



LAMBTON WILDLIFE Winter 2026
Actively protecting nature in Lambton County for 60 years



You're invited!

Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Celebrating 60 Years

Protecting Nature in Lambton County

Please join us for an afternoon to celebrate
60 years of Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Kestrel Photo Contest Submissions on Display
Refreshments Provided



Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery

147 Lochiel St, Sarnia

June 20th, 2026

1:30 - 3:30 PM

All Welcome

Annual General Meeting!

Date: Sat. April 25, 2026, **Tickets:** \$50 per person

Location: Dante Club, 1330 London Road, Sarnia

Guest speaker: Marcie Jacklin from the Owl Foundation

Tickets will be on sale at upcoming indoor meetings

Forest Ecology Walk, October, 2025

Larry led an informative walk on a beautiful fall day at Coldstream Conservation Area in November. In the photo he is discussing the difference between carbon sequestering for an old growth tree vs the ability of many young trees to sequester carbon.



Conservation in the Long Point Biosphere Region: October Indoor Meeting



In this technological age, it is helpful to hold virtual presentations when the speaker is unable to travel to Sarnia! Sarah Bod is from the Long Point Biosphere Reserve and highlighted initiatives to re-introduce the Mottled Duskywing butterfly, support turtle populations, and address coastal erosion on this tall grass prairie and oak savanna remnant. The Norfolk sand plains and Long Point are well-known for their rich agricultural lands, tallgrass prairie and oak savanna remnants, boasting the highest forest cover, largest coastal wetlands and greatest biodiversity in Southwestern Ontario.

The Long Point Biosphere Region was designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1986. Its 40 km length is the longest freshwater sandspit in the world! It is a refuge for migrating birds and species at risk. It is one of Canada's most ecologically diverse regions with unique coastal wetlands, old growth

Carolinian Forest, Oak Savannah and Tallgrass Prairie.

It's home to 1,600 species, including 370 bird species, 1,384 plant species, 102 fish species, 46 mammal species, 34 amphibians and reptiles, and 91 butterfly species. It's a refuge for migrating birds and many species at risk, such as the Eastern Fox Snake, Blanding's Turtle, American Badger, and Eastern Flowering Dogwood. For more information, click on the following link:

<https://longpointbiosphere.com/>

The Importance of Biodiversity and Native Species, Larry Cornelis (November indoor meeting)

Larry's presentation focused on native habitats and plant species supporting native insects, including beneficial predatory and pollinating insects as well as supporting native Lepidoptera larvae, therefore supporting songbirds. (reference books used from Doug Tallamy's work listed below).

As he does so passionately, Larry touched on the millions of interactions that take place within ecosystems, genetics and species. He stressed how biodiversity is critical to planetary health as it provides resiliency within those elements. Fewer species and genetics within an ecosystem reduce resiliency. Therefore, there is a lower chance that an ecosystem can survive calamities like drought, disease, infestation and climate change.

Biodiversity is a safety-net. It is an insurance policy for maintaining a healthy living biosphere. We can all do our part to increase biodiversity by planting natives in our own yards. It gives us a relationship with nature; a oneness with the living World!

It takes eons of evolutionary adaptation to develop the ability to eat certain plant species. We can help our native caterpillars by planting native species. Suggestions follow which shows the number of species dependent upon each plant:

Best Native Plants for Supporting Caterpillars:

Shrubs		Wildflowers		Trees	
Willow	427	Goldenrod	135	Oak species	450
Sand Cherry	418	Aster	115	Willow	427
Blueberry	283	Strawberry	82	Prunus	418
Alder	267	Sunflower	77	Birch	408
Raspberry	156	Boneset	34	Populus	400
Hazelnut	129	Violet	31	Maple	281
Dogwood	121	Willowherb	28	Pine	247
Rose	120	Wild Geranium	26	Hickory	215

Many thanks to Larry for stepping in at the last minute when there was an Indoor Meeting Speaker cancellation.

- Tallamy, Douglas W. (February 4, 2020). [*Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*](#). Timber Press. ISBN 978-1-60469-900-5. (2020)
- Tallamy, Douglas W. (March 30, 2021). [*The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*](#). Timber Press. ISBN 978-1-64326-044-0. (2021)

Bradshaw Conservation Lands:

I am pleased to announce that 41.76 hectares (103.20 acres), located in the Township of St. Clair is now protected in perpetuity thanks to a generous partial donation to Thames Talbot Land Trust and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, with stewardship support from LWI. The lands contain mature forest, wetland and hawthorn thicket, providing a rich variety of habitat that are crucial to species at risk. Notably, the provincially rare Big Shellbark Hickory can be found on the landscape, as well as the Northern Oak Hairstreak butterfly and Red-headed Woodpecker.

Bradshaw Conservation Lands will join a larger complex of adjacent natural areas that are already protected. The opportunity to expand the protected area within this corridor is a significant contribution to biodiversity protection in the Carolinian Zone. There will be opportunities for LWI members to volunteer at the property during the 2026 Anniversary Year.

Roberta Buchanan



Nature In Winter Walk in Canatara January 17, 2026



A wet and snowy day didn't stop eleven members from enjoying a winter walk in Canatara Park. We were happy that temperatures were milder than the frigid days shouldering either side of the walk. We stayed sheltered from the wind as we looked for signs of animal life. Few animal tracks were found because the snow continued to fall and many animals stayed protected in their shelters. Since the deciduous trees were bare of leaves, bird nests from last summer were easier to find. We even saw the tiny nest of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird family.

60th Anniversary Kestrel Photo Contest

Winning Photo: Dale Buchner



The American Kestrel has been the official bird of Lambton Wildlife and has adorned the club's logo since its inception 60 years ago. The Kestrel is a small falcon with colorful plumage and is often seen perched on hydro wires as it scans the ground for potential meals. They are wary of anyone with a camera and quickly fly off if approached, so all the members who entered images are to be commended for their efforts. We received a total of 27 submissions for the contest. A panel of 3 judges viewed the images independently.

Two of our judges are LWI members and experienced wildlife photographers, plus one external judge who is formally trained by the Canadian Association for Photographic Arts. The winning image was a unanimous choice by all 3 judges, the runners-up all scored very high as well! Certificates were presented to each of the runners-up and the winner at the indoor meeting in January. In addition, their photographs will be on display at the Art Gallery for the 60th anniversary celebration on June 20th. The runners-up were: Frank Rodin, Shaun Antle, Gloria Szabo, and Deryl Nethercott. The winning entry was captured by Dale Buchner. Congratulations to all our winners!

Down River Ducks: Deryl Nethercott

A small but enthusiastic group joined event leader, Annie Goulden, and designated spotter, Deryl Nethercott. Weather was beautiful for the annual Downriver Ducks Tour. The first official stop for the Tour was the Lake Huron shore by the Sarnia Water Treatment Plant. Open water was more than 200 meters offshore due to the accumulation of ice. Long-tailed Ducks and White-winged Scoters were viewed through a scope. Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Mallard and Red-breasted Merganser were quickly located. A pair of Gadwall provided a nice surprise for the group.

The next stop was the "Point Lands" area at the end of Harbour Street. Ducks and gulls were spread along the edge of the ice, but a docked lake freighter blocked the majority of the view into the harbour. Canada Geese were feeding in the grass, while Mallards, Common Mergansers, Herring Gulls and a Great Black-backed Gull rested along the ice. Two small flocks of Redhead flew northward while the group searched through the other waterfowl.

Guthrie Park at the north end of Corunna was the final stop for the day. Three Trumpeter Swans were feeding near the outlet of Talfourd Creek, and several Mute Swans rested nearby. Canvasback outnumbered all other duck species combined. A few Ring-necked Ducks, Redhead, Bufflehead,

Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup swam among the Canvasback. Mergansers were surprisingly scarce with only one each of Red-breasted and Common. Gulls within a reasonable viewing distance were also scarce. We found a total of 24 species of birds with 13 duck species, 2 Swan and 3 Gull species.



Tracking Basics Workshop: Allanah Vokes

On Family Day, eleven enthusiastic Lambton Wildlife members joined animal tracker Christina Yu and naturalist Allanah Vokes for a pop-up winter tracking workshop at Perch Creek Habitat Management Area. Christina is an accomplished tracking instructor certified through Tracker Certification North America. Despite the warm spell, we still had lots of snow to see some tracks! We found traces of many of Perch Creek's inhabitants while exploring different habitats.

Starting in the white pine plantation, Christina addressed the fundamentals of track ID: how to estimate an animal's size, determine its direction of travel, and differentiate lefts vs. rights and fronts vs. hinds. Christina then demonstrated the proper technique for measuring individual tracks, trail width, and stride length, and explained how we can look up these measurements in tracking field guides to help identify the animal. Nearby, we found a depression in the snow that we deduced was a White-tailed Deer bed, based on its shape, size, and a hair left behind. When bent, the hollow hairs of all deer species will kink and remain bent, which helps differentiate them from the solid core hairs of other animals.

Moving to the deciduous woods along Perch Creek, we admired the three huge Bur Oaks with reddish territorial squirrel “stripes.” These are created when squirrels chew away a vertical strip of the bark’s outer layer, revealing a contrasting colour underneath. They often do this directly underneath a sheltering limb, in the “armpits” of trees. Nearby, we saw more Eastern Grey Squirrel sign - a feeding station on an elevated log and some discarded Black Walnut shells. This gave Christina the opportunity to point out the different ways in which Grey, Red, and Flying Squirrels open nuts and acorns.

Our last stop was a maple-dominated forest near the back of the property. Here, the participants split up to search for interesting tracks, and we found some Common Raccoon tracks and a mystery trail. Using what we learned earlier about domestic dog vs. wild canids, we concluded that it was probably the trail of an Eastern Coyote.

This three-hour workshop was full of info, but we only scratched the surface of the art and science of wildlife tracking. A big thanks to Christina for making the experience so engaging and educational. Everyone is eager to apply their new skills on the trails!



Organic Farm and Sugar Bush Tour

An enthusiastic group of LWI members were invited to Sycamore Farm to explore the Nicol Family property. Justin Nicol led the tour where he talked about identifying trees in the winter. Most people depend upon leaf shape for tree id. but Justin explained how the twigs and bark of trees can be used to identify species in the winter months. Some of the trees discussed included Black, Red and Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak and Cottonwood. Our walk led us to the Sugar Bush where Maple trees were being tapped. Some trees held individual buckets for sap collection while other trees were connected with plastic tubing, allowing the sap to flow directly to the evaporator pans for boiling. Thanks to Justin, Felicia and family for being our gracious hosts and providing yummy snacks at the end of the tour! It was a lovely late winter afternoon!

****Sycamore Farm is a market garden with a focus on mixed vegetable production, honey, cut flowers, and grass-fed highland cattle. Our production system follows organic practices with a focus on soil health and environmental sustainability.*



Ecological Gifts Program, by Roberta Buchanan

An ecological gift is a donation of ecologically-sensitive land to a land trust such as Lambton Wildlife. The land donation can be a woodlot, farm or other property with ecologically-sensitive areas, which ensures that it will be protected for future generations. This program offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land, or a partial interest of land. Once an appraisal is completed (by an approved appraiser) the appraisal, along with other reports (mapping, watershed, habitats etc.) is submitted for Ministerial Review with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The tax benefits of ecological gifts can be significant: individuals receive a tax credit for the eligible gift amount; the capital gain is reduced to zero (whereas for most gifts the taxable portion is 50% of the capital gain); donors can claim the unused portion of the donation amount for up to 10 years; and there is no limit on the total value of the ecological gifts eligible for the deduction in a given year.

Many ecological gifts are full donations of land with no conditions. However, donating land does not necessarily mean you have to give up your connection to it. You may be able to: retain the right to live on, or use the land; or retain ownership of your land while donating a partial interest through a conservation easement.

To qualify as an ecological gift, the federal Minister of the Environment must: certify the property as ecologically sensitive; Ecologically-sensitive lands are areas or sites that currently, or could at some point in the future, contribute significantly to the conservation of Canada's biodiversity and environmental heritage; approve the recipient to receive the ecological gift; certify the fair market value of the donation; ensure the property contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity for Canada's environmental heritage.

Call for Submissions: Lambton Wildlife hopes Earthways will be a place of sharing and collaboration for our membership. If you have ideas for submissions, member observations, or requests for topics to be covered, please contact us! Email: nethercottsharon2@gmail.com

Yes! I would like to become a Lambton Wildlife member!

Name: _____ Postal Code: _____

Address: _____ City _____

Please circle type of Membership: \$30.00 Single; \$35.00 Family; \$100.00 Corporate; Lifetime Single Membership \$600.00; Lifetime Family Membership \$700.00 Mail to: Lambton Wildlife Inc., PO Box 681 – Sarnia, ON, N7T 7J7

On-line registration: www.lambtonwildlife.com (select green button, top right of home page)

