TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 343, November, 1981

Humber's southern accent...

See page 13

President's Report

As I begin to write my report in late September, I hear the clicking of White-throated Sparrows outside my open window. Looking out to confirm what my ears tell me, I see two, plucking nightshade berries from a vine missed by the gardeners in their weeding. No, I don't live in the country. This and similar scenes occur every year outside my ground-floor apartment located just north of the Maple Leaf Gardens in downtown Toronto. Last week I spent time in the Kawartha Lakes area and thrilled to the calls of geese flying overhead on a cloudy night. I was able to distinguish numerous flocks in spite of the noise made by water slapping on rocks. Once one is attuned to it, the call of geese can be heard over almost any other sound. I like to think the geese are demanding any who hear to follow. No wonder "One gets unsettled, depressed, and inclined to be querulous" to quote Water Rat in "The Wind in the Willows". As he says when he talks about the end of summer: "It was difficult to settle down to anything seriously, with all this flittering going on". However, it is time for me to settle down and report on some TFN activities.

Thanks once again to Wally Platts, our treasurer this past year, Al Kennedy, our auditor for several years now, and Muriel Miville who typed this year's financial report, TFN's position is clearly stated on pages 6 to 8.

For those who didn't attend the Annual General Meeting and may be wondering who our Vice-president is, I am pleased to report that Mary Smith is, by acclamation. Red Mason had to withdraw his name for health reasons a few days before what was to have been an election. Vacancies on the board created by the sudden departure of Wally Platts and Linda Cardini have been filled by Jim Woodford and Roger Powley. Jim volunteered to take over as treasurer and Roger has agreed to be in charge of outings.

Plans for honouring the 50th anniversary of the Toronto Junior Field Naturalists are coming along nicely. Bob Bateman, one of our best known ex-juniors, has agreed to speak to us at our December meeting about "My life as a naturalist", and His Honour John B. Aird, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and his wife have accepted an invitation to attend the meeting.

Our display unit continues to circulate in North York libraries and spent one weekend at the FON conference on "Wetlands" at Ryerson. During Environment Week following Thanksgiving, it will be at Fairview Mall. Thanks to Tom Gough who has been moving, erecting, and dismantling the displays, and to Sheila McCoy who has made the general arrangements for the schedule. Thanks also to Janice Niblett who made the arrangements for the weekend at Ryerson.

This year our publications will be for sale at each of our monthly meetings. June Hooey has volunteered to be in charge of this activity which is a great service to the members who can examine our publications and buy them without having to pay postage and wait...and wait...

Also at monthly meetings, again on a volunteer basis and providing an invaluable service to members, will be Ida Hanson, our membership secretary for several years now. Ida not only processes all our memberships, but sells our publications ordered by mail. She has also arranged with the FON for the sale of their Christmas cards at our meetings in October, November, and December. Helping her will be Sheila McCoy who is also the Junior Field Naturalists' secretary.

Other people behind the scenes are Agnes Klassen, Alison Knauf, and Muriel Miville who have done so much typing for TFN -- not only newsletter articles, but correspondence on short notice. Without such dedicated members, TFN could not be the active voice for naturalists that it is.

Jack and Mary Gingrich and Audrey Sillick are working hard to make the Audubon Wildlife Films a success this year. We must thank Fred and Bessie Barrett and Harold Taylor for the success the program was last year.

Meanwhile Jean Macdonald and Anne Thompson are working hard to reach out to various ethnic groups in Toronto and invite them to our outings. They aim to make them aware of our existence and introduce them to some of the natural wonders of this region. Eventually we hope to be able to produce a series of pamphlets about outdoor ethics -- in various languages -- to be distributed to new Canadians.

Beth Jefferson has arranged for all the monthly meeting speakers for the 1981-82 season, but I know would be pleased to hear members' comments and suggestions for speakers for another year. Thanks also to John Harris who is once again in charge of TFN's projector at our monthly meetings.

Robin Powell is still our photo librarian and would very much like to hear from members having slides or photographs to contribute. These are needed for slide shows and displays. He is also the TFN representative to the FON this year, so any questions you have about the FON should be directed to him.

If you have a skill or some time and want to be more involved, please contact one of us. It's a great way to meet people and learn.

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

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SECRETARY for TFN Board Meetings - Volunteer needed

Where: College Street one block west of University and the subway
When: Fourth Monday of each month from 7 to 10 p.m.
Duties: Take minutes - shorthand not essential but it helps
Write up minutes (an hour's additional work - typewriter useful but not necessary) and send to President Helen Juhola

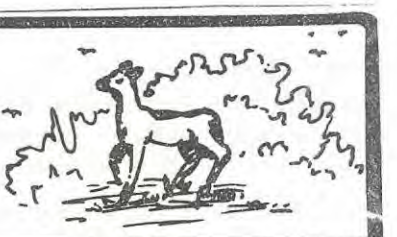
Board of Directors 1981 - 1982

President - Helen Juhola (924-5806) 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3
Vice-president - Mary Smith (231-5302) 49 Thorncrest Rd., Islington M9A 1S6
Past-president - Wes Hancock (757-5518) 10 Shaneen Blvd., Scarborough M1R 1B5

Dave Broughton (489-7444) 4 Heddington Ave., Toronto M5N 2K5
Laura Greer (691-4888) 28 Neville Park Blvd., Toronto M4E 3P6
Beth Jefferson (251-2998) 41 Lakeshore Dr., Apt. 404, New Toronto M8V 1Z3
Jean Macdonald (425-6596) 88 Parklea Dr., Toronto M4G 2J8
Bruce Parker (449-0994) 109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills M3A 2R8
Robin Powell (928-9493) 169 St. George St., Apt. 402, Toronto M5R 2M4
Roger Powley (535-4740) 25 Indian Rd. Cres., Toronto M6P 2E9
Steve Varga (223-4151) 5900 Yonge St., Apt. 403, Willowdale
Jim Woodford (444-7939) 116 Three Valleys Dr., Don Mills M3A 3B9

Auditor - Al Kennedy (491-1564) 20 Brantford Dr., Scarborough M1W 1E4

Upcoming TFN OUTINGS



RAIN or SHINE | **Everybody Welcome!**

Sunday
Nov. 1
2.00 p.m.

EARL BALES PARK - Birds and Botany
Leaders: To be appointed
Meet at the Recreation Centre. Enter off Bathurst and turn left. (Bathurst #7 or #7A bus from St. Clair West subway station.) Members of the French community are being specially invited to this outing.

Saturday
Nov. 7
9.00 a.m.

CUDIA PARK - Bluff Ecology
Leader: Steven Taylor
Meet at the service station on the south-east corner of Kingston Road and Bellamy Road south. (Scarborough #86 bus from Kennedy subway station.)

Wednesday
Nov. 11
10.00 a.m.

EAST DON - Brookbanks Ravine - Nature Walk
Leader: To be appointed
Meet in front of Brookbanks Public School. (York Mills #95 bus from York Mills station to Fenside.) Walk south on Fenside one block to the school.

Saturday
Nov. 14
2.00 p.m.

WILKET CREEK PARK - Winter Botany
Leader: Allan Greenbaum
Meet in the first parking lot north of Eglinton Avenue east, entering off Leslie Street. (Eglinton East #34 bus from Eglinton subway station to Leslie Street. Cross the intersection with the lights. Go carefully!)

Sunday
Nov. 15
2.00 p.m.

LAMBTON WOODS - Mosses
Leader: Terry Carlton
Meet in the parking lot for James Gardens on Edenbridge Drive. (Royal York #73 bus from Royal York subway station to Edenbridge and walk east 0.4 mi.)

Tuesday
Nov. 17
7.30 p.m.

WILKET CREEK PARK - Skywatch
Leader: Cathy Drake
Meet at the first parking lot inside the south entrance off Leslie Street. See Nov. 14 for directions. Bring binoculars. A chance to observe Leonid's meteor.

Saturday
Nov. 21
9.00 a.m.

PICKERING - Birds
Leaders: Margaret and Reid Wilson
Meet in Bayley Street parking lot, south of GO station. (Take 08.13 a.m. GO train from Union Station to Pickering)

OUTINGS - Continued

Wednesday Nov. 25 10.00 a.m.	EAST DON - Wigmore Ravine - Nature Walk Leader: To be appointed Meet in front of Sloane Avenue Public School. (Eglinton East #34 bus to Sloane, then Woodbine #91 bus ½ mile north to the school.)
Saturday Nov. 28 10.00 a.m.	LAMBTON WOODS - Birds Leader: Bob Yukich Meet in the parking lot for James Garden on Edenbridge Drive. See November 15 for how to get there.
Saturday Dec. 5 9.00 a.m.	SUNNYSIDE WATERFRONT - Birds Leader: Herb Elliott Meet in the parking lot at the foot of Windermere Avenue on the lakeshore. (#501 Queen car to Windermere and walk south to parking lot.)

Our mistake OUTING - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28

Meet at the southeast corner of Sheppard and Leslie

NOT York Mills and Leslie. Directions are correct.

ROUGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Corporation of Metropolitan Toronto has commissioned a feasibility study to assess the potential of creating a world class tourist attraction , a conservatory, greenhouse and botanical garden complex, within Metropolitan Toronto. One site under investigation is 80 hectares in Scarborough, east of Meadowvale Road between the Zoo and the Beare Road land fill site. The complex will have three separate sections. An architecturally designed conservatory would house exotic plants from around the world in climate controlled conditions. An outdoor botanical garden would display many types of garden themes as well as showing the public all the best of new plant breeding trials. A production greenhouse would provide flowers and plants to supply public gardens and government offices throughout Metropolitan Toronto. If the facility is located at the Beare Road site the greenhouse may be heated with methane gas rising from the landfill site, making it one of only a handful of greenhouses in the world heated that way. A consulting team headed by John C. Mason and consisting of landscape architects, The Landplan Collaborative Ltd.; architects, The Thom Partnership; engineers, M. M. Dillon, and two horticulturists from the University of Guelph, Dr. J. Tsjuita and Dr. D. Ormrod, will complete its recommendations in early January 1982.

Wendy MacDonald

Ed. Note. Members wishing to comment on the study, please contact Helen Juhola, 924-5806, or Mary Smith, 231-5302.

Alistair J. Kennedy
Chartered Accountant

AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

I have examined the balance sheet of the Toronto Field Naturalists as at June 30, 1981 and the income statement for the year then ended. My examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of the accounting records and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

Memberships, donations and other revenues are as shown in the books. These receipts have been tested by me to bank deposits. However, because of their nature, these revenues are not susceptible to complete audit verification.

In my opinion, subject to the limitation of the scope of my audit as explained above, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the corporation as at June 30, 1991 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

TORONTO, CANADA
August 31, 1991

ALISTAIR J. KENNEDY
Chartered Accountant

20 Brantford Drive, Scarborough, Ontario M1W 1E4 — (416) 491-1564

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
(incorporated without share capital under the laws of the Province of Ontario)

BALANCE SHEET
as at June 30,1981

ASSETS

		1981	1980
Current Assets			
Cash - for general club purposes		$12,803	$ 9,492
Accounts Receivable		39	211
Prepaid Expenses		700	--
Accrued Interest		335	275
Short Term Investments		2,500	2,500
Inventory - at cost (Note 2)		1,466	2,136
		$17,843	$14,614
Other Assets (Note 1)			
Restricted for J. Baillie Reserve - Cash		$ 8,672	$ 8,104
- Investments (Short Term)		14,926	5,500
- Accrued Interest		450	300
		$24,048	$13,904
Property and Equipment			
Land		$42,770	$42,770
Building	$3,050		
Less Accumulated Depreciation	900	2,150	2,350
		$44,920	$45,120
TOTAL ASSETS		$86,811	$73,638

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	$ 1,928	$ 1,094
Membership Fees received in advance	5,340	4,108
Unexpired Subscriptions	1,379	1,424
	$ 8,646	$ 6,626
EQUITY		
Reserve for future expenditures re J. Baillie Reserve (Note 1)	$24,048	$13,904
Retained Earnings		
Balance at beginning of year	$53,108	$60,827
Income (loss) for year)	1,009	(7,719)
	$54,117	$53,108
	$78,165	$67,012
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	$86,811	$73,638
Working Capital: Dollars	$ 9,197	$ 7,988
Ratio:	2.06	2.21

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Helen Ann Jubb (Director) Robert M.E. Powell (Director)

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TFN 343

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED June 30, 1981

	1981	1980
REVENUE		
Membership Fees	$11,900	$13,440
Income earning programmes:		
Audubon Wild Life Films	1,059	1,082
Publications	15	478
Outings	908	237
	$13,882	$15,246
EXPENSES		
Subsidized programmes:		
Ontario Field Biologist Publications	$ 1,084	$ 2,256
Junior Club	--	400
Meetings expenses	1,293	1,451
Newsletters, printing and mailing	8,374	8,636
Other printing expenses	129	115
Other mailing expense	392	339
Honoraria	820	880
Advertising and publicity	403	770
Donations and affiliation fees	510	610
Liability Insurance	535	535
Office Supplies	281	96
Telephone	270	249
	$14,100	$16,446
Operating Income (loss)	$ (218)	$(1,200)
Interest Income	1,119	1,052
Cash Flow (loss)	$ 901	$ (148)
Depreciation	200	200
Net Income (loss) before donations	$ 701	$ (348)
Donations	308	346
Net Income (loss)	$ 1,009	$ (2)

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
as at June 30, 1981

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

PROPERTY VALUATION

The Land and Shelter at the Baillie Nature Reserve are recorded at cost. The cost of the Shelter is being amortized on a straight line basis over its estimated useful life of 15 years.

JAMES BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE

Donations received for the James Baillie Nature Reserve are segregated on the financial statements, and are to be used solely for Reserve purposes. The interest earned on these funds is sufficient to cover the normal operating costs of the Reserve.

NOTE 2 - INVENTORY

A Wintario Grant of $2,870 was received in 1978/9 to partially finance the cost of production and publication of a Toronto Bird Finding Guide Book. The total cost amounted to $6,347. Sales of the book have reduced the Toronto Field Naturalists' share to $673 at June 30, 1981 and this amount is included in Inventory.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

DEPARTMENTAL INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended June 30, 1981

	Total	Regular Club Activities	Outings	Publications	Ontario Field Biologist	Audubon Films
Revenue	$24,198	$11,900	$4,761	$ 684	$ 1,887	$ 4,966
Costs						
Meetings expenses	$ 2,350	$ 1,293				$ 1,057
Newsletters, printing & mailing	8,374	8,374				
Other printing expense	3,087	129		$ 669	$ 2,289	
Other mailing expense	907	392			515	
Honoraria	820	820				
Advertising & publicity	570	403			167	
Donations & affiliation fees	510	510				
Liability insurance	535	535				
Office supplies	281	281				
Telephone	279	279				
Outings expense	3,853		$3,853			
Audubon Films expense	2,850					2,850
	$24,416	$13,016	$3,853	$ 669	$ 2,971	$ 3,907
Operating Margin (loss)	(218)	(1,116)	908	15	(1,084)	1,059
Interest Income	1,119	1,119	-	-	-	-
Cash Flow (loss)	901	3	908	15	(1,084)	1,059
Depreciation on Shelter at Reserve	200	200	-	-	-	-
Net Income (Loss) - Regular Operations	701	(197)	908	15	(1,084)	1,059
Donations	308	308	-	-	-	-
Net Income (Loss)	$ 1,009	$ 111	$ 908	$ 15	($1,084)	$ 1,059

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

Further to our Code of Ethics project, following is an excerpt from a leaflet published by the Information Services Branch, Ontario Ministry of the Environment in March 1980, entitled, Who Cares About the Land? We do!

It's In Our Hands!

There are choices we can make as individuals.

When we buy soft drinks we can choose returnable containers as a means of avoiding waste and conserving resources.

We can use litter containers and carry litter bags in our vehicles.

When we treat our lawns and gardens with fertilizers and pesticides we can follow the environmentally sound directions on the packages.

With the implementation of the Ministry's liquid waste program, industry will now have the opportunity to dispose of their wastes in a manner ensuring the conservation of our natural environment.

By making the right choices for the sake of our environment we do our part. We also set an example for others to show them something important: WE CARE!

MEDICINE AND BOTANY

During the summer I undertook a project to carve some birds. I found it pleasant to sit on my lawn in the hot weather and whittle away at pieces of willow - a very light wood with beautiful grain, but very hard to cut...especially with a dull hunting-knife like the one I was using. Because of the hardness of this wood, sometimes my knife would slip and on one occasion I accidentally cut my hand. Looking for something to cover the cut and stop the bleeding, I instinctively took up a willow-shaving (as it was the cleanest-looking material at hand) and placed it on the wound. To my surprise, the pain vanished instantly. I pondered the possibility of making millions marketing "willow bandaids" but, unfortunately for me, our modern scientists were already well aware of the pain-killing properties of the willow.

We are all familiar with aspirin. It is made of a chemical called acetylsalicylic acid. The middle part of this word, "sali" means "willow" in scientific jargon. The genus name for the plant is "Salix".

Many other familiar plants have properties which have been very useful in medicine. One such plant is the common sweetclover (Melilotus alba). The story of how the beneficial properties were discovered is interesting, as it started as a result of a disaster. In 1921 an outbreak of bleeding disease in cattle occurred in the United States. It was discovered that the affected cattle had been feeding on sweetclover hay which was exceptionally moist and had moulded. After much research, a chemical called dicoumarin was isolated from the sweetclover; this was found to be a powerful anti-coagulent. Today this drug is employed as a poison for rodents - and as a "blood-thinner" for heart patients. This is one of the most abundant plants on the Leslie Street Spit and most people consider it a weed. Some day it may save your life. It is also a nitrogen-fixer, so improves the quality of the soil it grows in. The common foxglove of your garden is the source of the drug digitalis. It is used in small amounts to strengthen the beat of the weak heart.

If you would like to pursue this subject further, I recommend Deadly Harvest by John M. Kingsbury, and The Plant Hunters by B.J. Healy. The Book of the British Countryside, (an AA Series book published by Collins, London, 1978) is one no naturalist should be without. It might be useful to keep handy a reference on the generic names of prescription drugs, such as The Pill Book by Harold Silverman and Gilbert I. Simon. You might be interested in finding where the medication you're taking originated. Perhaps it was obtained from something that grows in your garden or in a neighbourhood park...though I don't recommend you throw away your pills and start eating weeds.

Roger Powley

A NATURALIST RE-DISCOVERS THE HUMBER VALLEY
Lawrence to Eglinton

The bridge where Lawrence Avenue crosses the Humber River was the starting point of the Toronto Field Naturalists' walk of July 30, 1980. We were in a very old, settled part of the Town of Weston, and apart from the addition of the parking lot and the replacement of the old,rickety iron bridge with a modern concrete structure, I was unable to detect any outward sign of recent change. However, since my days as a Weston schoolboy, well over sixty years ago, the general area had witnessed many interesting major changes (and in some cases, all for the better). Lawrence Avenue was then known as the Eagle sideroad - for an early Weston family of that name. Across the bridge was the main route to the hamlet of Malton which several decades later became the site of the Toronto International Airport. The long, steep incline from the bridge up and beyond Scarlett Road was farmland on either side, and our favourite bobsledding hill. Sometimes, when snow conditions were favourable, we would glide down and across the iron bridge and make a turn-off at the entrance to the fairgrounds, a short distance east. This was an unforgettable childhood experience, on our five-passenger bobsleds. Although the chance of meeting automobiles was rare, there was always the danger of running into a horse-drawn sleigh or cutter on this main artery to Etobicoke.

A short distance upstream, the attractive residence of the G.W. Verral family bordered the main street directly opposite King Street. I well remember when the house was dismantled to make way for a subdivision which several years later became King Street Crescent. During this time, houses were being constructed on Little Avenue on the riverbank, just above the present parking lot. Little Avenue had formerly been an L-shaped right-of-way and short-cut through the Littles' farm from Eagle sideroad to their hotel on Main Street. Behind the Town Hall, between the Crescent and Little Avenue, a small park had been developed complete with bandstand. For many years it had been the pride of the town. Along the riverbank, between the bandstand and the parking lot, the floodplain had been the site of the town garbage dump. When the ice broke up in the spring, the river frequently overflowed its banks and everything, including garbage, was swept downstream. But this was only one part of the story of pollution then. Beneath the surface of the present parking lot, a huge culvert had carried the town's raw sewage into the river near the bridge, at a point which had previously been a popular swimming hole. Looking back, it seems to me that the newly established residents of Little Avenue and adjacent King Street Crescent must have objected to this state of affairs because not long after a solution to the problem was found. The entire operation was moved several hundred metres downstream to the south end of the fairgrounds below Bellevue Crescent and, for a time, away from human habitation. The raw sewage problem, too, had been solved with the installation of a modern sewage disposal plant at the same site. Fewer than two kilometres upstream at Waterworks Lane, or Dee Avenue, was the pumphouse and reservoir that held the town's water before it was pumped up to the standpipe at the highest point of the town. Sanitation was, by necessity, a top priority, and the water was tested each day. Once a year, signs were posted along the river prohibiting bathing for a distance of three miles beyond the pumphouse. I cannot remember if any reference was made to livestock, but it was a common sight to see horses and cattle in the water where pastures bordered the river. Also, the possibility of pollution from Bolton and Woodbridge could not be over-

looked. Apart from these minor considerations, the town residents managed to survive the precarious water supply of the Humber. It was not until 1932 that the town switched over to an unlimited and pure water supply that was said to have originated from an underground stream from geologic Lakes Algonquin and Iroquois.

It was from the area which I had known as the Weston Fairgrounds that we now entered the valley. The outdoor skating rinks had been replaced by an arena and the oval horse-racing track and lacrosse field were no more. A short distance downstream we discovered two chunks of partly buried concrete, one on each side of the river. Actually these were the abutments of a swing- or foot-bridge which had been constructed around 1915 to permit access from the south end of Weston to the Kingdon farm which had been subdivided and named the Community of Westmount. The bridge was a direct approach to Raymore Drive, where on that tragic night of October 14, 1954, the flooding waters caused by Hurricane Hazel swept away the bridge and the entire street, resulting in heavy loss of life and property. From the site of the swing-bridge, we walked east across the fairgrounds. This had once been a footpath leading from the bridge to Bellevue Crescent. The old narrow road, which had been cut out on a steep angle into the almost vertical ancient riverbank, had been the access road to the Shoddy Woollen Mill at the bottom of the hill. Long after the mill closed, the road served as a walking-trail to the swing-bridge. It was the only access road to the sewage disposal plant and the garbage dump.

To avoid the cliffs that extended along the east side of the river for almost a kilometre, our leader had planned a route along Wilby Crescent and up to the Main Street. The route was, by no stretch of the imagination, an exciting one for naturalists. It did, however, afford me an opportunity to point out old landmarks along the way. For instance, on the Main Street, just north of Wilby Crescent, I vividly recalled a dilapidated row of company houses known only as the Shoddy Row. They were Shoddy by name and shoddy by nature and had originally been constructed to provide lodgings for employees of the Shoddy Mill at the foot of Bellevue Crescent. (It appears that "shoddy" was not a surname but a fibrous material obtained by processing woollen rags or waste.) The entire row of dwellings appeared to have been constructed of lath and plaster. When I first saw them they still had a few tenants; I doubt if I shall ever forget the patch-work appearance where large portions of plaster had fallen from the outside walls. It was perhaps 1919 when this deplorable blight on the landscape was finally removed to make way for modern development along a now-thriving Main Street.

We stopped momentarily at Sykes Avenue to observe an attractive tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) which I recalled from 1949 - before moving to Orillia. My wife and I had lived on Sykes Avenue and so I was familiar with our leader's route down Denison Road, along the riverbank to a gap in the cliffs, and down the steep bank to the river. St. John's cemetery on the riverbank was another landmark of historical significance; it was established about 1800 for members of the Denison family. We soon located the overgrown trail that I remember as a narrow road. On several occasions it had been the route to our school picnics on the pleasant riverbank. After sixty years, the bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and red oaks (*Q. borealis*), from which we collected acorns, appeared unchanged. The poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) was just as healthy and robust as when I first met it.

On preceding Humber walks I had witnessed many startling changes in the environment caused by man's destruction of the forests and by urban development and industrial expansion. In contrast to my previous experiences, I was pleasantly surprised that the section along the river south from the cemetery had escaped developers because of its topography. However, I did notice an increased number of introduced plants - particularly members of the mint family.

As we strolled along the trail through a heavily wooded area on our way to Eglinton Avenue, I wondered how many of our group were aware that beyond the cliff above us stood West Park Hospital. This large, modern institution was originally established as The Hospital for Consumptives by the late Sir William Gage in 1904. According to early records, it started with thirty beds set up in ten horse-drawn streetcars donated when the City of Toronto switched to electric cars.

A short walk south of the hospital brought us within sight of Eglinton Avenue and a well-kept park complete with picnic tables. After lunch I was accompanied back to Lawrence Avenue along the opposite side of the river by a group of enthusiatic naturalists.....perhaps because I had spent much of the lunch hour extolling the botanical delights of Mathers' Bush, a place we had explored as children. I had described its mysterious depths and meandering watercress-lined stream. I had told them too that this delightful mixed forest was the home of trailing arbutus,narrow-leaved spring beauty, cut-leaved toothworth, leatherwood, witch-hazel and bladdernut and had also promised to show them twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) hidden away in a secret hillside garden.

As we headed north, the outline of the surrounding terrain became more and more familiar to me and we began our search for the twinleaf, hidden away on the wooded hillside beyond the river terrace. Soon it was discovered, in association with bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), May-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), celandine (*Chelidonium majus*), cut-leaved toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), trout-lily (*Erythronium americanum*), blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). This was an exciting moment of rediscovery for me, while some were thrilled to find it for the first time. As naturalists we had spent a delightful and memorable hour together in this exquisite setting which we were reluctant to leave. We emerged from the cool, shaded woodland into the brilliant afternoon sunshine and trudged our way along the path beside the river, up the steep incline of Troyer's Hill, through the Community of Westmount and back to our starting point - a tired but happy group of naturalists.

Bill Cattley

NEW HEADINGS...You may have noticed we have new headings for "This Month's Cover", "In The News", "In Exchange", "Toronto Region Bird Records" and "Keeping In Touch". These were donated by Reg Smith who has done a great deal of layout work during his career. Thank you, Reg. They enhance our newsletter.

Editorial Committee

This Month's Cover

Twinleaf (Jeffersonia diphylla), Humber Valley, drawn by Diana Banville (after sketch July 30, 1980, and photographs by Bill Cattley April 28, 1973).

According to *The Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario* by Argus and White (Syllogeus No. 14, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, 1977), this wildflower is rare in Canada. It's no wonder, since it's a southern species, ranging to Maryland and Alabama. In fact, it's a wonder we have any at all considering the poor attitude which is so prevalent with respect to our wildflowers. Emily Hamilton tells us that up to about twelve years ago, twinleaf was growing in Lambton Woods, along with wild ginger, beside the main trail ... until one night when a big beer party was held on the spot, with a huge bonfire beneath the trees - burning out all the flowers! Twinflower has not been seen in that location since. Fortunately, the two stands remaining in Toronto - on the Humber and West Humber - are sufficiently off the beaten path to provide an opportunity for the survival of this interesting wildflower in this, its northern outpost.

D.B.

green seed-capsule

dry, open seed-capsule

See...

"Our Vanishing Flora", page 10

and

"A Naturalist Re-discovers the Humber Valley", page 25.

Life Cycle of Twinleaf - as observed in our area ...

When	Stage	How & Where	Reference
Apr.28/73	in bloom	photographed Humber Valley	"A Naturalist Re-discovers the Humber Valley - Albion Road to Lawrence Ave." by Bill Cattley, TFN (342) 25-27, O 81.
May 5/77	in bloom	seen, West Humber Valley	"Hiking the Humber" by Helen Juhola TFN (310) 16-17, N 77.
May 13/81	green capsules formed	seen, West Humber Valley	"May Nature Walk on the West Humber" by Denise Viilep, in Outings Report, TFN (341) 16, S 81.
July 30/80	dry capsules open	sketched Humber Valley	"A Naturalist Re-discovers the Humber Valley - Lawrence to Eglinton" by Bill Cattley, this issue, page (sketched on that occasion)

A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE - Part 8
FALCONS

Gyrfalcon.

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3. Brereton, E.L., 1948. Gyrfalcon at Barrie. TFN Newsletter 80: 6-7.
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Peregrine Falcon.

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2. Beaupre, E., 1922. The Duck Hawk. Can. Field Nat. 36(2): 33-35.
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6. Lindsay, R.V., 1934. Notes on the nesting of the Duck Hawk in Ontario. Can. Field Nat. 48: 11-14.
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9. Roinila, Mike, 1979. Peregrine Falcon in Thunder Bay. NewsLetter 33 (2): 21 (Thunder Bay Field Nat.).

Merlin.

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4. Lawrence, Louise de Kiriline, 1949. Notes on the nesting of Pigeon Hawks at Pimisi Bay, Ontario. Wilson Bull. 61: 15-25.
5. Lawrence, L.deK., 1949. Thus they shall perish. Audubon Mag. 51: 42-48.
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7. Lewis, H.F. and R.W. Smith, 1939. Apparent nesting of the Pigeon Hawk (Falco columbarius) in the City of Ottawa. Can. Field Nat. 53: 45-46.

American Kestrel.

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2. Spicer, Bob and Marshall Field, 1976. American Kestrel nest box program - 1974 report. The Cardinal 86: 10-13.
3. Wallace, R., 1952. Feeding habits of a Sparrow Hawk. TFN Newsletter 107: 6.
4. Young, C.M. and C.G. Bloome, 1975. Summer feeding habits of Kestrels in Northern Ontario. Ont. Field Biologist 29(2): 44-49.

Caracara.

1. Atkinson, G.E., 1894. Polyborus cheriway on Lake Superior. Biol. Review of Ontario 1: 9-10.

Bruce D. Parker

*A Nature Guide to Alberta. Provincial Museum of Alberta Publication #5, Senior Editor David A.E. Spalding. Published by Hurtig Publishers, Edmonton, Alberta, 1980. 368 pages, $14.95.

This is a beautifully arranged guide containing (surely) all one would want to know about nature in Alberta. If you are going there, or if you want detailed information on its wildlife, this book is for you. The end papers are map indexes referenced to the page in the text dealing with each particular area. Turning to the page we find a section of the National Topographic Map reproduced with significant areas numbered. Complete descriptions of each numbered area follow, written by various people familiar with the area - among them our own Chip Weseloh.

The book abounds with excellent colour photos of all kinds of wildlife from lichens to fish, insects, frogs, birds, and mammals. An introduction includes chapters on Safety in the Field, and Common Sense and Outdoor Ethics. Appendices include Road Logs and an excellent index. There is much, much more. We need a book like this in Ontario.

J.M.

*Calgary's Natural Areas, by The Calgary Field Naturalists' Society, 1975, 182 pages.

The Calgary Field Naturalists have put together this slim volume covering the natural history of their foothills city. Concise and interesting descriptions of flora, fauna and geology complement the checklists and accounts of the twelve natural areas. This is worth reading as an example of the kind of information we could use for Metro, and good enough to read simply for interest. It is well worth the effort that must have gone into it. Borrow the TFN copy (690-1963) or write: P.O. Box 981, Calgary T2P 2R4.

Mary Smith

Natural Washington, by Bill and Phyllis Thomas. 4½" x 9"; 218 pages, published by Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1980. Pub. Library No. 917.53 T.

A nature-lover's guide to the parks, wildlife sanctuaries, hiking and bicycling trails, botanic gardens, zoos, nature centres, swamps and marshes, recreation areas, forests, working farms, aquariums, museums, tree refuges, and wild places within a fifty-mile radius of Washington, D.C.! With its wide choice of described activities (everything from river-rafting to how to skin a bird) it tempts one to visit the Washington area. There is much to ponder - especially the wide range of organizations that support natural area preservation. This book shows up a gap in our Toronto information base.

Mary Smith

*Available from TFN Library, 690-1963.

Plants of Quetico and the Ontario Shield, by Shan Walshe, U. of T. Press, Toronto, 1980. $7.95.

This book is the dream checklist. Photographs of various habitats and the plants found there take up almost half the book. The back half consists of an annotated checklist of every plant found. What I enjoyed most about this was the translation of all Latin names into their English equivalents. Though some of the photographs are rather dark, it is a pleasant book to have and useful for many parts of Northern Ontario.

Helen Juhola

The Gardens' Bulletin, Vol. 32, No. 2, June, 1980 - pages 9 to 14 (Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario). "Observations on the Behaviour of the Common Crow" by Alice and John Lamoureux. A 6-page paper on a sedentary population of crows in the Hamilton area. Available from TFN Library (690-1960), thanks to John Bradshaw who donated a copy. (It is refreshing to learn that some attention is being given to this neglected common bird.)

IN THE NEWS

Food for the Bird Feeder - A Recipe from the Kortright Centre for Conservation.

Simple enough to make, the chickadee food is a mixture of suet, cornmeal, peanut butter, bird seed, brown sugar and raisins or currants, and, as the Centre's naturalist, Bruce Hood, explains, the mixture is so appealing that "the most difficult thing is keeping the people from eating it themselves". The fatty and sweet content is necessary to attract birds whose normal diet includes insects and eggs, for which bird seed alone is not an attractive substitute. In fact an almost pure lard mixture is recommended for nuthatches. Their Fat Fare recipe calls for melted suet, lard or bacon drippings, cornmeal and peanut butter.
(from the Globe and Mail Dec. 20, 1980)

Morning frost
And even the sparrows
See their breath.

haiku by Christine Hanrahan

Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1981

Exceptional Records:

Gray Flycatcher. A first for Canada -- Sept. 11, Mugg's Island !!! Congratulations to the Toronto Bird Observatory; this small flycatcher was seen, caught in a mist net, banded, measured and released during regular banding activities by Dave Broughton and Renée Haslin. The Royal Ontario Museum was contacted immediately and Ross James was able to photograph the bird and confirm the identification.

Peregrine Falcon. As part of their programme to re-introduce this endangered species the Ministry of Natural Resources 'hacked' four young Peregrines at the Whitney Block, Queen's Park in late August.

Migration-monitoring by the Toronto Bird Observatory on Mugg's Island gave a clear picture of early migration, migration which was underway when the station re-opened on August 8. All of the following records from Mugg's Island are those of the Toronto Bird Observatory.

Four Double-crested Coromorants were seen flying east at Whitby on Aug. 7 (JMS). The status of unusual geese in our area is never clear, they are often escapees, hybrids, or both. A Barnacle Goose was at the Leslie St. Pollution Control Plant on Aug. 30 (JCB) and one was at Whitby on Sept. 13 (TOC). For the second consecutive year a Harlequin Duck was found in the Pickering area on the TOC fall outing (Sept. 13). Little interest is now shown in fall hawk flights in the Toronto Region but 'kettles' of about 50 Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Taylor Creek (Sept. 9, JM) and Rexdale (Sept. 15, MK). About 1140 hawks were counted by members of the TFN Junior Club at High Park on Sept. 12 (mostly Broad-wings, HC). An early Merlin was at Earl Bales Park on Aug. 21 (JCB).

High water levels along the lake greatly reduced the habitat available for shorebirds. Both Black-bellied and Golden Plovers were found in plowed fields in Vaughan TWP. in late August (AD). A Stilt Sandpiper was in the Pickering area on Sept. 13(TOC). On Aug. 11 two Little Gulls were seen off Bluffer's Park (BP). Common Nighthawks were noted migrating down the Humber River valley on Aug. 26 (85, MK) and in the lower Don valley on Aug. 28 (70, HJ). An early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Mugg's Island on Aug. 8 and on the 16th Yellow-bellied, Traill's (species?), Least and Olive-sided Flycatchers were all found on the island. The season's first Red-breasted Nuthatches were three at Mugg's on Aug. 20 (11 on Aug. 29). Six early Swainson's Thrushes were at Mugg's on Aug. 8 and the first migrant Veery of the fall was there on Aug. 20. On Sept. 11 there were 25 Swainson's and two Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Mugg's. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Mugg's Island on Aug. 23 (DB).

Seven species of warblers ushered in the fall warbler migration at Mugg's on Aug. 16, by Sept. 11 a total of 20 species of warblers had been seen including two Golden-winged (Aug. 29, Sept. 6), 40 Magnolias (Aug. 29), 20 Northern Water-thrushes (Aug. 29) and 20 Canadas (Aug. 20). One of the most unusual breeding records of the summer is that of a female Red Crossbill feeding a fledged young at Roger's Reservoir in July (JMc). A few Purple Finches moved through in the last two weeks of August but the two Pine Siskins in Rexdale on Sept. 17 (MK) were either left over from last spring or the beginning of a fall finch flight.

Contributors: Dave Broughton, Hugh Currie, Jack Cranmer-Byng, Arnold Dawe, Renee Haslin, Helen Juhola, Mark Kubisz, John McClean, Jean Macdonald, Bruce Parker, J. Murray Speirs, Toronto Bird Observatory, Toronto Ornithological Club.

Everyone is invited to contribute his/her observations of Birds in the Toronto Region. Please send your reports to Bruce D. Parker, TH 66, 109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills, M3A 2R8, or phone 449-0994.

IN EXCHANGE

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

Saugeen Field Naturalists, May 1981.

A list of the 'Reptiles and Amphibians of Southern Bruce County' which appeared as an Appendix in the report on 'Environmentally Significant Areas of Southern Bruce County' is reproduced in this issue. The status of each species (4 turtles, 10 snakes, 5 salamanders, and 8 toads and frogs) is indicated --- 13 are common, 5 are uncommon, 6 are rare, and 3 are uncertain. The following are considered rare and/or endangered in the area: Spotted Turtle, Northern Ringneck Snake, Fox Snake, Eastern Milk Snake, Eastern Massassauga, Spotted Salamander.

The Cardinal, No. 104 August 1981 (McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London).

Part One of a list of the 'Vascular Plants of Middlesex County' covering the horsetails (10 species), clubmosses (3 species), spikemosses (1 species) and ferns (25 species) is the first of a series which will bring the county list up-to-date. Only species represented in local herbaria are included.

"Our Backyard Nursery: Young House Finches and Pine Siskins' documents the first breeding records for these species for Middlesex County, adults of the two species brought young to the same feeder within two days of each other in July.

Trail and Landscape, Vol. 15 No. 3 (The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club).

This is an exceptionally informative issue with articles on new and unusual butterflies of the Ottawa District, mosquitoes of the Ottawa District (40 species !!), new (Bog Bedstraw) and rediscovered (Bog Aster) plants in the district, additional records of Stinkpot Turtle, and notes on the birds of J.W. Groves and A.G. Kingston.

Bruce D. Parker

SALE OF GREETING CARDS

FON Christmas cards and hasti-notes, designed by Robert Bateman, will be available at O.I.S.E. prior to the general meetings on November 2 and December 7. Proceeds from the sale of these cards support the conservation and educational work of TFN and FON.

TORONTO REGION BIRD COUNTS

The Toronto Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which was first held in 1925, is one of the oldest counts held in Canada. For many years this count was held rather informally but as its value as a means of comparing early winter bird numbers from year to year became evident the routes covered were standardized. Presently the Toronto CBC is a combination of two censuses in one, the first is the Toronto CBC which covers the area within a circle with a radius of 7½ miles and the second is the Toronto Region CBC which covers the area within a circle with a 30-mile radius; both circles are centered at the Royal Ontario Museum. Other Christmas Bird Counts held in the Toronto Region are those of the South Peel Naturalists Club (center in Trafalgar Twp.; first held in 1953), Richmond Hill Naturalists (center at Yonge St. and the Gormley Sideroad, first held in 1956), and the Pickering Naturalists (center near Brougham). A fourth CBC (center at Kleinburg?) will be held by the West Humber Naturalists for the first time this year. All of the CBCs are published in the CBC issue of American Birds (except Richmond Hill; also since the Toronto Region count with a radius of 30 miles does not conform to the rules for CBCs it cannot be published in American Birds). In addition each count is published by the organizing club in their own newsletter (the Toronto counts are organized by the Toronto Ornithological Club but are conducted by many TFN members; the 30-mile count is published in the Toronto Field Naturalist and The Ontario Field Biologist). The reports of these counts include the species and numbers of birds found, brief comments on the weather, the names of the participants and comments by the compiler. Over the last five years the Toronto, South Peel, Richmond Hill and Pickering counts have involved an average of 47, 40, 38 and 32 participants, the larger Toronto Region count has averaged 118 participants over the same period.

The Toronto area mid-winter waterfowl count, a project of the Toronto Ornithological Club, has been held every January since 1947. This count is part of a continent-wide waterfowl inventory. The entire waterfront of the Toronto Region (Bronte to Whitby) is divided into sections and all of the duck, geese and swans in each section are identified and counted (coverage has recently increased to include the lakeshore east of Whitby as far as Presqu'ile). A twenty-year summary (1947 to 1966) appeared in the 1966 issue of The Ontario Field Biologist (No. 20). Since 1969 the results of this inventory have been published in the Toronto Field Naturalist.

The newest of the Toronto Region Bird Counts, the Spring Roundup (another project of the Toronto Ornithological Club), has been held annually since 1976 during the latter part of May. This count is conducted similarly to the Christmas Bird Count and includes the entire Toronto Region. The results of the Spring Roundup have been published in the Pickering Naturalist, and in the Toronto Field Naturalist (since 1979). A total of 225 species of birds have been found on this count since 1976.

A different type of count is the migration-monitoring programme of the Toronto Bird Observatory at Mugg's Island. A careful record is kept of the numbers banded and observed on the island every day the station is in operation and the results give a very good indication of the seasonal and yearly movements and numbers of birds in the area.

Bruce D. Parker

TORONTO REGION SPRING BIRD ROUNDUP, MAY 16, 1981

Common Loon 135, Red-necked Grebe 19, Horned Grebe 5, Pied-billed Grebe 2, D-c. Cormorant 30, Great Blue Heron 26, Green Heron 10, Black-crw. Night Heron 9, Am. Bittern 2, Mute Swan 27, Canada Goose 808, Brant 120, Mallard 653, Black Duck 20, Gadwall 135, Pintail 8, Green-winged Teal 4, Blue-wing. Teal 66, Am. Widgeon 13, North. Shoveler 22, Wood Duck 11, Canvasback 1, Greater Scaup 31, Lesser Scaup 33, Com. Golden-eye 3, Bufflehead 77, Oldsquaw 1904, White-winged Scoter 123, Surf Scoter 4, Com. Merganser 31, Red-br. Merganser 110, Turkey Vulture 26, Sharp-shinned Hawk 4, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 88, Red-shouldered Hawk 5, Broad-winged Hawk 4, Marsh Hawk 9, Am. Kestrel 24, Ruffed Grouse 18, R-n. Pheasant 53, Virginia Rail 1, Sora 2, Com. Gallinule 4, Am. Coot 4, Semipalmated Plover 9, Killdeer 244, Ruddy Turnstone 3, Am. Woodcock 14, Com. Snipe 6, Whimbrel 43, Upland Sandpiper 5, Spotted Sandp. 150, Solitary Sandp. 16, Les. Yellow-legs 21, Pectoral Sandp. 4, White-Rumped Sandp. 4, Least Sandp. 121, Dunlin 53, Semipalmated Sandp. 11, Short-b. Dowitcher 3, Wilson's Phalarope 1, Herring Gull 1086, Ring-billed Gull 72790, Bonaparte's Gull 911, Common Tern 475, Caspian Tern 80, Black Tern 120, Rock Dove 1368, Mourning Dove 456, Screech Owl 1, Great Horned Owl 3, Whip-poor-will 5, Com. Nighthawk 1, Chimney Swift 113, R-t. Hummingbird 8, B. Kingfisher 37, Com. Flicker 158, Pileated Woodp. 4, Y-b. Sapsucker 1, Hairy Woodp. 11, Downy Woodp. 62, E. Kingbird 103, Crested Flycatcher 40, E. Phoebe 15, Alder Flyc. 2, empidonax sp.? 1, Least Flyc. 57, E. Wood Pewee 4, Horned Lark 64, Tree Swallow 690, Bank Swallow 1942, Rough-winged Swallow 442, Barn Swallow 1358, Cliff Swallow 111, Purple Martin 28, Blue Jay 409, C. Crow 512, Black-c. Chickadee 296, White-br. Nuthatch 20, Red-br. Nuthatch 44, Brown Creeper 1, House Wren 41, Gray Catbird 113, Brown Thrasher 71, Am. Robin 916, Wood Thrush 65, Hermit Thrush 6, Swainson's Thrush 118, Gray-ch. Thrush 10, Veery 55, E. Bluebird 2, Blue-g. Gnatcatcher 6, Ruby-crw. Kinglet 26, Water Pipit 19, Cedar Waxwing 139, Starling 2781, Yellow-thr. Vireo 5, Solitary Vireo 16, Red-eyed Vireo 35, Philadelphia Vireo 5, Warbling Vireo 60, Black-&white Warbler 92, Golden-winged W. 6, Tennessee W. 45, Orange-crw. W. 1, Nashville W. 119, N. Parula W. 13, Yellow W. 228, Magnolia W. 91, Cape May W. 54, Black-thr. Blue W. 65, Yellow-rumped W. 209, Black-thr. Green W. 58, Blackburian W. 117, Chestnut-sided W. 120, Bay-br. W. 80, Blackpoll W. 6, Pine W. 4, Palm W. 16, Ovenbird 109, N. Waterthrush 33, Mourning W. 4, Com. Yellowthroat 87, Wilson's W. 5, Canada W. 13, Am. Redstart 57, House Sparrow 1223, Bobolink 441, E. Meadowlark 235, Western Meadowlark 1, Red-winged Blackbird 2858, N. Oriole 289, Rusty Blackbird 28, Com. Grackle 1541, B-h. Cowbird 520, Scarlet Tanager 38, Cardinal 177, Rose-br. Grosbeak 289, Indigo Bunting 5, Evening Grosbeak 8, Purple Finch 22, Pine Siskin 133, Am. Goldfinch 836, Rufous-s. Towhee 26, Savannah Sparrow 322, Grasshopper Sparrow 19, Vesper Sparrow 35, Dark-eyed Junco 6, Chipping Sparrow 140, Clay-coloured Sparrow 2, Field Sp. 27, White-crw. Sparrow 150, White-thr. Sparrow 435, Lincoln's Sparrow 15, Swamp Sparrow 24, Song Sparrow 448,

Addenda: Greater Yellow-legs 2, Great Black-backed Gull 5, Glaucous Gull 1, Little Gull 2, Blue-winged Warbler 1.

New Roundup Species: Hooded Merganser 2, Kentucky Warbler 1, Blue Grosbeak 1, House Finch 2.

Totals: Species 188, individuals 105677, participants 59.

Compiled by Arnold Dawe and J. Murray Speirs, Toronto Ornithological Club.

Note: Underscored figures are new high counts for the species.

ON WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

> All afternoon the swollen creek ran free and bright across the open glade. A black bear, lean after his long winter's sleep, stood on the bank watching the salmon leaping up the stream, and from time to time he deftly scooped one from the water. A doe with a spotted fawn beside her browsed on the tender willow shoots about a gurgling spring. The towering trees around the clearing stretched out their shadows and changed the silver of the creek to murky brown. Beneath the tall dark pines deep drifts of snow still lingered, but under the swelling buds on bough of naked beech and oak they were fast disappearing.

This rather appealing scene, taken from A History of Scarborough edited by R. R. Bonis depicts the setting, in 1796, of David and Mary Thompson's cabin, near Highland Creek, north-east of what is now the corner of Lawrence Avenue East and Brimley Road. In Metro Toronto now, such scenes do not exist. Their closest approximations can be found in Metro's ravines.

For the past two years I have been studying native wildlife in urban environments, particularly in the ravines of the Highland Creek watershed, and have begun to question if our park system is adequate for preserving the remaining communities of native flora and fauna. By "native wildlife", I mean plants and animals that do not owe their presence here to man.

Many factors are necessary for the survival of a species in a given area; for example, large animals, such as moose, require a large area in which to roam, so it is obvious why they cannot survive in Toronto's parks. The opportunity for interaction among species must also be considered; for example, although wild columbine does not require much space in order to maintain itself, hummingbirds must be available to pollinate the flowers if the plant is to reproduce.

Considering how small some of our urban parks are and how heavily they are used, one can see why much of our native wildlife is excluded. It would be a worthwhile task to establish and enumerate all the native species which could potentially exist in our region and compare the list with those in our parks now. Although a considerable number already survive in our parks system, it seems to me the variety could be much greater. As far as animal-life is concerned, it is worth noting that some mammals have the ability to adapt to urban conditions; the raccoon is a good example of this. Other animals - for example, certain birds, such as kinglets - breed elsewhere but annually visit Toronto's ravines during migration. Rural plants too can reach

urban parks if undeveloped corridors are allowed to exist. But many of our parks become isolated from the country. This has long been the case with High Park; more recently the ravines of Highland Creek have suffered a similar fate, as a result of urban sprawl. J. Diamond, in a 1975 article, compares urban parks with islands in an ocean; few types of plants and animals are found on small islands far from the mainland and the same conditions prevail in parks in the interior of a city, isolated from rural areas. In our "park islands", the total number of species present is diminishing, as local extinctions are not being matched by arrivals from the "rural mainland" which recedes further as urban sprawl continues. Human pressures, including pollution and trampling, also have their effect. Meanwhile, rural habitats are changing with cultivation and community-building.

Another problem which became apparent in some work I did last year was the high incidence, among the arrivals, of plants which have escaped cultivation. I found, for example, lilac, daffodil, Tartarian honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, and European lily-of-the-valley growing on wooded slopes as if they had been there before the pioneers arrived. Because a given area can hold only a limited number of species, more garden plants mean fewer native species. Also, our native plants have evolved to live with each other, but they are not adapted to compete with introduced species, such as Tartarian honeysuckle, which easily out-complete native plants, thus bringing about more extinctions. It was evident that Highland Creek wooded areas containing several species of garden plants have fewer native species. I found such areas around the upper tributaries where the ravines are very narrow. This suggested to me that perhaps a native community needs a certain amount of space in which to maintain itself. It seemed that a predominantly natural area of about one-half kilometre wide is sufficient for the existence of a good assembly of native plants. Narrower than that, the native plant community becomes impoverished. It is perhaps worth asking what will happen if we allow cultivated plants to dominate urban woodlands. Will we still have woodlands? Will they provide the right habitat to serve as corridors for our native wildlife?

Several avenues are open to us in managing urban parks:

1. We can accept the fact that more native plants will disappear as garden plants take their place. In Scarborough, the Parks Department has helped this process by planting paper-barked maples, Catsura trees, pansies and exotic willows. Birkdale Ravine is being managed as an arboretum containing many exotic species.

2. At some expense, we can gradually weed out plants which have escaped into our woodlands and re-introduce native species.

3. We can try to expand some of our natural areas; for example, in the Malvern area of the Highland Creek watershed trees

could be planted, thus allowing birds and other animals to travel freely into the large parks downstream. This would also mitigate the downstream flooding which has reduced some natural areas in recent years.

4. Mowing could be eliminated in parts of our parks to allow more of our native vegetation to flourish.

5. We could maintain and preserve ravines and hydro rights- of-way as wide natural corridors to rural areas.

Before choosing one of the preceding alternatives, considerable investigation is needed into the question of just what is happening biologically in our parks. The TFN environmental group, while surveying choice natural habitats in Metro Toronto to determine which should be labelled environmentally significant, could be looking also at areas which need rehabilitation to serve as natural corridors. The Malvern area of Highland Creek is one example. Are these places not also environmentally significant?

Parodying the quotation which opened this article, in 1981, in a Highland Creek ravine, I wrote in my field notes...

> All afternoon the flooded creek tore across the glade. An overfed dog watched a sucker struggle against the current. A family of skunks struggled for higher ground. The hawthorn bushes around the clearing stretched out their shadows and turned the light brown of the creek to chocolate-brown. Beneath the tangled branches of Tartarian honeysuckle, salty slush was melting rapidly.

Steve Taylor

References:

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COTTAGERS' GROUP STALLS HIGHWAY 89

The Eastbourne Community Association spearheaded the sucessful citizens' opposition to the proposed Highway 89 extension across the last remaining section of natural Holland Marsh. The Association, located north of Keswick, represented 16 other resident and ratepayer groups in the south Lake Simcoe area at the month-long Environmental Assessment Board hearings held at Bradford. Concerned about the declining water quality of the Lake, the Eastbourne group pointed out the significant role the Marsh plays in reducing the phosphorous loadings in Cook Bay. In a decision handed down in September, the Board found that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications had not justified its crossing of the Marsh and therefore should do a full environmental assessment on that and two other areas along the 32-mile route. MTC was permitted to acquire land along the rest of the route. The Hearing has cost the Eastbourne group about $8,000 in legal fees. Your financial support of their worthwhile cause would be most appreciated. Donations should be made out to the "Eastbourne Community Assoc. In Trust - Highway 89" and sent to 68 Crescent Road, Toronto, Ont., M4W 1T5.

Paul Scrivener

Ed. Note. Because the route of the proposed highway passes within two miles of our own Jim Baillie Nature Reserve, Mary Smith spoke at the hearing on behalf of TFN. As well as expressing our concern -- that such a highway could affect the peace and quiet of our nature reserve -- she questioned the need for the highway, the effect it could have on the quality of the water in Lake Simcoe, the farmland, the Holland Marsh, and on the heritage trees and woodlots in the area. Judging by the warm response of the citizens present at the hearing to Mary's presentation, the educational aspect of an environmental hearing cannot be overestimated. The Eastbourne Community Association rendered a service to the entire community by requesting this hearing.

H.J.

THE JAMES L. BAILLIE MEMORIAL FUND

FOR BIRD RESEARCH AND PRESERVATION

GRANTS AVAILABLE to support projects on Ontario birds in 1982. Applications are due by December 31, 1981, and should be submitted on forms obtainable from:

The Secretary, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund,
c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0.

OUR VANISHING FLORA

Our enjoyment of nature will probably always involve its destruction to some extent. In some cases and in some areas, the destruction may not be serious, but in others there is clearly a need for more education and even some control. For many years now I have been gathering information on abuse and mismanagement of Ontario's native flora, a subject on which relatively little has been written. It is hoped that this article will alert naturalists and biologists to the need for protection of Ontario's native plants. I'll give you some examples of exploitation.

Gathering of club-mosses, yew and other evergreens for Christmas decorations

As long ago as 1968 florists' suppliers were paying 8¢ a pound for club-mosses. Buying-depots and timetables were posted, and pickers were supplied with bags, tags and string for packing. A good picker could collect 150 pounds in seven hours. One North Bay "lyco" picker earned $18,000 in 1967 (Toronto *Globe and Mail*, April 19, 1968, advertising posters). On the west coast of the United States, attempts have been made to cultivate club-mosses and ferns and harvest them on a sustained-yield basis, but in Ontario harvesters do not appear to be concerned enough to take such measures.

Picking wildflowers

Trilliums have disappeared in some parts of Kent and Essex Counties in south-western Ontario, after having been picked for several consecutive springs. Several years ago, in the then new campgrounds in Pinery Provincial Park, I saw more scarlet paintbrush in glasses of water and in beer bottles on picnic tables than I did in the adjacent meadows. Had some of the meadows not been fenced and signs erected, Pinery Park might have lost this attractive wild-flower altogether. Picking of wildflower bouquets is a luxury. Some people think they have a right to enjoy gathering wildflowers but they may be picking themselves out of enjoyment! Bouquet gathering should be restricted to weedy plants such as dandelions and the showy plants we cultivate purposely for their aesthetic appeal.

Digging up plants for wildflower gardens

For many years garden suppliers have been paying residents of Bruce County to dig up local orchids and ferns. I have one letter on file from a Toronto-based bulb specialist to a Bruce resident requesting two hundred showy lady's slipper orchids and a "fairly large quantity" of hart's-tongue fern for an American customer. (This fern is protected from exploitation in New York State, so suppliers there are forced to obtain their plants from Ontario.) The letter goes on to say "I think we could pay enough to make it worthwhile". When naturalists challenge people digging up orchids, it is usually to no avail; they are told the plants are not protected or that they are not on private property. On several occasions I re-visited colonies of orchids only to find hundreds of holes in the ground. A survey of ten nurseries listing wild plants for sale revealed that, of the ten, six obtained all their material directly from the wild, rather than growing the plants from seed or

propagating their own stock. The other four declined to comment. Some garden suppliers claim they gather material only from in front of bulldozers or from areas scheduled for development; they claim to be "rescuing" the wildflowers. Other nurseries claim they propagate their own material, but growing lady's slippers from seed, for example, takes several years, making the collection of such plants from the wild a far more attractive proposition. One book on plant-propagation recommends taking plants from the wild, propagating them, and then returning them to the wild. I am skeptical of this idea; there could be an alarming number of failures with a deleterious overall effect.

Specialty collecting

Even wild plants with bizarre characteristics are susceptible to exploitation; for example, I know of one incident where 50 pitcher plants were removed from a small bog near Toronto where the species is rare. This was the entire population and the bog had to be restocked with plants from Muskoka where the species is more abundant. Experts on carnivorous plant growing have noted several instances of wild plants being locally wiped out as a result of wholesale raiding by commercial suppliers. *(Carnivorous Plant Newsletter*, 1976). People interested in growing such plants are advised to obtain their material from growers who propagate their own plants.

Harvesting wild plants for food

In recent years the nature and outdoor sections of bookstores have become saturated with books about edible wild plants, with recipes. One naturalist reported that he had seen two people gather three bushels (all) the watercress from a stream in the Boyd Conservation Area near Toronto. I wonder what effect this had on the stream's ecology? A few years ago I saw one of the most impressive carpets of spring beauty vanish in a few days because the potato-like corms, called "fairy spuds", were collected for food. The area has not yet recovered. Some woodlands in southern Ontario conservation areas have been ravaged for their yield of wild leeks and fiddleheads. It is a real eye-opener to see a spring woodland before and after a weekend harvest. Numerous aggressive plants(weeds) are edible and can be collected along roadsides and from vacant lots and fields without risk of depleting their populations, but the edible species among those listed on pages 29 to 30 are not aggressive and can be seriously depleted through collecting.

Tidying-up of wild areas

How often we have seen a wild corner of a city park reduced year after year by various make-work and clean-up projects. All bushes are moved to "tidy" the area and then it is mowed, sprayed, and sown with lawn-seed. Although in many cases natural vegetation would be more suitable, we find ourselves surrounded by boring, expensively maintained lawns. Often the reason given for destroying natural vegetation is the control of poison ivy and mosquitoes, which are part of the natural scene and not problems if one takes precautions. The time and money spent trying to control them have often resulted in damage to the natural vegetation and the environment in general. A swamp is drained for mosquito control and thus rare orchids are destroyed. Vast areas of lupine and other wildflowers in High Park were destroyed when herbicides were

used in an attempt to control poison ivy. (Often spraying poison ivy provides it with an opportunity to spread because its competitors are even more susceptible to the effects of the spray.)

Inappropriate plantings

In parts of the United States, in the British Isles and in Europe, native vegetation is encouraged along roadsides, and rights-of-way for railways and power lines, creating marvellous wildflower displays. In Ontario we are still spraying these areas with fertilized mixtures of seeds of introduced grasses; thus a non-native vegetation develops quickly. In many cases natural re-vegetation would be just as fast and definitely more interesting. In reclaiming disturbed lands, such as mining sites, contaminated industrial sites and even gravel and sand pits, we could make use of more native vegetation. (This does not mean planting pine trees where there is an important dune flora, thereby destroying it!).

Careless and inappropriate use of herbicides

Roadside spraying to control tree-growth destroys much of our native roadside flora, although shrub-management (Phillips and Euler, 1975) is being used in a few cases. Another method of controlling tree-growth along roadsides is the use of fire. This is a natural phenomenon and sometimes stimulates a great diversity of native plant species.

Overuse and inappropriate use of sensitive areas

Even in parks established to protect native flora and fauna, large groups of non-consumptive users such as naturalists, photographers, campers and biologists can destroy native vegetation by trampling, denuding areas and compacting soils. These practices lead to erosion and/or replacement of the normal vegetation with coarse rosette-forming plants, many of which are non-native species (for example, common plantain).

A possible solution

I have touched only briefly on the various aspects of exploitation and mismanagement of our native plants. Without the necessity of further examples and analysis, it is apparent that legislation is needed for their protection. The Ontario Endangered Species Act (RSO 1971) is designed to protect species on the verge of extinction or in jeopardy in a particular location. The Act is not concerned with species in danger of being depleted through various forms of exploitation; this would require a Wildflower Protection Act. In Michigan, legislation known as the Christmas Tree Law (Act 182, Public Acts of 1962) provides protection for various plants from local exploitation; it protects about eighty herbaceous plants as well as certain trees, shrubs and vines. In New York State, about 113 plants are protected by State Law (Zander, 1976). These include showy species as well as medicinal and insectivorous plants. Other states have similar laws.

In 1970, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists prepared a memorandum on wildflower protection legislation for the Province of Ontario. All the federated clubs and the Ontario Horticultural Association supported the ideas expressed.

The memorandum included general remarks on examples of similar legislation elsewhere, proof exhibits, and a list of about ninety species which should be protected. The memorandum (from the Wildflower Committee addressed to the Executive Director of the FON) suggested the following clauses for the Ontario legislation:-

1. Anyone who, on public land without authorization or on private land without permission from the owner, cuts down, girdles or otherwise destroys or injures a fruit, shade, ornamental or native forest tree; or takes, picks, plucks, severs, carries away, removes or injures in any manner any plant listed in the accompanying schedule...shall be guilty of an offence under this act.

2. Any person, form or corporation who knowingly buys, sells, offers, or exposes for sale any plant(s) listed in the accompanying schedule, or any part thereof, pulled up or gathered from any public land, or from private land without written consent, is guilty of a misdemeanour. (Public lands should include parks (national, provincial and municipal), Conservation Authority lands, nature reserves and sanctuaries, government nurseries and road verges.)

These ideas are still valid. A Wildflower Protection Act would give increased credibility to public education aimed at plant-protection (imposing no great burden on law-enforcement officers, since a courteous reminder of the law, and the reason for it, is sufficient in most cases; only occasionally, flagrant violations would have be to handled). Such an Act would increase public understanding and voluntary co-operation by focusing attention on the need for protection, thus fostering in Ontario a new attitude toward the value of native vegetation.

Paul Catling

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EXPLOITED AND DEPLETED WILD PLANTS OF ONTARIO, IN NEED OF PROTECTION
(modified version of FON Wildflower Committee list, ca. 1960)

Ground Pine	*Lycopodium obscurum*
Ground Cedar	*Lycopodium complanatum*
Maidenhair Fern	*Adiantum pedatum*
Green Spleenwort	*Asplenium viride*
Wall Rue	*Asplenium ruta-muraria*
Maidenhair Spleenwort	*Asplenium trichomanes*
Ebony Spleenwort	*Asplenium platyneuron*
Walking Fern	*Camptosorus rhizophyllus*
Hart's-tongue Fern	*Phyllitis scolopendrium*
Glade Fern	*Athyrium pycnocarpon*
Male Fern	*Dryopteris felix-mas*
Christmas Fern	*Polystichum acrostichoides*
Holly Fern	*Polystichum lonchitis*
Braun's Holly Fern	*Polystichum braunii*
Wood-lily	*Lilium philadelphicum*
Canada-lily	*Lilium canadense*
Turk's-cap Lily	*Lilium superbum*
Yellow Trout-lily	*Erythronium americanum*
White Trout-lily	*Erythronium albidum*
Perfoliate Bellwort	*Uvularia perfoliata*
Large-flowered Bellwort	*Uvularia grandiflora*
Sessile Bellwort	*Uvularia sessifolia*
Wild-hyacinth	*Camassia scilloides*
White Trillium	*Trillium grandiflorum*
Wake-robin	*Trillium erectum*
Nodding Trillium	*Trillium cernuum*
Painted Trillium	*Trillium undulatum*
Indian Cucumber-root	*Medeola virginiana*
Dwarf Lake Iris	*Iris lacustris*
Moccasin-flower	*Cypripedium acaule*
Yellow Lady's-slipper	*Cypripedium calceolus*
Small White Lady's-slipper	*Cypripedium candidum*
Queen Lady's-slipper	*Cypripedium reginae*
Ram's-head Lady's-slipper	*Cypripedium arietinum*
Showy Orchis	*Orchis spectabilis*
Round-leaved Orchid	*Orchis rotundifolia*
Round-leaved Orchid	*Habenaria orbiculata*
White-fringed Orchid	*Habenaria blephariglottis*
Prairie Fringed Orchid	*Habenaria leucophaea*
Purple Fringed Orchid	*Habenaria psycodes*
Downy Rattlesnake Plantain	*Goodyera pubescens*
Creeping Rattlesnake Plantain	*Goodyera repens*
Tesselated Rattlesnake Plantain	*Goodyera tesselata*
Menzies' Rattlesnake Plantain	*Goodyera oblongifolia*
Calypso	*Calypso bulbosa*
Lotus	*Nelumbo lutea*
Spring Beauty	*Claytonia caroliniana*
Spring Beauty	*Claytonia virginica*
Black Cohosh	*Cimicifuga racemosa*
Wild Columbine	*Aquilegia canadensis*
Thimbleweed	*Anemone cylindrica*
Virginia Thimbleweed	*Anemone virginiana*
Riverbank Thimbleweed	*Anemone riparia*
Small-flowered Anemone	*Anemone parviflora*
Anemone	*Anemone multifida*
Canada Anemone	*Anemone canadensis*
Wood Anemone	*Anemone quinquefolia*
Acute-lobed Hepatica	*Hepatica acutiloba*
Blunt-lobed Hepatica	*Hepatica americana*
Purple Virgin's-bower	*Clematis verticillaris*
Twinleaf	*Jeffersonia diphylla*
Wood-poppy	*Stylophorum diphyllum*
Pitcher Plant	*Sarracenia purpurea*
Round-leaved Sundew	*Drosera rotundifolia*
English Sundew	*Drosera anglica*
Spatulate-leaved Sundew	*Drosera intermedia*
Linear-leaved Sundew	*Drosera linearis*
Wild Lupine	*Lupinus perennis*
Wild Geranium	*Geranium maculatum*
Fringed Polygala	*Polygala paucifolia*
Winterberry	*Ilex verticillata*
Mountain Holly	*Nemopanthus mucronata*
Climbing Bittersweet	*Celastrus scandens*
Bird-foot Violet	*Viola pedata*
Prickly Pear Cactus	*Opuntia compressa*
Fragile Prickly Pear	*Opuntia fragilis*
Leatherwood	*Dirca palustris*
Soapberry	*Shepherdia canadensis*
Flowering Dogwood	*Cornus florida*
Indian Pipe	*Monotropa uniflora*
Pipsissewa	*Chimaphila umbellata*
Spotted Wintergreen	*Chimaphila maculata*
Trailing Arbutus	*Epigaea repens*
Bird's-eye Primrose	*Primula mistassinica*
Stiff Gentian	*Gentiana quinquefolia*
Fringed Gentian	*Gentiana crinita*
Small Fringed Gentian	*Gentiana procera*

Downy Gentian	*Gentiana puberula*
Bottle Gentian	*Gentiana andrewsii*
Soapwort Gentian	*Gentiana saponaria*
Narrow-leaved Gentian	*Gentiana linearis*
Gentian	*Gentiana rubicaulis*
American Columbo	*Swertia carolinienesis*
Virginia Bluebell	*Mertensia virginica*
Scarlet Beebalm	*Monarda didyma*
Foxglove Beard-tongue	*Penstemon digitalis*
Beard-tongue	*Penstemon gracilis*
Hairy Beard-tongue	*Penstemon hirsutus*
Indian Paint-brush	*Castilleja coccinea*
Butterwort	*Pinguicula vulgaris*
Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Hobble-bush	*Viburnum alnifolium*
High-bush Cranberry	*Viburnum opulus*
Fly-Honeysuckle	*Lonicera canadensis*
Wild Honeysuckle	*Lonicera dioica*
Hairy Honeysuckle	*Lonicera hirsuta*
Cardinal Flower	*Lobelia cardinalis*
Great Lobelia	*Lobelia syphilitica*
Kalm's Lobelia	*Lobelia kalmii*
Pale-spike Lobelia	*Lobelia spicata*
Blazing Star	*Liatris spicata*

Keeping in touch . . .

Willowdale, September 8, 1981

...I see by the recent issue of the Toronto Field Naturalists newsletter that there is in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library a *display featuring the origins of ornithology in Canada.

Some readers may not know that in Robert Gourlay's Statistical Account of Upper Canada, 1822, Vol. I, there is a series of sketches relating to Upper Canada. Sketches XI to XVI deal with flora and fauna. Sketch XIV notes the existence of a "hangbird" (shrike?) and a "groundbird". These sketches have been attributed to Barnabas Bidwell who was unable to find a publisher for them. Robert Gourlay, the well-known reformer who was banished in 1819 by the Family Compact, included them in order to provide a fuller picture of the new country to prospective immigrants. As his Statistical Account of Upper Canada is rare, these sketches are not readily available. If anyone is sufficiently interested, I could zerox the relevant pages from my copy, for library purposes.

A full account of Gourlay's life is available in my biography entitled Robert Gourlay, Gadfly/Forerunner of the Rebellion in Upper Canada 1837.

Lois Darroch

*Ed Note...See TFN (341) 16, S81. The display was mounted in March and April, 1981. Much of the material, however, will be found in the collection at the Fisher Rare Book Library.

If you see gentian,
Seize it immediately -
Within your spirit.

- haiku by Diana Banville

Everyone is invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Bird Group at its new location -- 155 College Street.
At the November 25th meeting, Mr. Martin Parker will present an illustrated talk on gull identification and winter bird-watching on the Niagara Peninsula.
The talk will address the subtle distinguishing features of the regularly-seen Herring, Ring-billed, Bonapartes, Glaucous and Great Black-backed gulls, as well as those of such winter "goodies" as Thayer's, Little, Franklins, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed gulls. This group of birds is often confusing to the advanced birders as well as the beginners, so there should be something for all of us.

Chip Weseloh

The Ontario Bird List Grows ... and grows ... and grows ...

1886 ... 296 species	1951 ... 351 species	1969 ... 382 species
1894 ... 317 species	1957 ... 355 species	1976 ... 395 species
1919 ... 325 species	1964 ... 374 species	1979 ... 402 species

B.P.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

At the Environmental Group meeting on September 25, Pat McCaw and Gail Gray of Save the Rouge Valley System presented an excellent slide show they have developed to illustrate the natural values and development pressures of the Rouge Valley.

This led to a discussion of current issues in the Rouge. We also saw a copy of a report entitled "Environmental Appraisal of the Lower Rouge Valley", September 1981, put out by the Metro Toronto Planning Department, and largely the work of their environmental planner, Ed Mickiewicz.

We were encouraged to see such a thorough report which recognised the values of the area in its recommendations for protection and management.

Suzanne Barrett

people

EVERETT AND BARBARA JAQUITH

Dr. and Mrs. Jaquith were active in various capacities in the TFN and FON for many years prior to moving to Terra Cotta.

Dr. Everett Jaquith was vice-president and director of TFN and assisted at many field trips. For several years he was chairman of a joint committee of the Royal Canadian Institute and TFN which invited Audubon to present their programs in Toronto.

Mrs. Barbara Jaquith was secretary-treasurer of TFN in the late 30's and for many years arranged the pre-meeting exhibitions of members' hobbies--nature photographs, paintings, collections, etc., in the Rotunda of the Museum Theatre when the monthly meetings were held there. She was actively involved with the Junior TFNC for many years, and served as chairman of the FON Summer Nature School for about ten years. On April 11, 1970, Mrs. Jaquith was elected an honorary member of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

Dr. and Mrs. Jaquith are now living at Terra Cotta where they continue to participate in community affairs and to enjoy the world around them.

Florence Preston

An Atlas of the Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians of the Toronto Region

Since the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario is now well underway this seems to be an appropriate time to start a similar project for mammals, reptiles and amphibians in the Toronto Region. The survey will identify the distribution of these animals in our area; the Toronto Region is a circular area with a radius of 30 miles centered at the Royal Ontario Museum. The actual boundaries used in the survey will be the political boundaries of the Counties and Regional Municipalities of Halton, Peel, York, and Durham. All that is required is for a species to be reported once in the 10-kilometer squares which are being used by the Breeding Bird Atlas project (a report need only include the species name, date, location and the name of the observer -- additional information such as numbers seen, additional locations and notes on past occurrences will also be useful). It is expected that the survey will take two or three years to complete. Distributional maps for each species will be prepared as reports are received. A written account should accompany a report of any unusual species (viewer discretion is advised in determining if a species is unusual).

A similar project dealing with the reptiles and amphibians of Grey and Bruce Counties has been undertaken by the Saugeen Field Naturalists (see In Exchange on page 18).

If you would like to contribute to this project please send any reports of any mammals, reptiles or amphibians in Halton, Peel, York, Metro or Durham to Bruce D. Parker, TH 66, 109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills, Ont., M3A 2R8.

COMING EVENTS

Civic Garden Centre

The following activities will take place at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie Street. Further information may be obtained from the Centre, 445-1552.

Exhibition of Wildflower photographs by Burakhurd Novak, November 11 to December 13.

"Beginning with Bonsai"--Monday, November 9, 8.00 p.m.

Greenhouse Night--Wednesday, November 25, 8.00 p.m.

Royal Ontario Museum

"Aquatic Animals in Temporary Pools: Some Remarkable Evolutionary Adjustments"--Dr. Glenn Wiggins, Curator of Entomology Department, ROM--Thursday, November 5, 7.30 p.m. McLaughlin Planetarium.

"Native Revitalization on Manitoulin Island"--Dr. Rosamond Vanderburgh, Department of Anthropology, Erindale College--Thursday, November 19, 4.30 p.m. McLaughlin Planetarium. For further information call 978-5442.

Royal Canadian Institute

Sat. Oct. 31 The Use of Solar Energy in Canada
8.15 p.m. --Professor F. Hooper, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, and Chairman of Division of Engineering Science, U. of T.
Location: Convocation Hall, U. of T.

Sat. Nov. 7 The Changing Face of the Canadian Arctic
8.15 p.m. --Mr. Paul Follett, Head of History Department, Port Credit Secondary School, Mississauga.
Location: Medical Sciences Auditorium, U. of T.

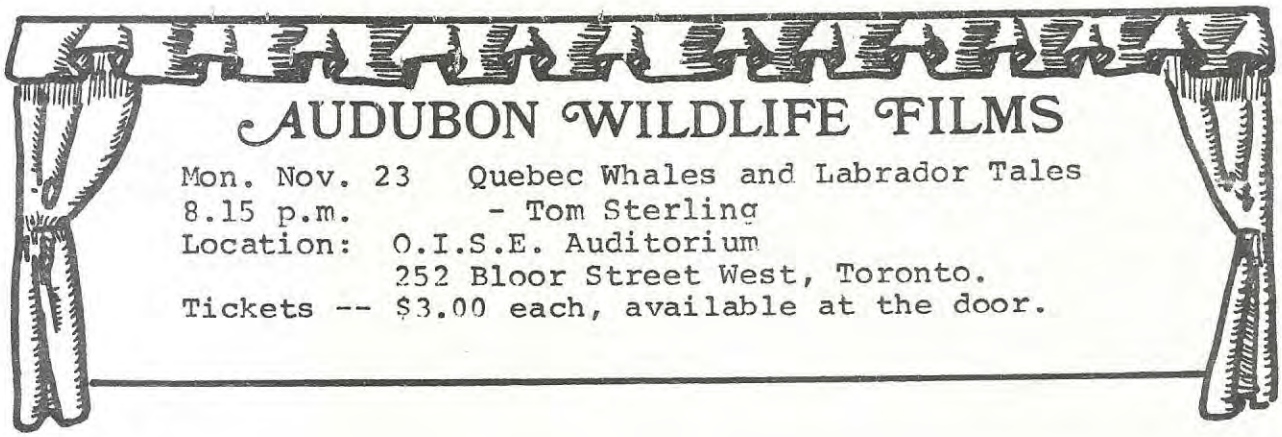
Sat. Nov. 14 Canadian Experiences in Papua, New Guinea
8.15 p.m. --Dr. Dominick Amato, Assistant Professor of Medicine, U. of T., assisted by Ms. Joan Hodges.
Location: Convocation Hall, U. of T.

Sat. Nov. 21 The Face
8.15 p.m. --Dr. Jack G. Dale, President, Canadian Association of Orthodontists and President of Tweed International Foundation for Orthodontic Research.
Location: Convocation Hall, U. of T.

Sat. Nov. 28 Social Impacts of Information Technology
8.15 p.m. --Mr. C. C. Gotlieb, Professor of Computer Science, U. of T.
Location: Convocation Hall, U. of T.

Water Birds of Niagara Falls

A bus trip to observe water birds in the Niagara Falls area is planned for Wednesday, November 11, leaving Edwards Gardens parking lot at 8.00 a.m., arriving back approximately 4.30 p.m. Take your own food and drink.
Cost $16.00.
Reservations--Clive Goodwin, 11 Westbank Cres., Toronto. M9P 1S4



KORTRIGHT WILDLIFE CENTRE

Bird feeder workshops will be held at Kortright Wildlife Centre October 25 and November 1. The sessions will include talks on placement of feeders, slide shows, recipes, walks along bird feeder trails, and building your own bird feeder.
Each Sunday between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m., nature walks are conducted at the Centre.
The Kortright Centre is located on Pine Valley Drive, just south of Major Mackenzie Drive, west of Highway 400. For further information about the Centre, call 661-6600.

MORE ABOUT GULL AND PIGEON DETERRENTS...

The Town Crier (Crescent Town), Aug.31/81 issue, ran an article by Malcolm Kelly about measures used in the apartment-complex to deter birds from lighting on balconies (and messing them up)... Wire strung across (about four inches above the ledge) is recommended, the same remedy as discussed in Mildred Easto's item on page 10 of the TFN October issue. Another remedy mentioned seems to me about as messy as the gulls or pigeons! It's a viscous product smeared on the top of the railing which the birds do not like (who would?) If you use that one, remember not to lean on your railing! With the wire, it might be a little awkward, but still possible.

D.B.

coalition on the niagara escarpment

355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8
Phone (416) 444-8419

A large condominium development known as "Epping Commons" has been proposed in one of the most beautiful and unspoilt areas of the Beaver Valley. Those interested in helping to defray legal expenses to oppose this development, may send their donations to the above address, payable to CONE.

TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS WELCOME

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Monday, November 2, 1981, 8.15 p.m.
Ogoki-Albany Wilderness - slide presentation with music.
- Ron Reid, Staff Environmentalist, FON;
  Janet Grand, National Program Director, National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada.

Ogoki-Albany is a proposed new wilderness park near Lake Nipigon in northwestern Ontario. Its beauty is threatened by logging, but conservation groups are determined to see it preserved in its natural state.
Both speakers are dedicated environmentalists, especially interested in wilderness parks. They visited this area in the summer of 1980, and the slide presentation is the result.

Monday, December 7, 1981, 8.15 p.m.
My Life as a Naturalist - Robert Bateman
This program is in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Junior Club.

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GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group
Wed. Nov. 25 Gull Identification and Winter Bird Watching on
8.00 p.m. the Niagara Peninsula - Mr. Martin Parker
Location: Education Centre, Auditorium, 155 College Street, 1 block west of University Avenue.

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Botany Group
Thur.Nov. 19 Wetlands of the Hudson Bay Lowlands
8.00 p.m. - Mr. Arthur Boissoneau, Centre for Remote Sensing of Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario
Location: Hodgson Public School
Davisville Avenue, just east of Mt. Pleasant Road.

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Environmental Group
Thur.Nov. 26 Kirsten Burling and Paul McConnell will show slides
7.30 p.m. and discuss the site they have been studying on Etobicoke Creek.
If you have slides or information about any part of Etobicoke Creek, come and share them at the meeting.
Location: Huron Street Public School, 541 Huron St., 1 block west of St. George subway station.

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Junior Club
Sat. Nov. 7 Crystallography
10.00 a.m. - Dr. D. H. Gorman, Department of Mineralogy, ROM
Location: Planetarium Auditorium (immediately south of Royal Ontario Museum)

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