



THE BULLETIN

May / June 2006 No. 455

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

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Events calendar

Executive Meeting	Tuesday September 12, 2006. 7:00PM Location: TBA
General Meeting	Thursday September 21, 2006. 7:30pm Speaker: Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
Botany Group	Monday October 2, 2006 Topic: To be Announced Where: Charles Bishop's
Bird Group	Wednesday October 11, 2006 Topic: Summer and Scarlet Tanager Where: Barbara Jackson's 416-224-2563
Field Trips	What: Oak Ridges Lion's Club Community Fair When: Saturday, June 17, 2006. 10am-6pm

*Saturday September 9, 2006 is the Richmond Hill Naturalists
Annual Corn Roast at Russ Tilt's
6pm at 25 Bridgewater Street South*

Check for more Events and Outings on Page 2

An Introduction to Bird Watching: A New Annual Event

On a very pleasant mid-May morning at the Mill Pond, Theo Hofmann and Charlene Denzel took a group of 20 or so people for an introductory birding walk around the back of the main pond.

Starting at the gazebo with a brief lesson on adjusting and using binoculars (there were loaners available for those without), and some discussion of field guides and general approaches (listen all the time, really 'look' at all birds when you get a chance), the group then meandered towards the back, stopping to look at whatever popped up.

To start out we had good views through the scopes at a cooperative Baltimore Oriole. There was also quite a spectacular aerial display by three competing American Goldfinches. When we got to the area in the back of the pond the warblers, which had been visible in the distance, seemed to have all gone missing, but we did get excellent views through the scopes of a very nice Solitary Sandpiper.

One of the participants is a photographer who lives near the area, and he pointed out a Chickadee nest, as well as an active beaver lodge. All in all it was a pleasant morning of birding. We plan on repeating the event, perhaps as early as the Fall.

- Gene and Charlene Denzel



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

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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:

Caroline Thomson

Andrea Wood

Returning member: Gabriela Cavallin

Meet new members at club events and say Hello!

EVENTS FUTURE

- **Saturday June 10**, 2006. 9am-12noon. Langstaff Ecopark. Introductory Bird Watching with Greg Sodowski. Meet at the soccer field on Langstaff Rd. west of Dufferin. Call 416-661-6600 x5668 for more details.

- **Sunday June 11**, 2006. Lake Wilcox Dragon Boat Festival. The Richmond Hill Naturalists and others have joined together to enter a 20 person team in this annual event. Come out and support our team!

- **Saturday June 17**, 2006. 10am-6pm. Oak Ridges Lion's Club Community Fair. Oak Ridges Ozark Park Community Centre.

- **Saturday June 17**, 2006. 10am – noon. Ontario Streams Cleanup. Volunteer garbage cleanup event for the ravine area in the Tower Hill Rd area, north of 19th Ave, West side of Yonge Street. Drive west along Tower Hill Road to the signs located on the right hand side.

- **Wednesday October 11**, 2006. 7:30pm. The Bird Group meets at Barbara Jackson's, 20 Fashion Roseway, Suite 311, in Willowdale to discuss Summer and Scarlet Tanagers. Call 416-224-2563 to confirm.

- **Saturday September 9**, 2006. 6pm. Annual Corn Roast. Russ Tilt's, 25 Bridgewater Street South (south off Centre Street, west of Yonge Street). \$5.00 per person. Bring your own cutlery, plate, mug/glass and lawn chair. Contributions to the dessert table would be appreciated. Renew your Richmond Hill Naturalists membership at this time (\$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family membership). For those unable to attend the corn roast you may pay for your membership at the September general meeting.

- **Thursday September 21**, 2006. 7:30 pm. Regular meetings will be on the Third Thursday of every month at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. The speaker will be

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 June 25**, 2006. 1:30-3:30 pm. Rouge Valley Conservation Centre nature walk with Robert Marshall. Walks are easy / moderately difficult on nature trails. Rain or shine. 1749 Meadowvale Road. Call 416-282-8265. Free. Donations welcome.

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MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

On April 12, 2006 the birding group met for its annual potluck dinner at Martin Chen's house. The topic for the evening was the duo of Palm Warbler and.

The Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmyra*) is generally seen in the GTA only on migrations to and from its breeding grounds in the open boreal forest. It comes in two flavours, with somewhat different colourations. The more widespread Western variety is the *nominata*, and the Eastern one (*d p hypochrysea*) is a brighter coloured version (sometimes called the 'yellow palm').

The markings on the heads for both are really quite dapper, with a chestnut crown bordered by bright yellow stripes. Luckily, both varieties occur here during their late April/early May migration. They both are noted for their vigorous tail wagging, which can make identification easier when field marks are not clear. These birds spend much of their time foraging on the ground, in open fields.



Their nest is usually on the ground but is normally well concealed. They have been observed to incorporate feathers from a variety of other birds in their nests. Many of them winter in the South-East United States, where they are sometimes seen on the ground near palm tree (often in the company of a flock of sparrows). This may explain the name. The song of the Palm Warbler is a rather unenthusiastic slow trill, with a tendency to strengthen somewhat in the middle.

The Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) is another early Spring migrant, but breeds in a variety of Eastern pine forests, from the middle South US up through the top of the Great Lakes. It is a rather plainly marked bird, even in breeding plumage, with yellow from under the throat down through the chest, white underparts, and two fuzzy white wing bars. It spends most of its time in pine trees, and has a nice sweet trilling song.

When it first arrives in the GTA, we get to try to sort out their songs from those of the Dark-eyed Junco and Chipping Sparrow. This is the only wood warbler which eats primarily seeds for much of the year outside the breeding season. The nest is built on a horizontal branch (often at the end) high in a pine tree. In contrast to a number of other warbler species, both of these seem to have stable populations.

- Gene and Charlene Denzel

On May 1, 2006 the non-governmental group "[Environmental Defence](#)" released the findings of its latest study on the pollution in Canadians called "Polluted Children, Toxic Nation: A Report on Pollution in Canadian Families".



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They tested children, parents and grandparents from five families from across the country for 68 harmful chemicals. During the test they found a total of 46 of the 68 chemicals tested (68 per cent).

These chemicals included 38 chemicals that can cause reproductive disorders and harm the development of children, 38 suspected cancer-causing chemicals, 23 chemicals that can disrupt the hormone system, 19 neurotoxins, and 12 chemicals associated with respiratory illnesses.

On average, 32 chemicals were found in the parents and 23 were found in the children.

The levels of some of the older chemicals detected in the children suggest that effective regulation to stop the production and use of the most harmful toxic substances can reduce the pollution in people over time. The parents in the study had higher levels of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and DDT, which were banned in Canada before their children were born; but, the study still found traces of these banned chemicals in all of the children.

The report is available for free on the Toxic Nation web site: www.toxicnation.ca.

- Natalie Helferty, Past President

Fund Raising for RHN via the Baillie Birdathon

Gene and Charlene Denzel had ambitious targets for the big day attempt for the [Baillie Birdathon](#) this year. We had scouted the area around [Rondeau Provincial Park](#), and thought for sure that we could break 100 again. In the actual 12-14 hours of birding (which is all we can manage these days within one 24-hour period), we managed to get 87 species, which will have to do for this year, considering that the weather did not cooperate during the 3 days we had at Rondeau. There was intermittent heavy rains mixed with drizzle for much of the time, however, some highlights included a



Prothonotary, a Mourning, a late Greater Scaup, and a tree with three male scarlet tanagers posing for us.

The Club gets 25% of any funds raised, and Bird Studies Canada gives a tax receipt for amounts of \$10 or more. For those who want to pledge by email to us, any time is fine. If you are sending a cheque, please make it payable to "Baillie Birdathon". We will have a signup sheet at the Corn Roast and at the first fall meeting as well (although we ourselves will be birding in South Africa during September).

Obituary:

Jean Sherbath has passed away.

Jean was the wife of Jack Sherbath, a long-time secretary of the Richmond Hill Naturalists who contributed during the early years of our club. She often wrote articles for the Bulletin. Both Jack and Jean were friends of Bob Campbell.

LOCAL NEWS

On **April 27th**, Regional Council approved and adopted Vision 2026, "Towards a Sustainable Region". This plan was developed through extensive consultation with the public and staff. This year's annual report builds on previous years by providing comparisons of the Region's progress and by listing achievements, innovations and successes under the Vision 2026 action areas. The report is available from the York Region Web site at <http://www.region.york.on.ca/About+Us/Vision+2026/Default+Vision+.htm> and printed copies can be obtained upon request by calling 1-866-258-2026, or by e-mailing vision2026@york.ca.

On **May 14**, 2006 the Toronto Star ran a story that indicated that Durham's regional politicians want is construction on about 1,400 hectares of prime land set aside as part of a greenbelt encircling Toronto. The councillors voted last week, by a 16-8 margin, to ask that Queen's Park lift the green designation currently protecting four tracts scattered throughout the region — one in Ajax, one in Whitby and two sites in Clarington. If approved, it would open the way to massive development, continuing the wasteful sprawl that already mars vast areas of Durham Region and the Greater Toronto Area. In favouring sprawl over green space, these councillors reveal themselves as being hopelessly out of step with the values of a majority in the GTA — a majority, we suspect, that includes most people in Durham. The region's residents should ask themselves whose interests are being served by politicians so dedicated to urban sprawl.

York Region has been holding public consultations regarding their Joint York/Durham Waste Mgmt Plan, and on **Tuesday, May 30th** the York Region Solid Waste Management Branch seems to have decided that their Waste Management Plan will be using "Thermal Treatment of Mixed Waste" with Recovery of materials from the ash.

In other words, York wants to collect and burn **everything** without diversion of recyclables or organics.

Their plan also comes with a "put or pay" threshold, meaning that if the minimum tonnage is not sent to the Thermal facility, the taxpayers have to pay the difference.

To find out more about this plan go to www.durhamyorkwaste.ca.

If you have any comments about this proposal, comments can be made at www.yorkregion.com.

(click on the [What do you think](#) link in the bottom right hand corner -- all comments will go on record for the Ministry of the Environment to review).

- Natalie Helferty, Past President

York Region has initiated a study to develop a "[Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan](#)". The Plan will respond to the need to develop policies, routes, guidelines and standards at the Regional level to take a leadership role and to support local municipal efforts for the provision of pedestrian and cycling facilities and related infrastructure.

The Study's first Public Consultation (PCC#1) meetings were held on **May 30th and 31st**, 2006 in Newmarket and Richmond Hill.

NATURE NEWS

- On Friday May 26, 2006 at Presqu'ile Provincial Park observations were made that documented the shooting of thousands of nesting Double-crested Cormorants. These cormorants were shot while also tending to new hatchlings.

The day before, on Thursday May 25 the Minister's office and the district office were informed that chicks were present in the nests, but Ministry gunmen began [shooting cormorants](#) at 5am on Friday morning with three Ontario

Provincial Police boats in the water to ensure no protesters got in the way.

An estimated 1500 birds were killed along with countless chicks.

The total kill at Presqu'île this year is 2927 dead birds. In three years since the cull began, Ministry gunmen have killed 10,824 adult nesting cormorants, and tens of thousands of unhatched chicks through egg oiling, yet the brutality at Presqu'île is not over.

Ministry staff will now destroy the remaining nests using long poles, injuring more birds and killing more chicks.

The double-crested cormorant used to be endangered in the Great Lakes a few years ago due to toxic poisoning from PCB's. The MNR is justifying this killing in order to 'save' the vegetation on the island, however if the parks department would stop "managing the shoreline areas" upwind of the island so that vegetation could form on the nearest shoreline they could also establish colonies of the same vegetation on the mainland via "*active restoration and seeding*" if they really wanted to preserve the flora composition.

The cormorants need islands like this as places to nest, and are actually providing nutrients to the soil, which will assist in future growth from the seeds that are carried over with them. Once the cormorants move on (they usually need to find a new fish source eventually), the vegetation would re-establish, just as it has in the past.

Certainly the cormorants have nested on this island in past given the limited number of islands in Lake Ontario, and have likely been around for at least 8,000 years when this area was Boreal forest after the ice sheets retreated. (Cormorants are found up into the Boreal area of northern Quebec.)

Disturbance and destruction is a natural process.

The communities of vegetation won't be there in future anyway -- even if they were to kill ALL of the cormorants. Successional changes will cause them to change over time.

The tragic part of this story is that the cormorants could be aiding the future growth of new vegetative communities that can withstand and thrive in their guano.

- Natalie Helferty, Past President

EVENTS PAST

- On Sunday June 4th the "Mill Pond Splash" went off flawlessly thanks to a splendid day courtesy of Mother Nature. This annual event hosted by TRCA, the Don Watershed Council and the Town of Richmond Hill also included the Richmond Hill Naturalists as a partner this year. Lloyd and Tom led the public tree planting of 80 trees supplied by TRCA and the town. Marianne and Allan each led a nature walk attended by residents. The display booth was manned by Jim and Sharon Bradley and Theo Hofmann. Many other outstanding nature activities and wildlife displays, not to mention food, helped make it an enjoyable day for all. Many thanks to all who volunteered to help us "celebrate the Don" in Richmond Hill's Mill Pond Park.

- On Friday to Sunday June 2-4, 2006 [Ontario Nature's](#) 75th AGM and conference took place at Wilfred Laurier University. This event was sponsored by the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists. Enthusiasts from across the province gathered to learn from each other and listen to experts talk about the rich, magnificent Ontario countryside.

- On Thursday May 18, 2006 there was a public open house in respect to the Town of Richmond Hill Transportation Master Plan Update at Hillcrest Mall. Details can be found at <http://www.richmondhilltmp.com>.

- On Thursday May 18, 2006 Sierra Legal Defence came out in strong opposition to a proposal by Lafarge Canada to burn massive amounts of tires, trash and animal rendering waste in an antiquated cement kiln in Bath, Ontario. At a similar facility that Lafarge operates in Quebec, there has been a 3,400% increase in toxic emissions.

Much of the used tires that would be burned in the kiln would be imported from the US, which once started would be difficult to stop due to free trade provisions within NAFTA.

Despite this, along with huge public opposition, the Ontario Government has thus far failed to subject this proposal to a full environmental assessment. Sierra Legal is pushing for a full environmental assessment of the project on the air, water and health of local residents.

- On Monday May 15, 2006 the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville hosted a Workshop about the York Region 16th Avenue and 19th Avenue Sewer Project. The town provided information about the dewatering process and how it has affected people's wells.

- On Tuesday May 9, 2006 Marianne Yake, President of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, presented at a Public Session of the [Ontario Municipal Board](#) Hearing for "West Gormley". West Gormley is a parcel of rural land in Richmond Hill that had been designated for 'urban' development through a "backroom deal" without public input or Town Council approval. The 'urban' designation for the land was done without proper planning or forethought and

was opposed by Town staff at the time it was done [2001]. Marianne's presentation stated that, "We feel it is bad planning to have an 'urban' designation in this rural area and is contrary to the intent of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan which was put in place to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine from incompatible development". The designation of the land as 'urban' is also contrary to provincial planning policy.

- On Saturday May 6, 2006 the [North American Native Plant Society](#) held their Annual Sale of Native ferns, shrubs, trees, vines, and wildflowers at the Markham Civic Centre Atrium. Janet May of the York Region Environmental Alliance held an Organic Lawn Care Workshop to teach people about lawn care techniques and experienced volunteers were on hand to help people pick the perfect plants for their yard from among the largest selection of native species in the GTA. All plants at the sale came from local ethical growers.

- On Saturday April 29, 2006 the annual Richmond Hill "Mill Pond cleanup" took place. Tom Waechter, past President of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, was a key organizer of this event.

- On Tuesday April 18, 2006 [90 Canadian Climate Science Leaders](#) from the academic, public and private sectors across Canada conveyed their views on "the current state of knowledge of climate change" and to call upon Prime Minister Stephen Harper to provide national leadership in addressing the issue.

In the letter they agreed with "the climate science assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2001, which has also been supported by the Royal Society of Canada and the national academies of science of all G-8 countries, as well as those of China, India and Brazil".

A vast majority of the national and international climate science community endorse the conclusions of the IPCC assessment which states that "There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities". The latest 2005 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment stated that "Arctic temperatures have risen at almost twice the rate of those in the rest of the world over the past few decades".

As part of its considered response to this plea from the scientific community on Friday May 5th, 2006 the Federal government confirmed that it would axe financial incentives for the "Energide for Houses" program, as part of its "made in Canada" approach to climate change. Energide for Houses was arguably one of the most successful conservation programs in this country.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

April 2006

Durham Region

Wild Turkey - 1 at Halls Rd. Apr.13 (H&MF).

Virginia Rail - 1 at Thicksons Woods Apr.16 [Singing Male] (GD).

Great Horned Owl - 1 at Thicksons Woods Apr.16 (GD).

Brown Creeper - many at Thicksons Woods Apr.13 (H&MF).

Winter Wren - several at Thicksons Woods Apr.13 (H&MF). 1 at Thicksons Woods Apr.16 [Singing Male] (GD).

Fox Sparrow - several at Thicksons Woods Apr.16 (GD).

Swamp Sparrow - 1 at Thicksons Woods Apr.16 [Singing Male] (GD).

Toronto

Red-necked Grebe - 6 at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.22 (RJF).

Caspian Tern - 2 at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.22 (RJF).

Purple Martin - 1 at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.22 (RJF).

Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.22 (RJF).

Peel Region

Great Blue Heron - 7 active nests at Humber Station Road Heronry Apr.22 (GoC).

Peregrine Falcon - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Apr.26 (GoC).

Wild Turkey - 13 (& flock of six) at Field on Mt. Wolfe Caledon Apr.26 (GoC).

American Woodcock - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Apr.01 (GoC).

Northern Flicker - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Apr.08 (GoC).

Warbling Vireo - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Apr.27 (PG).

Black-throated Green Warbler - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Apr.27 (PG).

Pine Warbler - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Apr.10 (PG).

Chipping Sparrow -15 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Apr.27 (PG).
Field Sparrow - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Apr.28 (GoC).
Grasshopper Sparrow - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Apr.29 (GoC).
Swamp Sparrow - 1 at Caledon Tract Apr.16 (GoC).
Eastern Meadowlark - 2 at Albion Hills Cons. Area Apr.08 (GoC).
Purple Finch - 2 at Keily Crescent Apr.16 (GoC).
Pine Siskin - 1 at Caledon Tract Apr.16 (GoC).

York Region

Common Loon - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve Apr.15 [Flying N] (RJF,MCa,MvdT).
Pied-billed Grebe -1@Fairy Lk,Nmkt Apr16(MCa). 2@StJohnsSR Apr17(RJF). 1@Milne Cons.Area,Mrkhm Apr27(SLo)
Great Blue Heron - 16@Heronry Leslie/19th Ave. Apr.23 [Adults on nest] (GL). 18+ nests. Only 4 nests in 2003.
Turkey Vulture - 8@Ravenshoe Dump Apr8(TH). Few@M.MacK/Hwy.27 Apr28(JLo). "Eating road kill on my lawn"
Wood Duck - 12 (six pairs) at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Apr.15 (RJF). 1 at Seneca College Apr.30 (RJF).
Northern Shoveler - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.14 (SLo). 10 M at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End Apr.30 (RJF).
Green-winged Teal - 40 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End Apr.30 (RJF).
Ring-necked Duck - 6 (3 pair)@Holland Lndng Sewage Lagoons Apr15(RJF). 30 @St Johns SR Marsh Apr17(RJF).
Hooded Merganser - 4 at St Johns SR Marsh Apr.17 (RJF).
Ruddy Duck - 1 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Apr.15 (RJF).
Osprey - 4(2pair)@Hochreiter Rd/Bath N Apr15(RJF). 1@Bloomington/404 Apr29[Adults on nest](TH,DTH).
This bird was probably one of the two that EDo and Hel had seen about 5 hours earlier circling slightly north of
Bloomington on the west side of 404. It will be interesting to see whether they will breed there again.
They did not breed in 2005, but they did a few years before.
2 (pair) at N of Bloomington off Hwy 404 Apr.29 [Circling above] (EDo,Hel). 1 at Seneca College Apr.30 (RJF).
Bald Eagle - 1 Juv@Reesor Pnds Mrkhm Apr16,24(SLo). 1@Hwy 27, S of Major MacKenzie Apr.28 [Flying over] (JKi).
Northern Harrier - 1 M at Ravenshoe Dump Apr.08 (TH).
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Seneca College Apr.30 (RJF).
Northern Goshawk - 1 at YRF - Robinson Tract Apr.29 (RJF).
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1 at YRF - Eldred King Tr.(W-Main) Apr.29 [Circling above] (RJF).
American Kestrel - 1 at Bayview & Vandorf S.R. Apr.09 (H&MF).
Ruffed Grouse - a few at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve Apr.15 (RJF,MCa,MvdT).
Wild Turkey - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.09 (SLo).
Greater Yellowlegs - 22 at Markham Bypass Apr.27 (SLo). 8 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End Apr.30 (RJF).
Lesser Yellowlegs - 5 at Markham Bypass Apr.27 (SLo).
Spotted Sandpiper - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.27 (SLo).
Whimbrel - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.29 (SLo).
Wilson's Snipe - 1 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End Apr.30 (RJF).
American Woodcock - 3 at 19th Ave. E of Bayview Apr.18 (GL). 4 at Phyllis Rawlinson Park Apr.18 (GL).
Thayer's Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.14 (SLo).
Iceland Gull - 3 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.14 (SLo).
Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.27 (SLo).
Glaucous Gull -4 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.14 (SLo).
Caspian Tern - a few at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End Apr.15 (RJF). 2 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.22 (SLo).
Great Gray Owl - 1 at Virginia in Georgina Twp. Apr.26 (NRo).
Belted Kingfisher - 2 (pair) at East Humber/King-Vaughan Line Apr.15 (RJF).
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1 at Duclos Point Apr.26 (KDu.).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2 at YRF - Hall Tract Apr.17 (RJF,MvdT).
Northern Flicker - 1 (daily) at Ozark Park & Wetland,Oak Ridge Apr.01-30 (SDP).
Pileated Woodpecker - 1@Ozark Pk Wetland, OkRdgs Apr1-30(SDP). 1@Kipling/King-Vaughan Ln Apr15(RJF).
1 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Apr.15 (RJF). 1 at YRF - Hall Tract Apr.17 (RJF,MvdT).
Warbling Vireo - 1 at Duclos Point Apr.26 (KDu,CDu).
Tree Swallow - 30 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons Apr.15 (RJF).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.16 (SLo).
 Barn Swallow - 1 at Ozark Park & Wetland, Oak Ridge Apr.05 (SDP). 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.14 (SLo).
 Brown Creeper - 1 at Lake Wilcox Apr.09 (TM&GR).
 House Wren - 1 at Richview Greenway Cividale Crt Apr.18 (NH).
 Winter Wren - 1 @ Richvale Greenway Apr.18(NH). 2@YRF - Robinson Tract Apr.29 [Singing Male] (RJF).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - numerous at Kleinburg Apr.15 (RJF).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - several at Kleinburg Apr.15 (RJF).
 Eastern Bluebird - 2 (Nest w. 5 eggs) (pair) at Nashville: Huntington/Kirby Apr.28 [Adults entering nest box] (JKi,JLo).
 Hermit Thrush - 1 at Maple Avenue Richmond Hill Apr.19 (GL).
 1 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill Apr.27,28 (TH,DTH).
 Northern Mockingbird - 1@Northrn Hgts Dr. RH Apr.11-18 [Male](NH). 1Nesting@Huntington/Kirby Apr.30(JLo).
 American Pipit - 1 at Wilcox Lake Complex Apr.09 (TM&GR).
 Blackburnian Warbler - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) Apr.30 (GD).Very early. Also about 8-10 other warblers.
 Pine Warbler - 4@YRF,Hall Tract Apr.17(RJF,MvdT). Many in YRF tracts Apr.29(RJF). 1@Seneca College Apr.30(RJF).
 Northern Waterthrush - several at Duclos Point Apr.26 (KDu.).
 Common Yellowthroat - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.19 (SLo). Very early.
 Eastern Towhee - 1 at Hillsvie Dr. Richmond Hill Apr.15-18 (DCh).
 American Tree Sparrow - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) Apr.15 (GD).
 Chipping Sparrow - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) Apr.15 (GD). 1 at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H Apr.25 (FWH).
 Fox Sparrow - a few? at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) Apr.15 (GD).
 Song Sparrow - 1 at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H Apr.11 (FWH).
 Swamp Sparrow - 1 at St Johns SR Marsh Apr.17 (RJF).
 White-throated Sparrow - 3 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill Apr.29 (TH).
 White-crowned Sparrow - 1 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill Apr.29 (TH).
 Purple Finch - 2 (pair) at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H Apr.23-27 (FWH).
 American Goldfinch - 7 at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H Apr.01; 9 on 04 Apr.(FWH).

CDu Chris Dunn, DCh Deb Chute, DTH Doris Hofmann, EDo Eleanor Dowson, FWH Freddy Whillans, GD Gene Denzel, GL Graham Leonard, GoC Gord Cameron, H&MF Harold & Muriel Farrant, Hel Helen Ives, JKi Jane Kirkpatrick, JLo Joan Love, KDu Keith Dunn, MCa Mary Carnahan, MvdT Mike van den Tillaart, NH Natalie Helferty, PG Phyllis Graydon, RJF Ron Fleming, SDP Susan DiPucchio, SLo Stan Long, TH Theo Hofmann, TM&GR Theresa McKenzie Glenn Reed.

On April 21, 2006 while birding in the Carden Alvar, an interesting confrontation was observed between a Canada Goose and a Blanding's Turtle. The goose was on her nest 3 feet above the creek. The turtle, obviously interested in a meal of goose eggs, was creeping slowly up the bank towards the nest. The goose extended her neck along the ground and engaged in a staring match with the turtle. The turtle got to within 3 feet, and remained there for about 5 minutes. The turtle eventually gave up and returned to the creek." - From Ron Scovell, Ontbirds



Photo: Peter Everard Smith

On April 28, 2006 BirdLife International named noted Canadian authors and conservation activists Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson as Honorary Presidents of BirdLife International's Rare Bird Club. The Rare Bird Club, founded in 1988 by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, is for nature lovers, keen birders and conservationists from all over the globe. Internationally recognized, Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson are noted for their generosity in time and effort on behalf of other writers, social causes and conservation. They are both avid birders.

- From Bird Studies Canada, "BSC Latest News - 5 May 2006"

From the Editor

Last Sunday was a wonderful day for a day at Mill Pond Park. At least five members of the executive came together to help out at the "Richmond Hill Splash", lead some easy hikes and plant some trees. I got my hands (and shoes) dirty helping Tom Waechter and a student volunteer with the tree planting. Over 70 trees were planted by families who came to spend a bit of time in the soggy forests. A lot of smiles were brought to the faces of children who had never planted a tree before.

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