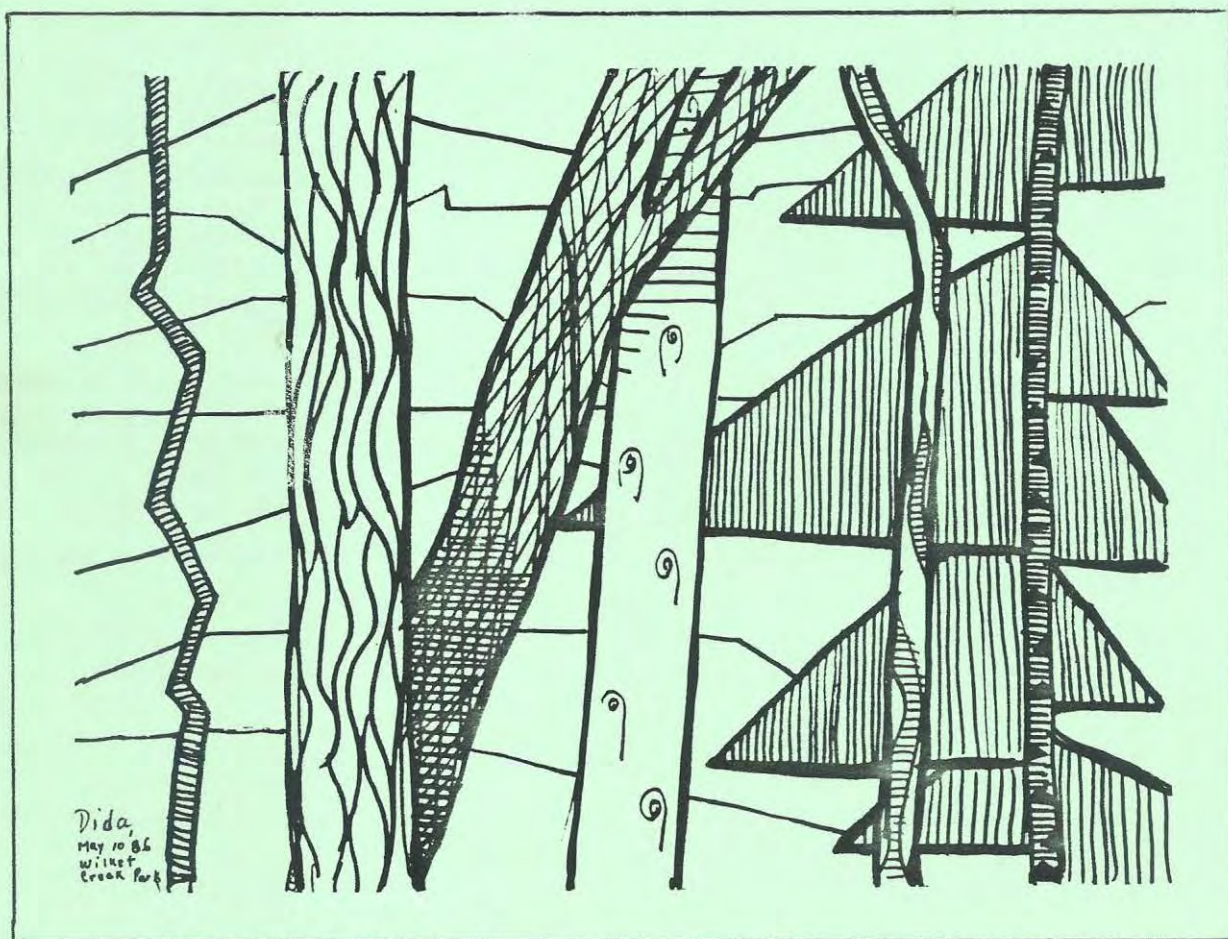


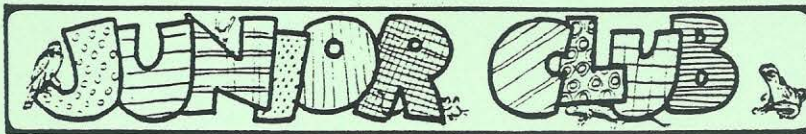


# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 385, February 1987



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The Junior Club of the Toronto Field Naturalists is for children 8 to 16 years of age. The club meets on the first Saturday of each month from September to May at the McLaughlin Planetarium. The meetings, which start at 10 am, consist of a talk by a guest speaker followed by specialized activities of each special interest group.

In November, a typical meeting, a wildlife biologist from the Ministry of Natural Resources gave an illustrated talk on river otters. Following her talk, the members headed out on their group outings. The 8-year olds examined rocks, minerals and fossils at the planetarium. The 9-year olds journeyed to Humber Bay Park for bird-watching. The 10-year olds travelled to Old Mill Park to look at a variety of features: birds at feeders, fossils in stones along the walk, and flood control features of the Humber River. You can see that the younger groups study a wide variety of natural phenomena. The older members join special interest groups based on a specific topic. One such group is astronomy. In November, they travelled to the Ontario Science Centre where their leader showed them the star lab and electricity demonstrations. Special interest groups are formed on the basis of member demand and availability of an adult leader.

All members of the TFN are welcome to attend Junior Club activities and to bring family members and friends as well. On Saturday, February 7, our speaker will be Scott Lough, a third-year Astrophysics student at the University of Toronto. He will be discussing the discoveries of the Voyager probes. On March 7, the club will hold its annual display of members' projects at our annual Display Day.

If you have any questions about the Junior club or would like to help in any way, please call me or Mary-Louise Stewart (960-9860).

Pamela Kertland 889-6074  
Director of Junior Club



## This Month's Cover

"Forest Pattern, Wilket Creek"  
by Diana Banville

Contemplating a forest can be overwhelming, when equipped only with paint or pencils. Rather than resorting to flight, one can always remember one's art teacher's voice saying "Try for SOMETHING but don't try for it ALL." One way of doing so is by "resorting to" the abstract. It lends itself to nature subjects very well - perhaps that's because all art principles are from nature. In so doing, we may discover the extra dimensions that are there...the nature of contrast, the nature of relationships, the nature of texture, the nature of direction, the nature of harmony...but, strangely, only through sacrificing much. Our reward - excitement, calm - in some way modifying each other - because we are interpreting nature and at the same time expressing our own nature.

DB

Trees represented: Typical species of Toronto "climax forest" - Sugar maple, American beech, eastern hemlock, with white ash and American hornbeam.

 (NO DOGS)	Upcoming <b>OUTINGS</b>	TFN 
<b>RAIN</b> 	OR  <b>SHINE</b>	<b>Everybody Welcome!</b>

## FEBRUARY

- Wednesday Feb. 4 10 am METRO ZOO - behind the scenes Rouge, Scarborough  
 Leader: Zoo staff member  
 Meet inside the main entrance to the zoo (admission fee \$5.00 each). Dress warmly as we will be outside part of the time. Bring cameras and binoculars. The focus will be on animals native to Canada with possibly a look at animals of North and South America. Please call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you want to attend as the number of participants is to be limited.
- Saturday Feb. 7 2 pm BIRD HOSTEL - birds Scarborough  
 Leader: Elfi Strenge  
Please call Eva Davis (694-8928) if you want to attend as the number of participants is to be limited. This outing is accessible by public transit.
- Sunday Feb. 8 11 am ALLAN GARDENS - exotic plants Toronto  
 Leader: Dr. Nick Badenheisen  
 Meet inside the entrance to the greenhouses (south of Carlton Street, east of Jarvis Street).
- Wednesday Feb. 11 1:30 pm WINDFIELD PARK - nature walk Wilket Creek, North York  
 Leader: Eileen Mayo  
 Meet at the southeast corner of Bayview Avenue and York Mills Road to walk south. Walk will end where it begins.
- Saturday Feb. 14 10:30 am NEWTONBROOK - nature arts (photography) North York  
 Leader: Betty Greenacre  
 Meet at the entrance to Newtonbrook United Church on Cummer Avenue just east of Yonge Street. We will be looking at slides taken on outings. Come and see what we saw and what we looked like!
- Sunday Feb. 15 10 am SHERWOOD PARK - birds Burke Brook, North York  
 Leader: Annabel Cathral  
 Meet on the west side of Bayview Avenue just north of the CNIB overpass (between Eglinton and Lawrence) to walk west.
- Wednesday Feb. 18 11 am GUILDWOOD PARK - nature walk lakeshore, Scarborough  
 Leader: Eva Davis  
 Meet at the park entrance on Guildwood Parkway at Galloway. Lunch may be obtained at the restaurant.



## FEBRUARY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Saturday Feb. 21 10 am ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM - insects Toronto  
 Leader: Rein Jaagumagi  
Call Phil Joiner (496-0735) if you want to attend as the number of participants is to be limited. This is a free tour behind the scenes.

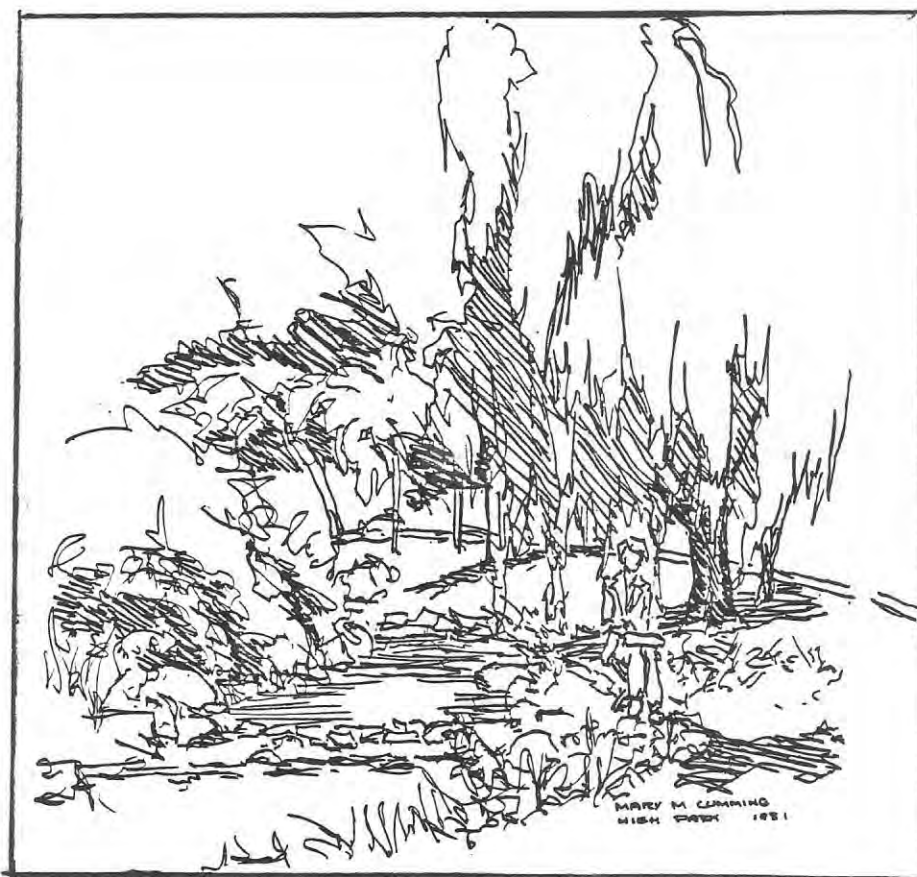
Wednesday Feb. 25 10:30 am NORTHERN DISTRICT LIBRARY - nature arts (photography) Toronto  
 Leader: Betty Paul  
 Meet in Room 224A of the library (on Orchard View Blvd. just north of Eglinton and west of Yonge). Members are asked to bring their favourite slides taken during the past year on TFN outings. Please call Betty Paul (224-0793) if you can bring photographs or have any questions. Everyone welcome.

Saturday Feb. 28 10 am to 4 pm KORTRIGHT CENTRE - nature walk northwest of Metro  
 Leader: Muriel Miville  
Please call Muriel (463-8066) after 7:30 pm if you want to attend. Confirm by sending your cheque for \$12.00 to Muriel at 607 - 33 Eastmount Ave., Toronto M4K 1V3. Make out cheque to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS - KORTRIGHT OUTING. Bus leaves the corner of Old York Mills Road and Yonge (south exit of York Mills subway station) promptly at 10 am and returns there at 4 pm. Lunch available at Kortright Centre.

OUT OF  
TOWN

BUS

□



# Keeping In Touch...

To: TFN Editorial Committee

Dec. 2, 1986

Just a note to suggest that in the next newsletter you print something further about helping with nest building (re Waxwing Watching Dec. 86, #384). A few decades ago when we lived in Brampton a neighbour family showed us a little dead nestling whose legs were entwined with string. It couldn't move, so was trapped in the nest. Naturalists should not leave long string or yarn where birds can get it -- fishline is the worst, of course. If one finds such material on walks, one should always collect it and destroy it or cut it up in short pieces. Long pieces of string, yarn, cord or fishline are deadly for some wildlife; please always discard in a proper place, or cut it up.

Helen Hansen

Dear Helen,

November 24, 1986

Re: Niagara Escarpment Showcase: A Limestone Legacy (Oct. 4 to 26, 1986)

Now that the Niagara Escarpment Showcase hosted by the Kortright Centre has come and gone it is only fitting that we write to express our appreciation for your support and involvement.

We are extremely proud of the results we achieved in this co-ordinated exhibition of the heritage that is the Niagara Escarpment. A ten-tonne limestone rock, dedicated as a monument to the Escarpment, remains as a reminder of The Limestone Legacy. Two Cabinet Ministers, The Hon. Bernard Grandmaitre and the Hon. Lily Monroe, toured the Showcase and demonstrated their support for the balanced utilization of lands along the Niagara Escarpment. The exhibition provided a focus for the introduction of the new Niagara Escarpment logo which will become a common identifier for communication initiatives and park land within the Niagara Escarpment Parks System.

At Kortright we see these results as only the beginning. We anticipate that similar shows will be mounted in the future and we hope you will join us again.

Again, thank you for your support.

J.D. (Don) McCallum  
Kortright Centre for Conservation

Dec. 12, 1986

Dear Sir,

I attended the Bird Fair at the Civic Garden Centre last Sunday and got one of your September publications to read. I thoroughly enjoyed it. There was so much informative reading. It brings one up to date on our environment problems. I enclose payment for membership.

Mrs. Wilma McQuade  
Oshawa

Dear Editor,

Dec. 13, 1986

Would you be so kind to have one of your authoritative members write an article on boots. What to look for when buying. Leather vs synthetic. Treads. When older where to go to get good leather boots that will accommodate bunions. Year round type of boot. Which are the best stores? How are the prices? I am talking of a quality boot which will last.

P. Young

## KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Dear Helen,

Nov. 24, 1986

I often see trees (saplings) planted or being planted along city streets, it would seem, by people who have no understanding of the space or conditions required for the tree to grow and be healthy. For instance, saplings planted along Yonge Street north of Eglinton in foot-square spaces and bricks placed right up to the tree trunk so that the tree has no exposed soil around its base through which it can receive moisture. Recently I noticed Scotch pines planted in boxes about a yard square on Wellesley Street East -- the boxes were elevated so that the roots of the pines had only about two feet of space for their roots to reach downward before hitting the base of the box, and other such, to me, wasteful and inconsiderate practices. So many little saplings can be seen around the city along sidewalks with no space for their roots to grow, surrounded by brick or concrete, with no access to rain water. It is possible that those engaged in ordering the trees and those planting them know little about the requirements of a tree to grow into a healthy plant, providing shade and decoration as probably was the original intention?

In this regard, I thought of sending the enclosed leaflet from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to City Hall but decided it might have more impact if it came through TFN or TFN might have some ideas regarding how the sidewalk trees in our city might be better treated and cared for.

Jean McGill

Ed. Note. The enclosed leaflet is entitled "Managing the Community's Forest".

Dear Helen Juhola and the Editorial Committee,

Oct. 30, 1986

Your November newsletter, Number 383, reached me this week, forwarded to me in B.C. and I have read it with great interest. Especially interesting to me was the article on Water Supply and Sanitation in Toronto, but every other article was read and aroused nostalgia, longing, envy and admiration; being now unable to participate physically, I share vicariously in your outings and concerns, and encourage my grandchildren to be aware of the natural world as well as of the city. (I have a granddaughter who is in final year at the University of Waterloo in a course on "Conservation and Environmental Studies".)

Here in Terrace, B.C. for three months, I watch ravens, Stellar jays and tiny migrating warblers, siskins (?), juncos from this window, wishing my eyes could distinguish the small ones more accurately, and my feet carry me into the mountains, snow-topped already, that surround this northern town in a flat flood-plain valley of the Skeena River and am thankful for memories and the on-going activities of TFN, PQSPB [Montreal] and others.

Mary Avison

□

<p>It's Saturday here; It's Saturday in China. Now, that's amazing.</p>
---

haiku by Karen Parker

TORONTO REGION Amphibian & Reptile REPORT

FEBRUARY

Some amphibians that hibernate in lakes and ponds may still feed. Mudpuppies, for example, are often caught on hook and line if worms are used as bait while ice-fishing. It is during this month that many amphibians and reptiles die as frost penetrates to its maximum depth and reaches the hibernating animals. Most of the deaths occur in the young of the year who may have chosen a poor site in which to hibernate.

Bob Johnson

Please send any observations of amphibians and reptiles to Bob (284-8181)  
c/o Metro Toronto Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill, Ont. M1E 4R5.

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# Toronto Region BIRD RECORDS

FALL MIGRATION has been reported in considerable detail by two members. William C. Mansell sends in monthly reports of the highlights of his observations, coded for Early Appearance, Late Appearance, First Observation in Toronto, and First Observation anywhere - for the year 1986. Sheets for August, September, and October have been received. He comments, "I continue to find small birds very scarce or completely absent. It is quite noticeable in my garden which, for years, had a good warbler/vireo/thrush representation spring and fall. Not one thrush this fall." Norm Murr continues to send comprehensive accounts of his visits to the Leslie Street Spit. Five reports covering fourteen visits between August 17 and October 26 have been received. He requests that groups be careful about sitting on beaches when shorebirds are present, and reports that bulldozers have been using an area at the base of The Spit as a shortcut and that it is "becoming a mess". Numbers or estimates are given for each location where species were seen (a map accompanies each report), as well as other annotations. On September 7 some detail was given for sighting of Baird's sandpiper, and wing-length compared with that of semipalmated sandpiper also present. Nineteen Baird's were seen. Also, identification information was given for the yellow-billed cuckoo; -the spots on tail, rufous on wings and bright yellow lower mandible having been evident. This kind of data on file is more valuable than explanations of familiarity with the species or length of time observed.

A large migration of sharp-shinned hawks was noted on September 14 - "stopped counting at 70". The largest number Norm recorded was three to four thousand red-breasted mergansers, one wave with about a thousand birds, flying east. Some bird habits were reported on October 26 - an American kestrel scolding and diving on a great horned owl, a northern saw-whet owl with a vole in its talons, and a flock of black-capped chickadees flying out over the lake from shore. Kenneth Kane reported a bald eagle circling at Victoria Park and Sheppard on October 10 and Maisie and George Newby a flock of ten red-necked grebes on the Lake near Rattray's Marsh.

WINTERING species were reported arriving. In addition to the few individuals which spent the summer in the Harbour over a hundred oldsquaws were reported by Norm Murr at the Spit on October 18 and four pairs in Ashbridge's Bay by Rudy Strenge October 26. On that day Norm Murr reported about sixty snow buntings at The Spit.

Detailed reports are on file. Please mail yours to the Library: D. Banville, 710 No. 7 Crescent Place, Toronto, Ont. M4C 5L7.

TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST					
Birds classified as "common" or "uncommon" in the TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART are included, plus a few in "rare" category for at least 5 months of the year, or which are increasing. Rare birds decreasing are not included. Species with only "exceptional" observations over most of the year are not included. If a species not listed is observed, describe bird and note the details. Use numbers in the squares rather than check-marks.					
OBSERVER					
Outing	1	2	3	4	5
Date					
Weather					
Place and/or Habitat					
Outing	Species				
1	2	3	4	5	
					Red-throated Loon <sup>o</sup>
					Common Loon
					Pied-billed Grebe <sup>o</sup>
					Horned Grebe
					Red-necked Grebe
					Double-crested Cormorant <sup>o</sup>
					American Bittern <sup>o</sup>
					Least Bittern
					Great Blue Heron
					Great Egret
					Green-backed Heron
					Black-crowned Night-Heron
					Tundra Swan <sup>o</sup>
					Mute Swan
					Snow Goose
					Brant
					Canada Goose
					Wood Duck
					Green-winged Teal
					American Black Duck

Available from TFN - see back page



## THE 62ND TORONTO CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS, DECEMBER 1986

Red-throated Loon	1	Short-eared Owl	1
Great Blue Heron	9	Saw-whet Owl	1
Mute Swan	99	Belted Kingfisher	7
Snow Goose	1	Downy Woodpecker	188
Canada Goose	7,467	Hairy Woodpecker	61
Wood Duck	1	Northern Flicker	12
Green-winged Teal	1	Pileated Woodpecker	8
American Black Duck	701	Horned Lark	42
Mallard	3,784	Blue Jay	481
Northern Shoveller	16	American Crow	840
Gadwall	406	Black-capped Chickadee	1,925
American Wigeon	37	Red-breasted Nuthatch	14
Canvasback	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	141
Redhead	133	Brown Creeper	8
Greater Scaup	462	Golden-crowned Kinglet	21
Lesser Scaup	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Harlequin Duck	2	American Robin	138
Oldsquaw	2,774	Northern Mockingbird	1
White-winged Scoter	6	Water Pipit	6
Common Goldeneye	282	Cedar Waxwing	571
Bufflehead	229	Northern Shrike	24
Common Merganser	206	European Starling	8,478
Red-breasted Merganser	49	Northern Cardinal	274
Ruddy Duck	1	Dickcissel	1
Northern Harrier	3	Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	American Tree Sparrow	674
Cooper's Hawk	5	Chipping Sparrow	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Song Sparrow	32
Red-tailed Hawk	107	Swamp Sparrow	3
Rough-legged Hawk	8	White-throated Sparrow	24
American Kestrel	61	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Merlin	1	Dark-eyed Junco	666
Peregrine Falcon	1	Snow Bunting	2,900
Ring-necked Pheasant	19	Red-winged Blackbird	2
Ruffed Grouse	11	Brewer's Blackbird	1
American Coot	1	Common Grackle	9
Ring-billed Gull	4,001	Brown-headed Cowbird	20
Herring Gull	9,670	Purple Finch	4
Iceland Gull	5	House Finch	191
Glaucous Gull	13	Red Crossbill	1
Great Black-backed Gull	232	White-winged Crossbill	1
Rock Dove	2,253	Common Redpoll	1,886
Mourning Dove	1,455	Hoary Redpoll	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	Pine Siskin	1,059
Great Horned Owl	15	American Goldfinch	1,037
Snowy Owl	4	Evening Grosbeak	143
Long-eared Owl	5	House Sparrow	2,603

There were 94 species found, with 59,065 individual birds. The traditional twenty-eight routes were covered by 140 observers within a 48 km radius of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Compiler: Hugh G. Currie  
Toronto Ornithological Club



## TORONTO CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS (cont'd)

Toronto's 62nd consecutive Christmas Bird Census was held on Sunday, Dec. 28, 1986. The same twenty-eight routes were covered that have been done for the past 32 years. All are within a 48 km radius of the Royal Ontario Museum.

The number of species was 94. Individual birds totalled 59,065. This was a new record high for individuals, the previous high had been 46,123 in 1981. The record high number of species was 99 in 1972.

Two new species were added to the all-time list. They were the Dickcissel and Brewer's Blackbird. Last year's Scrub jay is still pending review by the Ontario Ornithological Records Committee.

Single sightings included Red-throated Loon, Snow Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Short-eared Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill.

Species found in record high numbers were Canada Goose 7,467; Red-breasted Merganser 49; Herring Gull 9,670; Great Black-backed Gull 232; Water Pipit 6; House Finch 191; and Pine Siskin 1,059. Other high numbers were found among most duck species. Five Cooper's Hawks were the highest since 1953; 840 Crows were the highest since 1964 and 1,886 Common Redpolls were the most since 1955.

Greater Scaup at 462 were much below the levels of most years.

Species missed entirely included Hooded Merganser, Goshawk, shorebirds, wrens, longspurs and meadowlarks.

Count day was cloudy with a temperature range from -1 to +2°C and the wind was out of the southwest at 15 to 25 kph. There was no snow cover and most ponds, creeks and rivers were partially ice-free.

Thanks to all TFN members who took part and helped make the 1986 count a success.

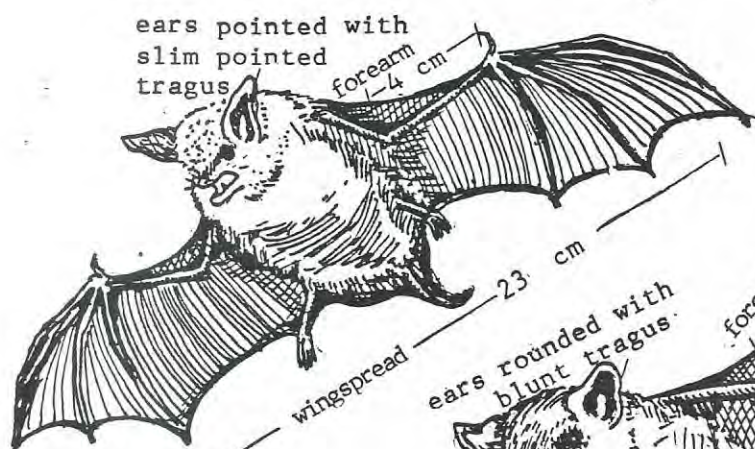
Participants: Lise Anglin, Mark Ansell, Martin Baller, John Barker, Henry Barnett, Kaye Barnett, Jim Bendell, Yvonne Bendell, Gerry Bennett, Olive Bennett, Ed Bezeau, Mary Bezeau, Al Blewitt, Fred Bodsworth, Margaret Bodsworth, Dane Bone, Lorraine Breton, Dave Broughton, John ten Bruggenkate, Danielle Burke, Doc Burke, Don Burton, Barry Cameron, Gord Cameron, John Carley, Ken Carmichael, Amanda Coady, Doug Corbridge, Craig Corcoran, Keegan Corcoran, Graham Crawshaw, Hugh Currie, John Dales, Mike Delorey, Rolph Davis, Alec Dobson, Jim Drake, Dennis Duckworth, Cameron Eckert, Anita Edmunds, Bill Edmunds, Rob Evans, George Fairfield, Jean Fairfield, Ann Falls, Bruce Falls, Ted Farley, Harold Farrant, Muriel Farrant, Gordon Gallant, Graeme Gibson, Coryn Gooch, Tony Gooch, Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin, Christine Hamilton, Jennifer Hamilton, Jim Hannah, Richard Hannah, Pat Hardy, Paul Harpley, Ross Harris, Henrick Hart, Carole Haugen, Ted Haugen, Roy Hilliard, Lawton Hindle, Lynn Hindle, Ron Jasiuk, Beth Jefferson, Ed Johns, Gay Joiner, Phil Joiner, John Keenleyside, Steve Kelly, Eileen Kerr, Harry Kerr, Sophia Kooman, Karl Konze, Mark Kubisz, John Lamey, Peggy Lehman, Ryan Lepik, Trevor Levere, John Livingston, David Love, Joan Love, Tim Lynch, Jim Macey, Sean Macey, Barry MacKay, Phillis MacKay, Kathleen MacNamara, Derrick Marven, Dave Maugham, Bill McLellan, Ken Moores, Ann Moore, Connie Muskstone, Dean Newton, Lois Newton, Don Pace, Don Perks, Scott Poser, Carlos Reposo, Art Rusnell, Margaret Rusnell, Brian Sansom, Margaret Shearman, Gerry Shemilt, John Shemilt Jr., John Shemilt Sr., Helen Smith, June Smith, Mac Smith, Jake Smythe, Ralph Speak, Doris Speirs, Murray Speirs, Derek Spindlow, Chris Spytz, Peter Spytz, John Stevens, Tom Stevens, Elfi Strenge, Rudy Strenge, Ron Tasker, Ian Tate, Dixie Taylor, Martin Taylor, Bruce Tisdale, Nigel Weaver, Jeanne Whetstone, Lorne Whetstone, Rita Whitham, Peter Wukasch, Bob Yukich.

Total: 138 people

## BATS

Of the six orders of mammals in the Toronto Region, the second is that of the bats, systematically following the insectivores (see TFN 381:20).

## ONE FAMILY - THE PLAINNOSE BATS



LITTLE BROWN BAT  
(overall length to 9 cm)



BIG BROWN BAT  
(overall length to 12 cm)

The Little Brown Bat has a more furry face and a sheen to its coat. The Big Brown Bat has black skin showing on face; is more tolerant of cold and is sometimes seen in winter. The Big Brown is about one-tenth as common as the Little Brown. A large hand could span a Little Brown's wingspread but it would take a giant one to span a Big Brown's.

Diana Banville

Ref.: A FIELD GUIDE TO THE MAMMALS - Burt & Grossenheider, Peterson Series  
MAMMALS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION - W. Burt, U. of Michigan Press  
THE MAMMALS OF CANADA - A. W. F. Banfield - U. of T. Press

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# TFN Library Report

ACQUISITIONS: August 26 to November 30, 1986

BOOKS: MACMILLAN ILLUSTRATED ANIMAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA - donated by Robin Powell  
LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS  
(4 volumes) - A.C.Bent - donated by Amoi Bird

ARTICLES AND LEAFLETS:

U. of Alberta Botanic Garden, donated by Miriam Faibish  
Articles and leaflets on bird subjects, donated by Jacques Gravel  
Biblical plants, article with bibliography - donor Sr. Mary Jane  
Ecology Park, industrial waste reduction, urban wildlife - from Mary Cumming  
Mushroom-hunting article - donated by Mildred Easto

REQUESTS:

There have been requests for the booklet TORONTO BIRDFINDING GUIDE by Peter Iden. We have found a copy in our files. This was a TFN Canada Centennial Project published 1967.

FILES:

Enough material has been accumulated on the American Robin to start a binder. We are calling it THE AMERICAN ROBIN: A SCRAP BOOK, with annotated bibliography. Sections include Notes from the Literature, the categories are in alphabetical order; Life History - General; Bibliography (96 authors). Clipped pictures and rough sketches are used to illustrate the book. Less detail is given in cases where referenced books are in TFN Library. This project has shown that we still don't know enough about the robin and there is plenty of room for records of observations of field naturalists.

▷ If you wish to borrow any of this material, call 690-1963.

DB

RECENTLY RECEIVED\* AND/OR PUBLISHED:

\* A GUIDE TO ANIMAL TRACKING AND BEHAVIOUR by Don & Lillian Stokes, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Toronto, 1986, \$18.95

TORONTO REGION BIRD REPORT 1985, the Toronto Ornithological Club, Toronto, 1986, \$7.00 + \$2.00 postage (Call Bruce Parker 449-0990)

WINTER BIRDS IN ONTARIO, a poster available from the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario (free)

ORCHIDS OF ONTARIO: AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE by R.E. Whiting and P.M. Catling, The Cana Coll Foundation, K.W. Neatby Bldg., 1010 Carling Ave., Ottawa K1A 0C6, 1986, \$12.95

\* "Hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) in Canada: population and reproductive biology of a rare species" by J.D. Ambrose et al in the CANADIAN JOURNAL OF BOTANY, Vol. 63, No. 11, 1985 (pages 1928-1935)



"Lessons from Our Neighbors of the North: the Swedes and Finns have pioneered and planned to stay in the global forest products business, putting them some way ahead of Canada" by Kimberly Noble in THE GLOBE AND MAIL - REPORT ON BUSINESS MAGAZINE, November 1986

This very interesting article explains in detail how Sweden and Finland operate a profitable pulp and paper industry. Plans for re-forestration and guidelines for anti-pollution promote increased growth of the valuable trees.

"Plant Alert - What to Watch for in the Winter" by Deborah Metsger in ROTUNDA, Winter 1986/87, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Illuminations, page 14).

This is one article in a series of four which deals with poisonous plants, both indoors and out. Since outdoor plants have lost their leaves and fruit as winter approaches, the author deals with houseplants which "remain to attract the attention of small children and pets".

Many plants are received as gifts, and the new owner may not recognize the potential danger produced by toxins contained in their colourful leaves, flowers, or fruit. Non-poisonous houseplants are listed and specific poisonous plants are described and well-illustrated by photographs.

This is a well-written and timely article as many of these plants will remain in our homes throughout the winter months. The author recommends that they are to be enjoyed, providing they are kept out of reach of the curious child and pet, who should be encouraged to stay away from all plants.

Eileen Mayo

LOOKING FOR THE WILD by Lyn Hancock, Doubleday Canada Ltd., 1986, \$22.95

Included is a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson and illustrations by Robert Bateman. A 30,000 mile odyssey across North America by a group of naturalists which visited bird sanctuaries, wildlife refuges and met groups of people whose goals were the preservation of wildlife. This is a personal and readable account with details of the places visited, and species seen from Newfoundland to the Pribilof Islands. [Two signed copies are still available from Jean Macdonald. Call 425-6596.]

Jean Macdonald

TORONTO'S BACKYARD: A GUIDE TO SELECTED NATURE WALKS by Dan Gregory and Roderick MacKenzie, Douglas & McIntyre, Toronto/Vancouver, 1986

This little book is a gem; every Metro Toronto naturalist should own a copy. The first five chapters introduce the geology, water systems, vegetation, wildlife, and history of the Toronto region. This background information sets the stage. Twelve of the region's best nature walks, south of the 401 between Oakville in the west and Scarborough in the east, are then described in detail. Maps, charts, photographs and line drawings amplify the text. It's all well laid out and easy to read. Toronto's Backyard is an excellent reference. As far as I know, Metro naturalists cannot find so much pertinent information on the Toronto area under one cover. Drop into your local bookstore and have a look. For just under \$11, this book is a steal.

Phil Joiner

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## UNEXPECTED GUESTS

It took the first snow storm of the season to bring to our feeding tray some new visitors, a couple of crows. Crows have frequented our neighbourhood in Willowdale for many years. But never had they descended from tree-tops and TV aerials to our backyard feeders. Never, that is, until the day after the storm of November 20. I was out early that morning to remove three inches of neatly-sculpted snow from atop the tray-table feeder. To a fresh supply of sunflower seeds -- small black and striped varieties -- I added some dried squash seeds and peanuts in the shell. And for dessert a few small slices of left-over banana.

The two crows arrived about 11 o'clock and perched on the telephone cable near the feeder. Immediately all activity there by the sparrows, house finches, and chickadees ceased. Some of them switched their attention to the sunflower seeds in the coconut shell hanging from our venerable hawthorn. But the tray sat deserted beneath the black brooding presence above. For about twenty minutes the crows remained on the telephone wire. Then one swooped down and side-slipped into a landing on the tray. Its first choice was a piece of banana. Off it flew to swallow it atop the post of the nearby compost box. Then the other crow came down. It too snapped up some banana and flew a short distance away. After several more sorties the bits of fruit were gone. What next? Stepping across the tray with deliberate strides one of our black visitors reached down for a peanut. Flying with it back to the telephone cable it swayed slightly to and fro as it held the shell with its toes and pried out the nut. The other crow watched but apparently had no interest in peanuts. The peanut eater returned to the tray several times for refills. Then, on what seemed to be some unspoken signal, both birds flew off out of sight.

Crows, according to John Dennis in his excellent book, A COMPLETE GUIDE TO BIRD FEEDING, "rarely appear [at feeders] except under stress of bad weather". So it seemed to be with our two black visitors. They raised to thirteen the number of species that have eaten at the tray feeder since we put it up on Thanksgiving weekend.

Harold Taylor

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## OUR EARLIEST-BLOOMING FLOWER

Because I start my records in early spring, the earliest blooming-date I have for skunk cabbage in Metro Toronto is March 23. However, it certainly has bloomed in January and I have even seen it in bloom during a mild spell in December, in Lambton Woods. The latest blooming-date I have on record for skunk cabbage is May 24.

Isabel Smith

WILD TURKEYS A CHALLENGE FOR HUNTERS

Sportsmen are eagerly anticipating spring when the first wild turkey season in Ontario since the early 1900's will take place in the Napanee area.

A wild turkey reintroduction program -- started in 1984 by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and other conservationists [Federation of Ontario Naturalists] -- has been so successful that the wild turkey population is now large enough to support a controlled hunt.

The hunt will be held in May, after most of the hens have been bred. Only bearded turkeys, primarily males (known as gobblers), will be hunted. Gobblers will still be seeking out hens and hunters will be imitating hen calls to lure gobblers within shooting range. ...

Hunting wild turkeys is a waiting game. Stalking is almost impossible because they are alert, keen-sighted birds; it is also potentially dangerous as it could lead you to another hunter, mimicking the calls of a wild turkey hen.

A hunter should locate a calling spot in open woods, sit down against a large tree and remain still. With a calling device, a hunter can imitate any one of a hen's many sounds and draw gobblers into shotgun or bow range. ...

Wild turkey hunters will need to wear total camouflage clothing to be successful. Even the hands and face should be camouflaged as the appearance of uncamouflaged flesh can alert a wild turkey to the hunter's presence. ...

The early May hunt will...run from Monday, May 4, to Saturday, May 9; the second [hunt] will follow on Monday, May 11 to Saturday, May 16.

Hours will be restricted to a half-hour before sunrise to noon. Most of the hunting will be done on private land, so the permission of landowners is necessary. Trespass laws will be enforced. ...

In the past, provincial officials and sportsmen's clubs made several attempts to reintroduce turkeys, but until recently all failed. Past attempts involved pen-raised birds, which were susceptible to disease and dependent on supplementary feeding.

Plans quickly fell into place for the reintroduction of wild turkeys when Michigan, a state where wild turkeys have also been successfully reintroduced, asked Ontario for some moose. Ontario sent moose from Algonquin Provincial Park to the State in exchange for wild turkeys from lower Michigan.

At the same time, Ontario arranged to trade river otters with Missouri for more wild turkeys. Other states delivered birds as part of trades or as gifts.

Since 1984, [the Ministry of Natural Resources] -- in conjunction with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and other conservationists -- has reintroduced 253 wild turkeys from Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, New York and Vermont. The birds were released in five ministry districts in southern Ontario: Napanee, Simcoe, Huronia, Cambridge and Niagara.

The reintroduction program has been particularly successful in Napanee, where 96 Michigan wild turkeys were stocked in the winter of 1984. The birds bred and by the spring of 1986 the Napanee area was home to an estimated 700 birds. By next spring [1987], there could be several thousand birds.

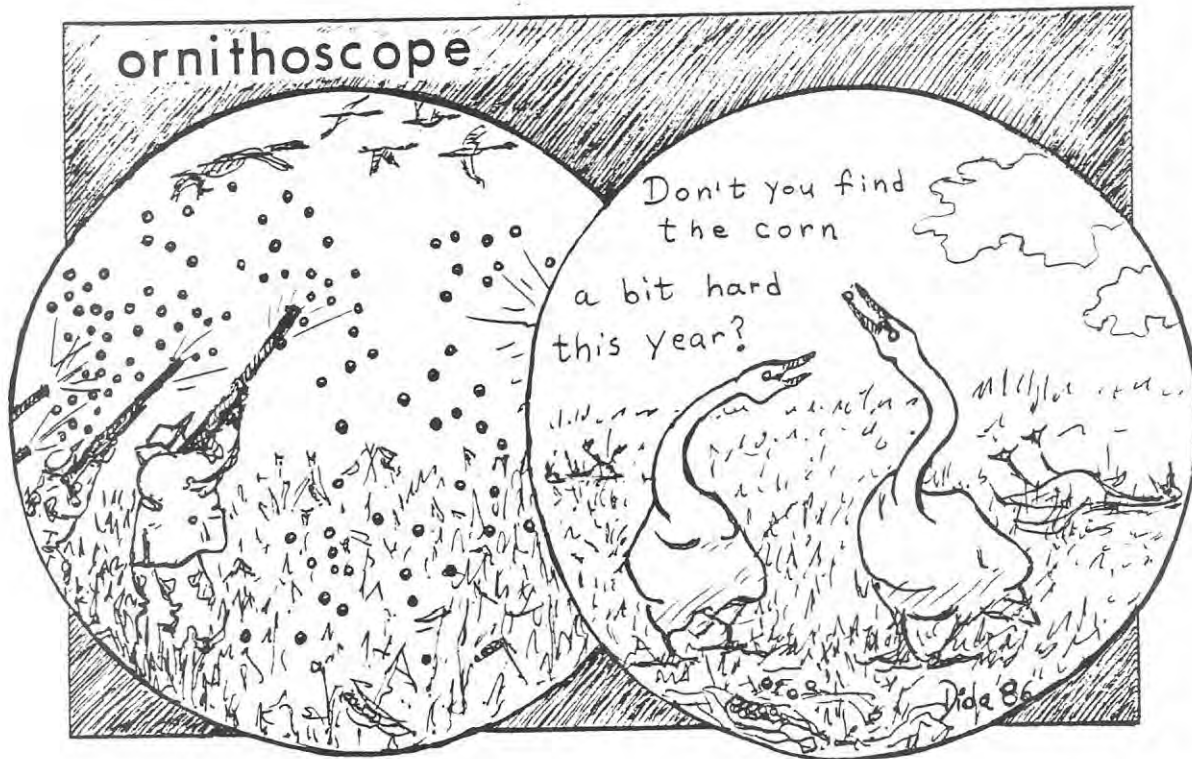
Female wild turkeys lay about 12 eggs and although the eggs and young are susceptible to predators, the adult birds seem to have few serious natural

## WILD TURKEYS (cont'd)

enemies. ...

condensed from an ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT, 1986

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...It is the adoption of field-feeding that has brought so many swans inland, but corn poses a threat to the birds. Should they ingest lead shot that may lie submerged in the mud of a marsh or pond or previously-hunted field, the corn they eat will grind against the shot in the birds' gizzards. Lead in the digestive system is absorbed into the circulatory system causing lead poisoning and likely death. As more swans adopt this feeding behaviour, the number of deaths due to lead poisoning can be expected to increase...

from THE RETURN OF THE SWANS  
Ministry of Natural Resources Ontario

## NOMINATIONS INVITED -- TFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TFN is looking for people interested in volunteering time, energy and initiative to serve as members of the Board. Please send your suggestions to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee: Jean Macdonald (425-6596), 88 Parklea Drive, Toronto M4G 2J8.



# In The News

## ONTARIO APPROVES MORE DAYLIGHT TIME

There will be an extra three weeks of Daylight Time for Ontario residents [this] spring as a result of the unusual passage of a private member's bill. Until now people have set their clocks ahead by one hour on the last Sunday in April. Under the new legislation to amend the provincial Time Act, Daylight Time will begin on the first Sunday of [April]. Standard Time will resume, as usual, on the last Sunday on October.

condensed from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Nov. 28, 1986

## MARINA STARTS

The Toronto Harbour Commission will begin work on the 1,200-boat public marina in the outer harbour at the foot of Leslie Street tomorrow. To be completed in phases, the first mooring slips will be available in 1988 and others over the three-year building period. The commission said this weekend that market studies show the demand for wet berth slips between Port Credit and Pickering will increase to 13,250 from 5,800 by 1995.

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, Oct. 13, 1986

## WILDLIFE ENDANGERED BY U.S. OIL HUNT

The U.S. Department of the Interior has recommended that the 1.5 million acre Arctic National Park Wildlife Refuge in Alaska be opened to development because the reserve sits on top of a petroleum superfield. The U.S. could make \$135 billion if it took advantage of the reserve. The drilling would be done close to the Arctic Coast and this is where Porcupine River caribou herds congregate and calve each June. This is a critical area for the caribou and also for the people who depend upon the caribou. The report also states that while oil and gas development would reduce the caribou herd, the development should proceed. The U.S. is required to consult with Canada before issuing such a report and it did not. Yukon Natural Resources Minister David Porter states that Canada should apply all the pressure it can to prevent such development. Our government is withholding comment until it has studied the report.

condensed from an article by Matthew Fisher in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Dec. 10, 1986

## RESIDENTS BATTLE TO SAVE PARK

Residents of the Broadview/Danforth area are fighting to save a small park immediately north of the Broadview subway station. This triangular piece of land used to be the streetcar turnaround. It is now owned by Metro and Metro has declared it "surplus". Metro also has a customer who wishes to build an office block on the site. This little park is used constantly by residents -- to take the sun, to walk dogs, to feed pigeons and to survey the passing crowd. The area has many senior citizens who cannot walk down to the inaccessible Don Valley and many feel that the park should be kept as green space. Residents are trying to get the city to buy it at the current asking price and also asking Metro to lower that price, so that the deal is more attractive to the city. People who live in this area and wish to see the park preserved, can write to Alderman Barbara Hall, City of Toronto, 2nd floor, 100 Queen St. West, Toronto M4H 2N2. Alderman Hall will see to it that the letters are drawn to the attention of Metro Council when the issue comes up again.

condensed from an article by Renana Glassman in the REAL ESTATE NEWS, Nov. 7/86

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

PROVINCE ENDORSES INCLUSION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS IN CONSTITUTION

Recently the Ontario Legislature voted 44 to 20 to support the inclusion of property rights in the Constitution. The province now joins B.C., N.B. and the Yukon with the intention to "protect property owners from unnecessary and unfair government actions". If property rights do become part of the Constitution, TFN members may wonder what effect this will have on the issue of expropriation -- the means by which several pieces of land have, in the past, become parkland and conservation land.

See article by Dan O'Reilly, REAL ESTATE NEWS, Dec. 5, 1986

NEW FEDERAL PARKS LEGISLATION

Environment Minister Thomas McMillan announced new national parks legislation last December. Penalties of up to \$150,000 and six months in jail await those who poach wildlife in national parks. What has become a lucrative trade in trophies such as the head of a bighorn sheep, a bear's paw, or a falcon now has strong deterrent. Wealthy poachers from the States and Europe who have paid thousands of dollars for the opportunity to kill endangered species will find their criminal activities more difficult to pursue. This is the first updating of fines since 1919. Minor offences in parks will be raised to \$2000. There will be increase in warden staff who will be given guns and modern crime-fighting equipment such as infra-red binoculars and radio monitors.

Commercial and resort development in parks will be curtailed and so will nibbling away at park boundaries. The new act will protect not only fauna and flora, but soil, water, rocks, fossils, minerals and air quality as well. Previously new roads, power lines or pipe lines could be driven through national parks by an order in Cabinet. Now, an amendment to the act will have to be passed by Parliament before that can happen.

Finally, a National Parks Citizen's Heritage Fund will be established. This will make it easier for citizens to make tax-deductible contributions towards buying and improving national parks and historic sites.

A standing ovation for McMillan! Wasn't it last year we were sunk in gloom about an Environment Minister who thought mining and logging in national parks was fine?

condensed from an article by Micheal Keating in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Dec. 12, 1986

FOREST PRESERVATION

Naturalists have produced a forest management plan to preserve a section of virgin Carolinian forest. The plan, approved by 22 interested groups [including TFN] meeting in Simcoe, calls for the Ontario Heritage Foundation to set up a \$150,000 trust fund for maintaining the 260-hectare Backus Woods, on the north shore of Lake Erie. The woods are Canada's largest stand of vegetation native to North and South Carolina and include black gum, tulip and magnolia trees. Under the plan, one area of the woods would be left untouched and another managed.

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, Dec. 17, 1986

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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

FALCONS NOT 'GAME BIRDS', LAWYER TELLS COURT

A lawyer representing the African Lion Safari asked the Ontario Court of Appeal yesterday to rule that falcons and other birds of prey do not qualify as "game birds" under the province's Fish and Game Act. [The lawyer said] the legislation effectively establishes three classes of birds: nuisance species such as crows and blackbirds that can be hunted at any time (provided that the hunter has a licence); game birds that can be hunted only during an open season; and protected birds that can never be hunted. The act's failure to define birds of prey precisely has emerged as a key issue in a legal battle between the African Lion Safari and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources after a March, 1984, raid on the game farm near Cambridge. The raid led to the seizure of 46 birds of prey.

condensed from an article by Thomas Claridge in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Oct. 23, 1986

Ed. Note. There do seem to be loopholes in our bird protection laws. On two occasions I reported caged native birds to Environment Canada. Once they were grateful. (I had reported a caged cardinal.) These are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act which is enforced by Environment Canada (the Federal Government). The second bird I reported was a caged blue jay. That is when I discovered that the following species are not protected by the federal government: double-crested cormorant, turkey vulture, goshawk etc., ring-necked pheasant, barn owl etc., gray jay, blue jay, common raven, common crow, starling, rock dove, house sparrow, yellow-headed blackbird, red-winged blackbird, rusty blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, common grackle, brown-headed cowbird, pelicans. Each province has an act to cover all species native to that province which are not mentioned by the Federal Act. Starlings and sparrows are introduced species and as such are not covered by any act. In Ontario, ring-necked pheasants are listed as game birds as are ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, Hungarian partridge, sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie-chicken, ptarmigan, bob-white quail, turkey. Crows, cowbirds, blackbirds, starlings, house-sparrows may be killed any time. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is supposed to enforce the Game and Fish Act. I never did find out what they did about the caged blue jay I reported!

HJ

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ICE STORM -- OTTAWA  
1986

Christmas Eve skated in on an ice storm, bringing down power lines, leaving turkeys unroasted and snapping trees like nuts in a nutcracker. The weather was as grey as a homespun blanket and not a breeze stirred. With no sunlight to melt it and no breeze to break it, the ice settled and tightened its grip. It was as if the trees were laid upon a rack and each turn of the wheel brought them nearer to breaking strain. With a tearing snap and a clatter like that of broken glass, a tree falls. A walk through the woods is filled with the scent of broken branches, keen on the cold air. Grosbeaks crush ice on the sumac plumes as they break through to food and a red squirrel searches vainly on a spruce branch for an unfrozen cone. In this glassy and shattering world, only crampons make walking easy. The trees, backlit by a momentary flash of sun, flare as if God flicked a switch.

Louise Herzberg

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# ISSUES

## SERIAL STORY...

Tracking down which arm of Government is responsible for something reminds me of the legendary Mrs. Beeton's preliminary to one of her recipes: First, catch your goose...

With regard to 2,4-D and continued Parks and Hydro spraying, I approached Environment Canada on the assumption that this federal Ministry dealt with the whole of the environment.

Not so. I was directed to federal Agriculture. I wrote again, sending copies to provincial Agriculture and my MPP and MP.

My MPP assured me NDP's caucus approved my position regarding Hydro spraying.

My MP proclaimed I was "right to have these concerns and to make them known to the government Period". (This is known as the art of political non-involvement - never vouchsafe an opinion.)

Federal Agriculture Minister Wise replied that 2,4-D was being evaluated, but directed me to the provincial Minister of the Environment with regard to Parks and Hydro.

(A long time ago I tried to explain to a British friend, in a letter, something of Canada's system of Government betwixt federal and provincial. Utterly bemused, she queried how we ever got anything done. Indeed.)

I then wrote to Minister Bradley and am awaiting an answer.

However, the Hon. E. Broadbent forwarded a copy of Hansard excerpts which proved more forthcoming. From these I learned that the Hon. Charles Caccia (Member for Davenport) had, under Private Members' Business, presented a motion on November 18, 1986, in the House, on "Effects of Chemical Pesticides". He started with a paragraph, composed entirely of newspaper headlines from B.C. to P.E.I., recording growing official and public alarm. He proposed an independent task force "which would cross this nation to investigate this matter", to pass information to the public and to hear from citizens, non-governmental organizations, municipal, provincial, federal officials, and labour and industry, in order to institute a search for the development of alternative methods.

Mr. Caccia said that

"The use of certain herbicides, particularly 2,4-D, is unacceptable to human health, both to those who have to utilize it and, in the long term, to the public which comes in contact with the substances in areas which have been sprayed".

He stressed the need for biological controls, for a return to manual methods, for the necessity for a better understanding of the role of natural predators.

Following him was Mr. Bill Blaikie, NDP environment critic (Winnipeg-Bird's Hill), and I cannot do better than quote a couple of his paragraphs.

"Also worrisome is the widespread domestic use of the chemical /2,4-D/ in lawn and garden products. Surely it is totally unacceptable that domestic gardeners and what I affectionately call lawn fanatics should put their health and the health of others, particularly children in their neighbourhoods, at risk for the sake of flowerbeds and a greener than average lawn."

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## ISSUES - Serial (cont'd)

"We see this happen right under our noses at the House of Commons. For the last few years we are treated every summer to little yellow signs on the front lawn that warn us that the grass has been treated with some kind of herbicide and that we ought not to go on the grass because it would endanger our health. This also takes place on railway roadbeds and the sides of highways. I think it is scandalous that we should be taking such risks with these known carcinogens simply in order to have weed-free railway roadbeds or weed-free lawns. It is clearly an example of putting short-term convenience ahead of long-term health and concern for others and the environment".

He pointed out that the federal Government has merely written to the provinces drawing their attention to EPA studies in the States on 2,4-D, and that Ontario, while refusing to schedule new products containing 2,4-D, was not stopping the use of products currently on the market.

Mr. Blaikie named another carcinogen, PCP (Pentachlorophenol), banned in Sweden and also under EPA scrutiny. In Canada, we had the grotesque spectacle of Bradbury Industries planning to build a PCP plant in Western Canada.

Another suspect carcinogen, Alachlor, was deregistered, but under pressure from the manufacturer, Monsanto, the federal Government appointed an Alachlor Review Board which recommended temporary registration and looked set to recommend permanent registration.

The federal Environment Minister, Mr. McMillan, has proposed stringent environment protection legislation to deal with toxic chemicals. Mr. Blaikie was concerned, however, that this Bill would deal primarily with new chemicals while, once again, doing little regarding potentially dangerous substances now in use. As well, whatever Mr. McMillan's high intent, pesticide registration remained under the jurisdiction of federal Agriculture, a Ministry insufficiently concerned with environmental consequences, notwithstanding Minister Wise's assurances that Canada has some of the most rigorous pesticide inspection standards in the world.

Mr. Blaikie pressed for responsibility for testing and registration of herbicides and pesticides to be transferred to Environment Canada. He put the dilemma succinctly. Government must stop asking, first and foremost,

What would be the loss in terms of yield agriculturally if we did not use these substances?

and start asking the infinitely more complex but truly vital question,

What will be the cost in terms of increased cancers, allergies and ill health consequent upon using these chemicals?

The petrochemical giants, in one of the most successful publicity 'sells' in history, have persuaded us that without their products we would be at the mercy of every life form Nature throws our way. The truth is that we have "survived" Nature down our long evolution but have very little knowledge of the ultimate effects of the historically recent introduction into the human arena of toxic chemicals.

It is immensely heartening that there are Parliamentary Members who are not willing to wait until the growing epidemic of ecological illness becomes a

## ISSUES - Serial (cont'd)

20th century equivalent of the Plague, but are prepared to fight for a sane approach and curtailing of our use of toxic chemicals. Naturally, the industry is going to fight tooth and nail against any circumscribing of its worldwide empire. It is, therefore, up to us to make it crystal clear to Government that they have to deal not only with the chemical-makers but with people's right to an uncontaminated environment, and with our future votes.

▷ If you wish to support Mr. Bill Blaikie and the Hon. Charles Caccia, write them (House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6) and let them know that they speak for those of us who desire a sane and healthier future.

Eva Davis

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK CONCEPT PLAN

On Thursday, November 27, 1986, the [Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority] held a public meeting in the Brigantine Room, York Quay Centre at Harbourfront, to present the consultant's alternative concept plans (Phase III), and to receive public comment. The public meeting was attended by 260+ registered public with over 50 interested citizens presenting their comments.

The Authority staff, after reviewing the consultant's preferred concept plan and the public input, presented a recommended concept plan to the Water and Related Land Management Advisory Board at its meeting Dec. 5, 1986. The Board's recommendation will be considered by the Full Authority at its meeting on Jan. 23, 1987. The approval of a preferred concept plan will allow the planning process to continue into Phase IV. This Phase IV will focus on preparation of the Concept Plan Report including details of the capital/operation costs, phasing and scheduling of implementations.

Ultimately, the concept plan will be submitted to Metropolitan Toronto and the Ministry of Natural Resources for approval in 1987. In addition, consideration of the concept plan under the Environmental Assessment Act will be initiated in 1987.

▷ If you have any comments or questions on the concept plan activities, please contact Larry Field at 661-6600.

from TOMMY THOMPSON PARK, Vol. 1, No. 5, Dec. 15, 1986 (a newsletter produced by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority)

CLAIREVILLE CONSERVATION AREA - GOLF COURSE PROPOSAL

"Staff [of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority] reported that on Sept. 26, 1986, the Meadows at Claireville Group withdrew its proposal. On Oct. 9, 1986, their original cheque in the amount of \$5,000, submitted with the preliminary proposal, was returned as requested, thus terminating negotiations."

The above is a quote from the minutes of the Conservation and Related Land Management Advisory Board of MTRCA. Although the committee accepted the withdrawal of this particular proposal, the minutes go on as follows:

"And further, that should suitable proponents express an interest in designing, developing, and operating a golf course in the Claireville Conservation Area, staff be directed to invite the proponents to make proposals and presentations to the Conservation and Related Land Management Advisory Board."

ISSUES (cont'd)

BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS

Pollution Probe state that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is going ahead with construction of the world's largest garbage incinerator. Prevailing winds will carry the dioxins from this plant into Windsor and on to farmland vital to Canada's food supply. (Dioxin, a defoliant and industrial waste product, is the most potent carcinogen known.)

They suggest that we write to the Governor of Michigan strongly urging that he ensure the best available pollution control technology be applied to cleaning up the pollutants which will spew from this giant plant (as they do from smaller incinerators all across Canada - we are, after all, quite splendidly "serviced" by our own, we don't need Detroit's contaminants as well).

▷ The address for Governor Blanchard is State Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan 48913, U.S.A.

On the Good News Front (we do, occasionally, hear good news about the environment), Pollution Probe also report on the Dow Chemical plant in Sarnia. In an effort to clean up their "toxic blob" in the St. Clair River, they have been conducting projects in all their 14 industrial sites. After only 8 months, Dow claim that they have reduced chemical dumping into the River from 350 kilos/day to 50 kilos/day. They state their goal is zero discharge into the environment. While this is no more than all industrial plants should be aiming for, Dow are to be congratulated on being amongst the first to show that it can be done and that it is as much a matter of will as of technical knowhow.

Eva Davis

TRAIL BIKES IN THE PARKS

Further to the information we received about the use of trail bikes in unauthorized areas (TFN 383, November, page 6), we have heard from Sergeant Deconkey of #2 District Headquarters [Etobicoke]. The sergeant advised us to first, obtain licence numbers of the vehicles, which should then be reported to the police. Second, if there is no licence, or you cannot see or read it, make as detailed notes as possible to identify the bike(s) and the person(s) using it/them. Since infractions will likely be repeated, a file will be developed by the police and will enable them to conduct investigations -- even inquiries house to house. The third thing you can do is telephone direct to the police. However, they may not be able to respond promptly if they are engaged in events of higher priority such as car accidents, or break-ins. When calling direct, it is helpful to know the police district in which the infraction is taking place, and to use that number. If you do not know, call the main switchboard 967-2222, tell the operator where you are and you will be connected with the district responsible for the area.

▷ Sergeant Deconkey reminded us that the parks and valleys are patrolled by the police. We see the officers and appreciate this surveillance. Mutual cooperation will, perhaps, enable some of the problems reported to us by our members to be reduced.

Jean Macdonald

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ISSUES (cont'd)

NEW TIMBER MANAGEMENT (?)

According to an Environment Canada joint news release, the federal Minister of the Environment and the N.W.T. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism signed an agreement on September 20, 1986, designating Ellesmere Island Canada's most northerly national park reserve.

A national park reserve has the same protected status as a national park except that the establishment of a reserve does not affect native land negotiations.

This move has resulted from Canadian and worldwide environmental and conservationist demand that this unique Arctic wilderness be protected. The reserve takes in almost 40,000 sq. km of northern spectacle ranging from glaciers and fiords to musk oxen and Peary caribou.

Ministers McMillan and Carley have acted with foresight and sensitivity to protect one of Canada's rarer environmental wonders.

This is the good news. Now for the alarming.

According to Brian Back in PORTAGE, newsletter of the Ontario Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Temagami wildlands are threatened.

Temagami encompasses Ishpatina, Ontario's highest elevation; the waterfall terraces of the Lady Evelyn River; remoteness and accessibility. It is the last wildland region "not fully captured within a park". It is one of Canada's most popular wilderness-canoeing regions.

The threat? A proposed forestry road, to be built from public funds.

Back's prognosis is that from the two words "forestry road" will follow the inevitable army of campers, motorboats, garbage, increased hunting and fishing pressures, property leases, cottages, and, of course, the forestry industry itself.

A change is taking place in the management of Crown land by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Forestry no longer simply involves cutting and leaving. It now demands permanent access in the names of timber management and silviculture (i.e., tree farming). "Clearcutting" is a hallmark of silviculture, and wastelands are the consequence of clearcutting in areas of Temagami.

Temagami now stands at the same point as did the prairies when the newly constructed CPR brought immigrants who transformed wildland into a permanent amalgam of fields and roads.

The projected road will give vital access to two mills, one in the village of Elk Lake and the other in the village of Temagami. MNR, realizing that both forests and the timber industry are endangered, is moving to longterm timber management, i.e., treefarming. By this, understand burning, planting, thinning, spraying, fertilizing, harvesting. With this policy go permanent access roads.

The Temagami district MNR is planning to extend Red Squirrel Road across the Diamond-Wakimika portages, which means cutting virgin stands of red and white pine older than Confederation, and after 1990 it plans to add the Pinetorch Road, south of Florence Lake, in the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Wilderness Park, areas slated for protection in the original park proposal before the proposal was reduced to its 1983-size.

MNR stopped road construction in 1984 when it was queried loudly whether the public had been adequately notified of the plan. Right-of-way had nevertheless



## ISSUES - Timber (cont'd)

already been cut. In 1985 MNR repeated its public review, and the resulting outcry that a road was under construction without public knowledge forced Vincent Kerrio, Liberal Minister of MNR, to accede to a requested Individual Environmental Assessment (EA).

This meant that MNR had to conduct its first individual EA.

An outside consultant DeLCan was hired to "conduct" and "complete" the study. When the report was released, however, the consultant's name was missing, and it was no longer DeLCan's study but MNR's. This study proposed MNR's road, ignoring the impact of timber management as a consequence of the road. A gate was recommended, to restrict public access, a futile suggestion since the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has already pledged to see it removed. The resulting roads will accelerate the destruction of wilderness.

MNR publicly promised "compromise" but has chosen to ignore alternatives which would minimize environmental damage, such as winter roads, realignment around sensitive areas, and water ferries.

As Mr. Back stresses, in his handling of this strategic EA, MNR has betrayed its mandate to promote the recreation industry and to protect wilderness.

On a Temagami field trip undertaken last September, it was seen that the clear-cuts are larger and are total -- everything is removed, down to the soil. Shore-line reserves are being ignored, with some clearcuts right to the water's edge. Roads are built along shorelines and across wetlands. Unauthorized access is already taking place through the logging roads despite the placing of "gates".

"New timber management" will drastically alter the ecology and recreational values of Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park, the last true wildland close to Toronto.

MNR has rushed to complete the EA and get the approval of the Ministry of the Environment.

Write urgently to James Bradley, Minister of the Environment, and to Vincent Kerrio, Minister of Natural Resources, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1A2, and stress that the Red Squirrel EA is incomplete without inclusion of the assessment of the major impact these roads and the projected timber management will have upon the area.

Eva Davis

House Mouse, Shipp Centre  
Building (taking the bait)



## ISSUES (cont'd)

THE NEW BRUCE NATIONAL PARK

On October 3rd, 1986, an agreement was signed between the Federal Minister of the Environment, Tom McMillan, and Vincent Kerrio (Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources) to declare a 270 square kilometre park on the Bruce peninsula a National Park.

It is Canada's 5th National Park. Ontario has done the right thing too. It will be making a donation of land to the Federal Government (7,000 acres, including 2 Provincial parks and their capital improvements).

As Mr. Kerrio, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources states "By making these contributions, the Province recognises and actively supports the wider National significance of the Bruce Peninsula and the importance of protecting this area for all Canadians to enjoy". The value of the Provincial land donation is \$6 million -- it includes Fathom Five and Cyprus Lake Provincial Parks.

In C.O.N.E.'s last Newsletter we asked you to write to Mr. McMillan urging him to make this Park a reality. It worked, thanks in part to your letters, lobbying by C.O.N.E. and other Environmental groups and interested members of the public.

Now you might like to write again to congratulate both Ministers -- there are still issues like hunting areas to be worked out. We don't want the finalisation to take any more time than necessary. A letter today may spur them on.

Please write to Hon. T. McMillan, Minister of the Environment, Environment Canada, Room 582, Confederation Bldg., House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6 and Hon. Vincent Kerrio, Minister of Natural Resources, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. W., Toronto M7A 1W3

Congratulate them on the establishment of this Park and encourage them to finalize negotiations for its future as soon as possible.

from CONE NEWSLETTER No. 23, Jan. 1987

UN-TAXING NATURE - A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

On Oct. 22, 1986 at a special dinner held to celebrate the 35th year of the Conservation Council of Ontario, Premier David Peterson made the long-awaited and very welcomed announcement that -

"We will take steps to ease the property tax-burden that threatens the preservation of land that is vital to Ontario's Natural heritage" -

This is wonderful news for heritage land everywhere and on the Niagara Escarpment in particular. For years an undue burden of taxation has been put on the agencies who manage our natural heritage land such as Conservation Authorities, Ministries and environmental groups. They could often afford to buy the land in the first place but could not afford the crippling taxes. The property tax was set at the highest market value as if the land could be used for development, when in reality it was never going to be developed but kept as natural heritage areas forever.

Indeed recently, the taxation has been so high that some Conservation Authorities such as the ones in Grey County have categorically refused to participate in the Government's program for acquiring land for the Escarpment Park system. Let us hope this is now going to be resolved. C.O.N.E. will be writing to congratulate the Premier and encouraging him to move quickly. His intention is to start with Class 1 and 11 heritage "Wetlands" and to move towards the other categories by 1989.

ISSUES (cont'd)

UNTAXING NATURE (cont'd)

The method to be used is the one now in place in which the Government refunds 60% of the property tax on agricultural lands and managed forests.

Your letters of congratulations would be greatly appreciated. Send them to Hon. David Peterson, Premier of Ontario, Legislative Bldg., Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1A1.

from CONE NEWSLETTER, No. 23, Jan. 1987

### HUNTING IN THE PARKS

TFN members will be interested that a projected deer hunt in the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve has been given the "all-clear" for the 1986 hunting season. The hunt was proposed by the Ministry of Natural Resources (Vincent Kerrio) to the Ministry of the Environment (James Bradley). Minister Bradley asked Ontario's Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee for an opinion. This body, consisting of two university professors, pronounced as follows: "Based on submissions from a public meeting, the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee has concluded that a controlled hunt this season will not cause any significant impact". The Ministry of Natural Resources justified the hunt by claiming that the areawas over-populated and the herd would suffer starvation. The Peterborough Field Naturalists Club and the Jack Lake Cottagers Association dismiss the "biological" necessity and claim that this will simply be a sports hunt.

The Ministry of Natural Resources need to be jolted out of this feudal approach to what they call their long-term wildlife management. According to Sierra Club's Brian Back, 86% of the public oppose hunting in the parks, but are ignored. The reason: the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. This dedicated body has a membership of 50,000 and is still growing. Back points out that this is a lobby larger than the combined membership of FON, CNF, CPAWS, Pollution Probe and the Sierra Club of Ontario. It is therefore up to every one of us who are opposed to such practices to make our views emphatically known to both Vincent Kerrio and James Bradley. For the first time in countless years we appear to have in Minister Bradley someone who is not only aware of environmental problems but is determined to do more than mouth platitudes. He needs all the backing we can give him.

Eva Davis

□

### ON THE DON FLOOD

Run, river,  
boil and swirl,  
cut your channel  
to freedom!  
Show man how puny  
his efforts to control  
spaces over time.

Helen Juhola, August 1986

THE FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

The Field Botanists of Ontario was founded in 1984 to promote field botany among naturalists in Ontario and to provide opportunities for professional field botanists to meet and share botanical information with both naturalists and other field botanists, in the field.

Since 1985, members have been botanizing all over southern Ontario. Field trips started in May 1985 during the first annual meeting in Simcoe. That was a Carolinian weekend for more than 50 enthusiastic botanists who visited Spooky Hollow, Turkey Point Provincial Park and other sites on day-long trips.

Later that summer, in July, members went to Alfred Bog near Ottawa and were thrilled to see Rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*) in its only (known) Ontario station. After bog-slogging, they explored the Burnt Lands Alvar -- a dry, thin-soiled limestone plain -- near Almonte. Some of the finds here included harebell, rock sandwort, cow-wheat and Seneca snakeroot.

The members' next trip was in mid-August, to the Georgian Bay region. Here they established base-camp in the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and set out to botanize in the fens and sand hills near Wasaga Beach, in the wetlands of the Wye River, and in the nearby hardwood forests.

The last trip of the year was to Crawford Lake, west of Milton, where interesting finds of the day included one-leaf rein-orchis and ebony spleenwort.

Pelee Island in May was the first trip in 1986. One high point of the weekend was the visit to two widely-separated magnificent stands of wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*). The members' second annual meeting took place in June at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. Remaining trips for the year included Walpole Island for prairie flora, and Niagara for Carolinian species.

A sample of proposed trips for 1987 includes the Parry Sound area for ferns, the Quinte area for dune and wet meadow flora and a return to the Bruce Peninsula to catch the orchids at their peak in June. The annual meeting will be held the weekend of May 23-24 in Windsor at the Objibway Prairie Centre with field trips to Walpole Island, Michigan and Point Pelee.

Membership in the Field Botanists of Ontario offers a great opportunity for naturalists to meet keen botanists from all over southern Ontario and to share information with them where it matters most -- in the field.

Judy Hernandez

**Note:** Membership is \$8/year. Cheques should be sent to 45 Massey St., Bramalea, Ontario L6S 2V8 (or call 416-792-0451 for further information). □

FOOD, FUEL AND FODDER

Naturalists, we have often been told, care more about plants and animals than they do about people. More and more these days the realization that we can't consider man apart from his environment is taking hold. We read in recent literature from CARE CANADA: "In Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon and a dozen other countries CARE helps local people plant trees which stop erosion, improve the watershed, and provide food, fuel and fodder." It's all part of the modern "CARE PACKAGE".

DB

## SKY NOTES

On February 13 (the day of the full moon) the sun will rise at 7:22 am and set at 5:44 pm EST. The moon will be full at 3:58 pm -- though it won't rise here until 5:30 pm. The dark of the moon will occur on February 27 and this is when star watching is most satisfactory (weather permitting).

contributed by Sandy Cappell

[based on information from the CANADIAN ALMANAC AND DIRECTORY, 1987 and the RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 1987]

□

It's often puzzled me that lots of people who know wild flowers and birds can't even pick out Perseus or recognize Capella. And yet stars give so much comfort and pleasure.

from A NATURE DIARY by Richard Adams, Viking/Penguin Books Ltd., Middlesex, England, 1985



Sandbur in the trail, Lambton Park, October 2, 1985, TFN Outing. The untouchable bur which encloses the spikelet had to be combed from our clothes. This is *Cenchrus longispinus*, a grass of very dry, sandy soil. (Gleason & Cronquist 1962). Those we saw were purplish and green.

DB

# The Weather This Time Last Year

February 1986, City of Toronto

The weather was not noteworthy. Temperatures were exactly normal at Pearson International Airport and  $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  below normal at Toronto City, with few extremes. The minimum temperature ( $-14.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  downtown and  $-16.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  at the airport) was the least extreme since 1975; the maximum temperature was the least extreme since 1978.

Rainfall, snowfall, and sunshine were all below normal, though not drastically so. Winds were light.

Weather systems moved slowly during the month. Three closely-linked low-pressure systems dominated the first nine days. The month began with snow and a little freezing rain. On the 7th, there was a general snowfall; it was quite severe in the west part of town (which is more exposed to east winds off Lake Ontario). The middle part of the month was sunny and cool. A thaw, the 18th to 20th, accompanied by dense fog which restricted travel was bracketed by glazing. The month ended sunny and cool.

The icing may have been the most noteworthy aspect of the month. The suburbs had significant freezing rain on the 4th to 5th, the 19th, and overnight on the 20th to 21st. Sidewalks retained dangerous icy patches well into March.

In a word, "bland".

Gavin Miller

□

## NATURE HOLIDAYS

Canadian Nature Tours, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, M3B 2W8. Tel. 444-8419  
This organization is operated by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Canadian Nature Federation.

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS - Sunday, Feb. 1 to Friday, Feb. 6. Ski the Haliburton Highlands with knowledgeable naturalists while watching for winter birds and identifying animal tracks. Leaders: Sandy Gage and Doug Hamilton. Starts at Minden. Cost \$645. Limit 10.

Other trips outside Ontario are also available. Call Pamela Berton, Co-ordinator, (416)444-8419 for further information.

Elderhostel is an organization which offers university courses to people over 60; some of these are natural history-oriented with field trips. An office in Toronto is now open: ELDERHOSTEL CANADA, Corbett House, 29 Prince Arthur St., Toronto, M5R 1B2. Registration forms for U.S. and for Canadian programs are to be sent to this address.

TRIP to PERU, August 9 to August 27, 1987, led by Irene Jardine of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto. Coastal desert, the mountains and the jungle will be visited. Group limit is 16 people. For detail, call (416)978-5749 or write to Irene Jardine at 203 College St., Toronto, M5S 1A1.

BIRD-WATCHING in CUBA led by Graeme Gibson. Trips are planned for February and for March. Call (416)960-8383 for information.

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Refer to our list in TFN 379 and also to TFN 382 for other information regarding nature trips.

CHILDRENS' SUMMER NATURE CAMPS 1987

CAMP ALLSAW, located in the Highlands of Haliburton, for boys and girls 7 to 15 years of age, offers water, land and creative environmental activities.

Four camper periods are as follows: Sunday, July 5 to Saturday, July 18  
 July 19 to Aug. 1  
 Aug. 2 to Aug. 15  
 Aug. 16 to Aug. 29

Fee: \$412.00 per period (including sales tax)

For further information, call (416) 249-4517 for the Toronto area and (416) 627-1427 for the Hamilton/Dundas area.

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TORONTO NATURE CENTRE located at Branksome Hall (nr. Bloor & Sherbourne Streets), in the centre of Toronto, offers boys and girls 7 to 15 years of age a most unusual introduction to nature study. One- or two-week sessions five days a week, 9 to 4 p.m. daily, are available in July and August.

Periods are: June 29 - July 3 (one-week session)  
 July 6 - July 17 (two-week session)  
 July 20 - July 24 (one-week session)  
 July 27 - Aug. 7 (two-week session)  
 Aug. 10 - Aug. 14 (one-week session)

Two field trip days per week outside Toronto to wetland and forest habitats are planned. Jim Lovisek, a well-known naturalist, who is a Research Associate with the Royal Ontario Museum, is assisted by Elizabeth Komisar in this program.

Fees: The cost of each one-week session is \$150.00 (\$300.00 for two weeks).

Enrollment is limited to 15 students per session. Information is available from: TORONTO NATURE CENTRE, 19 Dundurn Cres., Toronto, M6C 1H4. Tel. (416) 364-7884

Note: The Toronto Nature Centre now offers a one-week program of workshop and field trips specially designed for adults. For detail, call the number listed above.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG NATURALISTS

Positions are available for training as Park Naturalists in Algonquin Park. The period is from May or June until Labour day. Wages range from \$3.50 to \$4.35 per hour. Applicants must be in the last year of High School or in the First or Second Year of University. Some background in natural history is desirable, perhaps with special knowledge in one field such as birds, plants or insects. Call Pamela Kertland, Director of TFN, Junior Club, at (416) 889-6074.

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WILDLIFE '87

1987 has been designated a year of wildlife. Spearheaded by the Canadian Nature Federation, Wildlife '87 will be a special year for recognizing the importance of wildlife conservation in Canada.

C O U R S E S O F S T U D Y

Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto. Tel. 445-1552

GARDENING with WILDFLOWERS: A five-week course on Mondays, Jan. 26 to Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. Instructor: Frank E. Kershaw Fee: \$35.00. Course No. 4044

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

(R.B.G. Centre at Hendrie Park, Burlington)

BASIC ORNITHOLOGY and BIRD WATCHING on Tuesdays, March 31 to April 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. By registration only; deadline March 20. Maximum 60. Instructors: James Pringle, Barb McKean and Len Simser. Fee \$24.00

Other courses include: Identification of Native Shrubs in Summer  
Spring Wildflower Walks  
Aquatic Life Study of Cootes Paradise  
Spring Bird Walks  
Botanical Drawing - Basic and Advanced  
Wildlife Painting

Royal Ontario Museum:

INTRODUCTION to ORNITHOLOGY - Course No. 1032

Lectures on Thursdays in April at 7:30 p.m.; one field trip Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enrollment limited. Instructor: Jim Dick of the ROM Ornithology Dept. For information, call 586-5788.

McLaughlin Planetarium: - For further information, call 586-5788

INTRODUCTION to the SKY - Course No. 5003

Mondays, March 23 to May 25 at 7 p.m. - Instructor: Ian McGregor  
McLaughlin Planetarium Lecture Room. Fee \$55.00

WINTER STARGAZING WORKSHOPS - Course No. 5004

Mondays, January 19, February 9 and March 9 at 7 p.m. Instructor: Tom Wujec  
McLaughlin Planetarium Star Theatre. No advance registration. Register in person on the night of the workshop. Fee \$6.00

INTRODUCTION to ASTRONOMY - Course No. 5005

Lectures on Wednesdays, April 1 to May 27 at 7 p.m. in the McLaughlin Planetarium Lecture Room. Instructor: Tom Wujec. Fee \$55.00

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
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TFN has a file of newspaper clippings containing news of plants, animals and environmental issues. About 40 members donated clippings during the past year. It's a great way to keep each other informed.

↳ Louise Herzberg (59 Hillside Drive, Toronto, Ont. M4K 2M1) has taken over as "Keeper of the Clippings". You can send your clippings to her directly or give them to any member of the editorial committee who will pass them on to her. Do include your name when you send something in -- not just your initials. Don't feel that someone else will send in a clipping even if you don't. Having identical clippings on a particular topic means that we can send originals to people who enquire about their particular interest instead of sending them copies. Good hunting!

□



# COMING EVENTS

## COMING EVENTS

Royal Canadian Institute lectures on Sunday afternoons AT 3:00 p.m. in the Medical Sciences Auditorium, University of Toronto. Admission free. For further information, call 928-2096.

- February 1 - HEADACHE - A Symptom in Search of a Science -  
John Edmeads, M.D., Prof. of Medicine, U. of Toronto
- February 8 - BENEFITS and RISKS of CHEMICALS in the ENVIRONMENT  
W. Howard Rapson, Ph.D., Prof. Emeritus of Chemical Engineering,  
University of Toronto
- February 15 - SURVIVAL in SPACE: A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT  
R. C. Tennyson, Ph.D., Prof. Inst. for Aerospace Studies, U. of T.
- February 22 - COMPUTERS and THOUGHT  
Hector Levesque, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science,  
University of Toronto
- March 1 The TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION AND HEALTH CARE  
Robert A. Fuller, Vice-Pres., Johnson and Johnson, New Brunswick,  
New Jersey

JIM BAILLIE MEMORIAL BIRD WALK led by Ross Harris, sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club on Saturday, February 14 at 8:30 a.m. Meet at Wilket Creek Park in the first parking lot, west off Leslie Street, north of Eglinton Avenue. Bring lunch. Free.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES ON THE ROUGE RIVER, Thursday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m., Scarborough Civic Centre, Committee Rooms 1 & 2. Annual meeting and elections of SAVE THE ROUGE VALLEY SYSTEM. All welcome. Free. For further information, call Lois James at 284-6409.

OWL PROWLING at the Royal Botanical Gardens Nature Centre at Hendrie Park in Burlington on Friday, February 20 or Saturday, February 21. With slides and films, this program will explore both myth and fact about owls; time will be spent outside trying to "talk" to the owls. By registration only; deadline Jan. 30. Fee: \$3.50, Call (416)527-1158 for information.

Royal Ontario Museum - For information, call 586-551/2/3

FROM THE COLLECTIONS features a display of earth and life sciences specimens including unusual mineral samples and more than 35 bird specimens. Shown on level 2 for an indefinite period.

MONSTERS: 'REEL' OR IMAGINED? - Hour-long films shown on Saturdays at 2 p.m., free with admission.

Jan. 31 SHARKS; Feb. 7 BATS; Feb. 14 WOLVES; Feb. 21 DINOSAURS; Feb. 28 INSECTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE of the FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS, 1987, hosted by the Norfolk Field Naturalists in Port Dover, May 29-31. For further information: FON Conference '87, P.O. Box 88, VITTORIA, Ontario, NOE 1W0.

MINERAL EXPLORATION CLASSES presented by the Mines and Minerals Division of the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines on Monday, Feb. 23 to Friday, Feb. 27 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Macdonald Block, 900 Bay St. (at Wellesley). Registration: 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the Ontario Room. Free.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

MUSHROOM CROSS BREEDING, a lecture by Dr. Anderson on Monday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. at the Board of Education Centre, 6th Floor Auditorium - Mycological Society of Toronto - Call 694-8928 for further information.

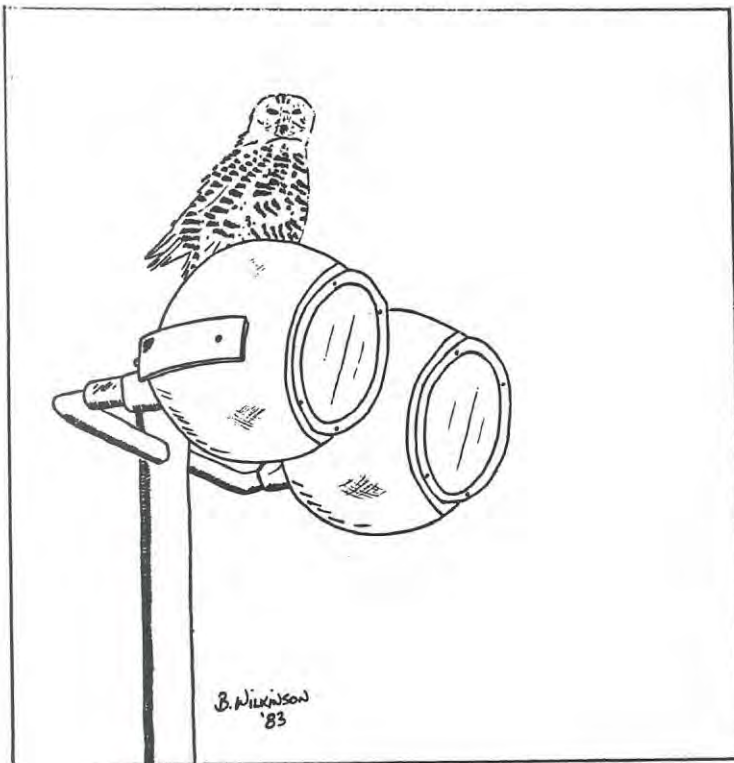
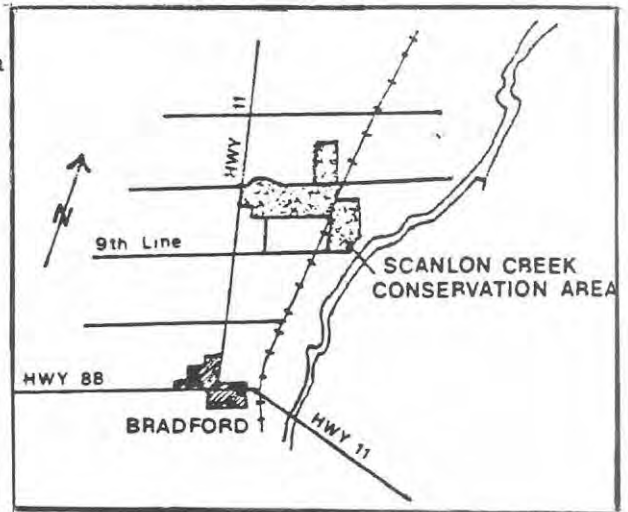
Yearly VOICE AUCTION of the Scarborough Gem and Mineral Club on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. at the Scarborough Junction United Church, 3576 St. Clair E. For detail, call 694-8928.

GREENING IN THE CITY, an international symposium will be held in Toronto Feb. 18 to 20. Call (416) 967-4511 for more information. This event is sponsored by Pollution Probe.

CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION Conference, June 5 to 8 in Saskatoon. For details, write to CNF Conference, Box 5094, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 4E4 or telephone (306) 652-5970.

DIAMONDS, a lecture by Joe Brummer at the McLaughlin Lecture Room, Feb. 13 at 8 pm. For more information about this meeting of the Walker Club, call 694-8928.

BIRDHOUSE WORKSHOP at Scanlon Conservation Area on Sunday Feb. 15. Program starts at 2:30 pm. For information, call the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (416) 895-1281 or (416) 773-6482.



Snowy Owl  
at Humber Bay Park  
drawn by Bruce Wilkinson

# TFN MEETINGS

Visitors welcome

## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Monday, February 2, 1987 at 8:00 p.m. (Coffee at 7:15)\*

NATURALIZING URBAN PARKLAND - Wm. B. Granger, Arborist, City of North York. For the past five years, experiments have been carried out with the naturalization of parkland; these will be discussed. Mr. Granger is a Citizen-Member of the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, appointed by Metro Council.

Monday, March 2, at 8:00 p.m. (Coffee at 7:15)

BIRDS OF JAMES BAY - Doug McRae, Head Naturalist of Presqu'ile Provincial Park.

## GROUP MEETINGS

Bird Group: Fourth in a series of five lectures on shorebirds, Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Centre, 6th Floor Auditorium.

Botany Group: Plant Identification Workshop by Steve Varga, Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m., Room 203, Botany Bldg., University of Toronto.

Environmental Group: FLOODING in the DON VALLEY - Ruskin Wilcox  
USING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY to SAVE NATURAL AREAS - Lou Wise  
Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 252, Board of Education Centre.

Junior Club: The February meeting will be held at the McLaughlin Planetarium on Saturday, February 7 at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Scott Lough, the leader of the Astronomy group. His subject will be the discoveries of Voyager I and Voyager II.

The March meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. in the Royal Ontario Museum. This meeting is DISPLAY DAY when the Juniors exhibit collections and materials, the culmination of the year's activities.

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

## HERITAGE DAY

Monday, February 16, 1987 is Canada's annual Heritage Day. Each year, on the third Monday in February, Canadians celebrate the social, economic and cultural benefits of preserving our country's heritage.

Mailing date for this newsletter: Jan. 16



**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS**

83 Joicey Boulevard  
Toronto, Ontario M5M 2T4

SECOND CLASS MAIL  
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**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

- |                     |            |   |
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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

- |   |         |   |             |
|---|---------|---|-------------|
| <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 TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978) ....</b>  | 10.00       |
| index .....   | 2.50    | <b>ANNUAL TFN 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)

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