

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Number 307

April 1977

Visitors welcome!

APRIL MEETING

Monday April 4, 1977 at 8:15 p.m.
at
252 Bloor Street West

The OISE Building is midway between the two exits (St. George and Bedford) of the St. George subway station. The entrance is on the west side of the building via a covered walkway from Bloor Street. To park under the building, enter from Prince Arthur Avenue. (The parking fee is 50¢.)

Speaker: Mr. Robert Bateman

Topic: The Disappearing World

Mr. Bateman is one of Canada's outstanding artists and will bring us a most stimulating talk based on his interest in art and architecture and his wide travels. He has visited the arctic on several occasions and has lived in Africa. During this time he has photographed much which has since disappeared. Between the years 1950 and 2000 more treasures will disappear than did in the entire previous history of mankind. Mr. Bateman's address is a must for all who are interested in preserving our natural heritage.

May Meeting: Monday May 2, 1977

Tues. Sept. 6

Program Committee Chairman:
Mrs. Norah Stuart 485-5824

Junior Club
Saturday
April 2
10:00 a.m.

Meet in the Theatre of the Royal Ontario Museum from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Membership is open to boys and girls from 8 to 16 years of age. This meeting will be presented by the Fossil Group.

Director: Lynn Scanlan 488-8321

Bird Group
Wednesday
April 27
8:00 p.m.

Dr. Ross James of the Royal Ontario Museum will speak about "Why specimens are required by the museum" and "Vireos". Meet in St. James Bond United Church on Avenue Road just north of Eglinton Avenue.

Chairman: Red Mason 621-3905

Botany Group

No meeting in April. Chairman: Wes Hancock 757-5518

Ravine Group
Sunday
April 20 *17*
10:00 a.m.

East Don River Valley. Members living near York Mills and Don Mills are particularly urged to attend this outing. Parking at the Prince Hotel. York Mills bus from Yonge subway every 30 minutes on the quarter hour. Chairman: Jack Cranmer-Byng 488-3262

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS/ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

When: Friday April 29 to Sunday May 1, 1977

Where: University of Guelph, Guelph, Ont.

Registration: prepaid \$5.00, at the conference \$8.00

Accommodation: Friday night, Saturday breakfast and lunch included
single - \$17.00, double - \$34.00, student - \$11.50

Friday and Saturday nights, breakfasts and lunches included
single - \$30.00, double - \$60.00, student - \$23.00

Saturday Dinner - \$10.00 (speaker to be Pierre Berton)

Program: Art Exhibit; Films; Tours of the University; sessions on art, photography and nature

Brochures with registration forms are available from:

► Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 1262 Don Mills Road, Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8

TFNC VOLUNTEERS

Once again the Club will be having a booth at the Canadian National Exhibition which runs from Wednesday, August 17, 1977 through Monday, September 5, 1977.

If you think there is any chance that you will be able to assist us at our booth this year, would you please telephone Muriel Miville at 925-0549, late evenings or weekends, and give her your name and number. If you call now you will not, of course, be completely committed. We realize that August is a long way off and that your plans are uncertain, but if you would be willing to assist (providing you are in town at the time), this would at least give us a list to start from. You will not be held to any promises because we do understand that plans change from week to week. You will be contacted shortly before the Exhibition to set a definite date.

Muriel Miville (925-0549)

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS/TRIP PROGRAM

For information about a combined program of trips sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Canadian Nature Federation, write to:

► Canadian Nature Tours, 1262 Don Mills Road, Suite 49, Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W7
From the Nahanni to Newfoundland...from the Arctic to the Great Lakes, Canadian wilderness trips canoeing and backpacking

PELAGIC BOAT TRIP ON LAKE ONTARIO

The Cayuga II has already been reserved by the TFNC for a boat trip on Oct. 2/77. Reserve your place now by sending a cheque for \$10.00 post-dated September 1 payable to the "TFNC Boat Trip" to:

► Mr. Jerry White, 8 Monterrey Drive, Rexdale, Ont. M9B 1S8
The boat is limited to 180 passengers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At last we can all celebrate the rites of spring by digging down into our dusty pack to retrieve a handlens, cameras, and pair of binoculars. With an ample sprinkling of lubricating oil and a careful application of lens cleaner we're ready for the first thrust of skunk cabbage or the cheerful songs of feathered migrants. There is an excitement about spring that to me is unsurpassed. I look forward to the swelling of buds, the early expeditions of mallards up the Don Valley, and the intensification of colour as our landscape prepares to blush. I hope you will be able to enjoy spring to its fullest. Don't forget to consult our excellent Spring Outings booklet for valuable suggestions.

Don't forget to make a note on your calendar about the dedication of the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve shelter on May 14.

During April, information about our club will be on display in the main library in East York, 170 Memorial Park Avenue (Coxwell and Mortimer). Owen Fisher (444-7190) of our Public Relations Committee will also be in charge of our club's display at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' Conference in Guelph.

Four of our members, Jack Cranmer-Byng, Linda Cardini, Paul Scrivener, and Dale Taylor, are giving a presentation at the FON Conference in Guelph. Their topic is entitled "Tackling an Issue" and will be presented on Saturday April 30 at 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Since January your newsletters have been arriving on time — about two weeks before the monthly meetings. This is thanks to Lorelei Owen and volunteer helpers. To get our newsletter out requires about eight people working from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month (August to April). Could you help? A few people with cars are needed to help deliver the mail to the boxes. If you can give us some of your time, please call Lorelei Owen at 225-2205.

The club needs the services of a Chartered Accountant to be appointed as our auditor at the Annual Meeting in May. This is an essential service which must be transacted every year. If you can help, please call Helen Yemen, Treasurer, at 783-2155 or me.

Our Program Committee Chairman, Norah Stuart (485-5824), is looking for a volunteer to be in charge of the slide projector and lights at our monthly meetings at OISE. If you think you can help, please call Norah.

In fact, we need volunteers for many positions. If you think you can help us in any way, please call Muriel Miville (925-0549), our Volunteer Coordinator, and she will help you get involved more actively in the club.

Ron Thorpe (484-1807)

CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION

The Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held in Regina on August 24-26, 1977. The theme for this year's Symposium will be "Nature and Change on the Canadian Plains". Those interested in attending should write to:

► The Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Box 1321, Regina, Sask. S4P 3B8

IN THE NEWS

"Seedlings sensitive: Pines can test radiation levels" by Lydia Dotto (Globe & Mail, Feb. 22/77). Dr. Gordon Clark of the U of T's Zoology Dept. said coniferous trees, particularly white pine and Scotch pine are among the most sensitive of living organisms in their response to radiation. Ontario's provincial flower, the trillium, is even more sensitive, while white spruce have about the same sensitivity as humans.

"Mystery Mammal" (Globe & Mail, March 4/77) Partial skull of a previously unknown species of deer unearthed during the extension of the Bloor-Danforth subway line last summer.

"Wildlife brings joy to Don Valley home" by E. Margaret Clarkson (Toronto Star, Mar. 5/77) An excellent story about life in the valley less than a mile from the junction of Yonge St. and 401.

"Metro planners unveil program to widen and extend 4-lane arteries" by Alden Baker (Globe & Mail, Mar. 4/77) Once again our valleys are being threatened.

"New zoning proposed for land with eyesore" (Globe & Mail, Feb. 26/77) The East York planning board has proposed that a site on the Bayview Avenue Extension, where the shell of an unfinished apartment building has stood derelict for about 18 years, be zoned to permit only single-family houses or open space. The board is asking residents and others for comments.

READING OF INTEREST

New Yorker (Dec. 6, 1976) "A reporter at large: the last place" by Harold T.P. Hayes Bernhard Grzimek's struggles to protect East Africa's Serengeti Plain and its wildlife

Canadian Motorist (Feb. 1977) "Canada's Audubon: the works of William Pope, 19th century naturalist, finally acknowledged" by Darryl Stewart. Beautifully illustrated with Pope's bird drawings, this article announces the publication in March by Gage of "Sketchbook Pioneer: William Pope's America" by Lister Sinclair and Darryl Stewart.

A Biological Assessment of Carruther's Creek Marsh: Summary and Recommendations
by Ian D. Macnab and James Wingert, Dec. 1976, MTRCA
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The Illustrated Natural History of Canada, Natural Science of Canada Ltd., Toronto
Book clubs are usually bottomless pits one can't seem to escape from once entered! In the past I steered clear despite tempting free offers. Recently, though, I heard of a book club devoted solely to natural history. The free offer was The Arctic Coast. Others in the series: The Great Lakes, The Pacific Coast, Canada, The Western Plains, The Valley of the St. Lawrence, The Mountain Barrier, The Atlantic Coast. Having read the first two I can say that for the amateur naturalist they are informative and useful. The text includes a regional overview, the geology, vegetation, wildlife and notable features of each area; for example, Point Pelee and the Bruce Trail in The Great Lakes volume, and conservation (pressing environmental issues caused by man's interaction with and abuse of the natural environment). Their low price is reflected in the quality of photographic reproductions and book finishing details. They won't win any coffee table display prizes, but then, that's not why we buy books, is it?

Linda Cardini

TFNC LETTERS TO HARBOUR COMMISSION HAVE IMPACT

The Toronto Harbour Commission has received more letters about the continued dumping of truck fill on the Leslie Street Headland than on any other issue in recent history. TFNC members responded admirably to an appeal made at the February meeting to write to the Harbour Commission to protest filling in sandy areas with truck fill, thereby destroying successional vegetation that provided cover for migrating birds.

Although a "Master Plan" for the development of Aquatic Park (costing over 30 million dollars) has been proposed by Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA), this plan has yet to be approved by either the Province or the City of Toronto.

The Club is developing an alternative proposal for the Headland that will

- 1) recognize its unique habitat potential
- 2) be more accessible to the general public than a plan with heavy emphasis on marinas and private boating clubs
- 3) cost a fraction of the existing proposal

Details will be included in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, more letters are urgently needed to be sent to the Harbour Commission in opposition to continued dumping of truck fill in the absence of an approved plan for the Headland. For maximum impact, copies of your letter should be sent to:

- Mayor David Crombie, City Hall, Toronto
- Central Waterfront Planning Committee, 235 Queens Quay, Toronto
- Chairman, Waterfront Advisory Board, MTRCA, 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview M3N 1S4 and the original sent to:
- Toronto Harbour Commission, Toronto Star Building, 1 Yonge St., Toronto

David Morin, TFNC representative
Central Waterfront Planning Committee

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ACCESS TO LESLIE STREET SPIT

Don't forget, if you want to visit this area you must call Harry and Eileen Kerr (481-7948) on a Friday evening to find out when and whether other members will be visiting the Headland. Visitors must sign a release form and have their membership cards marked. The TFNC has special permission from the Harbour Commission to visit the Spit on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

TALCHAKO LODGE

Talchako Lodge is located in the Bella Coola Valley, about 265 air miles northwest of Vancouver, B.C. just inside the western boundary of 2.4 million acre Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. It is maintained by the Sierra Club of Western Canada on a minimum cost budget in an effort to provide a reasonable priced wilderness retreat. Capacity is limited to 40 persons, 20 in the Lodge, 20 in cabins. Possible activities at or near the Lodge include day hiking, canoeing, bird and animal observation, photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. All inquiries about reservations or further information should be directed to:

- Manager, Talchako Lodge, Hagensborg, B.C. V0T 1H0 (phone 604 982-2489)

June Ruddock (483-7897)

FUTURE USES OF TORONTO ISLAND AIRPORT SITE

The final cycle of public participation consists of two components.

- 1 Workshops, City Hall, Toronto
 - April 18 (7:00 p.m.) General Aviation Reports
 - April 19 (7:00 p.m.) Non-Aviation Reports
 - April 20 (7:00 p.m.) STOL & General Aviation Reports (including Alternative Transportation Modes)

The main purpose of the workshops is to review in detail the technical data in these reports for adequacy and comprehensibility. Those invited to the workshops include representatives of all interested municipalities, agencies, groups and organizations; and the Intergovernmental Staff Forum study managers and technical staff.

- 2 Public Conference, King Edward Hotel, Toronto
 - May 13 (7:00 p.m.) Comparison of site-specific impacts
 - May 14 (9:30 a.m.) Discussion of General Issues

The purposes of the Public Conference are to provide all interested participants the opportunity to discuss and compare the site-specific impacts of the scenarios; and to discuss the general issues associated with the future use of the Island Airport site.

Participants invited include MP's, MLA's, interested municipalities, organizations and groups, general public. Members of the Intergovernmental Staff Forum and technical staff will act as resources.

Interested Club members are urged to attend any of these meetings and to become involved in this planning process. The TFNC is opposed to the introduction of any type of commercial air service at the Toronto Island Airport. If present operations are to be phased out, we recommend the site be converted to parkland use by the general public of Metropolitan Toronto.

Copies of reports to be discussed at these meetings can be obtained from:

- Earl Berger Ltd., 47 Colborne St., Suite 206, Toronto, Ont. M5E 1E3 (863-6362)

David Morin, TFNC representative
Central Waterfront Planning Committee

DON RIVER DAY

The fifth annual canoe tour of the Don River is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 1977 at 10:00 a.m. This annual affair highlights a semi-serious canoe trip on Canada's most urbanized river. It is, however, a serious effort to encourage people to physically experience what was once an important and beautiful river. A hundred years ago Henry Scadding described the Valley of the Don as dressed with lofty pines and handsome meadows, inhabited by wild creatures, and with salmon in the clear water of the Don. This is a far cry from today's scene.

Come out for a picnic, hike, or canoe trip down the Don from Serena Gundy Park at Leslie and Eglinton to the lake, and weather permitting, from there to Harbourfront.

For more information, phone George Luste at 534-9313 or Bruce Bolin at 531-1847.

George Luste (534-9313)

TFNC FILM COLLECTION

Last fall I received a large box of slides that members had donated to the club. After a bit of a struggle I have now almost 400 slides filed, numbered, and recorded by subject on file cards.

The slides show a number of the parks and ravines in the area, some flowers and trees, and some club activities. There are some black and white negatives and prints as well.

As the collection grows it becomes more and more useful in a number of ways. The slides of parks and ravines can be used in planning changes and to show before and after views of a development. The pictures of plants and animals can be used for educational talks on identification. Photos of members and club activities have historical interest as time goes on, as does the whole collection. The photographs may also be used for exhibits and displays.

The slide and print collection is available to anyone who is giving a lecture or preparing an exhibit and needs material.

New slides are going to be needed all the time, and of many different subjects. The following is a list of suggestions:

- Jim Baillie Nature Reserve — annual picnic, etc.
- plants and animals — please identify if possible
- ravines and parks — all seasons, people using them, damage, etc.
- club activities — people identified if possible

I keep mentioning slides because they are used in presentations, are easy to store, and are inexpensive to shoot. Some black and white prints are useful for publicity as well, but please include the negatives.

All donations must include
 the approximate date the place or subject the photographer's name

If you are going to take a picture, take two, one for you and one for us. Over a period of time we can build up a valuable visual record of the wildlife and habitats around Toronto. Send donations to:

► Mark Sawyer, 11 Shallmar Blvd., Apt. 508, Toronto M5N 1J6

To see the collection, call Mark Sawyer after 6:00 p.m. at 782-3116.

Also, many thanks to those of you who have already donated slides:

H. Hancock	Stewart Hilts	P. Oman	R.M. Saunders
J. Cranmer-Byng	Nancy Bellerby	A. Valiunas	B. Cruickshank

Mark Sawyer (782-3116)

NO TRESPASSING

Recently published by the Conservation Council of Ontario as a result of a seminar on private land, public recreation and the law in June 1975, this 55-page booklet is available for \$1.50 from

► The Conservation Council of Ontario, 45 St. Charles St. E, 6th Floor, Toronto M4Y 1S2

NEWS FROM LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

Bird Study Workshops

Two four-day sessions of ornithological training, each for up to six students aged 14 through 16, will be held at the Long Point Bird Observatory in late June and late August 1977 (exact dates to be announced later). These workshops will include an intensive introduction to techniques of censusing, trapping and banding birds, preparation of specimens, and an introduction to bird identification and behaviour. All training will be under the direction of experienced ornithologists. The course is intended for young people who already have some knowledge of birds and have a serious interest in learning more about field ornithology and bird study. Successful completion of the course will help qualify students for positions at the Observatory as summer assistants.

The cost of the course will be \$35.00 including room and board at the Observatory Headquarters.

Because we hope the participants will have a genuine interest in working with birds, we require each applicant to write a letter stating name, age and address, and explaining the extent of his or her background and interest in birds. The letter should also give the name and address of an adult (preferably a teacher or naturalist acquaintance) who could provide a recommendation. Applications should be sent by April 1 to:

► Bird Study Workshop, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0

Observatory Assistants

Two or more assistants will be required in 1977 to assist in various aspects of the Observatory's program including any or all of the following: maintenance and operation of physical facilities including buildings, boats, traps, etc., clerical work and typing, migration observation and banding, breeding bird censuses, research projects on migrant or breeding birds, and educational programs for schools.

These are essentially volunteer positions, but living expenses and accommodation are provided at the Observatory. Successful applicants can expect to benefit from extensive training and experience in various aspects of the Observatory's program.

Positions are open throughout the year and to persons of any age or experience who are available for at least a month. Applications will be considered at any time, but should be submitted by April 1 for the university and high school summer vacation periods.

Applications should be addressed to:

► David J.T. Hussell, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0

Some Co-operative Naturalists' Projects in Ontario

What participants must do: make daily observations of birds

Qualifications: an ability to recognize birds and record observations accurately

○ Organizer: Mr. Clive E. Goodwin, 11 Westbank Cres., Weston, Ont. M9P 1S4

What participants must do: report all sightings of colour-marked shorebirds, where ever seen

Qualifications: ability to recognize shorebird species in all plumages

○ Organizer: Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Can. Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa K1A 0H3

What participants must do: visit selected shorebird habitats to count, identify and record plumage characteristics

Qualifications: ability to recognize shorebird species

- Organizer: Dr. R.D. Weir, Kingston Field Naturalists, 294 Elmwood St., Kingston, Ont.

What participants must do: make frequent visits to an observation area in the migration season; identify, count and record migrants passing through

Qualifications: ability to identify hawk species

- Organizer: Mr. David Copeland, 28 Sandalwood Ave., Hamilton, Ont. L8T 2E3

What participants must do: stake out a sample plot. In repeated visits over a month or more in the breeding season, count and map singing males, determine territory sizes and look for nests. Strict rules must be followed. A write-up is required. Commitment for one year only is all right.

Qualifications: must be able to recognize common birds by sight. Song recognition is an asset, but can be acquired as the project progresses

- Organizer: Dr. A.J. Erskine, Migratory Bird Populations, Can. Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ont. K1A OH3

What participants must do: Record details of occupied nests on standard forms provided. If possible make repeated visits to nests to count eggs or young

Qualifications: must be able to determine species to which the nest belongs and keep accurate records of observations. Young and/or inexperienced observers should be guided by experienced personnel

- Organizer: Dr. George K. Peck, ONRS, c/o Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6

What participants must do: compile inventories of plants, birds and/or other animals of the area; describe natural habitats and point out effects of human activities; make recommendations for safeguarding the ecosystem — anywhere in Metro Toronto

Qualifications: ability to identify plants, birds or other animals, or some knowledge of ecology in order to assess environmental quality

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

What participants must do: assist in preparation of ravine inventories and provide any available descriptive material — for ravines in Rosedale (Toronto)

Qualifications: advanced capabilities as naturalists

- Organizer: Mr. Dale Taylor, 33 St. Andrews Gardens, Toronto, Ont. M4W 2C9 (923-3561) and Mr. Paul Scrivener, 119 Glen Rd., Toronto, Ont. (924-2813)

What participants must do: make regular field trips and keep careful records of observations, particularly of new records — at the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve

Qualifications: ability to identify birds, mammals, plants, insects or other organisms

- Organizer: John ten Bruggenkate, 147 Glenvale Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M4G 2W2 (425-6096)

Royal Ontario Museum, Ornithology Dept. needs regular assistance once or twice a week to transcribe information, prepare indices, mount slides, sort and file materials, update files and other tasks. No experience necessary.

- Person to contact: Dr. R.D. James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6 (928-3684)

Altogether 29 projects are listed in the "Directory". Copies are available for 50¢ each (including postage) from the Editor, Directory of Co-operative Naturalists' Projects, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0

CHECKLISTS AND SURVEYS OF ONTARIO FLORA

Area	Author	Available
Algonquin Prov. Park	D.F. Brunton (1974)	Min. of Nat. Res., Whitney, Ont.
Brookbanks Ravine, Tor.	B. Cruickshank, B. Parker (1975)	TFNC, Toronto
Brown's Woods (Pelee Is.)		Essex Cons. Auth., Essex, Ont.
Bruce Pen.	P.V. Krotkov (1969)	FON, Toronto
Buckhorn Wilderness Cen.	R. Jones, H. Williams	Biol. Dept., Trent U
Byng Is. Cons. Area	1974	Grand River Cons. Auth.
Caven Bog		Peterborough Naturalists Club
Cedar Creek		Essex Cons. Auth.
Chesney Cons. Area	1974	Grand River Cons. Auth.
Cold Creek Swamp	J. Hamley (1959)	MTRCA
Dorset & vicinity	J. Cruise, J. Grear (1974)	U of T Herbarium
Elgin County	W. Stewart, L. James (1969)	Catfish Creek Cons. Auth. St. Thomas, Ont.
Four Toronto Parks	Botany Group TFNC (1972)	TFNC, Toronto
Irvine Creek	1974	Grand River Cons. Auth.
Island 74, 75 French R.	L. Dewey (1939)	Can. Field Nat. Vol. LIII, No. 9
Jim Baillie Nat. Res.	J. ten Bruggenkate (1976)	147 Glenvale Blvd., Toronto
Killarney Prov. Park	I. MacDonald	MNR
Kingston & vicinity	R. Beschel (1970)	Queen's U Herbarium
Metro Toronto Parks		MTP, University Ave., Toronto
Minesing Swamp	R. Bobbette (1974)	MNR
Niagara Frontier Region	C. Zenkert, R. Zander (1975)	Buffalo Museum Nat. Sc., Buffalo, N.Y.
Norfolk County	M. Landon (1960)	Big Creek Region Cons. Auth., Simcoe, Ont
Norfolk County	J. Cruise (1969)	Trans. R.C.I. #72
Oshawa-Scugog	E. Tozer (1964)	

Ottawa Valley Sand Dunes	A. Porsild (1939)	Can. Field Nat. Vol. LV, 1941
Pele Is./Prairie Tract		Essex Cons. Auth.
Pinery Prov. Park	1966	MNR Pinery Park
Pt. Pelee/Woodland Trail	G. Stirrett (1960)	Pt. Pelee Nat. Park
Port Abino	W. Johnson (1926)	Can. Field Nat. May 1930
Quetico Prov. Park	S. Walshe (1973)	MNR Atikokan, Ont.
Rennie Park, West Pond	1975	TFNC, Toronto
Rouge River (lower)	J. Riley	U of T Herbarium
Royal Botanical Gardens	J. Pringle (1969)	RBG, Hamilton, Ont.
St. John's Cons. Area	Niagara Falls Nat. Club (1971)	Niagara Pen. Cons. Auth.
Sidney Cons. Area	J. Martin (1973)	Quinte Field Nat. Club
Simcoe County	T. Reznicek, R. Bobbette (1972)	
Southern Ontario	J. Soper (1949)	FON, U of T Herbarium
Spooky Hollow	G. Meyers, J. MacLaren (1972)	Hamilton Nature Club
Thunder Bay District	C. Garton (1950)	Thunder Bay Nat. Club
Toronto Islands	P. Catling (1974)	Ont. Field Biol. 28(2): 74
Waterloo County	F. Montgomery (1945)	Trans. R.C.I. No. 25

Please send additions, corrections, suggestions for this list to:
 ▷ James L. Hodgins, 90 Wolfrey Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1K8

James L. Hodgins

Burke Brook Ravine	J. Cranmer-Byng, E. Hamilton R. Cunningham (tbp 1977)	TFNC
Chapman Creek Ravine	C. & J. Goodwin (1976)	TFNC
Chatsworth Ravine	J. Cranmer-Byng, (1973) E. Hamilton, S. Hilts	TFNC
Park Drive Ravine (1976)	D. Taylor, P. Scrivener	TFNC
Wigmore Park Ravine	D. Kelly, A. Greenbaum (1976)	TFNC
Taylor Creek Ravine	L. Cardini, H. Juhola (tbp 1977)	TFNC

GIVE YOUR TREES THE "HERITAGE HUG"

Everyone knows about century farms and antique cars, but how many of us know about heritage trees? Usually a heritage tree is defined as a tree with historic value, unusual size or species, great age, or special purpose. A heritage tree may also be defined as a tree that is at least 100 years old and has the potential for living at least another 100 years if not interfered with. Not every kind of tree has this potential. Trees like animals have different life expectancies; for example, you can expect to live to 70, but your dog will be old at 10. Similarly, a birch tree is old at 100, but a red oak may live for 700 or 800 years.

It is easy to determine the age of a tree once it is cut down. It takes only a few minutes to count the annual rings from the centre to the edge of the stump. An annual ring consists of a dark band and a lighter one, so counting all the dark bands or all the light bands gives the age of the tree from the height of the cut upwards.

To determine the age of a living tree is more difficult. Even in a localized area such as "around Metropolitan Toronto" it is difficult to be specific about the size of a 100-year old tree because its growth depends on the site, the distribution of other trees around it, and the activities of people near it during that time. For example, a 100-year old hickory may be as small as 12 inches in diameter measured at breast height (dbh) or as large as 18 inches dbh.

To determine if a tree in Metropolitan Toronto is 100 years old you need to know the species and its circumference at breast height. If you can't reach around a white oak or a sugar maple, that means the tree is over 100 years old. Your reach is approximately equal to your height which, in turn, would be the circumference of the tree.

The following information for trees in the Metro Toronto area was obtained at the University of Toronto during 1976 by using an increment borer, a tool which is used to extract a core from a living tree so that the rings can be counted without cutting down the tree.

Estimated sizes (dbh) of 100-year old trees in Metropolitan Toronto

Species		Circumference	Diameter
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	38"	3.15'
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>		12"
White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>		
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>		
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>		
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	56½"	4.7'
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>		18"
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>		
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	63"	5.25'
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	94"	7.8'
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>		30"
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	99"	8.4'
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>		32"
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		

Where are the heritage trees in your neighbourhood? A useful project for anyone interested in trees is to measure the ones in your neighbourhood, identify which are heritage trees, and mark their positions on a map. A map of your ward would be useful for this and can be obtained from your local alderman. He too will find the information interesting.

Another project is to locate all the rare trees in your neighbourhood and show these on a map. Species to be shown should include:

Yellowwood (<u>Cladrastis lutea</u>)	Cucumber-tree (<u>Magnolia acuminata</u>)
Plane-tree (<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>)	Black Maple (<u>Acer nigrum</u>)
Swamp White Oak (<u>Quercus bicolor</u>)	

To help you identify the kinds of trees you will be looking for, the following key to deciduous trees is provided.

Fall Colour

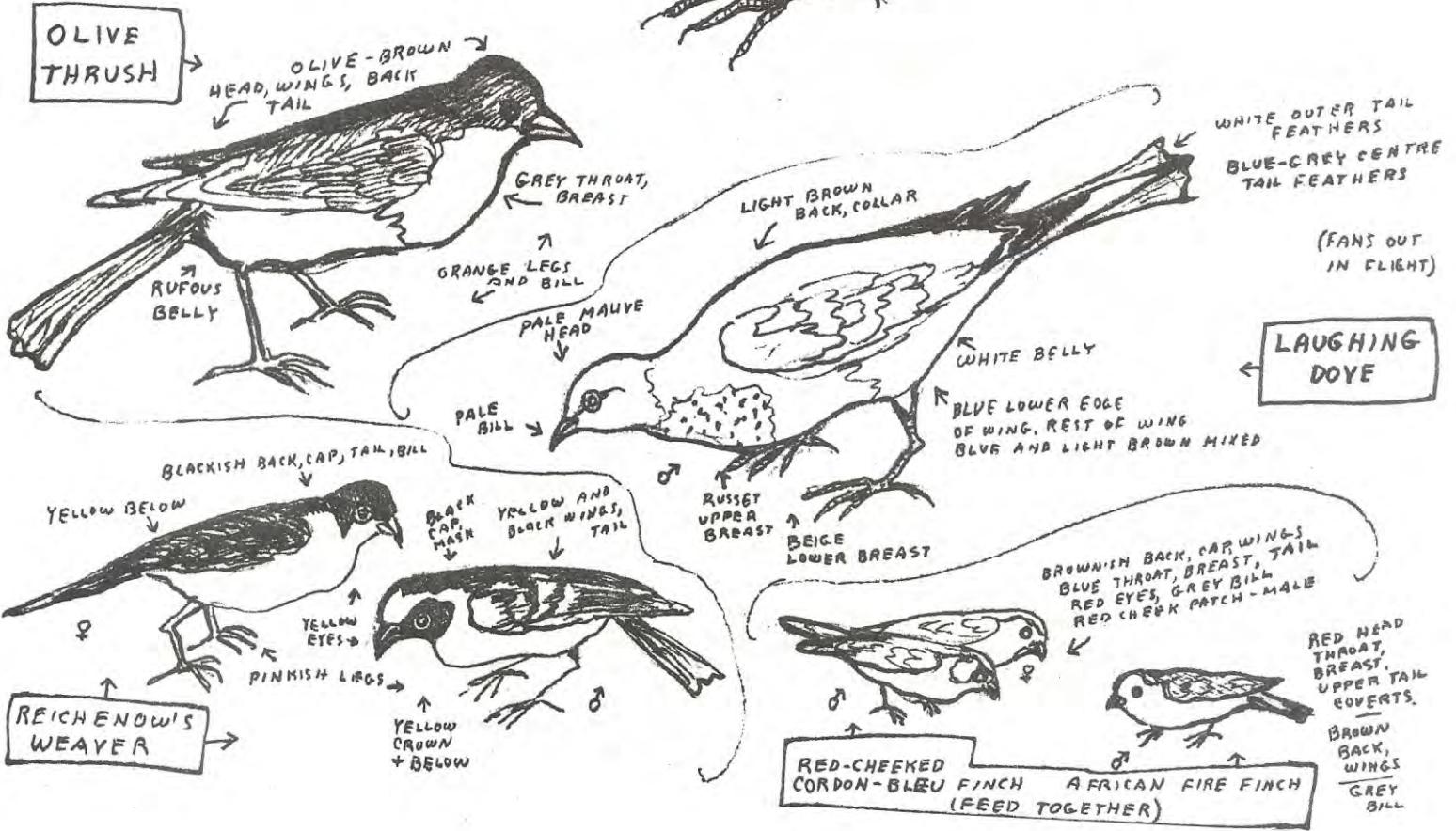
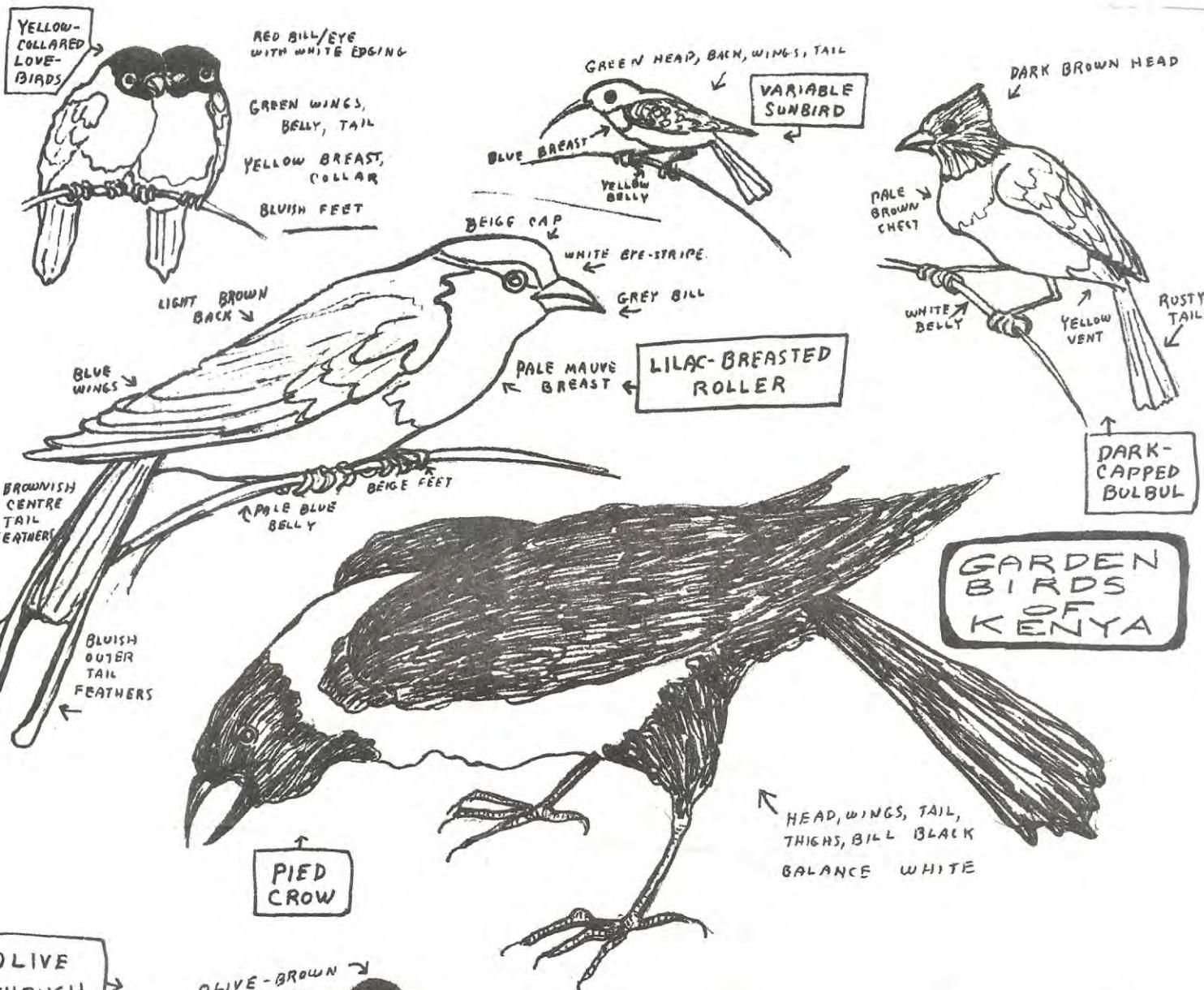
maroon, then brown; late apricot flame	<u>Bunched Buds</u> <u>Opposite Arrangement</u> twiggy MAPLE sharp pointed buds with many overlapping scales; vertical bark plates; very hard, grey SUGAR MAPLE	OAK two-toned bark is red oak one colour bark all the way up is white oak coarse, few twigs ASH (only lives about 150 years)
yellow or brown red and yellow tints	<u>Alternate Arrangement</u> Cigar-shaped Large Brown Buds, thin twigs BEECH smooth grey bark and initial carving Bark Plates with Lenticels Showing, dark colour BLACK CHERRY	
old gold, early	Thin Trunk, many branches - Hickory large two-tone buds SHAGBARK HICKORY sulphur yellow buds BITTERNUT HICKORY	

Mary Smith (231-5302)

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GARDEN BIRDS OF KENYA

If you're ever travelling on your own in East Africa on a limited budget (it costs so much to get here), you will not have to go on safari right away if you get into a suburban hotel. The hotel will probably have a garden with many bird species to entertain you.

In the Nairobi area the most abundant doves, or Columbidae, are the Laughing Dove (Streptopelia senegalensis), about $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the Red-eyed Dove (S. semitorquata), about 12 inches, both beautiful pastel-coloured birds. Several members of this genus occur in East Africa, but in North America only one species occurs and this has been introduced into Florida.

So far this trip I have not run into the Red-chested Cuckoo (Cuculus solitarius) (12") which calls loudly before rain, but one was resident in my brother's garden when I visited him in 1970.

Interesting though it is to compare species of the same families in Ontario and abroad, it's intriguing to meet the first members of a family that does not occur at home. The Coliidae (Colies) are such a group. The most abundant (very) is the Speckled Mousebird (Colius striatus). It earns its name through its mousy colour, very long, tapering tail and its habit of tumbling about in the shrubbery and often assuming mouse-like positions.

Another family we don't encounter in Ontario (unless you've seen any escaped budgerigars lately) is the Psittacidae (the Parrots). At last I've met my first species, the Yellow-collared Lovebird (Agapornis personata). It is tiny (6"), yellow, black, two shades of green, and has a red bill. It's often seen here at the coast feeding in small flocks and making miniature parrot sounds. It is very engaging, does not mind how close he is to human habitation, and quite as at home in the ornamentals as in the Baobab tree outside my window.

You start to see rollers more as you reach the coast; they belong to the family Coraciidae and the order Coraciiformes to which the kingfishers also belong. I always think though that the rollers look more like oversize finches, plump and rounded, though their bills are a little long. The Lilac-breasted Roller (Coracias caudata) is 16" long but this includes the tail streamers (about 3"). The bird is tawny on the back but the predominant colour is blue (several shades) and makes you think of a bluejay flashing by, but the breast, of course, is lilac. Though associated with open bush country, it certainly is at home here on the coast around the gardens. Another common roller is the European (Coracias garrulus), but I couldn't swear it is a garden bird in these parts.

Oddly enough I have not yet encountered the Picidae here in East Africa. We are used to woodpeckers in our gardens, but here the guide lists only one that frequents "cultivated areas", the Grey Woodpecker (Mesopicus goertae). I've not caught up with him.

Now for the Passeriformes. The Corvidae are really a surprise. You would expect any self-respecting crow is going to be black — not in East Africa. Corvus albus (what a name for a crow!) is white in the breast and upper back; the rest of him is properly black. He's big (18"), and is very common around Nairobi — even in mid-town. When you get to the coast you hear the constant calling of the Indian House Crow (Corvus splendens), an introduced species from across the Indian Ocean. (Maybe it came in on the dhows.) The male is handsome, a brownish head and breast with creamy highlights and face, wings, and tail black. It appears to be a little smaller than Corvus brachyrhynchos — perhaps about 13". The female is smaller with a brown body

and head, black wings and tail.

The starlings (Sturnidae) are another story. Besides I don't know whether they could be classified as garden birds. Several genera occur here in East Africa though none of the genus Sturnus like the Common Starling (S. vulgaris) which seems to be just about everywhere else.

The Nectariniidae, as the name implies, seem to fill the niche here in Africa of the Hummers in the New World. On my first visit here in 1970 I was thrilled to see my first sunbird — the Variable (Cinnyris venustus) in my brother's garden the day of my arrival. The breast of this metallic-green bird can be yellow, orange, white, or red. There are many species of sunbird, but every one I saw thereafter turned out to be the Variable. This trip, however, I've already encountered the Amethyst (Chalcomitra amethystina), velvety black with touches of metallic colours, and two others, the Scarlet-chested (Ch. senegalensis) and the Collared (Anthreptes collaris), metallic green and yellow.

No nuthatches (Sittidae) are here in East Africa and only one of the creepers (Certhiidae) — not something you would associate with Africa anyway.

The pipits (Motacillidae), a family we think of as "birds of open country", occur here as garden birds, perhaps more associated with city parks. I have seen the African Pied Wagtail (Motacilla aguimp), just another race of the White Wagtail of Europe apparently, and the Yellow Wagtail (M. flava), referred to in my guide as Budytes flavus. This species has five different races each with its own head colouration — yellow, black, or gray, with and without eye-stripes. One race occurs in North Alaska! Actually, this yellow species is a migrant from Europe, while the former breeds in Africa and is treated as a separate species. The European guide is more inclined to lump together the black and white wagtails as races of one species, but the African guide separates them. As for pipits, the one I'm dying to see is the Yellow-throated Longclaw (Macronyx croceus), a dead-ringer for the meadowlark which is, of course, an Icterid. My African guide has only 16 or 18 colour plates, the other couple of dozen being black and white. (I coloured them as best I could.) When completing this pipit from the description in the book, I was amazed to see the meadowlark emerge. Then I recalled reading about this phenomenon in Peterson's "Birds of the World".

When I first saw the Dark-capped Bulbul (Pycnonotus xanthopygos) I was amazed how much it resembled the Great Crested Flycatcher, but it was only because the individuals in my brother's garden in the Nairobi suburbs showed more yellow on the belly and more rust in the tail than the typical individual. I haven't seen any this trip that strike me like that; however, they do resemble our Ontario flycatchers (the Tyrannidae) even though the latter are of the suborder Clamatores (noisy creatures?) while the bulbuls are of the suborder Oscines, song birds not too far from the thrushes. In fact, the Dark-capped makes a robin-like chortling sound. Others of the family Pycnonotidae have no crests and this renders them more thrush-like in appearance. No Tyrannidae occur here, but one family of flycatchers whose members are not too unlike their American counterparts are the Muscicapidae. One member of this family, the Paradise Flycatcher (Terpsiphone viridis), earns its name through its streaming tail — more than twice the length of this small bird. I remember seeing it in the garden in 1970 but have not yet encountered it this trip. So far I have seen only a dun-coloured, 5" cousin, the Grey Flycatcher (Bradornis microrhynchus), a dry bush bird which is, however, right outside my door — there is enough dry bush close by.

Of the thrushes (Turdidae) the most worthy of mention is the Olive Thrush (Turdus olivaceus), the East African counterpart of our very own American Robin (T. migratorius). (Other birds have the name "robin", but would not be so robin-like to an Ontarioan.)

The Olive Thrush has the breast dark, but the belly rufous. The bill and feet are a deeper yellow than the robin's, but the general effect is similar and it does have the "clucking" sound of our robin. In habits, though, it does not quite resemble the robin. For instance, it is not above pecking at the garbage — but then there is probably a paucity of earthworms in the sun-baked earth here.

Ruppell's Robin Chat is a species found in Nairobi — bright golden-rufousbreast and beautiful thrush-like song. I also observed in the garden there the Rufous Bush-chat (Cercotrichas galactotes) which is actually a bush-warbler. I believe it is in the same family as kinglets (Sylviidae) although my European guide still groups all the thrushes, old-world warblers, and flycatchers in one huge family (Muscicapidae). I had to use my European guide for wintering old-world warblers. There are few thrush species here as we know them.

The Drongo (Dicrurus adsimilis) is in a family close to the shrikes. We have no Dicruridae in North America. Two of them hold a "shauri" every day in the branches outside the hotel, making sweet sounds. They're all black, and a "shauri" is a discussion or meeting. (If you were here, you too would find the Swahili slipping in like that.) Of the shrikes (Laniidae), the Fiscal Shrike (Lanius collaris) is the most abundant. It is black and white, but the greyish juvenal reminds you of our Lanius shrikes. It is a garden bird.

Finally we come to the weavers and finches. My African guide puts the weavers and old world sparrows in the family Ploceidae to which the House Sparrow belongs. Passer domesticus is not evident around here and not listed in the guides. My brother argued that it is in Nairobi, but I wonder if what he noticed was the Kenya Rufous Sparrow (Passer rufocinctus), similar but more brightly coloured. I still haven't been able to check this. One I have noticed is the Grey-headed Sparrow (Passer griseus) but the head is plain grey. The garden version of the Yellow-and-black Weaver is Reichenow's (Othyphantes reichenowi), there usually being several pairs around the garden in Nairobi. Here at the coast I've noticed a colony of Layard's Black-headed Weavers in the camping field of the beach hotel, but I'm not sure if it qualifies as a garden bird.

Of the finches (Fringillidae) only one species is abundant in Nairobi gardens — the Streaky Seed Eater (Serinus striolatus). It looks like a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak but it sings more like a goldfinch. All the genera are different from those of North American finches, however. Two colourful, small finches really belonging in the Ploceidae with the weavers and sparrows are the African Fire Finch (Lagonosticta rubricata), $4\frac{1}{2}$ " with brown wings and tail, and the Red-billed Fire Finch (L. senegala). The latter is supposed to be more abundant, but I've seen only the former at Nairobi and at the coast. You've probably seen the Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu (Uraeginthus bengalus) in a cage somewhere. How enchanted I was the first time I saw a small flock flying free! They're everywhere here at the coast — feeding in the hedges and on the ground. The female does not have the red cheek-patch.

That's the picture of my first ten days in Kenya. If I come across any more garden birds I'll let you know. For now — from me and all "ndege" — Kwa Heri!

Diana Banville

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Ed. Note. Have just received another article from Diana entitled "Water Birds of the Kenya Coast".

NATURE ON THE SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

It would take ten pages to tell all about my trip to Nahanni National Park, so here are some notes on the natural history.

Our first campsite was on a sandy island in the upper river where the valley is wide and rimmed with mountains — some jagged peaks still with snow patches, others just rocky — all with the spruce forest stretching from the river to their flanks. Balsam poplars grew tall on the upper end of the island, but smaller new growth downstream provided space for our tents. Here a few thin-leaf alders and white spruces struggled. Many willow shrubs had been broused beyond recognition — moose tracks were everywhere! Patches of various milk-vetches grew among the young trees, but with Hulten's "Flora of Alaska" we soon identified Astragalus eucosmus with its round, mauve head; A. alpina, low and spreading; and A. nutzotinensis with its distinctive, sickle-shaped pods. An Oxytropis with pale yellow flowers, observed frequently growing into bushes about a foot high, was identified as O. campestris. Two Hedysarums were found — H. alpinum with two-tone pink flowers, and H. mackenzii with vivid all-puce flowers. The latter occurred frequently along the riverbanks adding a nice touch of colour. Siberian asters and northern goldenrod were blooming although it was only July 4th. Arctic lupin and Labrador lousewort were good finds as were river beauty and fireweed. A single-headed white fleabane (Erigeron hyssopifolius) was new to us as was the artemesia, A. tilesii var. elatior.

The more familiar plants were buffaloberry, bearberry, early coralroot, northern green orchid, blue-eyed grass, and a dandelion. The red-osier dogwood observed was pubescent, and therefore var. Baileyi. Squashberry (Viburnum edule) was also present.

On hearing a thin "zee-zee" we looked up into the poplars and saw a small flock of Bohemian Waxwings. Presently an Arctic Tern flew by; then a Mew Gull flew up and down along the river — curious, but not scavenging. In the dense forest many Tennessee Warblers and Swainson's Thrushes sang late into the night — well, there really wasn't any night as it was still light at 1:00 a.m. Nighthawks "peent" overhead, which struck me as funny as this is what I hear at night all summer in Toronto 3000 miles away!

One place where we landed and hiked through the bush we found typical boreal undergrowth: twinflower, naked mitrewort, bunchberry, single delight, and rattlesnake fern growing among mosses. The prize was sparrow's-egg lady's-slipper (Cypripedium passerinum) which was abundant hereabouts. We flushed a Spruce Grouse, but the birds were quiet and the only other species observed was a "Myrtle" taking grubs to his nestlings. Some tamaracks grew among the spruce and poplar.

One night we camped among roses and horsetails. Rosa acicularis was in full bloom and so abundant under the trees that it was necessary to remove some before pitching our tents. Beside a small mountain stream we found low and creeping junipers, grass-of-parnassus, and a delightful little bright blue Campanula (C. aurita) with reflexed petals. We also found circular mounds of a red moss with little white "hats". The expanded spore cases were shaped like Chinese coolies' hats. As yet, I have no name for this moss.

In one stretch where the river meandered for a few miles we saw a young moose which ambled off to hide as we rounded a bend. Occasionally we observed a Goldeneye or a Bufflehead close to the bank. Once a beaver crossed the river near us, and in a quiet reach we saw a moose and calf disappear into the shrubs.

Actually very little game was seen at all. Early July is a poor time of year for finding mammals. The Dall rams and woodland caribou are usually grazing on the higher ground — although we did see one Dall sheep grazing by herself high up on the mountainside. We heard the various notes of a Varied Thrush, and once a robin came out of the bush to prove his presence. Waterthrushes and yellowthroats were also present, and juncos were abundant. At a pebbly washout plain where we stopped for lunch we noticed Bonaparte's Gulls and Arctic Terns loafing on a sandbar by the river. These would surely be non-breeding birds as the river is too fast-flowing to contain much food, and only in a quiet snye could fish breed. In turning into one of these reaches we came upon a small mixed flock of male White-winged and Surf Scoters. One night we camped opposite a high sandy cliff where Bank Swallows were nesting at the very rim; it must have been exceedingly high as the birds seemed no larger than dragonflies.

Along the banks of the river were patches of *Hedysarum*; roses bloomed; and sometimes stretches of silverberry (*Elaeagnus commutata*) grew. On gravel bars were lupins and carpets of Drummond avens. The latter never opens up wide like the other dryases, but keeps its yellow petals nearly closed and hangs its head. When we stooped at a creek and explored the wet meadow through which it flowed, we were able to add several plants to our list: andromeda, bistort, tundra dwarf birch, green alder, stemless raspberry, mountain avens (*Dryas integrifolia*), and Lapland rosebay. One place we camped there were so many orchises (*O. rotundifolia*) that it was difficult to avoid them but they were well protected by the sphagnum they grew in. That day we saw Boreal Chickadees and Yellowlegs; and Spotted Sandpipers were seen frequently nesting along the sandy banks.

When we arrived at Virginia Falls, we set up camp and enjoyed the surroundings before making the mile-long portage. Here we discovered a stand of lodgepole pines, and among the many flowers new to us were alpine asters, arnicas, and a dark red fleabane. The blueberries and mountain cranberries (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) were not ripe. The trail is through forest, and on one trip we saw a Spruce Grouse which stood still while her chicks ran for safety — then we shooed her away and a least chipmunk scampered up a tree beside us — he didn't seem much smaller than our eastern species, but was grayer. The trail near the edge of the gorge is a narrow, steep, stony, zigzag track along which the vegetation changes. The best finds were purple-spotted lady's slipper (*C. guttatum*) which is a little larger than the "passerinum", and cassiope which, unfortunately, was through blooming. Growing in the crevices on the walls of the gorge were smooth woodsia, Robert's oak fern, and fragile fern; and on the ground: bird's-eye primrose, a species of grass-of-Parnassus (*P. kotzebui*), and pink pyrola.

Past the falls we travelled in deep canyons and the vegetation did not change very much for a hundred miles. Birch was added to the list of trees and we saw a few trembling aspens. In Deadmen Valley we found *Aster brachyactis* — our old friend from the Leslie Street dump! — here growing tall and straight on the riverbank. Here also we found a nighthawk's nest with two tiny chicks — the mother bird gave a good show of the "broken-wing act". New birds were Golden Eagles soaring high above us at the rim of the canyon and, on occasion, a raven. Violet-green and Cliff Swallows swarmed around their nests 3000 feet above our heads. I didn't see any down by the river so there must have been plenty of food away up there on the mountain. We would have been glad of their help in removing the mosquitoes!

When we emerged from all the canyons we were only 600 feet above sea level and in the Liard-Mackenzie Valley. The plants seen were not listed in our manual, so on returning home we had to consult the "Flora of Alberta" by E.H. Moss.

We stopped at some hot springs where a trapper had lived for a number of years. His garden was over-run with parsnips! He had also grown fiddleheads (ostrich fern) and beautiful delphiniums around his cabin. Wildflowers which we had not seen previously on the trip were choke cherry, inland maianthemum, western Canada violets (V. rugulosa), Lindley's aster (A. ciliolatus), Kalm's lobelia, three-flowered bedstraw, tall stinging nettles, pearly everlasting, and two species of buttercups. In the field we saw red clover — something homey we hadn't seen for a long time.

On our way downstream we stopped to rest under a rocky cliff where smooth cliff-brake, prairie sage, and a little blue campanula with reflexed petals were growing together. Then a Bald Eagle flew over as though he knew we wanted to see him to complete the list.

Emily Hamilton

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