



THE BULLETIN

December 2005 No. 450

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

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Events calendar

Executive Meeting	Tuesday January 10, 2006 7:30PM
Bird Group	Wednesday January 11, 2006. 7:30pm Location: Theo Hofmann's Topic: Northern Flicker & Pileated Woodpecker
General Meeting	Thursday January 19, 2006. 7:30pm Speaker: Peter Bursztyn Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
Botany Group	Monday February 6, 2006. 12:30pm Location: 190 Grandview Avenue

See more Details on Page 2

It's birdfeeder time again

Our little feathered friends often need all the help they can get. That even includes House Sparrows, which normally garner little respect in the birding community because this species, introduced in 1860 from Europe, became annoyingly abundant in North America. But now they appear to be in serious decline. The reasons for and the significance of this decline are a matter of discussion among authorities. It could be signaling a more widespread malaise.

In the meantime, let's give them a little Tim Hortons in the wintertime. And don't forget to add a bit of suet to the diet. It's a high-energy, pure fat substance that birds need in cold weather. Suet comes in different flavours to help attract a variety of birds to your feeder, including Black-capped Chickadees, one of the most widespread species in Canada but after a sharp decline a little while ago, due to West Nile Virus and a scarce food supply, they are rebounding.

Continued on Page 3...

Discounts on Ontario Nature memberships are still available to all members until January 15, 2006.

Memberships help support Ontario Nature's conservation programs and services to protect nature across the province.

The discounted membership rates are: Individual (\$40), Student or Senior (\$35), School/Library (\$35), and Family (\$45). Contact Diana Piche at (905) 773-4199 or diana.piche@sympatico.ca to purchase or renew your subscription.



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: helferty@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

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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:

Meet new members at club events and say Hello!

EVENTS FUTURE

- **Tuesday January 10, 2005. 7:30pm.** The Executive meeting will be held at this time in the location specified.
- **Wednesday January 11, 2005. 12:30pm.** The Bird Group will meet at Theo Hofmann's house. The topic will be Northern Flicker & Pileated Woodpecker.
- **Thursday January 19, 2006. 7:30pm.** The General meeting will be back at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St. North of Major Mackenzie Dr., on the West side. Our speaker will be Peter Burszyn, who will give a talk about Energy Efficiency and matters related to energy use.
- **Monday February 6, 2005. 12:30pm.** The Botany Group meeting is to be held at Dana Jonak's 190 Grandview Avenue, Thornhill. Call 905-881-0603 for details. There will be no meeting in January.

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).

- **Sunday January 8, 2006.** Rouge Park's 3rd Annual Winter Bird Count. For more info or to register contact Vicki MacDonald at 905.713.7729 or e-mail birdcount@rougepark.com. You can also visit www.rougepark.com for info.

- **Monday February 13, 2006.** The 41st Central Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research in Burlington. For more information contact Morgan Boenke at Morgan.Boenke@ec.gc.ca.

- **Saturday, February 25, 2006.** "Wetland Stomp 2006" Fundraising event for the construction of the Great Lakes Wetlands Centre at Second Marsh in Oshawa. Live and silent auctions, drumming ceremony, photo ops. For info contact Marilyn Cole, Friends of Second Marsh, 905-723-5459 or campaign.secondmarsh@rogers.com. \$75

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Do you like to write? Do you love nature?

Ontario Nature is introducing the **Youth Challenge** Writing Contest in 2006 as part of their 75th anniversary celebrations. They are inviting grade 7 and 8 students from across Ontario to write an essay, story or piece of creative writing on why we need nature in Ontario.

The top three entries will be published in ON Nature magazine and winners will be honoured at a special awards ceremony at the ON conference in Kitchener-Waterloo in June 2006. The three winning pieces will also be forwarded to Premier Dalton McGuinty.

If you've had a great experience with some part of nature in the last little while, perhaps collecting and studying frogs at the lake this summer, climbing your favourite tree in the park close to your home, or you've had a memorable wilderness encounter this year we'd like to hear about it. Tell us what you think about nature. Tell us why you think we need nature and a healthy environment in Ontario.

The topic of the essay should be: **"Why Do We Need Nature?"**

- Your submission can be an essay, a story, or a piece of creative writing, with a maximum count of 700 words, typed and double-spaced.
- A panel consisting of a journalist, teacher and environment specialist will judge all the entries.
- Make sure you have a title page telling us the title of your essay, your name, address, phone number, email address, your parent's name, what grade you're in, and the name of your school.

– Submit original essays entries by April 15, 2006 to:

Chair, Youth Challenge Essay Contest Committee
Ontario Nature
355 Lesmill Road
Toronto, ON M3B 2W8

or send an email to info@ontarionature.org

Good Luck! And remember, have fun!

-- submitted by Diana Piche

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The Ministry of Natural Resources is considering approval of a land use plan that would open up nearly *half a million hectares* of new, intact forest to industrial logging and would also allow for clear-cut logging in one of the most important caribou habitats in northwestern Ontario called the **Valhalla Block**, a 44,000 ha section of woods adjoining Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

For decades this land has provided critical habitat for Woodland caribou populations. Woodland caribou, officially listed as a nationally threatened species, are symbolic of Canada's northern boreal forests and are sensitive to timber harvesting and road building activities. In Ontario, expansion of forest harvesting since 1950 has coincided with declining caribou numbers. Caribou have been receding northward every decade and although they used to be found as far south as Algonquin Park scientists predict that woodland caribou could disappear completely from Ontario by the end of this century if industrial logging continues northward.

Comments on the land use plan are due by January 7th, 2006.

We are encouraging our members to write to:

The Honourable David Ramsay
Minister of Natural Resources
6th Floor, Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3
Fax: (416) 314-2216
Email: minister@mnr.gov.on.ca

In your letters to the minister, please cc: Roy Sidders, Area Supervisor, Red Lake District, Ministry of Natural Resources roy.sidders@mnr.gov.on.ca and also send a copy to [your MPP](#).

-- submitted by Marianne Yake, President

...Cont'd from P.1 **It's birdfeeder time again**

At this time of year the hippocampus in the brain of the Black-capped Chickadee enlarges so they can remember where they have stored food. During the night their body temperature drops by 10-12 degrees. They have at least 15 different calls to communicate and have a very established hierarchy or pecking order. "Regulars" of a flock stay in one area, have a dominant bird, and are territorial. "Floaters" commute from flock to flock and also have a dominant bird. When the dominant "regular" dies, it is the dominant "floater" who moves in and becomes the leader of the regular flock.

A recent discussion regarding *the role of feeding stations following a big snowfall* centered on whether the feeders draw wild birds into the city or whether the birds are already there, and whether feeding them might weaken the natural capabilities of certain birds to survive (do they create and maintain dependencies of certain species such as Cardinals and juncos?).

The answer to the first question was that “The birds are already there! They will, however, seek out & concentrate at the most nutrient-rich feeding stations within their daily route (which can be up to 50 square km for Mourning doves but little more than 2 or 3 for Northern Cardinals & Black-capped Chickadees. Following a big snowfall, this concentration is more pronounced.”

Regarding the second question, the answer came that, “Individual birds may become temporally (for a short, harsh seasonal time period) dependent, but not specifically. The species itself will never be dependent on people (climate remains the biggest factor) but, in the absence of feeders, local populations will decline (perhaps to a minute fraction of their feeder-enhanced levels) or be sustained by available planted or wild food sources.”



In a final word, Tracey Steele, the Natural Heritage Coordinator for the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department at the Town of Richmond Hill commented that “the biggest concern with bird feeders is the potentially accelerated spread of disease that results from many individual birds feeding from exactly the same spot. In particular, there is a known respiratory disease that could easily be transferred amongst birds if an infected bird feeds at a bird feeder. To prevent the spread of disease, the Toronto Wildlife Centre recommends that bird feeders are cleaned out with chlorine bleach every two weeks.”

-- compiled from Steve Gahbauer’s “December mini-essay” and e-mails from Michael White, Michael Biro, and Tracey Steele.

There has been much discussion lately about the potential “threat” of Avian flu H5N1.

A recent report from Sundsvall, Sweden recounted a Herring Gull seen to be acting very strangely. It was staggering about and being quite disoriented. Fearing the worst, and to be on the safe side, the gull was caught and tested for disease.

The result - the gull was suffering from alcohol poisoning. The “disease” was a very bad hangover.

-- Theo Hofmann

The Richmond Hill Naturalists have a standing invitation from the **York Simcoe Naturalists**, who meet every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm at the River Drive Park Community Centre, 20 Oak Ave. in River Drive Park (off the Queensville Sideroad, north of Holland Landing). Refreshments are served. For information call 905-898-2329 or 1-800-216-3830.

LOCAL NEWS

In late November Ontario re-released their revised **Greater Golden Horseshoe “Places to Grow” plan**. The revised plan identifies Barrie as the only urban growth centre for Simcoe County, thereby sparing places like Bradford and Bond Head from rampant land speculation. It also drops proposals for urban expansion caused by a Bradford By-Pass or Highway 427 extension to Lake Simcoe. The plan also lays the foundation for expanding the Natural Heritage System created by the *Oak Ridges Moraine* and *Greenbelt* into sensitive but currently unprotected areas, like the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga watersheds and promotes many sensible ideas for agricultural and environmental protection, along with better management of future urban growth.

However there are still a series of troubling highway projects (such as the **Mid-Peninsula highway** and the 404 extension) and a lack of clarity regarding the way the plan will deal with ongoing development proposals (such as North Oakville, North Leslie and Big Bay Point – all of them are scheduled for Ontario Municipal Board [OMB] hearings under the old 1997 Provincial Policy Statement).

In December the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) made recommendations that Ontario continue to offering large taxpayer-financed subsidies to build up to 24 new **Nuclear Reactors**. (This is despite Ontario's history of cost overruns and delays and the poor performance of our nuclear program.) Rather than encouraging efficiency and productivity the OPA expects that Ontario will continue patterns of wasteful consumption. The OPA is forecasting that Ontario's electricity consumption will grow by 0.9% per year, which is roughly double the actual growth rate (0.5%) from 1990-2005. (This also ignores the fact that Ontario's annual electricity consumption growth rate has been declining for years.)

York Region will start to reduce its '**Big Pipe**' **groundwater withdrawal** rates by shutting down of the six dewatering wells by January 2006, creating a 57% savings in the total project water taking, however the total project dewatering is still 9,412 Litres per second, and given the history of the project and underestimation in the amount of dewatering that was necessary during the first phase of the project, it seems unlikely that the Region will be able to maintain much lower groundwater removal rates for the last half of the 16th Avenue sewer tunneling. York Region also plans to build other sewer segments ('19th Interceptor', 'Bathurst extension', 'SE collector') which will involve even more groundwater removal over the next several years.

To date, the cumulative effects of this groundwater removal has not yet been considered by York Region.

-- Editor (with information from Jim Robb)

Note: A draft of the YDSS Interceptor Sewer Environmental Management Plan report is available for Peer Review at <http://ydss.cenet.ca/>.

NATURE NEWS

A potential win for Nature!

The Ontario government has recently introduced legislation that would ensure the **Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve** is protected and set aside permanently for agricultural use. The act would ensure that all existing conservation easements on the preserve are held in perpetuity and would reinstate easements previously held and released by the City of Pickering. The legislation also contains proposed amendments to the *Conservation Land Act* that would provide greater certainty about using conservation easements to protect conservation values on land over the long term. [note: the legislation has not yet passed as of this writing]

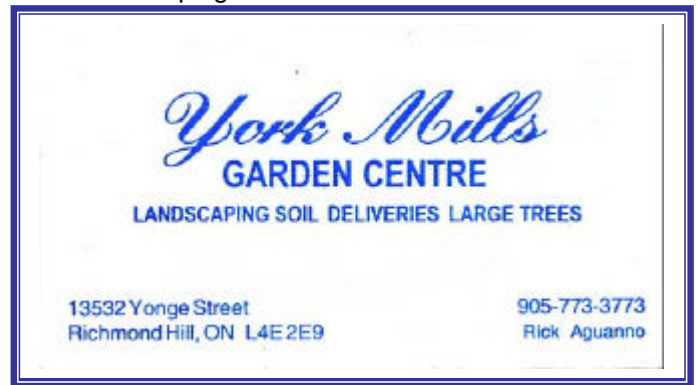
Texas Whooping Cranes

An aerial census on 23 November, 2005 of the *Aransas National Wildlife Refuge* and surrounding areas estimated the number of whooping cranes present at Aransas as 181 adults + 29 young = 210 total. Numbers counted are approaching last winter's record peak population of 217. One additional whooping crane is in extreme south Texas in Hidalgo County near Hargill. This is believed to be the 2004 juvenile that had separated from its parents last fall and had spent the 2004-05 winter with sandhills near Bay City, Texas north of Aransas. It has never been to Aransas but may be brought to Aransas when it is older and gets a mate.

Approximately 235 whooping cranes are hoped to arrive at Aransas this winter. Thus, an estimated 90% of the flock has completed the migration. Last year at this same time, 98% of the cranes had completed the migration, so this year's migration is not quite as advanced. It is hoped that about 2 dozen more whooping cranes are still in migration, although there have been no recent migration reports.

The total of 29 chicks that have successfully completed the migration is very encouraging since 31 chicks were estimated to have fledged in August on the nesting grounds. Survival of juveniles appears to be high. However, it was disappointing on today's flight not to encounter a second set of twins that had been anticipated.

-- submitted by Theo Hofmann on behalf of Patty Waits Beasley, Corpus Christi, Texas



Last winter Bob Bowles in Orillia was very busy with tracking all the Great Gray Owls that were in Simcoe County. They had irrupted into southern Ontario because of a severe shortage of rodents in the north. He counted altogether 400, at least 85 of which were killed on the road in collisions with vehicles. Irruptions like this have occurred about every ten years.

To his great surprise and consternation he has already received 5 reports of Great Gray Owl sightings already this year. They are much earlier than the ones that arrived last year and suggest that this maybe another big irruption winter. For the sake of the owls we hope that this will not be the case and that there is no shortage of food in the

north. Two days ago Bob reported that an injured Great Gray was already found well south of Barrie. Keep an eye out for them, especially for injured ones along the side of roads.
-- submitted by Theo Hoffman (based on an email to "Ontbirds")

EVENTS PAST

On Wednesday November 23 the Town of Richmond Hill held a Special Council Meeting regarding a draft Official Plan Amendment for "**Residential Intensification and Redevelopment**" in the town Council Chambers. This plan is meant to incorporate the Regional Official Plan 'Centres and Corridors' design for intensification along Yonge Street and Hwy #7, as well as the provincial governments "Places to Grow" plan.

The Richmond Hill Naturalists would of course like to protect our natural and cultural built areas of Richmond Hill, therefore our executive has submitted a letter to Richmond Hill council for amendments to the plan because some of the areas that were in the intensification plan have been protected through the Oak Ridges Moraine and Provincial Greenbelt Acts. For instance, we registered our opposition to any new development on headwater areas that are currently zoned Agriculture or Rural in Richmond Hill, particularly the lands dubbed 'North Leslie', and submitted that the areas that border on countryside areas (Agricultural and Rural areas such as those lands in the upper reaches of the watersheds adjacent to countryside) need to be "transitional zones" to create "buffers to high density development" because these areas have sensitive groundwater, hydrological and environmental conditions.

The submission also included requests to reduce the amount [percentage] of impervious cover (asphalt) allowed in any newly developed areas through various design techniques (alternative designs, expanding public greenspace, mixed use communities, increased urban tree and ground cover etc) as well as requesting that the Observatory Lands be considered for purchase and protection, more consideration be made for low-rise development (rather than high-rise development) and other building design considerations that will create "walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly, natural and an architecturally-acceptable community... that improves the character of our natural and cultural built heritage".

On Tuesday November 29 a meeting to discuss the **Oak Ridges Moraine Corridor Park** at the Langstaff Community Centre in Richmond Hill. This meeting was called because the property located between Bathurst Street and Bayview Ave. north of Stouffville Road and south of the community of Oak Ridges (approximately 1000 acres) will soon be brought into public ownership, yet a trail is already being considered before a comprehensive park plan is complete. As well, a full environmental assessment has not been done, there has been no considerations regarding possible future placement of a wildlife passage either under or over Yonge St., restoration goals have not been outlined, lighting, erosion and noise impacts have not yet been evaluated, wildlife buffers have not been considered, heritage buildings have not been evaluated, and the park management and enforcement officers are not yet in place.

On Monday December 5 the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Culture for the town of Richmond Hill presented a report on pesticide reduction to town council, which included results of the Public Consultation on the proposal to reduce lawn and garden pesticide use in the town. The report urged that a **Pesticide Reduction Program** be implemented, with the town focusing on Public Awareness, alternatives to synthetic pesticides, safe use, promotion of native plants, demonstration sites [including a "community garden" site at Mount Pleasant Park to be constructed in the spring of 2006], subsidized "organic lawn care kits" [available through the "Healthy Yards" program], and monitoring (among others). The town was also asked to urge the Region to enact an overarching Pesticide bylaw that would apply to all of the other municipalities within York.

On Tuesday December 6 the Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment held a *Lake Wilcox Habitat Enhancement Project and North Shore Parkette Demonstration Site Concept Plan Public Meeting* at the Oak Ridges Arena. Participants learned about plans for enhancing the Lake Wilcox shoreline and improving fish habitat in the Lake, including a demonstration site at the North Shore Parkette.
-- Sharon B.



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On Tuesday December 13 The Regional Municipality of York held a Public Information meeting to get input from the public on the feasibility of proposed measures to that could be used to convert some of the existing wastewater treatment lagoons in the Region to “**constructed wetlands**”. This is being undertaken by the York Region Transportation and Works Department, Water and Wastewater Branch. The Sewage Lagoons that would be the first to be converted would include the Schomberg, Holland Landing, Sutton, and Mount Albert sewage lagoons.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

5th August to 11th October 2005

Durham Region

Hooded Merganser - 2 (pair) at Petticoat Creek Cons. Area Dec.03 (GD).

Killdeer - 2 at Petticoat Creek Cons. Area Dec.03 (GD).

Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Locust Hill, Little Rouge R. Dec.05 (SLo).

Peel Region

Wild Turkey - 12 at Caledon Lake Complex Nov.08 (GoC).

American Tree Sparrow - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Nov.04 (PG).

Fox Sparrow - 3 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Nov.04 (PG).

White-throated Sparrow - quite a few at Albion Hills Cons. Area Nov.04 (PG).

Evening Grosbeak - 6 at Hunsden S.R. Nov.04 (anon. fide PG). 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Nov.05 (PG).

York Region

Great Blue Heron - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve Nov.27 (RJF).

Black-crowned Night-Heron - 1 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Nov.11 (SLo). 1 at Lake Wilcox Nov.30 (S&JB).

Snow Goose – 1@Reesor Pnds Mrkhm Dec3(TH). 1@Reesor Pnds Dec5(SLo). Blue Phase@Reesor Pnds Dec7(SLo)

Cackling Goose - 8 at Reesor Ponds Markham Dec.01 (SLo).

Trumpeter Swan - 6 (2 ad., 4 juv.) at Lake Wilcox Nov.29-30 (S&JB). 2 at Coyote Pond, Markham Nov.30 (SLo).

Wood Duck - 1 M at Reesor Ponds Markham Nov.28 (SLo).

Mallard/Pintail Hybrid - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Nov.28 (SLo).

Ring-necked Duck - 1 M at Reesor Ponds Markham Nov.10 (SLo).

Bufflehead - 2 to 30 at Lake Wilcox Nov.09-27 (S&JB).

Hooded Merganser – 12-28@Lk Wilcox Nov9-28(S&JB). 4@Milne Cons. Area Mrkhm Nov11(SLo).

12@Lk Wilcox Nov18(S&JB). 11@Lk Wilcox Nov27(S&JB). 15@Lk Wilcox Nov28(S&JB). 18@Lk Wilcox Dec2(S&JB)

Common Merganser – 10@Milne Cons. Area Mrkhm Nov11(SLo). 60 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.26 (RJF,MvdT).

Red-breasted Merganser – 7@Milne Cons. Area Mrkhm Nov11(SLo).

Northern Harrier - 2 Juv at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.26 (RJF,MvdT).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1@Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Nov.04 (SDP). 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.10 (JLo).

1 at Maple Avenue Richmond Hill Nov.12 (GL). 1 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill Dec.11 (SVa).

Cooper's Hawk - 1 at Maple Avenue Richmond Hill Nov.12 (GL). 1 at Lake Wilcox Dec.02 to 12/03 (S&JB).

Northern Goshawk - 1 Ad at MajorMcKenzie & YO/DU Townline Nov.07 (GL,RCu).

Red-tailed Hawk - 9 at South-eastern York Region Nov.07 (GL,RCu). 9 at Kleinburg Dec.03 (RJF).

Rough-legged Hawk - 5 (light phase) at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.26 (RJF,MvdT).

Golden Eagle - 1 at Bathurst & Mulock, Newmarket Dec.03 (RJF).

American Kestrel - 3 at Kleinburg Dec.03 (RJF).

Ruffed Grouse - 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.20 (JLo).

Wild Turkey - 6 at 16th Ave. E of reesor Road Dec.09 (SLo).

Greater Yellowlegs - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Nov.14 (SLo).

Iceland Gull - couple@Mrkhm Bypass Nov11(SLo). 1@Mrkhm Bypas Nov11(SLo). 4@Reesor Pnds Mrkhm Dec8(SLo)

Kumlien's Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Nov.18 (SLo).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 (graellsii subsp) at Markham Bypass Nov.14 (SLo). 11 at Markham Bypass Dec.01 (SLo).

Glaucous Gull – 1@Mrkhm Bypass Nov11(SLo). 1@Reesor Pnds Mrkhm Nov18(SLo). 3@Reesor Pnds Dec8(SLo)

Great Black-backed Gull - 6 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.26 (RJF,MvdT).

Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 at Ladies Golf Course Thornhill Dec.01 (SVa).
 Great Horned Owl - 1 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Nov.11 (SLo).
 Snowy Owl - 1 at N End Old Yonge Street Nov.20 (RJF,KDu,CDu).
 Long-eared Owl - 2 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.28 (JLo).
 Belted Kingfisher - 2 at Lake Wilcox Nov.05 (S&JB). Present all summer.
 Hairy Woodpecker - 2 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill Dec.01 to 12/12 (SVa).
 Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.20 (JLo).
 Northern Shrike – 1@ McCowan / 19th Ave Nov7(GL,RCu). 1@Milne Cons. Area, Markham Nov.11 (SLo).
 1 at Albert's Marina Bathurst N end, Nov.20 (RJF,KDu,CDu). 1 at Kleinburg Dec.03 (RJF).
 Horned Lark - 20 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.26 (RJF,MvdT).
 Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1@Bridgport Rich Hill Nov.24-26 (FWh). 2@34 Shady Lane Thornhill Dec.01 to 12/12 (SVa).
 White-breasted Nuthatch – 1@Bridgport Rich Hill Nov18,23(FWh). 2@34 Shady Lane Thornhill Dec.01 to 12/12 (SVa).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill Nov.05 (TH,DTH).
 Hermit Thrush - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) Nov.05 (CMK).
 Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Kleinburg Dec.03 (RJF).
 Cedar Waxwing - 6 at Russell Tilt Park Oak Ridges Nov.26 (MCh).
 American Tree Sparrow - 1 at Lake Wilcox Nov.08 (S&JB).
 Field Sparrow - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.08,Dec.04 (JLo).
 Fox Sparrow – 1@Arnold Ave. Thrnhl Nov5(TH,DTH). 2@Grenfell Mrkhm Nov7-8(CMK).
 1@M.MacK/Hwy27 Nov8-10,16(JLo). 2@Lk Wilcox Nov9-17(S&JB). 1@W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.26(RJF,MvdT)
 White-throated Sparrow - 3 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill Dec.01 to 12/12 (SVa).
 White-crowned Sparrow - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.07-08 (JLo).
 Dark-eyed Junco - 20 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) Nov.06 (CMK).
 Snow Bunting - 200 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Nov.26 (RJF,MvdT). 40 at Major MacKenzie & 9th Line Dec.09 (SLo).
 Common Grackle - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Nov.10 (JLo).
 Purple Finch - 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Dec.04 (JLo).
 Pine Siskin - 1 at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H Nov.24 (FWh). 4 at Holland Landing at Brydons Dec.09 (BB).
BB Bruce Brydon, **CDu** Christopher Dunn, **CMK** Carol McKnight, **DTH** Doris Hofmann, **FWh** Freddy Whillans, **GD** Gene Denzel,
GL Graham Leonard, **GoC** Gord Cameron, **JLo** Joan Love, **KDu** Keith Dunn, **MvdT** Mike van den Tillaart, **PG** Phyllis Graydon,
RCu Robert Cubbitt, **RJF** Ron Fleming, **S&JB** Sharon & Jim Bradley, **SDP** Susan DiPucchio, **SLo** Stan Long, **SVa** Sandy Vanderbrug,
TH Theo Hofmann.

From the Editor

The recent Montreal climate conference was an important step for Canada and the world in becoming more independent of Fossil Fuels. At the conference 39 treaty members - all the industrialized countries apart from the US and Australia - agreed to make deeper cuts in CO₂ emissions and extend their present commitments beyond 2012, and the US (along with China and India) also agreed to non-binding talks on new measures that all nations can take on reducing CO₂ emissions [it is far more than the US wanted or most people expected]. A proposal was also approved allowing developing nations to receive financial compensation from richer countries for agreeing to preserve their rainforests.

It seems other than a complete collapse of the global economic system the Kyoto Protocol is so far the only global mechanism that will drive humanity to achieve reductions in our net Fossil Fuel use. The goal of the Kyoto Protocol has been climate stabilization (climate change is happening far faster than scientists had predicted, its effects being seen in the record melting of sea ice and glaciers of the Arctic and disturbing signs that the Gulf Stream may be beginning to slow), however the long term effects of CO₂ emissions will likely be felt regardless of the Kyoto climate treaty since the reductions do not account for a very significant portion of the total emissions man has released to date nor is expected to release in the future.

It is my belief that the greater benefit of the treaty will be the creation of an economic mechanism for driving changes in the way we use energy along with the creation of an economic incentive that will push us to use more sustainable and renewable energy systems and hopefully drive us to create more sustainable and less wasteful lifestyles.

Lloyd Helferty, Bulletin Editor lhelferty@sympatico.ca

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