



TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 404, May 1989



INSIDE

Amphibians & reptiles 11-14,20

Birds 15-16,17-18,24,29,37

Coming events 30

Invertebrates 40

Issues - ATV damage 19, bounties 20,

Don Valley 3-5, food irradiation

7-8, garbage 8, reptiles protected

20, sustainable development 4,8

trees & hydro lines 19, wolves 23

Mammals 20,23,29

Plants 5,9-10,17-18,19,34,39,42,43

Projects 14,16,29,31

Sky notes 28-29

TFN - meetings 2

Nature Information Centre 24,30

nominations 6

outings 1,31-42

president's report 3-5

renewal notice 43

Weather 21-23,25-27

TFN MEETINGS

Visitors welcome

General Meetings

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

Monday, May 1 at 8 pm - BULBULS, BOATS AND BUDDHAS IN THE MIDDLE KINGDOM:
a mixed bag of impressions from a trip to China
- an illustrated talk by Theo Hofmann

- + social hour from 7 pm to 8 pm
- + a display of photographs of insects and wildflowers by Dan Wineland
- + an opportunity to purchase TFN publications, hasti-notes, prints of selected newsletter covers, pins, decals and crests
- + easy TTC access (building is one block west of Queen's Park subway stn.)
- + free parking in the Board of Education garage on the west side of McCaul just south of College Street

Next General Meeting: Tuesday, September 5 - This will be the Annual General Meeting. The speaker will be Helen Juhola showing the club's photographs of TORONTO THE GREEN.

Group Meetings

These will resume in the fall.

Call Ross Harris (921-5975) for information about the Bird Group.

Call Dennis Clarke (255-1696) for information about the Botany Group.

Call Jenny Low (654-2439) for information about the Environment Group.

Call Joan Patterson (226-6501) for information about General Meetings.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Helen Juhola (924-5806) 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3

Diana Banville (690-1963) 710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7

Eva Davis (694-8928) 203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5

Eileen Mayo (445-4621) 405 - 44 Stubbs Dr., Willowdale M2L 2R3

Toshi Oikawa (425-3161) 1063 Pape Ave., Toronto M4K 3W4

Harold Taylor (225-2649) 264 Horsham Ave., Willowdale M2R 1G4

Please submit notices, reports, articles (up to 1500 words in length) and illustrations at least six weeks before the month in which the event is to take place or the material is required to appear. Please include address and telephone number so submission can be acknowledged.

Send news clippings to Louise Herzberg, 59 Hillside Dr., Toronto, Ont. M4K 2M1.

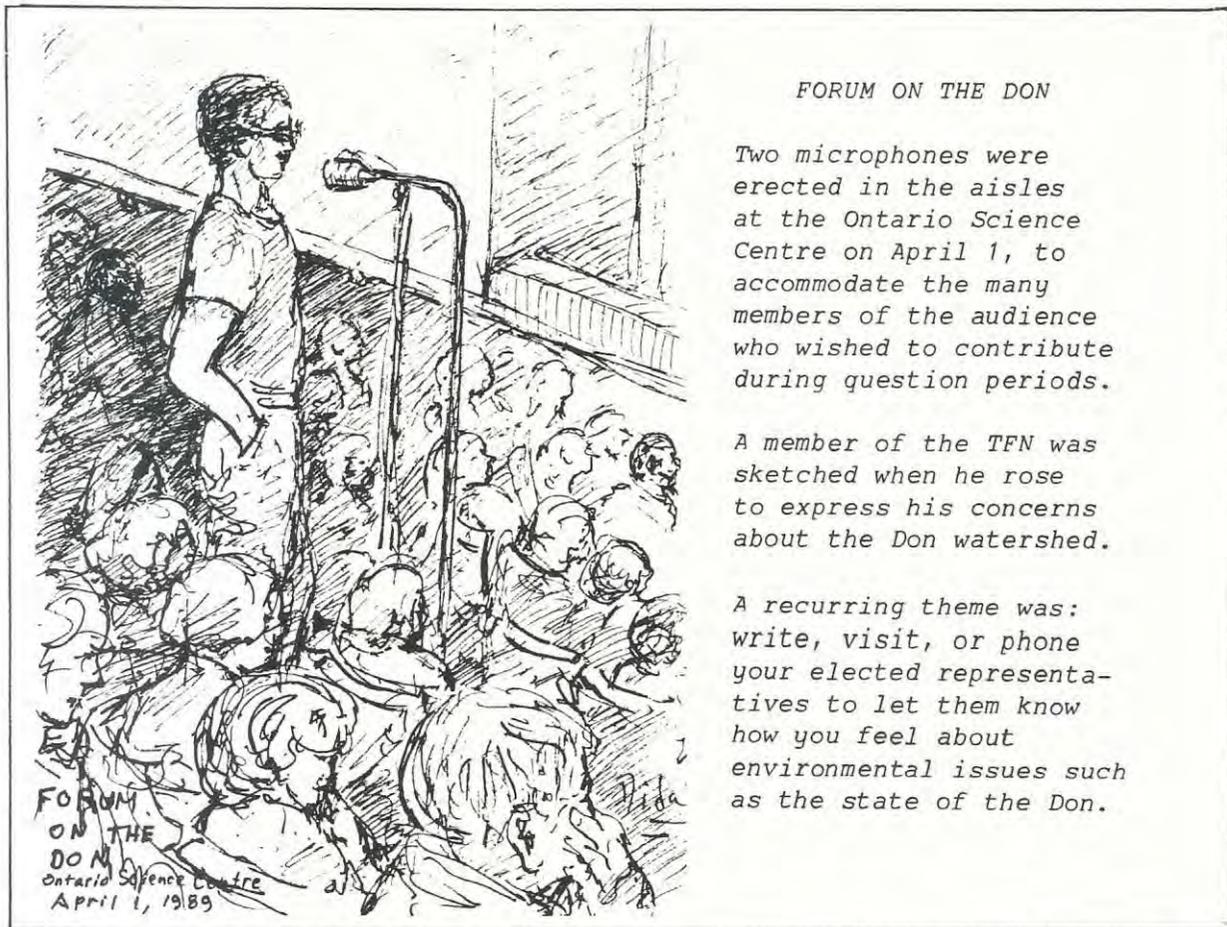
President's Report

The Forum on the Don, sponsored by the Globe and Mail, held April 1 at the Ontario Science Centre, looks to be a promising start to coordinated action on cleaning up the Don River and its tributaries. A very good turnout of concerned citizens heard experts from both Canada and the U.S. discuss future action on the Don River to return it to as natural a state as possible. It was especially heartening to see many local politicians and civil servants present. Their early and continuing support will be important. Your individual interest and that of local naturalist groups will be especially important to ensure the public interest is fully represented.

Special recognition should be given to Helen Juhola for her hard work in planning and assembling the display panels and two presentations. Her morning presentation got especially enthusiastic audience support, so much so they shouted down the moderator when he tried to cut her off.

Helen, thank you very much!

Robin Powell



TFN 404.....4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

Dennis Mills, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H3

April 4, 1989

Dear Mr. Mills:

The Toronto Field Naturalists (TFN) is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to stimulating public interest in natural history and encouraging the preservation of our natural heritage. As an organization with a long-standing interest in environmental issues generally and in the Don Valley in particular, the TFN has an obvious interest in the proposed "Summit on the Environment". While the TFN enthusiastically applauds the basic objectives of the event -- promoting an ecologically sustainable society and encouraging the restoration of the natural environment in the lower Don Valley -- it has a number of serious reservations about the present proposal. Some TFN members have already expressed their concerns to the event's organizers, but to date the substance of their concerns has not been satisfactorily addressed. The TFN is therefore unable to endorse the event as it is presently planned.

The TFN's main objections have to do with the proposed site on the floodplain of the Don. The most obvious drawback of the site is the risk of flooding. The event is scheduled for late summer, the time of year when flash floods on the Don are most frequent. Floods have become more frequent in recent years; the Bayview Extension has been under water as many as three times in one year. In the event of a flood, road access to the site would be submerged immediately, hindering evacuation. A major thunderstorm during the week of the fair could leave over 600 environmentally sound products bobbing in Lake Ontario.

Even if no major storm occurs during the event, the proposed site is environmentally inappropriate. We are told in the Summit brochure that the event is to take place on "reclaimed parkland". "Reclaimed" from what? Much of the site is already covered in wild vegetation, and succession is gradually returning the land to its "natural state". In September this vegetation provides important staging habitat for migrating songbirds and butterflies. The structures and parking lots planned to accommodate the Summit, albeit supposedly temporary, will unavoidably damage and displace existing habitat. The TFN is thus puzzled by Mr. Mills's claim that "the Summit will...provide the necessary impetus to return the...wasted valley acres to their natural state."

"Sustainable development" is to be a major theme of the Summit. One of the cornerstones of sustainable development is the notion of "designing with nature" -- that is, of siting land uses where most

▷

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

ecologically appropriate. The TFN submits that all the environmental and economic benefits of the Summit could be realized at much reduced risk and environmental cost if the event were moved to a more suitable location. The CNE grounds or Riverdale Park are obvious candidates; there may be others. Relocating the Summit to a site less sensitive, less hazardous, and more accessible by public transit would go a long way toward demonstrating the organizers' commitment to the principles of environmentally sensitive planning.

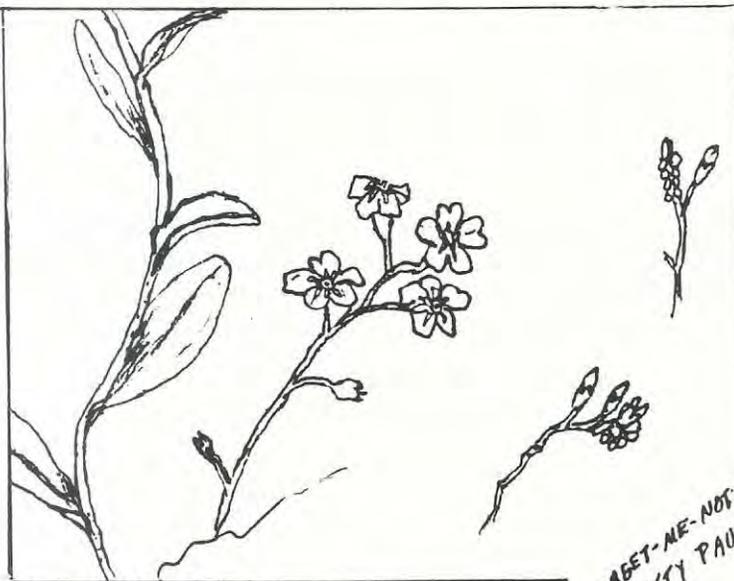
A final note on the planning process. The plans for the Summit have been presented to the public as fait accompli. Although it was presumably necessary to obtain the approval of Metro Parks, the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and other public agencies who own land in the Don Valley, at no point (to the TFN's knowledge) was public input invited. The TFN hopes that it is not now too late for informed and thoughtful members of the public heretofore left out of the planning process to influence the plans for the Summit. Specifically, the TFN urges, in the name of those very principles which the Summit on the Environment is meant to further, that the event be relocated.

Robin Powell, President TFN

NOTE TO TFN MEMBERS: RE THE PROPOSED SUMMIT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Your Newsletter Editorial Committee believes the objections raised by Robin are very important. We also hope you will write your concerns to Mr. Mills, with a copy to the co-chair person, Mr. David MacDonald, M.P., House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0H3. Politicians do take note of letters. Please be sure yours is among them.

□



FORGET-ME-NOT
BETTY PAUL

Field Sketch of
forget-me-not,
Newtonbrook Park
June 14, 1986

- by Betty Paul

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Phil Joiner (immediate Past President) as Chairman and Jean Macdonald and Mary Smith (Past Presidents) appointed by the Board, recommends the following slate of nominees to the Board for the 1989-90 year:

President	Robin Powell
Vice President	Eileen Mayo
Immediate Past President	Phil Joiner
Directors due to retire in 1990	Allan Greenbaum
	Joan Patterson
	Karin Fawthrop
Directors due to retire in 1991	Melanie Milanich
	Eva Davis
	* Helen Juhola
Directors due to retire in 1992	Dennis Clarke
	Aarne Juhola

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

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

* Due to pressures of work Ilmar Talvila resigned from the Board and Helen Juhola was appointed by the Board to complete the balance of his term.

Additional Nominations:

Robin Powell, Eileen Mayo and Aarne Juhola nominated Nancy Fredenburg to serve as a director until 1992 and Nancy accepted.

INTRODUCTION:

Nancy Fredenburg has participated enthusiastically in all kinds of TFN activities since she retired after 35 years with the Workers' Compensation Board and discovered TFN during the City of Toronto Sesqui-centennial walks. She has helped with the log cabin and leading outings.

Aarne Juhola
Secretary/Treasurer

□

*To live forever
return to this world again
as a plastic bag*

haiku by Aarne Juhola

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

for March 20, 1989

When my brother and I were kids, we'd pop our lunch into the microwave oven, punch the start button, and greefully scream, "NUKE IT!"

Nuked food? Is it radioactive? What is irradiated food?

It seems we can't put anything into our mouths anymore without puzzling over the technology that brought that food to our tables.

Linda Pim, an environmental biologist, Queen's Park researcher, and author of two books ADDITIVE ALERT and THE INVISIBLE ADDITIVES, was the speaker at the final Environmental Group meeting for the season. She is an expert on irradiated food (which, by the way, is nothing like the microwaved variety) and she is staunchly opposed to it. Some of you may recognize Linda Pim's name from the campaign against A & P stores' proposed test-market of irradiated potatoes in Hamilton, in December 1987.

Irradiated foods are those that have been treated with gamma rays to kill bacteria. In Canada, the process is done with cobalt 60, a deliberate product made by Candu reactors.

Supporters of irradiation say it creates safer foods with longer shelf lives. For instance, salmonella can be prevented if chicken is irradiated and properly sealed. Potatoes and onions can be treated with low doses of radiation to stop cell division and sprouting. Irradiated spices can be stored indefinitely.

So what's the problem?

Linda Pim states that irradiation is not a safe process, and it should not be pursued as a food handling technique.

"Irradiation seems to cause unique chemical changes in the food treated. Studies of animals and humans that have eaten irradiated foods show increased chromosomal abnormalities", she said. "The links between the foods and the subjects are not fully understood yet".

Canadian regulations already permit the irradiation of wheat, wheat flour, spices, potatoes and onions, but there are currently no irradiated foods on the Canadian or U.S. markets. No Canadian companies produce irradiated foods on a commercial basis, although several facilities use it to treat medical equipment.

The irradiated foods might confuse North Americans' judgement of food freshness. Linda Pim says a box of irradiated strawberries might still look perfect long after they've been picked, but their nutritional value will still decline normally.

She points out that the federal government is privatizing the division of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. that deals with irradiation. There are also discussions between the Canadian government and an International Joint Experts Committee (included are the World Health Organization, the FAO, and the International Atomic Energy Agency) on labelling of irradiated foods. Also, the federal government's draft legislation on irradiation went out for a second round of public consultation in 1988.

FOOD IRRADIATION (cont'd)

Linda Pim thinks all these moves may mean the government is on the threshold of passing regulations that will open up the avenues to wide-spread commercial irradiation.

She says that Canadian food companies are not "champing at the bit" to get started, but the proliferation of irradiated foods might occur through export of the technology to third world countries.

When food gets imported to Canada, we may not know if it has been treated or not, or if doses are excessive.

There is no test to check for irradiation. Geiger counters are an inappropriate tool, since irradiated foods are not radioactive.

"Those who are in favour of irradiation ask environmentalists if they would prefer to import contaminated food. Irradiation doesn't prevent re-contamination", Linda Pim said. "Besides, I always ask them why we are taking in food that's been improperly handled in the first place?"

Thanks to all those TFN members who attended the Environmental Group meetings this season. Please re-join us when we begin again in September.

Any suggestions for speakers are also welcomed. Request someone in your area of interest, and I will try to book them!

Jennifer Low (654-2439)

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon...speaking at a recent meeting of the Mining Association as part of Mining Week in British Columbia said the term "sustainable development" does not mean having enough ore in sight to keep a mine going, but is more accurately "an exercise to keep living things living".

from "General News and Comment" in the NORTHERN MINER, March 27, 1989

RECYCLE...RE-USE...REDUCE...REJECT

LOBLAWS SEEKS DIRECTION ON ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Loblaws Companies Ltd., a national supermarket chain, has been consulting and working with a number of environmental groups over the last six months in an effort to become more environmentally responsible. They have also been working with some environmental organizations on specific products--for example, Friends of the Earth on their green consumer week, Pollution Probe on a green consumer guide, and the Canadian Environmental Network on an environmental hotline. They will be launching a line of "environmentally friendly" products in 1989. Mr. Paddy Carson, V.P. Environmental Affairs, invites members of environmental groups across Canada to communicate concerns about any specific products which Loblaws carries, to suggest product changes, or to request new products which you would like to see carried. You are invited to call collect to Ursula Olszewski (416) 922-8500.

a news item from the Canadian Environmental Network

OUTINGS REPORT

Botany Outings (June, July, August, September 1988)

On Saturday, June 11th, Frank Kershaw took 29 people on an outing in James Gardens. The temperature was quite warm (25°C). According to Frank, the group was excellent and very interested in plants. No plant checklist was submitted.

The next day, Sunday, June 12th, Dennis Clarke led 15 others on a two-part hike in the Etobicoke Creek Valley. The first half of the outing was spent walking along the Mississauga side of the valley from Sherway Drive north to and up the Little Etobicoke Creek. Several interesting plants were seen on this stretch: (Lappula Echinata), Narrow-leaved bittercress (Cardamine impatiens), honewort (Cryptotaenia canadensis), stinging nettle (Urtica dioica), and cursed buttercup (Ranunculus sceleratus).

On the second half of the outing, part of the original group walked downstream from Sherway Drive to Lakeshore Blvd. on the Etobicoke side of the valley. Morrow's honeysuckle (Lonicera morrowi), four-o'clock (Mirabilis nyctaginea), Carolina rose (Rosa carolina), and whole fields of dames rocket (Hesperis matronalis) were highlights.

Two reptiles were observed: a 2-foot long eastern garter snake, and a 1-ft. long ring neck snake (unfortunately dead).

A month later, on Sunday, July 17th, seven sturdy souls braved a hazy, humid sweltering day (25-30°C) to accompany Dennis Clarke on an outing, again in the Etobicoke Creek valley. On this date the section from Rathburn Road to Eglinton Avenue in Etobicoke was covered. Woolly burdock (Arctium tomentosum), welshed thistle (Carduus acanthoides), and teasel (Dipsacus sylvestris) were blooming highlights on the floodplain. On the ravine slopes, the group saw the curious naked flowering stems of wild leek (Allium tricoccum), the fruiting burs of American beech (Fagus grandifolia), and the hop-like fruiting catkins of hop-hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana).

The following birds were seen: two great blue herons, two flickers, many American robins, and one singing(!) indigo bunting.

The next botany outing took place on Sunday, August 21st. Paul McGaw led 8 others around Marie Curtis Park in Etobicoke. The weather was sunny and breezy, with a temperature of 23°C. A variety of habitats were explored in the park, which is at the mouth of Etobicoke Creek. Approximately 80 plant species were identified, including several unusual aliens: Breton fleabane (Inula britannica), sun spurge (Euphorbia helioscopia), gypsywort (Lycopus europaeus var. mollis), European figwort (Scrophularia nodosa), and crested wheat grass (Agropyron cristatum).

According to Paul, there was much discussion about such things as rose galls, edible plants, the impact of introduced species on the native flora, and wild plants potentially suitable for wildflower gardens.

The following Saturday, August 27th, 22 people were treated to an outing on the Toronto Islands with Emily Hamilton. It was sunny and a cool(?) 21°C. The group started off from the Centre Island Dock and headed directly for the nature reserve. In its old wet meadows, several nodding ladies' tresses (Spiranthes cernua) were found. The switch grass (Panicum

OUTINGS REPORT (cont'd)

virgatum) was very dense and quite high in the dry areas of the reserve. The group failed to find the Virginia mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) in another wet meadow on the reserve, although it was seen there the week before. After lunch at the pond, part of the group walked over to the wet area at Gibraltar Point. Many specimens of nodding ladies' tresses and Pringle's aster (*Aster pilosus* var. *pringlei*) were seen here.

Interesting birds sighted were: great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, spotted sandpiper and kingfisher.

The next day, Sunday, August 28th was cool with rain in the morning. One courageous person braved the inclement weather to join Dr. Nick Badenhuizen at the Leslie Street spit. Because of the weather, the undergrowth was very wet and thus our intrepid pair stuck to botanizing from the road. However, a total of 53 plant species was seen (as recorded in a very detailed list by Dr. Badenhuizen).

A sampling of the interesting species seen would include: chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*), winged pigweed (*Cycloloma atriplicifolium*), sticky groundsel (*Senecio viscosus*), creeping thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*), and two unusual docks: marsh dock (*Rumex palustris*) and golden dock (*Rumex maritimus*).

On Saturday, September 17th, Jim Hodgins led a walk at the Humber Arboretum. Fifteen ardent naturalists joined him in feasting on muffins, juice and coffee at the interpretive centre before taking a walk through the arboretum woodlot. The weather was overcast and 15°C. Some beautiful, large specimens of shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) and bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) were seen and admired. Some of the wild flowers and fern seen were not naturally-occurring specimens but had been planted; e.g. maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrosticoides*), and some (but not all) of the trilliums.

For some reason, a large number of blue jays were seen during this outing, in addition to fauna as diverse as gray squirrels and slugs which were active and quite abundant on the woodland vegetation.

Before the outing ended, most of the group joined Jim in some "selective weeding". The notoriously invasive black swallow-wort or "dog strangling vine" (*Cynanchum nigrum*) is very thick in certain parts of the arboretum woodlot. Hence for about 30 minutes, the leader and his cohorts ruthlessly pulled out copious quantities of this dreadful weed. They accumulated quite a pile of it, let it be known!

And so ended the botany outings for the summer of 1988. With any luck, the botany outings for this coming summer will be just as stimulating and eventful. Happy botanizing!

Dennis Clarke

□

Q. What's the difference between a weed and a garden flower?

A. The weed has a greater will to live.

Dennis Clarke

TORONTO REGION Amphibian & Reptile REPORT

We had another wonderful year! Members of the TFN enthusiastically collected data on 15 species of amphibians and reptiles within the boundaries of Metro Toronto--the largest urban area in Canada. As well, members reported sightings of several species in the areas surrounding Metro.

In 1988 there were 160 sightings of 15 species between March 27 and Nov. 14. We can summarize the dates of activity for amphibians and reptiles in our area:

1983--April 5 to Nov. 25	1984--April 2 to Oct. 16
1985--April 3 to Nov. 13	1986--March 29 to Oct. 15
1987--March 8 to Oct. 30	1988--March 26 to Nov. 14

Now is the best time to observe many of these usually secretive species as they seek sunny spots in which to warm their bodies and actively search for mates. Of course, this is also the best time to hear the calls of male frogs as they call to attract the females to the breeding ponds.

The red-backed salamander was the only tailed amphibian to be seen this year and all were found in river valleys, consistent with their preference for moist soils. You may recall that this species has no lungs with which to breath and all oxygen is absorbed through the skin--hence the need for moist hiding spots.

The most frequently observed frogs were the common toad, leopard frog, green frog and chorus frog. As usual the toad had the longest period of activity: April 4 to October 29. Although many of our frogs began calling around April 6, a spell of very cool weather caused a two-week lull in activity which did not resume until the third week of April.

The first toads to be seen were males moving at night towards breeding ponds. Although this migration began the first week of April, calling did not commence until May 1. On May 5 toads were heard calling from a swimming pool cover, the fourth such record in our area. The first observation of pairs in amplexus was on May 6 when four were seen in one Scarborough pond. The first observation of eggs was on May 8, and the first toadlet seen to leave the water was on July 16. On this date Gavin Miller commented about toadlets observed at Smythe Park: "the ground was literally crawling (hopping?) with tiny toads about one inch long...". Despite the fact that toads breed during only a few days and begin calling in early May, some toads continue to call throughout the month of May. Diana Banville, for example, heard toads calling at Taylor Creek Park until May 23. These could have been males in cold ponds who had to wait for the water to warm to about 6°C before they could call, or perhaps they were surplus males who never had an opportunity to breed. These males may have been late maturing, not been able to find a female, or just been the first to arrive in a new habitat which had not yet been discovered by female toads. The last toads seen for the year were "road kills" migrating to winter refuges in late October.

The full activity cycle was also observed for leopard frogs. Calling was first observed along rivers as early as April 16. Species living where water is flowing awaken earlier than those living inland which are trapped underground by snow and frost. On April 17 the first gravid leopard frog

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES (cont'd)

was observed sitting in the sun on a board wedged in the reeds of a slow moving stretch of the Rouge River. The first observation of leopard frog eggs was April 20. A cold spell lowered the temperature of the water and slowed the development of these eggs. In contrast to leopard frogs in rivers which called as early as April 16, those in inland ponds began calling about May 6 where they were observed calling at the same time and from the same ponds as toads. Molly Campbell and Diana Banville observed leopard frogs leaving the water on Ward's Island on August 3. I observed leopard frogs crawling slowly toward the cold water of a pond on October 15. The air temperature was 6°C and there had been a heavy frost that morning. The frogs could barely move as they plopped into the water after crawling across a field. They would be going to spend the winter on the bottom of the pond and not emerge until the following spring.

Western chorus frogs were first heard calling on April 6. On cold nights they don't call. For example, on April 19 they did not call. The night temperature was -3°C and the daytime high was 3°C. They did not resume calling until April 20 when the daytime temperature reached 6°C, despite a night temperature of -2°C. It would appear that a temperature of at least 6°C is required to stimulate calling activity in this species. Calling ceased after April 27, and only a few calls were heard at this late date. Tadpoles were first observed April 29 in a waterway from which frogs first began calling on April 6.

Wood frogs, which are the first species heard calling, started on April 1. Gray treefrogs were heard calling in the spring (May 16) and again in the fall (Sept. 5 and Oct. 1). The frog which began calling at the latest date was the green frog which began on July 16. The first to be seen were those which had hibernated in rivers. Once again, individuals living in rivers tend to become active before those in ice-locked inland ponds. Surely, the record for numbers sighted at one time must go to Norm Murr who counted 76 green frogs in one pond on July 13. By August 8 they were being forced to retreat to ever-smaller pools of shallow water as the summer drought reduced smaller tributaries of our streams to a few isolated pools. Green frogs were last observed on October 14 as they lay on the bottom of the stream bed. As the air temperature dropped, the frogs no longer sat around the banks of the stream but sought the relative warmth of the river's water.

Snapping turtles were also observed in pools in the drought-affected Humber River. Turtles of different sizes began to seek pools of deeper water around August 10. This was certainly in contrast to the unusual sighting of 7 turtles moving beneath clear ice near Ward's Island in early February. On June 14 a snapping turtle was observed laying 60 eggs on tableland 75 feet above the Rouge River. This is the largest number of eggs recorded since I began keeping records in 1981. Snapping turtles lay, on average, 40 eggs but can lay up to 80! The number of eggs laid depends on the age and fat stores of the female--the larger and healthier (in this case fat is healthy) the turtle, the more eggs that can be yolked and laid.

The hatchling snapping turtles were first observed on September 5 and 14. Most of our Southern Ontario turtles lay eggs the first two weeks of June and most hatch the first two weeks of September. This 90 days of incubation

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES (cont'd)

can be delayed by cool weather and rainfall. In some cases the young are forced to overwinter in the egg, but mortality is extremely high if this occurs.

As in other years there were sightings of large turtles grappling in the water. Irene Fedun writes that on July 3: "two very large turtles seemed to be engaged in some sort of combat close to the west end of Grenadier Pond. They would both rise out of the water, clumsily hitting each other with their flippers--one would appear to climb on to the other etc. (It didn't strike us that they were mating but it was difficult to figure out just what they were doing)".

While there were 10 sightings of snapping turtles, there were 27 reports of painted turtles. Several were seen under ice at Ward's Island along with snapping turtles. The first sighting for the year was on March 26 when a basking turtle was seen. This is the earliest date for activity of any sort for any of our amphibian and reptile species. These turtles, seen by Helen Huggett, were basking on a log while there was still ice in the middle of the pond. A few weeks later Helen also saw a red-eared slider basking with a group of painted turtles. This common species of pet stores is native to the southern United States and each year one or two are spotted in local ponds. They are often considered to be the same species as our painted turtle, and many owners, tired of the obligation of owning a time-consuming pet, release these in the mistaken belief that the turtles will survive. Painted turtle eggs were first observed in a female hit by a car June 6. At this time of year females, seeking suitable locations for egg-laying, are often picked up by well-meaning citizens. This year most sightings of painted turtles were at the Leslie Street Spit and the Toronto Islands nature reserve.

Once again, Blanding's turtles were observed in the Humber Marshes. David Bailey reported that a turtle swam up to his canoe when the temperature was only 3°C.

As expected, the most frequently seen snakes were garter snakes and brown snakes, with 32 and 14 records respectively. Along with painted turtles, the garter snake shares the earliest date for activity: March 26. Also, it was active later in the year than any other species. Three snakes were observed basking together in a patch of sun on November 14 although the air temperature was 50°F.

The number of sightings made by Norm Murr this year would indicate that garter snakes are the most abundant reptile species on the Leslie Street Spit. Once again melanistic, or all-black, individuals were frequently observed there. Molly Campbell saw a melanistic snake at the Don Valley Brick Works and a garter snake eating a toad. For the third consecutive year Eva Davis and Helen Juhola found garter snakes and brown snakes at Todmorden Mills.

Both garter and brown snakes were observed basking together April 20 near the entrance to their winter hibernaculum under the gravel base of a railroad embankment. Ray Blower reported that the snakes were lying where the sun had melted frost which was still on the ground from the previous night. Brown snakes were observed breeding April 30 and a gravid garter snake was seen basking on a road August 20. Roads are often used as

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES (cont'd)

basking sites. As well as heating up quickly in the sun, they retain heat long after sunset. For this reason many snakes are killed on our roads. In 1987 most road kills occurred between September 9 and October 19; in 1988 most occurred between September 12 and October 21.

By far the most exciting report of 1988 was that of a female water snake seen by Tom Mason as it basked and swam in the Rouge River. There was one record of this species from the Rouge River marshes in the first year of this report, but none had been seen since. This snake was observed well upstream from the previous location and, while the snake is certainly not very common in our area, it is still here! Very exciting indeed.

One other potential first for our area is the possibility that ringneck snakes may still be found along the upper reaches of Etobicoke Creek in Metro. Several TFN members observed this snake, but I am unable to confirm its identity. The snake was small and had a yellowish ring around its neck. All ringneck snakes would fit this description but, unfortunately, juvenile brown and redbelly snakes also have a similar ring of light-coloured spots around the neck. These disappear or separate into distinct spots as the snakes grow. The distinct collar around the neck of the ringneck enlarges as the snake grows. There was a record of ringnecks in this area of the Etobicoke Creek in the 1970s, so there is a possibility that they may still be found there. We will have to wait for a confirmed sighting before we can once again become excited by the presence of this species in Metro. Certainly, those walking in the area between the Queen Elizabeth Highway and Rathburn Road should look for this species.

I will conclude with a comment sent to me by Molly Campbell and Diana Banville: "Two young cyclists spoke of killing a large garter snake which had been sunning itself on the road. It must have been cold [or gravid, B.J.] as it was slow to leave the area. Eventually the boys drove it into long grass by the creek. It defended itself. Under protest, the boys changed their mind about killing the snake".

This is a sign of the change which is occurring in our attitude towards these often maligned creatures. Members of the TFN have contributed in no small way to this change in profile and attitudes.

Please record any observations of amphibians and reptiles along with the date, location (including side of street or river), number, size as well as behaviour and habitat, temperature or any other relevant information. On TFN outings reports, leaders should record any observations of amphibians and reptiles encountered. Please send sightings to me c/o Metro Toronto Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill M1E 4R5 or call me at 392-5900.

Bob Johnson

Contributors to 1988 report: David Bailey, Diana Banville, Ron Barbe, Ray Blower, Dan Bone, Molly Campbell, Ron and Barb Cavin, Dennis Clarke, Eva Davis, Cassia Devison, Irene Fedum, Betty Greenacre, Catharine Heynes, Harry Hofauer, Helen Huggett, John Hulley, Richard Johnstone, Phil Joiner, Helen Juhola, Tom Mason, Gavin Miller, Norm Murr, Don Peuramaki, Sandra Richardson, Helen Smith, Isabel Smith, Ilmar Talvila, Gerry Williams, Bob Vineham

Species seen in 1988: red-backed salamander, American toad, Gray treefrog, western chorus frog, green frog, leopard frog, wood frog, snapping turtle, midland painted turtle, Blanding's turtle, milk snake, water snake, northern brown snake, red-bellied snake, garter snake

□

Toronto Region Bird Report

Summary to December 31, 1988

During the 1980's, of the 250 species of birds which appear on our Toronto Region Bird List published in 1985, 234 species have been reported to TFN at least once. The sixteen species not reported in the eighties so far are all rare for Toronto. In fact, it just happens that exactly sixteen species rare for Toronto which are NOT on our checklist WERE reported in 1988 - and some of these might be considered just as likely candidates for our checklist as the sixteen unreported for the eighties so far. These rarities are not significant in the birdfauna of the Region, but only by reporting them can we become aware when the status of a given species begins to change.

But what about the twenty "uncommon" species on our checklist which weren't reported to TFN in 1988, over and above the sixteen "rare" species? They are: AMERICAN BITTERN, LEAST BITTERN, GREAT EGRET, BALD EAGLE, WILSON'S PHALAROPE, LITTLE GULL, BLACK TERN, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, SOLITARY VIREO, YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, NORTHERN PARULA, SCARLET TANAGER, VESPER SPARROW, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, FOX SPARROW, BOBOLINK, PINE GROSBEAK, RED CROSSBILL, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. Some of these, you will note, appear to have been less "uncommon" a few years ago than they are now. Have you observed any of them in 1988 - or 1989? Our 1988 records included personal records, TFN outings, Toronto Christmas Bird Count December 1988, and Lake Ontario Winter Waterfowl Count January 1988. If any member can provide us with additional lists for 1988 for our TFN Library records, these will be appreciated.

1988 OCCASIONALS - Additional:

In addition to those listed in our last report (TFN 400:20) for 1988, the following have been reported: FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK (1) on a High Park Pond the last week-end of January, 1988. It's just as well that recognition features were given in the report, because there was a record in November, 1962, which at that time was apparently considered as an "accidental". Possibly this bird was in that category and not an "escapee" from a collection as the reporter assumed. It has a tremendous range in South America, North America including the U.S., Africa and Asia. It is listed as "casual" in South Ontario in the American Ornithologists' Union Check list 6th Edition. Whether an "accidental" or an "escapee", the High Park habitat would be attractive to it. This genus precedes the swans in the taxonomic order, the name *Dendrocygna* suggesting "tree-swan". The TRUMPETER SWANS observed were part of the ongoing introduction program. When reporting this species, please discuss bill colour, and with respect to the young birds, plumage colour, as well as neck- and wing-band colours and any numbers shown. PURPLE SANDPIPER, RING-NECKED TURTLE-DOVE (assumed an escapee from pet-stock), EURASIAN SISKIN. If observers would send in a few words about recognition features of the following, it would add to the value of these records: PIED-BILLED GREBE, SNOWY EGRET.

Some of the reports contained such information as behaviour of certain species; a list of June residents of a given location (indicating possible breeding); feeding station records; birdlife in and about a

BIRD REPORT (cont'd)

basswood tree. Additional reports were received from a number of members listed in TFN 400:20, as well as from the following: Molly Campbell, Irene Fedun, Saul Glickman, Joan Harper, Robert Muma, Helen Smith, Nora and Mike Wilson. We thank all participants.

▷ Please send your reports to Diana Banville, 7 Crescent Place, Apt. 710, Toronto, Ontario, M4C 5L7.

DB



*Like smoke in reverse,
into the chimney they fly,
chimney swifts at dusk.*

haiku by Helen Juhola

BIRDWATCHING: MAY TO AUGUST

Along with our scheduled bird outings, here are two nearby out-of-town sites that you may wish to visit. Aside from my personal experience with these areas, some of this information comes from an article by Margaret Bain in the April 1983 issue of ONTARIO BIRDS, and from Clive Goodwin's A BIRDFINDING GUIDE TO THE TORONTO REGION. These sources can provide you with more details. ONTARIO BIRDS is the journal of the Ontario Field Ornithologists (P.O. Box 1204, Station B, Burlington, Ontario L7P 3S9), and should be available at the R.O.M. library.

THICKSON'S WOODS: Scan the lake here for waterfowl: in late May brant flying eastward in early morning or evening flights of hundreds of white-winged scoters. Look overhead in early morning for flights of common loons in May also. The community of cottages along the lakeshore is known as Thickson's Point. They are on a private road but birders are tolerated. Please be respectful of their property and privacy; your car should be left on Thickson Rd. Along the north side of Thickson's Woods, the small woodlot with the beautiful tall pine trees, a road runs east from Thickson Rd. This road is also apparently private - it runs into the Corbett Creek water treatment plant. Again, birdwatchers are tolerated. You can enter the woods here on a nature trail that begins at an opening along the fenceline. Continuing east along this road brings you to a small bridge from which you can view the marsh. Egrets have been seen here, and shorebirds if water levels are low. Look also for sora, Virginia rails and least bitterns especially before the plant growth becomes too high (try early May).

BALSAM: On the road north from Balsam keep your eyes open for bluebirds. About 6-7 km from Balsam, below a "radio" tower, is a good "sparrow field" including clay-coloured and grasshopper sparrows, two of our more rare species, plus song, chipping, field, vesper, and savannah. Look and listen on the west side of the road and farther north in the big conifers for solitary vireo, and mourning and pine warblers.

Ross Harris





TFN PUBLICATIONS CAN MAKE YOUR SPRING AND SUMMER MORE ENJOYABLE

Are you looking for a recipe for a pleasant outing this spring or summer? Here's one: a TFN ravine survey or checklist, your favourite bird or plant guide, a lunch and a cool drink in your knapsack.

Our surveys and checklists are among the publications listed on the back cover of this newsletter. All of the items will be for sale at the May general meeting. If you cannot get to the meeting you can order any of the publications from our College Street office (address on back cover). For each item being purchased, please add \$1.00 to partially cover handling and postage.

Also available are the following publications of special interest. They will also be on sale at the May meeting. Each costs \$3.00 (\$4.00 if ordered by mail):

TFN NEWSLETTER NO. 348, May 1982--it contains the locations and describes the features of 37 environmentally significant areas in Metro Toronto, plus similar information about another 39 potentially significant areas.

TREE LEAVES, September 1973, 62 pp--This large pamphlet (8½" X 11") has information on preparing leaf-collections projects, on the nut trees of Echo Valley, Etobicoke, and where to find Toronto's interesting and giant trees. Included are 43 pages of leaf prints to help the user identify trees.

A GUIDE TO THE LITERATURE ON THE HERBACEOUS VASCULAR FLORA OF ONTARIO, 1978 by James L. Hodgins, 73 pp--listed are many books, pamphlets, journal and periodical articles, botanical surveys completed at the time, and botanizing maps.

GUIDE TO THE VASCULAR PLANTS AND WILDLIFE OF THE ROUGE RIVER VALLEY IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND DURHAM REGION by John L. Riley, the Ontario Field Biologist, Special Publication No. 1, 1978--although 10 years old, this 55-page account still has much timely information that tells us the Rouge should be saved. Includes maps and photos for the Rouge south of Finch Avenue. H.T.

+ + + + +

TO WHOM THE WILDERNESS SPEAKS by Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, published by Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., Toronto. 192 pages, drawings, softcover, \$14.95

Naturalists who missed this collection of graceful essays when it first appeared in 1980, will be delighted that Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. has reprinted it. The author, who banded 2,628 birds at her northern Ontario home, is known across North America as a keen and empathetic observer of nature. The two-dozen essays are mostly about birds but there are also colourful accounts of the lives of red squirrels, deer and pine martens.

FOR READING (cont'd)

Mrs. Lawrence's enthusiasm for wildlife is contagious. "If you really want to know a bird," she counsels, "find its nest! For the keen and alert observer, I will guarantee much excitement and startling surprises."

For the nature watcher who wants to hear what the wilderness is saying, close attention is a must, says Mrs. Lawrence. "Every detail is important and meaningful. You must note and record meticulously every detail, every happening of which you become aware. Very gradually, very slowly, you will realize the meaning of a given gesture, a circumstance, the way a leaf hangs, the manner in which a strand of cobweb trails from its original position, the way two birds meet, the way a bird flies, twitters, sings, picks its food, eats, scratches, moves...Take it all down! Every minute detail is significant. As you observe you will see more. As you absorb the interrelated connections, you will understand better the vast possibilities involved in the bird's life."

To the delight of her readers, Mrs. Lawrence transforms detailed observations into eloquent prose. Witness her account of a pre-dawn search for whippoorwills. "I stumbled through the thick underbrush and climbed the hill guided by my flashlight. Suddenly, in the pitch darkness, an ovenbird flung himself above the tree-tops in the most magnificent flight song I have ever heard and fell to earth again I knew not where.... In the beam of the flashlight the humped outline of the whippoorwill showed faintly, her eyes shining red. The woods were sopping wet after a thunderstorm and the mosquitoes were murderous. I sat on my rickety chair writing my notes by feel."

Recently, on the occasion of Mrs. Lawrence's 95th birthday, Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. announced that it intends to establish The Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Award. It will be given annually for excellence in nature writing. TO WHOM THE WILDERNESS SPEAKS is a lofty example for hopeful aspirants.

Harold Taylor

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

LICHENS OF THE OTTAWA REGION by Dr. Irwin Brodo. (The Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club, P.O. Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 4J5. \$9.95 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling). An illustrated guide to the identification of the lichens of southeastern Canada and the adjacent United States. Recommended for the serious amateur and the novice.

OSPREYS: A NATURAL AND UNNATURAL HISTORY by Alan F. Poole. (Cambridge University Press. Illustrated. 250 pages. Order from Manomet Bird Observatory OSPREYS, P.O. Box 936-F, Manomet, MA 02345, U.S.A. \$30.00 U.S. funds only). A detailed history written for the non-specialist --clearly and without technical jargon.

WILD RICE IN CANADA by S.G. Aiken, P.F. Lee et al. (Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0S9. Illustrated. Paperbound. \$18.95 plus \$1.90 shipping and handling).

Harold Taylor

□

IN THE NEWS

COMMITTEE BACKSBID TO BURY POWER LINES

A \$1.2-billion plan to bury unsightly power lines in Toronto has received the backing of a City Hall Committee. Several years ago, Toronto Hydro began replacing its overhead lines with new ones that can handle more power. The upgrading program was brought to a halt after some residents complained that their trees were being disfigured to make way for the new lines. A task force, made up of residents and city politicians, has urged that the new lines be buried. A special meeting of the City Services Committee accepted the recommendations of the task force. As well, the committee concluded that the cost of the ambitious program should be covered through increased rates. Officials of Toronto Hydro have argued that their customers should not cover the \$1.2-billion tab for burying lines. Instead, Hydro officials have suggested two-thirds of the cost should come from City of Toronto property tax increases, with the balance from increases in hydro rates.

adapted from an article by Paul Taylor in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Mar. 8/89

DIRT BIKES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES SERIOUSLY DAMAGING ARBORETUM

Owners of dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles are using a fragile strip of the Humber College Arboretum as a race track, churning up newly seeded soil, ignoring no-trespassing signs and driving over fences. To get on to the conservation area, they are using a 500-metre-long strip of land that was ripped up in 1986 to install a sewer pipe for a nearby residential neighbourhood now being built. The sewer is in place now and the land has been regraded. But the construction of five adjacent housing sites has opened up areas large enough for vehicles to sneak on to the conservation site. The exposed land must be left alone to give wildflowers and grass seeds enough time to start growing. Damage from spinning tires has already forced the college to reseed the area twice. The college plans to reseed a third time. Attempts by police and Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to stop the culprits are thwarted by the large size of the arboretum, rough terrain and lack of sufficient manpower. The traffic is generally about five trucks and motorbikes on weekends. Metro Toronto Police predict that more vehicles will invade the area as the weather improves. The 160-hectare site on the west branch of the Humber River in northern Etobicoke is the host for a collection of ornamental and native Ontario trees and grasses and an assortment of wild animals. The area, owned jointly by the conservation authority, the City of Etobicoke and Humber College, is protected by a MTRCA conservation designation. The Ontario Ministry of Transport and Hallmark Development Ltd. are paying for the repairs to the land.

adapted from an article by Susan Huxley in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Mar. 28/89

*Nightshade on fence-post -
looks as though it's doing
what it ought to do.*

haiku by Molly Campbell

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

REPTILES BEING PROTECTED IN ONTARIO

Conservation Officers of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Maple District Office have investigated the illegal sale of native Ontario species of turtles and snakes in Toronto area pet stores. This investigation resulted in several Toronto area pet stores and individuals being charged under the Ontario Game and Fish Act. Charged were Better Pets Ltd. of Mississauga which was fined a total of \$650.00; P.J.'s Pet Centres Ltd. of Toronto which was fined \$800.00; the Menagerie Pet Shop of Parliament Street, Toronto, for offering to sell black rat snakes, and Aquarium Services of 180 Steeles Avenue, Thornhill, for unlawfully selling Midland painted turtles. A 17-year old youth from Mississauga was also convicted for selling spotted turtles.

Under the Ontario Game and Fish Act it is illegal to possess, hunt, sell, offer to sell, or barter the following species of reptiles: spotted turtle, wood turtle, western painted turtle, Midland painted turtle, map turtle, musk turtle, eastern spiny softshell turtle, queen snake, eastern hognose snake, black rat snake, eastern fox snake, blue racer, Lake Erie water snake, northern water snake or timber rattlesnake. These species of reptiles are protected under the Game and Fish Act. Their removal from the wild for commercial purposes has a major negative impact on their limited range and populations in Ontario.

For more information please contact: Ministry of Natural Resources, (416)832-7201 or 832-7209.

Adapted from a Ministry of Natural Resources News Release

ONTARIO TO OUTLAW BOUNTIES ON "NUISANCE" ANIMALS

Ontario municipalities are going to have to find a new way to keep the wolf from the door. And foxes, coyote and beaver, for that matter. The Ontario government is moving to prohibit municipalities from paying bounties to trappers and hunters for the thousands of animals deemed each year to be nuisances. No one knows for sure how many wolves, beaver and foxes with a price on their heads were killed in Ontario last year, but a spokesman for the Ministry of Natural Resources said that 155 municipalities pay a bounty for at least one of the four species. In Bruce County alone last year, \$25 bounties were paid for about 130 wolves and 1,400 beaver. Naturalists have been fighting for a ban on bounties for several years. Bounties have been illegal under the Ontario Game and Fish Act since 1980, but allowed under a provision of the Ontario Municipal Act. Municipalities with animal problems will have to find other solutions, such as hiring trappers to deal with specific nuisance animals rather than putting a blanket bounty on a whole species.

adapted from an article by Craig McInnes in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Feb. 23/89

□

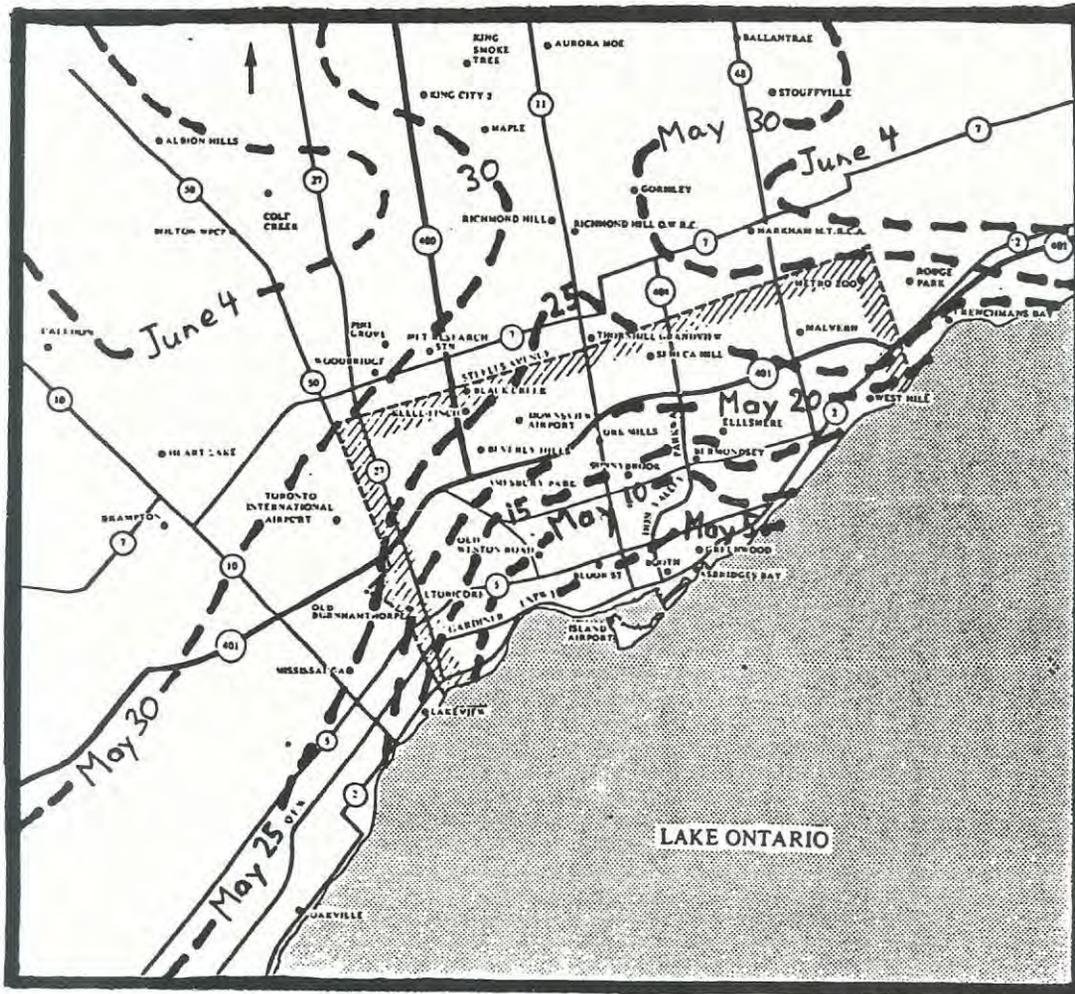
Startled deer -
startled me too.

Sr. Margaret Banville

FROST AND THE BACKYARD GARDENER:
SAFE PLANTING DATES ACROSS METRO

May is an exciting time of year with lovely warm days and evidence of new life bursting forth all around us. In early May many gardeners can be seen fastidiously preparing their backyard plots for that sacred ritual -- the weekend of planting. For many people the process actually begins in March or April when seeds are started in sunny windows or makeshift greenhouses. One perennial problem for backyard gardeners is knowing when to plant or transplant seedlings outdoors. If they are set out too early, they may fall victim to late spring frosts. A light frost may not do any damage if precautions are taken; however, a hard frost will invariably kill sets, seedlings and young shoots of perennial plants. On the other hand, if planting is delayed longer than necessary, then yields will be diminished because of our short growing season.

The traditional planting time in Toronto is the May 24th weekend. Gardening books usually provide a map of average last frost dates but they are far too vague to provide useful information. Furthermore, the large amount of heat generated by human activity in the downtown core and the moderating influence of Lake Ontario lead to great differences between temperatures downtown and in the suburbs. The map below shows the large climatic variation across Metro. The contoured data represent



Contours indicate that there will be frost after the stated date in one out of ten years

FROST (cont'd)

'safe' planting dates. For a given location, the map tells you that there will be a frost after the stated date in one out of ten years. The safe planting dates vary from as early as the first week in May for the downtown core to the last week of May for the northern reaches of Scarborough and Rexdale.

The average date of the last frost for any location in Metro is roughly ten days before the 'safe' planting dates provided on the map. If you are willing to gamble a bit to extend the growing season, you could plant a week or two before the safe planting date. However, you must then be prepared to pay close attention to the weather forecast and protect your plants if a frost is predicted. Looking at the map, several interesting points come to light. First, we can see that Lake Ontario has a marked effect on the frost pattern. Areas several miles inland experience frost much later than ones near the lake. This is because the lake surface temperature is several degrees above zero in May and it adds heat to any cold air mass that settles over Toronto. Another factor that cuts back on the frost is the heat given off by the city itself. In heavily developed, high density areas of the city, more heat is generated than in the suburbs. This warm core is reflected in the early 'safe planting' dates south of Eglinton Avenue. This warming can also be seen along Yonge Street (Highway 11) where the May 25th contour has been pushed north of the city limits. A third factor affecting night time temperatures, and therefore frost formation, is the lay of the land. Cold air settles into valleys and so they are much more prone to frost damage than other locations. The safe planting map reflects the presence of the major valleys in Toronto, but if you live beside a ravine or on a dip in the land it would be advisable to delay planting a week or so beyond the map projection.

Even if you follow the safe planting guide, there is still a 10% chance that there will be frost after the stated date. The best protection is to pay careful attention to the Frost Warnings issued by Environment Canada. It is important to realize that their forecast temperatures are targeted to a 'walking around' level or roughly 1.5 metres off the ground. On cool, clear, windless nights, the ground may be 2 to 4 Celsius degrees colder than the air a couple of metres above it. You can minimize the effects of a light frost by taking certain precautions. If a frost is forecast, then you should cover any frost sensitive plants with light blankets, leaves, burlap or makeshift newspaper tents. Further protection may be had by thoroughly soaking the ground around the plants. The added moisture will reduce the amount of cooling the plants undergo. However, a hard frost (surface temperature $< -4^{\circ}\text{C}$) will kill most seedlings and transplants.

Looking ahead to the fall, the 'first frost' pattern is quite similar to the springtime pattern with frost occurring earliest in the suburbs and being delayed downtown and near the lake. Frost is unlikely before September 25th in the suburbs and before October 7th in downtown Toronto. Using the spring and fall frost dates provided, we arrive at a safe growing season of 125 days in the suburbs and up to 155 days downtown.

FROST (cont'd)

Legend has it that in the Annapolis Valley planting should not be done until after the full moon in mid-date May. This hearkens back to the English proverb: Clear moon -- Frost soon. Unfortunately, this belief has no meteorological basis. The likely connection between the two is that the moon is best seen on clear nights. Clear, cool, windless nights are associated with high pressure systems and are conducive to frost formation. So a good sighting of the full moon was linked to the occurrence of frost. However, a starry, moonless sky will accompany a damaging frost as often as will a moonlit one.

Happy planting -- frost free, of course!

<u>May Normal Temperatures for the City of Toronto</u>		
	Early May	May 24th Weekend
Average Maximum	14	18
Average Minimum	5	7

David Broadhurst

□

UPDATE ON B.C. WOLF CONTROL PROGRAM

Last year, 1988, the British Columbia Government embarked on a program to eliminate a large number of wolves in the Muskawa area of the province. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee was successful in obtaining a court injunction against aerial killing of wolves, thereby effectively halting the hunt for 1988.

Since then a "Wolf Working Group" (WWG) has been formed with representatives from a wide variety of public interest groups (on both sides of the issue) as well as from the Government. The Wildlife Branch of the B.C. Environment Ministry has agreed to allow more public input into wolf 'management' programs in the future. It is to be hoped, however, that such management programs will become a thing of the past.

At any rate, because of public pressure, the Government has put the Muskawa hunt "on hold" for approximately 4 years. Furthermore, the Quesnel (Cariboo) control program has been called off for 1989. The only remaining wolf control program is the Vancouver Island trapping program which expires on 31 March of this year. So far it is not known whether this will be renewed, but as things stand now it seems unlikely.

Because positive reinforcement of the Government decision to halt the Muskawa and Quesnel hunts may reap further benefits in the continued ban on wolf control programs in B.C., it is a good idea to write to those responsible and applaud their decision. Letters of encouragement can be sent to: Bruce Strachan, Minister of the Environment, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4, and Mr. Jim Walker, Director, B.C. Wildlife Branch, 780 Blanshard Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X5.

For more information on the wolf issue in B.C. contact: Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society, P.O. Box 34129, Station 'D', Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4N3.

Christine Hanrahan

□

A Naturalist's Code of Ethics

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

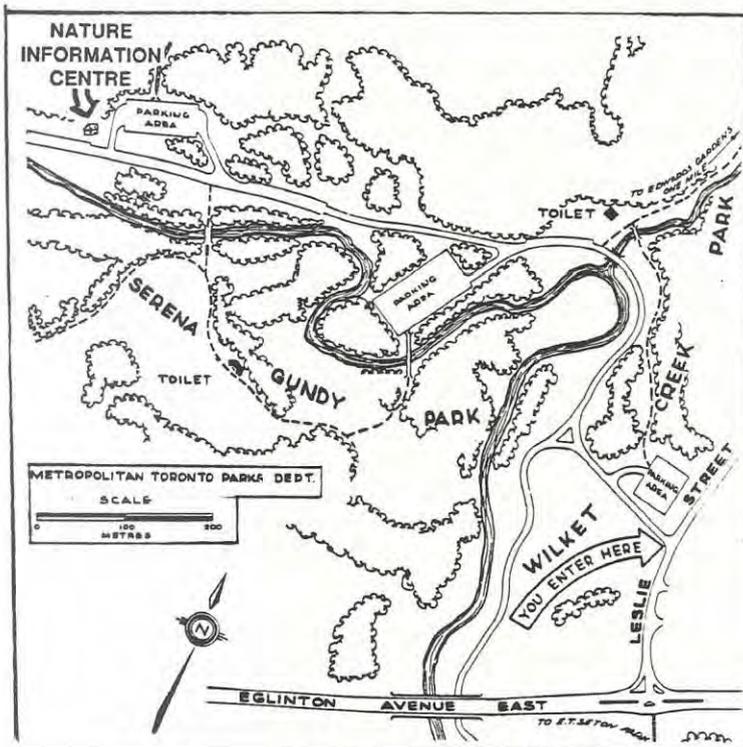
The birds' welfare should always be the first concern, the aim being to take pictures without interrupting their normal activity, and at times this will mean NO photography.

Some extra considerations apply to photography at the nest:

1. Keep the nest secret. Choose a site away from public view, and if a hide is used, camouflage it well. Leave no tracks or signs to lead predators to the brood.
2. Keep visits to the nest as few and as short as possible.
3. Leave the nest as you find it. Opening a nest to the camera also opens it to weather and danger.
4. When using a hide, erect it some way off, moving in over a period of days, so that the birds grow used to it.
5. Fingers and lenses suddenly poked out, flapping cloth and loud noises, scare birds. Get them used to small sounds, talk to them perhaps, before taking pictures.
6. Remember that public opinion generalizes, and the thoughtlessness of one bird photographer may damage the reputation of others.

adapted from a pamphlet prepared by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 1986.

□



NATURE INFORMATION

Open Sunday afternoons

12 noon to 4 pm

May 7 to October 8

Free maps, displays,
information.

run entirely by TFN
volunteers.

See page 30 if you want
to be involved.

The weather this time last year

May 1988, Toronto

This was the fourth May in a row with above-normal temperatures, and the third in a row that ended with very hot weather.

Mean temperatures were 1.5°C to 1.9°C above normal; sunshine was 20 to 40 hours above normal, and rainfall only about 60% of the normal. It was the driest May since 1977. The last significant rainfall that fell in more than a month was May 18 to 20th. Easterly winds brought slightly cool (lake-cooled) air and fairly sunny, dry conditions for the first several days. After a short spell of warm weather, the middle of the month featured a stalled showery spell. The slow pattern of May was related to an upper-level ridge over the prairie provinces which were suffering record-breaking drought and hot weather.

In the last week of May, the hot and dry airmass moved east to cover Ontario, and temperatures hit 32.8°C downtown on May 30th. These temperatures rivalled those of 1987 at the same time.

Drought conditions on the prairies were extreme by month's end.

G.M.

DROUGHT

*A sunny, gold spring
brought thoughts of the Midas Touch.
There was too much gold.*

Peg McEwan

June 1988, Toronto

Record-setting warmth and dryness were featured this June, although the mean temperature was close to normal because of cool minimums. Still, it was one of the warmer Junes of recent years. Toronto City had a mean of 19.7°C and Lester B. Pearson Airport's mean temperature was 17.7°C. The rainfall downtown was only 16.6 mm, the least since 1949 and the third driest for June on record. Elsewhere in our area, the rainfall was in the neighbourhood of 25 mm or less. After a fairly dry spring, drought set in across all of Ontario. Dry conditions in North America extended from California to Nova Scotia, and were most severe in the eastern prairies/mid-western United States. In our area, grass was brown and crops stunted. Forest fires and caterpillars were rife in Northern Ontario.

The month was characterized by a searingly hot, dry air mass hovering to the west which occasionally surged east across Ontario, alternating

▷

WEATHER (cont'd)

with very cool airmasses from Hudson's Bay. Hot surges were generally accompanied by low humidities and little or no thunderstorm activity. On June 12 to 15th, June 19 to 22nd, and June 25th, Toronto's temperatures soared over 30°C. Records downtown were set on June 14th, with 35.2°C; and on June 20th, with 35.3°C. On June 25th, Lester B. Pearson Airport hit 36.0°C. These were the highest June temperatures in 25 years. In contrast, strong cool outbreaks on June 2, 9 and 29, brought minimums of 5°C or lower to our area; on June 9th, L.B. Pearson Airport had a low of 3.3°C. Sunshine was considerably above normal with 292.5 hours. The only rain of any consequence fell on June 21 and 22, with a frontal disturbance.

G.M.

<p>Sun on horizon, wisps of clouds of amber hues. I feel the stillness.</p>

haiku by J. Kenneth Cook

July 1988, Toronto

July broke some 148-year records with regard to heat. It was the fourth hottest July (in fact, of any month) in the downtown records, and the hottest since 1955, with an average temperature of 24.2°C. (The record, 1921, was 25.5°C). More than that, the temperature topped 35°C (95°F) on six days: July 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, and 29. The previous record was five (1921 and 1936). With the two days in June, the 1988 total of eight days broke the record for any years with number of days above 35°C.

The month opened with high pressure building in behind, ironically, an Arctic outbreak. However, this system soon fed in a stream of very hot air originating in the deserts of southwestern North America, peaking with a reading of 37.2°C on July 7 and 37.1°C on July 8. Accompanying the heat was a surge of air pollution whose source was never settled. Was it American or local? In any case, the air pollution index rose to over 50 on July 7 and 8; 32 is considered acceptable. Severe drought had settled in over Southern Ontario (and much of the U.S.A. as well), and most grain crops were stunted. (Corn and other crops recovered with heavy rainfalls later in the month.)

The rest of July was quite warm and humid with frequent thunderstorm activity, variable cloudiness, and incursions of very hot airmasses separated by intervals of slightly cooler, but not really cool, weather. From July 16 on, copious rainfall in most (but not all) regions brought precipitation above normal; L.B. Pearson had 109.7 mm. Sunshine was marginally below normal at 278 hours.

Toronto Island average windspeed was 7.4 km/h, the lightest on record.

G.M.

▷

WEATHER (cont'd)

August 1988, Toronto

Toronto's summer was the warmest since 1959 as the hot trend continued into the middle of August. August was the warmest since 1973 with the downtown mean of 22.7°C and the airport mean of 21.4°C. It was also the sunniest August since 1971 with over 260 hours of sunshine. The severe drought continued as downtown reported 53.2 mm of rain, the least since 1980, and the airport had 37.2 mm, the lowest total since 1974. The effects of the drought on crops and even on well-established trees was quite pronounced.

The month was characterized by a very hot and oppressive first 17 days, and then by a dramatic turn to much cooler and slightly wetter weather. There were twelve days with maximums over 30°C, all in the first 17 days (13 such days at the airport) bringing the summer's total to 33 days downtown and 37 at the airport. The periods from August 2 to 6 and August 12 to 17 were especially hot, with maximums up into the mid thirties and minimums well over 20°C with humidex readings up to 44°C. From August 9 to 15, temperatures overnight never fell to 20°C.

Much cooler weather was featured after August 17, with afternoon readings remaining in the low twenties the rest of the month. This brought the scorching summer of 1988 to a close, although water table deficits due to drought may continue for some time.

Cavin Miller

□

*At the campfire at night,
below the slender firs
I sat alone.*

*The great blue heron and a mate beside him
did just fly by.
He said to me, "Good night!"
I would not come.*

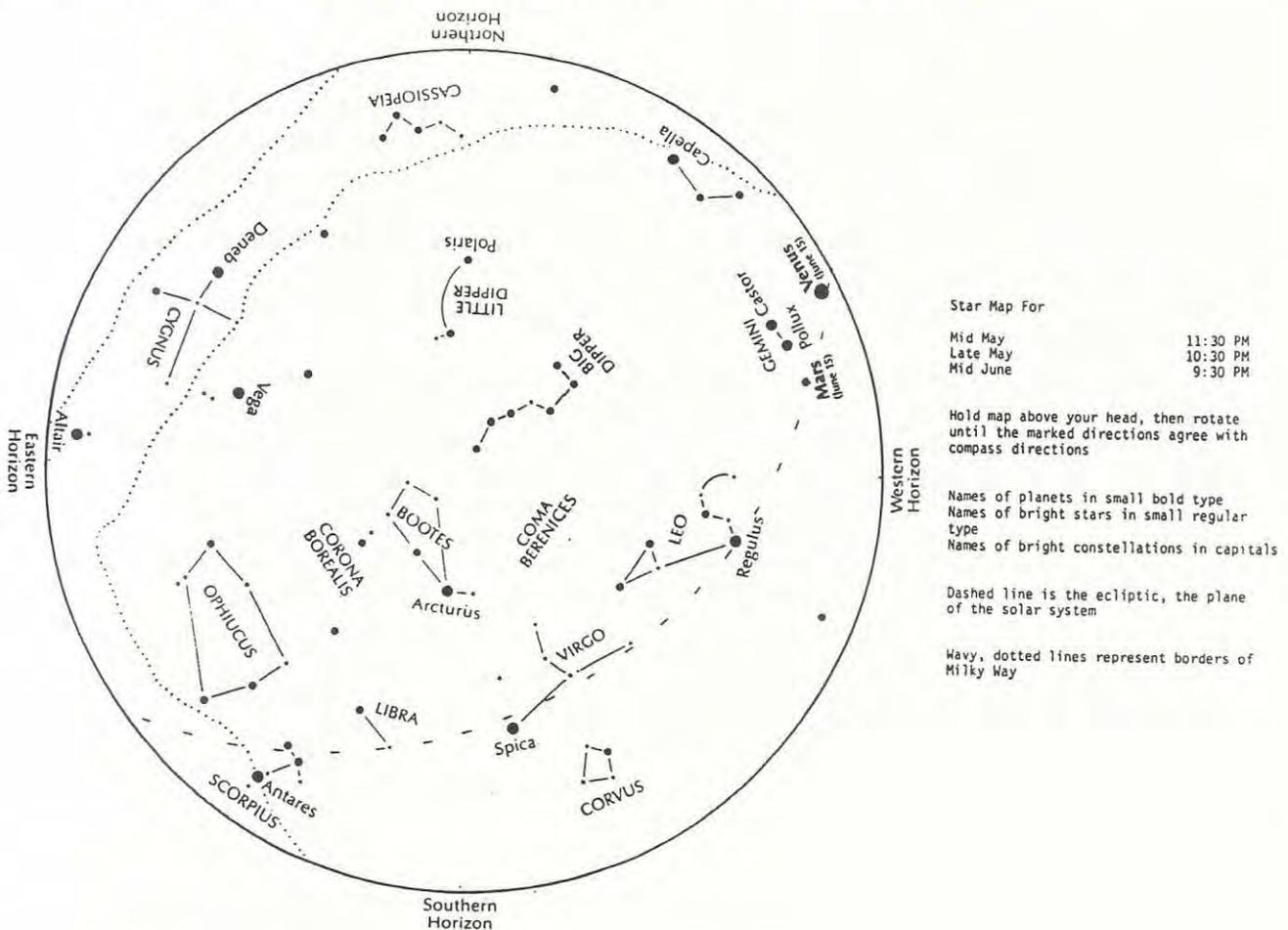
*And there he stood, in murky waters
stomach-deep,
when the sun went down:
Silhouetted, luminous.*

*In the darkness of the night
the flames were leaping,
the coals glowed red,
and the smoke kept dancing on.*

Larisa Zviedris

Sky Notes

The Evening Sky - Summer, 1989



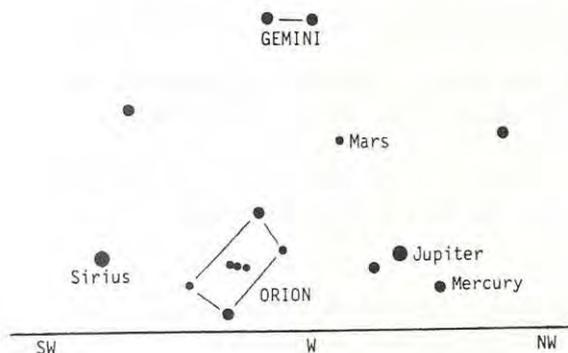
Notes on the planets:

- Mercury, usually too close to the horizon to see, is, for a few days around the beginning of May, about as high in the sky as it ever gets.
- Venus, which dazzled everybody last spring, returns to the evening sky in late May and is visible, with difficulty, for the rest of the summer very low in the west after sunset, before the sky is completely dark. The young moon appears near Venus on June 5, July 4 and August 4.
- Mars continues to fade and, relative to the background stars, to move rapidly eastward. However, the westward motion of the sky is even more rapid; thus by mid-July Mars is lost in the glare of the sun. It reappears in the morning sky in November.
- Jupiter has dominated the evening sky since the fall. By mid-May it is too close to the sun to see, again because of the westward motion of the sky. Jupiter moves into the morning sky in July.
- Saturn is the only planet prominently visible all of this summer. Recall that it was last seen between June and November/88. Look for it low in the southeast after sunset, to the left of Antares. Saturn will be the third brightest star-like object in the sky, after Arcturus and Vega. The rings of Saturn are visible through any telescope.

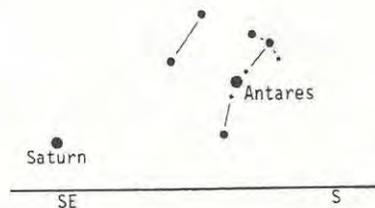
A total eclipse of the moon, the first visible from North America in seven years, occurs from about 10:00 PM to midnight on Aug. 16.



SKY NOTES (cont'd)



Western sky, beginning of May, just after dark



Southeastern sky, early July, just after dark

Jeff Nadir

□

• Projects •

BE A FRIEND OF THE SPIT

- ▷ If you have sightings, or nesting information for birds observed on the Leslie Street Spit, please contact Herb Elliott at 654-8220 or send your data to him at 211 Ellsworth, Toronto M6G 2K7.
 - ▷ Please forward your plant lists for the Leslie Street Spit to Dr. V. Higgins, Dept. of Botany, University of Toronto, Toronto M5S 1A1.
- adapted from the newsletter of Friends of the Spit for March 1989

MAMMALS IN METRO

- ▷ Please send your sightings of mammals in metro to Diana Banville at 710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7. Note date, location, behaviour.

BIRDERS CAN WIN AWARDS IN NEW PROGRAM

BirdQuest is a new program announced recently by the Canadian Nature Federation. (The TFN is federated with the CNF.) BirdQuest is designed to encourage bird study and reward participants for their achievements. It is open to birders of all ages regardless of birding ability.

Those taking part, in beginner, intermediate, and advanced categories, can earn badges for their skills in identifying birds by sight and sound, for their knowledge of theory, including bird anatomy and the use of binoculars, and for participation in conservation activities. To cover production costs there will be a fee for the purchase of the kit.

An optional addition to BirdQuest is a slide show (separate fee). The slides illustrate birds' identifying characteristics.

- ▷ More information about BirdQuest is available from the Canadian Nature Federation, 453 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 6Z4.

H.T.

□

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 4 at 7:30 pm - Edible Landscaping, a lecture sponsored by the Canadian Organic Growers, at 155 College St., 7th floor, free

Saturday May 6 at 7:30 am - Warblers at Lambton Woods led by Hugh Currie - meet in the James Gardens parking lot, sponsored by Toronto Ornithological Club, free

Saturday May 6 (1 to 3 pm) - Spring wildflower hikes at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. Call Halton Region Conservation Authority
Call 416-336-1158 weekdays; 416-854-2276 weekends.

Saturday May 6 & 13 - Help clean up the Humber Valley. Call the Humber Heritage Group (Mrs. McDowell 767-7633).

Sunday May 7, 14 and 21 at 1:30 pm - a Season to Bloom at the Humber Arboretum. Call 675-5009.

Saturday May 13 at 7:30 am - Warblers in High Park. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance off Bloor St. at High Park Ave. (TOC)

Saturday May 13 - View Sun spots (weather permitting) at the Ontario Science Centre.

Sunday May 14 from 1 to 3 pm - Spring wildflower hikes (see May 6). (HRCA)

Saturday May 20 at 7:45 am - Spring migrants and warblers at Toronto Is. Meet at the Ferry docks. (TOC)

Sunday, May 21 & 28 from 12 noon to 4 pm - Art in Nature. See May 6.

Saturday May 27 at 8 pm - Whimbrels and other shorebirds at the Leslie Street Spit. Meet at the base of the spit. (TOC)

Sunday May 28 from 12 noon to 4 pm - Art in Nature - Pottery. See May 6. (HRCA)

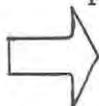
Thursday June 1 at 7:30 pm - Naturalized Landscaping. See May 4.

Saturday June 3 from 7 to 11 am - Bird Banding Demonstration. See May 6. (HRCA)

Wednesday June 14 at 7:30 pm - Evening walk with Save the Rouge Valley System. Call 288-8730 or 1-432-1346.

Saturday June 17 & Sun. June 18 from 12 noon to 4 pm - a tour of 18 private, downtown Toronto gardens presented by the Civic Garden Centre (445-1552). Tickets \$10.00.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT COMING EVENTS, visit the Nature Information Centre in Sunnybrook Park on any Sunday afternoon from May 7 to Oct. 8. Cabin is open from 12 noon to 4 pm. Better still, be a volunteer. Call Eileen Mayo (445-4621) or Helen Juhola (924-5806) to book in.



□

 (NO DOGS)	Upcoming TFN OUTINGS	
RAIN or  SHINE	Everybody Welcome!	

GUIDELINES FOR OUTINGS:

- o Visitors and children are welcome on all outings.
- o Outings go whatever the weather.
- o All outings are accessible by public transit (TTC 393-4636 for directions, Ride Guides are free).
- o Metro maps are available for a nominal sum. Do get one!
- o Walks are usually at a leisurely pace and begin and end at the same location unless indicated otherwise.
- o Note taking, sketching, photography and collection of litter are encouraged; the collection of specimens is not!
- o Please do not bring pets on outings. Dogs have been found to interfere with the environment, viewing, and safety on the trail.
- o For bus outings, please forward cheques (not post-dated) as soon as possible after making a reservation. TFN must order and pay for buses months in advance.

BE A FRIEND OF OUR VALLEYS:

- o Report vandalism or motorbike activity to the Metro police at 967-2222.
- o Report suspected air or water pollution to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment at 424-300.
- o Report dumping of soils or construction debris or silting of waterways by construction to the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at 661-6600.
- o Report picking, digging or removal of any plant material to the Metro Parks and Property Department at 947-8199.
- o Be prepared to take licence numbers of vehicles involved in any of these prohibited activities.
- o Remember that sometimes pointing a camera is enough to discourage potential offenders.

OUTINGS (cont'd)

MAY

- Tuesday HIGH PARK - birds for beginners Toronto
 May 2 Leader: Helen Smith
 6:45 pm Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor Street
 at West Road, opposite High Park Road.
- Wednesday DON VALLEY (Steeles to Finch) - nature walk West Don, North York
 May 3 Leader: Sandy Cappell
 10 am Meet at the southeast corner of Steeles Avenue West and
 Dufferin Street. Bring lunch.
- Thursday HIGH PARK - botany Toronto
 May 4 Leader: Dr. Nick Badenhuisen
 6:45 pm See May 2.
- Saturday GLENDON COLLEGE - nature arts West Don, North York
 May 6 Leader: Diana Banville
 10:30 am Meet at the gates to Glendon on the east side Bayview at
 Lawrence Avenue East. Bring lunch, cameras, sketching
 materials.
- Sunday ETOBICOKE CREEK - botany Etobicoke Creek, Etobicoke
 May 7 Leader: Isabel Smith
 11 am Meet at the west end of Rathburn Road. Bring lunch.
- Tuesday GLEN STEWART RAVINE - birds Toronto
 May 9 Leader: Fred Bodsworth
 6:45 pm Meet at the ravine entrance on the south side of Kingston
 Road just west of Balsam Avenue.
- Wednesday WEST DON (Finch to Sheppard) - nature walk West Don, North York
 May 10 Leader: Sandy Cappell
 10 am Meet on the southwest corner of Finch Avenue West and Goldfinch
 Court (just west of Bathurst). Bring lunch.
- Thursday BURKE BROOK - botany West Don, Tor., N.Y.
 May 11 Leader: Emily Hamilton
 6:45 pm Meet on the southeast corner of Yonge and Lawrence. Walk
 will end at a different public transit stop.
- Saturday DERRYDOWN PARK - nature walk Black Creek, North York
 May 13 Leader: Allan Greenbaum
 10 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Finch Avenue
 West where it crosses Black Creek (west of Keele). Lunch
 optional.
- +
- Saturday CRAWFORD LAKE - birds and botany west of Metro
 May 13 Leader: Phil Joiner
 8 am to Call Eileen Mayo (445-4621) if you want to attend. Confirm
 5 pm by sending a cheque for \$22 payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
 CRAWFORD LAKE TRIP to Eileen at 405-44 Stubbs Dr., Willowdale
 M2L 2R3. Bus leaves southeast corner of Yonge and Old York
 Mills Rd. (south exit of York Mills stn.). Bring lunch & drinks.
 Washroom on bus.

OUT OF
TOWNBUS

MAY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Sunday
May 14
10:30 am

WOODGREEN - nature walk
Leader: Steve Campbell
Meet at the community centre at the northeast corner of Linkwood and Grenoble. Bring lunch. [south of Egl. East] East Don, North York

Tuesday
May 16
10:30 am

EARL BALES PARK - nature arts
Leader: Alf Buchanan
Meet at the park entrance on the east side of Bathurst Street south of Sheppard Avenue West. Bring lunch, cameras, sketching materials. West Don, North York

+

Tuesday
May 16
6:45 pm

PINE POINT - birds and botany
Leader: Mark Kubisz
Meet at the east end of Allenby Avenue which runs east from Islington Avenue just north of the 401. Humber, Etobicoke

Wednesday
May 17
9 am

EARL BALES PARK - nature walk
Leader: Joan Patterson
See May 16. Bring lunch. West Don, North York

Thursday
May 18
6:45 pm

PRINCE HOTEL POND & MOATFIELD - botany
Leader: Dennis Clark
Meet at the northwest corner of Don Mills Road and York Mills Road. East Don, North York

Saturday
May 20
9 am

GUILDWOOD PARK - birds
Leader: Walter Frey
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Guildwood Parkway opposite Galloway Road. lakeshore, Scarborough

Sunday
May 21
11 am

EAST POINT PARK - botany
Leader: Dennis Clarke
Meet on the east side of Morningside Avenue where it crosses the railway tracks north of Guildwood Parkway. Bring lunch. lakeshore, Scarborough

Monday
May 22
9 am

TORONTO ISLANDS - birds
Leader: George Fairfield
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street to take the ferry at 9 am. Bring lunch. lakeshore, Toronto

Wednesday
May 24
10 am

WEST DON (Lawrence to Eglinton) - nature walk
Leader: Kathleen Repka
Meet at the gates to Glendon on the east side of Bayview Avenue at Lawrence. Bring lunch. West Don, North York

Thursday
May 25
6:45 pm

HUMBER ARBORETUM - botany
Leader: Phil Joiner
Meet at the Humber College Arboretum which is on Arboretum Road off Humber College Blvd. (west of Highway 27). West Humber, Etobicoke

MAY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Saturday WINDFIELD PARK - botany Wilket Creek, North York
 May 27 Leader: Bill Granger
 10 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of York Mills
 Road just east of Bayview Avenue. Morning only. We will be
 looking at wildflowers and trees.

Sunday BLACK CREEK (Eglinton to Lawrence) - environment Black Creek, York
 May 28 Leader: Isabel Smith (with John Maher of the Black Creek Project)
 2 pm Meet on the north side of Eglinton Avenue West where it
 crosses Black Creek (west of Keele St.). Walk will end elsewhere.

Tuesday PINE HILLS CEMETERY - birds Taylor Creek, Scarborough
 May 30 Leader: Karin Fawthrop
 6:45 pm Meet at the entrance to the cemetery on the west side of
 Kennedy Road north of St. Clair Ave. East.

Wednesday ROCKWOOD - nature walk west of Metro
 May 31 Leader: Helen Hansen
 8:45 am Meet at the York Mills subway station to take the GO bus
 that leaves at 8:45 am. Bus returns at 2:35 pm. Fare \$6.75
 each way (half fare for seniors). Bring lunch and something
 to drink. We will be walking about 3 km.

OUT OF
TOWN



THE SHOWY LADY'S SLIPPER

This beautiful orchid is no longer part of our Toronto Flora. It is listed in "The Seed Plants of Toronto and vicinity" by William Scott in Faull, THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TORONTO REGION, 1913. At that time there apparently was suitable habitat for it in the immediate vicinity of the City of Toronto. It is still listed in Jocelyn Webber's THE VASCULAR PLANT FLORA OF PEEL COUNTY, ONTARIO, 1984 (though apparently beyond the 50 km limits of "Toronto Region" within that county) where it is uncommon in occurrence.

The ink drawing was copied from Peterson's colour-plate in A FIELD GUIDE TO WILDFLOWERS by Peterson & McKenny, while experimenting with texturing using a technical pen.

OUTINGS (cont'd)

JUNE

- Thursday
June 1
6:45 pm
CEDARVALE RAVINE - botany
Leader: Judy Hernandez
Meet at the Heath St. exit of the St. Clair West subway stn.
(at Bathurst) Don, Toronto
- Saturday
June 3
10:30 am
NEWTONBROOK CREEK - nature arts
Leader: Joyce Cave
Meet at the southeast corner of Cummer Ave. and Silverview
Dr. Bring lunch, cameras and sketching materials. East Don, North York
- Sunday
June 4
10 am
LESLIE STREET SPIT - birds
Leader: Herb Elliott
Meet at the park entrance at the foot of Leslie Street. Bring
lunch. lakeshore, Toronto
- +
Sunday
June 4
10:30 am
MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY - trees and shrubs
Leader: Emily Hamilton
Meet at the cemetery entrance on the east side of Mt. Pleasant
Road, south of Merton. Toronto
- Tuesday
June 6
6:45 pm
CROTHERS WOODS - botany
Leaders: Dennis Clarke & Robin Powell
Meet at the corner of Millwood Rd. and Crothers Rd. Walk
will end at a different transit stop. Don River, East York
- Wednesday
June 7
10 am
DON VALLEY (Eglinton to Todmorden)
Leader: Volunteer needed
Meet on the south side of Eglinton Avenue East at Leslie St.
Bring lunch. Don River, East York
- Friday
June 9
6:45 pm
HOGG'S HOLLOW - evening ramble
Leader: Betty Paul
Meet at the south exit of the York Mills subway station. West Don, North York
- Saturday
June 10
8 am to
6 pm
JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE - nature study
Leaders: club directors
Call Ruth Munson (653-1313) if you want to attend. Confirm
by sending a cheque for \$22 payable to TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
RESERVE OUTING to Ruth at 411 - 31 Tichester Rd., Toronto
M5P 3L8. Bus leaves from the southeast corner of Yonge and
Old York Mills Rd. (south exit of York Mills stn.). Bring
lunch and something to drink. Washrooms on bus and at the
reserve. Waterproof footwear and work gloves are recommended. northeast of Metro

OUT OF
TOWN

BUS

For those coming in cars, we will all be meeting for lunch at the picnic shelter from 12 noon to 1 pm. We hope to have Bob Johnson, author of AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF METRO and FAMILIAR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF ONTARIO, with us as well as Barry Penhale of Natural Heritage/Natural History Press.

Bring your GUIDE TO TFN NATURE RESERVE, your favourite field guides, cameras, binoculars, sketching materials.

Come and be introduced to 164 acres of forested wetland we are preserving. It's yours! Come and enjoy.

▷

TFN 404.....36

JUNE OUTINGS (cont'd)

Sunday WARDEN WOODS - botany Taylor Creek, Scarborough
June 11 Leader: Eva Davis
10:30 am Meet at the subway exit at the southeast corner of St. Clair
+ Avenue East and Warden. Bring lunch.

Sunday HINDER ESTATE - nature walk West Don, North York
June 11 Leader: Allan Greenbaum
10:30 am Meet at the park entrance on the east side of Bathurst St.
north of Sheppard West (opposite the Jewish Community Centre).
Bring lunch.

Wednesday DON VALLEY (Todmorden to Lake Ontario) Don, East York/Toronto
June 14 Leader: Graham Neville
10 am Meet at the entrance to Todmorden Mills on the south side
of Pottery Road (west and downhill from Broadview and Mortimer).
Bring lunch.

Thursday TAYLOR CREEK - evening ramble Don, East York
June 15 Leader: Melanie Milanich
6:45 pm Meet outside the Victoria Park subway station.

Saturday HUMBER MARSHES - birds Humber, Toronto
June 17 Leader: Helen Smith
9:30 am Meet at the Old Mill subway station. Lunch optional. Do
+ not wear shorts. Lots of poison ivy and nettles!

Saturday LESLIE STREET SPIT - botany lakeshore, Toronto
June 17 Leader: Dr. Nick Badenhuisen
10:30 am See June 4. Bring lunch.

Sunday NECROPOLIS CEMETERY - nature walk Don, Toronto
June 18 Leader: Kevin Seymour
2 pm Meet at the cemetery entrance on the north side of Winchester
Drive east of Sumach St.

Tuesday RIVERDALE FARM - nature arts Don, Toronto
June 20 Leader: Mary Cumming
10:30 am Meet at the southeast corner of Sumach and Winchester.
Bring lunch, cameras, sketching materials.

Wednesday WILDFLOWER GARDEN - evening ramble Scarborough
June 21 Leader: Paul McGaw
6:45 pm Meet at the southeast corner of St. Clair Ave. East and
Warden.

Saturday GLENDON - ferns West Don, North York
June 24 Leader: Molly Campbell
11 am Meet at the gates to Glendon on the east side of Bayview
Avenue at Lawrence East. Bring lunch. Walk may end at
a different public transit stop.

▷

JUNE OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Sunday
June 25
2 pm
BLACK CREEK (Lawrence to Wilson) - environment Black Cr., N.Y.
Leader: Robin Powell (with Rob Tonis of the Black Creek Project)
Meet on the north side of Lawrence Avenue West where it crosses Black Creek, west of Black Creek Drive. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Tuesday
June 27
6:45 pm
GWENDOLEN PARK - evening ramble West Don, North York
Leader: Martha Wallace
Meet on the northwest corner of Yonge St. and Florence, south of Sheppard.
- Wednesday
June 28
10 am
EAST METRO CORRIDOR - nature walk Scarborough
Leader: Karin Fawthrop
Meet at the northeast corner of St. Clair Avenue East and Midland. Lunch optional. This will be a rugged walk.

▷

*Though an uncommon bird,
the Upland Sandpiper has been
known to nest in Toronto
Region.*

*It is shown here in a
characteristic pose atop
a pole.*

*It nests on the ground
in open grasslands and
hawthorn meadows.*

Ref.: BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO
by Peck and James



Upland
Sandpiper
from a
photo by
Karl
Maslowski

OUTINGS (cont'd)

JULY

- Saturday ST. BERNARD'S - nature arts West Don, North York
 July 1 Leader: Margaret Emminghaus
 10 am Meet at the hospital entrance on the south side of Finch Avenue West between Bathurst and Dufferin. Bring lunch, cameras, sketching materials.
- Sunday WILKET CREEK - birds West Don, North York
 July 2 Leader: Don Peuramaki
 10 am Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Leslie Street (opposite the Inn on the Park) north of Eglinton Avenue East. Lunch optional.
- Monday LOWER DON VALLEY - evening ramble Don River, Toronto
 July 3 Leader: Muriel Miville
 6:45 pm Meet at the parkette on the east side of Broadview Avenue just north of Danforth Avenue. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Wednesday EAST DON (Finch to Steeles) - nature walk East Don, North York
 July 5 Leader: Maureen Allain
 10 am Meet at the plaza on the north side of Finch East halfway between Bayview and Leslie. Bring lunch.
- Saturday LOWER DON - botany Don, East York/Toronto
 July 8 Leader: Dennis Clarke
 11 am Meet at the entrance to Todmorden Mills on the south side of Pottery Road which is west and downhill from Broadview and Mortimer. Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different transit stop.
- Tuesday RAMSDEN PARK & NORDHEIMER RAVINE - evening ramble Don, Toronto
 July 11 Leader: Dr. Nick Badenhuizen
 6:45 pm Meet at the Rosedale subway station. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Wednesday EAST DON (Finch to Sheppard) - nature walk East Don, North York
 July 12 Leader: Cathy Heynes
 10:30 am See July 5. Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Tuesday HARBOURFRONT - nature arts lakeshore, Toronto
 July 18 Leader: Betty Paul
 10:30 am Meet at the southwest corner of Bay and Front. Bring cameras and sketching materials. Lunch optional.
- Wednesday EAST DON (Sheppard to York Mills) - nature walk E. Don, N.Y.
 July 19 Leader: Eileen Mayo
 9:30 am Meet at the southeast corner of Sheppard Avenue East and Leslie Street. Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.

JULY OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Thursday UNDERGROUND TORONTO - urban geology Toronto
 July 20 Leader: Ed Freeman
 6:45 pm Meet at the southwest corner of Bay and Front. Walk will
 end at a different public transit stop.
- Saturday EAST DON - botany East Don, North York
 July 22 Leader: Dennis Clarke & Robin Powell
 10 am Meet on the south side of Finch Avenue East opposite the
 small plaza midway between Bayview and Leslie. Bring lunch.
 This walk will be strenuous (lots of hills and wet spots)
 and will end at a different public transit stop.
- Sunday BLACK CREEK (Downsview Dells) - environment Black Cr., N.Y.
 July 23 Leader: Gavin Miller
 2 pm Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Sheppard
 Avenue West, between Keele and Jane.
- Wednesday DOWNSVIEW DELLS - nature walk Black Cr., N.Y.
 July 26 Leader: Ellie Elder
 10 am See July 23. Bring lunch.
- Friday GERRARD RAVINE etc. - evening ramble Toronto
 July 28 Leader: Ken Cook
 6:45 pm Meet at the southwest corner of Woodbine and Danforth. Walk
 will end at a different public transit stop.
- Saturday TORONTO ISLANDS - birds lakeshore, Toronto
 July 29 Leader: Fred Carnrite
 9 am Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street in time to
 take the 9 am ferry. Bring lunch.

▷



Linden tree

in flower

in fruit

OUTINGS (cont'd)

AUGUST

- Wednesday August 2 10 am EAST DON (Lawrence to Eglinton) Nature Walk East Don, North York
Leader: Volunteer needed
Meet on the south side of Lawrence Avenue East at Old Lawrence (east of the Don Valley Parkway). Bring lunch. The walk will be strenuous and will end at a different public transit stop.
- Thursday August 3 6:45 pm BELT LINE - evening ramble Toronto
Leader: Nancy Fredenburg
Meet outside the Eglinton West subway stn. on the north side of Eglinton Ave. West. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Saturday August 5 10:30 am THOMPSON PARK - nature arts Highland Creek, Scarborough
Leader: Faith Spratt
Meet at the park entrance on the east side of Brimley Road north of Lawrence Avenue East. Bring lunch, cameras and sketching materials.
- Monday August 7 3 pm DON VALLEY (Castle Frank to Todmorden) Don, Toronto, East York
Leaders: Aarne & Helen Juhola (Heritage Walk)
Meet at the Castle Frank subway station. Bring a lunch and something to drink. Walk will end at Todmorden Mills where the buildings will be kept open so that members can take tours. A great way to celebrate Simcoe day. Explore where the Simcoes explored 200 years ago!
- Wednesday August 9 10 am EAST DON (Eglinton to forks) - nature walk E. Don, N.Y.
Leader: volunteer needed
Meet on the south side of Eglinton Avenue East at Credit Union Drive (east of the Don Valley Parkway). Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. This will be a strenuous walk.
- Friday August 11 6:45 pm MOORE PARK RAVINE - evening ramble Don, Toronto
Leader: Aarne Juhola
Meet at the Castle Frank subway station. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.
- Saturday August 12 8:30 am LESLIE STREET SPIT - birds Lakeshore, Toronto
Leader: Don Burton
Meet at the foot of Leslie Street. Lunch optional.

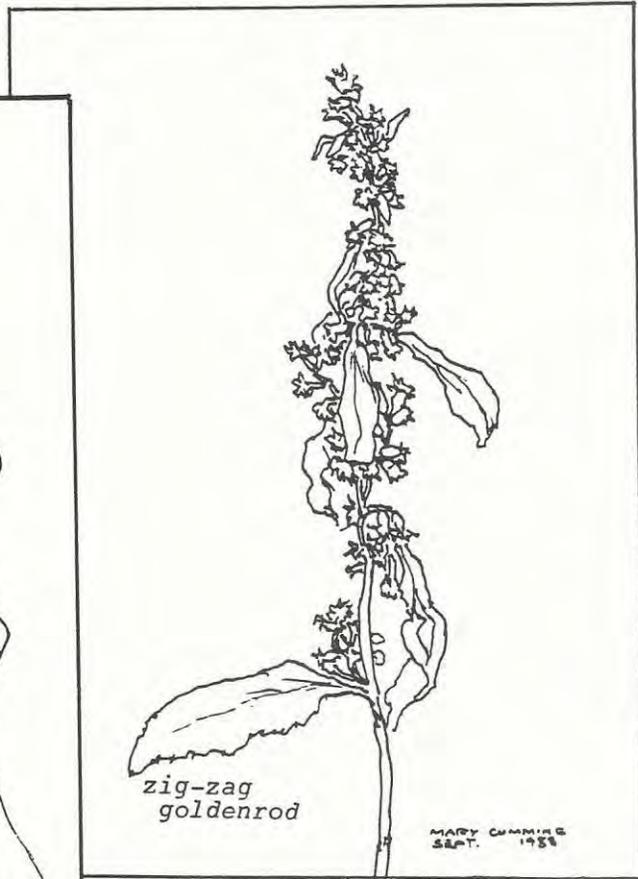


A skipper in Taylor Creek Park rested on a leaf of curled dock long enough to be sketched, holding its wings in characteristic fashion like the leaves of a book.
(SEE TFN 341:8 SEPT. 81 FOR A LIST.)

AUGUST OUTINGS (cont'd)

Monday BELT LINE - evening ramble Toronto
August 28 Leader: Bill Granger
6:45 pm Meet at the gates to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery on the east side
of Yonge Street north of St. Clair.

Wednesday TAYLOR CREEK (Warden to Victoria Park) Taylor Creek, Scarborough
August 30 Leader: Volunteer needed
10 am Meet at the southeast corner of St. Clair East and Warden.
Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different public transit
stop. □



Two woodland goldenrods native to Metropolitan Toronto were sketched in the field by Mary Cumming in September, 1988. The wreath goldenrod has slender leaves; those of the zig-zag, especially the lower, are quite broad. Ref. Peterson & McKenny, A FIELD GUIDE TO WILDFLOWERS

TO AN EARLY GOLDENROD

Please!
What's your hurry?

Diana Banville

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

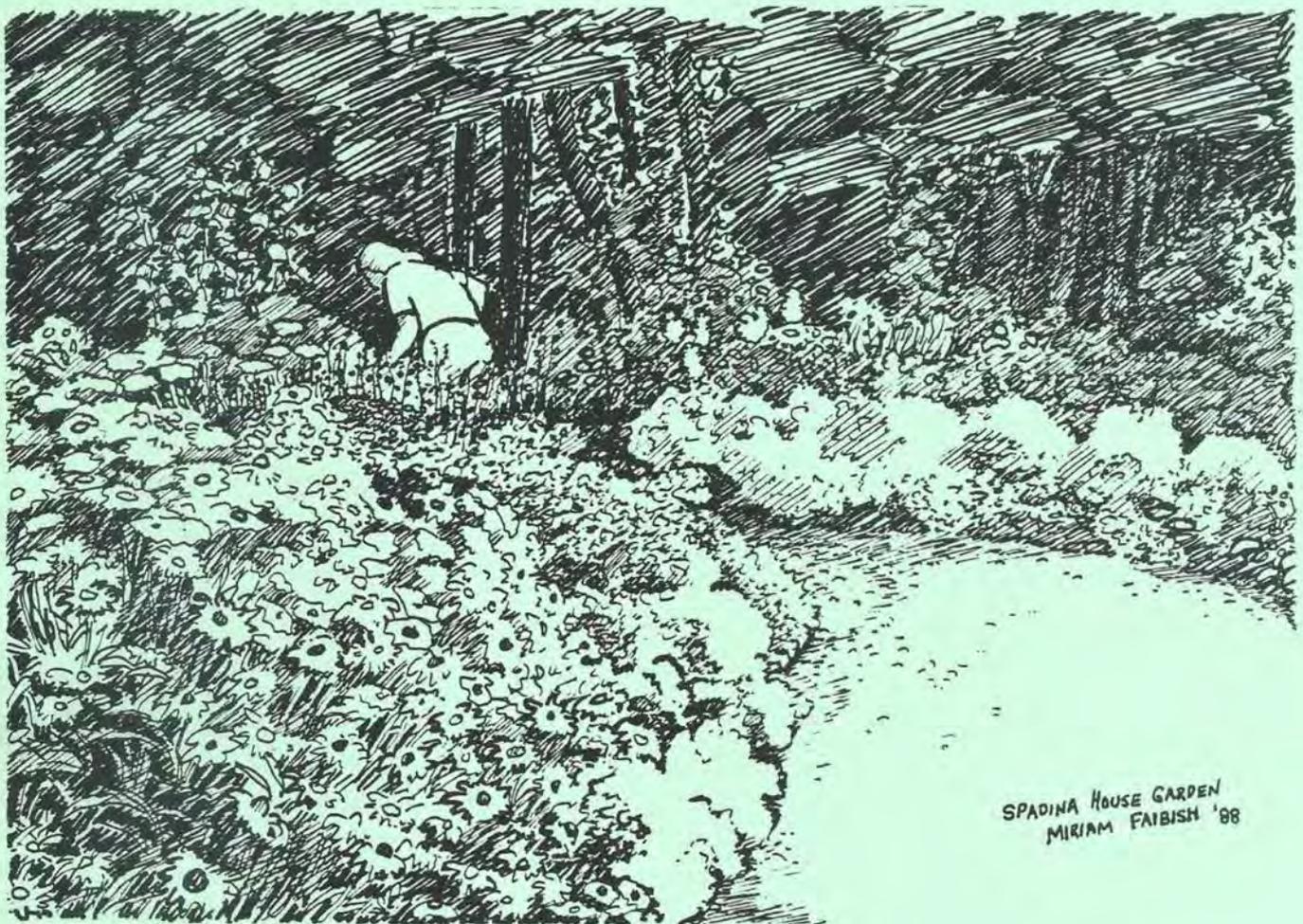
Your current membership expires June 30, 1989. To renew your membership for the year July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990 and ensure receiving a September newsletter, send payment by June 30, 1989 to address on back.

Please renew now to help spread the work-load for our volunteers and to save us the expense of sending the renewal notice, and please, NO post-dated cheques!

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

Remittance enclosed in the amount of:

- \$20 Family (2 adults, same address, children included)
 - \$15 Single \$15 Senior family (2 adults 65+)
 - \$10 Student \$10 Single senior
 - \$ _____ Donation (tax receipts issued for donations)
-



on the occasion of TFN Outing September 21, 1988

TFN 404.....44



TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

20 College St., Suite 4
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

SINCE 1923

SECOND CLASS MAIL
Registration Number
6669

Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Juhola
51 Alexander Street Apt. 112
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 1B3

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB: ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION, 1965\$.50	ANNUAL TFN INDEX25ea.
CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS: WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY, LAMBTON WOODS, 197250	AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF METRO TORONTO, 1983 2.00
TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976 Metropolitan Toronto's important natural areas are described and recommendations given for their conservation and management; includes maps, bibliography and index 2.50	TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983 2.00
FIELD CHECKLIST OF PLANTS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO, 1977 5/\$1.00 or25ea.	A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985 .. 2.00
TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS 2.00ea.	TORONTO REGION VERTEBRATE LIST (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals), 1985 ... 5/\$1.00 or25ea.
Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973	TORONTO REGION BIRD LIST, 1985 ... 5/\$1.00 or... .25ea.
Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974	GUIDE TO THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' NATURE RESERVE, LEASKDALE, ONT., 1986 2.00
Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975	TORONTO ISLANDS: PLANT COMMUNITIES AND NOTEWORTHY SPECIES, 1987 2.00
Survey #4 - Wigmore Ravine, 1975	TODMORDEN MILLS, 1987 2.00
Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976	All publications are available at the monthly general meetings or may be ordered from Toronto Field Naturalists, 20 College St., Suite 4, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2. (Add \$1.00 per item for postage and handling.)
Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1976	
Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977	
Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978	
INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938-1978) 10.00	

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- \$20 FAMILY (2 adults - same address, children included)
 - \$15 SINGLE; SENIOR FAMILY
 - \$10 STUDENT; SINGLE SENIOR
- Tax receipts issued for donations

Membership fees and address changes should be sent to:-

20 College St., Suite 4, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

ISSN 0820-636X