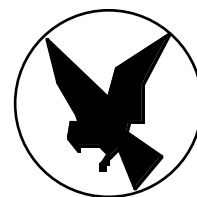


EARTHWAYS[®]



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED - P.O. BOX 681, SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7

Gordon Catterson - Editor

Cheryl Veary-Webmaster

February, 2009

Website: www.lambtonwildlife.com

All indoor programs are open to the public and are held on the last Monday of the month, from September to November and January to March at the YMCA Learning & Career Centre 660 Oakdale Avenue at 7:30 pm. Articles in Earthways represent the views of the author and not necessarily the views of Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Indoor Program

February 23, 2009

Species At Risk: Lambton Area

Kim Gledhill, Conservation Education Technician for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and LWI member, will talk about what has been happening with the Aquatic Species at Risk program over the last few years and the new Tree Species at Risk program, both of which stress best management practices to preserve habitat for species at risk.

March 30, 2009

Urban Insects

Stanley Caveney will talk about some of our local insects and their fascinating and often bizarre lifestyles. He is an entomologist, recently retired as a professor at Western. His presentation will include a bit about insect evolution, diversity of species and recent invasive species in the Sarnia-Lambton area.

April 18, 2009

LWI AGM- Mandaumin United Church Hall

Business meeting and elections at 4:30 pm, bucket draw opens at 5:00 pm, with the delicious turkey dinner with homemade pies to be served at 6:00 pm. Guest speaker Phil Roberts, well known nature commentator for CBC Windsor, will speak on the Bald Eagle Satellite Telemetry program for Detroit River nestlings.

Outdoor Program

Outdoor Committee:

Larry Cornelis (Chair) 519-627-8785; Paul Carter 344-2571; Gerry Clements 336-3513; Nikki May 542-8612

Please note: All youth under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult on the outings.

Items marked with an * are or can be a half day only.

*Howard Watson Nature Trail Clean-Up

Sunday, April 19th, 2009

Meet: 9:00 a.m. at Modeland and Cathcart trail entrance. This event is sponsored by Tim Hortons.

Coordinator: Gord Catterson 519-337-1246

*Highway 402 Clean-up

Saturday, April 25th, 2009.

Meet at 8:45 am at Wawanosh Wetlands parking lot.

Inquiries: Joe Haselmayer 542-2826

Walks into Spring 2009: Canatara Park

Wednesdays, May 6th and May 13th, 2009

Meet: 6:00 p.m. at the entrance to Tarzanland.

Camping in Point Pelee — May 2009

May 12th-16th.

4 nights-\$64.00/person.

See January Earthways for details

Lambton Wildlife Inc. Native Plant Sale

The Native plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday May 2, 2009.

We need your help to sell the plants the day of the sale, to set up and take down the native plant displays, and clean up. We are also looking for anyone interested in helping rescue plants, transplant plants, label plants, organize and group plants, donate soil, distribute posters or run errands. We will be forming work groups for all the above areas. All those interested in helping in any way, are asked to contact Brenda Kulon. Please consider the request as we do need your help to make this a success.

Brenda Kulon
519 869 2933

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Greetings from the President

Camping in Point Pelee: Announcement of dates: May 12 to 16. Please see the full information in the January Earthways. The response has been great. There is a bit more room, so call Paul Carter if you are interested.

Pelee Island Springsong birding festival, May 8 – 10. This is not yet a formal LWI program event, but a number of LWI members have attended this festival the last few years and we are looking at growing our participation. The highlight (besides being on Pelee Island at the peak weekend of wood warbler migration) is the banquet/awards ceremony which is held at the Pelee Island Winery and hosted by Margaret Atwood.

She has her summer home on the Island and she and her husband, Graeme Gibson, are huge supporters of the Pelee Island Bird Observatory (bird banding station). The speaker will be Joseph Boyden, this year's Giller/Scotia Bank prize winner for his book "Through Black Spruce". There is a 24 hour "environmental" birdathon where each team must use bicycles only. Members and past members of LWI are often on the winning team. There are some hotel/B & B spaces left and also cottage rentals. Contact the Pelee Island Heritage Centre for details. If you have never been on Pelee Island, you have missed a special ecological area. Wives of birders seem to especially enjoy the weekend as they don't have to go birding: there are lots of things to see and do. The scenery is wonderful or they can just relax and read a book and then meet the author...whether it is Boyden, Gibson, Atwood, etc.

A.G.M. & Banquet: This is coming up on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the Mandaumin United Church. The AGM will start at 4:30 and the pre dinner social time and awesome bucket raffle will start at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be the usual fabulous Lambton County Church Ladies turkey dinner with delicious home made pies. Our guest speaker will be Phil Roberts, the well known "Nature Guy" commentator on CBC Windsor. Phil is also the President of the Essex Field Naturalists. He will be talking about the bald eagle satellite telemetry program on the Detroit River.... totally leading edge stuff!

Tickets will be on sale at the February and March general meetings and can be obtained through Janet Bremner, Alexia Gladdy or Malcolm. The price is unchanged at an extremely low price of \$15.00. WOW, get your ticket before they run out!

Because board members usually serve 3 year terms we are looking for a number of directors. We would welcome extra names for future consideration.

Malcolm Boyd

Down River Duck Trip:

February 1st. dawned sunny & mild & 18 eager birders gathered at the Dow People Place parking lot ready for a fun day.

Alf led us to our first stop which was under the Bluewater bridge to hopefully see the peregrine falcons. And there they were, a male & female pair wheeling over the bridge against the blue sky & then perching overhead on the bridge. The river was full of ducks, many of them taking flight before they were swept under the bridge. Alf said this was quite a common thing for them to do. So many varieties & we had a lot of scopes put up so we could all have good views. There were buffleheads, canvasbacks, red-breasted mergansers, common goldeneye, longtailed ducks & mallards. One longtailed duck dove & showed off his beautiful tail for us.

On to the lighthouse & we were amazed at the sight of so many ducks. Our lucky day indeed. Here we spotted white-winged scoters, a black-backed gull, redheads, common mergansers plus all of the ones we had seen under the bridge. The longtailed ducks were there by the score.

In Sarnia Bay we had to drive carefully, the pavement was full of sleeping Canada geese & mallards. We also saw house sparrows, starlings & a crow. Off down the river to the Shell dock where we were delighted to see hooded mergansers, gadwalls & a glaucous gull. Across the river there was an immature bald eagle which came down on to

a piece of floating ice. Then a herring gull flew overhead chasing another immature eagle. Then we were blessed with a mature bald eagle flying inland. Three eagles !!!

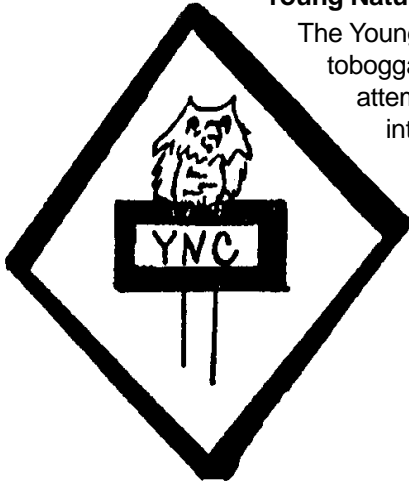
In Mooretown we saw greater scaup & then opposite Terra there were black ducks, mute swans & lesser scaup. A red-tailed hawk flew over here. In Sombra in amongst the many other ducks we saw our first ring-necked ducks (with their beautiful colourful bills) & a rock dove. Here we stopped for a well deserved lunch at the Riverview & looking through the window at the trees outside someone spotted a golden-crowned kinglet!!

Some of us carried on down the Whitebread Line to see if we could get the snowy owl that Larry had seen there. We weren't lucky enough to see that but saw quite a lot of horned larks flying over the fields & mourning doves & tree sparrows & a field with at least 24 wild turkeys & a tree with 20 robins in it. Paul told us this was not a harbinger of Spring but that they must have a source of food nearby. Carrying on we saw a kestrel, many red-tails (some by the side of the road in the dirty snow banks) & a rough-legged hawk who showed us how he could hover for ever it seemed in one spot. Coming home on Rokeby Line, Anne spotted a merlin. An excellent finish to the best Down River Duck trip I have ever been on.

Many thanks to Alf for his excellent leading & to all the other birding experts we had along.

Submitted by Mary Harman

Young Naturalist Group:



The Young Nats enjoyed a lovely winter day in the Pinery this past month. We frequented their toboggan hill – which is quite a bumpy ride, as well as participating in a winter hike and an attempt to hand-feed chickadees! We learned something very interesting from our hike interpreter – chickadee's brains grow each fall (to accommodate remembering their many food cache locations) by up to 30%!! And, even more amazing, they shrink again in the spring – when those large brains are no longer needed!!! Thank you Pinery Staff for teaching us such amazing things!

Upcoming Young Naturalist Events(kids aged 7-11):

Sunday February 8th, 2009: Winter Fun Day (Lake Exploration and Games)
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Place: Canatara Park (outside of animal farm)

Saturday March 7th, 2009: Habitat Creation and Clean-up

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Place: Henderson Conservation Area (Petrolia)

JR. CONSERVATIONIST GROUP:

The Jr. Conservationists had a busy meeting in January. We discussed the details of native plant gardening, and planned a schoolyard naturalization project. We are proud to announce that the project is moving along and we have received permission to place the garden on the grounds of London Rd. Public School in Sarnia!! Thank you London Road for this wonderful opportunity and thank you also to the many LWI members who have already volunteered their help!

Upcoming Jr. Naturalist Events (youth aged 12-16):

Saturday, February 14th, 2009: Nest Box Construction Program

Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Place: Henderson CA, Petrolia

Saturday, March 21st, 2009: Habitat Creation and Maple Syrup Festival

Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Place: AW Campbell Conservation Area

We still have room in both groups. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Melissa Levi insektivi@hotmail.com

Monarch Teacher Network Canada –

Summer 2009 Workshop in Sarnia

The Monarch Teacher Network Canada is a group of Canadians interested in the environment, promoting a global community and bringing the inspiring story of the monarch butterfly to classrooms. We are partners with the United States and Mexico in forming a North American network of teachers committed to the preservation of the monarch butterfly and its habitat.

Each summer, volunteers from the Monarch Teacher Network Canada offer workshops to all interested educators. It is a combination of classroom and field experiences.

Participants learn:

the life cycle, ecology and conservation of monarchs
to raise and tag them

to teach effective, cross-curricular lessons

to develop a school butterfly garden and natural classroom
and more!

The goal is to provide teachers with the knowledge, experience, materials and confidence to raise monarchs in their classroom in September and produce an outstanding learning experience for students. One course will be held in Sarnia, Ontario on July 30th and 31st, 2009 at Cathcart Boulevard Public School. For further information, go to: www.monarchcanada.org.

Ontario Nature's 4th Annual Youth Writing Contest

Your topic is: Every day we make choices that could help or harm our environment. What are you doing that has a positive impact on our environment?

What you need to know:

- You must be an Ontario grade 7 or 8 student.
- It can be an essay, a story, or a piece of creative writing, with a maximum count of 700 words, typed and double-spaced.
- The top three entries will be published in ON Nature magazine, the award-winning nature and environment magazine in Ontario.

• The winners will receive cool prizes for their work, and will be honoured for their achievement at Ontario Nature's Annual General Meeting & Conference.

Send your original entries by February 25, 2009 to:

Youth Writing Contest

Ontario Nature

366 Adelaide Street West, Suite 201 Toronto, ON M5V 1R9
Make sure you have a title page telling us the title of your essay, your name, address, phone number, email address, your parent's or guardian's name, what grade you're in, and the name of your school.

Ontario Nature's Youth Writing Contest is sponsored by Waste Management.



Photo credit: Bob Tremain

Sun Dogs:

Recently Alf Rider sent along some beautiful pictures taken by Bob Tremain of the Lambton Heritage Museum. This one illustrates a weather phenomena called Sun Dogs perfectly. While I was familiar with the term I don't think I had ever actually seen one, except once driving home when I saw something that sort of resembled what I had read about. However it was not as striking as this photo.

Sun Dogs or parhelia are caused by refraction of tiny ice crystals in the atmosphere. The familiar halo we often see around the moon and occasionally the sun is at 22 degrees, called the parhelic circle, and on a horizontal line with the sun the arc sometimes broadens to two bright spots, called by people in the arctic the sun's dogs. At this point the refracted light is much more intense than the rest of the arc so that they are often seen when the rest of the arc is not. The inner edge of the halo is sharp and reddened while the outer edge is blue and less sharp.

Sun dogs have been mentioned in literature over a very long period including writings by the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, while prior to the Battle of Mortimer's Cross during the Wars of the Roses it was reported that three suns appeared in the sky. The Yorkists took it to represent Edward of York who deposed Henry VI (Lancaster) to become Edward IV, George of Clarence and Richard of Gloucester, later Richard III, and prophesied their impending victory. There is even a minor hockey team named the Sundogs.

Just as the halo around the moon is said to predict approaching rain so sun dogs are said to predict an approaching blizzard.

Gord Catterson

Winter Birding Highlights

By Blake A. Mann

It has been a very interesting winter for birds so far. Highlights have included an unusual number of warblers lingering into December (or attempting to winter), a ridiculously early spring migration of northern pintail and other waterfowl, and the incredible invasion of white-winged crossbills. As author of the Ontario Winter Report in North American Birds, I keep track of significant bird sightings for the period 1 December to 28 February. There were an unprecedented number of warblers reported in December. The black-

throated gray warbler at Rondeau that we discovered was last seen 4 December. Other Rondeau area records for December included a palm warbler at Shrewsbury and a blackpoll warbler near the park.

A male black-throated blue warbler at Toronto stayed until at least 6 January, while a female of the same species was at Hamilton in mid December. A yellow warbler was very late at Etobicoke 6 December, as seen by Andrew Keaveny.

A male northern parula delighted observers east of Toronto at Thickson's Woods 13-14 December.

On December 13, Alan Wormington found two orange-crowned warblers and a male "Audubon's" warbler at Point Pelee. Another orange-crowned was at Bronte Park in Oakville the next day.

Of course the hardy yellow-rumped warblers were widely reported, including the usual ones I always find at Moore Wildlife Area on Bickford Line south of Sarnia.

An interesting phenomenon occurred 27 December during the extreme mild weather. An incredible number of northern pintail ducks appeared, along with some other waterfowl on Lake Erie and a bit north of the lake. Hundreds were seen at Point Pelee and Hillman Marsh by observers Alan Wormington and Dean J. Ware 27-28 December. As well on the Wallaceburg Christmas Bird Count 27 December, 46 were reported. The next day I observed a flock of 18 at Port Lambton heading south. The influx included a few greater white-fronted geese like the eight at Erieau seen by Jim T. Burk.

This was a unique event where the ducks were duped into thinking it was spring due to the very mild conditions, and consequently headed north.

The most interesting thing this winter is the invasion of the white-winged crossbill into southern Ontario. Flocks of this species have been seen in almost every locale. Practically every Christmas Bird Count recorded some. Most counts had never before tallied this species. I have had dozens in my yard, when previously I had only recorded two individuals in twenty years! An event like this has not been seen in recent memory.

It all started earlier last summer when some roaming flocks were reported in southern Ontario. They were in search of food due to the lack of a cone crop in the boreal forest. The crossbill's beak has mandibles uniquely crossed to specifically extract the seeds from spruce cones in particular.

There were several other unusual birds this winter but space is limited here. There is still another month or so in the winter, so much can still happen!

This article is a follow up to mine in the January issue. Fern e-mailed me to say that he had enjoyed the article and wanted to follow it up with some background information which LWI members might find interesting and which is not widely known. My thanks to Fern for documenting some facts on the trail's construction, history and purpose. Ed.

The Ausable Trail—An Overview

Historical notes

1— Why the trail? Elizabeth Tasker, then president of LWI, felt that by having a hiking trail we would attract more

members, particularly people who were then members of the local Sarnia Bruce Trail Hiking Club.

2— Why was trail placed in Middlesex not Lambton County? The feeling was that if placed in Lambton County it would run through the very popular Rock Glen Conservation area and would enable extensive public access to the trail. We feared that this access would make it difficult to protect any sensitive areas.

3— The exact location of the trail was an attempted balance between hikers and naturalists interests. The final okay for its location was given by Peter Tasker.

4— The trail was set up using guidelines set out by the Bruce Trail Association. These guidelines spelled out protocol for trail blazes, trail maintenance, and right of trespass. The trail blazes should be white, of a certain size, and spaced apart so that the next blaze is clearly visible. A double blaze means a sharp turn. In order to keep a trail open and safe for users, annual maintenance is required.

Initially we personally contacted all landowners for right of trespass. We established regular communication with these owners to inform them of what we were doing on their property. We even held a special meeting where the landowners were invited to attend.

6— After the trail was officially opened and a maintenance program set up we launched what was designated as Project S.A.V.E. (Save Ausable Valley's Ecology). Initially there was much support for this project, particularly support coming from the then current manager of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). The idea was to somehow protect the unique ecology of the Ausable Valley from highway 7 to Hungry Hollow. Unfortunately this very benevolent manager was moved and in his place there came an entirely different manager, who had no interest in the trail, or the project, and was actually hostile to LWI. The project died.

However there was one positive offshoot. A local farmer near the Mystery Falls area was allowing clay mining in the area. We discussed this with the ABCA, who then put a stop to this by buying the land and thereby protecting the Mystery Falls area.

5—The trail symbol was the fossil *Brachiopod*, which is found in the clay at Hungry Hollow, Fullers Falls, and Mystery Falls. Somewhere near #7 highway there is an old oak log with a large *Brachiopod* inscribed in it. It marks what was one end of the trail.

Comments

When Elizabeth Tasker asked me to take on the Ausable Trail project I gladly accepted not realizing the magnitude of the commitment. But thanks to members like Don Smith, Les Greenop, Gerry Clements, and Peter Tasker the project became doable and surged ahead. Through this project we discovered a jewel in our own back yard. The more we explored this area for trail location the more we marveled at the natural beauty that was there. The construction of the Ausable Trail was a major project for LWI. It involved many

meetings and hundreds of gladly donated hours of work. There was ample support from LWI and Sarnia Hiking Club members. After one year of exploration, two years of trail development the trail was officially opened on Oct 14/73. The cutting ceremony was held on the trail on a perfect fall day, with LWI and Sarnia Bruce Trail members in attendance. Once officially opened there came the task of ongoing trail maintenance, and nurturing trail interest by LWI members. The main interest by LWI members was an annual spring walk to Mystery Falls to enjoy the many spring flowers in the area. The initial hope of attracting more members because of the trail had uncertain results. Hiking the trail never did get much support from LWI members, which is understandable given the main focus of the club. Nevertheless trail maintenance continued annually because during each year there were fallen trees, overgrowth and undergrowth to cope with. Nature was constantly trying to reclaim its territory.

In time the responsibility for trail management changed hands, as well as style. Some things were added while other things did not get done, such as land owner communication. Ever so gradually the trail withered. Adequate interest and support for trail maintenance wasn't there. It was a big job, which usually was undertaken by hiking clubs. But then came ATV's. The final blow.

The ATV riders destroyed the trail, tore through beds of wild flowers, dug deep ugly ruts into the land; all with the blessing of ABCA because the ATV club was willing to pay a user fee. LWI did not. During this time some landowners objected to what was happening to their property and denied trespass. From this point on the Ausable Trail which extended from Hungry Hollow to Highway 7 ceased to exist. End of an era. But some remnants of the trail still exist today, and some people are trying to save what is left.

In retrospect the Ausable Trail project for LWI was not a good fit. There is a fundamental difference between a hiking mindset and a nature observer/conservator mindset. This is not meant to be a judgemental comment. The demise of the trail project was inevitable, but what has been most disappointing was the failure of the SAVE project. This more clearly fits into the LWI character.

Fern Noel

Ausable Trail Map:

As a follow up to my article about the Ausable Trail in the January issue and Fern's article in this issue, I should mention that both John Timar and Kevin Crowell have supplied me with copies of the map produced by Tracy Boitson of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. It is quite detailed and of course accurate so that the trail is now well defined, at least on paper. The map is available for anyone wishing to explore the trail although I would still recommend having someone along who is familiar with it.

Gord Catterson

Gerry Clements sent me the following information about an incident in 1969. Amazingly over 2/3rds of the birds were kinglets. Ed.

Birds found dead along Ipperwash Beach on October 25, 1969

On October 25, 1969 Lambton Field Naturalist Society (as we were then called) held a birding trip to Ipperwash Beach. We found more than we had bargained for. All along the beach were thousand of dead birds. (10,000 est.) There was an early winter storm a few nights before and we believe they were driven into the water.

Estimated total of 10,000 birds found washed up on the six miles (approx.) of beach between Kettle Point and Port Franks.

Savannas Sparrow	1	0.15%
Fox Sparrow	3	0.44%
Song Sparrow	11	1.63%
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	0.30%
Swamp Sparrow	9	1.33%
White-crowned Sparrow	5	0.74%
White-throated Sparrow	11	1.63%
Tree Sparrow	18	2.66%
Slate-coloured Junco	39	5.77%
Purple Finch	3	0.44%
Pine Siskin	1	0.15%
Robin	1	0.15%
Hermit Thrush	11	1.63%
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	84	12.43%
Golden Crowned Kinglet	378	56.19%
Brown Creeper	46	6.81%
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	0.74%
Winter Wren	39	5.77%
Flicker	3	0.44%
Downy Woodpecker	1	0.15%
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	0.15%
Saw-whet Owl	2	0.30%
Total ...22 species	674 individuals	

Actual number of saw-whet owls found: 19

Count and estimate made by
Lambton Field Naturalist Society

January Indoor Meeting:

There was an excellent turnout for the January 26th indoor meeting, with over 100 people in attendance. The speaker was Lynn Eves who operates the Bluewater Center for Raptor Rehabilitation on Egremont Road. She was introduced by Melissa Levi.

Lynn began by saying she had talked to LWI several years previously and was happy to be back to share her story of working with raptors. In fact it was almost exactly 6 years ago, on Jan. 27th, 2003, when she last visited. At that time she was ably assisted by her daughter Afton and volunteer Al Reid.

Lynn said it all began about 22 years ago when someone

brought her an injured kestrel (incidentally LWI's logo bird). She called the MNR and was directed to a woman in Amherstburg who assisted her. She then began working with injured animals including a baby fox and a blind beaver as well as many others. After 5 years or so she realized that her interest was raptors and began the process of establishing her Raptor Centre. She built her first cage on her brother's farm, became a registered charity in 1991 and is now licensed as a Registered Wildlife Custodian. Initially she borrowed \$5000 from the bank and has been assisted by donations, particularly from the TD Environmental Fund, and by volunteers. In fact at this meeting she had three volunteers on hand. She also has a vet in Forest who assists her.

As time went by she expanded, building cages on her own property and then building an outdoor hospital in 1999, which until then had been in her basement. She said that each cage has its' own food box and that injured birds are put in a cage to rest for a couple of days before being treated. The birds are often dehydrated and must be rehydrated before being fed as they normally receive all their moisture needs from their prey. This is done via a tube which provides the needed moisture. They are then fed solid food in the form of small birds or rodents which at first are mushed up. Major sources of injuries include cars, hydro wires, fences, being shot and hitting windows when chasing prey. She also occasionally gets oiled birds which need to be carefully cleaned.

Lynn then showed photographs of a variety of birds which she has rescued. They included great horned owls, Cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks, saw-whet owls, turkey vultures, kestrels and long-eared owls amongst others. She said she had treated northern harriers but only rarely. They nest in hay fields and one such case involved a farmer who had run over a harrier's nest which had 4 young. Three were rescued and brought to her. They couldn't be returned to the nest so they were raised in captivity and subsequently released.

She also mentioned that several screech owls have been born at the facility. She currently has a resident great blue heron which must remain indoors until it can be released in the spring.

One of the problems with very young birds is that they are not yet imprinted with their parents, and can be imprinted to humans which is a problem because they cannot then be released. In essence they come to believe the humans are their parents. In this case they need to be returned to their real parents or imprinted by a resident bird.

Lynn also talked about turkey vultures habit of vomiting when they are frightened. She said the vomit has a skunk like odour and the first time it happened was inside her house. She said it was as if a skunk had sprayed inside the house. As they are carrion eaters it can be really off-putting.

She also mentioned birds that have fledged but have not yet learned to hunt. These birds are called 'branchers' and have to be taught to hunt in captivity if their parents are not around. This is done by putting live mice in their cage,

hidden under leaves as the birds mainly depend on their hearing as well as keen eyesight, to locate them. The process normally takes 2-3 weeks.

Lynn also showed a picture of a young resident turkey vulture called 'Brat'. He is a real character who thinks he is human. In the picture he was sitting on a chair back and allowing warm air from a fan to ruffle his feathers. He will become an educational bird as he cannot be released into the wild.

In response to a question Lynn said that West Nile virus continues as a problem and that 2002 was a very bad year. She said that crows and blue jays are indicator species for the virus.

Finally two of her volunteers displayed a live kestrel and a live long eared owl to the audience while Lynn showed a stuffed great horned owl.

A great show. She was thanked by Malcolm Boyd who expressed appreciation for not only her presentation but also for the wonderful work she is doing.

Anyone interested in financially supporting Lynn's work can do so by visiting the web site at <www.lambtoncounty.com/bcrr/center> and mailing a cheque to the Bluewater Center for Raptor Rehabilitation at R.R. #2, Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0.

Gord Catterson

Jr. Conservationist Fundraiser:

The Jr. Conservationist Group is currently running a Fundraiser to purchase plants for our upcoming Schoolyard Naturalization Project. We are creating and selling 100% Post-Consumer-Waste, Hand-Recycled Paper Valentines. Each valentine has Native Seeds embedded into the paper so that once it is no longer useful it can be planted outdoors and the seeds will grow!!! Each valentine comes with instructions and plenty of room to write a personal message.

The cost is \$2.00/valentine.

Please contact me if you are interested in purchasing one to help support our project.

Melissa Levi

519-337-2320

insektivi@hotmail.com

3rd Annual Carden Nature Festival

Carden Field Naturalists

Friday June 5th to Sunday June 7th, 2009

Looking for an affordable weekend getaway? The Carden Nature Festival is the answer. A virtual smorgasbord of environmental delights. Choose from over 100 events - birds, spiders, moths, fish and butterflies. Dragonflies and those fascinating alvar flowers, mosses and lichens. Sitting, walking, pedaling, paddling, cycling, hiking, and flying. Checkout the website www.CardenGuide.com/ Festival after December 15th. Registration begins January 12th, 2009.

The Group Discount is back too. This is a great way to earn your club some money in 2009. Over \$300 was paid out last year. Get signed up and spread the word. Call Gayle at (705) 326-1620 or e-mail at gayle@couchconservancy.ca or register on the website after January 12th, 2009.

Winter Robins:

I recently received an email from LWI member Debbie Dibrita in which she wondered about seeing several robins this winter along the Howard Watson Nature Trail between London Road and Exmouth Street. She was curious as to whether or not this was abnormal. I forwarded the email to Alf Rider for comment and received this reply, as follows. "The Autumnal gales from the North and N. West send the small birds scurrying to warmer climes. However American robins are still found in S-W Ontario in the winter. They have found a good supply of food in the form of berry-laden trees and bushes with some shelter such as a stream valley which has slopes that get warmed by the sun that brings out the occasional spider and some insects which they eat to supplement their diet. Those who really look for Robins can usually find a few in S-W Ontario. A place to look for early robins is the Hawthorn area at the south end of Indian Rd. in Sarnia.

Hope that this helps.

Alf."

So if you see robins even during this frigid winter it is not that unusual. Thanks Alf.

Gord Catterson

----- CUT AND MAIL -----

To help us serve you better

please circle or check (optional):

Age Groups: Under 12 12-20 20-40 40-60
60-80 over 80 or M. Y. O. B.

Interests: Birds Flowers Animals Insects
 Fungi Fish Trees
 Conservation Environment
 Other _____

Activities: Hiking Camping Bicycle Riding
 Canoeing Walking Talking
 Writing Cross Country Skiing
 Other _____

Might be willing to:

Serve on Committee
Chair Committee
Serve on Board
Act as LWI Representative
Come to Indoor Meetings
Go on Outings
Participate in Slide Show
Be an Advisor

Other Information to Share with LWI:

Need transportation to meetings _____
Special skills or work experience _____

Lambton County Nature Guide:

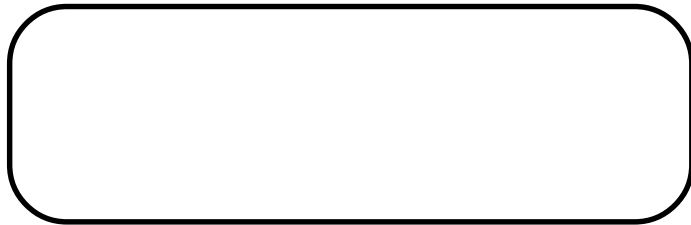
A couple of years ago Malcolm Boyd asked that I develop a nature guide for Lambton County. This was in response to some participants in a birding course wondering if there was a guide to birding "hot spots" in the Sarnia Lambton area. I looked into the matter and found that while there were many guides to specific areas, there was nothing that covered the whole county. Janet Bremner and Floyd Elliott agreed to assist in developing such a guide.

Somewhere along the way we decided to expand the idea to include not just birding locations, but natural areas noted for their general biological significance. Also we decided to include important areas such as Point Pelee and Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nations Territory) which are not within Lambton County but are readily accessible from Lambton County. The result is a publication entitled "A Guide to the Natural Areas of Lambton County". Several contributors generously sent material they had either developed themselves or were aware of from other sources. These people are recognized in the guide.

Our webmaster, Cheryl Veary, has now posted a pdf version of the guide to our website <www.lambtonwildlife.com>. The plan is to publish this booklet sometime later this year. The purpose of posting it to the website is twofold. One is to allow people who are interested to download it. The other is to receive input from LWI members and others who might be interested. I would request that people look it over with a critical eye and send any comments to me at <gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca>.

What I am looking for is not suggestions on style or organization but rather egregious errors such as spelling, grammar and so on. Also location errors (the location is not where I say it is) as well as suggestions for areas that may have been overlooked.

Gord Catterson



Board of Directors:

Malcolm Boyd	President
Richard Maxfield	President Elect
Janet Bremner	Past President
Mary Martin	Secretary
Bill Scott	Treasurer
Wayne Bowen	Board member
Krista Cowieson	Board Member
Robert Difruscia	Board Member
Joe Donohue	Board Member
Alexia Gladdy	Board member
Tania Havelka	Board member
Melissa Levi	Board Member
Eric Marcum	Board Member
Mary Margaret McGrail	Board Member
Cheryl Veary	Webmaster

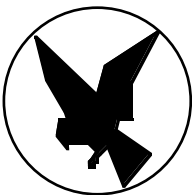
The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is partnering in 2009 with Ontario Nature which is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Southampton on Saturday May 30th at 3:30 p.m. at the Bruce County Museum. This is a wonderful opportunity for some of Ontario Nature's guests to join in our Festival events during the weekend and some of our Festival goers to join in their AGM events.

Deadline for March issue is
Friday, March 6th, 2009
 Please leave typed material or discs in mailbox
 at 502 Roosevelt Drive
 or email to:
 gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca

----- CUT AND MAIL -----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to : Lambton Wildlife Inc. Box 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7



Name: _____

Address: _____ email _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Date : _____ Earthways via email? Yes _____ No _____

Membership fees: Single \$20 Family \$25 Young Naturalist \$15 (\$5 ea. add'l child) (Circle one)

Donation \$ _____ (Business number 11900 4620 RR0001) Total \$ _____