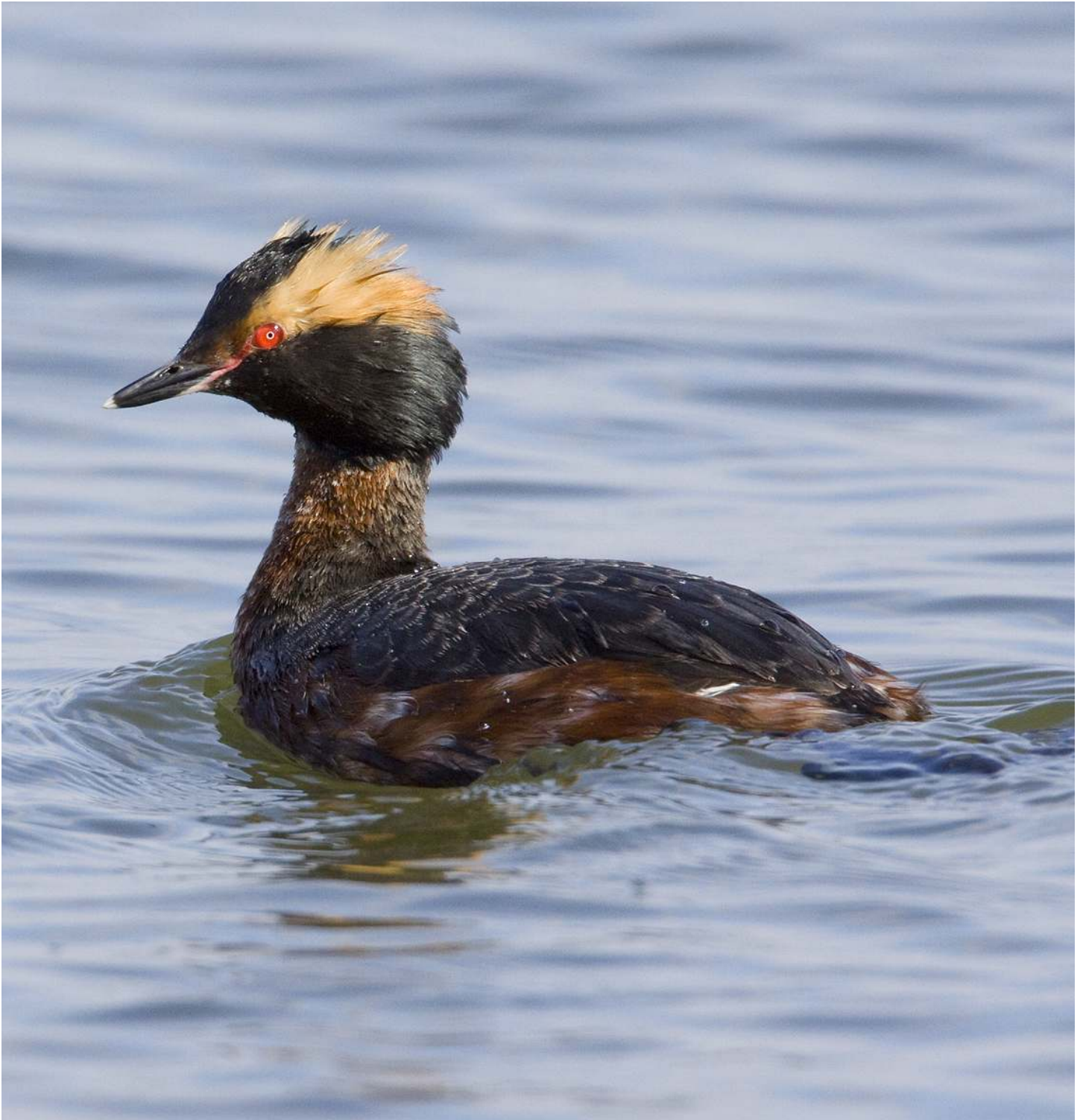




Toronto Ornithological Club **Newsletter**

April 2011

Number 214





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 pm 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 with TOC included in the subject line.

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Cover Illustration: Horned Grebe photo by Mark Peck.

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks

Saturday, April 30, 8:00 a.m. – all day
Leslie Street Spit

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, 8:00 a.m. – early afternoon
Oshawa Second Marsh

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, 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
High Park

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.

April 11 TOC Meeting

Jean Iron presents on the "Summer Birds of James Bay"

The extensive coastal marshes and mudflats of James Bay are of hemispheric importance to breeding and migrating waterbirds. In the summers of 2009 and 2010, Jean was a member of a Royal Ontario Museum crew surveying the endangered rufa subspecies of the Red Knot. In Jean's excellent photographs you will see many of the birds and wildlife of James Bay.

Greater Snow Geese on the St. Lawrence River in Ontario

Text and photographs by Jean Iron



Inspired by reports on Ontbirds of huge concentrations of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlanticus*) at Lancaster, Ontario, east of Cornwall, I went to see them on Monday and Tuesday, 28 and 29 March 2011. Estimates from ground surveys put the numbers between 500,000 and 1 million birds, but aerial surveys will give a more precise count. Numbers of Greater Snow Geese in eastern Ontario in spring have been increasing over the past few decades. However, this spring's numbers were unprecedented and may be caused by colder than usual weather, which made traditional staging areas in Quebec unavailable.

Several hundred thousand Greater Snow Geese were on the St Lawrence River on 28 - 29 March 2011. These were seen from the Second Line Road east of Lancaster and they stretched for several kilometres each side of here. Most Greater Snow Geese are white morph birds. In 1900 the population of Greater Snow Geese was only 2 - 3000 birds. In 1965 the Canadian Wildlife Service estimated the spring population staging in Quebec at 25,400 birds. The highest count was 1,428,000 in 2009. Last spring's count was 824,000. As spring advances the geese will move farther along the St. Lawrence into Quebec. They will depart for their high arctic breeding grounds in about one month.

The main breeding area is in the eastern Canadian Arctic, where the largest colony is on Bylot Island, Nunavut. Greater Snow Geese winter along the U.S. Atlantic coast from New Jersey to South Carolina. Intrigued by the birds with yellow neck collars, I photographed 23 birds and submitted the letter/number combinations to the Greater Snow Goose research team at Laval University in Quebec City who have been studying Greater Snow Geese since the early 1980s. I heard back from Laval promptly with the date and locations where they were banded and the resightings log.

To my question why the yellow neck collars are placed only on females, Marie-Christine Cadieux of Laval University replied: "We put collars on females because of their fidelity to nesting sites. Once they have reached sexual maturity the females almost always go back to their nesting site to nest while the males will follow the female they have chosen on the wintering grounds. Since females are the one incubating eggs it is also easier to track their nests and do studies on individual nesting success."

Words cannot describe the excitement at seeing such numbers of birds in beautiful scenery on the banks of the St. Lawrence River with the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in the background. The sounds were as magical as the sights, and the rush of adrenalin when they spooked into the air was fantastic. For additional photographs, please see: <http://www.jeaniron.ca/2011/snowgeese/snowgeese.htm>.

For more information and to report marked birds, please see: <http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/gon-gsg/>.



(Left) RY23, a female, was banded on Bylot Island, Nunavut, in August 2010.

Photo: 28 March 2011 near Lancaster, Ontario.

(Right) A9A5, a female, was banded on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, in July 2007 and was resighted in Pennsylvania in 2008.

Photo: 28 March 2011 near Lancaster, Ontario.



(Left) 06AR, a female, was banded at Ile-aux-oies, Quebec, in May 2008 and was resighted 11 times during 2008 and 2009 at various locations in Quebec.

TM42, a female, was banded on Bylot Island, Nunavut, in August 2009 and resighted 5 times during 2009 at various locations in Quebec.

Photo: 29 March 2011 near Lancaster, Ontario.

© Jean Iron 2011

Acknowledgements

I thank Brian Morin of Parks Canada in Cornwall for informing us about the Greater Snow Geese and Tyler Hoar for his updates on Ontbirds. Marie-Christine Cadieux of the Departement de biologie & Centre d'études nordiques at Université Laval, Quebec, provided details about neck collars.

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Lefebvre, J., G. Gauthier, M.C. Cadieux, J. Bety, and D. Bertreux. 2010
Population and Productivity Surveys of Greater Snow Geese in 2010
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Hunt_Traps/pdfs/2010_GSGATFLY.pdf

Pittaway, R. 1992. Subspecies and Morphs of the Snow Goose. Ontario Birds 10(2): 72-76
<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2010/snowgooseRF.pdf>



Video of Snow Geese in Eastern Ontario

This five minute video, shot on March 29, 2011 near Lancaster, Ontario, provides a glimpse of what it's like to be near such a huge number of Snow Geese for anyone who was unable to witness it in person. In the first segment, a mink is seen running across the ice where thousands of Snow Geese had been sitting just moments earlier.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FKFyZBvtUA>

Whimbrel Satellite Tracking

The Center for Conservation Biology continues to have active transmitters on four Whimbrels. The first bird to arrive in North America this spring was Hope, who arrived on April 8, 2011. The other three Whimbrels remain in South America, Machi and Goshen in northern Brazil, Chinguapin in Suriname.

You can track the migration of all four Whimbrel at:
http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=369.

Early Spring in Thickson's Woods

By Carol Horner

The sun is shining the sky is blue and the air is warm with the promise of spring. The birds are calling me.

At Thickson's Woods it is quiet. A few people are out enjoying a fine spring day, but the crowds of spring birders have yet to arrive. Migration is, however, already well underway and there is a juxtaposition of new spring arrivals and remaining wintering birds. Over the meadow Tree Swallows chatter quietly as they hawk the tiny insects. Song Sparrows sing from several locations, their song a constant accompaniment as I enjoy my walk. Red-winged Blackbirds call from the marsh, where they are already defending territory.

In the woods a Winter Wren dives for cover in a brush pile as I approach, scolding me with its rattling call. Two Brown Creepers work their way up adjacent tree trunks. Soon they fall silently from the tree like autumn leaves, landing at the bottom of the next trunk where they once again begin their ascent. From high above I hear a Northern Cardinal singing his heart out, "pretty, pretty, pretty" and his mate answers him from the forest floor with her sharp chip note. A White-breasted Nuthatch calls softly nearby. I hear the gentle tapping of a woodpecker and look to see if it will be my first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the season. It is not, and I content myself to watch the male Downy Woodpecker, his plumage fresh and bright, as he forages for food.

It is, however, the Golden-crowned Kinglets that capture my imagination today. The tiny birds dance about in the branches, never alighting for more than a few seconds. Their high-pitched quiet call seems to come from everywhere around me at once as I try to hold them in my binoculars, and maybe even obtain a photo. Their brilliantly coloured crowns steal the sunlight then return it in flashes of orange, red and yellow. Their energy is endless, their movement constant.

Spring migration is progressing predictably. Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos continue to come to the seed that has been left out near the entrance to the woods, but soon it will be their turn to head north to their breeding territories. The

sapsuckers will be here any day now, and then others will follow in droves. Soon we will be enjoying the thrushes, sparrows, warblers, tanagers, orioles and grosbeaks once again, and hoping for a rarity, a Kentucky Warbler perhaps.

Today is April 9th. One month from now we will be at the peak of migration and Thickson's Woods will welcome hoards of migrant songbirds and with them the annual migration of birders as they emerge from winter hibernation and head for the woods, binoculars slung around their necks and smiles on their faces.

Good Birding.



Golden-crowned Kinglet, photo by Carol Horner.

Rollercoaster Year at Midway Atoll NWR

By Mark Field

By any standard, 2011 has been an eventful year for the staff at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Located at the northwestern end of the Hawaiian archipelago, Midway is less than 240 kilometres east of the International Date Line, and some 2,000 kilometres northwest of Honolulu. Now part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, this reserve is home to nearly 3 million birds of 21 species.

Midway Atoll is extremely important for a number of bird species. Seventy one percent of the global Laysan Albatross population nests at the Refuge, over 450,000 breeding pairs. The islands host the largest colonies of Red-tailed Tropicbirds, Black Noddies and White Terns within the Hawaiian archipelago, and the world's second largest Black-footed Albatross colony. In 2004-5, a group of Laysan Ducks was reintroduced to the atoll; this will help prevent extinction should a catastrophe strike the Laysan Island population.

On January 14, 2011, Midway Atoll NWR announced the successful hatching of a Short-tailed Albatross. Staff at the Refuge have been trying to entice Short-tailed Albatrosses into establishing a colony for over ten years. The nesting pair first appeared in 2007, but produced no eggs until November 2010. Hunted to near extinction in the late nineteenth century, the main nesting ground for this species is Torishima, a Japanese island approximately 600 kilometres south of Tokyo. Torishima is subject to regular volcanic activity, raising the importance of having a second breeding colony.



Male Short-tailed Albatross with chick.
Photo by Dan Clark/USFWS.



Female Laysan Albatross named Wisdom with chick.
Photo by Pete Leary/USFWS.

In March, a Laysan Albatross female named Wisdom was observed with a chick. First banded while incubating an egg in 1956, this bird is likely over sixty years old. "She is now the oldest wild bird documented in the 90-year history of our USGS-FWS and Canadian bird banding program" said Bruce Peterjohn, the chief of the North American Bird Banding Program. Conservative estimates suggest that Wisdom had probably raised in excess of 30-35 chicks during her lifetime.

Disaster struck on the night of March 10-11. The 9.0-magnitude earthquake off the Japanese coast near Sendai caused a tsunami which struck Midway at 11:36 p.m. local time. Residents received about four hours advanced warning, and escaped without any injuries. Island infrastructure was also spared, though the airport was closed due to debris on the runway.

Three islands make up the bulk of Midway Atoll: Sand, Eastern and Spit Island. The tsunami completely washed over Spit Island, the smallest at 15 acres. Eastern and Sand Island were 60% and 20% washed over, respectively.

The effect on Refuge wildlife was significant. Only four chicks remain on Spit Island, from more than 1,500 albatross nests. An estimated 110,000 Laysan and Black-footed Albatross chicks have perished this season due to the tsunami and

two severe winter storms. Three Hawaiian Green Turtles washed onto the interior of Eastern Island were rescued and returned to the sea. Bonin Petrels, which nest in burrows, suffered losses in the thousands. Some other seabird species suffered casualties, including adult Red-tailed Tropicbirds, Red-footed Boobies, and Great Frigatebirds.

Refuge staff and visitors helped free approximately 300 trapped or waterlogged birds. Many birds were tangled in the island's vegetation or buried in debris. Others were washed into the lagoon and struggled to regain buoyancy. The vast majority of casualties were albatross chicks and Bonin Petrels, as these species are the only ones in breeding season.

There was some measure of good news. Wisdom and her chick survived the tsunami, thanks in part to her nest being on higher ground. Many of the adult albatrosses were foraging at sea when the waves hit, which kept losses to about 2,000. The Short-tailed Albatross chick was found approximately 30 metres from its nest cup, and returned there by Refuge biologists. The chick's parents had not been seen in the week after the tsunami, and staff will consider hand-rearing this bird if the parents do not return.



(L) Black-footed Albatross chick and (R) Short-tailed Albatross chick, post tsunami. Note the Short-tailed Albatross decoys in the upper right corner, used to encourage this species to colonize Eastern Island. Photo by Pete Leary/USFWS.

Because the loss of adult albatrosses was low, biologists believe the Midway Atoll population could rebound from this event. The impact of the tsunami on Laysan Ducks is currently unknown.

References

Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge <http://www.fws.gov/midway/index.html>.

Additional photographs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/sets/72157626265154692/>.



Seventy water-logged albatross were rescued from the lagoon at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in the aftermath of the tsunami (as of march 14th). Photo by USFWS.



Refuge staff spent a lot of time digging out hundreds of chicks buried in sand and dead vegetation. These two survived. Photo by Pete Leary/USFWS.

Carden Alvar Point Counts: Time Travel for the 21st Century

By Doug Woods and Valerie Jacobs

For a mere 3-hour leisurely drive north of Toronto you can pass through a time warp and step into the rural grassland landscape that once covered a large portion of Southern Ontario.

We did our first Carden Alvar point counts on the Cameron Ranch in 2004, when the point counts were being run by Don Barnett. It was a magical morning, a clear, cool day in late May. We were trucked into the heart of the Cameron Ranch over an alternately wet and bumpy cattle track. We were surrounded on all sides by carpets of wildflowers and stopped regularly for views of Horned Lark, Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow and Eastern Towhee.

After completing the counts we were free to wander the ranch and bird at our own pace.

The contrast between this experience and the common one of birding Wylie Road desperately hoping for a glimpse – just a glimpse – of a Clay-colored Sparrow was palpable. In the interior of Cameron Ranch Clay-colored Sparrows are common and their unique buzzing song sounded constantly around us. Imagine, if you can, a place where Grasshopper Sparrows outnumber Song Sparrows.

Each year is different with the colour of the wildflower carpet changing from purple to yellow to white. The birds change too. One year on the Windmill Ranch we had a Henslow's Sparrow that obligingly sat and sang for the entire group. One year there seemed to be an Eastern Towhee on every bush. Every year there are amazing views of Upland Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe, many species of sparrow and a variety of warblers that seems to change each time we visit, but which included Golden-winged, Yellow and Black-throated Green.



Carden Alvar at Cameron Ranch on May 30, 2009. Photo by Mark Field.

Sure it rains sometimes, or it's really cold, or both, or the Alvar is awash (or all three) and it's *really* early in the morning. Yes, doing a point count takes some practice. But you can button up, wear rubber boots and the work of the counts is shared among 4 to 6 people, at least one of which has done it all before. It becomes easy pretty quickly.

We have seen coyotes. We have seen bears. Occasionally we are surrounded by inquisitive cows. We have found a Field Sparrow nest right on our point count station.

We haven't missed a year of counting on the Carden Alvar since we started. And as long as the counts are happening and we are able, we will take these two Saturday mornings in late May and early June to step out of our regular lives into another world.

You should try it.

The Carden Point Counts have been conducted since 2005, and are coordinated by Dan Bone in conjunction with staff at the Couchiching Conservancy. The TOC and OFO are strong partners in attracting volunteers and organizing the outings.

The counts this year are on May 29 and June 11, for the first time a Sunday and a Saturday! To participate, email Anne Marie Leger (TOC) at fergusonclan@sympatico.ca or Dan Bone(OFO) at dan.bone@xplornet.com.

Hamilton Naturalists' Club



SAT. APRIL 16
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Trivia night

fundraiser

First Unitarian Church, 170 Dundurn St. S, Hamilton

\$10/person or \$70 per team of eight

3 rounds of trivia | prizes | silent auction | 50/50
snacks available for purchase or bring your own

FREE PARKING | EVERYONE WELCOME



Join us for a night of general trivia and loads of fun!

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club is raising funds to permanently protect land in the spectacular Beverly Swamp located in north Flamborough. These lands make up part of the best and largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario providing habitat for countless unusual species.

Together we can help save this special piece of nature.

To register or for more information please call 905.524.3339. Tickets are also available at the door.

INFO: www.headofthelakelandtrust.org | land@hamiltonnature.org | 905.524.3339

Radio Communication for Birders

By Perry Rubin

Trouble communicating over short or moderate distances while on excursions? Got a great sighting for your group? At a remote location with no cellphone reception? There is an answer. I am a new member of TOC and my name is Perry Rubin. My other hobby is amateur radio and I am a Ham. You need a licence to use a VHF or UHF radio, but the regulations now are quite easy. Search out RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) web site for course material or go to Radio World here in Toronto. There is a simple one hundred question multiple choice exam, and knowledge of Morse code is no longer required. If you are interested, just corner me at the next meeting and I would be glad to help you on your way to an exciting and interesting future in Radio. Your world opens up even further with an HF licence, which gives you the world. What makes this even easier is that I am also an Accredited Examiner for Industry Canada, which means I can administer the test. Don't be stuck in the Andes, Antarctica or Zimbabwe without a radio. Radios can be purchased for as little as \$200. What about power? We use the power of a night light (7 watts) to talk all over the world! I can talk to Australia on my rig with the power of a 100 watt light bulb. I hope this will add to your joy of birding! As we say ... 73 de Perry VA3PMR

For more information on amateur radio, please contact Perry Rubin at drbreath@sympatico.ca.

Birding Books for Silent Auction

Monthly Auction
Starting in April

Got any books on birding or related subjects that you would like to donate to the Club? Well if you do then bring them to the April meeting where they will be sold in a silent auction. The plan is to have a silent auction of donated books at each meeting. This will be a great opportunity to recycle books and for members to get some great deals and have some fun!

Please bring your books to the meeting and give them to us at the front table. We will register the books and prepare the silent auction sheets. The books will be on display during the meeting for people to look at and write down their bids. The person with the highest bid will be announced for each book at the end of the meeting. Money collected will go to the club. In my way of thinking, it "sounds" like a good deal.

Jim and Petra Grass
Silent Auctioneers



MAY 14 2011

GO WILD, GO BIRDING!

www.springbirdfestival.ca

Spring Bird Festival
Tommy Thompson Park

Tommy Thompson Park
Toronto's Urban Wilderness

Conservation
for The Living City

Fatal Light Awareness Program

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) is looking for volunteers to help in 4 key areas: drivers, volunteer coordination, fundraising, and directors for our Board. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Susan Krajnc, Program Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator at flap@flap.org.

FLAP, in conjunction with Ecojustice (formerly formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund) and Ontario Nature is currently involved in litigation regarding Consilium Place, a Scarborough office complex. Volunteers with FLAP have recovered more than 8,700 birds at this complex since 2000. The charges, launched last March under Section 14 of Ontario's Environmental Protection Act (EPA), allege that light from the highly reflective window surfaces of Menkes Consilium Place office complex in Toronto have caused the death or injury of birds, including species already in decline. The trial is being held at the Ontario Court of Justice, Court E-8, 1530 Markham Rd, Toronto and is scheduled to continue on April 11 and May 9-11.



Photo by Kenneth Herdy/FLAP.

On March 9, 2011, volunteers laid out close to 2,000 birds that were collected after striking buildings during the fall migration. Birds collected at Consilium Place are not included in this diorama, as they are confiscated from FLAP volunteers by the the building owner. For more information, please visit <http://flap.org/> and <http://www.ecojustice.ca/media-centre/press-releases/legal-action-launched-over-bird-kills-at-gta-office-complex>.

BINOCULARS | SPOTTING SCOPES | TRIPODS

New 2011 Binoculars

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Volunteers Needed for Bird Surveys at Tommy Thompson Park

The Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station is looking for experienced birders to perform bird surveys for the spring Migration Monitoring Program. Candidates must have excellent visual and auditory bird ID skills.

Bird surveys include a census and three point counts. Census is a 60 minute survey along a pre-determined route which begins one hour after sunrise. Point counts are 10 minute surveys at a fixed spot. The first point count is one hour after census ends, and subsequent point counts are one hour apart.

Migration Monitoring runs April 1 to June 9 and August 5 to November 12.

If anyone is interested in participating in the Migration Monitoring Program, please contact Brett Tryon at 416-318-2107 or tpbrs@gmail.com.



Female Tree Swallow banded at Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station, April 29, 2010. Photo by Mark Field.

Membership Nominations

Emile van Nispen

Emile immigrated to Canada from Holland with his parents and grew up in London, Ontario. The Thames River became his favourite playground for exploring and fishing from Fanshawe Lake to Byron. He recalls the day he really took note of some noisy long tailed all black birds. A trip to the library solved the mystery: grackles. He soon purchased his first Peterson Field Guide to Birds, beginning a life long hobby. Emile has an MBA from the University of Western Ontario and with his wife Donna lived for several years in Europe. He worked for a Canadian bank and upon his return to Canada involved himself in project finance. He is semi-retired, and when consulting or travelling abroad is never without a bird guide. Emile and Donna are regulars to Rondeau and Pelee for the annual spring migration and have made the springtime trek to Lake Erie since the 70s. He participated in his first Christmas Bird Count 2010. An avid jogger, Emile can often be found running to the Leslie Street Spit, where he often stops to speak to the birders. He appreciates those meetings and thinks he should get to know more birders.

Proposed by Greg Stuart

Alvan Buckley

Alvan grew up in Newfoundland where he was an avid hiker exploring the coast lines, forests and bogs. As he spent more time in the wilderness he began to learn more about the living things around him and eventually he got his first bird field guide at 9 years. He began spending more time sitting and standing rather than walking during hikes as he observed the birds and other wildlife that he encountered. Finally, in 2009, he met some birders in the local community and joined them in day trips throughout eastern Newfoundland. This is when birding took hold of him and he began pursuing more elusive birds and regularly visiting bird hotspots. He often regretted not having a camera to document what he was seeing and so bought his first camera while living in Montreal. Soon enough he had a website to share his stories and photos with a wider audience. He hopes to develop his knowledge and understanding of ornithology with the Toronto Ornithological Club as well as meet new people. Currently he is working in Toronto for 8 months as part of his engineering program at the University of Waterloo.

Proposed by John Carley.

TORONTO ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB MINUTES OF THE 784th MEETING

Date: March 14, 2011
Place: Memorial Hall, 5110 Yonge St.
Chair: Kevin Seymour, President
Attendance: 53

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion (John Catto/Jan Doherty: To approve the minutes of the 782nd meeting of the TOC held on January 10, 2011.
Carried.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Members	Guests
Jeremy Hatt	Alvan Buckley
Jan Doherty	Allessa Callegarini
	Andreana Callegarini-Gradzik
Greg Stuart	Emile van Nispen
	Emily Rondel

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kevin welcomed Ian Maione, Perry Rubin and Andreas Jonsson to the TOC.

REPORTS

Membership

- Jeremy announced that a New Members' Night will be held at the ROM for those individuals who have become members since May 2010. Invitations will be sent out shortly.
- Jeremy will also be sending the TOC reporting guidelines to members who do not yet have them.
- He also reported that the TOC membership list would soon be distributed to members.

Outings

- Sarah reported that the outing on March 5 at Humber Bay East was "very soggy".
- Next outing: April 30 at the Leslie Street Spit, led by John Carley, starting at 8 a.m.
- Tommy Thompson Park Festival – May 14: Sarah advised that the Toronto Region Conservation Authority has asked for assistance with the Festival. Any TOC members who are available and interested in being a hike leader, staffing an info display, or leading any bird or nature activities should contact Sarah.
- Backus Woods: Following the February presentation about Norfolk County and Backus Woods, some TOC members expressed interest in attending an outing at Backus Woods in late April or early May. Sarah asked for a show of hands from interested members, and based on the interest shown, advised that she would follow up on whether such an outing might be organized.

Conservation

- Margaret Kelch advised members who are interested in participating in the Carden bird counts on one or both of Sunday, May 29 and Saturday, June 11 to contact the new Conservation Councillor, Anne Marie Leger.

OTHER ITEMS

Jim Grass reminded members that he and Petra Grass would be managing a monthly book sale / silent auction at the Club's regular meetings, beginning in April. A table will be set up each month for this purpose, allowing members to "recycle" their bird-related books. (*Note: Members should not bring large numbers of books without first contacting Jim or Petra.*)

Kevin again invited members to meet and eat at the Frog and Firkin (near Yonge & Sheppard) before the monthly meetings.

PROGRAM

Andy Tanas introduced Jessica Lockhart, who made a presentation about "Conservation and Recovery of the Roseate Tern in Canada". A question and answer period followed the presentation, after which David Purcell thanked Jessica on behalf of the TOC.

SIGHTINGS

Members noted recent sightings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

George Fairfield advised members that he has just published his memoirs, *Wild Places in Canada: A Memoir*, which took approximately eight years to write, drawing on his diaries back to 1940.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Celia Harte, Secretary



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