





**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 this month.*

Meet our new members at club events and say Hello!

### EVENTS FUTURE

#### RHN Events:

- **Saturday April 17, 2004.** 9am-2pm. Tiny Marsh, Midland, with Ron Fleming. Call (905) 898-7216 or email [ronaldf-fleming@sympatico.ca](mailto:ronaldf-fleming@sympatico.ca)

- **Sunday April 18, 2004.** 10 am. Joker's Hill hike. West of Newmarket. 15km loop. Dropout points available at 6km & 12km. Fairly quick pace, hilly. Most steep hills are after the dropout point. No dogs. 17000 Dufferin Street, 0.5 km north of 19th Sideroad (Mulock Drive), or 2 km south of Highway 9. Take driveway straight to barns. Tell me if you need a ride from Yonge Street transit. Contact Peter Attfield @ 905-773-3935.

- **Saturday May 8, 2004,** Rondeau Prov.Park, southwest of London. Spring migration of songbirds. Meet at 8 am at Visitor's Centre. Contact Gene Denzel, 905- 889-7888.

- **Friday & Saturday May 14 & 15, 2004.** 8am – 2 days. Point Pelee National Park near Windsor. Spring migration of songbirds. Meet at Visitors Centre on Saturday. Prepare to camp. Leader Martin Chen, 905-709-0246.

- **Saturday May 15, 2004.** 9am-1230noon. Watercolour lesson by Valerie Kent. Mill Pond, Richmond Hill. Contact Valerie at 905-508-5531.

- **Saturday May 22, 2004,** 9am-2pm. Thickson's Woods, west of Oshawa. Leader Mike Turk, 905-731-8380.

**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:

- **Thursday, April 22, 2004.** 7:30pm. West Humber Naturalists general meeting: "*From the Tropics to the Tundra*". Guest speaker Dr Richard Joos, talking about Yellow Warblers. Vellore School House, 9545 Weston Road (1km S. of Major Mackenzie Dr. in Woodbridge).

- **Saturday May 1, 2004.** 5pm. Kawartha Field Naturalists' 20th Anniversary celebration. Featuring John and Janet Foster, TV and film creators. Also: silent auction, raffles, door prizes and Owl Foundation tickets.

Free punch and hors d'oeuvres. United Church, 123 Colbourne St., Fenelon Falls. Admission is \$10. RSVP by April 15th to Gillian Morden (705) 454-9388 or Pat Seymour (705) 359-1773.



- **Saturday May 8, 2004.** North American Native Plant Society Plant Sale. Also see the website [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org) where you can order plants in advance of the sale. Plants will be boxed, ready for pickup when you arrive.

Also: A "how to" seminar, hosted by Doug Counter (Toronto's most notorious gardener). VM: 416-631-4438.



- **Saturday May 8, 2004.** 9am to noon. Thickson's Wood Land Trust pancake breakfast/bake sale. Find out more at [www.thicksonswoods.com](http://www.thicksonswoods.com).

- **Saturday May 15, 2004.** 10am–noon. TRCA free family event: "Bring Back the Birds". Watch bird migration from Tommy Thompson Park at the foot of Leslie St. in Toronto. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them. Call (416) 661-6600 ex.5660, or visit [www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca) for more info.

- **Thursday May 27, 2004.** 7- 9pm. TRCA Don Watershed Event. Don Valley Brick Works, off of Bayview Ave, south of Pottery Rd, Toronto. Call (416) 661-6600 ex.5660, or visit [www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca).

- **Saturday May 29, 2004.** FON 73rd Annual General Meeting & Gathering : "Northbound from Toronto to Superior – Protecting Ontario's Nature". Featuring Award-winning authors Joanie and Gary McGuffin who will show pictures and tell stories from their three month canoe voyage along Ontario's Great Lakes Heritage Coast from Lake Superior's Pigeon River to Port Severn on Georgian Bay. Location: Black Creek Pioneer Village.

- **Tuesday June 1, 2004.** 6:00PM. A Tour of KMS Peel Garbage Incinerator. Incineration is one traditional method of garbage disposal, but is controversial. Come learn more about incineration. Learn about the processing of incoming garbage, the incineration process, and control of air emissions. Limit of 30 participants. Confirm by contacting Allan Giacomelli by May 18, 2004 at [allang@spectranet.ca](mailto:allang@spectranet.ca). \$5.00/person (Limited spots)

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Future Toronto Nature Outings include:

Early Birder Field Trip to Tommy Thompson Park, Behind the Scenes at the Toronto Zoo (Endangered Species), Paddle the Toronto Islands: Voyageur Canoe & Kayak Trip, She Was No Lady: Hurricane Hazel Heritage Walk  
Registration is limited. Register today to avoid disappointment. For more information or to register, please contact Deanna Coop at 416-444-8419, 1-800-440-2366, ext. 224 or [deannac@ontarionature.org](mailto:deannac@ontarionature.org).

Also in our club Diana Piché has registration information: 905-773-4199.

## MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

### NOTICE

Happy Valley Heritage Forest, Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Happy Valley Heritage Forest is the largest remaining upland deciduous forest on the Oak Ridges Moraine. It is an old-growth forest and is located north-west of King City and south of Pottageville, right in our backyard.

At present there is a piece (50 acres) of the forest, the Battilana-Spizzirri property (BSP), for sale at a total cost of \$703,645. The property is adjacent to 159 acres of forest that has been previously protected by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The goal of NCC is to protect at least 500 acres of the 1560 acres of the forest as properties become available. The NCC has negotiated the purchase of the BSP and has raised all but \$172,500 of the purchase price. It **urgently** requires this sum to be raised and is appealing to us to help in this. They have obtained promises of a substantial portion of this and therefore any modest contribution that members of the Club can make will help significantly.

The 50 acres of the BSP are of great importance. Members of the West Humber and Richmond Hill Naturalists have found the following species in this property: three threatened species: Breeding Hooded Warbler with active nest, Purple Twayblade Orchid and Jeffers on Salamander; an endangered species: American Ginseng; vulnerable species: Cerulean Warbler and Red-shouldered Hawk (2 territories); and other rare species like Tall Bellflower and Bee Balm. Atlassers have found 110 breeding bird species in this area of the forest in the last three years.

The NCC urges us to support this extremely valuable land. To make it easy you will find a donation card and a stamped, addressed envelope available at the general meeting or enclosed with the Bulletin for those who cannot make it to the meeting. Use this card and envelope to ensure that your donation will specifically go towards the purchase of the Happy Valley property in our own backyard. Be as generous as you can.

For Alissa Lee, from NCC

- Theo Hofmann

**Volunteer Opportunity!**

Tallgrass Ontario is looking for groups of 3-6 botanists and birders, including a team captain, to survey local tallgrass remnants. Tallgrass Ontario is eager to pair up with members of field naturalist clubs this summer for a flora and fauna survey of tallgrass remnants in Ontario from June to August, 2004, and are hoping to establish a crew or crews in each of the following areas, crews which will be available to survey during the following dates:

- June 7- 25 ---- tallgrass in the Toronto & Hamilton areas
- June 28-July 1 - Essex
- July 12 - 15 --- Kawartha Prairies
- July 19 - 22 ---- Middlesex, Thames River and Elgin
- July 26 - 29 --- Rice Lake Plains, Lower Trent River
- Aug 2 - 5 ---- Niagara Prairies
- Aug 6 - 14 --- Tallgrass Prairie Conference, Madison
- WS – no surveying, but all are invited to attend!
- Aug 16 - 19 --- Lake Simcoe
- Aug 23 - 27 --- Remaining areas

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Crew members will act as local experts and be responsible for the plant and bird ID at the tallgrass sites, while the project coordinators focus on GPS work and site descriptions. Team members will get an orientation to the data collection methods, a free Tallgrass Ontario membership, a T-shirt and refreshments in recognition of their time in the field. Tallgrass Ontario representatives are available to do orientation presentations to interested field naturalist groups or potential crews about the project and tallgrass in Ontario, and will be available in late April.

This is a great opportunity for member groups to put their identification skills to use for conservation in Ontario. Tallgrass Ontario is committed to the conservation, management and restoration of tallgrass prairie, savanna and related ecological communities in Ontario, while tallgrass ecosystems themselves are a globally imperiled ecosystem and one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada. Tallgrass ecosystems are part of Ontario's natural heritage, and provide habitat for a huge number of wildlife species, including many that are officially designated as rare at the global, national or provincial level.

For more about Tallgrass Ontario, visit [www.tallgrassontario.org](http://www.tallgrassontario.org). This survey project is focused on updating and centralizing tallgrass data for the province. If you know of a small remnant that may not be in the current Tallgrass Ontario database, please contact Dr. Will Wilson – [wwilson@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:wwilson@lakeheadu.ca) or Chris Daniel – [christopher\\_daniel@sympatico.ca](mailto:christopher_daniel@sympatico.ca) directly.

If you are interested in taking part in the Tallgrass Ontario project as a crew member, or in booking an orientation presentation, contact your Regional Coordinator, Erin McGauley, at (905) 985-6506 or [erinm@ontarionature.org](mailto:erinm@ontarionature.org)

- Erin McGauley  
Nature Network Regional Coordinator - Central Ontario  
Ontario Nature - Federation of Ontario Naturalists  
Port Perry conservation office phone/fax: 905.985.6506  
[erinm@ontarionature.org](mailto:erinm@ontarionature.org) [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org)

- The **Tree Canada Foundation** will be holding the 6th Canadian Urban Forest Conference (CUFC) in Kelowna, B.C. on October 19-23, 2004.

The theme for the conference will be: "Fire, Storms and Pests – Crises in the Urban Forest". Over 25 top speakers from across Canada and around the world will make presentations on such topics as *Fires and Storms, Plant Health Care, Urban Forestry Budgets, and Inventories of Trees*. Information and registration is available through the conference website: [www.tcf-fca.ca/cufc6](http://www.tcf-fca.ca/cufc6). York Region is a sponsoring community of the Canadian Urban Forest Conference. cont'd...



**Valerie Kent**  
 Artist

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**Art Studio**  
 tel/fax: 905-508-5531  
[www.valeriekent.com](http://www.valeriekent.com)  
[artistvalerie@rogers.com](mailto:artistvalerie@rogers.com)

The Tree Canada Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization established to encourage Canadians to plant and care for trees in urban and rural environments. To date the Foundation has engaged more than 60 top Canadian companies and government agencies to support the planting of over 75 million trees, the re-greening of over 300 schoolyards, five national urban forestry conferences and other efforts to sensitize Canadians to the benefits of planting and maintaining trees.

For further information please contact: Jeff Monty, Conference Chair, Tree Canada Foundation (613) 567-5545, or Ian Wilson, Program Chair, City of Kelowna (250) 862-5580 Ext. 572.

- John O'Gorman

## EVENTS PAST

### Bird Group Meeting 11 February 2004 -- Peregrine Falcon and Merlin

The two falcons belong to the genus *Falco* in the family *falconidae*. 'Falco' is Latin for the genus and originates from the word 'falx', a sickle, due to the shape of these birds' talons. The Peregrine Falcon, *F. peregrinus*, comes from its habit to roam, *peregrinus* being the Latin for 'wander' (in German it is called the "Wander-falk"). The origin of the name Merlin is obscure, but there is no evidence of any relation to the magician Merlin at King Arthur's Court. Its Latin name, *F. columbarius*,



translates as 'Pigeon Hawk' which was its common name in North America for a long time. Its name refers to its vaguely pigeon-like shape in flight, not to its preferred food since it eats almost any kind of small to medium sized bird, unlike the Peregrine Falcon, also known as the 'Duck Hawk' since in the wild it has a preference for ducks (in North America) -- urbanized birds eat mainly Rock Pigeons, but world-wide they eat a wide variety of birds. Up to 300 species have been identified. Peregrine Falcons, at 16- 20" and a wingspan of 43-46", are considerably larger than the Merlin, at 11-13" and a wingspan of 23- 26". The main difference in appearance is the dark blue-gray crown and the pronounced almost black "moustache" of the Peregrine Falcon compared to the Merlin's lighter crown and the absence of a distinct moustache. There are a number of other differences in field marks, but it is beyond the scope of this note to discuss them.



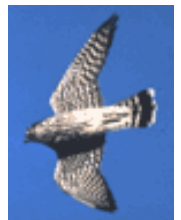
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The Peregrine Falcon is found almost anywhere in the world from the hot tropics to the sub-polar regions, from lowland areas all the way up to 4,000 m. For obscure reasons it is missing from some large islands, like Iceland, New Zealand, and also from Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic islands.

The Merlin breeds in North America mostly in Canada, Alaska and Eurasia, from Scandinavia across to Siberia. The North American birds winter in the southern US, down to Central America and Northern South America. The wintering grounds of the Peregrine Falcon are less well defined. They move south from their northern breeding range, but are resident along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California, and more recently to parts of central North America. As its breeding range indicates, the habitat of the Peregrine Falcon varies widely. It nests on cliffs or tree snags in open country, or on office buildings or bridges where wide open areas are available. The Merlin nests in trees in open areas where it will hunt. In winter the Merlin are found in grasslands or coastal marshes.



In North America the Peregrine Falcon uses a simple nest scraped on a sheltered ledge. Elsewhere they may use stick nests. They usually return to the same nesting site for many years. Stick nests of other species may also be used. They are monogamous, solitary nesters and lay 3-4 eggs in a clutch. These eggs are white or pale reddish-brown and marked with warmish brown. The incubation is mostly by the female and lasts between 32-35 days. The male feeds the female during this time. The young fledge in 39-49 days. The Merlin's nests are usually in the old nests of hawks, crows or magpies in trees from 3 to 20 m off the ground. Merlins are also monogamous and solitary nesters, and lay 4-5 whitish eggs having light to heavy brown markings. The female incubates for 28-32 days. The young fledge from between 25 to 35 days after hatching.

Peregrine Falcons hunt by attacking their prey in the air in a fast dive. They are very powerful hunters, and can reach speeds from 160 - 300 km/h during a dive. The Merlin not only catches and eats a great variety of birds, it also lives on gophers, mice, lizards, butterflies and a great range of other insects.



A Falcon will court his mate near the nesting site with awesome acrobatics and a "wee-chew" call that sounds like a rusty hinge. It flies in figures of eight, and swoops, rolls over and over, dives and soars again while the female passively watches from a ledge.

She finally relents and follows the male to a shelf or old nest which they will both inspect. She then prepares the site and lays her eggs. Less is known about the courtship of the Merlin, but like many other raptors the male and the female engage in complex acrobatics involving dives, stoops, and revolutions high in the air over the nesting site. Outside the breeding season Merlins fly low, fast and direct. If unmolested they are quiet and unobtrusive, yet both adults protest vociferously upon an intrusion into the nesting area. They fly overhead with rapidly beating wings in shallow strokes.

Both species suffered heavy losses due to breeding failure during the 1960s and 1970s on account of their ingestion of hydrochlorocarbon compounds (e.g. DDT) in their prey. The poison led to very thin eggshells which cracked early during incubation. Since the extensive ban of DDT and other similar compounds both species have recovered significantly and now neither species is globally threatened, however in North America, where there are three subspecies of the Peregrine Falcon, *F.p.tundrius*, *anatum* and *pealei*, they are not out of risk. The latest issue of the COSEWIC report (November 2003) lists the subspecies *F.p.anatum* as threatened in all Provinces and Territories. Of the other two subspecies, *F.p.pealei* is listed in the "Special Concern Category" for British Columbia and *F.p.tundrius* for the Territories. Their status appears to be steady. The Merlin on the other hand is not threatened any longer in North America and in fact is greatly increasing its breeding range since the first Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980's.



An interesting quiz on diurnal raptors ended the meeting.  
- Theo Hoffman

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On Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup>, several like-minded individuals gathered to Oppose the Subdivision being built on Bayview Avenue North of Stouffville Road. Bayview was pushed through in part to service this subdivision, even though it bisects the "Natural Core Area" of the Moraine and the new Moraine Park in Richmond Hill. The protesters were arguing that the subdivision will narrow the corridor substantially, and given that the Moraine water filter is right below this land, every effort should be made to preserve these lands as they are.  
- Carrie Hoffelner

## NATURE NEWS

### New protection measures will protect Algonquin wolves outside of Algonquin park

Minister of Natural Resources, David Ramsay, and the McGuinty Government announced its intent to permanently protect the Algonquin wolf by prohibiting the killing of wolves in 39 townships surrounding Algonquin Provincial Park, thereby protecting the wolf when it wanders outside the park – currently the largest threat to the survival of this species. The move by the Ontario Government would permanently extend the moratorium on hunting and trapping of wolves in townships outside the park. The ban on hunting and trapping will include both wolves and similar-looking coyotes, making implementation of the proposed new regulations more manageable and more likely to succeed.

Algonquin Park is home to the largest protected population of the Eastern wolf (*Canis lycaon*). In the past Algonquin wolves have been hunted and trapped when they wandered outside the park in search of food. The permanent ban would replace a 30-month moratorium on hunting and trapping wolves in the 39 townships around Algonquin Park that is set to expire in June 2004. The Minister also announced that the Eastern wolf will be added to Ontario's list of species at risk (this species is already listed as "at risk" federally).

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The Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) has evolved and is now being promoting as *Ontario Nature*, a friendly, inclusive and relevant organization to all those who care about the natural world. For a great explanation of these changes, read the letter from our President in the newly launched 'ON Nature' magazine.

The [Ontario Nature](#) website and magazine also shows a new logo and has updated information. Learn about the many new benefits of membership and the variety of opportunities to support the conservation activities of Ontario Nature. There are numerous ways you can get involved and participate in Nature Network activities across the province. Take a peek at the on-line conservation directory to find out more.



- Diana Piche

## General Interest

### Canada may phase out lead sinkers in fishing jigs

Environment Minister John Anderson was quoted as saying that the Government of Canada intends to prohibit the import, manufacture and sale of fishing sinkers and jigs containing lead.

"Lead has toxic properties, and sinkers and jigs containing lead are taking a toll on water birds, including the loon, a bird that has come to symbolize the wilderness for many Canadians.

Sinkers and jigs that are lost while fishing account for about 18 per cent of all direct lead releases into the environment, and represent a major threat to water birds. Up to 30 per cent of reported adult loon deaths during the breeding season in eastern Canada are the result of lead poisoning. Water birds ingest the lead sinkers or jigs when they ingest gravel to aid digestion, or when they consume lost bait fish with lead fishing gear attached.

The Canadian Wildlife Service estimates that up to **500 tonnes** of lead in the form of lead sinkers and jigs is lost every year, the equivalent weight of dropping about 500 cars into our lakes, rivers and streams each year.

Restrictions on the use of lead sinkers in National Wildlife Areas and National Parks have been in place since 1997. Great Britain, and American states such as Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts also restrict the use of lead sinkers and jigs. New York State will introduce restrictions this spring.

Environment Canada will be working with stakeholders, and public consultations on the proposed regulations will begin within the next 6 months.

See: [http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/fishing/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/fishing/index_e.cfm) or call Environment Canada's at 1-800-668-6767 for further information, or visit [http://www.ec.gc.ca/media\\_e.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/media_e.htm).

- submitted by Michael White

## BIRD OBSERVATIONS

March 2004

### Peel Region

Turkey Vulture - 1 at Hwy.7 & Claireville C.A. March 10 (BCa).

Hairy Woodpecker - 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove March 09 (PG). NW Pacific Race sitkensis

Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion March 14 (BCa).

Brown Creeper - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion, March 12 (BCa).

Common Grackle - 60 at ?? March 06 (ARa).

Brown-headed Cowbird - 1 at 17 LaFrance Rd. Brampton March 06 (ARa).

Pine Siskin - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion March 08 (BCa).

### York Region

Great Blue Heron - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham March 27 (SLo).

Turkey Vulture - 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 21 (JLo).

Canada Goose - 3000@Coyote Pnd, Mrkhm Mar8 (SLo). 100 at N End Bathurst Street March 12 (RJF,KRS,KDu).

Trumpeter Swan - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham March 26 (SLo). No. 734

Tundra Swan - 30@Steeles/Weston Mar6(TS). 14@N.Bathurst St Mar12(RJF). 50@Hochreiter/Bathurst Mar26(BB).

Northern Pintail - 1 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End March 26 (BB).

Ring-necked Duck -3@Holland Lndg Mar7(BB). 4@Coyote Pnd. Mar25(SLo). 1@Hochreiter/Bathurst Mar26(BB).

Hooded Merganser - 4 at Coyote Pond, Markham March 27 (SLo).

Common Merganser - 24 at Coyote Pond, Markham March 27 (SLo).

Northern Harrier - 1 at 1 km N of Markham Fairground March 15 (GL,RCu).

Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham March 25 (CMK). 1 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill March 28 (DTH).

Cooper's Hawk -1@Walton Dr. Aurora Mar6(JMcL). 1@Lumsden's Aurora Mar7(HL). 1@Leslie/St.John's Mar28(RJF).

Red-shouldered Hawk - 2 at Bond Lake Oak Ridges March 23 [Circling above] (SDP).

Red-tailed Hawk - 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, from 03/29 to 03/31 [Nest building] (JLo).

Rough-legged Hawk - 1 at King City March 15 (TH).

American Kestrel -1@Rutherford E of #27 Mar17(TH). 1@Dufferin+Kettleby Mar17(RJF). 4 E. of Rich Hill Mar31(GL).

Ruffed Grouse - 1 at Humberland Dr. Oak Ridges March 07 (RJF). 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 07 (JLo).

Wild Turkey - 5 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 24 (JLo).  
 Killdeer - 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 07 (JLo). In several places E of Aurora March 28 (RJF).  
 Common Snipe - 1 at 10590 Pine Valley Drive March 29 (D&AD).  
 American Woodcock - 1 at Queensville Rd. McCowan & 48 March 27 [Display] (BB).  
 Ring-billed Gull - ~6000 at 9th line, N of Bloomington Mar 15 (GL,RCu). 2@ Grenfell Markham (Nest building) (CMK).  
 Snowy Owl - 2 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. March 12 (RJF,KRS,KDu).  
 Belted Kingfisher - 1 at M.MacK & Hwy.27, March 25 (JLo). 1 at 19th Ave. Warden & Woodbine March 31 (GL).  
 Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at YRF, Eldred King Tr.(W-Main) March 07 (RJF).  
 Eastern Phoebe - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 27 (JLo).  
 Northern Shrike-1@McCowan/19th.Mar1(GL,RCu).1@Weston/MajMac,Mar17(RJF).1@Leslie/Bethesda Mar 17(RJF).  
 Blue Jay - 4-5 at Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) March 25 (CMK). One bird arrived Mar26 at front door to be hand-fed.  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 2 at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H March 10,18,19 (FWH).  
 Brown Creeper – several@YRF-Eldred Tr.(W) Mar7(RJF). 1@Pine Valley Mar12(D&AD). 2@Kortright Mar17(RJF).  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - 8 at Kortright Conservation Area, March 17 (RJF).  
 American Robin - 8 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 07 (JLo).  
 Cedar Waxwing - 6 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 28 (JLo).  
 American Tree Sparrow - 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 27 (JLo).  
 Fox Sparrow - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27, March 27 (JLo). 1 at 36 Cherry Hills, March 30 (ICa).  
 Red-winged Blackbird - 300 at Dufferin & Kettleby Rd. March 17 (RJF).  
 Common Grackle - 150 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Mar 6 (SDP). 15 at Bridgport Richmond Hill, March 22 (FWH).  
 Purple Finch - 1 M at 4 Grenfell, Markham. March 25-26 (CMK).  
 Common Redpoll - 2 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges March 06 (SDP).  
 Pine Siskin -4@Bridgeport Rich Hill Mar12-31(FWH). 4@Pine Valley Dr. f. 3/12-29(D&AD). 12@Kortright Mar 17(RJF).  
 American Goldfinch - 20 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges March 06 (SDP).

#### Durham Region

Tundra Swan - 9 at Conc.7 & 20 Sideline, Pickering, March 11 (GL,RCu).

#### Out-of-Area

Common Grackle - 8 at Orangeville March 06 (HL).

ARa Alfred Raab, BB Bruce Brydon, BCa Barry Cameron, CMK Carol McKnight, D&AD David & Amy Darker, DTH Doris Hofmann, FWH Freddy Whillans, GL Graham Leonard, HL Harry Lumsden, ICa Ian Cannell, JLo Joan Love, JMc John McLean, KDu Keith Dunn, KRS Kevin Shackleton. PG Phyllis Graydon, RCu Robert Cubbitt, RJF Ron Fleming, SDP Susan DiPucchio, SLo Stan Long, SVa Sandy Vanderbrug, TH Theo Hofmann, TS Tessa Shelvey.

## From the Editor

### April is Earth Month.

The very first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, and we've gone from celebrating 'Earth Day' to celebrating an 'Earth Week' (some consider the week from about April 17th through to April 24th 2004 to be 'Earth Week'), to celebrating 'Earth Month'. 1990 marked the first *International* Earth Day, and it has expanded ever since.

Earth Day, which is celebrated every April 22nd, is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide, with more than six million Canadians joining the over 500 million people in over 180 countries who stage events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity. Hundreds of events will take place this month.

As an amateur naturalist, I generally try abide by the notion that every day is 'Earth Day' and attempt to live my life so as to create as few negative impacts as possible on the natural world within my lifetime, by acting responsibly with regard to my choices and taking action as a citizen to improve the state of the natural world in some small way.

It is good to be reminded that respect must be given not only to our fellow human beings, but also to all of nature, for the bounty of our lives. Not only do I ask myself, "What will we do for Earth Day this year?" but also, "What can I do to make a positive impact all year 'round'?"

Lloyd Helferty -- Bulletin Editor,

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