

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 352, December 1982



Bridging the years...

See page 2

This Month's Cover

"The Old Mill Bridge", sketched in the field by Mary Cumming

In May 1840 a British army officer visited William Gamble's flourmill at the site of the present Old Mill and wrote this interesting description of the Humber Valley where the Old Mill Bridge now stands:

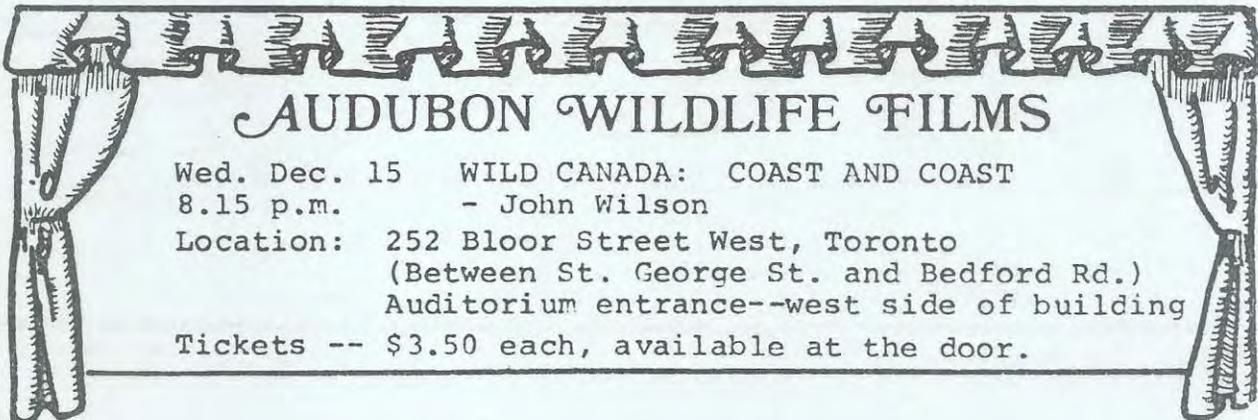
"This mill is on the right bank of the Humber about three miles from the lake in a small circular valley bounded partly by abrupt banks and partly by rounded knolls. At the upper end the highlands approach one another forming a narrow gorge clothed with heavy masses of the original forest. The basin of the gorge is completely filled by the river, which issues from it in a narrow stream flowing over a stony channel; but below the mill the water becomes deep and quiet and deviates into two branches to form a small wooded island.

"Close to the water's edge is a large mill surrounded by a number of small cottages over the chimneys of which rose the masts of flour barges; and on the bank above, in the midst of green lawn bounded by the forest is a neat white frame mansion commanding a fine view of this pretty spot."

The circular valley referred to is presumably the former Marsh 8, now part of King's Mill Park immediately downstream from Bloor Street, which was then used for pasture and cornfields. The lower part of the island can still be seen below the Bloor Street bridge, and the white mansion, known as Milton House, was torn down by Home Smith to make way for the Kingsway Park administration building, now the Old Mill Restaurant.

The Old Mill Bridge is one of the best examples in Toronto of a bridge harmonizing with the local landscape, with its graceful arches and its use of the local stone. Looking at the bridge today, it is difficult to believe it was built in 1916, since it appears in better condition than many of its younger brethren. Moreover, it has survived the pounding of many ice jams over the years, and even withstood the catastrophic Hurricane Hazel flood. It is a bridge worthy of its location in one of the most beautiful and historic sites in Toronto.

John D. Harris



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Wed. Dec. 15 WILD CANADA: COAST AND COAST
8.15 p.m. - John Wilson

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

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

	Upcoming OUTINGS	TFN 
RAIN 	or  SHINE	Everybody Welcome!

Saturday December 4 Junior Club (see page 29)

Tuesday December 7 TFN General meeting (see page 28)

Wednesday HIGH PARK - Colborne Lodge and walk in the park
 Dec. 8 Leader: Roger Powley
 10.00 a.m. Meet at the lodge. (Queen car #501 to Colborne Lodge Drive, formerly known as Howard Road, walk up the hill. Entrance \$1.25, seniors with card 75¢. If weather is suitable we will have a walk in the park.

Saturday ALLAN GARDENS - nature sketching
 Dec. 11 Leader: Mary Cumming
 10.00 a.m. Meet at the entrance to the greenhouses. Bring a stool. Carlton car #506, to Sherbourne St.

Sunday LAMBTON WOODS - birds
 Dec. 12 Leader: Roger Powley
 10.00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot of James Gardens on Edenbridge Drive. (Royal York bus #73 to Edenbridge, walk east for 0.4 mile).

Wednesday December 15th. Audubon Wildlife film. (see page 2)

Sunday IROQUOIS SHORELINE & WYCHWOOD PARK } Urban Natural
 Dec. 19 Leaders: Mary Smith & Helen Juhola } History Walk.
 1.00 p.m. Meet at the Loblaws parking lot on the north side of St. Clair Av. W, just east of Bathurst St. To walk south, a circular route.

● Sunday CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - a project of the Toronto Ornithological Club. If you wish to participate, call Harry Kerr at 481.7948.
 Dec. 26

Tuesday January 4 TFN General meeting (see page 28)

Wednesday METRO TORONTO ZOO
 January 5 Leader: we may be able to have a zoo-volunteer guide.
 10.00 a.m. Meet at the gates. Parking outside free (in winter). Entrance fee \$3.50, seniors with card \$1.50 (Scarborough bus #86 A, leaves Kennedy station at 9.28 am).

UPCOMING OUTINGS - continued

Saturday, January 8 Junior Club meeting (see page 29)

Saturday Royal Ontario Museum - sketching
 Jan. 8 Leader: Mary Cumming
 10.00 a.m. Meet in the rotunda. Entrance fee \$2.50; seniors \$1.25; ROM members free. Bring a stool.

Sunday HUMBER BAY PARK - waterfowl
 Jan. 9 Leader: Beth Jefferson
 2.00 p.m. Meet in the parking lot in the east half of the park. (#507 Long Branch car from Humber Loop to Park Lawn Road. Walk into the parking lot on the east side of Mimico Creek.)
Cars. Drive in from the foot of Park Lawn Road at Lakeshore Boulevard.

Tuesday, January 18 Bird Group (see page 28)

Thursday, January 20 Botany Group (see page 29)

Saturday MINESING SWAMP - Cross-country skiing, birds, winter botany.
 Jan. 22 Leaders: Jim Woodford and Steve Varga
 8.00 a.m. CAR-POOL OUTING. This will be limited to 4 cars able to transport skis and 4 people. Cost of outing \$15.00 per person. For details and to register, call Emily at 484-0487 between January 16 and 20.

Thursday, January 27 Environmental Group (see page 29)

Sunday BURKE BROOK - birds
 Jan. 30 Leader: Howard Battae
 2.00 p.m. Meet at C.N.I.B. overpass on Bayview Avenue. (Davisville bus #28)

Tuesday, February 1 TFN General meeting. (See page 28.)

Wednesday, February 2 10.00 a.m. Allan Gardens

See Our "Santa Shop"

Come early to the December 7th meeting and shop for Christmas and for yourself. In addition to the usual TFN publications, Christmas cards and hasti-notes will be available; also Newsletter art reproductions, on 80-lb. white bond, \$2.00 each; hand-tinted \$5.00 each. (Limited edition of 25.)

The authors of two new books will be on hand to autograph their publications.

Rosemary Gaymer, president of TFN 1972-74, will have her new book, "Two in the Bush", an illustrated collection of essays on birdwatching previously published in the South Peel Naturalists' Newsletter. The book has been published by Consolidated Amethyst Communications Inc., and is selling, tentatively, for \$7.95.

Trudy and Jim Rising* will have their new book, "Canadian Song Birds and Their Ways", a 'coffee-table' book, with paintings by Kathryn DeVos-Miller; published by Tundra Books, distributed by Collins. Cost \$39.95; discount for TFN members (\$34.00). See review on page 25.

* Speaker at December meeting.

Keeping in touch...

Dear Editorial Committee:

I would like to comment on the article titled "The New Birder". I see no point in reprinting this type of article which in my opinion only separates naturalists instead of uniting our limited numbers. This can be destructive to the whole movement and only cause harm.

I find that naturalists often find themselves fighting the same battles side by side with hunters and fishermen. I personally would much rather be lining up behind "listers" than people who are concerned only about preserving wild-life so they can go out and kill it.

This whole article smells of a "holier than thou" attitude which I don't care to be part of.

It is probably true that some photographers and over-zealous birders do cause some unnecessary duress to birds. It is also true that many other animals like foxes and dogs or raccoons scare the heck out of birds. These people are probably causing as much harm as the average dog-walker.

I find it unbelievable that some people can have the audacity to criticize others. Show me a human being who has had no negative effect on the environment and I will show you a liar.

Many "listers" provide a great amount of information to help in saving wild areas from destruction. It is also true that anyone who gives a hoot about birds is going to want to protect the forests the birds live in.

When we consider the fact that some people are shooting at rare and endangered birds with guns how can we be so petty as to complain about such trivialities.

Let's get our priorities straight and forget about reprinting such silly articles in the future.

Roger Powley

Ed. Note: We'd like to hear the opinions of other members on this issue. Do you agree with Roger that the faults of naturalists should be overlooked in the interests of unity or do you think that attention should be drawn to abuses of the environment by naturalists (even if unwittingly inflicted) in the interests of greater awareness?
(Ref. TFN (350) 13, 0 82)

Dear Editorial Committee:

I have just finished reading Allan Greenbaum's Nokoo. Since I myself am a poet of some notoriety, I was most impressed by Allan's supreme command of poetic form. I wonder if anyone else noticed as I did that his Nokoo rhymes in every possible direction! And him so young, what a future he has before him. I envy him.

My gratitude to the editorial committee for labelling such submissions or I might have missed Allan's gem. At first glance I took it to be an illustration of polar bears on an ice-floe in a snowstorm.

Ethics	HAVE BECOME	issues
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We have had reaction to an incident that occurred in Ottawa in October. One was from Christine Hanrahan who lives in Ottawa but is still a member of the TFN and prepares the newsletter index. The following is extracted from a letter from Christine, and has been edited.

- You have perhaps heard that a few weeks ago a small shorebird appeared at Shirley's Bay here in Ottawa. Because of a disagreement over identification there was an attempt to net the bird. Eventually it was shot instead by an employee of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ornithology Division, Richard Poulin (collector of many birds). The killing was sanctioned by the Museum, a government body. The real issue is not the death of one shorebird but the continued collecting for study purposes, primarily, but also for the satisfaction of mere curiosity.
- Many birders are against collecting for any reason, others believe it is justified in certain cases, such as the above, and others view the whole question of collecting as necessary. Many others do not know that this even occurs and are horrified when told. Perhaps once it served its purpose but when museums and university zoology departments are full of countless study specimens of all species (witness the R.O.M. for example), surely we can say "enough". As for collecting for purposes of confirming the exact identification of a bird, this is totally unnecessary. Ross James, Curator of Ornithology at the R.O.M. is building up a fine photographic collection of all species for the precise purpose of eliminating the need to collect for identification. In the case of the stint/sandpiper many fine photographs were taken. Ultimately the question is, is the identification of the bird so important that collecting is justified? Arguments of importance for understanding of species distribution, etc., etc. can be heard. But what we are dealing with here is a question of ethics.

Christine ends by saying "I think the TFN newsletter should be a forum for controversy, at least sometimes."

Jean Macdonald has reacted this way after reading Peter Whelan's column in The Globe and Mail, October 20:

In Ontario early this month some bird lover killed a Semi-palmated Sandpiper on behalf of a group consisting of the cream of Ontario birders. "Collected" is the euphemism used; birders don't see themselves as killers. As a result of their zeal one poor, common little sandpiper will never again run along a beach or experience the swift joy of flight. They really hoped they had killed a Temminck's Stint because this bird is from Eurasia and so rare it has only been seen once before in Canada. It is, of course, even rarer when dead.

Members will undoubtedly have strong feelings about this. Some will agree with the above while others will feel it is absolutely necessary to kill birds for science, or for precise identification. **WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!** Send your opinions in writing to any member of the Editorial Committee.

ETHICS have become ISSUES - Continued

You may wish to write to the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Attention Mr. Henri Ouellet, Chief, Vertebrate Zoology Section, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8.

The T.F.N. intends to ask for opinions from the National Museum, and also from the R.O.M. We hope to have replies for the February newsletter.

Ed. Committee

ENERGY PROBE AND ONTARIO HYDRO

The following is contained in a communication recently received from Energy Probe:

Energy Probe's plan to break up Hydro's monopoly will lead to these benefits:

- . Local control of power, since the municipal utilities will produce almost two-thirds of the power.
- . A role for entrepreneurs and private generators of power, as in the US, where anti-monopoly legislation has shown that solar and cogeneration technologies can compete if given a fair chance.
- . Less acid rain, since Hydro won't own Ontario's coal-fired stations under our plan, and municipalities and private producers will not have the clout to flout environmental laws.
- . No more nuclear power stations, since Ontario Hydro would be unable to finance them on its own.
- . An increasingly smaller - and more controllable - Ontario Hydro, since their nuclear plants will be phased out over time.
- . No more unnecessary transmission lines, since Ontarians already have more electrical power than we need.
- . Lower electricity bills in future, since we won't be building even more electricity plants that we don't need.

. . . . And Involve These Steps:

1. A return to the basic set-up Ontario used to enjoy, with the municipal utilities producing power and Ontario Hydro transmitting it. (The one exception is the existing nuclear plants, which, for safety reasons, Ontario Hydro would continue to operate.)
2. Access to the grid for all producers of power, so that entrepreneurs and industries will be able to sell their product. (Hydro, in effect, would operate the electrical grid for those transporting electricity in much the same way the highway system is operated for those transporting goods.)
3. Equal financing for all, Hydro would no longer have a financial advantage over municipalities and others by virtue of a provincial loan guarantee. (without this loan guarantee, Hydro could not have financed its nuclear program, or have competed with cogeneration and other environmentally attractive forms of electrical generation.)

For full details, send a donation to ENERGY PROBE and receive a free copy of BREAKING UP ONTARIO HYDRO'S MONOPOLY. 43 Queen's Park Cres. E.

Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER/82

Exceptional Records:

Golden Eagle. One migrating over Corner Marsh on Oct. 17 was photographed by Adrian Greenwood.

Western Kingbird. Sept.30-Oct.3, Keele St., Vaughan Township. (See page 24.)

Most Double-crested Cormorants seen in the Toronto Region are well offshore but one was seen flying inside the breakwater at Ontario Place on Oct. 19 (HS). Five Black-crowned Night Herons were at Rattray's Marsh on Sept. 22 (WM). On Oct. 31 a Red-throated Loon and two Black Scoters were reported at the Eastern Headland (BH).

Hawk migration at Morningside Park included 26 Turkey Vultures on Oct. 16, and 56 the following day (LH). The movement on Oct. 17 also included one Goshawk, 17 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper's Hawks and 44 Red-tailed Hawks. An Osprey which was at the Eastern Headland on Sept. 19 (MG) was reported at the Toronto Islands on the same day (JS). An immature Bald Eagle which was seen by members of the Junior TFN Bird Group at Mugg's Island on Oct. 2 was found at the Eastern Headland on Oct. 9 (HC, MG). A Merlin perched in a White Pine at Thickson's Point woods at the eastern edge of the Toronto Region on Sept. 12 was one of the highlights of the Toronto Ornithological Club fall field day. (BP).

As many as 30 Golden Plover were at the Toronto Islands on Oct. 9 (Junior TFN Bird Group), a Common Snipe was still at Pine Point on Oct. 27 (MK) and on the weekend of Oct. 30-31 White-rumped Sandpipers were reported at the Whitby hospital, Corner Marsh and the Eastern Headland. Owl banding on Mugg's Island during the night of Oct. 22-23 resulted in the banding of 20 Saw-whet Owls (GF, JF, BP, MP, TJ).

In the Glen Major area a total of 10 Eastern Bluebirds were seen on Oct. 24 (HK). An unusually plumaged Golden-crowned Kinglet was a very dark individual which was all black and gray except for a yellow crown-stripe. It was found at Burke Brooke Ravine on Oct. 31 (SC and others). Two late birds at Pine Point were a Solitary Vireo on Oct. 22 and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Oct. 20 (MK). No winter finches were reported during October. A male House Finch in the West Don Valley south of Finch on Oct. 26 (SC) was the only individual of this species to be reported. Among the sparrow reports for the latter part of October were a Chipping Sparrow and a Tree Sparrow at Pine Point on Oct. 19 and a Fox Sparrow there on Oct. 22 (MK). Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs were both found in the Cranberry Marsh area on Oct. 31 (HK).

Contributors: Adrian Greenwood, Helen Smith, William Mansell, Barry Harrison, Les Homans, Malcolm Gilbert, Hugh Currie, Jim Shannon, Mark Kubisz, Harry Kerr, George and Jean Fairfield, Bruce and Michael Parker, Tony Johnstone, Sandy Cappell.

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

Special Request: For the next year I would like to hear about any sightings of SCREECH OWLS and HOUSE FINCHES in the Toronto Region so that we may be able to clarify the status of these species in our area.

Bruce D. Parker (449-0994)

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

At the October meeting of the Environmental Group, Carol Elion presented an excellent report, along with slides, of her resource appraisal work in Scarborough identifying high-quality natural areas for preservation. During her two six-month studies while on contract with Scarborough Works Department, she has compiled detailed background data of policies for protecting natural areas while still allowing for development. Her studies focussed on table land forests in secondary valleys. After identifying possible geographical areas from air photo interpretation, six were studied in detail for soil analysis, vegetation analysis through all four seasons, small and large mammals, early morning bird sightings, and tree stand analyses.

In one of the areas around the Metro Zoo, a number of white-tailed deer have been sighted. Carol found the northeast quadrant to be the most natural area for protection. An area originally settled by Mennonites, it had a particularly low percentage of alien plants. This six-acre section has a number of unusual breeding birds including wood ducks, mallards, great blue herons and black terns. Picturesque native wild flowers, sugar maples and abundant ferns make this section unique in that it represents a last chance to save a truly natural area. TFN members discussed the possibility of an outing there some time in the future.

Melanie Milanich

NATURALISTS: Birders, Botanists, Environmentalists
Walkers and anybody else

Scarborough Planning Department is beginning revisions to its Official Plan to incorporate policies for the protection of the Borough's natural environment and TFN has been invited to contribute. Mary Smith and Jean Macdonald attended an informal meeting, but other members may know areas of special concern to them.

If you are familiar with many or few, large or small areas of Scarborough and have a concern relative to the protection or preservation of an area, please send details in writing to any member of the Editorial Committee. The report does not have to be long, or scholarly, but should state the exact location, and why protection is needed (a drainage area, river quality, valley edges, erosion, natural area with significant features such as rare plants, trees, animals, etc.).

After the preliminary input to the Scarborough Planning Board, an interim report will be prepared containing detailed proposals, and this will be available to interested groups or individuals.

TFN SLIDE AND PHOTO LIBRARY

In the spring of 1981, I reported on the status of the slide and photo library. I'm pleased to say that, since then, our collection has increased considerably, and we now have 1100 slides. These slides are stored in binders for easy viewing. Major contributions to this growth were made by Betty Greenacre, John Harris, Beth Jefferson, and John Riggenschach. The slide library is used as much by non-TFN people as by club members. It has recently been used by U. of T. students, municipal planners, and a landscape architect.

Although the growth of the slide library has been very satisfying, there are still some major omissions. Many of the natural areas of Metro Toronto are poorly represented or not at all. We have very few slides of birds, insects, rodents, amphibians, crustaceans, trees, shrubs, ferns, fungi, mosses and fish. If you have any colour slides to donate, please contact me.

Robin Powell (965-3804 - Days)
Slide and Photo Librarian.

Ed. Note: Slides should be accurately identified as to species, location, date.

Originals or copies are acceptable. (TFN will obtain copies and return your original if desired.)

ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST NEEDS PROMOTION MANAGER (VOLUNTEER)

Briefly, the Ontario Field Biologist

- is a journal published twice annually
- reports the observations and results of field oriented studies as they relate to the natural history of Ontario
- subscription rate is \$6.00 per year
- is well received by those who know it

and it needs a bright, knowledgeable, reliable person to act as Promotion Manager.

This position would involve communication with public libraries, book stores, parks and conservation personnel, high schools, colleges and universities, environmental ministries, museums and other field naturalist groups in order to promote membership subscriptions.

Before you say "no", think about the challenge this position would offer. Not only will you meet and communicate with some very interesting people, but will further your own knowledge while at the same time performing an extremely valuable service for the Ontario Field Biologist which is a publication of the Toronto Field Naturalists.

For more information call: Rosemary Gray at 481-3918.

TORONTO REGION MAMMAL RECORDS

Suddenly there is considerable interest in mammals in the Toronto area. Here are two reports received recently...

G. ROSS LORD PARK, 1982

Shrew: On June 24, 1982, I saw two dead shrews about 2 inches in body-length, and another on October 26. They were too mutilated to allow for definite identification as "Shorttail" or "Pygmy".

Raccoon: Observed a raccoon in a hawthorn, eating the fruit, on October 1.

Red Fox: On October 21, a further fox sighting for this area.

Groundhog: In the spring of 1982, two fighting groundhogs tumbled down a ravine slope and landed on a paved walk three feet in front of me. They fought for about another ten seconds till they noticed me, stopped fighting, and walked away. This is the only time I've seen groundhogs fight.

Eastern Grey Squirrel: In the summer of 1982, I entered a ski-trail in a wooded area. Directly above me in the trees were about seven black squirrels chattering loudly. As I started to walk slowly, they started moving too, at the same speed, over my head, for about a hundred yards till I stopped to look at a chipmunk on the ground - and they stopped too. After a few minutes some of them came down. They hesitated briefly, then two passed me slowly and hesitantly, one scuttled past quickly, and another detoured into the bush, I guess to keep away from me, then returned to the trail after passing me. This is the only time I've seen a large "gang" of squirrels together. Though the black colour-phase greatly outnumber the gray in G. Ross Lord Park, I saw one gray-phase on October 13, and two on October 27.

Red Squirrel: On September 25, a shower of hemlock cones on to the trail where I was walking made me look up to see the red squirrel which was knocking them down. After a few minutes, the squirrel started coming down the trunk, head first, in six-inch jerks, waving its tail up and down, banging it, perhaps unintentionally, against the tree-trunk. All the while (a few minutes) it repeated the following call over and over: About 10 "cheeps" and a "purr", 10 "cheeps" and a "purr". I think this was because of my presence. It then sat on a horizontal branch and we looked at each other for about two minutes. Then I moved on about twenty feet and, a minute later, it climbed back up into the treetop. (As well, I saw a red squirrel on October 26, and again on October 27.)

Eastern Chipmunk: Besides the chipmunk mentioned above under "Eastern Gray Squirrel", I have an October 27, 1982, sighting recorded.

(Note: This makes four species of the squirrel family in G. Ross Lord Park.)

(See also references to all above species in TFN (351) 10-11 N 82.)

G. Ross Lord Pk. continued on
next page...

Meadow Vole: On September 30 at 4:30 PM, I saw a meadow vole, two inches long with a one-inch tail, walking on a paved walk. When it saw me, it changed direction so fast that it flipped over on its back, and when I came right up to it, it hunched into a ball, trembling and breathing noticeably. It shifted position about once a minute. Then some kids came by and one of them picked it up, but it kept crawling out of his hand, so he put it in the grass and after a while it vanished. This is the only time I've seen a living tiny mammal in the park, though I've heard squeaking in the grass and have seen a few dead, mutilated ones.

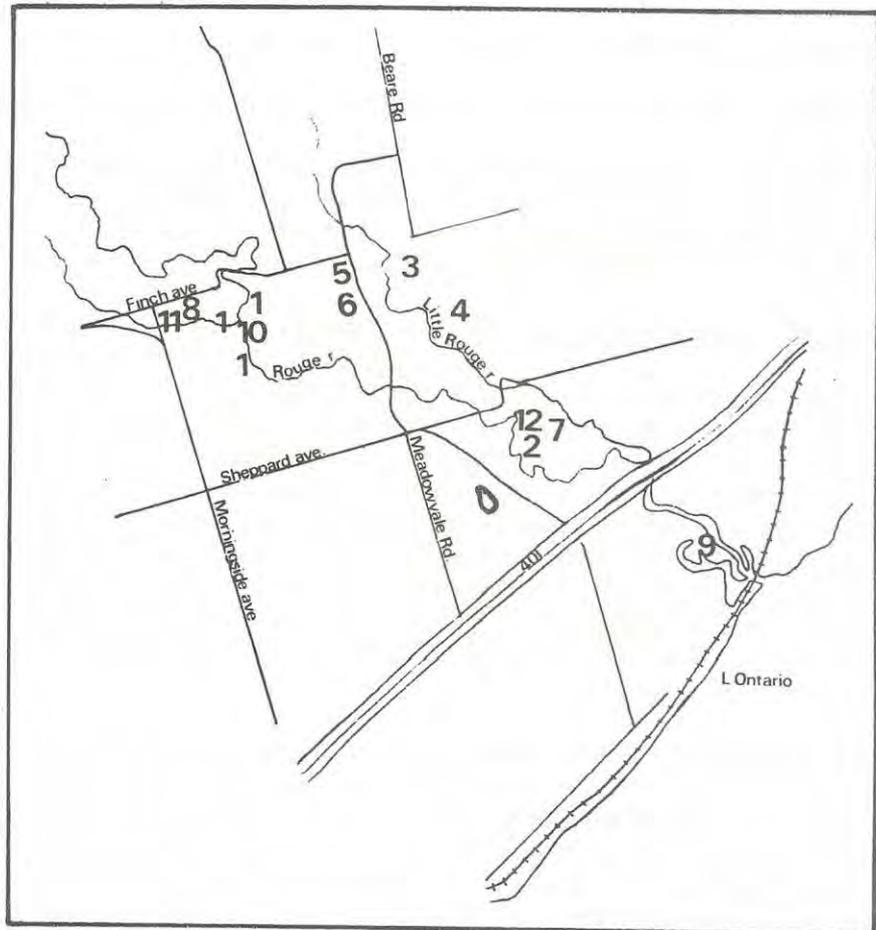
Alexander Cappell

ROUGE RIVER VALLEY

These are some of Paul Harpley's more interesting mammal observations for this area between Nov., 1980, and Sept., 1982.

Numbers on the map correspond to the list below.

(See also "White-tailed Deer Herd in Metropolitan Toronto" by Paul Harpley TFN (346) 19-21 M82.)

**MAMMALS**

Map Scale 1:50000

1. White-tailed Deer - 10 wintering Jan., Feb./82. (One 5-point buck.)
2. White-tailed Deer - 2 - Jan. 25, 1982
3. White-tailed Deer - 2 females - Jan., Feb./82
4. Red Fox - 5 young, den, May 8, 9, 10, 1981
5. Red Fox - 1 - May 9, 1981, 11:30 AM, sunny and warm
6. Red Fox - 1 - May 28, 1981, 8:15 PM
7. Red Squirrel - many - winter, 1981
8. Coyote - 3 individuals, winter, 1981
9. Beaver - 5, and lodge, Nov., 1980
10. Snowshoe Hare - 5-7 February, 1982
11. Ermine (Shorttail Weasel) - 1 - prey of Horned Owl, Dec. 7, 1981
12. Star-nosed Mole - 1 - dead specimen - Sept. 23, 1982

Paul Harpley

Riverdale Park proves to be a good place to observe the Eastern Grey Squirrel. There is a large population there and the colour phases are interesting. In the fur of this species, besides grey and black, white and rufous also occur and sometimes predominate. At Riverdale on October 6, TFN members saw the following combinations: At least 5 or 6 black; 2 grey; 1 rufous with contrasting white underside (making it look like a large Red Squirrel); 1 rufous with black feet and face; 1 black with rufous feet, face, tip of tail, and top-middle of tail. All were beautiful animals with luxurious coats, except for one black squirrel with a "spare" coat (still going through the fall moult?) At one point we watched three interacting, chasing up a Norway Maple - one black, one grey, and the rufous one with white underside. (For information on this species - coloration and habits - see The Squirrels of Canada by S.E. Woods Jr., and Mammals of the Great Lakes Region by William H. Burt - both in TFN Library.) Want to borrow them? (690-1963).

The only observation reported on the Eastern Chipmunk besides those in Sandy's report for G. Ross Lord Park, was a sighting at the gate of Metro Zoo on Oct. 20 by Molly Campbell, Patricia Walsh and Diana Banville - amazed to see it running across the asphalt. It would be interesting if TFN members could establish the haunts of this beloved denizen, throughout Toronto.

Betty Paul reports that a dead Meadow Jumping Mouse was seen on the TFN Rouge Valley walk October 16th. The back feet were noted to have a very long tarsus - the front feet comparatively short. We checked with TFN member Jeff Gibson who is in the Zoology Department of the Royal Ontario Museum. He says that he collected 4 or 5 specimens of this species for ROM in September of this year, as well as some specimens of the Meadow Vole. Jeff says it is safe to add two more species to our list for the Toronto Region - see TFN (351) 11, N 82:

Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius*)
Boreal Redback Vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*)

The voles are "cute" little mice with comparatively short tails. They have bright beady eyes and small external ears (unlike the shrews and moles in our area which have an eye-less, ear-less look). If it is in long-grass country it is probably the meadow vole. If it is in the forest, it could be the redback vole - especially if it has the contrasting rufous back-stripe.

We'd like to correct a misconception in "This Month's Cover" TFN (351) 7, N 82, in the list of "larger mammals" of the Toronto area. The Beaver does not "just swim by" Toronto. See Paul Harpley's record in this article. Also Helen Juhola and Mel Whiteside saw ample evidence of its work in the Humber Valley south of the 401 in 1976. Mark Kubitz has found references to early sightings of the Cougar in Animals, Man and Change by Hugh R. MacCrimmon, MacLelland & Stewart 1977. Though not within a 30-mile radius of ROM, one was near Greemore (NW of Alliston) about 1884 and the other an encounter on Baldwin's Hill (just south of Sutton) about 1812.

Don't forget to report any rabbit sightings. (A white Domestic Rabbit was seen by Sandy Cappell in the West Don Valley north of Sheppard on Oct. 26, 1982.) The snowshoe hare is "cuddly"; the European hare is big and rangy - and you know the Eastern cottontail. Anyone with an "animal tracks" field guide, please report this winter. Contact any member of...

TFN Editorial Committee.

STRANGE SIGHTINGS II

In response to Roger Powley's article under the above title in the September issue, TFN (349) 29, S82, we've received the following field notes on the grey squirrel...

Last February (1982), after the great snowfalls and the extreme cold (remember?) I went to High Park. It was yet cold but bright and sunny and the snow was deep - up to my knees quite. (I'm about 155 cm tall). Squirrels were running about the park and as I trudged through the snow, I scared some from holes they had dug in the snow, or were starting to dig. At first, the squirrels' actions did not attract my attention (you know how supposedly familiar things become unnoticeable - e.g. - who truly notices squirrels in a park?). But when I finally came to my senses, I watched and noted and tried to photograph one of the finest, most exciting and amazing nature experiences I have had, ever! A squirrel dug a hole, quickly - snow was flying out fast - and as he went deeper, he periodically popped up to look around. (At least once he jumped out of the hole to glare threateningly at me.) Sometimes he was an amusing picture because he'd pop up crowned with snow or masked with snow, and finally, after being quite out of sight in his snow-hole, he popped out with a peanut in his little paws. (Can you ever begin to imagine my surprise and delight?) He ate the peanut, casually dropping the shell beside the hole, then dug again and came up with another peanut. That was in at least 40 cm. of snow. The second peanut he ate sitting on a tree-branch, because I managed to frighten him in my excitement and jerky attempt to photograph him. (My photographs, unfortunately, didn't turn out very well.)

This squirrel story might be a bit interesting to Mary Smith who wrote of *Toronto Squirrels. While I'm on the squirrel subject, as a follow-up comment on Mary's article, I saw a squirrel building a nest in a tree outside my window around the beginning of October. The interesting fact about this is that the squirrel did not take all his branches from the same section of the tree; instead he selected from many different areas. He'd stop to tuck long branches further into his mouth. He nearly tripped as he ran back to his nest-building site - a big crotch of the tree. He'd plunge into the nest. After a while he'd poke his nose and eyes out from a couple of different places (windows, I guess).

E. Suzanne Poodrey

Ed. Note: On talking to Suzanne about her observations, we got on to the subject "does the squirrel remember where it buried the peanut?" She said that there was some evidence that perhaps this squirrel did, since other squirrels were running about as well - they would sniff in the holes this individual had made but would not enter them, nor did they dig any holes of their own.

*TFN (350) 4, 0 82

Enchanting shadows Cover the walls of my room Yet everything's still.

(haiku by Lori Parker)

A MID-CITY NATURE RESERVE - PERHAPS?

Sometimes with luck and good timing, fast citizen action and a fortunate combination of political circumstances, the demise of an urban natural area can be limited, prevented, or the area even enhanced.

Two years ago earth-moving machines appeared to be utterly destroying the few remaining thickets and marshy areas in the valley separating North and South Rosedale. The culprit was Ontario Hydro installing a 115,000 volt transmission cable under Park Drive or, preferably Park-Side, Ravine. Through the years Consumers' Gas, City Works, Metro Roads, and even bull-dozers hired by owners of ravine lots had destroyed much of the ravine. (What can one expect in the very heart of a huge city? At one time, plans had actually existed -- perish the thought -- to run a cross-town expressway through the ravine.)

However, in 1980, when Ontario Hydro began its work, letters were hand-delivered to the President of Ontario Hydro, the Mayor of Toronto, the local Aldermen, and the Premier of Ontario protesting further destruction of the valley. Luckily the letters seemed to coincide with Hydro's exceptionally strong desire at that time for a good public image. A meeting took place, not at City Hall or in the offices of Ontario Hydro, but according to the wishes of the citizens, on the ice and snow, in December, and in the ravine where the damage was being done. (One willing alderman's assistant in high-heeled shoes was unable to find us.)

Present at this first and memorable meeting were engineers and public relations officials from Ontario Hydro, a number of local citizens, the president of a ratepayers' group, the local aldermen, and our essential landscape architect consultant, Mary Smith.

Because Ontario Hydro had promised to "restore" the ravine, we spoke about the definition of the word "restoration". To us this meant "leave things alone". We discussed the significance of marsh, thicket, and scrub, the disadvantages of grading and sodding, the need for protecting and encouraging birds and other wildlife, and the unsavoury subject of the "road". We also spoke of our ideal -- a model nature reserve in this ravine.

The way was opened for future meetings at City Hall with officials from Metro and City Works, Roads and Parks Departments, our Aldermen, and Ontario Hydro. This special cooperation was, we surmise, a little more than good luck. Ontario Hydro had offered to pay costs.

A few months later a public meeting was arranged by Ontario Hydro. Charts, photos, and maps were displayed and the public encouraged to make suggestions. Subjects aired included drainage, plant species, road surfaces, access routes, tennis courts, and management. Some people wanted a wood-chip path; others, a smooth-packed gravel surface for cycling. Many issues pertaining to the preservation of ravines were revealed though not solved. The dream of a "model nature reserve" was catching on.

The unusual rapport among those involved had positive results. Two years after our first meeting, the ravine contains more trees and shrubs than it did before construction began. The western end had been a barren area. Now shrubs are flourishing there. At the eastern end, the roadway has been contained by a barrier of large logs.

The delicate question of the ownership of the roadway has been resolved (we hope) with legal transfer from Metro to City so that the area will be permanently out-of-bounds to private vehicles.

Protection of natural areas requires the continued vigilance of responsible citizens. It is surprising how many people assume that ravines are protected when, in fact, no law exists yet which can prevent their being damaged or even obliterated.

This story has a happy beginning. Let's hope it does not have an ending. Let's hope that citizens will continue to speak out for the preservation of natural areas. To keep an urban area in a natural state, we must all be custodians.

Kittie Fells

.....
Ed. Note. As well as submitting "Ravine Study No. Five - Park Drive Ravine, 1976" during restoration of the ravine, TFN sent a letter to Ontario Hydro congratulating those involved on their encouragement and use of public opinion.

HJ



From the Artist's Sketchbook... "High Park"
by Joyce Cave

Quartzite hills and moors!
This year I saw the rowans
Of new world and old.

(haiku by Diana Banville)

OUTINGS REPORT

July 1982

The July outings started with a Sunday afternoon stroll in the Humber Valley with Luciano Martin.

On the 6th Isabel Smith led 14 people through Etienne Brule Park and identified about 60 plants which were flowering.

On a hot, sunny Wednesday morning Catharine Heynes led 21 members in the river valley of the West Don at Glendon Campus.

On July 10th four members met in High Park for the Sketching group. They walked south to the animal pens and stopped to look at the white fallow deer where among several adults there were some young, just a few days old. It was nice to sketch the deer when they rested in the shade.

On Wednesday 14th Diana Park led 20 members through the West Don Valley, north from Eglinton. Besides many plants they found tiger swallow-tail butterflies, monarch caterpillars and butterflies, cardinals, goldfinches, a catbird and a hairy woodpecker.

That evening 16 people accompanied Beth Jefferson in High Park to explore the prairie on the northwest side. Of the 62 species of flowering plants found the most interesting were true Solomon's-seal, New Jersey tea, harebell, wild lupines, sweet-fern, early goldenrod, blueberry, Juneberry, round-headed bush-clover, Michigan lily, whorled loosestrife, ground cherry, and frostweed. Twenty-three species of birds were seen and heard, including a family of great crested flycatchers.

On 17th July 16 people enjoyed an all-day outing to Derryville bog with Steve Varga.

A sunny warm day drew 32 members to Jeff Nadir's "insect" outing at Seton Park. Some of the butterflies seen were tiger and black swallow-tails and Acadian hairstreaks. Damselflies and dragonflies were observed and the imported willow-leaf beetles were abundant.

David McLeish led 20 members through Rosedale Valley on the evening of the 22nd and enjoyed his first walk with the TFN.

Twenty-one people attended Allan Greenbaum's outing on the 24th when they explored the Rouge Valley west of the Metro Zoo. Habitats viewed were an old orchard and a stand of fine white pines. Twenty-three species of birds were observed.

A threatening cloudy day drew only 7 members to the Wednesday morning walk led by Helen Juhola. Two pileated woodpeckers were seen in the East Don Valley north of Finch as well as several specimens of gumweed.

Doug Thomas led the Park Drive Ravine evening walk and had 13 followers. Cup plant and elecampane were seen and the pignut and bitternut hickories on the slopes behind Castle Frank School were discussed. Nighthawks were flying and calling overhead.

The last outing of the month was through Chine Drive Ravine and out to the bluffs on a hot, hazy Saturday morning with George Comper. Twenty-nine people saw 32 species of birds including a vesper sparrow and a bobolink.

Roger Powley

Outings Report (cont'd)

August 1982

On the cloudy morning of August 4th Jeff Nadir led a group of eight members through the East Don Valley to study grasses and insects. He explained how to use a key to identify them. He also brought a small insect collection so that members could get a good look at some common species.

On a sunny morning, the 7th, Mary Smith led a group of 23 through Echo Valley Park (the nut-tree park) and explained grafting and identified the various trees in the walnut family.

On the evening of August 10th Carole Elion, Anne Nash and Randy Jorgensen led 16 members through the Warden Woods area of Taylor Creek. This is the area where they had been studying the ecology of the valley and they gave the participants a better idea of what management could mean to this natural area. They examined the seepage slopes and the flora of the valley and made a detour into a wooded area to see ferns and flowers. About a dozen bird species were seen, and everybody had a most enjoyable and instructive evening. The weather was good too.

Helen Juhola continued the walks in the East Don Valley series on the 11th and 21 people enjoyed a very pleasant morning with her exploring an area just south of Hwy. 401.

August 14th was a busy day. The Nature Sketching Group went to Kew Beach and found the weather right for lakeshore breezes and Steve Varga led a group of 14 members to Happy Valley in the Oak Ridges Moraine to study the forest where many interesting plant species were found. After picnicing in the woods the group drove on to Wilcox Lake bog to find more northern species.

On the 15th Allan Greenbaum and 20 others explored an area in the Little Rouge River Valley north of the Metro Zoo. They visited a stand of mature white cedar where ostrich, bulblet and maidenhair ferns grew. A rare plant for this area, variegated horsetail, was also found on a unique cobble-barrens habitat along with great lobelia, slender gerardia, and bog twayblade. The river had several species of minnows and many insects were seen including stick-insects and a variety of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies).

On the morning of the 18th Bruce Parker led 20 people through Brookbanks Ravine and in the evening Tom Swales led 21 in Taylor Creek Park. They walked in the woods on the south side of the creek to Dawes Road. Here they met our wheelchair member, Patricia Walsh, who went along with the group to enjoy the flowers and the sunny evening.

A rather wet, slippery walk was held in Wigmore Park on the 25th. Allan Greenbaum and four other members found the East Don River was in flood due to heavy rains the previous evening.

The clear sunny evening of Aug. 26 encouraged 16 people to join Melanie Milanich in the E.T. Seton Park to enjoy the trees and shrubs and to look at the very tall reed-grass which was in bloom.

The 28th was a lovely calm morning for the 21 members who went with Emily Hamilton to the Island to look at the plants which are to be found there at this season. In the nature reserve, nodding ladies'-tresses were in bloom and at Gibraltar Point the spray aster was found to have recovered well after the flooding of some years ago. It was distressing to see the bulldozing of the sandhills into the pools on the wet beach strand. A sudden wind and rainstorm prevented participants from examining this area further.

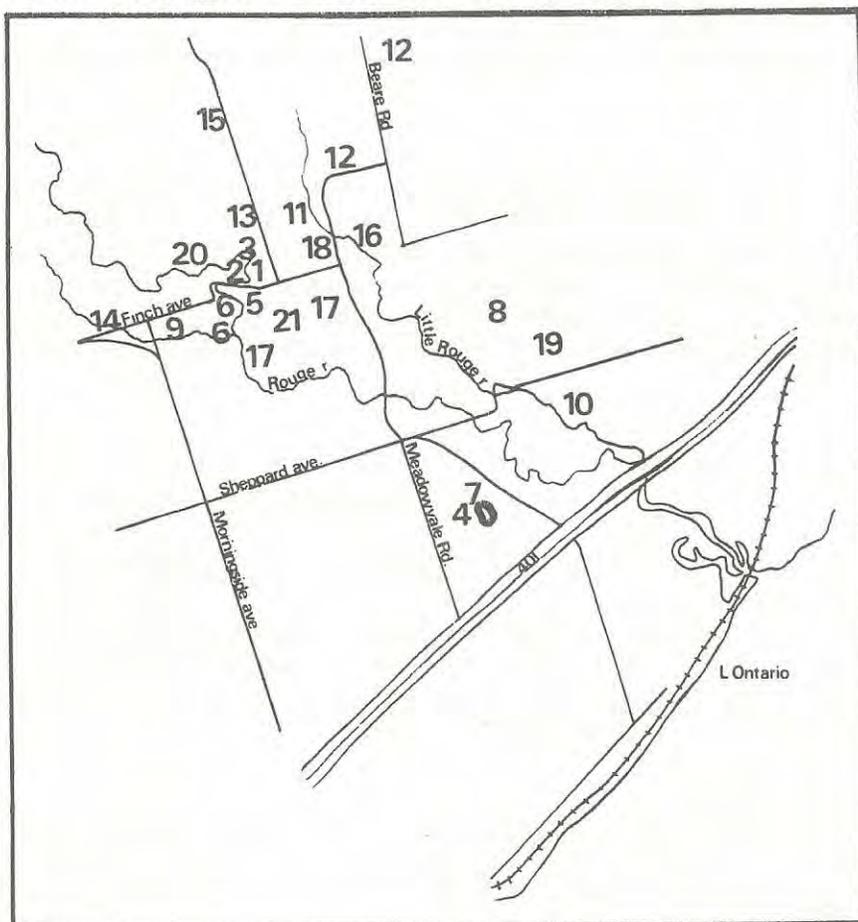
SOME BIRDS OF THE ROUGE VALLEY

A REPORT OF PERSONAL RECORDS (1979 TO SPRING, 1982)

The numbers on the map correspond to those on the list below.

See also
"Breeding Bird Census on Little Rouge River" by Paul Harpley - Save the Rouge River System Technical Paper Vol. 1 No. 1 Jan. 1981
- and -

**"Toronto Region Bird Records" TFN (347) 26, A82

**BIRDS**

1. Pileated Woodpecker - male & female - Apr. 25-June 9, 1981 - many observations; nest hole with 5 young June, 1981.
2. Pileated Woodpecker - nest hole - May-June, 1980; male and female
3. Pileated Woodpecker - nest hole - May-June, 1979; male and female
4. Pileated Woodpecker - male and female, plus nest, May 28, 1981
5. *Golden Eagle - Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1981 8:20 AM; perched in dead pine; soaring north
6. ** Bald Eagle - Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1982, 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM, perched and soaring. (Seen by other naturalists Jan. 14 & 18/82.)
7. Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher - (2) - nest with young in Manitoba Maples near pond edge, May 28, 1981
8. Great Horned Owl - nest with 3 young, June, 1980
9. Great Horned Owl - preying on ermine, Dec. 7, 1981, 5:35 PM
10. Ruffed Grouse - steep west-facing slope, heavily wooded maple/pine Sunday, April 26, 1981
11. Ruffed Grouse - female and 5 young; male, female & 4 young - June 5, 25, 1980
12. Red-headed Woodpecker - June 25, 1980
13. Red-headed Woodpecker - June 20, 1981
- 14 & 15. Red-headed Woodpecker on territory - July 25, 1981
16. Great Crested Flycatcher - male and female, nest and young June 21, 1981

17. Sandhill Crane - Dec. 19, 20, 21, 22, 1981 - March, 1982
18. Ring-necked Pheasant - June 28, 1981
19. Red-tailed Hawk - nest - Saturday May 9, 1981
20. Marsh Hawk - April 5, 10, 18, 1980
21. Canada Goose - nestings at Metro Zoo noted in 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982.

Paul Harpley

*Ed. Note: We asked Paul why he was convinced this sighting was that of a Golden rather than an immature Bald Eagle. He said that (a) the head was smaller proportionately to the body, (b) it dropped off the perch, approaching obliquely, at about a 33° angle; as it passed over, he caught (c) a gold flash on the side of the neck, and noticed (d) its undulating flight and that the bird was (e) heavily feathered below, toward the tail.

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

WILDERNESS SANITATION

The following is taken from a leaflet entitled "Wilderness Sanitation" prepared by the Bruce Trail Association for the guidance of persons travelling in areas lacking the most basic sanitation facilities.

Human Waste

Fortunately, nature has provided in the top 6 to 8 inches of soil a system of "biological disposers" that works to decompose organic material. Keeping this in mind, you should:

- Carry with you a small digging tool. A light garden trowel is good.
- Select a suitable screened spot at least 50 feet from any open water.
- Dig a hole 8 to 10 inches in diameter, and no deeper than 6 to 8 inches to stay within the "biological disposer" soil layer. Keep the sod intact if possible.
- After use, fill the hole with loose soil and then tramp in the sod.
- Nature will do the rest in a few days.

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

NEWS FROM OTHER NATURALISTS' GROUPS:

Christmas Crafts, with natural materials, plus Bird Feeder and Bird House Construction - a workshop. Plans are under way for an afternoon of working with our hands. Some may wish to create Christmas decorations using pods, cones, seeds, berries and other dried natural materials. Others may wish to construct a feeder for the coming winter or a nest box for early spring.
- from the Saugeen Field Naturalists Newsletter.

A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE - Part 14

Jays to Mockingbirds

Jays.

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Raven, Crow.

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2. Duncan, Bruce W., 1974. An European Blue Tit at Gravenhurst. TFN Newsletter 281: 7.
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5. Jarvis, John, 1965. A possible occurrence of the Carolina Chickadee (Parus carolinensis) in Southwestern Ontario. Ont. Field Biol. 19: 43.
6. Juhola, Helen, 1980. Chickadees nesting in the city. TFN Newsletter 336.
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Nuthatches, Brown Creeper.

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Bruce Parker

(Short-horned Grasshopper sketched at the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve picnic in September...it sat on Mary Cumming's sketch-pad long enough for Diana to finish this sketch. This little fellow may not be very welcome in some quarters, but we can hardly complain - regaled as we were by grasshopper-song.)



NATURALIZED BIRDS IN THE TORONTO REGIONMute Swan

During the past few years Mute Swans have become attractive additions to the waterfowl of the Toronto Region waterfront. Ever since the first Mute Swan was collected in Ontario at Long Point in 1934, birders have tried to decide which the birds should be considered -- wild or escaped. (A "wild" bird means another tick-mark on a checklist or that the species deserves study. "Escapees" usually aren't given a second glance by most birders.)

In discussing the 1934 Mute Swan from Long Point, Snyder (Can. Field Nat., 1944) concluded that it must have been a "wild" bird because it didn't show any signs of having been in captivity. Also, no Mute Swans were known to be in captivity within fifty miles of Long Point. (By 1934, a feral population of Mute Swans had been established at Long Island, New York.)

Since the 1950's Mute Swans (usually only one or two at a time) have been found almost every spring at Long Point and two nests were reported in the early 1970's (McCracken, 1982).

Prior to its appearance in the Toronto Region, a Mute Swan was reported at Hamilton before 1944 (Snyder, 1944) and at Oshawa from 1953 to 1956 (Tozer and Richards, 1974). Oddly enough, the first mention of Mute Swans in the Toronto Region was not near Lake Ontario but inland at Stewartown where R.M. Saunders saw two on Oct. 26, 1957 (TOC records). Presumably this was the same pair which Peck refers to as nesting on the edge of a golf course at Georgetown in 1958. They raised eight young. This is considered to be the first nesting record of Mute Swans in Ontario (Peck 1966).

The first Mute Swan reported along the Toronto Region waterfront was one at Long Branch on Feb. 6, 1961. Since 1965 when four Mute Swans spent the summer at Whitby, Mute Swans have been found every year along the waterfront. Since 1972 adults and young have been noted in the eastern marshes (Pickering Twp. and Whitby) almost every year. As many as 31 were found at Whitby and Cranberry Marsh on July 12, 1981, by B. Parker (Parker, 1981) and 39 were in the same area on Sept. 12, 1982, (B. Parker). All of those observed on the latter date were adults, but the 1981 total included four family groups.

The first Mute Swan reported on a Toronto Region Christmas Bird Count was one at Whitby on Dec. 26, 1966 (Baillie, 1968). The numbers on this Count have been steadily increasing with a maximum of 56 reported in 1981. The history of the Mute Swan on the Toronto Region Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory is similar to that of the Christmas Bird Count. The first sighting was reported in 1966 (Jan.) and numbers reached 51 in 1981. The majority of the swans spend the winter in the western section of the waterfront (west of the Humber River to Clarkson).

The future of the Mute Swan in the Toronto Region is unclear. They are not native birds; their feeding habits and aggressive behaviour when protecting their nests have had adverse effects on other waterfowl and their numbers have been increasing rapidly. Last summer (1982) the Ministry of Natural Resources began a management program to control the number of Mute Swans. Apparently long-term plans exist to re-introduce the Trumpeter Swan into Ontario instead. Presently the Mute Swan is an interesting addition to our fauna and well worth observing so that we may learn more about its behaviour and movements.

Bruce Parker

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RARE BIRDS IN THE TORONTO REGION
WESTERN KINGBIRD

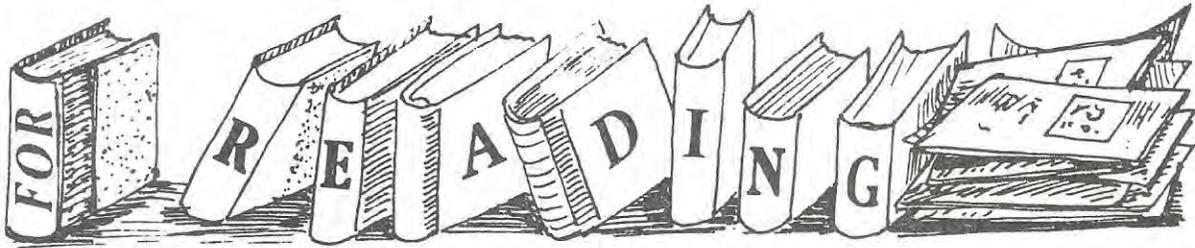
An excellent example of how to find unusual birds occurred on September 30, 1982, when Gerry Bennett discovered a Western Kingbird in Vaughan Township. While driving along Keele Street, a little north of Steeles, Gerry saw a 'kingbird' perched near the top of a tree beside the parking lot of the Continental Can Company. The Eastern Kingbird is a common bird in our area, but most Eastern Kingbirds leave the Toronto Region in late August and all are gone by mid-September. A kingbird on the last day of September is exceptionally late, and any bird which appears at the 'wrong' time is worth a second look. Gerry's second look (taken after he stopped his car) was all that was required to identify the bird as a Western Kingbird.

The Western Kingbird was found by most birders who looked for it during the next three days except for those few who waited in the parking lot on Saturday morning. The bird had temporarily moved to the south side of the tracks. The last people to see the Western Kingbird were Betty Jane, Lori and Bruce Parker when it was back at its favourite perch near the top of a horse-chestnut tree beside the parking lot (5.15 p.m., October 3). The following field marks were noted - size and shape of a kingbird - flycatching from the top of tree - dark tail (no white band on the end) - grayish head and back - yellowish lower breast. Since no white outer tail feathers could be seen, the bird was probably an immature.

The Western Kingbird has occurred at least 10 times in the Toronto Region.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Sept. 15, 1957, Duffin Creek | 6. July 16, 1968, Whitby (3 birds) |
| 2. Sept. 12, 1959, Cranberry Marsh | 7. June 6, 1970, Cranberry Marsh |
| 3. July 31, 1960, Whitby | 8. May 4, 1977, High Park |
| 4. Sept. 23, 27, 1960, Whitby | 9. Sept. 4, 1977, Pickering |
| 5. June 3, 1961, Ajax | 10. June 1952, Port Credit |

Bruce D. Parker



Canadian Song Birds and Their Ways by Trudy and Jim Rising; paintings by Kathryn DeVos-Miller. Tundra Books, 1982, 176 pages, \$39.95.

The original colourful paintings of Kathryn DeVos-Miller add much to the attractive format of this 'coffee-table' book, illustrating the information which is the latest scientific research in ornithology. The Risings have answered many questions about bird behaviour like: Why do birds have colour; Why are bird eggs different colours; How nestlings get their parents to feed them; Why do birds moult; Where do they get the energy for migration.

Part III of the book identifies and compares the most common and conspicuous species of song birds. By examining the beaks, feet and behaviour of birds, this book demonstrates that bird watching can be more than just listing rare species. In fact, there is almost too much information to digest at one sitting. But because it is the type of book that is to be left on the coffee table, one will be able to pick it up frequently and savour one topic at a time.

Canadian Song Birds and Their Ways would be a welcome addition to the reference library of any beginning or intermediate birder and I think, especially for anyone who enjoys watching birds at their backyard feeder. (Don't tell my mother, but she will be getting a copy of this book for a Christmas present!)

Beth Jefferson

The Tree Identification Book - and - The Shrub Identification Book by George W. D. Symonds, photographs by Stephen V. Chelminski, published in Canada by George J. McLeod Ltd., Toronto, 1958.

Very good black-and-white photographs of leaves, flowers, twigs, buds, bark, and entire tree in winter. Recommended by Alexander Cappell.

Where to find MAPS...

Metro Management Services, 3284 Yonge Street (482-8011)
- Air Photos for Metro (1980) - \$1.00 plus tax. Recommended by Alexander Cappell and Gavin Miller.

National Air Photo Library, Energy, Mines, and Resources Canada,
613 Booth Street, Ottawa, K1A 0E9. Suggested by Alexander Cappell.

Toronto's Ravines, Ours to Preserve - Committee on Ravine Preservation Policies, City of Toronto Planning Board and Development Department and the Communication Services Division, City Clerk's Office. Folder available - phone 367-7341 or 367-7187. Or pick up a copy at TFN monthly General Meetings.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan. Wild Bird Society of Japan, 139 colour plates by Shinji Takano, published 1982, 336 pp. Bibliography.

The format of this new English-language guide is similar to that of our popular Golden field guide, that is with the text facing the plates, and with individual range-maps. Field marks are indicated on the plates as in the Peterson series. A pictorial quick reference on the front end-papers should prove helpful.

Since Japan is a group of islands isolated from the main land-mass, there are several species endemic to Japan; thus a bird-lover going there for the first time will have a unique opportunity. On the other hand, for the same reason of isolation, coupled with extensive development, there are many birds which are extinct or near-extinct, and these are illustrated in the book. So if you're going to Japan, don't get too excited about the possibility of seeing the Crested Ibis illustrated on the front cover nor some of the colourful doves which appear inside the book. But do go to Hokaido and see the Japanese Green Pigeon, the most beautiful dove of all.

As well as the English and Latin names, there is a list of the Japanese names in Western type. A bird-watching guide for Japan is included, with map and photographic illustration of each birding spot, habitat description, list of species to be seen at each season, and transportation directions.

Japan is in the "palearctic" faunal region but it has a remarkable mixture of northern and tropical species. Though ptarmigan are found in the high mountains, in the south a very exotic bird is common (pictured on the back cover) - a species of paradise flycatcher!

If you are going to Japan, call 690-1963, to borrow this book; it is in our TFN library through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Sera. And so we say...

どうも ありがとう, 瀬良さん!

(Yoko Kajiya says that the above Japanese calligraphy, in her hand, would be pronounced "Dohmo arigatoh, Sera-san!")

D.B.

Note: The Island by Ronald Lockley and The Coral Reef by Alan Emery, reviewed in the October issue are both in TFN Library, kindly donated by Mildred Easto. (To borrow any books we have, phone 690-1963.)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

February, 1969

"...The U.S.A.'s first choice for Secretary of the Interior, Walter Hickel, is worrying a lot of conservationists. In the past he has tried to open up Alaska's Kenai Moose Range for oil prospecting, has stated that he found little merit in 'conservation for conservation's sake', and has worried that industries might be scared away if the U.S.A.'s scandalously inadequate regulations against water pollution were set too high. This man may soon become custodian of all the U.S.A.'s federal lands, forests and national parks - and the oil companies can hardly wait. A good assistant might be Ronald Reagan who once said that 'to see one redwood is to see them all' - much to the joy of the lumber companies of California."

Elmer Talvila, "News and Views"
TFN (241) 3, F 69

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Civic Garden Centre

The following events will take place at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie. Call 445-1552 for further information.

During December, paintings of animals by Pat Copeland will be on display in the Link Gallery.

Botanical Art--6-week course starting Monday, January 17.

Royal Canadian Institute

Lectures will be presented on the following dates by the Royal Canadian Institute. Admission free. Call 979-2004 for further information.

Sat. Dec. 4 Third World Aid: Noble Intent, Ignoble Failure
8.15 p.m. - Prof. Carlo Testa

Location: Convocation Hall, University of Toronto.

Sun. Jan. 16, 23, 30)
3.15 p.m.) To be announced.

Location: Medical Sciences Auditorium, University of Toronto.

Kortright Centre for Conservation

The following events will be held at the Kortright Centre for Conservation, Pine Valley Drive, just south of Kleinburg. Call 661-6600 for more information.

December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 26 -

Christmas in the Country

We're for the Birds (attracting birds to your yard)

December 5, 12, 19, 26 - Gourmet Cooking for Wild Life

Week of December 26-January 2 -- Naturalist program each day.

January 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 -

Cross Country Skiing with a Naturalist

Snow Ecology

Winter Wildlife

January 16 -- Wind Energy Program

January 29 - 7.30 p.m. -- Owl Prowl

During the month of January -- Introduction to Nature

Photography Contest.

Ontario Forestry Association

The Ontario Forestry Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, February 12, at the Holiday Inn, Toronto Airport, commencing at 9.00 a.m. A full day's program is being arranged, including speakers on a variety of topics. Cost approximately \$22.00. Call 493-4565 for further information.

"Trees, The Guardians of the Earth"

On Wednesday, December 1, at 8.00 p.m., Dorothy Maclean will present a talk on "Trees, The Guardians of the Earth" at the George Ignatieff Theatre, Devonshire Place, just south of Varsity Stadium. (By TTC, take Bloor subway to St. George Station). A film will also be shown on the life and work of Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, known internationally as "The Man of the Trees". Admission \$5.00. For more information, call D. J. Nichol, 964-7412.

TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS
WELCOME

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, December 7, 1982, 8.15 p.m. (Come for coffee at 7.30)

The Ecology and Birds of the Churchill, Manitoba, Region

- Professor Jim Rising, Department of Zoology, University of Toronto.

Jim Rising has studied birds in 49 of the 50 states, all 10 provinces, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and northern Mexico. He is particularly interested in hybridization and geographic variation of birds. For the past several years he has been studying the Savannah Sparrow, and in connection with these studies he has worked in the Canadian north. On a couple of occasions he taught a credit course in Arctic Ornithology at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.

For the lecture on December 7, Professor Rising will show slides illustrating the major habitat types (boreal forest, wet and dry tundra, coast, pond) and some of the characteristic plants and animals of those habitats. The emphasis will be on birds, and specifically the breeding birds of the Churchill region.

Tuesday, January 4, 1983, 8.15 p.m. (Come for coffee at 7.30)

Rafting Down the Fraser River, B.C.

- Cora Barwell, Secretary to the President of Victoria College University of Toronto.

Cora Barwell is a member of the Toronto Guild for Colour Photography and of the National Association of Photographic Art, who is interested in field naturalists' activities. On January 4 she will present slides of a ten-day camping trip that she took, travelling by boat and plane to Chilco Lake and by raft down the Chilco and Fraser Rivers to Lillooet, B.C. Two projectors with dissolve and sound units will be used for the presentation.

Tuesday, February 1, 1983, 8.15 p.m.

Urban Ecosystems and Island Biogeography: A Conservation Strategy

- Professor Tony Davis, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Toronto.

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GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group

Tues. Jan. 18 A well-known speaker will present an illustrated
8.00 p.m. talk on birds. Call 444-7939 for further details.

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

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Botany Group

Thur. Jan. 20 Plant Identification for Everyone--from beginners
7.30 p.m. to experts - Steve Varga - and
Botanical Drawing of tropical plants

Location: Room 207B, Botany Bldg., U. of T., northwest corner of
University and College. (Entrance by main door, north
of greenhouse)

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Environmental Group

Thur. Jan. 27 Allan Greenbaum, TFN member, will speak on a
7.30 p.m. project of the Save-the-Rouge Group. He will
report on a public opinion poll of local residents.

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

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Junior Club

Sat. Dec. 4 Bob Johnson, Metro Toronto Zoo.
10.00 a.m. Reptiles and Amphibians. (Illustrated)

Sat. Jan. 8 Carol Elion, Environmental Planner.
10.00 a.m. Environmentally Significant Areas.

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

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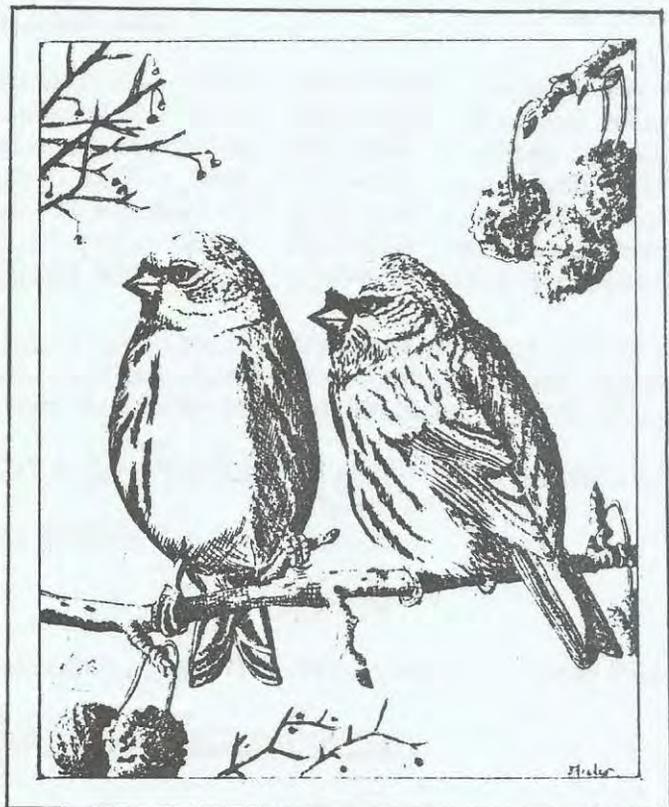
"Redpolls and Crabapples"

by Owen Fisher

We hope this is what you see
when you look out your window
on Christmas Day or any other
day as winter closes in and
we are looking for the signs
of life that we, as naturalists,
know is there.

Best wishes to all.

Next issue:
February, 1983





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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

Send to: 83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto, Ontario M5M 2T4 (488-7304)

All TFN Publications are for sale at monthly General Meetings.