



Active Photography: Wildlife Sightings

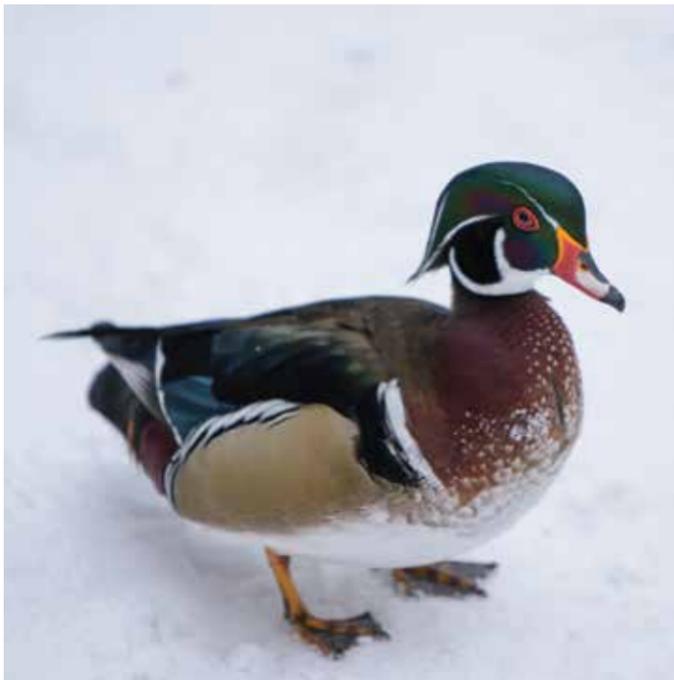
BY JOEL MARSHALL

Amateur wildlife photographer Joel Marshall is based in Hamilton, where he does architectural photography professionally. “I have a great appreciation of the natural world and combine hiking and kayaking with photography,” he says. “It has been very rewarding.”

▲ Last summer while kayaking on Grindstone Creek downstream from Waterdown on the Niagara Escarpment, I spotted this Great Egret fishing along the bank. This photo was taken from my kayak. This bird is difficult to expose properly because of its extremely bright plumage.



► Late on a day in September on Grindstone Creek in Burlington, I took this photo to capture that golden hour when the light is perfect. Luckily, this Osprey flew directly into the setting sun. The Osprey have done a swell job of depleting invasive species of fish.



▲ One December at Hamilton Harbour in Lasalle Park, Burlington, I was out photographing ducks and waterfowl on a very frigid day with little open water on the lake. This male Wood Duck strode on the snow along the shore, heading back into the water.



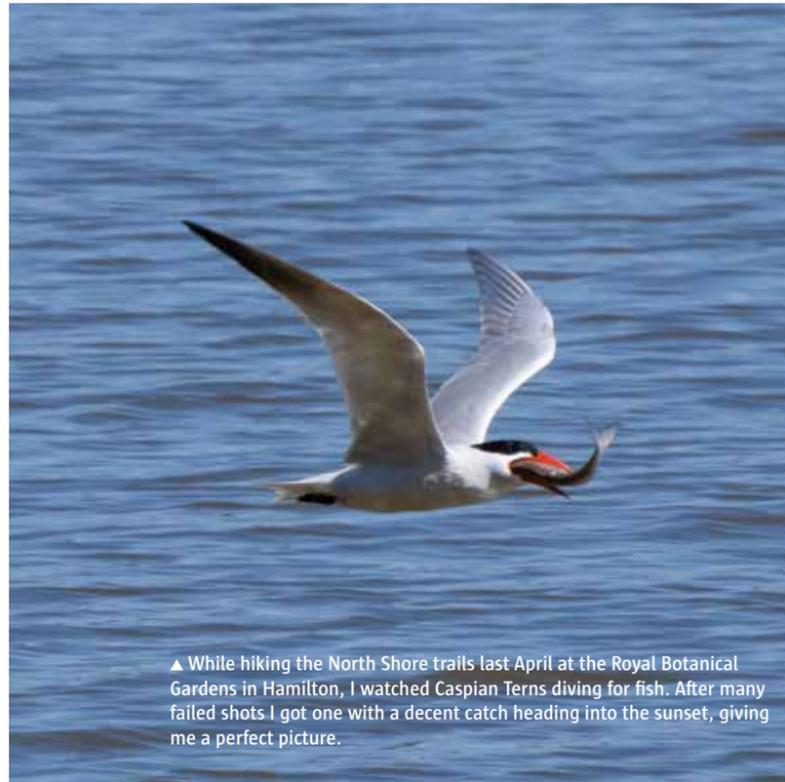
▲ My favourite heron is the Green Heron and while it was fishing it obliged me with a nice pose. This was shot on Grindstone Creek in Hendrie Valley, Burlington.



◀ While out on a shoot last October, looking for deer and photographing a few does, I came across this prize buck that appeared to be foraging in Goldenrod. Luckily, I was there to get a few shots off. This was just steps off the Bruce Trail on Hamilton Conservation Authority land in Ancaster.



▲ While kayaking last summer on Grindstone Creek in Burlington's Hendrie Valley, I saw these Trumpeter Swans and cygnets heading upstream, keeping pace with my paddling. Hendrie Valley is located downstream of Spooky Hollow on the north Escarpment.



▲ While hiking the North Shore trails last April at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, I watched Caspian Terns diving for fish. After many failed shots I got one with a decent catch heading into the sunset, giving me a perfect picture.

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▲ Last November while hiking at Hamilton Conservation Authority, I got this photo of a White-Tailed Deer with an asymmetrical rack. The annual rut was on and the deer were very active. This buck was foraging at the time and I waited for it to get into the open for a clean shot. This buck's rack has two points on one side and four on the other. This photo was taken just off the Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment in Ancaster.



▲ Last May I was watching how intent this Great Blue Heron was, fishing in Grindstone Creek at Valley Inn Road in Hamilton. The light was perfect: a bright overcast sky gave soft diffused lighting without strong shadows.

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▲ I came upon this big Snapping Turtle last May while out shooting on a creek in Hendrie Valley, Burlington. The turtle was sunning itself on a log along the shore and with my 500mm lens I was able to get a shot and not disturb it. Grindstone Creek flows over the Niagara Escarpment at Waterdown.



▲ This pair of Bald Eagles were circling over the Nith River while I was hiking along the trail. They seemed to be enjoying each other's company as they circled overhead. I was able to get several shots.



▲ Last spring on a hike to photograph eagles on the Nith River in Waterloo, I spotted this adult Bald Eagle perched in a pine tree against a dark backdrop.



▲ On a visit to the Urquhart Butterfly Garden in Dundas last summer, I waited for an hour before finally sighting this female Ruby Throated Hummingbird feeding on this Cardinal Flower (Lobelia). These fast fliers don't hang around long and after multiple shots I got one that I liked. This Butterfly Garden is located at the west end of the Desjardins Canal in the valley town of Dundas.

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