



JUNE 2025
VOL NO. 5

THE BLUEBIRD BUGLE

CONTENTS



PAGE 03

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Learn about tulip trees, cultural heritage landscapes, and how magnolia trees are pollinated.

PAGE 04

CREATURE FEATURES

Colugos, Common Eiders, and Jaguars - oh my!

PAGE 05

CASE STUDY OF THE MONTH

Travel to Ontario to learn about the Windermere Basin Enhancement initiative.

PAGE 06

THE BLUEBIRD BLOG

Learn all about the species of Alberta, their environmental significance, threats, management efforts, and what you can do to help.

PAGE 07

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for interesting upcoming environmentally-focused events in Southern Ontario!

Did You Know?

Magnolia trees are so ancient they're pollinated by beetles because they originated prior to bees existing.

Due to this relationship magnolia flowers have tough carpels—the female parts of the flower—to avoid damage from beetle mandibles as they feed looking for pollen.

To learn more visit
<https://gardens.si.edu/learn/blog/the-botany-of-magnolias/>



Species Spotlight



TULIP TREE
(*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Flowers: April-June, yellow-orange, tulip-like

Leaves: star-shaped, alternate

Habitat: low, rich woods and along stream banks

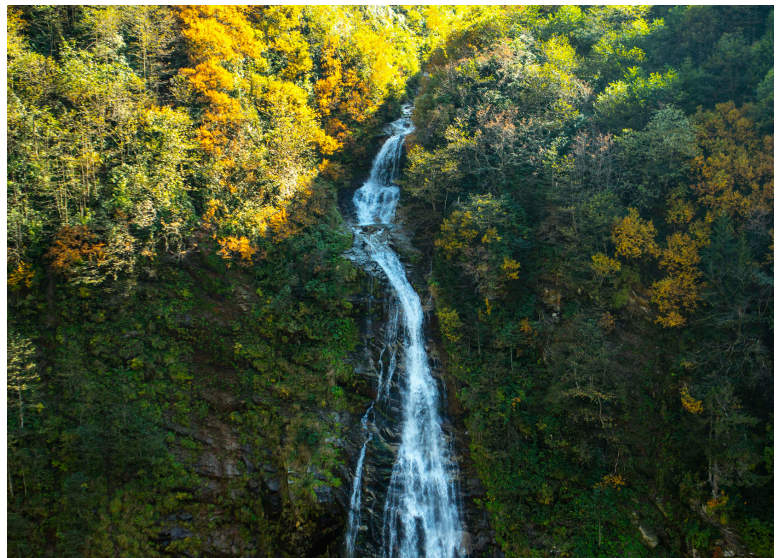
Interesting Fact: the tulip tree is one of the largest native trees in North America

Terminology Time

A **cultural heritage landscape** is a defined area of cultural heritage significance that has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community.

The approach of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to cultural landscapes recognizes three main categories: 1) designed cultural landscape, 2) evolved cultural landscape, and 3) associative cultural landscape.

To learn more visit
<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/pages/tools/tools-for-conservation/cultural-heritage-landscapes-an-introduction>



CREATURE FEATURES

Colugo

Found in the dense tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia including Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, the Colugo plays an important ecological role. As strict herbivores, they feed mainly on leaves, buds, flowers and fruit. They also act as prey to predators such as snakes and owls.



Colugo

Common Eider

Found along the rocky ocean shores of Northern Hemisphere countries such as Canada, Greenland, and Ireland, the Common Eider plays an important ecological role. As carnivores, they maintain the populations of a variety of aquatic species such as mussels, clams, scallops, and urchins. They also act as prey to predators like minks, foxes, and seagulls.



Common Eider

Jaguar

Found across 18 countries from Mexico to Argentina, the Jaguar plays an important ecological role. As carnivores, they maintain the populations of more than 85 species such as spectacled caimans, turtles, peccaries, deer, tapirs, cattle, and capybaras. As top predators in their food chain, they do not have many threats beyond humans.



Jaguar

WINDERMERE BASIN ENHANCEMENT

Ontario



Background

Windermere Basin began as a pre-industrial wetland and was an example of degraded habitat in Hamilton Harbour. In addition to significant contamination, the basin had been historically altered through dredging in 1990 to act as a sediment trap to protect shipping routes. The City of Hamilton devised a plan for rehabilitation that was completed by 2012.

Actions Undertaken

- Isolation of the Basin from major nutrient and contamination sources
- Installation of terrestrial and aquatic habitat structures
- Planting of a variety of native upland, emergent, and submergent species
- Protection of the active Common Tern colony
- Development of 3 distinct wetland zones

Results

- Recreation of an 11 hectare historic Great Lakes coastal wetland area
- Economic benefits for the community from increased tourism opportunities
- Improved social opportunities through the increased diversity of habitat conditions and therefore birds and wildlife
- Enhanced understanding of the history of the site

To learn more about this project visit

https://www.canadianconsultingengineer.com/awards/pdfs/2013/D3_WindermereBasinEnhancement.pdf



SPECIES OF ALBERTA

By Shelby Grohn

The westernmost of Canada's three Prairie provinces, Alberta shares many physical features with its eastern neighbours, Saskatchewan and Manitoba such as being divided by multiple Canadian physiographic regions. In the case of Alberta, those regions are the Cordillera, Interior Plains, and Canadian Shield, with the majority of the province falling within the Interior Plains region. As well, the Rocky Mountains form the southern portion of the province's boundary with British Columbia. Such a unique provincial landscape lends itself to a high level of diversity - up to 60,000 species in fact.

Common local plant species in Alberta include the Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*), the official provincial flower, Rough Fescue (*Festuca altaica*, *F. campestris*, *F. hallii*) the official provincial grass, and the Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *Latifolia*), the official provincial tree.

Due to regional and global threats, many species have been identified on the Species at Risk Public Registry at a stage of "at risk" in the province. Some examples of endangered species include the Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*), Western Spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*), and the Northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Some species that are classified as threatened include Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Small-flowered sand verbena (*Trypterocalyx micranthus*), and the Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*). As well, there are some species classified as special concern including Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), Western blue flag (*Iris missouriensis*), and the Prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*).

Targeted efforts in support of the conservation of such species include the Alberta Conservation Association's Landowner Habitat Project. This project includes partnerships with the Bow River Irrigation District, Government of Alberta, Parkland County, and participating private landowners help conserve key habitats and reduce habitat loss and fragmentation on privately owned land. As of 2024 the project conserves ~ 6,884 acres (2,786 ha) of important wildlife and fish habitat. Of course, the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) is also applicable in Manitoba where species are designated as "at-risk" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). This committee is comprised of experts guided by the SARA who use scientific research and expertise to assess the current level of risk to species in Canada.

In addition to voting for leaders that support positive environmental changes, readers can:

- **Be informed.** Understanding local ecology and environmental initiatives is helpful for making positive environmental changes.
- **Leave no trace.** When hiking, camping or travelling, ensure that you avoid impacting the natural ecosystem. For example, stay on trails and do not remove flora or fauna.
- **Consider your own property.** Growing native plants can help support local ecosystems by providing essential habitats and food sources.
- **Consider community involvement** and donate or support environmental organizations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[VIRTUAL] FROM WATER TO WAVES: RESTORING ESTUARIES FOR SALMON

June 11th, 2025 @ 12:00pm EST

This virtual workshop will bring together experts to present the latest science and guidance to restore estuary connectivity and habitat for early life stage survival and Pacific salmon recovery. Through informational talks and case studies, speakers will present technical design details from estuary projects, provide the most current guidance on restoration techniques, and share valuable lessons learned.

To learn more visit

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VtFlmn1RTW-bMeJ37xjQuA#/registration

[VIRTUAL] CANOPY CLUES

June 12th, 2025 5:30-6:00pm EST

Join the Nature Conservancy of Canada for a fascinating NatureTalks event that will open your eyes to the forest in a whole new way. From the shape of a leaf to the texture of bark, every tree has a story to tell – and this session will teach you how to read the clues.

To learn more visit <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/what-you-can-do/events/canopy-clues.html>

MEDWAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL



June 14th, 2025 10:00am-2:00pm EST

Celebrate the cultural and natural history of the “Forest City’s” namesake at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology! Enjoy a walk through Medway Valley with Friends of Medway Creek/UTRCA, learn about raptors at the live bird demonstration, and seep in the cultural heritage of the ancient Indigenous village beneath your feet as you visit the grounds of the Lawson Site.

****Bluebird Environmental will be attending this event and we would be very interested in meeting you!***

To learn more visit

https://www.londonenvironment.net/medway_heritage_festival

BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL - TTLT

June 22nd, 2025 12:00-3:00pm EST

Join the Thames Talbot Land Trust in the meadow to learn about the amazing diversity of butterflies that can be found in London! Dr. Nusha Keyghobadi and students from her Western University lab will teach you how to catch butterflies with a net, gently observe them up close, and release them back into the wild. While you're here play some nature bingo, do a craft, and make native wildflower seed balls to attract butterflies to your yard at home.

To learn more visit

https://www.londonenvironment.net/butterfly_festival_ttlt



| Bluebird Environmental

@bluebirdenvironmental

www.bluebirdenvironmental.ca

