

# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 463

November 1996



NATURE ARTS IN THOMSON MEMORIAL PARK, Scarborough - field drawing by Mary Cumming

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## TFN MEETINGS

- Sunday, Nov. 3, 1996 - THE ROLE OF ZOOLOGICAL PARKS AND AQUARIUMS IN CONSERVATION
- at 2:30 pm - an illustrated talk by Dr. Bill Rapley, Executive Director of Biology and Conservation at the Metro Zoo.
- in the Northrop Frye Hall  
Victoria University - Zoological Gardens have become important conservation centres for habitat preservation, public education, and endangered species management. The zoo's traditional role has been the exhibition and breeding of rare species, but in recent years it has expanded to include programs such as habitat restoration, wetland protection, conservation, and public education, in the evolving field called "Ecoeducation". Dr. Rapley will outline the current status of wildlife programs and talk about what goes on behind the scenes in what can be called the "invisible zoo".
- 73 Queen's Park Cres. East
- + a "social hour" starting at 2 pm with free coffee and juice
- + "Always Alice" cards for sale (767-6149).

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, December 1, 1996

### 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  
14 College St., Unit 605  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

Newsletter Committee members: Helen Juhola, Diana Banville, Jenny Bull, Eva Davis  
Nancy Fredenburg, Eileen Mayo, Joan O'Donnell, Toshi Oikawa.

# TFN OUTINGS

**REMEMBER:** Children and visitors are welcome on all outings but please, **NO PETS!**  
 To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules by calling 393-4636.  
 Check the weather by calling 661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings which go rain or shine.

- Saturday      GALLERY HOPPING - nature arts      Toronto  
 Nov. 2      Leader: Mary Cumming  
 11 am      Meet at the Cumberland exit of the Bay subway station. We  
              welcome anyone interested in viewing paintings and sculpture  
              in a gallery setting. We view 12 galleries before lunch at  
              the food court at Bay and Bloor.  
              You are welcome to bring any recent photos and other art work you have done  
              to show the group after lunch.
- Sunday      TFN MEETING - see page 2  
 Nov. 3  
 2:30 pm
- Tuesday      TORONTO ISLANDS - birds      lakeshore, Toronto  
 Nov. 5      Leader: Louise Orr  
 10:30 am      Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. Bring lunch.  
 \$ ferry      We will be visiting Ward's Island, looking for late migrants and early  
 tickets      wintering birds.
- Saturday      HUMBER VALLEY - human & natural history      Humber, York  
 Nov. 9      Leader: Mary Lou Ashbourne  
 1:30 pm      Meet where Lawrence Ave. West crosses the Humber River, west  
              of Weston Rd.  
              Come and learn about the heritage of the Humber River from a member of the  
              Humber Heritage Group and the Humber Task Force.
- Sunday      BLACK CREEK - nature walk      Humber tributary, North York  
 Nov. 10      Leader: Gavin Miller & Allan Greenbaum  
 2 pm      Meet at the southeast corner of Keele St. and Lawrence Ave.  
              West.  
              This eighth walk along Black Creek and its tributaries will show us  
              several tributaries or what remains of them.
- Tuesday      HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk      Humber, Etobicoke  
 Nov. 12      Leader: Ann Millett  
 10:30 am      Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Ave. West and  
              Scarlett Rd. Bring lunch.  
              We will be walking south along the river, looking for late flowering plants  
              and late migrants.

## NOVEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday  
Nov. 16  
2 pm  
CHESTER SPRINGS MARSH - nature walk  
Leader: David Stonehouse  
Meet at the Broadview subway station.  
This walk will take us into the Lower Don Valley to look at the accomplishments of the Lower Don Task Force -- creation of ponds and many plantings. Don, Toronto
- Sunday  
Nov. 17  
2 pm  
BURKE BROOK - nature walk  
Leader: Diana Park  
Meet at the southeast corner of Bathurst St. and Joicey Blvd.  
This is another joint walk with the North Toronto Green Community. We are beginning a series of walks to follow this creek (what we can find of it) south to where it enters the West Don Valley. This walk is mostly on streets. Don tributary, North York
- Wednesday  
Nov. 20  
10:30 am  
CHINE DRIVE RAVINE - nature walk  
Leader: Graham Neville  
Meet at the southeast corner of Kingston Rd. and Chine Drive.  
Morning only.  
On this walk we will explore the shoreline of Lake Ontario from the top of the bluffs. We will walk from the area above Bluffers Park to Rosetta McClain Park. Lakeshore, Scarborough
- Saturday  
Nov. 23  
10:30 am  
ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk  
Leader: Robin Powell  
Meet just outside the Zoo entrance on the west side of Meadowvale Rd., north of Sheppard Ave. East. Bring lunch.  
This will be a long walk with lots of hill climbing and wet places to walk, but worth preparing for properly. Rouge, Scarborough
- Sunday  
Nov. 24  
2 pm  
LOST CREEKS - nature walk  
Leader: Michael McMann  
Meet at the Heath St. exit of the St. Clair West subway station.  
We will follow the route of Castle Frank Creek through Cedarvale and Nordheimer ravines, ending the walk at the Metro Archives to view the exhibit there. Don tributary, Toronto
- Tuesday  
Nov. 26  
10:30 am  
ALLAN GARDENS - exotic plants  
Leader: Arthur Wade  
Meet at the greenhouses on the south side of Carlton St. east of Jarvis St. Morning only.  
A good introduction to exotic flora for anyone thinking of travelling south this winter; also, the greens of the gardens are a pleasant contrast to the grey of November. Toronto
- Saturday  
Nov. 30  
2 pm  
RUSSELL CREEK - human & natural history  
Leader: Ian Wheal  
Meet at the northwest corner of College St. and Bathurst St.  
We will be looking for signs of another lost creek in downtown Toronto. Toronto

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We amateur naturalists tend on the whole to be pretty familiar with the ecology of the valleys and ravines in Metro. We at least have a general impression of the distribution of major habitat types, of the composition of the most conspicuous and distinctive vegetation communities. We have a sense of what vertebrates are quite common and which are noteworthy. When it comes to aquatic communities, though, most of us are a great deal hazier. How many of us can name half a dozen fish species that occur in the rivers that flow through the city? We may have noticed people fishing in the Humber or the Rouge, but I suspect many of us assume that the smaller, more urbanized river systems like the Don are more or less "dead", and are surprised to hear that they support any fish at all. But urbanized rivers are part of urban nature, too, and we should get to know them better.

That is why the Don Watershed Fisheries Management Plan is an important document for naturalists, and not just for those interested in "managing fisheries". A draft of the Plan, prepared for the Don Watershed Council, the Metro Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources and released in August, assembles the results of over a decade of research and provides a fascinating snapshot of the state of the Don's ecology. The report confirms the impression that the Don's ecology is much the worse for wear, but it helps begin to fill in the details.

As one might expect, the numbers of fish species in the Don and most of its tributaries are substantially lower than is typical for streams of comparable size in southern Ontario. What species do exist tend to be those most tolerant of impaired conditions. While the biotic integrity of the Don's fish community was found nowhere to be excellent, it was least impaired in some of the upper reaches. Biotic integrity was found to be highest in some streams in the West Don watershed in the area bounded by Rutherford Rd., Major Mackenzie Dr., Keele St. and Jane St., and in the East Don watershed around Bathurst St. and Major Mackenzie. Species found in the upper reaches of the Don watershed that are absent south of Steeles Ave. include Blunt-nose Minnow, Largemouth Bass, American Brook Lamprey (recently rediscovered, after 30 years, in the upper East Don), Mottled Sculpin (a sensitive species) and Redside Dace (which is regarded as "nationally vulnerable"). The West Don in the vicinity of the G. Ross Lord reservoir, the stretch of the Lower Don between the forks and the Bloor Viaduct, Massey (Taylor) Creek, and the small tributaries within Metro had the most degraded fish communities.

The Don system within Metro consists of four major streams: the West Don, the East Don, Taylor/Massey Creek and the Lower Don. All four supported the following species: Blacknose Dace, Creek Chub, Fathead Minnow, Longnose Dace, and White Sucker. Taylor Creek apparently supports only those species. The studies found that the East Don, which is the coolest and generally the least polluted of

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

the four, had the highest diversity of fish species. In addition to the species common to all parts of the watershed, the section of the East Don between Lawrence and Eglinton Ave. supports Common Shiner, Johnny Darter, Pumpkinseed and Yellow Perch. The latter two species are also found in the Lower Don in the vicinity of the Bloor Viaduct; Pumpkinseed has also been recorded in the G. Ross Lord Reservoir, though not in the most recent survey. The only fish found in the West Don (within Metro) that are not found in the East Don are Carp and Goldfish, both introduced species.

The problems that limit the occurrence of sensitive fish species are perhaps more obvious than the fish themselves. In-stream barriers to fish movement abound, as do stretches where, due to channelization and so on, habitat is so degraded as to be almost impassable. As the report indicates, most of the other problems at present are due to storm-water run off. In the first place, although separated storm sewers (which are the kind that flow into most parts of the Don, except for parts of Taylor Creek and the Lower Don) pollute less than the old combined sewers, they still contribute to water quality problems. As of 1989, the East Don, West Don and Lower Don all exceeded Provincial Water Quality Objectives for phosphorus, fecal coliforms, copper and lead; except with respect to fecal coliforms, the East Don exceeded the guidelines by the smallest amount.

The amount of water contributed by urban runoff over a short period of time during storms also degrades habitat by accelerating bank erosion and thus altering the shape of the stream-bed cross-section, making the streams wider and shallower. Much of the watershed was built up before the mid-70s, and only after that time was any thought at all given to designing stormwater management systems in such a way as to regulate peak flow. As the Plan acknowledges, planting vegetation along the banks of the rivers improves habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial life and helps to stabilize the banks, but excess erosion is a symptom of the effects of urbanization on hydrology, and any attempts to treat only the symptoms are doomed to failure (we have all seen places where erosion has made short work of any kind of stream-bank armouring or of any kind of riparian vegetation).

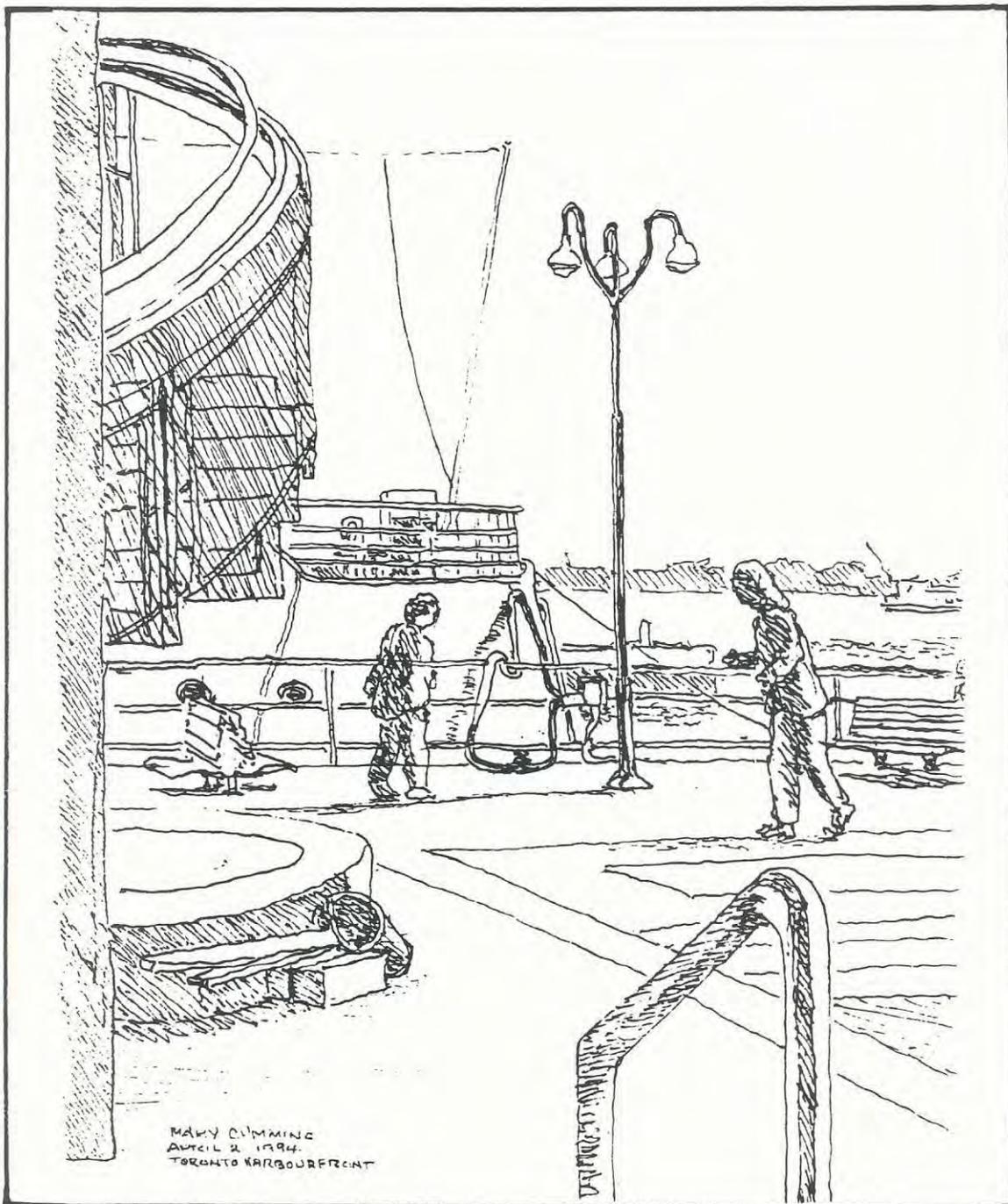
The kinds of aquatic habitat restoration measures called for in the Fisheries Management Plan will stand to benefit all kinds of organisms, not just fish. But fish (like birds) are relatively easy to monitor and to "sell" to the public. People will find it easy to relate to a program that aims to restore the Don to a state which can support the Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass and Brook Trout that once inhabited its lower, middle and upper reaches respectively. Purists might be disappointed that the authors of the Plan doubt that the Don will ever be able to support Atlantic Salmon as in days of yore, and that they suggest establishing lake-run Rainbow Trout as an ecological replacement (the Rainbow Trout is a Pacific watershed species, not one originally native to Ontario; it has, of course, become naturalized in many Ontario waters). Those responsible for the plan are nevertheless to be commended for

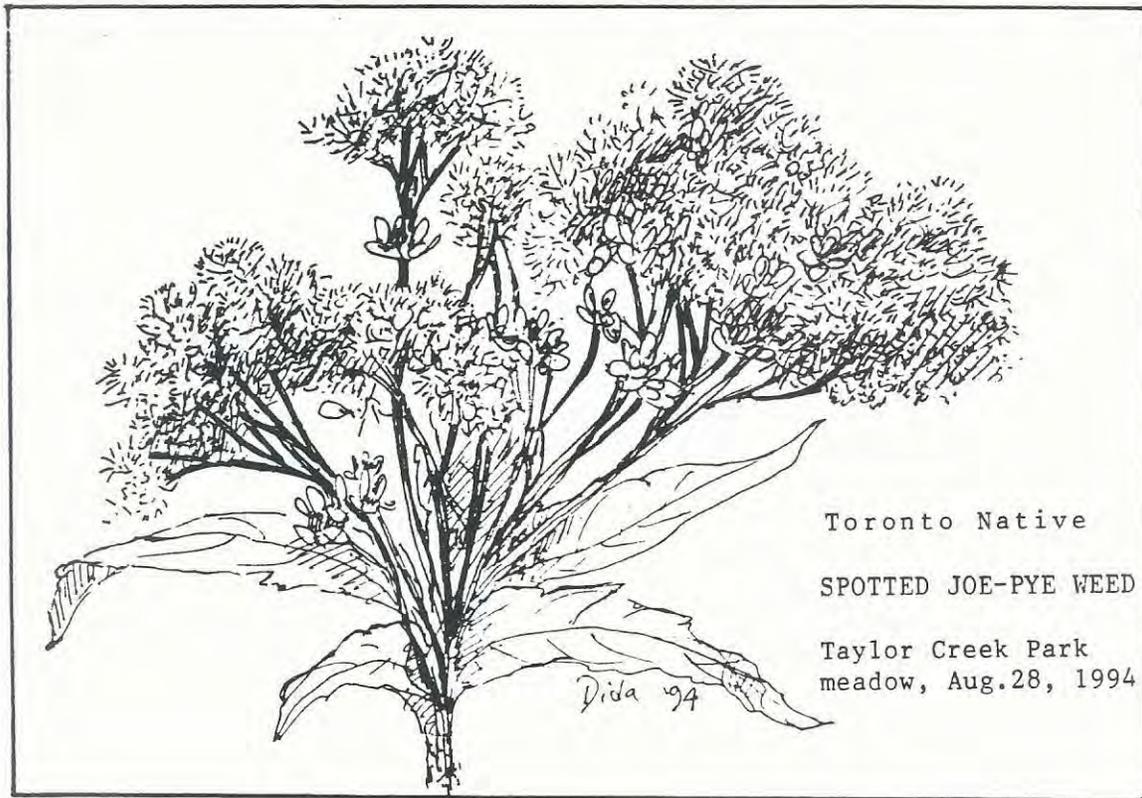
## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

approaching "urban fisheries management" in a spirit of ecological restoration, rather than as an invitation to engineer an artificial put-and-take fishery (as once they might have done). The real challenge now is to carry through with the ambitious measures needed to implement the Plan.

Allan Greenbaum

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## KEEPING IN TOUCH

June 14, 1996

Thank you for your patience while awaiting a reply to your concern regarding the poison bait set around our Loblaw's store at 11 Redway Rd. After consulting with the expert in our Pest Control Department, I would like to assure you that the poison bait set around our store causes no threat to the local birds of prey. While birds of prey feed on rodents/mice, the baits we use are in fact traps for rats. In short, since birds of prey do not feed on rats, they would not ingest the poison bait we have set. Please rest assured, Mr. Cook, that Loblaw's Supermarkets Limited understands its corporate responsibility to protect the environment. As information, I have enclosed a copy of our Environmental Principles pamphlet. We thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about this issue with us. It is often through the comments expressed by our customers that we are able to gain a broader understanding of the environmental issues that need to be addressed.

Christine Young  
Customer Service Representative  
Loblaw's Supermarkets Limited  
6220A Yonge St.  
North York M2M 3X4

Comment: The Toronto Field Naturalists remain nonplussed by Loblaw's statement that "... since birds of prey feed on rodents/mice...", their baits are for rats, and birds of prey "do not feed on rats". Rats, in our understanding, are also rodents. We feel that the baits present a threat to other life forms - local cats and dogs, as well as the whole remaining spectrum of wildlife from racoons to non-birds of prey. In the outdoors, poisons do not remain in isolation. Via one medium or another, they migrate.

Perhaps Loblaw's could give further consideration to their ongoing responsibility for environmental wellbeing.

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"...Every shopping center, every drainage improvement, every square foot of new pavement in nearly half the United States was accelerating runoff toward Louisiana. Streams were being channelized to drain swamps.

Meanders were cut off to speed up flow. The valley's natural storage capacities were everywhere reduced. As contributing factors grew, the river delivered more flood for less rain. The precipitation that produced the great flood of 1973 was only about twenty percent above normal. Yet the crest at St. Louis was the highest ever recorded there. The flood proved that control of the Mississippi was as much a hope for the future as control of the Mississippi had ever been..."

from THE CONTROL OF NATURE by John McPhee, Farrar Straus Giroux, 1989

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

October 1, 1996

On behalf of the Toronto Historical Board I would like to congratulate you and the Toronto Field Naturalists for the five successful walking tours which you presented this summer. We were happy to be able to work with you on these projects by including them in our walking tour promotion.

Your tours attracted the consistently highest attendance of any of those we promoted. I know that this was sometimes difficult for your tour leaders whose walks were prepared for more intimate groups but the fact that the attendance levels for your tours never dropped is the best indicator that, despite the crowding, your leaders rose to the occasion and satisfied their audience.

I hope you found the partnership with us beneficial. In these difficult times, it is encouraging to see the city's various organizations working together to ensure the maintenance of broad-based and informative public programming.

George E. Waters  
(Acting) Managing Director  
Toronto Historical Board

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## FOR READING

BIRD SONG: IDENTIFICATION MADE EASY by Emie Jardine. Toronto: Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. 200 pages, \$14.95.

This book is the latest attempt to provide a means by which we can learn to identify bird songs, and a most valiant attempt it is. Of course, as all birders know, birding by ear is the mode of birding that is both easiest to practice and most difficult to learn. Listening to recordings should help, but I find that the songs go in one ear and out the other. Besides, they are awkward to consult in the field. This book is not at all awkward to consult in the field, being a slender volume. It provides for all species both a stylized sonogram (akin to what you see in the Golden guide but more legible) and various descriptive spellings-out. I doubt that it is possible to do better at describing bird songs on paper than Jardine has done.

The book is divided into two main sections. The first section treats almost all of the species included, and is organized according to the structure of the song. This section is like a bird song equivalent of Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. If you hear an unfamiliar song, you decide if it is "very short", or composed of "repeated notes", and so on. Within each of the major divisions, there are several subdivisions, each containing several species. In principle, one can thus "key out" the song. Like any key, this one works better if you already know the right answer. The time I attempted to use it to identify an unfamiliar song, I admit I didn't get very far, but perhaps with practice I would become more proficient at using the system. Divisions within the key--as between "short" and "long" songs--are (perhaps unavoidably) arbitrary, and in some cases this means that species whose songs I think of as having a very similar character (that could even be confused) end up under different headings.

The second section of the book covers the same species, but is organized by habitat type. It is intended less for field use and more for preparation beforehand. I think it would be very effective for "tuning" the ear of a beginning or rusty birder at the beginning of the season. Finally, there is a section of "Other Common Bird Songs", which seem to be species that were overlooked when the first section was put together. All of these songs would fit within the key; indeed, the place where they would belong in the first section is noted in the description. That they are not included in the first section makes the book less useful as a field guide than it would otherwise be. Perhaps in a subsequent edition the book could be reorganized to eliminate this grab-bag at the end.

Allan Greenbaum

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*Faint call of nuthatch,  
the blue jay softly whistling.  
Why all the hush?*

haiku by Diana Banville  
Taylor Creek Park, Nov. 24, 1990

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# PROJECTS

## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH CANADIAN OVERVIEW

With the exception of British Columbia, participation in Project FeederWatch declined in all provinces during 1995-96, with the result that the number of FeederWatchers nationwide fell for the first time since Project FeederWatch began. This is mostly due to a 12% decline in participation in Ontario. FeederWatch participants are encouraged to submit any comments or suggestions as to how to bring new FeederWatchers into the flock. [See Long Point Bird Observatory address on page 29.]

Canadian FeederWatch results are, of course, reflected in continental trends, but in 1995-96 this was especially so for irruptive species. Common Redpolls, continuing on a now predictable upswing of their two-year cycle, increased in numbers across the country with the most impressive of these increases occurring throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Hoary Redpolls followed the same pattern, although the increases from 1994-95 were not as marked as for Common Redpolls. In 1995-96 Hoary Redpolls reappeared in all provinces, save the Maritime, after having been all but absent in 1994-95. This trend was repeated across the continent. A long-awaited Pine Siskin invasion failed to take place, although numbers rose substantially in British Columbia (mean of 9.2 per feeder in 1995-96 vs 0.4 in 1994-95). Specials such as American Goldfinch and Purple Finch showed dramatic decreases, east of the Rockies, in the downstroke of their cycles. Interestingly, this trend was not reflected south of the border. Perhaps the bust in Canada and the boom in the USA merely reflect a southern shift in winter ranges.

Last year, Feeder-Watchers reported a levelling off of Mourning Dove numbers across Canada after tripling in number between 1990-93. In 1995-96 the numbers of Mourning Doves remained stable nationally. However, regional fluctuations have been quite dramatic — large increases have occurred in New Brunswick and the Maritimes, but populations have dropped off substantially in Ontario, perhaps because of very harsh winter weather in much of Ontario during the past few winters. Both species of nuthatches exhibited positive reversals after a couple of years of decline. Red-breasted Nuthatches exhibited strong increases in the east while maintaining numbers in the west; White-breasted Nuthatches showed marginal increases throughout the country with the exception of Manitoba. These trends were common throughout North America, as numbers were up continent-wide.

One of the most attractive feeder birds, the Evening Grosbeak, also ended a decline that began in 1993. With the exception of marginal declines in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, numbers of Evening Grosbeak increased both across Canada and the continent. Black-capped Chickadee remained the most widespread species visiting feeders in Canada, topping the list for all regions but the Maritimes, where Blue Jay was seen at every feeder. In Ontario, Black-capped Chickadee regained its title as most widespread species after losing out to Blue Jay in 1994-95 for the first time since 1989.

## PROJECTS (cont'd)

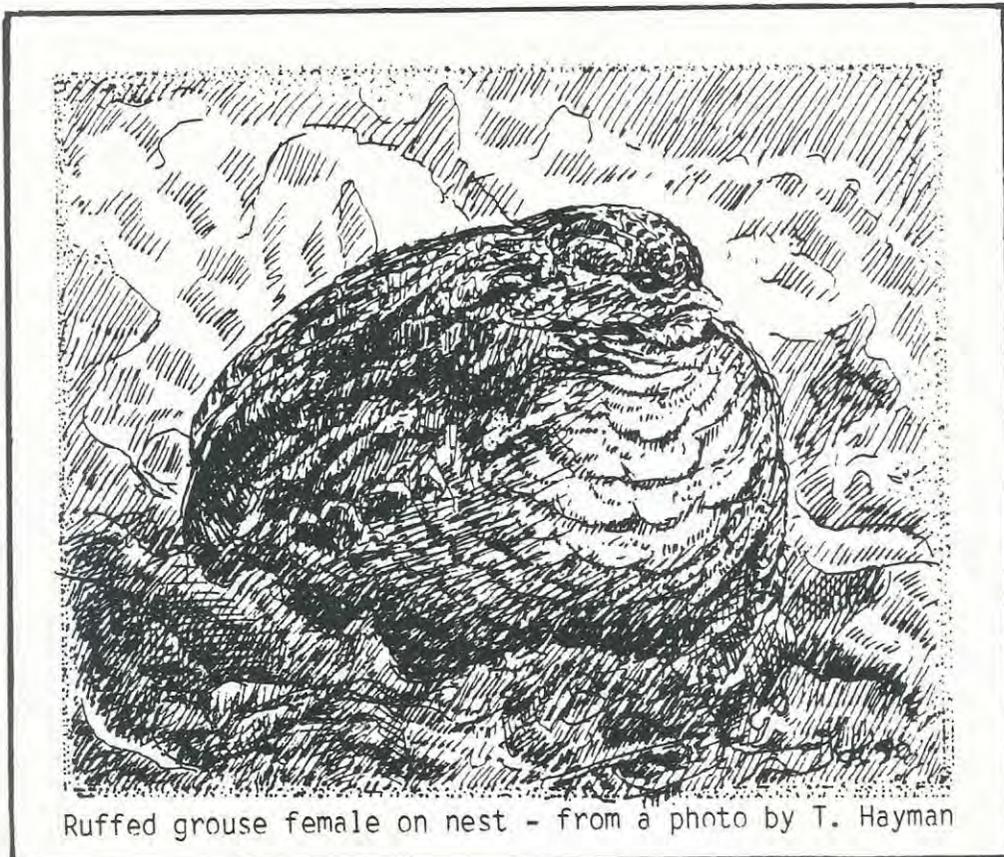
## INTERESTED IN THE REHABILITATION OF HIGHLAND CREEK?

The City of Scarborough is undertaking a plan to redesign the Markham branch of Highland Creek stretching from Highway 401 south to Markham Rd. The design intent of the project is to transform the channelized creek into a natural meandering watercourse that winds its way through forests and wetlands, and can be viewed from formal and informal trails throughout the valley. The goals of the project are to create a dynamically stable and healthy watercourse and river valley that will provide habitat for wildlife, scenic views into and out of the valley, trails for walking and hiking, and reduce overall maintenance costs and minimize liability. The City is seeking input from the local community on a broad range of issues, including:

- ideas for the re-design of Highland Creek;
- input on the design of a trails system for the river valley;
- development of a community-based environmental monitoring and education program centred on the rehabilitation of Highland Creek;
- identification of funding sources to implement the proposed works; and
- community participation in the implementation of the project.

If you see the potential for you, your business, or your school to participate in this exciting pilot project of community design, stewardship, and education, or you would like additional information, please contact Grant Taylor, City of Scarborough, Works & Environment Dept. at 396-7689.

extracted from a notice in the SCARBOROUGH MIRROR, Sept. 25, 1996



Ruffed grouse female on nest - from a photo by T. Hayman

## TREES FOR THE MILLENNIUM

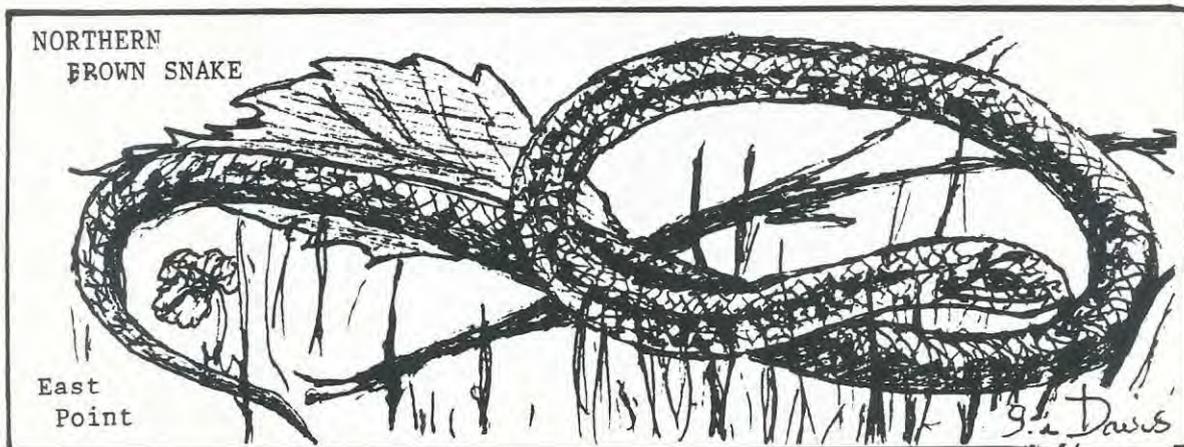
Here and there are long-established colonies of trees — ancient specimens whose origins are lost in time. These are the trees with individual characteristics deeply rooted in their native landscape, trees with a powerful *local provenance*. Local provenance is biologically important. The distinctiveness of long-established trees and woods helps them survive the peculiar pressures of their place: the variation in day length and seasonal rhythm that distinguishes the north from the south; the lingering frost and snow of a shady slope, compared with the spring drought on the sunnier side of the hill; the acidity or alkalinity of soil derived from the rocks below. It is wise to try to perpetuate local provenance by promoting the trees of the next generation from seeds of distinctly local pedigree.

Unfortunately, recent trends take no account of this. Trees travel from anywhere to anywhere. To celebrate the millennium, tens of millions of trees could be planted. If we simply buy our trees with no concern for their genetic origin, we will rob the new millennium's generations of something very special. The oldest, most significant local trees will be identified as the source of seed. Timely collecting and sowing should yield a massive crop of seedling trees grown in the local community and ideally suited to the local landscape. By the turn of the millennium, these trees could be putting down roots and forming branches everywhere. Survey your neighbourhood and work out your contribution. Seek out the specimens of trees that can provide your "seeds of time and place."

adapted from "The Baines Bulletin" by Chris Baines in BBC WILDLIFE, vol. 13, no. 6, June 1995

For more information about trees, read "Old Growth Forests of Western New York State" by J. Battaglia et al. in WILDFLOWER 12(1), Winter 1992

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## PROJECTS (cont'd)

## PLAN AIMS TO PLANT 10 MILLION TREES

Over the next four years, the Tree Canada Foundation, in co-operation with the Ontario Forestry Association and the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, will seek to establish more than 10 million trees in Ontario on private lands that have been depleted of tree cover. Called Project Tree Cover '97, the program is looking for owners of private land that would be willing to purchase and plant the young trees as well as to nurture and protect them. Candidates will have at least five acres of land with two of those acres available for planting. Participants who do their own planting can purchase the 12-inch seedlings for 10 cents a piece. If you want government employees to do the work, the seedlings can be purchased for 55 cents a tree, provided 3,500 seedlings are purchased.

Why plant trees? As well as the aesthetic value, trees play a very active role in helping maintain a healthy watershed. Trees supply oxygen for us to breath and clean the air of carbon dioxide and pollution. But, on average, it takes about 500 full-sized trees to absorb the emission produced by a typical car. Property owners would be given a variety of seedlings, including pine, oak and perhaps black walnut. Participants will have to agree that the trees would not be cut for firewood or be sold as Christmas trees when they matured. For more information or for an application, contact CLOCA at 579-0411. Applications must be received before October 31, 1996 for the 1997 planting season.

extracted from an article by Paul Irish in THE TORONTO STAR. 22 August 1996

## DEALING WITH WILDLIFE

To keep *rock doves* off your window sill, buy yourself a Slinky<sup>®</sup>, stretch it out to the length of your window sill and attach it. The Slinky<sup>®</sup> should block access to the window sill by all but the smallest birds, and the delicate curved coils will not themselves support a perching bird.

To encourage the departure of *foxes* that have occupied holes in undesirable locations, try putting a just-worn sweatsock down the foxhole. Advocates of the method say that the strong human scent disturbs the foxes enough to send them on their way.

To discourage *woodpeckers* from drumming on your roof, which usually serves as an acoustic territorial signal, staple or otherwise attach a heavy rag to each of the metal vent pipes emerging from the roof. This should reduce the appealing territorial advertisement.

extracted from an article in WILD TRACKS. newsletter of The Humane Society of the United States<sup>®</sup>. Vol. 2, No. 2, Spring 1996

USED POSTAGE STAMPS ARE "FOR THE BIRDS"

Club members who throw away the cancelled postage stamps that come on their mail, might consider sending them to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The British society is especially grateful for used stamps from overseas.

Acknowledging a batch of stamps that I had sent earlier this year, the RSPB wrote, "We are in the fortunate position of being able to sell all the stamps that we receive from our members and friends either direct to dealers or by auction. All the money raised will be put towards various projects in order to protect wild birds, their habitats and the countryside in general."

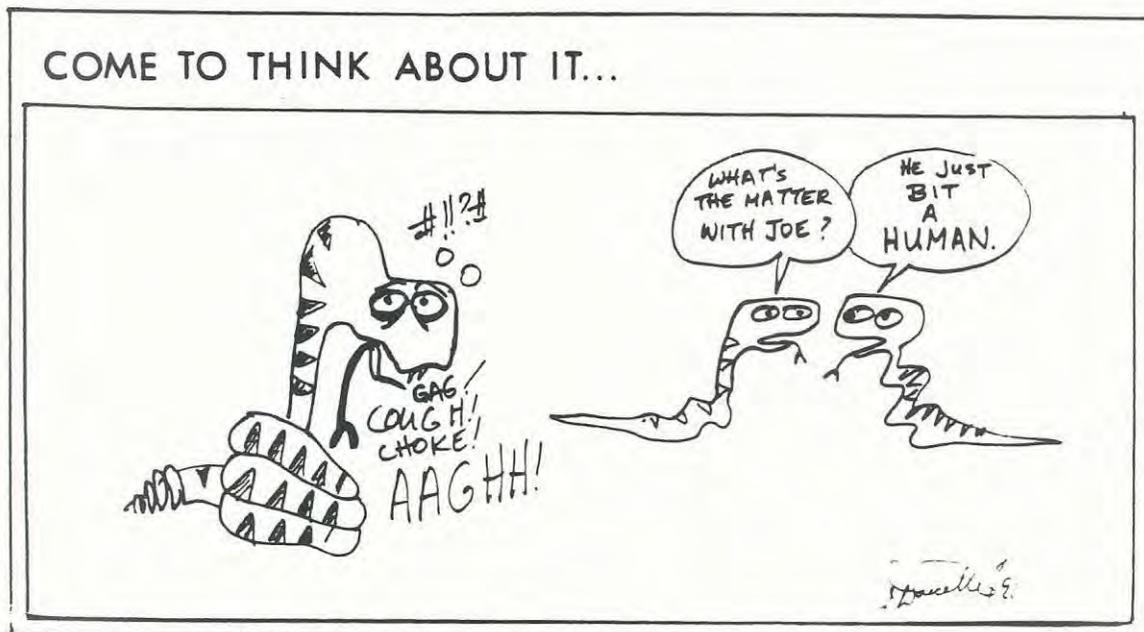
A current project is the RSPB's efforts to reintroduce the red kite. This magnificent cinnamon-coloured bird of prey was a common sight in Shakespeare's London, even nesting in central St. James's Park. Over the following centuries, due chiefly to hunters and egg collectors, the red kite almost disappeared. In 1945 only five breeding pairs were left.

Since then, a determined effort to help the kite, including introducing young birds from secure populations in Spain and Sweden, has started to turn the tide. In the five years ending in 1994, 196 birds were released, split equally between southern England and northern Scotland. This has led to at least 117 young kites being fledged in England and 42 in Scotland. Between now and the year 2000 the RSPB aims to raise £250,000 for the proposed release of 200 new kites.

▷ Club members' gifts of used stamps -- with one-quarter inch of the envelope left around each one -- could help restore the red kite to its hereditary place in Britain's skies. Send them to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, England SG19 2DL.

Harold Taylor

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Joanne Doucette

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## MUSKRATS VS MUSSELS

What weighs 1.2 kg, has a long tail, and has lots of mussels? We were quite interested to find that muskrats at Tommy Thompson Park were eating zebra mussels from the channel at the pedestrian bridge. This feeding behaviour was brought to our attention when we observed many small piles of mussel shells on top of one of the floating supports beneath the bridge. We had previously viewed muskrats swimming under the bridge on many occasions, and we can now surmise that they were using the bridge as a sheltered dining location.

Zebra mussels are small mussels that have been introduced into the Great Lakes. We have been aware of their presence at TTP for several years since they were found attached to the plastic floats of the tern rafts in 1990. Muskrats are primarily herbivores and when available, cattails and bulrushes can make up 80% of their diet. They have been known to eat freshwater clams and mussels, and this certainly appears to be the ticket at Tommy Thompson Park, where cattails are few and zebra mussels are plentiful.

Although the number of zebra mussels actually consumed by muskrats overall is negligible and will go no way to reduce the number of zebra mussels in aquatic systems, we can derive some comfort (at least a little!) in knowing that these pesky mussels are providing nourishment for some of our native wildlife.

In many respects, muskrats almost seem out of their element at Tommy Thompson Park given their usual association with wetlands and cattails. However, in reality muskrats are very adaptable when it comes to habitat selection, with their only specific requirements being a permanent source of water and a protected site for shelter. The availability of cattails, however, will affect the size of a muskrat population in a wetland, and this would help explain why the number of muskrats that inhabit the Park is small.

Algonquin Park naturalist, Dan Strickland, described the muskrat as "a mouse that does push-ups" in reference to the small pushed up shelters of vegetation that muskrats construct for protection in the winter. Well, the muskrats at Tommy Thompson Park don't do "push-ups", however, we now know they certainly have lots of mussels!

Also note: The Toronto Harbour (THC) commission replaced the silt curtain in the channel in 1994 and found it covered with zebra mussels. When the THC replaced the curtain in 1996, it found very few mussels attached to the curtain and also observed many shells on top of the pipe used to hang the curtain — the muskrats seem to be cleaning the mussels from the curtain.

from TOMMY THOMPSON PARK NEWSLETTER. Fall 1996

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NEWS FLASH!...Tommy Thompson Park has a new addition to its species list. A single Virginia Opossum was spotted in the park on July 14th in a tree on the eastern finger of land separating Cell 2 and Cell 3.

## BEATING THE ODDS: A NEW WAY TO HELP BIRDS SURVIVE WINDOW STRIKES

Six years ago, we were one of the first families to build a home in the Medway Ridge subdivision in northwest London. We chose a site on a hill facing west, where we could have three floors of windows overlooking the Medway River valley. Unfortunately, we soon learned that our enjoyment of the view was to be tempered by the number of birds who would fly into our windows.

There are many possible reasons why birds hit our windows. It is likely that the valley is reflected in them, as birds rarely hit the windows on the east (street) side of our house. There are seasonal variations in the number of birds hitting the windows, which may partly be accounted for by the different varieties of birds present, and by the difference in the reflection as the sun changes position. It is also bad news for the birds when we clean our windows, which, fortunately, does not happen often.

Different species react differently to the reflection. House Sparrows, who, nestling on our window sills, greet me every morning, and who seem to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to figure out how to get inside vents and other orifices of our house, never hit the windows. The sparrows seem to know the windows are there, and they avoid them.

Juncos, on the other hand, hit the windows frequently in the fall, when they have just come back. During the winter, they rarely do. Large birds like Blue Jays rarely collide with our glass. When they do, they bounce off like Wendel Clark after a hit, and continue on their raucous way.

When we first noticed that birds were colliding with our windows, I did what most amateur naturalists would do — nothing. I simply watched to see what would happen to the birds. All the songbirds died if they hit the window with great force and fell to the ground motionless. When I examined them, there didn't seem to be a lot the matter with them (beyond being dead).

Confident that I couldn't make matters worse, I began to do some research. Most of the books I consulted suggested putting the bird in a warm, but not sunny location to recover, for example in a box in a quiet part of the house. The survival rate did improve, but most of the birds still died.

After reading a very interesting article in *The Birder's Handbook* (Ehrlich et al.) on the metabolism of birds, I began to wonder if there might be a simple solution to this problem. My theory was that, when they hit the window and were rendered unconscious, there was a sudden drop (or increase, depending on the weather) in the body temperature of these little birds. They were, therefore, dying not from injury but from overheating or sudden cooling due to an inability to maintain their normal body temperature. They were suffering from something similar to shock, which affects



## BIRDS &amp; WINDOWS (cont'd)

human victims of trauma. Small birds, however, would be particularly susceptible, due to the high metabolic rate required to maintain the temperature of an organism having such a large surface area relative to body mass.

The problem with either ignoring a songbird or putting it in a box is that very rarely would the environment be close to the normal body temperature of the bird.

Not having any fancy equipment with which to test this theory, I used the only thing I had available with a temperature similar to the birds — me. The next time a bird hit the window — about 6:30 am on a chilly Sunday morning — I ran outside in my nightgown onto the frosty deck. Carefully I picked up the bird. It was completely flaccid. Its eyes were open, but glazed. Its neck was limp. Its wings hung loosely. When I tried to arrange it into a normal "bird" shape and place it on its feet, it simply tipped over sideways.

I collected its wings into a normal position, and carefully placed it in the palm of my left hand. Then I cupped my right hand gently over it, covering its eyes to give it more peace of mind when it regained consciousness. Then I called plaintively for someone to bring a blanket and throw it over me!

As time passed, I could feel the bird beginning to "collect" itself. Its breathing became stronger, and the heart rate became faster. The wings drew in, and the legs became tense. Within a few minutes, it was ready to go. I set it on the deck, and it took off.

Since that day, I have used the same treatment with a number of different birds, including juncos, kinglets, sparrows, and even one hummingbird, who resembled a limp cigar when I picked him up, and who eventually left my hand in a flash of colour. Occasionally, even after the birds have "collected" themselves and look normal, they will sit, seemingly unprepared for flight. These are the birds that I put in a shoe box for a few minutes for their own protection.

The amazing thing is that all the birds which I have handled in this way have lived. The next time a bird hits your window, and is rendered unconscious, give it a try!

Reference: Ehrlich, Paul R., David S. Dobbin and Aryn Wheve. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook*. Simon and Schuster, New York.

extracted from an article by Marguerite Annen in THE CARDINAL, No. 164, August 1996

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Pollution, big money, and wild creatures all move about the planet without any heed to national boundaries.

from "Guest Editorial" by Richard Mabey in BBC WILDLIFE, Vo. 14, # 9, Sept. 1996

THE ROUGE IN SPRING —  
THE PARTICULARLY RECALCITRANT SPRING, 1996

The authorities have erected barriers to the high eastern ridge in the Rouge Valley directed against horse riders and mountain bikers, with these trails now designated natural regeneration areas. (I have never seen a rider on these slopes but have encountered bikers galore--haven't we all!) This *appears* to be working and those responsible are to be congratulated. On the other hand, signs indicate that Twyn Rivers Drive is going to be widened, and one can only hope this will not result in a futile loss of habitat similar to the swathe ploughed through Colonel Danforth Park, presumably to accommodate bikers (a warren of time-honoured footpaths has long serviced strollers and hikers).

More than anything the Rouge is in need of garbage bins. There are only two the length of Twyn Rivers Drive, a couple in the parking lot opposite the old ski slope, a couple in the parking lot at the Finch meander and a few in the Meadowvale area. There must be others, but in a spread of over 11,000 acres this is paucity, and the Rouge is becoming daily more "discovered". Anyone picking up garbage on the trail generally has nowhere to deposit it except by the roadside. (Is it too much to hope the authorities might eventually remove the tires and old machinery disfiguring various valley slopes?)

One day I had gone to the Rouge, chilled but dogged, for my first spring picnic. In certain areas winter storms and the river's wild overflow had toppled trees like so many matchsticks, leaving the bare-trunk clutter reminiscent of logging operations. A thin handful of stunted flowers was attempting to rise to seasonal expectations. What a difference a week makes. As we all know, on the Sunday of Victoria Day weekend the temperature rocketed, and I counted 18 spring species — admittedly two not wild but none the less lovely, an old apple tree and a *forsythia*. Seemingly overnight, slopes were white with trillium. There were silvery patches of field pussytoes; clusters of the small, delicate wood anemone; violets of purple, mauve, yellow and white (I leave tricky specialization to the expert!); carpets of wild ginger; bunches of toothwort; and gatherings of spring beauty. Red-winged blackbirds sang out their scratchy challenge. Robins played the robin game of keeping *just* that much ahead on the path. There was even the gasp-inducing orange flash of a Baltimore oriole. A log sat collecting the plush bronze broadloom that results from playing host to the small mushroom, *Xeromphalina campanella*.

It was That Old Green Magic all over again! I remain in gratitude, yearly, that nature forgives us our ongoing trespasses and stage-manages a comeback so superbly.

Eva Davis

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## FLOWER SHOW — AUGUST 1996

...not the Chelsea Flower Show, not even City Hall's, but that of the Rouge of this sun-drenched Sunday with the Valley poised between summer and fall. The great, ten-foot-high sheaves of sweet white clover, beloved of honey bees, are now dying off. Batches of showy tick trefoil are exchanging pink blossoms for their jointed seed pods so aptly named Stick-Me-Tights. Air is musky with stretches of mauve bergamot, blossoms just beginning to fade. Joe-Pye-weed promises to hold out a little longer, as do the more taken-for-granted crown vetch and birdfoot trefoil.

Advancing centre-stage are the goldenrods, countless dancing patches of black-eyed Susans, and the promise of the many asters. A few of the hundreds of Jerusalem artichokes are already in bloom along the river banks. The scent of bergamot will soon be swallowed up in the scent of groundnut, burgeoning maroon-and-dusky pink sweetpea blossoms creeping over everything (swallowwort doesn't have it all its own way on the south side of the Twyn Rivers Drive...not yet, at any rate.) Oddly, there is little of this vine on the north side, though the blackberries there are prolific this year and wine-sweet, but leg protection is mandatory against their brutal thorns (poison ivy's prevalence makes this defence a necessary precaution, anyway).

It goes—without saying?—that purple loosestrife is much in evidence, through summer, into fall. It has a long season—June to September—and its ranks are swelling mightily.

There is no road widening of Twyn Rivers Drive as yet, and the long stretch down through the Valley still stands in dire need of garbage containers. Six huge garbage bags had been unloaded by the roadside. They had been picked open by wildlife and stood stinking in the heat. Although containers would not guarantee that such a mess could be avoided, they *might* encourage this type of environmental lout at least to dump in a collectible place. Only vigilant patrolling and follow-up will, of course, discourage such behaviour. Meanwhile, Rouge Park Management have erected in the sensitive woodland areas many more barricades which redirect hiker and biker alike, and picnic benches have been placed in the meadow beside the U-turn at the bottom of Twyn Rivers Drive.

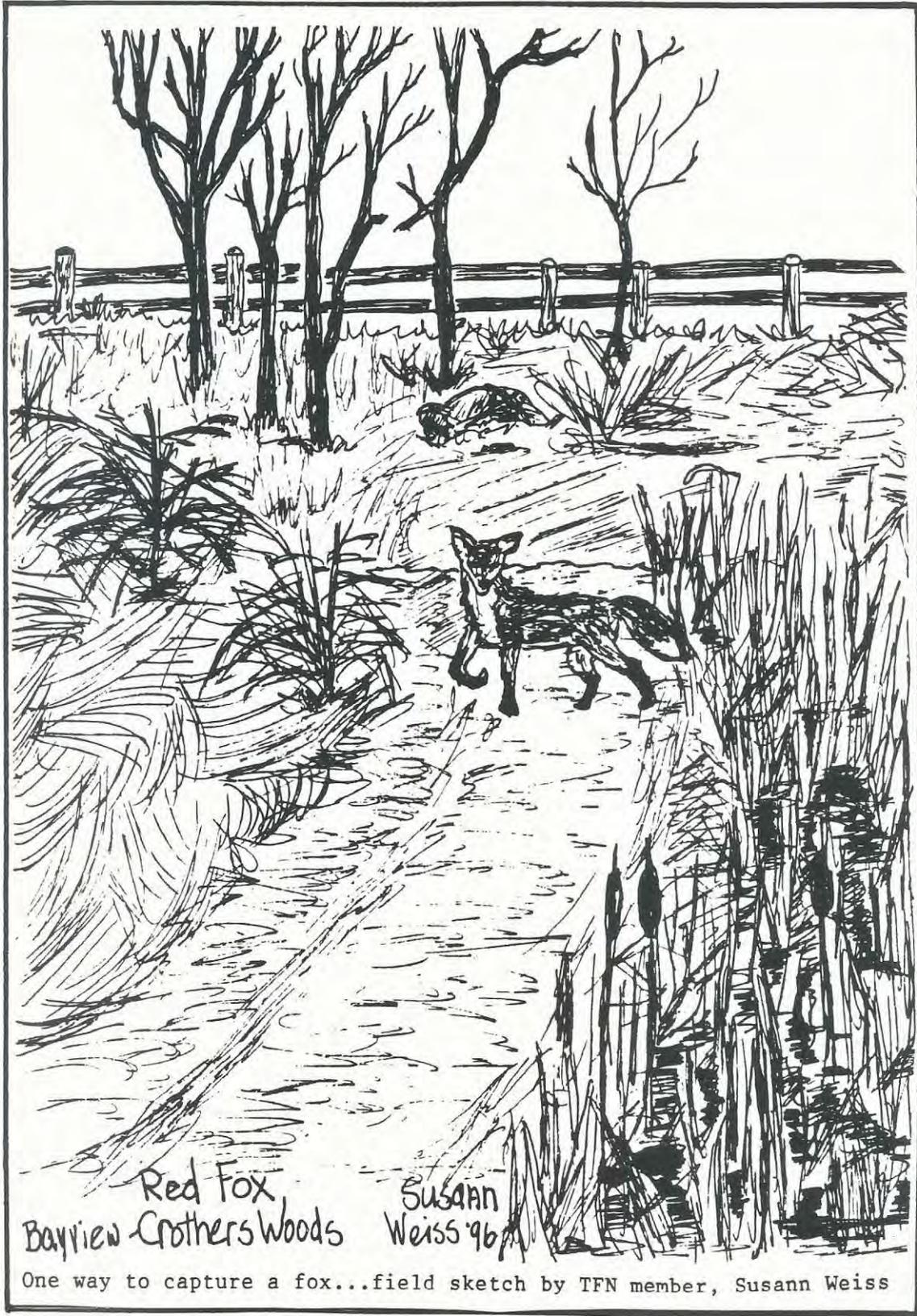
I saw a couple of leaves falling. Autumn is not, officially, far off and the Valley is right on time and rarin' to go.

Eva Davis



Our lives attain a new level of enrichment when we gain the ability to recognize as friends the plants and animals of our own environment.

extracted from "Robert DeWit Ivey: New Mexico's Wildflower guru" by  
Sue Bohannan Mann in WILDFLOWER, 12(1) Winter 1996



Red Fox  
Bayview Crothers Woods

Susann  
Weiss '96

One way to capture a fox...field sketch by TFN member, Susann Weiss

## IN THE NEWS

### MOSQUITO BONANZA

The same soggy spring that left farmers' fields swampy with puddles has provided the perfect breeding ground for Ontario mosquitoes this year, says University of Guelph entomologist Gordon Surgeoner. "We are estimating that the number of mosquitoes is at least 40 per cent higher than usual in southern Ontario." They're breeding in flooded ditches, used tires, tin cans, woodlots and puddles--anywhere there's moisture enough to lay a clutch of eggs. Dr. Surgeoner says mosquitoes are drawn to us because of the carbon dioxide we exhale, but that larger people make an especially tasty target. "The bigger you are, the more body heat you give off and the more carbon dioxide you produce."

extracted from "Digest" in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 6 July 1996

### 350,000 MONARCH BUTTERFLIES PASS THROUGH POINT PELEE

The sky was full of orange and black wings as about 350,000 monarch butterflies within 90 minutes took off from the tip of Point Pelee National Park, the park's head naturalist, Tom Hince, says. The monarchs migrate from southern Canada to wintering spots in Mexico each year. It takes four generations of butterflies to complete the two-way trip up and down the length of North America. Last winter, there was concern that the monarch population had been dramatically reduced by snowstorms in some of the wintering areas in Mexico. But the original estimates that 30 per cent of the 60 million butterflies had died were later reduced to 5 to 10 per cent when the snow melted and many of the insects revived. Hince said that although this is by far the most monarchs he has ever seen at Point Pelee in 13 years as park naturalist and 26 years as a bird watcher, it is not enough to declare the monarch population out of danger. A couple of days of south and south-west head winds caused the butterflies to congregate on the peninsula, then a northeast wind created the ideal conditions for them to fly south. Point Pelee, the southernmost part of mainland Canada, was declared an official monarch reserve in November, one of the first of an international network of reserves.

extracted from an article by Ijeoma Ross in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 18 February 1996

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Weighed with rosy fruit,  
crab tree also bears "the weight"  
of basking monarchs.

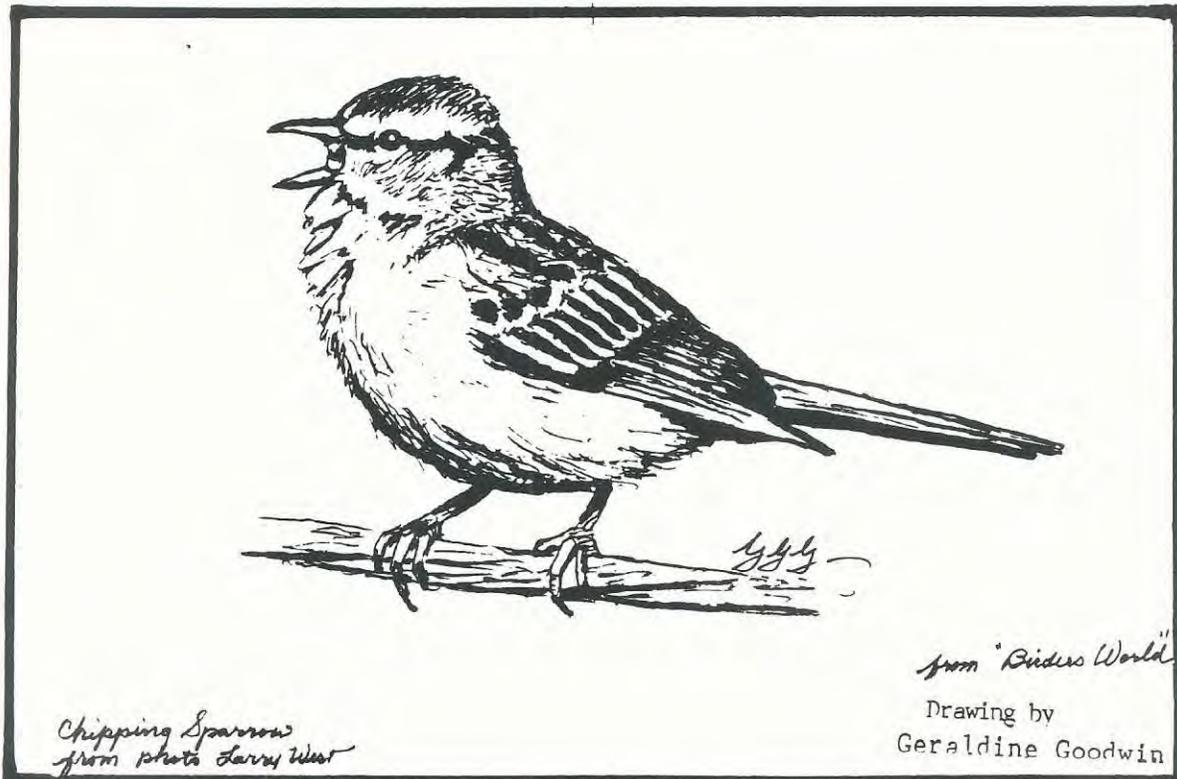
Haiku by Arthur Wade  
Cherry Beach, Sept. 30, 1994

## LIBRARY BOARD DEFERS SALE OF AUDUBON

The Metropolitan Toronto Library Board is not selling its collection of original Audubon bird prints, *for now*. The Board is deferring a decision on the sale of the collection as long as possible to allow time to investigate other ways to raise the \$1 million needed to balance this year's budget. The Library is now looking for sponsors and benefactors with an interest in seeing this treasure remain in the public domain. It is also investigating other revenue generating avenues including the merchandising of images in the collection, and the possibility of a travelling Audubon exhibit.

The Audubon collection was purchased in 1903 for \$1,900 from the estate of Toronto's eleventh mayor, the Hon. George William Allan. It is now estimated to be worth approximately \$2 to \$3 million US. In the mid-1980s the collection had to be withdrawn from public use because of its fragile condition. A successful fundraising campaign at the time generated \$80,000 to restore the prints which have been available for the public and researchers to view ever since. The Library is hopeful this new appeal for public support will be even more successful than the previous campaign. For more information on the Audubon collection, brochures are available for pick-up at the Directions Desk on the first floor, or call the Communications & Development Office at (416) 393-7141.

extracted from METROPOLITAN TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY NEWS, vol. 22, no. 1, Spring 1996



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

### CARDINAL CHOSEN AS OFFICIAL BIRD

A group of Scarborough elementary school students have scored a victory and made history. In a unanimous 15-0 vote, Scarborough council adopted the cardinal as the city's official bird — at the request of a delegation of students from Cornell Junior Public School. It all began last April when retired teacher James Williams delivered a workshop called "Our Trees, Our Birds and Us" to Leah Palen's Grade 2/3 class at Cornell School. They were surprised to learn that Scarborough had an official flower (wild columbine) and an official tree (sugar maple), but no official bird. The students were present for the vote.

extracted from an article by Ashante Infantry in THE TORONTO STAR, 19 September 1996

### TOWERS URGED TO TURN OFF LIGHTS

The World Wildlife Fund has issued an SOS — Save our Sparrows, and our warblers and our thrushes...the list goes on. The fund and the Royal Bank held a news conference yesterday to speak about the Fatal Light Awareness Program, an initiative to persuade downtown landlords to turn out the lights in the towers during migratory bird season. Of the millions of birds killed during annual migrations, at least 10,000 would be saved if 50 buildings in the downtown core joined FLAP. Research shows that about 200 species migrate at night and once birds get into the bright light, they become disoriented and can't fly out of it. FLAP has developed a 12-step program to make buildings in the financial district "bird-friendly". For example, night workers are encouraged to use task lighting instead of overhead fluorescent tubes. Timers have been installed in the Royal Bank building and bulletins have gone out asking employees to dim lights when they leave. Cleaners who usually work on different floors, thereby keeping the entire building lit, will now work in teams and turn lights off as they leave a floor. FLAP is targeting buildings between Yonge St. and University Ave. during its eight-week campaign. When a tower signs up, we give them a logo designating it as a bird-friendly building. While the Royal Bank is doing its bit, there will still be avian casualties unless neighbouring buildings hit the light switch. Organizers hope all premises in the city will ultimately dim the lights until the migratory season ends in November.

extracted from an article by Donna Jean MacKinnon in THE TORONTO STAR, 12 September 1996

...keep an open mind about complex environmental issues and try to find out for yourself what is going on.

from "Making a difference: you can do it, too" by John Vidal in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 13, No. 10, Oct. 1995

## TREE PROTECTION BYLAW WILL BE FELT ACROSS ONTARIO

It is a good thing the City of Toronto waited a few hundred years before passing Bylaw No. 1995-0256. Had such a law existed in 1796, there would be no Toronto today. Passed last year and unique in Ontario, the law made it illegal for people to chop down large trees on their own property without city permission. Ever since, the city has been using its new-found authority to review and in some cases turn down hundreds of applications to cut down or injure trees to make way for new construction. Last week, the Ontario Municipal Board tipped the balance even further in a decision that upheld Toronto's tree bylaw against its first challenge. Old trees are a "valuable resource", the board ruled, and their existence is sufficient grounds to refuse a development application. Although the city enacted its tree bylaw on environmental grounds, the OMB goes further in making tree preservation an important planning issue.

extracted from an article by John Barber in THE GLOBE AND MAIL. 10 September 1996

## WILD GARDEN WOMAN'S 'RIGHT'

Sandy Bell has a constitutional right to express herself by keeping a wild garden in front of her Beaches home, a judge has ruled. The City of Toronto was ordered to reimburse Bell the \$50 fine she received for contravening a bylaw that prohibits "excessive growth of grass and weeds". Bell's landscaping expresses her disdain for conventional lawns and her expression is protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Bell hopes the city will change a bylaw that prohibits letting grass and weeds grown higher than 20 centimetres. Bell said she has 50 species of plants in the front yard of her home, including trilliums, wild geraniums and cauliflower, natural grasses, cedar, weeping birch, shrubs and perennials. To the uninitiated, Bell's front yard would appear to be an untended plot of tall grass and weedlike plants, the judge said, but none of them are noxious. Noting evidence that there are between 2,000 and 3,000 naturalized gardens in Toronto, he said that as people get exposed to them, "they no longer shock one's sensibilities. One does not necessarily develop an aesthetic immunity to overhead wires, garish signs and billboards and tacky buildings." Bell appealed her 1993 conviction with the backing of the Canadian Environment Defence Fund, which lined up expert witnesses for three days of court hearings a year ago. Her lawyers hope to negotiate a compromise bylaw that would allow wild gardens.

extracted from an article by Paul Moloney in THE TORONTO STAR. 13 September 1996

Unauthorized, a flower grows  
but it's uprooted -  
it doesn't fit the colour scheme.

Haiku by Giovanni Malito

## IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

## OLD BRIDLE PATH DECISION RELEASED

History and an acceptance of the ecological approach to planning are reasons the Ontario Municipal Board has prevented Ontario Hydro from subdividing its land on Old Bridle Path. The city, along with the North Rosedale and Moore Park Ratepayers associations countered with a proposal to change the zoning to "G" class (open space) to prevent new building. The OMB decided in favour of the city but allowed Ontario Hydro to keep and replace its transformers on the land. According to John Paton, Toronto's assistant city solicitor, the main reason for the board's decision is an acceptance of the ecosystem planning approach -- looking at the area as part of the larger ravine system rather than an individual section of property available for development. The decision refers to a study -- commissioned by the city as part of the development of a new official plan -- that recognized the property as an environmentally significant area.

extracted from an article by Angie Gallop in the LEASIDE ROSEDALE TOWN CRIER, Sept. 1996

## NATURAL VERGES INCREASE IN IMPORTANCE

A reduction in the use of herbicides is transforming British verges into wild flower "meadows". In the 1970s herbicides were widely used on all main roads and motorways. But thanks to the shift in economic and environmental pressures, verges are now being controlled by cutting. This takes place just once a year to prevent the establishment of trees and shrubs and permit visibility. As a result, annual flowers, herbaceous plants and bulbs flourish. To soften the impact of new road-building schemes, wild flower seed mixes are often used to augment the existing native flora, and the flowers soon become a permanent feature of the local landscape.

from THE GARDEN (Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society), Vol. 121, Part 8, Aug. 1996

## WEEDKILLER A TREEKILLER

A popular herbicide called Roundup, a glyphosate produced by Monsanto Corp., is killing Prairie shelter belts. One municipality in Manitoba has lost about 13 kilometres of trees because the powerful weed killer spread out from sprayed fields. Roundup dries up mature crops and speeds harvesting by as much as two weeks. While it is regarded as a safe herbicide because it breaks down quickly, it is also non-specific -- it can kill any vegetation it touches. The federal Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency is warning farmers and commercial aerial crop sprayers to follow strict guidelines that include not spraying from the air within 100 metres of a shelter belt.

from the GLOBE & MAIL, Sept. 14, 1996

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## THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

Toronto, November 1995

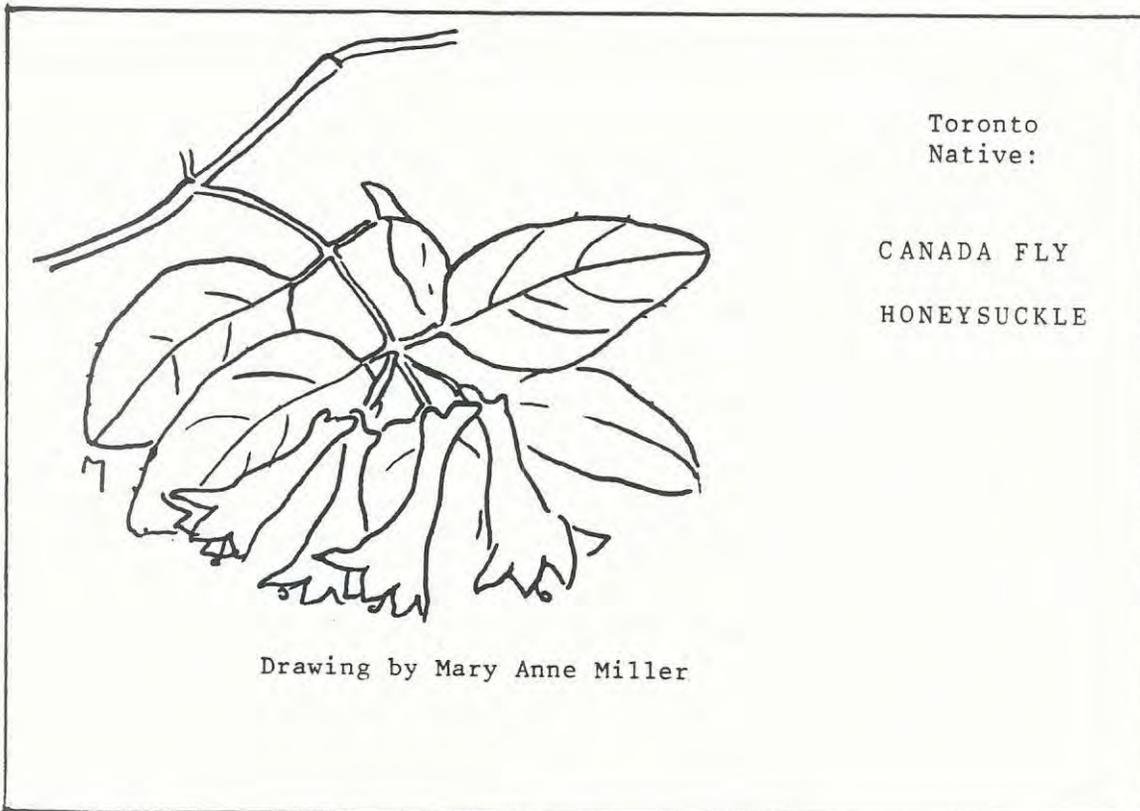
Autumn moved rapidly into winter this month, which was the coldest November since 1976. Temperatures were over two degrees below normal. We had the most snow in over 40 years.

After a brief warm surge on November 2nd, when it approached 20°C, it was consistently cold, with only two days reaching 10°C or more. There were no extreme cold snaps, although the average maximum temperature was very low: 4.8°C downtown being the lowest since 1933. A relentless passage of weather systems brought frequent rains, and then snows, to southern Ontario. The heaviest snow occurred on November 14th to 15th in Toronto, but there were other falls as well. The snowbelt area near Barrie was hit severely on a couple of occasions following cold fronts. We had snow cover for four days mid-month, which is unusual for Toronto in November.

November was ~~not sunny~~ (69.3 hours as opposed to the normal 81.1) and it was windy (21.6 km/h at Toronto Island as opposed to the normal average of 20.2 km/h).

Gavin Miller

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## COMING EVENTS

Mycological Society of Toronto meeting - Nov. 18 at 8 pm in the auditorium of the Civic Garden Centre (Leslie & Lawrence) - Dr. Martin Schnittler will give an illustrated talk on the Hidden Beauty of the Myxomycetes. For more information call HI-FUNGI.

Canadian Wildflower Society (East Toronto Chapter) meeting - Nov. 27 at 7:30 pm at the Beaches Recreation Centre, 6 Williamson Rd. - Bill Andrews will give an illustrated talk on the Flora and Fauna of the Great Smoky Mountains. For more details call Carolyn King at 222-5736.

Black Creek Project meeting - Nov. 6 at 6:30 pm at the City of York Municipal Offices, 2700 Eglinton Ave. West. For details about this meeting and other activities of the group, call Kristin Geater at 661-6600, ext. 364.

Long Point Bird Observatory's Fall Meeting - Nov. 3 in Port Dover. For more information contact the L.P.B.O. at P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0 or call 519-586-3531.

2nd Annual Ontario Bicycle Conference - Sat. Nov. 23 at Toronto City Hall. For more information and to register, contact the Ont. Cycling Assoc., 1185 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 408, North York, Ont. M3C 3C6 or call 426-7244.

Annual General Meeting of ELSA - Nov. 4 at 7:30 pm at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave. (1 block north of St. Clair Ave. West). Robert Bateman will be talking about Sharing Our World. Cost for members of ELSA is \$5; for non-members is \$10; membership in ELSA is \$15. For details, call 416-489-8862.

Save the Rouge Valley System walk in the Rouge Valley. Call 282-9983 for details.

Toronto Entomological Society meeting - Nov. 23 with Jeff Kevington giving an illustrated talk about the Insects of Lambton County. For details of time and location call Alan Hanks at 905-727-6993 or Paul McGaw at 261-6272.

Tour to Trinidad with the Long Point Bird Observatory - Feb. 8-15, 1997 with Ron Ridout leading. For details about cost, etc. contact Quest Nature Tours, c/o Worldwide Adventures, 36 Finch Ave. West, Toronto, Ont. M2N 2G9.

Third Annual Symposium and General Meeting of the Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Network - Nov. 23-24 at the Valhalla Inn. To register (\$60 for members; \$70 for non-members), call 1-800-263-6900.

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Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976	NO G.S.T.
Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1976	All publications may be ordered from Toronto Field Naturalists, 605-14 College St., Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2. (Add \$2.00 per item for postage and handling).
Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977	
Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1979	

### MEMBERSHIP FEES (No G.S.T.)

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