



# THE BULLETIN

December, 2003 No. 432

## 2003 - 2004 EXECUTIVE

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## Events calendar

Botany Group	Date: Monday January 5 & February 2, 2004
Bird Group	Date: Wednesday January 14, 2004 Location: Muriel Farrant, 905-889-7156
Executive Meeting	Date: Tuesday January 13, 2004 Location: McConaghy Centre
General Meeting	Date: Thursday January 15, 2004 at 7:30pm Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church hall 10066 Yonge Street
Christmas Bird Count	Saturday, December 20, 2003 (All Day) Natalie Helferty, 905-881-8403
WINTER BIRDS	Saturday January 17, 2004 at 8:00 or 9:30am. Kleinburg area.

**See Details on Page 2**

## November General Meeting

The large audience which attended the joint meeting of the Richmond Hill Naturalists and the West Humber Naturalists in November was treated to an extremely entertaining and informative presentation by well-known canoeing enthusiast [Kevin Callan](#).

Kevin Callan is the author of eight books on canoeing and camping in Ontario and Quebec including, "A Paddler's Guide to Ontario", "A Paddler's Guide to the Rivers of Ontario and Quebec", "Gone Canoeing: A Paddler's Guide to Southern Ontario", and "Ontario's Lost Canoe Routes".

Kevin recently won first prize for the [National Outdoor Writers Award](#).

He kept us all engrossed with his running commentary and obvious passion and enthusiasm during his slide show on various canoeing adventures in Ontario. By popular demand he then showed a couple of short clips from two of his movies. (His first short film won the "best of" category in the 2002 [Waterwalker Film Festival](#), and the second film is now on tour across North America.)

Anyone who has done any back-country canoeing must have been itching for spring to come so as to get the paddle back in the water.



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

**Roderick and Sharon Stewart**  
**Heather Freedman**  
**Sharon & Robin Wood**  
**Emil & Eleanor Anthonissen**  
**Jackie Magee**

Meet our new members at club events and say Hello!

RHN Events:

### EVENTS FUTURE

- **Saturday, December 20, 2003.** 8am-4pm. York Region [Audubon Christmas bird count](#). Chillii supper will be hosted this year by [Valerie Kent](#). 173 St. Anthony's Court, Richmond Hill. 905-508-5531. Potluck contributions welcome. Leader Natalie Helferty. Call 416-416-460-2460.

#### Upcoming RHN General Meeting Speakers:

**Thurs. January 15, 2004** – Steve Gahbauer, hike leader of the [Rouge Valley Foundation](#), will be showing his amazing trip through Costa Rica! 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

- **Wednesday January 14, 2004.** The Bird Study Group meets at the Farrant's for an evening of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill. 905-889-7156.

- **Saturday January 17, 2004.** WINTER BIRDS Outing. Join Ron Fleming for this field trip to the Kleinburg area. We will do a hike through Joan Love's beautiful country property in the morning, then stop for a pint and a sandwich at Longchamp's Pub for lunch. After that, participants are invited to the afternoon leg, casually driving the country roads just west of Kleinburg in search of Snow Bunting, Mockingbird, Rough-legged Hawk, and Northern Shrike, among others. Dress warmly, bring proper winter boots and meet Ron at 8:00 a.m. at the Country Style Donuts in south Newmarket (just south of Yonge & Mulock on the west side of Yonge), or meet Ron in Kleinburg at the Coffee Time Donut shop on Islington Avenue at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Ron at (905) 898-7216.

- **Monday, February 2, 2004.** 12.30 p.m. The Botony Group will meet at the home of Dana Jonak to learn about the flora of different wetland habitats. 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill. 905-881-0603.

**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)).**

GTA Events:

Toronto Entomological Association

- **Saturday, January 24, 2004:** 1pm. "FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY" with David Gibo, professor of Biology at the University of Toronto. Location: Northrop Frye Hall, Room 113, Victoria University, 73 Queens Park Crescent, Toronto (Museum subway stop; opposite the ROM on the east side).

**MEMBER SUBMISSIONS**

2003 Botany Group October Meeting

In September one should be able to find many kinds of mushrooms but at the first fall meeting very few specimens were brought in. Apparently, they are scarce this year - perhaps because of the drought during the summer, making conditions not quite right for their development, however there were enough to make an interesting evening. (Ed. - Perhaps they are also rare because of the discovery by the many new Eastern European immigrants that our forests contain prolific fungi that can be gathered with near impunity. Specimens in forests may likely not be as accessible near the walking paths as in the recent past.)



Strange names were produced, such as *Coprinus comatus* (aka, The "Shaggy Mane" fungus, pictured left), *Coprinus plicatilis* (Japanese Parasol), *Lepiota cristata* (Stinking Parasol), *Leptiota procera*, Sharp Scaly Philiota, Multi-Colour Gill Procera, Multi Colour Gill Polyporus, Basidiomycetes, and Bracket Fungus were mentioned, and much discussion followed.

Two were called 'Parasol' Mushrooms because when their cap is fully expanded it has a distinct 'parasol' shape and a ring that can be moved up and down the stalk. Another was a cluster of tawny coloured mushrooms which were covered with small bumps or scales. A tiny delicate specimen which had been picked a day or two before had to be brought to the meeting inside of a little jar of alcohol to preserve it until the meeting. As well, a familiar puffball had been found. This mushroom has a large number of minute spores, and if it is touched (or raindrops fall on it), these spores can be seen escaping through a pore in the top of the cap. One mushroom had been found growing like a 'bracket' on a tree trunk.

From the Grolier's Science Journal from 1993, we learned about one mushroom, the *Armillaria bulbosa*, that had been found growing underground for 1,500 to 10,000 years over an area at least 37 acres (15 Hectares) in size, in Crystal Falls, Michigan. It is considered to be the oldest living organism on Earth. (Ed. - May also be the largest!) Overall, it was a fascinating and informative afternoon for the first meeting of the season.

- Freddy Whillans

Bird Group Meeting for November 2003

In our November bird study group the Barn and Cliff Swallows are compared. In appearance, the Cliff Swallow has rounded wings and a short square tail, square head, dark throat and a pale buffy rump. The Barn Swallow is very "elegant", with long slender pointed wings, and is most noticeable because of its deeply forked tail, making it easier to identify. The plumage is also more flowing than the other swallows. As with most swallows, the male and the female of each species have similar plumage.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Hiking Trail (ORMHT)

The [Oak Ridges Trail Association](#) (ORTA) is looking to partner with members of the Richmond Hill Naturalists to identify an optimal route for the ORMHT through Oak Ridges.

Stan Butcher (lives in Oak Ridges), who is the Chapter Chair for the Aurora Branch of ORTA has started to work for ORTA, with the Town of Richmond Hill, on the "southern" route for the Trail, crossing Yonge Street near Bond Lake. The purpose is to fulfill the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan with respect to a Trail across the Moraine in the Core and Linkage areas. The present "northern" route through Aurora will be maintained, as it provides a more direct route from King to Whitchurch.

**Valerie Kent**  
Artist

Watercolours • Acrylics

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www.valeriekent.com  
artistvalerie@rogers.com

Currently a Planning Committee, which will also include members from King and Whitchurch-Stouffville Chapters, is being established. Stan is particularly keen to make contact with people who are members of the Richmond Hill Naturalists who may have some great ideas about the route options. If you are interested in helping to shape the route of this hiking trail through Oak Ridges please contact me and I will put you in touch with Stan.

- Diana Piché. 905-773-4199 or [diana.piche@sympatico.ca](mailto:diana.piche@sympatico.ca)

### Bird Group Meeting for November.



During this meeting, the Barn swallow and the Cliff swallow were compared.

In appearance the Cliff Swallow has rounded wings and a short square tail, square head, dark throat and a pale buffy rump. The Barn swallow is “very elegant” with long slender pointed wings and is most noticeable because of its deeply forked tail. The plumage is generally easier to recognize and more flowing than with other swallows. Like most swallows the male and the female have similar plumages. The food is much the same for both: mostly aerial insects, with the Cliff Swallow sometimes eating berries. The Barn Swallow feeds mainly on insects in flight, and occasionally berries and seeds.



Both these birds prefer to be near open water, although the Cliff Swallow is likely to forage over land, and at greater altitudes. The Barn Swallow generally feeds at lower altitudes over both water and fields.

The nests of Cliff Swallows are 'colonial' in their nesting habits, and will build jug shaped nests on cliffs, under bridges, and in eaves. Barn Swallows build their half-cup shaped nests on ledges and walls of buildings.

Cliff Swallows occur in both North America and Central America, and winter in South America anywhere from Paraguay and Central/Southeast Brazil to South-central Argentina. Barn Swallows are found throughout the Northern Hemisphere and winter from the Lesser Antilles, Puerto Rico and Panama south to the southern tip of South America.

The voice of the Cliff Swallow is described by Sibley as: “song thin, strained, with drawn out, creaking and rattling sounds; shorter and simpler than the Barn Swallow. The call is a husky 'verr' or lower drier, rolled 'vrrrt'. A bird who raises an alarm at a colony issues a soft low 'veew.' The Barn Swallow, again quoting Sibley, “(has) song lilting with husky, squeaky quality like call notes; regularly interrupted by dry creaking rattles. The call is a husky 'vit' or 'vi-vit', and the Alarm sound is, as Harper indicates: 'vit-VEET' or 'si-VLIT'.

The size of the Cliff Swallow is about 5.5 inches(14cm) long and the barn is 6.75(17cm) inches long.

- Notes by Muriel Farrant

## EVENTS PAST

### Passing:

Edge Pegg, long time member of the Richmond Hill naturalists, passed away on August 31st. His wife, Betty Pegg, continues to live with her son in their house at the southwest corner of Westney Rd. and 7th concession, across from the entrance to Clairmont Conservation Area. Edge has loved nature his whole life. On his 90th birthday, Edge and his wife Betty sent a cheque for \$225 to the Thickson's Woods conservation area and land trust to help purchase and protect a meadow within Thickson's woods. During his 90th birthday celebration, along with his own contribution his family and friends together also contributed more than \$1,300 toward saving the meadow. He will be missed dearly by all those who loved nature, and his passing is a great loss for us all.

### October General Meeting

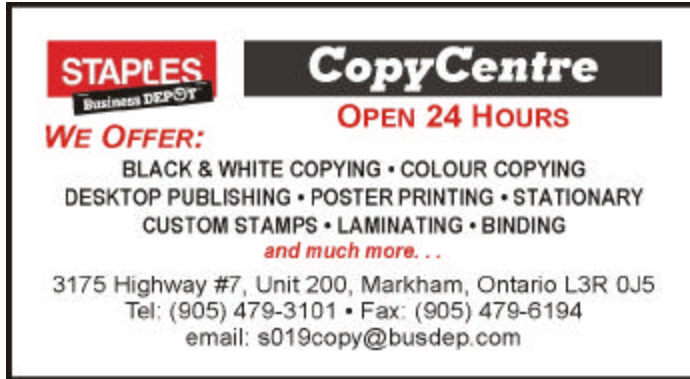
At the general meeting in October we had a visit from the researcher and lecturer Tom Mason. Tom has worked for 23 years at Toronto Zoo and is currently Curator of Invertebrates and Acting Curator of Birds. Tom has traveled and collected on 5 continents, worked on conservation projects in Cuba and Costa Rica, as well as being a tour leader for fish and reptile enthusiasts to Costa Rica. He has bred over 50 species of reptiles and amphibians, and worked on three recovery teams for Ontario endangered species, including captive breeding. He was once a guest on Jay Ingram's program "Discovery Connection" on the Discovery Channel.



His lecture was all about spiders. He noted that many insects look like spiders, but that spiders are from the order Arachnid. The vast majority of spiders are not only harmless but are in fact beneficial because they prey upon flies, crickets and other damaging insects. Spiders can be distinguished because they all have eight legs, as opposed to insects, which generally have only six.

Spiders can and do chew their food, but they must send digestive enzymes into the bodies of their prey and then suck the resulting fluid out of the victims. The only deadly local spiders are the Black Widow and the Brown Recluse Spider. The Black Widow can be found from the equator to latitude 45 north -- which also includes Richmond Hill. The Black Widow is a small black spider with a small red dot on its back. It builds an 'untidy' web.

The Brown Recluse Spider (of the Americas) has a feature that distinguishes it from many other harmless spiders



due to a somewhat dark violin-shaped marking on top of the leg-bearing section of the body (the abdomen). The 'neck' of the violin "silhouette" points towards the rear of the spider. Brown Recluse spiders are found mainly in the southern and Midwestern states, especially Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Tom showed us many tropical spiders from his extensive travels. He wanted everyone to remember that spiders benefit man by reducing insect pests. In fact, if there were no spiders, most of our farmed food products would be destroyed by pest insects.

- Martin Chen

### **Oak Ridges Moraine Protest**

During the period from about October 18th to October 21st the Grand Opening of a new home sales centre at Yonge Street and Stouffville Road on the Oak Ridges Moraine was met by a group of protesters who stayed on site doing a 24 hour vigil with a 'Save Don't Pave' sign in front of the sales office. Protesters included some members of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, members of ['Earthroots'](#), staff from ['Environmental Defense Canada'](#) (EDC), 'ACTNow', and the 'Jefferson Forest Residents Association' - about 25 to 30 people in total.

During the run up to the recent election, our new premier Dalton McGuinty had proclaimed his government would stop development on this area of the moraine in Richmond Hill, and EDC took a leading role in organizing a presence at the site in the wake of the premier's re-iteration of this position at a meeting on the night of October 17th. This caused a stir among the local media, including CFTO TV, Global TV, and the new VR, who then covered Richmond Hill extensively, even using a helicopter at one point.

The developers (Metrus/AspenRidge [[www.macleodslanding.com](http://www.macleodslanding.com)] and 'Duke of Richmond'), who planned to build houses both north and south of Jefferson Sideroad east of Yonge Street, were out at the site with over 12 graders, grubbing and grading the rest of the 'Yonge West' lands as fast as possible.

It was a friendly protest with lots of signs available for carrying. Friendly police concerned for peoples safety requested people to keep back from the edge of the asphalt and keep the driveway clear for all the new home buyers who kept the parking lot full most of the morning. There was much support in the way of horn honking and waving from passing traffic. One of the new home buyers upon leaving the sales building was reported to have told one of the protesters that they were not even aware that the site is on the moraine.

There was a symbolic tree planting at the rally site on October 21st, which represented the start of the restoration of the site, and a statement on behalf of the Richmond Hill Naturalists was presented in a report at an 11 am rally at the site by EDC, which read,

*The Richmond Hill Naturalists have been fighting to save the Oak Ridges Moraine for ten years - we are overjoyed that the new Premier will act to save this incredible feature.*

*Our members are fully committed to supporting and participating in the restoration of these Oak Ridges Moraine sites in Richmond Hill.*

- Compiled from reports by Tom Waechter and Natalie Helferty

### **RHN Walk October 25, 2003**

Over a dozen people came out to the Walk at Pomona Mills Park. The light rain did not scare of our group of tree lovers. Ann Fowle shared her work with the Pomona Park Conservation society. Andy, a history student, explained the story behind the mills on the East Don River. The colourful plant life was spectacular; the birds were singing.

- Martin Chen

## General Interest

Chris Winter of the Conservation Council of Ontario has assembled one of the most informative websites on energy conservation. At a recent meeting of the Coalition for a Green Economy Chris identified Energy, Urban Sprawl, and Waste as the three most important challenges for the new Provincial government. The CCO website, <http://www.greenontario.org/> features great tips on energy conservation, individual solutions, hints for community action, policy information and much more.

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The following is an excerpt from a letter to the Commissioners of the Niagara Escarpment Commission from September 16, 2002. It is an important letter outlining the lack of credibility of "Ecoplans" as a consultant. "Ecoplans" was the consulting firm that "missed" the Jefferson salamander and did not do amphibian migration surveys for the Bayview extension in Richmond Hill (they sent their 'birder' out in June to find amphibians).

From this they claimed the Jefferson forest area to be 'insignificant', despite it being a provincial ANSI (and surrounded by 4 other ANSI's).



I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Dufferin Aggregates extension. In this letter I will provide some information on species-at-risk that has not been addressed by Dufferin or by the JART review. My letter will focus on birds, but could be applied to other organisms, if more data were available.

The survey by Ecoplans documented five significant bird species. One, the Prairie Warbler, considered Vulnerable provincially in 1999, is presently "Not in Any Category" in Ontario. The others, with their national status, are the Acadian Flycatcher (Endangered), the Hooded Warbler (Threatened), the Louisiana Waterthrush (Special Concern), and the Red-shouldered Hawk (Special Concern).

As part of my field work on the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, I documented (in 2001 and 2002) a 5th Nationally Significant species in the adjacent lands: the Red-headed Woodpecker (Special Concern).

This results in a total of five nationally at-risk bird species from the Dufferin survey area. For an area of roughly 6 square km, this appeared to me to be a lot of species, so I asked the following question: How many sites in Ontario support 5 or more Nationally Significant bird species?

To answer this question I examined the Ontario-wide distributions of all 20 species of birds listed by COSEWIC as being nationally at-risk. I limited my data to the years 1995-2002. Principal sources of data for this study were:

1. Breeding Birds of Ontario Atlas database, 2001-2002 (2,204 10 x 10 km squares)
2. Important Bird Areas listings
3. Natural Heritage Information Center data
4. Published records

I found a province-wide total of only 5 sites that house 5 or more Nationally Significant birds:

1. The Norfolk Forest Complex (49 km<sup>2</sup>), with 7 species.
2. Carden Plain (202 km<sup>2</sup>), with 6 species.
3. Port Franks Forested Dunes (62 km<sup>2</sup>), with 6 species.
4. Greater Rondeau (87 km<sup>2</sup>), with 5 species.
5. Dufferin survey area (6 km<sup>2</sup>), with 5 species.

From this list it is clear that the Dufferin site is highly significant for rare birds. It is much smaller than the other sites, all of which are recognized as Important Bird Areas (as determined by Birdlife International). I found that only 3 of the 2,204 bird-atlas 10 x 10 km squares support 5 or more at-risk birds. These squares are clustered together in the Long Point area, and are near or within the Norfolk Forest complex listed above.

In their report on significant bird species, Dufferin downplayed the importance of these records, first by questioning the status of their own records, and further by claiming that the rare birds occurred outside the extension area and would not be affected by an adjacent quarry. In examining the work done to date I find that Dufferin's methodology and search effort are insufficient. I do not find that they have adequate evidence to draw the conclusion that the area is not important for at-risk birds. I also believe that the JART has not followed through on these issues. Each at-risk species that occurs within the Dufferin survey area needs to be assessed individually to determine the local population size and requirements for ongoing viability. I would like to give two examples that demonstrate my position:

1. A male Acadian Flycatcher was encountered by Ecoplans in mid-June 1999, the last year of their survey. In only two subsequent visits to the site they were unable to document the bird again and concluded it must have been a lone male. A singing male present in June falls into the Breeding Bird Atlas category of Possible Breeder. This Endangered species is very rare in Canada, the entire population is thought to be no more than 50 pairs. We do not have enough information on this species in Canada to know when these birds stop singing, but many other birds cease to sing mid-June after breeding successfully. Since 1999, neither Dufferin nor JART has made any attempt to methodically search for Acadian Flycatcher.
2. A Prairie warbler was recorded by Dufferin during June 1999. Again they claim this record represents a stray male as they were unable to locate the bird on subsequent visits. With the knowledge that Prairie warblers might be in the area, in June 2001 John Pisapio, MNR ecologist, played a tape recording of a Prairie warbler song IN THE EXTENSION AREA and elicited a strong territorial response by a resident male Prairie Warbler. Surprisingly, no further action was taken by the JART and no methodical surveys have been made for this species.

It is clear that not enough attention has been paid to the rare birds in the Dufferin survey area. The situation is no better for other organisms. Ecoplans asserted that there were no listed mammals in the area. I question this. Two mammals of Special Concern nationally are known to exist in Halton: the Southern Flying Squirrel and Woodland Vole. Both of these mammals likely occur in the extension or adjacent lands, but no trapping surveys have been conducted by Dufferin or the JART.

The Niagara Escarpment is a World Biosphere Reserve. The mandate of a Biosphere is "to safeguard samples of biodiversity". This is to be effected by establishment of core areas and protected buffer zones that together will act to maintain or enhance the biodiversity of the area. I found no other site on the escarpment that supported as many at-risk species of birds. Even at a provincial level this small part of the escarpment is highly significant. Therefore, this area must be considered as a core area and deserves adequate protection. The buffer zone for this area should not be a quarry. This core area should not be subject to an experimental water management system from now to perpetuity. Natural wetlands are critical to the ecosystem and to the survival of many of the rare species in the area. My recommendation to the Commission is not to accept the Dufferin proposal at this time. Act in good faith toward the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the World Biosphere reserve and vote No, or at the least defer judgment until each at-risk species has been properly assessed.

Sincerely,  
Fiona A. Reid

- Submitted by Natalie Helferty, President

## NATURE NEWS

December 15, 2003. The new provincial government made changes to the wording in the Planning Act to direct municipalities to be more protective of nature including woodlands, wetlands and habitats of species at risk. The changes will also increase protection for a small portion of the Oak Ridges Moraine at Richmond Hill. The new act changes the wording so that municipalities, developers, and the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) are required to be 'consistent with' provincial policies to protect natural features and areas and must pay far more attention to the protection of nature and wildlife across Ontario, including wetlands, woodlands, threatened and endangered species habitats, and significant wildlife habitat areas. It is far stronger than the current wording of 'shall have regard to' in the Planning Act. The act also helps to prevent appeals to the OMB of urban expansions that are opposed by elected municipal governments and increases the time periods available for municipalities to review

planning applications before they can be appealed to the OMB, including doubling the approvals process for subdivisions to 180 days from 90 days, and changing zoning application times to 120 days from 90 days.

- compiled from information in FON Winter 2003 Nature Network News & an article by [Lee Greenberg in The Ottawa Citizen](#).

## BIRD OBSERVATIONS

### OCTOBER

#### Durham Region

Turkey Vulture - 25 at Oshawa Second Marsh Oct.12 (H&MF).

Brown Creeper - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh Oct.14 (MuF,FWh).

Northern Mockingbird - 2 at Oshawa Second Marsh Oct.12, one Oct. 14 (H&MF).

#### Toronto

Winter Wren - 2 at Leslie Street Spit Oct.25 (RJF,TH,EDo).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 2 at Leslie Street Spit Oct.25 (TH,EDo,RJF).

Hermit Thrush - 1 at Leslie Street Spit Oct.25 (RJF).

Orange-crowned Warbler - 1 at Leslie Street Spit Oct.25 (TH,EDo,MMcK).

Eastern Meadowlark - 1 at Leslie Street Spit Oct.25 (RJF).

#### Peel Region

Osprey - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion Oct.07 [Flying over] (BCa).

Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Graydon Prop, Humber Grove Oct.01-17 (PG).1 at Cameron Prop, Albion Oct.06 (BCa).

Wild Turkey - 3 at Cedar Mills Mount Hope Road Oct.15 (anon.,PG,).

House Wren - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion Oct.06 (BCa).

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 2 at Cameron Property, Albion Oct.06 (BCa).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 2 at Cameron Property, Albion Oct.06 (BCa).

White-throated Sparrow - 5 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Oct.09 (PG).

Dark-eyed Junco - small flock at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Oct.12 (PG).

#### York Region

Pied-billed Grebe - 1 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Oct.20 (SLo).1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.30 (SLo).

Great Blue Heron - 1 at Markham Village Boardwalk Oct.16 (SLo).

Turkey Vulture - 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.11 (JLo).7 at Markham Village Oct.16 [Flying over] (SLo).

Snow Goose - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.10,17 (SLo) both Blue Phase.

Trumpeter Swan - 6 (2 ad., 4 imm.) at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.20 (SLo).

Wood Duck - 4 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Oct.20 (SLo).

Hooded Merganser - 3 at St Johns SR Marsh Oct.19 (RJF).

Red-breasted Merganser - 30 at St Johns SR Marsh Oct.19 (RJF).

Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.11 (JLo).1 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill Oct.19 (SVa).

American Kestrel - 2 at Pond Major Mc& Bayview Oct.08 (GL,BC).

Merlin - 1 at Bethesda Rd. E of Lake Wilcox Oct.26 (RJF).

American Coot - 5 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Oct.20 (SLo).4 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.30 (SLo).

Greater Yellowlegs - 1 at Pond Major Mc. & Bayview Oct.08 (GL,BC).1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.21 (SLo).

Northern Shrike - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.30 (SLo).

Common Raven - 1 at YRF North Tract Oct.21 (ChvR).1 at N of Island Lake nr.Ballantrae Oct.22 (HL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 2 @ Elgin St Thornhill Oct5(MM). 3 @ Idleswift Thornhill Oct.27(GD).

White-breasted Nuthatch - several@34 Shady Lane Thrnhl Oct. 13-31(SVa).2 at Idleswift Thrnhl Oct.27 (GD).

Brown Creeper - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill Oct.03 (DJ).1 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill Oct.25 (SVa).

House Wren - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.11 (JLo).

Winter Wren - 1 at Wooten Way Markham Oct.30 (SLo).



Golden-crowned Kinglet - several at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill Oct.03 (DJ).  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 7 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Oct.01-31 (SDP).1 at Elmhurst Bch: Oct.02 (KDu).  
 Hermit Thrush - 1 at Wooten Way Markham Oct.30 (SLo).  
 American Pipit - 50 - 60 at King-Vaughan Line & Dufferin Oct.19 (RJF).  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler - 1 at Elmhurst Bch: Keith Dunn Home Oct.06-08 (KDu). Flycatching  
 Fox Sparrow - 1@ Milne Consvn. Mrkhm Oct.20(SLo).3@Idleswift Thrnhl Oct.27(GD). 1@Marie Ct Thrnhl Oct.29(BE).  
 Song Sparrow - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) Oct.27 (GD).  
 White-throated Sparrow - 8 @ Grandview Ave, Thornhill Oct.3(DJ).12 @ Elgin St Thornhill Oct.5(MM).  
 White-crowned Sparrow - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill Oct.03 (DJ).  
 Dark-eyed Junco - 20 @ Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Oct.26-31(SDP). Many @ Idleswift Thornhill Oct.27 (GD).  
 Oregon Junco - 1 at Kennedy Rd. N of Davis Drive Oct.29 (R&DB fide KRS,).  
 Northern Cardinal - 5 at 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill Oct.05 (H&MF).  
 Red-winged Blackbird - 10 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Oct.01-31 (SDP).  
 Rusty Blackbird - 1 at Elmhurst Bch: Keith Dunn Home Oct.11 (KDu).  
 Pine Siskin - 1 at Elmhurst Bch: Keith Dunn Home Oct.02 (KDu).  
 American Goldfinch - 20 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Oct.01-31 (SDP).

## NOVEMBER

### Durham Region

Black-crowned Night-Heron - 5 at Brock Landfill Site Nov.09 (GD).  
 Northern Goshawk - 1 at Duffin Creek WPCP Nov.21 (SLo).  
 Greater Yellowlegs - 2 at Cranberry Marsh, Hall Road Nov.09 (GD).  
 Cave Swallow - 1 at Cranberry Marsh, Hall Road Nov.07 (DL0).

In the last few days Cave Swallows have been reported from Pelee, Erie and Rondeau. Rare vagrants in the fall.

### Toronto

Fox Sparrow - 61 at Brookbanks Ravine Nov.05 (JI).

### Peel Region

Eastern Phoebe - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area Nov.30 (DMi).  
 Brown Creeper - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion Nov.08 (BCa).  
 Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Torbram Rd. S of King Street Nov.01 (anon. fide PG).  
 American Tree Sparrow - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion Nov.08 (BCa).  
 Fox Sparrow - 2 at Cameron Property, Albion Nov.01, 4 Nov. 8 (BCa).  
 Pine Siskin - 2 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Nov.30 (DMi).

### York Region

Great Blue Heron – 1-Richmond St. R.Hill Nov18 (MMc). 1-Walmart Pond Maj.Mack & Bayview Nov21 (G&LL).  
 Cattle Egret - 1 at 10th conc. & 17th S.R. King Nov.08 (GeC fide JLo).  
 Turkey Vulture - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.06 (JLo).  
 Snow Goose - 26 at Elgin Mills Rd. E of Vict.Squ. Nov.05 (GL,RC,). 3 white phase and 23 blue phase.  
 Canada Goose - 160 at Walmart Pond M.MacKen & Bayview Nov.21 ().  
 Green-winged Teal - 1 M at Snider Marsh Markham Nov.17 (SLo).  
 Bufflehead - 4 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Nov.24 (SLo).  
 Hooded Merganser - 12 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Nov.24 (SLo).  
 Common Merganser - 22 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Nov.24 (SLo).  
 Ruddy Duck - 1 F at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Nov.24 (SLo).  
 Northern Harrier - 1 at Holland Landing at Brydons Nov.01 [Flying South] (BB).  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Edmunds, 8 Marie Ct. Thornhill Nov.04 (BE). 1 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill Nov.22 (SVa).  
 Cooper's Hawk – 1 at Idleswift Thrnhl Nov15(GD). 1 at Warren Rd King Nov18 (R&SW).

1 at Walmart Pond M.MacK/Bayview Nov21 (?). 1 at Royal Orchard Pk ThrnHl Nov.23 (SVa).  
 American Kestrel - 1 at Headwaters Park Richmond Hill Nov.21 (G&LL).2 (pair) at Holland Marsh York Nov.23 (RJF).  
 Greater Yellowlegs - 40 at Pickering S.R.28 N of Hwy.7 Nov.05 (GL,RCu).  
 Dunlin - 3 at Pickering S.R.28 N of Hwy.7 Nov.05 (GL,RCu).  
 Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill Nov.12 (SVa). Seen at night hunting in backyard.  
 Great Horned Owl - 1 at 310 Stouffville Road Nov.18,20 (CH).  
 Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at 310 Stouffville Road Nov.18 (CH).1 at Bathurst & Mulock Newmarket Nov.30 (RJF).  
 Northern Shrike - 1 at 9th line, S of Hwy 7, S of Rlw Nov.20 (SLo).  
 American Crow - 500 at S side of Bloomington at Hwy48 Nov.26 (GL,RCu).  
 Black-capped Chickadee - 12 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.01-07 (JLo).  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 at 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill Nov.03-05 (H&MF).Many others at many feeders.  
 Carolina Wren - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave, ThrnHl Nov.01-04 (DJ).1 at Elmhurst Bch: Keith Dunn Home Nov.05 (KDu).  
 House Wren - 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.06 (JLo).  
 Northern Mockingbird - 1 at 123 Woodward Ave, ThrnHl Nov.04 (H&MF).1 at Yonge & Edward St. Aurora Nov.23 (FF).  
 American Tree Sparrow - 5 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Rdgs Nov01-30 (SDP). 12 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27 Nov.06 (JLo).  
 Chipping Sparrow - 4 at Oceanside Dr. Richmond Hill Nov.10 (JMCKi).  
 Field Sparrow - 1 at Pomona Mills Pk. Thornhill Nov.24 (MCh).  
 Fox Sparrow – 3@Grenfell Mrkhm Nov3-4 (CMK).1@Marie Ct. ThrnHl Nov5 (BE).2@Maj MacK & Hwy.27 Nov5(JLo).  
 Song Sparrow - 1 at Bridgport Richmond H Nov.06 (FWH).  
 White-throated Sparrow - 3 at Bridgport RichHill Nov.06 (FWH). 2 at 4 Grenfell Markham Nov.28 (CMK).  
 White-crowned Sparrow - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.05 (JLo).  
 Dark-eyed Junco – 10@Nantucket Dr Oak Rdgs Nov1-30(SDP). 6 at Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) Nov1-30 (CMK).  
 7@Woodward Ave., ThrnHl Nov4(H&MF). 20@Bridgport RichHill Nov5 (FWH).  
 Snow Bunting - 20 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.08 (KDu).  
 Northern Cardinal - 5 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill Nov.23 (TH,DTH).

#### Out-of-Area

Gray Jay - 1 at Bancroft Nov.14 (MWh).

Cave Swallow - 18 from Pelee to Cranberry & Bruce Nov.01-09 (m.obs.).

Normal range of Cave Swallows is S. Texas / N. Mexico. Those observed here were blown by strong SW winds.

BB Bruce Brydon, BC Bob Cubitt, BCa Barry Cameron, BE Bill Edmunds, CH Carrie Hoffelner, Chv Christel von Richter, CMK Carol McKnight, DJ Dana Jonak, DLo Doug Lockrey, DMi Dave Milsom, DTH Doris Hofmann, ED Eleanor Dowson, FF Fritz Fischer, FWh Freddy Whillans, GD Gene Denzel, G&LL Graham & Lois Leonard, GD Gene Denzel, GeC George Craib, GL Graham Leonard, H&MF Harold & Muriel Farrant, HBa H Barnett, HL Harry Lumsden, JI Jean Iron, JLo Joan Love, JMCKi Joyce McKinnon, KDu Keith Dunn, KRS Kevin Shackleton, MCh Martin Chen, MM Marion Martindale, MMc Margaret McKone, MMc Mary MacKenzie, MuF Muriel Farrant, MWh Michael White, PG Phyllis Graydon, R&DB Robert & Donna Burgess, R&SW Robin & Sharon Wood, RCu Robert Cubbitt, RJF Ron Fleming, SDP Susan DiPucchio, SLo Stan Long, SVa Sandy Vanderbrug, TH Theo Hofmann.

### From the Editor

The new Liberal Provincial Government has now had some time in office, and last few weeks have allowed us time to gauge their sincerity at creating a climate of change and commitment to forward-thinking policies, but so far we have seen little that would cause us to cheer. Their lame attempts at stopping development on the Oak Ridges moraine in Richmond Hill by temporarily imposing a two week freeze on development have resulted in only a paltry 900 fewer homes being slated for these most sensitive lands at the heart of the Moraine – barely a 15% reduction, even though they had promised during the election to stop development entirely.

This new Provincial government seems to be long on talk but falls short on implementation, always falling back on the “huge Tory deficit” as an excuse to not take action, although in fairness they should be complimented on at least engaging in a process whereby they seem to be leaning toward a more open and transparent process for planning the future of all aspects of life in this province. That change, at least, is welcome.

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