

The Guelph Field Naturalist

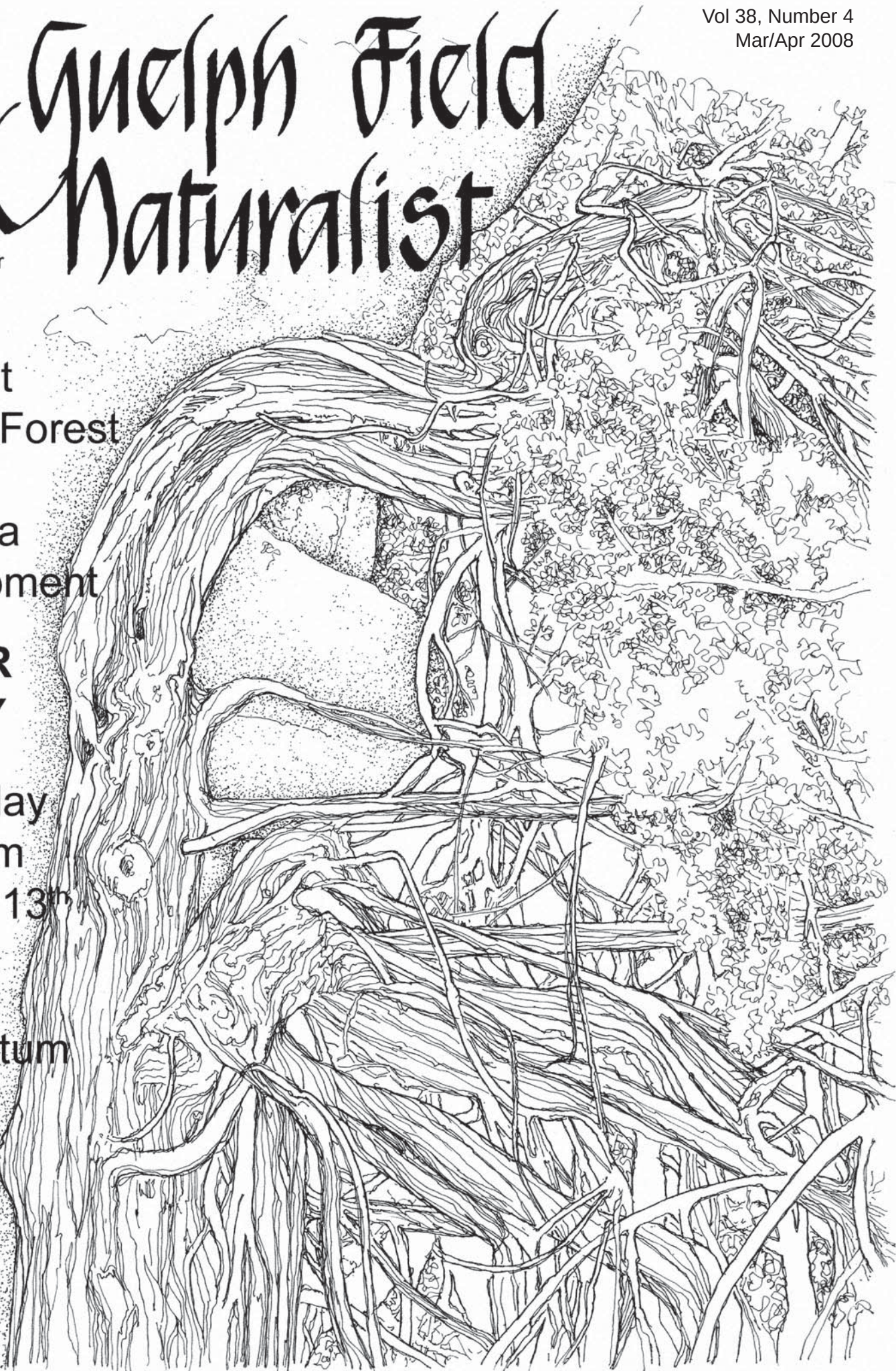
You are
invited to hear

The
Ancient
Cedar Forest
of the
Niagara
Escarpment

**PETER
KELLY**

Thursday
7:30 pm
March 13th
2008

Arboretum
Centre
U of G



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — Carol Koenig

February was the perfect month in which to launch the new ***Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario***. This gorgeous (and large) book has provided hours of cozy perusal as folks across the province paged through the species accounts, the maps of relative abundance, and the fascinating observations and conclusions. Now, I'm really ready for Spring. Many congratulations to **Mike Cadman** and his team of editors, and to the more than 3,400 atlas volunteers who contributed to this amazing publication. More information about the Atlas is available at www.birdsontario.org, and copies may be purchased as well.

February also brought GFN another cheque from the **Baillie Birdathon** — \$209.59 — thanks to the efforts of Sue and Scott Beemer, who participated in the annual birding event last spring. Our final bird-related thanks go to John Prescott, whose review of Bridget Stutchbury's book, ***Silence of the Songbirds*** (first published in the GFN Newsletter of Nov/Dec 2007), appears in the March issue of the Bookshelf's publication, *Off the Shelf*. Thanks also to Barb Minett and the Bookshelf for the notice of our April 10th meeting, which will feature Ms. Stutchbury speaking about her book.

The **Parks and People Program**, an initiative of Nature Canada and Parks Canada, has given GFN nearly \$10,000 in the past two years to support our Young Naturalists Program and our new teen program, Naturalists in Training. A recent report from Nature Canada relates that, "by early 2008, nearly 44,000 children will have had meaningful outdoor experiences in this nation's local, provincial, and national parks." Our Naturalists in Training Program was one of 31 projects supported by Parks and People in 2007-08.

Have you tried out the new **online "carbon calculator"** launched recently by the University of Guelph? It allows you to measure how much carbon dioxide you are emitting, and shows how you stack up to other people and communities. My results were discouraging — because I take 2 or 3 long-haul flights each year, my "carbon footprint" is much heavier than I'd like. So, I need to fly less, or find means of offsetting the carbon emissions generated by airline flights. The calculator is available at: www.zerofootprint.net/calculators/guelph. (P.S. To convert the square footage of your home to square meters, multiply the square feet by 0.0929.)

For our GFN meeting on March 13th, the speaker Peter Kelly will bring copies of his book, *The Ancient Cedar Forest of the Niagara Escarpment*, for sale at \$40.00 with no tax. Cash or cheque only — no credit cards.

Spring officially arrives on March 21st!! In the meantime, enjoy the winter, and send us your feedback on what speakers you'd like to hear, what activities you'd like us to arrange, and any other comments or suggestions. Call me at home, 519-824-6222, or e-mail me: bckoenig@sentex.net.

Carol Koenig, President

NEWSLETTER — Margaret Hull and Marlene Hart

The newsletter is published five times a year — every two months except July and August. Please send all contributions to Marlene Hart (marlene.hart@sympatico.ca) The deadline for the next issue (May/June) is April 15th.

Thank you to all contributors, but especially to Stephen Lewis as always for the wonderful front page art work.

INDOOR PROGRAM — MaryEllen Pyear

Meetings begin at 7:30 pm at the University of Guelph Arboretum Centre. **All are welcome!**
The entrance to the Arboretum is on College Avenue just west of Victoria Road. For a map see:
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/ArbOverview/Directions.htm>

Thursday, March 13, 2008 THE ANCIENT CEDAR FOREST OF THE NIAGARA
 ESCARPMENT

With Peter Kelly

Peter is a native of London, Ontario. He joined the Cliff Ecology Research Group at the University of Guelph in 1989 after completing an M.Sc. at the University of Western Ontario. He has studied the ecology of the ancient cedar forest of the Niagara Escarpment for over 17 years and extensively photographed and sketched the ancient cedars over this time. He has photographed on every continent including Antarctica, and co-authored three books including *The Last Stand*; a *Journey through the Ancient Cliff-Face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment*.

Thursday, April 10, 2008 SILENCE OF THE SONGBIRDS

With Bridget Stutchbury

Bridget Stutchbury is a professor of biology at York University. Recognized as an international birding expert, she is affiliated with more than a dozen organizations seeking to preserve bird habitats, including the World Wildlife Fund. She will talk about her ground-breaking book *The Silence of the Songbirds* which tells us why the disappearance of migratory songbirds should concern us all. The expert ornithologist and naturalist convincingly argues that songbirds truly are the canaries in the coal mine—except the coal mine looks a lot like Earth and we are the hapless excavators.

Thursday, May 8, 2008 SAVING INJURED RAPTORS IN THE GRIMSBY/
 NIAGARA PENINSULA

With Carol Ricciuto of the Open Sky Raptor Foundation

Carol opened the Open Sky Raptor Foundation in 1998 with one 8'x8' cage housing a Cooper's Hawk. The caging has since grown to house many different types of diurnal raptors from kestrels to eagles, and she works with them from triage to release training.

She travels all over southern Ontario to get or rescue birds of prey and people have also brought birds to her from further afield.

Education of the public about these magnificent birds is very important to her - to tell people of the importance of these creatures in our eco-system, to tell of ways we can help them and rescue them and allow our future generations to marvel at the sight of them.

Thursday, June 12, 2008 ANNUAL PICNIC

More details to come in May/June newsletter

GFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008

We need nominations for President, Vice-President and Treasurer. Paul Grant is chair of the Nominating Committee — contact him at : birders@sympatico.ca.

2007 BAILLIE BIRDATHON RESULTS

The Baillie Birdathon raised more than \$223,000 for bird research and conservation, breaking the all-time record yet again. Bird Studies Canada would like to thank all participants, sponsors, prize donors, naturalist clubs, and bird observatories involved for their dedication in ensuring this continuing success.

OUTDOOR TRIP REPORTS — Tamara Anderson & Ann Schletz

JANUARY — SNOWY OWLS

In January, the snowy owls eluded GFN members not once, but twice. Our first outing to find the snowy owls was postponed due to heavy fog. On the second try, white-out conditions kept the owls well hidden. On the upside, those few brave souls did find two white-fronted geese hanging out with a bunch of Canada geese by the bridge in Fergus. Refusing to be outwitted by Mother Nature, our fearless leader, Craig Potter, returned to the North country to find the owls. His trip was a success – he found 5 different Snowy Owls! Thanks Craig!

JANUARY 26 — A WINTER'S DAY IN THE WOODS

Steckle's Woods in Kitchener was our destination. This wonderful woodland is a remnant of the vegetation that once covered much of Southern Ontario. Making it more interesting is its location on the Waterloo Moraine with its varied topography including steep slopes and numerous swales. We noted many tree species including sugar maple, red oak, beech, black cherry, basswood, white oak and white pine. Many of these trees were huge! We also saw several specimens of the endangered butternut tree. We heard but just missed seeing a Pileated Woodpecker although many of its excavations were seen throughout the woodland. Candice spotted a delightful Eastern Screech Owl roosting in one of these holes (see photo.) Scott kindly took the time to show us how two monitoring wells in the woodland provide a picture of the water levels in the aquifers deep underground. Candice and Scott also pointed out various fungi on the trees that they had learned about on a previous trip to the Sudden Tract last fall.



*Roosting Screech Owl in Beech Tree.
Marlene Hart*

Next we visited the nearby Huron Natural Area, an interesting area with its varied habitats, well worth future explorations. We all enjoyed taking in the scent of wintergreen from a scratched twig of yellow birch. On the way home, we stopped by the Grand River at the mouth of the Speed River in Preston/Cambridge. We tallied up 25 species of wintering birds including Redpoll, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Hairy Woodpecker, Greater Black-backed Gull, Black Duck, American Tree Sparrow, and White-breasted Nuthatch among many others. A perfect winter's day outdoors! *Charlie Cecile*

FEBRUARY 3 — SCHNEIDER'S WOODS



Setting off for a ski in the woods

February was a snowy month indeed! This made for great cross-country skiing through Schneider's Woods. Dan Schneider led us through snowy forest trails along the Waterloo Moraine. With frequent stops, we observed giant old cherry trees, hemlock forest, pileated woodpecker holes, jack rabbit tracks and deer chews. We discovered that snow can loosely drape over branches effectively creating "snow art". Dan reflected on the trip later, saying; "The trip was a great conversation interrupted by cross-country skiing". A flock of snow buntings put in a lovely appearance as we drove back to Guelph. Thanks Dan!

OUTDOOR PROGRAM March-April — Tamara Anderson & Ann Schletz

SATURDAY MARCH 8 – 9AM TO 1PM - ANIMAL TRACKING AT PUSLINCH LAKE

Adrian O'Driscoll studied tracking at the well known Tom Brown Jr. "Tracker School". Currently, he works as a naturalist and educator with the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority. Adrian will be giving a tracking information session before leading us on a tracking hike around Puslinch Lake.

"The first track is the end of the string. At the far end a being is moving; a mystery, dropping a hint about itself every so many feet, telling you more about itself until you can almost see it, even before you come to it. The mystery reveals itself slowly, track by track, giving its genealogy early to coax you in. Further on, it will tell you the intimate details of its life and work, until you know the maker of the track like a lifelong friend." (Tom Brown Jr.)

This will be a great opportunity for members to learn how to read the stories that animals leave behind. Meet at the OVC parking lot, corner of College Ave. and Gordon St. at 9am to carpool to Puslinch Lake. Bring a snack.

SUNDAY MARCH 30 – 10AM TO 2PM – WINTER BIRDS

We will hike the North Trail at the Royal Botanical Gardens to Cootes Paradise to see what winter birds are still around. Bring a snack or lunch for yourself and some sunflower seeds to feed the chickadees and nuthatches. We will meet at the OVC parking lot, corner of College Ave. and Gordon St. at 10am to carpool to Burlington.

SATURDAY APRIL 12 – 2PM TO 4PM – GEO-CACHING IN GUELPH!

Armed with our trusty GPS units, Kevin Butt and the Guelph Field Naturalists will be embarking on an adventurous afternoon locating treasure! If you don't have your own GPS, don't worry because we will have some to share! Treasure maps are often in the form of coordinates and occasional riddles. Using a treasure map, we will be searching natural and urban spaces for hidden treasure boxes.

Meet at the OVC parking lot on the corner of College Ave. and Gordon St. at 2pm to carpool to local caches.

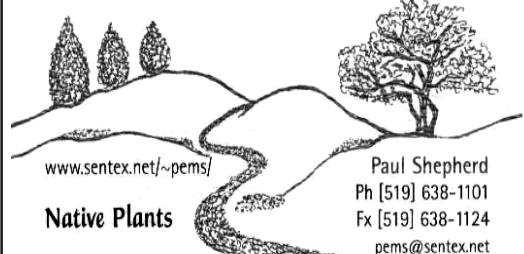
SATURDAY APRIL 26 – DROP IN FROM 10AM TO 2PM – TREE PLANTING AT GUELPH LAKE NATURE CENTRE

Come and celebrate Earth Day by helping to plant trees in the new Rotary forest at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre. This will be a great day for families to get out and help to create a beautiful new forest. The event will have a variety of activities and vendors and admission is free!

SIGHTINGS SOFTWARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Jon Brierley's "*Birder and Dragonfly Watchers Sightings Explorer*" software is available for those who want a map-based listing system. For a donation to the GFN of \$40 you will receive a copy of the software on CD, and an Income Tax charitable donation receipt for the full amount of your donation. Online order form and credit card payment available at: www.guelphfieldnaturalists.org, or mail cheque (payable to Guelph Field Naturalists) to address on p.12.

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THE BIRD WING — Larry Staniforth

BIRD WING HIKES

All hikes leave from Wild Birds Unlimited parking lot. All hikes are weather permitting and are all-day outings. Dress appropriately for the weather. Return to Guelph will be some time around 4-5pm. We will try to lunch at local restaurants, but feel free to bring your own refreshments. Note departure times beside each hike, 7am for March hikes, 6am for April hikes.

- Wed. March 5 – Fisherville/Nanticoke (Eagles, Owls, Waterfowl) – 7am
- Wed. March 19 – Long Point — 7am
- Wed. March 26 – Hullett WMA — 7am
- Wed. April 2 – Long Point — 6am
- Wed. April 9 – Paletta Park, Shell Park and Beamer CA — 6am
- Wed. April 16 – Hullett WMA/Mitchell Wetlands — 6am
- Wed. April 23 – Long Point — 6am
- Wed. April 30 – Port Weller/Hamilton — 6am

BIRD WING MEETINGS

Bird Wing meetings are held every third Monday of each month at 7:30pm at the Ellington residences, 168 Metcalfe Street. Please park on the street and enter by the north doors.

- Mon. March 17 – Presentation by Mary Ramotar of her Ecuador trip. Also a possible presentation by another member of one of their trips.
- Mon. April 21 – “Everything you always wanted to know about birds...now you can ask an expert” – Prof. Sandy Middleton will answer your questions about birds.
- Mon. May 19 – Spring Birds – Identification and songs. – Larry Staniforth will give a Power Point presentation on spring migrating birds, pointing out identification points and recordings of some of their calls and songs.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT — Larry Staniforth

We welcome the following new members: James and Susan Atkinson, Annie Benko, Nancy Ferwerda, Matthew Graham, Don and Gail Ingram, Lynda Marsland, William Mungall, Gregg and Michelle Parsons, Rino Favaro and Family, Lorene Russell, Paul and Nancy Smith, Andalyne Stapley, Marilyn Swaby, Candice Talbot, Brian Rennie and Marian Thorpe, Margie Wilkes, Melodie Wynne.

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YOUNG NATURALISTS and NATURALISTS IN TRAINING

The Young Naturalists Program for 6–12 year-olds, and the Naturalists in Training Program for 13–16 year-olds, both started up in January for 11 bi-weekly sessions. Visit www.guelphfieldnaturalists.org or phone the Guelph Lake Nature Centre at 519-836-7860 for information.

YOUNG NATURALISTS REPORT

Our winter session of Young Naturalists is full of nature nuts! So far this winter we have participated in a Predator/Prey simulation, practiced our tracking skills, and strapped on snowshoes. During our predator/prey game some of the young Nats discovered a deer carcass. We were able to see how scavengers fit into the food chain – the hind quarters of the deer had been dragged off by some coyotes!

On our tracking day, we looked at tracks, scat and chews. Karen did a great job describing how animal teeth tell us what and how they eat. Afterwards the Nats were challenged to use their new found skills to solve several mysteries. What really happened to Ms. Leavesfoodout's prize parrot? Who stole her wallet and hiking shoe? Why did her sandwich have those funny tooth marks in it? The answers were surprising!



Dissecting an owl pellet

The day before our snowshoeing adventure, Mother Nature gave us a gift of a BIG snowfall. This made the conditions just right and we had a great time walking over the drifts and following the tracks of voles, deer, and rabbits. A few of the Nats found and followed a cool skunk trail right to her den. Fortunately she

was sleeping! There was even time for a couple of rounds of Fox and Snowshoe Hare.

On February 15, the young Nats headed out on an owl prowl. It was a chilly evening, but the conditions were perfect for calling owls. We all hiked down to the Speed River and played the owl call tape. After a short while a faint return call was heard coming from downstream. Eventually the screech owl moved closer but refused to show himself. For many of the young Nats this was their first owl prowl and it was great to have had such a success!

The busy Nats are also participating in Project FeederWatch. So far they have tallied up several species including blue jays, cardinals, red polls, juncos and hairy and downy woodpeckers.

NATURALISTS IN TRAINING REPORT

Kristen Janke, one of the naturalists at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre, has been leading the NITs program (with assistance from Richard Tofflemire, GFN Vice-President and volunteer), and she has sent along the following report:

After finishing up a season of edible wilds, bird banding, and star-gazing, the NITs program has rolled into winter ready to take on the new challenges the season has to offer! With a group that has more than doubled in size, the NITs have already tackled the local snow drifts via snowshoe and used the winter wonderland to their advantage, tracking down the mysterious ways of the well-adapted winter animals of the area. We look forward to a snowy season that will teach us to survive, navigate, and reveal creatures that thrive through the cold winter nights!



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Brian Rothwell
Sales Representative

REPORT FROM A BIRD HEALTH INFORMATION SESSION HELD THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7/08, AT THE LEGION, GUELPH

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is teaming up with provincial governments to deliver information sessions aimed at helping small flock owners prevent and detect disease in their birds.

AVIAN FLU FACTS

It's a disease caused by a virus that can infect most species of birds. Wild waterfowl and shorebirds are natural reservoirs for AI (Avian Influenza) viruses. These birds carry many strains with little or no impact on their health.

There are 2 categories – low pathogenic and highly pathogenic which causes death in birds. There is an Asian strain found in Asia, Africa and Europe only, and it has infected mammals, including humans and felines who are in direct contact.

There is no evidence that eating poultry in Canada could transmit AI to humans. But they stress the need for 15 – 20 second hand washing with soap and warm water is essential for prevention of AI or other diseases.

In Canada, testing for AI in wild birds has identified many different strains although all are low pathogenic.

CANADA'S APPROACH TO BIRD FLU

1. Import Restrictions
2. Securing our Borders
3. Surveillance of AI in wild birds through Federal, provincial and territorial testing as an early warning of AI from migratory birds. In 2007, The CFIA is working with the Canadian poultry industry to set up a surveillance programme for commercial poultry.
4. Biosecurity procedures for existing farms to limit the spread of an outbreak. They have established a *Bird Health Basics* campaign for flock owners. (see below)
5. International Co-operation through the World Health Organization. Canada, the U.S. and Mexico are developing a joint strategy and procedures for AI planning and response.
6. Preparedness – All levels of governments

in Canada are drawing up plans and response procedures.

BIRD HEALTH BASICS

... as presented to farmers, bird enthusiasts and breeders through information sessions, calendars, and kits to contain an outbreak.

1. Clean and disinfect vehicles (tires and hubcaps) and equipment entering or leaving the property. Ensure that parked cars are a good distance away from cages and houses.
 2. Restrict visitors to your birds.
 3. Clean and disinfect all equipment, cages, barns and pens. The space must be dry cleaned of all fecal material first before bleach is used. Bleach does not remove E.coli or salmonella.
 4. Avoid attracting wild animals by cleaning up spills of feed and litter...under bird feeders in our back yards! AI is not the only disease to deal with. Rabbits, mice, raccoons can also spread diseases to the birds too.
 5. Keep wild birds, livestock and pets away from caged birds.
 6. Wash your hands and change into clean clothes and boots before and after handling birds. Ensure that all visitors do the same. They recommend that boots for the barn are left outside the door so you can put on or remove them when coming and going.
 7. Isolate new birds to make sure they are not diseased before introducing them to the rest of your flock.
 8. Buy only reputable feed and supplies.
- Pets and petting zoos are also areas for diseases called "zoonoses" that can be passed to humans; e.g. E.coli, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, tuberculosis and rabies. Watch out! Salmonella, for instance, can live for 4 years at -4C!
- For more information, check out the websites:
www.inspection.gc.ca www.canfightbac.org
www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Submitted by Marilyn Swaby

GUELPH FIELD NATURALIST FUNDRAISERS



RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

A quick reminder for GFN members to bring **used ink-jet printer cartridges, laser printer cartridges, and expired cell phones** to any Indoor meeting or drop them off at Wild Birds Unlimited. We'll send them to a Cambridge company called Greentec International, who will disassemble them, and sell the parts for re-use. Nothing will be sent to landfill. Greentec will donate at least \$1.00 per item to the Grand River Conservation Foundation in support of outdoor education for children in the Grand River watershed.

FLAVOURFUL FUNDRAISER!

Thanks to Paul Grant and his Wild Birds Unlimited store, GFN is able to acquire **organic, shade-grown, fair trade coffee** for sale to members and the public. The coffee, supplied by Creemore Coffee Company, is exceptionally good, fresh-roasted, gourmet coffee. The price for freshly ground coffee, in medium or dark roasts, or decaffeinated, or flavoured, is \$10 per 300 gm bag. Hot chocolate is \$10 per 454 gm bag, and tea is \$8 per 100 gm bag. GFN receives about \$2 per bag ordered. Place and pay for your order with Janet Sippel at any Indoor meeting. Coffee may be picked up at Wild Birds Unlimited about 2 or 3 weeks later, or may be picked up at the next Indoor meeting.

ZEHR'S TAPES

Zehrs tapes/receipts are an important source of funds for the GFN. Please save your Zehrs tapes and bring them along to club meetings. Note - tapes from Canadian Supercentre Stores are no longer accepted in this program.

CARDEN NATURE FESTIVAL — REGISTER NOW!!

Ontario Nature is joining the popular CARDEN NATURE FESTIVAL this year, June 6-8 for their Annual General Meeting, plus workshops and outdoor activities.

This is a very popular annual festival which last year hosted 200 participants. Because of the inclusion of Ontario Nature this year they are expecting up to 500 participants, so early registration is required to avoid disappointment, since the planned events have maximum limits.

Registration is now open on the website www.CardenGuide.com/Festival.

For those not on The Net, there should be a registration form in the next issue of On Nature.

AN ONTARIO GREENWAY

Ontario Nature believes our green spaces - provincial parks, nature reserves, etc. - must be connected across all of southern Ontario, and southern Ontario must be connected to the north, to allow animals to move between these core areas.

Ontario Nature is planning to lead the way in building these natural corridors, and notes that some land is already protected - for example the Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Moraine, and the Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt.

They are working with communities, conservation groups, farm groups, municipalities, and the provincial government to encourage and explore opportunities towards this end.

There is much we can do individually, say Ontario Nature – like plant a native tree for example. Visit their website at www.ontarionature.org for more ideas and information.

POLLINATION WORKSHOPS IN GUELPH

The U of G and the City of Guelph are pleased to bring to your attention two full-day events:

GUELPH POLLINATION INITIATIVE MARCH 7, 2008, AND

CANADIAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION INITIATIVE MEETING MARCH 8, 2008.

These are public workshops regarding the ecological restoration of decommissioned landfill sites. Areas of focus will include: dealing with botanical issues in **restoration ecology**, how to integrate **pollination in the urban environment**, and introducing the concept of the Guelph "**Pollination Park**". They are open to all City of Guelph and area staff, students, professionals, and residents.

Where: Guelph Youth Music Centre (75 Cardigan St.)

Register by e-mail: pollinateguelph@gmail.com, or at the door (space limited)

Registration is \$5 per day and includes lunch.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Julianna Tuell (*Michigan State U*)

Gordon Frankie (*UC Berkeley*)

Steven Handel (*Rutgers University*)

Bonnie Harper-Lore (*U.S Federal Highway Administration*)

NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY WILDFLOWER SALE

May 10, 2008 10 am - 3 pm
101 Town Centre Boulevard,
Hwy 7 at Warden, Markham

There will be hundreds of native plant species to buy including flowers, shrubs, trees, ferns, vines, grasses and sedges. All plants come from ethical growers approved by NANPS. Also there will be books, free speakers and a green expo. Species list available to view at www.nanps.org, members may order in advance.

For more information please call 416-631-4438 or e-mail nanps@nanps.org.



Erie (Valerie Fieldwebster), Lyle Friesen - song bird biologist and January guest speaker, Kermit (Tamara Anderson, outdoor program) and Taz (Ann Schletz, Young Naturalists program)

ONTARIO GREENBELT WALKS

"Ontario's Greenbelt is 1.8 million acres of protected greenspace, farmland, and vibrant communities surrounding the Golden Horseshoe." So says a pamphlet you can pick up at your local liquor store called "Greenbelt Walks." It contains a map showing the Greenbelt and the Niagara Escarpment, and the routes of four major long-distance hiking trails - the Bruce Trail, the Trans Canada Trail, the Oak Ridges Trail, and the Toronto Carrying Place Trail (historical.) "The Greenbelt is our living countryside and is vital to our quality of life." Visit OurGreenbelt.ca for more information about the Greenbelt.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2007 REPORT

The Guelph CBC took place on Saturday December 22nd (not Sunday the 16th as originally planned). The day went well, with 42 regular participants and 3 at feeders. We tallied 16,281 birds of 61 species, which is close to the species counts for the past two years. The group put in 55 hours by car and 63.5 hours on foot, logging 706 km by car and 85 km on foot.

There were lots of highlights, including record highs for Cooper's Hawk (9) and Mourning Dove (1346) [is that just a coincidence?], White-breasted Nuthatch (106), Northern Cardinal (141), Common Redpoll (1286), Wild Turkey (51), Bald Eagle (2), Red-bellied Woodpecker (5), Bohemian Waxwing (308) and tying the record for number of Hairy Woodpeckers (39), Wilson's Snipe (1) and Northern Mockingbird (1).

We also had low numbers (though I can't yet confirm if these were record lows) of Ruffed Grouse (2), Golden-crowned Kinglet (15) and European Starling (1300).

We also had a Purple Finch and a Hermit Thrush during count week (December 19 to 25th) but not on the count day. The flock of 190 Bohemian Waxwings that our group observed on 30th Sideroad just east of Guelph Line was apparently the largest flock ever reported in the Hamilton Birding area, and therefore presumably in Guelph. They were feeding on Juniper berries in the front garden of a house on the north side of the road.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and special thanks to Margaret and Dave Hull who stepped in on short notice to host the tally rally. *Mike Cadman*

SPECIES	2007	MAX	IN YR	# YRS	SPECIES	2007	MAX	IN YR	# YRS
Great Blue Heron	4	13	2002	34	Common Raven	2	3	2004	3
Mallard	1228	4933	1976	40	American Crow	1188	2539	1999	40
Black Duck	44	480	1974	39	Black-capped Chickadee	772	1331	1993	37
Canada Goose	4715	4827	2002	37	White-breasted Nuthatch	106	106	2007	41
Mute Swan	2	4	2001	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	32	41	1993	37
Common Goldeneye	16	31	1985	17	Brown Creeper	7	6	2005	40
Common Merganser	26	224	2006	29	Winter Wren	5	8	1997	27
Hooded Merganser	3	8	2001	9	Golden-crowned Kinglet	15	80	1998	41
Bald Eagle	2	2	2007	6	Hermit Thrush	1	1	2005	6
Goshawk	2	4	1989	26	American Robin	97	792	1998	37
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	7	1994	28	Bohemian Waxwing	308	308	2007	
Cooper's Hawk	9	9	2007	30	Cedar Waxwing	222	599	2002	34
Red-tailed Hawk	46	79	1991	39	Northern Mockingbird	1	1	1979	8
Merlin	1	2	2006	10	Northern Shrike	9	18	1990	39
American Kestrel	3	32	1986	39	Eurasian Starling	1300	8539	1977	39
Ruffed Grouse	2	67	1979	41	Northern Cardinal	141	125	2004	39
Wild Turkey	51	51	2007	5	American Tree Sparrow	101	850	1970	40
Wilson's Snipe	1	1			Song Sparrow	4	23	1980	37
Herring Gull	189	4153	1992	38	Swamp Sparrow	2	16	1993	27
Ring-billed Gull	45	2825	1998	36	White-throated Sparrow	6	14	1979	28
Great black-backed Gull	4	116	1994	23	Dark-eyed Junco	363	1068	2003	37
Mourning Dove	1346	1346	2007	39	Snow Bunting	529	1200	1977	34
Rock Dove	615	488	2005	?	Common Grackle	1	7	1975	16
Eastern Screech-Owl	8	9	2002	19	Pine Grosbeak	109	260	1975	14
Great Horned Owl	2	10	1986	34	Pine Siskin	6	410	1969	25
Belted Kingfisher	6	12	2002	39	Common Redpoll	1286	1286	2007	22
Pileated Woodpecker	5	7	1987	32	Purple Finch	cw	58	1978	31
Hairy Woodpecker	39	39	1986	41	House Finch	197	556	1995	22
Downy Woodpecker	85	114	1986	41	American Goldfinch	405	658	2005	39
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	5	2007	5	House Sparrow	329	1670	1981	40
Horned Lark	4	122	1989	23	TOTAL BIRDS	16281			
Blue Jay	224	333	1986	39	TOTAL SPECIES	61			

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GFN CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Wed Mar 5	Bird Wing Hike	Fisherville/Nanticoke	7am	Meet at WBU
Fri Mar 7	Guelph Pollination Initiative Workshops	See p.10	GYMC	
Sat Mar 8	Canadian Pollination Protection Initiative Meeting	See p.10	GYMC	
Sat Mar 8	Outdoor Program	Animal Tracking	9am	Meet at OVC
Thur Mar 13	Indoor Program	Ancient Cedar Forest	7:30pm	Arboretum
Mon Mar 17	Bird Wing Mtg	Birds of Equador	7:30pm	The Ellington
Wed Mar 19	Bird Wing Hike	Long Point	7am	Meet at WBU
Wed Mar 26	Bird Wing Hike	Hullett WMA	7am	Meet at WBU
Sun Mar 30	Outdoor Prog	Winter Birds	10am	Meet at OVC
Wed Apr 2	Bird Wing Hike	Long Point	6am	Meet at WBU
Wed Apr 9	Bird Wing Hike	Paletta, Shell Parks, Beamer CA	6am	Meet at WBU
Thur Apr 10	Indoor Program	Silence of the Songbirds	7:30pm	Arboretum
Sat Apr 12	Outdoor Program	Geo-caching	2pm	Meet at OVC
Wed Apr 16	Bird Wing Hike	Hullett WMA/Mitchell Wetlands	6am	Meet at WBU
Mon Apr 21	Bird Wing Mtg	Everything about birds	7:30pm	The Ellington
Wed Apr 23	Bird Wing Hike	Long Point	6am	Meet at WBU
Sat Apr 26	Outdoor Program	Tree Planting	10am	GLNC
Wed Apr 30	Bird Wing Hike	Port Weller/Hamilton	6am	Meet at WBU
Thur May 8	AGM/Indoor Prg	Saving Injured Raptors	7:30 pm	Arboretum
Mon May 19	Bird Wing Mtg	Identifying Spring Birds	7:30pm	The Ellington
FSS Jun 6-8	Ontario Nature	Carden Nature Festival	See P. 9	