



# THE BULLETIN

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE RICHMOND HILL NATURALISTS

December 2009 — No. 485

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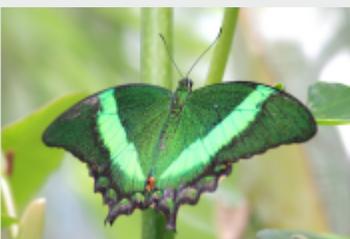
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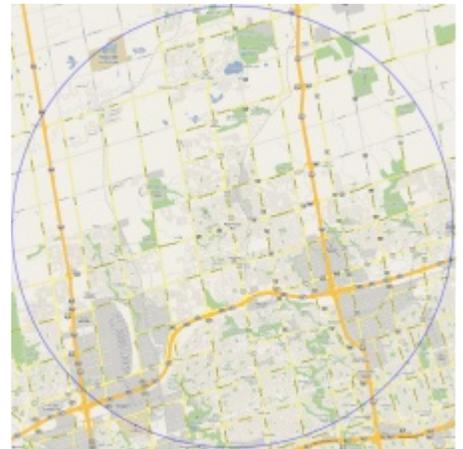
The annual Christmas Bird Count is Saturday, December 19th.

Volunteers are waiting impatiently for the event. Despite the often freezing and uncomfortable conditions, it's exciting because you never know what you'll find. Last year 33 participants reported 54 species on count day, December 20. Highlights were Northern Goshawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Bald Eagle, White-Crowned sparrow, and of course some Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills.

This year participants will meet about sunset at Joe and Berthe Agg's home at 184 Hillview Drive to tally up the day's results and chow down on the traditional chili supper. Please bring a salad or desert to share!

Thanks to Gene Denzel, this year the Richmond Hill Christmas Bird Count circle is available as a Google Map via [rhnaturalists.ca](http://rhnaturalists.ca). Our hope is to make this a valuable resource for CBC participants and a place where

members can share highlights, video and photos of their CBC outing.



For more information, please visit [rhnaturalists.ca](http://rhnaturalists.ca) or contact Gene Denzel ([lezned@yorku.ca](mailto:lezned@yorku.ca) or 905-889-7888).





# THE BULLETIN

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE RICHMOND HILL NATURALISTS

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.

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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: editor@rhnaturalists.ca Deadlines are the 2nd Thursday 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.

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See the Executive List for  
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### Last Chance to Renew Your Membership before Price Goes Up

Due to rising costs for insurance, hall rentals, postage and so on, membership costs are going up in January 2010. Join or renew your membership by December 31 2009 and save \$10! Rates for a single membership are currently \$20, going to \$30 in January; rates for a family membership are currently \$25 going to \$35. The Membership Application Form is available at each General Meeting from Mike Turk, or in our club brochure, available from any executive member. You may also sign up or renew by clicking on the Membership link at: [www.rhnaturalists.ca](http://www.rhnaturalists.ca)

New Members: Gloria Marsh, Madlen Shalit, Lily Lanczi, Anna Dalla Rosa, D. Goldsmith, Joseph Shaykewich, Wilhelm Bleek, Judy Shi

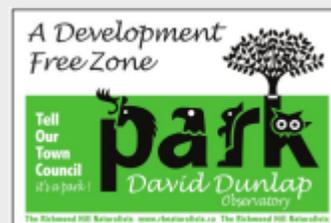


Please consider purchasing a membership for friends and family as a gift.

### SIGN UP! For Richmond Hill

The Richmond Hill Naturalists and community groups such as the DDO Defenders and Observatory Hill Homeowners Association continue to advocate for the complete protection of the David Dunlap Observatory and Park. Please call your local councilor (905-771-8800), write a letter and/or buy a sign. Tell Town Council you want LEADERSHIP & ALL Dunlap Parklands protected! If you support the community drive to preserve the entire Dunlap Observatory property, please purchase one of our beautiful lawn signs. Our volunteers will be happy to deliver a sign to your door. Buttons and T-Shirts also available.

If considering a donation of over \$25 with tax receipt please make payable to Escarpment Biosphere Foundation with a note that it be directed to the David Dunlap Observatory and Park.



## Coming Events

-  Saturday, December 19, 2009. All Day. CBC Christmas Bird Count. Please contact Gene Denzel if you would like to help within the Richmond Hill Circle. If you wish to be a counter or to volunteer your back yard please also leave a message with Gene at 905-889-7888 or email lezned@yorku.ca
-  Saturday, December 19, 10am – 12pm. Forest Jingle Bell walk. 16389 Hwy 48 Whitchurch-Stouffville. A 2 km hike at Hollidge Tract York Regional Forest. Learn about the holiday tradition of bells, Christmas trees and the benefits of evergreens. Bells are provided. York Region; www.york.ca, 1-877-464-YORK; 905-830-444 x5256; A donation of non-perishable food for a local food bank would be appreciated.
-  Monday, January 4, 2010, 7pm – 9pm. DDO Planning and Conservation Management Study Open House Meeting. 155 Red Maple Road, Richmond Hill, ON. (Re-scheduled from Dec 1 2009) A previously contemplated December 1, 2009 public meeting to discuss draft planning options and conservation management principles for the DDO lands will be postponed until January. In order to provide residents additional time to review the draft options and provide feedback to staff, the concepts will be released on the Town's Website on Friday, December 4. Hard copy printouts will also be available from Access Richmond Hill (ground floor 225 East Beaver Creek Road). Written or e-mailed comments on the concepts may be provided to Town staff up to and including December 20th (email your comments to jleung@richmondhill.ca). Based on input received, the concepts will be refined and presented to a Committee of the Whole meeting early in the new year (more details to follow). Residents will have an opportunity at this meeting to offer their comments directly to Committee members.
-  Sunday, January 24, 2010, 1:30pm – 6:00pm. Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk: "Gulls and Waterfowl" Sunnyside. Leader: Bob Cumming Meet in the Sunnyside Parking Lot at the foot of Windermere Ave. Dress warmly. 1:30 p.m. – Sunset. These outings are aimed at birders of all abilities. Beginners are welcome. Free to the public. Sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club.
-  Thursday, January 21, 2010 - 7:30pm at Wallace Hall - General Meeting - Speakers: Carol Horner and Kevin Seymour of the Toronto Ornithological Club - Birding and Biodiversity in Ecuador
-  Sunday, Jan 31, 2010. Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk: "Winter Birds" Durham Region. Leader: Rayfield Pye. Meet at the S.W. cor of the Pickering GO station parking lot (Bayly/Liverpool) to car pool if necessary. Bring a lunch and dress warmly. 9:00 a.m. – early p.m. Sponsored by the Toronto Ornothological Club.
-  Monday, February 2010. 11th annual Stewardship Forum. Stay tuned for details on the 11th annual Stewardship Forum hosted by Toronto and Region Conservation and the City of Toronto, in the works for February 2010. The Stewardship Forum is an annual event that provides a venue for learning, information sharing and networking for community based environmental stewardship groups active in the GTA. Details will be posted on the TRCA Events Calendar at <http://www.trca.on.ca/events/>, or contact Kasey Livingston at 416-661-6600 ext. 5639 for more information.

Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader. Contact [trips@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:trips@rhnaturalists.ca) if you would like to organize or promote an outing.



Beaver Creek Walk ends with a question...

Yet another crisp fall day greeted the adventurers in Joe Agg's third "Beaver Creek Walk".

The hike began at the southeast corner of Leslie and Bayview. The surroundings are dramatically different: instead of huge homes and small parks, we now walk between office towers and factories. Still the corridor immediately touching the creek has been naturalized and willows and shrubs line the creek. Nuthatches, chickadees and downy woodpeckers seemed unfazed by the crashing clang of industry. Joe led us to newly constructed storm ponds, a hidden urban promenade normally seen only by the local office workers. A few mallards toodled around in the murky ponds and a few tree sparrows, juncos and gold finches (and more chickadees) flocked in the thickets along the path.

The path ended abruptly near the 404 and Highway 7 in a vast meadow of milkweed and burrs. A red-tailed hawk surveyed the surroundings from one of the few trees and what may have been a deer path led to a culvert leading under the 404. None of the hikers were quite prepared at that moment to shoulder through the wall of burrs down to the culvert to see if it was possible for the deer to cross under the highway.

We may have to wait for warmer weather to learn the answer...

Bird Group: Siskins and Goldfinches

The Bird Group met on Wednesday, 9 December at Theo Hofmann's home. After some refreshments, the group got down to business discussing two birds which many of us have seen at our bird feeders. The American Goldfinch is familiar to

all, with the male having breeding plumage of a brilliant yellow with a bold black cap. Not everyone is aware that this bird sheds its summer coat for a much duller set of winter clothes, but does not go South as many other species do. If you have a feeder with niger thistle seed, you will probably have some of these stopping by for food. The female is also around all year, but not so brightly coloured at any time of year.



The second bird discussed was the Pine Siskin, another small finch-type bird which likes niger thistle seed, but not so brilliantly coloured. It does have a flash of yellow in its wings, and some nice white stripes, but is not going to stand out visually like the Goldfinch. However, this bird stands out in a different fashion -- it has an unmistakable call, which last winter was heard commonly in our area. The sound is perhaps best described as a rising 'zzzzzztt'. It generally breeds (and stays) in the North, but in winters when their food supply is scarce they may irrupt in our area, as they did last year in large numbers.

The next meeting of the group will be on January 13th at Muriel Farrant's home. Anyone interested is welcome to come.

King moves to protect SHIF T November 30 - Despite pressure from the developer-owner, Great Gulf Homes, King Council agreed to protect SHIF T under the Heritage

Cultural Landscape designation. A remarkable landscape sculpture by world-renowned artist Richard Serra, SHIF T stretches across 815 feet of undulating farmland.

Halton declares "natural heritage system"

Halton planners intend to mark about 6,000 hectares of fields and woodlots off limits for development. They identified which features across the region were worthy of preservation, then calculated how much additional buffer space would be needed for each area, and then attempted to connect as many of the features as possible by using linked corridors, resulting in protection for about 36% of the region's currently undeveloped land. Over to you, York Region!

Markham council asks for "Foodbelt Protection"

With leadership from Councillor Shapero, Councillor Burke and Mayor Scarpitti, Markham Council voted this month to:

1. Ask York Region to refrain from passing the Regional Growth Plan as it pertains to Markham, until Markham has conducted further public consultation and planning;
2. Consider a halt to urban expansion onto farmland and explore the creation of a Foodbelt in Markham from Major Mackenzie to the ORM.

Markham residents are encouraged to attend the York Region Council meeting on December 16th to persuade York Region to listen to Markham's request. The region's proposed Regional Growth Plan involves sprawl onto 7.27 square kilometres of Markham's Foodbelt.

Email Jim Robb at [jimrobb@frw.ca](mailto:jimrobb@frw.ca) or visit <http://protectmarkham.wordpress.com> for updates.

## Gift Ideas for Naturalists

Still shopping? Don't want to spend money on something that's just going to end up in a landfill? The Richmond Hill Naturalists have been making a list...and checking it twice...everything here is planet-friendly and nice:

### The Bird Watching Answer Book

By Laura Erickson--a great stocking stuffer with answers to more than 200 of the most common and intriguing questions that people have asked the Cornell Lab. Available at Wild Birds Unlimited.

### Audubon BirdCam

The whole family will love discovering backyard nature with the help of the Audubon BirdCam. This innovative camera takes crystal-clear photos and videos of your backyard birds while you're away. You'll be amazed by what's going on in your own backyard! Visit [www.wingscapes.com](http://www.wingscapes.com).



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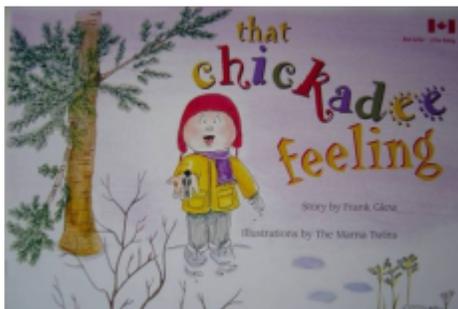
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### The Birds of North America Online

The most authoritative information on more than 700 species, plus photos, sounds, and more, starting at just \$5/month or \$42/year. For details, visit Cornell's website <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>

### That Chickadee Feeling



The author of a series of delightful books designed to intrigue children and introduce them to nature and conservation ideas, Frank Glew has generously allowed the RH Naturalists to sell his books as a fundraiser for the club. The author has signed several of the books for the club and has agreed to let the RH Naturalists sell them for \$12 apiece including postage and delivery.

Please contact Diana Piche ([diana.piche@sympatico.ca](mailto:diana.piche@sympatico.ca)) if you are interested in ordering any of these books.

For more detailed descriptions of each book please see <http://www.kw.igs.net/~fsglew/>

Gifts of Canadian Nature  
Canadian Nature Conservancy:  
give a gift of "land" to your loved ones for as little as \$40; protect Canadian nature.

[http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=ncc\\_help\\_holiday\\_gifts](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=ncc_help_holiday_gifts)

### Nest Boxes and Winter Roost Boxes

How about a carefully made nestbox or winter roosting box? Support Bird Studies Canada, your local chickadees, nuthatches and perhaps even bluebirds, and thrill the bird lover on your list.

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/shopping/nestboxes.jsp>

### More Green Gift ideas...

Maybe you can't give your daughter that pony she wants but how about horseback riding lessons? (Your daughter doesn't have to be a kid - my mom gave me equestrian lessons when my own daughter was already a teenager). Lessons are great gifts for any age and you can find them in just about every possible area: music, skating, art, theatre, computers...

Soothing gifts could be therapeutic massage, and chiropractic service. If you like to wrap things up how about Ontario wine, cheese and other delicacies. Then there's weekend getaways; tickets to plays, concerts and sporting events; admissions or memberships to art galleries, shows and museums; Ontario Parks annual membership; phone cards, restaurant and even grocery vouchers...

More ideas and green online stores can be found at <http://www.climatechangecentral.com/publications/enerclick/december-2008/give-a-green-gift>



Make your own Suet

*Caution: this recipe is best for winter use; may go rancid in warmer months:*

Make as gifts for your friends or just for the birds in your own back yard!

For molds: re-use containers your store-bought suet came in; muffin tins; plastic egg cartons (smear with vegetable oil, lock shut, pierce with nail and pour warm suet through holes into egg molds; chill and gently work open with a dull knife); cake tins, etc. The birds don't really care!

Log suet: drill 1 1/4" round holes in a log perhaps a foot or 18" long, fill holes with suet; mount on pole or let the squirrels enjoy it too...

Basic Recipe - feel free to try any ingredients you think your birds will enjoy.

1 lb lard or actual beef suet from a butcher if you can get it (vegetable shortening not recommended)

1 cup rolled oats

1 cup chunky peanut butter

1 cup raw peanuts, shelled

1 cup raw sunflower seeds (in shell or out)

1 cup other mixed birdseed

1/2 cup chopped dried fruit (I added just 1/4 cup of chopped dried cherries in one batch and even the cardinals liked it. I've never yet seen cardinals try the store-bought suet).

Experiment! - I tried adding 1/2 cup dried mealworms purchased at Wild Birds in Thornhill to one batch. I'm not known as a squeamish person but handfuls of dry mealworms take some getting used to. The starlings and squirrels quickly demolished it so I never found out if the other birds cared for it. Getting up my nerve to try again...

Gently melt the lard and peanut butter together in pot over low heat; if using suet it's recommended that you melt the suet, strain, cool and melt again for better caking.

Add the rest of the ingredients.

When cool enough not to melt plastic, pour into molds approximately the shape of your suet holders, or use muffin tins and lay string through each one like a candle so you can tie them to tree branches, chill or freeze; refill feeders as required. I re-used foil lasagna pans, and cut into suet-holder-sized chunks after chilling. One batch makes the equivalent of about 4-5 store-bought cakes of suet. Might not save money but you know exactly what's in it and the birds really like it.

## Project Feeder Watch

The 2009-2010 season of Project Feederwatch started Nov 14 and runs until April 9.

Watching birds at feeders is a pleasure shared by millions of North Americans. No matter where you live, there's a good chance you can entice birds to your feeder and enjoy hours of entertainment. Turning this bird watching hobby into research for bird conservation is what Project FeederWatch is all about.

Project FeederWatch is an annual survey of North American birds that visit backyard feeders in winter. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from

November through early April. These observations are then used by scientists to track broad scale trends in distribution and abundance of birds. This partnership between backyard bird watchers and ornithologists has resulted in a wealth of information about winter bird



populations. Data from FeederWatchers have helped scientists learn about changes in the distribution and abundance of feeder birds over time; expansions and contractions in their winter ranges; the spread of disease through bird populations; and the kinds of habitats and foods that attract birds.

Project FeederWatch began as the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey in 1976, sponsored by the Long Point Bird Observatory. In 1987, it grew to become a continental survey that now attracts nearly 16,000 participants annually. Project FeederWatch is managed by Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

# Battery Power to the People...

Canadians buy more than half a billion batteries each year...to power all the cute little toys, electronic gadgets, cameras, etc etc that many will find under the tree this Christmas...Most of them end up in landfill.

by Kristen Martyn

It has only been in the last 15-20 years that we have considered alternatives to single use batteries by making the switch to rechargeables. Batteries contain a combination of heavy metals, acids, and other chemicals. By reducing your use of single use batteries you will be reducing the amount of toxins in our environment. As a consumer there are three main ways you can reduce the amount of batteries going to landfill sites:

- Reduce your consumption of batteries. Whenever possible purchase products that do not require batteries.
- Purchase reusable (rechargeable) batteries.
- Dispose of or recycle your used batteries responsibly.

Many people know that rechargeable batteries are better for the environment but they express disappointment at their effectiveness. The following contains useful information on how to get the most out of your rechargeables.

## The memory "effect"

Rechargeable batteries with memory effect need to be completely drained before charging or you risk lowering the overall charge capacity of the battery. For example, if you use 90% of a battery's memory life and then put it in a charger, you will lose that extra 10% of battery use. The next time you go to charge your batteries your maximum charge will only be 90%. The battery life will continue to decrease unless it is drained prior to each charge. Rechargeable batteries with little or no memory do not have to be drained before recharging, regardless of usage resulting in minimal impact on battery life.

## Performance at low temperatures:

Cold temperatures can alter the performance of rechargeable batteries as they may not be able to hold their charge. Look for rechargeable batteries that operate well at low temperatures.

## Number of charges:

The more charges you can get out of rechargeable batteries, the better for the environment and your wallet. Cheaper single-use batteries average about



Photo by Eva the Weaver  
(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/evaekblad/>)

\$7 for a pack of 4 AA. NiMH batteries can be charged 100 to 1000 times according to manufacturers' claims, so the higher initial cost translates to on average about 30 cents per charge.

## Chargers:

For optimum life, batteries should be fully drained after every ten charges. Look for a recharger with this feature. Charge intelligence is also worth the extra cost. Some chargers know to shut off once the battery charge is complete. They can also detect how much charge the battery has and add only the required charge. Avoid high speed chargers which rapidly charge and overheat batteries. Google best battery chargers for up to date consumer information and feedback.

## Where to take used batteries for recycling in York Region?

Single use and rechargeable batteries: York Region Household Hazardous Waste and/or Recycling Depots. Check York Region's website for local drop-off locations and times [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca). For rechargeable batteries, go to [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org).

# Jupiter, Orion Kings of Winter Sky

by Heide DeBond

Observing the night sky during winter months is the most convenient time of year to enjoy astronomy. It is quite dark, even at dinner time so you don't have to stay up late past your bedtime to see impressive celestial objects. Just bundle up warm and step outside in your own backyard and look up.

The most dominant and easily recognizable winter constellation is our old friend Orion the Hunter, rising in the east at the start of the night and due south by midnight in December. Orion, legendary mighty hunter of Greek myth commands the night sky with its sheer size and presence. His bright shoulder and leg stars, the three stars marking his belt and a short line of stars dropping downwards to mark his sword all make this constellation unmistakable in the night sky.

Betelgeuse is the bright star marking the left shoulder of Orion. Betelgeuse to the naked eye looks bright with a definite reddish hue to it. The star, a red supergiant, has a relatively low surface temperature of just 3800 C and is approximately 430 light years from Earth. Its mean diameter of over one billion kilometers would overwhelm our own Sun (1,400,000 km diameter) and could swallow up all the planets in our Solar System out to beyond the orbit of Jupiter. Betelgeuse is 12,000 times as luminous as our Sun.

Orion sports a gorgeous flashing diamond at his right knee, the star Rigel. Rigel is actually a quadruple star system approximately 800 light years away from us. The brightest member, Rigel A, is a blue

supergiant star about 62,000 times more luminous and 30 times more massive than our sun. Rigel B is the visual companion to Rigel A and is approximately 2,600 AU from



Rigel and is visible with a small telescope. (1 AU = the distance between the Earth and the Sun, about 150 million km.) The last component is a spectroscopic binary consisting of two individual stars so near to each other that they can only be

separated using a precision spectroscope like that on the DDO 74-inch telescope. The famous Orion Nebula (M42) is a tremendous gaseous nebula found in the sword of Orion approximately 1500 light years distant. It is a massive cloud of gas and dust strongly illuminated by the hot, newly formed stars in and near it. You can find the Orion Nebula by locating the 3 belt stars and the fainter stars below that mark his sword: follow along the sword to the second star from the end, which will appear "blurry" to your eyes. That's the nebula.

Jupiter is still very bright in the southern sky, and its four bright moons will be visible in steadily held binoculars. The red planet Mars rises in the east at around 9 pm, and is visible in the southeast for most of the night.

There will be more about Mars in the upcoming January newsletter.

Keep watching our website for information about observing sessions in December.

<http://astro.rhnaturalists.ca>

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## Some species gain new ground under Endangered Species Act

Coalition offers cautious praise for Ontario's new habitat regulations

The Save Ontario Species coalition (S.O.S.) is happy for the Jefferson salamander and the wood turtle, not so much for the American badger. The three are among nine endangered species that have just received habitat protection under the Ontario government's Endangered Species Act (ESA).



Ten habitat regulations were scheduled to be in place by June 2009. Nine have been completed for the following species: American badger, barn owl, eastern prairie fringed-orchid, Engelmann's quillwort, few-flowered club-rush, Jefferson salamander, peregrine falcon, western silvery aster and wood turtle. The woodland caribou regulation has yet to be released.

S.O.S. is pleased with several of the habitat regulations, noting that those for the Jefferson salamander and the wood turtle set a particularly strong precedent by closely following the science-based recommendations of the recovery teams.

"We're happy to see that the habitat regulation for the Jefferson salamander takes an ecological approach and protects breeding, overwintering and migratory grounds," says

Amber Cowie, greenway conservation coordinator for Ontario Nature. "We hope that this regulation gives the salamander a toe up in its fight to survive amid the development pressures that continually threaten its home."

The Jefferson salamander is a tiny amphibian with four front toes and five rear toes that lives under logs, in loose soil or in leaf litter. It is threatened with extinction in Ontario mainly because of habitat loss and degradation.

The wood turtle will also receive greater protection against habitat loss as well as poachers in the pet trade.

"This is a species that is declining across much of its range," says Dr. Anne Bell, Ontario Nature's senior director of conservation and education. "Given the impact of habitat loss and degradation on these turtles, it was critical to make sure that the habitat needed for nesting, feeding and hibernating was covered. The government has delivered a strong, science-based regulation for the wood turtle."

Under Ontario's Endangered Species Act, a habitat regulation does not restrict all land uses, but rather defines the area where the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will regulate harmful activities. Activities that do not harm habitat can occur without change. Activities that harm the habitat can only proceed if the MNR issues a permit.

Many southern species such as the barn owl and badger have learned to eke out an existence in an already altered rural landscape. In many cases,

habitat protection for these species means maintaining current land uses; for example, keeping working farms working and protecting against development.



The badger habitat regulation was an opportunity to break new ground in how habitat in working landscapes could be defined. Instead, the regulation sets a poor precedent by reducing habitat to actual badger residences, few of which are known.

"We recognize that habitat identification for the badger is not easy, but a more precautionary approach should have been applied here," says Rachel Plotkin, biodiversity policy analyst at the David Suzuki Foundation. "A five-metre buffer around known dens does little to protect this highly secretive and imperilled creature."

Estimates suggest that fewer than 200 badgers remain in southern Ontario.

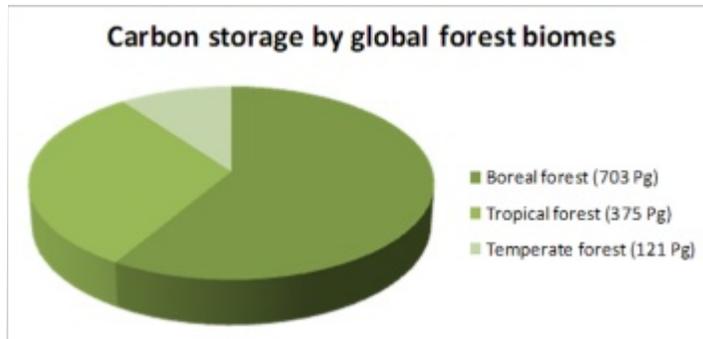
About Save Ontario's Species: S.O.S. is a collaboration among CPAWS Wildlands League, the David Suzuki Foundation, Ecojustice, Environmental Defence, ForestEthics, and Ontario Nature. For more information, visit [www.saveontariospecies.ca](http://www.saveontariospecies.ca)

# Carbon Storage in Boreal Forests

Boreal forests store more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem on earth – twice as much per area as tropical forests. Past estimates of this carbon greatly underestimated the amount, depth, and longevity of this carbon. As the most intact remaining forest on earth, the boreal forest also has exceptionally high potential to accommodate plants and animals forced to shift due to climate change.

Canada hosts most of North America's Boreal Forest. Canada's vast Boreal Forest stores an estimated 208 billion tons of carbon (71 billion tons in forests and 137 billion tons in peatlands)—the equivalent of 26 years worth of global carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels.

BorealBirds.org recently released a report that questions whether international negotiations on carbon and forest protection have adequately



considered boreal forests in light of the scientific findings outlining their significance.

The report examines the impact of logging, oil and gas activity and peat extraction on the total Canadian carbon footprint and

For more information, please visit [BorealBirds.org](http://BorealBirds.org)

## RHN Members get behind the camera



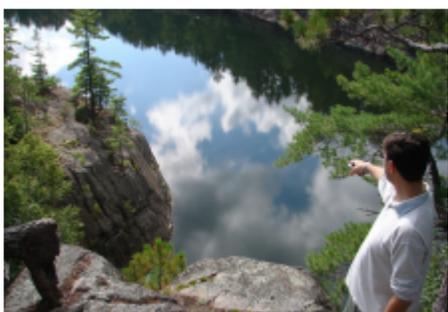
*Emerald Green - M Turk*



*Bluebird at Carden - G Denzel*



*Grey Jay in Denise's hand. -- Algonquin*



*Lloyd at Killarney - R Potter*



*Silvery Blue at DDO - D Chute*



*Backyard Rose - M Turk*



*Wilson's Snipe - M Turk*



*DDO - M Yake*



*Praying Mantis - D Chute*