

**THIS ISSUE**

Cover: We Struck Out!  
 2: Contacts  
 3: President's Corner  
 4-7: Outings  
 7: WRN Teens  
 8: Reasons to Renew  
 8-9: Membership Report  
 10: We Struck Out, continued  
 11: WRN Photo Gallery  
 12– 13: ON Nature Report  
 14-15: Next Meetings

**COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS**

*All WRN scheduled events, meetings, and outings have been cancelled for the month of March including WRN Kids and Teens events. Further cancellation notices will be sent via email and posted on our website as decisions are made.*

*Check your email regularly and visit [waterlooregionnature.ca](http://waterlooregionnature.ca) for updates.*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

*We are looking for volunteers to join our Board of Directors! Multiple positions available. No experience needed!*

*Contact Josh Shea for more info.*



Black-capped Chickadee.  
 Photo: D. Thomas

**We Struck Out!**

*By Roger Suffling*

In 2017, the City of Kitchener developed Tall Buildings Urban Design Guidelines<sup>i</sup>, reflecting a drive for urban intensification and a push for more public transit and for walkability. However, aesthetic and ecological challenges arise – They include winds gusts around towers, shading of lower buildings and sidewalks and bird strikes on windows. Some argue that the “guidelines” are neither enforceable nor comprehensive, but they do represent a beginning.

Bird strikes are a conservation issue: Collisions with glass kill 25 million birds annually in Canada<sup>ii</sup>. There are two sub-problems. First birds collide with tall buildings during migration, and often on foggy spring nights; Second, near ground level, birds don't recognise reflected sky or vegetation in a window and attempt to fly through it. They also try to alight on houseplants behind windows and to fly through buildings to exit at other windows. For instance, at the School of Architecture in Cambridge, a line of ground-floor windows is fronted by shrubs, and I've found dead sparrows and cardinals there on several occasions. I have similar problems at home, with at least three collisions this winter. I've used deterrent hawk silhouettes but without success, though sheer curtains across the problem window have good effects. I have not yet tried various other home-made and commercial products.

<sup>i</sup>[https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/DSD\\_PLAN\\_Tall-Building-Urban-Design-Guidelines.pdf](https://www.kitchener.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Documents/DSD_PLAN_Tall-Building-Urban-Design-Guidelines.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup>Machtans, C. S., C. H. R. Wedeles, and E. M. Bayne. 2013. A first estimate for Canada of the number of birds killed by colliding with building windows. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 8(2): 6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ACE-00568-080206>

*Continued on page 10...*

## **WRN Directors**

### **President**

Jenna Quinn 519-362-7921  
[president@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:president@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Vice President**

David Gascoigne 519-725-0866  
[vicepresident@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:vicepresident@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Past President**

Joshua Shea 519-208-8442  
[pastpresident@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:pastpresident@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Conservation Director**

Anita Smith 519-500-2676  
[conservation@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:conservation@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Treasurer**

Paul Bigelow 519-888-7516  
[treasurer@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:treasurer@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Membership Director**

Zack Stevens 226-929-9393  
[membership@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:membership@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Secretary**

Erin Bannon 519-616-0519  
[secretary@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:secretary@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Outings Director**

Graham Macdonald 519-634-5633  
[outings@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:outings@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Program Director**

Snehaa Suryanarayanan 416-816-0036  
[programs@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:programs@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Publicity Director**

Jason Earle 519-505-3797  
[publicity@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:publicity@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Director at Large**

Julian Patteson 647-551-4336  
[director@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:director@waterlooregionnature.ca)

All WRN Club meetings are 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.

## **Positions of Responsibility**

### **Web Site Manager**

Paul Bigelow 519-888-7516  
[web@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:web@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Mailing Team**

Rick and Jan Hook 519-742-7419  
[mailing@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:mailing@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Archivist**

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen 519-741-8272  
[archivist@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:archivist@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Noteworthy Bird Sightings**

Jim Burrell  
[birds@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:birds@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Ontario Nature Representative**

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

### **Facebook Page Administrator**

Cathi Stewart  
[facebook@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:facebook@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **WRN Kids Coordinator**

Giselle Carter 518-584-2205  
[kids@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:kids@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **WRN Teens Coordinator**

Marg Paré 519-585-2377  
[teens@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:teens@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **F. H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary**

Marg Macdonald 519-634-5633  
[montgomery@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:montgomery@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)**

Josh Shea 519-741-3400 ext.3349  
[knap@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:knap@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Other Inquiries**

[info@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:info@waterlooregionnature.ca)

## **Heron Editor**

Jenna Quinn  
 519-362-7921  
[editor@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:editor@waterlooregionnature.ca)

### **Submission Deadlines:**

**Fall Issue**  
 July 15th  
**Winter Issue**  
 October 15th  
**Spring Issue**  
 February 15th



## A Little Louder for the People at the Back

It's been a pleasure representing you as club President. Thanks to all the folks that demonstrated their passion through volunteering, signing petitions, attending strikes and protests, sharing knowledge and stories, and making personal sacrifices day in and day out to be a living example of the changes we should all make for a more sustainable future. I know it is not always easy, but nothing helps more than having a community of people around with shared values. So, congratulations and thank you for all you've personally accomplished this year.

Our club has been busy too, ensuring our collective voice is heard on the issues that matter most. Here is a quick summary of some of the actions taken this year:

- Endorsed delegation to council at the City of Kitchener to consider development of an invasive plant management strategy
- Endorsed a joint submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on proposed changes to the Provincial Policy Statement that will diminish protections for the natural environment and farmland across Ontario and submitted our own independent statement
- Hand-delivered letters to all regional MPPs during November Days of Action expressing our fundamental belief that developer and industry interests should not be prioritized over environmental protection and other related concerns with Bill 132
- Attended in-person meetings with Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris and Waterloo MPP Catherine Fife to further discuss those and other environmental concerns
- Expressed our opposition to the extension of cottage leases and the consideration of long-term occupation in Rondeau Provincial Park, where the need to phase out private cottages has been long acknowledged, via a joint ERO submission
- Submitted ERO comments recommending the MNRF immediately stop planning to amend the Crown Forest Sustainability Act to double the amount of forest logged and expressing our strong opposition to the proposal
- Endorsed a joint ERO submission in opposition to the reintroduction of the spring bear hunt across Ontario
- Signed and supported a joint letter to the Premier calling on the Government of Ontario to retain the current mandate of the province's 36 Conservation Authorities

To keep the pressure on and make sure our club has a voice in these and more important issues, it is essential we have a complete Board of Directors for next season. We are looking to fill the roles of Secretary, Outings Director, and Conservation Director. Thank you to Erin, Graham, and Anita and Past President Josh for their outstanding efforts, hard work, and dedication over these past three plus years.

The last two years have been my first experience joining a non-profit board of directors, and I have considered it a pleasure and a privilege. We are fortunate to have an experienced and welcoming membership happy to support newcomers and offer advice along the way. I encourage everyone to consider joining us to make a valuable contribution to our community, learn and laugh along the way, and represent our growing membership and nature-lovers during these uncertain times.

Thank you for all the kind comments and friendly faces this year!

-Jenna





The following outings are confirmed for Spring and Summer 2020. In the event of change or cancellation, WRN members will be notified by email. Outings are free unless otherwise noted. **WRN thanks the various property owners for so generously sharing nature on their land.**

### Spring Migrants in the Long Point Area —**CANCELLED**—

**When:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 8:00am until approximately 2:00pm.

**Where:** Meet at 8am at the Fountain St. car pool lot, just SW of the Homer Watson/HWY 401 interchange

**Who:** Jim Burrell and Carol Gregory      burrellsc@golden.net

We will travel to Aylmer to view the swans at the Police College and then head for the north shore of Lake Erie. We will explore around Long Point, Port Rowan and Turkey Point before breaking up. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, water, lunch/snacks and warm clothes. Walking should be pretty easy.

### North Shore of Lake Ontario —**CANCELLED**—

**When:** Saturday, March 28, 2020; full day event beginning at 8:00am.

**Where:** Meet at the commuter parking lot on Highway 6 just south of Highway 401.

**Who:** David Gascoigne    519-725-0866 (H)    226-747-7299 (C)  
theospreynest@sympatico.ca

First stop at the Desjardins Canal in Dundas, expect waterfowl, Hooded Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, American Tree Sparrow, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Second stop is LaSalle Park in Burlington for the large concentration of Trumpeter Swans plus gulls and numbers of waterfowl. The boardwalk may yield Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, woodpeckers, sparrows and the chance to hand feed Black-capped Chickadees. Next stop will be at Sioux Lookout Park, for the chance to see Long-tailed Ducks at close range, and “flying” underwater. Large rafts of Common Goldeneye and all three scoters are possible, plus Red-breasted and Common Mergansers, Bufflehead, and Mute Swans. Other stops will depend on recent reports. Plenty of washroom stops and a lunch stop. Pack a lunch and snacks if you need them. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars, scope, field guide and enthusiasm.

**Voices of the Night**      *Please RSVP by email* 

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**When:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 from 8:00pm for approximately 1.5 hours.

**Where:** Meet at the gates to Laurel Creek Nature Centre, 525 Beaver Creek Rd., Waterloo

**Who:** Fraser Gibson      519-576-9287      fn.gibson@sympatico.ca

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 engages in an interesting flight and sound mating display. The old fields at Laurel Creek Nature Centre 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.

Foot paths are part of an established trail system and the terrain is generally level. There may be some wet sections. Some participants may venture a short distance off the trail for a better view of woodcocks. Bring binoculars, a flashlight and dress warmly. No Washrooms available.

**Eramosa River Conservation Corridor Mini-Blitz: Spring Ephemerals** 

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**When:** Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 1:00pm for approximately 3 hours.

**Where:** Meet at 5174 7th Line, Guelph-Eramosa

**Who:** **rare Charitable Research Reserve**, Jenna Quinn      519-650-9336 x111  
jenna.quinn@raresites.org

Join in for an exploration at the newly acquired Property 1 in **rare's** Eramosa River Conservation Corridor. This outing will focus on looking for spring ephemeral plants and is an opportunity to explore a new location and mix and mingle with fellow naturalists from Nature Guelph. Those looking to learn and those with knowledge to share are equally welcome. This property has only a rugged path including uneven terrain some may find challenging, No washrooms available on site. Thank you for helping us conserve more greenspace in our communities!

**Mill Race Trail, St. Jacobs** 

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**When:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 from 9:00am for approximately 2.5 hours.

**Where:** Meet at the Three Bridges Road end of the Mill Race Trail, near the bridge over the Conestogo River

**Who:** David Gascoigne      519-725-0866 (H)      226-747-7299(C)  
theospreynest@sympatico.ca

A large group of Waterloo Region naturalists enjoyed a stroll along the Mill Race in January, so what could be better than a return visit in May when neotropical migrants will have returned? This walk should produce flycatchers, warblers, thrushes, woodpeckers and other interesting birds. There is an excellent coffee shop in St. Jacobs (Eco Café) where we can all have a coffee/tea/cold drink before walking back along the trail. The total distance is about 3 kilometres.

## Schneider's Woods

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**When:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 from 9:00am for approximately 2 hours.

**Where:** Meet at Wideman Road and Wilmot Line in Waterloo

**Who:** Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667 ingreyda@hotmail.com

We usually visit this location in the fall, but it will be interesting to see what it looks like in the spring. Instead of asters and goldenrods, we'll look for woodland spring ephemerals and see the variety of deciduous trees in new leaf and blossom. We should also see and hear some new avian arrivals as well as the resident birds. Bring binoculars, field guides and a drink. A couple of moderately challenging hills. No washrooms available. Attendance confirmation not necessary.

## Eramosa River Conservation Corridor Mini-Blitz: Birds

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**When:** Saturday, June 6, 2020 from 8:00am for approximately 2 hours.

**Where:** Meet at 5174 7th Line, Guelph-Eramosa

**Who:** **rare Charitable Research Reserve**, Jenna Quinn 519-650-9336 x111  
jenna.quinn@raresites.org

Join in for an exploration at the newly acquired Property 1 in **rare's** Eramosa River Conservation Corridor. This outing will focus on looking for birds and is an opportunity to explore a new location and mix and mingle with fellow naturalists from Nature Guelph. Those looking to learn and those with knowledge to share are equally welcome. Bring your own binoculars, and consider bringing a second pair to share if you have them. This property has only a rugged path including uneven terrain some may find challenging, No washrooms available on site. Thank you for helping us conserve more greenspace in our communities!

## Natchez Hills ESPA

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**When:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 5:30pm for approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.

**Where:** Meet at the parking lot at M.R. Good Family Trailway on Walter Bean Trail, south end of Otterbein Road at the Grand River (43.460338, -80.419986)

**Who:** Janet Ozaruk 226-748-9905 (C)

Let's welcome the start of summer with an evening walk. We will begin on the Walter Bean Trail, heading downstream with the Grand River on one side and scrub field on the other. We'll form a loop by switching to the Grand River Trail and passing through thick cedar groves and over seeps braiding into small creeks. There will be some up and down climbing along the ridge under a canopy of mature maples. Fingers crossed for interesting sightings of birds, plants and anything else! No washrooms, uneven ground, changes in elevation.

## HAVE AN OUTING SUGGESTION?

Contact [outings@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:outings@waterlooregionnature.ca)

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

## Eramosa River Conservation Corridor Mini-Blitz: Butterflies

**When:** Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 10:00am for approximately 2 hours.

**Where:** Meet at 5174 7th Line, Guelph-Eramosa

**Who:** **rare Charitable Research Reserve**, Jenna Quinn 519-650-9336 x111  
jenna.quinn@raresites.org

Join in for an exploration at the newly acquired Property 1 in **rare's** Eramosa River Conservation Corridor. This outing will focus on looking for butterflies and is an opportunity to explore a new location and mix and mingle with fellow naturalists from Nature Guelph. Those looking to learn and those with knowledge to share are equally welcome. Bring your own butterfly net or borrow one of the many that will be available on site. This property has only a rugged path including uneven terrain some may find challenging, No washrooms available on site. Thank you for helping us conserve more greenspace in our communities!



## Waterloo Region Nature Teens

By Marg Paré

The learning and working continues with Waterloo Region Nature Teens!

In November, we explored WRN's Montgomery Nature Reserve with Anita Smith and Fraser Gibson. We learned about the history of the property and how to use iNaturalist for identification and reporting. In the future, we hope to help with the ongoing maintenance at Montgomery.

In December, Mike Smith taught us some woodworking skills and we (partially!) built nesting boxes. Our February project will be to finish assembling the boxes and eventually, we will install them and hope they'll be inhabited!

In January, a few of our Teens helped out at **rare's** Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Our main project, though, was preparing native plant seeds at Laurel Creek Nature Centre. This was a first because we were invited to be part of a 3-way partnership with Waterloo Public Library and GRCA. We look forward to more combined projects!

We'll have lots going on in the spring. During March Break, we have a return visit to the UW Ecology Lab. Once the weather warms up, we hope to re-start salamander monitoring and also join the on-going monitoring of nesting boxes. Both the monitoring projects are at SpruceHaven Farm.

Teens who are interested in joining us, should get in touch:  
[teens@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:teens@waterlooregionnature.ca)

To see past WRN Teens projects and to register:  
[waterlooregionnature.ca/teens](http://waterlooregionnature.ca/teens)

To become an occasional adult volunteer with Teens (last Saturday afternoon of the month and Saturday mornings weekly starting in April):  
[teens@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:teens@waterlooregionnature.ca)





## Membership in Waterloo Region Nature

*By David Gascoigne*

Most of the people reading this message will have renewed their membership in the Club last fall and are happy to be a part of this community of naturalists – people committed to the enjoyment of nature in all its myriad forms. Even though each of us may have a degree of specialization or a favourite category we all derive satisfaction and pleasure from every facet of the natural world. And we are fortunate to have so many capable people in the club to help us.

Usually outings are devoted to one taxon or another, but when have you joined an outing on ferns, for example, and have failed to notice the birds all around you? Or the wildflowers nestled next to the ferns? A walk along the Mill Race to seek birds also provides the opportunity to explore the world of the Muskrat and the Beaver. Who is not anxious to perfect his or her tree identification skills? Our guest speakers are often outstanding, and time spent with like-minded people is precious indeed.

Your membership fees support the Club, your donations sustain the viability of the Sanctuary Fund and enable us to contribute to worthwhile projects, such as land acquisition, to protect natural areas in perpetuity.

Yet in the 21st Century there is another reason for your continuing membership support, and perhaps this need is more pressing than it has ever

been. As we (a universal “we”) continue to display a stupefying proclivity to elect politicians who are committed to the dilution of environmental protections, the rejection of science and the denial of climate change, we are involved more frequently than ever before in advocacy work, meeting with politicians, making deputations and so on. And size does count! The more people we can say that we represent the more influence we can have. To those stalwarts who renew their membership faithfully and regularly year after year we tip our hat. But to everyone who has let a membership lapse, for any number of reasons, we urge you to reconsider and rejoin our fellowship. If you cannot attend every meeting we understand but if you support our goals please return to the fold so that we may include you in the number of people we represent. If you have a single membership because your spouse is not as committed as you are please consider, nevertheless, upgrading to a family membership so that we can add another voice to our advocacy. Additionally, if you have friends who might be interested, encourage them to join.

I have been a member of three naturalists clubs at different times in my life and I can say without a doubt that WRN is the finest by far. Let's swell our numbers and continue as a force for nature far into the future. With your support we can do it.

## Membership Director's Report

*By Zack Stevens*

### *Welcome, New Members\**

*John Buehner*

*Leslie Buehner*

*Josephine Ennis*

*Kelly Foyle*

*Simon Kiss*

*Charlie Klepack*

*John Klepack*

*Pippa Klepack*

*Michelle MacMillan*

*Alan Macnaughton*

*Maggie Middleton*

*Oliver Middleton*

*Sean Middleton*

*Stuart Middleton*

*Bill Mitchell*

*Clare Mitchell*

*Gordon Nelson*

*Shirley Nelson*

*Christine Spence*



## *Thank You to Our Donors*

*Miriam Bauman & David Gascoigne*

*Robert & Ann Beau*

*Thelma & Ron Beaubien*

*Genie Berger*

*Paul & Pat Bigelow*

*Elizabeth Brechun*

*James Burrell & Carol Gregory*

*Jim Cappleman & Irene Simpson*

*Lynn Conway, Alex White, Rigel &  
Anthea Conway-White*

*D2L Environment Action Committee*

*Ken & Janet Dance*

*John De Boer*

*Marco & Donna DeBruin*

*E. Dietrich*

*Anonymous Donors*

*Linda Dutka*

*Karen & Barry Earle*

*Randy & Deborah Fowler*

*Bob Fraser*

*Nancy & Fraser Gibson*

*Wende Gregory-Frei & Dan Frei*

*Larry & Judy Hamel*

*Tyler Hampton*

*Lorne Harding*

*Wilmot Healthy Communities Coalition*

*Wayne Buck*

*Dennis & Doris Hilker*

*Dale & Nina Ingrey*

*Marion Kelterborn*

*Simon Kiss & Kelly Foyle*

*Ruth Kroft*

*Elaine La Ronde*

*Denise Leschak*

*Margaret Lewis-Macdonald &  
Graham Macdonald*

*Curtiss & Faye MacDonald*

*Kathleen Mak-Fan*

*Catherine McKerron*

*Greg Michalenko*

*Clare & Bill Mitchell*

*Anne & Alan Morgan*

*April Morrissey*

*Doug & Su Morton*

*Gord Nicholls*

*Marg Paré*

*Jenna Quinn*

*Donald & Janet Roberts*

*Harold Russell*

*Jane Schneider*

*Stuart Smellie*

*Diana Spearn*

*Lori & James Stothard*

*Charlotte & Bryan Teat*

*Henriette Thompson*

*David Westfall & Jamie & Sandy Hill*

*Judy Wyatt*

*Walter Zimmerman*

## We Struck Out!

*continued from page 1*

Just after the tall-building guidelines were confirmed, Deloitte company sought a permit to light their chimney on Joseph Street. This octagonal stack is a designated heritage structure from the old Lang Tannery. The \$136,000 proposal involving eight LED lights was enthusiastically endorsed by the City's Heritage Kitchener Advisory Committee but was opposed by conservationists, as thousands of migratory birds have died at deliberately lit tall structures.

In September 2017, WRN and Toronto's Fatal Light Awareness Program, lobbied to stop the lighting scheme but the committee and Council approved the proposal unanimously, albeit with restrictions during migration seasons (Aug 15th - Oct 31st and March 15th - May 31st) that include-

- Lighting only from dusk to 11pm, except for events and festivals
- Lighting only in green

From October 2017, WRN members quietly monitored the Lang Tannery stack before installation and we continued afterwards (Dec. 17th, 2018 - Jan. 4th, 2020). We made 134 observations immediately below the chimney, looking for bird carcasses. There were no deaths for 82 observations before installation, and none afterwards (50 observations). Our methodology is crude, and thus subject to potential criticism. In particular, many observations were outside migration seasons. Also, one cannot

say if modifications to the lighting regime have averted problems or if, perhaps, there never were going to be bird-strike problems. Anyway, the outcome is gratifying!

When workers preparing to install lighting left the access door open for several days in April 2018, we observed two dead rock doves inside the chimney. They lay on a meter of annually layered guano. This dried bird poop contains myriads of insect remains like beetle wing covers (elytra), dropped by bats or swifts over decades. Researchers at Queens University (Kingston, Ontario) used a similar deposit to track decades of change in the foods of aerial insectivores. Aerial images indicate that the Joseph Street stack has been capped, and it is certainly not used any more by swifts, nor have we observed any bats.

So far, so good! However, construction of tall buildings continues apace in the region. Many of these structures are glass-clad and they appear to be candidates for bird strikes. If we find an issue we can then monitor systematically. Thus, we might lobby for improvements to tall building guidelines.

**Please note dead birds around tall structures in KW, noting exact location, date, species, and numbers (Send to: [rcsuffli@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:rcsuffli@uwaterloo.ca)).**



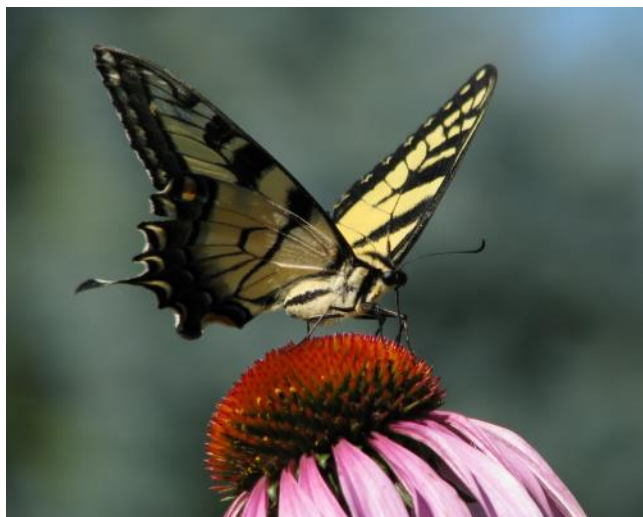
Gathering the Joseph Street chimney data would have been impossible without the work of WRN members: I heartily thank Mary Ann Vanden Elzen & Robert Bezeau, Fraser Gibson, Denise Leschack, and Greg & Jeanette Vincent (If I've missed anybody, I'm sorry!).

<sup>iii</sup><https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/gear/preventing-bird-window-collisions/15-products-prevent-birds-hitting-windows/>

<sup>iv</sup><http://post.queensu.ca/~pearl/swiftdiet/swiftdiet.html>



# WRN Photo Gallery



Wildlife Photos: D. Thomas

Do you have nature or event photos to share? Send them to [editor@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:editor@waterlooregionnature.ca)

[waterlooregionnature.ca](http://waterlooregionnature.ca)



## Ontario Nature Report

By Fraser Gibson

### Victory for Piping Plovers

After a 30-year absence, endangered piping plovers returned to nest at Sauble Beach in 2007. You may recall that in March of 2018 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry charged the Town of South Bruce Peninsula (the Town) under Ontario's Endangered Species Act for bulldozing the plovers' habitat in 2017 and issued a Stop Work Order that the Town attempted to appeal. Ecojustice [intervened](#) on behalf of Ontario Nature and Environmental Defence to counter the Town's appeal. In October 2019 the Town of South Bruce Peninsula was convicted of two [counts of damaging endangered piping plover habitat](#). This was a big win for the piping plovers and endangered species in Ontario! A big thank you to Ecojustice for standing up for these vulnerable birds and to Ontario Nature members for supporting this important advocacy work.



Photo By: Jim Hudgins/USFWS; Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.

Carolina Chickadee on No-Mess Seed Cylinder

# Nice & Tidy

Under Your Feeders with Tidy Feeds

Under Your Feeders without Tidy Feeds

**\$10 OFF \$50\***

\*Valid only at WBU Kitchener and online use Code SAVE10. One discount per purchase. Offer not valid on previous purchases, gift cards, optics, Brome feeders, DSC memberships or sale items. Offer valid thru September 30, 2020.

Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop

4391 King St. East, Kitchener, ON N2P 2G1 - just south of Sportsworld Drive  
(519) 650-9800 • [www.wbu.com/kitchener](http://www.wbu.com/kitchener)  
BIRD FOOD • FEEDERS • GARDEN ACCENTS • UNIQUE GIFTS

### The Bruce Beckons

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Ontario Nature's [89th Annual Gathering](#)! Scheduled for the weekend of June 5 – June 7, 2020, the gathering will be held at Evergreen Resort on the beautiful Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. Attendees will be treated to a suite of engaging workshops, excursions to local nature hotspots, an entertaining and informative keynote address and the 2019 Conservation Awards ceremony. Visit [ontarionature.org](http://ontarionature.org) for registration details.

### Protect a Piece of Nature— Acre by Acre

Ontario Nature is hoping to purchase 360 acres of treasured habitat in eastern Ontario. This property is in the [Frontenac Arch](#) – a geological wonder that is home to many rare species. Ontario Nature has an incredible opportunity to protect a piece of Ontario, and you can help protect it one acre at a time. Ontario Nature hopes to raise \$40,000 towards securing the Frontenac Arch property and which will become their 26th nature reserve. Consider making a donation to Ontario Nature.



## Celebrating a Decade of Inspiring Youth

2019 marked the tenth anniversary of Ontario Nature's annual Youth Summit. Over the years Ontario Nature has engaged high school-aged youth from 197 communities across Ontario! These inspiring individuals will go on to be the leaders of tomorrow, taking action to protect natural species, combat climate change and affect positive environmental change. Thanks to our generous members, corporate partners and Nature Network groups for sponsoring all 102 youth that attended this year. WRN sponsored two attendees to the 2019 Youth Summit. The 2020 Youth Summit will be held September 25-27.

At this weekend-long event, attendees will discuss the environmental issues that matter most to them. This year, the summit is adopting a new name: Youth Summit for Mother Earth. To learn more, contact [Christine Ambre](#).

### *Quotes from 2019 WRN Sponsored Youth Participants:*

*"I really enjoyed the messages this summit gave us and how they explained [to] us how the little things every individual did mattered...it definitely made me want to make changes and gave me the keys on how to start" - Margot, age 16*

*"I am working on starting a few campaigns such as a composting program with the eco-club at my school. With the information learned at the youth summit I will be able to make change"*  
- Thomas, age 13

## Help Protect the National Capital Greenbelt

The City of Ottawa is proposing to build a highway across the [National Capital Greenbelt](#), just north of Mer Bleue Bog, a Ramsar Convention site and one of the most biologically diverse areas in eastern Ontario. If built, the high-speed multi-lane highway will have a devastating impact on the region's sensitive species and habitats. Show your opposition by joining the [Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Ottawa Valley Chapter](#) to [tell the decision-makers in Ottawa](#) that this development must not proceed.

### **BRUCE PENINSULA– NATURE WEEKEND (MAY 22-24, 2020)**

#### ***BIRDING FIELD TRIPS \* GENERAL NATURE/BOTANY FIELD TRIPS \* BUCKET RAFFLE & BIRD QUIZ***

Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars– this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a species place for naturalists.

South Peel Naturalists' Club extends an invitation to members of your club to join us to explore the Bruce Peninsula. This annual weekend event provides the opportunity to see the best of the Bruce with expert leaders and in the company of fellow naturalists.

#### ***The cost per person for the weekend:***

- \$20 registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders
- \$253.76 (+13% taxes) per person for two nights' accommodation at Evergreen Resort, Mar, ON (includes all meals and snacks).

For further information: [mail@spnc.ca](mailto:mail@spnc.ca) or contact Donna: 905-815-0933 or Audrey: 905-820-2571

## 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

Read full presenter biographies at [waterlooregionnature.ca/meetings](http://waterlooregionnature.ca/meetings)

### MARCH

March 23, 2020

**CANCELLED—** As a precaution against the spread of COVID-19 the March meeting of Waterloo Region Nature has been cancelled.

*We hope to reschedule this presentation for next spring.*

#### Threats to Migratory Songbirds

**The Presentation:** Each fall, billions of songbirds leave Canada on an epic journey to their far-away wintering grounds in Central and South America where many live in tropical forests shared by toucans, howler monkeys, and jaguars. Dozens of species have experienced serious, long-term population declines that are driven in part by the threats that these birds face on migration and while in the tropics. But only recently has it been possible to track the migration of individual songbirds over part, or all, of their migration journey. Bridget Stutchbury talks about the threats our songbirds face including her recent research on neonicotinoid effects on migrating birds.

#### Dr. Bridget Stutchbury



**The Presenter:** Bridget Stutchbury is a professor in the Department of Biology at York University, Toronto. She did her M.Sc. at Queen's University, her Ph.D. at Yale and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. Since the 1980s, she has studied migratory songbirds to understand their behavior, ecology and conservation but has also witnessed first-hand the shocking declines of many birds including wood thrushes, barn swallows and bobolinks. She studies the incredible migration journeys of songbirds and the many threats they face along the way. She is on the board of Wildlife Preservation Canada whose mission is to prevent animal extinctions. She is author of *Silence of the Songbirds* (2007) and *The Bird Detective* (2010) and was featured in the award-winning 2015 documentary *The Messenger*.

## SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

If you have any articles, photographs, artwork, reviews, outing recaps, etc. you would like to see in our newsletter, please submit them to [editor@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:editor@waterlooregionnature.ca)

# APRIL

April 27, 2020

## Dive into the Fascinating World of Freshwater Mussels

Dr. Todd Morris

**The Presentation:** During his presentation Dr. Morris will provide an overview of the fascinating yet often overlooked group of freshwater mussels. Through the use of underwater video footage we will explore the world of one of North America's most endangered groups and learn about what makes them work, what role they play in aquatic ecosystems and why they are rapidly disappearing across the continent. Special emphasis will be placed on the complex reproductive strategies which have evolved in this group to facilitate their requisite parasitic life history.



**The Presenter:** Dr. Todd J. Morris is a Research Scientist with the Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Division of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. He is currently stationed in Burlington, Ontario at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters. He has been studying the unionid fauna of central Canada for over 25 years. He is currently a member of the Biodiversity Science section of DFO and is responsible for leading DFO's research program on freshwater mussel Species at Risk. Dr. Morris is a founding member and chair of the Ontario Freshwater Mussel Recovery Team and is a member of the COSEWIC Mollusc Subcommittee, the American Fisheries Society Endangered Mussel Subcommittee and the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society.

# MAY

May 25, 2020

**The Presenter:** Nicola Ross

*Annual General Meeting:*

**NOTE EARLY START TIME OF 7PM**

Watch the Waterloo Region Nature website and your email for updates and more information about May's speaker.



A club for teens in or starting high school, partnering with a variety of local environmental organizations

Some of our past activities: Turtle nesting protection, Invasive plant management, Owl prowl

Teens meet Saturdays, 1-2 times a month, various locations

Visit [waterlooregionnature.ca/teens](http://waterlooregionnature.ca/teens) for more information & registration

Learn about the natural world

Meet passionate experts

Work on projects & earn volunteer hours



### CONESTOGO BIRD FEED

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Also at St. Jacobs Farmers Market  
\*\*And at the Stratford Farmers Market\*\*

Spring Sale: First two weeks in April  
Fall Sale: Last three weeks in November



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**317 Highland Road East**  
**Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6**

### **Membership Annual Fees**

Family/Couple \$40  
Senior Couple \$35  
Adult Individual \$35  
Senior (60+) \$30  
Student (19+) \$25  
Free Membership  
for youth (<18)  
Club year runs from  
Sept. to August; New member-  
ships 1/2 price after Jan. 31st

Cheques made payable to:  
Waterloo Region Nature  
Bring payment to  
the next meeting or mail to:

Waterloo Region Nature  
317 Highland Rd E.  
Kitchener, N2M 3W6

Membership details at:

[https://  
waterlooregionnature.ca/  
membership/](https://waterlooregionnature.ca/membership/)

**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
Half Page	\$100	\$260
Quarter Page	\$50	\$130
One-tenth Page (business card)	\$25	\$65

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Information is written and  
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the authors and are not  
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The Heron is published  
three times per year.  
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