



# THE BULLETIN

August/September 2006 No. 456

## 2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

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## Events calendar

<b>Executive Meeting</b>	Tuesday September 12, 2006. 7:00PM Location: TBA
<b>General Meeting</b>	Thursday September 21, 2006. 7:30pm Speaker: Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
<b>Botany Group</b>	Monday October 2, 2006 Topic: To be Announced Where: Charles Bishop's
<b>Bird Group</b>	Wednesday October 11, 2006 Topic: Summer and Scarlet Tanager Where: Barbara Jackson's 416-224-2563
<b>Field Trips</b>	What: When:

*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**

## The Buzz on Bumblebees

With the onset of spring, young female bumblebees emerged from the underground or leaf litter winter hibernation sites.

The Queens were the sole survivors of last year's colonies that remained after the summer's mating to start this year's broods. The first task of the Queen is to seek out newly emerging wildflowers, such as Trout Lily, that hang down and are full of pollen. She will grasp the edge of the flower with her jaws and feet and position her abdomen under the opening and buzz the large flight muscles of her wings. This sends a vibration through the flower of about 300 cycles per second, shaking the pollen from the anthers onto her furry abdomen. This she will clean herself off and eat.

When she has gathered enough food to meet her needs, the Queen will then locate a suitable place to build her nest for the summer. There are over 200 types of bumblebee and they look for a variety of sites. The most common sites are the leaf litter in hedge bottoms, old mouse holes, or cool dark places under a large stone or under the wooden floor of a garden shed or other building. Even a raised platform stuffed with long dried grasses or dried cattail stems under it is sufficient for the Queen to build herself a nest. Because the bumblebee does not live in a large colony, the nest is usually a little bigger than half a grapefruit even in the busiest days of high summer.

Queens begin new nests with a ball of pollen and wax into which they lay just a few (approx 6) eggs at a time. When the eggs hatch they try to eat their way through the pollen reserve, but the Queen continually adds to the pollen and wax, sealing them in. Eventually the grubs pupate and the Queen spins a bright yellow cocoon of the finest silk from which the grubs emerge a few days later as fully grown worker bees.

Continued on Page 3...



**The Bulletin** is published 9 times per year, from September to May inclusive, by the *Richmond Hill Naturalists*, and is mailed free to members. The Bulletin is the official publication of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, a non-profit organization, the objectives of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural areas.

Address Correspondence to: **Richmond Hill Naturalists, P.O. Box 32217, RPO Harding, Richmond Hill, On, L4C 9S3**

**Deadlines:** The editor encourages submissions from any member on any topic related to nature or conservation, and in particular, any issue that might be of interest or concern to members of this club. e-mail: [lhelferty@sympatico.ca](mailto:lhelferty@sympatico.ca) Deadlines are the first day of each month.

Bulletin Advertisers have been selected because of their relevance to member interests.

Members are encouraged to patronize our advertisers and please mention that you saw their ad in our Bulletin.

**Change of Address:** Any change of email or street address should be sent to Mike Turk who prints the envelopes for the Bulletin mailing. See the Executive List for contact information.

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:

*Meet new members at club events and say Hello!*

## EVENTS FUTURE

- **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. General meeting at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. Our first meeting of the 2006-07 year should be a good one. Natalie Helferty will be talking about local responses to Climate Change and how we can adapt.

- **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.

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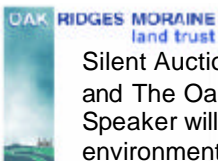
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**Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader. If you would like to volunteer or you have any ideas, please submit them to Martin Chen (905-709-0246, [jmchentoronto@rogers.com](mailto:jmchentoronto@rogers.com)).**

- **Monday September 18, 2006.** 7pm. ORTA Hike at the Aurora Arboretum. Guided hike followed by refreshments and a short talk at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Pre-register 905-727-8214. Meet at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Dr in Aurora.

- **Friday November 3, 2006.** 7pm. Richmond Hill Group of Artists Oak Ridges Moraine Art Show and Sale Also open weekends November 4/5 & 11/12 from 11am to 5pm. Artists of the group have been painting all summer and will be painting into the autumn to show off the Moraine in its best light and to bring the issues of keeping the Moraine beautiful and whole for posterity. Visit [www.rhga.ca](http://www.rhga.ca) or call 905-770-7449.



- **Thursday November 9, 2006.** 13<sup>th</sup> annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner and Silent Auction. \$150 Per Person. Proceeds go to The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto and The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. Le Parc Conference Centre, Thornhill. This years Keynote Speaker will be Margaret Atwood. All proceeds are to be designated for use in the protection of environmentally significant lands. For more information go to [www.charlessauriol.ca](http://www.charlessauriol.ca) or to order tickets call 416-661-6600, Ext. 5276 or email: [wrobertson@trca.on.ca](mailto:wrobertson@trca.on.ca).



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## MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



As soon as they dry their wings the worker bees begin the work of supporting the colony and their Queen, who continues to lay eggs. Because it takes more and more of her time the pollen and nectar collection is delegated to the workers, and the Queen starts spending her whole time in the nest.

This co-operation continues throughout the high days of late spring and summer until the nest has reached the right size for its species. At that point the Queen lays eggs destined to become next year's Queen bees as well as drones and male bees. The drones, once hatched, leave the nest and live independent lives, their only purpose being to mate with the young Queens to ensure the survival of the species. Unlike honey bees the young bumblebee Queens will continue to live and work in the mother colony for the remainder of the summer and autumn.

Come the first sharp drop in temperature and frosts the old Queen, her workers and the independent drones will die. Only the newly mated Queens will survive in hibernation to begin the cycle again the following Spring.  
- Natalie Helferty

### The diversity of bees and of the flowers they pollinate has declined significantly over the last 25 years.

An international team of researchers from the UK, the Netherlands and Germany compiled biodiversity records for hundreds of sites and found that bee diversity fell in almost 80% of them. Many bee species are declining or have become extinct. Losses in biodiversity are attributed to the use of pesticides, loss and fragmentation of habitat, and the impact of parasites and invasive species.



Bees are pollinators and are essential for the reproduction of many wild flowers and crops. Loss of bee diversity in itself might not be too worrying, so long as other surviving insect pollinators are similar, and capable of pollinating the same flower species. However, this is not the case, as other pollinating species are also in decline, and in Britain the number of different species of pollination-dependent wildflowers has declined by about 70%.

The studies also showed that pollinator species that were relatively rare in the past have tended to become rarer still, while the common species have become even more plentiful.

A decline in pollinators will have a serious impact on agriculture, as most food crops are dependent on effective natural pollination. Although not confirmed, a similar loss in biodiversity in Canadian Bee populations is likely.

- Michael White

### BOTANY GROUP – TREE WALK

On May 15, nine members of the Botany Group met at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in North Toronto to view some of the trees and shrubs growing there. Practically every tree species that will grow in our climate is found in this large "park". We saw many fine oaks, elms, beeches and maples, some of them 200 years old. Many of the trees carry identification labels.



We enjoyed seeing fine specimens of exotic trees, such as Japanese Katsura, Turkish Filbert and Dawn Redwood. Carolinian tree species are at the edge of their range for this part of Ontario, growing wild in some locations west of Toronto. One could find Kentucky Coffee Tree, Cucumber Tree, Tulip Tree, Shagbark Hickory, Sycamore and Black Gum – but it is much easier to view them as we did in

Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

The Redbud tree, native to Pelee Island -- but now found in local gardens -- was in full bloom.

The Ginkgo Biloba is thought to be the oldest "living fossil" having survived for 200 million years, and has separate male and female trees. The fruit found on the female tree has a strong disagreeable odour.

A wide variety of nut and fruit trees grow there – oak, chestnut, hickory, walnut, pear, plum, apple and crabapple nourish squirrels, cardinals, tanagers, orioles, blue jays, warblers, robins, finches, juncos and others.

One sighting of special interest was of new growth Spruce buds bright red in colour. After a very interesting tree tour, the group enjoyed lunch at the home of Susan and Ted Hampton, who live near the cemetery.



## Working for the Community

Richmond Hill's Janet Babcock, Planning Commissioner, has left to work for the town of Cambridge. We welcome a new Planning Commissioner and are hoping that they have a vision that will provide a full and open forum for up-front public input into the planning process as the Town matures.

After many long years of effort in trying to educate our decision-makers and civil servants about the need for protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all species, including ourselves, we are starting to get through. Persistence is paying off. You can see this by the articles in [The Liberal](#) and at public meetings that reflect an increasing awareness by the public of environmental concerns in our community. There is growing understanding of the connections between ourselves and how we act within our environment and how nature responds in kind...and not always kindly. What we sow is what we reap. After all, we were created to evolve as a part of nature, not apart from nature.

The Naturalist club should be very proud of our accomplishments over the past 50 years, but there is still a lot of work to do in the face of climate change, oil depletion, and rising energy costs, population and pollution in York Region. Our need to 'Think Globally, Act Locally' is more pressing than ever as our planet, our Town and Region reaches 'carrying capacity'. As urban boundaries and watershed capacity for water-taking and assimilation of nutrients and pollutants is reached, we need to move to reverse the trend toward decline in the quality of our ecosystem functions. That will require innovative thinking and action to meet both the needs of nature and residents' simultaneously.

The last off-moraine farmland left in Richmond Hill is the [North Leslie lands](#), which are still pending a decision by the [Ontario Municipal Board](#) chairs. I gave a 30 minute presentation at the public meeting in March on behalf of the club, promoting alternative uses for the land, including a 'green bin' organic treatment facility. Currently, York Region is sending any 'green bin' organics to [Quebec](#) for treatment as they fight [Halton Recycling](#) in Newmarket over odour issues. Meanwhile, [Miller Composting](#) in Richmond Hill (at Bloomington and Leslie) recycles yard waste and has soil available.

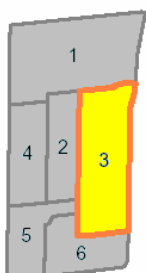
We are looking into collaboration on restoration through the [Healthy Yards](#) program with the [Toronto Region Conservation Authority](#) and the town Parks & Recreation Departments. The [Rouge Watershed Strategy](#) due out this winter-spring 2007 will aim at reducing stormwater runoff in the face of increasing 'peak flows' into rivers after heavy rain events (like the Aug. 19th 2005 storm) through [Low Impact Development](#) (LID).

LID is used in Seattle and other cities in the USA as a new way of planning that uses nature's services such as soil and native vegetation to reduce runoff through lot level or on-site infiltration (in your yards) and reducing the amount of impervious cover (pavement) through alternative street development standards. If we want to move toward sustainability for ourselves and other species, we need to look at planning our cities as habitats not just for ourselves, but for other species, as ecosystems unto themselves.

So, keeping this in mind, I have decided to run for Town Council in Ward 3 in Richmond Hill. Now is the time to make these changes. After spending countless volunteer hours on plan review, on committees and lobbying, I decided that being the decision-maker is far more effective than being ignored. A change is needed.

With the retirement of Mayor Bill Bell, a new CAO Joan Anderton and the resignation of Planning Commissioner Janet Babcock, we have a newly emerging opportunity at the Town to promote more sustainable practices. New ward boundaries are also providing a more level playing field as incumbents in old wards now need to promote themselves just as much in new wards as new candidates such as myself.

I encourage all residents to come out to vote this November 13th. Our last election turn-out in Richmond Hill was only 24%, which is a far cry from a 'majority' support for any Councillor. We need old and new residents to come together to form a better functioning community that is prepared to pull together to help each other.



- Natalie Helferty, Past President

To learn more about Natalie and how she is trying to help our communities become more sustainable and livable, you can visit her website at <http://www.nataliehelferty.ca>.

Note: Ward 3 includes all the land North-East of 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Bay view up to Stouffville Sideroad.

[Avian Conservation and Ecology](#) is an open-access, fully electronic scientific journal, sponsored by the [Society of Canadian Ornithologists](#) and [Bird Studies Canada](#), that publishes papers that are scientifically rigorous and relevant to the bird conservation community to enhance the international profile of Canadian ornithology and applied avian science. ACE is intended to complement other publications, such as traditional ornithological journals, conservation publications, general ecology journals and those focused on specific groups of birds. ACE publishes avian research that is simultaneously basic ecology and applied conservation ecology. Visit the site at [www.ace-eco.org](http://www.ace-eco.org).

## LOCAL NEWS

York Region has issued a public advisory indicating that a bat infected with rabies was confirmed in Newmarket recently. Do not touch bats and call Health Connection [1-800-361-5653] or a pest removal company if one is found in a building. Other mammals have been successfully inoculated from rabies virus a few years ago by the Ministry of Natural Resources through a bait-dropping program.

Bats do not eat food left out, but flying insects, so did not benefit from this baiting inoculation program.

See <http://www.region.york.on.ca/Publications/News/2006/August+9%2c+2006+Bat+warning+issued.htm>

- Natalie Helferty

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**A new green online directory was opened in April whose mission is to move “Green” mainstream.**

The owners are two environmentalists, and like many others they have become more aware of the value in supporting their local economy, choosing more environmentally friendly products and services, conserving, re-using and recycling. Frustrated by the difficulty they had in finding local green products and service suppliers and information they began researching the potential for a better directory over a year ago and spent many months planning the concept, programming and developing the site.

The listings for non-profit organizations are free and include a website link, the capability to post announcements and events and link them to specific categories so that they will come up in searches made by visitors. Users are able to update events directly on the site. Events will expire automatically once the event has passed.

Green businesses pay to list, with 50% of the fee going to advertising the directory in green and mainstream media, allowing small and/or new businesses to share in ad campaigns that many could not have afforded on their own. Visit the site at [www.greenyourlife.com](http://www.greenyourlife.com).



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## NATURE NEWS

### **Death by a Thousand Cuts**

- A [study](#) released this month by the [World Bank](#) indicated that some 12% of all bird species, 23% of mammals, 25% of pine and other conifer trees, 32% of amphibians and 52% of ancient tropical plants are currently threatened with extinction.

Climate change alone might commit an additional 15-37% to premature extinction within the next 50 years. As well, the number of known [invasive species in the Great Lakes](#) has climbed to 182. A new one is being discovered about every 28 weeks — the highest rate in any freshwater area on Earth. We have a LOT of work to do in our own backyard in York Region.

York Region will likely require the planting of species that can tolerate drought and floods. Most riparian, old field, alvar, sand barren and rock barren species are well-adapted to these types of conditions. Members of the Richmond Hill Naturalists are encouraged to use these species where possible when planting. Do not plant non-native invasive species that could spread and remove any you see, like [garlic mustard](#). Garlic mustard will inhibit growth of native woody plants and will not regrow if pulled out.

Do not buy [Norway Maple](#). Norway maple tell-tale signs: Orange fuzz at the base of the leaf stem, white 'latex' oozes out of leaf stem if you break off a leaf, tougher thicker leaf than sugar maple. Red versions of Norway maple are called 'Crimson King'. These seem to be less invasive than the green variety, but still are not as hardy as [Silver Maple](#), a native species. Silver maple regenerates readily, but water it well when planting it as it grows during wet season when floodplains and slopes are most wet.

[Eastern white cedar](#) is another species that has a great range of tolerance from dry to wet and self-propagates readily and Trembling aspen is also a hardy species, as is white birch.

Both of these latter trees are "early successional species". Other aspen species, like cottonwood, [balsam poplar](#) and [large-toothed aspen](#) are also very hardy species that can tolerate a wide range of dry to wet conditions. They do prefer sandy soils, but can grow in clay as well.

Species that are common and can readily propagate via seed or shoots in order to re-establish a healthy yards and riparian areas along streams should be planted. Most riparian trees in urban areas are [Manitoba maple](#) because its seed source keeps spreading, but we need to spread other seeds of native species through our neighbourhoods. Manitoba maple was introduced as farming cleared the native forest down to the edge of rivers in the past. Urban 'flash floods' propagate the species due to the high runoff that mimics prairie flash flooding out west. By reducing the amount of pavement and also slowing down runoff with more absorption through replacing our shallow lawn grass with deeper-rooted native plants, shrubs and trees, we can lessen the rain runoff and allow riparian areas to return to normal flooding conditions, allowing the native species of our yards to spread themselves along riparian areas. This is the way to restore the landscape...thus, every yard helps.

- Natalie Helferty

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### **New research shows fossil fuels pose a deadly threat to coral reefs and marine life**

Scientists have discovered that about half of the greenhouse gases added to the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels has ended up in the world's oceans. While this has the beneficial effect of slowing down the rate at which the planet's atmosphere is heating up, ocean researchers have found that the huge influx of carbon dioxide since 1800 is making oceans more acidic than they have been for millions of years.

If not reversed, this trend could destabilize or threaten much of the world's marine life, particularly animals that can't adapt to living in a more corrosive environment.

So far the ocean's pH has become about 30 per cent more acidic over the past 200 years because humans have added so much carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Scientists say this change has never occurred in the recent history of the planet -- either in such a massive way, or so quickly.

The pH changes that are occurring in the ocean today are truly extraordinary and is not an environmental problem that anyone has had to deal with in the past. Scientists don't have a very good grasp of what this really means for ocean biology, but they do know it has scary potential for all creatures that build shells of calcium carbonate, including corals, starfish, snails and many microscopic varieties of plankton because they may start to dissolve, and may decrease their ability to build their skeletons -- possibly as early as 2050.

This is a particular worry for coral reefs because one of the sure outcomes of this is going to be an accelerating loss of coral-reef framework around the world.

About 25 per cent of all ocean species spend at least part of their life cycle on reefs, and in a more acidic ocean, corals will grow more slowly and become less dense -- a process like osteoporosis in humans. If corals are not able to grow fast enough to offset erosion from wave action they will be under threat of bleaching from rising water temperatures.

Although there is intense debate about the impact that global warming will have on land, scientists say there is absolutely none about the alteration in ocean chemistry under way. The impacts from a more acidic ocean will not reverse quickly, even if all carbon dioxide emissions from human sources cease.

Experts believe it will take hundreds of thousands of years for ocean pH to return to normal levels, and oceans at high latitudes, such as the Antarctic, Arctic and the Northern Pacific off British Columbia are more vulnerable to the trend than tropical oceans.

New concerns over ocean acidification will be flagged in the report expected next year from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), the United Nations body amassing all scientific knowledge on global warming.

- John O'Gorman

## Pesticide damages brain function in songbirds

Environmental exposure to pesticides are responsible for the shrinking of the brains of singing and mating birds. Scientists at the [University of Alberta](#) found that long-term exposure to high levels of DDT in the environment directly affects their brains. Some male robins showed up to a 30 per cent reduction in the size of the brain region responsible for song production to attract a mate, compared with males exposed to lower levels.

The robins in the study were from British Columbia's Okanagan Valley, and they ate earthworms in soil containing high levels of DDT, which has persisted since the 1960s. The soil had relatively low levels of other chemicals.

The effects of exposure in humans or other animals is unknown, and people should be cautious when spraying chemicals in their yards. The key to a healthy garden and a healthy environment is, if you do have to use pesticides or herbicides, at least use them sparingly. To reduce exposure to pesticides, people should become more tolerant of pests and weeds in their yards, and use chemicals as a last resort.

## EVENTS PAST

- Linda Pim, Conservation Policy Analyst for Ontario Nature, has accepted an appointment to the staff of the [Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#) [OMAFRA] in Guelph. She will be working on a wide variety of files ranging across agri-food issues, possibly including climate change, farm-generated green energy, trade issues, land use planning, and ecological goods and services.

Linda has been with [Ontario Nature](#) since 1996, providing advice and direction on a variety of issues and campaigns including enactment of the [Greenbelt Act](#) and implementation of the Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt Plan, enactment and implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and Plan, reform of the Provincial Policy Statement, the Planning Act and the Ontario Municipal Board hearing process, implementation of the Niagara Escarpment Plan and monitoring development along the Escarpment through her work with the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment and publication of the first guidebook to smart growth in Ontario, titled "[A Smart Future for Ontario](#)".

- On Wednesday July 26, 2006, City Council approved a set of recommendations that work towards the implementation of a "Toronto Green Development Standard".

The Toronto Green Development Standard is a set of features of site and building design that promote better environmental sustainability of development. The Standard integrates existing City guidelines and targets with standards from private rating systems such as [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#) (LEED) and [Green Globes](#). The Toronto Standard is intended to ensure that where there is a desire to build "Green" in Toronto, local environmental objectives are met. The Standard is to be applied to new City-owned and affiliated projects.

- In mid-June Miriam, a Peregrine Falcon hatched at the top of the Richmond Hill town hall rooftop, was seen nesting successfully with two healthy chicks at the Whittier Hotel in Detroit Michigan.

She had nested last year for the first time at this site but lost her eggs due to a late snowfall in April. Miriam was purchased by the [Canadian Peregrine Foundation](#) as a small hatchling chick from a Peregrine breeder in western Canada and was a participant in the satellite tracking program.

The [Town of Richmond Hill](#), including town council members had been incredibly supportive of the CPF hack releases that they had been hosted on the town hall roof, in addition to their support with the satellite tracking project. The ongoing support of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, Ontario Power Generation, Rouge Park, TD Friends of the Environment, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has been instrumental in the successes of these peregrine hack releases.

The [Richmond Hill Naturalists](#) were also a very important partner in the CPF peregrine hack releases and our satellite tracking project over the four years, with many of the naturalists and their membership having spent many very long days and evenings in the streets with us on the many fledge watches, in addition to being the hack site attendants looking after the birds on a daily bases for several of the years.

In particular, council woman [Lynn Foster](#) and past president of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, Natalie Helferty and Mr. John Nemeth, former Manager of Environmental Services with Richmond Hill, were instrumental in the success of CPF hack releases over the years at the Town of Richmond Hill.



There was many other staff at involved behind the scenes from the Richmond Hill Parks and Recreation department that spent many hours helping us with these hack releases. Many thanks also have to go to all of the CPF volunteers that worked thousands of hours on the Richmond Hill hack releases every year.

Each year the hack sites with their combined fledge watches and the satellite tracking project required 2500 plus volunteer man hours on site every year dealing with the birds. Needless to say, without their support, the hack program would not have been able to celebrate these types of success stories.

To see any of the Peregrine hack sites live on the web visit <http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca/webcams.html>.

## BIRD OBSERVATIONS

May 2006

### Out-of-Area

Cerulean Warbler - 1 at Point Pelee NP May 07 (MCh).

### Peel Region

Green Heron -2 (pair) at Clairville Cons. Area May 25 (JMa fide PG).

Broad-winged Hawk - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 14 (GoC).

Wild Turkey - 2 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 12 (GoC).

Common Moorhen - 1 at Humber Station Road Heronry May 25 (PG). Near the heronry

American Woodcock - 2 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 12 (GoC).

Black-billed Cuckoo - 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1 at Caledon East May 14 (GoC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 07 (GoC).

Willow Flycatcher - 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Great Crested Flycatcher - 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Warbling Vireo - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 26 (GoC).

Eastern Bluebird - 1 at Caledon East May 25 (GoC).

Wood Thrush - 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Brown Thrasher - 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Blue-winged Warbler - 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Golden-winged Warbler - 3 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Field Sparrow - 2 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 12 (GoC). 1 at Duffy's Lane May 29 (DJM).

Vesper Sparrow - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 07 (GoC).

Grasshopper Sparrow - 3 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 12 [Singing Male] (GoC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 18 (GoC).

Eastern Meadowlark - 3 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 12 (GoC).

Baltimore Oriole - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area May 10 (GoC).

### York Region

Common Loon - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 01 (SLo).

Turkey Vulture - 4 at Richmond Hill Town Hall May 13 [Flying over] (NH,MPr).

Wood Duck - 2 M at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).

Osprey - 1 at Kennedy & Bloomington May 03 [Adult on nest] (TH).

Bald Eagle - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 20 (SLo).

Black-bellied Plover - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 31 (SLo).

Semipalmated Plover - 2 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 30 (SLo).

Ruddy Turnstone - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 31 (SLo).

Semipalmated Sandpiper - 23 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 29 (SLo).

White-rumped Sandpiper - fair number at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons May 27 (KRS).

Baird's Sandpiper - fair number at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons May 27 (KRS).

5 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 29 (SLo,OB). 4 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 31 (SLo).

Iceland Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 07 (SLo).



Glaucous Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 31 (SLo).  
 Black-billed Cuckoo - 1 at Cold Creek Conservation Area May 25 (Dave Caple).  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1@Idleswift Thornhill May 23 (G&CD). 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Seneca College May 23 (BHa).  
 Great Crested Flycatcher - 1 at Uplands Area, Thornhill May 26 (G&CD).  
 Common Raven - 3 Juv@YRF N Tract May19 [Nest](ChvR). 1 Adlt@YRF N Tract May 23 (ChvR). Young left nest.  
 Cliff Swallow - 50 at Wallace Street Woodbridge May 10-31 [Adult on nest] (TS).  
 White-breasted Nuthatch - 2 at Ozark Pk.-10 Nantucket Oak Ridges May 27-31 (TM&GR).  
 Winter Wren - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - some at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 12 (RJF,OB).  
 Swainson's Thrush - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) May 25 (G&CD).  
 Hermit Thrush - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) May 01 (G&CD).  
 Brown Thrasher - a few at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 American Pipit - 2 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 09 (SLo).  
 Blue-winged Warbler - 2 M at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Nashville Warbler - many at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Northern Parula - 1 at John F.Smith Trail Newmarket May 12 (RJF,OB).  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler - 2 (pair) at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Magnolia Warbler – 1@Idleswift Thornhill May 13 (G&CD). 1 Fem at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) May 13 (G&CD).  
 Black-throated Green Warbler - 2 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 [Singing Male] (RJF).  
 Blackburnian Warbler - 2 (pair) at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) May 26 (G&CD).  
 Palm Warbler - 1 at John F.Smith Trail Newmarket May 12 (RJF,OB).  
 Canada Warbler - 2 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Clay-colored Sparrow – 2-3@Cawthra-Mulock Res May12 (RJF,OB). Few@ Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 Vesper Sparrow - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 25 (SLo,TH,m.obs.).  
 White-throated Sparrow – 7@Idleswift Thornhill May 01 (G&CD). 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 28 (RJF).  
 White-crowned Sparrow – 1@Idleswift Thornhill May4(G&CD). Few@John F.Smith Trail Newmarket May 12(RJF,OB).  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur - 1 M at Reesor Ponds Markham May 25 (SLo,TH,WP,m.obs.). Only 3rd in Ontario!  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1M@Idleswift Thrnhl May4(G&CD). 2@Uplands Thornhill May8(G&CD,OB).  
 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) May 13 (G&CD).  
 Indigo Bunting - 1M@Idleswift Thornhill May12(G&CD). First for Yard. 1 M at Dunlap Observatory May 25 (DCh).  
 Orchard Oriole - pair & 1st yr M at Milne Cons. Area, Markham May 15 (SLo,OB).  
 Baltimore Oriole - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) May 15 (G&CD).  
 Pine Siskin - 3 at John F.Smith Trail Newmarket May 12 (RJF,OB).

#### June 2006

##### Out-of-Area

Wood Duck - 12 (1 F & 11 duckl.) at Mitchell Lagoons nr. Stratford June 29 (G&CD).  
 Lesser Yellowlegs - 1 at Mitchell Lagoon Stratford June 29 (G&CD).  
 Least Sandpiper - a few at Mitchell Lagoon, Stratford June 29 (G&CD).

##### Peel Region

Osprey - 1 at Gibson Lake June 05 (PG).  
 Great Crested Flycatcher - 2(pair)@Graydon Property, Humber Grove, Most of June(PG). Nesting in Bluebird box.  
 Blue-winged Warbler - 1 at Humber Valley Herit.Tr.Bolton June 11 (PG,TH).  
 Golden-winged Warbler - 1 at Humber Valley Herit.Tr.Bolton June 11 (PG,TH).  
 Black-throated Green Warbler - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove June 01-11 [Singing Male] (PG).  
 Pine Warbler - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove June 01-11 (PG).

##### York Region

Great Blue Heron - 1 at Oakbank Pond Thornhill June 17 (MCh).  
 Great Egret - 1 at Humber at Eglinton & Scarlett June 22 (JKI).  
 Green Heron - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love June 20 (JLo).  
 Turkey Vulture - 5 at Yonge & Northern Heights R.H. June 08 [Flying over] (NH,MPr.).

Osprey - 1 at Bethesda Rd. & Leslie June 03 (TM&GR).  
 1 at Communic. Tower Bloomingt. & 404 June 21 [Adult on nest] (ChvR). Wing seen.  
 Cooper's Hawk - 1@Idleswift Thornhill June 20(G&CD). 1 M at Harding Blvd. Richmond Hill June 22 (RBHS,WP).  
 Northern Goshawk - 1 at YRF - Patterson Tract June 15 (RJF).  
 Red-tailed Hawk - 1 at Sugarbush at Hwy 7 & Bathurst June 11 (MCh).  
 Black-bellied Plover - 2 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 04 (SLo).  
 Semipalmated Plover - 2@Reesor Ponds Markham June 4(SLo). 1 to 2 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 10-13 (SLo).  
 Greater Yellowlegs - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 06 & 25 (SLo). "Fall" migrants  
 Lesser Yellowlegs - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 27 (SLo). "Fall" migrant  
 Red Knot - 1@Reesor Ponds Mrkham June 21,23(SLo). 1@Reesor Ponds Markham June 24 (TH). Rare in Summer.  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper - 23 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 05; 10-13 (SLo).  
 Least Sandpiper - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 24 (SLo). First "Fall" migrant?  
 Baird's Sandpiper - 3 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 11 (SLo).  
 Dunlin - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 10 (SLo).  
 Caspian Tern - 2 at Reesor Ponds Markham June 27 (SLo).  
 Common Tern - Pair + 1 2nd yr at Reesor Ponds Markham June 21 (SLo).  
 Black-billed Cuckoo - 1@Cawthra-Mulock Res Jun 18(RJF,MvdT). 1@YRF - Bendor & Graves Tract June 20 (G&CD).  
 Pileated Woodpecker - 1 in woods at Markham Bypass June 12 (SLo).  
 Yellow-throated Vireo - 1 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End June 21 (PW).  
 Common Raven - 1 at Hydrotower, Weston, N of 16 SR June 17 (RJF,MvdT).  
 White-breasted Nuthatch - 2 at Ozark Pk.-10 Nantucket Oak Rid June 01-03 (TM&GR).  
 Winter Wren - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve June 18 (RJF,MvdT).  
 Eastern Bluebird - 2 (pair) at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love June 17 (JLo).  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) June 02 [Singing Male] (G&CD).  
 Northern Mockingbird - 1@Islington S of Maj MacK Jun 14(JLo). 1@Maj MacK W off Huntington June 26-29 (JLo).  
 Brown Thrasher - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve June 18 (RJF,MvdT).  
 Mourning Warbler - 1@YRF Bendor & Graves Tract Jun 20[Singing Male](G&CD). Unusual song.  
 1 at Humber Valley Trail Kleinb-Boy June 24 [Singing Male] (JKi).  
 Clay-colored Sparrow - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve June 18 (RJF,MvdT).  
 Savannah Sparrow - Nest w. 3 eggs at Reesor Ponds Markham June 06 (SLo).  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 3 families at Idleswift Thornhill [Latter part of June] (G&CD).  
 Indigo Bunting - 1 at King SR 1 km E of Weston June [[Unknown Date]] (anon. fide CAT).  
 Bobolink - 10 at Bethesda Rd. & Leslie June 03 (TM&GR).  
 Baltimore Oriole - 1 at Backyard near Observatory R.H. June 16 (DCh).  
**BHa Bob Hawkins, CAT Carol Ann Trabert, ChvR Christel von Richter, DCh Deb Chute, DJM Dave Milsom, G&CD Gene & Charlene Denzel, GoC Gord Cameron, JKi Jane Kirkpatrick, JLo Joan Love, JMa Jane Madarasc, KRS Kevin Shackleton, m.obs. Many Observers, MCh Martin Chen, MPr Marco Prosdocimo, MvdT Mike van den Tillaart, NH Natalie Helferty, OB fide Ontbirds, PG Phyllis Graydon, PW Peter Wukasch, RBHS Roy B. H. Smith, RJF Ron Fleming, SLo Stan Long, TH Theo Hofmann, TM&GR Theresa McKenzie Glenn Reed, TS Tessa Shelvey, WP Winnie Poon.**

## From the Editor



In recent issues of the Richmond Hill Naturalists Bulletin, the advertisement from Authentic Tree Care Inc. was inadvertently omitted. As a consequence, in a subsequent issue of the Bulletin I will be featuring a short article highlighting this business, run by Mr. Derek W. Welsh and Adele Welsh in

Baldwin, Ontario. Authentic Tree Care Inc. can be reached at (416) 990-CARE or 1-888-366-CARE.

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