TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 346, March, 1982

Pretend it's summer.

See page 6.

President's Report

Since 1978 when our present membership fees were established, inflation has affected TFN very little, but the new Post Office rates which began January 1 have changed our situation drastically. Now more than $4.00 of each membership goes directly to the Post Office.

Members of the Board of Directors and the Editorial Committee have calculated and re-calculated ways to eliminate the necessity of a fee increase; however, in doing so we came to realize how much every aspect of TFN is dependent on the Post Office.

Because the newsletter printing and mailing is the single most expensive item, we considered reducing the size of the newsletter and/or reducing the number of issues per year. The difference was very little, and without our newsletter which is produced entirely by volunteers, communication with members would be impossible. Also, one of our aims is to educate our members as well as others about natural history which would be difficult without a publication in which to disseminate our ideas.

Next we looked at all our other programs; for example, our monthly meetings at OISE for which we pay rent to OISE and a small honorarium to each of the speakers. Recently the rental fees have been increased, but are the same as anywhere else we have looked. Perhaps some member knows of free space somewhere which would be as convenient as OISE and hold about the same number of people (300 to 500)? The rest of our meetings cost us nothing. Our special interest groups and the Board of Directors are able to meet without cost in schools and in the Education Centre Building. Junior meetings are free at the Planetarium.

We pay one honorarium -- to our membership secretary -- but this is a token payment and if it were not for the extreme dedication of Ida Hanson to the conservation movement, TFN would have a very real expense to deal with.

We can do nothing about the cost of insurance on the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve and personal injury insurance in connection with our activities, and rates have risen again, of course.

Office expenses which include our telephone (recently increased), the cost of processing our memberships (mailing cards out etc.), and the cost of mailing out our publications and information about TFN have been greatly affected by the mail increase.

Other expenses include miscellaneous printing of forms etc., copying and mailing correspondence among directors and leaders and educational correspondence on issues. Also, although we are given free space for displays at libraries, the Flower Show, conferences, etc. and we receive a great amount of free publicity from John Bradshaw and CFRB, our display unit and promotion of our programs involve some expense. And again, because one of the objects of the corporation is "to stimulate public interest in and understanding of nature and in its protection and preservation", these are essential expenses.

The Audubon Wildlife Film series has generally made money for TFN. This money is usually needed to offset expenses involved in printing and mailing "The Ontario Field Biologist", our natural history journal.

TFN also pays affiliation fees or gives donations to the Canadian Nature Federation, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Long Point Bird Observatory, CONE, and the Royal Canadian Institute, but this is flexible depending on how much TFN has received in donations or made from the Audubon Films.

Taxes and maintenance costs on the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve are paid out of the interest in an endowment fund set up for that purpose.

Following are the figures used to calculate the Board of Directors' recommendation for a fee increase.

Estimated Expenses 1982-83 Year

	Total Expense	Expense per Member (3)
Newsletter-printing, mailing & postage (1)	13106.	10.92
Meetings (2)	1707.	1.42
Honoraria	1200.	1.00
Insurance (2)	800.	.67
Office (2)	730.	.61
Other (2)	1220.	1.01
	18763.	15.63

Notes.

(1) Using 45 cents for postage and assuming no further postal increase. Assumed 15% increase for printing and mailing, which may be low.

(2) Assumed 15% increase, which may be low.

(3) Based on average of 1200 memberships.

Recommended fees for 1982-83:

Student: $10 Senior Single: $10 Senior Family: $15 Single: $15

Family: $20

Please attend the March 1 meeting and vote your approval.

And last but not least, we do hope you will all renew your memberships by June 30. For the price of less than one theatre ticket you receive eight newsletters and opportunities to attend nine meetings at OISE, six Bird Group meetings, six Botany Group meetings, six Environmental Group meetings, and 150 outings throughout the year at no further cost (except for bus outings).

Even if you don't attend any of the activities or ever read your newsletter (though I hope you are reading this), your membership in TFN adds your name to a list of people who believe that preservation of our natural heritage is absolutely essential -- that a green Toronto is a great Toronto!

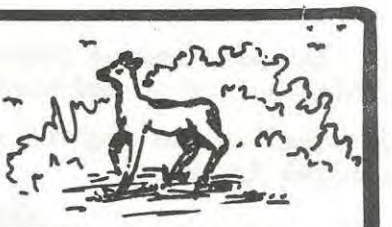
Helen Juhola 924-5806
112-51 Alexander St.,
Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1B3

Come to the General Meeting on March 1 at 7.30 and enjoy a cup of coffee with fellow-members of TFN.

Killdeer in winter?
Or perhaps...
A clever starling.

haiku by Jean Macdonald

Upcoming TFN OUTINGS



RAIN or SHINE | **Everybody Welcome!**

March 1 — TFN General Meeting (see page 35)

March 6 — Juniors' meeting (see page 35)

Saturday March 6, 9.00 a.m — LAMBTON WOODS - Birds
Leader: Helen Smith
Meet in the parking lot of James Gardens on Edenbridge Drive. (Royal York #73 bus to Edenbridge and walk east 0.4 mile).

Sunday March 7, 2.00 p.m — HIGH PARK - Nature Walk
Leader : Roger Powley
Meet at the main entrance of Keele subway station. Members of the Native Canadian communities - Indians and Inuit - are being specially invited to this outing.

March 8 to 13 — Time to reserve your place on the bus (has washroom) for the SWANS outing on March 20th, by phoning Emily Hamilton at 484.0487. Confirm by sending your cheque for $16.00 payable to "Toronto Field Naturalists Swans" to Miss Emily Hamilton, Apt.407, 3110 Yonge St. Toronto M4N 2K6. Cheques must be received by March 18.

Wednesday March 10, 10.00 a.m — NORTH YORK GREENHOUSES
Leader: Eileen Chopping
Meet inside the north door of North York City Hall. (Yonge subway to Sheppard station. Walk 4 blocks north.)

Saturday March 13, 10.00 a.m — ALLAN GARDENS - Art Group, sketching
Leader: Mary Cumming
Meet at the Greenhouses off Carlton Street, between Jarvis and Sherbourne streets. (506 Carlton car). Bring a stool if you have one.

Saturday March 13, 9.00 a.m — HUMBER BAY PARK - Birds
Leader: Bob Yukich
Meet in the parking lot in the east half of the park. (#507 Long Branch car from Humber Loop to Park Lawn Road. Walk into the parking lot on the east side of Mimico Creek). Cars. Drive in from the foot of Park Lawn Road at Lakeshore Blvd.

Sunday March 14, 2.00 p.m — EARL BALES PARK - Birds
Leader: Joan Foote
Meet at the Park Recreation Centre.(#84 West bus from Sheppard subway station to Bathurst st, then walk south to entrance.) Cars enter off Bathurst Street, and bear left to parking lot.

OUTINGS - continued

March 16 Audubon Wildlife Film (see page 33)

March 18 Botany Group meeting (see page 35)

- Mid March to early May. GRIMSBY - Hawk Migration
  Go on your own. The "Grimsby Hawk Watch" is a co-operative effort of groups from Hamilton, Toronto and Buffalo and is held at the main parking lot of the Beamer Point Conservation Area. For more details see TFN issue #338, March 1981, page 25.

Saturday March 20 8.00 a.m
AYLMER and LONG POINT - Whistling Swans and Waterfowl.
Leaders: Eric and Ruth Lewis
BUS OUTING. You must have reserved a place on the bus between March 8 and 13. See these dates for details. Bus will leave from York Mills subway station at 8 a.m. north end, and will arrive back about 6 p.m. Bring lunch and a snack as we will not be stopping where there are restaurants.

Sunday March 21 2.00 p.m
MARIE CURTIS PARK - Waterfowl
Leader: Beth Jefferson
Meet on the east side of Etobicoke Creek, south side of Lakeshore Blvd. (#507 car from Humber Loop).

Wednesday March 24 10.00 a.m
INNING - 625 Rushton Road - MOSSES
Leader: Mr.Robert Muma
This inning is the kind invitation of Mr.Muma at his home. See "Ontario Naturalist" Winter 1979 for description of Mr.Muma's collection of mosses. (Vaughan Road bus to Arlington Ave. then walk north to Rushton Road.)

March 24 Bird Group meeting (see page 35)

March 25 Environmental Group meeting (see page 35)

Saturday March 27 9.00 a.m
LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds
Leader: Howard Battae
Meet at the foot of Leslie Street.

Sunday March 28 2.00 p.m
PROSPECT CEMETERY - Trees
Leader: Mary Smith
Meet at the gates on the north side of St.Clair Av.West just west of Lansdowne Avenue.

Sunday April 4 2.00 p.m
BELT LINE RAVINE - Nature Walk
Leader : Jonathan Grant
Meet at the Castle Frank subway station; this is a one-way walk through Moore Park Ravine.

April 5 TFN General meeting (see page 35)

Resting on the ground,
Surely not an oriole -
Only some litter.

haiku by Diana Banville

This Month's Cover

"Sketching at Harbourfront", by Mary Cumming

We thought this a fitting cover for an issue with the theme "Water in an Urban Environment", and though our harbour may be icebound as you read this, it is nice to recall those August days.

In this issue you will see an article by Allan Greenbaum, "On Looking at Toronto's Streams" (page 8) and several shorter articles on the subject of water. Ralph Baere's continuing bibliography of natural areas in the Toronto region deals with the Humber Valley (page 12), and even our "Naturalist's Code of Ethics" is on water quality (page 7). Helen Juhola has prepared the Outings Report for the Wednesday morning lakeshore walks which took place last summer; because of several disturbing observations at the time, she is calling it "Lakeshore Lament" (page 14). We welcome any more thoughts our readers may have on any phase of the subject.

By the way, are you curious about what Martha Wallace and Betty Paul were drawing?...Boats....Hardly a gull flew by all morning!

DB

SPRING AND SUMMER NATURE TRIPS

Several groups and organizations have nature trips and workshops planned for the coming months. Information may be obtained by contacting the organization concerned.

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists -- Symposium on Environmental Monitoring. Alberta Society of Professional Biologists, P.O. Box 566, Edmonton, Alberta. T5J 2K8

Royal Ontario Museum -- An Icelandic Adventure (other trips also available). Royal Ontario Museum, Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto.

Clive and Joy Goodwin -- Birding Trips and Courses. Clive and Joy Goodwin, 11 Westbank Crescent, Weston, M9P 1S4. Telephone 249-9503.

Gus Yaki -- Nature Trips. Nature Travel Service, 6372 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario. L2H 1L6. Telephone 416/356-1089.

Annual meeting and occasional day trips -- Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario. M3B 2W8. Telephone 416/444-8419.

Annual meeting and nature trips -- Canadian Nature Tours -- Canadian Nature Federation, Suite 203, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario. K1P 6G1.

We also have information about trips to interesting and exotic places in the world. If you would like to see our file on this topic, please call 690-1963.

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

The following item is reprinted, with permission, from the 1981 issue of the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority paper.

What You Can Do About Water Pollution...

1. Speak out against water pollution. Join local organizations concerned with fighting pollution. Urge service clubs, labour unions, your local chamber of commerce and other groups to take up the same fight.

2. Do not cause needless pollution yourself. Don't use lakes, streams or sewers to dispose of toxic chemicals like weed-killers and insecticides, fertilizers, oil, paint or other insoluble wastes.

3. Teach your children and encourage neighbors to follow your good example in safely disposing of wastes. Insist that conservation and pollution studies be included in the curriculum of your local schools.

4. If you own or operate a farm, control soil erosion and the run-off of wastes from feed lots and trash-heaps. Arrange for the proper disposal of animal wastes. Avoid the excessive or improper use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.

5. If you own a cottage, make sure it has a well-designed and properly installed septic tank. The area over septic-tank tile beds should be grassed and left to the sun and wind so maximum evaporation can take place.

6. If you own or operate a pleasure boat, make sure wastes are retained in a proper holding tank and when taken ashore, see that they are disposed of through proper sanitary methods.

7. If you are a builder or developer, prevent silt and debris from washing off construction sites into lakes or streams. Prompt seeding of graded areas with grass is a natural means of erosion control. Make pollution control a normal part of your operations.

8. If you are a manufacturer or a merchant, make sure your product or its packaging does not contribute to needless pollution. If it does, take action to eliminate this nuisance.

9. Urge and support the enactment of effective laws and by-laws to control water pollutions. Write to your local newspaper and your elected representative about this.

10. Help to enforce anti-pollution laws by reporting violations to ministries, Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

11. Press for the construction of adequate sewage treatment facilities in your community. Be ready to support this with your voice, your ballot and your money.

12. Write to industrial leaders reminding them of their obligations as good citizens. Encourage them to clean up the wastes from their plants and factories. Ask them to improve their products to reduce pollution hazards, such as detergents without phosphates.

13. Wherever you find good water management, whether by public agencies or by private industry, let people know about it. Every effective job shows what can be done, and serves as a spur to others if they hear about it. So make sure they do.

/ ON LOOKING AT TORONTO'S STREAMS /

It occurs to me that the TFN, in its continuing investigation of the remnant (semi) natural areas in our metropolis, has largely neglected one important system of characteristic habitats, namely, the watercourses. True, our studies and reports always make note of the location and size of the watercourse, the vegetation of its banks, the engineering manipulations of its channel, and any obvious signs of pollution, but seldom make more than the most superficial comments (if any) on the aquatic biota. Similarly, how often is watercourse biology the focus of a TFN outing?

I suspect that part of the explanation for this apathy and neglect (of which, I must confess, I am as guilty as anyone) lies in the apparently common impression that the watercourses in Metro, except for parts of the Rouge and Humber systems, have been so abused as to be rendered biological deserts. In fact, the aquatic ecosystems of our ravines, like their terrestrial counterparts, are in some places barren and depauperate, in others surprisingly rich and healthy. We've made a lot of progress in identifying our "environmentally significant/sensitive" terrestrial communities; we've yet to start on the aquatic communities.

I'd like to share three unrelated observations that helped set in motion this train of thought. It is significant that two of the three were made while exploring with groups of children - kids are especially fascinated by aquatic life.

The stretch of the West Don between Finch and Bathurst, flowing as it does by two large summer day camps and the North York Board of Education Outdoor Education Centre, is obviously a valuable educational resource, and is so used. Fortunately, the river is healthy here, and full of life: Water striders and whirligig beetles move on the surface; minnows and diving beetles dart through the water column; water-boatmen and green waterbugs cruise about; tiny leeches, nematodes, and fly- and beetle-larvae are food for the dragonfly nymphs and the profusion (both in number and kind) of damselfly nymphs, while vast "herds" of several species of snails graze on the filamentous algae "fur" on the backs of stones, on the undersides of which are affixed the snails' gelatinous egg-masses and the delicate, web-like colonies of bryozoans. Yet a day-camp nature instructor's report from the late 1960s indicated that, at the time, this part of the river was too polluted to be of use; instead, they used a small tributary wetland/watercourse in the ravine which is now badly polluted. Some deteriorations have been offset by improvements.

Few of our ravines have been as severely disturbed as that of Cedarvale, with its history of sewer and subway construction. It is early October; the weather has been wet, and a watercress bed near the watercourse has soaked up so much water that the overflow dribbles off across the gravel path. The resulting temporary rivulet - more like a flowing puddle - is perhaps a metre or less across, and one or two centimetres deep. But don't step over it heedlessly, for it, too, is full of life: Little water beetles, tiny worms and, scooting along the bottom, leaving tracks in the sand, dozens of amphipods. The least promising of waters might reward a naturalist's second glance.

Sept. 9, 1981. The East Don reeks of ammonia and is choked with dying white

suckers. Fingerlings 3 cm long, hefty 30 cm adults, and every size in between, are gasping at the surface, swimming on their sides or backs, leaping, running themselves aground. I had not realized that there were so many fish in the river. "Were!" Since storm sewers empty into the rivers, a chemical spill on any street within miles of the valley could have been the cause. The real "Valleyland Impact Zone" extends throughout the Metro region. What other ecological effects did this episode have? Without the baseline data that a series of aquatic biology surveys of our city's watercourses could have provided, we'll never know.

Allan Greenbaum

Ed. Note:

Bryozoans ("moss animals") are illustrated in Golden Guide Pond Life, as well as other animal life in this article.

See also "Toronto Bay - Once and Again" by Tom Whillans, TFN (329) 18-21, F 80;
"Rare Plants of the Lower Rouge River Marshes" by Steve Varga, with cover illustrations, TFN (333) 15-20, 31 S80.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

EXCERPT FROM "THE YORK DOWNS STORY" ... TFN (215) 3-4, N 65

The west branch of the Don rises out of the ground hear the hamlet of Teston, just north-west of Maple, and wanders through the townships of Vaughan and North York. It is now a slow-moving, shallow, polluted stream whose banks, once wooded and green, are gradually being converted to masonry abutments decorated with detergent foam and broken bottles. Before white men settled in this area, the river was wide, deep and rushing. Early records make frequent references to salmon fishing. The river course was strewn with fallen trees and navigation by canoe was hampered by occasional rapids and fast water. In 1788, the Don was shown on a map as the *Nechinquakakonk*. It was named the *Don* after the Don River in Yorkshire.

Wildlife observations in this valley around 1800 would include such items as passenger pigeon, moose, fisher, lynx, pine marten, black bear and wolverine, all of which have long ago vanished from the region. Still occurring, but only occasionally, are beaver, white-tailed deer, otter, brush wolf and porcupine. Species now in the area, not seen before the white men, are starling, rock dove, house sparrow, European hare and pheasant. There is a record of a large flight of passenger pigeons in 1877 which took six hours to pass over a point near Todmorden. As far as we know, 11 pigeons in 1896 is the last record of this extinct bird in the Don watershed.

Gerry Bennett

Keeping in touch...

Dear Mildred:

...I was specially interested in the last TFN magazine for Bill Cattley's trip along the Humber. There is one plant that used to be there that no one seems to have named -- Huron tansy. It was brought to me by a Swansea teacher for identification, so I can't pinpoint its location, but it was below Bloor. Another plant that Roger Powley mentioned - goutweed - I looked up this year after I found what I think is it on one of our prowls. It is shown in two of my books - *Plants from Sea to Sea* by Montgomery and *Flowers of Europe* by Oleg Polunin. In both it is spelled *Aegopodium* instead of "U". Likely a typographical error. I didn't find it by the Humber ...Good luck in 82.

Your friend, Marg
(Margaret McKay)

Dear Marg:

You're so right about the spelling of *Aegopodium* - a slip on our part. We haven't yet found anyone with knowledge of the whereabouts of Huron tansy on the Humber, or elsewhere in Toronto region. Perhaps some of our readers will know. Nice to hear from you.

Editorial Committee

High Wind Ranch, Laredo, Texas

Dear Editor -

When visiting with my in-laws up in your fine city, my wife gave me your excellent little publication and I read where the European lady held forth about hi koo and lo koo. I don't know anything about hi koo as we don't go in much for poetry down here, but I sure know all about lo koo. A professor from our college says it should be low ko. People in the East with their accent make it low koo, but the right word is low ko.

I own 10,000 acres of land where the weed grows. My wife says the college name for it is Oxytropis. After eating this weed, Ma'am, people burst into verses like you have published.

Yours respectfully,
Brett Halstead

P.S. - In my young days we used to have a thing called kitchy koo. Do you have that up there?

London, Ontario

Dear Dida

The TFN came today and I feel that I must just write and tell you how much I like Ruth Tovell's "As for Winter". She has indeed captured the essence of the beauty of winter...

Regards, Joy Pocklington

WHY BOTHER LEARNING THE SCIENTIFIC NAMES?

To most naturalists the binomial nomenclature is just a pain to learn. Those odd-sounding Greek and Latin terms just don't stay with you like the more colourful common names. Bank Swallow is easy to remember, not like Riparia riparia, the scientific designation. There is only one problem with that common name; in English-speaking Europe this bird is commonly known as the Sand Martin. I have noticed quite a few United Kingdom accents among members of TFN and wonder if these people realize that a Sand Martin and a Bank Swallow are exactly the same thing. This is only one example, but if one checks the European field guides one will find many others. The Old Squaw is called the Long-tailed Duck in the UK; our Brant is their Brent; our Common Merganser is their Goosander, and so on. In each of these cases there is only one scientific name which applies. This indicates that scientific nomenclature is not just useless information.

Another reason for learning the taxonomical name is the information which is contained within that designation. The first part of the name is the genus. This can tell you which birds are close relatives. If two birds have the same genetic name, this means they are closely related. For an example, the genus Aythya contains many of our common ducks. The Greater and Lesser Scaups, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, European Pochard, Tufted Duck and Ferruginous Duck are all closely related. The species name usually refers to some specific which separates birds of the same genus. For example, the Canvasback's specific name is valisineria. If you know that a valise is a carrying bag usually made from canvas, you can see the origin of the species name. Most of the scientific names are just as easy to remember as this example. It is only a matter of relating the name to an English word with which you are familiar. I have found that ninety percent of the Latin and Greek names have a counterpart in English. I often don't know what the scientific name means but on looking it up I find there is a similar English word which is new to me. In this way I have increased my vocabulary considerably.

If you find difficulty remembering those taxonomical names, it is only because you don't know what they mean and cannot relate to them. You will be surprised how much easier it is to remember names once you know what they mean. You can often get some additional information about a bird's anatomy or behaviour when it is reflected in the scientific name.

Next time you look up a bird, plant, or insect, in your field guide, take note of the binomial nomenclature and, if you don't understand it, look it up in your dictionary. It is not a question of memorizing, - you may find that you can remember the name without even trying.

Roger Powley

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If you would like to contribute additions or corrections to this list, please call me.

Ralph Baehre
663-2163 (evenings)
667-2526 (days or evenings)

Cat-tail marsh - sunlit, quiet;
Then redwing calls,strident-voiced;
Cat-tail marsh, standing tall,
Roots in water, home to the shy ones.
Muskrat swims silently -
Brown head glistening;
Virginia rail, elusive bird;
Green frog on lily-pad.

Life abounds
Where cat-tails grow.

Joyce Cave

OUTINGS REPORT

Summer Outings - continued from February Issue - WEDNESDAY WALKS

LAKESHORE LAMENT

Last but not least of our summer outings were our Wednesday morning lakeshore natural history walks. They began on July 1 with Beth Jefferson leading 17 of us through drifting mist to the mouth of Etobicoke Creek. Though the creek, which forms the western boundary of Metro Toronto, was named for the alders that grew there in abundance, we did not see any. We even left Metro for a short time to explore the west side of the creek mouth with its sandy beach and fenced-in woodlot containing some very old oaks, pines, beeches, and ground-cover of shinleaf. By lunch-time the sun was shining and we celebrated Canada's 114th birthday and Tom Swale's 17th birthday at a picnic table in Marie Curtis Park while a friendly official from Metro Parks Dept. explained to us that if there had been more of us we would have had to have a permit to eat our lunch together. The day had become so pleasant and the idea of walking the lakeshore so much on our minds that 14 of us continued walking after lunch. Though one can't actually walk along the shore, we explored the streets nearest the water, enjoying the pleasant summer community atmosphere of what was once the town of Port Credit. The shoreline itself was made unapproachable by a combination of high lake-water levels and protective devices such as cement walls, groins, and piles of boulders which were put there to protect the homes along the shore.

On July 8 Bob and Joyce Given led 13 of us through the grounds of the 90-year-old former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital where it was noted that visitors were welcome provided they didn't indulge in golfing, trail biking, drinking, or aberrant behaviour. Although this was one of the hottest days of the summer the stinking smell of dead water weeds kept us away from the water's edge. Nesting barn swallows and a purple martin house with its garret room rented out to house sparrows were birding highlights, while a garden on the northwest corner of 10th Street containing an astounding variety of fruits and flowers, with hardly an inch of sod, impressed us all. Many interesting historic sites in this area, known until 1953 as New Toronto, were pointed out to us by Bob Given. Although 4 of us made it as far as the area known previously as Mimico, only 2 (Bob and Tom) walked as far as the mouth of Mimico Creek. The heat was too much that day.

On July 15 Helen Smith led 15 of us to the landfill park at the mouth of Mimico Creek (Humber Bay Park) where we were all amazed at the variety of plants and birds in spite of the sterile look of the area. Many of us had visited the park in winter to observe waterfowl, but now we would recommend this area as a site to visit in other seasons.

The only "ladies-only" hike we had was the one led by Diana Park on July 22nd when we walked from the mouth of the Humber River to Exhibition Place. Historic sites were again emphasized, but perhaps most startling was the odd collection of animals seen: 2 white plaster horses, 2 stone lions, 1 California sea horse, 2 plastic sea horses, several species of dinosaurs, 1 police horse and some "domesticated wolves". Of course, we also saw thousands of immature gulls (both dead and alive), a Common Tern with bright red plastic tags on its shoulders, hundreds of Canada geese,and an impressive number of plants in flower.

July 29 the royal wedding and foul weather played havoc with our attendance. Tom Swale led 6 of us from the "Ex" to the foot of Bay Street. Wonderful views of Chimney Swifts and swallows, some rare introduced wildflowers, plenty of cement and boats tied to their moorings.

Toronto Islands on August 5 saw 18 people led by Emily Hamilton enjoying a wonderful day. Emily told us about the history of the Islands, remarking on the tremendous amount of fill which was used to make the airport where once there was a regatta course. A 2 1/2 foot long melanistic garter snake, two families of 4 young Barn Swallows, and a family of 4 young Cedar Waxwings were highlights.

August 12 Tom Swales again led us. This time there were 17 of us to explore Cherry Beach and a perfect summer day. Although the most difficult area to reach (no public transportation is available), the area was appreciated very much by participants. Among our observations that day were a swimmer (the only one we saw all summer), wind surfers, RCAF manoeuvres, migrating butterflies, hawks and many flowering plants. Beach combers that day found a dead piglet, a US army purse, 4 species of water weeds, a pair of socks, and a tiger's eye ring. This was by far the most popular and well-used area along the whole lakeshore. Cherry Beach has an inexplicable charm.

On August 19 Laura Greer met 17 of us on the boardwalk at the foot of Woodbine Avenue where she told us some of the history of the area and Ashbridge's Bay. One of the items Laura mentioned was that she didn't remember seeing many gulls in earlier years, and the gulls were larger when she was smaller. Well, she was right. According to our October newsletter, ring-billed gulls first nested in the Toronto area in 1962 and they are smaller than the relatively rarer herring gulls which had been the only gulls usually seen in our area during the summer. This outing was memorable in that Isabel Smith, who had been noting every plant in flower on every outing, found a new plant for the Toronto region. It is buffalo-bur (*Solanum rostratum*), an introduced species from western Canada, which she found flowering on a pile of rubble out in the Ashbridge's Bay landfill park.

August 26 found us with George Comper exploring the Chine Drive Ravine area and looking down on Bluffer's Park almost 300 feet below us from the highest point of the 12-mile long Scarborough Bluffs. We particularly admired the large trees remaining in the area and enjoyed hearing Ellie Elder tell her memories of growing up in the area.

September 2 was so misty a morning that only 8 of us found our way to Cudia Park. Albert Morris led us along the edge of the bluffs where we could hear the lake pounding at the foot of the bluffs hundreds of feet below us. Migrating birds, snails, mushrooms, asters, and goldenrods all competed for our attention that day.

The final lakeshore outing was led by Emily Hamilton September 16. That day 23 people visited Guildwood Park where Emily found another new species for the Toronto region: Ox-tongue (*Picris hieracioides*). Praying mantises, monarch butterflies, migrating birds, fungi, and goldenrods gave us much to look at and admire.

To the Indians who inhabited its shoreline before this region became "civilized", Ontario meant "handsome lake". Thus when we started our exploration this past summer I expected to experience the lake in all its moods. I even had one brief thought that we might at some point be able to wade in the lake -- though why I, who have always lived in Toronto and have never done such a thing, should even consider that I could be tempted into Lake Ontario is beyond me. The water is cold; the beaches we explored were littered with garbage ranging from dead plants and animals to broken bottles, and mostly the water's edge is unwelcoming because walls of cement and piles of rubble have been placed to protect the land from the water. I looked for fish. We found dead carp. We did find several species of water weeds. Plenty of waterfowl occupied every area we visited. In fact, the more urbanized the shoreline, the more birds and the greater variety we found. How much did we see of the activities we associated with the lakeshore -- swimming, sailing, fishing, commercial shipping? Very little! We were, however, able to enjoy a tremendous variety of scenery - from a sandy shoreline to clay bluffs. It is good to keep in touch with our shoreline and river-mouths. After all, that is where Toronto began and if we don't take care of them, that may be the cause of our end! We just wish the lake was cleaner and the shoreline more natural (dumping of fill by our Conservation Authority proceeds at an alarming rate).

Helen Juhola

OCTOBER OUTINGS

We saw many exciting and unusual birds during October on our nature walks. Roger Powley led the first walk of the month to Humber Bay Park. A large raft of scaup was spotted but the distance was too great to determine whether there were any "oddities" present. We then headed for High Park where turkey vultures and buteos were seen migrating. Warblers, vireos, and roosting night herons were also seen.

The beautiful arboretum at Mount Pleasant Cemetery is always a popular location for learning trees and Emily Hamilton's outing was no exception.

Mary Cumming conducted a sketching outing at Downsview Dells. Before commencing work, the participants viewed some miniatures on ivory which the leader had brought; these had been painted by her mother, **Kate Taylor Cumming.** The group drew aspects of the creek and trees in pencil and ink.

On the 24th, Dave Broughton led 25 members to the Leslie Street Spit where they saw 54 different species of birds. A snow goose was one of the rareties.

John Harris was our leader when we visited the Humber Marshes. It was a very pleasant walk and a Great Blue Heron stood unconcerned in the open while we ate our lunch.

The East Don walk on the 28th was led by Helen Juhola and Roger Powley (who was separated from the group at the beginning). We got together and saw the crested fern, swamp white oak and some tree sparrows.

Jim Woodford took a group of 32 birdwatching at Glendon Campus; it was sunny and

warm and they were lucky enough to see a merlin and many other (more common) birds.

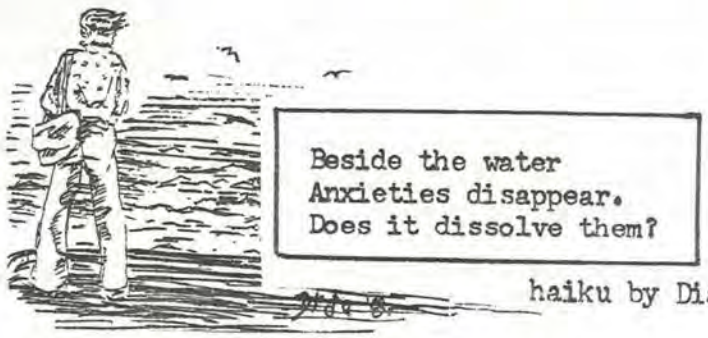
Oct. 3 - Humber Bay Park (15)	Roger Powley
Oct. 4 - Mount Pleasant Cemetery (70)	Emily Hamilton
Oct.11 - Humber River at Finch	H. Klein
Oct.12 - Toronto Island	G. Fairfield
Oct.14 - Don River at Finch	Catharine Heynes
Oct.17 - Northwood Community Centre/ Downsview Dells	M. Cumming
Oct.18 - Todmorden Mills	Allan Greenbaum
Oct.21 - Skywatch cancelled	
Oct.24 - Leslie Street Spit (25)	Dave Broughton
Oct.28 - East Don at Sheppard (18)	R. Powley & H. Juhola
Oct.31 - Glendon Campus (32)	Jim Woodford

NOVEMBER OUTINGS

On November 1st, we had a special outing for the French-speaking community in Earl Bales Park. A large crowd turned out & we looked at some of the introduced trees in the park. A great horned owl was flying about the park just before the walk started. Steve Taylor explained the ecology of the Scarboro Bluffs on the seventh of the month under soaring broad-winged hawks migrating along the shoreline. "Winter Botany" was the theme of Allan Greenbaum's walk in Wilket Creek Park. A talk on a technical level was given by Terry Carleton as we strolled through Lambton Woods looking at mosses. He explained the complicated life-cycle of these primitive plants. Twelve people joined Reid and Margaret Wilson for birdwatching in Pickering. Pine siskins, rough-legged hawks, a brant and a snow goose were among the 27 species that were viewed. Allan Greenbaum led a group of 7 to Wigmore Ravine on November 25th. This out-of-the-way ravine has some unusual plants for the city, one of which is the running strawberry bush. Bob Yukich took a large group of birders to Lambton Woods on the 28th. Cedar waxwings and a great horned owl were seen.

There were many new faces on our November walks; I hope we'll see more new members in the future.

Roger Powley



Beside the water
Anxieties disappear.
Does it dissolve them?

haiku by Diana Banville

people MURRAY AND DORIS SPEIRS

Dr. and Mrs. Speirs became involved with the TFN in the 30's, and, in fact, met each other on one of the TFNC hikes. They each served as president of the Junior Club and assisted with its activities for several years. They were also active in the Toronto Ornithological Club, Humber Valley Bird Club, Margaret Nice Ornithological Club, the FON, as well as other natural history groups where they lived in various locations in Canada and the United States, and were instrumental in establishing bird clubs in several of those places.

Dr. and Mrs. Speirs have written a number of books and articles relating to birds and are now living at Pickering where they continue to enjoy their study of bird life.

FP

YORK-TORONTO LUNG ASSOCIATION, according to its recent Christmas Seal campaign literature, is planning to expand its work into the field of air pollution. Health and the environment cannot be separated for long. (157 Willowdale Ave., Willowdale M2N 4Y7)

Camping and Summer Job Opportunities...

CAMP ALLSAW FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Operated by TFN member, Sam Hambly, this natural science camp for boys and girls costs only $275.00 for two weeks. It has been operated for 20 years. While having fun, children learn to observe, investigate, explore and co-operate. The camp is located in the Haliburton Highlands. For more information contact S. G. Hambly, B.A., 9 Calais Ave., Downsview, Ont. M3M 1N3. Phone: 249-4517.

YMCA ALGONQUIN EXPERIENCE CAMP

This camp is operated by the "Y" for the Province of Ontario - for boys and girls 11-15 years from financially disadvantaged families. Nominal fee of $58.00 for two weeks. If you know of such a young person who would like to go, please contact editorial committee. If you would like to sponsor a young person, please also let us know. (Emphasis is on wildlife-study.)

The camp needs personnel: a naturalist, registered nurse or doctor, and rock-climbing instructor. Also new programs are sought, if any member has a special interest which might be shared.

For further information, contact Ted Fauteux, Director, 36 College Street, Toronto M5G 1K8. Phone 922-7474.

WHITE-TAILED DEER HERD IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO

Although a number of people have known of the existence of a small herd of white-tailed deer in the Rouge River Valley within Metropolitan Toronto, no documentation of this fact has existed. Recently approved plans by Scarborough to develop tablelands between the west branch of the Rouge River and Morningside Creek south of Finch Avenue have made study and documentation of this unique asset imperative. This study is a systematic collection of field observations from January 1981 to January 1982 and includes a description of the environment in which the deer live and their effect upon it.

Study Area and Methods. The area in which the deer have been studied during the past year is about two miles long and ¼ mile wide near the confluence of the west branch of the Rouge River and Morningside Creek. Morningside Creek in the study area runs through a deep valley containing mature mixed forest of sugar maple and hemlock, white cedars, and open fields (2). It also contains a regionally rare white-pine stand (5).

Systematic surveys of the area were made monthly during the year and notes made of actual sightings, tracks, pellets, and signs of browsing.

Observations. It would appear that the wintering population at present is ten individuals, although many local residents and zoo employees have described seeing large congregations of 20 or more deer in the area during the past.

On January 14, 1982, I observed nine deer browsing on maple saplings along a meander scar near the river. The deer which were not aware of my presence for quite some time consisted of four does and five young animals.

Deer which I have observed in the Rouge Valley north of Finch Avenue probably belong to a separate deer population.

In ninety per cent of the sightings in winter, the deer were in groups of four and usually appeared to be does. One of the animals was usually larger than the others so was presumed to be an adult doe; the others were presumed to be yearlings. Perhaps some of these were young bucks, but confirmation of this was impossible in the field. So far, social organization of the white-tailed deer in this area seems to be limited to the family group which is consistent with other studies (3).

Although no observations of so-called buck groups (3) have been made, this phenomenon is more likely to occur in late winter or in summer when deer are extremely difficult to observe because of the topography and dense foliage in the area. At least one seven-point buck has been observed (personal communication with Dr. Wm. Rapley).

The ages of the deer seem to be consistent with those of normal wild populations; although it is not clear if the herd is increasing or decreasing in size. An adequate supply of winter-browse is critical to the survival of the deer (1). In the study area signs of browsing by deer are apparent on young maples, dogwoods, and sumac, with sumac being the preferred species. In fact, one particularly large stand of sumac on the east side of the Rouge Valley has been heavily browsed this winter. Access to this area is by well-worn trails across the river from the west side of the valley. This food source is obviously important in winter and may very well prove to be a limiting factor for the population.

Because deer have frequently been observed among the apple trees on the tableland between the creek and the river, the orchard may be important as a food

source for the deer (6).

Range Appraisal. As stated earlier, over-browsing of sumac in the meadow on the valley floor is apparent. Even some areas within the Metro Zoo property show signs of over-browsing where deer are known to jump the fence.

No appreciable differences in the range used by the deer during spring, summer, and autumn were observed. Hence data for these three seasons will be described under summer range.

Summer Range. During the spring, summer, and autumn, deer have been observed in widely separated sections of the study area. In warm, summer weather when dense foliage makes the deer difficult to observe, they have been seen as far south as Meadowvale and as far north as Markham township. Occasional tracks, pellets, and chance encounters are our only records. Undoubtedly recruitment of transient animals from other areas occurs at this time.

Winter Range. In winter deer seem to be restricted to areas of coniferous growth and along the river courses. Movement at least twice a day has been observed -- once in early morning along the east side of the Rouge River (Dec. 26/81) and once in late evening for feeding on the sumac in the zoo. Therefore, cover and food supply seem to be of equal importance in determining where the deer congregate in winter. As with the deer studied in South Dakota (6), the animals appear to use all the study area during the summer but only a small part of it during the winter, with migration generally along the water courses.

Proposed Development Threatens Herd. The Borough of Scarborough has a plan to replace the large apple orchard and corn fields with a development called Malvern Community 3 which is to have a population of 13,500. Approval of this plan seems premature at this time when a number of uncompleted studies by various government agencies may have a bearing on how -- or even if -- this area should be developed.

If development proceeds as planned, the future of this significant herd of wild deer looks bleak. The effect of construction and the proximity of so many people as well as the obvious loss of habitat will soon force the animals out of the area.

Predator-Prey Relations. Observations of coyotes (brush wolves) in the study area have been made by local residents for many years. Three times I have seen coyotes at Plug Hat Road near the Hillside community, only a mile or so east of the study area. At 8:05 a.m. on January 13, 1982, J. Challoner and I saw three coyotes cross Finch Avenue on their way from the area of the proposed Malvern 3 Community to the Morningside Golf Course from where they entered the Rouge Valley through heavy snow. Clearly these coyotes had been hunting in the study area. Although coyotes can readily kill deer in certain combinations of cover, steep slopes, and snow (4), I have not yet found a coyote kill in the study area; however, I feel confident that one of the reasons coyotes are present is because of the deer.

Management Suggestions. Clearly there seems to be no reason why the deer, which appear to be surviving quite well on their own, cannot continue to prosper in the area; however, if development of the area proceeds as planned this wildlife resource will probably disappear. Ways to protect these animals, which are probably the last wild deer in Metro, should be included in any plans for the area. Metro planners and politicians have an opportunity to undertake the creative task of finding the best way to conserve this tremendous resource.

Eventual designation of the area as either a Provincial Nature Reserve or an Environmentally Sensitive Area is recommended.

Paul J. Harpley

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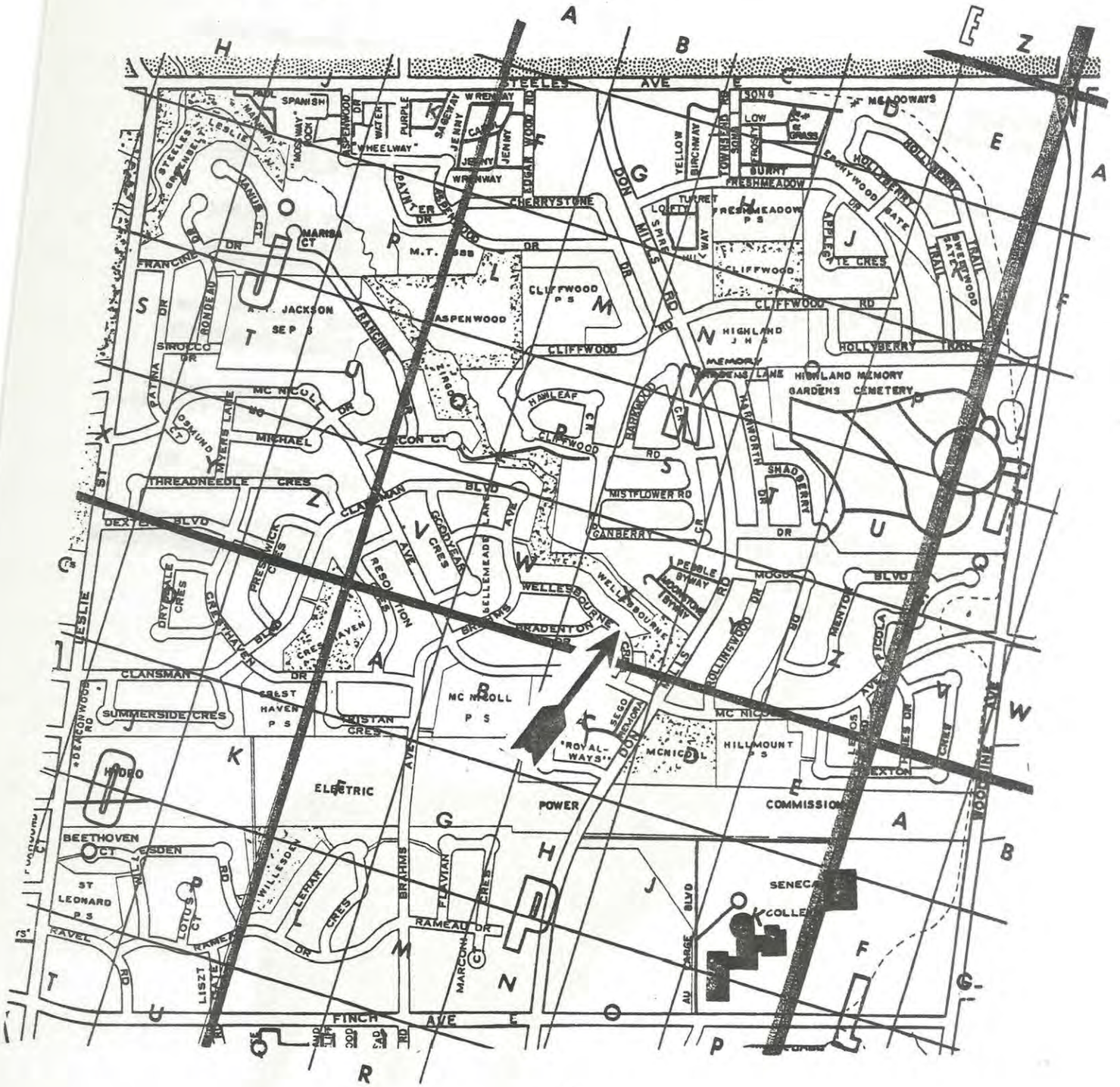

SHEET KEY

issues---

TWO SMALL RAVINES IN THE EAST DON WATERSHED

From 1973 to 1975, members of the TFN's now-defunct North York Ravine Group prepared a series of brief reports identifying and describing a number of the Borough's ravines. In the fall of 1981 I visited some of the sites they surveyed, in order to make a rough assessment of their present value as natural areas. Two of the lesser-known ravines turned out to have noteworthy features.

1. The Wellesbourne Ravine originates at Don Mills and McNicoll, and joins the East Don Valley near Leslie and Steeles. The upper part of this narrow ravine is extremely shallow in places and has undergone drastic alterations. In 1975, houses were constructed on the rims and on the gentler slopes; the resulting erosion and disturbance threatened the slender strip of semi-natural bottomland. This problem was solved in typical fashion - the bottomland was cleared, filled, re-contoured and transformed into a well-tended lawn, while the watercourse was straightened and lined with gabions, on both sides and the bottom, ruining it as a natural habitat. Fortunately, even in the "parkified" upper section of the ravine, patches of forest which have persisted contain many fine specimens of White Pine, Sugar Maple, American Beech, Eastern Hemlock, Black Cherry, Yellow Birch, Northern White Cedar and White Oak, and support a good population of common birds.

The part of the ravine that is of the most interest to naturalists, though, is on the south side of the lower end of the ravine. Here, the bottomland, apart from the watercourse, has been left in a natural state, and the high, partially terraced slope is densely forested. The stand is dominated by Eastern Hemlock, but also contains many large White Pines, Northern White Cedars and Yellow Birches. The ground cover, which warrants further investigation, is dominated by wild ginger, ostrich fern, marginal, intermediate and spinulose woodferns and Christmas ferns. The population-density of woodferns is exceptionally high on this site.

The proximity of several schools gives the ravine an educational value. The surrounding area has been developed in the past decade, and much of its natural landscape has suffered serious degradation, as has a stretch of the East Don's east branch. In this context, the aesthetic value of the dense coniferous forest in the lower Wellesbourne Ravine takes on added importance.

continued

To make your life in Toronto more pleasant, visit its parks and natural areas. Adopt an area near where you live. Take binoculars and a field guide and walk in it regularly. Explore it and enjoy it.

Who else is using the area and how? Are there any signs of deterioration: damage from overuse, erosion of slopes, garbage, indications of construction?

Do you know the history of your local park or natural area? Can you identify the plants and animals there?

Who is responsible for the area? -- You!

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2. The watercourse of the Vyner Ravine enters the East Don Valley in Moatfield Farm Park. The Vyner greenbelt lies parallel to, and southwest of, Bannatyne Drive. The lower section between Vyner Road and Beaverhall Drive is reminiscent of the upper part of Wellesbourne - a gently depressed extension of the abutting back lawns rather than a ravine. Some of the steeper backyards have been maintained in a natural state, however, and the attractive brook has largely escaped obtrusive manipulation. There are some drainage problems, even quite close to the watercourse.

The wild upper section of the ravine between Silvergrove and Vyner Roads contrasts sharply with the manicured lower section. The creek meanders through the waterlogged bottomland with its masses of asters, Eupatorium, purple loosestrife, graminoids, cattails, and thickets of Red Osier Dogwood and Cranberry Viburnum. At the foot of the northeast-facing slope is a belt of birch and cedar; the cool, wet ground is carpeted with ostrich, sensitive, wood and crested ferns, and the logs with liverworts. The slope itself is sandy and dry. The lower slope is forested with Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch, while the upper slope and associated tableland support a remarkable stand composed almost exclusively of White Pine and Black Cherry, with an understory of raspberry and canker-infected Choke Cherry. This is one of the finest pine stands in the Don basin, and the characteristic profiles of White Pines massed against the sky create a distinctive neighbourhood landmark. Further upstream the slope narrows and the aforementioned slope species are joined by White Birch and White and Swamp White Oaks. I suspect that a thorough biological inventory of Vyner Ravine would turn up some very interesting species.

I'm apprehensive about the fate of this fascinating but vulnerable little ravine. The city of North York owns an extremely narrow strip of bottomland; all of the slope land is on private property. The owners of the pine-cherry stand have preserved it in its natural state, except for a little cellar (perhaps a kids' fort) excavated in the sandy soil just a few metres from the base of a venerable White Pine at least a metre in diameter. Where the slope narrows the owners have tipped tons of garden refuse and tree trimmings over the edge, damaging some vegetation. A more serious threat is the construction of houses on the opposite slope. The houses on the Z-bend of Silvergrove Road appear to have been built on fill, and are perched on the very brink of the sparsely vegetated bank. When the inevitable erosion occurs the remedy would probably involve the operation of heavy machinery in the sensitive bottomland. The resultant mess would give the city more than enough incentive to "fix up" this part of the ravine which would then resemble the lower section. I hope that we can further document the significant natural features of this ravine before the threats become reality.

- Allan Greenbaum

At the November meeting of TFN, Ron Reid and Janet Grand presented a program on the OGOKI-ALBANY WILDERNESS, an area northwest of Lake Nipigon which could become Ontario's next wilderness park. Its existence is threatened by proposed logging operations which would force roads and clearcuts into the most sensitive parts of this fragile landscape. Members who feel strongly about the establishment of a wilderness park in this area are urged to write to the Honourable Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto

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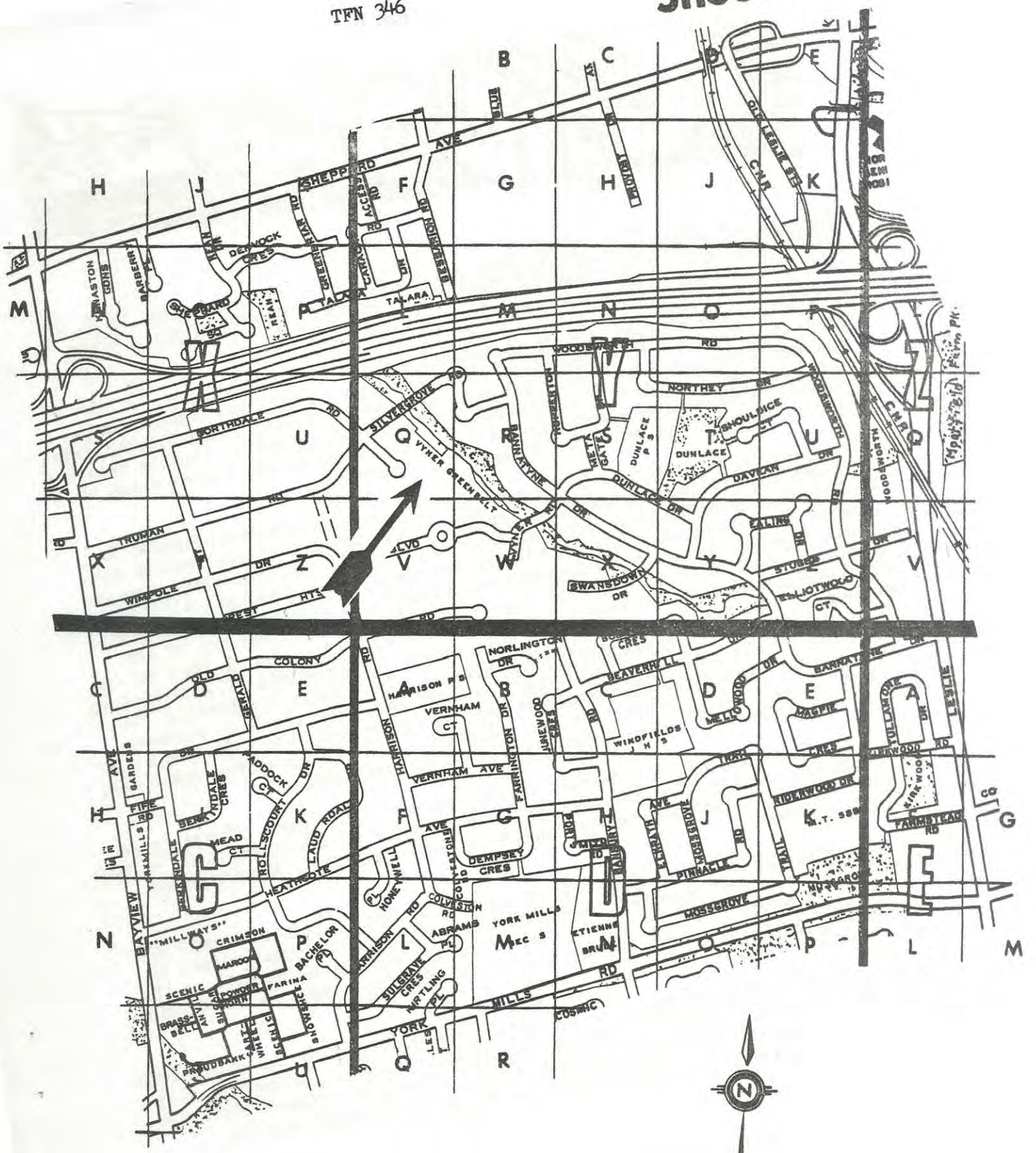

SHEET KEY

The Natural History of the Toronto Region, Ontario, Canada, edited by J. H. Faull, published by The Canadian Institute, Toronto, 1913; 419 pp; 7 illustrations, 3 maps (2 in rear pocket).

In reading this unique summary of Toronto's natural history, lovers of the "good old days" may be disappointed to learn that in 1913 the problems confronting naturalists were much the same as they are to-day: the Islands were suffering the loss of rare plants due to "unnatural causes"; valuable habitats such as the Swansea sphagnum bog had been lost forever, and degeneration of the city's trees was even then a cause for complaint.

The Natural History of the Toronto Region, Ontario, Canada was prepared by what was then called The Canadian Institute, for members of the Twelfth Geological Congress, meeting in Toronto, and is probably the most comprehensive summary of the region's natural history yet published. Geographically the book covers from the Bruce to the Niagara Peninsula, with emphasis on the Toronto area. It opens with a historical sketch of Toronto and an account of the Mississauga Indians, the last tribe to live in the area. The chapter on the geology of the region is especially interesting, particularly if read in conjunction with the accompanying geological map. This shows graphically the shoreline of old Lake Iroquois along Davenport Road, and the huge sandbars thrown up at the mouths of the Humber and Don rivers when the lake level was some 60 metres higher than it is now. Mention is also made of the mastodons, bison and caribou that roamed the site of the present city.

The next eight chapters are devoted to the flora of the region. These range from the seed plants (740 species) to the slime moulds, and in addition to the species lists, include interesting notes on plant locations, abundance and extinct species.

The nine chapters on the region's fauna cover a wide range, from mammals and birds to molluscs and insects. Again the species lists are supplemented by notes and comments. An interesting feature of the chapter on mammals is the historical data on the last recorded sightings of animals such as the black bear and wildcat.

One cannot help being impressed by the initiative displayed by the naturalists of the day in writing this interesting and valuable record. Perhaps it will encourage the present Toronto Field Naturalists to prepare an up-to-date and even better account of the natural wonders of our richly endowed city.

- John Harris

Available from the Royal Canadian Institute, price only $5.00.

The Art of Robert Bateman, introduction by Roger Tory Peterson, text by Ramsay Derry. Published in Canada by Allen Lane, Penguin Books, 1981; 179 pages, $40.00.

I review this book as a naturalist, not on the basis of its artistry, although critics of the realism in Bateman's art have told me that they have enjoyed examining the black and white sketches in the book.

As well as the 82 prints of his paintings, the book includes the story of Bob Bateman's life, with photographs. Of especial interest to the T.F.N. are the accounts of his experiences as a member of the Junior Field Naturalists' Club and the Intermediate Naturalists. Later field trips around the world, studying natural history are attributed to an early interest, encouraged by these organizations.

Reprints of the paintings are accompanied by Bob Bateman's personal descriptions of what he wishes one to feel from a naturalist point of view, as well as what he wanted to achieve artistically with the work.

I particularly liked the paintings of familiar Southern Ontario subjects that included much background detail. I have photographed geese nesting in the Toronto Humber Marshes very like his painting of them.

I also enjoyed Bateman's description of his painting of a cedar fence rail - how he tried "to imagine what it would be like to be a snail crawling along those rails feeling every hump and knot and ridge". His description of the old meadow of goldenrod and everlasting has also made me more observant, from a different point of view, on many T.F.N. hikes. "I imagine that I'm a field mouse running in and out through them (the plants) or an insect buzzing around them".

Several thousand copies of this highly successful book have already been sold out by the publishers. A few book stores have remaining copies but most wish that they had ordered more. There are plans to print a second edition next year, however.

- Beth Jefferson

Nature Conservation Day. Seminar Proceedings. March 26, 1980, 86 pages, $2.00 copy.

This little volume is a transcript of the proceedings of "Nature Conservation Day"held by the Ministry of Natural Resources on March 26, 1980. Other than branches of the Ministry, some of the organizations presenting papers were the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Nature Conservancy in the United States.

Available from the Ontario Government Bookstore at 880 Bay Street.

J.M.

Ecological Land Survey Guidelines for Environmental Impact Analysis - Ecological Land Classification Series No. 13. Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (FEARP), published by Environment Canada, Lands Directorate 42 pages.

This publication is directed mainly to those involved in large projects such as

a dam or an airport, but anyone interested in the ecology of land planning can determine the Department's intentions and may find in the report something of interest.

The report has four parts - a description of FEARP, how to plan an Ecological Land Survey (ELS); how to conduct the survey and how to use the data. There are black and white aerial photos and a pull-out with photos and maps as well as diagrams and charts. Two appendices list references and sources of information. There is a French version back to back with the English.

J.M.

AT YOUR LIBRARY: Mary Smith suggests books for concerned naturalists

The Peter Plan, 1976, 224 pages (301.3.P). The Peter Plan includes things that everyone can support like clean air and pure water legislation. Dr. Peter also tells us "When you shop, buy a car, or invest money, the choices you make will have an effect on the air you breathe, the water you drink, and on the future of us all.".

How to Build a Better Outdoors by Bill Voght, 1978, 149 pages. (333.95V). Bill Voght suggests a series of ways to focus environmental concerns. One way is to set aside land for a "wetland classroom". He tells a story about a realtor in Montana who finds buyers who agree to leave property in its present state, and open to hunting and fishing. He also discusses channelization of streams, and ways in which stream alteration could actually improve fish habitat.

Progress as if Survival Mattered, by Friends of the Earth, 1977. The "Friends" are concerned directly with agricultural land, and the preservation and enhancement of its capability to support life. This includes encouraging dispersed and diversified farming operations. The other main direction is to convert, as rapidly as possible to more natural and sustainable methods of insect, disease and weed control.

Effectiveness Training, a series by Dr. Thomas Gordon. The author is the expert on the use of influence, rather than power. He shows how to help people develop their own ability to make sensible decisions, so that they can act responsibly rather than defensively or offensively and be motivated to follow through their decisions.

Windowsill Ecology by Wm. H. Jordan, 1977, Rodale Press, 229 pages. $8.95 (635.965J). This book shows that we can each cooperate with the cycles of nature in finding workable solutions to insect problems with plants even in our own homes. It is a handbook to guide the intelligent layman towards sharpening his powers of observation and trying a way quite different from the usual "Raid" on insect life. It looks like fun!

How do you feel about the spread of nuclear technology - the ability to produce bombs? Our government will soon be deciding whether to continue selling nuclear reactors. Write Mr. Roy McLaren, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Ottawa, or get in touch with:
Energy Probe, 43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto M5S 2C3.

BOTANY GROUP REPORT

Twenty-one people were present when four members of the Botany Group showed some of their best slides at the January 21st meeting chaired by Isabel Smaller. Hiles Carter with his magic carpet took us to many spots in North America to show us his "Favourite Botany Subjects". These ranged from arbutus trees in blossom in British Columbia to palms in Florida. We saw plant successions from lichens to climax forests and plants with curious habits such as aloe which rots and falls to disperse its seeds, or the interesting U-shaped stem of the coral bean. Hart's Tongue Fern on The Bruce, garden strawberries, a natural "arrangement" of dandelions and a selection showing the wonderful colours of nature ended the presentation.

With Dorothy McNaughton we visited "Letchworth Park, New York". It lies along the Genesee River which has been dammed to control flooding at Rochester. The gorge scenery and waterfalls are a delight and the wide flood plain provides contrast. Wildflowers abound - trilliums, trailing arbutus, hepatica, moccasin flower, gentians and lobelia. Fungi thrive and we were shown a large colony of tiny Bird's Nest fungi growing on a piece of rope.

Evelyn Ricker took us with her on a "Sub-arctic Holiday" to Churchill and Baker Lake. At Churchill was the brilliant scenery of rocks and ice, sea and sky; the birds: Ruddy Turnstones, Northern Phalarope, Horned Lark nestlings and Willow Ptarmigan; the plants: willow, mosses and lichens, rhododendrons, coltsfoot, anemone. At Baker Lake we saw aspects of Inuit life as well as more birds and flowers - Lapland Longspur, Long-tailed Jaeger, cinquefoil, saxifrage and mountain avens.

Betty Greenacre showed us "Botany in Manning Park, B.C." Her favourite sight was the carpets of wild lupines. But many other plants caught the eye of the camera: snow buttercup, mountain veronica, mountain heather, great and tall bog orchids, wild larkspur, Oak Fern, new growth on ponderosa pine, broom, strawberry blite, slime moulds, inky caps, boletes as well as a Spruce Grouse peering out of botanical cover.

J.M.

NATURE FESTIVAL

The TFN is planning an all-day Nature Festival on June 5 at Northwood Community Centre in North York which will offer displays, nature art, slide shows, and conducted mini-walks. This event will coincide with World Environment Day.

Members are invited to contribute handwork and collections such as paintings, handcrafts, ceramics, sculpture, woodwork, photography, which have a nature-related theme. For the slide show we would welcome nature slides taken in Metro Toronto.

We hope that the Junior Club will also be able to take part in the Festival.

Do you use re-cycled materials? Have you had experience in hanging matted pictures without frames?

If you have ideas for the displays, or have something suitable to contribute, call one of the following and talk it over:
Mary Cumming, Art Group Chairperson, 536-2746, evenings.
Florence Preston, Festival Co-ordinator, 483-9530.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

Reports of sightings and discoveries along the Don River Watershed were shared by a congenial group at the January 28th meeting. Steve Varga, Jack Cranmer-Byng, Owen Fisher, Allan Greenbaum and Stephen Price presented findings of their studies and observations and aired their concerns about environmental damage occurring due to erosion, motor bikes, improper construction, and the clearing of large areas of vegetation.

The east side of the East Don River south of Finch was the area of interest for Steve Varga and Jack Cranmer-Byng. Here lies a unique environmentally sensitive area containing a tamarack fen, cattail marsh and a maple, beech and alder woodland. Within this location Steve has identified 36 rare species of plants including the showy lady's slipper, a stunningly beautiful orchid-family flower not found anywhere else in Metro Toronto. Other rare plants included moonseed, a number of northern species of hedges and Carolinian plants. Also, within this area Jack Cranmer-Byng has identified 6 species of warblers as well as flycatchers, thrushes, nuthatches, orioles, an indigo bunting, hairy and downy woodpecker, mallard, horned owl, flicker and warbling vireo.

With slides and anecdotes, Owen Fisher brought to life the area south of York Mills in the Locke House ravine. Here he has identified the following: savanna sparrow, kestrel, flicker, spring peeper, kingfisher, yellow warbler, magnolia warbler, painted turtle, spotted sandpiper, red-headed woodpecker, pheasant, bank swallow, redwings, muskrats, baltimore orioles, newts, cedar waxwings, black-and-white warbler, scarlet tanager, swainson thrush, purple loosestrife and Canada anemone. Owen's trusty camera proved useful for other purposes as well. A youthful group of trail-bike riders quickly pulled their T-shirts over their faces and fled the scene when Owen aimed his camera at them and suggested that the police might be interested in having the photos of motor bike riders caught damaging the area.

Allan Greenbaum brought slides and observations on a number of areas along the East Don. He noted a fine pine stand in the Vyner Ravine that is of particular interest for its bottomland with liverworts and crested ferns, and a stand of very large mature hemlocks near Steeles and Leslie which has a dense mass of marginal woodferns. Allan had some lovely shots of riverscapes and areas near Wigmore Park as well as examples of damage from erosion, poorly placed construction, road building, bon-fires and dirt-trail-bikes.

Massey Creek or Taylor Creek has been the area of Stephen Price's investigations. Particularly important as an environmentally sensitive area is the wet meadows habitat near Dawes Road and Main Street where the rare plants include boneset, turtleheads, fringed gentians and closed gentians, as well as an unusual black-eyed susan growing outside of its normal dry habitat. Steve's slides also included some scenes of badly-eroded areas of backyards of homes near Warden Ave.

The group continued with its work on identifying potential environmentally sensitive areas worthy of protection. Anyone having any information or a suggestion for an ESA is asked to contact Steve Varga (978-3542).

Melanie Melanich

IN THE NEWS

Feeding birds in winter has become an increasingly popular pastime and big business. In Fairfield, the Connecticut Audubon Society sold more than 30,000 pounds of seed this fall, a volume probably duplicated by dozens of nature centres, feed and grain outlets, and grocery stores around the country. Yet, this growth of backyard bird feeding is not without controversy. Conservationists and others ask whether people are helping or hurting winter birds by making them dependent upon human handouts. Viewpoints vary. In the absence of conclusive findings, many groups encourage feeding activities as an effective way to develop appreciation of wildlife. Hundreds of backyard acres are being managed nationwide by people who create wildlife habitats in pocket refuges, providing water, food and shelter for animals. These activities may have contributed to the redistribution of some bird species such as the mockingbird and cardinal.

Start feeding in the middle of October and continue until late March or early April; place feeders in a sunny area, out of wind. Suggested foods are: suet cakes, sunflower, thistle and millet seed, cracked corn and peanut hearts.

(condensed from the New York Times, December, 1981)

RECIPE FOR NESTLING-FOOD

Spring is the busiest time for Pat Smith, "The Bird Lady of Oakville". The March winds frequently bring bird-nests tumbling down; consequently she has been known to have as many as forty-seven fledglings at one time. They have to be fed with a syringe every twenty minutes with the following recipe ...

One 3-1/2 oz. jar strained beef-heart or beef
Two tablespoons of instant mashed potatoes
One tablespoon of strained carrots
One tablespoon of egg-yolk
One tablespoon of butter
One tablespoon of honey
Four drops of concentrated liquid vitamins
(such as Vi-Penta or Poly-Vi-Sol)

The above-mentioned baby foods are of the strained variety and not the junior types.

Mix mashed potatoes with a little hot water and the butter. Add all the other ingredients and mix thoroughly.

This should be kept refrigerated but must be fed to the young birds at room temperature.

submitted by June Hooey

TORONTO'S 57TH CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS, 1981

This year's bird count was held on Sunday, December 27. The customary 28 routes within a 48 km radius of the Royal Ontario Museum were covered by 145 participants. Ninety-six species and a record high of 46,123 individuals were recorded.

Three new species were seen this year: a Thayer's Gull, a Black-billed Magpie and 6 House Finches which brings the total number of species recorded in the past 57 years to 162.

The following species were seen in record numbers (previous highs in brackets):

Mute Swan	-	56	(43 - 1980)
Canada Goose	-	3.618	(3,576 - 1979)
Mallard	-	7,878	(6,577 - 1976)
Pintail	-	14	(10 - 1974,77)
Green-winged Teal	-	8	(7 - 1965)
Ring-billed Gull	-	3,596	(3,030 - 1978)
Screech Owl	-	8	(6 - 1942, 43, 70)
Rock Dove	-	2,671	(2,539 - 1979)
Common Yellowthroat	-	2	(1 - 1927, 38, 64, 72, 73, 74, 75)

Species noticeably down in numbers were:

American Robin	-	13	(496 counted in 1980)
White-th. Sparrow	-	13	(110 counted in 1980)
Song Sparrow	-	28	(202 counted in 1963)

Species usually seen but missing this year were:

Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush and Field Sparrow.

The weather on census day started out clear with temperatures in the 0°C range. However, by 11.00 a.m. snow started to fall which changed to wet snow and rain by 2.30 p.m. Most streams and rivers were clear of ice.

Once again we wish to thank members of the Toronto Field Naturalists and others who made the count a success.

Species Counted and Their Numbers

Great Blue Heron	5	Belted Kingfisher	7
Mute Swan	56	Common Flicker	2
Canada Goose	3,618	Pileated Woodpecker	1
Snow Goose	2	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Mallard	7,878	Hairy Woodpecker	41
Black Duck	1,216	Downy Woodpecker	179
Gadwall	775	Horned Lark	62
Pintail	14	Blue Jay	263
Green-winged Teal	8	Black-billed Magpie	1
American Wigeon	35	Common Crow	204
Wood Duck	9	Black-capped Chickadee	1,657
Redhead	107	White-breasted Nuthatch	128
Canvasback	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	10

Christmas Census (Continued)

Greater Scaup	3,368
Lesser Scaup	11
Common Goldeneye	320
Bufflehead	306
Oldsquaw	3,734
Harlequin Duck	6
King Eider	1
Hooded Merganser	1
Common Merganser	121
Red-breasted Merganser	10
Goshawk	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	74
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Rough -legged Hawk	21
Marsh Hawk	1
American Kestrel	41
Ruffed Grouse	6
Ring-necked Pheasant	69
American Coot	1
Common Snipe	2
Glaucous Gull	6
Iceland Gull	2
Great Black-backed Gull	71
Herring Gull	4,038
Thayer's Gull	1
Ring-billed Gull	3,596
Rock Dove	2,671
Mourning Dove	781
Screech Owl	8
Great Horned Owl	18
Snowy Owl	2
Long-eared Owl	11
Saw-whet Owl	1
Brown Creeper	7
Winter Wren	2
Mockingbird	1
American Robin	13
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6
Cedar Waxwing	85
Northern Shrike	20
Starling	4,359
Common Yellowthroat	2
House Sparrow	3,464
Eastern Meadowlark	1
Red-winged Blackbird	1
Common Grackle	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Cardinal	239
Evening Grosbeak	71
Purple Finch	6
House Finch	6
Pine Grosbeak	203
Hoary Redpoll	1
Common Redpoll	724
Pine Siskin	79
American Goldfinch	352
White-winged Crossbill	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Dark-eyed Junco	234
Tree Sparrow	506
Chipping Sparrow	1
White-crowned Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	13
Fox Sparrow	1
Swamp Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	28
Lapland Longspur	1
Snow Bunting	101

- Compiled and submitted by Harry Kerr

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Tuesday, March 16 Land of the Shortgrass Prairie
8.15 p.m. - Lorne Wallace
Location: O.I.S.E. Auditorium
252 Bloor Street West, Toronto.
Tickets -- $3.00 each, available at the door.

COMING EVENTS

Civic Garden Centre

The following activities will take place at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie. Further information about these programs may be obtained by telephoning 445-1552.

Botanical Art Course--6 weeks, commencing Monday, March 1, at 10.00 a.m.

Birdwatching in Spring Course--4 weeks, commencing Thursday, April 1, at 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Instructor Clive Goodwin.

Royal Ontario Museum

A series of lectures on the Ecology of Southern Ontario will be presented at the McLaughlin Planetarium Lecture Room on eight consecutive Thursdays, commencing April 15, at 7.30 p.m. The titles of the lectures are:

Apr. 15 - The Waters and the Land: Dr. W. M. Tovell, Mineralogy and Geology Department.

Apr. 22 - The Forest - A Product of History: Dr. J. H. McAndrews, Botany Department.

Apr. 29 - Plants of the Deciduous Forest: Dr. J. E. Cruise, Director.

May 6 - Insects: The World Wouldn't Work Without Them: Dr. G. B. Wiggins, Entomology Department.

May 13 - Like a Fish Out of Water: Dr. E. J. Crossman, Ichthyology and Herpetology Department.

May 20 - Amphibians and Reptiles of Southern Ontario: Mr. J. Lovisek, Ichthyology and Herpetology Department.

May 27 - Whence the Birds of Southern Ontario: Dr. J. C. Barlow, Ornithology Department.

June 3 - Distribution and Ecology of Southern Ontario Mammals: Dr. R. L. Peterson, Mammalogy Department.

Fee for series, $50.00 with reduced rates for ROM members, seniors and students. Single tickets available. The program has a limited number of seats. For further information call 978-4514.

Royal Canadian Institute

The following lectures will be presented in the Medical Sciences Auditorium, U. of T., commencing at 3.15 p.m. Admission free. For further information call 979-2004.

Sun., Mar. 7 - Cornelius Krieghoff, Art and History: Denis Reid, M.A., Curator of Canadian Historical Art Gallery of Ontario, Associate Professor, Graduate Dept. of Art History.

Sun., Mar. 14 - Old Crow, Yukon Research and Human Evolution: Bill Irving, B.A., Ph.D., Professor, Anthropology Dept., U.ofT.

Sun., Mar. 21 - Zeugmatography: Better Than X-Rays?: Robin L. Armstrong, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.C., Professor and Chairman of Dept. of Physics, U. of T.

Kortright Centre for Conservation

On Sunday, March 7, Birdhouse Workshops will be presented at the Kortright Centre for Conservation, and in the evenings of March 4 and 6, an "Owl Prowl" will take place at the Centre, which is located on Pine Valley Drive, off Major Mackenzie Drive, just south of Kleinburg. For further information call 661-6600.

TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS WELCOME

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Monday, March 1, 1982, 8.15 p.m. (Special meeting; see page 3)
Baja - A Fragile Paradox
- Barry Ranford, Teacher, Humber College, and Commercial Photographer

Baja has an environment which is completely unique in the western hemisphere. There is a ruggedness, magnificence and variety of scenery and plant life which Barry has captured on film. It is the home of the great grey whale and the California sea lion; both of these are included in the presentation. You will also see ancient missions and the weird and wonderful vegetation of Baja.

Monday, April 5, 1982, 8.15 p.m.
The World Wildlife Fund, Trying to Save Life on Earth
- Monte Hummel, Executive Director, World Wildlife Fund (Canada)

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GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group
Wed. Mar. 24 Results of the Breeding Bird Atlas - Mike Cadman
8.00 p.m. Ross' Gull Nesting at Churchill in 1981 - Doug McRae
Location: Education Centre Auditorium, 155 College Street, 1 block west of University Avenue.

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Botany Group
Thur. Mar.18 Four Seasons in Lambton Woods
8.00 p.m. - Charles Young
Location: Hodgson Public School, Davisville Avenue, just east of Mt. Pleasant Road.

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Environmental Group
Thur. Mar.25 Discussion of Management Options for Toronto's
7.30 p.m. Urban Forests - Prof. Michael Boyer, Biology Department, York University.
Location: Huron Public School, 541 Huron Street, 1 block west of St. George subway station.

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Junior Club
Sat. Mar. 6 Display Day - Children display their projects
10.00 a.m.
Location: NOTE: Room 2-214, O.I.S.E., 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto.

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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 **May** issue, material must be received by a member of the Editorial Committee by **Mar.17.**

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