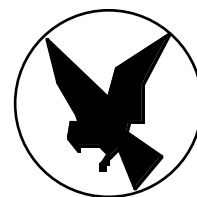


# EARTHWAYS<sup>©</sup>



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

Gordon Catterson - Editor

Cheryl Veary-Webmaster

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Website: www.lambtonwildlife.com

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

## Indoor Program

November 30, 2009

### Frogs and Kin

Scott Gillingswater, species at risk biologist for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, will talk about the amphibians of Ontario and their survival status in the face of ongoing habitat losses. Our Young Naturalists will present a short performance about frogs as part of the evening program.

January 25, 2010

### Bluewater Bridge Peregrines

The Bird Lady, university professor Kariann Reno from Detroit, will bring us up to date on the success of the Peregrine Falcon nesting program on the Bluewater Bridge. She will review falcon biology and the recent history of the falcons in view of environmental pressures.

February 22, 2010

### Rare Woody Plants of Ontario

Sean Fox, Arboretum Manager University of Guelph Arboretum, will talk about the threatened and endangered trees and shrubs in Ontario, particularly in Southern Ontario. The Arboretum has a number of significant projects, including a mature seed orchard and an extensive gene bank. There is a lot of discussion about protecting endangered animals, but they rely on the health of the habitat provided by trees and shrubs.

March 29, 2010

### Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass

Liz Primeau, the highly respected and well known author of numerous books on gardening, including the best seller Front Yard Gardens, founding editor of Canadian Gardening magazine and the former host of Canadian Gardening Television on HGTV, will be our speaker. She has long been the leader of the turf the turf movement. She preaches the mantra of biodiversity and the beneficial transformation that occurs when you replace an expanse of lawn with plants that attract birds & butterflies.

### Suncor Energy Foundation

Again, thanks to Dick Maxfield, Suncor Energy Foundation (SEF) has given Lambton Wildlife a \$2000 grant for 2009 as part of SEF's Community Awards Program. The program is designed to promote volunteerism within the community. Thanks to SEF for its generous assistance.

## 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.

### Birding Niagara

Saturday, November 28, 2009

Meet: car pool from Sarnia or meet at Van Wagner's Beach, Stoney Creek at 7:30 am. We will be searching for uncommon to rare gulls and ducks which concentrate in the Niagara Gorge, from above the falls to Niagara on the Lake and along the Lake Ontario shore.

Contact leader Paul Carter for car pooling: 344-2571

### Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 19, 2009.

Register with Peter Chapman well ahead if you want to participate so he can arrange coverage for the territories. Participants will meet in the Pinery afterwards for result tallies and refreshments.

### Christmas Bird Count:

Note the bird count information in the Outdoor Program. Pete Chapman requested that the following information be included. The count will be held on Dec. 19th. It runs all day and ends with a post count dinner and compilation at the Pinery Visitor Centre. Anyone interested (birding expertise is not required) should contact Pete Chapman by Dec. 5th. By phone at 519-828-3064 or by E-mail at petechapman@xcelco.on.ca.

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## Greetings from the President

Autumn, and particularly the month of October, is a time of transition. The days are often warm and sunny without the heavy humidity of summer, and the evenings are cool and invigorating without the dampness of late fall or the bitter cold of winter.

It is also a time when the leaves change from their foliage of green to a dazzling array of colour. This was brought home to me on a recent trip through northern Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and northern Ontario over Thanksgiving week. The drive through Minnesota toward Thunder Bay was especially spectacular.

To the west of Highway 61, the hills and valleys and ridgelines were ablaze with reds, golds, oranges, purples, russets, and yellows, interspersed with greens and browns, while to the east, looking down the hills toward Lake Superior, the waters glistened

with vivid shades of blue. It was truly a spectacle of color to feast the eyes.

That autumn days are "often warm and sunny" certainly does not mean they are always warm and sunny, as we experienced our first snow storm of the season while in Thunder Bay. It did not last long and the newly fallen snow just added another colourful dimension to an already impressive display.

One of the good things about fall colour, however, is that there is no need to go very far to enjoy it. There are plenty of spots close to home, even within Sarnia itself, that present a delightful blend of colour to experience.

The process of tree leaves changing colour is an interesting one. Leaves are the food producing part of a tree's microsystem. Leaves get water from the roots and carbon dioxide from the air as the ingredients needed to make food. Sunlight, in conjunction with water and carbon dioxide, produces oxygen and glucose, a kind of sugar.

We need to breathe oxygen to sustain life. Similarly, a tree needs glucose as a food for plant energy and as a feedstock to promote growth. The process of transferring water and carbon dioxide into glucose is called photosynthesis. To help promote this process, the tree uses a chemical called chlorophyll; it is chlorophyll that gives leaves their green colour.

During summer, the tree produces more glucose than it needs. The excess is stored as starch which it uses for food during the winter months.

As autumn progresses, the days become progressively shorter until a point is reached where there is not enough water or sunlight to sustain photosynthesis. The tree now rests for the winter and lives off its summer food storage. Chlorophyll, the "greening" agent disappears and we then see colors which have been in the leaf all along but which have been suppressed by the chlorophyll.

In the maple tree, there is always some glucose left behind in the leaves after the photosynthesis process has ended. Sunlight and the cooler autumn weather act upon the glucose and turn it into the flaming red colour that makes the maple tree such a spectacular sight. We are certainly favored to be able to enjoy nature's spectacular colour display every year. Autumn is also the time when LWI awards an Environmental Bursary to a Lambton Secondary school student. This year's bursary recipient is Caitlin Sommer of St. Clair S.S. Caitlin is enrolled at McMaster University studying Environmental and Earth Sciences. We wish Caitlin every success in her studies.

On another note, it may seem a bit premature but this being the last edition of Earthways for 2009 it is my only opportunity to reach out to the Lambton Wildlife family to wish each of you a blessed Holiday Season. Best wishes to all!

As the days get shorter and the weather more uncertain take extra care to stay safe.

This year is winding down but rest assured that LWI has many exciting events planned for the New Year. See you in January 2010.

Dick Maxfield

### **October Indoor Meeting:**

On Monday, October 26th LWI hosted Dr. Gordon McBean who talked on Our Changing Climate: Implications for the Carolinian Canada Ecoregion.

Dr. McBean has a very impressive C.V. with a long and eminent career. Trained as a physicist he is currently Director of Policy Studies at the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and Professor in the Departments of Geography and Political Science at The University of Western Ontario. His past includes a professorship at U.B.C. and he is a former Assistant Deputy Minister in Environment Canada. In particular he was a lead author and review editor for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body. As such he shared in the 2007 Nobel Prize which was awarded to this panel.

He began by examining the natural ecosystems in Canada and how they depend on temperature, precipitation and soils. He pointed out that Canada's biodiversity has been shaped by our climate over a very long period of time. He then showed how these regions might be altered by global warming, with warmer temperature zones migrating northwards.

He also showed a well known graph plotting historical temperatures since about 1850. This is a scattering of individual annual temperature readings with a smoothing curve over various periods. If the line starts at 1860 the temperature increase is flatter, meaning a more moderate increase with time. However more recent data shows a higher slope meaning greater increases with time. It is this latter data which forms the basis of the concern and



### Young Naturalists Report:

This is about October's meeting.

At the October meeting the Junior Conservationists went to Lorne Henderson Conservation Area to collect native plant seeds and learn about fundraising. We made packets to put the seeds in and will sell these seed packets to raise money for the next schoolyard project.

Sean J

We still have room for new members in both groups!

Please contact Melissa Levi @ insektivi@hotmail.com for info.

extrapolation out to 2100 which the panel used.

Dr. McBean mentioned that the earth emits far more greenhouse gases from natural sources than from the burning of fossil fuels. However he made the point that the world can also absorb all this greenhouse gas naturally and somewhat more. However he said that the gases produced from fossil fuels exceeds this additional ability of the earth to absorb it, resulting in the increase of these in the atmosphere.

Dr. McBean then went on to demonstrate by means of a comparative graph that human forcing, (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, ozone, land use changes and aerosols), is very likely to have caused the indicated temperature changes. He also showed a graph which traced various scenarios and the impact on decadal warming extrapolating out to 2100.

These scenarios included such things as doing nothing, making some effort to control emissions, making extreme efforts, and so on. The worst case showed an increase of about 3.5 degrees C. He said while this may appear not that much, if it did occur it could be catastrophic. He also pointed out that even with extraordinary effort, warming will continue due to the accumulated CO<sub>2</sub> currently in the atmosphere. He mentioned that 11 of 12 years between 1995 and 2006 were the warmest of all years since 1850.

Dr. McBean then turned to the potential impact on our lives. For example it has been suggested that global warming will have an impact on our health, with the risk of increased heat-related mortality and infectious diseases. As well many species in order to survive will have to move northward. Some may adapt but others will not. Cold water fish are an example of species that may not be able to move quickly enough. Other impacts include lowering lake levels with attendant impact on tourism industry and transportation, expansion of drought prevalent areas, increase in tornados, increase in flash flooding and harm to pollinating insects on which food production depends.

Gord Catterson

#### In Memorium:

Nan Macnair, a long time member and past-president (1982) of Lambton Wildlife, died suddenly at her home on Friday, November 6th. at the age of 79. Nan was a member of the LWI Board in 1985 & 1986, from 1991 to 1993 and in 1997. She was mentioned on the President's Honour list in 1986 and 1995 and in 2003 received LWI's highest honour, the Meritorious Service Award. She was also intimately involved with the acquisition of the Karner Blue Sanctuary. Our condolences to her husband Ron and family members. Ed.

#### ON Regional Meeting:

The Ontario Nature Carolinian West regional meeting was held on Saturday, October 31st at the Delaware Community Centre. In attendance were Sydenham Field Naturalists, St. Thomas Field Naturalists, Otter Valley Naturalists, The Naturalized Habitat Network of Essex County and Windsor, Lambton Wildlife Inc., Sarnia Urban Wildlife, Ingersoll Nature Club, Nature London and a new attendee, Stratford Field Naturalists. A new coordinator was introduced. She is Lenore Nadeau, replacing Clare Mitchell who has left ON. Tania Havelka and myself attended on behalf of LWI. As usual there was a round table update on member club activities. Of note is the fact that The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated will henceforth be known as Nature London. While the idea of a new name has been discussed for many years the decision was finally made to rename the club. The McIlwraith name will be kept for legal purposes.

Other noteworthy items included two new books. One is called the Thames River Watershed from Nature London and the other is a new seed book by Dan Bissonnette of Naturalized Habitat called The Native Seed Identification & Cultivation Guide for Southern Ontario. Both contain many pictures and will be discussed with the Board to see if there is interest in making them available to members through our normal book sales process. They are of course available from Nature London and Dan Bissonnette.

Nature London reported on the ongoing problem with deer in Sifton Bog. The problem is similar to that at the Pinery, with great resistance from animal activists for a cull. They also talked about the Nature in the City lecture series held at the London Public Library during January and February which has been highly successful.

I reported on recent LWI activities mentioning the Native Plant Sale, our two cleanups, recent speakers, and the GPS'g of the Ausable Trail. Larry Cornelis talked about the video of Lambton County natural areas he and Danny Alexander are making and the support for the Walpole Island Prairie Dock Prairie (see p. 8.)

Then Caroline Schultz updated the group on ON activities and Gabe Camozzi talked about the ON Children and Youth Program, mentioning our own Melissa Levi as a good example of successful programs. Finally potential resolutions were discussed with two subjects being a suggested Provincial Tree Cutting Law and how to curb the importation of aliens species by garden nurseries.

The next meeting will be held in the spring and be hosted by Friends of Rondeau.

Gord Catterson

### Global Warming:

The October indoor meeting dealing with climate change caused me to once again ponder this complex issue, as I have wondered what is really happening regarding climate change. I have long had several problems with the conventional wisdom that a catastrophic change is upon us. What follows is not meant to rebut Dr. McBean's excellent talk but rather to offer another point of view.

Firstly, I find the whole hysteria surrounding this issue to be off-putting. If you questioned the orthodoxy you were ranked with atheists at a religious convention. Following the crowd has never been my long suit.

Secondly, I have felt that blaming all manner of climate issues on global warming is questionable. Weather is poorly understood. Mean weather conditions are really averages of weather abnormalities. We seldom experience conditions that match what are the norms for certain times of year. Temperatures are usually above or below average, as are rainfall, dry spells, snowfall etc. What people see as weather extremes are actually quite normal variations that get smoothed by statistics. A year with a very cold winter followed by an unseasonably hot summer produces a year of average temperatures.

However these variations are often tied to global warming scenarios. Warm winter-global warming, cold winter-global warming, more icebergs-global warming, fewer icebergs-global warming, and so on. It seems to me you can't have it both ways. When there were more hurricanes a few years back it was blamed on global warming, but when the following years produced fewer there was silence. I even remember a comment on the radio blaming the southeast-asian tsunami on global warming, obviously nonsensical. And those reports of the arctic ice melting always seem to appear in July. I recently saw satellite images of the arctic region taken in the winters of 1985 and 2005 and there seemed to be no noticeable change in the ice cover, although of course it could have been thinner.

Finally the main argument seems to be, "All the recognized experts agree!" In fact not all of them do agree, and most of the "experts" thought financial markets were just fine a year and a half ago. I get nervous when I am told that all the experts agree.

There is no question that there has been a long, slow rise in global temperatures. After all the arctic ice cap reached as far south as the northern U.S.A. 10,000 years ago. One of the problems is finding accurate data. It is only in the last 150 years or so that somewhat accurate temperature records have been kept. However there are proxy records such as tree ring density, fossil evidence and ice core sampling. As well there is considerable anecdotal evidence. I recall reading an entry in Pepy's Diary which documented life in London during the 1660's. On one date he records watching people "sliding on skaetes in the Park", which he thought was "a very pretty thing", but had no inclination to try it himself. As well once when in the National Gallery in London I remember seeing a painting of people in Holland skating on a pond, and also playing a game which looked very much like hockey. And we all remember Hans Brinker

and his silver skates. No one has skated in Hyde Park or on those ponds in Holland for a very long time. The period being discussed has been called the Little Ice Age (LIA), which lasted from about 1450 to 1800. Prior to that was an exceptionally warm period, referred to as the Medieval Warm Period, the end of which overlapped with the start of the LIA.

In a book by Gavin Menzies titled 1421 the author makes the case for a mammoth Chinese fleet that was sent out of China in 1421 to explore the world. In it he suggests that the Chinese fleet reached the north pole in 1422. As well Columbus claimed to have sailed about 500 miles beyond Iceland in 1477. The Viking evidence of a much warmer Newfoundland about 1000 is well known, and they called L'Anse Aux Meadows, Vinland.

We are all familiar with the "hockey stick" model portraying how temperatures have climbed dramatically between about 1975 and 2000, which they have. This was accompanied by a sudden rise in CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere which global warming advocates have connected. CO<sub>2</sub> being a greenhouse gas is thus thought to be the culprit in the temperature rise, the CO<sub>2</sub> being a result of the burning of fossil fuels. The movie An Inconvenient Truth makes much of this scenario. However even the supporters of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels recognize that the model was over simplified and past temperatures fluctuated much more than this graph suggested. Also it could be a chicken and egg question. Which came first, global warming or the rise in CO<sub>2</sub>. Perhaps the warmer temperatures caused higher ocean temperatures with the consequential emission of CO<sub>2</sub>. Colder water will dissolve more CO<sub>2</sub> than warmer water.

I was therefore intrigued when George Sunaitis sent me a URL for a report on global temperatures. The author is Syun-Ichi Akasofu of the International Arctic Research Center. In his paper he suggests that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) failed to take account of the LIA and the Medieval Warming Period, and if they had done so they would have found that linear warming began around 1800-1850, long before CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas was an issue. His scenario suggests that there has been a long term multi-decadal oscillation about a slowly increasing linear base, representing an increase of about 0.5 degrees C per century. The IPCC simply extrapolated the temperature change between 1975 and 2000 out to 2100, and not in a linear extension but rather exponentially, resulting in a projected +3 degree C temperature rise by 2100. His projection results in a much more modest increase of about 0.5 degrees C over the same period. He points out that the IPCC projection has already failed for the first decade of the 21st century as temperatures over the past decade have been flat to falling. Defenders of the global warming caused by CO<sub>2</sub> say this is to be expected as they have never claimed the temperature change will be a continuous warming, but rather a cyclical one. However this didn't stop them from extrapolating the 1975 to 2000 data.

Mr. Akasofu concludes as follows. "Since they (IPCC) ignored both the LIA and the multi-decadal oscillation and

assumed the temperature rise from 1975 to 2000 to be due mainly to the effects of CO2 (instead of the combination of the linear change and multi-decadal oscillation) their predicted temperature rise in 2100 is unreasonably too high. Climate change studies on the basis of Global Climate Models are a young discipline. There are many unknown processes and uncertain factors in climate change.”

No one, absolutely no one, can accurately predict the future. That temperatures are generally increasing is more or less agreed, although perhaps not over the past decade. The issue is what is the cause and magnitude? I found this paper to be interesting and easily read. As well the science in it is much more appealing to me as an engineer than what I have previously encountered in the popular press. I would encourage people to read this paper which can be obtained at <[http://people.iarc.uaf.edu/~sakasofu/little\\_ice\\_age.php](http://people.iarc.uaf.edu/~sakasofu/little_ice_age.php)> It is only 6 pages long, can be downloaded and is easily understood.

Where the truth lies remains uncertain. However as it stands now Canada may be required to spend billions of dollars annually, either by a mechanism of cap & trade or carbon taxes. Of course there is only one payer of this money, you and me, in the form of higher prices or taxes.

Gord Catterson

### **Tiedje Woods:**

In a recent issue I wrote about Dorothy and John Tiedje donating their woodlot property near Arkona to the Thames Talbot Land Trust. On October 17th there was a dedication ceremony held to recognize their donation. Unfortunately it was on the same day as the Fall Colours Tour and I was unable to attend. However Bill and Judy Scott attended and Bill kindly gave me a copy of the booklet produced for use on the day. I also asked Dorothy about it and she said it was a wonderful presentation and rather more than she was anticipating.

The woodlot is 15 acres of hilly deciduous forest in the Municipality of North Middlesex about 1 km north of Hungry Hollow, just east of Arkona. It contains high quality Carolinian upland forest along a steep sided ravine. A tributary of the Ausable River runs through it. Trees include sugar maple, American beech, black walnut, basswood, ironwood, black cherry, white ash, red oak, and butternut. Planted trees include blue ash, pawpaw, cucumber tree and redbud. A trail system is present and will eventually be opened for public use. Hunting and motorized vehicle use will not be permitted.

The agenda for the dedication ceremony included opening remarks by Stan Caveney (who recently spoke to LWI on insects, his specialty), official greetings from Bev Shipley and Maria Van Bommel, a keynote address by Muriel Andreae of the TTLT, comments by Dorothy and an appreciation by Stan. Refreshments followed.

Again congratulations to Dorothy and John for this generous donation. An outstanding gift. I just wish I could have attended.

Gord Catterson



Photo Credit Avalon Hamlin

### **LWI Mycological Field Outing Oct. 4/09 Lambton County Forest/Mystery Falls**

Peter Banks led twelve of us on what has become an annual event. Once again this outing was a good mix of science and field identification. We searched along

one of the trails through the Lambton County Heritage Forest and after lunch went on to the Mystery Falls area of the Ausable. Approximately fifty fungi were found. The list follows. All finds are interesting but I think some of us were especially pleased with the puffballs. At the Mystery Falls area we were “met” by woolly aphids. Peter assures me they are always on the outing.

There are many good internet sites. One I would recommend can be found by Googling “rogers mushrooms”. Although for UK and Europe the visual key is still relevant and many species are found here.

Thank you to all the enthusiastic attendees and especially of course to Peter. Same time next year Peter. Please!

Chris Holding

#### Gilled

Amanita virosa  
Armilliara mellea (complex)  
Clitocybe gibba  
Collybia butyracea  
Cortinarius alboviolaceus  
Crepidotus applanatus  
Galerina autumnalis  
Lepiota cristata  
Leucopaxillus albissimus  
Marasimius  
oreades (lawn)  
rotula  
siccus

Mycena pura  
hyllotopsis nidulans (MF)  
Pluteus cervinus  
Russula silvicola  
Schizophyllum commune

Boletes  
Boletus (species)

#### Puffballs & Similar

Crucibulum laeve  
Geastrum saccatum  
Geastrum triplex  
Lycoperdon perlatum

#### Polypores

Cerrena unicolor  
Daedaleopsis confragosa  
Favolus alveolaris  
Fomes fomentarius  
Ganoderma applanatum  
Irpex lactius  
Trichaptum abietinum  
Tyromyces chioneus (MF)

#### Parchment

Stereum ostrea  
Stereum striatum

#### Tooth Fungi

Hericium Americanum (MF)  
Herecium ramosum (MF)

#### Coral Fungi

Rameria aurea (MF)

#### Cup Fungi

Bisporella citrina  
Chlorociboria aeruginascens

#### Jelly Fungi

Tremella foliacea

#### Club Fungi & Earthtongues

Xylaria polymorpha

#### Carbonlike

Apiosporina morbosa

#### Slime Moulds

Lycogala epidendrum

Ischnoderma resinose (MF)

Phellinus igniarius

Piptoporus betulinus

Polyporus radicans (MF)

Polyporus squamosus (MF)

Trametes versicolor

Trichaptum bifforme

### Fall Colour Tour:

Readers may recall an outing to view the fall colours near Orangeville was advertised in the Summer issue. Pat and I signed up for it and spent a highly enjoyable day on Saturday, October 17th traveling on the Credit Valley Explorer, a train which runs on the former Credit Valley Railway line between Orangeville and Streetsville. The tour travels from Orangeville to Snelgrove, a distance of about 40 km before returning to Orangeville.

The tour was an outing for Suncor retirees and as they needed more people to round out the group, and Dick Maxfield, a Suncor retiree, is the LWI President, they invited LWI members to sign up. There were about 50 people in total, about half from each group. We set out at 7:25 am from the Lambton Mall parking lot and arrived in Orangeville about 10:30 am.

The train operates over the tracks of the Orangeville Brampton Railway, a short line company hauling freight from local businesses between Mississauga and Orangeville. As a former railroader I am familiar with these types of operation which find a niche not serviced by the larger railways, and they can be very profitable. At one time the larger companies operated way freights to capture this local business, but over time they became small revenue producers and sometimes these short lines moved in. I told Fern Noel about one that operated between St. Johnsbury (where I often worked) and Montpelier, Vermont. It was called the St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad (St. J. & L.C.) and they had two trains daily, one leaving St. Johnsbury each morning and the other leaving Montpelier. They normally met in the middle. Somehow they managed to have a train wreck so from then on they each went half way and turned around.

The train leaves Orangeville at 11:30 am and meanders down the Credit valley and through the Caledon Hills, a lovely area of hills, streams and valleys. They serve an excellent lunch and a live commentary is given explaining the passing scenery and history associated with the rail line. One interesting spot was a place along the river called Cataract, which features cataracts in the river as well as many natural springs. The first commercial use of these springs was by the McLaughlin Bottling Works, who created Canada Dry ginger ale. The water rights to these springs are still held by Canada Dry. Once there was a thriving village here, and it was a major railway connection point with a branch line that traveled to the west to Fergus and Elora.

Another interesting spot was at mile 24, the Forks of the Credit. The train travels across a 1,146 foot long trestle, one of three major bridges enroute. It provides a spectacular view of the valley below. As the river between Cataract and the Forks of the Credit drops about 150 feet per mile it was a natural power source that was exploited to furnish water power to mills. As well the presence of sandstone and limestone created numerous quarries which provided stone to many buildings in nearby Toronto, including the Ontario Legislature Building and the old City Hall.

On the return trip we stopped for about half an hour at Inglewood. There is a historic general store here which

everyone explored. In 1881 a hotel keeper from Claude purchased land from the land owner and constructed the Inglewood Hotel, an up to date (for the time) hotel featuring "modern" rooms, a dining room "of high standard" and a pool hall. In 2002 The Inglewood General Store (originally established in 1882) purchased the old hotel and converted it into what is now a general store.

Another interesting item here is the presence of a nature trail on a former railway's (Hamilton & Northwestern Railway) right of way which ran from Hamilton to Barrie. Inglewood was a junction point for it with the Credit Valley Railway. I was really interested in this as it is part of the Trans-Canada Trail and is quite similar to our own Howard Watson Nature Trail which I have been involved with for many years. It appears to be about the same width although the graveled centre portion is wider than ours (about 10 feet). I said to Fern after walking a short way on it and seeing many users, that the more I see of the HWNT the more convinced I am of the importance of all our work years ago.

Upon return to Orangeville we were given a tour of the unique wood sculptures throughout the City. We have driven through Orangeville often as it is on the way to where our daughter lives and I have noticed these sculptures as we go through. However I just thought that someone had done a couple gratuitously. However our guide told us that they were actually commissioned by the City. There are many old trees that have reached the end of their lives and rather than cut them down completely they leave about 10 feet standing and this is the platform for wood carvers to do their magic. There are over 50 in all and feature birds, animals and famous (and infamous) people. One is of the Prince of Wales, Queen Victoria's son who became Edward VII after her death. You remember the Edwardian period, surely. He was very well liked and down to earth for a King of England. One time when he was visiting in western Canada, and a lady was removing dishes she said to him "Keep yer fork Duke, we're havin' pie!" He told the story with great relish in later years. If you happen to have the opportunity I would highly recommend a tour to see these sculptures which are very well done. There is a brochure available pinpointing their locations. Our day ended with a stop for a meal in Shakespeare and we arrived home about 9 pm. All in all a lovely day.

Gord Catterson

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### Autumn Birding:

By Blake A. Mann

Although spring is exciting for birdwatching when things are so fresh and colourful, my favourite time of the year is autumn. The migration is less hurried and more drawn out. There are more birds, as young of the year are heading south with the adults.

Wind direction and wind strength are key things to look out for during the fall. A strong northerly wind will send down birds from the north. Places like Point Edward and Kettle Point are excellent on a brutal north or northwest wind where we will see pelagic type birds come close to shore. Jaegers and rare gulls are birds that are highly sought after.

A strong easterly wind will bring in pelagics at the west end of Lake Ontario. Van Wagners Beach is the favourite place for jaegers, gulls and other waterbirds for that area. Brisk southwest winds are interesting for the Tip of Point Pelee for the same reason. If one can stand the cold, howling wind, birding can be exciting under those conditions.

Usually a fresh strong wind that comes up overnight is most promising. Strong west winds can make birding interesting by bringing those western rarities. Autumn is the time when rare flycatchers are more frequent from the south or west. Fork-tailed, variegated or sulphur-bellied are names that come to mind. Others are tropical kingbird, such as the one at Erieau in 2002 or the vermilion flycatcher at St. Clair NWA in 1994. Several western kingbirds have already been reported this fall in Ontario. Some do a "reverse" migration when they wrongly head north rather than south.

In early November we usually have the phenomena of cave swallow migration. Back in 1999 along the north shore of Lake Erie, an invasion of this Texas/Mexico species occurred. Every year since, in varying numbers, some have been reported during the first week of November mainly along the north shore of Lake Erie and Ontario. Last year was no exception when many were reported including the eight we saw at the Tip of Point Pelee November 8. Some were even at Point Edward the same day as reported by Tim Snieder.

Groove-billed ani is another bird that has been reported in Ontario in the fall. It has not been reported in recent years, and is probably overdue. Locally, one was at Bright's Grove Sewage Lagoons in 1988.

Other uncommon to rare passerines such as warblers will be reported in Ontario in the fall. It seems that black-throated gray warblers, a western United States species, have become more frequent. Last November, we found one at Rondeau Park, constituting Ontario's fifteenth record. On October 10 this year, I spotted another at Rondeau Park! Coincidentally, the very next day, one was reported in Port Ryerse, west of Port Dover!

A serious birder not only looks for rarities, but record late or early dates of birds. It is interesting to find a bird pushing the envelope, or one that is out of season so to speak. On October 10, I found a male prothonotary warbler at Rondeau Park which was record late by a longshot. They are rare in late summer to begin with, and not seen after middle September for the most part.

Other things to watch for are fallouts just like in the spring. Certain weather conditions that coincide with mass migration will put birds down in key areas such as parks along Lake Erie. This Thanksgiving weekend was a prime example. On the Saturday of that weekend, when I found the rare warbler, there were an incredible number of birds at Rondeau Park. It was fabulous! Thanksgiving Monday was phenomenal at Point Pelee. According to Alan Wormington there were thousands of birds and that he probably never saw so many in a single October day.

Autumn birding is really the most interesting time for birders as there are so many types of birds to look for. The potential for something interesting is always there!

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### ICI Wetlands:

Following our trip to Walpole Island on October 18th we were invited by the Sydenham Field Naturalist to visit this wetland, normally closed to the public.

This site is a series of lagoons which were constructed to do natural remediation of seepage from gypsum, a byproduct of the manufacturing process stockpiled on the former ICI/Terra site. It was covered by 4 feet of clay to reduce the amount of rainwater entering. Even so there is some seepage from this mound and needs to be treated. Our guide for the day, an ICI retiree named Mike, said that the pH of the liquid was about 2.0, fairly acidic. It is collected in a pond and pumped back to the plant where it is treated with lime. The resulting liquid, now at a pH of about 9-10 goes to a settling pond and then through a series of lagoons where it is remediated by natural means. The Dow wetland site has a similar purpose.

We found the site to be a very pleasant spot with ample vegetation and occupied by several waterfowl including ruddy ducks and mergansers. Several birders with scopes were present. Contrary to everyone's understanding Mike said that the ponds east of the settling pond are open to the public 24/7 from late April to early November. The site can be accessed from Stanley line just west of highway 40. There is a small parking lot with an access gate. Stanley Line is the first road south of Bickford.

This site represents a new birding opportunity for local birders, one not thought to be readably available. I had not included it in the Natural Areas of Lambton County but will now proceed to do so.

Gord Catterson

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## CUT AND MAIL

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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Prairie Dock Prairie:**

On Sunday, October 18th several members of the LWI Board carpooled from St. Clair H.S.. to Walpole Island to meet Larry Cornelis and Clint Jacobs of the Walpole Island Heritage Centre. Janet Bremner and I were also invited to attend.

The purpose of the visit was to examine a place on Walpole Island which is home to many rare species, and particularly white prairie gentian, a species that is believed to grow nowhere else in Canada.

Sometime earlier Clint had told Larry that the property was due to come up for sale and if sold would likely be farmed. Of course Larry realized this would be a disaster. Clint wondered if any of the area nature clubs would be interested in helping him preserve it. As LWI has a good deal of money in the Land Acquisition Fund the response was we would definitely be interested, assuming some concerns could be overcome. The major concern is that there would have to be a mechanism that ensured the property would be protected forever.

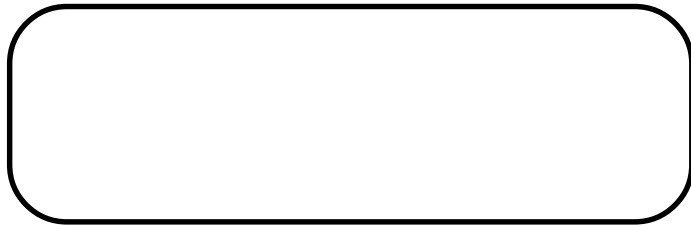
After we arrived Clint took us to the property which is located not too far from the Heritage Centre. I recall having visited this location perhaps 5 or 6 years ago on one of two outings organized back then in two different years. At that time it was quite wet. Today, given the lower lake and river levels the ground is quite dry.

During the visit Larry identified several rare and unusual plants including the aforementioned white prairie gentian, wild indigo, dense and rough blazing star, Culver's root and New Jersey tea. He also pointed out some native phragmites, called redlegs by the First Nations people. Readers who attended an indoor meeting last year may recall Malcolm showing the native species alongside the alien one, which also grows in profusion close by. It was interesting to see each.

As part of the visit Clint explained that they have successfully set up a land trust and the property would be safeguarded by that. This overcame the main concern of the board.

Following our visit we had lunch in Sombra and the board members present passed a motion to assist in the purchase of this property. Also Larry and Tom Chatterton agreed to go to the SFN Board for their support. Larry and Tom also agreed to assist Clint in his fundraising efforts.

Gord Catterson



**Board of Directors:**

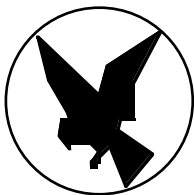
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Deadline for January issue is  
**Friday, January 1st, 2010**  
 Please leave typed material or discs in  
 mailbox  
 at 502 Roosevelt Drive  
 or email to:  
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----- CUT AND MAIL -----

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_