



THE BULLETIN

October 2005 No. 448

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

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Events calendar

Botany Group	Monday November 7, 2005
Executive Meeting	Tuesday November 8, 2005 7:30PM Location: 217 Romfield Circuit, Thornhill
Bird Group	Wednesday November 9, 2005. 12:30pm
General Meeting	Thursday, November 18, 2005 7:30PM Topic: Doug Larson. 'The Evolution of Cities' Location: Elgin Barrow Arena Complex
Field Trips	Saturday October 22, 2005. 10:30am Event: Briar Nine Tree Planting Location: Oak Ridges.
	Sunday November 6, 2005. 7am Event: Late fall migration Location: Leslie Street Spit

See more Details on Page 2

100 Years of Bird Banding in Canada

Billions of migratory birds leave Canada each fall after breeding season, traveling south to winter destinations in the southern U.S.A., Mexico, the Caribbean and Central or South America. This fall will mark the 100th anniversary of Canadian efforts to track the destinations of our migratory birds.

On September 24, 1905, James Henry Fleming placed a band on the foot of an American Robin in his backyard in Toronto, Ontario, in the hopes of discovering where it went for the winter. One hundred years later, over 900 banders place bands and markers on over 300 000 migratory birds each year in Canada.

"Bird banding is used throughout the works, as a basic tool for bird research and monitoring," said the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment. "Banding allows biologists and wildlife managers to study behaviours and ecology, monitor populations and protect endangered species. The study of birds can also be used to address human health and safety concerns such as West Nile virus through capture and taking blood samples."

Environment Canada's Bird Banding Office and the United States Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory have jointly administered the North American Bird Banding Program since 1923.

Continued on Page 4...



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.

Editor: Lloyd Helferty

Mailing Database: Mike Turk

Distribution: Athena Antiochos

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.

NEW MEMBERS:

3 new members joined last month

Meet new members at club events and say Hello!

EVENTS FUTURE

- **Saturday October 22, 2005. 10:30am – noon.** Briar Nine Tree Planting in Oak Ridges. Spend a couple of hours outdoors on a Saturday morning adding to the natural cover at Briar Nine Park and Reserve, Bloomington Road west of Yonge. The birds and other wildlife will thank you for helping restore more of our community to provide improved habitat. Equipment is supplied but please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear as well as consider bringing work gloves.

- **Sunday November 6, 2005. 7am.** Leslie Street Spit [Tommy Thompson Park] Late fall migration, early overwintering birds and waterfowl. A lovely place to explore at this time of the year. Bring a lunch. Meet at Vellore Hall (9545 Weston Rd, 1km S of Major Mackenzie) to car pool. Questions? Call John Watson 905-895-1549.

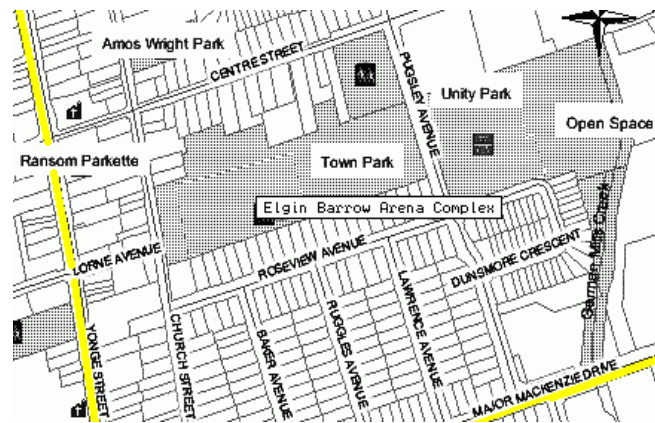
- **Monday November 7, 2005.** The Botany Group is to be held on this day. Details can be obtained from members.

- **Tuesday November 8, 2005. 7:30pm.** The Executive meeting will be at Mike Turk's home, 217 Romfield Circuit, Thornhill. 905-731-8380.

- **Wednesday November 9, 2005. 12:30pm.** The Bird Group will meet on this day. Details can be obtained from other members.

- **Friday November 18, 2005. 7:30pm.** The General Meeting, held jointly with the West Humber Naturalists, will be held on a FRIDAY this month due to scheduling conflicts. The speaker for November will be Dr. Doug Larson of the University of Guelph, who will have a presentation on 'The Evolution of Cities'.

Important! The November meeting will be held at the Elgin Barrow Arena Complex, 43 Church Street South in Richmond Hill -- 1 street East of the Presbyterian Church.



- **Saturday December 17, 2005.** Heads Up! The December Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for this day. We need more volunteers! Birding skills are ideal, but not necessary. Backyard birdfeeder watchers also welcome. The Pot Luck will be at the home of Athena Antiochos, 74 Cherry Hills Road, in Concord. Call Natalie Helferty at 905-881-8403 to schedule a spot. If you want to be a trip Leader, please call Martin Chen at 905-709-0246.

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).

- **Thursday October 20, 2005.** The first meeting of ORTA's Richmond Hill Chapter will meet. If any members wish to join this new chapter of the Oak Ridges Trail Association, contact Stan Butcher, President and Interim Chair of the Richmond Hill Chapter at 905-773-3960 or email: president@orta.on.ca.

- **Saturday October 22, 2005.** The [Ontario Nature](http://www.ontariounature.org) fall regional meeting for Lake Ontario North in Peterborough. Contact Jennifer Baker: 416-444-8419 ext. 224 or Toll-Free 1-800-440-2366. E-mail: jenniferb@ontarionature.org.

- **Saturday October 22, 2005. 10am.** Rouge Valley Conservation Centre: "Hike for the Rouge" fundraising event with 5 km and 10 km walks, starting at 10am. Registration at 9am. Free BBQ lunch at 12:00 noon. Rain or Shine. There is no registration fee, but each hiker must bring \$20 minimum of pledges to participate. Proceeds go to the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre for education and restoration projects. For information call 416-282-0453.

- **Sunday October 23, 2005. 10:30am.** The Toronto Trails Festival will be conducting a guided trail walk in the Rouge River Valley. There will also be a Trails Festival special event on Sunday October 30th. In addition, 25 SELF-GUIDED walks will be available during October. Visit www.torontotrailsfestival.ca for details.

- **Wednesday October 26, 2005.** Environmental Defence hosts a **Greenbelt Gala** in celebration of the creation of the southern Ontario Greenbelt. The event will recognize the support and dedication of those leaders who made the Greenbelt a reality. The Greenbelt Act, passed in February 2005, protects 1.8 million acres of southern Ontario's threatened farmland, river headwaters, forests, wetlands and endangered species habitats. The Greenbelt is a significant contribution towards safeguarding the quality of life of Ontarians today and for generations to come. Premier Dalton McGuinty will be the keynote speaker and we will be joined by special guests John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Marilyn Churley, MPP. Tickets for the Greenbelt Gala can be purchased by calling 416-323-9521.

- **Thursday October 27, 2005. 7:30pm.** Rouge Valley Conservation Centre: Aquatic life in the Rouge, the work of a Citizen Science group monitoring river health in the Rouge Valley, presented by David Lawrie.

- **Sunday October 30, 2005. 1:30pm.** Rouge Valley Conservation Centre: Guided nature walk. Hike leader: Robert Marshall. For detailed information please call 416-282-0453.

- **Saturday November 5, 2005. 1pm to 4pm.** Richmond Hill Tree Planting at Yonge Street & Jefferson Forest Dr. Volunteers are invited to come out and help Ontario Streams plant trees and shrubs within the Rouge watershed in Richmond Hill. We will be planting approximately 300 native trees and 300 shrubs in a valley within the Rouge River headwaters area. This vegetation will increase the amount and quality of habitat available to local wildlife.

Shovels will be supplied, however volunteers should wear appropriate shoes and clothing, as well as work gloves if desired. Refreshments will be provided.

Directions: From Yonge Street turn east onto Jefferson Forest Drive and park in the parking lot on the right.

Contact Christine Pritchard at 905-713-7399 or email christine.pritchard@ontariostreams.on.ca.

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Annual Greeting Card Fund-Raiser

Now's the time to support your club and bring in funds to cover speakers and operational costs!
This year's Robert Bateman print is '**Split Rails – Snow Buntings**'.

Packages contain 10 cards each and are being sold for \$8/pkg or two pkg's for \$15.00.

The greeting card contains the message: '**Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the Coming year**'.

Alternatively you can request a package of the hasty notes for year round use.

Also available from the Heritage Collection is the Red Fox Greeting Card for \$5 for a package of 10 cards.

Please submit your order ASAP to Diana Piché at 905-773-4199 or diana.pihce@sympatico.ca

Cards are available for pick-up as of October 22nd.

- Sadly, this month, **Tracey Etwell**, our Environment Rep and board member, has resigned from the Board of Directors for the upcoming season. She will continue to be a member of the RHN, but would like to devote more time to her environmental advisory committee position for the town of Aurora.

... continued from Page 1

100 Years of Bird Banding in Canada

More than 66 million birds have been banded in North America with close to 4 million encounters for 980 species and subspecies since 1908. Banding and recovery data collected in Canada contribute to ornithological research and the conservation and management of North American migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere.

"The information that has gathered in the last 100 years of bird banding in Canada has been phenomenal for the scientific study and conservation of birds," said Minister Dion. "Ensuring we have sound science information behind our decision making is key to the Government of Canada's overall approach under Project Green, our broad environmental vision that links Canada's economic competitiveness and prosperity to a sustainable future."

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a bird band was a simple hand stamped aluminum band placed around the leg so a bird could be identified and tracked. Now, a century later, that same method is still used, except for birds that spend a lot of time in the water require bands made of stainless steel.

Bands come in different sizes and designs to accommodate a variety of sizes of birds. Hummingbirds are so small that each band must be cut and individually shaped for each bird, whereas larger birds of prey such as hawks and eagles require lock-on or rivet bands so that they cannot be removed by powerful beaks.

Some studies require that individual birds be identified from a distance. In these cases, other marking devices such as colour bands, neck collars, plastic streamers, wing tags, nasal saddles, feather clippings, and paints or dyes are sometimes used in addition to the basic bands.

Canada's bird banders are highly skilled in bird capture, handling, identification, aging and sexing. Banders must hold a scientific permit issued by the federal government to capture and band migratory birds.

The North American Bird Banding Program relies on the public to report found bird bands. Canadians who find a banded bird or a bird band are asked to note as much information as they can about the bird and its band and contact the Bird Banding Office at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/migb/01111e.cfm>) or toll-free at 1-800-327-BAND.

The Government of Canada's activities for the protection and conservation of migratory birds are part

of the Project Green, a set of policies and programs aimed at supporting a sustainable environment. Project Green addresses environmental initiatives for the 21st century including measures to conserve our biodiversity, protect our water, and clean up contaminated sites. For more information about bird banding or assisting as a volunteer with a banding project, contact one of the many bird observatories across Canada. Volunteering is the best way to learn the challenging skills necessary to become a bird bander. For a list of bird observatories across Canada view the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network website at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cmmn.html>.

Notes from the October BOTANY GROUP meeting

Only 5 members were present at the October 3rd meeting (at the Martindale residence) to take up the challenge of identifying the mushrooms they had found. With the help of "Mushrooms of Ontario" by George Barron, we found that our specimens were either bracket fungi or mushrooms with gills.

Dryads's Saddle - Polyporus squamosis

Fruit bodies are bracket-form to short stalked, up to 30 cm across by 5 cm thick, kidney-shaped to nearly circular, yellowish to tan, covered with dark brown flattened scales, and fleshy. They are widespread and common.

Turkey Tail - Trametes versicolor

Fruit bodies are shelving, overlapping, thin, tough, 3 to 8 cm long by 5 cm wide, velvety, narrowly zonate and variable in colour, from tan to orange to red-brown to amber. They fruit on hardwood logs and stumps.

Sheep Polypore - *Albatrellus ovinus*

This is a bracket fungus. The caps are 5 to 15 cm across and irregularly circular, flat, dry, at first soft and fleshy becoming tough in age and off-white to yellowish.

Agrocybe pediades

Gill mushroom have a cup of 1 to 3.5 cm in width and a stem 2.5 cm long. Normally they are completely smooth with a gently convex yellowish ochre cap and no veil. The stem is solid, cylindrical and straight. The flesh is pale with a yeasty smell and taste. Widespread and common, it occurs typically in lawns. The spore print is brown.

Sharp Scaled Parasol - *Lepiota acutaesquamosa*

Caps are 5 to 12 cm across, convex to flat – off-white to tan, dry, and covered with dark brown pointed scales. Stalks are up to 12 cm tall, white with a swollen base. The ring is white, sometimes disappearing. It fruits on the ground or sometimes on wood in forests. The spore print is white.



-- Marion Martindale

- Sharp Scaled Parasol

- The official ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the **Robert Holland Interpretive Centre** on October 3rd in Richmond Hill. It is located at Phyllis Rawlinson Park, 11715 Leslie Street (north of 19th Sideroad).

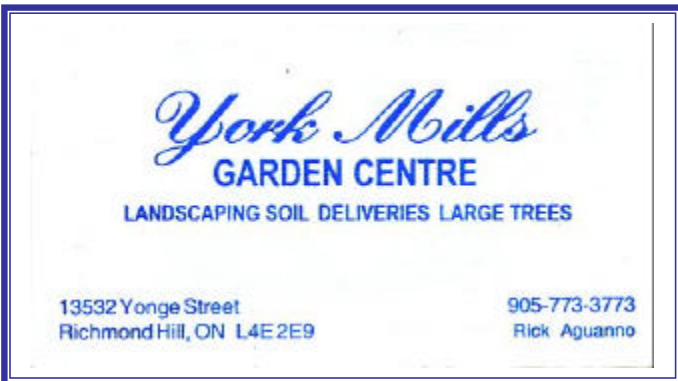
The historic "Shaw House" was donated to the Town in 1997 primarily through the efforts of Mr. Robert Holland, a resident of Richmond Hill and a member of the [Rouge Valley Foundation](#). The house, estimated to have been built between 1801 and 1834, has been restored and sits as a focal point within [Phyllis Rawlinson Park](#), as the Robert Holland Interpretive Centre.

Having the unique advantage of being positioned in the ecologically sensitive *Oak Ridges Moraine* within Phyllis Rawlinson Park, the Robert Holland Interpretive Centre will provide opportunities for residents to participate in environmental studies, native studies, pioneer life, tree planting, trail maintenance, habitat construction and interpretive hikes. Historical displays within the Centre will also educate people on the history of the "Shaw House" and the Rawlinson family. This Centre will allow people to interact with the environment and nature in one of Richmond Hill's oldest heritage homes.

- **Russ Tilt Park** is almost complete. Russell Tilt Park is a new facility currently under construction in Oak Ridges on Black Forest Road west of Yonge. The main park entrance will be at Black Forest Drive, with smaller entrances at Regatta Avenue and Acorn Road. Park features include an interactive water play area, children's play equipment, a park shelter, seating, tree and ornamental plantings, two senior soccer fields, 3 tennis courts, and a Senior Slo-pitch diamond.

One special feature of the park is the functioning original site windmill that was salvaged from the Hughey Farm before the park development. The windmill is currently undergoing refurbishment and will be installed as a focal point in a plaza located within the park. This facility was named after Richmond Hill Naturalists member and town resident Russell Tilt in recognition of his invaluable contributions in the field of Parks and Recreation. The park has been designed in consultation with Mr. Tilt to reflect his

unique ideas on public open space. The park size is approximately 7.5 hectares in size.



- On September 28 the Minister of Natural Resources announced a new **TIPS MNR Reporting Line**. The TIPS MNR Line is a toll-free telephone line that will permit the public to report natural resource violations directly to the Ministry 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round. The TIPS MNR Line was established to provide better access and service for the public to report resource abuse to our Ministry. In the past the public did not always know who to contact, where to call, what number to call or how to reach MNR during non-business hours. The TIPS MNR Line provides direct access to MNR, at any time and at no cost to the caller.

The TIPS MNR Reporting Line is an expansion of the successful Moose Watch Line which was dedicated to the reporting of moose poaching. All known or suspected violations or abuse of Ontario's natural resources may be reported to the TIPS MNR Line.

Our natural resources are more fragile than we know. Their protection is dependent on all Ontarians and Ontario resources users that care about what happens to them and supports responsible use of our resources.

By reporting known or suspected resource violations callers will be assisting Ontario Conservation Officers in their investigation of resource abuse. By working together we can help protect our natural resources from abuse and illegal activity.

-- Diana Piche

LOCAL ISSUES

The Provincial government is taking a stable, business-like approach to resolving planning issues, and thus has established a new "**Office of the Provincial Development Facilitator**" (PDF).

Alan Wells, former Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) at the Regional Municipality of York, was appointed Provincial Development Facilitator on August 11 for a one-year term. He will help the province, municipalities, developers and community groups resolve issues relating to growth management, land-use and infrastructure planning and environmental protection. The job of Provincial Development Facilitator is similar to an Ombudsman for planning. On a more local note, Alan Wells was the person who helped [Michael White and others] get a bridge built over the dry ravine north of Stouffville Sideroad when Bayview Avenue was extended a few years ago. The purpose of this bridge is to act as a wildlife corridor across the Oak Ridges Moraine.

-- Submitted by Natalie Helferty, past President

- A collaborative partnership between STORM, Citizens' Environment Watch, and the Centre for Community Mapping has created a project called **Monitoring the Moraine (MTM)**. This is a citizen-led project that will support efforts to preserve the Oak Ridges Moraine. It is supported by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (Environment Canada). The MTM project will train volunteers to understand, monitor and assess the biological health of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the rules and regulations surrounding it. This information will be publicly accessible through a online common map forum. It will become a living library as volunteers continually feed it with new and updated information. The data will let us know if the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) is being implemented properly. Combining environmental and policy monitoring will give people the tools to make informed recommendations for the ORMCP review in 2014.

-- Diana Piche



Attention Advocates for the protection of the Niagara Escarpment!

- Nelson Aggregate is planning to destroy more of the Niagara Escarpment by applying for a new quarry permit that will enable them to remove another 200 acres on Burlington's best land.

A group calling itself **PERL (Protecting Escarpment Rural Land)** will hold a Public Information Session which will include planners from the Region of Halton, City of Burlington, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources. This Public Information Session is on Wednesday, September 21st at 6pm at Kilbride Public School, 6611 Pantou Street, Burlington.

EVENTS PAST

- The second public workshop for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park was held on Tuesday, October 11th at the Langstaff Community Centre. Presentations were made of the trail along with a plan for a golf course plan and some restoration project plans.

- In early fall the Federal Government announced it would allow a massive new diamond mine to proceed in the James Bay lowlands with no further assessment. The Victor Diamond Mine is a massive open pit mine being proposed by the DeBeers diamond conglomerate in Ontario's pristine northern boreal region, near Attawapiskat on James Bay.

On behalf of CPAWS-Wildlands League, Sierra Legal Defence Fund [SLDF] has filed an application under Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights for a formal review of the government's lack of comprehensive land use planning in the northern boreal. The groups are asking the Ontario Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources and Northern Development and Mines to assess whether the province has adequate safeguards in place to protect the ecological values of its remaining intact boreal landscape under current development pressures. In the meantime, the groups are calling on the Province to fully assess the Victor Diamond Mine and prevent any new industrial developments in Ontario's remaining northern wilderness from proceeding.

-- Kori Brus, SDLF

-- In September the Region of Peel ignored Ontario's anti sprawl legislation and the public by siding with developers to fast track development in Brampton. In what was called Official Plan Amendment 15 (ROPA15), Brampton's Urban Boundaries were expanded in order to fast-track development in Brampton, developing over valuable farmland. ROPA 15 tries to slip by Ontario's new Legislation, which is designed to bring some sanity to unbridled development. With these changes, the City of Brampton opened up 6,000 acres of Class 1 farmland for development in Northwest Brampton.

-- Diana Piche

NATURE NEWS

In September Ontario Nature, the province's largest and oldest conservation organization, hired Caroline Schultz to be its new executive director. Ms. Schultz, who takes over October 24, is an experienced and dynamic leader of environmental non-profit organizations with degrees in both science and non-profit management.

Ms. Schultz is taking the helm from Babak Abbaszadeh, who is leaving next week to become the executive assistant to Ontario's Energy Minister, Dwight Duncan.

During the interim period, Wendy Francis, Ontario Nature's new Director of Conservation and Science, is serving as Acting Executive Director. Ms. Francis is a nationally respected conservationist, with advanced degrees in biology, law, and environmental law. She has experience filling interim executive director positions, most recently with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

5th August to 11th October 2005

Peel Region

American Bittern - 1 at Castlederg & Mt. Pleasant Aug.30 (anon fide PG).
Great Egret - 1 at Pond, Hwy.9, 3 km W Airport Rd Aug.16, 1 on 23 Aug., 2 on 24, and 4 on 25 (RTa).
Blue-winged Teal - 8 at Pond, Hwy.9 3 km W Airport Rd. Aug.16 (RTa).
Osprey - 2 at Palgrave Conservation Area Aug.30 [Circling above] (EM).
Northern Goshawk - 1 Ad at Duffy's Lane Oct.12 (DMi).
Black-bellied Plover - 14 at Nixon Rd. Bolton Sep.19 (DMi).
American Golden-Plover - 4 at Nixon Rd. Bolton Sep.19 (DMi).
Killdeer - 82 at Hwy 50 N of Mayfield Bolton Sep.19 (DMi).
Greater Yellowlegs - 2 at Industr. Area & Hwy 50 Oct.02 (PG).
Common Nighthawk - 12 at Palgrave Conservation Area Aug.30 (EM).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 8 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Aug.25 (DMi).
Rufous Hummingbird - 1 at Caledon East Aug.08 (anon. fide PG).
Belted Kingfisher - 1 at Pond, Hwy.9 3km W Airport Rd. Aug.16 (RTa).
Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area Sep.18 (anon. fide PG).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Oct.10 (DMi).
Blue-headed Vireo - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Sep.07 (PG). 1 at Duffy's Lane Oct.12 (DMi).
Horned Lark - 2 at Industr. Area & Hwy 50 Oct.02 (PG).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Sep.19 (DMi).
 Brown Creeper - 1 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Oct.09 (DMi).
 Swainson's Thrush - 7 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Sep.18 (DMi).
 American Pipit - 24 at Hwy 50 N of Mayfield Bolton Sep.19 (DMi). 50 at Industr. Area & Hwy 50 Oct.02 (PG).
 Nashville Warbler -1 at Palgrave Conservation Area Aug.30 (EM).
 Tennessee Warbler -1 at Duffy's Lane Oct.12 (DMi).
 Magnolia Warbler - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Sep.07 (PG).
 Black-throated Blue Warbler - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Sep.07 (PG).
 Yellow-rumped Warbler - dozens at Industr. Area & Hwy 50 Oct.02 (PG). large number at Duffy's Lane Oct.12 (DMi).
 Pine Warbler - 1 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Oct.10 (DMi). 2 at Duffy's Lane Oct.12 (DMi).
 Palm Warbler - 2 at Duffy's Lane Oct.12 (DMi).
 American Redstart – 1@Palgrave Cons Area Aug.30 (EM). 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Sep.07 (PG).
 Ovenbird - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area Aug.30 (EM).
 Scarlet Tanager - 2 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Sep.19 (DMi).
 Fox Sparrow - 1 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Oct.10 (DMi).
 White-throated Sparrow – 20@Graydon Propty, Humber Grv Sep13(PG). 8@Credit Vly Cons Centre Oct.05 (NH).
 White-crowned Sparrow – 2@Credit Vly Cons Cntre Oct5(NH). several at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Oct.12 (DMi).
 Dark-eyed Junco - 1 at Palgrave Village Aug.28 (RTa). 10 at Credit Valley Conservation Centre Oct.05 (NH).
 Baltimore Oriole - 5 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Aug.25 (DMi).
 Purple Finch - 3 at 232 Belair Dr.Bolton (Milsom) Oct.12 (DMi).

York Region.

Common Loon - 4 at Cold Creek Conservation Area Oct.10 [Flying South] (DMi).
 Pied-billed Grebe – 1@Hlnd Lndng Swg Lgns Sep1(RJF). 1@St Johns SR Marsh Oct1(RJF,MvdT), 2 on Oct4(TH).
 Eared Grebe - 1 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Oct.03 (BB,RJF).
 Great Blue Heron– 6@StJohnsSR Mrsh Sep4(RJF) 1@Snider Mrsh Sep5-9(CMK) 1@StJohns SR Marsh Oct4(TH)
 Great Egret – 1@Reesor Pnds Aug15(SLo). 1@Blmngtn/McCwn Golf C. Sep19(S&JB). 1@Reesor Pnds Sep26(SLo).
 Green Heron -1@Schomberg Sewage Lgns Sep4(RJF). 1@Nantucket Dr. Oak Rdgs Sep.?? [[Unknwn Date]] (SDP).
 Black-crowned Night-Heron - 2 at St Johns SR Marsh Sep.04 (RJF).
 Trumpeter Swan - 2 at St Johns SR Marsh Oct.04 (TH). One with yellow flag [589?]
 Wood Duck – 12@Holland Lndng Sewage Lagoons Aug9, 50 on Sep.01 (RJF). 12 at St Johns SR Marsh Oct.01 (RJF).
 Mallard - 27 at St Johns SR Marsh Oct.04 (TH).
 Blue-winged Teal - 200 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Sep.01 (RJF).
 Northern Shoveler - 2 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Sep.01 (RJF).
 Green-winged Teal - 24 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Sep.01 (RJF).
 Ruddy Duck - 3 at St Johns SR Marsh Oct.01 (RJF).
 Osprey – 1@Schomberg Swg Lgns Aug13(RJF). 2@Seneca Clg Sep17(RJF). 1@Cawthra-Mulock Res Sep18(RJF).
 1 at Cold Creek Conservation Area Sep.24 (DMi). 1 at Yonge N. of Bathurst Oct.08 (BB).
 Northern Harrier - 1 Juv at On St. Johns S.R. Oct.01 (RJF,MvdT).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk – 2@Cawthra-Mulck Res Sep18(RJF). 1@M.Mack/Hwy.27 Sep20(JLo).
 5@Cold Creek Cons Sep24(DMi). 1@Cold Creek Cons Oct10(DMi).
 Northern Goshawk - 1 Juv at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Sep.04 (RJF).
 Broad-winged Hawk - 1 at Seneca College Sep.17 (RJF).
 American Kestrel - 3 at Cold Creek Conservation Area Sep.24 (DMi).
 Merlin - 1F@Hlnd Lndng Swg Lgns Sep1(RJF). 1@Schmbrg Swg Lgns Sep4(RJF). 1@Seneca Clg Sep17(RJF).
 1 at St Johns SR Marsh Oct.01 (RJF,MvdT).
 Ruffed Grouse - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve Sep.18 (RJF).
 Virginia Rail - 2 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.14 (SLo,CMK).
 Common Moorhen - 1 at St Johns SR Marsh Sep.04; 2 on Oct.01 (RJF,MvDdT).
 Black-bellied Plover - 1 Ad at Reesor Ponds Markham Sep.25 (SLo). 2 at Markham Bypass Sep.26 (SLo).
 American Golden-Plover - 1 Ad at Reesor Ponds Markham Aug.29 (SLo).
 Semipalmated Plover - 4 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.09; 8 on 15th (RJF).

Killdeer - 15 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.09 (RJF). 15 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Aug.09 (RJF).
 Greater Yellowlegs- 1@Snider Mrsh Au8(CMK). 2@Schmbrg Swg Lgns Au9(RJF). 3@Schmbrg Swg Lgns Oct10(DMi)
 Lesser Yellowlegs - 2to5@Snider Mrsh Aug6-30; 3 Sep7(CMK). 30@Schmbrg Swg Lgns Au9; 40 on Au13(RJF).
 60 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.15 (RJF,RJP).
 Solitary Sandpiper - 3 to 7@Snider Mrsh Markham Aug.06-30 (CMK). 1 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Aug.13 (RJF).
 Spotted Sandpiper - 6@Holland Lndng Swg Lgns Aug9(RJF). 4@Schomberg Swg Lagoons Aug.09; 12 on 13th (RJF).
 Semipalmated Sandpiper - 8 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Aug.09 (RJF).
 Least Sandpiper - 6(2 ad,4 juv)@Hnd Lndng Swg Lgns Au9; 20 on Au15(RJF). 15@Schomberg Swg Lgns Au13(RJF).
 Pectoral Sandpiper - 1or2@Snider Mrsh Aug6-8(CMK). 18@Holland Lndng Swg Lgns Au9; 28 on Au15(RJF,RJP).
 12 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Aug.09 (RJF). 6 at Reesor Ponds Markham Sep.24 (SLo).
 Stilt Sandpiper - 1 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Sep.05 (RJF).
 Short-billed Dowitcher - 1 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Aug.13 (RJF).
 Wilson's Snipe- 1@Schomberg Swg Lgns Aug.13 (RJF). 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Aug.29-30; 1 on Oct.09 (CMK).
 Bonaparte's Gull - 120 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.09 (RJF).
 Kumlien's Gull - 1 Ad at Markham Bypass Oct.10 (JI).
 Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 at Markham Bypass Sep.13 (SLo). 1 at Markham Bypass Sep.26 (SLo). 5 or 6 Oct.10 (JI).
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve Sep.18 (RJF).
 Common Nighthawk- 1@Hnd Lndng Swg Lgns Au16(RJF,RJP). 15@Dufferin/Rutherf&MjrMacK Aug25[above](BB).
 Common Nighthawk - 4 at Bayview @ Gormley Rd. Sep.11 (RJF).
 Chimney Swift - 20 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Aug.13 (RJF).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 2@Maple Ave RichHill Aug25(GL). 1@Woodward Ave Thornhill Sep5 (H&MF).
 1@Woodward Ave. Thornhill Sep5(H&MF). 3-4@Snider Mrsh Sep7(CMK).
 Belted Kingfisher- 2@StJohnsSR Mrsh Sep4(RJF). 1@Sndr Mrsh Sep5-14(CMK). 1@Schmbrg Swg Lgns Oct10(DMi).
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2@M.MacK & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.02 (JLo). 3 Imm at 4 Grenfell Markham Oct.05 (CMK).
 Olive-sided Flycatcher - 1 at Lake Wilcox Sep.08 (S&JB).
 Blue-headed Vireo - 2 at Seneca College Sep.17 (RJF). 1 at Markham Boardwalk Sep.19 (CMK).
 Great Crested Flycatcher - 12 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.16 (RJF,RJP).
 Eastern Kingbird - 30 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Aug.16 (RJF,RJP).
 Warbling Vireo - 1 at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons Aug.13 (RJF). 2 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.09 (CMK).
 Blue Jay - 110@Snider Mrsh Sep18(CMK). 23@Arnold Ave Thrnhl Oct1(TH).
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1@Woodward Ave Thrnhl Aug7(H&MF). 1@Maple Ave RichHill Aug25(GL).
 2 at 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill Sep.01-30 (H&MF). All summer. 40 at YRF - Scout Tract Oct.01 (RJF,MvdT).
 White-breasted Nuthatch - 4 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.10 (JLo).
 Brown Creeper - 1 at YRF - Scout Tract Oct.01 (RJF,MvdT).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - many@Cold Creek Cons Area Sep.24 (DMi). 100 at YRF - Scout Tract Oct.01 (RJF,MvdT).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 30@Cawthra-Mulock Res Sep18(RJF). many at Cold Creek Conservation Area Sep.24 (DMi).
 100 at YRF - Scout Tract Oct.01 (RJF,MvdT). 8 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27 Oct.02 (JLo).
 Eastern Bluebird - 1 F at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Sep.12 (JLo).
 Swainson's Thrush - 1 at Markham Boardwalk Sep.19 (CMK).
 Hermit Thrush - 1 to 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.02-10 (JLo).
 American Robin - 53 at Cold Creek Conservation Area Oct.10 (DMi).
 Gray Catbird - 2@Snider Mrsh Aug29-30(CMK). 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27 Sep.20, 6 on Oct.02 (JLo).
 American Pipit - 30 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.02 (JLo).
 Cedar Waxwing - 60@Holland Lndng Swg Lgns Aug16(RJF,RJP). 30@M.MacK/Hwy.27 Sep.12, 24(JLo).
 Nashville Warbler - 6 at Seneca College Sep.17 (RJF). a few at Cold Creek Conservation Area Sep.24 (DMi).
 Northern Parula - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Aug.30 (CMK). 1 at Cold Creek Conservation Area Sep.24 (DMi).
 Chestnut-sided Warbler - 1 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Sep.15 (H&MF).
 Magnolia Warbler - a few at Cold Creek Conservation Area Sep.24 (DMi).
 Yellow-rumped Warbler - 10 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.08 (JLo).
 Black-throated Green Warbler - 1@Maple Ave Rich Hill Aug.25 (GL). 1 at Toogood Pond, Unionville Sep.15 (H&MF).
 Prairie Warbler - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.18 (CMK). 1 at Markham Boardwalk Sep.19 (CMK).

Wilson's Warbler - 1 M at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.09 (CMK).
 Scarlet Tanager - 1 M at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Sep.22 (JLo).
 Chipping Sparrow - 6 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27 Oct.02 (JLo). a few at Cold Creek Conservation Area Oct.10 (DMi).
 Clay-colored Sparrow - 5 (2 ad. 3 juv.) at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve Sep.18 (RJF).
 Field Sparrow - 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Sep.12 (JLo).
 Song Sparrow - 1 at 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill Aug.29 (H&MF). 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.05-15 (CMK).
 12 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Sep.12, 10 on Sep.20 (JLo).
 White-throated Sparrow- 20@Seneca Clg Sep17(RJF). 40@Cawthra-Mulock Res Sep18(RJF).
 White-crowned Sparrow - 50 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Oct.02 (JLo).
 Dark-eyed Junco- 1@Feeder in Bolton Aug25(DMi). 1@Maple Ave RichHill Aug25(GL).
 4 at 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill Sep.30 (H&MF). 25 at YRF - Scout Tract Oct.01 (RJF,MvdT).
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 2 (pair) at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.06-19 (CMK).
 2 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve Sep.18 (RJF).
 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Sep.21,22 (JLo).
 Rusty Blackbird - 1 1st year at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.19 (CMK).
 Brewer's Blackbird - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Sep.21 (CMK).
 Common Grackle - 40 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Oct.?? [[Unknown Date]] (SDP).
 Baltimore Oriole - 1 at 123 Woodward Ave., Thornhill Aug.28-29 (H&MF).
 American Goldfinch - 40 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Oct.?? [[Unknown Date]] (SDP).
 BB Bruce Brydon, BNo Bob Noble, ChvR Christel von Richter, CMK Carol McKnight, DMi Dave Milsom, DTH Doris Hofmann,
 FP Frank Pinilla, G&CD Gene & Charlene Denzel, GD Gene Denzel, GEC George E Connell, GL Graham Leonard, HL Harry Lumsden,
 ICa Ian Cannell, JI Jean Iron, JKl Jane Kirkpatrick, JNo Joanne Nonnekes, JSchm John Schmelefske, KDu Keith Dunn,
 KRS Kevin Shackleton, MCa Mary Carnahan, MCh Martin Chen, NH Natalie Helferty, PG Phyllis Graydon, PHa Paul Harpley,
 PKi Pam Kirkpatrick, RCu Robert Cubbitt, RJF Ron Fleming, RJP Ron Pittaway, RTa Roger Taylor, S&JB Sharon & Jim Bradley,
 SDP Susan DiPucchio, SLo Stan Long, SVa Sandy Vanderbrug, TH Theo Hofmann, TM&GR Theresa McKenzie & Glenn Reed,
 TS Tessa Shelvey.

From the Editor

Mode bad news for birds [and people] south of the border

A new report shows that about 11,000 acres of wetlands in 15 States have been recently opened to development by the Army Corps Of Engineers.

According to the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), [see <http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/>], the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is exploiting a recent court ruling to open up 11,000 acres of wetlands in 15 states, including remote areas that provide habitat for migratory birds and endangered species.

The EIP presented data during a live, phone-based news conference on September 15th that ranks the top 15 states that have the largest number of acres of wetlands at risk as a result of the alarming trend. The public can download their report at <http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/pubs/drying%20out.pdf>.

In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita it is now very well known that intact coastal habitat is also critical as a buffer for storms such as may very likely occur more frequently as Global Climate Change creates the conditions for more unstable weather patterns, including more frequent and more intense tropical storms, thus this court ruling also has grave consequences for the protection of essential habitat needed for the protection of coastal towns and cities.

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P.S. Help in the **kitchen** is often needed during our monthly meetings. Volunteers who are willing to help should talk to our secretary, Athena Antiochos, during any subsequent meeting.

P.P.S. Members may have noticed that there have been few recent submissions from the Botany Group in the Richmond Hill Naturalist's newsletter, *The Bulletin*, however, after returning from my extended (2 month) trip to Asia at the beginning of October I had found that I had received a hand-written letter postmarked August 15th from a member of the Botany Group. This letter contained notes from the March 2005 Botany Group Meeting.

Unfortunately, I was unable to transcribe the letter in time for the publication of this edition of *The Bulletin*, therefore I will be including the March Botany Group submission in next month's newsletter.