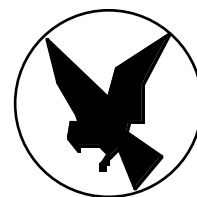


# EARTHWAYS<sup>©</sup>



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

Gordon Catterson - Editor

**September, 2008**

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

September 29, 2008

### Walpole Island Natural Heritage

Clint Jacobs, the Natural Heritage Coordinator for the Walpole Island First Nation, traditionally called Bkejwanong (meaning where the waters divide) will talk about the many nationally rare and endangered plant and wildlife species, species at risk, ecosystem recovery, education outreach in the community and the Walpole Island Land Trust.

October 27, 2008

### Backyard Bird Feeding: Project Feeder Watch

Hugh McArthur, on the board of Bird Studies Canada and the sponsor of Project Feeder Watch, will describe this program which can make the winter months a lot more fun by watching birds at your feeder and turn a backyard hobby into valuable conservation research - without ever leaving home! He will give helpful hints on bird feeding.

November 24, 2008

### Rural Lambton Stewardship Network

Ron Ludolph, the Stewardship Coordinator for RLSN, will talk about the numerous, comprehensive, multi-partner stewardship projects which focus on projects for habitat restoration, conservation and enhancement. The RLSN promotes private land stewardship at the grass roots level.

January 26, 2009

### Rehabilitating Birds of Prey

Lynn Eves, director of the Bluewater Center for Raptor Rehabilitation, will describe her work in trying to rehabilitate birds of prey, researching their needs and educating the public about these birds and how we can all help to create a harmonious and healthy environment for all living creatures.

February 23, 2009

### Species At Risk: Lambton Area

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

## Outdoor Program

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

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

### Hawk Cliff

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Special Hawk Cliff Foundation weekend. On Lake Erie, just east of Port Stanley. Live bird demos. See their website for more info. We sell Hawk Cliff Raptor Field Guides at our monthly meetings.

Meet: 8:00 a.m. Reece's Corners, Tim's parking lot. Get help from an expert on raptor ID. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Alf Rider 519-786-4213

### \*Fungi Foray

Saturday, October 4th, 2008

Enjoy a pleasant fall walk to learn about interesting and beautiful fungi.

Meet: 8:30 Bright's Grove Plaza (near Goodwill box)

Leader: Peter Banks 869-4243

### Trees of Skunk's Misery

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Come explore this unique Carolinian forest habitat and catch the fall colours of rare species such as flowering dogwoods and sassafras trees.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Newbury Hospital Parking Lot on County Rd. 14 just east of town.

Carpool at 9:00 a.m. at St. Clair High School.

Inquiries: Larry Cornelis 519-627-8589

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## Greetings from the President

Backyard gardens are supposed to be relaxing and give us a satisfying glimpse of the beauty of nature. Until recently I have had little luck in providing bird nesting opportunities in our back yard. When I started in 1988, my home-made swallow boxes only attracted house sparrows and squirrels, after they chewed the opening. Four years ago I decided to stop fooling around and ordered a state of the art wren bird house from Larry Cornelis. It is a beautiful work of art... mahogany stained back, 2 green chinquapin oak leaves carved into the front and no landing peg, to make it safer from predators. Surely the wrens would be lined up to use this box. Our next door neighbours have a bunch of those tacky, decorated plastic & pottery bird boxes hanging in their trees. They always attracted the breeding wrens.... I had none. I kept moving

the box thinking that was the problem and even consulted with the builder. It didn't work, even with our lush backyard. O'Dell Street wrens just have no class. We have been planting to encourage butterflies and that has worked well, with our backyard usually having lots. In July, much to my amazement, our high class nesting box was occupied by house wrens for the second hatch and it was successful. I was really pleased, until I was sitting by the pond admiring a butterfly flying by at head height, but too fast for me to identify. Ten feet behind and closing fast was a wren. They both dove into a bush and I didn't see the outcome. A second butterfly was not so lucky. My, but wrens are quick and deadly to butterflies. Nora noted that it was like watching a National Geographic show where everything eats everything. Now I understand why most butterflies fly so erratically... to try to escape from birds.

I get to read many of the publications of other nature groups. Most have many more comments from their membership than we do. Please feel free to write 'letters to the editor' or send in any questions you have on any topic relating to what LWI members might have an interest in. Gord has lots of experts he can look to for answers, if on the rare occasion that he can't handle the enquiry himself.

At the June Meeting of the Board, a program review by the membership was discussed. Janet Bremner, Alexia Gladdy and myself will work on a questionnaire to receive input on our indoor and outdoor programs. We normally start working on our programs in December for the next program year. I think that the program committees have done an excellent job over the years by providing innovative and interesting events, but we have not polled the membership in some time. It is important that LWI members start thinking of improvements which can be made...things which especially interest you and which have not been adequately covered. We would also like your suggestions of things that LWI should be doing that they are not doing now. Lets all work together to make Lambton Wildlife even more relevant.

Malcolm Boyd

### Program Change.

Recently we were notified by Bird Studies Canada, that Hugh McArthur, a Board Member of Bird Studies Canada who was to talk at our September meeting about Project Feeder Watch, cannot attend because he is scheduled to have surgery at the end of September. Their back up speaker was not available. We have contacted Clint Jacobs, The Natural Heritage Coordinator for the Walpole Island First Nation. He is able to make his presentation on Walpole Island Natural Heritage on September 29 and Bird Studies Canada will be able to lead a presentation on "Project Feeder Watch" on October 27.

### LWI Honoured by Carolinian Canada Coalition:

Malcolm Boyd and Janet Bremner attended the Annual General Meeting of Carolinian Canada on May 22 at Bird Studies Canada near Port Rowan on Lake Erie. Lambton Wildlife was presented with a plaque for "Enhancing the Unique Nature of Carolinian Canada". The plaque was in recognition of the many years that LWI supported Carolinian Canada through integrating the CCC finances, including tax receipts, with LWI's. CCC is now incorporated and will no longer be relying on LWI's financial system and charitable tax receipts. LWI will continue as a strong supporter of Carolinian Canada.

### Thank You:

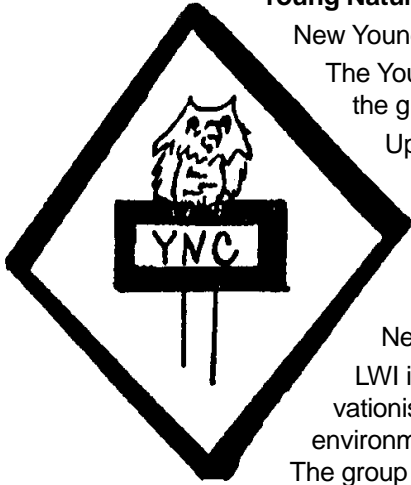
With the retirement of Gita and Modris Zandbergs as Earthways Distribution Coordinators, and the inauguration of LWI's new email Earthways, it seemed an appropriate time to revamp our distribution system.

From now on, Earthways will be delivered either by email or by Canada Post. You are strongly encouraged to elect the email option if you have not already done so.

To those of you who loyally "toiled in the shadows" to deliver Earthways to our members, a big Thank You for a job well done.

Dick Maxfield

## Young Naturalist's Group



New Young Naturalist News!

The Young Naturalist's now have a second full time instructor! We welcome Chandré Sanio to the group and thank her for volunteering her time!

Upcoming Young Naturalist Events:

Sept 27th and 28th: Camping Trip @ Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

Topic: Humans at Risk – Survival in the Forest!

Oct. 4th: Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation @ Canatara Park

Oct. 18th: Volunteer Day @ the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation!

New Group Offered for Older Youth:

LWI is now offering a new group for Young Adults! This group is called the Junior Conservationists! Aimed at youth aged 12-16 years old, this program provides an introduction to environmental field studies for young adults interested in conservation as a hobby or a career!

The group meets at least once per month and performs positive conservation ACTIONS – helping to protect, preserve, and rehabilitate natural spaces and their inhabitants. Meetings last from 4 to 6 hours – a full day's work!! There is still room left in this group – please contact me for information if you are interested!

Upcoming Jr. Conservationist Events:

Sept. 20th: Seed Collection for Trees and Prairie Plants @ Canatara Park

Oct. 18th: Volunteer Day @ the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation

I am very excited about the upcoming year...many exciting new events planned! The good news is there is still room left in both groups! Please contact me if interested, or if you have any questions about the group!

Melissa Levi

Young Naturalist Instructor

insektivi@hotmail.com

*In Malcolm's President's message in the June issue he talks about finding a tick on the back of his neck. As the fall is upon us the danger from ticks is still here as we wander in the woods. Here is some advice that Alice Bellar uncovered. Ed.*

### **Subject: Removing a tick**

Spring is here and the ticks will soon be showing their heads. Here is a good way to get them off you, your children, or your pets. Give it a try. Please forward to anyone with children... or hunters or dogs, or anyone who even steps outside in summer!!

A School Nurse has written the info below — good enough to share — And it really works!! I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great, because it works in those places where it's some times difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc.

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20), the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently), and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me. Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me to say, 'It worked!'

Please pass on. Everyone needs this helpful tip.

### **Ipperwash Dunes and Swales:**

On August 23 Nikki May led a group of us through this Nature Conservancy property managed by LWI. The emphasis was on flora. Over 40 species were identified, rough blazing star, white vervain, high bush cranberry, gaywings, boneset and cardinal flower (with feeding hummingbird) were among the notables.

Are the number of dead cicadas we found and the live seen of late an indication of a peak emerging year? We found a monarch chrysalis within a tall meadow rue with a single uneaten milkweed nearby. How far will the caterpillar travel for hidden metamorphosis?

Another great outing! Thanks Nikki and all participants.

Chris Holding

### **Book about the evolution of Darwin's finches:**

I was a little slow in finishing this book review, but it's finally ready, so I had to let you know about this amazing book that at least a few of you will want to read (and a few more of you will want to petition your public libraries to purchase a copy). The book, *How and Why Species Multiply: The Radiation of Darwin's Finches*, is by Peter R. Grant and B. Rosemary Grant and describes the latest research about the speciation and evolution of Darwin's finches; it's such a wonderfully written book and there is a LOT in it to recommend it.

Devorah Bennu <birdologist@YAHOO.COM>

**2008 Annual General Meeting:**

The 2008 AGM was held at Mandaumin United Church on Saturday, April 19th.

President Malcolm Boyd called the business meeting to order at 4:35 pm and welcomed everyone present. Mary Martin was appointed as Secretary for the meeting.

The minutes of last year's AGM meeting were approved.

John Bellar submitted his Treasurer's report and commented on several items which he felt needed explanation. In response to a question he said that the Diane Haselmayer Memorial Fund now stood at \$12,427. The report was approved on a motion by John Bellar, seconded by Don Smith.

A motion was passed to defer the appointment of the auditor to the Board of Directors. There were two provisos, one that the audit be completed on time and secondly that a firm quote be obtained.

The President then gave his message. Malcolm indicated that the health of the club was excellent and commented on the long history of traditional indoor/outdoor programs. He mentioned two new programs, the bird course and the native plant course. He also mentioned the dynamic Young Naturalist program led by Melissa Levi and Kim Gledhill, who filled in while Melissa had her baby. He mentioned the fact that Earthways was now being printed on FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) paper. He also talked about how the club was now working under the three committee system which was set up when the club reorganized a couple of years ago. The Land Trust Committee is considering a burn at the Karner Blue Sanctuary.

Janet Bremner then announced the nominations for the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. She said that Alexia Gladdy will serve the remaining two years of John Bellar's term while Janet will serve the last year of Ron Warren's term as Past president.

New directors nominated are Bill Scott as Treasurer, Crista Cowieson, Eric Marcum, Joe Donohue and Mary Margaret McGrail. Dick Maxfield was appointed as President Elect last year. All nominees were confirmed on a motion.

The business meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Following a social time dinner was served and the bucket draw winners announced.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Won By</u>
Native Plants	John Teasel	Alexia Gladdy
Annual Pinery Pass	Pinery Park	Rob Cairns
Bird Photos	Alf Rider	Thelma Shaw George Krause
Copies of Birders World	Ian Saunders	William Gardiner
Gateway to Bluewater Larousse Encycl. of Animal Life	Gord Catterson	Steve Arnold
Late Harvest Wine		
Wine rack & wine	Rob Cairns	Carole Buck
Two books:		
Canada-A Natural History	Floyd Elliott	Joan Difruscia
Canada's Nat'l Parks		John Teasel

BBQ Set	Anne & Don Smith	Melody Cairns
Dried flower arrg'ts	Marlis & Ian Saunders	Gwen Johnson Janet Bremner Mary Harman Don Smith Wayne Bowen Gerry Lloyd
Hand carved coasters	Cheryl Veary	Janet Bremner
\$25 Gift Certificate	Degroots	Ian Saunders
3 books:		
Ont. Nat. Gardens	Alice & John Bellar	Wendy Starr
Jack Miner & The Birds		
Antarctica		
Glen Loates: A Brush with Life	Joan McPhedran	Kathy Mitchell
Can Crusher	Joan McPhedran	Larry Western
First day stamp covers	Blake Mann	Floyd Elliott
2 sets of nature stamps		
2 #d prints & 4 bottles of wine	Nora & Malcolm Boyd	Cary Gardiner
4 books on wildflowers & mushrooms	Carol Ellis	Sheryl Veary
Garden solar lamp	Sharon & Wayne Bowen	Barb Teasel
Owl collector plate	Janice Maxfield	Mary Warkenton
Wildflower photo montage	Gerry Clements	Alice Bellar
Hand carved soapstone Gt. horned owl	Ron Warren	Gerry Clements
Tableware set & iced tea	Melody & Judy Cairns	Wayne Bowen

Following the usual lovely meal complete with pies the church members who provided the meal were thanked. Then the various awards were presented.

LWI's most prestigious award, the Meritorious Service Award was presented to Alice and John Bellar for their many years of outstanding contribution to LWI. Janet Bremner who presented the award mentioned that Alice is a past-President of the club, has done artwork for the last 14 indoor/outdoor program brochures and has been involved in planning the indoor program in the past. John is a former membership chair, has been the treasurer for the past three years and has worked many hours as the foreman for the Land Trust Committee. They were presented with a photo of fringed gentian taken by Gerry Clements.

Next the Conservation Award was presented to Kim Gledhill by Malcolm Boyd. He mentioned Kim's work on education in the school system at the Dow Wetlands as well as in the classroom. She is coordinating the marsh monitoring program, coordinated the St. Clair Children's Water Festival, coordinated the flying squirrel project and assists Melissa Levi with the Young Naturalists. Kim has been a long time and dedicated environmentalist and conservationist in the area.

Finally the President's honour roll was announced by Malcolm Boyd.

Modris Zandbergs for his work on BPAC and Friends of the St. Clair as well as his work in distributing Earthways.

Joan Difruscia for her work as a board members as well as her participation in the plant course.

Larry Cornelis for his work in many areas in Lambton County and elsewhere including his work on the plant and bird courses, his restoration of the Bossu wetlands, the canoe trip a couple of years ago and his volunteer work with VFN.

Next the retiring board members were recognized and thanked. They are Gwen Johnson, Nelson Laporte, Joan McPhedran, Brenda Kulon and John Bellar.

The new board members were introduced. They are Bill Scott who will be the new treasurer, Krista Cowieson, Eric Marcum, Joe Donohue, and Mary Margaret McGrail.

The last item on the program was the speaker, Alistair MacKenzie. He was introduced by Melody Cairns who said they both started work at the Pinery in 1999 and worked together there. Later Alistair completed his MSc. at the University of Toronto and is now the Natural Heritage Education & Resource Management Supervisor. His topic was black bears.

He started by mentioning his experience with bears including time in Northern B.C. studying grizzly bears, over 4 years in the Chapleau area doing research on bears and a 1998 pilot study of black bears on the Bruce peninsula. His talk was in three parts, bear biology, bear research and living with bears.

He said there are either 7 or 8 bear species around the world, the uncertainty caused by some question as to whether or not the panda is actually a bear. There are three in Canada, the black bear, grizzly (a.k.a. kodiak or brown bear) and the polar bear. He emphasized that all bears are wanderers and need very large territories in which to roam. The black bear is spread across Canada and the western U.S., the grizzly largely in western Canada and Alaska and the polar bear in the arctic.

#### Bear Biology:

The anatomy of the black bear includes prehensile lips (allowing them to easily consume blueberries, a diet staple), a short tail, blue eyes at birth which change to brown, curved claws which allow them to easily climb trees, hair about 10 cm. in length, a small shoulder hump, are usually black but can be brown, blue, grey or white, a pale snout, a plantigrade way of walking (podials and metatarsals flat to the ground similar to humans), and weigh 250-350 lbs.

He said that black bears evolved in North America while the other species crossed over from Asia. The cubs stay with their mother for 2 summers after which she unceremoniously kicks them out. Black bears are omnivorous eating grass, insects, fish, berries, honey and most importantly, blueberries. A bear can consume up to 20,000 calories in 24 hours as they prepare for hibernation. They can be cannibalistic in that they will kill and eat other bears, which is a strange behaviour as there is no logical reason for doing so.

Bears mate in June but the eggs sit until October. If the female bear has enough fat stored the eggs will fertilize, if not they won't. The cubs are born in January and live off the mother's milk until April. Usually there are 2 or 3 cubs and they are weaned in July. Bears will live for 25-30 years.

Alistair said that during hibernation bears do not eat, urinate or defecate with breathing about 2 respirations a minute and heartbeat about 8 beats per minute. They hibernate 6 months of the year which means they sleep half their lives. Bears are pigeon toed but can run at speeds up to 70 km/hr. The fastest humans can do is about 40 km/hr.

#### Bear research.

Alistair explained that bears are caught in a modified trap device. They are drugged inside the trap which he said could be tricky as their weight has to be estimated while they are inside. They are then measured and weighed, a tooth is removed for aging and a VHF collar with a specific frequency is attached. Sometimes a GPS collar is used which allows the bear to be tracked precisely at all times.

Bear dens are either excavated or embedded in a root mass. The cubs can cause the mother to release milk by making a noise. In their first year they are known as yearlings and often they will have a nearby tree to climb, called a sanctuary tree, in case of danger. Bears molt in summer.

Alistair talked about bear behaviour. He said if you get too near they will often turn sideways which some people can misinterpret as indifference, but in fact it means "You're too close, look how big I am, back off!" If that doesn't work they will make a bluff charge. He said once that happened to him. He said the bear covered about 100 feet in a couple of seconds and stopped in front of him, stamping his foot. Interestingly there was a program on television a couple of nights later about a man who raises abandoned bear cubs. During the program it showed him confronting a bear who made a charge just as Alistair described.

Alistair said bear signs can be subtle or obvious. He talked about "bear nests", which come from sticks the bears drop when they are after nuts up a tree. They lodge in the tree looking something like a nest. Another sign is overturned rocks as they search for grubs and insects. They will also eat the cambrian layer of trees which can be seen. Bear prints of course are another sign, as are fragments of hair caught on snags or where the bear has rubbed itself. He mentioned that bears tend to step in the same spots when walking.

#### Living with bears.

Alistair emphasized keeping a safe distance if you meet a bear. They really have no interest in attacking you unless they feel threatened. He said to reduce or eliminate food odours and never store food in your tent. Change your clothing after cooking and learn about bears by learning their language, i.e. what various signs mean such as turning sideways mentioned previously. Avoid traveling alone in bear country, carry a banger or bear spray (which is a pepper spray) and never run in bear country.

All in all a great talk. Alistair was thanked by Malcolm.

Gord Cattesron

*In the summer issue Malcolm had an article on a work party at the Port Franks Forested Dunes in which I participated. The next day Pat & I attended an outing led by Larry Cornelis to the new Reid Conservation Area. I thought this was a good opportunity to introduce readers to this new area. Ed.*

### Two Outings:

On Saturday, April 26th and Sunday April 27th I took part in a couple of LWI outings. The first was a work (emphasis on work) which Malcolm described in the Summer issue. The second was a stroll through the new Reid Conservation Area with Larry Cornelis. Strangely, the Sunday outing was the more enjoyable. Maybe it was the weather.

The work party was done to mark the western boundary of the Port Franks Forested Dunes which LWI manages on behalf of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The person directing this effort was Wayne Bowen who was doing the surveying. Had the boundary line been on a flat field where there was a sight line between the two points it would have been a piece of cake. However as Malcolm described it was on quite hilly, steep terrain with a lot of trees and brush in the way, making for a lot of carrying of a transit, chain saw, stakes, stake pounder and sundry other equipment. Wayne deserves most of the credit as he had to carry his equipment from point to point on not very easy surfaces. He also did the trigonometric calculations (you remember all that high school math about sines, co-sines and tangents, don't you?) that fixed the boundary line. Fortunately the weather was quite nice with only a little rain in the morning. Doing the work in the wet would have been really unpleasant, if not impossible.

The next day was a beautiful day with a clear blue sky, a comfortable temperature and the leaves just beginning to show. As Larry said, the very best time to be out in the woods. About 15 people turned out for a good sized group.

The Reid Conservation Area is located just south of Tulloch Line and west of Kimball Road on Duthill Road. The land was donated to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority about 5 years ago by sisters Jean & Lena Reid in memory of their parents, George & Catherine Reid (Grant). It is a good sized property of about 170 acres, mostly wooded, with about 30 odd acres being farmed. This land will be added to the conservation area when a brother currently farming it decides to stop cultivating it.

Larry explained that the Sydenham River winds around the edge of the property with some former river channels cutting through it providing some wet areas. The soil is clay which means that some Carolinian species such as tulip tree and sassafras found farther north in sandy areas are not present here. However there are a lot of interesting and even rare plants found. Larry mentioned that there are 6 oak species present including white, chinquapin, red, swamp white, Shumard and bur.

The event started nicely with a herd of white-tailed deer watching us as we entered the property. They promptly

scattered as we started in. Larry pointed out many plants with his usual informative comments. The woods were carpeted with spring beauty and many patches of both yellow and white trout lily. At a wet spot near the entrance Larry pointed out some wood duck boxes which have been put up and said they are used by screech owls during the winter. We also heard some spring peepers and a little later William Gardiner caught one. He is the lad who was at the AGM and who is a member of the Young Naturalists. He also spotted a small toad and a spider in the leaf litter. Obviously a sharp eyed YN.

Other plants we encountered included cut leaf toothwort, wild ginger, wild leek, wild garlic, Virginia waterleaf, dwarf ginseng, Mayapple, Dutchman's breeches, wild blue phlox, violets, buttonbush, harbinger-of-spring, Jack-in-the-pulpit, wood anemone, red & white trilliums and false mermaid.

Larry mentioned that false mermaid is quite a rare plant and pointed it out to Dorothy, who had trouble remembering the false portion of the name but quickly came up with the latin moniker, *floerkea proserpinacoides*, a member of the meadow-foam family. Somehow I seem to be able to recall false mermaid more easily.

Larry also talked about the red and white trilliums and the mechanism they use to avoid cross pollination. He said that the white ones have a pleasant scent which attracts insects that prefer nectar producing plants while the red give out a much more offensive odour which attract insects which are attracted to carrion.

As we walked Larry and Blake Mann, who was with us, kept calling out names of various birds, identifying them largely by call. They included kinglets, black throated green warblers, a red-breasted woodpecker and a wood thrush. Other birds Larry said he has seen included cuckoo, Cape May warbler and chestnut sided warbler. That is just a few of the birds either resident or that pass through during migration.

At one point Larry pointed out a grey tree frog sitting in a tree about 10 feet up. He said that they are really loud and one time he and Tom Chatterton did a survey just after sunset. He said there are three levels, level one is where you can easily count numbers, level two is where you can count but just barely and level three is where there are so many counting is impossible. He said they were nearly deafened by the chorus of tree frogs, definitely a level three. A little later he suddenly said "hear that, that's a tree frog" in response to a quite distinct noise.

All in all a lovely afternoon. Larry is so knowledgeable and willing to share his knowledge that everyone really enjoyed themselves. Later several of the group adjourned to Bossu Wetlands, Larry's wetland creation near his home.

Our thanks to Larry for a really nice time.

Gord Catterson

## Butterfly Counts- 2008

By Blake A. Mann

It was an excellent summer for butterflies. It really got going with my discovery of a colony of southern (northern oak) hairstreaks in late June. Things did not look good in the spring with the cool and damp weather, but overall the season was very interesting. A marine blue butterfly colony was discovered near Toronto in mid July, and another of that species was found near Point Pelee on August 9! This species from the US southwest had only been seen in Ontario on a couple of previous occasions; one being a colony at Point Pelee in 1993 and another record in 1999.

White M hairstreaks made an influx into Ontario in early August. One was at Point Pelee, and a few on Pelee Island, including one I found there on August 12.

Our area counts were as follows:

The first count in the area was Pinery/Port Franks on June 28. The weather was terrible to start, making for a low count. The sun came out by mid morning, but few butterflies were seen. Many areas did not get covered due to lack of help; perhaps because of the threatening weather. However, the count managed a total of 43 species which was decent. Overall numbers were way down of course. Interesting finds included gray comma (4) and a Milbert's tortoiseshell.

The next count was Skunk's Misery on July 6. It was fabulous! Good numbers of many species were seen, including some uncommon ones. Total was 57 species. A new species for the count, and Middlesex County, was a green comma found by my party. The species is usually found farther north, but one was on the Pinery count in 2005. Other angle-wings were numerous including a new high of 77 eastern comma and 2 gray comma. Many new record highs were achieved such as Baltimore checkerspot at 36. The previous high was only 2! Hairstreaks were plentiful, like many other areas, with record highs of 18 coral and 82 banded.

The Rondeau count on July 13 did quite well despite lack of participants. Its tally rang in at 38 species. My party worked South Point Trail as usual and came in at an excellent 25 species. Our average is about 22. Nothing outstanding was found, but a snout was excellent in the visitor center parking lot. One rarely sees a snout inside the park. On July 19, the Clear Creek butterfly count was held despite

threatening weather forecasts. It was sunny for the morning, and the rain held off until about 3 p.m, but counts were excellent. Many new highs were established with the most notable being 1222 summer azures. The previous high was only 61! Other highs included hickory hairstreak, eastern comma, eastern tailed-blue, painted lady and silver-spotted skipper. The latter two seemed to be everywhere. Record highs were also tallied in the sulphurs, especially orange. I had a feeling orange sulphur would be plentiful as I drove to the count since I encountered many along the roads. New for the count history was a pipevine swallowtail which is uncommon in Ontario.

The Point Pelee count was on August 9. Final tally was 48 species. A marine blue was the highlight! New for the count was meadow fritillary.

My party worked the south half of the park and came up with 30 species. We had several duke's skippers at the end of Shuster Trail, which is a reliable spot for those. A highlight was a gray hairstreak on the west side north of the tip shuttle loop.

These counts always include a fabulous lunch or BBQ in which we are always grateful to those who organize them. It is a great time for camaraderie every year!

### Join Us!

October 23rd - 25th, 2008

Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London, Ontario

Explore, Network and Learn

A Major Event for Habitat Conservation in Southwestern Ontario

This conference is geared towards volunteers and professionals who are interested in saving habitat - land trusts, conservation authorities, municipalities, recovery teams, environmental NGOs, landowners, government agencies and industry experts. The impacts of this conference will be felt throughout the conservation community across southwestern Ontario.

Registration Forms and Draft Programs are now available on-line at Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Carolinian Canada websites.

## CUT AND MAIL

### To help us serve you better please circle or check (optional):

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

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

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

### Might be willing to:

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

### Other Information to Share with LWI:

Need transportation to meetings \_\_\_\_\_  
Special skills or work experience \_\_\_\_\_

*This appeared in the June issue but I thought it worthwhile to repeat it. Fern Noel has been an enthusiastic winter camper for many years. He has come up with an idea that might appeal to some of our more hardy members. Give Fern a call if you are interested. Ed.*

**Winter Camping:**

I've been discussing with Ron Baker, who is a director on the board for Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, a winter trip (Feb. 09) to note whatever wildlife is resident in February in the Cabot Head, Wingfield basin area. The Bruce Trail used to go through this area but now skirts it.

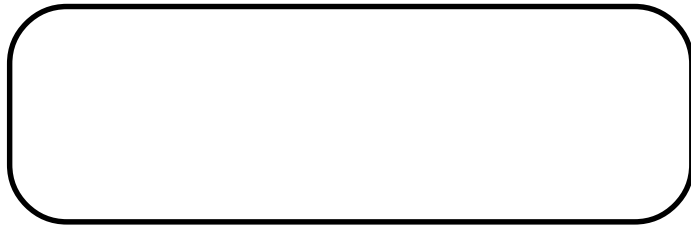
The high Cabot Head escarpment, and the large basin is very scenic, and harbors much wildlife. The idea is to snowshoe in from Dyers Bay to the basin or light house, and camp there for a few days. While there we would scout the area for any wildlife, or signs of, and take in the scenery. This is cold tent camping and involves snowshoeing some 10 km to get to the reserve area. We would not use the lodge that is there since it is closed up for the winter. I'm organizing this trip through the Lambton Outdoor Club and would welcome any able LWI member. (the key word here is "able"). My contact phone number 542-9694 or email <fern@ebtech.net> for anyone interested.

Fern Noel

**Profile: New Members of the Board**

Bill Scott: Treasurer

Bill and his wife Judy have been outstanding supporters of LWI. They have been members of LWI since the early '80s and he was Treasurer from 1995 to '98. Judy was Secretary of the Board for 3 years. He is a retired math teacher who was at SCITS for 29 years and Watford for 4. He and Judy have travelled to 35 countries and he has written up his travels in 12 books. He was the presenter at the 2002 AGM about their travels to South America and has also presented for the Indoor Program. He has land in Sombra and was farming it until 2000. He is still managing 15 acres of woodlot. Bill volunteers at the Inn of the Good Shepherd, is treasurer at his church, is very interested in genealogy and of course active in LWI, being a regular at the 401 cleanup... a busy and productive retirement!



**Board of Directors:**

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

Deadline for October issue is  
**Friday, October 3, 2008**  
 Please leave typed material or discs in  
 mailbox  
 at 502 Roosevelt Drive  
 or email to:  
 gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca

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

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Earthways via email? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

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