



TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 351, November 1982



Denizens of Toronto?
See page 7.

	Upcoming OUTINGS	TFN 
RAIN <small>6.6.</small>	or  SHINE	Everybody Welcome!

Tuesday November 2 TFN General meeting (see page 35)

Wednesday Nov. 3 Audubon Film (see page 24)

Saturday Nov. 6 Junior Club meeting (see page 35)

Saturday MOSSES - 625 Rushton Road

Nov. 6 Mr. Robert Muma has again kindly invited twelve of us to
 10.00 am view his collection and drawings of mosses. The first
 12 people to sign up with Laura Greer (691.4888) commencing Nov. 1st, will be accepted.
 (Vaughan Road bus, #90A from St. Clair West subway stn. get off at Arlington, walk north to Rushton Rd.)

Sunday LESLIE EXTENSION ROUTE #1 - Leslie and Eglinton

Nov. 7 Leader: Gavin Miller
 2.00 p.m. Meet at TTC stop at the top of steps on Eglinton Av. E (south side at Leslie) to walk west over the bridge. This may be a rugged walk. (Cars may park in E.T. Seton Park below Eglinton. Enter via Wilket Creek entrance off Leslie, and turn left at bottom of hill. Climb up steps).

- Thursday November 11th Niagara Bus Birding with Clive Goodwin see page 28 in October issue TFN.

Saturday GUILDWOOD - birds

Nov. 13 Leader: Jim Woodford
 9.00 a.m. Meet at Guildwood Park - east of the Guild Inn. Parking inside the east gate. (Eglinton East bus #34B get off at Navarre Cres. on Guildwood Parkway).

Saturday Tour of YORKVILLE ART GALLERIES

Nov. 13 Leader: Mary Cumming
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Bellair exit of Bay subway station. Art group please bring your own sketches.

Sunday LESLIE EXTENSION ROUTE #2 - Thorncliffe

Nov. 14 Leader: Mary Smith
 2.00 p.m. Meet at Overlea Blvd. and Thorncliffe Park Drive, to walk to Millwood Road. (South Leaside bus #88 or 88A or Don Mills bus #25). Get off at Beth Nealson Dr.

UPCOMING OUTINGS - continued

Tuesday November 16 Bird Group (see page 35)

Wednesday WEST DON RAVINE

Nov. 17 Leaders: Martha Wallace, Mildred Easto, Mary Pannell
10.00 a.m Meet on the west side of Yonge Street at the corner of
Florence Ave. This is 4 blocks south of Sheppard Av.
(Yonge bus 97, or subway to Sheppard, walk south.)

Wed. Nov. 17 Botany Group See page 35.

Saturday LESLIE STREET SPIT (BASE) - birds

Nov. 20 Leader: Bob Yukich
9.00 a.m Meet at the foot of Leslie Street. (parking on streets).

Sunday LESLIE EXTENSION ROUTE #3 - Crothers Woods

Nov. 21 Leader: Pat McCaw and Cameron Bennett
2.00 p.m Meet on Crothers Road at Millwood Road, (car park here).
(South Leaside bus #88).

Thursday Nov.25 Environment Group (see page 35)

Saturday HUMBER COLLEGE - birds

Nov. 27 Leader: to be announced
10.00 a.m Meet at the bus stop outside the college.
(Wilson #96 bus to Humber College).

Sunday LESLIE EXTENSION ROUTE #4 - Todmorden Mills

Nov. 28 Leader: Paul Scrivener
2.00 p.m Meet at Todmorden Mills sign. (Broadview #8 bus, or Mortimer
62, get off at Broadview and Mortimer, and walk down
Pottery Road.) Cars: Pottery Road from Broadview, or the
Bayview Extension. Turn into the site at the Todmorden
sign and continue on to the parking lot. Walk back. We
will walk across the valley to view the proposed route.

Saturday December 4 Junior Club

Tuesday December 7 TFN General meeting.

Please wear suitable footwear for all our outings.
We frequently walk in wet areas.

Notice - Dogs on Outings:

At the September meeting, the Board of Directors decided that, on an experimental basis, dogs would be allowed on outings only when the leader has agreed ahead of time, and providing that the dog is on a leash and does not disturb the rest of the group. The Chairman of the Outings Committee, Roger Powley (535-4740) can supply the phone number of the leader.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Looking back over my experiences in ten years of wildlife photography, I find that none stands out in my memory more than my glimpses into the personal lives of the larger mammals. Bears, bison, sheep, and wolves have all provided me with many thrilling and moving encounters; often there was time to study behaviour. I found that by reading about an animal and applying what I had learned I could almost "read" its thoughts and actions when I observed it in the field.

Dall sheep for instance. It was late December when I settled on a snowy slope to photograph these beautiful sheep of the Yukon and Alaska. The rutting season was still in full swing and I was hoping to get pictures of the sheep fighting. I had no luck in this because they had already clearly established their positions in the herd. Of the five rams I was watching, one "lorded" (there's no other word) his superior standing over the other four. He kept the ewes (his "harem") on the slope well away from the advances of the other males. What fascinated me, however, was his methods. Two rams lay down after feeding. They were well away from the ewes but this alone did not appear to satisfy the top ram. He strutted up to each in turn and displayed his curled horns in front of them as if to say "mine are bigger". For the first of the two this was enough. The second required further persuasion. The dominant ram walked around behind him and nudged him until he stood up; each turned and tilted his horns. This seemed to be all the second ram needed, and he walked off. After he had ousted the two from their resting places, the dominant ram sniffed the spots and then moved back to the herd of females. Clearly his only object had been to prove his seniority. To me it seemed almost like bullying; however, there was probably more significance to these actions than the exercise of power. Through gestures rather than aggression, the males had established their pecking-order, saving considerable energy - an important factor in winter when food can be scarce.

The longer I've studied the role of dominance in herd animals, the more I've seen of similarity to man. This might be termed "anthropomorphizing" and I plead guilty. However, when watching bison, comparisons are easily drawn. The mating season occurs in summer when the males leave their bachelor herds to seek out cows in heat. Fights between bulls are rare (my wife Anne and I saw two in four days) and serve the same function as fighting among sheep. Once a dominance-pattern has been established, things settle down to a relatively peaceful existence for the herd. "Peaceful" is perhaps not the best word to describe bison during the rut, for the bulls are constantly bellowing out their challenges. My wife and I thought they sounded rather like grunting pigs. All this racket is more "bluff" than anything else. If a bull is approached by a more dominant male he will (like a human being not wanting to fight) become immediately enthralled with something else, such as studying grass. However, we noticed that, when the gaze is not averted, this constitutes a challenge. Staring at one's opponent, in bison terms, seems to have the same effect as human staring - the party stared at feels very uncomfortable.

A bison bull finds a cow that is able to mate by sniffing her vulva. If she is in heat she produces a scent that does peculiar things to the bull. His lips curl up, his head tilts forward and he stands rigid with his belly sucked in. He looks disgusted and excited all at the same time. Usually we thought

he looked silly too, for the cow seemed to take advantage of the bull's trance to wander off. A female seemed reluctant to mate when first meeting a male which is, I suspect, also characteristic of people. The bull bison prefers privacy for its amorous advances, apparently as much as people do, and tries to escort the unwilling female to the edge of the herd before mating. She turns and runs back at any opportunity and the bulls are constantly being called upon to act as "cutting horses" to stop the cows in their dash for freedom. At some point mating must occur but in years of watching I've seen it only twice. The crop of new-born calves is the clincher every spring - a clear indication that a male finally did win his "gal".

"Reading" animals is not only a rewarding offshoot of wildlife photography, it is at times a skill necessary to preserve one's own well-being. Bison have more than once given me cause to consider taking up a safer occupation, like race-car driving. Once in Elk Island National Park, Alberta, I had wandered far off the road into the aspen parkland when two bull bison appeared in the meadow. I knew them from previous encounters and had dubbed them Mutt and Jeff; always they had wandered off at my approach. I supposed they hadn't seen me, so I crouched down and started "shooting" them. Finally at about thirty yards I stood, confident that upon seeing me they would run off. They didn't. They walked straight at me. I yelled. They kept a steady pace. I backed up slowly behind a two-inch-wide aspen, the only handy tree, which of course offered little comfort as the two massive bulls walked by within five feet of my "hiding-place". It was the first time I had ever literally shaken in my boots. Obviously I had mis-read those two bison.

The trouble with "reading" an animal's expression or action is that we tend to assume that all of them are going to behave in the same manner. Once we know an individual, we take one step further and make assumptions that it will never do this or that. Books about animals are full of accounts of people whose "pets" have killed or injured them. Hardly a summer goes by without a news-story about a farmer whose prize bull or horse turned on him.

Fortunately most animals I have dealt with in the wild have behaved "by the book". The one animal I never mess with is the bear. There is something almost magical about an encounter with a bear on its own turf. They are powerful, regal creatures that seem to have moods not unlike our own. I was delighted to watch a two-year-old grizzly cub playing with a saucer-like piece of snow at the Metro Toronto Zoo; he picked it up with his claws and then lay on his back, holding it with all four feet, like a baby with a rattle. I remember too the bawling of a grizzly cub our car had cut off from its mother up in McKinley National Park, Alaska. It sounded almost human. And then there was the black bear in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, whose one goal in life, it seemed, was to terminate me.

In the sixties, dumps were still common in parks like Algonquin and bear-watching was a favourite outing for most campers. Being a teenager with a bent already clearly directed to some form of "wildlife" career, I was quite often among the spectators. Soon I took to wandering behind the dumps to see the bears in more natural conditions. As a result I came to know bears. There were times when I would be sitting for hours with bears only yards away. They knew I was there but for their own reasons chose to ignore me. A few times there were "charges". These quickly changed to an inspection of me,

when I stood my ground, a snort and finally a shuffle off to something more interesting. This sort of cocky approach was bound to lead to trouble. I thought I knew bears and, in a general way, I guess I did. But one individual was to give me one of the scares of my life.

By the early seventies most of the dumps in Algonquin Park had closed down but there were a few back off the highway where the camps were. I drove to one of these one July evening and got out of the car to photograph a young cub. I could see a couple of adults at the other end and I started toward them. It was then I heard a growl from the forest; foolishly I started for it. The bear growled and shook some bushes. I stopped. Then she emerged. I noticed something odd about her nose and decided to get closer. Her face and ears gave no indication of anger; she just charged. Not full tilt but a steady, ground-eating pace. Two quick shots and I ran for the car. I made it with little time to spare. She looked at me and then disappeared into the bush. My pictures showed the reasons for her actions. Her cheek and nose were raked by claw-marks and fresh blood was present.

My most memorable "wildlife-watching" experience was one of animals unseen, again in Algonquin Park. The night was dark with no moon. I had hitch-hiked to the junction of Highway 60 and the Rock Lake Road where I was to meet a friend at 1:00 a.m. I had an hour to wait and no flashlight for company, so I sang. My singing leaves a lot to be desired but apparently some wolves found it of a quality to their liking and joined in. As they were on the hill some distance from the road I stopped and listened, fascinated by this wild chorus. They soon stopped and once again that lonely feeling returned so I started to sing, and again they joined in - this time much closer!! Fear found a foothold. I had read that wolves are not a threat to man. Somehow though I failed to find much comfort in that thought after midnight with no place to go and nothing for company except the wolves' chorus. Again they stopped. Under no conditions was I going to sing again, as I was now convinced my singing had brought the wolves to me. For a while the night was silent and then I heard the soft rustling of bushes as something passed by. Then the scratching of nails on highway pavement. The sound was all around me. I had no alternative but to stand very still and trust that "the book" was right about wolves. The next day my friend and I investigated and found the tracks of several wolves, mostly cubs, all around where I had stood. The song that worked this wonder? Believe it or not, it was "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes".

That experience taught me a lot about myself. It was remarkable how the trust in book-knowledge had disappeared so fast and yet how accurate it really was. I have since sought wolves many times and only once seen one - and that only last year. Watching other species has more than compensated for that lack and with each new experience I gain more insight into animals, myself, and man.

J. David Taylor

Keeping in touch . . .

We have received a complaint from Mr. Allan Greenbaum denying all responsibility for his submission in the October issue of the newsletter. Yet when one of our editorial scouts contacted Mr. Greenbaum about this matter, he confirmed at that time that he had definitely written no koo for the Toronto Field Naturalist.

This Month's Cover

"Larger Mammals of Canada" - by J. David Taylor

In Ontario, south of the sub-arctic, there are fifteen "larger mammals" (fox-size and up). Of these, it seems Toronto has lost three species once known to be here (as well as five which were considered rare here even 150 years ago). One species may never have lived here. We've gained back one species which we had lost less than 100 years ago. And apparently we have acquired one species native to this continent as well as one introduced from Europe.

BLACK BEAR was recorded in our area in the early part of the 19th century and is thought to have survived into the latter part.

RACCOON was described as "not uncommon" in 1913. Seems it has become increasingly common (a mixed blessing).

FISHER, which we think of as such a northern animal, was once recorded in the Toronto area -- in 1830 or earlier.

RIVER OTTER needs at least 15 miles of shoreline as habitat. Though rare in Toronto area early in the 19th century, it survived into the latter part.

GREY WOLF was reported as "driving deer into Markham" in 1840 but well before the end of the century suitable conditions disappeared -- and so did the wolf.

BRUSH WOLF, according to casual reports from TFN members, seems to be doing well in the Don Valley. Oddly it was not mentioned in an 1830-1913 list.

RED FOX is encountered from time to time on our TFN walks. It seems it was common 100 years ago, as it is today.

COUGAR has a single record for Toronto area, as far as we can tell -- 1894.

WILDCAT was taken at Scarborough over 150 years ago. Though "uncommon" then, it was seen by James H. Fleming (writing in 1913) near Toronto from time to time.

CANADA LYNX is said to have "never been more than a migrant" but a specimen was taken in or near Toronto early in this century.

BEAVER, once common in Toronto area, was considered rare in 1830. Today occasionally it is seen in Metro -- just swimming by. However, it has been busy along Uxbridge Brook at our James Baillie Nature Reserve recently.

EUROPEAN HARE, our "immigrant" was not mentioned in early lists. It likes our airport and other open spaces in Toronto.

WHITE-TAILED DEER was "exterminated" in Toronto by 1913 though "formerly common". Now, of course, we have our little herds in the Humber and Rouge Valleys and along Etobicoke Creek.

MOOSE was said to be rare south of Georgian Bay in the 17th century. It is not on checklists we have for the past 150 years for Toronto area. (Whence came the individual shot in Toronto in 1982? An escapee?)

BISON, though not plentiful east of the Mississippi at the time of the explorers, ranged nevertheless across most of the continent including Toronto general area. It was not here 150 years ago, but some of our earliest records -- written in the sands you might say -- are of bison. Fossils in the Don Formation date back 125,000 years or so.

DB

References used for "This Month's Cover":

A Natural History of the Toronto Region, Ontario, Canada, 1913 (RCI publication)
Chapter XV "Mammals" by James H. Fleming

The Moose in Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources, 1972 (booklet)

Quaternary Geology, Toronto and Surrounding Area, Ministry of Natural Resources,
1980 (folder)

Mammals of the Great Lakes Region by Wm. H. Burt, U. of Michigan Press, 1977

A Field Guide to the Mammals by W.H. Burt and R.P. Grossenheider, 1952, a
Peterson Guide

Toronto Field Naturalist: "A Foxy Fox Story" by H. Juhola (347) 19, A 82;
"White-tailed Deer Herd in Metropolitan Toronto" by Paul Harpley (346) 19, M 82;
"This Month's Cover" (on wolves)(341) 29, S 81

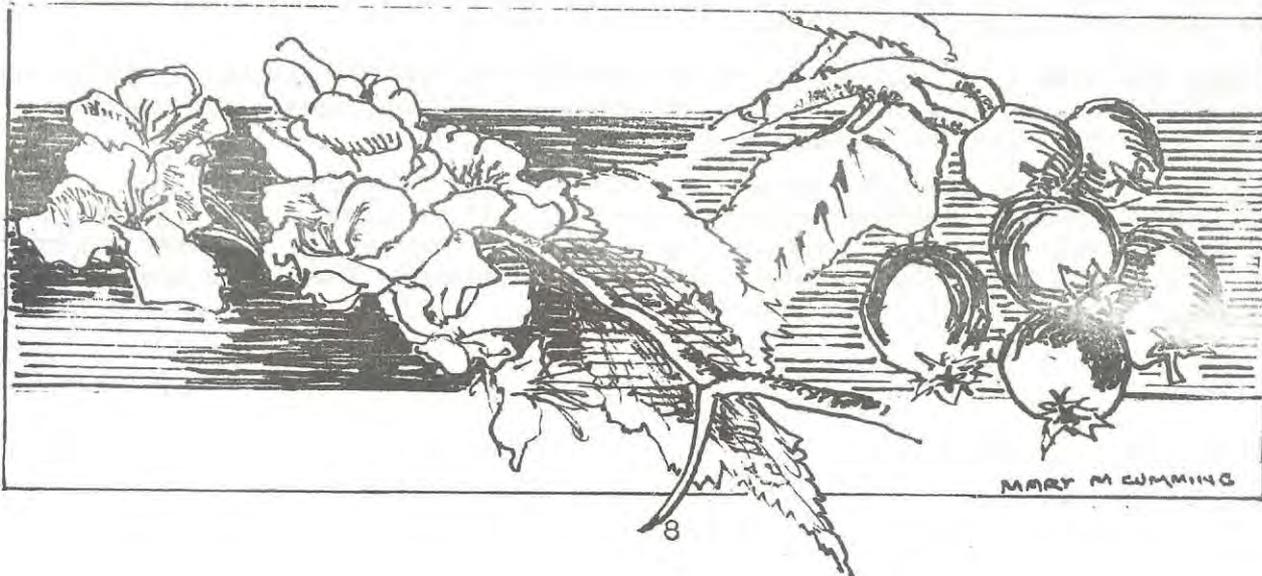
HAWTHORN HAVEN

In our block there is a venerable hawthorn. Although a house was built within ten feet of its branches, it survived. Every summer it plays host to a series of bird families, during the first few critical days out of the nest. Since no owner has had the audacity to prune the hawthorn, no cat dares enter that thorny mass. The whole end of the block is kept clear of cats generally during the nesting season, at least in the daytime. The birds keep them out. (The rest of the year a dozen cats roam widely.)

A chorus of clicks, clucks and strident orders alerts the listener that another convoy-to-the-hawthorn is in progress. Parent birds station themselves on either side of the intended route, each bird moving up as the babies get closer. One parent calls "come here"; the chick runs that way. The other parent calls; the chick responds, making a zigzag bee-line for the hawthorn. Once safely in it, the next chick is escorted, until the whole brood is safe. A family sometimes takes all day, what with one alarm and another. Adults other than the parents sometimes seem to be involved.

June and July are baby months in our block. The place hums with activity. Robins and grackles are the most obvious, but all the birds visit the hawthorn. I think they go there when they need a rest from the constant watching they do to stay alive.

Mary Smith



BOW HUNTING IS LEGAL INSIDE METRO TORONTO

As a naturalist I have been concerned about the safety of our resident deer herds in the Rouge River Valley. Hunters with longbows as seen by three of our members are apparently well within their rights to hunt deer from October 19 to December 13.

Some restrictions hunters must comply with are:

- ▶ only deer with antlers longer than 2.95 inches may be killed
- ▶ dogs may not be used on the hunt
- ▶ any deer killed must have a game seal attached through the cartilage separating the nostrils immediately

I was also told by an official of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario that a hunter should wear a patch showing the number of his hunting licence though this, he said, is not strictly enforced.

If hunters are on private property within Metro, they may hunt legally; however, most of the natural areas south of Finch Avenue are Metro Parks and it is unlawful to fire bows inside a park. Although I have not researched the by-laws of the Town of Pickering, it is possible that hunting may be legal on the east side of the Southern Rouge. The river is the boundary between Metro and Pickering.

If you think someone is hunting illegally, the R.C.M.P. are the people to contact. A hunter not wearing a patch showing his hunting licence number is a likely candidate for closer scrutiny.

▷ If you feel, as I do, that because of the high density of people and low numbers of deer within Metro, all hunting should be discontinued, write your Alderman. Any naturalists living in Scarborough would have special "clout". I feel there are many places where hunters can pursue their "sport" outside the city, but to have people firing potentially lethal weapons inside Metropolitan Toronto is irresponsible.

Roger Powley

THE MISCELLANY

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

"Perpetuating the Peregrine/Retour de Pèlerin" by TFN member Greg Stott. 10 pp. in en Route published by Airmidia, July/82. Article on status of the Peregrine Falcon in Canada and intervention by man in an effort to increase its numbers.

"Newspaper Recycling Collection Suspended", clipping from the East Yorker Sept./82 published by the Borough of East York. The Conservation Centre no longer has a buyer; their phone number is 429-0822.

"Coping with Chemicals", reprint from the Hamilton Spectator, a series by Betty Lou Lee, published by Environment Canada recently. Very readable help for the layperson in understanding, in a general way at least, the question of chemicals in our environment. 19 pp.

TORONTO REGION MAMMAL RECORDS

Following publication last spring of my fox observations in Toronto, members responded generously. The result is that we now realize that foxes are present in almost all our valleys and ravines. Following are observations brought to my attention:

Joan O'Donnell admitted to having heard a fox yapping and seeing it bounding about in a mature forest in *Morningside Park on a dull afternoon a few years ago.

Ruth Airey reported seeing a fox in the fall of 1981 in the West Don Valley near the corner of York Mills Rd. and Yonge St. - presumably looking for a new home following destruction of a wooded slope on Yonge Street for an apartment complex.

Helen King observed a fox in Mount Pleasant Cemetery about the same time.

Diane Maki saw one crossing Pottery Road near Todmorden Mills one February evening.

In March, 1982, Reta McWhinnie saw tracks of a fox in Thornccliffe Park.

Roger Powley had an interesting sighting along the Humber in April, 1982. He watched a fox catching garter snakes.

Bruce Parker saw a fox near a CNE floral display beside the Don Valley Parkway in early May, 1982.

Erick Sillick reported that he saw foxes in his garden which backs on to a tributary of the East Don, in May, 1982.

A fox was seen near a cattail marsh in Windfield Park by members on a TFN outing on May 26, 1982, while they were lunching.

Jack Cranmer-Byng had a number of observations to report. He had seen foxes in Sunnybrook Park and Serena Gundy Park in early spring of 1981, and on April 11, 1982, at noon on a slope near a path leading from the end of Salonica Road in the Walkeet Creek area. He also saw one in the *Rouge River Valley north of Twyn Rivers Drive, watched it hunting for ten minutes; he commented that it appeared to be curious...perhaps the fox hadn't seen Jack without a beard before. Jack also commented that Bill Andrews had told him that he often sees foxes in his garden which backs on to *Serena Gundy Park.

Not foxes, but four deer is what Joan Foote (now Patterson) saw on Highway 7 near Pine Valley Road and Weston Road about 5:30 pm on Sunday, March 28, 1982.

And last, but not least, are the observations made by Alexander Cappell, a member who lives near the G. Ross Lord Park. He saw a fox in the summer of 1981 and on April 4, 1982, also on May 21, June 1 and June 10. In the last-mentioned case, the fox was carrying what appeared to be a small mammal in its mouth. This was in a mown part of the park at noontime. The fox was ignored by several people who weren't particularly close and was finally chased off the sidewalk by a boy on a bicycle who overtook the fox from behind. He also reported having seen raccoons, grey squirrels (grey and black phases), red squirrels, chipmunks, a dead shrew, a swimming muskrat at close range, a bat (at noon on a sunny day) in this same park. As well, he has seen there a

rabbit or hare on three occasions in 1980 and 1981, fleeing at great speed. Groundhogs, he finds, are more common in G. Ross Lord Park than grey squirrels.

**The groundhogs do not dig holes in the manicured lawns, although they do walk on and eat the grass even when people are around. On July 26, 1982, at 8 PM, he saw two foxes lounging together on the bank of the G. Ross Lord reservoir; they saw him, but didn't move. His most recent sighting was on September 18 in the same park. On August 27, 1982, Sandy saw a mink walking alongside a stream in the G. Ross Lord Park and on August 22, 1982, he reported finding a small beheaded animal with a long tail, pale (but not white) below, which he presumed to be a species of mouse.

Further reports of observations will be appreciated, particularly if they include notes such as date, place, time of day, numbers, and as much information as you can in the way of description, behaviour, and weather conditions. Contact any member of the Editorial Committee.

Helen Juhola
(924-5806)

*While jogging in Morningside Park about 1977 John Lowe-Wylde saw a fox sitting watching the joggers. He also saw one in Serena Gundy Park around that time, and one in the Rouge Valley in 1980, where he saw white-tailed deer as well. About 1979 John sighted a snowshoe hare south of Steele's Avenue.

**Sandy reports that the groundhogs usually dig their holes by mounds but also on the trails in wooded areas - you have to watch your step.

Following is a list of mammal species thought to be in the Toronto Region (within a 30-mile radius of ROM):

Shorttail Shrew	(Blarina brevicauda)	Groundhog or Woodchuck	(Marmota monax)
Pygmy Shrew	(Microsorex hoyi)	Grey Squirrel	(Sciurus carolinensis)
Hairytail Mole	(Parascalops breweri)	Red Squirrel	(Tamiasciurus hudsonicus)
Star-nosed Mole	(Condylura cristata)	Eastern Chipmunk	(Tamias striatus)
Big Brown Bat	(Eptesicus fuscus)	Southern Flying Squirrel	(Glaucomys volans)
Little Brown Bat	(Myotis lucifugus)	Beaver	(Castor canadensis)
Raccoon	(Procyon lotor)	White-footed Mouse	(Peromyscus leucopus)
Longtail Weasel	(Mustela frenata)	Deer Mouse	(P. maniculatus)
Shorttail Weasel	(Mustela erminea)	Meadow Vole	(Microtus pennsylvanicus)
Least Weasel	(Mustela rixosa)	Muskrat	(Ondatra zibethica)
Mink	(Mustela vison)	Norway Rat	(Rattus norvegicus)
Striped Skunk	(Mephitis mephitis)	House Mouse	(Mus musculus)
Coyote	(Canis latrans)	American Porcupine	(Erithizon dorsatum)
Red Fox	(Vulpes fulva)	Snowshoe Hare	(Lepus americanus)
		European Hare	(Lepus europaeus)
		Eastern Cottontail	(Sylvilagus floridanus)
		Whitetail Deer	(Odocoileus virginianus)

The sturnus of the vulgaris follows the rest of the bird.

Lower koo by Sam Anon.

projects

YOU MEAN THE STORM SEWERS?

I am looking for creek names. These are the creeks that are tributaries of Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, the Humber, the Don, Highland Creek, and the Rouge River. Proper names for the creeks are important for a number of reasons. They provide a convenient way of referring to natural areas, many of which are along creeks. They give us a sense of history, as many of Toronto's streams are named after famous landowners or landmarks which have disappeared. Burke Brook, Walmsley Brook and Duncan Creek are among the ones named after 19th century landowners. Fisherville and Emery Creeks are named after former hamlets.

Nature study and history are related because both are concerned with conservation. This brings us to what may be one of the most important reasons for using proper names: protection of the watercourse. People are less likely to abuse a watercourse if it's known as, say, Mud Creek instead of Storm Sewer. It makes them think of it as a real entity worth protecting.

I would like to compile an up-to-date map showing the location of all the creeks and their names. The maps in Toronto the Green give correct names, but are far from complete and quite inaccurate in places such as in the Rosedale area where the courses are off by about half a mile.

In cases where more than one name is involved, the most appropriate name will have to be chosen on the basis of age and relevance; for example the descriptive older Mud Creek is better, in my opinion, than Mt. Pleasant Brook, named after the cemetery and road -- as an afterthought.

Eventually I would like to see signs at bridges and even short culverts where footpaths and roads cross streams. Nowhere in Metro have I seen this, even on the Don or Humber Rivers! This is important because it is how most people will get to know the names as not many study historic maps. If the City of Toronto can put up special street signs in the historic Town of York, Cabbagetown, and Parkdale areas, surely Toronto and the rest of Metro should be able to put signs on creeks.

Would anyone with information, either names for creeks and/or the origins of the names, please contact me.

Gavin Miller (923-1909 - evenings)

COUNTING BIRDS - AND MAKING IT COUNT

If you like to go birding in winter, but find that sometimes it is not so rewarding as you would have hoped due to the small number of species to be observed, this is for you. Add the dimension of counting the individuals of each species you find in your favourite haunt and you'll suddenly find that the word "disappointing" has been eliminated from your birding vocabulary. Winter Bird Population Study procedure is very simple. (See TFN(336) 24-25 D 80.) It will give you an excuse to visit the same area eight or ten times during the winter, plotting your discoveries on a map as you go, along with the time, date, and weather of each trip. If interested, call Jim Woodford, 444-7939.

The Professionals, the Experts, the Scientists, and...

THE AMATEURS

One day while leafing through a French-language publication, I came across an ad for the crêperie at Harbourfront - a sort of invitation to all "amateurs de crêpes". Typically "thinking English", I marvelled that clients would be expected to make their own crêpes. I re-read the ad, trying to "think French" and really looked at that word "amateur" for the first time in my life: Amateur - one who loves.

Why then should we speak of anyone as a "mere" amateur? Surely loving is a lofty enough motive - comparing favourably with that of profit. We naturalists really ought to do something to retrieve some of the respect for the word "amateur" - if only because so much depends on the amateur naturalist today (ie - most of the work that is to be done). Equipped with his or her first field-guide, a pencil, paper, honesty, and carefulness, the amateur is ready to set forth to make a true contribution to Natural History. (The early naturalists were mostly in this category - except that they didn't have any field-guides.) On our TFN outings, many people make notes. If dated, these can be most useful, especially when combined with those of others. We have published considerable notes of this nature in the newsletter, and since they are indexed, and thus retrievable, they become part of the science-bank.

One example should suffice to show what an amateur can do. Edith Sziraky was not a TFN member nor an active naturalist; yet she took the time and effort one winter to record the nesting of pigeons on her balcony. We published her report in December, 1980; in Sept., 1982, it turned up in Bruce Parker's "Survey of Ontario Bird Literature" as the sole entry under "Rock Dove" - the only paper he could find at the time on this species. Surely a bird which is so common ought to be "common knowledge" - but it's not. Thus, a true "beginner" has made a contribution to fill some of the gaps in that knowledge.

"Amateur" is considered a contrast (in one dictionary-meaning of the word) with "professional". This latter word has a very positive meaning too; originally "one who professes", it has a connotation of one with a "calling". Of course, the word is usually applied to a person who makes his or her living through this calling. But scratch a professional and you will usually find an "amateur" - in the best possible sense of the word.

Again, the word "amateur" is often used to contrast with "expert" and this is not altogether accurate. An "expert" is one who has experience over a long period in some specific field - so it may take some time for the professional or the amateur to become an expert. Naturalists, however, tend to shrink from this term since, the more they learn, the more they see the yawning gaps in the information available on their subject. The term "expert" is generally applied to the person one turns to for answers on a given subject (your Editorial Committee has several such people to consult - some are professionals and some amateurs). Such people are often called on to co-ordinate a project, guiding the volunteers, evaluating their work, and utilizing that part of it which is of value to the study.

No less accurate is the tendency to consider "amateur" as contrasting with "scientist", a word which has to do with "knowing". To love something is to begin to know more about it. Knowing and loving are not so contrasting as they are complementary. Is it that the natural scientist is always a professional or is it that the pursuit of science is a state of mind which can be found in keen amateurs as well? Most scientists come by their knowledge through university programs and become professionals. But increasingly there are other routes to the natural sciences available here in Toronto with our fine libraries and museums, and their eager-to-help staff-members. Without actually enrolling in a university, their facilities and personnel are often made available to anyone wanting to "know".

We often see the word "scientific" as describing dull, dry, humourless, repetitious writing filled with Latin and Greek terms, relieved only by a sprinkling of algebraic symbols. (By the way, this sort of thing becomes far less dull and dry in relationship to how much one needs the information in it; it's surprising, in fact, how it can become utterly fascinating and inspire one to consult a glossary in order to interpret the desired information.) On the other hand, among the finest journals can be found those publishing useful, meaty papers, often written in anecdotal style, which could even be described as "entertaining". The criterion for a good scientific paper is, of course, the information it divulges. If it contains useful, new, clear knowledge or theory, it deserves to be made available no matter how it may be phrased. "Scientific" really means, basically, "relating to knowledge". We should not then be concerned whether a paper "looks scientific" or not but should read it and decide if it is really telling us something. (Let's not be intimidated by terminology. Natural History is like any other reading - vocabulary gradually grows.)

Not every sincere amateur will have the time or inclination to go very far into "science" but even small contributions such as reporting of sightings by phone adds to the whole. This is true science. We have an ideal opportunity in TFN - whether we are called or whether we just love what we're doing - we can work together to the same ends.

Diana Banville

EVERYBODY WINS!

Following the article about Ontario's first Designated Heritage Tree, we learned that our identification of the tree might not be correct. We were told that the heritage tree was actually a sugar maple and that the leaves we had identified as black maple belonged to a tree beside it.

October 1, 1982, the Smiths, Juholas, and Emily Hamilton revisited the site and re-examined the tree. The two trunks of the heritage tree are very different. The one trunk and the top are indeed sugar maple; however, the second trunk is that of a black maple as is the tree beside it. Everybody is right! The heritage tree is a grafted maple -- involving two species of maple!

Mary Smith and Helen Juhola

SEARCHING FOR SOURCES

Burke Brook -- a tributary of the West Don River

Many Toronto Field Naturalists are familiar with one or more sections of Burke Brook: Chatsworth Ravine, Sherwood Park, or Burke Ravine. Few, however, are familiar with the headwater areas which are important for two reasons. First, the whole stream has to be regarded as one system. Activities affecting the upper part also affect the lower wild portions; for example, piping or channeling the stream's headwaters will result in a more rapid runoff causing increased erosion downstream. In the TFN ravine survey of Burke Ravine it was noted that:

"the brook became dark brown for its entire length; a slimy substance was observed on the rocks and debris along the whole watercourse in Burke Ravine. Upon further investigation, evidence of pollution was found along the entire length of Burke Brook -- in Sherwood Park, Lawrence Park, Alexander Muir Park, and in Chatsworth Ravine -- to the culvert where the brook first emerges from the playground of Glenview Senior Public School. The source of this particular pollution incident must have been in the Lawrence Avenue and Avenue Road area, but it affected Burke Brook for its entire length."

Second, the whole ravine which acts as a natural corridor for migrating birds could provide a very special recreational and educational opportunity as a nature trail going from Fairlawn Avenue west of Avenue Road along the stream's course to Sunnybrook Park. This is a distance of about six kilometres.

This past summer I traced Burke Brook as far as Clyde Avenue north of Old Orchard Grove. A house has been built at that point, but the dry streambed of Burke Brook is clearly visible in the vacant lot on the northwest corner of Grey Road and Old Orchard Grove, and also in the playground just south of Old Orchard Grove. Presumably, the brook is in a small pipe here. Both the vacant lot and the playground are owned by North York.

Between Deloraine Avenue south of the playground and another vacant lot on the north side of Fairlawn Avenue, houses have been built where the creek used to run. The streambed reappears in this vacant lot but is not so apparent as it is another lot south of Fairlawn Avenue. Both these lots are publicly owned, although the one to the north has a sign saying "Private", but this is just to discourage loitering. (A map dated October 1981 shows it as owned by North York.) Aside from the one south of Fairlawn, none of these vacant lots is manicured; they are grasshoppery places full of willows and escaped garden shrubs such as honeysuckles.

The lot south of Fairlawn is separated from the Brookdale Parkette by five or six feet of backyard. Brookdale Parkette is an undeveloped small parkland with some surprises. Burke Brook first appears above ground in the southern part of the parkette. In this brief section, the brook is quite clear and unpolluted-looking; most of its water comes from percolation through yards and gardens, and off tranquil streets. The area next to the stream appears to have been graded; it is mostly mown grass and there is little erosion except at the northern culvert outflow. The eastern slope of the ravine is perhaps twenty feet high and covered with Manitoba maples, elms, and willows. Beyond the eastern slope are commercial properties on Avenue Road. The west slope is broader and south of the Brookdale Avenue road-allowance consists of a remnant woodlot with an amazing selection of trees. Most of the trees are quite young, and include beech, hop-hornbean, bluebeech, hawthorn, basswood, sugar maple, and black walnut.

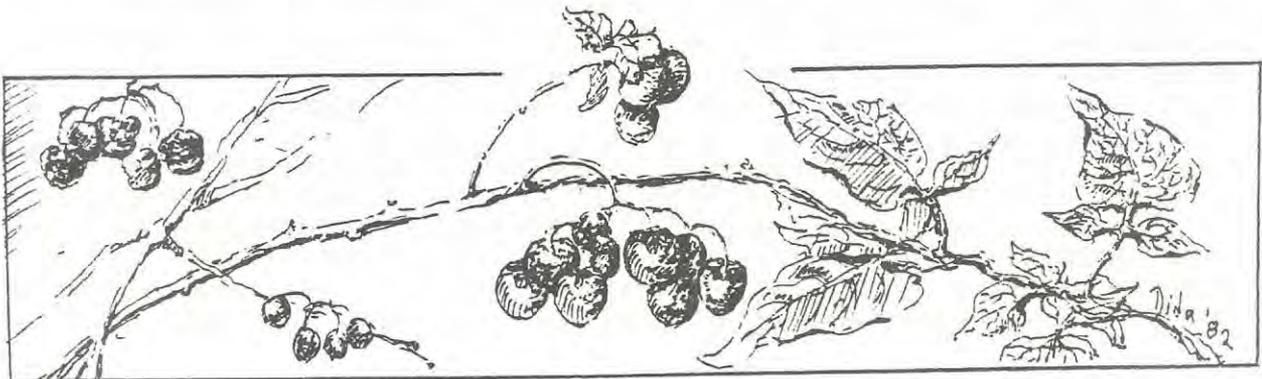
Between Brookdale Parkette, which ends at the Cranbrooke Avenue road-allowance, and the corner of Avenue Road and Woburn is a municipal parking lot. East of Avenue Road is the award-winning condo complex Bedford Glen, designed by architect Ernst Annau. The ravine which has been landscaped contains a footpath which seems to be semi-public; at least it is very accessible. Plenty of trees and shrubs have been planted, many of them native (red ash, red maple, for example). Burke Brook is not above ground here; instead there is a footpath with pools and plantings of wild iris and narrow-leafed cattail. Still, the effect for now is that of a garden, not a ravine. It's nice enough, and may look better when the plants grow more.

Southeast of Bedford Glen is a disturbed ravine that runs to just south of the Glengarry Avenue road-allowance. The Glengarry Ravine is public land; partly undeveloped North York parkland, and partly the Glengarry road-allowance. Burke Brook is above ground here, but it is badly polluted. It is dark brown, slimy and oily; the banks for a couple of feet from the water are even devoid of plants! Trees fallen over, rubbish, and sticks clog the stream and the exit culvert, causing a sluggish, scummy flow. The pollution probably originates in the gas stations along Avenue Road and is probably the same stuff recorded in the Burke Ravine survey. Both sides of the Glengarry Ravine appear to have had fill dumped over the edges some time ago and are composed of pure clay intermixed with concrete blocks. Vegetation consists of Manitoba maple, Siberian elm, willow and white mulberry, and erosion is largely confined to the eastern side, where trampling has eliminated all undergrowth in places. The western side and adjacent tableland are little used and, despite poor soil, are covered with such plants as Queen Anne's lace. The Glengarry Ravine ends at the parking lot for a medical building on Lawrence Avenue West.

From here, Burke Brook runs under the playfields of Lawrence Park Collegiate, Glenview Senior Public School, and out into the fairly natural Chatsworth Ravine (Ravine Survey #1). It disappears at Duplex Avenue where it runs under a parkette to Yonge Street. Across Yonge Street are Muir Gardens and Blythwood Ravine with its forested slopes and mown bottomlands. Then there is Sherwood Park with its valuable beech woodland. And finally, between Bayview Avenue and the West Don River is the undisturbed Burke Ravine (Ravine Survey #6).

Because most of the headwater land is publicly owned, there are no severe immediate threats to it. Contact with the North York Public Works Department revealed nothing planned for the watercourse although a North York Parks employee was suggesting an asphalt footpath with lighting and some manicuring. However, he was sympathetic to the idea of tree-planting on the slopes and to the idea of a low-intensity use with the long nature trail.

Gavin Miller



TORONTO REGION CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1920 to 1929

Two events occurred in Toronto during the decade of the 1920's which contributed to the growth of the Christmas Bird Count, in 1922 The Toronto Naturalists' Club (renamed The Brodie Club in 1924) was founded and in 1923 The Toronto Field-Naturalists' Club came into being. Both clubs conducted Christmas Bird Counts in 1925, The Brodie Club count developed into the 'official' count for the Toronto area and has been held annually ever since. The TFNC count, always a less formal affair with fewer participants, was held in 1924, 1925 and 1926.

The Toronto Christmas Bird Counts of the 1920's as reported in the Canadian Field-Naturalist and Bird-Lore present a vivid and lively record of birding and birders. The descriptive accounts of the census day activities of Stuart Thompson and Jim Baillie give us an opportunity to compare their experiences with our present-day experiences.

December 25, 1922.

"Christmas, 1922, in Toronto holds the record for mildness since 1895. ... It was an ideal day for bird study. We started early and by 8:30 were entering the Don Valley - that famous stretch of wooded hillside and flat pasture land through which flows the Don River and which has given Toronto many an interesting piece of wood-lore for several generations. Already we had heard a Downy Woodpecker in the city shade trees ... Our first observations came as we walked down the long icy road into the valley. Here we saw a small flock of Tree Sparrows among whom we saw two Juncos. Lively and active as ever they passed along through the bushes as we watched them. At the foot of the hill we found ourselves on the very edge of the river, and near one of its open spots. Here, to our surprise, we found an American Golden-eye sporting in the water. ... On our return we often saw flocks of Pine Siskins, occasionally more Purple Finches, and another Downy. One silent Crow flew over. ... Other very common birds we found were the gulls.

These were flying overhead constantly, up and down the valley." ¹

December 25, 1924.

"Christmas Day of 1924 dawned at Toronto a typical Canadian winter day ... Three parties ventured out to represent the Toronto Field-Naturalists' Club and report on birds seen for the Christmas census. ...

Two English Starlings were seen at close range in the northern part of the city on December 26." ²

December 23, 1925.

"On the morning of December 23rd, 1925, two parties of members of the Brodie Club sallied forth to take a Christmas Bird Census at Toronto ... The result of the census was a list of twenty-five species observed, not including the European House Sparrow. Some of the species particularly worthy of mention are the Black Duck, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Cardinal and Robin.

The Black Duck was not seen at Sunnyside when that place was first visited about 9.00 A.M., but was found there at the time of a second visit about 4.30 P.M. ...

The chief 'thriller' of the western party came when a female Cardinal was found among wild grapevine in a small ravine, tributary to the Humber Valley, near Lambton Mills. This bird showed little alarm, and was viewed with ease at close range from various directions." ³

"December 23, 1928, proved to be an ideal day for the purpose of Bird Census. ... Five parties were observing, making in all 14 persons. The localities visited were the valleys of the Don both east and west with their branching ravines, Leaside, Ashbridge's Bay (or what is left of it), the valley of the Humber, Lake shore at Sunnyside and west to Humber mouth, High Park and Cedarvale. ...

The fact that Florida Gallinules were seen deserves special mention. The observer, Mr. L.L. Snyder, reports that he was examining a bit of sand-bar at Ashbridge's Bay, which though high and dry, was overgrown with weeds. The Gallinules were flushed from a small sheet of open water and at once took to the reeds ...

The Ring-necked Pheasant's presence can be accounted for as being one of several released in Humber Valley several seasons ago and are seen occasionally even yet. - STUART L. THOMPSON." 4.

Toronto Christmas Bird Counts, 1920 to 1929.

	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925a</u>	<u>1925b</u>	<u>1926a</u>	<u>1926b</u>	<u>1927</u>	<u>1928</u>	<u>1929</u>
Common Loon	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Black Duck	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Greater Scaup	11	-	-	-	-	15	230	-	-	1	108
Common Golden-eye	-	x	-	18	15	39	104	20	4	28	209
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Oldsquaw	53	-	-	6	4	49	249	100	65	170	300
Common Merganser	2	-	-	200	10	14	45	10	1	1	16
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
hawk, species ?	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Common Gallinule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Great Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	2	5	4	19	3	-	-	3
Herring Gull	5	x	-	44	281	38	562	25	-	240	287
Ring-billed Gull	-	x	15	10	4	2	16	5	-	1	19
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Great Horned Owl	-	x	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	-
Hawk Owl	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Belted Kingfisher	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	3	5	12
Downy Woodpecker	6	x	1	3	12	4	3	1	11	12	16
Black-backed Three-toed W.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Blue Jay	4	-	2	-	2	1	2	3	3	3	18
Black-capped Chickadee	33	x	3	3	59	30	6	6	50	144	138

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925a	1925b	1926a	1926b	1927	1928	1929
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	x	1	3	10	7	6	2	5	10	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brown Creeper	2	x	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	5	-
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
American Robin	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	x	-	5	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	4
Starling	-	-	-	-	65	10	30	-	4	1000	314
Common Yellow-throat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
House Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cardinal	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Purple Finch	-	x	-	-	4	-	1	15-20	-	1	6
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	70
Pine Siskin	-	x	-	-	3	-	-	50-100	-	2	155
American Goldfinch	-	-	13	-	-	-	9	15	3	-	29
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	2	x	15	4	16	-	-	-	10	29	10
Tree Sparrow	105	x	-	15	74	16	20	6	50	35	118
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Song Sparrow	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	2	17	4
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	30	3	-	1	50	99
Common Scoter	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Lark	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
species	18	17	8	18	25	19	22	16	25	39	41
individuals	265	x	51	328	573	277	1311	-	227	1810	2016
observers	2	2	1	-	5	12	9	-	7	14	22
reference:	5	1	6	2	3	7	8	9	10	4	11

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Bruce D. Parker

INTO EACH LIFE SOME RAIN MUST FALL

It was our good fortune to be in a steady downpour that provided a fine backdrop for a grand show. The star performer was hidden in the 'wings'. But when the male lead came on stage with a silvery offering, a tiny head appeared. However, due to inexperience, the cue was missed and the tidbit was dropped. The male lead artfully retrieved it, and this time the ingenu brought the act to a successful completion. Thus it was that the wee western grebe got its breakfast on an exceedingly wet morning.

Further along the *Bear River Refuge channel, as the rain pelted down, another western grebe jet-propelled itself under mother's wing with such force its head popped out beside hers. The second youngster lacked the necessary momentum and had to 'windmill' its legs before it was able to get aboard. Our bus did likewise at the car ferry - on at the rear and off at the front. Of special interest: Two groups of western grebes with white-above-the-eye.

When the rain let up we walked along the road to hear and see at close hand the many long-billed marsh wrens feeding their begging young ones. They'd had a long damp wait before their first meal of the day.

We got a bonus when snow melting was delayed two weeks on Mount Rainier, Washington. Many species of flowers extended their blossoming, while others were still in bud, depending on the altitude of our trails. It was great to see beargrass and pasqueflower still in bloom.

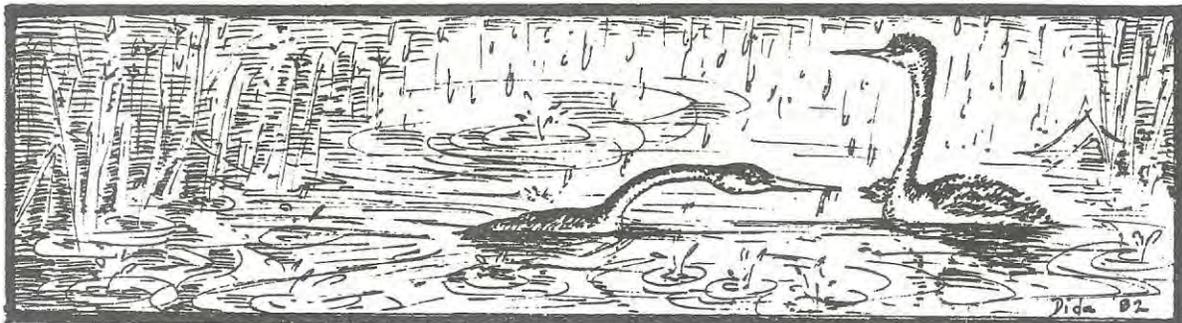
Our mammal checklist included one pine marten and one grizzly but NO black bear! On the alpine meadows were herds of bison, elk, pronghorn and mule-deer. Seen as well were moose, coyote and pika, and several species of marmot, squirrel, and chipmunk.

An unusual sighting? The ranger of Olympic Park, Washington, claimed it a FIRST for Hurricane Ridge...perhaps the heavy fog on one side of the Ridge caused the bird to mistake the path for a shoreline...in any case, it's the first time he's known a sanderling to be feeding at 5,000 feet.

If you enjoy watching the young of birds and mammals, and seeing mountain flora in full array, August is the month for such pursuits. Westward Ho!

May Staples

*one of the "Dozen Birding Hotspots" of Roger Tory Peterson, near Brigham City, Utah.



A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE - PART 13

Whip-poor-will to Swallows

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers.

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Bruce Parker (449-0994)

HEAVEN'S ABOVE!

The Stargazing column in the Globe and Mail is to be found in the last Saturday's issue each month, published by the National Museum of Canadian Science and Technology, 1967 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M8.

LESLIE SPIT: THE LARGEST NESTING AREA OF COLONIAL WATERBIRDS IN ONTARIO.
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We can't say for sure but it is most likely that the Ring-billed Gull colonies at the Leslie Street Spit now constitute the largest nesting aggregation of this species in North America (and, for that matter, in the world as the species does not nest outside North America). In 1980 (the last year that the Canadian Wildlife Service made a complete nest census), we counted just over 67,300 nests and we estimate that in 1982 some 75,000-80,000 pairs were present. The second largest Ring-bill colony is on Little Galloo Island in eastern Lake Ontario where 73,000 nests were counted in 1981. The growth of the colony at the Spit has been spectacular: from about 20 pairs in 1973 to over 150,000 nesting birds in 1982. As a second breakwall is under construction, more nesting habitat will become available for the gulls at Leslie Spit. Ring-bills have a varied diet: fish, insects, earthworms, garbage, popcorn, french fries, and occasionally small voles and birds. That may explain why we have noticed relatively few cases of starvation despite the large numbers of gulls that have to make their living in and around Toronto during the nesting season. We predict that their population will increase further.

There are four other species of colonial waterbirds that regularly nest at the Spit: Common Terns, Caspian Terns, Herring Gulls and Black-crowned Night Herons. The Common Terns were the first to colonize the newly available habitat on the Spit and they have increased from some 200 nests in 1973 to 1,500-2,000 nests in 1982. Their colonies at the Spit form the largest concentration of nesting Common Terns anywhere on the Great Lakes. By 1980 much of the tern nesting habitat had become unsuitable because dense tall vegetation had grown up on their nesting sites. With permission of the Toronto Harbour Commissioner's (who now own the Spit) and the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (the organization that will eventually develop the area) we clipped the vegetation in certain key areas in spring 1981 and 1982 to make room for the small terns. The birds responded enthusiastically and began nesting as soon as we had improved their old habitat. Clipping of vegetation will have to be done every year because of the enormous increase of vegetation in the course of one growing season.

The Caspian Terns have increased their colony from 7 nests in 1976 to 100-150 in 1982. Caspians are the largest of all terns and usually nest on remote islands. To have a thriving colony on a peninsula so close to Canada's largest city is unusual indeed.

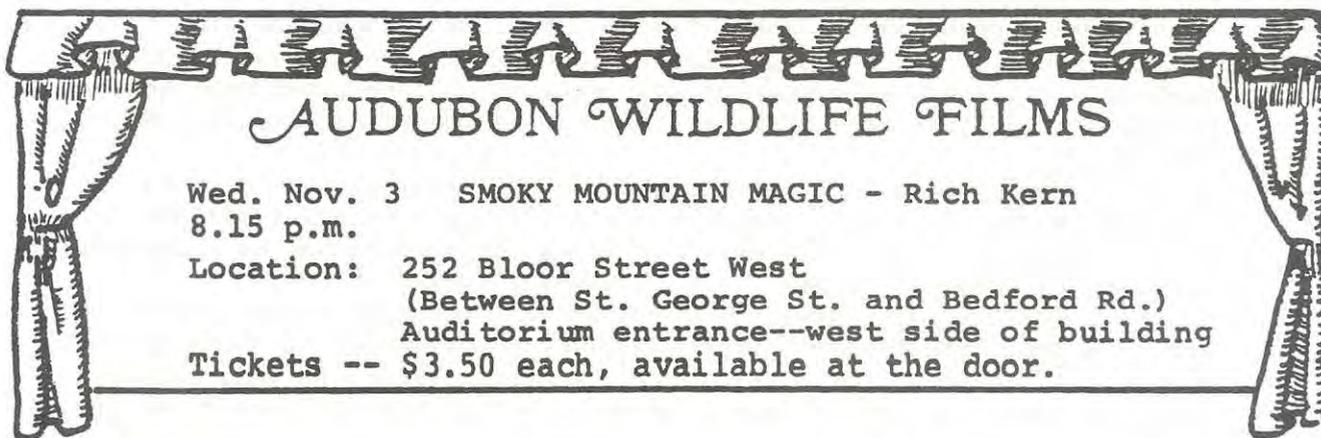
Herring Gull numbers (70-100 pairs) have been rather stable the last few years and are of course insignificant compared to those of the Ring-bills. Herring Gulls are notorious predators and we were concerned about the possible effect that a Herring Gull pair would have after they built their nest in the Caspian Tern nesting area. We collected both members of the pair, removed their nest and noted in following days new Caspian Tern clutches in the centre of what had been the territory of the Herring Gulls. The two gulls were donated to the National Museum of Natural History in Ottawa.

Black-crowned Night Herons began to nest at the Spit in 1979 when some of the cottonwoods had grown tall enough to become attractive nesting sites. Since that year this small heron species has nested in small numbers and with little success. Night herons are very "spooky" birds that readily desert their nests when repeatedly disturbed by people. In 1980 there was heavy predation on chicks, probably by raccoons.

In 1982 an unmated female California Gull was attending a nest among the Ring-bills. This news was deemed important enough to go on the "hot-line" of Toronto's birders. As we were not keen to have birdwatchers trample through our study areas to find one California Gull among 150,000 Ring-bills, we laid out a trail and set up a simple viewing station (a gesture that was appreciated by the many birders who came from far away to see this rare event).

So far, Leslie Spit has been an enormous, unexpected bonus for birds and other wildlife and thus for naturalists and birdwatchers. Any future "development" of the Spit should thoroughly take into account the fantastic natural resources that have developed there during the last decade, well after Master Plans for the area had been prepared. The Spit, literally at the doorstep of a large metropolis, offers unique opportunities for nature interpretation and wildlife education in a most exciting setting.

H. Blokpoel and G.D. Tessier
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ontario Region
1725 Woodward Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E7
Phone: (613) 998-4693



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Wed. Nov. 3 SMOKY MOUNTAIN MAGIC - Rich Kern
8.15 p.m.

Location: 252 Bloor Street West
(Between St. George St. and Bedford Rd.)
Auditorium entrance--west side of building

Tickets -- \$3.50 each, available at the door.

TFN Newsletter Art Reproductions

Some members have been buying up our reproductions for Christmas gifts. When framed in 8½" x 11" ready-made certificate frames, they have proven to be quite appreciated as gifts. Look them over at the general meeting in November and December. Limited edition of 25. On 80-lb. white bond \$2.00 each; hand-tinted \$5.00 each. (We'll be adding new drawings from time to time.)

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

In connection with our Code of Ethics Project, which has been mentioned in previous issues of the Newsletter, you will be interested in the following item which appeared in the May 1964 issue of Audubon Magazine.

FIELD TRIP ABC'S

For a good field trip, there are some unwritten rules which, although not mandatory, are likely to provide more enjoyable birding:

POINTING: This is almost a cardinal sin. It frightens birds to point at them. To indicate the position of a bird, describe the location in a low tone: "straight ahead", "right", or "left". Better, use the clock as airmen do: "The bird is at 9 o'clock low". Tell how the bird is - on the ground, 10 feet up, 60 feet up. Describe the tree or shrub in which the bird is seen. An oak tree is a more descriptive phrase than "the big green tree".

DISTRACTIONS: It is unpardonable to throw stones ... pick wild flowers, snap branches off saplings or otherwise amuse yourself. Small boys need to be taught these good manners and the adult who brings children should assume responsibility. ...

TALKING: Bird watching is largely bird listening. There is no excuse for raising your voice. If you want to talk, don't go on a field trip.

FREEZING: At intervals, the leader or someone else will stop "dead in their tracks". This is a signal for everyone else to do the same, even if you don't see or hear anything. The bird may be invisible to you, but someone else may be in a position to see it. Your movement may flush the bird, so courtesy demands that you remain motionless until the original spotter breaks the spell.

Reprinted from AUDUBON, the magazine of the National Audubon Society. Copyright 1964.

▷ If you have any ideas for our Code of Ethics project, or come across suitable material, please contact Florence Preston, Editorial Committee.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR BIRD PROJECTS

▷ The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation invites applications for grants to support projects on Ontario birds in 1983. The Fund's aim is to encourage field studies by amateur naturalists and to support projects which increase or disseminate knowledge of birds in their natural environment or contribute to their preservation. Priority will be given to projects which draw on the resources of volunteer naturalists in conducting research or fieldwork and to applicants who do not have access to other sources of support. Grants do not normally exceed \$750. Applications for Project Grants are due by 31 December, 1982, and for Atlas Fieldwork Grants by 21 February, 1983. All applications should be submitted on forms obtainable from the Secretary, The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

...I am speaking of the white elm, so common in our city and everywhere in our region. What would our Ontario landscape be without the white elm? What would our Ontario landscape artists do without the white elm? It figures so prominently in so many of their pictures. With its graceful, sweeping branches, it is one of the most beautiful features of our landscape.

(excerpt from Trees, With Special Reference to Those in Queen's Park)

Alexander Cameron
TFN (58) 4-7 F 46

...Two recent developments promise some hope in the losing battle against Dutch elm disease. A wasp is being bred as an effective predator on the elm bark beetle which carries the disease. Also the plant geneticists are busy mixing chromosomes to develop a more beautiful hybrid form of the Siberian elm, a species which is highly resistant to the disease. Meanwhile Metro faces a 1.6-million dollar bill for dead-tree removal and 10% of Metro's 80,000 elms are already dead. This year 4,000 elms have died - twice as many as last year. But there is still hope and time.

Ilmar Talvila
TFN (230) 3, N 67

UPDATE ON THE ELMS

The sad thing about it is that it's just as bad as we thought it was.

Dr. Peter Rice at the Royal Botanical Gardens is in charge of the Ontario Shade Tree Council's program of teaching arborists how to inject a curative fungicide into the root-flare area of endangered or early-infection elms. But elms have no immunity, so have to be treated over and over until they have no place left that isn't an old injection site. Work is being done at the University of Toronto on injecting a weakened strain of the fungus, hoping to provide an immune reaction (as happens in people). But elms aren't people.

In Europe, some elms were thought to be resistant, but the recent wave of harsh winters has killed them all, including those in Kew Gardens, Holland and Germany. They were not hardy enough, and now we'll never know if they were actually resistant to Dutch elm disease. So the disease marches on. Most elm-treatment is being done at the moment in Winnipeg.

Mary Smith

Something is wrong when the world is incapable of raising \$80 million a day to provide clean water to all people, but lays out \$1.4 billion a day on weapons.

from "Human Wants and Misused Lands" by Erik Eckholm in Natural History, Vol. 91, No. 6, June 1982.

OUTINGS REPORT

MAY 1982

Roy Baker came all the way from Bolton to lead 45 members on a bird-walk on the Spit on May 1st. Although it was still early, they found 7 kinds of shore-birds, 2 herons and 12 waterfowl.

On the 2nd, Jeff Nadir led 38 members through Nordheimer Ravine where they found woodlice, millipedes, centipedes, a mourning cloak (and a raccoon sleeping in a poplar), as well as many plants and birds.

Fred Bodsworth took 29 people through Glen Stewart Ravine on the 4th, where they saw a winter wren and many of the more common birds.

The same day, Kathy Mc Watters went to Wilket Creek Park to view stars in the evening; most of the participants got to know the sky a little better, and they were visited by a skunk.

Emily Hamilton went exploring Chatsworth Ravine (Burke Brook) with 21 others on the 5th. They observed maples in flower and many introduced trees. Emily also led the next evening outing to High Park and 20 people came out to explore the Spring Road side of the park where they found the trailing arbutus in flower on a very steep bank above the road. They also found Juneberries, wintergreen, and partridge-berry.

The bus outing to the Trillium Woods led by Bruce Parker on the 8th was a big hit (90 participants). All kinds of weird trilliums were found, of different colours and sizes, and a nesting ruffed grouse was seen by all.

60 members came on Helen Juhola's Sunday afternoon walk in Rosedale Ravine on the 9th. Although the weather was perfect there were not many birds around, but trout lily and blue cohosh were observed.

On the evening of the 11th Herb Elliott went with 15 others for bird-watching in Nordheimer Ravine. Over 30 species were found in only a couple of hours.

The 25 people who turned up for the morning walk in Sherwood Park on the 12th were led by Mary Pannell and Mildred Easto and had a pleasant morning.

Eileen and Geoff Chopping led a botany outing at Glendon Hall on the 13th. 20 people saw spikenard, sarsaparilla, and partridge-berry as well as many other plants.

Everyone enjoyed a walk through the Rouge Valley, near Metro Zoo, which was led by Howard Battae on the 15th.

On the 16th Mary Cumming and 5 others went to Northwoods Community Centre for sketching. They walked into Black Creek valley and across the bridge to some shade under the willows. Molly McEwen sketched May-apple in bloom, and Joyce Cave sketched blossoms on trees across the valley, while others used the willows on the bank as their subject.

On the 18th Joy and Clive Goodwin led an early-morning bird-outing in Lambton Woods, and in the evening Hugh Currie led a group of 17 through Cedarvale Ravine where 9 species of warblers were seen.

A nature-walk with Emily Hamilton above Burke Ravine was attended by 16 people who saw many fine trees on the slopes. Large white pine, hemlock, beech, sugar and red maples, and black cherry predominated.

An evening walk in Lambton Woods on the 20th drew 15 people to look at plants with Ilmar Talvila. Highlights were a single clump of twinleaf, 3 redbuds, and a colony of Solomon's-seals.

On the 22nd, Steve Varga took a group of 14 to look at the vegetation on the alvars of Carden Township. Here they looked at nesting sites of black terns and blue-winged teal as well as some interesting and unusual plants such as Indian paintbrush and Canada plum.

The Rouge Valley is a goldmine for sensitive plants now gone from most other areas of the City. On the 23rd John Lowe-Wylde showed a group of 15 some of these plants, such as yellow lady's-slipper orchids. An injured great blue heron was found which died later.

One of our local top birders, George Fairfield, led 30 people to Toronto Islands on the 24th. It was no disappointment for those attending, as bluebirds, mockingbirds, yellow-throated vireo, whimbrel, and a Connecticut warbler were among 95 species seen.

Early on the morning of the 25th Joy and Clive Goodwin led 19 participants through the Civic Garden Centre area where a Connecticut warbler, a cuckoo, and a gray-cheeked thrush were seen.

That evening Mark Kubisz led a small group through a previously unvisited area by the Humber where birding is very good. As many as 23 warblers have been seen in one day there. On this occasion, in a few hours, 35 species in all were seen.

Helen Juhola took 18 others with her to explore Wilket Creek at York Mills Road, on the morning of the 26th.

An evening walk in Morningside Park with James Hodgins drew 10 people who looked at many native trees and plants in the area. Wild species of the rose family were noticed growing close to each other.

The month ended with a trip for 10 people to Bronte Creek Park with Mr. Van Dyken on the 29th, and "learning how to atlas birds" with Bruce Parker on the 30th was fogged out.

JUNE 1982

On June 1st Roger Powley went to High Park to look at birds with 10 members. They heard and saw 25 species and had a good view of a red-headed woodpecker.

On the 2nd 23 people walked with Catharine Heynes through Wilket Creek Park. It was a bright sunny day and the highlight was seeing an indigo bunting singing in a willow.

In the evening of the 3rd Isabel Smith led 13 botanists through Etienne Brule Park where many plants were identified.

Raccoons and rain put a damper on Jef Gibson's mammal walk through Glendon Campus as his rodent-traps were tampered with by those little masked bandits.

32 people went with Emily Hamilton into Mount Pleasant Cemetery looking at flowering shrubs. Noted were laburnums, spiraeas, deutzias, weigela, hawthorns, jet-bead, and exochorda.

It was nice to see young of both Canada goose and mallard at Humber Bay Park on the 6th. Beth Jefferson showed 12 people most of the common birds in the area as well.

Anne Macdonald went birding in Moore Park Ravine with 22 members on the evening of the 8th. 22 species were identified.

On the morning of the 9th, 18 people saw a yellow-billed cuckoo with Diana Sagness in the G. Ross Lord Park.

An evening walk with Steve Varga took place on the 10th in the East Don Valley. Sedges were the topic of discussion in a very wet area.

The West Don Valley was explored by Bob and Helen Hansen on the 16th and 15 participants saw bobolinks in a field.

Billie Bridgman took 11 people through Rowntree Mills Park on June 20th. Some of the things noticed were a willow flycatcher, a green heron and nest, crayfish chimneys, a family of groundhogs, and several anurans (frogs and toads).

Earl Bales Park drew 20 people led by Mike Greenwald on the 23rd. The group saw many common birds, and a brown thrasher sunbathing.

On the 26th, which was a cool gray day, Mary Cuming led the Nature Sketching Group to Etienne Brule Park, where they observed many birds and chipmunks as well as sketching the Old Mill bridge in pencil and pen.

21 members went on a nature-ramble with Heather and John Harris to the Humber Marshes on the 28th.

Isabel Smith led 17 people through the West Don Valley above Glendon Hall on the 30th. About 50 plant species were found flowering.

Roger Powley

ADVANTAGES OF DEAD TREES

I think standing dead trees should be left standing. I also think that dead trees lying on the ground should be left where they are to return to the soil.

Although dead branches on living trees should be cut off flush with the living tissue to promote healing, leafless branches during the growing season are essential as lookouts for birds; for example, all North American flycatchers "make their living in the same way: they perch on exposed or semi-exposed lookouts from which they dart to snatch unwary insects. They usually return to the same perches throughout the day". (from Natural History, Sept. 1982)

Standing trees infested with insects are a food source for woodpeckers. As well they become nesting sites for cavity-nesting birds such as chickadees. Also squirrels (red, gray and flying) and eventually larger mammals such as raccoons and porcupines require such sites.

We call these den trees. In a forest, it is always advisable to have a number of den trees. Woodland den trees should be protected from wind. They only become unstable when suddenly exposed to wind as when surrounding trees are removed or damaged.

We believe that the natural variety of species depends on the management of dead trees as well as live ones. Let them stand.

Mary Smith

Ed. note. For further reading on the same subject refer to "Trees for Cavity-Dwelling Birds" by Jean Bancroft in the Blue Jay, Sept. 1982.



A Guide to the Woodlot at The Claireville Conservation Area. The Board of Education for the Borough of Etobicoke for the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre 1980.

TFN member and Director Beth Jefferson wrote this booklet for the teachers in Etobicoke to assist them in "what to look for, where to look and when to look" when they take their classes to Claireville. This is a very engaging study full of interesting but simple detail and I wanted to rush off at once to explore the woodlot. Beth discusses 23 kinds of mammals. Common birds are discussed and a list of migrants is given by habitat. Over 130 species of birds have been noted. Insects, trees and shrubs, wildflowers, moss and ferns are covered. Beth has a section on "Hunting Small Game...." which she identifies as frogs, snakes, scavengers (beetles, grubs, etc.), decomposers (millipedes, snails) and fungi. In all of this there are explanatory comments which direct the thoughts of the reader to the "why" of it all. The closing sections offer aids to the leaders (teachers) and this includes a bibliography. Beth has donated a copy to the TFN library, August, 1982.

J.M.

The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy. \$20.50, 379 pages, curling soft cover.

This book, sponsored by the Sierra Club, is slanted for American gardens and American suppliers. It tells you everything you want to know about biological methods except how to build quality into the products of the earth. Since quality includes freedom from pests and diseases as well as health, good looks, and mouthwatering flavour (to say nothing of best shipping and keeping quality), that's a large omission. The redeeming grace is that this book (when it is combined with a subscription to Acres USA Magazine (US\$10.50 to Raytown, Missouri 64133)) does supply the answers needed to get from here (no taste, and lots of bugs) to there. On a farming scale, temporary intermediate steps may be required, called Integrated Pest Management. But at home, which is what this book is all about, the only additional factor needed is a healthy skepticism in regard to instant palliatives, and a determination to make each step a step in the right direction for the environment.

- Mary Smith

(Thank you, Mary, for the copy you've donated to TFN Library.)

TFN LIBRARY

We've received a collection of periodicals and papers from Judy Hernandez for the Library - some of these will be useful for our resource material files. By the way, if you're looking for information on a natural history subject, you might want to make use of these files - material is arranged by subject. Call 690-1963. (Several of the books reviewed in the October issue also are available from TFN Library.)

For Reading - continued...

Flight, 1982, annual publication of the Toronto Junior Field Naturalists' Club.
21 pages, illustrated by members.

With its dominant theme of birds, Flight this year is living up to its name. All four bird articles are illustrated, apparently by the authors. Some of this material should prove useful. Creditable bird-illustrations are on the cover and elsewhere in the magazine, including (apparently) archaeopteryx (it would be good policy for members to identify their subjects). The popularity of bird-topics reflects the comparatively large membership in the Bird Group. Mammals and Reptiles are not so visible as a group (though the fine squirrel illustration is very large). Only two short whimsical poems are about mammals. There are three informative submissions on the subject of astronomy. The four submissions on mineralogy and geology reflect the enthusiasm of the long tradition of this field of study within the Junior Club. There was one article on wildflowers observed by the author. The boy who wrote the one submission on "nature in general" had the foresight to indicate his age. This might be a good idea for all submissions - and would make a considerable difference in the reader's reception of the material. The book ends with two "way-out" illustrations contrasting with each other and mirroring the influence on children of the space-age and the fantasy-world.

The magazine has dwindled in size alarmingly. Let's hope it will pick up by next year - with just as many bird-submissions and comparable numbers of articles on other nature subjects dear to the hearts of children. Whatever happened to their favourite subject - the insects?

DB

The Potential Role of Vegetation in Improving the Urban Air Quality: A Study in Preventive Medicine by Fidenzio Salvatore and Pleasance Crawford, available from the York-Toronto Lung Association, 157 Willowdale Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2N 4Y7 (226-1454), also in TFN library.

The report summarizes the literature on the potential role of vegetation in improving air quality in the York-Toronto region; contains a partially annotated bibliography of 300 references on the subject and a list of experts in the field; and includes tables rating various plants as to their sensitivity to common urban air pollutants.

HJ

Liquid Waste Study

The first phase of the Southern Ontario study to find the best places to locate a liquid waste management facility is now ready for inspection. Fortunately it has been boiled down to an informative six pages including an illuminating map. For further information call Mr. Scott at 268-1179.

Mary Smith

(continued next page)

Come to the November General Meeting early. Postcards to benefit the Wildflower Woods at Humber Arboretum will be sold by Helen Skinner of the Garden Club of Toronto. Also F.O.N. Christmas cards will be for sale. Clive and Joy Goodwin will be on hand to sell and autograph copies of A Bird Finding Guide to Ontario. Of course all the usual TFN goodies will be on sale as well, including our own TFN hastinotes in russet or white.

A Bird-Finding Guide to Ontario, by Clive Goodwin. \$12.50, 256 pages, published by U. of T. Press 1982.

Now it's out - the book Ontario birders have been asking about for years. I've always known that Yellow Rails could be found near the Holland Marsh; now I know exactly where to look for them. If I visit any part of Ontario and have some time for birding, all I need to do is look in the appropriate section of the guide, find the closest town or city (listed alphabetically) and I immediately know where to find the best local birding spots.

No other person in Ontario is better qualified than Clive Goodwin to compile such a guide. After serving as the Ontario Regional Editor for American Birds for seventeen years, and as the guiding force behind the Ontario Ornithological Records Committee from its formation until 1982, Clive has been in personal contact with birders in every part of the province - quite an accomplishment considering the 1600 km distance from north to south and from east to west.

The guide divides Ontario into eight sections: Southwestern Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula, South-Central, Eastern, Central, Northern, and Rainy River and Lake of the Woods. A total of 217 areas (an "area" is usually the nearest town; specific sites are dealt with for each "area") are covered in the guide. Major areas such as Long Point and Point Pelee receive special attention with hints on where, when, and what to see. Many small communities are mentioned solely because of their sewage lagoons which often become local "hot-spots" (a Spotted Redshank turned up at one at Peterborough in 1980). Toronto receives extensive coverage but the reader is still referred to Clive's earlier TFN publication, A Bird Finding Guide to the Toronto Region published by TFN.

This book is a "must" to accompany the birder wherever he goes in Ontario.

Bruce D. Parker

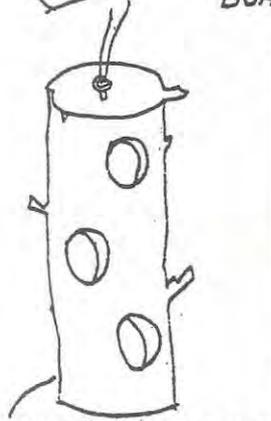
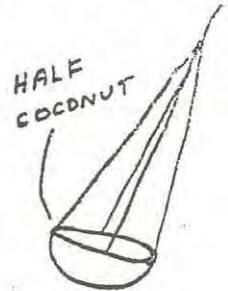
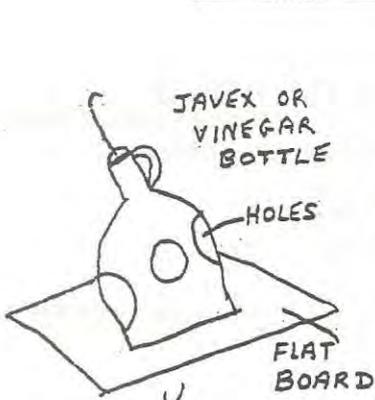
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

At the September meeting of the Environmental Group, Roger Powley entertained us with a selection of TFN slides highlighting "Toronto the Green". Scenes from marshes, woodlands, waterfronts and ravines with their representative flora and fauna showed the colour and beauty of Toronto and its environs. His selection included a number of species that are becoming increasingly rare in the vicinity due to carelessness, thoughtlessness and lack of understanding and protection. Examples of the problems displayed from the slides included polluted areas, dirt-bike trails, bulldozed barren lands, and areas depleted of wild flowers.

Also at the meeting, Helen Juhola distributed the brochure, Toronto's Ravines, prepared by the Committee on Ravine Preservation Policies of the City of Toronto Planning Board. This brochure explains the value of Toronto's ravines and the need for protection. An insert contained the Ravines Control Bylaw applying to those areas designated as ravines by the Official Plan for the City of Toronto.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with discussion and examination of MTRCA's Environmentally Significant Areas Study Draft Report. Steve Varga reported that he was pleased to see ESA's included which had been suggested by the TFN, although some areas designated on the map appeared to be misplaced. The TFN will be contributing comments on this Draft Report.

HELP WILD BIRDS SURVIVE THE WINTER -- A GUIDE FROM PAT SMITH
(Oakville's "bird lady")

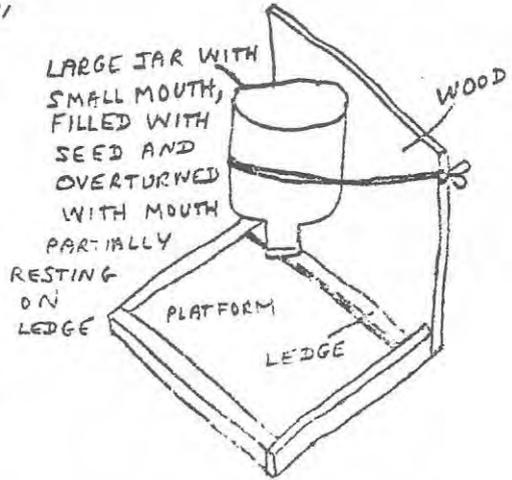
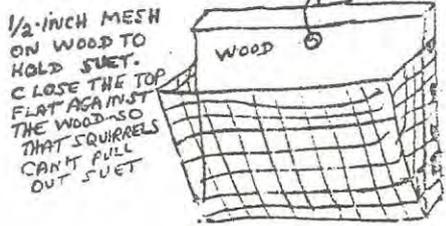
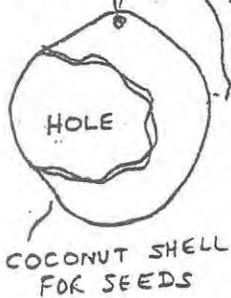
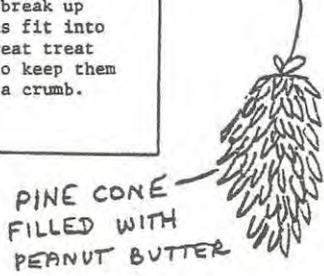


WINTER PIE FOR BIRDS
Cook 2 cups of oatmeal in 4 cups of boiling water for 2 minutes. Add 1 pound of lard and one 12-ounce jar of peanut butter. Mix it all up thoroughly. Remove from heat. Add 3-1/2 cups each of dry oatmeal, cornmeal, and cream of wheat. Knead thoroughly, fill aluminum pie containers with this mixture and store in your refrigerator or a cool place. Put these out one at a time for the birds as needed. You can break up each pie so that the pieces fit into the feeders. This is a great treat for the birds. It helps to keep them warm and they won't leave a crumb.



LOG DRILLED WITH 1/2-INCH WIDE HOLES AND FILLED WITH SUET

PAT SAYS: "KEEP THE FEEDERS FILLED WITH FOOD. THE BIRDS ARE JUST LIKE BOYS AND GIRLS. THEY HAVE TO EAT EVERY DAY."



COMING EVENTS**COMING EVENTS**Civic Garden Centre

A two-hour course on Attracting Birds to Your Garden will be held at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, on Wednesday, November 10, at 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Call 445-1552 for further details.

Royal Canadian Institute

The following lectures will be held at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto, commencing at 8.15 p.m. Admission free:

Sat. Nov. 6 - Ontario Parks - Changing Neglect to Renewal -
Ron Reid, Program Manager, FON

Sat. Nov. 13 - Exploding Stars - Prof. Peter Martin

Sat. Nov. 20 - Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea - Prof.
Steven Scott

Sat. Nov. 27 - The Group of Seven and Early Days at Kleinburg -
Robert McMichael

Niagara Falls Bus Trip

Clive and Joy Goodwin will be conducting a bus trip to the Niagara area to look for gulls and water birds, November 11, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Call the Goodwins, 249-9503, or Seneca College, 491-5050, Ext. 694, for further details.

Waterfowl Workshop

The Goodwins will be conducting a one-day workshop on waterfowl along the Toronto waterfront, Saturday, November 13, 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Call Seneca College, 491-5050, Ext. 694.

TFN DISPLAY

Our "gingerbread" display will be in the Scarborough system until January 1st. After that, we propose moving it into the East York system and later to the Borough of York and City of Toronto - for a three-month period in each of these systems.

If you have a vehicle to accommodate 40"-wide panels and could help with moving the display from location to location, please call Jean Macdonald (425-6596) or Helen Juhola (924-5806).

News from the Toronto Bird Observatory



We anticipate good coverage for the owl banding this fall and licensed banders are available for half of the nights already. If you wish to help please phone Carol Griffin at 282-5528. The Toronto Bird Observatory hopes to erect a larger banding building in the spring of 1983. This will provide more comfortable facilities for banders and helpers.

George Fairfield

TFN MEETINGS



GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, November 2, 1982, 8.15 p.m. (Coffee at 7.30)

Future Ontario Climates - Dr. F. Kenneth Hare, Provost of Trinity College; former Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Toronto.

Rising carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere may give significant varying of climate in Ontario, especially in the north. The effect will be mainly felt in the next century. The lecture by Dr. Hare will be illustrated with slides.

Tuesday, December 7, 1982, 8.15 p.m.

Geology and Birds of the Churchill, Manitoba, Region - Professor Jim Rising, Zoology Department, University of Toronto.

GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group

Tues. Nov. 16 Slide and talk presentation on the program of 8.00 p.m. the Toronto Bird Observatory.

Location: Education Centre, Room 251, 155 College Street, 1 block west of University Avenue.

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Botany Group

Wed. Nov. 17 Steve Varga will give an illustrated talk about Saskatchewan's 8:00 p.m. Grassland National Park -- mixed grass prairie in the springtime. Room 07, Botany Bldg. U of T, nw corner of College and University, main entrance north of greenhouses, Queen's Park Stn.

Environmental Group

Thur. Nov. 25 Bill Granger of the City of North York Parks 7.30 p.m. Department will speak about last summer's project on the regeneration of woodlots in North York.

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

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Junior Club

Sat. Nov. 6 To be announced. Call 429-5388 for further information. 10.00 a.m.

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

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Material for the newsletter (notices, reports, articles up to 1500 words in length and illustrations) should be submitted at least six weeks before the month in which the event is to take place or the material is required to appear.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:	Family (Husband and Wife) -	\$20.00
	Single -	\$15.00
	Senior Family (Husband and Wife, 65+) -	\$15.00
	Senior Single -	\$10.00
	Student -	\$10.00

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All TFN Publications are for sale at monthly General Meetings.