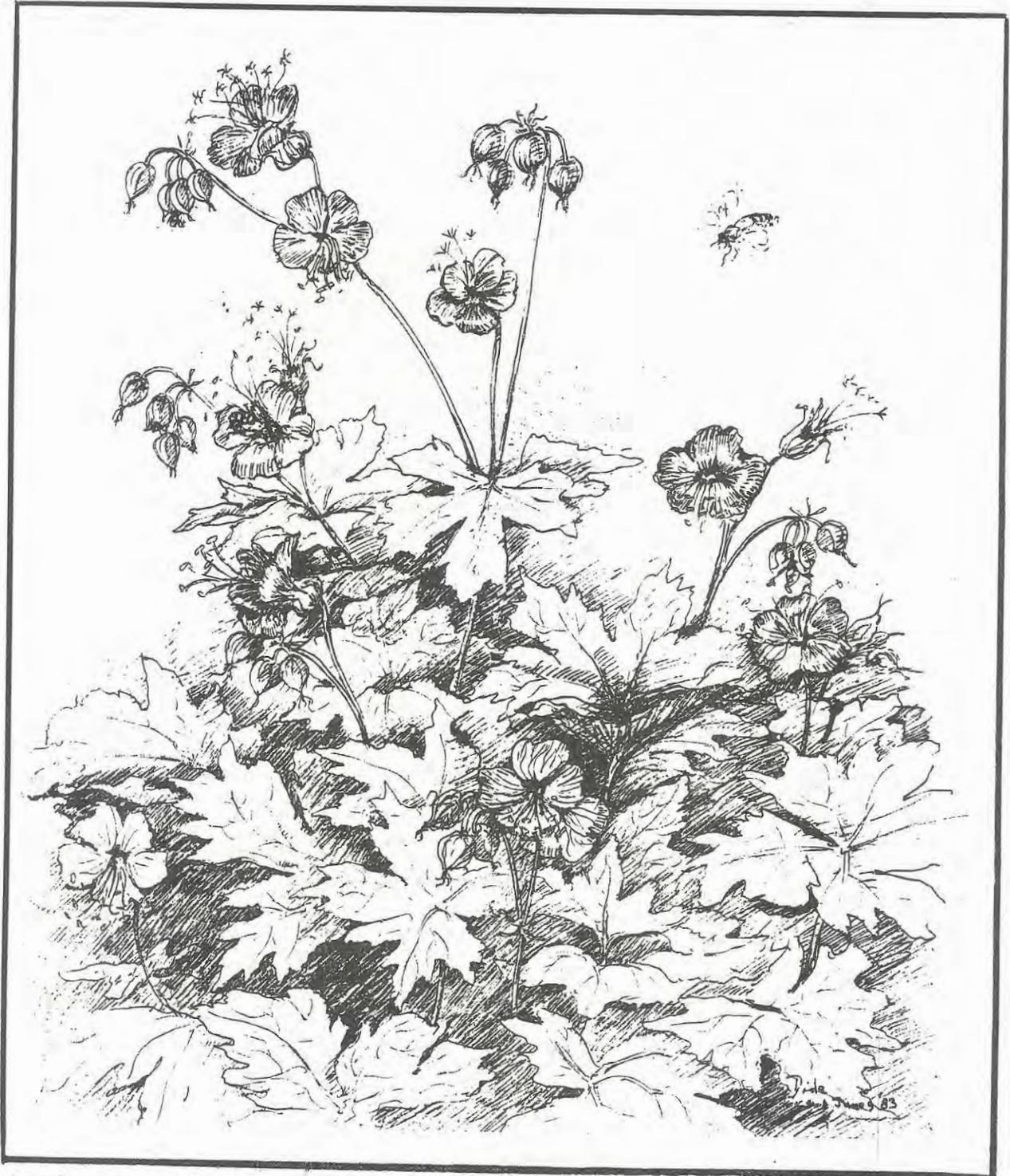


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TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 360, December 1983



A welcome sight...

See page 7

President's Report

TFN has been active in contacting government agencies during the past month concerning environmental issues. Promotion for the TFN was carried on through an exhibit at York University for graduate students in Environmental Studies, mention in the TTC Rider News, and a display at Fairview Mall.

A letter of congratulation was sent to Mayor Eggleton and the City of Toronto Parks Department in regard to the new cleanout pond or sediment trap in High Park which was built at the urging of citizen and environmental groups because of a longterm concern about the health and quality of Grenadier Pond. The way it works is that the storm water, which pours out of a pipe, is slowed down where the creek bed expands at the new ponding area, dropping the sediment in this basin instead of carrying it into Grenadier Pond. The sediment can be cleaned out regularly from here. Thus the overall effect is to extend the life of Grenadier Pond, which is one of the best features in High Park, and a great attraction to park users.

The Toronto Harbour Commissioners were congratulated for continuing to keep the Leslie Street Spit open on weekends indefinitely. (see page 28.)

A letter was sent to the Provincial Flood Plain Review Committee reflecting our concern for the quality of flood plains and their ability to function properly to carry out their vital part in the water cycle; for example, their capacity to contain flood waters, and the ability of the soils to act as a sponge and to hold and purify precipitation, thus preventing runoff and erosion and siltation.

Comments were sent in response to the Ministry of Natural Resources proposed Class Environmental Assessment for Forest Management on Crown Lands in Ontario. Comments and suggestions for a healthy environment were sent in because crown lands form 87% of the land in Ontario, affecting a large part of the watershed of the Great Lakes, where our drinking water comes from.

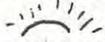
A letter was sent to Metro Planning in regard to making more visible the intent to preserve the beautiful natural areas of the Don Valley, some of which may be damaged if the recommendations of the new Don Valley Transportation Corridor Study are implemented. We would like to see natural areas shown on the maps so the facts are plain for all to see. At the present time, planning maps show very little if any of the natural setting. On the other hand, since over 70% of the cars in rush hours carry only one person, a minimum of two people per car might make more sense than attempting more engineering marvels.

Scarborough also was encouraged to begin cooperation among the various parks, recreation, works and planning staffs to produce an inventory of the natural resources of Scarborough to use as a real base map against which to gauge the value of various proposals for development, such as the current Scarborough Transportation Corridor Study.

Suggestions were also sent to the Scarborough Planning Department concerning the protection of natural areas in Scarborough, in this case Warden Woods, where promotion of recreation was being proposed by their planning department. In the past, recreation promotion in Scarborough has meant flattening land and building facilities, which would destroy Warden Woods.

A presentation was made at Toronto's City Hall concerning the Keating Channel Environmental Assessment, where our concern was about cleaning up the Don watershed to reduce the amount of sediment and its pollution level.

Mary Smith

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  | <p>Upcoming</p> <h1 style="margin: 0;">OUTINGS</h1> | <p>TFN</p>  |
| <p>RAIN ☔</p> | <p>or</p>  <p>SHINE</p> | <p>Everybody Welcome!</p> |

Saturday December 3rd Junior Club meeting. See page 31.

Monday December 5th TFN General Meeting. See page 30.

Saturday C.I.L. HOUSE - sketching

Dec. 10 Leader: Betty Paul

10.00 a.m. Meet at the Sheppard and Yonge subway station. Join us to view contemporary paintings or sketch exotic plants! Bring stool and lunch, and use any medium.

Sunday TODMORDEN MILLS - nature walk

Dec. 11 Leader: Muriel Miville

1.00 p.m. Meet at Todmorden Mills sign. (Bus Broadview #8, or Mortimer #62. Get off at Broadview and Mortimer and walk down Pottery Road.) Cars: Pottery Road from Broadview or the Bayview Extension. Turn into the site at the Todmorden Mills sign and continue on to the parking lot. Walk back.

Wednesday NORTH YORK GREENHOUSES

Dec. 14 Leader: Eileen Chopping

10.00 a.m. Meet inside the north door of North York City Hall. (Yonge subway to Sheppard station. Walk 4 blocks north).

Sunday JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE - Winter Wildlife Inventory

Dec. 18 Leader: Paul Harpley

10.00 am Please call Emily at 484.0487 if you plan to attend. We would particularly like to hear from people with cars who are willing to take passengers. Each passenger is asked to give his/her driver \$10.

Thursday SUNNYSIDE BEACH - sunrise (winter solstice).

Dec. 22 Leader: Suzanne Poodrey

7.30 a.m. Meet at the corner of Queen St. West and Roncesvalles Ave. Drivers meet in Sunnyside parking lot. Dress warmly, and bring camera, binoculars and plan to go for coffee afterwards. Sunrise will be at 7.50, sunset 4.42 p.m. Shortest day of the year. (#504 from Dundas West stn. Bloor line).

Monday CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - a project of the Toronto Ornithological Club. If you wish to participate, call

Dec. 26 Harry Kerr at 481.7948.

Remember to wear warm clothing and suitable footwear on winter walks.

UPCOMING OUTINGS - continued

Wednesday HUMBER BAY PARK - Beached bird survey

Dec. 28 Leader: Beth Jefferson

10.00 a.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.

Sunday ROSEDALE RAVINES - nature walk

January 1 Leaders: Aarne and Helen Juhola

1.00 p.m. Meet at Castle Frank subway station for a one-way walk to
end at another subway station or bus stop.

January 3 Time to reserve your place on the bus to KORTRIGHT for
to 8 the bus outing on January 15th, by phoning Emily Hamilton
at 484.0487. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$9.00
payable to "Toronto Field Naturalists Outing" to Miss
Emily Hamilton, Apt.407, 3110 Yonge St. Tor. M4N 2K6.
Cheques must be received by January 12.

Saturday January 7 Junior Club meeting. See page 31

Sunday WOODLOT ADJACENT TO ETOBICOKE GREENHOUSES - owls

Jan. 8 Leader: Bruce Wilkinson

10.30 a.m. Meet in the parking lot of the greenhouses. (Anglesey bus
#2 from Royal York subway station to the corner of Rathburn
and Elmcrest. Walk north on Elmcrest to the site).

Monday January 9 TFN General meeting. See page 30

Wednesday ROWNTREE MILLS PARK - nature walk

Jan. 11 Leader: Billie Bridgman

10.00 a.m. Meet at Finch and Islington Avenues. (Finch West bus#36,
or Islington #37).

Thursday January 12 Bird Group meeting. See page 30

Saturday BOTANY BUILDING GREENHOUSES.UofT. - sketching

Jan. 14 Leader: Diana Banville

10.00 a.m. Meet at the door of Botany Building sharp at 10 AM.
Photographers and sketchers welcome. Bring stool.
(Subway to Queen's Park station, or Carlton car #506
to University Avenue). Building on north-west corner
of College st. and Queen's Park.

Sunday KORTRIGHT CENTRE for CONSERVATION, Kleinburg.

Jan. 15 Leaders: Muriel Miville and MTRCA staff.

10.30 a.m. BUS OUTING. You must have reserved a place on the bus
between Jan.3 and 8; see these dates for details. Bus will
leave at 10.30 a.m. from York Mills subway station and will
arrive back about 4 p.m. Meet at Yonge and York Mills Road.
Bring lunch.

Wednesday January 18 Botany Group meeting. See page 31

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

UPCOMING OUTINGS - continued

Sunday BLACK CREEK - nature walk

Jan. 22 Leader: Gavin Miller

1.00 p.m. Meet on Eglinton Avenue West where it crosses Black Creek. (West of Keele Street, Eglinton West #32 bus). We will be exploring south on a circular route.

Wednesday ETOBICOKE GREENHOUSES

Jan. 25 Leader: Roger Powley

10.00 a.m. Meet at the greenhouse. (See Jan.8 for directions).

Thursday January 26 Environmental Group meeting. See page 31

Sunday HUMBER BAY PARK - beached birds survey

Jan. 29 Leader: Beth Jefferson

2.00 p.m. (See directions given for December 28th).

Saturday February 4 Junior Club meeting.

Monday February 6 TFN General meeting.

Keeping in touch . . .

October 5, 1983

Dear TFN Members:

It is not uncommon to see even the most knowledgeable and well-intentioned botanists handling plants in order to inspect them more closely. Although naturally all environment-conscious persons will handle plants with care, often with tender loving care, it has been pointed out by Gus Yaki, president of Nature Travel Service, that in fact it may be harmful to touch plants at all.

In his own words, the incident which led to this conclusion took place as follows: "In preparation for an orchid weekend, I had located suitable plants to show participants the next day, choosing specimens that were at their optimum. I had placed a marker near each one so that it would be easy to find during the walk. When we arrived, I discovered that all the orchids I had touched had been nipped off." Gus suggests that whatever creature was responsible for the damage may have been attracted by the salt or oil from his fingers.

The implication is obvious. The next time you are inspecting a gorgeous specimen of, say, fringed gentian, eager to see every fibre of every leaf and petal, you might be doing the flower a favour by restraining your impulse to manipulate it, however delicately. A small stick or twig can serve the same purpose and will not leave traces of appetizing oil or salt on the flower.

The one sacrifice required in order to acquire this good habit is that of foregoing the undeniable sensual pleasure of touching soft, beautiful petals and leaves. Small price to pay, however, if it means saving a life you love!

Sincerely,

Lise Anglin

projects

BROWN'S BUSH - A SUCCESS STORY

"But I'm only one person. What can I do?" I suffered from this common syndrome for years before discovering a cure. Action. Not necessarily spectacular or heroic, just action that is reasonably consistent with one's knowledge and ability. With no special training or experience, I saved my favourite "nature reserve" from the bulldozers.

My nature reserve is not nationally or provincially significant. It is only six acres of a mature maple-beech woodlot, with typical flora and fauna. It is locally significant because it is the only woodlot of its kind within the Barrie city park system. I love this place, and consider it mine, having spent many happy hours there over the years, observing and photographing. When City Hall announced its plans to thin out the trees and bulldoze away the underbrush, I was dismayed. I felt helpless and angry. What could I do? I was only one person - up against City Hall. The city wanted "a nice clean park." Why should they care if I wanted it natural?

To make the best of a bad situation, I began spending as much time in the woods as possible. My intent was to document photographically for my own satisfaction. My constant presence there, however, attracted attention. People began inquiring about what I was doing. Soon I was presenting slide shows to explain my point of view. The developer who had donated the property to the city suggested that I make a presentation to City Hall. Encouraged by his support, I did as he suggested. Imagine my surprise and delight when both the planning and recreation departments agreed with me and decided to leave the bush "as natural as possible."

There is only one point on which we still disagree. I want the dead trees left standing. The city believes they must come down to avoid personal injury lawsuits. I think the possibility of such injury is remote. On this point, I would appreciate assistance or comments from anyone with similar experience. To back up my slide presentation, I prepared a short six-page brief on "Brown's Bush" and had it endorsed by the Brereton Field Naturalists' Club of Barrie, of which I am a member. I was able to publicize my cause further by preparing a half-hour program for our local cable TV station. I recommend this as a cheap (free) method of promoting local projects. I'm only one person - but I did it! Why don't you try it?

John Clark, Barrie, Ontario

(From SANCTUARIES, 2(1) Spring, 1983)



Projects continued

A CATALOGUING OF NEWSWORTHY ITEMS

As you read in the last issue of the Toronto Field Naturalist, we are keeping a file of newspaper articles pertaining to topics of concern to the TFN. The files have been slightly reorganized and now contain roughly twenty subject headings with items in chronological order for each. The problem is locating the newsworthy articles in papers that the editorial committee does not normally receive and this is where we need your help.

If you receive such local papers as the North York/Scarboro/Markham Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Etobicoke Reporter, Mississauga News, or even the Toronto Star's Neighbours East, North and West, please help us out by clipping items you feel might be useful in our files. Sample subjects for clipping include: mammals, birds, toxic chemicals, local land use issues, acid rain, soil and water conservation, Metro's natural areas, parks, hunting, fishing, Great Lakes water quality, water and sewage treatment. These can be sent to Margo McCulloch, 77 Burnaby Blvd., (lower), Toronto, Ont. M5N 1G3.

The TFN has shown that records kept of topical environmental issues can be instrumental in tackling specific problems politically. Help keep us on top of things by sending in your newsworthy items.

BANDED GYRFALCONS

During the summer of 1983, nestling gyrfalcons were banded in the Northwest Territories from Coppermine in the west-central NWT to Cape Dorset on South Baffin Island. Any observations of these birds should be sent to the Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, K1A 0E7 and/or Bob Bromley, NWT Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9.

This Month's Cover

"Zdravets" - by Diana Banville

Among the rocks of Macedonia grows the beautiful zdravets. On some June day, while walking along Toronto streets, should you happen to pass a front garden with great cushions of magenta bloom in a border, look closely; it may just be zdravets, and in all likelihood the people living there will be Macedonians, for settlers brought their national flower with them to the New World and were able to identify each other's homes in this way. In fact zdravets is in the logo displayed at Canadian Macedonian Place, O'Connor and Curity. The example from which the picture was drawn was, however, located in your president's garden. If grown in the open there are thick masses of bloom but in Mary and Herb's garden the specimen is in a sheltered place, very leafy with fewer blooms, though plenty from the point of view of providing an attractive subject. Zdravets is apparently in the geranium family. (If anyone knows the scientific name of this plant, or anything else about it, please notify a member of the Editorial Committee).

DB

 GRANTS AVAILABLE

The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation invites applications for grants to support projects on Ontario birds in 1984. The Fund's aim is to encourage field studies by amateur naturalists and to support projects which increase or disseminate knowledge of birds in their natural environment or contribute to their preservation. Priority will be given to projects which draw on the resources of volunteer naturalists in conducting research or fieldwork and to applicants who do not have access to other sources of support.

Two types of grants will be offered in 1984: (a) Project Grants and (b) Atlas Fieldwork Grants. Any project which has a volunteer component and otherwise meets the Fund's objectives is eligible for a type (a) grant. Type (b) grants provide partial support for travelling expenses to remote central and northern areas for fieldwork on the Ontario Atlas of Breeding Birds.

Grants do not normally exceed \$1,000. Applications for Project Grants are due by 31 December 1983 and for Atlas Fieldwork Grants by 29 February 1984. All applications should be submitted on forms obtainable from the Secretary, The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, NOE 1M0.

- - - -

The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation will accept applications for three \$600.00 B. Harper Bull Conservation Fellowship Awards up to February 17, 1984.

The scholarships are available to encourage and assist university and college students residing or studying in the Metropolitan Toronto Region, and wishing to broaden their knowledge of conservation through study, travel, and practical experience.

For further information and applications write: Waneeta Robertson, The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation, 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, Ontario, M3N 1S4.

Greetings 

Holidays are coming up and we hope weather conditions will be safe enough to allow members to bundle up and go out and enjoy Nature's quietest yet most exhilarating time. Enjoy yourselves all. Our next issue will be the FEBRUARY newsletter which you should receive after mid-January.

Editorial Committee

The Miscellany

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

Beaver Pond Trail; Hemlock Bluff Trail; Peck Lake Trail; Lookout Trail; Spruce Bog Boardwalk. All by Dan Strickland with drawings by Howard Coneybeare. 12-20-page booklets on the trails of Algonquin Park. Donated by Margaret Cook.

Fern Tree Gully National Park, a folder describing this National Park near Melbourne, Australia. Sent to us by Charles Compton, a naturalist who lives on the edge of the park, along with other material he has prepared himself, including suggestions for anyone planning a trip to the area. Bird checklist.

CanBank makes recycling easy, clipping, SUNDAY FREEMAN Kingston NY Sept. 25/83, about a vending machine in reverse which pays the operator money for aluminum cans. These are already in operation in a number of U. S. cities.

Operation Solar - Passive Solar Living, 24-page brochure published by Northeast Utilities (of New England), on solar homes, including weatherizing, choosing site, retrofits for existing house.

Sanctuaries, Newsletter of the Nature Reserves Committee, Federation of Ontario Naturalists. No. 2 (1) Spring, 1983. 7 pages.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada, folder explaining aims of the organization. Also: Nature Conservancy Newsletter 8S-83. one sheet.

The Great Lakes, do we take them for granted? Folder published by the International Joint Commission Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Group, Suite 800, 100 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ont. N9A 6T3. An information kit is offered.

Everything stops for a mother bird, clipping from an English newspaper about a blackbird which built its nest under the bonnet of a truck. A success story, sent in by Mrs. Mary Avison.

Book Reviews from Library Journal August 1983, clipping highlighting reviews recommended by Doug Suarez, which he feels will be of interest to TFN members: "The Living Birds of Eric Ennion" author Eric Ennion, wildlife artist, reviewed by L. Bartolini; "Care of the Wild: family first aid for all wild creatures" author W.J. Jordan and J. Hughes, reviewed by G. Patzwald; "Birding in Ohio" author Tom Thomson, reviewed by H.T. Armistead.

Starting Young - Effective outdoor education in the schools may be our environment's best hope for tomorrow. 8 pages excerpted from SEASONS, Fall, 1983; by J. David Taylor. Submitted by Beth Jefferson.

Eagle reward being offered, clipping dated Feb. 18/83, about reward offered with a view to protection of birds in B.C. Wildlife Management Unit 1-6, where wanton killing has been occurring, particularly of raptors. Sent in by Inez Rowe.

Identifying the Books which Identify the Plants III by Adele Crowder, excerpt from the BLUE BILL Vol. 30 No. 2 June 1983. A 4-page annotated bibliography of recent literature of interest to field botanists. Donated by Winifred Smith.

We have received another packet of literature from Jim Hodgins:

Guidelines for Wildlife Policy in Canada by Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference, approved by Wildlife Ministers' Conference 1982. 14 pages.

Canadian Botanical Association Bulletin excerpts from Jan.82 and April 83 issues on the subject of transplanting for conservation, 6 pages, 4 articles.

Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society excerpts from Vol. 39 No. 1, Winter 1981 on the subject of terrestrial orchids, ethics on collecting. 10 pages in all, 2 articles.

Symbiosis Between the Earth and Humankind by René Dubois, excerpt from SCIENCE Vol. 193, 4 pages. Aug./76.

Pollination of Asarum canadense L. by H. Wildman, excerpt from SCIENCE Vol. 111 May/50. Questions pollination of wild ginger by insects. 1 page.

For Great Gardening, Turn to Ferns by F.G. Foster & J.T. Mickel, excerpt from GARDEN Mar/Apr/83. What ferns to grow and how-to. Sources recommended (ie nurseries and societies providing spores).

The Aquatic Macrophytes of Some Lakes in Southeastern Ontario by A.A. Crowder et al., excerpt in English from LE NATURALISTE CANADIEN 104, 1977. 8 pages.

The Spirit of Wilderness and the Religious Community by David Douglas, excerpt from SIERRA May/June 1983, 2 pages. The article suggests after all Mohamet had his cave, Buddha his forest and Jesus his desert.)

REEDiscovery by Lauren Brown, excerpt from HORTICULTURE Feb./81, 5 pages. "Worldwide, there is a booming interest in Phragmites as a source of food, shelter, and fuel." Background, too, on our tallest grass (the one with plumes).

Wildflowers for Sale by Lauren Brown, from HORTICULTURE May/81, 3 pages. About commercial exploitation of wildflowers and the alternatives.

The Garden in the Woods by Margaret Hensel, from HORTICULTURE May 81, 5 pages. About a New England wildflower sanctuary flourishing after fifty years.

Will Garlic Replace DDT? by L. Hills, from ORGANIC GARDENING AND FARMING Sept./72. 3 pages. About emulsions made from garlic harmless to wildlife.

Wilderness and the Maintenance of Freedom by Edward B. Swain, from THE HUMANIST Mar-Apr./83, 4 pages. "The motivation to preserve wilderness has its basis in a fundamental need." A lively discussion of the gamut of reasoning for and against conservation.

Micmac Medicine by Harry Thurston, from EQUINOX 2(4):88, 1 page. "Modern pharmacologists vindicate prescriptions of ancient native herbalists."

The Last Stand by Bob Benson, from THE FINANCIAL POST MAGAZINE April 1/83. 4 pages. "Can an eleventh-hour reforestation program restore our untended timberlands?" About the status of Canada's forests.

Thanks to all who have submitted material. We are beginning to acquire a useful resource file. DON'T FORGET TO MARK PUBLICATION, DATE & PLACE ON ALL CLIPPINGS IF YOU'VE CUT THAT INFORMATION OFF.

IN EXCHANGE

FIELD DATA COLLECTING SYSTEMS

While sounding somewhat official, field data collecting systems are something which most everyone interested in nature has used at one time or another. Quite simply it is a record of what was seen on a field trip, or maybe a list of which birds came to your feeder this winter. As naturalists we have a built-in curiosity about the happenings of our natural world, and one of the best ways to satisfy this curiosity is to put down on paper those events which have caught our interest.

Reasons for collecting and storing this type of data vary almost from individual to individual - perhaps a project which is monitoring range shifts in plants and animals; maybe someone is comparing atmospheric events with activities of wildlife; or it could be that you just want to see if you saw more birds this year than last. In fact any reason will do, and sometimes the purpose isn't evident until an amount of information is gathered. For example, I'm doing a wildlife inventory of a small valley and have found that a micro-climate exists there when compared to the rest of the township.

Here might be the place to outline just who may use a field data collecting system. Biologists, to be sure, those professional botanists, ornithologists, entomologists and mammalogists, and you - the amateur naturalist. The trouble with many professionals is that they get so caught up in their one subject or species (due to personal interest or job requirements) that much of the surrounding environment tends to be ignored. Enter the amateur naturalist with the above-mentioned curiosity and the 'holes' start to get filled in.

Now comes the next question - what to record? I'll start by saying anything and everything. But after an afternoon of sitting in a woodlot and filling pages with notes you may take the next step and 'specialize' perhaps on a certain group of animals or maybe on wetlands only. However this sounds a bit like the professional in the above paragraph so find a happy medium where you not only note the birds you've seen but also the tree species they were in or feeding upon.

While we're on the subject of note-taking let's look at what should be recorded in the field for use in the future. First you should note the species as accurately as possible - just 'sparrow' won't do. If you cannot identify the species positively then put the probable name in brackets, e.g. (Field) Sparrow.

Next comes the date written out in full. Do not abbreviate as it will lead to confusion. For example, does 11/09/80 mean the 11th of September or the 9th of November, 1880 or 1980?

Now you need a location where you noted the subject. Again be as accurate as possible, giving lot and concession numbers in townships and street names and house numbers in urban areas. If you are familiar with topographic maps the latitude and longitude are also helpful. Habitat should be noted, as most species are site-specific - meaning that Killdeer are found in open, rural areas and Maidenhair Ferns are found in moist shady areas. List the prominent vegetation which immediately surrounds the subject, and include such things as "north facing slope" or "signs of forest fire" if noteworthy.

And now the reason for recording all the above remarks. This may include uniqueness of subject, its activities, abundance, size, direction of travel, and/or the weather. In this area you can never write too much, only too little. And finally the observer, that's you. Write your name as fully as possible and avoid just initials (except on long lists when initials can be explained elsewhere on the same list). Included here should be the names of others who witnessed the same event, as this can be very useful when verifying unusual species reports.

There are many ways of recording the above but again, this will vary with each individual. Printed checklists, or just plain lists, are the easiest and most common ways utilized to collect field data. However, note that additional information is difficult to annotate. I've found that field observation cards are about the handiest way to maintain a consistent manner of record making. They fit in a pocket, pack, or glove compartment very well; once completed in the field they can be stored easily and they allow a quick visual search when looking for past data. Shown are two types which I've found useful - the individual observation card (Fig. 1) and the multiple listing card (Fig. 2). Each has its minor drawbacks but can work quite well when used in conjunction with the other.

With the multiple listing card, each species has a card and many subsequent sightings can be listed one after the other, providing a quick reference to first flowering or arrival date for each year. However detailed observation is difficult to list in the space provided. The individual card allows for lots of information, but you may find yourself repeating a lot of information from card to card for the same species. I utilize both types in that I carry individual cards with me in the field for unique sightings, but also make a quick list which can be added to the correct multiple listing card at home.

As shown in the illustrated cards, robin sightings are noted but an asterisk tells me to check the individual cards for more information about that particular sighting. The date will get me to the matching card if more than one individual card is on file.

Storage of your field information may range from a loose-leaf binder with your daily lists to data cards filed in boxes to discs attached to micro-computers. The latter method is becoming more common each day as places such as the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre are starting to put collected data into programs for quick and accurate retrieval of select pieces of data.

One last point, and that is never throw any information out. If, for some reason, you lose interest in recording field data, or you inherit a box full of bird lists, please pass the information on. Nature centres, research centres and fellow naturalists are always looking for past data to compare with present findings. Once the information, no matter how trivial it seems, is lost . . . it is lost forever.

by David Hawke

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION CARD

Species Robin Turdus migratorius
 Location Lot 1 Con 6 Medonte Twp. Simcoe Co. Ont.
 Date/Time July 5, 1981 1:30 p.m.
 Habitat semi-open rural, front lawn of farm house
 Remarks feeding with 5 other robins, black eye, yellowish
beak, 75% white feathers, no conflict with regular
robins, 3 photographs taken with 600mm lens, stayed 10-15 minutes
 Observer David Hawke, Jane Valk
 Return to:
 DAVID J. HAWKE
 R.R. 4 Coldwater, Ontario LOK 1E0

from The Ermine,
 Vol. II, No. 3,
 May 1983,
 The Orillia
 Naturalists' Club

Fig. 1 Individual Observation Card

SPECIES: Robin Turdus migratorius 1

| Date | Location | Observer | Remarks |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Mar. 28, 1981 | Lot 1 Con 6 Medonte Twp | D. Hawke | 1st seen this season |
| July 5, 1981 | Lot 1 Con 6 Medonte Twp | D. Hawke | partial albino * |
| Oct 29, 1981 | Lot 1 Con 6 Medonte | D. Hawke | last seen this season |
| March 13, 1982 | Lot 10 Con 4 Medonte | D. and J. Hawke | 2 birds, 1st of the season |
| March 16, 1982 | Lot 14 Con 3 Tay Twp | D. Hawke | 7 birds at feeding station |
| March 24, 1982 | Twp + Medonte | D. Hawke | Robins everywhere |
| March 24, 1982 | Lot 1 Con 6 Medonte | J. Hawke | 12-15 Robins * |

Fig. 2 Multiple Listing Card

A WINDOW ON DURBAN

The day I went to look at my present flat in Durban, South Africa, I saw ten white storks sailing majestically over the building, which I took to be a good omen, and so took the flat. It is at the top of a modern high-rise on top of a high ridge. One set of windows looks over Durban Harbour, and the other side has a panoramic view of tree-covered rolling hills for hundreds of kilometers.

A hundred and fifty years ago Durban Harbour teemed with fish and waterfowl, and on the shore hippos and elephants wandered. No hippos nor elephants remain in the area today, except in zoos and game-parks; all have given way to the motor car which rules supreme! The one island in the harbour was covered in mangroves; now the island is covered in buildings. There are still many fish in the sea and Indians fish from the pier every day. Egrets and herons still stalk some of the harbours when the tide is out. The turn of the tide reveals numerous boy surfers riding the waves.

Durban boasts numerous beautiful resident birds among the exotic tropical flowers and foliage. When a storm is imminent, the pied crows flit and jostle around the TV aerial, in the air currents; they are fairly common around the city, useful scavengers I believe. Every morning and evening the hadadas call as they fly to and from their roosts; their call is a loud "hadada!" They are a lovely species of ibis, with pinky-mauve iridescent back and wings, which frequent the grounds and pick up crickets for lunch under the mango trees and azalea bushes.

Among the most beautiful are the little laughing doves which frequent the avenues lined with flamboyant trees. They have coats of pink, mauve, and blue, with beige spots on the chest, also coo gently and are quite delightful.

The bird chatter which is ever-present comes from the Indian mynah birds. These interesting birds came over fifty years ago with the Indians who came to work in the cane fields I believe. The Indians have prospered and so have the mynahs. Flock after flock of them fly up the avenues at dawn from their roosts to their favourite strutting-grounds.

An attractive bird of the city is the bulbul, in appearance rather like an American flycatcher, with black head, yellow tail-coverts, but with a musical call. Sometimes I hear "teakettle, teakettle" and know it to be a black-collared barbet, with red head, black collar, and yellow-and-white chest. Yellow weaverbirds live in the park among their hanging nests. Rumour has it that, since the nests are high this year, there will be floods, but I suspect - with the present three-year drought - there are other reasons.

By the noisy highway I see little star robins in the bushes; they are lovely mossy green with white eye-rings, and are the size of English robins.

Hawks frequent the city, and other birds I have trouble identifying, as the best bird books here have poor plates. (Where are you, Roger Tory Peterson?) Bird-watchers have an easier time in the Americas!

Joy Pocklington

(See also (307) 14-17, A 77, with descriptions and illustrations of some of the birds mentioned above.)

A SURVEY OF ONTARIO BIRD LITERATURE - Part 18

Tanagers and Finches

Tanagers.

1. Scott, David, M., 1961. Summer Tanager at London, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 75(4): 264.
2. Penny, D.A., 1946. Some notes on the transition of tanagers. The Intermediate Naturalist 1(1): 9-10.
3. Baillie, J.L., 1958. Western Tanager an Ontario bird. The Ontario Field Biologist 12: 28-29.
4. Brunton, Dan, 1967. First record of the Summer Tanager in Ottawa, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 81(4): 274.

Cardinal, grosbeaks.

1. Hussell, David J.T. and Michael J. Porter, 1976. Blue Grosbeak at Long Point. The Ontario Field Biologist 30(2): 47.
2. Mackintosh, James R., 1954. Notes on the Cardinal. Newsletter (TFN) 127.
3. Rutter, Russell J., 1958. Cardinal versus Northern Shrike. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 72(4): 157.

Evening Grosbeak.

1. Peck, George K., 1973. Nesting of the Evening Grosbeak (Hesperiphona vespertina) in Ontario. The Ontario Field Biologist 27: 38-40.
2. Putman, William L., 1957. Late spring occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak in Northern Lincoln County. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 71: 33-34.
3. Speirs, Doris H., 1950. Notes on Evening Grosbeaks. Newsletter (TFN) 92.
4. Speirs, J. Murray, 1972. Evening Grosbeak energetics. The Ontario Field Biologist 26: 16-19.

Purple Finch, House Finch.

1. James, Ross D., 1978. Nesting of the House Finch (Carpodacus mexicanus) in Ontario. The Ontario Field Biologist 32(2): 78.
2. Mackintosh, James R., 1955. Notes on the Purple Finch. Newsletter (TFN) 130: 6-7.
3. Nisbet, J. Robert, 1981. Third record of House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*, for Lickering Township. Pickering Naturalist 6(3): 265-266.
4. Parker, Bruce D., 1981. The House Finch in the Toronto Region. Toronto Field Naturalist 339: 28.
5. Saunders, R.M., 1965. Expansion of the House Finch's range in eastern North America. Newsletter(TFN) 210: 2-3.
6. Smout, Anne D. and Marvin S., 1981. Our backyard nursery: young House Finches and Pine Siskins. The Cardinal 104: 23-25.

Siskins, Goldfinches, Crossbills.

1. Barfoot, Mrs., 1948. Nest of the American Goldfinch. Newsletter(TFN) 78.
2. Cringan, A.T., A. Salvadori and K.H. Manske, 1971. Red Crossbill breeding in Wellington County, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 85: 258.
3. Knights, Ralph, 1950. Pine Siskins at Purpleville. Newsletter(TFN) 96.
4. Lowthier, James K. and Robert E. Walker, 1967. Sex ratios and wing chord lengths of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) in Algonquin Park, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 81(3): 220-222.
5. Middleton, A.L.A., 1977. Increase in overwintering by the American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*, in Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 91: 165-172.

American Sparrows.

1. Godfrey, W. Earl, 1966. Clay-coloured Sparrow nesting at Ottawa, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 80(4): 255.
2. Harris, J. Stafford, 1969. Report on Savannah Sparrows. Newsletter(TFN) 243.
3. Harris, J. Stafford, 1970. Western Fox Sparrow. Newsletter (TFN) 248.
4. Harris, J. Stafford, 1970. Report on the Mearns's Sparrow. Newsletter 254.
5. Humphries, John E., 1949. Notes on the Junco. Newsletter (TFN) 83: 3-4.
6. Ivor, Roy, 1954. Juncos feeding on suet. Newsletter (TFN) 123: 7-8.
7. Jarvis, John D., 1965. A Grasshopper Sparrow in our study area. The South Peel Naturalist 6(13): 3.
8. Long, R. Charles, 1968. First occurrence of the Cassin's Sparrow in Canada. The Ontario Field Biologist 22: 34.
9. Mitchener, A.J., 1956. Clay-coloured Sparrow nesting in Grey County, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 70(3): 141.
10. Perks, D.E., 1961. The Clay-coloured Sparrow in Ontario. The South Peel Naturalist 3(8-9): 1-5.
11. Speirs, J. Murray, 1938. Abundance of sparrows in Toronto Region. The Chat 2(2): 6-10.
12. Jarman, W.R., 1971. Lark Bunting near London. The Cardinal 69: 3-4.
13. Jaquith, Barbara, 1957. A Green-tailed Towhee at Terra Cotta. Newsletter (TFN) 146: 9-10.

Longspurs, Snow Bunting.

1. Pike, Neville, 1973. Notes on Lapland Longspur behaviour variance. Pickering Naturalist 2(4): 8.
2. Nisbet, Rob, 1979. Banding Snow Buntings in Ajax / year two. Pickering Naturalist 4(2): 63-64.
3. Weir, R.D., H. Quilliam; and R. Norman, 1972. First record of Chestnut-collared Longspur in Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist 86: 382-383.

Bruce D. Parker (449-0994)

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

This group has consistently worked for tougher enforcement of existing laws and for law reforms which are needed to protect the Canadian environment. The Association has successfully lobbied for passage of the Environmental Assessment Act; it presented Canadian concerns in one of the Hooker Chemical sites, and it has worked for CONE (Niagara Escarpment).

Membership:

1 year \$15.00; 2 years \$28.00; 3 years \$40.00.
They would welcome donations.

Your cheque should be made payable to the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation, and sent to 8 York Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ont. M5J 1R2.

IN THE NEWS

FIRE USED TO RESTORE PRAIRIE

At noon, April 26, the (Objibway Prairie Nature Preserve) went up in flames. Smoke plumed 600 metres into the air, flames licked up 3 metres or more in height; a helicopter hovered overhead, overseeing progress of the burn; and media photographers were angling for the best locations. Four hours later, it was all over. The object of the Objibway burn was to save the prairie -- home to two of the more than 100 plant species which are significant or rare in Canada. Without intervention by man, Objibway would eventually have become a deciduous forest. Scrub trees -- some 12 to 15 years old -- were well rooted and too large to burn down. So a ministry crew cut them down. The burn took care of the rest. Next year (Ministry of Natural Resources officials) hope to (have another fire). This year's burn took place on the 40.5 hectare northern section of the preserve. The southern 34.4 hectare section has not been touched. This year's fire cost about \$7,700.

from The Windsor Star, Saturday, October 8, 1983

EAGLES EAT FALCONS

An attempt to restore endangered peregrine falcons in Sequoia National Park turned into a picnic for golden eagles. Three fledgling falcons were released. Two were devoured by eagles. Biologists recaptured the third.

from the newsletter of The Ontario Forestry Association, September 1983

GULLING THE GULLS

Readers who have studied the peculiar habits of seagulls, willingly or not, may be intrigued by a recent item from Prince Edward Island. It seems the birds were dropping clam shells onto a seaside highway in an effort to smash them open, and the shells were creating havoc for motorists. Finally, a naturalist suggested painting large white gulls on the road; as predicted, the real gulls scattered at the sight of other birds, afraid it might claim the food for itself. If the problem persists, of course, the authorities could try painting large pictures of Dave Winfield.

from The Globe and Mail, October 12, 1983

HAIT OF HERBICIDE PRODUCTION WINDFALL FOR SPRAY OPPONENTS

Dow Chemical's decision to abandon a fight to sell the controversial herbicide 2,4,5-T in the United States may give Nova Scotia environmentalists a victory they could not gain in a costly court battle. The U.S. company said it was no longer economical to participate in a battle with the Environmental Protection Agency to remove restrictions placed on the sale of 2,4,5-T in the United States. Hours later, the EPA announced it would not be legal to sell 2,4,5-T in the United States once present supplies are depleted. A Canadian spokesman for Dow said that the company decided it would not be economical to produce the herbicide unless it could be sold in the United States. The decision has left Canadian users, mainly in the forest industry scrambling for an alternative to 2,4,5-T because Dow was the world's major producer and the only one in North America. Alternative herbicides are available in the United States, but there appears to be none in Canada, a forest-product company spokesman said. Nova Scotia Forest Industries has no stockpiles of 2,4,5-T and little is available elsewhere. The decision by Dow comes less than two months after Nova Scotia

Forest Industries won the right to resume use of the herbicide in a court battle with a group of Cape Breton and northern Nova Scotia landowners. The Nova Scotia Supreme Court rejected an application by the landowners for a permanent injunction against spraying of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D on the company's softwood plantations near their properties. The landowners argued that spraying constituted a danger to health. An impurity which sometimes occurs in the production of 2,4,5-T is TCDD, a form of dioxin. Exposure to minute quantities of dioxin has been linked to cancer in humans. The EPA imposed restrictions on 2,4,5-T after research suggested it might be linked to miscarriages in Oregon, where foresters were using it to kill underbrush. It is used for the same purpose in Nova Scotia. The herbicide, a type of hormone, kills plants by inciting them to abnormal growth.

from The Globe and Mail, October 19, 1983

IF YOU WANT TO HELP--

Donations can be sent to: Herbicide Fund, c/o Connie Shell, R.R. #1, South Haven, N.S. BOE 3G0 or (for a tax-deductible receipt) to: Forestry Committee, Ecology Action Centre, Old Provincial Archives Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3J5

Send letters requesting the de-registration of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T to Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture; Charles Caccia, Minister of the Environment; and Monique Begin, Minister of Health and Welfare. Address: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Send letters to the Government of Nova Scotia asking that they appeal the decision and help pay the costs and damages so the plaintiffs do not lose their homes and farms. Write Greg Kerr, Environment Minister, and George Henley, Minister of Lands and Forests, Provincial House, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2Y3.

US DAM APPROVAL ANGERS CANADIANS: The United States Government has given the final go-ahead to a key feature of the Garrison water project in North Dakota, upsetting the Canadian Government, which has long opposed the project as a potential source of pollution in the rivers of neighbouring Manitoba. Canadian officials said they regard the awarding of a dam construction contract as a signal the United States intends to press ahead with the full Garrison water diversion plan and they said they have not been fully consulted as promised.
(From the Globe & Mail, September 7, 1983)

PORT REJECTED AT STOKES POINT

A task force has narrowly recommended against a port development on the Yukon's environmentally sensitive North Slope, as proposed by Gulf Canada Ltd. of Toronto. However, Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Munro only accepted it as an "interim" document. The proposed development is within an area set aside by the federal Cabinet in 1978 for a national park. Environmental groups are opposed to Ottawa granting Gulf even a possible "temporary" base at Stokes Point, as suggested by the company.

The native groups - which want outstanding land claims settled before development proceeds - voted against allowing a port at Stokes Point. Gulf wants a marine base at Stokes Point to serve its Beaufort Sea oil exploration and development program. In the meantime, the company uses floating barges offshore as supply vessels.

(The Globe & Mail, October 19, 1983.)

INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM

The apparent inevitability of global temperature changes calls for a more urgent response by Canadian governments than has so far been in evidence. In the early seventies, the International Biological Program recommended the establishment of a system of ecological reserves in Canada. These reserves were conceived primarily as protection for representative ecosystems, and as bench-marks against which scientists could measure ecological change due to man-made or other influences. While ecological reserve legislation and reserves exist in most provinces, they have often been given absurdly low priority.

The federal record is equally dismal. In 1975 the IBP program recommended 71 sites for designation in northern Canada. Only a handful of these have been given any kind of formal protection. Only one, Polar Bear Pass on Bathurst Island, has actually been declared an ecological reserve. And it is in our North where some of the most dramatic climatic shifts are expected.

We may not be able to alter the course of climatic change, but we can prepare now to detect the changes when they happen, and to learn how to cope with them. A significant short-term global warming will alter almost every ecosystem around the world. It will force the migration and possible extinction of millions of species upon which our well-being depends. At the very least it will dictate a massive realignment of our conservation efforts.

(Letter written by Arnet Sheppard, Canadian Nature Federation, Ottawa, to the Globe & Mail, October 31, 1983.)

FARMLANDS: Food, Canadians might think, would be a prime concern of Canadian governments. They would be wrong. Farmland, says a study by the federal Environment Department, is disappearing at an alarming rate. Quebec and the Maritimes lost more than half their agricultural land base between 1961 and 1976, the period covered by the study; Ontario lost 20 per cent or more; southern British Columbia nose-dived. Ontario's Niagara fruit belt - "a unique Canadian land resource" - and the Okanagan Valley are under the greatest pressure to be diverted to other uses, and they produce the tender fruit which cannot be produced elsewhere. Between 1961 and 1976 Canadian imports of foodstuffs increased by 69.5 per cent in constant dollars. And who was the biggest customer for the aggregate that would displace Niagara's peaches, cherries and grapes? The Ontario Government. Canada is a big country, but only 11 per cent of its land has any agricultural value and just 0.6 per cent is prime farmland. By 2000 Canada will need millions more acres to feed its growing population. But the farmland vanishes.

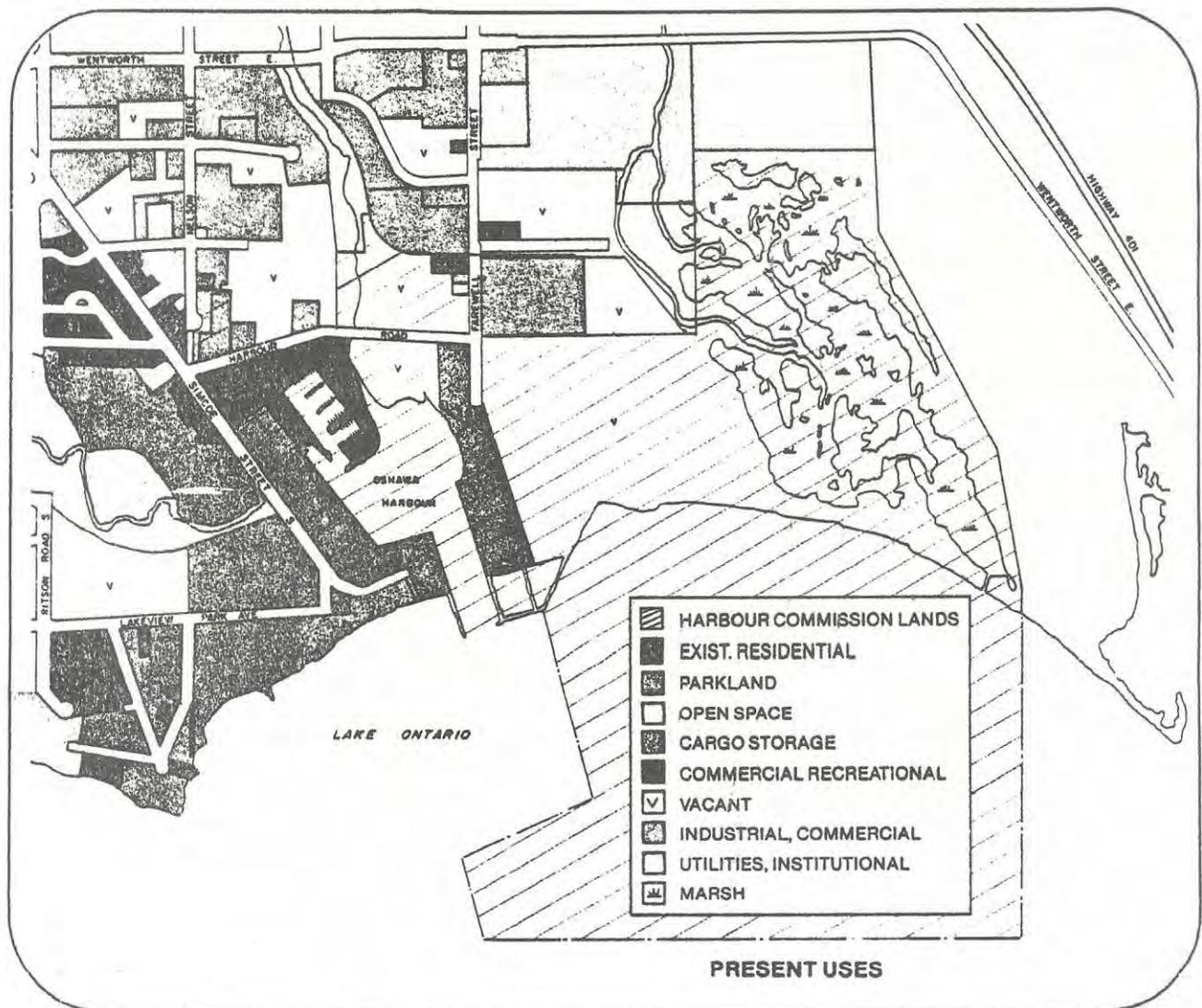
(From the Globe & Mail, September 1, 1983)

OSHAWA SECOND MARSH

In January 1983 a joint federal-provincial-municipal body (Task Force) was established at the request of the Oshawa Harbor Commission Chairman. The basic mandate of the Task Force was to look at the long-term circumstances surrounding Oshawa's port and present landholdings of the Oshawa Harbor Commission. They have discovered that any expansion, if and when it might ever be warranted, should take place out in the lake, not in the SECOND MARSH. They even suggest that the marsh, because of its environmental importance to wildlife etc., should be preserved. Their final report will be presented to the Oshawa Harbor Commission in January, 1984. Your cards and letters regarding their findings should be sent to Mr. Derek Sweet, Chairman, Oshawa Harbor Commission, 1050 Farewell, Oshawa, Ont. L1H 6N6.

condensed from a special bulletin (Oct. 20) of the Second Marsh Defence Association, Inc. P.O. Box 762, Oshawa, Ont. L1H 7M9

(See also page 30.)



WORDS

WORDS

WORDS

WORDS

The following words are used, in a broad sense, when considering habitats.

- MESIC - having or characterized by a moderate amount of moisture; neither hydric nor xeric.
- HYDRIC - means an abundance of moisture
- XERIC - means deficient in moisture

A maple-beech woods is "mesic", an oak woods is "dry-mesic"

- MEROMICTIC - (of a lake) means undergoing incomplete circulation at the fall overturn. Compare holomictic.
- HOLOMICTIC - (of a lake) means undergoing a complete circulation that extends to the deepest parts during overturn.
- OVERTURN - the sinking of surface water and rise of bottom water in a lake that results from changes in density due to changes in temperature and that commonly occurs in spring and fall whenever lakes are icebound in winter. (Sort that one out!)
- Crawford Lake, Ontario, is under study as it is said to be meromictic. (See November newsletter, p.7).
- PELAGIC - means of the open sea, sealing and whaling. So, when we called our boat trip on Lake Ontario a pelagic trip we were misusing the word. Perhaps lacustral would be better?
- HALOPHYTE - a plant which will grow in saline soil.
- MESOPHYTE - a plant of medium moisture and light requirements, intermediate between those of very dry and very wet environments.
- ALVAR - a geomorphological term describing an area of thin soil over essentially flat limestone rock, with scant vegetation (term used in Sweden and Estonia).

Sources: The definitions have been obtained from Webster's Dictionary, Gray's Manual of Botany, Introduction to Plant Taxonomy by G.H.M. Lawrence, Ontario Field Biologist, Vo. 29, #2.

FON Christmas cards will again be on sale at the December General Meeting.



An Evaluation System for Wetlands of Ontario South of the Precambrian Shield.
Wildlife Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1983, Limited
Distribution, 144 pp., free

"Some people believe that wetlands should be left in a completely undisturbed state, while others contend they should be used for a variety of purposes ranging from birdwatching to peat extraction or farming. Needless to say, resolution of these conflicting opinions is not easily achieved." This is from "Evaluating Southern Ontario Wetlands" by David L. Euler Ontario Wetlands Conference, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Toronto, 1981.

In recognition of this problem, a federal-provincial committee was set up in 1981 under the chairmanship of Dr. David Euler to develop a system for measuring the values of southern Ontario's wetlands. The result of the committee's labours is the comprehensive yet relatively simple manual which is the subject of this review.

The manual presents a system in which point values are assigned to each of 57 elements grouped under four headings or components: biological, social, hydrological and special features. The total points generated under each component gives a measure of the values of the wetland.

The first half of the evaluation process is the collection and organizing of field and other data. This is done with the help of instructions in the manual, and the information is entered on the Wetland Data sheets. Except for one element requiring special equipment available from the Ministry of Natural Resources, none of the required data should present much difficulty to a person with the necessary knowledge, time and patience.

In the second half of the evaluation, point values are assigned to the 57 elements according to instructions in the manual. These are entered on the Wetland Evaluation sheets, which again should present little difficulty. Finally the points are totalled to give the value of each of the four main components of the evaluation.

Special emphasis is placed on the minimum level of knowledge and training necessary to complete an accurate and objective evaluation which will be capable of withstanding close, and possibly hostile, scrutiny. The basic qualifications recommended in the manual are an ability to identify common plant species, and two weeks' field training with somebody thoroughly familiar with application of the system.

While there will probably be some naturalists who will disagree with the objectives and details of the manual, there is no doubt that it presents a well-written and systematic approach to evaluating wetlands. The instructions are clear and the data and evaluation sheets very well laid out and easy to follow.

It would be interesting, instructive and useful for suitably qualified TFN members to apply the system to the wetlands of Metro Toronto. This would provide a major contribution to the Ravine Survey program of the Club.

John Harris

- * An Address Book for Naturalists edited by Doris Huestis Speirs, Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., Toronto, 1983. 115 pp, illustrated, \$9.95 hardcover

Like so many calendars and date books produced in recent years, this publication has a dual purpose. Basically it is an address book; however, it also contains inspirational quotations collected from many sources (as well as a few of her own) by Margaret Morse Nice (the famous ornithologist and author of Research is a Passion with Me). The book is illustrated throughout with woodcuts of nature subjects by Sylvia Hahn, formerly an artist with the Royal Ontario Museum. All this was edited and arranged by Doris Speirs, long-time TFN member who is THE authority on evening grosbeaks and editor of Mrs. Nice's autobiography.

HJ

Atlas of the Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario by G.W. Argus and D.J. White, National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museum of Canada, Part 1 (1982); Part 2 (1983). 8½" X 11" format, bilingual, free (Send to Botany Division, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M8)

This publication which is being published in sections, is designed to be held in a three-ring binder. Part 1 includes the Cyperaceae, the Liliaceae, and the Orchidaceae. Part 2 includes 10 more families. For each plant a range map for Ontario as well as the range for North America are provided. Habitats, status, references and notes are also included for each species considered. Also, for each family, the status of plants not considered rare as well as an updating on name changes are given. Publications of this sort are very useful in bringing to the attention of the amateur the status of plants which though common locally may, in fact, be rare elsewhere.

HJ

Guide to Orchids of North America by Dr. W. Petrie, Hancock House, Vancouver/Washington, 1981. 8¼" X 5½", 128 pp., illustrated with colour photographs, maps and drawings, soft cover, \$14.95

With this well-designed book in hand, any amateur naturalist should be able to identify more than 100 species of orchids. The difficulty will be in finding the orchids to identify. Although this family of plants fascinates many people, in fact, few North American orchids are spectacular. Many are very small and/or grow in forbidding places such as bogs during blackfly season. For Toronto naturalists this book is of special interest because many of the photographs in it are those of Dr. Donald Gunn of Oakville, a long-time member of TFN. As well as a North American range map, drawing of the flower and one or two photographs of almost every species described, the book includes a description of each species, its habitat, flowering season, and often special features. Again, it is this kind of publication which teaches the field naturalist the fine differences between apparently similar plants -- a help in identifying plants quickly in the field which, hopefully, will eventually eliminate the need to collect in order to identify.

HJ

The Birds of Peterborough County, an annotated list by Doug Sadler, 1983. 170 pages, black-and-white illustrations. Available from Peterborough Field Naturalists, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7H7, at \$7.50 plus postage. (\$5.00 plus postage before Dec.15/83).

*Both books mentioned in this review will be for sale at the December General Meeting of the TFN. Order Desk phone (416) 694-7907, or available by mail from Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., P.O. Box 69, Postal Station H, Toronto, Ont. M4C 5H7. Address Book... \$9.95 hard cover; Research is a Passion... \$14.95 hard/\$10.95 soft cover. Both books combined \$20, soft cover.

 ABOUT THE NEW BIRD CHART...

At last I've had a chance to sit down and study my copy of the TFN's new Toronto Region Bird Chart by Bruce Parker (1983). I understand it's a TFN best-seller and can see why - since we've needed it for a long time. TFN's Bird Migration Chart (1968) has served us well but has needed updating (although pencilled changes based on Clive Goodwin's article - TFN (286) 12, N74 - and other notes have extended the effective life of my copy).

Looking at the two charts I can see now that there is no real comparison. The 1983 version is not exclusively a migration chart like the 1968 one, but indicates relative abundance as well (eg - a heavy line in the 1968 chart indicates the time of heaviest concentration of a species even though it may be a comparatively uncommon species. In the 1983 chart the heavy line always means that the species, at that time, is an abundant or common one.)

A glance tells me what my chances are of seeing a given bird: Thick line excellent, thin line pretty good, broken line not so good - except if I happen to be in the haunt of a "local" bird - eg nighthawk* in downtown Toronto. (This threw me at first because of my Torontonion chauvinism - but we have to remember some species common in the heart of the city may not be so in the rest of the range, which after all covers a circle with a 60-mile diameter.) The dots and X's bring my chances to "remote", but at least if I THINK I see a species so indicated, I might have some hope of being right about it.

I've checked on some discrepancies, and if you have your copy handy, these corrections can be made in a few seconds: Take a look at the Legend on page 4:

Under "N - Nesting Status - three categories are shown where there should be only two. The "l" should be crossed out and that category bracketed with the following one under "o". Thus "o" stands for: "Occasional or very local breeding species". (This explains why several gulls and terns are marked "o" when in fact we have large breeding colonies of these species in the Toronto Region - but again very LOCAL ones.) Apparently there was some ambivalence about changing the two categories to three. ("f" shows birds frequently breeding in the wider range.)

Under "CBC" change "1981" to "1982", to include one more Christmas Bird Count. On page 30: The Eskimo Curlew should be listed under "extirpated" rather than "extinct". (ie - it no longer appears to be in our area but exists elsewhere in the world.)

The order, somewhat different from that of previous lists, is all in accord with the new (6th) Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist - and a bit closer to that used elsewhere in the world. The dividing lines separate the families - or in some cases subfamilies or even those finer divisions called "tribes". This is a help in associating in the mind closely related species. (However, the towhee belongs with the rest of the American sparrows.)

The "Status" column does not have many entries but we are only just getting into this field now as birdwatchers; the little book is a good reminder of what we should be looking for and reporting. In fact, the more I pore over my copy, the more informative and interesting I find the new bird chart, and I suspect it's going to become indispensable.

Diana Banville

*See TFN (359) 11, N 83.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

Joanna Kidd, staff researcher at Pollution Probe, addressed the October meeting of the Environmental Group, speaking on pollution concerns relating to Lake Ontario and events leading to the closing of Toronto's beaches this summer. The Ministry of the Environment, which has the responsibility of monitoring water quality, has been analyzing water samples over the past several years. In April of this year, the Toronto Area Watershed Management Study was released by the Ministry, analyzing data from 1978 to 1980 indicating the levels of bacteria, including those of fecal coliforms, were higher than safe for swimming in the Humber and Don Rivers and Mimico Creek. Widespread contamination had been occurring for some time, yet no action was taken until publication of this report. As a result of this study, further sampling was done of the beaches, and on May 27 results of analysis of water from Toronto beaches indicated that two-thirds of the samples were contaminated beyond safe levels. The closing of the first beach at Sunnyside, however, did not occur until July 21. The delay in the closing of the Toronto beaches must be attributed to political embarrassment - reluctance to upset Toronto's reputation as a clean city. Joanna enumerated the underlying causes for the contamination:

1. Interconnection of storm sewers and sanitary sewers;
2. Areas north of Steeles (in Vaughan Township) do not have separate sanitary and storm sewers;
3. Hot weather causing bacteria to multiply much faster;
4. Changes in the waterfront in the last twenty years - landfill sites at Humber Bay Park, Ontario Place, Ashbridge's Bay, and the Leslie Street Spit have altered shoreline currents, and have led to the concentrations of bacteria; the landfill itself is sometimes contaminated;
5. Existing sewage treatment plants are not capable of handling the large amounts of sewage they now receive.

Solutions that are being considered include spending more money to separate storm and sanitary sewers, chlorination treatment all year round and possible ultraviolet radiation. Pollution Probe advocates carbon filtration beds and ozone treatment as practiced in Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and other cities in the U. S. and Europe. Pollution Probe would also like to see a Safe Drinking Water Act.

Although fecal bacteria was the concern this summer, Mary Smith pointed out that the chemical contamination from storm sewers could be worse than the dangers of fecal bacteria. There are some 2,000 outflow pipes in the Metro area going into Lake Ontario. No one knows what is coming out of these pipes. Oil spills and chemical sediments are increasingly turning up in the Metro area; some have been observed while on TFN outings. Pollution Probe receives over 100 calls per year about these alone. Chemical contamination in Lake Ontario decreased in the 1970's when attention was first focused on this area, but is now again increasing. Also the production, handling, and disposal of liquid industrial wastes, which must either be neutralized or destroyed under high temperatures, are not being monitored.

Ultimately the solution lies in the reduction of the use of toxins and the substitution of benign chemicals. Pollution Probe has published a book that outlines ways in which industries can recycle the wastes and use them for a profit.

Melanie Milanich

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY PLEDGE

Following is a declaration taken by persons attending the World Environment Day Program, June 5, 1980. We think it should be repeated by all of us from time to time:

Today, June 5th, 1980 - "World Environment Day", I declare my recognition of the urgency of regaining a balance between humanity's activities on earth and the delicate equilibrium of the natural ecosystem.

The survival of humanity and the welfare of future generations depend on a healthy environment. As a citizen of the world, I pledge to take immediate action, individually and together with others, to improve my own awareness of the state of our environment, and to contribute to the improvement of my immediate environment. I will inspire other people through personal example to respect the minerals, the plants and trees, the wildlife, people of all backgrounds and the energies controlling nature.

As we gather here today . . . let us secure at least as bright a future for our children as we have had so far.

The rolling hills and changing skies,

All that lives and grows and dies,

The trees,

The lakes,

The fertile ground,

The secrets and the beauty found -

God gives to all who do not fear
With open minds to see and hear.

Heather May Harris

(from "God's Country"
Billie Bear Nature Camp
June, 1983)

THE EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE

- encounters in a Muskoka summer children's camp

Although I had read much about the eastern hognose snake, I had never actually encountered one until this summer. It is one of the most interesting snakes in Canada and has odd mannerisms to say the least. It can scare the pants off the most fearless herpetologist. The first thing that is intimidating is the snake's thick body. It's not very long but blows itself up like a balloon and makes itself about as thick as your wrist; it flattens its neck and resembles a cobra in its traditional striking-pose. It also hisses when approached, so those who are not afraid of its appearance may withdraw because it sounds so dangerous. All this combined with the fact that it inhabits the same range as the dreaded Massasauga rattlesnake can strike fear into anyone who is in the slightest doubt about its identification. The truth is this reptile is harmless and, if it is harassed too much, it will roll over on its back, stick out its tongue, may even bleed from its mouth, and play dead.

Like many snakes, the eastern hognose varies in colour. The three I saw during the summer were all of completely different colours. The first was surrounded by anxious campers who were keeping it at bay until they could bring me from my program area to have a look at it. It was very dark with two jet black ovals on the sides of its neck and it was hissing loudly. I always try to show fearlessness when dealing with wild animals but was reluctant to pick up this particular snake with my bare hands until absolutely certain of its identity. One problem was that there was only a small black and white photograph of it in my field guide. Also it was difficult to get a good look at it until after it was captured. We caught the snake with the help of eight children and an insect-net, and kept it for a few days in a terrarium for the children to examine more closely. (We do not keep an animal more than a few days in captivity, especially if it is not feeding.) We read that the hognose snake feeds mainly on small toads. It has special fangs which are not connected to venom glands which it uses to deflate toads that have blown themselves up (to resist being swallowed by snakes). The hognose bursts them as you might pop a balloon with a pin. It can also smell toads which have buried themselves underground and has a special shovel-shaped nose for digging them up. It was quite comical when we tried to feed it a small American toad. The toad hopped about the terrarium for a while and the snake seemed unaware of it. We hoped the snake would eat the toad because we didn't really want to have to set it free when it drew all kinds of campers up to the campcraft programs area. Most animals will not feed in captivity and we knew this to be true when we saw the toad had found a comfortable spot to perch on top of the snake's head. It would have made a great photograph.

The hognose is very rare so we did not want to threaten its existence by keeping it captive and not feeding it. After we let it go we didn't capture any more although several were seen that summer. It's strange that I've never seen a hognose except in the areas of camp where there are lots of buildings and human activity. The books say they like sandy habitat so it is possible that the forest was just too green for them.

Roger Powley

Ref.: Ontario Snakes by Barbara Froom, Ontario Lands & Forests 1967/1971.
The Raven Vol. 22 No. 6 July 30/81 (Algonquin Park bulletin).

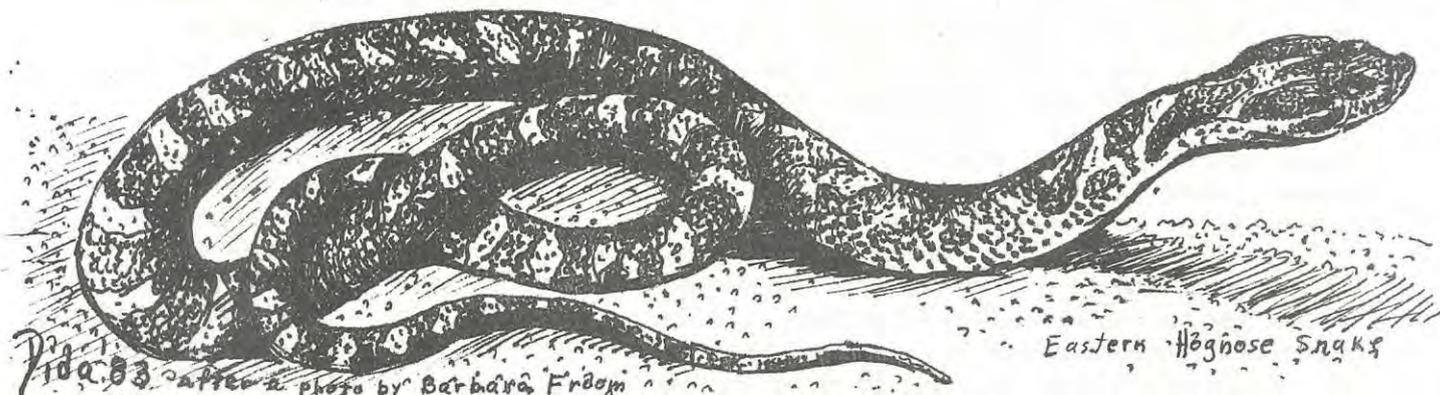
— THE HOGNOSE WAS ONCE A TORONTO SNAKE —

The Natural History, Toronto Region of the Royal Canadian Institute, published 1913, edited by J. H. Faull, says of the hog-nosed snake, (*Heterodon platyrhinos*): "Used to be fairly common at High Park, but is rarer now; feeds on frogs and toads, but seems to prefer the toads..." In Amphibians and Reptiles in Metropolitan Toronto, TFN 1982, Bob Johnson, the author, remarks in his section on toads, "The only Toronto record for the hognose snake was from High Park. Although now extirpated from Toronto this snake preys primarily on toads and was undoubtedly found in High Park because of the large toad population." Toronto is still within its range and certainly has plenty of toads and some sandy locations. Any information about a snake answering to this description within your memory would be appreciated for the records. (Don't forget to phone Bob Johnson, 284-8181, about any sightings of snakes or other reptiles or amphibians.)

Further Reptile and Amphibian Field Guides:

Reptiles and Amphibians by H. Zim and H. Smith, a Golden Guide, 1953/1956.
(around \$2.00)

The New Field Book of Reptiles and Amphibians by D. Cochran and C. Goin,
a Putnam Nature Field Book, 1970. In TFN Library (690-1963).



— LESLIE STREET SPIT OPEN —

The Toronto Harbour Commissioners announced on October 6, 1983, that the LESLIE STREET SPIT will remain open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays until further notice. A special turnstile has been installed which allows cyclists and hikers to enter the 3.2-mile spit of land but not motor vehicles. Motorists must park their cars inside the first gate where parking space is provided. During the 1983 regular 14-week season, 18,377 cyclists, hikers and bus passengers visited the site. During the three weekends between Labour Day and Thanksgiving, more than 3500 visited it.

VACATION IDEAS

Last summer Diana Park enjoyed two holiday trips. You might be interested in considering them for next year.

PRAIRIE CANADA SUMMER was a study holiday put on by the Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 0A2. In 1983 they conducted one week at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg (Economic History, Prairie Rivers, Prairie Art) and a second week at the University of Regina (Early, Present and Inner Views of the Prairies by different generations of Prairie dwellers). Each morning there were lectures and the afternoons were either free or excursions were arranged. Each year the topics and places vary. They have done topics of interest to naturalists, and likely will do so again.

The ATLANTIC CANADA INSTITUTE, 11 Armshore Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3N 1M4, also ran similar types of cultural holidays in the four Maritime provinces, on four consecutive weeks. Participants stayed at universities in various cities, studying various topics regarding the history and culture of the Atlantic Provinces.

Diana heartily recommends either of these holidays.

Do senior citizens know about study weeks all over Canada, the US, Britain and parts of Europe available through ELDERHOSTEL? Groups of, typically, about forty men and women over 60 spend a week in a university residence at nominal cost, usually taking three out of a great variety of courses, sometimes including field trips by bus. Several members of TFN spent a week at Brock University recently, gaining knowledge about the Niagara Escarpment and the Welland Canal. To obtain a recent catalogue, write to:
ELDERHOSTEL, 100 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, USA.

ME

ATTENTION BIRDERS

Have you always wanted to go to CHURCHILL? Here is your "golden opportunity". Professor Jim Rising and Professor Tom Parsons will be offering a course in Arctic Ecosystems at Churchill, through the University of Toronto, July 1-15, 1984.

Birders who would like to audit the course as a non-credit are invited to join them for one or two weeks. Accommodation will be at the Northern Studies Centre where you will have a chance to meet scientists involved in a variety of arctic studies. (Polar bears, Ross's Gulls, snow geese, etc.)

Approximate cost for two weeks would be \$1000 (including return air fare Toronto-Churchill, meals, accommodation etc.) Participants will be expected to help out with dishes and preparing their own lunches and breakfasts. A cook has been employed to prepare dinners.

But remember this is the height of the insect season -- or why else would the birds be so abundant?

This course is pending a minimum enrolment of ten.

If you are interested or would like more information, please call
Beth Jefferson (251-2998 after 6 pm), Course organizer
41 Lakeshore Dr., Apt. 404, New Toronto, Ont. M8V 1Z3

TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS
WELCOME

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Monday, December 5, 1983. 8.15 p.m. (Coffee at 7.30)

Mushrooms of the Toronto Area

- Dr. David Malloch, Professor of Botany, University of Toronto
Mushrooms are the reproductive structures of a large number of different fungi. Like the fruit on a tree, mushrooms appear at certain times of the year, but in fact the fungus that produces them is present year round and is busy decaying dead plant materials or living on the roots of living trees. The kinds of plants that live in any area directly determine the kind of mushrooms that will be found there. Thus the mushrooms of the Toronto area are partly those typical of hardwood forests and partly urban opportunists.

Monday, January 9, 1984. 8.15 p.m. (Coffee at 7.30)

Oshawa Second Marsh - A Resource to Protect. (See also page 20)

This is a slide-sound production which will highlight the findings of Environment Canada's baseline study on Oshawa Second Marsh. It also includes recommendations for preservation of the marsh. Mr. Howard Ferguson, Regional Director General of Environment Canada, will be present to answer questions.

Following this, there will be a showing of the beautiful movie "Osprey". The osprey has been an endangered species and for some years completely disappeared from its habitat in Scotland. Two birds did return to their nesting area and, with the aid of great care and protection, their numbers have now grown to fifty. This film includes incredible slow motion and close-up photography showing the life history and behaviour of osprey, a species with worldwide distribution. The movie has held audiences age 8 to 88 spellbound for its 35 minutes, and wanting a repeat showing immediately.

Monday, February 1, 1984. 8.15 p.m.

Program on Hawks - Dave Copeland.

GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group

Thur. Jan. 12 Africa Safari - Wendy Hunter
8.00 p.m.

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

Botany Group

Wed., Jan. 18 Alpine Meadows, Tundra - Waterton National Park
8.00 p.m. - Paul McGaw

Location: Room 07, Botany Bldg., University of Toronto,
northwest corner of College and University.

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Environmental Group

Thur., Jan. 26 Save Our Streams
7.30 p.m. - David McLeish

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

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Junior Club

Sat., Dec. 3 Steve Varga, Botany Department, U. of T., will speak about
10.00 a.m. the geology and flora of the Niagara escarpment.

Sat., Jan. 7 Natural History, Geology and Land Forms of
10.00 a.m. Toronto Region and Lake Ontario - Ed Freeman, MNR

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

COMING EVENTS



Royal Canadian Institute

Sat., Dec. 3 Florida's Last Natural Waterway: Can Research
8.15 p.m. and Conservation Rescue it? - Dr. Robert J.
Livingston, Aquatic Ecologist; Professor of
Biological Sciences, Florida State University,
Tallahassee. Illustrated with colour slides.

Location: Convocation Hall, University of Toronto.

These lectures will resume on Sunday afternoons commencing
January 15 at 3.15 p.m. in the Medical Sciences Building, U. of T.

Jan. 15 George Orwell, 1984

Jan. 22 To be announced

Jan. 29 The Return of Halley's Comet - Dr. Ian Halliday

For further information, telephone 979-2004.

The Oxford University Press Canada has advised us there will be
an exhibition of nature photography by Bill Ivy, author of the
award-winning photography book, A LITTLE WILDERNESS: The Natural
History of Toronto (Oxford University Press) at the Ontario
Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Road, Don Mills, Ontario, until
the end of December.



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.

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| 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)

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