

EARTHWAYS[®]



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED-P.O. BOX 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7
Gordon Catterson-Editor Modris Zandbergs-Distribution **March 2011**
Cheryl Veary-Webmaster 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

March 28th, 2011

Frontyard Gardens

Karen McKeown, Horticulturist and City of Guelph Healthy Landscape Technician, will talk about Guelph's Healthy Landscape Program. A progressive program, it helps homeowners develop proper planning to produce frontyard gardens that are beautiful and have proper maintenance, plant selection, watering, weeding and eliminating the need for pesticides.

Due to renovations at the YMCA Learning and Career Centre on Oakdale Ave. this March indoor meeting will be held at the Kiwanis Centre on Lochiel St. (our former venue).

Special Events

LWI Annual General Meeting and Banquet

April 16th, 2011 Mandaamin United Church Hall
Business meeting and general elections at 4:30 pm, bucket draw opens at 5 pm, then the delicious turkey dinner with homemade fruit pies is served at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Dave Pearce, analyst for CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society). Ontario has the world's most southern population of polar bears. Our boreal forest has among the richest, natural carbon reserves in the world. Dave will tell the story of how "ice bears", climate change and carbon choices collide dramatically with Ontario's far north.

See also p.3 for bucket draw & ticket information.

Ontario Nature-2011 Annual General Meeting:

Please join us to celebrate eight decades of conservation at Ontario Nature's 80th Annual General Meeting and Gathering on June 11-12, 2011.

Festivities will include a gala dinner with live music, field trips exploring unique wildlife and habitats, nature workshops, and a kids nature camp.

Our AGM will be held at the beautiful Ganaraska Forest Centre in the heart of the Oak Ridges Moraine (north of Port Hope).

For more information, contact Lauren Wright at laurenw@ontarionature.org or 1-800-440-2366 ext. 271.

See you there!

The Ontario Nature Team

Outdoor Program

*Highway 402 Cleanup

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Inquiries: Joe Haselmayer – 542-2826

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Howard Watson Nature Trail Cleanup

Sunday, April 17, 2011

Inquiries: Gord Catterson – 337-1246

*LWI Properties Tour

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at the Brights Grove Plaza (near Shoppers) Here's your chance to see and learn about the properties that LWI owns and manages. This year's tour will be at the Karner Blue Sanctuary.

Inquiries: Dick Maxfield – 542-7914

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Organizer: Brenda Kulon – 869-2833

SEE ALSO p. 3

*Canatara Walks into Spring

Wednesdays, May 4, 11 and 18, 2011

Meet: 6:00 pm at the entrance to Tarzanland.

Leader: Gerry Clements – 336-3513

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Greetings From The President

Sanibel Island lies off the gulf coast of Florida near Fort Meyers. The island is famous for its miles of white sandy beaches and for the sea shells that can be found along the gulf shore. While on the island many people take the opportunity to visit one of the nature reserves found there, one of which is the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, (colloquially know as Ding-Dar). It is home to a bountiful array of vegetation and wildlife, including many species of birds.

While not the largest refuge to be found in the United States in terms of area (the largest are located in Alaska) over 800,000 people visit it each year easily putting it in the category as one of the top ten most visited refuges in the country. You might ask, "Well other than a shared love of nature, what has this to do with Lambton Wildlife?" The answer is that there

is more than you might imagine.

While it is true the Refuge is managed and administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Refuge itself was not a creation of the U.S. Government. During one of Florida's land booms, speculators were buying property at a prodigious rate. Sanibel Island residents realized that if something was not done soon, much of this unique wildlife refuge land would be lost to development. A far seeing conservationist named Jay Norwood Darling was instrumental in organizing a group of concerned islanders to begin to raise funds to secure these sensitive lands as a wildlife refuge.

Similarly, Lambton Wildlife Inc. (LWI) is not a government agency. The founding members in 1966 were a small group of local naturalists (Peter and Elizabeth Tasker, Dennis and Sue Rupert, Roy and Stephanie John, and Gerry Clements) who joined together to form the Lambton Field Naturalists. From this humble beginning, the club expanded its activities and membership from its original purpose of observers of birds and flowers until by 1973 it had evolved into Lambton Wildlife Inc., an organization of like-minded people "who enjoy natural history and want to share their interests, experiences, knowledge and concerns for the state of the environment with other enthusiasts."

LWI has also saved rare and sensitive habitat from development. In 1984, Gerry Clements and Brenda Kulon became aware that property in the Port Franks area which was vital to the preservation of the rare Karner blue butterfly was up for sale. Through their efforts over \$85,000 was raised to purchase this property and in 1988 LWI became the owner of the Karner Blue Sanctuary. Without the action of LWI, spearheaded by Gerry and Brenda, this rare habitat for the Karner Blue would probably have been lost.

Ding-Dar is well aware of the "nature deficit" or the disconnect between young people and nature. If children do not have a hands on relation with nature while they are young, they are less likely to be advocates for nature when they get older. Ding-Dar has a number of programs directed toward teaching the young about nature by experiencing it in the wild.

Lambton Wildlife is also aware of the necessity of educating young people. The Young Naturalist and Junior Conservationist Group led by Melissa Levi play an important role in LWI affairs. The emphasis is on raising their knowledge and appreciation of nature by making it a fun and positive experience to explore the wonders and mysteries of our natural environment. And in a most important respect, Lambton Wildlife Inc. and Ding-Dar National Wildlife Refuge both share a love and a respect for nature, and that is a pretty good thing to share.

And as always, stay safe.

Richard Maxfield

Lambton Wildlife Facebook

Lambton Wildlife is pleased to announce it has joined the social network on Facebook. This is Lambton Wildlife's 45th year and much has changed in the way we communicate with others.

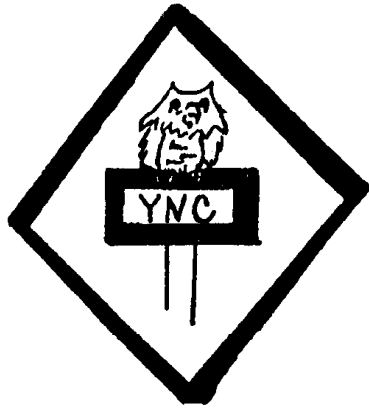
The New York Times, in an article December 21st, stated that; "You are an old fogey if you still watch movies on a VCR, listen to vinyl records and shoot photos on film. And you enjoy using e-mail. Young people of course, much prefer online chats and text messaging. These have been on the rise for years but are now threatening to eclipse e-mail, much as they have already superseded phone calls"

The article went on: "The future of messaging is more real time, more conversational and more casual, said Andrew Bosworth, director of Engineering for Facebook, where he oversees communication tools. The medium isn't the message. The message is the message. The slide in e-mail does not reflect a drop in digital communication, people have just gravitated to instant messaging, texting and Facebook (four billion messages daily)".

Clearly, for our organization to survive for the next 45 years, we need to become part of this message by having the means for instant messaging.

We are very fortunate to have new member, Barbara Boyd (daughter of Nora and Malcolm) an experienced Facebook text messenger, as our Facebook manager. Barbara currently lives in B.C. but with the wonders of the internet she is able to do this. We welcome anyone who is interested in nature and protecting habitat to become a friend of Lambton Wildlife on Facebook. We look forward to your news and comments.

Janet (old fogey) Bremner
Chair, Program and Publicity



This month we tried something entirely new; the Jr. Conservationists developed & delivered the Young Naturalist meeting. This was an experiment; to introduce our older students (Jr. Conservationists) to public speaking, nature interpretation, & teaching. This meeting helped to fulfill LWI's plan to build not only nature skills, but also life skills & leadership skills in our young adults. These kids did a wonderful job.

The Jr. Conservationists decided on the topic of 'Bats'. Some highlights of the meeting included examining a bat skeleton, searching for potential bat roosting sites, and playing games to help the children understand both hibernation & echolocation.

Congrats to the Jr. Conservationists for meeting the challenge of leadership! You all did a great job!

Congrats to the Young Naturalists who were stellar students & made the new leaders feel confident & welcome in the group!

Upcoming Events:

Young Naturalists (age 6-11)

April 2nd: Indoor Location TBA from 1:00-3:00PM

Topic: Endangered Turtles with guest speaker Mike Smalls: A lesson & art session!

Jr. Conservationists (age 12-16)

March 27th: @ Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation from 10:00 – 3:00PM

Continuation of our Jr. Rehabber's Course!

We are still accepting new members for the 2010-2011 season!
Contact Melissa Levi @ insektivi@hotmail.com for info.

Camping at Point Pelee:

Monday, May 16 to Wednesday, May 18.

Point Pelee is one of North America's top birding hotspots for spring migration. For many, many years, Lambton Wildlife has arranged for inexpensive camping within Point Pelee National Park. The camping is very close to the interpretative centre and the tram to the Point. It is the only place in the Park where camping is permitted and only a few spots are available. The amenities are just fine: a covered eating area, drinking water and flush toilets (and an outdoor shower for the hearty).

This year reservations were harder to get and we only got camping for 3 nights: in on Monday May 16 and out on Thursday, May 19th. Cost will be \$50.00 for 3 nights, an amazing deal compared to accommodation outside the park. You will also have the benefit of birding with our LWI experts which is a lot of fun. You will see birds that otherwise you wouldn't see or at least wouldn't be able to identify if you didn't bird with experts such as ours. Please make your reservations as soon as possible as space is limited.

Contact: Larry Cornelis: 519-339-8785 or email: [<larrycornelis@gmail.com>](mailto:larrycornelis@gmail.com)

AGM-Tickets & Bucket Draw:

AGM dinner tickets will be available at the March indoor meeting and afterwards from Alexia Gladdy. Phone 519-337-6483. The usual outstanding church supper all for just \$15. April 16th at 6:30pm.

Also items are needed for the AGM bucket draw. In past years we have had many great donations for the bucket draw held during the AGM. Please look around and see what items you might have that you could donate.

Donations central is Krista Cowieson and you can call or email her regarding your donations. Please let her know what the item is and if possible bring it to the AGM with you. Otherwise they can be dropped off to Krista in Bright's Grove, Malcolm Boyd, Richard Maxfield or Janet Bremner. Thank you for your help.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

On Saturday May 7, LWI's annual Native Plant Sale will take place at the residence of John and Barb Teasell. The address is 1269 Lakeshore Road. We are looking for volunteers for Friday night at 6:00 p.m. to do the setup and again for Saturday morning to do the takedown. The morning job is usually done before noon.

Gerry Clements
519-336-3513

February Indoor Meeting:

About 60 members and friends turned out to listen as Mike Cadman talked about the new Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario. Mike was introduced by Malcolm Boyd who said that Mike is a songbird biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service and was the coordinator for the new atlas. Malcolm explained that Mike is a lifetime birder who has had considerable influence on birding science through his work and is one of Canada's most important birders. Mike received an MSc. from the University of Toronto.

Mike began by saying that there are various initiatives to document bird populations, two of which are the annual Xmas bird counts and also the back yard feeder program carried on by Bird Studies Canada. However perhaps the most important is the work that is done to produce the atlas. The previous book was carried out in the period from 1981 to 1985 and published soon thereafter.

The latest atlas was published following the field work done in 2001-2005. The purpose of the work behind the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario is to provide baseline data for future work, to contour the abundance of each species, to expand the coverage of the north, to replicate the coverage of the first book, and to give detailed information on nesting sites. Also to produce the book and to produce a computer based database.

Mike explained that the southern part of the province was divided up into 10x10 km squares (approximately 1000) and the northern part into 100x100 km squares (about 100). He said the Province of Ontario is almost exactly 1,000,000 sq. kms. The goal then was to try and document all of the birds that nest in each of the squares, using a system originally developed by birders in Britain for a similar work. The result was that there were approximately 100 species nesting in each. Possible nesters were documented with an H while probabilities were identified with a T. In 1981-85 there were 1351 primary observers and 600 assistants while in 2001-05 there were 1900 primary and 1517 assistants. In total 150,000 hours went into collecting data and data submitted on 4990 squares. In all 286 nesting species were identified with the black necked stilt and the trumpeter swan being new. Many rare species were documented with more than 10,000 breeding sites of rare species and breeding colonies identified.

Mike then spoke about the birds that have shown the greatest increase. The top 10 included Canada goose, house finch, blue-headed vireo, turkey vulture, wild turkey, merlin, Eastern bluebird, pine warbler, bald eagle and sandhill crane. He also mentioned the expansion of the raven from the north southward. He said that early settlers used poisonous bait on wolves causing the death of many ravens who fed on the carrion, however they are now coming back. Originally they covered much of the Province. In fact I recall that when I first came to Sarnia there was a rookery located on Polymer property near the river and the birds were frequently seen flying around the site. They were forced out as the land was used for other purposes. Mike mentioned that ravens are amongst the most intelligent of birds.

He also mentioned the sandhill crane and said 20 years ago they were largely confined to Manitoulin Island, the north end of the Bruce Peninsula and the area around Sault Ste. Marie. Now they are located much farther south including near Sarnia as frequently reported by Alf Rider. Also the bald eagle has greatly expanded due to reintroduction and the banning of DDT. He said as well that the merlin 20 years ago was considered a rare bird but is no longer rare. Apparently the Carolina wren 20 years ago only appeared just over the Canada/U.S. Border, but now is moving steadily northward. He also said that some birds are expanding the other way, that is from further north on the Canadian shield to the south, as pine plantations mature.

He talked about big birds increasing such as trumpeter and mute swans. He said this is probably due to reintroduction, fewer people living off the land (less hunting of big birds), ban on DDT and a shift in societal values.

He then talked about birds that are suffering large decreases. The top ten here are the common nighthawk, chimney swift, bank swallow, blue-winged teal, red-headed woodpecker, barn swallow, cliff swallow, brown-headed cowbird, spotted sandpiper and killdeer. He said the ones in the most trouble include the flying insect eaters and the grassland birds. He said this may be due to habitat loss, urban sprawl, reforestation (harmful to grassland birds but helpful to woodland birds), changes in agricultural practice, changes in wintering grounds and pesticides that kill insects that birds eat. He specifically mentioned the loggerhead shrike that once was common in Ontario but is now reduced to only 20 breeding pairs in the whole Province. The purple martin had its' biggest decline in the north while the chimney swift has had a huge decline and is hanging on mainly in cities. LWI members at last year's AGM will recall Winnifred Wake from Ontario London speaking on the plight of these flying insect eaters. Mike said that the bird with the biggest decline, the common nighthawk, nests on flat roofs in cities.

Mike then postulated on why these birds are declining in numbers. Some ideas include declining insect populations or out of sync with the breeding cycle, cold snaps early in the spring (hard to accept given that we have always had cold snaps early in the spring), pesticide use (killing insects), loss of nesting structure, habitat change, and changes on wintering grounds. Mike emphasized that these are only ideas and a great deal of work would need to be done to document whether they are real.

In general Mike said that more species are increasing than decreasing except for the Carolinian region where the opposite is true. Wetland and woodland birds are thriving right across the province except for the Carolinian region while grassland birds and flying insect catchers are in general decline. Reforestation has greatly helped the woodland birds but works against grassland birds. Also farming practices have hurt the grassland birds with a notable example being bobolinks which nest in farmer's hayfields. With two and three cuttings of hay a year a great deal of pressure has been put on these birds. Also the removal of hedgerows to enlarge fields has been to the detriment of many birds. He said generally raptors, forest

birds and big birds are increasing in numbers while aerial foragers, grassland birds and neo-tropical birds are declining.

Mike then mentioned that with the new atlas a system of point counts was used. This involves marking a square with a GPS device and having someone spend five minutes there to identify all birds seen or heard. This then gives a better idea of species concentration.

Finally Mike asked the audience to name what birds they thought were the most common in Ontario. Most people guessed American robin, grackles and starlings. While Mike said these certainly are on the list of the 10 most common they were not the most common. He said the most common birds are the Nashville warbler at 16 million, chipping sparrow at 12 million, magnolia warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, white-throated sparrow and red-eyed vireo all around 10 to 12 million. Then came American robin, Swainson's thrush, red-winged blackbird, European starling and the common grackle. He said we tend to think that the birds we see most often in southern Ontario are the commonest while the most common are the birds of the boreal forest which we see only during migration.

Mike concluded by explaining that the atlas will be used for workshops, chimney swift investigation, Species at Risk designations, recovery strategies, bird conservation planning, research, a new bank swallow project and academic work. He also mentioned that if you are interested in reporting bird sightings it can be done via the web site <www.ebird.ca>. The site explains the protocol for doing so.

To order the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario visit <www.birdsontario.org>.

Mike was thanked for an excellent talk by President Dick Maxfield.

Gord Catterson

Winter Bird Report-St. Clair River

By Blake A. Mann

Waterfowl and gulls were in plentiful supply along the St. Clair River during winter. No duck rarities were found, but viewing was excellent throughout the winter.

If there was a rarity, it was the black-legged kittiwake in Sarnia Bay that Alf Rider reported on 28 December. It was last seen 2 January. This species is rarely seen in fall migration, and only at Point Edward in our area. To see it in winter is a novelty! Later in the month, one was seen down at Lakeview Marina in Windsor, leading to speculation that it was the same bird after the St. Clair River filled with ice.

Gulls were seen in the hundreds from early January well into February. Notable were the many glaucous gulls and a few Iceland, as well as an adult lesser black-backed gull. The lesser was seen at various spots along the river, and was probably the one I first saw in early December off Cathcart Park. The best spot for gulls seemed to be at ICI north of Sombra. At times, gull viewing was good off Shell Corunna.

Regarding ducks, canvasback and redhead led the way in numbers as they usually do with lesser numbers of the

other types of divers. At least two white-winged scoters were seen throughout the winter on the river at various locations. Three more showed up at Fawn Island after a mild spell in mid February.

An extreme mild spell at New Year's resulted in a waterfowl movement that can actually be considered an early spring migration. Puddle ducks from points south moved north in response to the mild weather. Most notable with these movements are northern pintail. I found five at Fawn Island on 31 December. They were not seen before or since that date! The movement was more prevalent along Lake Erie.

During a waterfowl survey of the river 2 January, I noted a male American wigeon just north of Port Lambton. It was never found again! Sometimes we have one or two wintering on the river.

A male Harlequin duck held tight to the Michigan shoreline near the Bluewater Bridge in January till mid February. It was only seen on the Sarnia side a couple of times.

On 20 February during a mild spell, some puddle ducks appeared on the river after the ice moved out. Notable were some American wigeon and gadwall at Fawn Island. Just after that, it got cold again and the ice returned forcing them out. In fact, duck watching was at its best during that period as thousands of ducks were close to shore all along the river.

Long-tailed ducks were in big numbers. They seem to be increasing in numbers each year on the river. Usually they were just seen around Sarnia in the past, but now it is not uncommon to see many at Port Lambton when the ice is absent.

In early winter, an American coot was seen near Sarnia, and perhaps I saw the same one 26 February at ICI.

At least one double-crested cormorant wintered around Sarnia and likely the same one was seen in early February near Mooretown.

A few tundra swans wintered north of Sombra. We never used to see them on the river during winter, but they have been reliable in recent times. A few early spring migrant tundra swans were seen around Wallaceburg 13 February. It seemed unusually early considering the harsh winter! A group of 103 was south of Wallaceburg, while some smaller flocks were seen around Walpole Island. Spring is just around the corner!

The David Suzuki Story

Sarnia is presenting this documentary which guides us through David Suzuki's life and reveals the key events and people that shaped him. The occasion for the film is his return to the University of British Columbia to deliver his legacy lecture. He is, by turns, touching and funny and, above all, endlessly engaging. His powerful words and inspiring life epitomize his commitment to making science vital and accessible to every one.

Tickets at The Bookkeeper, Northgate Plaza in advance or at the door on April 1, 2011. Price \$8.

Sarnia Public Library Auditorium, Friday, April 1

Two showings, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Sturla Gunnarsson, the director of the documentary, will be present for the first showing.



Photo: Avalon Hamlin

Down River Ducks

Winters grip was solid and steady this year with snow and ice creating a great white blanket on land and sea.

Thankfully, due to wind and current patterns, there was beautiful blue open waters (with a speckling of white ice floats) from the mouth of the St Clair at Lake Huron down stream to Sombra Bay. This is where all the waterfowl would be concentrated. Exactly what we needed for LWI's annual Down River Ducks outing in which thirteen keeners gathered to participate.

First stop was at the government docks where, between the large freighters, we viewed a diversity of waterfowl on the calm waters of the harbour. Trip leader Larry Cornelis set up his scope so everyone could have good looks at buffleheads, common mergansers and long-tailed ducks (previously known as oldsquaw) just to name a few. Next stop was under the Bluewater Bridge where we hoped to see the resident peregrine falcons. We were unable to locate the peregrines that morning but viewed many ducks drifting by on the river. We then made a stop at the lighthouse where everyone had good views of 3 white-winged scoters which were quite close to shore due to the fact that the lake was covered with ice and snow.

Heading down river, the first stop was at the Shell refinery docks where we always anticipate seeing beautiful hooded mergansers. There was nothing at the north end of the docks but we were successful at the south end where we found a group of 11 hoodies. Some of the males were displaying their crests for the females. Satisfied that the track record of finding hoodies at the Shell docks was maintained, Larry suggested a pit stop at Tim Hortons in Corunna before heading further south.

Probably the most exciting stop was at Courtright, where on and above the blue waters of the St Clair, was as grand a spectacle of nature as you could witness anywhere. Thousands and thousands of waterfowl were concentrated on this section of the river. At times the sky was filled with hundreds of ducks while rafts of a multitude of species plied the waters before us. There were more canvasbacks there than even the most experienced birders had seen in some time. Diving ducks (canvasbacks, redheads, goldeneyes etc) were rising from the blue depths with fish in their bills, obviously the reason they were there. A group discussion commenced on how fortunate we were to have this quality of nature viewing right here in Lambton County, right in our own backyards per se.

Travelling further down river added exotic mute swans and native tundra swans to our list of waterfowl for the day (14 species). Another trip track record was saved as Larry, riding shotgun in the lead vehicle, spotted an adult bald eagle on an ice float in the middle of the river. By the time everyone was stopped and out of the cars, the eagle had flown across the river and landed in a tall cottonwood tree. But thanks to scopes everyone had good looks at the magnificent raptor. A great way to end the trip before enjoying lunch and conversation at a restaurant in the village of Sombra.



Photo: Blair Graham

Our Excellent Adventure: Feb 20, 2011

By Brenda Kulon

Sunday February 20, 2011 started out like any other February morning, with temperatures in the minus teens. The sun, brilliant on this bitter day, expedited the melting of the tonnage of snow we had been buried in for weeks. Although there was sufficient snow on the ground to make it difficult to walk through, it fell short of the amount needed for a snowshoe outing. Nevertheless, we decided to head out on this "excellent adventure".

Blair Graham and his wife Verylene met Ben and me at the Foodland Plaza in Bright Grove at about 8:30. We all decided that this would be an excellent day to explore the wintry wonderland of Pinery Provincial Park with or without snow shoes. As we travelled Lakeshore Road we noticed that the Lambton County fields, warm from the sun of the last few days, exposed the black soil that had been covered all winter. Yet, in woodland lots, the abundance of snow brought back the reality of the winter of 2010-11.

Karen Rawllings, Assistant Superintendent of Pinery Provincial Park, had given permission for our group to use the outdoor camping facilities at Riverside. So we made our base camp near the Riverside washroom and hiked out into the beautiful wintry morning along the Ausable River.

The beaver lodges, once covered with layers of snow, stood like wooden igloos along the river. Close by were the numerous trees these magnificent furry animals had felled. Some trees precariously draped over the trails or balanced on saplings. Tracks told the story, of the mighty-beaver that explored the riverside trail and waterfront in the recent warm spell.

Chipmunk, squirrel, rabbit, coyote, and insectivore tracks also indicated wildlife activity along the Ausable River on this glorious morning. Determined in our efforts to specifically identify the imprints in the snow, we were blessed with the appearance of chipmunk and squirrel to aid in our confirmation.

Above tufted titmouse, blue jay, red breasted nuthatch and crow could be heard calling. Trees along the river also showed winter hammering of a Pileated woodpecker in search of tunneling insect life. Oyster mushrooms horses hoof and birch parchment fungi were also found along the path. Blackknot canker fungus covered the black cherry and chokecherry. There were even signs of tent caterpillars from the warmer months still visible on the trees.

At the Pinery Visitor Centre, birds fought over the seeds and suet placed at the feeders. Red-breasted nuthatch, white-breasted nuthatch, redpolls, cardinals, gold finches and chickadees frolicked in the brush around the feeders. Above us, to our delight, a red bellied woodpecker could be seen and heard. Strident, yet welcomed, were the calls of a murder of crows and the cast of blue jays in the oak trees above us. Oak galls dangled like ornaments and glistened in the sun as we searched the trees for other signs of life. It was a magnificent day to behold.

Later back at the camp Verylene and I tried out the snow shoes, as Ben and Blair Graham prepared the fire. Many park visitors looked on with curiosity as we cooked our food over the open fire and enjoyed our beautiful Sunday afternoon. The aroma of the food cooking on this cold day no doubt had many a park visitor coveting our efforts.

It is often said that "food tastes better when it is eaten outside on a cold day". This could have been one reason that the outdoor lunch was considered to be fabulous, and a great ending to an "excellent adventure".

Tanager Tract:

At a recent ON regional meeting Stan Caveney of the Thames Talbot Land trust announced that the land trust had secured sufficient funds to complete the purchase of land to be called the Tanager Tract, located near West Lorne in West Elgin county. This site is part of a 1000 acre-forest known as the West Lorne Woods which is a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) as well as an Area of

Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). Regarded as one of the best examples of Carolinian forest in Elgin County it is home to many species-at-risk including the cerulean warbler and spotted turtle, and is rare habitat for uncommon birds such as the scarlet tanager.

Founded in 2000 the TTLT has had notable success in preserving important natural areas. This latest addition will bring the total area they have protected to about 900 acres on 9 different properties including Joany's Woods, familiar to many LWI members, and Tiedje Woods donated by LWI members John and Dorothy Tiedje in 2009. A very impressive record!

Gord Catterson

14 January 2011 –

The 2011 Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario, from Friday, July 29 to Sunday, August 7. Participants will receive hands-on field ornithology training. Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April 15, 2011. For more information and an application form, contact our Landbird Programs Coordinator at lpbo@birdscanada.org.

Tallgrass Ontario Gets its own Permanent Office

Tallgrass Ontario took a large leap of faith and opened its own permanent office in Ridgeway Ontario. The office, located at 37 Main St. East, is located in a former art gallery and has sufficient space for current and proposed staff as well as storage area for seed and equipment.

Although modest as it currently stands, this new office has tremendous potential to be used as office space, education area and housing of increased numbers of staff as the organization grows. Tallgrass Ontario has already begun to offer our space to other organizations to accommodate staff and create meaningful partnerships.

----- 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 Bike 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 you might wish to share with LWI

Need transportation to meetings _____

Special skills or work experience _____

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

To Help us serve you better

Might be willing to:

NATIVE TERRITORIES AVIAN RESEARCH PROJECT

AND

Walpole Island First Nation



*2011 International Migratory Bird Day
Celebration: "Go Wild, Go Birding!"*

Saturday, May 14th; 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The Heritage Centre, Walpole Island First Nation

- Basic Bird Identification Lessons
- Spring Migration Discussions
- Bird Banding Demonstrations
- Tour of Bird Banding Station
- "Birds in Native Culture"
- "Hummingbirds in Ontario"
- "Species at Risk"
- Native Crafts
- Local Nature Organizations
- Sponsor Booths

Presenters: Carl A. Pascoe, NTARP VP, Dir Research & Master Bander
Rachel A. Powless, NTARP President & Songbird Bander
Heritage Centre contact: (519) 627-1475 or info@wfn.org
Native Territories Avian Research Project:
NTARP1@aol.com or www.ntarp.org



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Deadline for April issue is
Friday, April 1st, 2011
Leave material 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 _____

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)