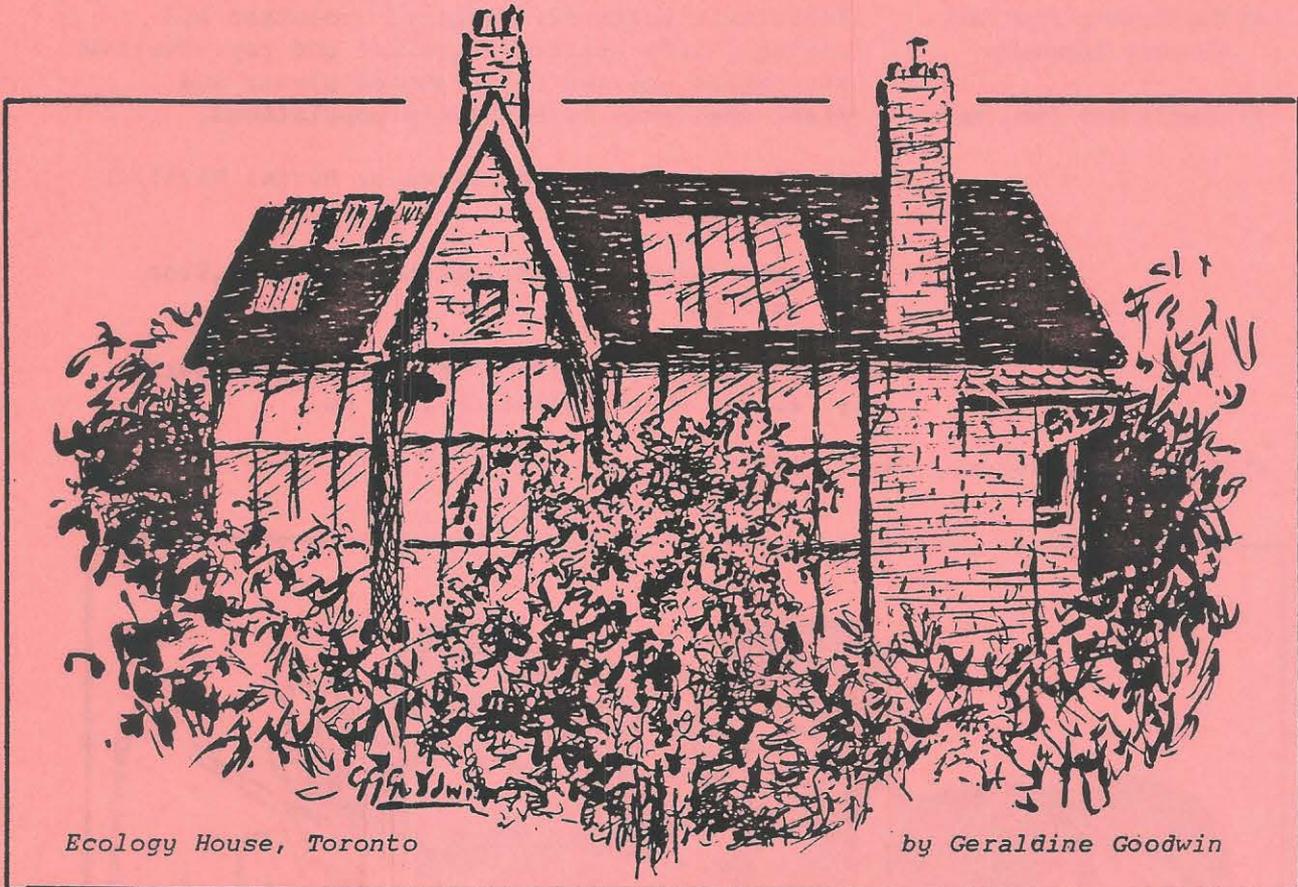


# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 435

April 1993



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## TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, April 4, 1993 - BUTTERFLIES: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE  
an illustrated lecture by Phil Schappert,  
President of the Toronto Entomologists' Association  
at 2:30 pm  
- Jamaican and Ontario species will be used to  
illustrate butterfly biology, evolution and  
ecology, life history, survival and reproductive  
strategies and the importance of plants and  
plant chemistry to butterfly populations.

in the Northrop Frye Hall  
Victoria University

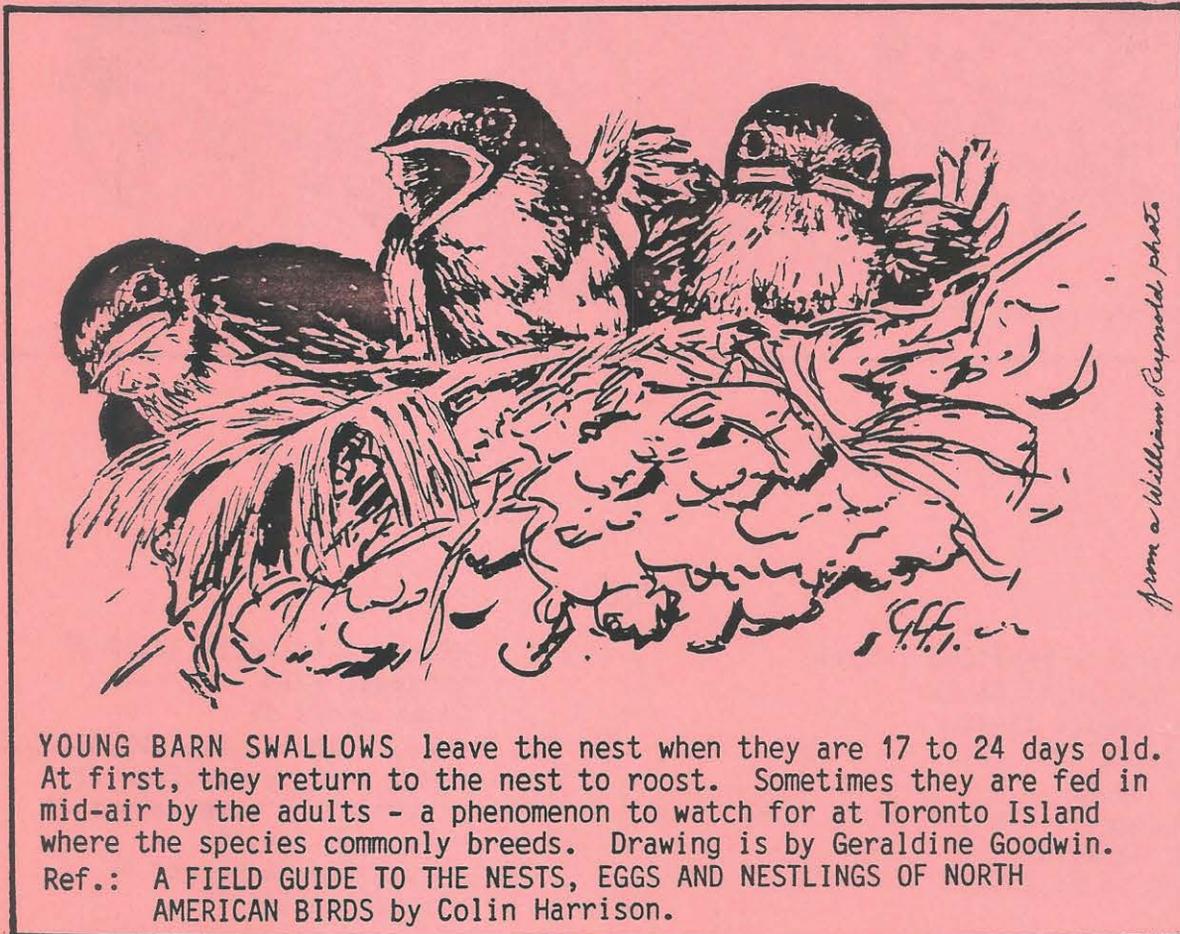
73 Queen's Park Cres. East

+ a display of photographs taken by Muriel Miville,  
from 2 pm to 4 pm

+ TFN memberships and publications for sale, from  
2 pm to 4 pm

+ coffee and juice outside the lecture hall during  
the "social hour", starting at 2 pm

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, May 2, 1993



# TFN OUTINGS

## April

- Saturday  
April 3  
10:30 am
- HARBOURFRONT - nature arts waterfront, Toronto  
Leader: Mary Cumming  
Meet at the northwest corner of 207 Queen's Quay West (Terminal Building). Bring a drawing of a plant you have done. Lunch optional.  
Bring sketching materials and stool, camera, or just come and enjoy the waterfront.
- Sunday  
April 4  
2:30 pm
- TFN MEETING  
73 Queen's Park Cres. East  
Northrop Frye Building
- Thursday  
April 8  
10:30 am
- ALLAN GARDENS - nature arts Toronto  
Leader: Margaret Bentley & Ann Millett  
Meet at the greenhouse entrance, south of Carlton St., east of Jarvis Street. Lunch optional.  
Bring camera, sketching material and stool, or just come and enjoy.
- Saturday  
April 10  
10:30 am
- THE ANNEX - human & natural history Toronto  
Leader: Tracy Butler  
Meet on the east side of Bathurst St. just north of Bloor St. West. Morning only. Walk may end at a different transit stop. We will be exploring a historic part of Toronto, looking at trees and buildings. We will also have a look at Ecology Garden (a project of Pollution Probe). [See cover drawing.]
- Wednesday  
April 14  
10 am
- WILKET CREEK - nature walk West Don trib., North York  
Leader: Carol Sellers  
Meet at the southwest corner of Leslie St. and Lawrence Ave. East. Bring lunch. Walk may end at a different public transit stop. We will be following Wilket Creek south to the West Don River looking for birds and early spring flowers.
- Saturday  
April 17  
10 am
- TODMORDEN MILLS - treasure hunt Don, East York  
Leader: Eva Davis  
Meet on the west side of Broadview Ave. at Pottery Road (opposite Mortimer Ave.). Morning only.  
Wear old clothes, waterproof footwear and work gloves. We will be picking up litter. Garbage bags will be provided as well as coffee; also, washrooms will be open. Treasures have included anything from \$20 bills to new jackets and great sightings of kinglets and early spring wildflowers. Lots of bending, but you can work at your own speed.

Small bright birds chirping  
inspect my window boxes,  
so willing to share.

haiku by Arthur Wade  
March 1, 1992

## APRIL OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Tuesday  
April 20  
10 am HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk Humber, Etobicoke  
Leader: Ellie Elder  
Meet on the west side of Scarlett Rd. at Chapman Rd. (north of Eglinton Ave. West). Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.  
Early spring flowers and migrating birds should be abundant on this walk.
- Saturday  
April 24  
11 am MORNINGSIDE PARK - nature walk Highland Creek, Scarborough  
Leader: Joanne Doucette  
Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Morningside Ave. (south of Ellesmere Rd) Bring lunch. Walk may end at a different public transit stop.  
This park has one of the best displays of spring flowers in Metro Toronto. Birds should be migrating through this very large wild area.
- Sunday  
April 25  
2 pm THOMSON PARK - nature walk Highland Creek, Scarborough:  
Leader: Morris Sorensen  
Meet at the park entrance on the east side of Brimley Rd. north of Lawrence Ave. East. Walk may end at a different public transit stop.  
This park which is named after Scarborough's first pioneer family has much of interest to naturalists -- wild areas containing remnants of our natural heritage as well as a historic site and an arboretum.
- Monday  
April 26  
6:45 pm GLEN STEWART RAVINE - birds Toronto  
Leader: Fred Bodsworth  
Meet at the ravine entrance (south side of Kingston Rd., west of Beech Ave.). Walk may end at a different public transit stop.  
This is the first of our evening walks (one per week till mid-August). A leisurely stroll to look for birds. Lots of lovely wildflowers are to be found in this ravine.
- Wednesday  
April 28  
11 am ETOBICOKE VALLEY - nature walk Etobicoke Creek, Etobicoke  
Leader: Isabel Smith  
Meet at the corner of Rathburn Rd. and Elmcrest Rd.  
Bring lunch. Wear waterproof footwear.  
This area contains the best display of spring wildflowers in Etobicoke, including some very rare plants. Birds, fossils and reptiles and amphibians are also abundant in this small valley.

□

Drat!  
A gnat  
in my hat!  
I need a bat  
to quickly squash it flat.  
Drat!  
Maybe I'll just let it scat.

Beatrice J. Hogan



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The TFN logo has its own honoured position on the Metro Heritage quilt which was unveiled at Metro Hall on February 15th and presented to Metro Council as a gift to the people of Metropolitan Toronto. The logo is number 43, which is central on the basal row of blocks.

The quilt was prepared to mark the second of the heritage years (1991-1993) and to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the city's founding by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe.

This is the description of block 43 in the handout on the quilt:

"Toronto Field Naturalists...Preserving the natural heritage, studying and recording it in detail, and sharing the wonders of nature with the public, this very large organization is metropolitan in scope. It sponsors about 200 walks annually and is a major resource for the rest of the heritage community".

The quilt has been fire-proofed. It is beautifully worked and represents 46 heritage groups.

In view of this unique representation of our logo, which will be on view for many years to come, there will be no further search for a new design. We will retain our historic logo which is the recognized symbol of the Toronto Field Naturalists.

Joan Patterson

□



## KEEPING IN TOUCH

February 23, 1993

...Dan reports that there were more black swallowtails than usual in the "404 meadow" where they have stopped mowing - along the Don Valley Parkway south of the Don Mills Rd. park entrance. Two to three broods during the summer. The Baltimore checkerspot population in the "Magic Meadow" (along the wet slope on the south side of Taylor Creek west of Dawes Rd.) was very healthy in 1992 - 20 to 30 butterflies in a 2 to 3-week period around summer solstice. Tiger swallowtails were much less plentiful than usual. Normal hairstreak population. We saw quite a few monarchs (nothing like last year's hoards). Considering that they had a hard winter, they seem to be O.K. A lot of mourning cloaks in early April (had wintered over) but not many during the rest of the summer. No Compton's tortoiseshells in 1992 - have seen a few other years. We haven't found any buckeyes along Lake Ontario for 2 years now, so they may not have migrated this far. No unusual sightings. That's it for Taylor Creek Park 1992. All the best, from Dan (the observer) and me (the letter-writer).

Silvia S. Wineland

Ed. note: No Compton's tortoiseshells were reported for any Toronto location in 1992, according to TFN records. Milbert's tortoiseshell was reported on the "Magic Meadow" on May 17 and July 16.

February 12, 1993

I have just returned to Toronto and received your mid-January note. I'd be happy to keep bird lists sorted by location. It would make little difference anyhow since the bulk of the birds I see are in High Park. Dublin was full of birdsong - robins, wrens, finches mainly, with some thrushes, the occasional blackbird and various tits - and I miss that. Rooks were refurbishing their ancestral nests in the huge trees - beech and oak mainly - that overhang the entrance to the church grounds, while a neighbour still feeds the nearly-tame pied wagtail that zips round as wagtails do. Snowdrops bloomed in January as did primula; crocus came bursting through as scheduled on February 1, St. Brigid's Day, and the first day of spring in Ireland. The weather was windy, wet and mild. When a friend observed she would prefer it cold and dry, I said she might try Canada. Well, it's cold anyhow. But the days are lengthening and we are moving in the right direction. Regards,

Nuala O'Shea

Butterflies have much in common with birds; both are vivid expressions of life. And like birds, butterflies are sensitive indicators of the environment, sending out signals when things are out of kilter.

from THE AUDUBON SOCIETY HANDBOOK FOR BUTTERFLY WATCHERS by Robert Michael Pyle, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1984

## PROJECTS

## ADOPT A POND

In recent years concern has been expressed over an apparent worldwide decline in amphibian populations. In response to this decline, the Metro Toronto Zoo, with assistance from the Environmental Youth Corps, created the Adopt-a-Pond program. Through this program students and community members are being encouraged to protect, restore or create habitat for amphibians. The ultimate goal is to have 5,000 ponds, one for every school in the province of Ontario, linked and inventoried. In urban areas, hydro and rail corridors, stream corridors, and backyard habitats will provide links with schoolyard wildlife areas. This will provide protected corridors along which amphibians can migrate and expand their range.

A book has been created which describes how to adopt a pond, and provides activities teachers can perform with their students in the classroom or the field. In addition, a tape on Ontario frog calls is available which can be used to identify frogs on school outings. Once a school or class has performed an activity that makes the connection between amphibians and their dependence on wetlands, they are awarded with adoption certificates and amphibian conservation decals. The response so far has been tremendous. More than three hundred schools have expressed an interest in the program. Some requests are coming from as far away as British Columbia. Many schools have already selected areas to study or restore. We encourage other schools to link up with existing projects by adopting nearby wetlands and exchanging information on their studies.

Several projects are currently underway in the Toronto area. The Metro Toronto Zoo has been conducting a study of urban amphibians over the past ten years. This study has highlighted the Rouge, Don and Humber Rivers and their tributaries as important amphibian habitat occurring in an urban setting. Schools are encouraged to consider these watersheds when looking for adoption sites. At Todmorden Mills, a toad breeding pond is being restored near the Don River. In Scarborough, schools are being encouraged to work with the local Works Department to rehabilitate a degraded section of Centennial Creek, a tributary of Highland Creek. Industry is playing an important role in wetland protection in Oshawa. General Motors of Canada Limited has created a management plan for the provincially significant Second Marsh. Through this plan, General Motors will be active in restoring sections of this valuable wetland. A school group will have the opportunity to become involved in a long-term study of this marsh and the amphibians it supports.

The first priority of the Adopt-a-Pond program is the protection of existing wetland habitats, as newly created ponds cannot take the place of established wetlands. However, where this is not possible, creating a pond can make a valuable contribution to amphibian protection. R.H. Cornish School in Port Perry turned a barren piece of school property into a wildlife garden and frog pond. One concern that arose while planning the habitat was student safety. The site selected for this particular pond was located next to the kindergarten entrance, bus route, and a main street. With careful planning and ongoing communication with the school and local community, concerns were alleviated. By placing boulders in the pond, water depth was reduced and refuges were provided for amphibians. Berming and planting of vegetation

▷

PROJECTS (cont'd)

along three sides of the pond limited access to one side and decreased visibility of the pond from the roadside. Since the habitat was completed, classes have used the area to study not only amphibians, but trees, shrubs, insects, aquatic invertebrates and a host of other wildlife attracted to the area. Having invested in this project from its beginning, students have taken a sense of pride and commitment to the protection of their wildlife area and its inhabitants.

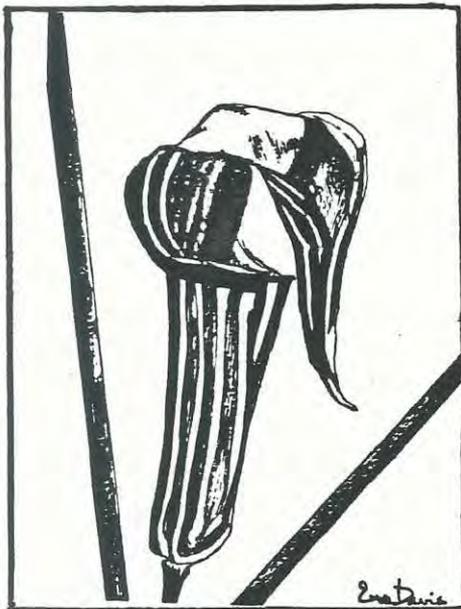
Classes are encouraged to return to their adopted ponds each year. Information collected on pond visits or field outings can be recorded on data collection forms created by students. Long-term monitoring of amphibian populations will reveal changes in their abundance and distribution and identify areas of habitat in need of protection. Pond studies and updates on the Adopt-a-Pond program will be highlighted in the student/teacher newsletter "Amphibian Voice".

▷ For more information on the Adopt-a-Pond program, or to contribute information on amphibian sightings, please write to Lorraine Giza, Environmental Youth Corps, Metro Toronto Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill, Ont. M1E 4R5.

CREATING A WILDFLOWER PRESERVE

For the past two years volunteers have been working to create a wildflower preserve at Todmorden Mills in an area just south of the railway station. Volunteers are needed to weed alien species such as Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard and plant native species which would have been common in this area in the past. A typical work day runs from 9 am till noon.

▷ For more information, call Dave Money at 497-3788. Workdates for 1993 are May 8, May 29, June 12, July 10, Sept. 18 and Oct. 23.



▷ JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT is a common Toronto perennial wildflower of valleys, ravines and shaded lakeshore locations. Jack's pulpit is actually a modified leaf, the "spathe". He himself is the "spadix" within - which has tiny flowers attached to its base. The "Jack" in the drawing by Eva Davis may even have been a "Jill". Depending on energy reserves in a given season, little Jack may change genders and become big Jill - in order to produce those big red berries - and vice versa, of course, for no plant can afford the energy to play Jill's role for very long.

The plant in the drawing was purple in colour but this species is often green. If it's small it may or may not be a young plant - but if it's large, it could be as old as twenty - and female, of course...at least this year.

Ref.: "Sex in the Pulpit", from THE RAVEN, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Vol. 24, No. 2, June 30, 1983.

## PROJECTS (cont'd)

## SCHOOL GROUND NATURALIZATION

The Evergreen Foundation is a registered charity whose mission is to promote and establish natural areas in the urban environment through education and responsible action. In 1992, we planted 8,000 trees and shrubs with the help of over 4,000 students and volunteers in the Greater Toronto Area. Since 1991, we have helped nearly 300 schools plant trees on their school grounds. School interest in this type of program continues to increase, and is moving from simple tree plantings to the return of complete natural areas.

Schools across the country are beginning to naturalize their school yards from bleak environments to places which are alive, provide learning opportunities and increase the physical and psychological well-being of the students. They have proven that not only do you save money on field trips out of the city, but the violence and vandalism that has been prevalent in the old-style schoolyard has actually decreased.

Teachers and students realize the importance of a direct connection with nature. They are discovering ways to integrate the indoor studies with these new outdoor areas and are finding the benefits enormous. It is apparent now that people can no longer dissociate themselves from the natural processes. By naturalizing the schoolyards of our country and by connecting curriculum to the outdoors, we are preparing the leaders of tomorrow with the relevant information they will need to make our cities, country and the world a better place.

The Evergreen Foundation is attempting to meet this interest through our School Ground Naturalization program which initiates and supports schools' efforts to transform schoolyards into natural areas of educational value. We are supporting school projects through a grant, a "how to" book being published with Prentice Hall and workshops for teachers, maintenance staff and schoolboard officials.

While we have received generous support from the federal Tree Canada program, we are still raising funds to cover the production of educational materials for schools, distribution of educational materials to schools, the grant pool (plant material to schools), and follow-up support to the schools who took part in the program. We also are looking for volunteers to help with this program. For further information, contact The Evergreen Foundation, 24 Mercer St., Toronto, Ont. M5V 1H3 or call Kevin McLaughlin at (416) 596-1495.

## ADOPT A RESTORATION SITE

Volunteers are needed to adopt (inventory and monitor) sites in the lower Don Valley that have been planted with trees and shrubs by the Task Force to Bring Back the Don. For more information, contact David Stonehouse at 392-0068.

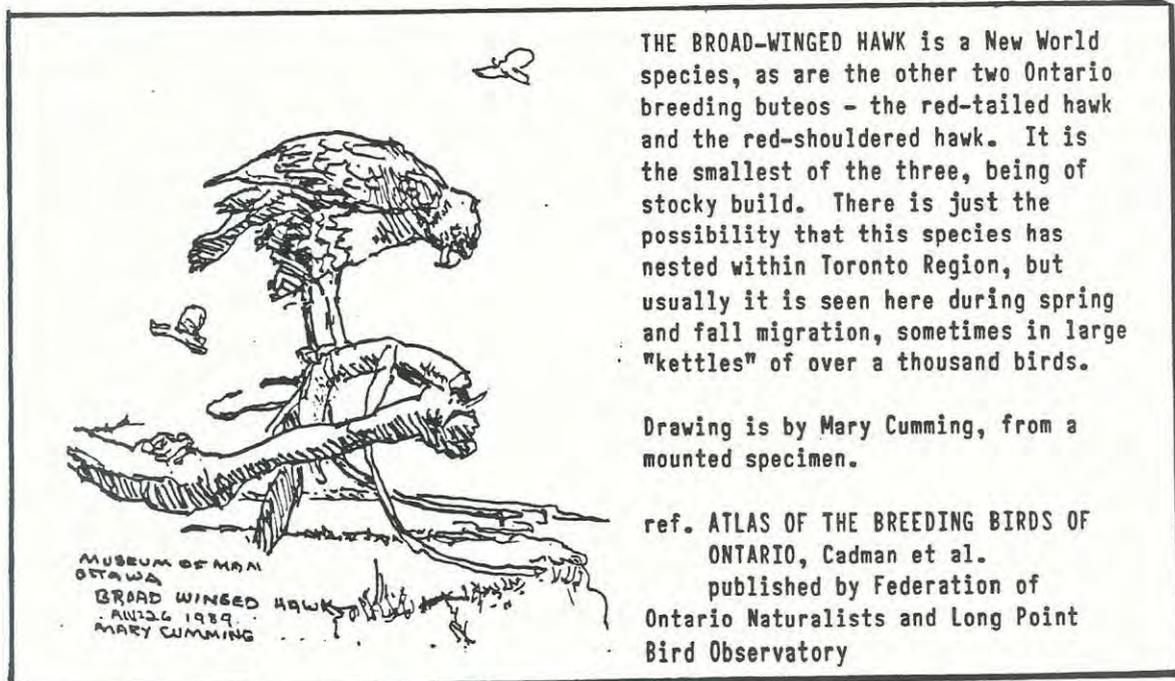
To re-create an ancient wood is beyond human knowledge, though we might recreate a historic grassland if we were to live to the age of 200.  
from THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE by Oliver Rackham, J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd., London, 1986.

## PROJECTS (cont'd)

## INFORMATION NEEDED ON STARVING HERONS

Rehabilitation centres in eastern Ontario and western Quebec have been inundated with starving great blue herons this past summer. Although there were the usual number of vehicular and shooting injuries, many yearlings who arrived were extremely emaciated and unable to feed themselves. In the past 17 years, Kit Chubb has treated 200 great blues at her Avian Care and Research Foundation in Verona, Ontario. That number includes 59 that arrived in 1992 alone; and, of those, two-thirds brought in during the summer and early fall were young, starving birds. These figures are reflected in other centres in the area. Although there is no evidence on what has caused the increases, the answer may be something as simple as low food supplies and high populations. Because adult birds neither feed their young nor train them to find prey once they have fledged, increased competition for food may have taken its toll on the yearlings. Another theory, however, is that the youngsters may be especially susceptible to bioaccumulation of toxins. Not only do the birds eat high on the food chain, relying mainly on frogs when they first fledge, their inexperience at catching prey means they must use fat stores built up during their nestling stage. These fatty deposits may be high in toxins that are rapidly released into the bloodstream during this period. The Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, a new project under the Green Plan, has facilities to analyze wildlife carcasses found around the country. Data from these post mortems could provide valuable information on the causes of the surge in starving herons. For more information on the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, contact Dr. Daniel Martineau at the Department of Pathology in the Veterinary School at Ste. Hyacinthe, P.Q. (telephone 514-773-8521).

extracted from an article in NATURE ALERT (CNF), Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan. 1993



## FOR READING

### In Plants, Sex is Serious Business

Humans admire plants for their beauty and variety, but such exhibitions were designed for the more serious business of propagation. The reviews in this issue will interest readers of a botanical bent.

THE SEX LIFE OF FLOWERS by Bastiaan Meeuse and Sean Morris, published by Facts on File. 1984. \$31.95.

This large book (8½" X 11½") is written in a style that appeals to botanists and non-botanists alike. It begins with a look at the evolution of sex in plants. Later chapters explore pollination strategies (including mimicry and self-pollination), plant-insect co-evolution, and economic botany. Spicing up the interesting text are numerous illustrations and photographs. Based on a British TV documentary which took eight years to produce, this book allows readers to appreciate the true purpose of floral display and structure.

INSECTS AND FLOWERS: THE BIOLOGY OF A PARTNERSHIP by Friedrich G. Barth, published by Princeton University Press, 1991. \$20.00.

While the author of the previous title devoted an entire chapter to plant-insect relationships, the author of this title has devoted an entire book to the subject. Moreover, he has chosen to examine this "biology of a partnership" from an entomologist's perspective, claiming that the bulk of the literature has been generated by botanists. Thus, the focus here is on insect physiology and behaviour, although there is considerable discussion of plant structures as well. Both botanists and entomologists will be attracted by the wealth of intriguing facts, in-depth discussions of experiments, plus the excellent graphics this book offers.

BOTANY FOR GARDENERS: AN INTRODUCTION AND GUIDE by Brian Capon, published by Timber Press, 1992. \$15.95 U.S. (1-800-827-5680 to order)

This attractive book could be likened to a mini-botany textbook as it covers the usual topics of growth, adaptations, general functions and reproduction. The similarity ends here, however, for the author writes in a more creative manner and strives to interconnect his material (the text is rife with numerous cross-references). This "introduction" will actually be a challenge to those with dim memories of high school or undergraduate biology. It is probably more relevant to botanists than gardeners, so don't let the title deter you (I'm sure it was a marketing decision). Highly recommended as a reference book on general botany, it gets to the heart of the subject without the clutter.

THE BOOK OF FOREST AND THICKET by John Eastman, published by Stackpole Books, 1992. \$17.95.

Going well beyond the superficial treatment of most other books, "Forest and Thicket" offers descriptive accounts of many common trees, shrubs and wildflowers from an ecologist's perspective. In all, 101 species are included. The general format for each species includes its natural history, associate species through the seasons (both plants and animals)

FOR READING (cont'd)

and lore. This book will appeal to those wishing to explore how nature "fits together". My only complaint is that "Forest and Thicket" should have been much larger -- there are lots of other plants I'd like to learn about!

RARE WILDFLOWERS OF ONTARIO by Dr. James Pringle and Barbara McKean, published by the Royal Botanical Gardens, 1992. \$10.00 (includes a poster). Call 1-800-668-9449 to order.

This 32-page publication focuses on a very critical issue -- the disappearance of our natural heritage. It was designed as a resource manual for teachers and nature educators. The first section covers the vegetation zones found in Ontario, why species are rare, and plant protection legislation. The remainder of the manual highlights twelve wildflowers which are rare in this province for various reasons. The accompanying poster features all twelve flowers. This manual could be a useful complement to lessons on ecology or the environment.

Richard Aaron

□



#### EXOTIC FLORA

During the winter months the sketchers and photographers in the TFN are not deprived of subject-matter of living things. The greenhouses of Allan Gardens, York Cemetery, Etobicoke Centennial and the University of Toronto have provided much inspiration in the last ten years, and a learning experience.

Carrying guides to house plants and exotic trees, with the help of labels on the specimens, we have often been amazed not only at the exotic aspect of the plants displayed but also at their resemblance and sometimes close relationship to our own native flora.

Miriam Faibish has captured a typical indoor landscape in her pen-and-ink drawing.

## WHY NATURALISTS SHOULD CARE ABOUT CULTURAL HERITAGE

When I started working on an environmental education program to address "protected spaces, wildlife, and cultural heritage", my first reaction was "how on earth are we going to include that cultural stuff?" (My second, unvoiced, thought was "and who cares about old buildings anyway?") Well, I've since learned that we should all care about cultural heritage -- and that there's more to it than just old buildings.

Old buildings, yes, but also sacred places, artifacts, archaeological sites, and even whole landscapes. Not to mention songs, folklore, poetry, art, and traditions.

"The environment" is not just out there in the wilderness, it includes our cities, homes, the chair you are sitting on -- and you and me. There is no place on this planet that has not been in some way influenced by human activity. Most national and provincial parks bear signs of a rich human history -- from Inuit gravesites in northern national parks to logging in Fundy.

Our cultural heritage tells stories of human relationships with our environment. (For the Christmas bird counts circa 1890, they shot birds down and then counted them.) And if you think that the three Rs are a new idea, visit a "living history" site to find out how our grandfathers made lamps from old tin cans, while grandma made petticoats from flour bags.

Many of us wax lyrical about natural environments and escape the cities whenever we can, but shouldn't we care about the quality of human habitats too? Preserving heritage neighbourhoods can add to the character and "livability" of our cities -- think of the Halifax waterfront, Quebec City's old town, or Gastown in Vancouver. Yet this heritage is threatened too. Even some places listed at sites of national historic significance have been bulldozed.

In the fabric of Canada, nature and culture are threads that run in different directions, but we need both to complete the picture. Naturalists could benefit from forging more alliances with those who are equally passionate about cultural heritage. It's worth thinking about.

an article by Judith Cullington of Environment Canada in NATURE ALERT, Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan. 1993 (a Canadian Nature Federation publication)

▷ For more information, write to: Environment Canada, Spaces and Species Learning Campaign, Jules Leger Building, 4th floor, 25 Eddy St., Hull, P.Q. K1A 0H3. □



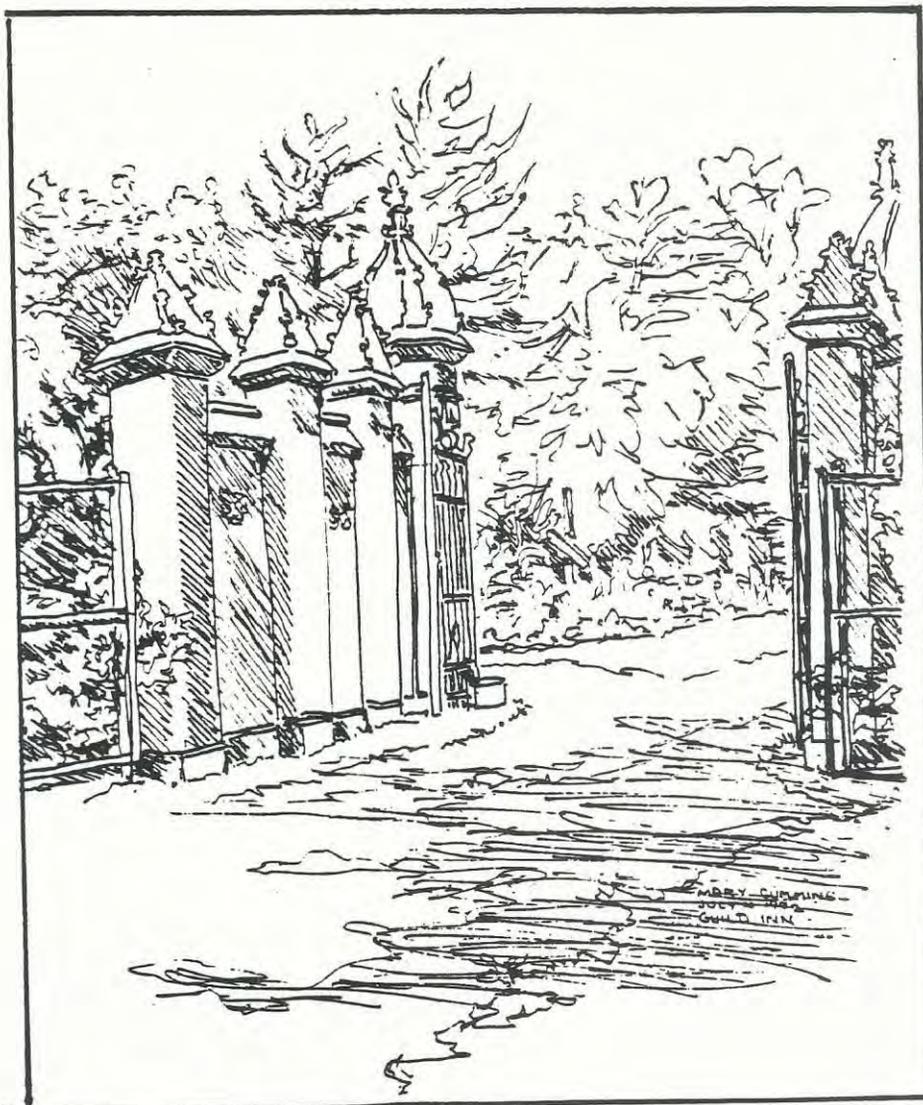
### CHICKEN OF THE WOODS

Pride of place for the heaviest fruiting body on record (this being the part of a fungus which we see, as opposed to the mycelium underground) is given to a Sulphur Shelf. This bracket fungus is popularly known as Chicken of the Woods, more exactly as *Polyporus sulphureus* or *Laetiporus sulphureus*. In 1990 Giovanni Paba of Broadstone in England found one which weighed 100 pounds -- approximately the weight of a young female. *Laetiporus sulphureus* is listed as "Edible -- excellent", at least around its edges as the fungus ages. What intrigues me far more than edibility is appearance: countless overlapping brackets ranging from sulphur yellow to orange. What a lovely sight 100 pounds worth of Sulphur Shelf must have been.

Eva Davis

□

THE SOUTH  
GATES OF  
OF THE  
GUILD INN  
were  
sketched  
by Mary  
Cumming  
from  
outside  
near the  
bluffs  
on a TFN  
Nature  
Arts  
outing.

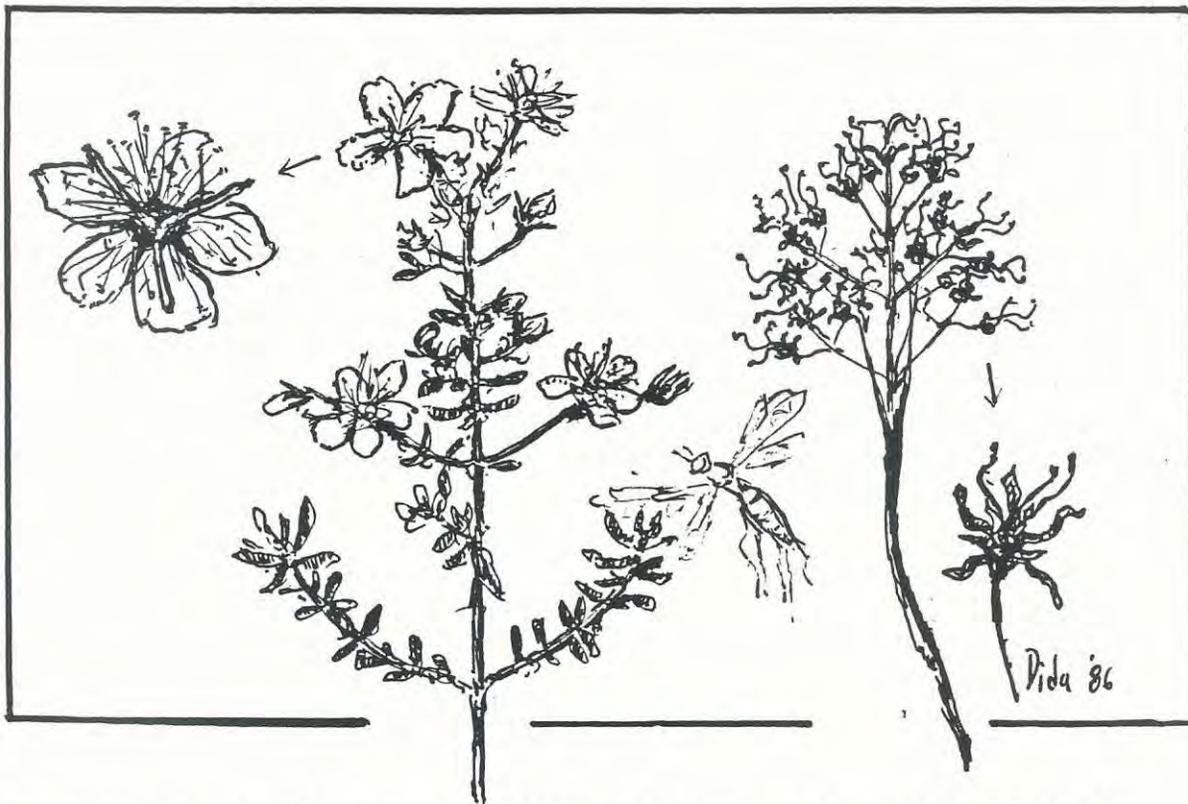


## PRESERVATION OF ST. JOHN'SWORT VITAL

St. John'swort is considered one of the most valuable medicinal plants throughout history...[It] has been used as a mood elevator...and is more effective than over-the-counter drugs for treating sleep-disturbances, because it does not interfere with normal sleep patterns and produces no hang-over or side-effects...Unfortunately, St. John'swort has been observed to cause photosensitivity in grazing animals. This has not been reported in humans. Nevertheless, St. John'swort may be facing extinction in Ontario. This lovely little yellow blossoming wayside plant is being infested and severely damaged by the chrysolite beetle, introduced into Ontario with the approval of the Department of Agriculture. Although there have been no new releases of the beetle since 1981, the plant has been seriously decimated. Neither herbalists nor the public were consulted. If St. John'swort is destroyed, will this beetle move on to other valuable plants? It has been suggested that St. John'swort be grown in our gardens and washed with soapy water to keep the beetles away.

abstracted from HEALTH NATURALLY, Nov./Dec. 1992

□



THE COMMON ST. JOHN'S-WORT, originally from Europe, but naturalized in Toronto, was still in bloom on August 6 when this field sketch was made by Diana Banville (the wasp was interested). Note the five petals and three styles in the enlarged drawing of the flower at the left, and what happens to them when they have dried up, at the right. With the persisting petals and styles, the whole plant turns a beautiful cinnamon-brown, and is very ornamental in the snow all winter.

## WINTER WALK

Bright and sunny, but crisply cold it was for our Valentine's Day walk led by Helen Smith. The first half of our excursion took us to the lakeshore at Sunnyside where the ice was solid within the confines of the breakwater, but beyond it there was water instead of ice. Accumulated on the shore side of the breakwater was a mass of ring-billed gulls, sitting on the ice. In the water beyond the barrier were the larger herring gulls and the greater black-backed gull which comes south from the Arctic for the winter. Apparently the latter dines on almost anything including wounded gulls. Nature's law of survival of the fittest is at work here at this harsh time of year no less than in the warmer seasons.

A red-tailed hawk soared high above our heads, then a crow. As we walked along the sandy shore with its snowy patches, I noticed the footprints of many species including canine and humans. I also noted that the ring-billed gulls were spread out on the ice and all were facing in the same direction. Although the sun's warmth provided temporary relief, the cutting wind was chilling. I wondered how these birds manage to withstand the cold on the open ice.

Suddenly two swans appeared in the sky and descended elegantly, landing side by side on the ice before us. Soon three Canada geese appeared and landed stage-left of the swans. Where the swans were graceful, the Canada geese provide comic relief with their awkward steps on the slippery ice. When the ice broke under the swans, some of us wondered if they would be able to break free.

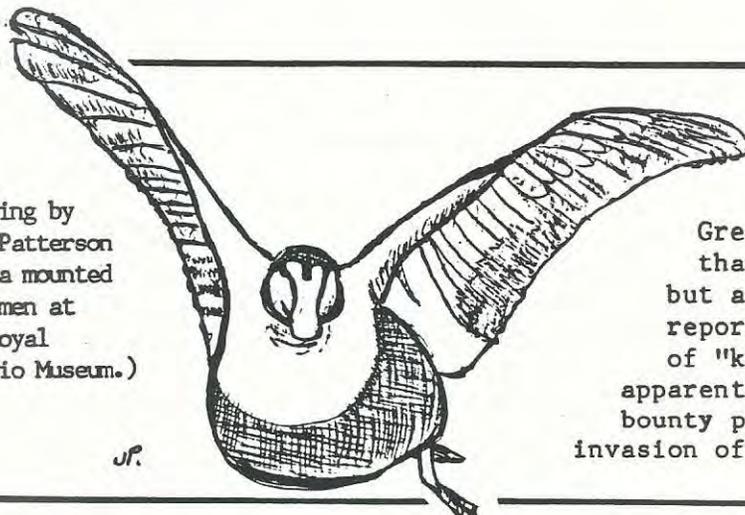
The second half of our expedition took us to Grenadier Pond where loudly complaining Canada geese, mallards, a few black ducks, wood ducks, gadwalls and buffleheads were concentrated on the only thawed part of the pond, at the southwest corner. A wire full of pigeons watched from above as the humans threw bread to the waterfowl.

Our winter walk revealed that although the weather was cold and much of the water was frozen solid enough for humans to skate upon, many different species of birds could still be found.

Lisa Wursta

□

(drawing by  
Joan Patterson  
from a mounted  
specimen at  
the Royal  
Ontario Museum.)



THE COMMON EIDER is a rare winter visitor to the Great Lakes, more so than the king eider. but a few "commons" are reported among the flocks of "kings" recently, apparently sharing in the bounty provided by the invasion of the zebra mussels.

## SUMMER VISITORS

At sunset a column of tiny insects may be observed one one's garden. It is comprised of pollinator gnats in their silent mating dance.

Of course, a column may also form over one's compost heap, in which case the way to fool spray-mad neighbours is to wield a fancy hand-spray bottle containing nothing more lethal than water. The gnat-gatherings will be gone in a couple of weeks anyway.

Mary Smith

□



A Toronto  
native

## THE BASSWOOD

is an American linden (or lime as the genus is called in Britain), with very large leaves. The flowers, like other lindens, are clustered on a stalk united to a long leaf-like bract.

Ref.: THE FOREST  
TREES OF ONTARIO  
(White/Hosie)

(Silhouette by  
Mary Smith)

## ANOTHER SNOW STORY

Diana Banville's article "Two Big Snows" brought back a memory. I was a teacher in a small town in southern Ontario at the time of that big snow fall in 1944. My parents lived in a slightly larger town some fifteen miles south of where I taught, and though I boarded at a house close to the school, I frequently went home for a weekend or overnight. Waking up at home to mountains of snow, I realized that it might be several days before the road to school would be passable for motor traffic. Three days later the wind went down, the skies cleared, the sun came out, and the temperature plunged, and we had a beautiful winter day, although as I remember it, many degrees below zero Fahrenheit. A school trustee (at that time an unpaid, volunteer position) telephoned to say that he was sending a sleigh to pick me up. The open sleigh arrived and as usual it was provided with a bale of hay to sit on and several buffalo robes to keep the passengers comfortable, and was pulled by a team of handsome horses complete with bells and red horse blankets. I was warmly dressed for a long drive in frigid weather, but the driver, a cheerful, friendly man whose children were in my classes, was most concerned about my comfort. He took off his fur hat, raccoon I think, and to my great distress insisted that I wear it. Was I an early animal-rights activist? No indeed! The truth was that I had sent his children home twice that term with symptoms of head-lice.

I still remember that trip with delight: the brilliant blue sky, the fresh clean air, the great drifts of pure white snow, the frosted evergreens, the purple shadows, the perfect stillness of a land usually alive with animals including birds. No chickadee or jay sounded a note; no deer moved in the woodlots; no domestic animals braved the chill in a farmyard. On that day of freezing cold all nature stayed in shelter or slept its winter sleep.

Isabel Reid

□

*BOUNCING BET* is sometimes called "soapwort" (it's the leaves which make the cleansing lather). The flower is pollinated by halictid and other bees by day, and at night by the nectar-seeking sphinx moths. Field drawing is by Mary Cumming, on a TFN Nature Arts outing.

Ref.: *Blanchan's*  
*NATURE'S GARDEN*

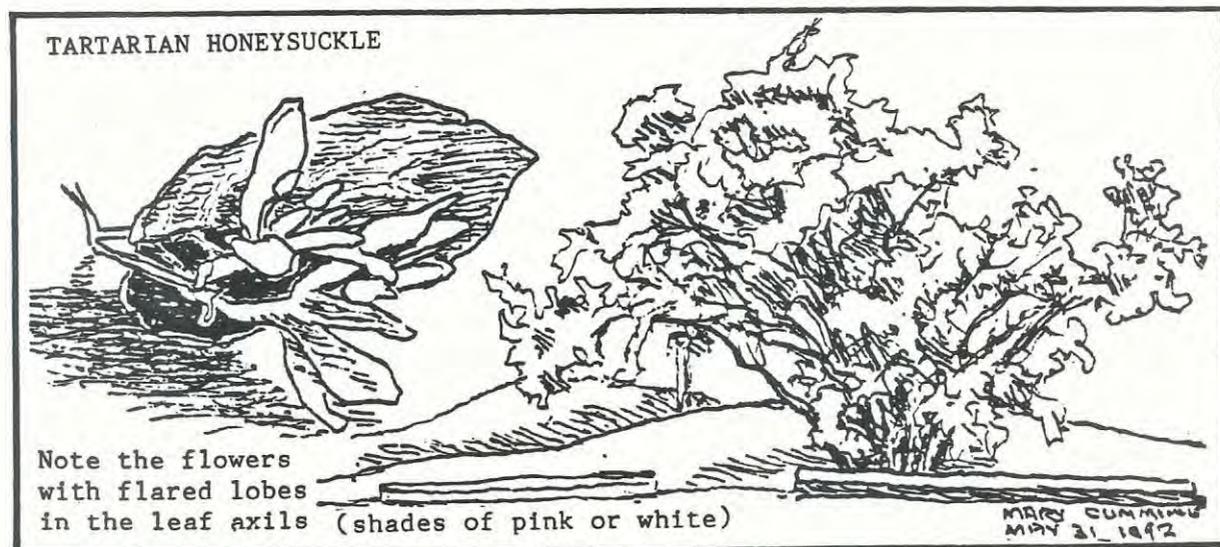


## A PLEA FOR THE SOIL

It's a good time to contemplate the planet's thinnest, most fragile layer -- its soil. To some people, the Earth's delicate skin is just dirt, something to be dug up at will or covered with the concrete of towns and cities. In our own backyards, no laws govern how we treat the soil. We can do as we want. We can dump chemicals on it, change its composition to its great disadvantage, leave it unprotected from the ravages of weather, generally remain ignorant about it. We can also toil away with the best of intentions and do just as powerful a job of insuring it. In fact, the soil is a resource, a living breathing entity that if treated properly will maintain itself. It is also our lifeline to survival. When it is finally depleted, we will disappear. Soil is filled with so much life we should be fascinated by it, not squeamish or untouched by its problems. It contains microbes, bacteria, fungi, earthworms, minerals and gases. These inhabitants, both organic and inorganic, work together in exquisitely balanced relationships. When we use garden chemicals to rid ourselves of something we find distasteful, -- although it may not be harmful to the garden -- we risk destroying this balance. Once we mess with one part of the soil, we affect another, and not necessarily for the better. One thing soil does need from us is protection from the destructive forces of sun and wind. You can protect the soil by covering it with a good deep mulch. Mulch, a collection of dead leaves or other decaying matter, keeps soil temperatures even and comfortable for the creatures below. It breaks down into food for them and they, in turn, supply nutrients to your plants. It rids the soil of weeds. Compacting is another of the insults we inflict on soil. Clumping around when the ground is wet will crush the life in the earth. It's a practice that generally does more harm than good. Project your imagination into the soil below you the next time you are out. Think with compassion about that biosphere below your feet. We talk about being stewards of the earth. It's time we took the idea seriously.

adapted from an article by Marjorie Harris in the GLOBE AND MAIL, April 25, 1992

□



## IN THE NEWS

### SAVING YOUR OWN SKIN

As the ozone layer depletes, it is important to protect exposed skin all year round with a broad-spectrum sunscreen -- which blocks the sun's harmful rays (there are two levels of ultraviolet rays that reach the Earth's surface. They are designated by sunscreen manufacturers as UVA and UVB so that the public can know what protection a product offers. Both UVA and UVB protection are needed.)...If you are using a moisturizer, apply sunscreen first because it must be absorbed directly into the skin. Otherwise, look for moisturizers that contain sunscreen.

extracted from "Facing the facts a matter of time" by Trisse Loxley in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Dec. 2, 1992

### AMAZONS IN THE SKY MAY PRODUCE HURRICANES

To their surprise, scientists have discovered that the Earth's lower atmosphere is laced with rivers of water vapour rivalling the Amazon in the massiveness of their flow. Those rivers are the main mechanism by which (atmospheric) water gets transported from the equator to the poles. The concentrated streams, releasing not only moisture but latent heat in the higher latitudes, may be the main source of hurricanes. Climatologists have long understood that warm moist air rises from equatorial regions and drifts toward the poles. The surprise is that the moisture is confined in narrow streams. Five rivers have been detected in the Southern Hemisphere and four or five in the Northern Hemisphere. Flowing at an altitude of no more than 1.9 miles above Earth's surface, they stretch typically to lengths of 4,800 miles or so, with widths ranging from 420 to 480 miles, and they sometimes undulate horizontally.

extracted from an article in the TORONTO STAR, Jan. 31, 1993

### ENGINEER PLOTS LIGHTNING HOT SPOTS

Afraid of being struck by lightning? Stay away from Walkerton; it's Ontario's hot spot. But Metro is middling safe and remote Webeque is the province's most lightning-free zone according to data compiled by Wasyl Janischewskyj, University of Toronto engineering professor. In 1991, a sensor in Walkerton registered more than 4,500 lightning strikes; the sensor in Webeque showed just 175 hits during the year; Metro had 1,812 strikes registered on a sensor in Kleinburg. The 11-year study -- now entering its fourth year of collecting data -- is aimed at understanding how lightning varies from year to year and place to place. Knowing that a certain region is prone to lightning strikes could mean a fire-fighting station is built nearby, cutting the response time when fire breaks out. And power companies could know where power failures would occur so they could prepare for outages. The study is intended to last 11 years because, for reasons that aren't understood, lightning is directly affected by sunspots, which vary according to an 11-year cycle.

extracted from an article by Michael Smith in the TORONTO STAR, Jan. 31, 1993

## IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

## TURTLES IN TROUBLE

Over one-third of the 240 species of turtles and tortoises in the world are declining and many are on the brink of extinction. What to do:

- If your child brings home a wild turtle, take it back to exactly where it was found.
- Help a turtle across the road by stopping traffic, or lifting it to the other side -- never the side it was coming from.
- Don't buy turtle products such as leather, oil, meat, shell. Avoid turtle soup.

extracted from "Ecoline" by Catherine Farley in the TORONTO STAR, Feb. 6, 1993

## HUNGRY SHEEP BEAT USING PESTICIDES

In Foleyet a hungry ewe climbs on a young poplar tree, using its weight to bend the sapling to the ground and devour its leaves. It's one of 173 ewes and lambs participating in a weed-eater experiment in an area where young jack pine have been planted. Walking down a tree is just one creative method sheep have developed to grab some grub. Poplar, elder, mountain ash and other quick-growing vegetation are on the menu in this pilot project of the Ontario natural resources ministry. Staff at offices across the province are looking for alternatives to spraying in efforts to control underbrush that can rob evergreen seedlings of essential light, space, and nutrients. While the ministry insists its chemical sprays are safe, it wants to find other ways to control weeds, especially in sensitive areas. Tests are also underway near Iroquois Falls and in British Columbia. The sheep visit each spot twice and feed for about three weeks. The experimental flock isn't allowed into waterways to drink. Instead water is pumped to drinking troughs in their pens. Researchers want the animals back in those pens after they finish eating so they don't lie down and damage the young pines.

from an article in the LONDON FREE PRESS, Sept. 12, 1992

## TOUGH NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CURBS URGED

The Premier's Council on Health, Wellbeing and Social Justice recommends the government adopt hundreds of new measures to improve the health of people at work, at home and at play. The recently released, 90-page report "Our Environment, Our Health" recommends that Ontario:

- Cut its water use by 20 per cent by the year 2000, in part by raising rates to reflect real costs.
- Cut in half the amount of solid waste created, per capita, by 2000.
- Increase public transit use to 20 per cent in all cities within four years.
- Cut down public noise.
- Eventually ban all chlorofluorocarbons (chemicals that hurt the atmosphere and are linked to increases in skin cancer and cataracts).
- Require that 10 per cent of all new developments be parkland.
- Set energy efficiency standards for major appliances.
- Improve indoor air quality within four years by setting standards for emissions given off by things like adhesives, furniture and solvents.
- Change city design standards so that roads encourage pedestrian use, rather than car use, and set up bicycle commuter systems.

from an article by Kelly Toughill in the TORONTO STAR, Jan. 22, 1993

## IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

## TORONTO AIRPORT POLLUTION CHARGES FILED

Air Canada and Transport Canada have been charged with illegally dumping de-icing fluid into two creeks near Pearson International Airport. The airline and the government department, which owns and operates the airport's Terminals 1 and 2, were each charged with two counts of violating the federal Fisheries Act. Fines for violating the act can be up to \$1-million for each offence. It seems that de-icing fluid has been polluting area creeks for at least 20 years and that Transport Canada has done nothing to correct the problem. Transport Canada and airlines could face similar charges at other airports where de-icing fluid is discharged into bodies of water and not collected for disposal. The culprit is ethylene glycol, a red-dyed fluid sprayed on aircraft in winter to prevent ice buildup. Biologists say the chemical, while not acutely toxic, is dangerous to fish because it absorbs oxygen from the water. Provincial biologists report that brown and rainbow trout are found in Etobicoke Creek and white suckers and minnows in Mimico Creek. About 500,000 litres are used at the airport in an average winter. The privately owned Terminal 3 has a closed sewer system to capture de-icing fluid. It is destroyed in a special biological reactor.

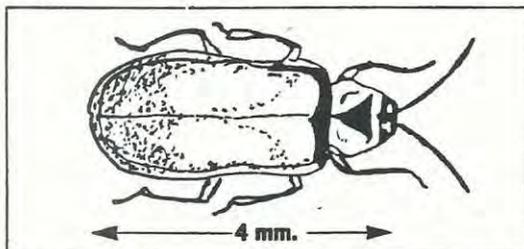
extracted from an article by Jock Ferguson in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Feb. 18, 1993

## BUGGING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

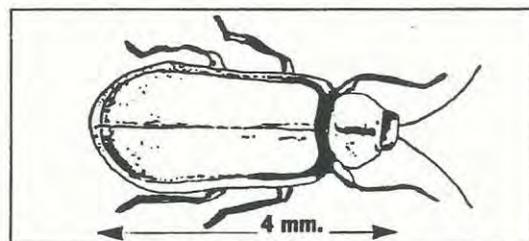
Scientists may have come up with a biological method to control the spread of purple loosestrife. At the University of Guelph scientists are releasing three beetle species this spring that are known to feed on loosestrife. Two of them -- *Galerucella californiensis* and *Galerucella pusilla* -- are leaf eaters, while the third -- *Hylobius transversovittatus* -- is a root-borer. The beetles were screened by Agriculture Canada, the US Department of Agriculture, and the International Institute for Biocontrol in Europe before being selected. In tests on 42 different plant species, the insect trio fed only on loosestrife and, minimally, on one related plant. While the first releases will be in the Guelph area so the experiment can be closely monitored, further releases are scheduled for Prince Edward Island and Manitoba the following spring.

extracted from an article by Barbara Stevenson in NATURE ALERT, Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan. 1993

For more information on the project, contact External Communications at the University of Guelph (519) 824-4120, ext. 3338.



*Galerucella californiensis* (leaf-eating beetle)



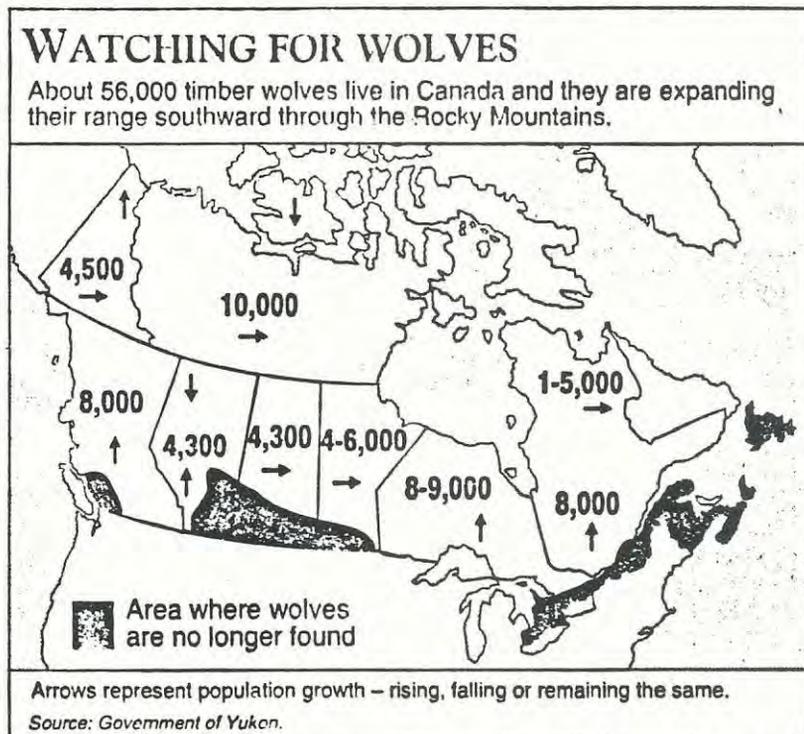
*Galerucella pusilla*

## IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

## ENVIRONMENTALISTS HOWL OVER YUKON WOLF HUNT

The wolf is once again the centre of the conservation world's greatest question. Should humankind fiddle with nature to fix the damage it has wrought, or wait for nature's slower rhythms to restore balance to the wilderness? In the case of a remote 20,000-square-kilometre pocket of the Yukon, wildlife biologists have decided that they have no choice but to fiddle. They are planning to hunt down about 150 wolves with helicopters. The proposed wolf hunt is designed to restore the diminished populations of moose and caribou in the Yukon's southwestern corner near Kluane National Park. The population of ungulates has spiralled downward in the past 15 years for reasons that still largely leave scientists baffled.

extracted from an article  
by Miro Cernetig in the  
GLOBE AND MAIL,  
Feb. 9, 1993

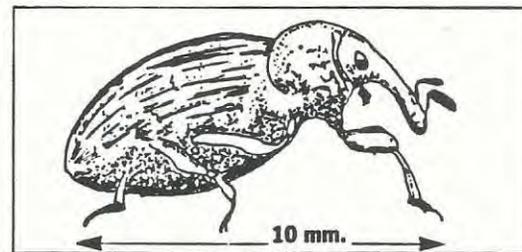


## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE PUZZLE REMAINS COMPLEX...

...loosestrife is not expanding everywhere. At some sites where it's present, practically no expansion takes place. Elsewhere, expansion has been phenomenal. Overall, abundance seems spotty, but no one knows why.

The words above and drawings of insects were extracted from an article by Robert M. Alison in ONTARIO OUT OF DOORS, Vol. 25, Iss. 1, February 1993

Drawings courtesy of U.S. Dept. of Natural Resources



*Hylobius transversovittatus* (root-mining weevil)

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

GETTING A ROCK FROM A HARD PLACE

The City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation Department is paying a contractor \$282,933 to slice a 700-tonne slab of granite from the top of a huge rock formation, to be plunked down in a new park in Yorkville. The rock is to become part of the \$11 million Cumberland Park, to be built this year on a parking lot located between Bloor and Cumberland Streets, running east from Bellair St. In 1990, city council authorized the spending of \$8 million to buy the lot from the city parking authority, and another \$3 million to design and build the new park as part of its plan to "naturalize" Toronto. The idea was to create 17 "zones" on the one-acre (0.4-hectare) site, ranging from forest, field and marsh areas to an enormous slab of granite carved out of the Canadian shield.

extracted from an article by Jack Lakey in the TORONTO STAR, Jan. 23, 1993

...ENJOY SMELT

Some things have been around for so long we think they've always been with us. The smelt is a case in point. Other than in a handful of eastern Ontario lakes, the smelt is not native to the province. From a stocking in Michigan's Crystal Lake back in 1912, escapers became the nucleus of billions which now inhabit the Great Lakes. Smelt fishing is a rite of spring for thousands of Ontarians. In Toronto runs of these fish may be viewed at the mouth of the Humber River, the CNE waterfront, Cherry Beach. The run usually lasts four to six days and begins when the water temperature is about 5°C -- sometime in April. For details, call (416) 832-7200.

adapted from an article by John Power in the TORONTO STAR, April 4, 1992

SEWAGE PLANTS SPEWING TOXINS FATAL TO FISH, BUGS

Most municipal sewage treatment plants in Ontario are pumping out effluent poisonous enough to kill fish and insects. The pollution doesn't pose a threat to human health, and putting in types of controls currently available would cost billions of dollars. Sewage plants' effluent were tested for ammonia -- mainly from human wastes -- and chlorine, a chemical used to disinfect the sewage. A study also found dozens of industrial chemicals such as toxic metals and petroleum-based compounds in waste water. Many of these materials are dumped into the sewers by homeowners and industries. Sewage plants are designed to remove bacteria, solids and algae-producing nutrients from waste water. But they aren't equipped to remove many other chemicals, and in some cases are damaged by them. To measure toxicity, small rainbow trout and a type of water fly are put into undiluted effluent. If more than half die within a specified time -- 96 hours for the fish and 48 for the flies -- it's considered to be toxic. The effluent from Metro's Highland Creek and North Toronto plants, along with that from Bracebridge, Huntsville, Lindsay, Midland, Perth, Stratford and Wallaceburg, failed the test. In most cases, the effluent was still toxic even when diluted to as little as one-tenth of its original strength.

extracted from an article by Peter Gorrie in the TORONTO STAR, Sept. 19, 1992

## IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

## SHOULD WE KILL THE DEER TO SAVE THE TREES?

The Carolinian forest of Rondeau Provincial Park near Chatham, Ontario, is being browsed to death by a herd of about 500 deer. A cull of the animals planned for this winter has been postponed indefinitely as a result of protests by animal-rights and native groups. Today's herd grew from five deer introduced into the park in 1899. The deer were at that time rare and were housed in an enclosure for public viewing. They escaped two years later; by 1912, the population had grown to 200. The current population of close to 500 reflects the huge deer population throughout the province, an estimated 350,000 animals. The numbers may be 400 to 500 per cent greater than levels in Ontario before the arrival of Europeans, when the province was wooded and offered little grazing land. The obvious solution in Rondeau's Carolinian forest is to shoot most of the deer. Such government-operated culls used to occur as often as once a year and eliminated as many as 200 deer at a time. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists would support a ministry cull over an open hunt because of a government ban on public hunting in provincial parks. Other means may be chemical birth control, currently being tested by the ministry. Although some animal-rights groups favour it, most would rather see the animals moved than their population limited. An attempt to move the Rondeau deer in 1974 resulted in the capture of only seven deer after 650 man-hours of effort. The project was abandoned. A similar undertaking at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, where 30 deer have taken up residence, is expected to cost \$50,000. The deer will be moved 50 kilometres away to Pickering, Ont. Maybe. So far, trappers have not been able to capture a single deer. Today the North American deer population is estimated at 15 million to 30 million, almost as many as in pre-Columbian times. The swelling population is viewed as a consequence of mild winters, a reduction in natural predators, an increase in "edge" habitat (where forest meets pasture or subdivision) and a partial prohibition on hunting does that has resulted in a great many more offspring.

extracted from an article by Douglas Smith in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Jan. 23, 1993

## NEW VACCINE FOR DEER MAY END NEED FOR CULLS

Medical technology and an air gun may soon largely eliminate the need for the controlled killing of deer in culls such as the one in January in Point Pelee National Park. Field tests will begin shortly on the use of air-rifle darts with an immuno-contraception vaccine to control the whitetail deer population in the park. The existing population is too large for the park's four square kilometres of land, and about 30 need to be culled to bring the herd down to the "carrying capacity" of the land, estimated at 24 to 32 animals. The vaccine, developed in the United States and tested on tame whitetail deer both there and in Canada "with positive results", contains a protein that is injected into the bloodstream and then coats the egg of a doe, preventing penetration by the sperm. The vaccine requires only a single injection and does not require tranquilization. Officials are seeking approval of the vaccine in Canada and hope to begin using it in the fall.

extracted from an article by Rudy Platiel in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Feb. 2, 1992

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

MASSIVE SLIME MOULD FOUND IN CHINA

Chinese scientists are studying a massive slime mould that weighs 35 kilograms (77 pounds) and can move slowly across the ground on its own. The slime mould was found in a river in the northwestern province of Shaanxi in August and gained 10 kilograms (22 pounds) within three days. Slime moulds are usually found in moist and dark places such as grassland, rotted logs and withered leaves. A similar slime mould was found in Dallas, in the United States, in 1973, but it died a week after its discovery.

extracted from a story in the London Free Press, Oct. 17, 1992

DUCKS UNLIMITED STILL DRAWING FIRE

Every year Ducks Unlimited spends millions of dollars to make life a little easier for ducks and geese by building or improving hundreds of marshes and ponds across Canada. Manitoba environmentalists are questioning what those ponds do for other birds and animals and they want the province of Manitoba to hold environmental impact hearings on a new round of projects. Ducks Unlimited's principal orientation is toward ducks and enhancing duck habitat, but that isn't always the best for all species. There has been little scientific study of Ducks Unlimited's wetlands projects. Near Maple Ridge, B.C. Ducks Unlimited's work at Polder Marsh eliminated much of the habitat for sandhill cranes and has been blamed for reducing the number of short-eared owls and other species. Ducks Unlimited's critics have become more suspicious of the hunter-founded organization since it decided to build new headquarters at Oak Hammock Marsh, a waterfowl refuge north of Winnipeg.

extracted from an article in the TORONTO STAR, Oct. 17, 1992

WELLS POLLUTED, TESTS SHOW

Nearly 40 per cent of the wells tested in a survey of drinking water in rural Ontario are so polluted with farm chemicals and bacteria that the water is not fit to drink. The results are from Ontario's first comprehensive groundwater-quality survey, which sampled 1,300 rural wells in heavily cultivated areas of the province last winter. Financed by Agriculture Canada, the \$710,000 survey found that 37 per cent of the wells tested contained one or more of the target contaminants in concentrations above provincial drinking water objectives. Water samples were taken from wells in every county or region, but most were in areas of intense agricultural cultivation. Researchers sampled well water for the presence of nitrates, total bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria and several common herbicides.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Nov. 5, 1992

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Yellow flowers nod  
in a gently blowing breeze.  
A field in motion.

haiku by J. Kenneth Cook

## THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

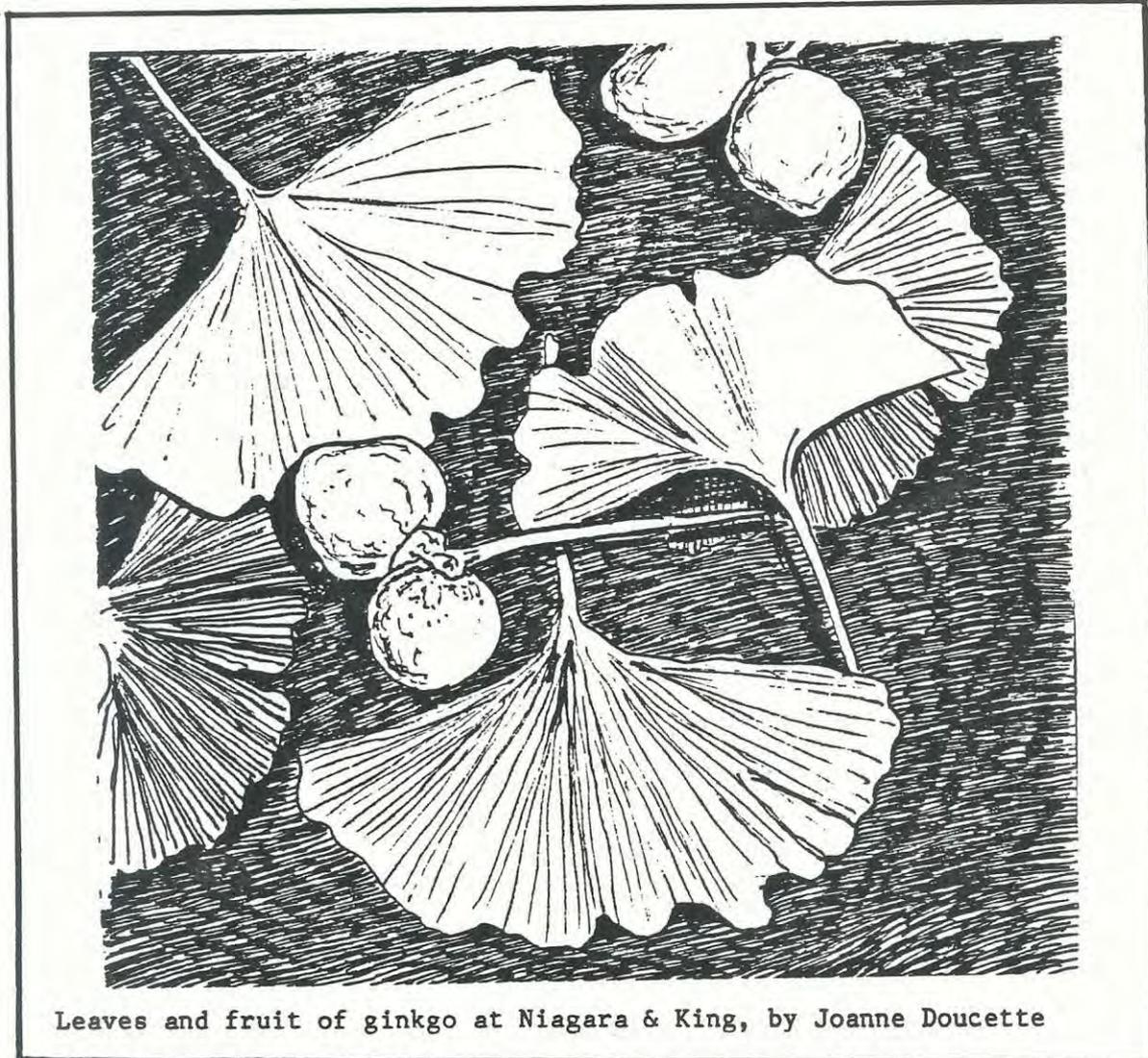
April 1992, Toronto

April was on the cool, wet and cloudy side this year. The mean temperature was about one degree below normal; and sunshine hours at Toronto City were about 34 less than normal. It was the wettest April on record at Lester B. Pearson Airport with 133.8 mm of total precipitation; but the total downtown, while high, was less than last year's. Total snowfall was one centimetre or less in spite of cool temperatures.

The period from April 10th to April 17th was particularly wet and cool with a couple of strong low pressure systems passing to the south, thunderstorms, and temperatures a few degrees above freezing. Conditions moderated later in the month, although it failed to reach 20°C in the Toronto area. In spite of some disturbed weather, winds were light (a record low average wind speed of 13.2 km/h at Pearson Airport).

Gavin Miller

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## COMING EVENTS

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird walks - sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club - aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners are also welcome. Free to the public.

- Sat. April 24 at 8 am (all day) - Early migrants at the Leslie St. Spit. Meet at the foot of Leslie St. Bring a lunch.

Toronto Entomologists' Association - monthly meeting - Sat. April 24 at 1 pm in the lecture room of the McLaughlin Planetarium.

Mycological Society of Toronto - monthly meeting - Mon. April 19 at 7:30 pm at the Civic Garden Centre (Leslie and Lawrence). Topic of meeting will be Orienteering.

Canadian Wildflower Society - Spring plant sale - Saturday, April 24 at 10 am at the Civic Garden Centre.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don - Sat. May 1 at 11 am at 550 Broadview Ave. (Riverdale Park East) - Volunteers needed to place wood chips around the bases of trees and shrubs planted in past years. For further information call David Stonehouse at 392-0068.

Wetlands Seminar - Wed. April 7 from 9 am to 5 pm at Georgian College in Barrie. Contact the North Simcoe Environmental Watch at 705-424-1479 for more details. Limited registration. \$75.

Evening with the Artists - Dinner, Art Exhibit, Silent Auction - Friday, March 26 at Humber College. Cocktails at 6 pm, dinner at 7:15 pm, price \$50. For tickets and more information call 416-675-5095.

Metro Toronto Zoo - spring programs

- Rattlers and Ponds - Sat. May 1 from 2 pm to 3 pm in the Society Bldg. auditorium. \$12.84 for members of Zoo; \$17.65 for non-members of Zoo.
- Everything you wanted to know about elephants but were afraid to ask! Sunday, May 16 from 10 am to 12 noon in the Society Bldg. Auditorium. \$12.84 for zoo members; \$17.65 for non-members of zoo.
- A spring-time walk through the Rouge Valley - Saturday, May 29 from 10 am to 12 noon at the Society Bldg. auditorium. \$12.84 for zoo members; \$17.65 for non-members of zoo.

Leslie Mirylees - Annual Exhibition of watercolour paintings - Sunday, March 28; Sat. April 3; Sunday, April 4 and Sunday, April 11 from 1 pm to 5 pm at the Todmorden Historical Centre, Pottery Road.

Kortright Centre, Kleinburg - National Wildlife Week Festival - April 3-4 from 10 am to 4 pm; Spring Watch Walk - April 9-12 at 11:30 am; In Search of the Wild Turkey - April 9-12 and April 17-18 at 2:30 pm; Pond Songs - Sat. April 24 from 7 pm to 9 pm; Walk to McMichael - Sun. April 25 from 10:30am to 3:30 pm.

Canadian Wildflower Society - Beaches Chapter meeting - Wed. April 21 at 7:30 pm, 109 Kenilworth Ave. Call 222-5736 for details.

## COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Have you planned your holidays? If not, try any of the following:

- Nature Travel Service trips - both local and worldwide. Toronto contact for Gus Yaki is George Bryant at 223-6284.
- Canadian Nature Tours - world wide and local (including canoe trips). Contact Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8 or call 416-444-8419.
- Habitat -- natural capital - 1993 Annual General Meeting and Conference (with nature trips) - June 18-20 at Carleton University, Ottawa. For more information contact the FON at 444-8419.
- From Desert Sands to Alpine Slopes - annual general meeting and conference of the Canadian Nature Federation - July 22-25 in Vernon, B.C. For information contact the North Okanagan Naturalists Club, P.O. Box 473, Vernon, B.C. V1T 6M4.

Long Point Bird Observatory - Annual General Meeting - March 27 from 8 am to 5 pm at the Port Rowan Community Centre. Tickets: \$15 each or children under 16: \$7.50 each. For more details write to LPBO at P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0 or call Rosie Kirton at (519) 586-3531.

Annual Spring Flower Show - Toronto City Hall Rotunda from March 21 at 2 pm to 7:30 pm, March 22 to March 27 from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm, and March 28 from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Free admission.

Humber Valley Cleanup (treasure hunt) - Sunday, April 18 at 1:30 pm at Étienne Brulé Park (east side of Humber River, north of Old Mill.) Dress appropriately -- wear heavy gloves, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes.

Pt. Pelee camping and birdwatching - May 14-16. Anyone interested in sharing expenses and this experience should call Joanne Doucette at 367-2378.

Wildflower gardening symposium - Civic Garden Centre - April 4, 10 am to 4 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

# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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

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