

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 430

October 1992



Riverscape with Silver Maple, Toronto

by Miriam Faibish

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TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, October 4, 1992 - SAVING THE OAK RIDGES MORaine

at 2:30 pm



in the Northrop Frye Hall
Victoria University
73 Queen's park Cr. E.

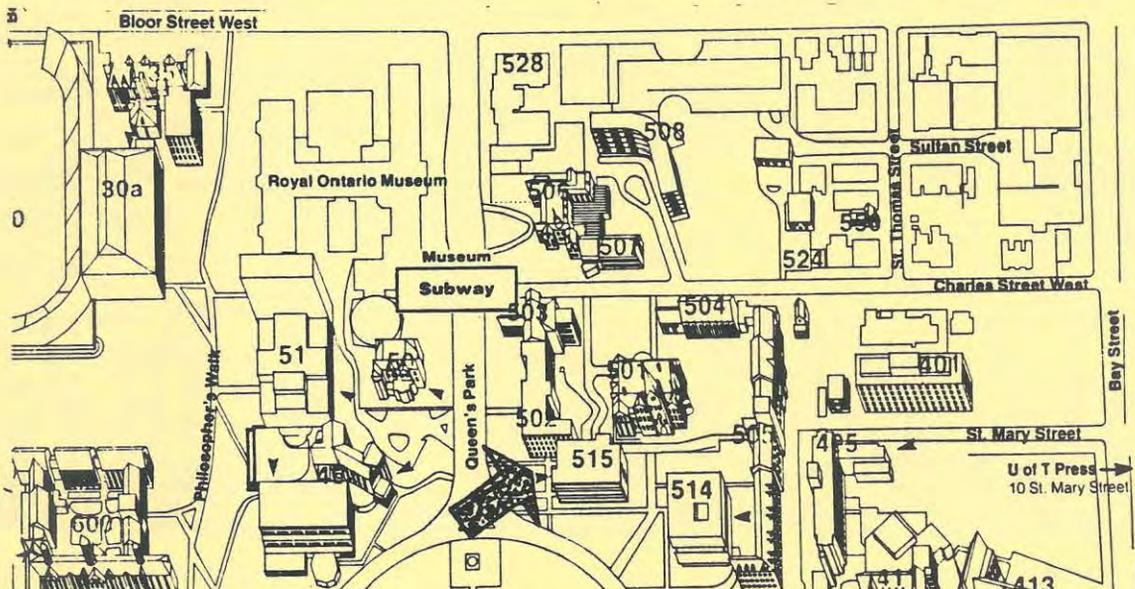
[515 on map below]

an illustrated talk by John R. Fisher,
past co-chair of STORM (Save the Oak Ridges
Moraine), a grassroots organization promoting
a regional perspective and local action.
The speaker will provide an overview of the
moraine's natural and cultural heritage,
describe the environmental campaign to protect it,
and speculate about its future.

- followed by a social hour outside the lecture room

Memberships and TFN publications will be available for purchase both
before and after the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, November 1, 1992 (first Sunday of the month) at 2:30 pm



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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

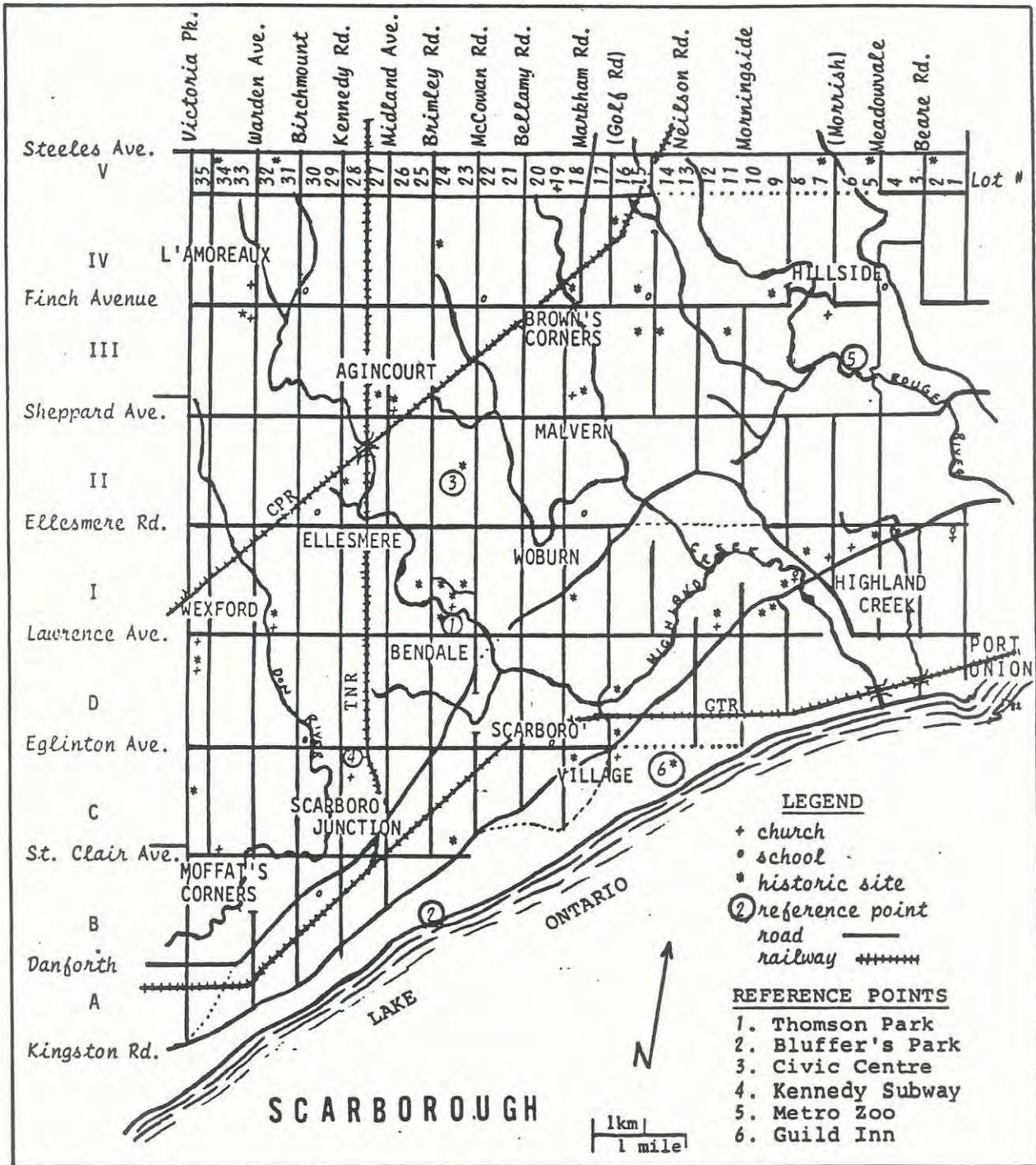
Subjects: plants, animals and natural areas in the Toronto region, especially reports of personal experiences with wildlife

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 11
Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2



Modern street names and reference points have been added to the above map as a guide to the study of historic Scarborough.

Roads, churches, schools and railways are as they were 100 years ago.

from a Scarborough Historical Society pamphlet (Box 593, Stn. "A", Scarborough)

OCTOBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Monday THOMSON PARK - human & natural heritage Highland Creek, Scarborough
 Oct. 12 Leader: Morris Sorensen
 10:30 am Meet at the park entrance on the east side of Brimley Rd., two blocks north of Lawrence Ave. East. Lunch optional.
 Named after a pioneering family, this park contains many clues to previous uses of this shallow river valley. Find out more about Scarborough's history and rich natural heritage.
- Wednesday GUILDWOOD PARK - birds, etc. Lakeshore, Scarborough
 Oct. 14 Leader: Karin Fawthrop
 10:30 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of the Guildwood Pkwy. opposite Galloway Rd. Bring lunch.
 An excellent time and place to observe migrating hawks -- if the weather is right. Fall colours should be worth enjoying in this fine example of a mixed forest of evergreens and deciduous trees.
- Saturday WILKET CREEK - trees West Don, North York
 Oct. 17 Leader: Tom Atkinson
 10 am Meet on the west side of Leslie Street opposite the Pringle and Booth Art Studios at the park entrance located there (there's a dip in Leslie Street at this point which is about half-way between Eglinton and Lawrence). Morning only.
 We have been visiting this area to look at trees in every season during the past year. Bring your notebook and pen and favourite field guide and discover what colour your favourite trees are this month.
- Sunday YORK CEMETERY - birds & trees North York
 Oct. 18 Leader: Joan Patterson
 2 pm Meet at the cemetery entrance on the west side of Beecroft Rd. at the west end of North York Blvd. (south of North York Centre subway station).
 We will be looking at late migrating birds and the fine collection of trees, both native and introduced, in the cemetery grounds.
- Tuesday ALLAN GARDENS - nature arts Toronto
 Oct. 20 Leader: Betty Paul
 10:30 am Meet at the door to the greenhouses (south of Carlton St. and between Jarvis and Sherbourne). Lunch optional.
 Bring camera, sketching material and stool, or just come and enjoy the plants in the greenhouses or the trees in the park outside.
- Wednesday DON VALLEY - nature walk Don, East York
 Oct. 21 Leader: Molly Campbell
 10:30 am Meet at Chorley Park which is located at the east end of Summerhill Ave. (north end of Rosedale bus route). Bring lunch. Walk may end at a different public transit stop.
 We will be descending into the Don Valley from the Park. Lots of climbing to get views of the valley and city as we also look for birds and late-blooming wildflowers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have been a member of the Toronto Field Naturalists for twenty years. I have benefitted from my association through group walks to natural areas in and around Toronto; through education on plant and bird life, and through acquaintance with people sharing my interest in nature. I am pleased to have the opportunity, as president of TFN, to contribute my time, enthusiasm and leadership.

It has been a pleasure to work with Eileen Mayo as her vice-president. She has been a fine president and she deserves our appreciation as do all the other executive members and volunteers.

Since joining the TFN two decades ago, I am aware that our goals have been increasingly in the area of environmental responsibility and improvement. Our enjoyment of natural history depends on these factors. The topics for our illustrated lectures at the General Meetings this year reflect our goals and interests. These topics are: insects (bees), reptiles and amphibians, tree identification in winter, Toronto from a geological and architectural viewpoint, the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Humber River, the Rouge Park, and an update from the Ministry of Natural Resources on projects current to our February 1993 meeting.

We have changed our General Meeting location, time, and day in order to improve safety and convenience to our members and speakers. I hope that you will support these changes and that the Toronto Field Naturalists will continue to be stimulating and provide good fellowship as we learn about our natural environment and participate in environmental protection.

Joan Patterson

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THE NEW BRIDGE ON THE EAST DON NORTH OF SHEPPARD & LESLIE

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Aug. 21, 1992

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$101.75 to cover your club's share of proceeds raised in the 1992 Baillie Birdathon. This cheque represents your organization's share of monies received until August 1992.

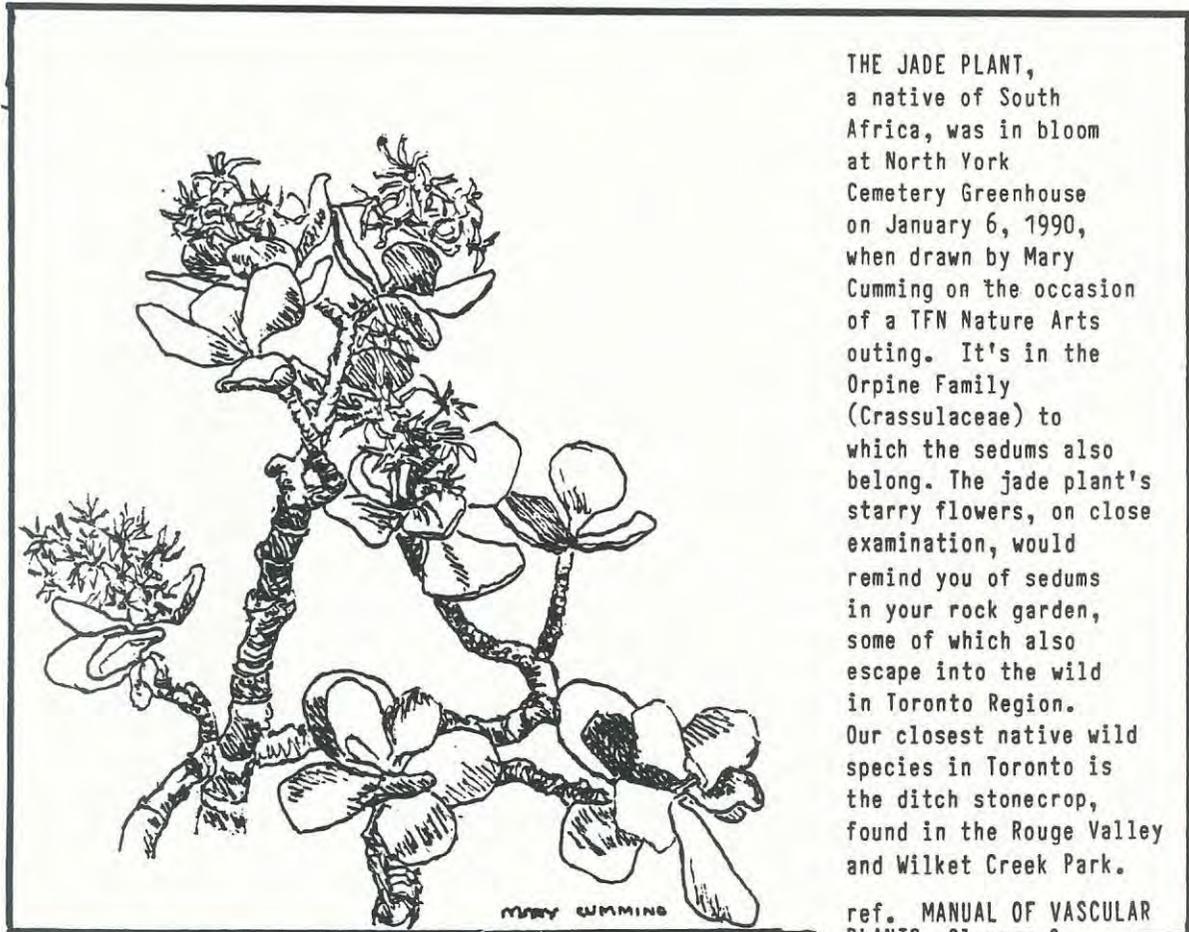
This money was raised for your organization by Irene Fedun, and it is to the more than 330 participants this year that the bulk of the credit for another successful Birdathon must go.

Clubs will be receiving nearly \$14,000 as their share of the 1992 Birdathon proceeds. In addition, the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund will receive \$101.75 on behalf of your organization, for redistribution to worthy bird projects across Canada.

Again, thanks for your help in 1992. If any money received after 10 August is earmarked for your organization, you will receive an additional cheque in early 1993.

Michael S.W. Bradstreet
Executive Director
Long Point Bird Observatory

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THE JADE PLANT, a native of South Africa, was in bloom at North York Cemetery Greenhouse on January 6, 1990, when drawn by Mary Cumming on the occasion of a TFN Nature Arts outing. It's in the Orpine Family (Crassulaceae) to which the sedums also belong. The jade plant's starry flowers, on close examination, would remind you of sedums in your rock garden, some of which also escape into the wild in Toronto Region. Our closest native wild species in Toronto is the ditch stonecrop, found in the Rouge Valley and Wilket Creek Park.

ref. MANUAL OF VASCULAR PLANTS, Gleason & Cronquist

FOR READING

THE BUTTERFLY BOOK by Donald & Lillian Stokes & Ernest Williams, published by Little, Brown & Company (Canada) Ltd., 1991, 96 pages; \$12.95

Subtitled "An Easy Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification and Behaviour", this book is a real treat for the eyes and a pleasure to read. It's a large format (8½" X 11"), softcover with beautiful photographs and lots of information for butterfly and gardening enthusiasts. It covers 63 common species (9 families), most of which we see in Toronto. The two pages of caterpillar photos are very welcome since this stage is poorly covered in the guides. Food plants for the caterpillars as well as the adult butterflies are included in the gardening section. As with their other books, the Stokes make the subject come alive by their interest in behaviour and their appreciation of butterflies as living things.

Carol Sellers

CANADIAN PLANT SOURCEBOOK for 1992-93, Anne and Peter Ashley Publishers, 93 Fentiman Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1S 0T7. \$16.00 - includes postage and packing - no G.S.T.

The edition for 1992-93 lists over 15,000 (up from over 11,000 in '90) hardy plants available from 115 Canadian nurseries -- up from just 80 nurseries in the '90 issue. The book's basic design remains unchanged, but there are some improvements. For example, nurseries which sell on a "wholesale only" basis have been included, and are clearly marked as such.

The book is an extremely valuable resource for anyone who needs to know just what nursery sells any particular plant whether it be a herbaceous perennial (including huge lists of specific cultivars), tree, evergreen, shrub, rose bush or vine. Even fruit and nut trees and bushes have their own section.

For each plant species or cultivar, the nurseries which sell it are listed by a three-letter code, the first letter readily identifies the province. Each of the 115 nurseries is listed at the front of the book with a complete address and other data, including type of operation (mail order or not), minimum order and specific remarks.

As mentioned, in this issue for the first time, "wholesale only" nurseries are listed, and are clearly identified by a first letter code of "W".

Any plant that is offered for sale by ten or more nurseries in Canada is coded W/A meaning the item should be found to be fairly generally available. The publishers also offer to advise those who inquire, what nurseries carry any particular item shown as W/A, in case it should be difficult to find in a particular area of Canada.

This book is an excellent example of private enterprise taking over a lapsed government initiative. Agriculture Canada's "Woody Plant Source List", first published in 1970, and revised in 1975 and 1982, was doomed with the cuts made to the Ornamental Research Service, by Agriculture Canada, in the 1980s. Now this valuable service has been picked up and brought out in a much improved format by a husband and wife team of entrepreneurs -- Anne and Peter Ashley.

from GREENSPACE, April 1992, Vol. 14, No. 3

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AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS,
SUPPLEMENTS 35, 36, 37, 38 - 1985-1991.

Most of the changes to the greatly expanded 6th edition of the A.O.U. check-list since its publication in 1983 affect species of regions remote from ours, such as Mexico, Middle America, the West Indies, Hawaii, and Alaska. Many are accidentals from even farther afield.

Affecting our Toronto Region Bird List of 1990, please note the Hawk Owl has lost its hyphen. (It's not in the same genus as the other "hawk-owls".) The Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) of Eurasia is no longer accepted as a North American species. The bird we have known under that name has been assigned an earlier name, the American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), occurring in eastern Asia and North America. Where their ranges overlap in southern Siberia, the two forms are now known to breed as separate species. Still being debated is the question as to whether the Iceland Gull and Thayer's Gull belong to the same species.

If you made changes in your field guide in 1983 in pencil, you were wise. The scientific name of Toronto "irregular", the Northern Gannet, has been changed from *Sula bassana* to *Morus bassanus* ...not to be confused, by the way, with the white mulberry (*Morus alba*)!

DB □

COMMON GROUNDSEL is a plant of Toronto's crack-in-the-pavement habitat. Originating from Europe, it is established here and will stubbornly put out its rather inconspicuous rayless yellow blooms while being trampled underfoot. Later, it will set seed showing its white pappus which gives the name *Senecio* (from *Senex*, old man) to its genus.

Mary Cumming has drawn a short specimen from among the cracks of Crescent Town. Alex & Switzer in *ONTARIO WEEDS* published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, gives its height as four to twenty-four inches. It's versatile as well as stubborn.

If common groundsel is not so comely, it has other prettier cousins. The attractive ragworts are of the same genus *Senecio*, especially the golden ragwort with its bright rays which many TFN members have seen at Dorcas Bay on the Bruce Peninsula.



Common Groundsel
Crescent Town,
Toronto

PROJECTS

WASTE REDUCTION

This year Waste Reduction Week (WRW) is from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4. It calls on everyone to learn and practise the three Rs -- reduce, reuse and recycle -- more effectively. To get you inspired, did you know that an average person in Ontario produces one tonne of waste every year? Did you know that the annual amount of garbage produced by nine people, when squeezed into garbage cans, would be almost as high as the CN tower? No wonder the Ontario government is committed to reducing waste by 25% and reducing waste by 50% by the year 2000! A good idea to introduce waste reduction at home and in the workplace is to designate each day of the week with a specific kind of waste reduction. For instance, Monday could be reduction day; Tuesday would be composting day; Wednesday could be zero garbage day, etc. Small changes in habits can add up to a big difference for our environment. And remember, Waste Reduction does not have to occur for one week every year -- practise it everyday. Only you can make a difference!

extracted from WASTE REDUCTION WEEK VOLUNTEERS' HANDBOOK, Recycling Council of Ontario, 1992

REUSING GLOSSY WALL CALENDARS AND DATEBOOKS

Ever feel guilty about throwing out those gorgeous glossy calendars and datebooks everyone gets for Christmas? Here are three suggestions for reusing them (the second of the three Rs).

- 1) Take them to the Picture Collection Department at the Metro Reference Library. They maintain a huge filing system of picture clippings and always welcome new material.
- 2) Donate them to a public school so that teachers have materials to incorporate into science and geography lessons. A great way to help young minds appreciate our precious natural heritage.
- 3) Create your very own picture collection. Then you will have some outstanding colour images to complement your field guides as well as a standard of reference should you get into nature/landscape photography.

Richard Aaron

Comment:

Old TFN newsletters and Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Canadian Nature magazines should be left in doctor's, dentists, etc. waiting rooms -- even in hospital emergency waiting areas. They will soothe the waiters with their beautiful photographs and drawings and actually bring members to these organizations.

H.J.

THE MAMMAL ATLAS OF ONTARIO

The Atlas staff will be leaving its office at the University of Waterloo in August. The new mailing address is c/o The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8. If you want to leave a message, call 444-8419. All mammal observations should be submitted to this address or the local coordinator for the area where you observed the animals. Call the FON for details or if you want to get more involved.

PROJECTS (cont'd)

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Don't let the name fool you. This is an organization for all birders in Ontario, not just 'professional' ornithologists. Membership brings six publications a year -- three journals and three newsletters; free field trips to Ontario's most exciting birding areas led by Ontario's best-known experts; an Annual General Meeting each October (see page 29) with the largest natural history booksale in Ontario, and talks by bird experts on identification problems and exotic birding locations; bird-finding guides to Ontario localities such as Hamilton, Rainy River, the Carden Plain and other great birding areas; Lake Ontario Pelagic Trips (see page 29), and much, much more. For membership information and a complimentary issue of ONTARIO BIRDS, write to Ontario Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 62014, Burlington Mall Postal Outlet, Burlington, Ont. L3R 4K2.

WRITE FOR FLOWERS

Have members noticed a difference along Metro Roads this past summer? If you have observed a particular section of your area which looks (and smells) the better for not being cut and herbicided, do take the time to write and tell those responsible: Metro Transportation Department, 55 John St., Toronto, Ont. M5V 3C6.

Letters (particularly letters of encouragement) do work wonders. Try it!

*Two Toronto meadow flowers
which frequently associate
are the introduced
tall buttercup
and the native
daisy fleabane.*



FEEDERWATCH NEWS

Are people who feed birds unwittingly causing the decline of migratory bird populations? According to Project FeederWatch, a winter bird feeding survey sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the answer seems to be no.

In his recent book, *Where Have All the Birds Gone?*, ornithologist John Terborgh discusses possible causes, and suggests that bird feeding may be a worry as well. He wonders whether feeders may be causing increases in birds such as brown-headed cowbirds, which are nest parasites, or blue jays, which are notable nest robbers. If so, he reasons, then bird feeding may be inadvertently contributing to the declines of many forest-dwelling species, such as warblers and vireos, that never even visit feeders.

To examine this possibility, Cornell ornithologist Erica H. Dunn turned to information from Project FeederWatch as well as data from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), a continentwide survey of bird numbers in spring. Surprisingly, she discovered that 70 percent of the most widespread feeder birds showed significantly declining populations. These included not only the blue jay, but also the European starling and house sparrow, as well as several other species often considered "pests". The brown-headed cowbird also declined. These findings don't mean these species are not hurting migratory birds through their predatory or parasitizing actions, but it does suggest that feeding them is not increasing their populations. Are species such as the blue jay being hurt by the practice? Probably not. Most of the declining feeder species belong to groups that are declining as a whole -- even though some species in those groups don't visit feeders. We don't know whether blue jays are responding to feeding by nesting in suburbia, only to suffer insupportable predation by cats and raccoons. We do know that American robins, which often nest in suburbia, are showing population increases nationwide.

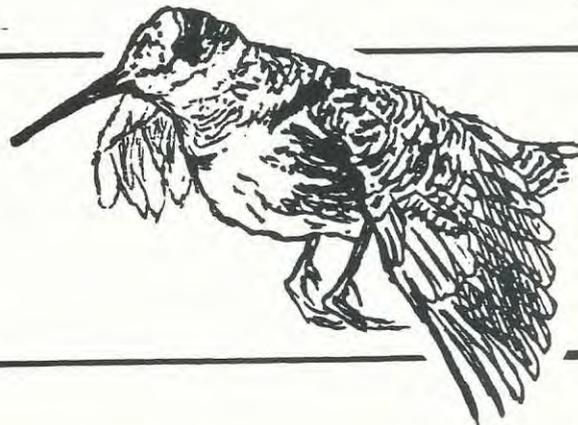
Conclusive evidence awaits more detailed studies of each species. Meanwhile, bird feeding does not seem to cause increases in most of the species that frequent feeders, including "pest" species.

If you feed birds in your backyard and you'd like to contribute to an international effort to monitor bird populations, now is the time to sign up for the 1992-93 FeederWatch season. For information on how to join, write to: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or call (607)254-2414.

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THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK nests within Metro and may be encountered in any month of the year except January and rarely December according to TFN's TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART.

Drawing is by Joanne Doucette from a R.O.M. mounted specimen.



PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK

In spite of the fact that Presqu'ile is the fifth oldest provincial park, a Class 1 wetland, an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, a potential Regional Site for the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and a potential Canadian Ramsar site, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources continues to delay completing the Management Plan for this park -- a process that began in 1979!

Although Natural Resources Minister C.J. (Bud) Wildman stated on May 15, 1992, that all necessary reports had been updated, and that Management Planning would recommence "in the near future", there is a further delay, due to an apparent lack of funds to hire a "facilitator", who would mediate during the public consultation meetings.

The truth -- plain and simple -- is that over the years, the Ministry has postponed Management Planning each time they get to the point where a decision has to be made about the continuation of the controversial annual waterfowl hunt. It is my personal opinion that this hunt is inappropriate in a Natural Environment Park, and even more inappropriate when held on Gull and High Bluff Islands -- which are designated as "The Presqu'ile Islands Wilderness Area" under The Wilderness Areas Act. These islands represent one of the largest colonial waterbird nesting sites on the Great Lakes, where the Canadian Wildlife Service has conducted numerous toxicological and bird banding studies.

Last year, 228 hunters visited the park -- with over 80% of them coming from Toronto. It cost over \$14,000.00 to set up the hunt, which generated about \$3,400.00 in revenue.

Naturalists across the continent know Presqu'ile as 2,000 acres of unique and diverse habitat. The shape of the peninsula funnels both the bird and insect migrations. To date, 313 species of birds have been sighted. A number of nationally and provincially rare plants are found in the park. Alar-tagged monarch butterflies, released in the park, have been recaptured in Mexico, and over 47 species of butterfly identified. The University of Waterloo operates a field station in the park, has conducted numerous studies, and produced many useful research reports. One American magazine describes Presqu'ile as one of four "little known Canadian photography hotspots". From a historical standpoint, the park lighthouse is the second oldest on the Great Lakes still in operation, and the schooner, "The Speedy", which sank in 1804, has been located offshore in 100 feet of water. The park is also blessed with a support group, "The Friends of Presqu'ile", which operates a gift and book store in the park, and provides financial support to specific park projects.

Not having a Management Plan means that a number of park projects and initiatives remain on hold, including a possible plan to convert the badly-deteriorated visitor centre into a marine museum, and constructing a new visitor centre, which might house a multi-use auditorium for use by the numerous school groups (from Toronto to Kingston) that visit the park, as well as for conferences and annual club meetings, a reference library, audio-visual interpretive displays, and so on. Decisions must be made concerning which activities are appropriate in the park, and how these might be regulated, as well as the setting up of restricted zones for rare flora and fauna.

PRESQU'ILE (cont'd)

In spite of adversity, the park staff have continued to produce some very innovative and exciting programs and activities throughout the summer. These include the History Weekend and the Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, as well as a weekly schedule of daily activities. The program for composting and recycling, which is being implemented in many provincial parks, was created and piloted at Presqu'ile. University-level ornithological courses are also being conducted in the park.

With the up-coming Provincial Parks Centennial Year in 1993, I sincerely hope that Presqu'ile's Management Plan will be completed before the end of 1992. Local M.P.P. Joan Fawcett and the Official Opposition at Queen's Park are concerned that Management Planning proceed without further delay. I would encourage anyone who cares about this site to write to Mr. C.J. (Bud) Wildman, Minister of Natural Resources, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M7A 1W3 and let him know what you think about this situation.

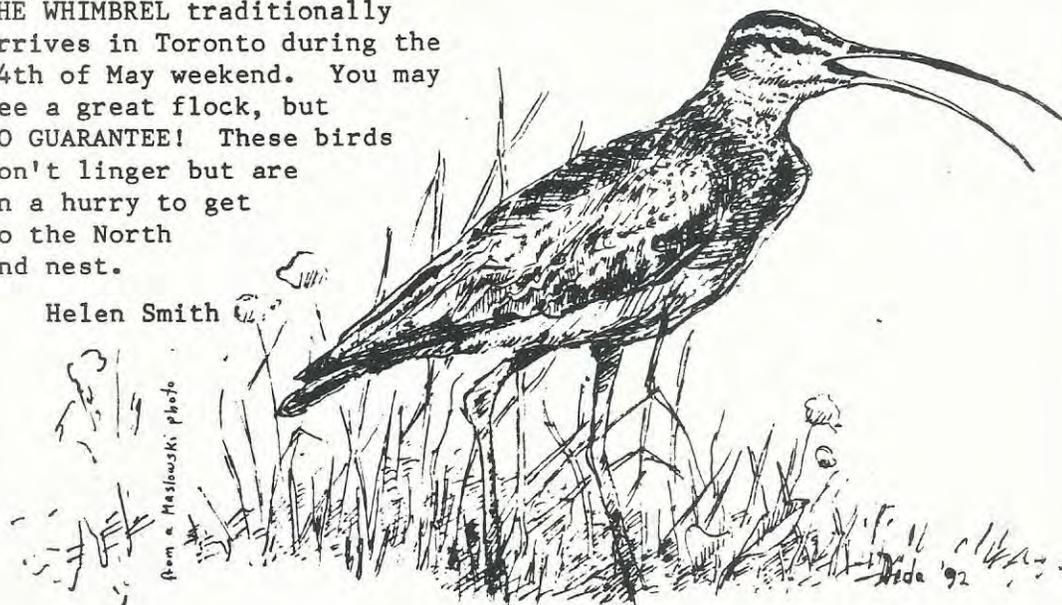
Certainly, until the waterfowl hunt issue is resolved, Presqu'ile will not become a Canadian Ramsar Site.

Donald A. Davis

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THE WHIMBREL traditionally arrives in Toronto during the 24th of May weekend. You may see a great flock, but NO GUARANTEE! These birds don't linger but are in a hurry to get to the North and nest.

Helen Smith



TFN Records 1984-91: Peaks occurred from May 21 to May 25 with estimates of 100 to 600 birds.

*Seedpods of maple
offer keys to creation,
ours to discover.*

haiku by Marjory Tilley

HELP! ECOLOGIST NEEDED

On a recent TFN outing to Wilket Creek Park I was amazed to find the valley floodplain containing a whole new flora since my last visit. Gray-headed coneflower grows where Jerusalem artichoke used to thrive; butterfly weed (a species of dry sandy soils) now grows where swamp milkweed grew. Signs state that the area is undergoing "restoration" or "regeneration". Metro is obviously spending a lot of money and time establishing these "gardens" in what we have all enjoyed as a wild valley. Within five years, no doubt, the floodplain vegetation will have re-established itself and no sign of this gardening will be found. Then why am I complaining? As a taxpayer, I say it is a waste of money. As a naturalist I am always nervous when someone introduces a species from another area. (Just look at the swallowwort, garlic mustard, etc. invasions which have displaced so much of our native vegetation.) When I asked Frank Kershaw, Chief Planner for the Metro Toronto Parks Department, about Metro's planting plans in the valleys, his answer was that the plans were SECRET. As a taxpayer I object! What Toronto really needs is to hire a professional ecologist who will make sure that plantings in parkland are appropriate and that the public is informed about what is going on and why. A great education opportunity is being wasted. We'd all like to cheer a real restoration program where native vegetation is encouraged and alien species removed. Then we'd know we were in Toronto -- not just good old "anyplace".

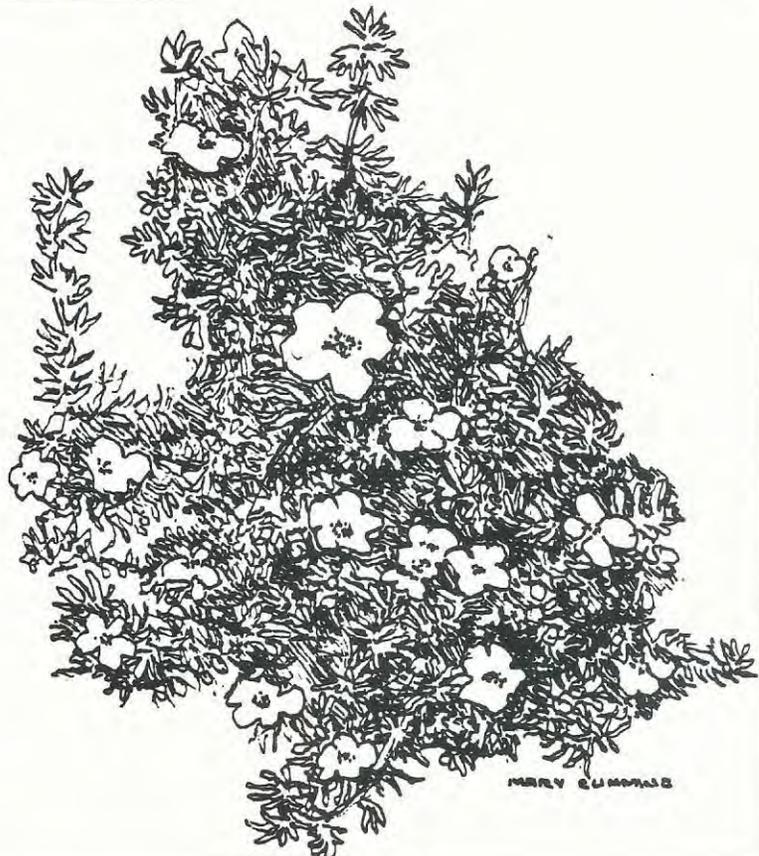
Helen Juhola

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Shrubby cinquefoil, an open-ground plant of the northern hemisphere, is native to Ontario but is not on checklists for Toronto; it occurs in neighbouring regions however.

The "Potentilla" in Mary's drawing was found planted at Muir Gardens.

*Ref.: Fernald -
GRAY'S MANUAL OF
BOTANY 8th Edition*



MARY JUHOLA

RESTORATION

...An unlikely coalition of university scientists and civil engineers, public officials and environmental activists has embarked on dozens, perhaps hundreds, of experimental projects aimed at repairing environmental damage. They call themselves restoration ecologists, and they are recreating destroyed habitats from Britain to Costa Rica and from Israel to the American Midwest...They are removing the dirt and garbage that have been dumped on wetlands, they are attacking exotic interlopers that have displaced native vegetation, they are replanting original species of trees and grasses, returning to weed and water fragile seedlings a hectare at a time...Few restoration projects are more than a decade old, but many have already begun to generate encouraging results.

If restoration at times resembles gardening, it draws inspiration from a very different philosophy. Gardeners seek to improve on nature and tame its excesses. Restorationists, however, strive to return to the landscape the very things people find hostile, including fires, floods and all the noisome critters that help keep each ecosystem in healthy kilter.

By embracing humans as an integral part of nature, restorationists are bringing a fresh perspective to the increasingly bitter contest between those who would exploit wild areas and those who would preserve them. Even more important, in their heroic, often desperate struggle to recover what has nearly been lost, they have grasped a truth many of us only dimly comprehend: if the fate of humanity depends on nature, the fate of nature, irrevocably and irretrievably, rests in human hands.

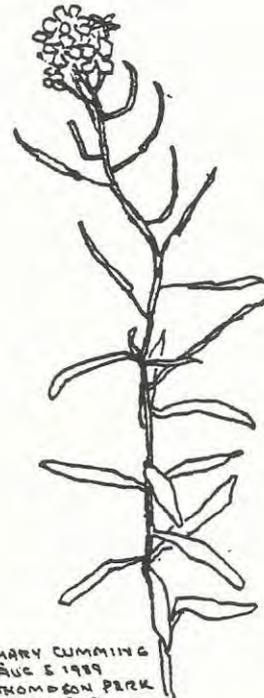
extracted from "Learning how to revive the wilds of Eden" by J. M. Nash in TIME, Oct. 14, 1991

WORMSEED MUSTARD has simple or slightly indented narrow leaves, small yellow flowers, and slim ascending pods. It may be small and dainty (at times with a tiny wreath-like inflorescence) or up to 1.5 metres high.

It is common in Toronto, either because it was introduced from the Old World or because it is, indeed, circumboreal - perhaps both.

Ref.: Manuals in TFN Library.

The field sketch is by Mary Cumming.



MARY CUMMING
AUG 5 1989
THOMPSON PARK
WORM SEED
MUSTARD

COMPENSATIONS OF AN INDIFFERENT SUMMER

In July I spent a week in the vicinity of the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve, on Jack Lake. Against the vicissitudes of cabin rented sight-unseen and miserable weather (two sunny days, the rest gloom-grey when not drenching down), there were balanced the Preserve's hundreds of miles of trails. This time last year in Madoc I encountered a cornucopia of wild fruit; this year, merely a few watery raspberries, with the blackberries still green, iron-hard nubs. On the other hand, the rain summoned an army of mosquitoes along with the wildflowers, and a Veritable Pullulation of fungi (welcome after the dearth of the past two years).

And the wildlife! A swamp, 4.6 acres up for auction and home to great blue heron, kingfishers, hummingbirds, evening grosbeaks, minks and muskrats. (Dreams of sudden wealth by which I could keep this "wasteland" a nature preserve -- to the indignation of local hunters whose shell cases proved them the only human users.) Red squirrels, and single delights: a purple finch (who so misnamed this "sparrow" dipped in raspberry juice" as the Peterson guide exquisitely has it?); a grouse presenting her broken-wing routine; a yellow-throat warbler (since many warblers possess yellow throats, but none other a black facemask, why not, more helpfully, the masked warbler?)

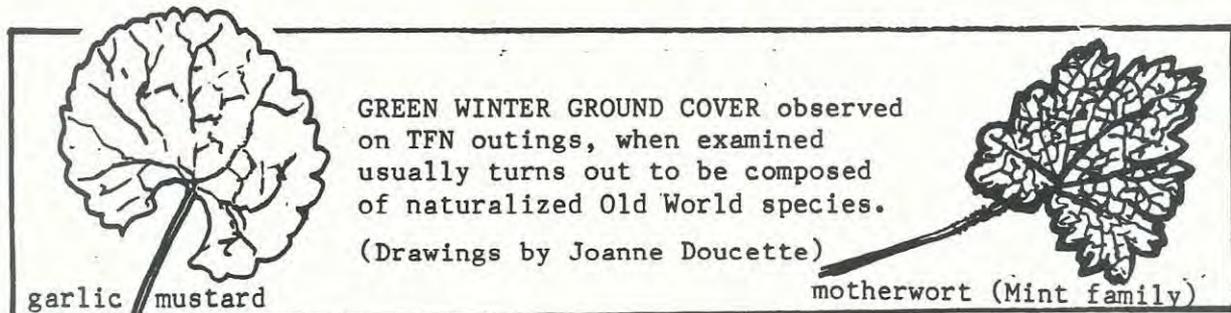
One green snake (only my second sighting in 37 years), and the pièce de résistance: a painted turtle laying her eggs, the process, from initial dig-in to final cover-over, lasting three-quarters of an hour. When home I phoned Metro Zoo's Bob Johnson and learned, alas, that the eggs, a month late due to the delayed spring and taking 90 days to hatch -- in October -- would probably not survive the cold.

Soft shoulders bore countless deer tracks, but only on one occasion did I perceive across the road a doe and her fawn. Gone instantly. Fate nevertheless was immensely kind. On my last morning, half-an-hour before bus time, I explored a private road lined with lakeshore residences. Rounding the proverbial bend, I came upon a young buck. He continued grazing! I oozed past, attempting invisibility, then sidled back. I managed four shots, advancing every time. At each click of the camera he raised his head, scrutinized me from liquid eyes, then resumed munching. It became somewhat ridiculous! I ended exactly a couple of yards away and he still showed no concern. Mindful of conserving film for further marvels which Fate might drop in front of me, I finally left him.

What of other member's encounters? Please let us know.

Eva Davis

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ELM ALERT

The Elm Research Institute based in Harrisville, New Hampshire, was founded in 1967 following the destruction by the Dutch elm disease of millions of American elms. More than ten years after the establishment of the Institute, a new variety of American elm was developed that may replace the American elms destroyed by the Dutch elm disease. The Institute hopes to distribute the disease-resistant Liberty elm (*Ulmus americana libertas*) through the Boy Scouts of America. For communities to become eligible for the elms, they must pay the annual membership fee of the Institute. Should American and Canadian communities become members of the Elm Research Institute and plant these trees? Are there any special concerns for our Canadian communities? Is the threat of the Dutch elm disease finally over?

Communities that become members in order to receive improved trees must understand the nature of the disease and understand how natural selection works. Dutch elm disease is transmitted from tree to tree principally by the native and European elm bark beetles which feed on and breed in elm trees. The disease can also be transmitted by root grafts between adjacent American elms. To reduce the likelihood of an elm dying of the disease, trees should be planted in smaller numbers and in isolation from each other. In many instances in the past, the American elm was planted in large numbers and in monocultural rows in the same way Norway maples are planted in many parts of Toronto today.

It is important to understand how natural selection works. First we must realize that species become adapted to their environments because of the elimination of unfit individuals over time. We should realize that American elms from all over the United States were selected to be parent stock for the Liberty elms so there is a question as to whether the disease-resistant elms are adapted to our climate in Toronto. Canada's more northerly communities should be even more concerned about planting Liberty elms because the difference in climates is even more extreme.

Secondly, as a result of natural selection, more successful forms of Dutch elm disease could be reproduced. England has had two epidemics of the disease. The first was in 1927; the second in the 1970s, was a more virulent form imported from the United States. It killed many of the American elms which were at first resistant to the Dutch elm disease. When a mutation occurs within the disease fungi and it is more successful at weakening and killing elm trees, it has an advantage over the less deadly forms of the disease. It will more likely be passed on to other elm trees because the elm bark beetles breed under the bark of dead and dying elms and this is how most of the disease is spread. If this new variety of disease-resistant elms is planted in large numbers and in monocultural rows it would likely be killed by a new variety of the Dutch elm disease. It must also be noted that the disease fungi will produce thousands of new generations during the 250 years the Liberty elms could be growing.

Communities should consider using this new American elm variety, but must be careful not to make the mistakes of the past. Care must also be taken to control the elm bark beetles, the main vector for the Dutch elm disease, by immediately removing and debarking dead and dying elm trees from streets and woodlots, thus removing elm bark beetle breeding opportunities.

Thomas Butler

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STORY OF A PLANT RESCUE

Last fall a number of people went to a woodlot near the airport which happened to be in the path of the planned extension of Highway 410 near Highway 403, just south of Highway 401. Mr. George Ivanoff of the Ministry of Transportation, Ontario, had alerted us that a "plant rescue" could be undertaken by anyone interested.

The woodlot was a beautiful sight, full of native trees and shrubs turning splendid colours of pink, orange, red and yellow for what was to be their last fall. At the edges, New England aster and heath aster were glorious. We even saw deer tracks in dried mud. It was very sad to know that pavement and speeding cars would replace all in a short time. In August, Gavin Miller had roamed through the woodlot, tying yellow ribbons on the most valuable native species including shagbark hickory (*Caryo ovata*) and hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp). We saw that many other people had taken advantage of the opportunity to rescue plants for there were many holes where young trees and shrubs had been removed. I found that it is not easy to dig up little shagbarks, for although the shoot and leaves above ground many be small, under the soil, the young shagbark tree has developed a deep taproot, so one must dig deeply to try to get all of it. We dug about 16 shagbarks, about 10 bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*), some black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) and several hawthorns. We took them to Todmorden Mills, making sure they were kept moist. During the following week and weekend, we planted them, some at Todmorden Mills, and some at Riverdale Park East. In order to give the trees a chance, we root-pruned and stem-pruned where necessary, and used hardwood root hormone. All plant material was sprayed with a rodent repellent. We have our fingers crossed that some will survive the trauma of the transplanting.

While this is an account of a tree rescue, a very important aspect of this story is the part about partnerships. Without cooperation, this story could not have taken place. Thank you to George Ivanoff (Ministry of Transportation), Dave and Bev Money (Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve Committee in East York), Gavin Miller (Black Creek Project Planning consultant and an official appointed volunteer to the Task Force to Bring Back the Don, City of Toronto), and Michael White (member of the Task Force to Bring Back the Don, City of Toronto).

Paula Davies

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Nature's success is astonishing, but it could be so much greater if only those with the money for official greening would take the lessons of the wild and use them with skill and sensitivity to speed the reforestation. The problem is they're spoiled by funds, and motivated by the need to 'make their mark'. Huge effort, mountains of pen and paper, and massive amounts of money combine to interrupt the natural flow, and confuse it with complex horticultural knitting-pattern plantations...Landscape architects are paid a fee based on the amount of money they spend. How crazy...while all the time, real trees are springing up on all the land they haven't yet been asked to 'improve'.

from "The Baines Report" by Chris Baines in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 9, No. 11, Nov. 1991

NATURE AND NATION

CHILDHOOD TREASURE HUNTS

Raising two small sons and educating them at home had made me often ponder on the subject of Canadian culture. I've heard many jokes about our culture -- that it isn't one -- but, out of the desire to create one for our children, I have looked to my own childhood to find the answer.

The answer is very simple -- noticing the purple crocuses in spring, watching the sunset at the cottage, playing fox and goose in the winter snow -- these are the subject matter of Canadian culture for me.

One of the most wonderful times of my childhood -- it was magic, to be sure -- was asparagus hunting along the railroad tracks in Fergus.

Two families went -- mine and my cousin's. On a sunny day in late spring, we walked along the tracks, looking for the feathery leaves of the asparagus plant. At the base of it, we found the shoots which we cut with a knife and collected in a basket. It was much like a treasure hunt for me and quite a revelation that those vegetables actually grew from the ground.

We scoured the railway tracks for hours and hauled home our booty -- wild asparagus. Steamed up, there never was a taste so grand.

I do not think we should lose sight of the simplicity of what our culture is to each one of us. We can grant importance to such precious moments and weave them into the teaching of our children so that they can grow up uniquely Canadian.

Katherine Jacconello

THE FINAL TOUCH

Canada Day in the Eastern Beaches. Glorious weather. Queen Street a cosmopolitan, sauntering, afternoon assembly. Dogs walking owners, parents herding children. Ballgames, jogging, cycling, skateboarding. High-tech. amplifiers rending the airways from the bandstand. On the lake sail boats on the horizon, canoeists, skimmers, the lone windsurfer closer to shore. And putting the seal on the whole of this furious social activity a flotilla of 37 Canada geese some five yards from the beach, all swimming magisterially westwards. Inflexible, even when showered by the seemingly inevitable outboard motorist who obviously expected them to move for him.

Self-absorbed humanity took absolutely no notice of this phenomenon of nature. But it struck me that the geese provided the perfect backdrop to the Canada Day scenario. Only loons would have been more appropriate, but they would never have condescended to such a massed 'Swim Past'. This was the ultimate 125 Years Salute.

Eva Davis

*Yonge and Grosvenor.
Two flocks of Canada geese
honking above me.*

*haiku by Helen Juhola
November 27, 1989*

IN THE NEWS

ENDANGERED FALCONS GET LIFE FROM YORK CONSERVATION PLAN

Last November, when a Montreal man in Venezuela sighted a peregrine falcon which had been released at York University earlier that year, Dan Kwik was encouraged. For Kwik, a resource technician with the Ministry of Natural Resources who began a wildlife conservation project with peregrines at York two years ago, the sighting spelled success. Each year, the Ministry of Resources releases a group of six young peregrines from cages or hack boxes on the roof of York University's Ross Building. Kwik explains that the Ross Building's thermal updrafts give the birds an irresistible urge to fly. The nine-story building also resembles a cliff, while the campus fields, creeks and woodlands simulate the birds' natural habitat. Kwik says the releases at York will continue "as long as there's funding and as long as the peregrine falcons are endangered".

extracted from an article by Sonya Procenko in the TORONTO STAR (North York/York Region), Aug. 13, 1992

LAKE ONTARIO FACES SHORTAGE OF ALEWIVES

Fishery experts have noticed a troubling deterioration in alewives that could upset Lake Ontario's ecological balance. Alewives, herring-like fish, are not native to the Great Lakes. The small, silvery fish were introduced in the late 19th century and overwhelmed native fish, such as yellow perch and walleye. In recent years, an increase in predator fish has reduced the amount of alewives, which play a critical role in the food chain that supports sport fish such as chinook salmon. Although scientists can't pin down the cause of the alewives' deterioration, they suspect it is tied to an improvement in water quality that has reduced the amount of nutrients in the lake. Many alewives appear stressed and weak. The total weight, or biomass, of alewives in Lake Ontario has fallen by one-third since a peak in the late 1970s. Also, the biomass of smelt, a popular prey for predator fish, has dropped to an all-time low. The survival rate for young alewives is lower than expected. Many fail to reach adulthood. About 90 per cent of the annual production gains in alewives is being consumed by predator fish, mostly chinook salmon. Restoring ecological stability to Lake Ontario could mean cutting into the stocking of chinook salmon, a move that many anglers would oppose.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, July 25, 1992

EL NINO ALSO KILLED MANY BUTTERFLIES

Tens of millions of monarch butterflies died in Mexico over the past winter. Although local logging has impacted seriously on the butterfly habitat and no doubt has a cumulative effect, El Nino was also responsible for butterfly deaths. They had to cope with extremely poor weather conditions in the mountains of the Neo Volcanic Plateau, about 75 miles northwest of Mexico City. During their "dry" season, the Mexicans experienced 20 continuous days of rain, combined with below freezing temperatures.

extracted from a letter from Donald A. Davis to the TORONTO STAR, July 18, 1992

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE, AND DRIVING IN THE WEST IS MESSY

Billions of butterflies have invaded the West, plastering windshields and clogging radiators as they flutter north to Canada on a one-way journey whose scope may not be repeated for decades. Scientists say the boom of painted lady butterflies is a dramatic sign that California's water picture is brightening: more water means more plants for butterflies to eat, which means more butterflies. The butterflies normally move northward each spring after hatching in Southern California and northern Mexico. But this year, there are many more of them and they are travelling much farther north than usual. Because they are partial to weedy members of the thistle family, the swarms don't threaten California crops. But they do make for messy driving. Of the world's 15,000 species of butterfly, the painted lady is the most widespread, found also in Africa, Asia and South America. The wingspan is 2½ inches.

from an article in the Minneapolis STAR TRIBUNE, April 26, 1992

FORESTS DESTROYED

Britain's ancient woodlands have been destroyed at a faster rate than the great rain forests of Brazil in the past 50 years, according to government scientists. A survey says that 45% of woodlands has been lost since the war. This compares with 10% of Brazil's tropical forests, which have been presented as a worldwide symbol of environmental degradation. The acreage of trees and the number of species wiped out was far greater in Brazil, whose rain forest is 10 times the size of Britain; however, Britain had suffered a devastating degree of damage up to 1985 as conifer plantations spread and woodland was converted for farming or felled to make way for houses, factories and roads.

extracted from an article in the London TIMES, May 17, 1992

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Red squirrels in B.C. forests are feeding on seeds dropped by helicopter. University of British Columbia researchers have found that the aerial food deliveries prevent squirrels from eating the bark of lodgepole pine.

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, Feb. 22, 1992

SPARROWS NOT AS DUMB AS THEY LOOK

Sparrows may be birdbrains, but they're not as dumb as they look, an ornithologist has found while attending a bird conference in New Zealand. He saw sparrows that apparently have figured out how to use automatic doors at the main bus station in Hamilton, New Zealand. Reporting in the WILSON BULLETIN, Randal J. Breitwisch of the University of Dayton describes how the birds either fly slowly past electronic sensors that work the doors, hover briefly in front of them or land on top of the sensors and stick their little bird faces in view of the sensors to trigger them. The goal is to fly inside the station where they can forage for food.

from an article in the TORONTO STAR, April 19, 1992

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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

HIKERS SEEK HELP TO BLAZE TRAIL ACROSS 3 REGIONS

Volunteers are being sought to help create and maintain a hiking trail across the Oak Ridges Moraine through Peel, York and Durham regions. They're being invited to join Citizens for an Oak Ridges Trail Association (CORT) which has elected an eight-member board of directors. The group aims to work with public agencies and landowners in the same way as the Bruce Trail Association does in the Niagara Escarpment area between Tobermory and the Niagara River. An Oak Ridges Moraine Trail from the Mono Mills area in Peel to the Glen Major area in Durham is part of a 900-kilometre (558-mile) trails system being planned by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority across the Greater Toronto Area. Eventually, CORT aims to form chapters of hikers in different parts of the Oak Ridges Moraine to do such things as negotiating rights of way with private landowners and maintaining trails. So far CORT has a membership of about 40, and will look to agencies such as the MTRCA for advice on trail building and dealing with the environment. CORT is hoping to open a first section of the proposed Oak Ridges Trail near Uxbridge on Oct. 4, which has been designated as Ontario Hiking Day this year.

extracted from an article by Brian Dexter, in the TORONTO STAR, (North York/York Region), Aug. 20, 1992

A PESKY INTRUDER PUTS A CHOKE-HOLD ON ONTARIO

The dog-strangling vine, a plant that grows in open and semi-shaded areas, is spreading rapidly through southern Ontario, killing native plants. Originally from southern Europe, the vine, also called swallow-wort, is a group of three very similar plants of the milkweed family. The pale swallow-wort and the black swallow-wort are found in a broad band along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River from Hamilton to Cornwall, north to Lake Simcoe and Ottawa. White swallow-wort is thus far restricted to the Niagara area. As far as is known, all introductions of swallow-wort were accidental. In Hamilton black swallow-wort was introduced in 1955 when its seeds were mistakenly sown at the Royal Botanical Gardens as those of another plant. Today, it is rampant in the surrounding area. In Ottawa, the pale swallow-wort escaped from the Department of Agriculture's Central Experimental Farm where it was being studied in a wartime effort to find alternative rubber sources. The introduction of white swallow-wort is undocumented, but is thought to have arrived in Canada in soil. In Toronto, the plant has been known since at least 1899. However, it has caught the attention of botanists only in the past 25 years, when it began spreading at an alarming rate. Says MNR central-region ecologist John Riley: "For people who value woodlots, valleylands and natural areas, dog-strangling vine ranks with loosestrife in terms of its aggression and impact."

extracted from an article by Mark Kubisz in the GLOBE AND MAIL, July 25, 1992

*That which the world wants,
is it spelled "democracy"
or "money-crazy"?*

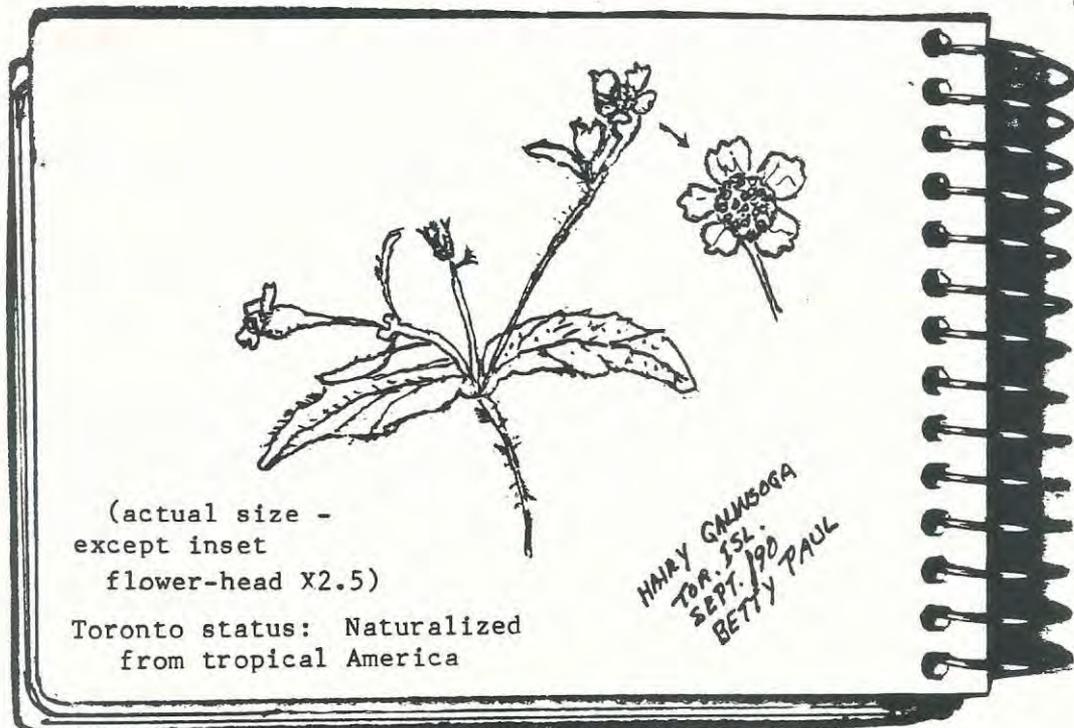
Haiku by Helen Juhola

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

THE BEACH'S VERY OWN BATMAN

North American Indians believe bats are a sign of rebirth: they come from the dark, upside down (not unlike the way humans are born) and they return to the dark every day and hang upside down to allow the evil to run out. Thus every night they are "reborn". Here in Toronto, [bats are not so popular], but Charles Robertson likes bats. He's into protecting them. The average bat feasts on roughly 1,500 bugs every night. Despite this when someone discovers a bat hanging out in the attic, his first impulse is to get rid of it, preferably by killing it. Robertson has started a company, Bat Excluder, with the motto, "Don't fumigate. Relocate." Which is exactly what he does. He uses no poisons or chemical to evict the bats; rather he "tricks" them with his one-way door method -- a system so that the bats can fly out of the house using their sonar as a guide, but when they want to return, the sonar tells them there's no way back in. Using precise mathematical calculations that take into account the shape of the attic, proximity to the surrounding homes and the sonar frequency of the bats, Robertson's approach essentially deludes the bats into thinking there's no entrance, when in fact there is. He leaves the "door" up for a few days to ensure that all the bats have vacated the premises and then seals up the building so they don't return. A bat needs only a 3/8 inch crack to enter or exit a house. A rather vociferous opponent of fumigation, Robertson points out that exterminators spray toxic poisons to kill the bats and don't bother to clean up the mess. To escape the smoke or poisons, some bats fly into the vapour barrier and die. The fumigation company seals up the attic and you're left with dead bats between the walls.

extracted from an article by Phyllis Schwager in the BEACH-METRO NEWS, Feb. 25, 1992



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

XERISCAPING: USING WATER WISELY

Xeriscaping is a term that may be new to Canadian gardeners. It came out of the desert southwest in the United States and means a form of gardening that uses water sparingly. "Xeriscape" comes from the Greek word "xeros", which means dry. In areas of drought, heat and little water, conserving and adapting became necessary, so xeriscaping evolved. It requires an attitude adjustment. Grass is not out of the question, but because it uses a lot of water, grass and similar plants should be used sparingly. Xeriscaping has six basic concepts, some of which many of us incorporate into our gardening already.

- A simple design, grouping plants with similar water requirements.
- Limit turf areas.
- Grow water-efficient plants suited for our climate.
- Water efficiently and conservatively.
- Improve the water-retaining capacity of our garden soil.
- A more extensive use of water-conserving mulches.

The idea is to use water efficiently and effectively. Plants that require a lot of water can be kept in one area, preferably a low-lying area that catches rainfall and runoff, where they can share resources. Water-efficient, drought-tolerant, water-wise and water-thrifty are all apt descriptions we should keep in mind as we plan and plant. Choose plants that are adapted to cope with reduced irrigation. Silver or grey foliage that reflects sunlight, cools the plant and reduces water loss is one such adaptation. Native plants are more adaptable. Greater use of soaker hoses, either the above-ground or buried types, are needed. More diligent use of mulches is a must. Good hints for any xeriscaping are:

- Use windbreaks to reduce evaporation.
- Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation.
- Keep weeds under control, as they take water away from plants.
- Mow the turf you do retain less frequently -- and raise the cutting height.

For the booklet, "The Environmental Gardener", write to "Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A. 11225-1099. It costs \$6.95 (U.S.).

from THE LONDON FREE PRESS, June 20, 1992 (adapted from an article by Ken Smith)

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Interpretations of the nature of traditional Aboriginal society in our popular press almost invariably stress a harmonious and unchanging symbiotic balance...All human societies have an impact on their environment. It is only that the magnitude of the impact varies according to a number of factors, technological sophistication being pre-eminent.

from "The Politics of Harmony" by Michael Hermes in AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY, Autumn 1992, Vol. 23, No. 12

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

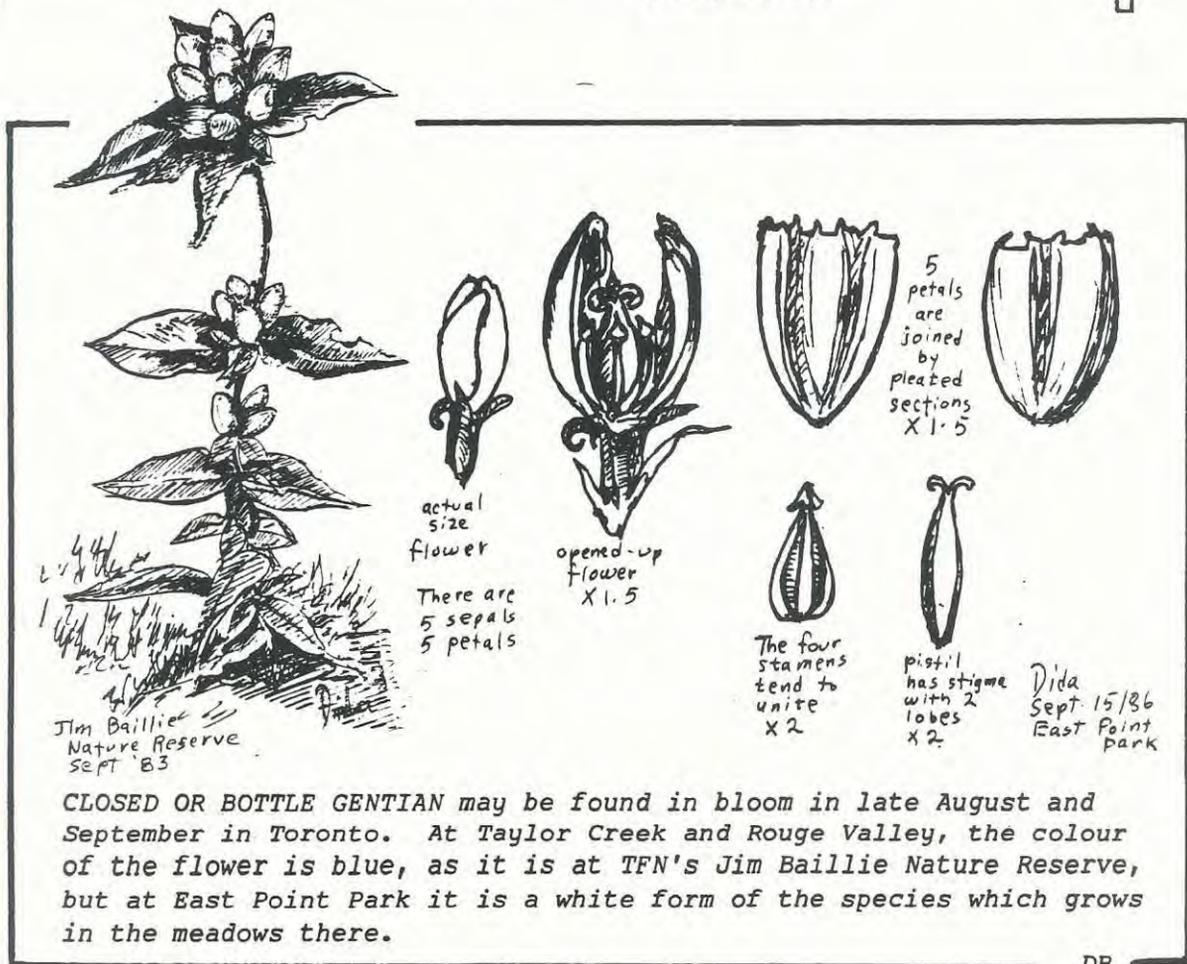
October 1991, Toronto

A generally pleasant autumn month. Warm spells from October 2nd-5th and again from October 23rd-26th brought the mean temperature about a degree above normal. Downtown, it was the warmest October since 1984; and at Pearson Airport, since 1973. Summerlike thunderstorms occurred in both spells. In between, cooler but not unseasonable conditions prevailed. A trace of snow fell on October 19th. Later in the month, very cold weather built up in western Canada, but didn't reach our area until after Hallowe'en.

Sunshine hours were near normal, winds relatively light.

Gavin Miller

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Serenely gliding,
ignoring the raucous band,
goes a red-tailed hawk.

haiku by Arthur Wade

COMING EVENTS

Toronto Ornithological Club - Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks -

- Late Migration at Toronto Islands - Saturday, Oct. 10 at 7:50 am (all day) with Hugh Currie. Meet at the Toronto Islands ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. to catch the first available ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring lunch.

Fungi Fair presented by the Mycological Society of Toronto - Sept. 21 from 12 noon to 9 pm at the Civic Garden Centre (Lawrence and Leslie Streets). Admission \$1.00 per person, children free.

Toronto Entomologists' Association - Monthly general meeting - Saturday, October 24 at 1 pm in the lecture room of the McLaughlin Planetarium. Anyone wanting to know about insects should attend these meetings.

The Garden in Winter - a special program on Sunday, Oct. 18 from 1 - 5 pm at the Civic Garden Centre (Lawrence and Leslie). The fee is \$45 and those interested are urged to register in advance. Write to The CGC at 777 Lawrence Ave. East, North York M3C 1P2 or call 397-1340.

Humber Valley Hike - a special guided walk through areas normally closed to the public on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 1 pm to 4 pm. Meet at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. Program included with admission to the Centre. Reservations required. Call 416 - 832-2289.

Walk to McMichael - from the Kortright Centre for Conservation to Kleinburg. Advance tickets are required for this walk on Monday, Oct. 12 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Call (416) 832-2289 for tickets.

Colborne Lodge "Harvest Festival" - Oct. 4 from 1 pm to 5 pm. Free admission. The Lodge is located at the south end of High Park.

Recycling Council of Ontario - 13th Annual Conference - topic will be Destination Elimination? - Oct. 7-9, 1992 in Ottawa, Ont. For details, write to RCO, 489 College St., Ste. 504, Toronto M6G 1A5 or call (416) 960-1025.

East York Outing Club - monthly meeting at the S. Walter Stewart Library (downstairs), 170 Memorial Park Ave at 7:30 on Thursday, Oct. 22. Program includes an illustrated talk "Discovering Our Waterfront Heritage" with Helen Juhola. Guests are welcome. Bring a coffee mug. Donations accepted gratefully.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don - planting along the Lower Don Trail on Sat. Oct. 24 and Sun. Nov. 1 with the Metro Parks and Property Dept. For more details, call 392 - 1255; also call this number if you want to become involved with the Task Force -- ask for David Stonehouse.

Save the Rouge Valley System - for information about organized hikes call Robert Marshall at 439-8489 after 7 pm.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Ontario Field Ornithologists Annual General Meeting - at Erindale College, Mississauga, in the South Building on Sat. Oct. 17, 1992 at 8 am. Registration fee: \$8.00. Ron Pittaway will give an illustrated talk on Ontario's Recognizable Forms (how to distinguish between races of the same species originating from two widely separate areas of the continent), and Dr. Ronald Tasker talking on his trip to West New Guinea. As well, there will be a bird quiz, displays, a book sale, equipment sale. The sale is open to OFO members only in the morning, but to non-members in the afternoon.

- Field Trip - Lake Ontario Pelagic - Sun. Oct. 18 - from Toronto towards Niagara-on-the-Lake and Van Wagner's Beach - leaving at 8 am. OFO members registering for the AGM get first chance, then OFO members, then after Sept. 30, to TFN club members, etc. Limited to 100 participants. Priority based on postmarks.
- For AGM pre-registration forms and applications for the Pelagic Trip, contact Ron Scovell at (416) 744-3888. Registration will also be accepted at the door.

Black Creek Project - monthly meeting - Oct. 7 at 6:30 pm at the Haultain Building (U. of T campus) (College Street opposite McCaul) in Room 201. Anyone interested in the restoration of Black Creek is encouraged to attend. For further information call Julie Parnaby at 661-6600, ext. 345.

ECO-ED Conference - Oct. 15-21 - in Toronto - featuring various types of sessions on methods of communicating and educating people to act on development and environmental issues. For more information, write to ECO-ED Congress Canada, 191 Niagara St., Toronto M5V 1C9.

Greenways and Planning Workshop - University of Waterloo, Resurrection College, Lower Lounge, Sept. 22, 1992. For more information, call (519) 885-1211, ext. 2072. Cost: \$45.00.

Managing the Great Lakes Shoreline: Experiences and Opportunities - Workshop - Oct. 22-23, 1992. Cost \$90.00. For details, write to Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo, Waterloo N2L 3G1.

Honey Fest and Harvest Day - Todmorden Mills - Sept. 27 from 11 am to 4 pm. Entrance fee: \$2.25 for adults, \$1.75 for seniors, \$1.25 for children.

Royal Canadian Institute Lectures - Call 928-2096 for details.

- Oct. 18 - Roberta Bondar on the International Space Program
- Oct. 25 - Steven Scott on Explorations of the Deep Ocean Floor
- lectures are free, begin at 3:15 pm in the Medical Sciences Auditorium, U of T campus.

Humber River - Pacific salmon run - best viewing at the dam above the Old Mill (north of Bloor Street West) - all month.

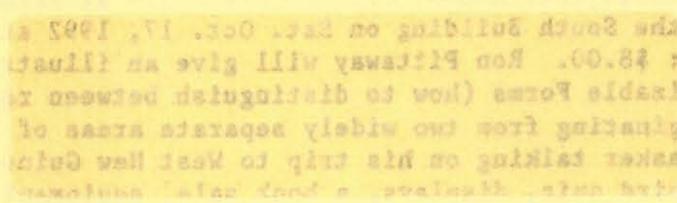
Nature Information Centre in Sunnybrook Park - last chance for free maps, etc. until next May. Open until Oct. 11 from 12 noon to 4 pm, Sunday afternoons.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

20 College St., Suite 11
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

(416) 968-6255

Publications Mail
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TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

<p>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION, 1965..... \$ 2.00</p> <p>CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 1972 \$ 2.00</p> <p>TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976 Metropolitan Toronto's important natural areas are described and recommendations given for their conservation and management; includes maps, bibliography and index \$ 8.00</p> <p>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS..... ea \$ 4.00 Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973 Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974 Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975 Survey #4 - Wigmore Ravine, 1975 Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976 Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1976 Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977 Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978</p>	<p>INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938 to present) \$ 10.00</p> <p>TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 \$ 4.00</p> <p>A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985 \$ 4.00</p> <p>GUIDE TO THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, LEASKDALE, ONT., 1986 \$ 4.00</p> <p>TORONTO ISLANDS: PLANT COMMUNITIES AND NOTEWORTHY SPECIES, 1987..... \$ 4.00</p> <p>TODMORDEN MILLS, 1987 \$ 4.00</p> <p>VASCULAR PLANTS OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO, 1990 \$ 8.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO G.S.T.</p> <p>All publications are available at the monthly general meetings or may be ordered from Toronto Field Naturalists, 20 College St., Suite 11, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1K2. (Add \$2.00 per item for postage and handling).</p>
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MEMBERSHIP FEES (No G.S.T.)

\$30 FAMILY (2 adults - same address, children included)
\$25 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY
\$20 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE
Tax receipts issued for donations

Membership fees and address changes should be sent to:
20 College St., Suite 11, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

