



# Toronto Ornithological Club **Newsletter**

November 2010

Number 209





# Toronto Ornithological Club

Founded 1934

<http://torontobirding.ca>

From September through June, TOC members and their guests meet on the second Monday of each month except the first Monday in May and the third Monday in October. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Room A, of North York Memorial Hall.

Free Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks, led by seasoned birders, are organized by the TOC to destinations in and around Toronto.

The TOC plays a leading role in ornithological activities in the Toronto Area. Programs include the Christmas Bird Count, Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory, Spring Warbler Survey, Whimbrel Watch, and Greater Toronto Raptor Watch.

The TOC is a registered charitable organization engaged in ornithological research and education. A tax receipt is available for any donations exceeding \$10, but not including membership fees.

CRA Charity # 87246 3807 RR0001.

The TOC Newsletter is published 10 times a year, from September to June. Submissions are always welcome, and can be sent to [mark.field@rogers.com](mailto:mark.field@rogers.com) with TOC included in the subject line.

## Table of Contents

Volunteering on James Bay	3
Birds Online	4
The Launch of <i>Niagara Birds</i>	5
Christmas Bird Count	6
Belle Isle Marsh	7
Lincoln's Sparrow Meets Barbed Wire Strand	9
Baillie Memorial Bird Walks: Winter/Spring	10
Outings Report	11
Membership Nomination	11
Volunteer Opportunity	12
Photo and Audio Recording Contest	12
Request for Purple Sandpiper Observations	13
Minutes of the October 2010 TOC Meeting	14

Cover Illustration: Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstone (centre) at Longridge Point, Ontario on James Bay on 9 August 2010. Photo by Jean Iron.

## Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks

**Saturday, December 4, 2010, 8:30 a.m. - all day**  
**West Toronto Lakeshore and Beyond**  
**Leader: Dave Milsom**

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot at Humber Bay Park East (located off Park Lawn Rd south of Lakeshore Boulevard West). Waterfowl and winter birding.

## TOC Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again! The renewal form for 2011 was sent to members by email in October. Please take the time to fill out the form completely, even if there are no changes to your personal information. Dues remain the same as last year, and are listed on the renewal form. Payments can be made by personal cheque or cash, and returned with the completed form at monthly TOC meetings or by mail as indicated on the form. **Renewals are due by December 31, 2010.** Your prompt renewal is appreciated.

## November 8 TOC Meeting

The Evolution of *Niagara Birds* by John Black

*Niagara Birds* was put together over five and one-half years. During that time it grew from the original concept of a small book to its present size of 704 pages. In this talk, John will describe the evolution of the various parts of the book and some of the many interesting choices he and Kayo Roy had to make on the way to its completion. *Niagara Birds* will be available for sale at a cost of \$55, and the authors would be happy to sign your copy upon request.

# Volunteering for Bird Conservation on James Bay

*Text and photos by Jean Iron*



Red Knots in worn breeding plumage at Longridge Point, Ontario on James Bay on 18 July 2010

Many people have asked me how I got to be on Mark Peck's Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) team studying the endangered *rufa* subspecies of the Red Knot at Longridge Point on James Bay. This is how it happened. My fascination with the Hudson Bay Lowlands began in 2001 when I was the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) representative on the Ontario Shorebird Conservation Plan Committee. Here, I met Ken Abraham, a research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). The Committee frequently discussed Polar Bear Provincial Park and the coasts of Hudson and James Bays as critical to breeding and migrating shorebirds. I had never heard of Polar Bear Provincial Park before but was enthralled by mental images of what it must be like. Daringly I asked Ken about volunteer positions with OMNR to help with bird research. In summer 2002 he invited me to join a Canada Goose and Snow Goose banding crew in Polar Bear Provincial Park. Closeness to geese and seeing spectacular wildlife such as breeding Whimbrels, Pacific Loons and Willow Ptarmigan, Polar Bears and Woodland Caribou on Ontario's tundra landscape drew me back year after year. This led to several seasons on Akimiski Island and the western James Bay coast.

My past two summers were spent at Longridge Point on James Bay, most recently, five weeks from 14 July to 17 August 2010. Led by Mark Peck, our crew surveyed the endangered *rufa* subspecies of the Red Knot and other shorebirds. We walked the coast in twos or alone up to 14 km a day searching for knots being pushed towards the shore by the rising tide. Patience and concentration were virtues as we crept up on a flock, close enough to read and record the letter and number codes on flags without flushing the birds. We also made daily counts of Red Knot flocks to determine how many were using the coast as a migratory stop over. Mark took mud samples in favourite feeding areas to find out what the knots were eating.

We counted and aged as adult or juvenile all the shorebirds we saw, noting their plumage. Some shorebirds molt in Ontario on southbound migration such as Hudsonian Godwits, Red Knots and White-rumped Sandpipers, while others do not molt here in Ontario like Short-billed Dowitchers and Pectoral Sandpipers. Noting first dates of juvenile arrival and ratios of adults to juveniles over several years of data collection will give an estimate of breeding success



Adult Red Knot molting from breeding plumage to winter plumage. Photo taken on 29 July 2010.

and recruitment. Aging shorebirds is cool and it hones identification skills in preparation for finding that vagrant Little Stint.

Great fun at the end of each day was the checklist roundup. My job was keeper of the list. We made sure our counts were accurate, knowing that they will be used for shorebird conservation, for example protection of essential staging areas along the coast.

What does it take to volunteer in the North?

1. A good basic knowledge of bird identification, habitats, nesting and migratory behaviour
2. Good physical condition
3. Openness to learning about birds and benefiting from the experience
4. Getting along with a small group of people in close quarters
5. Working hard and sharing the load
6. Initiative and enthusiasm
7. Enjoying wilderness, quiet and isolation
8. Not being afraid of bears
9. Tolerance of mosquitoes and moose flies
10. Roughing it: no cell phones, TV, radio or internet, no electricity or running water, no showers or flush toilets, no refrigeration when temperatures reach 30°C and no heat when it drops to 3°C.



This fresh juvenile Marbled Godwit likely came from the small population that breeds on the west coast of James Bay. Photo taken on 9 August 2010.

Not everyone who loves birds and nature can venture into the North. This is why Ron Pittaway and I bring the North south through reports on *Ontbirds* and photo essays on my website. We will only save this vast wilderness if many know it and care about its future.

See: <http://www.jeaniron.ca/2010/JamesBay2010/index.htm>

**Acknowledgements:** I thank Mark Peck of the Royal Ontario Museum for inviting me to join his team and Ken Abraham of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for encouragement and support of the Red Knot project. Team members in 2010 were Christian Friis, Lisa Pollock, Mike McMurtry, Don Sutherland, Doug McRae and Ray Ford. Communicating via satellite phone, Ron Pittaway crafted posts of our northern adventures with birds and mammals on *Ontbirds* and *Shorebirds* listservs.

## Birds Online

By Mark Field

This month's featured website belongs to the TOC's own Jean Iron (<http://jeaniron.ca/index.htm>). I have been visiting her website for several years, and always find something of interest. There is a good variety of information and photographs on gulls, shorebirds, geese, owls and rarities. Previous articles by Jean Iron as well as Ron Pittaway can also be found on the site, along with reports from her volunteer experiences on Akimiski Island, Longridge Point and the Mingan Archipelago.

One aspect that I appreciate about Jean's website is that few teaching opportunities go unused. Among the resources available are notes on redpoll identification, aging of Great Gray Owls and southbound shorebirds. Where appropriate, photographs are captioned with tips on identification or aging. Pages on the plumage variation in species such as White-rumped Sandpiper and Kumlien's Iceland Gull, and spring dowitcher identification are well illustrated and share useful information not commonly found in field guides.

## The Launch of *Niagara Birds*

By Jean Iron

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday 16 October 2010, I arrived at Lookout Point Golf and Country Club in Fonthill for the launch of *Niagara Birds* expecting to be early. However, people were already leaving to put "the book" in their cars for safe keeping and returning to the large room which was packed with people excitedly talking about the new bird book and mingling.

*Niagara Birds* is beautiful and colourful like the birds it portrays. Its pages are packed with information in 25 chapters, 368 species accounts and over 500 images. Chapters such as the history of ornithology in Regional Niagara, the effects of West Nile virus at The Owl Foundation, birds and the wine industry, hawk migration, and 40 birding hotspots in Niagara Region are just a few of the 25 splendid chapters. We will all learn a lot from 368 species accounts, most illustrated with at least one photo. This was a cooperative effort on both sides of the Niagara River. TOC members made a significant contribution. Mark Peck wrote 27 species accounts and one chapter about Purple Sandpipers, Mary Ellen Hebb wrote a chapter on Peregrine Falcon hacking, David Beadle painted the Ross's Gull on the cover, Sam Barone and I provided photos, and several members assisted with editing and reviewing.

A tradition at bird book launches is obtaining signatures of authors, photographers, illustrators and those who contributed to the book. Most contributors were present. First, the authors John Black and Kayo Roy signed copies with a personal dedication. Then we were off to meet Kay McKeever of The Owl Foundation, Barry Cheriére, Frank and Sandra Horvath, Ross James, Ken Abraham, Mark Peck, Bob Curry, Brandon Holden, Brian Ratcliffe of Thunder Bay, Mike Morgante of New York State and many more to get their signatures on photos or articles. I too spent time signing because 20 of my photos are in the book.

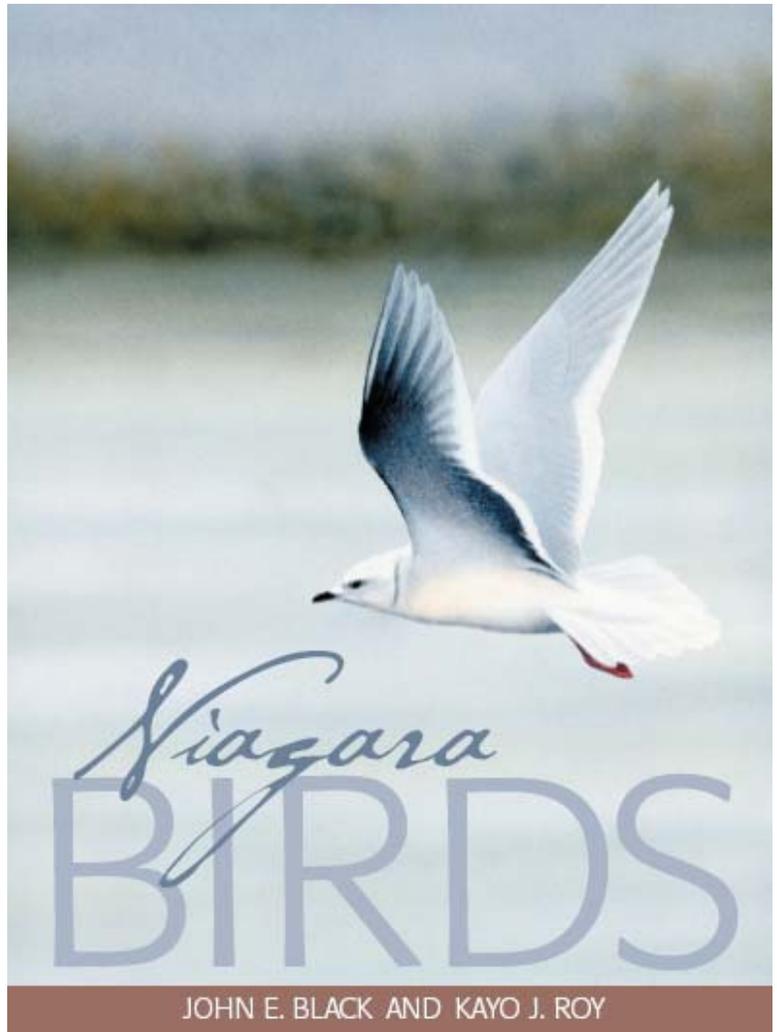
The launch attracted about 425 people. Birders came from all over Ontario and some birders came from New York State because the Niagara Region is part of their study area on both sides of the border. The Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) provided considerable information for the book.

*Niagara Birds* is the culmination of John Black and TOC member Kayo Roy's efforts. They spent more than five years compiling, writing and editing about birds in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the area from the Niagara River west along Lake Ontario to Stoney Creek and along Lake Erie to Long Beach.

Kayo and John thanked the contributors. Judie Shore, who lays out Ontario Birds and OFO News for the Ontario Field Ornithologists, received special recognition for her artistic design and layout of *Niagara Birds*.

Harvie Hagerty of The Trillium Foundation was acknowledged for a generous grant which allows the authors to give free copies to schools and public libraries in Niagara Region, as well as copies to Brock University and Niagara College.

The location of the launch of *Niagara Birds* was perfect, on the Niagara Escarpment facing east towards the famous Niagara River, that special place in the whole world for meeting birding friends, gull watching and more.



Cover painting of a Ross's Gull on the Niagara River by TOC member David Beadle.

Congratulations John and Kayo. They will be at the next TOC meeting on 8 November. To get a signed copy of *Niagara Birds*, bring cash or cheque for \$55.

If you are unable to attend, this website has information about ordering:

<http://www.brocku.ca/tren/niagarabirds>



Author John Black (left), Kay McKeever of The Owl Foundation in Vineland (middle), and author Kayo Roy (right) at the launch of *Niagara Birds* on 16 October 2010. Photo by Janice Haines.

## Christmas Bird Count: We Need Your Help

The 2010 Toronto Christmas Bird Count will take place on Sunday, December 19, 2010. The CBC is a continent-wide tradition that provides important data for monitoring and researching bird population and distribution trends. The TOC organizes the Toronto count and we need experienced birders to assist on some routes. If you can help, please contact Sarah Box at [outings@torontobirding.ca](mailto:outings@torontobirding.ca). Thanks!

## Belle Isle Marsh, Boston, Massachusetts

*Text and photos by Mark Field*

Quietly he rests, though his regal perch sits right in the middle of it all. Not far away, there is a veritable frenzy of activity, dashing to and fro, in seemingly perpetual motion. Still, in an oasis of peacefulness, it is easy to be alone. Despite the commotion, nothing will rouse him. He imparts a feeling of gentle solitude, a respite from the madness around him.

It is early afternoon when I arrive at the boardwalk, and I am aware of his presence almost immediately. My reactions are all too human, a wave of excitement overcomes over me; in the presence of the King, I can't help but turn into a paparazzo. Even this does not faze him, and I marvel at his calmness.

The Belted Kingfisher would remain on his perch for the duration of my visit to the boardwalk at Belle Isle Marsh. This is not the way I'm used to seeing kingfishers; most often they are flying around like a fighter-plane, strafing the quiet with their machine-gun calls. At one point, a female passed within 100m of us doing just that, but he barely cast a glance in her direction.

Out over the creek channel, swallows were foraging restlessly, a relentless feeding frenzy. Occasionally a few shorebirds would fly through the swarm, mostly peeps though a group of Black-bellied Plovers was also observed. Unfortunately, my visit this past September coincided with the peak of a spring tide, leaving few exposed areas for shorebirds to use.



Belted Kingfisher.

The last remaining salt marsh in Boston Harbour, Belle Isle Marsh (<http://tiny.cc/bim>) is recognized as an Important Bird Area by the Massachusetts IBA program. Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Belle Isle Marsh Reservation has protected 152 acres of the marsh since the late 1970s, and was opened as a public park in 1985.

The name Belle Isle seems remarkably fitting, an island of wilderness surrounded by urban development. Originally, East Boston was made up of five islands, but urban expansion and airport development meant the channels were filled and the islands became part of the mainland.



Winthrop, Massachusetts looking NE across Belle Isle Marsh from the boardwalk.

To the northwest of the marsh lies Suffolk Downs, the state's original thoroughbred racetrack, built on mud flats in 1934. The "Blue" subway line runs between the racetrack and the marsh, providing easy access to the area for transit users. Suffolk Downs subway station is a mere 350 m away from the park entrance.

To the southwest, the hustle and bustle of Boston's Logan International Airport is constantly apparent; both its buildings and airplanes can be seen from much of the park. The rest of the surrounding area is residential in nature, complete with an elementary school.

There are several trails throughout the park, some of which are not accessed from the park entrance. There are also two observation towers and a small boardwalk that provide additional viewpoints. An excellent map can be found on the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh website (<http://www.friendsofbelleislemarsh.org/Trails.html>). Their website includes information on high tides and recent bird sightings.



Belle Isle Marsh looking SW from the boardwalk. Note the airport tower on the right.

While planning my trip, I also consulted two other websites – Massachusetts Audubon ([http://www.massaudubon.org/Birds\\_and\\_Birding/IBAs/ibaflashmapnew.php](http://www.massaudubon.org/Birds_and_Birding/IBAs/ibaflashmapnew.php)) and eBird (<http://ebird.org/ebird/canada/eBirdReports?cmd=Start>).

The Audubon site includes a map showing all of the IBAs in Massachusetts, and provides detailed information on why each area is important. Here I learned which criteria Belle Isle Marsh meets to be considered an IBA, threats to its conservation, important species records and its ornithological significance. Herons use the marsh solely for feeding; breeding colonies are located on islands in Boston Harbour. A heron census has been conducted here for over 20 years.

Using bar charts and summary tables I created with eBird, I was able to see which species were likely present during my visit. Over the years, 193 species have been reported to eBird for the Belle Isle Marsh IBA: though only 140 species were recorded in the 12 months prior to my visit. As many as 20 species of shorebirds have been reported to eBird. Possible species that may be of interest to Ontario birders include Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Least Tern, Fish Crow and Saltmarsh Sparrow.



Great Egret and Snowy Egrets.

My two target species were Snowy Egret and Saltmarsh Sparrow. I found twenty or so Snowy Egrets, several of which took flight when a Peregrine Falcon flew low over the area. I was unable to find any of the sparrows however.

An excellent and unique habitat that is easily accessible by public transit, Belle Isle Marsh is well worth the visit should you find yourself in Boston.

## Lincoln's Sparrow Meets Barbed Wire Strand

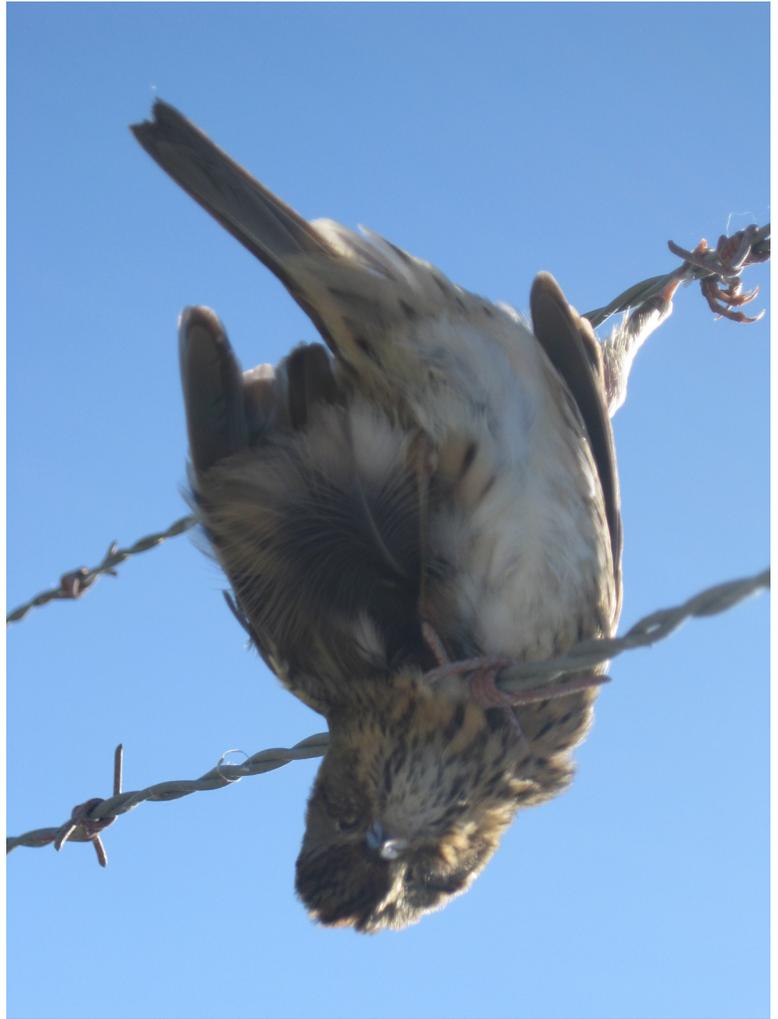
*Text and photos by George Bryant*

This unfortunate Lincoln's Sparrow, the only one I observed this fall, met an untimely and unusual death on or before October 8, 2010. Location was the perimeter fence of the decommissioned Richard L. Hearn Generating Station on Unwin Avenue adjacent to the base of Leslie Street Spit. As you can see from the pictures, the bird's tarsometatarsus became pinched between two wires forming a twist on the top strand of barbed wire. The bird, unable to extricate itself, perished. Note that the barbs themselves were not a factor in the demise.

A Google search on the perils of barbed wire to birds disclosed nothing from North America but it is a recognized phenomenon in Europe. See the following Dutch site for a graphic discussion:

<http://tiny.cc/izsi0>

To housecats, plate glass windows and automobiles, it now seems barbed wire may be added to the list of hazards encountered by naïve migrant passerines.





# Toronto Ornithological Club

## Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks: Winter/Spring 2011 Program

These outings are for those of all abilities who are interested in birds.  
Beginners are welcome. Free to all.

*Note: Outings will take place rain or shine. Outings may involve walking on unpaved trails that may be muddy, steep, overgrown and/or uneven. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and clothing, sunscreen, and insect repellent appropriate to the weather/season, and bring a snack or lunch and something to drink. Participants in outings take part at their own risk and the TOC assumes no responsibility for any loss or injury however sustained. Please do not bring pets.*

**Sunday, January 23, 2011: Sunnyside/ Humber Bay, 1:30 p.m. - sunset**

**Leader: Bob Cumming**

Meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Sunnyside parking lot at the foot of Windermere Avenue off Lakeshore West. Gulls, waterfowl.

**Sunday, January 30, 2011: Durham Region, 9:00 a.m.- early afternoon**

**Leader: Rayfield Pye**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the southwest corner of the Pickering GO Station (Bayly/Liverpool) to car pool if necessary. Waterfowl, gulls, possible winter finches, wintering sparrows and feeder birds.

**Saturday, March 5, 2011: West Toronto Lakeshore to Burlington, 9:00 a.m.- all day**

**Leader: Garth Riley**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot at Humber Bay East (south of Lakeshore Boulevard West at Park Lawn Rd) to car pool. Waterfowl, geese, swans.

**Saturday, April 30, 2011: Leslie Street Spit, 8:00 a.m.- all day**

**Leader: John Carley**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the foot of Leslie St at Unwin Avenue (south of Lakeshore Boulevard East). Early migrants, warblers, sparrows.

**Sunday, May 1, 2011: Oshawa Second Marsh, 8:00 a.m.- early afternoon**

**Leader: Tyler Hoar**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot at GM Headquarters in Oshawa. Exit from the 401 at the Harmony Rd. Exit (419) in Oshawa. Go south on Farewell St. to Colonel Sam Drive. Turn east onto Colonel Sam Drive and follow to the parking lot at the GM Headquarters. Park in the west parking lot close to the marsh. Little Gulls, shorebirds, warblers.

**Saturday, May 7, 2011: High Park, 7:30 a.m.- noon**

**Leader: Bob Yukich**

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot inside the Bloor St entrance to High Park at High Park Avenue. Warblers, orioles, sparrows, hummingbirds.

**Saturday, May 14, 2011: Lambton Woods, 7:30 a.m.- noon**

**Leader: Don Burton**

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at James Gardens parking lot (access from Edenbridge Drive east of Royal York Rd, north of Dundas St West). Spring migrants.

**Saturday, May 21, 2011: Colonel Sam Smith Park, 7:30 a.m.- noon**

**Leader: Steven Favier**

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the southerly parking lot at the foot of Kipling Avenue off Lakeshore West. Possible Whimbrel, other migrants.

**Monday, May 23, 2011: Toronto Islands, 8:00 a.m.- all day**

**Leader: Luc Fazio**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Toronto Islands Ferry Docks at the foot of Bay St off Queen's Quay to catch the 8:15 a.m. ferry to Hanlan's Point (\$6.50 ferry fee for adults; students/ seniors \$4). Later spring migrants.

## Outings Report

**September 26, 2010: Leslie Street Spit (Tommy Thompson Park)**

*Submitted by Jan Doherty*

On September 26, a gorgeous fall day, 13 birding enthusiasts joined Bob Kortright for a full day on the Leslie Street Spit. The outing began under crisp blue skies and light north winds which shifted to the south by mid-morning. Sixty-eight species were observed by the group (although none were seen by all) the most common of which were Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Flocks of migrating Blue Jay flew overhead throughout the day and the yellow goldenrod, amidst purple and white asters, was alive with Monarchs and the occasional Red Admiral and Sulphur. The banding station reported a flurry of activity at the mist nets, the highest this season, with kinglets the most common capture. Those who persevered until mid-afternoon were treated to a detour involving water, mud, bush-whacking and a sizable colony of woolly bears in the lamb's quarters on Peninsula B. Thanks to Bob Kortright for leading the outing and to Sarah Box for the logistics.

## Membership Nomination

### Barbara Hirst

Barbara first developed a passion for birds after a birding walk at Presqu'île Park in 1980. She pursued this interest for a number of years until other things, such as children, intervened. A visit to the Asa Wright Centre in Trinidad in 2001 rekindled her interest. Since then, she has birded not only Toronto and other parts of Ontario but also Central and South America and most recently, Uganda. In 2009, she was in India and decided to go to Desert National Park on the India/Pakistan border in search of the endangered Indian Bustard. It took an entire day and a lot of persistence to obtain the required permit from the local bureaucrats but she was eventually rewarded with a view of this elegant bird in its desert habitat. Barbara's goal for the future is to improve her skills in identifying Ontario birds.

*Nominated by Jim and Petra Grass.*



BINOCULARS | SPOTTING SCOPES | TRIPODS

The **VORTEX RAZOR HD 85MM** stood out as the best value in a high-end scope. Its optical quality was excellent, holding its own against more expensive rivals... they have a winner.

BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST  
Nov/Dec 2009

**VORTEX**  
the force of optics

strong. lightweight. comfortable.  
lifetime VIP warranty.

1-866-343-0054  
**www.vortexcanada.net**

\$2,249 MSRP

photograph by Brandon Holden | www.peregrineprints.com

## Volunteer Opportunity: Toronto Wildlife Centre Anyone Can Encounter a Wildlife Situation Anywhere, Any Time

Orphaned foxes discovered at a dangerous construction site, a hawk injured after flying into a hydro line, a swan that had swallowed a fishing hook, a turtle hit by car, songbirds colliding with an office window...Toronto Wildlife Centre is here to help.

TWC is a registered charity that strives to help people and wildlife through two main avenues: Wildlife Services – rescuing wildlife in distress, and providing medical care and rehabilitation to sick, injured and orphaned wild animals with the goal of releasing recovered patients back into the wild. Public Education – teach people about wildlife and wildlife issues via the Wildlife Hotline, presentations and other educational venues.



Toronto  
Wildlife  
Centre

There are many ways you can ensure that wildlife and people continue to get the help they need. Funded largely by individual members of the public and run mainly by volunteers, TWC needs your help!

TWC now has a team of over 200 volunteers and we are always looking for new people to help in a variety of areas. If you are an enthusiastic, dedicated individual who wants a unique volunteer experience, then volunteering at TWC may be perfect for you! Because TWC provides training to new volunteers, it is not always necessary to have experience directly related to the volunteer opportunity. The right attitude and a strong commitment can go a long way! Our main volunteer opportunities are in Wildlife Care, General Support, Hotline, Foster Care or as a Driver. We are always on the look out for skilled trades and graphic designers.

Please go to <http://www.torontowildlifecentre.com> for more information, or contact:

Ms. Jamie Stephenson, Volunteer Coordinator, 416-631-0662 ext 3211 or [volunteers@torontowildlifecentre.com](mailto:volunteers@torontowildlifecentre.com)

### Birds of Canada

The TOC would like to congratulate member Tyler Hoar on the completion of his book *Birds of Canada*, written with Ken De Smet, Wayne Campbell and Gregory Kennedy. Learn more about this field guide or purchase the book at <http://www.lonepinepublishing.com/cat/9781551055893>.

### Transnational Ecologies Migratory Natures Photograph and Audio Recording Contest

Many in Canada's eastern provinces are beginning to witness sights and sounds of seasonal movements: monarch butterflies are coming through, geese are leaving and the numbers of human observers in the parks have started to swell. Of course such witnessing is the result of many factors - including one's place on the globe, one's cultural and historical contexts as well as changing climates and migration patterns.

Send us your photographs (or recordings) of your sighted (or heard) 'migratory natures'. And send along an explanatory description/story as well. All photos and audio files will be posted on the Transnational Ecologies pages and the best ones will be featured on the NiCHE main page. Transnational Ecologies offers 3 book gift certificates of \$50 each for the best in the following categories:

1. most original photograph
2. most original recording
3. most beautiful contribution of either sound or image.

Please send audio files in mp3 format: they should be small enough to be sent via email.

## Rules

- This competition is open to NiCHE members worldwide. NiCHE membership is free and there is no fee for entering this contest.
- You must be the photographer and owner of the copyright for any image entered. Likewise you must be the sound recordist and owner of any recording entered.
- You can submit a maximum of three images and three recordings to this contest.
- You will retain copyright of your entries at all times and will always be credited alongside your picture or audio file. By entering this competition, you grant NiCHE the right use your photograph or audio file for promotional or educational purposes.
- NiCHE contract employees and members of the NiCHE executive are not eligible
- Results are at the sole discretion of the judges and cannot be appealed. Not all prizes will necessarily be awarded.
- **The deadline for entry is 15 November 2010.**

Please send your entry as an email attachment to: [niche.transnational.ecologies@queensu.ca](mailto:niche.transnational.ecologies@queensu.ca)

## Request for Purple Sandpiper Observations

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is currently looking for detailed reports and observations of Purple Sandpipers in Ontario for a project that will eventually be covered in Ontario Birds. Christian Friis and Chip Weseloh are heading up the project and have asked Ontario birders that if they encounter a Purple Sandpiper this fall and winter, to please submit their observations to [christian.friis@ec.gc.ca](mailto:christian.friis@ec.gc.ca). Observations submissions should include name, date, time, location, and any behaviour observed (ex. feeding or roosting). This project hopes to help better understand the timing of Purple Sandpiper movements, locations of stopovers, and numbers moving through the province. The goal is to figure out whether the CWS can dedicate monitoring efforts to the species.



Purple Sandpipers are one of the last shorebirds to arrive and leave the shores of Lake Ontario each fall. This was one of four birds that stayed until ice covered much of their foraging area in mid December. First winter Purple Sandpiper photographed at Presqu'île Provincial Park, December 2009. Photo by Mark Peck.

**TORONTO ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB  
MINUTES OF THE 779<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

Date: October 18, 2010  
Place: Memorial Hall, 5110 Yonge St.  
Chair: Kevin Seymour, President  
Attendance:

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion* (Carol Horner/Naish McHugh): To approve the minutes of the 777<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TOC held on June 14, 2010.  
*Carried.*

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Gerry Binsfeld	Gwen Binsfeld
Hugh Currie	Alistair McGiven
Jim & Petra Grass	Barbara Hirst
Celia Harte	Zoe Brocklehurst
	Justen Dralle
	Leslie Kinrys
	Janet Chau
Jeremy Hatt	Jessica Lockhart
Jean Iron	Andreas Jonsson
Mark Peck	Antonio Coral

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Kevin welcomed Angela Barbetta and Brett Tryon to the TOC.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer**

- As Bob Cumming could not be at the meeting tonight, Kevin encouraged members to renew their memberships in a timely way, by the end of December. He also advised that Celia was collecting renewals on Bob's behalf this evening.

**Programs**

- Mark Peck advised members that he was seeking an additional speaker for the December members' night, and Andrew Keaveney volunteered to participate. Mark noted that Bill Read, who is involved with the Eastern Ontario Bluebird Trail, would also be participating although he is not a TOC member.
- Jean Iron, who was at their well-attended book launch, advised members that John Black and Kayo Roy will be speaking about "Niagara Birds" at the November meeting. Their book will also be available for sale (\$55).

**Outings**

- Sarah Box announced that the next TOC outing, West Toronto Lakeshore and Beyond, will be led by Dave Milsom on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 8:30 a.m. from Humber Bay Park East.
- Christmas Bird Count (CBC): Sarah reminded members the CBC will be held on Sunday, December 19. She thanked those route leaders who have already responded to her email, and asked those that haven't yet to do so. Sarah is also looking for a route leader for the "York Mills" sector (bordered by Yonge St, the 401, Leslie and Lawrence).

**OTHER ITEMS**

- Kevin announced that Geoff Carpentier would be joining Council as a Member-at-large, replacing Bob Kortright.

- Although the AGM is some months away, Celia encouraged members who might be interested in getting more involved with the Club to consider coming onto Council. She noted people have different skills and participate in the club in different ways, e.g., leading walks, sitting on Council, etc. She encouraged members to speak with her or Kevin or any other Council member for further information.
- Tyler Hoar advised members that there is a renewed interest in building an ethanol plant next to Second Marsh, which would likely put the Little Gull population at severe risk. He also asked members to advise him if they come across dead loons as this information helps to assess the extent of botulism.

## PROGRAM

Mark Peck introduced Alec Dobson, who spoke about "A Rockjumper's Tour of Ghana". A question and answer period followed the presentation, after which Alison Paul thanked Alec on behalf of the TOC.

## SIGHTINGS

Members noted recent sightings.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

---

Celia Harte, Secretary

## Project FeederWatch

The 2010-2011 season for Project FeederWatch begins on November 13. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to visit their website at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/pfw/index.jsp?lang=EN&targetpg=index>. You must have a membership to Bird Studies Canada to participate in this project.



## TOC Contacts

### President

Kevin Seymour  
PRESIDENT@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Vice President

Vacant

### Secretary

Celia Harte  
SECRETARY@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Treasurer

Bob Cumming  
TREASURER@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Conservation

Margaret Kelch  
CONSERVATION@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Editor

Mark Field  
NEWSLETTER@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Records

Tyler Hoar  
RECORDS@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Outings

Sarah Box  
OUTINGS@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Membership

Jeremy Hatt  
MEMBERSHIP@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Programs

Mark Peck  
PROGRAMMES@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Councillor-at-Large

Marg Catto  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE1@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Councillor-at-Large

Geoff Carpentier  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE2@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

### Webmaster

Rob Miller  
INFO@TORONTOBIRDING.CA

<http://torontobirding.ca>