



TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 592, December 2012



Barred Owl at Ashbridge's Bay on November 3, 2012. Photo: Lynn Pady

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Toronto Field Naturalist is published 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. Issued monthly September to December and February to May. Views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or Toronto Field Naturalists. The Newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper.

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IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We welcome contributions of original writing of observations on nature in and around Toronto (up to 500 words). We also welcome reviews, poems, sketches, paintings and digital photographs. Please include "Newsletter" in the subject line when sending by email, or on the envelope if sent by mail. Please re-name digital photographs with the subject and your name (abbreviations ok); scale your photos to *less than 1 MB each*. In the accompanying email include location, date and any interesting story or other information associated with the photograph.

Deadline for submissions for Feb issue: Jan 4

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Jenny Bull (co-editor), Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Elisabeth Gladstone, Mary Lieberman, Judy Marshall, Ruth Munson, Toshi Oikawa, Wendy Rothwell (co-editor).

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$20 YOUTH (under 26)

\$30 SENIOR SINGLE (65+)

\$40 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY (2 adults, 65+)

\$50 FAMILY (2 adults – same address, children included)

No HST. Tax receipts issued for donations. Send membership fees and address changes to the TFN office.

Please note: TFN does not give out its membership list.

Toronto Field Naturalists

1519-2 Carlton St, Toronto M5B 1J3

Tel: 416-593-2656

Web: www.torontofieldnaturalists.org

Email: office@torontofieldnaturalists.org

A Perfect Holiday Gift

Consider sharing the benefits of TFN membership with your friends!

We are confident that, once they discover the pleasures of our outings, lectures, newsletters and the companionship of other nature-lovers, they will want to renew.

So we are offering a Holiday Special – half the normal membership fee when you, a TFN member, give a gift membership to someone who was not previously a member. This covers newsletters for December thru May, which include outings lists to the end of August.

Tax Deductible Donations

TFN is dependent for funding on membership dues and donations. We rely on the generosity of our members for special projects and extraordinary expenses.

If you wish to make a donation to TFN this may be done by sending a cheque to the TFN office (see above), or go to our web site, www.torontofieldnaturalists.org and click on Donate On-line through CanadaHelps.org

As a charitable non-profit organization we issue receipts for use as deductions on your income tax return.

TFN MEETING

Sunday, Dec 2, 2012

2:30 pm

Ontario's Wild Bees

Laurence Packer,

Melittologist and Professor, York University,

relates his passion for the study of wild bees and explores the subject of his 2010 book

Keeping the Bees: Why all bees are at risk and what we can do to save them

VISITORS WELCOME!

SOCIAL: 2:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 001, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, 75 Queen's Park Cres E

Emmanuel College is just south of the Museum subway station exit on the east side of Queen's Park. Enter via the second door south on Queen's Park, which is wheelchair accessible. There is an elevator inside to the right. Room 001 is one floor below street level.

For information: call 416-593-2656 up to noon on the Friday preceding the lecture.

Upcoming Lectures

- Feb 3 **Bats: A Lifetime Affair**
Brock Fenton, bat expert, will tell of his lifelong fascination with bats, with a focus on the role of echolocation in foraging behavior and communication.
- Mar 3 **Nature Where Plates Collide, North Pacific & Himalaya**
Peter Money, geologist, will introduce us to two crustal collision zones where similar processes have produced vastly different environments.
- Apr 14 **Insect Life Cycles**
James Kamstra, terrestrial ecologist, will discuss the range of insect life cycles and the strategies that insects employ to survive the Canadian winter.
- May 5 **Ecology of Breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**
Ornithologist Doug Tozer will present his field research observations on the ecology of this "double keystone" species in Algonquin Park.

Nature Images Event

ART and PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Framed works by TFN members

February 2 to 28, 2013

Call the library for hours and access

DIGITAL SHOW & SALE

Nature images by TFN photographers and special sale of artworks to benefit the TFN

Saturday, February 2, 2013

1:30 to 4 pm

Light refreshments - lug a mug

Auditorium, S Walter Stewart Library,
170 Memorial Park Avenue

1 block north of Mortimer, 2 blocks west of Coxwell
TTC bus north from Coxwell subway station
to Mortimer or Cosburn

TFN OUTINGS

- TFN events are conducted by unpaid volunteers.
- The club assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained by anyone participating in our activities.
- Children and visitors are welcome at all TFN events. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- If you plan to bring children in a stroller, be aware that there may be steps or other unsuitable terrain.
- Please do not bring pets.
- To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules (www.ttc.ca or 416-393-4636).
- Outings go rain or shine: check the weather by calling 416-661-0123 so you will know what to wear.
- Wear appropriate footwear for walking on trails which may be muddy, steep or uneven.

- Sat
Dec 1
10:30 am **ROM GIFT SHOP – Nature Arts**
Leader: Susan Weiss
Meet inside the Royal Ontario Museum entrance (no admission fee to gift shop) for looking, sketching, photography, Xmas shopping. Lunch in fine dining C-5 or cafeteria below, with usual show and tell. Pay admission and, with our leader tour her top ten favourite artifacts, then continue to roam on your own.
- Sun
Dec 2
2:30 pm **LECTURE: ONTARIO'S WILD BEES**
Speaker: Laurence Packer, Melittologist and Professor, York University
Emmanuel College, 75 Queen's Park Cres E. See page 3.
- Tues
Dec 4
10:00 am **BESTVIEW PARK AND THE EAST DON – Nature Walk**
Leader: Stephen Kamnitzer
Meet at the Second Cup, 1567 Steeles Ave E at Laureleaf Rd (between Bayview and Leslie). Bring binoculars. Circular walk, about 2 ½ hours.
- Sat
Dec 8
1:00 to 4:00 pm **HIGH PARK IN WINTER – Natural History**
Leader: Joanne Doucette
Meet at the main entrance to High Park at Bloor St W and High Park Ave. The emphasis will be on natural history, including animal tracks and winter birds. Hills, some stairs. Washrooms on site.
- Tues
Dec 11
10:00 am **COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK – Birds**
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at the southwest corner of Kipling Ave and Lake Shore Blvd W. Bring binoculars. Morning only.
- Sat
Dec 15
1:30 pm **E.T. SETON PARK – Birds and Plants**
Leader: Ken Sproule
Meet at E.T. Seton north parking lot at the bottom of the staircase (south side of Eglinton Ave E at Leslie) for a 2 to 2 ½ hour circular walk. We will walk to the Don Forks along the paved path, visiting the pond and pine forest behind the Science Centre. Drop-out point at E.T. Seton south parking lot. If conditions permit, we will return via the dirt bike path along the valley edge, climbing some small hills.
- Sun
Dec 16
2:00 pm **TRACING THE OLD TORONTO WATERFRONT – Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Richard Anderson, Helen Mills and Ian Wheal
Meet at the southwest corner of Spadina Ave and Front St W. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.
- Tues
Dec 18
9:45 am **TORONTO ISLANDS – Trees and Birds in Winter**
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at the ferry docks at the south end of Bay St at 9:45 am for the 10 am ferry; adults \$7, seniors \$4.50. Bring binoculars. We will see the approx. 40 labelled trees found on Centre and Ward's Islands that are part of the *Toronto Island Tree Tour*. A circular walk, about 2 ½ hours. We will return on the 12:45 pm ferry.

- Sat
Dec 22
10:30 am **LOWER DON VALLEY – Nature Walk**
Leader: Margaret McRae
Meet outside the Dairy Queen on Broadview Ave at Pottery Rd for a walk south through Chester Springs Marsh to Riverdale Farm. Bring binoculars. Lunch optional.
- Thurs
Dec 27
1:00 pm **SUN VALLEY, COTTONWOOD FLATS AND BEECHWOOD WETLANDS – Nature Walk**
Leader: Margaret McRae
Meet at the northeast corner of Beechwood Dr and O'Connor Dr between Broadview Ave and Pape Ave for a circular walk. Bring binoculars.
- Sat
Dec 29
1:30 pm **ASHBRIDGE'S BAY – Trees and Birds**
Leader: Bob Kortright
Meet at the southwest corner of Coxwell Ave and Lake Shore Blvd E, ending at the Woodbine bus at the foot of Northern Dancer Blvd. Bring binoculars and a snack.
- Wed
Jan 2
1:30 pm **LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE REVISITED (A NEW ROUTE) – Topography**
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Bayview Ave and Moore Ave. We will walk the beach at the base of the shoreline bluff to a coffee shop on Yonge St. In August we walked the top of the bluff. Now, with the leaves down, we'll get some good views looking south and be able to see the bluff face.
- Sat
Jan 5
10:30 am **HIGH PARK – NATURE ARTS – Winter Photography**
Leader: Jackie Schuknecht
Meet at the park entrance at Bloor St W and High Park Ave. A New Year's walk in the park with lunch at the Grenadier Restaurant. Bring what you need to sketch, write or photograph, and anything you would like to share after lunch.
- Tues
Jan 8
10:00 am **HUMBER BAY PARK EAST – Birds**
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at the southwest corner of Lake Shore Blvd W and Park Lawn Rd. Bring binoculars. Morning only.
- Sat
Jan 12
1:30 pm **HUMBER BAY PARK EAST – Birds**
Leader: Bob Kortright
Meet at the southwest corner of Lake Shore Blvd W and Park Lawn Rd. Bring binoculars.
- Wed
Jan 16
1:00 pm **DOWNTOWN TORONTO – Fauna and Flora in Sculpture and Architecture**
Leader: Ed Freeman
Meet at the northwest corner of University Ave and College St for a 2-hour walk ending near a coffee shop.
- Sat
Jan 19
10:00 am **COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK – Birds**
Leader: Wendy Rothwell
Meet at the southwest corner of Lake Shore Blvd W and Kipling Ave. Morning only. Bring binoculars.
- Sun
Jan 20
2:00 pm **LOST PONDS AROUND THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO – Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Helen Mills and Ian Wheal
Meet at Harbord and Bathurst Sts. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.



FOR ENJOYMENT OF WINTER OUTINGS

- Long underwear
- Layered clothing
- Waterproof boots
- Thick socks
- Icers to prevent falls
- Warm hat
- Mittens over gloves
- Binoculars
- Camera
- TTC Ride Guide
- Snack
- Thermos for hot drink
- Sunglasses

- Tues
Jan 22
1:30 pm
- THE VAUGHAN ROAD INTERFLUVIAL RIDGE – Topography**
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Dufferin St and Eglinton Ave W to follow the ridge to a coffee shop near Vaughan Rd and St Clair Ave W. We'll see two river channels to the west and one to the east.
- Sat
Jan 26
1:30 pm
- NEWTONBROOK CREEK – Topography in the Winter**
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Finch Ave E and Bayview Ave. This deep eroding ravine surrounded by houses is best seen in the winter when the leaves are down. Finish at a coffee shop on Sheppard Ave E.
- Sun
Jan 27
1:30 pm
- MORNINGSIDE PARK – Nature Walk**
Leaders: Vicki Bondy, Terry Whittam and friend
Meet at the park parking lot just inside the west entrance (on Morningside Rd south of Ellesmere Rd) for a circular walk.
- Wed
Jan 30
10:00 am
- GLEN STEWART RAVINE – Forest Restoration Tour**
Leader: Cara Webster, Natural Resource Specialist, City of Toronto
Meet at the TTC stop at Kingston Rd and Southwood Dr. Bring binoculars to look at trees in winter. Morning only. Not a circular walk.

Call to all members:

SEND US YOUR MEMORIES!!

The TFN's 90th Anniversary Celebration Committee wants to hear from you. Awesome sightings, quiet epiphanies, disasters on the track or trail, time-honoured lore or stories passed down by parents or elders, or just simply stuff you like about being a naturalist - you name it, we need it. If we like it, it could be part of the entertaining show we are intending to mount in October 2013.

Don't worry, you won't be required to perform it if you don't want to. There'll be others to do that. So rack your brains, scour your attics and basements - it needn't be an earth-shaking literary masterpiece, just genuine and heartfelt. And, please, no more than 500 words long. It could be a song or a poem or a dance or a painting for that matter, just short and sweet.

Help us celebrate TFN's 90 excellent years of existence. And - **IMPORTANT** - don't forget to include the acronym TFN in the subject line of your e-mail so we don't end up deleting it.

E-mail office@torontofieldnaturalists.org
or mail to **1519–2 Carlton St., Toronto M5B 1J3**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I became President of the TFN at the Annual General Meeting on October 14th. I would first like to repeat my thanks to Past President Bob Kortright for two years of wonderful leadership. Bob was very active in pursuing environmental and conservation issues and organizing our participation in promotional events, and had a good understanding of financial matters. He also led outings regularly and studied to become more knowledgeable about nature. I will be happy to see him continue his interest in these roles and look forward to learning from him.

I would also like to thank Wendy Rothwell for her many years of support for TFN activities as Vice President, President, Past President, newsletter co-editor, and chair of the Audit & Finance Committee. Wendy must leave our board this year due to the bylaws, but will still be active with the newsletter, lead walks and assist with bookkeeping. Walter Weary has been our Secretary-Treasurer for two years and is leaving because he moved out of town. I also appreciate all the work he has done for TFN.

We welcome to the board Chuck Crawford as our new Secretary-Treasurer and Charles Bruce-Thompson who will look after the nature reserves and assist with organizing outings. Nancy Dengler has become our Vice-President so we will be in good hands for the next few years.

I joined the TFN in 1996, a year after my dog died, so I would have people to walk with. I really enjoyed the outings and eventually got involved in organizing them, booking the midweek west walks. This allowed me to get the information on walks further in advance than the current newsletter. I joined the board in 2007, initially to manage the website, and continued to book outings. When Gail Gregory left the board I became Outings Co-ordinator in charge of booking all outings and for the last year have looked after the nature

reserves as well. I gave up the website to Lynn Miller who has much more experience than I in that field and is doing a wonderful job. Charles Bruce-Thompson looks after midweek east trips, Gail continues booking Nature Arts walks and Sandy Cappell looks after our reports and statistics.

I am very grateful for the support of our volunteers. We are a unique organization in not paying any of our helpers. We have about 100 walk leaders, and hold over 150 walks per year in addition to outreach walks for other organizations. We offer lectures, website, newsletter, promotional and educational activities, nature reserves, etc., and all except the lecturers are volunteers.

I am involved in encouraging outreach, assisting other groups with nature outings, as I believe it is important to make everyone aware of nature and the need for preserving and protecting the natural environment.

I have been a member of the Don Watershed Regeneration Council for the last 6 years but will be leaving it this year. I hope to find a committed TFN member to take over my responsibilities on the Council. I also continue to be involved in the East York Historical Society as its Past-President.

We hope to continue to attract volunteers and increase our activities and membership. Please contact me if you are interested in taking on a new role as a volunteer or if you have ideas on things we should do. I am usually in the office on Friday mornings or you can phone or email me at home.

Best wishes for the holiday season.

Margaret McRae



Front Cover

Lynn Pady was inspired to include the following quote with her photo of the barred owl:

I believe there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will set us aright.

Henry David Thoreau

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Ontario Reptiles & Amphibians

Sunday, November 4.

Speaker: James Paterson, Ontario Nature Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Coordinator

James, an obvious fan of reptiles and amphibians, asked us please not to use the term 'cold-blooded' when describing the subjects of his talk. Instead, he described them as ectotherms whose body temperatures are determined by their environment, a state which has an important effect on the individual's lifestyle. They have scales which act as a defensive armour against predators and hostile environments such as deserts. They either lay eggs that are protected by a hard shell or give birth to live young. Ontario is home to 15 snake species, 8 turtles, 1 lizard, 13 frogs and toads, and 11 salamanders and newts.

Snakes have a forked tongue, which is their strongest sense organ as their vision is poor. They are all carnivores. As James said, it is hard to eat meat

without hands so snakes hunt using one of three distinct methods. Those with venom are able to stun their prey and avoid being injured in the process. Those that use constriction are so strong that they increase the victim's blood pressure so that its heart cannot beat. The third method involves a grab and swallow. The complex jaws of snakes enable them to swallow their prey whole, a feat comparable to us

swallowing a whole watermelon. While we use our hands to push food into our mouths, the snake uses its jaws to actually 'walk' the prey into its mouth.

Turtles' shells are bone covered in skin. Most turtles can withdraw their head and limbs completely when threatened. Not the snapping turtle whose fat limbs remain somewhat exposed. No wonder it snaps!

Ontario's only lizard is the five-lined skink with five yellow or cream stripes and a brilliant blue tail. When scared by a potential predator, it will break off its tail as it tries to escape. Since all its fat is stored in the tail, we shouldn't handle a skink because it will be put at a disadvantage by this loss. Eventually, the tail grows back.



Snapping turtle. Photo by James Paterson

The frogs and toads of Ontario are described in detail on the Ontario Nature website and you can hear their individual calls. The males use these calls to communicate and attract mates. Their limbs are modified for jumping.

Salamanders and newts are often mistaken for lizards. They can regenerate lost limbs. The eastern red-backed salamander can form the largest vertebrate biomass in forest systems. This amazing fact makes it very important to the environment.

Amphibians are vanishing globally at an alarming rate due to habitat loss and fragmentation, roads and human persecution and collection. The Atlas project aims to collect data on the distribution and abundance of

reptiles and amphibians in Ontario from partner organizations, citizen scientists and researchers. The information in this database will eventually go to the Natural Heritage Information Centre of Ontario to be used to monitor trends and identify threats as well as being a source of primary research.

We can all assist by reporting observations of reptiles and amphibians with the species name, date and location. If unable to

identify the species, snap a picture. These sightings can be recorded via online form, Excel spreadsheet or printable report cards. Soon there will be a smart phone app, making it even easier. Ontario Nature currently has 153,000 records and hopes to have 200,000 by the end of the year. For more information, check the website at www.ontarionature.org or call 416-444-8419 ext 243.

For those of you who were not present, you missed a delightful demonstration by James of how a turtle rights itself. He noted, for those of us waiting to see such an event, that we should not stand over the turtle; it is smart enough to know its predator is still at hand!

Corinne McDonald

EXTRACTS FROM OUTINGS LEADERS' REPORTS

Fall colour art and photography, Warden Woods, Oct 6. Leader: Gail Gregory. We observed the result of months of heavy work to stabilize the banks of the creek from storm water volumes during heavy rains. We noted sumac, maples, oaks, pines, and various asters.



Queen Anne's lace, Warden Woods, October 2012.
Drawn by Anna Carr

Ravine ecology, Glen Stewart Ravine, Oct 13.

Leader: Joanne Doucette. The area encompasses 8.5 ha of ravine landscape and has important ecological, hydrological and geological features. There is a mature red oak forest and a creek, Ames Creek, fed by ground water (seeps). Several species of birds and plants within the area are regionally uncommon. The ravine provides important shelter for migratory birds. The active ground water seeping from the base of the slopes provides clean water to sustain flow in Ames Creek. Specialized plant communities grow in the wet soils at the base of the slopes. At the south end, the stream disappears into the storm sewer system. The forest was cleared and a lawn created which is now being allowed to regenerate naturally. Glen Stewart Ravine is one of

the City's twelve Discovery Walks and the Official Plan designates it as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Many of the surrounding houses were designed by Eden Smith in the Arts and Crafts style. The ravine is wholly owned by the City of Toronto and regulated by the City and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

The ravine was designated in 1981 under the City of Toronto's Ravine Protection Act, but has suffered heavily from over-use. People and dogs going off trail up and down the steep slopes have severely eroded the sandy soil, leaving bare earth which has been invaded by garlic mustard, dog strangling vine and other non-natives. Foot traffic has compacted the soil in some spots into a hard pavement-like surface that can't soak up rain and run-off. Understory plants like wildflowers die off and the trees (red oaks and red maples) suffer. When the trees die, the forest dies.

The City of Toronto and TRCA created the Glen Stewart Ravine Management Plan in 2008 with consultants Schollen and Company (available on the Internet). The project, finished this summer, cost about \$1 million and was designed by EDA Collaborative. It is meant to protect public and private property, to maintain the integrity of the forest and save rare species of flora and fauna and their habitats by improving the forest gradually (including trees and understory shrub and herb species) and protecting sensitive plants and soils from trampling while making the ravine an easier place for people to enjoy nature.

We explored the new improvements:

- over 800 trees and shrubs planted. Most of the new plants are small and easily damaged by foot traffic.
- two pedestrian bridges and one staircase (the Balsam

Continued on next page



staircase) rebuilt and more than ten slope retaining walls replaced.

- new boardwalk built to improve trail conditions and access. Seepage from the ravine slopes made the path wet and mucky. The elevated boardwalk makes the path safer and allows the water to seep freely from the slopes into Ames Creek. The natural hydrological function of the ravine is less blocked.
- about 16 failing retaining walls at 8 different places replaced with new walls built out of a new environmentally sustainable product called Envirolok, made of fabric sand bags. These black bags support the growth of vegetation on top or between the bags. This will create a living structure that is more durable over time and more aesthetically and environmentally suited to the natural ravine setting.
- retaining walls interplanted with herbs and grasses such as wild geranium, Canada wild rye, sky-blue aster and woodland sunflower.
- trail surfaces improved and the trail clearly marked so as to be accessible to walkers, runners, wheelchair users and those with strollers.
- fences of eastern white cedar installed with post-and-paddle joinery, not nails.
- invasive aliens such as Norway and Manitoba maple cleared and red maple, red oak, black cherry, hemlock and yellow birch planted.



German Mills Creek, Oct 8. Leader: Theresa Moore.

We saw evidence of flooding on the path from one month ago, including flattened vegetation, washed up sticks, path and bank erosion and ongoing repairs of the damaged easement at the street. Recent installation of tiered rocks has prevented erosion of part of the path. The meadow has recovered from the accidental mowing mid-summer which the Sherwood Park Residents Association and outings leader (on behalf of TFN) had responded to.

Nature and Heritage, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Oct 23. Leader: Pleasance Crawford.

In the less familiar and somewhat newer part of the cemetery east of Mount Pleasant Rd, we followed Mud Creek ravine from the northwest corner to the Cremations Gardens, then headed east to Section 40 (where the ashes of several TFN members including Emily Hamilton have been scattered), past Glenn Gould's grave, and on towards a mature river birch (*Betula nigra*) near Bayview Ave. Returning west parallel to Moore Ave, we saw seemingly hundred of graves of Chinese men who died alone in Canada because of the Immigration Act of 1923. Highlights were the glorious fall colours of the native oaks and Japanese maples; the abundantly-flowering native witch-hazels; several ashes with inoculation tags; and – on a more worrisome note – the numerous gypsy-moth egg masses on tree trunks in the southwest quadrant.

Do you take photos on TFN outings?

If you take digital photographs of subjects that interest you and the group you are with on TFN outings, we'd love to use them in the newsletter's Extracts from Outings Reports.

Please send photos (less than 1 Mb) by email to office@torontofieldnaturalists.org. Please include some details: what, where and when, and perhaps why you were interested in the subject.

If your photo is of an organism you don't know the name of, that's fine. Give us a few details about the place you saw it (habitat) and we will try to find out for you.

Previous page: red oak leaves and Canada goldenrod

Left above: fall-flowering witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Left below: evidence of gypsy moth on European beech in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 2007

Photos: Jenny Bull

NATIVE AND INVASIVE *IMPATIENS* IN TORONTO

The genus *Impatiens* is one of two in the Balsaminaceae (touch-me-not or jewelweed) family. The family includes approximately 900 to 1,000 species world wide, mainly genus *Impatiens* (including the familiar garden “busy lizzies,” cultivars of *I. walleriana*), but only ten native to the Americas. It has been proposed that it originated in southeast Asia. The common name touch-me-not is because the fruit capsule bursts open when touched. Jewelweed, according to *The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario*, refers to the bright turquoise colour, resembling a gem, of the inner part of the mature seed. Three species occur commonly in seepage or other wet areas of Toronto. Two are native (*I. capensis*, *I. pallida*) and the third (*I. glandulifera*) is a robust invasive species that has been replacing the two native species here. All three can bloom from late June to September.

I. capensis (formerly known as *I. biflora*) is spotted touch-me-not or jewelweed. Plants are up to 1.5m tall with 2.5cm flowers, either solitary or as few-flowered racemes. It has been recorded throughout Ontario except the far north. It was also reported in almost all of Canada and the United States except western areas south of Oregon and Idaho. Naturalized in the UK, it is one of few instances of a species introduced to Europe from North America, instead of vice versa.



Above: spotted touch-me-not, jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis*

Top right: pale touch-me-not, *Impatiens pallida*

Right: Himalayan balsam, glandular touch-me-not, *Impatiens glandulifera*

Correction: In last month’s article on the mint family, captions for photographs of hedge-nettle (*Stachys palustris*) were reversed. We regret the error. Eds.

I. pallida (pale touch-me-not) although common is not as abundant locally as *I. capensis*. Apart from its yellow shorter-spurred flowers it is very similar to the former species. It has been recorded from Newfoundland to Saskatchewan and as far south as from Georgia to Oklahoma.



The invasive species *I. glandulifera* has been referred to as glandular touch-me-not (*The ROM Field Guide*) or Himalayan balsam (the TFN’s *Vascular Plants of Metropolitan Toronto*, 2nd ed). Up to 2m tall, it has up to 3cm pinkish-purple or white flowers. It may have been introduced directly from southeast Asia, where it is indeed widespread in the Himalayas, but it has been widely naturalized in Europe so its occurrence here may result from a secondary naturalization via that continent. In the UK it is known as Indian balsam. Other impatiens are also called balsams, including the European native *I. noli-tangere* (touch-me-not balsam). *Noli-tangere* means “do not touch” and this is the one and only species a Brit would think of if you referred to a touch-me-not. Ah, common names!

Peter Money



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Members in the newspapers

On October 14, an article in the *Toronto Star* by Margaret Bream, featuring fringed gentians in Taylor Creek Park, mentions TFN member Melanie Milanic, who is "... extremely knowledgeable about our native plants but has a special interest in species that are rare or threatened locally. Quite aside from their delicate beauty, fringed gentians are in her crosshairs as they are threatened, endangered or extinct in large tracts of their natural range, primarily imperiled by habitat destruction."

On October 31, the *Toronto Star* printed a letter from TFN member Mara Glebovs. Mara was agreeing with an article in the *Star* about letting wild plants grow in your garden. "I can never understand why so many gardeners struggle to grow exotic plants that are not suited to our growing conditions," she wrote. "Why don't they grow our own native flowers, which are hardy, beautiful and beneficial to our native insects?"

Last of the Curlews

Re: November newsletter, pages 11 and 17

If you check out YouTube, you'll see several parts of a video of *The Last of the Curlews* by Fred Bodsworth. I saw this charming cartoon when I was a little girl, and bawled. To this day when I hear about animals going extinct, I think of that little cartoon and feel the same sense of sadness. Thank you, Fred, for this story. You, and it, have made a difference.

Veronica Callinan

New bike path

The new bike path along the lake shore in Mimico is now open. It goes from Humber Bay Park to Norris Park. That is about half way to Royal York Rd. I went there in early November, where I saw my first buffleheads, longtails, and goldeneyes of the season. There were also two red-necked grebes and two red-breasted mergansers. A mink ducked down in between the boulders on the shore. I waited to get a better look at him, but he did not come out. Two pairs of hooded mergansers were also still hanging around at Humber Bay Park. The new path is made up of a series of bridges over small lagoons where there are probably going to be cattails. It is too bad this path can't be extended. The houses built in New Toronto on the lake were for the elite who did not want the public on their

property. In most of the east end of the city you can walk along the lakeshore. Oh well, we take what we can get!

Roger Powley

Praying mantises

I don't see praying mantises very often but this green one I photographed in September reminded me of the surprise I had one hot day last summer when I saw what appeared to be beach sand on the move but was in fact a preying mantis. I had never seen a mantis this colour before. I don't know much about mantises. Can anyone tell me if these two are different species – one brown and one green – or if they're the same species with the ability to behave like a chameleon?

Jenny Bull



MARVELLING AT MARESCENCE

In Toronto's forests, the winter season is characterized by a conspicuous lack of leaves in the forest canopy. While evergreen trees do keep their leaves (e.g. hemlock and white pine), most of the city's tree species are deciduous, dropping their leaves on our city's parks and trails. However, certain deciduous tree species seem to miss the memo each winter, so to speak.

In fact, the dead leaves of some oaks, beeches, and hornbeams (all in the order Fagales) tend to persist on the trees all winter, especially on younger individuals. This phenomenon is referred to as marescence. While the term has a broader sense (it can refer to the retention of any dead organ), as well as a different use in mycology, for the purpose of this article we can take it to mean the retention of dead leaves in the winter.



American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) in February at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington.

Photo: Ionatan Waisgluss

But why has marescence come about? Could it possibly have an evolutionary advantage? Nobody knows for sure, but there do exist some interesting hypotheses. A study published in *Alces*, a journal about moose biology, shows that marescence may have a deterrent effect on large mammal herbivory: persistent leaves may reduce both the level of nutrition and the edibility of winter twigs, according to both lab analyses and observed herbivory studies.¹

A couple of studies conducted in the Andes also suggest that marescence may play a role in thermal insulation, as well as in water availability. These studies were done on species of *Espeletia*, a genus in the Asteraceae known for the dense accumulation of dead leaves on its stem; whether marescence plays a similar role in any tree species is yet to be determined.^{2,3}

I'd like to propose an alternative hypothesis. Many tree species in Southern Ontario provide specialized leaf structures which serve as shelters for mutualistic mites. Little is known about the overwintering mechanisms of these poorly-studied plant partners. If marescence facilitates the overwintering of these beneficial mites, it could certainly have an evolutionary advantage. To my knowledge, this idea has not at all been tested, and I invite anyone who is interested to investigate its legitimacy.

Keep in mind—a trait that can be observed in nature is not necessarily an adaptive trait. In certain cases, marescence can arise from an incomplete development of the abscission layer (where the leaf stalk separates from the twig), due to a temperature- or pathogen-invoked disruption. Marescence could also simply be a non-adaptive trait (i.e. an incidental trait that has no measurable effect on fitness). Much remains to be studied when it comes to marescence. I hope that this article may spur some interest in this subject among the naturalist community of Toronto.

Happy dormant season,
Ionatan Waisgluss

¹ Svendsen, Claus R. 2001. Effects of marescent leaves on winter browsing by large herbivores in northern temperate deciduous forests. *Alces* 37(2): 475-482.

² Goldstein, G. and Meinzer, F. 1983. Influence of insulating dead leaves and low temperatures on water balance in an Andean giant rosette plant. *Plant, Cell & Environment* 6: 649-656.

³ Smith, Alan P. 1979. Function of dead leaves in *Espeletia schultzii* (Compositae), and Andean caulescent rosette species. *Biotropica* 11: 43-47.

PLANT FAMILIES

In 1967 and 1968, then TFN newsletter editor Elmer Talvila published articles on 12 plant families for the TFN newsletter. Together these 12 families encompass over 500 of the herbaceous species you will run into in Toronto.

Species in six of these 12 families have features that are so consistent that they have been recognized as distinct groups for centuries. These are the grasses, the mints, the composites (daisy, aster family), the umbellifers (parsley, carrot family), the brassicas (mustard, cabbage family) and the legumes (bean, pea family). When botanical nomenclature was updated and it became the convention for all plant family names to end in “-aceae” (eg, see *Balsaminaceae* on page 11), these families’ older names were allowed to continue to be used as alternatives. So, depending on the age of your field guide and the author, you will see *Compositae* or *Asteraceae* for the daisies, *Labiatae* or *Lamiaceae* for the mints, *Graminae* or *Poaceae* for the grasses, *Umbelliferae* or *Apiaceae* for the umbellifers, *Cruciferae* or *Brassicaceae* for the mustards, and *Leguminosae* or *Fabaceae* for the peas. And if you visit Allan Gardens or other greenhouses, you may see members of another group, the palms, labelled with the family name *Palmae* or *Arecaceae*.

Over the next few newsletters, we are reproducing Elmer Talvila’s articles on these six long-recognized plant groups. While the species within these families can sometimes be tricky to tell apart, being able to recognize the larger group, the family, is a great first step in identification. Examples are given not just of wild flowers but also of kitchen herbs and vegetables that can be closely examined to discover a family’s common features. To begin, here is the mint family (which has been well-illustrated over the last few issues as part of the Toronto Wildflowers series). Next time you bring home some basil from the market, take a look for the mint family’s common features. If your basil has gone to flower, so much the better.

And even though it’s winter, keep looking for the remains of the dense clusters of small flowers on square stems. These remains are the calyxes, which become quite hard (some, like the motherwort shown below, are quite prickly so take care). It’s even possible to identify some species by the shape of the calyx, though you may need a magnifying lens as some are very small. Calyxes of twenty species are very well illustrated in *A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter* by Carol Levine, illustrated by Dick Rauh.

Continued on the next page



Above: Pairs of opposite leaves, borne on square stems, of 3 members of the mint family. Each pair is at right angles to the pair above and the pair below. From left: bee-balm, lemon-balm and mint.

Below: The hardened calyxes that remain on the square stems of mint family members can often be seen during winter. From left: motherwort, bee-balm and lemon-balm.



The Mint Family - Labiatae

by Elmer Talvila

Members of this large, easily recognizable family of plants have been used since ancient times in medicines and condiments. The name comes from labium (lip) and refers to the two-lipped corolla. To identify this family look for the following characteristics:

1. The flower is usually small, irregular and two-lipped. The upper lip has two lobes, the lower has three lobes. The lobes are all united below to form a corolla tube.



Basic structure of two-lipped corolla tube

2. There are four stamens attached to the corolla tube and one pair of stamens is longer than the other.
3. The flowers are arranged in a dense whorl in the axils of leaves or as terminal clusters.
4. The leaves and stems are pungently aromatic or fragrant, particularly when crushed.
5. The stems are four-sided (or square in cross-section) and the leaves are opposite.
6. The fruit is a four-lobed nutlet.

Here are a few members of this family:

The oily ones: peppermint (*Mentha piperata*) used in perfuming gum, candy, perfume and medicine - its main constituent is menthol, rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), spearmint (*Mentha spicata*), lavender (*Lavandula officinalis*), basil (*Ocimum basilicum*).

The savoury herbs: marjoram, sage (*Salvia officinalis*), savory (*Satureia hortensis*), thyme, and all the oily ones.

The vegetable: Chinese artichoke (*Stachys sieboldii*) with small white tubers.

The foliage plant: *Coleus blumei* - widely grown as house or bedding plants for their red, green, yellow or white coloured leaves.

The wild and weedy: bugleweed (*Ajuga*), skullcap (*Scutellaria*), common horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), giant hyssop (*Agastache*), catnip (*Nepeta*), gill-over-the-ground (*Glechoma hederacea*), dragonhead (*Dracocephalum*), heal-all (*Prunella vulgaris*), motherwort (*Leonurus*), water-horehound (*Lycopus*), mint (*Mentha arvensis*).

The garden varieties: *Salvia*, bee-balm (*Monarda*), betony (*Stachys*), bells of Ireland (*Molucella*), *Elsholtzia*, *Physostegia*.

WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

December 2011

The mild trend that began in earnest in November continued through December, as upper level winds raced across North America, preventing southward pushes of Arctic air (this is the positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation). The monthly mean temperature of 2.0° downtown and 0.8° at Pearson Airport was the warmest since 2001 and about 3.5° above normal. It warmed up to 13.1° (downtown) and 13.8° (at Pearson) on the 15th, with minimums not falling as far below freezing – the coldest was -12.4° on the 29th at Pearson. Thus there was relatively little variation in temperature and only a couple of days stayed below freezing all day.

Precipitation was close to normal – i.e. in the 50 – 70 mm range – but most of it was rain. The meager snowfall total of 7.8 cm (at Pearson Airport) was still more than we got last year! Sunshine hours were not significantly higher than normal: 87.2 hours as opposed to the normal 77.6. It is of minor interest that the year 2011 was the cloudiest since 2004 with a total of 2057.5 hours, 40 below normal. (There has been a slight trend toward increased sunshine over the past decade or two).

January 2012

January was the mildest since 2006 with just a couple of seasonably cold spells but otherwise hovering near or a few degrees above freezing. The positive Arctic and North Atlantic Oscillations continued for most of the month. Snow cover was minimal, although it became evident 20-30 km north of the city where temperatures were just cool enough to permit snow to fall and persist. There were a couple of relatively cold days just after New Year's, when temperatures reached their lowest point for the month: -16.5° at Pearson and -14.6° downtown. These days felt even colder because it was windy and they contrasted with the overall mild conditions. It rose to 10° or more on the 17th and 31st, but the warmth was more noted for its persistence than its extremes. The monthly mean temperature was about 3.5° above normal, i.e. -0.6° downtown and -1.7° at Pearson Airport.

As might be expected, snowfall was fairly light but more than in 2010, with 16.2 cm recorded at Pearson Airport and slightly higher amounts downtown. Normal is about 30 cm. Sunshine was close to normal: 91.7 hours (just 5 above the long-term average).

Gavin Miller

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracted from TFN Newsletter #149, September 1957

Hurricanes are a feature of the world of nature that blew their way into the consciousness of most of the inhabitants of Toronto only with the disastrous visit of Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Before that they were esoteric phenomena associated with Hollywood movies or with the palm fronds and warm white beaches of the Caribbean Sea. Since Hazel, however, Torontonians have been painfully alert to the possibility of another calamitous visitation. Nonetheless it seems doubtful if, even now, most people in Toronto realize that the first hurricane of the present season, Audrey by name, which whirled death and destruction across the bayous of Louisiana, also lashed the resort region of Northern Ontario with a swish of its spinning tail. Happily, it missed the most heavily populated part of Ontario, but those who live in or spend the summer in Muskoka and the region north and eastward from there will long remember the end of June and the first fortnight of July 1957. To them it will be the year of high water, of Hurricane Audrey, as 1954 is the year of Hurricane Hazel in Toronto.

The tail of the whirler, having largely skipped over Southern Ontario, struck this region ... and though its winds were much moderated by the hurricane's passage across the continent, they were still sufficient to cause widespread damage. More serious, though, as had been the case with Hurricane Hazel, was the heavy rain that accompanied the wind, for in these parts this came on top of nearly a week of lesser rains, so that the whole countryside was sodden before the hurricane struck. In consequence the new water collected quickly in the streams and ran off in a flood. All the lakes were immediately filled and overflowing. Conditions were almost unparalleled.



Everywhere people were blustering about the authorities not letting out the water fast enough at Baysville dam, but it is doubtful if they could have done more than they did. Nature had delivered an unexpected blow, and it was difficult for man to cope with the results. In this forested area, with most of its natural wooded reservoirs intact, its bogs, swamps, ponds and its vast wooded cover, this sudden concentrated run-off was phenomenal. One can only guess at what would have happened had the great hurricane rain come on to Southern Ontario, where most of the natural storage basins and forest cover are gone. The run-off there could have been catastrophic, and the ruinous story of Hurricane Hazel repeated. From that point of view it was a good thing that this storm hit chiefly the northern areas, and not the southern part of the province, largely bare of forest and marsh.

R.M. Saunders



Weeping willow (left) and crack willows (above) downed by heavy winds on Toronto Island, end of October 2012. See page 19. Photos: Jenny Bull

IN THE NEWS

Parks and revolution: Toronto residents take back their green spaces

An article in the *Globe and Mail*, Aug 25, reported that residents are taking more control over their local parks, “assuming new hands-on roles that range from weeding gardens to finding funds for larger projects like watershed restoration... The trend raises concerns that cities could see the initiatives as justification to cut park funding, but citizen engagement may be the best way for [some] parks to blossom.”

For example, neighbours of Bickford Park planted a thick row of trees to block graffiti that had been spray-painted across the wall of a community centre bordering the park. The project was approved by the local parks supervisor and plants were donated by the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, a not-for-profit organization. In the past, Parks might have torn out the trees and fined the “vigilante gardeners.” Instead, it thanked the residents.

The article quotes Bob Crump, a park manager for North York District: “Any activity that modifies a park – as minor as pruning a tree or as significant as digging space for a garden – is prohibited by city bylaw and must be cleared by the parks department. But low-key activities tend to be approved by supervisors as long as they don’t negatively affect other users of the space. In fact, citizens should get to know their park supervisor.”

He added that well-established groups, such as Friends of Dufferin Grove and Friends of the Spit have had “quite a lot of success in tailoring their spaces, after decades of battling with Parks.”

But, the article concludes: “...with Toronto attractions like High Park Zoo and Far Enough Farm reliant on private donations and under threat of budget cuts, and

Riverdale Farm only secure through 2013, funding for parks amenities may already be insufficient.”

To read the article, visit www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/parks-and-revolution-toronto-residents-take-back-their-green-spaces/article4498483/

New Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Protocol

For the first time since 1987, Canada and the United States have updated the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, states a news release from the International Joint Commission (IJC), 7 Sept 2012. The new protocol provides tools needed to address old threats such as pollution, and respond to new ones such as climate change and invasive species. It gives the IJC the role of assisting governments in achieving objectives to measure progress in restoring and protecting water quality and assessing progress toward restoration, while stressing action based on science and involving First Nations and the public in transparent evaluation processes. See ijc.org/rel/news/2012/120907_e.htm

An article in the *Globe and Mail* on Sept 7 stated that the changes were praised by environmental groups, such as Pollution Probe, “who said they help provide a more relevant framework for bi-national protection and should improve governmental accountability.” But on both sides of the border environmentalists “expressed concern that the enhanced agreement could be toothless unless Canada and the U.S. are willing to spend the money that’s needed to monitor and restore the Great Lakes.” For the whole article, see www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canada-and-us-update-protection-of-great-lakes/article4529083/

James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation (the Baillie Fund)

Bird Studies Canada is accepting applications to the Baillie Fund for 2013.

Priority is given to projects that engage the skills and enthusiasm of amateur naturalists and volunteers to help us understand, appreciate, and conserve Canadian birds in their natural environments.

Application deadlines:	Regular Grants	December 15, 2012
	Small Grants	January 15, 2013
	Student Award for Field Research	February 15, 2013

For more information visit www.bsc-eoc.org or contact the Baillie Fund Secretary at acoughlan@birdscanada.org or 1-866-518-0212.

COMING EVENTS

If you plan to attend any of these events, we recommend that you contact the organizing group beforehand to confirm time and place.

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks - Toronto Ornithological Club

Outings are for those of all abilities who are interested in birds. Beginners are welcome. Free to all.

- Sat Dec 1, 8:30 am - all day. Waterfowl and winter birding. Leader: Pat Hodgson. Meet at the parking lot at Humber Bay Park East (off Park Lawn Rd south of Lake Shore Blvd W). Information: www.torontobirding.ca.

Toronto Entomologists' Association

Sat Jan 26, 1:15 pm. Exploring Arctic Ichneumonid Communities with the Northern Biodiversity Program. Speaker: Laura Timms, McGill University. Room 206, Victoria College. Information: www.ontarioinsects.org.

Science on Sundays

Dec 2, 3 pm. Fun for Kids Ages 6-12. Feeling Physics! Speaker: Russell Zeid. Macleod Auditorium, Medical Sciences Bldg, University of Toronto, 1 King's College Circle. Information: www.royalcanadianinstitute.org.

High Park Walking Tours

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10:30 am to noon. Meet at the benches across the road south of Grenadier Restaurant. Information: 416-392-0729 ext 4 or walkingtours@highpark.org or www.highpark.org

- Dec 2. High Park through the Ages. Leader: Dave Berndorff
- Dec 16. Holiday Hike to Colborne Lodge. Walking Tours Committee

Rouge Park Weekly Guided Nature Walks

Explore Rouge Park's trails with a Hike Ontario certified volunteer leader. Information: visit www.rougepark.com/hike, e-mail hike@rougepark.com or phone 905-713-3184 Monday thru Thursday.

The Market Gallery

To Mar 2, 2013. The Water Czar: R.C. Harris Works for Toronto, 1912-45. This exhibition will chronicle his unprecedented and unmatched 33-year career as head of the City's works department through archival photos, maps and plans, and by artefacts rarely or never seen before. South St Lawrence Market, 2nd floor, 95 Front St E. Note: gallery closed Sun, Mon, and holidays. Information: www.toronto.ca/culture/the_market_gallery/index.htm or 416-392-7604.

Harbourfront Centre

Through June 2013. Uncharted Waters: Toronto's Enigmatic Harbour. An outdoor photography exhibition that explores the spectacular environmental and cultural resource that is the harbour of Toronto. Information: harbourfrontcentre.com/visualarts

Lost Rivers Walks

Information: www.lostrivers.ca

- Sun Dec 2, 11 am. Severn Brewery Aqueduct: Toronto's First Waterway (1835). Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at the southwest corner of Montgomery Ave and Yonge St.
- Sun Dec 9, 2 pm. Origins of Forest Hill: Elevations, Water Reservoirs, Ponds and Creeks. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at the northeast corner of Bathurst St and Eglinton Ave W.
- Mon Dec 31, 1 pm (for 1:30 pm ferry). Toronto Islands - Lagoons, Ponds, Physiography and Swales. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at the ferry docks, foot of Bay St. Bring fare.
- Sat Jan 26, 2 pm. Mystery of Flow and Sources of Taddle Creek. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at the southeast corner of St. Clair Ave W and Wychwood Ave.

Toronto Tree Portraits 2013 Calendar

The 2013 calendar, with photographs and texts by Vincenzo Pietropaolo, is conveniently formatted as a self-standing desk calendar, 7" wide by 7" tall. Proceeds go directly towards preserving, enhancing and increasing Toronto trees and urban forest.

\$19.15 per calendar (\$16.95 plus \$2.20 HST). Shipping free for orders of 3 or more calendars; \$3.50 fee on orders of 2 or less. Order from the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation by mail or telephone (call 311) or visit www.torontoparksandtrees.org/portraits.htm

The Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization that works with the City of Toronto and community groups to enhance and preserve Toronto's trees and urban forest.

HURRICANE SANDY

East coast hurricanes can have a huge effect on coastal birds and Hurricane Sandy was no exception. In fact, because this storm became mixed up with other weather systems, birds from both the Atlantic and Arctic coasts were affected. Even though the storm was not of hurricane proportions by the time it reached Toronto, birders had a field day viewing birds that aren't normally seen in our region. In an article in the *Toronto Star* "Birders swoop in for diverted flights" (2 Nov 2012), Ron Rideout of Bird Studies Canada said: "[Marine] birds were sucked in off the Atlantic and they ride the winds until they hit the first water, which happened to be Lake Ontario or Lake Erie... [They] won't get back home because they generally don't fly over land and may become confused." Jean Iron, who gave the monthly TFN lecture in October, said in the article that it was thought that many birds came down the St Lawrence River from the Atlantic. She said that storm petrels would likely perish but kittiwakes are more adaptable and will live on minnows in the Niagara River. Eighty-eight kittiwakes were seen in Hamilton. From the Arctic, there were Ross's gulls and Sabine's gulls. To read the on-line version of the *Star* article visit www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/1281343--hurricane-sandy-proves-a-dream-for-bird-watchers



Above: This Ross's goose, a rare visitor to the Toronto area, was photographed by Lynn Pady in Mississauga on November 4. This individual may have been blown off its normal migration route through Manitoba by the particularly strong winds of the Hurricane Sandy weather system.

Right: one of two Washington thorns tipped over by the strong winds. Photo: Jenny Bull

An OntBirds report from Hamilton listed the following sightings for October 30:

- 75 snow geese
- 281 Brant geese
- All three scoter species
- 12 red-throated loons
- 37 common loons
- 1 Wilson's storm-petrel
- 1 Leach's storm-petrel
- 2 storm-petrel sp
- 2 purple sandpipers
- 88 black-legged kittiwakes
- 16 Bonaparte's gulls
- 5 lesser black-backed gulls
- 1 glaucous gull
- 4 great black-backed gulls
- 6 Pomarine jaegers
- 7 parasitic jaegers
- 1 long-tailed jaeger
- 21 jaeger sp
- 2 peregrine falcons

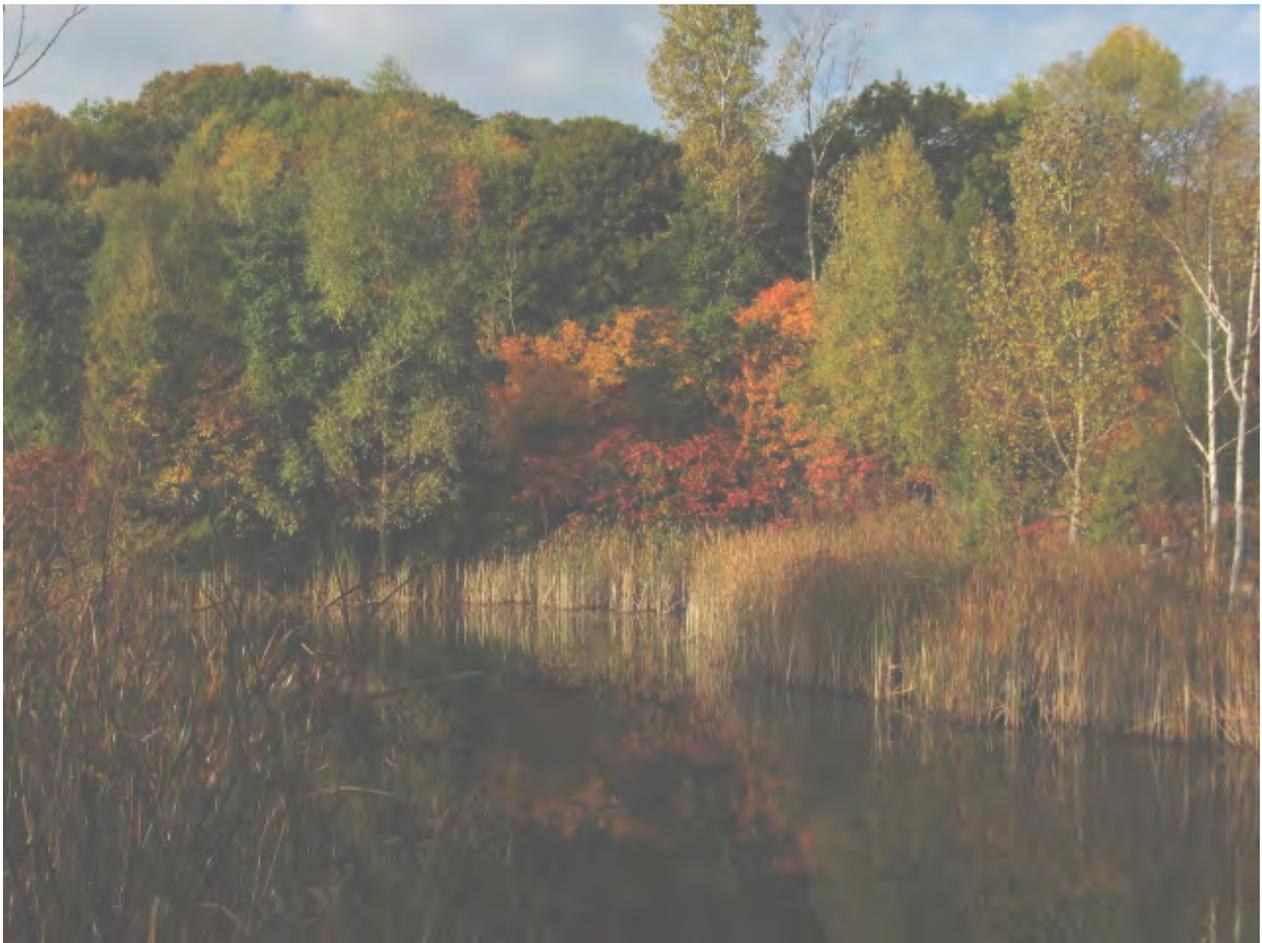
A combination of sodden ground and an abundance of fruit may have contributed to tipping over Washington thorns (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) in Toronto Island park during the high winds associated with Hurricane Sandy. The park manager reported that 28 large trees had come down. A quick survey revealed that most were willows. Some were tipped over, roots and all, while others had branches and trunks broken off (see photos p. 16). Many harboured considerable rot and woodpeckers were active among these during the days that followed.

How did your local park or neighbourhood trees fare during the storm?



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Photographed at the Brick Works, October 2012, by Wendy Rothwell