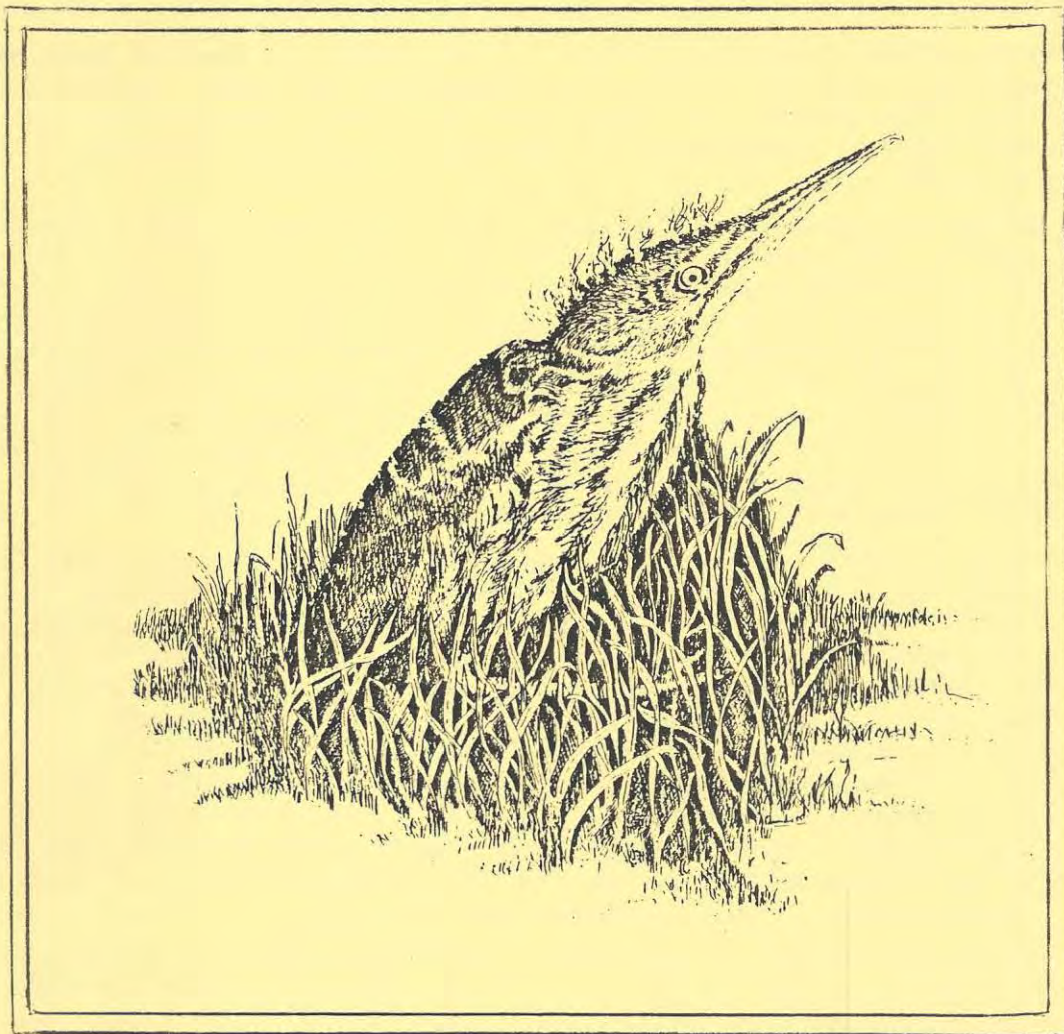




TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 381, September 1986



COVER TO COVER: PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2 - SEPTEMBER OUTINGS 3 - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 5 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS 7 - PEOPLE 7 - HAIKU 8 - KEEPING IN TOUCH 9 - TODMORDEN MILLS REPORT 14 - IN EXCHANGE 16 - TORONTO REGION BIRD RECORDS 17 - PHANTOM FLYERS IN THE NIGHT 18 - OF SHREWS, MOLES, MICE, VOLES 20 - IN THE NEWS 21 - ISSUES 25 - THE WEATHER THIS TIME LAST YEAR 30 - POEM 30 - COURSES OF STUDY 31 - THIS MONTH'S COVER 32 - COMING EVENTS 33 - GRANTS AVAILABLE 34 - TFN MEETINGS 35

President's Report

As there were no written nominations received, your directors for 1986/87 will be those listed on page 3 of the May newsletter. (See also page 7.) Little murmurs have indicated that some members think it is time the reins of the club passed to the men. Now it has happened! Your new President is Phil Joiner who will have Robin Powell as Vice President. Seven of this year's board are men.

- * A follow-up to the April mail problem. Helen Juhola has been in touch with the local postal authorities. I wrote to my Member of Parliament on behalf of the Toronto Field Naturalists. Although there has been a response from both, we have not yet received final answers to why there was such a breakdown in the mail service in April.

Summer brings change in the TFN activities but our environmental concerns don't take a holiday. We continue our conversations with Etobicoke about Etobicoke Creek, we attend MTRCA meetings to keep informed about their projects, we actively participate in the planning process for Tommy Thompson Park, we are involved in the Leslie Extension discussions, and we have been present at the Hearing of Necessity for the expropriation of the Don Valley brickyard property. All this could not be accomplished without people willing to give their time to work for saner and more acceptable ways to marry the desire of commercial and political interests for development to the desirability of preserving or protecting natural features which make Toronto unique.

Helen Juhola and Mary Smith are tireless in their approaches to councillors on environmental matters. Karin Fawthrop is keenly interested in Tommy Thompson Park. (She has also obtained speakers for our general monthly meetings.) Other members have been actively involved in one or more of the issues in the above paragraph. Summer Sundays we have our large corps of volunteers at the cabin, and in the winter, volunteers at the tables at the monthly meetings. We had displays for Environmental Week which required delivering and retrieving material. We support a Junior Club, morally and if necessary, financially. Again, I salute and thank all these willing workers: Eileen Mayo, Ethyl Corbin, Win Brown, Tom Swales, Tom Atkinson, Betty Paul. Without them we would not have been able to accomplish the things we have accomplished or provide extras for members such as the library nights and the Christmas card sales.

Sandy Cappell has decided to step down as director of the Junior Field Naturalists. Sandy did a very fine job for the Juniors. We appreciate and thank him for his contribution. The new director is Pam Kertland. Pam has had a long association with the Juniors, as a child member, as a leader a few years ago and recently, from 1984 to the present, as a group leader. Anyone interested in helping or wanting further information about the Junior Club should call Pam at 889-6074.

I can think of no dramatic highlights during my two years as your President but through the work of many we are now recognized in Toronto. The TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST is sometimes quoted and used by others as source material. We are on environmental mailing lists and receive considerable mail from organizations of like mind, as well as from several government departments -- municipal, provincial and federal.

I relinquish my duties knowing that the TFN is strong and in good hands.

Jean Macdonald

- * This newsletter is scheduled to be put in the mail Aug. 15. □

 Upcoming OUTINGS	TFN 
(NO DOGS) RAIN	 Everybody Welcome!

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Monday
Sept. 1
2 pm | INNER CITY - Deviant Flora
Leaders: Sandy Cappell, Helen Juhola
Meet at the northwest corner of University Ave. and Dundas St. West. | Toronto |
| Wednesday
Sept. 3
11 am | BLACK CREEK - Nature Walk
Leader: Joan Patterson
Meet on Finch Avenue West where it crosses Black Creek (between Keele and Jane). Bring lunch. (Parking in parking lot for Derry-Down Park) | Black Creek, North York |
| Saturday
Sept. 6
8:30 am
to 5 pm
<u>MINIBUS</u> | 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 at 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3. Bring lunch. Bus leaves Finch passenger pick-up promptly at 8:30 and returns there at 5 pm. Waterproof footwear is recommended. | northeast of Metro |
| Sunday
Sept. 7
2 pm | GARRISON CREEK - Nature Walk
Leader: Sandy Cappell
Meet on the southeast corner of College St. and Lansdowne. | Garrison Creek, Toronto |
| Wednesday
Sept. 10
11 am | TAYLOR CREEK FEN - Nature Walk
Leader: Diana Banville
Meet on Victoria Park Avenue just outside the subway station. Bring lunch. | Taylor Creek, East York |
| Saturday
Sept. 13
10 am | TODMORDEN MILLS - Nature Arts
Leader: Mary Cumming
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 |
| Sunday
Sept. 14
10 am | LESLIE STREET SPIT - Birds
Leader: Don Burton
Meet at the foot of Leslie Street. Lunch optional. | lakeshore, Toronto |
| Wednesday
Sept. 17
11 am | WIGMORE PARK - Nature Walk
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. | East Don, North York |



SEPTEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

OUT OF
TOWN

- Saturday
Sept. 20
8 am to
6 pm
BUS
- PORT STANLEY - Migrating Hawks southwest of Metro
Leader: Howard Battae
Call Eileen Mayo (445-4621) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$20.00 (to cover transportation) payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS HAWK OUTING to Eileen at 405 - 44 Stubbs Dr., Willowdale M2L 2R3. Bus leaves the southeast corner of Old York Mills and Yonge (south exit of York Mills subway station) promptly at 8 am and returns there at 6 pm. Washroom on bus. Bring lunch and a snack. [See pages 16-17.]
- Sunday
Sept. 21
11 am
- MORNINGSIDE CREEK - Nature Walk Rouge, Scarborough
Leader: Robin Powell
Meet at the corner of Morningside Avenue and Littles Road (TTC stop north of Sheppard Avenue East). Warning: Littles Road is now closed off for redevelopment so parking is inconvenient. Bring lunch. This will be a rugged walk.
- Wednesday
Sept. 24
10:30 am
- METRO ZOO - Nature Arts Rouge, Scarborough
Leader: Mary Cumming
Meet at the Zoo entrance. Bring sketching materials and/or cameras. Lunch optional.
- Saturday
Sept. 27
9 am
- EDWARDS GARDENS - Nature from a bike Don, North York,
Leader: Tom Atkinson East York, Toronto
Meet at the bike path entrance at the southwest corner of the parking lot of Edwards Gardens. Warning: No trip if it is raining. Try again on Sunday -- same time, same place.
- Saturday
Sept. 27
9 am to
4 pm
MINIBUS
- DUFFINS CREEK - Aquatic Insects east of Metro
Leaders: Rein Jaagumagi and Phil Joiner
Call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 (to cover transportation) to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS DUFFINS OUTING to Eva at 203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5. Bring rubber boots and lunch. Bus leaves Kennedy passenger pick-up (Kiss & Ride) promptly at 9 am and returns there at 4 pm.
- Sunday
Sept. 28
10 am
- HUMBER BAY PARK EAST - Birds lakeshore, Etobicoke
Leader: Howard Battae
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. West at Park Lawn Road. Lunch optional.

□

TTC RIDE GUIDES are free at any subway station.

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

TTC information: 393-4636

For maps of Metro, MAPART is available from bookshops for \$1 to \$3.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

I have examined the balance sheet of the Toronto Field Naturalists as at June 30, 1986 and the income statement for the year then ended. My examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of the accounting records and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

Membership fees, donations and other revenues are as shown in the books. These receipts have been tested by me to bank deposits. However, because of their nature, these revenues are not susceptible to complete audit verification.

In my opinion, subject to the limitation of the scope of my audit as explained above, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the corporation as at June 30, 1986 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



ALISTAIR J. KENNEDY
Chartered Accountant

TORONTO CANADA
July 17, 1986

49 Harringay Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario M1W 1Z4 - (416) 491-1564

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

(Incorporated without share capital under the laws of the Province of Ontario)

BALANCE SHEET
as at June 30, 1986

	<u>ASSETS</u>	
	1986	1985
Current Assets		
Cash - for general club purposes	\$22,777	\$19,797
Accrued Interest	423	797
Short Term Investments	5,000	5,000
Inventory	1,977	1,941
Photo Library (Note 2)	2,000	-
	<u>\$32,177</u>	<u>\$27,535</u>
	<u>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>	
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 487	\$ 451
Membership Fees received in advance	7,895	9,210
	<u>8,382</u>	<u>9,661</u>
	<u>EQUITY</u>	
Retained Earnings		
Balance at beginning of year	17,874	14,342
Capitalization of Photo Library (Note 2)	1,600	-
Income (loss) for year	4,321	3,532
	<u>23,795</u>	<u>17,874</u>
	<u>\$32,177</u>	<u>\$27,535</u>
Working Capital: Dollars	23,795	17,874
Ratio	3.83:1	2.85:1
	<u>JAMES BAILLIE RESERVE - RESTRICTED FUNDS (Note 1)</u>	
Current Assets		
Cash	\$47,734	\$56,739
Short Term Investments	27,405	7,405
Accrued Interest	1,897	1,518
	<u>77,036</u>	<u>65,662</u>
Property and Equipment		
Land	42,770	42,770
Building	\$3,050	1,350
Less Accumulated Depreciation	1,900	44,120
	<u>43,920</u>	<u>44,120</u>
	<u>\$120,956</u>	<u>\$109,782</u>
Equity		
Reserve for future expenditures	77,036	65,662
Property	43,920	44,120
	<u>\$120,956</u>	<u>\$109,782</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Robert Powell (Director) *John Macdonald* (Director)

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

cont'd

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended June 30, 1986

REVENUE	1986	1985	1984
Membership Fees	\$18,570	\$18,715	\$18,325
Publications	482	257	551
Outings (Note 3)	203	(83)	244
	<u>\$19,255</u>	<u>\$18,889</u>	<u>\$19,120</u>
EXPENSES			
Junior Club	80	95	337
Meeting expenses	1,015	918	732
Newsletters, printing and mailing	10,308	11,860	14,904
Other printing expenses	444	458	586
Other mailing expenses	1,311	1,325	1,642
Honoraria	2,500	2,200	2,100
Advertising and publicity	836	795	816
Donations and affiliation fees	25	25	40
Office supplies	764	498	708
Telephone	380	375	375
Storage	391	-	-
	<u>\$18,054</u>	<u>\$18,549</u>	<u>\$22,240</u>
Operating Income (loss)	1,201	340	(3,120)
Interest Income	2,054	1,838	1,709
Net Income (loss) before donations	3,255	2,178	(1,411)
Donations	1,066	1,354	634
Net Income (loss)	<u>\$ 4,321</u>	<u>\$ 3,532</u>	<u>\$ (777)</u>

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
as at June 30, 1986

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

JAMES BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE

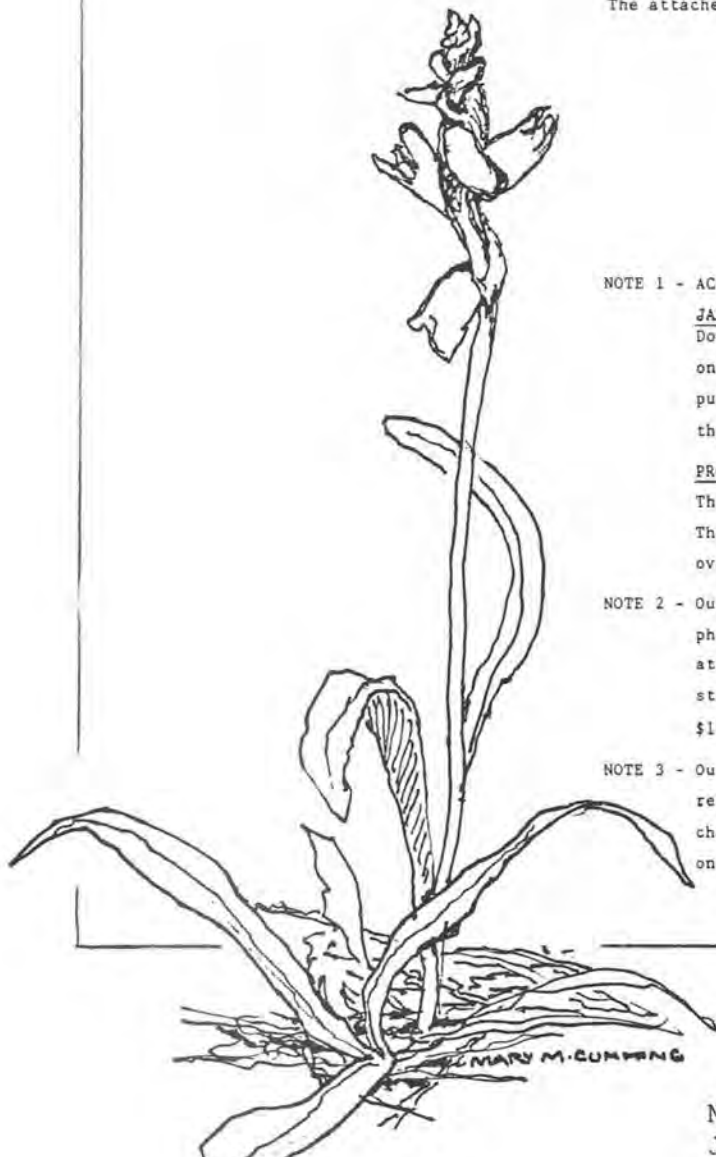
Donations received for the James Baillie Nature Reserve are segregated on the financial statements, and are to be used solely for Reserve purposes. The interest earned on these funds is sufficient to cover the normal operating costs of the Reserve.

PROPERTY VALUATION

The land and Shelter at the Baillie Nature Reserve are recorded at cost. The cost of the Shelter is being amortized on a straight line basis over its estimated useful life of 15 years.

NOTE 2 - Our photo library has become a valuable asset. To reflect this the photo library has been set up as an asset at the valuation of \$2,000.00, at cost, arrived at by our photo librarian. To reflect this on the statements, \$400.00 was credited to current years operations and \$1,600.00 to retained earnings.

NOTE 3 - Our insurance coverage is required because of our outings. To correctly reflect the true income from outings, the insurance costs have been charged to outings. Prior years' figures have been restated to be on a comparable basis.



Nodding Ladies'-tresses
James Baillie Nature Reserve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1986-87

President: Phil Joiner, 1703 - 260 Seneca Hill Dr., Willowdale M2J 4S6 (496-0735)
 Vice President: Robin Powell, 402 - 169 St. George St., Toronto M5R 2M4 (928-9493)
 Past President: Jean Macdonald, 88 Parklea Dr., Toronto M4G 2J8 (425-6596)

Directors:

Howard Battae, 130 Alfred Ave., Willowdale M2N 3H9 (225-9780)
 Alexander Cappell, 109 - 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., Willowdale M2R 2Z4 (663-7738)
 Eva Davis, 203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5 (694-8928)
 Karin Fawthrop, 38 Andrew Ave., Scarborough M1M 3H2 (267-5125)
 Aarne Juhola, 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3 (924-5806)
 Clayton Lee, 110 Dovercourt Rd., Toronto M6J 3C4 (536-9512)
 Eileen Mayo, 405 - 44 Stubbs Dr., Willowdale M2L 2R3 (445-4621)
 Mary-Louise Stewart, 203 - 221 Russell Hill Rd., Toronto M4V 2T3 (960-9860)
 Ilmar Talvila, 12 Cranleigh Court, Islington M9A 3Y3 (231-1752)

□

people

FLORENCE PRESTON, who started this column, is a busy person! She isn't likely to change, even though she has turned in her copy-holder; she's donated it to someone else on the Editorial Committee, and we are going to miss her.

It was eight years ago that we started the committee, and Florence was one of the original four. Apart from her years with the Ontario Department of Education, Florence has generously and unassumingly absorbed herself in work. She has chaired the Botany Group of TFN, acted as hostess at Gibson House, has been described as an accomplished pianist, has carefully documented her considerable travels in slides and text, and belongs to a group of bell-ringers. Perhaps her biggest contribution has been her work for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, acting as receptionist-guide, among other things. She learned to operate a braille-writer so that she would be able to transcribe literature into braille, a work in which she now engages daily.

Thank you, Florence, from TFN, and all those who appreciate dedication.



ME & DB

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PEOPLE (cont'd)

Reverend R. Charles Long

TFN lost a good friend and Canada lost a diligent, perceptive scholar and ornithologist with the death last April of Reverend Charles Long.

Reverend Long was best known to naturalists for his studies of the American Robin which was his main ornithological interest for twenty-five years. He probably knew more about the robin than any other ornithologist, and in 1973 he was commissioned to write the booklet on the robin for the Canadian Wildlife Service's HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO series. He spoke to the Junior TFN on the robin in May, 1983.

Reverend Long had studied robin skins in many of the large North American museums, working out geographical plumage variations and the ranges of subspecies.

Some of his boundless robin lore with which he entertained audiences were items like the following: To get here as our cheering harbinger of spring, robins follow the average daily temperature of 37°F as it moves northwards. Earthworms are only a small part of their diet, although earthworms and cutworms are the major food items fed to nestlings. Young are fed an average of 100 meals a day, mostly before noon. Favourite foods of the robin are small fruits and berries, but they sometimes go belly deep in water to catch fish fry and they can also catch flying insects in the air almost as adeptly as flycatchers. Their fruit diet includes poison ivy berries and one of their faults from the human point of view is that this spreads poison ivy seeds.

Reverend Long was born in Toronto and graduated from the Toronto Bible College in 1950. In 1951 he joined the Africa Evangelical Fellowship and worked for eleven years in the British colony of Nyasaland, now Malawi. It was there he met his wife, the former Mary Knight, a mission nurse. He became an authority on the birds of southern Africa and built up an extensive collection which was later donated to the Zimbabwe Museum, the British Museum, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

He returned to Canada in 1962 and served several Baptist pastorates in Ontario until 1978 when declining health forced him to give up his career as a pastor and he returned to Toronto. He had become a research associate at the Royal Ontario Museum in 1965 and continued ornithological studies there until his death.

Among his publications were the following: "An Annotated List of the Birds of Pickering Beach" (where he lived for a number of years) which appeared in seven parts in THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST from 1965 to 1972; "First Appearance of Cassin's Sparrow in Canada" and "Some Summer Birds of Moosonee, Ontario", both in THE ONTARIO FIELD BIOLOGIST 1968.

Fred Bodsworth

□

Crisp apples gathered
in a leafless orchard -
taste of summer sun.

haiku by Judy T. Coggle

Keeping In Touch...

Dear Helen:

March 12, 1986

...First robin here on March 4 this year - then that snow - I hope it survived - I have great feeling for the over-enthusiastic in people or birds!...

Karen (Parker)

Dida,

March 24, 1986

...fortunate enough to wake at 4:15 am to look out the window on a bright starry night and see Halley's Comet, the tail of which looked surprisingly long. We are planning a big safari in May including Etosha and the Kalahari. I'm so lucky, but do miss the Canadian fall. Kind regards to all and good spotting.

Joy Pocklington
Durban,
Republic of South Africa

April 1986.

To Diana . . .

For the first time in over thirty years we are seeing red squirrels. The first we saw, before Christmas, was at the Park Willow apartments at Yonge and Ellerslie. We haven't seen it since; but just this week, April, we saw one farther west on Ellerslie near Senlac Ave.

Friends on Park Home Ave. say they see them often. Apparently they live in the York Cemetery which is just south of Park Home.

V. Heaton
Willowdale.

Dear Beth

April, 1986

Bill and I visited Florida cousins on our way to a rendezvous in Texas with Joy and Clive Goodwin for a week of birding. We went to Ding Darling on Sanibel Island. There was a terrible wind blowing bringing the temperature down to 31°F. Shorebirds covered the mangrove roots looping up out of the water, facing into the wind, motionless, clinging for dear life to the roots. A "pebble" beach proved to be ALL shorebirds huddled up...We saw a big flock of roseate spoonbills fairly close, many in high breeding plumage, huddled in the lee of the wind with a few wood storks and egrets beside them...As we re-entered the house, the dreadful news of the Challenger was relayed to us. We turned and looked east. There was a big puff of white in a cold silent blue sky...We have seen three armadillos up close: two at dusk, and one in sunshine. They must be two feet long with tail, and have such cute ears. They go around grubbing under leaves and roots. They are very shy. So was I when I almost stumbled on one on a trail! There are lots of alligators. One was sunning at Aransas with his mouth open...His teeth were perfect, his gums the colour of bubble gum just like the dentist's model...

Anna McCoy

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Hi,

April 26, 1986

Just a short note to let you all know how much I enjoyed last year's events and that I renew my membership with joy and expectation of yet another year of enjoying our natural surroundings with a group of people who share my enthusiasm. Keep up the good work.

Peter Lowens

Dear Diana:

April 9, 1986

...On Easter Sunday we went up to [Brooker Creek] Park to meet some friends and have [picnic] lunch...There are a lot of cypress trees in the area, and we could see the cypress "knees" sticking up out of the water. In addition, the blue iris were in bloom, and they made a pretty picture. We heard pileated woodpeckers near by, and saw tufted titmouse and Carolina wrens. So all of the birds weren't chased away by the large crowds!...

Don (Carmichael)

Dear Friends,

April 23, 1986

As you know, the Ministry of Natural Resources just announced this week that leasing of provincial parks will end. All parks now in private hands are to be returned to direct Ministry control by 1994.

I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the members of the Ontario Public Employees Union who work in the provincial parks, to thank you for speaking up against park leasing.

Without the briefs, petitions, and letters from naturalist organizations, seniors, and members of the general public, park leasing would not have been halted.

The park workers are pleased with the announcement. They're convinced that keeping parks under Ministry management will ensure that they are well maintained for future generations.

Again, thanks your for support on this important issue.

James Clancy, President
Ont. Public Service Employees Union

Dear Helen,

May 6, 1986

On behalf of all members of the East York Historical and Arts Board and staff members of Todmorden Mills, I wish to express our appreciation of the terrific job that your group did in cleaning up the valley lands surrounding our site on Saturday, April 19th.

The most obvious result of your visit is the absence of litter on the bank of the Parkway facing our Museum which was always an eyesore but, the huge pile of rubber and discarded junk which you collected out of the woods revealed the long time neglect of our beloved valley.

We share your enthusiasm in restoring and preserving the valley lands and shall look forward to further co-operation on future projects.

George Hain, Chairman

Ed. Note. See also pages 14-15.

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KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Dear Diana,

May 20, 1986

Thank you very much for the purple martin file. I had subscribed to the NATURE SOCIETY NEWS last year, so I had a lot of information. Most of the articles that I did not have I xeroxed at school in May. I appreciated particularly the articles of Margaret Nice. I've got one of her books at home about the song sparrow and it is really well written.

My purple martins arrived at the cottage around May the second. They were mature males and I have not seen any females yet. Last year was a lost year. They had to fight (and lost) against the tree swallows for the birdhouse. This year I'm hoping to be more lucky although the tree swallows are still swarming around the house. The main flock of martins arrive mid-May, so I should open the doors soon...

Jaques Gravel

Dear Helen,

May 20, 1986

Early this May, in Rocky Nook Park in Santa Barbara, California, Louise Goldberg and I saw what at first glance appeared to be a Varied Thrush (a large thrush with a gray back, a reddish breast, and a black breast-band), but which, on closer observation, turned out to be (I think) an abnormal American Robin; it did not have the Varied Thrush's eye-stripe and wing-bars, and it had the American Robin's black-and-white throat markings; furthermore, the breast-band was both irregular (varying in width from about 1 to 2 cm) and incomplete (not extending all the way to the sides). Presumably, it was an adult, since it was collecting nesting material; unfortunately, we did not see its mate. (We saw two other American Robins in Santa Barbara, both quite normal.) I vaguely seem to remember reports of similarly abnormal American Robins in Ontario; am I correct in this, and does anyone have any further information on them?

Don Roebuck

Ed. Note:

Perhaps this robin had a "melanistic streak". There are few reports continent-wide of black robins, but many of white ones. Ref: I LIVE WITH BIRDS by Roy Ivor, Ryerson Press 1968, chapter "Robins in White". Also in Bent's (1949) LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN THRUSHES, KINGLETS, AND THEIR ALLIES, it is stated that individual robins may be recognized by areas of white plumage. A normal and albino robin were reported as mating at 78 Broadway, Toronto. It is also stated that albinism is common in the robin but melanism less so, sometimes both phases occurring in the same individual; in others this plumage may be replaced by normal plumage at the next moult. Lilian Simons writes of an albino robin in THE BLUE HERON 24(2):3, 1980. Also in THE CARDINAL 8:2 1953, W. W. Judd tells of a partially albino robin nesting in London, Ontario. We have a photograph on file of an albino robin hatched in Scarborough backyard (GLOBE & MAIL, Thursday, June 7, 1979). Len Eiserer, 1976, in THE AMERICAN ROBIN, A BACKYARD INSTITUTION, Nelson-Hall Chicago, says that sometimes change is gradual; sometimes melanistic robins turn into albinistic ones when melanin is no longer available. Tapeworm or mineral deficiency in the diet may be factors - bones sometimes reveal these conditions. Eiserer also suggests that albinism may be more common in American Robins than in other bird-species, since they are rarely ostracized and get a chance to mate and pass on their genes. However, male albinos are not as successful in obtaining mates as females are. He mentions a black robin being raffled off in 1880 by a saloon-keeper, but does not give the location. We can also bear in mind that black or "blackish" is part of

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KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

the natural plumage of the American Robin and in the transition from black-speckled breast to full adult plumage, there could conceivably be aberrations or delay, resulting in, at least temporarily, abnormal plumage. We welcome further reports.

DB

Dear Helen,

July 9, 1986

Last year I was distressed at the state of the ravine close to where I live. It was littered with garbage which included old rugs, bedsprings, papers, bottles, as well as dumping from nearby excavated sites. Knowing that in a few months I would be leading a TFN group through this area, I made a number of calls to our Parks and Recreation Department (Markham) with a request that the area be cleaned up. My pleas were met with excuses that there was nowhere to put the garbage in our own area and that it had to be driven several miles away. This necessitated expenses, etc. that, I was told, our town could not afford.

In spite of my argument that the area was a public park I did not succeed in getting any results. Fortunately, you mentioned that I try calling the Conservation Authority, which I did. Since the ravine I mentioned is under the jurisdiction of this authority my complaints were met with swift action and in a few weeks the area was cleaned up. For awhile the ground was bare (beds of wildflowers having been destroyed by the dumping) but this spring the ground is starting to fill in. There has been no further dumping and the ravine is again a pleasant place to be.

Others who feel a similar concern such as we did might be encouraged to press on to see that no dumping occurs in the parks and favourite spots in their communities.

Miriam Faibish

Dear Helen,

July 23, 1986

As you'll see from [my address] I've moved from Churchdown and am now settling into a flat right in the centre of town....I had but one enquiry about the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. This was a little disappointing, but other may come along in the future. Since I last wrote, I've been out with the volunteers a number of times, notably a wonderful weekend on Exmoor building a stone bank, Somerset style (very different from the walls I was building in the Pennines) and enjoying the very lovely scenery around Porlock. For the last week in August I'm off to south Wales, building dry stone walls in the Brecon Beacons National Park near Abergavenny. I understand it's a particularly beautiful part of the U.K., but have never been that way before.

I certainly do miss the TFN outings, Helen. This not just because they are enjoyable in themselves, but also because here in Gloucester the Gloucestershire Naturalists Society does not organise any outings which can be taken in unless one has a car. The outings themselves sound very appealing from the newsletter, but starting points are usually along the lines of "meet at the lay-by on the south edge of the wood", and there's no public transportation that will get one to a starting point such as this!...

Janet Illingworth-Cooper

Ed. Note. Enquiries about the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers may be forwarded through Janet at 2A Oxford Street, Gloucester, Glos. GL1 3EQ.

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Dear Sir/Madam:

June 19, 1986

The Citizens for Responsible Nuclear Waste Disposal is a group of residents, including farm families, retired people, professionals, small businessmen, etc., from the Port Hope and Hope Township areas.

We have been active for the past two years in trying to work with the Government of Canada to find an acceptable long-term solution for the storage of the historic radioactive waste in our community which has been produced by Eldorado Resources Ltd., a Federal Government Crown Corporation. Eldorado, which refines uranium, has disposed of radioactive wastes in our community for the past five decades. Eldorado now wants to dig up their wastes which have been inappropriately stored (leaching sites, ravines in the town, etc.) in the community and store them in either one of two proposed sites. One is known as Wesleyville, in our community and is within two miles of Lake Ontario. The second site is unknown. A fact sheet outlining this problem is attached. [See page 24.]

▷ We have argued that a national search should be conducted by an impartial body for a storage site. We have been promised by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, on August 21, 1984, that such a site "would be removed from major population areas and kept well away from any major water resource such as Lake Ontario".

However, on April 25, 1986, Mines Minister Robert Layton stated that a nuclear dump site which would hold nearly one million tonnes of low level radioactive waste could be located at the Wesleyville site or another site farther from Lake Ontario. Significantly, Eldorado Resources, which has a direct interest in this matter, was empowered to choose the Wesleyville site, and will choose the second site.

An Environmental Assessment Review Panel [EARP] process will follow to evaluate the two sites. While we must cooperate with the EARP process, we still feel the site selection process is not fair and we will be fighting this to the best of our ability.

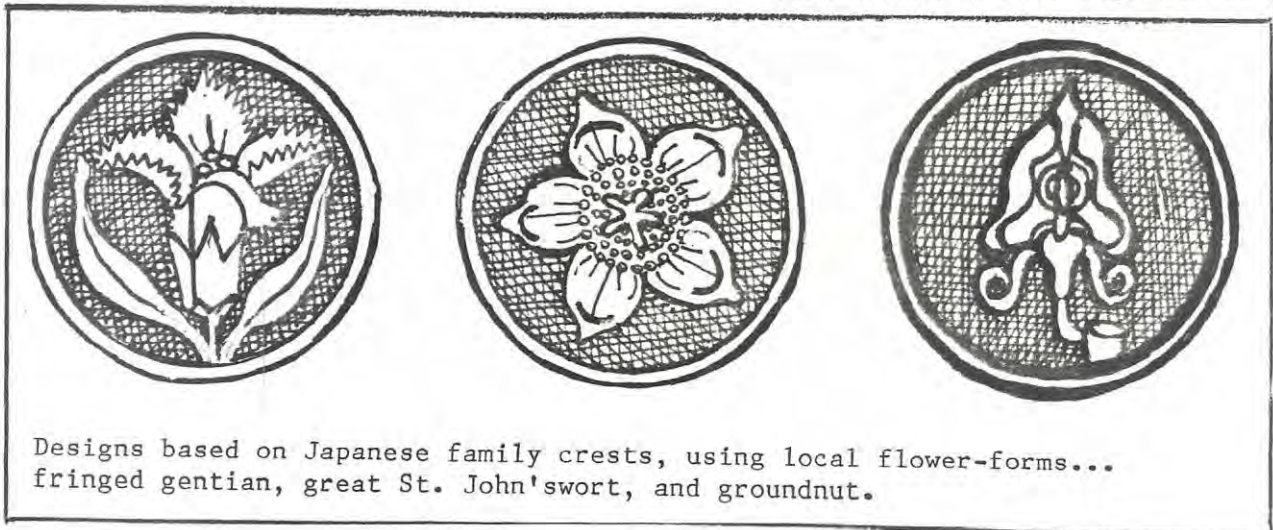
We are a small citizens' group facing the resources of Eldorado Resources Ltd.

The issue of site selection and the review of the sites provide immediate opportunities to effect positive change in the way radioactive waste is handled in Canada. We need help with both projects.

Please help us. A resolution, or a letter of support, or your ideas will all be of assistance, especially for the EARP process.

Robert Sculthorpe

P.O. Box 351, Port Hope L1A 3W4



TODMORDEN MILLS SCAVENGER HUNT 1986
--

Never mind the Magnificent Seven! Heartfelt thanks to the Magnificent Thirty who devoted most of a Saturday last April to a clean-up of Todmorden Mills.

It had poured for days and I had viewed the prospect of garbage-collecting in the rain with misgiving. The sun, however, as though deciding that Here Were the Good Guys, blessed our efforts from start to finish, and we had the best Spring day of that week.

The Todmorden Mills Historical Society had agreed to supply the garbage bags. Unfortunately, some joker with the usual one-track imagination had broken the lock on the door of the building and we had to await a hastily summoned locksmith before we could rescue the bags inside. We set to at 10:15 and called a halt at 3 p.m.

We didn't collect much of a Nature list, being otherwise engaged, but we did keep encountering garter snakes, at least a dozen, plus two fatly majestic *Bufo americanus**whom we designated female in the hope that they would leap off and spawn countless numbers of their kind.

In the woods we found a dell of scilla blueness, hundreds of bulbs of a garden escape, plus dandelions, coltsfoot, and the occasional wild strawberry. If the inventory of flora and fauna was scant, we nevertheless left behind whole stretches of possibly astonished environment which hadn't seen the light of day in years.

One sad fact was that we could have returned next day and collected as much again. At least an equal number of tires had had to be left amidst the skunk cabbage and aspens, owing to the struggle required to wrest them from the suction of swampland (thanks again to the Herculean efforts of the men), while a further visit could have been devoted solely to the bank running down from the parking lot. The NO DUMPING sign appears to have been a red flag to all the human bulls capable of ramming a load of rubbish over the slope.

All this raises one insistent and hitherto unmentionable query: What have Metro Parks been doing all these years? Todmorden Mills is a historic Metro landmark and none of this garbage had collected overnight. If a handful of males and 20 or so females of anything but skittish years can amass such a bonanza in one effort, it does make for wonderment as to what the authorities feel to be obligatory in "parks management" beyond the inevitable mowing of grass verges.

* American toad

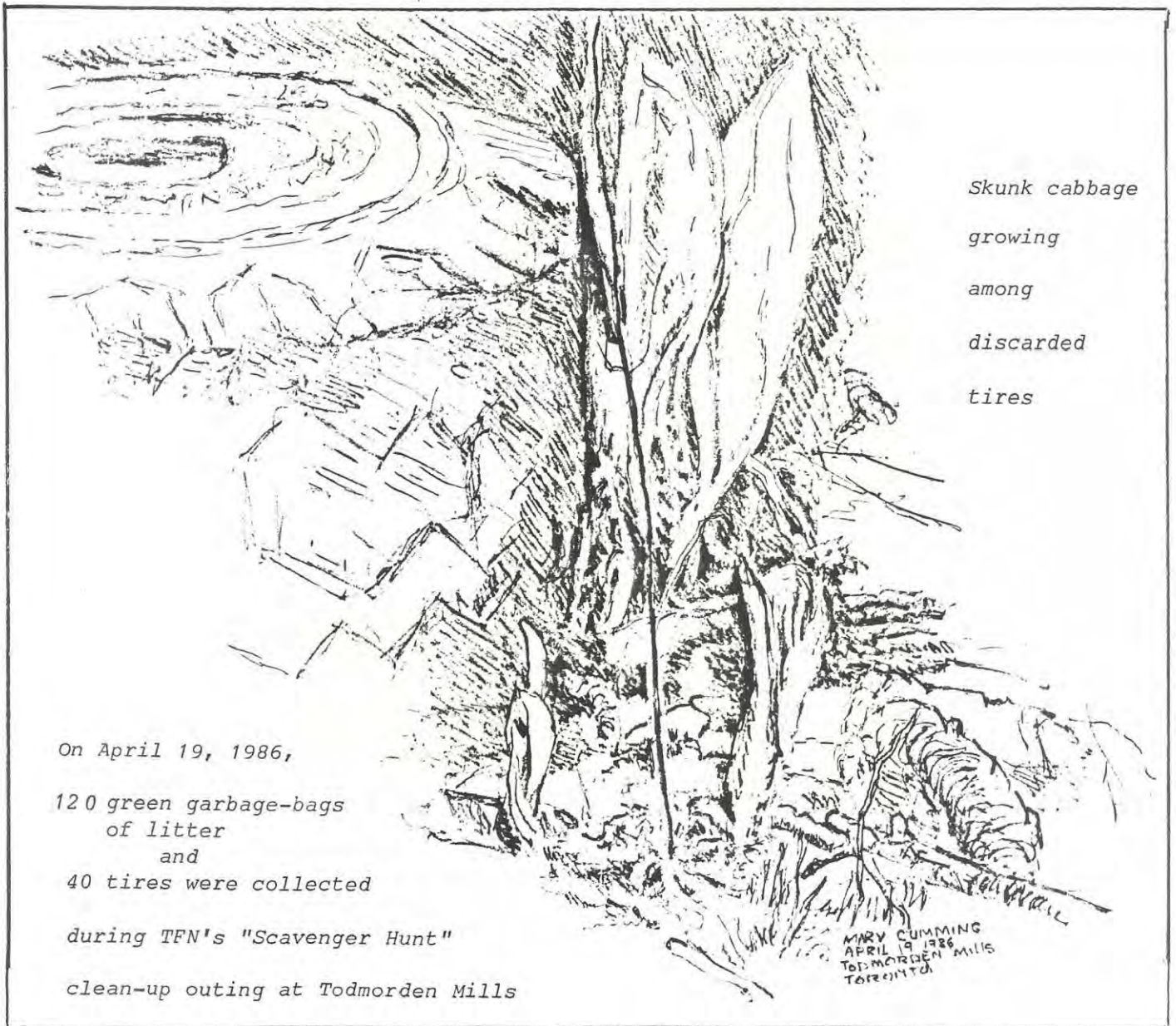
▷

However, as a Scavenger Hunt - our first - it was a riotous success. We SCAVENGED to the count of:

- 120 stuffed garbage bags
- 40 tires
- 4 shopping carts
- 1 oil tank and several old buckets
- + countless heaps of broken glass, rotting plywood, metal frames, paint cans, beer and whisky bottles. ETC!

I am sure all thirty participants went home with the satisfaction of having assisted mightily towards a good deed in a naughty world.

Eva Davis



Skunk cabbage
growing
among
discarded
tires

On April 19, 1986,
120 green garbage-bags
of litter
and
40 tires were collected
during TFN's "Scavenger Hunt"
clean-up outing at Todmorden Mills

MARY CUMMING
APRIL 19 1986
TODMORDEN MILLS
TORONTO

IN EXCHANGE

THE MIGRATION AT HAWK CLIFF, ONTARIO*

Hawk Cliff is located on the north shore of Lake Erie due south of St. Thomas, Ontario, and has been known since the 1930s as one of the best locations to see migrant raptors in the fall. Trapping and banding began in the late 1960s when the Point Pelee Bird Observatory was closed and with it, the major Sharp-shinned Hawk banding location in Ontario. However, it was not long before Hawk Cliff proved itself to be an even better site. By the end of the 1984 season, 33,332 raptors had been banded at the Cliff by some 20 banders.

For most people, however, Hawk Cliff is a place to see enormous numbers of birds at the right time of the year and with the right weather. The chart below shows the timing of the flight for each of the raptor species seen and although done for Holiday Beach by Brian Eaton, is applicable to the Cliff. Not only hawks migrate along the shoreline, though; thousands of Kingbirds, Swallows, Waxwings, Goldfinches, Robins, Flickers, Crows, Pipits, Bluebirds and Blue Jays pass by at certain times each fall. These are all diurnal migrants, like the hawks, and almost invariably are seen in flocks. This fall, the Blue Jays have gone by in phenomenal numbers. At Point Pelee on October 1, they streamed from the point to Pelee Island in a long, unbroken flock from dawn until dusk. On the previous Wednesday, they had flown past Hawk Cliff in similar numbers.

Still, it's the hawks that bring people back year after year with some individuals looking for that big day in mid-September when the Broad-winged Hawks go through. Rainy weather delays the flight but as a high pressure system moves in following the rain, temperatures drop and the wind swings around to the northwest, the Broadwings pass by for two or three days, sometimes in immense flocks. As many as 30,000 have been seen in a single day (at Holiday Beach, 96,000 were seen - 62,000 in one hour - on September 15, 1984). The date is usually between September 10 and 20 and the weather as described.

Many Sharpshins and Kestrels will pass by on the same day but thousands come later. Their migrations are dispersed over September and early October and not concentrated into a few huge flights like the Broadwings. Generally, young birds migrate before adults and females before males (except for Northern Harriers where the opposite is true).

To see lots of hawks, choose a day suggested by the chart - I prefer the last week of September and the first week of October myself - and get to the Cliff viewing area on County Road 22 at the lake by 9 or 10 o'clock. Winds from the north are best but the migration continues under most weather conditions except rain (and even in light drizzle on days with southwest winds from September 24 to October 8, Peregrines will follow the shoreline). The flight starts early at the lake and will have Sharpshins, Kestrels and Harriers first thing - in September - adding the species with heavier wing loadings as the day warms up. By late morning, the sun-heated ground will create rising thermals and the flight begins to "go upstairs" unless the wind is brisk and westerly. Easterly winds push the birds high quite early.

Around noon, an onshore breeze will develop and the hawks begin to drift inland. Observers who are aware of this tendency will drift that way themselves and park in line with a woodlot to the east to watch the Accipiters fly over one patch of trees to another. Peak numbers are seen from about 10 AM to 3 PM.

* For outing, see page 4.

▷

IN EXCHANGE (cont'd)

THE MIGRATION AT HAWK CLIFF (cont'd)

Not only does Hawk Cliff display its birds so well, it also is an attractive spot, boasting a view from 35 metres up of Lake Erie. The fall colours are rich and the early autumn wildflowers include Great Lobelia, Grass of Parnassus, Fringed Gentian, *Spiranthes cernua* and *S. magnicamporum* as well as the asters and goldenrods. Sassafras, American Chestnut and Tulip Tree can be found in the area and in the shrubby fields plenty of passerines skulk out of sight of the predators above. You will usually find a helpful expert watching the hawks and on the third weekend of September, the banders bring hawks to the viewing area twice daily and show them to the crowd.

An outing to the Cliff can be a memorable event. I recommend it.

Bruce Duncan

species	Aug.	September	October	November	Dec.
TV*					
GOS					
CH					
SSH					
RTH					
RSH					
BWH					
RLH					
GE					
BE					
NH					
OSP					
PER					
MER					
KES					

TV: Turkey Vulture
 GOS: Goshawk
 CH: Cooper's Hawk
 SSH: Sharp-shinned Hawk
 RTH: Red-tailed Hawk
 RSH: Red-shouldered Hawk
 BWH: Broad-winged Hawk
 RLH: Rough-legged Hawk
 GE: Golden Eagle
 BE: Bald Eagle
 NH: Northern Harrier
 OSP: Osprey
 PER: Peregrine
 MER: Merlin
 KES: American Kestrel

from THE ESQUESING, Newsletter of the Halton Field Naturalist Club, December 1985/January 1986.

□

Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

Beth Jefferson will no longer be co-ordinating the bird reports. She sends her thanks to those who have expressed interest in her efforts in the past. Beth has prepared an 8-page report for the period March 16 to July 15, 1986 which we are keeping on file in the TFN library. If you would like a copy of this report, call 690-1963. Please send in reports of your observations from time to time to the library, c/o D. Banville, 710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto, Ont. M4C 5L7.

□

PHANTOM FLYERS IN THE NIGHT

In the Metro Toronto Zoo is a collection of sugar gliders, small nocturnal mammals native to forests in Australia and New Guinea. These marsupials have membranes between their front and hind feet which form an efficient gliding surface when extended. With this amazing adaptation and with the help of large eyes, the sugar gliders can sail between adjacent trees on their nightly forays for food.

Most visitors to the zoo marvel at these exotic animals unaware that in nearby forests live North America's ecological equivalent of sugar gliders, the flying squirrels of the genus *Glaucomys*. Ironically, there are no native flying squirrels in the zoo.

Flying squirrels are the phantoms of Ontario's forests. They are usually known to us only as photos, drawings, text in our field guides, or from lively verbal descriptions given by people lucky enough to encounter them. When the squirrels do make their presence known, it is often to cottagers who find that flying squirrels have invaded attics over the winter.

Two species of flying squirrels live in Ontario. The northern flying squirrel, *Glaucomys sabrinus*, is primarily a boreal animal living in coniferous and mixed forests throughout Canada; the smaller counterpart, the southern flying squirrel, *Glaucomys volans*, inhabits mostly deciduous woods only as far north as the latitude of Algonquin Park. Their ranges are said to overlap in the Toronto region, but the distribution of the lesser known southern flying squirrel is not well documented.

Habitat and size differences are useful clues in separating the two species, but where their ranges overlap positive identification is best done in the hand. Southern flying squirrels have bright cream-white undersides with midline (belly) fur that is white to the base; northern flying squirrels have sooty-white undersides with midline fur that is lead gray at the base. Also, as well as being larger, the northern species has a "furrrier", less sleek appearance than the southern species.

Unless looked for specifically, flying squirrels may go unnoticed even in your favourite woods. There are a few ways to search for them. The reward of discovering these appealing and fascinating animals is well worth the effort.

An obvious way to look for flying squirrels is to use spotlights, headlamps or even regular flashlights to search for the squirrels at night. Flying squirrel eyes reflect light so they look like bright orange beacons. These may be seen if a squirrel is watching you. Occasionally you may even see a squirrel glide. I have found that walking trails rather than "bush-whacking" through the woods is the safest and most successful way to "spotlight" the southern species of flying squirrels.

Usually you will hear the animals before seeing them. (Sounds a bit like birding doesn't it?) Flying squirrels have a variety of calls, some even being ultrasonic. You may hear a high-pitched "tseep" on a calm night, or an agitated "sook-sook-sook".

Although encounters are uncommon, flying squirrels may be more abundant than we have thought. If you maintain a bird-feeding station near a wooded area, it may be visited regularly by a population of flying squirrels. Watch for them after sunset when the squirrels first emerge from their daytime nests in search of food. The northern flying squirrel feeds on seeds, lichens and



PHANTOM FLYERS IN THE NIGHT (cont'd)

fungi and may raid the cone caches of sleeping red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*). The southern flying squirrel may be limited in winter to eating stores of protein-rich oak or hickory nuts of southern forests. But either species can be attracted to sunflower seeds or suet at bird feeders. These squirrels are raiders that you will probably welcome.

Flying squirrels may also be found by investigating potential nest sites. In Canada, southern flying squirrels usually nest in cavities such as those made by woodpeckers or existing as a result of natural decay. Nest sites tend to be found in taller trees. Northern flying squirrels use tree cavities as well, but because they are frequently found in coniferous forests where cavities are not as common, the squirrels may just as often be found in leaf nests.

I have discovered scores of southern flying squirrels in southern Ontario by rapping trees I suspect harbour the squirrels and recently found a northern flying squirrel in Toronto's Rouge River valley just downstream from the Metro Zoo.

Flying squirrels may be found in your area even without you looking for them. Occasionally they drown in cisterns and toilet bowls. (How they get to these watering holes is often a mystery.) They have even been captured in small mammal traps and in mist net set for bats. The northern flying squirrel is a regular but unintentional casualty of fur trapping. The southern flying squirrel is more likely to succumb to the family cat which can be a major predator of flying squirrels and other animals in wooded regions populated by humans.

Documentation of these hazards to flying squirrels in Canada and of flying squirrels in general has been sparse. The squirrels are out there. We just have to look for them.

There is some dispute over the status of the southern flying squirrel. Is it rare, common, or locally abundant in Ontario? Some deforested areas are devoid of flying squirrels. On the other hand, the squirrels are abundant in well-wooded regions such as Backus Woods in Haldimand-Norfolk. In general, the provincial and national status of this species is unclear.

To obtain a masters degree in Forestry at the University of Toronto I am studying the ecology of the southern flying squirrel and will be preparing a status report on the species for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Non-game Program. I am looking for contemporary and historical documentation of flying squirrels in southern Ontario. To improve range records for both species and to assist in determining habitat requirements for the southern flying squirrel in particular I would appreciate hearing from you if you have had any personal experiences with flying squirrels in Southern Ontario.










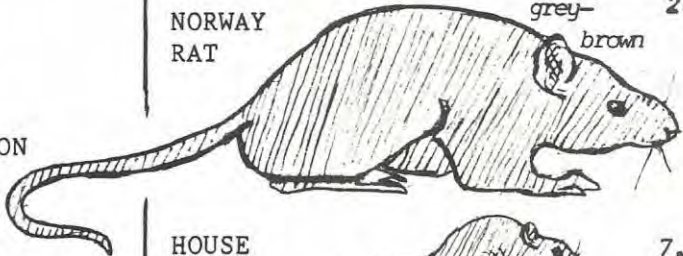

Mark Stabb

Please send flying squirrel observations to Mark Stabb, c/o Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, 203 College Street, Toronto M5S 1A1. Messages may be left at 416-978-4794.

□

OF SHREWS AND MOLES
AND MICE AND VOLES

There are six orders of mammals in the Toronto Region. Systematically, the primitive insectivores are No. 1, the rodents No. 5.

INSECTIVORES (2 FAMILIES)	SMALL RODENTS (3 FAMILIES)
<p>ears, eyes concealed 5 toes on each foot</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>average head/body length</i></p>	<p>ears, eyes visible 4 toes on each front foot 5 toes on each back foot</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>average head/body length</i></p>
<p>SHORTTAIL SHREW</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>lead colour</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">8 cm</p>	<p>MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE (uncommon)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>2-tone olive ears - pale-edged</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">7.5 cm</p>
<p>PYGMY SHREW (rare)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>light brown</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">5 cm</p>	<p>WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>faintly 2-tone</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">9.5 cm</p>
<p>HAIRYTAIL MOLE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>slate grey</i></p> <p><i>noses - pink</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">12 cm</p>	<p>DEER MOUSE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>sharply 2-tone & tufted</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">8.5 cm</p>
<p>STARNOSE MOLE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>blackish</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">11 cm</p>	<p>MEADOW VOLE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>brown</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">10 cm</p>
<p>Ref.:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAMMAL GUIDES</p> <p>A FIELD GUIDE TO THE MAMMALS Burt & Grossenheider Peterson Field Guide Series</p> <p>MAMMALS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION William H. Burt U. of Michigan Press</p>	<p>BOREAL REDBACK VOLE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>red back, grey sides or all grey</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">10 cm</p>
	<p>NORWAY RAT</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>grey-brown</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">20 cm</p>
	<p>HOUSE MOUSE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>grey</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">7.5 cm</p>

You may wonder how the rat qualifies to be included with these tiny animals, but it is here because it is a member of the Muridae which simply means "the mouse family", the same as that of the house mouse. But the new world mice and the voles have equally large members in their family - not, however, in our region.

Diana Banville



In The News

CRUEL DISPOSAL FEARED: TORONTO CRACKING DOWN ON WILD ANIMALS AS PETS

Toronto City Council has approved a bylaw banning wild animals as pets, despite the concern of an alderman that the measure will force people to destroy their wildlife in cruel ways. Tarantulas and black widow spiders were added to a long list of banned animals that includes kangeroos, boa constrictors, anteaters, alligators, bears, eagles and bats. Owners of the forbidden pets face fines of up to \$2,000. People have a number of humane options to get rid of their pets including taking pets to locations out of the city, donating them to zoos and animal laboratories or getting them disposed of by the Humane Society.

condensed from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, March 25, 1986

JAMES BAY MERCURY POLLUTION BELIEVED THE WORLD'S WORST

Mercury contamination in the James Bay region of Northern Quebec is believed to be the worst in the world, following a dramatic increase in mercury levels in the past 10 years, a Montreal researcher says. Dangerous levels of mercury have already been discovered in several hundred Cree Indians in Northern Quebec. A report by Hydro-Quebec confirms that the mercury levels have climbed steeply since the construction of the huge James Bay power project in the seventies. Some of the Indians have mercury levels as high as the peak levels among Indians in the Grassy Narrows and Whitedog reserves in Northern Ontario. Most of the mercury contamination is believed to be caused by the extensive flooding of northern forests as part of the James Bay hydro project. Methyl mercury, produced by the decomposition of vegetation and organic soils, is absorbed by fish in the huge reservoirs created by the hydro project.

condensed from an article by Geoffrey York in the GLOBE AND MAIL, April 2, 1986

GAME WARDENS BAT NEARLY 1,000 NAILING POACHERS

Ontario's wildlife cops are tops. Last year, our conservation officers secured more than 12,000 convictions resulting in more than \$1 million in fines. According to provincial enforcement specialist Dale Gartley, his guys in green came close to batting 1,000. "We failed to convict on a relative handful of charges", he says. "It's less than 2 per cent and most were Crown withdrawals." Some 60 per cent of the charges laid were fishing-related, with the most common offence being the taking of fish by means other than angling. "That includes spearing, netting, snagging, dynamiting, stoning and snatching," Gartley explains. In the past the ministry has been accused of protecting the guilty, or at least their reputations, by failing to make public their names, offences, fines and/or jail sentences. The ministry was shortsighted, because publicizing such information is a strong deterrent; a proverbial ounce of prevention. That situation is rapidly changing with Gartley now encouraging district offices to issue press releases on the heels of convictions so fish and game thieves will get their just due and the public will be kept informed. The penalties being meted out by magistrates are reason enough for a potential poacher to reconsider. For example, a robin hunt proved to be an expensive safari for Glenn W. Pearce of R.R. 1, Burgessville. He was charged \$300 for shooting the bird, \$200 for hunting on Sunday and had his rifle permanently seized.

condensed from an article (Outdoors) by John Power in the TORONTO STAR, May, 1986

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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

HIGH PARK RESIDENTS FAIL TO STOP DEVELOPER FROM FELLING TREES

Determined High park residents stood near chain saws and risked arrest in a vain attempt to prevent a developer from cutting down trees in a ravine lot. Nearly 50 men, women and children positioned themselves among the trees behind a gas station at the northwest corner of High Park as Zenon Greszta and his workmen sliced through the underbrush. But the law was on Grexztá's side. The confrontation came just days before the property is scheduled to be declared ravine land by the city's land use committee, which would limit redevelopment. The existing building on the site, one of the red and white miniature castles built by the Joy Oil chain in the 1930's, has been designated historic but that protection expires in mid-July. The gas station sits on the northwest fringe of High Park, where there is a nature trail and bird sanctuary.

condensed from an article by Dana Flavelle in the TORONTO STAR, May 18, 1986

ENVIRONMENTALISTS DELIGHTED AS WETLAND HIGHWAY SCRAPPED

A proposed \$30-million extension of Highway 89 through what is called Ontario's most valuable wetland has been cancelled. Environmentalists who had been battling the proposal for seven years reacted with surprised delight at the provincial government's sudden and unexpected decision to abort the highway extension through the Keswick Marsh at the south end of Lake Simcoe. In announcing the cancellation, Transportation Minister Edward Fulton said that "on balance we have concluded that the environmental impact outweighs the transportation benefits."

condensed from an article by Rudy Platiel in the GLOBE AND MAIL, April 22, 1986

DEATH OF WILDLIFE DEPLORED IN SCARBORO SWAMP DRAINING

Wildlife in Scarborough's Centennial Swamp was killed when a developer drained the area without giving enough warning to Metro Toronto Zoo officials who had planned to preserve some of the species. Robert Johnson, curator of reptiles at the zoo, said he was saddened by the draining of the swamp, which was begun unannounced to make way for residential development. Scarborough Controller Frank Faubert called the swamp just "mud and muck and common marine life. You can't have a swamp full of mosquitoes and other potential health hazards in the middle of an urban area." Mr. Johnson argues that a swamp and urban development are not mutually exclusive and that Scarborough missed out on a great opportunity to use the swamp for recreation and education.

condensed from an article by Gay Abbate in the GLOBE AND MAIL, May 8, 1986

HIGH RADIOACTIVITY DETECTED IN MIGRATORY BIRDS IN FINLAND

High radioactivity has been found in migratory birds in Finland after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union. Finnish ornithologists have warned children not to pick up any dead birds they find, while officials said they feared radiation could enter the wildlife food chain as some migratory birds are caught and eaten by predatory birds. Birds netted for marking and inspection had flown through the area of fallout from Chernobyl before arriving in Finland.

condensed from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, May 13, 1986

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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

HARMED TREES, SARNIA COMPANY FINED \$15,000

Tricil (Sarnia) Ltd. was fined a total of \$15,000 after pleading guilty to two charges under the Ontario Environmental Protection Act. The company admitted that it had allowed contaminants from its waste treatment and disposal site to flow into a nearby swamp, causing damage to some sensitive species of trees. The pollutants escaped during intermittent periods between February 17 and April 3 last year from a collection ditch that runs around the perimeter of Tricil's property. Provincial Court Judge A.L. Eddy fined the company \$10,000 for allowing the overflow to occur, and an additional \$5,000 for failing to notify the Environment Ministry that it had occurred.

condensed from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, May 27, 1986

RESIDENTS LOSE BATTLE OVER LAND

A five-month battle between the developer of former conservation authority land and residents near the Rouge River Valley has ended with approval by Pickering Town Council of a new subdivision plan. The dispute began in January when Valerian Investments Ltd. bought 11 acres of tableland above the Rouge River Valley, more than half of it owned by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Members of the Old Trespass Road Neighborhood Association complained that wooded conservation land was sold without community notice and that the subdivision plan was incompatible with the existing neighborhood. The new plan decreases the number of lots and preserves one-third of the area's trees. A motion to rezone the rest of the area's tableland to greenbelt from residential was also approved by council.

an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, June 4, 1986

DANDELION* IS PLUCKED FROM GLORY

After a brief, desperate grasp at glory, the despised dandelion has been consigned again to its lowly place in the City of North York. Controller Robert Yuill's tongue-in-cheek motion calling on North York Council to make the dandelion the city's official flower was resoundingly rejected after a light-hearted debate. "If we adopt this motion, we would be known as blooming idiots," Controller Norman Gardner said. "I think Controller Yuill has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that 2,4 D (a weed killer) can rot your brain," Controller Howard Moscoe said. "He's obviously been eating dandelions."

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, July 8, 1986

* ...a weed has always been classed as a plant growing where it is not wanted. But Emerson, in his delightfully optimistic definition of a weed, wrote: "A weed is a plant whose virtues have not been discovered."

from "Nature Chat" by Bessie Waters in THE CHICKADEE (Huntsville Nature Club Notes), April 1986 (Vol. 28, No. 8)

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

FIGHTING RABIES IN THE WILDS OF TORONTO

Skunks are major carriers of rabies in Ontario cities. For example, between 1980 and 1984, 108 rabid skunks and only eight rabid foxes were found in Metro Toronto.

Immunizing skunks against rabies poses special problems. Foxes can be immunized by inducing them to eat baits that have been laced with vaccine, but no current rabies vaccine will immunize skunks if it is taken orally. Therefore, last year, in Metro Toronto, MNR's Rabies Research Unit began exploring the feasibility of live-trapping skunks, injecting the rabies vaccine, and releasing them.

The researchers found that very little is known about urban animals, except that there seems to be a lot of them. Thus, the second objective of the study is to learn about habitats where skunks are found, and to determine how many of the animals are in various parts of the city. And, since any traps set in Metro are likely to catch raccoons, the study has a third objective: to estimate their numbers, as well.

Three sample areas were chosen for study: Kennedy Road/Highway 401 in Scarborough; Eglinton/Mount Pleasant in Toronto; and St. Clair/Warden in Scarborough. Between June and November, 90 different raccoons, 52 individual skunks and 186 "others," mostly cats and groundhogs, were captured. The skunks and raccoons were vaccinated, tagged and released. The "others" were simply let go.

The researchers also asked a sample of city residents to complete questionnaires about sightings of skunks and raccoons in their neighbourhoods. The results are now under study. The skunk vaccinations will resume this summer.

an article by Charles MacInnes in LANDMARKS, Spring 1986 (Vol. 4, No. 2, April) Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario

SWANS DUPED

Six young trumpeter swans have been raised to flight stage this year by mute swan foster parents at Cranberry Marsh, near Whitby, in a Ministry of Natural Resources program to reintroduce the rare bird to the province. All but one of the trumpeter cygnets have had their white feathers dyed brown to persuade the mute swans -- which tend to be aggressive toward any white bird -- that they are raising their own darker offspring.

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, July 29, 1986

ACTIVIST HIRED AS ADVISER TO MINISTER

Federal Environment Minister Thomas McMillan has hired Elizabeth May, a feisty and well-known environmental activist from Nova Scotia, to help improve his relationship with Canada's environmental organizations. Ms May, 32, will be paid \$45,000 a year to act as the minister's special adviser with a particular emphasis on communicating more effectively with such groups. "She's a renowned environmentalist in her own right, an environmental lawyer...someone who I know personally and think highly of, and I think the organized environmental movement has to have a stronger connection with the minister," Mr. McMillan said.

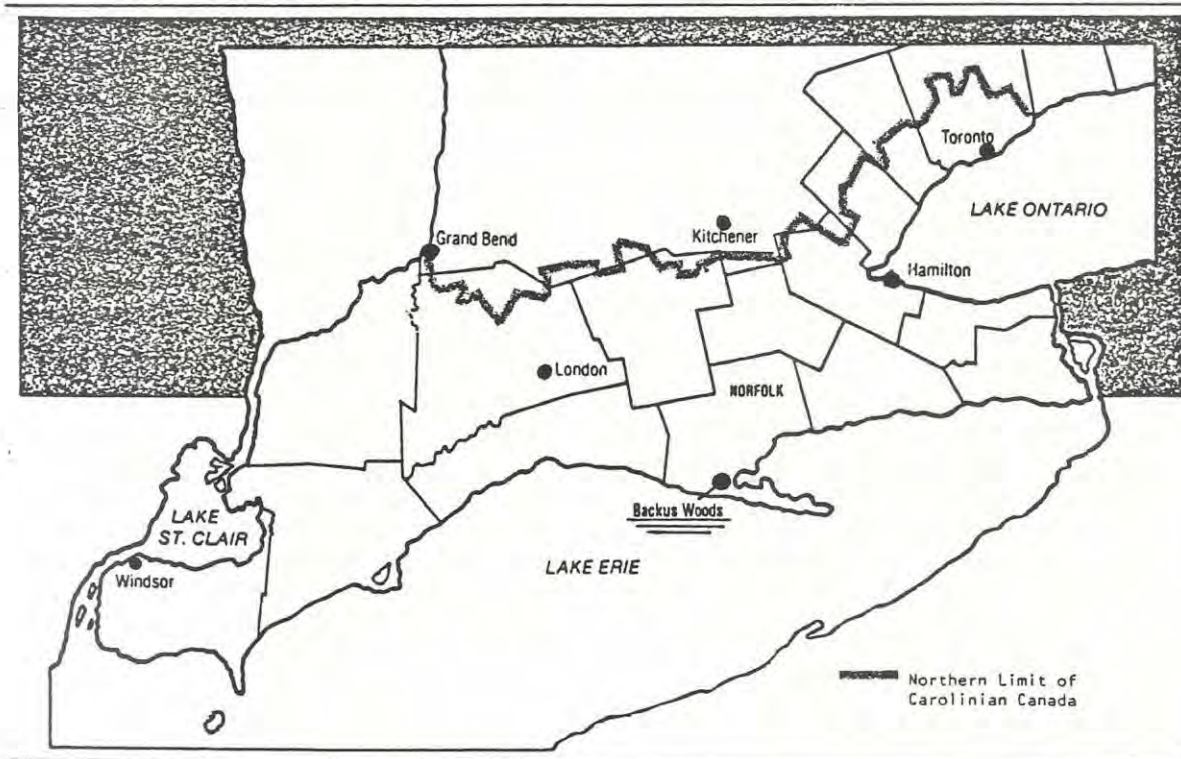
condensed from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, June 18, 1986

□

ISSUES

AN ISSUE FOR ALL SEASONS: BACKUS WOODS

South of a line from Toronto to Grand Bend is a biologically diverse area known as "Carolinian Canada". It is characterized by an amazing assemblage of plants and animals more typical of regions much further south. In this narrow band in Southern Ontario are more species of plants and animals than in any other part of Canada. Also found here is the highest human population density in the country. As a result, only an estimated 10% of the original forest remains today.



One 651 acre (263 hectare)* woodlot, however, where the intensity of disturbance has been minimal is Backus Woods in Norfolk County. It is the best mature Carolinian forest remaining in Canada with an estimated 75% of the woodlot containing trees more than 100 years old. Recent biological inventories have found 35 different forest communities containing 545 species of flowering plants representing an incredible 20% of Ontario's total flora and including 20 provincially and nationally endangered plant species. This nationally significant area also contains black gum trees more than 410 years old and tulip trees towering more than 120 feet. Animals include uncommon species such as prothonotary warblers, eastern hognose snakes, pine voles, southern flying squirrels, opossum and even such insects as the southern katydid.

Unfortunately, all has not been well with Backus Woods since this forest was acquired by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority from the Backus family in 1956. Since controversial selective cutting of trees in small parts of the forest in the late 1950's and 60's, the most recent conflict over Backus Woods arose in 1980 when the Ministry of Natural Resources submitted a proposal to the Conservation Authority to log the tract. At that time the Authority made a motion to retract their agreement with the Ministry in order to prevent logging, but this motion was rescinded after the regional director for the Ministry

* approximately 1½ times the size of High Park

ISSUES - BACKUS (cont'd)

created "The Backus Group" in 1981 following a massive outpouring of public concern over the proposed logging. Members of this group represent a wide range of interests in the forest. The group was charged with the responsibility of developing a new management plan for Backus Woods. Following four years of negotiations, a plan has been drawn up that divides Backus Woods into halves of approximately equal size. One half is to be designated a natural area with the felling of "dangerous" trees only along trails; the other half is to be subject to the salvage of leaning, downed and dying trees in order to "house clean" the forest. This compromise threatens the natural integrity of the forest. It is well known that decaying wood is a key component of any natural forest system and it is critical for successful completion of the life cycles of numerous plant and animal species. Also, because Backus Woods is composed of a complex mosaic of communities, dividing them up will result in a much greater biological impact than if the forest were left entirely in its natural state. Given that this forest was purchased primarily with public funds and is administered by a government agency with a mandate to "...preserve areas of unique flora and fauna", many people find this situation totally unacceptable. Backus needs help!

In response to this threat to the integrity of Backus Woods, a coalition of groups has been formed representing the concerns of naturalists, biologists and academics at local, provincial and national levels. Members of the "Backus Woods Preservation Committee" include the Canadian Botanical Association, The Botany Conservation Group at the University of Toronto, The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, The Norfolk Field Naturalists (in whose backyard sits Backus Woods) and the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Ontario. A national publicity campaign is being directed at the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources in order to persuade him to act within his mandate of preserving outstanding natural areas and set aside Backus Woods as a provincial nature reserve IN ITS ENTIRETY.

You may help Backus Woods by expressing your wish for full protection of Backus in letters to the following:

- ▷ The Honourable David Peterson, Premier of Ontario, Ont. Legislative Building, Toronto, Ont. M7A 1A1
- ▷ The Honourable Vince Kerrio, Minister of Natural Resources, 99 Wellesley St. West, Toronto, Ont. M7A 1W3
- ▷ The Honourable Lily Munro, Minister of Citizenship and Culture, 77 Bloor St. West, 6th floor, Toronto, Ont. M7A 1R9

▷ The Backus Woods Preservation Committee has also established the "Backus Woods Publicity/Education Fund" to help raise money for office expenses and to promote the educational and scientific values of this outstanding forest. Cheques may be made out to the "Backus Woods Publicity/Education Fund - N.F.N." and sent to The Norfolk Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 995, Simcoe, Ont. N3Y 5B3. Persons donating \$25 or more will automatically be issued a receipt for tax purposes. For donations of less than \$25, a receipt will be issued on request.

Currently, the Backus Woods Preservation Committee is circulating a petition to show the Ontario Ministers that, indeed, there is widespread support for preserving the last remnant of mature Carolinian forest in its natural state. These will be formally presented to the Minister later this fall. Copies may be obtained at the log cabin in Sunnybrook Park or at the TFN September general meeting.

Kevin Kavanaugh

See page 33 for a lecture, and trip to Backus. See also page 35. □

ISSUES (cont'd)

TOXIC WASTE: MAJOR CRISIS OF OUR TIMES*

Eldorado's Port Hope refinery began producing radium in 1932. By 1942, the emphasis had shifted to the production of uranium. During the 1940's, Eldorado supplied materials to the Manhattan Project. The need to regulate international trade of nuclear materials led to Eldorado becoming a federal crown corporation in 1944. Throughout this period, the company disposed of its wastes by simply dumping material into landfills within the town of Port Hope.

From 1948 to 1955, Eldorado dumped its wastes in an abandoned gravel pit at Welcome, Ontario. These wastes consist mostly of uranium, thorium and radium with large quantities of arsenic and other toxic metals. In 1951, contamination from the wastes was found in a stream running off the site and in 1956, a pipeline to Lake Ontario was constructed so contaminated water could be diluted instead of being treated. In 1955, the site was closed, though material which had escaped and been collected has been returned to the site as recently as 1980. Of the 481,000 tonnes of material at the site, only 5% is actually waste from refinery operations. 7% of the waste consists of building materials and equipment from the dismantling of the radium production circuit. The remaining 88% of the material consists of native subsoils contaminated by seepage from the other wastes.

Following the closure of the Welcome facility, Eldorado began dumping waste at Port Granby in the Town of Newcastle. In addition to material similar to the Welcome waste, Port Granby has received large quantities of raffinate waste. Raffinate waste, generated in the production of uranium trioxide, is a thick yellowish liquid containing sulphuric acid, nitric acid, uranium, radium, thorium, arsenic and heavy metals. Raffinate was originally poured into shallow trenches. Because it is highly corrosive, raffinate has also escaped from the 45 gallon drums later used to contain it. Of the 633,000 tonnes of waste at the site, about 40% consists of contaminated native subsoils. The Port Granby site abuts directly on the eroded shore of Lake Ontario. In 1975, 150 times the maximum permissible concentration of radium was being discharged into the lake.

The Atomic Energy Control Board, Canada's nuclear regulatory agency, has directed Eldorado to develop a decommissioning scheme for both sites to be submitted for approval in 1986. Eldorado has been directed by Minister of State for Mines, Robert Layton, to propose two sites for permanent storage. Both sites will be subject to an Environmental Assessment Review Panel process. As of June 1986, the first site is Wesleyville. The second site is not known.

In regard to Wesleyville, Eldorado is proposing to dig up wastes from its leaky dumps and to bury them in mined limestone caverns, below the watertable. This is a new and unproven disposal technology. Only the Federal Republic of Germany has any experience in disposing of wastes in limestone. Nevertheless, Eldorado proposes to build a new facility at Wesleyville, barely over 2 km from Lake Ontario.

In addition to its proximity to the lake, there are several other factors which render the site unsuitable for such a project. Although the site itself is designated as Class 4 agricultural land, it is surrounded by land of very high agricultural quality. A 1978 Environmental Assessment Review of an Eldorado plan to build a Uranium hexafluoride plant on the site found that such a use of the land would represent an industrial intrusion into an agricultural area. The three ravines which traverse the site are designated environmentally sensitive areas. Two streams are important spawning grounds for trout. The site exists in a flyway for migratory birds and is itself a habitat for many

* See also page 13.



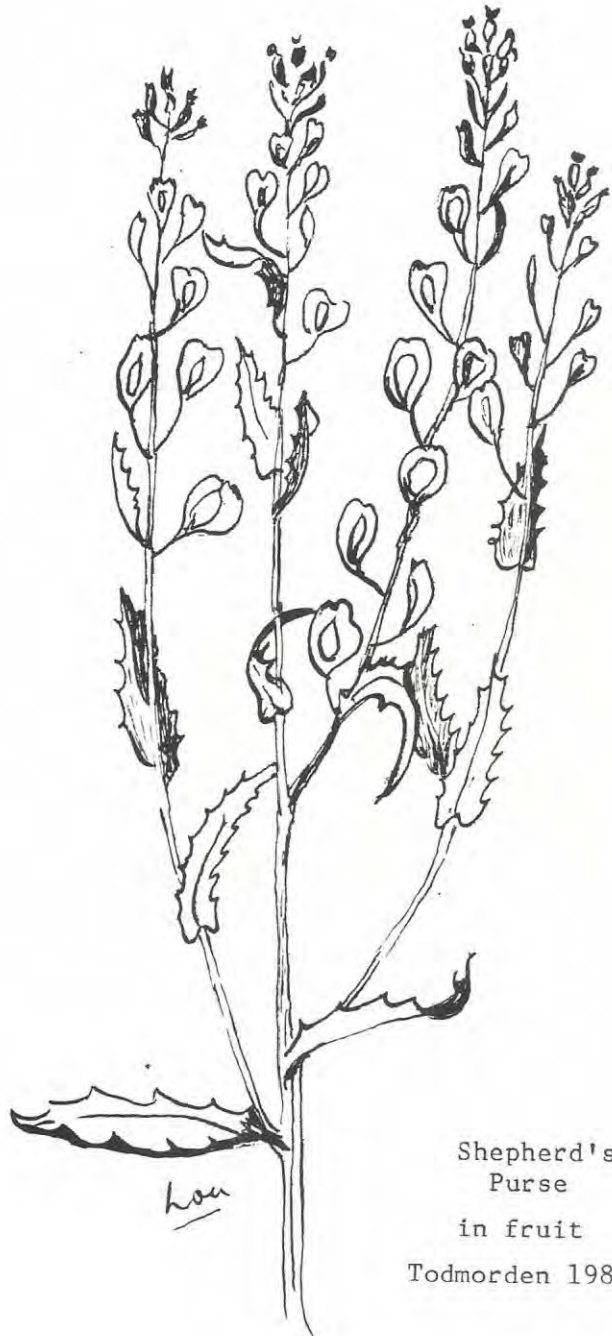
ISSUES - TOXIC WASTE (cont'd)

species. Six species of birds of prey have been identified on the property including the goshawk and pigeon hawk (merlin) which are uncommon in the area. The property is botanically unique and contains trees of limited range in Canada such as swamp white oak, sycamore, shagbark hickory and black walnut.

Robert Sculthorpe



Purple
Loosestrife
in bloom



Shepherd's
Purse
in fruit
Todmorden 1984

ISSUES (cont'd)

RARE CONSERVATION AREA THREATENED BY GOLF COURSE TAKE-OVER

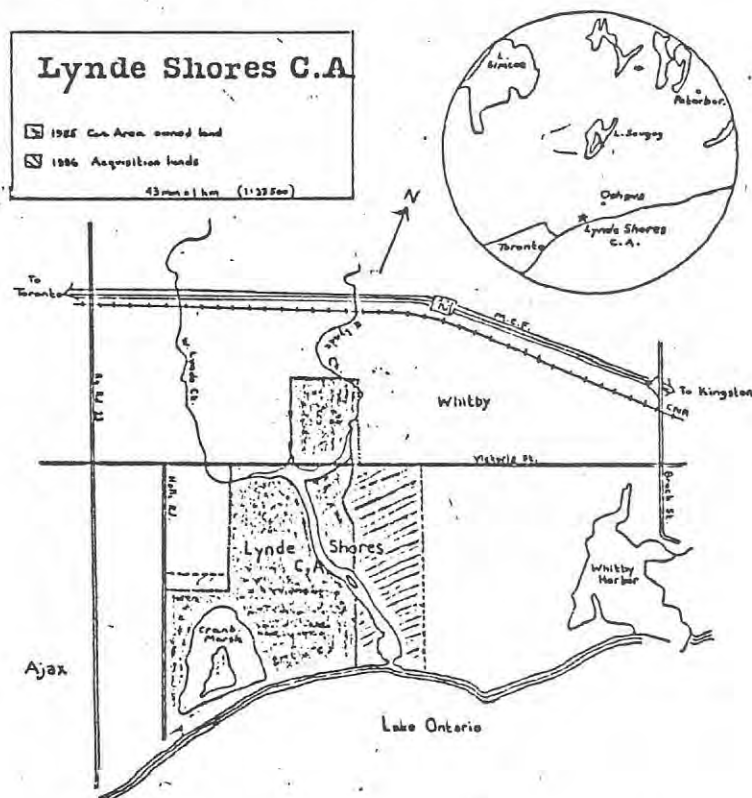
Lynde Shores Conservation Area in Whitby is one of the most ecologically-significant natural areas left in the Durham region, or anywhere along the Lake Ontario shoreline for that matter. Recently, a proposal has been submitted to the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, the owner of the lands, which would allow the entire conservation area to be developed into a golf course with related facilities. The control over the land-use would be relinquished to the Lynde Shores Golf Club Ltd., a profit-making company, for a period of not less than 29 years. In return, the Authority would receive a small percentage of the golf profits.

The development of the area into a golf course would have a serious negative impact upon the ecosystem, possibly even total destruction of it, depending upon how the land was managed. If accepted, this proposal would mean that Whitby's internationally-famous sanctuary would no longer be home to a wide variety of flora, nesting site for rare birds, a stopover for thousands of migrating birds, the home to perhaps the widest range of reptiles in the area. It would also no longer provide many passive recreational opportunities for thousands of people who come from far and wide to visit the area annually.

It is felt that a strong, vocal response from the public indicating opposition to the golf course plan is the best way to persuade the Authority to reject the proposal. If the plan to put a golf course in place at Lynde Shores Conservation Area irritates you, or worries you, express your opinions to the following (remember to keep a copy of your letters):

- ▷ Mr. Joe Drumm, CLOCA Chairman, 338 Rosedale Dr., Whitby, Ont. L1N 1Z3
- ▷ Mr. William Campbell, CLOCA's Chief Administrator, 100 Whiting Ave. Oshawa L1H 1T3
- ▷ Mr. Robert Attersley, Mayor of Whitby, 575 Rossland Rd.E., Whitby, Ont. L1N 5H3

condensed from FRIENDS OF LYNDE SHORES NEWSLETTER, August 1986



The Weather This Time Last Year

September 1985, City of Toronto

September 1985 was unseasonably warm with a mean temperature of 17.0° C at the International Airport, the warmest since 1961. Toronto City was the warmest since 1971 at 18.4°C. However, the mean and absolute maxima were higher in 1983.

The regime this month was remarkably simple. After the first two days, which were fairly warm, a marked heatwave set in. This was the most intense and prolonged such spell of the summer! Several high minimums were set during the period, and Toronto City hit 30.1°C on the 7th. Thus we narrowly escaped the depressing prospect of a summer without 30-degree temperatures. It was none-the-less one of the lowest annual maximums this century.

The heatwave ended after the 8th, and a cool high pressure system settled in. This high pressure area stalled over us, then moved very slowly eastwards. Thus we had a long settled spell with gradually increasing temperatures and no measurable precipitation for nearly **two weeks**. The period from the 18th to 23rd was somewhat muggy again. Thereafter to month's end there were a few minor frontal systems, but temperatures remained mostly above normal.

Rainfall was near or slightly below normal; most of it fell as showers and thunderstorms in the hot tropical airmass early in the month, with some contribution from frontal disturbances late in the month. Sunshine was slightly above average.

Personal observations...

Pickering also struggled up to 30.1°C on the 7th; lower maximums are to be expected so close to Lake Ontario however. Radiation fog (not from the nuclear power plant) was reported on a few mornings when warm air sat over the area.

Trees were just giving a hint of change at month's end. The cicadas were last heard singing on the 20th -- an earlier termination date than in 1984 in spite of it being quite cool and cloudy.

Gavin Miller

□

A CERTAIN DISTANCE

There's a certain distance about the sun.
It comes with the job, I suppose,
A work mantle,
Like being a queen. Or classroom monitor.

So it was with surprise, with amusement,
I watched the sun pause on the horizon,
Spit out black seed clouds with precision,
On to a watermelon sky.

Karen Parker

COURSES OF STUDY

University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies

Botanical Drawing and Watercolour

Section A - Mondays, Sept. 8-Dec. 8, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Section B - Wednesdays, Sept. 10-Dec. 3, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Section C - Wednesdays, Feb. 11-May 6, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Instructor: H. Moelchert

Botanical Drawing and Watercolour - Advanced

Section A - Mondays, Feb. 9-May 4, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Instructor: H. Moelchert

Environmental Issues: A Canadian Perspective

Tuesdays, Oct. 7-Jan. 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Instructor: M. Romano

Introducing Astronomy

Wednesdays, Jan. 14-Mar. 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Instructor: K. Kamper

For further information, contact:

School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto

158 St. George St., Toronto M5S 2V8

Telephone 978-2400

George Brown College

Birds of Southern Ontario: A Field Study - St. James Campus

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.. Sept. 13-Nov. 8

Instructor: Michael D. Cadman

Wildflowers of Southern Ontario - Casa Loma Campus

Tuesdays, Sept. 22-Oct. 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Field Trip, Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Instructor: James L. Hodgins

Astronomy: An Introduction - Casa Loma Campus

Wednesdays, Sept. 17-Nov. 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Instructor: Randy Attwood

For further information, contact:

George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology

P.O. Box 1015, Station B, Toronto M5T 2T9

Telephone 947-9914

Toronto Historical Board

Dry Flower Craft Course will be offered on four Mondays, Sept. 8-29 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at "Spadina", the historic house at 285 Spadina Road, Toronto. Pre-registration is required. Tel. 960-2115.

Sheridan College, Oakville

Bird Study I - Rosemary Gaymer

First semester, Wednesdays, 7:30-10:00 p.m., 12 weeks, starting Sept. 17. Second semester, also 12 weeks, starts in Jan., 1987.

There will be a minimum of two field trips per semester, at week-ends, with extra trips in the migration season after the second semester.

For further information and registration, contact:

Community Services Division, Sheridan College

1430 Trafalgar Road, Oakville L6H 2L1

Telephone (Oakville) 842-8800

COURSES OF STUDY (cont'd)

Clive and Joy Goodwin

Birding in Fall - Beginners - 4 lectures and 2 field trips on weekends, commencing Tuesday, Sept. 23 at Orchard View Library, Eglinton and Yonge. Call 249-9503 for information regarding this course and for birding, in general.

Humber College of Applied Arts & Technology, Continuous Learning

Field Biology & Ecology for the Naturalist: This course will be taught at North Campus, 205 Humber College Blvd. in Etobicoke. Classes are Wednesdays, Sept. 17-Nov. 5 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.; two Sunday field trips, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., will complete the course. Registration is now open. Tel. (416) 675-3111 for information.

Outdoor Education at Humber: This program offers ten courses leading to the Outdoor Education Certificate. "Nature Photography" and "Wilderness Survival" are two of the courses offered Sept. 1986. Call or write for further information: Margaret Riley, Athletic Dept., 205 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, Ont. M9W 5L7 Telephone 675-3111, Ext. 4024

Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton

Autumn Wildflower Studies: Four meetings, Saturdays and Sundays from Sept. 13 to Sept. 27 will cover topics such as fruit types, seed dispersal and floral morphology. Registration is necessary; deadline Aug. 29. Maximum 30.
Instructor: James Pringle

Mushrooming in Norfolk County: A course on the identification, ecology and edibility of mushrooms will be offered on Saturday, Sept. 27, Monday, Sept. 29 and Tuesday, Sept. 30. Registration is required; deadline Sept. 12.
Instructors: Peter Rice and Jack Lord

Basic Botanical Drawing, Botanical Drawing and Painting for the intermediate student and Botanical Painting on Silk are all offered in the daytime at the RBG Centre starting in September and running for eight-week periods. Registration is necessary and urgent as class-size is limited.

For information, call:

Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton L8N 3H8
Tel. (416) 527-1158

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This Month's Cover:

"Immature Least Bittern" by Anita Edmunds
after a photograph by Clive Goodwin.

This young bird had been flushed by a dog; he decided to "freeze" in short grass and in plain sight. He stayed like this for over 30 minutes. Sandy Beach, Pickering, August 27, 1984.

Anita Edmunds

□

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

'Endangered Species in our own Backyard: Carolinian Canada' - A lecture by Stephen Price will be presented in the Royal Ontario Museum Theatre on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Telephone 586-5789 for further information. See also pages 25-26.

'Backus Woods: A Trip to a Carolinian Forest' - A Royal Ontario Museum bus trip will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bring lunch. Registration in advance is necessary. Telephone 586-5788 for details. See pages 25-26.

Tommy Thompson Memorial Walk led by Anne Marie Van Nest, Horticulturalist - Meet at Edwards Gardens, Sunday, Sept. 14 at 2:00 p.m. For further information, call the Civic Garden Centre, telephone 445-1552.

'Friends of a Feather' - A family birding day at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Centre is located 6 Km. west of Campbellville, south of Hwy. 401. For more information, call 878-4131 (weekdays) or 854-0234 (weekends).

Autumn Bird Walks with James Pringle at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton - See migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, warblers and other autumn birds of Cootes Paradise. Sept. 14, meet at the Nature Centre at 7:30 a.m.; Sept. 28, at 7:30 a.m., meet at McMaster parking lot, north of the tennis courts. Registration is not required. No charge. For further information, telephone (416) 527-1158.

Honey and Craft Fair at Todmorden Mills on Sunday, Sept. 21, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Toronto Bee Keeper's Association will be present with samples of honey, films and musical entertainment. For information, call 425-2250.

'Wonders of the Earth' - Gem and Mineral Exhibition Sept. 13, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Sept. 14, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mid-Scarborough Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, (at the eastern end of the Kennedy subway stop). (tel. 282-5319)

Bird-viewing Days with the Ministry of Natural Resources - Clive and Joy Goodwin will be present along with Ministry personnel on Sunday, September 28 at the Toronto Islands from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., depending on the ferry schedule. Call Angus Norman at 832-2761 for further details.

Humber Valley Heritage Hikes will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28 and Sunday, October 5, 11:00-3:00 p.m. Meet at the Kortright Centre for Conservation to walk 6 Km. to the Boyd Conservation Area and back. Walk is strenuous with three hills to climb. Bring a picnic lunch or buy one at the Centre. For further information, call 661-6600.

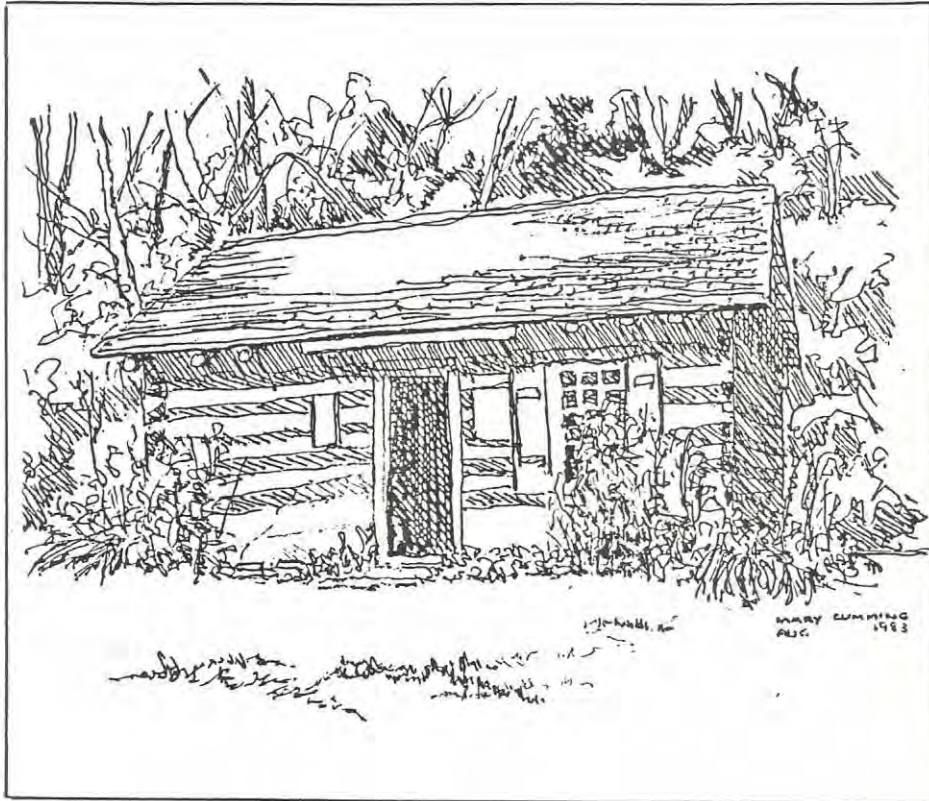
'A Fine Fall Day in the Country' - A Royal Ontario Museum bus trip to visit the Halton Conservation Wildlife Centre will take place on Tuesday, September 30. For details, telephone 586-5513.

Visit the Wildlife Festival of Conservation & Art at Wye Marsh at Midland, Ontario, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 20-21. Call (705) 526-7809 for further information.

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COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

→ The Civic Garden Centre will feature a show 'Birds at the Centre' on Sunday, December 7, 1986. There will be trade and informational exhibits devoted entirely to birds and birding. We have been asked to set up an exhibit. If anyone has any ideas or would like to take on this project, please call Jean Macdonald at 425-6596 or Phil Joiner at 496-0735.



The Nature Centre, located in Sunnybrook Park, is open to the public to October 12, every Sunday from noon to 4 pm, staffed by TFN volunteers. Pamphlets with information on nature, maps, past TFN newsletters, and other information are available free of charge. □

GRANTS AVAILABLE

→ The Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows (CNSS) is interested in funding projects that promote and enhance outdoor recreation and/or protect the environment that supports these outdoor activities.

Preferred projects are those that benefit the greatest number of Canadians, including those otherwise unable to enjoy outdoor activities.

If your organization wishes to make a grant proposal to the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows, please request further information from: Valerie Nogas, Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows, Box 45, 595 Bay St., Suite 1010, Toronto M5G 2C2. Telephone 595-7333.

The Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows is a non-profit organization dedicated to Canada's outdoor heritage and awards grants four times a year from the proceeds of outdoor-related shows and magazines produced across Canada. □

TFN MEETINGS

Visitors welcome

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, September 2, 1986. 8:00 p.m. (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)
'Doing What I Otter' - Ms. Brenda Penak, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Ms. Brenda Penak, a wildlife biologist working with the small game/waterfowl program will discuss the river otter live-trapping project conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. In 1984, she initiated the otter trapping and transfer project which was a part of an exchange of wildlife with the United States.

Monday, October 6, 1986. 8:00 p.m. (Coffee at 7:15)
'Mushrooms and Other Fungi' - Jack Parkin of the Mycological Society.

GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group: No September meeting. A series of five lectures on shorebirds at 7:30 pm: Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11

Botany Group: 'Vegetation of Backus Woods' - a slide show by Steve Varga on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Room 203, Botany Bldg., University of Toronto,
northwest corner of College and University.
Meetings will be held on the second Thursday each month.

Environmental Group: 'Toronto on the Rocks' - a selection of slides from the TFN Photo Library shown by Robin Powell on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Room 252, Board of Education Centre, 155 College Street
Note change of meeting place.

Junior Club: A showing of slides taken by Lothar Jung, the Junior Club photographer, during last year's Junior Club outings, followed by a 'Naturalist Bingo' on Saturday, September 6 at 10:00 a.m.
Planetarium Auditorium, immediately south of the Royal Ontario Museum

TFN publications, hasti-notes, prints of selected newsletter covers, pins and crests are for sale at all General Meetings.

Join us for COFFEE at 7:15 pm.



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.

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Mary-Louise Stewart	(960-9860)	203 - 221 Russell Hill Rd., 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

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION by R.M. Saunders, 1965	\$.50	TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS. \$ 2.00 ea. Survey #1-Chatsworth Ravine, 1973 Survey #2-Brookbanks Ravine, 1974 Survey #3-Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975 Survey #4-Wigmore Ravine, 1975 Survey #5-Park Drive Ravine, 1976 Survey #6-Burke Ravine, 1977 Survey #7-Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977 Survey #8-West Don Valley, 1978	
CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 197250	INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978)	10.00
TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976 Metropolitan Toronto's important natural areas are described and recommendations given for their conservation and manage- ment; includes maps, bibliography and index	2.50	ANNUAL TFN INDEX25 ea.
FIELD CHECKLIST OF PLANTS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO, 19775/\$1.00 or25 ea.	AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF METRO TORONTO, 1983	2.00
TORONTO REGION VERTEBRATE LIST (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals), 1985 5/\$1.00 or	.25 ea.	TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983	2.00
TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST, 1985 5/\$1.00 or .	.25 ea.	A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985.	2.00
		GUIDE TO TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, Leaskdale, Ontario, 1986	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)

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