

Experience the Morgan Arboretum

We frequently receive inquiries about different trees, plants, birds, and other wildlife found here or in the local area. Several Friends also contribute their findings and photos for our promotional needs. The past couple of weeks have been exceptional in the volume and quality of discoveries we've been hearing about - there is something here for everyone to enjoy, and even someone who has been coming for decades can experience a first-time discovery! Please enjoy this article of recent findings and adventures that have been reported to us, and don't hesitate to share your own with us.



Peek-a-boo!



A view from the Canada 150 Trail



Spring Azure butterfly



Song Sparrow sun bathing

Photo : Tom Kingsbury

Tom Kingsbury kindly shares albums of best shots from his regular walks in the Arbo

Tom Kingsbury is a name you have probably seen before: his photos show up on our website, social media and in our calendar. He is also an active volunteer participating year-round in shaping the Arboretum as you know it. Frequently sharing albums of stunning moments from his walks, he keeps us office dwellers aware of what can be observed and enjoyed here. The above collection of photos were taken last week. We are grateful for his generosity in allowing us to use his photos but also for the magic we enjoy from the scenes he captures.



American Goldfinch checking itself out



Eastern Phoebe resting on a branch



A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the forest



A Blue Jay curious about the photographer

Photo : Chantal Boudreau

Chantal Boudreau visits the Arboretum for the first time and finds some great spots to photograph birds

It may be a long time ago, but at one point, none of us was aware of the Arboretum's existence. Frequently at the Gatehouse we get first-time visitors who have come up our driveway not sure of what they will find. Chantal Boudreau was one such visitor: she stopped at the Gatehouse and inquired after bird observation. Hannah pointed out some of her favourite birding spots and species that could be seen. These moments of shared interest between strangers are something that we see a lot during our outings, but they also happen during one-on-one encounters at the Gatehouse or on the trails. Chantal shared the beautiful photos above with us, and returned a few weeks later with a friend to see what else they could discover here. We are very grateful that so many of you are willing to share the experience of the Arboretum with others and we would not be here if it weren't for our love of this amazingly diverse green space. See you again soon Chantal!



An Indigo Bunting photographed by Barry Solman, his first time seeing one!

**Barry Solman's Scarlet Tanager photos
outperform everything we've posted this month on Facebook**

After Barry Solman, a long-standing member, sent us those electrifying images of a male Scarlet Tanager, we rushed to post them on our social media to spread the news. Communications Assistant Hannah Legault was very pleased to see that Barry's pictures taken right here in the Arboretum performed better with our audience than the now viral image of the Bald Eagle captured by a professional photographer in a park in Ontario. The popularity of Barry's images is another affirmation of how connected we are to this place, and social media gives us the opportunity to keep our audience connected with the things they love.

On Tuesday last week, we received an email from Barry describing his spotting of a shockingly blue bird that stood out from the surrounding green and then taking his camera out to quickly snap shots before identifying a bird that he had never observed before: the Indigo Bunting, a spectacular sight due to its unique and bold colouration. This is a first-time experience he will not forget.



*A juvenile raptor spreads its wings
when spooked by Julie & Misty*



Will this encourage the young bird to fly?

Photo : Julie Mergl

**Misty the Australian Shepherd and her human Julie Mergl
find a large raptor at ground level!**

An email inquiry received last week: Julie Mergl was walking Misty in the mixed forest of the Arboretum when the dog spooked a large bird camouflaged in the understorey causing it to display its wings and allowing Julie to see it. Using her description of the event and the photos she had sent in, the bird's identity is most probably a juvenile Red-tailed hawk.

The experience of seeing something you've never seen before is invigorating at any age – reaching out to fellow observers and having a discussion that leads to a confirmation that indeed you have seen something special is a feeling the scientist and explorer in all of us craves. Maybe it won't happen on your walk today or tomorrow, but being present in the Arboretum greatly increases your chance of having a significant encounter with nature, creating memories that can last a lifetime.



*Another juvenile Red-tailed Hawk, photographed in the Pine Field
by Andrew Winchester in August of 2014*



REMINDER: Call for Volunteer Arboretum Gardeners

You can still join The Friends of the Morgan Arboretum to help maintain “The Copse” - a collection of native fruit bearing trees and shrubs created in 2017 as part of the Canada 150 celebrations. They are a very friendly bunch who just enjoy being useful in the open air. Tasks include weeding the copse, keeping the wood-chip pathways free of invading plants, trimming back overgrown sightlines and adding new plants for pollinators.

Meet up with them for work parties on the mornings of July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16 (all Wednesdays) starting at 9:30 am. Additional parties could be added on alternative dates. You don't have to commit to all the dates - just come when you can.

Volunteers should contact Richard Gregson at greenbirding@gmail.com



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