

TORONTO  
FIELD NATURALISTS'  
CLUB

Its History and Constitution



by R. M. Saunders

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Its history and constitution

by

R. M. Saunders

Toronto, 1965

## FOREWORD

As you will read in the following pages, the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club in 1938 decided to produce a monthly publication, to be known as the Newsletter.

Since September, 1938, the Newsletter has been produced eight times each year and sent to all Club members. Now, after twenty-seven years of publication, this history of the Club is being offered to members as a reminder of the aims and achievements of the TFNC over its first forty-two years.

The author of this volume is Dr. R. M. Saunders of the Department of History, University of Toronto. He is uniquely qualified for this work because of his association with the Newsletter: with the exception of one year (1961 - 1962), Dr. Saunders has been its Editor.

During these many years, the Club has benefited continually from the good humour, the scholarship and the topicality that have been enduring characteristics of the Newsletter. Our gratitude to Dr. Saunders is profound, and now that the pressure of other duties forces him to end this work, his successors will face the challenge of matching the high standards which have been set over the past quarter of a century.

R. F. Norman  
President

September 1965

## PREFATORY NOTE

The Executive of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club has decided that in recognition of the completion of twenty-seven years of publication of the Newsletter and of the continued growth of this club, a revised history of the club should be prepared. In consequence, Number 100 of the Newsletter, issued in 1951 and devoted to the history of the club, has been revised and extended so as to bring the historical account up to date.

It is hoped that publishing the history of the club in a convenient and durable form will serve the best interests of the club, of all its members and its friends. It remains as true as ever that the ease with which records are destroyed and memories fade makes it desirable to put down the essential facts of the story of the club in a place where they may be better preserved. This brochure, we trust, will serve that purpose.

In the preparation of this historical account both the club's records and the memories of original members have been utilized. We wish to offer here our thanks for the ready cooperation of all those who have supplied the necessary information.

R. M. Saunders

## THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB

About the first of June, 1923, two friends met at the corner of Church and Colborne Streets in Toronto. They were Mr. Will F. Gregory, a business man who later became a teacher, and Dr. Lyman B. Jackes, then Director of Visual Aid, Department of Education. As they were both keen naturalists, their conversation soon turned to recent observations and experiences in the realm of nature. From this they progressed to a discussion of the need for an organization in Toronto which would provide opportunities for people like themselves who were interested in nature to meet together, to make field trips, to exchange observations, hear lectures, and increase their knowledge of subjects of natural history. Mr. Gregory suggested that he would interview several men who would be most likely to cooperate in the forming of such a society. With that the two friends parted.

Mr. Gregory first went to see Prof. R. B. Thomson of the Department of Botany at the University of Toronto. The plan of organizing a society for naturalists, young and old, experienced and inexperienced, received his warm approval. He suggested a list of men with whom the subject should be discussed. Mr. Gregory then called on Prof. E. M. Walker of the Department of Biology and received his hearty endorsement of the plan.

### Organization meeting

After this auspicious beginning, Mr. Gregory interviewed the men suggested by Prof. Thomson and reported to him the willingness of each one to cooperate. The date of June 12, 1923, was set for the organization meeting at the Central Y.M.C.A.

This meeting was duly held with the following people being present: W. F. Gregory, Dr. L. B. Jackes, Prof. R. B. Thomson, Prof. E. M. Walker, F. H. Brigden, Dr. W. A. Clemens, Dr. A. Cousens, R. G. Dingman, Prof. J. R. Dymond, R. Ferris, Magistrate Jones, Shelley Logier, C. W. Nash, Taylor Statten, Stuart Thompson and Lockie Wilson. The group proved very much in favour of immediate action. They voted at once to establish a natural history society that should be called The Toronto Field Naturalists' Club. They thus became the founders of the club. A scheme of organization was approved but the matter of fees could not be decided since it was intended that a subscription to The Canadian Field Naturalist, publication of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, should be included with the membership in the new club, and a satisfactory arrangement for this had yet to be worked out.

At the next meeting of the group on June 19th, Will Gregory and Stuart Thompson were designated to draw up a set of by-laws for the club.

This constitution, modified and amended when necessary, remained the basis of the club's organization until the adoption of our present constitution in May, 1964. At the same meeting, a list of officers was presented and accepted. Prof. R. B. Thomson became the first president, and Mr. Will Gregory the first secretary.

### First year

After careful preparation the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club was launched upon a public career on October 29th, 1923. Two meetings were held that day, one in the afternoon, for "school teachers and senior pupils", one in the evening "with the addition of music" for the general public. Both meetings were in Foresters' Hall, 22 College Street. Prof. E. M. Walker was chairman at the public meeting. The program consisted of songs by Mr. Tom Mead and Miss Edith B. Champion, and a lecture entitled, "Illustrated Nature Story", by Dr. L. W. Jackes. The moving pictures and "dissolving views", shown in the lecture were all made by members of the new club.

In the folder which was distributed at the initial meeting, the aims of the club are set forth as being these:

To develop appreciation of the wonders and beauties of Nature and so add to the resources of our lives.

To give opportunity for Nature Lovers to meet together, exchange observations and increase their knowledge of natural objects and processes.

To give the public opportunities to hear authorities on subjects of natural history.

To conduct field excursions with a view to acquiring greater knowledge of the natural history of the Toronto district.

To cooperate with Governments in the protection of wild life, the preparation of exhibits and the compilation of natural history records.

To encourage the establishment of wild life sanctuaries.

To publish field notes and other data in an Annual Report.

To broadcast field observations periodically in a Toronto paper.

To develop a junior organization, offer prizes for bird houses, photographs, essays on wild life preservation, etc.

Once under way the regular meeting place for the club became the theatre of the Biological Building at the University of Toronto. There the meetings continued to be held except for special occasions, and for a brief sojourn at the Humane Society's auditorium on St. Alban's Street, until the transfer to the Royal Ontario Museum in October, 1936.

The members of the club were circularized with a questionnaire, to determine the variety of interests and talents represented among them. The questions asked were as follows: "(1) What form of nature study are you interested in? Birds, flowers, etc. (2) Have you given talks or written articles on nature? (3) Do you preserve wild life? feed birds, plant wild flowers, etc. (4) What collections have you made? (5) Do you belong to a nature study club?"\* The questionnaire ended with an invitation to suggest several subjects for the meetings to come.

On the basis of the suggestions received, and of their own ideas, the executive council drew up a program for the season. That it was one to command respect and to arouse interest may be known from a list of the speakers and subjects. After Dr. Jackes, there came in this order: Mark Robinson speaking about "Algonquin Park", of which he was superintendent; Stuart Thompson ("Our Winter Birds"); W. E. Saunders of London ("Bird Music"); Harrison F. Lewis of Ottawa ("Our Bird Friends and How We May Protect Them"); Francis J. A. Morris of Peterboro ("W. H. Hudson, Field Naturalist"); Norman Criddle of Ottawa ("Wild Life in Manitoba"); Prof. Klugh of Queen's University ("Our Spring Flora"). There was also a members' meeting when Stuart Thompson, Dr. H. B. Sifton, Dr. E. M. Walker, Prof. J. R. Dymond, Shelley Logier, and Russell Dingman spoke and showed exhibits.

The first year's program was brought to a close by two field trips, the first of which was held on April 26th, 1924. This first field trip was organized by Stuart Thompson. The route followed was from the end of the College Street carline in High Park to the lakeshore, thence up the Humber. The group split into two parts at the Humber, so that both banks of the river could be explored, but the whole group reassembled at the Old Mill where

---

\* To this last question there could be for most people only a negative answer, for there was no active nature study club in existence in Toronto that was open to the public. The only such group, the Brodie Club, was a closed body with a small limited membership. The antecedent public society, the Canadian Society for the Protection of Birds, had fallen to pieces some years before. It was in part the vacuum left by the failure of that society which prompted the conversation between Mr. Gregory and Dr. Jackes.

reports of observations were given by party leaders. An ornithologist, a botanist and an entomologist, "so far as possible", had been assigned to each of the two groups as leaders. The other field trip of this season was held at Armour Heights on May 31st.

If the reader's experience in the field goes back twenty-five years or more, he may remember seeing old linen placards attached to trees in sundry parts of the Toronto region. These signs read:

SPARE THE FLOWERS. Don't pull them up by the roots. Don't pick many of them. Don't take the rare kinds at all. YOU CAN DO YOUR PART. Save our native wild flowers from destruction. Help to preserve them for future years. Help to keep Canada beautiful.

At the bottom in bold print was "Toronto Field Naturalists' Club". The plan for putting out these placards was another of the achievements of the first year's executive council, successfully carried out with the permission of the municipal authorities. This was seemingly the first direct action taken by the club in behalf of conservation.

At the end of the first year the club had prospered so well that there were 162 members on the register. It was of great interest to discover, and somewhat astonishing, that 26 of that original membership were still active members of the club in 1951 when the first history of the club was published in the Newsletter. In 1965, as we bring out this revised history, we are happy to relate that a few of these faithful members are still with us. If, understandably, they are not as active as they once were it should be noted that their unflinching support over the years has been a major source of strength for this club.

### 1926 - 1930 - Consolidation

By 1926, thanks to the enthusiasm and good planning of the founders, to the effective leadership of the first two presidents, Prof. R. B. Thomson and Prof. E. M. Walker, and to the loyal support of the members, the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club was a well-established and going organization.

A pattern of activities, centering upon a series of lectures during the fall and winter, and upon field trips in the spring, had been created. Both local and outside talent was called upon in making out the program for each year. A number of distinguished names appear among the lists of speakers in the early years. Some of them have acquired distinction in the years since, others were well known at that time. Worthy of special note in the latter group is Prof. A. P. Coleman, Honorary President of the club, and Canada's most distinguished geologist. Throughout the remainder of his life Prof. Coleman was always a hearty friend and supporter, always ready to give his time and help when needed.

In effect the activities which were characteristic of the club at that time are still the core of its annual program. There have been changes in emphasis from time to time, but the club functions today essentially as its creators planned it. One plan, however, never took hold. In the list of officers for 1926 we find both an Honorary Librarian and a Librarian. Evidently it was the intention to found a club library and to make it a continuing part of the organization. For some reason, perhaps lack of financial support and of housing, this dream never came to fruition. These officials soon disappear from the annual list of officers.

The list of 1926 reveals another difference between the present organization and that of earlier years. In the past the club was much more clearly built around special groups representing particular interests. For instance, in 1926, there were seven such groups, each with a chairman and secretary as follows: Bird Group, Stuart Thompson and J. L. Baillie; Mammal Group, Prof. J. R. Dymond and L. L. Snyder; Flower Group, Prof. R. B. Thomson and Miss E. R. L. Reed; Insect Group, Prof. E. M. Walker and Dr. Norma Ford; Fish, Reptile and Amphibian Group, E. B. S. Logier and T. B. Kurata; Geological Group, Dr. A. Maclean and Jack Satterley; a group for wild life preservation, R. G. Dingman and Dr. J. N. McKinley.\* Such specialized organization apparently did not prove feasible to maintain for it fades away very soon except in connection with field trips, though unsuccessful efforts have been made to revive it. Until 1939 leaders for these and other special interests were selected to take charge of field trips. Also field trips were customarily arranged to meet the requirements of a number of special groups. With the war leaders became scarcer and the system began to give way. Field trips tended to become more general in character or to emphasize birds and flowers, the most favoured subjects, though as many leaders as were available were provided for other interests. Since the war this tendency has continued. It should be noted that some of the special interests have not succeeded in commanding sufficient support among the members of the club, so that field trips cannot reasonably be devoted to them. The policy of the club, however, remains unchanged in principle: it has always been and still remains the aim of the executive to provide to the extent of its ability, both through lectures and in field trips, for the stimulus and satisfaction of as many diverse nature interests as exist among the club members. That general and direct concern with nature is after all what makes the club distinctively a field naturalists' club.

---

\* With the exception of Miss Reed, a visitor from Australia, all these leaders are on the original list of leaders for 1923-24, though a special geological group was lacking then.

The year 1926 also saw the first use of the beautiful engraving which graces the Newsletter, and all the official paper of the club. This replaced the photograph of a song sparrow feeding young which headed the original club notepaper. Nothing could have been happier than the artist's choice of a marsh scene with a woodland verge. It not only enabled him to suggest the plenitude of life that is open to the nature lover who has eyes that can see and ears that can hear, but also something of the wonderful mystery inherent in it all. The sun radiating its beams from behind mounting clouds is a sure and subtle touch. Few societies can have as fine a symbol of their faith and aims as this one. All the generations of Toronto Field Naturalists owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. E. M. Walker, then president of the club, who conceived and drew the first sketch of this constant reminder of all that for which we stand, and caused it to be produced in its finished form by a professional engraver.

During the next two years, 1927-28, the club, under the guidance of Stuart Thompson, successfully pursued an even course of development. The outstanding event of this period was the visit of Ernest Thompson Seton. The famous naturalist, an uncle of Stuart Thompson, came back to Toronto, the site of so many of his early experiences with nature, at the joint invitation of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club and the Y.M.C.A. He gave two lectures, "Voices of the Night", and "Wild Animals I Have Known", which were received with great applause in the auditorium of the Central Y.M.C.A. This was the first occasion when the club ventured upon so ambitious a lecture project. Success made it a precedent for further such ventures, a long series of which culminated in the conjoint action of this club and the Royal Canadian Institute in the bringing of the Audubon Screen Tours to Toronto.

At the executive council meeting on November 22nd, 1929, the even tenor of events was disturbed. A minute of that meeting states cryptically, "Question of cats mentioned". There is nothing more, no explanation, no elaboration. Apparently the question arose as the result of a discussion of the possibility of the establishment of a nature trail in the city. Yet who could find a "question" about cats in such a connection? Is it perhaps relevant that at that meeting only five men were present? Some one of these five, I warrant, had doubts about cats. Only thus could a "question" arise. Perhaps it is as well that no lady was present. The club might have been hopelessly divided then and there on this grave issue, "The Question of Cats". It is significant that never again does this matter appear in the minutes of the council.

The broaching of this dangerous question indicates that the executive council was ready to face risks. Consequently we are not surprised to

find them embarking upon a new lecture adventure involving great "financial risk". This was the bringing of Captain C. W. R. Knight to talk and to show his masterly motion picture, "The Filming of the Golden Eagle". The most careful planning and preparation went into this venture. Admission was limited to members of the club, but the lecture was used as a means of increasing the number of members so that membership was offered at reduced rates for the next half year in connection with the sale of tickets. The immediate success of this scheme was tremendous. Captain Knight, with his eagle, "Mr. Ramshaw", made two appearances at Hygeia Hall on March 7th and 8th, 1930. Never before had any undertaking of the club received such publicity. Favourable news accounts came out under the following headlines: "Audience soars with golden eagle as movie is shown"; "Eagles good or bad like men and women"; "Mr. Ramshaw, new film star, enjoys sun on top of hotel"; "Eagle's little ways interest naturalists". The membership of the club jumped to well over a thousand for the purposes of this lecture. A truer picture of the lasting result is given in the President's annual report where it is stated that the club membership increased during the year from 200 to 250 in round numbers, and that "most of this increase was due to the Knight lecture". The members of the council who had put so much labour into this enterprise could congratulate themselves not only that their effort had been crowned with financial success, but also that the Field Naturalists' Club was now known to the Toronto public to an extent it had never been previously.

The spectacular triumph of the Knight lecture should not, however, be allowed to overshadow the fact that it was the everyday ordinary achievements of the club which, though less likely to draw public attention, were the real foundation for the club's continued growth and for its hold upon its members. The regular lectures, the field trips and its growing educational work were the surest bases for future development. These regular activities were outlined in an appeal for the renewal of membership in the fall of 1930 as the following: (1) Monthly meetings from September to May, addressed by outstanding Naturalists; (2) Spring and autumn field rambles; (3) Placing nature trails in public parks; (4) Provision of prizes for bird house building contests in schools; (5) Placing bird houses in public parks; (6) Featuring a campaign for the conservation of wild flowers, birds, and other forms of wild life. With this list it was pointed out that "Our club is almost the only organization in the city which stands for the conservation of our wild life and of the beauties of nature for their own sake. . . We believe that the club deserves the support of every lover of nature; without their support our work is seriously hampered." A gradual steady growth on the basis of the appeal of these activities and aims was what was desired, and what was regarded as the most substantial guarantee of progress for the club. It is, indeed, what took place.

### Work with children - bird-house contest

From the beginning the club was concerned to arouse interest in nature among children. The first constitution holds a provision for junior members and steps were taken at intervals in the first few years to stimulate an active concern for the aims of the club among the youth of Toronto. The first really effective step seems to have been taken when the club began to cooperate with Arnott Patterson, principal of the Toronto Normal School, in a bird-house building contest. The idea of such a contest had been suggested by Russell Dingman during the first year of the club's existence. This contest was initiated in the session of 1929-30. Special prizes were offered by the club and the houses entered in the contest became the property of the club. They were later erected in High Park and Sunnybrook Park, where some of them may be seen today. This project was carried on until 1935. In 1932 one-half the bird houses were donated to Bolton Camp and one-half to the Humane Society.

### Nature trail in Sunnybrook Park

Another very important step, taken this same year, to arouse greater interest in nature among young and old was the founding of a nature trail in Sunnybrook Park. A special field day was held there on June 7th, 1930, for the purpose of opening the new trail, believed to be the first city nature trail opened in Canada. The idea of creating such a trail originated with Colin Farmer, who had read of similar trails in some of the New York State Parks, and who made a trip especially to study some of their trails. With the permission of the Parks Department of the city a proper situation at Sunnybrook was selected and the trail laid out. Various species of trees were labelled to start. During the next summer in 1931, a member of the club, L. T. Owens, expert on trees and botany, served as nature guide in Sunnybrook Park. He extended the trail, labelled more trees and many flowering plants, set up a little field museum, and conducted parties of visitors over the trail. The regular fall hike of the club was held in the park so that the members could see how this club project had prospered. Unfortunately this marked the peak of interest in a very worthwhile undertaking. The nature trail at Sunnybrook Park continued to be a subject of discussion and planning in the executive council until the park was taken over as the site of the present military hospital, but well before that time it had been found impossible to keep up the trail. The last effort of the club to make Sunnybrook Park a centre of interest to naturalists was made in 1935, when on May 10 a group of fourteen trees were planted in celebration of the Jubilee of King George V.

The establishment of the Nature Trail and the appointment of Mr. Owens as Nature Guide were parts of a program of cooperation between the Field Naturalists' Club and the Parks Department of the City of Toronto. In addition to these measures the club urged that the marsh areas remaining in city parks be preserved, that efforts be made to attract birds to the parks by encouraging the growth of thickets for nesting, the placing of more nesting boxes, the planting of berry-bearing shrubs, and the provision of winter food. The setting aside of suitable areas in Sunnybrook Park and High Park to be kept under natural conditions, and the fixing of labels along Exhibition Park waterfront indicating the waterfowl that frequent that area were also proposed. A very friendly reply was received from Mr. Chambers, the Commissioner of Parks, and on most of the proposals favourable action was taken.

#### 1930-1939 - Concern with conservation

The above proposals concern not only public education and the arousal of interest in nature study, but also the principle of conservation. During the presidency of Prof. J. R. Dymond, 1929-1931, the club became very seriously associated with efforts to make conservation a living issue to its members and to the public. In particular, the club joined in a drive to get better protection for "eagles, pelicans, herons, and comorants", and later for all hawks and owls. It can thus be said to have had some part in having eagles placed on the list of protected birds in Ontario, though that was chiefly a victory achieved by the late W. E. Saunders of London. The winning of protection for hawks and owls became a fixed aim of the club. Repeated efforts were made over the years to interest the Provincial Government in the matter, especial reference being made to the snowy owl. It was a great satisfaction, therefore, when in 1956 through the efforts of many naturalists and many clubs but especially those of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Canadian Audubon Society the Provincial Legislature was persuaded to pass a bill giving protection to all hawks and owls.

The club also enquired in 1931 into the situation at Point Pelee with regard to the maintaining of natural conditions. This matter was later taken up by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and others, with the result that a part of the park area at Point Pelee was fenced in, to be left permanently in its natural state as a wild life sanctuary.

#### Work with children - essay contests

Conservation was again very much in the minds of the executive council when they requested and received permission from the Toronto Board of Education to conduct a prize essay contest in the public schools during the

spring of 1931, on the subject, "The Conservation of Wild Flowers". Here again was an idea originally proposed by Mr. Dingman in 1924. To assist this campaign, the club circulated two essays, written for the occasion, one by the well-known painter of flowers, Robert Holmes, in which he inveighs against the "bunch habit", the stupidity of the indiscriminate picking of wild flowers, and one by Prof. H. B. Sifton who stresses "the perilous position of our wild flowers". The holding of such school essay contests has been conducted by the club on other occasions, the most successful being in 1941 when Miss Grace Malkin was in charge of the contest. Some forty essays were submitted in that year from about thirty different schools.

### Junior club

Work with children figured prominently during the year 1930-31, for though there had been junior members from the beginning, regular meetings for juniors only became a reality at this time. Such meetings were held on one Saturday of each month at the Humane Society auditorium. Attendance usually ran between 75 and 100 children. The organizing of these junior meetings was very largely the work of Colin Farmer, who succeeded Prof. Dymond as president of the T.F.N. in 1931. These meetings may be counted the effective prelude of the existing Junior Club which only gradually assumed its present form. A plan or organization was worked out during 1931, and in 1934 Murray Speirs became the first president of the Junior Club as we now know it. Little by little the work of the Junior Club was expanded, and under Mrs. A. R. Whittemore's lead it assumed an autonomous relationship to the parent senior club which continued to give it financial and spiritual support. Another great step forward was taken when in 1940 under Miss Grace Malkin's leadership a program of having the children work on projects in the newly opened Children's Room in the Royal Ontario Museum was commenced. What that meant may be best typified by the example of one of the projects, namely, Frank Smith's creative initiation of dozens of children into the art of carving birds in wood. Of no part of its creation is the T.F.N.C. prouder than of the Junior Club, which it regards as of paramount importance in the furtherance of its basic objectives. It is impossible here to mention all those who have guided the destinies of the Junior Club, though special note must be made of the work of Mrs. L. E. Jaquith and Mrs. Joseph Barfoot, who successively guided the Junior Club's activities for almost ten years. From its inception, indeed, the Juniors have had the inestimable benefit of a series of loyal, unselfish and imaginatively intelligent directors and associate leaders. No better proof of the appeal which the Junior Club makes to the youngsters of Toronto can be offered than that the existing limit of 300-325 members, a limit fixed by the effective use of present facilities, is constantly being over-reached. Here certainly is a vital, fruitful, worthwhile group.\*

### Founding of the F.O.N.

The T.F.N.C. found its expanding activities carrying it well beyond Toronto in its associations by the autumn of 1941. The McIlwraith Ornithological Club of London, and the Hamilton Bird Protection Society were consulted at the time of the club's organization in 1923. Affiliation with the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club started in the first year. But it was the establishment of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1931 which made the naturalist connections of the T.F.N.C. province-wide. Several members of the Toronto club, especially Prof. J. R. Dymond, were prominent in the organization of the F.O.N., and the T.F.N.C. has always been the largest and most influential constituent club in the Federation. By association with the nature clubs throughout Ontario, it has been possible for all these clubs together to make their influence felt in a way which would be impossible for any one club, even one as large as the T.F.N.C. In this sense the creation of the F.O.N. represented an extension of the original aims and objectives of the T.F.N.C. and the linking up with others in the Province who hold similar aims and ideals.

### F.O.N. Summer Nature School

Doubtless the most important result of the affiliation of the T.F.N.C. with the F.O.N. has been the founding of the Summer Nature School by the F.O.N. in 1939. This school, which has moved about from place to place in Ontario, has always drawn very heavily upon personnel of the T. F. N. C. for its leaders. No one, for instance, contributed more to the creation and sound establishment of the Nature School than Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Jaquith, who gave lavishly of their time and energy over many years. Similarly the long-time contributions of such well-known Toronto Field Naturalist Club members as J. R. Dymond, A. F. Coventry, T. F. McIlwraith and Mrs. Ruth Stewart truly laid and formed the permanent foundation and the persisting channels of action of the Nature School. The Summer Nature School, now the F.O.N. Camp, is a great contribution to the development of an interest in nature in this Province and in Canada. The T.F.N.C. may well be gratified that its own members have had so prominent a role in the rise of this camp.

---

\* From young people who had had training and experience in the Junior Club, and from others connected with the Senior Club, came the chief inspiration for the founding of the Intermediate Field Naturalists' Club (now known as the Toronto Field Biologists' Club) which, though it has no official connection with the T.F.N.C., owes much to it historically.

Not only has this club provided leaders for the F.O.N. Camp, it has also provided financial aid in the form of scholarships, the first recipient of one of these grants being George Francis in 1948. George is now a professional biologist. The next year, 1949, two scholarships were given, one being known as the Lilian Payne Memorial Scholarship, in memory of one of the most efficient secretaries the T.F.N.C. ever had. It was a fitting memorial for Miss Payne was very enthusiastic about the work of arousing wide interest in and of training leaders of nature study which was being done at the Nature School. These scholarships are still being allotted.

### Outings and field trips

A further result of the association of the T.F.N.C. with the F.O.N. was an increase in the number of club field days and the going farther afield on hikes. No doubt the increasing use of automobiles had much to do with such expansion, too, but the decision of the F.O.N. to hold regional field days provided a decided impetus. On April 21st, 1934, several members of this club attended the first regional field day, held at Puslinch Lake. Since that time regional field days have played an important part in our club program. They have provided an opportunity for our members to meet naturalists from outside Toronto and to see good natural history sites beyond the confines of the Toronto region.

A steady increase in the number of local hikes sponsored by the club also took place during the 1930's. In this respect the club was meeting the growing demand from a growing membership. By 1938 the customary four field trips a year of the earlier period had become 37. The largest increase came in that year with the beginning of the Wednesday morning spring bird hikes, an innovation designed to enable busy naturalists to have an hour's outing before going to their daily work. To these were added, in 1944, a regular monthly hike on the second Saturday afternoon of each month, except in the summer, and in 1945 Saturday morning spring hikes equivalent to the Wednesday morning hikes. The peak was reached in that session, 1944-45, when 75 field trips were organized by the club. This was found to be over-ambitious, and the annual program of hikes now (1964-65) stands at about 45. The present number and distribution of field trips seems to be a fair balancing of demands upon leaders and of the interest of club members.

Attendance at hikes has varied considerably and will, of course, continue to do so. Nonetheless it is proper to say that during the first ten years a successful general hike saw around 100 people in the field. In the second decade there was a sharp increase in attendance at such hikes. Two

hundred, 300 and on one memorable occasion at Erindale, an unmanageable 400 people turned out. Since the war 200 has been closer to the figure for a popular general field trip. On the whole, the most favoured field trips have been the annual fall field day in September, the Sunday morning walks in High Park in the spring, and the F.O.N. regional field days, sponsored by the T.F.N.C. but outside the city. Winter field trips have varied in attendance more than any others, indicating a more pronounced response to weather conditions at that season. There have been as few as eight present, and as many as 150, but the average in the winter has been between 40 and 60. On the Wednesday morning hikes, which are designed for smaller groups, the attendance has been as low as five and as high as 70. The most favoured areas usually have between 20 and 75 people. In general, attendance at field trips holds within these limits, not attaining the higher figures of earlier years of the club's existence. There are a number of reasons for this. When crowds at field trips became too large, many people found that they did not get the benefits they hoped for or had previously enjoyed, so they ceased to come. On the other hand, the club has, over the years, succeeded in introducing so many naturalists to each other, and in educating so many others to a point where they can go afield profitably on their own, that many members go out in small groups by themselves, rather than come to large field trips. The fact that this happens is a tribute to the influence and effectiveness of the club. It is true now as never before that as one goes abroad on a fine day in this region, one finds individuals and small groups of people looking at birds, seeking flowers, enjoying nature. They may or may not be members of this club, but they all have in some way felt the influence and benefited from the work of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club.

### The Newsletter

Always connected with going afield has been the Newsletter which came into the club's life in 1938. The original suggestion that there should be a newsletter was made by Mrs. Harvey Agnew, with the support of Russell Dingman and Dr. Norma Ford. An editorial committee consisting of Mrs. Agnew and Dr. R. M. Saunders was formed. The first number of the Newsletter, two pages in length, appeared in September, 1938. It contained an account of a variety of observations made during the previous summer by several members of the club, and, in addition, proffered a recipe for "chickadee pudding" to be used on feeding trays in winter. The Newsletter met with an enthusiastic reception at once. It was clear that a real need was being met. After one or two issues it was evident that such a project could best be handled by a single editor, rather than a committee, so that Dr. Saunders took full charge. He has remained the editor to the present time. It has been gratifying to the

editor and, no doubt, to the members of the club to see the Newsletter grow in size and circulation even though that has meant increasing labour and the placing of the mechanical part of its production on a commercial basis. Many members of the club may not know that the Newsletter now reaches far beyond the membership of the club by reception in libraries, by exchange with other clubs, and by the good old method of "handing it on". It goes as far afield as the United States, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Possibly the clearest indication that the Newsletter filled a real need is to be found in the fact that other nature clubs in the province have since the start of this club's publication commenced similar newsletters of their own. Inasmuch as club publications were planned for in the first year, here again in the creation of the Newsletter one of the hopes of the club's founders was being realized.

#### Rotunda displays

The club's services to its members were further enlarged and enriched when the practice of having exhibits in the rotunda of the Museum became a regular feature of the monthly meetings. Exhibitions of specimens, photographs, and other material began with the earliest meetings of the club. Sometimes they reached exciting proportions, as when on November 9th, 1931, W. LeRay and Shelley Logier put on a display of living snakes, other reptiles, amphibians and small mammals native to Ontario. Exhibits were infrequent, until Mrs. L. E. Jaquith, in 1938, undertook the responsibility of maintaining a regular series of exhibits in conjunction with the indoor meetings. This valuable addition to club activities has been carried on ever since and is highly appreciated by the members.

#### 1939-1945 - War

When the war broke out in 1939, the club, like other societies, began to feel the impact at once. In the first executive meeting after the outbreak of hostilities, some time was given to the "difficulties" encountered by several members of the club--they had been intercepted by the police while observing birds. It was voted that a warning be given members at the next regular meeting "not to use binoculars near hydro stations or other guarded areas". Some of the activities of the club had to be cut out temporarily. A poster contest in the schools was eliminated. Certain places were debarred to field trips, either because of war use or gasoline rationing. Men leaving for service reduced the number of leaders available for field trips. At one time the Wartime Prices and Trade Board enquired seriously into the right of the club to continue publication of the Newsletter. After proper investigation, though, permission to continue issue was granted, "provided the amount of

paper for any one issue does not exceed four tons". Happily, this still left us a little leeway. As a matter of fact, the club was able to use the Newsletter to help its members who were abroad to keep in touch with home, by sending copies to them and other interested naturalists who were on active service. Letters from these men, relating nature observations made near military camps and at the front also found their way into the pages of the Newsletter. For those at home, the club in pursuing its traditional aims and activities provided a welcome and necessary relaxation from wartime anxieties. That people felt the need of relief and valued it is indicated by the fact that the membership of the club and the club's activities steadily increased in the war years.

#### Post war - Audubon Screen Tours

After the war, beginning in the season of 1946-47, a very important new development occurred when the Royal Canadian Institute and the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club joined together in bringing the Audubon Screen Tours to Toronto. The holding of these fine movie-talks in Eaton Auditorium made it possible to reach the largest public audiences that naturalists have ever enjoyed in Toronto. This venture appeared at first to be rather risky from the financial point of view and it has, in fact, had its ups and downs and accompanying difficulties. Nonetheless, it has proven both feasible and profitable and its success enabled the two societies to extend the usefulness of the Audubon speakers by having them repeat their talks in city schools, the cost being defrayed out of the profits of the main lectures.\* By this means our club was given a chance over a period of several years to develop further the program of nature education for children which has always been one of its dearest aims. When, therefore, in 1956 the Royal Canadian Institute decided that its other obligations would require it to withdraw from this enterprise the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club was very glad to take over entire responsibility. On this basis we have continued to the present time. There can be no doubt that this project has been one of the most successful ever undertaken by this club for the furtherance of interest in nature in this community.

Cooperation with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists has continued to be one of the main guide lines of action in the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club. Since this club was one of the main founding members of the F.O.N. and continues to be the largest member club of the Federation this is only natural. Moreover, since a large part of the founding leadership came from members of this club and since in subsequent years T.F.N.C. members

---

\*The presentation of Audubon lectures to the schools has now been taken over by the school authorities themselves.

have continued to play a large role in the Federation a very close relationship between the two bodies has logically developed. This has been enhanced, no doubt, by the fact that the F.O.N. headquarters have been situated in the Toronto area. The cooperation between the two has extended to many things from F.O.N. Camp to Christmas cards. Of all the projects of the F.O.N. in which the T.F.N.C. has played its part in the last decade this club is particularly proud that it was able to make major contributions for the acquisition of the Nature Reserve at Dorcas Bay on the Bruce Peninsula since the preservation of the remaining finer bits of wild natural country in Southern Ontario has become profoundly essential to the good life of future generations in these parts. The continuing cooperation between the T.F.N.C. and the F.O.N. will doubtless lead to even greater accomplishments in the years to come.

Cooperation with other naturalists' clubs and associations has by no means been limited to the F.O.N. This club has been able to be of assistance to the Ontario Bird Banding Association, for instance, in the establishment of a banding station at the tip of Long Point on Lake Erie. In the last two years it has made substantial contributions to the vigorous efforts to save Rattray's Marsh on the Lake Ontario shore. It has aided the Bruce Trail Committee that is concerned with the completion of the now well-known walking trail from Niagara Glen to the northern end of the Bruce Peninsula. Especially, it has been concerned to help wherever possible the critically important endeavours of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to set aside and properly to utilize large natural areas in our own region, and of the Metropolitan Parks Commission to build a parks system of which the citizens of this metropolitan community may be proud and in which the interests of the naturalists will have their part. In the case of the Conservation Authority the club has been pleased to be able to provide leaders for nature hikes on occasion and informed consultants for various projects interesting to naturalists. In the case of the Parks Commission the T.F.N.C. has been happy to have a part in the setting up of the Nature Study area on Toronto Island, and it is now looking forward to continuing this fruitful association through collaboration in another important project, the establishment of a wild flower garden in the James Gardens Park. In collaboration with the City Parks Department the club has provided a martin house which the city has erected near Grenadier Pond in High Park. Such cooperative efforts as these have given this club a wide and valuable influence. Upon this it must build, finding in the future even greater means of service to naturalists and to the community.

We come now to the end of the story. From its origin in a conversation on a street corner 42 years ago, the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club has grown to be a large, highly-organized and influential society. It is, indeed, a major factor in the cultural life of the City of Toronto. Nor is its influence

without importance in the Province of Ontario, and even beyond provincial borders. A dream has come true. It has done so because the founders planned well and worked hard, because a long line of others have striven intelligently, given freely of themselves, and laboured loyally together through the years. To the men and women who have created the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club and who are still creating it, we give salute.

## THE OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

<u>Years</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Secretaries</u>	<u>Directors Junior Club</u>
1923-24	R. B. Thomson	W. Gregory	
1924-25			
1925-26	E. M. Walker	J. R. Dymond	
1926-27		(W. J. K. Harkness S. L. Thompson C. Farmer	
1927-28	S. L. Thompson		
1928-29			
1929-30	J. R. Dymond	F. P. Ide	
1930-31			
1931-32	C. S. Farmer	C. G. Brennand	
1932-33			
1933-34	A. M. Patterson	J. G. Oughton	
1934-35		H. M. Halliday	M. Speirs
1935-36			Mrs. A. R. Whittemore
1936-37	F. P. Ide		W. J. Baxter
1937-38			
1938-39	F. C. Hurst	Mrs. L. E. Jaquith	Miss G. Malkin
1939-40			
1940-41	R. M. Saunders	(Miss G. Anderson Miss E. Boissonneau	
1941-42			Mrs. L. E. Jaquith
1942-43		Mrs. L. A. Prince	
1943-44	T. F. McIlwraith	Miss L. Payne	
1944-45			
1945-46	C. A. Walkinshaw		Mrs. J. D. Barfoot
1946-47		E. C. Macdonald	
1947-48		Mrs. J. B. Stewart	
1948-49	A. J. V. Lehmann		
1949-50			
1950-51	A. A. Outram		(Mrs. M. Speirs Mrs. L. E. Jaquith Mrs. L. E. Jaquith Miss B. Caldwell
1951-52			
1952-53	J. L. Baillie		
1953-54	T. F. McIlwraith		
1954-55	F. W. Darroch	(Mrs. J. B. Stewart Mrs. R. Lewis	Mrs. L. E. Jaquith
1955-56	R. J. Mitchele		Mrs. H. C. Robson
1956-57			
1957-58	W. M. Tovell	(Mrs. J. B. Stewart Mrs. H. C. Robson	Miss V. Carter

<u>Years</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Secretaries</u>	<u>Directors Junior Club</u>
1958-59		(Mrs. H. C. Robson (Mrs. J. B. Stewart	(D. Burton (R. MacLellan
1959-60	A. A. Outram		
1960-61	F. Bodsworth		(F. MacLellan (D. Burton
1961-62			
1962-63	F. D. Hoeniger	(Mrs. H. C. Robson (Miss G. R. Marshall	
1963-64			
1964-65	R. F. Norman		

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

### ARTICLE I: Name

This organization shall be known as "THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB", hereinafter referred to as the CLUB.

### ARTICLE II: Objects

The Club shall be a non-profit organization having the following educational objects:

- 1) To acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history.
- 2) To protect and to preserve wild-life.
- 3) To stimulate public interest in and understanding of nature and in its protection and preservation.
- 4) To develop and sponsor special-interest groups in the various fields of natural history.
- 5) To provide facilities and leadership to children in the various fields of natural science, through a junior affiliated organization known as "THE TORONTO JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB", hereinafter referred to as the JUNIOR CLUB.

Any earnings or other accretions to the Club shall be used in promoting these objects.

### ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1: Membership in the Club shall be open to any person who is in sympathy with the objects of the Club.

Section 2: Classes of membership shall be as follows:

- a) Honorary membership may be awarded to persons who have rendered distinguished service to the Club, to the advancement of natural history or to the cause of wild-life preservation. Their election shall be according to the procedure stated in Article VIII, Section 5.
- b) Life membership.
- c) Ordinary membership.
- d) Family membership, to include close relatives residing at the same address.
- e) Corresponding membership, available only to persons residing more than twenty miles from the Royal Ontario Museum.

ARTICLE IV: Fees

Section 1: The fee for Life Membership shall be \$100.00.

Section 2: The fee for Ordinary Membership shall be \$4.00 per annum.

Section 3: The fee for Family Membership shall be \$6.00 per annum.

Section 4: The fee for Corresponding Membership shall be \$2.00 per annum.

Section 5: Annual fees are due in September, and must be paid by the December meeting for entitlement to take part in the Club activities.

ARTICLE V: Club Year and Meetings

Section 1: The Club year shall be from 1st May to 30th April.

Section 2: Meetings of the Club shall be held monthly from October to May, preferably on the first Monday of the month. The responsibility for organizing these meetings shall generally rest with the Programme Committee.

Section 3: The annual general meeting shall be held in May.

Section 4: Field excursions shall be held from time to time and shall be the responsibility of the Outings Committee.

Section 5: Special meetings may be called by the Executive or at the written request of 20 or more members.

Section 6: At any properly constituted meeting of the Club, a quorum shall be 50 members.

ARTICLE VI: Other Activities

Section 1: The Club may act as a sponsor to exhibitions, lectures and film presentations (such as Audubon Wildlife Films), when such activities are compatible with the objects of the Club.

ARTICLE VII: Executive

Section 1: The Executive of the Club shall consist of the following members, all of whom may vote on matters before the Executive:

President  
Vice-President  
Immediate Past President (ex officio)  
Editor of the Newsletter  
Director of the Junior Club  
Nine additional elected members

- Section 2: The elected members of the Executive shall invite people to be Editor of the Newsletter and Director of the Junior Club.
- Section 3: The Executive shall appoint annually a Secretary-Treasurer and an Assistant Secretary, and shall decide the amount of honorarium to be paid to each.
- Section 4: The Executive shall appoint Chairmen of committees for the various functions of the Club; such Chairmen may be but are not necessarily members of the Executive. Such appointed Chairmen shall form their committees from membership of the Club.
- Section 5: The President or Vice-President and seven additional voting members of the Executive shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII: Nominations

- Section 1: The three immediate Past Presidents shall constitute a nominating committee, in preparation for the annual elections. The most recent incumbent shall act as Chairman.
- Section 2: The recommendations of the Nominating Committee shall be published in the April issue of the Newsletter.
- Section 3: Nominations for the Executive may be proposed in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer by any three members of the Club before the tenth day of April, provided that prior agreement of the nominee has been obtained. Such nominations shall be published in the May issue of the Newsletter.
- Section 4: At the May meeting and before elections to the Executive take place, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall present the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and all nominations already received from the membership.
- Section 5: The Executive shall be responsible for nominating candidates for Honorary Membership. Such nominations shall be the subject of a membership vote at the annual general meeting.

### ARTICLE IX: Elections

- Section 1: Election of the President and Vice-President shall take place annually, and incumbents may be re-elected.
- Section 2: Elected members of the Executive other than the President and Vice-President shall sit on the Executive for a three year term. Normally three of these members shall retire each year.
- Section 3: All elections to the Executive shall take place at the annual general meeting.
- Section 4: Elections shall be conducted by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.
- Section 5: Should a member of the Executive retire before his term of office is completed, the Executive may appoint a member of the Club to fill the vacancy. Such resignations and appointments shall be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter, and shall be submitted to the membership for their ratification at the next monthly general meeting. The duration of such appointments shall be the remaining period of time for which the original incumbent was elected.

### ARTICLE X: Duties

- Section 1: The President shall normally preside at all meetings of the Club, and shall perform such other duties as properly pertain to his office, including presentation of an annual report to the membership at the annual general meeting.
- Section 2: The Vice-President shall perform duties of the President in the latter's absence and at his request, and such duties as the President may delegate to him.
- Section 3: The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following:
- a) keep a true record of proceeding at all meetings of the Executive, and at general meetings of the Club at which administrative business is conducted;
  - b) conduct correspondence for the Club;
  - c) publish the Newsletter;
  - d) publish the President's annual report;
  - e) maintain a list of members and issue membership cards;

- f) collect and receive all monies due and payable to the Club, which said monies shall be deposited in a chartered bank at the City of Toronto to the credit of the Club;
- g) make all payments required for the purposes of the Club out of the funds belonging to the Club;
- h) keep the necessary books of account of the Club with a proper recording of all financial transactions according to a system recommended by the Club's auditors; display these in the form of a balance sheet to the membership at the annual general meeting, and publish the balance sheet in the next issue of the Newsletter;
- i) arrange for the auditing of the accounts, which shall be done before the annual general meeting.

Section 4: The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary-Treasurer by sharing the work in a manner mutually agreeable to them both.

Section 5: Chairmen of Committees shall each

- a) obtain a clear statement from the President of the terms of reference for his committee;
- b) select members of his committee and inform the Secretary-Treasurer of their names;
- c) report to the Executive on the activities and results of his committee.

Section 6: The Editor of the Newsletter shall compile the material for each issue of the Newsletter and forward the copy to the Secretary-Treasurer for publishing.

Section 7: The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominees for the Executive, and issue this list by the tenth day of March to the Secretary-Treasurer for publishing in the April issue of the Newsletter.

#### ARTICLE XI: Finances

Section 1: The accounts of the Club shall be audited every year, and the auditor's report shall be presented at the annual general meeting.

Section 2: Cheques on the Club's bank account to a value less than \$150.00 shall be valid when signed by the Secretary-Treasurer or the Assistant Secretary. Cheques on the Club's bank account to a value of \$150.00 or greater shall be valid only when signed by

either the President or Vice-President together with either the Secretary-Treasurer or the Assistant Secretary.

#### ARTICLE XII: Junior Club

Section 1: Membership in the Junior Club shall be open to any person between the ages of 8 and 16 inclusive.

Section 2: The annual fee for Junior Club membership shall be \$1.00 and shall be paid at time of registration.

Section 3: Meetings of the Junior Club shall be held monthly from October to May inclusive, generally on the morning of the first Saturday of each month. Election of Officers shall normally take place at its May meeting.

Section 4: The Executive of the Junior Club shall consist of

President and Vice-President  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Group Leaders (adult volunteers)  
 Director (adult appointed by the Club)  
 Assistant Director (adult chosen by the Director)

Section 5: The activities of the Junior Club shall generally include presentation of films and talks, also study groups under guidance of the group leaders, and publication each May of a magazine which shall serve as a record of the past year's activities.

#### ARTICLE XIII: Publications

Section 1: The Club shall issue to all members a monthly Newsletter from October to May inclusive, which shall include a programme of activities for the month, and shall also be the official means of informing the membership of the business of the Club. Other items that might be of interest to the membership may be included at the discretion of the Editor.

#### ARTICLE XIV: Amendment to the Constitution

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution of the Club may be made by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any properly constituted meeting of the Club.

Section 2: Notice of any proposal to change the Constitution shall be made at the monthly meeting immediately preceding the meeting at which the motion of change is to be made.

Section 3: Notice and text of any proposal to change the Constitution shall be published in the issue of the Newsletter immediately preceding the meeting at which the motion of change is to be made.

ARTICLE XV: Interpretation

Section 1: Sections of this Constitution qualified by masculine pronouns shall apply equally to male and female members.