



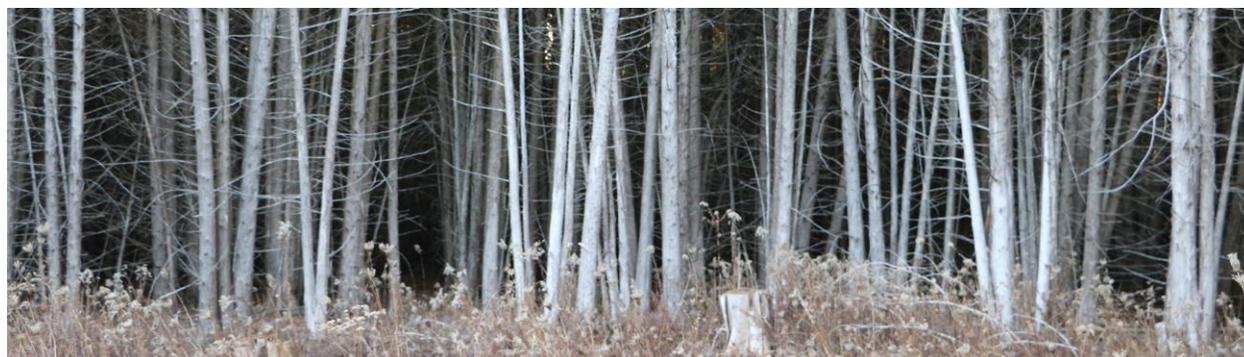
# The Esquesing

Jan/Feb 2016 Newsletter  
Volume 50, Number 3



## In this issue:

❖ President's Message	2
❖ Upcoming Speakers	3
❖ Outdoor Events	4
❖ Did You Know...	4
❖ Results of the 2015 Halton Hills Christmas Bird Count	5
❖ November Pollinators	7
❖ eBird	8
❖ A Page from My Nature Journal...	10
❖ Honeybee Hysteria	11
❖ Introducing Asian Elephants to North America	13
❖ Yes, eastern coyotes are hybrids, but the 'coywolf' is not a thing	15
❖ Newsletter Submissions & Ads	17
❖ Welcome New Members!	18
❖ Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Membership Form	19
❖ Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Meeting Location	20



## President's Message

The story of the season thus far has to be the remarkable warmth of early winter. December seemed more like October than, well, December. The reptiles and amphibians responded. On December 11<sup>th</sup> I found a red-eared slider basking at Cootes Paradise in Hamilton. Two painted turtles poked their snouts above water there as well. On Christmas Eve, record-setting warmth had me scanning for turtles again and I found another slider soaking up the sun on a log in Caledon.

Former club president Andrew Kellman sent me a picture of a leopard frog hopping at Cootes Paradise on Christmas Day and Bill McIlveen reported a spring peeper calling on December 23. No doubt many of you have had interesting fauna and flora sightings as well. I look forward to hearing about them.

Our club's annual Christmas Bird Count on December 28 saw a return to seasonable temperatures and suffice to say, the count was another resounding success. It included, as always, some notable sightings, but I won't steal Bill McIlveen's thunder – see Bill's CBC article in this newsletter. Speaking of Bill, he deserves kudos for running this enjoyable and important event for 25 consecutive years now. The data gathered over that quarter century provides an excellent overview of winter birds in North Halton.

The annual December pot luck dinner was also a success – well attended by members who revealed they were not only naturalists, but gourmands as well. A delectable range of culinary treats were on offer including some mouth-watering stuffed mushrooms. I'd like to speak to the chef please!

Our first meeting of 2016 will feature Kevin Kerr, a club member, and Curator of Birds and Invertebrates at the Toronto Zoo. Kevin will talk to us about the role of modern zoos in conservation. After an absence of several years I visited the zoo over the holidays and was really impressed with the obvious emphasis on conservation and education that now prevails there. I look forward to hearing about this from Kevin.

It would be great to have you join us on a winter waterfowl outing to the Burlington/Hamilton area led by club vice-president Ian Jarvie on Saturday January 16. Check the website for other winter excursions which may include owling, big tree measuring and snow bunting banding.

The weather has cooled down, but with lots of layers and a little initiative, nature exploration awaits. Hope to see you outdoors.

Don Scallen



## Upcoming Speakers

*Meetings begin at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month, September to June. The meeting location is St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, 537 Main Street, Glen Williams.*

### **Tuesday January 12, 2016**

#### **Dr. Kevin Kerr: The Role of the Modern Zoo in Conservation**

Club member Kevin Kerr, curator of birds and invertebrates at the Toronto Zoo, recently presented this talk to the Guelph Naturalists and it was very well received. Here is Kevin's synopsis:

Zoos have a centuries-old history, but their role as conservation centers has only evolved in recent decades. While attitudes toward zoos remain variable, the growing consensus is that they have a responsibility toward the preservation of species and the education of the general public. In this talk, Kevin Kerr will provide an inside peek into how modern zoos manage healthy captive populations, decide which species to include, and endeavor to modify visitors' behaviour for the benefit of the natural world.

### **Tuesday February 9, 2016**

#### **Dr. Hamish Duthie: Bird and Wildlife Photography in Central America**

What better time of year to be spirited away (virtually at least!) to the New World tropics?

Club member Hamish Duthie, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Waterloo provided this synopsis of this talk:

My wife, Lynn, and I have led naturalist trips to Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua since 2001, both with university student field courses and with adults. The presentation will give an account of some of our adventures, especially with watching and photographing the abundant and magnificent bird life. We have stayed at remote jungle lodges, primitive cabins, luxury resorts, and famous tropical research laboratories. At one extreme we have trekked five hours through a remote, steamy Panama rain forest to find a nesting Harpy Eagle, and at the other extreme we have opened our cabin door of a morning to find a beautiful Emerald Toucanet watching us a few metres away. Even after all these years we are still exploring!

### **Tuesday March 8, 2016**

#### **Don Scallen: Pond Life**

Club president Don Scallen has spent an inordinate amount of time peering into local ponds, often well after dark. Much of his talk will focus on the wondrous amphibian breeding activity that animates these ponds in springtime.

### **Tuesday April 12, 2016**

#### **Jack Imhoff: Navigating the Biodiversity of Canada's Stream Corridors**

Jack Imhoff is a National Biologist and Director of Conservation Ecology for Trout Unlimited Canada. He is also one of our club members. Jack has credentials that exceed the limits of a short bio but I'll highlight a few. In 2012 he received the Conservation Pioneer Award at the Latornell Conservation Symposium. (This symposium has been called the most prestigious and well

attended annual conservation conference in Ontario.) He was recognized for his work with freshwater ecosystems over more than four decades. Along with his work with Trout Unlimited, Jack had a career with the Ministry of Natural Resources and he has taught as an adjunct professor at the Universities of Waterloo and Guelph. Suffice to say, Jack knows streams and the remarkable diversity of life they support. This will be an excellent talk.

## Outdoor Events

### Saturday January 16

#### Winter birds and waterfowl, Burlington area

An exciting adventure will be led by Ian Jarvie to scout out such locations and species as, Bronte Harbour (possible Snowy Owl); La Salle Marina for numerous species of waterfowl; Olympic Woods (Tufted Titmouse, sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds and woodpeckers); Hamilton Lift Bridge for Peregrine Falcons and thousands of Long-tail Ducks; other easy-access sites heading towards Stoneycreek. Exact locations and details TBA. Please contact Ian at 905 877 1441 or e-mail [jjarvie@cogeco.ca](mailto:jjarvie@cogeco.ca) for departure time and further details.

## Did You Know...

- ...Have a problem with ants? Flicker stomach contents have been found to contain as many as 3000 ants.
- ...During rapid growth period (June/July) White Tailed Deer antlers can grow as fast as 2 inches per week
- ...Canada Geese are considered an invasive species in both United Kingdom and New Zealand
- ...Carolinian forest covers only about 1% of Canada's landmass but nearly 40% of Ontario's rare species are found exclusively in these forests.

*Please feel free to submit any interesting one liner facts you have come across to newsletter coordinator for future newsletters*



# Results of the 2015 Halton Hills Christmas Bird Count

*W.D. McIlveen*

December 28, 2015 was the occasion for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count in Halton Hills. The weather that day was dull and breezy in the morning followed by snow squalls in the afternoon. Fortunately, the worst of the snow did not happen until after the wrap-up had happened. Temperatures ranged from -5 to +1 degrees during the day. The combined total of field observers and feeder watchers was 35 which the highest participation rate to date.

The results of the tally for Count Day and Count Week are summarized in the attached table. The number of species reported was 56 plus one hybrid (Mallard x American Black Duck) which is very close to the long-term average of 57 species. The total of the birds tallied was 9093 which is less than the long-term average of 9748 but still an increase from the total tallied in 2014. No new species were seen during the 2015 Count leaving the grand total of species seen during the 25 years of counts at 104.

Three species (Trumpeter Swan, Eastern Screech Owl, and Northern Shrike) were not tallied on Count Day but made the final list by virtue of being found within the Count Week period. Ten species were present in new high numbers. These included Northern Shoveler (67), Bufflehead (11), Common Goldeneye (262), Wild Turkey (71), Hairy Woodpecker (33) Northern Flicker (3), Common Raven (7), Swamp Sparrow (2), Brown-headed Cowbird (36) and Pine Siskin (83). Eleven species were present in higher than average numbers while nine species were present in lower than average numbers.



Piliated Woodpecker *Photo by Ian Jarvie*

It is not possible to definitively state what effects the weather on Count Day had on the numbers of birds seen. The stiff breeze likely caused some birds to seek shelter while the snow squalls likely reduced observations late in the day. The mild weather preceding the count period allowed most bodies of water to remain open for longer than usual to the benefit of several waterfowl species. While some species were present in lower-than-average numbers and some were more abundant than usual,

the numbers were consistent with the general trends to increasing numbers of Canada Geese, Wild Turkeys, Common Ravens and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. No American Kestrels were found during the count. This is a species that appears to be in decline.

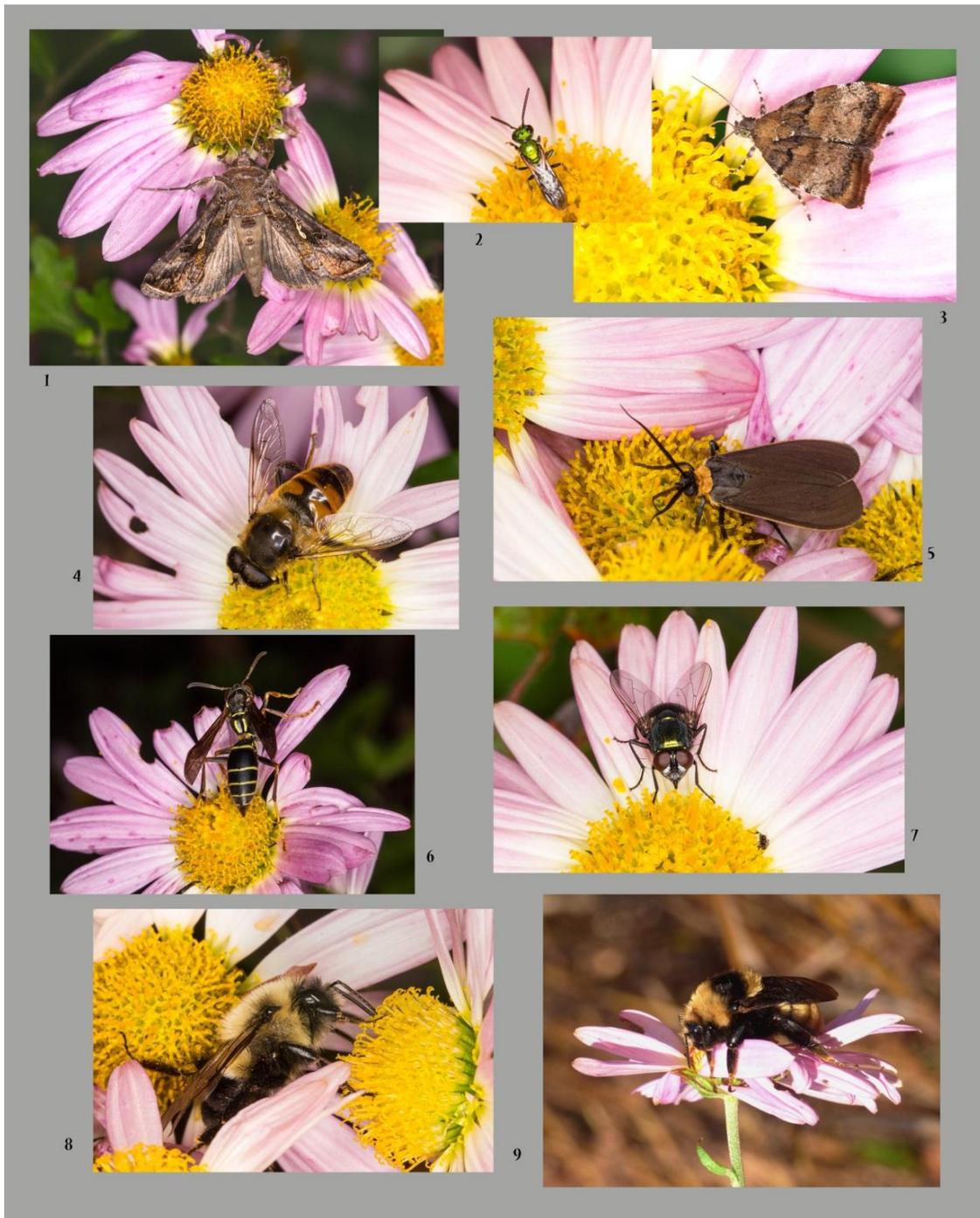
The contributions of the participants in the 2015 Count are recognized: Jenny Adams, Geraldine Adams, Doug Biggar, Judy Biggar, Ray Blower, Dilys Bowman, Lorysa Cornish, Mark Cranford, Billy Digout, Tara Digout, Kim Dobson, Ramona Dobson, Pam Forsythe, Moyra Hamilton, Ian Jarvie, Marisa Jokelainen, Aaron Keating, Megan Kenzie, Hannah McCurdy-Adams, Bill McIlveen, Irene McIlveen, Cecil Morris, Johanna Perz, Fiona Reid, Dawn Renfrew, Don Scallen, Dan Schuurman, Neil Sider, Rick Stroud, Janice Sukhiana, Patrick Tuck, the Uwazie's, George Wilkes, and Marg Wilkes

Many thanks once more to Larry May for arranging access to the Maple Lodge Farms property and to the Halton Police Department for use of their boardroom during the wrap-up.

Results of the 2015 Christmas Bird Count at Halton Hills									
Species	Total	Avg.	Low	High	Species	Total	Avg.	Low	High
Canada Goose	4058	2219.2	229	4577	Northern Shrike	CW	3.8	1	19
Mute Swan	6	5.1	1	15	Blue Jay	89	147.0	60	333
Trumpeter Swan	CW	1.3	1	2	American Crow	344	351.5	55	692
American Black Duck	31	21.4	2	67	Common Raven	7	2.1	0	4
Mallard	736	531.6	26	1636	Black-capped Chickadee	399	623.5	243	1211
Northern Shoveler	67	5.7	2	8	Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	8.4	1	22
Green-winged Teal	1	1.5	1	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	64	41.7	19	82
Bufflehead	11	1.4	1	2	Brown Creeper	1	3.0	1	8
Common Goldeneye	26	5.9	1	22	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	6.5	0	30
Common Merganser	42	11.7	1	66	American Robin	77	43.3	1	266
Ruffed Grouse	1	3.5	0	8	Northern Mockingbird	1	2.1	0	5
Wild Turkey	71	22.5	0	55	European Starling	696	1886	485	3490
Bald Eagle	3	1.4	0	3	Cedar Waxwing	43	80.3	3	240
Northern Harrier	3	3.3	0	11	American Tree Sparrow	264	292.7	55	837
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	4.1	1	11	Song Sparrow	1	5.6	1	22
Cooper's Hawk	1	2.8	0	7	Swamp Sparrow	2	1.0	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	35	61.5	39	117	White-throated Sparrow	1	2.2	1	10
Rough-legged Hawk	8	6.9	1	45	Dark-eye Junco	525	268.7	91	693
Ring-billed Gull	98	151.6	1	2010	Northern Cardinal	70	58.3	22	101
Herring Gull	19	37.1	1	222	Red-winged Blackbird	1	3.8	1	12
Rock Pigeon	262	584.2	210	1455	Brown-headed Cowbird	36	2.9	0	10
Mourning Dove	225	645.1	191	1385	Purple Finch	10	11.5	1	52
Eastern Screech Owl	CW	1.9	0	6	House Finch	62	200.2	23	456
Snowy Owl	1	0.3	0	1	Pine Siskin	63	16.4	1	58
Belted Kingfisher	3	2.8	1	7	American Goldfinch	499	201.0	37	470
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	5.1	0	18	House Sparrow	284	595.3	196	1316
Downy Woodpecker	68	49.3	21	91	Hybrid Mallard X Black	1	1	1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	33	17.8	2	32					
Northern Flicker	3	1.3	0	2	Total Birds	9093	9748	3131	15507
Pileated Woodpecker	2	3.3	0	12	No. Species	56		41	57

# November Pollinators

*Fiona Reid*



These species and a few more were all seen during the day on November 5, 2015. They were feeding on old-fashioned chrysanthemums in my garden. A modern variety with tightly folded petals was of no interest. 1. Common Looper, 2. Halictid Bee, 3. Apple Leaf Skeletonizer, 4. Drone Fly, 5. Yellow-necked Scape Moth, 6. Paper Wasp, 7. Greenbottle Fly, 8. Common Eastern Bumble Bee, 9. Northern Amber Bumble Bee. *Photos 1-8 Fiona Reid, 9 Don Scallen*

# eBird

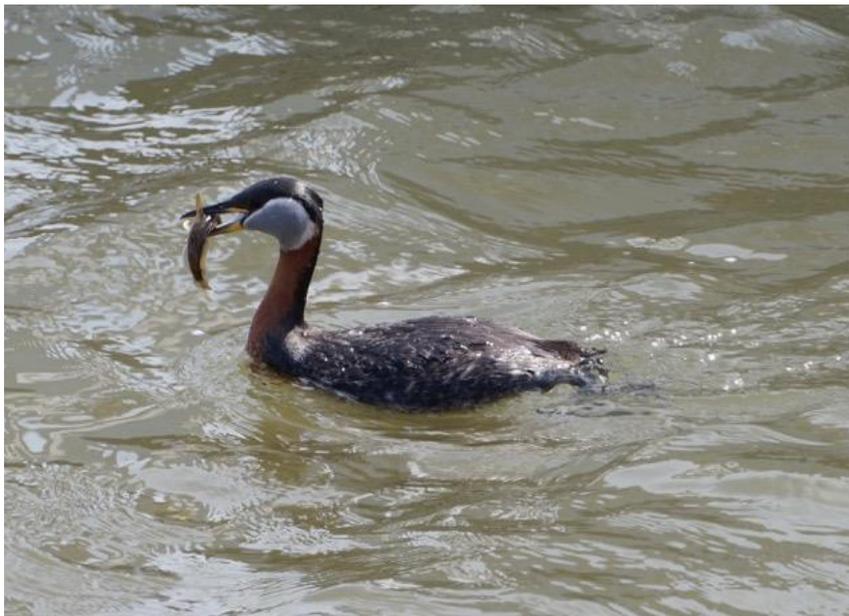
*Ian Jarvie*

A year or so ago I moved into the modern age and started to use an online resource called eBird to log my bird sightings. eBird is managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and is essentially a database where individuals worldwide record their sightings of birds. To date, thousands of birders worldwide have logged millions of sightings since its inception in 2002.

Individually, it provides an easy way to record your sightings, manage your checklists, and investigate what birds are being seen in any geographical area of interest. Cumulatively, this provides an invaluable resource for scientific study and conservation efforts.

To use eBird, simply create an account with a username and password, and off you go. And it's free!

Submitting your observations is easy, just go to Submit Observations (not surprisingly!) and follow the prompts, starting with location, followed by date, start time, outing duration, and then, on the next page, list the species you have seen. The birds are listed in taxonomic order, and there is a search function which makes finding your bird easy. Enter the number of that particular species you have seen, and you can even drag and drop your photographs too.



Red Necked Grebe at Bronte Harbour *Photo by Ian Jarvie*

Since the information you submit is entered into a scientific database, data quality is extremely important, and the people at eBird are nothing if not rigorous. For example, eBird detects when you record a "rare bird". It automatically flags the species as being rare based on location, time of year, or numbers seen. It then asks for further substantiation - photographs are great for this. The photograph doesn't have to be Nat Geo front page quality either, even poor ones showing details of the

bird are enough. The rare bird submission is then vetted by local expert birder volunteers, and if considered valid, it is then entered into the main database. But even if the reviewer does not consider it substantiated, it still shows on your personal checklists.

After you have entered your sightings, you can go to the My eBird tab and view your life list and manage your checklists, which are sortable by species, date seen, location and a number of other parameters. You can even download your checklists or share them with others via email.

Because lots of other birders are doing the same as you, there is a huge database of information which is extremely useful to us birders. To investigate what has been seen and where, navigate to the Explore Data tab and click on one of several links and explore sightings by region, hotspots, species or bar charts. There are even interactive maps!

An additional feature is the ability to sign up for rare bird alerts, and you will receive emails telling you where and when rare species have been seen in the particular region you are interested in.

If you want an easy way to log and manage your sightings, and a great way to investigate what birds are around you, eBird is a wonderful tool. But perhaps more importantly, by contributing your birding efforts you can individually play a small but important role in “citizen science”. Collectively, birders worldwide are building a hugely important scientific database being used by, for example, educators, biologists, and conservationists.

So, next time you grab your binoculars and bird book and head out, why not think about using eBird when you get home?



*Tundra Swan Photo by Ian Jarvie*

## A Page from a Nature Journal...

### Nature Journaling

Have you ever thought of keeping a Nature Journal!

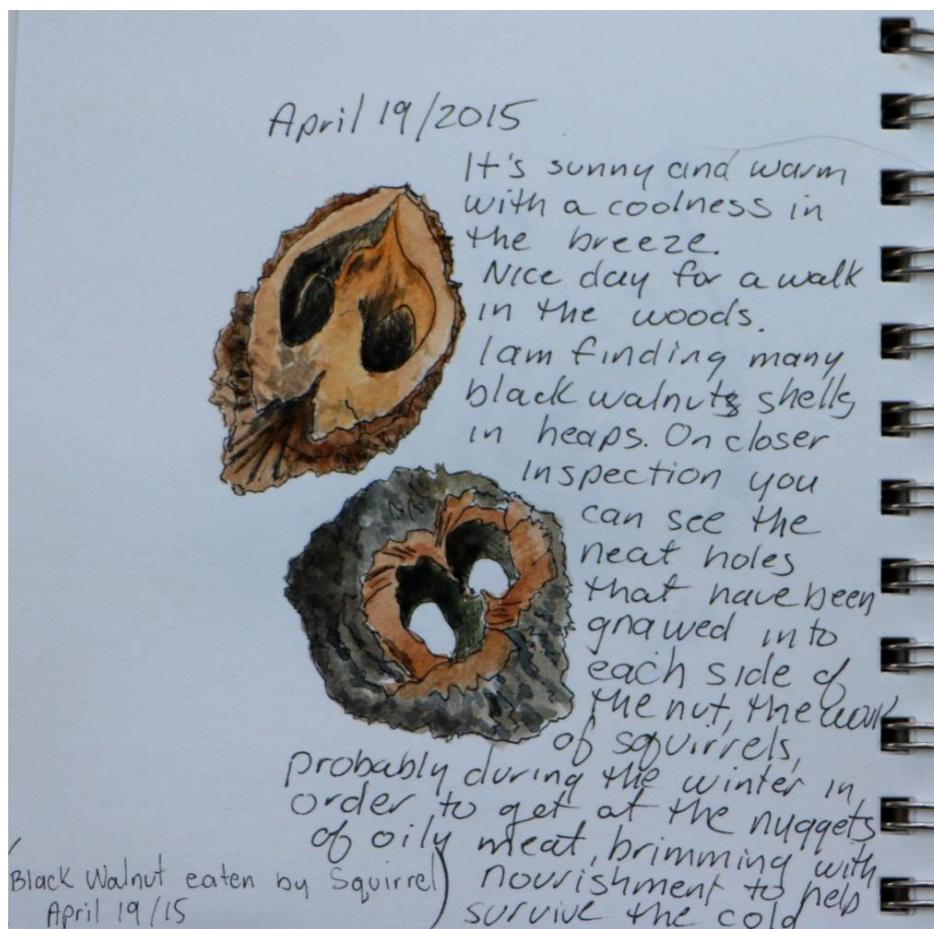
Keeping a nature journal is a fun way to record what we “notice” in our exploration of a field, forest or even at the edges of a parking lot. It helps to open our senses to what is around us every moment of every day.

It can be accompanied by photos, doodle art or more elaborate painting. It can be spontaneous poetry, prose or even pressed leaves. Styles vary greatly and creativity is unlimited.

Start your Nature Journal today and feel free to submit a page for our next newsletter to share with other nature lovers. You can remain anonymous if you wish.

Send submissions to [rkdobson@bell.net](mailto:rkdobson@bell.net) (newsletter coordinator)

Here is a sample from the nature journal of Ramona Dobson



# Honeybee Hysteria

*Don Scallen*

On the CBC recently a well known garden show host stated that he hadn't seen a honeybee in two years, implying that the familiar pollinators were in trouble. A Toronto garden show host was blunter: "Honeybees are endangered" she declared.

The reality is different. Honeybees are not identified as a species at risk by either the Ontario or Canadian governments. And they're not likely to be any time soon. It would be a little like designating Holsteins as endangered. Honeybees are non-native and though feral populations exist, most are domiciled in apiaries and managed as domesticated animals. But perhaps that's beside the point. Shouldn't we be concerned about the honeybee decline regardless?



*Photo by Don Scallen*

Perhaps - if they were indeed in trouble - but in my experience honeybees are common, even abundant. I find them just about everywhere I look. They have remained consistently reliable visitors in my yard for decades. In early spring they appear, as if by magic, on scilla and crocus blossoms. They continue to visit through the summer and my asters beckon them in the fall.

My perception that honeybees are doing just fine is supported by a Toronto Star article published on December 11, 2015. With the headline "Honey biz flying high" the story reports that "honey production is up to its

highest level in nine years." Rod Scarlett, executive director of the Canadian Honey Council offered this quote in the article: "The industry is successful and is growing. It really is a positive message."

The concern of the garden show commentators isn't surprising. Reports of colony collapse disorder and of parasitic mites have been media staples for years. This, understandably, has led many to believe that honeybees are headed for oblivion.

We need to remember though that honeybees in apiaries are prone, as all domesticated animals kept in close quarters are, to the ready transmission of disease. They are not about to disappear though. Of relevance is something a Dufferin County beekeeper told me when I was researching an article on pollinators. He said, predictably, that proper care of the hives was crucial for the health of domesticated honeybees. Like all beekeepers he experienced winter losses, but his best practices kept those losses manageable.

More concerning than the erroneous belief that honeybees are disappearing is the misperception held by most people that honeybees are *the* pollinators, or at least *the* most important pollinators that we have. Thus their reputed decline must portend a pollination apocalypse.

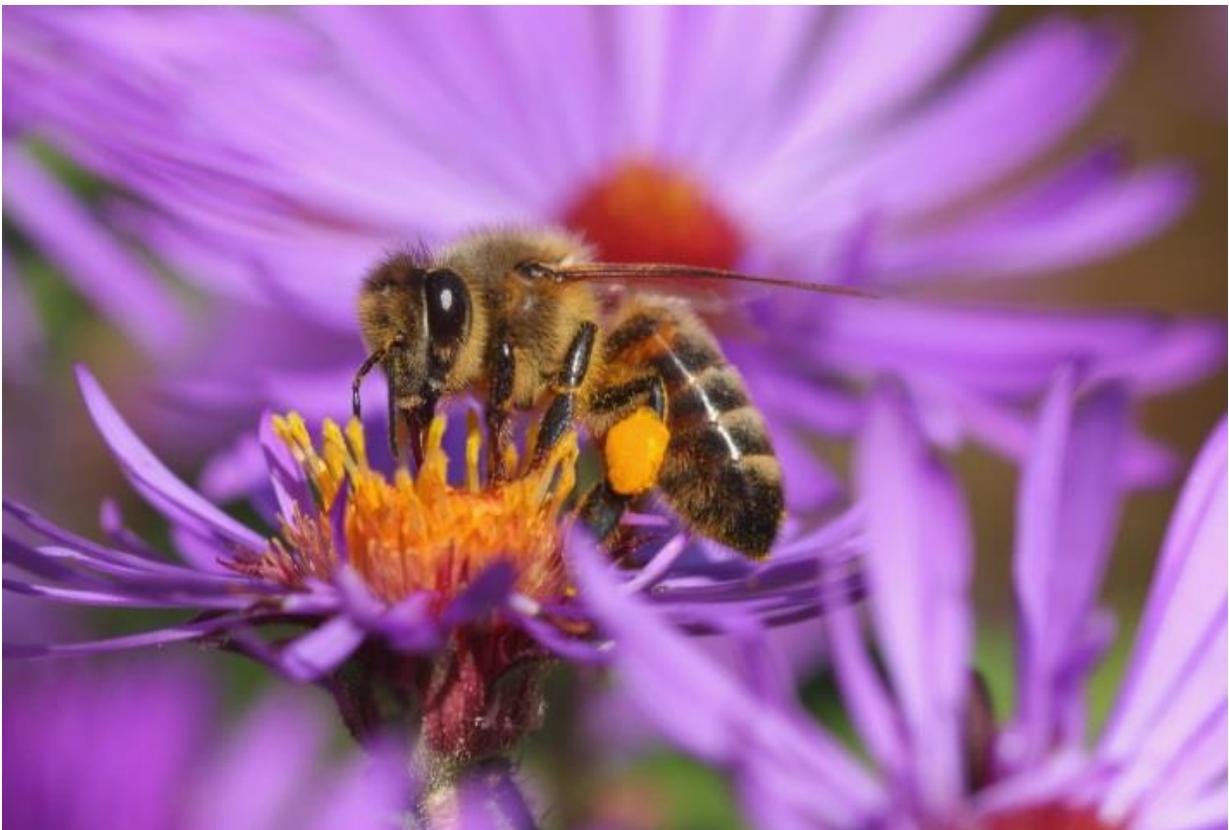
North American plants though, got along just fine prior to the arrival of honeybees on European sailing vessels. Their needs were met, and continue to be met, by hundreds of species of wild bees, wasps, flies, moths and beetles. These wild pollinators also service orchards and cropland and, in aggregate, are far more important pollinators than honeybees.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not saying that honeybees are unimportant. They do serve as the primary pollinator of some fruits and vegetables, especially in places where we've bulldozed most of the natural vegetation and replaced it with vast monocultures. Honeybees are critical for the success of the almond crop in California for example.

In general, the coverage of honeybee "decline" has been woefully superficial and sensational. This coverage has stoked our fears and what could be more visceral than the fear of our food production going down the toilet?

Ironically some entomologists consider the honeybee an invasive species. It is, after all, an introduced, widespread and abundant insect that competes with native pollinators for available resources – in this case nectar and pollen. This view is worth considering. And with some native bumblebee species declining, it would be worthwhile to at least entertain the notion that honeybees might be one contributing factor.

The concern surrounding honeybee "decline" and the lack of attention given to our native pollinators, is regrettable. I hope that people, including garden show hosts, will become less "honeybee-centric" and more aware of the fact that honeybees are only one cog in the great pollinator machine.



*Photo by Don Scallen*

# Introducing Asian Elephants to North America

*Emily Dobson*

Humans evolved in the late Pleistocene Epoch, and over the past 13,000 years they have impacted the natural world, exerting evolutionary pressures. This is especially pronounced in North America with the extinction or endangerment of much of the megafauna including mastodons, llamas and giant sloths, because of their vulnerability to overexploitation, habitat loss and pollution. In a paper entitled “Pleistocene Rewilding: An Optimistic Agenda for Twenty-First Century Conservation”, Donlan *et al.* (2006) recommend that conservation efforts focus on species and species-interactions from a historical perspective because of the importance of Pleistocene megafauna and the changes that occurred because of their eradication. The authors propose the reintroduction of species to fill the roles of the megafauna lost so that ecosystems can reach the balance that existed prior to human existence.

The conservation methods suggested are unique compared to the typical strategy of reducing biodiversity loss. Instead, the authors believe that ecosystems should be recreated as they were before human pressures drastically changed the natural world. First, captive species native to North America would be reintroduced to parts of their range where they are not considered native. Because species ranges have only been observed and recorded in the last couple millennia at most, current conservation strategies do not take longer-term views of what is native. The Bolson tortoise (*Gopherus flavomarginatus*) is an example of a species that was likely distributed throughout the Chihuahuan Desert until it was extirpated from 90% of its range in the late Pleistocene. Only 25 years ago, a proposal was made to reintroduce the species to an area outside its more recently known range, however it was rejected on the basis of being potentially invasive. And that brings us to the next goal: re-wilding.

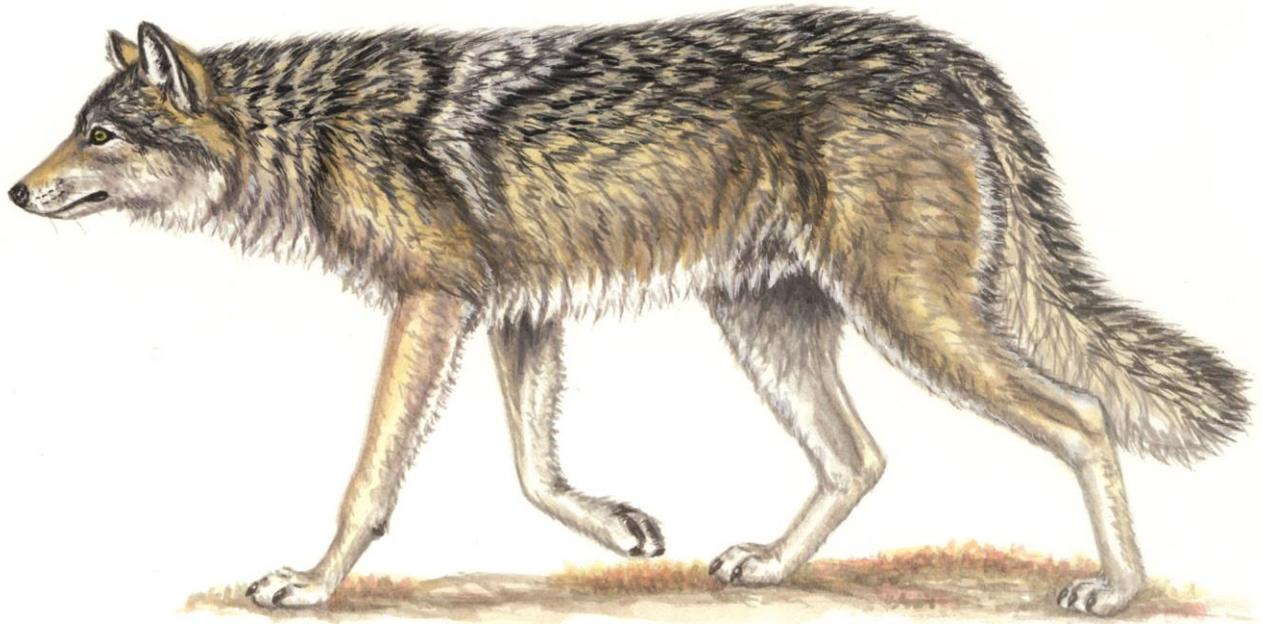
To ensure that the natural equilibrium is maintained, the authors recommend that non-native species serving functions previously performed by extinct megafauna from the Pleistocene Epoch be introduced to North America. This would regenerate the food web and keep animals such as the Bolson tortoises in check, for example by establishing predators. The order Proboscidea presently contains one living family, Elephantidae, but none live in North America. In the Pleistocene, there were five species present. With Asian elephants being more related to mammoths than African elephants, this species could be a contender for rewilding North America. Grasslands throughout the continent are rapidly returning to forest, therefore elephants could maintain these important ecosystems. Another benefit is reducing the global threat of extinction to elephants by providing new habitat, and improved local conservation.

A few instances of reintroductions have been successful, such as wolves to Yellowstone, and condors to Arizona, but there is the potential for catastrophic consequences. Evolution has allowed niches to be filled since the eradication of the megafauna, making it absurd to think that African Elephants can play the role of Mammoths. Humans alone exert enough pressures through harvesting and habitat fragmentation and degradation that we hardly need more apex predators.

Overall, this study offers an interesting perspective on conservation through a historical approach. While it is important for biologists to have an understanding of the species that used to inhabit the earth and the historical impacts of humans on ecosystems, recreating past ecosystems may have adverse effects. With today's natural world in such a crisis and the rapid loss of biodiversity, we should focus our attention on gaining knowledge about present ecosystems in the hopes of stopping declines in species numbers. Once species numbers are stabilized the conversation of applying molecular techniques such as cloning to bring back the species that have been lost may begin.

## References

Donlan, C.J. *et al.* 2006. Pleistocene rewilding: an optimistic agenda for twenty-first century conservation. *The American Naturalist*, 168 (5): 660-681.



Wolf Artwork by Fiona Reid

# Yes, Eastern Coyotes are Hybrids, but the ‘Coywolf’ is not a Thing

*Roland Kays*

*Research Associate Professor of Wildlife and Scientist at NC Museum of Natural Sciences, North Carolina State University*

Reprinted with permission from **THE CONVERSATION**

Talk of “coywolves” – a blend of coyote and wolf – is everywhere. There is a [PBS special](#) called Meet the Coywolf, a recent [article in the Economist](#), and it is now trending on Facebook. The media really love this new animal name.

There is no doubt that there is a hybrid canid living in the eastern US, and that it is the result of an amazing evolution story unfolding right underneath our noses.

However, this is not a new species – at least not yet – and I don’t think we should start calling it a “coywolf.”

## **Genetic swapping**

What creature are we talking about? In the last century, a predator – I prefer the name “eastern coyote” – has colonized the forests of eastern North America, from Florida to Labrador.

New [genetic tests](#) show that all eastern coyotes are actually a mix of three species: coyote, wolf and dog. The percentages vary, dependent upon exactly [which test](#) is applied and the geographic location of the canine.

Coyotes in the Northeast are mostly (60%-84%) coyote, with lesser amounts of wolf (8%-25%) and dog (8%-11%). Start moving south or east and this mixture slowly changes. Virginia animals average more dog than wolf (85%:2%:13% coyote:wolf:dog) while coyotes from the Deep South had just a dash of wolf and dog genes mixed in (91%:4%:5% coyote:wolf:dog). Tests show that there are no animals that are just coyote and wolf (that is, a coywolf), and some eastern coyotes that have almost no wolf at all.

In other words, there is no single new genetic entity that should be considered a unique species. Instead, we are finding a large intermixing population of coyotes across the continent, with a smattering of noncoyote DNA mixed in to varying degrees along the eastern edge. The coywolf is not a thing.



A dark eastern coyote is caught on camera trap as it hunts with his better-camouflaged pack mate in North Carolina. This German shepherd-like coloration probably comes from a dog gene that moved into the coyote gene pool in a hybridization event ~50 years ago. eMammal

All eastern coyotes show some evidence of past hybridization, but there is no sign that they are still actively mating with dogs or wolves. The coyote, wolf and dog are three separate species that would very much prefer **not** to breed with each other. However, biologically speaking, they are similar enough that interbreeding is possible.

This genetic swapping has happened more than once in their history; [one study](#) showed that the gene for black coat color found in North American wolves and coyotes today (but not in Old World wolves) originated in dogs brought to the continent by the earliest Native Americans. Some prehistoric hybridization event transferred the dog gene into wild wolves and coyotes.

Read the full article on The Conversation

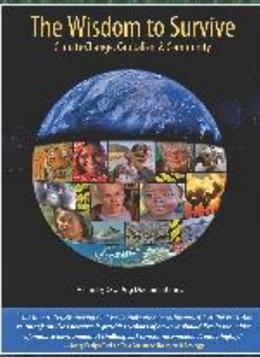
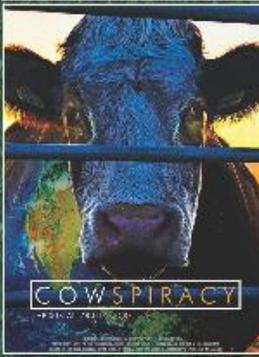
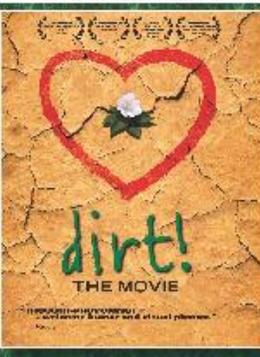
<https://theconversation.com/yes-eastern-coyotes-are-hybrids-but-the-coywolf-is-not-a-thing-50368>

# Newsletter Submissions & Ads

The Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club newsletter is published five times a year – every two months except July and August. Contributions from members are welcome.

# Halton Hills Ecofilm Fest

presented by  
**P.O.W.E.R. & The Town of Halton Hills**  
 Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources [www.powerhalton.ca](http://www.powerhalton.ca)

<p><b>THURS., JAN. 21</b></p>  <p><b>The Wisdom to Survive</b>  <small>Protecting Our Planet &amp; Our Future</small></p>	<p><b>THURS., FEB. 25</b></p>  <p><b>COWSPIRACY</b></p>	<p><b>THURS., MAR. 24</b></p>  <p><b>WATER ON THE TABLE</b></p>	
<p><b>THURS., APR. 28</b></p>  <p><b>dirt!</b>  <small>THE MOVIE</small></p>	<p><b>THURS., MAY 19</b></p>  <p><b>Queen of the Sun</b></p>	<p><b>2016</b></p> <p><b>EVENING FILMS</b>          Start at 7:30 p.m.          John Elliott Theatre          9 Church St.          Georgetown, ON  <a href="http://www.haltonhills.ca/Theatre/index.php">http://www.haltonhills.ca/Theatre/index.php</a>  <b>\$5.00; \$2.00 Students</b>          @ Library Box Office</p>	
			

# Announcing our new Business Card, Front and Back View

	<p>Mail contact: Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Box 115, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1</p>	<p><b>Activities include:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor meetings (Sept-June)</li> <li>• Nature walks</li> <li>• Big tree surveys</li> <li>• Nesting bird monitoring</li> <li>• Guest speakers</li> <li>• Moth/butterfly monitoring</li> <li>• Plant inventories</li> <li>• Salamander nights</li> <li>• Bimonthly newsletters</li> <li>• Christmas bird count</li> </ul>	
<p>Website: <a href="http://www.hnpnc.com">www.hnpnc.com</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@hnpnc.com">info@hnpnc.com</a></p>	<p><i>"Connecting with Nature"</i></p>			

Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club, Box 115, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1  
Charity Registration number: 869778761RR0001

<u>Executive</u>			<u>Appointments</u>		
President:	Don Scallen	(905) 877-2876	Membership:	Valerie Dobson	(905) 828-1729
Past President:	Fiona Reid	(905) 693-9719	Publicity:	Johanna Perz	(647) 289-9386
Vice-President:	Ian Jarvie	(905) 877 1441	Ontario Nature Representative:	Johanna Perz	
Secretary:	Emily Dobson	(647) 996-6512	Newsletter:	Ramona Dobson	
Treasurer:	Janice Sukhiani	(647) 408-9515	Webmaster:	John Beaudette	
Roving:	William McIlveen, Kevin Kerr, Nikki Pineau, Anne Fraser		<u>Stewards:</u>		
			Crozier Property:	Marg Wilkes	
			Hardy Property:	Ray Blower	

Membership for one year: \$30 Single; \$40 Family  
The Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club is an affiliated member of Ontario Nature.  
[www.hnpnc.com](http://www.hnpnc.com) | [info@hnpnc.com](mailto:info@hnpnc.com)

## Welcome New Members!

Evelyn Cumming

# Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal or \_\_\_\_\_ New Member(s) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Membership renewal fee**

from September through to August \_\_\_\_\_ Single (\$30.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$40.00)

**New members' fees from sign-up date:**

December through to August \_\_\_\_\_ Single (\$22.50) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$30.00)

March through to August \_\_\_\_\_ Single (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$20.00)

June through to August \_\_\_\_\_ Single (\$ 7.50) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$10.00)

Do you have any suggestions for programs or field trips?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
.....

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

(**must** be signed by anyone planning to attend field trips or other outdoor activities)

In making this application, I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required to participate, and that I accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation and will not hold the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club or its representatives responsible.

In consideration of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club accepting my application, I hereby and forever release and discharge the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club and its officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising as a result of my participation in these trips and declare that this is binding upon me, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigned.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please fill out this form and bring it in to next indoor meeting or mail with payment to:

Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club,  
P.O. Box 115,  
Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4T1

# Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Meeting Location

St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church,  
537 Main Street, Glen Williams

