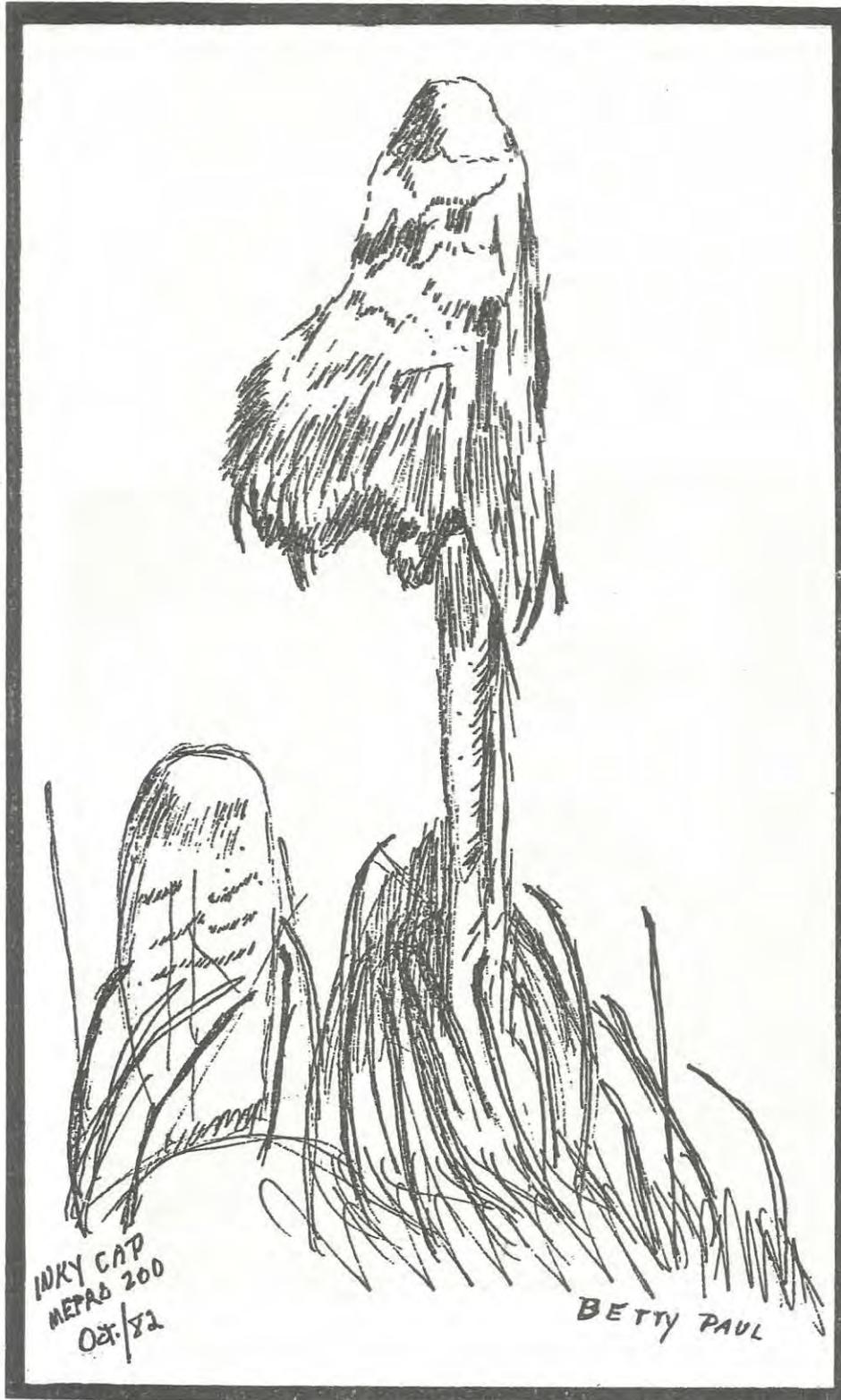




# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 358, October 1983



It's mushroom time

See page 24.

# President's Report

During the past month, TFN has sent out letters commenting on various proposals: The Acres report on the Keating Channel dredging, the Maple District Land Use Guidelines from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Scarborough Natural Areas Report, the City of Toronto City Services Committee proposal to bury Lavender Creek to provide a snow dump for the City. The TFN believes that already buried creeks should be uncovered and restored to a natural state; eventually this will lead to better water quality in the Great Lakes, as well as to a better local environment.

TFN would like to thank Art Drysdale for his valuable help in publicizing our activities. Art is host of The Garden Show, the popular program broadcast on CFRB each Saturday morning from 10 to 11 o'clock. Since August, 1982, Art has read the weekly Nature Notes written by TFN member Harold Taylor; this "spot" is much appreciated as well as Art's overall support of our efforts to make Torontonians aware of the wildlife that can be enjoyed close to home.

Mary Smith



"Screech Owl feeding white-lined sphinx moth to young"  
by Owen Fisher (adapted from a photograph by Arthur A. Allen).

(Call Bruce Parker, 449-0994, to report sightings of this owl.)

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

Saturday October 1 Junior Club meeting (see page 37)

Sunday MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY - trees  
 October 2 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at the entrance on the east side of Yonge Street  
 a short distance north of St. Clair Ave.

Sunday BURKE RAVINE - birds  
 October 2 Leader: Howard Battae  
 1.00 p.m. Meet on Bayview Avenue, east side, just north of the  
 C.N.I.B overpass. (Davisville bus #28 to the overpass).

Monday Oct. 3 T.F.N general meeting. New location. (see page 36)

• Tues. Oct. 4 "An evening with owls" - see TFN #357, page 40.

Wednesday EAST DON RIVER - Steele's & Leslie - nature walk  
 October 5 Leader: Miriam Fabish  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Steele's and Leslie. (Steele's East bus #53,  
 or Leslie #51.). Parking lot north-east of corner.

Saturday NORTHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE - sketching, your choice of  
 October 8 Leader: M. Cumming. colour subjects.  
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Downsview Dells bus stop on Sheppard Av. West.  
 (Sheppard West bus #84). In case of rain meet at the  
 Community Centre in the park on the north side of  
 Sheppard, on Arleta Ave. This is half way between  
 Keele and Jane Streets.

Sunday GARRISON CREEK - urban nature walk  
 October 9 Leader: Alexander Cappell  
 2.00 p.m. Meet at the Christie subway station to walk south  
 to Queen Street.

Monday TORONTO ISLANDS - birds  
 October 10 Leader: George Fairfield  
 9.00 a.m. Meet inside the Island Ferry docks at the foot of Bay  
 Street at 9.00 a.m. to take the first available ferry.  
 (Thanks- Bring lunch and your membership card.  
 giving)

Thursday October 13 Bird Group Meeting (see page 37)

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

## UPCOMING OUTINGS - continued

Saturday HIGH PARK - mushrooms

October 15 Leader:

10.00 a.m Meet in the first parking lot on West Road which is on your right as you enter from Bloor St. West at High Park Avenue. (Subway to High Park station).

● Black Creek Group work day. (see page 35)

Sunday HIGH PARK - nature walk

October 16 Leader: Roger Powley

10.00 a.m Meet at Keele subway station.

Wednesday G.ROSS LORD PARK - nature walk

October 19 Leader: Alexander Cappell

10.00 a.m Meet at the north east corner of Finch and Dufferin Sts. (Finch West #36 bus). Parking at the damsite north off Finch. Walk will end at Fisherville and Hidden Trail.

Thursday October 20th, Botany Group Meeting (see page 37).

Saturday YORK UNIVERSITY NATURAL AREAS - nature walk

October 22 Leader: Allan Greenbaum

10.00 a.m Meet at Fraser Drive and Niagara Blvd. (This is within the university grounds) Parking nearby. Morning only. (Bus #106 York Univ. which originates at Wilson subway).

Sunday MORNINGSIDE PARK - nature walk

October 23 Leader: Phil Joiner

2.00 p.m Meet in the first parking lot immediately west of Morningside Avenue, by the pavilion. To walk south. (Eglinton East bus #34A / 34B).

Tuesday WILKET CREEK PARK - Skywatch for beginners

October 25 Leader: Mel Whiteside (425.6578)

7.00 p.m Meet in the first parking lot off Leslie Street, just north of Eglinton Ave. East. (Eglinton east #34 bus to Leslie Street, and cross with the lights. Be careful!) Weather permitting this outing will be held on 25th; if visibility is poor try 26th; if still poor try 27th.

Thursday October 27 Environmental Group meeting (See page 37).

Saturday MORNINGSIDE PARK - nature walk

October 29 Leader: Paul McGaw

10.00 a.m Meet same as 23rd, but to walk north.

● DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ends. (Fall back!)

Sunday HUMBER BAY PARK - beached birds survey

October 30 Leader: Beth Jefferson

2.00 p.m Meet in the parking lot in the east half of the park. (#507 Long Branch car from Humber Loop to Park Lawn Rd. Walk into the parking lot on the east side of Mimico Crk). Cars. Drive in from the foot of Park Lawn Road at Lakeshore Boulevard.

## UPCOMING OUTINGS - continued

Saturday November 5 Junior Club meeting.

Sunday LESLIE STREET SPIT - birds

November 6 Leader: Howard Battae

10.00 a.m Meet at the foot of Leslie Street. Bring lunch.

Monday November 7 TFN General meeting. (See page 36)

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FROM TORONTO'S NATURE INFORMATION CENTRE . . .

SUMMER AT THE CABIN

This year the cabin in Sunnybrook Park opened May 1 and will be open until October 2, rain or shine, on Sunday afternoons.

Our thanks to the Metropolitan Toronto Parks and Property Department who placed a permanent sign on the outside of the cabin and a wall holder inside for maps and pamphlets as well as a new map of the park for the wall.

A special thank-you to Jean Macdonald, Helen and Aarne Juhola for setting up and maintaining the cabin and information material; Sally Sturgeon for the many phone calls necessary to schedule volunteers; Betty Greenacre for her excellent photos which were displayed on the walls; Tom Atkinson, Mary Cumming and her sketch book, Emily Hamilton, Muriel Miville and Betty Paul who were at the cabin several Sundays, and all the other members who came to "do their bit" on behalf of the Toronto Field Naturalists.

In the cooler months of spring and fall we have the most visitors. Cyclists and walkers are curious and stop to investigate and chat and then leave with Parks maps and pamphlets that interest them. Many have not heard of the TFN and are interested to learn of our many outings in ravines and parks and take membership application forms away with them.

The hot, humid, summer "picnic" months are our slow days at the cabin. Even when the park is "packed", those who do wander in mainly want directions to the nearest washroom (which, incidentally, is in Serena Gundy Park); however, their children were entertained by the "match-the-name-with-the-picture" Board.

Members also had pleasant afternoons, not only meeting each other but talking to visitors from near and far, other provinces and even other countries including the U.S.A. and England. Local long-time citizens had interesting stories to tell of days gone by.

We even had some people drop by the Saturday of the sketching outing at the cabin.

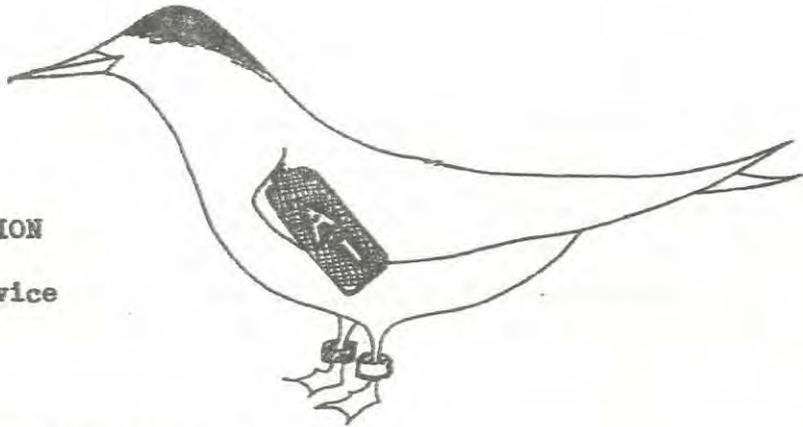
Thank you for a successful summer.

Joyce Cave

IT'S YOUR "TERN". . .

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Canadian Wildlife Service



The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region is continuing its programme of colour-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird each had the same combination). In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

In 1982 many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear. In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging.

In 1983 many terns tagged in 1981 and 1982 were back at their colonies. This year red wing tags (with yellow lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and green tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks.

If you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, colour of the tag and, if possible, the number/letter combination to:  
 Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

POSTAL RATES - The last word for the moment

On the advice of Mr. Warren of Canada Post we wrote to the Department of Communications and received a reply from Huguette Turcotte, Periodicals Policy Development Officer. The relevant paragraph follows:

DOC is also responsible for developing the policies regarding the classification and the eligibility criteria associated with the second class mail. The Department is undertaking a major study of the Canadian periodical industry which is being directed by the Woods Gordon consulting firm. The issues of preferential postal tariffs and the status of the publisher will be addressed in the study. However, until such time as the results of the study are available and given careful examination for possible implementation, there will be no substantial changes in current postal tariff regulations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The seventh edition of the Directory to Cooperative Naturalists' Projects in Ontario: A Guide for Volunteers, edited by Clive and Joy Goodwin, is available now. The main objective is to provide information to prospective volunteers; a second purpose is to improve communication among project organizers and to encourage the organization of new projects. Each project listing includes the aims of the project, requirements of volunteers and the name of the person to contact in order to take part or to obtain further information.

Copies of the Directory are available for \$1.50 each (including postage), from Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0.

YEAR ROUND STUDIES

1. Seasonal Summaries of Bird-watching observations
2. Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey
3. Bird Banding
4. Ontario Rare Woody Plant Program

MIGRATION STUDIES

5. Sightings of colour-marked shore-birds
6. International Shorebird Survey
7. Hawk Migration Counts
8. Ontario Loon Migration Watch

BREEDING SEASON STUDIES

9. Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas
10. Breeding Bird Surveys
11. Breeding Bird Census
12. Ontario Nest Records Scheme
13. Ontario Lakes Loon Survey
14. Atlas of colonially-nesting fish-eating birds of the Great Lakes
15. Bluebird nest-box project (Peterborough)

WINTER SEASON STUDIES

16. Christmas Bird Counts
17. Winter dispersal of Snow Buntings
18. Ontario Bird Feeder Survey
19. Mid-January Waterfowl Inventory

CHECKLISTS AND AREA INVENTORIES

20. Birds of Victoria County
21. Flora and fauna of Middlesex County
22. Flora and fauna of Lambton County
23. Atlas of herpetofauna of Grey and Bruce Counties
24. Birds of Durham Region
25. Birds of Algonquin Provincial Park
26. Birds of the Rondeau Region
27. Birds of Point Pelee
28. Birds of Oxford County
29. Checklist of birds of Lambton County
30. Birds of Moosonee
31. Changes in the birdlife of Western Rainy River District

32. Unusual breeding birds of Turkey Point and St. Williams Reforestation areas
33. Birds of Elgin County
34. A bibliography of Ontario Regional bird lists
35. Toronto Ravines Survey
36. Chain-fern and Hackberry Distribution
37. Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Halton Region
38. Additions to the Flora of the Ontario Clay Belt
39. Heritage Trees in Metropolitan Toronto

BIRD OBSERVATORIES

40. Long Point Bird Observatory
41. Prince Edward Point Observatory
42. Toronto Bird Observatory

MISCELLANEOUS

43. Royal Ontario Museum

TFN SLIDE AND PHOTO LIBRARY

Last December I reported on the amazing growth of our slide and photo library. The library has expanded steadily since then to approximately 1400 slides. Major contributions to this growth were made by Betty Greenacre, Dr. Donald Gunn, Mary Smith and Lothar Jung. The slide library is used as much by non-TFN people as by club members. Recently, our slides were borrowed for an upcoming article in the Canadian Geographic Journal.

Although the growth of the slide library has been very satisfying, there are still some major omissions. Many natural areas of Metro Toronto are poorly represented or not at all; for example, Toronto Islands and the Leslie Street Spit. We have very few slides of insects, rodents, amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans, mosses and fish. If you have any slides to donate, please contact me. Slides should be accurately identified as to species, location and date. Originals or copies are acceptable. (TFN will obtain copies and return your originals if desired.)

Robin Powell (965-3804)  
Photo and Slide Librarian

PROVINCIAL RARE NATIVE PLANTS\* WHICH CAN BE PURCHASED AT NURSERIES IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO, 1983.

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	RANGE AND ZONE + IN ONTARIO	COST \$
<u>Arabis alpina</u>	rock-cress	Brassicaceae	n	2
<u>Camassia scilloides</u>	wild hyacinth	Liliaceae	sw	2
<u>Campsis radicans</u>	trumpet vine	Bignoniaceae	sw (6-9)	8
<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	red bud	Fabaceae	sw (6-9)	24
<u>Cimicifuga racemosa</u>	black cohosh	Ranunculaceae	sw	2
<u>Coreopsis lanceolata</u>	coreopsis	Asteraceae	Great Lakes	1
<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood	Cornaceae	sw (6b-9)	?
<u>Euonymus atropurpureus</u>	wahoo burning bush	Celastraceae	sw (4-9)	?
<u>Fraxinus quadrangulata</u>	blue ash	Oleaceae	sw (5-9)	38
<u>Gymnocladus dioica</u>	Kentucky coffee tree	Fabaceae	sw (5-9)	30
<u>Hibiscus palustris</u>	rose mallow	Malvaceae	s	3
<u>Liatris spicata</u>	blazing star	Asteraceae	sw	2
<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	tulip tree	Magnoliaceae	sw (5b-9)	41
<u>Mertensia virginica</u>	Virginia bluebells	Boraginaceae	s	3
<u>Monarda didyma</u>	bergamot	Lamiaceae	sw	2
<u>Opuntia compressa</u>	prickly-pear cactus	Cactaceae	sw	2
<u>Phlox subulata</u>	moss-pink	Polemoniaceae	sw	2
<u>Viburnum dentatum</u>	southern arrow-bush	Caprifoliaceae	s (4-9)	?

\*Argus, G.W. and D.J. White, 1977. The rare vascular plants of Ontario, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Botany Division, Ottawa.

+ map entitled Plant hardiness zones in Canada from Ornamental shrubs for Canada, Agriculture Canada, Pub.#1286, 1968.

table compiled by J.L. Hodgins.

CALLING ALL WILDFLOWER GARDENERS

As increasing numbers of gardeners are converting all or part of their garden from traditional horticultural varieties to native wild species, the opportunity arises for all landowners in Ontario to help preserve some of our native endangered flora. The list on page 8 of provincially rare plants contains rare plants that have been nursery-grown, according to the nurseries surveyed. Experience proves that nursery grown stock has a better chance of survival than wild stock after transplanting. The best book I have read on wildflower gardening is Wildflower Perennials for your Garden by Bebe Miles, Hawthorn Books, N.Y. 1976. I would like to hear from any TFN members who are wildflower gardeners.

Jim Hodgins (466-6428)

ONTARIO'S MAMMAL IMMIGRANTS

Here are a few facts and dates gleaned from Animals, Man, and Change by Hugh R. MacCrimmon, 1977...

House Mouse: Probably came to Ontario with the first settlers but didn't reach Ottawa till 1920. It was established all over southern Ontario by 1929.\*

Norway (Brown) Rat: It arrived in Europe in 1727, from northern Asia. It was in England by 1769. On ships it travelled to the New World and was in the Upper St. Lawrence region by 1775. When it arrived in Ontario is not clear but it had not spread beyond the waterfront by 1830.

Black Rat: It was in New France before 1700 and in Ontario by the early 1700's, but is only marginally established in Great Lakes ports and only around the docking areas. A subspecies known as the Roof Rat sometimes comes ashore at Great Lakes ports, but it is too cold for it to become established here.

European Hare: Introduced from Germany, 1912, near Brantford.

Eastern Cottontail: Really a Carolinian species, though it is native to southern Ontario there are no early records except for a few bones. It was in Essex County by 1868. The first Toronto museum specimen is dated 1885.\*

Covote (Brush Wolf): Nomads from the west were first listed in northern Ontario in 1908. They were in Lambton County by 1919, the real invasion taking place in 1920. It reached the St. Lawrence by 1935.

\* The Natural History of the Toronto Region, Ontario, Canada published in 1917 lists the house mouse as very common by 1830 in Toronto and the cottontail as common here by 1917.



MY LIFELIST - PENFASY WO (prealden) - All the World's Birds with Continental Distributions, by T. V. Narayana, U. of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2G1, 1980, map, 46 pages (\$1.00 plus .65 for postage).

Very mysterious! But even if you don't completely "crack the code" (as the author hopes you might have fun doing) this would be a good checklist to have for a dollar. The system is inadequately explained but it seems that the individual letters P-E-N-F-A-S-Y denote the seven regions into which the author of the system has divided the world. Thus the range of each species can be coded. Dots, gaps, and/or underscores divide the regions further. There are two ways of expressing the same code. Additional letters suggest finer divisions to express more limited ranges. (You'll need an atlas and imagination to decipher these.)

The most unusual feature of the checklist is that it is in English (with occasionally just the ending of scientific specific name where it might help the searcher to distinguish species). Of course, only one English name appears for each species, so you have to know the right one. There are headings in capitals at the beginning of each series with the same group-name, e.g. GRACKLE, COWBIRD. Where a species is the only one bearing the name, eg Bobolink, it tends to become obscure in the list. If it were in capitals the listing would be clearer. But capitals are used within the groups only to designate rare and threatened species. It would seem more logical to assign a code to these and use the capitals for those unique bird-names such as BOBOLINK. Then it would be possible, also, to make a name such as CANARY double as a heading for canary-names with adjectives; this would fit in well with the compiler's general reasoning.

There is an attempt at systematic listing. The scientific names of orders and families are shown, as well as being expressed in English. Symbol # denotes the end of a genus (as genera do not correspond well to English group-names). This means several lists under WOODPECKER, for example. The idea works but there is some problem with the finches, e.g. the cardueline finches are not all together; regardless of the systematics used, this split should not occur. There seems to be consensus on the content of finch subfamilies, if not in their sequence.

There are many clever ideas used in this checklist. With a tabulated key to symbols it would be still better. A blank page near the front can serve for notes; otherwise just the margins are available for this purpose. The "Lifelists" title seems a whimsical idea; the number of species listed (including 65 endangered) is 8,819.

Diana Banville

(This checklist was given to us by Mr. Lorne Wallace of Edmonton, one of our Audubon speakers, March, 1982, "Land of the Shortgrass Prairie", through Jack Gingrich. A Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace is mentioned in the preamble of the checklist, and the text of it leads us to believe he is the originator of the PENFASY system.)

A CODED WORKBOOK OF BIRDS OF THE WORLD, Volume I, Non-Passerines, 1982, by Ernest P. Edwards, Box AQ, Sweet Briar, VA 24595, USA. 155 pages. published by the author. US\$10.00 plus US\$1.38 for postage.

The Basic Format of this revised checklist is very different from the original slim, pocket-sized book, A Coded List of Birds of the World, 1974. (See TFN (347) 16, A 82.) The revised and enlarged edition (the first of two volumes) is on letter-size paper and coil-bound. It lends itself well to finding your bird under scientific or English name. Pages are in columnar form for easy scanning. There is space for notes at the back - otherwise just in the margins.

Systematics employed are quite a departure, in some respects, from those to which most of us are accustomed. The orders/families basically follow Cracraft.<sup>1</sup> This means, to give one example, that owls/hawks precede waterfowl/chicken-like birds. This is because Cracraft believes that the raptors are related and that the fowl are related. Genera and species follow Devillers,<sup>2</sup> Peters,<sup>3</sup> and various papers. The hyphenated group-names stand out well in the columns and are helpful. e.g. "Wood-Pigeon", "Green-Pigeon", "Imperial-Pigeon" form their own series as well as "Pigeon". If this could be extended to "Secretary-Bird" (although there's just the one) it would avoid the "Bird, Secretary" listing. The 34th Supplement to the AOU Check-list is mentioned in the Bibliography; though most of the AOU changes appear to be incorporated, some are simply implied in the annotations where species status is in question. The up-to-date English names appear, either as preferred or alternative name, in most cases. "Green Heron" remains, simply because, on this list, Butorides virescens and B. striatus have not been merged. The name "Tundra Swan" does not appear, although Edwards notes "Cygnus bewickii" may be part of "C. columbianus"; no shared English name is suggested in such cases. "Greater Flamingo" and "Black-shouldered Kite" are used for the Old World forms though, again, a possible relationship to their New World counterparts is annotated.

Symbols and Maps. A tabulated format of the symbols used would have been appreciated so that they could be readily referred to at any time. This could well take less space than the paragraph of copy. Much of the explanatory copy is unnecessary - a little too scrupulous to be practical. One most often finds in coding that the letter "I" is dropped so that it won't be confused with a "1", but Mr. Edwards uses the letter "I" and drops "Roman Numeral I". (And I, for 1, got in trouble on this, in spite of all warnings in the instructions!) The many distribution symbols are not consistent. However, since they are always short-forms of the proper names they signify, it is not too difficult to decipher them in most cases. This is quite an ambitious effort - to designate not only the faunal region, but the range of each species, in nineteen characters of type! The symbols correspond roughly with those on nine range-maps and their accompanying explanations.

Indices. As well as the strictly systematic listing, there are four complete alphabetical indices. The genera fit into four pages. It takes just seventeen for the species which are listed alphabetically by the specific name, with genus name following; this is a most useful device since species are sometimes moved from one genus to another but ornithologists try to maintain the specific name when this happens so that - with such a list - it is possible to find your bird. Two pages accommodate an equally helpful list of subspecific

names still considered full species by some ornithologists - again with the (sub)specific name first. The English names take up fourteen pages. In this list one has to know "what to look under". (Look under "E" for Bald Eagle but look under "F" for African Fish-Eagle.) However one quickly captures the spirit of the thing. Some cross-references, however, would have been helpful for the alternative group-names listed. (I might not know enough to look under "Petrel" for "Cahow".) This would have taken 100 additional lines but would have added to the value of this English index.

Code. The alphanumeric coding of each species is a special feature of the Edwards checklists. Though not very "portable" (since species are moved often enough from one genus to another) the code-numbers are very handy for referring back to the systematic list from one of the indices - the eye goes right to the bird instead of the page-number. (The code has been revised but there is a cross-reference for those who have the original checklist.)

Conclusions. Occasionally puzzled, never quite "stumped", in the hours I've spent poring over this checklist (captivated) I've decided it works. I've not noticed so far a single "essential error". It is a project which has obviously been approached with meticulous care for the basic data. While waiting for the second volume to be published, it would still be well worthwhile to have this one on hand, if you are interested in the relationships of bird species, whether or not you go far afield in studying them.

Diana Barville

- Notes:
- <sup>1</sup>Cracraft, J. - "Toward a Phylogenetic Classification of the Recent Birds of the World (Class Aves)", Auk 98:681-714, 1981.
  - <sup>2</sup>Devillers, P. - "Projet de Nomenclature Française des Oiseaux du Monde", Le Gerfaut De Giervalk, in vols. 66, 67, 1976, 1977.
  - <sup>3</sup>Peters, J. L. - A Check-List of Birds of the World, Vol. I, Second Edition, 1979. Mus. of Comparative Zool., Harvard U.

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THE PLANT PRESS, a new publication, is the newsletter for field botanists of Ontario. 20 pp. \$10.00 per annum (4 issues). In the first edition, March 1983, the objectives of the publication are listed; to keep botanists informed on each others' activities, publications, and research; and to encourage further publications by field botanists. Articles will be submitted from five regions of Ontario and an associate editor has been appointed for each of these regions. There are notes on where to get help with updating nomenclature, with identification of difficult genera, and how to approach conservation issues. There is to be a column on recent publications of botanical interest. The PLANT PRESS, Box 537, Streetsville Postal Station, Mississauga Ontario, L5M 2C1.

Early Hamilton

A LITTLE WILDERNESS *The Natural History of Toronto* by Bill Ivy. Oxford University Press, Toronto, 1983. Introduction by Robert Bateman, 21 pages of text plus 96 photographs with accompanying text. 11" x 11" \$24.95

This breathtaking book has been chosen for an award by the Toronto Sesqui-centennial Board and certainly deserves it. Bill Ivy's brief but informative text traces the natural history of Toronto from prehistoric times to the present and his amazing photographs show the beauty and wonder of Toronto's ravines and parks. His photographs of Scarborough Bluffs and Wigmore Ravine at dawn have me trying to figure out a way to get to these places without a car in time to see the sun rise.

There are thousands of people in Toronto who never have a chance to leave the city. I am sure that if they could see this book, their eyes would pop, their curiosity would be whetted and naturalists would be born. I know that if I had seen such a book when I was a child in downtown Toronto I would be a more knowledgeable naturalist today.

A good book to have and savour as a Torontonians -- and to brag about to non-Torontonians.

(See page 35 also.)

Muriel Miville

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF BIG TREES (in U.S.A.) 36 pages

Published by: The American Forestry Association  
1319 Eighteenth Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20036 U.S.A.

This is the 1982 edition listing the largest reported specimens of approximately 650 tree species found in the U.S.A. today. It is published at intervals of about five years. For each species there is a National Champion based on measurements of trunk circumference, vertical height, and crown spread. Directions for taking these measurements are given.

Emily Hamilton

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**On binoculars...**

The CANADIAN CONSUMER Vol.13 No.7, July issue, has a most informative article about binoculars. They contend that the most expensive pair is not necessarily the best for your purposes. Test more than one pair before buying; the alignment for you is particularly important. The Bushnell Ensign, Carl Wetzlar Navigator, and Bell & Howell binoculars are all recommended, in the \$40-45.00 range. They comment also on more expensive models. There is much valuable information in this article.

Mildred Easto

POETRY FOR BIRD WATCHERS, selected by Leland B. Jacobs, Garrard Publishing Co., Champaign, Illinois, 1970. A book of pleasant verse on the subject of birds.

recommended by Jack Cranmer-Byng

#### TORONTO CEMETERY HISTORY AND NATURE-WALK BROCHURES

The Toronto Trust Cemeteries are preparing a series of brochures describing the eight cemeteries in their care. Brochures are already available for the Necropolis in Toronto, Pine Hills in Scarborough, and York Cemetery in North York. Mentioned are architectural features of buildings, the graves of well-known people in Toronto's history, nature trails, flora (planted and wild) and animals, depending on the features of the cemetery. These are available free from Toronto Trust Cemeteries, 48 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, M4V 2Z2, (960-3443).

#### OAKVILLE WILD BIRD INFIRMARY

Pat Smith is happy to announce the formation of "The Oakville Wild Bird Infirmary Inc.", a charitable organization whose aims are to enable Pat to continue, as she has for 30 years, restoring injured and sick wild birds to normal health and eventual release -- also -- the continuing care of those which by necessity are permanent residents.

In the past, Pat has been able to afford the expenses which were \$3800 in 1982. However, with rising costs and the expense of nursing home care for her husband, George, she cannot continue without financial assistance.

The directors of the organization are appealing for donations, small or large, which will be used exclusively towards the care of all birds brought to Pat from near and far.

Pat's expenses include: seed, chicken, beef, fish, mice, medication, plastic sheets to winterize cages (an immediate need), wood and wire for cages, water heaters etc. etc. etc. and general maintenance.

If you would care to help, please make cheques payable to  
The Oakville Wild Bird Infirmary Inc. and send to:

June Hooley, Director, 307 William St., Oakville, Ont. L6J 1E5  
or Mrs. Diane Mattiussi, Director, 342 Valanna Cres., Burlington, Ont. L70 2K8

You will receive an official receipt for income tax purposes.

June Hooley

# IN EXCHANGE

The Toronto Field Naturalists receives some interesting periodicals in exchange for the Ontario Field Biologist. These may be borrowed by any member of the TFN by calling Bruce Parker (449-0994) and arranging to pick them up at the General Meeting. They should be returned at the following General Meeting.

## Le Gerfaut De Giervalk, Vol. 72, No. 2. (English Translation)

This is an international journal from Belgium dealing with birds. Articles are specialized but well-written and extremely informative. This issue contains four articles (Biology and taxonomy of Townsend's Shearwater, Rockhopper Penguins in the Falkland Islands, the White-breasted Cormorant on the Southern African coast and a geographical variant of the Kittiwake) and two notes (the status of Dupont's Lark in the Iberian Peninsula and the first record of the Wood Rail in Peru).

Some facts gleaned from this issue are:

- Townsend's Shearwaters are endemic to the Revillagigedo Islands of Mexico.
- In the past the Townsend's Shearwater was considered one of the eight taxa (or subspecies) of the Manx Shearwater; however, current taxonomy studies suggest that the Townsend's Shearwater is a distinct species.
- Rockhopper Penguins migrate north from the Falkland Islands to 35°S.
- Rockhopper Penguins follow well-defined pathways into their breeding colonies. Samples of the rocks which have been worn away by the passage of countless penguin feet show that these pathways have been used for over one thousand years.

## The Ring, Vol. XX, No. 110-111.

This international journal from Poland is devoted to bird-banding. The three principal articles in this issue deal with aging passerine nestlings, Ospreys and White-tailed Eagles in Bulgaria and the estimating (or census-taking) of terrestrial birds.

Brief reports from bird observatories and studies from around the world reveal that:

- 35,000,000 birds have been banded in Europe since 1900.
- A Manx Shearwater banded in Ireland was found in Buenos Aires 56 days later (and 11,455 km. away).
- Australian bird atlassing indicates at least half of the country's 55 parrot species show a decline in abundance.
- 2500 people have been involved in the compilation of the Australian bird atlas.
- The first North American bird census was conducted at Philadelphia in 1811 by Alexander Wilson.

Bruce D. Parker

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SURVEY: 1983

It has been an unusual year: What began as a wet, warm spring rapidly developed into a hot, dry summer. As a consequence an ideal and prolonged amphibian breeding season became a challenge to survival as many ponds dried up prematurely. There were also many reports of turtles wandering overland in search of permanent water supplies.

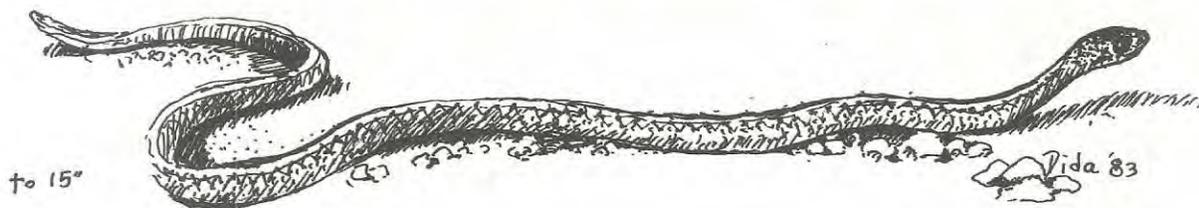
Once again as fall approaches amphibians and reptiles become more visible as they move towards and congregate at winter hibernacula. This is a good opportunity to see these species before they disappear in early October. I would encourage you to report all amphibian and reptile sightings. This is particularly so for those sites that have been identified in the booklet "Amphibians and Reptiles in Metro Toronto: 1982 Inventory and Guide" published earlier this year. I think many members have not reported their sightings if an entry has been made in the guide. It is important that all sightings are recorded, as 1982 sightings not repeated in 1983 can not be included in any future reports. Please report all sightings of all species, whether or not it is present in the 1982 guide, to me.

Bob Johnson, c/o Metro Toronto Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill, Ont M1E 4R5  
Telephone: 284-8181 (business); 839-7139 (home)

Bob Johnson



Dots indicate location of sightings in 1982 of reptile and amphibian species collectively in Metro Toronto.



Brown snake (*Storeria dekayi*) - after a photograph by Barbara Froom

SNOW-DUMPS, DRUM-PILES, AND FECAL COLIFORMThe Story of Lavender Creek

My summer of '83 I will long remember as the summer of Lavender Creek and of coliform.

I found the ravine on road maps where it is shown as a gully. Historic maps show a stream rising in what is now Prospect Cemetery and running west to join Black Creek, northwest of St. Clair and Keele.

When I went out to investigate the ravine I found it to be in a truly disgraceful condition. Its north slope, which is under hydro lines, is graded crudely, and innocent of vegetation; the stream is in a concrete channel; foul odours from the animal-product factories and sometimes from the creek itself filled the air, and from a chemical barrel factory on the south side, drums and a black tarry sludge were falling down the south slope. The sludge flowed right over the concrete channel into the creek.

After my first visit I wrote letters to Ontario Hydro, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE), and the City of York. A Mr. Dulney of the MOE was able to contact the Universal Drum Reconditioning Company immediately because I obtained their address and telephone number from walking along Glen Scarlett Road just south of the ravine. Mr. Dulney met on site with them and ordered them to clean up the mess.

About this time, the beaches on Lake Ontario were closed due to high coliform counts. Lavender Creek was indicated as one of the worst sources of this type of pollution, with two storm drains appearing to be especially contaminated by raw sewage: one where the creek comes out of a pipe just west of the corner of Weston Road and Maybank, and one in an isolated ravine upstream which appears to be in fairly good condition otherwise. The Toronto Star published an article on Lavender Creek that mentioned an extraordinarily high coliform count in some muck that dripped out of the back of Banner Packing onto the old railway grade on the south slope of the ravine.

I learned the name Lavender Creek from Mr. Dulney who obtained it from Metro Works and I confirmed it fairly surely with Mrs. McDowell of the York Historic Society. It has also been called Runnymede and (incorrectly) Symes Creek.

Coliform, however, was the least of Lavender Creek's troubles! In my letter to York, I offered suggestions and pleas regarding the future of the ravine and its use. A Dr. Mitchell of the Health Department was kind enough to warn me of a plan by the City of Toronto to fill in the ravine, culvert the creek, and use the place as a permanent snow disposal site. I was aghast, for this was one of two remaining Black Creek tributaries south of Lawrence - the other was the private and inaccessible Greenbrook Ravine.

At this point I contacted John Maher of the Black Creek Project, Mary Lockhart of the local ratepayers, and a little later, Winifred Smith of the TFN. So far I've given deputations at three meetings in York. John Maher has given three, Mary Lockhart two and Winifred Smith one. The first of the three meetings I attended was that of the Planning Board which failed to approve

the motion to approve in principle the dump-site. At the second meeting the Board of Control approved in principle the use of the ravine as a snow dump-site as long as the industries cooperated in cleaning up the pollution first! Let's cure the fever and then chop off the head! Finally, at the third meeting a show of force was made to York City Council, during which Winifred Smith made her point by donning briefly an ice cream container to represent culverting Lavender Creek. The council was hesitant and voted to defer the motion until reports have been received.

Despite its problems, Lavender Creek is valuable. It runs through a region devoid of natural open space; its south slope, except when it is intercepted by Universal's drum sludge, is thickly covered with scrub and has some interesting plants such as bur cucumber, four-o'clocks (a traveller from the west that came along the old railway grade), hop-vine and wormwood. Sandy Cappell observed kestrels over the valley - they were probably a breeding pair. We have seen kingbirds, barn swallows, catbirds, robins, killdeer (running along the concrete banks of the creek), a skunk and a DeKay's snake. The concrete channel is slowly being covered by eager vegetation, especially wild (riverbank) grape, Virginia creeper, Manitoba maple, poplar and tansy. Downstream from the proposed snow-dump there are some black maples.

Lavender Creek's future still is uncertain. As I write this article, two meetings have been scheduled for early September: a City of Toronto City Services Committee meeting and a City of York Council meeting. But by now it is clear that there is opposition and perhaps Lavender Creek will not only be saved from destruction, but restored to cleanliness and beauty.

HOW TO GET THERE - Lavender Creek has two sections inaccessible to one another without a fair hike around.

(i) Upstream section. Go north from St. Clair along Old Weston Road about three blocks to Lavender Road (just south of Rogers). Turn left and go to where Lavender Road ends at Keele. Turn south on Keele and it dead-ends where the ravine starts. Take Keele bus from Lansdowne Station to Old Weston Road and Lavender Road and walk west.

(ii) Main section. This is where the snow-dump would be. Go to St. Clair and Keele, turn north and then turn left at Maybank. If you keep going straight, Maybank will turn into Glen Scarlett Road and you will pass the Universal Drum Reconditioning Company on your right. Straight ahead, Glen Scarlett Road will turn into Symes Road and go down a tree-shaded hill. You can park at the bottom near where Lavender Creek goes under Symes Road. From here one can walk back up the hill along Symes Road and go along the old railway grade behind the factories, including the drum plant. Beware of the gooey muck behind Banner Packing, though this seems to be drying out. This is where the four-o'clocks are. Or one can walk north of the creek along the hydro right-of-way and onto the graded area which is a temporary snow-dump. Or walk north down the unconcreted portion of Lavender Creek to Black Creek. (St. Clair streetcar to St. Clair and Keele, walk north and enter valley from east).

(iii) To get from (i) to (ii) on foot: You have to go back to Old Weston Road, then south to St. Clair, then west to Keele, then north to the hydro lines again. Enter the ravine from the east.

I am willing to lead anyone who is interested in exploring the ravine.

Gavin Miller (923-1909)

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 TORONTO ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB SPRING ROUNDUP, MAY 21, 1983
 

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Common Loon	66	Greater Yellow-legs	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Lesser Yellow-legs	13
Horned Grebe	1	Solitary Sandpiper	1
Red-necked Grebe	12	Spotted Sandpiper	110
Double-crested Cormorant	3	Upland Sandpiper	4
American Bittern	6	Whimbrel	32
Great Blue Heron	23	Ruddy Turnstone	40
Green-backed Heron	13	Sanderling	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron	32	Semipalmated Sandpiper	7
Tundra Swan	1	Least Sandpiper	97
Mute Swan	47	Pectoral Sandpiper	2
Brant	7	Dunlin	113
Canada Goose	632	Common Snipe	1
Wood Duck	6	American Woodcock	11
Green-winged Teal	3	Bonaparte's Gull	56
American Black Duck	28	Ring-billed Gull	55574
Mallard	376	Herring Gull	254
Northern Pintail	2	Glaucous Gull	1
Blue-winged Teal	36	Great Black-backed Gull	8
Gadwall	79	Caspian Tern	247
American Wigeon	8	Common Tern	867
Ring-necked Duck	1	Black Tern	111
Greater Scaup	1	Rock Dove	456
Lesser Scaup	4	Mourning Dove	462
Oldsquaw	1015	Black-billed Cuckoo	2
Surf Scoter	2	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1
White-winged Scoter	10	Great Horned Owl	18
Common Golden-eye	9	Long-eared Owl	2
Bufflehead	4	Common Nighthawk	3
Hooded Merganser	3	Whip-poor-will	3
Common Merganser	15	Chimney Swift	93
Red-breasted Merganser	245	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	338
Turkey Vulture	22	Belted Kingfisher	46
Northern Harrier	13	Red-headed Woodpecker	29
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4
Cooper's Hawk	2	Downy Woodpecker	53
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Hairy Woodpecker	9
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Northern Flicker	164
Red-tailed Hawk	90	Pileated Woodpecker	4
Rough-legged Hawk	1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	6
American Kestrel	47	Eastern Wood-Pewee	43
Ring-necked Pheasant	35	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3
Ruffed Grouse	17	Alder Flycatcher	5
Virginia Rail	1	Willow Flycatcher	5
Sora	9	Least Flycatcher	179
Common Moorhen	6	Eastern Phoebe	21
American Coot	2	Great Crested Flycatcher	117
Black-bellied Plover	4	Eastern Kingbird	238
Semipalmated Plover	6	Horned Lark	59
Killdeer	257	Purple Martin	76

Tree Swallow	628	Blackburnian Warbler	160
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	187	Pine Warbler	4
Bank Swallow	1309	Palm Warbler	3
Cliff Swallow	91	Bay-breasted Warbler	62
Barn Swallow	779	Blackpoll Warbler	9
Blue Jay	534	Cerulean Warbler	1
American Crow	397	Black-and-white Warbler	55
Black-capped Chickadee	274	American Redstart	187
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	Ovenbird	105
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	Northern Waterthrush	30
Brown Creeper	3	Connecticut Warbler	1
House Wren	64	Mourning Warbler	19
Winter Wren	3	Common Yellowthroat	131
Sedge Wren	3	Hooded Warbler	1
Marsh Wren	4	Wilson's Warbler	36
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Canada Warbler	51
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	39	Scarlet Tanager	37
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	19	Northern Cardinal	166
Eastern Bluebird	9	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	262
Veery	66	Indigo Bunting	46
Gray-cheeked Thrush	17	Rufous-sided Towhee	20
Swainson's Thrush	243	Chipping Sparrow	120
Hermit Thrush	4	Field Sparrow	54
Wood Thrush	61	Vesper Sparrow	26
American Robin	1096	Savannah Sparrow	353
Gray Catbird	195	Grasshopper Sparrow	17
Brown Thrasher	95	Song Sparrow	525
Cedar Waxwing	38	Lincoln's Sparrow	38
European Starling	2322	Swamp Sparrow	29
Solitary Vireo	24	White-throated Sparrow	146
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	White-crowned Sparrow	121
Warbling Vireo	97	Dark-eyed Junco	1
Philadelphia Vireo	37	Bobolink	534
Red-eyed Vireo	99	Red-winged Blackbird	2272
Blue-winged Warbler	1	Eastern Meadowlark	220
Golden-winged Warbler	10	Western Meadowlark	1
Tennessee Warbler	127	Brewer's Blackbird	2
Nashville Warbler	157	Common Grackle	1653
Northern Parula	16	Brown-headed Cowbird	436
Yellow Warbler	327	Orchard Oriole	3
Chestnut-sided Warbler	184	Northern Oriole	359
Magnolia Warbler	227	Purple Finch	4
Cape May Warbler	45	House Finch	11
Black-throated Blue Warbler	78	American Goldfinch	632
Yellow-rumped Warbler	286	House Sparrow	942
Black-throated Green Warbler	130	<u>Empidonax flycatchers</u>	49
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	(in addition to those specifically indicated)	

Totals: Species 192, Individuals 83155, participants 55

Organizers and compilers: Dr. J. Murray Speirs, Harry Kerr, Arnold Dawe.

# Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

This report is based on observations reported to the Toronto Field Naturalists; the area covered is the area included within a circle (radius 30 miles or 48 km.) centered at the Royal Ontario Museum. Exceptional records are included on the basis of the notes supplied by the observer. A number of exceptional species (such as Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron and Eurasian Wigeon) were seen by many people this spring but since no documentation was received, they cannot be included in this report. The results of the Spring Roundup on May 21 are not repeated in the following summary.

## Exceptional Records:

Sandhill Crane - Orvel Oppertshauser gave a convincing report of two Sandhill Cranes flying very high over Kew Beach on May 21. These were described as large gray birds with long legs and necks, which called and flipped over in a manner characteristic of this species.

Ruff - One of these rare visitors from Eurasia was found at the Donkey Ponds in Vaughan Township on April 28 by Dave Milson. This bird had a white or cream coloured 'ruff' and was seen by other birders on the following day. At the Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons a Ruff with a fully developed 'ruff' of chestnut and black was found by John Schmelefske on May 15. This bird was also present on the following day.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - W.C. Mansell identified one of these visitors at Roy MacMillan Park on April 24 by comparing its size with nearby Iceland and Great Black-backed Gulls. His report also mentions the yellow legs of this species.

Yellow-throated Warbler - W.C. Mansell submitted a description of a male he observed on Primate Rd., Mississauga on May 21.

Orchard Oriole - An exceptional number of reports was received including a first year male in High Park on May 7 (BW), one near Casa Loma on May 8 and 9 (JM) and an immature in Brampton on May 17 (PF).

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Most migrant Common Loons are reported in the eastern portion of the region; the sighting of 19 flying over Pine Point Park on May 5 (MK) indicates that some follow the course of the Humber River inland. Horned Grebes and Pied-billed Grebes continue to be reported in small numbers; two Horned Grebes at Humber Bay Park on May 26 (WCM) were late. Fifty-seven Red-necked Grebes were at the Scarboro Bluffs on April 4 (RK). The only locality from which Double-crested Cormorants were reported was the Eastern Headland where three were seen on May 28 (MK). A Least Bittern at Rattray's Marsh on May 12 was the only reported this spring. Since no Great Blue Herons were reported during February the one found at the Humber Marshes on March 13 (SP) may have been a

migrant. Great Egrets are infrequently found in our area in the spring; this year one was at Humber Marshes on May 5 (BW). The first Black-crowned Night Herons returned to the Humber Marshes on April 9 (HS); 14 were there on the following day (GC).

On May 11 there were 22 Mute Swans at Cranberry Marsh and one was sitting on a nest at Corbett Creek (BP). One of our newly introduced Trumpeter Swans was at Marie Curtis Park on May 11 (DB, MC) and May 29 (WCM) and one of last winter's Barnacle Geese was still there on May 29 (WCM). The only large flock of Brant was a nervous flock at Marie Curtis Park on May 26 (WCM). Many ducks linger along the lakeshore until the middle of May and some of the species reported after mid-May were Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Oldsquaw and Bufflehead.

A Goshawk at the Cold Creek Conservation Area on May 9 (PW) was late. A Broad-winged Hawk's nest was found at Thornton Bales Park on a TFN outing on May 21 (DB), one of the few recent nesting records for the Toronto Region.

The Killdeer, one of our earliest migrants, was first reported on March 7 at Bloor St. and the Humber River (HS) and a nest with one egg was found at Brampton on April 12 (AD). Another early migrant, the American Woodcock, arrived at Centennial Park, Etobicoke as early as March 5 (RF). Nine woodcock were taken to the Humane Society Shelter after being found alive on downtown streets between March 21 and April 9 (RN). Most shorebirds were reported from the Eastern Headland, Humber Bay Park and the Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons.

Eastern Headland - Red Knot May 28 (3, MK); White-rumped Sandpiper May 28 (1, MK); Whimbrel May 27 (30, RP, BY); Hudsonian Godwit May 28 (1, MK) and Upland Sandpiper May 27 (2, RP, BY).  
 Humber Bay Park - Coiden Plover May 11 (1, BP); Black-bellied Plover May 11 (1, BP); Dunlin May 26 (50, WCM).  
 Holland Landing - Semipalmated Plover May 17 (AD); wilson's Phalarope May 7 (2, PL) and May 15 (6, JS).

Last reports of owls were a Snowy Owl at Humber Bay Park on April 10 (GC), a Barred Owl at the Boyd Conservation Area on April 18 (BW) and a Long-eared Owl at Pine Point on April 7 (MK). Some first arrival dates at High Park are Whip-poor-will May 5, Chimney Swift May 4 and Ruby-throated Hummingbird May 8 (RP). The first Common Nighthawk was one at 'Guild of All Arts' on May 16 (WCM). Pileated Woodpeckers were at Colonel Danforth Trail on March 13 (JH) and Pine Point on March 17 (MK). The spring's first Red-headed Woodpecker was found on Unwin St. on May 7 (HS) and the season's last Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was one at Pine Point on May 5 (MK).

Members of the flycatcher family return in about the same order every year with the Eastern Phoebe being first (April 12, MK), followed by the Great Crested Flycatcher (May 3, WCM), Least Flycatcher (May 7, RP), Eastern Kingbird (May 8, RP), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (May 12, BP), Olive-sided Flycatcher (May 15, HS) and Eastern Wood-Pewee (May 18, HS). An Eastern Wood-Pewee at Pine Point on May 9 (MK) was exceptionally early.

The first swallows to return were some Tree Swallows at Cranberry Marsh on April 4 (MB). No Purple Martins were reported until May; what is their status in our region? The spring's first Winter Wren was one at the G. Ross Lord Park on April 14 (SC); a Carolina Wren was present in Etobicoke until April 9 (JK). Early spring migrants were earlier this year due to the mild weather in late February and early March; the first American Robin report was March 3 at the G. Ross Lord Park (SC). By May migration was on 'schedule' with Wood Thrushes on May 8 (MK), Swainson's Thrush on May 7 (RP), Gray-cheeked Thrush on May 9 (HS), an early Veery at the Humber River and Bloor St. on April 27 (HS) and an Eastern Bluebird in Scarborough on April 2 (BH). Four Eastern Bluebirds were seen in Agincourt as late as May 16 (BM). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Moatfield on April 29 (BP), the 'Guild of All Arts' on May 16 (WCM, MM) and High Park on May 15 (AD). A few Water Pipits were at the Donkey Ponds on April 28 (DM). The last Northern Shrike of the season was at Centennial Park, Etobicoke on March 20 (BW), a shrike in the G. Ross Lord Park on April 18 (SC) was probably a Loggerhead. Two reports of Loggerhead Shrikes were March 21, Cranberry Marsh (CB) and April 1, Drumquin (WCM, MM). All shrikes in late March and early April should be carefully identified since it's the only time of the year when both species may be found in our area.

Unusual vireos and warblers were a White-eyed Vireo, Glen Stewart Ravine May 2 (AD); Blue-winged Warbler, G. Ross Lord Park May 14 (SC); Connecticut Warbler, High Park May 15 (AD); Louisiana Waterthrush, Pine Point May 11 (MK); Hooded Warbler, May 15 High Park (AD); Kentucky Warbler, Lambton May 25 (RP); Prothonotary Warbler High Park May 11 (BW, JK). First records for vireos and warblers were Solitary Vireo April 29 HS; Yellow-throated Vireo May 11 RP; Warbling Vireo May 5 HS; Philadelphia Vireo May 12 BP; Red-eyed Vireo May 12 BP; Golden-winged Warbler May 11 RP; Tennessee Warbler May 7 RP; Nashville Warbler May 6 HS; Northern Parula May 2 HS; Yellow Warbler May 3 MK; Chestnut-sided Warbler May 7 RP; Magnolia Warbler May 7 SC, RP; Cape May Warbler May 7 RP; Black-throated Blue Warbler May 7 RP; Yellow-rumped Warbler April 18 SC; Black-throated Green Warbler May 7 RP; Blackburnian Warbler May 7 RP; Palm Warbler May 7 RP; Bay-breasted Warbler May 12 BP; Blackpoll Warbler May 22 HS; Cerulean Warbler May 8 HS; Black-and-white Warbler April 29 MM; American Redstart May 7 RP; Ovenbird May 7 RP; Northern Waterthrush May 7 RP; Mourning Warbler May 14 HS; Common Yellowthroat May 7 RP, HS; Wilson's Warbler May 21 HS; Canada Warbler May 21 HS; and Orange-crowned Warbler May 14 HS.

Scarlet Tanagers occasionally have aberrant plumages; on May 28 Mark Kubisz observed one at Pine Point which he described: "Where it was supposed to be scarlet it was the brilliant yellow of a goldfinch. This yellow lightened considerably on the flanks and belly. The wings were sooty and had white patches in them near where they met at the middle of the back. The eye was black and the bill greenish. The tail was light coloured under with a dark longitudinal line visible near the base, so the tail was two-toned but irregularly patterned."

A Clay-coloured Sparrow was at Cold Creek Conservation Area on May 9 (PW).

Contributors: Margaret Bain, Gordon Bellerby, Diana Eganville, Sandy Cappell, Mary Cumming, Glen Goady, Arnold Dawe, Alex Dobson, Paul Forpier, Barry Harrison, Jane Hill, John Kelley, Robert Knudson, Mark Kubisz, Peggy Lehman, Millie Mansell, William C. Mansell, Bill Marcell, John McDonald, Dave Nilson, Rob Nisbet, Orvel Oppertshouser, Bruce Parker, Suzanne Podrey, Roger Powley, John Schmelefske, Helen Smith, Bruce Wilkinson, Bob Yukich, Peter Wukash.

Everyone is invited to contribute his/her observations of birds in the Toronto Region.

▷ Please send your reports to Bruce D. Parker, Tr 66, 109 Valley Woods Rd., Don Mills, M3A 2R8, or phone 449-0994.

WORDS

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The following words are used to describe the STATUS OF PLANTS

- INDIGENOUS - native species, original to the region
- INTRODUCED - brought intentionally from another region, as for purposes of cultivation
- ADVENTIVE - coming uninvited, only locally established
- NATURALIZED - thoroughly established, originally coming from a foreign area.

These descriptions have been obtained from Gray's Manual of Botany

## This Month's Cover

"Inky Cap Mushroom, Metro Zoo" - drawn by Betty Paul

Betty's "Inky Cap" is actually a "Shaggy Mane" at its shaggiest, Coprinus comatus. This group of mushrooms is edible but can turn to an inky mass in a few hours. To avoid poisonous mushrooms it is best to have them identified for you in the field. Enthusiasts may wish to join the Mycological Society of Toronto and participate in their "forays". Betty didn't eat hers - left it to decorate the lawns on the way to the giraffe paddock. (For TFN Mushroom Outing, see page 4, Oct. 14, this issue.)

GOLDENRODS HAVE A LOT OF GALL
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Imagine your parents placing you as an infant inside a hollow tree and letting a plant take care of you until you reached maturity. The plant would provide protection from the elements and supply all of your nutrition. This may sound fantastic but this is precisely how some insects raise their offspring.

Although the adult insects such as the Goldenrod Fly (*Eurosta solidaginis*) go completely unnoticed in the field, the galls formed by this insect are obvious. This is especially true in the winter as the goldenrod stems on which the galls are formed are usually much higher than the surrounding vegetation. Goldenrods are the victims of several insects that form galls but each one is of a different shape or is placed higher or lower on the plant.

Many studies have been done on galls to determine exactly how they are created, but each insect forms them in a different way. Some begin forming as soon as the adult inserts its ovipositor into the plant and some don't form until the larva has hatched and started feeding. There are hundreds of kinds of galls; usually a particular insect uses a specific host plant. Galls occur in all kinds of different shapes, some looking like tiny pyramids on leaves and some like pine cones. Galls are caused not only by insects but by mites, worms and even plants.

Just studying the galls on goldenrods can be a pursuit all by itself. but if you become fascinated with their life history you can get more information from *A GUIDE TO NATURE IN WINTER* by Donald W. Stokes (published by Little, Brown & Company) or *THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TORONTO REGION*, published by the Canadian Institute (now the Royal Canadian Institute) in 1913.

Roger Powley

<p style="text-align: center;">PORCUPINES IN THE TORONTO REGION?</p> <p>Have you ever encountered a porcupine (dead or alive) within the 48 kilometer radius of the Toronto region? Where? When?</p> <p>The porcupine was not discovered in the Toronto Region until the 1920s when the Royal Ontario Museum found a few in the Holland River swamp in King Township.</p> <p>In the past few years dead porcupines have been found along roads west of Toronto adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment and north of Metro in the Oak Ridges Moraine. The present status and distribution of the porcupine in the Toronto Region is not known.</p> <p>If you happen to encounter a porcupine anywhere in the Toronto Region (or anywhere else in Southern Ontario) will you please let us know?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bruce D. Parker      (449-0994)</p>
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## 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 midseason (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 1982-83 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.

NOTE: The above appeal first appeared in the May, 1983, TFN Newsletter. The Junior Club season opened on Saturday, September 10, and although the situation has improved, we still need more help.

### NEWS FROM THE ROUGE VALLEY

This past summer Mayor Gus Harris presented an eight-point program which he says will make Scarborough a better place in which to live and work. The report entitled "New Face for Scarborough" describes the Rouge Watershed lands in the City's northeast corner as "a veritable Eden of nearly 3000 acres of open fields, woodlots, rivers, and streams", an observation with which Save the Rouge Valley System members and friends will heartily agree. But most significant is the statement: "Preservation of much of the land is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to give a gift to the generations to come". It is now our job as citizens to congratulate Mayor Harris for clearly setting forth the community goal of conservation. To make this goal a political reality many officials must be convinced that the public is enthusiastically endorsing the idea. Plans and developments in Scarborough and its neighbour municipalities will have to be monitored to ensure that the Rouge watershed is not adversely affected.

Lois James (284-6409)  
Save the Rouge Valley System

## A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE - Part 17

## Blackbirds and Orioles

Blackbirds.

1. Blomme, Chris, 1978. An albino Red-winged Blackbird at Burwash, Ontario. The Ontario Field Biologist 32(1): 47.
2. Churcher, Charles S., 1962. Yellow-headed Blackbirds breeding at Rainy River, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 76(2): 122.
3. Devitt, O.E., 1969. First nesting records of Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus) for King Township and Simcoe County, Ontario. The Ontario Field biologist 23: 41-42.
4. Fairfield, George, 1961. A nesting study of Redwinged Blackbirds. The Ontario Field Biologist 15: 24-25.
5. Joyner, David E., 1978. Use of old-field habitat by Bobolinks and Red-winged Blackbirds. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 92(4): 383-386.
6. Judd, W.W., 1960. Redwinged Blackbird nesting in a New England Aster. The Bulletin (FON) 88: 28.
7. Long, R. Charles and Audrey Russ, 1968. Rusty Blackbird kills house Sparrow. The Ontario Field-Biologist 22: 28.
8. Middleton, A.L.A., 1977. Predatory behaviour by Common Grackles. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 91(2): 187.
9. Richards, J.M., 1968. Nesting of Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus) in Ontario and Durham Counties. The Ontario Field Biologist 22: 25-27.
10. Speirs, J. Murray, 1954. Brewer's Blackbird nesting at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The Bulletin (FON) 65: 29.
11. Stepney, Philip K.R., 1975. Tree nesting sites and a breeding range extension of Brewer's Blackbird in the Great Lakes Region. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 89: 76-77.
12. Taylor, Robert R., 1959. Redwinged Blackbird's nest with a roof. The Ontario Field Biologist 13: 35.
13. Waltho, Ed, 1970. Brown-headed Cowbird gathering nesting material. The Ontario Field biologist 24: 37.
14. Weatherhead, Patrick J., Robert G. Clark, J. Roger Bider and Roger D. Titman, 1980. Movements of blackbirds and starlings in Southwestern Quebec and Eastern Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 94: 75-79.
15. Wood, D.M., 1955. Nesting of Brewer's Blackbird at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The Ontario Field biologist 9: 23.
16. Woodford, J., 1955. Grackle's feeding behaviour. The Ontario Field Biologist 9: 25.

Orioles.

1. Murray, H.W.H., 1962. A feeding habit of Baltimore Orioles. The bulletin (FON) 95: 11.
2. Judd W.W., 1963. Nests of the Baltimore Oriole along some roads in Southern Ontario. The Cardinal 47: 7-8.
3. Denis, Keith, 1976. Scott's Oriole near Thunder bay, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 90: 500-501.

Bruce D. Parker

# The Miscellany...

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

Fire in Our National Parks - An Ecological Perspective by Max Finkelstein, and Why Preserve Wild Areas and Species by Stan Rowe, 8 pp & 4 pp resp., two articles from Park News Fall, 1982, Vol. 18, No. 3, concerning Canada's national parks.

World Rainforest Destruction - the Social Factors, article from The Ecologist Vol. 12 No. 1 Jan/Feb/82. Present model of development seen as the problem in deforestation with its large-scale commercial operations, pressure to produce for world markets, with landless peasants in role of scapegoat. 18 pages, illustrated.

Why are There So Many Kinds of Flowering Plants? by William C. Burger, an article under column "Dialogue" in BioScience Vol. 31, No. 8, Sept./81. 6 pp. including a companion article under the same title by G. Ledyard Stebbins. On the evolution of plants.

Thinking Ahead, article from Harvard Business Review Nov/Dec./80. Sub-title Making Pollution Prevention Pay, by Michael G. Royston. "New no-waste technologies in use around the world can help companies meet their goals of profit, growth and survival". 5 pp plus 5 pp of bibliography, sources.

World Health, September 1973, an issue on medicinal plants, illustrated with black-and-white reproductions of old paintings and woodcuts and some photographs.

ALL OF ABOVE SUBMITTED BY JIM HODGINS.

Urbanization in the Rouge River Watershed prepared for Save the Rouge Valley System Inc. by Rouge Valley Information Project, Feb., 1983. 59 pp with appendices, maps and charts.

Drinking Water - Make it Safe, by Monica Campbell, Pollution Probe, 1983, 24 pp plus tables.

SouthLake Simcoe Conservation Authority ESA Study, 1982

ESA Study Draft, Metropolitan Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, 1982.

Landscape Rehabilitation - Procedures to alleviate damage related to construction, 1982. Student Report by Emile Borges, Landscape Architecture, University of Toronto.

Amphibians and Reptiles in Metro Toronto, 1982, by Bob Johnson (original report), a student report for York University. With distribution maps.

Natural Wetland, Heart Lake District (Brampton area), by Debbie Fortier, 4 pp, 1983. An Environmentally Significant Areas Study.

The Review, Imperial Oil Limited, No. 2, 1983. Sent to us by the editor, Mr. Kenneth Bagnell. Includes article (4 pp plus coloured illustrations) To Save a Whooping Crane by Dick Brown. Also Where Dinosaurs Roamed "hunting for clues in Alberta's ancient cemetery" by Ted Ferguson (3 pp plus colour illustrations).

Rocks and Minerals Information 1983, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. An Ontario Geology Map on the cover of this bibliography: General; Collecting; Maps; Air Photo Sources; Topographic Map sources; Industrial; Government brochures, films, Ont. Mineral and Lapidary Dealers; List of Geoscience Clubs in Ontario; Earth Science Periodicals list. Sent to us by Mr. Trevor Sobrian, Geoscience Information Office, Ontario Geological Survey. A free copy may be obtained from Public Service Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1W3.

Black Walnuts - tough to crack but worth it by Helen English from Toronto Star Nov. 10, 1982, "Forager's File" column. How to go about collecting and hulling wild walnuts, and a recipe. Mary Cumming submitted this clipping and has also included a table of the nutrient-content of black walnuts, from McGraw Hill's Nutrition Almanac 1975, as well as a comparison between the black and English walnuts. (The former has a much higher protein content in relationship to fat content, and therefore nutritionally preferable.)

The State of the World's Children 1982-83 by James P. Grant, UNICEF. 11 pp. Included in this report are some aspects of interest to environmentalists: Statistically-backed information on how feeding children reduces birth rates, and arguments in favour of small labour-intensive farms for higher food production.

Scarborough Planning Report. #24 - Recommendation Report - Environmental Policies - Natural Environment, 1983. 57 pages, including attached correspondence, plus 2 maps "Waste Disposal Sites Area of Influence" and "Environment Designations".

Creepy Crawlers Slink Into Print by Janice Bradbeer in Topical 14/22 Nov.26/82, published by the Civil Service Commission. Illustrated with picture of Barbara Froom and her reptile and amphibian friends. About Miss Froom and how she became our expert on Canadian reptiles and amphibians and prepared all those wonderfully helpful guides - in her spare time! Submitted by M. Cumming.

A Bird and Mammal List of Phillip Island (a bird island off the coast of Victoria, Australia)...with map of the island.(Reptile and amphibian list included as well). Submitted by Alex Malcolm who received it from his daughter now teaching in Melbourne.

Directory to Environment Canada, Ontario Region. No. 2, Apr./83. A "Who-to-call" list for all services - atmospheric, forestry, wildlife, environmental, inland waters, lands, water research, parks. Mr. Ferguson of Environment Canada, suggests that those interested in receiving 1982 public consultation response report should call Joan Caverly at 966-5840.

Working for Wildlife, World Wildlife Fund report Vol. 3, Nos. 11 and 12, 1982. A tabloid-size newspaper, liberally illustrated, about environmental problems and species status throughout the world.

## A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

The following item is taken from THE GUELPH FIELD NATURALIST, Volume 13, No. 4, February-March 1983.

### Respect for Wildlife and Plants

Your primary regard must be for the welfare of the living organisms in the environment.

Think of plants as a community of established neighbours. Avoid activities which will alter a plant's environment or endanger its chances of survival. Keep to established paths and trails, when these are provided, being especially careful on slopes and areas where vegetation is sparse and where loss of plants may result in erosion.

Removal of neighbouring plants or leaf cover when preparing to photograph a plant may alter the shade or wind exposure to which each plant has adapted and on which it depends.

Examine or photograph a plant without crushing nearby plants. Find a specimen beside a path or in a bare area. Use a right-angled view finder and rest on one knee for low plants, instead of lying prone on a ground sheet. To examine a specimen for identification bend down and use a hand lens instead of picking or uprooting the plant. Carry a field guide or photograph or sketch the specimen instead of carrying it home. Removal of one plant may endanger survival of a rare species.

Carefully replace rocks that are overturned to examine life beneath.

Observe wildlife from a respectful distance. Alarm, which results in panic, may cause injury to the animal. Avoid noise; listen and observe without disturbing wildlife. You will see and learn more.

Birds are easily disturbed, especially when nesting. Avoid the use of bird calls. Birds depend on hidden nests to avoid predators. Observe nests from a distance with binoculars, and quickly move away. Eggs or nestlings may not survive long exposure to cold ambient temperatures or hot sun. If photography is necessary, use a telephoto lens from a distance. Branches, leaves or grasses should not be removed from around a nest.

Raptor nests and colonies of nesting birds should not be visited. Even at the expense of adding that rare bird to your life list, do not harass it by relentless stalking.

...There is...a custom called "air burial", in which the body of the deceased is set out on a wild crag to be rended and devoured by the wild beasts; when only the bones are left, these are broken and ground down to powder, then mixed into lumps of dough, to be set out again for passing birds. Thus all is returned into the elements, death into life.

From The Snow Leopard by Peter Matthiessen, The Viking Press, New York, 1978

STRINGING THE PIGEONS A LINE
------------------------------

Coo! Coo! Coo! The lulling voice of a pigeon is definitely not that at 5 a.m. outside my bedroom window for several days in a row. This soft looking grey bird, deciding that my balcony made a good roosting site was flying in when the sun set and getting up when it rose, greeting the dawn with its half hour of cooing. It wouldn't have been annoying except that I needed that last hour of sleep to survive a busy schedule in a pleasant frame of mind.

When I was definitely awake, she would take off to get food for her three babies which were huddled together in a sort of a nest on the balcony above me. Why didn't she spend the night with them, keeping them warm?

What to do? As a so-called "bird-watcher" and conservationist I really couldn't take drastic steps.

One TFN member that I met on an outing advised using vinegar. If it were poured on the places the pigeon liked to sit, the bird would stay away for two to three weeks. I tried this but found it helpful only in cleaning up the mess that was accumulating under the roost. Considering the fact that I'd been told that pigeon droppings spread disease, I was somewhat grateful for vinegar's use.

Other tenants in the building had placed cheap plastic windmills on their balconies to scare the pigeons away, but I figured that the noise they made would be as objectionable as the cooing.

A cut-out silhouette of a pigeon hawk on the window below the bird's roost had no effect at all, so I decided to try a flying silhouette, hanging it from the plant hanger that was the bird's roost. This worked for a few days until she got used to it and figured that this object was no threat.

A naturalist friend made me a cardboard owl to set up on the balcony. This seemed to be doing the trick until a week later I noticed my pigeon sitting beside the owl trying to be friendly.

Then she brought her "husband" for the night and I tried scolding. Didn't they realize that they should be better parents, taking care of their young upstairs who were probably freezing? This worked on a few occasions, but usually they would return and I would have to go out and try again.

Finally, I tried a fishing line six centimetres above the railing, stretching it from one end of the balcony to the other, much like the mono-filament line used at Toronto's City Hall and Ontario Place to prevent gulls from using the sites. The fishing line is almost invisible, looking like a strange form of spider web.

The pigeons have not been back!

Because many TFN members have been faced with the same problem, I hope that my experience will be of some use in dealing with the situation. A fishing line -- such a simple solution and, so far, the only successful one.

Beth Jefferson

<u>Resisting pollution:</u>
-----------------------------

We have no vaccine against it: our immune system evolved to stave off living creatures.
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(from "A Naturalist at Large" by Celso Bianco in <u>Natural History</u> , March 1978)
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## Strange Sightings

We are all familiar with pellets which are regurgitated by owls. The bird usually swallows its prey whole and then coughs up the bones and fur which it cannot digest. This process is usually associated with owls, but other birds of prey do the same thing. Even gulls have been known to cough up pellets.

I had not realized that shrikes also regurgitate pellets until a friend and I actually witnessed it happening. We were walking along Etobicoke Creek when we spotted a northern shrike sitting at the top of a small tree. As we looked at him through our binoculars he began heaving just as someone does who is in the process of being sick. After stretching his neck out and opening his mouth very wide three or four times we saw a small pellet pop out and fall to the ground. We went below the tree to try and find the pellet but we were unsuccessful.

We found that watching things like this are not only interesting but can be quite humorous. Listers who never really watch birds miss out on some real entertainment!

Roger Powley

### RESPONSE TO STRANGE SIGHTINGS III\*

#### PET PIGEONS

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a former "pigeon-keeper" I was interested to read of E. Suzanne Poodrey's account of pigeons tumbling, as reported in the March newsletter. Although I did not keep Tumblers (I bred Racing Homers and a few Fancy pigeons), I hope the following information may be of use to you.

There are many breeds and varieties of domestic pigeons. Tumblers belong to the breeds of pigeons that have been developed for their high-flying and tumbling abilities. Many varieties of today's Tumblers have lost their ability for sustained tumbling and are now kept mostly as "fancy birds" for show. Rollers and Tipplers are the pigeons kept for high-flying today. High-flying pigeons fly up to a height and then tumble down and level off. Their actions are described as spinning (backward somersaults), rolling, tumbling, etc.

The keeping of domestic pigeons is a rewarding hobby. The breeds and varieties seem almost endless and range from the Racing Homer to more exotic breeds like Fantails, Oriental Frills and Pouters.

There are many books about pigeons available in libraries, the most complete being The Pigeon by Wendall Mitchell Levi.

Beverly Cattle

\* TFN (354) 18, M83, TFN (356) Ma 83

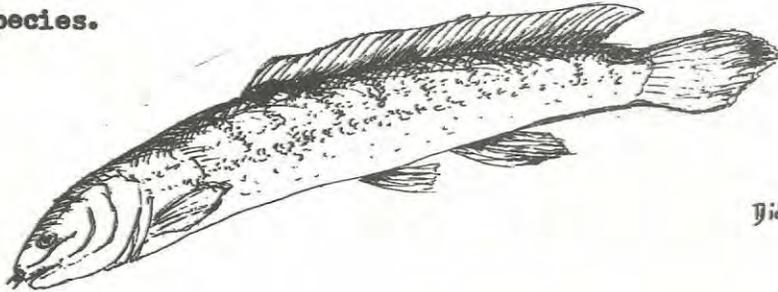
THE BOW FIN

The Bow Fin\* is found in the Great Lakes Region of Canada and the United States, in the Mississippi Valley and the southeastern United States. Its single, large, bony plate at the throat is recognizable from those of fossils dating back to the Mesozoic time.

A foot in length, with small, modern scales, and a large mouth, it has a long, flexible dorsal fin and a rounded pectoral fin. But its caudal fins are more heterocercal than that of modern fishes, and so provide a clue to its past. The Bow Fin is a strong, tough, voracious fish. It can breathe with an air bladder which supplements its gills enabling it to survive in foul waters or out of water.

(EXCERPT FROM "RELIC FISH MEMBERS OF ANCIENT ORDER", IN ZOO, the newsletter of the Metropolitan Toronto Zoological Society November/December, 1982.)

\*Amia calva, a Toronto species.

MORE URBAN NATURAL HISTORY

I am still looking for names of streams anywhere in Metropolitan Toronto. It is hoped that they will eventually be recognized and have signs with their names on them where they are crossed by roads, bike paths or major footpaths.

To date, I have found a great number of names including Lavender Creek. There is also a Darling Brook (a tributary of the Humber that is just south of Silver Creek and north of James Gardens), and Wilcott Creek (not Tyrell Creek), the "Morningside Tributary" of the Rouge River.

If you have any information or want to know if the small stream near your house has a name, call me at 923-1909.

Gavin Miller

Turkey vultures' ability to smell has in recent years been put to an unexpected use: leaks in natural gas pipelines can sometimes be found by looking for kettles of vultures, drawn to the spot by the rotten-egg smell, which is added to the gas for safety's sake.

from "The View from Hawk Mountain" by Michael Harwood, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1973

# COMING EVENTS

## COMING EVENTS

### Royal Ontario Museum

The following programs will be presented in the ROM Theatre.  
For more information, telephone 978-5475.

Films at 12:00 noon, Tuesdays - Free admission for seniors.

Oct. 4 - Save the Panda

Oct. 11 - Polar Bear Alert

Oct. 18 - Gorilla

Oct. 25 - Last Stand in Eden

Sat. Oct. 8) 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. - Snakes Alive - Jim Lovisek.

Sun. Oct. 9) Tickets \$1.00.

Sun. Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. NFB Films - Fine Feathers; The Hoarder;  
The Great Blue Heron. Free admission.

### Clive and Joy Goodwin

The Goodwins have the following activities planned for October.  
For more information & fees call 249-9503.

Attracting Birds to the Garden -

Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m. - Humber Arboretum

Oct. 24, 2:00 or 7:30 p.m. - Civic Garden Centre.

Late Fall Migrants along the Eastern Waterfront. A one-day,  
window van trip. Starts 8:00 a.m. to about 5:00 p.m.

### Long Point Bird Observatory

Wed. Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. - Royal Botanical Gardens Centre, Hamilton.

Fall meeting and Baillie Birdathon Draws. LPBO members \$2.00;  
others \$3.00. Limited to 450. Send reservation to

LPBO Fall Meeting, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0.

Telephone (519) 586-2909.

### Environment Canada

October 27-29 - Hamilton Convention Centre. Environment Canada's  
Public Consultation Conference, "Environmental Challenges: 1983".  
For further information contact Maureen Martinuk (416) 966-6406.

### Royal Botanical Gardens

The following events will take place at the Royal Botanical  
Gardens, Hamilton. For more information contact:

Royal Botanical Gardens,

Box 399, Hamilton, Ont. L8N 3H8 Telephone (416) 527-1158

Oct. 8-9 - Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary, Point Pelee Park.

Overnight trip. Fee \$5.00 per family.

Oct. 17, 8:00 p.m. - Unusual Vegetables and Fruits. Fee \$4.00.

Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m. - A Thursday in Autumn. Fee \$13.00.

### Durham Region Field Naturalists

Durham Region Field Naturalists will present An Evening with  
Robert Bateman and his Travels in the Arctic, November 28,  
at 8:00 p.m., in Eastdale Collegiate, Oshawa. Tickets \$5.00;  
Seniors and Students \$3.00.

Telephone Durham Region Field Naturalists, 576-0492.

North York Environmental Week, Fairview Mall, Oct. 3-8. TFN will be  
having a display there.

TORONTO SESQUICENTENNIAL  
EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

(See also page 13.)

In celebration of the publication of the first Sesquicentennial award-winning book, A Little Wilderness: The Natural History of Toronto, Oxford University Press and the Toronto Sesquicentennial Board invite you to attend an evening with author/photographer Bill Ivy. Exhibition of photographs, slide show, booksigning, refreshments. Oct. 28, 7-9 PM, Ecology House, 12 Madison Ave., near Bloor and Spadina. For further information call Margo Beggs, 441-2941.

▷ BLACK CREEK PROJECT - WORK DAY ◁

An outing of the Black Creek Project will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 9 a.m. Anyone wanting to participate is asked to bring lunch, dry clothes, rubber boots or waders, and work gloves. Meet at the parking lot of the Dalziel Barn. Enter off Jane Street (second driveway north of Steeles Avenue). Please call Gavin Miller (923-1909) if you plan to attend.

HISTORY OF HIGH PARK

From September 24 to November 20, the Market Gallery, 95 Front St. E., Toronto, will feature a display by City of Toronto Archives tracing the development of High Park from a 19th century gentleman's estate to its present role as a city park. Early maps of the park will be complemented by photographs and water colours by Toronto artists.

Gallery hours are:

Sunday 1:00 - 4:00

Monday, Tuesday closed

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 - 4:00

Saturday 9:00 - 4:00

Telephone 947-7604.

**ATTENTION, PHOTOGRAPHERS!!**

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA has announced a wildlife photography award program, and is inviting Canadian amateur and professional photographers to submit on or before November 30, 1983, high-quality colour transparencies in the following categories:

**Waterfowl Species:** Photographs in which the birds themselves constitute the major element within the photograph either as individual specimens or in flocks.

**Marshland Wildlife:** Photographs which depict the many species (shorebirds, song birds, mammals, insects, plants, etc.) that depend on wetland habitat for their survival.

**Marshland Values:** Photographs which illustrate the role marshes play in maintaining the quality of our environment by providing recreational, social and economic benefits to the communities and individuals who live around them.

For rules and entry forms, write to:

Ducks Unlimited Canada

1190 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. R3T 2E2

# TFN MEETINGS



## GENERAL MEETINGS

Board of Education Centre, 6th Floor Auditorium  
155 College Street, at McCaul

Monday, October 3, 1983, 8:15 p.m. (Coffee at 7:30)

"Participation Plus" -- Students do care about environmental quality and are willing to put thoughts into action. -- You can too.

- Janice Palmer.

Janice Palmer is past president of ZPG of Canada, current chairman of TRAC, and newly elected to the FON Board of Directors. Her Environmental Studies students at North Toronto Collegiate show willingness to spend time and energy on various environmental projects, some big, some small. Over ten of these will be discussed and illustrated with slides. Students who care, and act accordingly, are our real hope for improved environmental quality.

These student projects will give you ideas for personal citizen involvement -- what to do when you are confronted with an environmental concern.

Monday, November 7, 1983, 8:15 p.m.

"The Niagara Escarpment - Past, Present and Future"  
- Lyn MacMillan and Steve Varga.

### 1983-84 Programme

As this is the 60th anniversary of the founding of the TFN, we have tried to concentrate the lectures around a theme of Toronto and its close environs.

Following is a schedule of speakers and tentative topics for the rest of the year. Remember all meetings will be on a Monday evening.

Nov. 7, 1983. Lyn MacMillan) "The Niagara Escarpment - Past,  
Steve Varga ) Present and Future"

Dec. 5, 1983. David Malloch - "Mushrooms of the Toronto Area"

Jan. 9, 1984. Slide-sound production: "Oshawa Second Marsh -  
A Resource to Protect". An official from  
Environment Canada will be present to answer  
questions.

Movie: "Osprey"

Feb. 1, 1984. Dave Copeland - Programme on Hawks

Mar. 5, 1984. Peter Fetterolf - "Are the Gulls Ruining Toronto?"

Apr. 2, 1984. Clive Goodwin - "Bird Finding Around Toronto"

May 7, 1984. Ed Freeman - Programme on Toronto's geological past

SIP, SHOP, AND SOCIALIZE

Members and friends are invited to come to our monthly general meetings early -- about 7:30 p.m. Coffee will be available (free) and all our publications for sale. (Save on postage by buying at the meetings.) Also artwork (prints of various newsletter covers) will be for sale. This October, November and December, Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) Christmas cards will be for sale: Blue Jay, \$4.50; Grey Squirrel, \$4.25; Ermine, \$3.75; Screech Owl, \$3.50; Red Fox, \$2.00. These prices are for ten cards and include tax.

Anyone wanting information about making announcements or putting up a display before our meetings should contact Billie Bridgman (749-7860).

GROUP MEETINGSBird Group

Thur. Oct. 13 Introducing Birds Record Committee in Ontario -  
8:00 p.m. Bruce Parker

Location: Room 251, Education Centre, 155 College Street at McCaul

: : : : : : : : : : : :

Botany Group

Thur. Oct. 20 Plant Identification Workshop - Get to Know Your  
7:30 p.m. Sedges

Location: Botany Building, University of Toronto. Room 207B  
Northwest corner of College and University, just north  
of greenhouses.

: : : : : : : : : : : :

Environmental Group

Thur. Oct. 27 Toronto Beaches and the Waterfront; Pollution Issues  
7:30 p.m. - Joanna Kidd, Researcher for Pollution Probe

Location: Huron Street Public School, 541 Huron Street,  
1 block west of St. George Subway Station.

: : : : : : : : : : : :

Junior Club

Sat. Oct. 1 Pollution in the Great Lakes -  
10:00 a.m. Kai Millyard, Pollution Probe

Location: Planetarium Auditorium, immediately south of ROM

ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE PROGRAMS COMMENCE

On October 29 at 8:15 PM Dr. Alan Emery, President of the RCI, and recently appointed as director for the National Museum of Canada (Natural Sciences), will lecture on FIJI, above and below water: The story of a Canadian marine scientist's expedition. It is an illustrated lecture based on Dr. Emery's trip to Fiji this spring. Location: Convocation Hall, University of Toronto. If you wish to arrive when the doors open at 7:30, you can enjoy the music - a recital by the Lawrence Park Collegiate Choir.

Watch for future notices under "Coming Events" of programs for RCI's new season. They are often of interest to naturalists and admission is free.



Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Juhola  
 51 Alexander Street Apt. 112  
 Toronto, Ontario  
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TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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Members are encouraged to submit notices, reports, articles up to 1500 words in length, and illustrations 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, same address) - \$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 available  
 from 83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto,  
 and are for sale at monthly General Meetings.

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