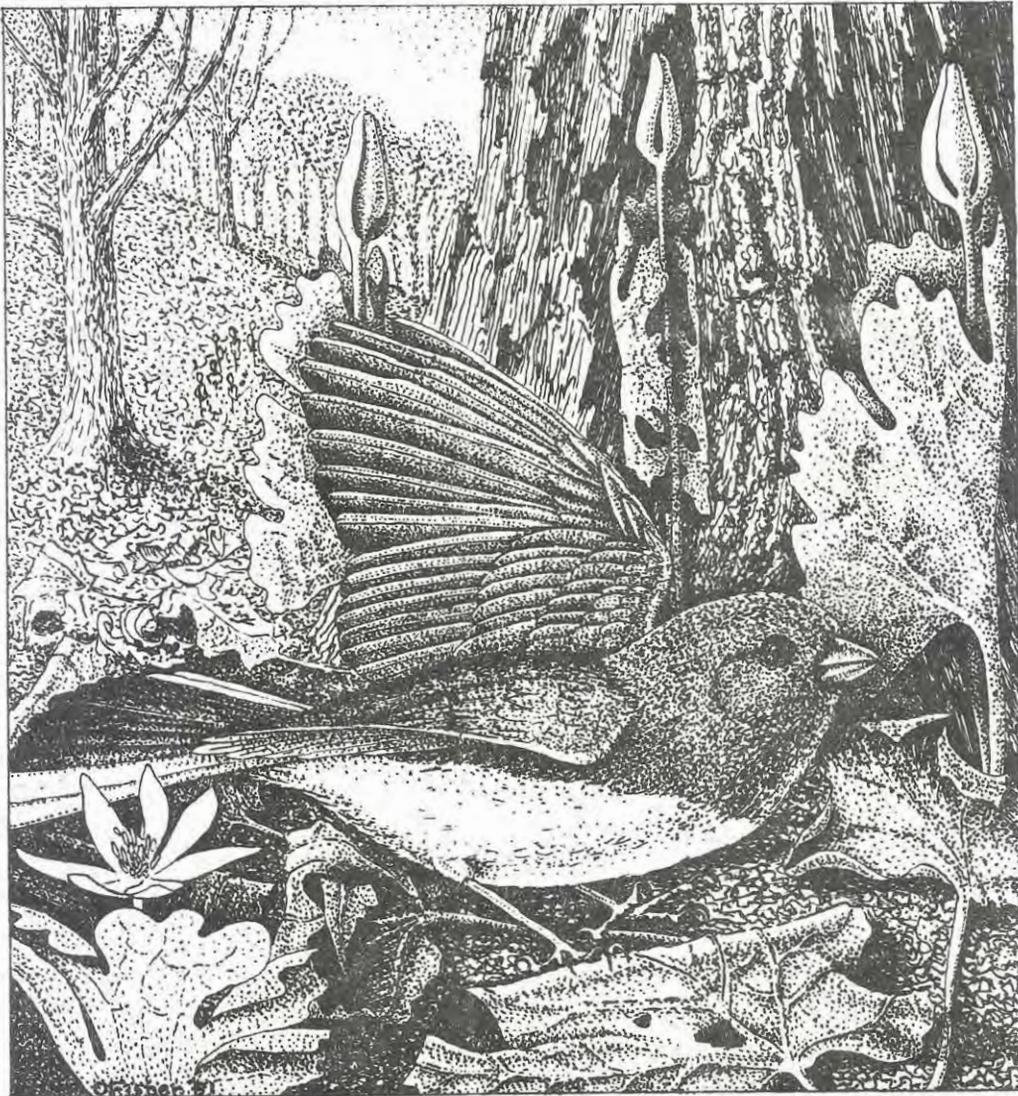




# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 347, <sup>April</sup> March, 1982



The familiar and the strange

See page 6.

	Upcoming <b>OUTINGS</b>	TFN 
<b>RAIN</b> ☁️	or  <b>SHINE</b>	<b>Everybody Welcome!</b>

- April 3 Juniors meeting (see page 33)
- Sunday BELTLINE RAVINE (Moore Park)- Tributaries of the Don (1)  
 April 4 Leader: Jonathan Grant Mount Pleasant Brook\*  
 2.00 p.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station, to walk to Moore Av.
- April 5 General meeting (see page 33 and page 7)
- Wednesday BLACK CREEK EXPLORATION (2) - to Grand Ravine and back.  
 April 7 Leader: Cathy Heynes  
 10.00 a.m. Meet on bridge on Finch Av.W to walk south. (Finch West #36 bus to Tobermory.) Cars park on south side of Finch, between Keele and Jane.
- Saturday ART GROUP - Creative workshop  
 April 10 Leader: Mary Cumming phone 536.2746  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Mary's apartment 1219 B, 103 West Lodge Avenue. (Lansdowne bus #47, 2 stops south of Dundas st.)
- Saturday LESLIE STREET SPIT - birds and ecology.  
 April 10 Leader: John Reynolds  
 9.00 a.m. Meet at the foot of Leslie Street.
- Monday TORONTO ISLAND - birds  
 April 12 Leader: Jeff Stewart  
 9.00 a.m. Meet at the Ferry Docks at the foot of Bay Street, to take the 9.00 ferry. Bring lunch and your membership card.
- Wednesday WILKET CREEK PARK - Skywatch  
 April 14 Leader: Cathy McWatters  
 8.00 p.m. Meet in first parking lot off Leslie Street, just north of Eglinton Av.East. (Eglinton East #34 bus to Leslie Street. Cross intersection with the lights.. go carefully!), Bring binoculars. A chance to see Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the Great Nebula in Orion.
- April 15 Botany Group Meeting (see page 33)
- Saturday DON RIVER DAY (10th annual) - Annual canoe trip on behalf  
 April 17 of the Don River. Meet at Serena Gundy Park. For details  
 10.30 am contact George Luste (home 534.9313).
- Sunday PARK DRIVE RAVINE - Tributaries of the Don (2)\*  
 April 18 Leader: Douglas Thomas Rosedale Brook.  
 2.00 p.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station to walk to St.Clair stn.

\* For information on our brooks  
 See "TORONTO the GREEN"  
 Page seventeen.

infoku by E.H.

OUTINGS - continued

April 19 Time to reserve your place on the bus on May 8th  
to 23 to the Woodstock area, by phoning Emily Hamilton  
at 484.0487. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$11.00  
payable to "Toronto Field Naturalists Outing" to Miss  
Emily Hamilton, Apt.407, 3110 Yonge Street, Toronto M4N 2K6.  
Cheques must be received by April 30.

Tuesday LAMBTON WOODS - Birds

April 20 Leaders: Joy and Clive Goodwin  
8.00 a.m Meet in the parking lot of James Gardens on Edenbridge Drive.

Wednesday BLACK CREEK EXPLORATION (3) - Northwood Park

April 21 Leader: Helen Juhola  
10.00 a.m Meet on Sheppard Av. West at Black Creek, to walk north.  
(Sheppard West bus #84 to Black Creek).

● April 21 - 25 Spring Garden Show (see page 32)

April 22 Environmental Group (see page 33)

Saturday CUDIA PARK - Birds and ecology

April 24 Leader: Steven Taylor  
10.00 a.m Meet at the corner of Bellehaven Cres. and Kingston Road.  
(from Warden station take #102 or 114 bus to the stop for  
Bellamy & Bellehaven. Meet on south side).

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS (spring forward!).

Sunday CEDARVALE PARK - Tributaries of the Don (3)

April 25 Leader: Janet Rosenberg Castle Frank Brook A  
2.00 p.m Meet at Eglinton West subway station  
to walk to St. Clair West station.

Tuesday CIVIC GARDEN CENTRE - Birds

April 27 Leaders: Joy and Clive Goodwin  
8.00 a.m. Meet at the parking lot - 777 Lawrence Av. East, at Leslie.

April 28 Bird Group meeting (see page 33)

Thursday TODMORDEN MILLS (Don Valley) - Botany walk

April 29 Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside  
6.45 p.m Meet at Todmorden Mills sign. (Broadview #8 bus, or Mortimer  
#62. get off at Broadview and Mortimer, walk down Pottery  
Road). Cars. Pottery Road from Broadview or the Bayview  
Extension. Turn into the site at the Todmorden Mills sign  
and continue on to the parking lot. Walk back.

● May 1 - 2 Long Point Bird Observatory Annual Meeting.  
Roger Tory Peterson will be the guest celebrity birder  
for the Birdathon, and speaker at the dinner.

May 1 Junior Club meeting

Saturday LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds

May 1 Leader: Roy Baker  
9.00 a.m Meet at the foot of Leslie Street.

Sunday NORDHEIMER RAVINE - Tributaries of the Don (4)

May 2 Leader to be appointed Castle Frank Brook B  
2.00 p.m Meet in Loblaw's parking lot, St. Clair and Bathurst,  
to walk south to Ramsden Park.

OUTINGS - continued

- May 3 General meeting (see page 33 )
- Saturday WOODSTOCK area -Sweaburg Trillium Woods -botany and birds
- May 8 Leader: Bruce Parker
- 9.00 a.m BUS OUTING. You must have reserved a place on the bus between April 19 - 23. See these dates for details. Bus will leave at 9.00 a.m. from the York Mills subway station (northeast corner of Yonge and York Mills), and will arrive back about 6 p.m. Bring lunch and a snack as we will not be stopping at restaurants. We shall be visiting ponds and woods, and the M.N.R's Nature Reserve for Trilliums. (See page 25)

WHY MOW THE MEADOW?

Following are some ecological reasons why grass on meadows should not be mowed:

1. Longer grass holds moisture and helps to prevent flooding, sedimentation and erosion.
2. Unmowed meadows require very low maintenance. No watering is required except during extreme drought.
3. Short grass encourages picnicking with resultant litter.
4. Litter gets blown across short-grass meadows and distributed over a large area, making it more difficult to collect. It is also much more obvious and becomes an eyesore.
5. Longer grass provides habitat for mammals such as cottontails, hares, and voles. These in turn become food for buteos and falcons which help to keep populations of introduced rodents under control.
6. Native ground-nesting birds, such as bobolinks, savannah sparrows, and meadowlarks need the long-grass habitat. Short-grass habitat encourages some of the less desirable ground-feeding birds, such as pigeons which create unsanitary conditions around human habitation.
7. To maintain the meadow, mowing once in the late autumn will eliminate sapling growth. When it becomes desirable to allow trees to grow, this will occur naturally at no cost.
8. Many government departments are now taking this management approach, as it is more ecologically sound and less expensive.

Roger Powley

# IN THE NEWS

CANADA'S NEW GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK. Canada's newest national park encompasses one of the largest and best formations of relatively unmodified grasslands left on the North American continent. It is 350 square miles of southern Saskatchewan, located between Val Marie and Killdeer near the Canada-USA border. It will protect several endangered species of wildlife and birds as well as unique cultural features such as archaeological evidence of early Indian lifestyles and early ranching.  
(from PARKS, 1981, vol. 6(3))

## THE VALUE OF TREES

The saying, "a tree is just a tree" is not so when you figure a tree can be worth \$196,250. Trees individually and collectively have many functional and aesthetic values. A Sioux Falls forester says the observation of what a tree is worth in dollars was made by Professor T. M. Das of the Agricultural University of Calcutta, India. He estimates that a tree which normally lives fifty years would produce about \$31,250 (US dollars) worth of oxygen, \$62,500 in air pollution control, \$31,250 in soil erosion control and additions to soil fertility, \$37,500 in recycling water and controlling humidity, \$31,250 in shelter for animals, and \$2,500 worth of protein for a total of nearly \$196,250. Add to that tree values of flowers, fruits and wood. A tree sold for commercial purposes brings less than 0.3 percent of its real value, according to Professor Das.

Trees also are used in planting designs for architectural, engineering, climate control; architecturally they have use for landscaping, screening and privacy. Noise abatement, atmospheric purification, traffic control, and glare reflection control are some of the engineering uses. Solar radiation, wind, temperature, and precipitation control are among the climatological uses of trees. Other uses such as timber production, fruit and nut production, and creation of wildlife habitats are also important.  
(from NATURE SOCIETY NEWS, January 1, 1982, Purple Martin Junction, Griggsville, Il. 62340)

### TO EACH HIS OWN



after a photo by  
A. Knights

Prothonotary Warblers  
Point Pelee, Ontario

The golfer aims to reach his goal  
In ten good strokes - to that eighth hole;  
The Isaac Newton's greatest thrill -  
To lure large trout from waters still.

But the birder's quest extraordinary?  
It is to seek  
The elusive  
Prothonotary.

...Ralph Knights

## This Month's Cover

"Junco and Bloodroot" - drawing by Owen Fisher

Both subjects seem at first so familiar - yet, if you will look at them more closely, you may find them quite enigmatic...

"Snowbird" was the name for the junco earlier in this century. In Birds of America (1917), L. Nelson Nichols, lamenting the change of name, writes: "Maybe the children of a newer generation will look out of the windows on a Christmas morning and say, 'Oh, see the juncos!' but the charm of the word 'snowbird' seems to be more worthwhile, in childhood and poetry at least..." Nichols goes on to talk about the various forms of Junco hyemalis. At that time the slate-coloured and Oregon juncos were conspecific; later they were separated and now once again they are reunited! Two more forms, the white-winged and the Guadelupe, are "lumped in" as well. And the collective name is given: "Dark-eyed Junco"...which has a note of the "inscrutable" about it. The other Junco species, such as the "red-backs" have an equally confusing history. At present, all of the many forms of juncos are lumped into four species.

In discussing the junco with Bruce Parker, he mentioned that we do not know very much about its summer range in the Toronto region (within a 30-mile radius of the Royal Ontario Museum). We are inclined to think of it as a passage migrant in spring and fall and, to a lesser extent, as a winter visitor, but as a breeding bird, remaining all summer? Bruce says that he has known it to nest in the Bolton area since the 1950's and that he has also seen it in the Town of King in the summer. Perhaps the bird on our cover is looking for a nesting-place in one of our ravines, at the forest-edge where the bloodroot grows.

A beloved member of the poppy family, the bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis) has an interesting history. The familiar variety has eight to twelve white petals, but there is also forma colbyorum with pink petals (discovered by Earl H. Colby). In 1732 Dellenius described a fourteen- to sixteen-petalled bloodroot which is now known as forma florepleno. In 1916 Guido von Weberen of Dayton, Ohio, discovered the forty-eight-petalled forma multiplex, but his propagations died out after his death, in the sixties. Earlier he had sent two rhizomes to other botanists; one of these was unsuccessful. H. Lincoln Foster traced the other rhizome to Henry Teuscher, Director Emeritus of the Montreal Botanical Gardens; Teuscher had propagated the plant and distributed it throughout the world, thus assuring its future. Besides these forms, there is a variety called rotundifolia (round-leaved). Bloodroot flowers usually bloom singly on a scape (stem arising from the ground) but occasionally two or three flowers appear on the scape.

The blood-like juice of the plant is an irritant, especially if the skin is broken or bruised. It is not at all times confined to the root. One unseasonably warm Good Friday, I was sketching bloodroot at Glendon. A leaf was hidden; I gently touched it, trying to bring it into view, when suddenly it tore and red juice spilled out on to my hand. The next day a cluster of coarse, wart-like blisters appeared on my wrist and persisted for some time. However, it seems that early native peoples had found some way of using the juice as a dye. It has been experimented with as a remedy at various times, but I, for one, shall give it a wide berth.

Bloodroot blooms from March to May throughout its range, but in the Toronto area we can't expect it much before late April - if spring is early.

DB

(contributions from Helen Juhola, Bruce Parker and Emily Hamilton)

References: Birds of America (1917) ed. T. Gilbert Pearson  
Checklist of the World's Birds - E. S. Gruson  
Horticulture, February, 1982, issue  
An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, Britton & Brown  
Gray's Manual of Botany

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## CREATE A HABITAT

## "STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS"

Consider growing natural foods for birds in your garden. In turn, these plants will provide the environment for nesting and shelter. Hedgerows of roses are ideal. Old World shrub-roses make attractive hedges that are cat-proof and supply hips for the birds as frost approaches. Plant them 4 feet apart. Some suitable varieties are: Frensham Rose, Marie Louise (1913), Madame Hardy (1832), Leda (the painted Damask), La Reine Victoria (1872), Rosa Mundi, Scarlet Fire, Mrs. Pierre Ager, Harrison's Yellow (1830), and Austrian Copper (1590). (If you cannot obtain these locally, for a small shipping charge they can be purchased from Carl Pallek and Son Nurseries, Box 137, Virgil, Ontario LOS 1T0)

Trees, shrubs and vines which attract birds include: Red cherry, American holly, autumn olive, Russian olive, mulberry, viburnums such as highbush cranberry, dogwood, flowering quince, redbud-tree, astilbe, maples, alder, white birch, honeysuckle, nannyberry, elderberry, bittersweet, white cedar, juniper, oaks, white pine, red pine, eastern hemlock, European mountain-ash, hawthorn, choke cherry, yew, wild grape, Virginia creeper. Ground-cover plants which provide food are: Bunchberry, bearberry, crown vetch, partridge-berry. Garden flowers which supply food through their blooms and/or seeds are: Bachelor's button, calendula, chrysanthemum, cosmo, forget-me-not, gaillardia larkspur, delphinium, poppy, columbine, sunflower, sweet William, evening primrose, impatiens, fuchsia, and peony.

(suggestions from Pat Smith, Oakville,  
as reported by June Hooley)

By popular request

S I P, S H O P, S O C I A L I Z E

From 7:30 to 8:15 before our general monthly meetings, coffee and all TFN publications will be available in the hall outside the auditorium.

# OUTINGS REPORT

DECEMBER, 1981

On December 5th sixteen people accompanied Herb Elliot to look at birds at Sunnyside. Just about all the common ducks were viewed and a snowy owl was seen. The next day Roger Powley and Jean Macdonald led a group of twenty-five through High Park where we looked at some of the grasses and trees peculiar to the area. On the 9th, Helen Juhola and Bob Given went to Mimico Creek with ten others. They visited Montgomery Inn while in the area, and enjoyed mince tarts. On the 12th, Molly McEwen led an art outing in the College Park Building, to see part of the McMichael Collection. Ten attended. The last outing of the month was led by Chip Weseloh. He took a large group to the Leslie Street Spit. It was a bad day for seeing passerines, though a northern shrike was spotted, as well as two species of owls.

JANUARY, 1982

Our January outings began with an exploration of Black Creek which is a tributary of the Humber River. Twenty-seven participants watched most of the common birds flying about the walnut trees and basswoods. Seeds from the houndstongue and avens stuck to our jeans. A mouse impaled on a bush and an eastern cottontail were also seen. Beth Jefferson's group of nine at Humber Bay Park had the thrill of seeing a European shelduck flying and found many species of dead birds along the shore. About a dozen different kinds of ducks were admired along with a snowy owl.

The Ecology House tour led by Mary Sudden was well-attended by seventeen people. Everyone was interested in saving on fuel bills by utilizing the sun.

A cold and slippery day reduced the number of beginning-birders to three on Roger Powley's walk. We saw both downy and hairy woodpeckers and made comparisons. We studied mallards and black ducks also for comparison, and saw cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, and nuthatches. A different area of Black Creek was explored by Liz Knight's group who were hardy enough to stand the extreme cold.

It was unfortunate that our mammal expert, Jeff Gibson, got a very poor turnout on his walk at Rosedale Golf Club. The weather was a factor. Tracks of foxes and minks were discovered - animals which we don't expect to find in a city of three million people.

On the 27th, Peggy Love led an inning at Allan Gardens. Fourteen people were given a special tour by Mr. Breyer, head gardener. All of the house-plants you are familiar with are grown here plus some which are too big for your home, such as coffee trees and banana trees.

The last outing of the month was led by Eric and Sheila Bruggeman, exploring another part of Black Creek. A woodlot in this area was saved from destruction because of a special effort by our President, Helen Juhola. Four members attended even though one of the worst storms of the year was in progress.

Roger Powley

Edgekoo by Ms. Pulla U. Otherleg

An insecure relationship - with some tree or other - have all nuts.

HAVE I THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP MY OWN LAND IN MY OWN WAY?

What is meant by "public and private rights over property"? Some say the question really is "what rights are there over private lands for public purposes?" and "What rights should there be?" Farmers say it's now a question of rights over farmers' lands for city-dwellers' purposes. Still others argue that all lands are held in trust for future generations and are not anyone's to do with as he will.

History has left its imprint on Ontario lands. In 1598 Letters Patent from the King of France, granting titles to lands in Canada, through the Governors, were introduced (sometimes with reservations, such as the right to wood and stone to build a mill). In 1763, with the Treaty of Paris, British ownership of Canada was confirmed. Governor General James Murray received from England "Instructions to the Governor-General Concerning Land", exhorting him to ...

- survey the province into townships and parishes for the making of settlements
- and whereas nothing can more effectually tend to the speedy settlement of our colony and the advancement of our pleasure than the disposing of such lands upon reasonable terms, and the establishing of a regular method of proceeding with respect to the passing of grants of such land...
- ...that all grants be subject to payment of two shillings sterling per one hundred acres and each patentee be obliged within 3 years to clear the land
- ...and whereas it is necessary that all persons who may be desirous of settling in our Province be informed of the terms and conditions upon which lands will be granted in our said Province, you are therefore to cause a publication to be made advising of all and every foregoing terms respecting the grant of lands.

Those applying to the Government of Upper Canada received a "Crown Grant", which always had, among other conditions, words to the effect, "reserving to the Crown all mines, gold, silver, and all white pine trees". If you look at the deed to your house you will still see the words, "subject to the reservations and limitations expressed in the original grant from the Crown".

"Restrictive covenants, in addition, may still apply to your property -- those added by land-owners as the Province filled up and acreage was subdivided. Thus, the standard offer-to-purchase alludes not only to good title of the property but also to complying with "registered restrictions or covenants that run with the land".

Mortgages and other liens also set out restrictions such as "not to commit waste", and a Code of Common Law developed on use of property, including the law of nuisance, prohibiting the wrongful causing or allowing to escape of gas, noise, etc., on to another person's land.

In time Ontario and other legislatures began passing statutes to control the use and development of land. Ontario's Planning Act was passed in 1946.

In 1974 the Honourable John White, Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, stated:

"Ontario's land use policies are based on a fundamental premise: that it is the responsibility of the Ontario Government to assess the present and future requirements of the Province in regard to social, economic and governmental development and to encourage and assist the planning of such development.

It is axiomatic that in the planning of social and economic development, land use is critical.

It must be evident also that certain traditional principles relating to the private ownership of land have been modified progressively for a generation or more to accommodate society's desire to develop communities that provide a high level of environmental quality."

Municipalities were empowered to pass zoning and building by-laws and to adopt "Official Plans", setting out detailed rules on uses of property. The Expropriations Act, and many statutes giving bodies such as universities, municipalities, and school-boards power to expropriate lands, also affect private rights. The Federal Parliament, too, has the power to expropriate lands, and has granted that power to others (as in the case of pipelines).

Ontario's "Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, 1973" was passed to preserve the escarpment and the program undertaken by the Niagara Escarpment Commission<sup>15</sup> to prepare a plan for the area. The Act provides for "development controls" instead of zoning. Thus any development in the "development control area" can take place only under a permit issued by the Commission, setting out the conditions that must be met.

The purpose of land use legislation was to respond to public demands for greater control over the environment and to attempt to prevent Southern Ontario from becoming one slab of asphalt and concrete from Niagara Falls to Oshawa.

So there you are, in a house for which you've paid too much...and you have all the right to do anything you want with your property...except for

1. reservations in the original grant from the Crown
2. restrictive covenants on your title
3. restrictions contained in any encumbrances, such as in mortgages
4. restrictions under Common Law, such as nuisance
5. restrictions under Municipal by-laws, such as zoning
6. conditions imposed by Provincial Planning statutes such as Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, 1973
7. requirement of your land by a provincially authorized expropriating body
8. requirement of your land by a federally authorized expropriating body

You agreed to Items 1, 2 and 3 when you bought your property. Items 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 can be said to be "rights over private lands for public purposes"--

a difficult question, intermingled with other problems of modern government. People who say, "I believe the government should let people alone" often want some sort of regulations as to where others may build. There are those who believe the planning is "too little, too late", and that if the Garden of Eden were found, someone would file an application for a plan of subdivision, and some local Council would let it go through.

However, there is another side of the picture, which you could begin to grasp only if you were part of the declining wildlife, trying to find a marsh that was there last year, or trying to survive in our rivers, or facing the risk of being killed crossing the highways that never end. The continent's declining wildlife has suffered a loss of habitat over the last two hundred years that can hardly be imagined.

I wonder if, when the New World was discovered, mankind had established a Planning Committee, would it have made a difference in the slaughter, extinction, levelling and pollution which have so affected our great flocks, herds, forests, and teeming life of shoreline, river and inland sea.

adapted and condensed from an article by  
Paul Charlebois (published in *CONE News 12*)

## IN EXCHANGE

### FROM THE RICHMOND HILL NATURALISTS' BULLETIN:

"Lifestyles: The way we live can have a serious impact on our environment. The kind of home we have, the form of transport we use, the recreation we enjoy - all these things make a difference. It makes a difference, too, whether we take good care of what we have. Do we keep things in repair, or do we get rid of them at the first sign of wear? Do we recycle used materials or just throw them away?"

"Who Will Watch the Birdwatchers? A new type of birder is emerging, one whose primary interest is in seeing as many species as possible, and the excessive zeal of this small group is tarnishing the image of the vast majority whose aim is the protection of birds. While the majority of birders are well behaved, with a protective and affectionate attitude toward the creatures they study, concern is being felt about the proliferating body of 'life-listers' people whose only concern is the adding of names to the list of birds they have seen in their lifetime. Many of these over-zealous observers have no real feeling for or understanding of birds, regarding them only as statistics in their continuing battle to outscore the competition. Birding is one of the most pleasant, healthful and rewarding of all hobbies, and its followers have made important contributions to our knowledge of birds. Their conduct has been, for the most part, beyond reproach, and it would be sad indeed if the reputations of these dedicated people were to be tarnished because of an over-aggressive minority."

## A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE - PART 11

## JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS and MURRES

Jaegers.

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4. Saunders, W.E., 1932. Iceland Gull on Lake Erie. Can. Field Nat. 46: 49.

Herring and Ring-billed Gulls.

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#### Thayer's Gull to Kittiwake.

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Bruce D. Parker

CORRECTIONS: MARCH NEWSLETTER (NUMBER 346)...

Environmental Group Report - page 30 - end of line 15 - for "hedges",  
read "sedges".

DB

Why Bother Learning the Scientific Names? - page 11, paragraph 2.

The binomial nomenclature of the Canvasback is *Aythya valisineria*. The specific name is for an Italian naturalist who named an aquatic plant. The duck feeds on this plant and was named after its food-plant, which gives the duck a special flavour - it is the most prized duck for the table. The "valise" mentioned in the article is only a convenient way to remember the name but has nothing to do with its origin.

Roger Powley

Ed. note:

See cover of TFN(333) Sept. 80 for illustration of the Canvasback's food-plant, *Vallisneria americana* (tape-grass or wild celery). You'll note we're not the only ones who make mistakes. The Canvasback is saddled with an incorrect spelling. The name of the Italian botanist (1661-1730) was Antonio Vallisneri, according to Gray's Manual.

"Stop-the-Press"...Since receiving Roger Powley's note, we have received another article on the subject of *valisineria/Vallisneri* from Dr. Bruce Cruikshank which will be published in a later issue.

STALKING BUTTERFLIES WITH A CAMERA

As we neared the ferry dock, the greenery and peacefulness of Centre Island appeared most inviting after the noise and concrete canyons of downtown Toronto. The parkland and formal gardens were pleasant to the eye, but our object was to explore the natural areas of the island.

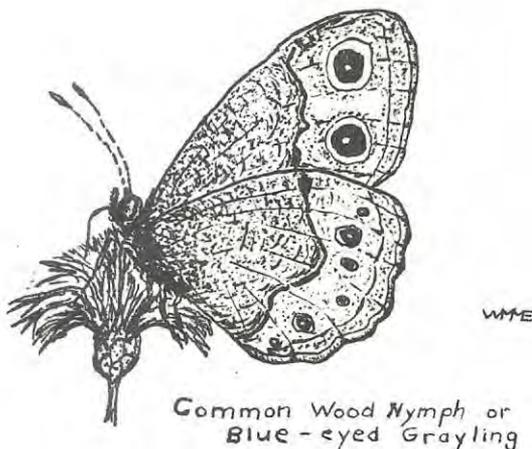
My companion was John Riggenbach, a nature photographer from Florida. He hoped to record on film some of our commonest species of butterflies. Our pace quickened on sighting a mass of showy purple loosestrife in a wet meadow by a lagoon. Here were dozens and dozens of Monarchs (*Danaus plexippus*) feeding on the loosestrife. The orange and black butterflies were everywhere, gliding leisurely from flower to flower. They made a wonderful contrast with the bright magenta of the loosestrife bloom. By stalking the butterflies with a camera, instead of a net, we seemed to become a little more observant of the flower-preferences of the various species and their habits while nectaring or laying eggs.

Further afield, a marshy spot in a woodland area seemed to provide the perfect setting for the Common Wood Nymph or Blue-eyed Grayling (*Cercyonis pegala*) and the Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestris metacomet*). Here, both species were found feeding on the aromatic violet blossoms of wild mint growing in great profusion. Before the clouds obscured the sun on this late July afternoon, a fair number of the thirteen species we recorded were captured on film.

The familiar wild carrot or Queen-Anne's-lace, with its flat-topped cluster of white florets, proved to be a popular plant with the hairstreaks. Many of John's photos revealed the hairstreak/wild carrot link. One slide (from Chapman Valley Park, I believe) appeared to be a Hickory Hairstreak (*Satyrium caryaevorus*), a relatively uncommon species in the Toronto region. John kindly donated his excellent colour-slides to the Toronto Field Naturalists. The slides will provide a valuable ecological record by helping to fill the gap of knowledge of butterfly-flower relationship.

Some of the latest identification guides are using the new photographic approach of showing butterflies in their natural habitats. Two helpful references are: The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies and Butterflies, a Hamlyn nature guide for the butterfly-watchers of Britain and Europe.

Bill Edmonds



Common Wood Nymph or  
Blue-eyed Grayling

## / A COMPARISON OF WORLD BIRD-LISTS /

- CLEMENTS, James F. - *Birds of the World - A Check-List*, Two Continents Publ. Group, New York, 1974. 520 pages.
- EDWARDS, Ernest Preston - *A Coded List of Birds of the World*, published by the author, Sweet Briar, Virginia, 1974. 174 pages.
- GRUSON, Edward S. - *A Checklist of the World's Birds*, Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co., New York, 1976, 212 pages.
- WALTERS, Michael - *Complete Birds of the World*, David & Charles Publishers, 1980. (McGraw Hill-Ryerson, Toronto Distributors), 340 pages.

What would anybody want with a book which is nothing but a list of birds of the world? So I thought as I thumbed through such a volume on a book-store shelf a few years ago. Shortly afterwards I found I couldn't do without one. If you travel, a comprehensive checklist is a great aid in keeping track of species, with a minimum of confusion. Such a book is also helpful if you are curious about the relationships of bird-families.

It seems that, in the middle of the seventies, suddenly a strong need was felt for a one-volume list of the world's bird-species, including both scientific and English names. There existed classifications of families; lists with *examples* of species for each family and genus; lists for certain geographical areas such as the A.O.U.\* list; comprehensive lists running into many volumes; but none filled the need which inspired these four volumes.

Systematics used by Gruson and Walters are those of Peters (1931-1979) with changes based on more recent literature. This means that they are not as close to the basic order used in our New World field-guides as are Clements who uses Van Tyne & Berger (1959) (A.O.U. on species) and Edwards who basically follows Wetmore (1960).

The format differs, but in three of the books, at the top of each page, the English name for family and group is shown, to facilitate finding the bird. Gruson also shows the scientific family name. Unfortunately, in the Walters book, only the first and last scientific names listed on the page are shown.

Taxa listed include family and genus (listed systematically), and species of each bird. Only Clements and Edwards list the orders to which the families belong. Sub-families are shown only in some cases, for convenience, and are not the rule in any of the books. Under each genus, the species are listed *systematically* - according to their relationships - by three of the authors; but Gruson lists species *alphabetically* under the genus. This is handy for finding a bird quickly but obviously-related birds do not fall together (e.g. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers together; Three-toed Woodpeckers together).

The number of species listed varies in accordance with the author's tendency to follow the "lumpers" or the "splitters," and to include extinct species. Edwards lists 8908 living species. Of the 8948 species listed by Clements, some are extinct. Gruson has the list pared to 8733 living (a few recently extinct) species, but his annotations account for 378 additional forms, for a total of 9111. Walters lists 9350 species, including those extinct since the end of the last ice-age.

\*American Ornithologists' Union

Range is described in some detail in Clements and Walters. No maps are included.

In Gruson and Edwards, only the faunal zones applicable are given - in code form. There are maps of the faunal regions of the globe in both books showing eleven coded zones.

Indexing is helpful in three of the books which include an alphabetical list of genera - the main key to using such a book, since the scientific name of each species starts with the genus. The omission of such a list in the Walters book is a serious drawback. Clements includes synonyms as a cross-reference, to cover recently "lumped" or changed genera. In Gruson these have to be picked up in the annotations. The Clements book has no index to English popular bird-names. Edwards and Walters, in English, index only the family names, which is not much help (e.g. - no use looking up "Robin"). Gruson has the best indexing of English bird-names (e.g. one is directed to three different listings for "Robins," as well as "Robin-Chats" and "Robin-Flycatchers"). All the books have short bibliographies.

Special features of the checklists include: Edwards - a flexible identification-code which he hopes will catch on; Clements - ample lined space for field-notes (only "marginal" in the others); Gruson - source references coded for every species listed; Walters - family description and, for each species, coded information on habitat, food, nesting, clutch-size, and incubation period, where known.

Evaluation: For a review by Kenneth C. Parkes (a noted systematist) of the Edwards and Clements books and of two other lists lacking English names and distribution information, see *Auk* 92:818-830, 1975, at Metro Library. (Fred Bodsworth drew my attention to this review). Parkes is very critical of Clements because of errors, inconsistencies and taxonomical "naiveté." Much of what he says about Clements would also apply to Gruson and, to some extent, to Walters. However, I personally congratulate these authors for at least "doing something about it." Sometimes, I feel, we are so afraid of errors that nothing gets done. Now that there are several checklists, it's possible to acquire one and use others, in libraries, for cross-checking. Clements (about \$19.00) and Gruson (about \$15.00) are most frequently seen. Walters (\$43.00) is new. Because of its inadequate indexing, it would not be the best book to have (unless you're among the most skilled of taxonomists). It would be excellent to own if you already had one of the other books for cross-reference. Let us hope that it will be revised to include the generic index. Edwards, though criticized for some minor inconsistencies, is recommended by Parkes for accuracy. A limited edition (only 1000 copies) it was, however, much cheaper than the other books at the time of publication. It may still be possible to order it through a book-store. (There's a copy in the Reference Section of Etobicoke Public Library, Richview Branch, 248-5681). I must add that my well-thumbed, pencilled-up copy of Gruson's book is much appreciated.

Diana Banville

#### ONTARIO ORNITHOLOGISTS' MEETING

The Ontario Ornithologists' meeting will be held Wednesday, April 28, in the Botany, Genetics, and Zoology Building, University of Guelph. If you wish to attend, contact Dr. C. D. Ankney, Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. N6A 5B7.

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 THE MIRACLE OF SERENDIPITY
 

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On Baja, when headed for a marsh and old dock, we skirted an inlet touching our built-up road. Below us we noticed a beached Western Grebe that seemed to be haphazardly preening itself. Our camera fans soon disembarked. Gus, our leader, snapped as he edged closer. When he was about six feet away the bird swam into deeper water. Twice, it scurried quickly backwards with its head sinking underwater. We knew it was in trouble and when it shot forward we glimpsed the fishing-line.

Immediately we returned to the buses to await the exhausted bird's return to shore. Gus then circled wide to one side. Lee, the other driver, distracted it from the opposite side. Gus slowly inched forward and was able to grasp the neck near the head (that bill is powerfully quick). Cradled in Gus' arms, the bird was brought up the embankment where Lee unravelled the line tangled in the feet and around the breast.

High drama, indeed! Suddenly emotions were released -- for some, applause; for others, tears.

Shutterbugs had one more session. We hoped the two lads on bicycles noted the relationship between naturalists and creatures of the wild.

Gus slowly returned the bird to the water -- first the green lobed feet were lowered, then the thick body, and finally the neck and head. The grebe sat there, turned its long stately neck and head up to Gus, opened wide its long yellow bill as if to say, "Thanks, friend!" and leisurely swam into deeper water. Here it indulged in some busy foot-motion. Then, in a flurry of ecstasy, it stretched its wings up full over its back, raised its stomach high, until it was all but on tiptoe, and luxuriated in "Freedom at Last!"

(Travel brochures don't necessarily tell it all.)

May Staples

THE CANADIAN ARCTIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE has launched a special appeal for funds to support "A Heritage Plan for the Northwest Territories". They believe that a plan of the environmentally significant areas of the Yukon territory should be prepared so that it is possible to distinguish between lands that are essential and need absolute protection and lands that allow multiple use. Polar Bear Pass is included in this plan. They have the co-operation of government departments, native and conservation groups for this purpose. If you would care to support this project, the address is, 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa, K1P 5K6.

A "FOXY" FOX STORY

One of the "facts of life" I have learned in dealing with politicians, consultants and government officials on behalf of TFN during the past few years is the importance of our publication program. TFN is one of the few sources of natural history data in our region. If we have not published information on the status of a particular plant, animal, or area in Toronto, then probably no one has, and the existence of what we all "know" will not be recognized by the authorities.

All this leads me to confess what I know about foxes in Metro. During 1981 I saw foxes in Pine Hills Cemetery, Earl Bales Park, Walmsley Brook Ravine, and Ernest Thompson Seton Park. In both Earl Bales Park and Walmsley Brook Ravine I saw a fox emerge from a den. I have also been told about foxes being seen on the property known as the "White Elephant", in the East Don Valley north of Duncan Mills Road, and in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Has anyone else anything "foxy" to confess?

Helen Juhola

WORLD ENVIRONMENT

The United Nations Environment Program was established in 1972 to plan a co-ordinated program for better environmental management at national and global levels. The United Nations Association in Toronto is inviting people and organizations to join in an ad hoc committee to help focus public attention on the main environmental issues of our day and to plan events in connection with World Environment Day on June 5, 1982.

If you would like more information about this committee, or have suggestions or opinions concerning environmental issues, call Lois James, 284-6409, or the United Nations Association office, 482-2463.

### *A Naturalist's Code of Ethics*

The following Naturalists' Prayer is displayed on the wall in the entrance foyer of St. John's Convent in Toronto, and was sent to us by Betty Leeson.

O God, when our use of this world is over  
and we make room for others,

May we not leave anything ravished  
by our greed or spoiled by our ignorance,

But, rather, may we hand on our common  
heritage fairer and sweeter through our  
use of it.

Amen.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT HUNTING REGULATIONS

Information is sometimes very difficult to obtain. When visiting Provincial Parks in the fall, as a naturalist, I became concerned on encountering hunters firing guns in exactly the same areas where I wished to birdwatch. Because of this situation, I wanted to familiarize myself with all the hunting rules and regulations. I spoke to my MPP about the situation and he promised to send me some information on the subject. Before long I received by mail a document called "SUMMARY OF THE HUNTING REGULATIONS" published by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario. It is a guideline for people who hunt, outlining what game can be shot, where, and when. It did not satisfy my curiosity completely; this document states that one must refer to the applicable Acts for the full picture.

To get a look at some of these Acts, I decided Metro reference library would be a good place, as I had been told on a tour that copies of all the Acts are kept there. This is where I first read "THE MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT" of 1916. I also obtained, without difficulty, "THE GAME AND FISH ACT". I came to a stumbling-block when trying to get specific details on "THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT". Section 5 of this Act states:

"No person shall wilfully

- (a) kill, injure, interfere with or take any species of flora or fauna; or
- (b) destroy or interfere with or attempt to destroy or interfere with the habitat of any species of fauna or flora declared in the regulations to be threatened with extinction."

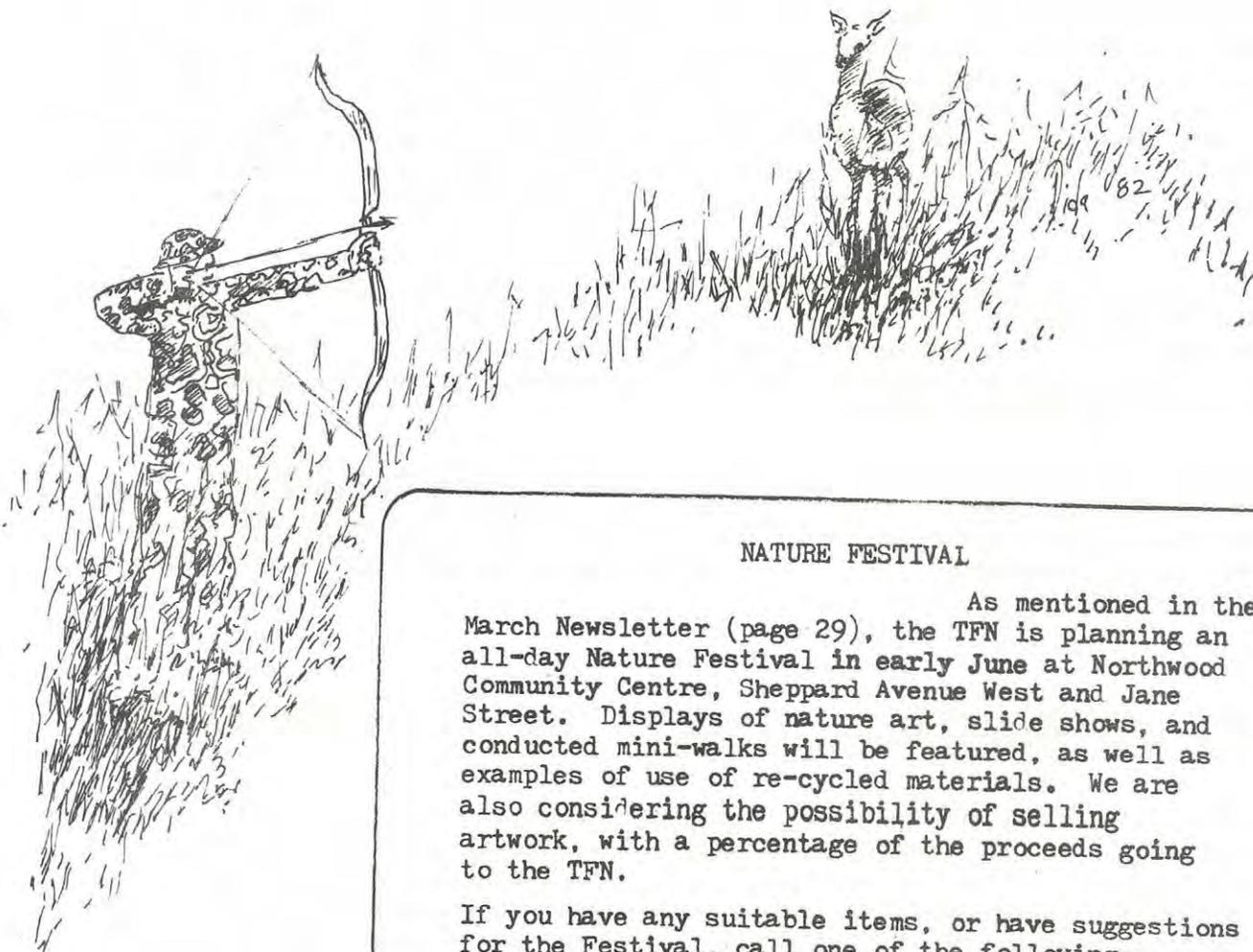
The problem is that the "regulations" mentioned are not actually stated within that particular Act. I was sent to the library's Science Department for a "consolidation" (whatever that means). After I saw it, I understood what they were talking about. I was shown a small booklet which had both THE GAME AND FISH ACT and THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT all in one book. Of course the latter was exactly the same as the one I had just read, and still did not state the "regulations". I had got all the possible information from the library, so decided to try the Ontario Government Book Store. There I found a bit more information, as they had a copy of the "regulations" I was looking for, which I read. They also had the "consolidation" booklet I had seen at the library and I bought it for \$1.25. At this time I asked if I could get a copy of THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONVENTION ACT but this was Federal, so they sent me to 211 Yonge Street. (This book store is a naturalist's dream; it is full of all kinds of weird books such as Insect Pests of Spruce and Tamarack Trees in Northern Ontario.) For \$1.50 I picked up a copy of the ACT. After reading these things, you come to realize that there are many "laws" in the SUMMARY OF HUNTING REGULATIONS for which there is apparently no legislation to back them up. By reading my original document again, I found I was still missing quite a few important "laws". I phoned the book store to see if they had what I was looking for; they then told me if I wrote to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa they would send me all the pertinent laws free of charge. I wished I had known that little tidbit of information in the beginning.

We hope to publish some of the laws which apply to hunters in the newsletter to make TFN members aware of any illegal hunting which may go on in our area. It is important to know that "THE GAME AND FISH ACT" gives the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the power to make regulations. Basically these

regulations say who may hunt, what, where, and with what type of weapon. He may also prescribe the number, age, or sex of game-animals, including birds, which may be taken or possessed. All this can be read in Section 92 of THE GAME AND FISH ACT.

After reading some of our hunting regulations, I came to the realization that there are many aspects of the law which naturalists should be questioning. One prime concern is the protection of our deer herds in the Toronto area, which can be hunted legally with bows in the fall. The herds we often see in the Rouge, Etobicoke Creek, and Humber valleys - which are in no sense of the word plentiful - can be legally killed. This must be rectified.

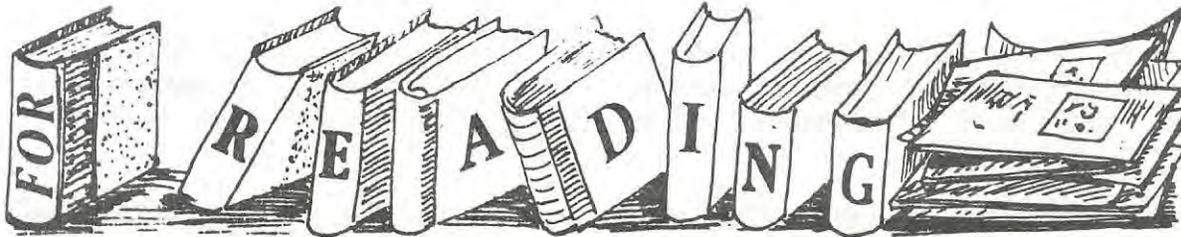
Roger Powley



#### NATURE FESTIVAL

As mentioned in the March Newsletter (page 29), the TFN is planning an all-day Nature Festival in early June at Northwood Community Centre, Sheppard Avenue West and Jane Street. Displays of nature art, slide shows, and conducted mini-walks will be featured, as well as examples of use of re-cycled materials. We are also considering the possibility of selling artwork, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the TFN.

If you have any suitable items, or have suggestions for the Festival, call one of the following:  
 Mary Cumming, Art Group Chairperson, 536-2746 (evg.)  
 Florence Preston, Festival Co-ordinator, 483-9530.



GRASSES OF ONTARIO by W.G. Dore and J. McNeill. Research Branch Agriculture Canada, 1980. 566 pages, \$12.00.

We still wish for an easy way to become familiar with our grasses!

This work, which describes 260-plus species, helps only those who are already conversant with the terminology used in identifying grasses, but suggests several books which illustrate grass structure and explain its terminology. Identification keys are provided to the genera and to the species within each genus. There are a few line drawings of entire grass plants, and some photographs of the grains of grasses found within the more difficult genera; these are magnified five times. The range maps placed beside the descriptions will be useful and are fascinating when studying the distribution of species throughout the province. In many cases there are notes on the exact location of the specimens collected and the habitats in which they grow. There is an index to the English names of grasses, and a more elaborate one to the scientific names and synonyms.

- - -

The beginner in "grasses" will find detailed descriptions and excellent illustrations in GRASSES by C.E. Hubbard (1968 Pelican (Penguin) Books, a paperback). The chapter on the structure of grasses is most helpful. The species described are from the British Isles but many of their common grasses are found throughout Canada as introduced species.

Another helpful book is HOW TO IDENTIFY GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS by H.D. Harrington (Swallow Press, Chicago, 1977; paper) which is produced to be used in connection with the more formidable manuals and explains the terminology used by the botanists. This book explains the difficult families of sedges and rushes as well as grasses.

E.H.

\* ONTARIO HYDRO FIELD GUIDE TO ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND RARE SPECIES IN ONTARIO Report Number TE/ER-80-0003, October 1980. 130 pages

This book was prepared for Hydro employees to provide them with information necessary to identify and protect Ontario's vanishing wildlife. It covers one plant, one butterfly, and many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. An introduction defines endangered and threatened species. There is a section on how to use the guide, a glossary and tables. The bulk of the book resembles field guides familiar to naturalists. Each species is allotted a full page of text opposite a coloured drawing and range map. Details, among others included in the text, cover Natural History, Critical Habitat and Factors Limiting Population size. Four pages list reference material.

This is an attractive little book and a good attempt to make field employees aware of the environments in which they work.

Available from Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto.

WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN NEW YORK STATE: THE TOP 500 SITES by Susan Roney Drennan. Syracuse University Press, 1982. 520 pages, \$38.00 (cloth); \$18.95 (paper).

Birders will want to look for this book which a press release tells us is the "first comprehensive birding site guide for all of New York State". There is a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, 106 maps and information on the 25 best hawk watching sites.

For information write Thomas Lavoie, Syracuse University Press, 1011 East Water Street, Syracuse, New York 13210.

\* CITIZENS' BULLETIN - a publication for environmental groups. Published jointly by Friends of the Earth and Environment Canada.

This little Bulletin has news items both regional and international, a section which lists resources such as books, films, etc., a section on opinions about the environmental movement pro and con, and letters. Participation by interested individuals is welcomed and solicited.

To subscribe: it's free from Citizens' Bulletin, Environment Canada, Information Directorate, 10th Floor, Fontaine Building, 200 Sacre Coeur Building, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0H3

\* Facts About Furs by Greta Nilsson and others. Published by Animal Welfare Institute, P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C. 20007. 80 photographs and drawings. 258 pages.

Humanity's war on wildlife through trapping, hunting, poisoning, pollution and takeover of habitat is graphically depicted in this well-annotated and fact-filled study of the worldwide fur trade. There are chapters on Endangered Species, Opinions of Trappers, Medical Men and Hunters, and Legislation. Many tables accompany each chapter and there are Appendices and an Index.

The authors describe vividly the cruelty of the primitive trapping methods still used: wire snares, leghold traps, pole traps and poison. She notes that several species have been exterminated through trapping alone and others, such as the wolverine and marten, are rare. The staggering number of 300,000,000 wild, ranch and domestic animals were killed in 1979 for their fur. Ecologists are critical of this maximum sustained yield. For instance, a table on Rare and Endangered Species shows 70 species close to extinction. The author wants governments to respect public opinion and move to protect our wildlife heritage from this wasteful exploitation.

Mollie McEwen

\* Available from TFN Library, 690-1963.

ELSA SAFARI TO KENYA - July 3-24, 1982, to be conducted by TFN Member, Betty Henderson (489-8862), President of the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada.  
(\$3325 Canadian - \$50.00 of this goes to the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal.)

THE MISCELLANY

Clippings and pamphlets received for TFN Library. If you wish to read any of them, call 690-1963.

*Animals in Art* - catalog prepared by P. Buerschaper - Royal Ontario Museum. The official catalog of the exhibition of wildlife art displayed at ROM in 1975. Introduction by David M. Lank gives a 6-page history of wildlife art. Many illustrations in black-and-white and colour. Donated by Emily Hamilton.

"*Bird of Myth reported seen*" - clipping of article by Bayard Webster - from *New York Times*, November 11, 1981. Describes recent sighting in New Guinea by ornithologist, Dr. Jared Diamond, of the Yellow-fronted Gardener Bowerbird for which there had been no previous sighting record in the wild; only three skins exist, now in the American Museum of Natural History. Illustration. Submitted by Emily Hamilton.

"*Ravines crumbling - naturalists*" by Kathleen Kenna - in *Neighbours North* November 17, 1981, published by *Toronto Star*. About Wigmore Ravine and interview with Helen Juhola on what's happening there. Clipping submitted by Grace Somers. (See also "The Case of the Slumping Fill", TFN(345)Feb.82)

*Focus on Lake Simcoe* - newspaper of the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, 1981. Valuable information about water as a resource, the problems of phosphorous and other nutrients when excessive, erosion control program for private landowners (not only gabions but also seeding and planting discussed). 8 pages.

*Notes on the Ontario Rare Woody Plant Program* - No.2, May, 1981. By Dr. John D. Ambrose, Co-ordinator, University of Guelph. A sheet explaining what tree-lovers can do to help is attached, as well as a list of rare woody plants of Ontario and a list of candidates for "rare" status. Natural stands of the Blue Ash and the Kentucky Coffee-tree are being sought (or historical notes on their former presence in Ontario); these two trees are becoming increasingly rare.

"*Soaps making a comeback on pest control scene*", clipping from *The Rosarian* 1980 (Canadian Rose Society). Contributed by Pat Smith, Oakville.

*Nature Society News*, The Purple Martin Newspaper. News about Purple Martin projects, continent-wide, as well as columns on bird movements from all areas, a variety of features on other phases of natural history, conservation. Regular column "Spaceship Earth" by Win Stiles. A tabloid-size monthly newspaper donated regularly to TFN by Emily Hamilton.

<p>Some ripples of cloud -  Below them, billowing ones.  There's a sea up there.</p>
--

haiku by Diana Banville

The Sweaburg Trillium Woods

An entry in my notebook for May 21, 1973 lists the following:

"White Trillium - *Trillium grandiflorum*  
 forma *Chandleri* (no leaves)  
 forma *lirioides* (3 leaves, petioled)  
 forma *dimerum* (2 leaves, sepals and petals)  
 forma *striatum* (3 white petals with green stripes)  
 forma *viride* (3 green petals)

This Sugar Maple woods is remarkable for the abundance and variety of aberrant forms of the White Trillium. The woods is managed by the Upper Thames Valley Conservation Authority (Oxford County, West Oxford Township)."

Some of these trilliums, particularly the dwarf and multi-part forms, become so grotesque that it isn't possible to distinguish leaves, petals, stamens or sepals. When the woodlot was threatened in the early 1960's the Woodstock Naturalists Society undertook a campaign for its preservation and the local Conservation Authority was able to purchase and protect the woods and the unique stand of trilliums. A few years later the site was accepted as a Nature Reserve by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Local naturalists have known about this and other stands of exceptional forms of White Trilliums for years and as early as 1925 W.E. Saunders wrote about them in the Canadian Field Naturalist. Saunders' continual curiosity about every aspect of nature led him to do some transplanting experiments to find the cause of the 'freaks'. Being unable to produce viable seeds and finding that the plants did not even produce the same forms in successive years Saunders showed that the condition was not hereditary. More recently Gad and Cruise summarized theories which may explain these oddities. Viruses and bacteria were eliminated as factors responsible for the abnormalities when electron microscope investigations of the phloem cells of aberrant petals and leaves disclosed the presence of microplasmas, minute micro-organisms similar to bacteria which have lost their cell walls. This theory continues by claiming that the microplasmas may be spread in a trillium colony by tiny insects such as leaf-hoppers which feed on plant juices.

Whatever the cause of these odd trilliums their academic value is outweighed by their aesthetic interest, their beauty and variety make a visit to the Trillium Woods an experience to remember.

A Toronto Field Naturalists bird and botany outing to Oxford County on May 8 will be highlighted by a visit to the Trillium Woods but will also feature a stop-over at Fowler Lake to investigate its border of spagnum, pitcher-plants and sundews and an afternoon visit to Mud Lake. This outing should yield an exceptional variety of both plants and birds.

References:

Bruce D. Parker

Gad, Leila and James E. Cruise, 1974, Trilliums and Their Unusual Forms, Ontario Naturalist, March: 33-36.

Saunders, W.E., 1925, Unusual form of *Trillium grandiflorum*, Canadian Field-Naturalist 39(6): 149.

# Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

January and February, 1982

## Exceptional Records:

Hawk Owl. One remained throughout January near Newmarket (Bayview and St. Johns Sideroad) and was seen by many observers after being first reported on January 3 by E. Johns.

Black-billed Magpie. The last report of the magpie which was noted on the Christmas Bird Count was on January 3 when it was found at the Eastern Headland by Fred Bodsworth.

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Since Great Blue Herons have difficulty wintering in the Toronto Region it is hoped that the one seen at the Humber Marshes on Dec. 27(HH) moved out before the January freeze covered the area. Blue Geese were reported at Sunnyside (2 on Jan. 15, WM) and at Marie Curtis Park (1 on Jan. 20, RE). Three Green-winged Teal and a Wood Duck were noted at Grenadier Pond in late January and early February (JP, JS) while at the E. Headland 7 Mute Swans, Canvasbacks and Redheads wintered with the more numerous Old-squaw, Greater Scaup and Buffleheads (OO, JP). Other reports of waterfowl were of a Ruddy Duck at Humber Bay (Jan., VH), a Hooded Merganser at the E. Headland (Feb. 6, DK) and a King Eider which moved from the Toronto Harbour to Ontario Place and was last seen at the end of the E. Headland on Jan. 23 (BP, BK).

The severe weather during January may have caused raptors to pay increased attention to feeding stations. In late Jan. a Sharp-shinned Hawk took a Pine Siskin at an Oakville feeder (JK); Kestrels visited a feeder in Schomberg (Dec. 30, Mrs. J.J.) and harassed Mourning Doves at a Don Mills feeder on Jan. 30(DK); a Saw-whet Owl was seen with captured Starlings near a feeder at Casa Loma twice during Jan.(JM) and a Northern Shrike was noted watching the House Sparrows at the same feeder early in the month(JM). Other raptor reports were of a Cooper's Hawk at Pine Point (Jan. 23, 28, MK), a Red-shouldered Hawk in the Don Valley (Feb. 6, JP), an adult Bald Eagle in the Rouge Valley (Jan. 12, PH, BP), Snowy Owls at Humber Bay (Jan. 9, BJ) and Rexdale (Feb. 20, MK) and two Short-eared Owls on the Eastern Headland (Feb. 21, JP).

A Killdeer showed up in Pickering on Jan. 12(MS) and 272 Mourning Doves were counted as they flew into a roost in the Weston Golf Course on Dec. 22(MK). A small influx of Horned Larks occurred with the advent of slightly milder weather on Jan. 23. In contrast to last winter only a few Robins wintered in Metro (about 20 were reported from four locations in Jan.). A Brown Thrasher and a Red-winged Blackbird were regular to a feeder at Casa Loma during late Jan. and a flock of 100 Cedar Waxwings was found near Edwards Gardens on Feb. 7(DK). Common Redpolls increased early in Feb. with up to 2000 in Erin Mills (BK), at least 7 Hoary Redpolls were reported from King City, Pine Point, E. Headland, Don Mills and Erin Mills. About a dozen House Finches continued to visit a feeder on Glencairn Ave.(BP) and a pair returned to another feeder on nearby Warren Rd. in Feb.(JD).

Contributors: Fred Bodsworth, Hugh Currie, June Donnelly, Paul Harpley, Heather Harris, Verna Higgins, Mrs. J. James, Beth Jefferson, Ed Johns, John Kelley, Don Kerr, Mark Kubisz, Bob Knudson, Wm. Mansell, John McDonald, O. Oppertshauser, Bruce Parker, John Petridis, Roger Powley,

Murray Speirs, Jeff Stewart.

Everyone is invited to send his/her observations of birds in the Toronto Region to Toronto Region Bird Records, Bruce D. Parker, TH 66, 109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills, Ontario, M3A 2R8, or phone 449-0994.

Bruce D. Parker

#### THOSE OTHER WINGED CREATURES

"...it is estimated that about 100,000 different species of insects crawl, burrow, and fly within Canada's borders. However, only about 60,000 of these species have been identified and named!

Entomology is still at the pioneer stage in comparison with most other branches of zoology. It is quite possible that anyone digging in his backyard or scooping a net in a local pond may come upon a rare or previously unknown insect ...

If you find an unusual insect, take it to your local university or museum for identification. Given that over a third of our bugs remain unknown, it is quite possible that you may in time discover a new Canadian species. And possibly it may be named after you.

Or would you really want to have your name linked eternally with a species of beetle or aphid?"

from "Editor's Notebook", Canadian Geographic, Dec. 1981/Jan. 1982

"... If approached carefully, butterflies are easier to observe than birds, and their variety is much less complex than the bewildering array of wildflowers. Yet butterflies display a range of behavior as fascinating as that of birds, and all the colors and brilliance of flowers. The life cycle of butterflies is one of the fundamental miracles of nature. And the presence of various species can tell us much about our environment...

In the past butterfly enthusiasts maintained collections of butterflies as part of their hobby. Today, however, many readers will prefer to know butterflies by learning how they live, and by watching, photographing, and rearing them. Butterfly behavior in some species is still little known; here is an area where observers can make genuine contributions... The general rules for butterfly watching and photography are essentially the same: haunt sunny, flowery places, be observant, and move very quietly and slowly. Patience is required but it is sure to be richly rewarded.

Another way to enjoy butterflies is to rear them from eggs or caterpillars. Few nature activities are more satisfying. Caterpillars or eggs may be easily brought in from their natural habitats. But after the new butterflies emerge and dry their wings, they should be returned to their preferred environment. By cultivating nectar flowers and host plants, it is also possible to attract many butterflies. A number of native species may quickly become established, and others will visit flowers for nectar, if not to breed. A good start can be made by letting some nettles and carrot plants grow in a chosen area, and then by planting buddleia and phlox in between."

from The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies by Robert M. Pyle, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1981

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

TFN (214) 7-8, N 65

Several years ago, in the Humber Valley just north of the New Woodbine Race-track, we found a species of flower, a composite, which we had never known before. There was a profuse stand dominating a sidehill. The flowers were a pale yellow shade; the plant grew about a foot high, with a spherical lump, resembling a gall, just under the florescence. The stem and foliage were very sticky to touch. We identified it as Grindelia squarrosa, known by the English name of gumplant or tarweed. It flowers in late summer. Each year we return to look for this plant and have found that it is dying out. This year we found only one flower. Possibly it is a stranger to our area, which became established by accident and could not compete for survival. The only other record we have of this plant around Toronto is a small patch on the east side of Etobicoke Creek just south of Highway #401. We'd appreciate it if some of our botanist members could add some information regarding this flower's status in our area.

Gerry Bennett Nov./65

TFN (216) 8, J 66

In our November 1965 Newsletter we mentioned having found the flower, Grindelia squarrosa in the Humber Valley, and asked if other observers might know of this plant's status in our area. A note from Mrs. Stuart Thompson advises that Mr. Thompson had found and collected a specimen on October 3, 1927, at Kinghorn, in King Township. The specimen was eventually given to the Department of Botany of the University of Toronto. Mr. Thompson had also found this plant near Edgely (east of Woodbridge). Mrs. Thompson adds that it is a western plant, naturalized in the east in occasional spots of dry soil. We'd appreciate hearing from other botanists regarding this interesting flower.

Gerry Bennett Jan./66

### Ed Note:

"Gumweed" has turned up on our 1981 valley walks. Just prior to this, Emily Hamilton had spotted some low specimens beside the Crescent Town complex of towers and townhouses. But when the group found it in the Don Valley just above Finch on September 30, 1981, it had the "woody" appearance of a well-established perennial. Emily reports that it has been seen frequently in Prince Edward County lately. It has also been seen near Claireville. Any more reports?

### MORE ABOUT PETERSON'S BIRD-NAMES (AND THE A.O.U.)

In Issue TFN (342) 17, O 81, we listed the English names used by Peterson in A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies which the A.O.U. are likely to adopt in the next revision of their checklist, and those which would probably not be adopted. Mr. Richard C. Banks of the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature has again written us. He tells us that the name Northern Harrier is currently on the books for Marsh Hawk. Meanwhile, some of the names we listed have again come up in the committee and there may be some reversals of former thoughts. We are grateful to Mr. Banks for his cheerful co-operation in this frustrating matter. Apparently English bird-names present more problems than one would think.

Diana Barville

## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

The February meeting of the Environmental Group continued the series of slide shows on Metro's ESA's (environmentally significant areas) with a presentation by Steve Taylor about sites in the Highland Creek Watershed and Scarborough Bluffs. Steve's work in the Highland Creek area started with a research project sampling 40 forested stands, which he undertook as a 4th year undergraduate in the Botany Department at the University of Toronto. This led him to identify four potential ESA's:

- 1) Bottomland forest at mouth of Highland Creek
- 2) Beech grove and pond in Colonel Danforth Park
- 3) Tableland and slope forests in Crooked Creek Park
- 4) Small ravine off McCowan Road.

All these sites combine many habitats in a small area. They also feature numerous rare plants and a high diversity of birds, both resident and during migration. Steve suggested that site #3 in particular would be worth checking for birds in the spring. Steve noted that an unusual aspect of Highland Creek, in contrast to the other watersheds within Metro, is that the areas around the upper tributaries have been much more heavily developed, and the watercourses more severely channelised, than in the lower reaches. As a consequence, the rivers are rapidly filled by runoff after rainstorms, making them very prone to dramatic flooding and consequent erosion of vegetated banks. Steve showed several slides of bridges that have been swept away during such floods.

Steve mentioned a number of sites in the Scarborough Bluffs area that are worth studying, although so far he has only looked at East Cudia Park in detail. East Cudia Park has several names, and its ownership is in doubt, since Scarborough, the City of Toronto, and Metro all apparently disclaim responsibility. It is an extremely interesting natural area, having five different habitat types in a small area, a number of unique plants, and being excellent for birds.

Steve outlined the two general philosophies regarding the future of the Bluffs:

- 1) No intervention; allow the Bluffs to continue to erode (not popular with property owners on the top of the Bluffs).
- 2) Develop the base of the Bluffs (with parks, marinas, etc., as at Bluffers Park) to prevent further erosion of the base.

The tops of the slopes would continue to erode for a while until a fairly stable slope resulted. This would eventually become forested and the unique cliffs of the Scarborough Bluffs would be lost.

Steve is preparing a detailed report on the potential ESA's he has studied in the Scarborough Bluffs and Highland Creek areas. In the meantime, his slides brought us the atmosphere, beauty and diversity of these areas, from dramatic, chilling ice sculptures at Bluffers Park, to the wild cucumber with its "springs and spines", to some well-camouflaged birds, a skunk and a groundhog. It was an evening that made us keen to get out and experience some of Steve's favourite haunts for ourselves.

Suzanne Barrett



The Botany Group held a most enjoyable, well-attended meeting on February 18th when Steve Varga told of his visit to Olympic National Park, Washington State, in July 1980.

Chairman Isabel Smaller introduced Steve, expressing appreciation of his many contributions of time and expertise to the Botany Group, including a number of talks in the past on various topics of interest.

To accompany the talk, Steve brought along a number of specimens from the Olympic Park and a set of fantastic slides. He explained that the Park was a peninsula formed 70 million years ago when two of the earth's plates collided and forced up this unique piece of terrain with its many levels of altitude providing eventual habitats for a rich variety of flora.

Beginning at the lowest level, Kalaloch Beach facing the Pacific Ocean, we were introduced to sandy beaches and rocky tidal pools, the latter providing colorful displays of green anemone, red coralline algae, and purple starfish. Among the species of the shifting dry sands were sea rockets and Russian thistles. In some wet areas of this level were saltmarshes with their own particular species such as large areas of glasswort with their parasitic growths of dodder, and sea plantain.

In the sand dune areas were amaryllis, various flowering onions, sea pinks and beach peas. There also was the yellow sand verbena with glands which secrete a sticky substance which holds the sand to it, thus being instrumental in the process of dune building.

Taking us upward into the rain forest to heights of 2000 feet, Steve showed us large Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, and big-leaved maple. The eerie effect of the rain forest was created by the trailing epiphytes which festooned the branches of these large trees -- mostly selaginella, the Oregon Spike Moss. On the forest floor the camera caught several varieties of western mountain ferns.

Still farther up (over 4000 feet) we viewed sub-alpine meadows with another change of flora. There in the cooler air were growing sub-alpine lupines and many low-growing species which hug the ground to avoid the damage of strong winds, and in wet places the same little butterwort we find in Ontario. In another area, Hurricane Ridge, we saw the marked contrast of growth on the north side and the south side of mountain peaks. Such plants as painted cups and avalanche lilies grew in abundance on the moist north slopes, while the drier, sunnier south slopes were inhabited by quite different types including many succulents. The area of Hurricane Ridge is of special interest to botanists. Eight endemic species have been found there, probably because it was once an island.

Mentioned here are only a small number of the plants and accounts of their habits to which the audience was introduced by beautiful slides. Thanks, Steve!

Eleanor Skelton

## issues---

### Those Gyrfalcons again....

The Inuit of the Northwest Territories hope to be given permission again this year to take young Gyrfalcons for sale to Arabs, according to a report in The Globe and Mail. This is disturbing enough but a report in Nature Canada (Jan./Mar. 1982) indicates that Jim McDonald, a former prime ministerial aide helped the Inuit get last year's permits. He also negotiated export contracts for which a commission would be payable. The CNF discovered that an Ottawa man, Richard McNeely, past president of the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, was involved in dealing with would-be buyers.

If these sales are finally permitted one wonders how many middlemen and others are going to benefit as well as the Inuit.

### Actions of Governments Affect Environment....

The following information has been obtained from the Newsletter of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, August 1981. The opinions expressed show that we must all be alert to the actions of governments. The article is concerned with the recent planned spending reductions by the Reagan government.

The funding for the three main agencies charged with the protection of the environment has been cut. These cutbacks will hit heavily at coastal zone management, wildlife protection, development of water resources, and perhaps most importantly to Canada, the improvement and maintenance of Great Lakes water quality.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has been put out of commission by a combination of Reagan's industrial priorities and Canadian government passivity. Upon election, Mr. Reagan promptly fired the three American members of the IJC; Canada simply "failed to replace" two of theirs. The budget cuts will curtail the chief activities of the IJC, including the monitoring of toxic chemicals and pollution levels in and around the Great Lakes. Research, planning and coordination between the U.S. and Canada will be seriously curtailed.

Mr. Reagan's goals of "industrial revitalization" take precedence over the environment; in this case, it's a matter of the U.S. coal industry over our air and (potentially acid) lakes.

submitted by Helen Hansen

(Editor's Note: Those who think we should be less concerned with the environment and more concerned with flowers, birds, fish and other animals should pause to consider that once the environment goes, so do its inhabitants.)

Jean Macdonald

# COMING EVENTS

## COMING EVENTS

### Civic Garden Centre

The Garden Club of Toronto will present the Spring Flower and Garden Show on the theme, "Flowers Naturally", April 21-25, at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie Street. To help with the TFN display, call Muriel Miville 463-8066 (evenings).

### Royal Ontario Museum

A series of lectures and films on the Ecology of Southern Ontario will be presented in the Planetarium Lecture Room on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.: (Call 978-4514 for details)

April 15--The Waters and the Land

April 22--The Forest--A Product of History

April 29--Plants of the Deciduous Forest

May 6--Insects: The World Wouldn't Work Without Them

May 13--Like a Fish Out of Water

May 20--Amphibians and Reptiles of Southern Ontario

May 27--Whence the Birds of Southern Ontario

June 3--Distribution and Ecology of Southern Ontario Mammals

### Clive Goodwin Trip

Clive Goodwin will be conducting a bus trip to Presqu'ile Park on May 21. Cost \$24.00 per person. Registration should be made during April by calling Clive Goodwin, 249-9503, or sending your cheque to him at 11 Westbank Crescent, Weston, M9P 1S4.

### COURSES FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

If you are interested in attending a Birdwatching Course, call Clive Goodwin, 249-9503, for information about courses he will be conducting at various locations during April.

### ALLAN GARDENS FLOWER SHOW

For an early breath of spring, visit Allan Gardens during April for the display of domestic and exotic flowers and plants. The flower show is in the greenhouses in the park at Carlton and Jarvis Streets and is open daily from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. No charge for admission.

### THE NEW FEES AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP

By a Board decision, February 22, ratified by the membership on March 1, 1982, new membership fees have been established. The new fees are shown on the back page and will become effective July 1.

New or renewal memberships paid now at the old rate will only be effective until June 30.

You may renew or join May 1 at the new rates. Your membership will be valid until June 30, 1983.

# TFN MEETINGS



## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Monday, April 5, 1982, 8.15 p.m. (See page 7.)

The World Wildlife Fund, Trying to Save Life on Earth

- Monte Hummel, Executive Director, World Wildlife Fund (Canada)  
Monte Hummel will outline the work being done by the World Wildlife Fund on a global basis, and emphasize the work by the Canadian organization.

A movie, "A Growing Concern: 20 Years of the World Wildlife Fund", will also be shown.

Monday, May 3, 1982, 8.15 p.m.

The Fascination of Plants -- from Spring Wildflowers to  
Downtown Weeds -- Dr. James E. Cruise, Director of the Royal Ontario Museum.

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## GROUP MEETINGS

### Bird Group

Wed. Apr. 28 Everything you always wanted to know about  
8.00 p.m. Snow Geese but were afraid to ask -- Pierre Mineau,  
Wildlife Biologist and Photographer, Canadian  
Wildlife Service

Location: Education Centre Auditorium, 155 College Street,  
1 block west of University Avenue.

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### Botany Group

Thur. Apr. 15 Wilket Creek Park -- Ruskin Willcox. Russ has an  
8.00 p.m. intimate knowledge of the plants in this park.

Location: Hodgson Public School, Room 3  
Davisville Avenue, just east of Mt. Pleasant Road.

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### Environmental Group

Thur. Apr. 22 Discussion of field techniques and potential study  
7.30 p.m. sites for summer 1982. If you would like to help  
study a natural area, or have any suggestions for  
ESA's we should look at, please come to the  
meeting and share your ideas.

Location: Huron Public School, 541 Huron Street, 1 block west  
of St. George subway station.

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### Junior Club

Sat. Apr. 3 Nesting Birds in Northern Ontario -- Dr. Ross James,  
10.00 a.m. Department of Ornithology, ROM.

Location: Planetarium Auditorium, immediately south of  
Royal Ontario Museum.

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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 **September** issue, material must be received by a member of the Editorial Committee by **July 15.**

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

Please read notice on page 32 re fees.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: FAMILY (husband and wife) \$20.00; SINGLE \$15.00; STUDENT \$10.00;  
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JUNIOR (8-16 years of age, Junior Newsletter only) \$5.00 - OR -  
\$8.00 for 2 in same family, \$12.00 for 3 in same family;