



# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 572, May 2010



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), photographed by Heidi Holmes

## REGULARS

Coming Events	25
Extracts from Outings Reports	6
From the Archives	23
In the News	21
Keeping in Touch	16
Monthly Meetings Notice	3
Monthly Meeting Report	5
President's Report	4
TFN Outings	8
Weather – This Time Last Year	24

## FEATURES

<b>A Bird in the Hand</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Bird of the Month</b> – Eastern Kingbird	<b>18</b>
<b>Legal Protection of Wildlife</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Membership Renewal</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Nominating Committee Report</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Toronto's "Wild Columbine"</b> and Some Relatives	<b>17</b>

*Toronto Field Naturalist* is published by the Toronto Field Naturalists, a charitable, non-profit organization, the aims of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage. Issued monthly September to December and February to May. Views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or Toronto Field Naturalists. The Newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper.

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### IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We welcome contributions of original writing, up to 500 words, of observations on nature in and around Toronto, reviews, poems, sketches, paintings, and photographs of TFN outings (digital or print, include date and place). Include your name, address and phone number so submissions can be acknowledged. Send by mail or email. **Deadline for submissions for September issue:** August 6.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Jenny Bull (co-editor), Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Elisabeth Gladstone, Mary Lieberman, Ruth Munson, Toshi Oikawa, Wendy Rothwell (co-editor).

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$30 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE (65+)  
 \$40 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY (2 adults, 65+)  
 \$50 FAMILY (2 adults – same address, children included)

No GST. Tax receipts issued for donations. Send membership fees and address changes to the TFN office. *Please note: TFN does not give out its membership list.*

### Toronto Field Naturalists

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White admiral butterfly, photographed by Margaret McRae

## TFN MEETING

Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 2:30 pm

### THE APPALACHIANS AND THEIR MARGINS

*Peter Money, TFN member,  
retired geologist, nature photographer and amateur naturalist  
will take us from coastal Labrador to northernmost Florida,  
exploring the fauna, flora and natural environments*

**VISITORS WELCOME!**

**SOCIAL: 2:00 – 2:30 pm**

**Room 001, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, 75 Queen's Park Cres. East**

Emmanuel College is just south of the Museum subway station exit (east side of Queen's Park). Enter at south end of building, down a few steps on outside stairwell. **Wheelchair entrance:** Second door south on Queen's Park. Elevator inside to the right. Room 001 is one floor below street level.

**For information:** call 416-593-2656 up to noon on the Friday preceding the lecture.

#### 2010-2011 LECTURE SERIES

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 12 | <b><i>The Piping Plover Project of Southern Ontario</i></b><br>Stewart Nutt, Coordinator of the Project in Sauble Beach  |
| Oct. 3   | <b><i>Thinking Big About Ecosystems, Evolution and Life</i></b><br>John & Mary Theberge, Wildlife ecologists   |
| Nov. 7   | <b><i>From Prickly Pears to Polar Bears:<br/>A Look Behind the Scenes of the ROM's Biodiversity Gallery</i></b><br>Deb Metsger, Assistant Curator, Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum |
| Dec. 5   | <b><i>Spiders of Ontario</i></b><br>Tom Mason, Curator of Invertebrates and Birds, Toronto Zoo   |
| Feb. 6   | <b><i>Beyond Fur, Feathers &amp; Flowers: the Underworld of Fins &amp; Filter Feeders</i></b><br>Shawn Staton, Team Leader, Species at Risk Program, Fisheries & Oceans Canada           |
| Mar. 6   | <b><i>Tallgrass Prairie and Savannah Habitats of Southern Ontario</i></b><br>Gavin Trevelyan, Eastern Coordinator for Tallgrass Ontario  |
| Apr. 3   | <b><i>The Earth on Display: a Toronto View</i></b><br>Ed Freeman, Geologist and TFN member   |
| May 1    | <b><i>Ontario's Far North</i></b><br>Justina Ray, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada   |

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been customary for the TFN to hold its Annual General Meeting at our September Monthly Meeting. This necessitated publishing the audited financial statements in the September newsletter, printed early in August, and it has sometimes proven difficult to meet this deadline. The Board has therefore decided that, from now on, we will hold the AGM at our October Monthly Meeting. Please see the Nominating Committee's report on page 20.

I am sorry to announce that **Heide Tonna**, who joined the TFN board in September, has resigned. We thank Heide for her contribution, assisting with financial administration, and wish her well in her retirement.

For the past 5 years, we have been privileged to have **Corley Phillips** serving as our Secretary-Treasurer. I cannot speak too highly of the excellent job she has done for us, ensuring the accurate accounting of our finances, doing the government filings required of a charitable organization and providing helpful investment advice. Her knowledge, wisdom and hard work are greatly appreciated, and we are very sorry that she finds it necessary to relinquish these responsibilities, as she and her husband will shortly be moving to Europe.

The Board is happy to welcome **Karen Walton** as a new Board member, and to appoint her to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Karen has been a TFN member since July 2008, and frequently brings her son and daughter on TFN outings as she is eager for them to share her love of nature. Her accounting experience includes 13 years bookkeeping for a church organization in Mexico, taking accounting software courses at Seneca College and currently bookkeeping on a volunteer basis for a home school education group. We feel that Karen is well qualified to take on this role, and are grateful to her for volunteering.

We are happy that **Louise Dixon**, who has been assisting Corley by entering accounting transactions on

our computer, will continue to work with Karen. Thank you, Louise, for your efficient and dedicated support, which is greatly appreciated.

In addition to her Secretary-Treasurer responsibilities, Corley has been maintaining our computerized membership database. As we enter the busiest time of year for membership renewals, we **need a volunteer** with basic data-entry skills to assist Nancy Fredenburg. If you can help, please contact the TFN office by phone or e-mail (see page 2 for contact information).

If you visited the TFN booth at *Canada Blooms* or *The Green Living Show*, or attended Ontario Nature's *Green Tea*, you will have seen the beautiful promotional video created for us by **Lynn Miller**. All the nature photographs in the video are by talented TFN members. We are grateful to Lynn and our photographers for providing this effective new way to attract new members.

A projector has been purchased with some of the bequest money recently received. I would like to thank several members for submitting good ideas for the effective use of bequests and donations, as requested in my March report. We are continuing to investigate various options, and will keep you informed.

As you can see, our Outings Committee (Margaret McRae, Gail Gregory and Charles Bruce-Thompson) have outdone themselves in providing a great variety of walks for us to enjoy during spring and summer. We thank all the dedicated outings leaders who make this possible. I hope many of you will get out and enjoy nature in Toronto.

**Please be sure to renew your TFN membership in good time, so as not to miss your September newsletter (see page 27).**

Wendy Rothwell

### Thanks! ...

to members who sent articles, letters, news, reviews, reports, poems, artwork and photographs for the 2009-2010 newsletters.

and to members of the Newsletter Committee for your good work and commitment to getting the newsletter out to our members.

**Don't forget to keep the newsletter in mind when you're on summer outings! We look forward to receiving your contributions for next season's issues (see page 2).**

Editors

## MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

### **Disturbing the Disturbed: Using Biological Control to Recover our Invaded Forests**

Sunday, April 11. Sandy Smith, Dean of Forestry, University of Toronto

Sandy's enthusiasm for her subject matter was infectious. Her primary message was that careful research and time are necessary and that native controls may be preferable to foreign ones. For today's lecture, Sandy defined invasive as "exotic, alien and non-native." Even though some native species can be invasive, that was not the topic for today.

Invasive species hitchhike into our local scene via airplane travel and/or the transportation of goods by ship or other means. If they encounter a climate similar to one they left behind, they can grow and even thrive. Intentional introductions can come as landscaping or gardening material – e.g. the harmonia ladybird beetle. The unintentional introductions – e.g. zebra mussels – can enter our habitat via trade through ballast, dunnage, wrapping material and the products themselves. The 'disturbing' come in the form of plants such as dog strangling vine, garlic mustard and Norway maples, insects such as the emerald ash borer and the Asian long horn beetle and diseases such as Dutch elm disease, beech bark scale and butternut canker. Toronto is a huge gateway for the invasion of alien forest insects.

Biological control can take several forms. Conservation methods involve the use of native natural enemy species; augmentation uses inundative or inoculative releases; and introduction uses classical biocontrol with alien species. An example of augmentation involves the native parasitoids and the spruce budworm. Commercial rearing and application of the

parasitoids means they can be used when needed, making them more effective.

Classical biological control involves going back to the country of origin and trying to find a species that is the natural enemy of the alien here. Sandy prefers to focus on native biological controls. She points out the need to be careful and understand the nature of the threat before we apply solutions.

Sandy spoke of their work on the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve where they did some research in the canopy and found new species. They determined that the communities on the ground and in the canopy were different. Another example of biodiversity is that of decaying wood; the older the decaying wood, the greater the diversity of the community.

One of the most interesting points I learned today was that normally there are no worms in our forests. However, the worms are moving in and they may be one of the major disturbers who will change our forests. As they pull organic matter into the soil, they speed up the processes and change the nature of the habitat. While this may be good for our vegetables, flowers and compost heaps, worms will have a detrimental effect on our forests in the long run.

Continue to pull the garlic mustard. It gets people engaged and perhaps that will lead to more lobbying for research to understand the nature of the threat and what best can be done about it.

Corinne McDonald

### Help fight invasive plants!

Please join TFN's garlic mustard pull in Warden Woods on May 15 (see page 9.)

There will be time to participate in Melanie Milanich's wildflower walk that afternoon.



TFN garlic mustard pull at Warden Woods, May 22, 2009, photographed by Cheryl Post, Toronto Parks & Rec. staff

## EXTRACTS FROM OUTINGS LEADERS REPORTS

**Nature and history, Davisville and southeast, Mar. 3. Leader: Ed Freeman.** An impressive sun dog was seen as two incomplete radial images. Three pairs of red tail hawks and a couple of immatures; a short-tailed shrew (dead).

**Birds and Trees in High Park, Mar. 13. Leader: Joanne Doucette.** We identified 24 tree species on this rainy and windy day. The silver and red maples were flowering. Lots of fresh beaver work along the shore of Grenadier Pond – many freshly-cut trees, including some large specimens. Also saw chipmunk.

**Nature and Birds, Port Union Waterfront Trail, Mar. 18. Leader: Karin Fawthrop.** Once the small trees and shrubs on this recently constructed trail grow up, this area should attract more birds. A mockingbird (or possibly two) posed for a good view. We also saw northern shrike, killdeer, crow, cowbird, song sparrow and house finch. There were a couple of mink moving along the water's edge.

**Birds and Trees, Leslie St. Spit, Mar. 20. Leader: Bob Kortright.** We saw a long-eared owl, a kestrel, and the life-like cormorant decoys that have been placed by TRCA in an attempt to encourage cormorants to nest on the ground. They were surrounded by thousands of gulls (hats were vital here – see photo below), one of which was a glaucous gull. Although numbers of wintering ducks were down from those seen before the big thaw, a nice variety of winter ducks were seen, including over 20 canvasback and an increased number of gadwall.



Gulls over the spit photographed by Yoshi Nagata

**World Water Day: the link between water and energy use and possible conservation, Mar. 21. Leaders: John Wilson and Helen Mills (joint walk with Toronto Green Community and RiverSides).** We looked at urban infrastructure and form to see how the use, misuse and conservation of water and energy are interrelated. References to art representation of animals (The Salmon Run fountain and the Woodpecker Column public art south of the CN tower and Convention Centre) underline the threats to natural processes from industrial urban form. We discussed bird-friendly building guidelines and their limitations, and the lawsuit by Ontario Nature and Ecojustice against Consilium Place in Scarborough, the worst bird hazard in Toronto (see In the News, TFN #571, April 2010).

**Birds, Humber Bay Park East, Mar. 25. Leader: Wendy Rothwell.** Two great blue herons, American wigeon, long-tailed duck, kestrel, kingfisher, mockingbird, and song sparrow were among the birds we saw. Also, either a muskrat or a groundhog. During my pre-walk I saw a killdeer.



American wigeon photographed by Anne Byzko

**Trees, Taylor Massey Creek, Mar. 27. Leader: David A. White.** Mostly Eurasian trees were seen. There was evidence of foxes and many sightings of hawks (Cooper's, sharp-shinned), juncos, golden-crowned kinglet and mockingbirds. Possible pileated woodpecker seen fleetingly.

**Urban issues, Sherwood Park, Mar. 30. Leader: Janice Palmer.** We discussed off-leash dogs, white pines lost through wind shear, trees fallen because of eroded roots along the stream, native vs. foreign species, various types of encroachment, various work done by volunteers, special red oak nursery area, interpretive signs and the need to fence newly planted areas.

## LEGAL PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE

This is a short summary of legal protection of wildlife in Ontario, based mainly on a longer article posted at [www.ofo.ca/reportsandarticles/birdlaws](http://www.ofo.ca/reportsandarticles/birdlaws) written by Ron Pittaway in 1994 and updated in 2006, and on the Laws section of the website of the Toronto Entomological Association ([www.ontarioinsects.org](http://www.ontarioinsects.org)). For further information consult those websites, or the legislation mentioned below, or a lawyer. Ontario and federal laws are available at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca) and [laws-lois.justice.gc.ca](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca) respectively.

The most important law that protects birds in Ontario is the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA 1994). The MBCA originated in 1917 to implement a treaty with the US to control hunting and to protect “good” birds (migratory or not). Native birds that were considered pests at the time: pelicans, cormorants, raptors including owls, gallinaceous birds, kingfishers, and corvids (crows and jays) were excluded, but most were later protected by provincial law.

Birds as well as other wildlife are protected under the provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA 2007), the Criminal Code, Ontario Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA), National Parks Act, Provincial Parks and Conservations Reserves Act (PPCRA 2006), Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA 2007), and the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Under the criminal code and the PCAA it is illegal to be cruel to animals or to harass wildlife: It is a criminal offence to willfully and without lawful excuse kill or injure, or to cause or permit unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to any animal, wild or domestic.

All wild bird species except American crow, brown-headed cowbird, common grackle, red-winged blackbird, rock pigeon, European starling, and house sparrow are protected by either the federal MBCA or the provincial FWCA.

All wildlife is fully protected in national and provincial parks and crown game preserves, including those birds not protected elsewhere, except where hunting is permitted by regulation. Hunting of gallinaceous birds (partridge, pheasant, grouse, ptarmigan, wild turkey, and northern bobwhite), ducks (except harlequin),

geese, woodcock, snipe and rails (including coot and moorhen) is permitted under regulation. See article in TFN #562-13 about snapping turtles as a “game” species.

Taking or possession of protected birds, eggs, and nests is prohibited without a permit (hunting or scientific), except that you may possess birds that died naturally or by accident if they are not protected under the MBCA, but you must report them to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) within 5 working days, except birds of prey, which must be taken to the MNR within 2 working days.

Except for species at risk, provincially regulated birds can be killed in defense of property.

It is illegal under the FWCA to:

- release in Ontario any wildlife that is imported into Ontario or originates from stock that is imported into Ontario
- possess any wildlife that were captured in or removed from another jurisdiction contrary to the laws of that jurisdiction
- possess certain butterflies, including monarch, swallowtails, and certain rare ones, except that you may keep one of these for education

See the *Species at Risk Public Registry* ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)) for the species protected by the federal Species at Risk Act, and [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species) for those protected under the Ontario Endangered Species Act.

Bob Kortright

Hawks atop tall poles  
Flapping and diving from sight  
Wildflowers stand steadfast

Haiku by Susie Weiss

## TFN OUTINGS

- TFN events are conducted by unpaid volunteers.
- The club assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained by anyone participating in our activities.
- Children and visitors are welcome at all TFN events. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- If you plan to bring children in a stroller, be aware that there may be steps or other unsuitable terrain.
- Please do not bring pets.
- To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules ([www.ttc.ca](http://www.ttc.ca) or 416-393-4636).
- Outings go rain or shine: check the weather by calling 416-661-0123 so you will know what to wear.
- Wear appropriate footwear for walking on trails which may be muddy, steep or uneven.

- Sat.  
May 1  
10:00 am      **TRILLIUM WALK AT EDWARDS GARDENS AND WILKET CREEK PARK – Nature Arts**  
Leader: Mary Taylor  
Everyone is welcome to join the Nature Arts group to enjoy this spring outing. Meet at the entrance to Edwards Gardens, south side of Lawrence Ave. E., west of Leslie St. Bring what you wish for your art expression while others are guided by the leader. Bring lunch or purchase at the TBG café. Bring any work you wish to share with the group after lunch. Nature walk will continue in the afternoon.
- Sun.  
May.2  
2:30 pm      **LECTURE – The Appalachians and Their Margins**  
Speaker: Peter Money, TFN member, retired geologist, nature photographer and amateur naturalist  
Emmanuel College, 75 Queen's Park Cres. E. See page 3.
- Tues.  
May 4  
10:00 am      **ETOBICOKE CREEK – Wildflowers**  
Leader: Richard Aaron  
Meet at the corner of Rathburn Rd. and Elmcrest Rd. (Rathburn #48 bus from Royal York subway station). Free parking at Centennial Park and on nearby side streets. We will explore the tablelands and valley floor in search of early spring wildflowers. Lots of discussion on natural history, plant lore, and uses. Bring field guides, binoculars (for bird sightings) and lunch. A circular walk ending around 3 pm.
- +  
Tues.  
May 4  
6:45 pm      **FOURTH ANNUAL JANE JACOBS TRIBUTE WALK – Evening Ramble**  
Leaders: Pleasance Crawford and Helen Juhola  
Meet at the north end of Glencairn subway station, south side of Glencairn Ave. Bring binoculars. Walk includes Toronto's first community orchard and Cedarvale Ravine, and ends at St. Clair West subway station.
- Sat.  
May 8  
10:00 am      **TODMORDEN MILLS – Wildflowers and Birds**  
Leader: Joanne Doucette  
Meet at the southwest corner of Broadview Ave. and Pottery Rd. We will walk down Pottery Rd. to Todmorden Mills (a steep walk). Bring binoculars and lunch. Washrooms on site.
- Sun.  
May 9  
1:30 pm      **CROTHERS WOODS AND SUN VALLEY – Nature Walk**  
Leader: Margaret McRae  
Meet at the northeast corner of Beechwood Dr. and O'Connor Dr. Steep hills on informal dirt trails. Bring binoculars. We will check out a new wood duck box.
- Tues.  
May 11  
10:00 am      **TAYLOR CREEK AND DON VALLEY – Nature Walk**  
Leader: Ed Freeman  
Meet at the entrance to Victoria Park subway station on Victoria Park Ave. Walk will end at Beechwood Dr. Bring plant identification guide and binoculars. Duration: 2 ½ hours.
- Thurs.  
May 13  
6:30 pm      **MORNINGSIDE PARK – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Orval White  
Meet by the washrooms west of the first parking lot. Entrance on west side of Morningside Ave., south of Ellesmere Ave. and north of Kingston Rd. Bring binoculars. A 2-hour loop.

- Sat.  
May 15  
10:00 am  
+  
Sat.  
May 15  
1:00 pm
- WARDEN WOODS – Garlic Mustard Pull**  
Leader: Rachel Gottesman  
Meet at the park entrance on the southwest corner of Warden Ave. and St. Clair Ave. E., opposite the Warden subway station. Gloves will be provided. Duration: approximately 2 hours.
- GUILDWOOD PARK – Wildflowers**  
Leader: Melanie Milanich  
Meet at the entrance to Guildwood Park at 191 Guildwood Parkway. Take the Morningside #116/116A bus from Kennedy subway station. We hope to see the yellow bellwort and other spring wildflowers.
- Sun.  
May 16  
2:00 pm
- HIGHLAND CREEK: HIDDEN RAVINES, HERITAGE HIGHWAY – Lost Rivers**  
Leader: John Wilson  
Meet at the northwest corner of Orton Park Rd. and Lawrence Ave. E. prepared for surprises - the Highland watershed's forgotten creeks of Woburn and Bendale, Asa Danforth's 210-year old road and Toronto's oldest heritage construction. Streets and park paths with optional final off-trail portion, be prepared to bushwhack the most overlooked ESA (Environmentally Significant Area) in the Toronto region. Approx. 3 hours total. Not a circular route. A joint walk with Toronto Green Community.
- Tues.  
May 18  
10:00 am
- ROWNTREE MILLS PARK – Birds**  
Leader: Carol Sellers  
Meet at the northwest corner of Finch Ave. W. and Islington Ave. for a circular walk. Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Thurs.  
May 20  
6:45 pm
- WATERFRONT GARDENS – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Peter Iveson  
Meet at the southwest corner of Bathurst St. and Queen's Quay W. beside the monument in Little Norway Park.
- Sat.  
May 22  
10:00 am
- WARDEN WOODS – Birds and Wildflowers**  
Leader: Bob Kortright  
Meet at the southwest corner of St. Clair Ave. E. and Warden Ave. Bring binoculars. Lunch optional. Duration: 2 to 3 hours. Ends at Pharmacy Ave.
- Sun.  
May 23  
1:30 pm
- HUMBER RIVER – Wildflowers**  
Leader: Leslie Fitzgibbons  
Meet at the Old Mill Subway station for a circular walk to Lambton Woods and back.
- Mon.  
May 24  
10:00 am
- LESLIE STREET SPIT – Birds**  
Leader: Bob Kortright  
Meet at the park entrance at Leslie St. and Unwin Ave. Bring lunch and binoculars. A joint hike with the Toronto Bruce Trail Club.
- Tues.  
May 25  
10:30 am
- ROUGE PARK – Nature Walk**  
Leader: Orval White  
Meet at the campground parking lot at 7540 Kingston Rd, on the north side of Kingston Rd., east of Sheppard Ave. E. and Port Union Rd. Bring lunch and binoculars. A 3 hour loop.
- Thurs.  
May 27  
6:45 pm
- TAYLOR CREEK PARK – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Melanie Milanich  
Meet at the entrance to Victoria Park subway station on Victoria Park Ave. Circular route to include Goulding Estate wetlands, the new ponds, restoration efforts and recently planted aquatic shrubs, wildflowers and trees in the area. Bring binoculars. Duration: 2 hours.
- Sat.  
May 29  
11:00 am
- ROUGE PARK – Wildflowers**  
Leader: Peter Money  
Meet at Pearse House, east of the first bus stop up the hill north of Sheppard Ave. E. on Meadowvale Rd. (currently Sheppard #85B route from Don Mills Station, but check with TTC). Walk includes trails on some moderately steep slopes. Bring lunch, binoculars optional. A circular walk, approximately 3 to 4 hours.

- Sun.  
May 30  
1:00 pm      **TODMORDEN MILLS WILDFLOWER PRESERVE – Nature Walk**  
Leader: Paula Davies  
Meet beside the Museum (brewery building) in Todmorden Mills, just down Pottery Rd. from Broadview Ave. Come early or stay later for free admission to the historic buildings during Doors Open Toronto.
- Tues.  
June 1  
10:00 am      **COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK – Nature Walk**  
Leader: Kerry Adams  
Meet at the bus stop in front of Father Redmond Catholic Secondary School just before the bus loop on Col. Samuel Smith Park Dr. south of Lake Shore Blvd. W. Bring binoculars. Morning only.
- Wed.  
June 2  
6:45 pm      **NORDHEIMER RAVINE – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Alan Morrow  
Meet at the St. Clair West subway station on the south side of St. Clair Ave. W. We will walk through the Nordheimer Ravine by Spadina House and Casa Loma, ending at the Dupont subway station. Walk will end by 8:30 pm.
- Sat.  
June 5  
10:00 am      **TAYLOR CREEK PARK – Nature Arts**  
Leader: Joanne Doucette  
Meet at the Taylor Creek Park parking lot on the west side of Dawes Rd. Dawes #23 bus from Main subway station. Bring sketching materials or your camera, something to sit on if sketching, and lunch. Flat terrain. Washrooms on site. Wheelchair accessible.
- Sun.  
June 6  
1:30 pm      **HIGH PARK – Trees**  
Leader: Bohdan Kowalyk  
Meet at the park entrance on Bloor St. W. at High Park Ave. We should also see the wild lupines in bloom.
- Tues.  
June 8  
10:00 am      **THOMSON MEMORIAL PARK – Birds and Butterflies**  
Leader: Carol Sellers  
Meet at the northeast corner of Lawrence Ave. E. and Brimley Rd. Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Wed  
June 9  
6:30 pm      **CHERRY BEACH TO TOMMY THOMPSON PARK – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Eric Lin  
Meet at Cherry Beach traffic circle. Bus #72A operates between Union Station and Pape subway station, stopping at the intersection of Cherry St. and Commissioners St. Walk 1 km south to the meeting place. Bring binoculars. At conclusion of ramble, walk 1 km north to the #83 Jones bus at Leslie St. and Commissioners St. or 2 kms to Queen St. streetcar. Leader will ensure everyone gets to TTC stop before dark. Duration: 2 hours.
- Sat.  
June 12  
10:00 am      **HIGHLAND CREEK AND EAST POINT PARK – Nature walk**  
Leader: Blair Campbell  
Meet at the southeast corner of Lawrence Ave. E. and Beechgrove Dr. Bring lunch.

### FOR ENJOYMENT OF OUTINGS

- Wide brim on hat for protection from sun
- Long sleeves to protect you from mosquitoes, poison ivy and thistles
- Slacks to protect you from mosquitoes, poison ivy, thistles and ticks
- Long socks to help you avoid ticks
- Hiking boots or running shoes
- Rainwear
- Sun glasses, sun screen and insect repellent
- Binoculars and camera
- Thermos or flask; snack
- TTC Ride Guide (free), map, notebook and pen
- Bring your family and/or friends, but ... NO pets allowed



Coyote at a landfill site in West Hill photographed by Les Goodwin



Coltsfoot photographed by Heidi Holmes

- 
- Sun.           **HUMBER RIVER – Wildflowers**  
 June 13       Leader: Leslie Fitzgibbons  
 1:30 pm       Meet at Old Mill subway station. Circular walk.
- Tues.           **BLACK CREEK – Nature and Heritage**  
 June 15       Leader: Madeleine McDowell  
 10:00 am      Meet on the west side of Weston Rd. at Glen Scarlett Rd., one block north of St. Clair Ave. W. Bring lunch. Walk will end near Jane St. and Smythe Park.
- Wed.           **GLEN STEWART RAVINE – Evening Ramble**  
 June 16       Leader: Bob Kortright  
 6:45 pm       Meet on Beech Ave. at Kingston Rd. Walk will end on Queen St. E. Bring binoculars.
- Sat.            **THE EAST DON – Nature and Plants**  
 June 19       Leader: Charles Chaffey  
 10:00 am      Meet at the southeast corner of Steeles Ave. E. and Laureleaf Rd. S. for a loop walk. Bring binoculars, lunch optional.
- Sun.            **EAST TORONTO: GATEWAY TO THE WORLD – Lost Rivers**  
 June 20       Leader: John Wilson  
 2:00 pm       Starting at the Main Street Public Library, 137 Main St., south of Gerrard St., be prepared to hike to Norway by way of Boston. Find a wonderland of cultural and natural heritage, as you trace the course of lost Tomlin Creek to the Serpentine. Streets, paved paths and stairs. Approx. 2.5 hours. Not a circular route. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.
- Tues.           **GUIDED TOUR OF SCARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES AND A SHORT HIKE TO A STORM WATER MANAGEMENT POND – History**  
 June 22       Leader: Karin Fawthrop  
 10:00 am      Meet at the Scarborough Archives in the former Morrish General Store on Old Kingston Rd. and Meadowvale Ave. The #86A bus leaving Kennedy and going to the Zoo stops on the corner. Duration: about 2 hours. Lunch optional.
- Wed            **CRAIGLEITH GARDENS TO THE BRICKWORKS – Evening Ramble**  
 June 23       Leader: Phoebe Cleverley  
 6:45 pm       Meet at Castle Frank subway station. We will walk via Milkman's Lane to the Brickworks Park. Bring binoculars and water. Duration: 2 hours.

- Sat. **DON VALLEY – Birds and Nature**  
June 26 Leader: Kevin Seymour  
9:30 am Meet at the northeast corner of O'Connor Dr. and Beechwood Dr. Bring binoculars. Morning only.
- Sun. **G. ROSS LORD PARK – Nature Walk**  
June 27 Leader: Marcus Feak  
2:00 pm Meet at the southeast corner of Finch Ave. W. and Dufferin St. Walk ends at Dufferin and Steeles. Bring binoculars.
- Tues. **YORK CEMETERY – Trees**  
June 29 Leader: Jack Radecki  
10:00 am Meet at the reception centre between Beecroft Rd. and Senlac Rd. Bring lunch.
- Wed. **HIGH PARK – Plants**  
June 30 Leader: Richard Aaron  
10:00 am Meet at the southwest corner of Bloor St. W. and High Park Ave. We will explore the diverse botany which makes this park such a treasure. Bring field guides, notebook, binoculars (for bird sightings) and lunch. Walk will end mid-afternoon.
- Thurs. **CEDARVALE RAVINE – Evening Ramble**  
July 1 Leader: Marcus Feak  
6:45 pm Meet at the Eglinton West subway station. Walk will end at St. Clair West subway station.



Georgian Bay, watercolour by Joanne Doucette

- Sat. **FLOWERS AND BEYOND – Nature Arts**  
July 3  
10:00 am  
Leader: Penny Fairbairn  
Meet at the southeast corner of Scarlett Rd. and East Dr. (Scarlett Rd. bus #79 from Runnymede subway station). The theme for the day is "wild or tame". Bring what you need to record your artistic impressions. Lunch will be late and there are no picnic tables or benches, so bring morning snack. We will finish at James Gardens.
- Sun. **NORDHEIMER RAVINE – Nature Walk**  
July 4  
1:30 pm  
Leader: Rachel Gottesman  
Meet on the south side of St. Clair Ave. W. across from the St. Clair West subway station. Bring binoculars. A circular walk.
- Tues. **ROUGE WETLANDS AND FOREST – Butterflies**  
July 6  
10:00 am  
Leader: Carol Sellers  
Meet at Pearse House (last TTC stop before the Zoo and walk the short road east to the old house). Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Wed. **LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE #1 – Evening Ramble**  
July 7  
6:45 pm  
Leader: Sandy Cappell  
Meet at the southeast corner of St. Clair Ave. W. and Caledonia Park Rd. Walk ends at Bathurst St. and St. Clair Ave. W.
- Sat. **TORONTO ISLANDS – Sand Dune Ecology**  
July 10  
10:15 am  
Leader: Joanne Doucette  
Explore the complex ecology of Toronto Islands' sand dunes. Meet at the ferry terminal at 10:15 am to catch the 10:30 am ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring lunch and money for the ferry. Small hills. Washrooms on site.
- Sun. **THE DON RIVER SOUTH OF LEASIDE – Birds and Plants**  
July 11  
1:30 pm  
Leader: Miles Hearn  
Meet at the southwest corner of Broadview Ave. and Pottery Rd. Explore the river valley, fields, woods and ponds of this section of the Don River. Beaver, black-crowned night heron, rough-winged swallow, wood duck are possible here. The mature forest features bitternut hickory trees and many wildflowers. Bring binoculars. There are some hills. No washrooms. We will finish the walk at Beechwood Dr. and O'Connor Dr.
- Tues. **GARRISON CREEK AND REGAL HEIGHTS – Landforms, Lost Rivers, Trees, and Orphan Spaces**  
July 13  
10:00 am  
Leaders: Pleasance Crawford and Dick Watts  
Meet in the parkette at the southwest corner of Oakwood Ave. and St. Clair Ave. W. A circular walk. Bring binoculars. Morning only.
- Wed. **WOODBINE PARK AND EASTERN BEACHES – Evening Ramble**  
July 14  
6:45 pm  
Leader: Bob Kortright  
Meet on the southeast corner of Coxwell Ave. and Eastern Ave. Walk will end at Queen St. E. Bring binoculars.
- Sat. **LESLIE STREET SPIT – Birds and Butterflies**  
July 17  
10:00 am  
Leaders: Ann and Brian Gray  
Meet at the entrance to the Spit at Leslie St. and Unwin Ave. Bring water, binoculars, lunch and cameras. Duration about 4 hours.
- Sun. **SPRING CREEK AND HIGH PARK – Lost Rivers**  
July 18  
2:00 pm  
Leaders: Richard Anderson and local community members  
Meet at the southwest corner of Keele St. and Dundas St. W. Tales of landfill and pollution of the creek which once meandered through eastern High Park. Find out why Dundas St. bends, local porches are cracked, and Spring Creek backyards may go up in smoke. Gaze in awe at the mighty trickle of the pre-historic Laurential Stream. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.

- Tues.  
July 20  
10:00 am  
**PINE HILLS CEMETERY – Trees**  
Leader: Jack Radecki  
Meet at the pedestrian entrance on the northeast corner of Birchmount Ave. and St. Clair Ave. E. Duration: till noon, then questions at the Visitation Centre. Bring snacks.
- Wed.  
July 21  
6:30 pm  
**LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE #2 – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Sandy Cappell  
Meet at the northwest corner of Bathurst St. and Davenport Rd. Walk will end at Summerhill subway station where there's a coffee shop. Duration: about 2 hours.
- Sat.  
July 24  
10:00 am  
**ROSETTA McCLAIN GARDENS AND LAKESHORE BELOW BLUFFS – Birds, Butterflies and Trees**  
Leader: Bob Kortright  
Meet on the south side of Kingston Rd. at Glen Everest Rd. Bring lunch and binoculars. A circular walk.
- Sun.  
July 25  
1:30 pm  
**THE WEST DON AND WILKET CREEK – Birds and Plants**  
Leader: Miles Hearn  
Meet at Wilket Creek Park entrance just north of the intersection of Eglinton Ave E. and Leslie St. on the west side. There is a lovely oak forest which includes some spectacular views of the river below. Many wild flowers. Bring binoculars. Some hills. Washrooms on site. Walk ends near Sunnybrook Hospital on Bayview Ave.
- Tues.  
July 27  
10:00 am  
**SERENA GUNDY AND SUNNYBROOK PARKS – Trees and Woody Plants**  
Leader: Tom Atkinson  
Meet at entrance to Wilket Creek Park just north of Eglinton Ave. E. on the west side of Leslie St. Walk ends at Edwards Gardens. Moderate difficulty, occasional wet spots. Washrooms at beginning and end. Morning only.
- Thurs.  
July 29  
6:45 pm  
**HIGH PARK – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Wendy Rothwell  
Meet on the south side of Bloor St. W. at High Park Ave. Bring binoculars.
- Sat.  
July 31  
2:00 pm  
**ROUGE PARK – Nature Walk**  
Leader: Orval White  
Meet at the east end of the parking lot at the Glen Rouge campground, 7540 Kingston Rd., east of Port Union Rd. and Sheppard Ave. E. A 2 to 3 hour loop walk with steep hills and stairs.
- Mon.  
Aug. 2  
1:30 pm  
**BURKE BROOK – Local History and Nature**  
Leader: Janet Langdon  
Meet at the southeast corner of Lawrence Ave. W. and Avenue Rd. Long walk. Some steep hills. Walk ends near Bayview Ave. and Blythwood Rd.
- Tues.  
Aug. 3  
10:00 am  
**MORNINGSIDE PARK – Birds and Butterflies**  
Leader: Carol Sellers  
Meet at the first parking lot in the park on the west side of Morningside Ave. south of Ellesmere Ave. Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Wed.  
Aug. 4  
6:30 pm  
**LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE #3 – Evening Ramble, Topography**  
Leader: Sandy Cappell  
Meet outside Summerhill subway station at Yonge St. Walk will end at Bayview Ave. and Moore Ave. (bus #88 South Leaside). Duration: 2 hours.
- Sat.  
Aug. 7  
10:30 am  
**CHAPMAN VALLEY PARK – Nature Arts**  
Leaders: Yoshie Nagata and Joe Bernaske  
Meet at Western Wood Park located on Royal York Rd. south of Lawrence Ave. W. Free parking available at Royal York Plaza across the road. Loop route, bring art/photography/writing materials and lunch.

- Sun.  
Aug. 8  
2:00 pm  
**GLENDON CAMPUS – Natural and Human History**  
Leaders: John Court and Nancy Dengler  
Meet on the southeast corner of Bayview Ave. and Lawrence Ave. E. We will walk through the Glendon Campus and down into the Glendon Ravine, using paved, gravel and dirt trails. A circular walk.
- Tues.  
Aug. 10  
10:00 am  
**LAMBTON PARK – Nature and Heritage**  
Leader: Madeleine McDowell  
Meet at the intersection of Dundas St. W. and Old Dundas St. (served by Lambton bus #30 or Warren Park bus #55). We will eat lunch at Lambton House and continue south to end at Old Mill subway station. Bring lunch.
- Wed.  
Aug. 11  
6:45 pm  
**GERMAN MILLS CREEK – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Theresa Moore  
Meet at the northeast corner of Leslie St. and Steeles Ave. E. Bring binoculars.
- Sat.  
Aug. 14  
10:00 am  
**HIGH PARK – Oak Savannah**  
Leader: Joanne Doucette  
Explore the native grasses and wildflowers in the rare and unique black oak savannah at High Park . Meet at the main entrance to High Park at Bloor Street West and High Park Avenue. Bring lunch. Hills, some stairs. Washrooms on site. Poison ivy.
- Sun.  
Aug. 15  
2:00 pm  
**THE PORTLANDS – Lost Rivers**  
Leader: Helen Mills and friends  
Meet at the Cherry Beach bus circle (TTC bus #72B). Discuss past, present and future of the Portlands. Walk will end at the Distillery (Front and Parliament). A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.
- Wed.  
Aug. 18  
10:00 am  
**EARL BALES PARK, WEST DON – Nature and History**  
Leader: Phoebe Cleverley  
Meet at Earl Bales Community Centre southeast of Sheppard Ave. W. and Bathurst St. in the park. TTC stop and parking available. Bring lunch and binoculars. Duration: about 4 hours.
- Thurs.  
Aug. 19  
6:30 pm  
**HILLS AND VALLEYS OF HOGGS HOLLOW – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Sandy Cappell  
Meet at the northeast corner of Yonge St. and York Mills Rd. (subway adjacent). A 2-hr. circular walk.
- Sat.  
Aug. 21  
10:00 am  
**MORNINGSIDE PARK – Plants and Fungi**  
Leader: David White  
Meet at the first parking lot down the park road west off Morningside Ave., south of Ellesmere Rd. Bring lunch.
- Sun.  
Aug. 22  
1:30 pm  
**THE DON RIVER FROM BEECHWOOD TO EGLINTON EAST – Birds and Plants**  
Leader: Miles Hearn  
Meet at the northwest corner of Broadview Ave. and O'Connor Dr. Explore the section of the river under the Leaside Bridge, past the Forks of the Don and the Ontario Science Centre, to Wilket Creek Park. There is an interesting pond and red and white pine forest. Walk ends at Leslie St. and Eglinton Ave E. Bring binoculars and dress for mosquitoes. Washrooms at end of walk.
- Tues.  
Aug. 24  
10:00 am  
**MARITA PAYNE PARK – Birds and Butterflies**  
Leader: Carol Sellers  
Meet at the northwest corner of Dufferin St. and Steeles Ave. W. Bring lunch and binoculars. A circular walk.
- Wed.  
Aug. 25  
6:45 pm  
**MASSEY CREEK AND AREA – Evening Ramble**  
Leader: Pleasance Crawford  
Meet at the Kennedy subway station passenger pickup and dropoff area. Walk will end at Warden subway station.

Sat.  
Aug. 28  
10:00 am

**LESLIE STREET SPIT/TOMMY THOMPSON PARK – Habitat Restoration Projects**  
Leader: Ralph Toninger, TRCA  
Meet at park entrance at Leslie St. and Unwin Ave. We will examine the various habitats and habitat restoration projects that exist on this young landscape. Bring binoculars, field guides. This is an easy but long walk on relatively flat terrain, with the option to leave and take the TTP shuttle back anytime. Duration: approx. 2 hrs.

At the request of members, Ralph has generously agreed to show us the TRCA's Habitat Restoration Projects following his lecture on these projects at our September 2009 monthly meeting.

Sun.  
Aug. 29  
1:30 pm

**THE LOWER DON FROM POTTERY ROAD TO QUEEN STREET EAST – Birds and Plants**  
Leader: Miles Hearn  
Meet at the southwest corner of Broadview Ave. and Pottery Rd. Explore the section of the river valley as it passes beneath the Bloor Viaduct and ends up close to the Don Valley Parkway. Five species of asters are commonly here in late summer. Walk will end at Queen St. E. and River St. Bring binoculars. No washrooms.

Tues.  
Aug. 31  
10:30 am

**TAYLOR CREEK PARK AND E.T. SETON PARK – Nature Walk**  
Leader: Melanie Milanich  
Meet at Main Street subway station. We hope to see asters, woodland sunflowers, hooded ladies tresses and fringed gentians. We recommend sturdy shoes and long pants, as we may go off the main path. Bring lunch and binoculars. Not a circular walk.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

### Brief Episodes

I would like to share with you a few special encounters of my birding life. I hesitate to speculate on the amount of testosterone motivating male birds in the spring (cf. review by Mary Lieberman: *The Singing Life of Birds: The Art and Science of Listening to Birdsong*, by Donald Kroodsma, TFN 571-14). However, I witnessed what I can only describe as a red-winged blackbird stag party last spring. As we know, the male red-wings become active in the Toronto area a few weeks before the females return from their southern migration. They are establishing their individual territories and can be quite noisy and belligerent in the process. On this occasion, I was sitting quietly in late afternoon amongst trees near the beach east of Cherry Beach when I noticed a great and apparently congenial gathering of many male red-wings, their scarlet epaulettes gleaming in the sunlight, calling and "chattering". There were so many together, high in the trees, and they seemed to be enjoying their freedom before the females returned, when they would have to undertake the responsibilities of mating, nest-building, and caring for their young.

The closest encounter I've had with a northern flicker occurred in April 2003. There was still plenty of snow sparkling white in the sun through Kings Mill Park. At the top of a hill before coming down into Humber Valley, the flickers were feeding on staghorn sumac fruits from the previous autumn. One was so intent on its foraging that it allowed me to stand within 3 or 4

feet, its brilliant body resplendent in breeding plumage, yellow wing lining flashing as it manoeuvred for a better position on the branch.

When I have time to sit quietly, I sometimes encounter avian family life up close. Once, sitting on a bench beside the West Humber River near Albion Road, I watched a great crested flycatcher flying back and forth, feeding nestlings sheltered in a hole in the tree above my head.

A favourite spot is the large wetland below the Ontario Science Centre, where I've been given the once-over by tree swallows checking out the nesting boxes, and once watched an adult kingbird supervising as its four fledglings practised short flights between the branches of a dead tree. One day as I walked around these ponds tiny froglets were so numerous on the paths I had to step carefully so as not to crush the active little creatures.

An unusual incident happened near Wawa – a number of black forms appeared on the road ahead. They seemed to be dancing in a circle. As I approached I recognized an adult raven instructing 3 young in obtaining a meal from a dead rabbit at the side of the road – a *danse macabre*, perhaps, but all part of nature's cycle.

Phoebe Cleverley

## TORONTO'S "WILD COLUMBINE" AND SOME RELATIVES

That invaluable source, the *Oxford Dictionary*, traces the name columbine from Latin *columba*, meaning dove or pigeon, through medieval Latin *columbina herba* (dove-like plant), Old French *columbine* and Middle English *columbine* to modern English columbine, a virtually unchanged name through its long history. Columbine flowers are said to resemble five clustered doves, hence the name. *Aquilegia*, the generic name, comes from the medieval Latin *aquilegia*, a word of unknown meaning. The common European columbine, *Aquilegia vulgaris* (*vulgaris* means common) does have five petals and sepals that together can be seen, with a little imagination, as dove-shaped. It takes a perhaps inordinate amount of imagination to see doves in our local "wild columbine" *Aquilegia canadensis*. However the Alaska/Yukon/ northern B.C. species, "blue columbine," *A. brevistyla*, does have somewhat dove-like flowers, with the long, upward-pointing purple



*Aquilegia brevistyla*

spurs, at the base of the petals, resembling a dove-like head, neck and upper body, and the rest of the flower, the remainder of the body and wings. In contrast, the Rocky Mountain columbine, Colorado's state flower, *A. coerulea*, has flared petals and sepals and I cannot see any resemblance to a dove at all. *Coerulea* means blue, hence the word cerulean for deep sky-blue. Here we have the perils of using common names. The scientifically named blue columbine (*A. coerulea*) is not called "blue columbine" but another species is! Another example, *The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario* refers to our local columbine as "wild columbine", not a useful name except locally, as there are so many other wild columbine species.

North America has about 23 species of *Aquilegia*, a genus currently assigned to the Ranunculaceae (buttercup family). On this continent the northernmost species range into the southern Yukon and adjacent Alaska (*A. brevistyla*) and the southernmost into Alabama, Texas, and northern Arizona. They all have flowers with five sepals and five spurred petals, many



*Aquilegia coerulea*

stamens and, depending on the species, five to ten pistils. Many species have flowers that are red or yellow or both colours, and many others are white and "blue" (actually more purplish) or only white. Leaves are compound, basal and on stems below the flower stalks.

*Aquilegia canadensis*, our Toronto species, is confined to eastern North America from the southern half of Ontario to Texas and Alabama. Its flowers, 3 to 5 cm long, have red sepals and yellow and red petals. It occurs in a variety of environments from forests (most Toronto occurrences) to clearings, rock barrens and cliffs. It is reported as being locally uncommon in the TFN's *Vascular Plants of Metropolitan Toronto*. It has been recorded in the Humber Valley, High Park, several locations in the Don drainage, near Highland Creek and the Scarborough Bluffs, and in the Rouge Valley. The best place to see it in Toronto is on the southwest-facing slopes of the tableland between the Rouge and Little Rouge north of Twyn Rivers Drive. The ROM guide lists it as blooming

in Ontario from May to July. In past years it has been at its peak in the Rouge in the last week of May and first week of June. This is a good time to visit the Rouge, not only for this columbine but for other species.



*Aquilegia canadensis*

Pick a sunny day and enjoy!

Article and photos by Peter Money

## BIRD OF THE MONTH – EASTERN KINGBIRD

Flocks of our most distinctive flycatcher, the eastern kingbird, arrive here in May from their South American wintering grounds. The blackish head, back, wings and tail contrast sharply with the white under-parts and white edge across the end of the tail. Sometimes referred to as the petticoat, that white edge makes the eastern kingbird readily distinguishable from all other Ontario flycatchers. The “petticoat” can clearly be seen in the accompanying photograph, taken by Peter Money at Ernest Thompson Seton Park. A small red patch in the crown, shown in some field guides, is rarely visible.

In his fascinating book, *Living on the Wind, Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, Scott Weidensaul mentions that the white edge may function like the yellow edge on waxwing tails, a visual signal to guide others of the species to an important food source. We think of kingbirds as insectivores, but during winter migration they change tactics and become largely fruit eaters, travelling with their own species and “following others that have already located a fruiting tree.”

In Ontario kingbirds focus their attention on flying insects. In an article entitled “Dragons and Dragon-Slayers” in *The Best of the Raven*, Dan Strickland and Russ Rutter point out that dragonflies “are able to fly backwards and sideways” which makes them a challenge for predators but “they are no match at all for [the eastern kingbird], a devastatingly effective ‘super predator’... Many predators...rarely catch more than

ten per cent of the prey animals they go after but we have yet to see a kingbird miss its intended meal.” Weidensaul says “During breeding season, kingbirds are ferociously territorial insect-eaters, tackling even dangerous prey like wasps and bees.” The scientific name *Tyrannus tyrannus* is well deserved as anyone who has seen a kingbird attacking and pursuing a hawk or crow can attest.



Eastern kingbird, photographed by Peter Money

Kingbirds favour open areas and often sit on fences and wires while watching for passing insects. Like many species dependent on flying insects, their numbers have declined but kingbirds are still fairly common in southern Ontario, including the Toronto area, from May until August. During that time they raise a single brood. The nest is generally located on a tree branch or in a shrub, sometimes on a fencepost, and often near water. Brown-headed cowbirds are an increasing problem in our area, imposing the raising of their young on many other species, usually to the detriment of the host’s own young. Luckily for kingbirds, however, they are very good at detecting a brown-headed cowbird egg in their nest and will either destroy or eject the egg.

For birds weighing under two ounces, it’s a very long flight through the U.S. and Central America, and on into South America, mainly the Amazon region. They need an early start, so by September most have left our area. Until then, we have about four months in which to observe and appreciate these amazing little tyrants.

Marilynn Murphy

Note: The Toronto Public Library system unfortunately has only reference copies of the excellent books mentioned above, but inexpensive copies are readily available through internet book dealers and sometimes in second hand bookshops.

## A BIRD IN THE HAND

By Theresa McKenzie. Extracted with permission from an article originally published in Richmond Hill Naturalists' *The Bulletin*, No. 486, January 2010.

The highlight of my 2009 was the opportunity to join the volunteer team at the Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station. Tommy Thompson Park is located on the landfill extending south and west from the southern end of Leslie St. at the lake, commonly referred to as the Leslie St. Spit. I'm somewhere in the intermediate range as far as bird ID skills go and figured this would be a great way to accelerate my progress, while contributing to science. Since I work full time, I was able to do just the minimum volunteer commitment of two days a week.



Whimbrel, drawing by Diana Banville

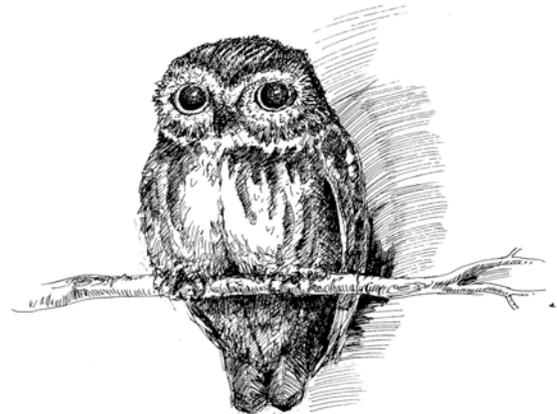
The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority-operated banding station at the Spit is one of several across Canada that make up the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. Data are compiled from all of them into a single database by Bird Studies Canada, making it possible to look for trends. The same protocols are followed at stations located in the U.S. and data are shared across North America. Monitoring is carried out during the spring and fall migration periods, from the beginning of April through mid-June, and then mid-August through mid-November. For the single staff person and the volunteer team, the day begins 40 minutes to an hour before sunrise, with 15 mist nets distributed throughout the study area.

In the spring we'd often get a glimpse of an American woodcock on the trail before sunrise; then as it got a little lighter we'd see a scarlet tanager or two and begin hearing the Baltimore orioles and the warblers. In the fall I had several good sightings of northern saw-whets and one long-eared owl. I also saw my first whip-poor-will, a female that roosted close enough to get good

looks without disturbing her. I also heard the whimbrels going through the third weekend of May.

Once the nets are open, trained volunteers check them every 30 minutes, extracting any captured birds and transporting them back to the banding lab. There, "processing" includes applying a uniquely numbered CWS band to the leg, recording the species, the age class and sex where possible, measuring the wing chord length, the weight, and visually estimating the amount of stored fat. A volunteer records the data. Other volunteer jobs include conducting a one-hour census, wherein the same route is walked an hour after sunrise each day and every bird seen or heard is identified and species counts recorded. At each of two, three and four hours after sunrise a 10 minute point is conducted at specified stations, similarly recording all individuals seen or heard from the stationary point.

Having been constructed entirely from "clean" fill, the Spit extends for 10 km and now provides naturalized vegetation and habitat for many resident species. It is also one of the few remaining sizeable stopover habitat patches for migrating birds along the GTA stretch of the



Northern saw-whet owl, drawing by Diana Banville

Lake Ontario shore. Various restoration projects by TRCA have created native habitats along with structures designed to assist in conserving declining species, while naturalized vegetation contains a large proportion of exotic species brought in as seeds in the fill or arriving later. Native species that are very rare in the region are also represented, including at least two species of orchid. Landfill provides an excellent habitat for snakes with all the protected cavities it contains.

*Continued on next page*

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of nominees to the Board for the year 2010-2011:

President: Bob Kortright  
 Past President: Wendy Rothwell  
 Vice-President: Margaret McRae  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Karen Walton  
 Directors:  
 due to retire in 2011: Nancy Dengler, Elisabeth Gladstone,  
 due to retire in 2012: Marcus Feak, Lynn Miller  
 due to retire in 2013: Alexander Cappell, Karen Walton

Pinky Franklin, Corley Phillips and Barry Mitchell have advised that they intend to step down from the board, creating three openings in October 2010.

TFN by-law No. 1, Section 5(g) provides that "any three members may submit, in writing, to the Secretary-Treasurer by July 15 the name of a candidate accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Such nominations shall be published in the September issue of the newsletter and the names of such nominees shall be added to the list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee." Nominations should be sent to the TFN office, 2 Carlton Street, Unit 1519, Toronto, ON, M5B 1J3.

According to TFN by-law No.1, Section 5(b), "If an election is required it shall be by ballot mailed to all members. Ballots may be mailed to the auditor or deposited at the Annual General Meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. The ballots will be tabulated by the auditor who shall announce the results."

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### BIRD IN THE HAND, *continued from previous page*

We happened upon a "mating ball" containing a huge number of garter snakes last April. We learned that they begin mating "en masse" as they emerge from their winter hibernaculum. There's lots of evidence of beavers, with downed trees obstructing trails and occasionally even the net lanes. They favour the native tree species unfortunately, rarely going for the multitude of European birch. Mink are a challenge for us if they find the nets. The discovery of any predator forces either half or full closing of nets, since it is our job to observe while avoiding any impact on natural processes.

The chance to see many bird species in the hand helped my identification skills immensely. During the fall I conducted the census several times. I really felt the pressure not to miss anything, but of course that's virtually impossible when you're trying to count every bird while the wind is blowing, planes are taking off from the island airport every several minutes, and you have to keep moving (plus of course, I'm still learning).

Someone quoted a line that I could really relate to: "First I couldn't see it, and then it vanished!" I only began learning to extract the birds from nets toward the end. Extreme care is required to ensure that the bird is handled safely. My trainers have been very patient so far. Hopefully next spring I'll be able to do that on my own.

Visitors are welcomed at the station when the park is open (9- 5 on weekends and holidays). The best time to come is fairly early, since the catch slows down later in the morning. The banding station is located about 3 km. in from the park entrance. A gravel driveway signed for the sailing club accesses the banding station as well. A shuttle bus operates from June through Thanksgiving, but don't count on it in early May. A bicycle is the best way to get to the station. You can observe the bander at work and walk the main trails. The net lanes are out of bounds since having people too close impacts the results. I plan to continue there next year. Stop by and say Hi if you're birding down that way.

Note: Tommy Thompson Park is designated by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area, part of a network of the world's most significant sites for birds. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded and about 60 species have bred there. More information is available on the following websites: [www.tommythompsonpark.ca](http://www.tommythompsonpark.ca), [www.ibacanada.com](http://www.ibacanada.com), and [www.friendsofthespit.ca](http://www.friendsofthespit.ca)

## IN THE NEWS

### Encouraging news re Heathercrest Park

Heathercrest Park in Etobicoke is a 5.8-acre property consisting of a grassy area, a mature oak woodlot protected under the Natural Environment section of the Official Plan and a natural swale that feeds into Mimico Creek. Purchased by the Etobicoke School Board in 1957 as a possible site for an elementary school, it was never needed for this purpose, and in 1973 the land was re-zoned as a park. It has been a valued aspect of community life for several generations, so local residents were dismayed to learn, in November 2009, that the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) had declared the land surplus and planned to sell it for housing development.

Despite receiving very short notice, the community came together very effectively in an effort to save their park. They arranged for a certified arborist to study the woodland, which revealed 95 significant trees of greater than 8 in. diameter, one species listed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for preservation, and other species noteworthy for their age, rarity and quality. The forester recommended that the woodland be preserved, stating that it serves as a nature study area.

The community group approached the TFN for support, and we were pleased to attend a public meeting on November 10 at which local residents forcefully presented their case. A petition with over 500 signatures was presented to John Campbell, their school Trustee and Chair of the TDSB. The TFN subsequently wrote letters to him and to Councilor Doug Holyday, expressing our support of the local residents.

We are delighted to learn, therefore, that the TRCA has expressed interest in acquiring this land, effectively protecting and preserving the green space for future generations. Though there is still much work to be done to bring this to fruition, this is encouraging news, and we commend the community group, led by Michael Bielecki, for so effectively working to save this valuable natural area.

### White nose syndrome in bats reaches Ontario

In TFN # 556 (May 2008) we reported on a fungus that has been killing bats in northeastern US since 2006. The fungus disturbs hibernating bats which wake up during the winter when no food is available. More than a million bats have been affected. On April 9, the *Toronto Star* reported that the fungus has now been reported in Ontario for the first time.

### Monarch update Spring 2010

Extracted from Monarch Watch ([monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org)), Monarch Butterfly Journey North ([www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/spring2010](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/spring2010)), University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources ([www.warnell.uga.edu](http://www.warnell.uga.edu)), Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science ([www.mpg.de](http://www.mpg.de)).

By mid-April, a new generation of monarchs was developing across Texas, and southerly winds helped monarchs move northward and eastward. It takes 3 or 4 generations to reach Canada and, when temperatures are warm, monarchs may complete their life cycle in less than a month. However, population numbers are extremely low. The last year has been tough on monarchs: hotter than normal conditions for returning monarchs in the spring of 2009, followed by the fourth coldest summer since 1928 in the breeding areas and less than optimal conditions during the fall migration, resulted in the smallest overwintering population to date. Even though monarchs have a relatively high reproductive rate, there is a limit to how much recovery can be expected in one year. Given the current levels, it will take monarchs at least two, and perhaps more, to recover from the effects of the last breeding season and the winter of 2009-2010.

To further research on monarch migration, last summer scientists Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch and Martin Wikelski, Director of the Max Planck Institute in Germany, succeeded in fitting monarchs with a radio transmitter. A University of Georgia study has found that monarch butterflies that migrate long distances have evolved significantly larger and more elongated wings than their stationary cousins, differences that are consistent with traits known to enhance flight ability in other migratory species. Although monarchs worldwide are not threatened, those with the larger wingspan are to the point that monarch migration is considered to be an “endangered phenomenon.” Not only are monarchs from this population prone to periodic population crashes from storms at the Mexican overwintering site, but female monarch butterflies are on a 30-year decline in the eastern U.S.



Little and Big  
Brown Bats  
drawn by  
Diana Banville

### Toads' earthquake exodus

Extracted from a Mar. 31 media release from The Open University, [www3.open.ac.uk/](http://www3.open.ac.uk/)

Common toads (*Bufo bufo*) can detect impending seismic activity and alter their behaviour from breeding to evacuation mode, suggests a new study in the Journal of Zoology. Researchers reported that 96 per cent of male toads in a population abandoned their breeding site five days before the earthquake that struck L'Aquila in Italy in 2009. The breeding site was 74 km from the earthquake's epicentre. The number of paired toads at the breeding site dropped to zero three days before the earthquake. No fresh spawn was found at the site from the date the earthquake struck to the date of the last significant aftershock. Breeding sites are male-dominated and toads would normally remain in situ from when breeding activity begins to completion of spawning.

This shift in the toads' behaviour coincided with disruptions in the ionosphere, the uppermost electromagnetic layer of the earth's atmosphere. The release of radon gas or gravity waves prior to an earthquake have both been attributed to changes in atmospheric electric fields and currents. Other environmental changes that affect toad behaviour, including lunar phases and changing weather conditions were accounted for. The number of toads breeding at the study site was known to increase during a full moon. However, following the earthquake the number of toads

present during a full moon was 34, in comparison to between 67 and 175 individuals in previous years.

### Birds Follow Their Noses During Migration

Extracted from a 17 Dec. 2009 news release from Max Planck Inst. for Ornithology, [www.orn.mpg.de](http://www.orn.mpg.de)

Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology and their colleagues at Princeton, Pisa and Copenhagen have established in a field study that odours considerably facilitate bird migration and act as a more important navigational cue than the sun and the earth's magnetic field. The researchers followed adult (experienced) and juvenile catbirds during their fall migration. Some birds were moved away from their usual starting point. In both groups, some birds had a saline solution applied to their nasal mucous membranes so they were no longer able to smell properly (their olfactory cells were not permanently damaged) and some had their magnetoreception capacity manipulated by means of strong magnetic impulses. The birds were fitted with radio transmitters so the ornithologists could observe their flight. The non-smelling adult birds selected a different, and less efficient, flight route from the experienced control group and the birds whose magnetoreception had been manipulated. Like juvenile birds, they had to fall back on their endogenous direction-finding skills because they could no longer rely on their sense of smell. Magnetoreception manipulation did not affect orientation in either the adult or juvenile birds.

## Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation Community Stewardship Program

### 'Adopt a Naturalization Site'

This program involves volunteers in on-going maintenance and monitoring activities at naturalization sites throughout the City. Participants work in a team led by an experienced volunteer. Each team visits their site weekly from May until September and can also attend many special events and plantings. Stewardship activities include weeding invasive non-native plant species, watering planted vegetation, mulching, collecting litter, maintaining bird boxes, building habitat brush bundles, and monitoring specific site conditions, such as water chemistry and levels, birds, vegetation and aquatic invertebrates. Orientation and training are provided.

For more information phone: 416-392-LEAF or email [greentoronto@toronto.ca](mailto:greentoronto@toronto.ca)

#### 2010 Stewardship Sites

Don Valley Brick Works (Bayview & DVP)  
Eglinton Flats (Jane & Eglinton)  
Riverdale Farm (Parliament & Gerrard)  
Nordheimer Ravine (Spadina & St. Clair)  
Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat (Parklawn & Lakeshore)

Warden Woods (Warden & St. Clair)  
Riverdale Park East (Broadview & Gerrard)  
Milne Hollow (Lawrence & DVP)  
Spadina Quay (Spadina & Queens Quay)  
Goulding Estate/Taylor Creek Wetland (Dawes & Victoria Park)

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Compensations of an Indifferent Summer

From TFN Newsletter 430, October 1992

In July I spent a week in the vicinity of the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve, on Jack Lake. Against the vicissitudes of cabin rented sight-unseen and miserable weather (two sunny days, the rest gloom-grey when not drenching down), there were balanced the Preserve's hundreds of miles of trails. This time last year in Madoc I encountered a cornucopia of wild fruit; this year, merely a few watery raspberries, with the blackberries still green, iron-hard nubs. On the other hand, the rain summoned an army of mosquitoes along with the wildflowers, and a veritable pullulation of fungi (welcome after the dearth of the past two years).

And the wildlife! A swamp, 4.6 acres, up for auction and home to great blue heron, kingfishers, hummingbirds, evening grosbeaks, mink and muskrats. (Dreams of sudden wealth by which I could keep this "wasteland" a nature preserve -- to the indignation of local hunters whose shell cases proved them the only human users.) Red squirrels, and single delights: a purple finch (*who* so misnamed this "sparrow" dipped in raspberry juice" as the Peterson guide exquisitely has it ?); a grouse presenting her broken-wing routine; a yellow-throat warbler (since many warblers possess yellow throats, but none other a black facemask, why not, more helpfully, the masked warbler?)

One green snake (only my second sighting in 37 years), and pièce de resistance: a painted turtle laying her eggs, the process, from initial dig-in to final cover-over, lasting three-quarters of an hour. When home I phoned Metro Zoo's Bob Johnson and learned, alas, that the eggs, a month late due to the delayed spring and taking 90 days to hatch -- in October -- would probably not survive the cold.

Soft shoulders bore countless deer tracks, but only on one occasion did I perceive across the road a doe and her fawn. Gone instantly! Fate nevertheless was immensely kind. On my last morning, half-an-hour before bus time, I explored a private road lined with lakeshore residences. Rounding the proverbial bend, I came upon a young buck. He continued grazing! I *oozed* past, attempting invisibility, then sidled back. I managed four shots, advancing every time. At each click of the camera he raised his head, scrutinized me

from liquid eyes, then resumed munching. It became somewhat ridiculous! I ended exactly a couple of yards away and he still showed no concern. Mindful of conserving film for further marvels which Fate might drop in front of me, I finally left *him*.

What of other members' encounters? Please let us know.

Eva Davis

### The Weather (This Time Last Year)

From TFN Newsletter 436, May 1993

Beginning on June 18th 1992, a strong disturbance affected southern Ontario. In its wake temperatures plunged with unprecedented arctic air accompanied by a strong upper-level trough. We had the coldest summer solstice on record, at least as far as daytime temperatures are concerned. Toronto downtown reached only 10.8°C for the high on both June 20th and June 21st. At this time, skies remained overcast with strong northerly winds. The wind chill was about 4°C. Reports of snow flurries were heard from the Sudbury/Manitoulin area, and in parts of southern Ontario, and low-lying areas near Toronto had patchy white frost on the morning of June 23rd.

This was the coolest in 101 years, and the cloudiest in the entire 111-year record of sunshine recording in Toronto.

Gavin Miller



Great blue heron at Humber Bay photographed by Lynn Pady

## WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

### May 2009

May brought near-normal temperatures and precipitation. Normal to warm weather early and late in the month was offset by a rather chilly spell from the 10th to 18th. Light frost was widespread. The lowest temperature for the month was 3.4° downtown on the 11th and 0.3° at Pearson Airport on the 18th. Warmer conditions rapidly followed, and it hit 29.1° on the 21st (Pearson).

Monthly mean temperatures were 14.0° downtown and 13.1° at Pearson, almost exactly normal. Dry, sunny weather prevailed, although there were a couple of bouts of heavy rain, notably on the 27th to 28th. Rainfall was slightly below normal at 55.6 mm downtown and 60.8 mm at Pearson (about 10-15 mm below normal). Sunshine was 268.2 hours, about 40 hours above normal but well below 2007 levels.

TFN outing, photographed by Roger Whiteman



### June 2009

In spite of a brief humid spell on the 24th to 25th, June trended surprisingly cool in 2009. Monthly mean temperatures ran about 1-2° below normal (18.1° downtown and 17.5° at Pearson Airport). This was the coolest June since 1993 at Pearson and 2004 downtown. Cool weather was especially evident early in the month and re-established itself at the end of the month with a trough setting up over the Great Lakes. Temperatures briefly rose to 31° on the 24th.

Rainfall and sunshine were not too far from normal: 65.2 mm downtown and 70.2 mm at Pearson Airport. Sunshine hours totaled 239.7 (with normal being 254 hours).

### July 2009

July was exceptionally cool this year, the coolest since 1992 and very strongly deviating from the generally upward trend line of temperatures over the past several decades. A strong trough set up over the Great Lakes, bringing cool weather to the Great Lakes, US Midwest, and northeastern USA. As was the case in 1992, the trough never budged all month, although the last week was a bit closer to normal.

Rainfall was frequent but mostly light until late in the month. There were 11 days of measurable rainfall, which is rather high for summer. The month gave the impression of being wet but it really wasn't; it was considerably drier than the record set in 2008. Most of the rains were shunted to the east side of the trough over New England and the US Mid-Atlantic. Lawns in the central part of the city were starting to yellow a bit before rains became heavier during the more humid last week. These local rains brought precipitation totals to near or above normal. Rainfall totals were 119.5 mm downtown and 84.8 mm at Pearson Airport (about 10-30 mm above normal but, as always in the summer, somewhat inconsistent across the Greater Toronto Area).

As might be expected with the troughiness, cloud cover was higher than normal even when there wasn't an exceptional amount of rain. There were 245.6 hours of sunshine, 30.6 hours below the average of 276.2 hours and the lowest since 2004's 211.6 hours.

As with 1992, volcanic aerosols may have had some connection with the cool conditions in central North America. Several volcanoes in the North Pacific erupted

*continued on next page*

last year with columns high enough to release sulphates into the stratosphere. These were in the Kamchatka and Aleutian areas. The total volume of sulphate is almost certainly much less than that released by Pinatubo in 1991; nonetheless, vivid sunsets have been noted in Toronto and elsewhere this summer. Solar activity also continued to be anomalously low.

Globally, El Niño was lurking in the equatorial Pacific; this actually tends to bring coolish summers to our area even though it is associated with very mild, quiet winters. Warm ocean temperatures (not only El Niño but in much of the subantarctic area) made for a much warmer than normal July globally.

Arctic sea ice was low again with rapid melt north of Siberia (ice was persistent in the Canadian sector, especially Hudson Bay); for a good portion of the month, it was the second lowest recorded (2007 was the lowest by a wide margin). So although it was cool in much of Canada, and Canada is the second largest country in the world, we shouldn't be ready to dismiss global warming as such.

### August 2009

More seasonable temperatures and humidity prevailed in August after the very cool July. As tropical air tried to move north, temperatures rose to near or slightly above 30° on the 10th, 15th, and 17th. These conditions were nowhere near what happened in 2002, 2005, 2006, or

2007 but were much closer to what we are now accustomed to. Accompanying the intermittently muggy weather were frequent showers and thunderstorms. Occasionally severe weather (mostly torrential rain) struck on the 4th, 9th, 11th, and 20th. The 20th brought a spectacular squall line with scattered tornado activity in the early evening. A fatal lightning strike occurred in Brampton on the 12th with what was actually a relatively minor thundershower. A trend toward cooler, drier weather emerged during the final week of August.

In summary, monthly mean temperatures were close to normal (21.5 downtown and 20.6 at Pearson Airport). Rainfall was generally well-above normal; Pearson's 144.0 mm was about twice the average and the most for August since 1992 (154.4 mm). Rainfall downtown was 113.3 mm, the most since 1995 (129.4 mm). Sunshine hours were 258.5 hours – actually about 16 hours above normal.

In spite of the more normal temperatures of August, the summer of 2009 (June to August) was still a rather cool one overall. The mean temperature for the three months was 19.1°, slightly cooler than 2004 and thus the coolest since the volcanic summer of 1992 (a year after Pinatubo erupted and filled the stratosphere with sun-blocking sulphates). In 1992, the summer mean was 17.4°. Rainfall was also well-above normal but notably lighter than 2008.

Gavin Miller

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## COMING EVENTS

If you plan to attend any of the following events, we recommend that you contact the organizing group beforehand to confirm time and place.

### Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks – Toronto Ornithological Club

These outings are aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners are also welcome. They are free to the public and no advance registration is required.

- Sat. May 1, 7:30 am – noon. "Spring Migration." High Park. Leader: Bob Yukich. Meet in the parking area inside the Bloor St. entrance.
- Sat. May 8, 7:30 am – noon. "Warblers." Lambton Woods. Leader: Don Burton. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Dr.).
- Sat. May 22, 7:30 am – noon. "Whimbrel and other Migrants." Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Leader: Steven Favier. Meet in the southerly parking lot at the foot of Kipling Ave.
- Mon. May 24, 7:45 am (all day) "Peak Migration." Toronto Islands. Leader Luc Fazio. Meet at the Toronto Islands Ferry Docks at the foot of Bay St. to catch the 8 am ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring lunch.

### Toronto Entomologists' Association (TEA)

See [www.ontarioinsects.org](http://www.ontarioinsects.org) for summer outings.

### North American Native Plant Society (NANPS)

Sat. May 8, 10 am – 3 pm. Canada's Largest Native Plant Sale, Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd. (Warden and Hwy 7). Free presentations by Rachael Gagnon: 'Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants' and Gavin Trevelyan: 'Prairie Plants for Your Garden'. Information: [www.nanps.org/sale.aspx](http://www.nanps.org/sale.aspx) or 416-631-4438.

**Tommy Thompson Park Spring Bird Festival**

Sat. May 8, 7 am – 4 pm. Leslie Street Spit. Information: [www.springbirdfestival.ca](http://www.springbirdfestival.ca)

**High Park Walking Tours**

2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10:30 am – noon. Meet at the benches across the road south of Grenadier Café. Donations welcomed. Information: 416-392-1748 ext. 5 or [walkingtours@highpark.org](mailto:walkingtours@highpark.org) or [www.highpark.org](http://www.highpark.org)

- May 9. Returning Migratory Birds. Leader: Steven Favier
- May 23. Myths and Legends of High Park, Colborne Lodge staff
- June 13. Spring Babies at the Zoo, Zoo staff
- June 27. June Wildflowers. Leader: Ron Luft
- July 11. Summer Sunshine Photo-Buff Walk. Leader: David Allen
- July 25. From Caterpillars to Butterflies. Leader: Don Scallen
- Aug. 8. Plants of the Oak Savannah. Leader: Jane Schmidt
- Aug. 22. Behind the Scenes at Canstage

**High Park Volunteer Stewardship Program**

Information: [www.highpark.org](http://www.highpark.org), click on VSP icon.

Sun. May 9, 11 am – 2 pm. Native Plant Sale in front of the Greenhouse off Centre Rd. Parking at Grenadier Café.

**Humber Heritage Committee**

Sun. May 9, 1:00 pm. “Aggie’s Wildflowers” Leader: Madeleine McDowell. Meet in Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St. Information: 416-767-7633.

**Rouge Valley Guided Nature Walks**

Last Sunday of each month, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.

Information: [www.rougevalleynaturalists.com/upcoming\\_events](http://www.rougevalleynaturalists.com/upcoming_events) or 416-282-8265.

**The Market Gallery**

South St. Lawrence Market, 2nd floor, 95 Front St. E. Free. Note: Gallery is closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

Until Sept. 11, 2010. Facets of Fame: Portraits by Toronto Photographer Al Gilbert.

Information: [www.toronto.ca/culture/the\\_market\\_gallery.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/culture/the_market_gallery.htm)

**City of Toronto Archives**

Mon. – Fri., 9 am – 4:30 pm. A New Lease on Life: Rental Housing in 20th Century Toronto, 255 Spadina Rd.

Information: 416-397-0778 or [www.toronto.ca/archives](http://www.toronto.ca/archives)

**Lost Rivers Walks**

Sun. May 2, 2 pm. Pedal the Don: Second Annual Bike Hike. Information: [pedalthedon.ca](http://pedalthedon.ca)

Sat. May 22, 2 pm. Russell Creek. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at the entrance to Bathurst subway station. We will walk to Front and Simcoe Streets (2 hours).

**Ian Wheal Walk**

- Mon. May 24, 2 pm. Globe Train: Railway (precursor of Globe & Mail out-of-town trucking) – its origins, routes and history. A late 19th Century phenomenon. Meet at the southwest corner of Bay and Front Streets.
- Sat. June 12, 2 pm. Women’s Land Army Garden March, Oakwood to North Parkdale. Meet at the southwest corner of St. Clair Ave. W. and Oakwood Ave. An 8-km hike.
- Sun. Aug. 29, 6:30 pm. Osler Playground and Gardens Centenary. Meet at the northeast corner of Queen St. W. and Dovercourt Rd.

**Heritage Trees – Preserve our Natural Roots**

Thurs. May 6, 2 – 4 pm. A 52-minute presentation on how a tree is designated as a heritage tree. Edith George.

Downsview Library, 2793 Keele St. (at Wilson Ave.) – Seniors. Information: 416-395-5720.

**Syme 55+ Centre**

Sundays, 10 am – 4 pm. Mini-bus departs 10 am from Jane Park Plaza, 895 Jane St. To register: 416-769-2728.

May 2. Rattray Marsh. Cost: \$10.

June 27. Bruce’s Mill Conservation Park. Cost: \$10.00/\$15.00 non-member.

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your TFN membership expires June 30, 2010. To renew for the year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, and ensure a September newsletter, either

- Cut out this form, which has your address printed on the back, or
- photocopy both sides of this form, or
- print the Membership application form from the TFN website and complete it, ensuring that the name appears exactly as printed on your newsletter.

If your address has changed, please indicate this so our records will be updated. Send the form with your payment by June 30 to: Toronto Field Naturalists, 2 Carlton Street, Suite 1519, Toronto, ON, M5B 1J3

**Contact Information:** (Note: We do not sell or swap our mailing list.)

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your name and address on reverse of this page and modify if necessary.

**Remittance enclosed**

- \$40 Single
- \$30 Senior Single
- \$30 Student
- \$50 Family (2 adults at same address, children included)
- \$40 Senior Family (2 adults 65+)

Plus a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (tax receipts issued for donations)

**I/we might be willing to volunteer in the following areas:**

- |              |           |                    |                      |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Outings      | Promotion | Office help        | Environmental issues |
| Newsletter   | Website   | Finance/Accounting | Youth programs       |
| Other: _____ |           |                    |                      |



Peregrine falcon, photographed at Scarborough Bluffs by Norah Jancik

**Toronto Field Naturalists**

2 Carlton St., #1519  
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Colonel Samuel Smith Park, photographed by Robin Powell