

Corrugated-cap Psathyrella

Psathyrella rugocephala

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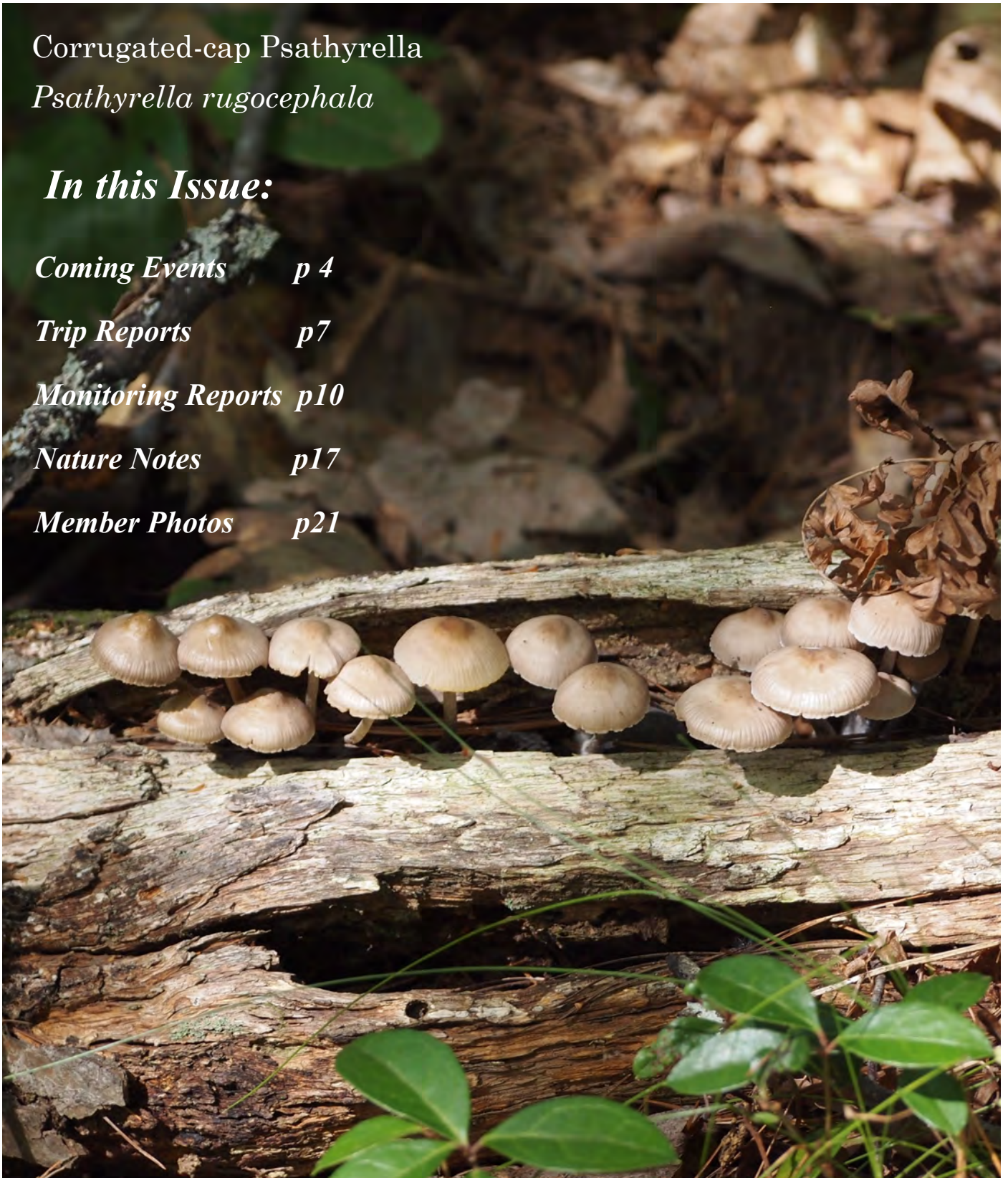
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A Message from your Editor

Hello again folks,

Now that 2016 is almost ready to hand over the reigns to 2017. I think we should share a moment of reflection. Once again the news from our planet is disheartening. Despite all our efforts, the trend is still moving in the wrong direction. The pressures on wildlife; Habitat loss and fragmentation due to climate change, land-use decisions and pollution are some of the most significant drivers of wildlife decline.

Every two years, the World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London report on the health of the planet with an updated index of wildlife populations. This year, the numbers are especially bleak: Populations have already declined on average by 58 per cent between 1970 and 2012. And unless we act quickly, we risk a decline of 67 per cent by 2020. That's more than two-thirds of wildlife on this planet lost in just one lifetime.

The Living Planet Report 2016 tells us that land-based populations have experienced a 38 per cent decline. Ocean populations have declined by 36 per cent. And freshwater populations have suffered a staggering 81 per cent decline.

It's often said that the world needs more Canada, but how do we compare? If all the world lived like Canadians, we would still need 4.7 Earths.

Well, things are about to start changing, and that is in part due to people like yourselves, who are quietly working behind the scenes. Planting trees, growing native plants, recycling, educating and advocating for the critters who cannot speak for themselves.

So, I would like to share some positive facts as we go into the new year. You see it's not all doom & gloom! Here are some highlights from 2016, that people just like yourselves, from all over our planet have achieved.

Nov. 4 2016 - Tanzanian President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli ordered law enforcement officials to crack down on elephant poaching and trafficking. "We are not going to allow our natural resources to be depleted," while offering federal security agencies full support.

June 8 2016 - Shell Canada announced its decision to relinquish offshore oil exploration permits in Arctic Canada. The potential drilling area was in Canada's high Arctic, in the Last Ice Area, where summer sea ice is

projected to persist. The leases were also within a potential protected area boundary put forward by local Inuit.

Feb. 24 2016 - Polar bear patrols keep bears and Arctic communities safe. At the close of another polar bear season for northern communities, the collaborative polar bear patrol model is successfully reducing the number of conflicts between people and polar bears.

Feb. 08 2016 - An overwhelming majority of Members of the European Parliament (592 vs 52 MEPs) voted this week against a revision of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, a further important step in support of saving Europe's most important nature laws and the world's biggest network of protected areas.

Feb. 08 2016 - a series of countries central to the illegal ivory trade have now made a commitment to cease or regulate their domestic ivory markets. The latest announcement by Hong Kong, that it is to explore phasing out the trade, follows similar decisions by China, USA and Thailand's moves to regulate its domestic trade.

Feb. 08 2016 - Increased anti-poaching efforts have achieved the first annual decrease in rhinos killed in South Africa since 2007. In 2015, 1,175 rhinos were killed in South Africa, 40 less than in 2014. Nepal has already achieved three years of zero rhino poaching since 2011, a remarkable achievement

Feb. 08 2016 - The area of wetlands designated for protection and sustainable management under the Ramsar Convention, has reached 100 million hectares worldwide, with the declaration of Zimbabwe's first seven Ramsar sites.

Feb. 08 2016 - An agreement was reached in Canada's British Columbia after 20 years of negotiations to protect 85 per cent of the rainforest from logging. Government, forest companies, First Nations and environmental organizations agreed to a world-leading model of ecosystem management. This lengthy process has resulted in a commitment to protect 6.4 million hectares along the coast.

So, keep working folks and we'll see what we can accomplish this year. I hope you enjoy this issue of the Blue Heron.

If you would like to contribute an article or share your photos, don't hesitate to contact me.

clareholden5@gmail.com

Your Board of Directors

2016-2017 Club Executive, Directors, Committee Chairs & Representatives

Position	2016/2017	Home	Mobile	email
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Aims of the Club

- To acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history
 - To protect and preserve wildlife
 - To stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation
- For membership details see back page*

Coming Events - Meetings *Jan. 2017 - April 2017*

MEETINGS are held at the NORTH WEST BARRIE UNITED CHURCH (NWBUC) 464 Ferndale Drive North on scheduled, Friday nights unless otherwise stated. **Please bring your own coffee mug to help reduce garbage.**

NON MEMBERS are welcome to participate in our activities. However there is a nominal charge of \$5. By becoming a member you will receive The Blue Heron Newsletter and support club activities and Ontario Nature through our Federation club status.

Please note that if you have questions regarding any outing or event, check the website. www.bfnclub.org

Jan.20 Friday 2017 Chasing Birds by Canoe in Northern Manitoba

Location: North West Barrie United Church (NWBUC)
464 Ferndale Drive North, Barrie

Time: 7:00pm.

Speakers: Ian Cook, Chris Evans, Alex Mills & Mike Ferguson (speakers are at 7:30pm.)

In June 2014, three club members and their friend Mike flew to a remote outpost in northern Manitoba and then canoed down the Cochrane River through remote, boreal Manitoba, surveying breeding birds for the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas. White water rivers, remote and beautiful landscapes, and fantastic birding will be featured.

Feb.17 Friday 2017 The rich biodiversity of Awenda Park

Location: North West Barrie United Church (NWBUC)
464 Ferndale Drive North, Barrie

Time: 7:00pm. Program starts at 7:30pm.

Speaker: Tim Tully, Awenda Provincial Park.

Awenda Provincial Park is a complex of natural communities located in northern Simcoe County, including remote islands in Georgian Bay. A special blitz to document the park's biodiversity was organized in June of 2016, providing new information about the park's rich flora and fauna, including some rare orchids. Tim is the park's Natural Heritage Education Coordinator, so no one knows the park better!

March 17 Friday 2017 Saving Bees and what it means for natural communities

Location: North West Barrie United Church (NWBUC)
464 Ferndale Drive North, Barrie

Time: 7:00pm.

Speaker: DR. Sheila Colla (speaker is at 7:30pm.)

Most attention directed to declining bees has focused on European Honey Bees. Native pollinators contribute to agricultural crop pollination and help maintain natural ecosystems. Dr. Colla will discuss the status of our native bees in the wild, focusing on the best known group, the Bumblebees.



Coming Events - Meetings (Cont.) Jan. 2017–April 2017

April 21 Friday 2017 Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck

Location: North West Barrie United Church (NWBUC)

464 Ferndale Drive North

Time: 6:00 pm. Eat at 6:30pm.

To show pictures, please contact:

Cay Mills at 705-739-1094

or caymills17@gmail.com

For potluck queries, please contact:

Christine Beggs at 705-721-6842

Bring a dish for our “most delicious” Potluck supper & share with your friends. Help provide a table full of interesting delights.

If you are able to contribute an item for our silent auction, it would be most welcome.

The business portion of the meeting will take place after dinner.

Please bring your own plates and cutlery. Don't forget to “Lug-a-Mug”

Coming Events - Field Trips Jan. 2017–April 2017

FIELD TRIPS The Meeting point for all FIELD TRIPS will be Little Lake Parking lot (LLPL). Take Duckworth St. North-bound to just past Hwy. 400 where there is currently a lot of confusing construction. Make a right hand turn onto J.C. Massie Way after the lights. (if coming along Cundles then make a left turn). This becomes Little Lake Road. (see web site for map).

NO pets please on these outings. Dress for the weather, bring sunscreen & bug repellent. Pack a lunch & water. On many trips, it is advisable to carpool to the rally point. This makes it easier for site parking & for the leaders to keep track of the participants. FOR ALL OUTINGS PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS OR CHANGES!

NON MEMBERS are welcome to participate in our activities.

Please note that if you have questions regarding any outing or event, please call the trip leader or check the website. www.bfnclub.org

Jan 7 Saturday 2017 Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4K)

Please note this this is a different date than previously scheduled

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

Time: 9:00am. to 12:00 pm

Leader: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Reps

Come out and help us count the birds making their winter home at Tiffin! Learn about local birds and collect real scientific data at this family-friendly event.

Feb. 4 Saturday 2017 Minesing Raptors

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 8:30am.

Leader: Brian Gibbon 705-721-4599

Take a trip through the flats around Minesing to look for Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, and other raptors, as well as flocks of Snow Buntings.

Driving outing usually ends by 1:30 pm. Bring a snack & drink.

Coming Events - Field Trips (Cont.) Jan. 2017 – April 2017

March 11 Saturday 2017 Horned Larks and Pancakes

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 8:30am.

Leader: Brian Gibbon 705-721-4599

Kitchen: Al McNair 705-737-3388
& Linda Crome 705-290-0227

There is a small charge for this event, to cover our costs. Please bring your own dishes & cutlery.

Search the Minesing Flats for Horned Larks, our first songbird to return from migration, Snowy Owls and Snow Buntings. End this great morning with Pancakes & Sausage for lunch at the Tiffin Conservation Area.

Driving and standing. Usually ends by 2-2:30pm.

April 1 Saturday 2017 Spring Birds in the Minesing Floodlands

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 8:00am.

Leader: Chris Evans 705-722-1136

The Extensive spring flooding in Minesing Wetlands makes it a magnet for migrating waterfowl. Forests are inundated, as are many of the farms located around the perimeter of the swamp. Northern Pintail, Tundra Swans, and Sandhill Cranes are likely sightings, along with a few early songbirds, such as Tree Swallows. BRING RUBBER BOOTS, Scopes, Binoculars & dress for the outdoors.

April 12 Wednesday 2017 American Woodcocks

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 7:30pm.

Leader: 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 behavior. Bring RUBBER BOOTS, BUG REPELLANT & FLASHLIGHT

Moderate difficulty walking conditions, ends by 9:30pm.

April 22 Saturday 2017 North Simcoe Rail Trail Cleanup

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 10:00am.

Alternatively meet at Minesing Station Park Pavillion on Hwy 26, 400 meters west of Golf Course Rd. at 10:15am.

Leader: Lisa Levez Bordeleau 705-329-7059

Celebrate Earth day and the spring migration while cleaning up the rail trail.

Hot dogs will be served at lunch.

Earn high school community service hours.

Easy walking. Ends by noon.



Trip Reports

Sept 17 Exploring Springwater Provincial Park - Brian Gibbon

The weather was heavily overcast with a light south-east breeze and temperature ranging from 16C – 20C. Five people joined me for our stroll, we did one complete loop trail and half of another when it started to sprinkle rain so we headed back. The birds were few and far between, getting most of them by ear rather than sight however, there was an abundance of fall plants to make the botanists in the group very happy.

I would like to thank Phyllis Tremblay both for her great identification skills and the fern list and Judy Gordon for tabulating the plant list for me. Without their assistance this would be a very short report.

BIRDS – Turkey Vulture, American Crow, Blue Jays (100+ in large migrating flock), Black-capped Chickadee, Nuthatch (sp.), American Robin, Hawk (sp.), European Starling (200+ on hydro wires).



PLANTS – Wild Strawberry, Heal-All, Climbing Nightshade, Sarsaparilla, Joe-Pye-Weed, Thimbleweed, Yarrow, Wild Lily-of-the-Valley, Virginia Creeper, Ragweed, Herb Robert, Horseweed, Colts Foot, Mullein, False Solomon Seal, Hairy Solomon Seal, Viper's Bugloss, Tufted Vetch, Fragrant Bedstraw, White Baneberry, Blue Lettuce, Milkweed, Pearly Everlasting, Canada Anemone; Tall, Smooth, Grey Stemmed, Rough Stemmed Golden Rod, Arrow-Leaved, Purple Stemmed, Calico, New England, Flat Topped & White Asters. The find of the day was a patch of Closed Gentian in bloom.

FERNS – Eastern Bracken, Northeastern Lady Fern, Spinulose Wood Fern, Common Oak Fern, Ostrich Fern, and Sensitive Fern.

Thanks to the hearty crew for turning out on such a gray day and making it an enjoyable walk in the woods.



Closed Gentian photo credit to Jim Coey

Oct. 2 North Simcoe Rail Trail - Brian & Lynne Gibbon

The weather was heavy, overcast & threatening rain but then clearing and becoming sunny. Three people joined the walk. We saw two large flocks of Rusty Blackbirds.

Birds:

European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Hairy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Rock Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Am. Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrow, Am Robin, Rusty Blackbird, House Wren, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Raven, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Cardinal, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove. Hummingbird (sp.)



Photo credit to Jim Charlebois

Sept. 24 Wilkins Walk / Hewitt's Creek Ravine Trail - Paul Forde

We all met at 7:30 a.m. at the head of the trail on Walnut Crescent, in Barrie's south end and commenced our walking tour along the route down towards the lake. Warblers, a Pileated Woodpecker, Pie billed Grebes, Redheads, and many more were seen. We even had a surprise visit by a mink and a coyote by the near-by pond.

The Hewitt Creek runs through the south shore area of Barrie and is part of the watershed of Lake Simcoe. This creek provides a high quality, cold-water temperature habitat that is critical for the diverse habitat conditions along its route and thus is home to a fair number of concentrated populations of wildlife including fish, amphibians, small mammals, waterfowl, shore birds, wood land and marsh birds. As well, the mouth of the Hewitt at Lake Simcoe and the shallow bay just off shore is quite busy in both the spring and fall with very large populations of these migrating waterfowl who feed on the very numerous smelt that are running out from the creeks into the lake.

The trees were busy with birds and luckily the birds were warm enough to be moving about to allow us to see them. Everyone seemed quite pleased with this trip route and it was the second time our club had ever had an outing here. It's definitely a multi-season, well maintained trail. You know you're in the city limits, but often you feel like you're out in the country. We saw less this year than last.



Birds:

Pileated Woodpecker, Redstart, Chickadees, Robins, White-breasted Nuthatch, Song sparrows, Goldfinches, Cardinal, Wren, Male Downys, Phoebes, Mallards, Pie billed Grebe, Redhead Grebe, Kingfisher, Ring-billed Gull, Cormorants.

Mammals:

Coyote, Mink, Woolly bear caterpillar

Plants:

New England Asters, Bouncing Bets, Wild Sunflowers, Snow berries

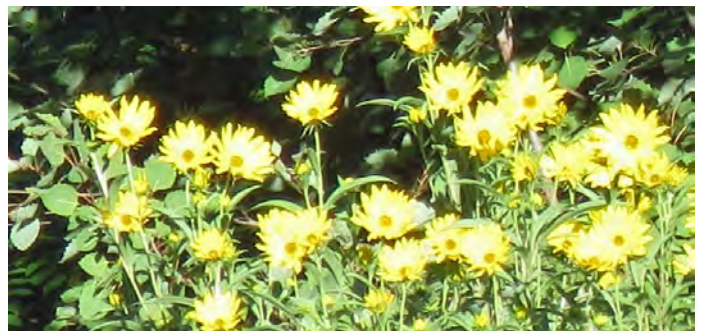


Photo credit to Paul Forde

Nov. 19 Lake Simcoe Migrants - Chris Evans

Chris Evans led an intrepid tour of the Barrie waterfront this morning. The weather was a bit ...of a challenge, but we all persevered and were rewarded with many Common Loons, Pacific Loons, Horned Grebes, Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, Scaups, many ducks and an assortment of Gulls .

A full list of birds observed can be found on ebird.

4 locations were visited on this trip;

Wilkin's Bay with a total of 13 species

Tiffin Dock with a total of 8 species

Heritage Park with a total of 13 species

Minets Point with a total of 17 species

Jean Iron, who joined the tour, went back to Minet's Point, Barrie, where an adult Great Black-backed Gull with leg band OR5 had returned once again. OR5 is at least 9 years old and has visited Barrie in late fall every year since 2011. "It was banded on 20 May 2011 at Appledore Island, Isle of Shoals, Maine. OR5 was a nesting adult at the time of banding (four+ years of age)." On Facebook's North American Gulls L William Clark, the researcher in Maine was pleased to see OR5. He said: "OR5 nested summer 2016 on Appledore Island. It will be helpful to know how often OR5 is observed around Minet's Point to determine if the whole winter is spent there and OR5 leaves."

Some birds of note on this trip, identified by our experienced birders included:

Pacific Loon

Identified by Jean Iron. Approximately 500 to 700 m distant. It was fishing with Common Loons and Red-necked Grebes and Double-crested Cormorants close by for size comparison. It was easily picked out from the Common Loons by its smaller size, smaller pointed bill, straight demarcation down the side of the neck between dark back of neck and white throat and front. Thin necklace, puffy rounded shape to back of head, and it had a couple of small white spots on its back, remnants of breeding plumage. We saw it many times in direct comparison to the Common Loons. It was just offshore at Centennial Beach. Likely the same bird seen from Heritage Park. We had even better views because the light was better and the loon was closer to us.



Pacific Loon photo credit to Glenn Bartley

Iceland Gull (kumlieni)

Kumlien's variant, identified by Jean Iron, almost all-white primary tips above with a thin dark line, white primaries below, smaller than Herring Gull, small, yellow-green bill with red spot, pink legs, observed on the water at approximately 50 m with binoculars and spotting scopes. Was flushed by machinery, so we observed in flight from 50 m to a new location to the northeast of Minet's Point. Weather was overcast but the bird was west of us at 10:00 on a small sand spit at the southwest corner of the Minet's Point beach, so well lit for most of our observations



Iceland Gull (kumlieni)

photo credit to Christopher L. Wood

Dec. 3 Barrie Lakeshore - Chris Evans

Twenty-five intrepid birders from OFO and BFNC met at Dock Road Park in Barrie for a waterfront field trip around Kempenfeldt Bay. It was a grey and blustery day, but spirits were bright!

Five distant Black Scoters were first glimpsed by Burke Korol from Tyndale Park at long range as they flew west, so at that time he could only tell they were scoters and not White-winged Scoters. Burke again spotted them from Centennial Beach as they were in flight. This time, many of us were able to see them in flight before they landed approximately 1 km out in the bay. We could all then observe them in spotting scopes and determine they were all adult (dark bellies in flight, where juveniles have light bellies) females by their pale cheeks contrasting with dark crowns. It was also Burke who first spotted a distant Pacific Loon enabling us to get to the City of Barrie Marina on Lakeshore Drive in time to be treated to "crippling views" (thanks to Lev Frid, for this descriptive) of at least two adult Pacific Loons, a first winter (juvenile) Red-throated Loon, a first winter Little Gull and a juvenile Iceland Gull.

Thank you Burke and all those who shared their scopes, photos, expertise and sightings!

Earlier, at Minet's Point Park, an adult Iceland Gull graced us with stunning views during a welcome sunny break. A juvenile Iceland Gull was spotted and a distant adult Glaucous Gull observed from Minet's Point Park.

Seven gull species, three loon species and five Black Scoters made for an exciting finale to this field trip. It was a privilege and an absolute pleasure to fill in for Jim Coey as leader of this trip. The weather was seasonal, just around freezing with occasional snow flurries and a welcome sunny break. The 25 OFO and BFNC (Brereton Field Naturalists Club) participants were wonderful with everyone contributing. I would like to express special appreciation to Paul Forde, Mike Hatton, Burke Korol, Alex Mills, Erin Rainville, Wayne Renaud, Kevin Shackleton and, of course, to Jim Coey for setting it up and to Dave Milsom for coordinating. It was truly inspiring to participate in such an enthusiastic collaboration of volunteers, connecting with nature through birds.

Thank you one and all.



Photo credit to Darlene Deemert

Dec. 17 2016 Christmas Bird Count

Monitoring Reports

2016 Christmas Bird Count Data

This year's annual Christmas Bird Count was held on a very snowy and cold Saturday morning.

The count covers a circle centred at Bradford Greenhouses and stretches to Minesing in the north, Angus to the west, just beyond Barrie city limits to the east and just south of Thornton.

Nine teams of birders surveyed a section within the 7.5-mile radius of Barrie and recorded individual numbers and species of birds during the day.

There were 15,394 birds counted this year, about four thousand fewer than the 19,450 counted in 2015. The number of species spotted was practically identical with

64 this year compared to 65 last year.

More than 7,000 fewer gulls were counted this year. Only 342 Herring Gulls were counted this year compared to 3,386 last year; 3,130 fewer Ring-billed gulls and no Bonaparte's Gulls, at all, while last year there were 1,250.

Rarities for this time of year were the Eastern Bluebirds, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird and Horned Lark. It was also noted that Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a southern species, are now showing significant increase in our area.

Monitoring Reports

2016 Christmas Bird Count Data

SPECIES	TEAM NUMBER									All Team Count	Previous Year		
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9		Count	Change	
DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS													
Snow Goose													
Brant													
Cackling Goose			CW								CW		
Canada Goose	72		31					203	1,736	2,042	1,527	515	
Canada Goose (small races)													
Trumpeter Swan								17*		34	6	28	
Tundra Swan													
Wood Duck			1							1		1	
Gadwall													
American Wigeon											3	-3	
American Black Duck		2	11					47	10	70	218	-148	
Mallard	125		364					695	622	1,806	1,920	-114	
Black Duck/Mallard			2					2	5	15	23	-8	
Blue-winged Teal													
Northern Shoveler													
Northern Pintail													
Green-winged Teal													
domestic duck sp.													
Canvasback											1	-1	
Redhead													
Ring-necked Duck											CW		
Greater Scaup								1		1	17	-16	
Lesser Scaup													
Scaup species									1	1		1	
Common Eider													
Harlequin Duck													
Surf Scoter								1		1		1	
White-winged Scoter													
Black Scoter													
Scoter species													
Long-tailed Duck													
Bufflehead			2					14	3	19	132	-113	
Common Goldeneye	87		6					53	95	241	491	-250	
Hooded Merganser	20							62	44	126	290	-164	
Common Merganser	617		600					130	910	2,257	934	1,323	
Red-breasted Merganser			2					1		3	10	-7	

Monitoring Reports

Christmas Bird Count (cont.)

SPECIES	TEAM NUMBER									All Team Count	Previous Year		
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9		Count	Change	
Ruddy Duck duck sp.	6										1	-1	
GROUSE & TURKEYS													
Ring-necked Pheasant													
Ruffed Grouse					1	1					2	9	-7
Spruce Grouse													
Wild Turkey			60		24	23	13	60	18		198	168	30
LOONS													
Red-throated Loon													
Common Loon	1		1					1			3		3
GREBES													
Pied-billed Grebe													
Horned Grebe												4	-4
Red-necked Grebe	19							3	8		30	203	-173
grebe sp.													
CORMORANTS													
Double-cres. Cormorant			7					1			8	17	-9
HERONS & BITTERNS													
Great Blue Heron												2	-2
VULTURES													
Black Vulture													
Turkey Vulture													
HAWKS & EAGLES													
Bald Eagle	1*							1*	1*		3	3	
Northern Harrier												1	-1
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	1			1		1	2		6	CW	
Cooper's Hawk			3				1	5	2		11	1	10
Northern Goshawk													
Accipiter sp.		1									1	1	
Red-shouldered Hawk													
Broad-winged Hawk													
Red-tailed Hawk		1	9	2	4	4		6	1		27	18	9
Rough-legged Hawk			2		2		1				5	2	3
Bueto sp.					1						1	1	
Golden Eagle													
hawk sp.												1	-1

Monitoring Reports

2016 Christmas Bird Count (cont.)

SPECIES	TEAM NUMBER									All Team Count	Previous Year	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9		Count	Change
American Kestrel												
Merlin											1	-1
Gyr Falcon												
Peregrine Falcon												
falcon sp.												
RAILS & COOTS												
Virginia Rail												
American Coot			1						3	4		4
PLOVERS												
Killdeer												
SANDPIPERS												
Common Snipe												
GULLS & TERNS												
Little Gull											3	-3
Bonaparte's Gull											1,250	-1,250
Ring-billed Gull	1	21	90			3	2	4	13	134	3,264	-3,130
Herring Gull	9	6	250			14	3	13	47	342	3,386	-3,044
Thayer's Gull											4	-4
Iceland Gull						1				1	3	-2
Lesser Black-backed Gull											4	-4
Glaucous Gull	1		1					5		7	7	
white-winged gull sp.												
Great Black-backed Gull	4		13					10	14	41	85	-44
gull sp.	46	15		10	2		1	60		134	244	-110
PIGEONS & DOVES												
Rock Pigeon	65	235	55		44	13	13	19	10	454	390	64
Mourning Dove	74	111	50	18	138	94	143	166	83	877	193	684
OWLS												
Barn Owl												
Eastern Screech-Owl								1		1	2	-1
Great Horned Owl							1	1		2		2
Snowy Owl												
Barred Owl												
Great Gray Owl												
Long-eared Owl												
Short-eared Owl												
Northern Saw-whet Owl												

Monitoring Reports

2016 Christmas Bird Count (cont.)

SPECIES	TEAM NUMBER									All Team Count	Previous Year	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9		Count	Change
owl sp.												
KINGFISHERS												
Belted Kingfisher	1								2	3		3
kingfisher sp.												
WOODPECKERS												
Red-headed Woodpecker												
Red-bellied Woodpecker		1			5	1	1	1	3	12	6	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker												
Downy Woodpecker	7	20	3	3	3	11	4	9	10	70	84	-14
Hairy Woodpecker		10	1	6	6	8	4	1	3	39	34	5
Three-toed Woodpecker												
Black-backed Woodpecker												
Northern Flicker												
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker												
Pileated Woodpecker	1	4	1	1	6	4	1			18	7	11
woodpecker sp.		2			1					3		3
SHRIKES												
Loggerhead Shrike												
Northern Shrike					1	1				2		2
Shrike sp.												
CROWS & JAYS												
Gray Jay												
Blue Jay	16	39	5	13	57	16	42	20	13	221	176	45
American Crow	10	38	125	3	16	16	75	30	22	335	277	58
Common Raven		6	1	2	1	2	2			14	8	6
LARKS												
Horned Lark										CW		CW
CHICKADEES												
Black-capped Chickadee	98	122	68	60	137	104	166	109	147	1,011	967	44
Boreal Chickadee												
NUTHATCHES & CREEPERS												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	7	1	5		5	6	8	7	41	39	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	26	6	10	21	6	21	6	26	132	70	62
Nuthatch species												
Brown Creeper			1	1	1					3	8	-5
WRENS												
Carolina Wren												

Monitoring Reports

2016 Christmas Bird Count (cont.)

SPECIES	TEAM NUMBER									All Team Count	Previous Year	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9		Count	Change
Winter Wren						1				1		1
KINGLETS												
Golden-crowned Kinglet					1					1	4	-3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet											1	-1
THRUSHES & STARLINGS												
Eastern Bluebird				4	2					6		6
Hermit Thrush												
American Robin	18	6				19	3	8	1	55	16	39
Gray Catbird												
THRASHERS												
Brown Thrasher												
STARLINGS AND MYNAS												
European Starling	187	223	1,372	35	28	110		689	120	2,764	1,272	1,492
WAXWINGS												
Bohemian Waxwing						3				3		3
Cedar Waxwing	17					11			26	54	8	46
waxwing sp.											15	-15
WARBLERS & TOWHEE												
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler												
Eastern Towhee												
SPARROWS												
American Tree Sparrow	2	12	25	9	34	64	14	31		191	82	109
Chipping Sparrow												
Field Sparrow												
Le Conte's Sparrow												
Song Sparrow			1							1		1
Lincoln's Sparrow												
Swamp Sparrow												
White-throated Sparrow				1		2		1		4		4
White-crowned Sparrow		CW								CW	1	-1
sparrow sp.											2	-2
Dark-eyed Junco	39	56	49	39	37	52	25		19	459		459
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco												
Dark-eyed (Slate col) Junco								143			178	-178
Lapland Longspur												
Snow Bunting	15		360		39	1				415	295	120

Monitoring Reports

2016 Christmas Bird Count (cont.)

SPECIES	TEAM NUMBER									All Team Count	Previous Year	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9		Count	Change
Northern Cardinal	18	16	5	1	5	10	8	10	6	79	61	18
Rose-breasted Grosbeak												
BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES												
Red-winged Blackbird						1				1	2	-1
Eastern Meadowlark												
meadowlark sp.												
Rusty Blackbird											1	-1
Common Grackle							1			1		1
Brown-headed Cowbird												
blackbird sp.												
Baltimore Oriole												
FINCHES												
Pine Grosbeak			2							2		2
Purple Finch											18	-18
House Finch	2	27			1	3		4	1	38	16	22
Red Crossbill												
White-winged Crossbill												
Crossbill species												
Common Redpoll											11	-11
Hoary Redpoll												
redpoll sp.												
Pine Siskin											138	-138
American Goldfinch	42	113	33	57	30	51	49	49	41	465	593	-128
Evening Grosbeak												
finch sp.							3			3	4	-1
IMPORTS												
House Sparrow	14	40	3			16	14	45	10	142	216	-74

* Area 1 observed one Adult Bald Eagle and one juvenile of unknown age at a time and location suggesting it was most likely one of the two juveniles seen by Area 8 and Area 9 observers.

The Area 8 juvenile was accurately described as a third year bird and the Area 9 bird was accurately described as a first year bird so these were clearly different individuals.

* The same 17 Trumpeter Swans were seen in both Area 8 & 9.

Nature Notes

The Greenbelt Plan - Al McNair

The provincial Growth Plan and three land conservation plans (Niagara Escarpment Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan) are designed to work together to help us protect what is most valuable and grow smarter in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) region.

The following are comments sent to the Province's Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Bill Mauro, regarding a review of this Greenbelt Plan by Alan McNair, our Conservation Committee Chair. He has been working diligently, on our club's behalf and has suggested some additions should be made to the named plan.

The following are excerpts of the requested additional changes. For the complete wording, please contact Al McNair.

1. The Brereton Field Naturalists' Club in Barrie, ON, has been involved with the discussions of the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition and our club strongly supports the request for extension of the Greenbelt Plan to include Simcoe County.

2. On the topic of Making Climate Action a Priority, he has added;
We need to preserve, protect, enhance and enlarge our natural heritage systems so that they can support our continued ability to survive on this planet as climate change proceeds. We need their long-term support

even more than they need ours!

3. On the topic, the Greenbelt and Growth Plan for Long-Term Success, he has added;

Ensure that all Government Ministries and Agencies adhere to the policies of the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan, as well as the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment Plans. This issue has been raised with MMAH staff in various policy review sessions, etc., but the highest spending Ministries persist in marching to their own drum and MMAH has not been effective in bringing them into conformity. Some examples follow:

1) Education: Approved the closing of the only secondary school and both elementary schools that were within the designated Urban Growth Centre in Barrie and funded a new suburban secondary school on the periphery of the City.

2) Health: Planning to close hospitals in Huntsville and Bracebridge and locate a new one somewhere in the rural area between these communities where there is no transit access or walkability and which will only be reachable by using private cars.

3) Transportation: Still has plans to extend Hwy. 427 further north, thereby increasing private commuting to work and further segmenting the natural landscape.

Thank you, Al, for your continued vigilance regarding these matters.

April 22 2017 Ontario Nature Huronia Regional Spring meeting

Save the Date!

The Huronia Regional Ontario Nature spring meeting will take place on April 22nd.

The hosts for this event will be the York-Simcoe Naturalists.

The location will be in East Gwillimbury, at Riverdrive Park Community Centre, 20 Oak Avenue in Riverdrive Park. (Between the 2nd Conc. and Bathurst street, north off the Queensville Side Road).

Parking is limited so carpooling is suggested.

The hike after the meeting will be either in Holland



Landing Provincial Prairie Preserve or along the Holland River.

For more information please contact your Rep.
Dorothy Mckeown 705-817-9572

Nature Notes

Barrie Collegiate Swiftwatch Video – Brian Backland

Brian Backland has posted two CHSW videos, taken on Aug. 22 and 25th on our club's Facebook page. Below is the link for those who prefer not to use Facebook.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuSVOfbJI_kFQ-80QbyxlfA1HylYkkygD

These 2 videos showcase the former Barrie Central Collegiate High School Chimney. This has become a very important roost and nest chimney. Having this kind of visual proof of chimney swift habitat may help retain this chimney, which is now under threat of development.

Our records of those 2 evenings are as follows:

Barrie Central Collegiate (BCC) 125 Dunlop St., West

(Phyllis & Brian)

August 22, 2016 (sunset: 20:10)

Start Time: 19:36 (1st CHSW observed @ 20:05)

End Time: 20:47

Temp. 21; Wind 1; Precip. 0; Cloud 1

1st CHSW in @ 20:14

Last CHSW in @ 20:29

Visual Count: 53

Video Count: 60

Barrie Central Collegiate (BCC) 125 Dunlop St., West

(Clare, Lane, Brian Backland & Phyllis)

August 25, 2016 (sunset: 20:05)

Start Time; 19:35

End Time: 20:30

Temp. 26; Wind 1; Precip. 0; Cloud 4

(There were a few exits throughout the count).

1st CHSW in @ 19:44

Last CHSW in @ 20:25

Visual Count: 66

Video Count: 70



A Message from Leanne - Our Ontario Nature Youth Summit Student

Dear Brereton Field Naturalists,

Thank you, Brereton Field Naturalists for sponsoring me to go to the 2016 youth summit.

When learning of the summit I was hesitant about going because I had a bad experience with a different environmental conference type event in the past, but this summit was awesome and I'm so happy to have gotten to participate in it!

I had so much fun meeting people with similar interests and ideas as myself as well as learning a ton of new things about the environment and how to protect it. I was able to see and do so many awesome things at the summit. I got to hold endangered turtles, look at Falcons up close, build fires and taste test honey from different areas around the world. During the summit we came up with action plans to take back to our community.

I am very excited to organize my own bio blitz which is a

event where you go out with friends and collect data to put into a data base for research on endangered species.

Lastly, I was amazed by the organization of the summit and wish to partake in it next year, as a member on the youth council.

I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity and for the Brereton Field Naturalists to have sponsored me to go.

Please feel free to contact me

Leanne.godlington@yahoo.com if you have any further questions about the summit!



A New Bird for Simcoe County - The Eurasian Collared-Dove

Around 11 a.m. on 15 October 2016 two Eurasian Collared-Doves were observed, by Burke Korol, at 1698 Innisfil Beach Rd (44.3064N 79.5869W). They were on the wires right over a house and visible from I.B.R., which is a very busy road on a Saturday morning.

The Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), most often simply called the collared dove, also sometimes hyphenated as Eurasian collared-dove, is a species of dove native to warm temperate and subtropical Asia, and introduced in North America in the 1980s.

The genus name *Streptopelia* is from Ancient Greek *streptos*, "collar" and *peleia*, "dove". The specific *decaocto* is Latin for eighteen. In Greek mythology, a servant complained bitterly about pay of just 18 pieces a year and the gods changed her into a dove, that still cries mournfully. In reality the song is a coo-coo-coo, repeated six times, for a total of eighteen times coo.



Photo credit to Burke Korol

It is a medium-sized dove, distinctly smaller than the wood pigeon but slimmer and longer-tailed, with an average length of 13 in. from tip of beak to tip of tail, with a wingspan of 19–22 in. It is grey-buff to pinkish-grey overall, a little darker above than below, with a blue-grey under wing patch. The tail feathers are grey-buff above, and dark grey tipped white below. It has a black half-collar edged with white on its nape from which it gets its name. The short legs are red and the bill is black. The iris is red, but from a distance the eyes appear to be black, as the pupil is relatively large and only a narrow rim of reddish-brown iris can be seen around the black pupil.

The two sexes are virtually indistinguishable; juveniles differ in having a poorly developed collar and a brown iris.

The collared dove is not migratory, but is strongly dispersive. Over the last century, it has been one of the great colonisers of the bird world. In 1974 less than 50 Eurasian Collared Doves escaped captivity in the Bahamas and from there spread to Florida. It is now found in nearly every state in the US. Few negative impacts have been demonstrated in Florida, where the species is most prolific. The species is known as an aggressive competitor, and there is concern that as populations continue to grow, native birds will be outcompeted by the invaders. However, one study found that these doves are not more aggressive or competitive than native mourning doves, despite similar dietary preferences.

Collared doves typically breed close to human habitation wherever food resources are abundant and there are trees for nesting; almost all nests are within 1 km of inhabited buildings. The female lays two white eggs in a stick nest, which she incubates during the night and which the male incubates during the day.

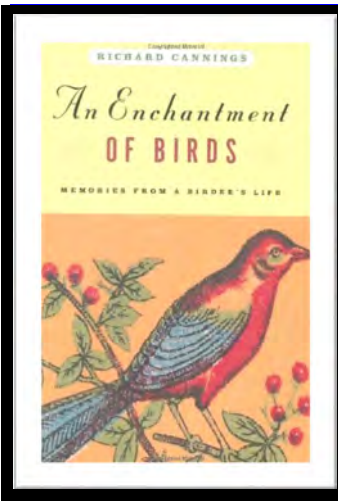
Incubation lasts between 14 and 18 days, with the young fledging after 15 to 19 days. They are a monogamous species, and share parental duties when caring for young.

The male's mating display is a ritual flight, which, as with many other pigeons, consists of a rapid, near-vertical climb to height followed by a long glide downward in a circle, with the wings held below the body in an inverted "V" shape. At all other times, flight is typically direct using fast and clipped wing beats and without use of gliding.

The collared dove is not wary and often feeds very close to human habitation, including visiting bird tables; the largest populations are typically found around farms where spilt grain is frequent around grain stores or where livestock are fed. Flocks most commonly number between ten and fifty.

Ref: wikipedia

Book Review - *An Enchantment of Birds* by Richard Cannings



In these delightful meditations, biologist and bird lover Richard Cannings weaves stories of his personal encounters with birds into fascinating descriptions of their behavior, anatomy, and evolution. He muses over the meadowlarks' ability to hide their nests so completely that he has seen only two in a lifetime spent

searching for them; the trumpeter swan, as picky as a two-year old, devouring potatoes and carrots but turning up its beak at Brussels sprouts; the northern gannet, with its snowy plumage, black wingtips, and startling blue eyes; the little saw-whet owl, which dabbles in bigamy and even trigamy; and more than two dozen other birds. Covering the entire continent, from the cacophony of a seabird colony on the shores of the Atlantic to a symphony of snow geese on the autumn plains to songbird courtship in the alpine tundra of the Rockies, *An Enchantment of Birds* informs and entertains, in one fell swoop.

Curious Critters - The Antlion

The Antlions or Doodlebugs are a group of about 2,000 species of insect in the family Myrmeleontidae, known for the fiercely predatory habits of their larvae, which dig pits to trap passing ants or other prey. The adult lacewing insects are less well known, as they mostly fly at dusk or after dark, and may be mistakenly identified as dragonflies or damselflies.



Photo Courtesy of Lane Henderson

They most commonly occur in dry and sandy habitats where the larvae can easily excavate their pits. In trap-building species, an average-sized larva digs a pit about 2 in (5 cm) deep and 3 in (7.5 cm) wide at the

edge. Having marked out the chosen site by a circular groove, the antlion larva starts to crawl backwards, using its abdomen as a plough to shovel up the soil. By the aid of one front leg, it places consecutive heaps of loosened particles upon its head, then with a smart jerk throws each little pile clear of the scene of operations. When the pit is completed, the larva settles down at the bottom, buried in the soil with only the jaws projecting above the surface, often in a wide-opened position on either side of the very tip of the cone. Slipping to the bottom, the prey is immediately seized by the lurking antlion. By throwing up loose sand from the bottom of the pit, the larva also undermines the sides of the pit, causing them to collapse and bring the prey with them.

The antlion larva is a ferocious-looking animal with a robust body, a very plump abdomen, and a thorax bearing three pairs of walking legs and a large, square, flattened head, which bears an enormous pair of sickle-like jaws with several sharp, hollow projections. Antlion larvae are unusual among insects in lacking an anus. All the metabolic waste generated during the larval stage is stored and used to spin silk for the cocoon. When the larva attains its maximum size, it makes a globular cocoon of sand stuck together with fine silk. In about one month, it emerges from the case and works its way to the surface. After about twenty minutes, the adult's wings are fully opened and it flies off in search of a mate. The adult typically lives for about 25 days.

Ref: Wikipedia.org

Members Photo Gallery



Dryads Saddle — Jim Coey



Wilkin's Walk



Milligans Pond—Paul Forde



*Ontario Nature Youth summit
Supplied by Leanne Godlington*

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



[Www.BFNCLUB.ORG](http://www.BFNCLUB.ORG)



Visit us on our Facebook page! “Brereton Field Naturalists’ Club” (public group)