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October 31 BIRDING IN THE CITY - THE ETOBICOKE LAKESHORE

ynda and I decided that for this issue of BirdTracks we would focus on a local birding location, the Etobicoke lakeshore. Two great locations are Humber Bay East and Colonel Sir Samuel Smith Park (or Sir Sam for short).

Birdfood on Sale Now thru

ur first stop was Humber Bay East which is located at the mouth of the Mimico Creek. To get there we went east on the QEW and exited via Parklawn. Turn right on Parklawn and this takes you directly into the park. Follow the road to the end and there is a very large parking lot.

77e started our hike from the \mathbf{V} west end of the parking lot. There is no real "route" to follow, we just took paths and trails as we came to them. The walking is easy and there is a nice viewing platform overlooking a pond. We just wandered.

There were lots of Goldfinch, many in their winter colours and there were quite a few Cormorants, not the most popular bird but I thought this



group made a

nice picture. **X**/^{e had} some good sightings. A Great Egret made an overhead flyby as we

wandered. A trio of Northern Mockingbirds were chasing each other through some bushes and stopping occasionally

to eat a berry. As we looked closer we realized there was a smaller bird higher in the tree moving quickly from branch to



branch. We were able to determine it

was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

fotion at the top of a tall tree caught our attention. A pair of Starlings were being engulfed by a swarm of insects. The insects were moving into the treetop surrounding the Starlings and then they would move away. As we watched it kept repeating. Using the binoculars we found out what the Starlings were up to. They were eating the insects that were on the leaves. It seemed as if the insects were trying to shoo the Starlings away but like at our bird feeders the Starlings were very persistent.

V7e also checked out the but-

V terfly garden. In this area a lot of Goldfinch were present and we found this guy busily munching on some milk-



weed. We hope he emerges from his chrysalis in time to migrate. **V**7e then continued to Sir Sam

by heading west on Lakeshore. Sir Sam is located right at the end of Kipling. The first parking lot you come to is a pay lot but if you keep going at the end there is a free parking lot.

Te found the hiking at Sir Sam **V** park very similar to Humber Bay East. There are many paths and trails and all are easy to walk. We didn't have any real "route" planned, we just followed the birds.

ur first neat sighting was from a small strip of land that separates Lake Ontario from the pond. In a small inlet were two birds. An adult Black-crowned Night Heron and its offspring. On the left is the adult and on the right the juvenile. We watched these two wander the rocks and then we





continued. We checked out the pond and we were rewarded with another heron sighting, this time a Great Blue

Heron. The Heron was searching for food in the shallows of the pond.

We continued our walk which took us back



to the main walking trail (watch out for bikes) and we saw a Northern Flicker. Along this main path on the north side there are some wooded areas and we did get a quick look at a small bird with a pale yellow belly. Possibly another flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe or maybe a warbler. We did see a lot of Monarchs in this area, but in general the Monarchs were abundant throughout the park. We went past the parking lot and down towards the lake. Goldfinch were everywhere feeding off the plants. Dragonflies were also plentiful. Along the lake we spotted a small bird foraging amongst the rocks, a Spotted Sandpiper.



n our return hike to the car we went by the harbour and a pair of Red-necked Grebes were swimming by the

shore. lose to ✓home and highly recommended. **T** appy Birding!





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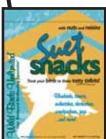
Cardinals, Goldfinch, Woodpeckers, Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrasher enjoying Bark Butter have been reported. In total 76



eported. In total 76 bird species have been reported. Spread on tree bark or use a feeder. **\$9.99 a tub**

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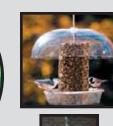


ter many of our local birds love these high energy morsels. Now available. \$3.99/bag



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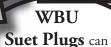


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In the past three years we have been happy to promote and sell our WBU line of recycled plastic feeders



and nest boxes, our EcoTough line. These products divert eight to sixty-four plastic bottles from landfill per feeder.

e are pleased to introduce a new line of recycled plastic products, Woodlinks "Going Green" line. The line consists of bird and squirrel feeders and houses. On average thirty



milk jugs are used to produce each feeder and the Going Green products are constructed of up to ninety percent post consumer recycled plastic.

Feeder prices range from \$64.99 to \$92.99. The Wren house is \$39.99 and the Squirrel feeder is \$49.99.

We think this line of products will be a real winner for everyone and the environment.



We Appreciate Your Business! During the month of October if you spend:

\$75 or more receive a WBU recycled pen and wall calendar

- \$125 or more receive a WBU recycled pen, wall calendar and a songbirds appointment calendar
- \$225 or more receive the above and a laminated Ontario Bird Species Guide

Please note supplies are limited.