

# THE BLUE HERON



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

**Spring Issue 2015**

[www.bfnclub.org](http://www.bfnclub.org)

**Volume 59, No. 2.**

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***This is a Red Trillium, uncommon Pink Morph 2,  
found in Copeland Forest***

*Photo by Chris Evans*



# WALKS & TALKS

**Wednesday 15 April, 8:00pm - 9:30pm**

**Walk: American Woodcocks**

Ian Cook (705) 727-4004

Displaying American Woodcocks at dawn and dusk are one of the earliest signs of spring in Simcoe County.

Join Ian Cook to learn more about their calls and behaviour. Wear waterproof boots, and bring bug repellent and a flashlight.

Moderate difficulty walking conditions.



**Fri Apr 17 @ 6:00PM - 9:00PM**

**AGM AND POTLUCK DINNER . . .**

**and for the first time ever, we will introduce the EXCITING NEW BUCKET RAFFLE!**

See the informative description about it on our main webpage at <http://bfncub.org/>. We are changing things up a bit this year and we hope you will understand. We are expecting this will help the club financially and better allow us the opportunity to send a youth to the Ontario Nature Youth Summit at Geneva Park on September 25 to 27. We need to invest in the future!

Enjoy our usual Potluck supper. Not only do you the members help provide a table full of interesting dishes, you can also contribute items for the Bucket Raffle, and show a few of your favourite pictures. This is the last meeting of the club til the fall. Note the early meeting time!  
Meeting Starts at 6:00 pm; Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Contact Ruth Nolan-Flores if you wish to show some of your own pictures or have any other questions.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE A MAXIMUM OF FIVE PICTURES OR ONE SHORT (60 SECONDS OR LESS DURATION) VIDEO ALLOWED PER PERSON. PLEASE HAVE YOUR IMAGES OR VIDEO LOADED ON A USB STICK.

This is always an enjoyable evening for all members so please plan to attend. Remember to bring your own dishes and cutlery as well as any items for the auction.

**Saturday 25 April, 9:00am - 2:00pm**

**NORTH SIMCOE RAIL TRAIL CLEANUP**

**Coordinator: Chris Evans 705-722-1136**

BFNC Members and guest volunteers will meet at the Little Lake Park parking lot at 9:00 AM and carpool to the Minesing Station Park/Trans Canada Trail Pavilion.

We will rendezvous with other BFNC Members, Snow Voyageurs and guests at the Pavilion at 9:30 AM to organize and deploy to do the clean-up.

Then we will reconvene at 11:30 PM back at the Pavilion to consolidate the recycling and garbage, clean ourselves up, and enjoy the Sno Voyageurs' hospitality and BBQ'd Hotdogs in the great outdoors on the edge of the internationally significant Minesing wetlands.

Be prepared with binoculars, cameras, snacks and water (we mix work and pleasure, so be prepared to have fun connecting with nature), sunscreen, gloves, garbage/recycling picker-uppers, hat, sturdy shoes or boots and appropriate clothing for the weather.





## WALKS & TALKS

*continued. . .*



*Photo by Paul Forde*

### **The Gables**

**Wednesday 6 May, 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Phyllis Tremblay 705-737-2580**

This 43 acre natural park within the City of Barrie has many attractive features - excellent trail system, tall forested shoreline on Kempenfelt Bay, hardwood forests, pine plantations, a good selection of native wildflowers and carpets of naturalized spring bulbs such as Yellow Anemones and Spring Squill. It is also a spot that attracts many migrant birds. Leave Little Lake Park parking lot at 6:00 pm and arrive at Gables parking lot at 6:20 pm. Easy walk on maintained trails

### **Orillia Rail Trail Spring Migrants Walk**

**Saturday 9 May, 6:00am - 2:00pm**

**Depart LLPL at 6:00 am**

**Alex Mills 705-739-1094**

Join Alex on a walk along a very interesting section of the Orillia Rail trail bordered by large areas of wetland and areas of higher dry ground. This mix of landscape usually yields a very productive mix of spring migrants that are passing through our area on their way to their nesting grounds in the boreal forests.

Easy walking, bring a snack & water.



### **Little Lake Area Walk**

**Thursday 14 May, 8:00am - 1:00pm**

**Phyllis Tremblay 705-737-2580**

This will be a very interesting two part walk. We will spend about 45 minutes birding the lakeside park surrounding our meeting place, and then we will drive to the north side of the lake for a 2 1/2 - 3 hour hike observing the mid-spring wildflowers and varieties of forest birds.

This will be a sampling of a small part of the 600 + acres of city parkland around Little Lake. Medium difficulty but wear appropriate outdoor footwear. Bring yourself some snacks drinking water and of course your notebooks, cameras and binoculars.





## WALKS & TALKS

*continued. . .*

### **Spring Migration at Tiny Marsh** **Saturday 16 May, 7:00am - 2:00pm** **Don Scanlan 705-726-6591**

Tiny Marsh might be the richest spot for birds in Simcoe County. It's in Tiny Township, not far from Elmvale, but it's a giant wetland with a great diversity of nesting birds. Surrounding the marshes are various swamps and woods, and these too, host many birds, especially migrants like warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Migration peaks in mid-May, and this is a great chance to see many species.

Pack a lunch. Easy walking



*Tiny Marsh photo by Tina Forrester*

### **Bluebird Trail** **Wednesday 20 May, 6:30pm - 8:30pm** **Pat Duncan - (705)725-5972**

The Eastern Bluebird is back and nesting in our area. BFNC maintains a bluebird nest box trail. Come out to learn about nesting bluebirds and tree swallows as we explore our nest box trail. Other birds we might see in the area are bobolinks, killdeer, meadowlark, savannah sparrow. Meet at Little Lake Parking Lot at 6:30. Second meeting place at 6:50 pm at the corner of 25th Sideroad and 11th line (which is near Tangle Creek golf course). Easy walking.



### **Copeland Forest Walk** **Saturday 23 May, 8:00am - 12:00pm** **Dave Lord 705-835-6642**

Second meeting place: Copeland Forest parking area off Ingram Rd, first parking lot east of Highway 93 at 8:45 am

The forest is a wonderful bit of land with a variety of foliage. Birds will be active at this time of year and birding will be an integral part of this trip. It is also a great time to observe spring flowers. This event will end about noon. Moderate difficulty walking conditions, so be prepared with good hiking boots. Bring your own water and snacks.



## WALKS & TALKS

*continued. . .*



### Chimney Swifts

**Thursday 28 May, 8:15pm - 9:30pm**

**Inga Brinckmann - 705-727-9071**

Chimney Swifts return to Barrie each spring from their winter range in the Andes, with the intention of nesting in suitable chimneys. Like many "aerial insectivores" Chimney Swifts have seriously declined in Canada, and our club has undertaken a monitoring role in town. Join Inga for an hour's worth of evening surveying, as the birds select roosts for the night.

In town with easy walking.

Bring your own binoculars if possible.

### Spring at Matchedash Bay

**Saturday 30 May, 7:00am - 2:00pm**

**Dave Lord (705) 835-6642**

Leave from LLPL 7:30 am

ALTERNATE MEETING SITE: Commuter parking lot at intersection of exit 137, Highway 400, to Coldwater, and Highway 12, 8:00 a.m.



Simcoe County has a diverse natural history partly because of its many landscapes. At Matchedash, north meets south, and a massive wetland also contributes to the diversity of things to see. Celebrate spring at Matchedash Bay, looking for waterfowl and other wetland birds, and songbirds. Wear solid waterproof footwear; sunscreen and bug repellent recommended. Pack a lunch & drinks. Moderate to heavy walking. Ends 3- 4:00 pm

# Trip Report

## Brereton Field Naturalists' Club Field Trip Report

**2015-04-04 Minesing Wetlands Spring Migrants, Trip Leader: Chris Evans**

A beautiful, though very brisk (-5 C, -10C with 20 km/h NNE wind chill!), spring morning graced 15 members and 7 not-yet-members on this outing.

Our first meeting place was the usual Little Lake Park parking lot at 8:00 AM where a Dark Eyed Junco was trilling brightly as the full moon was setting. We then convoyed to the Bradford Greenhouses, with kind permission from the management, for our second rendezvous/carpool location.

As an auspicious start, enroute to McKinnon Road, we spotted 2 pair of swans 470 m across a field on the south side of CR 90 just west of George Johnston Road. They were a challenging distance away, but after considerable discussion and study in Phyllis' spotting scope, we concluded there were one pair each of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans. The main field mark used was the straightness of the bill of the Trumpeter versus the convex bill shape of the Tundra.

Then, on to McKinnon Road, which was the hotspot for most of the waterfowl and passerines as well as the Bald Eagles. We first observed a regatta of 10 swans 400 m west of McKinnon Road and 250 m south of 2nd Conc. Sunnidale. A 3rd year Bald Eagle flew in to the scene, causing a stir among the ducks, swans and geese in this marsh, now regularly flooded by the breach in the levee of the Mad River. It will be interesting to see if this breach heals itself in time or not.



### ***Trip Report continued***

We visited Ervin Osvalt's feeders where we observed passerines and watched flights of Canada Geese, Northern Pintails and other waterfowl dropping into the Minesing Wetlands beyond our view, but not beyond our hearing! From the din of the honking of Canada Geese, there must be tens of thousands of Canada Geese staging in the Minesing Wetlands.

We then stopped to look for Wood Ducks west of the 2nd Concession Sunnidale and McKinnon Road intersection. While we didn't see any Wood Ducks, there were rafts of Ring-necked Ducks in full breeding regalia paddling around and on the flooded 2nd Concession.

There was a big "Great Blue Heron" in the northeast corner of the sod field on McKinnon Road. It attracted a huge number of double-takes and many photos. I suspect all of the Great Blue Herons were fully occupied with courtship activities in the heart of the Minesing Wetlands.



We had a very welcome rest and refreshment stop at Tim Horton's in Angus which warmed our bodies and hearts for the rest of the trip. Time was flying, so we didn't venture east down the 2nd Concession to the Mad River, but carried on directly to the 6th Concession Sunnidale where we saw the two Red-Tailed Hawks, many Turkey Vultures, a kiting Rough-legged Hawk and a female Northern Harrier hunting low over the fields in typical Harrier style. The trip leader got close enough to positively identify his tentative Snowy Owl sighting as a crushed white bucket in a field. Fortunately, I'm very accustomed to eating crow and quite enjoy it now. Another highlight for many was the pair of Sandhill Cranes west of 18/19 Sdrd Sunnidale just north of 7th Conc. Sunnidale.

Glengarry Landing and Ronald Road fields were not yet flooded, so there weren't the usual rafts of waterfowl there. We said farewell at the Four Cedars Cafe & Convenience in Minesing around 1:00 PM and went our separate ways back to our meeting places.

I am grateful to all of the enthusiastic participants, carpool drivers, Brereton Field Naturalists' Club experts and logisticians, NVCA, NCC, MNR and all those who conserve and preserve nature. Infinite gratitude to Mother Nature for her resilience, benevolence and the miraculous lives we have.



*Ringed Neck Duck*



## Trip Report continued

Some of the species we encountered that day:

### Birds: (38 species)

Canada Goose, gaggles upon gaggles upon gaggles

Trumpeter Swan, pair

Tundra Swan, 12 to 20, regatta

American Wigeon

American Black Duck, pair

Northern Shoveler, pair

Northern Pintail, many, predominantly males

Ring-necked Duck, many pair

Greater Scaup, pair

Bufflehead, 5 males

Hooded Merganser, 3 pair & 1 female

Bald Eagle,

Northern Harrier,

Red-tailed Hawk, pair

Rough-legged Hawk, 2,

Sandhill Crane, pair

Rock Pigeon, 5

Snowy Owl

Horned Lark,

White-breasted Nuthatch,

American Tree Sparrow,

Northern Cardinal,

Red-winged Blackbird,

Mammal: Muskrat

## Barrie SwiftWatch 2015



Brereton Field Naturalists' Club (BFNC) objective for 2015, as participants in the Ontario SwiftWatch Project, is "to continue building our knowledge of active nest and/or roosting chimneys within the province".

### Bird Studies Canada's (BSC) priority for 2015:

Conduct Presence/Absence\* Surveys for new occupied chimneys.

Participate in the National Population Roost monitoring Blitz May 20, May 24, May 28 and June 1, especially at the key roost sites.

In addition, BSC recommends:

Spot-checking previously identified chimneys to determine if they are still active.

Monitoring roosts once per month.

Keeping an eye out for potential natural habitat sites (large tree stumps).

Report positive results.

Installing data loggers in occupied & suitable potential chimneys.

Submitting all data from both new & past identified chimneys to BSC.

**April 23 - May 5** Observe & report chimney swift (CHSW) sightings anywhere in Barrie.

**May 20, May 24, May 28 & June 1** National Population Monitoring Blitz

**May 28** Swift Night Out! (Scheduled BFNC Field Trip)

Every Thursday Evening starting, **June 4**, Barrie SwiftWatchers plan to spot-check 12 previously occupied chimneys, monitor roosts & potential chimneys.



continued...



\*These Presence/Absence Surveys are conducted during the various stages of the chimney swifts' seasonal behaviour. Just before sunset, participants find and track nesting/roosting locations and count the numbers of chimney swifts flying into the chimneys to nest or roost for the night.

For more information and to volunteer: [www.bfnclub.org](http://www.bfnclub.org)



Happy Spring!

Our Huronia spring regional meeting is set for Saturday, April 18, 2015. Our hosts for this meeting are the Parry Sound Nature Club and the Georgian Bay Biosphere. I am excited to report that our meeting will take place at Killbear Provincial Park Visitor Centre.

Please join us for a wonderful opportunity to explore and learn more the many interesting programs in the Georgian Bay area including:

- Dr. Amanda Bennett will share highlights of her work with START- (Saving Turtles at Risk Today) this program in the Muskoka Region is the work of Jeff Hathaway and Scales Nature Park in Orillia. The project works to conserve turtles in the Muskoka region through on-the-ground research, education, public engagement, and outreach. The project is examining the effects of human disturbance on turtle nest success and stress levels, and are investigating the effectiveness of nest caging as a conservation tool in the Muskokas.
- Glenda Clayton, GBBR, Species at Risk Coordinator will discuss how the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve is engaging residents in the conservation of at-risk species.
- Delaina Arnold, GBBR, Education Coordinator will share how young residents are being inspired to explore our natural world through the 'Kids in the Biosphere' program
- Pam Fulford, will bring an update on Strawberry Island
- Kenton Otterbein, NHE Leader Ontario Parks will lead us on a tour of the 'ecopassages' installed at Killbear that help reduce road mortality of Massasauga rattlesnakes. We will also walk to the Twin Points Trail to look at key rattlesnake habitat and hopefully spot a few snakes and other wildlife

Barrie area people Contact Dorothy McKeown if you wish to carpool, e-mail [dorothy.mckeown@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.mckeown@gmail.com), and cell with texting 705-817-9572.

Hope to see you on April 18th.

Best regards,  
Barbara



Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia

Regional Coordinator Nature Network | Ontario Nature | [Barbaraw@ontarionature.org](mailto:Barbaraw@ontarionature.org)

Regional Office: 8 Edgewood Cres., | New Lowell, ON L0M1N0 | 705-424-2871

Head Office: 214 King Street West, Suite 612 | Toronto, ON M5H3S6 |



# Canadians At The BEACH

by Robin Craig

In early December of last year, my wife Carol and I travelled to south-west Florida and stayed on Sanibel Island in on the Gulf of Mexico. Sanibel is the southern boundary of the Pine Island Sound just west of Fort Myers.

It is a very pleasant and biologically productive area of the south. Many northern inhabitants go there to enjoy the beaches and the warmth. Some stay for the entire winter including certain shorebirds. Below are a few pictures of some of the shorebirds that we encountered on the beaches. Just for fun, see if you can identify the species in their winter plumages. Answers on page 16 .

1



2



3



4



## Simcoe County Banding Group Winter Raptor Project Season 2014/2015



By **Bruce Wilson**

All Photos by Simcoe County Banding Group



The Simcoe County Banding Group has just completed it's most successful winter banding season. Under the leadership of Nigel Shaw we covered five different sites with often three or four banding teams out at a time.

Besides good numbers of our bread and butter bird Red-tailed Hawks, we managed to ...continued



## ***Simcoe County Banding Group continued...***

band a group record number of Snowy Owls thanks to the echo irruption following last year's big year. It seemed that you could not go anywhere this year without spotting three or four SNOWs. Our big day was five banded on March 1 which could have been six had we caught the other bird that hit the trap but did not get caught. Three and four SNOWs days were relatively common.

We also managed to band 11 Rough-legged Hawks which is another group season record. American Kestrels started returning near the end of the season and we got bands on nine of these beautiful little falcons.



***Adult Red-tailed Hawk***



***After Third Year Year Male Rough-legged Hawk***





**Simcoe County Banding Group continued...**

We also included the four Northern Shrikes in total. Interestingly all four birds banded were adult birds. We usually see and catch immature birds in our area so this may indicate the shrikes had a poor breeding season in 2014. We will certainly be watching these birds next winter to see how they fared this summer.

Many of the Red-tailed Hawks were also banded with a colour band to help us track these birds. If you seen one with a yellow band with a black alpha-numeric code please let us know.

As spring is now here many of the group will be participating in the spring migration monitoring at Tommy Thompson Park in Toronto before moving onto our special summer projects.



**Barred Owl**



**After Second Year Male Cooper's Hawk**



**After Second Year Northern Shrike**

Summary Updated March 31, 2015

Red-tailed Hawk 48

Rough-legged Hawk 11

American Kestrel 9

Coopers Hawk 6

Snow Owls 56

Barred Owl 7

Eastern Screech Owl 1

Northern Sawwhet Owl 1

Northern Shrike\* 4

Total 141

RETRAP Snowy Owl 4

FOREIGN RETRAP Snowy Owl 1

Rough-legged Hawk 1



# Birding in Cuba

by Dave Lord

I have been to Cuba three times, once to Varadero, once to Holguin, and the first time to Havana (on a hi-jacked airliner). But that's another story.

The latter two trips were primarily for escaping Canadian winters, enjoying sun and the beaches, but on both occasions I managed to do some birding. Interestingly I saw many different birds in the two areas that I visited.

Both trips were taken in March. In Varadero, one of the common birds around the resort was the Antillean-palm Swift. This bird was not seen at Playa Pesquero the resort we stayed at near Holguin (this year). In fact I didn't see any swallows or swifts there.

In Varadero I rented a car for two days and travelled across the island to the infamous Bay of Pigs, and the Zapata marsh area, where we met our guide. He showed us the world's smallest bird, the Bee Hummingbird which is endemic to Cuba.

At Playa Pesquero near Holguin I engaged the services of a guide who had a driver with a 1947 Chevrolet. This car had the original engine, and a Lada transmission. The windshield wipers were homemade, and better than anything Detroit has ever installed on a car;- they blasted the two panel windshield like a fire hose. This car was so high that it would go over terrain that would require a four wheel drive vehicle today. No air-conditioning, just open windows, which worked quite effectively. Perhaps it was the... lack of aerodynamics.

We visited a private farm, where at close range we saw, Cuban Tody, Cuban Trogon (Cuba's national bird), and several other Cuban endemics. There are close to thirty endemics in Cuba. In contrast I don't believe Canada has one! (There are 3 breeding endemics listed, for Canada, one of which is extinct)

While hiring a guide enables one to maximize success ratios in seeing certain types of birds, it is by no means necessary. At both the Paradisus in Varadero, and the Playa Pesquero, near Holguin there was plenty of good birding around the resorts. For example around the latter resort Cuban Blackbirds, Greater Antillean Grackles, Cuban Emeralds, Palm Warblers, Cuba;- I saw at least ten species in the Holguin area alone.



*Cuban Trogon*



*Antillean-palm Swift*

Near Playa Pesquero ( well within walking distance) is a marshy area and it was here that many species were found including at least 4 types of shorebirds, Clapper Rails (many) Great and Snowy Egrets, Yellow Crowned, Tricolored, Great-blue, and Black Crowned Night Herons, Moorhens, and Coots. Ducks included Northern Shoveller, and (by far the most common) Blue-winged Teal. It was a great place to meet all the birders in the area, and compare notes, at sunrise.

If you do decide to go to Cuba, do some birding, and if you need a guide try ....continued



continued... **Birding in Cuba**

Birdingpal and Tripadvisor as potential sources for information. The former site lists guides that may be available in various countries, and locales. The latter when you input bird watching Cuba Tripadvisor, in a search engine gives a lot of information of personal experience that people have had with various guides, and often contains contact information. All in all Cuba is a great place for a vacation and some birding.

## Help Collect Vital Frog Data

*The sounds of summer are coming! Are you ready for more citizen science?*

Join Backyard Frog Surveys to monitor frog and toad species calling in your neighbourhood this year. Biologists will use the vital long-term monitoring data from Backyard Frog Surveys to map species distributions and population trends in the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas.

If you can commit to repeated surveying this year, please email [atlas@ontarionature.org](mailto:atlas@ontarionature.org) to ask for your Backyard Frog Survey materials. Calls start in April, so hop to it and sign up today!



Photo : Mink Frog, Mike Ostrowski

## Join Us for a Grand Old Time

*Dreaming of being outdoors in warmer weather?*

Ontario Nature and rare Charitable Research Reserve invite you to our one-day event, A Day on the Grand to be held on May 23, 2015 at rare ECO Centre along the beautiful Grand River in Cambridge. Highlights of the day include bird banding, guided nature hikes, a special presentation on sustainability and the chance to become a citizen scientist alongside local researchers. Register now before spots fill up! The deadline is May 4, 2015.

If you have any questions, contact Lauren Wright at [laurenw@ontarionature.org](mailto:laurenw@ontarionature.org) or 1-800-440-2366 ext. 271

The Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) is eager to educate citizens about the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR). Through webinars, workshops, presentations and social media, the ECO is raising awareness about opportunities for public participation in decision-making regarding laws, policies and programs affecting the environment.

You can get involved through the Environmental Registry, a website enabling visitors to provide feedback on government proposals and you can also formally request a policy review or an investigation of an environmental offence. If your organization or community would like to learn more, call 1-800-701-6454 or email [commissioner@eco.on.ca](mailto:commissioner@eco.on.ca).



**• Friends of Minesing Wetlands Event Listings**

Spring Canoe Trips in the Minesing Wetlands, Saturday April 18 and Saturday May 9 @ 8:30am; meet at the Willow Creek Canoe Corral on George Johnson Road (County Road 28) in Springwater Township;

For more information or to register contact Naomi Saunders at [nsaunders@nvca.on.ca](mailto:nsaunders@nvca.on.ca).

**Tiny Marsh BioBlitz**

– 6am-midnight, June 27

A BioBlitz is an intense search for species over a continuous time period (in our case 18 hours).

There's general information at [www.ontariobioblitz.ca](http://www.ontariobioblitz.ca).

Here's the plan:

One- to 3-hour outings will depart the Nature Centre at various times, led by experts and amateurs with knowledge in different fields – birds, butterflies, pollinators and other insects, amphibians and reptiles, mammals, plants and fungi.

Participants can come out for just one outing, or several.

Details are still being worked out, but should be finalized in early May, and will be emailed to you, and also posted at [www.mtmconservation.org](http://www.mtmconservation.org).

**Waterfowl Viewing Day** Saturday April 18 at Wye Marsh.

Guided walks from 10 am to noon. Naturalist and environmental consultant Bob Bowles is leading one walk, Jim Charlebois (Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalists Club) and Jennifer Howard (nature photographer) the other. Barbecue lunch at noon.

**Barrie Creeks Project Tree Planting**

Sunday, April 26th

10am-12pm 272 Ferndale Drive (entrance to the landfill) Please come out and give a hand planting new trees.



## LYME DISEASE TICKS ARE HERE

The Public Health Agency of Canada has projected that by 2020, 80% of residents of Eastern Canada (including Ontario) will be living in areas known to have established populations of ticks.

This will expose large numbers of Ontarians to the risk of acquiring Lyme disease. Right now, Ontario is not prepared to deal with what the Public Health Agency of Canada has called "a likely epidemic of Lyme disease."

Lyme disease is a potentially debilitating illness that is a growing threat to Ontarians who spend time outdoors. The bite of a tick infected with Lyme bacteria can cause terrible fatigue, pain, memory loss and scores of other symptoms that leave many patients unable to work, attend school, or even get out of bed. The number of infected ticks is rapidly increasing in the



LYME DISEASE *continued*

province and Ontarians can be bitten by an infected tick anywhere outdoors- in fields, cottages, camping grounds, hiking trails, golf courses, and even their own backyards.

Cases of the disease are often misdiagnosed or undetected in Ontario due to a lack of awareness and poor public and physician education. Also, Canadian blood testing for the disease has very limited reliability - a fact that has been recognized by Health Canada.



Without appropriate and sufficient early treatment, Lyme disease leads to multi-system breakdown which often mimics other conditions such as fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, lupus and Parkinson's disease. Patients with late-stage Lyme disease, who finally have been diagnosed (often by out-of-country labs/physicians) are unable to receive treatment in Ontario because of out dated and restrictive treatment guidelines. Many of them therefore resort to travelling to the United States to receive the treatment they need at great personal expense. However, countless others cannot afford to do so as the disease has rendered them unable to work and thus they are left severely ill.

Ontario needs to develop and implement a provincial strategy to improve public and physician education and change the way Lyme disease is diagnosed, tested and treated. Ontarian should be able to work and play out doors without the fear of being debilitated due to the bite of an infected tick.

The Ontario Lyme Alliance( OLA) has been advocating for a provincial strategy to better safeguard Ontarians from this terrible disease. The OLA has met with politicians and various government and medical organizations, such as Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, in order to instigate changes so that Lyme disease is better addressed and managed in Ontario. As a result of these meetings, Michael Mantha, the MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, presented a motion to the Ontario Legislature on November 27th of 2014, that asked the Minister of Health to develop a provincial strategy for Lyme disease. We are pleased to say that this motion was carried unanimously by all three parties.

This information was sent to us by the Ontario Lyme Alliance. For much more information go over their website at

<http://www.ontariolymealliance.ca/>

Another site for information is :

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/disease/lyme.aspx>





# Some Great Sightings!



**Barred Owl**  
by Claude Cox



**Red Tail Hawk taking a squirrel** by Mike McBride



**Ross's Geese and 2 Snow Geese flying with Canada Geese,** by Chris Evans



**Snowy Owl** by Janet-Sutton Brown Sauve



# The Online CHIRP



With summer coming up and the amphibians and reptiles set to make their appearance soon, I would encourage you to visit :

[http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/ORAA\\_news\\_february\\_2015.html](http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/ORAA_news_february_2015.html)  
and see what they are doing for these very special critters.

The quintessential webpage for tracking hummingbirds is :

<http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>

And a very good webpage for understanding hummingbirds in Ontario is :

[http://ontariohummingbirds.ca/rufous\\_hummingbird.php](http://ontariohummingbirds.ca/rufous_hummingbird.php)



*The recipient of the Helen Emory Award this year goes to Sarah Robbins who is enrolled in the Environmental Technology program at Georgian College. Congratulations Sarah!*

**News Flash-** The City of Barrie has also let the club know a few months ago that they are naming a new street in Barrie after our club founder, Dr. Brereton. The road sign is not up yet. The road is under construction and is going to be a small street down near Little Lake just off of Duckworth Street. We will keep you apprised of this when we learn more.

**Remember the Third Law of Birding...** When you see the bird that you have always wanted to see, it will be in the last spot you thought of looking for it.

## 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 !

