

The Esquesing

Jan-Feb 2017 Newsletter Volume 51, Number 3



Talks and Walks

Indoor Events:

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, October to June at St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, 537 Main Street, Glen Williams, unless stated otherwise.

Tuesday January 10, 2017

Dr. Thomas Nudds: Science, Art and Advocacy: Challenges for Conserving and Managing Species at Risk

Using the example of the Bobolink, listed as threatened in Ontario, and other at-risk vertebrate species, this talk will focus on the consequences of scientific uncertainty for species' status assessments. The important role of stakeholders and "citizen science" to reduce this uncertainty and improve the scientific basis of status assessments will be emphasized.

Tuesday February 14, 2017

Mark Peck: The Ethics of Nature Photography

Mark Peck is an Ornithology Technician with the Royal Ontario Museum. He will talk to us about how to respectively interact with photographic subjects. Mark notes that this presentation ties in with the world's most prestigious nature photography competition currently being presented at the ROM: The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition.

Outdoor Events:

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Winter birds, waterfowl and possible strays or vagrants

Leaders: Fiona Reid and Ian Jarvie

We will explore the Burlington region of Lake Ontario, possibly heading to Oakville or Hamilton depending on what has been reported in recent days. A good variety of ducks, grebes and swans are likely, plus a few hardy songbirds, and with luck some rare winter visitors. Dress warmly - the lakeshore will be cold! Please contact Fiona (fiona.reid7243@gmail.com) for departure time and car-pooling information.

President's Message

A new year encourages reflection. For naturalists that might include pondering the state of the world's wildlife. At our annual potluck dinner, it was a shock to hear Fiona Reid's sad accounting of the plight of rhinos in Africa. In one park alone in South Africa, an average of one rhino per day is poached. Park employees are often complicit and can win a payoff large enough to purchase a house. Clearly this killing is unsustainable and rhinos are in imminent peril of extinction in the wild. John Beaudette spoke up after Fiona about the decline of another iconic African animal – the giraffe. These are truly dark times for many of the world's creatures.

And yet all is not bleak. Here in Ontario, there are animals that are expanding their ranges, reclaiming territory they were driven out of in earlier times. Fishers are repopulating the south and large charismatic birds including ravens, bald eagles and sandhill cranes are as well.

We can lend our voices and our dollars to organizations like the World Wildlife Fund, Nature Canada and Ontario Nature to advocate for the wildlife and habitats that we cherish. And on a personal scale, we can make our own properties more welcoming to wildlife through naturalization.

I think the highest virtue naturalists can aspire to is the enhancement of biodiversity locally and beyond. This noble quest may not save the rhinos but may help stem the tide of extinction that threatens our planet.

Part of saving what we have, is learning as much as possible about our fellow creatures. At our January meeting, Professor Tom Nudds of the University of Guelph will address the need for the best science possible to assess the status of at-risk species in Ontario. Then in February, Mark Peck of the ROM will examine the issue of nature photographers who cross the line when seeking the ultimate wildlife image. We shouldn't, of course, harm what we love.

My thanks to Bill McIlveen for coordinating the club's 26th annual Christmas Bird Count. Bill's report in this newsletter documents its resounding success.

The next scheduled field trip will seek waterfowl and possibly rare wintering songbirds in Oakville and Burlington. And looking beyond winter, watch for news of two springtime walks organized by John Beamish to honour his partner, and our dear friend Valerie Dobson, who passed away last month.

I wish everyone a wonderful 2017. May the natural world be a balm for your spirits throughout.

Don Scallen

Preliminary List of Butterflies at Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park

By W.D. McIlveen and Don Scallen

The Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park is located in the northern portion of the Region of Peel within the Town of Caledon. It is situated immediately south and east of the Village of Cataract straddling the Credit River. The park covers 282 ha. Some of this is natural forest, notably along the Credit River ravine. A large portion of the eastern portion of the park is relatively open grassland that was created during former use of that area for agricultural purposes. The presence of this grassland area is unique among provincial parks in Ontario as it is the only park with a portion of the lands to be actively maintained in grassland. Such habitat is important for a range of wildlife including endangered bird species. Many details regarding the ecological classifications and other background information are included in the management plan for the Park [Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1990].

In 2016, the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club initiated contact with Ontario Parks regarding the management of the Park [Scallen, 2016]. In particular, the Club was concerned about whether the grassland areas would be protected and maintained for endangered birds and plants. As a consequence, members of the Club undertook frequent visits to the Park during 2016 to determine what plants and animals were using the Park. A strong focus was placed on the birds in the grassland during the breeding season but records were maintained of any plant or animal species that were observed and identified. Based on this database, it was decided that a preliminary list of the butterflies could be compiled. The list of butterflies included in this report was compiled from this data set along with some supplemental information.

The majority of the records were made in 2016 but a few additional species were included based on sightings made in recent years by one of us (D.S.). Visit dates included June 4, 18, 20, and 25, July 2 and 19, August 14, September 12, October 4 and November 2, 2016. As well, about a dozen species are included based on records collected by Credit Valley Conservation staff during habitat assessment studies carried out in the area in 2016. Visit dates by CVC included May 16, June 4, 16, 22 and 28, July 5, 12, and 20 and August 5.

Most of the records were obtained from within the current park boundaries. As well, some records were obtained from sites along the Credit River to the north. These were deemed relevant because these additional sites were only about 500 metres from the Park and thus were within easy flight range for many butterflies. In addition, these sites are within the area proposed to be added to the park management zone [Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1990].

Papilioninae

Papilio polyxenes

Papilio glaucus Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Lastern riger Swanowtan

Black Swallowtail

Pieridae

Pieris rapaeCabbage WhiteColias philodiceClouded SulphurPieris oleraceaMustard WhiteColias eurythemeOrange Sulphur

Lycaenidae

Lycaena phlaeasAmerican CopperLycaena hyllusBronze CopperCupido comyntasEastern Tailed BlueGlaucopsyche lygdamusSilvery BlueCelastrina luciaSpring AzureSatyrium liparopsStriped Hairstreak

Nymphalidae

Vanessa virginiensisAmerican LadyEuphydryas phaetonBaltimore CheckerspotJunonia coeniaCommon BuckeyeCoenonympha tulliaCommon RingletCercyonis pegalaCommon Wood-NymphPolygonia commaFastern Comma

Polygonia comma Eastern Comma Lethe eurydice Eyed Brown

Speyeria cybele Great Spangled Fritillary

Polygonia progneGrey CommaMegisto cymelaLittle Wood-Satyr

Danaus plexippus Monarch
Nymphalis antiopa Mourning Cloak

Phyciodes cocytaNorthern CrescentLethe anthedon anthedonNorthern Pearly-EyePhyciodes tharosPearl CrescentLimenitis arthemis astyanaxRed-spotted Purple

Boloria selene Silver-bordered Fritillary

Limenitis archippus Viceroy

Polites themistocles

Limenitis arthemis astyanax Red-spotted Purple
Limenitis arthemis arthemis White Admiral

Hesperiidae

Carterocephalus palaemon Arctic Skipper

Erynnis lucilus Columbine Duskywing Anatrytone logan **Delaware Skipper** Euphyes vestris **Dun Skipper** Thymelicus lineola European Skipper Poanes hobomok **Hobomok Skipper** Erynnis juvenalis Juvenal's Duskywing Ancyloxypha numitor Least Skipper Pompeius verna Little Glassywing Polites mystic Long Dash Skipper Wallengrenia egeremet Northern Broken-Dash Northern Cloudywing Thorybes pylades Polites peckius Peck's Skipper Epargyreus clarus Silver-spotted Skipper

Tawny-edged Skipper

The observed butterflies occurred within the flight periods typical of the respective species. Most records were made in the early summer when most butterflies are active. The latest-flying species included Clouded Sulphur, Cabbage White, Orange Sulphur, Eastern Tailed Blue and Monarch, with representatives of each species still flying in October.

The Forks-of-the-Credit Park is notable with respect to Monarch Butterfly which is a "Species of Special Concern" in Ontario's Species at Risk Act (SARA) owing to its unusual long-distance migratory behavior and overall population decline in recent years. More recently (November 2016) it was classified as a federally 'Endangered' species by COSEWIC. Their host plant, the Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), is very common throughout the grassland portion of the Park and thus the park offers considerable potential for supporting the species during all life stages. The maximum count of Monarch at Forks-of-the-Credit was 14 on September 12. While this number is not large, it should also be recognized that the overall population of Monarchs in Ontario and many other parts of North America in 2016 was low. The number at the Park may be respectable within this context. Maintenance of Common Milkweed should be considered within the management strategy of the grasslands within the Park.

During the visits to the Forks-of-the-Credit Park, records of plants in flower were also collected. These plants in flower represent potential sources of nectar for the butterflies and for other insects. This data is available but has not been tabulated here. Generally, the records indicate that nectar sources were not limiting for the butterfly species present.

Acknowledgements

The collection of records and assistance in assembling the data by Leanne Wallis and David d'Entremont from CVC is gratefully acknowledged.

References Cited

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources 2016. Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park Management Plan 1990. Queen's Printer for Ontario.

Scallen, D. 2016. A Letter to Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park Seeking Preservation of Meadows 2016. Halton/North Peel Naturalists Club.



Eastern Tailed Blue, July 19, 2016

Monarch larva, August 14, 2016

Spreading the Word: Communication in the Natural World

By Don Scallen

One of the most exciting areas of current nature study is research into how animals and plants talk to each other - within and between species. This communication appears to be extraordinarily complex and nuanced and, until recently, has largely escaped our notice. We have generally dismissed animal and plant communication as rudimentary in comparison to ours. Perhaps we can be forgiven for some of this hubris. Much plant and animal communication isn't obvious. A great deal of it is olfactory, a sensory realm that is largely hidden from us.

And some types of communication haven't even been imagined until recently.

Last fall, on the recommendation of club member Sandy Heimbecker, I listened to an episode of Quirks and Quarks on CBC with Peter Wohlleben, the author of *The Hidden Life of Trees*. (Shortly afterwards Wohlleben also appeared on the Agenda with Steve Paikin.) I ran out, or rather got on my computer, and purchased Wolleben's book. Wohlleben writes about the communication that takes place between trees chemically and, believe it or not, electrically, via the mycorrhizal fungal networks that entwine and connect their roots. According to Wohlleben, like our fibre optic cables, this connectivity can efficiently transmit a host of messages including, for example, information about impending insect attacks or, if you are to believe him, cries of distress to tree kin asking for moisture and nutrients. The upshot of Wohlleben's book is bound to be controversial – trees are social beings.

The mycorrhizal fungi networks permeate every cubic millimetre of woodland soil and have been cleverly coined the "Wood Wide Web" by the Canadian scientist Suzanne Simard. One of Simard's fascinating findings, cited in Wohlleben's book is that although trees compete ruthlessly for light and resources, they sometimes cooperate, even between species. She discovered that Douglas firs and white birch in British Columbia exchange nutrients through the "wood wide web" each playing the "mother" role, supporting the other species depending on the season! Simard found that Douglas firs actually grow better in the company of white birch.

Wohlleben offers other provocative assertions to support his claim that trees are social beings.

He writes that he has found stumps of trees cut down decades ago, that are sustained by nutrients sent to them by peers via the fungal network. That is, the stumps and their roots live on, without above ground branches and leaves.

A German researcher, Wohlleben cites European beeches as especially needful of their social network with other beech and that they languish if left on their own. This may prevail with our American beech trees as well. Even before the deadly scourge of beech bark disease hit, healthy beech trees standing on their own in open spaces like meadows were rare or non-existent. Obviously other factors are likely involved in



American Beech trees at Forks of the Credit P. P.

determining the health of solo trees, such as humidity and shade levels, but it's fascinating to ponder that some of our trees may need others of their kind to thrive – a social support network with similarities to the social supports that sustain us.

Another tree worthy of investigation in this regard is American hemlock. Like beech I have never found a healthy adult American hemlock growing on its own. I'd be delighted to be proven wrong. If any of you know the whereabouts of a large healthy American beech or American hemlock standing solo, please let me know.

Unlike Wohlleben's radical notions, there is little controversy about the ability of plants and animals to communicate via olfactory

cues. It is accepted for example that trees share information about insect attacks by releasing volatile chemicals from their leaves. And for most animals, olfaction is an incredibly important way to convey information. Dog walkers know this. Being largely nose-blind, we'll never be able to fathom the rich repository of information available to dogs when they sniff a hydrant.

Every June I witness the power of olfactory messaging when I place female silk moths in cages in my yard. On warm breezy evenings, male cecropia or polyphemous moths – as many as five or six – flutter about the cages, having followed the females' pheromones from lord knows where. I've read that they can detect the pheromone from a distance of "a mile away" but this may be one of the many pronouncements in science that gain currency simply because they are oft-repeated. The distance over which male moths



Cecropia Moth mating activity

can detect females is an area that begs for more research. Regardless, the end-result is always magical – without these "arranged" rendezvous I can go years without seeing a cecropia or polyphemous moth.



Cecropia Moths mating, male on right

Consider too that the scent given off by these moths mingles with that of hundreds of other moths, insects and mammals on a given night, along with perfume released by myriad plants to tell animals that their florets are open for business. The air swirls and eddies with the messages of teeming multitudes and almost all of this rich tapestry of meaning is lost on us.

Reptiles communicate with scent as well. Years ago member Janice Sukhiani invited me to her place and uncovered some old carpets and plywood she was using to smother grass and weeds prior to planting a garden. Underneath were perhaps 15 gartersnakes and a dozen or so milksnakes – the greatest concentration of snakes I've ever witnessed. I can't prove it, but I have little doubt that these snakes found their way to this location by following scent trails that provide important information for the snakes: here lies excellent shelter, good eats (mice, insects) and potential mates. More subtle information may be included in this snake messaging as well – size for example. Smaller snakes likely steered clear of Janice's carpets because they knew the snakes waiting there were large enough to eat them.



Eastern Gartersnake

At a meeting in the fall at the Toronto Zoo I found out that turtles also use olfactory cues. It appears that some species are able to distinguish close kin by their smell and perhaps avoid them when it comes time to mate. I'm sure we'll find out much more about the olfactory capabilities of animals in the years ahead.

As humans, a sense we're more familiar with as humans is hearing. Our auditory sense is tremendously important to us. No less so in most bird and animal species. All of us know about that male songbirds call to protect their turf and attract mates. But birds also have a sophisticated array of alarm calls that they use selectively to identify particular threats. I usually have wrens nesting in my yard in the summer. They respond to my presence near the nest box with alarm calls that are, even to the human ear, of a different quality to the calls they use when a cat prowls the yard. The response to the cats is more strident, more urgent. The wrens know a cat presents a greater threat than I do.



House Wren parent

Songbirds distinguish, through their calls, the nature of the threat – an aerial predator like a raptor for example or a ground based predator like a fox. They also vary their alarm calls and their behaviour in response to a predator that can climb trees. A marten will elicit a different quality of alarm than a coyote for example.

A great book on this type of refined audio communication is "What the Robin Knows" by Jon Young. Read this book and you'll never think about a walk in the woods the same. Birds voice alarm calls to protect themselves and their kin but Young tells us that all the ears of the forest are listening in as well and, more to the point, can interpret the nature of the threat from the calls the birds are making. Deer listen to chickadees. And why not? Unless you're an apex predator the possibility of being killed and eaten is a constant threat. You better be tuned into the audio files of the woods if you want to survive.

According to Young, the audio connectivity of birds and mammals in the wild explains why we seldom see mammals going about their business. When we enter the woods or meadow, birds notice, mammals listen, and then slink away before we arrive.

A final word on audio communication between animal species. It's not only alarm calls that link different species. In Africa, honeyguide birds summon people when they find a bee hive. A sweet reward awaits the birds after the humans plunder the hive. Here in North America a similar arrangement seems to exist between ravens and wolves (or in this area, coyotes). Ravens are believed to call large predators to open up the hides of deer or moose carcasses so they can feed.

We are finally opening our eyes and ears to the intricate world of animal communication. We now recognize that there is a tremendous amount of messaging going on within and between species and that even though our limited sensory capabilities hold us back, we can learn, with a dose of humility and imagination, much more about how and why animals and plants "talk" to each other.

Photos by Don Scallen

Results of the 2016 Halton Hills Christmas Bird Count

By W.D. McIlveen

The 26th annual Christmas Bird Count for Halton Hills was conducted on December 29, 2016. On that day, temperatures ranged between -2° and +2° C. Most of the time, the sky was dull and cloudy. There was snow falling for much of the day though this diminished towards the end of the daylight period. Some areas saw some freezing rain.

The results of the tally for Count Day and Count Week are summarized in the attached table. The number of species reported was 57 which is equal to the previous high number. The total of the birds tallied was 9589 which is slightly less than the long-term average of 9748 but is still an increase from the total tallied in 2015. This tally is notable in that there was no northern finch irruption into Southern Ontario at the end of 2016. As well, the low temperatures of the previous two weeks had caused much of the standing water in lakes and ponds to freeze. No new species were seen during the 2016 Count leaving the grand total of species seen during the 26 years of counts at 104.

Three species (Ring-necked Pheasant, Brown Creeper, and Eastern Bluebird) were found within the Count Week but were not tallied on Count Day. Five species were present in new high numbers. These included Wild Turkey (195), Cooper's Hawk (10), Merlin (4), Red-bellied Woodpecker (22) and Common Raven (8). The Turkeys, Woodpeckers, and Ravens are known to be in the midst of a significant range expansion into Southern Ontario. There were seventeen species where the numbers in 2016 were higher than the long-term average.

The contributions of the 34 participants in the 2016 Count are recognized: Doug Biggar, Judy Biggar, Ray Blower, Dilys Bowman, Alexis Buset, Cindy Cartwright, Kim Dobson, Ramona Dobson, Pam Forsyth, Anne Fraser, Ian Jarvie, Reuven Martin, Diane McCurdy, Bill McIlveen, Irene McIlveen, Cecil Morris, Lynn Morris, Rob Palin, Tanya Piko, Fiona Reid, Dawn Renfrew, Don Scallen, Yves Scholten, Dan Schuurman, Sue Sibley, Rick Stroud, Shirley Stroud, Janice Sukhiana, Patrick Tuck, Laura Weihs, Tom Wenzel, George Wilkes, Marge Wilkes, and Dave Williams.

Many thanks once more to Larry May for arranging access to the Maple Lodge Farms property and to Bill Elgie and Dan Richer for facilitating the team visit to the Upper Canada College property. A special thank you to Fiona Reid for hosting the wrap-up session.



American Tree Sparrow



Belted Kingfisher

Species Total Avg. Low High Canada Goose 2443 2292.7 229 4577 American Black Duck 16 21.8 2 67 Mallard 243 539.8 26 1636 Green-winged Teal 1 1.3 1 2 Common Goldeneye 1 7.5 1 26 Hooded Merganser 2 10.0 10 10 Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Rough-legged Hawk 2 <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>						
Canada Goose 2443 2292.7 229 4577 American Black Duck 16 21.8 2 67 Mallard 243 539.8 26 1636 Green-winged Teal 1 1.3 1 2 Common Goldeneye 1 7.5 1 26 Hooded Merganser 2 10.0 10 10 Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 1 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36		Results of the 2015 Christr				
American Black Duck 16 21.8 2 67 Mallard 243 539.8 26 1636 Green-winged Teal 1 1.3 1 2 Common Goldeneye 1 7.5 1 26 Hooded Merganser 2 10.0 10 10 Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2	Species	Total	Avg.	Low	High	
Mallard 243 539.8 26 1636 Green-winged Teal 1 1.3 1 2 Common Goldeneye 1 7.5 1 26 Hooded Merganser 2 10.0 10 10 Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7	Canada Goose	2443	2292.7	229	4577	
Green-winged Teal 1 1.3 1 2 Common Goldeneye 1 7.5 1 26 Hooded Merganser 2 10.0 10 10 Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8<	American Black Duck	16	21.8	2	67	
Common Goldeneye 1 7.5 1 26 Hooded Merganser 2 10.0 10 10 Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.	Mallard	243	539.8	26	1636	
Hooded Merganser 2 10.0 10 10 Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Green-winged Teal	1	1.3	1	2	
Common Merganser 1 13.6 1 66 Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3<	Common Goldeneye	1	7.5	1	26	
Ring-necked Pheasant CW 1.0 0 2 Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 62	Hooded Merganser	2	10.0	10	10	
Ruffed Grouse 2 3.3 0 8 Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 </td <td>Common Merganser</td> <td>1</td> <td>13.6</td> <td>1</td> <td>66</td>	Common Merganser	1	13.6	1	66	
Wild Turkey 195 26.0 0 71 Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 <td< td=""><td>Ring-necked Pheasant</td><td>CW</td><td>1.0</td><td>0</td><td>2</td></td<>	Ring-necked Pheasant	CW	1.0	0	2	
Great Blue Heron 1 1.3 0 4 Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Ruffed Grouse	2	3.3	0	8	
Bald Eagle 2 1.7 0 3 Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 <td>Wild Turkey</td> <td>195</td> <td>26.0</td> <td>0</td> <td>71</td>	Wild Turkey	195	26.0	0	71	
Northern Harrier 1 3.3 0 11 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker <	Great Blue Heron	1	1.3	0	4	
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 4.0 1 11 Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker	Bald Eagle	2	1.7	0	3	
Cooper's Hawk 10 2.7 0 7 Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Northern Harrier	1	3.3	0	11	
Red-tailed Hawk 36 60.4 35 117 Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	4.0	1	11	
Rough-legged Hawk 2 6.9 1 45 American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Cooper's Hawk	10	2.7	0	7	
American Kestrel 7 9.3 0 16 Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Red-tailed Hawk	36	60.4	35	117	
Merlin 4 0.8 0 2 Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Rough-legged Hawk	2	6.9	1	45	
Ring-billed Gull 26 149.5 1 2010 Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	American Kestrel	7	9.3	0	16	
Herring Gull 19 36.4 1 222 Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Merlin	4	0.8	0	2	
Rock Pigeon 313 571.3 210 1455 Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Ring-billed Gull	26	149.5	1	2010	
Mourning Dove 645 628.3 191 1385 Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Herring Gull	19	36.4	1	222	
Eastern Screech Owl 1 1.8 0 6 Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Rock Pigeon	313	571.3	210	1455	
Great Horned Owl 2 2.3 0 5 Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Mourning Dove	645	628.3	191	1385	
Belted Kingfisher 4 2.8 1 7 Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Eastern Screech Owl	1	1.8	0	6	
Red-bellied Woodpecker 22 5.6 0 18 Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Great Horned Owl	2	2.3	0	5	
Downy Woodpecker 86 50.0 21 91 Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Belted Kingfisher	4	2.8	1	7	
Hairy Woodpecker 20 18.4 2 33	Red-bellied Woodpecker	22	5.6	0	18	
· · ·	Downy Woodpecker	86	50.0	21	91	
Northern Flicker 2 1.4 0 3	Hairy Woodpecker	20	18.4	2	33	
	Northern Flicker	2	1.4	0	3	

ristmas Bird Count at Halton Hills						
h	Species	Total	Avg.	Low	High	
77	Pileated Woodpecker	1	3.3	0	12	
67	Northern Shrike	4	3.7	0	19	
36	Blue Jay	133	144.7	60	333	
2	American Crow	300	351.2	55	692	
26	Common Raven	8	2.5	0	7	
10	Black-capped Chickadee	417	614.5	243	1211	
66	Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	8.4	1	22	
2	White-breasted Nuthatch	61	42.6	19	82	
8	Brown Creeper	CW	2.9	1	8	
71	Eastern Bluebird	CW	3.5	0	8	
4	American Robin	204	44.9	1	266	
3	Northern Mockingbird	1	2.0	0	5	
11	European Starling	2570	1838.0	485	3490	
11	Cedar Waxwing	79	78.7	3	240	
7	American Tree Sparrow	415	291.6	55	837	
17	Fox Sparrow	1	1.0	1	1	
45	Song Sparrow	1	5.4	1	22	
16	White-throated Sparrow	1	2.1	1	10	
2	White-crowned Sparrow	4	6.2	1	21	
10	Dark-eyed Junco	505	279.0	91	693	
22	Snow Bunting	235	214.8	0	1118	
55	Northern Cardinal	74	58.7	22	101	
85	Brown-headed Cowbird	21	7.0	0	36	
6	Purple Finch	6	11.4	1	52	
5	House Finch	85	194.6	23	456	
7	American Goldfinch	345	212.9	37	499	
18	House Sparrow	418	582.8	196	1316	
91						
33	Total Birds	9589	9577.3	3131	15507	
3	No. Species	57	49.9	41	57	



Merlin

Free 2017 Parks Canada Discovery Passes

In celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, Parks Canada is giving away free 2017 Discovery Passes to all Canadians and visitors. These passes provide the holder with unlimited entry to all participating National Parks, National Marine Conservation Areas and National Historic Sites administered by Parks Canada. They are valid for everyone arriving in the same vehicle at a national park, or arriving together at a marine conservation area or historic site. To order yours, visit www.commandesparcs-parksorders.ca



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

Executive			Appointments		
President:	Don Scallen	(905) 876-6180	Membership:	Lorysa Cornish	
Past President:	Fiona Reid		Newsletter:	Tanya Piko	
Vice President:	Ian Jarvie	(905) 877-1441	Ontario Nature Representative:	Don Scallen	
Secretary:	Emily Dobson		Public Relations:	Rose Barcarse	
Treasurer:	Anne Fraser		Webmaster:	John Beaudette	
			Member at Large:	Janice Sukhiani	
			Member at Large:	William McIlveen	
			Crozier Property Steward:	vacant	
			Hardy Property Steward:	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

Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Membership Form

Renewal or	_ New Member(s)	Date	
Name(s):			
Address:			
Postal Code:	Telepho	one:	
	E-mail:		
Membership renewal fe	e		
from September through t	o August S	ingle (\$30.00)	Family (\$40.00)
New members' fees froi	n sign-up date:		
December through to Au	gust S	ingle (\$22.50)	Family (\$30.00)
March through to Augus	t S	ingle (\$15.00)	Family (\$20.00)
June through to August			Family (\$10.00)
Do you have any suggest	ions for programs o	r field trips?	
How did you hear about	our club (newspape	r/website/friend/	other)?
****	*****	*****	*******
	WAIVER OF		
(must be signed b	y anyone planning to att		er outdoor activities)
	pt as my personal risk th	e hazards of such par	forming the exercise required rticipation and will not hold the
release and discharge the Hal	ton/North Peel Naturalisessoever arising as a resul	st Club and its officer t of my participation	olication, I hereby and forever s, directors, servants and in these trips and declare that
Signature(s):		Date:	
		Date:	
*******	******	*******	*******
Meetings are at St Alban's Ch	urch in Glen Williams (se	ee next page) starting	at 7:30 p.m.
Please fill out this form and b	ring it in to next indoor r	meeting or mail with	payment to:

The Esquesing 14 Jan-Feb 2017

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

