

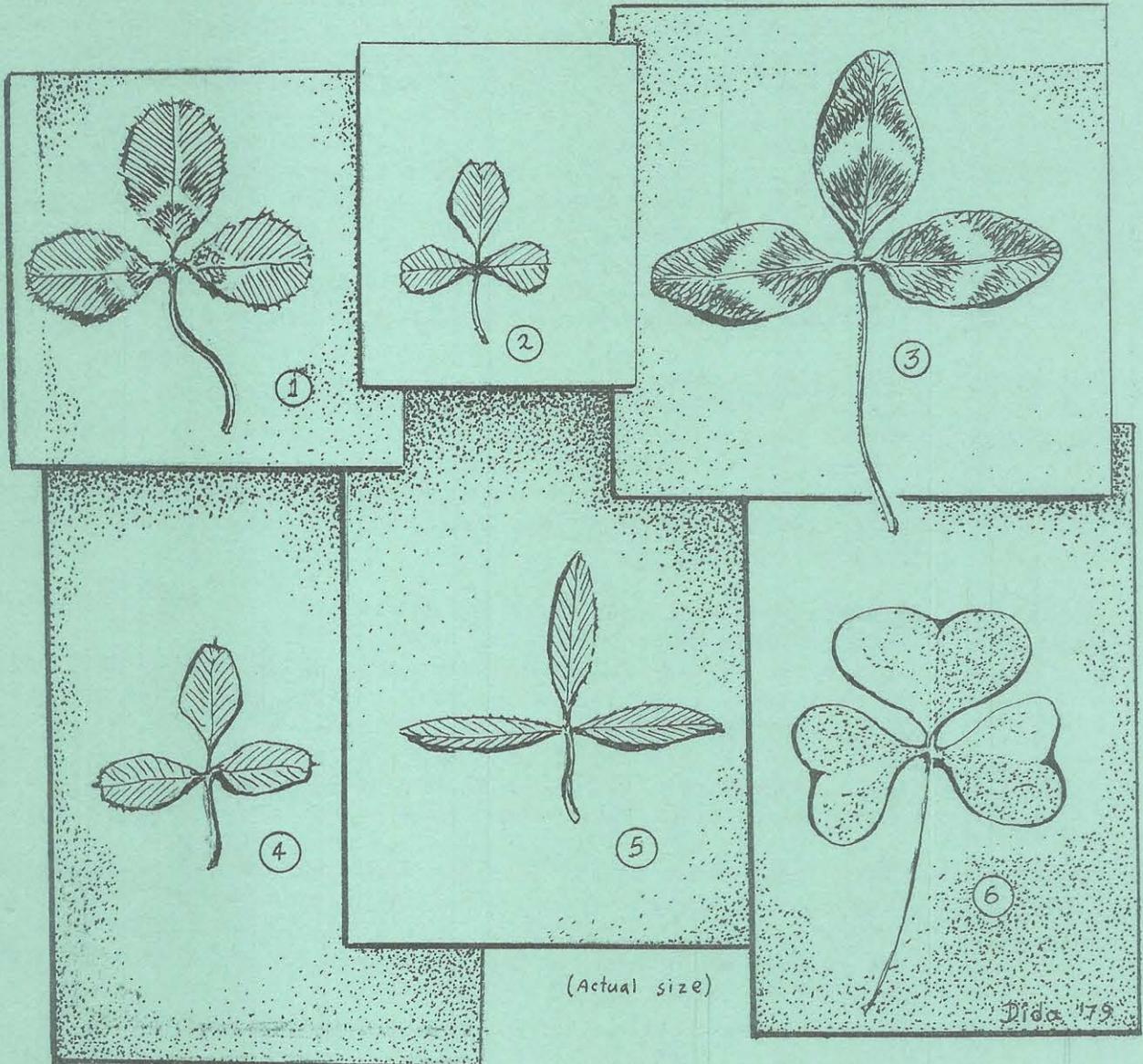


TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

NEWSLETTER

Number 330

March, 1980



The Shamrock of Ireland...take your pick.

See page 33.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

&

PUBLICATION SALES

83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto, Ont., M5M 2T4

or call: 488-7304



Upcoming TFN
OUTINGS



RAIN
"6"

or

SHINE

Everybody Welcome!

- **Mid March to early May** **GRIMSBY (HAWK WATCH) - Hawk Migration**
Go on your own. The "Grimsby Hawk Watch" is a cooperative effort of groups from Hamilton, Toronto and Buffalo and is held at the main parking area of the Beamer Point Conservation Area. To get there follow the QEW to Grimsby (Ontario/Christie/Maple exit) and take the main road up the Niagara Escarpment. Turn right at the top of the escarpment (Ridge Road) and look for the signs to the park entrance about a mile away.
What to see: First appear Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks and an occasional Goshawk. Early April: Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Late April: Peak numbers, predominantly Broad-winged Hawks.
Best days. Light to moderate winds from the southerly quarter, combined with sunny or partly cloudy conditions.

- Saturday Mar. 1** **ROUGE VALLEY - Cross Country Ski Outing**
10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. **Leaders:** John Riley and Joan O'Donnell
 Meet at the parking lot of the Glen Eagles Hotel, Sheppard Avenue, 1 block east of Meadowvale Road. (Scarborough 86C bus which leaves Warden subway station every 20 minutes. Get off at Sheppard and Meadowvale and walk east one long block.) Bring "nibbles" and a Thermos (filled).

- Sunday Mar. 2** **ETIENNE BRULÉ PARK (Humber) - Birds**
2.00 p.m. **Leader:** Helen Smith
 Meet at the parking lot on the east side of the Humber River on Old Mill Road. From Old Mill subway station walk north on Humber Blvd., east on Old Mill Road over the small bridge to the parking lot.
Cars. From Bloor, turn north at the Old Mill subway station (Humber Blvd.) and follow same route as walkers.

- ▷ **Mar. 5 to Mar. 11** Reserve your place on the bus (has washroom) to LONG POINT on March 22 by phoning Linda Weseloh, 485-1464, preferably during the day. Confirm by sending fare (\$10.00 payable to Toronto Field Naturalists Long Point Outing) to Mrs. Linda Weseloh, 1391 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario M3N 2T7. Cheques must be received by March 14.

- Saturday Mar. 8** **LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds**
10.00 a.m. **Leader:** Steven Price
 Meet in the parking area just inside the gates at the south end of Leslie Street. (Queen car to Leslie, walk south about ½ mile.)

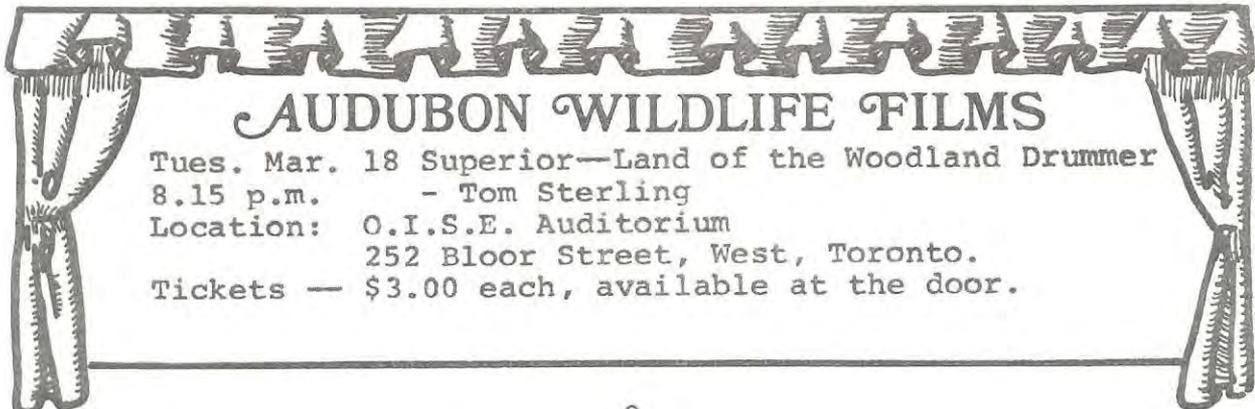
UPCOMING OUTINGS - Continued

- Wednesday WINTER STUDIES - Insects
Mar. 12 Leader: Mrs. Schefter
10.00 a.m. Meet at the Northern District Public Library, 40 Orchard View Blvd.
(1st street north of Eglinton, west side of Yonge.) Meeting will
end at noon.
- Saturday LONG POINT (Bus Outing) - Whistling Swans and other waterfowl
Mar. 22 Leaders: Chip and Linda Weseloh
8.00 a.m. Meet at Bloor and Yonge (east of the subway entrance on Bloor near
The Bay store) to board the bus at 8.00 a.m. Bus will arrive back
in Toronto about 6.00. Bring lunch and an afternoon snack.
Cars. Go west from Port Rowan to Hwy. 59 and south on the cause-
way to the bridge. Meet around 10.30 a.m.
- Sunday MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY - Trees
Mar. 23 Leader: Emily Hamilton
10.00 a.m. Meet at the entrance on the east side of Yonge Street (0.3 mile
north of St. Clair subway station). Morning only.
- Wednesday U. of T. GREENHOUSES - Open House is from Sat. Mar. 22 to Fri.
Mar. 26 Mar. 28 between 9.00 and 5.00.
10.00 a.m. We suggest members meet inside the entrance to the Botany Building
just north of the north-west corner of College and University, on
Wednesday, to informally explore the greenhouses.
-

ARBORETUM PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

The University of Guelph has many interesting programs at the Arboretum Centre and Nature Centre. You might enjoy their maple syrup exhibit, weekends March 15-16, 22-23, 29-30, and April 12-13. (Pancakes and maple syrup 11.00-2.00, April 12!)

To reach the Arboretum Centre, take Highway 40, exit at Highway #6. Continue to Stone Road, turn right, continue past Brock Road to Arboretum on the left.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Tues. Mar. 18 Superior—Land of the Woodland Drummer
8.15 p.m. - Tom Sterling
Location: O.I.S.E. Auditorium
252 Bloor Street, West, Toronto.
Tickets — \$3.00 each, available at the door.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

Metro Toronto Planning Commissioner, John Bower, was the guest speaker at our January meeting. His talk on the issues in Metroplan and the Metro Valley Land Study and his slides on problem areas in Metro stimulated and opened up frank discussion from our members.

A number of concerns of our members were brought to the attention of Mr. Bower. Ravine by-laws are moving too slowly to provide the protection that property owners want and need. There is a lack of co-ordination between the province, municipalities and Metro resulting in several independent simultaneous studies. This means there can be no coherent strong direction. The responsibility for protecting areas remains unclear and diffuse. Storm drainage is not co-ordinated inter-regionally or intermunicipally. Arterial roads proposed in Metroplan, as well as highway 407, are environmentally undesirable. Land that is publicly owned is not necessarily saved but is often depleted by parking lots, roads and unsightly buildings.

Mr. Bower outlined the endorsement of Metro Valley Land Study by the boroughs and cited this as a positive step. He indicated that the problem areas will be discussed with the municipalities involved. It was suggested by Mr. Bower that the TFN act as a "traffic watch" to alert the public (and government officials?) of environmentally damaging or unproductive activities such as the planting of 2000 trees on top of infertile rubble at St. James Cemetery on Rosedale Valley Road, or the dumping of snow containing road salt from the Science Centre parking lot into the nearby woodlands.

The meeting was a productive one with open communication and a free exchange of information and ideas. The Environmental Group has seen an encouraging growth in attendance and participation throughout the year. I am pleased to see the development of the April workshop at York University as an outgrowth of an idea brought up at the October meeting. (More about that on pages 22, 23) We hope many TFN members will take advantage of this opportunity.

Reading:

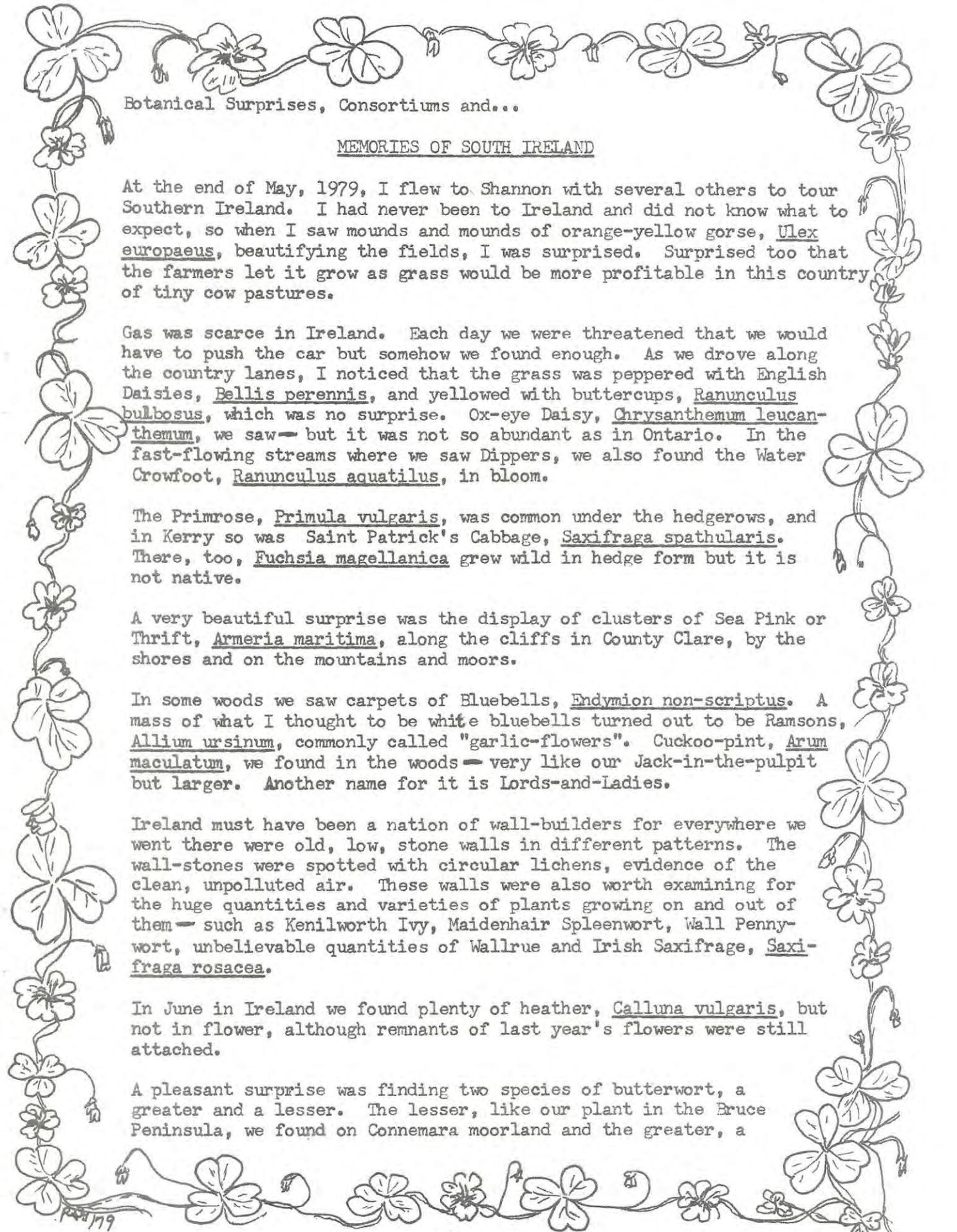
Metroplan: Concept & Objectives: Plan for the Urban Structure of Metropolitan Toronto. Metropolitan Toronto, Planning Dept., 1976. \$5.00. Summary 24 p. free.

Metro Valley Land Study. Metro Toronto, Planning Dept. Revised ed. 1979. \$3.00.

Draft Plan for the Urban Structure. Metroplan Advisory Committee and Metropolitan Toronto, Planning Dept. 1978. \$5.00.

All available from the 11th floor of City Hall.

Melanie Milanich



Botanical Surprises, Consortiums and...

MEMORIES OF SOUTH IRELAND

At the end of May, 1979, I flew to Shannon with several others to tour Southern Ireland. I had never been to Ireland and did not know what to expect, so when I saw mounds and mounds of orange-yellow gorse, Ulex europaeus, beautifying the fields, I was surprised. Surprised too that the farmers let it grow as grass would be more profitable in this country of tiny cow pastures.

Gas was scarce in Ireland. Each day we were threatened that we would have to push the car but somehow we found enough. As we drove along the country lanes, I noticed that the grass was peppered with English Daisies, Bellis perennis, and yellowed with buttercups, Ranunculus bulbosus, which was no surprise. Ox-eye Daisy, Chrysanthemum leucanthemum, we saw — but it was not so abundant as in Ontario. In the fast-flowing streams where we saw Dippers, we also found the Water Crowfoot, Ranunculus aquatilis, in bloom.

The Primrose, Primula vulgaris, was common under the hedgerows, and in Kerry so was Saint Patrick's Cabbage, Saxifraga spathularis. There, too, Fuchsia magellanica grew wild in hedge form but it is not native.

A very beautiful surprise was the display of clusters of Sea Pink or Thrift, Armeria maritima, along the cliffs in County Clare, by the shores and on the mountains and moors.

In some woods we saw carpets of Bluebells, Endymion non-scriptus. A mass of what I thought to be white bluebells turned out to be Ramsons, Allium ursinum, commonly called "garlic-flowers". Cuckoo-pint, Arum maculatum, we found in the woods — very like our Jack-in-the-pulpit but larger. Another name for it is Lords-and-Ladies.

Ireland must have been a nation of wall-builders for everywhere we went there were old, low, stone walls in different patterns. The wall-stones were spotted with circular lichens, evidence of the clean, unpolluted air. These walls were also worth examining for the huge quantities and varieties of plants growing on and out of them — such as Kenilworth Ivy, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Wall Pennywort, unbelievable quantities of Wallrue and Irish Saxifrage, Saxifraga rosacea.

In June in Ireland we found plenty of heather, Calluna vulgaris, but not in flower, although remnants of last year's flowers were still attached.

A pleasant surprise was finding two species of butterwort, a greater and a lesser. The lesser, like our plant in the Bruce Peninsula, we found on Connemara moorland and the greater, a

much larger plant, on a mountain-side in Kerry.

The greatest surprise was the "consortium of flowers" in the Burren. Here I am borrowing a word. "Consortium" can be used to describe an alliance of international banks. In the Burren there is an alliance of international banks of flowers — hence a "consortium of flowers". This is a unique area of fifty square miles of limestone around Galway Bay. Here we found a mix of Alpine, Arctic, Northern and Mediterranean plants. We clambered around hummocky meadows where Mossy Saxifrage, Saxifraga hypnoides, with lovely red stems, was growing. Early Purple Orchids, Orchis mascula, were everywhere, also patches of Spring Gentians, Gentiana verna, Bloody Cranesbill, Geranium sanguineum, Bronze Fern, Wild Thyme, Thymus drucei, Water Avens, Geum rivale, Mountain Avens, Dryas octopetala, and Cotton-grass, Eriophorum. There were scrubby willows and scrubby hazels from which the Willow Warblers and the Whitethroats constantly sang. We experienced a feeling of timelessness as we clambered from botanical find to botanical find, particularly as this area was occupied in prehistoric times and the Keltic tombs remain as evidence on the land. There were pink and blue milkworts, Polygala spp., and a lovely Yellow Pimpernel, Lysimachia nemorum, Irish saxifrage, Saxifraga rosacea, Vernal Sandwort, Minuartia verna, patches of Pink Lousewort, Pedicularis sylvatica, and lovely Rock Roses, Helianthemum canum, also many different species of orchids.

We had lunch one day in Galway Bay in a huge natural rock-garden by the sea. A section of rock served as a table; our leader reprimanded me for walking on the lunch table — he likes to play "house." Spume rose high in the air against the rocks as a pair of Ringed Plovers circled around us. Thrift, Sea Campion, Silene maritima, and Rue-leaved Saxifrage, Saxifraga tridactylites, grew in profusion between the rocks, and in the crevices we found Wood Sorrel, Oxalis acetosella, and Hart's-tongue Ferns.

Another huge consortium of flowers grew on Garinish Island. This was a man-made garden typical of subtropical climate. The rhododendrons were huge and more varieties grew than I knew existed.

One of my favourite memories of Ireland is, one early morning, smelling the almond scent of the hawthorn as I watched several Bullfinches in an elm-tree; fruiting elms always look like a mass of green roses to me. Another was wandering in the intertidal zone of the South Slob at Wexford, where extensive mussel beds among algae and barnacles provide food for the hundreds of Oystercatchers we saw. There were sand castings of the lugworms, Arenicola, food of the Godwits, and tiny crabs — food for the Gray Herons. Such memories inspire me to revisit Ireland some day, to find the rare St. Dabeoc's Heath, Daboecia cantabrica, in bloom once again and listen to the plaintive, plangent call of the Curlew in the Connemara moorlands.



- Joy Pocklington

Ref.: The Wildflowers of Britain and Northern Europe - by Fitter & Blamey

TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS, Jan. 1980

Number of species recorded to Jan. 24, 1980: 81

* indicates first record for the year

** indicates from Peter Whelan's column in the Wednesday edition of the Globe and Mail

Cormorant sp.	Jan. 15	Cherry Beach	Fred Barrett
Great Blue Heron	Jan. 1*	Shoal Point Marsh	Peter Wukash
Mute Swan	38 Jan. 6	TOC Waterfowl Count, record high**	
Barnacle Goose	1 Jan. 12*	Ashbridge's Bay	Stephen Head (SH)
	2 Jan. 19	Coronation Park, Tor.	Reid Wilson
		also on Jan. 20	Harry Kerr
Snow Goose	2 Jan. 1*	Humber Bay	Don Burton
		also on Jan. 19	Stephen Head
Gadwall	868 Jan. 6	TOC Waterfowl Count, record high **	
American Widgeon	2 Jan. 23	Cherry Beach to Leslie St.	Bruce Parker (BP)
Northern Shoveler	1 Jan. 23*	Grenadier Pond	Bruce Parker
Wood Duck	Jan. 6*	TOC Waterfowl Count **	
Redhead	9 Jan. 23	Cherry Beach to Leslie St.	Bruce Parker
Canvasback	Jan. 13	Ashbridge's Bay Park	Mark Sawyer
Bufflehead	63 Jan. 23	Cherry Beach to Leslie St.	Bruce Parker
Harlequin Duck	1 Jan. 6*	TOC Waterfowl Count, Oakville*	
	2 Jan. 18	Humber Bay Park	Tom Gough **
Ruddy Duck	5 Jan. 20*	Humber Bay Park	Harry Kerr
	1 Jan. 23	Cherry Beach to Leslie St.	Bruce Parker
Common Merganser	700 Jan. 6	TOC Waterfowl Count, record high **	
Goshawk	Jan. 14*	Speyside	Ed Hanna
Gyrfalcon(dark phase)**	Jan. 5*	Ashbridge's Bay	Keith Reynolds
		also on Jan. 6	Bruce White
		also on Jan. 14	Mark Sawyer
(light phase)**	Jan. -	Weston	Clive Goodwin
Merlin	Jan. 14*	Eastern Headland	Bruce White
Ring-necked Pheasant	Jan. 22*	Glendon Hall Ravine	Fred Barrett
American Coot	Jan. 6*	TOC Waterfowl Count**	
Glaucous Gull	3 Jan. 23	Sunnyside	Bruce Parker
Iceland Gull	1 Jan. 23	Sunnyside	Bruce Parker
Mourning Dove	12 Jan. 20	Pickering	Murray Speirs, BP
Long-eared Owl	Jan. 13*	Clairville	Eric Nasmith, SH
Saw-whet Owl	Jan. 6*	Clairville	Stephen Head
Common Flicker	Jan. 14*	Richmond Hill	Arne Dawe
	Jan. 20	Pickering	Murray Speirs, BP
Horned Lark	6 Jan. 13	Ashbridge's Bay Park	Mark Sawyer
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Jan. 10	Serena Gundy Park	Bruce Parker
House Wren	1 Jan. 18*	Bronte	Alan Wormington**
Mockingbird	1 Jan. 20	Aurora	Harry Kerr
Hermit Thrush	1 Jan. 19	Williamson Park	Diana Banville, Paul Smith
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 Jan. 18*	Bronte (or Mississauga)	Alan Wormington
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1 Jan. 14,20	Pickering	Murray Speirs
Northern Oriole	Jan. - *	Weston	Vlad Trojeck**
Brown-headed Cowbird	Jan. 6*	Humber Valley	Molly Campbell, Jackie Johnstone
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Jan. 14	Pickering	Murray Speirs
Common Redpoll	Jan. 10*	Islington	Mary Smith
Snow Bunting	5 Jan. 19*	Eastern Headland	Harry Kerr

▷ Please send your bird records of the month to Bruce D. Parker, TH66,
109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills, M3A 2R8, or telephone 449-0994

POSITIONS OPEN AT LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY: 1980



The following positions are expected to be open in 1980. Applications stating qualifications, experience, and time available; and giving names of one or two people who can be referred to for recommendations, should be made in writing to: David J.T. Hussell, LPBO, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1MO.

Observatory Assistants

Two or more assistants will be required in 1980 to assist in various aspects of the Observatory's program including any or all of the following: migration observation and banding, breeding bird census, research projects on migrant or breeding birds, maintenance and operation of physical facilities including buildings, boats, traps, etc., clerical work and typing, and educational programs for schools. These are essentially volunteer positions, but living expenses and accommodation are provided at the Observatory. Successful applicants can expect to benefit from extensive training and experience in various aspects of the Observatory's program. Positions are open throughout the year and to persons of any age or experience who are available for at least a month. Applications will be considered at any time, but should be submitted by March 1 for the university and high school summer vacation periods.

Volunteers

Many aspects of the LPBO program depend on the help of short-term volunteers. Anyone wishing to take part in the Observatory activities outlined above is encouraged to do so. A small fee is charged for accommodation and boat travel, and reservations must be booked well in advance. Write to David Hussell for further details (see address above).

ONTARIO HERONRY INVENTORY

In the past two years the Ontario Heronry Inventory (OHI) has compiled information on 575 heronries in Ontario. The inventory itself consists of two binders containing one loose-leaf sheet for each species in each colony. The sheets are arranged according to county, region and district.

Because the inventory may prove to be a valuable source of information when issues concerning the preservation of specific heron nesting sites arise, a copy of the complete inventory is being deposited at FON Headquarters for reference purposes, related to bona fide conservation and research.

The OHI is planning a census of heronries in 1980 to obtain population estimates. Anyone wishing to help should contact OHI at P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1MO.

A progress report on the 1979 OHI is available for reference by calling Wes Hancock at 757-5518.

News from the Toronto Bird Observatory

The Toronto Bird Observatory wants you!

Volunteers are needed to help with the Observatory's on-going programs of migration-monitoring and other projects (both banding and observing). Any TFN member is encouraged to participate. All that is required is enthusiasm. Beginners are welcome as all work is carried out under the guidance of experienced volunteers.

Our 1979 program centred on migration-monitoring (using banding and census techniques) on Mugg's Island. This was highly successful, with good coverage (3 to 4 days per week) throughout the spring and fall. Approximately 3000 birds were caught in mist nets, age and sex determined (when possible), banded, and released. In conjunction with our census data, this will provide us over the years with the information necessary to assess changes in the level of songbird populations. The Long Point Bird Observatory has successfully pioneered this approach.

1979 also had several interesting highlights. Approximately 2000 gulls and terns were banded on Mugg's Island and the Leslie St. headland. These have already provided 29 band returns, 20 of which were from Toronto, while one young Ring-billed Gull made it to Delaware by mid-October. Saw-whet Owl numbers captured were down (based on capture/unit effort); however, more than 120 were banded with one foreign retrap (banded at Prince Edward Pt. in 1978). This species provided our most interesting recovery to date — an after-hatching year male banded October 30 at Mugg's Island was retrapped at Long Point on November 3. This provides further evidence that the owls take a path similar to the birds of prey which migrate by day along the north shores of the Great Lakes.

Further details of the work of the Observatory can be found in our 1979 Annual Report, available from Warren Russell (\$1.00 per copy).

▷ If you would like to be involved with the Toronto Bird Observatory (TBO), write to Warren Russell, 745 Gerrard St. East, Toronto, Ont. M4M 1Y5 for a membership brochure. Memberships are \$5.00/year single; \$8.00/year family.

Dave Broughton

55TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - SUPPLEMENT

The following four species, seen in record numbers should be added to those listed in the report in the February Newsletter, page 15: Gadwall 191 (previous high 130 in 1977; Canvasback 83 (previous high 41 in 1977); Rock Dove 2539 (previous high 2353 in 1978); Canada Goose 3576 (previous high 3381 in 1978).

The many species in the genus Cisticola (Old World Warblers) are so similar that they are distinguished more for their habits and voices than for their exterior field-marks. As well as tiny, cloud, cloud-scraper and foxy cisticolas, the Gruson check-list shows the following: Chattering, bubbling, singing, rattling, piping, winding, zitting, wailing, whistling, croaking, churring, chirping, tinkling, and trilling cisticolas.

OUTINGS REPORT

Nov. 14. Wilket Creek Park - Bill Andrews - 10 people. About 10 hardy people arrived in Sunnybrook Park at 8.00 p.m. for our "skywatch" outing. The sky was completely overcast so, assuming that our projected astronomy hike was impossible, we decided to go on a stroll together. After about one hour the sky cleared completely and we had a perfect opportunity to study the fall sky. No planets were visible at this time of year. However, we saw Vega, our fifth brightest star, rise in the north sky, taking its place with Polaris (the North Star) and the two dippers. The south sky was largely obscured by the city lights. In the west sky we located Deneb in the Northern Cross. The east sky revealed several stars in the top twenty in brightness. Among them were Sirius (the brightest star in the sky), Procyon, Betelgeuse, Rigel, Pollux and Capella. Almost overhead was the star cluster Pleiades, the familiar constellation Cassiopeia, and the Andromeda galaxy. The winter sky will be the object of a similar outing on February 13.

Jan. 12. Clairville Dam - Herb Elliott - 27 people. Clear, strong winds, -10°C. Most of the birds seen were at the feeders - Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees as well as House Sparrows and Starlings. Also noted were a Ring-necked Pheasant, American Robin, two Long-eared Owls, as well as Rock Doves and 10 Mourning Doves. Dark-eyed Juncos 10 Tree Sparrows and a White-throated Sparrow complete the list.

Jan. 16. Greenhouses, Etobicoke - Billie Bridgman - 16 people. Partial sun, above freezing. A most pleasant two hours - the main greenhouse a conservatory of tropical plants, ferns, trees and palms, two banana palms with flowers; and the splashing of water from a water wheel. In the adjoining Cactus and succulents building a large jade plant covered with bloom. Plants are labelled but not enough. In the main building labels are colour-coded according to continents.

Jan. 20. Iroquois Shoreline - Linda Cardini - 55 people. Sunny, slightly windy. Fifty-five people turned out to walk along the Lake Iroquois shoreline and enjoy historic sites including Casa Loma. The many questions asked suggest this could be a repeat.

BURLINGTON CULTURAL CENTRE

When you are in the vicinity of Burlington, drop in to the Burlington Cultural Centre, 425 Brock Avenue, Burlington, and look at the galleries and studios devoted to the broad spectrum of visual arts, including fine art, photography, sculpture, pottery and textile arts. Telephone (416) 632-7796 for more information.

From Bruce West's book, Toronto, 1967, 1969:

"City of Toronto Mayor Thomas Foster He also provided a sum of \$5,000., the income of which was to be used for the feeding of birds in Toronto, and the annual income from a further bequest of \$100,000. for the purchasing, planting, and maintenance of trees alongside the main arterial highways leading into Toronto . . . to the intent that parties approaching the city may do so over beautifully treed roadways."

BIRD-WATCHING IN SOUTHERN IRELAND

There are no birds endemic to Ireland; all the birds we saw on our June '79 trip can be seen in England, Scotland and Wales. However, I did see several "lifers" including Dipper, Cinclus cinclus and Puffin, Fratercula arctica, and David Sutton, who had not visited Britain, added sixty.

I maintain that Ireland is not a country for Big Birders to visit who are working on their life lists. For there are no masses of waders and ducks on the loughs and rivers to demonstrate identification expertise, nor is there much in the way of hawks and absolutely no eagles nor vultures. Rather it is a country for little old lady birdwatchers like me, who like to scramble over walls (oops), peep around bushes, climb through barbed-wire (ouch) fences and snoop under bridges. The rewards are great for there are many exquisite birds to be seen, such as the Old World Goldfinch, Carduelis carduelis, Stonechat, Saxicola torquata, Wheatear, Oenanthe oenanthe, Hedge Sparrow, Prunella modularis, and the general favourite Old World Robin, Erithacus rubecula.



It was a lovely, fresh spring morning when we arrived at Shannon Airport and ignored jet lag to go birdwatching down a nearby lane. The first glimpses of a new country and habitat are always exciting. Among the foliage of the silver birches, the Chaffinches, Fringilla coelebs, called "spink spink!" We saw our first Robin on a dead branch; we were to see several on every day of the trip, to our delight.

We became aware of the Jackdaws, Corvus monedula, and Rooks, Corvus frugilegus, which were all over Ireland and very enterprising, e. g. riding on the backs of shaggy donkeys. Skylarks, Alauda arvensis, were twittering on high, then plummeting to the ground, unlike the Meadow Pipits, Anthus pratensis, which appeared to parachute down. A Wren, Troglodytes troglodytes, (called "Winter Wren" in North America) was warbling in the trees and the mellow sound of the Cuckoo, Cuculus canorus, reached us - "Cuuck coo!" We also saw our first Pied Wagtails, Motacilla alba yarrellii, which can be seen around every roadway here.

Content with our first sightings, we left for the coast, destination Lahinch, a hamlet by the sea. Large black-and-white Magpies, Pica pica, flew across the road. On sighting them, the superstitious Irish say:

One for sorrow, two for joy,
Three to get married, four to die,
Five for silver, six for gold,
Seven for a secret never to be told.

We travelled on a road so narrow that, when we met another car, one of the vehicles had to back to the nearest off-lane. Jim Yaki tried to convince me that this was the main road, just as though we had arrived in some Lilliputian country!

The next day we drove to the magnificent Cliffs of Moher on the coast of County Clare. Here Kittiwakes, Rissa tridactyla, screamed "Kee yaki-kee-a!"

Cushions of gentle pink thrift flowers lined the edges of the cliff from which we watched hundreds of sea birds through the telescope. The sea broke in white foam on green and blue water around a pinnacle-rock covered in Shags, Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Guillemots, Uria aalge, and Kittiwakes. This is where I saw Puffins, about a dozen non-breeding birds. The Puffins looked comical in flight compared to the stiff-winged Fulmars, Fulmarus glacialis, patrolling the cliffs. Razorbills, Alca torda, Rock Pipits, Anthus spinoletta petrosus, and Chough, Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax, were seen here.

Later we visited the Burren area around Galway Bay where I distinctly heard a Yellowhammer, Emberiza citrinella, call "Little bit of bread and cheese." Old World Warblers such as Whitethroat, Sylvia communis, and Willow Warbler, Phylloscopus trochilus, also kept up a chorus.

One morning we left for Killarney. (Many place-names here begin with "Kil" which means "church" in Gaelic.) It was raining and our gas tank read "empty". But the rain stopped and we obtained some gas (petrol); the sun came out and we saw Great Tits, Parus major, by a bridge. It was quite exciting as these are very striking birds with a black bib down the centre of a yellow breast. With a mail strike on in Ireland, no one could dash off a postcard saying, "Saw two Great Tits today!"

In Killarney we slunk around the grounds of the posh Great Southern Hotel. Those inside were in evening dress; we were in windbreakers and sneakers. There was a great variety of trees and birds to be seen. By now we had been taught to distinguish a Mistle Thrush, Turdus viscivorus, from a Song Thrush, Turdus philomelos, and we could almost distinguish the melodious song of the Blackbird, Turdus merula, from the song of the Song Thrush. We could also identify a Jackdaw, a Rook and a Hooded Crow, Corvus corone cornix. I must say that I thought the Rooks cheeky, strutting along the pavement in the centre of town, just as though Killarney belonged to them. Between Killarney and Kenmore, Ethel Day sighted our first Dipper on a stone in a fast-running stream.

On the way to Wexford we saw our one and only Hen Harrier, Circus cyaneus (in North America known as the Marsh Hawk). Wexford has two very interesting habitats called the North Slob and the South Slob. These are large areas of reclaimed land. The North Slob is famous for its thousands of geese, which breed in Greenland and arrive here in the autumn and winter. We saw remnants of the flocks. There were Gray Lag Geese, Anser anser, Pink-footed, A. fabalis brachyrhynchus, Barnacle, Branta leucopsis, and White-fronted, Anser albifrons. The Barnacle Geese were by far the most handsome. The South Slob was much more inspiring; we wandered here in the intertidal zone, among stretches of barnacles, algae and mussels. The visibility varied with the drifting sea-mist, as we watched hundreds of Old World Oystercatchers, Haematopus ostralegus, Bar-tailed Godwits, Limosa lapponica and some Curlews, Numenius arquata. We walked on to see Gannets, Sula bassana; in the distance, several pairs of Ringed Plovers, Charadrius hiaticula, were by the shore; we walked on to discover a pair of Little Terns, Sterna albifrons, nesting among pebbles above the tide-line. In the early morning around Wexford we saw many Bullfinches, Pyrrhula pyrrhula, Robins and an early-bird Song Thrush catching its worm. Magpies were nesting high in the trees.

We left for Dublin, but not before I had eaten a piece of tainted sausage which gave me a rather jaundiced outlook on the day. We drove through spectacular scenery to visit the spot where Thomas Moore wrote "The Meeting of the Waters". It proved indeed to be a lovely place where the two rivers meet, and for added

pleasure a dipper flew up and down the river-bank, then plunged underwater below a bridge. (I added to my pleasure by throwing up — then the world seemed rosier!)

In Dublin we awoke to the cry of the Herring Gull, Larus argentatus, and the smell of garbage; there was a garbage strike here. A very kind Irishman stopped painting his boat to take six of us around the Eye of Ireland, which is a very small island near Dublin's harbour, covered in sea birds. He steered very close to the rocks as we gazed at Razorbills, Black Guillemots, Uria grylle, and the fluffy chicks of the Herring Gulls.

Our very last full day was spent in the lovely Connemara county. Here at last we found the Lapwing, Vanellus vanellus, which is supposed to be common, but we saw only the three birds that day! This was truly God's country — the cry of the Curlew added atmosphere to the gentle waters and subtle hues of the rocks and hillsides. We saw Red-breasted Mergansers, Mergus serrator, Mute Swans, Cygnus olor, and attractive Black-headed Gulls, Larus ridibundus, but nothing in any great numbers. All the road signs were in Gaelic which could have been misleading had it not been that David Sutton is a great navigator; thus we arrived back on time in Lahinch, still awed by the natural beauty of Connemara.

Joy Pocklington

PUZZLE ...

Unscramble each word to reveal...

TEN FAMILIAR PLANTS OF THE COMPOSITE FAMILY

1. NADACA RONGODDLE
2. WEN DANGLIN SETAR
3. RUB GLADIORM
4. LULB HETLIST
5. DOWNDOLA FEWSNURLO
6. NOGEAR WHADEKEW
7. WOS STELITH
8. SAIDY BEEFNALA
9. MOMNOC DUCKROB
10. YEXEO YASID

(Answers on page 33.)

RARE PLANTS OF THE ROUGE RIVER VALLEY

On a sunny winter day the Kingston Road bridge across the Rouge Valley offers a breathtaking view of Metro's largest intact natural area. Below the bridge the Rouge River and the Little Rouge Creek converge; to the north they are separate, isolating a huge chunk of wooded tableland. On the steep slopes of the valley the cool hemlock forests with their northern plants contrast sharply with the leafless maple-beech forests. Towering white pines congregate along the valley rim. A red-tailed hawk silently hovers over the bottomland thickets searching for prey. To the south one can catch a glimpse of Metro's largest lakefront marsh. Along its eastern edge steep slopes support a red oak forest with southern affinities.

This wide array of habitats contains 620 plant taxa (species and varieties) (J. Riley, 1978). An additional 32 plant species and varieties were found in 1979. About 100 of these plant species are rare to Metro Toronto being found in three or fewer localities in our area (pers. comm. John Riley). In addition the Rouge River Valley contains 16 nationally rare plant species (Kershaw and Morton, 1976) and 15 provincially rare plant species (Argus and White, 1977) (pers. comm. John Riley).

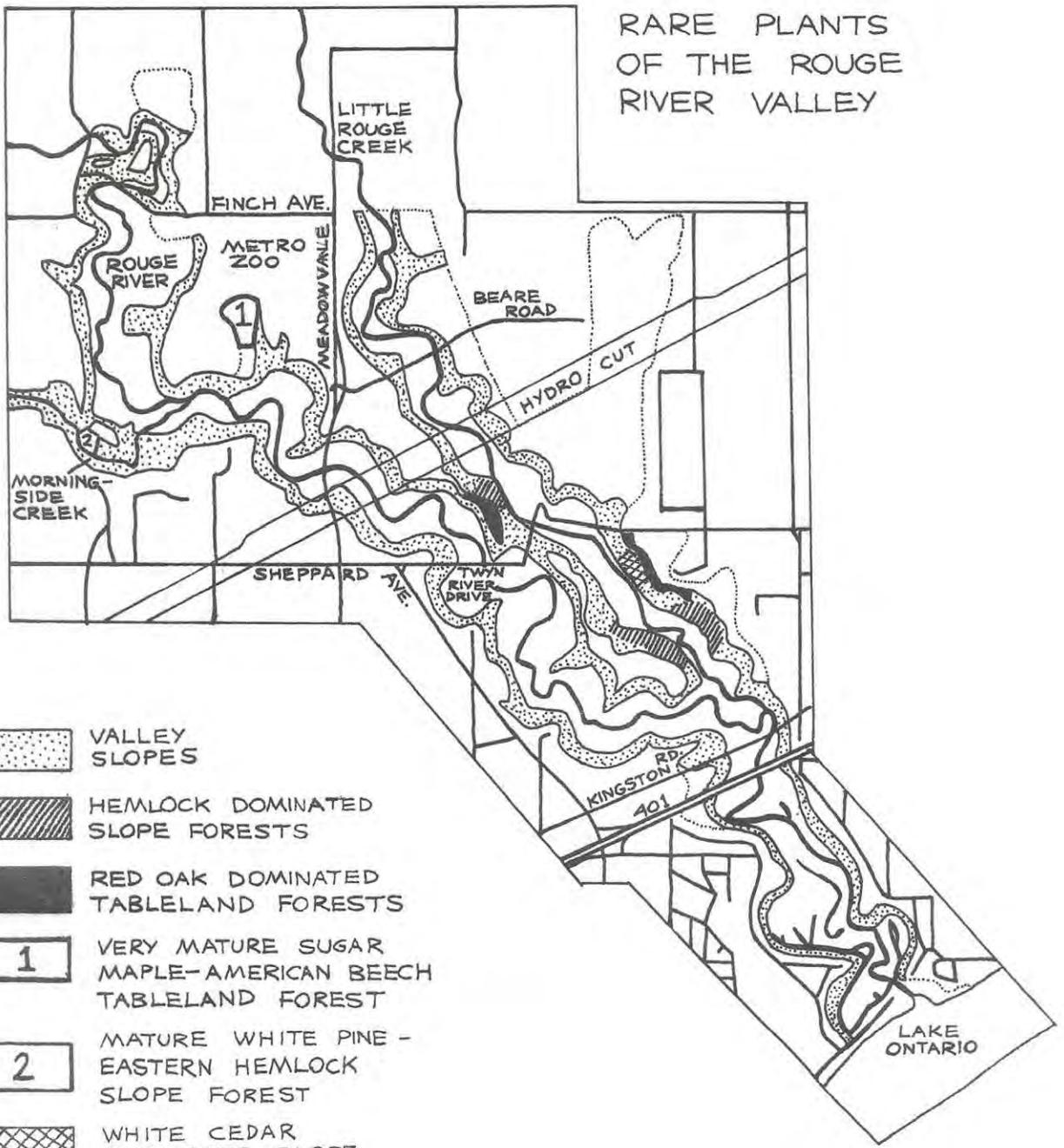
Streambank meadows in Metro once contained such interesting species as the Indian paint-brush (Castilleja coccinea) with its brilliant clusters of yellow and red flowers, and the Grass of Parnassus (Parnassia glauca). Habitats for these plants have been destroyed by both increased siltation and increased erosion of the streambanks. These have been caused by urbanization and de-forestation of the region's watersheds. The conversion of bottomlands into areas of mown grassland by Metro Parks has further damaged existing meadows. By far the greatest destroyer of our streamside meadows has been the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Stream channelization projects have completely eliminated streambank communities from many of our ravines.

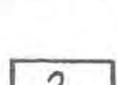
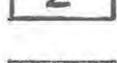
One exception is the Rouge River Valley where streambank meadows can still be found along its two tributaries: Morningside Creek (west of the Metro Zoo and east of Morningside Ave.) and the Little Rouge Creek (north of Twyn River Drive). Both of these creeks cut through glacial till deposits exposing gravels and sands rich in calcium. The high water content and high calcium levels in these stream edge soils support a meadow community that has much in common with meadows along the sandy shorelines of the Lower Great Lakes; for example, the shoreline meadows of Toronto Island (see TFN Newsletter 325, Sept. 79) and the meadows in the Rouge River Valley are dominated by thin, branchless horsetails. The species in the Rouge River valley is called the variegated horsetail (Equisetum variegatum). Typically it occurs along streams and shorelines, but along the Toronto shoreline it is largely replaced by its hybrid relative Nelson's horsetail (Equisetum X nelsoni). These two species can be distinguished by the fact that Equisetum X nelsoni has rounded ridges on its stem while Equisetum variegatum has flat-topped ridges.

Variegated horsetail is the initial colonizer of these streambanks. Growing in huge colonies, its intricate root system helps to stabilize the sand and gravel against the erosive forces of the creek. Once the horsetail has stabilized the substrate, other herbaceous and woody plants can invade the habitat. Within Metro this regionally uncommon horsetail also occurs in the northern part of the Don Valley and on railway embankments in Scarborough and along the east branch of the Don.

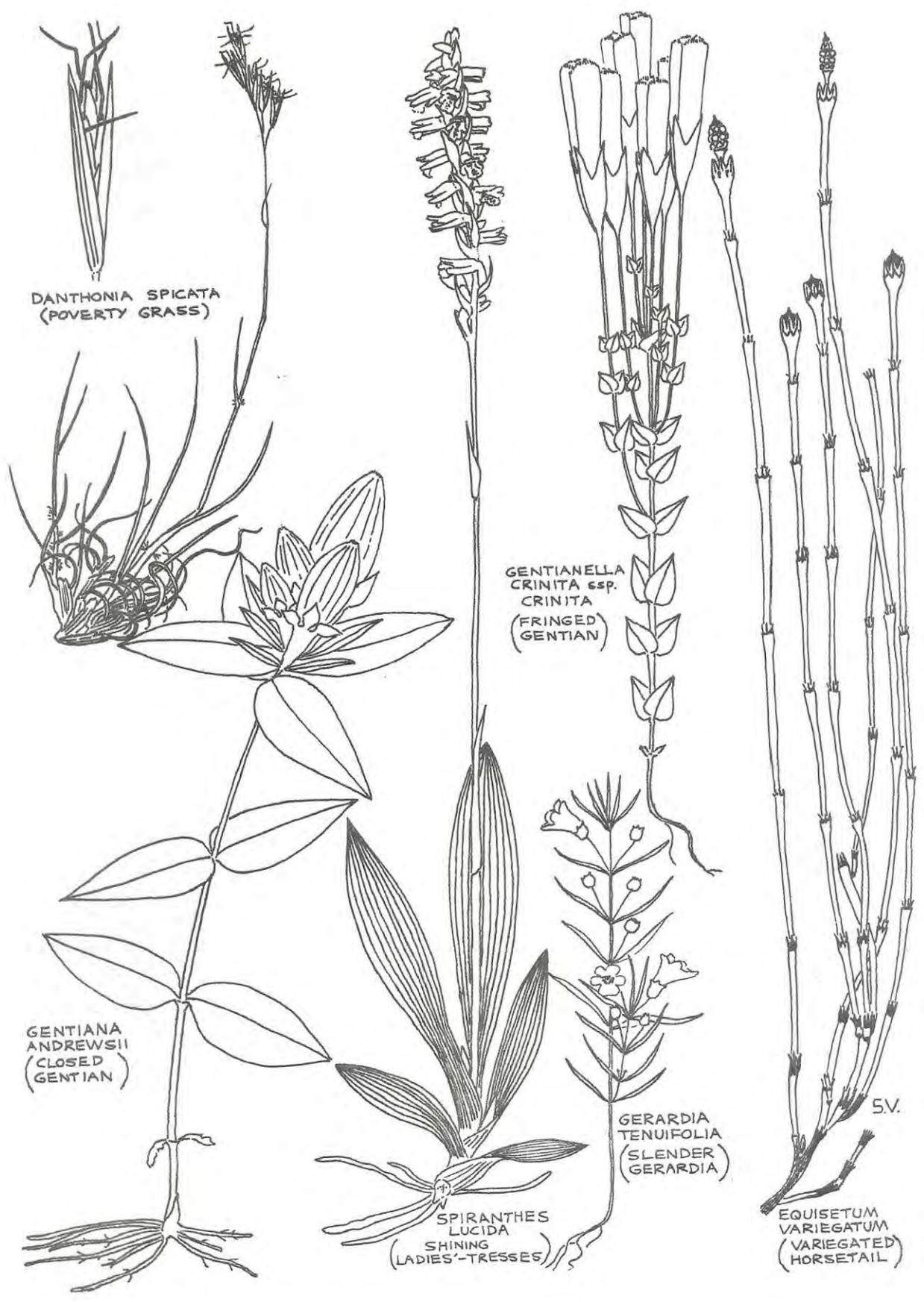
Scattered among the horsetails in late August and early September are the

RARE PLANTS OF THE ROUGE RIVER VALLEY



-  VALLEY SLOPES
-  HEMLOCK DOMINATED SLOPE FORESTS
-  RED OAK DOMINATED TABLELAND FORESTS
-  VERY MATURE SUGAR MAPLE-AMERICAN BEECH TABLELAND FOREST
-  MATURE WHITE PINE - EASTERN HEMLOCK SLOPE FOREST
-  WHITE CEDAR DOMINATED SLOPE FOREST
-  BOUNDARY OF STUDY AREA

N
SCALE 1:25000



DANTHONIA SPICATA
(POVERTY GRASS)

GENTIANELLA
CRINITA esp.
(FRINGED
GENTIAN)

GENTIANA
ANDREWSII
(CLOSED
GENTIAN)

SPIRANTHES
LUCIDA
(SHINING
LADIES'-TRESSES)

GERARDIA
TENUIFOLIA
(SLENDER
GERARDIA)

EQUISETUM
VARIEGATUM
(VARIEGATED
HORSETAIL)

5V.

Slender gerardia (Gerardia tenuifolia). No taller than about 6 inches, this herb has distinctive trumpet-shaped pink flowers. Over the past 50 years the only other Toronto localities for this regionally rare herb are the sand and clay soils of the Leslie Street Spit and the meadows on the Toronto Islands.

During late August and early September the meadows also contain scattered colonies of two gentian species. The white flowered form of the closed gentian (Gentiana andrewsii f. albiflora) as the name implies has flowers that never open to any great extent. The flowers are concentrated in tight terminal clusters with a few also located at the base of some of the leaves. One specimen was found along Morningside Creek, and a colony of about 35 individuals occurs in a meadow on the Little Rouge Creek opposite the Jackson mansion north of Beare Road. This regionally rare white form of the closed gentian is restricted to the eastern part of Metro. Colonies are also known to occur at Highland Creek and on seepage zones along the Scarborough Bluffs. In the western part of Metro the typical blue form occurs along Black Creek. The more showy fringed gentian (Gentianella crinita ssp. crinita) is found in the section of the Little Rouge Creek north of Twyn River Drive. On cloudy days the flowers stay closed; while on sunny days they open wide to reveal fringed blue petals. The largest colony, which contains 51 individuals, occurs on the east side of the river just north of the hydro cut. Here one can find a large horsetail meadow being colonized by white cedar (Thuja occidentalis). This meadow occurs in a bottomland depression some distance from the creek. It probably developed indirectly as the result of Man's action. For some reason bottomland scrub was cleared away and the underlying calcareous gravels and sands exposed. The wet conditions and the high calcium content of the site enabled many of the rare species along the streambank meadows to colonize the area. The uncommon fringed gentian also occurs at Highland Creek, at the Scarborough Bluffs and the meadows on the Toronto Islands.

Poverty grass (Danthonia spicata) occurs in scattered clumps through the meadows. This distinctive grass is recognized in the field by its strongly curled lower leaves and by the prominent tufts of white hairs on the stem just below the leaf bases. The inconspicuous green flowers (florets) in each cluster are terminated by a twisted red spine. Existing chiefly on sand or rocky and more-or-less open ground this regionally rare species also occurs in Metro along a railway track west of Highland Creek.

Streambank and shoreline meadows are excellent habitats for the orchid genus Spiranthes. From July to late August the nodding ladies'-tresses (Spiranthes cernua) and the hooded ladies'-tresses (Spiranthes romanzoffiana) can be seen on the Toronto Island wet meadows. In mid-to-late June the Little Rouge Creek meadows contain the provincially and nationally rare shining ladies'-tresses (Spiranthes lucida). This small orchid which is less than a foot tall is easily distinguished from other Spiranthes by the large yellow stripe on its lower petal (or lip) and its upright leaves that remain green after flowering. The discovery of this orchid by Jeff Kaiser and Peter Copeland in 1974 represents the first record for this plant in the counties along the north shore of Lake Ontario between Northumberland and the Niagara River. In 1976 a second colony was found along Duffin Creek by Pickering naturalists.

The Little Rouge Creek population of Spiranthes lucida varies greatly in size from year to year. In 1977 the colony had 178 flowering heads; in 1979, 206 flowering heads; and in 1979, 42. The maintenance of the moist substrate required for Spiranthes lucida could come from water seepage zones along the streambank as well as from the creek itself. When average rainfall levels are low, these sources of water could be reduced, and this may affect

Spiranthes populations. During the relatively dry summer of 1979 it was noted that plants higher up the streambank had shrivelled up before they had had a chance to flower.

At the present time some of these meadows are endangered because of a plan to divert most of the flow of Morningside Creek into the Rouge River. If the meadows on Morningside Creek are dependent on creek levels for the maintenance of their soil moisture, this diversion could result in the destruction of these communities.

Steve Varga

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JOY ADAMSON MEMORIAL FUND

The Joy Adamson Memorial Fund has been established by The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada to assist in the support of outstanding contributors to Canadian wildlife. The Fund is designed to give support to individuals or groups making outstanding contributions, or showing great potential, in the fields of wildlife research, rehabilitation, and art. The only memorial Joy Adamson would have wished is a living memorial: the continuation of the work to which she dedicated her life. Donations to the Memorial Fund may be sent to:

Elsa Wild Animal Appeal
Box 864, Postal Station K
Toronto, Ontario. M4P 2H2

Receipts for income tax purposes will be sent to all donors.

WILD KINGDOM ADVENTURE IN AFRICA

Date: Saturday, April 26, 1980. 8.00 p.m.
Place: 252 Bloor Street West (opposite Varsity Arena)
Guest speaker: Mrs. Marlin Perkins, who will give an illustrated presentation of the behind-the-scenes filming adventures of a "Wild Kingdom" expedition to East Africa.
Tickets: \$3.50 available in advance from The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada, Box 864, Post Station K, Toronto, M4P 2H2, or at the door on the night of the presentation.

A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE, Part 3

This listing is an addition to the titles presented in the TFN Newsletters #311 (Dec. 1977) and #313 (Feb. 1978). The titles included thus far in "A Survey of Ontario Bird Literature" have all been concerned with distributional accounts of birds in Ontario. These are primarily county and district bird lists. Future lists will include more restricted local lists such as seasonal reports and notes on genera or species either in Ontario or in local areas within the province.

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Bruce Parker (449-0994)

Wes Hancock's love of nature began when he was a young boy growing up near Cedarvale Ravine with its clear, fast-flowing stream and stand of mature white pine. His enjoyment of the natural world continued through the years and, when he and his wife, Helen, became interested in photography, and found they wanted to identify flower pictures they took, they joined the TFN.

Wes has been active in the TFN, having served on the Board of Directors and as Vice-president, and also as Chairman of the Botany Group for several years. He is also on the Board of Directors of the FON.

Wes was formerly an audio-visual technician with the Scarborough Board of Education, but is now retired. He and his wife travel extensively in their camper enjoying nature and finding new subjects to study and photograph.

Help Wanted!

Volunteers are required to assist at the TFN booth at the Sportsman's Show: March 15 to 23, weekdays 12 noon to 10:30 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 10:30 pm, Sundays 12 noon to 9 pm.

Please call Laura Greer at 691-4888 if you are willing to help.

Also required: unused aquariums for displays



"Row of Willows" EJ. Seton Park
by Joan Sterling TFN Nature Art Group

PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS IN ONTARIO

A conference co-sponsored by the Department of Botany, University of Toronto and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University—
Saturday, April 12, 1980 York University

This conference is intended to provide an open and public forum for the discussion of the progress made in Ontario toward the preservation of our remaining natural heritage. It is of growing concern to the public, and to biologists and planners that there is only limited focus on this aspect of our increasingly urban landscape. This conference outlines some examples of approaches taken and methods used to select and protect natural areas. Where these approaches and techniques are viable, the ingredient of local and personal enthusiasm often becomes essential. If this conference stimulates enthusiasm, it will have succeeded.

Program

- 9.00-10.00 PROGRESS AND ISSUES - G. R. Francis, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo
- 10.00-10.30 Coffee Break
- APPROACHES TO NATURE PROTECTION IN ONTARIO
- 10.30-11.00 PROTECTION OF PROVINCIALY SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE AREAS: THE NATURE RESERVE SYSTEM - T. E. Beechey, Parks and Recreational Areas Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources
- 11.00-11.30 PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES - M. Singleton, Federation of Ontario Naturalists
- 11.30-12.00 RECREATION-CONSERVATION AREAS IN OTTAWA-CARLETON - J. Reddoch, Ottawa Field Naturalists
- 12.00- 1.00 Lunch (at campus cafeteria -- see next page)
- TECHNIQUES FOR THE SELECTION AND PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS
- 1.00- 1.30 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS - P. F. Eagles, Faculty of Human Kinetics and Leisure Studies, University of Waterloo
- 1.30- 2.00 A MATRIX OF VEGETATIONAL COMMUNITIES TO EVALUATE THE REPRESENTATIVE AND RARE IN ONTARIO - P. F. Maycock, Department of Botany, University of Toronto
- 2.00- 2.30 THE RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES - P. M. Catling, Department of Botany, University of Toronto
- 2.30- 3.00 FAUNAL INVENTORIES OF NATURAL AREAS - C. A. Campbell, Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society
- 3.00- 3.30 Coffee Break
- 3.30- 4.00 PROCESSES INVOLVED IN E.S.A. DESIGNATION AND PROTECTION - S. Barrett, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
- 4.00- 5.30 PANEL DISCUSSION: THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO - moderated by J. Cranmer-Byng, University of Toronto
- J. Bower, Metro Toronto Planning Commissioner
P. F. Eagles, University of Waterloo
D. Estrin, Environmental Lawyer
M. Kirk, Federation of Ontario Naturalists

HOW TO PROTECT METRO'S NATURAL AREAS

An invitation is extended to all those interested to attend a workshop—
Wednesday, April 16, 1980, 7.30 p.m.
Room 7, Botany Building, University of Toronto
(n.w. corner of College Street and University Avenue)

"... to the end of the Peninsula (Toronto Island) we met with some good natural meadows, and several ponds - the trees are mostly of the Poplar kind covered with wild vines and there are some fir - on the ground were everlasting peas (beach peas) creeping in abundance of a purple colour . . . The water in the bay is beautifully clear and transparent . . ."

Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, 1793

Today the Toronto Islands have been largely converted into formal parkland, with an airport, and an amusement centre. The beach pea is now extinct from our region, and our bay is far from transparent. The changes man has brought about in the Toronto region have been dramatic; however, this urban centre of 2.5 million still contains a wide variety of natural areas. Within Metro, we have one of the few open oak woodlands in York County, we have the largest Ring-billed Gull colony and the largest Common Tern colony on the Great Lakes. Metro also contains the only vegetated sand dunes and shoreline meadows still intact along the western part of Lake Ontario and we have an extensive system of Wooded ravine lands. Until our local interest groups and government agencies agree on a common strategy for preserving these natural areas, human activities and development will continue to destroy them.

Program

- 7.30- 8.00 PROGRESS TO DATE ON THE PRESERVATION OF METRO'S NATURAL AREAS -
S. Varga, Toronto Field Naturalists
- 8.00- 8.30 THE ROUGE VALLEY: A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF THE PROCESS OF
E.S.A. SELECTION - J. L. Riley, University of Toronto
- 8.30- 9.30 OPEN FORUM: WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PROTECT METRO'S
NATURAL AREAS

* * * * *

Everyone is invited to both the Conference and the Workshop. There is no charge for attending, but it would help us in planning the Conference if we know you are coming. Please send your name and address to:

Suzanne Barrett,
Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University,
4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario. M3J 2R2

If you wish to have a lunch at the campus cafeteria on Saturday, April 12, please enclose payment of \$4.00 to cover the cost of the meal. Make the cheque payable to: Environmental Studies, York University.

For further information about the Conference and the Workshop, contact:
Ralph Baehre, 667-3012 or 633-2841 or Sheila McKay, 978-3542.

A map and information about the location of the Conference will be included in the April Newsletter.

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

In connection with our Code of Ethics project, we think you will be interested in the following information which is given to participants on the Adventure Cruise to San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja, California, sponsored by Patson Travel Canada Limited.

FIELD ETHICS

What a sad irony ... that the great attraction that draws us to wilderness is inevitably adulterated by our very presence in it. We live with the uncomfortable awareness that there is no way to observe an unspoiled environment without violating it, no way to resolve this paradox. But we can minimize the effects of our invasion by recognizing where we are most disruptive and by adopting a few simple precepts.

1. Take no living specimens of anything. (A Mexican collecting permit is required to do so, in any case.)

2. Re-place rocks turned for observation as precisely as possible.

3. Keep away from occupied bird nests. Your presence may effectively evict the occupant. A frightened bird may abandon its home permanently. Eggs left for even a short time may "spoil" on exposure to ambient temperature. Hatchlings also are susceptible to temperature changes, and parents may not return to feed them.

4. For your sake as well as theirs, approach hauled-out marine mammals with caution. Any adult will outweigh you. Bull sea elephants can move with startling speed and will often charge. Other pinnipeds usually rush for the water when alarmed, but injury and even death can result in their panic.

5. Beachdrift, too, has its place in the total scene. Within the last three years, its depletion in San Ignacio Lagoon, to which groups like ours are the most frequent visitors, is strikingly obvious. We ask that you take no whale bones. And although the drift shells are abundant and almost irresistible, we urge restraint on esthetic and ecological grounds (and also remind you that our storage space aboard is limited).

6. Even one group of 30 people per season can violate the pristine character of dune or desert terrace or island slope. Our boatload is just one of a number that land on these shores. Please keep to the established trails and walk in single file so that, when we leave, we leave something for others to cherish, protect and enjoy.

Contributed by Jill Richardson Smith

issues---

(update)

LOWER ROUGE RIVER

Since my article in the TFN Newsletter #326, pp 14-16 (Oct. 1979) regarding the development proposals threatening the sensitive wetland and beach area at the mouth of the Rouge River, the following events have occurred:

Scarborough Council has adopted a commitment to provide an environmental impact study on the wetlands, marshes, and other sensitive areas of the Rouge River System. (See Planning Board agenda item No. 12, Sept. 20, 1979.) At this time no information is available about particulars of such a study, where the money will come from, who will conduct the research, and a time limit for the study's implementation. Also there may be some doubt as to whether a municipality is bound to carry out an environmental assessment.

The OMB decision on allowing up to 9,400 people to live in the area still stands; however, in an order passed by Scarborough Council in December 1979, all units will be single-family dwellings. The project cannot proceed until access from Lawrence Avenue through Ridgewood Road is provided to the area. At the present time the West Rouge Ratepayers, the developers, and Scarborough planners have not come to a decision on the exact route of the road.

Finally, the Save the Rouge Valley System brief on the OMB decision which was supported in writing by the TFN and FON was considered by the Ontario Cabinet in December 1979. They approved the subdivision Agreement Stipulation. Their statement recognized that no immediate plans to extend Lawrence Avenue across the Rouge have been contemplated, but did not definitely rule out the possibility in the future; however, Cabinet did recommend that "the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto proceed to have this undertaking brought under the Environmental Assessment Act prior to the . . . (project)". This is indeed a strong statement and one we hope Metro will adopt.

In summary, although the lower Rouge wetland area is still threatened, some Metro and Ontario politicians are becoming aware of the tremendous natural value of this area — thanks to the strong and enthusiastic work of many naturalists who contributed to the preparation of the well-documented brief presented by the Save the Rouge Valley group.

Paul Harpley

.....
An Ontario Municipal Board Hearing concerning the Finch Avenue East crossing of the Rouge River (both branches) will be held March 24, 25, 26, 1980 at the OMB Offices at 180 Dundas Street West (just east of University Ave.). Anyone who is interested may attend.
.....

CONE (Coalition of the Niagara Escarpment) needs members, money, and your support. Make cheques payable to the FON's Niagara Escarpment Fund and send to CONE, c/o Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8. For further information call 444-8419.

Canadian Nature Federation

CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING 1981

It has been the custom to alternate the Conference and Annual General Meeting of the CNF between East, West and Central Canada. In 1981 the location would fall to Ontario.

We have received a letter asking CNF Affiliates in Ontario (the TFN is one) if they would consider hosting the 1981 Conference.

Should the Toronto Field Naturalists take this on? We could probably call on nearby nature clubs to join with us. The CNF Head Office provides much useful information. Quebec and P.E.I. have information on details and timing. Local hotels have conference packages for rooms and meals.

A general chairman and possibly co-chairman would be the first requirement. Chairmen of committees would be needed: field trips, hotel, registration, publicity, etc.

Would people who think taking this task on would be an interesting challenge for the TFN and WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP IN SOME CAPACITY please call Jean Macdonald at 425-6596 between February 24 and March 15. This is to find out the amount of interest and degree of commitment we can expect, to determine whether to undertake this project.

10th ANNUAL CNF CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
AUGUST 24 TO 31, 1980

Manitoba is home to several world famous marshes - Delta and Oak Hammock to name only two, and both of these are close to Winnipeg. Manitoba is also Taiga forest, rolling parkland, Arctic tundra and the Hudson's Bay coast. It's a long-grass prairie, the open dunes of the Spruce Woods desert and a 300-mile long freshwater sea - Lake Winnipeg.

Explore with us the Biomes of Manitoba; a luxury 4-day naturalists' cruise on Lake Winnipeg; twice daily birding trips to Oak Hammock Marsh, a nature art show by Manitoba artists, canoe, hiking and historic trips. A full complement of interesting speakers.

A full program, along with registration forms will be published in the April/June issue of Nature Canada, or write The Manitoba Naturalists Society, 214-190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0N2

GALAPAGOS PRESENTATION . . .

Jack Grove, a Marine Biologist and a Senior Guide of the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz in the Galapagos Islands will speak, and show slides of the Galapagos, stressing the marine life but including other features.

Place and Time: Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Blvd.
(Yonge/Eglinton), Monday, March 24, 7.00 p.m.

Project

THE EIGHTH DON RIVER DAY

Henry Scadding's recollections of the Valley of the Don in "Toronto of Old" reads:

Before the establishment of mills and factories, many hundreds of salmon were annually taken in the Don, as in all the other streams emptying into Lake Ontario. We had ourselves been out on a night-fishing excursion on the Don when in the course of an hour some twenty heavy salmon were speared; ... The adjoining marshy land was covered with a dense thicket in which wild gooseberry bushes and wild black-current bushes were noticeable. The flats along here were a favourite haunt of woodcock at the proper season of the year.

These simple activities in what was once a clear, beautiful stream, ceased long ago. Today it lies polluted and gouged by the succeeding waves of "progress" that have made Toronto a great urban centre. The lower Don Valley is used as an access route by the railways, the natural gas company, hydro, and the expressway. Unwanted, salt-ridden snow is dumped in it by Metro, a sewage treatment plant is located in it, and numerous pipes feed mysterious fluids into its stream which is in many places channelized with concrete and rock baskets. While parkland does cover much of the upper floodplain, the lower Don looks rather polluted, bleak and wasted. Much could be done to improve it however. Trees could be planted in barren areas, Metro's salt depot might be relocated, a garbage clean-up is needed and the water quality could be improved significantly by going after the source of the pollutants dumped into the river.

It seems to us that what the Don needs most is a concerned army of friends to speak up for it. To find these friends Bruce Bolin and I have organized the Annual Don River Day in April. The main activity is a canoe trip from Serena Gundy Park to Harbourfront, but non-canoeists are encouraged to come out, watch the fun and hike along the river bank. The point is to enjoy the day as well as to learn first hand about the Don River.

George Luste (534-9313)

.....
▷ See you in the parking lot of Serena Gundy Park at Leslie and Eglinton on Saturday April 19, 1980 at 10:30 a.m.

NATURAL SCIENCE CAMP FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Camp Allsaw, operated by TFN member Sam Hambly, B.A., will operate again this year. It is located on Soyer Lake off Highway 121 between Minden and Haliburton. The programme offers challenging experiences in ecology, conservation and forestry. The camp site offers a good environment for the development of desirable attitudes of observation, investigation, exploration, co-operation and leisure. Other activities dear to campers everywhere — such as cookouts overnights, evening campfires — are included.

Boys and girls up to mid teens are invited. Two camps for boys in July and two co-ed camps late July and August are planned.

For brochure, apply to S.G. Hambly, B.A., 9 Calais Avenue, Downsview, Ontario M3M 1N3

At the first meeting of 1980 (Tuesday, January 15) Isobel Smaller, the Chairperson, presided and about 45 people were in attendance.

Of considerable interest was a display of coloured slides shown as an adjunct before and after the meeting, by means of an automatic projector unit with an integral screen. The slides were submitted by Helen Hancock, Betty Greenacre, Helen and Evelyn Ricker and Isobel Smaller. Members were asked to bring a few of their own slides to be shown before and after the next meeting.

The feature of the evening was a talk on the Liliaceae (the Lily Family) given by Dr. Donald Gunn and Mrs. Joan Gunn, which was illustrated by excellent colour slides. In general, the pictures of the scenery and habitat were taken by Mrs. Joan Gunn and the close-ups of the plants by Dr. Donald Gunn. Having worked on the Orchidaceae for fifteen years, the Gunns these past three years have been concentrating on the Liliaceae.

Dr. Gunn described a typical member of the Liliaceae as a six-parted perianth, having three sepals and three petals, with six stamens. The leaves are simple as in most monocotyledons. The many slides illustrated specimens growing in early spring, through summer and into the fall. Habitats ranged from sea level on an island off Nova Scotia, across the prairies to 6,000 feet up in the Kootenay Pass in British Columbia. Dr. Gunn pointed out the significant identifying features of each species, some of which can have as many as ten different forms. They were far too numerous to mention here. In many cases, hours of walking, climbing and setting-up went into each slide picture. This is not without risk, since on one occasion Dr. Gunn stepped into a hornet's nest and was stung several times; on another, he came very close to a Massasauga Rattler.

Included in the show were slides of several small animals - for example, a black garter-snake - and some uncommon birds, one of which, the Mississippi Kite taken at Point Pelee, was a first-recorded sighting for Ontario.

At the conclusion of the excellent and informative talk, Isobel Smaller thanked our speakers and they were given an enthusiastic round of applause by the appreciative audience.

Charlie Crosgrey



drawing by
Mary Cumming

Large-Flowered Trillium

IN THE NEWS

+++ See Woo, a year-old Chinese crested pheasant, is safe; he won't be a holiday dinner this year or ever. The brightly coloured bird was seen wandering the streets in Leaside until found by a bird lover called William Valliere of the Endangered Animals Sanctuary on Millwood Road. Mr. Valliere believes See Woo may have escaped from someone's pheasant collection because its wings are clipped. See Woo will be placed with a Barrie Bird sanctuary until the Metro organization buys a rural location this spring.

- The Globe and Mail, January 1, 1980.

+++ Roy Ivor, the internationally known naturalist, died in December in Streetsville, only weeks away from his 100th birthday. Mr. Ivor operated the Windinglane Bird Sanctuary at Dundas Street West and Mississauga Road for nearly fifty years. Known as the Birdman of Erindale, Mr. Ivor had the confidence of wild and domesticated birds. His sanctuary was used not only as a refuge for injured birds, but for research in nesting, feeding habits, rituals and the behaviour of birds. He was made an honorary game warden with full powers and was also honored by the Upper Canada Zoological Society for his work. When the sanctuary burned down on December 27, 1970, killing 100 birds, friends and supporters set up a public fund to keep the sanctuary going. Mr. Ivor was able to continue his hobby.

- The Globe and Mail, December 13, 1979.

+++ Termites are so sneaky that Toronto's termite control officer unknowingly bought a termite-damaged house. The officer, Robert Lott, has had to support the house with a steel beam. The termites arrived in Ontario at Point Pelee in 1929 and on the Toronto docks in 1939. In the meantime they have become acclimatized to southern Ontario and small pockets of infestation in Metro Toronto have expanded to as much as ten square miles. Other communities have joined the City of Toronto in supporting a proposal for a three-year research program into combating the infestation. The province and the City of Toronto will pay 85 per cent of the cost of chemically treating a house on the basis of an average cost of \$500. They will also pay 60 per cent of the cost of replacing with concrete the wood that touches the ground in a building.

- The Globe and Mail, January 3, 1980.

+++ Many people will have noticed and admired the flight of Canada Geese in Toronto's Eaton Centre. Called "Flight Stop" by Michael Snow, the designer, they mark a new informality in commissioned art for public spaces.

- The Globe and Mail, December 29, 1979.

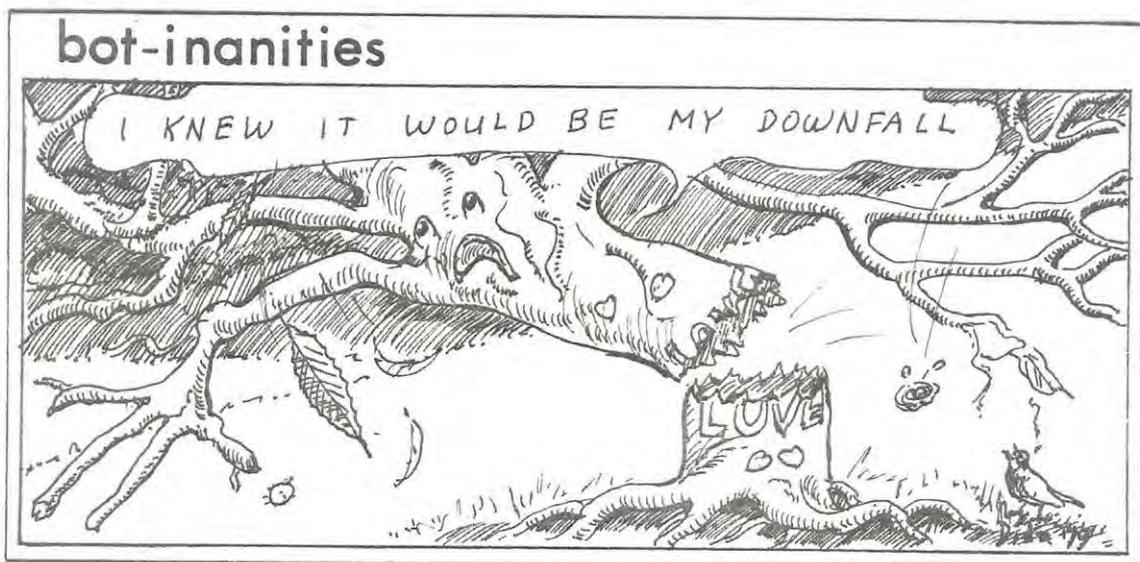
+++ Peter Whelan, who writes about birds in the Globe and Mail, recently reported an ivory gull seen on Lake Simcoe. This is a gull rarely seen this far south.

The little woods behind Ottawa's Uplands Airport has apparently taken over the winter owl population from Amherst Island (near Kingston). Recently it harboured a saw-whet owl, two long-eared owls, a barred owl, and two great-horned owls. Later a boreal owl was added to the list.

Wednesday is the day this birding column appears in the Globe and Mail.

+++ Milkweed may become an important source of high-performance crude oil and gasoline, supplementing fossil fuels on future world markets. Recent experiments have revealed that the milky substance (latex) found inside the milkweed stem and leaves contains high concentrations of quality crude. Milkweed crude, which has a BTU output comparable to fossil crude, can be used for heating and transportation fuel but a lucrative market also exists in plastic manufacturing. The speciosa variety could be grown probably without irrigation in southern regions of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, in eastern British Columbia and in northern New Brunswick, as well as south central Saskatchewan with additional irrigation. This variety was selected for its high crude yield, its adaptability to various climates and resistance to pests. In addition to fuel and plastic production the latex contains a protein-based substance worth \$200 per pound at current market prices. The primary protein-base has high nutritional value for use in food supplements and can be used in cosmetic bases.

- The Financial Post, December 29, 1979 (condensed).



The beautifully smooth bark of our American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*, is an inviting carving surface. This practice, however, can cause girdling and result in the destruction of this fine hardwood forest tree.

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Royal Ontario Museum

March is Spring Science Month at the ROM, and many events are planned to celebrate the awesome and natural wonders of our natural world. Following is a brief outline of events. For more details call the ROM, 978-3690.

During the school holiday week, March 17-21, you can--
discover the wonderful world of insects each day at 10.15 a.m.;
meet some live snakes and learn about snake lore Monday and
Wednesday at 11.00 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.;
see how a scientist prepares butterflies for display Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 11.00 a.m. and Wednesday at
2.00 p.m.;
find out about Ontario plants and trees Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday at 2.00 p.m.;
discover why pollen is important to science daily at 10.00 a.m.
to 12.00 noon;
look at some fascinating specimens of minerals daily between
2.00 and 4.00 p.m.;
meet a geologist and see films on geology Monday and Tuesday
at 11.30 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.;
bring an Ontario fossil to be identified and meet the fossil
hunters;
see the work of ROM's fish experts at Nogies Creek and the
Indian Ocean;
learn how to do quick sketches of animals or birds;
learn about the science of archaeozoology;
visit the science art show by Ontario students;
see scientists at work, ask questions, see films and slide
shows, enjoy puzzles, win prizes.

The following lectures will be presented at the McLaughlin
Planetarium Lecture Room at 7.30 p.m.:

- Mar. 4 Bat Faces from Around the World--Dr. Randolph Peterson
- Mar. 11 Unknown Socorro Island: Mexico's Bird-Melting Pot--
Dr. Jon Barlow
- Mar. 18 Exploring Aquatic Insects--Remarkable Animals Close to
Home--Dr. Glenn Wiggins
- Mar. 25 Vanished Species: A Fossil Record--Dr. Peter von Bitter

The following films will be shown in the ROM Theatre at 2.30 p.m.:

- Mar. 2 Animal Landlord; How Animals Speak
- Mar. 9 Hunters in the Reef; In Search of a Mate
- Mar. 16 The Mussel Specialist; The Riddle of the Rook
- Mar. 23 The Social Cat; Survival and the Senses
- Mar. 30 Too Many Elephants; Animal Parents

For 13 consecutive weeks commencing March 2, Dr. Jacob Bronowski's study of man as seen through his scientific achievements, "The Ascent of Man", will be presented in the ROM Theatre at 7.30 p.m.

Royal Ontario Museum (continued)

The following tours will be conducted in the Natural Science Galleries at 2.00 p.m.:

- Mar. 4 and 6 Small and Mighty Arthropods
- Mar. 11 and 13 Mighty Dinosaurs
- Mar. 18 and 20 Woodland Creatures
- Mar. 25 and 27 The Big Cats

The Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society will present demonstrations of live Ontario snakes March 2, 9, 30, 1.00-4.00 p.m.

The Ontario Bird Banding Association, The Toronto Bird Observatory and The Long Point Bird Observatory will present displays, demonstrations and slide shows on March 16, 1.00-4.00 p.m.

The Walker Club will have displays of Ontario minerals and demonstrations by craftsmen, March 17-21, 2.00-4.00 p.m.

In the Discovery Room you can have a really close-up look at nature in the "hands on" exhibit, Mondays to Fridays, 12.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.; weekends and holidays 1.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.

The show at the McLaughlin Planetarium until May 4 is "Tomorrow's Universe: Astronomy of the Eighties".

Civic Garden Centre

During the month of March the Civic Garden Centre will feature an exhibit of flower paintings, including many wild flowers, by Reginald Haist. The Centre is located at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie. Telephone (416) 445-1552.

Royal Canadian Institute

Lectures will be given at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto, at 8.15 p.m. on the dates indicated. Admission free.

Saturday Native Orchids (illus.)

Mar. 1 - Donald R. Gunn, MBE, MD, FRCP (C)
Formerly Superintendent of Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital

Saturday What are Quarks and Gluons? (illus.)

Mar. 8 - George J. Lustig, BA, PhD.
Associate Professor, Department of Physics, U. of T.

Saturday Earth Rocks and Moon Rocks; 4½ Billion Years of History (illus.)

Mar. 15 - Derek York, D.Phil. (Oxon)
Professor, Department of Physics and Geophysics, U. of T.

All TFN Publications are for sale at monthly General Meetings.

THIS MONTH'S COVER

THE SHAMROCK

... "Seamrog" in Irish... the pronunciation is close (just remember the name "Sean" is pronounced "Shawn"). It means "trefoil" - i.e. a plant with a three-parted leaf. To qualify, though, it must be a low-growing plant, common in Ireland in the 5th Century AD when Padhraic of Armagh (so legend says, for his writings do not mention it) one day stooped and picked a leaf to demonstrate to his flock the doctrine of the Trinity. There are several theories as to its identity but it narrows down to low clovers and wood-sorrel. In fact, any of those shown are possibilities...

1. White Clover - Trifolium repens. At least two dictionaries nominate it.
2. Least Hop Clover - T. dubium - Britton & Brown states: "Said to be the true shamrock". (Called "Lesser Trefoil" also).
3. Red Clover - Trifolium pratense. Nobody says it isn't. A likely choice.
4. Black Medick - Medicago lupulina (the common lawn-clover). Emily Hamilton wore it on St. Patrick's day as a child in southern Ireland. Tourists have taken most of it from Tara Hall (traditional seat of St. Patrick) says Emily, but there are a few left.
5. Haresfoot Clover - Trifolium arvense - not so likely a choice as it's scarce on lime, so range limited in Ireland. Has been found in Ontario (long ago?) per Britton & Brown (1913).
6. Common Wood-sorrel - Oxalis acetosella - Some claim shamrock is no clover but this plant, the only native wood-sorrel in Ireland. May be the same as O. montana at Jim Baillie Reserve. (See Rowena Grant's border on Joy Pocklington's article, page 5) (Even Yellow Wood-sorrel, O. europaea, in spite of name, was introduced to Ireland from North America!)

About eight other native, low clovers grow in Ireland but some are not common and are not found at all in Ontario. Nos. 1, 3 and 4 are the most likely selections and just happen to be so common in Toronto that it's quite all right to go out and pick a shamrock from the lawn on St. Patrick's day, (if it's not under a foot of snow).

Diana Banville.

(All illustrated in A Field Guide to Wildflowers - Peterson/McKenney)

Answers to Puzzle - "Ten Familiar Plants of the Composite Family" (page 13)

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Canada Goldenrod | 2. New England Aster | 3. Bur Marigold |
| 4. Bull Thistle | 5. Woodland Sunflower | 6. Orange Hawkweed |
| 7. Sow Thistle | 8. Daisy Fleabane | 9. Common Burdock |
| 10. Oxeye Daisy | | |

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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.

TFN MEETINGS



GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Monday, March 3, 1980, at 8.15 p.m.

WHY DINOSAURS DIED OUT - Dr. W. E. Swinton

- Centennial Professor, Massey College, Toronto.

The departure of the dinosaur from the living world some 65 million years ago is regarded as one of the great mysteries. Solutions have been advanced for more than 100 years based on defects in the animals themselves or on climatic change or on the effects of astronomical events. But extinction is a process that has affected most kinds of animals and plants and may, indeed, ultimately affect man. The lecture will examine the problems in some detail as regards dinosaurs, remembering that, as Sherlock Holmes said, "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth". Some of the truth will be illustrated by slides.

April meeting -- Monday, April 7, 1980, at 8.15 p.m.

GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group

Wed. Mar. 26 Colonial Water Birds
8.00 p.m. - Dr. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Services
Location: St. James Bond United Church
Avenue Road, just north of Eglinton

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Botany Group

Tues. Mar. 18 Some Points to look for in the Identification of
8.00 p.m. Asters and Goldenrods
- Al Hanners, noted naturalist, from Calgary
Flora of Morningside Park through the Seasons
- Betty Greenacre, wellknown nature photographer

Location: Hodgson Public School
Davisville Avenue, just east of Mt. Pleasant Road

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Environmental Group

No March meeting. See pages 22, 23 for information concerning
a workshop at York University in April.

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Junior Club

Sat. Mar. 1 Members' Display Day
10.00 a.m. For further details, call Brian Gray at 481-3918.
Location: OISE

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