



THE BULLETIN

October 2004 No. 439

2004 - 2005 EXECUTIVE

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Events calendar

Botany Group	Monday November 1, 2004 Topic: "Marsh plants" Location: Freddy Whillans
Executive Meeting	Tuesday November 9, 2004:
Bird group	Wednesday November 10, 2004 Topic: "Yellow and King Rails". Location: Dana Jonak, 190 Grandview Ave. Thornhill 905-881-0603.
General Meeting	Thursday November 18, 2004 Joint Meeting with West Humber Naturalists Kortright Centre for Conservation, King City. The Kortright Centre is located on Pine Valley Drive just South of Major Mackenzie. The speaker this month is Sandy Komito . See below for more information.
Field Trips	- Saturday October 23 ,2004. 9am-12pm Park Cleanup. Harding Park and German Mills Creek Contact: 905-737-4305

!Notice: November General Meeting

Tickets are being sold now for the joint **Richmond Hill Naturalists – West Humber Naturalists** monthly **General meeting**, to be held on **Thursday November 18** at the **Kortright Centre for Conservation**, featuring guest speaker **Sandy Komito**. The ticket price is \$10.00 for this big event. Don't miss it!

Sandy Komito - author, birder, storyteller - is a very well known birder, who in 1987 carried out a "Big Year" run trying to see as many bird species as possible in North America in one year. The 726 species - species accepted by the American Birding Association - that he saw in that year stood as the record for over a decade.

In 1998, Sandy engaged in another "Big Year" run and saw about *745 species*. He describes his planning, his travel, and his adventures during that year in his book "*I Came, I Saw, I Counted*." The book is a travelogue of the year, interspersed with details of how the birds were tracked down, and of the fellow birders who were present. Also included are useful information on economical travel from Sandy's "Little Black Book".

Tickets can be obtained directly at the meeting or can be ordered by sending a cheque to:

Gene Denzel c/o Richmond Hill Naturalists, 9 Idleswift Drive, Richmond Hill, L4J IK8.

Tickets must be purchased in advance!



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 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.

Meet our new members at club events and say Hello!

EVENTS FUTURE

- Saturday October 23, 2004. 9am-12pm. Park Cleanup: Harding Park-German Mills Creek, in cooperation with the Town of Richmond Hill and York Region. Free Tim Horton's coffee and doughnuts. Meet at the S-E corner of Church and Weldrick St. (behind Weston produce). Call 905-737-4305 for details.

- Saturday October 30, 2004. The Richmond Hill Naturalists will host this year's 'Ontario Nature' Central Regional meeting. This will be held at the new Ontario Nature headquarters in Newmarket (on the 'Mulock' Property). The speaker will be from the Ontario Wind Energy Association. Richmond Hill Councillor Elio Di Iorio will also speak about Richmond Hill's proposed wind farm. The town of Richmond Hill is currently reviewing the Environmental Assessment Act to address alternative energy systems such as wind.

- Monday November 1st, 2004. 12:30pm. The Botony Group will meet at the home of Freddy Whillans to study Marsh plants. Anyone who collected a favourite "New Discovery" (as announced in the Aug./Sept. Bulletin) may bring it along for all to see.

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).

2004 Annual Card Fundraiser

- This year's Robert Bateman design is: ***At the Cliff - Bobcat***
- Packages of 10 cards & envelopes are available for \$8.00 each or 2 packages for \$15.00. These are the same cards available from Ontario Nature 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:
- 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 at a substantial discount [\$5.50 each or 2 for \$10.00 - pkg of 10] are previous years cards: "Red Fox" Season's Greetings cards or "On-alert Chipmunk", "Wolves on the Trail", "Snowy Owl" or "Kestrel" hasty notes.

- To place your order please contact Diana Piché at **905-773-4199** or e-mail diana.piche@sympatico.ca
- In order for the club to save delivery costs please place your order prior to Wednesday October 27.
- Cards will be available at the October and November general meetings or for pick-up in Oak Ridges any time.
- Thank-you for your support.

- Saturday, November 20th, 2004. 9am to 2:30pm. Invading Species Workshop for Landowners. Seneca College, King Campus, Garriock Hall, Pod C, King City. Learn about Ontario's forest, wetland and lake invaders. The workshop will provide the most current information on invaders and actions to prevent their spread. Coordinated by York Environmental Stewardship. Call the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (O.F.A.H.)



Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 to register or e-mail invasivespecies@ofah.org. Pre-register for \$15 before Nov 12 (lunch provided), or at the door (\$15 lunch not provided).



YORK ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Botany Group meeting at Audrey and Doug Wallace's October 4, 2004

It was a beautiful sunny, warm day when ten members met to show and discuss facts about mushrooms or fungi of various sorts. Due to the recent dry spell, mushrooms were hard to find so some members brought plants in their seasonal state.



Polyporus squamosus – Also known as “Dryad’s Saddle”, proved to be an interesting fungus in the bracket fungi group. It grows, looking very much like a seat or saddle, out of standing or fallen timber in deciduous woods. This polypore is actually very good to eat is found young and is thinly sliced before cooking.

Coprinus comatus – Also known as “Shaggy Mane” or “Lawyers Wig”, both of the names given allude to the white, shaggy surface of the cap, where each scale reaches back to look very much like the curls on an English lawyer’s wig. It is very common along roadsides and freshly laid lawns, as well as in and alongside garbage dumps and landfills. This mushroom is edible and delicious when young.



Lycoperdon perlatum – Though it has no common name, it is an extremely common species. It has a round to slightly club-shaped ball with small white spines or warts, often in tiny rings. It grows in fields, gardens, and along roadsides, as well as in grassy clearings in woods. It is edible when young.

Hamamelis virginiana – “Witch-Hazel” is a shrub whose foliage turns a bright yellow in the autumn and, as the leaves fall in late September and October, curious flowers appear, each with four wretched yellow petals. Witch-Hazel has a great many medicinal; uses, including treatment of such regular ailments as insect bites, bruises and burns. Witch-Hazel is found in dry sandy soil in open oak woodlands and on drier slopes from the Carolinian zone, eastward, sparingly to the Ottawa district.

Various seed cases were shown to the group, which illustrated how plant seeds are dispersed, either by floating in the wind, catching on animal hair, shaking in the wind, carried by animals, and buried.

A note about Fungi: All references to edibility are given as a guide only and are based on published reports. As individuals differ in their reactions to different species, only small quantities, even of well known edibles, should be tried at first. Always try to obtain expert identification if you intend to eat fungi.

- Doug Wallace

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Swifts Fly at (up to) 10,000 ft. & Steer is their Sleep. Study Finds

A specialist in bird migration in Sweden used a tracking radar to study the habits of 225 birds. He found the birds flew at different altitudes according to the weather --flying in higher and cooler air in summertime. The first comprehensive scientific evidence that swifts attain heights of 10,000 ft. means they fly at the same altitudes as many small private planes.

Swifts also adapt their orientation to avoid drifting during their nocturnal flights. The birds are therefore able to judge their position in relation to the wind, not in relation to ground-level landmarks as previously believed. The remarkable thing is that they do all this while flying through the night and sleeping on the wing at these very high altitudes.



Several different studies have shown through physiological experiments that birds do shut down half their brains at nighttime. It is more difficult for a bird to orient itself at that altitude because it is not aided by landmarks, but from an aerodynamic point of view, there is less turbulence at that height. Also the birds are above the reach of predators.



- Submitted by Martin Chen

Excerpts from a letter to the Mayor and Council of the Town of Richmond Hill, October 5, 2004
Subject: Non-essential use of pesticides in the municipality

We would not have a health care crisis if we were to address the root causes of diseases - our poisoned, impure food; the building materials of our houses, and where we situate them; toxic workplaces; and our polluted environment. The non-essential use of pesticides contributes to environmental pollution and the degrading of our health by contaminating our air, water and earth.

Many pro-pesticide people in the landscape industry will argue that the chemicals they use are perfectly safe as they have been approved by the government, (but) because a substance has been approved by the government does not make it safe.

An argument you will get from maintenance companies is that it is better to have them handle these deadly chemicals than homeowners, but that is simply not true. The chemical pesticide industry, by heavily funding organizations like Landscape Ontario and the University of Guelph has made them allies in their lobbies against anti-pesticide groups and municipalities. Two pro-pesticide lobby groups are Chemical companies that produce pesticides and lawn care companies that use their products.

Richmond Hill can also easily adapt to new pesticide bylaws by choosing among the vast selection of hardy shrub and rugosa roses that require no pesticides and very little maintenance. Many of these award winning varieties are Canadian introductions, bred for hardiness and disease and pest resistance.

Pesticides kill broadleaved plants. Clover is a broadleaved plant that is able to fix nitrogen, a fertilizer, in the soil. Eliminate pesticides, your broadleaved plants like clover flourish, creating their own fertilizer.

Town of Richmond Hill staff have done an excellent job gathering information on the effects of pesticides. Banning the cosmetic use of pesticides in Richmond Hill will be an important first step to improving the health of this community.

Sincerely,
Gloria Marsh,



The town of Richmond Hill will be holding public meetings regarding the costs and benefits of cosmetic pesticide use, alternatives to the non-essential use of pesticides, and a strategy for reducing the use of pesticides in the Town.

Meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Ward 6 Oct 21 Langstaff Community Centre, 7 - 9pm. Councillor DiPaola
- Ward 5 Nov 4 Bayview Hill Community Centre, 7 - 9pm. Councillor Dilorio
- Ward 1 Nov 11 Richmond Green Community Centre, 7 - 9pm. Councillor Spatafora
- Ward 4 Nov 18 Elgin West Community Centre, 7 - 9pm. Councillor Foster
- Ward 2,3 Nov 25 Rouge Woods Community Centre, 7 - 9pm. Councillor Warner, Councillor Cohen

Drop-in Centres will also be open at the same time and sites as the scheduled meetings so the public can submit written comments. You may submit your pesticide strategy comments in writing via standard mail to:

Parks, Recreation and Culture,
225 East Beaver Creek Road,
P.O. Box 300, Richmond Hill, L4C 4Y5;
or e-mail pesticides@richmondhill.ca

Meeting times should be published on the Richmond Hill website and in the local newspaper. Attend a public meeting or contact Richmond Hill council if you wish to have your say on this important matter.

For more information regarding the public meetings, contact: Town of Richmond Hill, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department: (905) 771-8870 or www.richmondhill.ca.

Solar in the City

"Natural Living: The Wilson Natural Home" chronicles the inspiring story of how a Toronto family built their dream home out of renewable straw bales that super insulate the home. Solar panels, combined with a small scale wind turbine, provide enough power to run the electricity meter backwards most days. Passive solar design and "Sahara" architecture together with a green roof offer year round comfort without a furnace or air conditioning.

The film will be presented on **Thursday, November 11th** at the University of Toronto's, **Innis College**, followed by a question and answers session featuring John Wilson, owner of the award winning Wilson natural home.

Innis College is at 2 Sussex Avenue, Toronto. Show times are: 6:30, 7:30 or 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling 416-450-2499. Ticket price: \$10.

For more information see the web site: www.NaturalLifeNetwork.com/show/

E-Mail John Wilson at: john.wilson@naturallifenetwork.com

- submitted by Diana Piche

EVENTS PAST



This summer the Richmond Hill Naturalists was again able to put together a team to participate in the Lake Wilcox Summer Dragon Boat race, held on June 20.

Mike Gurski was the leader of our team this year and, along with Barbara Anderson, helped manage the Dragon Boat to a 3rd Place Finish!



- On Saturday, September 11, 2004 the Richmond Hill Naturalists Annual Corn Roast was held at the lovely 1acre garden property of Russell Tilt, who now has a park in town named after him for his ongoing dedication as a volunteer in sustaining Richmond Hill's Parks.

- On Wed. Sept. 29, a number of organizations working on urban sprawl and natural areas protection

joined forces to offer a special workshop on planning for restoration initiatives, urban design and discussion of policy implementation. The free conference, 'Linking Landscapes: Planning for Restoration of our Urban and Rural Environments' was held at Black Creek Pioneer Village. The event was sponsored by the 'Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists', the 'Public Spaces Appreciation Association', the 'Conservation Council of Ontario' and 'Environmental Defence Canada'. Guest speakers included Rob MacIsaac, Mayor of Burlington and Chair of the Greenbelt Task Force, and Steve Hounsell, President of Ontario Nature, among others.



- October 5, 2004. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal (PIR) launched its new public website. The website [<http://www.pir.gov.on.ca>] will connect you to current information on the "Places to Grow" initiative as well as, the government's new framework for public infrastructure investments as well as and "Ontario's Affordable Housing" program, among other important information. Visit the website to learn about learn what the government is doing to build better Ontario communities.

- Friday, October 1st: The new access to the Oak Ridges Trail (ORT) at the 'Case Woodlot' off of Bathurst Street at Henderson Drive was officially opened in Aurora. The new section of trail takes the ORT off two hundred meters of sidewalk and gives us a beautiful forested trail to link up with the existing trail near Salamander Pond. A 30-minute walk of the Case Woodlot trail followed the ceremony.

- Harold Sellers Executive Director, ORTA



- Saturday, October 2, 2004: The North American Native Plant Society (NANPS) celebrated their 20th Anniversary at the Markham Civic Centre. The Town of Markham also announced the first community recipients of the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund.

NATURE NEWS

- September 30, 2004 – The **Jefferson Salamander** has *finally* been listed as "threatened" in Ontario.

A decision notice has been posted on the Environmental Registry and the new 'Species at Risk in Ontario' list is available on the MNR web site: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/022557ep.htm>.

Current species at risk in Ontario can be found at: www.ontarioparks.com/saro-list.pdf

RACCOONS IN EUROPE

Raccoons, released in Germany in 1934 have become so successful that authorities reported there are now more than a million in Germany alone. The first pair was released at Kassel, in the wooded hill country north of Frankfurt, where there are now 100 raccoons per square kilometre --comparable to densities in North America.

BIRD LIFE SPANS



According to a report from London, a recently recaptured Atlantic puffin may be a candidate for the world's oldest living wild bird at **52 years of age**. The puffin was first captured in 1957 and was thought to be six years old at the time. (The oldest free-living bird is a royal albatross at age 58.)

Mortality in small birds is quite high. Perhaps 20 to 30 per cent of young birds reach adulthood. Once a North American songbird survives to adulthood, however, it has an average life span of two to five years. Some birds outlive their kin by as much as 10 times the normal life span.

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- Submitted by Martin Chen

LOCAL ISSUES

Richmond Hill Land Swap Done!

The Ontario government has finalized a land swap deal with developers that ends what environmentalists call a "sad chapter" in the bid to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The deal trades 428 hectares of environmentally sensitive land on the moraine in Richmond Hill for 516 hectares of provincially owned land in the Seaton area of North Pickering.

The deal with six major developers ends two years of negotiations which began under the previous Conservative government. The deal was made after the ire of local politicians, residents and environmentalists in the Richmond Hill area to planned subdivisions led to a very public campaign to halt the construction. Critics raged that putting vast swaths of housing on the land would jeopardize the area that is referred to as the 'rain barrel' of the region.

The moraine houses the headwaters of three major water sources, including the Humber, Don and Rouge rivers.

The deal requires the developers contribute \$3.5 million toward the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation to help improve the parkland and develop a nature trail and requires them to sign a cost-sharing deal and financing for water, sewer and road construction for the Seaton lands. The government says this will increase the value of both the lands included in the swap and neighbouring lands still owned by the province at little cost to taxpayers.

The Provincial Government also retains ownership over the large portion of the Seaton lands considered to be a natural heritage system as part of a plan to keep two-thirds of the Seaton lands free of urban development.

Valerie Kent

Artist



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During last year's provincial election campaign, the Liberals promised to go a step further than the Conservatives had gone under Mike Harris and Ernie Eves, and said they would halt construction of 6,600 houses that were still scheduled to be built on the moraine, but after the election, the Liberals cut a deal that reduced the number of houses being built by just 900 on 19 hectares of land and sweetened the land swap offer in exchange. Construction of many of the 5,700 houses is well under way a year later.

On a related note:

The Rouge Duffins Greenspace Coalition is growing strong, with support for a "Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve" on the lands in Seaton that were swapped out for the lands on the Moraine here in Richmond Hill.

Groups supporting the idea include several Government bodies, many Provincial Environmental Organizations (including Ontario Nature, the World Wildlife Fund, Ontario Wildlands League, Sierra Club of Eastern Canada, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM), and Earthroots), as well as about 20 Local Community Groups, including Conservation Associations, Residents Groups, Neighbourhood and Community Associations, and local groups like the Pickering Naturalists and Save the Rouge Valley System.

It is lobbying Pickering local council & planners, who (according to them) are still trying to "pave over the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve". The province is trying to develop an urban plan for Seaton (on the Preserve) that can be used as a model for sustainable development in other communities across the GTA, and are now in the process of public and stakeholder workshops.

- Editor



PROTECT ONTARIO'S PARKS AND CONSERVATION RESERVES

The Government of Ontario has announced the first major review of the 'Provincial Parks Act' in 50 years. The Act was established when there were only 8 parks, and is seriously outdated. Ontario's protected areas network has grown substantially, and now includes over 300 Provincial Parks and about 250 Conservation Reserves, with 100 additional protected areas soon to be added. The current review also includes the 'Public Lands Act' and 'Wilderness Areas Act'.

The new legislation needs to clearly set the ground rules for what should and should not be permitted in parks and conservation reserves. The government needs to put "nature first" in our parks by ensuring ecological integrity is the overarching principle. Any new law needs to clearly *exclude* mining, hydro-electric development and forestry, limit roads, and protect against pollution.

Ontario Nature need the support of all its members to help protect Ontario's parks and conservation reserves! Please write the Ontario government today and voice your *support* for new parks legislation that makes ecosystem protection the *first priority*. Here are some points you could include in any correspondence:

- Put Nature First by making *ecological integrity* the overarching principle for all of Ontario's protected areas.
- Prohibit industrial uses within protected areas, including mining, forestry and hydro-electric development.
- Restrict and reduce roads and motorized vehicle access to reduce the impact of habitat fragmentation and disturbance to wildlife.

Note: Comments MUST include the EBR Registry # AB04E6001

The deadline is November 8, 2004

Send comments to:

Bob Moos, Strategic Planning Officer
Protected Areas Legislation Review
P.O. Box 7000, 300 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5
Fax: 705-755-1701

For more information about protected areas, please visit www.ontarionature.org.

For background information on this EBR posting, visit www.ontarioparks.com or www.mnr.gov.on.ca and follow the links to "It's in our Nature".

You can also comment on this EBR posting by completing an online survey by November 8, 2004 at:

www.ontarioparks.com/english/survey.html.

- Diana Piché, FON Representative

Excerpts of an article published on October 6, 2004 in 'Novae Res Urbis', a weekly publication for municipal staff, planners and politicians in the GTA -- Linda Douglas, Environmental Defence Canada.

TOUGHER MEASURES NEEDED TO DISCOURAGE SPRAWL

By Anne Marie Aikins

The proposed Golden Horseshoe greenbelt needs to be a key part of the government's long-term smart growth plan for it to have any real chance of containing "rampant urban sprawl." According to the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance, one of the ways development would be discouraged in greenfields... is by ensuring that development charges reflect the "full cost" of providing a complete range of infrastructure, including the social, cultural, recreational, and educational facilities needed to support new development – a position recently supported by Oakville mayor Ann Mulvale. The province plans to review the 'Development Charges Act' in 2005 to ensure that new development pays its fair share of the costs of growth. Currently, the act excludes municipalities from including the capital costs of "soft services" such as cultural, hospital, waste management, tourism, or libraries.

Growth should pay for growth... property taxes would go down and infrastructure needs would be provided more efficiently... if charges were higher in greenfields and lower where development and infrastructure is already established. The current growth management plan is "relatively silent about the greenbelt." It should incorporate 2 million acres of land in addition to that already protected through the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine legislation and plans. Other alliance recommendations include a freeze on new construction of infrastructure corridors; planning to prevent "leapfrog" development; stopping the Highway 427 and 404 extensions; and incorporating protection for all prime agriculture areas within the Greater Golden Horseshoe region.

- forwarded by Maryanne Yake, 1st Vice President

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

August 1 to October 13 2004

AUGUST

York Region

Pied-billed Grebe - 4 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.15 (RJF). Two adults with 2 young.
American White Pelican - 1 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.05 (HL,TH,m.obs.).
Great Blue Heron - 1 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Aug.02 (SDP). 1 at Keffer Marsh Langstaff Eco Park Aug.08 (TH). 2 at Langstaff Eco-Park Aug.15 (TH). 5 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.15 (RJF).
Green Heron - 1 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.06,4 on Aug.15 (RJF,m.obs.).
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 1 at Langstaff Eco-Park Aug.08 (TH). 10 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.15 (RJF).
Common Moorhen - Ad.+ yng@St Johns SR Marsh Aug5(TH). 8@St Johns SR Marsh Aug15(RJF).
American Coot - 2 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.05 (TH).
Black-bellied Plover - 1 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.18 (DMi).
Yellowlegs – 3@Autumn Hill Pd Thrnhl Aug7(TH). 28@Holland Lndng Swg Lagoons Aug18(DMi). Only 5 juveniles.
Spotted Sandpiper - 2 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.15 (RJF).
Least Sandpiper - 35 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.18 (DMi). Only 5 juveniles
Bonaparte's Gull - 440 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.18 (DMi). Only 6 juveniles
Caspian Tern - 6 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.15 (RJF).
Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 at 36 Cherry Hills, Ian Cannell Aug.17 (ICa).
Common Nighthawk - Large flock at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.24 (JLo).
Chimney Swift - Large flock@M.MacKenzie & Hwy.2, Aug.24 (JLo). 4 at Wallace Street Woodbridge Aug.28 (TS).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1@190 Grandview Ave, Thrnhl Aug.16-20(DJ). 1@36 Cherry Hills, Aug.17 (ICa).
Belted Kingfisher - 1 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.06 (RJF,m.obs.). 5 at St Johns SR Marsh Aug.15 (RJF).
Northern Flicker - 4 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.18 (JLo).
Red-eyed Vireo - 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.30 (JLo).
Blue Jay - 10 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.18 (JLo).
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 4@M.MacK & Hwy.27, Aug.18 (JLo). 2@199 Arnold Ave., Thrnhl most of Aug.(DTH,TH).
Swainson's Thrush - 2 at Langstaff Eco-Park Aug.15 (TH).
Yellow Warbler - 2 at 36 Cherry Hills Aug.17 (ICa).
Magnolia Warbler - 1 at Wallace Street Woodbridge Aug.27 (TS). 1 at 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill Aug.31 (H&MF).

Black-throated Blue Warbler - 5 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.30 (JLo).
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 6 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.30 (JLo).
American Redstart - 2 at 36 Cherry Hills, Ian Cannell Aug.17 (ICa). 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.30 (JLo).
Wilson's Warbler - 1 at 36 Cherry Hills, Ian Cannell Aug.17 (ICa).
Baltimore Oriole - 6 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Aug.18 (JLo).

SEPTEMBER

Peel Region

Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Sep.15 (PG).
Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Sep.01-30 (PG).

York Region

Great Blue Heron - 1 at Cook's Bay (S End) Sep.29 (MCh).
Great Egret - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Sep.02 (SLo).
Green Heron - 1 at Corbett Creek,Waterfront Trail Sep.05 (H&MF).
Wood Duck - 4 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Sep.30 (MuF,FWh). 8 at Oak Bank Pond, Thornhill Sep.26 (MCh)
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Sep.01-30 (SDP).
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2 at Bond Lake Oak Ridges Sep.01-30 (SDP).
Wild Turkey - 1 at Redelmeier Prop. Major MacK. Sep.10 (Flavia Redelmeier).
Common Nighthawk - 12 at Snowball Crn. at Dufferin Sep.06 (BB).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill Sep.02-04 (DJ).
Belted Kingfisher - 1 at Cook's Bay (S End) Sep.29 (MCh). 1 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Sep.30 (MuF,FWh).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1@Snider Marsh Mrkhm Sep.29(CMK). 3@Toogood Pond, Unionville Sep.30 (MuF,FWh).
Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Markham Boardwalk Sep.29 [Flying over] (CMK).
Eastern Phoebe - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.29 (CMK).
Blue Jay - 30 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Sep.01-30 (SDP).
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 2 Reported from many locations in September. (m.obs).
Swainson's Thrush - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.29 (CMK).
Magnolia Warbler - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill Sep.04 (DJ).
Wilson's Warbler - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill Sep.02-04 (DJ).
White-throated Sparrow - 3 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.29 (CMK).
Dark-eyed Junco - 2 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Sep.30 (MuF,FWh).
Pine Siskin - 12-15 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Sep.30 (JLo).

Durham

Rough-legged Hawk - 1 at Sobey's Pond on 10/03 (GD).
Killdeer - 24 at Brock Street on 10/03 (GD).
Lesser Yellowlegs - 3 at Brock Street on 10/03 (GD).
Pectoral Sandpiper - 6 at Sobey's Pond on 10/03 (GD).
Short-billed Dowitcher - 2 at Sobey's Pond on 10/03 (GD).
Brown Thrasher - 2 at Halls Rd. on 10/03 (GD).

Toronto

Peregrine Falcon - 1 at Finch Bus Station Sep.16 (MWh).

OCTOBER

York Region

Great Blue Heron - 2 at Oakbank Pond Thornhill Oct.08 (MCh).
Turkey Vulture - 4 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.08 (SLo).
Snow Goose – 2@Coyote Pond,Oct8(SLo). 2@Hwy 11/Holland Rvr Brdg Oct10(JWa). 1@Holland Lndng Oct.11 (BB).
Cackling Goose - 18 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.08, 6 on Oct.11 (SLo,JI).
Osprey -1 at Holland River Newmarket Oct.11 [Flying over] (JWa).
Cooper's Hawk - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill Oct.05 (DJ).

Red-shouldered Hawk - 2 at Bond Lake Oak Ridges Oct.01-12 (SDP).
 Killdeer - 7 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.08 (SLo). 2 at Snider Marsh Markham Oct.13 (CMK). Also 29 Sept.
 Greater Yellowlegs - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.11 (SLo).
 Lesser Yellowlegs - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.11 (SLo).
 Pectoral Sandpiper - 7 at Coyote Pond, Markham Oct.11 (SLo).
 Common Snipe - 4 at Snider Marsh Markham Oct.13 (CMK). also 29 Sept.
 Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 at Fairy Lake Newmarket Oct.12 (JWa).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1 at Newmarket Oct.03 (RJF). 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) Oct.13 (CMK).
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Oct.06 (MuF,FWh).
 Eastern Phoebe - 1 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Oct.06 (MuF,FWh).
 Blue-headed Vireo - 1 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Oct.06 (MuF,FWh).
 Blue Jay - 30 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Oct.01-10 (SDP).
 Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2@4 Grenfell Mrkhm Oct1-14(CMK). 1@Grandview Ave, Thornhill early Oct(DJ).
 White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 at 190 Grandview Ave., Thornhill most of Oct.(DJ).
 Brown Creeper - 6 at Bathurst & Mulock, Newmarket Oct.03 (RJF). 2 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond Oct.07 (JWa).
 Veery - 1 at Holland Landing Riverbank Oct.10 (JWa).
 Hermit Thrush - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Oct.13 (CMK).
 Yellow-rumped Warbler - 5 at Wallace Street Woodbridge Oct.11 (TS).
 Palm Warbler - 1 at Holland Landing Riverbank Oct.10 (JWa).
 Ovenbird - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) Oct.13 (CMK).
 White-throated Sparrow – 3@Woodward Av, Thrnhl Oct6(H&MF). Sml flock@Holland River Nwmrkt Oct.11 (JWa).
 White-crowned Sparrow – 1@Woodward Av, Thrnhl Oct6(H&MF). 1@Grandview Av, Thrnhl Oct11-12(DJ).
 Dark-eyed Junco - several at different locations early Oct. (m.obs.).
 Common Grackle - flock of >1,000 at M.MacK & Hwy.27, Oct1(JLo). ~400@Nantucket Dr. Oak Rdgs Oct.1-11(SDP).

Toronto

Peregrine Falcon - 1 at Queen's Quay Oct.04 (MWh).

Out-of-Area

Osprey - 2 at Peoria, Ill. Oct.09-11 (MCh).

Hairy Woodpecker - 1 at Peoria, Ill. Oct.09-11 (MCh).

BB Bruce Brydon, **CMK** Carol McKnight, **DJ** Dana Jonak, **DMi** Dave Milsom, **DTH** Doris Hofmann, **FWh** Freddy Whillans, **GD** Gene Denzel, **H&MF** Harold & Muriel Farrant, **HL** Harry Lumsden, **GL** Graham Leonard, **ICa** Ian Cannell, **JI** Jean Iron, **JLo** Joan Love, **JWa** John Watson, **m.obs.** Many Observers, **MCh** Martin Chen, **MuF** Muriel Farrant, **MWh** Michael White, **PG** Phyllis Graydon, **RJF** Ron Fleming, **SDP** Susan DiPucchio, **SLo** Stan Long, **TH** Theo Hofmann, **TS** Tessa Shelvey.

From the Editor

This year is also the 50th Anniversary of the Richmond Hill Naturalists' club. The town has changed much since 1955 and we continue to meet the challenges imposed on our natural areas and species.

As we progress through the vast planning changes that are occurring province-wide and in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, it will reflect upon our legacy as a club to ensure that nature is adequately provided for and restored to its past glory far into the future. Through the NOAH Vision and our Gardens for Nature program coming in 2005, we will mark the 50th anniversary of our club as a crowning achievement of our dedication to nature in our community and beyond.

Natalie Helferty -- President, nhelferty@rogers.com

As we near the end of the year 2004, many things seem to be coming together as a broader awareness of the necessity of positive change becomes more apparent among the people of the community. There seems to be some reaction to the subtle changes in mind-set ~ at least it is hoped so. The necessity of becoming more efficient and of protecting what we already have and building smarter are starting to be felt in the decisions being made at all levels. Let us all hope for continuing awareness and concern for our Local, Provincial, National, and Global environment and all the species that live within it.

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