

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### Spring Bird Watching in Burlington

The western end of Lake Ontario offers a variety of habitats enabling birders to see many bird species. Bird watching is the fastest growing hobby in the world and it's one of the few activities people can do more of as they get older, plus it is inexpensive and available to everyone. The beauty of birding is that an amateur has just as good a chance at making that rare bird sighting as a professional and it's a great way to get kids interested in nature.

Did you know that there are over 150 local bird species in the Burlington area including:

- **Bald eagles**, all but locally extinct in 1980's, are now making a comeback. Several Bald Eagles have overwintered in Cootes Paradise at Royal Botanical Gardens and last year a pair established a nest.
- The west end of Lake Ontario is a perfect spring stopover area for **water birds** including **Loons, Tundra Swans** and even the occasional **Pelican**.
- **Trumpeter Swans**, the largest waterfowl in North America had vanished from Ontario in 1886. With the help of volunteers they have been brought back to south-central Ontario and 200 swans flock to the shores of LaSalle Park in Burlington to winter over, arriving in November and returning in April to their nesting grounds in the north.
- Burlington is home to species that only recently have become established in Ontario including: **Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, and Red-bellied Woodpecker**.
- **Screech Owls** and **Great Horned Owls** are quite common, although rarely seen.
- Bird feeders attract many small birds that are easy prey for **Coopers Hawks** and **Sharp Shinned Hawks** which are found all year round in Burlington.

Spring is a great time to see a wide variety of birds. Returning ducks and swans can be seen along the lakeshore. Migrating hawks, vultures and even eagles can be spotted on fine spring days - but you'll need to look up - sometimes way up. A good tip is to look at the underside of clouds, the contrast makes the hawks stand out. From early April onwards look for songbirds. **Cardinals** and **Robins** start their territorial singing as soon as the days get warmer. Colourful warblers and other neo-tropical songbirds will start to appear in May.

Burlington's varied geography makes it a very interesting area for bird watchers and the species mix is ever-changing. There is more detailed birding information including a map, checklists and some fabulous photos on the Tourism Burlington website [at tourismburlington.com/what-to-see-n-do/bird-in-burlington](http://tourismburlington.com/what-to-see-n-do/bird-in-burlington). You can also visit some of our partners websites such as the [RBG](#), [Conservation Halton](#), [Hamilton Naturalists Club](#) or [Bronte Creek Provincial Park](#) or better still visit them and enjoy birding this spring!

Tourism Burlington offers so much to SEE & DO. Visit us at the Tourism Burlington Visitor Information Centre 7 days a week, 9-4pm, or on the web at [www.tourismburlington.com](http://www.tourismburlington.com), or contact us at 905.634.5594.

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