

# EARTHWAYS<sup>®</sup>



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED-P.O. BOX 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7  
Gordon Catterson-Editor                      Modris Zandbergs-Distribution                      **November 2010**  
Cheryl Veary-Webmaster                      Website: [www.lambtonwildlife.com](http://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

November 29th 2010

### Pollination and Pollinators

Vicki Beard, founding member of Pollination Guelph and a City Councillor will tell us about turning a garbage dump into a bloom filled haven for birds, butterflies and other pollinating insects through the vision the Guelph Pollination Initiative had for a local 100 acre landfill site. Vicki received the 2007 North American Advocate Award for this.

January 31, 2011

### Natural Treasures of Lambton County

An educational film, commissioned by Lambton Wildlife, written and produced by Larry Cornelis will be shown. Larry will introduce it and explain how and why it was made. Afterwards, Larry and the videographer, Danny Alexander, will tell about their experiences and answer questions.

February 28th 2011

### Canaries in the Coalmine

Mike Cadman is a songbird biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service and was the Coordinator of The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario (2001-2005). The atlas documents how bird distributions and abundances changed between 1981-1985 and 2001-2005. It illustrates the patterns of increase and decrease, expansion and retraction, providing insight into the challenges faced by our birds and what those indicate about our environment. Join us for an entertaining presentation that will both inform and inspire.

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.

## Outdoor Program

### Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 18, 2010

Join in the fun of the annual CBC. Register ahead so that arrangements can be made to cover all territories. Participants meet at the Pinery Visitor Centre afterwards to tally results and have a chili dinner.

Coordinator: Peter Chapman – 828-3064

### \*Down River Ducks

Sunday, February 6, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at Centennial park (Dow People Place parking)

View wintering ducks, raptors, swans and gulls along the St. Clair river. Lunch at local restaurant in Sombra.

Leader: Paul Carter – 344-2571

### \*Winter Outing (Snowshoeing)

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at the Brights Grove Plaza (near Shoppers) Try snowshoeing and search for nature (tracking & barking) and earn an outdoor lunch on an outdoor fire. Check January Earthways for recipe ingredients to bring.

Leader: Brenda Kulon – 869-2833

### Howard Watson Nature Trail Cleanup

Sunday, April 17, 2011

Inquiries: Gord Catterson – 337-1246

### \*Highway 402 Cleanup

Saturday, April 23, 2011

Inquiries: Joe Haselmayer – 542-2826

## Index

Indoor program.....	1
Outdoor program.....	1
President's message.....	2
Young Nats.....	3
Board of Directors.....	8
Articles	
Solar Farm . . . . .	4

## Notices

Deadline.....	8
Native plant sale . . . . .	2
Reports	
Birding L. Huron . . . . .	7,8
L. Henderson Outing . . .	5
Trail Guide . . . . .	5
October Indoor . . . . .	6

## Greetings From The President

A large crowd attended Lambton Wildlife's October indoor meeting to enjoy Lesley Sampson's presentation on The Urban Coyote. A few of us had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Leslie afterwards and to experience her enthusiasm for these remarkable animals. She certainly is a passionate and persuasive advocate on their behalf.

The Indoor Program has certainly gotten off to a great start this year but my focus today is to concentrate my remarks upon the work of the Outdoor Program Committee. Each year as the committee develops its program, its goal is to find a good balance between the old and the new. It makes good sense to continue the programs which members enjoy and have shown their support by their attendance. As well as the old, however, there is also the need to try new things to inject some variety into the agenda instead of simply offering the same

programs every year.

In this regard, the committee has been quite successful. A number of new events have been added this year and last which have been well received by members. In August, a cruise on the south St. Clair River aboard the Hammond Bay was featured. I have taken a number of cruises on the Duc D'Orleans and the Macassa Bay, as I am sure many members have, but they have only gone as far south on the St. Clair to around Courtright so it was interesting to sail further south on the river and enjoy new territory. Members were also able to socialize while sailing along and viewing the scenery.

This September saw the inauguration of the first LWI bike rally on the Howard Watson Nature Trail from the Modeland road entrance to Mike Weir Park. It was much more than just a nice ride along the trail. To answer a set of questions provided by our host, you actually had to stop at various points along the trail and look and see what was there. Probably something we users of the trail do not do often enough. Thanks to Larry Cornelis for initiating and organizing these last two events. Thanks also to John and Barb Teasell for sharing their answers.

Also in September was the second walk and pizza party at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Authority. This year, Kim Gledhill led the group on its walk and provided the expert narrative. This is a great outing to bring along the youngsters as the trails are not rigorous, they get to experience nature and to top off the day with pizza and treats. Thanks to Kim and special thanks to the St. Clair Conservation Authority for allowing LWI to use their facilities.

A winter event being organized and led by Brenda Kulon is on tap for February. To the best of my knowledge this is the first winter event of this sort that LWI has offered. It will be a chance to try some snowshoeing, to enjoy nature in winter and to maybe to sit around a camp fire to get warm.

The planning and organizing of the Outdoor Program Committee is of course only one part of the story. Without the outing leaders who gladly volunteer their time and talent to make these events successful the work of the Committee would be for naught. Lambton Wildlife is fortunate to have members who are willing to take on these roles and to do them so well. Would you take time to consider being a volunteer and share your interest with others?

Please take note that thanks to Young Naturalist leader Melissa Levi and PR Chair Janet Bremner a special children's program "Reptiles at Risk" will be held Friday, November 12, 2010 at 7:30 PM at the Kiwanis Centre. Children of Young Nats age will especially enjoy this event so spread the word. This is a good opportunity to grow our Young Naturalist program. There is no admission charge. With December not too far ahead, let me and my wife Janice take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best in the year to come. And remember, as always, stay safe.

### **Native Plant Sale**

This is the time of year that we sit down and plan for the spring "Native Plant Sale." We need volunteers to help us in the preparation. Last year we raised a record \$5000 in profit.

This year we are hoping individuals can work within their own time frames and schedules to complete tasks they themselves choose. We always have a large group of people willing to sell plants and to label them. We still need those individuals; however the plant sale is in need of help in these other areas if it is to continue. We still need individuals to:

\*collect seeds (find seeds, dry and deliver)

\*grow plants (indoor or outdoor)

\*identify plants in need of rescue (locate places where developers are constructing homes or cottages and would most likely destroy native plants.) Rescue native plants from areas which individuals have identified as

threatened. Please call us if you notice developers building homes or roads in native plant areas.

\*donate plants - native plants only. Please also look at your garden before the frost and make note of areas that are overgrown. We hope you can dig out a few plants that have spread; give us a call and we will come around and pick them up, or you can put them aside in pots and drop them off. We need people to collect cardinal flower, turtle head, brown-eyed Susan, and sky-blue aster seeds from their garden.

\*pot native plants that have been rescued or donated

\*overwinter plants. We need developed plants to overwinter. Small redbud, small tulip trees, turtlehead, aster, pussy toes, ironweed, swamp milkweed plants, tall coreopsis, ferns (other than ostrich) blue lobelia, orange milkweed, and many other native plants are needed. If you can store plants, give us a call. We need people to keep plants for us during the winter in your vegetable gardens.

Brenda Kulon

519-869-2833

Young Naturalists:



# Reptiles At Risk

## *On the Road*

Come join us for an educational program all about Ontario's native reptiles! We will have live snakes that you can touch and hold, and the knowledgeable Reptiles at Risk crew will be there to answer your questions. We hope to see you there!

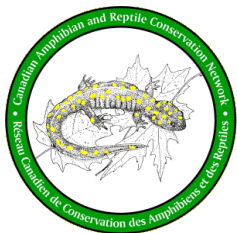
**LOCATION: Kiwanis  
Centre (George & College)**

**DATE: Friday Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**

**TIME: 7:30pm**



The Reptiles at Risk on the Road project is a partnered with the following organizations:



**SCALES  
NATURE  
PARK**



***Scensational Ssnakes!!***

Conservation Through Education



**Laurentian University  
Université Laurentienne**

For more information, please visit us at [www.reptilesatrisk.org](http://www.reptilesatrisk.org)

### Enbridge's Sarnia Solar Project:

I received an invitation to attend the official opening of this project located in Sarnia's south end. It was held on Monday October 4th from 8:30 am to 10:00 am and as I am very interested in all forms of electrical generation I was anxious to attend.

The solar farm is located on 1000 acres roughly bounded by Modeland Road, Blackwell Side Road, Churchill Line and the CNR railroad tracks. The farm takes up only part of this site but Enbridge purchased the land to provide ample room for maintenance and, I suppose, possible expansion. It is advertised as being the largest operating solar project in the world, but from official remarks this won't last very long.

The event was really an opportunity for our local politicians to congratulate each other on their dedication to green technology. The presentation was conducted in a large tent especially erected near the site and was followed by a tour of the site, but as I had another commitment I didn't wait around to enter the actual farm. As someone I was talking to said, "once you've seen one solar panel, you've seen them all."

The photovoltaic panels are about 8 sq. ft. in size and there are 1.2 million of them on the site. Thus the total area of panels is around 10 million sq. ft. This represent over 250 acres of glass panels, and that is just the glass surfaces. Imagine a mid-sized 250 acre farm completely covered in glass. Each panel generates 75 watts when conditions are favourable which is only about 20% of the time. They are really only effective, assuming the sun is shining, from around 10 am to 4 pm on average year round. I had wondered if the panels were adjustable to take account of the sun's varying angle of incidence over the course of the year, but they are not. They are placed at some mid-point position which makes best use of the sun for a static system, but is not as effective as adjusting the angle continuously. Thinking about it I can understand that putting motors and devices for adjusting on the panels would be prohibitively expensive, even having one motor operating a whole row.

The panels are a sandwich of glass top and bottom with two conductive layers separated by a semi-conductive material. The sun's energy, photons, may be reflected, absorbed or pass through the panel. This energy releases free electrons which move within an electric field which creates an electrical current in the cell. The power produced is direct current which then has to be converted to alternating current with an attendant conversion loss in order to be fed into the provincial power grid. The panel is very thin, only about 7 m.m. or about 5/16 of an inch. The site is touted as producing 80 megawatts but that is only under optimal average conditions. In fact it is only able to produce that about 20% of the time so that the actual capacity is more like 16 megawatts. It was reported that it produced enough energy to power 12,000 homes which I think takes into account the 20% factor. They also talk about eliminating 40,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year but I don't know if this factors in the 20% or not. It probably does. Incidentally the comparable figure for wind turbines

is about 25%. This is because the wind can blow 24 hours per day while the sun sets every day of the year. The other 75% is accounted for by lack of wind, too much wind and maintenance needs.

The cost of producing electricity at the site is very high. The company is paid 42¢/kwh for what it produces. The Lambton Generating Station produces power for 4¢/kwh. The difference is picked up by Ontario taxpayers. By the way if you are interested Ontario will pay you 82¢/kwh for roof mounted photovoltaic panels. The government is currently paying 64¢/kwh for new projects or 16 times what LGS can produce electricity for.

So what is the bottom line. The positives are that it generates electricity without emissions, does not use water and uses a completely renewable energy source. The down side is that it does so at a considerably higher cost and which is unreliable in that the weather may not be conducive to producing electricity (cloudy, rainy, night) reducing capacity. This is also true of wind energy as described above. As a result reliable power generators must be maintained for those periods when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. As well there is the economic hit of permanently removing 1000 acres of some of the best farm land in Canada, something I am sure was not included in the cost associated with this facility.

Last month I wrote about the Danish experience with renewable energy. In spite of nearly 30 years of wind turbines and who generate 20% of their power this way (I don't know about solar in Denmark) they have some of the highest energy costs in Europe and, according to a friend of mine who is an expert in electrical generation, they have yet to shut down a single coal facility even after over 25 years of embracing wind technology.

I recently read an excerpt from a book called The Climate Fix by Roger Pielke Jr., a Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado. He describes what he calls the iron law of climate policy. Basically this says that if people are forced to choose between the environment and economic impact, economic impact wins every time. A good example is the current debate in Ontario about soaring utility bills. The opposition parties say they will do something about it but it is difficult to see what they can do. Subsidizing power costs when faced with the massive debt Ontario has accumulated is problematic. More passive energy projects is not the answer as that only drives up costs.

Many environmentalist feel that increasing energy costs are to be welcomed as it will force conservation, but that ignores the hardship people are facing over high energy bills and the need for Ontario to attract energy dependent industry. The McGuinty government is already feeling the heat over energy costs and many political observers feel that the next election will be fought over this issue.

So is the solar farm a good thing? I believe it is for Sarnia-Lambton. The site cost \$400 million to build and 600,000 man hours, a substantial benefit locally. As well there will be some permanent jobs created as well as spin off benefits to local businesses. Province wide I am not so sure. If it is seen as a kind of test site for future innovation and the

government keeps renewable energy so that it represents a modest fraction of total energy generation, it might turn out to be a valuable resource providing the government learns from it. If they don't and simply ignore the facts it could turn into a green elephant. As someone at the opening said, "Well if it had to be built, at least it was built here."

Gord Catterson



### One Cool Saturday Morning!

In late September eleven adults and five children met Kim Gledhill at the Lorne Henderson Conservation area in Petrolia. This venue provides pleasant summer camping and year round outdoor education for young and old. We began our stroll at the education centre where Kim and Sharon Nethercott have their classrooms. The flower beds at the front of the building once held the usual marigolds and petunias but are now filled with the native species planted by LWI Junior Naturalists. Bravo!

There was some colour showing in the red and sugar maples which both produce keys in the fall. They have sap containing approximately 3% sugar while other maples have only 1%. The American beech and hop hornbeam trees fortunately looked healthier than the dying ash. The emerald ash borer has attacked all ash trees - black, green, white, and blue, leaving them with sparse leaves and bark falling off in large chunks. The debris will probably have to be burned at great expense.

We came across some flying squirrel nest boxes - also the work of Junior Naturalists. The inhabitants, which are now off the endangered species list, use mosses and lichens as nesting material. Each pair of these tiny rodents requires five square kilometres of forest to survive. Further along the trail to one side we noticed a pile of sticks. This brush provides an overwintering spot for garter snakes which in late fall pile up on each other for warmth. The poor creatures on the top of the pile sometimes don't survive!

The trail wasn't always smooth and Kim warned us not to reach out automatically and grab the nearest tree. We might find ourselves gripping a fistful of poison ivy which has wound itself around the tree trunk. Some people are unaffected by the oils in the plant but the toxins can produce violently itchy oozing blisters on the skin and in the lungs (if smoke is inhaled) of those who are allergic. Kim

explained that global warming has apparently concentrated the allergens thus increasing the numbers of victims.

As we got closer to the river Kim pointed out several well worn trails with "low ceilings" leading to the water's edge (part of the Bear Creek system). On both sides of the trail there were tell tale stumps - evidence of the felling of trees by beaver. They dragged the fallen trees to the water by the easiest route thus creating the worn paths. They aren't very good at estimating their own strength and had to abandon the larger trees they had felled!

Two hours had flown by and our outing ended back at the education centre where Dick and Janice Maxfield had set out a pizza lunch. Thanks to Kim, Dick, and Janice for a great morning.

P.S.: Kim is collecting maple keys to stock a seed bank. Please call her at the Lorne Henderson Conservation Centre.

Judie Scott

### Trail Guide:

The Lambton County Regional Trail Committee, of which I am a member representing Lambton Wildlife Inc., recently held a reception to introduce a new web site entitled Lambton County Regional Trails GIS. This is an interactive web site where you can explore the Lambton County Trail System consisting of over 30 trails and 100km of off-road trails. In addition there are many kilometers of Share-the-Road possibilities.

The presentation was held on Friday, October 15th at the Dow People Place. The project, which was funded by the Trillium Foundation, consists of the web site, a map of the trails with comments on each and a quick reference TripTik. The presentation was hosted by May Jane Marsh and Muriel Wright, the co-chairs of the LCRTC.

Jane Marsh introduced the dignitaries and asked them to say a few words of greeting. This was done by MPP Bob Bailey, Lambton County Warden Todd Case and Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley. The web site was then demonstrated by the site designer Jason Hannigan who showed how various tools on the site can be used to measure length of trail sections, find local points of interest, locate nearby bus stops and much more. Jason works for the County of Lambton who is doing the work to produce the web site, maps and TripTik.

To access the web site go to  
<[www.lambtongis.ca/LambtonTrails](http://www.lambtongis.ca/LambtonTrails)>

Gord Catterson

### October Indoor Meeting:

The indoor meeting in October featured Lesley Sampson, co-founder of Coyote Watch Canada. Lesley was originally scheduled to be at the September meeting but was unable to attend due to illness.

Lesley's talk was on coyotes and local interest in the subject was evidenced when well over 100 people turned out to hear her. She was introduced by Janet Bremner who said she was a naturalist and an educator who is interested in the issue of nature co-existing with people, coupled with good science. She has lived in Germany, Switzerland and the interior of B.C. working with nature. She has completed projects on snapping turtles, fox snakes and was a high school teacher with a degree in Physical Education. She taught geography, tourism and worked in a project called Students at Risk. She became fascinated by coyotes about 15 years ago and this is now her #1 interest. Janet mentioned that Lesley, Malcolm and herself went hunting for coyote scat in Canatara Park that day and found some quite easily.

Lesley began by saying that she was working on a cattle ranch in the interior of B.C. when one day as she was riding she sensed something watching her. She turned and saw a coyote and that triggered her interest. I wondered if the cattle ranch was the same one I knew about when I worked for the CPR in the interior of B.C. back in the 1950's. The ranch was located near Spence's Bridge, B.C. and at the time was the second largest in North America, after the King ranch in Texas.

She then talked about how coyotes rely on pack behaviour for survival and pack adhesiveness is extremely important. She said that she has developed a code system to characterize various packs. As to appearance she had mounted examples of a coyote and a fox to demonstrate differences. While the coyote is bigger it is not greatly so, although most people would tend to think of them as much larger. She said that the urban coyote or eastern coyote is a fairly recent phenomena and that Coyote Watch Canada is dedicated to providing public awareness, education and research on them. She said they rely heavily on community input and the cooperation of farmers who often have them on their property. She said coyotes were first mythologized by the Aztecs who passed it along to other native groups.

She then spent a few minutes on how canid species have been demonized by our literature citing examples such as Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs, Wily Coyote, Peter and the Wolf and even Swiper in the Dora the Explorer books. The expression 'thrown to the wolves' is another example. She said the reality is far different and that by and large people have little to fear from these animals who tend to be very wary of people, and avoid them whenever possible.

She went on to say that habitat pressure has made coyote sightings more common as wildlife is dispersed from traditional territories. She said coyotes weigh between 22 and 41 lbs., mate for life, and are highly social animals that live in family units called packs. They are diurnal, meaning they are active during the day, are cunning, and the pack

size varies. The dominant pair provide pack cohesiveness. Their vocalizations consist of howls, barks, yips, and throat growls which are used to communicate between pack members and to warn other packs off. She played some examples of the calls. The juveniles are dispersed in the fall.

Her research pack consists of 2-3 adults and several pups but variations in pack size cycles, depending on availability of food. They are excellent hunters and single animals do occur in buffer areas. She said after the pups disperse there will be occasional 'family reunions'. She also said that mortality rates are very high with many being shot or killed by highway traffic.

After the pups are born they are completely dependent on the mother for food and the male will bring her food while the pups are in the den. The parents teach the pups hunting skills and she said they often use carrion such as deer killed on highways, and help keep the rodent population under control as they will hunt mice, voles and rats as well as geese. As such they are an important part of the ecosystem. Their range is most of the continental United States and Eastern Canada. Tests have shown some DNA from the grey wolf.

She then went on to compare the size and weight of coyotes and wolves. She said that the western coyote female weighs about 25 lbs while the male is around 30 lbs. The eastern coyote female weighs about 30-35 lbs. while the male weighs in at around 35-45 lbs. This is in comparison with the eastern wolf female at 45 lbs and the male at 55 lbs. while the grey wolf female is 70-90 lbs. and the male is the largest of all at 80-100 lbs. She also showed some canid prints with the wolf being largest followed by a large dog, a coyote and then a fox.

Lesley talked about the parameters of coyote research. She said it included field observations, accumulating accurate data, scat studies, mapping territories, recording vocalizations, involving the public, and above all keeping the subject alive. They have concerns about interfering with coyote behavior and said feeding coyotes is a really bad idea as it conditions them to expect handouts and they can lose the hunting instinct.

She said coyotes do show emotions in much the same way as dogs do and she showed some pictures illustrating behavioral stances such as playing, submission, uncertainty and attack. She said that yawning and licking of the mouth shows uncertainty while head and tail down shows submission. Eyes closed shows that their guard is down. She also showed some photos of pups in the den and said they would welcome any pictures anyone might have of coyote dens.

She said that coyotes are built to move and can cover large distances quite rapidly. They have the same excellent sense of smell as dogs and they are 10,000 times more sensitive than are humans to smell.

She concluded by giving some advice about these animals. She said never to feed them as they don't need the food, learn about them, don't interfere with them, obey leash laws, keep outside pets supervised, and never run

from them but back away slowly. She said usually loud clapping and shouting will deter them but they will defend their pups if they think they are threatened. She also mentioned that a lone pup will almost certainly have a parent close by, probably watching from cover.

For farmers she encouraged proper animal housing, disposing of dead livestock promptly, and the investigating of the 'Predator Friendly' farming certification program.

For others she said that bird feeders, garbage bins and pet food bowls can all attract coyotes and should be secured.

Lesley was thanked by Malcolm Boyd for an excellent and informative talk and mentioned the large turnout as evidence of local interest.

Gord Catterson



**Birding the Lake Huron Flyway**

October 30, 2010

On a cool blustery morning, Alf Rider led seven enthusiastic members on a journey through Kettle Point, Ipperwash and the Grand Bend Lagoons (also known as the Grand Bend Sewage Lagoons for those not afraid of scaring off the uninitiated).

We started the day at the Kettle Point Plaza with a chance to grab a hot coffee before we started our adventure. Before we even left the plaza we were delighted to start our day with tundra swans flying over. Off to the Kettle Point point! Once we got to the point area we were able to see wood ducks, ring-billed gulls, a great blue heron, crows and

robins. A lucky few saw a merlin flying overhead, and not to disappoint the others, it returned and landed on a nearby TV antenna where everyone had an opportunity for a great look. We walked down on to the point area where Alf explained about the Kettle Point slate and how the kettles were formed. We were able to see up close a few kettles still imbedded in the slate- very informative!

On to the Ipperwash Beaches. Bonaparte and herring gulls were noted and the closest great black-backed gull I will probably ever see. The gull had met an unfortunate death and was on the beach- what a magnificent creature! We were able to appreciate its huge size and beak and black wings. It was growing in new feathers and we were able so see these close-up. With no obvious injuries, Alf theorized that it had been sickly due to its lack of fat/flesh along the breast and had probably not been eating well. A bald eagle flew overhead- not the last one we were to see this day. Red-breasted mergansers flew over the lake in groups. A double crested cormorant stretched its wings out on the rocks. The wind continued to howl and we headed inland in search of more birds.

Grand Bend Sewage Lagoons are located along Mollard Road in Grand Bend. It is a real gem for bird watchers and after a quick jump over the gate we were in and on our way. As Alf reminded us, "it's public property". "Wave like you belong here", is a good motto.

We hit the jack pot! There are four lagoons or cells located here. The first and the last cells usually have lower water levels and attract the shorebirds. The area was full of wild life, voles scurried out from underfoot, banded wooly bear caterpillars predicted the length of our upcoming winter and ducks and shore birds entertained. (Ask Alf about the winter prediction)

The areas around the cells included savannah sparrow, a blue jay, American crows, red-tailed hawk, bald eagles, purple finch, American goldfinches, chickadee and tree sparrows. The birds inside the cells were quite a bonanza; Green-winged teals were numerous, coots swam out of the reeds, northern shovelers flew overhead and swam in the waters, ruddy ducks, ring-necked and northern pintails were on display. Buffleheads were distinct and easy to

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 \_\_\_\_\_

make out across the cells and redheads were also noted. Pied-billed grebes made an appearance. Three greater yellowlegs were seen and a possible Hudsonian godwit but we had to get a closer look as it was at the end of our binocular fields. We were going to circle the long way back and try to come up on it from the other direction to get close enough for a really good look and positive ID.

On the way around we were able to identify black-bellied plovers, Dunlin sandpipers, and a pair of Wilson snipes. As we came back to our potential godwit cell, Alf had us spread out and line up- we didn't want to spook the bird and also give everyone an equal chance of seeing it in case it did bolt. Slowly we crept forward, quieter than voles; till we reached the edge of the cell...and realized we were a cell too early!! Well it was a great dry run and we had all followed the instructions to a `T`. We were ready for the actual approach. Well, it went off without a hitch...the confirmed Hudsonian godwit was so busy eating that it didn't even notice us and we got fantastic looks at what was a life bird for some of us, an uncommon bird for everyone. Mallards and Canada geese were also present and American pipits flew before us, on our way out of the lagoons.

Over to Thedford for a quick peek at the lagoons there, before we headed back for a bite to eat. Luckily we stopped or we would have missed the canvasback, American wigeons, American black ducks and lesser scaup to finish the day. Back to Kettle Point Plaza for a hot lunch, cup of coffee and a recap of a great day. Thanks to Alf for leading another great field trip with a total of 41 species seen or heard.

#### Board of Directors

Richard Maxfield	President
Janet Bremner	President Elect
Malcolm Boyd	Past President
Avalon Hamlin	Secretary
Bill Scott	Treasurer
Ken Bulgin	Board member
Krista Cowieson	Board member
Kerry Gardiner	Board member
Tania Havelka	Board member
Bill Hopkins	Board member
David Jenniskins	Board member
Eric Marcum	Board member
Mary Margaret McGrail	Board member
Shawn McKnight	Board member
Doug Winch	Board member

#### Tanager Tract:

The Thames Talbot Land Trust have added another property to their already impressive list of properties. The latest, to be called the Tanager Tract, 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.

Deadline for January issue is  
Friday, January 7th 2011  
Leave material in mailbox at  
502 Roosevelt Drive or  
email to

[gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca](mailto: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)

