

The Green Screen: Warblers and Blackflies
Schad Gallery of Biodiversity
Royal Ontario Museum

[Podcast begins with animated ROM logo and sound sting. Title screen reads: The Green Screen]

[Cut to shot of Elaisha Stokes, Producer in the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity]

Elaisha Stokes: A new study on warblers suggests that climate change may affect the distance that the birds must travel to reach their breeding ground.

[Cut to still close-up of a warbler] **Elaisha:** Warblers, which are insectivores regularly migrate up to 6,000 kilometres.

[Cut to still photo of a landscape with a cluster of industrial buildings and billowing smokestacks in the distance] **Elaisha:** As temperatures rise and habitats change, the birds will face their largest challenge since the Pleistocene era.

[Cut to panning view of four scientists standing next to a camera on a tripod in the field] **Elaisha:** Some scientists fear the change in distance may make it impossible for the birds to complete the flight.

[Cut to shot of Mark Peck, Ornithologist working at his desk] **Elaisha:** Mark Peck, an ornithologist with the Royal Ontario Museum points out that climate change *[Cut to close-up of a bird's nest on Mark's desk]* will impact more than just the warblers.

Mark Peck: Global warming isn't just affecting the birds *[Cut to Mark Peck seated in front of a map of Canada]* it's also affecting the whole food webs that the birds depend upon.

[Cut to a panning shot of a still photograph of a flock of birds] **Mark:** A bird may have to fly 200 miles more to *[Cut to still image of a nest full of baby birds in a tree]* safely get to a breeding site that they can survive in *[Cut to a still of a warbler perched on a rocky outcropping]* but during that process, they have to rely on the *[Cut to a close-up of a spotted yellow and black insect on a branch]* insects that rely on temperatures and vegetation. *[Cut to shot of Mark in front of a map]* All of this has to work together, and it's been done many times in the past, you know, we've gone through major glaciations fairly recently, in fact. *[Cut to panning view*

of the edge of a glacier with rock visible under the ice] however, it's never happened as quickly as it has.

[Cut to still image of a warbler on a branch with wings poised to fly] **Mark:** Most of these birds would adapt over a long period of time. *[Cut to shot of Mark in front of a map]* It's much more challenging to have to adapt in a very short period of you know, a hundred generations or so.

[Cut to panning still image of a flock of birds flying in formation] **Elaisha:** Over 500 million birds migrate annually from Africa to Europe and Asia.

[Cut to shot of Elaisha in the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity] **Elaisha:** Recently, famed Canadian artist and naturalist, Robert Bateman stopped by the Royal Ontario Museum to give a talk on nature, art and the environment.

[Cut to shot of Robert Bateman speaking to a seated audience in the RBC Glass Room at the ROM] **Elaisha:** Bateman shared some of his early childhood memories working as an artist with the Junior Naturalist Club at the ROM.

Robert Bateman: I can't remember *[cut to close-up of Robert holding a microphone]* whether I was eight or twelve when my mother heard about the Junior Field Naturalists, which met in the Museum Theatre. *[Cut to black and white archival still of children sketching in a ROM gallery]* I enrolled in the Bird carving group, so I started my artistic career as a bird carver, in balsa wood.

[Cut to close-up of Robert] **Robert:** In carving a bird, the wings split, it was a very hard piece of balsa wood and I sliced my thumb *[Robert holds up his thumb to show the audience]* I still have that scar – and we didn't have stitches in those days, so my thumb healed like that and I still can't straighten it out, so that's one of my memories of the Royal Ontario Museum *[Laughs]*.

[Cut to Elaisha in the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity] **Elaisha:** And finally, spring is upon us. Along with April showers and May flowers comes the onslaught of vicious blackflies.

[Cut to extreme close-up of a blackfly biting a person's skin] **Elaisha:** When the adult female bites, she can triple her weight in blood. *[Cut to zooming shot showing dots of blood on someone's sock]* The allergic reaction that most of us experience as a *[Cut to close-up of blackfly bites on a young woman's neck]* result of a blackfly bite is due to the anti-coagulants the insect injects. *[Cut to zooming shot of a still lake surrounded by coniferous forest]* Doug Currie, entomologist and

ROM blackfly expert *[camera continues to zoom in to focus on a swarm of blackflies]* shares some tips on how to avoid the vicious critters this season.

[Cut to view of Doug Currie, seated on a blue deck chair in the field] **Doug Currie:** My recommendation is to dress properly, um...tuck your pants into your socks *[Cut to a shot of three people in white bug suits walking along the edge of a stream]* wear a t-shirt and a shirt over top of that, and for me, a bug shirt that's covered with DEET is absolutely the best way to keep them away for long periods.

[Cut to Elaisha in the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity] **Elaisha:** There are over 1800 known species of blackflies.

[Screen fades to white; Red text appears: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity; a green and black animated butterfly flutters across the text to the sound of the Schad chime]

[Podcast ends as screen fades to black]