

246

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Visitors Welcome!

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NOVEMBER MEETING

Monday, November 3, 1969 at 8.15 p.m.
at the
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Speaker: Mr. R. F. Cake

Subject: WEATHER (including a short colour movie)

Mr. Cake, supervising meteorologist at the Toronto Weather Office, will discuss various aspects of weather, including interpretation of daily weather maps, such as appear in the newspapers. The subject of weather should be of special interest to naturalists because of its influence on the migration of birds and the growth of plants.

IN THE ROTUNDA: FON Christmas cards: \$2.50 per doz., plus tax.
Daily Reminders attractively illustrated with common North American Birds. Price: \$1.50 plus tax.
Hasti-notes, in a variety of attractive designs, \$1.00 pkg., plus tax.

AUDUBON FILMS Tuesday, Nov. 18, Wm. A. Anderson, "Our Unique Water Wilderness... The Everglades". Tell your friends!

NEXT MONTH: The December meeting will be held on Monday, December 1st.
Speaker: Dr. Donald Chant, who was unable to speak at the October meeting due to illness. Subject: "Pesticides in our Ecosystem."

EXECUTIVE RESIGNATION Mr. Gerry McKeating has resigned from the Executive due to pressure of business at the F.O.N. (where he is Administrative Director). He has served with distinction for five years on the T.F.N.C. Executive and has provided a useful bridge between our Club and the F.O.N. He remains a valued member of the Club.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT The Executive has appointed Miss Rosemary Gaymer to fill the above vacancy. This appointment will be ratified by a vote at the November meeting. Miss Gaymer is highly qualified for this appointment because of a previous term on the Executive in which she chaired the Publicity Committee.

A REMINDER THAT TFNC FEES FOR 1969-70 ARE NOW DUE ...

TO: Mrs. H. C. Robson, Secretary
Toronto Field Naturalists' Club
49 Craighurst Ave., Toronto 310, Ont.

DATE _____

I (We) wish to renew membership in the TFNC and enclose 1969-70 fee.

-----Single \$4.00 -----Family (adults \$6.00) ----- Life (\$100.00)

-----Corresponding (outside a 20-mile radius from the Museum) \$2.00

-----Full-time student (aged 16 or over) \$1.50 Donation \$ -----

Name _____

Address _____

NOVEMBER OUTINGS

- SUNDAY
November 2
9:15 and
10:00 a.m.
York County Forest - Birds Leader - Mr. Ed Franks
Meet at the crossroads in Ballantrae at 10:00 a.m. Ballantrae is a hamlet on Hwy 48 about 11 miles north of Markham. Those wishing and those willing to give rides, meet on Yonge Street at the Glen Echo Loop not later than 9:15 a.m. Bring lunch
- SATURDAY
November 8
10:00 a.m.
Bruce Trail - Birds, bees, butterflies, beavers and hiking, etc.
Leader - Miss Gloria Somerville
This is a combined outing of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club and the TFNC arranged by Miss Somerville. May we take this opportunity to express our thanks to Gloria for arranging this outing and also for her continued help in looking after the mailings to the outings leaders over the past several years. The outing will be held in the Hilton Falls area of the Bruce Trail. To reach the starting point, go west on Hwy 401 to Hwy 25. Turn north on Hwy 25 to the first paved road on the left. Turn west here and proceed to the corner of the 4th road on the left. A Bruce Trail parking area, designated as such by a sign, is on the right just west of the road. Meet here. Bring lunch to be carried.
- SUNDAY
November 16
9:30 a.m.
Lakeshore, east of Toronto - Birds Leader - Mr. Harry Kerr
Meet in the parking lot of the Golden Mile Plaza on the north side of Eglinton just east of Victoria Park. If possible, rides will be arranged for those members without cars. Detailed driving instructions will be given to the drivers at the meeting place. The outing will follow the lake-front east with stops at numerous points of interest, but will go no further east than Whitby Harbour. Bring lunch
Chairman - Mr. Walter Hutton, 782-5955
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- JUNIOR CLUB
Saturday
November 1
10:00 a.m.
This meeting will be in charge of the Bird Group. The program will include three Junior Members speaking on birds. Registrations still being accepted in Special Interest Groups only. Two interesting films will also be shown.
Chairman - Mr. Robert MacLellan, 488-9346
- ECOLOGY AND
CONSERVATION
GROUP
Tuesday
November 11
8:00 p.m.
Meet in Room 300 (third floor) College of Education, 371 Bloor St. West (at Spadina). Topic: 'The Pond Community' .. a further study of the life in the artificial pond that the group inspected last year. Bring copy of "A New Field Book of Fresh Water Life" (if you have one).
Chairman - Prof. W. A. Andrews, 425-4607
- FIELD
BIOLOGISTS'
GROUP
Thursday
November 13
8:00 p.m.
Meet at St. James-Bond United Church, 1066 Avenue Rd., just north of Eglinton.
Speaker: Mr. Michael Singleton, leader of the Fish, Reptiles and Amphibian Group of the Junior Club.
Chairman - Mr. Donald Burton, 223-3663
- BOTANY GROUP
Thursday
November 20
8:00 p.m.
Meet at Hodgson School, Davisville Ave., just east of Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Speaker: Mrs. Donald Gunn
Topic: FON Moosonee Trip, 1968. Interesting differences and similarities in plants of the north and south will be illustrated by slides.
Chairman - Miss Edith Cosens, 481-5013
- BIRD GROUP
Tuesday
November 25
8:15 p.m.
Meet at St. James-Bond United Church, 1066 Avenue Rd., just north of Eglinton.
Subject: 'Bird calendar for the Toronto area'.
Chairman - Mr. Clive Goodwin, 241-1572
- INTERMEDIATE
GROUP
The operation of the Intermediate Group is suspended until further notice.

Toronto Field Naturalists' Club.



NEWSLETTER

Number 246

October, 1969

A FRIEND OF MINE

by Pat Weese

What is it about the fall that draws me to the woods? It is as if Mother Earth had breathed a wonderlust into my lazied summer lungs. Fall is a special time. Its sun is a special sun; sending across the landscape not the glaring summer heat, but the warmth of a fire's dying embers. The forests glow in golds and reds before their colors are spun into winter white.

Autumn shares with spring a time of birth. The carpet of browning leaves and rusting pine needles cradles the buttoning mushrooms; and from behind the blanket of the season's grasses peek the nodding heads of asters and goldenrod. Young birds abound--full of their new-found life in a forest of acorns and red berries. The scream of a jay, then a streak of blue; the rustle in a mountain ash, then a sleek, crowned body. The bird knows my wonderlust. It takes him over the sunrise and through the sunset to the lands in the south.

But the best part of fall is its peacefulness. It is an old man who has mellowed in his years. His eyes have the sparkle of youth, but his spirit is content to rest; for all his eyes might see recalls a tale that brings him happiness in the memory. To hear these tales, to understand his life and his nature is a lesson to every listener. And that is what fall has - a million discoveries to unfold to those who will befriend her.

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Through the medium of the Club Newsletter, may we extend our thanks and appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Maurice S. Flint for their invitation to the Club members to hold an outing last September 6th at their home and property on 12 Mile Creek. For many years Mrs. Flint's father, the late George Chew Atkins invited local naturalists clubs to hold meetings on this ravine property. Before his death, Mr. Atkins endeavored to maintain the property in as nearly its natural state as possible and thus provide a bird, wildlife and plant sanctuary. Since his death, this tradition has been carried on by Dr. and Mrs. Flint. The result is that in spite of ever-mounting pressures, the area holds several unique botanical specimens and an abundance of bird, animal and plant life seldom, if ever, found in close proximity to a large built-up area. An invitation has already been extended to the Club members to hold a spring outing in the area which we personally are looking forward to with a distinct degree of anticipated pleasure.

Walter Hutton

COMING EVENTS

FILMS ON SCIENCE

International Festival 1969

Toronto Music Library Concert Room, 559 Avenue Road at St. Clair.
Tuesdays at 6:45 and 9:15 p.m. Tickets \$1.00, available at door.

- Oct. 28 - Experimental Man
- An approach to the prediction of an earthquake (Japan)
- Closeup of Mars (U.S.A.)
- The search for the Tunguska Meteorite (USSR)
- The perfection of matter (G.B.)
- Above the horizon (Canada) - about weather
- Nov. 4 - Animals and Man
- The land Dayaks of Borneo (Australia)
- Mountain gorilla (U.S.A.)
- Rhesus monkey in India (U.S.A.)
- My friend Max (Roumania) - chimpanzee
- Human disorientation (U.S.A.)
- Nov. 11 - Science and Society
- Aweta (Germany) - chemical research
- The magic tape (Germany) - magnetic tape
- Interludium Electronicum (Neth.)
- V. Glubinah Zhivogo (USSR) - molecular biology
- Nov. 18 - The Searching Man
- Iron of Greater Moravia (Czech)
- Matter in question (France) - high energy nuclear research
- Mysteries of the past (USSR) - anthropology
- What isn't written isn't real (Czech) - archaeology
- The Commodore Islands (USSR) - sea lions
- Nov. 25 - Pulse of Life
- In the Institute of Filatov (USSR) - eye surgery
- Catheterization of the heart (Czech)
- Portrait of a surgeon (USSR) - brain tumor surgery
- Spatiocardiography (Czech)
- The world of life (USSR) - organ transplants

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY - Branch Exhibits

- Birds...Oil and acrylic paintings by J. H. Gillespie...through October at Runnymede Branch, 2178 Bloor St. West
- Animals in Art...Oct. 6 - 27 at Parkdale Branch, 1303 Queen St. W.

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM - Free Sunday films at 2 p.m.

- November 2 - Opening speech - McLaren
- Juggernaut (a new view of Old India)
- Apollo 10: green light for a lunar landing
- November 16 - From the remote past of Greece (archaeological excavations)
- And sow tomorrow (new teaching in Toronto)
- The Open World (Moscow's theatre for the deaf and dumb)
- November 30 - Clay
- Dr. Leakey and the Dawn of Man

THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE - Saturday evening lectures, Convocation Hall, University of Toronto, at 8:15 p.m. Free. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

- November 8 - Tailor-made plants, animals and man: L. Butler
- Genetic engineering of the future (with slides & living material)
- November 15 - Prince Edward Island's attitude to Maritime and Federal Union, 1863-1873: ... F. W. P. Bolger.
- November 22 - The giant squid - legendary and living: F. Aldrich (slides)
- November 29 - Pesticides - harvest of death: D. A. Chant (slides)

CBC - TV - Audubon Wildlife Theatre, Sundays at 5 p.m., ... repeat.

CBC - FM RADIO (94.1 mc) - Ideas - Cities

- Every weekday 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. includes:
- October 28 - Wildlife and fresh air in the big city.

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

- To Nov. 9 - Animal Behaviour - Photos and live specimens; Third Floor, Rotunda
- Oct. 29 - 2 p.m. Wednesday Tour: Geology
- To Nov. 30 - The World of the Moon at Planetarium Star Theatre
- From Nov. 17 - Post Office sheets of Canadian Floral Stamps; Lower Rotunda

CONSERVATION AREAS

- October 26 - 1 - 5 p.m. Clairville Dam - Open House
- November 2 - 10:30 a.m. Glen Haffy - Five mile hike
- November 16 - 1 - 5 p.m. Clairville Dam - Open House

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AN INTRODUCTION TO SNAKES

by W.R. Beresford-Porter

Despite much having been done within the last few years to eradicate the old wives' tales about snakes, it still appears that by far the great majority of people still fail to understand, if not actually admire snakes. Desmond Morris appears to think that the fear of snakes is inborn in us, apparently basing his argument on the fact that about one fifth of all adult people think of snakes as dirty and slimy, and twenty-five percent of all children also think this way. This is a very good example of twisting of figures to look impressive, but stop and think - what about the other four-fifths or seventy-five percent, as the case maybe? Apart from amateur and professional herpetologists this four-fifths will comprise those persons who, while not having the completely unreasonable fear of snakes that inspires the statement "all snakes are poisonous" (when actually out of some twenty-three hundred known species about three hundred are poisonous), still believe in the milk snake stealing milk from cows and that a snake's tongue is a "stinger"!

I strongly suspect that the main reason why people are not too keen on snakes is that most people are anthropomorphic to a very marked degree. The person who admires that pretty little canary would do well to remember Sir Julian Huxley's statement that "a bird is nothing more than a glorified reptile". And this from an ornithologist! As a matter of fact, snakes are dry and very pleasant to hold, normally being about one degree below the air temperature. They also make a very much better pet than a bird, being not only deaf (although very sensitive to vibrations), but very quiet. There were times that I swore that I would treat the family budgie the same way as the Australian aborigines do, i.e., eat it!

Snakes usually prefer live food and while I have seen mice, rats and other creatures put through much worse in a laboratory, the killing of their prey by snakes is not a sight for the squeamish, although I wonder how many people have visited a slaughter house? Never mind, the steak still tastes good.

Snakes have little or no odour as a general rule, although there are some exceptions and many of our native snakes will use their scent glands if handled.

In the wild, snakes are some of man's best friends. The amount of rodents and other pests controlled in farms and gardens is extraordinary and a fact often not appreciated is that the snake can often remove the whole of a rodent and family by penetrating into their burrows...a thing no cat can do.

Out of fifteen species of snakes in Ontario only one is poisonous and that is the *Massasauga Rattlesnake*, *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*. There are no copperheads or water moccasins in Canada and there never have been, notwithstanding the many tales that are heard ad infinitum. If in doubt as to whether a snake is poisonous or not, in Ontario only, then look at the tip of the tail. If it is pointed it is safe, but if rounded then leave it alone. Do not try and kill it unless it's in any obviously untenable place, as for instance in a cottage or tent and even then it may be better to ease it out of the way if this can be done safely. Nobody pretends poisonous snakes are good company but since they also kill rodents, and a great many of them, they are none-the-less useful.

If after all this you are bitten, and make no mistake it will be your fault, not the snake's, then keep quiet and try and relax and get to a doctor or hospital as fast as possible. Bites are very rarely fatal but the sooner they are treated the quicker the recovery. Do not try and treat the bite yourself unless your life insurance is paid up.

Always remember that if you do not like snakes, then you can at least tolerate them and stay out of their way. This is all they want and will do exactly the same for you.

Ed. Note: While waiting for the antivenin to take effect, you might relax by reading Venomous Reptiles (Minton & Minton) - a quite fascinating look at the poisonous snakes of the world. There you will read that:

- about 1,000,000 bites are inflicted yearly by poisonous snakes
- some 30,000 people die of snake bites yearly
- snake venom costs from \$40. per gram (timber rattlesnake) to \$5,000. per gram (see krait) and might kill you as effectively as the snake bite.

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WELCOME to the following new members (Feb. 1 - Sept. 30)

Mrs. Eric Adrian, 16 Tyre Ave., Islington 678
Mrs. Helen Allen, 95 Riverview Dr., Toronto 319
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. G. Andrew, 249 Cassandra Blvd., Apt. 507, Don Mills 400
Miss Margaret F. Armstrong, 2 Janet Blvd., Scarborough 731
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Arnett, 397A Danforth Ave., Toronto 279
Mrs. J. Bayens, 17 Alhart Dr., Rexdale 613
Mr. & Mrs. George Blair, 118 Sorauen Ave., Toronto 156
Miss Nancy Blakey, 174 Oakwood Ave., Toronto 10
Miss Diana Blodale, 310 Tweedsmuir Ave., Apt. 202, Toronto 349
Miss Royalla Bohlender, 5949 Yonge St., Apt. 1106, Willowdale 442
Mrs. Jean Bohne, 14 Tranky Ave., Toronto 180
Prof. B. Boivin, Dept. of Botany, University of Toronto

Miss Lorna Carr, 104 Goodwood Park Court, Apt. 500, Toronto 13
 Mr. A. W. Chapman, Box 40, Sutton West, Ont.
 Miss Irene Clark, 9 South Drive, Toronto 289
 Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Cook, 23 Lascelles Blvd., Apt. 1406, Toronto 195
 Miss Anna Durie, 63 Maxwell Ave., Apt. 10, Toronto 197
 Mr. Owen E. Fisher, 43 White Abbey Park, Scarborough 734
 Mr. & Mrs. John Gallagher and Mr. Robert N. Gallagher, 43 Laverne Ave., Downsview 474
 Mrs. F. E. Gillan, 17 Kenton Dr., Willowdale 450
 Sr. Lola Giroir, Mm C.N.D., 750 Kingston Rd., Toronto 260
 Mr. & Mrs. B. H. Gosnell, 22 Valloncliffe Rd., Thornhill, Ont.
 Miss Marjorie Graham, 170 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto 7
 Mr. Paul Hadskis, 135 Tyndall Ave., Apt. 820, Toronto 3
 Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Hall, 29 Edgewood Ave., Toronto 258
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Hansen, R. R. #2, Norval, Ont.
 Mr. Brigg A. Harvey, 128 Wanless Ave., Toronto 319
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hawrylez, 311 Palmerston Blvd., Toronto 174
 Miss D. S. Heath, 12 Margate Cres., Scarborough 713
 Miss Marion Heath, 800 Vaughan Rd., Apt. 11D, Toronto 10
 Mrs. B. Hodgins, 240 Evelyn Ave., Toronto 9
 Mrs. Barbara R. Jarvis, 62 Thorncrest Rd., Islington 676
 Mr. Scott L. Jones, 282 Chartwell Rd., Oakville, Ont.
 Miss Valerie W. Kearton, 145 St. George St., Apt. 1003, Toronto 180
 Miss Wendy Laird, 76 Albany Ave., Toronto 179
 Mrs. G. E. Langford, Clarkewood Residence, Box 66, Station R., Toronto 17
 Mr. & Mrs. I. L. Macdonald, 500 Dawes Rd., Apt. 717, Toronto 374
 Mr. James D. Macintosh, 523 Woburn Ave., Toronto 382
 Misses Isabel, Anna, & Margaret Mackay, 127 Walmer Rd., Toronto 179
 Miss Charlotte M. Mackenzie, 257 The Westway, Weston, Ont.
 Miss Beatrice A. Maclean, 285 Shuter St., Apt. 910, Toronto 227
 Mr. John Main, 9 Briardale Blvd., Scarborough
 Miss Vanetta Martin, 487 Duplex Ave., Apt. 28, Toronto 12
 Mr. George Matsynama, 544 Huron St., Toronto 180
 Miss Helen McBride, 220 Prospect Ave., Newmarket, Ont.
 Mr. & Mrs. D. B. McColl, 189 Hudson Dr., Toronto 290
 Mr. Harvey Medland, 24 Oshawa Blvd. N., Oshawa, Ont.
 Miss Barbara Mott-Trille, 133 Farnham Ave., Toronto 190
 Miss Linda G. Neil, 218 Glendonwynne Ave., Toronto 9
 Miss Florence C. Pfohl, 16A Florence Ave., Willowdale
 Miss Lorraine Poole, 268 Poplar Plains Rd., Apt. 601, Toronto 190
 Mrs. M. Reid, 110 Wilson Ave., Toronto 12
 Mrs. Evelyn Ricker, 283 South Kingsway, Toronto 3.
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter G. Ross, 28 Elgin Ave., Toronto 5
 Mr. Ian Seddon, 131 Driscoll Rd., Richmond Hill, Ont.
 Mrs. H. W. Shanks, 29 Greengate Rd., Don Mills 406
 Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Silvester, 71 Willingdon Blvd., Toronto 590
 Mrs. Isabel Smaller, 55 Norden Cres., Don MillsM
 Mr. Terry Sprague, R.R. #1, Demorestville, Ont.
 Mr. Darryl Stewart, 20 Carluke Cres., Apt. 1106, Willowdale 431
 Mrs. K. J. Smith, 22 Ballantyne Court, Islington 676
 Mr. R. E. Smith, 126 Bellamy Rd. N., Apt. 805, Scarborough 701
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Stapleton, 15 Annesley Ave., Toronto 350
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Sutherland, 68 Hudson Drive, Toronto 290
 Mr. R. C. Thorpe, 2953 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto 374
 Mr. L. G. Tibbles, 19 Forest Heights Blvd., Willowdale
 Mrs. D. L. Tough, 205 Sandringham Dr., Downsview 473
 Miss Frances Trees, 263 Russell Hill Rd., Apt. 204, Toronto 190

Miss Susan van Ryn, 27 Hillsvlew Ave., Toronto 9
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Vlcek, 15 Talwood Dr., Don Mills
Mr. Keith Wade, 209 Trelawn Ave., Oakville, Ont.
Miss Maureen Whelan, 380 Rusholme Rd., Toronto 173
Mr. T. H. Wickett, 117 Bedford Rd., Toronto 180
Mr. Douglas Willcock, 174 Alexandra Blvd., Toronto 12
Mr. George W. Wilson, 39 Bowood Ave., Toronto 319
Dr. J. W. Wilson, 4615 Tecumseh Rd. E., Windsor, Ont.
Miss Madeline A. Wilson, 1 Homewood Ave., Apt. 204, Toronto 284
Mr. W. W. Wilson, 69 Kilkenny Dr., Agincourt, Ont.

(Ed. Note: Mrs. Robson tells me the Club membership is now over 900 people. Whew!)

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IN PRAISE OF RONDEAU

By E. and E. and E.

The Regional Field Gathering at Rondeau Park of the Kent Nature Club on Sept. 6-7, has set a precedent for hospitality that will be hard to beat. After the Saturday morning hike, with the weather co-operating perfectly, we arrived back to the museum picnic area hungry, thirsty and exhausted - but very high (because of the new plants found, and the thrilling sight of thousands of gulls and terns gathering for migration - the moving panorama, as they rose and settled down again was a memorable sight.) We had our picnic lunch, and were grateful for the coffee served by the Kent Nature Club members.

When we arrived back from the afternoon hike we were again surprised and refreshed by members serving tea, coffee and lemonade. For Saturday supper, plans were made for a box lunch - chicken and salads at a very nominal fee. The members completed the menu by serving assorted pies and coffee. The members had baked the pies which were delicious! For the moment, even thoughts of *Triphora trianthophora* (*Nodding Pogonia*) were forgotten, as we enjoyed the delicious pies, apple, raisin & pumpkin.

The social evening on Saturday consisted of slides, with the inimitable Mr. Ussher officiating. This was followed by tea and coffee and the most delicious assortment of homemade cookies, served by some attractive Junior Naturalists. Our cup runneth over with gratitude to the warmth and kindness of the Kent Nature Club.

Hiking along the Marsh Road we were struck by the great masses of Gray or Panicled Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) bordering the road and forest, and by the wild grape which, with the Groundnut (*Aplos americana*) and Hog Peanut (*Amphicarpa bracteata*) seemed to be smothering everything, oaks included. At the herb level the most interesting flowers were the Hairy Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum pilosum*) and the Swamp Lousewort (*Pedicularis lanceolata*) a much taller plant than its close relative, the Wood Betony. Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*) also grew plentifully along the road, its attractive white bracts looking just like flowers. Quite scarce by comparison were the yellow-rayed Tickseed Sunflowers (*Bidens coronata*) with their finely dissected leaves. Along one of the canals at right-angles to the road we came across several rosy-red patches of Slender Gerardias (*Gerardia tenuifolia*). There were many other flowers as well, but those mentioned were either new to us or not seen quite as often, and colourful besides.

The wooded area of Rondeau Park consists of about four thousand acres of virgin hardwood forest. Running the length of the lakeshore is a strip of pine - oak type of forest in which the predominant species are white pine, red oaks and white ash. It was in this area that Mr. Ussher showed us the Autumn Coralroot (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*),

so small it could be easily overlooked as its flowers are brown, with only a tiny white lip to attract one's attention. A bit further into the forest we found a small patch of Nodding Pogonias, with their pale pink blossoms truly nodding. Both these orchids are rare in Ontario and probably reach their northern limit here.

Progressing into the Tolerant Hardwood Forest (tolerant of shade while the plant is young) we were shown trees typical of the Carolinian Life Zone, which enters Canada in this corner of Ontario. Many huge tulip-trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) are in the forest, reaching a height of nearly ninety feet, their trunks bare of branches for three-quarters of their height. Also found here are the Sassafras trees (*S. albidum*), which are familiar to those of us who walk in High Park; and as understory trees the Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and Blue Beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*) were abundant. A shrub which was new to us was the Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*), some bushes laden with shiny red berries, others with none, for they are dioecious. Other trees which are not familiar to Torontonians were the Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) - the native species, which is related to the London Plane now planted on our city streets; and Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*); and the Chestnut Oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*), names for the resemblance of its leaves to the North American Chestnut, now nearly extinct.

There are only two evergreen species in the park - White Pine (*P. strobus*) and the Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) which is much darker and fine-leaved than the White Cedar familiar to us.

The flowers of the forest were mostly over, except for the late-blooming composites - several species of goldenrods, sunflowers and asters - *Aster sagitifolius* being new to us. Fruits of many plants were found, the bright red berries of Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) attracted our attention, as did the upright pods of Poke Milkweed (*Asclepias exaltata*), and a few late berries on the Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*).

Trails into the forest are marked on the map, and an evening walk on the Rondeau Trail in the hardwood area showed us (despite the mosquitoes) all the plants typical of this area; the Black Oak Trail took us among those trees (*Quercus velutina*) and many beeches, maples and walnuts - but the trail stopped at a fallen log and three ladies were very much lost for a while, until a patch of *Desmodium perplexum* was found - it didn't perplex them! They had seen it before and knew their way out.

The tall grasses which attracted attention as they were just coming into anthesis were the Turkey Foot (*Andropogon gerardi*) and Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) both standing high in the museum area; and on the shore Beardgrass (*Andropogon scoparius*) and Cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*) were abundant, where also a long piece of Phragmites (*P. communis*) was demonstrating how it binds the sand together. A little patch of Porcupine Grass (*Stipa spartea*) looked most curious among the asters and goldenrods which were just opening up to brighten the Museum area.

In all, Rondeau Provincial Park has a great deal to offer the visitor. We did not try the more sport-minded attractions, but were more than delighted with its natural history.

Mrs. Esther Carin, Miss Erna Lewis,
Miss Emily Hamilton

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SAW-WHET OWL RECORDS ARE VALUABLE

Paul M. Catling and John G. Woods, University students of Biology, are presently studying Saw-whet and Boreal (Richardson's) Owls in Southern Ontario. They are particularly interested in the distribution and movement of wintering individuals, and would appreciate being notified of any winter occurrence of this species you may have discovered: WRITE .. Paul M. Catling, 2368 Queen St. East, Apt. 13, Toronto 260, Ont.

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FISH FARMING COMBATS POLLUTION

Fish farming, a growing source of protein foods, is helping to provide an answer to the growing menace of water pollution.

Polish scientists are experimenting with ways of converting non-toxic industrial wastes, rich in organic compounds, into fertilizer for enriching ponds used in fish culture.

At the Laboratory of Water Biology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow, sugar industry wastes have been successfully used to fertilize carp ponds. Fish production in test ponds in Golysz increased five times by using such wastes.

Almost similar results were obtained at the Research Institute of Fisheries and Hydrobiology in Vodnany, where effluents from starch factories and waste water from poultries were used. Both substances, particularly poultry waste water, produced life-sustaining plankton in ponds, with encouraging increases in fish production. There were no residual effects.

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THE WAY IT REALLY IS

I have been watching nature at first-hand from a secluded spot in our beautiful north country. From our front window at a distance of about two feet, or ringside, the hummingbirds come to the feeders and at our rear window at a distance of about six feet there is a tunnel in the bank in which live a family of kingfishers. Because we are able to observe them in May and June, a period of great activity, we are in a very good position to follow their activities very well. And it occurred to me that the story has been told many times but I have never read it the way it really is. It generally comes out as a very cute story full of sweetness and all that stuff, but here is the way it really happens.

First the hummingbird. The male comes first, hangs around, constantly looking and watching until the females arrive from the south. When they arrive, the one that first started using the feeders drives the other males away, ones he has been getting along with very well until that time. The females are very coy and take a couple of weeks or so to decide which male suits their fancy. They give the male a signal of some sort which I have not figured out yet, but without which he will not follow her. He then puts on a marvellous courtship display for her which has to be seen to be believed. But they still do not mate. When she is ready, which may take a couple of weeks as I mentioned, they mate. He goes back to being buddies with the boys and generally enjoying life while she goes to keeping house or whatever it is that women do all day, meanwhile monopolizing the feeders to keep her strength up for all that family raising and all the rest of that drudgery.

The kingfisher on the other hand ... now there is a story for you! This year a new one. I guess our old pair did not survive the winter. Now a proud young bachelor has arrived. A bold, imperious, noble and beautiful bird. Began to dig his tunnel home before he even had found his bride. Brought several to inspect his premises. One accepted. Set up house. Wife sitting. He very content ... brings a fish now and then. Eggs hatch. Damn young grow and grow and grow. Hungry ... hungry ... hungry. Hurry ... hurry ... hurry. Work ... work ... work. Bring food ... food ... food. Voice changes to a raucous squawk. Squawk and work from sunrise to sunset. Nervous wreck. Work and squawk, nervous wreck. Damn young as big as he is ... won't leave the tunnel. He squawks and pleads and threatens and they won't leave the nest. Just stay and eat and eat. Boy! how they eat. Oh whatever happened to that gay proud bachelor of just a few weeks ago! And that dum-dum will do it all over again next spring. Whatever the moral (morals) of these two stories of life as it really is, I leave you to draw your own conclusion.

Jack Siegel

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BIRDING BY 'PHONE

by Eva Parsons

The sun was shining gloriously, the skies were blue, and robins were singing in every direction, while I, grounded for several weeks after surgery, was suffering tremendously - suffering, that is, from an intense longing to get out birding and to search for Spring flowers. Of all times to be laid up, just when the Spring migration was getting under way!

Then along came Mr. Bell to the rescue, with a brand new telephone book. Aha, then! my legs have given out on me, so I'll "let my fingers do the walking" in the 'phone book. It proved to be more productive than I had anticipated, and here, in more or less check-list order, is my counter: Loon 1, Petrel 1, Pelikan 1; Heron 61; Swan 101; Brant 18, Goose 1 and Gander 8; Wildgoose 4, Mallard 2; Redhead 6; unidentified Duck 28 and Drake 69; Teal 12; Kite 8; Hawk 39; Eagle 11, Partridge 69, Quail 13; Crane 65; Rail 1, Sora 6; Cootie 17; Woodcock 57; Snipe 1, Curlew 6; Willet 2; Ruff 9; Jaeger 22, Gull 1; Pigeon 11; Dove 34; Swift 63; Flicker 2; Swallow 6; Martin 255 (quite an influx!); Jay 38, Raven 19; Crow 8; Creeper 2; Chough 1 (a European visitant, this: rhymes with "tough"); Wren 34; Thrasher 15; Robin 9; Thrush 7; Starling 13; Sparrow 3; Cardinal 12; Bunting 38; Finch 57; Goldfinch 2; Junco 1 (surprisingly); Merlin 2; Lark 5; and the following European species: Nightingale 44, Stork 23; Rook 6; Bustard 6; Canary 2; Roller 2. There were also 95 Peacocks, 31 Parrots; and in addition 68 unidentified Birds, 1 Cock, 1 Hen and 7 Chicks; also (believe it or not!) a Bob White.

So I felt I had had a pretty good day's birding, despite the enforced "shut-in," and can hardly wait to get out and add further species to my Spring list!

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MORNINGSIDE PARK HIKE

I think this interesting hike should be reported. Under excellent guidance of Gordon Lambert and A. Bunker (not mentioning young lady who took us to nest) 43 species reported, including Piliated Woodpecker seen a number of times, and empty Great Horned Owl's nest with parents flying overhead, with one nearly full-grown young on ground which, on being photographed, with outspread wings defied us with threatening calls.

R. Knights

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Elmer Talvila, Editor