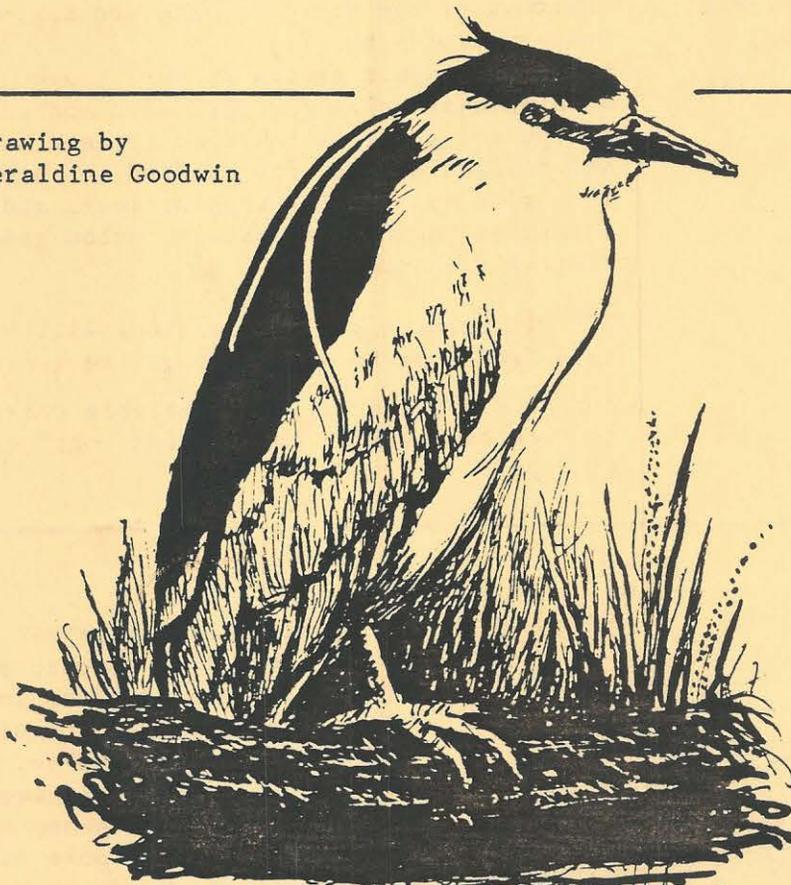


TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 438

October 1993

Drawing by
Geraldine Goodwin



Black-crowned Night-Heron
• from photo by Kit Brun

Inside

Amphibians & reptiles 8
Birds 1,6,7,10-13,14,17,18
Coming events 28-29
Invertebrates 15,21
Issues 6,7,19,20,23,24,25
Mammals 6,15,16,24,26
Mushrooms 14
Plants 2,8,9,16,17,18,19,20
Projects 6-7

Trees 5,22,25
TFN - displays 29
 help wanted 7
 meetings 2
 nature information centre 9,29
 newsletter submissions 29
 outings 3-4
 publications 8
Weather 22,27

TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, October 3, 1993 - CHALLENGES FOR URBAN GREENSPACE

at 2:30 pm

in the Northrop Frye Hall
Victoria University

73 Queen's Park Cres. East

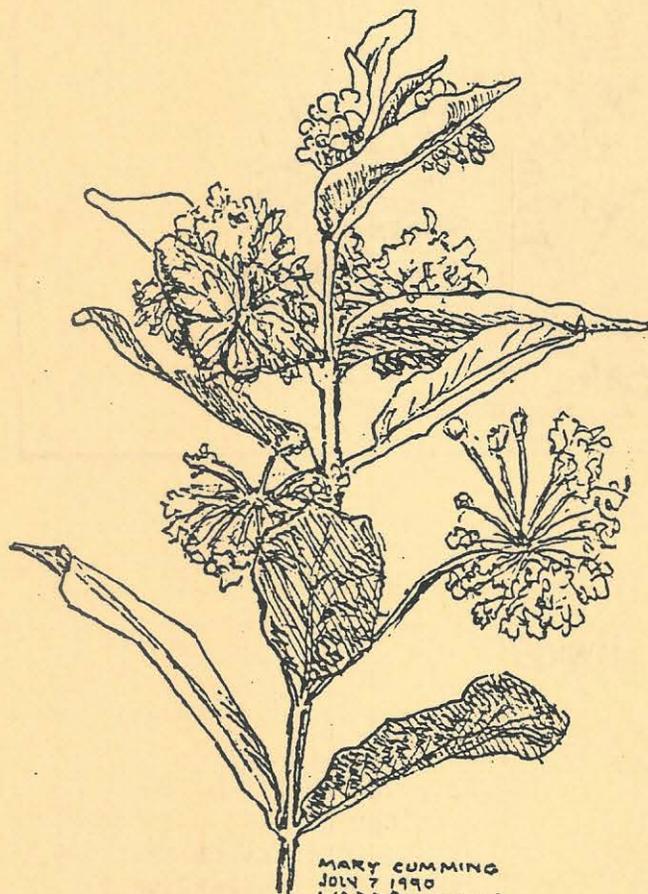
an illustrated talk by Bill Granger, Director of Urban Design, City of North York and Chairman of the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

- Urban greenspace serves as our "green lungs", as a release valve for residents and workers to escape to, at least temporarily, and as rich and diverse habitat for hundreds of species who live with us. Restoration projects and changing attitudes toward more natural urban greenspace will be discussed.

+ TFN memberships and publications will be for sale from 2 pm to 4 pm outside the lecture room.

NEXT MEETING:
Nov. 14, 1993

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



MARY CUMMING
JULY 7 1990
WARDEN WOODS
MILKWEED

THE COMMON MILKWEED, a familiar Toronto plant, was in full bloom in early July when Mary Cumming made this field drawing. Our other native milkweeds are the uncommon swamp milkweed and the rare poke milkweed. Butterflyweed, an orange member of the same genus, has likely been extirpated here in recent years. The pale swallowwort, of European origin, which has escaped and invaded ravines, is also in the milkweed family, though of a different genus.

Ref.: VASCULAR PLANTS OF
METROPOLITAN TORONTO
TFN 1990

&

Gleason & Cronquist's
MANUAL OF VASCULAR PLANTS

October TFN OUTINGS

- Saturday
Oct. 2
10:30 am
- GLENDON - fall colours
Leaders: Eric Wiersma & Richard Aaron
West Don, North York
- Meet at the gates of Glendon College -- on the east side of Bayview Ave. at Lawrence Ave. East. Bring lunch.
Two choices today: Erik will be leading those interested in nature arts; Richard will be leading those interested in a hike along Burke Brook. Those interested in nature arts should bring camera or sketching materials and a stool; others should be prepared for a fairly long walk with some hilly sections.
- Sunday
Oct. 3
2:30 pm
- TFN MEETING
73 Queen's Park Cres. East
Northrop Frye Hall
Toronto
- Wednesday
Oct. 6
10:30 am
- ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk
Leader: Eva Davis
Rouge, Scarborough
- Meet on the east side of Meadowvale Road, at the first stop north of Sheppard Ave. East. Bring lunch.
Fall colours, flowers and migrating birds should be "on show" in this wild valley. Could be climbing and wet spots to cross through.
- Saturday
Oct. 9
10 am
- ALBION CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Joan O'Donnell
West Humber, Etobicoke
- Meet on the west side of Islington Ave. at Sandhill Dr. (one block south of Albion Road). Bring lunch. [one or two hills]
We will be exploring a small tributary of the West Humber, looking at birds and wildflowers, fall colours and possibly fossils in the creek's shale beds.
- Sunday
Oct. 10
10:30 am
- TAYLOR CREEK - nature walk
Leaders: Melanie Milanich & Paula Davies
Taylor Creek, East York
- Meet at the Victoria Park subway station on Victoria Park Ave. north of Danforth Ave. Bring lunch.
We will be walking the stretch of Taylor Creek that runs through East York, looking at the plants and animals that inhabit it as well as discussing some of the impacts of the humans that live beside the valley and those that visit it. [See pages 6 & 28 for more about East York & the Don.]
- Wednesday
Oct. 13
10:30 am
- EDWARDS GARDENS - fall garden
Leader: Margaret Emminghaus
Wilket Creek, North York
- Meet at the southwest corner of Leslie St. and Lawrence Ave. East. Bring lunch.
Bring a camera, sketching materials and a stool, or just come and enjoy a visit to this lovely garden park and the Civic Garden Centre.
- Saturday
Oct. 16
11 am
- WILSON BROOK - nature walk
Leader: Gavin Miller
East Don, North York/Scarborough
- Meet at the southwest corner of Eglinton Ave. East and Bermondsey Rd. Bring lunch.
As well as exploring a minor tributary of the Don River, we will be looking at several species of willows. Bring your notebooks and pencils.

OCTOBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Sunday SUNNYBROOK PARK - fall colours West Don, North York
 Oct. 17 Leader: Joanne Doucette
 11 am Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Leslie St. just
 north of Eglinton Ave. East, opposite the Inn on the Park.
 Bring lunch.
 Enjoy a walk in the Don Valley to look at the fall colours and late-
 blooming wildflowers and migrating birds.
- Tuesday MUD CREEK - finding the source Don, North York/Toronto
 Oct. 19 Leader: Diana Park
 10:30 am Meet at the northwest corner of Bathurst St. and Baycrest Ave.
 Bring lunch.
 This walk will be on streets and through parkettes as we try to trace the
 origins of this tributary of the Don which enters the main Don through the
 Moore Park Ravine.
- Saturday TAYLOR CREEK - finding the source Taylor Creek/Scarborough
 Oct. 23 Leader: Raphael Sussman
 11 am Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton East and Kennedy Rd.
 Bring lunch.
 Much of this walk will be through small Scarborough Parks, under hydro
 right-of-ways, and along some streets. If the Don River is to be "restored",
 the sources of this creek must also be repaired.
- Sunday DOWNTOWN TORONTO - city building stones Toronto
 Oct. 24 Leader: Kathleen Kemp
 1 pm Meet at the northeast corner of King St. and University Ave.
 On this walk we will be learning about the material used in building this
 city -- some from Canadian sources and much from other parts of the world.
- Wednesday HIGH PARK - birds Toronto
 Oct. 27 Leader: Helen Smith
 11 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West
 opposite High Park Ave. Bring lunch.
 Bring your binoculars, field guide and note book and pencil and be prepared
 to listen as well as watch while we look for birds in this large park with
 its many habitats -- forest, prairie, wetlands.
- Saturday GLEN STEWART RAVINE - birds Toronto
 Oct. 30 Leader: Valerie Allen
 10:30 am Meet at the ravine entrance on Kingston Road just west of
 Beech Ave. Bring lunch.
 This deep ravine close to Lake Ontario which contains a small creek and
 much native vegetation is an ideal sheltering and feeding habitat for birds.
 Bring binoculars, bird guide and note book and pencil and be prepared to
 listen as well as watch.

*More machinery after we mow?
 Can we not wait for the wind to blow?*

*Diana Banville
 Colonel Danforth Park
 August 22, 1990*

AUTUMN SOUNDS

As the branches rub together for warmth,
the leaves rustle good-byes,
as they leave,
one by one,
old and grizzled.

Audrey C. Abbott



MAY 4 CURRIE
SHERWOOD PARK
JULY 3 1993.

PROJECTS

FEEDERWATCH

Project FeederWatch is a joint effort of two bird research centres: Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario and Cornell Lab of Ornithology in New York. Every two weeks from November to March, thousands of "kitchen-window scientists" across North America count birds at their backyard feeders, noting which species visit, and how many. Together, the volunteer FeederWatchers collect far more data than a single scientist ever could. Cornell ornithologists use the information to track bird population trends. For example, this past winter many FeederWatchers thought they saw fewer birds than normal at their feeders. But the FeederWatch data, once analyzed, didn't support this gut reaction. The "missing" birds were mostly invasion species -- birds such as Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin. These birds breed and winter in northern areas but sometimes wander south when food is in short supply. This past winter wasn't a big invasion year, perhaps because food was plentiful in the north. Other bird species that really did decline the previous winter showed modest increases this past winter, including Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, European Starling, American Goldfinch, and Black-capped Chickadee. On the downside, some ground-feeding sparrows showed declines. For White-throated Sparrow this was the second year in a row that FeederWatch noted a downward trend. This coming winter, FeederWatchers are especially invited to take part in a Seed Preference Test. To become involved, send a cheque for \$16 made payable to Project FeederWatch and send it to Project FeederWatch, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0. For more information, call 1-519-586-3531.

BATS NEED HELP TOO!

Bats may be encouraged to roost if a cosy bat-box or bat-house is provided. For information on bat-boxes and bat-box plans, contact Dianne Devison at the Metro Toronto Zoo, Box 280, West Hill, Ont. M1E 4R5; Bat Conservation International, Box 162603, Austin, Texas, U.S.A. 78716; Bat Check, Box 1243, Kingston, Ont. K7L 4Y8; or Brock Fenton, Dept. of Biology, York University, North York, Ont. M3J 1P3. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

FRIENDS OF THE DON EAST YORK

This is a new group committed to the pursuit of local and regional actions that will preserve, protect and enhance the remaining natural areas within East York. Meetings and tree plantings are planned. For more information call Melanie Milanich at 690-5925. [Also, see Coming Events, page 28.]

At our present pace it will not take humanity many more years to obliterate every trace of natural landscape beauty on this planet; then people will look back on the Landscape Age as we look back on the Ice Age, believing it once existed yet unable to imagine it.

from ONE A SHOESTRING TO COOR: an experience in Southern India by Dervla Murphy,
John Murray Publishers Ltd., London, 1976

PROJECTS (cont'd)

ACCESS TO EXCESS

Access to Excess is a non-profit agency, funded by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy. Its mandate is to collect old, well-maintained household goods that are currently being thrown away, and instead, to redirect them to community shelters and hostels where they are put to good use. There are reusable household goods out there and there are people who need them. It also welcomes donations of manufacturer's seconds. No clothing please. Access to Excess operates under the umbrella of the WoodGreen Red Door shelter and maintains its office at the Ralph Thornton Centre in the Queen and Broadview area. So if you're moving, renovating or just updating your decor, think about Access to Excess before you haul it to the curb. Call Andrea or Ghada at 466-1092 Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

SAVING SONGBIRDS -- A TRAVELLING TALK AND SLIDE SHOW

Bring Back the Birds Conservation International - Canada has developed a special talk and slide show on declining songbird populations. The presentation introduces the basic issues surrounding songbird declines, including the causes and consequences of forest fragmentation on the temperate breeding grounds and deforestation on the tropical wintering grounds. An emphasis is placed on current research and conservation efforts, and how the general public can help to save these birds. The length of the talk can range from ½ hour to 1 hour according to specifications. Educational materials developed through the Bring Back the Birds program will be available at each presentation. Cost is minimal (a donation to cover expenses of bringing the presentation). To find out more about booking this program, contact Ken Towle, Project Coordinator, Conservation International - Canada, 174 Spadina Ave., Suite 508, Toronto M5T 2C2 or call 366-6100.

JOURNALISTIC HELP WANTED!

The TFN announces its monthly meetings and selected outings in a few Toronto publications which advertise community events for free. We need someone to prepare these brief notices and get them to these weekly and monthly newspapers in time. We will supply the paper, stamps and envelopes and no special equipment is needed; in fact, the notices are now handwritten in pencil (and then modified by the newspapers to suit their individual styles). We have samples of past ads to help you; here is one from a recent issue of NOW magazines: "Sat, Sept. 4 URBAN NATURE WALK - Toronto Field Naturalists presents a walk along the Leslie Street Spit to view migrating birds, at 10:30 am. Free (bring lunch and binoculars). Meet at foot of Leslie. 968-6255."

If you are interested, call TFN at 968-6255 or Sandy Cappell at 663-7738.

□

October moonlight.
Rustling cornstalks seem to dance
a ghostly pavane.

haiku by A. F. Wade

FOR READING

Recently published:

International Symposium and Workshop on the Conservation of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*), edited by Bob Johnson and Vi Menzies.

Copies of the proceedings of this event, which took place May 8-9, 1992 are available for \$25 each from Bob Johnson, Metro Toronto Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill, Ont. M1E 4R5. Contents include keynote address, papers on historical distribution, current range, education and conservation, etc.

Toronto Field Naturalist 1992 Index, published by the Toronto Field Naturalists.

The TFN newsletter has been published eight times a year since 1938. An index for the years 1938-1978 was prepared in 1980. Since then annual indexes have been prepared. Copies of the 50-year index may be purchased at monthly meetings for \$10 each. Copies of the indexes for the years 1979 to 1992 are included with each purchase. Complete sets of the newsletters may be found in the nine libraries listed in each index.

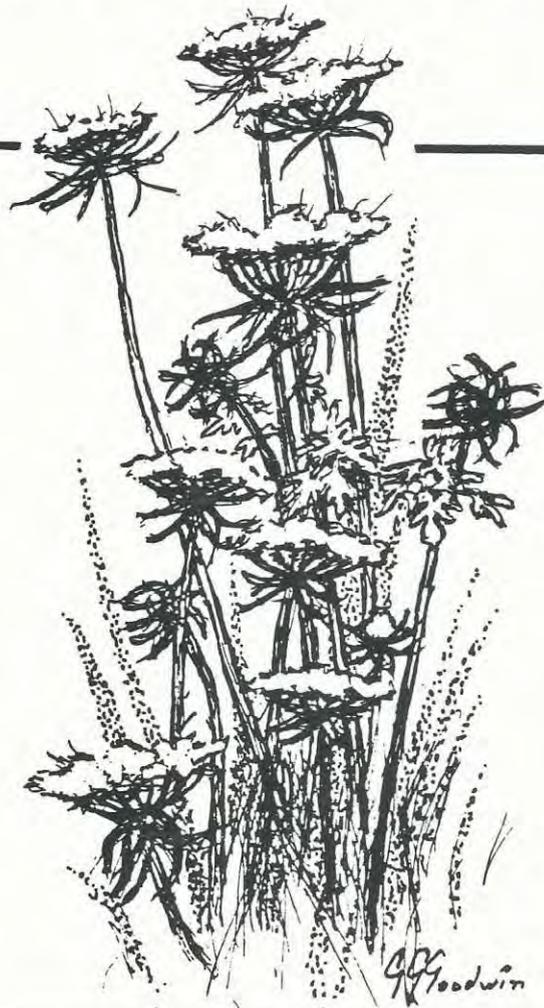
HJ



QUEEN ANNE'S LACE
or
WILD CARROT

originates in
Eurasia but has long
been naturalized in
Toronto.

This ink drawing
was made in the
field, at the
Ecology House
Garden on an
August 1st outing
by Geraldine
Goodwin.



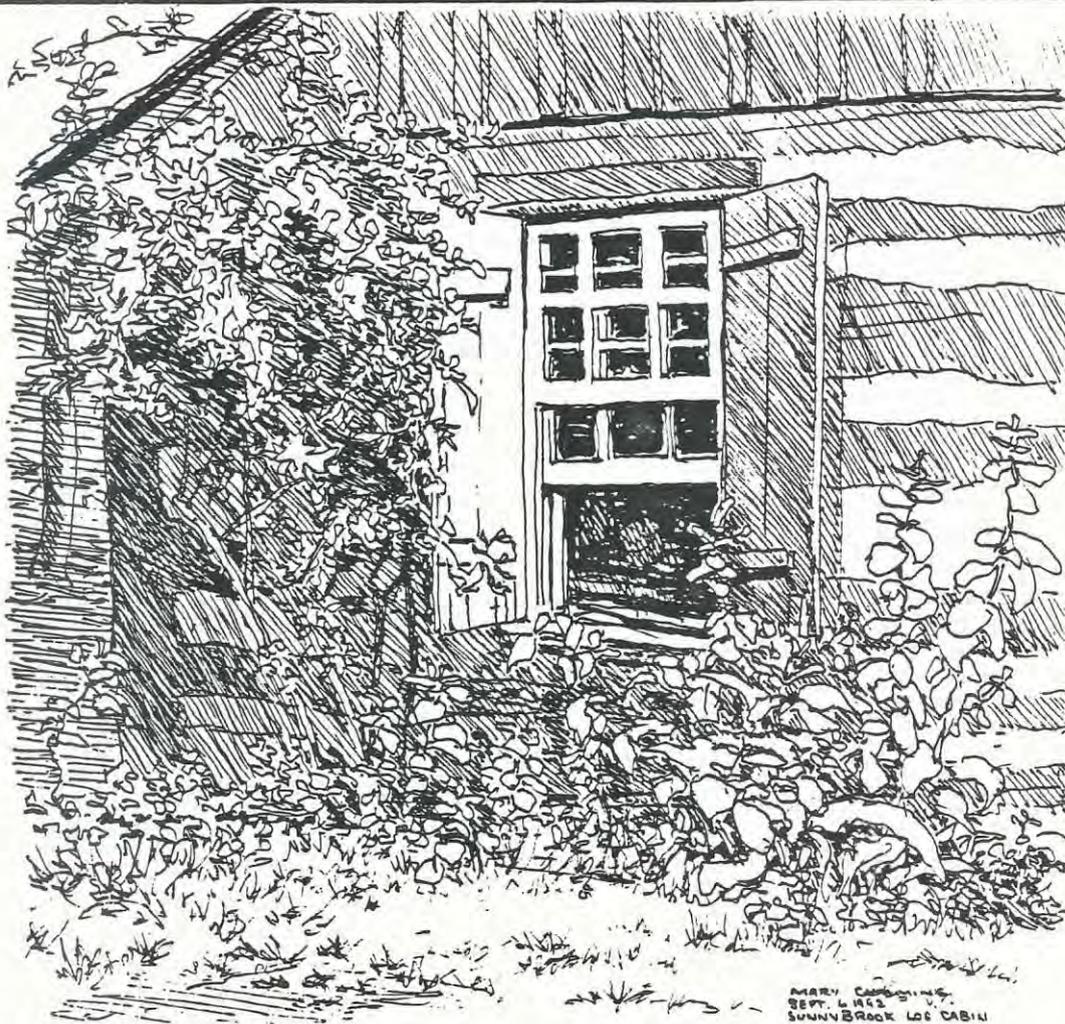
THOUGHTS BY A NEW PARKING-LOT

Hiding behind the corner post,
careful!
Despite your royal purple,
to them you're just a weed.

Look what's happened
to the heath asters
by the sidewalk,
you'd hardly know them!

It could happen to you too.
Hide,
New England aster,
hide!

Diana Banville



MARY CAMPBELL
SEPT. 4 1985
SUNNYBROOK LOG CABIN

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF BIRDING IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Undoubtedly dramatic faunal changes have occurred over historic time in Ontario. Many wonder if an observer would detect changes over a life-time. I have observed birds in southern Ontario for 65 years and kept records. I can state with confidence that I have seen numerous changes in the distribution and populations of birds over that period. I must admit one important caveat. I have based my conclusions on general impressions of change. I have not subjected my observations to strict mathematical treatment. Indeed, I doubt if one observer's notes would be sufficient for such an analysis.

I would like to commence by describing how I started birding and the conditions that prevailed then. My sister Sandra was sixteen years old in 1928 and was a Girl Guide. She decided to earn her bird-watching badge. The family had recently returned to Toronto and Sandra was instructed to take her young brother along on her bird walks in High Park. I was ten years old. She protested vigorously against "baby-sitting her kid brother", but to no avail. I was already interested in natural history and soon proved to be an acceptable assistant.

This was during the pre-Peterson era of bird-watching. The most popular bird guide was Guide to the Birds of North America by Charles Reed, in two volumes: Land Birds and Water Birds. These were oblong soft-covered booklets that fit into the vest or shirt pocket. Each double page had a washed-out water-colour of a bird in a pale habitat on one page, and a paragraph on the opposite page giving brief notes on description, habits, nest and eggs. Identifying a bird in the field was no easy matter. We had only the Land Bird volume, so any water birds encountered were classified as ducks, or gulls. I suppose binoculars had been invented in those days, but our friends used their parents' opera glasses. These were a pair of miniature telescopes with linear lenses coupled together by a focusing device. The magnification was about 4-6 power.

In spite of this primitive equipment, Sandra and I identified over 50 common birds and recorded the sightings on the pages of the field guide. The first bird identified in 1928 was a Red-headed Woodpecker. Our bird hikes took us to High Park, Sunnyside Beach, Etobicoke Creek, and the Humber River Valley. Sandra obtained her badge and progressed to observing boys. I continued my interest in birds and the interest was intensified when I spent 1930-31 in an Oshawa boarding school. Lack of friends led me to spend much of my spare time birdwatching on the outskirts of Oshawa, including Frenchman's Bay. By this time I was convinced that I was one of the very few birdwatchers in the country!

I rejoined the family in Toronto in 1932, and re-visited many of my old haunts. One fine, early Spring Saturday in 1934, I took the streetcar to Sunnyside Beach to try my acquired knowledge on identifying Water Birds. I was surprised to meet another lad about my age also observing birds. I struck up a conversation and learned that he was David Scott and he knew other birders! He introduced me to James L. Baillie at the Royal Ontario Museum. Jim Baillie told me of a new bird guide that was much superior to Reed's. It was a Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America by Roger Tory Peterson. My birthday was approaching and after some cajoling, my father gave me a copy of Peterson's first edition for my sixteenth

65 YEARS OF BIRDING (cont'd)

birthday. I was on my way to a lifetime hobby.

A number of Ontario naturalists fueled my growing interest in natural history. Besides Jim Baillie there were: Stuart Thompson, Murray Speirs, Dr. T. McIlwraith, George North of Hamilton and Dr. W.E. Saunders of London. I joined the Toronto Field Naturalists Club and accompanied groups on field trips farther afield to such places as Ashbridges Bay, Rouge Valley, Hamilton Bay, Dundas Marsh (Cootes Paradise), Turkey Point, Long Point, Rondeau, and Point Pelee in the 1930s. I learned the importance of keeping notes, building a technical library, and exercising integrity in reporting my observations. I joined with a group of teenage Toronto birders, both girls and boys in forming the Toronto Ornithological Field Group in 1936. I was the first president. In 1937, a young naturalist from Saskatchewan, Farley Mowat, joined our group and was elected editor of our paper "The Chat". Aside from a couple of breaks I have continued my birding activities ever since.

I have noticed that bird populations and distributions in Ontario have changed over my period of birdwatching. Some birds have increased, more have declined and still others have fluctuated in numbers. It is commonly believed that climatic disasters on the winter ranges, or migration routes have caused the declines. I believe that climatic factors may have accounted for cases where the populations abruptly declined and then increased slowly. An abrupt decline in Purple Martins in the mid-1980s may have been an example. It is my belief, however, that most declines in Ontario birds are caused by increased human disturbances to Ontario breeding habitats.

Let us start by considering some of the birds whose populations have greatly increased between 1928 and 1993. The Double-crested Cormorant is a good example. It was rare on the Great Lakes in the 1930s. I believe that the decline in commercial fishing is the major factor in its phenomenal increase. A number of gull species have greatly increased in numbers during this past decade. These include the Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gulls. The dramatic increase in number and size of land fill sites for waste disposal has undoubtedly been a major factor in these population changes. The decline of the Common Tern may be a result of the increase in the large gulls. I can't account for the parallel increase in the population of Caspian Terns. Most of the herons and egrets have shown modest population growth. The Black-crowned Night Heron has increased dramatically in the last decade. I believe that better conservation in the United States has allowed these birds to increase and spread their ranges northward. The bitterns are an exception that will be discussed later.

Similarly most birds of prey populations have increased, particularly the Buteos. The recovery of the Peregrine Falcon from the DDT poisoning in the 1960s is well known. I credit these increases to better public knowledge and awareness of the role of predators in nature. One might describe it as the post Jack Miner effect.

The three exotic introductions are examples of increasing species. Starlings were unusual in the early 1930s. Now their tremendous flocks appear as

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65 YEARS OF BIRDING (cont'd)

autumn clouds during migration. They severely threatened Bluebird populations in the middle period as they usurped the nesting holes. The campaign of building Bluebird boxes has helped restore the Bluebird population. The House Finch is a more welcome recent arrival. The population of House Sparrows may even have decreased after the 1930s when it lost its benefactors, the delivery wagon horses in Canadian cities.

Most of the native southern immigrants have continued to expand their distributions and populations northward during this period. I recall joining a group of birders to view an early cardinal in Rosedale Ravine, Toronto in 1935. Now they are widespread and of regular occurrence. Turkey Vultures, Mockingbirds, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers are other species on the increase -- pointing to a current climatic warming trend. Some other southern species that appeared as early as these species have not made as much progress. I refer to the Carolina Wren and the Tufted Titmouse. They appear to suffer periodic setbacks. In recent years three southern ground-dwelling wood warblers have appeared regularly along our southern boundary. These are the Kentucky, Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers. Perhaps their current records only reflect better trained observers. I doubt if they were expected in the 1930s and 1940s.

What I notice today among the wood warblers during the spring migration is the change in relative populations. Some species such as Parula, Cerulean, Canada and Mourning used to be more commonly observed 50 years ago. Other species such as Cape May, Bay-breasted and the ubiquitous Yellow-rump are more common today. Most others are in about the same proportions. Those that were rare are still rare such as: Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Prairie and Chat. Those that were common such as: Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Redstart are still common. On the whole I believe that the total numbers are down. Other rare southern birds such as: Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo and Orchard Oriole are about as common today as before.

Some families of birds such as the waterfowl were predicted to decline as a result of increased hunting pressure, but have not according to my observations. Several species have fluctuated dramatically and some have increased markedly. When I started birdwatching Wood Ducks were considered rare in Ontario. I earned considerable local respect when I discovered a pair of Wood Ducks nesting near Grenadier Pond in High Park in 1936. Similarly Gadwalls, Ruddy Ducks and Canvasbacks were thought to be in jeopardy at one time or another only to bounce back. Today it is the Black Duck that is threatened. That situation would have seemed unlikely in the 1950s and 1960s. During the last two decades Snow Geese have recovered from a serious decline. In recent years Canada Geese populations have increased amazingly. Undoubtedly many factors such as prairie droughts and unusually cold Arctic summers have affected the breeding success of different species of waterfowl, but I credit good management and conservation practices with keeping populations relatively stable.

I have not detected many changes in shorebirds' populations. The most significant loss has been the drastic decline in the Piping Plover as a breeding species. This is probably a result of the increased use of beaches by bathers and recreationalists. Few isolated beaches remain in southern

65 YEARS OF BIRDING (cont'd)

Ontario. My own observations suggest that the Stilt Sandpiper is more common on autumn migration today and the White-rumped Sandpiper rarer than 50 years ago.

On the opposite side of the ledger there are a number of summer breeding birds of Ontario that have shown drastic declines over the past half century. When one considers the habitats occupied by these varied species, one comes to the shocking realization that two habitats predominate: wetlands and grasslands, or pasture land. These two habitats have been seriously impacted by man's varied activities. Wetlands have been drained and filled. Swamp woodlands have been cleared of stumps, river banks have been cut and cleared. Those same areas have been treated with insect sprays for mosquito control. Accompanying these actions there has been a serious decline in the populations of the following wetland birds: American Bittern, Least Bittern, Moorhen, Sora and Virginia Rails, Marsh and Sedge Wrens and the localized Prothonotary Warbler.

Grasslands and pastures have similarly been impacted by human activities over the same period. Those activities included the application of chemical pesticides and herbicides, clean farming (removal of fencerows, shrub borders and shade trees) and intensive crop cycles. Concomitant with those activities have been the drastic population declines of the Ring-necked Pheasant, Upland Sandpiper, Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's and LeConte's Sparrows and during the past five years -- the Vesper Sparrow.

Currently it appears that the southern woodland habitat is under stress as a result of cattle grazing, herbicides and pesticide sprays, and the clearing of the understory of shrubs and saplings as a forestry practice. During the past three or four years I have noticed a decline in most of our forest thrushes -- particularly the Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush and the Veery. The Wood Thrush appears to be holding its own, but it is largely a southern species and the Grey-cheeked Thrush nests in the Boreal forest. The Whip-poor-will has been greatly reduced in the Bruce Peninsula forests. Two other species which I normally associate with small cities and towns are also on the decline: the Nighthawk and the Chimney Swift. I suspect that modern construction methods have reduced their nesting sites. Possibly insect control programs have also affected them.

One final generalization: birds that nest in the boreal forest, or on the tundra and appear as migrants, or winter residents in southern Ontario appear to be holding their own. These birds include the majority of shorebirds, Water Pipits, Snow Buntings, Savannah Sparrows and the Grey-cheeked Thrush, as well as the erratic Grosbeaks, Crossbills and finches.

In conclusion, I am convinced that I have witnessed serious declines in the populations of many species of Ontario birds during the past 65 years. I believe that many of the activities of our growing human population are responsible for these declines. I am also convinced that the number of declines is accelerating as we head towards the year 2000. I have also observed a number of increases in populations. Many of these are not welcome. A few are welcome and seem to indicate a growing awareness of our natural heritage and good conservation initiatives -- perhaps a hopeful sign.

CHAUVINIST CHALLENGE

Helen L. Pursey in her book THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MUSHROOMS AND OTHER FUNGI (1977) wrote that the "largest known Calvatia gigantea" [biggest member of the puffballs] "has been recorded in New York State, in 1977. It measured over three feet wide and nearly five and a half feet long. At a distance it was mistaken for a sheep".

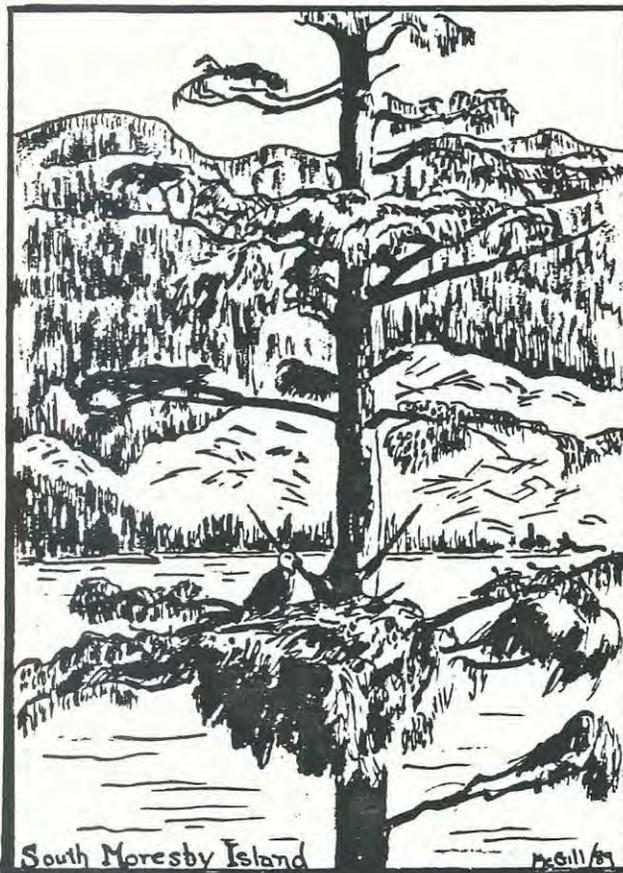
The Guinness Book of World Records states that in 1988, in Yellow Springs, Ohio, a Calvatia gigantea was found which was 77 inches in circumference.

In 1992 the newsletter of the Mycological Society of San Francisco reported that the Weidemann family of San Ramon, California, had found a 65 pound Calvatia gigantea, seven feet, three inches in circumference. This, of course, beats the Guinness record by ten inches.

P.S. Is Canada going to stand idly by and let this happen? TFN members are urged to be on the lookout for any massive white "animal" seen in the distance. Why should the U.S. get all the glory, as well as the Calvatia giganteas, and think how much delectable mushroom even a less than World Records find would generate...enough to invite all one's friends around to take a stab at it.

EVA DAVIS

□



THE BALD EAGLE in Ontario nests in trees which more often are living, rather than dead trees. Conifers appear to be slightly preferred to deciduous trees as a nest-site.

The drawing of the nesting situation in British Columbia was made by Jean McGill from a photo in a SIERRA magazine.

Ref.:
Peck & James,
BREEDING BIRDS OF
ONTARIO Nidiology
and Distribution,
Vol.1, 1983



SHORT-TAILED WEASEL in summer coat - from mounted specimen, R.O.M.

WOULD YOU?

If you discovered
on one of the few mornings
you could eat breakfast
on the patio, after Pinatubo,
that a wasp was attacking
a butterfly,
tearing off a portion of wing;
would you without further ado,
or judge and jury,
whack this wasp with the morning paper,
ending its brief carnivorous fling,
and after an hour in the early sun,
the butterfly with tattered appendage,
is feeding on a flower and carries on
to meet its fate
at a later date?
Wouldyou?

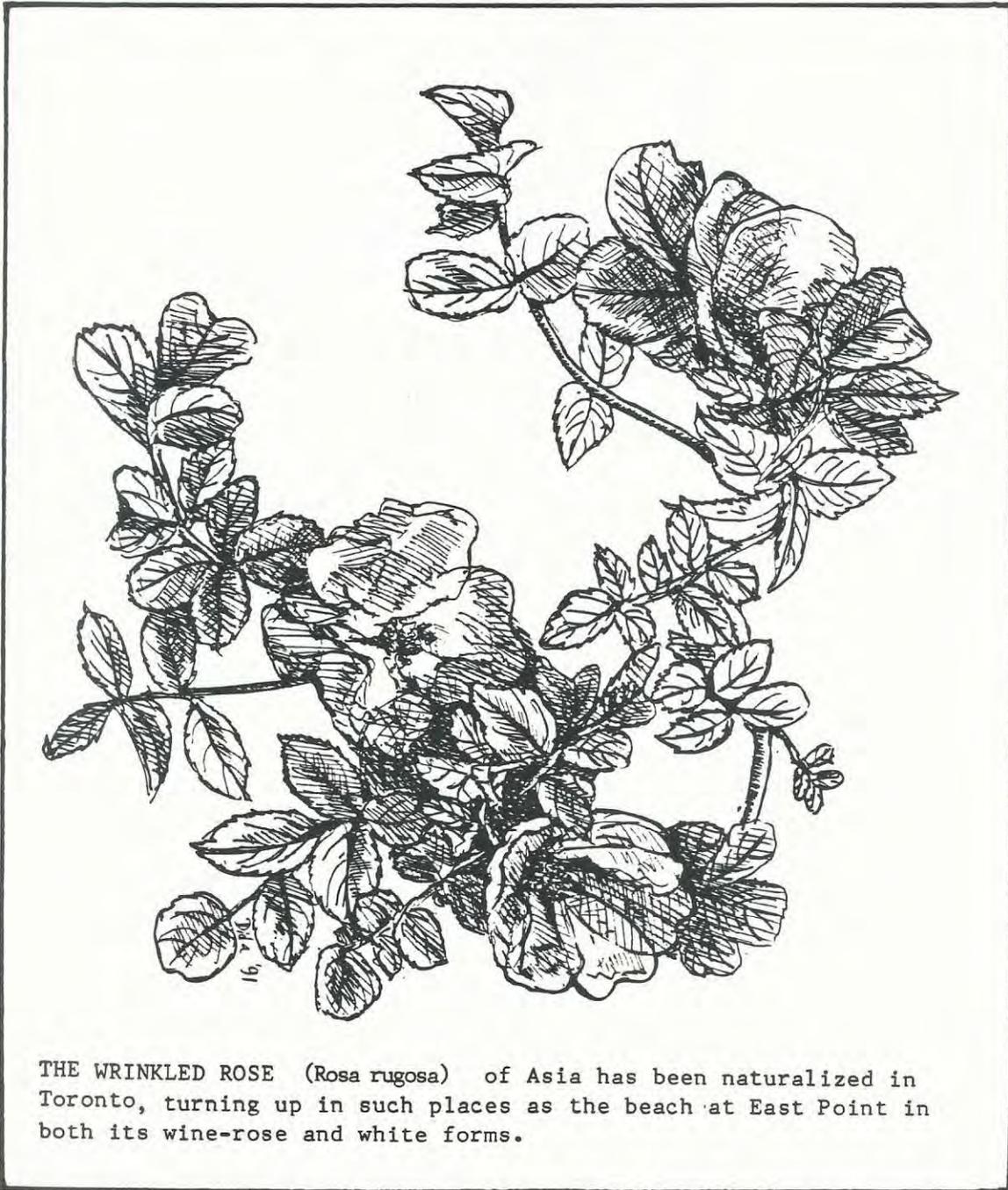
by Hazel Harvey

WANTED: MORE MINK

Near the forks of the Don River, in May 1993, I spied a mink! Complete with startling meal between its teeth. I froze, and so did the mink (I might, after all, have been after its dinner). Long seconds later it resumed its journey towards bushes at the river's edge. A serendipitous sighting, though, naturally enough, I had not got my camera.

Eva Davis

□



THE WRINKLED ROSE (*Rosa rugosa*) of Asia has been naturalized in Toronto, turning up in such places as the beach at East Point in both its wine-rose and white forms.

THE VISITOR

Yesterday a fledgling sparrow
 accidentally came to call,
 landing in our eighth floor garden,
 not invited there at all,

And the cats were very eager
 to point out his grievous sin,
 mewling crossly their frustration
 that the screen door kept them in.

Then I watched his anxious fluttering,
 caught behind our wall of glass.
 He was sure a cage had opened,
 trapped him now and held him fast.

So I raised him to the table,
 using cardboard as a perch,
 saw him lift his soft wings upward,
 saw his bright eyes start to search.

Suddenly a burst of courage
 took him up into the sky,
 left the cats alone and muttering,
 "Didn't even say 'good-bye'!"

Joan Johnston
 Summer, 1993



SPOTTED TOUCH-ME-NOT OR
 JEWELWEED is common in every
 watershed and other natural
 areas of Toronto. This drawing
 was made in the field at Toronto
 Island.

Like other members of the
 Balsam family, it is a
 favourite of children of all
 ages who like to see the seeds
 spring out when the capsules
 are touched, in late summer.

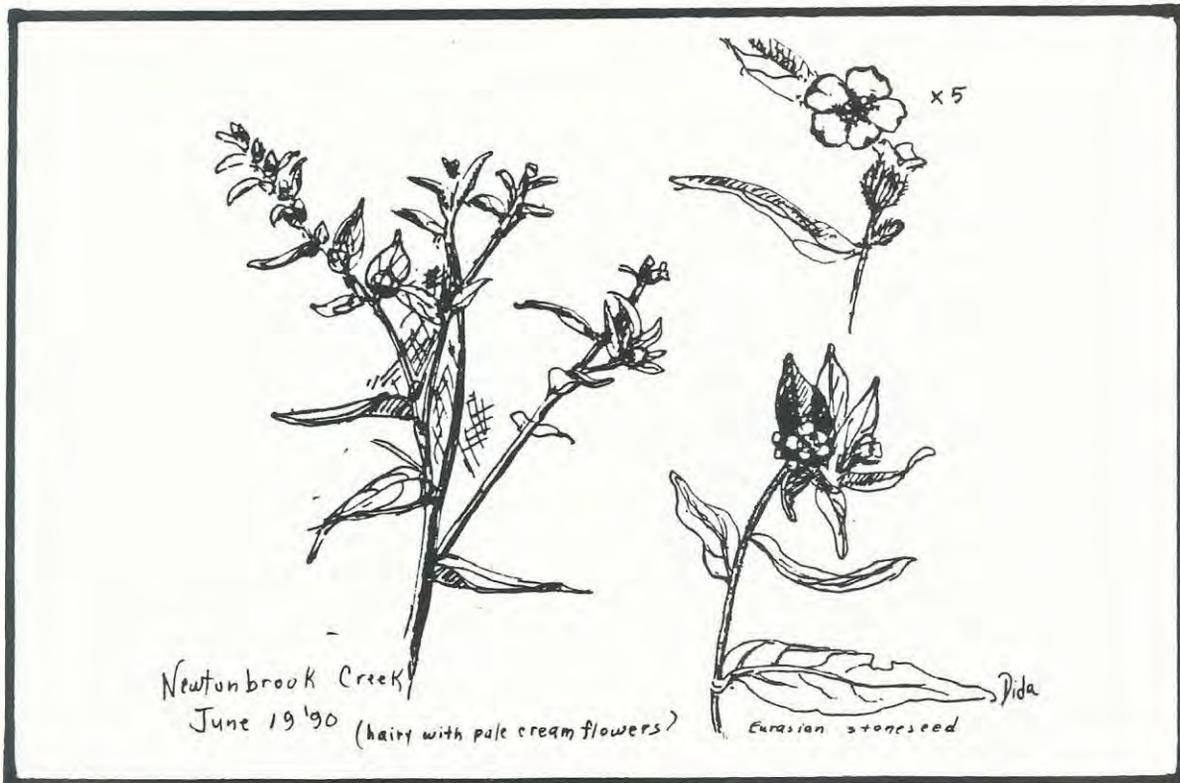
Ref.: GRAY'S MANUAL OF BOTANY

COMPANION WANTED: ANOREXIC PREFERRED

An unfamiliar sound seemed to be coming from the apple tree, but what was it? I had attached an old plastic bottle to it with an opening big enough for a wren. This is where the sound was coming from. A male house sparrow had spotted the bottle, apparently recognized its potential, realized that the opening was not big enough for him, and set about trying to make it bigger by tapping around the edges of the opening. But plastic does not have the "give" of wood and, persistent though he was, the size remained the same. Undaunted, this little bird, who I began to call "Little Chirp" split his efforts between displaying near the bottle and attempting to get inside. I assumed that the futility of his efforts would force him to abandon this possible nesting site. But I had not allowed for the little chap's determination! Incredible though it seems, he did eventually succeed in forcing himself into the bottle from which came his echoed chirps. I watched in amazement as he attempted to get out. Firmly wedged inside the bottle, he appeared to "huff and puff" and I believe would have turned red if he could have, until, just as I was about to fetch a ladder and assist, he "popped" out onto the branch, gave a triumphant chirp and continued trying to attract a mate. Well, females came from time to time, and when shown how to pop in and pop out of the prospective nest site, gave a metaphoric "sniff" and declined Little Chirp's advances after being shown what was expected of them. I began to think of removing the bottle when one day I saw a female pop out. This pair subsequently raised several broods, some individuals presumably equipped with that same problem-solving gene!

Diana Karrandjas

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WHAT IS NATIVE?

In a general way, it means originating in a certain place. But there are influences complicating the application of this definition; geographical distribution of species, changes in distribution through time, and genetic differences within species.

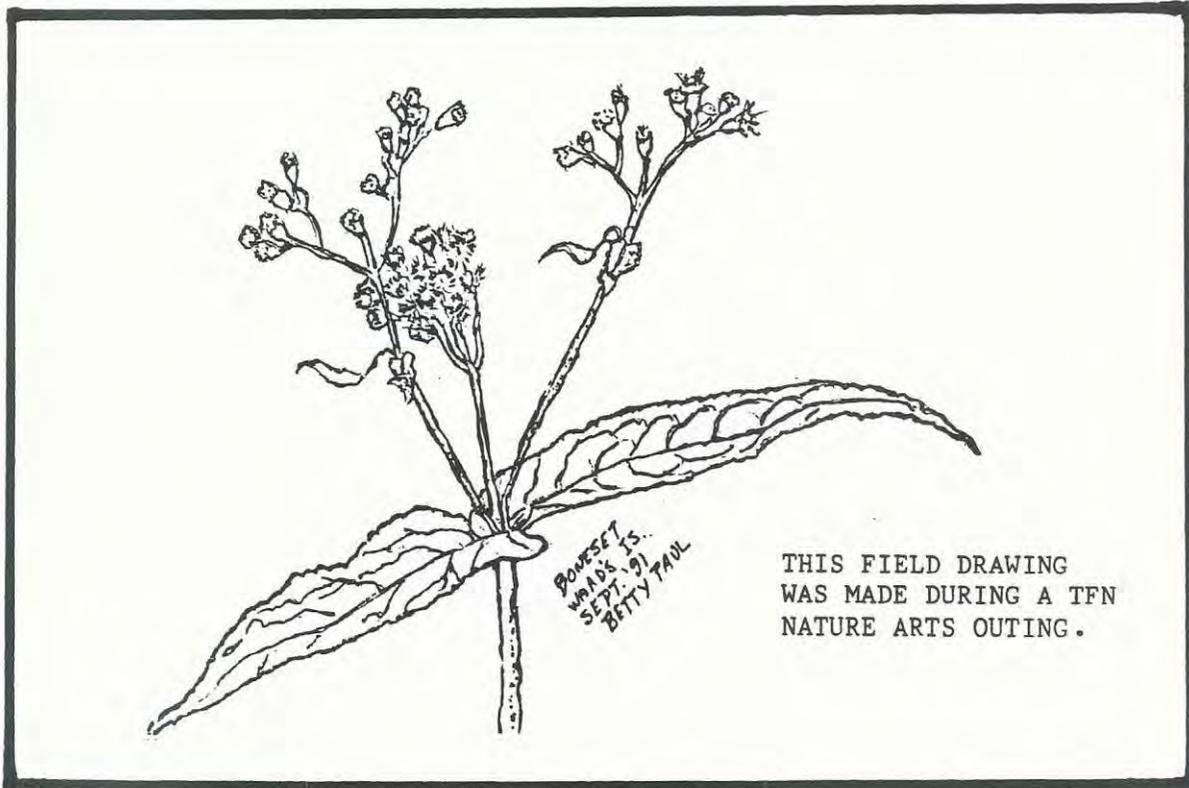
Into the midst of weighty and contradictory considerations comes an historic perspective. Mark V. Wilson, David E. Hibbs, and Edward R. Alverson in WILDFLOWER magazine (Fall 1992 - Native Plants, Native Ecosystems and Native Landscapes) suggest that the Euro-American settlement provides an important historical benchmark. This period lasted long enough to have significant impact on the vegetation of the region. Any definition of "native" must also have geographic limits. While it's correct to say the common ragweed is native to North America (it grew on the continent before European settlement), it's misleading to say it's a native of Oregon, even though it has reached the Cascades. Sitka Spruce (*Picea Sitchensis*) is limited to the fog belt close to the coast -- therefore it's misleading to say it's a native to other parts of Oregon.

The key to preserving native species is preserving native habitat. But native habitat is more than a specific place on the ground; it is a functioning ecosystem, based on geographical and historical perspectives:

A NATIVE ECOSYSTEM IS ONE DOMINATED BY NATIVE PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND MICROORGANISMS THAT OCCURRED TOGETHER BEFORE THE TIME OF EURO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT.

adapted from "Gleanings" by Hugh Reynolds in THE GUELPH FIELD NATURALIST, Vol. 23, No. 6, June-July, 1993

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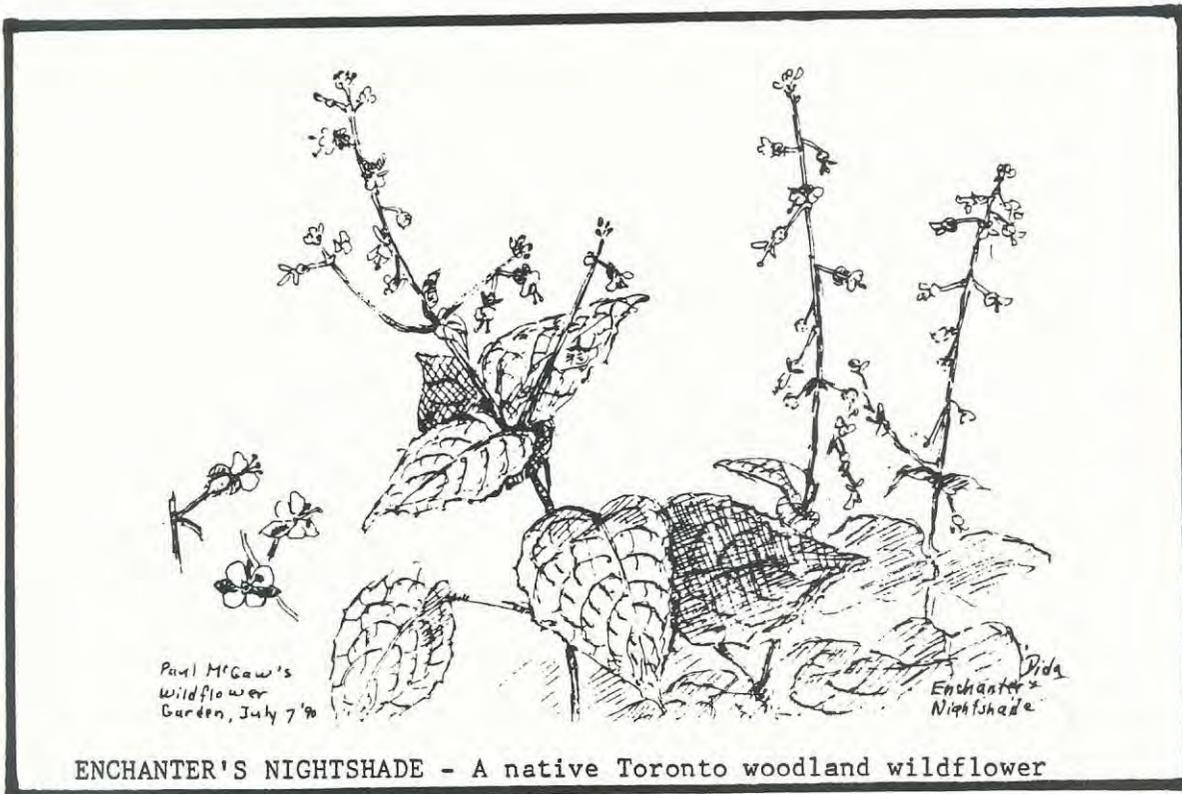


INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGE

As the wilderness shrinks, private gardens and public landscaping play increasingly important ecological roles. But the movement to restore native species involves initiatives on all levels -- large-scale replanting programs, municipal projects to rehabilitate ecosystems in parks, as well as backyard gardeners reestablishing their local natural environments. Become a native plant gardener and you join this larger movement to preserve what wild areas remain and to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems. Do it for the love of indigenous, regional beauty -- which you may currently have to visit botanic gardens or arboretums to find. Do it for the savings of water, time, and money. Do it to bring back the sounds of spring, the birds, the butterflies, the wildlife that is disappearing along with its habitats. Do it to protect all that requires biological diversity to survive. Do it for the good company you'll keep. Also, human and native plant communities can protect each other; for example, the 1991 fire in Oakland, California, destroyed every house on one block save one tucked safely behind native live oaks. Unlike eucalyptus -- a highly flammable and popular Australian import planted throughout northern California -- native oaks are naturally fire resistant.

adapted from "Answering Nature's Call" by Rachel Bagby in MS Magazine, May/June 1993

Comment: For more information about gardening with native plants, contact the Canadian Wildflower Society, 4981 Hwy 7 East, Unit 12A, #228, Markham, Ont. L3R 1N1. Subscriptions: \$30/yr.; back issues of WILDFLOWER (North America's Wild Flora Magazine): \$5 per copy.



ENCHANTER'S NIGHTSHADE - A native Toronto woodland wildflower

IN THE NEWS

FEWER BUGS IN THE SYSTEM

If your summer seems to lack the soft flutter and gentle hum of the summers of your youth, the impression may be more than sweet nostalgia. There are definitely fewer butterflies, and probably fewer honey bees, now than there were a decade or so ago. Robert Anderson, an entomologist at the Canadian Museum of Nature, says the museum has been getting calls from people curious about what they feel is the reduced population of butterflies and bees. And while Anderson says he can't verify their impressions with specific numbers, he does say that butterfly numbers have indeed been decreasing over the past 10 or 20 years. At the same time you have to remember that insects go through cycles. Every six or seven or eight years, there are peak cycles or low cycles. What's not always clear is whether or not the cause of the low cycle is a natural phenomenon or something caused by humans, such as continuing destruction of the butterflies' habitat. Some of the current decrease in numbers may be blamed on the weather. Butterflies need sun -- you won't see them fluttering about on cloudy days because they draw their energy from the sun's rays -- and last summer was disastrous for them. The wet, cool conditions had a negative impact on reproductive cycles, and similar conditions this May created a double whammy. But butterflies may make a strong comeback next year in southern Ontario because of this year's warm, sunny weather. As for the bees, experts are less certain. It is worthwhile for people to watch for possible trends such as reduced insect populations. It is important to be vigilant against widespread or indiscriminate use of pesticides and herbicides, which can ultimately destroy whole insect populations.

extracted from an article by Janice Kennedy in the TORONTO STAR, Aug. 20, 1993



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

"TREE-HUGGERS" FIGHT TO KEEP BAYVIEW GREEN

Urban redevelopment in the '90s is taking its toll on Bayview's tree population. Residents of Hollywood Avenue reversed the trend when they refused to let a glorious tree fall to the chainsaw. Residents "bombarded" Mayor Mel Lastman's office with calls, faxes and letters when a developer planned to chop down an "unusually large" 80-year-old, 60-foot high maple tree at 300 Hollywood. In an unexpected move, Lastman stepped in and, after negotiations with both the Parks and Recreation department and the land owner, a stay of execution was issued. A recently adopted bylaw stiffening the penalty for illegal removal of trees on city property has encouraged developers to preserve trees -- "but that isn't always the case". Since the bylaw was enacted April 15, 1992, no charges have been laid. The maximum penalty is a \$5,000 fine and replacement of the tree. In a year-long study for the city's technical advisory committee, Bill Granger, North York's director of urban design, estimates 1,000 mature trees have been lost to "human activity" in four years. He pointed out that four mature Norway maple trees at the corner of Yonge Street and Spring Garden Avenue were recently cut down for a 25-foot street advertisement for Bramalea Ltd.

from an article by Stephen Shaw in POST NEWSPAPERS, June 1993

TREE RINGS AND WEATHER

Tree rings formed over the past 2,000 years show a 125-year cycle of hot and cold periods, apparently caused by changes in sunlight. Core samples from foxtail pine trees in the Sierra Nevada show a distinct pattern of growth caused by changes in temperature at high mountain sites. Scientists studying the possibility of global warming should take the temperature cycle into account. In a report published in the journal "Science", the average temperature was described as ranging up 3°C during the hot phase and down about the same during the cold part of the cycle.

from "Discovery Digest" in THE SUNDAY SUN, March 14, 1993

ANCIENT TREE SHOWS GLOBAL WARMING, HUMANS NOT LINKED

Growth rings from a 3,613-year-old South American tree show no evidence the climate is being warmed due to human activity. Two researchers report annual rings in an alerce tree, the second-longest-living tree species known, show the climate near the western coast of South America has warmed and cooled many times over thousands of years but there has been no increase in temperature during the industrial age. Their report is to appear in the journal "Science". The researchers said their study does not contradict studies that have suggested warming trends in parts of the northern hemisphere. But the results did indicate any so-called global warming isn't really global -- at least not yet. Temperatures experienced by the trees directly affect the amount of seasonal growth and this is reflected in the width of the annual rings created in the trunk. As a result, it is possible to use the tree rings to reconstruct climatic conditions for the life of the tree. The study shows over 3,000 years or more, there are wide swings in average temperatures and these cycles can last for hundreds of years. Temperature trends spotted in the tree rings did not point to man-made causes. The tree ring-study shows that any warming trend will not affect all parts of the globe equally.

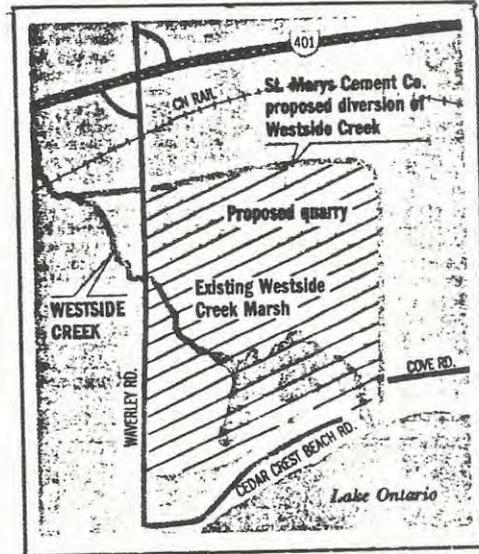
from the TORONTO STAR, May 21, 1993

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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

CLARINGTON CITIZENS AIM TO KEEP SWAMP, OPPOSE QUARRY

A group of Clarington residents is calling on Durham Region to lead the fight to save a 50-hectare marsh that's in danger of being turned into a limestone quarry by the St. Mary's Cement Co. The marsh is posted with No Trespassing signs and St. Mary's has applied to divert a branch of West Side Creek that now feeds the swamp. They have had a licence to quarry the site since 1968. Residents are upset that the swamp has been given a special policy designation in the region's official plan that means that it can be developed without public input. When the province reviewed the region's plan, it asked that the special policy designation be taken off and the existing environmentally sensitive rural zoning be left on the property. The region ignored the province and the pleas of the residents. Local politicians say a choice has to be made between the needs of industry and the wishes of local residents.



extracted from an article by Stan Josey in the TORONTO STAR, July 29, 1993

GM'S MCLAUGHLIN BAY RESERVE EARNS AWARD FROM NATURALISTS

General Motors of Canada won the first Federation of Ontario Naturalists' Corporate Award this year for its McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve. The 40-hectare (100-acre) nature site is adjacent to the firm's east Oshawa corporate headquarters on Colonel Sam Dr. The site was designed specifically to respect and preserve its natural surroundings. Employees, company retirees, youth groups and many other volunteers have joined in clean-up projects on the site next to Lake Ontario and developed about 5 kilometres (3 miles) of walking trails, as well as beginning a long-term rehabilitation program. GM also recently built and donated to the city an elevated wildlife viewing and photography platform, one of five to be located throughout the reserve. Plans for the reserve, which is strategically situated between Darlington Provincial Park and Oshawa Second Marsh, also include transforming areas of the site into forest zones and shrub thickets to serve as habitats for resident and migrant birds and mammals, with an environment suitable for nesting and breeding.

extracted from an article by Paul Irish in the TORONTO STAR, Aug. 12, 1993

*Apple trees in rows.
They're standing at attention
waiting to be picked.*

haiku by Helen Juhola

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

ALGAE BLAMED FOR COMPLAINTS

Complaints to Metro's works department about the odd taste and odour of tap water were probably prompted by high levels of algae in Lake Ontario, the official responsible for the water supply says. The department received more than 130 calls complaining of an earthy taste and a musty or swampy scent from tap water. The algae proliferates at water temperatures above average but is harmless, and Metro is treating the problem by increasing filtering and chlorination.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Aug. 26, 1993

GUARDING THE BORDER FROM SICK RACCOONS

Experts believe it is only a matter of time -- a short time, if it has not already happened -- before raccoon rabies crosses the border into Canada. When the first rabid raccoons cross the border, they will be entering a province where rabies is already a serious problem. A strain of rabies that is spread by foxes and skunks has given Ontario a quarter to a half of all the rabies cases in North America before the current outbreak in New York State. Raccoons get fox rabies but they do not spread it, just as other animals get raccoon rabies without playing much of a role in spreading the virus, even though it kills them. A provincial task force estimated last year that the emergence of raccoon rabies will double the number of animal rabies cases in Southern Ontario and that it will hit cities particularly hard. Urban raccoons are less likely to be afraid of people, so it is difficult to tell whether an animal walking about in daylight or acting aggressively has the virus. All raccoons should be treated as if they are potentially rabid. Despite improved vaccinations now available, rabies is still a feared disease. It is caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system, and if it is not caught early it is almost invariably fatal, although human deaths are extremely rare. Anyone suspected of coming into contact with the virus should be given a series of shots just in case. More than a thousand people were treated in Ontario for rabies last year, but no one has died from the virus in Canada since 1986.

extracted from an article by Craig McInnes in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Aug. 19, 1993

WATERFRONT TRAILS OKAYED

The province has announced \$1.8 million in funding for 12 waterfront trail projects along Lake Ontario between Burlington and Trenton. As recommended by the waterfront commission headed by former Toronto mayor David Crombie, the projects will be constructed in such a way as to provide a maximum of access without damaging the environment. The entire trail will be wheelchair accessible and people will be able to hike, bike, play ball or exercise along it. The projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of next year. When completed the trail will measure some 275 kilometres (170 miles) as it meanders along the lakeshore, in some cases following local roads inland to tourist attractions. It will bypass parts of the shoreline that are privately owned.

extracted from an article by Stan Josey in the TORONTO STAR, Aug. 19, 1993

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

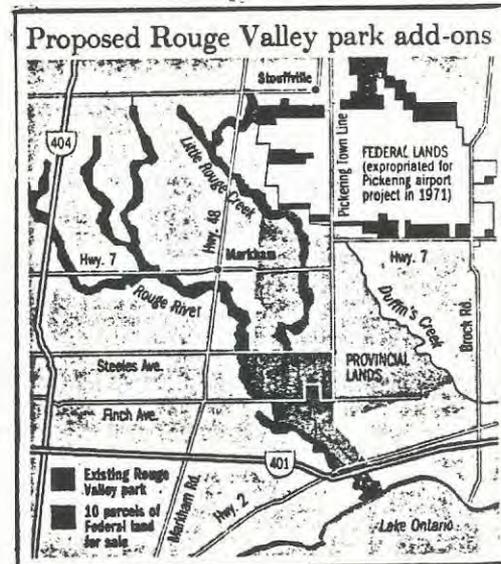
PICKERING LAND GOES ON BLOCK

Twenty years after Pickering residents asked Ottawa to choose between "people or planes", Transport Canada is selling part of the land it expropriated. The government will sell 2,064 hectares of its 7,530-hectare block in several stages over the next three years. Local municipalities and provincial agencies are being offered the right of first refusal on the lands. Any land not purchased for public use will be offered to tenants who are currently leasing it. Anyone who buys land in the area will still have to live with the possibility of an international airport in the future, however. The government is retaining more than 5,000 hectares of its holdings and is placing restrictions on the surplus land to ensure an airport can be built next door.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Aug. 26, 1993

ROUGE VALLEY ADVOCATES PUSH TO EXPAND PARK

The people who pushed for the creation of the Rouge Valley park, the largest urban park in North America, want to make it even bigger. Supporters of the Rouge Valley System urged the federal government to hand over 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) for park use. The federally owned land has been declared surplus by Ottawa and is up for sale. It would increase the size of the park by almost 50 per cent, but proponents say they have no idea if Ottawa might be interested in giving up the land. The property skirts the 8,100 hectares (20,000 acres) expropriated two decades ago for the Pickering airport. The airport has never been built but is still -- officially -- under review.



extracted from an article by Brian McAndrew in the TORONTO STAR, Aug. 21, 1993

CHAINSAW MASSACRE

The Scarborough Public School Board cut down a grove of 42 trees in front of the Jack Miner Senior Public School for a bus loop. The school, designed by architect Raymond Moriyama to respect the environment of the wooded Scarborough Bluffs area, now sits amid dozens of stumps. Scarborough's school trustees -- who voted a 64-per-cent pay raise for themselves last year -- did this.

extracted from an article in the TORONTO STAR, Aug. 14, 1993

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

THIS CITY CEMETERY'S REAL DEAR TO THE DEER

Two deer romped through an east-end cemetery yesterday, taking a nap before fleeing. "About 7:30 (yesterday) morning, I spotted a deer in the middle of a ravine", said the grounds-superintendent of St. John's Cemetery Norway, located at Woodbine Ave. and Kingston Rd. Cemetery workers spent close to four hours trying to catch the pair of four-legged visitors -- to no avail. Finally the Toronto Humane Society scared them off onto Woodbine Ave. where they headed north for another ravine at Woodbine and Gerrard.

from an article by Sharon Lem in the TORONTO SUN, June 9, 1993

WINTER'S CHILL CHASES AWAY PEARSON DEER HERD

Pearson International Airport's infamous herd of white-tailed deer has moved out, solving a problem -- at least for now -- that has plagued airport officials for months. Officials suspect between eight and 12 of the animals left the area in search of shelter from the recent winter storms. Wildlife staff and airport officials are now using every "trick in the book" to prevent the animals from returning. Staff are patrolling the fence-line with firecrackers and noisy pistols to frighten the deer. As well, an electrical fence was installed at the junction of two creeks, where it was suspected the deer were getting in and out. The deer hit the headlines in August when one of the animals bolted into the path of a cargo plane, damaging the landing gear and forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing. In January, the airport launched a \$50,000 program to trap and move the animals to crown land in Pickering. However, to date only three have been caught with tranquilizer guns. Traps set up in the ravine did not work as well as expected.

from an article by Bruce Campion-Smith in the TORONTO STAR, March 19, 1993

THE BANDIT IN THE ATTIC

A study by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources showed that Metro Toronto has some 10,000 raccoons. That's roughly 16 to 18 per square kilometre, twice as many as in rural settings. (In some areas, such as the Toronto Hunt Club, there are as many as 100 raccoons per square kilometre.) Because city raccoons supplement their diet with plentiful garbage, they are two kilos heavier than their country cousins and tend to have bigger litters: five or six a year compared to two or three in the country. There is even some evidence that city raccoons manage to squeeze an extra year or so into their lifespan. Toronto has had the distinction of being designated the "Raccoon Capital of North America", but they are found in almost every region of North, Central and South America. Like humans, they tend to avoid deserts, high altitudes and polar regions.

from an article by Ellen Vanstone in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Feb. 20, 1993

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Distant fall meadow's
blended tints of autumn hues
like a pastel sketch.

Haiku by J. Kenneth Cook

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

October 1992, Toronto

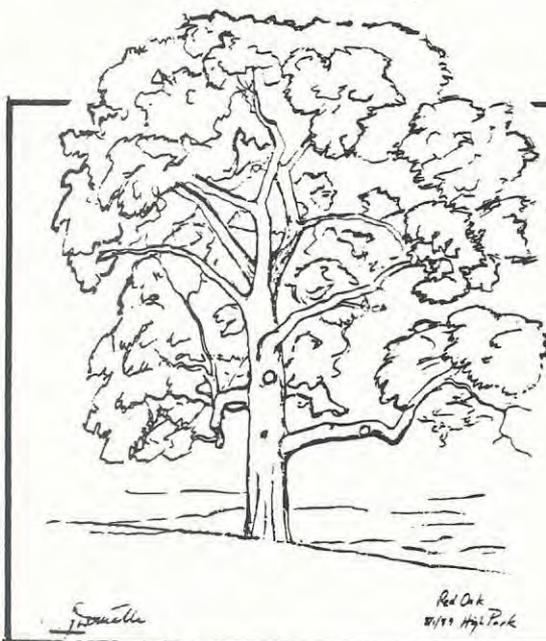
This was the fifth consecutive month with below-normal temperatures, this time by about 2°C. It was the coolest October in four years, with mean temperatures of 9.1°C and 7.4°C downtown and at Pearson Airport respectively. Sunshine and precipitation were near to or slightly above normal. Winds averaged about 2 km/h below the average.

The month began spectacularly well with eight days of almost continuous sunshine. Temperatures rose into the mid-twenties on Oct. 2nd, but cooled off thereafter. Later, cloudy, unsettled conditions did not suffice to bring sunshine hours below normal. From Oct. 8th to the end of the month, frequent disturbances brought showers and an intermittent north-westerly flow of arctic air. Thunderstorms occurred on three days; one brief but fierce storm on the evening of Oct. 23rd produced a continuous display of lightning. A strong cold snap from Oct. 18th - 22nd was the most intense in Toronto since 1976. Snow fell on Oct. 18th and 20th to the north of the city and remained on the ground for up to a day. Temperatures stayed just a couple of degrees above freezing on Oct. 19th. The final part of the month was less extreme in its cool trend.

Fall colours were good this year, with bright colours and a long duration. It was speculated that the cool, wet summer prevented this year's growth from hardening off and going dormant as early as it normally does. This might account for a longer leafy season in spite of a cool fall, and it might also mean that more southern, Carolinian species may suffer from winter die-back on the tender new growth.

Gavin Miller

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THE NORTHERN RED OAK, a Toronto native, prefers dry or upland woods, according Scoggan's THE FLORA OF CANADA. It is present in all six watersheds here, as well as in many lakeshore and isolated ravine locations.

Field sketch, at High Park, is by Joanne Doucette.

COMING EVENTS

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks - sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club - aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners are welcome.

- Shorebirds and other migrants - Sat. Oct. 2 from 8 am (all day) with Tim Sabo. Meet at the foot of Leslie St. Bring lunch. Free.
- Late Migration - Sat. Oct. 9 from 8 am (all day) with Bob Yukich. Meet at the Toronto Islands ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. to catch the 8:15 am ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring lunch. Free.

Natural History Courses - at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, North York, Ont. M3C 1P2. Call 397-1340 to receive more details.

Friends of the Don East York - meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7 pm at the East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave. Call Steven Peck at 467-7305 for more information.

- Oct. 26 at 7 pm at the East York Civic Centre. [See page 6 also.]

Edwards Gardens tour - Sat. Oct. 2 at 2 pm with Frank Kershaw of the Metro Parks and Property Dept. Meet at the main entrance to the Civic Garden Centre on Lawrence Avenue East just west of Leslie Street.

Humber Valley Hike - Sun. Oct. 3 from 10:30 am to 3 pm starting at the Kortright Centre. This will be a special guided walk through areas normally closed to the public. Advance registration required. Call 832-2289.

Walk to McMichael - Mon. Oct. 11 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm starting at the Kortright Centre. Advance tickets required. Call 832-2289.

Free science lectures sponsored by the Royal Canadian Institute on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm in the Macleod Auditorium of the Medical Science Building, 1 King's College Circle (north of College St., west of University Ave.) Free. Call 928-2096 for more information.

- Oct. 24 - Laura Nader - Demarcating Science: the power of boundaries
- Oct. 31 - Prof. R.F. Garrison - Wealth of the Southern Skies: on scientific appreciation

Don Watershed Task Force Meeting - Oct. 7 in the Town of Markham at 101 Town Centre Boulevard at 6:30 pm. All meetings are open to the public. For more information call 661-6600, ext. 325.

Save the Rouge Valley System - monthly walks in the valley. Call 287-1776 for more details about these free guided walks.

Toronto Entomologists' Association meeting - Sat. Oct. 16 at 1 pm in the McLaughlin Planetarium just south of the Royal Ontario Museum. These meetings are open to the public and free.

Casa Loma Gardens - free day - Oct. 4; also Tuesdays from 4 pm to dusk. Call 923-1171 for more details.

Sherwood Park tree planting - Sat. Oct. 2 at 9:30 am. Everyone welcome.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Women artists and botanical illustration in the nineteenth century - at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, 120 St. George St. until Oct. 1, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. (original works including drawings, paintings and water-colours). For more details call 978-5285.

High Park Day - wildlife tours and eco-fair - Oct. 3 from 12 noon to 5 pm. Free. Presented by Environmental Dialogue (604-8362) as part of Healthy City Week. Learn how your actions can affect the park ecosystem and how you can minimize these effects. Find out about the life of Grenadier Pond and learn about our small piece of Carolinian Forest and Black Oak Savannah.

Black Creek Project meeting - Wed. Oct. 6 at 6:30 pm at the Haultain Bldg. on College St. opposite McCaul St. Call 661-6600, ext. 345 for details.

Mycological Society of Toronto meeting - Oct. 18 at 8 pm at the Civic Garden Centre. Call Lore Lebrecht at 292-6311 for details.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don meeting - Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm in Committee Rm. #5, Toronto City Hall. Call 392-0068 for details.

- Tree planting event - Sat. Oct. 23 at 10 am, meeting at the Riverdale Park footbridge.
- Public meeting about a demonstration habitat wetland for the lower Don in the area of the Bloor viaduct - Wed. Oct. 20 at 7 pm at the Ralph Thornton Community Centre, 765 Queen St. East (just east of Broadview Ave.).

TFN → 200 Years of Toronto Natural History - a photo and art display by the TFN at the Yorkville library gallery (on Yorkville Ave. just west of Yonge St.) until Sept. 30. The library is open 8:30 am to 6 pm: Mon., Wed. & Fr.; 8:30 - 8:30 Tues. & Thurs.; 9 am to 5 pm: Sat.

TFN → TFN Nature Information Centre - Sunnybrook Park (Eglinton East & Leslie) 12 noon to 4 pm - Sundays. Closing Oct. 10 until May 1994.

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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.

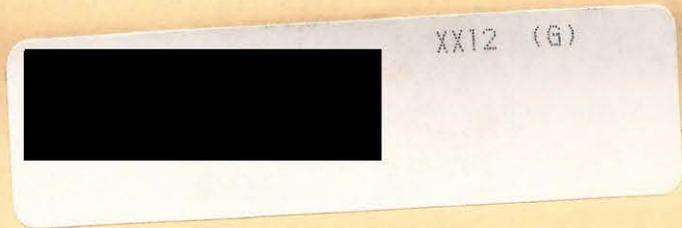
Send material to: Toronto Field Naturalists
20 College St., Unit 11
Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION, 1965..... \$ 2.00	INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938 to present) \$ 10.00
CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 1972 \$ 2.00	TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 \$ 4.00
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	A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985 \$ 4.00
TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS ea \$ 4.00	GUIDE TO THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, LEASKDALE, ONT., 1986 \$ 4.00
Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973	TORONTO ISLANDS: PLANT COMMUNITIES AND NOTEWORTHY SPECIES, 1987 \$ 4.00
Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974	TODMORDEN MILLS, 1987 \$ 4.00
Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975	VASCULAR PLANTS OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO, 1990 \$ 8.00
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	

NO G.S.T.

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).

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\$25 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY
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