more.

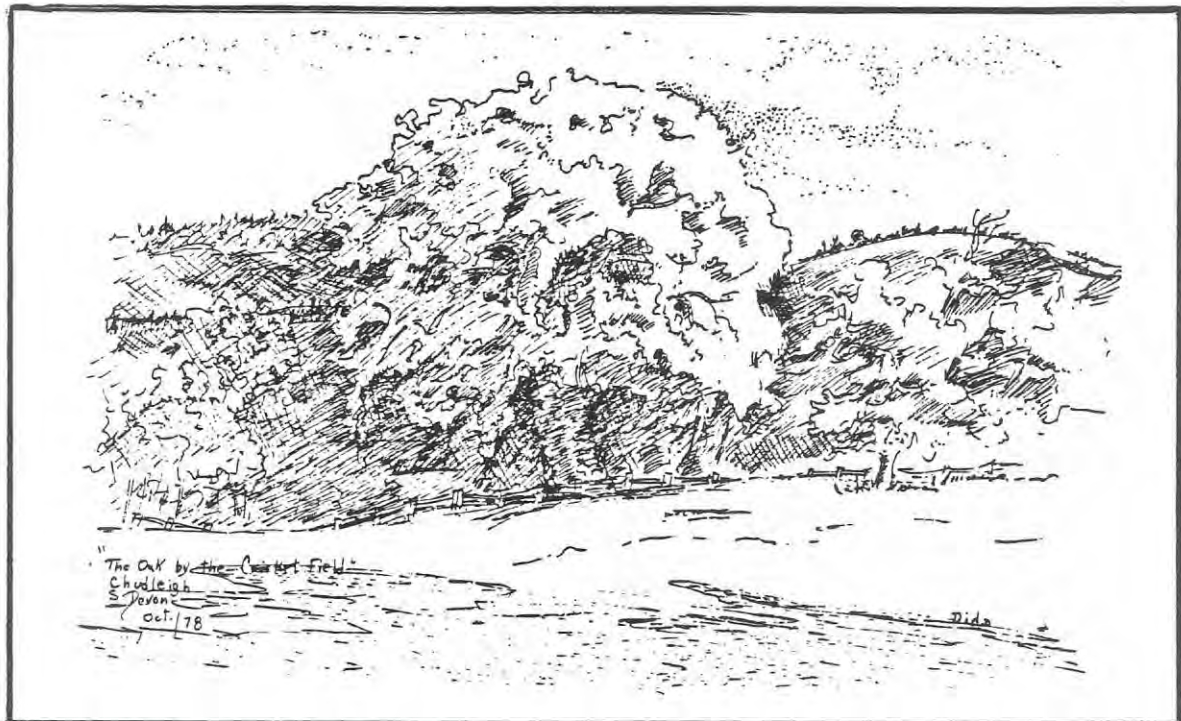
Thank you for assisting us in making this event a great success.

Marilou Murray
Recreation Co-ordinator, West
East York Dept. of Parks & Recreation

December, 1991

This year I realised how every time a tree is cut down bird life is affected. We had to remove the Flatcrown tree from the lawn and now the Spotted Eagle Owls have gone elsewhere. The Louries no longer nest in the Cherry trees as we thinned them, but they still visit every day as we grow the fruit they like. A pair of African Goshawks are quietly nesting on the boundary, the third year in succession.

Joy Pocklington, Durban, R.S.A. □



ENGLISH or PEDUNCULATE OAK resembles our white oak but the leaves are generally much smaller. It is a European tree, often planted here. An oak in winter with most of its leaves still adhering may be this one. A pyramidal form is also popular. A good place to see them is in Toronto Trust Cemeteries. Field drawing was made in Chudleigh, in Devon. DB

FOR READING

BARRENLAND BEAUTIES by Page M. Burt, Outcrop Ltd., Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, 1991; \$21.00 (plus G.S.T. and shipping: \$24.61 - or from your local bookstore).

Subtitled "Showy Plants of the Arctic Coast", this is a full colour photographic guide to over one hundred showy plants of the central Arctic including flowers, lichens, berries and grasses. Sections include keys based on colour and blossom shape and an illustrated glossary of botanical terms.

I found this a delightful book which is scientifically responsible and very well organized but is also relaxed as though the reader were on the tundra with the writer. She refers to a few miscellaneous plants as "odd stuff". She also describes Woolly Lousewort as "these little furballs", or she advises that "you will need to use a hand lens".

From the botanical point of view the information is well handled. A general description of the family for each plant is given, followed by specific information about the species, comparisons with similar plants are sometimes provided and, when relevant, different growth stages of the plant are described to enable the reader to identify it at different times of the year. Habitat is given, interesting information is also included on possible uses of the plant -- whether it is poisonous, survival characteristics under Arctic conditions, and so on.

Excellent photographs accompany the descriptions, sometimes two or three views are included to enhance identification. Some of the photographs were taken by Sam Kapolak, chief guide at Bathurst Inlet Lodge.

Summaries are given after each description in the native language, which is an Inuit dialect Inuinaqtun. In this part of the Arctic this is written in Roman lettering and not the syllabics used in other areas. Translations were done by Susie Kapolak, wife of Sam.

Useful and practical hints are given on photography and the user is directed to reference books for material on photography and on the botany which is beyond the scope of this guide.

Page Burt is a native of Texas with an MSc in Entomology from Iowa State University who had led environmental study trips to the Canadian Arctic, Alaska and the Pacific Northwest for 20 years before settling in Yellowknife. She is now resident naturalist at Bathurst Inlet Lodge.

There are already popular guides to the Rocky Mountain area, the Western Arctic and Yukon. At the end of this book a few pages are devoted to botanizing in seven Arctic coast communities in addition to Bathurst Inlet. For those wishing information on the central Arctic, this book will, therefore, be very useful and of great interest.

Jean Macdonald

From the podium-deck, I see below
a squirrel with a snoutful of snow.

Diana Banville

FOR READING (cont'd)

THE REDESIGNED FOREST by Chris Maser, Stoddart Publishing Co. Ltd., Toronto, 1990.

Increasing numbers of people are upset with the way forests around the world are being managed. People are demanding a greater sensitivity in natural resource management. Those who are unable to adapt to changing ideas will lose the privilege of managing public forests. In this book, the author tries to explain how forests should be managed to ensure true sustainability of "forest benefits". The benefits must include, as well as wood products, wildlife, heritage areas and soil stability. Chris Maser tries to explain that while traditional forestry practices were good in their day, these must change. He also thinks that the new paradigm of forest management will eventually be deemed obsolete and forest practices will change again.

Traditional forestry practices stem from a concept developed in Germany in the 19th century. After harvesting, the idea was to grow trees again until it was economic to harvest them. As each crop of trees matures they are harvested and new trees are established on that site. Such practices are based on an agricultural principle of planting and harvesting. It was assumed that the cycles of harvesting and planting could be repeated any number of times and that productivity would increase due to better cultural techniques and genetic improvements in planted stock.

The new paradigm expressed by Chris Maser and many other environmentalists values the sustainability of forests and associated wildlife over any economic benefit that can be generated from the forest. These people do not think that traditional forestry practices are sustainable because of the evidence generated through studies of three rotations of managed forests in Germany which are now suffering from "forest decline".

The German forests are managed much more intensively than our forests because of their high demand for forest products and their limited land base. The idea is that our forests should be sustainable for longer than German forests because of our extensive rather than intensive management, but our forests will be depleted eventually. Sustainability is difficult to achieve because resources are removed from the site faster than the site can regenerate naturally. Chris Maser suggests that more time be given for each site to regenerate naturally. A few short rotations of about eighty years each could be followed by a resting period of about five hundred years, allowing the forest to become an "Old Growth Forest". This would be a way of replenishing the soil and allowing organisms that depend on late successional forest stages to live within our managed system.

The paradigm for managing forests has changed already in the minds of many informed people and these new ideas and concepts will likely be spreading in the current "green" environment. Ontario's Class Environmental Assessment of its forest practices will no doubt result in forest managers being legislated into new practices, whatever their personal beliefs.

Thomas Butler

FOR READING (cont'd)

THE CULTURE OF NATURE: North American Landscape from Disney to the Exxon Valdez by Alexander Wilson, Between the Lines, Toronto, 1991, \$24.95 paper, \$39.95 cloth.

Anyone interested in understanding landscapes in North America will find this book fascinating. The author looks at tourism as it is controlled by our road system, nature education, home landscape design, the impact of the media on our view of landscape, etc. The illustrations are not just decorative; they really make you stop and think! An extensive list of sources with notes adds immensely to the value of this book. Only when we understand what we are doing and why we are doing it can we begin to change our ways. This book is all about our relationships with the natural world -- something of vital interest to every naturalist. A must on your 1992 reading list!

H.J.

FEEDING WINTER BIRDS IN ONTARIO by Bob Waldon, Whitecap Books Limited, 602 Richmond Street West, Toronto, M5V 1Y9, 1991. Illustrated by P. Sawatzky, 215 pages plus index. Price \$17.75 including GST, available from publisher, phone 777-0929.

This comprehensive guide helps both novice and veteran bird-feeder operator, as Fred Bodsworth's enthusiastic endorsement indicates. The nine chapters thoroughly and thoughtfully discuss the principles involved, the feed itself, designs of feeders and shelters, the enjoyment, the pitfalls, and the value of feeding birds in winter. Each of Ontario's feeder-frequenting species (including 55 birds and 4 squirrel-family members) is described and illustrated by means of soft pencil drawings in typical setting, with one or two pages of background information on habits, range and food. An interesting note is the discussion of the origin of both the English and the scientific name of each species (though incorrect in referring to the house sparrow in two places as a "weaver"). This species still earns its traditional name "Passer" meaning "sparrow". (See the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Sixth Edition, 1983.)

A useful list of books includes field guides, feeding guides, basic ornithology, life histories and works on distribution and breeding. A well-designed book, its type-style easy on the eyes.

DB

□

Pingos melting in the sun,
cold that keeps the tundra numb,
impression ploughed by glacier thumb,
scarred soil etched by caribou run.

Amanda Cornish

THE 1991 TORONTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 67th consecutive Toronto Christmas Count was conducted on Dec. 22, 1991. Eighteen routes, plus 2 sub-routes were surveyed by 78 field participants and three feeder watchers within the official 7.5 miles circle centred at Avenue Rd. and Roselawn Ave.

Because it was a clear, sunny day, visibility was generally very good. Ice partially covered both still and moving water and there was a remnant snow cover of 1 to 3 inches in ravines and shaded areas. Temperatures ranged from -4°C to $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$. Winds were off the lake from the south, changing to southwest, then west at 11 to 22 km/h, creating rather choppy conditions and making observations of waterfowl on the surface difficult. Counters by the lake complained of the cold, while many inland enjoyed a pleasant day's outing.

A total of 162.5 party hours was spent in the field -- 133.3 on foot and 29.2 by car, covering 346 miles of the city (126.5 mi. on foot). In addition a total of 17.5 hours was spent counting birds at feeders and 5 hours spent owling, covering 3 miles of territory. Seventy-seven species of birds and 26,029 individuals were observed this year compared to 78 species and 30,547 individuals last year. (Additional Count Week birds were Barred Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Fox Sparrow.) Although this year's totals were lower than last year, both year's totals were much higher than those of the past 22 years, which averaged 72 species, from 1970 to the present. This may be due to increased coverage by more participants.

Record high numbers of "city birds": Mallards (3,299), starlings (5,035), House Finches (638) were counted during this year's coverage of what is basically a very urban circle. Yet these numbers are believed to be an under-estimate of their actual population size. Numbers of American Crows (612) were also the highest ever, as they continue to move into urban areas from the surrounding countryside. Belted Kingfisher (13) and Northern Flicker (22) also totalled the highest ever. Great Black-backed Gulls (79) have continued to increase. Large numbers of Herring Gulls (3,320) were tallied, which have not been that numerous since 1975. Ring-billed Gull numbers were down from last year but higher than the average of 1,548. Glenn Coady's group observed large numbers of gulls by being at Humber Bay Park before first light, at which time the gulls departed inland, to the garbage dumps north of Toronto, one presumes. A few careful observers were able to pick out Iceland and Glaucous Gulls amongst those flying up the ravines.

Six Cooper's Hawks were counted when usually none or at the most two might be seen. Red-tailed Hawks were observed on all but four routes, tallying a high number of 60, not a record, but considerably higher than the average of 33.

Thirteen Screech Owls are an under-count of their population in Toronto, but owls have not been very well-censused in past Xmas Counts. The extra hours devoted to owling this year are responsible for the record being set. But how many of us would, like Glenn, be willing to spend 4.5 hours before dawn playing owl tapes to obtain a more accurate census? Yet even owling for a half-hour in the evening of the Count, Bruce Falls and Martin McNicholl, were successful in calling up two additional Screech Owls, if not their original quest, the Barred Owl. Perhaps a more concerted effort could be organized for 1992. ▽

1991 XMAS BIRD COUNT (cont'd)

Very low numbers of Oldsquaw (594) were reported, which was due to the poor viewing conditions from shore. (Thousands were observed, far out on the calm surface of the lake, a few days later.) Only 35 Greater Scaup were counted, compared to the average, 1,207, giving weight to the theory that most of the scaup are feeding on the Zebra Mussels in Lake Erie. Lake counters also commented on the few Common Goldeneye (74) and Bufflehead (174) whose totals were lower than the averages (154 and 205 respectively). (Close to record numbers of Goldeneye and Bufflehead were totalled on the South Peel-Halton Count, indicating perhaps, only a change in habitat or lack of suitable food within our census circle.) To off-set these disappointing waterfowl numbers was the observation of 21 Black Scoters off Gibraltar Point.

Single sightings of White-winged Scoter, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Killdeer, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Horned Lark, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, and Evening Grosbeak were also reported.

Two Chipping Sparrows, travelling with the Field Sparrow, were observed south of Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Only four Chipping have been seen on the past 22 Christmas Counts.

Other unusual observations were a hybrid Mallard X American Black Duck at Grenadier Pond and a pair of exotic Mandarin Ducks at the Sheraton Centre downtown.

Much appreciation is extended to the members of the Toronto Ornithological Club, Toronto Field Naturalists, and other naturalists' clubs in the area and to the new participants in the count for their valuable assistance.

Beth Jefferson, Compiler
Toronto Ornithological Club

P.S. Three birds were just missed from the Count Week time period: Yellow-rumped Warbler in Sunnybrook Park, and Red-throated Loon and Common Loon at Humber Bay Park. □

THE NORTHERN GOSHAWK, although named for its taste for goose-flesh, dines on doves (both rock and mourning) here in Toronto Region, according to recent TFN records. Bent, in his LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS OF PREY, discusses the liberal palate of this species, which takes a variety of birds, small mammals and invertebrates. It is a northern hemisphere bird, found also in Europe and Asia.

Drawing is by Mary Cumming,
from a mounted specimen.



NEW MEADOWS ALONG BLACK CREEK

Last spring, the Metro Toronto parks department hired our firm, Garrison Creek Planting Company, to plant some native meadows in the Black Creek watershed. Since then, we've prepared four sites for seeding in Downsview Dells and Derrydowns parks in North York. Our hope is that this replanting will complement the work the Black Creek Project is doing in the ravine stabilizing the streambank and replanting native woody species.

These are our principle objectives:

1. Reintroduce a native herbaceous community to a Toronto ravine, thus diversifying habitat for wildlife, particularly insects and birds, and providing a viable seed source in situ.
2. Demonstrate to public agencies the feasibility of doing this successfully.
3. Demonstrate to the public attractive alternatives to mown turf in open areas.

Beyond these biological and political concerns, perhaps the greatest value of this work lies in actually doing it, throwing our minds and bodies into a working relationship with natural systems.

The wildflowers and grasses will be introduced as seed. So far, all the seeds have been collected by Gail Rhynard of Otter Creek Native Plants from meadows and remnant prairies in either the Metro Toronto area or in two counties along the north shore of Lake Erie. The first planting includes these species, with the location where the seed was collected:

Liatrix cylindracea Turkey Point, Ont.
Solidago graminifolia Eden, Ont., Taylor Creek, Toronto
Monarda fistulosa Eden, Ont., Copperfield Rd. and Taylor Creek, Tor.
Anemone cylindrica Copperfield Rd. and Taylor Creek, Toronto
Ratibida pinnata Dutton, Ont.
Andropogon gerardi Lambton Woods, Toronto and Dutton, Ont.
Andropogon scoparius Lambton Wood, Toronto and Long Point
Panicum virgatum Copperfield Rd., Toronto and Turkey Point
Sorghastrum nutans Lambton Woods, Dutton and Turkey Point, Ont.
Carex stricta Eden, Ont.
Scirpus atrovirens Taylor Creek, Toronto
Aster laterifolius Taylor Creek, Toronto and Eden, Ont.
Aster azureus Taylor Creek, Toronto
Aster puniceus Eden, Ont.
Aster simplex Lambton Woods, Toronto and Eden, Ont.
Aster umbellatus Copperfield Rd. and Taylor Creek, Toronto
Lilium michiganense Eden, Ont.
Desmodium canadense Taylor Creek and Lambton Woods, Toronto and Caledon, Ont.
Oenothera biennis Lambton Woods, Toronto and Eden, Ont.
Lobelia cardinalis Langton, Ont.
Lobelia siphilitica Taylor Creek, Toronto and Eden, Ont.
Gentiana andrewsii Eden, Ont.
Verbena hastata Taylor Creek, Toronto and Eden, Ont.
Eupatorium perfoliatum Taylor Creek, Toronto and Langton and Eden, Ont.

BLACK CREEK MEADOWS (cont'd)

Eupatorium maculatum Taylor Creek, Toronto
 Chelone glabra Eden, Ont.
 Clematis virginiana Vienna and Eden, Ont.
 Rudbeckia laciniata Eden, Ont.
 Prenanthes alba Taylor Creek, Toronto
 Thalictrum polygamum Eden, Ont.

We'll be sending this list to the parks department, the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA), the Black Creek Project, and the Toronto Field Naturalists. It will be useful information to people doing this kind of work in future.

The seedbeds are being cleared of weeds (mostly European grasses) using a combination of summer fallowing, cultivation, and cover crops. The first plot, in Downsview Dells park, was seeded in late November 1991. Two more plots will be seeded in spring 1992, and the final plot in fall 1992. In our experience, it takes three to five years to establish a healthy native prairie community like the ones found at High Park or Walpole Island. Weed control is the primary task during the first years. Historically, prairies have depended on fire to arrest woody succession and recycle nutrients, and either fire or annual mowing will be ongoing tasks along Black Creek.

Readers of this newsletter might ask why try to plant these things; why not let nature take its course? My own feeling is that restoring ecosystems is a way for us to affirm one of the central tenets of ecology: that everything is connected, that humans are part of nature rather than separate from it. Restoration allows us to actively compensate for our presence on this earth -- the influence our culture has had on this landscape. It's a way for us to initiate a dialogue with the landscape, a performance that is about cooperation and healing rather than domination.

There are more scientific reasons for ecological restoration as well: growing evidence that laissez-faire conservation is not enough to prevent continued species loss and degradation of soils and hydrologic regimes. Many native Toronto plant species are not showing good recruitment (reproduction and survival) due to competition from exotics, soil compaction, erosion, drought, trampling or other reasons. Our urban natural areas in particular need the active reintroduction of biodiversity, the removal of invasive exotic species, the reconnection of corridors, and the restoration of the basic cycles of water, soils, energy, and vegetation. It will be an uphill battle, but as long as we're alive why not lend a hand helping the earth to heal itself?

Readers interested in learning more about ecological restoration may want to listen to the program called "Restoring the Earth" that I'm preparing for CBC "Ideas". It will be broadcast the second and third week of March. There is also an international conference on ecological restoration at the University of Waterloo next August 9-14. Information about the conference can be had from the Heritage Resources Centre* at Waterloo by calling (519) 885-1211, extension 2072. If you'd like to know more about the Black Creek plantings, you can reach me at 867-1326.

Alex Wilson

* University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ont. NZL 3G1

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METRO PLANT LIST - UPDATE

Since publishing our checklist, VASCULAR PLANTS OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO, in 1990, two native Toronto plants have been found in Metro to add to the list, a pondweed and an orchid:

Robbins' pondweed (*Potamogeton robbinsii*) - Central Lakeshore
early coral root (*Corallorhiza trifida*) - Toronto Island

These are designated "rare" in Metro.

In all, 26 additional species have been listed for Metro; most of these are non-native herbaceous plants which have escaped from gardens or are persisting at sites of old gardens. These are designated "not established", to be monitored for any change of status. A few are hardy non-native trees and shrubs planted in parks which may be encountered on outings, and are designated "planted". No further "naturalized" non-native plants have been found to add to the "established" category.

Lists recently received, mostly those provided with outings reports, show well over 700 new locations for plants already on the list.

The three watersheds which had not been studied to any extent in the past have now a better representation thanks to these reports. 51 additional species are listed for Etobicoke Creek, 43 for Mimico Creek and 49 for Highland Creek.

Of the three major watersheds, the Humber had been studied the least; 46 additional species are now listed there. The Don and the Rouge watersheds list an additional 16 species apiece.

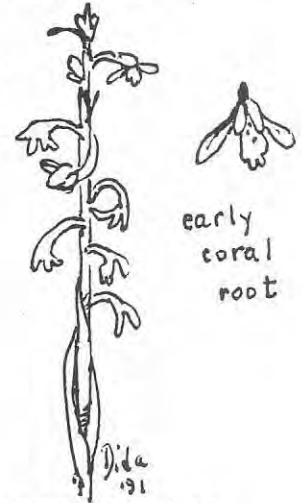
High Park and Toronto Island have both been well studied. We have 14 species to add to the High Park list and 26 to the Toronto Island list. Very little study had been done on the lake shore, except for Leslie Street Spit. Tallying up all the additional locations along the beaches, bluffs, headlands, harbours and developed shoreline, the count was 105 additional lakeshore species. Native Toronto plants and "naturalized" non-native plants are well represented in all the additional watershed lists. Many of the additions are familiar plants often overlooked.

The downtown plants on the checklist are from TFN outings reports and personal lists. Two more downtown species have been added as a result of recent sorties.

▷ If you have further reports or would like more details on the above, call me at 690-1963.

Diana Banville

□



The tinkling of trees
in the light evening breeze
after the ice storm.

haiku by Aarne Juhola

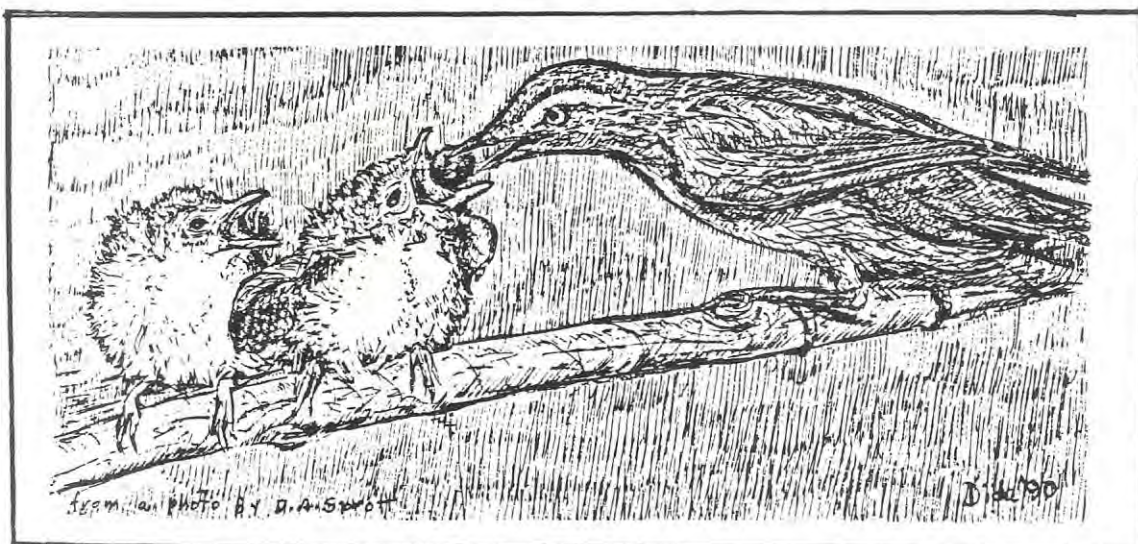
ISSUES

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PROTECTION

The hearings on the five-year review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan have been taking place in Burlington and Owen Sound. Several groups including the Niagara Escarpment Landowners' Coalition, Corrado Development Ltd., and the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario are opposing changes to the Plan that would strengthen its role in protecting the escarpment. The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), an organization created to encourage the protection of the escarpment, is in the midst of the hearings and needs help to be able to continue its work. There are two ways you can help:

- 1) Express your views about why and how the escarpment should be protected. It's very important that you do so. The hearing officers need to be reminded that there is a great deal of public support for a plan to protect the escarpment. The officers have heard a litany of complaints by aggregate producers, developers, and landowners wanting to quarry, subdivide and develop the escarpment for profit and personal gain. Some of these groups have put forward economic and social arguments in support of their opposition to the Plan's environmental protection provisions. People who appreciate the intrinsic value of the escarpment area's natural and rural landscapes, forests, wetlands, wildlife, and clean air and water must speak out. A strong Plan is needed to preserve these treasures. Those who love the escarpment must repeat this message to the hearing officers over and over again! If you would like to schedule a time to speak at the hearings, please phone Jacqueline McGregor at the Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office in Toronto at (416) 323-4806.
- 2) Give money to CONE at 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont., M3B 2W8. The hearings are lasting much longer than the eight weeks originally scheduled which is imposing a severe and growing drain on CONE's financial resources. Although the Canadian Environmental Law Association is providing legal counsel, legal disbursements and travel, photocopying and other costs are rapidly draining the Plan Review Fund.

extracted from the newsletter of the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, #33, Oct. 1991

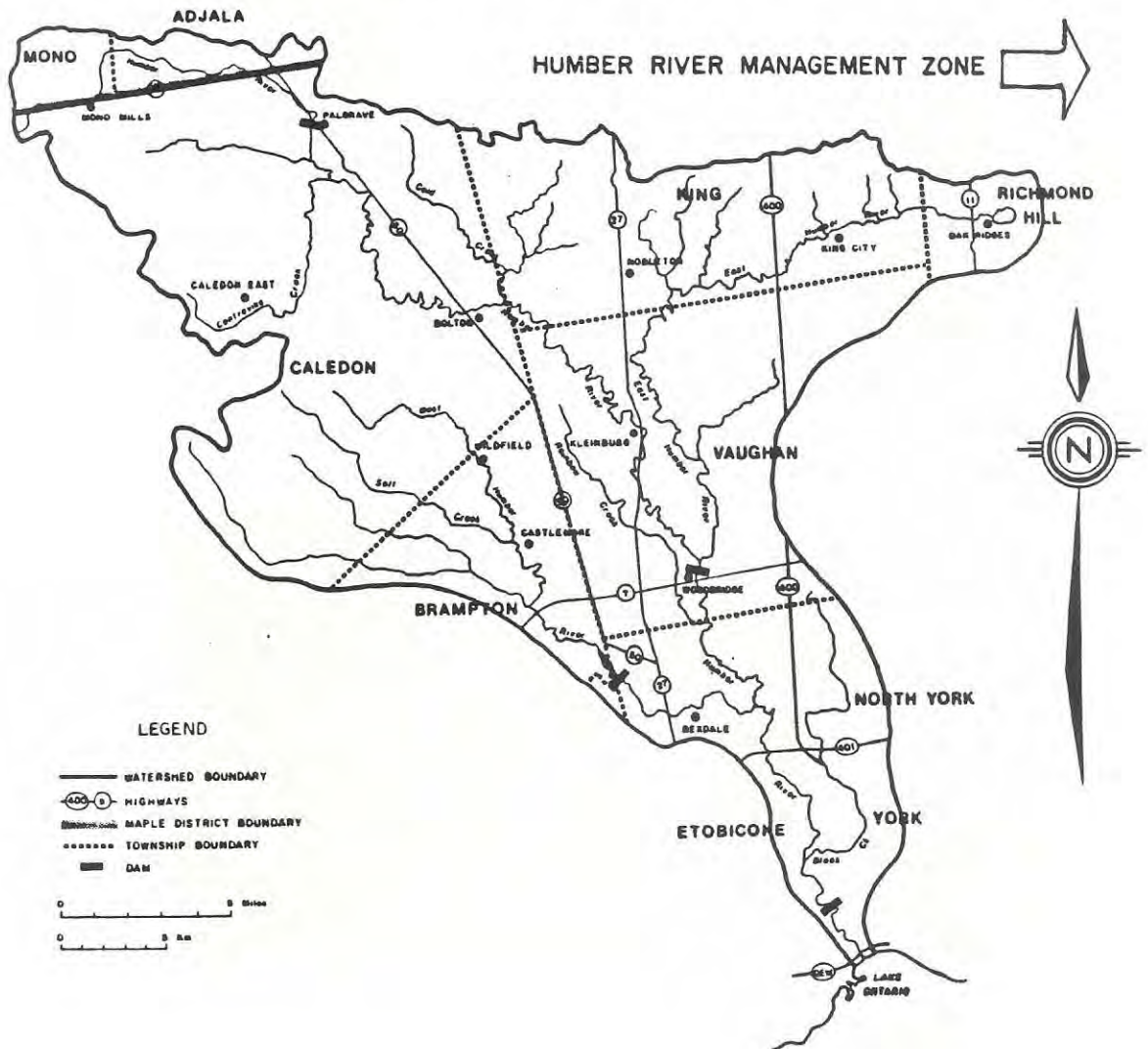


THE RED-EYED VIREO

ROUGE VALLEY PARK PLANS

In March of 1990, the provincial government's decision to designate a significant portion of the Rouge River Valley area as a park was hailed as a major victory by many community, conservation and environmental groups who have been lobbying to protect the area for over 15 years. The park designation was an important first step in ensuring the protection and preservation of this living example of our ecological and cultural heritage. The second step is to determine the kind of park that would best be suited to the special characteristics and features of the Rouge Valley. The Rouge doesn't "fit" into traditional park categories, making the development of a park structure and management plan for the Rouge especially challenging. How to preserve and perhaps restore the area while allowing public access represents a major challenge to the park planners. To participate in the public review process or to receive a copy of the PARK FORUM, the newsletter of the Rouge Valley Park Project, contact Patricia Brooks, Communications Co-ordinator and Editor, The Rouge Park Planning Project, 108 - 1200 Markham Rd., Scarborough, Ont. M1H 3C3, (416) 439-0423.

extracted from the ROUGE VALLEY PARK FORUM, Summer, 1991, Vol. 1, No. 1



HUMBERBASE

ARCH - Action to Restore a Clean Humber - is a non-government group, founded by Luciano Martin, a resident of Etobicoke, which is cooperating with four levels of government plus community groups. Humberbase is a computer database of information and planning methods which will help ARCH prepare a "road map" for a healthy watershed. Phase I - a general plan - is now complete. The program is easy to use and will run on a personal computer. The user can retrieve stored material from a mind-boggling wealth of ideas. What would have taken a person weeks of digging in reports can now be accomplished in half a day.

First existing conditions and problems are outlined. The Humber watershed is the largest in our area, roughly two and a half times the size of the Don or the Rouge. Seventy-two per cent of the land is open, thirteen per cent is urban, but fifteen per cent is still forested - more than most river valleys in the region. The presence of biological indicators such as certain fish and plants demonstrate that the Humber is healthier than most other streams in the Metro region. For these reasons, many problems can be prevented and remedial action will be beneficial.



Maps depict the watershed as a geographic whole, with its four regions - the lakefront, Metro, and the upper reaches - rural, as well as land which is being developed as in Vaughan. ARCH is monitoring official plans for land use changes. Each region is divided into subwatersheds, and these in turn into sub-basins, for example, Humber Bay.

A similar progression is followed for scientific aspects of water quality. An aerial photo of the watershed uses dots and circles to symbolize areas with high fecal coliform counts. From this macrocosm we step gradually downwards to the microcosm of the bacteria near storm sewer outlets in the Humber Marshes, in wet and dry weather. Bar graphs illustrate variations by month and by year. Later similar data will be collected for suspended solids, phosphates, pesticides, and other pollutants. We have all heard of these nasties affecting our drinking water and Lake Ontario beaches, but there are problems in the upper reaches too. Poor practices such as allowing cattle access to the river have closed some rural beaches and necessitated chlorination of the swimming pond at Albion Hills.

In order to maintain our health we may progress beyond the treatment of disease to discover and remedy causes. We can explore prevention and the pursuit of wellness. Similarly with the health of a river; water treatment is insufficient. We must remediate problems and adopt environmentally sound practices. Protection and restoration of natural processes and habitats will cure various ills. Humberbase will provide the decision-making tools to plan, organize resources, and carry out such programs.

Funding and volunteer help are necessary. Existing and potential wetlands will be catalogued. Rowntree Mills Park has extensive wetlands which could be improved. Some wetlands are proposed for the old motel strip on the lakeshore. Municipalities will be pressured to inventory woodlands, heritage features, lookout points, landscape, and other significant features. Organizations such as service clubs, ratepayers groups, schools, churches, fishermen's clubs and environmental and naturalists' groups will

HUMBERBASE (cont'd)

be listed. Groups may adopt a local stream. Areas will be identified where groups are missing and should be encouraged.

A short summary of Phase I has been prepared. In Phase 2 of Humberbase ARCH will formulate a detailed model for one branch of the watershed. Eventually the full model will extend the detailed version to all three branches and the Humber Bay section of Lake Ontario. This will be coordinated by ARCH and carried out in cooperation with municipalities and community and special interest groups, and government agencies. Supplementary packages such as statistical analyses will be developed. The information will be publicized and made available to the public, politicians, and community associations. Public involvement will be needed. In this regard TFN records and the expertise of individual members could be valuable.

Much progress has already been made. Various jurisdictions are aware of the need for action, and will support ARCH as it acts as a catalyst in effecting improvements. One endeavour illustrates the principle of prevention. It concerns the Rainbow Creek area near Kipling north of Steeles. There is a cedar swamp which can provide a haven for wintering owls. On a TFN outing led by Robin Powell we passed through a diversity of natural habitats outstanding for a locality on the edge of Metro. A deer was spotted in a farmer's field near the forest edge. Unfortunately Highway 407 will bisect this paradise, and an interchange had been planned in the vicinity of the Creek. Luciano Martin spoke to Ed Philip when he was Minister of Transportation and later he met with the department's chief environmentalist. He was told that the plan had been on the books for so long, and so much money had been spent that it couldn't be changed. But Luciano Martin insisted that the cold water fish there would be affected. Besides there were no bulldozers or cement mixers there yet. His assertiveness led to the rerouting of the interchange! He modestly describes this as a minor success in the first year of ARCH. I deem it a triumph. But his words are probably prophetic. It may well appear insignificant compared to future accomplishments.

[See also page 8.]

Joan O'Donnell

▷ For more information about this group contact Luciano Martin at 741-5346 or Charlcie Stickley at 243-2329.

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*All this frantic industry hard by the riverside!
Another new apartment-block I fear it does betide.
Erosion here is such, it seems, they cannot fool around.-
The object is to get it up before it all falls down.*

*Diana Banville
Taylor Creek Park
July 24, 1990*

IN THE NEWS

OWLING DISCOURAGED

Kingston Field Naturalists sent a sad request: Stay away this winter from Canada's best-known owling place, or risk being ordered away permanently. Private land owners on Amherst Island, in Lake Ontario off Kingston, feel birders visiting in winter have abused their property and the owls that assemble there. They may post their lands. Giving the owners a year's respite could ease the tensions, Ron Weir of the KFN said. Owls gather on Amherst in years when northern food is scarce and the island builds big populations of voles. Birders flock to see such rarities as great grey, hawk and boreal owls. A minority of birders have hacked off tree limbs to improve photographs of perched owls, moved the birds themselves to better vantage points, broken down fences and littered. One low point: A man was caught trying to smuggle a saw-whet owl off the island under his coat. On owl-rich weekends as many as 400 birders have visited, temporarily doubling the island's human population. Kingston Naturalists have cancelled their own winter field trips and have sent letters to regular tour groups. A request was also sent to the American Birding Association, whose newsletter, *Winging It* printed a directory to Amherst owling that drew U.S. visitors.

from "Birds" by Peter Whelen in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Nov. 2, 1991

ROM SNAKE BANNED IN SUBWAY

The Royal Ontario Museum's reticulated python, star of the ROM's ad campaign, caused a sensation when it first appeared on posters inside subway cars last May. When the campaign ended in June, the ROM signed a contract to run the posters in the subway again. But on Oct. 17, much to the museum's surprise, they got a call from the TTC saying they wouldn't allow the campaign to run again because of its unpopularity with a number of TTC customers. In the museum's poster, the awesome-looking reptile was stretched out to its full life-sized glory, taking up half the length of a subway car. It extended over five separate triple card panels above passengers' heads. You couldn't miss it. The headline of the ad was, "Haven't seen you in a long, long, long, long time. Come to the Museum". But the Museum wasn't prepared for ophidiophobia -- the compulsive fear of snakes. Soon after the python took its first ride on the subway, the TTC started to receive panicky phone calls from snake-phobic subway patrons who had been terrified by the lifelike poster upon entering a subway car. During the month the snake poster was up in the subway, there were 20 phone calls from phobics, which the TTC passed along to the ROM. Despite the adverse reaction from phobics, the ROM had planned to rerun the poster with a new line, "You'll never outgrow it. Come to the Museum". Though the Museum was very disappointed it couldn't run the ad again, it accepted the TTC's decision with grace. 98 per cent of people loved the poster which is still available for sale at the ROM for \$46.95 plus tax. The poster is not a photograph, but an illustration. The artist, Roger Hill, took almost a month of 12-hour days to finish the drawing, using colored pencils, paint and airbrushing. The illustration is accurate down to the last scaly detail.

adapted from an article by Dianne Allen in the TORONTO STAR, Nov. 30, 1991



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

FEAR OF SNAKES IS NOT INBORN IN HUMANS

Due to the irrational and treatable fears of a vocal mini-minority (20 people), the city has been robbed of an impactful facet of one of its most innovative, artistic and eye-catching ad campaigns in years. Ophidiophobia is comparatively rare among the myriad of modern-day neuroses, phobias, and related dysfunctions. Most evidence suggests that fear of snakes is not inborn in humans, but is learned. Adults are far more often afraid of snakes than children. Young children from any culture will readily pick up snakes until they are scolded (often severely) and discouraged from doing so. To deprive the entire public, most of whom are enamored, inspired and intrigued by the poster, is both silly and iniquitous. Especially when the solution of moving to the next subway car is so obvious.

extracted from a letter from Leslie A. Lowcock in the TORONTO STAR, Dec. 14, 1991

NATIONWIDE FROG COUNT UNDER WAY IN EARNEST

Researchers are scrambling to conduct a countrywide inventory of reptiles and amphibians following reports of massive and mysterious declines in frog populations. As part of the national inventory, wildlife biologist Marilyn Twiss and zoology professor Dave Hackett are undertaking a two-year project to find and record all species of reptiles and amphibians in a 10,000-square kilometre (3,900-square-mile) area north of North Bay. To get baseline data in order to detect changes and put their finger on problems that may be causing populations to decline, a number of government agencies, wildlife and conservation groups are contributing to the inventory. The urgency of this project was heightened when figures on declining frog populations were released at a national zoological conference. The frog's watery habitat, thin skin and floating eggs makes it extremely vulnerable to pollution -- a kind of early warning bell of environmental degradation. Frogs are a vital link between insect-eaters and other animals in the food chain. Among the creatures they'll be looking for are five-lined skinks, blue-spotted salamanders, wood turtles, bullfrogs and eastern hog-nose snakes.

extracted from an article in the TORONTO STAR, Nov. 9, 1991

COMMENT: Don't forget to send your observations of any amphibians or reptiles you have seen to Bob Johnson at the Metro Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill, Ont. M1E 4R5. To help you identify these animals in the field use his book FAMILIAR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF ONTARIO. (Copies are available for purchase at TFN monthly meetings.)

EAGLES ON INCREASE ALONG LAKE ERIE SHORE

The bald eagle is making a slow but steady comeback in Southern Ontario. Eleven pairs of bald eagles have been spotted nesting on the north shore of Lake Erie -- an improvement from just three nesting pairs 10 years ago. It may be an indication of slowly improving water quality in the Great Lakes. The bald eagle is a great indicator of what's going on in the lakes.

adapted from an article in "Science News" in THE LONDON FREE PRESS, Oct. 26, 1991

NEWS (cont'd)

MNR PROPOSES MEASURES TO PROTECT AND MANAGE A WIDER RANGE OF ONTARIO'S WILDLIFE

On Nov. 28, 1991 Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman introduced for first reading amendments to the Game and Fish Act which will allow the province to manage and provide greater protection for all of Ontario's wildlife. The Game and Fish Act which was last amended in 1980 is focused on the protection of game species and does not allow the Government to protect non-game species. The proposed amendments will expand the Act to ensure that equal consideration is given to a wide spectrum of wildlife species. For example, most birds of prey and their eggs may be taken from the wild and there is no control over the possession or sale of such birds or their parts. This is inconsistent with the ministry's efforts to maintain and enhance populations of native birds of prey and to reintroduce peregrine falcons and eagles to Ontario. The proposed amendments will provide protection for all birds of prey in the wild and clearly establish provincial control over the keeping of such birds in captivity.

Since the government is committed to providing protection for a wider spectrum of wildlife species, it is proposed that the name Game and Fish Act be changed to the Wildlife and Fish Act.

The amendments will also deal with the possession of undesirable species in Ontario. These are species which might have a negative impact on native wildlife populations if they are brought into the province. There is currently no legislation to control or prohibit the possession of such species. The proposed amendments will provide a definition for "undesirable species" and will give the province authority to prohibit or restrict their possession.

In response to concerns that the current maximum penalty of \$25,000 is not an effective deterrent to those who engage in the illegal commercialization of wildlife, MNR proposes to establish a much higher deterrent -- \$100,000 or imprisonment or both.

To protect the black bear population, amendments are being proposed to limit hunters to one bear licence a year, assign black bear quotas to trappers, and introduce regulations to control the use of dogs and bait in bear hunting.

Other areas covered in the proposed amendments include the rehabilitation of injured or distressed wildlife, royalties or levies for the commercial fishery, commercial aquaculture, trapping methods in urban areas and hunter and public safety. The proposed amendments will ensure that the powers of search and seizure exercised by enforcement officers, comply with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In developing these amendments, the ministry consulted with major interest groups such as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters, the Ontario Fish Producers' Association and the Ontario Trout Farmers' Association.

extracted from a NEWS RELEASE of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario, Nov. 28, 1991

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PROJECTS

ONTARIO MAMMAL ATLAS

The Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario will cover the entire province, from off-shore in Hudson Bay to the islands of Lake Erie. All wild species will be included, along with those feral species that survive the winter. Through the survey the distribution of Ontario's mammals will be established. The benefits of this information include:

- providing benchmarks to show changes in distributions
- determining which species are in need of conservation efforts
- managing species and natural areas
- preparing status reports on selected species
- helping protect sites inhabited by rare species
- providing information for environmental impact assessments
- providing a data base of site locations for use in scientific research

Participants' manuals are available for anyone who wishes to record the mammals that they see. If anyone is finding the data report forms complicated, they should feel free to keep track of the animals they see, the date, the location, and if the actual animal is not seen, but distinctive signs are observed. If distinctive signs such as a beaver dam or a muskrat house in good condition are seen, this is significant.

Information should be sent to Dan Bone, Toronto Coordinator, (604-3489) or Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario, Environment and Resource Studies, ES1, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ont. N2L 3G1.

adapted from an article in the STRATFORD FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER, Nov. 1991

BIRDHOUSES

Houses designed especially for chickadees are being built and sold by Jim Harvey. The price is \$15.00 each and is being donated to the Toronto Field Naturalists. Anyone wanting to order one should call Ethel Corbyn at 483-8523.

CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Four awards of \$1,000.00 each are available from the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto. Applications must be in by Tuesday, March 31, 1992. The awards are intended to 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. For more information and applications, write the Executive Co-ordinator, The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, 5 Shoreham Dr., Downsview, Ont. M3N 1S4.

NOMINATIONS INVITED

The Toronto Field Naturalists are looking for people with initiative who are willing to devote time working as members of the Board of Directors. Please send your suggestions with a note to Robin Powell, Chairman of the TFN Nominating Committee, 20 College St., Unit 4, Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2. (The report of the Nominating Committee will be published in the May newsletter.)

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

February 1991, Toronto

This February was warm, dry and sunny. Except for a short cold spell at mid-month, sunny and mild conditions prevailed. Snowfall was mostly concentrated mid-month, with lighter falls towards the end. Average temperatures were the highest since 1984.

Record setting warmth moved in from the centre of the continent on the first weekend of the month. On the long term average, this is the nadir of winter in Toronto's climatic records. Yet it rose to over 10°C. Quite remarkably, sunshine prevailed during the record warmth. The mid-town location at Arlington Avenue recorded 12.1°C on Feb. 4th. Warm weather lingered until Feb. 9th, giving way to a cooling trend. A strong arctic outbreak on Feb. 14-15th was accompanied by the only significant snowfall of the month. Temperatures briefly dropped to the -20°C range, but only in the suburbs, on Feb. 16th.

Gentle weather took over on Feb. 17th for the remainder of February, but without the spectacular highs of the first week.

Gavin Miller

THE DAWN REDWOOD
by Grenadier Pond was
drawn by Mary Cumming
on a TFN Nature Arts
outing.

This species was
thought to be
extinct until
living specimens
were found in an
isolated valley in
Central China in
1948.

Ref.:
TREES OF NORTH
AMERICA, a
Golden Field Guide



DAWN REDWOOD
SEPT. 11 1991

COMING EVENTS

- WINTER BIRDING (east of Toronto) - Sat. Feb. 15 at 8:30 am (all day) with Brian Henshaw. Meet at the Pickering GO station to form a car pool. Bring a lunch. A free outing of the Toronto Ornithological Club -- aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners are also welcome.
- Walker Mineralogical Club - monthly meeting - Tues. Feb. 11 at 8 pm in the McLaughlin Planetarium lecture room, 100 Queen's Park Crescent.
- Toronto Entomologists' Association monthly meeting - Sat. Feb. 22 at 1 pm in the lecture room of the McLaughlin Planetarium.
- Birds of the Wetlands, an exhibition of original Audubon prints - Jan. 25 to March 21 in the Gallery of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.
- Birds of the Backyard, a new Home Study program from TVO. To order learning packages and for details call 445-5333, ext. 4; or outside Metro Toronto call toll-free 1-800-663-1800, ext. 4.
- The Nature Connection with David Suzuki on the CBC on Saturdays at 9:30 am. starting Jan. 4, 1992.
- Heritage Showcase 1992 - Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9 am to 6 pm at Cumberland Terrace on the main floor between Yonge and Bay (north of Bloor St. West). Displays, prizes, and a chance to learn about Metro's many heritage societies.
- Second International Zebra Mussel Conference - Feb. 19, 20, 21 at Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto. For further information contact (417)832-7266 or (416) 592-9140.
- Federation of Ontario Naturalists 1992 Annual Conference and General Meeting - May 29-31 at Brock University, St. Catharines. For details, contact FON Conference 92 at P.O. Box 544, St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 6W8 or (416) 684-9064 or (416) 892-6718.
- Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy lectures at the Ontario Hydro auditorium, s.w. corner College & University at 3 pm:
- the Use of Native Trees and Shrubs in the Home Landscape with emphasis on Carolinian Species - speaker Frank Kershaw (Feb. 2, 1992)
 - Building Stone and Historical Structures in Downtown Toronto - speaker Ed Freeman (Feb. 9, 1992)
- Call 947-1066 for more details.
- Naturalist Courses and Weekends with the Goodwins - for list of trips and courses, contact Clive or Joy Goodwin, 1 Queen St., Suite 401, Cobourg, Ont. K9A 1M8 or call (416) 372-1065. [Note: NEW ADDRESS]
- Society for Ecological Restoration Conference - see page 17.
- GeoFest at the Ontario Science Centre - Feb. 21 to 28, 1992 - Lectures, films, exhibits. Call Ed Freeman at 965-4295 for details. also Mineral Exploration Classes - Feb. 24-28 from 7 to 10 pm in Theatre B at the Ontario Science Centre. Register (\$5.00 fee) by calling Vic Tyrer at 429-4100, extension 2390 (Ont. Sci. Centre). ▽

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Free science lectures - Sundays at 3 pm in the Medical Sciences Building auditorium at the University of Toronto

Jan. 26 - Logan's legacy: 150 years of exploring Canada

Feb. 2 - The Ottawa Valley - a chronicle of changing concepts in forest conservation

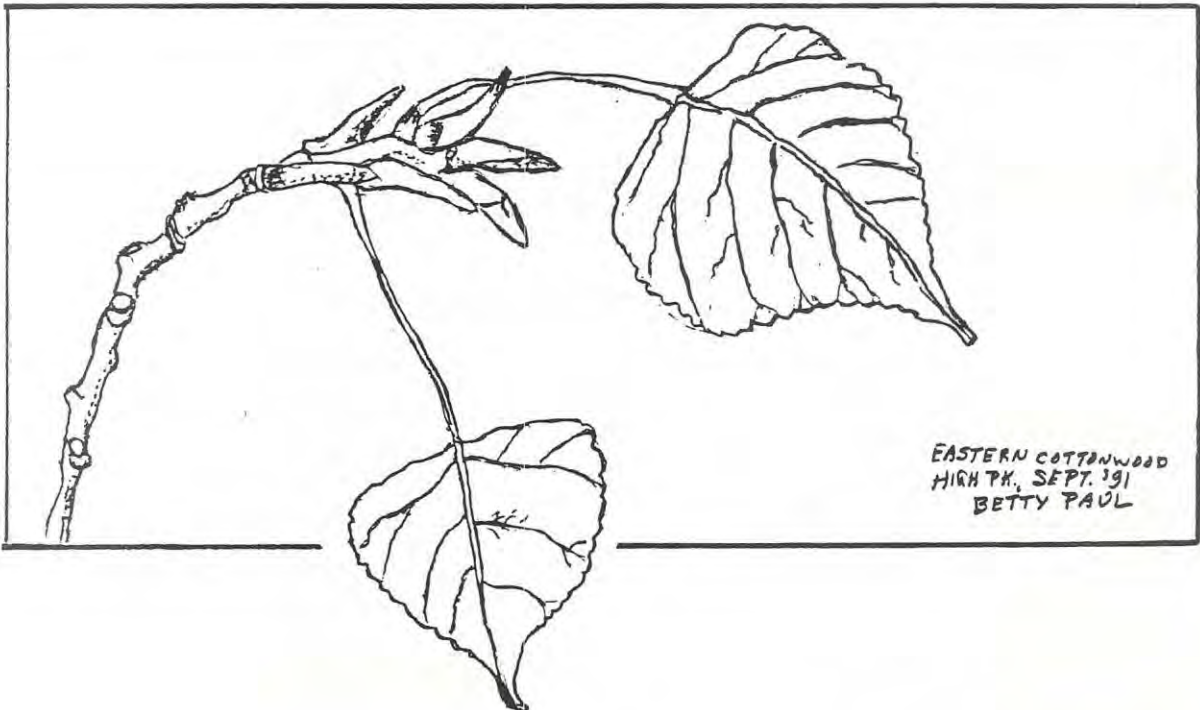
Feb. 9 - It's about time!

Feb. 16 - Philosophy of science: construction versus discovery

Feb. 23 - The health of Canada's aboriginal people: who cares?

For more information call the Royal Canadian Institute at 928-2096.

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EASTERN COTTONWOOD
HIGH PK., SEPT. '91
BETTY PAUL

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Needed: essays (no longer than 500 words), reviews (no longer than 300 words), poems, cartoons, sketches and newspaper clippings

Subjects: plants, animals and natural areas in the Toronto region, especially reports of personal experiences with wildlife

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

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

Send material to: Toronto Field Naturalists
20 College St., Unit 4
Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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

(416) 968-6255

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