



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

NEWSLETTER

Number 321

February, 1979



cover by Ed O'Connor

The mammals are around.....

See "Upcoming Outings" Feb.

Page 3.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION SALES

83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M5M 2T4 or call 488-7304

TFN MEETINGS



GENERAL MEETINGS

252 Bloor Street West (O.I.S.E. Bldg.)
 (Between Bedford Road and St. George Street)

Monday, February 5, 1979, at 8.15 p.m.

RAPTORS, THEIR STATUS AND FUTURE — Dr. David M. Bird,
 Curator, Macdonald Raptor Research Centre, McGill University
 Dr. Bird will present a slide-illustrated talk on the status of
 the raptorial species, and will report on the efforts inaugurated
 throughout the world to halt the decline in numbers of these
 magnificent aviators. These efforts include rehabilitation
 centres, captive breeding and release experiments and migration
 banding studies.

Also at this meeting the Junior Club will have a display showing
 their activities. See Junior Club News on page 7 for details.

March meeting — Monday, March 5, 1979, at 8.15 p.m.

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GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group

Wed. Feb. 28 Status of the Red-Shouldered Hawk in Ontario
 8.00 p.m. - Mr. Ed Hanna
 Location: St. James Bond United Church
 Avenue Road, just north of Eglinton
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Botany Group

No February meeting. See President's Report, page 5.
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Junior Club (for children between 8 and 16 years of age)

Sat. Feb. 3 All interested children are invited.
 10.00 a.m. Call Tyna Silver, 636-4812, for details.
 Location: Planetarium Auditorium (immediately south of Royal
 Ontario Museum)
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Ravine Group

Wed. Feb. 14 A presentation is planned by students of the
 8.00 p.m. Experience '78 Don Valley Study. However, at the
 time of going to print, this has not been confirmed.
 Persons wishing to attend the meeting are asked to
 call Helen Juhola, 924-5806, after February 10.
 Location: Landscape Architecture Bldg., University of Toronto
 230 College Street
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Waterfront Group

No February meeting. See report on page 13.



- Sunday
Feb. 4
10.00 a.m.
to
1.00 p.m.
- ROUGE VALLEY - Cross Country Ski Outing**
Leader: John Riley
Meet at the parking lot of the Glen Eagles Hotel, Sheppard Avenue 1 block east of Meadowvale Road. (Scarborough 86C bus which leaves Warden subway station every 20 minutes. Get off at Sheppard and Meadowvale and walk east one long block). Bring "nibbles" and a Thermos (filled). Some members of the Pickering Naturalists' Club have been invited to join us.
- Wednesday
Feb. 7
10.00 a.m.
- CENTENNIAL GREENHOUSES, ETOBICOKE**
Leader: Mary Suddon
Meet at the greenhouses. (Anglesey bus from Royal York subway station to the corner of Rathburn and Elmcrest. Walk north on Elmcrest to the greenhouses.)
- Saturday
Feb. 10
7.00 to
9.00 p.m.
- WILKET CREEK PARK - Moonlight walk**
Leader: Bill Andrews
Meet at the first parking lot inside the south entrance off Leslie Street just north of Eglinton Avenue East. (Leslie 51 bus or Lawrence East 54 bus from Eglinton subway station. Get off the first stop after the turn on to Leslie).
- Sunday
Feb. 11
- BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE - Sleigh Ride and more!**
Leader: Wes. Hancock
See page 27 for complete details.
- Sunday
Feb. 18
1.00 p.m.
- JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE - Animal Tracks**
Leader: Ed O'Connor (this newsletter's cover artist)
Meet at the shelter on the reserve.
CARS ONLY. Hwy. 401 to the Brock Road (interchange 64A). Brock Road to Uxbridge. Continue north on Durham Region Road #1 about 7 miles to Leaskdale, then a further 2.5 miles to Stevenson Side Road on right. Note TFN sign. Drive 0.5 miles to parking on south side of road. You may need waterproof footwear (depending on the weather) as normally much of the reserve is boggy.
- Sunday
Feb. 25
1.30 p.m.
- THOMSON MEMORIAL PARK**
Leader: Charlie Crosgrey
Meet in parking lot on the east side of Brimley Road, 1 km north of Lawrence. (Brimley Bus 21 from Warden Station, platform 2 - every 25 minutes, one at 12.50 p.m. Get off at park entrance. Lawrence East 54 bus from Eglinton Station. Get off at Brimley and walk north or transfer to Brimley bus.)

EVENTS

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Civic Garden Centre

Monday Hort. Night — "Birds in Your Garden" — film by
February 12 Mr. Hyde of Yuell and Hyde.
3.00 p.m.
Location: Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., at Leslie St.

Garden Layout Clinics will be held February 24 and March 3.
Half-hour appointments will be arranged with a student landscape
architect to discuss your garden layout.
Fee — \$10.00 range. Call 445-1552 after January 15 to arrange
for an appointment.

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Royal Ontario Museum Exhibitions

January 19 - Wild Life Art Exhibition — acrylics, water
March 5 colours, pen and ink drawings, engravings
 - by Paul Geraghty

Location: Lower Rotunda, Royal Ontario Museum

January and "Introduction to the Life Sciences"
February

Location: Third floor rotunda, Royal Ontario Museum

Sunday afternoons "Nature of Things" — CBC film series
at 2.30 Call 978-3690 for further details

throughout
January and
February

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Royal Canadian Institute Lectures

Lectures at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto. Admission free.

Saturday Chemical Reactions, Lasers and Enigmas
February 3 - Prof. John C. Polanyi
8.15 p.m. Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto

Saturday Solar Energy - What's Really Going on out There
February 10 - Mr. Douglas Lorrigan
8.15 p.m. Moriヤマ Architects and Planners

Saturday The Niagara Escarpment and The Bruce Trail
February 17 - Mr. James Woodford
8.15 p.m. Executive Director, Coalition on the Niagara
Escarpment (CONE)

Saturday Chemistry and the Environment
February 24 - Prof. W. Howard Rapson
8.15 p.m. Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied
Chemistry, University of Toronto

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have enjoyed a successful club year in 1978. This success was due to the dedicated work of our many volunteer workers.

To all who helped - my sincere thanks. Our club is operated entirely by volunteers as we have no paid staff. We must replace some each year, when they resign, usually due to outside pressures and workloads.

You will note there is no Botany Group meeting this month. We have been seeking a volunteer for Botany Chairman for over a year without success. We hope we will not have to discontinue the Botany Group.

The Chairman of our Ravine Group, Mr. Jack Cranmer-Byng, after years of dedicated work, has found it necessary to resign due to increasing pressures of his job. Thanks, Jack, for a job well done. We appreciate your efforts and the many fine ravine studies and briefs.

Ruby Rogers, our hard-working secretary of the Ravine Group, has also found her workload increasing so has had to resign. Thanks, Ruby, for your contribution to the success of the Ravine Group.

Our mailing secretary has asked to be replaced. A lady who recently moved to Toronto and joined our club has offered to try handling the job, but she may need help.

Miss Carole Parsons, our Club Secretary, would like to be replaced at the end of our club year in May.

- VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED -

BOTANY GROUP CHAIRMAN
RAVINE GROUP CHAIRMAN
RAVINE GROUP SECRETARY
CLUB SECRETARY

With the many interested and talented members in our club, we should have no difficulty finding volunteers. Please don't wait for someone else to do it, volunteer now! Keep our club active and successful.

We will be pleased to hear from you at the monthly meeting, or telephone:

Helen Juhola - 924-5806
Wesley Hancock - 757-5518

To all who have worked or participated in our programs through the year, my most sincere thanks.

SPACE WANTED

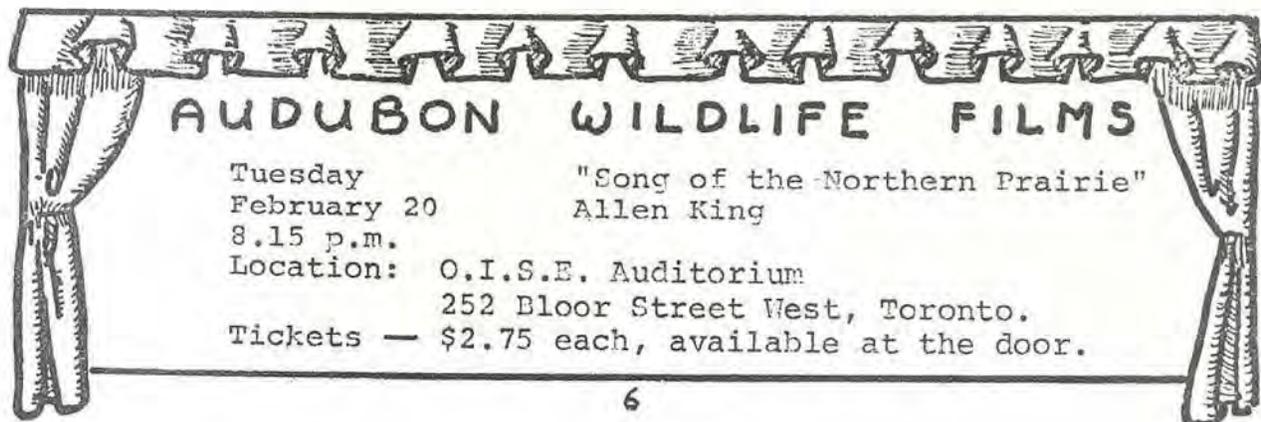
Many members of TFN assume that TFN is, in fact, something tangible. We are not! We are a collection of about 1500 people whose common bond is an interest in nature. Although TFN was incorporated in 1970 and is the happy owner of a 90-acre nature reserve, we have no permanent office, no headquarters of any kind, and no paid staff. All work is done by volunteers, and all club files and possessions are stored with whoever is in charge of that particular job, that is, in cellars and apartments all over Metro. We do have a telephone number, but again, the person who answers is a volunteer. Our address and telephone number are possible because of the generosity and dedication of Ida Hanson, our membership secretary, who is also in charge of mail-order sales of our publications.

We are beginning to have a real storage problem. Where can we keep our stock of publications and our two filing cabinets? Where can we store our display material? Whoever is in charge of mailing our Newsletter must store our address machine and envelopes. We have a collection of newsletters—both our own and from other clubs with which we exchange newsletters — and we have a growing collection of books and photographs. We understand that space will not be available for us to use in the new FON headquarters, although if they do have a library, perhaps they would accept some of our material as a gift. (We understand that they do not have, for example, a collection of newsletters for clubs throughout the province.) As well, for many members — particularly those without cars — the new headquarters will be virtually inaccessible for some time.

The Toronto Bird Observatory has just acquired a typewriter and is now looking for a filing cabinet. This is a new group affiliated with the TFN and it, too, will need space somewhere.

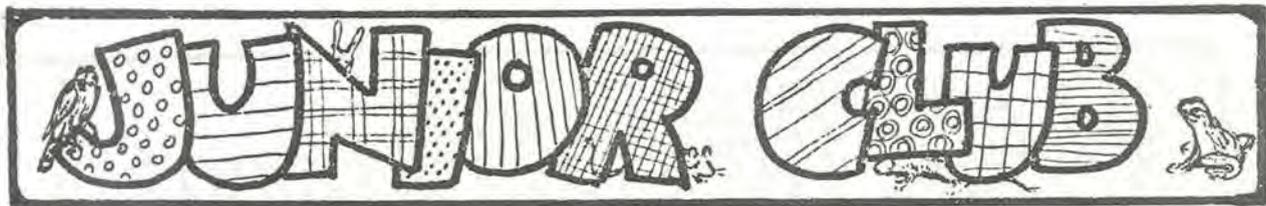
So you see, we have a problem. Do members have suggestions about how we can solve it? Please contact any member of the executive if you have a possible solution. We would be delighted to hear your ideas.

If you are wondering what other clubs do, here are the arrangements made by two of them. One small club has its headquarters at a local library where the club actually provides a resource centre for the community; the Hamilton Naturalists have their headquarters at the headquarters of the Royal Botanical Gardens.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Tuesday "Song of the Northern Prairie"
February 20 Allen King
8.15 p.m.
Location: O.I.S.E. Auditorium
252 Bloor Street West, Toronto.
Tickets — \$2.75 each, available at the door.



There will be a display presented by the Junior Field Naturalists in the foyer of the O.I.S.E. building for the February 5th meeting of TFN.

This display is planned to increase awareness of senior members of the function and value of our naturalist club for children. Each of our ten groups will have prepared a special project for the display as representative of some of the things we are doing. There will also be a photographic collage of past programs and field trips.

Leaders and children will be present to answer all questions about projects and the group itself, and we will have information sheets and application forms available.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our display. The children are working hard for it and our future depends on you in part.

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The Junior Club is still desperately in need of a leader for its Mammal group. This would entail one Saturday morning monthly at the McLaughlin Planetarium. It is suitable for any adult who is "interested" in mammals and enjoys exploring the possibilities for research with children aged 11 to 16 interested in the same field. Please call Tyna Silver, 636-4812, evenings.

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BLUE JAYS

This handsome noisy character is found across southern Canada from Alberta to Newfoundland. The Blue Jay nests in mixed deciduous woodlands and has adapted to treed areas in towns and cities. He winters over in Canada, and so brings a touch of colour to the woods and backyard feeders all through the long grey winter months.

He will eat just about anything, but three-quarters of his diet is vegetable matter. He stores acorns and other nuts for winter use, and, like the squirrel, is sometimes responsible for the growth of new trees. In the warmer weather, he will eat caterpillars, tree frogs, and various insects.

The blue jay's cry of "jay, jay, jay" is the alarm bell of the forest. I remember one day, when I was hot on the trail of a pair of white-tailed deer, I had been trying to move through the forest as quietly as possible. Suddenly the silence was shattered by the shrieking of a jay. The bird followed me, flying from tree to tree, scolding all the time, and warning any animal within miles of my approach. I might as well have been walking through the forest with a cowbell around my neck. I finally gave up on the deer and turned my attention to photographing some nearby wildflowers.


R E P O R T

Dr. R. M. Saunders gave a talk at the Botany Group Meeting on November 14 entitled "By Their Seeds Ye Shall Know Them". He showed beautiful slides of fruiting plants, then the same plants in blossoming glory in the spring. How many of us could connect the spring and fall appearances of plants?

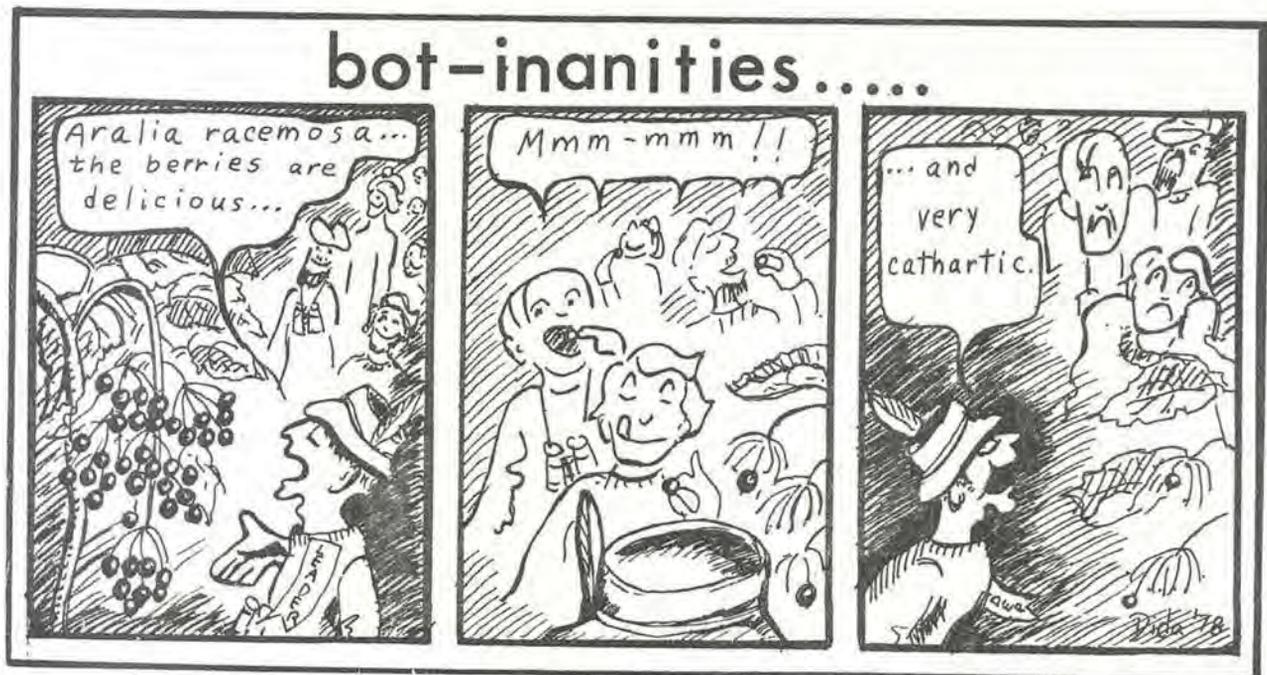
Dr. Saunders showed the milkweed, bursting with seeds, a lovely and common plant to many of us; then he showed its relative, the butterfly-weed, a more delicate version, orange-flowered but with the same abundant seed pattern in fall; then a third member of that family, dog-strangling vine, a small-podded vine which, when abundant, can form an almost impenetrable barricade. The small pods of this plant burst, distributing many silky parachutes, not unlike those of the larger, more familiar milkweed, its relative.

He warns not to be taken in by the beautiful red leaves of the poison ivy in the fall; they are just as dangerous as they are in the spring, as also are the berries. The tiny white flowers of this plant are seldom seen, but Dr. Saunders found some and photographed them. And did you know that they are related to the sumach, that tall, familiar bush bearing clusters of red fruit with its colourful leaves?

Subjects ranged from the small violets to the large tree-size plants, such as crabapples and others in the rose family, the fruits and flowers of which are, of course, generally recognized. Surprises were many as he connected flowers and seeds, and we were impressed by his patience and diligence in following up his subjects to obtain beautiful slides.

Dr. Saunders again indicated to us another of the always endless facets of natural history to be studied and enjoyed. Thank you, Dr. Saunders.

Mildred Easto



OUTING REPORT

- Sept. 17. Earl Bales Park Ravine - Molly Campbell - 15 people - rain. Before the outing was rained out, impressive woods, with sharp differences in composition were noted. A walnut tree was in fruit. Fall flowers were plentiful. Further down the ravine were mountain maple in seed, witch hazel, red and white baneberry and a host of other species. The day before Yellow Shafted Flickers had been seen. The rain discouraged the use of binoculars but not the bare-legged joggers in the park.
- Sept. 20. Toronto Hunt Club - Laura Greer - 20 people. An extensive list of plants seen from the road and woodland trail on the tableland only was given to the Club. Included were Yellow birch, sassafras, sarsaparilla, alternative leaf dogwood and woodland sunflower in bloom.
- Sept. 23. Caper Valley and Rouge River - John Lowe-Wylde - 40 people. The group was met by 9 Turkey Vultures. The fall colours were just starting. Lunch by "a babbling brook" (The Little Rouge) was followed by a good view of erosion both manmade and natural. Nut trees and field flowers were seen, as were Hawks, Kestrel, Kingfisher and Black Throated Blue Warbler.
- Sept. 24. Etobicoke Creek - Paul McConnell - 20 people. Birds were scarce. There were a large number of old field plant species and a vandalized bottomland forest. Nevertheless, the ravine was found to be a very interesting site.
- Sept. 27. Glen Stewart Ravine - Fred Bodsworth - 29 people. Plants were identified for this group by Emily Hamilton. Flickers, Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Kinglets and Warblers as well as other species were out in full force.
- Sept. 30. Echo Valley - Mary Smith - 100 people - 60-70°F and partly sunny. John Gordon, President of SONG (Southern Ontario Nut Growers) showed us the identification features of the numerous nut tree species and hybrids which George Corsan planted in Echo Valley, now partly a park and partly in the gardens of the houses on both sides of Mimico Creek at Kipling Avenue. Members of SONG and the TFN enjoyed the day, with Alderman East, and Forester Dennis McQuestion of the Borough of Etobicoke who brought temporary tree tags which will be replaced with permanent ones by the Borough tree crews.

Hickories, Hican, Pecan, Walnuts, Chestnuts, Butternut, Persimmon and Pawpaw were some of the features. Some grafted trees had more than one variety on the same tree and interspecific grafts (e.g. Persian Walnut on Black Walnut) show exactly how high the graft was implanted. Three big new houses replacing smaller ones had unbelievable woodpiles - all that gorgeous furniture wood piled as firewood. There ought to be a law!

OUTINGS REPORTS - Continued

- Oct. 4. Sherwood Park - Mary Suddon - 14 people. The forest was an island of quiet in the city, where birds could be heard clearly. Streamside maples were brilliantly red against the green of the rest of the forest. A mounted policeman told of collecting edible mushrooms and puffballs. This was a suitable place to find beech drops as the second largest beech in Ontario grows here. Spotted touch-me-not, Sarsaparilla, Roundleaf Dogwood and other species were seen.
- Oct. 7. Pickering Conservation Trail - Bill Dibble and Reid Barclay - 10 people - cloudy and cool with sunny intervals. Some parts of the trail are used by horses and riders. There are large stands of white pine on the slopes - mostly healthy. A large number of plants and trees were identified, among them mushrooms, horsetail, club mosses, and ferns including maiden-hair. There were eight grasses. Other notable plants were white oak, bur oak, bitternut hickory, sweet gale, wild ginger, gooseberry, bunch-berry, spotted wintergreen, viper's bugloss. Among more predictable birds were 2 turkey vultures, 18 evening grosbeaks and 7 white throats.
- Oct. 8. Toronto Island - George Fairfield - 17 people. A pleasant, easy walk to the usual areas included a picnic lunch at the pond in the natural area. Among 55 species of birds seen were sharp shinned, rough-legged and Cooper's hawks, snipe, kingfisher, sapsucker, wood phoebe, brown creeper, hermit and Swainson's thrush, golden and ruby-crowned kinglets, parula, black throated green and palm warblers, white crowned sparrow, 3 mute swans, 1 horned grebe, a green-winged teal and a hufflehead. No saw-whet owls were found.
- Oct. 11. Woodbine Beach - Laura Greer - 10 people - misty, chilly wind. The landfill park has many introduced and foreign trees. It would be helpful if the Parks Department would label them. Huge pieces of cut rock were tumbled around as a landscape feature. Information about these would be interesting (where quarried, and something of the geology of the place of origin. We wondered if they came from the Niagara Escarpment). Few birds; most notable a great black-backed gull, juncos and an unidentified water bird with a speckled beak featuring orange colour.
- Oct. 15. Rouge River - John Lowe-Wylde - 24 people - becoming sunny and mild. Fall colours were still plentiful as the group entered the Rouge Valley at the Glen Eagles Hotel down mixed deciduous wooded slopes to the valley floor. They crossed the river and up onto the inter-fluvial ridge to the hydro line clearing to overlook the Little Rouge river. Two white-tail deer came out of the bush. The group lunched on the ridge then made its way back to the cars. The walk covered approximately 5 miles. Birds rather scarce but some hawks, a turkey vulture and many gulls were seen (over the Beare Road landfill site).

SPORTSMEN'S SHOW - Yes! We are having a booth at the Sportsmen's Show in March 1979. Volunteers are needed from March 16th to March 25th to man the booth. We would also like to form a committee of people willing to assist in the planning and erection of the booth. If you want to help, call Muriel Miville, 463-8066 or Laura Greer, 691-4888.

OUTINGS REPORTS - Continued

- Oct. 22. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery - Emily Hamilton - 50 people - warm with weak sunshine. This rather large group managed quite well in the spacious grounds of the cemetery. They began at Yonge Street and looked at most of the trees in Plot B before going down the hill and over the regular route to visit the most interesting specimens west of Mount Pleasant Road. Many trees and shrubs were still in full autumn colour including the metasequoia, larch and liquidambar. 104 varieties of trees and shrubs were named. A ginkgo tree which had borne many fruits was visited.
- Oct. 28. Eastern Shoreline - Clive Goodwin - 48 people - sunny and cool with scattered cloud. Best birds were a Hudsonian Godwit at the Corner Marsh, and a very late Black-Throated Blue Warbler at Thickson's. A good hawk migration developed, and there were huge flocks of migrant blackbirds and many crows flying west. Tree Sparrows had arrived and a bluebird was heard. A total of 65 species was seen on this very popular trip.
- Nov. 5. Etobicoke Creek - Paul McConnell - 30 people - weather: "fantastic". It was a little late for most flowering plants and many migratory birds. A number of very distinct ecological communities were examined with emphasis on plant associations. A mature stand of hemlock was one of the more interesting sites. Other associations examined were wet lowland Manitoba maple/black willow forest; abandoned field (goldenrod/aster); warm (west facing slope) deciduous forest (maple/beech/oak); and hawthorn/apple/sumac scrub. Birds were evening grosbeak, cardinal, mourning dove and chickadee.
- Nov. 8. Lambton Woods - Doreen Laird and Mary Smith - 18 people - sunny, clear and calm. 66 plant species were identified with the help of Emily Hamilton. 11 species of birds were seen.
- Nov. 12. Lakeshore and Humber - Herb Elliott - 25 people - cloudy and cool. Two snowy owls were seen on the Humber Bay landfill. One had killed a gull and the party approached quite close. A common loon was in the gap at Bathurst Street and a Bonaparte's gull at Leslie Street. Many mergansers, oldsquaws and buffleheads were seen. 23 species of birds were seen.
- Nov. 15. Wilket Creek - Jean Macdonald - 15 people - cloudy, "raw" day. With assistance from Mary Smith and Emily Hamilton 33 plant and tree species were identified. In addition 2 ferns, 3 types of fungus, and liverwort, lichens and mosses were seen. Mary Smith pointed out a 200 year old ironwood tree and we discussed a hemlock stand. Marsh mallow was seen. The use made of the roots has given the name to the popular confection toasted over campfires. Red squirrels chattered but birds were scarce. We heard and had a glimpse of a pileated woodpecker.
- Nov. 18. Jim Baillie Nature Reserve - John Lowe-Wylde - 15 people - cloudy, windy and cool. The group was split for various jobs. Replaced perimeter "No Hunting" signs where missing. Trail maintenance, such as clearing new growth and reinforcing wet spots took up most of the time. Fresh

OUTINGS REPORTS - Continued

- beaver activity observed in two locations along Uxbridge Brook on Red Triangle Trail. There were few reports of birds, mostly grouse, chickadees, hairy and downy woodpeckers. Emily Hamilton marked two specimens of Mountain Holly (with red ribbon) in old clearing. Thanks to members who turned out for the work day.
- Nov. 19. Warden Woods - Bill Dibble - 44 people - clear, few clouds, 42°F
The woods have a good understory, canopy of beech, sugar maple, white pine and hemlock. There were not many birds, most notable being a flock of 11 American Goldfinches. Emily Hamilton was present and identified plants. Bill has a good feeling about this ravine.
- Nov. 26. Rosedale Ravine - Helen Juhola - 44 people - sunny, calm and cool; a beautiful late autumn day. A brisk walk took the group through Castle Frank schoolyard, down the west slope of the Don Valley and along the nature trail which runs from the Don Valley to Yonge Street. Traffic made it difficult to hear any birds except a downy woodpecker. One black squirrel was seen and many trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Historic sites were identified for participants. Noteworthy: ginkgo, large black oak, ailanthus, highbush cranberry, Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard.
- Dec. 3 Leslie Street Spit - Bill Freedman - 20 people - cold, wet drizzle. It was poor outing weather with poor visibility. Best birds were 2 snowy owls, 1 great horned owl, 5 mute swans and various waterfowl.
- Dec. 6. Riverdale Farm - Laura Greer - 18 people - cold and sunny. It was a lovely day for a very successful outing. The pleasant staff showed the group around the animal farm. At present there are four white turkeys, two Shetland ponies, four Hereford cattle, goats and pigs. The varieties of animals will be increased. An area of interest was a fenced-off part of the hillside set aside as a wild-bird breeding area and sanctuary.
- Dec. 10. Clairville - Herb Elliott - 31 people - windy, partly cloudy with snow squalls. A small band of birds was found at a feeder: cardinals, chickadees, juncos, mourning doves, white-breasted nuthatch. Two long eared owls were found in the usual place by the river. A close view was obtained of one owl in a tree, and closer views of both in flight. Some of the group saw a snowy owl.
- Dec. 17. Boardwalk - Eastern Beaches - Bill Dibble - 32 people. Sunny and cold with winds gusting to 40 m.p.h. The group saw a very good stand of white and red oaks - all mature trees, but not too many young trees were noted. Close looks, for comparison, at mallard and black ducks. Ring billed gulls and herring gulls were resting on the shore at Kew Gardens. Two old squaw and two lesser scaup were also seen.
- Dec. 27. Metro Zoo - Wes Hancock - 13 adults and 2 children. Volunteer guides Mary Sutherland and Tony Collard gave us a tour of the Pavilions and outdoor enclosures. They provided some very interesting information about the animals and birds. At 3.00 p.m. we boarded the train for a 30 minute ride through the North American section. It was an interesting and enjoyable day. Miss Sylvia Bailey visiting from London, Ontario remarked on the friendly welcome she received from the members.

WATERFRONT REPORT

Persons who attended the November meeting of the Waterfront Committee had an excellent opportunity to learn about the botany and ecology of the Leslie Street Spit and the Toronto Islands. At this meeting Stephen Price presented some beautiful slides explaining the history of the Spit and the role of the Friends of the Spit. Also, Steve Varga displayed a number of rare and extinct plant species that have struggled to inhabit the Islands. Special thanks to these two young men for their knowledgeable discussion.

We hope many members of the TFN will attend the March meeting which will focus on the Leslie Spit and the CWCP planning proposals. The date and place will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Another item of concern: The Harbourfront Committee has approved the installation of a lighthouse in the caspian tern colonies. This will increase the number of people walking out to the tip amidst the largest populated area of terns. If members are concerned, please write to the Harbour Commission at:

Toronto Harbour Commissioners,
60 Harbour Street, Toronto.

Melanie Melanich

GRAND MANAN TOUR

Don Baldwin is planning a tour to Grand Manan in July 1979 to see pelagics, seabird colonies, fishing fleets, etc. The cost will be \$785.00 from St. John, New Brunswick.

Please call Don Baldwin, 536-5542 (evenings) for further details.

ADVENTURE IN ANTARCTICA WITH ROBERT BATEMAN AT HARBOURFRONT

On Thursday, February 22, 1979 at 8 p.m. Robert Bateman, internationally renowned wildlife artist, naturalist, and photographer will be showing what he describes as "the best wildlife photographs I have ever taken".

With a team of naturalists, geologists, and biologists, Mr. Bateman took part in an exploration of Antarctica, the first of its kind since Charles Darwin's. The tour also visited Chile and the Falkland Islands.

Tickets may be reserved either by telephoning 766-9897 (days), 489-8862 (evenings), or by writing to The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada, Box 864, Postal Station K, Toronto, Ont. M4P 2H2.

Admission is \$3.00. Tickets will also be available at the door.

This event is sponsored by the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada, and all proceeds go to the conservation of Canadian wildlife. The show will take place at Harbourfront (Brigantine Room), 207 Queen's Quay West. Free parking close by, or TTC (484-4544).

A NATURALIST'S CODE OF ETHICS

Further to our Naturalist's Code of Ethics project, announced in the November Newsletter, TFN members may be interested in the following code published by the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds in Britain.

Code for the Bird Watcher

1. GENERAL. The welfare of the bird and its nest should be your first consideration. Do not let your own pleasure or curiosity interfere with this.
2. NESTS. During the breeding season listen intently for warning notes and be sure you do not stay in the vicinity of a nest long enough for the eggs or young to be chilled. Be careful in choosing a place to watch or eat, or you may be keeping a bird from its nest. If you watch nests do so from a distance with binoculars; if you visit nests be careful to replace herbage and foliage around them.
3. BREEDING COLONIES. Do not walk over shingle or places where ground-nesting birds breed in colonies. You cannot be sure that you will not endanger eggs or young, not only by treading on them, but by frightening chicks and exposing eggs so that they become easy prey to predators.
4. FIRES. Heath fires are easily started and have disastrous effects on the bird population and their nests, so be careful with those matches and cigarette ends.
5. DOGS. If you take a dog with you, always keep it to heel or on a lead; an undisciplined dog can create havoc in the breeding season.
6. LITTER. Bird-watchers are increasing, so too is litter all over the countryside. Please help in the anti-litter campaign and see that your birding haunts are kept tidy.
7. SECURITY! Do not advertise the breeding haunts of rare species. Egg collectors are always seeking for information and many a rarity has been betrayed to them in this way. If you find a rare species breeding, inform the R.S.P.B. and let it remain a secret.
8. COURTESY. Always get the permission of the land owner or occupier before entering on private property. Please keep to the paths in woodland or farmland during the nesting season and also ensure that gates are properly closed behind you.
9. FINALLY. At all times make as little noise and disturbance as you can. You'll see more birds and frighten them much less.

Submitted by Gordon Bellerby.

Any ideas or suggestions concerning this project may be sent to Emily Hamilton, 49 Lawrence Ave. West, Toronto, M5M 1A3.

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THE BATTLE FOR NIAGARA

The Niagara area is known the world over as the major centre for fruit-growing in Canada. It is perhaps as well known for this as for Niagara Falls and as early as 1903 was touted as "the garden of Canada". In recent years, however, 80 per cent of urban development in Niagara has taken place on the best of its soils. If this type of encroachment continues at its current rate, this land, the unique soils and climate of which make it possible to grow over one hundred types of crops as well as tender fruit and grapes, will go the way of the dinosaur.

At issue are the Regional Niagara Urban Area Boundaries, which include over 23,000 acres of developable land, of which over 7,000 are on lands mainly suitable for tender fruit and grapes. Ontario Municipal Board Hearings concerning the lands in dispute above the escarpment took place in October and November of 1978. The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society, The Niagara South Federation of Agriculture, individual farmers, Dr. Ralph Kruger of Waterloo and Mr. Mel Swart M.P. Welland argued the case for reduction of boundaries, while the Region, the municipalities and the developers argued the case for retention or extension of the boundaries. A decision is pending and costs for the proponents of Regional boundaries and extensions will possibly run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society has committed itself to raise over \$30,000 for legal and expert witness fees for this first hearing and is determined to raise further funds for the next hearing dealing with the lands below the escarpment.

The best of land deserves the best defence. If you can help PALS in its efforts, please send cheque to Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society, c/o R. Cook, 70 Cozy Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 4H1.

Gracia Janes
Vice Chairperson, PALS

EAST YORKERS

Members who live in the Borough of East York, or in the city near the Grey Ghost on the Bayview Extension will be interested in a questionnaire distributed by Ward 4 Alderman Peter Oyler. His third question explains: "The 'White Elephant' site on the Bayview Extension is now proposed to be zoned for either single-family homes or open green space" and asks: "What would you like to see there?"

As there now may be an opportunity to restore this area to open green space, East Yorkers are urged to speak to their aldermen in support of this option. With the new council taking over, now is the time to speak up.

THREATS TO PROVINCIAL PARKS

A Road Through Killarney?

Over the past few years, residents of the Killarney area have expressed their desire for a new road between Killarney and Whitefish Falls. A new road might reduce Killarney's isolation and bring substantial tourism benefits to the North Georgian Bay area, but it would also pass through Killarney Provincial Park and might seriously affect the environmental quality of this wilderness park.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has retained Hough, Stansbury & Associates Limited to conduct a Road Benefit Analysis Study. Newsletters reporting on the study are being sent to residents and property owners in the area; local societies and Government agencies with an interest in the study; and all persons who have written to the Government on the road issue in the last two years.

Further information may be obtained from:

Mr. James Stansbury
Hough, Stansbury & Associates Limited
69 Sherbourne Street, Toronto. M5A 2P9. Telephone: 416-366-8751

or Mr. Stewart McCombie
Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications
Box 3030, North Bay. P1B 8L2. Telephone: 705-472-7900

Outboard Motors in Quetico?

Quetico Park, a little-publicized Primitive Park in Ontario, requires and deserves your help immediately. No other large wilderness tract (1790 square miles of canoe country) is so accessible (2-hour drive west of Thunder Bay), yet so unrecognized or ignored by Ontarians. It is one of Ontario's outstanding and beautiful wilderness areas.

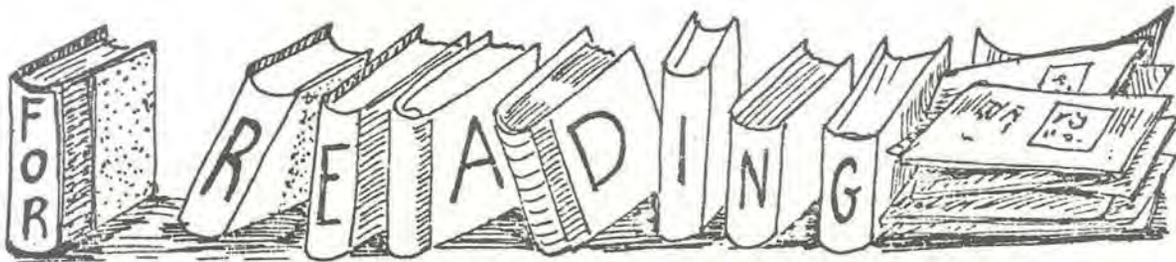
On April 1, 1979, an outboard motor ban would have come into effect in Quetico, but now a further delay of 5 years has been recommended. This delay must not occur and you can help prevent it. As Ontario citizens and naturalists, your support is crucial to the Ministry of Natural Resources in its attempts to make this park a true wilderness for the enjoyment of present and future generations. If you support the ban, write to the following address, requesting that the total ban on outboards be put into effect as scheduled in April 1979, and that the park be made into a natural wilderness as stated in the Master Plan:

Hon. James Auld
Minister of Natural Resources
Parliament Buildings, Queen's Park, Toronto.

with a copy to:

Mr. Ron Reid
Staff Environmentalist, F.O.N.
1252 Don Mills Road, Don Mills.

Ron and the F.O.N. will be able to measure the strength of response from the various groups, and take appropriate action. Quetico Park is presently threatened by many other factors, but this motor ban delay is the most immediate one.



The Coot and the Moorhen by Jon Fjeldså, AV media, Nørre Søgade 35A, DK-1370, Copenhagen, Denmark. 1975; English Edition 1977. 56 pp; 60 illustrations.

This biological monograph, translated from the Danish, presents an excellent chance for the amateur naturalist to be initiated into the study of the life patterns of wildfowl. It is meticulously thorough, yet uses everyday language.

The two birds described in detail are the Old World coot, Fulica atra, closely related to our American Coot, F. americana, but having a more prominent frontal shield extending from the bill on the forehead - and the moorhen which is the British name for the Common Gallinule, Gallinula chloropus, resident further south on this continent. The latter is on the checklist for Ontario, however.

The comparison of these two related species brings into perspective a number of biological and ecological factors. Adaptations, choice of food, habits, nesting and rearing of young are examined. One gets the impression that most of the information has been gathered by the author personally in close observation of the subjects over a long period. The many black-and-white drawings are immeasurably helpful in illustrating the habits of the birds, and to a large extent also the photographs. The most valuable facet of this monograph is its emphasis on how these birds fit into the whole ecological picture.

The monograph comes with a set of slides, tapes, students' book, work sheets and teacher's notes. Films or videograms are also available.

Man's Place in Nature - The Human Zoological Group by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Collins, London, 1966 (124 pp).

Last fall I found myself standing by the grave of this outstanding scientist, with its plain cross - identical to those of the other priests of his Order in the Jesuit cemetery by the Hudson River. I commented to my friends that there ought at least to be a plaque on the gate to the effect, "Here lies the great man". In his life both Science and Religion misunderstood, rejected, repressed - but as so often happens in these cases, his work became more widely accepted after his death in 1955. The manuscript is dated August, 1949, yet much of it reads like current times; part of his problem was in being ahead of his time. The more scholarly among our members will have already read this and other books by an unusual man who tried to cut through the "partitions" of the various disciplines of science to make an image emerge of Man in the Universe and even to probe the origin and meaning of life through these means. Members with a good academic background will have a better chance than I of understanding Teilhard's "Natural Curve of Complexities" in which he tries to illustrate "the complexification of matter" which he apparently believes ought to be considered

as a parameter to be measured in trying to understand the nature of organisms. Those who have some taxonomy vocabulary will find it helpful, but there is always the dictionary. Teilhard coined a number of words to clothe his ideas, the meanings of which, in some cases, are self-evident - such as "hominisation", "individuation" (as distinct from "civilisation"), etc. The word "corpuscle" is used in the sense of any body of matter, it appears. The "noosphere" is the "thinking sphere" which the author considers a reality, and a complement of the biosphere. He looks on industrialization as a natural manifestation of this "noosphere" and anticipates research as the road Man will take to cope with "compressive socialization" and which will eventually lead to "ultra-hominisation". The word "phylum" is used by Teilhard not just as a handy term in systematics but in the sense of a direct line of development of life forms and especially that of Man, who is looked on as not "just another denizen of our planet" as is a popular idea among conservationists these days, but as "a key species". The optimism expressed is refreshing considering the prevalent pessimism among us. He recommends "(looking) at the section of the curve in which we are...living... from further back and higher up" to try to judge the direction in which Man is going. His theories are not put forward as "philosophy" but it seems to me that some transcendent attitude had to be present, freeing the mind for the necessary speculation, to arrive at such conclusions. But you decide.

D. B.

NEW MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Geological Highway Map of Southern Ontario, 1978. Available from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto. 50¢ plus tax.

This is the first highway geological map ever produced for southern Ontario.

Canada's Energy Resources Map, 1978. (MCR 4002). Available by mail from the Canada Map Office, 615 Booth Street, Ottawa, K1A 0E9. \$2.50, plus tax.

Satellite Photographs. Available from Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Centre, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 57198, U.S.A. You may write to this address requesting photographs of a specific and limited geographical area, and may also request a picture taken from a particular type of craft—such as a U-2 airplane or an Apollo flight. In reply you will receive information about photographs available for the area requested, together with prices, and you can make your selection and place your order. Prices range from \$8.00 for a 4.5-inch-square black and white photograph to \$50.00 for a 34.2-inch-square coloured one.

Pictures taken over Canada may be obtained from the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing, 717 Belfast Road, Ottawa, K1A 0A7, or the Department of Forestry and Agriculture, Building 810, Pleasantville, St. John's, A1A 1P9.

NATURE GAME #2

Among the letters below are the names of 20 different animals which may be found in Ontario. The names may be read across, or down, or diagonally up or down. This may be a little more difficult than last month's puzzle. See how many you can find.

W O U H W I J P K U W D Q E Q U A
D F P E B N B T B E A V E R U C B
P H G M C V S A V J F S C F H D R
B L E R A B B I T Y A G K M A B X
V S T I A Z O I V P Q N W O K A E
K Q J G S N A K E Q U X T X K L S
M U E X J O I E L K R F W Z G D T
W I Y A A M O O S E N O B A X F R
O R S C H L T M P K F X E Y U I L
U R A F T V T L M C Y I K V L S R
R E D C G T E J O P O S S U M H B
O L F Q O J R H U G D F M H N Y W
E F E G K O I D S D Z G R E C X V
H O R Q N L N H E G N Z S J R Y E
I D P O T H C S P E Z E M D O N Y
D S Q U G B M U S K R A T C W C B
Z R T C M X N G F A L O A B F Z A

From the Wood Duck vol.32, #3

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Answer to puzzle on trees: Elm, Chokecherry, Apple, Spruce, Willow, Beech, Oak, Hickory, Tulip, Hemlock, Ash, White Pine, Maple, Mulberry, Sumac, Cherry, Chestnut, Walnut, Cedar, Aspen.

LITERATURE RECEIVED

Barbara Wilkins, Editor of the Ontario Field Biologist, has sent us some interesting "exchange literature"....first of all, the Newsletter of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Montreal. We shall be receiving this publication regularly. Secondly, an article entitled "Bring Nature Home", concerning the rescuing of valuable native plants from the bulldozer at development sites by means of organized "plant digs" where the public are invited to remove plants for transplanting to their own gardens. Members interested in reading this literature, contact Editorial Committee member.

THE 54TH TORONTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1978

1	Great Cormorant	1	Varied Thrush
6	Great Blue Heron	9	Common Flicker
32	Mute Swan	8	Pileated Woodpecker
1	Whistling Swan	1	Red-headed Woodpecker
3381	Canada Goose	47	Hairy Woodpecker
2	Snow Goose	133	Downy Woodpecker
6170	Mallard	2	Horned Lark
647	Black Duck	519	Blue Jay
111	Gadwall	314	Common Crow
10	Pintail	1084	Black-capped Chickadee
1	Green-winged Teal	79	White-breasted Nuthatch
9	American Wigeon	35	Red-breasted Nuthatch
10	Wood Duck	14	Brown Creeper
13	Redhead	1	Winter Wren
3	Canvasback	2	Mockingbird
1435	Greater Scaup	1	Brown Thrasher
1	Lesser Scaup	126	American Robin
314	Common Goldeneye	1	Hermit Thrush
308	Bufflehead	6	Golden-crowned Kinglet
4323	Oldsquaw	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
1	Harlequin Duck	510	Cedar Waxwing
1	Ruddy Duck	30	Northern Shrike
2	Hooded Merganser	8969	Starling
539	Common Merganser	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler
1	Goshawk	2562	House Sparrow
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	28	Red-winged Blackbird
2	Cooper's Hawk	1	Rusty Blackbird
106	Red-tailed Hawk	7	Common Grackle
10	Rough-legged Hawk	3	Brown-headed Cowbird
73	American Kestrel	142	Cardinal
13	Ruffed Grouse	380	Evening Grosbeak
47	Ring-necked Pheasant	68	Purple Finch
2	American Coot	3	Common Redpoll
4	Glaucous Gull	24	Pine Siskin
85	Great Black-backed Gull	650	American Goldfinch
5135	Herring Gull	423	Dark-eyed Junco
3030	Ring-billed Gull	374	Tree Sparrow
5	Bonaparte's Gull	1	Field Sparrow
2353	Rock Dove	7	White-throated Sparrow
552	Mourning Dove	6	Swamp Sparrow
1	Screech Owl	66	Song Sparrow
30	Great Horned Owl	402	Snow Bunting
3	Snowy Owl	1	Painted Bunting
3	Long-eared Owl		
1	Saw-whet Owl		
6	Belted Kingfisher		

Compiler: Harry Kerr

1978 TORONTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 54th Toronto Christmas Bird Census was held on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1978, and was organized by the Toronto Ornithological Club. One hundred and nineteen observers covered 28 routes within a 30-mile radius of the Royal Ontario Museum and counted a record number of 45,828 individual birds. The number of species listed is 89.

Two new birds were added to the list this year: a Great Cormorant, counted by Don Perks in Port Credit and a Painted Bunting, counted by Gord Lambert's group at the Toronto Island. The number of species recorded since the count began in 1925 now stands at 159.

The following species were seen in record numbers: Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Great Horned Owl, Blue Jay and Cedar Waxwing. One of the many single species counted was a Whistling Swan, seen by John Lamey, the first seen since 1948.

Dave Broughton's group spotted the Varied Thrush in High Park, and Bob Scheibe and Don Burton found the Mockingbirds. Peter Wukasch saw the Hermit Thrush, and Clive Goodwin the Brown Thrasher. The Goshawk was counted by Eric Nasmith, and the Green-winged Teal by Jake Smythe. Arne Dawe found the Saw-whet Owl, and Dave Fidler the Screech Owl.

In general it was a poor year for finches. Pine Grosbeaks and Crossbills were missing entirely from all areas, and the only 3 Redpolls seen were in the Vandorf area.

Species seen the day before and day after the count were: 2 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers; 1 Red-breasted Merganser and 1 Red-necked Grebe. News of a Great Grey Owl in our Pickering area on Census Day, came too late to alert observers and it was missed. It was not officially identified until December 26.

The weather on Census Day was sunny and mild with a few clouds gathering in the afternoon. Very little snow was reported from most areas, and many fields were green. Temperatures ranged from 2 to 5°C.

Once again, on behalf of the Toronto Ornithological Club, I wish to thank all the Toronto Field Naturalists and friends who took part.

- Harry Kerr

"TORONTO THE GREEN" SLIDE SHOW

The following members of the Ravine Group of TFN are preparing a slide show to illustrate the text of "Toronto the Green": Mark Sawyer (782-3116), photo librarian for TFN, Judy Hernandez (494-8900, ext. 47), Robin Powell (965-3800, . days), Helen Juhola (924-5806), and Mary Smith (231-5302).

The slide show will be available for ratepayers' groups, schools, municipal councils, and TFN members. A core show is being produced, and plans include preparation of additional units which will be suitable for groups in the east end, west end, and central part of Metro. If you are interested in learning more about the show, or in assisting us to obtain photos, please contact any member of the committee.

THE PECAN TREE IN ONTARIO

This year we found pecan trees growing in Echo Valley in Etobicoke, but the shells were empty.

We all tend to think of the pecan as a southern tree, yet the early settlers reported finding pecans along the Ohio River as far north as Pittsburgh, Penn. (40.5°N). Toronto is 43.7°N. There are still a few scattered trees of the native pecan as far north as Southern Wisconsin (43.5°N).

Studies of fossils indicate that the pecan probably originated in northern Texas and southern Oklahoma. American Indians extended its range as the nuts kept well for extended periods, and were good insurance against hard times when food was scarce. Pecans were traded with Northern Indians for furs, flint and tobacco. Pecans were ceremonially planted near campsites as a stake in the future for their descendants. The Mississippi Valley provided the locale for many plantings of this sort, and the biggest nuts with the thinnest shells were planted, so the average quality of the nuts was improved too. The trees grew to an astonishing size, even in the more northern reaches of the river valley. Several of these nut groves still exist for our inspiration.

Pecans show their southern origin by reluctant leafing-out in the spring, and by the long season required to ripen their wood and nuts.

The ideal mechanism for remodelling a species is inherent in seedling reproduction. An infinite variety of recombinations of germ plasm makes it possible to select out the characteristics which will be important for a new location. The better and earlier ripening types can be used as seed parents for more northern areas. Art Weaver, for example, has pecans in the extreme north-west of Ohio which produce well-filled nuts in the majority of seasons.

Recent discovery of native stands in the rugged forests of southern Wisconsin, and in Northern Iowa and Illinois, promise to hold the possibility of a northern extension of the range of the pecan into our area. Substantial stands of productive and early-ripening pecans have been found. The nuts are smaller than we are accustomed to, but are very sweet.

A seed distribution program is in progress: A packet of eight Northern Pecan seeds can be obtained for \$3.00 postpaid. Make cheque payable in U.S. currency to NNGA Pecan Seed Program, and send the order for receipt before March 20, 1979. Seed nuts will be mailed during March/April 1979. Send the cheque with your name and address to:

Northern Nut Growers Association Inc.
Attention: Mr. John H. Gordon Jr.
1385 Campbell Boulevard,
North Tonawanda, New York, U.S.A. 14120

Growers will be expected to report progress over the next 5 to 20 years.

The preceding is a precis of the article "Pecans which grow in the north" by R. Douglas Campbell and John H. Gordon, Jr. and was contributed by Mary Smith.



NATURE TOURING - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Readers with itchy feet will be interested in the following reminiscences of May Staples who travelled February 16 to March 2, 1978, to Trinidad and Tobago on one of Gus Yaki's tours (Nature Travel Service - 363-6394).

The leaf-cutting ants at the doorstep of Asa Wright Nature Center perform nightly in technicolor. Some carry the full petal of the vervain from the hummingbird feeding area . . . some a leaf portion of similar size . . . and the odd one settles for a quarter of the load. A veritable "401" of the insect world. For variation in cargo, there's the same operation at the frog-pond by the front porch. Another busy ant colony on a high ridge by the roadside carries discard material to the edge and lets it fall to the roadway. Other eager heavers don't trust gravity and carry it halfway down the cliff. At the base of the compost heap a mass of white grubs churn away . . . our leader was the only one interested enough (or had a strong enough stomach) to watch a grub try three times to navigate the 80° cliff to the top.

At the shore at Pigeon Point, we had a close-up look at the crab spider on a bush, and at our feet the sand-colored crab washed in with a wave, and scurried into the waves when we approached it. We palmed it later to see the eyes on their telescoping antennae.

Two hummingbird nests overhung a busy road in the Aripo Valley - one a tidy wee cup, upon which nestled the copper-rumped like a jewel in its setting, fastened with spider webs to a slim bare twig out in the open. Further along a messy, straggly accumulation attached to a fern edge proved to be the nest of a rufous-breasted with curved bill, visible as she sat on eggs.

At the Asa Wright Nature Center entrance road was a tropical peewee's nest, only visible as a bump on a branch of similar appearance, when mother flew to and from her eggs.

To accommodate humans, a bananaquit had her triplets in a well-cushioned hole in the cactus at the office porch entrance, just under the bougainvillea harboring a mocking bird's brood.

Sandy Johnson talked this birder into taking advantage of one of the light-weight bamboo walking-sticks (free for the taking anywhere along the trail). (I brought it home, after only a cursory tap by the Customs man at Piarco Airport.)

Adolphus James's specialty in calling out the blue-backed manakin is fascinating . . . even the immature chatted with him.

Turkey Vultures and Frigate Birds appear almost at arm's length when seen, which is often.

Ian Lambie coaxed a pair of blue dacnis right to the roadside . . . then we learned the meaning of "vivid" . . . and with the humming birds and parrotlet, the meaning of "iridescent".

Grapefruit and oranges, fallen to the ground, slaked our thirst as we walked along, and Malay apples in abundance where we picnicked at the Texaco site.

Two iguanas atop a tall tree devoured in seconds the leaves as we waited for our boat on Gasparee Island.

The scarlet ibis's choice of roosting sites was interesting - one island of greenery had only ibis, one mostly egrets, and one half-and-half - a Christmas-tree effect in all cases.

Everyone talked about them, everyone ate them, everyone enjoyed them . . . but until we hiked up the Blanchisseuse Road a piece we didn't really see the huge vegetables, some draped over the bridge railings - Christophenes! (zucchini-like).

For the insomniacs: It seemed to me the National Anthem (Pigmy Owl call) ranged from 10 to 18 repetitions. From within the mist net around my bed, as I looked out the window past the porch light, bats of various sizes were visible - among them, a blonde one with eight-inch wing span. My specialty was the anthrush call.

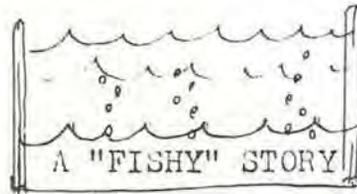
And on Tobago who could forget the counterpoint of barking dogs and crowing roosters ALL NIGHT LONG!

Only adverse comment . . . insect repellent is food for the biters . . . they attack a group of tourists indiscriminately, from day one to departure date.

E. M. Staples

HAVE YOU BEEN LOST IN MY FILES? Maybe, and maybe not!! - Many Club members have volunteered from time to time to do numerous small tasks and I have attempted to keep an up-to-date record of all such volunteers. Perhaps you are wondering why I haven't called you recently. I would like to assure everyone who has volunteered in the past that I probably have tried to call you for help but unfortunately, you haven't been home. When there is a job to be done, I get out my box of names and start to call. If the line is busy or there is no answer, I simply go on to the next name because I have found that I have to make approximately 10 calls before I get some one who is able to do that particular task. In this way, many people who are anxious to help are passed over because your time at home and my time at home simply do not match. If you would like to help (now or later) and think that perhaps I have misfiled you or don't have your current telephone number, please give me a call and jog my memory. I enjoy talking to Club members and renewing acquaintances or making new ones. Please feel free to call me up to 11 p.m. - I'm not home during the days and am something of a night owl.

Muriel Miville - 463-8066



When the pan is burning, you'll agree to anything! That's how I volunteered to help on the TFN stand at the CNE — I was called right at supper time — a very clever move. I actually volunteered for three Wednesday evenings, but was only required for one, and that was the Opening Night of the CNE.

I planned to leave my Willowdale office early. What actually happened was I had a last-minute rush job. I scrambled to my car where, over the radio, I learned that all roads to the EX were packed solid and that there was a four-car pile-up on the Gardiner. The Golden Mile EX bus I assumed would also be held up on the Lakeshore because of the tie-up on the Gardiner. Now what? Ah ha, the GO train. I drove east to the Eglinton Station, parked, rushed on to the platform just in time to hear that the train would be some 22 minutes late. It finally arrived at 5:35 and I finally arrived at the CNE at 5:58; so much for my planned leisurely arrival.

Finding the TFN stand, I dashed to replenish lipstick and comb my hair, bid farewell to the daytime staff and introduce myself to my companion for the evening. We were both slow — the daytime staff took the Ladies' Washroom key with them!

My next encounter was THE FISH. Alongside the Poison Ivy, the Termites, and the Ragweed, was another container — an aquarium. I have a morbid fascination for fish — watching them weave in and out of weeds, watching them in the sea, watching them in aquaria, but I'm absolutely terrified when they are out of water. (Thanks to a "joke" played on me in childhood.) OUR fish was a 14" carp, and at this point that's all I knew about him.

As the evening went on, my knowledge of fish began to expand as passersby gave friendly advice.

"That tank's much too small for such a BIG fish"

"The water's too clean, carp like dirty water . . ."

"What is it? He looks sick . . ."

"That fish won't last the night — it's going to die y'know"

"You need an aerator in that tank, or that fish'll be dead by tomorrow . . ."

That's all I needed — one DEAD FISH on my shift at the TFN stand!

Was the tank too small? Why did he look like he was dying? While out for coffee I begged a second cup from the Snack Bar attendant, explaining why I needed it. OUR fish was famous — SHE knew WHICH fish I meant, and it turned out she was a tropical fish breeder . . . I'd picked an expert. She confirmed that probably he didn't mind the small space, and even though he

likes dirty water, it probably was lack of oxygen that was his trouble. With my spare coffee cup I went back to "bail" bubbles into his water — as long as we didn't touch each other I could be helpful.

Between "bailings" I tested my knowledge of the exhibits at the stand — I didn't do too badly at the Quiz, as I pitted my knowledge against a TFN Life Member (eh, John?). We drew a nice gathering of interested people as the evening went on and then it happened — with a terrific crack OUR fish left his tank — there he was, flipping and flopping all over the place — HIS performance was nothing to what I was doing — I'm sure it resembled something teenagers do when dancing — I grabbed the nearest young man yelling "You've got to save him, grab him for me, quick quick." The startled young man, all dressed in early English Army uniform with musket and pack on his back, gave chase — all over the floor — with me right behind him encouraging his efforts. OUR fish was pretty powerful, but at last he was back in the tank. With a red face (what Field Naturalist is scared of fish ?!!) I thanked him profusely and then rushed out to make an "SOS" phone call.

The people in all the nearby booths showed much concern — what was I going to do with IT? Frankly, I didn't know. One logical suggestion was to put ice in the water, it would cool him down and would also provide the oxygen he needed. Brilliant, but where was I to get the ice? Back to my tropical fish expert at the Snack Bar; she had no ice but suggested the Carlsberg Brewery Festival Hall. Have you ever tried to explain to a Catering Manager of a large Brewery Company that if possible you would like to have half a bag of ice — no Beer, just the ice? Well, Bruno must be used to all kinds of weird requests in his business; he never batted an eyelid at my story, was most obliging, and out I walked with my half bag of ice — "Cheers." The fish liked it!

Well, the evening was closing in, it was almost 10:00 pm, never had four hours passed so quickly, and help had arrived. OUR fish was placed in a bucket and taken to Lake Ontario, where he took off straight out into the Lake as fast as he could go. It was then that I learned he'd been obtained from a fishmonger's store, shipped across the city and placed in our glass tank; he was one desperate fish who may well have ended up on someone's supper table.

My TFN companion deserved a medal; she held the fort at times of crisis, and put up with all my antics — I would have shared my sandwiches with her, but by the time I remembered them, they were too mushy to offer even to a fish —

Next year I'll settle for a Cicada or Praying Mantis — but no more fish. See you then.

Sheila McCoy

FAMILY FUN DAY - Sunday, February 11, 1979 at Black Creek Pioneer Village

We have planned a day of fun for members (and their families) of both the Junior and Senior Clubs at Black Creek Pioneer Village. As well as the historic buildings which are open to the public, there are facilities for cross-country skiing, tobogganing and ice skating (with a heated shack for comfort!!). In addition, we have made reservations for two 1/2 hour sleigh rides which will hold 25-30 people each. The first ride will leave at 10:30 a.m. and the second at 11:00 a.m. To reserve places on the sleigh rides, please telephone Mrs. Kay Robbertson at 266-2672 between Wednesday, January 31st and Sunday, February 4th. During the afternoon shorter sleigh rides are available on a "first come, first served" basis. The costs, which are to be paid on arrival, are as follows:-

<u>RESERVED RIDES</u> (through Kay Robbertson)	<u>NO RESERVATIONS</u> (Pay at Gate)
Admission & Ride - 75¢Adults	50¢ (admission only)
Admission & Ride - 50¢Children	25¢ (admission only)
Maximum amount per family - \$1.50	NO MAXIMUM
(These amounts are to be paid to Wes Hancock on arrival)	Short sleigh ride - 35¢ per person

HOW TO GET THERE - Pioneer Village is on Steeles Avenue West, just east of Jane Street and FREE PARKING is available. To go by T.T.C., take the Steeles West bus from the Finch subway station (approx. 1/2 hr. bus trip).

HOW TO PAY AND GET IN - Wes Hancock will be in the parking lot with his camper to collect money from those who have reserved places on the sleigh rides and to give out admission passes. We have to pay for the sleigh rides whether they are filled or not — if you reserve and then change your mind, please let Kay Robbertson know.

Those who do not have reservations for the sleigh ride will simply pay the usual admission charges at the gate and enter as a member of the general public.

The Snack Bar will be open but you are welcome to use the stove in the skating shack to heat soup, coffee, etc., providing you bring your own utensils.

COME ONE, COME ALL - bring your skates, skis, toboggans AND BINOCULARS!
(Ordinary boots without skates or skis attached are also most welcome.)

UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

While eating breakfast on Saturday, November 25, 1978, Orville Oppertthausen (694-1730), of Waverley Road, observed an American redstart on his rose bushes.

On Thursday, December 7, 1978, a Mr. Wren (!) of the Toronto Harbour Police, called to report the presence of 8 mute swans at Cherry Beach! Sure enough, on checking on Friday, December 8, there were 7 swans a-swimming off Cherry Beach and 1 SNOWY owl on a pile of COAL at the foot of Leslie Street.

NEWSLETTER INDEX

In response to a "Help Wanted" plea in the December-January issue of the TFN Newsletter, a committee of five has been formed to prepare an index for the first 40 years of the Newsletter. Three members are actively indexing back issues, while the other two are serving as consultants.

Response from members for making up sets of Newsletters was astounding. We now have two complete sets (from 1 to 320) and have checked with various libraries to find out which want to store our Newsletters and which need their sets completed. Further donations of Newsletters will be welcome.

The persons serving on the Indexing Committee are:

Mildred Easto	488-0962	Helen Juhola	924-5806
Christine Hanrahan	484-8560	Jean Macdonald	425-6596
		Bruce Parker	449-0994

MAIL PROBLEMS

If you are not receiving your TFN Newsletter before the monthly meeting, please call the Post Office at 369-4626, and complain about the delivery. The Post Office promises delivery within fifteen days of mailing third class mail. All TFN Newsletters are mailed to members between 15 and 20 days before the monthly meeting.

Several members complained to each other during the fall about late delivery of the Newsletter, but apparently not many called the Post Office, and the officials there had very few complaints about the service. So, if you are unhappy about the mail service, let the Post Office know.

If you change your address, or if the label on your Newsletter is incorrect, please notify either Lorelei Owen (225-2205) or Ida Hanson (488-7304). Either of these people will be pleased to see that the address label on your next Newsletter is correct.

Newsletter Editorial Committee

Ms. Diana Banville - 536-1396
#501, 1011 Lansdowne Ave., Toronto M6H 4G1
Miss Mildred Easto - 488-0962
#416, 28 Broadway Ave., Toronto M4P 1T5
Mrs. Helen Juhola - 924-5806
#112, 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3
Miss Jean Macdonald - 425-6596
88 Parklea Dr., Toronto M4G 2J8
Miss Florence Preston - 483-9530
#203, 368 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto M4P 1L9

Articles and/or drawings for the Newsletter will be welcome and must reach a member of the Editorial Committee by the first day of the month. Articles may be anywhere from one or two sentences to 1500 words in length.