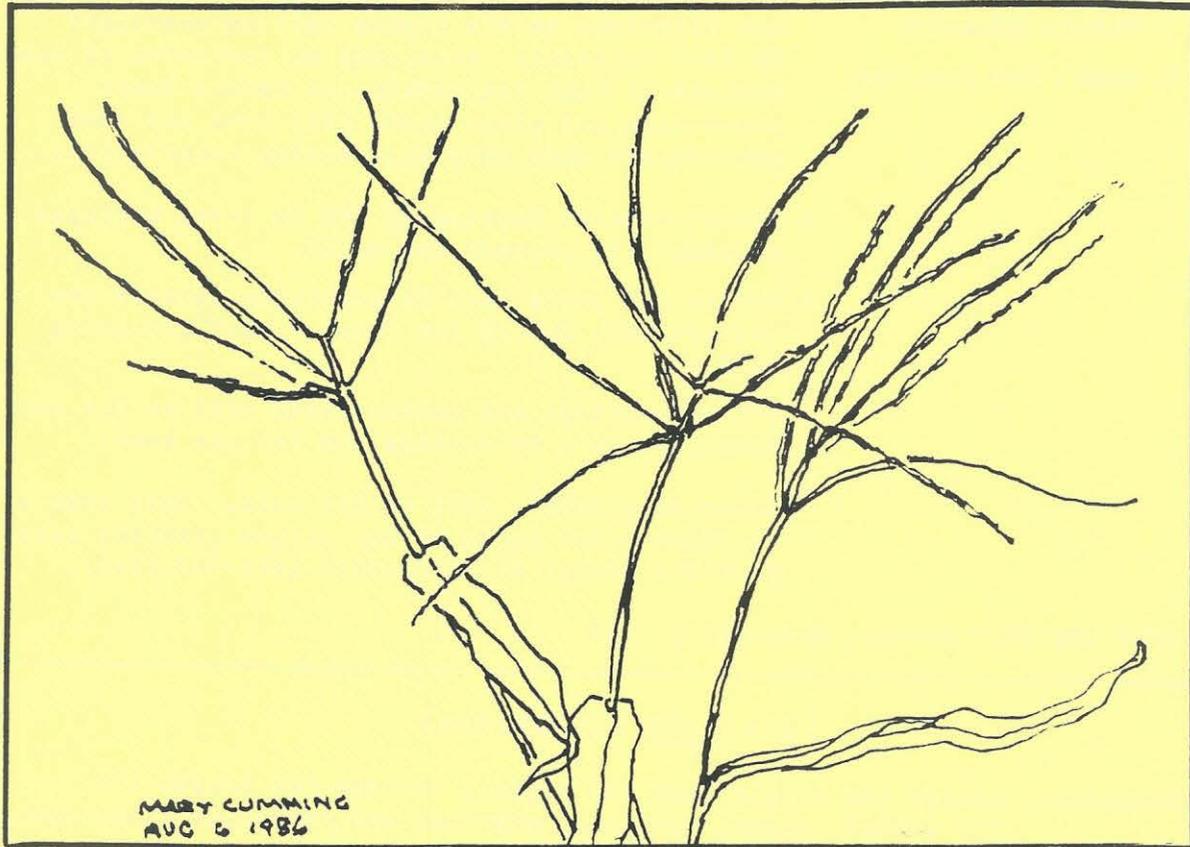


TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 445

September 1994



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TFN MEETINGS

- Sunday, Sept. 11, 1994 - HAZARDS TO MIGRATING BIRDS
at 2:30 pm
in the Northrop Frye Hall
Victoria University
73 Queen's Park Cres. East
- an illustrated talk by Michael Mesure of The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP).
- During spring and fall, night-migrating birds are attracted to the lights left on overnight in tall buildings, resulting in thousands of deaths. Members of FLAP are working to reduce these casualties and since April 1993 have had some success and made many interesting observations.
 - + Annual General Meeting of TFN (a short business meeting will precede the talk).
 - + coffee and juice will be available outside the lecture hall during the "social hour", starting at 2 pm.
 - + TFN memberships and publications will be for sale from 2 pm to 4 pm outside the lecture room.
 - + "Always Alice Cards" will be for sale. Your chance to order custom cards or buy unique greeting cards from TFN member Alice Mandryk (416-767-6149).

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, October 2, 1994

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Requested: 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

This Month's Cover

"Crabgrass in Bloom" by Mary Cumming

Though gardeners may not appreciate this grass's habit of rooting at the nodes, the graceful fingers of spikelets, earning it the genus name "Digitaria" are attractive. Other names for it are "finger grass" and "Our Lady's grass".

TFN OUTINGS

- Saturday
Sept. 3
10:30 am
- GUILD INN - nature arts
Lakeshore, Scarborough
Leader: Jim Krauja
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of the Guildwood Pkwy. opposite Galloway Rd. Bring lunch.
Bring camera and/or sketching materials and stool. Members will be encouraged to spend the morning interpreting what they see and material will be compared during the lunch break. Good views of the bluffs from this woodland.
- Sunday
Sept. 4
2 pm
- GERRARD PRAIRIE - nature walk
Scarborough
Leader: Evon Turko
Meet at the northeast corner of Victoria Park Ave. **and Gerrard St. East.**
A remnant oak woodland with a good understorey of shrubs and wildflowers will be looked at. Plenty of poison ivy so please dress appropriately -- long trousers, etc. and bring your favourite field guide.
- Monday
Sept. 5
10:30 am
- LESLIE STREET SPIT - birds & butterflies
Lakeshore, Toronto
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at the park entrance at the foot of Leslie St. Bring lunch and binoculars.
Both birds and butterflies are migrating along the lakeshore at this time of year, whatever the weather. Even the wildflowers are at their best so come prepared to make lots of notes.
- Tuesday
Sept. 6
1 pm
- FORKS OF THE DON - nature walk
Don, East York
Leader: Carol Miller
Meet at the southeast corner of Don Mills Rd. and Overlea Blvd.
A walk into this deep valley or around its edges is always rewarding for naturalists. Forested slopes are homes to many birds and other animals while valley meadows are at their best at this time of year.
- Saturday
Sept. 10
9 am to
5 pm
- TFN NATURE RESERVES - a day in the country
northeast of Metro
Leaders: TFN directors
Call Sandy Cappell (663-7738) if you want to attend this outing. Confirm by sending a cheque for \$10 (NOT post-dated) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS BUS TRIP to the TFN at 20 College St., Unit 11, Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2. The bus will leave from the southeast corner of Yonge St. and Old York Mills Rd., (south exit of York Mills subway station) promptly at 9 am and return there at 5 pm. Bring lunch and something to drink. (No washrooms on bus, but 3 outhouses at reserve.)
This is the best time of year to visit the reserve in the opinion of some members -- bugs are fewer, flowers are abundant and birds are migrating. It is, however, a wet cedar swamp so members are again reminded to dress appropriately with long sleeves and slacks and hats. Bring your favourite field guides, binoculars and notebooks. Copies of a guide to the property are available for \$4 each at monthly meetings.
- PMCL
BUS
\$ bus
fare
- Sun.
Sept. 11
2:30 pm
- TFN MEETING (See page 2)
73 Queen's Park Crescent East
Northrop Frye Hall

SEPTEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Thursday
Sept. 15
10:30 am
OLD MILL - nature walk
Leader: Ann Millett
Humber, Etobicoke
Meet at the Old Mill subway station. Bring lunch.
This walk takes one through a variety of habitats -- from formal parkland to woodlands. At this time of year there is always much to enjoy. Bring your pencil and notebook and favourite field guide to help you learn more about Toronto's fascinating natural history.
- Saturday
Sept. 17
2 pm
CPR LIBERTY ST. BRANCH LINE - history & nature
Leaders: Ian Wheall & Jeff Stinson
Toronto
Meet at the southeast corner of King St. West and Dufferin St.
While learning about the past uses of this area we will have a chance to observe how vigorously nature reinvades derelict neighbourhoods.
- Sunday
Sept. 18
1:30 pm
TAYLOR CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Sylvia Wineland
Don tributary, East York
Meet at the Victoria Park subway station.
This is a joint outing with the Friends of the Don East York. While observing the plants and animals who live in and migrate through this valley, we will discuss some of the impacts of human use of this area.
- Wednesday
Sept. 21
10 am
LOWER DON VALLEY - nature walk
Leader: David Stonehouse
Don, Toronto
Meet at the Broadview subway station. Morning only.
David is a staff member of the Task Force to Bring Back the Don. He will show us what has been happening to "bring back the Don" and what plans are under consideration as we explore this historic part of Toronto's Don Valley.
- Saturday
Sept. 24
10:30 am
CHAPMAN CREEK - fossils
Leader: Grant Hurlburt
Humber tributary, Etobicoke
Meet on the east side of Royal York Rd. at Weston Wood Rd.
Lunch optional. Good footwear needed as the area can be wet and slippery.
To see the fossils, we may be crossing this small stream from time to time, so be prepared. This will be particularly interesting for those with a beginning interest in fossils. Find out what lived here a long time ago. Bring a notebook and pencil.
- Sunday
Sept. 25
10:30 am
GREY ABBEY PARK - nature walk
Leader: Boris Mather
Lakeshore, Scarborough
Meet at the foot of Morningside Ave. at Greyabbey Trail.
Bring lunch.
This is a joint outing with the Citizens for a Lakeshore Greenway. This could be a long walk, but well worth the effort to see the bluffs in the fall.
- Wednesday
Sept. 28
10:30 am
CHERRY BEACH - nature walk
Leader: Louise Orr
Lakeshore, Toronto
Meet at the northeast corner of Cherry St. and Commissioners St. Bring lunch.
A long sandy beach, a forest of cottonwoods and acres of scrub willow make this a fascinating place to visit and look for wildlife.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This spring consultant Steven Apfelbaum submitted the "Savannah Research Plot Program at High Park's Oak Woodlands" to the Toronto Parks Department. In mid-June he led members of the City's Technical Advisory Committee on a tour of over half the sites. Fourteen small, diverse test plots have been chosen. One is on Parkside Drive, others beside park roads, and some in more remote areas. A few of them are wheelchair-accessible. There will be garden-like demonstration plantings near the restaurant and at Hillside Gardens. Another area will allow rare plants to spread. One test plot is located in the Sassafras grove, which has become an unprepossessing monoculture with nothing growing in the darkness underneath. Forty per cent of the trees were winter-killed this year. Even though Sassafras trees are rare in Metro, they need to be thinned to allow other native species to grow and provide balance.

Various research methods will be used to study options for restoration and management. The consultant has never seen as many squirrels anywhere else in North America. To test the regeneration of oaks without squirrels, acorns will be introduced into four metre square enclosures. One or two people with loppers will remove some non-native shrubs that have shaded out the ground cover and consequently caused erosion. This in turn has removed the seedbank in the soil. In such areas it will be necessary to reintroduce seeds of native plants or actual plants. Next April prescribed burning will probably be tested. Weather must be suitable, and experienced experts will control the flames to a height of one foot. A burn lasts about one hour and removes turf grass and saplings. The test plots will be carefully monitored and compared with nearby areas that have not been touched. This summer University of Toronto biology students have been developing baseline studies for individual plots.

Steve Varga from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources had identified one high quality location which can be improved. The canopy is more open and we could see further from the trail than in other areas. There was a breathtaking view of lupines blooming in the foreground, and Grenadier Pond in the distance! It provided a glimpse of what the oak woodland will look like in a few years.

.....

Our gratitude is extended to Eva Davis for her dedication in serving on the TFN Board of Directors for nine years. Her wealth of knowledge and experiences plus her outspoken comments will be missed. She will, however, continue to attend the editorial committee meetings as well as contribute drawings and articles. In addition she remains on the Outings Committee and regularly leads walks for the club.

During the summer members have attended many meetings as well as writing letters on various issues: we have objected to Dog Runs in City Parks, mountain bikes in Crothers Woods and the Glendon College area in the West Don, two development proposals for the Humber Valley, and projected housing on Ward's Island. We also commented on aspects of the Vaughan Official Plan and restoration plans for Glen Stewart Ravine, Sherwood Park and High Park.

Joan O'Donnell

□

Board of Directors

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Alexander Cappell (663-7738) 109 - 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., Willowdale M2R 2Z4

Ken Cook (699-8506) 154 Drayton Ave., Toronto M4C 3M2

Karin Fawthrop (282-6044) 347 Beechgrove Dr., Scarborough M1E 4A2

Nancy Fredenburg (781-8550) 807 - 360 Ridelle Ave., Toronto M6B 1K1

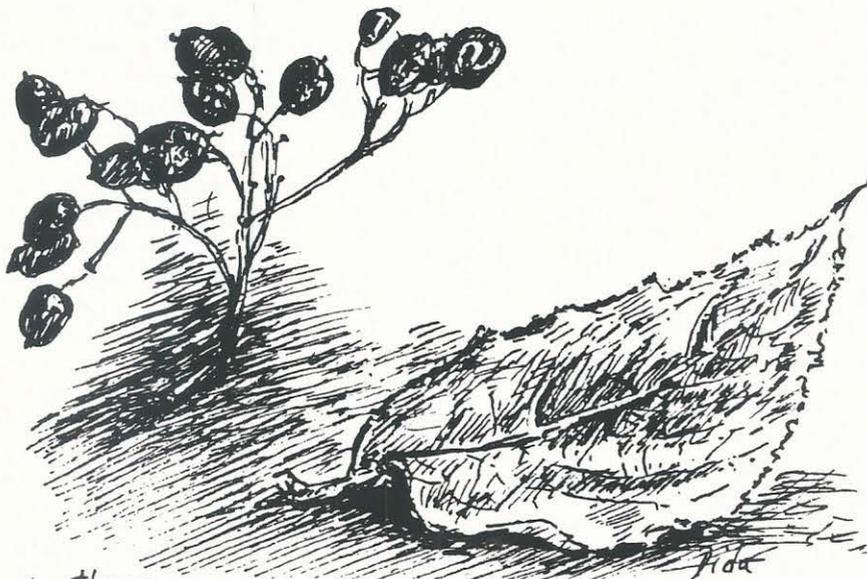
Helen Juhola (924-5806) 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3

Ann Millett (905-792-0488) 138 Folkstone Cres., Bramton L6T 3M5

Morris Sorensen (755-6030) 29 Janet Blvd., Scarborough M1R 1H7

□

This Viburnum, native to Metro Toronto, is not as common here as its two relatives, the highbush-cranberry viburnum and the maple-leaf viburnum.



northern
Nannyberry, Taylor Creek Park,
Oct. 1 '88

Our northern nannyberry has been called "wild raisin", and certainly earns this name which is, however, most often applied to another Viburnum just outside of Metro. On close inspection, the latter often has scalloped leaves, while those of the nannyberry are usually saw-toothed.

An even more rare Viburnum native to Metro Toronto is downy arrowwood.

See SHRUBS OF ONTARIO
Soper & Heimburger

**Alistair
J. Kennedy**
Chartered Accountant

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Members Of
Toronto Field Naturalists

I have audited the Balance Sheet of Toronto Field Naturalists as at June 30, 1994 and the statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Capital for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's Directors. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Directors as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the organization derives revenue from donations and other receipts, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records of the organization and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to these revenues.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustment, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to completely verify the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at June 30, 1994 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Toronto, Ontario
July 17, 1994



ALISTAIR J. KENNEDY
Chartered Accountant

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
(incorporated without share capital under the laws
of the Province of Ontario)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT JUNE 30, 1994

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 67,336	\$ 67,027
GST Recoverable	1,053	-
Inventory	3,192	2,733
Photo Library	<u>9,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>
	<u>\$ 80,581</u>	<u>\$ 77,760</u>

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 650	\$ 712
Membership Fees Received in Advance	<u>9,430</u>	<u>12,505</u>
	<u>10,080</u>	<u>13,217</u>

EQUITY		
Retained Earnings		
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$ 64,543	\$ 58,623
Net Income for Year	<u>5,958</u>	<u>5,920</u>
	<u>70,501</u>	<u>64,543</u>
	<u>\$ 80,581</u>	<u>\$ 77,760</u>
Working Capital: Dollars	\$ 70,501	\$ 64,543
: Ratio	8:1	6:1

NATURE RESERVES - RESTRICTED FUNDS (Note 1)		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$139,899	\$133,148
Property and Equipment		
Land	<u>109,187</u>	<u>109,187</u>
	<u>\$249,086</u>	<u>\$242,335</u>
Equity		
Reserve for Future Expenditures	\$139,899	\$133,148
Property	<u>109,187</u>	<u>109,187</u>
	<u>\$249,086</u>	<u>\$242,335</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Elaine Hayes (Director) Jean O'Donnell (Director)

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements. ▷

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1994

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
REVENUE		
Membership Fees	\$ 26,940	\$ 24,985
Publications	<u>798</u>	<u>976</u>
	<u>27,738</u>	<u>25,961</u>
EXPENSES		
Outings	\$ 872	702
Meeting Expenses	2,522	2,197
Newsletter, Printing and Mailing	15,968	16,345
Other Printing Expenses	628	766
Other Mailing Expenses	1,518	1,688
Audit	642	642
Advertising and Publicity	1,360	1,189
Affiliation Fees	35	35
Office Supplies	762	552
Telephone	478	439
Rent	4,077	3,916
G.S.T. Refund	<u>(1,053)</u>	<u>(954)</u>
	<u>27,809</u>	<u>27,517</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	(71)	(1,556)
Interest Income	<u>2,009</u>	<u>2,677</u>
Net Income before Donations	1,938	1,121
Donations	<u>4,020</u>	<u>4,799</u>
Net Income for Year	<u>\$ 5,958</u>	<u>\$ 5,920</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies

Nature Reserves

Donations received for the Nature Reserves are segregated on the financial statements, and are to be used solely for Reserve purposes.

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE REPORT

Amphibians and reptiles have become the subject of close scrutiny around the world, across Canada and even in the Metro Toronto bioregion.

A task force has been created by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to examine the nature and extent of declining amphibian populations. The Species Survival Commission (SSC) Declining Amphibian Population Task Force (DAPTF) has more than 100 working groups. Bob Johnson of the Metro Toronto Zoo is the chairman of the Task Force which has 12 board members. Dr. David Green of McGill University's Redpath Museum is National Coordinator for Canada. Yearly meetings are held at which data on research projects in Canada are presented. Currently a summary of the data on the status of amphibians in Canada is being printed.

Until recently declines in amphibian populations were associated with human causes, but recent reports have implicated ultraviolet light and viruses as potential causes of declining populations.

In the Metro Toronto bioregion protocols are being established to monitor amphibians and reptiles as indicators of ecosystem health by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy (Monitoring Cumulative Environmental Effects in the Niagara Escarpment), Environment Canada's habitat design for non-game wildlife as part of the Great Lakes Cleanup Fund, the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's implementation of Remedial Action Plan through Waterfront Habitat Restoration projects and Watershed Regeneration projects.

Data on the distribution of amphibians and reptiles and their habitats are critical components for habitat restoration and management. Core areas in which species are abundant require protection and corridors to link them with adjacent populations. Sightings of amphibians and reptiles contributed by Toronto Field Naturalist members have contributed to a large Toronto and area database which can be utilized in the restoration and protection of non-game habitat.

The construction of snake hibernacula and the inclusion of amphibian habitat in the Colonel Sam Smith Waterfront Park are striking examples of recent trends in non-game wildlife habitat management. Not only do these restoration projects provide and link vital habitat for existing populations across the waterfront, but they serve as experimental designs, providing data for future projects.

It is heartening to see that ecosystem management and the inclusion of all wildlife have gone from the policy stage to implementation. As usual in these cases we are often left with many more questions than answers, but for the moment we are taking the first steps in actually creating a restored and revitalized waterfront ecosystem.

In recognition of the wildlife habitat included in the Col. Sam Smith Waterfront Park and for the importance of this habitat to amphibian populations, the Metro Toronto Zoo presented an Adopt-a-Pond Certificate of Appreciation to the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and its partners in this project: the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Municipality of Metro Toronto, and Environment Canada's Great Lakes Cleanup Fund. This project exemplifies the positive results of cooperative programs and the need for partnerships in addressing habitat and biodiversity issues.

Bob Johnson

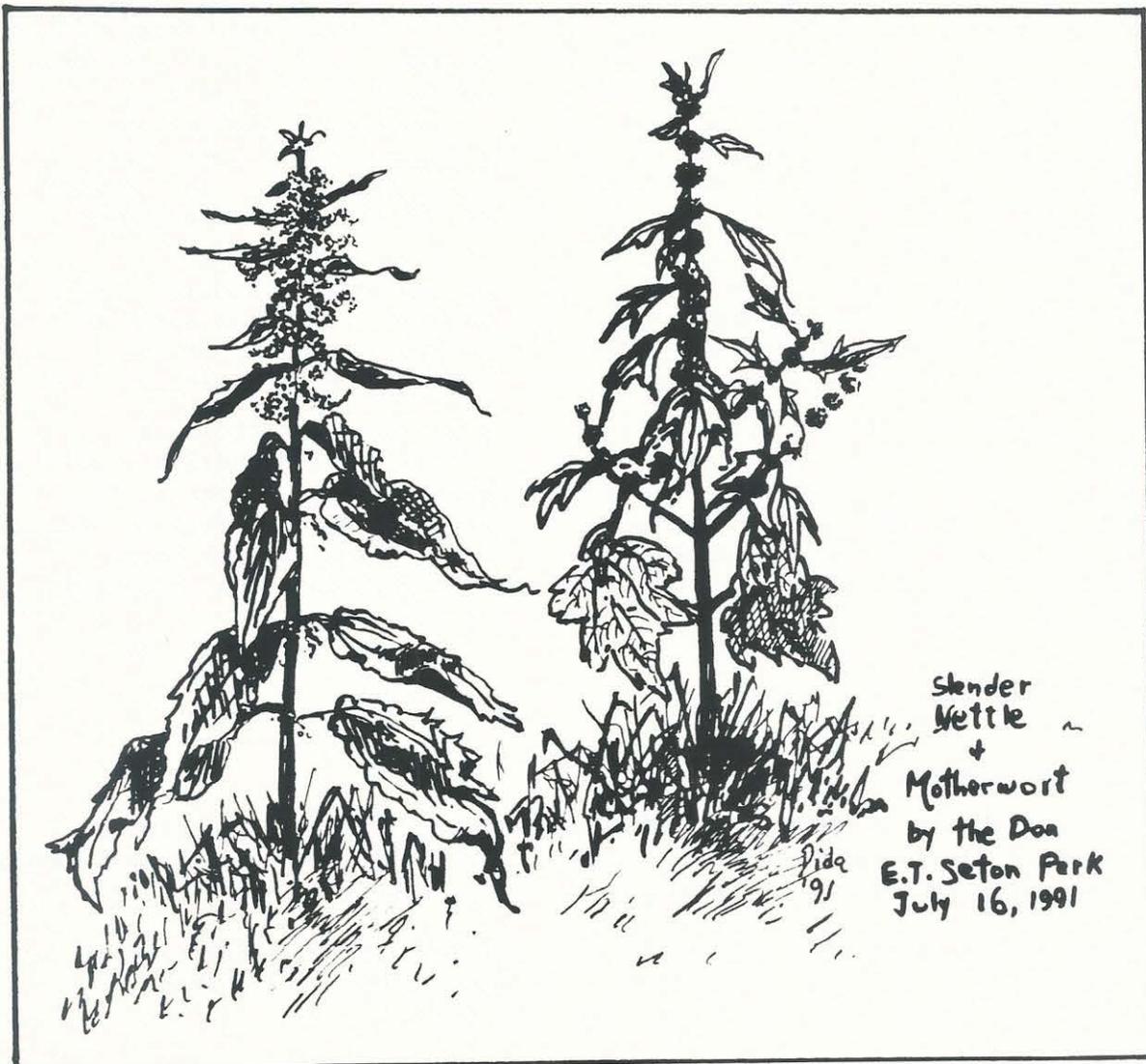
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Help Wanted

MENTORS FOR STUDENTS AT HIGH PARK SCHOOL NEEDED

High Park Alternative School has undertaken to make High Park a focus or theme study for the school year from Sept. 1994 till June 1995. We have entered this study with the support of the Dept. of Parks and Recreation. We hope to enlist your help as well. Our purpose is to study the natural ecosystems in High Park and give the students an opportunity to positively affect the environment. We are involving the students in seed gathering, propagation and planting as restoration. Part of our school's philosophy is to reach into the community and work with mentors for the students. We invite TFN members to become involved with our students and share your expertise with us. If you would like to become involved with our study of High Park, please contact us at the school by calling Karyn Morris, Nancy Bazinet or Elizabeth Scott at 393-9051.

□



FOR READING

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS,
SUPPLEMENT NO. 39, 1993.

There are only two changes in this supplement, both due to splitting,
which affect the TFN TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST of 1993. Both are
reversions of former lumping decisions:

1. LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER changes back to AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER, as it
can no longer be called "lesser" to distinguish it from the "greater",
now that there is a third species to consider, the PACIFIC GOLDEN-
PLOVER or ASIATIC G-P (*Pluvialis fulva*), ranging into the New World on
the west coast.
2. GREEN-BACKED HERON changes back to GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)
as distinct from the STRIATED HERON (*B. striatus*), not occurring here.

Apparently hybridization is found to be limited in both cases. There
are many such decisions reversing those of 1983 and earlier, suggesting
that information had been inadequate at the time. However, the European
Turtle-Dove has been assigned a number, apparently on the basis of a
report with photograph of an observation in Florida, no explanation
being given as to why it could not be treated as a possible escapee.
The Himalayan Snowcock has been added as well, since it was introduced
into Nevada in 1963 (as you may have seen on TV) and is now considered
established there.

Among the more exotic, it's interesting that the Nene or Hawaiian Goose
has changed its genus to *Branta*. Not surprisingly, it's considered to
be closely related to the Canada Goose. The Hawaiian Coot, on the
other hand, is now considered a separate species from the American Coot.

The Iceland Gull/Thayer's Gull relationship is not yet settled and
there is again debate about the Baltimore, Bullock's and Abeille's Orioles,
as to whether they should be treated as three separate species as they
once were, or whether two species, or whether they should still be treated
as one species as now, the Northern Oriole. By the way, each form,
whether a separate species or not, has both an English and a scientific
name in the A.O.U. Check-List. Much remains arbitrary.

DB

Note: For earlier changes, see TFN 430:10, 1992.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

VASCULAR PLANTS OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO - Second Edition, compiled by
Diana Banville, Toronto Field Naturalists, 1994; \$8 + \$2 postage & handling
from TFN, 20 College St., Unit 11, Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2

ATLAS OF THE MAMMALS OF ONTARIO by John (Sandy) Dobbyn, Federation of
Ontario Naturalists, 1994; \$10 + \$3.50 postage & handling from
FON, 355 Lesmill Rd. Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8

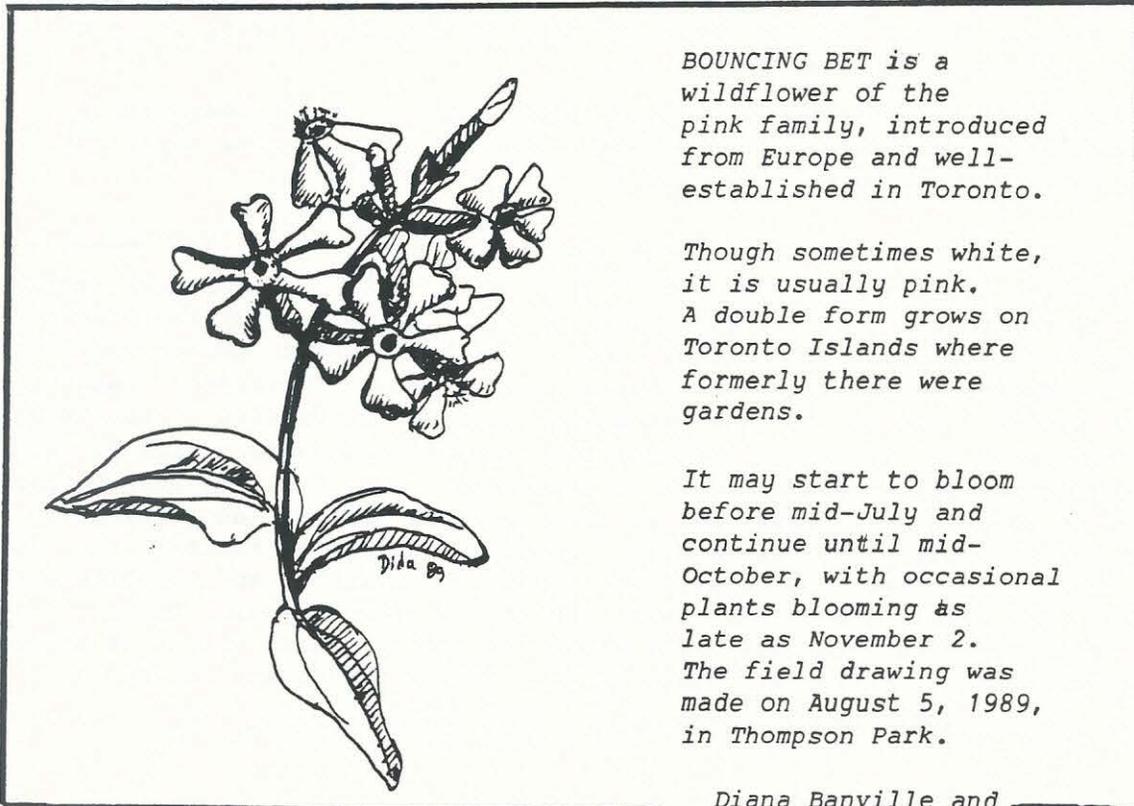
FOR READING (cont'd)

COUNTRY WALKS: THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT by Ross McLean, Anne Craik and John Sherk, Boston Mills Press, 144 pages, \$16.95, softcover.

This is a guide-book that will be very popular, and deservedly so. It describes 33 walks on or near the Escarpment from the Niagara Gorge to Flowerpot Island. There is a map for each loop, an account of the distance, the time, the degree of difficulty and how to access the trail. As one would expect from a book written by three Bruce trail activists, most of the walks are on the Bruce Trail, but other trails are not neglected. Included are walks in the Gorge, in the Dundas Valley, at the Royal Botanical Gardens and other parks and conservation areas. The Bruce Trail guide book has been useful for the distance hiker, but it often lacked suggestions for shorter day-hikes, particularly by families. This useful guide fills that gap. I have walked almost all the trails the authors describe and would quarrel with very little of their advice. In some cases I might recommend doing a particular loop clockwise rather than counter-clockwise and I would differ with some of their restaurant suggestions. But these are trifling differences. Over all I can not praise the book too highly.

COUNTRY WALKS has attractive cover photographs and eight pages of beautiful colour photos. A special delight is the gallery of many black-and-white archival photos showing early days along the Escarpment.

Boris Mather



BOUNCING BET is a wildflower of the pink family, introduced from Europe and well-established in Toronto.

Though sometimes white, it is usually pink. A double form grows on Toronto Islands where formerly there were gardens.

It may start to bloom before mid-July and continue until mid-October, with occasional plants blooming as late as November 2. The field drawing was made on August 5, 1989, in Thompson Park.

Diana Banville and
Isabel Smith

FOR READING (cont'd)

ISHMAEL by Daniel Quinn, Bantam/Turner Books, N.Y. 1993, \$7, paperback

ISHMAEL is wrongly placed in the "fiction" section of bookstores. It is a brilliant book about the myths that form the foundation of western culture. Things like: limitless growth, dominion over nature, bigger is better, and go forth and multiply. I say the real fiction in our lives comes from places like NEWSWEEK and commercial television, who perpetrate these myths.

ISHMAEL is the story of how "the Takers" (white man) parted company with "the Leavers" (native people). Our history is told by Ishmael, a gorilla with great wisdom. "Man lived harmlessly on this planet for some three million years, but the Takers have brought the whole thing to the point of collapse in only five hundred generations", he says, putting things in perspective.

My school textbooks assumed that the whole of human history was western (male) "civilization". But Ishmael tells about peaceful human history prior to the reign of the Takers.

When the Takers took over, they broke a fundamental rule: "Take what you need, and leave the rest alone". Limitless consumption has become "the" organizing principle of Taker culture. Despite warnings everywhere, we pursue "growth" as though we are exempt from this law.

The Takers are "stepping off the edge of a cliff, not accepting the effects of gravity...it's going to be hard as hell for them to give it up, because what they're doing is right, and they have to go on doing it even if it means destroying the world and mankind with it...giving it up would mean that all along they'd been wrong".

As Margaret Laurence once put it: we have a crisis of the imagination. Ishmael says we cannot change people's behaviour by enacting laws, but we can change our minds about how to live on this planet.

Anne Hansen

□

People who display emotional concern for animal suffering, or the destruction of the environment, or the extinction of wild species are often treated as misguided idealists. While those who allow themselves to become emotionally involved with companion animals [pets] are considered perverted, pathetic or wasteful. And all of them are damned with the accusation of sentimentality, as if having sentiments or feelings for other species were a sign of weakness, intellectual flabbiness or mental disturbance. Yet, for more than 90 per cent of their history human beings have lived as hunters and gatherers, and the majority of hunter-gatherers display similar sentiments. The truth is that it is normal and natural for people to empathize and identify with other life forms, and to feel guilt and remorse about harming them. It is the essence of our humanity. The sooner we come to terms with this novel idea the better, since our future on this planet may depend on it.

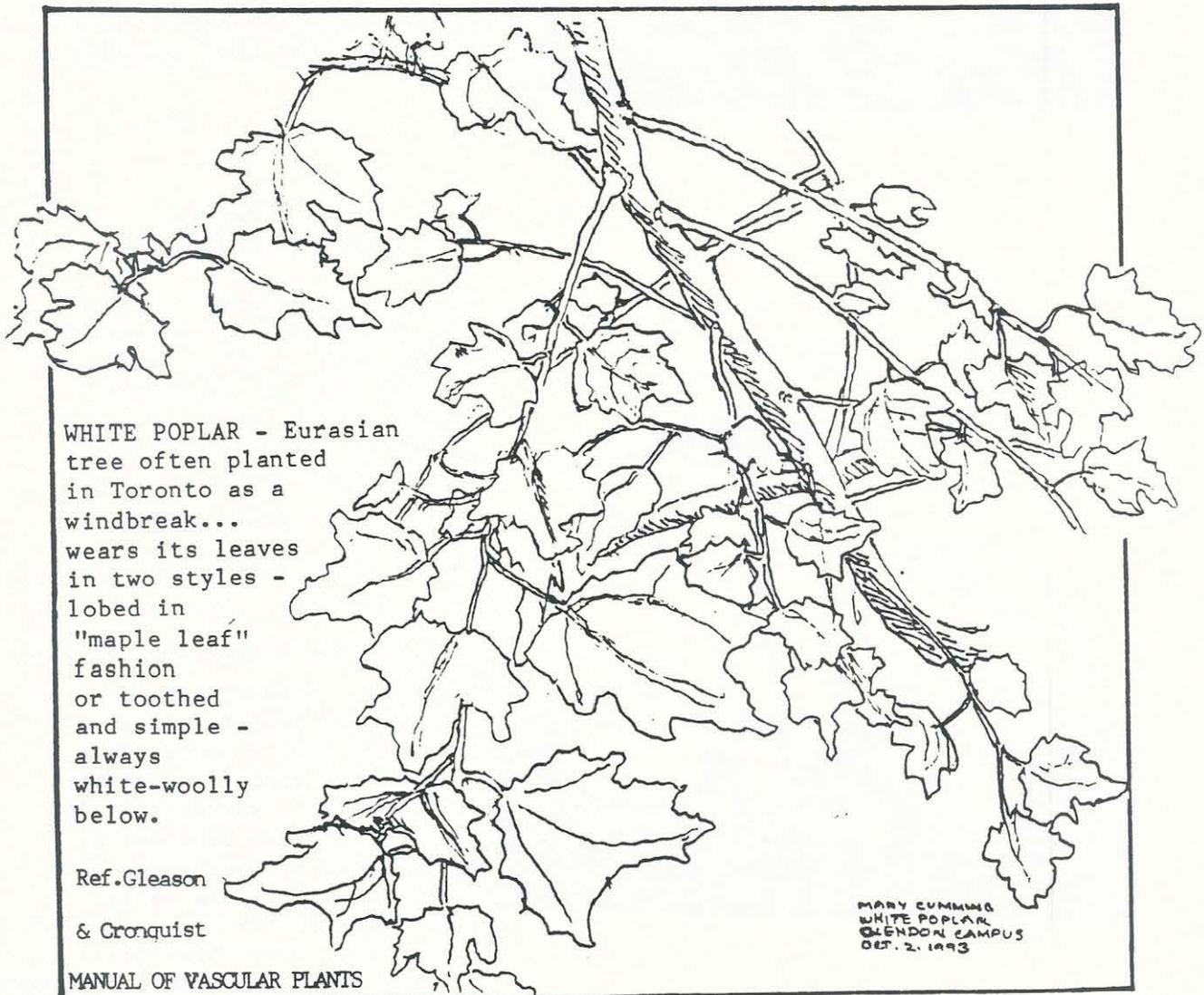
from IN THE COMPANY OF ANIMALS by James Serpell, Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1986

From the Past

The electric light as an attraction to moths

In Toronto where I collected [insects around electric street lights] for a number of years, [I found] the best hours to be from 9 pm to about half past 10 o'clock and after 12 o'clock to about 2 o'clock. While at the electric light, however, the collector has not everything his own way as there is another competitor, whose nature it is to also visit the lights for the purpose of catching moths and other insects. I refer to the bats which frequent the electric lights. The size of the moth does not in the least seem to frighten the bat as I have seen him catch and fly away with as large a specimen as *Telea polyphemus*. Sparrows also pick up many specimens from off the poles in early morning, the moths having rested there until that time. Constant visitors to the electric lights are the toads which hop nimbly along the ground and snap up many a treasure.

extracted from "The electric light as an attraction to moths" by Arthur Gibson in the 30th Annual Report of the Entomological Society of Ontario for 1899. □



TWO MUSHROOM ODDITIES



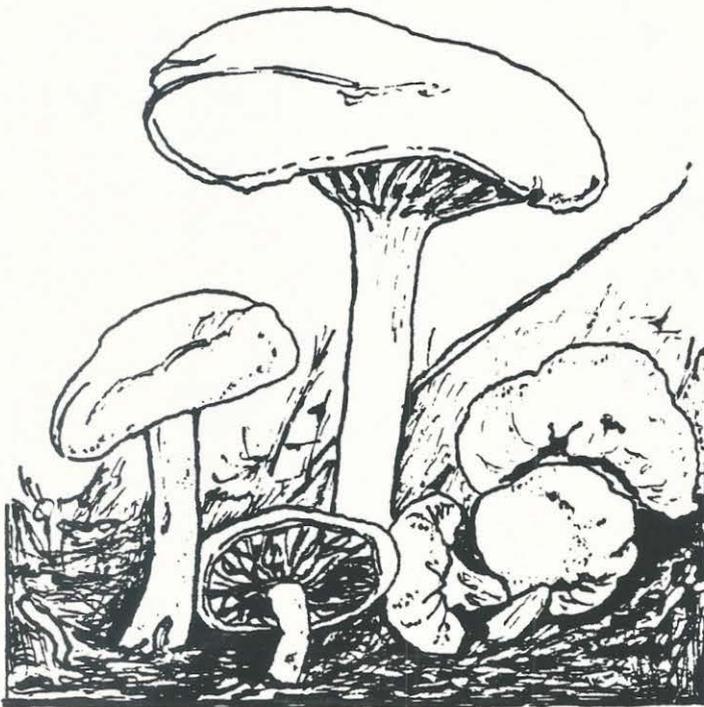
Orange Lobster
Hypomyces lactifluorum

Fruiting body: this consists of an orange to cinnabar-red parasite which grows over the stipe, gills and caps of large white species of *Russula* and *Lactarius*; plentiful in hardwood forests.

Spores: clear.

Season: July to September.

Edibility: edible but best avoided since the host fungus cannot be identified accurately.



Hunter's Hearts
Entoloma abortivum

Fruiting body: smooth, dry, gray-brown cap, 1½"-4" across, convex with inrolled margin and central umbo; gills grayish, becoming pink, extending down stipe; on soil, often around well decayed logs.

Stipe: light gray, solid.

Flesh: soft, white, fragile.

Spore deposit: salmon pink.

Season: late summer and fall.

Edibility: edible, but not recommended because normal forms are easily confused with a poisonous species of *Entomola* (*E. lividum*). The aborted form results when the *Entoloma* is parasitized by the common wood destroyer *Armillaria mellea* (the Honey Mushroom), producing irregular, lumpy white balls growing alongside normal specimens.

PUFFBALLS AND EARTHBALLS

True puffballs -- the Lycoperdaceae -- comprise a large family, nearly all of which are edible. Fruiting bodies range from marble-size to that of a football. Or more! There is a stretch in the Rouge Valley which particularly favours the species *Calvatia gigantea* and to arrive at the right time is to find several head-sized "decapitations" lying around looking faintly alarming. Indeed, *Calvatia gigantea* has been known to grow to the size of a sheep and the Guinness Book of Records lists a specimen found in Ohio in 1988 which was 77" in circumference. This was topped in 1992 when the Mycological Society of San Francisco reported the find of a 65 lb. *Calvatia gigantea*, 7'3" in circumference. Of the more reasonably sized members, *Lycoperdon pyriforme* is frequently found and is a good edible.

Pear Puffball*Lycoperdon pyriforme*

Fruiting body: pear-shaped, smooth, white to tan, $\frac{1}{2}$ "-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " across, $\frac{1}{2}$ " high, attached at its base by thin, white strings to its host; in cespitose clusters on well-rotted hardwood.

Gleba (the spore mass inside a puffball): white to olive brown in maturity.

Spore deposit: olive brown.

Season: July to November.

Edibility: "Good when young".

Common Earthball*Scleroderma citrinum*

Fruiting body: $\frac{1}{2}$ "-6" across, yellow-brown to tawny brown, leathery, splitting open when mature; in gardens and mixed woods, common throughout North America.

Gleba: white at first, turning purple, blackening in maturity.

Odour: pungent when cut open.

Season: July to October.

Edibility: "Bitter and should be avoided".

Eva Davis

Guidance from various textbooks can best be summed up: in the case of *Lycoperdon pyriforme* and most puffballs -- cut open and eat only if inside is pure white and firm; in the case of *Scleroderma citrinum* and other members of this family -- quite simply, "Do not eat Sclerodermas".

□

IN THE NEWS

POTENTIAL FOR EARTHQUAKE RISING IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Although Southern Ontario has been free of major quakes in the past, there is new evidence it is crossed by dangerous fault lines. A series of seismic stations set up by the Atomic Energy Control Board east of Toronto in 1991 has already recorded more than 100 minor quakes. Geologists using a miniature research submarine have found sites at the bottom of Lake Ontario known as pop-ups, where huge pieces of rock have been pushed up by earthquake activity. The find is a "missing link" in the fault that has been seen on the surface in places like the Rouge Valley on the east side of Metro Toronto. It proves the fault is part of a long system connected to the St. Lawrence fault, which has recorded many damaging quakes. The faults are caused by "an old scar in the earth that has not completely healed". Two plates of "basement rocks" in the continent two kilometres below the surface are moving against each other and the activity continues into the rocks that formed above them.

extracted from an article by Wallace Immen in the GLOBE & MAIL, June 14, 1994

MAGNITUDE OF BOLIVIAN QUAKE UNPRECEDENTED, SCIENTISTS SAY

A huge earthquake in South America felt throughout the United States and as far north as Southern Ontario has sent scientists scurrying to their record books. The quake, which occurred on June 8 was tentatively put at 8.2 to 8.3 on an energy-release scale, may have been the most powerful deep tremor ever recorded. Preliminary estimates suggest that the tremor occurred at a depth of 650 to 660 kilometres. Because it was so deep and so large, the South American tremor transferred large amounts of energy to distant locations through the Earth's mantle. The waves that struck the Toronto area about 10 minutes after the initial shock would have been strong enough to noticeably shake buildings taller than 10 storeys. Because the quake was so deep, much of its energy was directed downward into the core. The core is now "ringing like a bell" and an analysis of its vibrations will provide new information about the density and viscosity of the Earth's fluid centre.

extracted from an article by Stephen Strauss in the GLOBE & MAIL, June 10, 1994



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

VICTORIA BUTTERFLY SURVEYS

In August 1991, the Citizens Association to Save the Environment (CASE) organized the first systematic butterfly inventory for Greater Victoria, B.C., after trial runs in 1989 and 1990. In 1992, three more surveys were undertaken, and in 1993, bolstered by an increased number of participants, five monthly surveys were done between May and September. The purpose of these counts is to provide a benchmark assessment of butterfly abundance in the area in the light of drastic declines in numbers and species throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere, arising especially from habitat loss and spoilage from pesticides and other chemicals. Attention is also being directed to the importance of particular local habitats which sustain the region's butterfly population. Butterfly surveys represent a new area of amateur naturalist activity. As a result, the geographic coverage is still restricted and the identification skills of many of the observers are somewhat limited. In many ways, early Butterfly Surveys should be regarded as comparable to the earliest Christmas Bird Counts. The joys and frustrations of successful identification for some species were shared by both counts. As with birding, however, skills improve with practice, and the sheer beauty of many of these species seen at rest through binoculars certainly ranks as comparable with the breeding plumage of many of our songbirds. True, butterflies don't provide the acoustical pleasures of songbirds in spring, but for those whose hearing is on the wane this is an additional impetus for turning their attention to butterflies. There is also a certain satisfaction in having mid-day and early afternoon as the prime viewing time for butterflies rather than dawn! For newcomers to butterflies, the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies is a good reference book. Regular observers are encouraged to take along newcomers to assist them in the challenges. Many keen and competent birders began their birding days helping in a Christmas Bird Count. The same principle applies here too.

extracted from an article by Jeff Gaskin, Michael Carson & Derrick Mallard in the VICTORIA NATURALIST, Vol. 50, No. 6, May/June 1994

MONARCH BUTTERFLY COUNT AT LONG POINT

From all appearances, fall 1993 was the best season in several years for migrating Monarch Butterflies at Long Point. Volunteers counted a total of 50,847 Monarchs at the Tip station and 54,873 at the Breakwater station. Ninety percent of these passed through the area between August 28 and September 18. As part of an experiment designed to look at time-of-day effects Monarchs were censused twice daily throughout the fall, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. On average the afternoon census yielded significantly higher counts than morning counts (479/day versus 182/day). Thus time of day is an important feature to consider when conducting counts of migrating Monarchs.

extracted from "LPBO News Capsules" in the LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY NEWSLETTER, Vol. 26, No. 1, Spring 1994

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

KEY ONTARIO FISH ON STEEP DECLINE

The frigidly cold winter of 1994 may have just about done in the Lake Ontario alewife. That could spell trouble for the lake's salmon population, which makes the alewife a staple part of its diet. The revelation about the vanishing alewife came at a meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Last year, Ontario and New York reduced the number of salmon and trout being stocked in the lake because the alewives and other prey fish like smelt were reduced in numbers. Ontario and New York stocked 8.1 million salmon and trout in the lake in 1991, the peak year. The number was reduced to 5.1 million in 1993 and will drop to 4.5 million in 1994. The alewife is an Atlantic Ocean fish accidentally introduced into the Great Lakes in the 1870s. It cannot adapt to near-freezing temperatures or sudden change in water temperature.

extracted from an article by Brian McAndrew in the TORONTO STAR, March 30, 1994

THE WAR ON TOXIC CARP

Carp represent 80 per cent of the fish population by weight in Cootes Paradise [at the west end of Lake Ontario]. A war on carp is a key element of a \$19-million, fish-and-wildlife restoration project, which is one component of a remedial plan costing \$500-million to \$830-million for Hamilton Harbour. The plan, begun in the late eighties and expected to take up to 20 years to complete, is meant to restore an ecosystem knocked out of whack by industry, pollution -- and the trespassing carp. Carp, which are Asian fish that are considered a delicacy in some cultures and a garbage fish by many Canadian anglers, were introduced to the New World as a food source in the 1830s. About 80 carp were imported from France to stock a private pond in Newburgh, N.Y., in 1831, and were later released into the Hudson River. Carp were similarly introduced in the Ontario town of Markham in the 1880s. When a dam burst in 1896, carp entered water that eventually spilled into Lake Ontario. And they've spread like zebra mussels and purple loosestrife ever since. Officials are striving to bring the carp population down to about 20 per cent of the fish biomass by erecting a barrier across a canal that connects Cootes Paradise to Hamilton Harbour. Carp smaller than 35 centimetres can pass through the structure's steel grates; larger fish will be trapped and removed from the watershed. In tandem with the carp removal officials are reintroducing marsh plants and improving conditions for the fish that prey on carp with the aim of making Cootes Paradise and the harbour ecosystems self-sustaining. Gravelshoals, reefs and islands are being created and 45 fish-habitat modules -- three-by-three-metre structures composed of pipes -- have been established in the harbour to give the fish "living space". These areas are being stocked with vallisneria, elodea, arrowhead and cattail -- along with such overhanging vegetation as weeping willow. These all conspire to create the little niches that the various stages of the food chain require.

extracted from an article by Brian Christmas in the GLOBE & MAIL, June 11, 1994

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

SHELTER RETURNS ORPHAN ANIMALS TO WILD

The Toronto Wildlife Centre has moved from Toronto's west end to a bigger warehouse on Dundas St. East at River Street. They have more room and more patients, but no more help. The immediate need is for at least 10 more volunteers to build big wood-and-chicken-wire cages so half a dozen animals can live together comfortably. About 100 baby raccoons require good-hearted people who can provide half-way houses. Ideally they have wooded property close to Metro and will feed the 'coons for a couple of months, until they're strong enough to abandon their portable pens and fend for themselves. Needed also are 10 more committed volunteers willing to come at least once a week for four hours to help care for the animals and clean up. The centre's phone number is 214-1624.

extracted from an article by Jim Foster in the TORONTO STAR, spring 1994



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

BILL'S BIRDS ARE BACK!

Unlike birds that migrate by instinct, geese learn their way from older birds in their flock. Bill Lishman, an artist and environmentalist who lives in Blackstock, north of Oshawa, wanted to know whether geese hatched on his farm could be taught to migrate like their ancestors. He trained his geese, first by familiarizing them with his ultralight aircraft and by playing tape recordings of the droning sound of its engine. Then he lured them into following the plane as he flew over his farm. Last fall he led his flock on a seven-day flight to a research centre in Virginia and left them there for the winter. He planned to go to Virginia in April and show the geese the way back to his farm pond. The birds took off before he got there, but ten of the 16 geese got back on their own.

extracted from an article by Desmond Bill in the TORONTO STAR, April 17, 1994

NORTHERN ONTARIO TO BE HOME TO PEREGRINE FALCON

Temagami, 95 kilometres north of North Bay has been chosen as the site for the province's next attempt to establish an Ontario population of the rare and endangered peregrine falcon. About 15 chicks will be sent to Temagami from the Canadian Wildlife Service's endangered species captive rearing station in Wainwright, Alberta. The young birds, about 28 days old when they arrive, will be raised in "hacking boxes" placed on an 85-metre-high cliff on Caribou Mountain, just east of the downtown. The boxes will be placed in an area where the birds will not be bothered by a viewing platform being constructed in the area. These birds of prey dive from great heights at speeds reaching 320 kilometres an hour. Their main diet consists of smaller birds which they grasp with their talons in mid-air but in cities they feed mainly on pigeons. Ninety-one young peregrines were released in the Sudbury and Killarney areas during the last four years. The only one accounted for is nesting in downtown Detroit.

extracted from an article in the LONDON FREE PRESS, May 14, 1994

WOOD DUCK NEST BOX ALERT

To offset the clearing of forests and consequent loss of natural tree cavities for nesting wood ducks, many conservation groups as well as individuals have erected thousands of nest boxes. Now there is evidence that these, usually placed atop poles over water and often grouped, may do more harm than good. In a long-term study, Paul Sherman of Cornell University discovered that boxes clustered too close together over-stimulate females. If a female wood duck sees another entering an unattended nest to lay an egg, she and five or six other females may do the same. Forty or more eggs may be laid in one nest this way, too large a clutch to raise successfully. Females too close to each other may also lay eggs on top of boxes, on the ground, or in other nearby inappropriate places. Boxes should be located in wooded areas near water and far enough apart to be hidden from other boxes.

adapted from an article in the KAWARTHA FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER, No. 25, April 1994

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

FROG SONGS MUSIC TO EARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD-KEEPERS

About 150 Ontario residents go out to their backyards every night after sunset and spend three minutes listening to frog songs as part of an effort by Environment Canada to set up a system to provide early warning of changes to the amphibian population. The data accumulated will be assembled at the end of the summer and used to start building a data base to monitor population changes. There are fears that frog and toad populations are declining because of changes in the environment. Over several years, the data will give biologists a sense of population trends. The 150 volunteers were prepared for listening duty with a tape of the songs of the 13 frog and toad species found in Ontario, along with lists of instructions and charts to record their observations. As well as frog songs, they record weather data such as wind speed, cloud cover and temperature because frogs are very sensitive to the weather. The songs are recorded on a scale from zero -- nothing heard -- to three, a full chorus that makes it impossible to distinguish individual voices.

extracted from an article by Dan Westell in the GLOBE & MAIL, July 14, 1994

SAVING SNAKES FROM SLAUGHTER

Along a two-kilometre stretch of road near the village of Narcisse, 90 kilometres north of Winnipeg, nearly half the snakes whose yearly mating ritual draws 14,000 tourists become "road kills". Now the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources is trying to remedy the problem by creating what is believed to be the world's first road underpass for snakes. The dimensions of the annual kill became apparent only in 1992 when a graduate student at the University of Manitoba counted 897 squashed snakes in May, when the animals first come out of their winter hibernation and cross the road to feeding grounds. In September, when they return to the limestone dens that allow them to breed in such great numbers, 10,000 were crushed. The provincial Natural Resources Department took a fresh census of the area and found that 6,500 snakes were killed crossing the small patch of road last September. What to do? Shutting down the road during the migration season doesn't seem to be an option. The roadway is the only route linking a number of communities with Winnipeg, and is used by about 450 vehicles a day. Government researchers have erected a 500-metre-long V-shaped jute fence which they hope will guide the snakes through an existing culvert and under the road. Because other research has suggested that the snakes dislike cold metal, wood chips and insulating tape will be placed inside the culvert. The scientists also will experiment with a metallic culvert-like tube that has been used in Britain and other places in Europe to create bypasses for migrating frogs and toads.

extracted from an article by Stephen Strauss in the GLOBE & MAIL, May 24, 1994

*Here's a closed gentian.
If I watch a while I'll see
which insects get in.*

haiku by Diana Banville

ENVIRONMENT SLEUTHS GRADUATE

The first graduating class of the Canadian Institute for Environmental Investigations in Richmond Hill has joined the work force. As well as environmental sleuthing, the students will try to prevent environmental guidelines from being disobeyed. The institute's director of education says it's the only one of its kind. The curriculum includes undercover techniques and evidence-gathering, along with environmental science and legislation. The institute grew out of the need to enforce stricter environmental legislation. People with specialized training can help private companies enforce guidelines internally or detect non-compliance on behalf of government agencies. On the job, the students could find themselves doing undercover surveillance of polluters, investigating complaints or researching the history of a piece of land at a registry office. A division of International Investigations Agency, the institute worked with the Canada Job Strategy program to find and fund the students. It took 24 unemployed but enthusiastic people from York Region and provided them with an intense, 18-week course. Students completed the program with a work term at a related firm or agency. Of the 24 graduates, 21 found jobs within a month of graduation. Classes have been filled for successive sessions and plans are in the works to expand the institute into Toronto.

extracted from an article by Don Sutton in the TORONTO STAR NORTH, May 5, 1994

WHY OUTBOARDS ARE IN DISPUTE

A study into emissions from non-road engines and vehicles completed in 1991 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that engines on lawn mowers, chain saws, snowmobiles, boats and other equipment contribute more than 19 per cent of the hydrocarbons, 15 per cent of the nitrogen oxides and 14 per cent of the carbon monoxide released into North America's air each year. The problem with two-stroke engines such as outboard motors is that as much as one-third of the fuel that passes through the motor goes through unburned and spreads out on the surface of the lake. In his book "Polluting for Pleasure" (W.W. Norton, 1993), Andre Mele, a former boat designer who lives in Kingston, N.Y., estimated that 567 million to 1.6 billion litres of unburned fuel is exhausted into the environment each year by 12 million gas-powered pleasure boats in the United States. Although evaporation and other forces tend to remove or degrade gasoline in the microlayer within weeks or months, there's a certain residence time where toxins build up a concentration that is potentially harmful to fish, waterfowl, swimmers and any other organism that touches that surface water. We're not talking about environmental catastrophe that wipes out a lake and all of a sudden makes national headlines. It's subtle. But it's often cumulative, subtle things that in the end matter a great deal.

extracted from an article by Tim Hilchey in the GLOBE & MAIL, May 24, 1994

Carefree hawk floating
in high blue spaces soaring
earth ties forgotten.

Haiku by Arthur Wade

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

NATURALISTS JOIN ISLANDS DEBATE

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) has asked that two environmentally sensitive areas on the Toronto Islands be designated as nature reserves under the provincial parks system. In a letter to the Toronto Islands Regeneration Trust -- in charge of the 110 new homes slated for the islands -- the federation says assurances that housing will not be built on the environmentally sensitive areas are not enough. At issue are two areas that have been identified as environmentally sensitive -- one on Ward's Island, east of the existing housing, and one to the west of existing housing on Algonquin Island. Special legislation called Bill 61 allows the trust board to expand the 250-home island community by building 110 new homes -- 30 private houses on leased land and 80 co-op units to be financed by the province. The legislation exempts the project from the municipal planning process that calls for public consultation, and ensures that the \$10 million needed to build the co-op units will be made available by the province.

extracted from an article by Jack Lakey in the TORONTO STAR, June 23, 1994

CYCLE-FREE ZONES

...one main feature that makes Paris parks so enjoyable: virtually all parks in Paris DO NOT PERMIT CYCLING. The French who give cyclists their greatest annual event, the Tour de France, and rent out bicycles at railway stations, understand that enjoyable, peaceful walking and bicycling cannot take place on the same paths.

extracted from a letter from Miriam M. Abileah to the GLOBE AND MAIL, June 25, 1994

GREEN GRAVEYARD

Brighton, England, is introducing eco-cemeteries where trees will replace traditional marble headstones and bodies will be interred in cardboard coffins made of recycled paper. It has opened a three-acre, back-to-nature cemetery with space for 3,000 graves. The site will eventually become woodland laced by winding trails and stocked with wildlife.

from the GLOBE & MAIL, May 14, 1994

HYDRO DAMS FOUL AIR LAKE SCIENTISTS WARN

Canadian scientists who have led the world in research on water pollution have made a startling discovery: hydro dams pollute the air. Dams create reservoirs that produce vast clouds of methane and carbon dioxide -- potent "greenhouse" gases that threaten to change the world's climate. A hydro-electric reservoir, like the ones in James Bay, puts out nearly as much greenhouse gas as a fossil fuel plant (that generates electricity). The research comes from the Experimental Lakes Areas, a small group of pristine lakes in northwest Ontario where scientists from Fisheries and Oceans Canada have worked since 1968. The results have been published in *Ambio*, a respected science journal from Sweden with an international English edition.

extracted from an article by Tom Spears in the TORONTO STAR, April 11, 1994

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THE WILDEST OLD MASTER OF THEM ALL

Fall is a master of subtlety. To state baldly that foliage turns red or yellow in this season is an almost blind understatement. It does so much more. Consider the range of reds. In sumac, with leaves at different stages on the same bush, the battle between resident green and take-over flame ends in a positive conflagration, while the red and sugar maples and the oaks wander from a clear, light scarlet to an almost blue-based crimson. Birches, beeches, locust trees and Manitoba maples, meanwhile, run the gamut from acid yellow to old gold, from russet to mahogany. But the most breath-taking experiments are those involving the colours of orange and purple. Some maples and the wild cherries mate red and yellow to produce an exquisite salmon-pink, or a tangerine that is the very essence of a great spangled fritillary's wings; while the ash is stage manager of those ravishing tones which begin as a delicate pinkish-mauve and enrich to a heady burgundy. Bracken and the ubiquitous swallowwort spread a straw-coloured groundcover, and even poison ivy turns a majestic bronze. Green there still is, peeping through the amethyst of the asters which take over when goldenrod leaves the scene, all of this before a backdrop of sombre conifers which will soon have it their own way.

It is enough to make one visually drunk, a free and dazzling spectacle. Bacchus is, after all, the god of wine, and grapes come to fruition in the autumn, a fitting toast to the bounty which follows.

Eva Davis

Further comment: Which leads me to an oddity of Torontonians -- the need to be directed to specific beauty spots so that they may jump in their cars and drive frantic miles to Catch the Colours. It is already under their noses, in a manner of speaking, reachable via TTC: Warden Woods on a small scale and the Rouge on a large one. Nothing beats these two areas.

I realize West Enders will have their favourite spots, so let's hear from you. The thing is, it's all within the umbrella of Metro Toronto. Some city!

E.D.
□

...More than 2,502 [of which 1,875 are native] vascular plants are recorded as growing in Hong Kong* This list includes 175 species of ferns, 31 species of pines and their allies and 2,296 flowering plants in an area of 1,052 sq. kilometres...Located half-way between the northern temperate zone and the fully tropical areas of the world, plants from both zones are able to flourish in the hospitable climate...Plant communities are woodland, scrubland, and grassland, also freshwater and marine communities. Remnants of by-gone forests persist in steep ravines and close to many of the old villages and temples where they have been preserved by the villagers to give the village good harmony.

from TWELVE HONG KONG WALKS by Derek Kemp, Oxford University Press, Hong Kong, 1985

* In Toronto 1,215 vascular plants are recorded, of which 730 are native.

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

September 1993, Toronto

Cool, unsettled weather prevailed this September. It was the coolest September since 1963 at Toronto City and the coolest since 1975 at Pearson Airport; the airport's mean of 13.6°C was the third lowest on record. The mean maximum downtown of 18.7°C was the lowest since 1924's 18.6°C. September was also the cloudiest since 1986 with 151.6 hours of sunshine. Rainfall, although above normal in much of eastern North America (notably with some relapse into flooding in the Mississippi watershed), was near or slightly below normal in the Toronto area. Winds averaged slightly above normal at Pearson Airport, but it was another month of record low wind speeds at Toronto Island -- the anemometer is likely not calibrated.

The month featured intermittent warm and humid periods up to Sept. 13-14th, when temperatures soared to 29°C at L.B. Pearson Airport. Nonetheless, even in the first half of the month, showery conditions were prevalent. Waterspouts were sighted near St. Catherines on Sept. 1st. Later in September, it turned sharply cooler, and positively cold during the final few days of the month. During this cold outbreak, which reached well into the United States, killing frost was general (L.B. Pearson reported a minimum temperature of -1.2°C on Sept. 30th, the lowest for the month since 1989) and flurries occurred as far south as Georgian Bay. Toronto City's minimum of 2.2°C was the lowest for any September since 1956 or possibly even 1947. Lake Ontario's temperature, as measured near Grimsby, which peaked near 23°C during the late August heat wave, dropped dramatically mid-month to the 10-12°C range. This was probably due to upwelling of cold water from the deep lake. Lake Erie remained warm enough to trigger violent lake effect thunderstorms and a waterspout near Buffalo on Sept. 28th.

Gavin Miller

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THE BALD EAGLE, though uncommon in Toronto, has been seen at all seasons of the year in the Region. As many as 20 have been counted during fall migration and as many as 5 at one time at Cranberry Marsh.

This interpretation of a typical adult is by Joanne Doucette.



COMING EVENTS

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

- Fall Warblers - Lambton Woods- Sat. Sept. 10 from 8 am to 12 noon with Don Burton. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Dr.)
- Hawks, warblers and more - High Park - Sat. Sept. 17 from 8 am to 12 noon with Bob Yukich. Meet in the parking lot inside the Bloor St. West entrance at High Park Ave.

Wonders of the Earth - 25th annual gem and mineral exhibition of the Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough - Sat. Sept. 17 from 10 am to 6 pm and Sun. Sept. 18 from 11 am to 5 pm at the Mid Scarborough Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Ave. East (Kennedy subway station). Free.

Fungi Fair presented by the Mycological Society of Toronto - Sept. 19 from 12 noon to 9 pm at the Civic Garden Centre (Leslie & Lawrence). Admission: \$1.

Birding classes - George Brown College - beginning in September. A classroom course for beginners, a series of Saturday outings and a weekend trip to Presqu'ile Provincial Park. For more information, contact Margaret Whittleton at (416)867-2267.

Geology Basics: Toronto, Bedrock to Ice Age - a University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies course - 5 meetings: \$120, Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm (Sept. 22 - Oct. 20)

Geology Field Trip: one-day urban ramble with Kathleen Kemp and Ed Freeman - Sun. Oct. 23 from 10 am to 3 pm for \$60.

To register for either or both of the above, contact the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto, 158 St. George St., Toronto, Ont. M5S 2V8.

Todmorden Mills - lecture series -

- Mon. Sept. 12 - the Don Valley Brickworks: landmark of the past, plans for the future
- Mon. Sept. 19 - William Helliwell of Todmorden: traveller and entrepreneur
- Mon. Sept. 26 - The Massey Family and Dentonia Park

All lectures take place at 7:30 pm; series fee: \$20; individual lectures: \$8 each.

To register, call 425-2250 or 778-2199.

Friends of the Don East York - meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave. Everyone welcome. Call 467-7305 for more information.

Save the Rouge Valley System - free monthly walks in the Rouge Valley -- usually the last Sunday of each month. Call 289-6643 for details.

Black Creek Project - monthly meetings and special events - for those interested in the preservation and rehabilitation of Black Creek, a major tributary of the Humber River. Call 661-6600, ext. 345 for details. ▽

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

High Park - Tuesday Twilight Walks - led by scientists and naturalists - beginning at the Grenadier Restaurant at 6:45 pm - Aug. 30, Sept. 6, Sept. 13. Walks end at 8:10 pm in a lantern-lit procession out of the park.

Sunday afternoon walks beginning at the Bloor/High Park entrance at 1:15 pm. Tours end at 3:20 pm - Aug. 21 and Sept. 11.

High Park Day - Sept. 25 - includes nature walks.

Call Jennifer Corlett at (416)535-1711 for more information on these activities which are sponsored by Environmental Dialogue.

High Park Vegetation Tour - sponsored by the Swansea Horticultural Society - Sept. 10 at 10 am with Terry Fahey and Solomon Boye. Meet at the Grenadier Restaurant. Walk may include tour of greenhouses and will last for one or two hours.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don - meeting - Sept. 13 at 6:30 pm. Free. Anyone is welcome to attend and learn about plans for the Don Valley. Call David Stonehouse at 392-1255 for details. Meetings take place at Toronto City Hall.

Village of Yorkville Park - tours - free

- Water and bog gardens with Frank Kershaw - Aug. 20 at 2 pm.
- Town gardens with Alberta Nokes - Aug. 27 at 2 pm
- The Yorkville Rock with Frank Amsen - Sept. 3 at 2 pm.

Walks begin at the Rock on the south side of Cumberland St. between Bay St. and Avenue Road,

Kortright Centre for Conservation - reserve by calling 905-832-2289.

- Honey Festival - Sept. 10 & 11
- Fall Colours - Sept. 18 - Oct. 31
- Walk to McMichael - Sept. 25 from 10:30 am to 3 pm
- Howling at the moon (for foxes and coyotes) - Sept. 15 from 7 pm to 9 pm

City of North York Parks and Recreation Master Plan - public meetings

- Thurs. Sept. 8 at Northwood Community Recreation Centre, Banquet Hall, 15 Clubhouse Court, North York at 7 pm.
- Mon. Sept. 12 at Banbury Community Recreation Centre, Banquet Hall, 120 Banbury Rd. at 7 pm.
- Mon. Sept. 19 at Armour Heights Community Recreation Centre, Gymnasium, 2140 Avenue Rd. at 7 pm.
- Wed. Sept. 21 at Oriole Community Resource Centre, Multi-Purpose Rm., 2975 Don Mills Rd. West at 7 pm.
- Thurs. Sept. 22 at Ancaster Community Recreation Centre, Games Room, 43 Ancaster Rd., at 7 pm.

For up-dates on the Master Plan, call 416-395-7911.

Toronto Entomological Association - monthly meetings from September to April at the McLaughlin Planetarium (in the lecture room) at 1:30 pm (the third or fourth Saturday of the month). Call 905-727-6933 for more information.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

<p>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION, 1965 \$ 2.00</p> <p>CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 1972 \$ 2.00</p> <p>TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976 Metropolitan Toronto's important natural areas are described and recommendations given for their conservation and management; includes maps, bibliography and index \$ 8.00</p> <p>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS ea \$ 4.00 Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973 Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974 Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975 Survey #4 - Wigmore Ravine, 1975 Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976 Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1976 Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977 Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978</p>	<p>INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938 to present) \$ 10.00</p> <p>TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 \$ 4.00</p> <p>A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985 \$ 4.00</p> <p>GUIDE TO THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, LEASKDALE, ONT., 1986 \$ 4.00</p> <p>TORONTO ISLANDS: PLANT COMMUNITIES AND NOTEWORTHY SPECIES, 1987 \$ 4.00</p> <p>TODMORDEN MILLS, 1987 \$ 4.00</p> <p>VASCULAR PLANTS OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO, 1990 \$ 8.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO G.S.T.</p> <p>All publications are available at the monthly general meetings or may be ordered from Toronto Field Naturalists, 20 College St., Suite 11, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1K2. (Add \$2.00 per item for postage and handling).</p>
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- \$30 FAMILY (2 adults - same address, children included)
- \$25 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY
- \$20 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE
- Tax receipts issued for donations

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