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Bird Watching – Observations at the RiverSong Bird Feeders

By John Pries



(Top) Goldfinches, dark eyed juncos, female cardinal and a house sparrow sharing the nyjer feeder.

(Bottom) Red-bellied woodpecker at the suet feeder building up its fat reserves to survive the long, cold winter nights.

Photos: John Pries

At the feeder outside our home (and banquet hall), during the coldest months of the winter, we will often see ten or more species of birds feasting on nyjer seeds, sunflower seeds, wild bird seed mix (no corn), and suet/seed mix cakes. In early and late winter, the number of bird species tend to be higher.

Why do these birds sometimes appear almost frantic as they are flitting to and from the feeders? Especially during the coldest days? The answer is that they need to build up their body fat stores to keep warm. I recently read that during the coldest months, a bird that is roosting on a branch overnight will fluff up its feathers to retain the maximum body heat. If the roosting bird is disturbed in the night and flies away from its perch, there is a chance that it will not make it to the morning succumbing to hypothermia. That is how critical their food gathering requirements are. Also, this is a good incentive for us to keep our feeders filled (hint, hint).

Recently I was reminded that the critical component of bird watching is the watching part. It is certainly good to learn the names of the different species and have a life list or, in my case, I also have a property list (145 species so far). But when you have time, stop, and simply watch them as they feed and interact with other birds. You will be fascinated by what you observe. So, what are some of the characteristics of their feeding habits that I have noticed?

Continue reading on page 12.

This article originally appeared in the Rural Post (March 10, 2022).

JOIN THE WRN BOARD!

We need a new Vice-President for a term beginning June 2022.

No experience needed, learn 'on the job' with this small and welcoming board.

We need members like **you** to help keep the club engaged in conservation activities, nature-based outings, presentations, and more.

Contact David Gascoigne for more information!
 pastpresident@waterlooregionnature.ca

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All WRN Club meetings are held in the Reception Hall of the Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church

50 Erb St. West

A date for the return to in-person club meetings for the 2021-2022 season is to be determined.

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Submission Deadlines:

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



President's Corner By Janet Ozaruk

The Natural Enquirer: Enquiring Minds Want to Know

Walking in nature is a wonderful antidote for a mind that regularly runs at full tilt. The world of woods and streams and fields is very grounding and encourages relaxation. The usual nagging thoughts slowly fade away. Mundane questions, like “what am I going to get for groceries?” and bigger questions like “will my kids ever be able to afford houses of their own?” disappear. But, of course, nature abhors a vacuum! My mind quickly fills up with new questions, but of a kinder, gentler type.

Feel free to climb inside my brain as we take a leisurely wander through the wilds ...

Me – la, la, la ...

[stopping to admire a majestic willow, its delicate branch tips glowing golden in the sun]

Me – Hmmm, those branches really are golden!

My brain – But why are they golden? It's the middle of winter. Are other trees like that? Is it all types of willows or just that species? Note to self ... look this up.

Me – You know brain, you don't have to have all the answers right now. Just observe and acknowledge. Let's move on.

[continuing on, stopping at a cluster of small beech trees]

Me - Hmmm, these beech trees still have the leaves on.

My brain - Why haven't the leaves dropped? Is it the age of the trees? Are the remaining leaves all the way up or just halfway up the tree? Why do beeches keep their leaves but not those other trees over there? But oaks can keep their leave late as well. Why? Is there a name for this? There must be. I'm going to have to look that up.

Me – Hush, brain, hush. It is only a tree. Observe and move on.

[continuing to walk mindfully]

Me – Wow - a brown creeper, right on that trunk there! What a cute bird!

My brain – It is cute! But tufted titmice ... they have got to be the cutest! Super-cute! And what about kinglets, those are cute too! Why do we like some birds and not others? I mean, I really don't like geese. Wait - am I a bird snob?

[Occasionally the questions take a downward turn]

Me - What is with these Tim Horton cups discarded in the snow???

My brain - Seriously! I know! Do people not care? If you carried it in, you can carry it out!! And don't even get me started on the dog poop bags! Who takes the effort to bag their dog poop only to fling it into a tree? Carry it out, people!

[But thankfully, that is short-lived as we reach the top of the hill]

Me – This view is amazing!

My brain – It truly is! What is it about this placement of sky, horizon, trees, and meadow that resonates with me? Is it universal? Does everyone see it as I see it?

And that is the discussion I have with myself when I am immersed in the natural environment. But, when I go out with my nature friends, the conversation is that much better because I am getting answers *on the spot!* The combined knowledge base within our club is amazing. Whatever the topic, from birds to trees in winter to ferns, we have leaders excited to share their experience and participants that are fully engaged in the exploration. I encourage all of you to join a scheduled outing or even consider leading an outing to your favourite trail. And we can all share our questions!

As the last weeks of winter play out and the days grow longer, as we feel the increasing strength of the sun's rays on our faces, I wish you many happy occasions reveling in the mysteries of nature.

OUTINGS, ACTIVITIES, THINGS TO DO &

Monthly Member Meeting & Nature Presentations

Anyone with an interest in nature is welcome to attend our free monthly meetings. We start with a few announcements of noteworthy upcoming events, conservation issues or projects. We welcome new members and guests and we invite all to share their recent local noteworthy nature sightings. The main feature is a presentation by a guest speaker on one of a variety of interesting topics.

Details regarding monthly speakers and presentation topics can be found as they become available at waterlooregionnature.ca. Currently, meetings are being held virtually, however discussions on how to safely resume in person meetings are in the works. Register for each meeting online at waterlooregionnature.ca.

Upcoming Meeting:

Monday, March 28, 2022 @7pm

Presentation: Saving Ontario's Turtles

Freshwater turtles are one of the most endangered groups of species in Canada. Turtles face many threats including loss of wetlands, road mortality and high rates of nest predation. Find out what species of turtles we have in eastern Ontario, why turtles are so at risk, what the Canadian Wildlife Federation is doing for turtle conservation, and how everyone can help the turtles.

Our speaker will be David Seburn, the Freshwater Turtle Specialist with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. David has worked on amphibian and reptile conservation for more than 20 years.

Future meeting dates: Monday, April 25, 2022; Monday, May 30, 2022 (AGM). Speakers TBA.



Lynx on the threshold © Sergio Marijuán

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UPCOMING CLUB OUTINGS

Spring is a great time to get out in nature, especially with other nature lovers!

The most up to date public health guidelines will be followed for all outings. Pre-registration, by contacting the outing leader, is required. See the contact info in the descriptions below.

Birding Toronto - Mississauga - Oakville

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

When: Wednesday March 23 beginning at 9:00am for a full day outing

Location: Meet at Humber Bay Park, West, Lakeshore Boulevard, Toronto (specific instructions will be provided when you register)

Description: Beginning at Humber Bay Park, both East and West, we will scour Lake Ontario for waterfowl of every description, Horned and Red-necked Grebes, a wide range of passerines along the shore, raptors, mammals such as Muskrat and Mink, possibly American Coot, Common Loon – and whatever else we can find! Northern Mockingbird is always a possibility at Humber Bay. There will be a number of stops to increase our chances of finding a wide variety of species. As mentioned we will start at Humber Bay Park, moving from there to Colonel Samuel Smith Park, on to Lakefront Promenade in Mississauga, and ending at Bronte Park in Oakville.

This is a full day's outing so be sure to pack a lunch and snacks if you need them. Dress according to the weather, bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, a field guide and lots of enthusiasm. Car pooling should be possible and we encourage this practice as long as you are comfortable riding with others.

Registration is required, but we can accommodate twenty-five people for this outing as long as COVID restrictions are not reimposed. **Non-members** are welcome but will need to sign an insurance waiver.

Navigate DTK Like a Bird! Understanding Bird-Friendly Building

Leader: Kathy Mortimer kathy.mortimer@gmail.com

When: Two different walks are offered at 7am and 10am on Saturday April 2 for approximately 1 hour

Location: Downtown Kitchener (exact meeting place will be shared at registration)

Description: If you were a bird, where would you go in DTK? Where would you build/rent a house? Where would you eat? What advice would you give the humans?

Join this walk in DTK to learn more about the threats and opportunities for birds in Waterloo Region's rapidly changing urban centre. Approximately a 1 hour walk around DTK - early birds at 7, others at 10. Contact Kathy Mortimer to register and find out the details.

Outing Leaders Wanted!

If you are interested in leading an outing, please email
Outings Director Shannon Pennington at
outings@waterlooregionnature.ca

You don't need to be an expert to lead an outing!
It's a great chance to share common interests with
other nature lovers and perhaps introduce some to
an area they've never visited before.



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Birding at Lakeside Park

Leader: Janet Ozaruk text 226-748-9905

When: Two date options: Wednesday May 4 or Wednesday May 18 at 3:45pm for approximately 1.5 hours

Location: Lakeside Park, Kitchener. Meet at the parking lot on Lakeside Drive between Gatewood Road and Blueridge Ave.

Description: Lakeside Park is a wonderful green space hidden in the heart of Kitchener. Shoemaker Pond and its surrounding woods and open land provide a mix of habitats that make it a birding hotspot on eBird, with 196 species observed in its small area. Fingers crossed for a good representation of migrating warblers. We will complete a loop around the lake, partly on paved path and partly on dirt foot path, which may be muddy and uneven in sections.

Washrooms not available. **Registration is required.** Please contact Janet Ozaruk to register.

Voices of the Night

Leader: Fraser Gibson fn.gib@sympatico.ca

When: Thursday May 5 at 8:00pm for approximately 1.5 hours

Location: Huron Natural Area, Kitchener. Meet at the parking lot at 801 Trillium Dr.

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 Huron Natural Area 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, a flashlight and dress warmly. Majority will be on maintained trails. Some may venture a short distance off the trail for a better view of woodcocks. Washrooms may not yet be open for the season and at this later time of day.


Registration is required. Please contact Fraser Gibson to register.

City Nature Challenge 2022: Waterloo Region

The City Nature Challenge is back on! Save the dates **April 29 — May 2** to make observations and **May 3 — 8** to help virtually identify all the nature sightings made in Waterloo Region!

Taking part is easy: 1. Find wildlife. 2. Take a picture. 3. Share your observation on iNaturalist.ca.

Lookout for details on guided hikes and 'CNC' meet-ups to collect observations together.



The poster features a green vertical banner with the text "Focus on Nature 2022 Summer Camps @ The City of Waterloo Camps and, The City of Cambridge". Below the banner, it lists dates: "Jul 4-8 · 11-15 · 25-29 · Aug 2-5" and "Jul 4-8 · Aug 15-19". The background shows children in outdoor gear participating in nature activities. At the bottom, it lists activities: "Nature photography for 6 - 13 yr olds", "Learn to shoot & edit great images", and "Explore nature in a safe environment". It also includes the website "www.focusonnature.ca" and a small photo of children holding up their nature photos.

Focus on Nature 2022 Summer Camps
@
The City of Waterloo Camps
Jul 4-8 · 11-15 · 25-29 · Aug 2-5
and, The City of Cambridge
Jul 4-8 · Aug 15-19

Nature photography for 6 - 13 yr olds
Learn to shoot & edit great images
Explore nature in a safe environment

For details visit
www.focusonnature.ca

Snyder's Flats Loop

Leader: Nicola Ross, author of *Waterloo, Wellington & Guelph Hikes: Loops & Lattes*
(www.loopsandlattes.ca); email hikeloopsandlattes@gmail.com

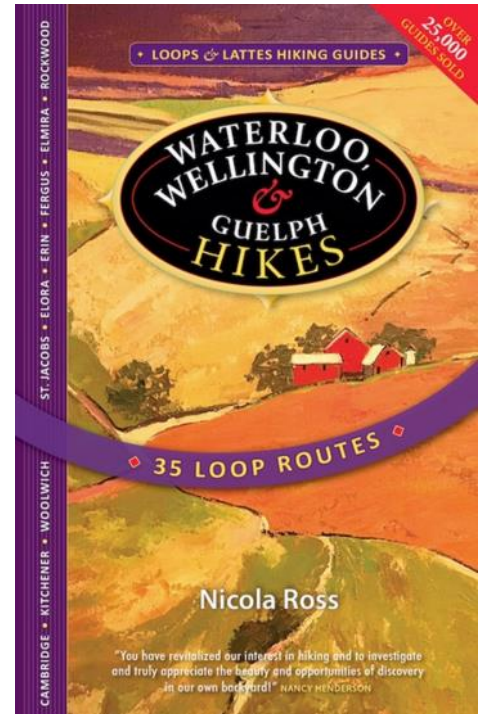
When: Thursday May 19 at 8:00am for approximately 2 to 2.5 hours

Location: Snyder Flats Conservation Area, 1494 Snyders Flats Rd, Bloomingdale, ON N0B 1K0
(park by the Mennonite Church)

Description: Snyder's Flats is a 100-hectare former gravel pit that has been restored as a natural area with ponds, new forests, meadows and other features. With luck, the early morning start will mean we will see some birdlife on the ponds and the osprey nests. We will walk through forests, by the Grand River, across open areas and past ponds. Trilliums, trout lilies, hepatica and other spring ephemeral flowers should be carpeting the forest as well. There is a bit of everything on this loop. This hike is about seeing, hearing and smelling. No speed records will be broken!

Wear waterproof footwear as one section of this hike can be wet. Bring a thermos of coffee, tea or other beverage and/or a snack so we can stop for a break along the route, keeping in mind that washrooms are not available at the site.

Nicola will have signed copies of *Waterloo, Wellington & Guelph Hikes: Loops & Lattes* available for purchase if you are interested (Cheques, credit cards & cash, but no debit cards).



Call for Volunteers to Monitor Threatened Chorus Frogs This Spring!



Photo: Scott Gillingwater

Frogs will soon be calling, and we are calling on YOU!

The threatened western chorus frog (WCF) has recently experienced population declines. In response, a long-term monitoring program has been created by Blazing Star Environmental, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Trent University. This program will help us understand the changing WCF distribution. Data collected will allow the conservation community to detect and respond to WCF range declines over time.

Since the WCF range is large and the calling period is short, this program will rely on individuals to conduct short call surveys, beginning as early as March 2022. For more details about the program, please contact info@blazingstar.ca.

WRN Teens Report

By Marg Paré

WRN Teens has been meeting in person and virtually, day and night! In November, volunteers and nature educators Linda Dutka and Thelma Beaubien led a hike at Huron Natural Area. Teens were impressed by the variety of habitats, the beaver evidence, and especially hearing a Great Horned Owl!



Huron Natural Area

Photo: Thelma Beaubien

Teens met virtually in January with Michelle MacMillan, educator at **rare** and Teens volunteer for a presentation about wildlife rescue. Her stories are fascinating; several Teens wanted to learn more and maybe try their hand someday. We learned how to help wildlife day to day and when to leave "abandoned" babies alone.

Virtual connections were also made by Teens joining WRN meetings and presentations offered for youth by Ontario Nature.

On a January evening, Levi Moore, outdoor educator and WRN conservation director, led an owl prowling at Laurel Creek Nature Centre. Teens reported it being dark, scary and very cold but absolutely worth it to learn owl prowling etiquette, hear an Eastern Screech Owl, and become aware of owls in forests and woodlots around us.

In February, WRN past president David Gascoigne led a birding hike in Riverside Park in Preston, another new natural area for several Teens. David shared his amazing knowledge, even (maybe) convincing Teens it's worthwhile to learn Latin names! With David's skills and the eagle eyes of the Teens, we saw about 15 species even without water birds since the river was frozen.

Big thanks from Teens to the generous WRN members who led these activities!

Our spring and summer look exciting! We have a new partnership with the forestry lab at WLU and will learn how to analyze our SpruceHaven salamander monitoring data. Of course, we'll gather more data from salamander boards and nest boxes. We also hope to restart work projects with community partners and pursue leadership opportunities for Teens.

New members are always welcome at WRN Teens and it's free for 2021-22.

See the WRN website for more information or email Marg at teens@waterlooregionnature.ca.



WRN Teens at Riverside Park



Photos: Marg Paré

Waterloo Region Nature Kids!

By Giselle Carter

Our Nature Kids families have had a cold start to the year! Our January event was delayed because of cold weather, but when we did meet, we had a lot of fun exploring the animal tracks at Bechtel Park! As we looked for fresh tracks, we wondered what kind of animal it was. What do the footprints look like? How big are they? How was the animal moving? On our adventure, we noticed that animals often went to the water, and we realized that they get thirsty just like we do. We also noticed that the “rabbit tracks” disappeared at the tree ... so maybe it was a squirrel that went up the tree! We wondered how many deer live in that park, as there were a lot of deer tracks – on the walking path and making their own tracks! Some deer tracks were smaller, and others were bigger... maybe a fawn and parent? One path had tracks going in both directions! I was impressed by the children’s eagerness in exploring and the questions that they asked!

For our February event we went snowshoeing at Huron Natural Area. Some found snowshoeing to be a lot of work, but we had fun playing some games with snowshoes on and had a great time outdoors!

In March, we will be at *rare* learning about the different ecosystems and habitats there. In April, Focus on Nature will be coming to teach us about nature photography, and give us an opportunity to try out those techniques in the local natural area. Keep your eye on the website for details!



WRN Kids at Huron Natural Area and Bechtel Park

Photos: Giselle Carter

Champion Bird Friendly Buildings in DTK

By Kathy Mortimer

Have you ever heard the thud of a bird hitting a window? It's well known that birds collide with glass structures because they can't perceive glass. Collisions can either kill birds outright or stun them and make them more vulnerable to predation.

Over the last couple of years, I've been part of Project Feederwatch (www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help/project-feederwatch/), and paying more attention to birds in the city. I learned about FLAP Canada (<https://flap.org/>), which raises awareness of collision risks. An estimated 25 million birds per year die in Canada due to building collisions and over one billion die in the US annually.

Birdcast (<https://birdcast.info/>) provides the estimated number of birds flying over Toronto and Windsor during migration and show that evenings of high migration are most likely to result in bird collisions around large glass buildings the next morning.

Do bird collisions happen in Kitchener? To find out, I used FLAP's "Building Risk Assessment" online tool to assess a new office building with an all-glass exterior in downtown Kitchener near where I live. The tool indicated the building was lethal to birds. And sure enough, on my first bird patrol last May, within 2 minutes, I found two dead rose-breasted grosbeaks at the foot of the building. It was my first sighting of rose-breasted grosbeaks. I found 10 birds in that week, on morning patrols. Some of them were endangered species.

FLAP reports that buildings can be made safer to birds through means such as reduced lightings and applying bird deterrent markings to the glass. Experience from Toronto shows that with sufficient communications and education, many building managers will treat the glass on their windows to reduce/eliminate bird collisions.

I thought that the building tenant and/or the developer in Kitchener might be interested in the collision risk of their office. Through consultation with them, I asked if they would act to ensure the building meets bird safe standards. They responded that they are concerned about bird

conservation and that they would take immediate steps to turn off lights at night, and discuss bird safety of the building with their landlord. To date, neither the tenant nor the owner has made changes to their lighting policy or the exterior glass of the building.

I've had discussions with a number of property developers downtown, as well as University of Waterloo, the cities and the Region – any building with unprotected glass poses a risk to birds, but a building assessment can show where the high risk surfaces are, and what actions should be taken for a building

Bird patrols are both fun and hard. I enjoy cycling around downtown in the early morning, before the street sweepers are out. It's hard to find the stunned or dead birds, document them in the online database, and come to terms with the high numbers during spring and fall migration. However, communicating this problem to raise awareness and make changes is very rewarding.

Birds need our help! Birds Canada (www.birdscanada.org/), our national voice for birds, encourages us to become bird champions and help reduce the biggest threats to them. Why not get involved? Check out their website for more information. Interested in learning more about bird friendly buildings and downtown bird patrols? Consider attending one of my outings in downtown Kitchener in April (see the Outings section).



Wild Raspberries at my Door

By Sarah Bowman

One of my proudest accomplishments with nature was raising and harvesting the wild black raspberry plant I discovered outside my basement apartment some years ago. As you can see in the picture below, this plant literally sprouted from a crack in the pavement. I recognized the leaves as raspberries, or a similar fruit bearing plant, and saved it.

With a nail in the support post of the fire escape, some twine, light wire, and pieces of broken shopping carts I had collected I built a rack and trained the plant to grow up the fire escape. A year later it was as tall as I ever let it grow. Each picking produced a handful or two of delicious black thimble-shaped berries.

For the next four years, till I moved away, I harvested about a liter of wild black raspberries every July. Once or twice a year I had to trim or tie back new growth to prevent this fast-growing plant from blocking my doorway with a tangle of thorny vines.

Unfortunately, I had to move in the middle of winter and was unable to take it with me. I still marvel at what sprouted from a crack in the barren pavement outside my humble dwelling and how it beautified the place.



Plant growing out of crack in pavement

Training plant up rack & post

Raspberry Plant the last summer I had it

SUBMISSIONS NEEDED!

Submit your articles, photographs, outing recaps, etc. for inclusion in the next Heron to editor@waterlooregionnature.ca

waterlooregionnature.ca

Bird Watching–Observations at the RiverSong Bird Feeders

Continued from page 1

Chickadees are fun to watch and have little fear of humans. They flit towards the feeder (or your outstretched hand loaded with seed), grab a seed, and then seem to rocket away carrying the nyjer seed or the sunflower seed in their beaks. They will perch on a branch, pin the seed between their toes and the branch and then peck at it to remove the hull and eat the seed. This is repeated over and over again in fast succession.

Woodpeckers also will take sunflower seeds from the feeder and carry them to a thick branch or a spot where a branch will meet the main trunk and then wedge the seed into a crevice. Then they will crack open the shell with a few thrusts of their beak, and then eat the seed. I have seen woodpeckers do this repeatedly using the same crevice each time, not only on a given day, but each day for weeks. Sometimes several woodpeckers will use the same crevice. I have found that I can stand within a metre of my sunflower seed feeder and watch the downy woodpecker extracting seeds, but the hairy and the red bellied woodpeckers fly up into the trees upper story as soon as they see me approaching from a distance.



Right: Red-bellied woodpecker (top) and downy woodpecker cracking open a sunflower seed in the same notch of a branch.

Left: Downy woodpecker at the sunflower seed feeder. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees will crack open the seed hulls in the feeder with their beaks and extract the seed.

Photos: John Pries

Have you ever noticed how goldfinches tend to be much more tolerant of other goldfinches and other bird species on a nyjer feeder? There will at times be 8 or 10 birds feeding all at once. Whereas with many of the other species there is a constant bickering at the feeders with birds chasing each other away so that they can have the feeder to themselves. Larger birds like the blue jays and the larger woodpeckers (hairy and red-bellied) tend to be less intimidated by the smaller birds.

And then there is the upside down bird. The nuthatches are peculiar in that when they land on a branch or the tree trunk, they immediately turn upside down with their classic stance of their head sticking out perpendicular from their body. They too, like the woodpeckers, tend to grab a seed and fly to a favoured notch in the tree trunk or branch and open up the hull with their beaks.

We have a Merlin and a Cooper's hawk that occasionally will visit the feeder. But they are not interested in the seeds. I have looked out my window and seen the birds at the feeder stop moving, basically looking as if they are frozen in a trance. Very unusual for these birds that need to be constantly feeding to keep up their fat stores. When this happens, if I look closely, I will sometimes see a bird of prey that is perched somewhere close by just waiting for some movement. Occasionally I will see a few feathers on the ground and assume that one of the songbirds became a meal for a hawk. While for some this is difficult to imagine or to watch, just like with any species of animal, the bird species stays stronger when the weak and sick are removed. The circle of life.

Have fun watching the birds! And spread the word to others to encourage them to feed and observe these colourful and entertaining creatures.



From top: A female cardinal in the process of cracking open seeds at a squirrel proof feeder.

A white-breasted nuthatch in its typical upside down stance enjoying sunflower seeds.

A Cooper's hawk perched in an apple tree watching the comings and goings at the bird feeder.

Photos: John Pries

Membership Report

By Zack Stevens

Thank You to Our Donors

Krista Banks
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*Lisa Den Besten & Dan, Matthew,
& Nicholas van Leeuwen*
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Welcome, New Members

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<i>Krista Banks</i>	<i>Anna Lubiw</i>
<i>Natasha Barlow</i>	<i>Marlene MacNevin</i>
<i>Carolyn Bennett</i>	<i>Hashveenah Manoharan</i>
<i>Sarah Bowman</i>	<i>Doug McKlusky</i>
<i>Leanna Callum</i>	<i>Mary Ann McKlusky</i>
<i>Nouha Chatti</i>	<i>Baxter Naday</i>
<i>Pauline Copleston</i>	<i>Dave Neigh</i>
<i>Bob Cutler</i>	<i>Corliss Olson</i>
<i>Sue Cutler</i>	<i>Gail Pool</i>
<i>Grant Davis</i>	<i>Jack Sehl</i>
<i>Lisa Den Besten</i>	<i>John Sehl</i>
<i>Douglas Drake</i>	<i>Jeffrey Shallit</i>
<i>Kurtis Duchene</i>	<i>Thomas Storwick</i>
<i>Mark Duchene</i>	<i>Patrick Strzalkowski</i>
<i>Michael Duchene</i>	<i>Kris Surette</i>
<i>Sherri Flegel</i>	<i>Dan van Leeuwen</i>
<i>Ron Gamble</i>	<i>Matthew van Leeuwen</i>
<i>Barbara Geernaert</i>	<i>Nicholas van Leeuwen</i>
<i>Anna Harper</i>	<i>Cynthia Voisin</i>
<i>Debra Hayes</i>	<i>Katherine Waybrant</i>
<i>Kaitlyn Hayes</i>	<i>Katherine Werner</i>
<i>Peter Hayes</i>	<i>James Westoby</i>
<i>Reid Hayes</i>	<i>Jordan Wettlaufer</i>
<i>Brant Hergott-Leader</i>	<i>Duncan Willis</i>
<i>Scout Hergott-Leader</i>	<i>Chantelle Zurbrigg</i>
<i>Dana Hergott</i>	

With sadness, we inform you of the passing of **Donna Cassidy** on February 26, 2022.

She and her late husband Gord will be remembered as long-time WRN members and avid birdwatchers.

Our sympathies are with all those missing Donna. [A celebration of life will be held in May.](#)

Ontario Nature Report

By Fraser Gibson

Learn to Identify Ontario's Butterflies

If you love butterflies, the new *Pocket Guide to Butterflies of Southern & Eastern Ontario* is now available. Produced by renowned lepidopterist, Rick Cavašin, this fold-out is the definitive source for information on Ontario's diverse and captivating butterflies. Visit the Butterflies of Ontario [website](#) to see a copy. Available from [WRN](#).

Save the Date for the 2022 Annual Gathering

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Ontario Nature's 91st Annual Gathering! Scheduled for the weekend of June 10 to June 12, the Annual Gathering will be held in Sudbury and is planned to be a return to the in-person format we all enjoyed before the pandemic put the event on hold. The weekend will feature a suite of engaging workshops and excursions to local nature hotspots, as well as numerous opportunities for everyone to get re-acquainted. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Stand Up for Ontario's Species at Risk

The November 2021 report of the Auditor General of Ontario, Protecting and Recovering Species at Risk, shows that our provincial government has abdicated its responsibility to protect and recover Ontario's more than 240 species at risk. Please join Ontario Nature in demanding better from our political leaders and representatives, and share this important message with others. Let our leaders know you want an action plan for recovering species at risk, with clear commitments to address the government's inexcusable record to date. Your voice matters.

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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
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 Heron is published
three times per year.
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