



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Number 270

November 1972

Visitors welcome!

NOVEMBER MEETING

Visitors welcome!

Monday, November 6, 1972, at 8:15 p.m.
at the
ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION
252 Bloor Street West

The OISE Building is midway between the two exits (St. George and Bedford) of the St. George subway station. Entrance on the west side of the building via a covered walk from Bloor Street. To park, enter from Prince Arthur Avenue, under the building (50¢ if an attendant is on duty) or a small lot west of the building (no charge).

Speaker: JAMES WOODFORD

Subject: HOW THE NORTH IS BEING LOST

Mr. Woodford is author of "The Violated Vision; the rape of Canada's north"

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

To: Mrs. H. C. Robson, Secretary,
Toronto Field Naturalists' Club,
49 Craighurst Avenue, 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 _____

Outings held
rain or shine!

November Outings

Visitors
welcome!

Saturday WESTERN LAKESHORE--Birds Leader: Mr. Peter Iden
November 4 Meet in the parking lot of the Seahorse Motor Hotel, 2095 Lakeshore
9:00 a.m. Blvd. West (west of the Humber mouth). Morning only but you should
bring a lunch.

Sunday WILKET CREEK PARK--Birds Leader: Mr. Fred Bodsworth
November 19 Meet at the parking lot at the entrance on Leslie St. just north of
9:00 a.m. Eglinton Ave. E. Morning only.

Outings Chairman - Dr. Charles Chaffey (752-2897)

A Plea from the Treasurer

Would everyone who receives money in the form of a cheque on behalf of the club please accept only cheques made payable to The Toronto Field Naturalists' Club. Quite often the person to whom the cheque has been made payable forgets to endorse it, with the result that it has to be returned to him or her at considerable expense to the club in the form of stationery and postage. Thank you.

Request

Back copies of the Newsletter are urgent required by the curators of the Jim Baillie Memorial Library, which is being set up to preserve and make available to all birders the files and records of the late Jim Baillie. It is desired to keep up to date the files of periodicals, as Jim would have done, to keep the library always fresh and useful. Copies of the Newsletter required are those from October 1970 to May 1972. If you can offer any or all of these, please telephone Mrs. Helen Baillie, 221-3648.

GUELPH TRAIL CLUB

The Guelph Trail Club has built a 17 mile trail, following where possible the old Radial Line from Guelph to Limehouse where it joins the Bruce Trail.

The handbook for this trail contains maps and descriptions. All members receive a copy of this guide when they pay their \$2.00 membership fee.

Anyone wishing to work on this Trail or to help construct further trails please indicate this when applying for membership to:

The Guelph Trail Club
P.O. Box 1,
Guelph, Ontario

Here's a course looking for people. There is still time to register for "ECOLOGY" - a 20-week course held Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 at Northview Heights Secondary School, corner of Finch and Bathurst. Despite its name, the course is mainly about birds and includes a full treatment of the biology of birds, bird identification, and field trips. Visit the school to register or phone 630-2703 for information.

- JUNIOR CLUB
Saturday
November 4
10:00 a.m.
- The Toronto Junior Field Naturalists' Club will hold its November meeting in the theatre of the Royal Ontario Museum. Children between the ages of 8 and 16 are invited to enrol. Annual fee \$1.50. Meetings monthly.
- Director - Mr. Mike Singleton (447-4197)
- FIELD
BIOLOGISTS'
GROUP
Thursday
November 9
8:00 p.m.
- Meet in 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. Subject: An Ecological Survey of Prince Edward County, featuring birds and illustrated with coloured slides. Speaker: Mr. Ross Harris.
- Chairman - Mr. Donald Burton (222-6467)
- MAN AND
RESOURCES
STUDY GROUP
Tuesday
November 14
8:00 p.m.
- First meeting of the new study group for discussion of the Club's position on the "Man and Resources" program organized by the government. Meet at Eglinton United Church, 65 Sheldrake Boulevard (6 blocks north of Yonge & Eglinton). All Club members welcome.
- Chairman - Mr. Henry Fletcher (421-1549)
- ECOLOGY
GROUP
Wednesday
November 15
8:00 p.m.
- Meet in Room 378 of the College of Education, 371 Bloor St. W., at Spadina. Subject: "Ecology of the Arctic" - a slide presentation illustrating ecological interactions between the flora and the fauna. These series of lectures have been presented in the past and are going to be for the purpose of acquainting new members with the field of ecology and conservation.
- Chairman - Mr. Ron Thorpe (759-2948)
- BOTANY GROUP
Thursday
November 16
8:00 p.m.
- Meet in the Library of Hodgson School, Davisville Ave., just east of Mt. Pleasant Rd. (to park in schoolyard, enter from Millwood Rd., the first street north). Speaker: Mr. Harold Reinke. Subject: Seeds and Fruits of trees and plants. All T.F.N. members are welcome at any meeting of the Botany Group.
- Chairman - Mr. Wes Hancock (757-5518)
- BIRD GROUP
Thursday
November 23
8:00 p.m.
- Meet in St. James-Bond United Church. See Field Biologists' Group announcement for directions. Subject: "Winter List and Birds to Look For" - illustrated with coloured slides and to be followed by a short movie. Speaker: Mr. Red Mason.
- Chairman - Mr. Red Mason (621-3905)

President - Miss Rosemary Gaymer

Secretary - Mrs. Mary Robson
49 Craighurst Ave.
Toronto 12 (481-0260)

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE GETTING UNDER WAY

The Environmental Committee is the newest committee in the Club. Members have been asking that the T.F.N.C. become more active in conservation matters, and this is our response. Now, the degree of our activity and its effectiveness depend upon the involvement of plenty of members. So it's up to you - you asked for it, please help us now that we're here.

The committee has met several times during the summer, to discuss our approach to the whole environmental field, and decide what our priorities should be. There are so many "issues" to be tackled that we could easily spread ourselves in all directions and do nothing effective. What we must do is to select the ones which we think are really important, and where our action can help to bring the result we want.

But we have been doing more than just talk. The first issue which came up was the proposal to take land on Toronto Island to build some radio towers. Members of the committee swung into action, writing and telephoning to aldermen, and writing to the press. In the end, the proposal was withdrawn. We can't claim to have done it all ourselves, but the noise we made undoubtedly helped, and it was good to start off with a victory. We have also been involved to a lesser extent with the building of a road at Luther Marsh and the position of the Toronto Island wildlife sanctuary.

In the main, our efforts are likely to be concentrated within the "Toronto birding area" - about 30 miles from the R.O.M. That will still give us plenty to do in trying to preserve natural values in a region where the pressures for development are so strong. The committee has now designated six subjects on which we will gather information and keep a watching brief, so as to be ready to act. The subjects, and the members responsible, are:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Parks | Harold Taylor 225-2649, Erna Lewis 923-8904 |
| Waterfront | Mike Seary 921-5378, Paul Catling 694-4010 |
| Ravine development | Jack Cranmer-Byng 488-3262, Rae Abernethy 223-6144 |
| Pickering airport | Ed Franks 425-5302, Mary Coburn 783-7745, Stew Hilts 967-1556 |
| Snowmobiles | Wm. Dibble 261-7955 |
| Hydro routes | Henry Fletcher 421-1549 |

In addition, we need a corps of people who will be willing to help whenever the Club wants to take action. Even inf you are confined to your home, you can write letters and telephone - we can use you! Up to now, naturalists have not really made their voice heard in Toronto. It's time we did - and that means all of us.

- Henry Fletcher

TORONTO'S WILDLIFE AREAS

Last spring Club birders and botanists visited over twenty-five areas on our organized outings. Only ten of these were within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto. How many will be worth visiting five years from now, ten years from now?

In future Newsletters we hope to focus attention on some vital questions concerning the future of our parks and ravines that contain the wildlife most accessible to us.

Which areas are threatened by development?

Parks or sidewalks - which are higher on the scale of civic priorities?

How can Club members effectively express their concern for preserving natural

areas in our urban environment?

As representatives of the Environmental Committee Miss Erna Lewis and I would like to hear from any Club member willing to work along with us to:

- a. study the purpose, administration, and uses of Metro Toronto's parks and ravines;
- b. recommend to civic officials specific actions that will protect those areas that have a high level of wildlife interest;
- c. investigate the possibility of expanding wildlife areas within Metro's boundaries.

We hope that we can enlist members from all parts of Metro. Please consider this your invitation to call Erna at 923-8904 or the writer at 225-2649.

- Harold Taylor

DUTIES OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
(AND ESPECIALLY OF THE CHAIRMAN)

1. Find suitable speaker, films or other programme material for the 9 monthly meetings from September to May.
2. A confirming letter - to confirm details of date, place and topic arranged over the telephone - to be sent to each speaker. This letter often contains a few details about the club so that the speaker can modify his talk somewhat to suit our group - amateur naturalists.
3. Arrange each programme at least one month in advance so that a suitable description can appear in the Newsletter.
4. Obtain a few details about the speaker, either directly or from his secretary, for use by the President in introducing the speaker.
5. Determine the type of projection equipment required by the speaker and make suitable arrangements to have the correct equipment available.
6. Notify O.I.S.E. by letter and telephone what our requirements will be. Arrange well in advance if a projectionist is required.
7. A telephone call to the speaker a few days before the meeting to verify all plans; ensure the speaker has your number or someone else's to call in an emergency and knows the location of O.I.S.E.
8. The Chairman often acts as host for the speaker to the extent of meeting him as he arrives at the auditorium (preferably wearing a nametag and ribbon) and introducing him to the President.
9. A suitable thank-you letter to be sent to each speaker within a few days of the meeting - request a suitable cheque from the Treasurer and enclose it in the same letter.

10. If films are to be shown, book them well in advance, pick them up, deliver them to O.I.S.E., then return them to the rental agency - all in your lunch hour.
11. Last, but not least, the ability to keep a stiff upper lip so people won't see a grown-up man cry when the guest speaker phones between 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. with his "regrets" - unable to make the meeting.

Chairman: Trevor Hamilton

Assistant: Dr. M. Knight

Assistant at Large: Stewart Hilts

MAN AND RESOURCES

Several members of the club have been taking part in a discussion program organized by the government, under the title "Man and Resources". There is to be a national conference next year, which will discuss how we should manage our natural resources in Canada, and preparatory meetings have been taking place at local and regional level. Out of all this will come a set of specific problems for study and discussion at the final conference.

Organizations such as the T.F.N.C. are being invited to consider these problems and submit their recommendations to the Ontario Government next spring. We plan to set up a study group which will meet during the coming months to define the club's position. At the time of writing, the final list of problems is not yet known, but it is likely that it will include items such as land-use planning, population growth, use of water resources, and recreational facilities. All of these should be of concern to naturalists.

The first meeting of the study group will be held on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, at Eglinton United Church, 65 Shel Drake Boulevard (6 blocks north of Yonge & Eglinton) at 8 p.m. All members of the club are welcome.

- Henry Fletcher

SUNDAY MORNING ON THE BELTLINE

by Joy Pocklington

In response to your appeal for accounts of outings in the Newsletter I send you this - to let you know what was doing along the Belt Line Ravine on Sunday morning, September 17th, 1972.

I awoke early and after cleaning the grime from the lenses of my binoculars strode down the road to join the T.F.N. Club which met at the entrance on Moore Ave., to the Belt Line Ravine. There a few familiar faces and many new faces ambled down into the ravine promptly at 9:30. The foliage was quite dense, I think particularly because of the cool wet summer we have had, so we had to really look for the birds we saw. Straight away we saw a downy, a cuckoo, a grey cheeked thrush, and a sharp shin which flew overhead. The sides of the trail were very pretty with splashes of yellow from the goldenrod, mauve from the asters, blue from the chicory, white from the Japanese knot plant and heather asters, and pink from the Himalaya Balsam. There were some sunflowers and butter-and-eggs at their best.

We walked for some distance seeing very little in the way of birds, probably because there were several big dogs dashing up and down, but on the way back we were rewarded with a tree full of warblers. A black and white, black-throated blue, magnolia, Canada, and a Wilson's flitted around this large Balsam poplar and really made the morning.

That path along the Belt Line is strewn with fossils, probably from the quarry we passed; one kid named Carol picked them up as we went, but I couldn't put a name or date on them.

A yellow-bellied sapsucker was tapping away on a tree, and many American goldfinches undulated over the road, flickers flicked over, and the blue Jays were screeching. That's about it.

MONO TOWNSHIP HIKE

by Frances Hay

On September 30 Leo Smith led about 30 people on a very enjoyable six mile hike in the Mono Township area. We drove out by bus and were joined by two of the couples whose property we were going over. At the end of the hike we stopped in and visited Dr. MacLachlan who lives in the old Elder School House during the warmer months. Dr. MacLachlan is a botanist and was in charge of Guelph University before retirement.

It was a beautiful day for a hike and we made several stops along the way and enjoyed the scenery and wildlife. Among the birds noted were a turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk and a phoebe.

Much credit is due to Leo Smith who planned such a successful hike.

MANITOULIN: AFTER

by Linda L. Anderson

I have long been convinced that preconceived notions may be harmful to the soul and may destroy the spontaneous enjoyment of a place, unseen, unvisited. I was most pleasantly surprised and truly, charmed, by a visit to Manitoulin Island on the F.O.N. Regional Gathering there, May 20-22. For those who have not had the privilege of rambling the rocky beaches there and ribbling sand between your toes in the many sandy coves, perhaps this article will cause you to pause and savour her character; for those who have experienced Manitoulin, perhaps this article will bring back memories of a place that is rarely found in rural Southern Ontario in the 1970's, a place of quiet and solitude, a pace of life so slow as to be almost timeless, a place of gentle wildness.

For the essential element of Manitoulin's character is that it is unlike any distinct ecological area in Ontario, yet, at the same time, it encompasses such a variety of habitats as to embrace them all. On the Island, you will find it is possible to walk from a cool deciduous/coniferous forest directly into a sand dune ecology without a transitional zone delineating the two. Grassy fields curve to the base of ragged limestone cliffs where tiny waterfalls splash to dense cedar woods below. Pink and blue and green pastel rock beaches slash around narrow inlets for miles and miles. Limestone shelves disappear beneath turquoise pools in isolated coves and

everywhere, sandpipers are busy over the waves, gulls swoop endlessly above, cliff swallows wing among the dunes, and kildeers run on stiff legs along the sandy flats of warm tidal pools.

In the countryside, it is possible to see rolling green fields dotted with tidy farmhouses give way to boggy deciduous woods where Yellow dog's-tooth violets nudge shoulders with trilliums, purple violets and budding lady's slippers. Deciduous woods blend into dense cedar, hemlock and pine woods with scarcely any zone between, and warblers' songs float in the breeze. And everywhere one stumbles upon tiny roadside marshes where snipes are calling, muskrats swimming, and bitterns hiding in tall rushes. And everywhere, one stumbles upon weather-worn, crumbling gray buildings, snuggled in high grasses; history and tragic stories in every line of aged woods.

It was a unique setting for a naturalists' get-together. The good leadership of Gerald McKeating, John Nicholson and Keith Winterhalder, all of whom know the area well, our long hikes and short jaunts to the woods and fields and beaches, the friendliness and enthusiasm of the people participating -- all helped to make a memorable regional gathering.

But most of all, for me, it was Manitoulin itself. My preconceived notion was that Manitoulin was typical Shield country such as one might find in Muskoka, Haliburton or Algonquin Park. It is not Shield country; it is not urbanized, it is not hurried, it is not ugly; it is charm, timelessness, peace, discovery; it is a memory.

HAWAIIAN WONDERLAND

by Bas and Rita Wigglesworth

We stood in a small quiet group surrounded on all sides by flowering trees and shrubs, a beautiful semi-tropical setting, realizing that something was missing. Not a chirp or twitter of any kind of birdsong could be heard. This was the Iao Valley, Maui, the Hawaiian Islands. Fortunately this was not representative of our entire vacation, but it is an unforgettable instance. Enquiring into this lack of bird life, we were advised that the mongoose had been introduced into the islands many years ago to control rats which arrived with the sailing ships. While the rats still flourish, so does the mongoose, and his favourite foods is birds's eggs and young birds. You could hardly believe that this animal, which looked like a light brown squirrel, could remove so much beauty and song from the land.

Rita and I considered ourselves very fortunate visiting Hawaii during the winter season. We, as usual, intended to combine bird watching with leisure, and added twenty-five or six life birds to our list, depending upon whether or not we should count orange-coloured House Finches, whereas in N. America they are red.

In preparation for our trip we consulted Peterson's Western Bird Guide. This study proved to be invaluable as we committed the cardinal sin of bird watching; we forgot to pack the book! We could not find a replacement in Honolulu but settled for "Hawaii's Birds" by the Audubon Society. This combination of Book and the study of Peterson's Guide proved to be advantageous, for although the illustrations are poor in "Hawaii's Birds", there are maps in the back showing the locations of bird concentrations on the islands and how to get there. The season of the year and the time that you have at your disposal can then be used to the fullest extent.

We arrived over Honolulu airport just before sunset. We had been travelling for hundreds of miles above what appeared to be endless clouds. By the time we had cleared customs and been accorded the traditional lei greeting it was almost dark. The driver of the bus greeted us cheerily, "Did no one tell you that this was the rainy season? If you had come yesterday you would have turned around and went right back."

The following morning we were awakened to the sounds of many birds and beautiful bright sunlight. In fact, during our entire stay we were only caught in one shower, although we were in the open for practically the whole time. The noisiest birds were the Indian Mynah (Pika'E-Kelo), which reminded us of our Starling, but which in flight presented a very pleasant appearance with big white tail and wing patches like a Lark Bunting. The other birds, flying through the palm trees, included Orange-coloured House Finches, Spotted Doves (Ehako), Barred Doves, White-winged Doves and flocks of White Doves. We found that the white doves would come right to your balcony and eat from your hand.

We were part of a tour group but had lots of time to engage in our own pursuits. The rental of a car was an absolute necessity but we were pleased to find the rates reasonable, if a small car would suit you, and in some places there was no charge for mileage.

The most productive area on the island of Oahu was in the pineapple fields to the north of Waikiki Beach together with the adjacent woods. Here, after finding that we must scan the bushes growing above the pineapples, we identified Rice Birds ('Ai-Laiki), Black-headed Mannikins, Brazilian Cardinals, White-Eyes, and a possible Shama Thrush. Water birds were very scarce at this time of year. You would normally expect to find all kinds of gulls, terns, etc., as around any fishing port, but not one was to be seen. On the two water excursions that we enjoyed while on Oahu we noted only Brown Boobies (A), overhead and Black-necked Stilts (Ae'O), feeding on the coral reefs.

From the sight-seeing point of view we considered our visit to the Polynesian Cultural Centre the highlight of our vacation, and it should not be missed by anyone. Arrangements sometimes have to be made months in advance. It consists of an enclave with six separate villages, **one for each** of the following: Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Tahiti, Hawaii, Maori, showing differing constructions of buildings and other artifacts, with guides describing the way of life on the original homeland.

There were two pageants, one called the Long Canoes with men and women in authentic tribal costumes, sailing their own type of canoe which brought them thousands of miles to these islands. They also performed songs and dances on these canoes in a special central lagoon. All six tribes were represented accompanied by a native orchestra, with a master of ceremonies describing in detail all the action. A dinner consisting of Hawaiian dishes, mostly very tasty, with the exception of poi which we found unpalatable, was laid out buffet style.

The second pageant, at night, was presented on stage in an open air theatre. All six tribes again were involved showing different aspects of their tribal life, mostly in song and dance. The collective effect was outstanding with sound and light, thunder, lightning, and volcanic explosions lending authenticity to the entire production. All actors, dancers, and musicians were students at the Church College of Hawaii under the auspices of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

From island to island by plane took just a matter of minutes - as little as fifteen - as they have jets on all lines. Our next stop was the town of Kahului on Maui, our hotel within a five minute walk of the Kahana Ponds. These ponds belonged to the royal family of Hawaii and have been set aside in perpetuity to ensure the survival of the Hawaiian Stilt. We visited these ponds very early one morning and along with many of these stilts we saw: Black-crowned Night Herons, Coots, Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, American Golden Plover, Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstones.

Haleakala National Park was next and the road leading to it was quite similar to our mountain roads the only difference being that you climb right from sea level to over 10,000 feet within a very short distance. At first the roadways were lined with plumeria or frangipani trees with blossoms varying from creamy white to the deepest maroon and sometimes bi-coloured. Hedges of Lantana, Bougainvillea and Mimosa with twelve foot high bushes of both red and yellow Poinsettias added to the riot of colour ever present. As we reached the higher altitudes we just had to stop and photograph the hundred foot high trees of blue blossoms, the Jacaranda, and six inch long orange blossoms, the Silk Oak trees, standing shoulder to shoulder at the side of the highway. Our main target was Hosmer's Grove as outlined in our Bird Guide. This grove of trees was planted in 1910 by the "Father of Forestry" of Hawaii, Ralph S. Hosmer. It was a test planting to see how various trees would grow at certain altitudes to determine the best trees to grow for commercial use. Included were trees from all over the world: Douglas Fir and White Pine, (America), Sugi, (Japan), Eucalyptus (2, Australia), Norway and Jack Pine, (N.Europe), Aromatic Cedar, (India).

We visited this grove on two different occasions. The first day in the afternoon, even though clouds rolled in to cut down our vision, we were able to spot the following: Iiwi, Apapane, Creeper, Amakihi and Elepaio, even though the last was not supposed to be there. These sightings were not without difficulty. All of these birds with the exception of the Elepaio keep to the very tops of the trees. The Creeper and Amakihi, yellow and green birds, frequent the mamane trees, green trees with yellow blossoms. The red and black birds, Iiwi and Apapane, frequent the Ohia, Sandalwood, and Koa trees, which have red blossoms. There was practically no possibility of seeing these birds unless you manoeuvred yourself into a covered position overlooking the tops of some of these trees, prefocussing your binoculars. They never seemed to stay still for more than a split second.

When we returned to the same location the next day, we added the Red-Billed Leothrix to our list, and as the sun was shining brightly the Apapane and the Iiwi presented an entirely different appearance. The Iiwi in particular looked like transparent red wax. We spent the best part of an hour in the trees and upon emerging encountered a carload of fellow birds complete with bird guides. They were from California and had been to Alaska and Texas following the birds. We advised them of the difficulties and made suggestions that we thought might prove useful. We met again on the plane from Maui to Hawaii and enquired as to their success. They had not set eyes on one bird although they had heard any number.

From the grove we continued on up through open meadows to the top of the extinct volcano. Here we saw the Silversword plants, but unfortunately we learned that their showy stalks do not come into bloom until May. In the open meadows we noted many Skylarks and Short-Eared Owls (Pueo), along with Plover, Sanderling, and Ring-Necked Pheasants. A journey into the Haleakala crater proved to be out of the question though Nene Geese were listed as being present. There was still a possibility of seeing these at Pohakuloa on Hawaii.

The airport there was just a lava bed bulldozed and flattened with brand new buildings, the offices in the open air. The entire complex was surrounded by Bougainvillea and Lantana intermixed with "Bird of Paradise" flowers, the emblem of one of the airlines. After renting a car we drove through what seemed to be an endless sea of flowers and blossoming trees to the "City of Refuge". This was a walled enclosure in which, legend says, non-combatants in any war could find refuge. The aim of wars during that period was to wipe out the entire tribe if possible: men, women, and children. Also taboo or Kapu breakers could find safety here and be made clean again by the priests (kahunas), and then return to their former life; otherwise the usual sentence was death. We were able to add only one birds to our list, a Wandering Tattler (Ulili), a pair observed running around on the rocky shore of the bay, its usual habitat.

We made a short side trip to the village of Hana along a very rugged coastline. This must have been on the rain forest side of the mountains for the road cut right through a tropical forest. Coconut and Date Palms, Guava, Papaya, and Breadfruit trees were plentiful. Flowering trees of every description abounded, including Poinciana, Shower, and Bottlebrush trees. This route yielded two self-guiding nature trails which we noted on the way out and visited on our way back. We were treated to the sight of Angel's Trumpet Tree with foot long white flowers, Screwpine, with large red pineapple-like cones, fifteen foot high Fern trees, Candlenut, Pandanus, Monkey pod, and both Green and Red Ti plants. The last five trees were used by the natives to make medicine, clothes, baskets, dishes and other utensils.

A new volcano had erupted two days before we arrived on the big island and was still erupting with a great display of lava and rocks. The morning we chose to visit Volcanoes National Park, it had subsided to the emission of steam only. In order to get into a position to take any pictures it was necessary to cross a two year old lava bed which had covered about six miles of park road and climb to the lip of an old volcano. The old volcano proved to be more interesting as it was heavily forested inside with Ohia trees, and Apapane and Iiwi could be seen even at that distance feasting on the red blossoms. We had noted while crossing the lava bed that already lichens were growing inside some of the folds in the pahoehoe flow, the green standing out against the black.

This same park provided us with our two most interesting sightings: the Omao, and the White-tailed Tropic Bird (Koa'E Kea). Although the latter was written up in the guide book, it was not mentioned on the small maps in the back. We were gazing into the huge, still active, crater of Kilauea and spotted two white birds flying about. Suddenly recognizing them, I exclaimed aloud, disturbing a whole busload of sightseers, who could not understand my excitement. It was not far from here that we came upon our first and only Omao, a Thrush-like Bird, singing on the wing just as described in the guide.

There were a number of very productive sites for viewing birds, one Kipuka Puaula, a self-guiding nature trail quite like Hosmer's Grove, with the same birds. This grove is also called Bird Park, but apparently it holds a significant place in the world of plants. It is entirely surrounded by lava flows. Botanists have been studying this area for years as they say nowhere in the world is there to be found a "more dramatic example of the interplay of geological and biological forces, the intimate relationship between rock and plant". Within its hundred acres there are twenty species of trees. The easiest place to see the four birds - Iiwi, Apapane, Amakihi and Elepaio - was in the enclosed area of the lava tube, which proved to be a tunnel carved out by a lava flow about two hundred yards long connecting two small craters. They were abundant in the two craters.

Another point of interest was Pohakuloa State Park where there is a concentrated effort to help in the breeding or re-establishment of the Nene Goose. Unfortunately no visitors were allowed as it was the breeding season. There were of course pens or cages of these birds to be seen plus Laysan Teal and Hawaiian Ducks. This trip also yielded the sighting of a Palila, a yellow and green bird about the size of a robin, feeding on the plentiful Mamane trees in the area. California Quail could be seen running all about. A scarce Kona Crow was seen crossing the highway while on our way up the Kona coast to the park which is situated on the saddle road between the two volcanoes Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa.

Before returning home we visited Foster Gardens in the centre of Honolulu. Here were on display flowering trees from all over the world. A recently completed orchid garden proved to be a rare delight with over three hundred varieties growing in the open, planted and hanging from various trees. Along with trees already mentioned were the Bombax from Mexico, six inch blooms of three colours; Tiger's Claw, from India with giant orange blossoms; the Cannonball tree which you would have to see to believe; and the Sunshine tree, pure gold, both from Central America; the African Tulip tree.

giant orange ever-blooming; the Wooden Rose tree from Spain; and numerous Shower trees of various colours from Asia. To describe the rest of the trees or even to list the exotic flowers is out of the question, but the orchids came off second best beside the Firecracker Vine or the Torch Ginger.

AN ANTIDOTE FOR "INSTANT PUDDING"

Now that T.F.N.C. members have had the chance to hear Bob Bateman's stimulating views on the "Instant Pudding World", they should be more aware than ever before of the need for concern with all aspects of our environment, both natural and man-made. All members of the T.F.N.C. are obviously involved in the struggle for preservation of the natural environment, but many have not yet extended this involvement into the area of man's architectural efforts. For those who take Mr. Bateman's warning to heart and see the next half-century as the the time when all things worth preserving will either be saved or be lost forever, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario offers a chance to learn what the problems are and how they can be dealt with.

Incorporated in 1933, the ACO has had from the outset two goals: preservation of the best existing examples of the early architecture of the province, and protection of its places of natural beauty. The T.F.N.C. and the ACO already have some members in common and we hope that this example will be followed by others. T.F.N.C. members will want to join the Toronto Region Branch of the ACO in order to attend monthly lecture meetings and participate in house and area tours. There are five categories of individual membership: student (\$1.00); ordinary (\$7.50); couple (\$10.00); sustaining (\$15.00); and life (\$100.00). You can join by sending your name and address and the appropriate fee to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Toronto Region Branch, P.O. Box 75, Station K, Toronto 315.

- David M. Pendergast
President, Toronto Region Branch, ACO

COMING EVENTS

Royal Canadian Institute

Information: 922-2804

Saturday evening lectures, Convocation Hall, U. of Toronto at 8:15 p.m.

- Nov. 4, 1972 PLANNING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE - illustrated with colour slides. G. ROSS LORD, B.A.Sc., S.M., Ph.D., D.Sc. (hon.). Chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Region Conservation Authority, formerly Head of the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, University of Toronto. Dr. Lord will outline the role played by Conservation Authorities in environmental planning and will discuss the latest projects being undertaken, such as the development of the lakefront for better recreational use.
- Nov. 11 A BOTANIST IN YOUR GROCERY STORE - illustrated with colour slides. RICHARD A. HOWARD, Ph.D. Director, Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University. One of the features of our current civilization is the modern supermarket. Here, as frozen, dried, processed, fresh or canned products are 5,000 items of the plant kingdom. The botanist looks at these plant products, representing many parts of the plant, many products of the plant's activities and many accomplishments of the botanical explorer, the plant breeder, the farmer and the food technologist, and describes with the aid of colour slides what they are, where they come from and why they are used.

- Nov. 18 QUETICO-SUPERIOR COUNTRY - illustrated with colour film "Quetico".
A. S. L. BARNES, B.Sc.F., R.P.F. Executive Secretary, The Quetico
Foundation. In 1909 the Province of Ontario set aside a 1,150,000 acre
tract known as the Quetico Forest Reserve and the same year the United
States established the Superior National Forest opposite it on the Inter-
national Border. The Quetico Forest Reserve was converted into a Provincial
Park in 1913 and the United States marked out what is now known as the
Boundary Waters Canoe Area within the Superior National Forest some years
later. The history of these two parks will be outlined and some of the
problems connected with their administration will be discussed.
- Nov. 25 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS - illustrated.
ROBERT P. HENDERSON, B.A., M.B.A.

Royal Ontario Museum

Information: 928-8550

"ROM: Nature's Biographer" This fine exhibit continues until Nov. 5. There is a
guided tour every day at 2:00 p.m.

"Urban Biology in Toronto" Free lectures at 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays in Room 4.

Oct. 26 - Domestic insects (G. Wiggins)

Nov. 2 - The mammals (Pamsett)

Nov. 9 - Insect life of garden and ravine (D. Barr)

Nov. 16 - Disappearing waters (Crossman)

Nov. 23 - An ecological viewpoint (Ritchie)

Free gallery tours continue as usual. Phone for subjects and times.

McLaughlin Planetarium: Current show is "Vagabonds in Space" (asteroids)
Information: 928-8550

"Archaeology and Science in Modern China" - free lecture by Dr. Joseph Needham,
Cambridge University, 8:30 p.m., Nov. 30. Lecturer is a noted and
distinguished scientist, author of "Science and Civilization in China"

Wednesday Night Films - free National Film Board films from 7-9:30 p.m.

Free Sunday Films - at 2:30 p.m. Information: 928-3690

Oct. 29 - Animal war, animal peace; Sun of the earth.

Nov. 5 - Ellehammer - the flying Dane; Computers and Controls; Adventures in
perception (Escher).

Nov. 12 - The mystery of Stonehenge

Nov. 19 - Cracking the Stone Age code; Rivers of Time.

Nov. 26 - November; Tricky traffic; a glimpse of contemporary China.

The following publications are available free from the Ministry of Natural Resources:

1. Guide to Conservation Areas
2. The Moose in Ontario, 28 pp.
3. The Beaver in Ontario, 20 pp.
4. The Ruffed Grouse in Ontario, 12 pp.
5. Publications 1972

BOOK REVIEW

FREE FOR THE EATING by Bradford Angier, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

This is a delightful book which should appeal to those interested in nature. It is easy to read with many illustrations. The subject reminded me of my father who loved to walk in the country. At different times he would bring home dandelions for salad; wild mustard, to be boiled like spinach; burdock, which was cleaned and trimmed, and eaten like celery. He always knew which mushrooms to pick, and one fall he filled a large melon basket at one picking.

these

The book lists most of/edibles with simple recipes. Dandelion and burdock both may be cooked. Burdock is the base for a blood-purifying medicine and is a cure for boils. Besides the more common berries such as blueberry, cranberry and strawberry, the less common ones are also dealt with. Elderberries can be picked, cleaned and dried in the sun or oven. They can be kept for some time in this manner. To use, simmer in water, with sugar and lemon added. Elderberries make delicious pies, cobblers and pancakes.

The author tells of many weed-like plants of North America which were used to prevent scurvy in times of food scarcity. Miner's Lettuce was introduced to the early California prospectors by the Indians and Spaniards.

Black walnuts, butternuts, hazelnuts and beechnuts, all provide flavour and nutrition to cakes, cookies and candies. Walnut husks once used to provide dye for homespun material. Walnut wood is prized for furniture and gun handles.

Various teas can be made by brewing plants such as sweet fern, sassafras, labrador tea and sumac. Sassafras tea was, and still is, used as a spring tonic. Young roots are placed in cold water and boiled to make a rich, red tea.

- S. Ganci

* A few of the Recipes Given in the Book *

Berry Drink

A refreshing drink can be made from ripe raspberries or blackberries. Press jars full of berries, fill in spaces with vinegar and let stand for a month. Then strain off juice and seal in sterilized jars. When serving, sweeten to taste and dilute with iced water.

Cream of Wild Mustard Soup

Slowly heat 1 Quart of milk
In separate kettle, Melt
2 tablespoons of butter or bacon fat
Add and stir in 2 tablespoons flour
1 small diced onion
salt and pepper
Pour in hot milk, bit by bit. Cook for five minutes.
Stir in 2 cups of clean chopped mustard greens.
Cook at low temperature for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
Sprinkle with paprika, and serve at once.

A Salad

4 cups of chopped miner's lettuce
2 cups of chopped hard-cooked eggs
Dressing - 4 parts of olive oil
1 part of tarragon vinegar
salt and pepper

WELFARE STATE

by "Bird Brain"

The bird feeding stations required constant refilling during the icy months of last winter, as they attracted a great many visitors each day; a flock of Redpolls seldom left them.

"Fed Up" with such a long winter, a pair of sparrows decided, since it was Spring by the calendar, that it was time to get on with the serious business of nesting. But with so much ice, that presented quite a problem! For a couple of days, the newly-weds were observed flitting from one birdhouse to another with straw in their beaks. Finally, when the location was settled on, it didn't take a starling long to wreck their plans.

Later, when a feeder was checked for refuelling, there was the nest, completed - right on top of the birdseed!

CONSERVATION CONSERVATION
for Nov. 1972

by L. A. Smith

1. The Allied Armies are ashore in Great Strength. In 1970 we had one breeding pair of Eastern Bluebirds in our box at Lazy Lake in Uxbridge Township. In 1971 we had nine breeding pairs in four townships. In 1972 we can count 36 boxes used successfully by Eastern Bluebirds in nine townships.

The basement workshop in my home produces about three boxes each week and Toronto Anglers reckon they can give me charge of another score of nesting units before March 31st, 1973.

A few boxes are in the basement for re-work but 230 at least are erected in good locations in southern Ontario.

The nineteen boxes given to my charge by Toronto Anglers, in November of 1971, produced six large families of bluebirds and healthy broods of tree swallows and wrens, also.

John Mitchele, secretary of TAH, has written his appreciation of this work and passed on the report of their committee... "Delighted with the success of the bluebird box scheme, and many thanks for your efforts."

2. Stupid Vandalism.

I have four boxes in Eramosa Township, on the route of a hike that I hope to lead, sometime, for the TFN. Last January, on a bitterly cold day, I approached Duncan McPhedran, in the village of Everton, near Guelph, with the request that nesting boxes be set up on his land.

Early in August, on a routine check, I found two boxes shot to pieces by boys with guns. And this in mid-Summer!

In King Township we had six boxes vandalized, in Tecumseth, three boxes with air gun pellets in them, in Caledon, one box with two bullet holes in it.

Luckily, the three best areas, Mono, Uxbridge and Darlington, are completely free of vandalism and petty interference.

3. Poisonous sprays.

We had a really good new area in Esquesing Township (north of Milton and near the Bruce Trail shelter) on the last Saturday in April. Both bluebirds and tree swallows were doing well, but two days after the farmer sprayed, all the baby birds were dead.

In Draper Township, Muskoka Region, we had a fine family of six bluebirds with strong blue feathers on them and all set to go but somebody sprayed and again we had six corpses.

4. The Canadian Association for Humane Trapping has a small office downtown.... telephone 922-7030. This group needs money to continue its fine work.

231-1064

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