

# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 380, May 1986



COVER TO COVER: PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2 - REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 3 - THIS MONTH'S COVER 4 - OUTINGS REPORT 5 - TFN LIBRARY REPORT 7 - TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS 8 - TOC SPRING ROUND-UP 1985 11 - QUIZ 12 - OWLS IN WEST TORONTO 13 - HAIKU 15 - WILL OUR NEW MONEY FLY FASTER? 16 - POEM 16 - SELECTIVE VISION 17 - POEM 17 - ARE PEREGRINES TO BECOME URBAN BIRDS? 18 - CLEAN DREAMS 20 - THE WEATHER THIS TIME LAST YEAR 21 - UPCOMING OUTINGS 23 - COMING EVENTS 36 - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE 39 - TFN MEETINGS 39

## President's Report

Once in a while we hear from someone who has not received his/her Newsletter. If this happens, first call your local postal station. If, in a few days, the post office hasn't found your Newsletter, call Ida Hanson (488-7304) and she will send you a copy. We want to hear of problems of delivery because we can only correct them if we know about them.

The leader of a scheduled outing has sometimes been asked if a member can bring his/her dog. We have not had an official policy about this, but since the matter has come up again recently, it was discussed at the March board meeting. It was the opinion of the board that dogs should not be brought along on TFN outings and a motion was carried unanimously to this effect. The main reasons expressed by board members were: some people don't like dogs, dogs may interfere with the plants or wildlife which are the purpose of the outing, dogs may run among members and perhaps trip them, and dogs may get into confrontations with the dogs of other park visitors. On this last we feel we would not want the public to see us as contributing to "stand-offs" with other users. You may be able to think of other reasons, or you may disagree with this policy, but from now on, no dogs please, on our outings.

On page 3 you will see the report of the Nominating Committee. Winifred Smith was our Vice-President but resigned earlier this year. Winifred's work frequently takes her out of town, sometimes on very short notice, and she was finding that she could not count on being available to do a proper job as President. We appreciate the considerable contribution Winifred has made to the TFN over several years. Phil Joiner has been nominated to replace Winifred as President.

Several years ago a planning program was initiated for four mountain parks - Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho. It is the intention that the parks be available for recreation but of a non-destructive nature as far as this is possible. The TFN did not participate in the public consultation programs, but we have received from time to time material from Parks Canada on this subject. The latest is a Public Response Report which is a detailed breakdown of all the points of discussion in the plan. For example, respondents were asked to comment on the statement "Aesthetic quality would be considered in all future park activities". What I find encouraging about the summaries is that there is a fairly strong bias in favour of conservation, protection, leaving alone. There are also, to be sure, responses such as "snowmobilers deserve to be accommodated", but on the whole there was caution about development and commercialization. It seems to me that this indicates a recognition that parks in their (near) natural states offer something that is simply not available in the outside world with its roads, noise, restaurants, man-made playgrounds and so on.

The cabin opens May 4. (See page 38.) Again we appreciate the cooperation of Metro Parks which has enabled us to offer such a good nature message to our visitors.

And now there remains only space to say to everyone "Have a good summer -- see you in the fall".

Jean Macdonald  
(425-6596)

□

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
------------------------------------

During the 1985-86 year the Board of Directors of the TFN consisted of the following persons:

President	Jean Macdonald
Vice President	Winifred Smith
Immediate Past President	Mary Smith
Directors due to retire in 1986	Alexander Cappell Aarne Juhola Muriel Miville
Directors due to retire in 1987	Howard Battae Karin Fawthrop Phil Joiner
Directors due to retire in 1988	Eva Davis Clayton Lee Robin Powell

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Mary Smith (the Immediate Past President) as Chairman and Helen Juhola and Wes Hancock (Past Presidents) appointed by the Board, recommends the following slate of nominees to the Board for the 1986-87 year:

President	Phil Joiner <sup>1</sup>
Vice President	Robin Powell
Immediate Past President	Jean Macdonald
Directors due to retire in 1987	Howard Battae Karin Fawthrop Alexander Cappell <sup>2</sup>
Directors due to retire in 1988	Eva Davis Clayton Lee <sup>3</sup> Ilmar Talvila <sup>4</sup>
Directors due to retire in 1989	Aarne Juhola Eileen Mayo Mary Louise Stewart

The TFN's By-law No. 1, Section 5(g) provides that "any three members may submit, in writing, to the Secretary-Treasurer by July 15th the name of a candidate accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Such nominations shall be published in the September issue of the newsletter and the names of such nominees shall be added to the list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee". The Secretary-Treasurer is Aarne Juhola 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3.

According to TFN By-law No. 1, Section 5(b), "...If an election is required, it shall be by ballot mailed to all members. Ballots may be mailed to the auditor or deposited at the annual general meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. The ballots will be tabulated by the auditor who shall announce the results."

Mary Smith  
Chairman, Nominating Committee



## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (cont'd)

- Notes: 1. Phil Joiner has been nominated as President to replace Winifred Smith who resigned due to pressure of work.
2. Alexander Cappell has been nominated to complete the term of Phil Joiner.
3. Clayton Lee was appointed by the Board to complete the term of Tom Atkinson who resigned from the Board earlier this year.
4. Ilmar Talvila has been nominated to complete the term of Robin Powell.

## INTRODUCTIONS:

Clayton Lee, a graduate forester and a teacher, has helped with the Jim Baillie nature reserve and the Juniors. He is also active with the Environmental Group.

Eileen Mayo, a retired nurse, has been leading outings and helping with our publication sales at monthly meetings. She is also one of our "key" persons on our log cabin program.

Mary Louise Stewart has been producing the Junior newsletter for the past year and has also joined the TFN newsletter committee.

Ilmar Talvila is known to many members because he produced the TFN newsletter from 1966 to 1976. He is a leader in the Junior club at present.

□

### This Month's Cover "May-apple" field sketch by Joyce Cave

May-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) is a native American perennial in the barberry family; also known as Indian or hog apple, wild lemon, duck's foot, raccoon berry, devil's apple, and "mandrake", though not related to the European mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*) in the nightshade family, whose forked roots were a subject of ancient folklore.

Our May-apple grows in damp woodlands or clearings, and bears in May a single, nodding white flower beneath two umbrella-shaped leaves; in August it has a lemon-like edible fruit - which makes good jelly when half-ripe. Some praise the flavour of the fruit, others find it acid, sickly, and evil-smelling.

Samuel de Champlain in *VOYAGES ET EXPLORATIONS 1604-16* wrote, "This country [around Georgian Bay] is very beautiful - there are a great many vines and plums which are very good; little wild apples, nuts and a kind of fruit which has the form and colour of small lemons, about the size of an egg. The plant that bears it is two and one-half feet tall and has three or four leaves at the most, of the form of a fig-leaf, and each plant bears only two apples." Elizabeth Simcoe, in her *Diary 1792-6* notes, "Monday, 31st August, 1795 - the May-apples are now a great luxury; I have had some preserved..."

My sketch was done one morning beside Newtonbrook Creek, while a great crested flycatcher went noisily about his business almost overhead.

Joyce Cave

□

# OUTINGS REPORT

Last summer the TFN held 48 outings and a total of 883 people attended. That made for an average of 18 people per outing which was just about right. Here is a sample of some of those outings, just to pique your interest and get you up for this season's offerings.

On June 6th, Diana Banville led a group on a botany walk through Taylor Creek. It was a beautiful evening and the pace was leisurely. Over 60 species of plants were seen. Balsam poplars were dropping their green catkins. Killdeers and robins were watched as they foraged on the grassy areas, and an active barn swallow's nest was found under the Dawes Road bridge.

The Nature Arts Group met at Riverdale Farm two days later. After discussing some guidelines about drawing and painting animals, they examined the various ways in which some famous artists painted and drew animals. Each member then made his or her own study in the area. The cows, sheep, and horses all made interesting subjects. In the afternoon Mary Cumming helped the group look over their work to see the variety of techniques used and creative beauty achieved.

It was dull and foggy when Howard Battae led his group of 15 birders through the Rouge Valley. 46 bird species were spotted, a healthy total considering the time of year. 3 active nests were also observed. Both parents were seen feeding young northern orioles in a pendulous nest 15 feet up on the outer limb of a poplar tree. An excavation 12 feet up in an old birch stump provided a home for a brood of house wrens. As the male and female brought food, young northern flickers would appear at the nesting cavity about 25 feet up in an old elm stump. A pair of indigo buntings was also observed, providing a good chance to compare the male and female of the species. Howard ended off his report by saying "I believe everyone enjoyed the outing. We had many opportunities to listen to the bird songs and calls and identify them."

July 17th was sunny, dry and about 75°F. 22 members were led by Sandy Cappell through G. Ross Lord Park. The group was shown many historical sites along the route: A nineteenth century cemetery where a church used to be, a mansion once owned by Mr. Gooderham (of brewery fame) and now used as a fish-breeding lab, and a clearing in the woods where the vegetation shows there was once a garden. Between these sites were hosts of wildflowers but not many birds. A muskrat, dead vole, green frog, and two garter snakes rounded out the day.

47 of our members spent a nature weekend at Dorset from July 19 to 21. Helen Juhola reported "a pleasant weekend -- no complaints!". This seems to be rather an understatement because I still hear people talking in superlatives about the trip almost a year later. Birds, nature walks, swimming, canoeing, sketching, photography, marshmallows, stargazing - there was something for everyone. Helen went on to say "We all took away many beautiful memories of Canadian Shield country -- the smell of pines, the bright colours of flowers, the call of the loon, the closeness of the stars at night". I understand this popular weekend is scheduled again this summer -- don't be disappointed; reserve your place early.

There was another out-of-town trip, this time to the Oak Ridges Moraine on July 27th. John Harris and party toured Thornton Bales Conservation Area -- a superb mixed forest on a hilly moraine. Many seepage areas were examined, their causes and effects on vegetation discussed. John also explained moraine formation and the vertical composition of the forest. Over 200 plant and 13 bird species, 5 species of frog, and 5 species of butterfly were seen. Sounds like it was a busy but productive day.



## OUTINGS REPORT - cont'd

A large group of 60 people was led by Bill Granger on a tree outing through Winfield Park. Eroding banks (from soil compaction), unmowed sections of "naturalizing" regeneration areas, as well as a great variety of native and alien tree species were pointed out by the leader. Examples of formal horticulture in a park setting were seen and the disadvantages discussed. The new "Trees of Canada" plantings of white ash, white pine, and red pine were of interest as was a magnificent natural woodlot with an impressive mixed stand of hickories and oaks. This outing was held on August 11 and although it seems a bit late for nesting, a pair of mallards was found doing just that.

Eileen Mayo described her outing through Wigmore Park as "a delightful nature walk along the East Don riverbank". A great blue heron, 6 chimney swifts, 2 belted kingfishers, and an indigo bunting were some of the 21 bird species encountered. 56 species of plants were identified, most of them in glorious bloom. Cicadas and crickets were heard. Tiger beetles, red ants, and several monarch butterflies were spotted. Lunch was eaten on "Dead Man's Cliff", a high area with a lovely view both north and south of the river. Eileen ends her report by saying "This would also be a beautiful walk in the fall, or even in the winter".

A sunny warm August 17 proved the perfect day for an insect outing with Bill Edmonds at the Toronto Islands. 22 enthusiasts had their fill of bugs, beetles, and other goodies. Monarchs, red admirals, and orange sulphurs were some of the butterflies found, as well as half-banded toppers, green darners, and 12-spot skimmers from the Odonata order. Blooming plants such as purple and yellow loosestrife, dragonhead and skullcap provided the colourful background.

Thanks to the Outings Committee and the leaders for a summer of interesting and informative outings.

Phil Joiner

□

"HERE WE GO GATHERING NUTS IN MAY"...but May is the wrong season for nuts. It came out on the BBC program, MY WORD, that this favourite children's sing-song is a corruption of "Here we go gathering knots of may". And "may" of course is another name for the hawthorn. Of course, we can't do that sort of thing in our Toronto parks, though there are many native hawthorns there. But we can enjoy them where we find them. Identification is another story. SHRUBS OF ONTARIO by Soper and Heimburger states that a thousand species have been described for North America (though some may be hybrids or varieties). No attempt is made to estimate the number of species in Ontario, let alone narrowing it down to Toronto, but examples of typical species in eight series are keyed out. One of these is the English hawthorn which is often planted here. It is the one with the strongly lobed leaves. Native hawthorns' leaves are either not lobed or just modestly notched. The flowers of hawthorns are five-parted because they are in the rose family (genus Crataegus). Some have more thorns than others. The colour of the haws embraces just about the entire spectrum; it may vary in one species. Hawthorn stands along water-courses help to prevent erosion and are a boon to wildlife. DB

□

TFN LIBRARY report
--------------------

Before the May general meeting (see page 39 ), at 7:15 pm, we'll be holding another LIBRARY NIGHT. You will be able to borrow books, return those you have, or arrange to retain some of them.

Two of our files of articles, leaflets, and booklets have grown so large that we've made binders of them:

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. Part I, "Conservation Aspects" includes articles on conservation treaties and fire in national parks from an ecological standpoint. Part II, "Attitudes" includes material on reasons for preservation, the Earth as life-giver, symbiosis between Earth and Man, natural beauty, intrinsic value of wildlife as opposed to "resource" concept, human pressure on the environment, population paradox (low enough death rate/low birth rate), non-technological answers to hunger, farming native animals, history of man's attitude to wildlife, ideals of Saint Francis, effects of bureaucracy on ecology, holistic approach to biology, loss of wilderness/loss of freedom, retention of old growth, role of imagination in natural science, sport-hunting, bias against insects. Part III, "Energy" includes a bibliography, material on energy development in harmony with the environment, solar heating, heat pump/air cooler. Part IV, "Pollution Control" includes a 20-page readable booklet on chemicals in the environment, and material on health hazards, acid rain concerns, tree-kill, noise pollution, waste in the sea - with suggestions for solutions - no-waste technologies, sulphur as fertilizer, Citizens for a Safe Environment, and a folder on ECO/LOG 3-volume Canadian pollution legislation index. Part V, "Waste Disposal and Recycling" covers everything from pop cans to automobiles.

NATURE GARDENING. As well as a general section, it includes sections on habitat, transplanting, geographical locations, specific plants, wildlife, and promotion.

#### ACQUISITIONS - NOVEMBER/85 to MARCH/86:

THE WONDER OF CANADIAN BIRDS by Candace Savage  
 PROCEEDINGS, THIRD EAST ASIAN BIRD PROTECTION CONFERENCE  
 THE LOVE OF BIRDS by Burton and Ridsen (donated by Anna Durie)  
 BIRDS OF THE NORTHERN FOREST by John Livingston (donated by Anna Durie)  
 LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN GULLS AND TERNS by A. C. Bent  
 (donated by Winifred Smith)  
 DESERT SOLITAIRE by Edward Abbey (donated by Eva Davis)  
 EQUINOX copies (donated by Gloria Somerville)

booklets, articles, leaflets -

on rare plants, urban wilderness, wildflower gardening and seeds, the ginkgo, tree of heaven, prairie habitat, white columbine, Centre for Plant Conservation (donated by Jim Hodgins)

on birds (donated by Jacques Gravel and Fred Pollard)

on domestication of wild asses (donated by Judy Coggle)

on means to prevent bird window-kills by M. Schaus, New Paltz NY (donor J.McGill)

on insect behaviour (processionary moth larvae and dust-collecting bees)

(donor Orris Hull, Williamsville, NY)

subscriptions -

THE PLANT PRESS and THE NATURE SOCIETY NEWS (donated by Emily Hamilton)

Our thanks to the donors. To borrow material, call 690-1963. See you in May.

DB

□

# Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

For the period Feb.16-Mar.15,1986.

## CONTRIBUTORS:

Mary Baillie, Mike DeLorey, Dennis Duckworth, Clive Goodwin, Heather Harris, Beth Jefferson, Phil Joiner, Helen Juhola, Peter Lowens, Diane Mackie, William Mansell, Eileen Mayo, Maisie Newby, Gwen Ormerod, Janice Palmer, Bruce Parker, Don Peurawaki, Suzanne Poodrey, Jim Rising, Gwen Roberts, Robert Ryan, Helen Smith, Mary-Louise Stewart, Ilmar Talvila, Harold Taylor, Toronto Field Naturalists' Outing, Toronto Ornithological Club Records, Peter Whelan, Bruce Wilkinson, & ob: many observers

Reports from many birders with feeders indicate that this has been the best winter ever, with 10-12 species of birds visiting daily at one feeder in particular in Islington.

At the end of this reporting period changes were being noted everywhere. By March 15 habitual birds were more noticeable with their singing. Winter flocks were beginning to disperse as they began to look for nesting territories in the Toronto area. Spring migrants were arriving and many were already on territory. A decrease in winter ducks has been observed as many of them head back to the Arctic to stake out their nesting territory there. Look for large flocks of waterfowl in formation now, as more & more depart, and/or arrive from their warmer winter habitats.

Thus this report ends with tantalizing tid-bits of exciting spring birding changes on the way. The next newsletter will not be published for 4 months. Thank you for the sightings that you have sent in over the winter & happy spring birding! Keep me up-to-date with your observations.

Bird	Date	Place	Observer	Comment
<b>WATERFOWL:</b>				
Tundra Swan	Residents	New Tor	BJ	2---1 adult & 1 immature, becoming aggressive over bread
Mute Swan	early Mar	Sunnyside	m ob	dispersing along waterfront; looking for nesting sites?
Can Goose	Frequent	New Tor	BJ	27:very aggressive over handouts & mates
Am Black Duck	Common	LS	m ob	fighting for handouts
Mallard	Common	Open water	m ob	
N Shoveler	Common	Open water	m ob	
	Feb 16	Grenadier P	IT	2
	Mar 15	Grenadier P	MN	
Gadwall	Mar 2	Ashbridges Bay	DD	200 in raft behind filtration plant
Am Wigeon	mid-Feb	Ratray	WM,DM	1 male
	Feb 23-24	New Toronto	BJ	3-5
Redhead	Feb 16	Oakville	WM	
	Feb 16	Grenadier P	IT	2
	Mar 2	Humber B/Mimico Ck	TFN	3-10
Ring-neck Duck	Mar 12	Sunnyside	SP	1
	Mar 12	Humber B E	BW	2
Gt Scaup	Common	Waterfront	m ob	100s
Lr Scaup	Mar 2	Humber B	TFN	1 male
Oldsquaw	Mar 2	Humber B	TFN	fewer, but more talkative
Wh-wing Scoter	Feb 16	Sunnyside	IT	3
	Feb 24	10th St Pk	BJ	
	Mar 9	Humber B	JR	female
Com Goldeneye	Common	LS & rushing rivers	m ob	many males displaying
Bufflehead	Frequent	LS & Grenadier P	m ob	paired
Humber B	m ob	60+		Com Merganser Frequent
Red-br Merg	Feb 16	Oakville	WM	1 male
	Feb 24	10 St Pk	BJ	

## HAWKS THROUGH COOTS:

Sharp-shin Hawk	Mar 28	W Deane	GO	
Cooper's Hawk	late Feb	E Tor	BP	
	Mar 12	Don Valley	DP	
Red-should Hawk	Feb 27	Islington	IT	flying over
Red-tail Hawk	Daily	Islington	MB	
	Resident	W Deane	GO	often chased by crows
	Resident	Lambton Wd	m ob	
	Feb 21	Davenport & Ave Rd	MDL,BJ	
	Mar 11	Base of Spit	DP	3--1st migrating Red-tails
	Mar 12	High Pk	SP	after a squirrel

▷

## TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS - cont'd

Am Kestrel	Feb 23	Humber B	HS	
	Feb 25	St Clair Rav	EM	
	Mar 2	Spit	DD	2
Merlin	Feb 24	Milton	WM	
R-neck Pheasant	Jan 29	Claireville	BW	
Ruffed Grouse	Feb 22	Scarborough College	IT	
Am Coot	Mar 9	Humber B	m ob	
	Mar 16	Humber B	PL	
SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS:				
Killdeer	Mar 14	Humber B	PL	3
Ring-bill Gull	Frequent	Everywhere	m ob	many migrants returning
	Mar 2	Spit & Cherry Beach	DD	2-3000 on the ice
Herring Gull	Common	LS	m ob	less frequent than Ring-bills
Glaucous Gull	Feb 16	Sunnyside	IT	
	Mar 13	Humber B	BJ	on ice with other gulls at mouth of Mimico Ck
Gt Black-back G	Mar 1	Sunnyside	IT	max of 5
DOVES THROUGH OWLS :				
Rock Dove	Frequent	City Sts & Hwys	m ob	
Mourning Dove	Increasing	Everywhere	m ob	seen daily
	Feb 25	Russell Hill Rd	MLS	mating & dating (caressing)
E Screech Owl		Lambton, High Pk	TOC	5 reports
	Feb 24	Humber M 7	BW	resident in same hole in tree
	Mar 8	James Gdns	PL	photographed in tree by parking lot: 11 am
Gt Horn Owl	Feb 17	Lambton Wd	MDL	a pair calling
	Feb 22	Whitby Hospital	IT	
	Feb 26	Dakville	BW	
	Mar 2	Spit	DD	by the big tanks
Barred Owl	Feb 28	Shoal Pt Wd	TOC	
Long-ear Owl	Mar 9	Humber Arboretum	TOC	5
N Saw-whet Owl	Mar 9	Humber Arboretum	TOC	2
KINGFISHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES:				
Belt Kingfisher	Feb 24	Lambton Wd	HT	
Downy Woodpeck	Mar 14	Islington	PL	finished excavating a hole in phone pole
Hairy Woodpeck	Occasional	Outings	TFN	Cedarvale, Mt Pleasant Cemetary
	Feb 24	Lambton Wd	HT	
	Mar 12	Cedarvale Rav	TFN	very noisy, 2 females vocalizing over 1 male:
				courting behaviour
N Flicker	Infrequent	W Deane	GO	feeder
	Mar 21	Cedarvale	TFN	
Horn Lark	Feb 23	Lambton Wd	IT	
	Feb 24	Milton	WM	7
	Mar 2	Humber B W	MDL	
	Mar 2	Spit	DD	3-4
	Mar 8	Humber B W	DP	not as many as usual this spring
	Mar 14	Humber B	PL	
Blue Jay	Frequent	many outings	m ob	responsible for many of the strange calls you
				might be hearing
Am Crow	Increasing		m ob	flying in from across the lake; very noisy
	Mar 9	Lambton Wd	BJ	30 in 1 tree
Bl-cap Chickadee	Common	Everywhere	m ob	mating whistle being heard
Red-br Nuthatch	Occasional	Feeders	m ob	
Wh-br Nuthatch	Occasional	Everywhere	m ob	
CREEPERS THROUGH CARDINALS:				
Br Creeper	Mar 12	High Pk	SP	2
Gold-cr Kinglet	Feb 22	Highland Ck	IT	2
	Mar 12	High Pk	SP	4
Hermit Thrush	Frequent	Walmer & Spadina	PW	
Am Robin	late Feb	Lambton Wd	m ob	20-30
	late Feb	Mississauga	DM	large flock
	Mar 2	Lambton Wd	HH	20+
	Mar 12	Cedarvale Rav	TFN	4-5 new ones
Cedar Waxwing	Feb 23	Lambton Wd	IT	3

## TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS - cont'd

N Shrike	Feb 18	Islington	MB	1, seen frequently
	Mar 2	Humber B E	TFN(& Becky)	no bird but 20 + headless mice in bushes & on ground
Eur Starling	Mar 9	Humber B	MDL	
N Cardinal	Common	Everywhere	m ob	singing every day
	Frequent		m ob	
SPARROWS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS:				
Am Tree Sparrow	Feb 21 22	W Deane	GO	
Fox Sparrow	Frequently	Bayview & Eglinton	JP,RR	all winter, digging under the cedars & feeder
Song Sparrow	Feb 26	New Tor	BJ	singing
Wh-th Sparrow	Frequent	W Deane	GO	feeder, 2/18-3/7
	Feb 21	Nordheimer Rav	MDL	
Dark-eye Junco	Occasional	Everywhere	m ob	singing
	Feb 17	Leslie St&Bannatyre	EM	20 in trees & on ground
	Mar 6	Willowdale	HT	came back to feeder with snow storm
	Mar 12	High Pk	MDL	
	Mar 15	Windfield Pk	EM	10 in shrubs, trees & on ground
Snow Bunting	Mar 8	Humber B W	DF	last date
R-wing Bkbird	Daily	Everywhere	m ob	increasing every day
	Mar 2	Spit	DD	in full breeding plumage: first date.
Rusty Bkbird	Feb 22	Lynde Shores	IT	singing!
	Feb 22	Claireville	TQC	
	Feb 23	Clairville	BW	
C Grackle	Feb 20	Bayview & Eglinton	JP,RR	at feeder
	Mar 12	Don Valley	DF	3 being escorted by a mature Cooper's Hawk
	Mar 12	Evans & Is	MDL	at feeders
Br-head Cowbird	Mar 3	Lambton Wd	CG	
	Mar 13	Bayview & Eglinton	RR	3 males at feeder
FINCHES & HOUSE SPARROW:				
Pine Grosbeak	Feb 16	Mt Pleasant Cem. et.	TFN	1
	Feb 17	Mississauga	WM	12
	Feb 22	Lambton Wd	IT	2
	Feb 27	W Deane	GO	3
	Feb 27	Mississauga	WM	3
	Mar 5	Rosedale	DP	high up in silver & sugar maples; change in food habits
	Mar 9	Rexdale	PJ	20 eating crab apples
Purple Finch	Feb 28	W Deane	GO	also on 3/27(2)
	Mar 15	Windfield Pk	EM	singing beautifully from roof of porch nearby
	Mar 15	Leaside	GR	in backyard
House Finch	Daily	Willowdale	HT	
	Frequent	Feeders	m ob	
C Redpoll	Daily	W Deane	GO	1-13 every day
	Daily	Feeders	m ob	
	Frequent	Lambton Wd	m ob	belligerent & aggressive to others at the feeder
Hoary Redpoll	Feb 24	Maple	TQC	with a flock of C Redpolls
Pine Siskin	Mar 9	Lambton Wd	BJ	
Am Goldfinch	Daily	Feeders	m ob	moulting & becoming yellower every day
Eve Grosbeak	all winter	Islington	MB	5 at a feeder
House Sparrow	early Mar	everywhere	m ob	singing, more musical song
	Feb 22	Downtown	HJ	carrying a piece of pizza as big as itself across the road

The next report will cover most of spring migration---Mar.16-July 15. Please continue to submit your observations regularly during this time, but they will all have to be in by July 25 in order to compile them for the next newsletter.

Beth Jefferson,  
41 Lake Shore Dr., Apt. 404,  
New Toronto, Ont., M8V 1Z3

Phone: 251-2998 (before 9:30 pm)

□

Toronto Ornithological Club  
Spring Round-up May 18, 1985

Red-throated Loon	1	Little Gull	4
Common Loon	246	Bonaparte's Gull	193
Horned Grebe	4	Ring-billed Gull	103695
Red-necked Grebe	9	Herring Gull	577
Double-crested Cormorant	6	Great Black-backed Gull	1
American Bittern	1	Caspian Tern	371
Great Blue Heron	21	Common Tern	474
Green-backed Heron	8	Black Tern	76
Black-crowned Night-Heron	48	Rock Dove	1062
Tundra Swan	1	Mourning Dove	599
Mute Swan	49	Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Brant	128	Eastern Screech-Owl	1
Canada Goose	1029	Great Horned Owl	9
Wood Duck	7	Common Nighthawk	1
Green-winged Teal	1	Whip-poor-will	4
American Black Duck	23	Chimney Swift	306
Mallard	489	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3
Blue-winged Teal	33	Belted Kingfisher	35
Northern Shoveler	2	Red-headed Woodpecker	7
Gadwall	103	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
American Wigeon	9	Downy Woodpecker	59
Ring-necked Duck	2	Hairy Woodpecker	13
Greater Scaup	3	Northern Flicker	146
Lesser Scaup	12	Pileated Woodpecker	2
Oldsquaw	1148	Eastern Wood-Pewee	16
White-winged Scoter	2	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2
Common Goldeneye	3	Willow Flycatcher	22
Bufflehead	2	Least Flycatcher	62
Common Merganser	18	Eastern Phoebe	14
Red-breasted Merganser	931	Great Crested Flycatcher	128
Turkey Vulture	16	Eastern Kingbird	242
Northern Harrier	7	Horned Lark	49
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Purple Martin	52
Cooper's Hawk	3	Tree Swallow	639
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	262
Broad-winged Hawk	3	Bank Swallow	2292
Red-tailed Hawk	68	Cliff Swallow	63
American Kestrel	20	Barn Swallow	1090
Merlin	1	Blue Jay	261
Ring-necked Pheasant	15	American Crow	459
Ruffed Grouse	12	Black-capped Chickadee	228
Virginia Rail	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Sora	5	White-breasted Nuthatch	16
Common Moorhen	13	House Wren	83
American Coot	3	Winter Wren	3
Black-bellied Plover	26	Marsh Wren	1
Semipalmated Plover	30	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6
Killdeer	309	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9
Greater Yellow-legs	1	Eastern Bluebird	2
Lesser Yellow-legs	4	Veery	53
Solitary Sandpiper	4	Gray-cheeked Thrush	8
Spotted Sandpiper	122	Swainson's Thrush	114
Upland Sandpiper	3	Hermit Thrush	1
Whimbrel	42	Wood Thrush	52
Ruddy Turnstone	40	American Robin	1496
Semipalmated Sandpiper	23	Gray Catbird	220
Least Sandpiper	37	Northern Mockingbird	1
White-rumped Sandpiper	4	Brown Thrasher	60
Dunlin	187	Water Pipit	3
Common Snipe	5	Cedar Waxwing	286
American Woodcock	7	European Starling	2916



Toronto Ornithological Club Spring Round-up - cont'd

White-eyed Vireo	1	Scarlet Tanager	11
Solitary Vireo	3	Northern Cardinal	211
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	134
Warbling Vireo	130	Indigo Bunting	67
Philadelphia Vireo	11	Rufous-sided Towhee	18
Red-eyed Vireo	74	Chipping Sparrow	92
Blue-winged Warbler	1	Field Sparrow	28
Golden-winged Warbler	2	Vesper Sparrow	35
Tennessee Warbler	288	Savannah Sparrow	266
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Grasshopper Sparrow	6
Nashville Warbler	17	Song Sparrow	580
Northern Parula	11	Lincoln's Sparrow	8
Yellow Warbler	340	Swamp Sparrow	17
Chestnut-sided Warbler	88	White-throated Sparrow	47
Magnolia Warbler	115	White-crowned Sparrow	17
Cape May Warbler	18	Bobolink	503
Black-throated Blue Warbler	58	Red-winged Blackbird	5822
Yellow-rumped Warbler	83	Eastern Meadowlark	190
Black-throated Green Warbler	58	Common Grackle	2106
Blackburnian Warbler		Brown-headed Cowbird	409
Pine Warbler	53	Orchard Oriole	2
Palm Warbler	3	Northern Oriole	347
Bay-breasted Warbler	6	Purple Finch	1
Blackpoll Warbler	82	House Finch	20
Black-and-white Warbler	5	Red Crossbill	62
American Redstart	33	White-winged Crossbill	7
Ovenbird	104	Pine Siskin	9
Northern Waterthrush	74	American Goldfinch	690
Mourning Warbler	27	House Sparrow	1273
Common Yellowthroat	5		
Wilson's Warbler	143	flycatcher, species?	2
Canada Warbler	18	crossbill, species?	2
	24		

Compiled by J. Murray Speirs  
and Bruce D. Parker



□

## If you're so smart...

SELECT THE EXTERNAL FEATURE  
(IN ADULTS) WHICH DISTINGUISHES EACH CLASS OF VERTEBRATE FROM THE OTHERS.  
(IN THE CASE OF ONE OF THE CLASSES THERE ARE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.)

FISHES	1. SCALES	2. FINS	3. GILLS	_____
AMPHIBIANS	1. NAKED SKIN	2. WEBBED FEET	3. BULGING EYES	_____
REPTILES	1. TAIL	2. CLAWS	3. DRY SKIN	_____
BIRDS	1. EGGS	2. FEATHERS	3. WINGS	_____
MAMMALS	1. HAIR	2. TEETH	3. LEGS	_____

Answers on page 22.

DB

OWLS IN THE WEST TORONTO AREA: WHERE ARE THEY?
--

## RESIDENT OWLS

Great horned and eastern screech owls may be found all year in our wooded parks, mating and nesting in winter.

## WINTERING OWLS

Long-eared and saw-whet owls have been found in wooded thickets and tangles of a number of our parks for many years, from late October to early April.

## IRREGULAR WINTERING OWLS

Snowy, short-eared, boreal, barred, and great gray owls can sometimes be found in Toronto, depending on food supplies farther north. Being adept at hearing their prey under heavy crusts of snow allows them to survive under harsh conditions. The supply of small mammals in the north fluctuates generally on a seven-year cycle, which means the chances of seeing a snowy owl at Humber Bay Park will also fluctuate; last winter there were no reports. Two short-eared owls, however, were at Humber Bay Park for much of December and January, 1985-86.

## CENTENNIAL PARK, ETOBICOKE

The young woodlot of elms and hawthorns to the west of the greenhouses used to be a fantastic area to find parliaments of long-eared owls. Bruce Wilkinson reports that in the winters of 1981 and 1982, he was finding them in groups of four or five almost every time he checked the woodlot. They could also be found in the small depressions that stretched north towards the hydro lines. Here hawthorns and wild grape tangles provided protection for the roosting owls during the day; at night they hunted in the surrounding fields, inhabited by thousands of meadow voles, their chief prey. So good was this habitat that often Bruce would see as many as ten long-eared owls at one time and he revelled in his visits to this special wild place so close to the city, enjoying introducing TFN members to it by leading walks there in 1984 and 1985. A saw-whet owl was added to Bruce's list for this woodlot on the January, 1984, TFN outing.

Great horned owls have always been found in the older woodlot, to the west of the younger section. Often in pairs, they preferred the tall evergreen trees as roosts. In October, 1984, Bruce came upon a red phase eastern screech owl roosting for a day in this woodlot. Rushing back for his camera, he was able to add its photograph to his collection. Playing a tape of a screech owl's call got an answer from a gray phase eastern screech owl one early evening in January, 1985.

I began exploring the area in November, 1982. On a day in January, 1983, a long-eared owl flew out of the woods and on April 24 six were resting in the dense scrub of a hawthorn tree. I watched for a while before some became nervous and took off. How, I wondered, can these large birds manoeuvre through such thick woods? Keeping close to the ground seemed to be their tactic to avoid low branches as they floated away on silent wings to alight in another tree farther away - while I admired them.

Most of this habitat has disappeared as preparations for a large manicured addition to Centennial Park is under way. Bruce saw only one long-eared owl in the fall of 1985. Has the noise of the trucks and bulldozers constructing a paved road right alongside the young elm grove caused the owls to move elsewhere? Has the removal of the tangles in the shallow depressions to make way for a pond for paddle-boats made it impossible for the owls to find safe roosting habitat? Has all this construction eliminated their prey by changing the open fields into barren, muddy ground?

## Owls in the West Toronto Area - cont'd

Up until this winter Centennial Park was the only place near Toronto where one could find nine or ten owls. We wonder whether the owls will return once the park is finished and the fields are sodded for people to "enjoy". The elm grove will remain, but with the lack of hunting territory in the surrounding fields will the owls be able to find enough food to survive?

## ETOBICOKE CREEK

Adjacent to these woods is the Etobicoke Creek Valley which has served as a home for great horned owls for years. Clive and Joy Goodwin reported a family of these owls north of Eglinton in 1980, the year before atlassing began, and have seen adults in this, their atlassing square, each year since then.

## MARIE CURTIS PARK

A pair of great horned owls were seen in the government-owned lands to the west of Marie Curtis Park this February, providing further proof of breeding. It has long been suspected that this must be the case, because one owl was frequently seen in the tall white pines.

A saw-whet owl was seen in early winter, 1985, in the young tree plantation farther west, where they have been reported occasionally in past winters. The entire area was used by six or more long-eared owls last winter. Mike Delorey and I saw them on numerous occasions. Hundreds of pellets were discovered in April, 1985, in the plantation where the owls had been roosting. Their absence last winter might be explained by the work done in this area in early winter to clean up an oil spill from the Hydro Training Centre. An official from the Ministry of the Environment predicted at the time that this work would probably prevent the long-eared owls from spending the winter there.

## CLAIREVILLE CONSERVATION AREA

Long-eared owls have long been a "specialty" at Claireville during the winter, with up to twenty-five being observed in a communal roost in one hawthorn in the 1970's. During the winters of 1978-80 when I was on the staff of Etobicoke Board of Education's Field Studies Centre there, I frequently took groups of students to see the owls in the hawthorns on the flats by the Humber River. Here we sat spellbound, admiring the ability of long-eared owls to look like the branch of a tree. Often we would count five or six owls, adding a few more as here and there we discerned a flicker of eye-movement in what appeared to be only another broken branch. Owls were so abundant that we could formulate lessons with them as the major focus. Lately this species has been scarce at Claireville; certainly large roosts have not been found, even though many birders report spending days searching. Has the increase in snowmobiling driven the owls elsewhere?

Several people can testify that a saw-whet owl has been found on the same branch of a grape vine in the main woodlot at Claireville every winter for quite a number of years. Sometimes more than one would spend the winter in the area. Great horned owls remain residents at Claireville, living in the tall hemlocks. But now there are plans for a 36-hole golf course and a water-theme park to be constructed in the area. Where will these owls go then?

## HIGH PARK

Only one saw-whet owl has been found in High Park - last winter. Four or five eastern screech owls live in the area. One - apparently unafraid of people - landed on the hydro box outside the doorway of Bruce Wilkinson's home, but failed to nest in the backyard as he had hoped. Four or five great horned owls have been seen around High Park which is about average density for an area this size.

## Owls in the West Toronto Area - cont'd

## LAMBTON WOODS

A pair of great horned owls have nested here for several years. Last spring a TFN fern outing was totally disrupted by a couple of screech owl fledglings in adjacent James Gardens. This winter Peter Lowens reported coming upon an eastern screech owl in its regular hole deep in the woods, "like seeing an old friend". One day he even found one looking out of a hole in a tree by the James Gardens parking lot at 11 AM; he raced home for his camera and took a good snapshot with an ordinary lens.

## HUMBER MARSHES, No. 7 and No. 5

An eastern screech owl has been living in the woods surrounding Marsh 7 for at least four years. Bruce has documented this with many close-up photos as well as getting it to "pose" for a TFN walk last spring for an hour while we all had a chance to return its long stares through a telescope; it tried to ignore us by squinting. A pair of great horned owls reside in this area. Pellets are frequently found and calls are often heard outside Helen Smith's window. Analysis of a recently-found pellet showed fairly large bird bones among the feathers. A couple of saw-whet owls and one long-eared were discovered for the first time this winter in the marshes by Bob Yukich and Bruce, but the long-eared owl was seen only once.

## HUMBER ARBORETUM

Happiness at last! After a winter of owl-prowling with little luck, Toronto Ornithological Club members reported five long-eared owls and two saw-whet owls which were at Humber Arboretum March 9. Four long-eared owls were still visible on March 24 in dense tangles off the beaten path, and one on March 28.

Clive and Joy Goodwin report that great horned and eastern screech owls have also been known to frequent the area in past years. One would expect they might be resident in such a good habitat - but will it be protected? Stakes and markers look ominous, and the four-wheeled vehicles roaring through the area will hardly induce the owls to stay.

## OAKVILLE: FORD WOODS, SAW-WHET GOLF COURSE, UPPER MIDDLE ROAD, and FORD DRIVE

These woods have been the habitat of saw-whet, long-eared, and great horned owls for a long time, but are not often visited by Toronto birders. Development of west Toronto parks has ruined good owl habitats; will suburban development destroy these Oakville woods as well? Stakes are up here too, and snowmobilers make use of the woods.

Development in the form of more housing is to be expected, along with necessary parks. However, we must decry any "park" concept which calls for destruction of our few remaining wildlife habitats.

Beth Jefferson

□

Just overwhelming, All those hybrids and 'doubles'; Yet one small wild rose...
--

(haiku by Diana Banville)

□

WILL OUR NEW MONEY FLY FASTER?
--------------------------------

Do you sometimes think your money has wings? Well, it certainly will now, thanks to the Bank of Canada's decision to show birds on our Canadian banknotes. The birds selected are the robin, the belted kingfisher, the osprey, common loon, snowy owl, and Canada goose.

Why these birds? The bank says most Canadians know them. Also their colours will nicely fit the colour scheme for each of the denominations. As a result the robin's brick-red breast will be on the \$2 bill, the blue of the belted kingfisher goes on the \$5 note, and the osprey's dark plumage will enhance the \$10 bill. The common loon will be on the olive 20 (not common enough for many of us) and the snowy owl's crisp white will contrast with the bright \$50 note.

It seems fitting that at the top of the scale on the \$100 bill will be the Canada goose. About this goose it is easy to agree with the sentiments of the eminent Canadian ornithologist, the late P.A. Taverner. He wrote, "It is a noble bird, a point of interest in any landscape. No one fails to thrill at the sight of its long, V-shaped flocks flying overhead or at the sound of its wild, barbaric music coming down through the twilight".

What changes may these new banknotes bring about? Well, for one thing they'll mean the bird is on the bill instead of just the other way around. And perhaps any of us who like to spend time counting our money will henceforth form a new species of birdwatcher. Some Canadian nationalists may be unhappy with the bird on the \$2 bill: its full common name is American robin. But then it couldn't find an American \$2 bill to perch on.

Harold Taylor

Ed. note. This is one example of the "Nature Notes" provided by Harold Taylor to CFRB's Art Drysdale for his Saturday morning radio program. Harold has been writing these "notes" weekly for many years now on behalf of the Toronto Field Naturalists. This is valuable publicity for the TFN. Thank you Harold and Art.

□

WINGED CHALLENGE
------------------

<p>I dare you          feel nothing          under geese-clouded skies          when their mass makes a question of flight,          and should there rain down raucous, uncanny cries          from the birds - ay, a <i>bird</i> - as it ponderously flies,          I compassion your earth-burdened plight!</p>
---

Karen Parker
--------------

□

SELECTIVE VISION
------------------

I am a volunteer at our Metro Toronto Zoo, attend regularly, and love every minute of it. I try to see/hear/sense (scents) as much as possible with every visit. I have come to a conclusion about *Homo sapiens*. The species has developed a unique adaptation for survival - it is called "selective vision" and helps individuals to see only what they wish to see.

How many of you have recently been to the zoo and seen the Arctic fox? This may come as a shock, but it hasn't been there for several months now. There is a notice beside the exhibit saying something to the effect (even I sometimes exercise selective vision) that the exhibit is in preparation for prairie dogs. Many times during the fall I stopped there and gazed at it. Of course, as soon as one stops and looks intently in, so do many others. Picture this: I am standing there looking in and suddenly eight people appear, all peering in all directions looking for the prairie dogs - or something? Grumbling and muttering, most people walk away, saying, "Oh no, there's nothing in there". Others say, "Oh look, those things must be the prairie dogs". What they are really seeing is the resident colony of meadow voles who have now taken over the hill. At this point I have to clamp my hand over my mouth. They have also missed the chipmunk sitting atop the hill and the house sparrows in the grass.

On one such occasion I stood a little longer and here are some of the things I could see in the exhibit: Many, many meadow voles, one chipmunk, many grasshoppers, crickets, ants and flies, three house sparrows, burdock, asters, ragweed, Queen Anne's lace, dandelions, goldenrod, plantain, grasses, white clover, bladder campion, red clover, more asters, sow thistle, curled dock, at least twenty other plants which I did not identify, some litter, and three medium sized rocks. And people say there is nothing there!

Helen Huggett

□

HYPERBOLE

*That was no raven -  
it was a crow.  
Don't always try to dramatize.  
Any bird of black appearance would have done  
to make your point.  
No need to emphasize  
with exaggeration.  
What?  
Not a crow.  
What?  
A black dove.  
Oh.*

Karen Parker

□

ARE PEREGRINES TO BECOME URBAN BIRDS?
---------------------------------------

The peregrine falcon, one of our most beautiful, but endangered birds of prey is now a regular springtime visitor to Toronto! Prior to declines caused by pesticide poisoning, the peregrine was better known from remote wilderness areas. But in 1981, the Ministry of Natural Resources began an exciting new project to help the peregrine recover -- by releasing these cliff-nesting birds from tall city buildings.

Peregrines were released at wilderness sites in Algonquin Provincial Park during the first four years of the Ministry's recovery project, from 1977 through 1980. In expanding the program to include urban sites, biologists were guided by wild peregrines that had nested on office towers in Montreal, New York and other cities. And it was discovered that some peregrines released at wilderness sites in the U.S. eventually made their way to cities to breed!

Ontario's recovery project is part of a broader Canada-U.S. effort to ensure the peregrine's survival throughout central North America. Populations are increasing slowly after three decades of widespread nesting failures caused by DDT, an agricultural pesticide.

How did the decline occur? The small birds on which peregrines prey accumulated DDT as a result of eating insects emerging from waters contaminated by agricultural runoff. On ingesting these contaminated birds, peregrines incorporated residues in their own body tissues sufficient to cause eggshell thinning. Under the weight of incubating adults, many thin-shelled eggs cracked prematurely, killing the developing chicks.

The use of DDT has been restricted in Canada and the U.S. for about 15 years, but Central and South American countries still apply it to control agricultural pests and insects that transmit malaria. Peregrines that overwinter in these regions continue to accumulate residues from contaminated prey -- a situation demanding stronger efforts to find environmentally compatible alternatives to DDT.

The peregrine is not the only bird affected by pesticides, but it may be the best known -- because it had captured man's imagination long before the era of DDT. Famed for its grace and speed, the peregrine catches small birds in flight by diving or "stooping" on them at speeds of up to 300 km per hour. But popularity has not always been to the peregrine's advantage, since the taking of eggs and young from wild nests has contributed to its decline.

By the 1960's, it was obvious that active intervention alone would help the peregrine recover, and plans were made to establish captive breeding centres. The best known Canadian centre, dating from the early 1970's, is operated by the Canadian Wildlife Service in Camp Wainwright, Alberta. The facility currently supplies peregrine chicks to release projects in Ontario, and elsewhere in Canada.

The Ministry receives chicks for its release projects from mid-June through early August. Early season releases are essential in Algonquin so the young peregrines will have time to perfect their hunting skills before prey species disperse in mid-August. The timing of releases in Toronto is not quite as critical since prey is abundant even in late fall. In fact, on October 29, 1983, one of the Toronto peregrines was photographed plucking prey on a downtown apartment building.

At about four weeks of age, chicks from Camp Wainwright are flown to Toronto for transfer to the cage or "hack" box that will be their home prior to release.

## PEREGRINES AS URBAN BIRDS? (cont'd)

("Hack" is a falconry term referring to the board on which a falcon's meat is placed). Between the time the downy chicks are received, and the time of release, about two weeks later, a wonderful transformation takes place. Most of the down is lost, except for patches on the head and upper thighs that can give the birds quite a comical appearance. Brown backs and brown-streaked breasts identify them as "full-fledged" young peregrines.

The hack box is a very important piece of equipment; its design is critical to the outcome of the project. The door of the box, in particular, must be specially constructed to permit release of the birds in a manner that does not alarm them -- otherwise, they may flee the site. At city release sites, the box is typically attached high on a building to allow a good, open view. At wilderness sites in Ontario, the box is attached to the side of a cliff.

During their two week stay in the hack box, the chicks spend much time gazing through the bars, and in this way familiarize themselves with landmarks that will help them find "home" after release. This is important, because until they can hunt for themselves, the chicks depend entirely upon food provided by their human attendants. While in captivity, dinner consists of farm-raised quail dropped through a tube in the roof of the hack box. The feeding tube ensures that attendants bringing food are unseen, thereby preventing "imprinting" of the chicks on humans.

The chicks are held in the box until they are ready to fledge -- at about six weeks of age. While inside, their activities are monitored on closed-circuit T.V. When they start grasping the bars with their talons, flapping vigorously and showing an intense interest in bird life outside the cage, we know that it is time for them to go.

On the wing in downtown Toronto, newly-fledged peregrines must contend with urban hazards such as road traffic and skyscrapers with mirror windows. But city release sites offer two important advantages. They are usually free of great horned owls, which menace young peregrines in wilderness areas, and there are plenty of small urban birds to serve as prey.

So far, 99 young peregrines have been released in Ontario, at sites in Algonquin Park, Toronto, Brockville and Arnprior. Of this total, 24 were released in Toronto -- 10 at the Whitney Block, Queen's Park (in 1981 and 1982); 7 at Upper Canada College (in 1983 and 1985); and 7 at the Canada Life Assurance building (in 1984). It is impossible to know how many Toronto peregrines are alive at present, but we have some idea of numbers surviving the first winter. Each year since the release project began, at least one of our birds has returned the following spring. Only about 20 percent of young peregrines survive their first migration, whether they were released at urban sites or fledged from nests in the wild. Starvation, electrocution, shooting and other hazards all take their toll.

Unfortunately, shooting continues to be a problem, even for adult peregrines as is evidenced by the tragic killing of a nesting female at Arnprior in 1983. Predators, such as birds of prey are often harassed by misinformed people who consider them "varmints". But all predators play an essential role in wild communities by keeping populations of prey species in check. The challenge, of course, is to communicate this important message.

In view of the number of peregrines released, here, and in Quebec, and the eastern U.S., it is only a matter of time before we hear of new Ontario nestings.



## PEREGRINES AS URBAN BIRDS? (cont'd)

Perhaps then we will be able to say that we have made our amends to the peregrine.

Irene Bowman  
Nongame Program Coordinator  
Ont. Ministry of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Branch

□

CLEAN DREAMS

On occasions when sleep absconds and leaves me reconstructing the world in the early hours, I indulge a recurrent Walter Mitty Dream.

I win a lottery -- the lottery (whichever one is the biggest!) -- truly an achievement since I do not buy tickets). This makes a tycoon of me and I set about the dizzying business of buying my own fleet of garbage trucks and building my own team of garbage collectors -- any age, any gender, so long as they view Toronto in early spring, once the snow has removed its kindly veil, with the same dismay as I do. Plus, of course, my own firm of lawyers to demonstrate to the authorities that we would hardly be taking anyone's union job away since "the job", as such, is obviously beyond the manpower budgetable by the boroughs. There is, indeed, enough garbage for everyone! Particularly in the ravine system, Toronto's great natural asset which saves it from being another North American wasteland.

And let's face it. Toronto is becoming grubbier by the year. There was a time when the appellation "Toronto the Clean" was no more than the truth. Nowadays it is anybody's litter bin. The streets department performs valiantly but what can they do about parking lots, shopping mall entrances, street intersections. Similarly, the parks department appears overwhelmed by the accretion of winter waste.

Which leaves it to us who value the fidelity of the returning geese, the determination of marsh marigold to bloom amidst discarded tires, the taken-for-granted pale gilding of willow despite an atmosphere heavy with lead and particulates, the gutsy nest-building of red-winged blackbird in a reed-bed chocked with plastic.

I should be happy to hear from anyone willing to assist with the occasional clean-up job. In our modest fashion we could do our bit towards nurturing the environment we have been so fortunate to inherit. With half-a-dozen willing bodies a tiny segment of parkland could be transformed from an eyesore back into the microcosm of the Great Outdoors it was meant to be. (And for those who need more encouragement, consider the fact that returned bottles and cans bring their own reward, not enough to make for wealth, but certainly capable of providing a slender trickle of pocket money!)

Needed are plastic bags, old gloves, solid footwear, possibly a stick with a spike on one end, plus awareness (it is amazing how many city dwellers simply do not notice the rising tide of litter, while continuing cheerfully to add to it), together with an urge to pay homage to Nature, in however small a fashion, by returning her as near as possible to her pristine state.

With like minds we might work out a policy for the firming of intent and the gearing of action (expertise in dealing with garbage more than welcome!).

▷ If interested, call 694-8928.

Eva Davis

□

# The Weather This Time Last Year

## May 1985, City of Toronto

A nice month, aside from a freak disaster on the very last afternoon of the month. The mean monthly temperatures, 14.7°C at the City and 13.1°C at the Lester B. Pearson Airport, were the highest since 1982. Downtown recorded 272.5 hours of bright sunshine which is almost 40 hours above normal and well over 100 hours more than in 1984. It was the sunniest May since the record-setting 1977. A few good rains brought the monthly total to just above normal for the Toronto area, holding an incipient drought at bay. The warm temperatures were not spectacular or record-breaking as they were in April, but they were pleasant, with no 30°C readings. Scattered screen frost was recorded in outlying areas on the 8th and 9th. Winds were quite light; the Toronto Island's mean windspeed for the month was 13.6 km/hr, the lightest since 1972. So May was a docile spring month, continuing a warm trend since February: the warmest spring since 1977, BUT...

On May 31st, a tongue of warm, humid air coming from the Gulf of Mexico was swept aside by a cold front of unprecedented violence in Ontario's history. That afternoon, at least three separate tornadoes ravaged south central Ontario, devastating large parts of the towns of Orangeville, Alliston, and Barrie. The Barrie raceway was totally erased, and many homes and buildings, including an Orangeville shopping plaza were demolished. At least thirteen people died in Ontario alone; the figure for the American states of Pennsylvania AND Ohio was around 70. The clean-up after the disaster continued well into June. This was Ontario's worst outbreak of tornadoes ever, and its worst natural disaster aside from Hurricane Hazel in 1954. The cool waters of Lake Ontario protected Toronto which got a few drops of rain, threatening clouds, and wind gusts of 60-65 km/h: that is all. Tornadoes seem to be more common now.

## June 1985, City of Toronto

June brought an end to the warm trend begun in February this year, but sunshine was still above normal by 10 hours. Stations in the Toronto area all had means about 2°C below 1951-80 means, and about ½°C warmer than the very cold Junes of 1980 and 1982. The temperature did not top 30°C at any point, leading one to wonder whether the hottest day of 1985 already had occurred -- in April!

Rainfall was quite light, ranging from half to two-thirds of normal in our area. The weather was fair during the first and last third of the month, while the middle third was somewhat unsettled and particularly cool. In the first half of the month, only a couple of millimetres of rain fell. Unlike May, June did not bring any catastrophic or spectacular weather events. Winds averaged normal to a little above, and maximum gusts were nothing to write home about, in the 60's of km/h.

## July 1985, City of Toronto

In most ways, this month picked up where June left off: cool, and generally unspectacular. At both downtown and airport locations, it was the coolest July since 1976, with mean temperatures just a touch below last year's. It is worth noting that Toronto City failed to reach 30°C for the first time since 1891. The temperature struggled up to 29.4°C on the 20th; however, the Airport attained 31.7°C on July 25, after having already attained 30.3°C way back in April!

▷

## THE WEATHER THIS TIME LAST YEAR - cont'd

Rainfall was sporadic and unreliable. Toronto City had its 5th consecutive drier-than-average July with 47.2 mm, but the Airport got some of the heavier showers, and reported 91.5 mm, the most since 1980! But most areas were on the dry side this month in south-central Ontario, and no rain of consequence came after July 15 and the dry spell extended into August. The dry period came after an April, a May, and a June with below-normal precipitation. Relatively cool temperatures and somewhat below-normal sunshine (265.4 hours) helped to delay drought stress, but lawns and gardens were going brown; crops were mildly to moderately stressed.

Further divergence between City and Airport was evident in the winds. Toronto Island had below-normal windspeeds and a prevailing direction out of the east. But the Airport had its highest mean windspeed since 1974 (it was 13.4 km/h) and the prevailing direction was NW.

## Pickering observations...

Here by Frenchman's Bay, the weather more resembled that of Toronto City with cool temperatures off Lake Ontario or out of the north. Thundershowers were suppressed by the cool stabilizing lake and the dryness prevailed. No rain came after July 15 except 0.5mm on the 31st. The total was 34.2 mm.

August, 1985, City of Toronto

August had slightly below-normal temperatures, but was not very cool. The temperature didn't change much. Toronto City again did not reach 30°C, although the Airport reached 33°C on the 13th. One could call the month nice and comfortable: a few muggy days, but no heatwaves. There was a fairly cool spell from the 20th to the 23rd.

The precipitation regime was noticeable, however. Virtually no rain fell before the 15th. Thus lawns and gardens became quite parched and trees showed drought stress due to dry conditions that had begun in April. Southern Ontario vegetable and fruit crops, particularly sweet corn, were of inferior quality. After the 14th, some rain began to fall; it became decidedly damp from the 24th to the month's end. As a result, monthly rainfall was above normal in the Toronto area and the Lester B. Pearson Airport in the west end had a total of 152.5 mm, the most since 1968. Downtown had 118 mm. Eastwards, at my station in Pickering, the total was 88.3 mm. Sunshine was slightly below normal due to the last week of the month.

Overall, Summer, 1985

The summer was a cool one. The Airport had a mean of 18.2°C for June to August, as opposed to normal which is 19.3°C, and 17.8°C for the very cool recent summer of 1982. The figures for the City were 19.5°C, 20.8°C, and 19.2°C respectively. But Toronto City finally did break the 30°C mark - during 1985's only prominent summer heatwave - in early September!

Gavin Miller



## ANSWERS TO "IF YOU'RE SO SMART" (page 12):

FISHES	2 or 3.	FINS, GILLS
AMPHIBIANS	1.	NAKED SKIN
REPTILES	3.	DRY SKIN
BIRDS	2.	FEATHERS
MAMMALS	1.	HAIR



Upcoming **TFN**

# OUTINGS



(NO DOGS)

**RAIN**  
☔

or

☀️  
**SHINE**

**Everybody Welcome!**

## GUIDELINES

**PACE:** Leisurely unless indicated as "rugged"

**LENGTH:** About 2 hours unless otherwise indicated

**ROUTE:** Begins and ends at the same point unless otherwise indicated

**ACCESSIBLE** by TTC unless indicated as bus or minibus outings

**LUNCH** not needed unless indicated. It should include liquid refreshment.

**MAPS OF METRO:** "MAPART" is recommended. Available from bookshops for \$1-\$3.

**TTC "RIDE GUIDES"** are free at any subway station.

## WARM WEATHER CLOTHING

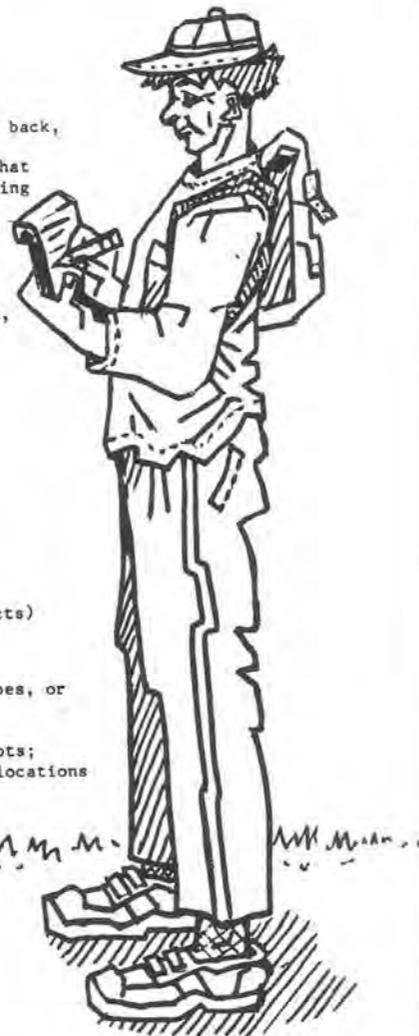
wide-brimmed hat  
for protection from sun and insects

small pack (carried on the back, over the shoulder, or around the waist, so that arms are free) containing possible needs, e.g. rainwear, sunglasses, sweater, insect-repellent, lunch, thermos, field-guides, notebook, pencil, binoculars, hand-lens, camera, plastic litter-bag

long sleeves and long pants  
to avoid bites and scratches

light-weight clothing, also light in colour (unattractive to insects)

walking-shoes, running-shoes, or (for protection on rough terrain) low-heeled, sturdy boots; rubber boots for wet locations



TTC Sunday or holiday passes may be purchased any time at any subway station.

TTC - 393-4636  
GO Transit - 630-3933

Gray Coach - 979-3511  
Island Ferry - 947-8193

# May

Although many types of birds are migrating in May, the warblers as a group always seem to get top billing and if you've ever witnessed a mixed flock of these tiny, darting bursts of colour gleaning insects from trees and shrubs on a bright, spring morning, you'll know why. Don't spend all your time looking up, however, because many of our native wildflowers are also at their best this month. Their colourful and varied forms are every bit as pleasing as those of our feathered friends.

Phil Joiner

○ FULL MOON (May 23)

⊗ DARK OF THE MOON (May 8)

FOR OTHER OUTINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH, SEE PAGES 36 to 39.

- |   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Thursday<br>May 1<br>6:45 pm  | LAMBTON WOODS - Botany<br>Leader: Ilmar Talvila<br>Meet at the park entrance on Edenbridge Drive east of Royal York Road (halfway between Dundas Street West and Eglinton Avenue West).   | Humber, Etobicoke           |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">OUT OF TOWN</div> Saturday<br>May 3<br>8 am to<br>6 pm<br><u>minibus</u> | BACKUS WOODS - Botany<br>Leader: Steve Varga<br>Call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS BACKUS OUTING to Eva Davis, 203-1080 Kingston Road, Scarborough M1N 1N5. Bring lunch and a snack. Bus leaves Finch station promptly at 8 am and returns there at 6 pm. A <u>STRENUOUS</u> day. | southwest of Metro          |
| Sunday<br>May 4<br>10 am<br>+   | MORNINGSIDE PARK - Birds<br>Leaders: Cathy Hnyp and King Baker<br>Meet at the park entrance on Morningside Avenue (west side), about halfway between Lawrence Avenue East and Ellesmere Road. Bring lunch.  | Highland Creek, Scarborough |
| Sunday<br>May 4<br>10:30 am   | HAVENBROOK - Trees<br>Leader: Bill Granger<br>Meet on the southeast corner of Leslie and Sheppard Avenue East. Bring lunch. We will be taking a circular route.   | East Don, North York        |
| Tuesday<br>May 6<br>6:45 pm   | HUMBER BAY WEST - Birds<br>Leaders: Maisie and George Newby<br>Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. West at Park Lawn Road.   | lakeshore, Etobicoke        |
| Wednesday<br>May 7<br>11 am   | GWENDOLEN PARK - Nature Walk<br>Leader: Martha Wallace<br>Meet at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Florence Avenue (four blocks south of Sheppard). Bring lunch.  | West Don, North York        |
| Thursday<br>May 8<br>6:45 pm  | HIGH PARK - Botany<br>Leader: Emily Hamilton<br>Meet in the first parking lot on West Road which is on your right as you enter the park from Bloor Street West at High Park Avenue.   | Toronto                     |

▷

## MAY OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday  
May 10  
10 am WEST DON VALLEY - Nature Arts (Photography) West Don, North York  
Leader: Betty Greenacre  
Meet in the parking lot at the park entrance on the west side of Leslie Street north of Eglinton Avenue East (opposite the Inn on the Park). Bring lunch, camera, tripod (if you have one), and/or bring stool, sketching materials.
- Sunday  
May 11  
10 am LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds Lakeshore, Toronto  
Leader: Bruce Parker  
Meet in the parking lot at the foot of Leslie Street. Bring lunch.
- +  
Sunday  
May 11  
11 am CENTENNIAL PARK - Birds and Botany Etobicoke Creek, Etobicoke  
Leaders: Helen and Isabel Smith  
Meet at the west end of Rathburn Road. Bring lunch.
- Tuesday  
May 13  
6:45 pm HUMBER MARSHES - Birds Humber, Toronto  
Leader: Helen Smith  
Meet at the Old Mill subway station. Dress for mosquitoes and poison ivy.
- Wednesday  
May 14  
11 am WIGMORE PARK - Nature Walk East Don, North York  
Leader: Eva Davis  
Meet at Sloane Avenue Public School which is four blocks north of Eglinton Avenue East on Sloane Avenue (between Don Mills Road and Victoria Park Avenue). Bring lunch. We hope to see apple blossoms.
- Thursday  
May 15  
6:45 pm SHERWOOD PARK - Botany Burke Brook, North York  
Leaders: Eileen and Geoff Chopping  
Meet at the nature trail sign on the west side of Bayview Avenue just north of the CNIB overpass (between Eglinton and Lawrence).
- OUT OF TOWN Saturday  
May 17  
8:30 am OAK RIDGES MORaine - Geology northwest of Metro  
to 4 pm Leader: Ed Freeman  
minibus Call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you plan to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS MORaine TRIP to Eva Davis, 203-1080 Kingston Road, Scarborough M1N 1N5. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Finch station promptly at 8:30 am and returns there at 4 pm. This will be a RUGGED trip.
- Sunday  
May 18  
10 am WOODGREEN PARK - Nature Walk East Don, North York  
Leader: John Armstrong  
Meet at the corner of Grenoble Drive and Linkwood Lane. This will be a RUGGED trip. Bring lunch.
- Monday  
May 19  
9:45 am TORONTO ISLAND - Birds lake, Toronto  
Leader: George Fairfield  
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street to take the 10 am ferry. Bring lunch and membership card.
- Tuesday  
May 20  
6:45 pm CEDARVALE RAVINE - Birds Don tributary, Toronto  
Leader: Herb Elliott  
Meet at the Heath Street exit of the St. Clair West station on the Spadina subway line.

## MAY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Wednesday WINDFIELD PARK - Nature Walk Wilket Creek, North York  
 May 21 Leader: Joan Patterson  
 11 am Meet at the southeast corner of Bayview Avenue and York Mills Road.  
 Bring lunch.

Thursday ETIENNE BRULÉ PARK - Botany Humber, York  
 May 22 Leader: Isabel Smith  
 6:45 pm Meet at the Old Mill subway station.

Saturday ROUGE VALLEY - Nature Walk Rouge, Scarborough  
 May 24 Leaders: John and Heather Harris  
 9:30 am Meet at the corner of Twyn Rivers Drive and Sheppard Avenue East  
 (Glen Eagles Hotel parking lot). Bring lunch.

Sunday GUILDWOOD PARK - Birds lakeshore, Scarborough  
 May 25 Leader: Walter Frey  
 10:30 am Meet at the parking lot off Guildwood Parkway at Galloway. Lunch  
 optional.

Tuesday MOORE PARK RAVINE - Birds Don tributary, Toronto/East York  
 May 27 Leader: Lise Anglin  
 6:45 pm Meet at the ravine entrance on Moore Avenue just east of Welland Ave.

Wednesday METRO ZOO - Nature Arts Rouge, Scarborough  
 May 28 Leader: Betty Paul  
 10:30 am Meet at the Zoo entrance. Lunch optional. Bring stool, sketching  
 materials and/or camera.

Thursday CROTHERS WOODS - Botany Don, East York  
 May 29 Leader: Phil Joiner  
 6:45 pm Meet at the southwest corner of Millwood Road and Crothers Road.

Saturday HUMBER ARBORETUM - Wildflowers West Humber, Etobicoke  
 May 31 Leaders: Phil Joiner and Judy Hernandez  
 11 am Meet at the Arboretum building which is on the campus of Humber  
 College (south of Humber College Blvd. and west of Hwy 27.) Bring  
 lunch. Coffee will be provided. This is a joint outing with the  
 CANADIAN WILDFLOWER SOCIETY who will also be providing leaders.

## TFN OUTINGS COMMITTEE 1985-1986

Howard Battae 225-9780  
 Joyce Cave 229-6771  
 Eva Davis 694-8928  
 Helen Juhola 924-5806  
 Robin Powell 928-9493  
 Mary Smith 231-5302

Sandy Cappell 663-7738  
 Mary Cumming 699-6532  
 Phil Joiner 496-0735  
 Betty Paul 224-0793  
 Ann Reynolds 842-0904

# June

This month is nesting time for most birds and a good time to sharpen your skills at behaviour observation. Finding a nest is not all that difficult; find one and watch. All sorts of interactions take place within the nesting territory and many behavioural characteristics can be identified. Don't be impatient. If there's a lull in the action, take the opportunity to examine the insects and plant life around you.

○ FULL MOON (June 22)

☉ DARK OF THE MOON (June 7)

OUT OF  
TOWN

Sunday  
June 1  
10 am to  
5 pm  
minibus

BRONTE - Nature walk  
Leader: Ann Reynolds  
west of Metro  
Call Helen Juhola (924-5806) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS BRONTE OUTING to Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Islington station promptly at 10 am and returns there at 5 pm.

Monday  
June 2  
6:45 pm

LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE AND WYCHWOOD POND - Evening Ramble  
Leaders: Aarne and Helen Juhola  
Toronto  
Meet at the southeast corner of St. Clair Avenue West and Bathurst.

Wednesday  
June 4  
11 am

EAST DON NORTH OF METRO  
Leader: Miriam Faibish  
East Don, Thornhill  
Meet at the northeast corner of Leslie and Steeles Avenue East.  
Bring lunch.

OUT OF  
TOWN

Saturday  
June 7  
9 am to  
5 pm  
minibus

LUTHER MARSH - Botany  
Leader: Dennis Clarke  
northwest of Metro  
Call Helen Juhola (924-5806) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS LUTHER MARSH TRIP to Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Finch station promptly at 9 am and returns there at 5 pm. Waterproof footwear is recommended. This will be a STRENUOUS day.

Sunday  
June 8  
10:30 am

ROUGE TRIBUTARY - Nature Walk  
Leader: Robin Powell  
Rouge, Scarborough  
Meet at the corner of Morningside Avenue and Littles Road. Bring lunch. This will be a STRENUOUS outing.

Tuesday  
June 10  
6:45 pm

GARRISON CREEK NORTH - Evening Ramble  
Leader: Sandy Cappell  
Toronto  
Meet at the northeast corner of Bloor Street East and Christie St. The walk will end at St. Clair Avenue.

Wednesday  
June 11  
11 am

VYNER RAVINE - Nature Walk  
Leader: Eileen Mayo  
East Don, North York  
Meet at the northwest corner of Leslie Street and Bannatyne Drive (just south of Hwy 401). Bring lunch.

Saturday  
June 14  
10:30 am

NEWTONBROOK RAVINE - Nature Arts  
Leader: Joyce Cave  
East Don, North York  
Meet at the southeast corner of Cummer Avenue and Silverview Drive (just east of Yonge Street). Bring lunch, stool, sketching materials and/or camera.

## JUNE OUTINGS (cont'd)

OUT OF TOWN
----------------

- Saturday  
June 14  
8:30 am  
to 5:30 pm  
minibus
- JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE  
Leader: Ann Reynolds  
Call Helen Juhola (924-5806) if you plan to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS RESERVE OUTING to Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Finch passenger pick-up promptly at 8:30 am and returns there at 5:30 pm. Waterproof footwear is recommended.
- northeast of Metro
- Sunday  
June 15  
10 am
- MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY - Trees and Shrubs  
Leader: Emily Hamilton  
Meet at the entrance on the east side of Mt. Pleasant Road (north of Moore Avenue, south of Merton Street). Morning only.
- Toronto
- Wednesday  
June 18  
11 am
- HUMBER VALLEY NORTH OF STEELES - Nature Walk  
Leader: Billie Bridgman  
Meet at the northwest corner of Islington Avenue and Steeles Avenue West. Bring lunch.
- Humber, Woodbridge
- Thursday  
June 19  
6:45 pm
- HIGH PARK - Evening Ramble  
Leader: Isabel Smith  
Meet at the park entrance on Bloor Street West at West Road (opposite High Park Road). We hope to see lupins in flower.
- Toronto
- Saturday  
June 21  
9 am to  
5 pm  
bus
- ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS - Botany  
Leader: Emily Hamilton  
Call Helen Juhola (924-5806) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS RBG TRIP to Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3. Bring lunch. Bus leaves from corner of Old York Mills Road and Yonge Street (south of York Mills station) promptly at 9 am and returns there at 5 pm. Washroom on bus.
- west of Toronto
- Sunday  
June 22  
2 pm
- JAMES GARDENS - Ferns  
Leader: Frank Kershaw  
Meet at the park entrance on Edenbridge Drive, east of Royal York Road (halfway between Dundas Street West and Eglinton Avenue West).
- Humber, Etobicoke
- Wednesday  
June 25  
10:30 am
- EDWARDS GARDENS - Nature Arts  
Leader: Joan Stirling  
Meet at the southwest corner of Leslie and Lawrence. Bring lunch, stool, sketching materials and/or camera.
- Wilket Creek, North York
- Friday  
June 27  
6:45 pm
- WARDEN WOODS - Evening Ramble  
Leader: Tom Swales  
Meet at the southeast corner of Warden and St. Clair Avenue East. Walk may end at Victoria Park station.
- Taylor Creek, Scarborough
- Saturday  
June 28  
8:45 am
- TORONTO ISLAND - Shrubs  
Leader: Emily Hamilton  
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street to take the first ferry. Bring lunch. We will look at shrubs along the board walk.
- lake, Toronto

JUNE OUTINGS (cont'd)

Sunday ROUGE VALLEY - Nature Walk Rouge, Scarborough  
 June 29 Leader: James Garratt  
 10 am to Call Eileen Mayo (445-4621) if you want to attend. Confirm by  
 3:30 pm sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) to Eileen  
minibus Mayo, 405-44 Stubbs Drive, Willowdale M2L 2R3. Bus leaves Kennedy  
 station promptly at 10 am and returns there at 3:30 pm. Bring  
 lunch. We will be visiting the Finch meander area of the Rouge.  
 A rugged outing.



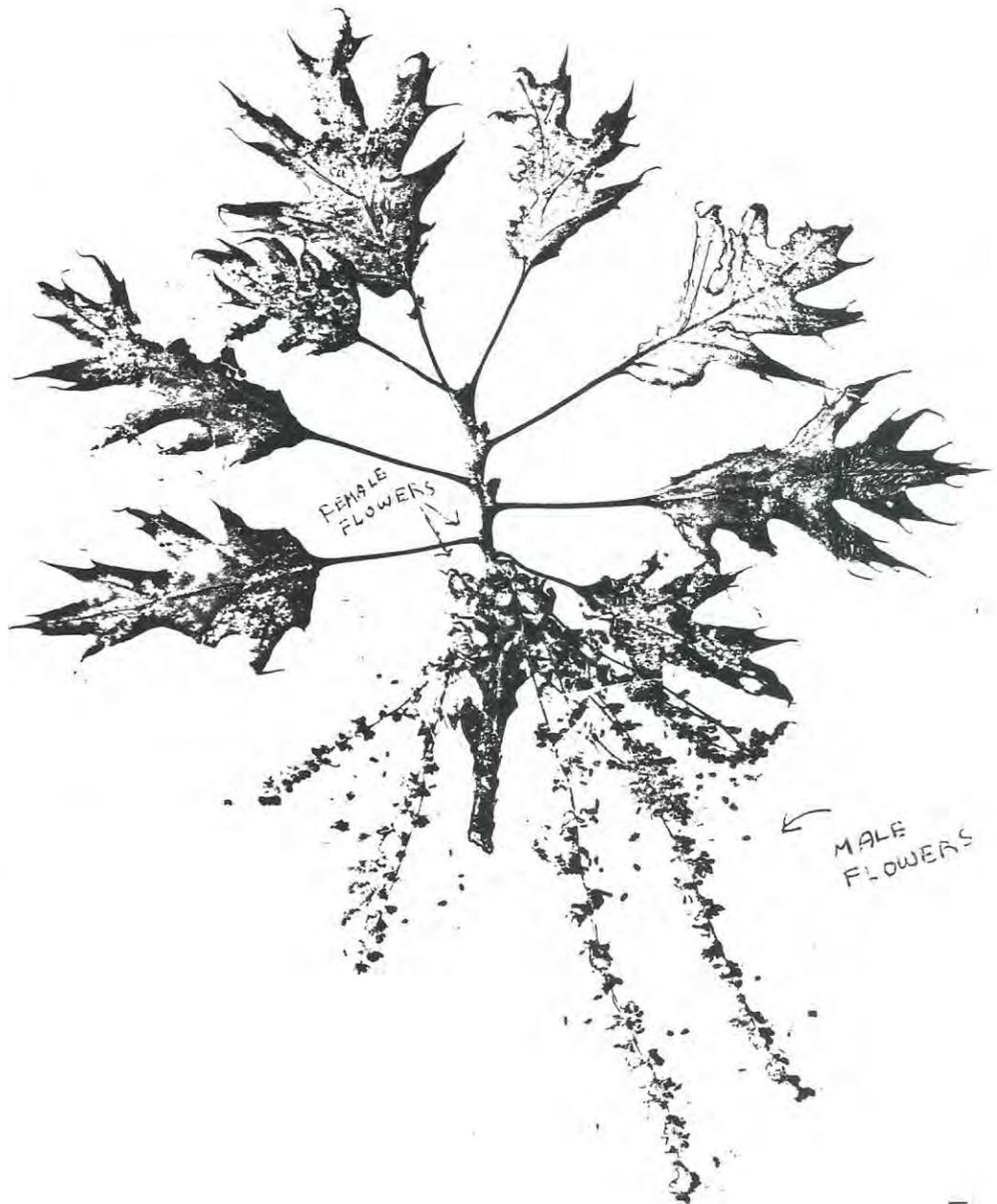
This is a slightly touched-up photocopy of an actual twig

found on the ground in Sherwood Park on TFN Outing of May 12, 1976

with inflorescence and young leaves intact.

Actual size.

DB



# July

It seems as though we've no sooner seen the end of spring bird migration than some arctic nesting shorebirds close shop and start heading south again. If we look upon some birds as being harbingers of spring, then I guess these could be considered harbingers of fall. Don't panic. It's only July; we still have many warm, sunny days ahead of us.

○ FULL MOON (July 21)

☾ DARK OF THE MOON (July 7)

- |   |   |                         |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Tuesday<br>July 1<br>11 am              | TAYLOR CREEK - Canada Day Inventory<br>Leaders: Aarne and Helen Juhola<br>Meet on the southwest corner of Woodbine and O'Connor. Bring lunch.   | Taylor Creek, East York |
| Wednesday<br>July 2<br>11 am            | WEST DON NORTH OF STEELES<br>Leader: Cathy Heynes<br>Meet at the northeast corner of Steeles Avenue West and Dufferin. Bring lunch. Outing may end elsewhere.   | West Don, Vaughan       |
| Thursday<br>July 3<br>6:45 pm           | BURKE BROOK - Evening Ramble<br>Leaders: Eileen and Geoff Chopping<br>Meet on the southeast corner of Yonge St. and Lawrence Avenue.  | West Don, Toronto       |
| Saturday<br>July 5<br>9 am to<br>5 pm   | HAPPY VALLEY - Botany<br>Leaders: John and Heather Harris<br>Call Eileen Mayo, 445-4621, if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS HAPPY VALLEY OUTING to Eileen Mayo, 405-44 Stubbs Dr., Willowdale M2L 2R3. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Finch station promptly at 9 am and returns there at 5 pm.  | northwest of Metro      |
|   |   | <u>minibus</u>          |
| Sunday<br>July 6<br>10:30 am<br>to 4 pm | ROUGE VALLEY - Nature Walk<br>Leader: Carole Elion<br>Call Eileen Mayo, 445-4621, if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS ROUGE OUTING to Eileen Mayo, 405-44 Stubbs Drive, Willowdale M2L 2R3. Bus leaves Kennedy station promptly at 10:30 am and returns there at 4 pm. Bring lunch. We will be visiting the northeast corner of Scarborough. | Rouge, Scarborough      |
| <u>minibus</u>                          |   |                         |
| Tuesday<br>July 8<br>6:45 pm            | GARRISON CREEK SOUTH - Evening Ramble<br>Leader: Sandy Cappell<br>Meet on the northeast corner of Bloor Street West and Christie St. Walk will end near Fort York.  | Toronto                 |
| Wednesday<br>July 9<br>11 am            | HUMBER VALLEY - Butterflies<br>Leader: Bill Edmonds<br>Meet on the southwest corner of Kipling Avenue and John Garland Blvd. Bring lunch.   | Humber, Etobicoke       |
| Saturday<br>July 12<br>10 am            | TODMORDEN MILLS - Nature Arts<br>Leader: Mary Cumming<br>Meet at the entrance to the park on Pottery Road which runs west and downhill off Broadview Avenue north of Danforth Avenue. Bring lunch, stool, sketching materials and/or cameras. Topic will be skies.  | Don, East York          |

OUT OF  
TOWN

## JULY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Sunday BELLAMY RAVINE - Nature Walk lakeshore, Scarborough  
 July 13 Leader: James Garratt  
 10:30 am Meet at the southwest corner of Kingston Road and Bellamy Road.  
 Bring lunch.

Monday CASTLE FRANK - Evening Ramble Don, Toronto  
 July 14 Leader: Muriel Miville  
 6:45 pm Meet at the Castle Frank subway station. Walk will end elsewhere.

Wednesday ROWNTREE MILLS PARK - Nature Walk Humber, North York  
 July 16 Leader: Billie Bridgman  
 11 am Meet at the northwest corner of Islington Avenue and Finch Avenue  
 West. Bring lunch.

Saturday L'AMOREAUX PARK - Nature Walk Highland Creek, Scarborough  
 July 19 Leader: Raphael Sussman  
 11 am Meet at the tennis centre in the park which is east of Birchmount  
 Road and north of Finch Avenue East. Bring lunch. This will be a  
 loop walk.

Sunday ROUGE VALLEY - Nature Walk Rouge, Scarborough  
 July 20 Leader: Eva Davis  
 10:30 am Meet at the corner of Twyn Rivers Drive and Sheppard Avenue East  
 (Glen Eagles Hotel parking lot). Bring lunch. We hope to see the  
 woolly foxgloves in bloom.

Tuesday TAYLOR CREEK - Evening Ramble Taylor Creek, East York  
 July 22 Leader: Melanie Milanich  
 6:45 pm Meet at the Victoria Park subway station (just outside).

Wednesday SPADINA HOUSE - Nature Arts Toronto  
 July 23 Leader: Betty Paul  
 10:30 am Meet at the entrance on the west side of Spadina Road at Austin  
 Terrace (just east of Casa Loma). Bring lunch, sketching materials  
 stool and/or camera. Tours are available for \$3.00; seniors \$1.50.

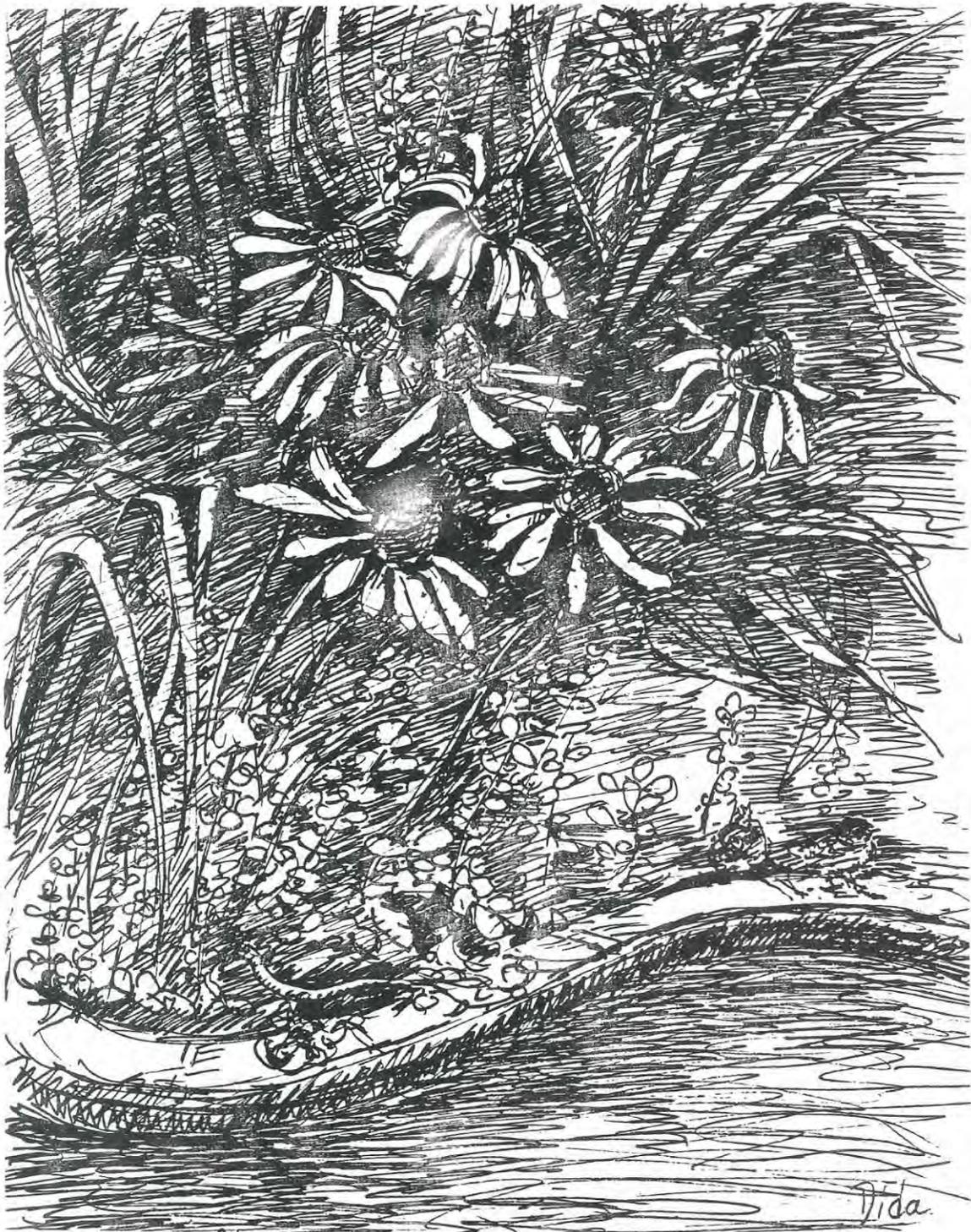
Saturday BLACK CREEK - Nature Walk Black Creek, North York  
 July 26 Leader: John Maher of the BLACK CREEK PROJECT  
 9 am Meet on the bridge over Black Creek on Shoreham Drive which is  
 north of Finch and east of Jane Street. Lunch optional.

Sunday DON VALLEY - Bees Don, East York  
 July 27 Leader: Charles Sauriol  
 11 am Meet at Todmorden Mills (on Pottery Road which runs west and down-  
 hill off Broadview Avenue north of Danforth Avenue). Long sleeves,  
 long pants are recommended; gloves and a veil are recommended for  
 those who want a close look at the bees. Bring lunch.

Wednesday EARL BALES PARK RAVINES - Nature Walk West Don, North York  
 July 30 Leader: Sandy Cappell  
 11 am Meet at the northeast corner of Bathurst Street and Timberlane Ave.  
 which is south of Sheppard Avenue West. Bring lunch.

JULY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Thursday SUMMERHILL - Evening Ramble  
July 31 Leader:  
6:45 pm Meet at the Summerhill subway station.



Purple coneflowers in the Peace Garden, City Hall, Toronto  
TFN Nature Arts Outing - September 18 1985



# August

Among the many interesting things happening in August to watch for are flocks of 40 to 50 nighthawks migrating through Metro's ravines and along the lakeshore, the first waves of fall warbler migration, and asters and goldenrods coming into bloom.

○ FULL MOON (August 19)

☉ DARK OF THE MOON (August 5)

OUT OF  
TOWN

- |   |  |                                |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Saturday<br>August 2<br>8:30 am<br>to 5:30 pm<br><u>minibus</u> | JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE<br>Leader: Ann Reynolds<br>Call Helen Juhola (924-5806) if you plan to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS RESERVE OUTING to Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Finch passenger pick-up promptly at 8:30 am and returns there at 5:30 pm. Waterproof footwear is recommended. | northeast of Metro             |
| Sunday<br>August 3<br>11 am                                     | WEST DON VALLEY - Nature Walk<br>Leaders: Robin Powell and Helen Juhola<br>Meet on the south side of Eglinton Avenue East at Leslie Street. Bring lunch. This will be a <u>STRENUOUS</u> outing.   | West Don, North York/East York |
| Monday<br>August 4<br>5 pm to<br>8 pm                           | TODMORDEN - Simcoe Day Picnic<br>Leader: Muriel Miville<br>Meet at the entrance to the park on Pottery Road which runs west and downhill off Broadview Avenue, north of Danforth Avenue. Bring your supper.  | Don, East York                 |
| Wednesday<br>August 6<br>11 am                                  | EAST DON - Nature Walk<br>Leader: Miriam Faibish<br>Meet at the shopping plaza on the north side of Finch Avenue East, east of Bayview Avenue. Bring lunch.  | East Don, North York           |
| Friday<br>August 8<br>6:45 pm                                   | ROSEDALE - Evening Ramble<br>Leader:<br>Meet at the Rosedale subway station. Walk will end at another station.   | Don tributary, Toronto         |
| Saturday<br>August 9<br>10 am                                   | RIVERDALE FARM - Nature Arts<br>Leader: Mary Cumming<br>Meet at the gate of the farm (the corner of Winchester and Sumac). Bring lunch, stool, sketching materials and/or camera.  | Don, Toronto                   |
| Sunday<br>August 10<br>10:30 am                                 | MORNINGSIDE PARK - Nature Walk<br>Leaders: Gay and Phil Joiner<br>Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Morningside Avenue. Bring lunch.   | Highland Creek, Scarborough    |
| Wednesday<br>August 13<br>11 am                                 | PINE HILLS CEMETERY - Nature Walk<br>Leader: Eileen Mayo<br>Meet at the southeast corner of Warden and St. Clair Avenue East. Bring lunch.   | Taylor Creek, Scarborough      |

▷

## AUGUST OUTINGS (cont'd)

Thursday August 14 TADDLE CREEK AND UNIVERSITY GROUNDS - Evening Ramble Toronto  
 6:45 pm Leader:  
 Meet at the Bedford exit of the St. George station. Walk will end at another station.

Friday August 15 DORSET - Nature Weekend north of Metro

Leader: Ann Reynolds  
 Call Helen Juhola (924-5806) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending cheque for \$90.00 (to cover transportation, food and shared -- two to a room -- accommodation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS DORSET OUTING to Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3. Bring a lunch for the trip north if you don't have time to eat before. (We will be provided with coffee and cookies when we arrive.) Bus leaves the corner of Old York Mills and Yonge (south exit of York Mills subway station) promptly at 6 pm and returns there at 6 pm on Sunday August 17. Washroom on bus.

+

Saturday August 16 TORONTO ISLAND - Birds lake, Toronto  
 9 am Leader: Annabel Cathral  
 Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street in time to take the 9 am ferry. Bring lunch and membership card.

+

Sunday August 17 WEST HUMBER - Geology West Humber, Etobicoke  
 1 pm Leader: Alfred Adamo  
 Meet in the parking lot of Thistletown Collegiate (on Fordwich Cres., south of Albion Road and on the west side of Islington Avenue). We will be walking west to observe fossilized sedimentary structures and erosional features. Outing will end where it begins.

Tuesday August 19 CEDARVALE RAVINE - Evening Ramble Don tributary, Toronto/York  
 6:45 pm Leader: Dennis Clarke  
 Meet at the Heath Street exit of the St. Clair station of the Spadina subway line.

Wednesday August 20 TORONTO ISLAND - Monarch Butterflies lake, Toronto  
 11 am Leader: Bill Edmonds  
 Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street in time to take the 11 am ferry. Bring lunch and membership card.

Saturday August 23 EAST POINT - Nature Walk lakeshore, Scarborough  
 10 am to 4 pm Leader: John ten Bruggenkate  
 Call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS EAST POINT OUTING to Eva Davis, 203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Kennedy passenger pick-up promptly at 10 am and returns there at 4 pm.

Sunday August 24 LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds lakeshore, Toronto  
 10 am Leader: Glenn Coady  
 Meet at the foot of Leslie Street. Lunch optional.

+ Sunday August 24 LESLIE STREET SPIT - Changing Geography of the Spit lakeshore, Toronto  
 1:30 pm Leader: Roy Merrens  
 Meet at the foot of Leslie Street.

OUT OF  
TOWN

Bus

## AUGUST OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Monday BELTLINE - Evening Ramble Toronto  
 August 25 Leader: Joan Patterson  
 6:45 pm Meet at the southwest corner of Davisville and Yonge St. to walk west. Walk may end at Eglinton Avenue West.
- Wednesday WILKET CREEK - Nature Arts Wilket Creek, North York  
 August 27 Leader: Martha Wallace  
 10:30 am Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Leslie Street (opposite the Inn on the Park), north of Eglinton Avenue East. Bring lunch, stool, sketching materials and/or camera.
- Saturday TORONTO ISLAND - Lakeshore Flora lake, Toronto  
 August 30 Leader: Emily Hamilton  
 8:45 am Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street. Bring lunch and membership card.
- Sunday TORONTO ISLAND - Birds lake, Toronto  
 August 31 Leader: Herb Elliott  
 10 am Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street. Bring lunch and membership card.



# COMING EVENTS

## COMING EVENTS

### Kortright Centre for Conservation

Wildflowers - May 3, 4, 10, 11, 17-19, 24, 25, 31.  
The Kortright Centre is on Pine Valley Drive, south of Major Mackenzie Drive, west of Highway 400. Telephone 661-6600.

### Society of Ontario Nut Growers

Saturday, July 26 - Annual Meeting of Society of Ontario Nut Growers - Grimo Nut Nursery, Niagara-on-the-Lake.  
For details contact: Mrs. Marion Grimo, R.R. 3, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. LOS 1J0

### Royal Botanical Gardens

For details about the following events, contact: Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario. L8N 3H8. Telephone (416) 527-1158.  
Spring Wildflower Studies - May 3, 10, 24, 31  
Identification of Native Trees - June 14, 16  
Spring Bird Walks - May 11, 25  
Birds Up Close - May 17  
Noon-Hour Nature Walks - April 29, May 1, 6, 8, 13, 16, 20, 22  
Monday Meanders - July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 11, 18, 25  
Outdoor Explorers, a Day Camp for 9-12 year olds - July 28 to August 1; or August 18 to 22.

### Bancroft Gemboree

July 31 - August 3 -- The annual Bancroft Gemboree will feature mineral and lapidary demonstrations, displays from all over the continent and field trips. For further information, call Eva Davis, 694-8928.

### Arctic Adventures Program

April 25, 8.00 p.m. - "Arctic Adventures" with John and Janet Foster, Whitchurch Highlands P.S., Bloomington Road and Warden Avenue. Telephone 727-8954 or 640-2395 for details.

### The Black Creek Project

April 26, 9.30 a.m. - Work day. Gordon Mackay Road, behind McDonald's.  
Call Margo Sheppard 536-1487 for details.  
May 10, 9.00 a.m. - Giant Garage Sale. Resalable "treasures and junk" needed. Call Jack and Irene Townsend, 532-8385.  
May 31 - Bird Walk. Call Barb Scott, 248-4890.

### Y. W. C. A.

April 25-27 - Spring Women's Weekend - Flexible program, hiking, wild flowers. \$65.00. Telephone 961-8100 for details.

### Save the Rouge Valley System

May 4, 1.00 p.m. Walk. Meet at Glen Eagles Hotel, corner of Sheppard and Twin Rivers Drive.

▽

## UPCOMING EVENTS (cont'd)

CANADIAN WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting and native plant sale will be held at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East (at Leslie and Don Mills). Call Tom Atkinson 449-7907 for details. Meeting will be on Saturday May 19.

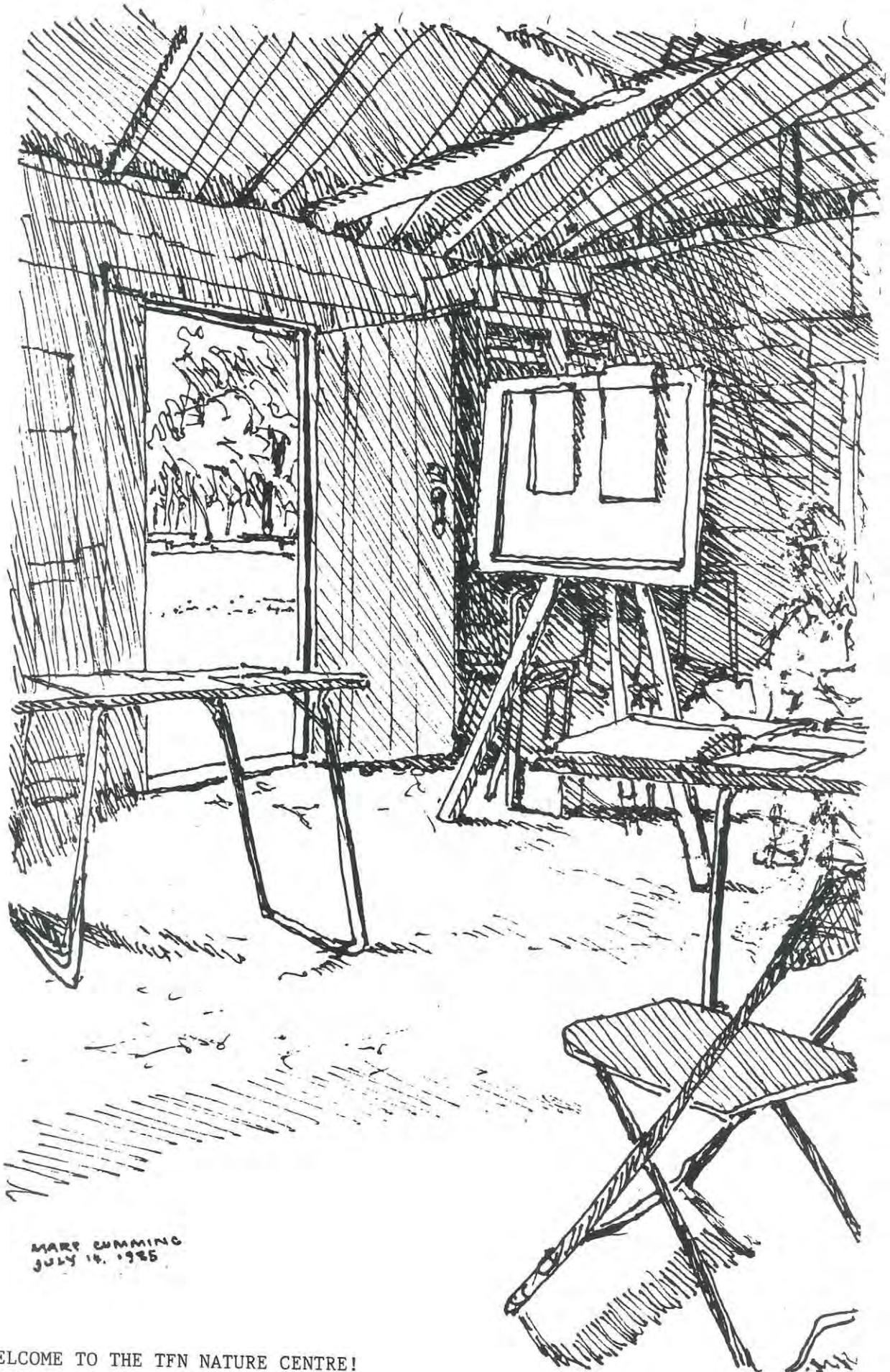
Native species of wildflowers and ferns being offered for sale are jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Canada lily (*Lilium canadense*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginiana*), white trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), yellow trillium (*Trillium lutea*), sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica triloba*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia compressa*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*). In addition to the above there will be a table of rare, native Ontario wildflowers and ferns grown by members from seed and spores. All proceeds will go to the Canadian Wildflower Society. All plants for sale have been nursery grown or from members' gardens, The Society does not condone the transplanting of plants from the wild except in rescue projects where permission from the owner has been obtained. The public is cordially invited to the sale and meeting.

□



If a bird is found, dead or alive, either colour-marked or with band(s) on its leg(s), around its neck, or on its bill, or wing-tagged, information regarding numbers, colour and location of band, date and place found, should be sent to: Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, K1A 0H3.

□



WELCOME TO THE TFN NATURE CENTRE!  
(Sunnybrook Park)

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Your current membership expires June 30, 1986. To renew your membership for the year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, and ensure receiving a September newsletter, send payment by June 30, 1986.

Please renew now to help spread the work-load for our volunteers and to save us the expense of sending the renewal notice.

I wish to  renew (check name and address on back)  give a donation\*

Remittance enclosed in the amount of:

- \$20 Family (2 adults, same address)
- \$15 Senior Family (2 adults 65+)
- \$15 Single
- \$10 Single Senior
- \$10 Student
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation\*

\*Tax receipts issued for donations



# TFN MEETINGS

VISITORS WELCOME

## GENERAL MEETING

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

Monday, May 5, 1986. 8:00 p.m. (Coffee at 7:15)

Trumpeter Swan Restoration in Ontario -  
Harry G. Lumsden, Research Scientist, Wildlife Research Section,  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Maple.

Mr. Lumsden will present a brief history of the Trumpeter Swan in Ontario, and report on results of experiments to find out if feral Mute Swans on the Toronto Waterfront can foster-raise Trumpeter Cygnets.

Library Night: 7:15-7:55. Borrow, return, or arrange to retain books.

## GROUP MEETINGS

There will be no group meetings in May. See pages 23 to 35 for outings during the spring and summer months.

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

### Junior Club

Sat. May 3      Back Packing in B.C.  
10:00 a.m.      - Paul Harpley  
Location:      Planetarium Auditorium, immediately south of  
                         Royal Ontario Museum.

---

TFN PUBLICATIONS, HASTI-NOTES, AND PRINTS OF SELECTED NEWSLETTER COVERS FOR SALE AT ALL GENERAL MEETINGS.


**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS**

 83 Joicey Boulevard  
 Toronto, Ontario M5M 2T4

 SECOND CLASS MAIL  
 Registration Number  
 6669

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST**

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

Editorial Committee

Helen Juhola	(924-5806)	#112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1B3
Diana Banville	(690-1963)	#710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto, Ont. M4C 5L7
Alexander Cappell	(663-7738)	#109 - 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., Willowdale M2R 2Z4
Eva Davis	(694-8928)	#203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5
Mildred Easto	(488-0962)	#416 - 28 Broadway Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4P 1T5
Florence Preston	(483-9530)	#203 - 368 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto M4P 1L9
Mary-Louise Stewart	(960-9860)	#203 - 221 Russell Hill Road, Toronto M4V 2T3

Members are encouraged to submit notices, reports, articles up to 1,500 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>TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS.</b>	\$ 2.00 ea.
<b>ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION</b>		Survey #1-Chatsworth Ravine, 1973	
by R.M. Saunders, 1965 .....	\$ .50	Survey #2-Brookbanks Ravine, 1974	
<b>CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO</b>		Survey #3-Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975	
<b>PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER</b>		Survey #4-Wigmore Ravine, 1975	
<b>VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 1972 .....</b>	.50	Survey #5-Park Drive Ravine, 1976	
<b>TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976</b>		Survey #6-Burke Ravine, 1977	
Metropolitan Toronto's important natural		Survey #7-Taylor Creek-Woodbine	
areas are described and recommendations		Bridge Ravines, 1977	
given for their conservation and manage-		Survey #8-West Don Valley, 1978	
ment; includes maps, bibliography and		<b>INDEX OF TFM NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978) ....</b>	10.00
index .....	2.50	<b>ANNUAL TFM INDEX .....</b>	.25 ea.
<b>FIELD CHECKLIST OF PLANTS OF SOUTHERN</b>		<b>AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF METRO</b>	
<b>ONTARIO, 1977 ....5/\$1.00 or .....</b>	.25 ea.	<b>TORONTO, 1983 .....</b>	2.00
<b>TORONTO REGION VERTEBRATE LIST (fishes,</b>		<b>TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 .....</b>	2.00
<b>amphibians, reptiles, mammals), 1985 5/\$1.00 or</b>	.25 ea.	<b>A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985.</b>	2.00
<b>TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST, 1985 5/\$1.00 or</b>	.25 ea.	<b>GUIDE TO TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS'</b>	
		<b>NATURE RESERVE, Leaskdale, Ontario, 1986</b>	2.00

Membership Fees

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

Publication orders (add 50¢ per item for postage and handling), membership fees and address changes should be sent to:-

83 Joicey Blvd., Toronto, Ontario M5M 2T4 (488-7304)

ISSN 0820-683X