



THE BULLETIN

March 2007 No. 462

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

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Events calendar

Botany Group	Monday April 2, 2007. 7:30PM
Executive Meeting	Tuesday April 10, 2007. 7:30pm Where: Robert Holland Centre
Bird Group	Wednesday April 11, 2007 Local Outing, Video on History of Point Pelee If weather is poor: Meet at Martin Chen's, 398 Highcliff Dr. Thornhill 905-709-0246
General Meeting	Thursday April 19, 2007. 6pm AGM & Pot Luck! Speaker: Gene Denzel Topic: My South African Adventure Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St. North of Major Mackenzie Dr., West side.

Check for more Events and Outings on Page 2

Memories of Gladys Mclatchy 1909-2007

by Russell Tilt

I was shocked, but not surprised to hear of the passing of the Naturalists' good friend and strong supporter, Gladys McLatchy.

Gladys joined the Richmond Hill Naturalists in 1974 and continued to be a member for 28 years.

I recall my first contact with her was when she and her parents operated a store called "Fabric Fair" at 8 Yonge Street South, where they carried a complete line of materials for dressmaking. My wife Doris and daughter Susan visited her store often in the early 1950's when we became close friends. Her father was a founder and promoter of the Curtain Club.

Gladys lived at the corner of Yonge Street and Major MacKenzie Drive until about 2 years ago, but left after a long continuous battle with the Town and the Department of Highways who wanted to take over her property when the two roads were being widened.

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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: 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. See the Executive List for contact information.

Editor: Lloyd Helferty

Mailing Database: Mike Turk

Distribution: Athena Antiochos

Visit our Website at www.rhnaturalists.ca

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. You may also sign up or renew at <http://www.rhnaturalists.ca/membership/>

NEW MEMBERS:

- No new members -

Meet new members at club events and say Hello!

EVENTS FUTURE

-  - **Monday, March 26th, 2007.** 9:30am. *Oak Ridges Corridor Park Hike* Walk the trail from Old Colony Road to Bathurst Street with the [Oak Ridges Trail Association](#). About 7.5km in length; reasonably flat terrain. The hike will be at a slow pace through natural moraine corridor. Meet at the Trail Car Park, Old Colony Rd west of Bayview.
-  - **Saturday March 31, 2007.** Rod Fleming will guide a group of birders to **Newmarket** to watch for spring migrants.
-  - **Monday April 2, 2007.** The April meeting of the Richmond Hill Naturalists [Botany Group](#).
-  - **Friday April 6, 2007.** Rod Fleming will guide a group of birders to **Beamer and Burlington** during this annual Spring Migrants trip.
-  - **Tuesday April 10, 2007.** 7:30pm. The April **Executive Meeting** will be held at [Phyllis Rawlinson Park](#).
-  - **Wednesday April 11, 2007.** The [Bird Group](#) will go on a local outing and/or show a video of the History of Point Pelee. If weather is poor meet at Martin Chen's, 398 Highcliff Dr. in Thornhill. Call Martin at 905-709-0246.
-  - **Thursday, April 19, 2007.** 6pm. Our **AGM & Pot Luck** will be held in April. Our speaker this month will be Gene Denzel, who will speak to us about his adventure in South Africa. Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St. The church is located North of Major Mackenzie Dr. of the West side.
-  - **Friday April 20, 2007.** 10am - 2pm. [Phyllis Rawlinson Park tree planting](#). Join Richmond Hill Natural Heritage Staff and other volunteers to help restore this beautiful conservation area on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Park is on Leslie Street just north of 19th Avenue.
-  - **Saturday April 21, 2007.** Annual Mill Pond Cleanup! For more information contact Marianne Yake, president. president@rhnaturalists.ca
-  - **Sunday April 22, 2007.** Rod Fleming will guide a group of birders to **Tiny Marsh**.
-  - **Monday May 7, 2007.** 7:30pm. The [Toronto Field Naturalists](#) will host Ontario Nature's informative and colourful multi-media presentation entitled **The Boreal Forest: Ontario's Songbird Nursery** at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts. The presentation highlights some of Ontario's songbirds, the threats facing their boreal forest nesting sites, and what you can do to help protect them. For more information about the presentation Jennifer at 416-444-8419 or e-mail jenniferb@ontarionature.org. For more information about boreal forest songbirds, visit the **Boreal Songbird Initiative** website at www.borealsongbirds.org



Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader.

-  - **Wednesday March 28, 2007.** 9am - 1:30pm. Provincial Smart Growth Policy Seminar – “From Provincial Policy to Local Implementation: *Turning the Greenbelt and Growth Plan into Reality*”. [Toronto Botanical Garden](#), 777 Lawrence Ave. E. at Leslie, Toronto, Ontario. OSGN members: \$25, Non-members: \$40 (includes lunch & refreshments). The seminar will explain the impact of these initiatives on land use in your community. To register go to www.smartgrowth.on.ca or call 416-533-1635 ext 4 or e-mail janet@smartgrowth.on.ca
-  - **Wednesday March 28, 2007.** 5:30-8pm. *Richmond Hill Going Green* Open House. Oak Ridges Recreation Centre, Old Colony Road. The “**Green Bin**” is finally coming to Richmond Hill. Bins will be delivered during March and pick up begins April 2. The Open House is designed to provide full information and answer all of your questions about this important waste diversion program. Repeats on **Monday April 30**.
-  - **Saturday March 31, 2007.** 10am - 3pm. Monitoring the Moraine **Tree Identification Workshop** at the *Enniskillen Outdoor Education Centre* in Clarington. This free workshop will teach community volunteers how to identify local trees using buds, twigs, leaves and bark, as a first step towards participating in community-based monitoring of tree health and biodiversity in the area. For more information or to register, visit www.monitoringthemoraine.org, email sherry@citizensenvironmentwatch.org or call 647-258-3280.
-  - **Tuesday April 3, 2007.** 6pm - 9pm. Evergreen Volunteer Appreciation Event: Nature Narrative, An evening of stories celebrating nature, culture and community. 6pm nature walk at the Don Valley Brick Works for 45min (meet at Castle Frank station). RSVP by Monday March 26. 416-596-1495 x251
-  - **Thursday April 12, 2007.** 7pm-8:30pm. *Organic Lawn Care for the Cheap and Lazy* at Elgin West Community Centre, 11099 Bathurst St. Learn how to eliminate your dependency on pesticides and the overuse of fertilizers. Workshop sponsored by the Town of Richmond Hill and the [York Region Environmental Alliance](#). Free.
-  - **Friday April 20, 2007.** 10am – 3pm. Richmond Hill **Earth Day Tree Planting** Event at Phyllis Rawlinson Park on Leslie Street just north of 19th Ave. Join the Richmond Hill Natural Heritage Staff and other volunteers to add more green to our parks. Shovels will be provided but proper footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather – including a hat and work gloves – are recommended. The event will be repeated on **Sunday April 22** at 10am to noon at Worthington Parkette, Worthington Avenue & Wood Rim Drive.
-  - **Saturday April 21, 2007.** 10am - 2pm. York Region’s **April Spring Forest Festival** Eldred King Woodland walk. Celebrate Earth Day and the legacy of the Forest by planting trees. Learn about the Regional Forest heritage, and how many times a day you “touch a tree”, and the role of forest seed collectors on guided walks at 11am and 1pm. Meet a Forest legend, “Smokey Bear”, who will give you a tree seedling to take home and plant. Don’t forget to bring your work gloves and shovel to really dig this 2007 Earth Day celebration!
-  - **Saturday April 28, 2007.** 10am - 2pm. **Oak Ridges Community Clean Up**. Clean up the winter litter from our parks, wetlands and public areas. Contact Kathrine Mabley (905) 773-4726, Kathrine.mabley@gmail.com
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...Continued from Page 1

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



Gladys was also a very active member of the Horticultural Society since the early 1940s. She held every office and sat on every committee in the Society. She was also a member of numerous organizations of the Town where she held responsible positions.

As a member of the Naturalists and the Horticultural Society she played an important role in persuading the Town Council to establish the Mill Pond Park, the Lois Hancey Park and the Pioneer Park. I was honoured to plant the first barrel of flowers in front of Gladys' home as part of the establishment of the Town parks.

Gladys also served as an advisor to the Naturalists in the 1970s and 1980s, but never received any recognition for this. For 15 years she was a generous supporter of the Richmond Hill Naturalists' annual Birdathon.

Her main interest was horticulture. She loved working in her garden, which was always one of the best and most interesting in Richmond Hill. She was also interested in wild plants and always had some in her garden.

Gladys was always strong and firm in her opinions and never hesitated to make them known. She was an accomplished leader.

Gladys, we are proud to have known you and are grateful for all that you have done.

- Russell Tilt

Backyard NATIVE Tree& shrub Planting Program - Species List Ready

Plan now for spring delivery of NATIVE trees and shrubs for aesthetics and to support wildlife conservation!

My Goldfinches and Purple Finches really appreciate the 11 native, white cedars I planted to escape the - 27°C windchill. They provide critically important cover for songbirds and mammals. LEAF – Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests' Spring 2007 species list is now available on their website at www.leafontario.org.

Information on how the program works as well as species descriptions and prices can be found on the website by clicking on the "Backyard Tree Planting Program" section in the navigation bar on the left side of the site of the website, clicking on the heading "Backyard Tree Planting Program-Spring 2007" and clicking on "Trees Available" or "Shrubs Available" in the top right hand corner of the screen to find information on species and prices.

To request an on-site consultation, complete the on-line questionnaire or call us at 416-413-9244 to do the questionnaire over the phone if you prefer.

- Natalie Helferty

'Must-See' Documentaries

Dear field naturalists,

Below is information on three documentaries about the negative impacts we, as humans, are making on the earth. Check out the links for previews of these thought-provoking and eye-opening films!

1. **THE END OF SUBURBIA:** *Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream*

Suburbia, and all it promises, has become "the American Dream", but as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. With brutal honesty and a touch of irony, [The End of Suburbia](http://www.endofsuburbia.com) explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. <http://www.endofsuburbia.com>

2. **A CRUDE AWAKENING**

An enlightening, intelligent, and profoundly shocking documentary feature film about how the citizens of planet earth are sucking dry our most valuable and non-renewable resource: OIL. Opened March 9 at the Royal Cinema. www.oilcrashmovie.com/film.html

3. **MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES**

A feature length documentary on the world and work of renowned artist [Edward Burtynsky](http://www.mongrelmedia.com/films/ManufacturedLandscapes.html). Burtynsky makes large-scale photographs of 'manufactured landscapes' – quarries, recycling yards, factories, mines, dams. He photographs civilization's materials and debris, but in a way people describe as "stunning" or "beautiful," and so raises all kinds of questions about ethics and aesthetics without trying to easily answer them. The film follows Burtynsky to China as he travels the country photographing the evidence and effects of that country's massive industrial revolution. www.mongrelmedia.com/films/ManufacturedLandscapes.html

- Shawn Smith (forwarded by Marianne Yake, President)

The effects of global warming are getting worse every day

Canadians are saying loud and clear: a lot more needs to be done to protect our environment from the effects of global warming due to climate change.

Right now, the Government of Canada is preparing to announce steps industry must take to do its fair share in the fight against global warming. [Environment Minister John Baird](#) needs to know that Canada's Government must set absolute emissions targets on the biggest industrial polluters. It's the best way he can prove he is truly serious about fighting climate change.



Three Gorges Dam Project, Dam #2,
Yangtze River, China 2002

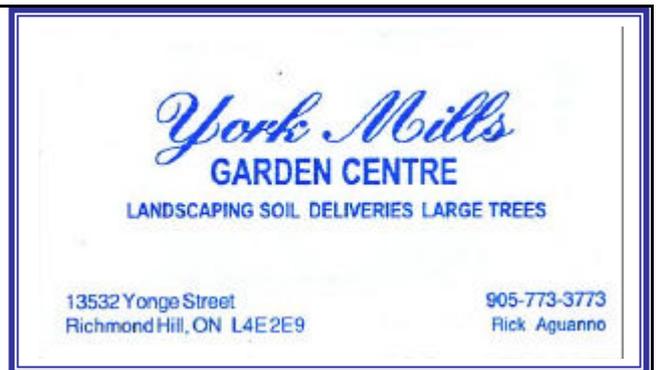
While households account for roughly 25% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, industry accounts for about 50%. In the last two years alone, the five biggest oil companies in the world recorded a combined \$207 billion (US) in profits.

Canadian energy giant [EnCana](#) booked the biggest profits in Canadian history -- \$7.5 billion (CDN) in 2006! Don't let the oil and gas companies cry poor while they remain some of the biggest contributors to global warming today.

Industry's contribution to the effort to reduce emissions should be in line with its contribution to the problem. Mandatory greenhouse gas reductions by industry must be a fair share of the reductions that Canada as a whole has to make by 2012 under the Kyoto Protocol. Read and sign a petition today at <http://tinyurl.com/yocxd6>.

Sincerely,

Chris Sutton, Nature Canada csutton@naturecanada.ca 1-800-267-4088



When Being Green Puts You in the Black

On Sunday March 4, 2007 the [Washington Post](#) had an article stating that America's capitalist titans are going "green". That week two of America's largest private equity firms, [Kohlberg Kravis Roberts](#) and [Texas Pacific Group](#) announced that they would purchase the Dallas-based utility [TXU](#) for US\$45billion. The deal represented the largest private equity transaction in history. But that's not all.

The bigger news was the environmental dimension of the takeover proposal. It calls for scaling back construction of new coal-fired power plants, ramping up commitments to wind and solar power, supporting mandatory controls on greenhouse gas emissions and promoting energy efficiency.

LOCAL NEWS

Humber Watershed Alliance: Call for Members

The Alliance is recruiting members for its new term. As the Oak Ridges area is the headwaters of the East Humber River, representation from our community is important.

The Humber Watershed Alliance is a volunteer committee established by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to help protect, restore and celebrate the natural, cultural and recreational features of the Humber River watershed – A Canadian Heritage River.

For further information visit: http://www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/strategies/humber/default.asp?load=hwa

Note: The Don Watershed Regeneration Council is also looking for members.

To volunteer contact the TRCA at (416) 661-6600 and ask for Gary Wilkins, Humber River Specialist.

Open Houses

The town of Richmond Hill will be having a series of **Open Houses** about their newly adopted **Green Bin** organics program that will start April 3, 2007.

The Richmond Hill program, in conjunction with the [Blue Box recycling program](#), is intended to divert 65% of all household waste away from landfills. The Green Bin program entails the collection of organic materials every week. These materials will be composted rather than landfilled. Green Bin Kits are being delivered to residents throughout March. The kits includes a Green Bin, an In-house Bin and a how-to information package.

The **Open Houses** are intended to provide information to Richmond Hill residents about the program and will be held from 5:30pm to 8pm the following locations on the following dates:

- Monday March 26, Bayview Hill Community Centre (114 Spadina Rd.)
- Tuesday March 27, Richmond Hill Lions Club (106 Centre St. E.)
- Wednesday March 28, Oak Ridges recreation Centre (70 Old Colony Rd.)
- Thursday March 18, Spruce Avenue Community Centre (31 Spruce Ave.)

Any other questions or comments can also be obtained from the **GoingGREEN Helpline** at (905) 771-2525.



NATURE NEWS

U.S. honeybees disappearing from hives, not even leaving a note

U.S. honeybees are suffering from "colony collapse disorder".

Beekeepers in 24 states say their pollinating pals are simply disappearing, with losses of 30 to 60 percent on the West Coast and, in some cases, more than 70 percent on the East Coast and in Texas.



"I have never seen anything like it," says

California keeper David Bradshaw. "Box after box after box are just empty. There's nobody home."



Perplexed scientists are testing theories including stress, toxins, and viruses. It's not the first time bees have met a mystery fate, "but it's never been on a scale like this," says bee specialist Dennis van Engelsdorp.

With bees pollinating more than \$14 billion of U.S. seeds and crops a year – every third bite we eat, according to industry buzz -- those with full hives stand to benefit. "It's supply and demand," says a keeper who expects to earn

\$520,000 for a month in California's almond orchards. "That's what drives the whole dang thing."

See also: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/02/070223-bees.html>



Commuting Birds

In Britain two lazy shorebirds have become regular commuters on a Cornish ferry. Two **Ruddy Turnstones** nicknamed Fred and Freda, choose not to fly the short distance from Falmouth to their feeding grounds across the estuary. Instead, every morning they hop on the 8.15 a.m. ferry from Falmouth Pier. Every afternoon, they make the return journey on the 4.30 p.m. from St. Mawes. "They never miss the last boat back," says ferry manager Garrick Royale. "They've become our most regular customers." The Turnstones, which are capable of flying thousands of miles, have arrived in the area each October for six years. They leave in April.

Michael Kesterton, *Globe and Mail*, 5th March 2007

- Submitted by Theo Hoffman "Se non e vero e ben trovato" (If it's not true, it is well invented)



Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario

The Deadline for Ordering an Advance copy of the **Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario** has been extended to March 31, 2007. The 2nd *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario* is on schedule for publication in September 2007.

The second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas ranks among the most successful, important and exciting bird research and conservation projects ever undertaken in the Western Hemisphere.

All told, project participants logged 150,000 hours in the field, undertook 69,000 counts across the province and submitted 1.2 million records. The book is hard cover, over 700 pages long, and is beautifully designed, with full-colour, state-of-the-art maps and photographs. It contains detailed maps showing the current distribution of each breeding species in the province, provides detailed maps of species in Ontario including breeding range, habitat, distribution, population status and history and more. To view sample layouts from the Atlas visit www.birdsontario.org/atlas/publication.html.

EVENTS PAST

On March 7, 2007 the "GTA Transportation Conference" took place in Toronto. This event brought renewed hope for a more efficient, convenient, and widely-used transit system for the entire Greater Toronto Area.

In our struggle to get people out of their cars – to take back the streets -- it's a breath of fresh air to know that transportation leaders like Rob Maclsaac, chair of the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTTA), share this dream and are working to make it a reality.

In his words, "We are at a crossroads -- this is the last best chance we have to get it right in the GTA!"

One exciting initiative is the GTA fare card that to be fully implemented in 2008 will be the introduction of a single "smart card" that will be accepted on all transit systems. The GTTA's transportation priorities are expected to be in the hands of the Minister by next month. All of us need to keep putting pressure on our politicians to recognize and fund these priorities!

- Shawn Smith

On Thursday March 22, 1997 the York University Faculty of Environmental Studies students celebrated World Water Day by taking part in an animated *Black Creek Storytelling Parade*, an engaging tour connecting York's ecological and cultural landscapes. They headed over to Vari Hall for a unique and festive day of interactive activities including a "tap water vs. bottled water" taste test, watershed living exhibits and international research displays. The event was supported by LEAF ([Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests](#)), the Toronto Public Space Committee, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the [Black Creek Conservation Project](#). They explored the aqueous relationship between York University and the Black Creek and its arboreal surroundings and heard stories that narrated the landscape's seldom told ecological and social histories.

- Marianne Yake

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

February 2007

Peel Region

Cooper's Hawk - 1 Imm at Mt. Hope & Old Church Rd. Feb.15 (GoC).

Rough-legged Hawk - 1 at Mono Road Feb.01 (GoC).

Great Horned Owl - 1 at Albion Trail Feb.05 (GoC).

Barred Owl - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area Feb.18 (DJM).

Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Albion Trail Feb.02 (GoC).

Common Raven - 1 at Palgrave Conservation Area Feb.10 (AA).

Carolina Wren - 1 at Caledon-King Townline Feb.15-28 (anon fide PG).

American Tree Sparrow - 50 at Duffy's Lane Feb.01 (PG,EM,).

York Region

Great Blue Heron - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) Feb.24 [Flying over (CMcK)].

Common Goldeneye - 3 Juv-F at Rutherford and Humber River Feb.11 (JLo).

Northern Harrier - 1 at YRF North Tract Feb.03 (RJF,MvdT,OB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Aurora Murray & Yonge Feb.15 (TEt). 1 at 8050 Islington Ave. Woodbridge Feb.18 (JKi).
1 at Aurora Cenotaph Yonge Street Feb.28 (TEt).

Cooper's Hawk - 1 at Lake Wilcox Feb.01 (S&JB,TH). 1 at Lake Wilcox Feb.1, 3, 5, 22-23 (S&JB).

1@Grenfell Mrkhm Feb2,16(CMcK). 1@Langstaff Rd. Rail Crossing Feb.5,7 [Flying East,West] (TH).

1 Juv-F at Arnold Ave., Thornhill Feb.11 (TH,DTH). Eating a Junco.

Rough-legged Hawk - 1 at W End Holborn Road Feb.03 (RJF,MvdT,OB).

Wild Turkey - 4 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Feb.01 (JLo). one flock at Jane Str. N of 15th S.R. Feb.22 (TEt).

Thayer's Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Feb.23 (SLo).

Snowy Owl - 2 at Fields W of Newmarket Feb.25 (RJF).

Pileated Woodpecker - 1@Bayview/Stouffville Rd. Feb.19(MCh). 1@Lk Wilcox Feb21(S&JB).

1@Uplands Area, Thornhill Feb.27 (G&CD).

Northern Shrike -1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Feb.01 (JLo). 1 at Bond Lake Oak Ridges Feb.13 (TM&GR).

1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love Feb.14, 28 (JLo).

Blue Jay - 1 at Langstaff Eco-Park Feb.28 (TH).

American Crow - 5@Grenfell Markham Feb7 (CMcK). 1 at W End Holborn Road Feb.03 (RJF,MvdT,OB).

Horned Lark - 50@Woodchopper's Ln/Jane Feb1(RJF,MvdT,OB). Hundreds@19th Ave W of Warden Feb22(TM&GR)*
*Large mixed flock (~1,000) of Horned Lark & Snow Bunting.

American Robin - 24 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27 Feb.01 (JLo). 2 at Holland Landing at Brydons Feb.03 (BB).

9 at London Rd.Newmarket Feb.18 (KRS), 6 Feb.17, eating apples.

Northern Mockingbird - 1@Uplands, Thrnhl Feb1-28(G&CD) (regular). 1@Pugsley Av RichHill Feb24(R&DP fide GD).

1 at Langstaff Eco-Park Feb.28 (TH). About 300 m S of Langstaff Rd.

Cedar Waxwing - 35 at Lake Wilcox Feb.04 (S&JB). 50 at London Rd.Newmarket (KRS home) Feb.25 (KRS).

American Tree Sparrow - 20 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Feb.01-28 (SDP). Almost daily

Snow Bunting – 30 @ Woodchopper's Ln/ Jane Feb1(RJF,MvdT,OB). 16 @ W. Ravenshoe Rd. Feb3(RJF,MvdT,OB).
100 at Ravenshoe Feb.10 (RJF,YSNC,OB). Hundreds on 19th Ave. W of Warden Feb.22 (TM&GR). *
*Large mixed flock (~1,000) of Snow Bunting and Horned Lark.

Northern Cardinal - 8-12 @ Uplands, Thrhnl Feb1-28(G&CD) (regular). Up to 8 @ Grenfell Mrkhm Feb1-28(CMcK).
Brown-headed Cowbird - 1 at Elmhurst Bch: Keith Dunn Home Feb.15 (KDu).
American Goldfinch - 150 at Bond Lake Oak Ridges Feb.13 (TM&GR).

Toronto

Wild Turkey - 15 at Sewell's Road N of Zoo Feb.19 (TM&GR).

Durham Region

Bald Eagle - 1 Ad at Taunton Rd. at Pickering-Toronto Line Feb.12 (TM&GR).
Rough-legged Hawk – 3 @ Finch/Pickering Twnln Feb12(TM&GR). 1 @ Pickering SR 28 & Elgin Mills Feb.23 (TM&GR).
Wild Turkey – 5 @ Cranberry Mrsh/Hall Rd Feb17(TH) (under feeder). 40 @ Pickering SR28/Elgin Mills Feb23 (TM&GR).
Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 at Finch & Pickering Townline Feb.12 (TM&GR).
Northern Shrike - 1 at Pickering SR 28 & Elgin Mills Feb.23 (TM&GR).
Common Raven - 1 at Pickering SR 28 & Elgin Mills Feb.23 (TM&GR).

Out-of-Area

Double-crested Cormorant - a few at LaSalle Park Hamilton Feb.03 (G&CD).
Northern Shoveler - 4 at LaSalle Park Hamilton Feb.03 (G&CD).
Hooded Merganser - 1 at LaSalle Park Hamilton Feb.03 (G&CD).
Brown Thrasher - 1 at LaSalle Park Hamilton Feb.03 (G&CD).

AA Alfred Adamo, anon anonymous, BB Bruce Brydon, CMcK Carol McKnight, DJM Dave Milsom, DTH Doris Hofmann,
EM Elizabeth Morton, G&CD Gene & Charlene Denzel, GD Gene Denzel, GoC Gord Cameron, HBa H Barnett, JKl Jane Kirkpatrick,
JLo Joan Love, KDu Keith Dunn, KRS Kevin Shackleton, MCh Martin Chen, MvdT Mike van den Tillaart, OB fide Ontbirds,
PG Phyllis Graydon, R&DP Rod & Denise Potter, RJF Ron Fleming, S&JB Sharon & Jim Bradley, SDP Susan DiPucchio, SLo Stan Long,
TEt Tracey Etwell, TH Theo Hofmann, TM&GR Theresa McKenzie & Glenn Reed, YSNC York-Simcoe Naturalists.

Note: An unconfirmed report from Theo Hoffman notes that the Red-Shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*, was recently removed from the Endangered Species List last month.

From the Editor

Green Tip of the Month

With the growing concerns about greenhouse gases and the resulting challenges of climate change, planting trees is not just a desirable thing to do, it has become mandatory to help deal with these issues. Trees help address the problem in a number of ways:

- Trees directly absorb CO₂ – the primary greenhouse gas – during photosynthesis where they produce oxygen. An average urban tree will absorb 200 kg of carbon dioxide from the air over its 80 year life span.
- Shade from trees can reduce air conditioning and energy use, which reduces the amount of CO₂ emitted by power plants.
- A windbreak of trees has been found to reduce residential heating costs by 10-15% again reducing energy use and greenhouse gas.
- Each healthy tree can reduce air borne dust particles by as much as 7,000 particles per litre of air, thus reducing other pollutants from the air we breathe.

In addition to the actions we can take in our daily lives to reduce our personal production of greenhouse gases, such as changing to energy efficient light bulbs, there is a growing trend to undertake activities or pay a “carbon tax” to make up for the carbon dioxide we do produce. Planting trees is one of these activities.

The [Tree Canada Foundation](http://www.treecanada.ca) estimates that an economy car driven 20,000 km per year requires 500 mature trees to absorb the CO₂ emissions. As most of us would have difficulty planting this many trees, the Foundation's web site allows you to donate money at \$4.00 per tree to offset the operation of your vehicle. You can calculate your driving cost and that of other carbon producing activities at: www.treecanada.ca/programs/climatechange/index.htm For more information on the whole concept of carbon offsets, the David Suzuki Foundation has a good explanation and list of resources at: www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/carbon_neutral.asp

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