



Thickson's Woods Land Trust

Spring 2023 Newsletter 63

Winning the Garlic Mustard Battle

Thanks to your help over many years and the dedication of summer staff hired through government jobs programs, we're making great progress in eradicating garlic mustard from the woods. Many patches that used to be choking out spring wildflowers have disappeared completely. Others have only scattered plants remaining.

But every year seeds, perhaps spread on the feet of rabbits and squirrels, find new spots to germinate. It's critical that we hunt out these strays and eliminate them before they bloom and produce a myriad more seeds, starting new patches that will take years to remove completely. Not only does garlic mustard shade out native plants, but it puts chemicals in the soil that kill the fungal network that connects all flora in the woods and feeds and nourishes every plant.

So, we plan to get together on Earth Day, Saturday April 22nd at 9:00 a.m. to fan out through the woods to locate and remove every garlic mustard plant we can find. The year-old plants that will bloom this year have been green all winter. Their blue-green foliage with heart-shaped leaves is easiest to spot in early spring before other plants leaf out to hide them. Any new plants sprouting from seeds this spring will be just emerging. Look for two tiny opposite leaflets that appear to be floating in space rather than being attached to a stem. Brush them with your gardening glove and they'll disappear. The older plants need to be uprooted with a trowel or small spade, have the dirt knocked off their roots and be collected for disposal.

Park along the east side of Thickson Road north of the Waterfront Trail. Walk down the trail to the east, to a pathway leading into the woods to the right. Walk south through the woods toward Lake Ontario to our house, where you will find tools and containers and samples of the plants you'll be searching for.



Early Spring Garlic Mustard

If the weather is rainy, we'll try again on Sunday, April 23rd.

Spring will be well underway, so there'll be lots of singing birds to serenade you while you work. You might want to bring a few sunflower seeds to feed the chickadees that will come to visit, hoping for a treat.

Earth Day
Saturday April 22nd
9:00 a.m.

Special Thanks to:

Gerda Steel, for placing more boulders from their car-shredding landfill operation along the eroding lakeshore at the nature reserve, protecting the road for local residents. Thank you so much, Phil Revington, for making it happen!

Tony and Susan Brown, who honoured Louise Brown's passing with a significant family trust donation. Their generosity funded the purchase of new benches to replace those installed years ago to honour special historic Thickson's Woods supporters who inspired in so many ways.

We seldom mention specific land trust board members in newsletters, as they're part of the team and expected to work hard and keep smiling. At long last we get to thank Brian Steele for years and years of caring and contributing to the cause, in countless ways. Keeping on top of myriad details as treasurer, everything from cleaning out the post box to recording and writing charitable donation receipts, paying bills and producing annual reports. Brian was a champion during every nature festival, booking and personally paying for nature shows, finding food vendors, arranging for porta-potties, lining up volunteers, making signs, and then running around all day with a megaphone, keeping the crowds moving.

Thickson's Woods sure lucked out when this competent accountant came on board more than two decades ago, as he had the unique skills and know-how to negotiate purchase of the meadow from the group of speculators who owned it, and the wisdom to carry us through five years of paying off the mortgage. Without Brian, would those 8 ½ acres be a truck depot or waste facility right now? Makes you shudder to think it, then feel a wave of warmth and gratitude that it's growing up into a jungle of wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Wonderful guy that he is, Brian may have chosen to step down from the board, but is happy to carry on serving as Thickson's Woods Land Trust treasurer.

Coming This Summer! A Silent Invitation

by Margaret Carney

So much taking care of a woods has to do with watching what's sprouting up or falling down, and trying to keep changes heading the best way possible. Supporting biodiversity. Discouraging invasives. Inspiring reverence for nature in every kid who comes exploring.

One small task that, strangely enough, took up much of my winter had to do with six benches scattered throughout the nature reserve, slabs from a great old oak that were slowly crumbling to dust as the years went on. Benches placed decades ago in memory of some fine people who shouldn't be forgotten. Bright stars among the constellation of wonderful folks who, back in the day, helped save Thickson's Woods.

Dave Calvert, for starters—quiet, shy, and passionate about protecting nature. When this “old guy” heard we were thinking, with great trepidation, of buying the woods—the only way to protect it—he dropped by one day, asked a few questions, then dug into his retirement savings for a significant chunk of the down payment. Dave putting

cash on the table changed everything in an instant, made buying the woods maybe possible, kick-starting a daunting, massive, but incredibly worthy effort. Dave became my personal hero that day. He still is.

Everyone loved Edge and Betty Pegg, Claremont birders who cheerfully started fund-raising, \$20 at a time, among their wide circle of family and friends. People just couldn't say no to them, to the point that we called Edge's smile our “secret weapon.” Betty, a nature photographer, made dozens of cards and buttons and peddled them at every fund-raising opportunity for years. For decades, bless her!

Constant and committed, Bob and Esther Allin showed up at every pancake breakfast, yard sale, nature festival and public walk, quietly working to make them happen, whatever it took. Esther served as treasurer for ten years when no one else wanted to, and Bob, a farmer, offered practical advice on many issues.

There was legendary George Scott, local mentor, keeper of the natural history of Durham, finder and recorder of rarities, who compiled the list of vascular plants of Thickson's Woods, for he knew all 373, every one.

There's a bench for Jim Fairchild, free to bird in the woods every day all spring, off work and in pain, accidentally injured by a rhino while employed at the Toronto Zoo, then hurt again by a pushy herd of goats. Jim gladly shared his sightings with everyone, and left many friends in shock when he passed away, out birding alone in the Rouge Valley.

And Gordon Bellerby! This kind and caring gentleman brought groups of naturalist friends on weekend tours of the woods all the way from St. Catherines, inspiring them to contribute to the cause, as he did himself, long and faithfully.

A few decades from now no one will remember these wonderful people, the sound of their laughter, the warmth of their smiles. But right now, I still do, and am so glad and grateful. Esther and Betty passed away long after their husbands did – Betty just last year, age 99 – and being able to add their names in a memorial tribute brings things full circle. Gordon’s daughter, Nancy Melcher, herself a long-time supporter, asked that her son’s name be added to her father’s bench when Graeme tragically passed away, far too young. How could we not?

So the benches project fell to me, when no one else on the board stepped forward. I got “the guys,” Dennis and Otto, to pry the old bronze plaques off the crumbling ruins, then stashed them in a box in my car and set off on a months-long hunt for replacement parts and upgrades, learning more about engravers, etchers, monument makers and recycled-plastic-that-will-last-forever furniture than I ever cared to. Finally coming up with some practical, natural looking benches made of quick-drying composite material that won’t absorb rainwater and soak visitors’ bottoms when they settle down with a sigh.

Why put in benches at all, for visitors walking through the woods and meadow? I’m glad you asked. Placed in quiet corners, they offer an invitation to pause and rest, to sit silently and notice what’s going on around you—the changing light, the rustling leaves, the scents of the season. Be still and let wildlife come to you—that’s a secret wise birders know well.

And before you move on again, maybe tip your hat to whoever’s name is on the plaque there, this stranger from the past, and give thanks for your moment in nature.



Margaret Carney

Recent donations have been made in memory of these special people

Margaret Beagley
Bryant Brown
Louise Brown
Dave Calvert
Tony Gilbert
Gary Hendrickson
Matt Holder

Barbara Kalthoff
Paul La Chapelle
Ian Mason
Betty Pegg
Henry Rogoz
Lois Yellowlees

Northern Cardinal (Phill Holder)



We join their families and friends in mourning their passing, and acknowledge their unique contribution to the rich web of life on planet earth.

On our website we recognize all past donations made in memory of friends and loved ones.

The Greatest Scientist That No-one Remembers

by Dennis Barry



Sparkling Violetear (*Jim Richards*).

What does the name Humboldt mean to you? My only point of reference was the name given to a cold ocean current flowing northward from the Antarctic along the west coast of South America, bringing life to that part of the Pacific all the way to the Galapagos Islands. I had no idea where the name originated. Maybe you're more knowledgeable.

It was a shock to learn that the ocean current was named after someone who was once the most famous person in Europe, perhaps in the world. Presidents sought his advice, kings paid him handsomely to enliven their courts, poets and authors quoted him in their works, scientists in all disciplines hung on his every word, freedom fighters were inspired by his ideas, and those we think of as the earliest leaders in the environmental movement were deeply influenced by his insights. Napoleon saw him as a threat and tried to discredit him with false propaganda. The British East India Company refused to give him a permit to travel to Southeast Asia, fearing he'd stir up unrest among the colonies there because of his earlier criticism of the colonial system in Spanish America.

Who was this amazing being and why has he been forgotten for so long?

Andrea Wulf's best-selling biography *The Invention of Nature, Alexander von Humboldt's New World*, goes a long way to correct this injustice. Doing the research necessary to pull this off would have taken years. Organizing the mounds of materials she collected and putting them

together into such a complete and compelling story could only have been accomplished by someone with much of the same intellect and perseverance exhibited by Humboldt throughout his long life.

Wulf opens her gripping story recounting a moment in Humboldt's harrowing ascent of Chimborazo, a 21,000-foot volcano in the central Andes, during his three-year journey across South America.

"They were crawling on hands and knees along a high narrow ridge that in places was only two inches wide.... Down to the left was a steep cliff encrusted with ice that glinted when the sun broke through the thick clouds. The view to the right, with a 1000-foot drop, wasn't much better."

To get a better understanding of Humboldt, Wulf and a companion followed his path up the volcano as part of her research.

Humboldt published an astonishing number of books on a variety of subjects that were translated into many languages. (One series consisted of thirty-four volumes.) Wulf read the originals as well as various translations of each. She describes accessing one of his portfolios that was so huge she could barely lift it onto a table.

Alexander von Humboldt was born on September 14, 1769, a month after Napoleon. His 79-year life spanned the French Revolution, the American Revolution, the Age of Enlightenment, the rise and fall of Napoleon and many other significant events in European and world history. His Prussian family was wealthy and well-connected. He and his older brother adored their father and were devastated when he died suddenly when Alexander was nine.

Their mother was a wealthy heiress who showed little affection for her two sons. They were given the best education possible, but she directed their lives, insisting that they follow careers of her choosing. Alexander spent rather a lonely childhood, finding comfort in walks through nearby forests.

In university Alexander studied science, mathematics and languages, but dreamed of world travel following in the footsteps of Captain Cook. Teaming up with an older friend, Georg Forster, a naturalist who had

sailed with Cook, he explored Europe one summer, spending some time in London, where the many ships arriving from foreign lands fueled his yearning to travel.

Returning home, he was instructed by his mother to study finance and economics in Hamburg, then mining at an academy in Frieberg, where he completed a three-year course in eight months. Often he spent hours collecting mineral samples from nearby mines, while investigating how the mines functioned. When he graduated at age twenty-two he was appointed a mining inspector, allowing him to travel across Europe.

Concerned about the inhumane working conditions of miners, he invented a breathing mask, and a lamp that would work in low oxygen conditions deep in mines. He wrote textbooks for miners and even started a mining school. This concern for the welfare of ordinary people became a driving force and helped shape his thinking throughout his life. He also published his first books, a detailed account of basalts found along the banks of the Rhine, the other a description of unusual plants growing in darkness on timbers in various mines.

He soon became fascinated with magnetism in animals and conducted thousands of experiments, frequently on his own body, part of his quest to understand the forces of life. This was indicative of Humboldt's interest in all avenues of science. He seemed to have a photographic memory and the mental capacity to understand many different topics and be able to see connections among them that others overlooked. His insatiable curiosity, combined with a childlike fascination with new ideas and discoveries, drove him to immerse himself in the question of the moment to the point where he slept little and bothered to eat only when he got really hungry. This lifestyle, driven by excitement and curiosity about new discoveries and new worlds to explore, was the main force throughout his life. However, the hectic pace, together with the cold damp climate of European winters, meant he often suffered from aches and fevers.

The approach to the natural world by scientists during Humboldt's early years was to classify and pigeonhole everything into an organized structured system. That didn't suit Humboldt's personality or his way of interacting with the natural world. 'Nature must be experienced through feelings' was the central theme



Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Jim Richards*).

of his approach. Many people influenced Humboldt in this way of thinking, but none more than Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Germany's most famous poet and author of the time. Humboldt would later return the favour by stimulating Goethe's literary endeavors with stories of his travels in South America and copies of his richly illustrated books.

Humboldt's dream of travelling in the tropics was frustrated by his mother's insistence that he pursue a

diplomatic career. Since she held the family purse strings, he was forced to, grudgingly, follow her wishes. When she became ill with cancer, Alexander's brother Wilhelm moved home to be with her. Alexander visited once, but didn't stay long.

When she died in 1796, neither brother went to her funeral.

Alexander felt a freedom he'd never known, and soon began planning his great adventure to some exotic location, still to be determined. Now independently wealthy, he resigned his job as mining inspector and began preparing for his trip. This involved buying the best instruments available, for studying navigation, map making, astronomy, biology, magnetism and electricity, and anything else he could imagine he might wish to investigate. All forty-two instruments were packed in velvet-lined boxes that could withstand the rigors of primitive travel. He then spent the next year learning how to use the new tools, reading every travel account he could find, and interviewing leading scientists in each field. He climbed the Alps to take measurements so he could compare them with those he hoped to take on his journeys.

During his frantic travels around Europe, Humboldt met a talented young French botanist, Aime Bonpland, who was keen to see the world, and the two began planning to travel together to the tropics.

War in Europe complicated attempts to find an expedition willing to take them along. After much frustration and many disappointments, Humboldt managed to convince the King of Spain to sign a document giving him and Bonpland permission to travel to colonies in the Americas, provided that Humboldt finance the expedition and send back plants and seeds for the king's gardens.

He outlined in letters to friends and family what he hoped to accomplish on the trip. The real purpose, he said, was to discover how 'all forces of nature are interlaced and interwoven.' Within days they set sail.



Great Kiskadee (Jim Richards).

After a brief stop in the Canary Islands, where they climbed a 13,000 foot volcano, they continued across the Atlantic, recording observations as they went and collecting specimens of algae and flying fish.

On July 16, 1799, they disembarked in Cumana, in what is now Venezuela.

I remember our first days on a birding trip to Venezuela in 1986, being overwhelmed with the variety of tropical species. Even with the aid of a good field guide, the experience was mentally exhausting. How much more so for Humboldt and Bonpland, with no reference books, trying to collect and catalogue all plants and animals, none of which they had ever seen before. Alexander said in a letter to his brother, 'we run around like fools.'

One situation he observed in Cumana upset Humboldt. Across from their house was a daily slave market where young black men and women were auctioned off like livestock. This spectacle disgusted him. It went against everything in his upbringing and his beliefs that all humans are equals. Throughout his travels in South America, he admired the indigenous people he met and was eager to learn from them. He recognized their intelligence, and was impressed by their knowledge, skills and creativity.

Four months after arriving in South America, the two companions rented a boat and crew to carry them and their gear, including 4000 plant specimens, westward. Then making their way overland to Caracas, they rented a house and carried on collecting and making scientific observations.

Having heard rumors about a stream that connected the headwaters of the Orinoco and Amazon Rivers, they set off with four mules carrying the minimum of equipment to find out for themselves, and map the waterways. Along the way they came to a valley with a large lake, Valencia, surrounded by vast fields of sugar cane. Locals

told Humboldt that lake levels had been falling dramatically. Lake Valencia had no outlet and was fed by myriad small streams, many of which had been diverted to irrigate crops. After careful measurements and calculations, Humboldt concluded that the combination of forest clearing and diverting streams was responsible for the falling water levels. He recorded how the deforested hillsides could no longer absorb and slow runoff, thereby causing erosion and sudden floods as well as accelerated evaporation. An early example of thoughtless actions leading to environmental degradation.

During his earlier travels in Europe as a mining inspector, he had recorded frequent examples of forest devastation, and had warned against the dire consequences of continuing this destruction.

Along their way, Humboldt and Bonpland recorded other examples of humans despoiling the environment, from missionaries over-collecting turtle eggs, to the overfishing of oysters along the coast.

To get to the Orinoco, they had to cross the Llanos, a seasonally flooded flat open plain with no cover. They crossed in the dry season when the soil had turned to dust. Humboldt tested the ground temperature and found it to be 50 F. Wulf's description of their two-month journey to reach a stream that would lead them to the Orinoco is filled with intriguing incidents, including an adventure with electric eels that Humboldt was excited to study. Their journeys by boat were even more challenging and dangerous. The two scientists constantly encountered new animals and plants to illustrate, describe and collect.

Most fascinating were the constant reminders that the natural world they were passing through was not the calm peaceful one imagined by Europeans. Rather there was a constant battle for dominance and survival among both plants and animals, which changed Humboldt's concepts of how the world truly functioned.

Trying to press and catalogue specimens while under constant attack by hordes of mosquitoes, and nearly swamping their boat in fierce rapids, were only a few of their hardships. Perhaps most frustrating was seeing a myriad of colourful, yet inaccessible plants high in the rainforest canopy as they passed by. Specimens they did collect were often damaged or destroyed by the high jungle humidity.

Despite his constant attention to taking measurements of temperatures, magnetism, latitude, longitude and the night sky, Humboldt was overjoyed by the whole experience. In his diary he described the sparkle of sunlight on rapids, rainbows at waterfalls and beautiful flowering trees mirrored in the glassy surface of the river. 'What speaks to the soul escapes our measurement.' This



Crested Caracara (Jim Richards).

was the artist and poet in Humboldt talking, the part of him that was to give his books and lectures such a unique and captivating portrayal of the worlds he visited.

Humboldt was interested in every aspect of the country they passed through. He even tasted the water in the various streams they paddled. The Orinoco he found especially disgusting, but the Rio Atabapo was 'delicious'. He was constantly amazed by the knowledge and skills of the indigenous people they met. They knew every plant and animal in the jungle and could distinguish between trees by the taste of their bark. Much to Humboldt's frustration, all fifteen trees he sampled tasted exactly the same. Surprisingly, his health was generally better than it often had been in Europe, until they arrived in a Spanish town of 6000 along the Orinoco.

Suddenly, both Humboldt and Bonpland became violently ill with a fever. While Humboldt soon recovered, Bonpland almost died, and needed several weeks to recover before they could travel back across the Llanos and on to the Caribbean Coast. As well as their burgeoning collections, their mules carried a menagerie of parrots and monkeys.

By now the Llanos had been transformed from the desert they'd crossed coming south to a sea of grasses

interlaced with streams and ponds. Stretching above the flat plain were scattered palm trees with shiny red fruit that attracted the attention of the monkeys. He was amazed to see how important this single species was to life in the Llanos. 'We observed with astonishment how many things are connected with a single plant.' The *Mauritia* palms growing in the open Llanos collected soil blown by the wind, provided food for many types of wildlife, and provided shade that helped retain moisture to create unique habitats beneath their branches. Wulf points out that Humboldt had discovered the concept of keystone species 200 years before the idea was given a name. This was one of the discoveries that helped develop Humboldt's understanding that the whole of nature was one interconnected entity, rather than a collection of separate species.

Humboldt's ability to juggle in his mind a huge number of disparate subjects is best summarized by the title of the current hit movie "Everything Everywhere All At Once." A friend of his once commented that he learned more listening to Humboldt for two hours than he would have from reading a dozen books. Someone else mentioned stepping out of the room for a moment while Humboldt was lecturing on the geology of the Alps, only to find on his return that he was describing the changing plant zones on a volcano in the Andes.



Hoatzin (Jim Richards).

You'll want to continue following Humboldt's adventures through the gripping prose of Andrea Wulf. *The Invention of Nature, Alexander Humboldt's New World* is available through your local library, or for purchase in a neighbourhood bookstore. Perhaps we'll return in a future newsletter to explore the many other contributions made to our understanding of the inner workings of the natural world and our impacts on it, by the greatest scientist that no-one remembers, Alexander von Humboldt.

Looking back:

Birds of the Oshawa-Lake Scugog Region, Ontario

by Jim Richards

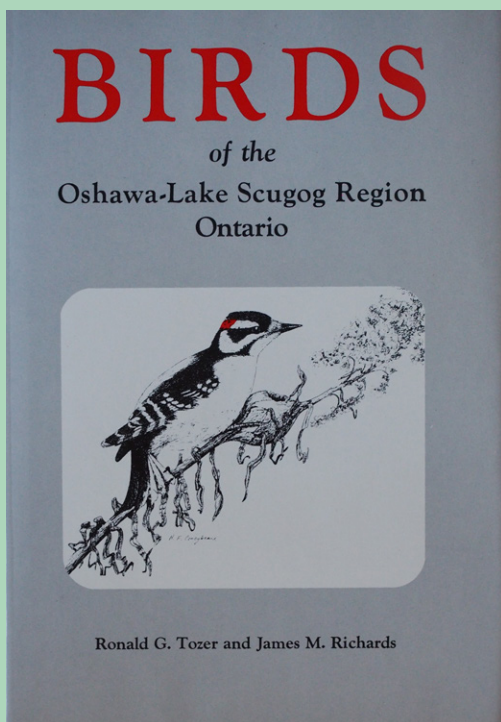
Not sure how many supporters of Thicksen's Woods Nature Reserve will remember when on 10 September, 1974, the book *Birds of the Oshawa-Lake Scugog Region, Ontario* by Ronald G. Tozer and James M. Richards rolled off the press. It was the culmination of thirteen years of research and writing. It took that long because Ron was attending university and was pre-occupied with his studies. I was busy forming the Second Marsh Defense Association, now Friends of Second Marsh, trying to save that precious wetland from development. I was also deeply involved with a massive Eastern Bluebird nest-box project and banding effort (400+ boxes) with Dennis Barry, that usurped a lot of my time.

It all started in 1961, when Ron undertook to produce a list of the birds of Oshawa. In 1963 he enlisted my help to document the breeding birds, as I was engaged in bird photography dealing with breeding biology and was a former egg collector, so had amassed hundreds of nest records for area birds.

Our project grew to encompass a larger geographical footprint. Leading area naturalists at the time (Esther Allin, Margaret Bain, Dennis Barry, Dave Calvert, Agnes and Roland Foster, Naomi Le Vay, Win McRae, Ed Morley, Betty and Edge Pegg, Ora Sands, George Scott, Murray Speirs, Ted Tozer, Albert A. Wood, et al) encouraged us to write a complete book, not simply an annotated list, and we are forever grateful to them for putting their trust in our abilities.

Ron focused on dates of spring and fall migration as well as winter records and in establishing status, abundance and distribution for each of the 308 species we dealt with. As well, we addressed 14 species we considered hypothetical, several of which have now been well documented. I researched all things historical on my one day per month visits to the Royal Ontario Museum. James L. Baillie, acting curator of ornithology at the ROM, was of great help. We dedicated our book to Jim, as he had passed away in 1970.

The book encompassed the former townships of Whitby, East Whitby (including Oshawa), and Darlington. (including Bowmanville) along Lake Ontario, extending north to Cartwright, Scugog and Reach Townships, now all within Durham Region.



While I prepared draft accounts for 136 species known to breed in our study area, Ron wrote the remaining 172 accounts of species that had been reliably observed there. He then re-worked the breeding bird accounts for style and consistency.

Research at the ROM included going through all Ontario Nest Record Scheme cards for this area, as well as the massive nest and egg collection and the vast skin, skeleton and alcohol collections housed there. Skin and mount collections by area naturalists such as George A. Scott, Esther Allin, Audrey Russ, Ethel Bunker, Chris Blomme, and my own collection were all referenced. Data from the field diaries of local birders and the Oshawa Naturalists' Club newsletters was included.

Chapters dealt with topography, vegetative features, climate, life zones, faunal areas, migration flyways, historical ornithological work, and habitats and special areas. Major appendices we prepared included a checklist, a summary of Christmas Bird Counts for Oshawa, Pickering and Scugog, a listing of specimens, a summary of waterfowl banding operations at Oshawa Second Marsh, a list of Little Gull breeding records for the area, instances of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism, and a summary of an Eastern Bluebird nest-box project provided by Dennis Barry.

The book featured artwork donated by Barry Kent MacKay, as well as a few of my black-and-white photos.

The book was self published and printed by Alger Press in Oshawa. We borrowed the money for printing from Ron's father-in-law, Harold Cornish, and agreed to repay him within a year.

Sales were brisk for the first few weeks, and we awaited what we hoped would be favourable reviews. Gordon Sinclair, a widely listened to radio host at the time, gave a glowing one on his Toronto-based Radio Noon. Sinclair was a friend of Jim Baillie's, and a birder himself.

Following the broadcast, sales went wild for about a month. My employer, General Motors of Canada, gave the book a lot of promotion, pleased that an employee had made a contribution to natural history. The Oshawa Public Library and local bookstores also promoted it, while the local media; Whitby Free Press, Port Perry Star, Bowmanville Statesman, Oshawa Times and Oshawa Journal, also plugged it through interviews.

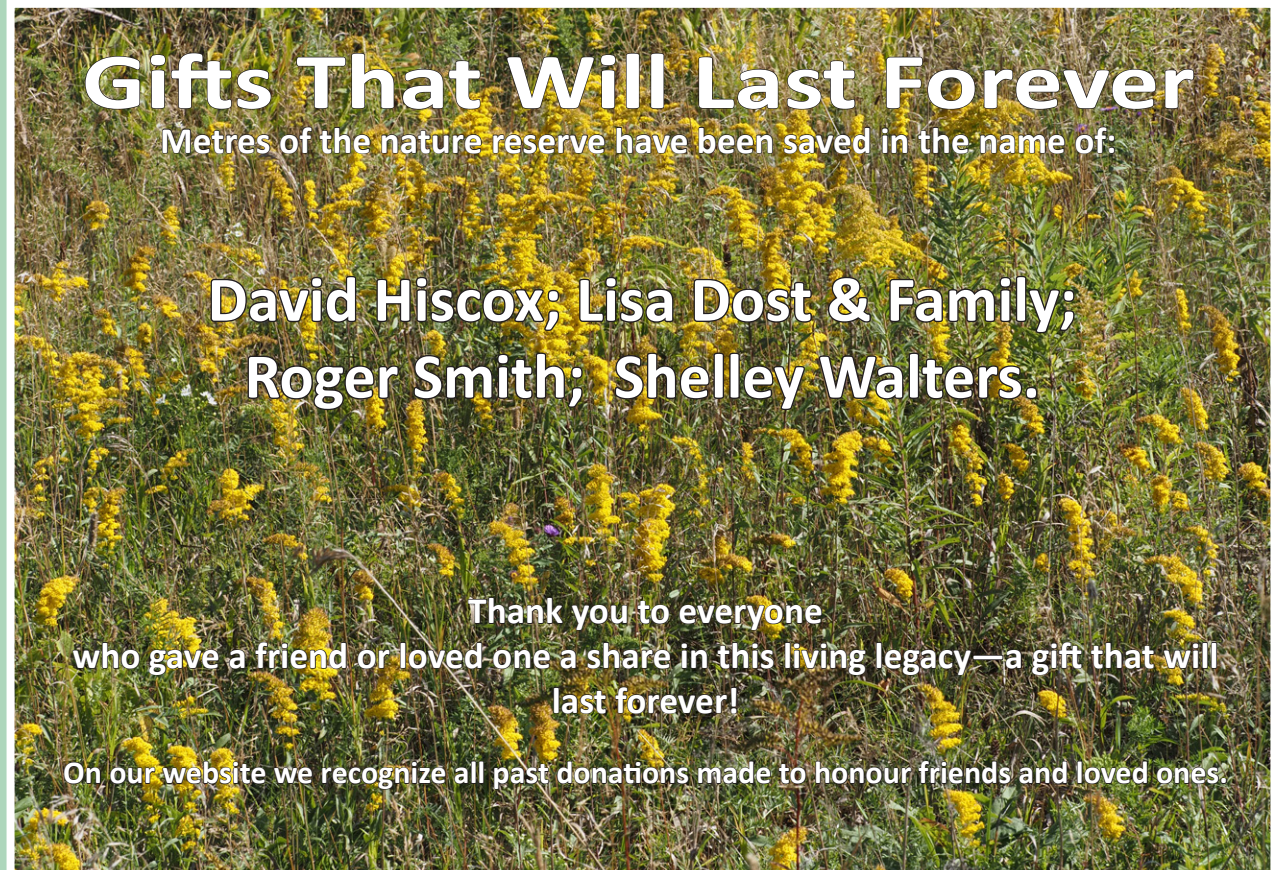
The unit cost of the book was \$7.41 ea. to print 1500 copies, and we sold it for \$7.50, as we wanted to make sure that everyone, especially young people, could afford it.

Once print reviews came out in magazines such as The Ontario Naturalist, and Jon Dunn of the American Birding Association said "This is one of the finest regional guides to birds ever produced in North America," sales increased once again.

Near the end of August 1975, we sold the final copy and were able to repay Harold in full. Today, some antiquarian book dealers are selling the book for \$46.00 US, and I once saw an ad for a Boston dealer asking \$74.00 US. Makes us wish we would have printed more copies and retained them until now!

Despite major changes in the status of certain species, Canada Goose for example, our book is still cited in many books and journals dealing with birds in Ontario and Canada.

After retiring as park naturalist, Ron went on to write *Birds of Algonquin Park*, published in 2012. I assembled a team of 18 Arctic researchers and birders to produce a two-volume work, *Birds of Nunavut*, published in 2018.



Gifts That Will Last Forever

Metres of the nature reserve have been saved in the name of:

**David Hiscox; Lisa Dost & Family;
Roger Smith; Shelley Walters.**

Thank you to everyone
who gave a friend or loved one a share in this living legacy—a gift that will
last forever!

On our website we recognize all past donations made to honour friends and loved ones.

Banded Blue Jay Photographed in Thickson's Woods

by Phill Holder

There were lots of Blue Jays migrating that morning last May, and I managed to take two photographs of one as it stopped briefly for a drink. Later, I noticed a band on its right leg, and when I enlarged the image, I could read the first and last two digits. Perhaps not enough to identify the bird, but Glenn Coady suggested I should submit the photograph to Band Reports, [GS-B-PWRC bandreports@usgs.gov](mailto:GS-B-PWRC_bandreports@usgs.gov), as they might be able to provide some information.

I sent the photographs of the band and got the following response:

“Thank you for reporting your re-sighting of a banded bird. Our federal bands are 8-9 digits in the following format: 1234-56789. Unfortunately, without the complete number, we are not able to pinpoint this exact individual. I searched our database using the partial number 096X-XXX80, and that results in several possible individuals, banded in either Michigan or New York.”

Although I didn't get a lot of information, it's interesting to see the movement of migrating birds as they pass through Thickson's Woods. I wonder if it will show up again.



Banded Blue Jay, May 6, 2022, Thickson's Woods (Phill Holder).

Coming Soon

A New Publication from Hawk Owl Publishing ONTARIO MOTHS

A Photographic Guide
Volume 4

Euteliidae - Noctuidae Marathyssas - Darts

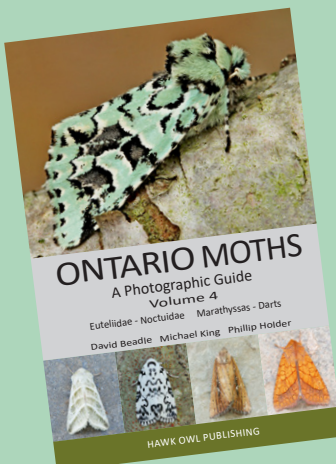
David Beadle Michael King Phillip Holder

This major undertaking is the first of four volumes covering the over 3200 species of Ontario moths. With over 790 exceptional photographs of 640 species, this guide is the only publication to cover species of moths recorded in Ontario from the families Euteliidae to Noctuidae.

Includes all the species recorded at Thickson's Woods Nature Reserve.

Moths are represented with a photograph of a live insect accompanied with text which includes range, size, flight periods and food plants. An essential guide for all naturalists with an interest in moths.

Supported by Matt Holder Environmental Research



Donating to Thickson's Woods Land Trust via Interac e-transfer

by Treasurer Brian Steele

The steps to make a donation are as follows:

- (1) Sign on with your bank and select Interac e-transfer. Next pick the account the money will come from and enter the amount.
- (2) For recipient select "add new" and enter our e-mail address (nature@thicksonswoods.com)
- (3) Then enter a security question and its answer.
- (4) Under Message put your name and address so that I will be able to send a charitable receipt.
- (5) The next screen is a summary where the information can be double-checked.
If okay then click Send.
- (6) Finally, you must send an e-mail to our e-mail address (nature@thicksonswoods.com) setting out the security question and the answer. Without this information I would be unable to make the deposit. If you did not include your name and address under step 5 above then you should include it in this e-mail if you want a charitable receipt.

I bank with TD but I am sure the steps would be very similar for every bank. There may be a charge from your bank to make an e-transfer. I sent a test donation of \$25.00 and was charged \$0.25 for the transaction.

At our end, we should receive two e-mails. The first from your financial institution will say we have received an e-transfer. The second will be from you and have the security question and answer. Once I have completed the transaction, an e-mail will then be automatically sent to you informing you that the deposit was accepted.

Yes, I want to help protect Thickson's Woods Nature Reserve. It's a very special place!
We need spaces where plants and animals can thrive and people can relax in nature.

Here is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Prov/State _____ Postal Code _____ Tel. _____

e-mail _____

Cheques can be payable to Thickson's Woods Land Trust.

Mail to: Box 541 Whitby, ON L1N 5V3 (Charitable Registration # 0674382-52-13)

Donations can also be made by e-transfer. See above for details.

**Thank you so much for helping to support
Thickson's Woods Nature Reserve, this precious corner of nature.**