



THE BLUE HERON

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Hunter Trail in Midhurst in the evening, and trips to Matchedash Bay on Saturday and Tiny Marsh on Sunday.

The major accomplishment of the establishment of the Brereton Field Naturalists' Club Helen Emery Award at Georgian College will help students in the environmental program with their educations. The very generous bequest of \$10,000 from Helen Emery and the matching contribution from the Ontario Government means we will be able to help students for many years to come.

I need to thank our Corporate Sponsors who provided funding and donations to help make this week possible. Without their support we would not have had the great events we did. Many thanks to: TD Friends of the Environment; Larche Communications, better known as KICX FM106 and The DOCK FM; The Barrie Advance; Georgian College; Ontario Waste Management Association; Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery; Stewart Estin, Barristers, Solicitors and Trademark Agents; Silver Birch Wealth Management; Eric Taves Law Firm; Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority; The Bird House Nature Company; Canadian Tire. I may be President of the BFNC, and by default on the 60th Anniversary Committee, but most of the hard work has been done by those who volunteered to be part of the 60th Anniversary Committee. A lot of meetings later they can almost relax. Pat Duncan took the leadership of the Committee into her very capable hands and kept us going in the right direction. Rob Cook played the major role in securing corporate sponsorships and Ian Cook and Alex Mills put together the outstanding field trip program. Inga Brinckmann looked after the ticket sales for the Gala Dinner and arranged for our wonderful birthday cake. Al McNair made contact with the Mayor's Office to arrange the proclamation and flag raising events and contacted the Town Crier. And last but not least Phyllis Tremblay worked hard with Pat to make the arrangements with Georgian College and helped with the decorations for the dinner amongst many other tasks. My heartfelt thanks to all members of the Committee.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brereton Field Naturalists Club 60th Anniversary



As I write this I can't help but note that celebrating a 60th Anniversary of any sort is a major event. I am sure the 35 people who met in February 1951 to form the Brereton Field Naturalists' Club all had great hopes

for the success of the club, but I wonder if any of them would have thought we would still be going strong 60 years later.



While the BFNC 60th Anniversary may not have quite the same status as my parents' 60th Anniversary last year, it is still something that needed to be celebrated in fine style. Our "One Week, 60 Years of Nature" events were just such a celebration. By now I hope many of you had been able to participate in and enjoy the many field trips that went on during the week. There were trips to Mayer's Marsh in the morning and the Russell

So our big week is over and it is now time to look forward to the future. With the interest in all things environmental these days I know there is a place for the BFNC to continue its work with the various regulatory agencies and to help bring our love of nature to the public and get the next generations interested in continuing the aim of the BFNC "to protect our natural heritage. Our aims are to acquire and share knowledge of natural history, to protect wildlife, and to stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation". I challenge all members to give some thought as to how we can reach out to that next generation of naturalists and share those thoughts with the BFNC. Can we run a young naturalist program? Can we get into the elementary and high schools? Let's make this our mission for the next few years. With our help now who is to say there will not be a BFNC 100th Anniversary.

Bruce Wilson

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SPRING AT MATCHEDASH BAY May 28/11

Bright overcast, clearing and sunny. 16 people attended.

Birds: Killdeer, Meadow Lark, Ring-billed Gull, Red-winged Blackbird, Amer. Robin, Blue Jay, Amer. Goldfinch, Green Heron, Amer. Crow, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Great-crested Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern King Bird, Eastern Phoebe, Veery, Caspian Tern, House Wren, Common Grackle, Northern Cardinal, Baltimore Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Osprey, Bobolink, Northern Harrier, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Cat Bird, Belted Kingfisher, Trumpeter Swans (H), Canada Goose, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Great Blue Heron, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Spotted Sandpiper, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Mallard Duck, Black-capped Chickadee, Warblers - Golden-winged, Common Yellow Throat, Black & White, Yellow, Nashville, Blackpoll, Oven Bird, Northern Water Thrush, Amer. Redstart, Sparrows - Song, Chipping, Swamp. (52 species)

Other: White-tailed Deer, Chipmunk, Muskrat, Dusky-winged Butterfly, Amer. Emerald Butterfly, Basket-tailed (sp) Dragon Fly.

Dave Lord

BIRDING CARDEN ALVAR

June 11/11

Bright overcast most of the day, clouding up at times, thunder storm threatened in late afternoon.

Seventeen people made up our group in total.



We drove from Little Lake to the Tim Horton's in Orillia and met up with David and a gentleman from the Midland Naturalists Club, we then drove up to Carden.

Birds: At the Little Lake parking lot - Rose-breasted Grosbeak, European Starling, Amer. Robin, Yellow Warbler, Blue Jay. On the Carden - Northern Harrier, Common Yellow-throat Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Amer. Crow, Mourning Dove, Canada Geese, Ring-billed Gull, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow Warbler, Barn Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Least Flycatcher, Bobolink, Common (Wilson's) Snipe, Amer. Goldfinch, Northern Flicker, Red-eyed Vireo, Upland Sandpiper, Warbling Vireo, Turkey Vulture, Great Blue Heron, European Starling, Eastern Phoebe, Black-billed Cuckoo, House Wren, Golden-winged Warbler, Oven Bird, Virginia Rail, Alder Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Cedar Waxwing, Mallard Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Blue Jay, Indigo Bunting, Wild Turkey, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Sparrows - Song, Savannah, Chipping, Grasshopper, Swamp, Field

David Lord

ORO RAIL-TRAIL

June 25/11

Weather was overcast with a cool breeze, seven people made the trip.

Chris Evans joined Lynne and me to provide his expertise in the insect realm. We left the Little Lake parking lot, stopped at the heronry on Georgian Drive and then went out Ridge Rd to Oro Station and parked on the 7th. concession where the Rail-Trail crosses the road.



Birds: At Little Lake - European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and Amer. Robin.

Birds: The Herony – Great Blue Heron, Double Crested Cormorant, Virginia Rail, Green Heron, Swamp Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Common Grackle, female Mallard Duck with young, Amer. Crow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Indigo Bunting, Amer. Goldfinch.

Birds: The Rail-Trail - Amer. Robin, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Cedar Waxwing, Black-capped Chickadee, Common Yellow Throat, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Mourning Doves, Gray Catbird, Northern Flicker, Song Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Merlin, Merganser, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Blue Jay, Downey Woodpecker, Female Wood Duck with 8 young.

Plants: Japanese Bamboo or Knock wood (an escape), Dog-strangling Vine, Viper's Bugloss, Bladder Campion, Worm Seed Mustard, Poison Ivy, Virginia Creeper, Upright Bind Weed, Common Vetch, Common Milkweed, Goats Beard, Spreading Dog-Bane, Wild Ginger, Perennial Sweet Pea, Common St John's Wort.

Other – White-tailed Deer, Green Frog, Bull Frog, Gray Squirrel,

VESPRA TRAIL

July 9/11

The outing was led by Lynne and me, there were 9 people. Sunny, very light breeze, temperature 70 – 75F/20-22C

Met at the Little Lake Parking lot and drove out Sunnidale Rd and turned north on Dobson Rd and drove to the end where we parked and hiked in on the un-opened road allowance, eventually crossing the new extension of Seadon Rd and terminating our hike at "Farmer Brown's"

Birds: Amer. Goldfinch, female Bluebird, Blue Jay, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Finch, Indigo Bunting, Song Sp., Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Amer. Crow, Scarlet Tanager, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, Oven Bird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Vireo.

Plants: Philadelphia Fleabane, Virginia Creeper, Herb Robert, Motherwort, Red-berry Elderberry, Enchanter's Nightshade, Nipple Wort, Yellow Avens, White Avens, White Baneberry, Blue



Cohosh, False Solomon Seal, Partridge berry (in bloom), Bracken, Lady Fern, Evergreen Fern, Wild (kidney) bean, Black-eyed Susan,

Common Milk Weed, Sensitive Fern, Wild Bergamot, Blue-stem Goldenrod.

Other: Green frog, Cdn. Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly

Brian & Lynne Gibbon

Lackies' Bush

Sept 17, 2011

We had three people on this year's walk in Lackies' Bush. The day started out damp and cool, but warmed up somewhat as the sun tried to break through later in the morning.

We entered the bush at the Bayview entrance and walked along the path that borders the north side of Whiskey Creek and then crossed the creek and climbed the hill to the top and into an open field. We saw many plants that thrive in the wet shady environment, some native and some garden escapees and others that like the dryer environment of the open field at the top southern side of the park.

With the help of Phyllis and Elizabeth the following Plants were identified:

Carrion Flower, Calico Aster, Purple Stemmed Aster, Arrow Leafed Aster, New England Aster, Obedience Plant (False Dragon Head) Spotted Jewel Weed, yellow and gold Touch Me Not, Bracken, Sensitive, Lady, and Holly Ferns, Ground Ivy, Broad Leaf Burdock, Burr Marigold, Dock, Beggar Ticks, Chickory, Joe-Pye Weed, Japanese Bamboo, Motherwort, False Salomon Seal, Jack in the Pulpit seed cluster, White Baneberry (Dolls Eyes), Garlic Mustard, Wild Sarsaparilla, Herb Robert, Rough Stemmed Goldenrod, Grass leafed Goldenrod, Grey Goldenrod, Pearly Everlasting, Tall Blue Lettuce, Dorf Scowering Rush Horsetail, Partridge Berries, Dog Strangling Vine (Pale Swallow Wort), Spotted Knapweed, Bladder Campion, Alpha Alpha, Fleabane Daisy, Clammy Ground Cherry, Butter and Eggs, Thimbleweed, and Coral Fungus.

Trees of note were - Tamarac, Red Pine, White Pine, Scotch Pine, Balsam Fir, Sugar Maple, Oak, Poplar, Beach, Ash, and Sumac.

Bird Sightings Were:

At LLP by Phyllis while waiting for the group – Magnolia Warbler, Black-Capped Chickadee, Robin, Blue jay, American Crow, Common Yellow throat, Great Blue Heron, King Billed Gulls.

At Lackies Bush – Red Breasted Nuthatch, Black-Capped Chickadee, and Palliated Woodpecker.

While we enjoyed Nature's Beauty we couldn't help noticing amount of garbage in Lackies Bush Park.

Last year on our walk we collected two garbage bags full, and although I collected a bag full

this year, with no exaggeration, it would require a truck to remove the garbage. The City bylaw office was contacted by Dale Allen about the garbage tumbling down the hill from the overflowing dumpsters at the townhouses on the north side. Dale contacted the city in May and it took many calls and much follow up until there was finally a cleanup done (of at least the large items) by the owners. However, on the day of our walk, Sept 17th, the garbage was still noticeable and astonishing. Some garbage is still flowing down the hill from home owners, and there is also lot on the other side of the creek - cans, water bottles, wrappers, etc.

I had the opportunity to speak to Mayor Lehman about it at a town hall meeting. The Mayor's Assistant has followed up on it and called me to say that a cleanup of the area has been put on the agenda of the Park maintenance staff.

Win Bowser

Beeton Sod Farms

Sept. 24, 2011

A group of 8 members of the Brereton Field Naturalists Club accompanied me for a tour of the Beeton Sod Farms and the Beattie Tract south of Alliston. The heavy rains of the previous night did not bode well, but the morning dawned clear and calm. Along the 12th concession between the 10th and 15th sideroads we had leisurely viewing of a large flock of 50+ American Golden Plovers along with at least 4 Black-bellied Plovers. We were treated to a coordinated aerial display. The flock took off, making a flypast that allowed us a look at distinguishing features such as "armpit" patches and upper-tail covert colour.

Also present were numerous pectoral sandpipers and a flock of American Pipits.

We left this area and found another flock of 42 golden plovers one concession north of our first sightings.

A short time later I received a cell call from local birder Susan Menzies. She had discovered an additional species at our first sight on the 12th, so we headed back for a look at the Wilson's Snipe she had turned up. Well worth the return trip.

Moving on to the Beattie Tract (13th Concession, directly south of Alliston) we took a walk through this wonderful mature forest. The high canopy made viewing difficult and we had to sort through the numerous Chipping Sparrows on the edges to find a few warblers. The keen eyes and ears in our group were still able to pick up some nice birds.

Species seen or heard included Red-bellied Woodpecker (a first for some group members), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pine, Nashville, Blackburian and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and in

the central field several Vesper Sparrows.

The group pooled their expertise on plants and insects encountered along the way. We came across this lovely chrysalis. It looks like a monarch chrysalis but the butterfly inside doesn't look right. I'd be interested in any input.

A short time later we found a monarch butterfly caterpillar.

Thanks to the participants for their input and enthusiasm

John Schmelefske

60TH ANNIVERSARY FIELD TRIPS

The Gables

May 4, 2011

This 43 acre natural park within the City of Barrie features majestic towering maple and beech trees, forested shoreline on Kempenfelt Bay and carpets of naturalized spring flowers. The cool weather in April delayed the blooming time to the delight of the 16 participants.

It was a clear evening, with a temperature of 12 C dropping to 9 C & breezy at the lakeshore. On our 2 ½ hour outing only a few songbirds were heard as we walked along the trails.

Plants Observed:- Annual Honesty, Black Raspberry, Blue Cohosh, Canadian Yew, Celadine buds, Common Dandelion, Common Mullein, Dame's Rocket, Early Meadow-rue, False Solomon's Seal, Garlic Mustard, Large-flowered Bellwort, Kidney-leaf Buttercup, Motherwort, Prickly Gooseberry, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Staghorn Sumac, Trout Lily, Two-leafed Toothwort, Virginia Bluebells, Virginia Waterleaf, Red Trillium, Ural False Spiraea, White Lettuce, White Trillium, Wild Ginger, Wild Lily-of-the-Valley, Wild Leek, Wild Red Raspberry & Wood Anemone.



Garden Escapes:- Forsythia, Garden Asparagus, Glory of the Snow, Lesser Periwinkle, Saxifrage Pink plants, Sedum, Spring Squill, Striped Squill & Yellow Anemone.

Birds Observed:- Scaup Species, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Warbler, Chipping Sparrow & Northern Cardinal.

Bird Banding at Little Lake **May 24/11**

A well attended bird banding demonstration at Little Lake introduced a number of adults and young people to bird banding. The purpose of the

banding operations were explained with some examples of migratory bird tracking.

Captured and banded were the following: American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Alex Mills

NORTH SHORE OF LITTLE LAKE May 24/11

Sunny, moderate breeze, cool. 22 people attended.

Birds: Kingbird, Indigo Bunting, Philadelphia Vireo, Canada Geese, Wood Thrush, Black & White Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak,



Oven Bird, Red-eyed Vireo, Vespra Sparrow, Baltimore (Northern) Oriole, Veery, Eastern Wood Pewee, Amer. Crow, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk,

Blue Jay, Great-crested Flycatcher, Common Tern, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, Mallard Duck, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Song Sparrow, Common Grackle, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Amer. Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, Amer. Robin,

Other: Spiny Basket-tailed Dragon Fly, Juvenile Dusty Winged Butterfly.

Phyllis Tremblay

GABLES PARK

May 25/11

Leader – Brian Gibbon & Phyllis Tremblay
Overcast, threatening rain, cool. 13 people attended.

Birds: Northern Cardinal, Great-crested Flycatcher, Amer. Crow, Song Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, Ring-billed Gull.

FERNDALE WETLANDS May 26/11

I met John Doll, Marilyn and Jane at the Spirit Catcher at 9:00AM in the pouring rain. We arrived at the N end of Elizabeth Street about 9:15AM in the pouring rain and met Bruce Wilson, Phyllis Tremblay and Dave Lord who were enjoying a great viewing of a Green Heron perched in a dead tree in the small



pond directly west of the parking area. It was displaying its resplendent breeding plumage, in the pouring rain, which enhanced and enriched its saturated colours. Dave Lord heard and then spotted a Blackpoll Warbler which showed itself well in another dead tree. The clouds provided excellent lighting by diffusing the sun's harsh rays to evenly illuminate these beautiful birds, eliminating that irksome backlighting problem so familiar to birders. We then proceeded to the storm water catchment area where a pair of Canada Geese were shepherding their 16 goslings across the rising pond to the island. The silty storm water was gushing in at a tremendous rate, yet we could observe the clear water filtering out from the spillway to the wetland. Marilyn spotted a Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) here. Volker Brinckmann then joined us as Bruce Wilson was playing back the Virginia Rail calls. Our patience was rewarded with some fleeting, but satisfying glimpses of this beautiful and elusive little wetland fowl. On the trail to the boardwalk, Volker spotted an American Toad (*Bufo americanus*) and Dave spotted an Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*). We crossed the floating boardwalk and as we did the sky brightened and the rain stopped. Dave and Bruce were hearing an American Redstart, but we could not see it. The now bright sky was bad timing, as the Indigo Bunting across Ferndale to the northwest was now a terribly backlit silhouette, forcing us to imagine the depth of its rich blue plumage. We tucked in to the wooded trail to the northeast and were alerted by the raucous call of a Belted Kingfisher as it flew from its perch to find a more secluded fishing spot. Phyllis pointed out the Partridgeberry growing on the forest floor and Volker spotted a Woodchuck or Groundhog (*Marmota monax*). On the way back we noticed the Canada Mayflower or Wild Lily-of-the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*) amongst the Poison Ivy and Sensitive Fern. I asked Bruce to play the "mobbing" recording to see if we could draw out the American Redstart. He did, and it worked. At least some of us got good looks at a vibrant male American Redstart flashing his striking orange breast and orange tail bars. Marilyn spotted the Spotted Sandpiper hidden in shoreline vegetation, its beach now flooded by the storm water. Jane spotted a Midland Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) on a log in the eastern wetland pond.

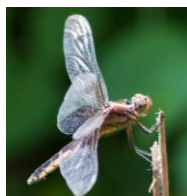
So it was a wet outing, but it did not dampen the BFNC spirits in the least. The wildlife were undaunted by the rain, except for the Odonata and Lepidoptera. Hopefully, the June 25th outing will offer these sun loving species in spades.

Birds:

SPECIES		S Code
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	SR*
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	SR*
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	SR*
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	SR*
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	SR*
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	SR*
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	SR*
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	SR*
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	YR*
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	SR*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	SR*
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	YR*
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	YR*
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	SR*
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	SR*
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	SR*
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	SR*
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	SR*
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	YR*
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	YR*
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	SR*
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	YR*
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	SR*
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombicilla cedrorum</i>	YR*
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	SR*
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	SR*
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	M
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	SR*
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	SR*
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	SR*
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	SR*
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	YR*
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	SR*
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	SR*
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	SR*
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	SR*
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	SR*
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	YR*
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	YR*

S Code Legend

SR = Summer Resident
 WR = Winter Resident
 * = Nesting
 YR = Year Resident
 VR = Very Rare
 EX = Extinct



O = Occasional
 M = Migrant

Chris Evans
 The Dragonhunter's Apprentice

[NORTH SIMCOE RAIL-TRAIL](#) [May 27/11](#)

Early fog, threatened rain then bright overcast. Our speaker from the gala, Mike Runtz, joined us and continued with his infectious enthusiasm.



Birds: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, Barn, Cliff, and Rough-winged Swallows, Eastern Kingbird, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Veery, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird, Song Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow

Alex Mills

[LIFE'S WORK HONOURED](#)

As some of you may know, BFNC member Frank Cook is a retired biology professor. He taught at the University of Western Ontario in London before moving up to Barrie with his wife Dorothy in 1998. Although his career took place in the classrooms and labs of the university, his passion took him to the woods, barrens and wetlands of Ontario and beyond.

For much of his adult life Frank has studied and collected mosses, those low growing, fuzzy green plants most of us are familiar with, growing on tree trunks or rocks or on forest floors. There are thousands of species of mosses growing virtually everywhere on earth. Identifying them is notoriously difficult, usually requiring careful observation with magnifying lens and microscope.

Over the years Frank amassed an impressive collection of mosses. Most are from Southern Ontario, but some are from his travels to Alberta and B.C. and a few from elsewhere in the world. Carefully identified, recorded and organized, his collection grew, residing in Frank and Dorothy's basement, in dozens of carefully labeled shoe-boxes!

Through Orillia naturalist Nancy Ironside, the curator of the herbarium (a sort of museum for plants) at the Canadian Museum of Nature got wind of Frank's collection. One day last spring, she paid a visit to Frank and Dorothy and was overwhelmed by the significance and organization of the collection she found. Would Frank be willing to donate his collection to the museum in Ottawa? Of course he would.

In June, Frank's son and grandson delivered the entire collection, still in those shoe-boxes, to Ottawa. The staff at the herbarium were thrilled to receive it, and immediately started the process of incorporating the collection into the museum. The herbarium is a huge climate controlled space of steel cabinets housing hundreds of thousands of plant specimens from every corner of Canada. Housed in the same massive building are important collections of fossils, dinosaur bones, mammal skeletons, bird skins, fishes, and every other imaginable creature. Curator Jennifer Doubt took half the day to show Ian and Adrian all over the facility, and behind the scenes where research and cataloguing is done. It was quite an experience.

So now Frank's life work, and labour of love, resides where it should, in Canada's national herbarium, along with specimens collected by some of the most important naturalists of Canada, dating back over 150 years. They provide an important resource for present and future researchers in ecology, biology, genetics and other disciplines. Well preserved and organized, they will be there waiting for study for generations to come. Well done Frank!

Ian Cook

Chimney Swift (CHSW) Project Report 2011

A chimney swift is not a spectacular bird to look at, but to witness large flocks circling a chimney at sunset before entering a roost for the night has to be one of the most fascinating, even jaw dropping sights!

Our season got off on a high note when Elisabeth van Stam, Ontario Project Biologist for Bird Studies Canada's SwiftWatch Program spoke to the BFNC about monitoring this *Species at Risk*. That night several enthusiastic members decided to

volunteer, and eventually 29 people participated on our CHSW Team during the 2011 season. In July, 11 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Rangers assisted our team for 3 days with Daytime Monitoring and performing 108 Chimney Inventories in 3 ½ squares. 4 more active chimneys were noted, raising our total to 17.

At the beginning of May, we completed the Chimney Inventory for a new 500 metre x 500 metre square including Simcoe, Toronto, Mary, Maple and Dunlop Streets - just as the first CHSW arrived on May 5. During our Presence/Absence Surveys from mid-May until the end of August, we found 7 chimneys with chimney swift activity in this new square.

To determine if there was chimney swift activity in the 7 chimneys identified in 2010, four or more scheduled visits occurred, and we observed CHSW presence in 6 of these chimneys again in 2011.

On August 27, CHSW were observed circling over Barrie for the last time this year and are making their long journey to South America.

All our data will be sent to Bird Studies Canada. Inga Brinckmann is again preparing a spread sheet for our use and Elizabeth Gillan has photographed the new sites.

Phyllis Tremblay
SwiftWatch Regional
Coordinator



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BANDING

Nigel Shaw and I would like to thank the 22 BFN members and guests who came out to visit the Simcoe County Banding Group at Scanlon Creek on Saturday night to find out what Northern Saw-Whet Owl banding is all about. We got lucky as the owls cooperated and everyone who attended was able to see at least one owl and see how we process the birds doing our part for citizen science.



We had some very good questions and I hope we answered all of them to your satisfaction. I know we had a great time showing you what we do and enjoyed the company. And we have seen some great pictures of the birds.

There is one thing we would like to request of you. If you enjoyed the evening please contact Brian Kemp of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and let him know you

appreciated the opportunity. Public education is an important part of the program and your support will help us all. Brian has made it possible for Nigel to carry out the banding of raptors and owls at Scanlon Creek and by letting him know the type of event we arranged Saturday night was enjoyable and informative will help him in promoting and supporting continuation of the program. Please be sure to mention Nigel's name in your emails.

Brian's email address is b.kemp@lsrca.on.ca

Thanks again to all who came out and thanks for your support.

Bruce Wilson

BFNC Bluebird Nest Box Program

This is BFNC's second year of maintaining and monitoring a bluebird nest box trail in our area. We are proud to report that 2011 was an extremely successful year. The following is a summary of the nest box activity in 2010 and 2011.

BFNC maintains and monitors two bluebird nest box trails, one in Essa township (24 boxes) and a new trail in Oro-Medonte (20 boxes). Brian and Lynne Gibbon also have installed 10 boxes near their property on Dobson Road. Other BFNC members who have their own boxes on their property are Peter Webster (6 boxes) and Dan MacNeil (10 boxes).

This year BFNC volunteers purchased material to build an additional 24 new Dorrie Style bluebird nest boxes. Volunteers who helped to build boxes were John Doll, Jean Marc Roy, Anthony Taliana and Liz Van Niekerk. Everyone did a wonderful job constructing and painting the boxes.



The Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society recommends installing nest boxes on metal poles

rather than on fence posts or telephone poles. They also recommend greasing the poles as a means of predator proofing the boxes. Having the boxes mounted on poles also allows for easier access to the boxes and allows us to install them on the road allowances, rather than privately owned fences.

This past spring we used 15 metal poles donated by Bruce Wilson and IWS to move boxes from fence posts onto metal posts at both the Tangle Creek and Oro locations. BFNC also received a very generous donation of 40 new galvanized steel poles from Barrie Metals. We would like to thank Barrie Metals for supporting our bluebird nest box program. BFNC volunteers will be installing the balance of our bluebird nest boxes onto these new poles this fall.



I would also like to thank all the volunteers who assisted in installing, building, painting, monitoring and collecting data during a very successful breeding season.

Pat Duncan

<u>NEST</u>	<u>EGGS</u>		<u>FLEDGED</u>			
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Tree Swallows	9	21	38	101	38	88
Eastern Bluebirds	3	10	14	47	3	33



PHOTO CREDITS – All photos courtesy of Brian Backland

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