



# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 368, December 1984



Do you know this Viburnum?

See page 24.

# President's Report

Many environmental issues are vying for our attention. The MTRCA bulldozed an area near the end of the Spit. We were told it was a project to improve nesting sites for terns. Since we - and other concerned groups - understood that planning for the Spit was to be a public affair, we were distressed that MTRCA had not at least let us know in advance what they were doing. However, on November 29 there is a meeting of the Interim Users Group called by the MTRCA in the ongoing discussions on the future of the Spit. Various groups would like to see different sorts of uses or management programmes and the meetings will help to ensure that a good solution is found.

A developer has asked the City of Toronto for rezoning of a small ravine slope on Bloor Street adjacent to High Park for apartments, some built into the slope. I will be at the Land Use Committee meeting on November 14 to speak against the rezoning.

Backus Woods is a 400-acre Carolinian forest located not far from the Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan. This is the only example in public ownership in Canada of this type of vegetation and some of the trees are estimated to be 300 years old - some could grow to be 800 or even 1000 years old. A group of naturalists concerned about the preservation of this forest is endeavouring to plan for this nationally unique part of the Canadian heritage. TFN had representation at a recent meeting of the Backus Group.

And now, a happy note to end on - a footnote to the Cabin. I went there one morning to dismantle the displays. A small group of Senior Kindergartners with their teachers came along and wanted to see inside. The door was open and some thought it was haunted. (Inside, there was no ghost, but there was an old witch!) They trooped in, fluttering and chirping like a flock of sparrows, fascinated by what they saw and by the displays and pictures. And then! A volunteer had left oak leaves and acorns, beech and hickory leaves and nuts and a black walnut in its green overcoat. They were entranced and took the nuts and leaves and put them in their "treasure" bags. When I began to pry off the coat of the walnut to show them the nut, they clustered around and all wanted bits of the green coat. I was able to break open the nut so that they could see inside - everyone wanted a little sample bit. Then they all swept out again and I plodded on with my job.

Since this Newsletter covers the Holiday Season, I wish every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jean Macdonald  
425-6596

True freedom and happiness do not depend upon acquiring a big bank balance, but lie in a sane limitation of desires. Possessing too many things which have to be looked after and having endless desires which have to be fulfilled robs the worldly man of the time and energy which could be better spent.

from THE BECKONING LAND by Rowena Farre, Victor Gollancz Ltd., London, 1969.



December weather can be variable. Generally it's cold but one never knows from year to year if it's going to be a white or green Christmas. There's no doubt about January, though; the snow is here to stay, the air is frigid and the wind can bite.

Some of the birds which were here in the summer stay all winter (blue jays, cardinals, house sparrows etc.) but most migrate to warmer climes. Toronto, however, IS south for many, more northern, species. Along the lakeshore check for oldsquaw, common goldeneye, herring gull, bufflehead and common merganser. Snowy owls, northern shrikes, snow buntings and redpolls can be found in open country. A look at past Toronto Christmas Bird Counts (published in the TFN newsletter) will give you a good idea of what's around at this time of year. Some of winter's most interesting stragglers pop up at backyard feeders, so your most exciting birding may be done from behind the kitchen or living-room window.

Nests are more obvious in winter and in the case of bees' nests, more safely studied. Birds' nests can be hard to pin down to a particular species but some, such as the northern oriole nest, are quite distinctive. It is quite common for mice to use abandoned birds' nests for homes. If you notice where the original bowl shape has been covered by a dome, gently open it and you may find three or four mice huddled together in a cattail down lining. Two types of insect nests stand out at this time: those of the paper wasp and the white-faced hornet. A pendulous umbrella-shaped structure (one to six inches across) with a system of exposed cells underneath is the work of the paper wasp. The hornet constructs a home which is roughly the shape of an egg and the size of a basketball, with an entrance hole placed on one side of the base. This vacated nest makes a first class winter residence for many insects and spiders.

Phil Joiner

Saturday December 1 -- JUNIOR MEETING (see page 33)

Sunday WILKET CREEK PARK - nature walk West Don Tributary, North York  
 Dec. 2 Leaders: Gay and Phil Joiner  
 1:30 pm Meet at the park entrance on Leslie Street just north of Eglinton Ave. East.

Tuesday December 4 -- TFN GENERAL MEETING (see page 32)

Saturday METRO ZOO -- sketching/painting/ photography Rouge Valley, Scarb.  
 Dec. 8 Leader: Diana Banville  
 10 am Meet inside gates (northwest of Meadowvale and Sheppard)  
 Entrance \$4.00; seniors \$2.00. Topic "Understanding Colour".  
 Bring stool. Lunch optional. Work in colour (and/or black-and-white to learn grading of "values").  
 Everyone welcome.

○ Saturday December 8 -- FULL MOON

Saturday BURKE RAVINE - birds West Don Tributary, North York  
 Dec. 15 Leader: Lise Anglin  
 10 am Meet on Bayview Ave., east side, just north of the CNIB overpass.  
 Outing concludes about 1 pm. (between Eglinton Ave. E. and Lawrence)

## UPCOMING OUTINGS (cont'd)...

Wednesday ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM - sketching Toronto  
 Dec. 19 Leader: Miriam Fabish

10:30 am Meet at the entrance to the museum on the east side of Avenue Road just south of Bloor St. West. Admission \$2.50; seniors with card \$1.25. Morning only. Everyone welcome.

Friday Sunrise: 7:49 am; Sunset: 4:44 pm

Dec. 21 WINTER SOLSTICE: At 11:23 am the north pole reaches its maximum tilt away from the sun and starts to return and the days begin to get longer. This, the shortest day of the year, is only 8 hours and 55 minutes long between sunrise and sunset.

☉ Saturday Dark of moon. Good time to starwatch.  
 Dec. 22

Sunday CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - a project of the Toronto Ornithological Club.  
 Dec. 23 If you wish to participate call Harry Kerr at 481-7948.

Wednesday TODMORDEN MILLS - nature walk Don Valley, East York  
 Dec. 26 Leaders: Aarne and Helen Juhola  
 1:30 pm Meet at Todmorden Mills (on Pottery Rd. which runs west and downhill off Broadview Ave. north of Danforth Ave.).

Sunday JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE - Winter Wildlife Inventory Uxbridge  
 Dec. 30 Leader: Howard Battae  
 11 am Dress warmly. Snow boots necessary. If you have snowshoes or skis, to 4 pm this may be a chance to use them. Bring lunch. Call Howard Battae 225-9780 if you plan to attend. We would particularly like to hear from people with cars who wouldn't mind picking up others at a convenient subway station.

▷ Dec. 30 to Jan. 5 -- Time to reserve a place on the outing to Kortright Centre on Saturday January 19 by phoning Muriel Miville at 463-8066. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$11.00 payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS OUTING to Muriel Miville, 607 - 33 Eastmount Ave., Toronto. M4K 1V3. Cheques must be received by Friday, January 11.

Wednesday ALLAN GARDENS - greenhouses Toronto  
 Jan. 2 Leader: Peggy Love  
 11 am Meet at the entrance to the greenhouses just south of Carlton and east of Jarvis Street, in the park. Morning only.

Saturday January 5 -- JUNIOR MEETING (see page 33)

Sunday WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT  
 Jan. 6 For experienced birders. Only a few places available. Call Clive Goodwin at 249-9503 if you are interested.

Monday, January 7 -- TFN GENERAL MEETING (see page 32)

Thursday January 10 -- BOTANY GROUP MEETING (see page 32)

Saturday YORK CEMETERY GREENHOUSES - sketching North York  
 Jan. 12 Leader: Mac Brown  
 10 am Meet on south-east corner of Sheppard and Yonge. Bring stool, pencils and pens. The topic will be perspective. Everyone welcome. Lunch at Sheppard Mall.

## UPCOMING OUTINGS (cont'd)...

Sunday MORNINGSIDE PARK - birds Highland Creek, Scarborough  
 Jan. 13 Leaders: King Baker and Cathy Hnyp  
 1:30 pm Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Morningside Ave.,  
 about halfway between Lawrence Ave. East and Ellesmere Rd.

Wednesday, January 16 -- BIRD GROUP MEETING (see page 32)

also  
 Wednesday ETOBICOKE GREENHOUSES Etobicoke Creek, Etobicoke  
 Jan. 16 Leader: Betty Paul  
 10:30 am Meet at entrance to Greenhouses on Elmcrest Rd. just north of  
 Rathburn Rd.

Saturday KORTRIGHT CENTRE - bus outing Humber River, Vaughan  
 Jan. 19 Leader: Muriel Miville  
 10 am You must reserve a place on the bus between Dec. 30 and Jan. 5.  
 to 4 pm Meet on the north-east corner of Yonge and York Mills. Bus leaves  
 Toronto promptly at 10 am and returns to same corner at 4 pm.  
BUS Lunch may be obtained at the Centre's cafeteria. Indoors: displays  
 and slide shows; outdoors: bird-feeder trail plus a variety of  
 other walking trails.

Sunday HUMBER BAY PARK - birds Lakeshore, Etobicoke  
 Jan. 20 Leader: Bob Yukich  
 1:30 pm Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. at  
 Parklawn Rd.

Thursday January 24 -- ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP MEETING (see page 33)

Sunday LAMBTON WOODS - nature walk Humber River, Etobicoke  
 Jan. 27 Leader: Ilmar Talvila  
 1:30 pm Meet at park entrance on Edenbridge Dr. east of Royal York Rd.  
 (halfway between Dundas St. West and Eglinton Ave. West).

Saturday February 2 -- JUNIOR MEETING

Sunday BELTLINE RAILWAY - nature walk Toronto  
 Feb. 3 Leader: to be announced  
 1:30 pm Meet at the south-west corner of Yonge and Davisville to walk  
 northwest toward Eglinton Ave. West.

Monday February 4 -- TFN General Meeting (see page 32)

*Be sure to wear warm, waterproof clothing on the outings. It is important to  
 keep your hands and feet and head warm.*

*The TTC has free RIDE GUIDES available at subway stations. Telephone TTC  
 Information, 484-4544 for information about specific routes. Check with the  
 bus driver if you are in doubt about where to get off.*

*We also recommend MAPART Maps of the city.*

I was just thinking -  
 New Year's falls at a bleak time.  
 Yet if there is snow...

haiku by Diana Banville

# Keeping in touch . . .

Oct. 23/84

Helen,

It was with mixed feelings that I read your articulate appeal on behalf of a silent natural area. I will never forget the first time I saw Centennial Swamp captured on slides for a TFN Environmental Group meeting. I was truly amazed that such a landscape existed IN Metro Toronto and this amazement continues with every visit to the site. I can still remember, as though yesterday, that feeling of excitement at the discovery of a new landscape -- a landscape of natural features, and one of the mind.

If I may diverge for a moment, let me explain that latter statement. I recall a lecture I attended at the Royal Ontario Museum more than ten years ago: a visiting metallurgist was showing slides of microscopic sections and rock formations. I do not recall why I was in attendance as the subject through the haze of memory seems somewhat foreign to me, but I do recall one very strong and subsequently everlasting feeling. The lecturer, for lack of another rational way of describing his slides, was cataloguing them in terms of the landscapes they mimicked. Indeed, each slide could be interpreted as a landscape with minute crystals not so randomly arranging themselves in the form of trees, mountains, and golden seas. I was thus left with the impression that the natural features are so important as to be fixed in our minds to be recalled in times of confusion, wonder, or to order a universe that is larger (or in this case, much smaller) than ourselves. I was left with a lasting impression of landscapes.

Not landscapes to be captured with the camera, nor to be ranked in terms of beauty and uniqueness, for both confer objective relativity to a subject that has meaning in the feelings that are spawned and nurtured. It is a recent phenomenon to rank and order our natural features -- even aesthetics are ranked so that "scenic viewpoints" are given value in terms of other views and not as integrated into the landscape as a whole. Thus we go about collecting "scenic viewpoints" with map and camera in hand all the while becoming desensitized to those natural features not ranked, or considered common (with all the baggage of the Victorian morality that still comes with the word). Instead of being considered "part of a whole", "to be common" is relegated to "not of value". To be ranked as "common" is to be relegated to a position of exploitation.

It is with disdain that I read in the recommendations of the Scarborough Planning Committee that although "...a number of breeding birds...a significant number of reptiles and amphibians...and an Assessment of Natural Areas in Scarborough identified this swamp as worthy of preservation...they are considered to be common species and exist in other areas of the region...".

Where in Metro Toronto can you see fifty painted turtles basking on a graveyard of toppled trees! . . . I was about to go on and list the many species found here, but will resist the temptation, for that is the fodder of urban planners. Centennial is my landscape and I carry its potential with me -- a potential to experience the first sighting of gray treefrogs while conducting a tour of the area, to discover a single bog twayblade along the shore of the swamp, and to share the joy a young girl had in holding her first toad. No matter that these may be common or rare. The opportunity to experience, discover, and share feelings -- that is Centennial Swamp.

I recently saw a television interview with a government-employed guardian of our natural environment who was defending the dumping of toxic waste into a swamp. His rationalization for this act was the fact that the natural heritage

of his particular state had been studied and this swamp was not particularly significant. It had no unique creatures so its significance could not be ranked. There is a secular danger in our efforts to rank and describe significant areas as it relegates all other natural features to a position of commonness to be disdained and exploited. Attempts to improve landscapes or to develop them make them truly common.

These are errors that need to be expounded at another time and I apologize for taking my deviation so far. It is obvious that Centennial Swamp has been tainted with commonness, but I was writing about landscapes and it is to this that I will return.

There are some like John Livingston or Barry McKay who can carry many landscapes and who can sense the wholeness of them all. They do not blur one into the other for they see them not as separate entities, but as one interdependent whole. On the other hand, some individuals carry a particular landscape with them, the Leslie Street Spit, Moore Park Ravine, G. Ross Lord Park, or Centennial Swamp.

It is not my landscape or anyone else's. We do not possess it, but in carrying it we order our universe. We use its complexity, wonder, and unexpected life (no matter how common) to meet the challenges of modern urban life. We sense its continuity and the others that have or will tap into that shared landscape. It is precisely the existence of a swamp such as Centennial that makes Scarborough tolerable.

Unexpectedly encountering that gray treefrog was a joy to me -- a joy that extended beyond that day to this writing. Scarborough's decision to drain and "develop" part of my landscape is a black spot on my joy -- a joy that I share with many others. The issue is not one of common species, or needed housing, or even the money to be made by the owners and developers. The issue involves the destruction forever of something that cannot be again. It is a denial of my experiences with the swamp.

Thank you, Helen Juhola, for your appeal and I encourage more of you to write on behalf of a landscape that is Centennial Swamp.

Bob Johnson

YELLOW-SPOTTED SALAMANDER  
NOT EXTIRPATED IN TORONTO

While on an outing for the Junior Club this Fall, a group of boys was excited to find not one, but four, Yellow-spotted Salamanders under a log in the Humber Valley. However, only one was picked up and brought to the group's attention. It was then released where it had been found.

Report of this find delighted Bob Johnson, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the Metro Zoo, as only a couple of these rare salamanders have been "spotted" in Toronto. They are a northern woodlands species and to be found in the heart of the city as a viable population gives high hopes for its future and for the future of rare snakes that might also be found here.

Beth Jefferson

## people

Mary Isabelle Pannell passed away on October 4, 1984. Mary was a quietly enthusiastic supporter of the TFN for many years. At meetings and outings she was friendly and cheerful with everyone.

Mary was the widow of the late Ray Pannell - a very active bird-watcher. For many years they lived beside Wychwood Park where they birded regularly; also in the Cedarvale Ravine in earlier days.

Mary was church organist at Wychwood Baptist Church for quite a few years. In latter years she was active at Walmer Road Baptist Church. She will be missed, although probably some of the members may never have known her name, but will miss her bright smile and friendly words.

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William Walker Hamilton Gunn passed away in Lindsay on October 15, 1984. Bill Gunn was an ardent bird-watcher who will be remembered in pictures with the parabola equipment for which he became famous. He had not lived in the Toronto area for the last twenty years.

Winifred Smith

### SUNDAY IN DURBAN

My Sunday afternoons are invariably spent in the Botanical Gardens; I never tire of going there and always visit some corner of the gardens which I have not seen before. Last week I developed a nasty crick in the neck as I insisted on counting the rings on the royal palms\* which are over 200 years old.

The most interesting plants are probably the cycads. These spectacular circular evergreen plants, mostly at ground level and dark green, are numerous. To have one in the garden at home is illegal without a permit, and it is illegal to dig one up. Another area sports a tremendous variety of bromeliads;\* many are epiphytes, perching on the trees.

Probably the most beautiful place is the lake where a colony of spotted-backed weavers fly in and out of their hanging heart-shaped nests. The whistling ducks are breeding successfully and parade in "crocodile" form across the lake. Toss a piece of bread to the yellow-billed ducks and the lake ripples with a hundred gaping fish-mouths converging on the crust. Yes, the ducks are well fed. The waterlilies are both indigenous and imported - cream, blue, pink, and yellow.

We always end up in the tea-garden gutsching on cream and jam scones. The mynah birds strut on the grass, and often groups of Indians arrive dressed in their best finery after a wedding to photograph the wedding-party against the beautiful scenery.

Joy Pocklington

\*New World plants...assuming the palm mentioned is the prized Cuban royal palm; of the 2000 species of bromeliad, one grows in West Africa. (Ed.)

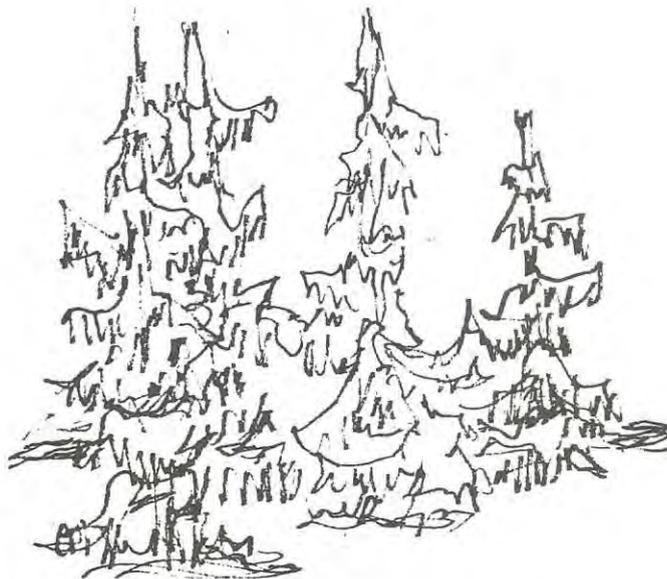
## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

In October the Environmental Group welcomed Ruth Johnson, who, in addition to being Chairperson of the Environmental Control Committee for North York Council, is an avid recycler, a maker and teacher of environmental crafts and author of What to do Till the Garbageman Arrives and The Creative Cook's Recycling Book.

Ruth brought with her a display of over one hundred craft items that she made from what would normally be considered household garbage - plastic containers, tin cans, bottle caps, egg shells, nylons and old socks made into toys, gifts and practical household articles. She told us about her long-standing interest in recycling and how several years ago she opened a recycling depot in her garage to fill an unmet need.

Ruth has been instrumental as a founding member of the North York Environmental Control Committee in working for instituting recycling depots for glass, metal, office paper, and newspaper throughout North York. The Committee is a Standing Committee of North York Council consisting of both citizens and politicians. It has been involved in educational seminars and displays as well as projects related to garbage reduction, recycling, and smoking control and ravine protection by-laws.

Melanie Milanich



"Cedars" - Mary Cumming

# OUTINGS REPORT

Winter 1983-84

Winter for the naturalist is December, January, and February. Of last winter's 20 outings most were either general interest nature walks, in which everything is worthy of interest, or searches for birds. But befitting the season, others were "innings" -- to greenhouses, to CIL House where sketchers and photographers viewed the artwork and pictured the plants, to the zoo, and to the Endangered Animal Sanctuary.

Our thanks to all our outing leaders; especially to those who take mid-week groups that don't have the encouraging numbers that usually turn up for the weekend outings. Members who cannot come out on Saturdays and Sundays value these mid-week get-togethers.

Now another winter is upon us. We may be stimulated to take part in this winter's outings by looking back at some of last year's events.

December 11 - dull, cold, and blowy as 15 folk gathered at Todmorden Mills for a walk up the Don Valley. An American Kestrel perched nearby and leader Muriel Miville reported, "We passed around our binoculars and he politely waited".

December 22 - a special salute to Suzanne Poodrey. She agreed to lead a sunrise outing at Sunnyside on this winter solstice. Rain, pouring at 6:30 am had stopped about 7. But when it came time for the sun to appear it overslept. Says Suzanne philosophically, "Can't really have a party without a host." Probably that's why TFN members didn't make the trip. So, all by herself, Suzanne had a rewarding two hours observing a variety of ducks, a horned grebe, and a dozen great black-backed gulls. She makes the point that winter viewing is easier because the birds are inside the breakwater.

January 8 - Well, if the TFN can't always produce the sun, at least we deliver on some of our promises! Owls were promised for this outing to the Etobicoke greenhouse woodlot. And owls there were for the 23 people led by Bruce Wilkinson. A saw-whet perched with a mouse in its talons and two great horned were seen flying in a stand of hemlocks. As well, the group examined the contents of a pellet regurgitated by a great horned. And numerous feathers from a long-eared were picked up. Was its owner a victim of a great horned?

February 5 - a visit to the Endangered Animal Sanctuary on Millwood Road. Sandy Cappell led a group of 15. Of special interest among the many animals seen was a Capuchin monkey. Proprietor Bill Valliere said the monkey had given its owner a 48-stitch bite and done \$14,000 damage to her home.

February 8 - a botany outing to Allan Gardens. Of the 17 who attended, leader Peggy Love noted that 12 were seeing the greenhouse for the first time. Acquainting members with Toronto's interesting places is one of the values of the outings program.

General interest nature walks, not surprisingly, attracted many participants. On January 1 a brisk afternoon walk in Moore Park Ravine led by Aarne and Helen Juhola cleared away any fogginess remaining from the night before. Two weeks later on a sunny day with the thermometer just edging above "old zero" (sounds more bracing, somehow), 40 people gathered for a hike at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. On January 22 the Juholas led a group of 16 in a walk along Black Creek. This was the time the group had to climb out of the flood control channel and Aarne "played Sir Walter Raleigh by lying on the ice and pulling people past the worst part". On February 12 Roger Powley also led a group along Black Creek. No heroics reported but a dozen different kinds of

## OUTINGS REPORT (cont'd)...

trees recorded. Two weeks later 32 people formed the group in Morningside Park under the leadership of Phil and Gay Joiner.

More on the waterfront in winter - January 23 at Humber Bay Park, Beth Jefferson's group saw mute, whistling, and trumpeter swans, a harlequin duck, and a white-winged scoter. They may have just missed a merlin; also, the snowy owl often found there. February 18 at Sunnyside and Lakeshore West, 16 species were turned up by Bob Yukich's party. Noteworthy were a glaucous gull and an early horned lark. February 19 on the Leslie Stree Spit, no doubt aided by the mild weather, we had the largest attendance of any winter outing. The 46 people led by Howard Battae also saw a glaucous gull, half a dozen horned larks, and 4 northern pintails among 20 species.

Harold Taylor

WHAT TO WEAR ON WINTER WALKS



*Knit cap under hood*

*Knit scarf or turtle-neck*

*Pack containing lunch, thermos, notebook, pencil, gear such as binoculars, hand lens, camera, possibly extra sweater*

*Quilted parka, preferably down-filled, or with woollen sweater beneath; also thermal underwear (Belted or elastic waist prevents heat-loss)*

*Woollen mitts or cloth gloves with mitts over them*

*Winter-weight or quilted pants*

*Woollen socks*

*Sturdy, low-heeled insulated boots*

# Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

for the period Sept. 16 to Oct. 15, 1984

Contributors: Lise Anglin, Howard Battae, Sandy Cappell, Mike Delorey, Wendy Hunter, Beth Jefferson, Helen Juhola, Jetta McClure, Ministry of Natural Resources, Jim Sharron, Larisa Zviedris

Cormorants and Herons: Six DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS flew into Toronto along the lake from the west on Sept. 23 (BJ). At Corner Marsh a GREEN HERON was present on Sept. 20 (HB) and a GREAT EGRET was there Sept. 20 (HB) and Sept. 29 (WH). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were still in the Toronto area at Lakeview Generating Station Sept. 17 (BJ).

Waterfowl: The BRANT goose reported last month was at the Leslie Street Spit Oct. 1 (LA). GREEN and BLUE-WINGED TEAL were seen at Corner Marsh Sept. 20 (HB) and a GREEN-WINGED TEAL on a TFN outing to the Leslie Street Spit Oct. 14 and in Grenadier Pond Oct. 14 (BJ). AMERICAN WIGEON were first spotted at Corner Marsh Sept. 20 (HB). Flocks of these and GADWALL increased in size all month in New Toronto (BJ). NORTHERN SHOVELER were seen at Grenadier Pond and Humber Bay Park by many observers during the month (JS, BJ, JM). Fourteen WOOD DUCK must have been an impressive sight at Corner Marsh Sept. 20 (HB). REDHEAD were present at the Leslie Street Spit Oct. 7 (LA) and at Humber Bay all month (JM, BJ). LESSER SCAUP were first noticed at Humber Bay Sept. 29 (BJ). Numbers of BUFFLEHEAD there increased from Sept. 22 to Oct. 4 (BJ, JM). OLD SQUAW began their winter "holiday" in Toronto Oct. 1 (BJ) and one was seen at the Leslie Street Spit Oct. 14 on a TFN outing, but numbers remained low by mid-October. A HOODED MERGANSER was busy preening itself in Grenadier Pond Oct. 14 (BJ). Several COMMON MERGANSERS were seen at Corner Marsh Sept. 20 (HB).

Raptors: Fourteen SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, a COOPER'S, a MARSH HAWK and an OSPREY were observed Sept. 20 at Corner Marsh (HB). An OSPREY was seen at G. Ross Lord Park Sept. 22 with a large goldfish (SC). Another OSPREY was at Grenadier Pond Sept. 17 (JS) and Oct. 14 (BJ). An excellent view of a male MERLIN was a treat for Mike Delorey, Sept. 24.

Rail through Shorebirds: A SORA was spotted on the TFN outing to the Leslie Street Spit Oct. 14. COMMON GALLINULES were at Corner Marsh Sept. 20 (HB) and an AMERICAN COOT was also present on Sept. 29 (WH). KILLDEER, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER and GREATER YELLOWLEGS were seen Oct. 14 at Humber Bay Park (JM). A PECTORAL SANDPIPER was on the Leslie Street Spit Oct. 17 (LA). Participants of the TFN outing there saw 2 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS and 40 DUNLIN Oct. 14. DUNLIN were present at Humber Bay Oct. 14 as well (BJ). SANDERLING and SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER were at Corner Marsh Sept. 20 (HB). HUDSONIAN GODWITS were at Corner Marsh as well on Oct. 6 (WH) and at the Leslie Street Spit Oct. 14 (TFN).

Nightjars through Sparrows: The Ministry of Natural Resources Wildlife Viewing Day on Toronto Island Sept. 30 provided an opportunity to see a number of excellent views of a WHIP-POOR-WILL as it lay on a branch of a tree. Its bristles were clearly visible through the scopes.

Three late EASTERN KINGBIRDS were on the Leslie Street Spit on Oct. 14. A HORNED LARK was observed at Humber Bay Oct. 14 (JM). Migration of BROWN CREEPERS was reported Sept. 21 (BJ) and Sept. 30 (SC). WINTER WRENS were frequently seen: Sept. 30 at G. Ross Lord (SC) and on Toronto Island (MNR) and Oct. 14 at Humber Bay (JM).

A HERMIT THRUSH (BJ) was amongst numerous GOLDEN-CROWNED and RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS at Humber Bay Oct. 14 (JM, BJ). Lots of KINGLETS were noticed Sept. 30, Oct. 6 (SC).

TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS (cont'd)

A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was at Humber Bay Sept. 23 (BJ). One hundred COMMON GRACKLES were seen downtown Sept. 21 (HJ). A dead ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK was found at Mount Pleasant and St. Clair Sept. 16 (HJ). RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEES were seen Oct. 14 at two locations -- the Leslie Street Spit (TFN) and Humber Bay (JM). This same day with the misty weather was a good day for WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS and hundreds of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS at Humber Bay (BJ).

Beth Jefferson

▷ Please send your bird observations to Beth Jefferson, 41 Lake Shore Dr. Apt. 404, New Toronto M8V 1Z3 or call 251-2998 between 6 and 10.

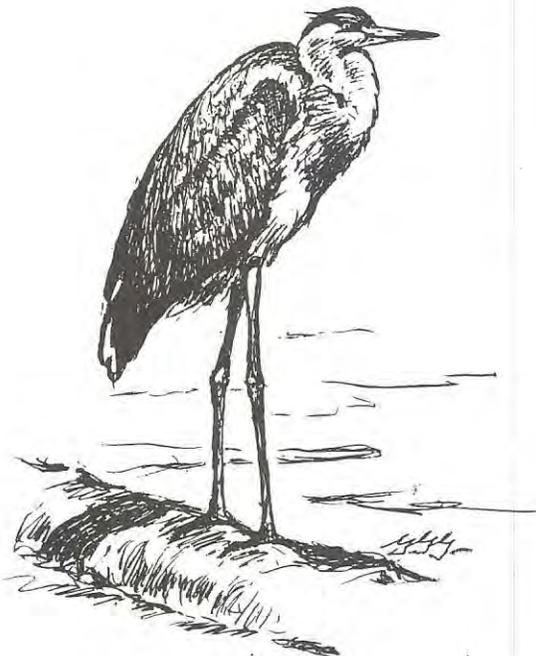
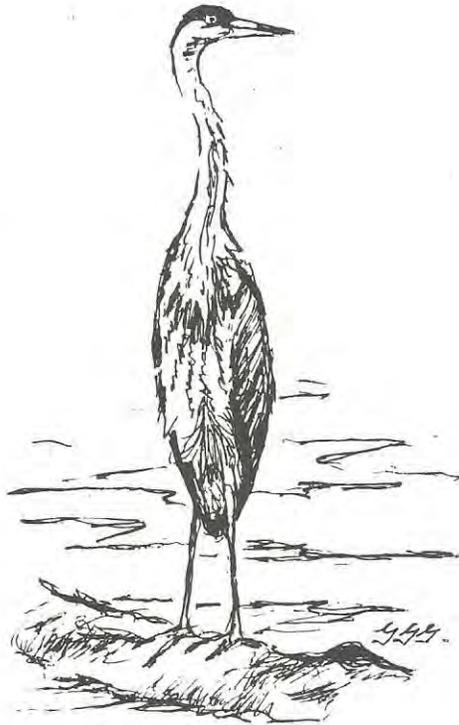
Geraldine Goodwin

based these drawings on her own local photos of a Great Blue Heron.

She captured its reaction to her presence.

Have you seen the one taking advantage of the Eurasian waterbird area at Metro Zoo?

It was there in October.



# IN THE NEWS

## THE GREAT WILDLIFE SWAP - THE GOOSE THAT KEPT COMING BACK

The Toronto waterfront was a noticeably cleaner and more pleasant place this summer. That's because there were fewer geese there, and therefore less mess. Great Canada geese were first reintroduced to the waterfront in the early 1960s, from captive stock and, from a mere handful, they multiplied into a huge flock, ultimately becoming a public nuisance. "We were getting a peak population of about 4,000 in midsummer a few years ago," says Harry Lumsden, a wildlife scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. "Now we're down to about 1,250." Where have all the geese gone? South. But not that far south, and they've gone by truck rather than under their own wing power. This June, for example, the Canadian Wildlife Service rounded up and banded more than 1,000 Toronto geese, and handed them over to representatives of the state of Arkansas, who took them home in a flatbed sheep truck. Iowa, Tennessee, Oklahoma, North Carolina and Ohio have also received shipments of our geese in the past. Once dispatched, the geese usually stay put, although about 20 have so far returned from Arkansas, and one particularly stubborn character returned from both Ohio and Tennessee before finally putting down roots in Iowa. The geese we give the Americans are not breeding stock, or newborn young, but "problem geese"; the one- and two-year olds, too young to breed, who come to the waterfront to molt. During this molting period, Lumsden explains, the geese can't fly. They're "unemployed birds," and the waterfront offers a convenient place to sit. But what has become a problem on our waterfront is a delight for the Americans, Lumsden says, "We just say, come pick them up." Ontario is well stocked with most kinds of wildlife, and the US has little to offer us in return for our geese. But one thing Ontario doesn't have is wild turkeys, which disappeared in the early 1900s, so we obtained some from Michigan and Missouri. These are both true exchange deals, with Michigan getting moose (one for every five turkeys) and Missouri getting river otters (one for every three turkeys). So the wild turkey is back in Ontario, and at last report was doing fine in the Napanee district. Now, could anyone use a raccoon or two?

(from GOODLIFE Magazine, October 1984)

POWER CONSUMERS STUNG: Florida Power and Light customers will be facing slightly higher bills next spring thanks to hordes of jellyfish, company officials said this week. Thousands of the free-floating creatures have drifted in from the Atlantic, jamming the water intake scoops of two of the utility's coastal nuclear power units. The company was forced to switch to more expensive coal-generated electricity for twelve days while divers cleared the jellyfish from the intake screens.

(GLOBE & MAIL, September 6, 1984)

Research and monitoring of the effects of management are important facets of management.

Jo Onderstall, VELD & FLORA, June, 1984

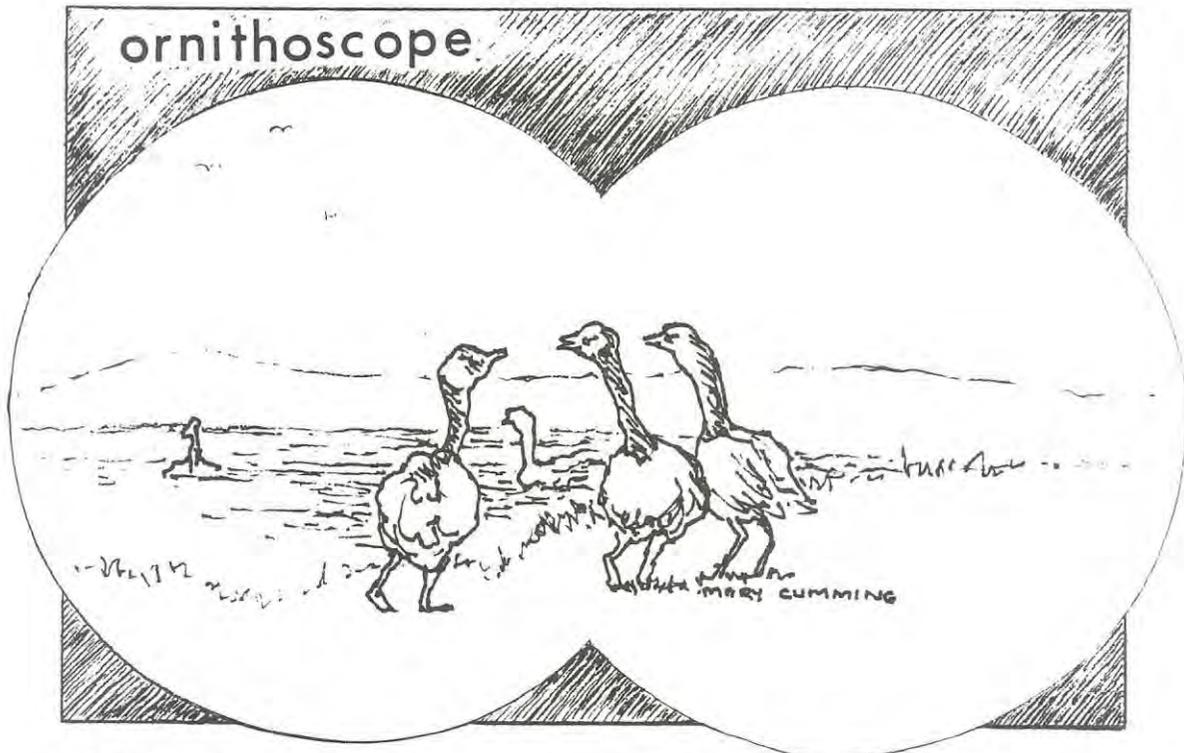
## GOOSE WATCHING

It was in late September, in The Beaches area just below the end of Queen Street East, when I watched some Canada geese gathering for their great migration. Usually they can be seen in groups, of course, but these had formed an INDIAN FILE - all twenty-four of them! - and were swimming eastwards close to the shoreline. The last bird somewhat spoiled the symmetry, being farther away from the rest - a straggler? Or end-man-on-the-trail watching for stragglers? They progressed with leisured regality for about a quarter-hour when a sudden "honk" from the lead-bird had them all airborne. Within a couple of minutes they had fanned out into that famous and spectacular "V", not yet quite geometrical but doubtless to be perfected once they'd got into their stride. The take-off had the precision of a military manoeuvre.

I watched until they were specks in the sky, apparently the only person in a large radius to have noticed. I wanted to shout at the "lumpen proletariat" (a marvelously apt phrase though I have forgotten the name of the genius who coined it): "Look outside yourselves - you have just been made privy to one of Nature's miracles".

Of course, I didn't. While it is perfectly normal to run as though there were a fire on one's tail, eyes lowered, observing little or nothing; or to turn one's radio up several thumping decibels above the tolerance of the human ear; or to ignore all forms of non-human life except those which actively impinge - like mosquitoes - it is NOT acceptable public behaviour to jump up and down shouting "LOOK AT THAT!" when "that" is merely a bunch of birds going about their business.

Eva Davis



"I've been to Arkansas and Missouri, but I like it better here."

Nature Holidays by bus or train...

#### THE LAKEHEAD

North to Superior - as the hauntingly evocative phrase has it - in late July. I chose VIA Rail over Greyhound. It is a long trip - nearly twenty-five hours - and rail coach does allow leg room. Going, grab a seat on the left; returning, on the right - Lake Superior is then kept gloriously in view. Don't forget, incidentally, VIA's reduced fares for 60s-and-over.

We left Union Station at 5 minutes to midnight on a Thursday and arrived early -very early - on Saturday morning (12:45 AM). My notion of the layout of Thunder Bay (the amalgamated Fort William/Port Arthur) was derived from a panoramic map handed me by Ontario Tourism, so I knew that most motels lay in the east end - and there was the train adamantly sliding over to the west end. (Greyhound, however, runs through the City and would perhaps stop at any point to suit customers.) Too late to travel back east. I took the advice of the young woman in the VIA ticket office and checked into the Intowner Hotel ("reasonably priced" said she). For those inclined, the Holiday Inn is even closer.

In the later morning hours I reconnoitred. Thunder Bay boasts a bus service which will get one almost anywhere and I aimed for Cumberland Street. The first place I tried - Wilf's Motel & Cabins - had just what I wanted, a housekeeping cabin clean as a new pin, and run by a delightful couple. I highly recommend them. If air conditioning, colour TV and telephone by the bedside are "musts", these can be found farther along Cumberland Street.

Dumping my backpack, I set out for Centennial Park, another reason I had chosen the east end. "Acres of Forest" said the pamphlet. I approached via Boulevard Lake, a large, manicured area surrounding a manmade lake; that is it BECAME manicured in the weeks that followed, but on that occasion it was savage with unmown grass and piled with broken garbage bags and spilt litter. A horrific sight! (THIS was what they called forest? THIS was what the residents did with their refuse?) I was diverted from returning home immediately on learning that I had arrived in the fifth week of a garbage and parks strike which was settled a few days later.

Centennial Park lies at the end of Boulevard Lake and IS forest. It is roughly a three-quarter hour walk from Cumberland Street. The Current River runs through the park. Trowbridge Falls Campgrounds snaffle up a portion of one side (to be avoided), but very much farther up on the other side are Trowbridge Cascades, reached by hugging the river bank, or approached even higher upstream via city transit and a short hike. A sight worth the effort. The river is golden, pure, and swimmable. The air is crystal clear. Centennial Park lies the way Nature flung it with only the addition of ski/nature trails. By crossing from one ski trail to another (yellow for family, red for moderates, blue for experts), it is possible to wander for hours, meet no one, and hear nothing but birdsong. The preponderant ground cover was large-leaved aster and white flowering raspberry (their version of our purple flowering), with lovely finds of wood lilies and purple fringed orchis, meadowfuls of sunflowers, and brilliant fungi. Strawberries were just at their prime, along with remnants of dewberries. I gorged daily on the fruit of the white flowering raspberry, not a favourite with most, though I find it tart and refreshing. There was a great harvest of shadbush/saskatoon/juneberry at its plumpest - for my preference, superior to the much touted blueberry.

## THE LAKEHEAD (cont'd)

The Camp Cookhouse, situated at the entrance to the trails, runs a 5:30 pm buffet - all one can eat for \$7.95, with chef and staff exhorting to repeat platefuls. After a virtuous 10 km of communing with Nature, one can easily fall from grace with two whacking helpings of cheesecake! While on the subject, I recommend the Fiddlehead Restaurant in town, a natural-food place with good ethnic offerings.

For a change, there are the city's sights, for which consult the downtown Polka-dot Pavilion, Canada's oldest information centre. In the west there are Old Fort William, the Centennial Conservatory, the Thunder Bay Museum, and the National Exhibition Centre and Centre for Indian Art; in the east, the Terry Fox monument, the harbour trips on Cruiseship MV WELCOME, and the amethyst mines. The shoreline of elevators, rail track, and shipping (Thunder Bay is the world's largest grain-handling port and third largest port in Canada) provides an interesting meander.

A city bus passes in the general area of Mount McKay in the west - a brooding presence one thousand feet high - that has survived three glaciers, is amongst the oldest rock formation on earth, and sports on its summit plants native to tundra regions. There is a roadway to the six-hundred-foot level, from which the view over city and bay is panoramic. From that point there is a footpath. I went there with a Thunder Bayite who had never been to the top. We were both fired with the hope of finding some of those plants but it was a rainy day, the rock slabs treacherous underfoot, and the higher areas suitable for mountain goats. At one-third of the way from the top (thinking of the descent) we favoured discretion over scientific fervour and regretfully retreated.

Another attraction in the west is Kakabeka Falls, the "Niagara of the North", but the local hydro manipulates the flow so that the only time the Falls display the fullness of the awesome power rhapsodized by early settlers is in the spring runoff. However, they remain an impressive sight, plunging 128 feet into the Kaministiquia River gorge, and can be visited via a local bus service called FUN TOURS.

Thunder Bay is the amethyst centre of North America, a Mecca for rockhounds. As a tyro enthusiast, I eventually collected eighty pounds of rock, blithely ignoring where in my none-too-capacious apartment I was going to lodge it all. There are some half-dozen amethyst mines, four of which lie 30-40 miles east of Thunder Bay. I visited each of the four and found Pearl Lake Diamond Willow Mine and the Ontario Gem Amethyst Mine the most rewarding. Weekly FUN TOURS allow a half-hour stay. I had, however, met another rockhound who owned a car, and we were able to spend hours scratching hen-like and burrowing mole-like for treasures. Diamond Willow is basically amethyst and owned by a delightful character, Gunnard Noyes, who is generosity itself in the matter of the "nominal charge". Ontario Gem is family managed and boasts the presence of ten minerals besides amethyst quartz. Mines charge one dollar a pound for finds and the quartz ranges from white through citrine, red, purple (the most sought in all its shade variations), smoky, black, (with amethyst, of course, the predominant mineral). Each mine has a shop. Of the gem stores in town I consider Don-Arts Crafts in the west end to have the most exquisite samples.

Oddly, my great find as a would-be prospector came not at mine site but in Centennial Park when I noticed a glittering on the trail. Dislodging stones and slabs with all the urgency of a ferret burrowing into a suspect hole, I finally reached wrist-deep into wet soil and came up with a clay-encrusted lump. Protruding tips had indicated crystal formation, but it wasn't until I got it into the river and washed it that I realized WHAT a find I had: a six-inch circumference black quartz (or violet-amethyst quartz, according to the time

## THE LAKEHEAD (cont'd)

of day), with only minimal crystal fracture. This is the sort of fluke serendipity that confirms a rockhound in an already delirious lunacy.

Finally, there was the return trip. That shoreline is one succession of ravishing views, everything from stark grandeur, through lush riotings to a serene and lonely quiet which puts one in mind of the Evensong blessing... the peace of God which passeth all understanding.

Eva Davis

## If you're so smart...

Try answering these questions based on AUDUBON BIRDS by Roger Tory Peterson, Cross River Press NY, 1980. (Two of the questions have the same answer.)

1. What bird did Audubon call "ferruginous mockingbird"? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What bird is known as "the heron with the golden slippers? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which bird did Audubon rate as the most numerous songbird in the eastern States, except the robin? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is the black-crowned night heron peculiar to North America? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In BIRDS OF AMERICA why did Audubon paint a great blue heron with its head dropped in a graceful sweep to its feet? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When and where did the world's last passenger pigeon die? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What bird do Newfoundland lumberjacks call "cat owl"? \_\_\_\_\_ and why? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In 1953, about how many whooping cranes existed in the world? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Apart from killing and eggging, what is the major cause of reduction in clapper rail population? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the most widely distributed, perhaps most numerous, and certainly most hunted duck on Earth? \_\_\_\_\_

John James Audubon was born in 1785 on Santo Domingo Island in the West Indies to a prosperous French sea captain and a young French-Creole woman. A full set of his BIRDS OF AMERICA, originally published between 1827 and 1838, is valued at \$400,000 today. Although he is considered a father figure in the conservation movement, in fact in his lifetime he shot birds quite freely, often far more than he needed for collecting.

Lise Anglin

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26

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**TFN LIBRARY report**


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**BOOKS IN TFN LIBRARY - PART VII - STARS; EARTH; WATER**

Though we have no books on The Stars nor on Water, we have considerable material on these subjects in our resource files. On Earth Sciences we have two books:

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN - Vol. 1 - The First Four Billion Years - by the Editors of LIFE and Lincoln Barnett. Time Inc. NY 1952/1963. 110 pages and contents page. Colour and black-and-white illustrations with some descriptive text.

FIELD BOOK OF COMMON ROCKS AND MINERALS by Frederic B. Loomis, a Putnam Nature Field Book. G.P.Putnam's Sons NY & London, 1923/1948. Minerals and rocks classified and described. 147 illustrations (photo), 47 have specimens coloured. 352 pages including index, bibliography, list of elements and abbreviations.

**RESOURCE FILES** Under headings...

Stars: From NATURAL HISTORY: "How Constant is the Sun?", "Galactic Go-around - the material in spiral galaxies does not move in the manner astronomers expected", and "Slow Motion Eclipse" (about stellar eclipse). ASTRO DIRECTORY NEWS Feb./79 souvenir eclipse issue; TORONTO STAR clipping "Earth's gravity cuts moon's spin".

Earth: From NATURAL HISTORY 10/83: "False Premise, Good Science - resolution of the nineteenth-century debate about the earth's age revealed the basic chanciness and unpredictability of science"; Royal Bank papers: "Conservation of Soil" and "Using Soil Wisely"; from DISCOVER, "The Vanishing Barrier Beaches"; Report: "Subdivision of the Precambrian...Recent Decisions..." by Harold L. James, with chart; from the last York U. Symposium on Quaternary Dating - a list of subjects and speakers.

Earth - Atmosphere: Fact Sheets of the Atmospheric Environment Service of Environment Canada: "Being Practical about Climate" and "Weather Satellites"; Royal Bank paper: "Our Climate and Our Weather"; Ontario Environment folder "Who cares about the air?--We do"; from ATLANTIC, "Trouble in the Stratosphere - dangerous sunlight and altered climates may result from pollution of the upper atmosphere"; clipping from NEW YORK SUNDAY NEWS with photos, about rain-drops; clipping on fish-precipitation phenomenon from GLOBE & MAIL; from NATURE SOCIETY NEWS "Spaceship Earth" column by Win Stiles articles on Thermal Shock and on EMP (electromagnetic pulse) generated by a nuclear explosion in upper atmosphere.

Earth - Canada: Royal Bank paper "Our Mineral Resources"; from WEEKEND, "There are gems under our feet" with full colour illustrations, 2 pages.

Earth - Ontario: Natural Resources Ontario: ROCKS AND MINERALS INFORMATION 1983 - 24 pages listing publications, films, maps available, lapidary dealers and geoscience clubs in Ontario; "Bancroft Area Minerals", colour folder with map of collecting-sites; "Purple Gemstone of the North - Amethyst" with colour illustrations, list of mines, map; two booklets published by the CANADIAN FIELD NATURALIST: A GUIDE TO THE GEOLOGY OF THE OTTAWA DISTRICT and A GUIDE TO THE GEOLOGY OF THE GATINEAU-LIEVRE DISTRICT, 68 and 55 pages respectively, with illustrations and maps. Natural Resources Ontario: "All that Glisters", folder - map with colour key and geological time-scale, on the geology and minerals of Ontario; GLOBE & MAIL clipping "450-million-year fossils are underfoot in Ontario"; 4-page paper on sub-dividing the Precambrian in Ontario by Donald Grant.

Earth - Toronto Region: Natural Resources Ontario folders: "Toronto's Geological Past - an Introduction", with maps, charts, text, illustrations; "Quaternary Geology, Toronto and Surrounding Area", large map with legend, history; "Stratigraphy of Scarborough Bluffs", a map and cross-section view; "Ontario - 13,000 years ago", map, text, bibliography (relates to Toronto). Geological Association of Canada's "The History of Lake Ontario - 14,000 years BP (before present) to Present" - a chart.

## TFN LIBRARY REPORT - continued

Water - General: Royal Bank papers: "Life depends on Water" and "Pollution of Water"; from PEI ENVIRONEER "Ten Tips to halt home Water Waste"; Metro Works Information Bulletin "R.C.Harris Filtration Plant", with diagram, photos; from SPHERE publication of Shell Canada, "Water, Water Everywhere - but is it safe to drink?" 9 pages; from LEGACY, Environment Ontario "Water Treatment in Ontario" - 10 pages, illustrations, maps.

Watercourses: Ontario Energy and Resources Management WATERSHEDS Vol. 2 #1/67; "Taddle Tale" by Ian Montagnes (about Taddle Creek, Toronto); "The Welland Canal System - An Introductory Field Guide" by John N. Jackson; Save Our Streams folder "The Choice is Ours"; ROM Encounter Series THE NIAGARA RIVER by Walter M. Tovell, 24 pages, with maps, illustrations; reprint from CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL "The Don: an urban river struggling for survival", 9 pages, photos; From CIVIC: "Taming the Don - a valuable natural resource needs protection to reflect the early wilderness" and "Watershed study zeroes in on pollution"; TALK OF THE THAMES, 1981 and 1982 issues (published by the Thames River Implementation Committee, London, Ont.); leaflet "The Black Creek Project".

Water - Lakes: ROM Encounter Series THE GREAT LAKES by Walter M. Tovell, 24 pages with illustrations, maps; International Joint Commission U.S. and Canada GREAT LAKES AGREEMENT INFORMATION KIT; East Michigan Environment Council folder "The Great Lakes - Great where are they?"; from AUDUBON, "By the shining Big Sea Water" in colour, on Lake Superior, 10 pages. From NATURAL HISTORY 8/80, "The World's Greatest Lakes" (comparing Lake Superior and Lake Baikal USSR) 7 pages, colour photos; South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority's FOCUS ON LAKE SIMCOE, 8 page tabloid; from CANADA TODAY "How many more lakes have to die?" reprinted by Canadian Embassy, Washington, DC, 11 pages with photos and maps; from NATURE CANADA, "Water Quality in the Great Lakes", 5 pages with maps, charts, colour photos; Pollution Probe folder, "Drinking water from Lake Ontario - is it safe?"; From INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE "Fishing for trouble - a cancer epidemic in fish is warning us: 'You may be next'" (about lake fish), 4 pages; Great Lakes Tomorrow leaflet; Environment Canada's SWEETWATER SEAS - The Legacy of the Great Lakes - 24 pages, bibliography, illustrated with photos, maps, charts.

Wetlands: Great Lakes Forest Research Centre TOWARD A WETLAND CLASSIFICATION FOR ONTARIO by J. G. Jeglum et al. 1974, 88 pages including photos, maps, bibliography; Natural Resources Ontario paper TOWARDS A WETLANDS POLICY FOR ONTARIO 1981, 15 pages; Royal Botanic Gardens AN INTRODUCTION TO WETLAND CLASSIFICATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION by James S. Pringle, 1980; baseline study OSHAWA SECOND MARSH, 10 pages; from OUT OF DOORS "Second Marsh", 5 pages.

ACQUISITIONS, OCTOBER, 1984

We thank these donors...

Joy Pocklington - for VELD & FLORA vol. 70 No. 2 R 2 June/84. Journal of the Botanical Society of South Africa. Illustrated with beautiful botanical watercolours, as well as colour photos. Interesting to compare South African plants with northern flora. Supplement on heathers, 600 species of which grow only in South Africa! Perhaps that's why they call a district with 225 species "Caledon" though its namesake has but 5. Another supplement on the Stapelia family, succulents which Heywood's FLOWERING PLANTS OF THE WORLD classes with the milkweeds. Many species known in the north only as potted plants grow wild in South Africa and are cultivated as well. Joy says "My flat is full of proteas".

## TFN LIBRARY REPORT - continued

Jacques Gravel -pour LE GEAI BLEU - 7 pages, Le Service Canadien de la Faune 1971;  
The Bittersweet Nature Trail Guide (Pinery Provincial Park);  
Bibliographies: 4 pages on the Trumpeter Swan, 2 pages on the Black-and-white  
Warbler; Letchworth State Park Bird Checklist (New York); newspaper clippings and  
notes on birds - depuis sa jeunesse. En français and in English.

Eva Davis - for her photographs of plant life - 9 slides for our photo  
library.

Emily Hamilton for her scrap book and clippings dating back to the 60's - on  
Whooping Cranes and other birds - especially those in peril.  
1983 Annual Report of World Wildlife Fund.

Mary Cumming - for article "Chemical Nightmares" from HOMEMAKERS Oct./84, on  
women against toxic waste dumping. Also "Hollies that everyone  
can grow" by Betty Blossom, 3 pages. Nine hollies illustrated.

To arrange to borrow library material, call 690-1963.

DB



PRIVATE LIVES OF GARDEN BIRDS by Calvin Simonds, Rodale Press. Beginning and  
experienced bird-watchers alike will delight in this new book. Lifeways of  
mockingbirds, swallows, robins, English sparrows, phoebes, red-winged black-  
birds and crows are discussed in a most entertaining and absorbing fashion.  
The author is a naturalist and avid gardener. He promotes the underlying  
message of the book - respect for nature - with great charm and skill. Advice  
is given on what to provide the bird visitors, and what can be expected from  
them in return. I enjoyed this book very much and look forward to reading it  
again and again.

Miriam Fabish

ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL, quarterly of the World Society for the Protection of  
Animals (WSPA). "Protection" deals with persecution and acts of cruelty as  
well as ways in which animals are exploited by man. An office has just been  
opened in Canada. Anyone interested should write to World Society for the  
Protection of Animals, 215 Lakeshore Blvd. East, #113, Toronto M5A 3W9.

Jean Macdonald

CANADA POST 1984 GIFT BOOK, a 20-page illustrated booklet of postal "collect-  
ibles" suitable as gifts, available from Canada Post. Mostly sets of mint  
stamps on Canadian themes (with explanatory literature). Two sets of stamps  
at \$3.00 per set are on nature themes - Wildflowers and Trees, and Endangered  
Species.

AC

THE SALTER REPORT on the Implementation Task Force on the use of pesticides  
and public consultation and what can be done. Available from Central Experi-  
mental Farm, Room 467, Sir John Carling Building, Carling Ave., Ottawa K1A 0C5.

THE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE FOR BEAUTIFUL, SAFE, AND HEALTHY TREES (pamphlet) is  
available from: Richmond Hill Tree Service & Forestry Co., Ltd., RR #4,  
Stouffville, Ontario L0H 1L0. Contains hints on planting, pruning, and  
protecting the health of trees and tells you how to get more information from  
the USDA Forest Service.

recommended by: Mary Smith

# projects

## STARTING A NATURE CENTRE

When the Toronto Boy Scout Office asked me to look at their old Nature Trail at the Woodland Trails Camp near Vandorf, I didn't realize that we would end up spending half the summer working on it. But it turned out to be an interesting project, and when it is finally completed, we hope it will provide useful information for those using the camp.

The Scout Camp is located off the Aurora-Ballantrae side-road, on the 6th Concession. It comprises about 275 acres, and is fairly heavily wooded. Clearings have been made for camping "villages", areas large enough to accommodate half a dozen tents and a dining shelter. There are fifteen villages, as well as three lodges suitable for winter camping. In one corner of the property is a training building, used for conferences and training courses.

When Sybil and I went to look at the camp to see what could be done, we realized that the original Nature Trail was not easily reached by all campers. Groups camping near the entrance would have a long walk to get to the start of the Trail, and the Trail itself went on for quite some distance. As we went around the property, we saw several places which had interesting plants, including trees, which could be pointed out to groups in camp. We then came up with the idea of having "Nature Centres" located in various areas, so that wherever groups camped, they could visit one of these centres fairly easily.

We made several trips during the summer to the camp, and gradually the design for the Nature Centres took shape. We established three Centres, each divided into two stations. Each station would have an information board, listing all the species to be seen in that spot. Corresponding to that, a numbered stake would be placed beside each species shown on the board. Anyone stopping at a station could readily find the species described. Also, on each board the visitor would be told where the other station for that Centre was located, as well as where the other two Centres were.

We found we were learning a lot ourselves, as we worked at identifying some of the unfamiliar plants. Diana Banville came with us on one trip, and was of great help in naming some of the species we weren't sure about. A total of 106 species have been identified so far, with a fair amount of repetition at each Centre, but also each Centre has some unique species of its own. The beauty of this plan is that, as the seasons change, stakes can be changed as some plants die, and new ones appear. Hopefully the system will help the campers to become more familiar with their natural surroundings.

Technical problems beyond our control prevented us from opening the Centres this fall, but by spring it should be all ready to go. We are hoping to see a real interest in these Nature Centres at that time.

Permission can be obtained for visiting the camp from either the Ranger, Barney Thistlethwaite (who lives on the property) at 888-1986, or Mr. Ken Cooper, Director of Camping at the Toronto Scout Office, 925-3425.

Don Carmichael

▷ Please send newspaper clippings you think might be of interest to TFN to Margo McCulloch, 77 Burnaby Blvd. (lower), Toronto, Ont. M5N 1G3 or to any member of the editorial committee.

SPECIES OF TOMMY THOMPSON PARK

With the lists of Norm Murr for the period February 7, 1981, to August 25, 1984, recently submitted, the number of bird species recorded on The Spit has increased by six, a total for the composite list of 222. Norm's list is again different from those previously submitted in that it is geographical/chronological, with individual sheets for each outing to Leslie Street Spit (Tommy Thompson Park), the species systematically listed. Norm has drawn number-coded maps of The Spit, and the area numbers are used on the list to indicate actual location of sighting. There is a column for "number seen" which makes the list a kind of census. "Comments" column includes general terms relating to number where the exact number is not given ("common", "very common", "small raft", "several", etc.) Codes for such categories would be helpful as a census tool - e.g. to show the contrast between numbers of ring-billed and herring gulls.

In a few cases feeding data are given - e.g. falcon diving on ducks, rock dove picking up gravel. Habitat data includes such remarks as: saw-whet owls "in vines and cedars", short-eared owl "flying over grass and snow-piles" or "sitting on fence-post", house sparrows "around gate house" or "feeding in fields", starlings "on sheds" and "on barge and boilers", common crow "on beach", horned lark "at allotment gardens", green heron "at pond", great black-backed gull "on ice". Sex of bird and sometimes estimated age also appear in the "Comments" column. Habits data include reference to various ducks in mixed flocks, double-crested cormorant "flying over in singles". As for nesting records, the mere presence of many of the species of small land-birds listed on the August 6, 1983, and August 4, 1984, outings records would constitute basic nesting evidence, since in mid-summer they could be assumed not to be migrants. No outing for the peak nesting season was included, which perhaps accounts for the lack of references to birds carrying nesting material or food.

In the case of rarer birds, Norm states length of time observed and how good a view he had, and sometimes mentions that others also made the observation. As a record, we are finding it is more valuable to describe the features (visual or auditory) which convinced the observer of the subject's identity. Also, if there are other observers, recording one or two names is helpful as confirmation. If any member has a record of gyrfalcon, Acadian flycatcher, pine warbler, or Brewer's blackbird for The Spit, please give details.

Of the three Toronto Islands land-birds which we mentioned in our previous article (TFN (365) 29, S 84) one has been spotted by Norm - the black-billed cuckoo - on The Spit. Also, he has reported on some reptiles and mammals he has noticed while birding - a trend our record-keepers like to see! These will go into our records in these categories.

The two maps which Norm prepared - though just at the rough stage, he tells us - are most interesting in that they give some idea of how The Spit is growing. It begins to look like a slightly aberrant fern-frond with pinnae and sub-pinnae added as time goes on! Thank you, Norm, for your submission. Our file is growing, against the day when a report may be needed for Tommy Thompson Park.

Diana Banville

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS ANNOUNCEMENTS OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY ACTIVITIES.  
YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE FEBRUARY.

HOBBLE-BUSH (VIBURNUM ALNIFOLIUM)

This handsome sprawling shrub has its centre of distribution along the Appalachians. In Ontario it is mainly confined to the southern part of the Canadian Shield, occurring commonly in cottage country (Muskoka, Haliburton). It reappears just to the north of Metropolitan Toronto along the spectacular one-hundred-mile-long (two- to seven-mile-wide) Oak Ridges Moraine, stretching from the Niagara Escarpment to the Trent River. The glacially deposited sands, silts and gravels making up the Oak Ridges Moraine form a severely rolling landscape. It is in the moist low areas of deciduous/mixed woodlands that one can find the hobble-bush. In deep shade it may be only one meter tall, but in small openings it reaches three meters, and flowers heavily in late May and early June. The inconspicuous central flower clusters are ringed by showy white sterile flowers but the hobble-bush can be easily recognized by its distinctive round, toothed, opposite leaves, even when not in flower.

Steve Varga

## This Month's Cover

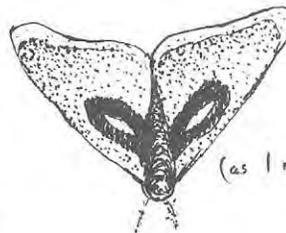
"Hobble-bush in Bloom", ink drawing by Diana Banville after photographs\* by May Staples and Eva Davis.

We wondered why such a beautiful shrub with its spectacular saucer-sized flower-clusters deserved such an ugly name. In A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, G.A.Petrides (Peterson Series), it is mentioned that this sprawling shrub sometimes roots at the tips of the branches. For more on this and other attractive southern Ontario shrubs see Shrubs of Ontario by James H. Soper and Margaret L. Heimbürger, illustrated by Leslie A. Garay and Ronald A. With, published by the Royal Ontario Museum.

\*The photographs were taken at Glenville Hills, Regional Municipality of York, on a TFN Botany outing.

## Strange Sightings

At Metro Zoo, not all the wonders are in the pavilions and paddocks. On October 18, as I sat sketching zebras, I noticed what I thought was a little butterfly alighting on a dandelion. Curious, I left my perch to examine it more closely. I found it was a rather delicate moth, but what amazed me was that as it held its wings spread out it had the appearance of the head of a raccoon - or more like a masked fox. It was brownish with a lighter trailing edge to the wing, making the wing-tips appear as ears. White twin markings surrounded by black made the masked eyes, and the head and thorax were the snout, tipped with antennae cum whiskers. (I couldn't find it in my Golden guide.)



(as I remembered it)

Diana Banville

BOTANICAL MANUALS - A COMPARISON
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Botany enthusiasts learn a great deal through the use of that wonderful invention, the illustrated field guide. There comes a day when the question is asked "Is there a more comprehensive book for my guidance in identifying plants?" Then that person may be ready to explore the botanical manuals. There are four such "floras" which include our area. The full titles are given at the end of this article, but they are popularly known as (1) GRAY'S, (2) BRITTON & BROWN, (3) GLEASON & CRONQUIST, and (4) SCOGGAN. The first three cover the more eastern flora of the U.S. "and adjacent Canada"; the fourth covers all of Canada, plus Alaska, Greenland and St. Pierre & Miquelon, but it does not attempt to repeat everything which is in the other manuals to which it often refers the reader for details. Each uses the "key" method to trace the identity of a species or variety. A detailed description of each plant is also given; however, the feature which most interests you may be missing, because the object of the manuals is to differentiate between forms and not just to describe them. Hence it is often advisable to refer to more than one manual. All four start out with the ferns and allies, and go on to the gymnosperms such as the conifers, then to the angiosperms - the vast majority of the higher plant forms. As well as the scientific names, English plant names are given, and in GRAY'S AND SCOGGAN, also some of the French names. Each manual has an introduction explaining the system. There is a great deal of information, making good reading, in that of BRITTON & BROWN, a three-volume work with every species illustrated. A condensed, compact version of this work, with no illustrations, is GLEASON & CRONQUIST. GRAY'S is a bulkier manual with illustrations restricted to the most difficult species to identify. SCOGGAN is in four volumes. Each manual has a glossary of terms.

Each of the manuals is indexed listing the scientific names, and each - with the exception of SCOGGAN - also lists the English names. GRAY'S also lists the French names which have been mentioned in the work. GRAY'S and BRITTON & BROWN include lists of the full names of the botanical "authors" - i.e. those who named the plants originally and whose names may appear abbreviated after the species name.

Habitat and range of each plant is given in all four manuals and the flowering dates in all but SCOGGAN.

ADVANTAGES and DISADVANTAGES of owning one of these manuals:

BRITTON & BROWN - the drawings are the big advantage. It also has interesting notes on the species and tends not to use abbreviations. It is easy to follow. However, being a 3-volume work, it is rather expensive.

GRAY'S - it is the oldest and the format is not as easy to follow (e.g. the genus name is not repeated on each page, so one must turn back many pages in the case of a large genus; some symbols are buried in the preface). There are not many abbreviations to learn. The translations of many names are helpful. It has the advantage of being in one volume (1632 pages).

GLEASON & CRONQUIST - compact volume (810 pages) - format easy to follow. Uses abbreviations but there are only a few to learn. Probably the least expensive but remember, no drawings. There is a tendency to "lump" species - which makes identification easier, naturally.

SCOGGAN - it's the only one that covers all of Canada and has sections on plant distribution. There are many codes to be learned and one must refer to other manuals where directed, for details. Lack of flowering dates can be frustrating and lack of English and French names in the index even more so. Characters of the families are given in readable English, a decided advantage. A 4-volume work may prove expensive. No illustrations.

## Botanical Manuals - continued

There have been a number of changes since these manuals were published. They often show a species name with the initial letter of both words in upper case. Now the acceptable practice is always to show the initial letter of the second word in lower case. e.g. OLD WAY: charlock mustard *Brassica Kaber* (because second word of the scientific name is a proper name), and bearberry *Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi* (because originally the second word was a genus name). NEW WAY: *Brassica kaber*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*.

It is impossible to bring manuals up to date every year and nothing is static. Studies are going on - for example, we no longer have something called the "common blue violet"; there have been changes in the genus of our familiar "dog-strangling vine"; and work is going on close to home on hawthorns and on goldenrods. In consulting a manual, we have to be satisfied that we have got the right plant until we learn otherwise. In this field, as in others, there is no royal road to knowledge, but it is all very interesting on the way.

DB

(based on a survey by  
Emily Hamilton)THE MANUALS:

GRAY'S MANUAL OF BOTANY (8th Edition), largely rewritten and expanded by M. L. Fernald. A handbook of the flowering plants and ferns of the central and northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. D. Van Nostrand Co. 1950.

THE NEW BRITTON AND BROWN ILLUSTRATED FLORA of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. By Henry A. Gleason; in 3 volumes. New York Botanical Garden 1952, with revisions 1963.

MANUAL OF VASCULAR PLANTS of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada BY Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist. New York Botanical Garden 1963.

THE FLORA OF CANADA by H. J. Scoggan, National Museum of Natural Sciences Publications in Botany #7, in 4 parts (4 volumes). Published by National Museums of Canada, 1978.

ALL MAY BE FOUND IN TORONTO LIBRARIES.

Answers to IF YOU'RE SO SMART, page 18

- |                   |  |                        |
|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. Brown Thrasher | 4. No; it is found almost world-wide                               | 8. Twenty-three        |
| 2. Snowy Egret    | 5. To render it life-size on the page                              | 9. Drainage of Marshes |
| 3. Brown Thrasher | 6. Cincinnati Zoo, September 1, 1914                               | 10. Mallard            |
|                   | 7. Great Horned Owl. Because of its ear-tufts and wide yellow eyes |                        |

▷ Being held for ransom - one pair of boots (left on bus from Botanical Garden trip in June). Call Muriel at 463 - 8066 to negotiate terms.

# IN EXCHANGE

TFN 368

## SOME NOTES ON SHUMARD'S OAK IN THE HAMILTON-NIAGARA REGION

On July 25, 1976, Bob Curry invited me to join him and meet Harold Axtell and others from the Niagara frontier region to view a spotted redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) at the St. David's Canning Factory sludge lagoon. We did indeed see the bird, but as we were leaving I was distracted by some bizarre red oaks growing along the perimeter of the property. Bob said, "Surely you can identify them!", and I replied, "If this were South Carolina, there would be no problem, but this is Canada". I said, "They look like Shumard's oak (*Quercus shumardii*) but the closest I've seen them to here is Breezewood, PA". Breezewood is in southwestern Pennsylvania in Bedord County at the intersection of Interstate 70 with Interstate 76 (Pennsylvania turnpike). There is a north south ridge upon which grows a disjunct population of Shumard's oak from Breezewood south to the Maryland border. Interstate 70 diagonally traverses this ridge and these oaks are conspicuous from one's car. I learned in early 1984 that this disjunct population is clearly shown on Elbert J. Little's superb range maps of North American trees. The bulk of its range is South Carolina west to east Texas and north in the Mississippi Valley to western Ohio and extreme southeastern Michigan, on neutral to basic paleozoic and more recent sedimentaries. So, I concluded that these oaks at the village of St. David in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in the Regional Municipality of Niagara must be hybrids involving red (*Quercus rubra*), pin (*Quercus palustris*) and black (*Quercus velutina*) oaks even though the latter was not present in the immediate area.

In late October 1976, after more than a decade of passing it almost daily, my curiosity was finally sufficiently aroused by its bright red colour to inspect an oak growing on the west bank of Stoney Creek Pond, south of the Queen Elizabeth freeway, behind the Nielson Plant in the north-east corner of the City of Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. To my dismay, this tree was not a scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*) a tree we have hunted for years to add to the Canadian list. This tree had naked buds and large fruit with a shallow cup. (Wild scarlet oaks can be seen as close as 10 km east of Lewiston, N.Y. south of Buffalo and near Painted Post and Corning, N.Y. in the Chemung Valley. They are planted on the streets of Batavia, N.Y. No authentically wild specimens have yet been collected in the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. There is a scarlet oak growing at the corner of Haist Street and Pancake Lane, Village of Fonthill, Town of Pelham, but the botanical establishment assumes it was planted.) This Stoney Creek tree was killed by land filling ca. 1980 and no specimen was collected. Red and black oaks are equally common in this area (Confederation Park) and in 1976, with the information available, I reluctantly said that this tree was a cross between them.

Since 1956, when my family moved to northeast Grimsby, I have been aware of a red oak growing south-west of Grand Avenue School, visible from the Q.E.W. on the north side, which is quite different from other red oaks in the same woodlot. This tree's leaves are very large, have much deeper sinuses and the branches grow in horizontal tiers. This latter trait would indicate a possible cross with *Quercus palustris* but the leaves are much too large. The closest red X pin hybrids of which I am aware grow 8 km to the south on the north side of Mud Street just west of Park Road in Grimsby and 5 km to the east on the south side of the Q.E.W., west side of Cherry Street in the Town of Lincoln.

In the late 1960's, Roy Forster, then Director of the Ontario Horticultural Research Institute at Vineland (Town of Lincoln) mentioned to me that there was a grove of very odd red oaks on the north side of the Q.E.W. just west of Victoria Avenue under which they were establishing a rhododendron collection.

## SHUMARD'S OAK (cont'd)

He stated that he could not positively assign the name red or black to most of these trees. I assessed them and reached the same conclusion.

In the canyon of Twenty Mile Creek, approximately 1.5 km east of Lower Balls Falls and 1 km east of the magnificent red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) grove is a stand of red oaks under which passes the Bruce Trail. This stand intrigued me when I first found it in May 1975 because the leaves had deep sinuses and the cracks in the bark were red. Once again I thought I had found the elusive scarlet oak but when I returned in October to check fruit, alas they were large with shallow fruit, like *Quercus rubra*.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, near the beer store, from the Lakeshore Road north to the lake is an area of crowded modest homes and summer cottages in an oak grove. Birders often look there for tufted titmice. Some of the oaks do not have the characteristic horizontal or downward tiering and numerous twigging of the pin oak which is one of the dominant trees of the area, but instead have ascending, almost fastigate branching. We were most disappointed in October 1975 when we checked fruit and found large red oak-like fruit. Again we had not found scarlet oak. We re-examined these trees on February 7, 1984 and we now know what they are!

Also in the Town of Niagara is a well-known stand of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) growing on the north side of Line 9 in a very rich woodlot known as Zuk's Zone (ca 1 km east of above mentioned St. David's canning factory which is on the south side of Line 9). When one first enters Zuk's Zone one notices a large red oak tree whose leaves have deep sinuses. For 25 years I have called this tree a red X pin cross because it has leaves of one (pin) although larger, and the fruit of the other (red).

On a Wednesday evening in late September 1983, stimulated by Gerry Waldron's account of Shumard's oak in Essex County in the "Plant Press", Volume 1, #3, Peter Thoen and I checked the trees in Grimsby Beach and Vineland Experimental Station, consciously looking for Shumards. I was not sufficiently satisfied to pronounce them Shumards.

(I should state here that I was aware of Shumard's oak in Canada. Al Butwick in the spring of 1983 gave me a two-year old seedling from the first officially documented tree in Amherstburg, Essex County. Some of my books have Shumards with a question mark scribbled in the margins from field trips to Essex County in the early 70's. I am very familiar with Shumard's oak having found my first one in 1964 in Breezewood, PA. two decades before I knew Little's range maps existed. The U.S. National Park Service has planted hundreds of them in Williamsburg, VA. and along the Colonial Parkway between Jamestown and Yorktown, Va.)

On Sunday, October 2, 1983, Peter and I went to Zuk's Zone to collect pawpaws, an annual Thanksgiving ritual that I have performed for a quarter century. One can imagine my euphoria and elation while collecting these fruits suddenly to be aware that we were standing under a bona fide Shumard's oak. Peter and I quickly surveyed the remainder of the woodlot and found many more scattered among the tulip trees, sassafras, chestnut, swamp and pin oak, bitternut, shagbark and shellbark hickory, three grape species, three elm species, honey locust, etc.; the list is almost endless. This woodlot has national significance, in my humble opinion, and I suggested to the late Bert McLaren almost a decade ago that the Hamilton club should purchase it.

Peter suggested that we drive west along Line 9 to see if we could find more Shumard's. I must confess that I am a creature of habit and had never driven

## SHUMARD'S OAK (cont'd)

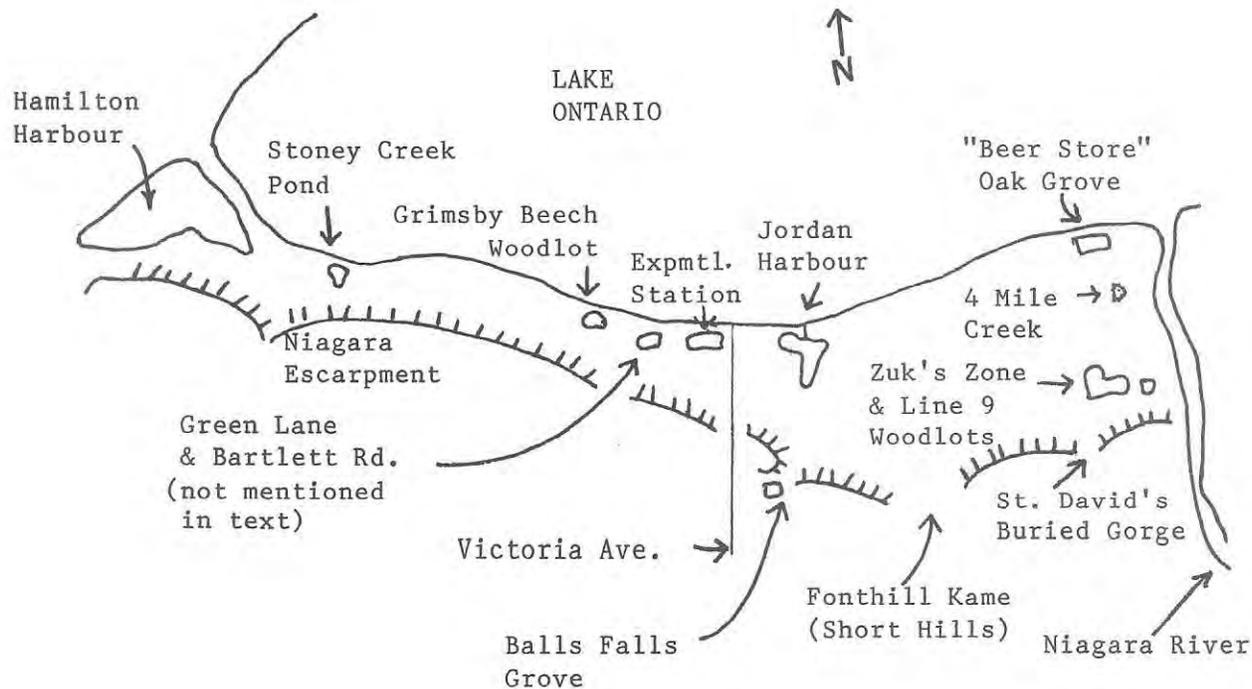
west of Zuk's Zone along this road. We found a forest of approximately 100 acres which, with a hint of over-statement I call a shellbark hickory-Shumard's oak forest. Monday, October 3, 1983, I returned and with the owner's permission explored the woodlot. I collected herbarium specimens from seven individuals and a large quantity of fruit and specimens from three. The latter was donated and personally delivered to Dr. John Ambrose at the University of Guelph Arboretum for their Gene Bank Program. Sadly I must state that the owner is systematically cutting this woodlot for firewood!

Harold Axtell is adamant (personal comment) that scarlet oak grows in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In Oct./Nov. 1974 I was directed to a brilliantly red tree on the west bank of Four Mile Creek. I decided that it was a black oak even though they don't turn red in the fall, but I collected fruit just in case. I now have two offspring in my garden and although the leaves are typical, the buds are not. I think they are black X Shumard's.

Finally, Little's range maps show a disjunct linear population of scarlet oak growing along the south shore of Lake Ontario from Rochester, N.Y. west to the Niagara River. I respectfully suggest that this is Shumard's oak and that the range extends west to Hamilton, Ontario, along the Lake Ontario Plain.

George A. Meyers

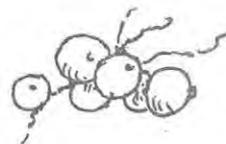
Reprinted from THE WOOD DUCK, Vol. 37, No. 9, May/84 (Hamilton Naturalists' Club)  
See also TFN 367, 15-19, Nov./84



*The following was posted on a bulletin board at Mountsberg, June 1983:*

*TODAY I HAVE GROWN TALLER FROM WALKING WITH THE TREES.*

*Karla Wilson*

THE WEATHER THIS TIME LAST YEARCity of Toronto, December 1983.

All of North America except the high Arctic and the southwest deserts were bitterly cold in December. In Toronto it was a cold wet, cloudy month. The mean temperature was  $-4.2$ ,  $2.4$  below normal. The mean maximum for the month was the lowest since 1963 or earlier, probably 1942, although the minimum was the lowest only since 1980. Early December was rainy, raw, and very dull with some wet snow and freezing rain to give some nasty weather. Temperatures plunged in the second half of the month with severe cold interrupted only by a couple of snowstorms. Rainfall ended well above normal, the most since 1979, and snowfall just above normal, the most since the same year. Total precipitation was 105 mm.

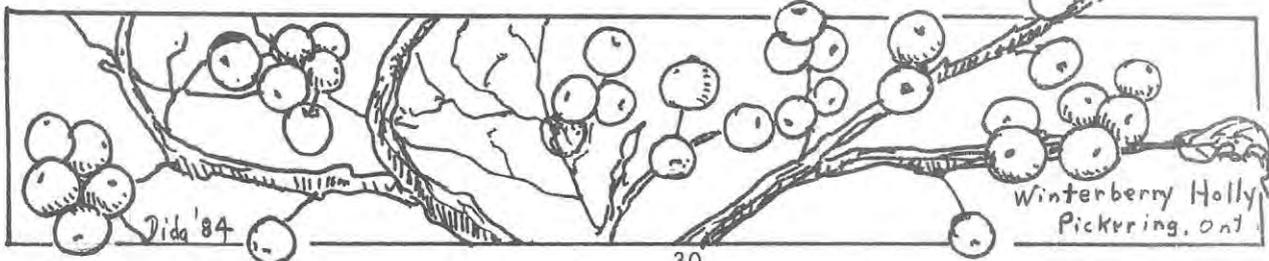
Christmas Day in the 1980's has been a seesaw day temperature-wise. Severe cold in 1980 was followed by a moderate 1981 Christmas. In 1982 it was the warmest on record with  $16^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperatures, and in 1983 it was again the coldest day of the year with a  $-20.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  minimum. In fact, taking windchill and day-time temperatures into account (it rose rapidly in 1980 but held year  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  most of the day in 1983), this was the bitterest Christmas of the 20th century. The sun almost vanished in the first half of December but Arctic high pressure in the second half of the month allowed some recovery to 63.1 hours. This is twelve hours below normal but still the most in three years.

City of Toronto, January 1984.

January was a fairly cold and dry month. Arctic air brought very low temperatures and light flurries most of the month. The period from the 7th to the 22nd was especially cold, and marked our worst cold snap in two years. The airport reported record lows on the 15th and 16th  $-26.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-26.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . As the Arctic high pressure stagnated over Toronto, the third worst air pollution episode since recent records were kept set in from the 16th to 18th. What ended it? A fresh Arctic outbreak, which brought windchill and blew it away. There were milder periods in the first and last weeks of the month, but they weren't all that mild; the monthly maximum of  $3.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  was meagre and the lowest since the historic January of 1977. The mean temperature was  $2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  below normal, although four of the past ten Januarys were colder.

Precipitation was below normal with much below normal rainfall and slightly above normal snowfall. Snow remained thickly on the ground the whole month. Sunshine was a bit above normal and wind-speed was well below as the Arctic air kept most weather systems away. This continues Toronto's basic trend (with last year as an exception) of cold winters.

Gavin Miller



## OPPORTUNITIES

### THE HOBBERLIN COLLECTION

The TFN has had two outings to Hedy Hobberlin's museum this year and plans to return. Mrs. Hobberlin was a TFN junior club leader in the 1960's and her chief interest is fossils. Her collection fills five rooms in the former Glen Avon school in North York and is divided into four main subjects: fossils and palaeontology, minerals, energy, and space. She will describe any exhibit for you in a fascinating manner, explain to you why birds are like dinosaurs and how she got samples of the ceramic tiles which prevent the US space shuttle from burning up. (And when the TFN visited, we got coffee and many kinds of cookies.)

The collection belongs to Mrs. Hobberlin but North York owns the building, so the museum is mainly for North York school classes. However, you can visit it yourself or with a group of people any school day or evening of a school day at no cost by calling the museum at 221-7479 or Mrs. Hobberlin at home at 625-2029. The Glen Avon School is at 171 Avondale Ave. near Willowdale Ave. and Sheppard East.

SC

### PROJECT INFORMATION REQUESTED

The Directory of Co-operative Naturalists' Projects in Ontario is designed to publicize projects that rely on volunteer help and to attract wider participation in them. Examples of projects in the 1984 directory include Christmas Bird Counts, inventories of natural areas, and county plant and bird checklists.

Any naturalist interested in undertaking a project which may benefit from inclusion in the directory is invited to write for a project description form to: Clive and Joy Goodwin, Directory of Co-operative Naturalists' Projects in Ontario, 45 Larose Ave., Apt. 103, Weston, Ontario, M9P 1A8.

### BIRDER'S EQUIPMENT

If you have new or used equipment, such as binoculars, scopes, etc., and you wish to sell to some other birder, or if you know of a good place to obtain some equipment or a reliable repair shop, please contact H. Battae, 225-9780, with your request to buy or sell or swap, and I will try to arrange the transfer.

### APPLY FOR CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Three B. Harper Bull Conservation Fellowship Awards of \$600 each are available to encourage and assist university and college students who reside or study in the Metropolitan Toronto Region, and wish to broaden their knowledge of conservation through study, travel and practical experience. For further information and applications, write:

Waneeta Robertson  
The Metropolitan Toronto & Region Conservation  
Foundation, 5 Shoreham Drive  
North York, Ontario, M3N 1S4

# TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS  
WELCOME

## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, December 4, 1984. 8.15 p.m. (Coffee at 7.30)

The Soft Maple Ash Swamps of Southern Ontario

- Arthur Boissonneau, Senior Scientist at Ontario Centre for Remote Sensing.

Naturalists in Ontario should be aware of the nature of these wetlands since they are restricted in their distribution in Canada and Southern Ontario. As part of his talk, Mr. Boissonneau will outline how satellite data can be used to map these areas.

Monday, January 7, 1985. 8.15 p.m.

Shoot to Preserve

- Robin Powell

Some members of the Toronto Field Naturalist Club may not be aware that we have an extensive photo library, covering a variety of subjects. Robin Powell, who has been photo librarian for four years, will give an illustrated talk about the collection and about the use of photos in aiding preservation of Toronto's natural heritage.

Monday, February 4, 1985

Nature of Things - CBC films

"Frogs, Snakes and Turtles"

"Pelee"

Monday, March 4, 1985

The Private Life of a Moose

- Dr. Edward Addison, Ministry of Natural Resources, Maple

Monday, April 1, 1985

Insects

- Dr. Glenn Wiggins, ROM

Monday, May 6, 1985

Ferns

- Ron Scovell

## GROUP MEETINGS

### Bird Group

Wed. Jan. 16 Hawks and Owls

7.00 p.m.

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

: : : : : : : : : : :

### Botany Group

Thur. Jan. 10 Plants of the Boreal Forest Region

7.30 p.m.

Deb Metsger will give a slide talk on fens and spruce forests in northwestern Ontario

Location: Room 6-7, Botany Bldg., U. of T., College and University

TFN MEETINGS (cont'd)

Environmental Group

Thur. Jan. 24 Speaker: Deane Gibson, Scarborough Environmental  
7.30 p.m. Advisory Committee  
Location: Huron Public School, 541 Huron Street, 1 block west  
of St. George subway station.

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

Junior Club

Sat. Dec. 1 Minerals and their uses  
10.00 a.m. - Trevor Soobrian, Ontario Geological Survey

Sat. Jan. 5 Birds  
10.00 a.m. - Chip Weseloh

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

**COMING EVENTS**  
~~COMING EVENTS~~

Royal Ontario Museum

An exhibit of John James Audubon's "The Birds of America" will  
be at the ROM from November 17 to January 2. For further  
information, telephone 978-4972.

Royal Canadian Institute

The following lecture will be given at the Medical Sciences  
Auditorium, University of Toronto, at 3.00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 2. Arctic Wildlife - Stewart D. MacDonald, B.Sc.,  
Curator, Vertebrate Ethology, National Museum of Natural  
Sciences, Ottawa.

These lectures will resume in January. For further information,  
telephone 979-2004.

The University of Toronto Bookroom invites you to meet

- Farley Mowat -

on Monday, December 3rd, at 12 noon, at 63A St. George Street.

Farley will be autographing copies of his new book -

- SEA OF SLAUGHTER -

(published by McClelland & Stewart, \$24.95)

For further information call - 978 - 7088.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

At the December meeting TFN publications and reproductions of TFN Newsletter  
Art will be available, as well as TFN hasti-notes and FON Christmas cards.  
Come and bring your friends.

You might also consider gift membership in the TFN (see back cover) or member-  
ships in The Federation of Ontario Naturalists (355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills,  
Ont. M3B 2W8 - phone 444-8419) or Canadian Nature Federation (75 Albert Street,  
Suite 203, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 6G1.)

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST**

published eight times a year by the Toronto Field Naturalists, a charitable, non-profit organization, the aims of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage.

Editorial Committee

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 Florence Preston (483-9530) #203 - 368 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, Ont. M4P LL9

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.

Other Publications																													
	Price																												
TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION by R.M. Saunders, 1965 .....	\$.50																												
CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 1972 .....	.50																												
TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976 .....	2.50																												
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF METRO TORONTO, 1983 .....	2.00																												
TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 .....	2.00																												
FIELD CHECKLIST OF PLANTS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO, 1977 ..... 5/\$1.00 or .....	.25 ea.																												
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SURVEYS .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.00 ea.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #4 - Wignmore Ravine, 1975</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1977</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A GUIDE TO THE JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE, 1977 .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978) ..</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANNUAL TFN INDEX, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 ..</td> <td style="text-align: right;">.25 ea.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE			Price	SURVEYS .....	2.00 ea.	Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973		Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974		Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975		Survey #4 - Wignmore Ravine, 1975		Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976		Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1977		Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977		Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978		A GUIDE TO THE JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE, 1977 .....	1.25	INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978) ..	10.00	ANNUAL TFN INDEX, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 ..	.25 ea.
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