



# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER

Number 324

May, 1979



Name this Toronto amphibian.....

See page 3.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION SALES  
83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M5M 2T4  
or call 488-7304

# TFN MEETINGS



## GENERAL MEETING

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

Monday, May 7, 1979, at 8.15 p.m.

### Annual Meeting

Birds of Florida - Mr. Kenneth G. Carmichael,  
Free-lance wildlife photographer.

Also at this meeting Mark Sawyer will present the slide show illustrating "Toronto the Green" mentioned in the February Newsletter.

Please bring a pencil and paper to the meeting in case you want to make notes in preparation for the spring migration.

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This will be the last regular meeting of the TFN until September. Suggestions for future meetings will be welcome. Please call Joan O'Donnell, 745-9111.

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## TFN GROUPS

There will be no formal meetings of any of the TFN Groups until the fall. In the meantime, you are invited to come to the outings listed in the Spring and Summer Outings booklet which was distributed with the April Newsletter.

Following is a list of the TFN Groups, together with the name of the person in charge of each. Suggestions for meetings will be welcome at any time.

Bird Group — Red Mason, 621-3905

Botany Group — Isabel Smaller, 447-9397

Junior Club — Tyna Silver, 636-4812

Ravine Group — Roger Chittenden (Photo Librarian), 757-4363

Waterfront Group — Melanie Melanich, 924-0338

## A NATURALIST'S CODE OF ETHICS

Reference has been made in several of our Newsletters this year to a project to find a Code of Ethics suitable for TFN. Please keep this project in mind during your summer wanderings and jot down ideas and suggestions for us to consider.

Any items or photographs that would be suitable for this project may be sent to Florence Preston, Apt. 203, 368 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, M4P 1L9.

# President's Report

The mailing of this Newsletter will end three years of service to TFN by Lorelei Owen and her friend, Marjorie. They provided space in their home and operated our addressing machine and postage meter for the Newsletter mailings. When the work was done they served refreshments to the volunteer helpers. Thanks, Lorelei and Marjorie, your work was greatly appreciated by all our members.

Miss Carole Parsons, our efficient secretary, will end her three-year term with the May Directors' meeting. Thanks, Carole, it has been a pleasure working with you.

Mrs. Claire Brigden has resigned as Publicity Chairman effective the end of June. Thanks, Claire, for a very successful publicity service.

We now need volunteers for the position of Secretary and Publicity Chairman. Please telephone Wes Hancock (757-5518) or Helen Juhola (924-5806), or speak to one of them at the May meeting.

Wes Hancock

## FON UPDATE

Helen Juhola has resigned her position as Toronto Field Naturalists' representative to the Board of Directors of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

At the March 17, 1979, Board Meeting of the FON, the Board members voted to approve a revised constitution for the FON which effectively eliminates the power of the representatives of the federated clubs and most of the other Board members to participate in the decision-making process of the Federation. All powers previously held by the Board are now held by the eight members of the Executive Committee.

Since the responsibilities and the risk of financial liability involved in serving on a Board can be onerous, Helen obtained legal counsel on her position on such a Board. She was strongly urged to resign immediately.

## THIS MONTH'S COVER

The Red Eft — Prince Hotel, Don Mills and York Mills...by OWEN FISHER

Notophthalmus viridescens has three stages: From eggs laid on water plants, bright green and yellow larvae hatch. After living in water for 3-4 months, these lose their gills, leave the water, turn bright red with round red dots bordered with black, and become "the red eft". These efts live on land for 3-4 years, then return to the water, develop a broad swimming tail, turn deep green with yellowish underside, and become known as the spotted newt.

# COMING EVENTS

## Civic Garden Centre

The following events will take place at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie Street. Telephone 445-1552.

Photography Course commencing May 9 — 8.00 p.m. — 6 weeks.  
Tuesday mornings during May (except May 8) — Bird Walk —  
Meet at west end of parking lot at 8.00 a.m.

## Royal Ontario Museum

The Discovery Room at the ROM will feature signs of spring until May 18. There will be a special 'tree' made up of branches from several different trees found in Southern Ontario. Models of birds that return in the spring will be featured, as well as three mammals that hibernate in the winter--a raccoon, a skunk and a groundhog.

Commencing June 12, a five-week course will be given Tuesday evenings about two groups of animals: reptiles and amphibians. The course will be given by Mr. Jim Lovisek and will consist of a one-hour lecture followed by a one-hour workshop. The course will end with an all-day field trip Saturday, July 21, to visit the natural habitats of the animals studied. Further information may be obtained from the Ichthyology Department, ROM, 978-3680.

On Saturday, May 12, Dr. Walter Tovell will lead a Geological Trip to Peterborough. Call the ROM for details, 978-3692.

## National Forest Week

The theme of 1979's National Forest Week is "We Need Trees". Activities during the week will concentrate on the need to replenish our forests. Various reports issued in recent months have emphasized that too many of the areas currently being harvested will not grow trees of quality in adequate time without help.

In Ontario, arrangements for National Forest Week are being developed by the Ontario Forestry Association, an educational body of individuals, companies, organizations and government. Contact Jim Coats, 493-4565, for further details.

### INTERESTED IN CLIMATIC CHANGE?

The Quaternary Climatic Change Symposium will be held at York University on May 18-20, 1979. Invited speakers will present papers on glacial/interglacial cycles, and pedologic, geologic, palynologic, and archaeological methods of reconstructing paleoclimate.

Information concerning transportation, pre-registration, registration, accommodation, program and field trip may be obtained by writing to W.C. Mahaney, Quaternary Climatic Change, York University, Atkinson College, Dept. of Geography, 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ont. M3J 2R7

JIM BAILLIE MEMORIAL BIRD WALKS

Sunday TORONTO ISLAND

May 13  
9.00 a.m. Meet at the Ferry Docks at the foot of Bay Street to take the first available ferry. The Island is the resting place of migrating birds crossing the lake from the south. Many exciting birds have been found there.

8.30 a.m. HIGH PARK

Meet in the first parking lot on West Road which is on your right as you enter from Bloor Street West at High Park Avenue. (Subway to High Park). High Park is one of the largest and most accessible parks in Toronto and is a rewarding place to look for birds.

8.30 a.m. BELT LINE RAVINE

Meet at the northeast corner of Moore Park at Moore Avenue and Welland Avenue. This eastern part of the site of the former Belt Line Railway has grown back so that its trees and shrubs provide a haven for migrating birds. Sixteen species of birds have been found to breed there. Other natural and scenic features are the heights of Chorley Park and the excavation of the Toronto Brick Works where Toronto's geological past has been laid bare.

8.30 a.m. WILKET CREEK PARK

Meet in the parking lot off Leslie Street just north of Eglinton Avenue east. This park is part of a chain of parks which includes Serena Gundy, Edwards Gardens and Ernest Thompson Seton Parks in the valley of the West Don River. These provide varied cover for many birds.

Members of the Toronto Ornithological Club (TOC) will lead the outings. This is the ninth year "bird walks" have been dedicated to the late James L. Baillie. Each walk lasts for about three hours. The pace is slow (about one mile an hour).

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TORONTO REGIONAL BIRDATHON - Pledge Form

(If you need further information about the Birdathon  
see April Newsletter, pages 12 and 13)

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(Detach and mail before May 5, 1979)

TO: Chip and Linda Weseloh, 1391 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario M4N 2T7

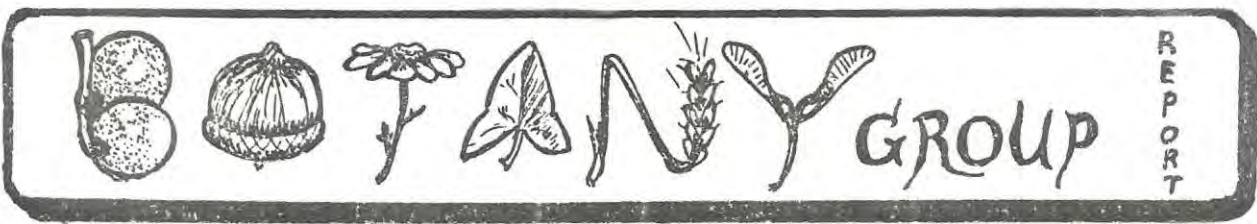
Yes, I will sponsor Murray Speirs at the rate of \_\_\_\_\_ for each species of bird he observes within the Toronto region between 5 p.m. May 4 and 5 p.m. May 5, 1979.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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(Insert your pledge in the space provided)  
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE IN CANADA



The Botany Group survived without a chairman this past season through the help of four excellent speakers. Pat Temple led off in October with a plant identification workshop; in November Dr. Richard Saunders presented his program, "By Their Seeds Ye Shall Know Them"; Paul McConnell took the January meeting and talked about "Identifying Trees in Winter by Their Twigs"; the final meeting in March featured Mr. A. E. "Muff" Mills, with an illustrated talk on "Mushrooms and Fungi that Grow in Metro Toronto".

Mrs. Isabel Smaller is our new Botany Group Chairman. We are pleased to welcome her and know we will have a very good program next year.

Answers to Flower Puzzle: bittersweet, daisy, chicory, basil, fringed gentian, tansy, campion, ragwort, aster, nettle, mint, poison ivy, chickweed, cinquefoil, mullein, trefoil, violet, great knapweed, vetch, iris, mallow, clover, dodder, ragweed, skunk cabbage, healall, pea, dewdrop, boneset, buttercup, briar.

Puzzle by Robert Neild, Newsletter #323, page 13.

from the Hamilton Naturalists' Club "Wood Duck" Jan. 1979 (Vol. 32, #5).....  
 "After checking around the Hamilton area, Dr. Bert MacLaren reports that he has seen Great St. Johnswort (*Hypericum pyramidatum*) occasionally in the Elora Gorge and more recently in Glanbrook Township where a substantial colony of 60 plants is flourishing under a power line."

► LOOKING FOR A PROJECT? ◀

The Long Point Bird Observatory has just published the fourth edition of its "Directory to Co-operative Naturalists' Projects in Ontario -- a guide for volunteers, 1979".

The objective of the Directory is to provide information on projects to prospective volunteers who may wish to take part in them. Included is information about 42 projects and activities such as Christmas Bird Counts, Checklists of plants or animals of various areas, and surveys of environmentally sensitive areas.

Submission of new projects, revisions or suggestions for improving the guide are invited and should be sent to the Editor of the Long Pt. Bird Observatory.

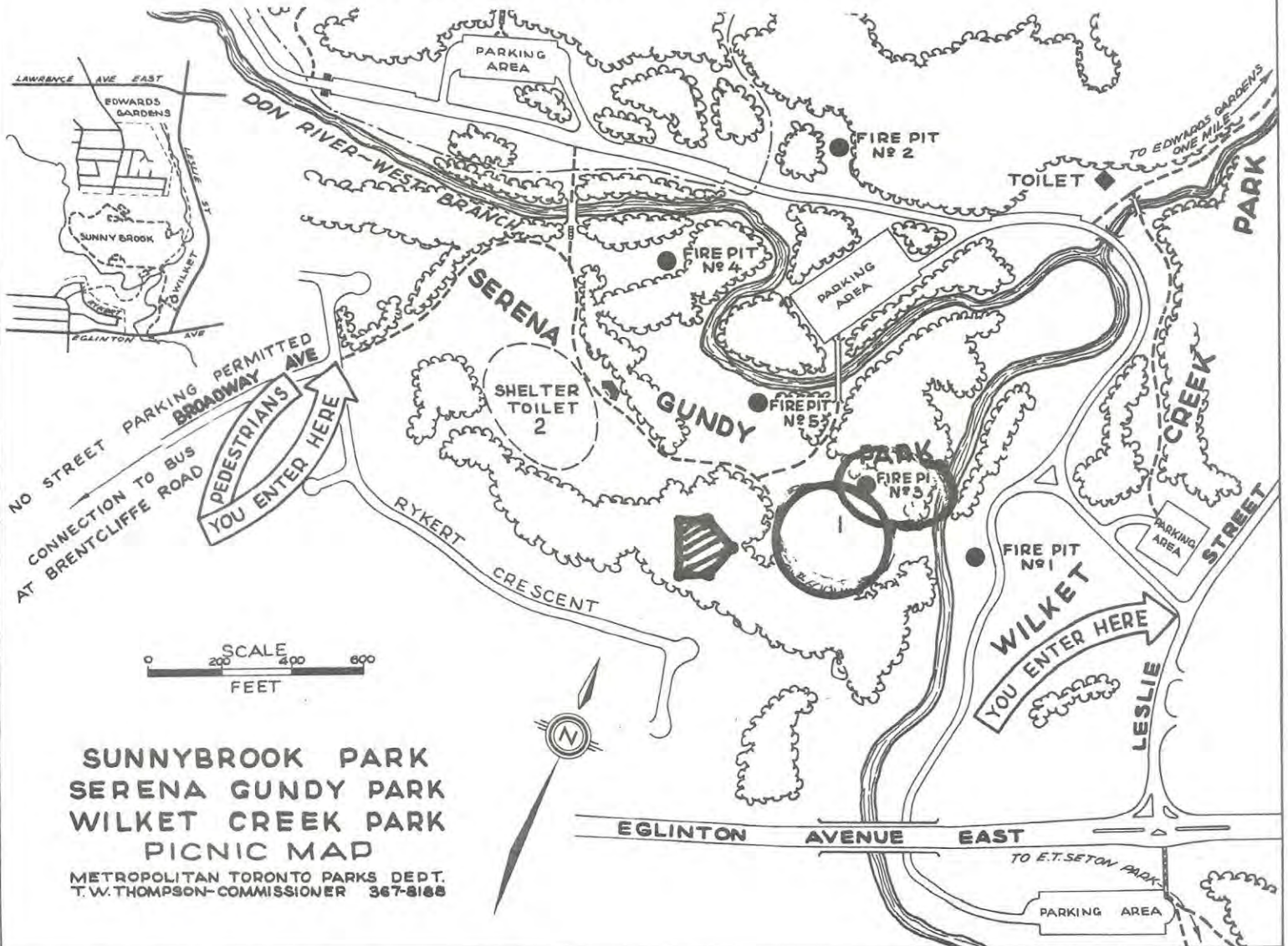
Copies of the Directory are available for 50¢ each (including postage) from the Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0

WELCOME IN SUMMER - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

Our picnic last June was so successful, we are once again going to welcome summer at Serena Gundy Park on Wednesday, June 20th from 5 p.m. until ??? (we can stay until midnight if we wish!!)

Come one, come all — bring yourself, your wife, your husband, your children, your friends and a keen desire to get to know other members of the Club. You will also have the opportunity of speaking to members of the Board of Directors and various Committees and to let them know your praises, complaints and ideas. You will, of course, also have to bring your own food. Hot chocolate will be available for one and all.

If you wish to have any particular activity take place at the picnic, let us know. Would you like some planned games for children (or even adults), a walk after dark, a nature scavenger hunt, etc.?? Call Muriel Miville at 463-8066, or Laura Greer at 691-4888 and let us know what you would like.



A PLEA TO PHOTOGRAPHERS  
FROM THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS

- By concerned Dorothy McNaughton, naturalist-photographer, member of the Toronto Guild for Colour Photography -

Each year, camera club members enjoy working at Dorcas Bay. THE ONTARIO NATURALIST, early winter 1978 issue, makes us realize what a treasure this area is, and what part we can play in helping to preserve it. Did you know there are sixteen native orchid species there? And we all appreciate their beauty.

A few quotes from the article by Malcolm D. Kirk and David G. Wake should be noted: "Are you one of the group that 'love it to death' destroying some feature you love best?" "Pause a moment. Think of your own photographic methods. In seeking that perfect orchid shot, do you inadvertently destroy adjacent plants?" "Many favourite subjects may die because you have crushed adjacent vegetation." "The destruction of a number of plants for a single photograph is clearly not an acceptable use of a reserve."

In searching for your subject, have you stayed on the road or path? Much walking is sure to destroy some emerging plants. I remember Janet Goodwin demonstrating how she works in a kneeling position - one knee, toe and foot still make contact with the ground but much less than when sprawled on the ground probably with a larger ground sheet under you. Use a right-angle viewfinder so you can look down into your camera instead of taking a low position. Try to choose a specimen which is in an area without other plants where you are going to be working. If possible work from the roadway - there are many good specimens beside the road or paths.

Again quoting: "One purpose for which the reserves are not intended is, providing a haven for photographers." "That extra bit of care on your part will mean that the reserve will remain altered only by natural events."

Look carefully from the walks - enjoy what you see - think before you set up to work on a specimen. "PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB PLANTS OR ANIMALS."

(Ed. - This good advice applies to photographers from the Atlantic to the Pacific, not only to Ontario's sanctuaries, so let us resolve to do our part in the preservation of our natural environment in Canada.)

Reprinted from "FOTO-FLASH" Feb./79  
Submitted by Wes Hancock

TFN is always looking for leaders for walks. Do you have a favourite spot where you walk regularly? Do you have a special interest — geology, insects, mammals, herptiles — any field that would help us expand our horizons? If so, contact Mary Smith, 231-5302, or Jean Macdonald, 425-6596.





ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT \*

- Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario, (with maps)  
R. D. James, P. L. McLaren, J. C. Barlow, 80 pp., \$2.50
- A Checklist of Canadian Freshwater Fishes with Keys for Identification (183 species in 24 families, illustrated),  
W. B. Scott, E. J. Crossman, 112 pp., \$1.50
- Dinosaurs of Canada, W. E. Swinton, 16 pp., illustrated, \$1.00
- Domestication of the Carp (History of the Goldfish), E. K. Balon  
illustrated, 37 pp., \$3.00
- The Earthworms of Ontario, John W. Reynolds, illustrated (cloth)  
152 pp., \$8.00
- Evolution, W. E. Swinton, illustrated, 16 pp., \$1.00
- Fossils in Ontario, (with reading list), R. R. H. Lemon,  
16 pp., \$1.00
- The Mastodon, L. S. Russell, illustrated, 16 pp., \$1.00
- The Niagara Escarpment, W. M. Tovell, (Geology) with illustrations and reading list, 16 pp., \$1.00
- Niagara Falls, Story of a River, W. M. Tovell, (Geology)  
16 pp., \$1.00
- Not Ours to Control: Living with Changing Lake Levels (Great Lakes), W. M. Tovell, 7 pp., .50
- Ontario Grouse, J. L. Baillie (illustrated by T. M. Shortt),  
20 pp., .35
- Quetico Fishes, E. J. Crossman, illustrated, 96 pp., \$3.00
- Those Remarkable Dinosaurs, L. S. Russell, illustrated,  
14 pp., .50
- The Water-Striders of Ontario, L. Cheng, C. H. Fernando,  
illustrated, 24 pp., .75
- Where is that Vanished Bird?, P. Hahn, illustrated (A guide to preserved specimens of extinct North American birds)  
348 pp., \$3.50

Scientific Papers:

- The Blattaria and Orthoptera of Essex County, Ontario,  
F. A. Urquhart, 32 pp., .25
- On an Unnamed Population of the Great Horned Owl, L. L. Snyder,  
8 pp., .50
- The Grass Pickerel, *Esox americanus vermiculatus* LeSueur, in  
Canada, E. J. Crossman, illustrated, 36 pp., \$1.00
- Fishes of Northern Ontario, North of the Albany River, Ryder,  
Scott & Crossman, illustrated, .75
- Cretaceous Non-Marine Faunas of Northwestern North America,  
L. S. Russell, .75
- Catalogue of Canadian Fossil Fishes, B. G. Gardiner,  
156 pp., \$3.50
- Dinosaur Hunting in Western Canada, L. S. Russell, illustrated,  
38 pp., \$1.00
- Palaeontology of the Swan Hills Area, North-Central Alberta,  
L. S. Russell, illustrated, 32 pp., \$1.00

- Tertiary Mammals of Saskatchewan  
 Part I, Eocene Fauna, L. S. Russell, 36 pp., \$1.35  
 Part II, The Oligocene Fauna, Non-Ungulate Orders,  
 L. S. Russell, illustrated, 104 pp., \$5.00  
 Part III, The Miocene Fauna, J. E. Storer, illustrated,  
 140 pp., \$4.00  
 Part IV, The Oligocene Anthracotheres,  
 Loris S. Russell, illustrated, 16 pp., \$1.25
- Population Studies of *Myotis lucifugus* (Chiroptera:  
 Vespertilionidae) in Ontario, illustrated, 40 pp., \$2.00
- A Review of the North American Hawk Moth Genus *Lapara*  
 (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae), J. C. E. Riotte, illustrated,  
 44 pp., \$2.00
- A Systematic Review of the Nearctic and Neotropical River  
 Otters (Genus *Lutra*, Mustelidae, Carnivora), illustrated,  
 108 pp., \$5.00
- Redescription of Type Specimens of Bryozoan *Stigmatella* from  
 the Upper Ordovician of the Toronto Region, Ontario,  
 M. A. Fritz, illustrated, 36 pp., \$2.50
- A Contribution to the Biology of Caddisflies (Trichoptera) in  
 Temporary Pools, G. B. Wiggins, illustrated, 32 pp., \$2.00
- New Systematic Data for the N. A. Caddisfly Genera *Lepania*,  
*Goeracea* and *Goerita* (Trichoptera; Limnephilidae),  
 G. B. Wiggins, illustrated, 36 pp., \$2.50
- Contributions to the Systematics of the Caddisfly Family  
*Limnephilidae* (Trichoptera) I, G. B. Wiggins, illustrated,  
 36 pp., \$2.00
- Mammals from the St. Mary River Formation (Cretaceous) of  
 Southwestern Alberta, R. E. Sloan & L. S. Russell,  
 illustrated, 24 pp., \$2.00
- Redescription of Type Specimens of the Bryozoan *Heterotrypa*  
 from Upper Ordovician Rocks of the Credit River Valley,  
 Ontario, Canada, M. A. Fritz, illustrated, 32 pp., \$1.75
- Fauna and Correlation of the Ravenscrag Formation (Paleocene)  
 of Southwestern Saskatchewan, L. S. Russell, illustrated,  
 56 pp., \$2.00
- Redescription of Type Specimens of Species of the Bryozoan  
 Genera *Monticulipora*, *Mesotrypa*, *Peronopora* and *Prasopora*  
 from Upper Ordovician Rocks of Toronto and Vicinity,  
 Ontario, Canada, illustrated, 28 pp., \$1.50
- Redescription of Type Specimens of Species of the Bryozoan  
 Genera *Atactoporella*, *Homotrypa* and *Homotrypella* from the  
 Upper Ordovician Rocks of the Credit River, Ontario, Canada,  
 Madeleine A. Fritz, illustrated, 28 pp., \$1.25
- Methods of Collection, Preservation and Study of Water Mites  
 (Acari: Parasitengona), D. W. Barr, illustrated, 32 pp.,  
 \$1.50
- Key to the Quaternary Pollen and Spores of the Great Lakes  
 Region, J. McAndrews, A. A. Berti & G. Norris, illustrated,  
 66 pp., \$2.50
- A Selected Bibliography on Mercury in the Environment with  
 Subject Listing, S. Robinson & W. B. Scott, 46 pp., \$1.25

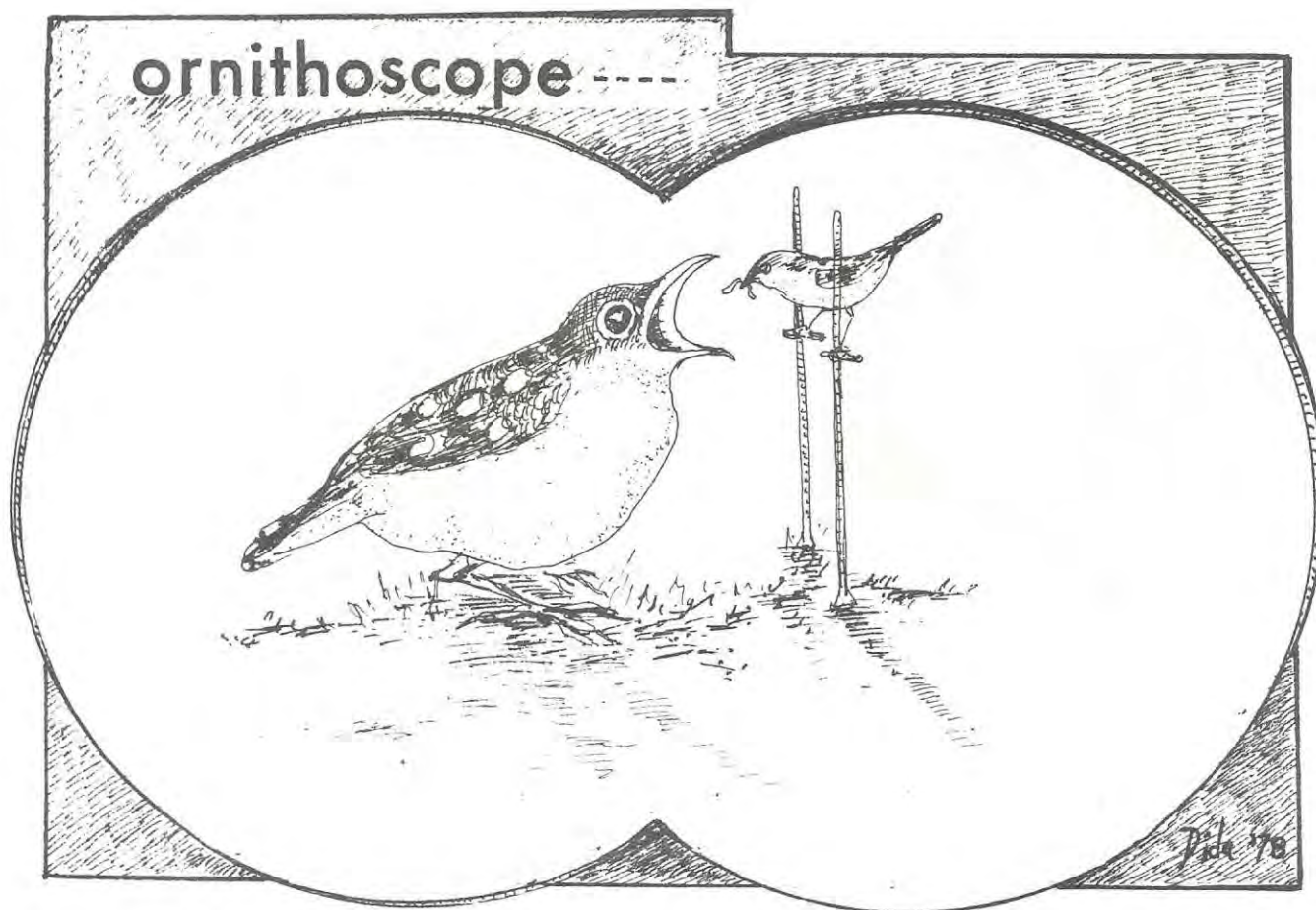
The Larva and Pupa of the Caddisfly genus *Setodes* in North America (Trichoptera: Leptoceridae), D. Merrill & G. B. Wiggins, 12 pp., .50

The Distinction between Latipinnate and Longipinnate Ichthyosaurs, C. McGowan, illustrated, 8 pp., .75

Distribution and Overwintering of *Myotis leibii* and *Eptesicus fuscus* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) in Ontario, M. B. Fenton, illustrated, 8 pp., .50

Available from: Publication Services, ROM  
100 Queen's Park, Toronto, M5S 2C6

"Ornithoscopy" is a fancy word for "birdwatching".  
You never know what we "ornithoscopists" are going  
to see when we look through our binoculars.....



The great spotted cuckoo (14") sometimes lays its eggs in the nest of the reed warbler (5"). Small foster parents feed huge nestlings by alighting on the back of the nestling or by hovering - or by whatever means they can find! Some Old World cuckoos are not parasites and a few southern New World cuckoos are, as are some ducks, weavers and, of course, the cowbirds!

UNUSUAL MAMMAL SIGHTINGS

How grey is the grey squirrel?.....

It would be interesting to do a study of the colour-phases of the Eastern Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) and what better place than here in Toronto? Apparently every imaginable shade is to be found here. There is a lot of tawny and/or rusty in the so-called "grey phase" but whitish-tipped guard hairs tend to subdue these brighter colours, giving a tawny-grey appearance. Often enough, however, we see individuals in which the rusty predominates; again sometimes this phenomenon is evident only in the tail. The "melanistic phase" (the black squirrel) is not a separate species. We take it for granted here in Toronto but in fact the black colour-phase is not common in many other parts of its range (yet as a child it was the only one I knew). In Sherwood Park in 1976 I saw a squirrel which was decidedly "grey" in the front-quarters and black in the hind-quarters. (In that park

also I saw an adult individual lacking long guard-hairs in the tail entirely.)

But the climax of the colour-phenomena of this species is decidedly the WHITE ("albinistic") individual observed in Mount Pleasant Cemetery last fall. (We wonder how many members have seen it.) The Editorial Committee has two colour snaps taken by Patricia Rogerson of Redpath Avenue which will be passed on to the TFN photo-library. It has the pink eyes typical of albinos.



(after photograph by Patricia Rogerson)

Don't forget to report any interesting colour-phases you see of the Eastern Grey Squirrel or any other unusual mammal sightings in the Toronto Area.

We've also had a few sightings\* reported recently of the Hairytail Mole (Parascalops breweri), an insectivore, not a rodent.

Active night and day, it is much bigger than a mouse with stumpy tail, the "eyeless, earless" look of the moles, with a sharp pink nose and pink feet. If you have seen it, let us know - also the only other mole in Toronto Area, the bizarre Starnose Mole (Condylura cristata).

D.B.



Hairytail Mole

starnose Mole

\* The Hairytail has been sighted by Margarita O'Connor and Molly Campbell.

A CHECK-LIST OF THE MAMMALS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO

(South of 46° Latitude. Based on "Mammals of Canada" by Banfield and "A Field Guide to the Mammals" by Burt & Grossenheider)

MARSUPIAL

Opossum.....	Virginia Opossum	(Didelphis virginiana or D. marsupialis)
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INSECTIVORES

Shrews.....	Masked Shrew Smokey Shrew American Water Shrew (or Northern Water Shrew) Pigmy Shrew Short-tailed Shrew	(Sorex cinereus) (Sorex fumeus) (Musaraigne palustre or Sorex palustris) (Microsorex hoyi) (Blarina brevicauda)
Moles.....	Hairy-tailed Mole Star-nosed Mole	(Parascalops breweri) (Condylura cristata)

BATS

Plain-nosed Bats...	Little Brown Bat Keen's Bat Small-footed Bat  Silver-haired Bat Eastern Pipistrelle Big Brown Bat Red Bat Hoary Bat	(Myotis lucifugus) (Myotis keenii) (Myotis leibii or M. subulatus) (Lasionycteris noctivagans) (Pipistrellus subflavus) (Eptesicus fuscus) (Lasiurus borealis) (Lasiurus cinereus)
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CARNIVORES

Bear.....	American Black Bear	(Ursus americanus)
Raccoon.....	Raccoon	(Procyon lotor)
Mustelids.....	American Marten Fisher Short-tailed Weasel, Ermine or Stoat Long-tailed Weasel Least Weasel American Mink American Badger Striped Skunk River Otter	(Martes americana) (Martes pennanti) (Mustela erminea cicognia) (Mustela frenata) (Mustela nivalis rixosa) (Mustela vison) (Taxidea taxus) (Mephitis mephitis) (Lutra canadensis)
Wolves/Foxes.....	Brush Wolf or Coyote Timber Wolf Red Fox Grey Fox	(Canis latrans) (Canis lupus or lycaon) (Vulpes vulpes or fulva) (Urocyon cinereoargenteus)
Cats.....	Lynx Bobcat	(Lynx lynx or L. canadensis) (Lynx rufus)

RODENTS

Squirrels/Marmot.....	Eastern Chipmunk	(Tamias striatus)
	Eastern Grey or Black Squirrel	(Sciurus carolinensis)
	American Red Squirrel	(Tamiasciurus hudsonicus)
	Southern Flying Squirrel	(Glaucomus volans)
	Northern Flying Squirrel	(Glaucomus sabrinus)
	Woodchuck or Groundhog	(Marmota monax)
Beaver.....	American Beaver	(Castor canadensis)
Mice/Lemmings/ Voles/Muskrat.....	Deer Mouse	(Peromyscus maniculatus)
	White-footed Mouse	(Peromyscus leucopus)
	Southern Bog Lemming	(Synaptomus cooperi)
	Muskrat	(Ondatra zibethica)
	Boreal Redback Vole	(Clethrionomys gapperi)
	Woodland or Pine Vole	(Microtus pinetorum or Pitymys pinetorum)
	Meadow Vole	(Microtus pennsylvanicus)
Old World Rodents.....	Norway Rat (introduced)	(Rattus norvegicus)
	House Mouse (introduced)	(Mus musculus)
Jumping Mice.....	Meadow Jumping Mouse	(Zapus hudsonius)
	Woodland Jumping Mouse	(Napaeozapus insignis)
Porcupine.....	American Porcupine	(Erethizon dorsatum)

LAGOMORPHS

Rabbits.....	Eastern Cottontail	(Sylvilagus floridanus)
	Snowshoe or Varying Hare	(Lepus americanus)
	European Hare or Jackrabbit (introduced)	(Lepus europaeus)

HOOFED MAMMALS

Deer.....	Wapiti or American Elk (re-introduced)	(Cervus elephas canadensis or Cervus canadensis)
	White-tailed Deer	(Odocoileus virginianus)
	Moose	(Alces alces)

PERIPHERAL LIST: (May be within area)

Southern Limit.....	Least Shrew	(Cryptotis parva)
	Indiana Bat	(Myotis sodalis)
	Evening Bat (rare)	(Nycticeius humeralis)
	Eastern Fox Squirrel	(Sciurus niger)
Northern Limit.....	Least Chipmunk	(Eutamias minimus)
	Mountain or Heather Phenacomys	(Phenacomys intermedius)

IF ANY MEMBER KNOWS OF ANY ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THIS LIST, PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE, OR EMILY HAMILTON 488-0677.

## THE GREAT BIRDS OF KENYA

To find the largest bird ever, we'd have to go into past eons and look at a New Zealand moa standing 13 feet (weight over 900 lbs.). But today the ostrich, (9 feet high, 350 lbs.) is by far the largest, dwarfing even the great cassowaries, emus and rheas of other continents. And it's still very commonly seen bouncing effortlessly across the African plains in family parties, the sole living member of the STRUTHIONIDAE.

One is struck by the number of large birds in equatorial Kenya. I took a little reading of species "a-yard-long" or more which I'd seen, and came up with 23 - mostly in the so-called "lower orders", i. e. more ancient, speaking in terms of evolution. The lengths given in the guide I used are from tip of bill to tip of tail.

Of the flying birds, the impressive Kori bustard is the largest on my list at 30 lbs., the males 40" long, the females 30". I had a close view of a male and two females in Nairobi National Park. Compared with other flyers, this bustard is among the heaviest, outweighing all pelicans, vultures, condors, albatrosses and wild turkeys. However, our Trumpeter Swan is said to be heavier at 38 lbs. (45" long). Kenya has no swans! I had two other smaller members of the OTIDAE on my list, at 24" about the size of a big Canada Goose, which by the way, in French Canada is sometimes called "outarde", a misnomer; however, standing in the fields with upstretched neck it bears a resemblance to the bustards. The latter are in the same order as cranes and rails, far from the waterfowl. "Bernache du Canada" is considered to be the correct name for the Canada Goose in the French language...which is much better since it's a lot more closely related to the Barnacle Goose than to the bustards.

Actually the white pelican frequenting Lake Naivasha can go to 70" but weighs only 24 lbs.; similar in size to our White Pelican, it can, however, be pinkish in colour at times. I've not yet seen the only other East African pelican, the smaller pink-backed (54"), grey with a pink rump. It compares in size with the Brown Pelican of Florida.

Next in size is a stork, the saddle-bill. When at Amboseli (about the only place in Kenya where one is likely to see it) I was laid up with a sprained ankle and couldn't go on the "game run", so missed my chance. The drivers seldom stop to look at birds anyway, though this one would be hard to miss at 66". It would tower over me! Storks don't appear in Peterson's list of heaviest birds, so must be light-weights for their size. The very common Marabou (60") is much in evidence, though I did not see it at the Coast. It would be easy to make some kind of evil omen out of this huge, uncomely, silent bird, but it's too important as a scavenger to do it such a disservice! Four other Kenya storks qualify in this "yard-long" category. Of these I was lucky to see at close range one individual of the European black stork wandering around near Kilaguni Lodge - considered a "scarce winter visitor". Like the European white which I saw only on my 1970 trip, it goes to 44". I've yet to see the open-bill stork (36"). The woolly-necked is listed at 34" but it seems a big stork with its thick neck. Along with the herons, it was common on the tidal flats and I was able to study it, getting close enough to see "the reds of its eyes". The sooty gulls sometimes chased them off, but tolerated the presence of the herons. The Abdim's or white-bellied stork is a smaller member of the CICONIIDAE. Though only 32" I was impressed to see a "rookery" of them near Aruba Lodge in Tsavo East. (At that point I had given up on regular guides and invested the rest of my safari money in the services of Joseph Cheboya who had been chauffeur to J. G. Williams, the author of my East African field guide. Though his van was not so new and comfortable as the mini-buses, I was able to stop at will and feast my eyes on such sights as this, while availing myself of Joseph's considerable knowledge and interest.) The only North American stork is the Wood Stork and it qualifies in

the "yard-long" category. It occurs as an accidental in Southern Ontario. Though its other name, "wood ibis" is considered a misnomer, in Kenya there's another stork with the same popular name, "wood ibis" but is also called "yellow-billed stork"; its Latin name, moreover, is Ibis ibis! (42"). Both are largely white with black flight feathers - and the immature of the American species has the yellow bill, too. The African bird, however, is more colourful with its red face and legs.

The one representative of the BALAENICIPITIDAE, the whale-headed stork (60") is rare. I have not seen it, nor have I seen the one member of the SCOPIDAE, the Hammerkop (only 24").

Of the THRESKIORNITHIDAE, the African spoonbill is a yard long. I caught a fleeting glimpse of one in Tsavo East; though I did not establish if the legs were red, I only assumed it was not the rare visitor from Europe, the Spoonbill with dark legs. The beautiful Roseate Spoonbill of Florida is smaller at 28". Also in this family are the "true ibises" but both the crow-voiced hadada and the silent sacred ibis are only 30".

Among the ARDEIDAE, there are several "yard-long" herons and egrets. The grey heron, also of Europe, and the black-headed both resemble the Great Blue. They frequent the tidal flats daily and were my constant companions while I was there. I noticed the black-headed also frequents dry roadsides in the coastal scrub. Perhaps it fancies lizards to round out its diet. The purple heron, also of Europe, prefers inland locations and I saw it in the rehabilitated part of the quarry where ponds had been introduced. I missed the largest heron of all, the Goliath (60") which is, in fact, scarce. The great white egret (36") - called the Common Egret in North America - stalks its prey stealthily at low tide, in typical heron fashion, so I could always tell it at a great distance from the "little egret" (only 24") which appears to "run after" its prey. The field marks of the "little" are the same as those of the Snowy Egret (which is on the Ontario check-list). The "snowy" is said to "stir up the water with its feet" while feeding. It would be interesting to read more about the comparative habits of these two look-alikes on separate continents. They're listed separately in Gruson's Check-List of the World's Birds. The night heron is the one we call here "the black-crowned". I saw it at Mtwapi Creek (an ocean inlet), remembering where I had first seen it - High Park. The Cattle Egret (20") has now reached Ontario - after a long argosy somehow reaching South America, then up through Florida and the eastern States. A large number share the heronry at Aruba Lodge with the Abdim's storks.

The famous crowned crane (40") is in the same family as our Sandhill and Whooping Cranes, the GRUIIDAE; it had formerly been classified separately as "the BALEARICIDAE". These splendid birds are common on the plains.

Though I did not expect to see the Greater Flamingo at the coast, we ran into a small flock at Mida Creek (inlet). They were far off the road and we had no scope. We tried puddle-jumping and wading a bit across the soda flats, but were informed by some little boys that they were beyond the brush and inaccessible. This combination of muddy and shrubby habitat is good protection for them. I was content to have seen great numbers at Nakuru in 1970. The Greater is 56" long, almost white with scarlet and black in the wings; it does not take on the brilliant coral hues in its general colouring which the American subspecies attains. This colour phenomenon can be observed at our Metro Zoo where both are in the collection. The American subspecies goes to 42", more the size of the lesser flamingo (40") which I also had seen at Nakuru where its numbers sometimes reach into the millions. I didn't count them. But our driver pointed out en route, while still some miles away, the pink line along the shore which was the birds. The "lesser" is very colourful in deep rose and carmine plumage rather than the familiar "flamingo pink".



There are some yard-long water-birds, too. The only Kenya member of the ANHINGIDAE, the African darter, at 38", can be ten inches longer than the Anhinga of Florida. My sole sighting was in 1970 on a pond in Nairobi National Park. The white-necked cormorant goes to 36" - it's on my 1970 Naivasha list, but in 1977 I saw only the smaller long-tailed (24") - the long tail makes it look like a small darter. These are the only two PHALACOCORACIDAE likely to be seen in Kenya.

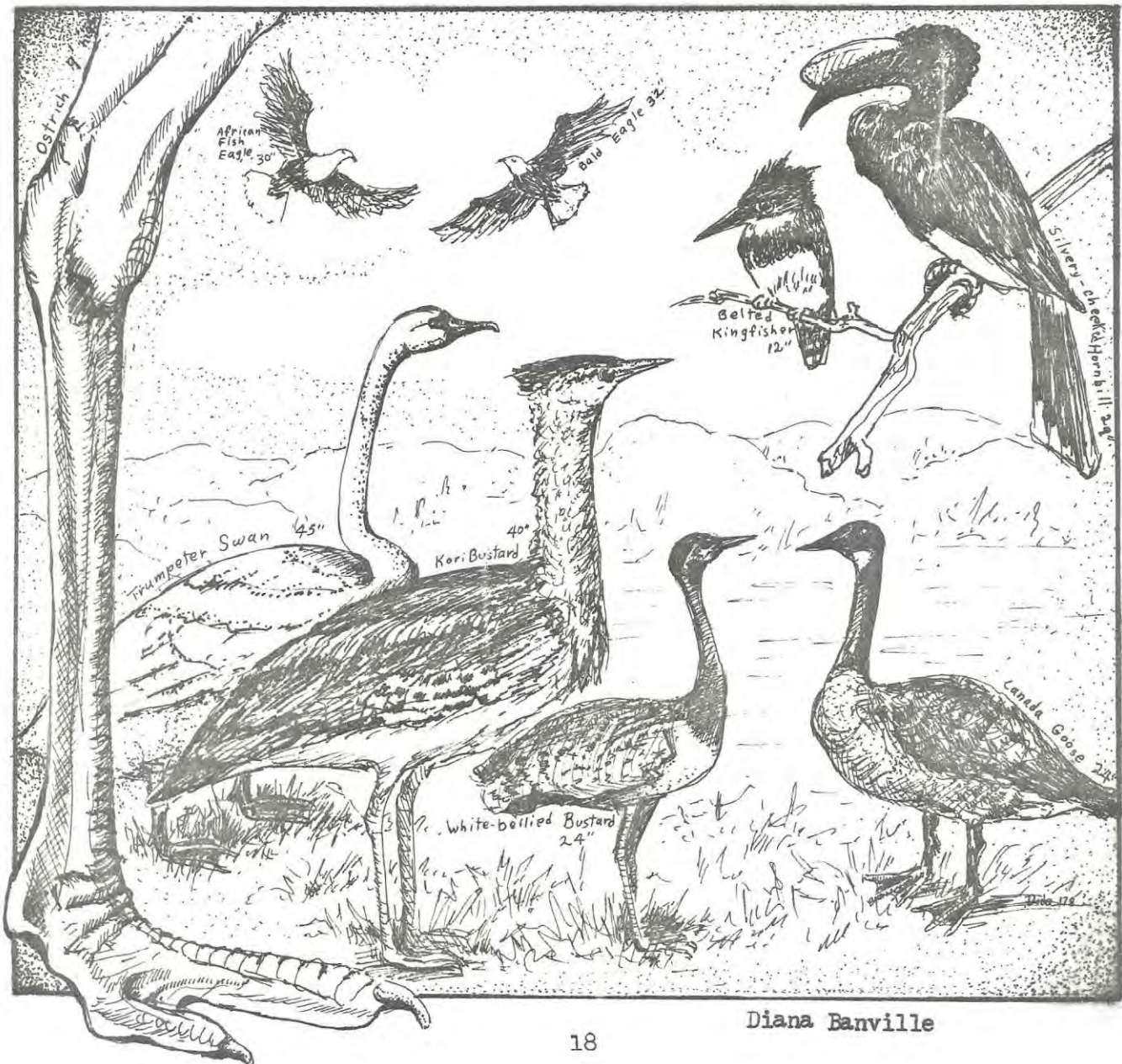
The secretary bird (40") is unique to the SAGITTARIIDAE and brings us into the raptor category, though with its long legs and ground-hunting habits, it does not at once suggest this connection. Of the AEGYPTIIDAE (which I believe is now being lumped with the ACCIPITRIDAE, the hawks and eagles) only the lappet-faced vulture exceeds the yard-stick at 40" and that's the one I've never seen, since it's rare in Kenya. I have seen the Ruppell's griffon vulture which goes to 34" and a couple of others. In 1970 while driving in Nairobi National Park with my brother, we came upon a freshly-killed hartebeest surrounded by hundreds of vultures and marabou waiting silently with extended wings while one tiny silver-backed jackal had its fill. One marabou would be twice its size. Only after it trotted off did the birds close in. It could hardly have been a lion-kill but I wondered whether it had been cheetahs which the jackals had driven off - mysteriously there was but one jackal. This was an unforgettable drama. By the way, these vultures are not very close to the American vultures which have their own separate family, the CATHARTIDAE. The largest eagle I've seen in Kenya is the African fish eagle (30") closely related to our fish-loving Bald Eagle (32") which it resembles.

The only family in the "higher orders" (more recently evolved) which has yard-long representatives is the BUCEROTIIDAE with its two ground hornbills, neither of which I've seen, at 42". (By the way, they can fly.) All the other members of this family in Kenya are much smaller, ranging from 17" - the red-billed - which always seems to be near Kilaguni Lodge in Tsavo East - up to the 29" silvery-cheeked which I saw in the Shimba Hills near the Kenya coast in March, 1977. Even at this size these birds are very large for perching species, and are most impressive with their enormous bills which are casqued in some genera. I was thrilled to have chalked up six of the ten Kenya species of the genera Tockus and Bucanistes. On one occasion Joseph counted 23 in one flock of Von der Decken's hornbill in the Sokoke Forest, as they flew over the van after I had flushed them in my attempts to get close-up views. There are impressive specimens of a casqued species of this family in the India/Malaya pavilion at Metro Zoo - the great pied hornbill, which exceeds even the ground hornbills in length at 47". The hornbills are often compared with the New World toucans which, however, are related to the woodpeckers, whereas the hornbills, believe it or not, are close to the kingfishers.

Take a look at the Latin names of the birds mentioned in this article - some of them tell their own story.....

Struthio camelus (ostrich - what else); Ardeotis kori (Kori bustard); Pelecanus onocrotalus (African white pelican); Pelecanus erythrorhynchos (American White Pelican); P. rufescens (pink-backed pelican); P. occidentalis (Brown Pelican); Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis (saddle-bill stork); Leptoptilos crumeniferus (marabou stork); Ciconia nigra (black stork); C. ciconia (Eur. white stork); Anastomus leucorhynchus (open-bill stork); Dissoura episcopus (it's bearing I guess - the woolly-necked stork); Sphenorhynchus abdimii (Abdim's stork); Mycteria americana (Wood Stork); Ibis ibis (yellow-billed stork); Balaeniceps rex (whale-headed stork); Scopus umbretta (hammerkop); Platalea alba (African spoonbill); P. leucorodia (European spoonbill); Ajaia ajaja (I love that one - Roseate Spoonbill); Hagedashia hagedash (that one too! - hadada ibis); Threskiornis aethiopicus (sacred ibis); Ardea cinerea (grey heron);

Ardea melanocephala (black-headed heron); A. herodias (Great Blue Heron); A. purpurea (purple heron); A. goliath (Goliath heron); Casmerodius albus or Egretta alba (great white or Common Egret); Egretta garzetta (little egret); Egretta or Leucophoyx thula (Snowy Egret); Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night Heron); Bubulcus ibis (Cattle Egret); Balearica regulorum (crowned crane); Grus americana (Whooping Crane); Grus canadensis (Sandhill Crane); Phoenicopterus ruber (Greater Flamingo); P. ruber ruber (the American subspecies of the Greater); Phoeniconaias minor (lesser flamingo); Anhinga rufa (African darter); Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga - no my typewriter isn't stuttering; this is the accepted English name for the American species); Phalacrocorax carbo (white-necked cormorant); P. africanus (long-tailed cormorant); Sagittarius serpentarius (secretary-bird); Torgos tracheliotus (lappet-faced vulture); Gyps ruppellii (Ruppell's griffon vulture); Haliaeetus vocifer (and well-earned! - African fish eagle); Haliaeetus leucocephalus (meaning "white-headed" - Bald Eagle); Bucorvus (genus name of ground hornbills); Tockus erythrorhynchus (red-billed hornbill); Bycanistes brevis (silvery-cheeked hornbill); T. deckeni (Von der Decken's hornbill); Buceros bicornis or Calao bicornis (great pied hornbill); Megaceryle alcyon (Belted Kingfisher); Eupodotis senegalensis (White-bellied Bustard)



UNIQUE TORONTO

Visitors to this city are usually taken to the same places — to the top of the CN Tower, a stroll down Yorkville, to Eaton's Centre for shopping. It is imperative that they visit our best restaurants and theatres. There's nothing unique about any of this. Every cosmopolitan city in the world has similar attractions. Visitors would find the unusual aspects of Toronto much more interesting.

Let's start with the animals. Our zoo is similar to that of any large city. Personally I would rather see a tiny mouse in the wild than an elephant in a cage. My preference is to take guests to a local park to feed the squirrels and chipmunks. A relative of mine from England spent hours in the park every day. She had never been that close to a squirrel before in her life and enjoyed herself tremendously. Just to see a raccoon, groundhog or skunk could be an unforgettable incident (especially the last-mentioned).

Scarboro bluffs are not only of interest geologically but also provide rising warm air currents that attract migrating hawks.

That brings us to another unique aspect of this city, its birds. Toronto is located in the middle of a migration flyway. Most ornithologists rate it as the second best spot in Canada to see rare birds. Last year a pelican visited a local marsh for a short time. Egrets seem to come here every summer though most people associate them with the tropics. Turkey vultures and eagles are often seen soaring in our skies.

Our own TFN nature walks, often led by experts, are free to the public. Newcomers usually learn about fifty birds if they go in the spring, as well as many plants.

In the winter Lake Ontario offers refuge to thousands of Arctic ducks when the water freezes over up north. That noisy little diving duck with the long tail, the Old Squaw, is the most common visitor. Then, of course, there are the large rafts of scaup and smaller groups of buffleheads, goldeneyes, and mergansers. You don't have to visit the zoo to see fascinating wildlife. There was the gyrfalcon which hunted from the top of a downtown building and perched there every night for weeks last winter. This bird, long sought after by the Arab royalty for hunting purposes, has a 4-foot wingspan and is strong enough to kill a goose or pheasant. It usually feeds on ptarmigan, those "wild chickens" of the far north. The Leslie Street spit is a location that seems to attract unusual birds, such as those strange shore birds with long, curved bills, the ibises, curlews and godwits. Even the world's largest tern is breeding there - called "the Caspian" because it also breeds on that body of water.

Another great thing about this city is the botany, since we are situated in a transition-forest area. Our climate is such that Boreal and Carolinian plants can grow side-by-side here. The diversity in trees alone is incredible. Southern trees like hickory, walnut, butternut, black locust, grow alongside those we think of as northern, such as white birch and tamarack.

Many rare and exotic species have been introduced into our city parks and are doing well. In James Gardens on the Humber River, for example, Japanese angelica trees have been planted. It is a spiny plant (with thorns even on the leafstalks); the compound leaves are over a meter long. Another introduction of interest there is the Dawn redwood, an evergreen. This tree was undiscovered until 1941 when it was found in a remote Chinese forest.

In High Park more exotic trees can be seen. One of these is a tree related to the conifers, with broad leaves, called the ginkgo. It has never been found growing wild though we know from fossils it was once widespread. The Chinese have cultivated it for unknown centuries because the seed is considered a delicacy. The female tree is not planted here as often as the male because the fruit has a foul smell. For those interested in garden flowers, at Edwards Gardens the rhododendrons are outstanding as are the shrubs and landscaping.

If visitors to this city have been to London, Paris, or New York, our tall buildings won't impress them, but why bother? We have so much to "show off."

Roger G. Powley

TFN BOOTH AT THE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND THE SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

Once again our booth at the Sportsmen's Show was highly successful. We tried to get some of the newer members involved by asking them to staff the booth, and they came through with flying colours. Our thanks to one and all who helped. We hope they enjoyed themselves.

▶ We still need and want the help of our older members and are hoping many of them will volunteer for our booth at the Canadian National Exhibition. If you would like to share in the fun call

Laura Greer, 691-4888

as soon as possible. The sooner the better!

People who volunteer will spend 3 or 4 hours at our booth seeing that the exhibits are not disturbed and chatting with any of the public who wish to talk to us. Volunteers will have company because there are always two on each shift.

Late Report of the Nominating Committee: A third name has been added to the list of directors due to retire in 1982: Mark Sawyer.

SWALLOW-WORT OR DOG-STRANGLING VINE

A few years ago the Canadian Field-Naturalist contained an article on the above species by James S. Pringle of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario. We should take note of his findings.

The abstract of the article reads: "Two weedy species of Vincetoxicum, V. medium and V. nigrum, are being encountered with increasing frequency as naturalized species in Ontario. A third species, V. album, has not been reported in recent years."

We have been in error (not our fault!) in calling the black swallow-wort by the generic name Cynanchum.

In 1958 Mr. A. Bullock published a paper in the Kew Bulletin pointing out that Cynanchum is a Southern Hemisphere genus, and that Vincetoxicum should be applied to the European genus.

The plants which are so prevalent in our area are European in origin.

The manuals we use, Gray's Manual, Gleason and Cronquist, and Britton and Brown, have not caught up with the news referred to above. They still refer to the genus as Cynanchum. However, if we take Dr. Pringle's advice, we will read Cynanchum as Vincetoxicum.

The plants that occur so abundantly in the Don Valley are Vincetoxicum medium; this species was first collected in Toronto in 1899. Farther east, around Kingston, Ontario, the prevalent species is Vincetoxicum nigrum, the flowers of which are darker-coloured than those of V. medium and with broader corolla-lobes, and 'distinctly hairy within'.

To trace the story yourself, read the Canadian Field Naturalist, 1973, Vol. 87, pp. 27-33 (available at the Metropolitan Toronto Library, 789 Yonge Street, second floor, Science Periodicals Section). You might also ask at the desk for Volume 73 and read pages 144-147 to learn all about Vincetoxicum medium's inner workings (chromosome numbers). From the Botany shelves (same floor) you may want to read the references to Cynanchum in the North American manuals referred to above.

If you are still curious, read Oleg Polunin's Flowers of Europe, the most recent European manual. You may be distressed to find that it includes both names for genera found in the Mediterranean ... but weren't we told that dog-strangling took place in the southern hemisphere?

Although no one has questioned the validity of the nomenclature for Cynanchum acutum, which was described by Linnaeus, all the other species have had several changes.

P.S. Gray's Manual says that Cynanchum is Greek for "dog, strangle"; Vincetoxicum is an ancient name meaning "ropelike poison"; and there is a species called V. hirundinaria which reflects our common name "swallow-wort".

Emily Hamilton

Recommended Reading

"Plants in Heat" by R. M. Knutson.  
"Natural History" Vol. 88, #3, pages 42-47 -- an illustrated article on skunk cabbage, recommended by Stella Kryzanouski.

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o IN PRAISE OF STURNUS VULGARIS o  
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George M. Sutton refers to it as "The unwanted by-product of whiteman's civilization." John P. S. McKenzie calls it "A thoroughly unpleasant bird." Even kind-hearted R. D. Symons referred to it as, "A bit of a nuisance," I don't agree; I like the Starling.

If there were no Starlings left, if by chance they were eradicated, I for one would miss them, maybe because they have a certain amount of rascally rag-a-muffin charm that I can identify with. Of course they do bicker and fight about the feeder, partly because they are communicative, gregarious birds. They are not as loud or screechy as the Blue Jays. Neither are they sly, but rather boisterous, and determined to obtain a good share of anything edible. Sometimes they remind me of women at a bargain sale.

In summer, when a mob of Starlings invades the chokecherry trees to eat the luscious berries, it sounds as though they are having a good time at a party. Then they thread their way in a beetle-drive through the summer grass, piping as they go through bright yellow beaks. The sun shines on their attractive green heads and purple chests; they look very handsome. If Starlings were not so adaptive and prosperous, making them more scarce, birdwatchers would delight at seeing one. Like whitemen, they have worked hard and spread over the Americas in a relatively short period of time.

Their flight is attractive and distinctive. And clever - they mimic other birds so well. Walking up the street one day in November, I thought, "My goodness, I can hear a Robin," looked up and it was a jolly Starling on a wire fooling me. Symons said, "Their imitation of the scream of the Red-tailed Hawk is perfect and will send chickens to cover in a hurry." Just the other day I heard a whistle as I came up the path. I turned, expecting to see an impudent youth or a Cardinal; no - there was a roguish Starling on the fence.

Sometimes in winter I wait for a bus in a downtown area. I watch the Starlings roosting for warmth on the ledges of tall buildings. They are interesting to watch. There is a definite pecking-order like Lorenz's Jackdaws. I just about have it figured out, and along comes the bus.

Starlings are frowned upon for grabbing the best nesting sites in the spring, particularly woodpecker holes. They build their nests early before other birds return from their long vacations down south. I think the Starlings are justified; after all, they have met the challenge of the winter (like you and me). They have weathered the blizzards with feathers fluffed out, huddled round chimney pots. They deserve first choice on the nesting sites. Their eggs are a lovely shade of pale blue; my favorite dress is Starling-egg-blue.

Joy Pocklington

## LETTERS THAT GET RESULTS

The cards and letters poured into Queen's Park; Premier John Robarts said he had never received so much mail on a single topic in his political career. That torrent of protests in 1967 stopped plans to poison Ontario's wolves. A few years later hundreds of letters helped save the wilderness of Quetico Park.

There are still environmental problems to be resolved and letters to be written: the March Newsletter called on TFN members to put pen to paper to save the natural areas on Toronto Island.

What kinds of letters get results?

"You don't have to be a Pulitzer Prize winner to write an effective letter", says Mike Singleton, General Manager of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Here are Mike's tips for letters to the Ontario government:

Personally write or type your letter. It will get much more attention than if you just sign your name to a letter run off on a copying machine. In the same vein, avoid coupon campaigns.

Make sure the Premier receives your expression of concern; send him a copy if your letter is going to someone else in the government.

Be courteous and firm in your request for specific action.

Ask for a reply. Pose a direct question that cannot be answered by a form letter.

"If you are joining in a letter-writing campaign, timing can be important", Mike says. "Try to find out when the particular issue is coming up for discussion", he advises, "then arrange for an increasing number of letters to arrive each day, peaking just before the decision is to be made".

Marion Bryden, MPP for Beaches-Woodbine, recommends that letters should go to all parties, not just the one in office. She stresses the importance of many letters and a follow-up.

"After the letters have been received, a couple of naturalists could arrange to meet with half a dozen MPPs and present them with a brief brief", says Ms. Bryden.

Another type of follow-up she suggests is the public meeting. "Depending on the issue and the amount of time the naturalists have, they might organize a meeting", she says. The meetings held to publicize the threats to Quetico were an effective follow-up to the hundreds of letters.

In the TFN many of our concerns will be local. Chairman Paul Godfrey should get a copy of every letter you write to an official or department of Metro. If the issue involves the City of Toronto, the City of North York, or one of the Boroughs, be sure to send a copy to the mayor concerned.

When you write to corporations the same rules apply: be clear, courteous, firm, ask for a reply, sign your name, and send a copy to the person at the top.

In your letter you may wish to identify yourself as a member of the Toronto Field Naturalists. If so, make it clear that you are expressing your own concern; do not say you are writing on behalf of the TFN unless you have the Board's permission.

Postage is required on letters to local politicians and those at Queen's Park. A letter to any Member of Parliament in Ottawa, and addressed to the House of Commons while it is in session, doesn't need a stamp.

And don't forget to send the letter of thanks when someone, some government, or some corporation does something that merits approval. That has to be the easiest letter to write; it's usually the forgotten one.

A useful forum is the "Letters to the Editor" section of our daily and weekly newspapers.

The Toronto Star, with the largest circulation of any Canadian paper, gets many letters and publishes perhaps a quarter of them. How can you increase the chances of seeing your letter in print? Borden Spears, the Star's Senior Editor, has some suggestions.

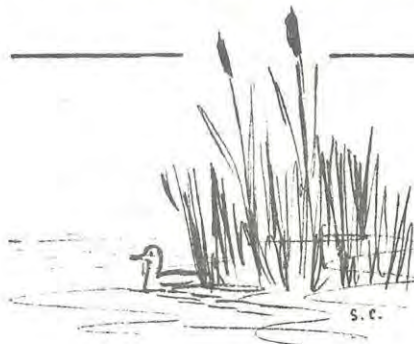
"A letter should be short, clear, and pithy, he says. "It should deal with one point and one point only; the letters columns have no space for essays that cover the field".

"Your letter will have the best chance of appearing in print", Borden adds, "if it refers to an event or issue that is known and in the public's mind; in other words, it should be topical. And it should be vigorous, not waffling; the editor will seize gratefully on an arresting idea or a pungent phrase that gives him meat for a provocative heading".

Newspaper space is limited; so is an editor's time. "Don't harass the editor if your letter isn't published", Borden says. "You'll be disappointed, but study the kinds that do get published and try again".

Remember the wolves: your letter could help to save an endangered animal or a threatened habitat.

Harold Taylor (225-2649)



TORONTO HARBOUR "THEN"

In 1793, Lieutenant Joseph Bouchette was commissioned to conduct a hydrographic survey of Toronto Harbour. He described the locality as follows:

I still distinctly recollect the untamed aspect which the country exhibited when first I entered the beautiful basin . . . Dense and trackless forests lined the margin of the lake, reflecting inverted images in its glassy surface. The wandering savage had constructed his ephemeral habitation beneath the luxuriant foliage -- and the bay and neighbouring marshes were the uninvaded haunts of immense convoys of wild fowl -- indeed they were so abundant as in some measure to annoy us during the night.

from H.J. Morgan's "Sketches of Celebrated Canadians", 1862, page 142

submitted by Margaret and Reid Wilson



# issues---

A unique geographical feature, "the Oriskany Sandstone Outcrop", located 5 miles west of Cayuga, Ontario is in imminent danger of being destroyed by quarrying. It is the only example of oak-hickory forest on sandstone in Ontario, perhaps Canada. The site contains 22 plant species that are rare in Ontario, and an unusually large number of oak species, as well as being the habitat of the endangered black rat snake.

In its May, 1978 decision, the Ontario Municipal Board thought that quarrying was more important than preserving this environmentally significant area. Now bulldozers are moving through oak stands and tracts of rare vegetation. Act now, time is running out. Write to Premier Davis and The Honourable James Auld, Minister of Natural Resources, both at Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6.

submitted by Joe Rozdzilski

For further information, read "The Oriskany Sandstone Outcrop and Associated Natural Features, a Unique Occurrence in Canada" by Dianne Fahselt et al in The Canadian Field-Naturalist, Vol. 93, pp. 28-40.

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It is undeniable. Whale populations of the world are seriously threatened. Commercial hunting has depleted and endangered the very existence of many species. World populations of the grey are less than 11,000-12,000; the blue, roughly 9000-10,000; the bowhead, humpback, and the right less than 5000 each. The sperm whale is the most heavily hunted, followed by the minke, the sei, fin, and Bryde's whale.

The hunting of these species is controlled by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to which Canada belongs, and although it has had a quota system in effect since 1969, the numbers of whales steadily decline.

Canada's involvement is a disappointment in the IWC; and while Canada is no longer a whaling nation, it still continues to support the major whaling nations.

Recently representatives of Greenpeace and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists have met and adopted the following resolution:

that Canada adopt a stance calling for a moratorium on commercial whaling as outlined by the 14th General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); and in light of Canada's 1978 position at the IWC in support of the activities of whaling interests that Canada's representatives reverse this position and aggressively pursue this policy at all forthcoming IWC meetings.

We are asking you to support and adopt this stance and forward it to the government. Letters to the Federal Minister of Fisheries, Mr. R. LeBlanc, and to your local federal member of Parliament are effective ways of influencing the government.

We need your concerned involvement, people who are willing to write letters, and people who will attend candidates meetings. If you feel you wish to help, please pledge your support now by calling Ron Reid at 444-8419.

submitted by Dian Keeping, FON

▶ P.S. The Royal Ontario Museum is operating a 7-day whale-search in the bays and fiords of Newfoundland commencing July 29, 1979, headed by specialist Dr. Peter Beamish. For information, call Mrs. McKay at 978-3704 or Peter Harper at 864-1470.

## THE LOWER ROUGE VALLEY -- AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA

The following letter was sent to the Ontario Municipal Board during a recent (March 17) hearing on a rezoning application for the lower Rouge.

It has come to my attention that current hearings of the Ontario Municipal Board will be addressing the zoning of currently open areas proximal and immediately west of the Lower Rouge River marshes. It has been suggested that some of the conclusions I have reached concerning biological values of the marshes' biota may be relevant to your considerations.

In 1972 I was involved in writing "A general biological survey of the Lower Rouge River marsh and lower valley". Subsequently my interests in the Rouge Ravine expanded northward, resulting in the publication of a "Guide to the Vascular Plants and Wildlife of the Rouge River Valley in Metropolitan Toronto and Durham Region" (Ontario Field Biologist, Spec. Publ. 1, 1978). This latter article summarized inventorial data collected to that date, characterizing major habitats, nesting birds of the lower marshes, game fish frequencies in the lower marshes, etcetera.

The value of such survey data to landuse planning is increased if such data can be put into a regional perspective. For example, listings are currently available for the rare plants of Ontario (Argus and White, 1977) and of Canada as a whole (Kershaw and Morton, 1976). In the Rouge Ravines south of Finch Avenue, 614 species of plants, 411 of them native, have been recorded to date. Of these native plants, 13 are considered rare in Ontario and five are considered rare nationally.

If we adopt the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Region as a more local regional unit, we can consider that a plant species be considered rare regionally if it is known to occur in less than three locations in the Planning Region within the last 25 years. Using this criteria, and the data available from both literature and plant collections, it appears that over 20% of the native plant species occurring in the Rouge Ravines south of Finch Avenue can be considered rare regionally.

Many of these rare plants occur in the Rouge Ravines south of Highway 2. Although the knowledge of the Toronto Region's flora is far from complete, at least 46 native plants in the Lower Rouge can be considered regionally rare. Of these, at least four species are considered nationally rare and nine are considered provincially rare. These include plants such as the wild lupine, the bushy cinquefoil, two different nut grasses, riparian rye grass and an upland rush known to occur at only one other Canadian location.

Some of the regionally rare plants are the yellow ladies'slipper orchid, aquatic sedges, shoreline sedges and wolffias. Many are aquatic plants, whose regional rarity reflects a scarcity of lakeshore marshes anywhere between Ajax and Hamilton. Within the Toronto Region, remnants of the former Humber River marshes, the Rattray Marsh and the Duffin Creek Marsh are the only other marshes left.

The Lower Rouge marshes cover about 32 ha. and offer a variety of shallow and deep, open and vegetated habitats for fish and bird populations. Of the four waterfowl species nesting there, the Common Gallinule, with over 330 eggs and young produced, and the Mallard, with over 180 eggs and young, were present in significant numbers. Also nesting successfully were Green Heron, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Black Terns, Marsh Wrens and other more common marsh

birds. As well, ten game fish species were recorded in significant numbers.

I am offering these notes in order to emphasize that the Lower Rouge Valley is not simply "open space" or "green space", as planners are inclined to indicate. Even ignoring the fact that the Lower Rouge Ravine has added significance because of its location within Canada's most populous metropolis, the Ravine is itself a very unusual and complex mixture of near-natural slopes and bottomlands. Its sensitivity to increased use, especially in the under-managed and underregulated manner now taken for granted, is sure to result in a decline in all wildlife values of the area. Proximal development should be considered in the light of the environmental care with which the Lower Rouge Ravine must be treated if its status is to be secured for any length of time.

John L. Riley, Curatorial Assistant  
Dept. of Botany, University of Toronto

BLUEBIRD REPORT

Leo Smith reports three bluebirds sighted on March 18 ten miles north of Bowmanville. On March 24 he saw and heard a singing male in the Hockley Valley at about 4:30 p.m. Seems the bluebirds are "just about on schedule".

A N N O U N C I N G . . . . .

The publication of A Birdfinding Guide to the Toronto Region by Clive Goodwin.

This most recent publication of the Toronto Field Naturalists has been partially funded by a Wintario Grant and contains general sections on the birds of the Toronto region; the Toronto year--things to look for by months; 134 numbered areas; 3 maps, and a systematic list of species showing their relative abundance by season.

Copies may be purchased at the May meeting, or you may order from the TFN by sending in the form below.

To : Toronto Field Naturalists  
83 Joicey Blvd.,  
Toronto, Ontario. M5M 2T4

Date .....

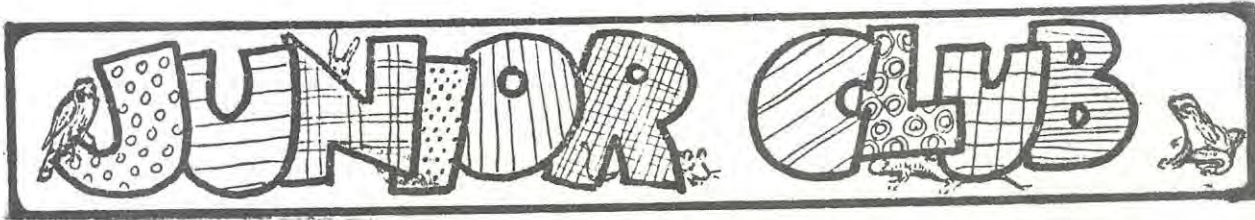
Title	Number	Unit Price	Total
A Birdfinding Guide to the Toronto Region		\$2.00	
		TOTAL	\$
Please add for postage and handling ( ) items at 50¢ each			\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED . . . . .			\$

Please send order to --

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

. . . . . Postal Code . . . . .



Though not well known, the Toronto Junior Field Naturalists' Club will soon celebrate its 50th anniversary as a naturalist club for juniors. I came upon this fact, much to my surprise, when leafing through some old issues of Flight magazine, our annual publication of members' works. The issues kept going back and back and finally stopped at the late 1930's. Except for the date on the cover one could not guess that the contents were not written by any child today or last week. It reinforced what I've always known. Children of all ages and in all ages have and always will possess a special and beautiful appreciation of and curiosity about the natural world they were born into. As they grow these "childish" curiosities are usually lost for lack of encouragement. Today more than ever we must not lose this precious resource. This is the primary reason I have always believed in our Junior Field Naturalists' Club.

This year as every year has given our children more opportunities to understand their world. I think our biggest accomplishment was bringing more recognition of us to the public. In this way we hope to have gained more support both financially and by adult encouragement.

This has been a wonderful year and great plans are in the offing for a better one next year. Thanks for your support, and we are looking forward to seeing you at the May 12 picnic at the Jim Bailie Nature Reserve.

Tyna Silver

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#### AUDUBON FILMS

Would you like to get involved in an interesting and challenging program?

I am looking for a secretary and an assistant chairman to work with me on the 1979-80 Audubon Wildlife Film Program.

The secretary will work with the chairman and assistant chairman in devising and carrying out publicity programs, arrangements for speaker/film-makers, and general correspondence. The responsibilities, although interesting, are not onerous and can easily be handled with a little of your spare time.

The assistant chairman's position will appeal to someone who is interested in meeting wildlife film-makers, and who would enjoy arranging and coordinating the many details necessary to put on an entertainment. Working with the chairman, you will learn about contract arrangements, ticket sales, publicity planning, and all else that is involved in running the film lectures shown each year at the OISE auditorium.

If you would like to discuss either of the above opportunities, I would enjoy hearing from you.

Dave Langford (463-6302 Home) or  
(226-5611 Business)

Mr. Ralph Knights, a long-time TFN Member, responded to our plea for material by sending us his cache of snapshots and lines dashed off in inspired moments over the years. Here are a few of them.....

THE NESTLINGS

Three baby Red-Shoulders up in a beech,  
 Fifty feet high, out of reach,  
 Banded and recorded one fine June day.  
 A safe journey south when you fly away!



...after a snapshot  
 by R. Knights.

"with climbing irons  
 and cheap camera"

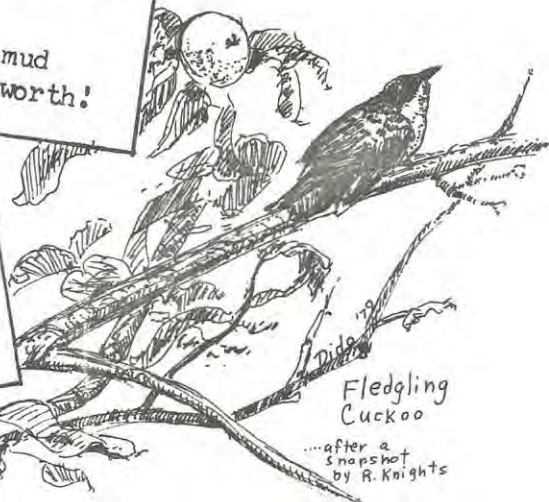
Longspur nest in  
 blueberry bush  
 near Sudbury, Ont. May 77



after a  
 snapshot by  
 R. Knight

ENTERPRISE

The rivers were low  
 And the muds were deep;  
 The season was late  
 But it suited "the peeps".  
 Their busy beaks,  
 Long and short,  
 Were prodding the mud  
 For all they were worth!



Fledgling  
 Cuckoo

...after a  
 snapshot  
 by R. Knights

A DITTY FOR SPRING

Dainty violets with cherub faces  
 Peeking shyly through the grass,  
 Faces blue and white and yellow,  
 Greeting footsteps as they pass.

We could just picture Mr. Knights rummaging through biscuit-tins and shoe-boxes from the top shelf, back cupboard and bottom drawer. We'll be printing more of his delightful gleanings in the fall.

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## THE PARASITIC HABIT OF COWBIRDS

Like all birds, the Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater) has a common name and a scientific one. Both names suit this shiftless vagabond who often feeds on insects which are chased out of their hiding-places by the hooves of passing cows. "Molothrus", a Greek word, signifies a tramp or parasite.

Formerly this bird was known as "the buffalo-bird"; however, as the herds of buffalo (bison) disappeared, the cowbird changed its alliance to the increasing herds of cattle. It has been suggested that the cowbird's habit of following the roving herds of animals gave rise to its parasitic use of other birds' nests. Since the movements of the herds did not allow the cowbird to remain in an area long enough to complete the nesting-cycle, the cowbirds chose to deposit their eggs in the nests of other birds.

A more comprehensive theory of the evolution of parasitism in cowbirds is presented by Herbert Friedmann, the North American authority on cowbirds. This theory is based upon the development of parasitism in the six species of cowbirds now found in North and South America and their origin from a common ancestor. The most primitive of the present-day cowbirds, the Bay-winged Cowbird (Molothrus badius) of southern South America, is not parasitic. It has, however, lost the ability or desire to build a nest and must usurp a nest of another bird, preferring the domed nests of neotropical ovenbirds and woodhewers. Having taken over a nest, the cowbird then removes the original owner's eggs or young, lays its own eggs and raises its young as if the nest were its own. The Bay-winged Cowbird, in turn, is a victim of the most primitive of the parasitic cowbirds. The Screaming Cowbird (Molothrus rufoaxillaris) lays its eggs only in nests which have been taken over by the Bay-winged Cowbird.

The evolution of the cowbird branches from the Screaming Cowbird, with one branch favouring a wide range of hosts while the other remains selective. Each branch contains two species. The "selective" branch includes the Giant Cowbird (Paomocolax oryzivorus) and the Bronzed Cowbird (Tangavius aeneus). Both of these species prefer to use the nests of related blackbirds. The Giant Cowbird lays its eggs in the long, hanging nests of oropendolas and caciques (large, colonial-nesting blackbirds). The Bronzed Cowbird has been known to use the nests of about fifty different species but still prefers the hanging nests of orioles. Both of these cowbirds are found mainly in South America but the Bronzed Cowbird is found as far north as Arizona.

The branch of cowbirds which has adapted to a wide range of hosts includes the Shiny Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis) of South America and Mexico and the Brown-headed Cowbird of North America. About 150 different species have been used as hosts by the Shiny Cowbird, while the Brown-headed has used about 200 species. Of all the cowbirds, the Brown-headed has most developed the parasitic habit. The Shiny Cowbird shows a much greater preference for domed nests, a characteristic of the more primitive cowbirds. Also it tends to waste many more eggs than the Brown-headed by laying them in old nests or on the ground. Shiny Cowbird nestlings fail to respond to distress calls of their foster parents and will continue to beg for food when threatened with danger.

Like most blackbirds, the Brown-headed Cowbird returns to the Toronto area during March. Usually the redwings and grackles precede them by a few days but by mid-March all three species may be encountered in mixed flocks. The males arrive first and begin to set up territories by the time the females arrive a week or two later. Their territory appears to be much less well-defined than that of birds with normal nesting-habits. "Singing trees", from which the males sing and display, are used regularly to proclaim each bird's territory. While the male is conspicuously displaying in his favourite tree, the female silently patrols their territory in search of nests which may be under construction.

During April, cowbirds are usually seen in small groups of three or four males and one or two females, all in pursuit of each other and calling (or what they seem to consider as singing) to each other. This apparent lack of a strong partnership-bond and the male's failure to defend a territory from other males supports the conclusion that, if cowbirds aren't polygamous, they certainly are promiscuous.

Bruce Parker

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For further reading:

A. C. Bent, Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers and Allies, 1958, U.S. National Museum Bulletin #211.

Herbert Friedmann, Host Relations of the Parasitic Cowbirds, 1963, U.S. National Museum Bulletin #233.

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### LESLIE SPIT

Toronto's Outer Harbour Eastern Headland: The Changing Role of a Transportation Facility by Arlene Gemmil, University of Toronto/York University Joint Program in Transportation, Research Report No. 55, 1978; 86 pages.

This publication provides good background information on the Leslie Spit in terms of its origin, development, various planning stages and more recent recreational use. Included is a detailed description of recreational use in 1978 with an analysis of questionnaires distributed to users in the summer of 1978. Also included are three very useful maps enclosed in a pocket in the end cover. Copies may be obtained through the University of Toronto/York University Joint Program in Transportation, University of Toronto, Room 219, 150 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario. M5S 1A1.

Melanie Milanich

### ECOLOGICAL STUDY OF CEDARVALE RAVINE

Following the announcement in the December-January Newsletter (page 9) a study of the Cedarvale Ravine will be taking place this spring, summer and fall with the help of an Experience '79 grant from the Ministry of the Environment. Anyone who would be able to help as a volunteer to make an inventory of plants or birds, or in mapping land ownership, or in conducting a questionnaire concerning human resources of the ravine, is asked to telephone Jack Cranmer-Byng, 488-3262.

#### THANKS FROM THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

To all those members who encouraged us in our efforts to bring you an interesting Newsletter, we say thank you. Thank you for sending in your contributions and constructive suggestions, and thanks also to all the members who worked at organizing 8 regular monthly meetings, 5 Audubon film-lectures, 6 Bird Group meetings, 4 Botany Group meetings, 7 Junior Club meetings, 6 Ravine Group meetings, 2 Waterfront Group meetings, 94 outings.

--to Laura Greer and Muriel Miville for encouraging members to participate more fully by volunteering to assist in our endeavours such as the Canadian National Exhibition and the Sportsmen's Show displays.

--to Claire Bridgen for contacting the radio stations and newspapers with notices of our meetings.

--to Harold Taylor for his nature notes which John Bradshaw reads on CFRB at 10 on Saturday mornings.

--to the Ontario Field Biologist team for producing two interesting issues.

--to John Lowe-Wylde and his committee for maintaining our Nature Reserve.

--to Tyna Silver and the leaders of the Junior Field Naturalists Club.

--to the cover artists and writers.

--to the members who write letters on issues.

--to those who stuffed and mailed the Newsletters.

And to Ida Hanson, our hardworking Membership Secretary, who handled all our memberships and hundreds of inquiries about our organization.

Hope to see you at some of the outings during the summer. Don't forget to send us reports of your observations and projects so we can all enjoy reading about them next year. (Final deadline for September Newsletter is August 1.)

#### 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

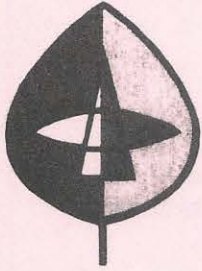
88 Parklea Dr., Toronto M4G 2J8

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.

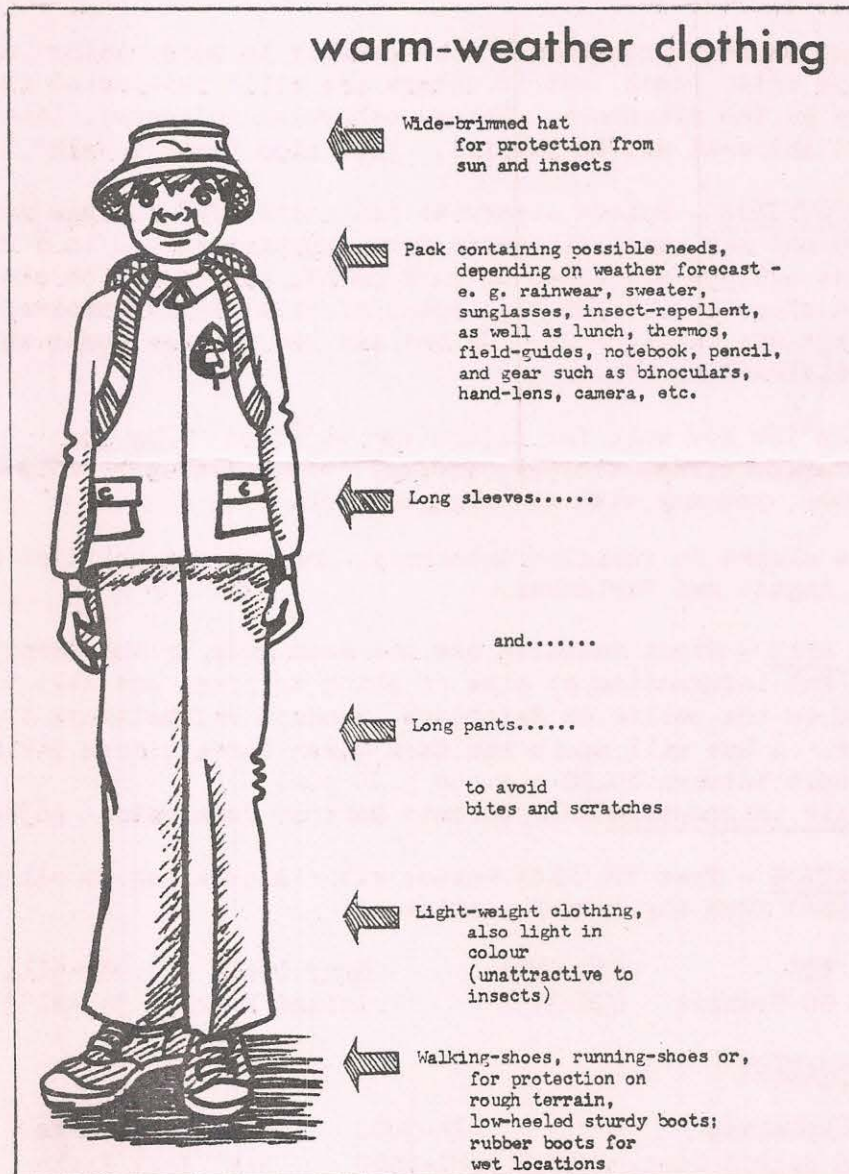




# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS 1979

## spring and summer outings

### warm-weather clothing



Wide-brimmed hat  
for protection from  
sun and insects

Pack containing possible needs,  
depending on weather forecast -  
e. g. rainwear, sweater,  
sunglasses, insect-repellent,  
as well as lunch, thermos,  
field-guides, notebook, pencil,  
and gear such as binoculars,  
hand-lens, camera, etc.

Long sleeves.....

and.....

Long pants.....

to avoid  
bites and scratches

Light-weight clothing,  
also light in  
colour  
(unattractive to  
insects)

Walking-shoes, running-shoes or,  
for protection on  
rough terrain,  
low-heeled sturdy boots;  
rubber boots for  
wet locations

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS-SPRING AND SUMMER OUTINGS 1979

BUS OUTINGS - To determine the number of buses to be chartered for Bus Outings, advance registration is required and cash can not be accepted on buses. Please be at pick-up point on time as the bus will not wait.

CLOTHING - CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING when deciding what to wear: Areas near the lake will generally be cooler than areas inland. A breezy day will be cooler than a calm one. Forested (shady) locations may be considerably cooler than areas in the open, although this may be slightly offset by the sheltering aspect from wind.

LUNCH - Outings marked "Bring Lunch" are usually in more distant areas. Some members leave after lunch, but if others are still interested the outing may continue in the afternoon. Unless otherwise indicated, lunches may be left in cars and need not be carried. (See also "Nature Walk" below.)

DIFFICULTY OF OUTINGS - Unless otherwise indicated, TFN outings usually last 2 to 3 hours and may cover distances from approximately 2 to 6 miles. Although some outings are taken on park paths, others may be over rough terrain, and often a considerable amount of climbing is involved, as most of our valleys are fairly deep. On car and bus outings these notes refer to time or distance on foot.

NATURE WALK - A low key walk for nature appreciation. May touch on several aspects: plants, birds, ecology, geology, etc. Although Wednesday walks end about noon, you may wish to bring a lunch.

HIGH PARK - is closed to vehicles Saturdays, Sundays and holidays during May, June, July, August and September.

LESLIE STREET SPIT - Final decision has not been made by the Toronto Harbour Commission, but information at time of going to press was that the Spit will be open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from June to mid-November. A bus will again run from Queen Street, down Leslie to the tip of the Spit between 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.  
For up-to-date information call Toronto Harbour Commission 863-2035

TRAVEL INFORMATION - Free TTC Ride Guides with information on all TTC routes may be obtained from any subway station.

TTC	484-4544	Gray Coach	487-5111
GO Transit	630-3933	Island Ferry	367-8193

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pollution Complaints	424-3000	Etobicoke Parks	626-4161
Metro Tor. & Region Cons. Auth.	661-6600	East York Parks	461-9451
Metro Toronto Parks Department	367-8186	North York Parks	224-6292
City Parks	367-7251	Scarborough Parks	438-7406
		York Parks	653-2700



Saturday EASTERN LAKESHORE - Birds  
April 21 Leader: Clive Goodwin  
9.00 a.m. Meet at the Pickering GO station. GO train leaves Union Station at 8.13 a.m.  
Cars. East on Hwy. 401 to Exit 64, then go south on Liverpool Road. Turn left immediately on to Bayly (Base Line), then left again into GO parking lot.

▷ April 23 Reserve your place on the bus to the Picnic on May 12 at the Jim  
to Baillie Reserve, by phoning Phyllis Treloar at 247-3619,  
April 27 preferably between 3.00 and 6.00 p.m. Confirm by sending \$6.00 to Miss Helen Yemen, 200 Brooke Avenue, Toronto M5M 2K6. Cheques should be payable to Toronto Field Naturalists Jim Baillie Picnic and must be received by May 8.

Wednesday MOORE PARK RAVINE - Nature Walk  
April 25 Leader: Mary Suddon  
10.00 a.m. Meet at the ravine entrance just east of Welland on Moore Avenue. (South Leaside #88 bus from St. Clair subway station. Buses load at two bays. Either bus will pass Welland and Moore.)  
Cars. Go east from Moore and Mt. Pleasant or west from Bayview and Moore. Parking is usually possible at the roadside.

• Saturday LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY - Annual Meeting. For infor-  
April 28 mation write P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0

▷ DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Sunday BROOKBANKS RAVINE (EAST DON) - Ecology  
April 29 Leader: Bruce Parker  
2.00 p.m. Meet at Brookbanks Public School. (York Mills #95 bus from York Mills subway station to Fenside.) Walk south on Fenside one block to the school.  
Cars. From the Don Valley Parkway and York Mills go east on York Mills to first stop light, at Fenside. Turn south on Fenside one block to the school.

Tuesday LAMBTON WOODS - Birds  
May 1 Leader: John Kelley  
6.45 p.m. Meet at the parking lot of the James Gardens on Edenbridge Drive. (Royal York #73 bus from Royal York subway station to Edenbridge and walk east 0.4 mi.)

Wednesday TODMORDEN MILLS (DON VALLEY) - Nature Walk  
May 2 Leader: Helen Juhola  
10.00 a.m. Meet at the Todmorden Mills sign. (Broadview #8 bus from Broadview subway station, or Mortimer #62 bus between Broadview and Main subway stations. Get off at Mortimer and Broadview and walk down Pottery Road.)  
Cars. Enter the site from Pottery Road at the Todmorden Mills sign and continue on to the parking lot. Walk back. Reach Pottery Road via Broadview or from the Bayview Extension.

HAVE YOU READ THE GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE INSIDE OF THE FRONT COVER ?

- Thursday  
May 3  
6.45 p.m. WILKET CREEK (WEST DON) - Botany  
Leaders: Hiles and Mary Carter  
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 at the first stop after the turn on to Leslie.)
- May 4, 5  
and 6 F.O.N. ANNUAL MEETING, Toronto - Telephone 444-8419 for further information.
- Saturday  
May 5 TORONTO REGIONAL BIRDATHON - See April Newsletter, pages 12 and 13.
- Tuesday  
May 8  
6.45 p.m. GLENDON HALL (WEST DON) - Birds  
Leader: Walter Hutton  
Meet at the gates to the parking lot. (Davisville #28B bus from Davisville subway station, or Bayview #11 bus from Lawrence subway station to Glendon Hall gates at Bayview and Lawrence.)  
Walk through the campus and down the hill.  
Cars. Go west on Lawrence Avenue East from Park Lane Circle (which is east of Bayview) and down the hill to where Lawrence dead-ends. Park on the side of the road. (Do not go into the parking lot.)
- Tuesday  
May 8  
6.45 p.m. GLEN STEWART RAVINE - Birds  
Leader: Fred Bodsworth  
Meet in the parkette by the Nature Trail sign on Kingston Road just west of Beech Avenue. See April 11 for how to get there.
- Wednesday  
May 9  
10.00 a.m. THOMSON MEMORIAL PARK (HIGHLAND CREEK) - Nature Walk  
Leader: Wes Hancock  
Meet in the parking lot on the east side of Brimley Road, 1 km north of Lawrence. (Brimley #21 bus from Warden station, platform 2, every 25 minutes (one about 9.30). Get off at park entrance. Lawrence East #54 bus from Eglinton station. Get off at Brimley and walk north or transfer to Brimley bus.)
- Thursday  
May 10  
6.45 p.m. GLENDON HALL (WEST DON) - Botany  
Leader: Geoffrey Chopping  
Meet at the gates to the parking lot. For directions see May 8 (Glendon Hall).
- Saturday  
May 12  
9.00 a.m. JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE - Picnic  
Leader: Wes Hancock  
BUS OUTING. One pick-up at Yonge and York Mills, 9.00 a.m. Bring lunch. Bus will arrive back about 5.00 p.m. Waterproof footwear is generally required as much of the reserve is boggy.  
Cars. Take Hwy. 401 to the Brock Road (Interchange 64A). Brock Road to Uxbridge. Continue north on Durham Regional Road #1 about 7 miles to Leaskdale, then a further 2.5 miles to Stevenson Side Road on the right. Note TFN sign. Drive 0.5 miles to parking lot on south side of road.

• Sunday JIM BAILLIE MEMORIAL BIRD WALKS - See May Newsletter for  
May 13 details.

▷ May 14 to Reserve your place on the bus outing on May 27 to SHORT HILLS,  
May 18 by phoning May Staples, 469-1681. Confirm by sending \$7.00 to  
Miss Helen Yemen, 200 Brooks Avenue, Toronto M5M 2K6. Cheques  
should be payable to Toronto Field Naturalists Short Hills  
Outing and must be received by May 22.

Tuesday HIGH PARK - Birds  
May 15 Leader: Herb Elliott  
6.45 p.m. Meet at the first parking lot on West Road, on your right as you  
enter the park from Bloor Street West opposite High Park Avenue.  
(Subway to High Park station.)

Wednesday ECHO VALLEY PARK (MIMICO CREEK) - Nut Trees  
May 16 Leader: Mary Smith  
10.00 a.m. Meet in Echo Valley on the west side of Kipling Avenue. (Kipling  
#45 bus from Islington subway station. Get off at the bridge  
over Mimico Creek near Islington Golf Course.)

Thursday ETIENNE BRULE PARK (HUMBER VALLEY) - Botany  
May 17 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
6.45 p.m. Meet at the parking lot of Etienne Brule Park on the east side of  
the Humber River. (Old Mill subway station. Walk north on  
Humber Boulevard, east on Old Mill Road and over the small bridge  
to the parking lot.)  
Cars. From Bloor, turn north at the Old Mill subway station  
(Humber Boulevard) and follow same route as walkers.

Saturday ROUGE RIVER - Nature Walk  
May 19 Leader: John Lowe-Wylde (248-5628)  
10.00 a.m. Meet in the Caper Valley ski parking lot.  
Cars. Take Sheppard Avenue East. Just east of Meadowvale,  
Sheppard curves south (old Lansing cut-off) at Glen Eagles  
Hotel. At this point continue straight through on to Twyn  
Rivers Drive. Follow winding road about 1.5 km to the parking  
lot. Cars from the east on Sheppard continue straight on;  
Sheppard "becomes" Twyn Rivers.

Sunday CEDARVALE RAVINE - Birds  
May 20 Leaders: Jack Cranmer-Bying with Hugh Currie  
2.00 p.m. Meet in the Loblaws parking lot on the north side of St. Clair  
Avenue west, just east of Bathurst Street. The group will walk  
north from the lot.

Monday TORONTO ISLAND - Birds  
May 21 Leader: George Fairfield  
9.00 a.m. Meet at the Island Ferry Terminal at the foot of Bay Street at  
Victoria 9.00 a.m. to take the first available ferry. Bring your  
Day membership card and a lunch to carry.

Tuesday MOORE PARK RAVINE (DON RIVER) - Birds  
May 22 Leaders: Eric and Ruth Lewis  
6.45 p.m. Meet at the ravine entrance just east of Welland on Moore Avenue.  
To get there, see April 25.

▷ May 22 to Reserve your place on the bus outing on June 16 to HENDRIE TRAIL  
May 25 and ROCK CHAPEL by phoning Edith Cosens at 481-5013. Confirm by  
sending \$6.00 to Miss Helen Yemen, 200 Brooke Avenue, Toronto  
M5M 2K6. Cheques should be payable to Toronto Field Naturalists  
Hendrie Trail Outing and must be received by June 5.

Wednesday ERNEST THOMPSON SETON PARK (DON RIVER) - Nature Walk  
May 23 Leader: Eric Sillick  
10.00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot. (Eglinton East #34 bus from Eglinton  
subway station to Leslie Street. Go down the steps near the  
traffic lights on the south side of Eglinton.)  
Cars. Use Wilket Creek Park south entrance off Leslie Street  
just north of Eglinton Avenue. Follow road to the left and under  
the bridge to the parking lot of Ernest Thompson Seton Park.

Thursday CROTHERS WOODS (DON RIVER) - Ecology  
May 24 Leader: Patrick Temple  
6.45 p.m. Meet at the south west corner of Millwood Road and Crothers Drive.  
(Leaside #56 bus from either Eglinton subway station or Pape  
Station.)  
Cars. From the south come over the Leaside Bridge; from the  
north down Laird; or from the west along Millwood Road or Moore/  
Southvale from Bayview Avenue. Park on Crothers Drive.

Saturday LOCKE HOUSE, F.O.N. HEADQUARTERS (EAST DON) - 355 Lesmill Road,  
May 26 Don Mills  
10.00 a.m. Leader: Mike Singleton (444-8419)  
Meet at Locke House (Leslie and Hwy 401)(By TTC, phone Mike  
Singleton for pick-up at nearest bus stop.)  
Cars. Go in Lesmill Road, north off York Mills between Leslie and  
Don Mills, and follow road in to the Locke House parking lot.

Sunday SHORT HILLS - HAMILTON NATURE CLUB RESERVE  
May 27 Leader: Mary Smith  
9.00 a.m. BUS ONLY. Two pick-up points. 9.00 a.m. at the subway exit  
near The Bay store on Bloor at Yonge. About 9.20 a.m. at the  
Islington subway station, north-west corner of Bloor and  
Islington. Be on time as the bus will not wait. Bring lunch.  
Bus will arrive back about 5.00 p.m.

• May 28 CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION CONFERENCE, Montreal.  
to For information write to Brooke Wright, 9 Springfield Avenue,  
June 3 Westmount, Quebec H3Y 2K9.

Tuesday CUDIA PARK (LAKESHORE) - Nature Walk  
May 29 Leader: Bill Dibble  
6.45 p.m. Meet in parking lot. (Scarborough #86 bus from Warden subway  
station. Get off at Faircroft Road, walk south to Meadowcliffe.)  
Cars. East on Kingston Road  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile past McCowan Road. Turn right  
(south) at the Shell Station on to Pine Ridge Drive. Go 0.2 mile,  
turn right and follow Meadowcliffe Drive 0.3 mile to the park.

- Wednesday**    BRIMLEY RAVINE - Nature Walk  
 May 30            Leader: Charlie Crosgrey  
 10.00 a.m.       Meet in the parking lot of the park (known as Knob Hill Park) on  
                          the east side of Brimley Road approximately 3 blocks north of  
                          Eglinton Avenue East. (Brimley #21 bus from Warden subway  
                          station, every 25 minutes.)
- Thursday**      HIGH PARK - Botany  
 May 31            Leader: Isabel Smith  
 6.45 p.m.        Meet at the first parking lot on West Road. See May 15 for how  
                          to get there.
- Saturday**       OUTING WITH THE PICKERING NATURALISTS  
 June 2            Leader: Bob Almack  
 10.00 a.m.       CARS ONLY. Meet at the Pickering Municipal Building at the  
                          corner of Hwy. 2 (Kingston Road) and Brock Road.
- Saturday**       WIGMORE PARK RAVINE (EAST DON)  
 June 2            Leaders: Harold Taylor and David Kelly  
 9.00 a.m.        Meet in front of Sloane Avenue Public School. (Eglinton East #34  
                          bus to Sloane, then Woodbine #91 bus  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north to the school.)
- Tuesday**        LESLIE STREET SPIT (BASE) - Birds  
 June 5            Leader: Bill Freedman  
 6.45 p.m.        Meet in the parking area just inside the gates at the south end  
                          of Leslie Street. (Queen car to Leslie, walk south about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.)
- Wednesday**    ETOBICOKE CREEK - Nature Walk  
 June 6            Leaders: Hilda Bull and Helen Smith  
 10.00 a.m.       Meet at Sir Adam Beck Public School - Horner Avenue just west of  
                          Brown's Line, Etobicoke. (Horner #38 bus from Islington station  
                          to Brown's Line - walk west.)
- Thursday**      MORNINGSIDE PARK (HIGHLAND CREEK) - Botany  
 June 7            Leader: Stu Corbett  
 6.45 p.m.        Meet in the first parking lot immediately west of Morningside  
                          Avenue by the pavilion. (Eglinton East #34B bus.)  
                          Cars. Take 401 east to Exit 61, then go south on Morningside  
                          one mile.
- Sunday**         NESBITT RAVINE (DON VALLEY) - Nature Walk  
 June 10          Leaders: Helen Juhola and Paul Scrivener  
 2.00 p.m.        Meet at Nesbitt Park. (Rosedale #82 bus from Rosedale subway  
                          station to Douglas Drive and Glen Road. Walk east 1 block to  
                          Astley then 1 block north to Governor's Road. Follow along to  
                          Nesbitt and the park.)
- Tuesday**        NORDHEIMER RAVINE (DON VALLEY) - Birds  
 June 12          Leader: Brian Gray  
 6.45 p.m.        Meet in the Loblaws parking lot on the north side of St. Clair  
                          Avenue West, just east of Bathurst Street. Group will walk  
                          south from lot.



Wednesday ISLAND NATURE SCHOOL - Nature Outing  
June 13 Leader: Laura Greer with assistance of school staff.  
10.00 a.m. Meet at the Island Ferry Terminal at the foot of Bay Street to  
take the 9.30 ferry. Bring lunch to carry.

Thursday TAYLOR CREEK (EAST DON) - Nature Walk  
June 14 Leaders: Helen Juhola and/or Linda Cardini  
6.45 p.m. Meet in the supermarket parking lot at Woodbine and O'Connor.  
(Either Woodbine #91 bus from Woodbine subway station, or  
O'Connor #70 bus between Coxwell and Warden subway stations.)

Saturday HENDRIE TRAIL and ROCK CHAPEL - Nature Outing  
June 16 Leaders: Wes Hancock and Ray Halward  
9.00 a.m. BUS OUTING. Two pick-up points. 9.00 a.m. at the subway exit  
near The Bay store on Bloor at Yonge. About 9.20 at the Islington  
subway station, north-west corner of Bloor and Islington. Be on  
time as the bus will not wait. Bring lunch. Bus will arrive  
back about 5.00 p.m.

Wednesday MIDSUMMER NIGHT PICNIC - See May Newsletter for details.  
June 20

Wednesday G. ROSS LORD DAM (WEST DON) - Nature Walk  
June 27 Leader: Jerina Jelinowicz  
10.00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot on the north side of Finch. (Finch West  
#36 bus from the Finch subway station. Get off at Wilmington  
Avenue, just east of Dufferin, and walk west.)

The following SUMMER WALKS have been planned to explore parts of  
the three river valleys, in three sections from south to north.  
Walks have been rotated from west to east.

Wednesday HUMBER, QUEEN TO BLOOR STREET - Nature Walk  
July 4 Leader: To be appointed  
10.00 a.m. Meet at the west end of the Queen car line. (Humber Loop).

Wednesday ROSEDALE RAVINE (DON RIVER) - Nature Walk  
July 11 Leader: To be appointed  
10.00 a.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station. A two-hour walk beginning  
at Castle Frank and ending at the Rosedale subway station.

Wednesday HIGHLAND CREEK - Nature Walk  
July 18 Leader: to be appointed  
10.00 a.m. Meet at the west end of Lawrence Avenue bridge crossing Highland  
Creek (approx. 1½ miles east of Kingston Road). (Scarborough #86  
bus from Warden subway station, to Lawrence. Transfer to any  
eastbound bus and get off at Beechgrove stop.) Group will walk  
south.

Wednesday HUMBER, BLOOR TO DUNDAS STREET - Nature Walk  
July 25 Leader: To be appointed  
10.00 a.m. Meet at the Old Mill subway station.

- Wednesday PARK DRIVE RAVINE (DON RIVER) - Nature Walk  
 August 1 Leader: To be appointed  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station for a two-hour walk ending at St. Clair and Yonge.
- Wednesday HIGHLAND CREEK - Nature Walk  
 August 8 Leader: To be appointed  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at the same place as the July 18 walk. The group will walk north.
- Wednesday ROWNTREE MILLS PARK (HUMBER) - Nature Walk  
 August 15 Leader: To be appointed  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Finch and Islington Avenues. (Finch West #36 or #36B bus from Finch subway station to Islington, or Islington #37 bus from Islington subway station to Finch.)
- Wednesday MOORE PARK RAVINE (DON RIVER) - Nature Walk  
 August 22 Leader: To be appointed  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station for a two-hour walk to Moore Park and Mt. Pleasant.
- Wednesday MORNINGSIDE PARK (HIGHLAND CREEK) - Nature Walk  
 August 29 Leader: To be appointed  
 10.00 a.m. Meet in the first parking lot by the pavilion. See June 7 for how to get there.

COLOUR-MARKED SHOREBIRDS

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE personnel have been playing tricks on birders in the past couple of years - with their colour-marking techniques for migration studies. If you come across a highly-coloured shorebird, do not assume you have some rare western species. Take a good look at the legs and see if there are any bands on the individual, making a note of what colour they are and which leg they're on. Try to identify the bird, in spite of the tinting-job. If you have difficulty, call Clive Goodwin 249-9503 (or 445-1552 days) for assistance. Otherwise notify Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3, giving date, time and place and any information you have been able to establish on the leg-bands.

Thanks to the many members who volunteered to lead our outings, and to the members of the Outings Committee who organized the programme:  
 Laura Greer, Helen Juhola, Emily Hamilton (Botany)  
 Herb Elliott (Birds), Jean Macdonald (Outings Secretary)

Chairman: Mary Smith 231-5302