



# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 356, May 1983

MAY 31/81



*Joyce Lane*

WILD GERANIUM  
MAGWOOD PK.

## This Month's Cover

"Wild Geranium" by Joyce Cave (Member of TFN Nature Sketching Group)

Since man lived in caves, no better way has been devised to study nature than by using a pencil, pen, or brush. You tend to examine more closely the parts of a given species and see it as a whole in its environment. With clay, wood, soap, or stone you introduce the third dimension but on paper you create an illusion and stimulate the imagination. There are as many interpretations as there are people who draw. Learning to draw is like learning to write; in controlling it, eventually it becomes second nature. Many styles and schools have been developed through the centuries, each for a special purpose; they often follow the current social thought. Each artist goes through many stages as he or she grows.

When the nature-artist begins, many questions present themselves. In finding answers, the concentration required and desire to reach a goal produce an alert mind. Such a mind can, for example, make the viewer aware of the rhythm and design in developing plants. It is as if everything flows in harmony with its environment. On the other hand, in botanical drawings, the plant is often isolated from its environment so that the structure may be observed - as Joyce has done on the cover drawing. Each plant has its own function and purpose for us to discover. Animals too have a beauty that we understand better when we try to make a sketch. Every movement is graceful, or free and full of animation. Your sketch reflects your own enthusiasm for your subject. Whether you are working on a composition, design, or detail-study, you will discover rhythm and beauty. Through this, the artist learns to appreciate a connection between animals and plants.

One day we were looking at the current of water in the Humber River and noticed how it moved over the rocks. In spite of the current flowing to the Lake, there was a cross-current that kept the balance, giving a design we had to study. In quiet moments the water takes on a reflection from the shore - but it is always basically level. Eddies are formed around stones in graceful movements. It has a calm and cooling effect.

When you use a microscope, more beauty is found. There is so much to discover. We do not have to leave it to others to tell us. We can do it first-hand. Your walks everywhere will mean more to you when you begin to observe with a view to putting what you see into a sketch. And do come along and sketch with us.

Mary Cumming

(Nature Sketching Group  
Co-Ordinator; 536-2746)

When you're looking for a wild geranium in late spring, notice a plant with lavender flowers in clusters, five-lobed leaves, and a beaked ovary. The geranium family includes other plants such as herb Robert, Bicknell's and Carolina geraniums. Your walks in search of these will take you to such places as Wilket Creek Park, High Park, and along the Humber into Lambton Woods. (By the way, the familiar potted plant which we call a "geranium" is in the same family but in genus Pelargonium, not genus Geranium. On the other hand, the four Toronto species mentioned here are all in genus Geranium.)

MC

## President's Report

Outside the Veldhuis cactus greenhouses in Dundas is what appears to be a moat, with a deep bubbling aerator. People were feeding the ducks and geese there at midday on March 10. We joined the fun, watching the lazy grace of the birds as they waited for the bread to soak. A shadow from below gently sucked in piece after piece. Finally, one goose was startled when it stepped on one of several carp which were following the geese to share in the bonanza as the birds moved to the latest handout. A boy leaned on the rail watching from a lookout at one end of the moat. It was a pleasant scene that set us to musing about other leisurely outings.

Last summer, while exploring in our small boat, Herb and I found the only naturally armoured section of the Lake Ontario shoreline between Scarborough Bluffs and the Burlington Bridge. It is a scenic stretch, quite small, of red Queenston shale cliffs just west of Burloak Drive in Burlington. The Halton Region Conservation Authority has the area on its hope-to-acquire list, but has no money to buy it. We have written to the Ontario Heritage Trust Committee in the hope that protection can be arranged.

With the approach of summer again, we look forward to the program of public education and enjoyment provided by the log cabin in Sunnybrook Park. Everyone has the opportunity to participate in this program by signing up for a particular time to help, and by dropping in on Sunday afternoons to see what's on during the month. We also hope to see you on TFN outings this summer. There are over eighty scheduled, a few more than last year when they proved so popular.

Thinking about the Jim Baillie Reserve, we are pleased to hear from John Lowe-Wylde that Tom Atkinson has made and donated three large signs for the Reserve to replace the old weathered ones, and that two new volunteers have come forward to help keep the Reserve in good order -- Paul Harpley and Ernie McKillop. When you visit the Reserve, be sure to take along your guide to help you enjoy the trip.

Getting down to more practical things, you will be interested to know that we have applied to the post office for second class postal rates because the cost of mailing the newsletters has increased so enormously. A reply has not yet been received.

We still need volunteers for the Junior Club, to help Sandy Cappell with the newsletter and to help leaders, as well as leading. If you like being with kids who are interested in nature, whatever your forte, there's need for you. It is now time for memberships to be renewed, and we hope you will all do this before June 30. Please note that family memberships should be recorded as two names in our records. A membership form is at the back of this Newsletter.

Looking forward to next year, you will find details of changes in our monthly meetings on page 29. We plan to continue the successful sipping, socializing and selling of members' work prior to the meetings.

Mary Smith (231-5302)



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

During the 1982-83 year the Board of Directors of the TFN has consisted of the following persons:

President..... Mary Smith  
 Vice-president..... Jean Macdonald  
 Immediate Past-president..... Helen Juhola

Directors due to retire in 1983... Dave Broughton  
 Steve Varga  
 Jim Woodford

Directors due to retire in 1984... Beth Jefferson  
 Bruce Parker  
 Robin Powell

Directors due to retire in 1985... Billie Bridgman\*  
 Roger Powley  
 Winifred Smith

The Nominating Committee, consisting of TFN's three most recent Past-presidents, recommends the following slate of nominees to the Board for the 1982-83 year:

President..... Mary Smith  
 Vice-president..... Jean Macdonald

Directors due to retire in 1986... Alexander Cappell  
 Aarne Juhola  
 Muriel Miville

The TFN's By-law No. 1, Section 3(c), provides that "nominations may be proposed in writing to the Secretary, by any three members of the Corporation" (i.e. the TFN) accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Such nominations shall be published in the September issue of the Newsletter, and the names of such nominees shall be added to the list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee and shall be presented to the Annual Meeting" for election by ballot by those members present at the meeting.

Note: Material for publication in the September Newsletter must be delivered to the Secretary on or before July 15, 1983.

Secretary: Robin Powell, 169 St. George St., Apt. 402, Toronto, Ont. M5R 2M4

#### Introductions:

\* Billie Bridgman was appointed by the Board of Directors to replace June Hoey whose new job commitments prevented her from serving on the board. Billie is a life-long naturalist who is gradually spending less time teaching music and more time getting involved in TFN activities.

Alexander (Sandy) Cappell is on the outings and editorial committees of TFN and is editor of the Junior Newsletter.

Aarne Juhola is a chartered accountant who has been treasurer of TFN since last fall. He is interested in all aspects of natural history.

Muriel Miville is a senior legal secretary who is an expert at preparing official correspondence and submissions for TFN. She has also been volunteer coordinator for a number of years.

Helen Juhola (924-5806)  
 Chairman, Nominating Committee

# people

Don Burton

Don Burton's interest in nature, and in birds particularly, was sparked by his Grade 4 teacher who introduced him to the Audubon Junior Club. When he became a teenager, he joined the Intermediate Naturalists of the TFN, which later became the Field Biologist Club. He was editor of the Ontario Field Biologist in its early years and was actively involved with the Junior Club during the 50's and 60's.

Don has led many TFN outings and has served as auditor of TFN accounts. He has retained his interest in birds and is a member of the Toronto Ornithological Club.

FP

## STRANGE SIGHTINGS IV

Maybe others have seen this, but it was new to us: We have two bird feeders on the same pole in our backyard. This year we have kept sunflower seed in one feeder and cracked corn in the other. Yesterday (March 5/83) scores of bees (honeybees, I think, from a hollow tree in the next yard) were very busy at the cracked corn during the middle of the day. They couldn't - or didn't want to - take the normal-sized pieces of corn, but they seemed to be after the corn "dust". In the process, they managed to empty almost completely the feeder by knocking out the larger pieces of corn. Most birds, seeing the bees, would not land at the feeder, but the nuthatches did not seem to mind them, and may even have been eating some of the bees. Late in the afternoon, when the bees became fewer, a cardinal ignored them and fed. Have you ever heard of corn-fed honey?

Ellen and Orris Hull  
Williamsville, NY

## RESPONSE TO STRANGE SIGHTINGS III\*

The performing pigeons observed by your reader, Suzanne Poodrey, as her excellent description of their flight leaves no doubt, were a kit of Canadian Flying Rollers, a domesticated pigeon of the Tumbler group, cultivated by Toronto area breeders since the turn of the century. The original stock was mostly imported from Britain. There are many types of Tumblers bred for many reasons the world over, their origin believed to be the Far East. The reason the birds spin is unknown. What is known is that their inherent desire or resistance of will to control the spin can be partially controlled by a careful breeder.

Once suspected as a mild form of epilepsy, the spinning propensity was studied by the Institute of Aviation Medicine at Downsview, Ontario, and through this study epilepsy was discounted as a contributing factor. The mystery remains. Every flying-roller fancier knows that the excitement of release after short periods of confinement, high protein diets and flying with other performing birds in cool clear weather are the stimulus requirements to get these colourful little aerial acrobats performing. They are truly a joy to behold to their keepers.

Anyone wishing more information on pigeons should contact the Canadian Pigeon Fanciers' Association in Toronto.

Gord Wiederhold, Oshawa

\*TFN (354) 18 M 83

SUMMER AT THE CABIN

Plans are taking shape for our summer at the cabin in Sunnybrook Park. We will be open Sunday afternoons from 12:00 to 4:00, May to September.

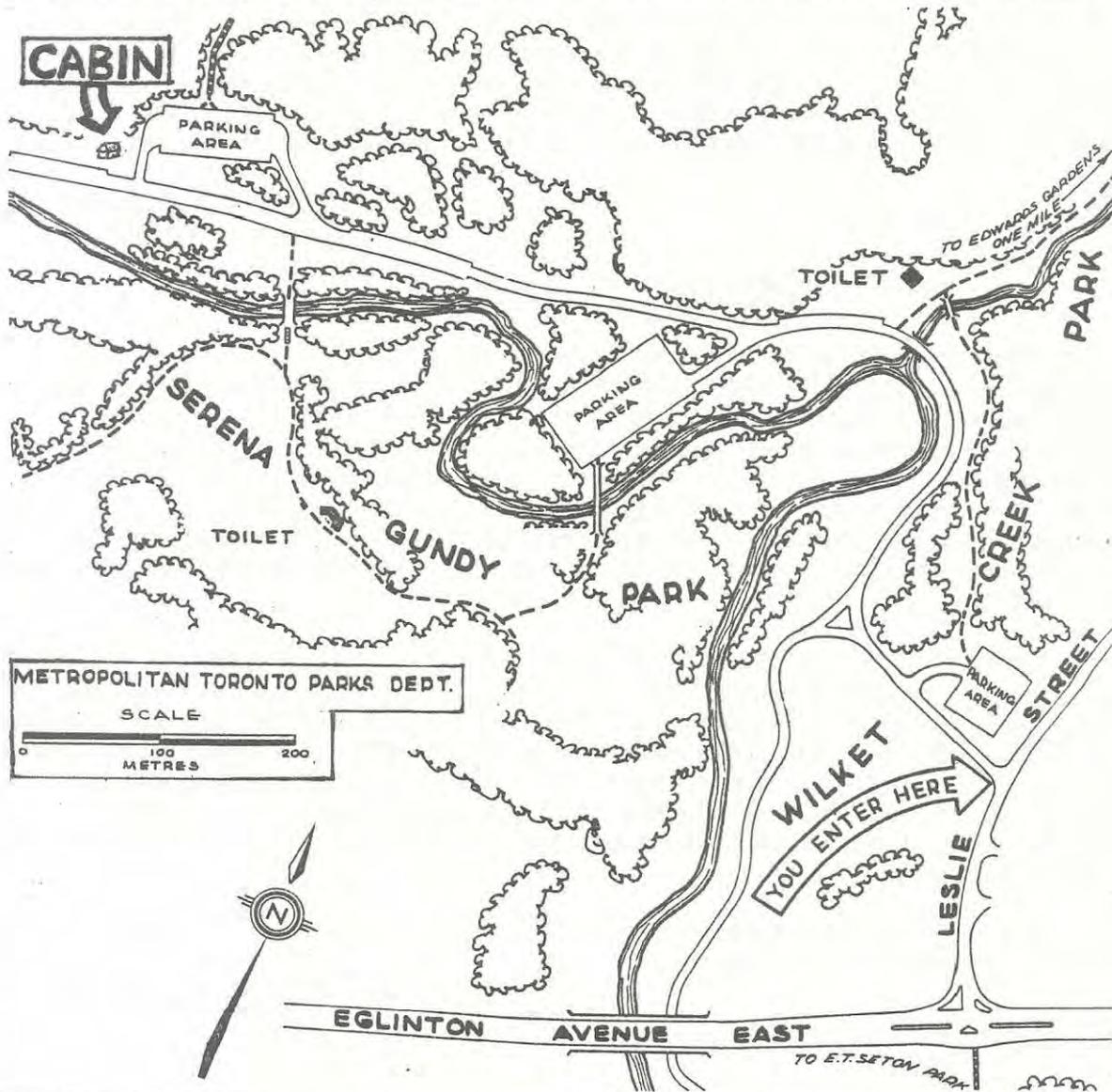
We will again have the "Answer Board" for children, a blackboard for the week's outings, nature displays and things to hand out from Metro Parks, the TTC, our own leaflets, etc.

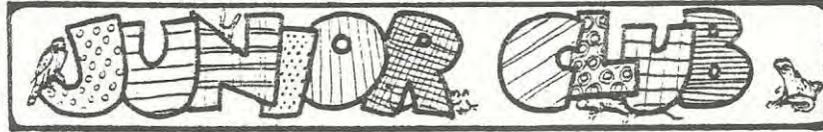
Metro Parks are helping, and are cooperating to make the summer a success.

If you would like to be part of the action, we need you to talk to the visitors and help them understand our interests as naturalists. You will have two other volunteers to help you.

▷ Do call Sally Sturgeon, 488-6833 or Joyce Cave, 781-1914 ◁

The cabin is just over 1 km (under 3/4 mile) from Leslie and Eglinton. Eglinton East #34 bus. Follow the road in. See map for exact location.





## Help Wanted!

The Junior Club of the TFN, for kids 8 to 16, is understaffed. We need adult volunteers for administrative duties and to lead outings. For part of this season, one person only was simultaneously secretary, treasurer, liaison with the Senior Club and producer of the Junior newsletter; all these jobs are now being done by two people, but there is enough work for three or four. To lead the children on field trips (in Toronto, one Saturday a month), we need people with knowledge in nature subjects.

A campaign to promote the Junior Club which started in mid-season (February) has led to a modest but steady increase in membership even towards season's end and we expect that summer publicity will result in an enlarged membership for 1983/84. We will then be able to offer the children special interest groups such as botany, ecology, insects and mammals that we didn't have in 82/83 because of lack of numbers - but only if we have leaders who know these fields. This year we have had astronomy, mineralogy and birds for the older children and the younger ones were divided into two non-specialized groups (10 year olds, 8 and 9 year olds) each with a leader.

If you would like to know more, or have suggestions, or want to volunteer or recommend someone, you can call Alexander Cappell at 663-7738 (home) or another member of the Editorial Committee.

### AN I.D. OF NAMES

I found Heather Harris's article on congregations of birds very interesting (March Newsletter, page 12), but thought about the origins of these words. A murder of Crows seems appropriate, especially if they are attacking nestlings or Great Horned Owls. Some of the other names were difficult to remember. I suggest we change the names to ones that could easily be remembered.

Woodpeckers should only group in pecks; Grosbeaks should stay in groups of 144 so you could have a gross. Trumpeters and Sandpipers could be in bands, and Cowbirds should be in herds. Ptarmigans could be in pteams or maybe we should put Blue Jays in teams of 9. Not to offend anyone, but Black and Whites should be in integrations. Harris's Sparrows could even be in heathers. One more appropriate group would be congregations of Cardinals and Prothonotaries.

Roger Powley

# Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

## House Finches in the Toronto Region, December 1972 to March 1973.

All of the House Finches reported in the Toronto Region this winter have been at or near feeding stations in residential areas. The largest numbers reported were twelve at Warren Road (Jane Donnelly), nine in the Eglinton - Avenue Road area (Harry Kerr), up to eight near Yonge and Glencairn (Ann Wonham), eight in Etobicoke (Herb and Mary Smith), seven in the O'Connor - St. Clair area (Eleanor Beard), and six in Leaside (Jane McLaughlin).

Reports of House Finches east of Yonge Street have come from the following additional locations: Governor's Bridge (2 in Dec. and 5 in March, Molly Main); Avenue Road and Lawrence (2 in March, Katherine Martyn); York Mills and Bayview (2 on March 2, Pierre Cenerelli); near Guildwood (2 on March 17, Bob Knudsen); and at West Hill (1 in Dec. and Jan., Carol Griffin and 2 from March 18 to 20, Jane Hill).

Reports west of Yonge Street have been from Forest Hill (1 in Jan. and 2 in Feb. and March, Joan Watson); Joicey Blvd. (1 on March 21, Ida Hanson); Bloor and Royal York Road (1 in Dec. and 2 in Feb., Joyce Gibbon); Mississauga (2 in Dec., Jean Gadsen); and Oakville (1 in Jan. and 2 in March, Donald Gunn and 6 from Dec. to March, James F. Ross).

By mid-March most House Finches were appearing at feeders in pairs and singing birds were reported throughout the month. At least three instances of courtship feeding were reported during March.

I would like to thank all those who have reported their sightings and repeat the request for reports throughout the year. When the winter feeders are taken down it will be much more difficult to keep track of the activities of our newest bird and all sightings should be reported. If nesting is suspected do not hesitate to report -- all reports will be kept confidential to avoid any disturbance to nesting birds.

## Eastern Screech-Owls in the Toronto Region, January 1983.

Only four Eastern Screech-Owls were reported in the Toronto Region in January, all within the Metropolitan area. One was found at Thistletown on Jan. 2 (Ron Scovell), one at High Park on Jan. 5 (Bruce Wilkinson), one at Sunnybrook on Jan. 18 (Roger Powley) and one at Sherwood Park in mid-January (George Fairfield).

Special Request: We would like to hear of all sightings of House Finches and Screech-Owls in the Toronto Region from November 1982 to November 1983 to clarify their status in our region.

Bruce D. Parker (449-0994)



Are plants boring? While it is true that plants do not sing or gallop, they can move (eg. walking fern), eat insects (eg. pitcher-plant), outshine even the wondrous plumage of tropical birds, and tell us a great deal about the soils on which they grow. Without them this planet would be a barren wasteland.

If the previous paragraph has spurred your interest in plants, why not attend the Botany Group meetings? We have slide presentations on a variety of plant topics, plant identification workshops, and outings. To give you an idea of what to expect, here is a list of Botany Group activities for 1983.

Jan. 20. Thirty TFN members attended a fern identification workshop in which Steve Varga gave a talk on the life history of ferns and how to identify them. This was followed by an examination of dried and living specimens. Microscopes were available so that members could see the small sacs (called sporangia) which hold and eventually fling out the fern's minute spores. A collection of all the fern species found in Southern Ontario was also on display.

Feb. 16. Eleanor and Emerson Skelton gave a fascinating slide presentation on the flora of Haliburton to 34 members. For the past six years the Skeltons have waded, canoed, and hiked through this vast county extending south from Algonquin Park. They have amassed a list of 860 plant species. Haliburton's rich diversity of plants is largely due to the presence of a variety of wetlands and pockets of calcareous rock in the predominantly acidic rocks of the Precambrian Shield.

The Skeltons took us on a botanical tour of Haliburton starting with the violets and trilliums in the spring to the goldenrods and asters of the fall. Some of the interesting finds mentioned include bloodroot - very rare this far north, acuminate aster - an aster of the Appalachians which somehow managed to find its way to Haliburton, and pipewort - with its dense head of white flowers carpeting the shallow waters of some Haliburton lakes. At the end of the talk the Skeltons showed us beautiful pressed specimens of some of Haliburton's aquatic and woodland plants.

Mar. 17. Bill Crins gave a talk on Halton County -- Ontario's smallest county -- located between Toronto and Hamilton which is noted for its beautiful Carolinian forests and part of the spectacular Niagara Escarpment. Bill noted that the Carolinian forests of southwestern Ontario just make it into the southwest corner of Halton. Examples of Carolinian species found here are tuliptree, sassafras, flowering dogwood, swamp white oak, and chestnut oak.

Mount Nemo, Crawford Lake, Rattlesnake Point, and Halton County Forest near Campbellville are just a few of the famous beauty spots of the Niagara Escarpment to be found in Halton County. Bill showed us slides of many of the ferns restricted to the escarpment's limestone rocks. These included such rarities as walking fern, Hart's-tongue fern, smooth cliff-brake, slender cliff-brake, and maidenhair spleenwort. We were also shown photos of Ballinafad Pond, a small bog north of the escarpment, full of pitcher-plants, sundews, and the locally rare Virginia chain-fern. The 35 members present appreciated Bill's excellent slide-presentation.

April 20. To get members ready for spring, the meeting will be in the form of an identification workshop. Steve Varga will give a talk on Ontario's violets and how to identify them. A display of spring flora will also be on hand.

Summer. This summer the Botany Group will hold three outings to give members an opportunity to learn the local plants and to contribute to the ongoing study of the flora of York Region and Metropolitan Toronto.

Members planning to attend these field trips are urged to choose a particular plant group to study such as violets, goldenrods, asters, orchids, roses, raspberries, pondweeds, ferns, buttercups, trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges. Members will collect one individual of each of their chosen species and learn the techniques used to prepare and identify their specimens for permanent collections. Following each field trip there will be an informal identification workshop.

In the fall I hope to have a speaker on mosses followed by a moss identification workshop. If you have ideas on speakers or topics, or if you have any questions about the Botany Group, please call me. Don't let anyone tell you plants are boring.

Steve Varga (223-4151 - evenings)  
(828-5379 - days)

Hidden in the grass  
(For this I need my hand-lens)  
Ladies'-tresses!

(haiku by Diana Banville)

Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that all our domestic animals are forms of one or more defined species. Take the names of the familiar animals from the list at the bottom and match them up with the species to which they belong. With the help of your field guides, you'll have no difficulty...

## ... If you're so smart

<u>Equus caballus</u> _____	<u>Columba livia</u> _____
<u>Gallus gallus</u> _____	<u>Felis catus</u> _____
<u>Ovis arica</u> _____	<u>Anas platyrhynchos</u> _____
<u>Equus asinus</u> _____	<u>Melopsittacus undulatus</u> _____
<u>Sus scrofa</u> _____	<u>Serinus canaria</u> _____
<u>Meleagris gallopavo</u> _____	<u>Anser anser</u> _____
<u>Capra hircus</u> _____	<u>Bos taurus</u> _____
<u>Canis familiaris</u> _____	<u>Oryctolagus cuniculus</u> _____

cat	horse	canary	chicken	duck	goat	budgie	cow	goose
rabbit	pigeon	dog	sheep	donkey	pig	turkey	For answers, see page 19.	

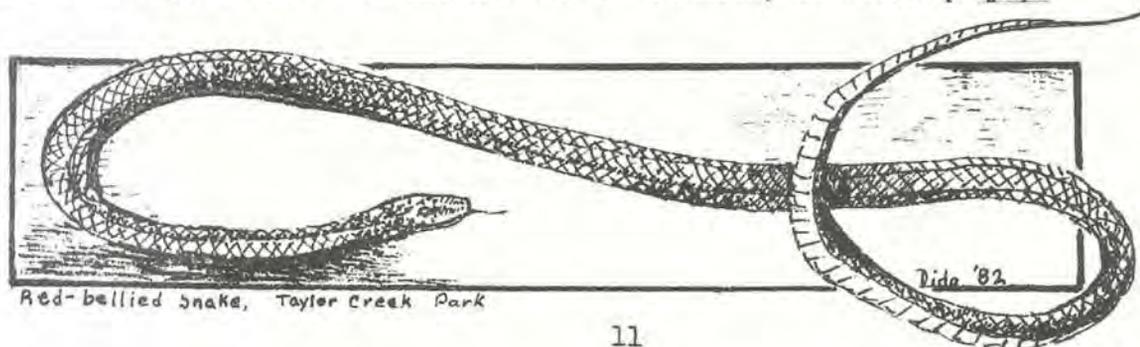
## TORONTO REGION REPTILE &amp; AMPHIBIAN SUMMARY ---

<u>Species</u>	<u>1913 Status</u> *	<u>1982 Status</u>	<u>1982 Sightings</u>
<u>AMPHIBIANS</u>			
<u>Tailed Amphibians</u>			
Mudpuppy	Restricted/Uncommon	Rare/Extirpated	3
Blue-spotted salamander	Uncommon	Rare/Extirpated	2
Yellow-spotted salamander	Locally Common	Rare/Extirpated	5
Red-spotted newt	Common	Uncommon/Rare	4
Red-backed salamander	Common	Uncommon/Rare	9
<u>Frogs/Toads</u>			
American toad	Common	Common	39
Spring peeper	Uncommon	Uncommon	8
Gray treefrog	Restricted/Locally Common	Uncommon	2
Western chorus frog	Restricted/Locally Common	Uncommon	9
Green frog	Common	Common	24
Leopard frog	Common	Locally Common	24
Wood frog	Restricted/Locally Common	Uncommon	6
Bull frog	Locally Common	Extirpated	--
Pickerel frog	Locally Common	Extirpated	--
<u>REPTILES</u>			
<u>Turtles</u>			
Snapping turtle	Common	Locally Common	12
Stinkpot turtle	Not Listed	Rare	4
Midland painted turtle	Common	Common	12
Wood turtle	Not Listed	Rare/Extirpated	2
Blanding's turtle	Not Listed	Rare/Extirpated	4
Map turtle	Not Listed	Rare/Extirpated	2
<u>Snakes</u>			
Northern ring-neck snake	Rare	Rare	2
Eastern milk snake	Common	Locally Common/ Uncommon	16
Northern water snake	Restricted/Locally Common	Rare/Extirpated	2
Smooth green snake	Common	Rare	5
Northern brown snake	Common	Locally Common	20
Red-bellied snake	Uncommon	Uncommon	4
Garter snake	Common	Common	39
Ribbon snake	Uncommon	Extirpated	--
Hognose snake	Rare	Extirpated	--

Bob Johnson

\* 1913 Status based on J. H. Faull, Natural History of Toronto.

Ed. Note: A comprehensive 1982 report is being published by TFN. Don't forget to report 1983 observations to Bob Johnson, 284-8181 (days).



Red-bellied snake, Taylor Creek Park

## issues---

Oil Port Development in Northern Yukon (adjacent to Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Range).

Gulf Canada has applied for permission to build a port at Stokes Point on the Beaufort Sea to support its exploration programme. Dome Petroleum may also be interested in a site some 35 miles away. The whole area north of the Porcupine River was set aside for a park or wildlife range but the government has taken no firm action to actually establish such a park.

If you are concerned write to Prime Minister Trudeau requesting government action to protect this area from development. The Canadian Nature Federation, 75 Albert Street, Suite 203, Ottawa K1P 6G1 would appreciate a copy of your letter. For more information contact Gregg Sheehy at the CNF.

See also Maclean's magazine, April 4, 1983, page 47.

Niagara Escarpment

The report on hearings on land use on the escarpment has been released. This tends to support new houses, gravel extraction, the Epping Common condominium development (see Toronto Field Naturalist (343) 34 N 81), downgrading of "protection" areas even against the wishes of some local landowners or recommendations from municipalities.

Write Mr. Ivor McMullin, Chairman, Niagara Escarpment Commission, 232 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4B1, and the Honourable Lorne Henderson, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, Queen's Park, Toronto, expressing opposition to these recommendations. For more information call Lyn MacMillan at CONE at 444-8419.

Jean Macdonald, 425-6596 has copies of the letters received on these issues.

Friends of the Earth Canada (FOE-Canada for short!) This is a coalition of 22 environmental protection organizations across Canada (including, for example, Energy Probe and the Canadian Environmental Law Association). It is part of an international movement toward a conserver world. They are seeking funds to help them in their work. Address is: Friends of the Earth, 53 - 53 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 9Z9.

The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS) P. O. Box 1090, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 7A3, is fighting to preserve these fruitlands and needs your financial support.

It is one of the miracles of science and hygiene that the germs that used to be in our food have been replaced by poisons.

(from "The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture" by Wendell Berry, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco)

# IN THE NEWS

## IT'S THE LAW:

The historical and cultural resources of Canada's national historic parks are now better protected from potentially threatening activities. At the same time, the public's right to enjoy the parks without unreasonable disturbance has been established clearly. These dual aims have been achieved with the creation of two sets of National Historic Parks Regulations -- the NHP Wildlife and Domestic Animals Regulations and the NHP General Regulations. A third set, dealing with transportation, has been drafted and is under review. Highlights of the regulations include:

- . Superintendents of national historic parks now have legal authority to restrict activities that threaten historic or natural resources, or that threaten the enjoyment of the park by visitors. Superintendents may also restrict entry into sensitive areas such as archaeological dig sites.
- . It is now a punishable offence to disturb, remove, deface, damage, or destroy any archaeological site or historic resource in a national historic park. Flora, fauna, and other natural objects have the same protection.
- . Domestic animals, where permitted, must be confined or kept on a leash no longer than three metres. Domestic animals are prohibited in certain park areas. Seeing-eye dogs are not affected by these restrictions.
- . The possession or use of firearms is prohibited in national historic parks, except with the written permission of the superintendent.
- . Fires can be lit legally only in park fireplaces, portable stoves, or charcoal or gas-fired barbecues.

The regulations protect irreplaceable historic and natural resources and will eliminate the confusing and difficult enforcement problems that plagued our national historic parks in the past.

(From PARKSCAN, vol. 3, no. 4, September/October 1982.)

## GARRISON DAM IS UNNEIGHBORLY

By proposing a massive increase in this year's budget for the Garrison water project in North Dakota, US President Reagan signalled Canada last week that its 18-year-battle to halt the ill-conceived plan is far from over. It also serves as a warning to Ottawa that its efforts to stop the project as it now stands will have to be redoubled in coming months. The dispute between Canada and the US over the Garrison project has been going on since 1965, when the US Congress approved a plan to divert water from the Garrison Dam on the Missouri River to irrigate 250,000 acres of

North Dakota farmland. The problem for Canada is that most of the diverted water would end up flowing into Manitoba, bringing with it fears of flooding and pollution and the introduction of foreign plants, bacteria and fish life. This, in turn, could wreak havoc on Manitoba forests and agricultural land, and on the province's lucrative commercial and tourist fishing industry.

From the beginning the project has been opposed by Ottawa, Manitoba, environmentalists, some farmers in North Dakota and the US National Audubon Society. In 1976 the International Joint Commission - a Canada-US agency dealing with environmental problems of mutual concern between the two countries - concluded that the Garrison project could do irreparable damage to Manitoba waters. It is now about one-tenth finished, and Mr. Reagan proposes an all-time high annual budget of more than \$22 million. There are alternative plans available that would allow the Garrison project to go ahead, but in a way that would keep the diversion of water entirely within US territory. But rather than inflict the resulting environmental problems on themselves, the Americans seem intent on pushing ahead with the original proposal to the detriment of Canada.

(From TORONTO STAR, February 7, 1983.)

THE NIAGARA FRUITLANDS: Anyone who relies on food for existence - which includes most of us - ought to take a low-level flight over the Niagara Peninsula. It's the best way to get an overview of what we've done to a unique piece of prime Canadian food-growing property. What we've done is appalling. Unique is a word to be used sparingly, but it is appropriate to describe these invaluable lands. Canada's Special Resource Lands, a 1979 publication by Environment Canada, says: "Within Canada, the Niagara fruit belt is superior to any other orchard area, producing a major share of the nation's peaches, grapes, as well as cherries, pears, plums, apples and small fruits." What you see from the air is devastation of the land - by urban sprawl, quarrying, industrial development, waste dumping, and investor speculation which leaves land sitting idle. What is immediately apparent from the air is that development didn't have to take place in the vineyards. Urban growth could have been - and still could be - encouraged in poorer land above the Niagara Escarpment, south of the tender fruit-growing region next to Lake Ontario.

Since the turn of the century, about one-third of the Niagara area has been lost to agriculture. Unless the trend is curbed, another third will be gone in much less time, perhaps in another 30 or 40 years. Eventually, unless some government has the guts to stop the trend, it will all be gone. Every grapevine plowed under, every cherry tree bulldozed out.

(Condensed from the Globe & Mail March 23-24, 1983)

SECOND MARSH - ASSESSING ITS FUTURE

An interim report and summary report on the environmental value of the Oshawa Second Marsh have been released by Environment Canada. The report, entitled Integration and Interpretation of Ecological Data, is part of the Oshawa Second Marsh Baseline Study, initiated by the federal government to assess the effects of man's activities on this important wetland ecosystem.

Second Marsh and the adjoining woodland to the north (owned by the City of Oshawa) cover a total of about 177 hectares in the south-east corner of Oshawa on the north shore of Lake Ontario. The central 85 hectares of marsh area is covered with cattails and open water. A dry, sandy barrier beach to the south separates Second Marsh from Lake Ontario. Major transportation routes (CN and CP rail lines and the MacDonald-Cartier Freeway) run immediately to the north of the Second Marsh area. To the west lies undeveloped land, intended for industrial use; land to the east, currently being farmed, is also under consideration for industrial zoning.

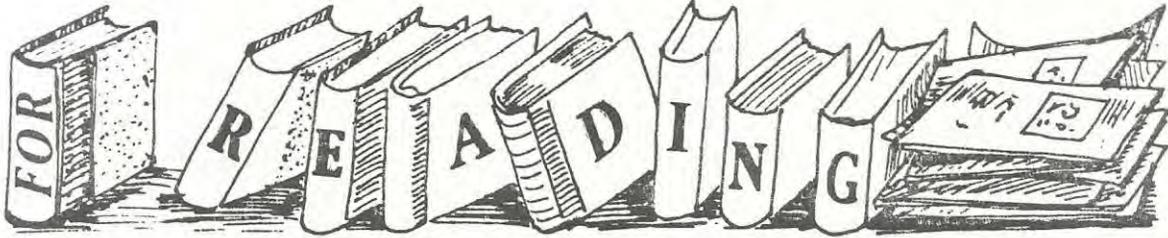
The marsh area provides a habitat for provincially and regionally rare plant species; a variety of animals such as muskrat, beaver, and white-tailed deer; a number of birds including teals, gulls, rails and gnatcatchers; and some reptile and amphibian species. Blandings' turtle (rare in Canada) has also been observed in Second Marsh. In addition mallards, black ducks, bluewinged teal, wood-ducks and other species use the marsh to rest and feed during migration. The report examines eight critical factors of the marsh: watershed capability, sediment accumulation, water quality and quantity, shoreline dynamics, vegetation, wildlife, invertebrate and phytoplankton populations, and contaminant levels. It also underlines the ecological importance of the area: "Second Marsh is considered by federal and provincial government wildlife agencies and by many sportsmen and naturalist groups to be the largest and best quality shoreline marsh of Lake Ontario between the Niagara River and Prince Edward County."

The report complements a recent Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources initiative to develop a policy for wetlands which would balance the demands on such areas with their environmental value. Copies of the summary report are available from: Office of the Regional Director General, Ontario Region, Environment Canada, Arthur Meighen Building, 7th floor, 25 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, M4T 1M2.

(From LAND, vol. 3, no. 3, 1982.)

OWLS EYE CITY LIFE: London: Birds of prey are moving from the British countryside in growing numbers to seek an easier life in town, wildlife experts say. Harassed by hunters and decimated by food poisoned with pesticides, the kestrels, sparrowhawks and owls are taking up residence in tall buildings and city parks. 'It is much easier to snatch a garden bird than to hover hopefully over a motorway all day,' a British Trust for Ornithology official said.

From the Globe & Mail March 21, 1983.



Flowers of the Wild: Ontario and the Great Lakes Region by Zile Zichmanis and James Hodgins. Oxford University Press, Toronto, 1982. 272 pages,  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ " format. \$35.00

This is a very beautiful book. More than one hundred wild flowers (including a few rare species and some common weeds) found growing in southern Ontario are illustrated two ways: by a pen-and-ink drawing and by a colour photograph. Though information is given about the family, genus, source of name, habitat, range, longevity, flowering time, features, fruit, height, ecology, horticulture uses, similar species and even notes and references for each flower illustrated, these are given briefly! The real emphasis is on the illustrations which are enhanced by the large format. The photograph of a particular wild flower usually includes the total habitat - a field of flowers rather than just one flower. As well, the authors have provided the reader with a glossary of the terms used and a list of the English, Ojibway and French plant names. Two indexes - one of scientific names, the other of common ones - make up for the arrangement of the flowers, which is alphabetically by common names. The authors' love of their subject is obvious on every page. I, for one, am delighted that they have been able to use their talents and energy to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with us in such an inspiring way. Anyone who spends time examining this book can never again take wildflowers for granted.

H. Juhola

Two in the Bush by Rosemary Gaymer, illustrated by E. B. Sanders. Consolidated Amethyst Communications Inc., Scarborough, Ontario. 104 pages. \$8.95.

Rosemary Gaymer, a former president of the Toronto Field Naturalists, has given us a refreshing, delightful read in this, her first natural history book. The title is Rosemary's way of telling us that she prefers two birds in the bush to one in the hand. And the "Bush" of her story are the scores of places in all parts of North America where Rosemary's rambling quest for birds has taken her.

Two in the Bush has no profound or weighty theme, no scientific pretensions; it is simply a cheery stroll through nature with captivating and often entrancing vignettes of what she sees and hears. And we soon discover that her senses are keenly attuned to the happenings of the natural world and she sees and hears a great deal.

In prose that is always charming and often picturesque and poetic she tells us of encounters with summer jewels, the hummingbirds, that are gone faster than a blink; of cedar waxwings lined up on a branch and passing cherries to one another, with each one, it seems, trying to be more generous than its neighbour; of the family life of Canada geese and the love life of killdeers and much, much more. The list is long, varied, full of thrills, mostly about birds but with diversions here and there as she tells of encounters with insects like damselflies and butterflies, and how a cricket stole the show from an after-dinner speaker.

- Continued

Whatever your favourite bird, it is almost certain to be here somewhere. From razorbills on the Bay of Fundy to mountaintop rosy finches to Arctic shorebirds to Pacific gulls, Rosemary has watched them all and she doesn't leave many of them out of this book.

Her vignettes are short, making it a book to be sipped and savoured like fine wine, to be returned to repeatedly, not gulped in one feast. It is softcover but well bound and manufactured and will stand up to the strain of frequent revisits.

It is handsomely enriched with excellent line drawings by naturalist-artist E. B. "Bev" Sanders. The charm and mood of text and artwork enhance each other, which is what is supposed to happen, but it doesn't happen in all books as successfully as it does in this one.

Fred Bodsworth

Thirty-Fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds, Supplement to The Auk, Vol. 99, No. 3, July, 1982. 16 pp

This long-awaited updated list includes all established species, for the United States and Canada, which will appear in the imminent (VERY THICK) 6th Edition of the A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds. Some names have an exotic ring since Hawaii is now included. Eurasian birds are frequent in the list too because of Alaska and (I presume) Greenland. When the book comes out, it will cover still more birds, ranging well into the Neotropical Faunal Zone - to far Panama! It will include much data on subspecies, status, and range.

This preliminary list (with space for a few notes) includes about a thousand species. The "order" categories are unchanged. "Family" status is altered in a number of cases, but this should not be a matter for deep concern; it is more a matter of philosophy than of essential change. The family of the house sparrow is now described as the Passeridae. Otherwise, though there may be additional headings under "subfamily" and "tribe", ALL THE OLD GROUPS DESCRIBED IN OUR FIELD GUIDES ARE STILL THERE with their group-names unchanged except, in some cases for the last syllable: "dae" family, "nae" subfamily, "ni" tribe.

The swans and geese have each been moved from subfamily to tribe status (Cygnerini and Anserini respectively). They share a subfamily, the Anserinae, with the whistling-ducks, tribe Dendrocygnini (which after all means "tree-swan"). Thus they contrast with the rest of the ducks/mergansers - the Anatinae, whose tribes correspond to former subfamilies ("ni" instead of "nae").

Some birds with Old World counterparts have been given family status, instead of subfamily. The verdin in the Remizidae is related to the penduline-tit; the bushtit in the Aegithalidae is related to long-tailed tits. The sequence of the wrens and dippers has been reversed - not too earth-shaking.

There are some changes the A.O.U. could have made almost thirty years ago - according to the Basel Sequence,<sup>1</sup> Switzerland 1954 - concerning the MUSCICAPIDAE and EMBERIZIDAE. These were enshrined in the 15-volume "bible", the Peters volumes<sup>2</sup> (United States); they were adopted in the Old World but not by the A.O.U. in their 5th Edition, 1957; A.O.U. stayed with the Wetmore Sequence.<sup>3</sup> Now, however, they are recognizing these two families.

The MUSCICAPIDAE are a huge family, covering Old World flycatchers, Old World warblers and other groups, including the thrushes. Of course, the thrushes are still separate in subfamily Turdinae (instead of family Turdidae). Kinglets and gnatcatchers are still grouped with the Old World warblers under subfamily Sylviinae (instead of family Sylviidae).

Three families now lumped by A.O.U. under the EMBERIZIDAE still exist as subfamilies - Parulinae, Thraupinae, and Icterinae. Two more subfamilies are lifted intact from the Fringillidae and moved into this large family: the Cardinalinae (which includes the rose-breasted grosbeak and indigo bunting among others) and, of course, the Emberizinae (the "sparrow" group). Ranging from insect-eaters through seed-eaters to omnivores, in spite of their differences in aspect they have long been thought to have evolved from a common source - since all have only nine primary flight-feathers in the wing instead of ten. It's not unknown for a bird to lose the tenth primary through evolution, but for so many geographically associated birds to share this feature suggests they are a distinct group. Thought to have evolved in the New World, they have comparatively few Old World representatives, all Emberizinae. The A.O.U.'s basic concept of a "primitive-to-derived" sequence has led to placing the Icterinae last within the family. Thus they separate two groups we think of as "finches" though long considered by A.O.U. as distinct from each other; the field-guides have not been helpful here.

Next in sequence then, with short or vestigial tenth primary, is family FRINGILLIDAE (the "True Finches"). Remaining in it is subfamily Carduelinae (the goldfinches and allies - See TFN (345) 6, F 82) - and two subfamilies of Eurasian and Hawaiian birds. Most "true finches" are in the Old World where the family may have originated. (For years I wondered about the "accordion syndrome" which applied to the Fringillidae - systematists assigning hundreds of species to it - or as few as three. At last it dawned on me that Fringilla coelebs, the chaffinch, is the "type-species" and wherever it goes, the family-name follows.)

By the way, the vireos, with a vestigial tenth primary (and that miniature-shrike-bill) are still in a separate family preceding the Emberizidae.

The house sparrow follows the "true finches". For our area, it ends the list. If the Basel Sequence were being followed in respect to the crows and allies, it would be they who would hold the final position. The reasoning is that the most "highly cerebralized" of the songbirds belongs at the end, as the most highly developed. But the A.O.U. is obviously staying with Wetmore whose claim is that they belong close to the beginning because of their primitive humerus. Starlings commence the "cerebralized" group in the Basel Sequence, but still follow the shrikes in the A.O.U. list (reasonable enough, if based on diet; some starling species, including the European, take vertebrates).

Some examples of changes at the GENUS LEVEL: The northern shoveler is moved into genus Anas (with the other two "blue-wings"). I was amused to discover in Peters' list that even our swans (all now in genus Cygnus) were once in genus Anas (large dabblers!). // Since the tricolored (Louisiana) and little blue herons have been moved into genus Egretta, this should change any notion we have of a "heron" as distinct from an "egret". // Many of the genus changes have brought birds of the same species in the New and Old Worlds under one scientific name (formerly having had two, apparently just through lack of communication). Examples are the sandpipers formerly in genera Erolia,

Crocethia, and Ereunetes - all now in genus Calidris. // The hairy and downy woodpeckers have been brought into genus Picoides with the two "three-toed" species; perhaps this feature isn't so significant after all. // The genus name of the northern cardinal, changed in 1918 to Richmondena has since been changed back to Cardinalis; apparently it is the "type-species" for the group, since the name of the subfamily has also been changed to Cardinalinae.

Some changes are at the SPECIES LEVEL. The three North American rosy finches are merged with the Old World species Leucosticte arctoa. Some English name-changes are a result of such lumping, or of splitting. (See TFN (355) 35 A83).

Copies of the 34th Supplement may be obtained for US\$3.00. Write:  
G.E. Wolfenden, A.O.U. c/o Biology, U. of South Florida, Tampa FL 33620, USA.

Diana Barville

- 1 Eleventh Ornithological Congress was held at Basel, Switzerland, 1954.
- 2 Birds of the World originated by James Lee Peters, Harvard, 1931. Some volumes since revised. One still unpublished! Includes "synonyms" (alternative scientific names for each species/subspecies)- a safeguard against loss of valuable information.
- 3 "A Classification for Birds of the World", Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collection Vol. 139, Alexander Wetmore, 1960 (updating 1926 list).

Dictionary of Geological Terms, American Geological Institute, published by Doubleday, New York, 1957/60/62, Revised edition 1976.

If you like to read about geology but are baffled by the terms, these two editions under the same title could be a help. The earlier edition is sometimes useful for the background history of the usage of a given term, since scientific terminology is always in a state of flux. Both are on the shelves at the library of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Learning Weather. A resource study kit is available from Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9, at \$1.50. Catalogue No. EN56-53/1981-E. Money Order or Cheque should be made out to the Receiver General of Canada. Includes maps, booklet on weather facts and folklore, and cloud chart.

Answers to IF YOU'RE SO SMART, from page 10

Equus caballus-----HORSE	Columba livia-----PIGEON
Gallus gallus-----CHICKEN	Felis catus-----CAT
Ovis aries-----SHEEP	Anas platyrhynchos-----DUCK
Equus asinus-----DONKEY	Melopsittacus undulatus-----BUDGIE
Sus scrofa-----PIG	Serinus canaria-----CANARY
Meleagris gallopavo-----TURKEY	Anser anser-----GOOSE
Capra hircus-----GOAT	Bos taurus-----COW
Canis familiaris-----DOG	Oryctolagus cuniculus-----RABBIT

THE MISCELLANY

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

Common Pests of Evergreen Trees in Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Special Publication PC.1 1977. Chart on insect-, disease- and wildlife-damage to evergreen trees, and suggestions for controls, sometimes drastic. (Be prepared to start thinking of pyrolas, asters and Labrador tea as enemies.) Contributed by Sandy Cappell.

The Ontario Tree Seed Plant, folder published by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources about a processing-plant for tree-seeds for nursery stock, located in Angus, Ontario. Submitted by Sandy Cappell.

The Planting of Hardwood Trees and Shrubs, published by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario, 1974/77. 28 pages, with photos and charts. Heavy on the chemicals. Submitted by Sandy Cappell.

"Going to Seed" by Mary R. Fenn, clipping from Birding Sept.-Oct., 1975 (Vol. 7 No. 5: 257-262). On winter bird feeding, with chart of species and food preferences. Contributed by Christine Hanrahan. (This is a reprint from the Massachusetts Audubon Newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 4, Dec./70).

Hand-Taming Wild Birds At the Feeder by Alfred G. Martin, an excerpt from this book (2 pages) about what to feed the birds, with warnings about peanut-butter. Contributed by Al Valiunas. (The book is published by The Bond Wheelwright Company, Freeport, Maine, and it is illustrated.)

Befriending the Birds, a small illustrated folder from Professor E. W. Kendall, Ontario Agricultural College through Al Valiunas. Shows how to build wren house, bluebird house, and robin shelter.

Being Practical About Climate published by Environment Canada, 1982, 4-page fact sheet, illustrated with photographs. Answering the question "Why climatology?" How climatology helps in planning with respect to energy and industry, the arctic, water resources, the sea, agriculture, and forestry, as well as recreation and land use.

Weather Satellites published by Environment Canada. 4-page fact sheet, with photos and diagram. On the benefits and history of these satellites and how the system works.

Smithsonian, three 1980 issues of this colour-illustrated magazine published by the Smithsonian Institution. Includes some articles of interest to naturalists such as a tern study on Long Island, New York, and a report on returning captive chimpanzees to the wild. Donated by Mildred Easto.

The Ravines of Metropolitan Toronto: Their Environmental and Ecological Significance, a first-year paper by Joan Morishita. Donated, at our request, by the author. 15 pages, including maps, charts, bibliography. Dec.10/82.

D.B.

## A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE - Part 16

## Starling to House Sparrow

Starling.

1. Baillie, Jas. L. Jr., 1928. Further notes on the Starling in Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 42(7): 177-178.
2. Baillie, Jas. L. Jr., 1929. A large flock of Starlings. Can. F.-Nat. 43.
3. Lanville, Diana, 1980. How did Starlings get here? Toronto Field Nat. 336.
4. Lanville, Diana, 1981. What are Starlings good for? To. Field Nat. 337.
5. Dickson, G.H., 1957. Starlings at Vineland. The Bulletin (FON) 77: 10-12.
6. Saunders, W.L., 1930. The increase of the Starling. Can. F.-Nat. 44: 22.
7. Snyder, L. L. and Jas. L. Baillie Jr., 1925. The increase and present status of the Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) at Toronto, 1925. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 39(6): 149-150.
8. Snyder, L.L. and J.L. Baillie, 1930. The increase and present status of the Starling at Toronto. Canadian Field-Naturalist 44(8): 197-198.

Vireos, Warblers.

1. Bellerby, Gordon, 1966. Of Blue and Golden Wings. TFN Newsletter 224.
2. Fairfield, George, 1971, 1973, 1974. The Toronto spring warbler migration study. The Ontario Field Biologist 25: 34-41, 27: 18-24, 28(2): 37-44.
3. Godfrey, W. Earl, 1969. The Golden-winged Warbler in Muskoka County, Ont. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 83(3): 281.
4. Harris, J. Stafford, 1971. An Ovenbird. TFN Newsletter 256: 3.
5. Knapton, Richard and Robert D. Montgomerie, 1968. First Audubon's Warbler collected in Ontario. The Ontario Field-Biologist 22: 29.
6. Lord, Dave, 1955. Occurrence of the Prairie Warbler at Georgian Bay, Ont. The Ontario Field Biologist 9: 23-24.
7. Rayner, William J., 1972. First nesting for White-eyed Vireo in Canada. TFN Newsletter 267: 9-12.
8. Strauch, Joseph G., 1974. First Ontario specimen of the Yellow-throated Warbler. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 88(3): 368.
9. Sutton, W.D., 1957. Hooded Warbler. The Cardinal 26: 10.
10. Terrill, L.H., 1958. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Lanotick, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 72(4): 171.
11. Weeks, A. Ray, 1958. A nesting of the Hooded Warbler. The Bulletin (FON) 80: 7-9.
12. Wyatt, Bill, 1971. First Canadian specimen of Bell's Vireo. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 85(4): 327-328.

House Sparrow.

1. Barlow, Jon C., 1966. Extralimital occurrences of the House Sparrow in Northern Ontario. The Ontario Field Biologist 20: 1-3.
2. Mackintosh, James R., 1958. The English Sparrow. The Bulletin (FON) 79,

Bruce D. Parker

SPRING ACTIVITIES AT PRESQU'ILE PARK

- Now to May 8 - Saturdays at 3.00 p.m. Casual Nature Walks
- May 14-June 25 - Saturdays at 3.00 p.m. at the Museum. Identification Workshops (ferns, flowers, mosses)
- May 15-June 26 - Sundays at 8.00 a.m. Bird Hikes starting from camp office. Saturday Evenings at Dusk at the Amphitheatre. Slides, movies, demonstrations on a variety of park related themes.
- June 3-5 - Nature Photography. Ask at the gate for location of the programmes.

"SEAGULL" PROBLEMS IN ONTARIO\*

In the past few years there has been an enormous increase in the number of "seagulls" in Ontario, with unpleasant side effect not unnoticed by the Canadian public. Indeed, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has received many letters and phone calls requesting more information on the gulls and, in some cases, demanding quick and effective control.

Of the 16 gull species that have occurred in Ontario, only the Herring Gull and the Ring-billed Gull are often seen in or near areas of human activities. The Herring Gull is a large gull with a wingspan of some 100 cm, flesh-coloured legs, and a red dot on the lower part of the bill. It nests on numerous islands throughout Ontario. Most colonies are fairly small (less than a 100 pairs) and sometimes single pairs nest on a small shoal. The Ring-billed Gull looks like a smaller version of the Herring, but has a black "ring" around its yellow bill and yellowish/greenish legs. Ring-bills also nest on islands and often share their colony sites with Herring Gulls. The Ring-bill, however, is extremely colonial and tends to nest in large, dense colonies of many thousands of nests. Most known large Ring-bill colonies are on the lower Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, often near cities and towns.

After the breeding season, the colonies disperse. Many of the Herring Gulls that nest on the Great Lakes are believed to spend the winter in the Great Lakes basin, but the great majority of the Great Lakes Ring-bills migrate during late fall south along the Atlantic Coast and by mid-winter many can be found in Florida.

We have reasonable estimates that for the Ontario Great Lakes area, there are 75,000 Herring Gull pairs and 350,000 Ringed-bill Gull pairs. In recent years, the Ring-billed population has grown phenomenally, perhaps nowhere more so than at the man-made Eastern Headland of the Toronto Outer Harbour (locally called the Leslie Street Spit) from about 20 pairs in 1973 to some 75,000 to 80,000 pairs in 1982. Other colonies have also increased and several new colonies have become established in the past few years.

The Herring Gull population in the Great Lakes has grown little if at all. We do not really know why the Ring-bill has been so spectacularly successful (especially as compared to the Herring Gull) but we believe that the following factors may be important:

- (1) Ring-bills eat many things including fish, insects, earthworms, and garbage, whereas the diet of Herring Gulls is more restricted. Ring-bills are very bold and have become highly "urban", scrounging for food near fast-food outlets, parking lots, playgrounds, etc. They also forage in rural areas on freshly-mowed pasture or right behind the farmer's plough. Herring Gulls are not normally seen on city streets or agricultural fields.
- (2) Ring-bills increase their over-winter survival by migrating south.
- (3) Ring-bills are very flexible about nesting habitat, nesting on remote islands and man-made structures such as dykes and headlands, whether vegetated or not.

The increase of gulls in or near areas of human activities has caused several real problems.

- (1) At many airports Ring-billed Gulls are a threat to flight safety. It is necessary to remove all edible materials that may attract them. Even barren airports may be attractive as the runways are preferred loafing sites for gulls, especially if there is a garbage dump near.

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\* This article was condensed from a document prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS).

- (2) During the past few years CWS has received complaints of gulls fouling cars, destroying tomato crops and young vegetable shoots, and in one case, damaging the foam insulation of a roof.
- (3) Many people are annoyed having to share their favourite picnic area with a bunch of shrieking and decidedly "unmannered" gulls that beg and fight for food. This happens at many camping areas, city parks, playgrounds, and places such as Ontario Place and the Toronto Zoo.

Gulls are also interfering with other bird species; on the Great Lakes, the gulls return and begin nesting earlier than the much smaller Common Terns, who are thus squeezed out of many shared colony sites as they cannot drive the established gulls off.

Although the increase in gulls has caused problems that many people have complained about, it should be pointed out here that for many other people, the gulls have become a valuable addition to their environment.

There are two approaches to the gull problem: (1) reducing the gull population by eliminating nesting habitat, causing repeated reproductive failure, and killing adults; (2) keeping them away from where they are a nuisance.

Nesting habitat can be made unsuitable by planting dense vegetation, but at many sites, such as rockpiles, no plants will grow. It is clearly impossible to modify all existing and potential nesting habitat in Ontario to the extent that gulls cannot nest there, though it might alleviate local situations. Furthermore, gulls so displaced from Toronto's Eastern Headland, for example, would probably nest elsewhere on the lower Great Lakes, such as Kingston or Hamilton, making the problem worse there. Even if gulls did not nest in Toronto, many would still come in the fall after nesting because there is so much food there.

Preventing reproduction normally involves the spraying of eggs with chemicals such as kerosene that kill the embryo. When the incubating adults finally desert their eggs, well after the normal hatching time, they have lost the breeding drive for that year. Egg-spraying should be done over a large area for a long time. Although its result is few, if any, offspring in a given year, the adults may return to the colonies in following years. If they survive their first year, gulls have a life-span of often more than 10 years; thus an effective egg-spraying program would have to run for several consecutive years. However, during that period, gulls from other colonies would likely establish nests on the treated colonies. As many gulls also nest in the U.S. portions of the Great Lakes, egg-spraying would have to be international. Local egg-spraying provides only temporary relief and a large-scale on-going program requires enormous commitments of manpower and money; therefore, CWS is not now inclined towards egg-spraying.

Adults are best killed by poisoning them on their colonies; the trick is to get the right amount of poison in the right bird at the right time. The major shortcomings are: (1) some birds regurgitate poisoned bait and develop bait shyness; (2) it is difficult to kill both members of a pair; (3) non-target species are also killed.

There are many logistical problems in poisoning too: (1) preparing and laying out bait; (2) removing regurgitated and unused bait; (3) finding, collecting and disposing of affected birds at or near the colonies; (4) safety to personnel; (5) posting of the colonies; (6) keeping track of the effectiveness of the operations. Even with "humane" poisons like the sleep-inducing  $\alpha$ -chloralose, large-scale culling operations, especially near populated areas, will likely be opposed by individuals and organizations. Given the many practical problems and the enormous size and breeding range of Ontario's Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, the Ontario Region of CWS does not now consider killing nesting adults to be feasible in Ontario.

If population control is not feasible, then we have to get rid of gulls where they are pests. Here are two further approaches: (1) making the area inaccessible to gulls; (2) scaring them away. Outdoor public areas can be made inaccessible to gulls by stretching thin taut wires overhead which form a more or less invisible ceiling that the gulls are afraid to penetrate. This technique, by no means novel, has been used successfully at Ontario Place where immature ring-bills started to foul tables and steal food from annoyed diners at outdoor restaurants, and at Toronto City Hall's Nathan Phillips Square, where ring-bills pestered tourists and polluted the water in the pool.

A "barrier of wire" is costly, requires maintenance and is unsuitable, for example, on airport runways. Nor can tomato growers be expected to install wires just in case a flock of marauding gulls may destroy their produce late in the season. In such cases, they must be scared away. However, gulls are smart, and since the main attraction for them (food) remains, it may be necessary, once they are no longer frightened by gas bangers and shell crackers, to kill a few to scare a flock away.

For particularly persistent problems, CWS may issue permits to shoot gulls (or other protected migratory species) causing serious damage (as at fish hatcheries) or posing a serious hazard (as at airports). Farmers reporting acute damage to crops will usually receive a prompt visit from a CWS or provincial enforcement officer to examine the complaint and give advice. If necessary, a temporary permit will be issued by CWS to scare or kill the birds in the area where they are a nuisance, but in all cases scaring rather than killing is encouraged.

For more information, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Phone (613) 998-4693.

Mr. S.G. Curtis, Chief, Migratory Birds Branch

Dr. H. Blokpoel, Colonial Waterbird Biologist

Mr. J. Charron, Enforcement Co-ordinator

or

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, 152 Newbold Court, London, Ontario, Phone (519) 681-0486.

Mr. D.C. Dennis, Surveys Biologist

Mr. J. Sullivan, Enforcement Co-ordinator

It gets confusing...

It's a good idea to have a clear notion of the function of the organizations in Canada which have similar names, and which are often mistaken for one another. In case you're wondering:

CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION - a federation of naturalists' organizations in provinces across the country, basically. Originally Canadian Audubon Society.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION - an organization of hunters and anglers, Canadian counterpart of the National Wildlife Federation in the United States.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE - a division of Environment Canada - a department of the Government of Canada

All these organizations are involved in concepts of conservation of the natural environment, though their motives may vary.

NOTES FROM LESOTHO

The mysterious mountain country of Lesotho in southern Africa (entirely independent of South Africa) was at one time a British protectorate. As well as the Soto language, English is spoken and taught in schools based on the old mission-schools.

In December, 1982, I was fortunate enough to spend two days in Lesotho, and was surprised at how few birds we saw. We drove from Durban and, on the way, went through the foothills of the Drakensburg Mountains, hoping to catch a glimpse of the Lammergeyer, a huge vulture found locally and now low in numbers. We camped at Ladybrand, a friendly sleepy hamlet near the Lesotho border, setting up our tent in a caravan-park which was very safe, all fenced off and with a gate-guard. These caravan-parks are very well-equipped, with continuous hot water, baths, showers, laundry-room, dishwashing-area, shop, swimming-pool, and barbecue grills. The only things missing were plugs for bath and sink. We tried bathing with cloth-and-toe stopper, which was not really satisfactory. The next day we bought a stopper, only to have it filched within minutes. (I was washing at the sink and turned around for my towel; when I turned back the plug had gone, and the lady at the next sink had it in her plug-hole without a word; I ask you!

Near Ladybrand we saw some very good examples of stone-age rock-art in a cave. These early primitive paintings with stick-like men and animals in black, ochre, and white are found in many caves in southern Africa; the date of their origin is unknown.

On December 15 we left early for the Lesotho border, and drove into Maseru, the capital. This is a lively city; everyone is smiling and busy. We were offered a bag of loose, rough diamonds on the street, which caught us by surprise.

Outside the city we noticed great efforts being made to grow crops on the fertile terraced riversides. We drove inland on a road that had been newly made; eventually it will cross Lesotho which until now had roads only around the perimeter. The scale of the massive plateaus and riverbeds surrounded by mountains in Lesotho is spectacular in this Tibet-like country. The lowest level of the land in the dried-up stream-beds is 1,000 metres above sea level. My companion wanted to drive on to God-Help-Me Pass, but I said no -- that Pushmans was scary enough; so we turned and drove north to Leribe. At Pushmans Pass I saw a few larks on the mountainside, and one brown kite hovering. There were no vultures -- maybe because there was little traffic and thus few road-kills. The Lesotho men ride beautiful horses and wear colourful blankets even on the hottest day; the women too wear colourful blankets but walk, often carrying loads; that is the way it goes. They live in round homes made of mud-and-thatch, nestled under giant mountain overhangs with stone corrals for the cows and goats. There is a long history of mountain hideouts and bandits; we found the people very friendly.

Leribe produced the climax to our exciting day, for close by in a dried-up stream-bed we saw huge footprints left by dinosaurs 200 million years ago. As I looked at these in awe (never having seen anything like them before) a Lesotho boy came along the dusty old stream-bed. He wore a pair of ragged trousers and, stick in hand, led six prized cows, his brother bringing up the rear. He looked at us mystified as to what could be so interesting in an old piece of rock. Later another **such** boy, with one cow, watched as I dropped an Alka Seltzer into a glass of water. His eyes boggled; he must have thought the bubbling was the result of some white man's magic potion.

It was a very hot day on December 17 when we crossed the border again into Lesotho and this time headed south. We found another set of dinosaur-prints on a rock in a meadow; these had been exposed for a longer period, and were rather weathered, but unmistakable. A colony of red bishops (of the weaver family) was making a commotion in the reeds of a small pond. The beautiful red males were lording it over about three sparrow-like females apiece.

At an old mission-school we obtained the key to a museum put together by a missionary early in the century. Here we saw a copy of the Leribe footprints drawn to scale and copies of ancient rock-paintings in Lesotho. There were many colossal fossil bones of dinosaurs, mostly femurs and vertebrae.

When we saw a buxom girl with ochre paste (colour of the soil) on her face, we recalled hearing of a Lesotho tradition. A bride goes to live in her husband's village. When she becomes pregnant she returns to her own village and paints her face with ochre-paste. After the baby is born, she goes back to her husband.

Crossing the border back into South Africa, we found the lush veld with its myriads of birds. Pale widowbirds hovered above the grass with their long, flowing black tail-feathers. They look ungainly but are very able in flight. They are closely related to the red bishops we had seen earlier. Brown kites also hovered over the grass at frequent intervals. Later, in the dry Karoo, we observed how the Afrikaan farmer brought water up by bore-hole and grew rows of green, succulent prickly-pear cactus to provide fodder for the sheep. Here I saw a rufous-eared warbler, which is rare, and it made my day.

Joy Pocklington

#### REPORT ON SHOWING OF WATERCOLOURS BY MARY ANNE MILLER

Considerable training and experience were apparent in the watercolours exhibited by TFN member Mary Anne Miller in early March of this year. The Civic Garden Centre proved a most suitable location.

In "Shasta Daisies", effectively displayed in the entrance hall, the contrasts were striking, and in a study of wild iris, the flowers stood out on the white background, which emphasized also the stiffness of the stem. In studies of cultivated iris, the flowers were carefully modeled, with a depth and freshness possible only in the watercolour medium. The subject of eggplant on a brown paper bag lent itself to quite a successful composition with a background of white paper, without the table-line. It succeeded better than other compositions lacking the table-line, some of which needed it to give the subject depth. A still-life of apples in a basket conveyed well the feeling of the third dimension. In some cases where the white of the paper served as background (such as in studies of white lilies) a toned background would have been more effective. Textures were well rendered in still lifes of cookware and red plastic boots. An attractive subject was a branch of dead oak-leaves, skillfully handled to bring out the crisp texture and monotone feeling. There was a pair of watercolour renderings of hawthorn branches, one of them with blossoms in spring and the other with haws in the fall. Landscapes with red oak and catalpa conveyed the outdoor atmosphere. This kind of a show helps to make us aware of our environment.

Mary Cumming

# COMING EVENTS

## COMING EVENTS

### Royal Ontario Museum

April 11 - May 8 -- "Cloud Flowers" Rhododendrons East and West - 47 original water colours of rhododendron species growing at U.B.C. Botanical Gardens.

May 14 - June 26 -- "Francis Lee Jaques and the Shape of Nature" - 50 sketches, water colours and oils by F. L. Jaques, 1887-1969, American wildlife artist; circulated by James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota.

### Ontario Science Centre

During April and May there will be an exhibition of 24 nature paintings by Barry Ranford in the Communications Gallery, Ontario Science Centre, Don Mills Road, just south of Eglinton. Free with admission to the Centre.

### Clive and Joy Goodwin

The Goodwins have the following trips planned for the spring and summer. For more information, telephone 249-9503.

A Weekend for Birdwatchers at Presqu'ile Park. May 14-15

A Day's Birding at Presqu'ile. May 20

Late Spring Migrants along Toronto's Eastern Waterfront. May 28

Nature in Late Spring. May 29

Nesting Birds on the Escarpment. June 4

Nature on the Bruce. June 11-12

A Week on Grand Manan. August 7-13

Shorebird Identification. 4-week course starting August 17

Fall Warbler Identification. 4-week course starting August 18

Nature walks at Humber Arboretum, Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

May 18 - Spring Warblers

May 25 - Changes in Plant Life

June 1 - Nesting Birds and Bird Song

June 8 - Flowers of the Fields and Hedgerows

### Kortright Centre for Conservation

The Kortright Centre, Pine Valley Drive, just south of Kleinburg, will have wildflower hikes on May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and day hikes along the Humber on June 5, 12. Telephone 661-6600 for details.

### Ontario Ecology and Ethology Colloquium

and

### Ontario Ornithologists' Meeting

The 8th Ontario Ecology and Ethology Colloquium will be held at Trent University, Peterborough, May 11-13, 1983, and the Ontario Ornithologists' Meeting will be held immediately following, on May 14. For information, contact:

Michael Berrill,

Biology Department, Trent University,

Peterborough. K9J 7B8

Nahanni National Park

Anyone interested in the future of Nahanni National Park is invited to attend a slide show and discussion, "Nahanni National Park - Future of Nahanni", at 7:30 p.m., April 21, at the Plaza Suite, Sutton Place Hotel, sponsored by Parks Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

CANADIAN LAND RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION

The 8th annual general meeting of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association will be held at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, August 21-24, 1983. The meeting is being hosted by the Ontario Chapter of the CLRA and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo. The theme of the conference is "Planning, Practice and Results" which encompasses the practical application of techniques used in land reclamation. Information about the organization and the conference may be obtained from J. E. Winch, Secretary, CLRA, Box 682, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6L3.

SAVE OUR STREAMS -- A NEW YEAR, A NEW PROGRAM

To those who believe that where man's destructive hand has been at work, rehabilitation should be undertaken, we are proud to announce a new program, Save Our Streams Inc., a cooperative project of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Canadian National Sportsmen's Fund, and the Toronto Sportsmen's Association, has launched a large-scale stream rehabilitation project to run through this summer and into next fall. The intent is to try and alleviate some of the problems of southern Ontario's streams: litter and refuse dumped in urban streams not yet filled in, covered over, culverted or channelized with miles of pavement; watering cattle trampling the sensitive streambanks and depositing their wastes thus reducing quality of coldwater habitat; relic dams which impound water, raise its temperature and block the passage of fish; eroding banks and log jams.

Two crews of seven under the direction of Dave McLeish, biologist and TFN member, will be working on selected sections of streams requiring rehabilitation, roughly within a 60-mile radius of Metro Toronto. Not only will they be attempting to repair some of the damage that's been done, but they'll try to enhance the environment for fish by installing cover-structures, streambed modifiers and re-establishing overhanging vegetation.

Save Our Streams has received a Federal Grant under the Employment Stimulation Program; however, we also need input from the public and members of such groups as TFN to help us channel our efforts in the right direction. If you have ideas or suggestions for the SOS program, please contact us. We would like to work together to make SOS more than just the name of a conservation organization. We would like to make it a positive, productive reality.

Margo McCulloch (233-6031 days)  
Project Manager, Save Our Streams Inc.

CHECKLIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS, American Ornithologists' Union. The 6th Edition will soon be ready. The pre-publication sale price is US\$28.00 (US\$22.50 to A.O.U. members). Post-publication price will be US\$35.00. If you want a copy, we recommend you order before the summer, from: Allen Press, Inc., PO Box 368, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044, USA.



## NEW GENERAL MEETING LOCATION!

The TFN monthly General Meetings will be held in the auditorium of the Toronto Board of Education Centre starting September 1983. Increased costs of the OISE auditorium to \$140 per meeting and the parking charges to \$2 have caused this change. Also, we will be able to return to meeting on Monday evenings. This past year (the 1982-83 season) we were not able to get the OISE auditorium on Mondays as it had already been booked when we requested it last April.

After investigating a number of sites, we decided to try the Toronto Board of Education auditorium located on the sixth floor at 155 College St. There is a large foyer in front of the auditorium where we will be able to meet and chat over coffee at 7:30 before our meetings. The auditorium and parking facilities are free as are the projectors, projectionist's services and the use of microphones. This amounts to a savings of \$1260 for the TFN in the 1983-84 season.

Seating in the auditorium is for 250 which may present a problem if meetings are well attended. Because there is no centre aisle in the auditorium, we would suggest that you may find it easier to move directly to the centre so that others coming in will not have to climb over you.

Parking is available at an outdoor garage across the street on McCaul Street. There should be no one in the ticket booth in the evenings, but the garage is always open and the lights are always on. So drive right in.

TTC via College streetcar to McCaul St. or University subway to Queen's Park Stn.

Members of the Board of Directors would appreciate receiving comments on these arrangements during the season.

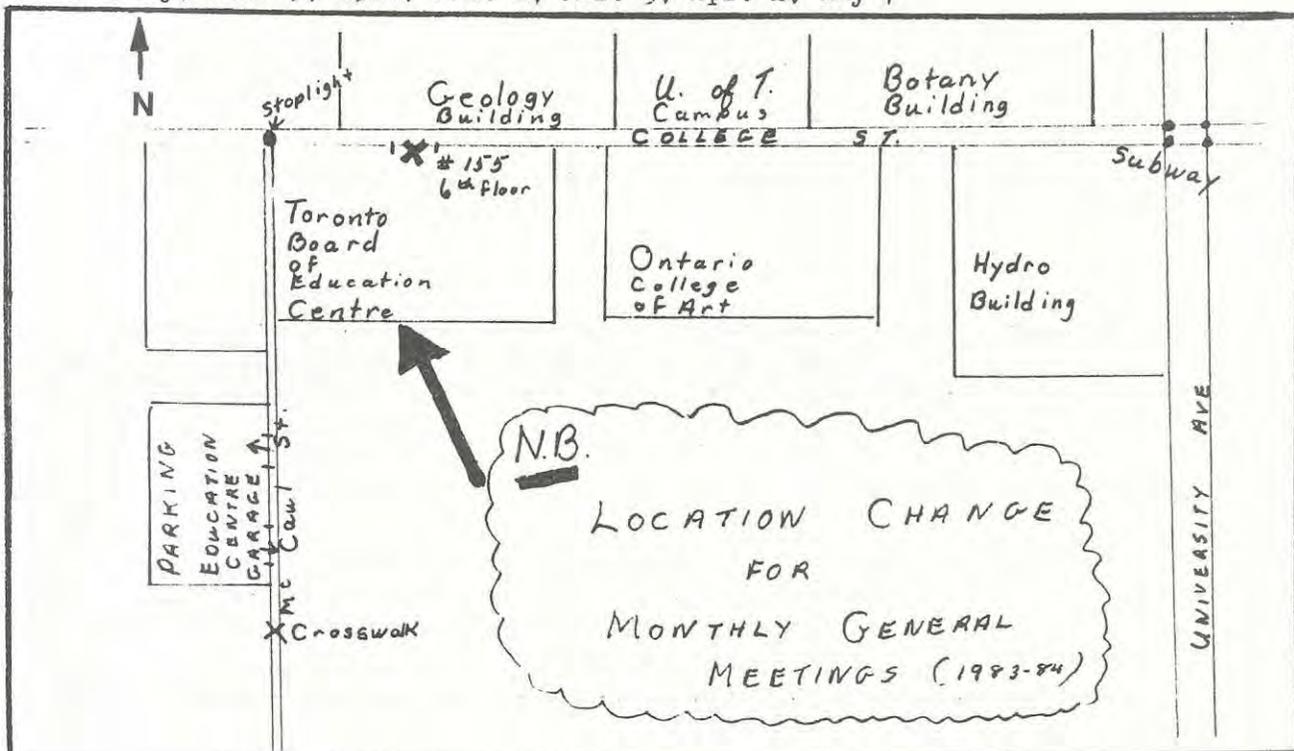
Beth Jefferson (251-2998)

Dates for the monthly General Meetings during the 1983-84 season:

Tuesday, September 6, 1983

Monday, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5

Monday, Jan. 9, 1984, Feb. 6, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7



# TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS  
WELCOME

## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, May 3, 1983, 8:15 p.m. (coffee at 7:30)

Fascination of Amphibians and Reptiles

- Bob Johnson, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles,  
Metro Toronto Zoo.

Bob Johnson will give a slide presentation, briefly outlining the characteristics of this little-understood group of animals which fascinate him. He will discuss the close relationship of environmental stimuli and reproduction in amphibians and reptiles, tying all this together with a discussion of amphibians and reptiles of Ontario and the conditions needed for their continued survival.

Tuesday, September 6, 1983, 8:15 p.m.

Location: Board of Education Auditorium, 155 College Street  
(see page 29) NOTE! This is a new location.

Introducing Ontario Wild Flowers and Their Habitats

- James L. Hodgins

## GROUP MEETINGS

Junior Club

Sat. May 7 Robins

10:00 a.m. - Rev. R. Charles Long, Research Associate,  
Dept. of Ornithology, ROM

Location: Planetarium Auditorium, immediately south of ROM

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There will be no meetings of the Bird, Botany or Environmental Groups during the summer months. Everyone is invited to come to the outings listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

## AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Wed., May 18, VANCOUVER: ISLE OF WONDER  
8:15 p.m. - Tom Sterling

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.

	<p>Upcoming      TFN</p> <h1 style="margin: 0;">OUTINGS</h1>	
<p><b>RAIN</b> 66</p>	<p>OR</p>  <p><b>SHINE</b></p>	<p><b>Everybody Welcome!</b></p>

- Sunday      HUMBER VALLEY - Lawrence Avenue northwards  
 May 1      Leader: Roger Powley  
 1:00 p.m.   Meet on Lawrence Avenue West where it crosses the Humber.
- Tuesday     TFN General Meeting. (See page 30)  
 May 3
- Wednesday GARLAND PARK - Humber West  
 May 4      Leader: Mary Smith  
 10:00 a.m.   Meet at the corner of Kipling and John Garland Boulevard.  
                   (Kipling #45 bus to John Garland Boulevard.)  
                   Cars. Parking on side streets.
- Thursday    GLENDON HALL (West Don) - Botany  
 May 5      Leaders: Geoff and Eileen Chopping  
 6:45 p.m.   Meet at the gates on Bayview Avenue. (Davisville #28 bus to the  
                   gates of Glendon Hall). Walk through the gates and down the hill  
                   to the left which takes you to the lower parking lot, where cars  
                   may park.
- Saturday     Junior Club meeting. (See page 30)  
 May 7
- Saturday     LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds  
 May 7      Leader: Jim Rising  
 9:00 a.m.   Meet at the foot of Leslie Street (#501 Queen car to Leslie Street,  
                   walk south about 1 mile).
- Sunday      ROUGE VALLEY - Birds and botany  
 May 8      Leader: Allan Greenbaum  
 12:00 noon   Meet at Glen Eagles Hotel at the corner of Sheppard Avenue East and  
                   Twyn Rivers Drive. (Sheppard East #85 bus, or Scarborough #86 bus  
                   to Sheppard and Meadowvale - walk east). Bring lunch.
- Tuesday     GLEN STEWART RAVINE - Birds  
 May 10     Leader: Fred Bodsworth  
 6:45 p.m.   Meet in the parkette by the Nature Trail sign on Kingston Road just  
                   west of Beech Avenue. (#502 street car to Beech Avenue, then walk  
                   west to parkette.)

Wednesday morning walks are at an easy pace, and if weather permits, lunch to carry is recommended

- Wednesday MINISTRY of the ENVIRONMENT - Resources Road  
 May 11 Laboratory services building.  
 10:00 a.m. This will be a different tour from the one in April.  
 Restricted to 12 people. Sign up by phoning May Staples at  
 469-1681 on May 9 or 10.  
 Meet at the south entrance by the fountain. (Islington #37 bus  
 which runs between Islington subway station and Steele's Avenue.)  
 Get off at Resources Road, just south of 401, where there is a  
 traffic light, and a small street sign. Walk east to the end of  
 Resources Road.  
Cars. Park in the visitor parking lot or staff unreserved.
- Thursday ETIENNE BRULE PARK (Humber) - Botany  
 May 12 Leader: Isabel Smith  
 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Old Mill subway station, to walk north to the park.  
Cars. Meet in the parking lot off Old Mill Drive
- Saturday WINDFIELDS PARK (Upper Wilket Creek) - Nature Walk  
 May 14 Leaders: Maureen Allain and Joan Patterson  
 9:00 a.m. Meet at York Mills and Bayview Avenue to walk a loop south.
- Saturday METRO ZOO - Sketching Group  
 May 14 Leader: Mary Cumming  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at the zoo entrance. Entry fee \$3.50. (Sheppard East #85 bus  
 or Scarborough #86 bus.) Bring lunch and a stool.
- Sunday JIM BAILLIE MEMORIAL BIRD WALKS - Thirteenth Year  
 May 15 Toronto Island - 9.00 a.m. Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of  
 Bay Street to take next ferry.  
High Park - 8.30 a.m. Meet in the first parking lot on West Road  
 which is on your right as you enter from Bloor Street West at  
 High Park Avenue  
Moore Park Ravine - 8.30 a.m. Meet at the northeast corner of  
 Moore Park at Moore and Welland Avenues.  
Wilket Creek Park - 8.30 a.m. Meet in the parking lot off Leslie  
 Street just north of Eglinton Avenue East
- Members of the Toronto Ornithological Club will lead the outings.  
 The pace is slow and each walk lasts for about three hours.
- Tuesday HIGH PARK - Birds  
 May 17 Leader: Roger Powley  
 6:45 p.m. Meet at Keele subway station
- May 17 to 22 Time to reserve a place on the bus for the outing to Presqu'ile  
 Park on May 28th by phoning Emily Hamilton at 484-0487. Confirm  
 by sending your cheque for \$14.00, payable to "Toronto Field  
 Naturalists Outing" to Miss E. Hamilton, 3110 Yonge Street,  
 Apt. 407, Toronto M4N 2K6. Cheques must be received by May 24.

HIGH PARK is closed to vehicles Saturdays, Sundays and holidays during  
 May, June, July, August and September

Wednesday HIGH PARK - Nature Walk  
 May 18 Leader: Reg Smith  
 10:00 a.m. Meet in the first parking lot - see May 15 for directions. (Subway to High Park station.)

• Wednesday Audubon Wildlife Film (See page 30).  
 May 18

Thursday HIGH PARK - Botany  
 May 19 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
 6:45 p.m. Meet in the first parking lot - see May 15 for directions. (Subway to High Park station.)

Saturday BOTANY GROUP OUTING - (See page 10).  
 May 21 Leader: Steve Varga  
 8:30 a.m. This outing will be to study the spring flora of Glenville Hills in  
 to the Oak Ridges Moraine. Call Helen Juhola at 924-5806 if you plan  
 6:00 p.m. to attend. Limited to 12 people - 3 cars. Each passenger will  
 pay the driver \$5.00.

Sunday HUMBER COLLEGE - Birds  
 May 22 Leader: Roy Baker  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at the bus stop outside the college. (Wilson #96 bus to  
 Humber College.) Lunch optional.

Monday TORONTO ISLAND - Birds  
 May 23 Leader: George Fairfield  
 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Island Ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street at 9.00  
 a.m. to take the first available ferry. Bring lunch and your  
 membership card.

Tuesday PARK DRIVE RAVINE - Birds  
 May 24 Leader: Douglas Thomas  
 6:45 p.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station

Wednesday BURNETT PARK - Nature Walk  
 May 25 Leaders: Helen and Bob Hansen  
 10:00 a.m. Meet on Don River Boulevard, just north of Sheppard Avenue West,  
 east of Bathurst Street, to walk north. (Note: Don River Boule-  
 vard starts downhill from the south side of Sheppard Avenue and  
 goes under the bridge northwards.)

Thursday LAMBTON WOODS - Botany  
 May 26 Leader: Ilmar Talvila  
 6:45 p.m. Meet in the parking lot of James Gardens on Edenbridge Drive.  
 (Royal York #73 bus to Edenbridge, walk east 0.4 mile.)

Saturday PRESQU'ILE PARK - Birds and Botany  
 May 28 Leader: Roger Powley  
 9:00 a.m. BUS OUTING. You must have reserved a place on the bus between  
 May 17 and 22; see these dates for details. Bus will leave at  
 9:00 a.m. from York Mills subway station (northeast corner of  
 Yonge and York Mills) and will arrive back about 6:00 p.m. Bring  
 lunch and a snack as we shall not be stopping at restaurants.

- Sunday  
May 29  
2:00 p.m. NORTH PARK - Tributary of Black Creek  
Leader: Gavin Miller  
Meet on Caledonia Road at Cartwright Avenue, south of 401.  
(Caledonia #18 bus from Christie or Yorkdale subway stations.)
- Tuesday  
May 31  
6:45 p.m. CEDARVALE - Birds  
Leader: Hugh Currie  
Meet in Loblaw's parking lot, St. Clair West and Bathurst Street  
to walk north.
- Wednesday  
June 1  
10:00 a.m. PROSPECT CEMETERY - Trees  
Leader: Mary Smith  
Meet at the gates on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West just  
west of Lansdowne Avenue.
- Thursday  
June 2  
6:45 p.m. WILKET CREEK - Botany  
Leader: James Hodgins  
Meet in the first parking lot off Leslie Street, just north of  
Eglinton Avenue East. (Eglinton East #34 bus to Leslie and cross  
with the lights. Go carefully!)
- June 3  
to 5 F.O.N. CONFERENCE - Ottawa  
Information: Box 4669, Postal Station E, Ottawa, K1S 5H8
- Saturday  
June 4  
9:00 a.m. LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds  
Leader: Jim Rising  
Meet at the gates at the foot of Leslie Street. (#501 Queen car  
to Leslie Street, walk south about 1 mile) There may be a  
connecting bus. Phone TTC to ask if there is, and where it picks  
up passengers.
- Sunday  
June 5  
Come to the CABIN and see our display. 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.  
(See page 6) (World Environment Day)
- Sunday  
June 5  
10:00 a.m. MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY - Shrubs and Trees  
Leader: Emily Hamilton  
Meet at the entrance on the east side of Yonge Street a short  
distance north of St. Clair Avenue.
- Tuesday  
June 7  
6:45 p.m. BURKE RAVINE - Birds  
Leader: Howard Battae  
Meet on Bayview Avenue, east side, just north of the C.N.I.B.  
overpass. (Davisville #28 bus to the overpass).
- Wednesday  
June 8  
10:00 a.m. ROWNTREE MILLS PARK - Nature Walk  
Leader: Billie Bridgman  
Meet at Finch and Islington Avenues. (Finch West #36 bus, or  
or Islington #37 bus.)
- Thursday  
June 9  
6:45 p.m. MORNINGSIDE PARK - Botany  
Leader: Betty Greenacre  
Meet in the first parking lot immediately west of Morningside  
Avenue by the pavilion. (Eglinton East #34B bus.)  
Cars. Hwy. 401 to Interchange 61, and go south on Morningside  
for 1 mile.

- Saturday HIGH PARK - Sketching Group  
 June 11 Leader: Mary Cumming  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at Queensway and Colborne Lodge Drive car stop. (#501 Queen car.) Bring a stool. Lunch optional.
- Sunday HIGHLAND CREEK Tributary - Thornton Creek  
 June 12 Leader: Gavin Miller  
 11:00 a.m. Meet at the corner of Danzig and Morningside Avenue (south of Kingston Road). (Eglinton East #34B bus.) The walk will end at Lawrence East and Beechgrove Drive. Bring lunch.
- Monday EVENING RAMBLE - a west Don ravine  
 June 13 Leader: Martha Wallace  
 6:45 p.m. Meet at the southwest corner of Yonge and Florence Avenue (four blocks south of Sheppard). Parking on side streets.
- June 13 to 17 Time to reserve a place on the bus for Scarborough Outing on June 25 by phoning Emily Hamilton at 484-0487. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$9.00, payable to "Toronto Field Naturalists Outing" to Miss E. Hamilton, 3110 Yonge Street, Apt. 407, Toronto M4N 2K6. Cheques must be received by June 21st.
- Wednesday TORONTO ISLAND - Nature Walk  
 June 15 Leader: Laura Greer  
 10:00 a.m. Meet inside ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street to take the ferry at 10.00 a.m. Bring lunch.
- Saturday ROUGE VALLEY - Birds and Botany  
 June 18 Leader: Allan Greenbaum  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at Glen Eagles Hotel, to see changes in flora and fauna since the outing on May 8. See May 8 for details. Bring lunch. Weather permitting, Lawrence Packer will introduce the participants to "Social Bees".
- Sunday BLACK CREEK - Nature Walk  
 June 19 Leader: Rhoda Sky Sigal  
 10:00 a.m. Meet on Finch Avenue West where it crosses Black Creek. (Finch West #36 bus.)  
Cars. Parking lot on south side of Finch.
- Tuesday EVENING RAMBLE - High Park  
 June 21 Leader: David McLeish  
 6:45 p.m. Meet in first parking lot. See May 18 for instructions.
- Wednesday BLACK CREEK - Northwood Park  
 June 22 Leader: Elly Elder  
 10:00 a.m. Meet on Sheppard Avenue West at Black Creek (west of Keele and east of Jane). (Sheppard West #84 bus.)
- Saturday NORTHEAST SCARBOROUGH - Environmentally Significant Areas  
 June 25 Leader: Carol Elion  
 10:00 a.m. BUS OUTING. You must have reserved a place on the bus between June 13 and 17. See these dates for details. Bus will leave at 10:00 a.m. from Kennedy subway station to arrive back at 4:00 p.m. Bring lunch.

- Sunday  
June 26  
10:30 a.m. TAYLOR CREEK PARK - Nature Walk  
Leader: David McLeish  
Meet at Woodbine and O'Connor Drive. Lunch optional
- Wednesday  
June 29  
10:00 a.m. G. ROSS LORD PARK - Nature Walk  
Leader: Sandy Cappell  
Meet at the Fisherville Road entrance. (Steele's West #60 bus, get off at Hidden Trail). Walk south one block to Fisherville Road, and one block east to entrance.  
Cars. Park on street.
- Wednesday  
June 29  
6:45 p.m. EVENING RAMBLE - Warden Woods  
Leader: Volunteer requested  
Meet outside the Warden subway station. Walk ends at Victoria Park station.
- Saturday  
July 2  
10:00 a.m. to  
4:00 p.m. JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE  
Call Beth Jefferson at 251-2998 if you plan to attend as a car-pool may be arranged. Bring lunch.
- Sunday  
July 3  
2:00 p.m. LESLIE STREET SPIT  
Leader: Volunteer requested  
See June 4 for directions.
- Wednesday  
July 6  
10:00 a.m. HUMBER OXBOWS - Nature Walk  
Leader: Billie Bridgman  
Meet on the bridge at Islington and Finch Avenues, to walk south. (Finch West #36 or Islington #37 bus.)
- Thursday  
July 7  
6:45 p.m. EVENING RAMBLE - Muir Park Gardens and Sherwood Woods  
Leader: To be appointed  
Meet at the southeast corner of Yonge and Lawrence Avenue. Walk will end at Bayview Avenue.
- Saturday  
July 9  
10:00 a.m. RIVERDALE ANIMAL FARM - Sketching Group  
Leader: Mary Cumming  
Meet at the bus stop on Gerrard Street at Sumach Street, to walk north to the farm. Bring stool. Lunch optional.
- Saturday  
July 9  
7:00 a.m. to  
7:00 p.m. BOTANY OUTING - Awenda Provincial Park, near Midland, Ontario  
Leader: Steve Varga  
Miniature version of Bruce Peninsula; shoreline fens, rich in rarities, sundews, orchids, mixed forest and bogs. Entrance fee.  
Call Helen Juhola at 924-5806 or if no answer Emily Hamilton at 484-0487 if you plan to attend. Limited to 16 people (4 cars). Each passenger will pay driver \$10.00.
- Sunday  
July 10  
11:00 a.m. HIGHLAND CREEK - Malvern Branch  
Leader: Gavin Miller  
Meet at the corner of Washburn Way and Sheppard Avenue East (between Neilson and Markham Avenue) to explore south and north. Bring lunch.

- Wednesday EAST DON VALLEY - "Finch Swamp" - Nature Walk  
 July 13 Leader: Catharine Heynes  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at the plaza on the north side of Finch Avenue East, east of Bayview Avenue, to walk south. (Finch East #39 bus.)
- Friday EVENING RAMBLE - Dentonia Park  
 July 15 Leader: To be announced  
 6:45 p.m. Meet outside the Victoria Park subway station. The walk will end at Woodbine and O'Connor
- Saturday ROUGE VALLEY - Birds and Botany  
 July 16 Leader: Allan Greenbaum  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at Glen Eagles Hotel to see changes in flora and fauna since last month. See May 8 for details. Bring lunch.
- Sunday WILKET CREEK - Ferns for Beginners  
 July 17 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
 10:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot off Leslie Street, just north of Eglinton Avenue East. (Eglinton East #34 bus to Leslie Street.) Cross with the lights.
- Wednesday GARTHDALE RAVINE - West Don Tributary  
 July 20 Leader: Sandy Cappell  
 10:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot north of the arena. (Finch West #36 bus, get off at Centennial Arena, just west of Bathurst.)
- Thursday EVENING RAMBLE - Humber Marshes  
 July 21 Leader: To be announced.  
 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Old Mill subway station.
- Sunday MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY - Trees  
 July 24 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at the entrance on Yonge Street, a short distance north of St. Clair Avenue.
- Wednesday EARL BALES PARK - Nature Walk  
 July 27 Leaders: Bob and Helen Hansen  
 10:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Centre. Enter off Bathurst Street. (Sheppard West #84 bus to Bathurst. Walk south to entrance.)
- Wednesday EVENING RAMBLE - Rosedale Ravine East  
 July 27 Leader: To be announced.  
 6:45 p.m. Meet outside the Rosedale subway station. The walk will end at Castle Frank station.
- Saturday BOTANY GROUP OUTING - (See page 10)  
 July 30 Leader: Steve Varga  
 8:00 a.m. This outing will study Aquatics in Morning Glory Swamp. Call  
 to Helen Juhola, 924-5806 if you plan to attend. Limited to 12  
 6:00 p.m. people - 3 cars. Each passenger will pay driver \$5.00.

EVENING RAMBLES are at an easy pace to look at aspects of urban natural history

Sunday Come to the CABIN. 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. See page 6.  
July 31

Tuesday EVENING RAMBLE - Moore Park Ravine  
August 2 Leader: To be announced  
6:45 p.m. Meet outside the Castle Frank station. The walk will end at Moore Avenue and Mt. Pleasant Road.

Wednesday GUILDWOOD PARK  
August 3 Leader: Volunteer requested  
10:00 a.m. Meet at the park, east of the Guild Inn. (Eglinton East #34 bus and get off at Navarre Crescent.) Parking inside east gate.

Sunday LESLIE STREET SPIT  
August 7 Leader: Volunteer requested  
2:00 p.m. See June 4 for directions.

Monday EVENING RAMBLE - Garrison Creek  
August 8 Leader: Alexander Cappell  
6:45 p.m. Meet at the Christie subway station to walk south to Queen Street.

Wednesday ECHO VALLEY PARK - Nut Trees  
August 10 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
10:00 a.m. Meet in Echo Valley on the west side of Kipling Avenue. (Kipling #45 bus. Get off at bridge over Mimico Creek). Parking on adjacent side streets.

- August 12 CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION Annual Meeting.  
to 14 Sackville, New Brunswick.  
Information from CNF, Suite 203, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa K1P 6G1

Saturday SUNNYBROOK PARK - Sketching Group at the Cabin  
August 13 Leader: Mary Cumming  
10:00 a.m. Meet at Leslie and Eglinton, north-west corner. (Eglinton East #34 bus to Leslie Street.)

Sunday EARL BALES PARK - Nature Walk  
August 14 Leader: David McLeish  
10:30 a.m. Meet at the parking lot at the Recreation Centre. Enter off Bathurst Street. (Sheppard West #84 bus to Bathurst.) Walk south to entrance. Lunch optional.

Tuesday EVENING RAMBLE - Park Drive, David Balfour and Avoca Parks  
August 16 Leader: To be announced  
6:45 p.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station. The walk will end at St. Clair Avenue and Yonge Street.

Wednesday PINE HILLS CEMETERY - Nature Walk  
August 17 Leader: To be announced  
10:00 a.m. Meet outside Warden subway station.

Ask for a copy of the TTC Ride Guide at your local subway station. It's free!

LESLIE STREET SPIT? Call Toronto Harbour Commission 863-2035

- Saturday ROUGE VALLEY - Birds and Botany  
 August 20 Leader: Allan Greenbaum  
 12:00 noon Meet at Glen Eagles Hotel. See May 8 and July 16 for details.
- Sunday HUMBER VALLEY Tributary - Chapman Creek  
 August 21 Leader: Gavin Miller  
 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Royal York Plaza on Royal York Road, west side, between  
 Dixon Road and Eglinton Avenue West. (Royal York #73 bus.) Be  
 prepared to walk through the creek, level depends on season.  
 Bring lunch.
- Wednesday HUMBER COLLEGE - Nature Walk  
 August 24 Leader: To be announced.  
 10:00 a.m. Meet at the bus stop outside the college. (Wilson #96 bus to  
 Humber College.)
- Wednesday EVENING RAMBLE - Rosedale Ravine West  
 August 24 Leader: To be announced  
 6:45 p.m. Meet outside the Rosedale subway station. The walk will end at St.  
 Clair West and Bathurst.
- Saturday BOTANY GROUP OUTING (See page 10)  
 August 27 Leader: Steve Varga  
 8:00 a.m. This outing will be to study summer flora in Glenville Hills. If  
 to you plan to attend call Helen Juhola, 924-5806. Limited to 12  
 6:00 p.m. people - 3 cars. Each passenger will pay driver \$5.00.
- Sunday Come to the CABIN. 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. See page 6 .  
 August 28
- Wednesday CHINE DRIVE - Nature Walk  
 August 31 Leader: George Comper  
 10:00 a.m. Meet in front of St. Theresa's Church, Kingston Road and Midland  
 Avenue. (Kingston Road #12 bus from Victoria Park station to  
 Midland.)
- Thursday EVENING RAMBLE - Kew Beach - Butterfly Migration  
 Sept. 1 Leaders: Mildred Easto and Mary Pannell  
 6:45 p.m. Meet on the boardwalk at the foot of Lee Avenue. (South of Queen  
 East and east of Woodbine Avenue.)
- Saturday TORONTO ISLAND - Botany  
 Sept. 3 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
 9:00 a.m. Meet inside the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street. Bring  
 lunch to carry, and your membership card.
- Sunday Come to the CABIN. 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. (See page 6 .)  
 Sept. 4
- Tuesday TFN General Meeting (See page 30)  
 Sept. 6

**CLOTHING:** Think about hats, head scarves, windproof jackets, waterproof shoes, extra sweater. If you don't need them, put them in your back pack.

OUTINGS - MORE WORDS TO THE WISE

DIFFICULTY OF OUTINGS. TFN outings usually last 2 to 3 hours and may cover distances from approximately 2 to 6 miles. Often some climbing is involved, as most of our valleys are fairly deep. Evening outings usually last about 1½ hours

You may need INSECT REPELLENT especially in wooded or damp areas

Our outings (especially by bus) are often not near places where food and drink can be bought. Be sure to bring enough with you.

TTC	484-4544	Gray Coach	979-3511
GO Transit	630-3933	Island Ferry	367-8193

If you would like to lead one of our summer outings, or if you have a suggestion for a future outing, please call Emily Hamilton, 484-0487 or Helen Juhola, 924-5806

Thanks to the many members who volunteered to lead our outings, and to the members of the Outings Committee who organized the programme

Helen Juhola, Emily Hamilton, Mary Smith, May Staples, Billie Bridgman  
Roger Powley, Sandy Cappell, Jean Macdonald

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS (FON) TRIPS

A selection of short trips offered by the FON is listed below. Each trip costs \$15.00 except the Walk with George McLean, which is \$25. Participants meet at the starting point and get themselves there. For more information phone the FON at 444-8419 and ask for Jill Malins.

May 1 Bogs and Marshes. Meet north of Aurora  
 May 7 Fish Climb Too! (fish ladders at MNR site). Meet near Alliston  
 May 8 Photo Hike. Meet Kate Thurston Heron near Thornbury  
 May 14 Blackstone Harbour (Georgian Bay). Meet near Mactier.  
 May 14 Introduction to Birding. Peter Wukasch in Moatfield Park  
 May 14 Ferns. Meet near Orangeville  
 May 28 Introduction to Herps. Meet at Locke House  
 May 28 The Bluebird Trail. Meet near Hockley  
 May 29 Woodland Walk with George McLean (Ontario Wildlife Artist). Meet near Owen Sound and spend a day on George's property  
 June 12 Crieff Bog. Meet near Guelph.

The FON has trips farther afield in Ontario costing up to \$100.

What is the FON? It is a federation of nature clubs in Ontario having objectives similar to those of the FON. Individuals in sympathy with the aims of the FON may become members upon paying the prescribed dues.

TO:- TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS,  
83 Joicey Blvd.,  
Toronto, Ontario M5M 2T4

Date: .....

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

I wish to [ ] join, [ ] renew, [ ] give a membership to:- \*\*

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Remittance enclosed in the amount of:-

- [ ] \$20.00 Family (2 adults)
- [ ] \$15.00 Senior Family (2 adults 65+)
- [ ] \$15.00 Single
- [ ] \$10.00 Single Senior
- [ ] \$10.00 Student

\*\* IF GIFT, Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE



Membership fees for the year July 1, 1983, to June 30, 1984, are due now. To ensure receiving a September newsletter, please send payment before June 30, 1983.

Life Members, please ignore this notice.

The following item was contributed by Mel and Elna Whiteside:

Man should not wander as a stranger on the silent land,  
Nor under the wide sky move indifferent to the wind.  
A tree,  
A river,  
A bird should be as extensions of himself.  
Written in rocks  
And in the ways of wild things,  
Spoken in parables of water,  
Told in the gift of sunlight is the code of man's existence,  
And the design for his survival ...  
For the Earth is home and the ways of nature are truth.

...observed on a trip to Florida

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST, a newsletter, published eight times a year by the Toronto Field Naturalists, 83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto, Ontario M5M 2T4

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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 (2 adults) -	\$20.00
	Single -	\$15.00
	Senior Family (2 adults, 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.

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