



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Number 293

October, 1975.

Visitors welcome!

OCTOBER MEETING

Visitors welcome!

Monday, October 6, 1975, at 8:15 p.m.
at
252 Bloor Street West

The OISIE 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 covered walk from Bloor Street. To park, enter from Prince Arthur Avenue, under the building, (parking fee 50¢).

An evening of films has been planned for the members, including:

"The Arctic .. the wildlife .. a pipeline"

" Floral Heritage .. Kirstenbosch National Botanic Gardens (near Cape Town)"

"For the Love of an Eagle"

These are excellent films ... you won't want to miss seeing them!

First AUDUBON WILDLIFE film night for this season, Thursday, October 30th, Eaton Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. Season tickets are now on sale. For additional information, folders, or order forms call A.T.O. 597-1688.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 3rd.

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

TO: Mrs. E. Hanson, Membership Secretary,
Toronto Field Naturalists' Club
83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M5M 2T4.

DATE _____

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

- () Single \$7.00 () Family (adults) \$10.00 () Life \$100.00
 - () Corresponding (living more than 30 miles from the Royal Ontario Museum) \$3.00
 - () Full-time student (aged 16 or over) \$2.00
- Senior Citizens, 65 and over:
- () Single \$4.00 () Family \$6.00 () Corresponding \$2.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Postal
Code _____

JUNIOR CLUB
Saturday
October 4
10:00 a.m.

The Junior Club meets on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, from October to May. Membership is open to boys and girls from 8 to 16 years of age. Tell your children or friends about this club so that they 'can get in the picture'. Application forms available from the Director: Lynn Scanlan, 120 Broadway Ave., Apt 204, Toronto, M4P 1V7, phone (after 5:30 p.m.) 488-8321.

Meeting place: in the Theatre of the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park.
October 4th will be a general registration meeting and getting to know the leaders. Director, Lynn Scanlan - 488-8321 (after 5:30)

ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP
Tuesday
October 14
8:00 p.m.

Meet at St. James Bond United Church on Avenue Road, just north of Eglinton Avenue. This will be the first meeting of the season. All members of the Club are welcome.

Chairman - Henry Fletcher (421-1549)

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

Mrs. Mary Ferguson will present her program "FASCINATING FUNGI"... This program will help you identify the mushrooms and fungi which appear at this time of year.

Location - Hodgson Public School, Davisville Ave. just east of Mt. Pleasant Road. Enter the school at the east end, or if you park in the school yard, the centre rear door is open, entrance to the yard is from Millwood Road, one block north. We are now meeting in the cafeteria in the basement.

Chairman - Wes Hancock (757-5518)

BIRD GROUP
Wednesday
October 29
8:00 p.m.

Meet at St. James Bond United Church on Avenue Road, just north of Eglinton Avenue. "The Art of Bird Watching" ... "Red" will demonstrate the best way to use your binoculars - your guide books; will advise where to go to see the birds - what time to go - the way to look. Don't miss this first night of the new season. Talk will be followed by a colour movie.

Chairman - Red Mason (621-3905)

REMINDER !

CLUB FEES ARE NOW DUE !

MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM ON REVERSE !

Outings held
rain or shine

OUTINGS FOR OCTOBER, 1975

Visitors
Welcome.

- Saturday
October 4
10:00 a.m.
- WILKET CREEK - Botany
Leaders: Hiles and Mary Carter
Meet at the first parking lot entrance, on Leslie Street, just north of Eglinton Avenue East. (Eglinton East, Lawrence East or Leslie bus).
- Sunday
October 5
9:30 a.m.
- GLENDON CAMPUS - Birds - Botany
Leaders: Ed. Franks
Sheila McKay
Go west on Lawrence Avenue East from Park Lane Circle (east of Bayview Avenue). Turn left at the bottom of the hill into the parking lot. Meet here. (Pedestrians walk down through the campus from Bayview and Lawrence).
- Saturday
October 11
9:00 a.m.
- TORONTO ISLAND - Birds
Leader: George Fairfield
Meet at the Island Ferry Terminal at the foot of Bay Street, to take the first available ferry. Bring your membership card and a lunch to carry.
- October
18 to 25
- NORTH YORK ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK
In support of the North York Environmental Week, the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club is conducting two Nature Walks in separate North York ravines and will study the birds, botany and ecology of the areas.
- Saturday
October 18
10:00 a.m.
- LAMBTON WOODS - Mushrooms and Fungi
Leader: Prof. John Morgan-Jones
Meet in the parking lot of James Gardens (Royal York bus from subway to Edenbridge Drive and walk east 0.4 mile).
Lunch optional.
- Saturday
October 18
10:00 a.m.
- NORTH YORK NATURE WALK - East Don
Leader: Henry Fletcher
Meet at the north west corner of Leslie Street and Sheppard Avenue East. The walk will follow the ravine north, past Finch Avenue. Lunch optional.
- SUNDAY
October 19
10:00 a.m.
- MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETARY - Trees
Leader: Bruce Parker
Meet at the entrance on the east side of Yonge St. (0.3 mile north of St. Clair Avenue subway station). Morning only.
- Saturday
October 25
10:00 a.m.
- NORTH YORK NATURE WALK - Moatfields Farm Park and Area
Leader: Bruce Cruickshank
Meet in the parking lot of B.P. House, 240 Duncan Mill Road. (West of Don Mills Rd. and the first street north of York Mills.)
Lunch optional.
- Sunday
October 26
9:00 a.m.
STANDARD TIME
- MOORE PARK RAVINE - Birds - Leader: Don Pace
From Moore Avenue and Mt. Pleasant Road, go east about 0.4 mile on Moore Avenue to the ravine entrance, just east of Welland Ave. (South Leaside bus from St. Clair).
- Sunday
November 2
8:50 a.m.
- EASTERN LAKESHORE - Birds - Leaders: Bruce and Jerry White
Meet at the Pickering GO Station. (South Parking lot). GO train leaves Union Station at 8:13 a.m. From Toronto drive east on Hwy. 401 to Exit 64, then go south on Liverpool Road, turn left immediately on Base Line (Bayly), then left again into GO parking lot. Bring lunch. Chairman - Harry Kerr (481-7948)

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

WHO'S WHO - 1975-76

President - Prof. Wm. A. Andrews, 213 Divadale Drive, Toronto 425-4607
Vice-President - Mr. Ron Thorpe, 217 Greer Road, Toronto 484-1807
Past " - Miss Rosemary Gaymer, 205 Queen Mary Drive # 1103, Oakville 844-8332
Secretary - Miss Harriet Beeton, 1164 Broadview Ave., Toronto 422-4830
Treasurer - Miss Helen Yemen, 200 Brooke Ave., Toronto 783-2155
Auditor - Mr. Elward G. Burnside
Director Junior Club - Lynn Scanlan, 120 Broadway Ave., # 204, Toronto
488-8321 (after 5:30)
Editors - Newsletter, Mr. Elmer Talvila, 12 Cranleigh Court, Islington 231-1064
- Ontario Field Biologist - Mrs. Barbara Wilkins, 213 Rosedale Heights Drive,
Toronto 483-6742

Members of the Board -

Mr. Henry Fletcher	Mr. Barry Ranford
Mrs. Leila Gad	Mr. N. H. M. (Mac) Smith
Mr. Wes Hancock	Mrs. Norah Stuart
Mr. Harry Kerr	Mr. Harold Taylor
Miss Sheila McKay	

Secretarial Assistants -

Membership - Mrs. E. (Ida) Hanson
Audubon Wildlife Films - Ms. Diana Banville
Ontario Field Biologist - Mrs. Mary Robson
Newsletter typing - Miss H. Beeton
Newsletter mailing - Miss H. Beeton
Junior Club - Mrs. Betty Scanlan

Committee Chairmen -

Audubon Wildlife Films - Mr. N.H.M. (Mac) Smith - 225-3208
Bird Group - Mr. R.E. (Red) Mason - 621-3905
Botany Group - Mr. Wes Hancock - 757-5518
Environmental Committee - Mr. H. Fletcher - 421-1549
Jim Baillie Reserve - Management - Mr. John ten Bruggenkate - 425-6096
- Fund Raising - Mr. A.S. (Stu) Corbett - 261-6807
Junior Club - Lynn Scanlan - 488-8321 (after 5:30 p.m.)
Natural Areas Committee - Mr. Clive E. Goodwin - 249-9503
Naturalists' Guide - Mr. Clive E. Goodwin - 249-9503
Ontario Field Biologist Editorial Committee - Mr. Clive E. Goodwin - 249-9503
Outings Committee - Mr. Harry Kerr - 481-7948
Program Committee - Mr. Gus Jans - 444-7855

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am writing this message the day after we held our first general meeting of the 1975-76 year. I would like to inform those of you who were not present at the meeting that our Club filled the front section of the auditorium and also required a large portion of the rear section which we seldom have to use. It is a real thrill to look down and see a crowd like that. Participation is the life-blood of any club and I was delighted to see such a response to our first meeting of the year. Our new program chairman, Gus Jans, was equally pleased.

Dozens of new members joined the Club at the September meeting. To these people we extend a warm welcome and encourage them to participate actively in field trips and group activities.

With the coming of October we begin our special group activities. This is the time to join one or more of these groups: botany, bird, or environmental. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, you are welcome at any one of these groups.

If you have any spare money that you do not require to keep up with the spiraling cost of living, please consider a final donation to the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve Fund. We plan to pay off the mortgage by Christmas. Financial campaigns cannot drag on forever. Thus we will make no more appeals after December. If donations do not pay off the mortgage by that time, we will meet our mortgage payments out of general funds. This will be difficult since general funds barely cover our normal operating costs. Please read the details elsewhere in this issue and give the matter your careful attention.

Enjoy yourself in the outdoors during this month of beauty and change!

..... Bill Andrews

* * * * *

NOTE THIS DATE AND TIME

CBC Programme -- "A WAY OUT"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 - 12:15 - 12:30 - Channel 5

Stew Hilts and Jack Cranmer-Byng being interviewed by Mary Chapman

on

THE TORONTO RAVINES

The interview and filming was done in Newtonbrook Ravine
between Finch at Bayview and Forest Grove Drive.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 1975.

Revenues		
Audubon Wildlife Films (net)	\$1,967.	
Donations for nature reserve	4,572.	
Interest and investment income	845.	
Membership fees	6,765.	
Sundry (net)	<u>860.</u>	\$15,009.
Expenses		
Auditorium rentals	778.	
Donations and affiliations	258.	
Miscellaneous	248.	
Mortgage interest	912.	
Nature reserve maintenance	920.	
Office supplies	586.	
Postage	1,579.	
Printing	4,548.	
Salaries and honoraria	2,199.	
Telephone	<u>170.</u>	<u>12,198.</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses		<u><u>2,811</u></u>

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

(Incorporated without share capital under the laws of Ontario)

BALANCE SHEET

FEBRUARY 28, 1975

ASSETS

Cash		\$ 2,537.
Inventory - at cost		1,053.
Interest and other receivables		<u>764.</u>
Investment in term deposits		9,775.
Nature Reserve property - at cost		<u>42,770.</u>
		<u><u>\$ 56,899</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$ 2,619.	
Mortgage payable - 9% - (see note below)	<u>6,929.</u>	\$ 9,548.

EQUITY

Balance - beginning of year	44,540.	
Add: Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	<u>2,811.</u>	
Balance - end of year		<u>47,351.</u>
		<u><u>\$ 56,899.</u></u>

NOTE: Monthly payments of interest and principal of \$ 175. are required on the mortgage until July 4, 1978 when the balance is due.

Toronto, Ontario
April 15, 1975.

(sgd) BURNSIDE, PETRIE & CO.
Chartered Accountants, Toronto.

We have had another very successful year. Our attempts to restore the bluebird to healthy numbers are going well. One hundred and six nest record cards have been sent to the Royal Ontario Museum and more are pending. Final results will be nearly 120 good nestings and about 25 failures or indeterminates.

Highlights: Box 23 on Albert Foster's land in Mono Township, had six eggs on the first brood and eight eggs on the second brood. As far as we know both broods were viable because of the large family group seen nearby on the hydro wires. Box 146 raised four babes of Great-crested Flycatchers. Woodpeckers had enlarged the opening. Box 130 raised six baby chickadees. Box 2 in the middle of a field of oats but had some kind of bluebird activity. (It was in pasture when first erected.) Box 271 was placed in position on 6th of July and raised four baby bluebirds. This is a new 'late-placement' record. It was in MacGregor's orchard, south of Terra Nova in Mulmur Township.



Scott Box One, brought from Saskatchewan, was erected on Glenn Holmes' farm in Mono and raised two broods of bluebirds. Prescott Box one, brought from Oregon, raised tree swallows and then bluebirds. This farm ran 100% bluebirds, the first season, and nobody in the farmhouse had ever seen bluebirds before.

At Hillock farm, south of here, on the 4th line of Mono Township, they thought I was putting up structures for blue jays!!

On Albert Foster's land, in an ornamental cedar, mockingbirds raised four young. On Ted Tovey's land another pair of these fine singers built a nest in a hawthorn tree. On Harvey Haddock's land, well into August, another mocker's nest, with two babes, was found by me and followed through, but I think some mammal got to them. This third nest was 18 inches off the ground in an apple tree.

Failures: The attempts to discourage sparrows failed. Where these pests DID get in, we moved the box and the post further away from active barns. The plastic box in Albion, near to a poultry and cattle farmyard, raised wrens but not sparrows. The box in Scott Township remained empty while the box adjacent to it had the pesky English sparrows. All wooden boxes here got sparrows. I intend to press on with plastic boxes in future years. This seems to be an important breakthrough in the battle for the 'bluebirds of happiness' and in the war against the interlopers.

The following was received too late for inclusion in last May's Newsletter:

"Dear Elmer:

This has become a very pleasant annual duty, in thanking members of the Toronto Field Naturalists for their fine contributions to the success of our cooperative display at the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show.

If anything, comments on the exhibit were more favourable this year than last, even though cost problems forced us to repeat last year's show. Overall, it was less well-attended than last year, reflecting the fact that the Easter break was scheduled later this year.

A measure of the good response that we had from Club members is that only one or two positions were not filled in the entire ten-day period, even though the mail difficulties meant that many members did not receive their Newsletters on time.

The efforts of the Club on behalf of our cooperative display were invaluable, and we are most grateful to everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Clive

Clive E. Goodwin, Executive Director."

THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE WEST POND RAVINE AREA OF RENNIE PARK - JUNE, 1975

The following bird and plant lists were made last May as part of a survey taken by members of our Environmental Committee. This survey of the Rennie Park - West Pond Ravine area was requested by the Commissioner, City Parks and Recreation Department.

As you can see the bird and plant lists are rather incomplete since they are the result of only a few May trips by only a few members. We would like to make the lists more complete so that they are more useful to us and the Parks Department. If you have seen birds or plants in the survey area that are not on the following lists please let us know. You can report your findings to the Environment Committee through:

Jack Cranmer-Byng, 190 Gleagrove Ave. West, Toronto, Ont. M4R 1P3 (488-3262)

Thank you for your cooperation!

West Pond and Rennie Park are located just west of Grenadier Park in High Park. The pond is visible from Ellis Avenue. There is a car park and entrance to Rennie Park from Morningside Avenue to the north. The ravine is within easy walking distance of Runnymede subway station. Pay a visit there this fall and add to our bird and plant lists.

PLANTS IN RENNIE PARK AND WEST POND, TORONTO - MAY 17, 1975

- Native Plants

"Rennie Park Area" extends southwards to where the stream emerges into its channel.

"Cat-tail Marsh" on west side of park includes the semi-circular wooded hillside behind the cat-tail marsh

"West Bank" is wooded hillside between cat-tail marsh and the north end of West Pond

"Pond Area" includes both steep-sided banks of the Pond.

	<u>Rennie Park</u>	<u>Cat-tail Marsh</u>	<u>West Bank</u>	<u>Pond Area</u>
- Common Horsetail	X	X	X	X
<u>FERNS</u>				
- Lady Fern		X	X	X
- Bracken Fern	X	X		
- Cinnamon Fern		X		
- Interrupted		X	X	X
- Sensitive Fern		X		X
<u>WOODY</u>				
- White Pine	X	X		X
- White Cedar				X
Crack Willow	X			X
Poplars, European White			X	
- Balsam		X		X
- Trembling Aspen				X
- Black Walnut				X
- Beaked Hazelnut		X	X	X
- Yellow Birch		X	X	X
- White Birch		X	X	X
- Speckled Alder		X	X	X
- Red Oak	X	X	X	X
- Black Oak		X	X	X
Elm, Chinese				X
- Sassafras		X		X
Red Currant - Ribes sativa			X	
- Witch-hazel		X		
European Mountain Ash				X
- Juneberry, Amelanchier sp.			X	X
- Hawthorn, Crataegus sp.			X	X
- Wild Raspberry		X		X
- Cherries - Black		X	X	
- Choke		X	X	X
- Pin			X	X

Plants in Rennie Park and West Pond - continued - page 2

<u>WOODY (Continued)</u>	<u>Rennie Park</u>	<u>Cat-tail Marsh</u>	<u>West Bank</u>	<u>Pond Area</u>
- Staghorn Sumach	X	X		X
- Maples - Mountain		X	X	
- Red		X	X	
- Manitoba	X	X	X	X
- Silver				X
- Wild Grape		X		X
- Poison Ivy				X
- Dogwoods - Round-leaved		X		X
- Red-osier	X	X	X	X
- Grey (panicled)				X
- Alternate-leaved		X		
Bittersweet Nightshade	X	X		X
Ailanthus				X
Honeysuckles - Bush (Diervilla)		X		
- Tartarian		X	X	X
- Climbing (dioica)				X
- Maple-leaved Viburnum			X	X
- Common Elderberry	X	X		X
<u>HERBACEOUS</u>				
-- Common Cat-tail, Typha latifolia		X		X
- Jack-in-the-Pulpit		X		
-- Skunk Cabbage		X	X	X
- Yellow Trout-lily			X	
- False Spikenard (recemosa)		X		
- Canada Mayflower (Maianthemum)			X	
- White Trillium		X	X	
- Red Trillium		X		
- Carrion-flower		X		
Iris sp.				X
Common Buttercup				X
- Early Meadow-rue		X		X
- Wood Anemone		X	X	X
- Red Baneberry		X		
Celandine			X	
- Two-leaved Toothwort		X		X
- Wild Strawberry		X	X	X
- Wild Geranium	X	X		
Cypress Spurge				X
- Downy Yellow Violet		X		
- Wild Sarsaparilla		X		X
- Sanicle		X		
- Common Milkweed				X
Goutweed	X			
Coltsfoot				X
Hairy Willow-herb				X

BIRDS SEEN IN THE WEST POND AREA - MAY 17 and 24, 1975

Mallard	Yellow Warbler
Killdeer	Magnolia Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Cape May Warbler
Mourning Dove	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Myrtle Warbler
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Black-throated Green Warbler
Downy Woodpecker	Blackburnian Warbler
Eastern Kingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Great Crested Flycatcher	Palm Warbler
Least Flycatcher	Ovenbird
Barn Swallow	Northern Waterthrush
Blue Jay	Yellowthroat
House Wren	Canada Warbler
Catbird	American Redstart
Brown Thrasher	House Sparrow
Robin	Red-winged Blackbird
Swainson's Thrush	Baltimore Oriole
Veery	Common Grackle
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Cardinal
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Starling	Indigo Bunting
Solitary Vireo	American Goldfinch
Red-eyed Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Warbling Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Black-and-white Warbler	Song Sparrow

BIRDING IN TRINIDAD

... by Bas and Rita Wigglesworth

Trinidad and Tobago have one of the most up-to-date laws protecting approximately 400 birds; unfortunately, it is not very rigidly enforced. Euphonias, parrotlets, and young macaws are still caught as cage birds so that you see make-shift ladders attached to trees in the outlying areas. These provide vantage points for the capture of the helpless birds. Parrots and other large birds such as the Crested Oropendola are treated as vermin. We were lucky to see some of the parrots at a distance, both Blue-headed and Orange-winged. Let us hope they do not suffer the fate of the parrots in Puerto Rico, now almost extinct. Private observation suggests that the authorities have more pressing concerns than the preservation of wildlife, not realizing the money-making potential through tourism.

An exception to this proposition is evident in the adoption of a logo designed to make the hummingbird a national symbol. There are seventeen of the hummers listed as nesting on these islands; some of them seem to migrate to the nearby continental South America. We were fortunate to see eight of these during our vacation, the strangest being the Green Hermit. This bird has a relatively loud voice and the males congregate within a small area deep in the undergrowth to sing throughout most of the day. Expert bird guides can point to the very shrub in which they will be sitting at a given time, otherwise one might search exhaustively. The balance of the hummers we saw: Black-throated Mango, White-throated Emerald, Blue-tailed Emerald, Long-billed Starthroat, Tufted Coquette, Copper-rumped, and Ruby-topaz

hummers, were feeding on the nectar of blossoms. It was providential that the Mountain Immortelle was in blossom at this time for these attract the hummers. This tree is used extensively to shade the cocoa and coffee plantations.

This account might well be entitled "Lawrence of Arima", for it was Lawrence Calderon, a guide normally working with the Asa Wright Nature Centre, who introduced us to the most beautiful and amazing birds of Trinidad, including all three Trogons, the two Manakins, and most of the Tanagers.

"A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago" ** by Richard french, was publication number one of the Nature Centre and it may well be the last, according to a Mr. Smith who has a bird sanctuary in Tobago. The ill health of the director, Colonel Wright, has caused a decline in the financial security of the establishment.

Upon purchasing this book and becoming familiar with its contents, we decided to write to the nature centre to determine if there were any organized outings or lecture tours that we could attend during our stay. We were surprised that it was possible to secure accommodations with meals provided for any available period with special concessions for those involved in serious studies. Although you could not consider the appointments as luxurious the rates were very reasonable compared to that of the local hotels. (** to borrow a copy, call the Wigglesworths at 444-4190)

Unfortunately, through inconsistencies in mail deliveries, we were unable to reserve a room in the short time available before departure. The literature we received included a note concerning the availability of Mr. Calderon as a guide for \$30.00 a day. This money would cover as many as five persons and included the use of Mr. Calderon's car. This was the best money we have ever spent.

From this experience it is our opinion that to see the greatest number of birds in Trinidad, ideally, you should stay at least one week at the Nature Centre. Three to four of these days should be spent in the company of Mr. Calderon. Such an arrangement would free you from the tangles of traffic of downtown Port of Spain.

Before leaving, we had been advised that the roads in Trinidad were excellent and so assumed that we would have no difficulty in getting around in a rented car even though driving would be on the opposite side of the street. In reality the roads turned out to be narrow and winding with practically no road signs. Road maps as we know them were not available. Road conditions, traffic congestion, and ignorance of the best routes, made driving a great chore requiring the constant attention of pilot and navigator.

Our first sortie with this rented car was a visit to the Caroni Swamp, a salt-water marsh just outside Port of Spain. We started as early as we could to see as much of the swamp life as possible, at ebb-tide. In some places acres of mud flats were visible and millions of fiddler crabs were waving their claws, some so small as to be seen only when the sun glinted on this large claw. What appeared to be mud-puppies, and large beetles could be seen everywhere. Little Blue Herons, Louisiana Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers and even a couple of Ospreys populated the open stretches of water. Coots and Galinules could be heard. Many birds were too far away for identification and others melted into the trees at our approach. In the Mangrove borders we managed to sight White-Headed Marsh Tyrant, Pied Water Tyrant, Yellow-breasted Spinetail and Straight-billed Woodcreeper.

In retrospect, to achieve the best results from this trip would be to hire the boat for the whole day visiting the many miles of canals available for exploration.

THE BIG WEEK-END

by

Gordon Bellerby

Have you ever spent the May 'big week-end' in town when all your friends are down at Pelee? Gives you rather a dull feeling, so when Eric Nasmith called early in May and suggested I join him, Don Pace and John Stevens on May 11th for a day's birding around Toronto, I jumped at the opportunity.

Jim Baillie used to say that May 9 was, on average, the BIG DAY at Pelee, so May 11th should be good around Toronto and with a fine day forecast, all were in good heart when Don and Eric picked us up at 6:30 a.m. We started in Downsview Dells, John's Warbler study area, and spent three hours covering the ravine thoroughly. Bird song was limited but a fair number of warblers were found as well as a nice Yellow-throated Vireo.

Out came the thermos and over coffee it was agreed to move on to Whitby as other Toronto inland areas would have much the same birds as we had been seeing. Whitby harbour these days is an active place with sail and power boats coming and going, but the surrounding area is still good and one expects to see a few shorebirds and ducks in the Hospital Marsh and also off-shore. The marsh looked quiet, but almost immediately, we heard and then saw a Sora rail; clicking two stones together soon produced a Virginia. Usually, views of these two rails are brief before they disappear in the reeds, but in May the reeds are only last year's stalks and it is easier to see, and we watched both birds at our leisure. Warblers were flitting around the willows and a pair of mute swans sailed majestically by.

Over a picnic lunch, we decided to move west to Eastbourne Avenue. Driving in, we met Norman Levay coming out. He told us he had just seen an interesting white bird in the marsh and was hoping to get a better view from the west side. We carried on down to the lake and saw a fair number of ducks in the marsh, but no shorebirds - in fact, the lake produced only a pair of common Mergansers.

We then drove out and over to Cranberry Marsh on the west side. All white birds were closely checked but proved to be gulls or terns, but then a short way to the scrubby growth, in the middle of the marsh, there was a larger white bird that looked interesting. Was it an Egret - or, could it be a Little Blue Heron? Its feet were hidden in the water, but suddenly it flew and Don Pace, on his 'scope at the time, clearly saw the yellow feet of a Snowy Egret.

This would be hard to top, so it seemed like a fitting finale to our day. Eric was keeping our list and found we had now seen 98 birds. Clearly, we couldn't quit without two more for the century, and a check showed that we were missing a few easy possibilities, such as both nuthatches and a chipping sparrow. Where to find them? All agreed that Alf Bunker at Happy Nook likely had them coming to his feeder so we drove over there. As we stopped the car, a chipping sparrow was singing #99, and two minutes later a Red Breasted Nuthatch flew to the feeder for our 100th bird.

Thanking Alf and his sister for their help and hospitality (we were all chewing on apples), we drove home feeling well satisfied with our day - 100 birds identified within the traditional museum 30-mile radius, including one not previously on the Toronto list, seemed a fair day's birding. So, when the Pelee boys tell us of their Curlew Sandpiper in Michigan, we can counter with our snowy Egret in Cranberry Marsh.

It is, perhaps, interesting to note that our only unusual birds were the Egret and Yellow-throated Vireo. All the other 98 one would expect to find at this time of year, but even so we missed many regulars such as: black duck, all the hawks, except marsh, all but two sandpipers (spotty and semi-pal), eastern kingbird and wood peewee, golden crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, warbling vireo, magnolia, black-burnian, chestnut sided and palm warblers also vesper sparrow.

JUNIOR CLUB MEMBER "MAKES" THE NEW YORKER
by
Harold Taylor

As the result of her curiosity about squirrels, 10 year old Jennifer Schengili of Wineva Avenue, a member of our Junior Club, has been prominently mentioned in the September 1st issue of The New Yorker.

It all began about a year ago when Jennifer read a New Yorker article about the squirrels of Central Park. She had a question for the author, Eugene Kinkead:

"Dear Mr. Eugene Kinkead: In the September 9th issue of The New Yorker, in the article on Central Park Squirrels, you state that 'cracked nuts (which would spoil) are never buried' But I have observed in Toronto that they do. Why?
Jennifer Schengili"

Squirrels that bury cracked nuts certainly were something new to Mr. Kinkead. All of his research for his article had not turned up such information. To get some expert comment on this piece of rather startling intelligence from Jenniefer he called an eminent authority at North Carolina State University. The expert responded that, while a single squirrel might do anything with a single nut, in his experience squirrels do not bury cracked nuts.

Mr. Kinkead's next move was to call Jennifer's mother. Mrs. Schengili confirmed Jennifer's observations, explaining that in the Beaches district where they lived there were both black and gray squirrels that buried both whole and cracked nuts that the Schengilis fed them.

After giving this information some thought the author then wondered whether these somewhat unusual Toronto squirrels would bury nuts with no shells at all. Enter the Boy Scouts whose, personnel, he decided, would "not only be prepared but reliable and wise in the ways of nature as well."

Putting in a call to the office of the Boy Scouts in Toronto Mr. Kinkead reached director Arthur L. Jackson and put his proposition to him. Would Mr. Jackson get in touch with the Schengilis, take some shelled nuts to their home, and report back?

Thus it was from Mr. Jackson that Mr. Kinkead learned, as he writes in the September 1st issue, that Jennifer is an "intelligent, ecology-minded young lady" who attends lectures at the Royal Ontario Museum and goes on weekly outdoor nature rambles. At home, she has names for each of her favourite squirrels. She announces feeding time by scraping half a walnut shell on a stone.

And do squirrels bury shelled nuts? Mr. Kinkead gives Mr. Jackson's report of what happened after he fed one of the squirrels some shelled unsalted peanuts. "After eating six or eight, he ran over to the base of a silver maple and buried the next three. With the fourth he performed beautifully. He went two doors north, cleared away the leaves, dug a sizeable hole, laid in the nut, covered it over thoroughly, and then re-arranged the leaves ... Yes, squirrels do bury shelled nuts."

Our thanks to Eugene Kinkead and to The New Yorker for a fine story.

Jennifer, we learn from Junior Club Director, Lynn Scanlan, is a keen member and is going into the insect group this year; also, that her aquarium was a prize-winning entry in the hobby competition at the Canadian National Exhibition this year.

Congratulations, Jennifer! May your interest in nature give you a lifetime of pleasure.

THE SUMMER WOLF CENSUS IN ALGONQUIN PARK in 1974

(Part of a review by Professor C. E. Atwood. Reproduced from the Newsletter of the ELSA WILD ANIMAL APPEAL OF CANADA, June, 1975).

One of the most controversial animals in Canada is the eastern timber wolf. This is partly because of the fog of superstition, folk lore and prejudice which has accumulated around "The Big Bad Wolf"; and partly because of the inherent difficulties in studying such elusive animals. In recent times, two new techniques have become available for the study of wolf numbers. These are observations from aircraft and the "howl response". In this way it has been possible to get fairly reliable figures for wolf populations in a number of areas, including Algonquin Park.

A long term study of the wolf population in the Park was begun in 1958. Up to 1965, fifteen packs had been located in an area of 657 square miles plus 210 square miles of peripheral areas. The wolf populations was estimated at about 1 wolf per 10 square miles. In 1971 a summer survey located 12 packs. But in 1973, the public "wolf howling nights" which had been successful and popular in 1963-1966, failed to get any response to human or taped howls. This, and some other bits of evidence, indicated that wolf populations in the Park might be decreasing. Consequently, in 1974, The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada supported a request by Dr. John B. Theberge for funds to repeat a wolf census in the Park.

The results of the 1974 summer wolf survey have been included in a 36 page report, illustrated with numerous maps and tables. This report is on file at the Elsa office. * Some material on food habits has not yet been completely analysed; when this work is finished, it is expected that the results will be published.

To summarize the findings briefly, the 1974 survey located only 6 separate packs, containing a total of 30 individuals. A comparison with the 12-15 packs located in previous surveys indicates a marked decrease in numbers of wolves in the study area. The authors suggested several possible factors involved in this decrease, including the decline of white-tailed deer populations. This has been noted in various parts of North America. The argument that it is the wolves which are causing the decline of the deer populations fails to deal with situations where the deer are declining although there are no wolves, eg., Nova Scotia, where there have been no wolves in historic times. Obviously, some very widespread ecological factors are behind this complex situation.

* Address of The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada:

Box 864, Postal Station K

Toronto, Ontario. M4P 2H2

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS 1975-1976 ... Eaton Auditorium - 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 1975 - "The Living Jungle"
" November 27 " - "Adventure High Arctic"
" January 22, 1976 - "Wildlife Safari to Ethiopia"
" February 19 " - "Bermuda - Land and Sea"
" March 18 " - "The Vanishing Eden"

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Why not book for the series now and enjoy these evenings with the rest of the T.F.N. members? REMINDER: As a member of the Club you get a reduced season rate. Come on, join now and enjoy these 'trips' during the coming months.

For further information and brochure contact: Ms. Diana Banville, 197 Redpath Avenue, Apt 5, Toronto, Ont. M4P 2K7. (481-3221, after 5:30 p.m.).

The following trips and tours are offered by Club members:

Ontario Nature Tours, Toronto address: 71 Thorncliffe Park Drive, Apt 511 (M4H 1L3)
(Phone: 421-4537)
Niagara Falls address: 6372 Montrose Road (Gus Yaki)

offer a variety of 'near home' trips and tours to 'far-away-places' including:

Oct. 2 - 9 - Bermuda Autumn Birding
Oct. 11-12 - Tree and Shrub Identification made Easy
Oct. 19 - Nov. 22 - New Zealand-Australia Tour (spaces still available)
Nov. 22 - 30 - Southern California Tour
Dec. 5 - 7 - Niagara River Bird Life
Dec. 21 - Jan 3, 1976 - Hawaii Calls
Dec. 25 - Jan 3 " - The Everglades and South Florida

and many more .. write or phone to the Toronto address for complete information and copy of Release No. 6.

AND:

Environmental Experiences Club offers 'close-to-home' trips for the family, including:

Oct. 10-13 - Thanksgiving weekend canoe trip (Pickerel River)
Jan 30 - Feb 1 - Dorset Winter Weekend No. 1
Feb 27 - 29 - Dorset Winter Weekend No. 2
March 12-14 - Winter camping (Algonquin Park)

and more .. contact Ed O'Connor, at 2 Nursewood Road, Apt. 11, Toronto, M4E 3R8
(phone after 6:00 p.m. 699-9211)

NOTE: The material in this Newsletter pretty well empties your Editor's mailbag. I would greatly appreciate hearing from any member who has a story to tell, a book review, or article from some publication which might be of interest to the rest of us.

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Your contributions will be received with gratitude and
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----- detach -----

TO: Stuart Corbett
52 Haileybury Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario. MK 4X5

1975, October

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