



# THE BULLETIN

October, 2003 No. 430

## 2003 - 2004 EXECUTIVE

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## Events calendar

Botany Group	Date: Monday October 6, 2003
Bird Group	Date: Wednesday October 8, 2003 Location: Joyce McKinnon, 905-884-5666
Executive Meeting	Date: Tuesday October 14, 2003 at 7:30pm Location: McConaghy Centre
General Meeting	Date: Thursday October 16, 2003 at 7:30pm Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church hall 10066 Yonge Street
Field Trips:	
"Canopy Walk"	Date: Saturday October 4, 2003. 8am-1pm. Location: Haliburton Martin Chen (905) 709-0246
"Walk for the Moraine"	Date: Sunday October 19, 2003. 9:30am-2pm Location: Seneca College King campus Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust: 905-841-3678

**See Details on Page 2**

### The "Ontario Smart Growth Network"

The Ontario Smart Growth Network was formed with the aim of having like-minded groups from many walks of life work collaboratively to stop urban sprawl and promote environmentally sustainable, compact and healthy communities across Ontario. The network's website, which is temporarily being housed at the Conservation Council of Ontario, is at [www.greenontario.org/smartgrowth/osgn.html](http://www.greenontario.org/smartgrowth/osgn.html).

At the time of writing, the network has 24 members groups (including the FON) and at least an additional 30 groups actively considering membership.

To sign up to receive the networks free e-newsletter, please go to: <http://list.web.net/lists/listinfo/getsmart-1>.

Ontario is now the second province in Canada to have a smart growth network, the other being Smart Growth B.C. In the United States, there are smart growth organizations in many states and three nation-wide smart growth networks. FON was involved in a meeting in Vancouver last May with a number of groups from across Canada that are interested in forming a Smart Growth Canada network. Work on the national front is continuing.

To keep up to date on what the Ontario government is doing about smart growth, please visit [www.smartgrowth.gov.on.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.gov.on.ca)



**The Bulletin** is published 9 times per year, from September to May inclusive, by the *Richmond Hill Naturalists*, and is mailed free to members. The Bulletin is the official publication of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, a non-profit organization, the objectives of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural areas.

Address Correspondence to: **Richmond Hill Naturalists, P.O. Box 32217, RPO Harding, Richmond Hill, On, L4C 9S3**

**Deadlines:** The editor encourages submissions from any member on any topic related to nature or conservation, and in particular, any issue that might be of interest or concern to members of this club. e-mail: [lhelferty@sympatico.ca](mailto:lhelferty@sympatico.ca) Deadlines are the first day of each month.

Bulletin Advertisers have been selected because of their relevance to member interests.

Members are encouraged to patronize our advertisers and please mention that you saw their ad in our Bulletin.

**Change of Address:** Any change of email or street address should be sent to Mike Turk who prints the envelopes for the Bulletin mailing. See the Executive List for contact information.

#### MEMBERSHIP IN RHN

The *Membership Application Form*, is available at each General Meeting from Mike Turk, or in our club brochure, available from any executive member listed (see page 1).

#### NEW MEMBERS

No new members. If you have been missed, contact Mike Turk.

Meet new members at club events and say Hello!

### 2003 Annual Christmas Card Fundraiser

This year's Robert Bateman design is his Hairy Woodpecker on Birch print. Packages of 10 cards & envelopes are available for \$7.50 each or 2 packages for \$14.50.

These are the same cards available from the FON but by ordering from your local club you provide us with a much needed source of income and avoid the shipping cost.

There are two options for the cards:

- a) Cards with 'Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the Coming Year' inscribed on the inside,
- or
- b) Hasty Notes which are blank on the inside to allow you to create your own message at any time of the year.

*Also available this year at a substantial discount are previous years cards.*

- a) *Season's Greetings cards of either Red Fox or Snowy Owl*
- b) *Hasty Notes of either Snowy Owl, On-alert Chipmunk, Wolves on the Trail, White footed Mouse, Winter Lady Cardinal or Winter Song Chickadee.*

*The above also come in packages of 10 and are \$4.00 each.*

To place your order please contact Diana Piché at 905-773-4199 or e-mail [diana.piche@sympatico.ca](mailto:diana.piche@sympatico.ca) Place orders on or before **Wednesday October 22nd**. Orders will be picked up on October 26th and will be delivered late October / early November.

When ordering please specify card design and whether it is the Greeting card or Hasty Note you would like.

## EVENTS FUTURE

#### RHN Events:

- **Saturday October 4, 2003:** 8am-1pm. Haliburton "Canopy Walk". Call Martin chen at (905)709-0246 For more info call the Haliburton Forest at (705) 754-2198 or visit [www.haliburtonforest.com](http://www.haliburtonforest.com).

- **Monday October 6, 2003:** The Botany Group meets for the first session of the fall.

- **Wednesday, October 8, 2003:** Bird Group meeting. Bird Group meeting at the McKinnon's, 419 Oceanside Ave, Richmond Hill. Great Horned Owl and Great Gray Owl. Tel. 905-884-5666.

- **Thursday October 16**, 2003: 7:30 pm. General Meeting at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church hall. The guest speaker for this month will be Tom Mason, curator of Entomology at the Toronto Zoo, talking about Native Spiders. This Halloween themed event will be advertised to the public. Kids are welcome!

- **Sunday, October 19**, 2003: 9:30am to 2pm. 3rd Annual "Walk for the Moraine". Seneca College, King Campus. Contact the ORMLT office at [landtrust@bellnet.ca](mailto:landtrust@bellnet.ca) or 905-841-3678.

**Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader. If you would like to volunteer or you have any ideas, please submit them to Martin Chen (905-709-0246, [jmchentoronto@rogers.com](mailto:jmchentoronto@rogers.com)).**

- **Sunday, October 26**, 2003: 1:30pm. **West Humber Naturalists 25th Anniversary celebration.** Members of the Richmond Hill Naturalists are invited to help celebrate 25 years of West Humber Naturalists history. Come to Vellore School House (9545 Weston Rd, 1km S of Major Mackenzie Drive). Before the meeting join us for a morning nature walk in Boyd Park. We will walk at a relaxed pace taking time to explore all the park has to offer. The walk will last approx. 2 hours. The park is located on the East side of Islington Avenue approx. 2 km South of Rutherford Rd in Woodbridge. Questions? Call Tessa at 905-850-1507.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust  
(<http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org/>)

- **Thursday, November 6**, 2003: 6pm. "The Tenth Annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner" and silent auction, featuring **Dr. Jane Goodall**, keynote speaker. Hosted by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto. Tickets \$125. Contact Tom Atkins 905-841-9583, Don Prince 905-677-6090.

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GTA Events:

- **Sunday, October 5** and **Saturday October 25**, 2003: 10:30am-12:30pm. Evergreen and the Town of Richmond Hill Parks, Recreation and Culture Department Community Planting Events at Briar Nine Park. Site Restoration, tree planting. Located south of Bloomington Rd., just west of Yonge St. Rain or shine. Dress accordingly (sturdy shoes or boots are a must, hat, bottled water are important). Please RSVP to: Jessika Corkum, Evergreen Common Grounds 416-596-1495 ext. 40 / [jessika@evergreen.ca](mailto:jessika@evergreen.ca)

- **Saturday, October 18**, 2003: 10am - 2:30pm. *Scarborough Nature Fun Fair* presented by the Rouge Valley Naturalists & Earth Day Scarborough. Admission includes BBQ, Nature hikes, Music, Pony Rides, Face painting... \$10 Single, \$15 Family, \$8 Seniors. Rouge Valley Conservation Centre : Pearse House 1749 Meadowvale Rd. Scarborough. Contact Lora Clausen 416-284-0257.

- **Sunday October 19**, 2003: 2 - 5 pm *Thickson's Woods Land Trust Art Auction.* Over 50 pieces of wildlife art. Works by Robert Bateman and David Blackwood. Heydenshore Pavilion, 589 Water St., Whitby \$10 Admission, includes Cheese and Wine Reception. From Hwy 401 take Thickson Rd. South. Go west on Victoria St. to South Blair St. Go south on S. Blair St. to Water St. Turn west on Water St. and park in the lot across from the Pavilion. More info: contact Susan Morgan 905-655-3895, Margaret Bain 905-373-1202 or Dianne Pazaratz 905-433-7875.

Toronto Ornithological Club Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks (all walks free to the public)  
[www.torontobirding.ca/outings.html#upcoming](http://www.torontobirding.ca/outings.html#upcoming)

### Upcoming RHN General Meeting Speakers:

We now have the final list of speakers for the year 2003-2004:

**Thurs. November 20** – Joint Meeting with West Humber Naturalists - \$5 (fundraiser): Kevin Callan, canoeist and author extraordinaire, will regale us with tales of his canoeing 'ups and downs' in his show 'Canoe Routes of Ontario'. RH Presbyterian Church. 10066 Yonge St. 7:30pm. Tickets available at October meeting or at the door.

**December – no meeting.** Christmas Bird Count will be on **Saturday, December 20** (all day). We are seeking a venue for the chili dinner. Please contact Natalie Helferty if you wish to volunteer your time or place for this event.

**Thurs. January 15, 2004** – Steve Gahbauer, hike leader of the Rouge Valley Foundation, will be showing his amazing trip through Costa Rica! Bella! RH Presbyterian Church. 7:30pm

**Thurs. February 19, 2004** – Steve Varga, MNR biologist and amazing field botanist, will show us the beauty of the Oak Ridges Moraine and what all the 'fuss' is about. RH Presbyterian Church. 7:30pm

**Thurs. March 18, 2004** – Douglas Skeates, 'retired' MNR forester and CESO member, will give a travelogue of his many environmental activities around the world. Exciting! RH Presbyterian Church 7:30pm

**Thurs. April 15, 2004** – Dr. Theo Hofmann, our bird records secretary and volunteer extraordinaire, will show us his wonderful trip to Spitzburgen, Norway and the birds he encountered. RH Presbyterian Church 6:00pm. AGM

### Toronto Entomological Association

- Saturday, October 25, 2003: 1 pm. ALDERVILLE - PRESERVING OUR NATURAL HABITAT with Rick Beaver, biologist, band member, and Natural Heritage Co-ordinator of Alderville First Nation's Black Oak Savannah. Alderville is north of Cobourg and contains the largest remnant of tallgrass prairie in central Ontario.

- Saturday, November 22, 2003: 1pm. "STRANGE THINGS DONE 'NEATH THE MIDNIGHT SUN: SEARCHING FOR MILUGIAK (AKA. BLACK FLIES) IN ARCTIC CANADA" with Doug Currie  
Doug is the Curator of Entomology in the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, Royal Ontario Museum and Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology, University of Toronto.

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## MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Note to all birders,

I just finished reading Scott Weidensaul's excellent book on migration, "Living On The Wind". Bob Falconer (who recommended it to me) said back in the spring as we hiked around Tiny Marsh, "It is a MUST read". Great book. Mark Cocker's "Birders: Tales of a Tribe" is also a good read. – Ron Fleming

## EVENTS PAST

On June 16, 2003, twenty-one nestling Great Egrets (one more than last year) were banded at the heron colony on Motor Island on the Niagara River. So far this year we have received 16 observations with RED BANDS WITH WHITE LETTER-NUMBERS ABOVE THE KNEE OF THE LEFT LEG AND THE TRADITIONAL ALUMINUM BAND ABOVE THE ANKLE OF THE RIGHT LEG, but all of these have been within a fifty mile radius of the Niagara River. Most of these Great Egrets have now moved on and we are asking observers to look for them further afield.

The band code on the red band can usually be read with a spotting scope as the letter numbers are nearly an inch high.

If you see any, please, if possible record the letter(s) and number(s) and let Theo Hofmann know.



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The Richmond Hill Naturalists and the Canadian Peregrine Foundation (CPF) released three peregrine falcons to the wild: 'Richmond', 'Major Mack' and 'Miriam'. The release was done from the top of the Richmond Hill Town Hall at 11 am on August 8, 2003. Peregrine falcons are still endangered in Ontario and being assaulted by the West Nile Virus. This may possibly be the final year of hacking in Richmond Hill since MNR currently does not wish to continue the release of peregrines. We will be crossing our fingers for the coming years and watch to see whether the population will stabilize or not. If not for urban hacks like this, the falcon would not have recovered as well as it has!

RHN's regular fundraiser under Baillie Birdathon is still available for those that wish to honour tradition, but with a funding shortfall for their West Nile Virus inoculation study, and no funding from the Trillium Foundation as of yet, the Canadian Peregrine Foundation is in dire need of funding for this program this year. Operating on a hope and a prayer, the Richmond Hill hack will continue, but funding is desperately needed! Each transmitter costs \$18,000 to deploy and with 2 transmitters, the costs are enormous! In exchange for your donation, a charitable tax receipt is available from CPF.

In addition, postcards with RHN logo on the back you can use for sending notes are available for every donatio; we will have them at each meeting.

The postcard photo of Qetesh, CPF's matriarch education falcon, is wonderful! Please give generously!

Thanks all for your assistance with this program!!  
Without you it couldn't happen!!! The birds thank you too!

- Natalie Helferty
- 27A – 81 Northern Heights Dr., RH, L4B 4C9

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On Saturday, September 6th, 2003 the annual Corn Roast was once again held at Russ Tilt's house. This was a last minute change of venue, as this year's corn roast had been planned to be at the Amos Wright Heritage Centre on Church St. just north of Centre St. in downtown Richmond Hill. Over 50 people showed up.

A warm thanks must go out to Russ for hosting the Corn Roast once again this year, and to all who helped with the large amount of preparation that must be done beforehand; an exhausting task for even the best of us! Thanks all for help in arrangements and we'll be sure to have more corn and hotdogs for next year. It was delicious, sweet corn—Graham Leonard was the champion, eating half a dozen! And you thought we weren't keeping track. ;-)

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A special Richmond Hill Council Meeting was held on September 15, 2003 in the Sheraton Parkway hotel for public consultation on the "North Leslie Secondary Plan" and all of the associated development applications, including a moraine parcel north of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Town is fortunately proceeding with an ecosystem approach at the OMB Hearing scheduled to commence November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Save the Rouge is a Party at the hearing. The Town fears a 'loophole' in the interpretation of the Transition Provisions of the ORM Act would allow all applications that were submitted before the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 2001 deadline to go forward as is on the moraine.

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On Thursday, September 18th, 2003 the first General meeting of the 2003-2004 season began, with our new president, Natalie Helferty, talking about the threatened Jefferson Salamander and the 'complex' genetics of the 'Ambystoma laterale-jeffersonianum-texanum-tigrinum-barbouri' complex—phew! It was an interesting and very 'complex' review of the unique reproductive 'cloning' of these species and their evolutionary past and future. Thanks to Dr. Jim Bogart of Guelph University for the use of his presentation.

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On Wednesday September 24, 2003 Richmond Hill Council called a meeting to adopt the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act into their Official Plan. Changes to the Official Plan include new urban areas created within the 'Settlement Areas' as designated by the Act (and approved by the minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing). These included 'secondary plans' for "Yonge West", "Yonge East" and the "OPA 138 expansion". The town has also noted that:

“there still remain four areas that are presently designated ‘Urban Fringe’ or ‘Rural Area’ by the Town’s Official Plan *that will require amendments to allow urban uses.*

These areas are:

1. The Harris/Beech area, being Plan 1916 located at the southwest corner of Jefferson Road and Yonge Street;
  2. The Muirhead Crescent Area, being plan 349 and located at the northwest corner of Yonge Street and Stouffville Road. This area includes a parcel of land not in Plan 349 to the north of the plan on Yonge Street;
  3. The lands on the west side of Leslie Street between Bethesda Road and Stouffville Road; and,
  4. The lands at the southwest corner of Bayview Avenue and Bethesda Road owned by Casa Developments.
- The Harris/Beech area and the Muirhead Crescent Area, along with the Bond Lake Investors Subdivision and the Zavala subdivision will make up an addition to the South Urban Area. The remaining lands along with the Oak Ridges Moraine Co-Tenancy subdivision and the 1133373 Ontario Limited (Lebovic) subdivision will make up an addition to the North Urban Area.”

According to the act, in order for the town to have development approved on these lands it must now prepare “complete Secondary Plans and Master Environment and Servicing Plans”.

Except for the North Leslie lands (pending), hamlet of Gormley and the lands within the Core, Linkage, and Countryside areas (as outlined in the act), every last piece of land within the town of Richmond Hill has now been essentially approved for ‘urban development’. Our ‘Rural’ lands are now gone in Richmond Hill...the end of an era.

## General Interest

The Markham Library has purchased an encyclopedia called "Handbook of the Birds of the World". It is now available for In-Library use only in the Unionville Library reference section. It is a beautifully illustrated and very detailed encyclopedia set, which covers the non-passerines. There are seven volumes now. Volume eight is about to be published and is on order. There will eventually be 12 volumes in total, which will be purchased as they are printed. These volumes would be an excellent reference for anyone traveling to other parts of the world as well as those who are interested in local birds.

Richmond Hill residents are welcome to come to the Unionville Library. The Unionville Library is at 15 Library Lane (just east off Unionville Main Street).  
 - Pat Reid, Collection Development Coordinator, Markham Public Libraries  
 (Many thanks to Muriel Farrant for suggesting the library purchase these volumes.)

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From the Environmental News Network, September 2, 2003

A study of 105 big cities by the World Bank and the ecology organization the World Wide Fund for Nature, dubbed "Running Pure", has shown that major cities should focus efforts and funds on conserving forests, which naturally purify their drinking water, saving them from spending billions of dollars on water treatment facilities.

Preserving their forests — which reduce landslides, erosion, and sediment; improve water purity by filtering pollutants; and, in some cases, capture and store water — is a cost-effective way to provide clean drinking water.

"For many cities, time is running out. Protecting forests around water catchment areas is no longer a luxury but a necessity," said David Cassells, senior environmental specialist for forest resources with the World Bank. "When they are gone, the costs of providing clean and safe drinking water to urban areas will increase dramatically."

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Chris Elliot, director of WWF's "Forests for Life" program, highlighted the stark case of New York, whose 9 million residents get much of their water from the Catskill/Delaware watersheds in upstate New York. A recent evaluation showed it would cost \$7 billion to build a water treatment plant, against a \$1 billion bill for actively managing the forest catchment area by raising water taxes and paying farmers to use less fertilizer and reduce grazing. [Ed: This is another great reason why we should be actively working to protect greenspace surrounding Toronto. ]

## NATURE NEWS



### Volunteer for Nature

Together, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) Ontario Region are creating new conservation volunteering opportunities in Ontario through their Volunteer for Nature (VfN) program. Funded by The Ontario Trillium Foundation, the goal of the program is to provide people with opportunities to work outdoors, enjoy being part of a team, learn new skills and participate in hands-on conservation projects in Ontario's spectacular natural places. There are two types of VfN events. NCC hosts one-day events called Nature Conservation Days. The FON hosts Ontario Nature Volunteers expeditions, which are 3 to 16 day working vacations that take place across the province. There is something for everyone!

In 2003 we have already hosted over 20 volunteer events! And the season is not over yet. Please visit [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org) to learn about the many events scheduled for this fall.

**"Volunteer for Nature"** outings (from the *Federation of Ontario Naturalists* and Nature Conservancy of Canada) can be found at <http://www.ontarionature.org/action/schedule.php>.

### Ontario Government weakens forestry laws

The Ontario Government's has substantially weakened environmental protection rules for public forests (crown land) by endorsing **unlimited-size** clearcuts, weak protection for old growth forests, and the *logging of remnant areas of roadless wilderness*. The Ontario Cabinet is putting short-term wood supplies to industry ahead of the long-term health of our natural forests and all the species that depend on them.

Late Friday, July 4, 2003, a cabinet-approved "Declaration Order" was posted by the Ministry of the Environment to replace the original terms and conditions of the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management in Ontario (EA). The EA decision, originally issued in 1994, was the master rulebook to guard against negative environmental impacts from logging on public lands in Ontario. More than 90% of forestry in Ontario occurs on public lands. The new decision *deletes* the legal requirement for the Ministry of Natural Resources to develop a policy to protect large areas of wilderness that remain undivided by roads, *eliminates* the upper size limit on clearcuts, and endorses a **requirement** for forestry companies to create massive clearcuts. Currently, ninety percent of logging in Ontario is in the form of clearcutting.

The new order also endorses a weak "old-growth policy" with no clear conservation requirements.

Hundreds of formal submissions on the proposal, to the Minister, and to the Premier have all been ignored. Amidst the largely negative changes approved by the government, was the positive re-affirmation of its commitment to the "Room-to-Grow" policy. Under this policy, new increases in wood supply to the forest industry will be balanced by park and protected area creation to ensure that industrial growth does not foreclose all options for conservation. The decision also increases requirements for scientific monitoring of forestry impacts and forest growth.

-----  
On September 18, 2003 a report was released by Greenpeace, ForestEthics and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) entitled, "Through the Trees, the Truth behind Logging in Canada".

The report states that Canada's governments have failed to protect the Canadian Boreal forest, one of the world's largest areas of intact forest. The environmental groups are calling on Canada and its provinces to halt industrial development in the most endangered areas of the Boreal forest while conservation planning can be completed, protected areas established.

The report states facts such as:

- Since 1975, logging companies have cut 25-million hectares of forest, an area greater than that of the UK.
- The amount of land that is 'clearcut' has increased by 40% in the last 28 years.
- 431 species are listed as at risk on Canada's federal endangered species' list.
- Few of Canada's logging operations are certified as environmentally or socially sustainable.

Approximately 80 % of the world's original forests are already destroyed or degraded, and Canada's Boreal forest represents almost one quarter of what's left. The report can be viewed at

<http://www.greenpeace.ca/e/campaign/boreal/documents/BorealReport.pdf>

# BIRD OBSERVATIONS

## JUNE

### Toronto

Common Nighthawk - 1 at Etobicoke June 30 (MWh).

Gray Catbird - 1 at Cabbage Town June 27 (MWh).

### Peel Region

Great Blue Heron - 9 at Humber Grove area June 21 (TH,PG,BE,RT).

Northern Harrier - 1 at Hartman/Castleberg Private Pr. June 26 (PG).

Upland Sandpiper - 2 @Countryside Rd. S of Mayfield Jun21 (BNo). 2 @Upper Etobicoke Cr.Subwatershd Jun26 (TRCA fide SH).

Black-billed Cuckoo -1 at Countryside Rd. S of Mayfield June 21 [Carrying Food] (BNo).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 @Upper Etobicoke Cr Jun11 [Singing M.] (TRCA fide SH). 1 at Heart Lake Cons. Area Jun29 (BNo).

Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 at Hartman/Castleberg Private Pr. June 26 (PG).

Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1 at Heart Lake Conservation Area June 29 (BNo).

Northern Flicker - 1 at Humber Grove area June 21 [Adult entering] (TH,PG,BE).

Pileated Woodpecker - 2 at Hartman/Castleberg Private Pr. June 29 (PG).

Brown Creeper - 1 at Hartman/Castleberg Private Pr. June 29 (PG).

Eastern Bluebird - 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove June 01-30 [Nest with eggs] (PG).

Northern Mockingbird - 2 at Innis Lake Road Peel June 20-30 (PF fide PG).

Blue-winged Warbler - 1 at Duffy's Lane June 04 (PG).

Pine Warbler - 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove June 01-30 [Nesting] (PG).

Prothonotary Warbler - 1 at Peel Region, Private property June 14 (PG).

Mourning Warbler - 1 at Duffy's Lane June 04 (PG). 1 at Heart Lake Conservation Area June 29 (BNo).

Clay-colored Sparrow - 1 at Duffy's Lane June 04 (PG).

Vesper Sparrow - 1 at Clairville Cons. Area June 24-27 (ARa).

Indigo Bunting -2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove June 01-30 (PG).

### York Region

Osprey - 1 at Preston Lake June 28 (RJF).

Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love June 01-30 (JLo).

Cooper's Hawk - 1 at YRF - Scout Tract June 28 (RJF).

Northern Gos hawk - 1 at Kennedy & Vandorf June 07 (RJF,KRS).

Red-shouldered Hawk - 2 at York Region Forest June 01 [on nest] (RJF). 1 at YRF - Scout Tract June 28 [Singing Male] (RJF).

Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 at Dunlap Observatory June 18 (TH).

Black-bellied Plover - 18 at Major MacKenzie & 9th line June 02 (SLo).

Semipalmated Plover - a few at Coyote Pond, Markham June 02 (SLo).

Lesser Yellowlegs - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham June 27,28 [1st fall migrant] (SLo).

Spotted Sandpiper - 2 at Dufflang Pond Langst./Dufferin June 28 [Fledged young] (TH).

Least Sandpiper - large number at Coyote Pond, Markham June 02 (SLo).

Dunlin - 30 at Coyote Pond, Markham June 01 (SLo).

Black-billed Cuckoo - 1 at YRF - Hall Tract June 18 [Singing Male] (RJF).

Common Nighthawk - 1 at Kipling & King-Vaughan Line June 03,14 (JLo,DSt).

Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 at King-Vaughan Line June 12 (BE).

Acadian Flycatcher - 1 at Happy Valley Jun 08 [Singing M.] (KRS). 1 at Pefferlaw Jun 08 [Singing Male] (LNo,JNo).

Yellow-throated Vireo - 1 at Dunlap Observatory June 18 [Singing Male] (TH).

Common Raven - 2 Imm at YRF N. Tract Jun 12 [with young] (AHe). 1 at YRF - Eldred King Tr. June 18 [Singing M.] (RJF).



Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Headwaters Park Richmond Hill June 06 (GL). 1 at Beresford Drive Richmond Hill June 29 (GL).  
Brewster's Warbler - 1 at Warden \* Aurora Rd. June 07 (RJF,KRS).  
Bay-breasted Warbler - 5 at Pangman Springs Cons. Area June 01 (RJF).  
Blackpoll Warbler - 7 at Pangman Springs Cons. Area June 01 (RJF).  
Bobolink - 6 at Southbrook Farm Richmond Hill June 20 (TH,GD).  
Orchard Oriole - 1 at Lane W of Hwy 27,at MajorMack. June 21 (JLo).  
Purple Finch - 1 at Kennedy & St. John S.R. June 07 (RJF,KRS).

## JULY

### Peel Region

Black-crowned Night-Heron - 5 at Sandalwood Pk.& Heart Lake Rd. July 20 (BNo).  
Hooded Merganser - 1 at Centreville Creek July 02 [Fledged young] (TRCA fide SH).  
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove July 14 (PG).  
Broad-winged Hawk - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area July 19 (DMi).  
Greater Yellowlegs - 1 at Pond at Bovaird and Dixie July 17 (ARa).  
Lesser Yellowlegs - 3 at Pond at Bovaird and Dixie July 17 (ARa).  
Short-billed Dowitcher - 1 at Pond at Bovaird and Dixie July 17 (ARa).  
Northern Flicker - 1 Juv at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) July 19 (DMi).  
Blue Jay - 3 Juv at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) July 19 (DMi).  
Eastern Bluebird - 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove July 01 [Nest with eggs] (PG) 2nd brood, 5 eggs each time.  
Northern Mockingbird - 2 at Innis Lake Road Peel July 01-17 (PF).  
Brown Thrasher - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion July 17-18 (BCa).  
Blue-winged Warbler - 1 at Centreville Creek July 02 [Singing Male] (TRCA fide SH).  
Black-throated Blue Warbler - 2 (pair) at Centreville Creek July 02 (TRCA fide SH).  
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion July 13-19 (BCa) Visits bird bath daily.  
Black-and-white Warbler - 1 Juv at Palgrave Conservation Area July 19 (DMi).  
Common Yellowthroat - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area July 19 (DMi).  
Swamp Sparrow - 1 Juv at Palgrave Conservation Area July 19 (DMi).  
Indigo Bunting - 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove July 01-17 [on nest] (PG).  
Orchard Oriole - 2 m,1 f,3 young at Clairville Cons. Area July 14-17 [Fledged young] (ARa).  
Baltimore Oriole - 5 Juv at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) July 19 (DMi).  
Evening Grosbeak - 1 Juv-M at Cameron Property, Albion July 19 (BCa) Barry's first in 2 years.

### York Region

Green Heron - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham July 17 (SLo).  
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 1 at Beaver Cr.NW Leslie & 16th R.H July 21 (RSt).  
Trumpeter Swan - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham July 16 (SLo) Not tagged.  
Wood Duck - family at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons July 28 (RJF).  
Hooded Merganser - fem.w.9 young at 7th Conc. S of Happy Valley July 03 (AL).  
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at M.Mack & Hwy27 Jul01-17 (JLo). 1 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Jul21,25,27,30 (SDP).  
Northern Goshawk - 2 (pair) at YRF North Tract July 02 (TH).  
Broad-winged Hawk - 1 at Mulock & Bathurst July 30 [Circling above] (RJF).  
Peregrine Falcon - 1 at Weston Rd. N of King S.R. July 06 (RJF).  
Semipalmated Plover - 2 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons July 28 (RJF).  
Greater Yellowlegs - a few at Coyote Pond, Markham July 15 (SLo).  
Lesser Yellowlegs - a few at Coyote Pond, Markham July 15 (SLo).  
Solitary Sandpiper - 4 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons July 28 (RJF).  
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham July 19 (SLo).

Pectoral Sandpiper - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham July 31 (SLo).  
 Stilt Sandpiper - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham July 16,31 (SLo).  
 Short-billed Dowitcher - 1 (sbsp.hendersoni) at Coyote Pond, Markham July 12, 2 on July 15 (SLo).  
 Wilson's Phalarope - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham July 15 (SLo).  
 Hairy Woodpecker - ad. with young at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love July 01-17 (JLo).  
 Northern Flicker - 2 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges July 01-31 (SDP).  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 1 at YRF North Tract July 02 (TH).  
 Willow Flycatcher - 1 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons July 28 (RJF).  
 Common Raven - used nest at YRF North Tract July 02 [Used nest] (TH,ChvR).  
 Cliff Swallow - 10 at Reesor Road & 407 Markham July 17 (SLo). New Colony  
 Brown Creeper - 1 at YRF North Tract July 02 [Carrying Food] (TH).  
 Eastern Bluebird - 2 at Kipling & King-Vaughan Line July 06 (RJF).  
 Northern Mockingbird - 1@Weston N of King Jul06(RJF). 1 @McGillivray N of Rthfrd Jul15(JLo).  
 Brown Thrasher - 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love July 16 (JLo).  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 2@Nantucket Dr.Oak Rdgs Jul04-29(SDP).6 ad. w. young at M.MacK-Hwy.27 Jul16 (JLo).  
 Common Grackle - 60 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges July 01-31 (SDP).  
 American Goldfinch - 50 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges July 01-31 (SDP).  
**AHe Allison Hegarty, AL Ann Love, ARa Alfred Raab, BB Bruce Brydon, BCa Barry Cameron, BE Bill Edmunds, BNo Bob Noble, CAT Carol Ann Trabert, ChvR Christel von Richter, CMK Carol McKnight , D&AD David and Amy Darker, DMi Dave Milsom, DSt Dan Stuckey, DTH Doris Hofmann, EM Elizabeth Morton, FWh Freddy Whillans, GD Gene Denzel, GL Graham Leonard, GoC Gord Cameron, HL Harry Lumsden, JLo Joan Love, JMcL John McLean, JNo Joanne Nonnekes, JWa John Watson, KDu Keith Dunn, KRS Kevin Shackleton, LNo Lionel Normand, MCh Martin Chen, MWh Michael White, NH Natalie Helferty, PF Pat Fallis, PG Phyllis Graydon, RJF Ron Fleming, RL Raymond Leistner, RT Roger Taylor, SDP Susan DiPucchio, SH Sue Hayes, SLo Stan Long, SVa Sandy Vanderbrug, TH Theo Hofmann**

## From the Editor

It's election time in Ontario, and change is in the air. Many people in Ontario are simply fed up with the current government, with its one-policy platform of tax-cuts, its negative ad campaigns, and its blatant conceit for anything that might be of concern to those people who care about wildlife, nature, and the environment.

Being a naturalist, I find it quite offending to hear about some of the past offences inflicted upon the people, animals, and natural areas of this province by its own government - like the latest policies regarding Forestry rules that were made in complete disregard to the wishes of the majority of people in Ontario.

I might be dubbed an "undecided voter", in that I still have not made up my mind or joined any particular political party, however I have made one clear choice in this election so far, and that is that I will not vote for the PC Party of Ontario. The mess that has become the Ontario of today, from "Walkerton" to the "Beef scare", is not what I want to see become the 'trends of the future'.

The next government, whoever it may be\*, will be adopting from the current government all of problems that have been created over the past eight years. I wish them luck.

[\*The editor in no way endorses any particular political party, but will equally criticize any party that does not conform to the 'Naturalist' ethic.]

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[Footnote from the President: With regards to the municipal election, keep an eye on ACT Now, a grassroots group of residents involved with planning and protection of the moraine and heritage buildings in Richmond Hill (including yours truly) that is currently interviewing candidates to establish their positions on issues, particularly retaining ecological and historical integrity in Richmond Hill. See <http://www.richmondhillactnow.com> or contact Carrie Hoeffelner at 905-773-7700 for more information.]