

## Migratory Bird Ramble:

### How to Become a Bruce Trail Citizen Scientist

Spring is here, and the first migratory birds and buds on the flora have already appeared. This year join our Biodiversity Team on a leisurely nature ramble as we listen and watch for migrating birds, look for emerging wildflowers, and check out the vernal pools that appear at this time of year. Our walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Limehouse schoolhouse parking lot on April 27<sup>th</sup> will coincide with the Spring Bioblitz of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The BTC is seeking the help of those of us using the Trail on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> weekend to gather data about the diversity and distribution of vegetation and animals along the Bruce Trail.



Our local Toronto Team will be making observations of the various species that we encounter, and then learning how to upload them to the BTC's iNaturalist project. Our work will add to the catalogue of species along the Trail. The data we record will help to build a map of plant and animal sightings that will establish a visual guide to distribution patterns and for the movement of species. Our work will assist in the tracking of invasive species and the threat that these pose to native species and rare species.

More than just devoted to maintaining the Bruce Trail and securing its route along the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is an organization dedicated to preserving the plants and wildlife native to the Escarpment. Whether we are trained biologists or just interested in acquiring a better understanding about the plants and animals that are native to our region, the Bruce Trail Conservancy is looking to all of its members to help it better build the knowledge base for protecting the environment of the Escarpment.

So come and join us for our Nature Discovery Walk this April, but remember to pre-register as we have limited the number of those who might participate in order that we can best do our observations. Remember as well to bring your field glasses and any tree or plant or bird identification guides that you might find useful. And keep in touch with and join in with the activities of the Bruce Trail Biodiversity Teams by following us on our Facebook page.