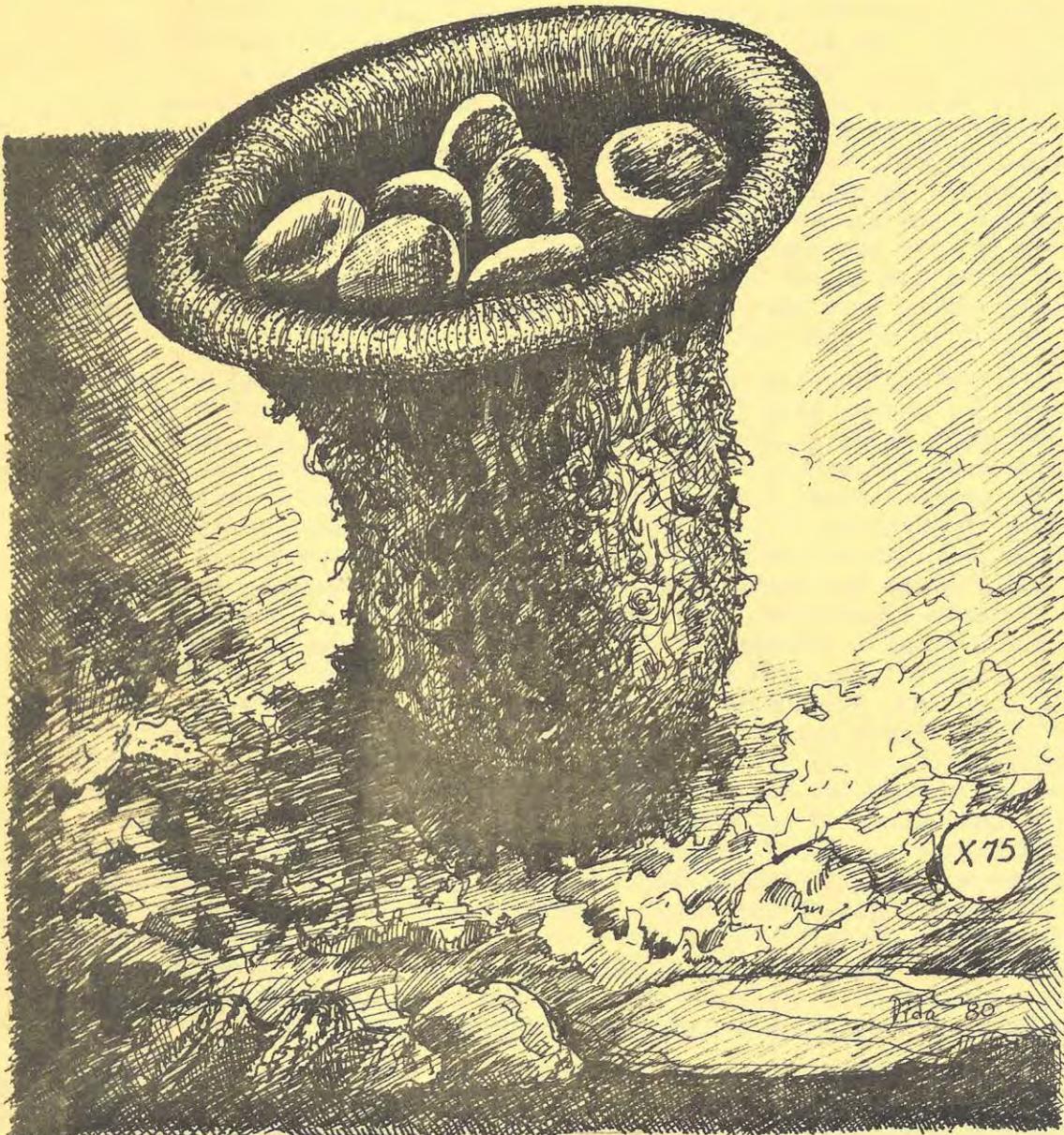




TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 337, February, 1981



What kind of a bird's nest is this?

See page 32.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
&
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President's Report

As the days grow longer, and colder, we turn to our natural history guidebooks and travel folders, look at last summer's notes, and make plans for warmer-weather projects. Many of us also continue to enjoy being field naturalists even in the coldest weather. I am thinking of our Sunday afternoon explorations of the West Don. In spite of pouring rain one week and freezing temperatures and strong winds another week, at least 15 people have managed to meet at 2 pm each Sunday to enjoy an afternoon of observing nature in the winter. I have noticed that although the participants may start out noisily chattering and stamping their feet, a hush falls upon the group as we leave the sounds of traffic behind. We all seem to be listening -- for the soft "dee dee" of chickadees, the "yank yank" of nuthatches, and the scream of a red-tailed hawk as it soars, banks, and drifts over us. Evidence of mammal activity is all about us, from the many squirrels which seem to come out and greet us, to the numerous animal tracks we observe in the snow -- the tail-trail of the muskrat showing so clearly, the hand-marks of raccoons, and the so-familiar rabbit tracks. We hear the wind rustling the pods of wild cucumber and black swallowwort, and the river as it gurgles under its mantle of ice. In Toronto we are very lucky that such pleasures are no more than a bus-ride away, which brings me to some news which should be of interest to all of us.

Following the destruction of an East York woodlot (see TFN (334) 9-10, O 80) and the letter from Mr. Macaulay, Chairman of Ontario Hydro, in which he asked our organization to identify any other sites containing significant environmental features so that the information could be noted in order to avoid similar incidents in the future, a letter was sent from TFN stating: "... if Ontario Hydro could direct us (provide us with maps for example) to their lands, we could make studies of the areas and discuss the problems of protecting and maintaining the significant features identified. We would consider this as a long-term project which would benefit present and future citizens of Toronto, enhance Ontario Hydro's image, and make good use of our members' specialized skills. ..." Mr. Macaulay's response was prompt and gratifying. He said: "... We agree that it is sometimes difficult for the public to determine what exactly is Ontario Hydro property, particularly if the property is vacant but being held for some future use. Accordingly, I have enclosed a map of Metropolitan Toronto with Ontario Hydro-owned property marked ... Our Transmission Environment Department has already undertaken some environmental inventories of property in Metro Toronto as part of its right-of-way maintenance program. Someone from that department will contact you shortly to arrange a meeting to discuss your project. ... I appreciate your offer to assist Hydro in protecting rare or threatened wildlife species, and I'd like to encourage cooperation between the Toronto Field Naturalists and Ontario Hydro."

Since this exchange of letters, the project has been announced and the map shown at two TFN meetings. As of January 1, 1981, three site-visits have been made by Ontario Hydro and members who have identified areas they consider significant.

If you have a favourite site you use for nature study either in or adjacent to a hydro corridor, please contact me. Just let me know where the site is and what you consider significant about it. Nature study is a valid use of hydro land and unless we state our interest, other uses may be found for the green ribbons that now criss-cross our metropolitan area.

Helen Juhola (924-5806)
112-51 Alexander St. Toronto M4Y 1B3

	<p>Upcoming TFN</p> <h1 style="margin: 0;">OUTINGS</h1>	
<p>RAIN ☔</p>	<p>or</p> <p> SHINE</p>	<p>Everybody Welcome!</p>

- Sunday ANIMAL FARM AND NECROPOLIS - Lower Don
Feb. 1 Leader: Mary Smith
2.00 p.m. Meet at farm entrance. (#506 Carlton car to Gerrard and Sumach.)
Walk north to Winchester. Go east on Winchester to farm entrance.
No entrance fee.
- Sunday PINE HILLS CEMETERY - Taylor Creek Explorations I
Feb. 8 Leader: Pat McCaw
2.00 p.m. Meet at the Warden subway station.
- Wednesday CENTENNIAL GREENHOUSES, Etobicoke
Feb. 11 Leader: Billie Bridgman
10.00 a.m. Meet at greenhouses. (Anglesey bus from Royal York subway station
to the corner of Rathburn and Elmcrest.) Walk north on Elmcrest to
the greenhouses.
- Saturday METRO ZOO - Sketching
Feb. 14 Leader: Paul Harpley
10.30 a.m. Meet inside the main entrance. (Scarborough 86A bus from Kennedy
station at 9.51 a.m. or Sheppard East 85B bus from Sheppard station
at 9.32 a.m.) Admission to Zoo grounds \$3.50 for non-Zoo Society
Members. Bring a folding stool if you have one. Dress warmly.
Beginners welcome. Any questions call Paul Harpley at 284-3696.
- Sunday WARDEN WOODS - Taylor Creek Explorations II
Feb. 15 Leader: Ron Boss
2.00 a.m. Meet at Warden subway station.
- Saturday TORONTO ISLANDS - Bird and Nature Hike (for the hardy)
Feb. 21 Leader: Wally Platts
9.00 a.m. Meet at the Island Ferry Docks at the foot of Bay Street to take the
9.00 a.m. ferry to Ward's Island. This is a cold, rugged walk, about
six miles, from Ward's Island to the Island Airport beach, and all
the way back to Ward's Island. Bring lunch to carry.
- Sunday VICTORIA PARK WEST - Taylor Creek Explorations III
Feb. 22 Leader: Eileen Foster
2.00 p.m. Meet at Victoria Park subway station.
- Wednesday NORTH YORK GREENHOUSES AND GIBSON HOUSE
Feb. 25 Leader: Eileen Chopping
10.00 a.m. Meet inside the north door of the North York City Hall. (Yonge
subway to Sheppard station.) Walk one block north.

TFN AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF CANADA

The Boy Scouts of Canada, Greater Toronto Region, hope to change the outlook of boys and leaders by encouraging them to venture into the out-of-doors and take advantage of what Mother Nature has to offer; for the past few years such indoor activities as floor hockey in the church basement have been too prevalent. Who did they call upon to assist them with this mighty job? You've guessed — TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS.

Introductory natural history lectures and a display about TFN were needed. The Boy Scouts realized that a 6-year-old Beaver might know more than an 11-year-old Scout, depending upon his exposure to the natural world, so a program to cover each level of learning had to be devised, rather than an age-level program. Separate sessions at the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels were decided on.

Bill Andrews (TFN President, 1974-76) was called in, and thanks to his efforts and those of his student-teachers (Paul Game, Anne Curran, Sandy Durish, Vince Citriniti, Ken Greason, Jean Bunting, Marilyn Jenkins, Beth Jefferson, Gretchen Young and Dale Jones) a successful series of lectures was given at the 10th Annual Scout Corroboree held at O.I.S.E. on Saturday, November 15, 1980.

The TFN display panel and a table at which TFN publications were sold proved to be a huge success and TFN membership application/order forms were soon depleted. Manning this very busy display were Walter and Ruth Cullingworth (both of whom have been involved in the Scout and Guide movement) and it was a first-time experience for Melanie Blochlinger (an ex-Junior Field Naturalist as well as a Guide Ranger); the afternoon session was manned single-handedly by Ross Davidson who enjoyed meeting some old Scouting friends and seeing the events of the day.

We thank those behind the scenes — Laura Greer for obtaining manpower, Tom Gough for transporting the display and Helen Juhola for helping to co-ordinate the project.

Sheila McCoy
TJFNC Secretary-Treasurer; TFN Member;
Pack Service Scouter S.W.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

We came across this little piece in a 1940 TFN newsletter. It wasn't written in the form of a poem, but it is so poetic that we felt it should have been:

SNOW BUNTINGS

Why should they fear the snow?
Even in summer
They live close to it.
They are born near it,
Live with it
And die in it.
So they sing in it.

R.M.Saunders (12) 1, J.40

THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT:

Further to the article on this subject which appeared in the December Newsletter, two articles have appeared in the Globe and Mail recently:

Governor Bill Janklow has unveiled a plan to use water from the Garrison diversion project to provide irrigation, industrial and municipal water for the State of South Dakota. Under the proposal, estimated to cost between \$200 and \$250 million, the N.D. Irrigation project would be modified to irrigate about 40,500 hectares of S.D. land. Canadian environmentalists fear water from the project would destroy Manitoba's commercial fisheries by introducing new fish species and parasites into Canadian waters. (abridged)

The National Audubon Society has urged a U.S. federal court to order a halt on the North Dakota Garrison irrigation project because the U.S. Government is overriding a treaty with Canada, U.S. environmental law, and even its own judgment by proceeding. The court postponed a decision on the request for orders to stop work and to ask Congress to review the project. Winnipeg Lawyer Barry Bergh submitted a brief supporting Audubon on behalf of the Manitoba Action Committee Against Garrison, which includes representatives of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, the communities of Morris and Victoria Beach, and provincial naturalist, tourism and economic development interests. The plan to irrigate about 250,000 acres would involve pumping water from the southward Missouri-Mississippi system over a land divide into the Red and Souris river systems flowing north into the Hudson Bay drainage basin. Opponents say this would spread destructive solids, plant and animal life into the Hudson basin, salting farmland and ruining commercial fisheries. Audubon says it would also wreck important wildfowl sanctuaries in the Dakota wetlands.

The federal administration has argued that irrigation benefits are not worth the cost - estimated at \$1 billion of which about \$157 million has been spent on preliminary works. Canada has registered repeated protests for 11 years, citing the 1909 US-Canada boundary waters treaty which prohibits trans-border pollution. (abridged)

FINIS

Progress, at last, approaches.
Forerunners have been around.
Survey stakes, like sinister omens,
Are popping up in the ground.

Soon the woods will echo
But not with birdly mirth;
The mechanical dragon cometh,
Spewing up the earth.

...Ralph Knights

*people*JACK GINGRICH, Former President of TFN

Jack Gingrich grew up in what is now Cambridge, Ontario. He first became interested in nature, particularly birds, through the radio program "Audubon Outdoors", presented by John A. Livingstone. He still enjoys birdwatching, particularly during the summer at Georgian Bay. He has served in various capacities on the TFN executive over the years, and was president in 1968-70.

Jack is an avid bicyclist, using his bicycle to travel to and from work and various meetings whenever possible. He also does his bit for the environment by picking up bottles whenever he sees them in a natural area. In addition to birdwatching, Jack enjoys the unusual hobby of making models of stellated polyhedrons--three-dimensional stars.

UNNATURAL HISTORY - a follow-up

The October Newsletter carried a story on page 9 about the destruction of a little woods on Hydro land, adjacent to Beth Neelson Drive in East York. The third last paragraph may have suggested that Ontario Hydro was indifferent to our natural heritage.

In fact, the opposite is true. Hydro has been very much concerned in cooperating with us in our conservation activities and has supplied us with a detailed map showing all Hydro properties. (see President's Report)

Members who may wonder about Rogers Cable TV "crews" tramping over the area will be relieved that the only equipment used for the show (cameras, sound recorders) was carried on the backs of some of the nine participants.

The TFN strongly supports a conservation ethic and endeavours to make members aware that their activities as naturalists have the potential to destroy what they claim to preserve: inadvertently stepping on fragile plants, causing distress to birds, contributing to pollution, and so on. We must all discipline ourselves to examine our individual effect on the natural world around us.

J.M.

from No Safe Place by W. Troyer, 1977, page 202: "... we need simple participation ... twenty individually composed letters to an elected official have more impact on public policy than an hour of network television. ... It's from the letters and calls ... that politicians get their input and their inspiration."

THE CANADA GOOSE IN THE TORONTO AREA

The Canada Goose has not always been a familiar sight on our waterfront. "Human intervention" pervades its history, recalling at one period the story of the extinct Passenger Pigeon, and at another that of the abundant Starling.

Before Europeans immigrated to Upper Canada, flocks of Canada Geese were migrating through the Toronto area each spring and fall and some were probably remaining to breed. As settlers arrived and spread in southern Ontario, the geese and other wildlife were abundant and easily exploited. Like the Passenger Pigeon, the geese flocked both in flight and on land and many could be harvested with little effort. By 1920, six years after the last Passenger Pigeon had died, wild Canada Geese in southern Ontario could be found only at Lake Saint Clair. Fortunately, some had been retained by agricultural breeders and hunting clubs. Using birds bred from these collections, a scientist working out of the Riverdale Zoo, released two adults and five goslings on the Toronto Islands in the late 1950's. Other introductions established a breeding population and numbers steadily increased.

It is in Toronto today that the situation of the Canada Goose and that of the Starling are so similar. Human activity in urban centres has eliminated habitat for most native wildlife. The Starling, House Sparrow and Rock Dove (common pigeon) thrived here without competition after their introduction from Europe. Our delight with broad expanses of short, green lawns was appreciated by the Canada Goose. Young, tender vegetation is a part of their natural diet. Our constant fertilizer treatments ensure plenty of green grass and well-fed geese.

Waterfront introductions were not the only source of geese. As the word spread of the endless food supply, the Toronto waterfront became a Mecca for young migrant Canada Geese. From all around, first- and second-year immatures would arrive in May and June to moult for the summer in a safe location with plenty of food. Our goose-numbers soared and our immaculate lawns were rained upon by goose-droppings.

We can export geese to American cities who envy our waterfront waterfowl and we can spray eggs in an attempt to prevent breeding. But these are undesirable population-control measures. Some say we don't need to resort to these costly procedures. At best, they control symptoms. A cure would involve reduction or elimination of fertilizer application on waterfront lawns. We'll save a little money, prevent enrichment of the lake, conserve some other lakefront habitats and naturally control our majestic Canada Goose.

Steven Price

(after conversation with Harry Lumsden)

On the frosted pane,
Whether of cells or crystals,
There ferns are growing.

haiku by Diana Barville

OUTINGS REPORT

October 16 to November 19, 1980.

Congratulations to the leaders of the outings. Most leaders check out the location of an outing a few days ahead of time, arrive early for the outing, ensure that everyone sees as much as possible, stimulate interest, and send reports in promptly.

Ten outings were held during this period, only one was rained out (Oct. 25, Cedarvale). The skywatch (Nov. 12, Wilket Creek) was an enjoyable evening walk with a discussion of sundogs, sun spots, the Voyageur mission, and visible planets substituting for views of the stars which were hidden by clouds.

On the other walks the weather was fairly cooperative for this time of year. Late October comments were: beautiful fall day - multicoloured foliage - pileated woodpecker - great blue heron - ruby-crowned kinglet and a pair of hawks - witch hazel in bloom - garter snake, snail, frogs, toads, dragonflies, woolly bears and yellow jackets (Oct. 18, Rouge River). Early November was still pleasant - bright sunlight lit up a large witch hazel glowing with yellow flowers. Two other smaller trees were seen with yellow leaves as well as flowers. Twelve varieties of plants in bloom and with red berries were seen. As the group broke up a small flock of evening grosbeaks was seen having a drink in a pond (Nov. 5, Moore Park Ravine). Even mid-November weather allowed a pleasant walk through the park, following the route mapped out by the Ontario Forestry Association. Again numerous witch hazel trees were seen. A Great Horned Owl was disturbed by crows, and jays, cardinals and juncos were seen at the edge of the wood (Nov. 19, Sherwood Park).

A good introductory outing, birding for beginners, was made better by the presence of "too many birds." Everyone saw goldfinches, cedar waxwings, cardinals, chipping sparrows, mourning doves, and more (Nov. 8, Nordheimer Ravine). In High Park on Nov. 1, the highlight was an Eastern Bluebird which stayed in the open on a fence post so we all got a good look at it. It was first seen by Joan Foote who pointed it out. We also had a close view of an American Kestrel; also a flock of about 30 pine siskins feeding on birch seeds. Included in the people on this outing was the area's Alderman, David White. Certainly the highlight of this period's outings was when "we roused a group of Long-eared Owls, one who obligingly sat still and allowed everyone to have a good look, in a small grove of wild apple trees. To add to the excitement another four Long-ears took to wing from a thicket a short distance along" (Oct. 22, Chine Drive).

The outstanding mammal observation of the period was a red fox which "came out of its den and ran up the hill" in Earl Bales Park (Oct. 26).

The following list shows the date, location, and leader of the late autumn outings with the number of participants in brackets:

Oct. 18	Rouge River	John Lowe-Wylde (18) nature walk
Oct. 19	Mimico Creek	Paul McConnell (10) nature walk
Oct. 22	Chine Drive	George Comper (28) nature walk
Oct. 25	Cedarvale Ravine	Donna Knauber (3) rained out
Oct. 26	Earl Bales Park	Helen Juhola (15) nature walk
Nov. 1	High Park	Roger Powley (19) nature walk
Nov. 5	Moore Park Ravine	Mary Suddon (21) nature walk
Nov. 8	Nordheimer Ravine	Wally Platts (17) birding, beginners
Nov. 12	Wilket Creek Park	Cathy Drake (9) skywatch
Nov. 19	Sherwood Park	Emily Hamilton (20) nature walk

Bruce D. Parker

SHERWOOD PARK WALK

Witch hazel
sings yellow,
as if she were
a late
fall forsythia,
dashing dots
amidst naked
maples and cherries.

Harassed by crows,
an owl quits her home.
Like police chasing
a speeding car,
they pursue her
across the sky.

Several older people
walk, freshness of
youth in their gait.

An old beech
clips out gossip
about the trees
surrounding her and
the Burke Brook
babbles below.

Anne D. Frances

IN EXCHANGE . . .

The TFN is currently receiving newsletters from most of the naturalists' clubs in Ontario in exchange for our Newsletters. If any members would like to borrow these, please contact Bruce Parker 449 - 0994.

Trail and Landscape vol. 14, no. 5, Nov.-Dec. 1980 (Ottawa). "Lichens: An Unexpected Source of Dyes" contains hints on the history, storage, collection, identification and testing of lichens for their dye potential as well as instructions for dye preparation. Crustose lichens are impractical for dyeing; various foliose lichens yield dyes which are rosy-tan, yellow, rusty or purple; fruticose lichens tend to produce yellow dyes. Samples of yarn treated with lichen dyes are included.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is offering the recently published Autobiography of John Macoun, Canadian Explorer and Naturalist for sale for \$12.50 plus \$2.00 postage.

The Blue Heron vol. 24, no. 2, Oct. 1980 (Barrie). Congratulations are extended to the newly formed Orillia Naturalists' Club. An account of the nesting and 1979 population of Loggerhead Shrikes in the Township of Rama and Mara indicates that this area is one of the best in Ontario to see this Blue-listed species. In one day during July 1979 a total of 17 shrikes was seen including the young of three separate nesting pairs.

Copies of Ferns of Simcoe County (1972, 10 pages) are available from The Brereton Field Naturalists' Club of Barrie.

The Bulletin no. 228, Oct. 1980 (Richmond Hill Naturalists' Club). The Richmond Hill Naturalists' Club has undertaken a project to produce a guide to the natural areas in the region. Currently they would like to have suggestions on format and information on areas which may be included.

B. P.

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS STUDY

TFN has a special interest in this project since one of the sites designated for study and consideration is our own Jim Baillie Nature Reserve. If any members would like to act as representatives of TFN to keep us informed on the progress of this study or if anyone would like to contribute any information concerning sites which he or she feels should be considered in the study, please contact Bruce D. Parker, TH 66, 109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills, M3A 2R8 (449-0994).

The South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority covers the area from the Holland Marsh on the west to the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve on the east and from the Oak Ridges moraine north to Lake Simcoe.

Bruce D. Parker

FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS

Some of the members of the Toronto Field Naturalists may have special interests which they may wish to develop by joining a group devoted to that interest. The following are a few such groups in Toronto.

Toronto Entomological Association (Mr. Allan J. Hanks, 34 Seaton Drive, Aurora. L4G 2K1. Phone 727-6993). Meets the last Saturday of each month from September to May in the Planetarium Lecture Room. It is a non-profit club devoted to the study of insects. Several field trips each year; meetings usually include illustrated talk. Monthly newsletter; occasional papers (summaries and check-lists). Membership \$7.00/year for adults and \$4.00/year for students.

Toronto Ornithological Club (Dr. Murray Speirs, 1815 Altona Road, Pickering L1V 1M6). This club is the one that sponsors, among other surveys, the Christmas Bird Count and the Winter Waterfowl Count. It only recently admitted its first woman member. Prospective members must be invited by members in good standing and be admitted to the club on approval of the membership. Meetings are held in the Planetarium Lecture Room when members exchange news of sightings and enjoy an illustrated talk on some aspect of bird study.

Walker Mineralogical Club (Mrs. Norma Henderson, 131 Mildenhall Road, Toronto M4M 3H4. Phone 483-9387). Meets the second Tuesday of the month in the main cafeteria of the Royal Ontario Museum at 8.00 p.m. Fees \$7.00 individual, \$10.00 couple yearly.

Mycological Society of Toronto (Audrey Harris, Membership Secretary, 29 Hounslow Avenue, Willowdale M2N 2A9.) Formed in 1972 to study fungi. Regular monthly meetings in the winter in Room 7, Botany Building, U. of T. Day forays (field trips) and week-end forays. Newsletter, The Mycelium. Membership \$5.00/year.

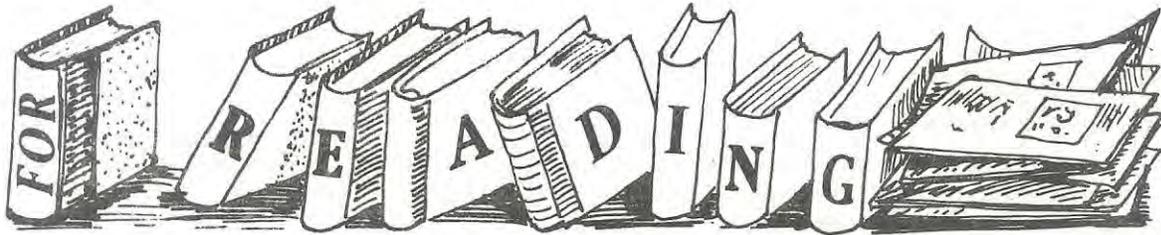
The Bryological Group (Robert Muma, 118 Hazleton Avenue, Toronto M5R 2E5. Phone 921-2259.) Organized by Dr. Terry Carleton of the U of T and Christine Manville of the ROM, for the serious study of mosses, at any level. The group meets every two weeks in the U of T Botany Building.

Brodie Club (Dr. Howard Savage, ROM, 100 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto M5S 2C6. Phone 978-5260.) Members are usually actively involved in serious research - a professional scientists' club. Meetings the third Thursday of each month. Presentation of a scientific paper and discussion of natural history subjects.

Canadian Amphibians and Reptiles Society (Wayne Weller, #1 - 9 Mississauga Road North, Mississauga, L5H 2H5.) No meetings but do have a booth at the Sportsmen's Show where specimens are displayed. A bi-monthly newsletter is read throughout the world. (Subscription \$3.00/year).

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Anyone needing to know of organizations concerned with conservation should obtain a copy of the Canadian Conservation Directory 1978-1979. It lists international, national and provincial organizations as well as government departments, natural history museums, environmental consulting firms, and more. Copies available at \$2.00 from the Canadian Nature Federation, Suite 203, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G1



The Island by Ronald Lockley, published by Penguin Books, 1969/1979, available in many Toronto bookstores.

"When I first saw Skokholm, vivid upon the horizon in the windy sunlight of a May evening, I was warned that it was uninhabited, unfarmed, almost inaccessible... Even before I set foot on it, I was losing my heart to this rock in the ocean." Lockley's love and fascination for this tiny island off the coast of Wales is evident on every page as he unravels the intricacies of the lives of his neighbours - 10,000 rabbits and 80,000 sea birds. It was on this island that Lockley conducted his classical studies of the life histories of sea birds. Here, with nesting burrows right up to his back-door, Lockley was able to follow the lives of individual shearwaters while he filled in the unknown gaps in the birds' life-history. The stories of homing experiments are remarkable examples of the value of banding and daily observations. The first of these, released at Devon (225 miles by sea from Skokholm) returned to its home in 9-3/4 hours; another released at the Faroe Islands (730 miles) was home before Lockley returned and two released at Boston found their way across the Atlantic to their tiny piece of rock in less than two weeks.

Lockley's ability to narrate and develop the lives of puffins, petrels and rabbits develops a desire in the reader to read on with a feeling that he is making the discoveries along with Lockley. Skokholm, Britain's first bird observatory, developed such a strong tradition of banding, observing, recording and reporting that the observatory concept spread throughout the British Isles and bore a considerable influence on the establishment of Ontario's bird observatories.

Bruce D. Parker

Progress for a Small Planet by Barbara Ward, Norton and Co. Publishers, 1978, (Library number 330.9 W).

Barbara Ward, in this book, has written a blueprint of common-sense solutions to the problems of 'our' environment and 'the' environment. She explains clearly the steps human beings will take if we care to manage our environment rather than to be managed by it. She stresses cooperation, responsibility and a clear recognition that just a little more that a week's investment in world arms is enough money to establish a healthy Earth with healthy air, water and people. The subject of healthy food seems to be the only facet of the subject that is not explored in detail. For sensible opinions on:

Energy Savings - The Nuclear Option - The Citizen's Role -
 Farming - Full Employment - Taming the Cities - The Cost of Justice
 - and more, READ BARBARA WARD.

Mary Smith

FOR READING - continued

A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies, by Roger Tory Peterson, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1980.

The much-awaited Peterson's Field Guide has been published. It should be for the library of everyone who is interested in birds. Some of the descriptions and illustrations may seem to be the same as in his previous guide, but much more information has been added and the paintings greatly improved. More birds have been added to the guide to give you a wider range for proper identification. There are range maps in the back of the book which are numbered for easy cross-reference.

This guide has been changed to facing-page format - a much easier means of reference, allowing one to read the description and check the painting. The "Peterson keys" are still used in the paintings to help establish the key identification features.

The errors that may be found in this book are minimal and only those who are looking to be professional critics are complaining. Add this book to your library and enjoy better birding.

Red Mason

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Model Tree Bylaws for Canadian Municipalities by John Swaigen and John Andresen. Report O-x-309, Canadian Forestry Service, March 1980. Available from the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Two examples of bylaws are detailed:

1. For small municipalities,
2. For municipalities over 100,000 people.

Politicians and planners should be cheering at this example of useful environmental legislation. All that is left for them to do is to choose an appropriate set of paragraphs from the models to suit their own local conditions. When development is planned, the Tree Bylaw can be altered to make certain that the required level of environmental control is maintained. This can result in healthier, more beautiful surroundings without the usual cost of cleaning up a mess. There is no longer any excuse for Ontario municipalities to be without a good Tree Bylaw. The work has been done for them, and only the political will to succeed is needed.

Notify your Alderman by telephone, or have a copy sent direct.

Mary Smith



Trees Around The Town - see opposite page

MARY CUMMING

IN THE NEWS - Roger Tory Peterson

In the early 1930's when a colleague persuaded Roger Tory Peterson to write and illustrate a bird watcher's guide, the Boston area science and art teacher found few publishers who were enthusiastic about the idea. They agreed that the young man was a good artist and illustrator, but considered the book too great a risk in the middle of the Depression. Even when Houghton Mifflin reluctantly agreed to print 2,000 copies, it asked the author to forego royalties on the first 1,000 copies. But "A Field Guide to the Birds" sold out within a week and since has sold more than 3 million copies in the original version and two revisions. Now a new edition, the first update in 33 years, is out and is on the best-seller lists of the New York Times.

In recent years several competitors successfully invaded Mr. Peterson's publishing aviary. But with a total of 550,000 copies of the new edition in print, and 1,000 copies of a \$100 limited edition sold out in advance of publication, Mr. Peterson, who became interested in birds as a boy in Jamestown, N.Y., is once again the unofficial king of bird watchers. The new book contains 136 plates, 76 more than the previous edition; each of the illustrations is new or redrawn; all species are shown in colour; and there are 390 three-colour maps, drawn by the author's wife to show the range of each species. Nor does the 72-year-old Mr. Peterson show signs of slowing down. As a writer, illustrator or editor, he has contributed to more than 100 titles. Last year he wrote a book about penguins and he is currently on his 15th bird watching trip to the Antarctic. (condensed from the New York Times Book Review)

Help Wanted

SPORTSMEN'S SHOW - March 20-29, 1981 -- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers for our booth at the Sportsmen's Show. A tentative theme "Come Walk with Us" has been suggested. Ideas are needed to develop the theme, workers are needed to help create the booth and prepare the exhibits.

Anyone interested in helping, please call Jean Macdonald at 425-6596 and discuss it.

Trees Around the Town (opposite page)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Carolina Poplar (<i>Populus X canadensis</i>) | - Seaway Towers, Toronto |
| 2. Willow (<i>Salix</i> sp) | - Banks of Thames, London, Ont. |
| 3. Lombardy Poplar (<i>Populus nigra</i>
var. <i>italica</i>) | - Seaway Towers, Toronto |
| 4. Flowering Crab (<i>Malus</i> sp) | - Allan Gardens, Toronto
(by greenhouse) |
| 5. Weeping Mulberry (<i>Morus</i> sp) | - Allan Gardens, Toronto |

Mary Cumming

 PERIODICALS OF INTEREST TO NATURALISTS

Members may be interested to know that there are many publications dealing with various aspects of natural history and related subjects. We are listing some of them. Most are available in the Toronto Public Library.

AMERICAN SCIENTIST - published by The Scientific Research Society
 345 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511
 \$15.00 yearly; 6 times a year.

AUDUBON MAGAZINE - The National Audubon Society
 950 Third Avenue, NYC 10022

\$13.00 yearly; 6 times year; also -

AUDUBON LEADER - same address - \$10.00 yearly. (Covers endangered species; urban blight; the coming energy crisis, etc.)

THE BEAVER - published by the Hudson's Bay Company, Hudson's Bay House, 77 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2R1
 \$6.00 yearly; 4 times year.

BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST - Box 110W, Marietta, Ohio 45750
 \$9.50 yearly; 6 times year. (A new national bi-monthly magazine, featuring the best in contemporary birding literature.)

BRUCE TRAIL NEWS - P. O. Box 857, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3N9
 Membership \$5.00 yearly.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC - The Royal Canadian Geographical Society
 488 Wilbrod Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6M8
 \$13.50 yearly; bi-monthly.

FIELD AND STREAM - P. O. Box 8154, Greenwich, Conn. 06830
 \$11.94 yearly; issued monthly.

HARROWSMITH MAGAZINE - Harrowsmith, Camden East, Ontario KOK 1J0
 \$12.00 yearly; 8 times year.
 (Gardening, natural history, conservation.)

HORTICULTURE - Massachusetts Horticultural Society
 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02115
 \$16.00 yearly.

THE LIVING WILDERNESS - The Wilderness Society
 1901 Penna. Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006
 \$20.00 yearly.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC - 17th & M Streets NW, Washington, DC 20036
 \$11.00 yearly; issued monthly.

- NATIONAL WILDLIFE - National Wildlife Membership Service
1412 - 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036
\$9.50 yearly; bi-monthly.
- NATURAL HISTORY - published by the American Museum of Natural History. Natural History Membership Service,
Box 6000, Des Moines, Iowa, 50340
\$18.00 yearly; monthly.
- NORTH/NORD - North/Nord Publishing Centre, Supply & Services
Canada, 270 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 050
\$6.00 yearly; 4 issues year.
- OCEANS - The Oceanic Society
P. O. Box 10167, Des Moines, Iowa 50340
\$18.00 yearly; 6 times yearly.
- ORGANIC GARDENING - 33 East Minor Street, Emmaus, Pa. 18049
\$12.00 yearly; monthly.
- OUTDOOR CANADA - 953A Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto M4G 4B5
\$5.77 yearly; 7 times year.
- OWL - (For children of eight years and older.)
CHICKADEE - (For children under eight years old.)
The Young Naturalist Foundation
59 Front Street East, Toronto M5E 1B5
\$10.00 yearly; 10 times year.
- SCIENCE - American Assn. for the Advancement of Science
1515 Mass. Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005
\$46.00 yearly; published weekly. (very scientific)
- SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN - 415 Madison Avenue, NYC 10017
\$27.00 yearly; issued monthly. (very scientific)
- SIERRA - Sierra Club Bulletin
530 Bush Street, San Francisco, California 94108
Membership & subscription \$25.00 yearly;
Non-member subscription \$8.00 yearly; 6 times year.
- SMITHSONIAN - Smithsonian Institution Associates
900 Jefferson Drive, Washington, D.C. 20560
\$13.50 yearly. (The Smithsonian Institution is made up of a number of museums of history, art, African art, sculpture, natural history, air and space.)

If you have suggestions which you think should be added to this list, kindly get in touch with Mildred Easto, Editorial Committee.

WHAT ARE STARLINGS GOOD FOR?

We know a great deal about the "vices" of the Common Starling, Sturnus vulgaris, but what of its "virtues" - has it any - in human eyes? Here is some evidence, for your consideration, suggesting that the Starling may be of some use after all.

Starlings are good for science. While studying the family Sturnidae, in every journal I came across references to the most famous member of all, our familiar S. vulgaris. It suddenly became clear that the very familiarity of this bird is a great boon to the study of Ornithology. *Its ready access makes it an excellent subject for comparative experiments. This is an aspect of the pesky bird which we usually overlook. Two examples of such papers are:

"Audibility Threshold" (compared to other birds and to Man)

Cohen et al., Auk 95:566 July/78;

"Effect of Nesting Area on Clutch Size" (comparing several species of hole-nesters) Karlsson & Nilsson, Auk 119:209 '77

Some studies deal only with the Starling but these, too, make a great contribution to Ornithology. Some examples are:

"Thermal Soaring by Migrating Starlings" Clarence D. Cone Auk 85:19-23 '68
(Starlings use a hawk to mark the centre of thermal updraft.)

"Microclimate of Winter Roosts" Yoram Yom-Tov Ibis 119:366 '77
(Starlings choose the warmest sites.)

Starlings are good for insect-control. The role of "villain" has often been attributed to the Starling by farmers, for it has a bad name for taking fruit from orchards; in Europe flocks have been known to denude a whole vineyard. But reports are not lacking of the Starling in the role of "hero", saving crops from ruin. An early account dates back to the fourth century A.D. in the writings of St. Basil of Caeseria who watched a great flock of Starlings decimate a plague of locusts. In our own newsletter (45) 5 S44, you will be able to find a report sent in by Mr. F. Hoover of Richmond Hill, an anecdote of how Starlings saved a neighbour's strawberry-bed from the black grub. So it is not only Europe from whence come the tales of Starlings saving crops. It may be that they save forests too; it is known that the Starling is the arch-enemy of the spruce bud-worm.

Starlings are good for food...if you're really desperate. In the 17th Century, Starlings were reared in nest-boxes; the young were used as a food-source. Even today Starlings are harvested from the wild in some parts of Europe, for the market; we forget sometimes that "things are tough" in some places. (Wouldn't it be ironical if "things got tough all over" and the Starling became generally scarce?)

Starlings are good for entertainment. Anyone who has ever heard a Starling going through its repertoire of "impressions" cannot deny this. You've probably noticed that its best renditions are those of the Killdeer (several different calls), the Pewee (both 'pee-a-wee and 'pee-ure' calls) and Meadow-lark. But it also mimics the Cardinal (a little timid and short), the House Sparrow, the Red-eyed Vireo (but not as persistently as the original), Least Flycatcher ('che-bek') and the Bluejay. Dr. R. M. Saunders in TFN newsletter (22) 1 M41 speaks of this mimic mimicking other mimics! (Mockingbird and

*applies also to

Catbird) while listing southern birds imitated, including Tufted Titmouse and California Wren. In Dr. Saunders' notes, TFN (47) 4 N44, he speaks of a Starling imitating a birder imitating a yellowlegs. In Europe the Starling mimics the Crested Lapwing (in lieu of Killdeer) as well as the Golden Oriole and no doubt many others. Hens and roosters are also mimicked, as well as mechanical sounds. I have not heard any reports locally of human speech being copied but in Dr. Bernard Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia 9:465, he speaks of a Vienna specimen at a cage-bird show which had a vocabulary of seventy words and another which (reputedly) repeated the words, "I'm a wonderful starling".

What more can I say?

Diana Banville

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

Several recent issues of the TFN Newsletter have carried items which might be considered in the compilation of a Code of Ethics for TFN. If you have suggestions for this project, please send them to Miss Florence Preston, Apt. 203, 368 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto M4P 1L9.

The following article, entitled A BIRDER'S CITIZENSHIP, by Richard Glinski, is reprinted, with permission, from American Birds, Audubon Society.

1. Avoid the use of tape-recorded territorial calls of rare birds that are actively breeding. Universal attractants such as "pishing" are more acceptable since they probably have fewer adverse effects than the use of specific calls.
2. Observe bird nests from a distance great enough so that parent birds and their activities are not disturbed. Nesting colonies and raptor nests should be avoided.
3. Do not relentlessly follow or harass rare birds. Photography of birds should never include the removal of nestlings from the nest or of foliage close to the nest.
4. Respect the property and wishes of the private landowner: many of the best birding places in the United States are on deeded lands, where misbehavior of one can result in the exclusion of all.
5. Do not associate with large groups that are bused en masse to critical habitats and then turned loose without responsible guides. A responsible guide is one who:
 - (a) knows the status of the species and the habitat in the area he is touring.
 - (b) knows the most efficient way to view the avifauna with a minimum of disturbance.
 - (c) limits the size of his group.



The first meeting of the Botany Group for the season was held on October 21 with Isabel Smaller, our capable Chairperson, presiding. Dr. Richard Saunders who was to have been our speaker was ill, and Steve Varga, whom everyone knows from his articles in the Newsletter and previous talks to the group, filled in on short notice. His subject was "Environmentally Significant Areas in Metropolitan Toronto". The talk was accompanied by coloured slides and a display of mounted dried plants from the University of Toronto Herbarium. He identified 29 such areas; described the features which made them significant and the plant life that now exists or has disappeared. Steve said there are several other areas in Metro that are potential ESAs such as Scarborough Bluffs, but these had not yet been studied in detail. T. McCallum thanked the speaker for his thought-provoking message.

The second meeting of the group (for which Steve was the originally scheduled speaker) was held on Nov. 18. The topic was "Flora of the Niagara Escarpment". This too was illustrated by coloured slides and accompanied by herbarium specimens. Steve described the geological features, extent, and origin of the escarpment which displays an association of land forms unique in southern Ontario. He described the features of each section and the plants common to each section. There are many species of ferns in crevice caves and many different other plants on the upper rim, on the slopes, and on the tallus rock in the lower sections. Edith Cosens, who thanked the speaker, commended him for his preparation and his impressive depth of knowledge.

A popular feature of the Botany meetings is the presentation of members' slides at the beginning of the meeting. These range from single specimens to a series on mosses and tree twigs. Slides were submitted by Jim Gaul (solar eclipse), Al Hanners, John Harris, Pat McCaw, and Charleen Young.

Charlie Grosgrey

SAVE THE ROUGE VALLEY SYSTEM has received a grant from the Federal Government for a community services project entitled Reach the People to Save the Rouge. One project manager and an assistant have been hired, but one more person is required -- preferably with typing and/or graphic experience. This position is to be filled through the Manpower Office in Scarborough, but anyone wanting further information should call Gail Gray at 282-3312, the project office at Meadowvale Public School in Scarborough.

Planting a snowball
In a furrow, it grows
Into a puddle.

Haiku by Joy Pocklington

A Survey of Ontario Bird Literature - Part 4

(Arranged by Species)

Common Loon.

1. England, B.I., 1963. Loons at Play; Blue Bill 11(1):14-15.
2. Nisbet, Rob, 1979. Notes on a survey of migrating Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) in Ajax, Ontario - Year Two; Pickering Naturalist 4(3):93-94.
3. Stewart, R.B., 1964. The Loon Family; Blue Hill 12(3):52-54.
4. Webb, D., 1963. Nesting Records of the Common Loon at Lake Opinicon; Blue Bill 10(4):39-41.

Yellow-billed Loon.

1. Crosby, J.R., -1948. Remarks on the Yellow-billed Loon at Point Pelee, Ontario, May 25, 1957; FON, The Bulletin 79:24.
2. McCann, R.; Yellow-billed Loon at Erie Beach; Prothonotary 23:40.

Arctic Loon.

1. Anon., 1969. Arctic Loon at Falls; NFNC, Bulletin 26:5.
2. Peck, George K., 1970. First Ontario Nest Records of Arctic Loon and Snow Goose; OFB 24:25.
3. Speirs, J.M., 1964. Arctic Loon - Second Southern Ontario Sight Record; The Ontario Naturalist 2(3):32.

Red-throated Loon.

1. Simkin, Donald W., 1968. Red-throated Loon nesting in Northern Ontario; CFN 82(1):49.

Red-necked Grebe.

1. Allin, A.E., 1963. A winter record of the Red-necked Grebe at Fort William; TBFN, News Letter 17(3):22-23.
2. Beaupré, E., 1928. Holboell's Grebe recorded; CFN 42-46.
3. Blair, A.W., 1904. Holboell's Grebe at Niagara Falls; Auk 21:276-277.
4. Cringan, R.T., 1957. Notes on the Biology of the Red-necked Grebe in Western Ontario; CFN 71(2).
5. de Vos, Antoon, and A.E. Allin, 1964. Winter Mortality among Red-necked Grebes (*Colymbus grosogena*) in Ontario; CFN 78(2):67-69.
6. Gunn, W.W.H., 1951. The changing status of the Red-necked Grebe in Southern Ontario; CFN 65:143-145.
7. Snyder, L.L., 1929. Holboell's Grebe near Kingston, Ontario, in mid-winter; CFN 43:166.
8. Snyder, L.L., 1930. A flight of Holboell's Grebes at Toronto; Auk 47:240-241.

Eared Grebe.

1. Snyder, L.L. and C.E. Hope, 1950. First Ontario specimen of the Eared Grebe, *Colymbus caspicus californicus*; Auk 67:506.

Western Grebe.

1. Brereton, E.R., 1945. An Ontario sight record of the Western Grebe; CFN 59:68.

2. Warburton, Fred. 1948. Western Grebe at Owen Sound; Auk.
Northern Fulmar.

1. Beamer, L.H., 1937. Fulmar at Meaford; Auk 54:200.
2. Gormley, A.K., 1924. First Ontario record for Fulmarus g. glacialis; Auk 41:470-471.
3. Prevott, J.P., 1975. Fulmar from James Bay in December; CFN 89:462-463.
4. Snyder, L.L., 1929. Second Ontario record for Fulmarus g. glacialis; Auk 46.

Shearwaters, Petrels.

1. Godfrey, W.E., 1976. Audubon's Shearwater, a new species for Canada; CFN 90(4):404.
2. Hadfield, H.W., 1857. Notes and remarks on the Storm Petrel, American Bittern, Nighthawk, etc., The Zoologist 15:5364-5741.
3. Taverner, P.A., 1934. The Madeira Petrel in Ontario; Auk 51:77.
4. Toner, G.C., 1940. Leach's Petrel in Ontario; Wilson Bulletin 52:124.

Pelicans.

1. Hewitt, O.H., 1945. Recent occurrences of the White Pelican in Northern Ontario; CFN 59:45.
2. Lewis, H.F., 1944. White Pelican at James Bay, Canada; Auk 61:304-305.
3. Lumsden, H.G., 1945. Ruff and White Pelican at Fort Severn; CFN 69:168.
4. Mansell, W. Dan., 1965. Present status of the White Pelican in Ontario; Ont. Field Biologist 19:11-14.
5. Snyder, L.L., 1925. The Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis) in Ontario; Auk 40:124-125.
6. Snyder, L.L., 1926. The Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis) in Ontario - A Correction; Auk 43:88.

Gannet.

1. Quilliam, H.R., 1962. Gannet and Hawk Owl - New Records for Kingston.

Cormorants.

1. Baillie, J.L., 1947. The Double-crested Cormorant Nesting in Ontario; CFN 61(14):119-126.
2. Gaymer, Rosemary, 1970. Now...About the Great Cormorant... reported in recent field notes; South Peel Naturalist 10 (14):4.
3. Magee, M.J., 1921. Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax a. auritus) in Ontario; Auk 38:597.
4. McIntyre, J.D., 1955. First record of a Double-crested Cormorant in Algonquin Park; Ont. Field Biologist 9.
5. Nasmith, Eric, 1970. The Great Cormorant; South Peel Naturalist 10(13)4-5.

6. Postupalsky, Serge, 1970. Cormorant Colony, Lake Nipigon, Ontario; TBFN News Letter 24(4):69.
7. Wormington, Alan, 1978. A Hunch Pays Off - Great Cormorant; The Wood Duck 31(7):111-112.

Anhinga.

1. Van Tyne, J., 1950. Old Record of Anhinga anhinga taken on St. Mary's River, Ontario; Auk 67:508-509.

Great Blue Heron.

1. Pickering, Robert, 1967. Nesting of the Great Blue Heron in Waterloo and Wilmot Townships of Waterloo County; The Heron, April 1967.
2. Rupert, D., 1972. Heronry; Lambton Wildlife News 2(3)3-4.
3. Saunders, W.E., 1902. The spots on the eggs of the Great Blue Heron; The Ottawa Naturalist 15(12)282-284.
4. Strong, A.M., 1954. Great Blue Heron colony near Crosby, Ontario; Blue Bill 1(2):2-3.
5. Taverner, P.A., 1922. An aquatic habit of the Great Blue Heron; CFN 36(3):59-60.
6. Tozer, R.G., 1960. Heron on Lake Scugog; The Naturalist 6(6)4-5.
7. Truesdell, Ken. 1957. Thorah Island and the Great Blue Heron; Sylva 13(4):4-8.

Green Heron.

1. Clarke, C.K., 1899. Green Heron breeding in Ontario; Auk 16:351.

Little Blue Heron.

1. Baillie, J.L., 1931. Little Blue Heron in Ontario in March; CFN 45:206-207.
2. Hope, C.E., 1949. The Little Blue Heron in Ontario; Auk 66:78.
3. Denis, Keith, 1970. Little Blue Heron in Thunder Bay District, Ontario; TBFN News Letter 24(4):69.

Cattle Egret.

1. Anon., 1979. Cattle Egrets; TBFN News Letter 33(4):49.
2. Denis, Keith, 1970. Cattle Egret at Thunder Bay, Ontario; TBFN News Letter 24(4):69.
3. Edwards, Martin H., 1968. Pigeon Island Birds, Cattle Egret Nesting! Blue Bill 15(3):33-34.
4. Kaellgren, A., 1968. Cattle Egret in the District of Algoma; CFN 92(2):196.
5. North, George W., 1956. The Cattle Egret at Port Rowan; Wood Duck 10(1):5.

Great Egret.

1. Devitt, O.E., 1936. Spring occurrence of the American Egret in Ontario; Auk 53:322.
2. Campbell, L.W., 1947. American Egrets nesting on West Sister Island in Lake Erie; Auk 64:461-462.

3. McLeod, S., 1978. Great Egret Sighted; TBFN News Letter 32 (3):79.
4. Scott, W.L., 1885. The Great White Egret and the Yellow Rail in Ottawa, Canada; Auk 2:110.
5. Sheppard, R.W., 1928. The American Egret (?) in Welland County; CFN 42:210.
6. Sheppard, R.W. 1937. The American Egret at the Eastern End of the Niagara Peninsula; CFN 51:125-126 (reprinted in NFNC Bulletin 9:4).
7. Smith, W., 1964. Common Egrets nesting near Amherstburg, Ontario; CFN 78:59-60.
8. Townsend, J., 1933. American Egret in Eastern Ontario; Auk 50:94.

Louisiana Heron.

1. Chesterfield, N., 1969. A Louisiana Heron photographed in Ontario; Ont. Field Biologist 23:43.
2. Ussher, R.D., 1961. Louisiana Heron seen in South-western Ontario; Ont. Field Biologist 15:32.

Night Herons.

1. Middleton, A.L.A., 1978. Feeding at a trap-net by Black-crowned Night Heron; CFN 92(2):196.
2. Richards, James M., 1978. Black-crowned Night Heron: (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) Nesting in the Regional Municipality of Durham, Ontario; Ont. Field Biologist 32(1):45-46.
3. Seeber, E., 1949. Black-crowned Night Heronry near Port Weller, Ontario; Prothonotary 15:5-6.
4. Sheppard, R.W., 1944. Black-crowned Night Heron nesting in Lincoln County; CFN 58(2):31-33 (reprinted in NFNC Bulletin 5:9-10).

Bitterns.

1. Kells, W.L., 1901. Cory's Least Bittern (*Botaurus neoxoncis* Cory); The Ottawa Naturalist 15(3):67-70.
2. Quilliam, H.R., 1963. Courtship display of the American Bittern; Blue Bill 10(2):15-16.

Storks, Ibises.

1. Barlow, J.C., 1966. Status of the Wood Ibis, the Fulvous Tree Duck, and the Wheatear in Ontario; CFN 80:183-186.
2. Quilliam, H.R. and R.B. Stewart, 1954. The Wood Ibis; Blue Bill 1(2):2-3.
3. Snyder, L.L., 1949. The Wood Ibis in Ontario; Auk 66:79.
4. Stewart, Robert B., 1968. Glossy Ibis on Amherst Island; Blue Bill 15(2):20.
5. Stirrett, G., 1941. The Scarlet Ibis and other waders at Point Pelee National Park; CFN 55:13.

This list is not complete, additional titles will be found as the literature pertaining to birds in Ontario continues. If you know of any omissions, I would be pleased to add them to the list.

Bruce D. Parker (449-0994)
 TH66 - 109 Valley Woods Rd.
 Don Mills, Ontario, M3A 2R3

See also Part 1 TFN (311):13-16 D77 (distributional-Ont.; South
 & East Ont.)
 Part 2 TFN (313):10-12 F78 (distributional-N. Ont.;
 addns. S. Ont.)
 Part 3 TFN (330):19-20 M80 (distributional, addl. Ont.;
 addl. S. & N. Ont.)

TFN LIBRARY

Going to Japan? If so, you'll be interested to know we now have a companion to the Takano's Japanese Wild Birds donated by member Tayojiro Sera last year. We'd like to thank Anne Macdonald for her hard work in producing this - a cross-reference which effectively gives us all the English names of the birds shown in this field-guide. She first of all copied all the scientific names page by page and showed opposite each the English name which she had looked up in a world checklist. Then, using a computer, she prepared two lists of the same birds, one of them alphabetical by English name, the other alphabetical by scientific name. It means that anyone - with no knowledge of Japanese - will now be able to use this book quite readily.....Ruth Airey has kindly donated The Audubon Guide to Attracting Birds edited by John H. Baker. The chapters on attracting by planting, feeding, nest-boxes and water are written by Roger Tory Peterson. Other contributors are Richard H. Pough, John H. Baker and Dorothy A. Treat. Thank you, Ruth!.....We are also grateful to our B. C. member, Margaret Langford (who walked the Humber with us this summer) for her contribution of B. C. literature. If you're going west this year, you'll want to borrow these check-lists and parkland brochures. (690-1963)

FOR SALE

All TFN publications are for sale at monthly General Meetings, but please note that two of our publications are now out-of-print: Toronto the Green and Ravine Study Number Seven (Taylor Creek - Woodbine Bridge Ravines).

Many back issues of our newsletters are still available and may be obtained for 50¢ each from Bruce Parker (449-0994).

NATURAL RESOURCES PUBLIC READING ROOM

The Ministry of Natural Resources has opened a public reading room to provide information on the management of Ontario's natural resources. It is located in Room 4540, fourth floor, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West and is open from 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM Monday to Friday. For further information call 965-6319.

HJ

WHAT is the Ontario Field Biologist?

I suspect that many TFN members have asked themselves, and perhaps others, this question. What sort of a "magazine" is it; where did it come from, and why is it supported by TFN?

It had its beginning back in 1944, when a group of rather remarkable young people who had outgrown the TFN Junior Club formed a new group, the Toronto Intermediate Naturalists. Membership was open to young men and women aged fifteen and over, and included Bob Bateman, Jim Woodford, Don Burton, Ron Tasker and many who have gone on to careers in biology - Don Smith in Ottawa, Bristol Foster in British Columbia, George Francis in Waterloo and Paul Syme in northwestern Ontario. They held monthly meetings at ROM and regular field trips, and each year made themselves responsible for the programme at one of TFN's meetings. Between 1944 and 1954, they published eight issues of The Intermediate Naturalist, illustrated with Bob Bateman's early artistic efforts and containing mainly the results of their own field work. In all of this they were always supported by their Honorary President, Jim Baillie. One of the things for which we remember him best is the way in which he encouraged young people in their interest in natural science, and with this group he was certainly successful!

The Intermediate Naturalists grew up. They found they were not being replaced by new young enthusiasts, and in 1954 decided to form a new club, the Toronto Field Biologists' Club. In this the nucleus of former Intermediates was joined by a number of more experienced naturalists and biologists. Much of their work was centred upon a project area, Purpleville Woods on the Maple Road, where floral and faunal surveys and winter- and breeding-bird population studies were carried out.

With the new club, the Ontario Field Biologist was born, launched with great confidence by the nineteen members who hoped that "in the not-too-distant future this journal would appear quarterly, or at least semi-annually". While it still contained the results of members' projects, it also began to publish articles by professional biologists. Jim Baillie had an ongoing series on Ontario's breeding birds. Mr. Snyder and Dr. F. A. Urquhart contributed, and in 1962 Dr. William Judd wrote his first paper for the journal. Eighteen years afterwards, the latest issue, too, includes one of his studies! Despite the confidence, however, the club's finances were always somewhat shaky, and the subscription price (50¢ a year) was maintained only with the assistance of the FON and the Sportsmen's Show.

Bob Bateman, Jim Woodford, Don Burton and John Bateman all took their turns editing the Ontario Field Biologist. In 1965 Peter Iden took over and in 1969 financial security at last seemed certain when TFN became its publisher. By this time most of the original TFBC members had scattered and again a change was made; from 1971 until recently the journal was produced by an editorial committee under the chairmanship of Clive Goodwin.

Today, 36 years after its inception and with 41 issues "off the press", the Ontario Field Biologist continues in its established tradition. It attempts to fill the gap between the local club newsletters and the learned journals, printing - true to its name - the results of field research in Ontario. It attracts excellent material and has been given willing and bountiful assistance by the many professional biologists across Canada who read all articles before they are accepted for publication. TFN members can be proud of the faith they have shown in backing this journal; its editorial committee will continue its effort to keep up the standards set for it so many years ago.

Barbara Wilkins

THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST

THE SEMI-ANNUAL NATURAL SCIENCE PUBLICATION OF THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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SOME OF THE ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE LAST 4 YEARS...

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An issue devoted to studies of the Leslie Street Headland, Lake Ontario.

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Nesting of House Finch in Ontario.

Status of Great Black-backed Gull in the Great Lakes area.

Bird populations in jack pine woodland in Parry Sound District.

Population trends in waterfowl wintering in Toronto, 1929-1976.

History of the Black Duck in Ontario.

The annual reports of the Ontario Ornithological Records Committee and Toronto's Christmas Bird Counts.

Status of birds near Kapuskasing, Ontario.

Road transects to record the occurrence of frogs and toads in Waterloo Region.

A cryptogamic flora of Elgin County.

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Bill Andrews (days - 978-3246)

TFN ARTISTS SHOW WORK

During late November and into January, the work of three TFN members was on display. At the Fifth Annual Civil Service Artists Exhibition at Macdonald Gallery, Mary M. Cumming showed her watercolour, "First Snow" - a landscape with rustic building. The effective use of soft violet was typical of Mary's work. At Christel Galleries, of several Paul Harpley works shown I personally liked the soft pencil work in his "Siberian Tiger". There were no heavy, incised lines used, yet the dark areas were strong. In his "Wood Ducks", I admired the luminous quality of the speculum in this painting and his background, though blending, also provided sufficient contrast. At North York Arts Council open show, Joyce Cave showed two oils, "Prairie Sunset" and "Long Lake, Saskatchewan". No sun-filled wheatfields these but brooding scenes. Her brushwork, particularly the sky treatment, was well handled.

D.B.

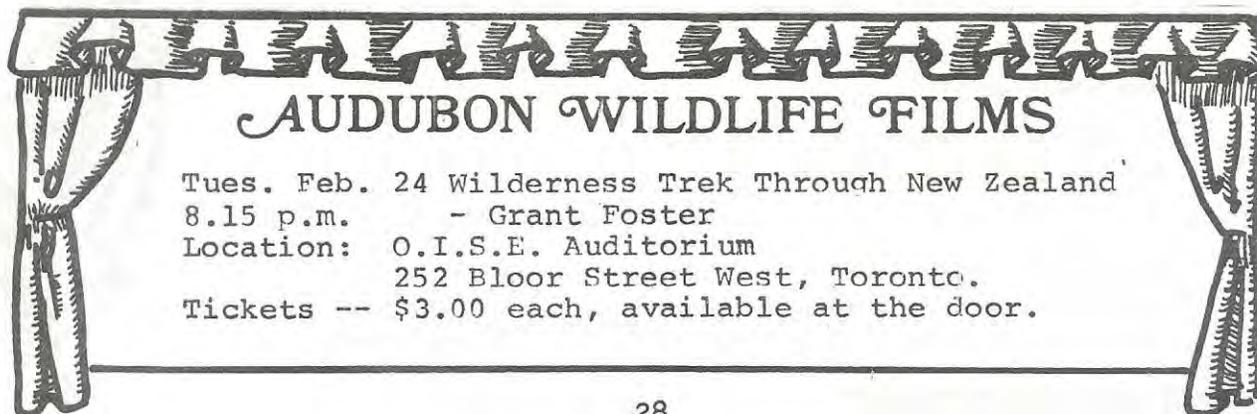
THANKS

The TFN has a typewriter and filing cabinet!

The Ontario government, Ministry of Government Services sometimes provides surplus assets to charitable organizations. They reacted favourably to our request for the above items and we were able to pick them up at the end of November.

The filing cabinet has been filled, and the typewriter is used to type articles for the newsletter.

Our thanks to the Ministry of Government Services.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Tues. Feb. 24 Wilderness Trek Through New Zealand
 8.15 p.m. - Grant Foster
 Location: O.I.S.E. Auditorium
 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto.
 Tickets -- \$3.00 each, available at the door.

TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS, to NOVEMBER 20, 1980

Number of species recorded to Nov. 20, 1980: 264

* indicates first record for the year.

Common Loon	Aug. 25	off Cranberry Marsh	Dave Ruch
Red-necked Grebe	3 Oct. 22	off Cranberry Marsh	Jo Burns
D-c. Cormorant	Oct. 10	off Cranberry Marsh	Paul Bridges
Great Blue Heron	28 Oct. 11	Corner Marsh	John Kelley
Least Bittern	Aug. 14	Frenchman's Bay	Dave O'Brien
Glossy Ibis	Oct. 19*	E. Headland	Brian Gibson, Hugh Currie
Mute Swan	25 Nov. 9	Mimico	John Kelley
Northern Shoveler	Sept. 29	Grenadier Pond	Gloria Leckie, D. Suarez
	42 Oct. 13	Grenadier Pond	John Kelley
Wood Duck	Nov. 9	Grenadier Pond	G. Leckie, Doug Suarez
Canvasback	4 Sept. 15	Ajax	J.R. Nesbit
Common Golden-eye	Oct. 27	Port Credit	W.C. Mansell
Harlequin Duck	2 Oct. 7	off Cranberry Marsh	Jo Burns
	Oct. 25	Mimico	Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin
	3 Nov. 7	Humber Bay	Roger Powley
	Nov. 9	Clarkson	John Kelley
White-winged Scoter	8 Sept. 13	Ontoro Beach	Reid Wilson
	Nov. 2	Eastern Headland	Jake Smythe
Surf Scoter	3 Sept. 28,	Oct. 13 E. Headland	John Kelley
Black Scoter	15 Sept. 7	off Cranberry Marsh	John Kelley
	Nov. 8	Ajax	J.R. Nesbitt
Ruddy Duck	5 Oct. 7	Mimico	Roger Powley
	7 Sept. 21	Cranberry Marsh	Murray Speirs
Common Merganser	Oct. 27	Port Credit	W.C. Mansell
Red-breasted Merganser	4 Oct. 22	Port Credit	W.C. Mansell
Red-shouldered Hawk	Oct. 18	Rouge River	John Lowe-Wylde (TFN outing)
	Nov. 1	Eastern Headland	Hugh Currie
Peregrine Falcon	Sept. 14	Shoal Point Marsh	Margaret Bain
	2 Sept. 15	Whitby	Dave Ruch
	Oct. 5	Eastern Headland	Harry Kerr
	Oct. 13	Eastern Headland	John Kelley
	Oct. 18	Scarborough Bluffs	Brian Gibson
	Sept. 30	College and McCall	George Doolittle, Mr. Kay
Merlin	Sept. 21	Eastern Headland	John Kelley
	Sept. 23	Scarborough Bluffs	Brian Gibson
	Oct. 5	Eastern Headland	Roger Powley
	2 Oct. 7	Cranberry Marsh	Margaret Bain
	Oct. 12	Corner Marsh	Harry Kerr
	Oct. 17	Etobicoke Valley Park	John Kelley
Virginia Rail	Nov. 4	Palgrave	Gerry Bennett
Sora	Sept. 30	Grenadier Pond	John Kelley
Yellow Rail	Sept. 30	Cranberry Marsh	Margaret Bain
Semipalmated Plover	Oct. 17	Whitby	D. Calvert
Golden Plover	Oct. 7	Mimico	Roger Powley
	2 Oct. 13	Eastern Headland	John Kelley
Black-bellied Plover	60 Oct. 5	Toronto Island	John Kelley
Whimbrel	Aug. 17	Eastern Headland	John Kelley
	Aug. 23	Eastern Headland	J.R. Nesbit

Bird Records - Continued

Spotted Sandpiper	Oct. 13	Mimico	Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin
Solitary Sandpiper	Oct. 3	Amo's Pond	Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin
Purple Sandpiper	Nov. 1*	Mimico	John Kelley
	Nov. 11	Eastern Headland	Bruce White
Pectoral Sandpiper	2 July 12	Eastern Headland	Janet Cooper
White-rumped Sandpiper	5 Oct. 7	Corner Marsh	Murray Speirs
	Oct. 27	Lorne Park	W.C. Mansell
Sanderling	Oct. 19	Eastern Headland	Brain Gibson
Pomarine Jaeger	Oct. 4*	Walker's Line, Oakville	Don Perks
Parasitic Jaeger	Oct. 4*	Walker's Line, Oakville	Don Perks
Common Tern	Oct. 19	Eastern Headland	Brain Gibson
Black Tern	Oct. 5	Eastern Headland	Harry Kerr
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Oct. 5	Eastern Headland	Harry Kerr
Screech Owl	Sept. 21	High Park	Roger Powley
Snowy Owl	Oct. 28	Malton airport	Red Mason
	Oct. 29	New Toronto	Beth Jefferson
	Nov. 7	Humber Bay	Roger Powley
Long-eared Owl	8 Oct. 22	Chine Drive	George Cooper (TFN outing)
Short-eared Owl	Oct. 19	Eastern Headland	Brain Gibson
	Oct. 26	Eastern Headland	Hugh Currie
Saw-whet Owl	Nov. 8	Claireville	Harry Kerr
Whip-poor-will	Sept. 28	Toronto Island	Bruce White
Common Nighthawk	50 Sept. 21	High Park	John Kelley
Pileated Woodpecker	Oct. 18	Rouge River	J. Lowe-Wylde (TFN outing)
House Wren	Oct. 18	Lambton Woods	John Kelley
Carolina Wren	Sept. 2	Frenchman's Bay	Dave O'Brien
Short-billed Marsh Wren	Sept. 22*	Cranberry Marsh	Chip Weseloh, Linda Weseloh
Gray Catbird	Nov. 2	Lambton Woods	Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin
Wood Thrush	Oct. 21	Casa Loma	John MacDonald
	Oct. 13	Moore Park Ravine	Harry Kerr
Hermit Thrush	2 Oct. 23	Weston	Howard Vail
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Sept. 30	High Park	John Kelley
Eastern Bluebird	Nov. 1	High Park	Joan Foote (TFN outing)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Aug. 7	Con. 2 Ajax	J.R. Nesbit
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Nov. 5	Moore Park Ravine	Mary Suddon (TFN outing)
Water Pipit	20 Sept. 28	Humber Bay Park	John Kelley
	30 Nov. 2	Mimico	Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin
White-eyed Vireo	2 Sept. 21*	Lynde Shores	Dave Ruch
	Oct. 19	High Park	Hugh Currie
Solitary Vireo	Oct. 21	Casa Loma	John MacDonald
	Nov. 2	Lambton Woods	Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin
Red-eyed Vireo	Oct. 13	Lynde Shores	George Scott
Black-and-white Warbler	Nov. 9	Toronto Islands	Michael Butler
	Nov. 15	Pine Hills Cemetery	Rick Lauzon
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov. 9	Toronto Islands	Michael Butler
N. Parula Warbler	Oct. 4	Lambton Woods	John Kelley
Magnolia Warbler	Nov. 2	Lambton Woods	John Kelley
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2 Nov. 3	Rexdale	Mark Kubisz
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct. 21	Casa Loma	John MacDonald
Pine Warbler	Nov. 2	Lambton Woods	John Kelley
Palm Warbler	Nov. 9	Toronto Islands	Michael Butler
Connecticut Warbler	Sept. 20	Lambton Woods	John Kelley
Common Yellow-throat	Nov. 2	Lambton Woods	Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin
Hooded Warbler	Sept. 6	Shoal Point Marsh	J.R. Nesbit

Bird Records - Continued

Yellow-headed Blackbird	Nov. 2	(female) near Nashville	Arn Dawe Gerry Bennett
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Oct. 9	High Park	John Kelley
Evening Grosbeak	20 Nov. 1	Sherwood Park	George Fairfield
	75 Nov. 2	Rennie Park	Roger Powley
House Finch	Oct. 18	High Park	Harry Kerr
Pine Grosbeak	6 Nov. 2*	Lambton Woods	John Kelley
	Nov. 2*	Pickering	Murray Speirs
	2 Nov. 2*	Nashville	Arnold Dawe, Gerry Bennett
	2 Nov. 5	Mount Pleasant Cemetery	Roger Powley
Common Redpoll	Oct. 24	Shoal Point Road	Murray Speirs
	70 Nov. 2	Nashville	Arnold Dawe, Gerry Bennett
Pine Siskin	60 Oct. 24	Shoal Point Road	Murray Speirs
	30 Nov. 1	High Park	Roger Powley
	25 Nov. 2	Nashville	Arnold Dawe, Gerry Bennett
White-winged Crossbill	Oct. 8*	Schomberg	T. Levere
Rufous-sided Towhee	Nov. 8	Grenadier Pond	Gloria Leckie, D. Suarez
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Oct. 4*	Corner Marsh	R. Knapton, J. Reynolds
Vesper Sparrow	Oct. 27	Lorne Park	W.C. Mansell
Tree Sparrow	Oct. 5	Eastern Headland	Harry Kerr
Chipping Sparrow	Nov. 3	Rexdale	Mark Kubisz
	Nov. 8	Nordheimer Ravine	Wally Platts (TFN outing)
White-crowned Sparrow	Oct. 21	Casa Loma	John MacDonald
Fox Sparrow	Oct. 11 to Nov. 2	Casa Loma	John MacDonald
Lapland Longspur	2 Sept. 28*	Humber Bay Park	John Kelley
	15 Oct. 19	Eastern Headland	Brain Gibson
	Oct. 27	Port Credit	W.C.Mansell
	Nov. 2	Mimico	Joy Goodwin, Clive Goodwin
Snow Bunting	200 Nov. 2	Eastern Headland	J. Smythe
	40 Nov. 2	Lambton	Joy Goodwin, Clive Goodwin

Everyone is invited to send in his/her observations of birds in the Toronto Region. Please send your reports by the 10th of the month to Bruce D. Parker, TH66, 109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills, Ontario, M3A 2R8, or phone 449-0994.

EPISODE

New Year's Day turned clear and cold.
Our grub around the camp-fire froze.

In the distance we heard a bark
When suddenly came dashing past
A vixen, with Reynard at her heels -
- Playing "tag"...
- Frolicking round the trees!

How prime they looked for their nuptial date!
(For this is the month that foxes mate).

...Ralph Knights

THIS MONTH'S COVER



Black-egg bird's nest fungus, Cyathus olla, mature specimen actual size:

At first, the top is covered, ruptures and disappears at maturity.



The thin "fibrillose epiphragm"

Side view of receptacle at maturity: of brown mycellium.

It is attached to a pad

Top view showing exposed "eggs" (x4): like sheen, sometimes appearing black; highlights sometimes make them appear silvery-white.



The "eggs" have a graphite-

The "egg" (actual size) of a "sporangium"

(x100)



is called a "peridiole" and consists and a "funicle", the thin cord by which it is attached.

Each periodole is actually a tiny puffball (belonging to the Gasteromycete group). Raindrops splash out the exposed sticky periodoles which adhere to nearby matter until the wall of the "egg" disintegrates and the spores are released.

These drawings were done from specimens found in Magwood Park, Humber Valley, during TFN walk August 13, 1980, in wood chips, typical habitat.

Family: Nidulariaceae.

Ref.: A Guide to Mushrooms and Toadstools by Lange and Hora
Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of Canada by J. Walton Groves
The Love of Mushrooms and Toadstools by Geoffrey Kibby

DB & JM

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Articles and/or drawings are welcome. Articles may be anywhere from one or two sentences to 1500 words. To be eligible for inclusion in APRIL issue, material must be received by member of Editorial Committee by Feb. 13

Please contact us before reprinting any material in this issue. In some cases we must obtain permission of the author or artist.

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Civic Garden Centre

The following activities will take place at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie Street. Further details are available from the Civic Garden Centre, 445-1552.

- Gardening with Wild Flowers -- 4-week course, commencing Wednesday, February 11, at 8.00 p.m.
 Botanical Art -- 6-week course, commencing Monday, March 2, at 10.00 a.m.
 Apartment Gardening, Workshop -- Wednesday, February 11, 8.00 p.m.
 How to Grow Roses, Workshop -- Sunday, February 15, 8.00 p.m.
 Spring Bulb Festival -- Saturday, Sunday, February 7-8.

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 Fusion--An Ultimate Energy Source
 Feb. 7 - Professor J. H. de Leeuw, Ph.D., Director,
 Institute for Aerospace Studies, U. of T.
 Saturday Hospital Diagnostic Imaging--1981
 Feb. 14 - Dr. John E. Campbell, Professor and Head of
 Radiological Sciences, U. of T.
 Saturday Ice Age Man in Ontario
 Feb. 21 - Dr. P. L. Storck, Ph.D., Associate Curator-in-
 Charge, Department of New World Archaeology, ROM
 (No lecture on February 28)

Royal Ontario Museum

A lecture series on Textile Dyes will be presented at the ROM, February 3, 10, 17, twice daily, at 1.30 and 5.30 p.m. The series will focus on the three primary colours--blue, red, yellow--by featuring ten classic dyestuffs, their history and their individual impact on traditional dyeing methods.

- Feb. 3 -- "Out of the Blue" (Indigo, Woad) -- John Vollmer, Associate Curator-in-charge, Textile Department, ROM.
 Feb. 10-- "Seeing Red" (Madder, Cochineal, Brazil Wood) -- Katherine B. Brett, Curator Emeritus and former curator of the ROM's Textile Department.
 Feb. 17-- "Golden Fleece" (Saffron, Gardenia, Weld, Quercitron) -- John Vollmer, Associate Curator-in-charge, Textile Department, ROM.

Fee: \$15.00 for series; \$6.00 per lecture; \$3.00 per lecture for seniors and students. For more information call Mrs. Townley, 920-3775, or Mrs. Lind, 920-9169.

The program at the McLaughlin Planetarium is "Voyages to Giant Worlds".

Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada

On Wednesday, February 11, at 8.00 p.m., a program will be presented at the St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front Street East, Toronto, featuring a slide presentation and talk on Joy Adamson, by Canadian artist Robert Bateman, and the first Canadian showing of "The Joy Adamson Story". Admission free. For tickets in advance, send a self-addressed envelope to ELSA CANADA, Box 864, Postal Station 'K', Toronto, M4P 2H2, or collect tickets in person at the St. Lawrence Centre.

