

THE BLUE HERON



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BRERETON FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF BARRIE

Spring Issue 2014.

www.bfnclub.org

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Avian Rhapsody

By Paul Forde, Editor

Right! So we now have our songs back. The notes we missed all winter. The tunes that we remember from our youth and yearn to hear each spring. Move over I-Tunes. Pull out your i-buds Take a break you silly "reality" singing competitions. The seasonal cacaphony that dates back to the cave people has taken over again.

The songs of nature are back.

These include evening tree frogs or the other frogs that sound out on these warm nights. Mammals have their chatter in the woods as well. Lets not forget about the sound of the new leaves blowing in the wind. Slip in there the upcoming crickets and cicadas. It is an ochestra. Without a conductor for sure,...but an orchestra. It is ours to hear, to understand, identify, focus in on and most importantly...to love.

As a neophyte naturalist, I cannot get over how my ears are becoming better at hearing nature sounds that I don't ever recall hearing before each year. I actually think I can identify a new bird sound from old standards amongst the chorus from the trees. Identifying that particular animal is not always easy. It's quite difficult considering that most birds have a litany of different vocalizations for different reasons.

There are the **songs** they sing and there are their **calls**. Both functionally different. Songs are apparently longer in duration and louder. They are used by the males to attract females from great distances. Calls can be for simple chatter about food or alarms of danger. There is a variety of scientific information out there to help you with learning about these and I would encourage all naturalists to read up more on this topic. It will help with your future identification of species and your enjoyment of birds in general. It will probably answer some of your long held questions about why they make the sounds that they do.

In the meadow behind my house, we now recognize the angry sounding call of the Red Winged Blackbird crying " Hey! Here I am!" versus the alarm call to attack a crow or hawk. This call is very, very loud and successfully brings in other RWBLs from afar to come to their aid in repelling and scaring off an intruder.

Have you heard of duet calls? Quails, Shrikes, and Owls have been known to sing together in such a perfectly timed way that their songs sound like one. There's also the CountersSing and of course Mimiking. To read up on these and much more about bird sounds I would like to direct you to these websites.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_vocalization and <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/studying/birdsongs/>
and <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/studying/birdsongs/sounds> or <http://avocet.zoology.msu.edu/>

Photo by Dick Cronberg



Meet our New Club President, Chris Evans

Chris Evans took over the reins of the BFNC in April as its new club president. He has been the club's vice president for the last two years and an active trip leader while a club member. He joined in 2005.

He is an avid, passionate lifetime amateur naturalist and conservationist. He recently retired as Senior Engineer with Hydro One after 35 years of service in April 2012.

He can often be found slowly paddling his canoe up Willow Creek in Barrie stalking and then closely and carefully photographing a dragonfly on a Pickerelweed leaf. This is an earnest pastime that keeps him quite busy.

Chris is the published photographer and co-author of the Ministry of Natural Resources 2012 publication report titled "Ontario Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Recovery Strategy". This was a study detailing a rare dragonfly that Chris discovered in the Minesing Wetlands. If you Google the reports title, you will be able to study this report in detail and get a feel for its importance.

His serious passions are indeed the dragonflies, but also include a love of butterflies, birds, herps, and wildflowers. Pretty well anything of the natural world would grab his attention. Not to be dismissed is his love of canoeing, orienteering, mountain biking, hiking, nature photography, yoga and spending time with his lovely Ruth, whom he met in the club.



The editor posed some personal questions to Chris for this article and got some enlightening answers.

Can you tell me your earliest memory from your childhood of looking at nature and seeing it as wonderful? Did you ever try to help an injured wild animal such as a bird as a boy?

I grew up in what was then the rural Township of Ancaster, Ontario, as the second of 4 boys. Our house was on 2.5 acres of land adjacent to a wetland to the north, farm fields and woodlots across the road to the east, neighbors to the south and the great beyond to the west was farm fields followed by forest and then "the golf course" and the village. One day, while playing near the back of our property at our fort, we flushed a Woodcock off her nest which we then discovered at the base of a tiny Scots Pine sapling. To our amazement and wonder, when she came back to the nest, if we were quiet and respectful in our approach, she would allow us to gently stroke her back as she brooded. Her specialized long bill, amazing camouflage and determination to overcome her fear of us and to protect her eggs struck us with awe and wonder.

Do you remember the first time you looked through some binoculars and saw nature that had always been far away.... close up.

Our dad died in a tragic car accident when I was 3 years old. Dad was an outdoorsman and left us a pair of 7 x 35 binoculars which we made great use of.

....Continued on Page 14

WALKS & TALKS

BIRDING AT CARDEN ALVAR WALK

Saturday June 14 2014, 7:30am - 4:00pm

ALTERNATE MEET SITE - 8:00 am -Tim Horton's at the SW corner of the intersection of Memorial Dr. and Hwy 12

Contact: Brian Gibbon 705-721-4599

Alvars are a rare kind of landscape, places where limestone flats are near the surface, creating conditions for a specialized flora and wonderful bird habitat.

Carden Alvar (about an hour's drive north east from Barrie) is a great place to view a rich diversity of birds, some of which are very difficult to find elsewhere. Past sightings have included Loggerhead Shrikes, Yellow Warblers, Golden-Winged Warblers, Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Woodcocks and many exciting and unique types of grasses and plants.

Vehicle and easy walking, bring lunch & drinks or enjoy local restaurant. Ends 3-4:00 pm



Photo by Paul Forde



Oro Rail Trail Walk - *The Last Trip of the Season!*

Saturday 28 June 2014, 8:30am - 1:00pm

Contact: Brian Gibbon 705-721-4599

Explore the flora and fauna of the Oro Railtrail with the Brereton Field Naturalists' and Brian Gibbon (705 721-4599) on Saturday June 28th leaving the Little Lake Parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Easy walking. Bring water and a snack. Ends about 1 p.m

Summer SwiftWatch Schedule:

Weekly Chimney Swift Monitoring will be on Tuesday evenings, beginning June 10. Contact Phyllis for time & location: petremblay@rogers.com



On different nights, BFNC Swift Watch Volunteers meet downtown to observe and count the Swifts who are flying overhead, around and into the various old unused chimneys that are found in the downtown core of Barrie.

Photos courtesy of Clare Holden



Minesing Wetlands Trip

Saturday February 8th, 2014

Trip Leader- Jim Spruce

Snowy Owl Photo by David Walsh

Temp at start -14 at finish -8.

Twenty four people enjoyed the trip with some counting the Snowy Owl as a life sighting.



On McKinnon Road we saw a Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser in open water flowing under McKinnon Road where the intersection goes west towards Brentwood. At the big house at the end were Northern Cardinal, European Starling, Blue Jay, American Goldfinch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Tree Sparrow and Black-capped Chickadee.

A Common Raven was along Con. 6 of Sunnidale Township as was the Snowy Owl just before the turn on to Strongville Rd. Special thanks to David Walsh for knowing where to find the owl. Returning along Hwy 26 and Glengarry Road we saw a Rough-legged Hawk hovering above a backyard on the east side. It stayed for possibly two minutes, enabling us to see the magnificent markings on its underside. The light reflecting off the snow illuminated the feather

patterns distinctly and it was generally agreed that we had not seen this kind of display before. Crows were noted and Rock Pigeons in Minesing. Near Barrie Hill Farms we watched two Wild Turkeys in the back yard of a local residence This brought our total to eighteen species.

Minesing Floodplain Field Trip

April 12th 2014

Leader- Jim Spruce

Editors Notes... It was a nice sunny spring morning when we all met and took off for the tour. There were a lot of people on this trip and the road convoy of eager birders of all ages was very long.

The road trip did not get going into the Minesing wetlands until about 9:30 but once we headed down McKinnon Road, we encountered our first flooded fields... and roads! Our road came to an end for most vehicles in the large group, but some with four wheel drive were able to continue on a bit through the water. While we all stopped just before this, we got out and using our scopes, picked out large groups of Canada Geese in the fields and some Mergansers. It was a busy flooded field, but most birds were too far away to see well. Everyone had to turn back down to Hwy. 90 again due to the road conditions.

We separated from the main group and with just four cars, went out looking for access roads into the Minesing floodlands. We went up into the town of Minesing and then down a side road out of town. Here we encountered some detours of roads due to flooding and

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Minesing Floodlands Tour - continued

more flooded fields with some fowl out in them. Upon inspection, we identified large numbers of Mergansers, Mallards and Buffleheads.

Venturing further around those flooded fields, we encountered a couple in their car who told us that they had seen Sandhills on Strongville Road. Going there via 26, we found them in the fields and in the sky. It was wonderful.



V.P Wades truck wading.

There were hundreds of waterfowl in this flooded field, but most were too far away to identify.

Sandhill Cranes, feeding in the field along Strongville Road.



Bear Creek Trip

Sunday, May 4th
Trip Leader: Alex Mills

Seven members met this morning to explore the Bear Creek wetland. We visited two places and stayed out from 7:20 to about 11:20 am.

We found 44 species of birds, including the following more notable ones: Several Common Loons flying over (and a couple on Kempenfelt Bay), two Broad-winged Hawks overhead, two Virginia Rails calling from cattails, one Pileated Woodpecker, one singing House Wren, many Ruby-crowned Kinglets, five warbler species including Black-throated Green Warbler (3), Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler (3), Nashville Warbler (also 3), and another Warbler called the Northern Waterthrush (several from their usual haunts in the wet woods there), and Rusty Blackbird.

When the sun finally came out, we were pleased to tally 13 Painted Turtles.



Photo by Paul Forde

Club members, left to right - Dorothy McKeown, Beryl Lougher, Wade Hodgson, Alex Mills, Susan Murtha, Peter Mills

Gables Wildflower Tour

Wednesday, May 7th
Trip Leader: Paul Forde



We had about 15 people out to walk the trails. Al McNair brought his big map of the Gables at the start to show everyone what they would be walking through. He also gave an excellent spiel on some of the history of the woodlot which intrigued people.

It is not at all- all wildflowers in the Gables as a fair number of the flowers have been planted by different people at different times over the last 100 years or so.

Gables Wildflower Tour - continued

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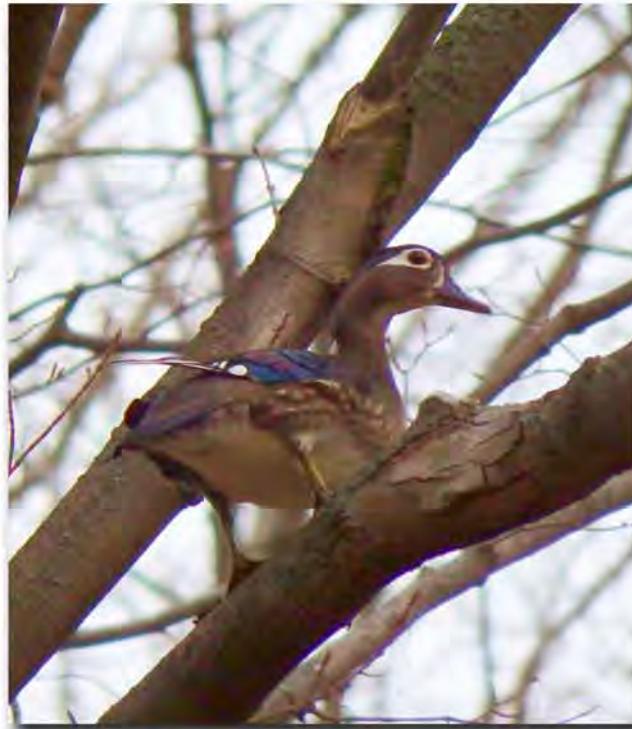
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The White Trilliums were out and they alone stole the show. Yellow Anemones, White Wood Anemone, the invasive but attractive Perriwinkle, Striped Squill (*Puschkinia*) which was blue and white, totally blue Siberian Squill, Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa*), Celandine with its orange coloured stem liquid, Horsetail, Large Flowered Bellwort, Blue Cohosh, Wild Leek, Garlic Mustard and Poison Ivy were seen. There are many plants in this woodlot and too many to mention in this report.

We saw some Goldeneyes out on the bay and coming back up the trail, someone noticed a duck in one of the high trees. Turns out it was a female Wood duck. I got the people to stay still and be quiet so as not to startle her and she then relaxed and flew to another tree where she had her nesting holes.

Janet Sutton-Brown Sauve captured this great shot of the female Wood duck.



The tour

*Photos
by
Paul Forde*



White Wood Anemone

Copeland Forest Outing

Wednesday, May 10th
Trip Leader: Dave Lord

Fifteen birders took part in the Brereton annual Copeland Forest Spring outing. This was done in the northwestern part of the forest, accessed from the first parking lot east of county road 93.

Habitat included a beaver pond, open field, and cattail marsh controlled by a weir as well as mixed hardwood and conifer forest.

While normally this walk focuses on spring ephemerals as well as birds, there were few of the former (wildflowers) to be found. This no doubt due to the brutal winter (hopefully now behind us).

Wildflowers seen included Red Trilliums, Trout Lilies, and Marsh Marigolds.

The weather was cool with temperatures around the 12° mark, and moderate westerlies. The skies were mainly clear.

Of note were 2 porcupines seen in different locales; - one in a tree, and one moving through a grassy area.

Some of the birds seen or heard included:

Trumpeter Swans (2)
Hooded Merganser
Pied-billed Grebe
Turkey Vulture
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Sandhill Crane on way to forest
Solitary Sandpiper
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler

Spring Migration at Tiny Marsh

Saturday May 17th
Trip Leader - Don Scanlon

Beginning at Little Lake parking lot, we spotted 2 male and 1 female Scarlet Tanagers. The temperature at 7 A.M. was cool 5 degrees C.

We travelled to Tiny Marsh and met people there for a total of 7 people.

We concentrated on migrant songbirds and did not spend much time at the wetter portions of the marsh for this reason and the cold temperature in the windy areas. The list is quite long and extensive and a bit too much to put here in the newsletter, however it can be found in its entirety on the Simcoe Nature Board.

Some of the birds we saw that morning were Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Trumpeter Swan, Green-winged Teal, Osprey, Virginia Rail, ...



Spring Migration at Tiny Marsh - continued

Black-throated Blue and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Osprey, Solitary Sandpiper, Black Tern, American Redstart, Blackburnian Warbler, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Wood Thrush and Great Crested Flycatcher. Sightings of the Warblers species totaled 20, making it a great day and my personal best!



Don Scanlon is in the brown coat above leading this trip. Alongside him are Beryl Lougher and Dorothy McKeown. The editor stands on the boardwalk that runs through certain "moist" sections of the area to allow us to access and observe the wonderful collection of birds, plantlife, and fauna that are found here. It is a very special area that allows nature to thrive in a special environment. Even a very special Orange-crowned Warbler was observed there that day by Chris Evans and Ruth Noland.

I would encourage all members to make a point of visiting this place. It is just outside of Elmvale and thus not too far from Barrie. Go early, take a lunch and stay the day. We were there before the bug season but I would imagine that bug spray would be important to bring along during the summer months.

Information about Tiny Marsh can be found at www.tinymarsh.ca. It is managed by the Marl Tiny Matchedash (MTM) Conservation Association. This is an incorporated, not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to managing one Provincial Resource Management Area and two Provincial Wildlife Areas which are Marl Lake, Tiny Marsh, and Matchedash Bay in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited Canada. There is no cost to entering these areas. On the following page is a collection of photographs of the wetland and critters we were able to photograph that morning.

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Spring Migration at Tiny Marsh - *continued*



Clockwise from top left: Phoebe, Painted Turtle, Trumpeter Swan, Painted Turtles, Yellow Rumped Warbler, Tiny Marsh, Solitary Sandpiper,

Bluebird Nest Box Trail Field Trip

Wednesday May 21st, 2014
Trip Leader - Pat Duncan

It was the perfect evening for a walk down the Bluebird Trail on Wednesday May 21st. Winds were calm, the sun was shining and the temperature was comfortable for those in attendance.

There were 13 people attended the walk, five of them newcomers.



Photos
by
Rob Cook

Trip leaders Pat Duncan and Rob Cook explained to everyone the importance of having a nest box trail. Nest boxes provide nesting cavities for Bluebirds, whose natural nesting cavities have been reduced by loss of habitat and by the more aggressive House Sparrows and European Starlings. They explained how BFNC volunteers monitor the boxes on a weekly basis and that data is collected throughout the summer to be submitted to the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society annually.

As we walked down the trail we saw many different grassland species including Eastern Bluebird, Tree swallows, Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Killdeer and Eastern Meadowlark, American Goldfinch and Northern Oriole. We also spotted a Great Blue Heron, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Crow and Barn Swallows. Total species was 13.



Bluebird Nest Box Trail Field Trip - continued

A number of the nest boxes had active Bluebird or Tree Swallow nests in them. We peeked into some of the boxes and viewed a variety of nest types at different stages. We saw Tree Swallow nests with eggs; we checked out a nest box containing Bluebird eggs; we carefully looked into boxes containing newly hatched Eastern Bluebirds. A new feeding platform was set up near a new bluebird nest.



Mealworms were put onto the feeding station and the male and female bluebird promptly attended and started feasting on the mealworms. We learned about the different types of nests that might be encountered along a nest box trail, including house sparrow, house wren and chickadee nests. We also learned about how to predator-proof the nest boxes on the trail.

Swift Night Out

On a very cloudy but warm, still night about 30 people met to watch around 200 swifts enter Barrie's main roost, the Queen's Hotel. We had 6 Midland Naturalists and 2 biologists from Bird Studies Canada come out. Quite a number of people that parked their car earlier in the Mulcaster/Collier lot stayed to watch the swifts enter the chimney as well.

Carolyn from BSC had brought a stuffed chimney swift for all to see. It garnered a lot of attention. Unfortunately, no one had actually counted the number of swifts going in, so we had to take an average. Carolyn & Volker were sure that there were close to 200 swifts and I thought there were more swifts that night than we usually have (+130). Other experienced bird watchers didn't believe we had more than 100.

The swifts swirled and entered about 9:05pm and then another cloud of swifts appeared and entered about 9:15pm. By 9:30pm we called an end to the night.



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Swift Night Out - continued



Exterior chimney at Unity Christian High School on Burton Avenue



Interior chimney at Unity Christian High School on Burton Avenue



Breretons gathering to observe the Swifts downtown Barrie.

Photo by Clare Holden

Meet our New Club President, Chris Evans

- Continued from Page 2

I remember spending hours observing a Red-tailed Hawk as it sat perched in a tall Elm Tree in the back hedgerow. The binoculars enabled me to observe the details of its posture and where it was looking and how it responded when it spotted a vole, moved its head to better see its prey, swooped from its perch, captured its prey and returned to its perch to consume it. With the view the binoculars provided, I could imagine being the Hawk.

What made you want to join the club? When did you join the Brereton's and what were your first impressions of the people in it and what they were doing?

I moved to Midhurst in 1985 and was very busy working and being the father of Andrew, Kate and David, but kept an eye on the BFNC in the local papers, with a patient longing to meet Alex Mills and other club members when family life settled down. When the kids started heading off on their own pursuits I continued to walk along the North Simcoe Rail Trail and developed a passion to photograph and identify butterflies and dragonflies. One of my work colleagues, Bob Bowles, is an amazing naturalist and helped me identify the subjects of my photographs as few others could. I started posting photos and commenting on Bob's Simcoe Nature Board and in 2004 or 2005, Lynn Pope saw some of my postings and contacted me to see if I'd help the BFNC by leading a Dragonfly field trip. I agreed and was so enamoured by the members' enthusiasm and passion for sharing knowledge and experiences in nature, I signed right up.

Had you been observing and studying nature a lot before you joined the club?

Yes. I had been observing and studying nature closely for many years before joining the club. The club provided me with the opportunities to share my insights with others of like mind and to receive insights from others of like mind.

Why – dragonflies? Why have you loved and focused on them?

The Dragonflies have come to me in a way that is bringing me to an awareness of our connection to all living beings. It is a deeply spiritual awareness. They guide and focus my awareness, teaching me how to love all living beings. Initially I was fascinated by the diversity and the intricacy of their physical structures, colours, behaviours and enigmatic abilities. How could I resist?

Tell how you first saw the Hines Emerald and where this occurred?

My mentor, Bob Bowles, advised that if I wanted to find different Dragonflies I need only seek out different habitats. So on my way home from work on June 20th, 2007, eve of the Summer Solstice, I decided to drive by the Minesing Wetlands, possibly the richest and most diverse habitat in Ontario. As I slowed for the curve on Pinegrove Road where it turns at Old Orchard Road, an unfamiliar Dragonfly crossed my view. I stopped and got out with my camera. It was very hot and humid and the air was humming with Deerflies.

There were a few of these unfamiliar Dragonflies, apparently feasting on the Deerflies and other Diptera. These Dragonflies were "fliers", like Darners, but different in some way. I watched carefully as they foraged. They would appear and disappear in the shadows and then vanish altogether. Never was there a photo opportunity. After 20 or 30 minutes of patiently enduring the heat and the Deerflies, I decided I'd try to net one. I relinquished the camera and got out the net. These fliers all flew too high, too fast, too erratic. But I did manage to catch one with my net and some gymnastic effort.

Meet our New Club President, Chris Evans - continued

Female *Somatochlora*
Hineana -
Hines Emerald



My thoughts now were...Wow! A *Somatochlora*. It looks like a Clamp-tipped Emerald (*Somatochlora tenebrosa*). That's an S2 - "Imperiled—Imperiled in the nation or state/province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the nation or state/province.". I need to take good photos of his thoracic stripes and abdominal appendages and the GPS coordinates and send them in to Colin Jones at the Natural Heritage Information Centre, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Could you elaborate a bit on your interest in Willow Creek and Little Lake?

Willow Creek watershed feeds into the Minesing Wetlands. Essentially, Little Lake and the Willow Creek have wetlands which are fragments of similar habitats found in the Minesing Wetlands, but much more accessible than the vast Minesing Wetlands. This makes them easy to enjoy in an outing of an hour or two, more or less. A trip to similar areas in the Minesing Wetlands is generally a several hour commitment, and the fens are too fragile to be frequented.

Photography by Chris Evans



Photographed in Minesing Swamp by Chris, this is the Common Blue Violet (*Viola papilionacea*)



Chris and Ruth canoed Willow Creek in the winter and found great beauty in the cold waters.

Meet our New Club President, Chris Evans

- Continued from Page 15

The Minesing Wetlands is a powerful wilderness surrounded by human development, where it is fairly easy to detach yourself from the distant surrounding manufactured environment and immerse yourself in the experience of the natural environment and connect directly to the life and energy of the place. Little Lake and Willow Creek have the same energy, but the visual and audible pollution of human development are more obvious and so it requires more skill and wisdom to allow yourself to let the distraction go and connect to the natural world. Each place has its own challenges and its own rewards. I feel blessed to be able to enjoy these amazing places as part of my life experiences.



Chris (in red cap) leading the Brereton Lakeshore Migrants Birding tour last fall

What things would you like to see the Breretons' participate in over the next few years?

I would like to see the BFNC get more involved with school programs helping teachers with education about nature through our Swiftwatch, Bluebird and Field Trip programs. This concept could also be extended to seniors. Our field trips are already focused on senior accessibility, but I'd like to see us introduce a similar field trip and activity program focused on children. Perhaps Ontario Nature can give us some suggestions and guidance in this area.

How can we grow as a club?

The above initiatives will help our member leaders and coordinators grow and give us excellent exposure to young people and families, hopefully diversifying our membership and helping to attract younger members.

Chris Evans,
Enjoying the great outdoors.



Bird Studies Canada Report

State of Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Valley's marsh birds and frogs

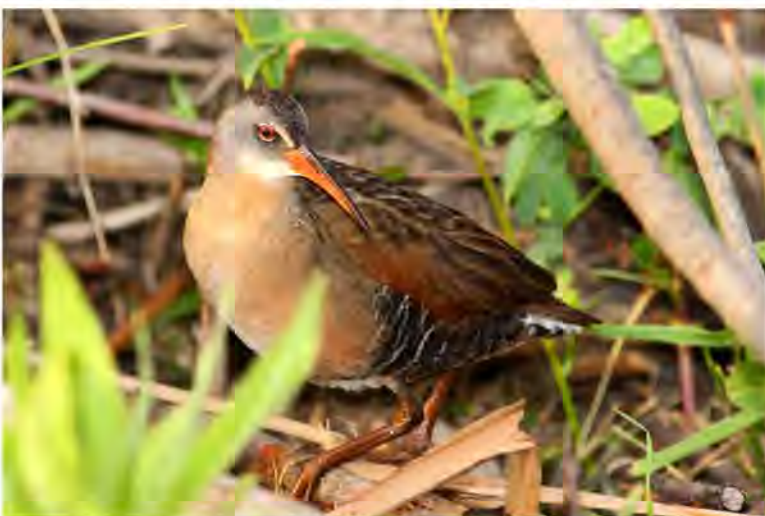


In early May Bird Studies Canada (BSC) hosted "Empowering Citizen Scientists in the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Valley Areas", a workshop geared to training volunteers to conduct bird and frog surveys for the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program (GLMMP). The event was held at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation followed by a field trip to the south end of Minesing Swamp. Over 15 people attended, with several committing to survey birds and frogs in the local area this spring. The inspiring day ended with an extremely close encounter with a very secretive Virginia Rail much to everyone's delight.

The event was part of a special initiative by BSC to increase the number of naturalists participating in the GLMMP in the local area over the next two years with the ultimate goal of producing a document outlining the state of the health of local marshes.

Marsh birds and frogs are among the best indicators of wetland ecosystem health. They sit high on the food chain, where they accumulate a wide range of chemicals and toxins; they are quick to leave a region when the number and arrangement of wetlands falls below suitable levels; and they are sensitive to climate change. Assessing their population status indirectly monitors the state of entire wetland ecosystems, and it does so better than measuring pollutants, inventorying the physical extent of marshes, or climate because it's all-inclusive. There is little chance that we will measure the wrong thing because just about everything influences numbers of marsh birds and frogs.

To generate a snapshot of wetland health throughout the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Valley watersheds BSC will use information collected by GLMMP participants to produce a report entitled "State of Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Valley's marsh birds and frogs". The report will compare abundance and population trends within the watershed to abundance and population trends in



the rest of southern Ontario, like a "report card" of just how well marsh ecosystem health is fairing within the watersheds (see Chorus Frog graph for an example). The report will also include research on the effects of climate change on frog communities within the watersheds based on GLMMP data. The project will increase awareness of the importance of wetlands and promote and facilitate stewardship of wetlands and their surrounding landscapes throughout the area. *Continued...*

Virginia Rail photo by Sandra Horvath

Bird Studies Canada Report - continued

If you're interested in more detail about the GLMMP visit the program's website or check out the program's latest report. And if you're interested in volunteering for the GLMMP, visit our survey route map online to see if there is an existing route in need of surveying close to your home; if not, you might consider making a new route. Links to websites are below and if you have more questions please contact Kathy Jones.



Project website:

<http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/glmmp/>

Latest GLMMP report:

<http://www.birdscanada.org/download/GLMMPReport.pdf>

Survey route map:

<https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?snapid=S129930207TP>

GLMMP Volunteer Laura Simmie

Kathy Jones
 Ontario Programs Volunteer Coordinator
 (Canadian Lakes Loon Survey)
 Bird Studies Canada
 P.O. Box 160
 Port Rowan, ON



The Collector...



Photo Courtesy of
 Kelly Marie Murtha

Club Member Photos



Clockwise from top left -

Mustard White Butterfly

Common Yellowthroat

Red Eyed Vireo

Phoebe in Nest

Crocus heralding Spring

The Online Chirp



The Brereton Field Naturalist Facebook page now has 60 members. This is huge in such a short time of being online and it is still growing every day.

Most of these members are from these parts, but some are from as far away as Winnipeg and the Annapolis River out in Nova Scotia. Some are members and some are not. I would guess that never before has the actions and field trips of the Brereton Field Naturalists' Club ever had such a widely dispersed and widely based audience.

This is what this Facebook page is doing. Within this FB page, people are sharing stories of their naturalist journeys and posting wonderful photos from their naturalists' lives. There are pertinent nature questions posted such as "What is the banding code for a blue winged warbler? Black and white warbler? Which one is BWWA?"....and answers given in fairly short order by other members. Anyone can participate, answer questions or pose these questions.

One can also contact other members if you wish through the messaging system of FB. It is fantastic for the naturalist community and we welcome new members to our page. Please check it out on Facebook by simply typing in a searching for Brereton Field Naturalists Club. Heck, you can just start typing in the word- *Brereton* and it will probably pop up as there isn't much else on FB with that name.

On the lighter side of the wild side....

I found a sick sparrow the other day and I brought it to a vet. After his examination, the vet told me that he had good news and bad. The bad news he said, was the bird had "Chirpies". The good news was that it was "Tweetable".

-- by *Cody Burkett*

Brereton Field Naturalists Club Membership

Annual fees:

- Family - \$30
- Individual - \$25
- Student - \$10
- Corresponding - \$15



Memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. Members get into meetings at no charge, are eligible for discounts at local nature stores and have access to "Members Only" content of the web site.

To join the BFNC, please come to one of our meetings or complete **downloadable application form from our website and send with your payment.**

WWW. BFNCLUB.ORG

Visit us on our Facebook page !

