



The Heron

Spring 2016

Visitors Welcome

Reception Hall
Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church,
50 Erb Street West, Waterloo

More on Sandhill Cranes *By Alan Morgan*

Making my way through the Winter 2015 issue of the Heron I was attracted to Ken Dance's article on "The Haunting Call of the Crane". Just a quick confession right from square one: - I'm a rocker not a birder! As Samm and Jock Mackay will testify, just a few years ago I went by the simple method of bird identification told to me by Jan Lundqvist, a well-known Swedish geologist.

We were on Lake Baikal looking at shore birds and after a few glasses of vodka he commented that bird identification really was quite simple. If the bird has webbed feet, it is a duck. If it does not have webbed feet it is a sparrow!

I had been happily identifying birds along these lines for several decades until Anne and I went to Ecuador with Samm and Jock six or seven years ago and learned that there was indeed a little more than that for proper avian identification. (Of course as a geologist I knew that these were really descendants of the dinosaurs)!

Ah yes, back to Ken's comments where he noted that Bob Pickering had seen Sandhills in Northern Michigan. It so happened that earlier in 2015 Anne and I were driving from Waterloo to Vancouver by way of the northern peninsula of Michigan when we saw two VERY BIG sparrows (translate - "adult Sandhill cranes") - marching off into the shrubs and small trees at a roadside wetland.

Continued on pg. 11

Upcoming Speaker:

**Join us March 28 for a
presentation from our own Roger
Suffling on 1816's "year with no
summer"**

See pg. 14 for more info

THANK YOU *Volunteers!*

To all of our
Waterloo Region
Nature members
who took the extra
step to help out
with a club activity,
event, or position
this year

YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR MARK!

WRN Directors

President

Joshua Shea
519-208-8442
president@waterlooregionnature.ca

Vice President

Stephanie Sobek-Swant
226-600-0261
vicepresident@waterlooregionnature.ca

Past President

David Gascoigne
519-725-0866
pastpresident@waterlooregionnature.ca

Conservation Director

Shayne Sangster
226-792-5441
conservation@waterlooregionnature.ca

Treasurer

Paul Bigelow
519-888-7516
treasurer@waterlooregionnature.ca

Positions of Responsibility

Web Site Manager

Larry Hamel 519-894-5140
web@waterlooregionnature.ca

Mailing Team

Rick and Jan Hook 519-742-7419
mailing@waterlooregionnature.ca

Archivist

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen 519-741-8272
archivist@waterlooregionnature.ca

Noteworthy Bird Sightings

Ken Burrell 519-699-4695
birds@waterlooregionnature.ca

Ontario Nature Representative

<http://ontarionature.org/index.php>
Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287
onrep@waterlooregionnature.ca

Native Plant Nuts

Wayne Buck 519-662-2529
plants@waterlooregionnature.ca

Waterloo Region Nature Kid Liason

Karen Buschert 519-880-8321
kids@waterlooregionnature.ca

Membership

Carol Foxall
519-581-1090
membership@waterlooregionnature.ca

Secretary

Charlotte Teat
519-635-3383
secretary@waterlooregionnature.ca

Publicity

Roger Suffling
519-742-4577
publicity@waterlooregionnature.ca

Outings

Margaret Paré
519-585-2377
outings@waterlooregionnature.ca

Programs

Genie Berger
519-740-2797
programs@waterlooregionnature.ca

F. H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary

Marg Macdonald 519-634-5633
montgomery@waterlooregionnature.ca

Kitchener's Natural Areas

Program (KNAP)
Josh Shea 519-741-3400 ext.3349
Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287
knap@waterlooregionnature.ca

Waterloo Stewardship Council

Josh Shea 519-208-8442
wscrcp@waterlooregionnature.ca

Other Inquiries

info@waterlooregionnature.ca

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Heron Editor

Jenna Quinn
519-362-7921
editor@waterlooregionnature.ca

Submission Deadlines

NEW

Winter Issue:

October 15th

Spring Issue:

February 15th

Fall Issue:

July 15th

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

All WRN Club meetings will be held in the Reception Hall of the Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church
50 Erb St. West

Regular Meetings begin at 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

All parking is **FREE**.

All parking access is off Dupont Street.



The Changing Nature of Nature in the City

I am continually fascinated and always amazed by the adaptability of nature as

it reacts to and re-organizes around change. Some of these changes are natural, for example when major storms happen or as new species emerge during natural succession. Other changes are directly associated with human activities and urban development. In Canada where 80% of people now live in cities, the changing nature of nature in our cities is becoming a topic of great importance and interest. If you couple the process of urbanization with that of climate change and the continued proliferation of exotic invasive species, the natural world as we know it is not only quite different than what we experienced historically but will be very different for our future generations.

As an urban ecologist, like many others in my profession, I have become keenly interested in the study and management of novel ecosystems. These are, as their name implies, new types of ecosystems that have arisen directly as a result of disturbances from humans and are comprised mainly of non-native or exotic species. I am certain that you have visited one of these ecosystems when you walked in a nearby forest and observed patches of Garlic Mustard interspersed below a canopy of Common Buckthorn which is essentially surrounded by a ground cover of Periwinkle. All of these species also happen to be growing in soil that is full of the non-native and exotic earthworm. Perhaps not all novel ecosystems are that extreme or obvious. How about the field down the road or the section of your backyard that you have left to naturalize? In these areas, countless species have emerged in a shared location and formed into a system with interacting species of plants, insects, birds and even some small mammals. This ecosystem doesn't quite fit the definition of a meadow or

even a prairie because of its small size and composition of species, considered by many, to be exotic 'weeds'. It is however, by definition, functioning as an ecosystem. Another example is in Lakeside Park in Kitchener where on a spring, summer or fall day, you can observe Pied-billed grebes, Great blue herons, Green Herons, Great Egrets, Cormorants, Belted Kingfisher and Osprey. These species all use Lakeside Park and specifically Shoemaker Pond for the same reason. Shoemaker Pond is home to a healthy population of exotic Goldfish and Common Carp which are tolerable of the poor water quality conditions and are supporting the functioning of these native species. Should the fish be removed because they don't belong and are of exotic origin? Their removal and eradication would be costly and there are no guarantees that new ones won't appear. There is also no certainty that restored populations of native fish species would even survive in the turbid and salt-polluted water. I am not suggesting that we all go and dump Fluffy the Goldfish into Lakeside Park, but I am suggesting that this functioning ecosystem is likely more appropriate at this time and in this location under these circumstances than one that we could attempt to re-create or restore.

It is scenarios and decisions like these that are fueling debates in modern ecological management. In our future world, sometimes we won't have as much choice and restoration may not always be a practical option for reversing damages and changing undesirable conditions. Instead, considerations about whether a species is native or non-native will become moot and decisions will be focused more on ecosystem function, especially when these ecosystems cycle nutrients, fix carbon and provide habitat for plants and animals.

As I continue to work to understand and manage these novel and hybrid ecosystems, I have come to appreciate that there is an equal opportunity to support nature in our cities when we accept and embrace elements and aspects of novelty.

-Josh Shea



Here are the exciting new outings being offered this spring by our wonderful members! Keep an eye on your e-mail for later announcements, new events, and for reminders. All outings also appear on our website waterlooregionnature.ca as soon as they are planned. As well, remember to check for an all-member e-mail the day of an outing in case of cancellation for weather or other circumstances.

For more information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader.

Nature at RiverSong

Date/Time: Almost any Thursday, Friday, or Saturday during our posted cafe/bakery business hours: year round, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Accompanied nature walks can be prearranged from 9:00 to 11 a.m. or from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., otherwise you can come in, get some refreshment, and then wander the property on your own.

Location: RiverSong Banquet Hall, 632 Hawkesville Road, St. Jacobs

Accessibility: A large portion of our several-acre backyard area is flat and easily accessible and boasts great views of the river as well as field and forest habitat. During the winter, access may be limited due to snow cover. Some trails on the property are relatively steep and can be slippery so appropriate footwear is encouraged.

Duration: Within hours of operation

Leader: John Pries, 519-574-8550, john.h.pries@gmail.com

Description:

Our property is located along the bank of the Conestogo River about 3 km west of St. Jacobs. It hosts a range of flora and fauna and has places to sit and enjoy the surroundings as well as trails to access different parts of the property.

Susan and I are happy to have you enjoy our property during our RiverSong cafe/bakery business hours. I am typically working around the property on Fridays and Saturdays and, based on my availability, will be pleased to take you on a tour. It is a great place for photography, painting, enjoyment of nature, contemplation, and relaxing in any season (yes, even in winter).

If you e-mail me in advance, there is a better chance I can join you if you want company, but you can also wander the property on your own. Or, if you are driving by and the OPEN sign is up, just stop in.

HAVE AN OUTING SUGGESTION?

Contact Marg Paré 519-585-2377 h 519-500-3450 c
outings@waterlooregionnature.ca

Next outing deadline is July 15, however ideas are welcome at any time!

Spring Walk on the Cappleman's Property

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 (raindate: Thursday, April 28)

Time: 6:30 p.m. **Duration:** 1.5 hours

Location: 2774 Sandhills Road, Baden

Leaders: Jim Cappleman 519-634-9711 and Jim Burrell

Description:

A walk through the spring woods at the hilly Cappleman property to see flora and migrating birds.

Voices of the Night

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2016

Time: 8:00 p.m. **Duration:** Approximately 90 minutes

Location: Near gates to Laurel Creek Nature Centre, Beaver Creek Road, Waterloo

Leader: Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287 fn.gib@sympatico.ca

Description:

Experience the Voices of the Night as we focus on American Woodcock, but also listen for and identify amphibian and possibly owl calls. In April and early May the American Woodcock partakes in an interesting flight and sound mating display. The old fields at Laurel have been favoured by this species in the past so hopefully this late evening ritual will again be observed. The nearby wetlands should provide the habitat necessary for a variety of singing amphibians and the woodlands are known to be home territory for owls. Bring binoculars and a flashlight and dress warmly. No RSVP required. Footpaths with some uneven terrain. No washrooms available.

Medicinal Plants

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. **Duration:** 1 to 2 hours

Location: Bechtel Park. Entrance is on Bridge St. near University Ave, Waterloo. We will meet at the end of the parking lot of the dog park.

Leader: Anne Godlewski a_godlewski@hotmail.com

Description:

Medicinal plants are all around you. Come learn about the medicinal properties of plants that may even be growing in your backyard. Feel free to bring an ID guide. The trails at the park are fairly easy: smooth (packed mulch) and mostly flat, with some gentle hills. Depending on the group and the weather, we may wander into areas that are dewy or muddy. RSVP please, so that we know not to leave without you.

Spring Wildflowers in Stamm Woodlot

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m. **Duration:** Approximately 90 minutes

Meeting Place: Entrance to Stamm Woods, beside 424 Lake Louise Blvd., Waterton Drive and Lake Louise Blvd. in Waterloo

Leader: Janice Bock 519-745-3296 traveljb2014@gmail.com

Description:

Families and people of all ages are welcome for this spring wildflower walkabout! Around the Mother's Day weekend is the time to look for spring wildflowers. There are trilliums galore, wild ginger, hepatica, dog-tooth violets, swamp marigolds and we've even seen Dutchman's Breeches.

Field Trip to Thickson's Woods**Date:** Monday, May 9, 2016**Time:** 7:30 a.m. **Duration:** All day**Meeting Place:** Commuter parking lot on Highway 6, just south of Highway 401.Leader: David Gascoigne 519-725-0866 theospreynest@sympatico.ca*Description:*

Thickson's Woods in Whitby contains the last stand of original, old growth White Pine in Ontario, situated right against the shore of Lake Ontario. It is a migrant trap in Spring and on a good day can rival more noted places such as Point Pelee and Rondeau for warblers, thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, etc. It is much closer and an easy drive (providing the Toronto rush hour is not too terrible!).

This date should just about capture migration at its peak and I think we can all have a very enjoyable outing. It will be a full day event, so bring a lunch, binoculars, a field guide and whatever else you need to make your day comfortable. We will cancel only if constant rain is predicted for the entire day. There are several other interesting birding areas in close proximity, so we may leave Thickson's Woods for a while, possibly to return later.

Spring Wildflowers in Cressman Woods**Date:** Tuesday May 10, 2016**Time:** 9:30 a.m. **Duration:** Approximately 2 hours**Meeting Place:** The parking lot at the south end of Wilson Ave., KitchenerLeader: Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287 fn.gib@sympatico.ca*Description:*

April showers bring May flowers! Come for a stroll through Cressman Woods as we search out and appreciate our spring ephemerals. Cressman Woods is part of Homer Watson Park which is Kitchener's second largest natural area (85 hectares). Cressman Woods is one of the best examples of old growth forest in the Kitchener area, protecting some trees more than 200 years old. Wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars as warblers will likely be moving through. Our walk will include foot paths with some hills and uneven terrain as well as part of a formal trail system. No RSVP required. No washrooms available.

Bird Banding Demonstration at rare**Date:** Saturday, May 14, 2016 (raindate: Sunday, May 15)**Time:** 8:00 a.m. **Duration:** 2 hours**Location:** *rare* ECO Centre 768 Blair Rd; picnic table/trailhead at end of parking lotHost: Jenna Quinn 519-650-9336 ext.111 jenna.quinn@rarsites.org

Leader: Kevin Grundy

Description:

Banding birds has provided valuable information to researchers about bird ecology, migration routes, and population dynamics. A group of volunteers led by Bird Bander, Kevin Grundy, has been banding birds during the spring and fall migrations at rare since 2008. Join us for a close-up look at what is involved in bird banding. Observe how the birds are captured, banded, and what information is collected from each bird. You will have a unique opportunity to observe close up some of the bird species that breed at rare or migrate through the property. Children are most welcome!

Accessibility: Some easy walking is optional; highly accessible for all ages. Washrooms available.

University of Guelph Arboretum**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 2016**Meeting Times/Places:**

8:30 a.m. at Canadian Tire parking lot on Victoria St. N., Kitchener, or

9:00 a.m. at University of Guelph Arboretum Centre parking lot

Duration: 3.5 hours including travel from Kitchener and back**Leader:** Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667*Description:*

Dale will lead a spring walk through the picturesque Arboretum grounds starting at the parking lot near the Arboretum Centre. This is a last minute addition, please see website for more info!

Stream Study in Bechtel Park**Date:** Sunday, June 19, 2016**Time:** 10:30 a.m. **Duration:** Approximately 2 hours**Location:** Bechtel Park, in the parking lot behind the baseball stadium. Entrance to the park is on Bridge St. near University Ave, Waterloo**Leader:** Chris Robinson crob_starr@hotmail.com 226-751-2588*Description:*

Using nets, we will explore the world of benthic invertebrates (the ones that live on the bottom of the water) in Laurel Creek. Bring rubber boots or hip-waders if you want to go in the water. The trail down to the creek is easy but is a couple hundred meters long with some undulations. RSVP preferred, but not required.

Longest Day of the Year Outing - Dryden Tract**Date:** Monday, June 20, 2016**Time:** 6:00 p.m. **Duration:** Until 8 p.m. or so**Location:** Carpool lot at Hwy 401 and Homer Watson Blvd./Fountain Street**Leader:** Janet Ozaruk 226-748-9905 (C)*Description:*

Let's make good use of the extended daylight and also welcome the first day of summer with an evening hike at the Dryden Tract. This will be a casual ramble as we keep our eyes open for birds, flowers, insects and whatever else might pop up. The Dryden Tract, located in the Township of North Dumfries, is managed by the GRCA. No washrooms, smooth dirt path, hilly.

Almost the Longest Day of the Year Outing - Drynan Tract**Date:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016**Time:** 6:00 p.m. **Duration:** Until 8 p.m. or so**Location:** Carpool lot at Hwy 401 and Homer Watson Blvd./Fountain Street**Leader:** Janet Ozaruk 226-748-9905 (C)*Description:*

In case the June 20th outing left you wanting more... here's another outing to the area south of Kitchener. The Drynan Tract is a Region of Waterloo Agreement Forest located not far from the Dryden Tract. This area contains varied topography, small ponds, and Carolinian species such as beaked hazelnut, squawroot, ribbon snake and blue-spotted salamanders. No washrooms, smooth dirt path, hilly.

3,300 Species and Counting: 2015 *rare* BioBlitz

By Jenna Quinn



BioBlitz BBQ. Photo by J. Quinn

There has been a long history of information collected about the 900+ acres now owned and stewarded by *rare*. Plants, animals and other species have been documented since the 1970s from graduate research, environmental assessments, inventories, and consulting reports. These documents predate the extensive surveys undertaken by *rare* since the early 2000s by staff, researchers, advisors, and local experts. With all this past and continuing effort to understand the diversity of species that reside here, it comes as a surprise that nearly 70% have yet to be discovered. This is just one exciting piece of information gleaned from *rare's* first BioBlitz.

A BioBlitz is a one-day event that engages a large group of people to inventory all the species in a given area, and provides a snapshot of the biodiversity of that area at a given time. These types of events have many benefits, and can contribute to local, national, and international assessments of biodiversity, particularly on the status and trends of many species, including dangerous invaders and declining species at risk.

More than 100 participants arrived at the *rare* ECO Centre shortly after noon on August 16th to take part in the first ever *rare* BioBlitz, staying until the wee hours of the morning. Partnering with the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario and the 6th International Barcoding Conference, hosted

by the University of Guelph, attracted international expertise to *rare* for a one-of-a-kind opportunity. Scientists from 18 countries and 30 institutions got to experience a Canadian landscape with 24 different habitat types first hand.

Armed with field guides, bug nets, binoculars, sample jars, buckets, and more, small groups ventured out across the reserve to see what they could discover. Back at the Slit Barn, a mobile lab was set up so participants could bring back samples for identification and processing. Thousands of samples were brought to the Biodiversity Institute following the blitz, and individual organisms were barcoded based on their DNA and added to a growing global database. The process works much like reading a product barcode at the checkout of a supermarket. Particularly for groups like insects, mushrooms, and spiders, which are challenging to identify visually, for example due to their small size or similarities of species, DNA barcoding allows you to match your organism to a database of barcodes that includes more than 500,000 species worldwide- and growing!

During nearly 12 hours more than 1,100 new species were documented at *rare*, bringing our total number of species to over 3,300. While more charismatic species like birds and butterflies have been well documented at *rare* through monitoring and citizen sightings, this BioBlitz shows the magnitude of species living in relative obscurity that we easily miss, such as tiny insects, spiders, and fungi. Of the nearly 200 new species of spiders documented, three are new records for the province of Ontario, including the crab spider, *Xysticus winnipegensis*.

At night, participants searched for moths, owls, and bats, and even surprisingly discovered a previously undocumented bat at *rare*, the Hoary Bat, adding to the number of mammals known on the reserve.

Continued on next page

3,300 Species and Counting: 2015 *rare* BioBlitz

continued

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN, we are experiencing an unprecedented loss of biodiversity across the globe; the greatest demise since the dinosaurs went extinct 65 million years ago. Climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution, and over-exploitation of natural resources are all contributing factors. Events like this BioBlitz that incorporate DNA barcoding technology allow for rapid identification of species, to improve and share biodiversity knowledge around the world. Working with incredible partners at the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario and all the BioBlitz participants, a data release paper was published in Biodiversity Data Journal just one week after the *rare* event. Of all the information we acquired, one number most strikingly

represents the opportunity and potential of a place like *rare*— estimates show that our inventory is only approximately 30% complete!

With a seemingly endless number of species to explore and questions to ask, what will you discover at the next *rare* BioBlitz?

The rare BioBlitz will be held annually each summer and will be open to public participation. Save the date the 2016 rare BioBlitz on August 14th. Registration will open April 1st!

This article has been reprinted with permission from the rare Review Winter 2015 Newsletter.



Collected specimens. Photo: BIO

Community Awards: Congratulations Craig Campbell!



Mr. Campbell has contributed to the conservation of Ontario's natural heritage for over 50 years. A longtime member of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists (now Waterloo Region Nature), his extensive knowledge of the area's flora, fauna and natural areas helped identify sites as municipally-designated Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas in 1976, the first in Canada. As an amateur naturalist, he is well-known as an expert on Ontario's mammals, herpetofauna, butterflies and plants. In 2013, Mr. Campbell received Ontario Nature's W.W.H. Gunn Conservation Award.

Photo provided by A. Macnaughton

Recommended for you...

Have you watched or read something nature related that you think fellow WRN club members might enjoy? Send to editor@waterlooregionnature.ca and it may be included in the next newsletter!

Whodunnits for bird lovers!! Have a look at [A Siege of Bitterns: A Birder Murder Mystery](#) by Steve Burrows. The story happens in England but the author and the main character detective are Canadian. Thickson's Woods gets a mention! There are interesting tidbits about various birds and lots about saltwater marshes! It came out last year and Burrows has since published another, [A Pitying of Doves](#) so I'm watching for a series!

...by Margaret Paré

Membership Directors' Report

By Carol Foxall

Thank You Donors!

Rachel Balderson
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Nature in the City Speaker Series

Spring 2016

Kitchener Public Library

Presented by:
 Kitchener's Natural Areas Program
 &
 Waterloo Region Nature

Wednesday March 9, 7-8:30 p.m.

Urban Wildlife in our Community with Josh Shea
 KPL Central Branch
 Register at www.kpl.org/programs



Wednesday April 13, 7-8:30 p.m.

Sex & The Single Bird with David Gascoigne
 KPL Central Branch
 Register at www.kpl.org/programs

Wednesday May 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Gardening for Butterflies with Thelma Beaubien
 KPL Central Branch
 Register at www.kpl.org/programs



More Information:
Joshua.Shea@Kitchener.ca
 or 741-2345
 Full Presentation Details: www.kwfn.ca

Welcome New Members!

Rachel Balderson
 Lauren & Larry Bauman
 John DeBoer
 Anne Godlewski
 Patricia Moffat
 Geoff Moore
 Callee Rice
 Susie Turner
 Laura Robson
 Jennifer McPhee & Matt Dyson

With Sympathies

*A card was sent to
 Jim Cappleman and
 Irene Simpson to convey
 our sympathy for the death
 of their son Rhett.*

More on Sandhill Cranes

By Alan Morgan

Continued from pg. 1

I managed to get some pictures before they vanished, but it was not until we arrived home and I looked at the images on the computer that I noticed that they had two chicks in the long grass between them (Top left).

This was not the first time that we had seen Sandhill cranes. In 2009 we were in southeast Arizona, close to Willcox at Whitewater Draw where Sandhills gather in vast numbers (Top right), in fact the day that we were there the local papers reported record numbers of Sandhills, - something like 26,427 - (although how they managed to be that precise in the count really stumped us both)!



Sandhill Cranes. Photos by Alan and Anne Morgan.

Our first "local" encounter with Sandhills was on the Bruce Peninsula near Lion's Head in 2011 when we saw two in flight (one shown lower left) before they landed some 600m away in a grassed field.

One final remark on the Sandhills is that they do seem to have lost the natural caution exhibited by most wild birds. About ten days after our Michigan encounter we were at the Reifel Sanctuary in Delta BC having a lunch snack when we were approached by two birds (lower right). We resisted (as we always do) the temptation to provide any food (although frogs were not on our sandwich menu that day), but they certainly seemed to expect a handout. As Ken remarked in his closing page perhaps it is not too surprising that they will accept food at recreational resorts in Florida. Good luck in spotting these VERY BIG sparrows - they are spectacular birds!

The Burrell's Bird-a-thon

Again this year my family and I will be taking part in the Great Canadian Birdathon, formerly known as The Baillie Birdathon.

We have scheduled our Birdathon for May 12 to 16 in the Point Pelee area.

We would appreciate your support again. A donation of \$35 or more will permit you to receive BSC's newsletter, Bird Watch Canada, for 1 year.

A portion of what is raised comes back to WRN.

You can sponsor us online at

<http://birdscanada.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ie-vent=1153443&lis=1&kntae1153443=48CD3A12E31342B2B77EBD9B2BC38759&team=6642843>

Thank you for your continuing support.

-Jim Burrell

Ontario Nature Report

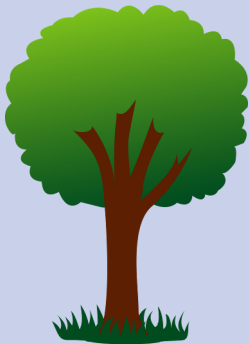
By Fraser Gibson

85th Anniversary and Annual Gathering

The Bruce Beckons! Save the date to join us at Evergreen Resort, South Bruce Peninsula on June 3-5, 2016 for our annual gathering! We will explore local ecological treasures and a great diversity of habitats, including field trips to Ontario Nature's Petrel Point and Malcolm Bluff Shores nature reserves. Members will also have the opportunity to vote at our annual general meeting during the weekend.

Reflected Lights a Hazard for Birds

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change proposed a draft regulatory amendment to exempt radiation (reflected light) emitted from buildings from requiring an Environmental Compliance Approval. This deeply troubling proposal came forward even though Ontario Nature, working with Ecojustice, has addressed this issue since 2010. Legal action resulted in a 2013 Ontario court ruling that deemed light reflected from building windows to be a "contaminant" under the Environmental Protection Act. Yet, instead of acting on the court findings, the Ministry proposed the removal of this legal requirement! Ontario Nature and many of its supporters have opposed this proposed amendment.



Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership Reacts to Crombie Report

On December 7, David Crombie announced 87 recommendations for the future of the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Crombie report reflects many of the priorities of Ontario Nature and the Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership but it falls short in a few areas. We need to hold the government accountable to ensure that these important shortcomings are addressed. Ontario Nature and partners will press the government to improve the plans and grow the Greenbelt.

ESA Appeal to be heard in April 2016

Ontario Nature has been awaiting news about our leave to appeal the Ontario Divisional Court's 2015 decision to uphold a provincial regulation that exempts major industries from the strict protection standards outlined in the Endangered Species Act. The Ontario Court of Appeal will hear our case on April 19th, 2016. The appeal, to be argued pro bono by veteran lawyers Lara Tessaro and Anastasia Lintner, challenges the lower court's ruling that puts already endangered species at further risk of extinction.



Upcoming Speakers and Meeting Programs

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm. Meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Meeting Location: Reception Hall, Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church, 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo

MARCH

March 28, 2016

The Year with No Summer - Roger Suffling

The Presentation: April 5th 1815, was a momentous time. Yes, Napoleon was defeated outside of Moscow and the War of 1812 was winding to a close, but the explosion of Krakatoa volcano in what is now Indonesia was much bigger! - The largest explosive eruption in 10,000 years, two human cultures completely obliterated, 4 cu Km of dust liberated to the atmosphere. The dust circled the globe up to the arctic, causing ecological disruption and human famines, especially in 1816, "The Year with No Summer". Roger will outline how the tragedy unfolded, with particular reference to the forests of Northern Ontario.

The Presenter: Roger Suffling is a WRN club member and an adjunct professor at the University of Waterloo. He has spent much of the last 45 years conducting field work and resource planning activities in Northern Ontario, including examination of the Hudson's Bay Company Records dating from the early 19th Century.

APRIL

April 25, 2016

All About Butterflies - Thelma Beaubien

The Presentation: Attracting butterflies to your garden, providing the plants to continue their life cycle and of course raising butterflies.

The Presenter: WRN member Thelma Beaubien is well known not only for her passion for butterflies, but also for her fabulous photography. Inspired by a presentation made by Anne Morgan, Thelma began creating her butterfly garden in 2008, transforming it into a butterfly magnet.



Reminder: next month, WRN plant exchange! Please pot up your extra treasures, especially native plants, and save them for sharing with other members next month. Seedling trees, shrubs, extra veggie plants as well as annuals and perennials welcome, whether rare or mundane. Labels indicating what it is, and any care notes, much appreciated. No invasive species please!

MAY

(AGM-Special Start Time: 7pm) May 30, 2016

Annual General Meeting – note: earlier meeting start time: 7pm

Your Pane is Their Pain: Preventing Birds From Flying Into Windows - Michael Measure, Executive Director and Co-Founder of FLAP Canada

The Presentation: Each year, an estimated 1.5 - 2 billion migratory birds are killed across North America as a direct result of human activity. Bird-building collision fatalities are a leading cause of bird death shared with cat attacks, impacts of habitat destruction, agriculture, urban development, climate change, and invasive species. Many birds effected by these issues are species at risk who can ill-afford this additional stress. We can only expect that the numbers of migratory bird deaths will continue to increase as our urban environment continues to grow, unless we all work together to minimize our human footprint.

The Presenter: Since founding the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada organization in 1993, Michael Measure has spearheaded efforts in Canada to preserve migrating birds from injurious and fatal collisions with manmade structures. More than two decades later, the issue of preventing window collisions is a global initiative, and raising public awareness is now a major component of the work done by FLAP.

Plant Exchange: Bring plants from your own garden to share with other members. Last year, we had some great finds in native trees, shrubs, and plants as well as perennials and veggies. An area will be set up outside, where you can place your pots, or select from those available – even if you haven't contributed. Please, no invasive species! Labels much appreciated.

WRN: Photo Gallery



WRN members enjoying holiday food.
Photo by P. Bigelow



Heather Bagg and Janet Carey.
Photo by P. Bigelow



Snowshoe-less hike at *rare*. Photo by T. Woodcock



Carolers caroling at the holiday gathering. Photo by P. Bigelow

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Judy Hamel greeting members at the
holiday gathering. Photo by P. Bigelow



Hawk feasting on squirrel.
Photo by H. Russell



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**WRN is a registered
charitable organization.
Membership fees and all
donations are tax
deductible.**

Objectives of WRN

TO acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural
history.
TO protect and preserve wildlife.
TO purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for
the advancement of conservation.
TO support public interest in nature and its preservation
by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by
other means as falls within the scope of the
Corporation.

General Information

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month,
September to May with the exception of December.
Our meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.
Outings are scheduled almost every month.

Advertising Rates for The Heron:

Advertisement Size	Per issue	Full year (3 issues)
Full Page	\$200	\$520
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