



TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 359, November 1983



A summer and a winter joy

See page 4

President's Report

Congratulations to our members on the new Toronto Region Bird Chart. I hope everyone will feel free to phone in confirmation and additional facts so that information is kept up to date and becomes continuously more accurate. The same comment applies to the amphibian and reptile booklet. We need current information on ALL metro sightings, not just the unusual ones. Information like how many, what sex, and what are they doing is all useful. Bruce Parker for birds (evenings 449-0994), and Bob Johnston for reptiles and amphibians (days 284-8181), will be glad to receive material. The purpose of these two booklets is to provide the beginnings of two worthwhile projects and to encourage our members to take part in them. They are intended to be the opposite of intimidating!

The Junior Club is reorganizing for a new year under the direction of a new acting chairman, Alexander Cappell. We need people who like children to lead them to where they can find out about nature--to have an adventure together. It is not necessary to have knowledge of a nature subject but only to want to explore it with the children and have fun on the way.

The new room for our monthly meetings fits the group almost perfectly. The friendly atmosphere was enjoyed by all who commented. The proposed by-law and constitution changes were approved in principle and copies will be available in January.

Jane Gardner and her team have been working hard to distribute pamphlets about the TFN and particularly about the Junior Club.

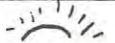
The Jim Baillie Nature Reserve: New signs have been erected. They were made by Tom Atkinson. Enjoy your visits, and please call me to let me know how things are going there.

According to the magazine Acres USA the chemical industry is girding up for a massive campaign to reinforce the use of herbicides (like 2,4-D). If the recent judgment (see page 16), based on lack of proven damage when the dioxin impurity is at this precise level of concentration is any indication, then the campaign has started off with a bang. Common sense and environmental soundness would dictate caution until safety is proven, rather than the other way round. We can expect the chemical companies to use this precedent as a lever to get into OUR backyards as this gives them an enormous area to distribute their wares. Profit without conscience is the name of the game, the bottom line. If this is the logical extension of our way of doing things, then the process needs to be changed. It is no more necessary to poison every inch before recognizing the need for stewardship than it is to lie down under a truck before recognizing the danger.

Mary Smith (231-5302)

Though it's getting dark
I can't draw the curtains yet.
The sunset's still there.

haiku by Diana Banville

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

- Wednesday SHERWOOD PARK - nature walk
 Nov. 2 Leader: E.Hamilton
 10.00 a.m Meet at the park entrance. (Take Nortown Eastbound #61 trolley-bus from subway, Eglinton station. Bus turns north on Mount Pleasant Road. Get off at Sherwood Road and walk east one block to park entrance.)
- Saturday November 5 Junior Club meeting (see page 21)
- Saturday TORONTO ISLAND - birds
 Nov. 5 Leader: Bob Yukich
 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. Bring lunch and your membership card, and please wear suitable footwear.
- Sunday LESLIE STREET SPIT - birds
 Nov. 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 21
- Tuesday November 8 Bird Group meeting. See page 21
- Saturday NATURE SKETCHING GROUP - Gallery Hopping
 Nov. 12 Leader: Mary Cumming
 10.00 a.m Meet at Bellair exit of the Bay subway station. Here's your chance to see exhibitions.
- Sunday LAVENDER CREEK - Urban Natural History
 Nov. 13 Leader: Gavin Miller
 1.00 p.m Meet at the north-east corner of St.Clair Ave.West and Keele Street. (Parking on corner). The walk will end at the same corner.
- Wednesday HIGH PARK - nature walk
 Nov. 16 Leader: Roger Powley
 10.00 a.m Meet at the Keele subway station.
- Wednesday November 16 Botany Group meeting. See page 21.

UPCOMING OUTINGS - continued

- Saturday MOSSES - 625 Rushton Road
 Nov. 19 Mr. Robert Muma
 1.30 p.m. This will be an indoor "outing", or "inning". Please call
 ▷ Emily at 484.0487 if you plan to attend.
- Sunday BELTLINE - Urban Natural History
 Nov. 20 Leader: Mrs. Esther Carin
 10.00 a.m. Meet on Eglinton Ave. West at Spadina Road in front of
 the Library Resources Centre. Walk will end at Avenue Rd.
- Thursday November 24 Environmental Group meeting. See page 21.
- Saturday CEDARVALE RAVINE - birds
 Nov. 26 Leader: Hugh Currie
 10.00 a.m. Meet at Loblaw's parking lot on the north side of St. Clair
 Avenue West, just east of Bathurst St.
- Sunday HUMBER BAY PARK - beached birds survey
 Nov. 27 Leader : Beth Jefferson
 1.00 p.m. Meet in the parking lot in the east half of the park.
 (#507 Long Branch car from Humber Loop to Park Lawn Road.
 Walk into the parking lot on the east side of Mimico Creek).
Cars. Drive in from the foot of Park Lawn Road at
 Lakeshore Boulevard.
- Wednesday RIVERDALE ANIMAL FARM & NECROPOLIS
 Nov. 30 Leader: Diana Park
 10.00 a.m. Meet at the farm entrance. (#506 Carlton Car to Gerrard
 and Sumach St.) Walk north to Winchester St. Go east on
 Winchester to farm entrance. No entrance fee.
- Saturday December 3 Junior Club meeting.
- Monday December 5 T.F.N. general meeting.

This Month's Cover

"Wild Bergamot" - drawn by Mary Cumming.

Picture these purple flowers as Mary saw them in the fields above the bluffs at the foot of Chine Drive. It was hard to find a good spot for her stool amid the long midsummer grasses. Being of the mint family accounts for their appeal in winter too, for the dried-up flower-heads with their suitable aroma lend themselves for service as a "sachet" to be placed in the drawer among the underthings. Ask Emily Hamilton to point out this favourite of hers on your next winter walk. (Scientific name Monarda fistulosa)

GOOD NEWS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

It seemed a bit odd, on the face of it, that the TFN would be receiving an invitation to the official opening of an oil refinery. Canadian Oil Company Limited is a re-refiner of used oils and the refinery represents a major step toward protecting the environment and recycling some of the billion litres of lubricating oils sold in Canada, most of which, up to now, could not be accounted for after use.

Used oil from service stations, shipyards, factories, airline and railway terminals, collected in several provinces, arrives at the refinery. Sophisticated modern instruments analyse the oil sufficiently in about twenty minutes to ensure that it is compatible with the refinery process. (Most loads are.)

Used oils contain metals. The first major step is to remove these by producing metallic phosphates. Process temperatures above 300°C effect other changes which enable the oil to be filtered. After filtration the oil is distilled which separates it into four different viscosities. A hydrogen treatment removes other unwanted materials such as sulphur and nitrogen. At the end of the cycle a light, clear, golden oil of highest quality is available for sale as a base stock for blending new products (motor oils, greases, etc.).

This refinery sets an excellent example to all manufacturers of products which are noxious or hazardous after use to look for ways to recycle them.

Canadian Oil is a wholly owned subsidiary of Shell Canada Limited. The technology was developed by Phillips Petroleum and adapted and modified by Shell. Environmentalists should be greatly heartened by the enlightened attitude of this company. (And they're making money!)

BAD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS FOR NATURALISTS

Did you know that TFN has a newspaper clippings file? Christine Watts organized two loose-leaf binders of newspaper clippings and indexed the material for us. More clippings need filing now. Topics include anything pertaining to natural history -- stories about plants, animals -- in the news, also environmental news such as stories about water pollution, ravines, etc.

Although some days the news seems to be all bad, we find that public awareness of environmental issues has increased considerably during the past few years because of the many stories in newspapers.

We like to collect such stories and use them as evidence when we speak to politicians who may not be aware that certain actions such as building close to ravines may be followed by disaster.

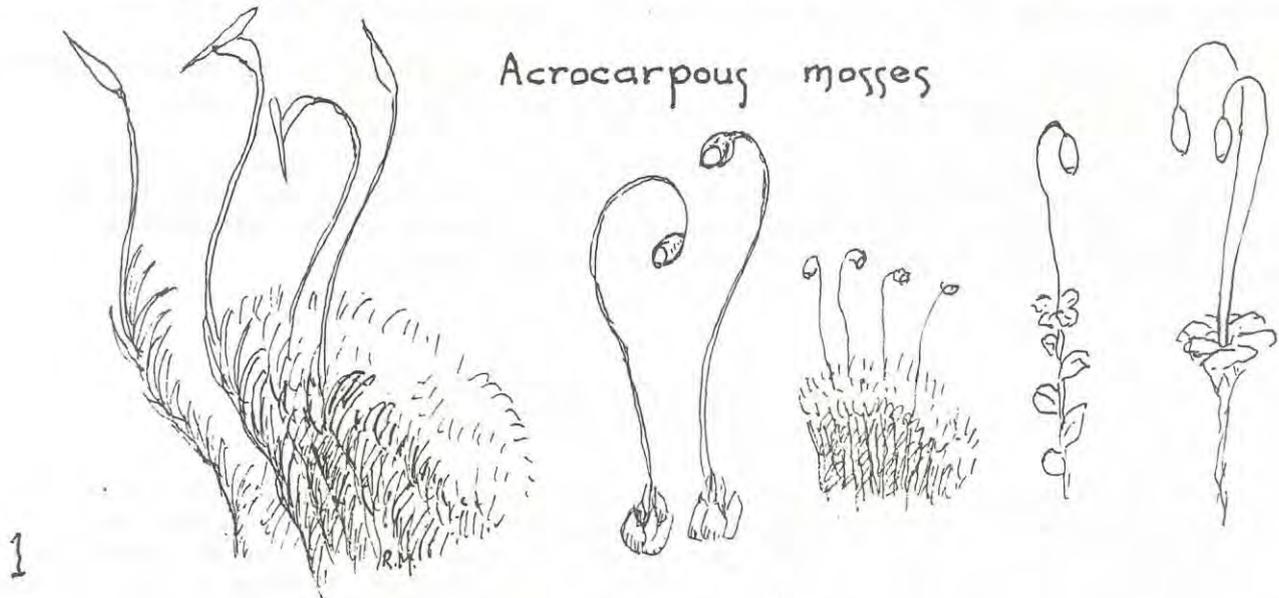
If you find clippings of interest or, better still, if you would like to help keep our file in order and report on the stories occasionally for the newsletter, please contact any member of the editorial committee.

MORE ABOUT MOSSES -- THE BRYIDAE

In the March and April issues of the Toronto Field Naturalist I described the two more primitive Classes of mosses, SPHAGNIDAE and ANDREAEIDAE. These are the two smallest groups as far as number of genera and species are concerned.

Now we come to the third and final Class called BRYIDAE which contains all other mosses numbering an estimated 10,000 species world-wide. The many genera represented in this great number of species can be neatly divided into two growth forms which seem to occur in roughly equal numbers in any given community. These two growth forms are known as (1) Acrocarpous mosses, and (2) Pleurocarpous mosses.

Acrocarpous mosses are the ones which grow upright as individual plants, either separately or very close together to form a turf, tuft or cushion. In this group the leaves nearly always have a costa or midrib, and the sporophyte grows from the tip or highest part of the plant (acros = highest; carpos = fruit). Some of the more common acrocarpous genera are Dicranum, Tortella, Barbula, Grimmia, Mnium, Bryum, Polytrichum, etc.

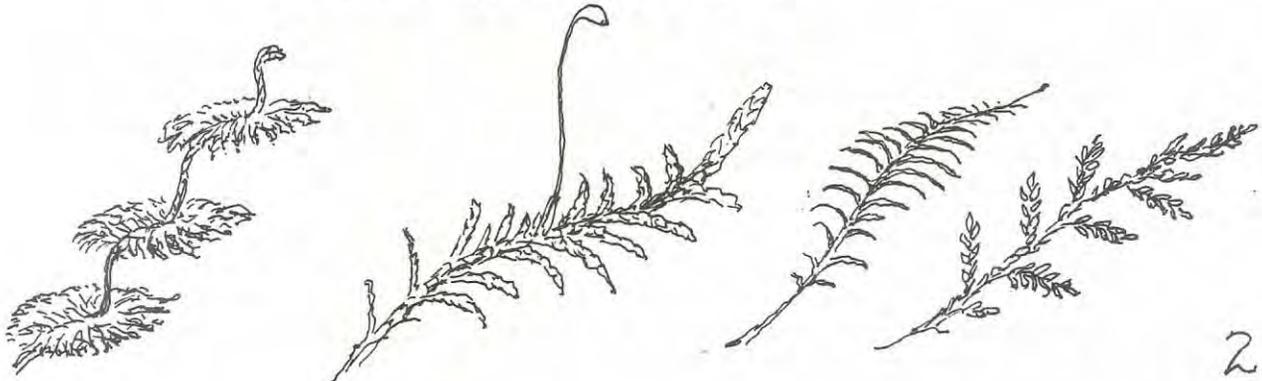


Pleurocarpous mosses are the ones which are recumbent or creeping plants on the ground, wood or rock surface. Some of these add new intertwining or overlaying growth each year to form mats. The leaves are usually without a costa and the sporophyte grows from the side of one of the branches of the plant (pleuro = side; carpos = fruit). Many of the pleurocarpous mosses are known popularly as "feather mosses" and "fern mosses" including the genera of Hypnum, Thuidium, Amblystegium, Brachythecium, Plagiothecium, Hylacomium, etc.

In any systematic guide to the mosses you will find the acrocarpous mosses in the first half of the book, and the pleurocarpous mosses in the latter half. There is one exception to this in the family of Polytrichaceae which includes Atrichum, Pogonatum and Polytrichum. These are recognized as more advanced forms by virtue of having a central core and the beginning of a true stem. They will be found always at the end of the book.

For all those who have found mosses confusing and difficult to identify, here is a simple field observation which will tell you at least which half of the book to look in for final identification of a given specimen! As a further aid to the novice in identifying mosses I have elaborated this principle of observation of growth forms into an illustrated "Graphic Key of generic probabilities for field identification of Mosses". These 13 mimeographed pages are available for \$2.50 or \$3.00 postpaid from Robert Muma, 625 Rushton Road, Toronto, Ontario, M6C 2Y8.

Pleurocarpous mosses ~



Robert Muma (654-5635)

CRAWFORD LAKE: The lake, located on top of the escarpment at the northern limit of Burlington, was formed 15,000 years ago as water from melting glaciers created vast cavities in the soluble escarpment dolomite. When these cavities became large enough, the surface material collapsed to form a sink hole. Fed by escarpment springs, Crawford Lake developed during this post-glacial period into a meromictic lake.

A meromictic lake is something similar to a time capsule. It is a lake so deep for its size that the lower levels of water are never disturbed by wind, temperature changes, or even by tiny aquatic animals. As a result, the lake bottom sediments provide scientists with a stratified historical record. And this curious phenomenon of meromixis occurs at Crawford Lake where the small surface area (2.5 hectares) and the extreme depth (24 metres) retards the annual turnover of surface water. Without this annual turnover little oxygen is present below 12 metres and, without oxygen, the bacterial breakdown is lessened in lake bottom sediments. Because lower levels of water are never disturbed, plant debris falling on the lake sinks to the bottom where it accumulates undisturbed to become a sensitive and complete record of the area's past history.

Crawford Lake is located on the east side of the Guelph Line on Steeles Avenue about four kilometres south of Highway 401 and the village of Campbellville.

(Cuesta, a Niagara Escarpment Commission Publication, Spring 1982)(See page 21)

Keeping in touch . . .

Dear Helen,

April 1983.

Just a note to say how often Edna and I think of the TFN and of you and the other members we knew. Edna was glowing over the usual full and newsy edition of the newsletter last night . . . it does remind us always of the vitality of the club.

I hear from one member or another from time to time, by phone or visit, and for all the mountaineering we do we surely miss the lush greenery and secret places of Toronto.

. . . We had a lovely visit from Katie and a girlfriend classmate from Trinidad. This was over Xmas and we ice-skated a lot and x-country skied. Edna prevailed on all of us to climb up Sulphur Mountain so we could take the gondola down for free. We did just that. . . It was fine for us old folks but the two students barely made it up the snowy, switchbacked trail.

. . . Very busy with CUSO, on their Alberta executive.

Wally Platts, Calgary.

August 6, 1983.

. . . Keep up the good work of an excellent bulletin, especially the in-depth articles. Like your sketches and bits of humour too. . .

Marion Martindale.

. . . Another splendid issue of the Newsletter. . . August 15, 1983.

Harold Taylor.

Dear TFN:

August 23, 1983.

So sorry to be so late but when one is over 80 things slip the mind. But I do remember many of the TFN meetings, especially one many years ago - held in Sherbourne United Church when a Scottish gentleman (name McKnight or just Knight) had 2 eagles with him and they flew about the hall until he whistled to them, when at once they went back to their perches beside him. I wonder how many of your members remember that?

K. A. Burkhardt

Ed. Note: Are there any members who do remember? Let us hear from you.

Dear Editorial Committee:

August 30, 1983.

Each month I enjoy so many of the articles and the small items, and when the enclosed clipping arrived from a friend in England, I wondered if it would interest and amuse your readers as it did me, so I am sending it along. Looking forward to the meetings when I return for the winter.

Mary Avison, Bolton Centre, P.Q.

Ed. Note: Mrs. Avison enclosed a charming true story about a bird that built her nest in the engine of a truck. Perhaps we can find room some time to share it with our members.

Dear Diana;

September 1983.

This is to say 'thank-you' to Jack Gingrich, his wife, Mary, and sons for his tremendous contribution to the Club for bringing to us the Audubon Wildlife Films for so many years.

As he stated in the September Newsletter, the responsibility of arranging the lectures can be nerve-racking at times. The large audiences that were maintained throughout the years proved the value and importance of this project for the Club. All who attended will retain the learning experiences and the enjoyment of magnificent scenery of these films.

As a committee of one, a sincere thank-you, Jack.

Mary Pannell.

OF INTEREST.....

Now available--- a ten-minute film which discusses the work done by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The purpose of the organization, which was established in 1963, is to assist with the purchase of crucial natural area land across Canada. The Conservancy cooperates with all established conservation organizations, both private and government, to achieve this objective. Anyone interested in having the film shown along with a general discussion about the Conservancy should call John Phair or Lloyd Mayeda at 486-1011 or write to the Nature Conservancy of Canada at 2200 Yonge Street, Suite 1710, Toronto M4S 2C6.

▷ A Guide to the Literature on the Herbaceous Vascular Flora of Ontario, 1978 by James L. Hodgins. Copies may be obtained for \$4.00 each (includes postage) from James L. Hodgins, 90 Wolfrey Avenue, Toronto M4K 1K8, or they may be purchased at our monthly meetings.

A new book about whales - Whales - A Celebration, edited by Greg Gatenby, Prentice-Hall and Lester & Orpen Dennys, 234 pages, \$55.00.

"A tremendous amount of effort has gone into the book, and it has obviously produced the desired results. It is appropriate that the only beneficiaries will be the whales and the readers; Gatenby and all the contributors have agreed to donate their earnings to the Greenpeace Foundation's Save the Whales Campaign."

BIRDS IN THE NEWS

TFN Library often receives newspaper clippings on the subject of birds - just about everybody's favourite subject. Interesting material has recently been received from George Comper, Mary Cumming, Emily Hamilton and Ian Ross. The subjects: Postage-stamp size backyard habitat; change in flight-pattern of Canada geese; parasitism of brown-headed cowbird; should rare bird occurrences be made public? (Tengalm's owl in Yorkshire, England); coping with raptor nests on hydro poles. Our members get around. The newspapers: TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL; LONDON FREE PRESS (Ont.); DAILY TELEGRAPH (UK); HYDROSCOPE(Ont.). 1983. Call 690-1963 if you would like to borrow (through the mail).

The Miscellany

Clippings, pamphlets, magazines, reports received for TFN Library.
If you would like to borrow any of them, call 690-1963 (after Oct.11)...

Long Point Bird Observatory 1981 Annual Report includes banding totals, recoveries, publications list. Handsomely illustrated.

Colorado Wild Flowers, a "Museum Pictorial" of the Denver Museum of Natural History, 1953. 64 pages. A page of copy with coloured illustration for each species. Each life-zone described. Donated by Peggy Love.

Flowering Periods for Common Desert Plants, Southwestern Arizona, clipping from "Gardens" in THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR, Tucson March 5, 1983. Full page with some illustrations and calendar (peak blooming in March). From George Comper.

The Welland Canal. Folder published by Region Niagara Tourist Council. Facts about the canal, points of interest, map. Aussi en français.

The Welland Canal Systems, An Introductory Field Guide by Dr. John N. Jackson, Brock U. 1979. 13 pp. Description, history, reading list.

A Nontechnical Summer Key to Fifty Common Trees of New York, reprinted from the Cornell 4-H Club Bulletin "Fifty Common Trees of New York" Bulletin 26 - December, 1927 rev. Dec./43. Submitted by Freda Slichter.

Key to Conifers of Ontario, Faculty of Education, UofT. 2pp.

Nature Photography. Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Folder explaining how to attract wildlife for photographing; ethics; suitable habitat.

Religion hampers cockroach battle LONDON FREE PRESS July 28 1976, and We'll 'never' stamp out cockroaches by Stef Donev TORONTO STAR April 15, 1978 clippings.

Household Spiders by Pandora Buckley and David Barr, illustrated by Julian Mulock. Royal Ontario Museum Folder. Seven species described, with drawings.

Focus, Board of Education, Borough of East York Apr./May/83. Just a small clipping from this publication showing pedal-powered car designed by a grade 9 student, Dave Batten, which won first prize in the East York Science Fair. Two Photos. Speed not mentioned but environmental consciousness appreciated.

Termites. Ministry of the Environment pamphlet, 7 pp with illustrations. Prevention stressed. Life History included.

Topical 15/7 April 8, 1983, Ontario Civil Service Commission newspaper, 8 pp. This issue has several items of interest to naturalists and environmentalists, on energy-saving ideas, Aylmer swan sanctuary, canoe routes. From Mary Cumming.

Tread lightly; the Flower matters. clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES, excerpt from "New England's Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants", on efforts to find more stands of Agalinis (Gerardia) acuta in northeastern U.S. Brooklyn College wants photographs but not herbarium samples. Illustration.

THE COMMON NIGHTHAWK IN THE TORONTO REGION

Though both Fleming (1907) and Goodwin (1979) state that the Common Nighthawk is a common resident in the Toronto Region its designation as a locally common summer resident (Tozer and Richards 1974) is more precise. Nighthawks frequent urban areas and their calls may be heard on any summer evening in the downtown core of Toronto as well as in such urban centres as Richmond Hill. Speirs (1976) reported that he did not have any July records for Pickering Township in 28 years. Nighthawks are absent from large areas of apparently suitable urban habitat in North York, Scarborough and Etobicoke.

The Common Nighthawk is one of our latest spring migrants, not returning until after the middle of May. Since 1940 it has appeared before May 15 in only ten years. The earliest date for the Toronto Region is one found at 'Toronto' by G. Lambert on April 6, 1947 following an exceptional weather pattern which brought many birds into the area well ahead of their normal time of arrival. (Gunn and Crocker 1951). The only additional April record is of one found at Oakville on April 27, 1969 by Angela Curry. Exceptionally early individuals have also been reported on May 7, 1950 at Grenadier Pond (J. Satterly, TOC) and May 8, 1965 at Pickering Beach (R.C. Long, OFB). R.M. Saunders (1947) gives May 10 as his earliest spring arrival date and May 5 as J.L. Baillie's earliest record.

Fall flocks of 40 or 50 individuals are regularly noted migrating along the lakeshore or down the river valleys in late August and early September. R. M. Saunders (1947) witnessed an exceptionally large movement at his home on McMaster Ave. on August 31, 1944, he counted 706 Nighthawks passing over in 45 minutes. Some additional high counts of migrating birds are 550 at Lorne Park on August 27, 1961 (D. Perks, TOC), 304 at Alderwood on September 6, 1965 (J. Jarvis, TOC), 150 at Richmond Hill on August 24, 1980 (D. Fewster, RHN) and 150 at the same locality on August 24, 1970 (O. Devitt, TOC). Usually only individuals or small flocks of four or five Nighthawks are encountered after September 10 but R. Trowern reported 50 on the late date of October 7, 1947 (TOC). R.M. Saunders (1947) gives his latest departure date as September 28 and J.M. Speirs' (1976) latest date is September 26. Fleming (1907, 1930) gives October 11, 1906 and October 10, 1918 as the latest departure dates for Toronto. Nighthawks were reported during October in 13 of the last 41 years (1940 to 1981). The latest departure records are of individuals at Britannia on October 12, 1959 (D. Gunn, TOC) and October 12, 1962 at Long Branch (D. Perks, TOC).

The only published nesting records are mentioned by Baillie and Harrington (1937). T. Glasgow found 2 eggs at Toronto on June 6, 1912 and 2 small young were seen on the roof of the Royal Ontario Museum on August 9, 1923 by J.L. Baillie.

Summary: Common late spring and early fall migrant, locally common summer resident, breeds. Mid-May to mid-September (occasionally in early May and late October).

Earliest, April 6.

Latest, October 12.

Bruce D. Parker

NATURAL HERITAGE RESTORATION

Also known as Chapman Creek (after one of its ravines) and Humber Creek (there is already a Humber River and its east and west branches), this creek should be known by its original name, Sturgeon.

Sturgeon Creek's lower reaches in Chapman Ravine, is one of the most scenic stream sections in the Metro area. Toronto's Ordovician shale bedrock is exposed here showing geologic/topographic formations such as ripple-marks, square cuts, incised meanders, and small fault lines. The creek is fairly unpolluted as evidenced by the snails that live in it and the large number of small to medium-sized fish in its final stretch between Scarlett Road and the Humber. A waterfall just east of the culvert under Scarlett Road prevents their swimming upstream.

After even a light rainfall flooding is becoming severe. The mature forest in the ravine occasionally loses a tree and topsoil is carried away. The shale bed of Sturgeon Creek is being torn up and very gradually widened. Properties may eventually be threatened.

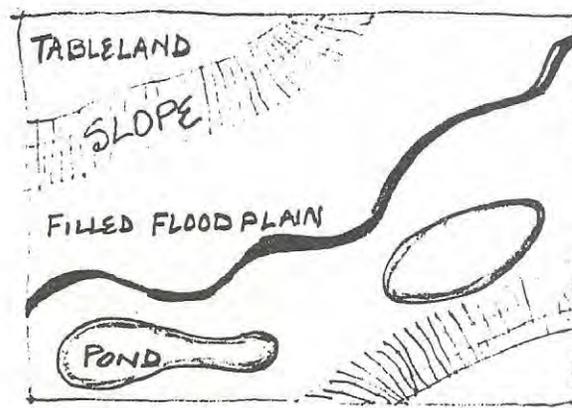
The floods are due to the urban location of the stream -- since there are now many large paved areas in the watershed such as Islington Avenue, Royal York Plaza, and some large apartment buildings.

There are also some piped sections of creek, including the entire headwaters section north of Dixon Road.

I would like to see the stream protected and a start made in restoring it to its original condition. I would like to see the damaging floods stopped and fish brought back. What would be involved?

-All sources of water into the stream would have to be located and pollution reduced by diverting polluted waters to the treatment plant.

-Parts of the floodplain that have been filled (e.g. east of Islington Avenue and in Sun Row and Wincott Parks) would have to be regraded to temporarily trap floodwaters when the creek overflows. Such retention ponds would require access for cleaning out surplus sand and silt.



Planting of vegetation such as cattails around and in the ponds would provide wildlife (bird) habitat and help to keep the water pure. Maybe the ponds could be used for skating in the winter. Larger paved areas such as Royal York Plaza should have their own cisterns to slow runoff.

The replacement of culverts by an above-ground streambed would have the following benefits:

- slowing of streamflow and reduction of flood peak levels downstream.
- exchange of oxygen and light to the creek, allowing it to be alive.
- aesthetic considerations: a stream, especially one that's uninterrupted, is more beautiful than a line of manholes.
- safety: along with reduced flood peak flows, there won't be any pipes for children to get flushed into.

To allow fish and aquatic life access to the whole creek, fishladders would have to be installed to by-pass falls and too-shallow riffles, e.g., east of Scarlett Road near the Humber River.

Vegetation would have to be planted densely on all sections of the creek upstream from Royal York Road to provide shade and shelter and to slow flood waters and prevent erosion. Along the creek, willows, poplars, and dogwoods would be useful. Native-tree planting in the parks is recommended. Sun Row Park could be reforested with hickory and white pine (on slopes), bur oak and black maple (on flood plain). Also much could be accomplished by replacing mown grass with meadowland wildflowers.

A final touch -- erect signs saying "Sturgeon Creek" where roads or paths cross it.

And finally, to protect Chapman Valley, the ravine could be given special status for natural unspoiled beauty. No asphalt bike trails or any other kind of major path through the ravine should be allowed. Any bike trail leading to the Humber in this area should be diverted to side streets.

Gavin Miller

NEWS FROM THE BLACK CREEK PROJECT

No members were disappointed with regard to wildlife sightings along Black Creek north of Steeles on Saturday, September 24, 1983. The group flushed a pair of Great Blue Herons, for example, and watched migrating Red-tailed Hawks and a large flock of doves. The group also witnessed a complete range of stream conditions, from recent diversions to charming natural areas and a variety of insults such as illegal dumping in the area of the existing industrial-commercial development. Everyone agreed that action is required if any semblance of Black Creek is to be maintained as major industrial subdivisions and Highway 407 are developed. For more information on Black Creek and what you can do to help please call John Maher at 592-5163 (days) or 241-3022 (evenings). See also pages 18 and 21.

The paradox of modern living is this: As we have raised our standards of what is safe, sanitary, attractively clean and desirable for our homes and our own persons, we have progressively made the world away from our homes dirtier, more contaminated, more polluted and foul-smelling. But always at a distance - out of our sight and out of our minds.

(from "Aspects of the Present" by Margaret Mead and Rhoda Metraux, William Morrow and Co., Inc., New York, 1980)

Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

JUNE, JULY and AUGUST, 1983

Exceptional Records:

American White Pelican - Glen Cody reported two White Pelicans at the Eastern Headland on June 18, these birds were present for at least 2½ hours. This is only the third time this species has been noted in the Toronto Region.

Orchard Oriole - A male was found by Sandy Cappell at the G. Ross Lord Park on June 10.

One or two Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons remained at the G. Ross Lord Park throughout the summer (SC). Some interesting duck reports include a female Wood Duck and 5 young at Amos Pond on July 1 (JCB), 5 Oldsquaw and 3 Common Golden-eye at Humber Bay Park on July 27 and July 18 respectively (BY) and a female Bufflehead at New Toronto in July (BJ).

Four Red-tailed Hawks in the Don Valley south of Overlea on July 17 and 21 (RW) represent the successful result of a nest which was reported nearby on June 4 (BY). An unseasonal visitor was a juvenile Cooper's Hawk on Glengrove Ave. on June 30 (JCB). An Osprey at the G. Ross Lord Park on Aug. 9 (SC) was early. Two agitated Virginia Rails were found at Humber Marsh #5 on June 2 (BW).

Shorebirds began returning in early July. At Grenadier Pond Bob Yukich found a Solitary Sandpiper on July 5, Lesser Yellow-legs and Semipalmated Sandpipers on July 6 and 6 Short-billed Dowitchers on July 10. Lesser Yellow-legs first appeared at G. Ross Lord Park on July 15 (SC). An Upland Sandpiper at Con. 3 Pickering Twp. on July 1 (JCB) was probably 'on territory' but one at High Park on July 22 (BY) was a migrant. As many as 12 Stilt Sandpipers were at Corner Marsh on July 31 (MS) and 4 were at Ashbridge's Bay on Aug. 8 (HK). A Wilson's Phalarope was at Cranberry Marsh on Aug. 13 (HK).

Exceptionally unseasonal gulls were an Iceland Gull for most of the summer at Whitby and a Glaucous Gull at Sunnyside on July 5 and 6 (BY). Caspian Terns at G. Ross Lord on July 15 (SC), Common Terns at Claireville on July 31 (SC) and a Black Tern at Grenadier Pond on July 10 (BY) indicate post-breeding movements of these species.

Two adult and 2 fully feathered young Great Horned Owls were found in the Colonel Danforth Park on June 2 (CG).

A late Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Pine Point Park on June 2 (MK) and an early Swainson's Thrush was banded on Mugg's Island on Aug. 13 (GF, BP). A Gray Catbird which had been banded on Mugg's Island on May 21 was retrapped there on Aug. 13 (GF, BP). Three young Cedar Waxwings were found at Leslie and Sheppard on Aug. 1 (WG).

Spring warbler migration regularly extends into early June (a Blackpoll Warbler was still at Pine Point on June 4, MK) and fall migrants often return in late July (at High Park there was an Ovenbird on July 22, Blackburnian Warbler on July 21 and a Northern Waterthrush on July 31, BY). A Yellow-rumped Warbler was banded on Mugg's Island on Aug. 13 (GF, BP).

Contributors: Glen Cody, Sandy Cappell, Jack Cranmer-Byng, Bob Yukich, Beth Jefferson, Rita McWhinnie, Bruce Wilkinson, Murray Speirs, Harry Kerr, Carol Griffin, Mark Kubisz, George Fairfield, Bruce Parker, Wendel Gaves.

Everyone is invited to send his/her observations of birds in the Toronto Region. Please send your reports to Bruce D. Parker, TH 66, 109 Valley Woods Road, Don Mills, M3A 3R8, or phone 449-0994.

Special Request --- Don't forget to continue to report all observations of House Finches and Screech Owls in the Toronto Region, a special report on these species will appear in the Toronto Field Naturalist.

Bruce D. Parker

THE WHOOPING CRANES COME HOME - 1983

These notes are condensed from Ernie Kuyt's column in the Nature Society News July, 1983.

Ernie Kuyt is a biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, and is in charge of the program on the study of the breeding status of the Whooping Cranes in Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories. During 1981 he radio-tracked a family from their breeding-grounds to their winter range in Aransas National Wildlife Park in Texas. (See TFN #354, March 1983.)

In 1983 he tracked a family returning to their breeding-ground. This was a family with one chick hatched in 1982. They left Aransas at 10:00 AM on April 9 and arrived at their breeding-ground April 22 in the evening. The 2400 miles were covered in fourteen flying days (they rest at night). On four days they were grounded by bad weather. They averaged seven hours daily, at about 33 MPH.

An aside of the study undertaken was to determine when the parents abandoned their chick. This family took the chick to an area of the park where many one- to three-year-old immature birds are observed each year; then they all flew to last year's nest site. Some days later the nest had one egg in it and the juvenile was not there with his parents, but was back in the area where immature birds spend the summer.

This year there were 23 nests, but predators destroyed three of them. (Cranes lay two eggs.) 18 eggs were shipped to Gray's Lake, Idaho, to be incubated by Sandhill Cranes. (The world population has passed 100 birds - from a low of 27 in 1938.)

EH

IN THE NEWS

CHICKADEE OFFICIAL BIRD OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Premier Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick pronounced the coming out of the black-capped chickadee as the province's official bird. And Lieutenant-Governor George Stanley issued a proclamation making the designation official. The chickadee was chosen as a result of votes cast in a contest conducted by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists. Four feathered candidates were in the running: the chickadee, the U.S. robin, the grey jay, and the white-throated sparrow. In the end the chickadee proved to be a compelling choice and captured 44 per cent of the more than 2,200 votes cast. Its qualifications for office include a liberated attitude (the male of the species eagerly assists his mate in nest-building and caring for the young) and its role as a harbinger of spring: the bird's piercing call of "Phe-be Phe-be" is a certain sign that winter is ending.

from THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Saturday, August 20, 1983

BOATING APPROVED FOR G. ROSS LORD DAM RESERVOIR

North Yorkers will be able to float on -- but not swim in -- the G. Ross Lord Dam reservoir next summer. The City is planning to open the half-mile-long lake to recreational boating starting next June 15. For the past 10 years, residents were warned to keep clear of the 50-acre lake at the corner of Dufferin St. and Finch Ave. since the water has always been considered too polluted. But North York Mayor Mel Lastman wanted a place for boating in the middle of the city, and he finally got it. Metro parks and works department, the Ministry of the Environment, the North York medical officer of health and the Metro conservation authority have all given their approval for boating in the reservoir. Lastman says that by next summer a dock will be installed and paddleboats and rowboats will be rented. No privately owned boats will be allowed on the water, and Lastman says there will be lifeguards to watch that no one slips in for a quick dip.

from THE TORONTO STAR, Aug. 17, 1983

GARBAGE TO BE RECYCLED

Kitchener is about to undertake a garbage recycling project described by the Ontario Environment Ministry as the largest such scheme of its kind in Canada. Beginning Monday, the company that hauls garbage away from 35,000 homes and 10,000 apartments in Kitchener will leave behind a specially designed carton. A week later, two special trucks will pick up material for recycling.

from THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Sept. 16, 1983

COURT ALLOWS HERBICIDE USE

A group of Cape Breton landowners has lost a court battle for a ban on the use of herbicides by Nova Scotia Forest Industries Ltd., the group's lawyer said yesterday. Mr. Justice Merlin Nunn of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled in favor of the company in the case involving the herbicides 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D, which the company wants to use to kill hardwood growth on its pulpwood plantations. The case pitted rural landowners against a major employer in economically depressed parts of Cape Breton.

from THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Sept. 16, 1983 (See also President's Report, page 2)

still
Help Wanted!



As a result of the publicity campaign organized by Jane Gardner, the Junior Club grew to 80 members by the beginning of October (compared to 53 members in November '82) and we are still anticipating more. We now offer astronomy, minerals, fossils and birds. For the younger children there are two general interest groups - 8 and 9 year olds and 10 year olds.

We would like to offer mammals, insects and possibly fish/reptiles/amphibians but have no leaders. It is also desirable to have assistant leaders and emergency back-up leaders (the latter for when the regular leaders can't come) for each group.

We also need "office" help - for producing and mailing the newsletter and for publicity (preparing it, delivering printed material, telephoning).

▷ If you are interested or would like more information, call Alexander Cappell at 663-7738, day or evening.

I HAD A LITTLE NUT TREE...

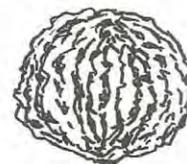
What would you do on a bright, beautiful spring day? Garden? Sun-tan? Not if, like me, you're a tree "nut"; then you'd have been at the Civic Garden Centre at Edwards Gardens for the annual spring auction of SONG (The Society of Ontario Nut Growers) to which about 550 people and organizations in Ontario and across Canada and the U.S.A. belong.

As the name implies, the aim of the society is to promote the spread of nut tree culture. The growth of nut trees is beneficial for the nuts themselves, for aesthetics, for timber (black walnut is an especially valuable timber for those whose hobby is cabinet-making), and for the attraction of wildlife. In turn, squirrels help the spread of nut trees whether or not the tree's owner approves.

Of the three yearly SONG meetings, the spring one is an auction of nut trees and nut products. The trees auctioned commanded premium prices (as compared to nursery prices for several species with which I am familiar) but there is a good reason: they are superior trees grown by SONG growers. It is a pleasure to see people so interested in such species as black walnut, heartnut, butternut, hazelnut, filbert, chestnut (hybrid: Chinese-American), scarlet oak, pecan, persian walnut, and beech.

For more information about SONG, contact Mr. Metcalfe, 2680 Canberra Rd., Mississauga, L5N 1M6; telephone (1)854-2173.

Tom Atkinson



ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

Discussion at the September meeting of the Environmental Group centred around summer projects and current events.

Black Creek, which runs from Steeles Avenue east of the 400 down past Jane and into the Humber, was the subject of investigation for some TFN members this summer. Black Creek is the most urbanized of the Metro ravines and one of its tributaries, Lavender Creek, is the worst source of coliform (fecal bacteria) which is apparently coming from stock yards and improperly connected storm and sanitary sewers. Helen Juhola and Gavin Miller showed slides of some of the beauty spots still remaining along Black Creek as well as some of the atrocities that are being committed.

On the plus side we saw slides of the beautiful wet meadow with chest-high grasses in the Greenbrook Ravine, at Trethewey Park, near Keele and Greenbrook Drive, north of Eglinton. This tributary of the Black Creek is unculverted and shows no evidence of flooding or erosion. Lavender Creek ravine at Keele and Lavender Road, north of St. Clair, also boasts some natural areas and unusual plants and habitats in spite of the industrialisation, snow dump site, railway and junk yards. There is also evidence of reclamation of plants such as Virginia Creeper that are coming through the concrete channels.

These positive scenes were contrasted by slides that Helen showed of a city-operated backhoe dumping street dirt over the side of a bridge into the river bed and the excessive bulldozing of hundreds of feet of previously dense natural areas in order to create bicycle paths. Helen told us that, at a TFN outing a short time before, members were lost in the dense growth that is now totally flattened. Gavin's slides showed rampant industrial pollution, including the pouring from the air of organic mulch from the Banner Rendering and Packing Company.

One of Gavin's disturbing discoveries was the leakage of chemical tars into Lavender Creek from the Universal Drum Reconditioning Company near Glen Scarlett Road. Gavin was instrumental in getting the Ministry of the Environment to take action on remedying this situation in July. (See Gavin's article in the October TFN Newsletter.) Gavin is also actively working to prevent Lavender Creek from being culverted, filled and turned into a permanent snow dump site.

More news about Black Creek will be available at the November meeting of the Environmental Group when John Maher will speak to us about the Black Creek Project, a recently-formed citizens' group dedicated to upgrading the stream.

Also at our September meeting David McLeish told us about the work done by the Save Our Streams organization this summer in cleaning up 9 kilometres of Highland Creek. Save Our Streams will be on the agenda for the January meeting, when David will address the Group.

The meeting concluded with John Harris showing us some recent publications of interest. These were the Flood Risk Maps: Metro Toronto and Region prepared by MTRCA, Environment Canada, and the Ministry of Natural Resources (a series of eight detailed maps); and An Evaluation System for Wetlands of Ontario, by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Melanie Milanich

SOME LIVERWORTS AND MOSSES OF MORNINGSIDE PARK

Liverworts:

Conocephalum conicum
Geocalyx graveolens
Lophocolea heterophylla
Bazzania trilobata
Riccardia multifida
Trichocolea tomentella
Plagiochila asplenoides
Lepidozia reptans

Mosses:

Acrocarpi: Sphagnum russowii
(upright)
Tetraphis pellucida
Pohlia nutans (a cushion moss)
Mnium affine
M. cuspidatum
M. punctatum
Leucobryum glaucum
Atrichum undulatum
Dicranella heteromalla
Dicranum montanum
Ceratodon purpureus

Climacium dendroides (under trees)

Pleurocarpi:

Brachythecium oxycladon
B. salebrosum
Eurhynchium pulchellum
Heterophyllum haldanianum
Hypnum lindbergii
Homomallium adnatum
Thuidium delicatulum (a plume moss)
T. recognitum
Platygyrium repens
Campylium chrysophyllum

Submitted by:
Terry Carleton

COMING EVENTS



Royal Ontario Museum

On November 11, at 1.30 and 3.30, Jim Lovisek will present his program, "Snakes Alive" in the ROM Theatre. Admission \$1.00 with Museum admission. For further information, call 978-5475.

Clive and Joy Goodwin

The Goodwins will be taking their annual bus trip to Niagara Falls on Friday, November 11, to view the concentrations of gulls and ducks on the Niagara River.

If you are thinking of a winter vacation, the Goodwins are planning window-van trips in Southern Florida, January 21-29, and Southern Texas, February 10-20, 1984.

Telephone 249-9503 for further information about any of these trips.

Kortright Centre

Drawings and paintings by wildlife artist Marc Barrie will be on display at the Kortright Centre from Friday, October 7, to Sunday, November 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Kortright Centre is on Pine Valley Drive, just south of Kleinburg. Telephone 661-6600.

Royal Botanical Gardens

The following events will take place at the Royal Botanical Gardens in November. Information may be obtained from:

Royal Botanical Gardens

Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario. L8N 3H8. Telephone: 527-1158.

Terrarium Gardening Workshop, Thursday, November 3. Register by October 28. \$14.00.

Hydroponics, Thursday, November 10. Register by Oct. 28. \$5.00.

Spices of the World, Thursday, November 10. Register by November 6. \$4.00.

Royal Canadian Institute

The following lectures will be presented at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto, at 8.15 on the dates indicated. For further information, call R.C.I., 979-2004.

- Nov. 5 Evolution of the Human Mind: A New Approach - Charles Lumsden, Associate Professor of Medicine, U. of T.
- Nov. 12 Marine Environments and the Underwater Cinematographer - John Stoneman, President, Mako Films Ltd., Toronto.
- Nov. 19 Living with the New Technology: Jobs vs. Computers - Stuart L. Smith, Chairman, Science Council of Canada.
- Nov. 26 Probing Deepest Space: A New Sea-to-Sea Radio Telescope for Canada - Ernest R. Seaquist, Professor of Astronomy, U. of T.; Chairman, Canadian Long Baseline Array Planning Committee.



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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

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