



# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 374, October 1985



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## President's Report

Although I have very little to report this time, I feel that a "presence" on this page is desirable.

It is August as I write, for you to read as October approaches. August has been a quiet month as things behind the scenes slow down. Winifred Smith has been working on programmes for the coming season; our calendar is nearly complete and has a good variety of topics, I think.

We were present at East York Council, speaking on behalf of saving the brickyard as a natural botanical garden and historic geological site.

And that is all! I'll donate, with no strings attached, the rest of the page to the editorial committee. See you next month.

Jean Macdonald  
(425-6596)

### CONIFERS

Conifers come to life in the Fall.  
The trees of winter emerge  
Like shadows on the hillside  
Stepping away from the colours of the sun,  
From the gold and bronze encirclement.  
They are the primeval green,  
The green to be thrown in graves,  
The green that waits out the winter,  
Leaves pared down to the quintessential leaf -  
A needle of ice,  
Ice that sings in the wind.

Louise Herzberg

## *people*

ERIC ANDERSON NASMITH, an artist and naturalist who was part of a large team compiling the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, died suddenly while working on the project near Pointe-au-Baril, Ontario. Mr. Nasmith was known across the country for his wildlife prints that hang in many galleries as well as in private collections. He also worked in watercolours, but in recent years he had confined himself to print-making, using copper or woodcuts. In 1951 he opened his own commercial studio in Toronto and in 1973 began exhibiting his work. After 1975 he exhibited through the Wildlife Gallery in Toronto. During the seventies, Mr. Nasmith did a study of the Moore Park ravine, plotting the effects of human activity on bird movements. TFN members will remember him as the artist who designed the TFN logo on the cover of this newsletter.

E.D./D.B.

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

### OCTOBER

Every year at this time nature puts on one of its most spectacular displays -- fall colours. The woods are filled with a riot of reds, yellows, oranges and purples. Many species of trees turn a special colour: the rusty yellows of elm, hickory and horse chestnut; the reds of sugar maple, sumac and red oak; the purples of ash and white oak. Next time you are out enjoying the fall colours, have a closer look and make a note of each tree and its particular leaf colour. This will help you recognize specific types of trees and thereby habitats from a distance.

Before the first severe frost towards the end of the month, some species of snakes make an annual migration of sorts. They move from lowlands up to hills and higher ground in search of hibernation sites. The hibernation spot or hibernaculum as it is called must meet three important criteria: the slope must be facing south, strewn with rocks and relatively dry. The snakes crawl into deep crevices, often banding together in huge balls to spend the winter.

Migration continues to move at a brisk pace throughout October. Most warbler species have moved on but yellow-rumps, palms and orange-crowns may still be seen. Shorebirds, especially common snipe, dunlin and pectoral sandpipers, can be found in good numbers by checking over mudflats, wet fields and shorelines. Common loons, horned grebes and rafts of diving ducks congregate on the lake (Humber Bay Park East, Leslie Street Spit). Hawks are still migrating westward along the lakeshore. Look for red-tailed and rough-legged hawks in particular. Also migrating along the lakeshore are longspurs, water pipits and horned larks. All in all, it's a busy month for birds and birders alike.

Phil Joiner

☾ DARK OF THE MOON (Oct. 14)

☉ FULL MOON (Oct. 28)

FOR OTHER OUTINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH, SEE PAGES 40, 41.

All outings are within Metro Toronto and accessible by public transit unless otherwise indicated. Outings begin and end at same point unless otherwise indicated.

For Sunday and/or holiday outings, buy a TTC family pass at any subway station. Bring the family or a friend. Remember: guests are welcome!

|                                       |  |                     |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <p>Wednesday<br/>Oct. 2<br/>11 am</p> | <p><u>Lambton Park</u> - PRAIRIE VEGETATION<br/>Leader: Cathy Heynes<br/>Meet at the park entrance on the north side of Dundas Street West just east of the Humber River (west of Jane Street). Bring lunch.</p> | <p>Humber, York</p> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|

## OCTOBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

OUT OF  
TOWN

- Saturday Bronte Provincial Park - NATURE WALK  
 Oct. 5 Leader: Ann Reynolds  
 10 am Call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending  
 to 6 pm your cheque for \$15 (to cover transportation and entry fee) payable  
 to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS OUTING to Eva Davis at 203 - 1080  
 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5.
- Sunday Mt. Pleasant Cemetery - TREES Toronto  
 Oct. 6 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
 10 am Meet at the entrance to the cemetery on the east side of Yonge St.  
 north of St. Clair Avenue.
- Wednesday Humber - NATURE WALK Humber, Etobicoke  
 Oct. 9 Leader: Stu Shannon  
 11 am Meet on the northwest corner of Eglinton Avenue West and Scarlett  
 Road. Weather permitting we will be exploring Chapman Creek  
 (walking north and west). If conditions are too wet we will be  
 walking south through James Gardens and Lambton Woods. Bring lunch.  
 This walk will likely end at a different public transit stop from  
 the one at which it begins.
- Saturday Montgomery Inn - SKETCHING Mimico Creek, Etobicoke  
 Oct. 12 Leader: Mary Cumming  
 10 am Meet on the northeast corner of Bloor Street West and Islington  
 to walk north. Bring lunch, stool and sketching materials.  
 Photographers also welcome. We will be sketching in an historic  
 setting.
- OUT OF  
TOWN
- Sunday Hamilton Area - TREES  
 October 13 Leader: Tom Atkinson and George Meyers  
 8:30 am Please call Tom at 449-7907 after 7 pm if you are interested in  
 to 4 pm attending. Bring lunch. George will be showing us the Shumard oaks  
 in the Hamilton area.
- Monday Toronto Island - BIRDS Lakeshore, Toronto  
 Oct. 14 Leader: George Fairfield  
 10 am Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street to take the 10 am  
 ferry. Bring lunch and membership card.
- Wednesday Metro Zoo - SKETCHING Rouge, Scarborough  
 Oct. 16 Leader: Geraldine Goodwin  
 10:30 am Meet at the zoo entrance. Lunch optional. Bring stool, sketching  
 materials, cameras. Everyone welcome.
- Saturday Garrison Creek # 3 - URBAN NATURAL HISTORY Toronto  
 Oct. 19 Leader: Sandy Cappell  
 2 pm Meet on the southeast corner of College St. and Lansdowne.
- Sunday York University - TREES Black Creek, North York  
 Oct. 20 Leader: Bill Granger  
 10:30 am Meet in the south parking lot of the University just north of the  
 corner of Finch Avenue East and Sentinel.

## OCTOBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Wednesday Glendon - NATURE WALK West Don, North York  
 Oct. 23 Leader: Isabel Smith  
 11 am Meet at the gates to Glendon College at the corner of Lawrence Ave.  
 East and Bayview Avenue. Bring lunch.
- OUT OF TOWN
 Saturday Vineland - OWL REHABILITATION RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
 Oct. 26 Leaders: Eva Davis with Kay and Larry McKeever  
 12 noon Call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you want to attend. This will be a  
 to 5 pm strenuous outing with many stairs to climb. Please wear flat shoes;  
 bring a cane if you have difficulty in walking. Confirm your  
 reservation by sending your cheque for \$20 payable to TORONTO FIELD  
 NATURALISTS OUTING to Eva Davis, 203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough  
 M1N 1N5. (The cost includes transportation and a donation to the  
 Foundation.)
- Sunday Leslie Street Spit - BIRDS Lakeshore, Toronto  
 Oct. 27 Leader: Lise Anglin  
 10 am Meet in the parking lot at the foot of Leslie Street. Bring lunch.
- Wednesday Centennial Park West - NATURE WALK Etobicoke Creek, Etobicoke  
 Oct. 30 Leader: Cathy Heynes  
 11 am Meet at the west end of Rathburn Road. Bring lunch.

THOSE ATTRACTIVE WILDLIFE CHRISTMAS-STAMPS...IS THE "PRICE" TOO HIGH?

Each year most of us receive from the Canadian Wildlife Federation delightful stamps depicting most often colourful birds and mammals in the snow, to be used on stationery at Christmas-time. Sometimes Christmas cards are also offered. A donation for their conservation programs is requested in accompanying literature. The Canadian Wildlife Federation is a hunters' and anglers' organization. Before sending a donation, or using the stamps, we have a right to ask whether there is any chance that proceeds will be used for wolf-extermination or any other "control" or "management" measures with which we may not agree. Sometimes the activities of the Canadian Wildlife Federation conflict with the ideals of many field naturalists.

The Canadian Wildlife Federation is not to be confused with  
 The Canadian Wildlife Service (of Environment Canada) nor with  
 The Canadian Nature Federation (well-known naturalists' organization)

DB

## This Month's Cover

### "Taylor Creek Park"

It is signed "Dida (& Maggie)". The latter is the name of the dog which ran into the creek, came out and shook herself right beside me, and I was not using a waterproof felt-pen; some interesting spatters were incorporated into the sketch. DB

# Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

for the period July 16 - Aug. 15, 1985.

CONTRIBUTORS: Sandy Cappell, Bob Hanson, Merlin Homer, Beth Jefferson, Helen Juhola, William Mansell, Norman Murr, Maisie Newby, Don Peuramaki, Suzanne Poodrey, Helen Smith, Toronto Field Naturalists' Outing, Bruce Wilkinson, Bob Yukich, many observers:m.ob.

Summer seems a very quiet time for birdwatching. Most birds have migrated through and those remaining in Toronto are busy raising young behind protective foliage.

However atlassers have been excited with their finds that confirm and update nesting species. Fall migration began early for Shorebirds, and these have challenged many observers' skills, at the mudflats of the mouths of our numerous river systems.

Just as many birds are out of the city in the summer, so too are many birders. Many thanks to those of you who were able to send in your contributions to this report.

## LOONS THROUGH GEESE:

|                           |         |   |    |
|---------------------------|---------|---|----|
| Common Loon               | Aug.8   | New Toronto (flying west)   | BJ |
| Pied-billed Grebe         | July 28 | Ratray Marsh  | WM |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | July 19 | New Toronto (2 flying east)   | BJ |
|                           | July 27 | Spit (18 fishing & flying)  | NM |
|                           | Aug.7   | New Toronto (6 flying west)   | BJ |
| Great Blue Heron          |         | Many frequent observations of these birds are indicating they are now spending time in Toronto.                                 |    |
| Green-backed Heron        |         | Several have spent the summer in the Humber Marshes.  |    |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron |         | Many nest on the Spit, roosting in the Humber Marshes during the day, flying along the Lake shore to go fishing in the evening. |    |
| Mute Swan                 | July 28 | Ratray (1 immature with parents)  | WM |
| Trumpeter Swan            | July 27 | Spit  | NM |
| Canada Goose              |         | Only 50 pairs now inhabit Toronto after 1700 young were shipped to the U.S.A. (see footnote 1)                                  |    |

## DUCKS:

|                        |             |                                       |       |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Wood Duck              | July 23     | Humber Marsh 7 (family)               | BW,BJ |
| American Black Duck    |             | Occasional                            |       |
| Mallard                |             | Abundant families on most waterways   |       |
| Gadwall                |             | A number of families at Humber Bay    | BJ    |
| American Wigeon        | July 24     | New Toronto (pair)                    | BJ    |
|                        | July 27     | Spit (male hanging out with Gadwall)  | NM    |
| Lesser Scaup           | July 19     | Humber Bay                            | BY    |
|                        | Aug.4       | "                                     | MN    |
| Oldsquaw               | July 27     | Spit (2 pairs)                        | NM    |
| Hooded Merganser       | July 19     | Humber Bay                            | BY    |
| Red-breasted Merganser | End of July | Mississauga Lakeshore (6 individuals) | MN    |
|                        | Aug.1       | New Toronto                           | BJ    |

## TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS (cont'd)

## HAWKS, ETC.

|                  |         |   |       |
|------------------|---------|---|-------|
| Northern Harrier | Aug.11  | Spit  | BW,DP |
| Red-tailed Hawk  | July 24 | Etobicoke Creek & Queensway<br>(being chased by a flock of 20+ Starlings) | HJ,BJ |
| American Kestrel | Aug.1   | Islington & CNR (young fledged)   | BJ    |

## SHOREBIRDS:

|                         |           |   |       |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|-------|
| Semipalmated Plover     | July 31   | High Park   | BY    |
| Killdeer                | Common    | Throughout  | m.ob. |
| Greater Yellowlegs      | Aug.4     | Cranberry Marsh (5)                                       | HS    |
|                         | Aug.7     | Humber Marsh 7  | HS    |
| Lesser Yellowlegs       | Common    | On many mudflats  | m.ob. |
| Solitary Sandpiper      | July 27   | Spit, on rocks beside the gate                            | NM    |
|                         | Aug.?(2)* | Grenadier Pond  | BW    |
| Spotted Sandpiper       | Common    | Along rivers, Lakeshore, & marshes                        | m.ob. |
| Upland Sandpiper        | Aug.11    | Spit  | BW    |
| Ruddy Turnstone         | July 31   | Humber Bay?(see footnote 2)                               | BY    |
|                         | Aug.11    | Spit  | BW&DP |
| Sanderling              | Aug.13    | Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital<br>Landfill Site (2)       | HS    |
|                         | Aug.14    | Humber Bay  | HS    |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper  | Common    | On mudflats (found with flocks of<br>Semipal. Sandpipers) | m.ob. |
| Western Sandpiper       | July 16   | Grenadier Pond  | HS    |
| Least Sandpiper         | Common    | On mudflats   | m.ob. |
| Pectoral Sandpiper      | Aug.13    | Lakeshore Psych. Hosp. Landfill                           | HS    |
|                         | Aug.14    | Humber Bay (early a.m.)                                   | HS    |
| Dunlin                  | Aug.?*    | Grenadier Pond  | BW    |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | July 27   | Base of Spit, where grass was mowed                       | NM    |
| American Woodcock       | Aug.3     | Humber Marsh 4  | HS    |

## GULLS &amp; TERNS:

|                          |         |  |       |
|--------------------------|---------|--|-------|
| Common Black-headed Gull | July 18 | Humber Bay W. (immature--Where did<br>it come from?) | BJ    |
| Bonaparte's Gull         | July 22 | Bronte P.P.  | NM    |
|                          | July 27 | Spit (3)   | NM    |
| Ring-billed Gull         |         | Everywhere there is garbage                          |       |
| Herring Gull             |         | Common throughout the Spit                           | NM    |
| Caspian Tern             |         | Common at the Spit & along western Lakeshore         | m.ob. |
| Common Tern              |         | "  | m.ob. |

## DOVES THROUGH OWLS:

|                     |            |  |       |
|---------------------|------------|--|-------|
| Rock Dove           | Abundant   | Everywhere                                       |       |
| Mourning Dove       | July 27    | Base of Spit 20-30                               | NM    |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | Aug.11     | Spit (3)   | BW,DP |
| Great Horned Owl    | July 24    | Etobicoke Ck. & Queensway<br>(harassed by crows) | HJ,BJ |
|                     | July 31    | Humber Marsh 7 (calling at night)                | HS    |
|                     | Aug.8,9,11 | " (2 calling)                                    | HS    |

## TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS (cont'd)

## JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS:

|                         |            |  |       |
|-------------------------|------------|--|-------|
| Blue Jay                | Frequent   |  |       |
| American Crow           | Everywhere |  |       |
| Black-capped Chickadee  | Frequent   | in wooded areas  |       |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | July 22    | Ratray   | WM    |
| Swainson's Thrush       | July 19    | Mississauga (in the garden, observed from 15' on the ground & in flight) | WM    |
| American Robin          | Everywhere | with young   |       |
| Gray Catbird            | Frequent   |  | m.ob. |
|                         | July 18    | New Toronto (fledged young)  | BJ    |
| Cedar Waxwing           | Frequently | seen on outings  | m.ob. |
| European Starling       | Everywhere | with many young  |       |

## NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS:

|                   |            |   |       |
|-------------------|------------|---|-------|
| Common Nighthawk  | July       | Park Drive Ravine (11)  | SC    |
|                   | July 18    | New Toronto (flying so low that I was almost hit several times) | BJ    |
|                   | Aug. 13    | G.R.Lord (1st this summer here - Migration beginning?)          | SC    |
| Chimney Swift     | July       | Park Drive Ravine (lots)  | SC    |
|                   | "          | U. of T. (more & more together each evening)                    | HJ    |
| Belted Kingfisher | Frequent   | Along all the creeks & rivers                                   | m.ob. |
| Downy Woodpecker  | Occasional |   |       |
| Hairy Woodpecker  | July 22    | Bronte P.P.   | WM    |
| Northern Flicker  | Frequent   |   |       |

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS:

|                               |               |   |        |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| Olive-sided Flycatcher        | Aug. 13       | High Park                                       | BW     |
| Willow Flycatcher             | July 27       | Spit (singing in good nesting habitat)          | NM     |
| Eastern Phoebe                | July 23       | Humber Marsh 7                                  | BW, BJ |
| Great Crested Flycatcher      | Calling       | everywhere                                      | m.ob.  |
| Eastern Kingbird              | Frequent      | on many outings                                 | m.ob.  |
| Horned Lark                   | July 27       | Spit (3)  | NM     |
| Purple Martin                 | July 18       | New Toronto (about 50-60, fed young in mid-air) | BJ     |
| Tree Swallow                  | Abundant      | with young                                      |        |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | "             |   |        |
| Bank Swallow                  | July 24       | Etobicoke Creek & Queensway                     | HJ, BJ |
|                               | Aug. 3        | Humber Marsh 4 (all had departed)               | TFN    |
| Cliff Swallow                 | July 24       | BEW bridge over Etobicoke Creek (15+ nests)     | HJ, BJ |
|                               | July 27       | Spit (8)  | NM     |
| Barn Swallow                  | Very frequent | with young on every outing                      | TFN    |

## TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS (cont'd)

## VIREOS &amp; WARBLERS:

|                         |                     |  |        |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--------|
| Warbling Vireo          | Infrequently heard. |  |        |
| Red-eyed Vireo          | "                   |  |        |
| Yellow Warbler          | Occasionally        | One of the few nesting warblers in Toronto |        |
| Blackburnian Warbler    | Aug. 4              | Earl Bales                                 | BH     |
| Black-and-white Warbler | "                   | "  | BH     |
|                         | Aug. 7              | Burnett Park                               | TFN    |
| American Redstart       | July 28             | Ratray (1 male)                            | WM     |
| Northern Waterthrush    | Aug. 11             | Spit                                       | DP, BW |
|                         | Aug. 14-18          | Dufferin Grove (in the garden)             | MH     |
| Canada Warbler          | July 28             | Ratray (1 female)                          | WM     |

## CARDINALS THROUGH ORIOLES

|                      |   |                             |    |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|----|
| Northern Cardinal    | Occasional but rather quiet   |                             |    |
| Indigo Bunting       | Frequently singing at the top of trees  |                             |    |
| Savannah Sparrow     | Abundant in every vacant lot  |                             | BJ |
| Song Sparrow         | Abundant  |                             |    |
| Red-winged Blackbird | Abundant until mid-Aug when they began to gather at the mouth of Duffin Creek, etc. |                             | DP |
| Eastern Meadowlark   | July 27   | Spit (2)                    | NM |
| Common Grackle       | Frequent until mid-Aug  |                             |    |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | Occasional young being fed by smaller species                                       |                             |    |
| Northern Oriole      | July 27   | Spit (less vocal in summer) | NM |

## FINCHES THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

|                    |                           |  |       |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--|-------|
| House Finch        | July 17                   | High Park Area (2--1st seen here)  | SP    |
|                    | July 20                   | High Park (6)  | BY    |
|                    | July 30                   | High Park  | m.ob. |
| American Goldfinch | All dates                 | Everywhere (late breeders, using thistle down and tent caterpillar webs for nests) | m.ob. |
| House Sparrow      | Very abundant, with young |  | m.ob. |

(1) Peter Whelan, "Invading geese feeding on a 5-star diet of grass", Globe & Mail, Aug. 21, 1985. ~~~~~

\* (2) ?? My apologies for not writing down the exact information when you told it to me.

▷ The next report will cover the period Aug. 16 to Sept. 15. Please send your observations before Sept. 20 to Beth Jefferson, 41 Lake Shore Dr., Apt. 404 New Toronto, Ont., M8V 1Z3, or telephone 251-2998 (6-9 p.m. or weekends).

## TORONTO REGION MAMMAL RECORDS

(from February 4, 1985, to June 30, 1985)

EAST YORK: On Victoria Park just north of Crescent Town, two STRIPED SKUNKS were noted by Joe Banville, both road-kills, on March 17. The GRAY SQUIRREL was observed by Diana Banville at Crescent Town: On fine winter days, an individual was sometimes seen running along the pool fence, such as the one on February 18. A black individual with a slight fulvous wash was seen carrying a large piece of polystyrene into the drey at the top of a larch in the woodlot by building 7, 3 times noted between 3 and 3:12 PM. It took some time to arrange. The paper-and-plastic roof had blown off and the squirrel kept sticking its head out the top. Later in the day another mound of debris was noted as a roof on the drey. On February 28, a windy day, a big piece of paper blew off the top of the drey. Immediately the black squirrel appeared and tried to re-arrange the materials and to retrieve the piece of paper that had blown off (unsuccessfully), sat on a branch beside the drey, then made 2-3 more trips. There was a blizzard all day on March 4 and the drey became invisible. On March 8, a new pile of litter was seen on top of the drey, rather like a clear plastic bag, all tucked in and domed up like a solarium. While crossing the bridge from Victoria Park Station, she noticed two individuals interacting on a large red oak, on April 14. They were just starting to moult with grooves apparent in the fur on the forequarters. At Crescent Town in mid-June a moulting individual with patchy forequarters was noted and on June 23 a grey individual with short fur growing in on forequarters. In Taylor Creek Park, On June 15, Mary Cumming and Diana Banville noticed only one black phase individual in two hours (on lawn).

Two WHITE FOOTED MICE were found dead in Jean Macdonald's driveway during July.

ETOBICOKE: On TFN Sketching Outing at Mimico Creek, on May 11, at least one EASTERN CHIPMUNK was heard scolding and chirping.

Beth Jefferson reported seeing a EUROPEAN HARE in Etobicoke Valley and a BEAVER near Lambton Woods at the beginning of May.

MISSISSAUGA: On March 23, from the bus on route to Long Point, TFN members saw a GROUNDHOG.

NORTH YORK: Ruth Airey reported a MUSKRAT swimming in the West Don River at the corner of York Mills Road and Yonge Street in April.

SCARBOROUGH: At Metro Zoo, April 27, Diana Banville noted EASTERN CHIPMUNKS - one near core woods, one at Macdonald's on building, one on slope. She also observed the GRAY SQUIRREL on March 30, Chine Drive - 5-6 black phase and 2-3 grey phase were active; on April 4, two in the Hunt Club area, with only slight moulting; on April 14 at Victoria Park Station an individual showed a groove in the fur of his back as it was just beginning to moult forequarters fur. On April 30, at Glen Stewart Ravine, the TFN noted two on the table-land during a nature walk. On June 26, at Metro Zoo Grounds TFN Sketching Group observed four EASTERN CHIPMUNKS - two had comparatively short tails.

▷

## TORONTO REGION MAMMAL RECORDS (cont'd)

THORNHILL: On February 28, Jack Cranmer-Byng saw a FLYING SQUIRREL at 3:45 pm.

CITY OF TORONTO: On Lakeshore Road, on April 6, Diana Banville saw a GROUNDHOG on the bank of a lumber-yard. She also observed the Alexander Street GRAY SQUIRRELS. On April 2 several individuals were moulting; for example, a gray phase with short downy hairs of forequarters contrasting with the longer hairs of the hindquarters, another with rufous hindquarters and tail had the fur of forequarters coming in a soft mouse-gray with evident demarcation line. Tails were sparsely furred. (On June 11 a gray individual had fur of forequarters almost grown in but still contrasting slightly with the longer fur of hindquarters at this date.) Molly Campbell observed GRAY SQUIRRELS from a 3rd-floor balcony on Crescent Road, Rosedale, on April 15, and again on April 22. On both occasions two apparent adults were engaging in mutual grooming on rooftops. She has often noticed them stretched out flat on roofs apparently sunbathing.

At a Blue Jay baseball game, Suzanne Poodrey saw a BAT about 8:30 pm on April 22. And on Alexander Street and both May 6 and 7, Aarne and Helen Juhola saw a white MOUSE feeding under a linden tree at 9 pm both evenings.

On May 7, Robin Powell saw two GRAY SQUIRRELS try to eat a young starling on Philosopher's walk.

In the Humber Marshes, Helen Smith saw five gray squirrels daily during the spring; two of the squirrels were gray, three were black. She also saw RABBIT tracks near Marsh 7. A SKUNK was seen in the same area at 8:45 am and at 7 am and a raccoon at 7:15 am; a GROUNDHOG had its hole just down the hill from where she lives so she saw it frequently and she even saw a BEAVER in Marsh 7. this past spring.

KINCARDINE: To quote from Don Roebuck and Louise Goldberg: "On May 16th, while walking through a wooded area, we encountered a woodchuck some eight feet up the trunk of a pine tree. (We quickly discovered that the world is made up of two kinds of people: those who have seen woodchucks up trees with their own eyes, and those who deny that such a thing is possible.) It stared at us for a minute or so and then started coming slowly down the tree, so we left it alone. Banfield, in the MAMMALS OF CANADA, says that the woodchuck is a 'good climber, frequently going as high as ten or twelve feet in maple and cherry trees' (page 107). Does anyone know what it would be doing in a pine tree?"

In March Betty Paul was coming out of the Herongate Barn Theatre in Pickering late in the evening to go to the parking lot and seeing a young brown RABBIT and a CAT, grey and white -- probably a tabby, also not full grown -- gamboling and hopping around the grounds. The cat was chirping and when the rabbit stopped hopping, they touched noses. They didn't seem in any hurry to leave because of Betty's presence and after checking that they hadn't gone under the car, Betty left the area and wondered if what she had seen was unusual or not.

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| TFN LIBRARY report |
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## BOOKS IN TFN LIBRARY - PART XIII - ANIMAL LIFE GENERAL

At the end of July, 1985, these were the general books on animals on hand:

- ZOOLOGY by R. Will Burnett et al., Golden Press NY, 1958, 160 pages, including bibliography, index, liberally illustrated in colour.
- THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ANIMAL LIFE, Frederick Drimmer ed. in chief, Greystone Press NY 1952. 16 volumes.
- HIGHLAND ANIMALS by David Stephen, Highlands & Islands Development Board 1974. 109 pages, photos of all species described, b&w and colour. Mammals, reptiles and amphibians of the Scottish Highlands (a few are in Ont.)
- NATURE'S WAYS. "How Nature takes care of its own" by Roy Chapman Andrews, illustrated by Andre Durenceau et al. Crown Publishers NY 1951. Individual accounts of adaptations in animals. 197 pages, b&w, colour.
- ILLUSTRATED LIBRARY OF NATURE VOL.I "ANIMAL TRAILS". H.S.Stuttman Co. NY 1952. 128 pages. Camouflage, nesting/denning, young.
- ANIMAL CAMOUFLAGE by E. M. Stephenson & C.Stewart, Penguin. 160 pages including appendices & glossary. Contents pages, no index. B&W illus. See review TFN:349:23:SEP 82.
- COMPLETE FIELD GUIDE TO AMERICAN WILDLIFE
- THE ART OF GLEN LOATES - See review TFN 345:16:FEB 82.
- THE ART OF NATURAL HISTORY - by Peter S. Dance, Overlook Press, Woodstock NY 1978. 224 pages, bib., index, notes on art techniques. Animal life copiously illustrated in black & white and colour.
- CANADIAN ENDANGERED SPECIES by Darryl Stewart, Gage Toronto 1974. 172 pages incl. bib., glossary. Contents. 94 species & races. Colour & b.&w.
- CANADIAN WILDLIFE AND MAN by Anne Innis Dagg, McClelland & Stewart 1974, 191 pages, contents, maps, tables, bib. Effects of Man on wildlife.
- AND THEN THERE WERE NONE, America's Vanishing Wildlife, by Nina Leen, with commentary by Joseph A. Davis, Holt, Rinehart NY 1973. Threatened and extinct species. 123 pages plus appendix (list of species) and list of conservation action organizations. Photos with captions.

We also have four books on animal welfare. In our resource files we have folders on animal life general, attracting, management, and welfare.

Acquisitions            April - July, 1985

Three books were received from Mildred Easto - on British Birds, North American Birds and on British Wildflowers. Ten books from Lorna Gardner on ferns, insects, birds, freshwater life, animal tracks, geology of Peterboro, Bancroft and Madoc area, on freshwater fishes and on Ontario natural areas. More detail on these books will be supplied later. Our thanks to the donors!

In addition dozens of booklets, periodicals, and articles have come in on: wildflower gardens, Plants of Africa, of Sudbury, of the Great Smokies, on red and white pines; insects - bibliography of publications including field guides, popular books, study techniques and on society's attitude; the night sky, Halley's comet; wildlife conservation; mushrooms; weather; bird migration, field guide comparisons, bird art, Japanese birds; Long Point Bird Observatory; Ontario Environment Network; Arizona natural history; Recycling North York; Cape Breton. We thank Marjorie Blackshaw, Win Brown, Molly Campbell,

## TFN Library Report - cont'd

Mary Cumming, Mildred Easto, Jacques Gravel, Betty Henderson, Jim Hodgins, Joy Pocklington, Charles Sauriol, Gloria Somerville, Annemarie Toth-Waddell, Mel Whiteside, Dr. Glenn Wiggins, the Utonaiko Sanctuary in Hokkaido, Japan, and Lorna Gardner. (From Charles Sauriol we received a review of his book, A BEEMAN'S JOURNEY, and from Dr. Glenn Wiggins a copy of his article "Entomology and Society" from BULLETIN OF THE ESA Spring '83.)

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

DB

## If you're so smart...

here is SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE Number 2...

Match each word at the bottom with its definition from 1 to 20.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. to make the sound of a crow _____        | 11. to make the sound of a dove _____      |
| 2. a male swan _____                        | 12. a young shark _____                    |
| 3. regurgitated food of a ruminant _____    | 13. degenerate dog _____                   |
| 4. atmospheric vapour deposits _____        | 14. clinging seed-vessel _____             |
| 5. female seal _____                        | 15. lair of wild animal _____              |
| 6. male fox _____                           | 16. any member of genus <u>Felis</u> _____ |
| 7. a depression between two mountains _____ | 17. large sea-fish _____                   |
| 8. kind of insect _____                     | 18. a black European beetle _____          |
| 9. quadruped mother _____                   | 19. female rabbit _____                    |
| 10. a variety of lettuce _____              | 20. low island or reef _____               |

Lise Anglin

BUG BUR CAT CAW CAY COB COD COL COO COS COW  
CUB CUD CUR DAM DEN DEW DOE DOG DOR

ANSWERS ON PAGE 23.

A full moon each night!  
Forget that front window  
reflects kitchen-globe.

haiku by Diana Banville



THE TREE KEY -- A guide to identification in garden, field and forest by Herbert Edlin, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1978, 280 pp, full colour, includes drawings, photographs and an index.

This book is described as presenting all the important features of the trees commonly found throughout Western Europe and the temperate regions of North America. It is the all that impresses me about this book; for example, for the tulip tree the illustrations include leaf, summer form of tree, twig, autumn look of tree, flower, fruit, winter look of tree, seed and seedling. Altogether 77 genera including 235 species are described and illustrated this way with the text on the left-hand page; the illustrations, on the right-hand page. As well, the first 72 pages are packed with information about identifying trees by each of the characters illustrated.

HJ

BBC WILDLIFE magazine, 513 London Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 6AR, 12 issues per year

This is, by far, the most interesting nature magazine I have ever read. It is full of NEWS. Because it is published by the BBC, it always includes schedules of British TV and radio nature programs and articles based on specific TV or radio nature programs; however, it also includes many brief news items extracted from journals or the news about what is happening all over the world as well as both short notices and longer reviews of recently published books of interest to anyone interested in natural history and conservation of our natural heritage.

HJ

BLACK WOLF, The Life of Ernest Thompson Seton by Betty Keller, Douglas & McIntyre, 240 pages, \$19.95.

Ernest Thompson Seton was born in England in 1860, one of ten sons of Joseph Thompson and Alice Snowdon. The family came to Canada in 1866, settling first at Lindsay, Ontario. He early had an interest in wildlife which developed further when the family moved to Toronto and he discovered the Don Valley where he spent much time exploring, and where now a park bears his name. Seton became a freelance illustrator, and later published some of the stories he wrote, collecting them into the book, "Wild Animals I Have Known" which made him world famous.

Moving to the United States he organized the League of Woodcraft Indians, teaching boys about wildlife. He continued to explore the west, publishing about his adventures and findings, and lecturing about animals. This is a well written book about a man who made many people aware of North American wildlife.

M.E.



FOR READING (cont'd)

|                     |
|---------------------|
| BYE BYE BLACK BIRD? |
|---------------------|

Recently I read two books on the subject of black birds which gather in great flocks and cause crop damage. One book dealt with studies carried out in the Old World, of an Old World species, the European Starling. The other dealt with studies here in the New World, of a New World species, the Red-winged Blackbird. It just happened that these two recent monographs, long overdue, had come to hand about the same time. To my astonishment, practically the same conclusions and recommendations came out of the two independent studies on opposite sides of the Atlantic! (See references on following page.)

First of all, each scientist said his subject was called "beneficial" by some:

NERO: "In 1900 Foster E. A. Beal, of the U.S. Biological Survey, examined more than a thousand stomachs of Redwings...using specimens collected at various times of the year. He and a number of other arduous workers concluded that although the Redwing was a pest at certain times, generally they must be considered beneficial."

FEARE: "Within the enormous geographical range of the European Starling a wide variety of cultivated foods is encountered and in many parts of this range the Starling is regarded as a pest for different reasons...but it must be pointed out that in some regions Starlings are regarded as beneficial."

Second, each scientist remarked that man has artificially provided habitat for the species, and thus has contributed to its increase:

NERO: "From California to the New England States and southern Canada, the problem of crop depredation...has greatly increased. This is partly due to a vast increase in acreage of susceptible crops over the past several decades and to an increase in birds. Recent expansion of corn acreage in southern Quebec has resulted in an increasing Redwing population."

FEARE: "In western Europe, man's agricultural activities have removed vast areas of temperate forest and converted this land to grass, thereby presenting Starlings with a vastly increased area for potential colonization. In addition, man has supplied Starlings with extra food, mainly in the form of cereals, and this has encouraged a more sedentary habit and possibly allowed a higher rate of winter survival..."

Third, each scientist has found that attempts to destroy large populations of birds as a means of control is not only undesirable but futile:

NERO: "Dolbeer concluded that 'reduction of populations of Redwings that cause localized late-summer agricultural damage probably cannot be practically achieved through the mass killing of blackbirds in a few winter roosts in the southern United States...[and] the large scale reduction of Redwing numbers at a few winter roosts probably will not result in any large-scale reduction of specific local breeding populations of Redwings in North America the following summer...'"

FEARE: "...the problems associated with Starlings cannot be overcome by 'getting rid of the birds'; although this step may often be advocated by farmers who suffer damage, we have seen that the extermination of Starlings from a given area is not practicable and even if it were it would not make economic sense. If extermination could be achieved, we have no idea of the repercussions that

FOR READING (cont'd)

"Bye bye black bird?" cont'd

there might be with regard to other animals, especially insect populations, and there are also, of course, ethical arguments for not attempting to eliminate large segments of wild populations of animals."

Fourth, each scientist found evidence that the cost of attempting to control bird populations outweighed any benefits:

NERO: "...Avitrol [for treating corn] has not proved as effective as it originally was thought to be, and there has been a dramatic decrease in its use by Ohio farmers. The reasons for this are related to a substantial decline in the Redwing population in Ohio during the 1970s, as well as to a variety of problems that surfaced concerning Avitrol use, such as bait removal by crickets and a greater scrutiny by the farmer of the costs of Avitrol as compared to the benefits."

FEARE: "For example, we have seen that a commercial cherry farmer spent £2000 in 1975 in attempts to reduce Starling damage but despite this expenditure, the Starlings in his 16 ha orchard consumed cherries worth £20,000. In this particular case, we do not know whether any more damage would have occurred had the £2000 not been spent on prevention measures."

Fifth, each scientist found that shooting at flocks often had the effect of driving them from one field or roost to another. This also applies to other scaring techniques. (NERO pages 138 and 141, FEARE page 280). Each suggested modification of agricultural and animal husbandry techniques, and timing, to lessen crop and fodder depredations by the birds, e.g. -

NERO: (Dolbeer) "planting of hybrid corn with ear tips well covered by husks... harvesting the crop, especially sweet corn, as early as possible... provision of natural food and cover sites outside the corn."

FEARE: "The winter wheat farmer...has a choice of sowing deep to avoid Starling damage, but risking Wheat Bulb Fly attack, or sowing shallowly to overcome the latter problem. He could...sow early and overcome both problems." On cherry orchards: "Exclusion is achieved by totally enclosing the orchard with netting." (Several financial benefits of this measure are discussed.).... "To reduce the amount of food Starlings take from foodlots...a farm that incorporated ground barley into a complete diet ration for dairy cows lost less barley than did farms that presented rolled barley [fragments of which] were easy to see and to pick up..."

Feare sums it up (and this could be applied equally to agriculture and to animal husbandry): "In deciding which methods should be used we must, therefore, examine carefully the relationship between the aspects of husbandry that encourage the damage and the ecology and behaviour of the bird...Perhaps husbandry techniques could be modified to reduce the damaging effects of marauding birds; birds are, after all, simply another environmental factor with which the farmer must contend."

DB

Ref.: REDWINGS by Robert Nero, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC 1985  
THE STARLING by Christopher Feare, Oxford U. Press, New York/Toronto 1984

# projects

## SIGHTINGS OF COLOUR-BANDED GYRFALCONS

▷ If you see gyrfalcons this winter, please check them for colour bands, noting colour of band and whether on left or right leg. Report to Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, K1A 0H3

## SIGHTINGS OF COLOUR-MARKED SHOREBIRDS

▷ Report all sightings of colour-marked shorebirds. Record species, colour of marks on plumage, colour and position of leg bands, date and place. Send reports to the Canadian Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds Branch, Ottawa K1A 0E7

## SURVEY OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN METRO TORONTO

▷ Give details of species seen, location and date sighted, together with other relevant details. Sightings of even common species are needed. Send your observations to Bob Johnson, c/o Metro Toronto Zoo, Box 280, West Hill M1E 4R5

## HERITAGE TREES IN METRO TORONTO

▷ Locate and report exceptionally fine or interesting specimens of trees in the Metro area. Send your observations to Mary Smith, 49 Thorncrest Rd., Islington M9A 1S6

## PROPAGATION OF NATIVE FLORA

▷ In your garden, grow native plant species collected as seed and/or cuttings. Record species and propagation results to James L. Hodgins, 90 Wolfrey Ave., Toronto M4K 1K8

## ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

▷ Volunteers are needed on a regular basis, one or two times per week, to assist with projects relating to bird studies. These include summarising data, sorting and filing reprints, photographs and /or record cards, transcribing information to record cards, preparing inventories, numbering bones and other such jobs, depending upon interest and abilities. Contact Ross James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6 (978-3684)

## TORONTO RAVINES STUDY

▷ Compile inventories of plants, birds and/or other animals of a ravine or section of a river valley within Metro Toronto; describe natural habitats and point out effects of human activities; make recommendations for safeguarding the ecosystem. For further information contact Helen Juhola, 112-51 Alexander St. Toronto M4Y 1B3 (924-5806)

▷ For information about other projects (perhaps in other regions which you visit often), refer to the DIRECTORY OF COOPERATIVE NATURALISTS' PROJECTS IN ONTARIO, March 1985, edited by Clive and Joy Goodwin, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan N0E 1M0

Let us know if you have a project you want listed in this newsletter. For the project directory, contact the Goodwins at 249-9503 in Toronto.

## PEREGRINE SIGHTINGS

▷ Any peregrine sightings in Metro Toronto should be reported to Helen Gerson, Ministry of Natural Resources Wildlife Branch, 965-4252.

## PROJECTS (cont'd)

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| METROPOLITAN TORONTO<br>SPECIAL INTEREST GARDENS - Summer 1985 |
|--|

For those interested in gardens, the plants of which often end up in our ravines and valleys, the following list should be of interest. If you know of others, please let any member of the editorial committee know. (See list on back page.)

## City of Toronto

Necropolis Cemetery - trees  
 Mt. Pleasant Cemetery - trees  
 Riverdale Farm - old-fashioned garden  
 St. James Church (Church and King) - old-fashioned garden  
 St. Michael's College (U. of T.) - formal garden  
 Spadina House (next to Casa Loma) - old-fashioned garden  
 Campbell House (University and Dundas) - old-fashioned garden  
 Allan Gardens - trees and greenhouses  
 City Hall - Peace Garden (formal)  
 High Park - formal gardens, trees  
 Botany Department (U. of T.) - greenhouse  
 Queen's Park - trees  
 U. of T. grounds - trees  
 Trinity/Bellwoods Park - trees  
 Exhibition grounds - formal  
 Muir Gardens - formal

## East York

Municipal Buildings - formal

## Etobicoke

Humber College - trees, wildflower garden  
 James' Gardens - formal and wildflowers  
 Centennial Park - greenhouses  
 Echo Valley Park - nut trees

## North York

Edwards Gardens - formal  
 Canadian National Institute for the Blind - fragrant garden  
 York Cemetery - greenhouses  
 Black Creek Pioneer Village - herb gardens  
 Ontario Science Centre - herb garden

## Scarborough

Pine Hills Cemetery - trees and wildflower garden  
 Birkdale Park - trees  
 Thompson Park - old-fashioned garden  
 Guild Inn - formal (with sculptures)  
 Metro Zoo - exotic plants in buildings

## York

Prospect Cemetery - trees

## PROJECTS (cont'd)

NATURAL AREA USERS IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO

One Wednesday morning this past summer, 30 members of TFN met 30 members of the "Senior Club" (see below) in the middle of G. Ross Lord Park. It was a perfect day and we were all enjoying the natural areas of the park in our own way. Some of us began to wonder what other groups use Metro's natural areas. The following list is obviously only "the tip of the iceberg". We would like a more complete list, one which includes schools which depend on Metro's natural areas for outdoor education, church groups, scouts, guides, art groups, photo clubs, historical societies, etc. Please let any member of the editorial committee know of information you have about any of these or other groups.

## Beaches Marathon Runners' Association

- members run on spit and along waterfront, summer and winter; 40 to 50 members; contact Roy Merrins (days 667-3218, evenings 690-2333)

## Black Creek Project

- purpose of group is to preserve and restore creek's natural state; two or three outings a year plus continual individual use; 50 members; contact John Maher 592-5163

## Bruce Trail Association (Toronto Club)

- hiking every weekend plus skiing and snowshoeing in season in valleys; 4000 members; contact Ron Baylis 445-2628

## East York Outing Club

- at least 5 hikes a year plus individual skiing in valleys; 250 members; contact Gary Linas (days 369-4332, evenings 493-3460)

## Friends of the Spit

- individual outings to spit for walkers, birders, botanists, joggers, and cyclists; 1500 members; contact John Carley (days 481-6889, evenings 463-0089)

## Mycological Society of Toronto

- members occasionally have outings to find mushrooms in valleys and ravines; 300 members; contact Otto Lang 445-0680

## Save the Rouge Valley System

- purpose of the group is to preserve the Rouge's natural state, 3 hikes a year as well as individual hikes and skiing in the valley; 150 members; contact Lois James 284-6409

## Senior Club

- hiking in valleys every Wednesday throughout the year; 140 members; contact Verda Macdonald 921-8650

## Sierra Club of Ontario (Toronto chapter)

- occasional outings in valleys; 750 members; call 596-7778

## Thistletown Ratepayers' Association

- individual use of valley and great annual picnic in valley; 2500 members; contact Frank Musso 742-8879

## Toronto Bicycling Network

- bicycle in valleys 6 or 7 times a year plus individual use of bike trails; 500 members; contact Dennis Szilvasy 241-1369



PROJECTS (cont'd)

Toronto Field Naturalists

- formed to stimulate public interest in natural history and the preservation of natural heritage, about 150 outings in valleys, ravines and along lakeshore per year; 1500 members; membership secretary Ida Hanson 488-7304 (days)

Toronto Hiking and Conservation Club

- 3 hikes per year in valleys plus skiing and cycling in valleys; 110 members; contact Eileen Chopping 481-0858

Orienteering Ontario

- several Metro clubs. Headquarters in Willowdale: 495-4160

▷ Anyone with further information, please phone Eva Davis 694-8928.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO - ANIMAL COLLECTIONS - 1985

Scarborough

- Metro Toronto Zoo - native and exotic animals
- Thompson Park - farm animals

North York

- Black Creek Pioneer Village - farm animals
- Ontario Science Centre - live animal displays
- Hobberlin Collection - fossil displays

City of Toronto

- Riverdale Farm - farm animals
- High Park Zoo - exotic animals
- Toronto Island Animal Farm - farm animals
- Royal Ontario Museum - mounted animal displays

Other places to observe animals: pet shops and aquariums, at the Canadian National Exhibition, the Royal Winter Fair and the Sportsmens' Show. The Humane Society and the Endangered Animal Sanctuary also keep animals, exotic and otherwise.

▷ If you know of other places which might be suitable for outings, please let any member of the editorial committee know about them.

USE THE TALENTS YOU POSSESS  
FOR THE WOODS WOULD BE VERY SILENT  
IF NO BIRDS SANG EXCEPT THE BEST.

sign displayed at Mountsberg, June, 1983



## PROJECTS (cont'd)

SEED-CARRYING INSECTS

Despite the fact that many types of insects take part in the movement of pollen from one plant to another, ants are usually considered to be the only insects involved in the dispersal of seeds. Now the first recorded observations of wasps dispersing seeds have been made by Olle Pellmyr of Uppsala University, Sweden (Madrono, Vol. 32, No. 1). On eight occasions he observed common wasps (*Vespula vulgaris*) visiting *Vancouveria hexandra* (a spiny North American shrub) in Washington. The wasp bit loose the appendage to which the seed was attached flew a few metres before settling on a low branch where it pulled off the appendage and dropped the seed. In the meantime, in an Edinburgh garden wasps have been observed carrying seeds away from *Trillium* plants. Any more information on this relationship between wasps and plants should be sent to:

▷ Dr. Adrian Dyer, Dept. of Botany, University of Edinburgh, the King's Buildings, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JH.

## NATURAL HISTORY MALAPROPISMS

Apparently because of inadequate research and/or editing, the media in recent years are providing naturalists with many a snicker and not a few guffaws. It won't be necessary to divulge the names or employers of these latter-day Mrs. Malaprops to pass some on to our readers, in case you've missed any. The medium of television is a good source. One TV special inspires more of a sigh or tongue-clicking when the narrator refers to a common yellowthroat as a "yellow-throated warbler". But decidedly in the chuckle category is a reference in another TV special to a "ruffled grouse". On the TV News we are told of happenings in "Earl Thompson Seton Park". A newspaper tells us that we have "moonweed" in our parks. A few years back, in a popular national magazine, an article intended to be the very soul of sophistication listed among other native fauna "razor-billed oxen".

Any more you can think of? In the midst of the grim struggle for the natural environment, we can always use a few laughs.

Ed. Committee

TORONTO REGION Amphibian & Reptile REPORT

Once again as fall approaches many amphibians and reptiles will be on the move looking for suitable hibernation sites. They will also be more visible as young of the year seek out feeding areas prior to their winter dormancy. In particular, as the warm, dry summer days give way to fall rains many animals are active throughout the day. More of you will be in the field as you take advantage of the last days of good weather to walk and birdwatch. The combination of this increase in activity of animals and observers makes this an important time of the year to contribute to the METRO AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE INVENTORY. This has been a dry summer and the number of sightings of amphibians and reptiles has been way down when compared to other years. Nonetheless, there have been a few exciting finds, and with your assistance I expect even more surprises. Please record the date, exact location, size, and any observations and contact Bob Johnson at 284-8181. No matter how common the amphibian or reptile species, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## issues---

HOLLAND MARSH THREAT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications plans to extend Highway 89 through one of the most significant wetlands in Canada -- the Holland River (Keswick) Marsh. For more information on this issue and how to express your concern, contact Toby Vigod of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) at 977-2410 or write to CELA at 243 Queen St. West, Toronto M5V 1Z4.

WHAT? MORE GOLF COURSES?

There are 25 golf courses and country clubs in Metropolitan Toronto and Mississauga. There are at least 20 more in the surrounding municipalities. Why should it be necessary to invade Claireville Conservation Area to create still another? Looking at a Toronto Map, one could quickly get the impression that an inordinate amount of green space is designated for the use of a few people, when compared with the general population.

Diana Banville

**REPORTS**FEEDING STATION REPORT - BATHURST/EGLINTON AREA - WINTER 1984-85

March 1985. We have had, and still have, many pairs of house finches all winter, both at the hanging bird feeder and the small 3-inch ones stuck on the window. Mrs. Finch is aggressive, knocking hubby off the feeder every chance she gets. Poor hubby flutters around, but she won't yield, and he settles on the window sill to catch the spills while Mrs. eats greedily in front of our eyes.

The red-breasted nuthatches like the window feeders too, but we've not seen the white-breasted ones.

Frequent visitors are downy woodpeckers (at the suet), one hairy woodpecker the whole winter, juncos (on the ground), sparrows and starlings galore, cardinals, blue jays -- all the usual. No goldfinches that I've seen, but my neighbours across the street have them.

Corinne Salsberg

MUTE SWAN PROGRAM

The experimental and research phase of the trumpeter swan restoration program is now nearly complete. We have been looking for incompatibilities between trumpeter cygnets and their mute swan foster parents and have learned a great deal. The 1985 fostering program was a failure. We were not able to get eggs from Grande Prairie, Alberta this year, but received seven eggs from an anonymous donor. Three of these eggs were destroyed by an unknown predator. Of the four eggs given to a different pair of mute swans, three hatched and one egg was rotten. The three cygnets disappeared one by one and the last was found at 28 days of age being eaten by a snapping turtle. We think all were taken by snapping turtles. We have been removing snapping turtles from Cranberry Marsh this summer and have caught 27 to date. The largest weighed 32.4 lb. It is likely that the four surviving trumpeter swans from previous years are still around although we have not seen two of them since late winter.

There are 37 mute swans and three trumpeter swans carrying yellow numbered wing tags. We welcome all reports of these numbers.

Harry Lumsden 832-2761  
Ont. Ministry of Natural Resources

# IN THE NEWS

RAVEN MADNESS: No matter that the good burghers of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, have claimed the raven as their own for close to 30 years - or the Dene and Inuit for a few thousand. When the Yukon public heard their favorite bird was claimed by others, a mock hue and cry filled the newspapers and airwaves, and the Yukon government had to make it official: the Common Raven (Corvus corax) has been named Yukon's bird.

Dave Mossop, senior wildlife biologist, small game, with the Yukon territorial government, had been researching a territorial bird at the request of Yukon's Commissioner. "We interviewed a lot of outdoor types and came up with a short list of about 12 birds. Then we went public, it became a media event, and when Yukoners heard the raven was already taken, well there was no going back." As it happens, the original list contained several raven cousins in the jay family. But ravens were always the front runners. Like Yukoners, the official bird is resourceful, non-migratory, and has an unspecialized anatomy. Mossop means ravens don't have feathered feet for winter. Ravens can, however, shunt blood away from capillaries so it circulates faster (thus staying warm) while letting the feet chill to a level just above freezing. Ravens also have multi-grade oils in their feet - just like the family car, only better - that become less viscous as it gets colder, allowing the birds to flex their feet in 50 below weather.

And, says Mossop, ravens have an IQ five times that of a normal bird, and they learn new tricks faster than a cat or dog. Take the light sensor trick for instance. As the story goes, when Yukon communities installed light sensors to turn on street lights automatically, the ravens soon learned that if they incubated the sensors, they could warm up their feet on the lights any time of day. With all the research and public outcry behind the Yukon raven, what's to become of the Yellowknife raven (who clutches a gold brick)? "We're not dropping Raymond the Raven," says Coral James, manager of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce. "We've got too much invested in our image." And she adds, "Yukon might be interested to know we registered our raven logo with the patent office this spring."

In Yellowknife, ravens symbolize not only the Chamber, but a hockey team, the golf club, the regional tourism association called Northern Frontier, and they even decorate local cement trucks. The real version can be found on most back fences and roofs around town. We love them in NWT too.

(from UP HERE MAGAZINE, August/September 1985) ▷

## ANSWERS TO SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE...

|         |         |         |         |         |         |         |        |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1. CAW  | 2. COB  | 3. CUD  | 4. DEW  | 5. COW  | 6. DOG  | 7. COL  | 8. BUG |
| 9. DAM  | 10. COS | 11. COO | 12. CUB | 13. CUR | 14. BUR | 15. DEN |        |
| 16. CAT | 17. COD | 18. DOR | 19. DOE | 20. CAY |         |         |        |

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

FREE TREES IN CITY PARKS ARE A 'LASTING PLEASURE'

North York Parks Commissioner Gordon Hutchinson estimates the city breaks even - and maybe even loses money - on its offer to plant trees in city parks as private gifts for birthdays, weddings and other occasions.

Still, he'd like to see more people taking advantage of the offer for the added "human touch" it lends to the parks, and the "lasting pleasure" of seeing the growth from sapling to mature trees.

Under the program, approved by North York city council in 1983, donors can have a tree planted for \$125 - including the cost of a metal plaque giving the name of donor and recipient, the date and the occasion of the gift.

"They can choose the park where they want the tree, and even the precise location, so long as it doesn't interfere with other landscaping," Hutchinson says. There's a wide variety to choose from, including maple, oak and evergreen.

For a gift of more direct utility, you can buy a park bench, to be placed at the location of your choice - for \$200, again including the plaque.

During the first year of the program gifts included six trees and two benches; last year two trees and three benches, and so far this year one tree.

He speculated the limited interest might be due to lack of promotion of the program following its inauguration.

"I'd be a lot happier if more people took advantage of the offer," says Hutchinson, extolling the pleasure of watching "your own" tree grow in a park where others can also benefit from it.

from an article by Michael Best, TORONTO STAR, August 20, 1985 (Neighbors North)

CROWN CORPORATION CHARGED BY ENVIRONMENT ONTARIO

An Ontario Crown corporation has been charged after a spill of oil into Lake Ontario, Environment Minister Jim Bradley announced today.

The Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority (GO Transit) of 555 Wilson Avenue, Downsview, has been charged with one count under Section 13(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

This section deals with discharging or causing or permitting the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment, which causes or is likely to cause impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it.

The charge concerns a July 8 spill of diesel oil into a storm sewer and then into Lake Ontario.

This is the first time the ministry has charged an Ontario Crown corporation.

from Ontario Ministry of the Environment News Release, August 9, 1985

From a speeding train  
I watch coloured leaves falling.  
They will never stop.

haiku by Helen Juhola

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

MORE TO RARITY THAN MEETS THE EYE

What exactly constitutes a rare species? Does a species occur over a broad geographic area or is it endemic to a small, particular locality? Is it found in a wide variety of habitats or does it grow in one specialized type of site? Does it have large, abundant populations somewhere in its range or are the numbers low wherever it occurs? These three factors combine to give eight categories, only one of which -- broad distribution, unselective habitat and large population -- is denoted as "common". The classic rare species, with its narrow distribution, specialized habitat and small population, is revealed as just one of seven different kinds of rarity in a report entitled "Seven forms of rarity and their frequency in the flora of the British Isles" by Deborah Rabinowitz, Sara Cairns and Theresa Dillon which will appear in the forthcoming proceedings of the Second Conference on Conservation Biology, which was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan in May 1985. The study was based on the "Biological Flora of the British Isles" which contains distribution maps and notes on the habitat and population for 177 of the 1822 native British plants. They found most species (149 vs 11) are common somewhere, and likewise most species (137 vs 23) have a wide geographic range. Interestingly a slight majority (94 vs 66) have restricted habitat specificity. Species with wide range and large population size, but restricted habitat specificity, predominate over truly "common" species with less restricted habitat requirements. These "rare habitat" species (71 out of 160; 44 percent) are specialists of sand dune or marsh, bog or forest floor. Wherever their habitat is found, they will predictably be present. Next numerically, with 58 species (36 percent) come the classic "common" species. The second most prevalent form of rarity (14 species, 9 per cent) is the classic endemic (using the word casually); restricted in range, specialising in one type of habitat, but common where you do find it. The opposite of endemics, truly sparse species with wide geographic distribution, broad habitat specificity, but small populations, are very infrequent. Finally, there seems to be an impossible category; no plant has small populations in a variety of habitats but within a narrow geographic distribution. The remaining three categories (those with either broad or narrow range that occur in small numbers in restricted habitats, and those with a narrow range but with large populations in a variety of habitats) are very infrequent. For the practical conservationist, these results show that the attention that conservationists pay to endemic species is, in fact, appropriate. Not only are these plants, with their small range and narrow habitat specificity, easily destroyed; they are also numerically the most prevalent rare species. Furthermore, because most species occur in restricted habitats, conserving and studying those habitats is probably the most effective way of conserving species.

from an article by Jeremy Cherfas in NEWSIDENTIST, July 25, 1985 (#1466)

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 INTERESTED IN BIRD CONTROL?
 

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"Another of my problems is flocks of birds, which can be a hazard to aircraft. We've tried hawks to scare birds away, but they won't fly at night or in bad weather. And birds soon get used to mechanical scarecrows.

"The solution was to keep the grass between six and ten inches long. That scares them off because if they land they can't see if they're in danger."

The above is a quotation from Let's Go, in-flight magazine of British-Caledonia Airways and was written by John Bowin, Chief of Airside Safety and Operations, Gatwick (London, England) airport.

Not all puffballs are "safe"...

A CASE OF SCLERODERMA POISONING IN QUEBEC

On September 26, 1982, at Sillery, a suburb of Quebec City, Canada, 6 or 7 specimens of a mushroom collected 24 hours before on a lawn were fried with butter and eaten with other foods by 4 members of a family. Half an hour after ingestion the first signs of intoxication were felt by the father, mother and 17-year-old son, and 1-1/2 hours after the meal by the 70-year-old grandmother, who had eaten only a small piece of the mushroom.

As recorded by the family physician, who was called immediately, the symptoms and clinical signs of this poisoning were nausea, vomiting, weakness and dizziness. The son presented a striking facial pallor; his blood pressure was 80/?, his pulse 120/min., and he exhibited rhinorrhea (discharge from the nose) and mydriasis (dilation of the pupils). His disorder and the father's lasted for 2 to 3 hours, while the mother and grandmother were affected for 8 to 10 hours, with weakness persisting in the mother for two days. When first examined by the physician, the mother had a blood pressure of 50/? and a slow pulse, she complained of headache and rhinorrhea, and she reported "seeing colours" when her eyes were closed. During the night she felt faint when getting out of bed.

When samples of the mushroom were brought to one of us (R.P.) on the evening of the poisoning by the family physician, it was immediately identified as a typical example of the Common Scleroderma or Earth Ball (*Scleroderma aurantium* Pers. syn. *S. citrinum* Pers., *S. vulgare* Hornemann, *S. cepa* Pers.). The flesh or gleba was white, but the central part was turning violaceous black.

This species has been sometimes used as a substitute for truffles. Most European authors consider it harmless. In North America McIlvaine in 1903 and Hard in 1908 labeled it edible and even good. In contrast, a severe gastric disturbance suffered by 4 persons in England was attributed to this species in 1868 and in 1961. J. A. Stevenson and R. Benjamin describe in *MICOLOGIA* 53: 438-439 a rather severe poisoning in the United States of a young man who ate raw a specimen of mushroom which was identified as *Scleroderma cepa* Pers. In the 50's the Czech mycologist Pilat characterized *S. aurantium* as a poisonous species that may cause mild or severe intoxications with symptoms quite similar to those now recorded in Quebec.

With cases of acute but not fatal poisoning well documented, the species should be clearly labeled in books as a toxic mushroom causing gastrointestinal disorder, and any statement about the innocuous effect of all puffballs when eaten fresh should be properly qualified to avoid any mistake with *Sclerodermas*.

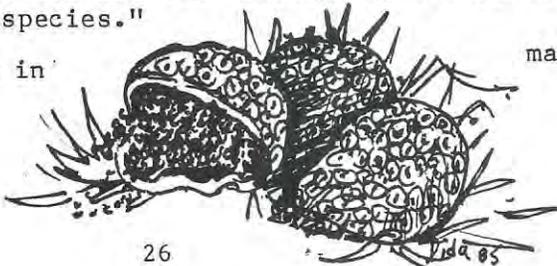
René Pomerleau, Emeritus Professor  
Laurent Potvin, Professor of Gastroenterology,  
Laval University, Quebec City

from *EARTHWAYS*, March 1985 (Lambton Wildlife Inc., Sarnia)

Ed. Note: Orson K. Miller in *MUSHROOMS OF NORTH AMERICA* records that, although they are listed as nonpoisonous: "The genus *Scleroderma* ...should be avoided. The flesh is somewhat bitter and there are conflicting reports of sickness from those who have eaten some of the species."

*Scleroderma aurantium* after a photo in

MUSHROOM POCKET FIELD GUIDE  
by Howard E. Bigelow



marked  
"not edible"

## ON THE WAY TO THE SUN - HALLEY'S COMET

With bated breath the earth awaits Halley's comet, destined to swing through the inner solar system this coming fall, winter and spring. There are two articles about it in NATURAL HISTORY Vol. 94, No. 4, April 1985, and here are some gleanings from those: It approaches every 75-76 years, the last time having been 1909-1911. I get the impression that it will not be quite so spectacular to view from Earth as it was in 1910, but we shall see. Though it will be at its brightest about February 9, 1986, when it makes its closest approach to the sun, because of the Earth's position viewing conditions will be poor. The comet will be fading by April 9, 1986, but viewing from Earth will probably be best about that time. Even a slightly fading comet can be pretty exciting it seems. The Royal Ontario Museum tells us that Halley's will be bright enough to see with binoculars in November. Fortunately most Toronto Field Naturalists are already equipped!

Meanwhile, "dim and distant", Halley has been observed from Palomar Observatory with a 200-inch telescope on October 16, 1982. Since then it has been viewed from other observatories throughout the world and spacecraft and satellites will be monitoring it and sending photographs back to Earth. The phenomenon of the brightening and fading at intervals is being studied.

What is a comet anyway? The nucleus is a rotating solid ball of frozen gas (according to one theory) interspersed with microscopic rock dust particles. The atmosphere or "coma" is produced when solar heat turns the frozen matter near the surface of the nucleus to gas. When the comet's orbit takes it far away from the sun, the gas streams out into space and dissipates.

According to STARS, A Golden Guide, Golden Press NY 1951/75, Halley's Comet was observed as long ago as 240 BC and has been observed on 28 returns. The Editorial Committee would like to hear from any member who viewed Halley's Comet in 1910 as a child, or who has heard accounts of it from relatives. My mother, for example, had a little jingle which she used to sing to the tune of "Put on your old gray bonnet"; it went like this:

Did you see Halley's comet  
with the long tail on it  
as it passed over Ottawa today?  
Oh, the sky went all a-glazy  
And the people all went crazy  
On the thirteenth day of May!

(I think she said the thirteenth.) Where were you or your mother or father in mid-May, 1910?

The Royal Ontario Museum will be having a course in the fall concerning Halley's Comet. Call the McLaughlin Planetarium at 978-8550 if you wish to be put on their mailing list. Meanwhile the "hotline" for information on the night sky, 978-5399, a 24-hour service, will be giving updates on viewing conditions, as well as current positions of the stars and planets.

Diana Banville

# IN EXCHANGE

## WHERE TO WATCH THE FALL MIGRATION OF BIRDS ALONG THE DURHAM REGION WATERFRONT

1. Petticoat Creek Conservation Area -- has a nature trail and a view of Lake Ontario
2. Frenchman's Bay -- in the centre of Pickering, excellent in fall with mudflats at the north end and cattail stands along the south. Good for gulls, waterfowl and shorebirds
3. Squire's Beach -- at the end of Squire's Beach Road. Has a view out over the lake. Corner Marsh is on the same road and provides inland shelter for migrating waterfowl
4. Pickering Beach -- lakeview and sheltered marshy areas
5. Cranberry Marsh -- access from Hall's Road (off Baseline Road). Many rarities recorded here and over 250 species of birds
6. Lynde Shores Conservation Area -- excellent for warblers, other passerines. Large marsh borders the east side
7. Whitby Harbour -- good for waterfowl and gulls. Shorebirds too, when mudflats are exposed
8. Thickson's Woods -- excellent for warblers, other passerines. Just east is the Corbett Creek Marsh. Lake off the end of Thickson Road is one of the best places to view migrating waterfowl. Woods' access is down the road to the Corbett Creek Filtration Plant
9. Bonnebrae Point -- towering bluff for viewing waterfowl. Just west is the Pumphouse Marsh, best reached from south off Madawaska Avenue
10. Second Marsh -- virtually inaccessible. Can be observed with scopes from western end of Wentworth
11. Darlington Park -- bays, sheltered woods and ravines
12. Bowmanville Marshes -- inaccessible, but can be viewed from Martin Grove Road. Just west is Bowmanville Harbour
13. Newcastle waterfront -- lakeview

from THE NATURALIST, Vol. 31, No. 4, April 1985 (Oshawa)



## TWO VIEWING PLATFORMS AND BOARDWALKS ERECTED AT CRANBERRY MARSH

Sunday, August 25, several birders watched many herons and shorebirds perched on everything that projected out of the water at Cranberry Marsh. It is well worth a visit but people were overheard commenting on the difficulty of finding Cranberry Marsh.

Take 401 to Harwood Road South Exit. Follow Harwood to Bayley Street. Turn east on Bayley Street and drive to Hall's Road. (This is not a major road.) Drive south for 1 km. A short gravel path on the left leads to the viewing platform on the west side of the marsh.

If you miss Hall's Road, you will shortly come to Lynde Shores Conservation Area. Here you can park the car and walk south along the private road that will eventually get you to the viewing platform on the east side, just opposite the one on the west.

Beth Jefferson

IN EXCHANGE (cont'd)

BASEBALL BIRD COUNT

I was having a chat with an old British coot the other day at an Expos game. His bald pate shone in the afternoon sun. He was grouching about our team's demise, occasionally railing out loud at the players on the field. At times he sounded like a raven loonatic. The man sniped at everyone, including Verdin. "Poor Will", he side, "God, wit all that talent, they still can't play .500! It'll take Merlin's magic to win this one."

I tried to change the subject. "Did you see that redhead beside the old squaw in back of us? What a pair of ...". My words were cut off by my rather rude friend's next incredible proclamation.

"Maybe they should trade Carter and put Rose in behind the plate," he snapped in a ruff voice. "Gary's gnat-a-catcher ... he's a much better fly-catcher!" The man's accent sounded suspiciously American.

"Look at that! They're pulling Gullie! the umpire's been robin him blind!" I said in dismay.

"What the Expos really need is the Goose! Reardon's too slow ... His wife, Phoebe, can probably throw faster! Anyway, the Expos best player ever is playing with the pewees now!"

"Who's that?" I enquired.

"Why, Cro, of course! You know he's doing a stint in Japan just for a lark," he replied with a grin.

The game took a tern for the worse ... the other guys got a run.

It was now 1 - 0. It was the bottom of the ninth. Roc was up.

"Duck!" I yelled, as he hit a skimmer, careening off the dugout roof. Roc's next swing earned him a single, but a feathery hit by Pete Rose bought a double play ... two out. The next batter, Little, walked though. There was a flicker of hope.

"You know, Little should be bunting often ... he's veery swift on the basepads." I ignored the man and looked up at the Big Dipper. My stomach was in knots.

"Don't be so blue, Bird. Things could be worse."

"How could things be worse? My team was down 1 - 0 and there was two out in the bottom of the ninth. The fans has been 'owling for blood all night. Hawk was at the plate. "The Expos are tough. I mean, Dawson in right field fares well even with an injured knee. That counts for something!" I said with wounded pride.

His next statement floored me. "My team's really humming, Bird."

"I don't understand. You mean you're not an Expos fan?" I exclaimed in utter surprise.

"Who, me? Heck, no, I'm an Orioles fan. They'll be in the World Series again. Let's face it ... they're king, Bird!" he responded with a stilted overtone.

I sputtered out, "Don't count your chickens, Mac ... they've got the Bluejays to worry about!" I quailed at the thought of the jays getting there first. "You've got a lot of gull, you turkey! Eider say something nice or migrate south, pal!"

IN EXCHANGE (cont'd)

He stood up huffin' and puffin' and headed back to Baltimore, but not before saying, "Your petrel costs too much anyway!"

Dawson smacked a fowl into the upper seats. A flock of fans dove for it. I took a swallow.

The pitcher checked the runner and then hurled a screamer at the plate. Hawk drove it into the air as high as a kite.

I whispered, "Willet go over? Willet go over?"

It not only went over ... it hit the crane. Expos 2, Cardinals 1.

What were you expecting ... the Pirates?

(By the way, I counted 58 different birds in my story. Write me if you want help.)

David M. Bird

from The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds NEWSLETTER,  
Vol. 27, No. 6, March 1985

## Strange Sightings

June 29 was a perfect day so we went to the Spit - not expecting too much excitement in the birding due to the time of year. To our surprise, the excitement started before we even got to the gate! A strange white bird flew past surrounded by ring-billed gulls. It was impossible to see what was happening or who was harassing who. An expert flyer - swift and graceful - the bird gave me little hope of making a positive i.d., as it was fast becoming smaller in the distance. Just as we were about to label it "the one that got away" our hopes rose as it turned back towards the land, and this time we knew what was happening. An apparently pure white bird with pointed wings and a black beak was being chased by gulls and was doing its best to escape its pursuers. Suddenly the white stranger with the shrill voice was much closer - almost overhead. What was that on its head? Did I see some yellow colour under its wings or was it diffusion of light through the feathers? Its black beak was short and curved - just like a parrot's.

Eventually the bird escaped and landed on the rocky shore. Not hurt but tired and bewildered. It was a small sulphur-crested cockatoo! Evidently it had escaped captivity and received a cool reception from the first flock of fellow white birds it encountered. I left him there hoping he would have a nice summer but also hoping he would find his way home before the cold weather. The Spit is no place for an exotic and he would unfortunately probably pay a high price for his freedom.

Like most people, I love a happy ending. I looked in the Lost and Found column of the two local newspapers and almost a week later I saw someone had indeed lost a white cockatoo in the Warden and Kingston Road area. I phoned right away and was told Skipper had been found and returned the night before. The owner said he was sure I had seen his cockatoo on The Spit that Saturday afternoon as he was eventually found in that vicinity. Who knows? I like to think it was Skipper.

Maisie Newby



THE SAGA OF "ALEX"

It was the middle of July, 1982. There he was. A young blue jay, very thin and very weak. Hardly able to stand on his own legs -- he kept falling over onto his right side. The people who brought him to us for help called him "Alex".

Although he had no outward sign of injury, he was not in good shape. During the rest of the year and then throughout the winter the bird was given a lot of tender loving care. He responded well and improved steadily. His feathers grew nicely and his flying improved.

By the end of May we felt he was ready to be released. We had him banded, and on June 2, 1983 he was set free. In the meantime, robins had built a nest in a large spruce just outside the house; however, the young ones were out of the nest so we saw no problem in releasing the jay. Not so...he hardly had time to land on a tree limb and look around when a robin appeared from nowhere to chase him away.

For the first time in his life the jay had a chance to show his flying skills and he had no problems escaping his experienced attacker. In a little more than half an hour Alex was back, hiding in an apple tree and calling softly. Then he accepted little tidbits of food from my hand before he left in the evening.

For the next few weeks we did not see him as no blue jay was allowed near the house by the constantly patrolling robins.

It is now the 13th of September 1983 ... Alex is back! I found him sitting on the eavestrough over the door exchanging calls with a blue jay still recuperating inside the house. That went on for about 10 to 15 minutes. I got curious, went outside and there he was. He greeted me with a lot of little noises and sounds, and whistles and gurgles of recognition. A little later he picked up a treat from my hand, a peanut. Alex is easy to identify by the band on his leg. He showed up frequently during the next eight days and then suddenly was gone.

Fifteen months go by. Winter is upon us again. December 1984. Alex!?! He sits in a bush in the backyard and calls, looking in the basement window to where the big (and warm) flight cage is, and gets an answer from the other jays inside. I notice these goings-on and recognize the jay by his band. I went outside and called his name. He stays close by while another blue jay retreats to a safer distance. Alex accepts a peanut and "talks" to me with the same soft tones he used as a baby. After an hour or so he disappears. Later in the afternoon he is back with two other blue jays which stay well back in the tree. Maybe his female and an offspring? Alex comes regularly now and accepts food -- I am only inches away from him and he does not mind but he does not come to my hand anymore. If other people are close, he will fly away. We can call his name and if he is around he will come and get a treat. He still "talks" to us and then after eleven days he is gone again.

Now it is 1985 and Alex visited us again in March. He seems to come by just to say "hello", get a treat, and show that he is still around.

This is an ongoing story and we eagerly look forward to the next chapter.

Elfi Strenge

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| NIGHT SAFARI IN ZULULAND |
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In May, 1984, I was fortunate enough to be on a nature tour in Zululand when I was invited to go on a night safari in a game park. It was quite dark when, after dinner, six of us climbed into an open jeep; I was last and sat at the open back, clinging to the bar on the side as the vehicle twisted and turned through the thornveld - it was quite exciting, also precarious.

The jeep had a high-powered beam which picked out the animals' eyes and seemed to "paralyse" them. It was amazing how much we saw, and so close. Culling of the animals in the park is done at night, using this jeep, as the ranger can walk right up to and capture the animals whilst they are dazzled by the beam of light. The ranger was quite talkative and told us some of his management problems. He said it is no good buying animals from a tick-free area, as they would succumb to the park ticks.

We were seeing hundreds of impala; these delightful little antelopes we never tired of looking at, with their little twitching tails. Also fearless wart-hogs charged through the bush in family groups with tails erect like radio aerials. We saw several of the large wart-hog holes, used mostly at night, by the side of the path. During the day the antbear often lives in the holes; sometimes a python slithers in to lay eggs, in which case the wart-hog, when it shuffles in backwards (which is its way) emerges with a squeal and charges off to find another hole. We came across a herd of zebra, and they galloped ahead of us along the road making rude noises and smells! Two giraffe appeared, and then two more ambled by. The ranger said these were all males and the only giraffes in the park, but the next week a consignment of four females was expected, then there would be much necking for sure! There had been two females, but one had died in calf-birth and the other "Sweetiepie" had fallen over while drinking and broken her neck. Giraffes do drink very awkwardly.

The light shone on the fever-trees, so called because they grow in swampy areas where malaria used to be prevalent. They are also known as "sulphur-bark trees" because a yellowish-green powder rubs off the trunk.

The light picked out the web of a bark spider; this crab-shaped spider was in the centre of its "nest" which it hangs out at night and takes in at dawn! We also saw a hermit spider which spins a web stronger than string; we tested this and could not break it.

On three different occasions the light picked out the eyes of a nightjar sitting on a branch in nightjar fashion. There were also several waders and shorebirds to be seen, including a courser and the crowned plover. A white rhino, with its calf, steered through the bush like a battleship at sea. We saw many of the antelopes, including bushbuck, wildebeest, and kudu. The ranger told us that the reason the zebra and the wildebeest go around together is that the zebra eats the coarse grasses and leaves the finer grasses for the wildebeest (gnu).

If you ever have the chance to go on a night safari - GO!

Joy Pocklington

YOU FOUND A WHAT? IN YOUR WHERE?

It's fall - I love to rake the leaves - I have to love it because no one else in my household seems to. All kinds of wonderful discoveries are made during this season and with this process, so it becomes a much more interesting chore than many people believe it is. When you least expect it you "discover" something of nature. In this case, amongst the leaves I find a "something" - woven into an elliptical shape; it isn't a berry or a gall, it has definite shape, and is about one and a quarter inches long. I would "dissect" this "something" later on, and promptly I stored it in the pocket of my old gardening cardigan.

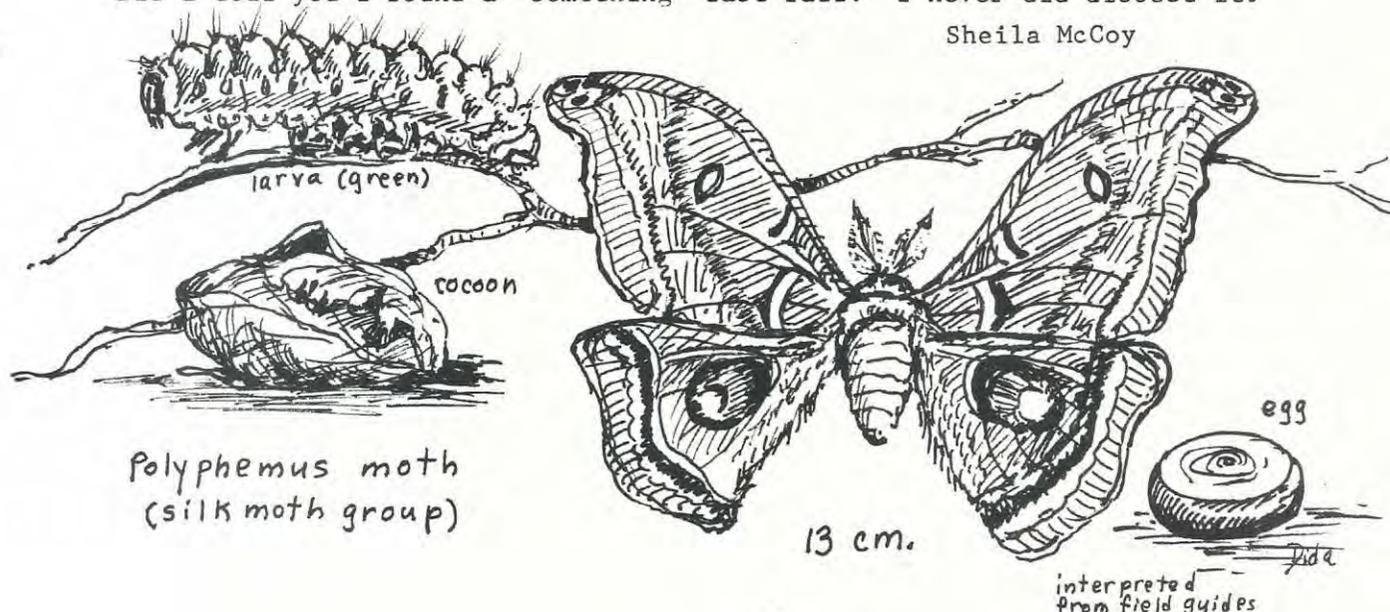
Spring is now on the way - clean-up outside, clean-up inside. Puttering in the basement with umpteen dozen projects, I "find" the "something" again - this time in the pocket of the gardening cardigan. My son's scout knife is on the shelf; I'd have a good look at this "something" - well, maybe not now - later on when I'd finished. I pop the object into a tin mug on the gardening shelf.

It's one of those bright sunny summer days - everything feels good. Now what is a dead leaf doing on the basement floor? What is it that triggers an instinct? My basement is not that dark, but this bright summer day I put on the light. There at my feet is the "dead leaf" - a crippled, fluttering, brown object. Truth be known I'm not that fond of "fluttering items". Thinking quickly, I capture it in a huge (used) pickle jar - the one I was going to make an indoor garden in, but never got around to it. I dash upstairs for my books - what have I captured? A POLYPHEMUS MOTH.

I telephone my "expert" (Jane Jefferies, ex-entomology leader with the Toronto Field Naturalists' Junior Club). "You've found a what? In your where? Better bring it over." So twenty-six miles across the city we travel - apparently this is a rare find and all must be done to help the struggling moth. Jane takes charge, but after a few days we discover that the moth will never develop to its full magnificent beauty. Apparently the wings must dry out in a strong breeze, and from the time it had left the cocoon it had never had that environment. It ended up as a member of Jane's collection, to our regret, but next time I find a polyphemus moth in my basement, I'll get out the hair dryer pronto.

Did I tell you I found a "something" last fall? I never did dissect it.

Sheila McCoy



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| BIRDING IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS |
|------------------------------------|

According to Peter Alden and John Gooders, authors of FINDING BIRDS AROUND THE WORLD, the Virgin Islands (American and British) contain the least variety of Caribbean birds. They were right! I discovered only eleven "lifers" from a total of only twenty-three species seen during our week's stay on the March break (March 9-16, 1985). However, the heat (low 80's F.) and the lure of sparkling coral beaches, snorkeling and photography, tended to reduce my birding forays.

It was strange, but refreshing, to see not a single starling, house sparrow or even gull! However, the tiny, stub-tailed, finch-like black-faced grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*) filled the house sparrow's role in abundance and opportunism. We even found one pecking for scraps under our breakfast table! The grackle's equivalent in noise and impudence is the ubiquitous pearly-eyed thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*). Some residents attract flocks of bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*) with nectar. These warbler-sized, yellow-breasted honeycreepers, with long tongues to probe tropical flowers, are apparently related to our wood-warblers.

Replacing the gulls were diving brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), soaring magnificent frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificens*), and gliding, gannet-like brown boobies (*Sula dactylatra*). The only tern seen was the permanently resident royal tern (*Sterna maxima*). Just as our (rented) sailing sloop entered the snorkeling bay, a great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) flew lazily over the coral reef (an apparently uncommon species here). The only other waders seen were a great egret (*Casmerodius albus*) and a little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*). The two permanent raptor residents I saw were the American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) and the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

The zenaida dove (*Zenaida aurita*), a beautifully coloured bird and new to me, is found virtually throughout the West Indies. Two genera of the cuckoo family are endemic to the Caribbean (neither of which I saw) BUT I did discover the mangrove cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*), much like the yellow-billed. Incidentally, many native Caribbean birds have fascinating local names, e.g. - mangrove cuckoo - local names: rain bird, rain crow, May bird, mani-coco, coffin bird, go-go (to name only six of its seventeen names). A very odd member of the cuckoo family is the smooth-billed ani (*Crotophaga ani*), a long-tailed, glossy-black cuckoo which flies like a crow and has an extraordinary parrot-like bill. Several female anis lay their eggs in the same nest; a record count was 29 eggs in one nest! The Caribbean parakeet (*Aratinga pertinax*) introduced to the island of St. Thomas from Curacao, was observed in flocks of two to five, screeching noisily while searching for fruits. They are handsome birds with green upperparts and orange-yellow head, throat, and chest.

The commonest "tyrant flycatcher" in the West Indies is the grey kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) whose shape and eye-patterns reminded me of a shrike. He seemed to assume the rôle of the resident "wire-percher" of the Virgin Islands. The elaenia flycatchers, like the Caribbean elaenia I saw (*Elaenia martinica*), are more warbler-like in action and this one feeds chiefly on berries!

The only resident warbler on the Virgin Islands is the yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*). In migration, however, I did spot two ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) and a black-throated green warbler (*D. virens*).

The American Virgin Islands are beautiful indeed, but perhaps for birds I'll try Cuba next time!

Paul R. McGaw

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| GROUNDHOG ENCOUNTERS |
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I recall mention, many newsletters back, of TFN members observing a groundhog up a tree. I have never set out deliberately to observe groundhogs. I simply seem to have kept, almost literally, running into them.

I had first to learn the name of these patient, stationary onlookers (a product of northern latitudes). "Groundhogs!" Dismissively. A misnomer if ever there was one. This conjures up something pink, porcine and naked. Not furry, curious and frequently upright. "Woodchuck" sounds much closer.\*

However, to Ontario farmers and gardeners groundhogs they remain - natural enemies - so my first encounter in a cornfield was appropriate. I had bicycled beyond Steeles in what was then unspoilt countryside. A blistering day, and I finally settled in a meadow, leaned against the wire fence staking out the adjoining field, and prepared to soak up sunshine. Suddenly it wasn't the wind in the willows so much as crepitations in the cornfield. Which ceased right behind me. Nervously aware of my unprotected back, I turned my head to discover an observing groundhog. We viewed each other until my neck protested, at which movement she was off (I have arbitrarily attributed gender; "it" is simply not alive enough for these bright-eyed creatures). Two hours later there was the same small squall from the opposite direction. Once more, the stop, dead centre. Further neck twisting, and again - SURELY the same animal? - mutual fascination, with her away the second I moved. To anthropomorphize shamelessly, I always think of "my" animal as having the perfect lead-in for her next groundhog congress. "A funny thing happened on the way through the cornfield..."

The second encounter was in the Rouge Valley on one of the high, cliff-edge river tracks. I rounded a bend and playing in the path were four groundhog babies. I reached for my camera, when they suddenly started TOWARDS me. "Stop!" I bellowed. They froze. With them caught perfectly in my sights, I was within that famous split second when mother, from near by, got her split second in first. At her summoning squeak, the tableau broke, and with it my close-up of four miniature Easter Island statues.

My third encounter again took place along Steeles. I had cycled up a long carriageway to the remains of a house. It had been destroyed by fire and only portions of walls sagged amongst the rioting rose and lupine beds. The cellar door had survived by falling flat over the cellar steps. As I stood breathing flower scents and trying to imagine what must have been a beautiful country home, a groundhog - young, spry - emerged from a hole to the RIGHT of the door. He (again the attributed gender, not that I doubt the she of the species to be any less tenacious of territory) remained unaware and stood, back towards me, sniffing the evening air.

As I settled for delighted observation, a second groundhog bearing the scars of many battles emerged from a hole to the LEFT of the door. This one exited head-on and had paused to consider my presence when he suddenly became aware of groundhog No. 1 - or should it be No. 2? - a few feet away. I have never seen the expression "double take" more perfectly illustrated. No two-legged being could have done better. The glance: the glance away: the lightning glance back as realization dawned: the hissing intake of breath: the disbelief (a human face would not have said more): the stiffening of ancient fur as indignation grew. Without warning, he hurled himself, a horizontal missile, through the air. Groundhog No. 1, unconscious of Nemesis jet-propelled, still viewing his world with Buddha-like serenity, was knocked yards away and

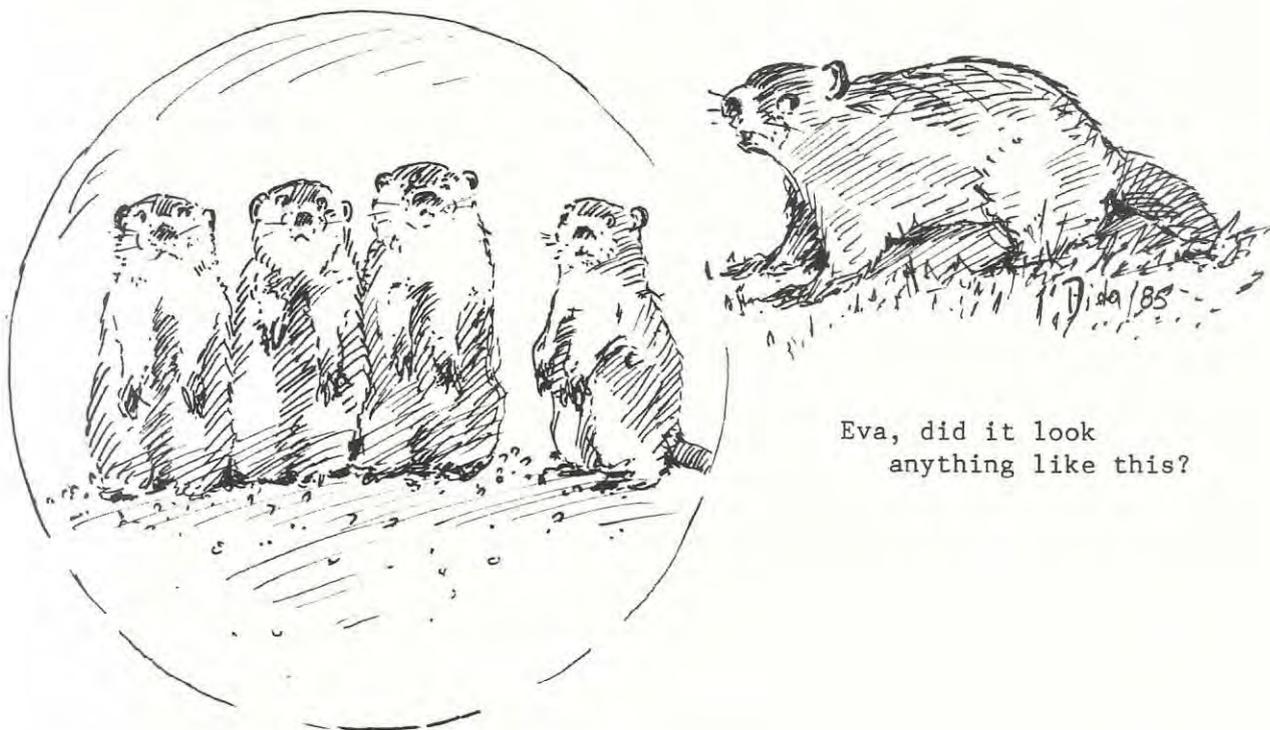
## Groundhog Encounters (cont'd)

the fight was on. It continued splendidly for the next few minutes, fur flying amidst squeals of fury and protest. The matter was settled by the retreat of groundhog No. 1 (No. 2?) who scuttled off emitting childlike whimpers of shock or physical hurt or both. That left groundhog No. 2 (surely in view of the result, No. 1) in possession of the field. He returned to what was indisputably HIS cellar. Again he noticed me. His indifference was total as he unhurriedly lowered his elderly self beneath the door.

My fourth encounter was much less spectacular and consisted merely of a groundhog up a tree ("merely"! ) It was reading of similar observations which brought to mind these experiences. I had originally meant to write only to agree that, yes, they did sometimes get up trees. This occasion was in the Don Valley. It was pouring with rain and the animal was seated in the crook of the two branches which hung out over the river. He/she seemed apathetic and disinterested in me or anything else. Perhaps they take to the trees when they are feeling too poorly to continue the battle at ground level? Did the other observers come up with an explanation?

Eva Davis

\*Ed. Note: Scientific name is *Marmota monax*. According to THE SQUIRRELS OF CANADA by S. E. Woods Jr., it means "Solitary Marmot".



Eva, did it look  
anything like this?

### IN CASE YOU WONDERED...

Birds do eat cranberry viburnum berries (highbush cranberry)! Jack Cranmer-Byng reports that in mid-April 1985 a flock of ten cedar waxwings landed on the fruit-laden bushes in his back-yard in Thornhill and stripped the bushes clean in 1½ days.

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| WHEN A PEST BECOMES A PROBLEM |
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control it safely and effectively

Cockroaches have been around for millions of years. They are strong, adaptable and persistent. And while they will breed profusely when conditions suit them, they can be controlled, easily.

Understanding cockroaches, their environment and what they need to survive is the beginning of a program to eliminate them.

To live and multiply, cockroaches need:

- . water (moisture)
- . food (grease or crumbs are enough)
- . hiding places - dark, moist, hidden locations  
(in newspapers, under counters, sinks, behind cupboards and kitchen appliances)

If you have a cockroach problem, you will see:

- . live or dead cockroaches
- . shed exoskeletons
- . egg capsules
- . droppings of fecal matter (looks like fine pepper or black specks of dirt)

How to get rid of cockroaches:

1. MONITOR. Place glue boards\* in areas where you think cockroaches are hiding. Monitor the traps daily to see if any cockroaches live within or are hiding near the area.
2. CLEAN UP. Clean all areas where droppings and evidence have been found, using soap and water and a disinfectant.
3. TREATMENT. All suspect areas may be treated with diatomaceous earth.\* This will not hurt children or pets. But in some situations when it is necessary to dust in large amounts, a small dust mask should be worn to prevent any irritation from the powder. This dust will also scatter the roaches, giving you a good idea of those places where they were hiding. Other materials may be used, including spot treatments with chemicals, provided all safety precautions are followed.
4. PLUG THE HOLES. Where there is a crack or space larger than 1/4", fine steel wool\* may be used to plug the space. Mice and roaches can not gnaw through the steel fibres, which also give a backing for the caulking compound.
5. CAULK. Use a latex, non-toxic caulking compound\* to fill cracks, crevices or gaps in the kitchen and bathroom areas, especially where roaches were found to be hiding. Stop roaches from hiding or travelling behind cupboards, stoves, refrigerators or where pipes come out of the wall, around the base of the toilet, the medicine cabinet and the bathroom vanity.
6. FURTHER BARRIERS. It may even be necessary to use a fine mesh screen\* to cover open vents or ducts, preventing access into an apartment unit, especially from females carrying their egg capsules.
7. AS A LAST RESORT. Use a can of commercial insecticide\* or a pyrethrin spray (which can be bought at a pest control supply outlet) and check all those hidden and potential problem locations (under the sink, ledge, around the dishwasher, etc.) which cannot be caulked or dusted.

When a Pest becomes a Problem - cont'd

8. MONITOR. Keep an eye out for those areas where the problem occurred to make sure you have effectively sealed or eliminated the insects' hiding places.
9. KEEP IT CLEAN. Keep the kitchen area grease, dirt and clutter free. Fix all leaky taps and do not allow any accumulation of water or excessive moisture.
10. NO HITCHHIKERS ALLOWED. Don't let any in! Check all incoming goods to your home and ensure that they do not carry roaches.

For information call the City of Toronto Health Department and ask for a Health Inspector in your area. Downtown Health Area - 947-7685; Northern Health Area - 485-1921; Eastern Health Area - 469-5131; Western Health Area - 534-7571. Or call a pest control company that specializes in IPM (Integrated Pest Management). They will be listed in your yellow pages under Exterminators and Fumigation. COCKROACHES CAN BE CONTROLLED!

\*These products may be purchased at most local hardware suppliers.

CITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
(reprint of publication 37-858)

Ed.Note:

As we have often seen, man provides ideal habitat for animal species and then considers them "hard to live with". This is the case with the German cockroach (building practices create many dark, moist recesses). Because of the increase of this cockroach in Toronto, members have asked for information on "control", a subject usually out of the field naturalist's line, except for the aspect of ensuring the least possible damage to the natural environment. This is where this City of Toronto publication comes in. We decided to reprint it since it stresses prevention, and use of materials harmless to larger animal life, including humans.

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH. A Natural Bug Killer

What is DE? Diatomaceous Earth is the skeletal remains of microscopic, single-celled aquatic plants known as diatoms. These algae are found wherever there is light, water, carbon dioxide and nutrients necessary to support life. As these diatoms die, their silica shells slowly fall to the bottom of lakes. When the lakes dry, as many have through the centuries, vast deposits become available for collection.

Why is DE useful for insect control? Diatomaceous Earth is extremely abrasive when crushed into tiny fragments. When cockroaches walk through or come in contact with DE, a scratching or tearing of the protective skin of the insect occurs which results in water loss and death. This inert dust also plays a part in removing the outer waxy covering on the body of the insect which protects it from water loss. And DE acts as a repellent which serves to keep roaches out of unwanted areas.

Where can DE be found? In most hardware stores as Fossil Flower or as Permaguard (Diatoms Plus).

(excerpts from publication 37-856)

CITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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| THE WEATHER THIS TIME LAST YEAR |
|---------------------------------|

City of Toronto, October 1984

Toronto City enjoyed its warmest October since 1975, which had the same mean temperature of 12°C. Mean minimum (overnight) temperatures were the warmest since 1971, but daytime highs were lower due to extensive low cloud and fog made worse by air pollution. The air pollution, largely due to particulates and some sulphur dioxide, peaked on the 11th to 13th. It was the dullest October since 1979 with rather low sunshine totals.

We had the least rain since 1966 with 26.1 mm. Winds (as measured at Toronto Island in Lake Ontario) were unusually light with 14 km/h as the mean.

Personal observations including Johnston Avenue (City of North York)

The mean temperature at Johnston Avenue was 1° C cooler than downtown. Although the City was frost-free, we reported killing frost as early as October 6. Frost at screen level was also reported on the 30th and hoar frost also on the 25th. The 28th was a very warm day with a high of 22.9°C. Several records for the day and for so late in the season were broken in southern Ontario, but they were not in Toronto.

Extensive fog was a notable feature this month. Willowdale didn't have such severe pollution levels as downtown, but six days in total had heavy fog.

Phenological observations this month involved two trees in the downtown area of Toronto: a mature white ash on Roxborough Drive in Rosedale, and a young sugar maple of about 20 cm dbh on King's College Circle on the University of Toronto campus.

| Tree          | Sugar maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )                             | White ash ( <i>Fraxinus americana</i> )                         |
|---------------|---|---|
| Colour change | ½ Oct. 9th, bright orange-red<br>½ Oct. 10th<br>maximum Oct. 13th | ½ not available<br>½ Oct. 3, mainly yellow<br>maximum Oct. 12th |
| Leaf-drop     | gradual (Oct. 14-27)  | sudden (Oct. 14th, morning)                                     |

Thus we note remarkably different leaf-fall behaviour this year and it was noted in all the individuals of the two species. The maple lost its leaves gradually over a period of about two weeks; the white ash lost most in a matter of hours. White ash usually turns purple with some yellow; this year, yellow predominated.

Gavin Miller

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| BATS IN YOUR BELFRY? |
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When giving advice to people who are worried by the discovery that they are sharing their homes with bats, explain that these delightful animals are: (1) harmless and clean; (2) endangered (and therefore of prestige value); (3) usually seasonal visitors; (4) protected by law (as are their roosts) [in Britain].

from "A Note for Bat Lovers" in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol.3. No. 8, August 1985

# COMING EVENTS

## COMING EVENTS

### Halton Heritage Hike

On Sunday, October 6, 1985, the Halton Region Museum, in the Kelso Conservation Area near Milton, will be sponsoring a free, five-hour nature and history Heritage Hike. For details and to register, call Morris Sorensen at 1-878-3232 (days) or 1-878-5130 (nights).

### Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

An exhibition of Botanical Illustration is on display in the library at 120 St. George St. until October 4.

### Provincial Parks Council of Ontario

Express your views on the management of provincial parks in writing to Fred Gray, Chairman, Provincial Parks Council, 40 University Ave. Suite 1114, Toronto M5J 1T1 (977-0574) or in person at a public meeting Oct. 1 at 7:30 pm, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay st.

### Civic Garden Centre

An 8-week course in Botanical Drawing and Painting will commence Tuesday, October 1, at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie. Registration deadline September 21. For details telephone 445-1552.

### Kortright Centre for Conservation

The following events will take place at the Kortright Centre on Pine Valley Drive, 3 km west of Highway 400, just south of Major Mackenzie Drive. Telephone 661-6600 for details.

Oct. 5, 6, 12, 13, 14 - Fall Colour Hike.

Oct. 19, 20, 26, 27 - Myths and Magic of the Forest

Oct. 19 - Nov. 24 - Wildlife Exhibition; Between the Watersheds.

### Ministry of Natural Resources Wildlife Viewing

Sun., Oct. 27, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. -- Waterfowl.

Humber Bay Park.

For information call Angus Norman, 832-2761, ext. 259.

### Toronto Historical Board

Oct. 25-27 -- Heritage Festival, City Hall.

For information, call Toronto Historical Board, 595-1567.

### ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE

The following lectures will be offered Sunday afternoons at 3.00 p.m. at the Medical Sciences Auditorium, University of Toronto. Admission free. Telephone 979-2004.

October 20 - Inconstancy: A stellar virtue - John R. Percy

October 27 - Hearing Problems: Devices and Procedures in (re)habilitation of children and adults - Daniel Ling

Two geese attempting  
To form a V, having to  
Settle on an I.

haiku by Karen Parker

# TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS  
WELCOME

## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Monday, October 7, 1985. 8.00 p.m. (Coffee at 7.15)  
Nectar-bearing Flowers of the Lower Don Valley  
- Charles Sauriol

A well-known conservationist and author, Charles Sauriol will give an illustrated talk about the flowers of the lower Don Valley.

Mr. Sauriol's books, REMEMBERING THE DON, TALES OF THE DON, A BEEMAN'S JOURNEY, will be for sale at the meeting. Also, if you are interested in obtaining a special edition of BIRDS OF ONTARIO by J. Murray Speirs, speak to Barry Penhale (694-7909) at the meeting where he will be selling Charles Sauriol's books.

CNF/FON Christmas cards, calendars, engagement diaries and hasti-notes will also be for sale.

LIBRARY NIGHT: The TFN Libaray will have books to circulate at the October meeting. If you wish to return books previously borrowed, bring them along, but you may keep them till another Library Night if you wish.

Monday, November 4, 1985. 8.00 p.m.  
Lynn Hancock, wellknown author of natural history books.

## GROUP MEETINGS

### Bird Group

Wed. Oct. 16 Warblers  
7.30 p.m.

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

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### Botany Group

Thur. Oct. 10  
7.30 p.m.

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

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### Environmental Group

Thur. Oct. 24 Talk by representatives of the newly-formed  
7.30 p.m. Metro Toronto Recycling Committee.

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

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### Junior Club

Sat. Oct. 5 Moose

10.00 a.m. - Dr. Ed Addison, Ministry of Natural Resources

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



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS  
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Toronto, Ontario M5M 2T4

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Members are encouraged to submit notices, reports, articles up to 1500 words in length, and illustrations at least six weeks before the month in which the event is to take place or the material is required to appear.

| Other Publications  |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB:</b>   | <b>Price</b>        |
| ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION<br>by R.M. Saunders, 1965  | \$ .50              |
| CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO<br>PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER<br>VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 1972  | .50                 |
| TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976<br>Metropolitan Toronto's important natural areas<br>are described and recommendations given for their<br>conservation and management; includes maps,<br>bibliography and index | 2.50                |
| A GUIDE TO THE JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE,<br>1977  | 1.25                |
| FIELD CHECKLIST OF PLANTS OF SOUTHERN<br>ONTARIO, 1977  | 5/\$1.00 or .25 ea. |
| TORONTO REGION VERTEBRATELIST (fishes, amphibians,<br>reptiles, mammals), 1985  | .5/\$1.00 .25 ea.   |
| TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST, 1985  | .5/\$1.00 .25 ea.   |
| <b>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE<br/>SURVEYS</b>  | <b>2.00 ea.</b>     |
| Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973   |                     |
| Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974   |                     |
| Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975   |                     |
| Survey #4 - Wigmore Ravine, 1975  |                     |
| Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976   |                     |
| Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1977  |                     |
| Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine<br>Bridge Ravines, 1977   |                     |
| Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978   |                     |
| INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (193 8-1978 )  | 10.00               |
| ANNUAL TFN INDEX  | .25 ea.             |
| AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF<br>METRO TORONTO, 1983   | 2.00                |
| TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983   | 2.00                |
| A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985   | 2.00                |

Membership Fees

- \$20 Family (2 adults same address)
- \$15 Single
- \$10 Student
- \$15 Senior Family (2 adults 65+)
- \$10 Single Senior
- Tax receipts issued for donations

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