



# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Number 261

October 1971

Visitors welcome!

## OCTOBER MEETING

Visitors welcome!

Monday, October 4, 1971, at 8:15 p.m.  
at the  
ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION  
252 Bloor Street West

The OTSE Building is midway between the two exits (St. George and Bedford) of the St. George subway station. Entrance is on the west side of the building, via a covered walk from Bloor Street. Entrance to parking is from Prince Arthur Avenue (the first street north of Bloor). There is no charge in the small lot west of the OTSE Building; entrance to the underground parking garage is on the east side of the building and a charge of 50¢ is made if an attendant is on duty.

SPEAKER: Dr. Donald Gunn

SUBJECT: Sable Island - illustrated with coloured slides and tape recordings.

This remote, seldom visited island about 150 miles east of Halifax is the only breeding area for the rare Ipswich Sparrow. Dr. and Mrs. Gunn visited the Island in June 1967 when the search for oil was commencing there. The recent activity and interest in the oil potential of Sable Island and the possible ecological consequences make this an important topic for naturalists.

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CLUB FEES ARE NOW DUE. These may be paid at the October meeting, or you may fill out and mail the coupon below.

To: Mrs. H. C. Robson, Secretary,  
Toronto Field Naturalists' Club,  
49 Craighurst Ave., Toronto 12, Ont.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) wish to renew TFNC membership and enclose cheque or money order.

- ( ) Single \$4.00                      ( ) Family (Adults) \$6.00                      ( ) Life \$100.00  
( ) Corresponding (living more than 20 miles from the Royal Ontario Museum) \$2.00  
( ) Full-time student (aged 16 or over) \$1.50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rain or shine!

October Outings

Visitors welcome!

Saturday WILKET CREEK PARK - BIRDS Leader: Mr. Fred Bodsworth  
 October 2  
 8:30 a.m. The entrance to Wilket Creek Park is on the west side of Leslie Street just north of Eglinton Avenue East. Meet at the inner parking lot, near the entrance to Serena Gundy Park. Morning only.

Saturday VIVIAN FOREST - BIRDS Leader: Mr. Ed. Franks  
 October 9  
 10:00 a.m. Follow Hwy. 48 north of Markham for 11 miles to Ballantrae. Meet at the stoplights where the Aurora Road joins Hwy. 48. Bring lunch.

Sunday CLAREMONT CONSERVATION AREA - BOTANY Leader: Miss Sheila McKay  
 October 10  
 10:00 a.m. Take the Brock Road north from Hwy. 2 to Brougham. Turn right at the stoplights and go east on Hwy. 7 about 2 miles to the first road north past Swiss Chalet Park. Go north about 1 mile to the first concession road and turn left to reach the entrance. Meet in the parking lot at the nature trail entrance. Admission \$1.00. Morning only but lunch recommended.

Saturday HEART LAKE CONSERVATION AREA - BOTANY Leader: Mr. Charles Chaffey  
 October 16  
 9:15 a.m. All interested members, with and without cars, meet behind the Glen Echo Loop on Doncliffe Drive. Glen Echo Loop is at the city limits on Yonge Street. (Note: If coming south on Yonge Street, a left turn onto Glen Echo Road is not permitted on Saturdays.) Driving instructions will be given here. Morning only but lunch recommended.

Sunday TORONTO ISLAND - BIRDS Leaders: Mrs. Barbara Wilkins  
 October 17 Mr. Douglas Wilkins  
 9:00 a.m. Meet inside the Island Ferry Terminal. We will be taking the first ferry. Bring lunch to be carried all morning.

Saturday BELT LINE RAVINE - BIRDS Leader: Mr. George Fairfield  
 October 23  
 9:00 a.m. From Moore Avenue and Mt. Pleasant Road go east on Moore about 1/4 mile to the ravine entrance just east of Welland Avenue. Meet here. Morning only.

Sunday WILKET CREEK PARK - TREES Leader: Mr. Gary Huntley  
 October 24  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at the first parking lot at the entrance on Leslie Street just north of Eglinton Avenue East. Morning only.

Saturday CHALK LAKE - HIKING Leaders: Mr. Leo Smith  
 October 30 Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Brubacher  
 A bus will be chartered for this outing. Fare \$2.00. Passengers may board at the following points:

North side of Bloor, east of Yonge (near the subway entrance)	8:00 a.m.
N.E. corner of Yonge & St. Clair	8:05 "
" " " " " Eglinton	8:10 "
" " " " " Lawrence	8:15 "
Glen Echo Loop (city limits)	8:20 "

The bus will arrive back in Toronto by 6:00 p.m. No driving instructions are being issued for this outing. If you wish a bus reservation phone the Outings Chairman (261-6807) Oct. 20 - 27 after 6:30 p.m.

The route runs mainly across private property; part of it goes through the Ontario County Forest. Expect to walk about 5 miles. Comfortable footwear is very important. Bring lunch to be carried.

Sunday  
October 30  
8:00 a.m.  
&  
10:15 a.m.

PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK - BIRDS Leader: Mr. Jack Gingrich

A bus will be chartered for this outing. Fare \$5.00. Passengers may board at the same times and places as listed above for the Chalk Lake outing.

(Standard Time) Note: The subway does not start operating until about 9:00 a.m. Phone the TTC (487-2424) for information about surface buses.

The bus will arrive back in Toronto by 6:00 p.m. Members wishing to travel by bus may reserve seats by phoning Mary or Jack Gingrich (489-9953) Oct. 22 - 29.

For members travelling by car, the outing will begin at Presqu'ile about 10:15 a.m. Go east on Hwy. 401 to Interchange 86, south to Brighton, a short distance west on Hwy. 2, and south at a sign pointing to the Park. Meet just inside the entrance.

Bring lunch.

M.T.R.C.A. HIKES - The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has scheduled the following hikes:

- Sunday, October 3, 2:00 p.m. - Autumn Colour Tour, Glen Haffy Conservation Area.  
Sunday, October 10, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Automobile Colour Tour from Boyd Con. to Greenwood C.A.  
Sunday, October 24, 2:00 p.m. - Lake Ontario Waterfront Hike - Meet at Scarborough Bluffs Park.  
Sunday, October 31, 10:40 a.m. - Five-mile hike from Glen Haffy C.S. around the Dingle.

If you wish further information regarding M.T.R.C.A. hikes phone the Authority office in Downsview (630-9780).

Please note:

1. TFN outings will begin on time.
2. Wear comfortable clothing, especially shoes.
3. No lunch is required unless indicated, but members may wish to bring a lunch to avoid rushing home after an outing.
4. For information regarding TTC routes, phone 487-2424.

Outings Chairman - Mr. Stu Corbett (261-6807)

JUNIOR CLUB  
Saturday  
October 2  
10:00 a.m.

The Toronto Junior Field Naturalists' Club will hold its opening meeting for the 1971-72 season in the Museum theatre. Children between the ages of 8 and 16 are invited to enrol at this meeting.

Further information may be obtained from the Director, Mr. Mike Singleton, (447-4197)

FIELD BIOLOGISTS' GROUP  
Thursday  
October 14  
8:15 p.m.

Meet at St. James-Bond United Church, on Avenue Rd. just north of Eglinton. On-street parking may be difficult, but there are several private parking lots nearby on Eglinton Ave.

Chairman: Mr. Don Burton (222-6467)

CONSERVATION & ECOLOGY GROUP  
Wednesday  
October 20  
8:00 p.m.

Meet in Room 378 of The College of Education, 371 Bloor St. W., at Spadina. Speaker: Prof. Wm. Andrews. Topic: "Great Smoky Mountains National Park" - A talk on the ecology of this area illustrated with coloured slides. New members welcome.

Chairman: Prof. Wm. Andrews (425-4607)

BOTANY GROUP  
Thursday  
October 21  
8:00 p.m.

Meet in the library of Hodgson School, Davisville Ave. just east of Mt. Pleasant (parking entrance from Millwood Rd., the first street north). Topic: "Seeds, Seeds, Seeds" - A discussion of seeds, fruits, and seed dispersal, with specimens and coloured slides, presented by Miss Emily Hamilton, Miss Erna Lewis, and Mrs. Phyllis Treloar.

Chairman: Miss Florence Preston (483-9530)

BIRD GROUP  
Tuesday  
October 26  
8:15 p.m.

Meet at St. James-Bond United Church, on Avenue Rd. just north of Eglinton. On-street parking may be difficult, but there are several private parking lots nearby on Eglinton Ave.

Chairman: Mr. Red Mason (621-3905)

#### A R E M I N D E R

Many Club members have apparently overlooked returning the questionnaire which was included in the May Newsletter. In order to plan and carry out Club activities with maximum effectiveness we need your guidance. Please send them in!

FON CHRISTMAS CARDS

FON Christmas cards for 1971 show a pair of chickadees painted in full colour by Mr. Robert Bateman. Available at the October meeting at \$2.50 per dozen. Each box sold profits our Club 25¢.

CLUB ENSIGNIA

Available at the October meeting, or by mail from the Secretary:

- Arm badge, 4" diameter, showing the Club name and symbol, in five colours, \$1.25
- Car decal (a) 4" for outside application, or (b) 3" for inside application, each 50¢

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members, enrolled between April 7 and August 31:

Mr. & Mrs. B. W. Bailey, Miss Eva E. Baldry, Mr. & Mrs. E. Birmann, Miss Alexandra Brody, Miss Olwen Brook, Miss Sheila Burvill, Mrs. Isabel Cargill, Mr. Ken Carmichael, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Carter, Miss M. Cartier, Mr. Bev. Cattle, Mrs. E. and Mr. R. Charak, Mrs. Winnifred F. Clark, Mr. & Mrs. John Dashwood, Mr. D. F. Dinshaw, Miss Virginia Donnelly, Miss Shirley M. Duff, Mr. William J. Duff, Mr. & Mrs. G. S. Dunn, Miss Linda R. Farmer, Mr. Owen F. Fisher, Miss Marjorie Fox, Mr. & Mrs. W. Fysh and family, Dr. A. Fyvie, Miss Margaret Galbraith, Mr. & Mrs. D. G. Gallagher, Mr. & Mrs. T. B. Greenfield, Miss Edith Hamilton, Miss Rosalind Harris, Miss Verna J. Higgins, Miss Shirley M. Hodgkinson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hoffman, Mrs. M. Holt, Mr. Avrom Howard, Mr. R. C. Howard, Mr. & Mrs. K. W. Hume, Mrs. Mary Jacobsen, Miss Veronica Jensen, Mrs. L. Jess, Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Ross Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. A. Morland Jones, Mr. Eric Jones, Miss Viki Jones, Mr. Bob Kaufhold, Mr. Bruce P. King, Mrs. Margaret Laidlaw, Miss Karin Larson, Mr. Tom Letson, Miss Adele H. Lewis, Mr. David Liard, Miss Joanne E. Lindsay, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew McDermott, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. McVicar, Mrs. N. Macleod, Mr. & Mrs. K. Martyn, Mr. D. P. Maugham, Miss Christine L. Miles, Mr. Wilgard Mohr, Mr. S. J. Molnar, Miss Marjory L. Morphy, Mrs. Helen M. Muir, Mrs. Jo Ann M. Murray, Mr. & Mrs. T. Okura, Miss M. V. Orok, Mr. Jeffrey N. Parker, Mr. Ralph A. Percy, Mrs. W. W. Playter, Mr. & Mrs. Dean M. Prather Sr., Mr. Danny Price, Miss P. J. Rabone, Mrs. J. Rabone, Dr. Patricia Rae, Mrs. F. Jean Reoch, Miss Shirley E. Ritchie, Mrs. Margaret Robinson, Miss Mitzi M. Rogers, Dr. Ian P. Ross, Mr. Robert S. Rutherford, Mr. & Mrs. Ross W. Shier, Dr. Foster Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Victor Snell, Mrs. A. and Miss S. Somerton, Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Stevens, Mr. & Mrs. David Stewart, Miss Helena Stotesbury, Mr. & Mrs. Frank S. Taylor, Miss Mary R. Thomas, Miss Barbara Triplett, Miss Jean W. Wansbrough, Miss Vera Wasnidge, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Watt, Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Williams, Mr. Steven Wilson, Mr. Wm. A. Wragg, Miss Viola M. Wright.

Our Club is indeed growing rapidly. The total enrolment is now about 1100. May all members, new or old, derive satisfaction from the 1971-72 Club program--each in his or her own way. Comments and suggestions from our members are always welcomed, preferably by mail to the Secretary.

President - Mr. Clive E. Goodwin

Secretary - Mrs. H. C. Robson,  
49 Craighurst Ave.,  
Toronto 12, Ont.

481-0260

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Who's Who -- 1971-72

President - Mr. Clive Goodwin                      Secretary - Mrs. Mary Robson  
Vice-President - Miss Rosemary Gaymer          Treasurer - Mrs. Dorothy Mathers  
Past President - Mr. Jack Gingrich              Newsletter Editor - Mr. Elmer Talvila  
Director, Junior Club - Mr. Mike Singleton  
Auditor - Mr. Donald Burton

Board of Directors:

Prof. Wm. A. Andrews	Miss Emily Hamilton
Mr. John ten Bruggenkate	Mr. Trevor Hamilton
Mr. Paul Catling	Miss Erna Lewis
Mr. A. S. Corbett	Mr. Mike Singleton
	Mr. H. D. Wilkins

Secretarial assistants:

Audubon Wildlife Films - Mrs. Irene Freeman  
Newsletter typing - Mrs. Rosemary Wiggins  
Newsletter mailing - Miss Catherine Cratchley

Committee chairmen:

Audubon Wildlife Films - Mr. Jack Gingrich  
Program - Mr. Jack Gingrich  
Outings - Mr. Stuart Corbett  
Bird Group - Mr. Red Mason  
Botany Group - Miss Florence Preston  
Conservation & Ecology Group - Prof. Wm. Andrews  
Field Biologists' Group - Mr. Donald Burton  
Nature Reserve extension - Mr. Paul Catling  
Nature Reserve management - Mr. John ten Bruggenkate  
Fund-raising - Mr. Doug. Fry

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1971

Revenue

Membership fees		\$ 3,812.00
Donations re Nature Reserve		9,690.86
Dividends on shares		127.00
Interest		274.51
Audubon Wildlife Films (net)		3,296.81
Profit on Sales:		
Club literature	\$ 712.88	
F.O.N. cards	<u>175.52</u>	888.40
Total Revenue		<u>\$18,089.58</u>

Expenditures

Printing		\$ 2,029.16
Salaries and honoraria		1,899.95
Postage		815.99
Legal fees		575.64
Theatre rentals		415.00
Donation to Junior Club		150.00
Nature reserve maintenance		232.62
Telephone		139.51
Office supplies		454.34
Miscellaneous expenses		124.44
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ 6,836.65</u>
Net income for the year - transferred to Surplus		<u>11,252.93</u>
		<u>\$18,089.58</u>

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

APRIL 30, 1971

Assets

Cash on hand and on deposit	\$12,213.93
Inventory of merchandise for sale	599.12
Accounts receivable	65.45
Investment in marketable securities (50 sh. Bell Canada)	2,444.74
Nature reserve property	18,000.00
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Total assets	\$33,323.24
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Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 129.00
Mortgage payable - 8%, due July 31, 1971	8,000.00
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	\$ 8,129.00

Surplus

Balance, May 1, 1970	\$13,941.31
<u>Add: Net income for year ended April 30, 1971</u>	<u>11,252.93</u>
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Balance, April 30, 1971	25,194.24
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	\$33,323.24
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Audited and found correct  
May 3, 1971

(signed) Donald E. Burton  
Chartered Accountant

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Clive E. Goodwin

The past twelve months have been as eventful as any in our history, although all the real work leading up to the acquisition of the Jim Baillie Reserve occurred during the previous year, under Jack Gingrich's capable leadership. We now - at last - have our first nature reserve, and much of the Club's preoccupation this year has necessarily been with various aspects of it. Just how far-reaching these activities can be was obvious to few of us initially, and the period has been a busy flurry of fund-raising, planning and survey work.

Another relatively new phase of activity for us has been in what people like to describe as "political action"; letting our views be known to those responsible for decision-making in our city. Over the past year we have submitted briefs or made presentations on the Belt Line Railroad, Quetico Park, Harbour City, a waterfront airport, and both Inner and Outer Waterfront Plans. We have also been involved in correspondence with offices and local agencies on an even more varied range of issues - from selling tiger skins to the plans for Pickering Atomic Plant, in fact!

Amid all this new activity we must not forget that the normal programme of the Club has continued unabated, and even at an accelerated rate. Our well-balanced programme of monthly meetings has, we hope, provided something for every taste, and the year has seen a particularly lively programme of outings.

The background to this expanding programme is a rapidly growing Club. Not only did our membership pass the 1000 mark this year, but we are now over 1100 strong. Our growth has exceeded 14% annually over the past three years, a performance that is particularly satisfying when one recognizes that we do not receive heavy publicity and our people are all volunteers. This is not to suggest, of course, that growth is somehow good of itself; what is encouraging is the knowledge that the numbers of those in our community who share our outlook and sense of priorities are growing so quickly. Yet the growth is a double-edged phenomenon; it is an increasing challenge to service a Club of this size, and to keep abreast of these constant changes. The main load falls on the willing shoulders of our Secretary, Mary Robson, and her assistants. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of workers.

Yet the demands of our growing membership and programme reach all those who work on the Club's behalf; and it is at this point that a President recognizes just how many people, and just how many different kinds of contribution, are involved in the Club's programme. I cannot begin to list them all. The contributions range from typing briefs to spending Saturdays with the Junior Club; from leading outings to mailing newsletters; from collecting money to pushing survey lines through the heavy timber of the reserve. Personal contributions may range from a single specialized input, to continuing involvement in many phases of our programme. All are vital; they are what makes the Club a dynamic force. Out of curiosity I tried to count the people I know about - and there must be many others - who have given the Club some of their time over the past year. I stopped counting at 100; it was clearly impossible. I would like to name names, but perhaps will be forgiven if I simply offer thanks, both on my own behalf and that of the Club, to everyone who has helped us.

What of the future? I think that there are two challenges that face us as a Club, and as naturalists. The first relates perhaps more specifically to us as a club. Every day decisions are being made that affect the interests of naturalists. Some of these are made in the conscious knowledge that we are in favour of or opposed to the action taken. More, however, are made without any

recognition that naturalists have an interest in the issue. So the challenge is to make our voice increasingly coherent, and heard where it counts.

Within our Club this challenge becomes more complex: it is impossible to poll our whole membership for its views on complex urgent issues - and inevitably, when these issues arise they are urgent - so positions must be developed from the views of those whom we know are interested and knowledgeable. By the same token, we do not have time to go searching for people to "involve" when a brief must be written, so we turn to people who have already expressed an interest. The message is, if you have views or want to help, let's hear from you,

What of the second challenge? In a sense it holds for all naturalists in Canada today, and particularly challenges the more expert, more experienced among us. "Environment" and "ecology" are the "in" things just at present; it is fashionable to be environmentally aware, and we are constantly exhorted to have our cars tuned, use non-phosphate detergents and white facial tissue, put bricks in our cisterns and what not. Some of these things are useful, some less so.

Well, I'll agree that we have serious problems. But putting bricks in cisterns will not solve the environmental crisis, and coherent solutions to that crisis are markedly scarce, in spite of all the rhetoric. Not that I am knocking the idea of bricks in cisterns particularly; I suppose it is all right if you cannot figure out any other way of making a contribution.

I think naturalists have lots of other ways of contributing; in fact, I think we have a unique contribution to make. Ecology is really a technical version of nature study, and most dyed-in-the-wool naturalists are ecologists without even realizing it. If anyone should be sensitive to the dimensions of the environmental crisis it should be us,

So far we have mainly come to grips with the broadly controversial issues - provincially we have reacted to throw-away containers, Quetico and the Spadina Expressway, for example. These are all important, but they have been of concern to many people, not only naturalists, and some naturalists have found it difficult to identify with this type of activity.

But what of matters such as the status of declining species, the distribution of rare fauna and flora, the impact of people on parks and of cities on natural areas? Too narrow or technical, you suggest? Not really; for example, one of the current activities to measure the status of bird populations on this continent consists of nothing more complex than making a series of three minute stops and counting all the birds one can see or hear. Information of this kind is essential if we are to identify our full impact on the environment, and equally important if we are to develop more responsible and sensitive approaches in the future.

It is not too narrow. Wildlife is the indicator of the health of our environment. Knowledge of its status is the ammunition needed to fight where fighting is necessary, and it also can prevent us from wasting our efforts in areas where no real problems exist. If we can structure a society that is responsive to plants and other animals it will probably be a pretty good society for humans as well.

We know that cities and wildlife need not be incompatible, and in fact many of us spend our spare time compiling lists that prove the opposite. Let's start using some of that observation and knowledge in making our world a little richer place in which to live.

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COMING EVENTS

Royal Ontario Museum Information 928-3690

- Sept. 26 - ROM Field World Sunday talk, 2:30 p.m.  
Subject: "Guadalupe, Natural Laboratory of Evolution"  
Dennis Power joined an expedition to Guadalupe and other islands off the Pacific coast of Baja California, Mexico, to obtain data on the evolution of certain bird species and note their divergence from mainland relatives. There will also be a discussion on the inadvertent destruction of much plant and animal life of the island.
- to Nov. 2 - Mineral Gallery, 27 important minerals acquired in the past year. Among them are outstanding specimens of sphene, prehnite, mimetite, opal and rhodochrosite.

McLaughlin Planetarium Information 928-8550

- to Sept. 26 - Neighbouring Worlds
- Sept. 29 on - Omens of Disaster
- Oct. 25 - The Open Universe 7-10 p.m. Free open house including films, viewing through telescopes, demonstrations of telescope making, and free coffee and doughnuts.

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BOTANY GROUP

An invitation is extended to all persons interested in Botany to attend the meetings of the Botany Group of the T.F.N.C. The first meeting for this year will take place on Thursday, October 21, 1971, in the Library of the Hodgson Public School at 8:00 p.m. As indicated on the announcement page of this Newsletter, the topic in October will be Seeds - an interesting and timely subject.

Hodgson Public School is located on Davisville Avenue, just east of Mt. Pleasant Road. The St. Clair street car or the Sunnybrook bus will bring you to Mt. Pleasant and Davisville. If you drive, you can park on Davisville Avenue or in the parking lot at the back of the school, which is entered from Millwood Road, one block north of Davisville.

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Population

Howard H. Selinger has a quotable editorial in the October 1, 1970 issue of Bio-Science. "To argue that there is still room in many other places for our present rate of expansion is like ignoring a cancer because the rest of the body is still healthy. So, we blithely go about picking up tin cans, putting better filters on our smokestacks, and setting water quality standards for our rivers and bays. In the terminal cancer ward this is called making the patient comfortable. But in the terminal cancer ward nobody fools himself - not the doctors, not even the victims. Why, then, in the face of the accumulated evidence, do we insist on ignoring our population problem?"

Peter Drucker, writing in Printer's Ink, has a comment which makes a gloomy postscript to the above: "If one waits for the politicians to find the solution, it is almost always the wrong one because politicians, by definition, react to headlines. And that's always treating the symptoms and leaving the basic condition untouched."

## FIRST OUTING

by Morland Jones

We were excited, a wee bit nervous -- not knowing just what to expect.

It was our first-ever outing with an organized group of birders and we had driven from Toronto's west end to Garden Hill, east of Claremont, to meet in the conservation area parking lot for a hike along the Ganaraska Trail.

We uncupped our binoculars and, in our rucksack stowed our Robbins and Singer field guide, our orange-coloured T.F.N. booklet of Spring Outings, and checked the food and drink supply. We'd be gone all day and who knows how hungry we'd be before reaching those golden pancakes and maple syrup at the Kennedy Farm. That was at trail's end...umpteem miles away. Already my mouth was starting to water.

It was a great day -- and since some of us arrived a little early (actually the buses bringing most of the club were late), we strolled along a muddy trail through a pine-and-cedar woods out onto a point that jutted into a small lake, not one hundred yards from the parking lot.

There had been excited chatter about birds -- someone mentioned an Osprey; others had talked of Whistling Swans, Grebes and Mergansers. We knew those names! We had studied them time and again in our Robbins. But neither of us had seen any of those birds in the feather...only in films and in our field guide.

We quickly gathered ourselves together and, leaving Heidi, our one-eyed Dachshund in the car, headed for the point. There they were -- five Whistling Swans, easily identifiable by their erect heads, sloping foreheads and black bills. Nearby -- not two hundred yards away -- a flock of Redheaded Ducks. Among them: five or six male and female Common Mergansers. I thought I also saw a couple of Buffleheads. Then, to our right, not fifty yards off, a Horned Grebe surfaced. A first sighting for us. What a thrill!

The Redheads took off and winged toward us, wheeling away so close you could hear the wind whistle in their wings. They turned their white underparts toward us as if to help us identify them.

With renewed vigour and a sense of purpose we arrived back at the parking lot. Stu Corbett was explaining why they were late -- something about only one bus showing up and having to wait for a second. Two busloads of people and about fifteen carsful besides. Birding, I thought, must be the fastest-growing sport in Canada.

Then I gloomily mused: what if everybody else discovers what it's all about? As we drove up a side road toward the start of the hike I imagined thousands of cars, all bumper-to-bumper, horns blaring, with exhaust fumes and tempers turning the fresh air blue. A veritable rush-hour of birders in fierce competition, surging en masse into the countryside, all trying to outdoo one another, turning serenity into insanity.

I snapped out of my fearsome nightmare and soon we were setting out on the trail. Alongside Walt Hutton we learned about the migratory habits of birds and about the flora of the forest and felt the warm spring sun on our backs as we hiked along, everyone glad to be there.

A Horned Lark in the short grass,..three skittering Killdeers,..a Red-Tailed Hawk soaring on the air currents,..a Marsh Hawk gliding over the fields,..a couple of Meadowlarks post-sitting,..a Golden-Crowned Kinglet flitting in the branches,.. and Vesper Sparrows as curious about us as we were about them.

Emily Hamilton and I claim we saw a Thrush, probably a Hermit. But others were skeptical. Too early, they said. Must have been a Sparrow of some kind.

Well, I watched a bird fly toward me in a High Park thicket last week and land within twenty feet. I had a extra good view of his spotted, puffed-up breast and concluded it was a Hermit Thrush,..but I could have been dead wrong, of course. Like the time when we stopped to scan a meadow. 'Look,' I shouted with confidence, 'a Purple Martin.' All glasses panned to the spot. The sun caught the purple iridescent back. 'Sorry,' someone said, 'it's a Cowbird.' And we all broke into laughter.

The Ganaraska Trail joins a long-abandoned Grand Trunk Railway line and for lunch we all perched along the embankment and shared salami, cheeses and cookies and good-humoured banter. My wife and I, Mary McLaughlin and the Klassen sisters -- Erica and Agnes -- were among the last to leave the site. We noted that not a shred of evidence remained where 130 people or more had stopped for lunch. Not a wrapper. Not a bottle top. Fantastic!

On we went,..and like the pot at the end of the rainbow, there it was. The Kennedy Farm,..the Maple trees all hung with pails and kids riding horseback near the woods,..stacks of pancakes in a sea of Maple Syrup,..what a perfect ending to an eventful outing.

We'll be along on as many trips as we can from now on because we have, indeed, made a rare discovery. We've discovered the T.F.N. and some of its people, as well as a few of their bird friends.

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The following booklets are available free:

Environmental Protection Service

1. Air pollution;
2. Soil pollution;
3. Recycling technology;
4. Pollution abatement technology;
5. Noise abatement;
6. Crisis management;
7. Environmental hazards;
8. Environmental legislation;
9. Energy;
10. Urban problems.

Water

1. Water, general;
2. Water cycle;
3. Water uses;
4. Water pollution;
5. Water conservation;
6. Water development;
7. Water research;
8. Water legislation and jurisdiction;
9. Administrative agencies;
10. List of scientific publications.

Write to: Information and Consumer Branch, Department of Fisheries and Forestry,  
161 Laurier Avenue W., Ottawa, Canada. K1A 0H3.

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## CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Leo A. Smith

### THE BLUEBIRD CAPER.

My first family of bluebirds for 1971 was found in a maple tree at Terra Nova. On the second of May there were three eggs, on the ninth, five eggs, on the twenty-ninth five young. When the forty people on the TFN bus trip went by, the box was empty. A good case for not trying to guarantee a sighting of any particular species on any TFN outing.

The hike on the 12th of June went off quite well and some wanderers came across a nest of a whip-poor-will with two eggs in it.

There are now 16 of my bluebird boxes in Mulmur Township and I am hoping for a better showing in 1972. The other nesting boxes in the Pine River valley did poorly also and there is speculation that pesticides used on tobacco farms are to blame.

Later in the Summer this first box was taken over by a flying squirrel and I am now quite certain that no box should be nailed to a tree. Only metal posts should be used and they must be placed in dry open fields away from human interference.

A new hiking trail develops.

On Monday May 10th a Mrs. Brubacher phoned... "Mr. Smith, we have found one of your boxes shot to pieces by hunters. It was just east of our cottage at Chalk Lake, on number two sideroad of Reach Township." These people turned out to be TFN members with a dislike of hunters who stray out from a Game Farm that turns pheasants loose in the name of sport. I drove to their home in North Toronto and we spent a pleasant evening together. The box (No. 29) was rebuilt and installed at Lazy Lake. Later in May a female laid five eggs and these developed into healthy youngsters who had flown by 15th July.

By writing to the Township Clerk of Reach (V. Malcolm of R.R. 4 Port Perry) we were able to contact every owner north of Chalk Lake and produce a five-mile circular foot trail. We hope to run a bus trip to Dagmar on Saturday 30th October. See the Fall Outings booklet for details.

Vandalism in Nassagaweya.

Last Fall a construction firm gave me an aluminum alloy tube two inches in diameter and five feet long. I purchased a heavy hardwood post and bolted them together and on top of the metal we bolted box 23. Boris Trifonoff of Rosedale was good enough to allow me to dig a deep hole in his land...on the Bruce Trail, west of the 6th line of Nassagaweya, bordering on Halton County Forest. This post went into the good earth for the full depth of a garden spade and more on the 24th of April. On the 31st of May I dashed out straight from work and raced breathlessly down the trail to the open fields. With some shock I saw that the entire assembly had vanished from view...! Then, after scouting around I found the nesting unit and metal post, in some small aspen trees, on the slant. As I approached, a female wren chattered a warning and stayed about three feet away as I tied the post in an upright position with two pieces of nylon cord. (Actually my bootlaces had to come off because this was the only material that was in my possession.)

On the 16th of August I retrieved this box and emptied out the wren's bunch of twigs...and...underneath was a bluebird nest. This prompted me to write to the Milton CHAMPION. They published my letter and already offers of land and assistance are pouring in and some of the stationery is very fancy stuff and the

expensive IBM 'script' typewriter was obviously used.

To cut things short, I have had nine breeding pairs with some raising two broods. Mono Township is the best area for my project so far but Uxbridge bids fair and Caledon is promising territory.

In the next issue of this newsletter I shall tell of the lady with 324 boxes (and 160 breeding pairs) and the teacher with 400 boxes and the doctor with two thousand boxes.

If you think I can help you, call 925-1854.

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OUTING TO TORONTO ISLAND SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1971

by Joy Pocklington

The outing to the Island was mostly pleasant on this hot humid Sunday. Because of the heat and it being rather early in the migration season, no one expected to see very much; we didn't see too much either, but what we did see we appreciated, and no one was very disappointed.

We went over on the 9 a.m. ferry, and the drop in temperature on the lake was refreshing. The group wasn't too big which made it more manageable and more friendly. Two top notch botanists were along and some good spotters; it really was ideal. Highlights of the morning were a female hooded merganser spotted all curled up from a great distance, belted kingfisher, Great Blue Herons, redstart, blackthroated green warbler. The boating lake on the island really stank, the duck and goose population have really grown with the successful breeding season this year. I suspect the smell is due to the high bacteria, and sulphur content of the shore and water from the droppings of all these birds and the heat.

Butter and Eggs, False Dragons Head, and nodding ladies tresses are the three wildflowers which stick in my mind, as being in full bloom, and prevalent, but of course there were many others in bloom. The Sumach trees were showing the odd red leaf, hinting that fall is on the way, and the goldenrod's golden splashes were everywhere. There were several insects around including a few monarch butterflies, and there was a phoebe busy fly catching.

We all sat down lazily in the sun and shade at eleven, and enjoyed our lunch, and took our time, leisurely discussing natural history, and touching on many other subjects, opera, holidays, politics and no one became intense.

After lunch we loitered slowly to Hanlan's Point, the temperature was about 80, but some cool breeze came from the misty lake, boats were floating by silently like ghost ships, it was very misty.

An early migrating Great Black Backed Gull was by the Hydro Station, also 5 killdeer, about 50 rock doves, 150 ducks. I think they pick up handouts along there or welfare, or something.

The bird count was 30, so I haven't mentioned mentioned several. Yes there was a spotty bobbing up and down in the usual bit of mud. It rained heavily when we reached the ferry, so the timing was good. Thank you Mr. Orval Oppertshausser.

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Late Flash:

More Coming Events

Royal Ontario Museum: Gallery tours at 12:15 p.m.

Mon. Oct. 5 - About minerals

Fri. Oct. 22 - Geology - The changing earth

Fri. Oct. 29 - Evolution of Mammals

More Sunday lectures

Oct. 3 - Of Miocene Mice and Men, (Russell)

Oct. 10 - The Indians of Venezuela, (Helmuth Fuchs)

Oct. 31 - Minerals in Ontario, (Joe Mandarino)

University of Toronto, Extension Courses

Information 928-2393 or 928-2400

The following evening courses are available starting in early October. Most of them run for 1½ hours each week starting at 7:30 or 8:00 p.m.

Algae and fungi in our lives  
Anthropology and Archaeology (6 different courses)  
Astronomy  
Digging into the past  
Environment and Population  
Exploration of the Universe  
Invertebrates: man's unseen associates  
Natural science: birds, trees, wildflowers and ferns  
Plant health  
Urban forestry

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From the editor

I'm hungry again - for your contributions and letters. There must be all sorts of subjects you can write about. Our club hikes, for instance. Or how about trying to capture the glorious fall colours in golden, or even leaden, prose. What about that pebble-picking fly-swatting trip you had along Lake Superior this summer. Actually you don't have to go any farther than your backyard to get subject material; Fabre never did when he wrote his classic stories about insects.

So try your hand at some writing now before my mailbag gets completely empty and I have to start begging again. (My knees are still sore from the last time.) Anyway, Welcome back and I'll be hearing from you - hopefully.

(Yes, Petunia, you'll hear from me too next month - Bermuda etc.)

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