

# THE BLUE HERON

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

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Bouncing Bet

*Saponaria officinalis*

## A Message from your Editor

Now That was an interesting summer, the end of which, was heralded by the total eclipse of the sun across parts of North America.

Solar eclipses have caused fear, inspired curiosity, and have been associated with myths, legends, and superstitions throughout history. Even today, an eclipse of the Sun is considered a bad omen in many cultures. Traditionally, people in many cultures have got together to bang pots and pans and make loud noises, to scare away the demons causing the eclipse. Ancient cultures have tried to understand why the Sun temporarily vanished from the sky, so they came up with various reasons for what caused a solar eclipse.

In Vietnam, people believed that a solar eclipse was caused by a giant frog devouring the Sun.

The Norse cultures blamed wolves for eating the Sun.

In ancient China, a celestial dragon was thought to lunch on the Sun

The ancient Greeks believed that a solar eclipse was a sign of angry gods and that it was the beginning of disasters and destruction.

Fear of solar eclipses still exists today. Many people around the world still see the eclipses as evil omens.

In many parts of India, people fast during a solar eclipse due to the belief that any food cooked while an eclipse happens will be poisonous and impure.

A popular misconception is that solar eclipses can be a danger to pregnant women and their unborn children. However, not all superstitions surrounding solar eclipses are about doom. In Italy, for example, it is believed that flowers planted during a solar eclipse are brighter and more colorful than flowers planted any other time of the year.

In any event, you won't have to wait too long for the next occurrence. In 2024, the path will cross the southern tips of Ontario and Quebec, central New Brunswick, western P.E.I. and central Newfoundland.

Now back to earth...Environment Canada has called this year, "the year of the big wet". Climatologist Dave Phillips has said the weather patterns in Canada this summer have been anything but ordinary. The extreme conditions, compared to last summer, are part of a new reality that is becoming increasingly hard to ignore.

A number of factors including heavy winter snow and spring runoff made for the perfect primer to fill the Great Lakes to record levels this season, flooding campsites, eroding shorelines and changing summer plans on both sides of the border. Lake Ontario reached a level of 75.88 metres above sea level on May 29, an all-time high. According to Mr. Phillips, a stalled jet stream over southern Ontario meant even more rain to overwhelm an already swollen Lake Ontario. It also led to a series of weather systems bringing more grey skies, precipitation and cooler temperatures to Toronto this summer compared to last.

So, what's the prediction for the fall?

Well, fall will start off cooler but then towards the end of Sept will warm up a little, to be a little above normal. This short season should be celebrated as it's a free energy time. And, as an added bonus in the lake Simcoe area, nature puts on a display of magnificent colours. Dave Phillips predicts that this year, the fall colours will be spectacular because the one species that loved this summer, were the trees. The leaves were happy and healthy and they stayed on the trees.

It sounds like we should have lots to see on any of our fall line up of outings. We have a wide variety to choose from, including Springwater Park, Hewitt's River Ravine, North Simcoe Rail Trail and of course around the waters of Kempenfelt Bay. Our indoor meetings include some interesting speakers Mark Peck, Lev Frid & Katie Florio who are all eager to talk about projects that are dear to their hearts. Please, take some time to check one of our many publications for details and we hope to see you out at some or all of these events.

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](mailto:clareholden5@gmail.com)



*Photo credit to Cameron DaSilva*

## Your Board of Directors

### 2017-2018 Club Executive, Directors, Committee Chairs & Representatives

Position	2017/2018	Home	Mobile	email
<b><u>Executive</u></b>				
President	Alex Mills	705-739-1094		
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<b><u>Club Reps &amp; Liaisons</u></b>				
LSRCA & Barrie Creeks Project	Gwen Petreman	705-722-5377		gwenpetreman@gmail.com
MTM Conservation	David Eales	705-721-8174		eales@sympatico.ca
North Simcoe Rail Trail	Lisa Levez Bordeleau		705-309-1528	theearthshiring@gmail.com
Helen Emery Award/ Georgian College	Lynne Gibbon	705-721-4599		lgibbon@sympatico.ca

## 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 *Sept. 2017 – Jan. 2018*

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

### *Sept. 15 Friday 2017 This year's Annual Joint Meeting hosted by BFNC*

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

**Time:** 7:30pm.

**Speaker:** Mark Peck

Who will be speaking about "The Value of Citizen Science in the 21st Century"

**NOTE: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE PLEASE ATTEND EARLY TO HELP WITH SET UP**

Mark Peck manages the ornithology collections at the Royal Ontario Museum, where he has worked for over thirty years. He began his career there as a tree-climbing nest finder (!) and has since broadened his skills to include not only collections manager but also field researcher, public speaker and interpreter, nature photographer and gallery developer. Applying his deep knowledge of Ontario ornithology, Mark has also worked for many years on the Ontario Bird Records Committee. His interest in natural history has not only formed his career work, but he has also been engaged in many citizen science initiatives, most recently with the opportunities afforded by the internet and its capacity for storing great quantities of citizen-generated sightings and other data.

### *Oct. 20 Friday 2017 Madeira - in search of the Freira*

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

**Time:** 7:00pm.

**Speaker:** Lev Frid (speaker at 7:30pm.)

In the remote mountains of Madeira, an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, haunting wails fill the night air. For a long time, the farmers on the island believed that they were the lost souls of nuns that found sanctuary from French colonists in these mountains. In reality, it is one of the rarest birds in the world. Join Lev on a quest to see this incredible species and a host of interesting plant and animal life along the way in this little-known destination.

### *Nov. 17 Friday 2017 "Fat is good for Polar Bears and good for researchers"*

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

**Time:** 7:00pm.

**Speaker:** Katie Florko (speaker at 7:30pm.)

Some people run from fat, but Katie Florko pursues it! Katie is a graduate student at York University and she studies Polar Bears. Why chase Polar Bears for their fat? Using it, Katie analyzes body condition and diet, allowing her to draw conclusions about critical habitats, natural history, and the conservation of the world's largest land carnivore. She is also able to link her work with that of other Polar Bear researchers.

## Coming Events - Meetings (Cont.) Sept. 2017 – Jan. 2018

### Dec.16 Saturday 2017 Christmas Bird Count & Potluck Dinner

Participants must register no later than Dec.8th. with Chris Evans via email

**Location:** Group Leaders will establish the meeting point & time for their group.

#### **POT LUCK SUPPER**

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

**Time:** Doors open 6pm. Meal will commence at 6:30pm.

For more information about the dinner please contact the Social Director, Christine Beggs 705-721-6842

Participants, (both beginners & experts), will be distributed among 9 groups, each with a leader. This is one of the most exciting and fun events of the year!! Teams of birders will survey a section within a 7.5 mile radius of Barrie and record individual numbers and species of birds.

A potluck supper will be held afterwards and the team results will be presented.

Please bring your own cutlery & dishes as well as a contribution to the supper.

### TBA. Dec/Jan. Saturday 2017/18 Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4kids)

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation,  
8195 8th. Line, Utopia

**Time:** 9:00 am. - 12:00 pm.

**Date not yet determined at time of press.**

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.

Details will be found, nearer the time, at <http://www.nvca.on.ca/events-education>

### Jan.19 Friday 2018 Birds of the Galapagos Islands

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

**Time:** 7:00pm.

**Speaker:** Justin Peter (speaker at 7:30pm.)

The Galapagos Islands are often touted as a laboratory of evolution by natural selection, and some of the archipelago's birds are among the best-studied organisms anywhere. In this talk illustrated with photographs from his three expeditions there, Justin will help us get acquainted with some of these birds. We'll see what they look like, how they behave and interact with fellow Galapagos denizens, as well as gain insights into their origins through some of the latest research findings stemming from decades of research.

### Feb.16 Friday 2018 Bird Banding In Africa

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

**Time:** 7:00pm.

**Speaker:** Courtney Shaw (speaker at 7:30pm.)

Courtney has been attending Brereton events with her parents Nigel and Jackie since she was a little girl. She has evidently inherited her father's interests, and she recently went with him on a bird banding mission in Africa. Courtney will relate her part in this adventure, showing us numerous images of the birds they caught and the things they were able to find out.

## Coming Events - Field Trips

Sept. 2017 – Jan. 2018

**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. 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. Drive to the end of this 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. (*It is most appropriate to offer your driver recompense for fuel expenses*) 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!

We now need to be concerned about ticks and **Lyme disease**. Please check out the following site for tips on prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/features/lymedisease/>

**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](http://www.bfnclub.org) All other questions should be addressed to Jim Coey 705-543-1866

### OFO YOUNG BIRDERS:

OFO Young Birders field trips and workshops are for birders age 9 -19. The only prerequisites are enthusiasm and curiosity about birds. Parents or guardians are encouraged to attend except where otherwise indicated. The BFNC supports this initiative and Brian Gibbon will host Young Birders on his Springwater outing in September.

That having been said young birders and naturalists are welcome on all BFNC activities. Parents or guardians are expected to attend with their younger boys and girls.

### *Sept. 16 Saturday 2017 Exploring Springwater Provincial Park*

*Location:* Departs from LLPL

*Time:* 8:30am.

*Leaders:* Brian & Lynne Gibbon 705-721-4599

This trip has been chosen to support OFO's Young Birders initiative. Meet at Little Lake Park at 8.30 or alternatively at the park entrance at 8.45. We will explore some of the nature trails in the Park that winds through the woodland, where birds, fall flowers, and ferns can be found. Long pants are recommended as there is some poison ivy. *Moderate walk, ends by 1:00pm. Water & light snack. A small entrance fee of \$3.00 will be charged.*

### *Sept. 23 Saturday 2017 Wilkins Walk / Hewitt's Creek Ravine Trail*

*Location:* Departs from LLPL

*Time:* 7:30am. - noon

Carpool to South End of Barrie where Paul will meet you at the Walnut Crescent trail entrance at 8:00am.

Take Big Bay Point Rd. E. to Pine Drive to Walnut Cres. (It's a small street in the South end of Barrie, so there will be no problem finding each other)

Walk will start at 8:00 am.

*Leader:* Paul Forde 705-725-0750

Easy walk for the most part, on a well worn trail. However, there are two fairly steep hills closer to the waterfront. We will pass by thick Cedar groves running alongside an open stream marsh. Then upwards alongside some tall Red Pine canopies. The trail continues along partially wooded lowland to an upper wooded forest. And finally we will follow Hewitt's Creek to where it runs into Lake Simcoe, the trip highlight.

*There are no washrooms on this trail and at a minimum it will take 2 full hours.*

## Coming Events - Field Trips (Cont.) Sept 2017–Jan. 2018

### Oct. 1 Sunday 2017 North Simcoe Rail Trail

*Location:* Departs from LLPL

*Time:* 8:30am.

*Leaders:* Brian & Lynne Gibbon 705-721-4599

Let's see what mid autumn has to offer in flora and fauna along a favorite section of the rail trail near Mayer's Marsh. Sparrows and other hardy migrants will still be in the area including, possibly, Rusty Blackbirds

*Easy walk, water & light snack, ends by 1:00 pm.*

### Oct. 14 Saturday 2017 Simcoe Shores

*Location:* Meet at the City of Barrie Dock Road Municipal Parking lot at 204 Dock Road, south-east corner of Dock Road and Plunkett Ct.

*Time:* 9:00am.

*Leader:* Jim Coey 705-543-1866

We'll look for migrants in the park and waterfowl on the lake. Lake Simcoe has had some surprising birds over the years. Who knows what will turn up? If time permits we'll visit other nearby lake access points.

*Easy walking, bring snack and water a small parking fee is required*

### Nov. 18 Saturday 2017 Lake Simcoe Migrants

*Location:* Meet at the City of Barrie Dock Road Municipal Parking lot at 204 Dock Road, south-east corner of Dock Road and Plunkett Ct.

*Time:* 9:00am.

*Leader:* Chris Evans 705-722-1136

This trip will explore the late November lakeshore along Kempenfelt Bay, looking for lingering waterfowl, gulls and late migrants.

*Car pooling and easy walking. Ends by 2:00pm.*

### Dec. 9 Saturday 2017 Barrie Lakeshore

*Location:* City of Barrie Municipal Parking lot on Simcoe St. between Maple and Bayfield.

*Time:* 9:00am.

*Leader:* Jim Coey 705-543-1866

We will explore the lake front parks for Gulls, waterfowl and other lingering migrants.

*Some driving (car pool) and easy walking.*

### Dec. 16 Saturday 2017 Christmas Bird Count

*Additional information regarding this event can be seen on Page 5 in the meetings section*

Every year BFN club members and other birders join together to count the birds in a clearly defined area in and around Barrie. The area is divided into sections and each section is looked after by a leader who assigns the counters to teams and each team is given a specific area within the section. Then the fun begins. Starting around 8.00 am, the count generally lasts until about 2 to 3 pm with a break for lunch. Team leaders determine meeting places and start times and team composition.

Afterwards counters meet to discuss results and compare notes at the pot luck supper. (Please see Meetings schedule on Pg. 5 for further information)

Participants *must register* no later than Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> with Chris Evans

Either by email or phone 705-722-1136

He will then distribute people (Both beginners and experts) among the 9 groups, each with an experienced leader.

## Trip Reports

### May 3 The Gables - Phyllis Tremblay



The majestic towering trees and the blooming profusion of both wild and introduced flowers attracted 11 participants to experience this wonderful urban park on a clear cool evening of 11°C. The main feature, the spring ephemerals, are easily seen along the numerous walking trails.

A few typical birds of the hardwood and pine forests were heard or seen and identified.

Small rafts of ducks and the calm water of Kempenfelt Bay shoreline gave pleasant ideal conditions for this field trip.

Construction of the water and sewer lines through the park with a large open roadway has produced a fragmented forest canopy.

**Plants Observed:** Black Raspberry, Blue Cohosh, Canadian Yew, Celadine plants, Common Dandelion, Common Lilac, Common Mallow, Common Plantain, Dame's Rocket, Early Meadow-rue, False Solomon's Seal, Garlic Mustard, hairy Solomon's Seal, Large-flowered Bellwort, Lesser Celadine, Lesser Periwinkle, Long-Stalked Sedge, Motherwort, Prickly Gooseberry, Red Trillium, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Staghorn Sumac, Trout Lily, Two-leafed Toothwort, Virginia Bluebells, Virginia Waterleaf, Ural False Spiraea, White Trillium, Wild Ginger, Wild Lily-of-the-Valley, Wild Leek, Wild Red Raspberry & Wood Anemone.

**Garden Escapes:** European Wayfaring Tree, Forsythia, Glory of the Snow, Sedum, Spring Squill, Striped Squill, Wild Daffodil and Yellow Anemone.

**Bird List:** Wood Duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Gull sp., Caspian Tern, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Great-crested Flycatcher, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Warbler, Northern Cardinal and Common Grackle.

### May 11 Little Lake Area – Phyllis Tremblay

It was a cloudy, chilly 3°C morning for the 9 participants, eventually warming up to 14°C during the 5-hour hike to visit the south and north sides of Little Lake Park. This trip date is prior to my usual May 15<sup>th</sup> timing and the cool spring influenced the variety of bird species and blooming wildflowers which were observed. White trilliums that carpet the forest floor were impressive, although not at peak bloom.

A few migrant ducks were still present and that increased the bird observations to 49 species. Singing yellow warblers and swamp sparrows were easy to see at the shoreline near the Little Lake parking lot. The 4 red-bellied woodpeckers and the ovenbird were the highlights in the woodland on the north side of the lake.



A tiny red-backed salamander, an amphibian of lush woodlands, was found under a rotted log.



## May 11 Little Lake Area (cont.) – Phyllis Tremblay

**Plants Identified:-** Blackberry, Blue Cohosh, Bitter Dock, Catnip, Coltsfoot, Common Burdock, Common Cattail, Common Dandelion, Common Mullein, Common Yarrow, Creeping Charlie, Ferns:- Christmas, Foam Flower, Northern Maidenhair, Ostrich & Sensitive; Horsetail Family:- Dwarf Scouring Rush, Field Horsetail & Scouring Rush; Garlic Mustard, Herb Robert, Kidney-leaved Buttercup, Large-flowered Bellwort, Lesser Celandine, Marsh Marigold, Mayapple, Moneywort, Poison Ivy, Red Trillium, Red-berried Elderberry, Red-osier Dogwood, Sedges:- Long-stalked and Plantain-leaved; Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Shepherd's-purse, Solomon's-Seals:- False, Giant, Hairy & Starry False; Spotted Touch-me-not (seedlings), Squawroot, Staghorn Sumac, Storks-bill, Trout Lily, Two-leaved Toothwort, Violets:- Canada, Dog, Downy Yellow & Woolly Blue; Virginia Waterleaf, White Trillium, Wild Columbine, Wild Ginger, Wild Leek, Wild Lily-of-the-Valley and Wild Sarsaparilla.

**Bird List:** Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Greater/Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Duck sp., Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Great-blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Gull Sp., Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, Ovenbird, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch and American Goldfinch.

## May 13 Spring Migration at Tiny Marsh - Don Scanlon

Twelve people enjoyed sunny weather with no wind to take part in our annual Brereton mid May birding trip to Tiny Marsh.

Starting on the marsh causeway at the centre we got good views of Marsh Wrens and a Black-crowned Night Heron as it flew away. Caspian, Common and Black Terns foraged over the water.

Just west of the centre we all had a good look at a Green Heron hunting amongst the flooded hardwoods north of the trail. Many Yellow-rumped Warblers were above. We saw a Northern Parula and American Redstart near the canal.



American Redstart photo Credit o Jim Charlebois

Across the canal we walked north to the lookout stand stopping to look at a male Northern Oriole.

From the lookout Dave Lord spotted a Lincoln's Sparrow below us.

Alex Mills identified late migrating Rusty Blackbirds from the boardwalk.

Further along we spotted Midland Painted Turtles sunning themselves on a half-submerged log. A small Watersnake was also catching some rays on the boardwalk.

We passed a nesting Robin pointed out to us by Ken MacDonald. Ken suggested that we not look at it as we walked just under it on the path. It worked and we didn't flush the bird from its nest.

A Pileated Woodpecker was seen just at the edge of the marsh as we approached mole mountain.

At mole mountain we were able to have close interaction with Virginia Rail and Common Snipe.

Heading back the way we came we moved onto the boardwalk where I sidestepped ever so slightly and fell over sideways into the water while trying to get a better look at a Blackburnian Warbler.

The water wasn't too cold, but had a lot of green slime in it. It was close to noon and we headed back to the picnic tables at the centre and had lunch. That was about enough for me and I retreated homeward.

May 13 Spring Migration at Tiny Marsh (cont.) - Don Scanlon

All in all a good day.

Thanks Phyllis for helping to list sightings.

**The list:** This may be incomplete and I welcome any sightings I missed listing.

Common Loon, Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Merlin, Ruffed Grouse drumming, Virginia Rail, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Black Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White Breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Veery, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white

Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Northern Oriole, American Goldfinch.



Yellow Warbler photo credit to John Wright

May 27 Birding Barrie – Jim Coey for Alex Mills



Photo credit to Jim Coey

Temp. 10-19 degrees, cloudy, with a brief shower. 8 participants plus leader Jim Coey

This outing was designed to look at different habitats within the limits of the city of Barrie. Deciduous woodlots, wetlands, lake front, Arboretum/parkland and scrubby forest edges along pipeline right of way.

We had a total of 48 birds species, 2 butterflies, 5 mammals, 1 amphibian and trilliums.

5 Cabbage White butterflies, 1 Spring Azure butterfly. 11+ Painted Turtles. 1 Red Fox, 1 Red Squirrel, many Eastern Gray Squirrels (Black), 1 Eastern Cottontail, 1 Eastern Chipmunk.

- Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) 35
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 1
- Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) 1
- Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) 3 on kempenfelt Bay
- Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) 5
- Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) 1
- Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) 5
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) 3
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) 1
- Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) (*Columba livia*) 1
- Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) 23
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) 1
- Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) 3
- Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) 1
- Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) 1
- Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) 1
- Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) 1
- Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) 3
- Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) 1
- Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) 1
- Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) 25
- Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) 1
- Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) 7
- American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 19
- Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) 7
- Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) 15

## May 27 Birding Barrie ( cont.) – Jim Coey for Alex Mills

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) 1  
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) 2  
 Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) 1  
 American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 45  
 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) 3  
 European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 23  
 Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) 10  
 Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) 2  
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) 5  
 Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) 1  
 Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) 6  
 Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) 3  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) 1  
 Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) 1  
 Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 11  
 Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) 1  
 Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) 5  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) 2 Discovered nest  
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) 2

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 38  
 Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) 45  
 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) 1  
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) 1  
 American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) 18  
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) 4



*Photo credit to Jim Coey*

## June 4 Oro-Medonte Rail Trail Flora & Fauna—Brian Gibbon

The weather was a sunny 9C with a light wind at 7:00am rising to a balmy 18C at 3:00pm.

Seven people joined the walk



*Great Crested Flycatcher credit to John Wright*

The first stop was on the 4/5 Side Road of Oro-Medonte at the old heronry.

There were no herons on the nests, however, a Blue Heron was observed catching fish in the pond.

**Birds :** Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow Warbler and American Robin.

The second stop was on the rail-trail where we entered off the 7<sup>th</sup> Con of Oro-Medonte and walked north to just past the 8<sup>th</sup> Con.

**Birds:** Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Turkey Vultures, Canada Geese, House Wren, Morning Dove, Red-eyed Vireo, Cat Bird, American Crow, Common Yellow-throat Warbler, Field Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Oven Bird, northern Cardinal, Northern Flicker, Yellow Warbler, Great-crested Flycatcher,

**Plants:** Black Cohosh, Milk Weed, Common Mullein, Wild Columbine, Garlic Mustard, Dog-strangling Vine, Poison Ivy, Wild Strawberry, Buttercup, Goats Beard, Dandelion, plus many others that went un-identified.

**Dragon and Damselflies** were abundant as well as a variety of butterflies but no Monarchs.

## June 10 Carden Alvar - Brian Gibbon

Six hearty souls made it out of bed for a 7:30 am departure time.

We left Orillia on Hwy 12 and then turned onto Ramara Con. 11. There are a couple of wetlands along this Concession that proved productive and of course the fields that never fail to yield some Baltimore Orioles and a few other interesting species. Many of the six participants got a number of firsts such as the Baltimore Oriole, Upland Sandpiper, Common Snipe, and of course the Loggerhead Shrike.



*Photo credit to Jim Charlebois*

Wylie Rd was once again a test track for vehicle suspension. The Upland Sandpiper was a real challenge although we had several fly over and one on the ground at a distance it wasn't until we were just pulling out on the main highway to come home that we had one on a fence post and he posed long enough for everyone to have a good look.

The weather was bright and sunny, very light breeze reaching a high of 26C.

Bird list:

American Robin, American Crow, Red Winged Blackbird, European Starling, Duck( Sp), Mourning Dove, Common Yellowthroat, American Goldfinch, Marsh Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Black Capped Chickadee, Great Blue Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red Eyed Vireo, Canada Goose, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Flicker, Barn Swallow, Vesper Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, Tree Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Turkey Vulture, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Osprey, Mallard, Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Eastern Bluebird, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Yellow Warbler, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Grackle, Double Crested Cormorant, Ring Billed Gull

Forty three species, a good haul.

I would like to thank Jim Spruce who rode shotgun with me for listing our sightings and helping identify some confusing species.

## Passages

*Our club wishes to convey our condolences to the family of this wonderful individual*

**Wendy (Winn) Bowser**

May 25, 2017

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Winn, peacefully, with her family nearby.

Winn was always a very welcoming and friendly person. A valued long-time member of our club, with a keen interest in flowers and birds. Winn donated her expertise as the club secretary and then as treasurer for several years. She will be remembered fondly, for her practical and sensible approach to various matters while on the board. We will all miss her very much.

Donations in Wendy's name may be made to Royal Victoria Hospital Cancer Care Centre.

# Monitoring Reports

## 2017 Barrie SwiftWatch Report – Phyllis Tremblay



The 2017 Barrie SwiftWatch Team was coordinated by Phyllis Tremblay and Inga Brinckmann with guidance from Bird Studies Canada (BSC) and involved the participation of 19 dedicated Brereton Field Naturalists' Club (BFNC) volunteers.

Chimney swifts' arrival in Barrie occurred May 4 according to the report on ebird.

National Population Roost Monitoring Blitz counts were performed on May 14, 18, 24, 28, June 1 and 5 as reported in the table below. A high number of swifts used the Main Roost in the first few nights of the blitz, then changed to the Barrie Central Collegiate (BCC) Roost.

For the first time since 2011, non-breeding Chimney Swifts roosted at BCC during the summer, where presumed nesting was also observed. This year the Main Roost also appeared to be a nesting chimney for the first time in 9 years, but non-breeding chimney swifts did not roost here.

Brian Backland photographed 13 previously active chimneys where chimney swift activity hadn't been

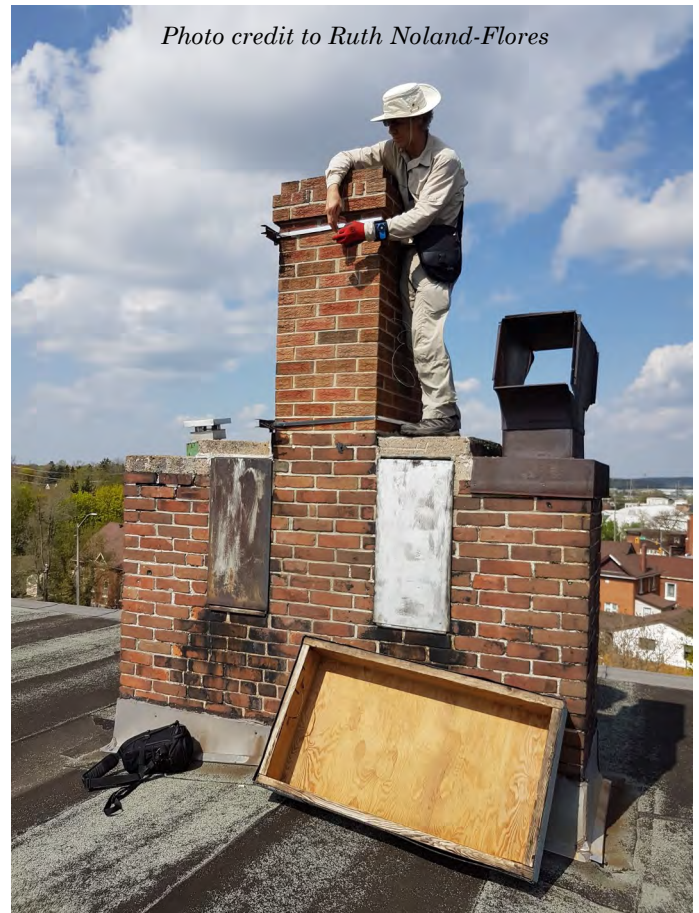


Photo credit to Ruth Noland-Flores

observed for one or more years. In comparing new photos with ones taken the year(s) when the chimneys were occupied by swifts, no modifications were obvious. Chimney swift presence was noted at 7/13 chimneys this season. By August, 2 of the other 6 were no longer available for swifts. We will need to determine if the remaining 4 have been modified or simply not occupied.

### Results of 2017 National Population Roost Monitoring Blitz Counts

Chimney Location	14-May	18-May	24-May	28-May	01-Jun	05-Jun	
Main Roost	86	131	11	2	3	4	
Roost B		2	0	2	1	2	
Barrie Central	6	0	51	50	94	64	
Unity Christian		0	0	7	3	2	
The Jail	0	0	2	0	2	2	

## Monitoring Reports

### 2017 Barrie SwiftWatch Report (Cont.) - Phyllis Tremblay

A Data Logger which measures temperature and light intensities was installed on May 18<sup>th</sup> in the Unity Christian High School chimney by Chris Evans and Ruth Noland-Flores. This is a known nesting chimney, a fall roost, and this season 7 swifts were observed entering the chimney, making it a spring roost site.



*Photo credit to Ruth Noland - Flores*

The SwiftWatch Team made 95 visits to known active and potential chimneys to monitor the presence or absence of chimney swifts at each site. Two new nest sites were identified in Barrie and one in Guthrie giving us 25 active chimneys this year. During the local fall migration, BCC was the preferred roost again in 2017 with the high count of 60 on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The final date for chimney swift observations was August 29<sup>th</sup> with 2 swifts at BCC and 3 at The Main Roost.

#### **SwiftWatch Promotion**

The 2016 SwiftWatch video prepared by Clare Holden was presented at the November Carden Field Naturalists' meeting. This was a joint effort that combined our video with BSC's Kristyn Richardson's Power Point on

Swifts and Swallows.

The SwiftWatch Team also gave a Power Point and video presentations of the past season's surveys to the Allandale Neighbourhood Association.

To generate interest and help recruit volunteers for the 2017 SwiftWatch season, relevant chimney swift snippets were presented at 3 general BFNC meetings.

Six members from The Friends of Nancy Island & Wasaga Beach joined us to learn about chimney swift monitoring during one of the blitz counts.

We were pleased to meet Sue Sgambati from Barrie Today.com when she joined us for a night of Swift-Watching at BCC. She followed up with an online article about our monitoring role in Barrie, thus promoting more public awareness.

Al McNair sent a letter to Mayor Jeff Lehman and members of Barrie City Council highlighting the importance of preserving chimney swift habitat by saving the BCC chimney.

All data has been submitted to Bird Studies Canada and Inga has prepared a spread sheet for the BFNC files.



*Another chimney bites the dust - Phyllis Tremblay*

## Monitoring Reports

### 2017 Barrie Bluebird Report

The Bluebird Report is unavailable at time of press and will be included in the December issue.

However, the 10 boxes that Lane Henderson and I monitored were very productive.



They produced a total of 47 fledglings.

19 Bluebird chicks, 21 Tree Swallow chicks and 7 House Wrens. A good year despite the weather.

### The Environmental Importance of Birds - Gwen Petreman

Changes in bird populations are excellent indicators of environmental health and trends.

Unfortunately, across Canada 4 in 10 bird species are in decline.

A change in one bird species may contribute to an infestation of specific insects. Birds provide ecosystem services by controlling pests such as insects and rodents. Farmers count on hawks and other raptors to control rodent populations. Birds such as the Stellar Jay, recycle organic materials when they scavenge, as well as the dispersing fruits and seeds.

If we had to pay for the ecosystem services provided by bird it would cost taxpayers billions of dollars!

Birds also alert us to the dangers of toxins in the environment. The effect of DDT on our environment was clearly demonstrated by the dramatic and disturbing decline of Bald Eagles a while back.

#### Protecting Our Feathered Friends

1. Cats kill over a billion birds every year around the world. So please keep your cats indoors.
2. Plant native fruit bearing shrubs and trees such as Serviceberry, Mountain Ash, American High Bush Cran-

berry and native perennials such as Cup plants, Swamp Milkweed, Tall Sunflowers, Blue Vervain, and Wood Sunflowers.

3. Get involved in tree planting in your community. Trees not only provide food, shelter, and nesting materials for birds, but they help mitigate the devastating effects of climate change.

4. To help build a database about birds join the Great Backyard Bird Count February 17 -20.

Count the birds your backyard or local park. Record the numbers on the Bird Studies Canada website ([birdscanada.org](http://birdscanada.org))

With these numbers Birds Studies Canada can determine the increase or decline in bird populations.

Project Feeder Watch runs from November through April. Count the birds at your feeder and report them to Birds Studies Canada. For more details on the Great Backyard Bird Count and Project Feeder Watch go to [birdscanada.org](http://birdscanada.org)

The BFNC has an annual Christmas Bird Count. Register before Dec. 10 by contacting Chris Evans at 705-722-1136 Email:chrisgevens55@gmail.com

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## Climate Change and Birds - Gwen Petreman

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Respected scientists around the world agree that 314 species of birds will be seriously threatened by climate change by the end of this century.

Dramatic climate change such as famine producing droughts, killer floods, out-of-control forest fires, desertification of fertile lands, acidification of our oceans, melting of the polar caps, soaring record breaking temperatures, increase in the number of deadly and property destroying weather events such as hurricane, tornadoes, cyclones, massive mud slides, freezing rain, and snow blizzards affect all birds in different ways.

It can greatly affect bird distribution in specific area.

It can modify the birds' behaviour.

Their numbers can be dramatically reduced.

And even their genetic composition can be altered.

The timing of year when birds migrate and when they breed can be drastically altered depending on the severity of the change in climate.

Birds are affected directly in a negative way if rainfall is suddenly reduced in a specific area or if there is a dramatic decline or increase in the temperature.

And as the climate changes in significant ways, birds may face increase pressure from parasites, new diseases, and predators to which they have not been able to adapt quickly enough.

Birds will also be increasingly and negatively impacted as more and more forest fires rage out of control for months and months, leaving behind a bare and blackened wasteland. Gone are the towering trees which birds depend on for food, dew, shelter, nesting materials, resting, and observation points.

And to make matters worse, climate change can create a carnage -combo when it is combined with habitat loss and alien invasive species.

Today birds are one of the best studied groups of organisms. The data is already available clearly showing the devastating effects of climate change on birds

### **Specific Ways Birds Have Been Affected by Climate Change**

#### *Egg laying*

One large-scale study showed that birds are laying eggs up at an average rate of 6.6 days earlier per decade.

#### *Migration Times*

Most birds are migrating earlier in the spring as spring temperatures are getting warmer.

A study of 63 years of data for 96 species of bird migrants in Canada showed that 27 species have changed their arrival dates significantly.

Birds also seem to be delaying their autumn departure due to global warming.

In a study of 13 North American passerines, 6 species were found to delay their departure dates.

Some birds in Europe are even failing to migrate all together.

#### *Bird behaviour and their environment are becoming mismatched*

Much of a bird's life cycle and behaviour is closely linked to cues from the environment, like changing seasons. A mismatch occurs when birds cannot shift their behaviour, such as breeding times, enough to coincide with changes in environment, such as when prey is available.

Long-distance migrants are particularly at risk of a mismatch as it is harder for them to know what conditions might be like at the end of the migration route. For example, wood warblers in North America aren't migrating earlier from their neo-tropical wintering grounds, despite earlier springs in their northern breeding ranges – this risks a late arrival, after spring food sources on breeding grounds are gone.

#### *Distributions are changing*

As climate continues to change, bird populations are expected to shift toward the North and to higher elevations to remain with their ideal temperatures.

A study of 35 North American warbler species found that 7 of the species had shifted their range of occurrence significantly north in the past 24 years, by an average of over 100 km. None of the birds shifted to the south.

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas data demonstrates that "southern" bird species such as Tufted Titmouse, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, and Red-bellied Woodpecker have increased in number and have expanded their range northwards in Ontario compared to 20 years ago.



## Climate Change and Birds (cont.) - Gwen Petreman

Unfortunately, not all bird populations are able to cope with a warming climate by shifting their range. Migrating birds may be prevented from finding new ranges by human development, fragmentation, or natural geological features like large bodies of water.

At least 85 of the world's breeding species breed in the global Arctic regions. Since warming is occurring at an alarming rate in the Arctic, birds breeding here are particularly vulnerable. The loss of vast areas of tundra and sea ice will have devastating effects on Arctic birds; especially, Ivory Gulls which forage along the sea shore.

### *Ecological communities are disrupted*

Entire ecological communities can be drastically altered by climate change. The food, shelter, nesting material that birds depend on may have diminished or disappeared making birds very vulnerable to prey, parasites, competitors, and predators.

Thick-billed Murree breeding in the northern Hudson Bay area have not been able to adapt to higher temperatures and higher volumes of mosquitoes breeding earlier. This double whammy- climate- induced scenario has resulted in greater adult mortality and higher egg loss.

As the climate continues to transform in northern Manitoba and southwestern Ontario we may end up with 14 fewer species of warblers than currently are in existence in 2016. Since the web of life is intricately interconnected, the loss of many species can have serious

consequences. In this case of warblers, we may experience increased outbreaks of forest pests such as the spruce budworm.

Tufted Puffins at Canadian sites are dangerously affected by global warming. When water is at its warmest their breeding success is near zero! As waters continue to warm, year after year, Scott Island will become completely unsuitable as a breeding ground for Tufted Puffins.

Scott Island is the largest breeding ground in Canada for this species!

### *Extinction risks are on the rise*

The birds, which are most at risk for disappearing from our Earth forever, are those with restricted ranges, poor ability to move their range, small populations, or those already threatened for any number of reasons.

Migratory birds, which they depend on multiple habitats and sites, are particularly vulnerable to climate change effects.

### **HOW TO HELP PROTECT BIRDS FROM THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Join Nature Canada

Join the Brereton Field Naturalists' Club

Become involved in tree planting Initiatives

Plant as many trees as possible on your property.

Feed our feathered friends

## LSRA Tree Planting Oct. 28 - Gwen Petreman

Please put aside Sat. Oct. 28 from 10am. to noon as the date LSRA has chosen for the Barrie site tree planting in partnership with their key community partner the BFNC.

We hope to plant about 300 potted native saplings and 200 live Willow and Red Osier Dogwood cuttings at Willowghby Park which is a fairly wet area. In order to increase the biodiversity of the area and provide food, shelter and protection for small critters, the City will no longer mow this area.

Many thanks go out to a local chiropractor and his partners who donated monies, to the BFNC, from their annual Charity Day along with money raised from my book sales, to support this cause.

You do not need to register, just turn up if you can help out.

### **Tree Facts**

Trees are the cheapest, safest, and most effective tools for mitigating the devastating effects of climate change, such as famine producing droughts and deadly floods.

The roots of trees hold staggering amounts of water, thereby, helping to prevent flash floods.

A tree, over its lifetime, will absorb about 1 tonne of carbon.

Forested areas provide food, shelter, and protection for a great variety of wildlife.

The health and vitality of Lake Simcoe depends on a canopy of mature trees growing along the shoreline.

The majority of life in Lake Simcoe depends on trees to provide shade for newly laid eggs- too much heat from the sun will destroy the eggs of fish and other aquatic creatures.

## Fall Is For The Birds – Dorothy McKeown

### Fall is for the birds

Raptors, songbirds and shorebirds abound during the fall migration

Barrie, September 12, 2017 – The start of fall is an exciting time for bird enthusiasts as summer fledglings become air-borne adults and join others of their kind enroute to warmer climes. This mass exodus is happening all around us.

*“Fall is one of my favorite times of year to watch birds. When we talk about bird migration, most people think of spring. They don’t realize that the fall migration features greater numbers of birds and an incredible variety of species that can be seen from early August through to early January, if the ice stays off Kempenfelt Bay.”*

says Dorothy McKeown, Ontario Nature’s Huronia Regional Director, and BFNC’s Vice-President.



*Swamp Sparrow — John Wright*

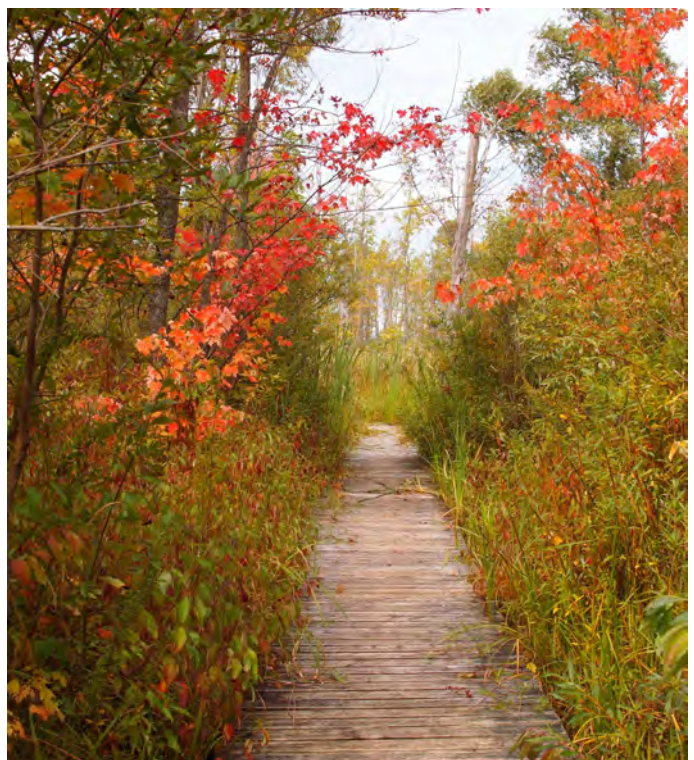
Birds embarking on their journey south have been spotted throughout Ontario – with many hawks, hummingbirds, waterfowl and warblers already on the move. The coming months will showcase scores more. During a leisurely evening stroll you may spot lingering swallows, swifts or nighthawks as they swoop and dart after the insects they eat. If you head to Barrie Central Collegiate at dusk, you may still see Chimney Swifts

tornado into the old brick chimney, demonstrating aerial maneuvers even our Canadian Snowbird jet team can only dream of copying. At Tiny Marsh near Elmvale, you may be lucky to see some rare vagrant, such as a Glossy Ibis. Eastern Bluebirds may still be seen around Barrie Hill Farms, near our nest boxes on Seadon Road. In Kempenfelt Bay when the common loons and mergansers arrive next month, the numbers of each can exceed a thousand. Also, you can see close to a dozen gull species in a good year, feasting on the Emerald Shiners, the best place in Canada to view such a wide variety, due to our narrow Bay.

Sadly though, many Canadian bird populations have experienced significant declines over the last 40 years. In Ontario, habitat loss threatens grassland and wetland birds, and songbirds are killed by cats and collisions with buildings. But not all of the news is bad. Restrictions on pesticide use have helped falcons, hawks and other raptors to recover in recent years.

You can see many of the diverse bird species traveling through Ontario this fall by joining one of our local birding hikes.

So, while you are enjoying the cooler temperatures and changing leaf colours, look up. There is a lot more going on this fall than you may realize.



## Nature Notes

### June 2-4 All Creatures Great & Small - Ontario Nature's Annual Gathering



This year's annual General meeting was as interesting & informative as we have come to expect from this organization. It was hosted at the Barrie Kempenfelt Center and was well attended.

Saturdays activities were kicked into high gear by Julee Boan, who gave an outstanding report of the challenges that are faced with research focused on mitigating timber harvesting impacts on woodland caribou. She described the challenges of refuting "Fake News" that has become increasingly destructive to their work.

Following the introductions members were invited to participate in various workshops throughout the day.

Dr. Martyn Obbard was the guest speaker, following the excellent buffet supper. He was a research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. His research focused on population dynamics, habitat use, movement patterns and the effects of climate change on polar bears in the Hudson Bay Lowlands of Ontario. This well photographed presentation was at the same time serious and yet amusing.

The Sunday outings went ahead as scheduled despite heavy rain in the early morning. Some folks chose to linger over the delicious breakfast buffet and opt out of getting soaked. However, the majority of hardy naturalists went on the various trips and as it happened the skies did start to clear. So in fact, the day ended on a sunny note.



### Tiny Marsh 3rd. Annual Bioblitz June 24th. 2017 – Kate Harries

The weather was perfect, and the key participants - the birds, bees, butterflies, dragonflies, plants, mammals, insects, fish, frogs, turtles etc. were all in attendance for the third annual Tiny Marsh BioBlitz on Saturday June 24.

Also on hand were a number of dedicated naturalists to lead the outings, including Chris Evans, David Eales and Clare Holden from Brereton; Ken Macdonald, Dan Whittham, Bob Reader and Jim Charlebois from the Midland Penetanguishene Field Naturalists; John Hamilton (Orillia); Lisa Levez Bordeleau and Yvonne Metcalfe (Wasaga Beach).

Expert leaders included Dave Moore of Canadian Wildlife Service, who's studying the Black Terns of Tiny Marsh; Dave McLachlin of Ducks Unlimited Canada; Lynn Short, a Wymbolwood Beach cottager and professor of horticulture at Humber College; and Genevieve Rowe, of the Laurence Packer Bee Lab, York University.

For Ken MacDonald, who led two outings – one on birds and one on dragonflies, "the magic moment came

when the youngest member of the group, Sophie, discovered the morning's highlight, an American Redstart nest full of new life, and pointed it out to the grown-ups and "expert" group leaders."



*Photo credit to Ken McDonald*

## Tiny Marsh 3rd. Annual Bioblitz June 24th. 2017 – Kate Harries



*Photo credit to Lisa Levez Bordeleau*

Other highlights: -The joy of youngsters discovering that catching dragonflies beats any video game out

there. They don't particularly care what kind they are, they just love to catch them, then walk around with a dragon on their arms, like something out of Game of Thrones.

-Watching nesting Black Terns bravely fighting against extinction and listening to the expert who is conducting the studies that will give us the knowledge we need to help this species of special concern in their struggle.

Next year's BioBlitz will be held Saturday June 23 and it will be FREE! Thanks to our 2017 sponsors, including the Elmvalle Maple Syrup Festival, BEAN (Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network), Ritchie's Garden Centre, Wild Birds Unlimited and the Townships of Tiny and Springwater.

## Copeland Forest Report - Dave Lord

A lot has been happening in the Copeland Forest recently.

The CFFA (Copeland Forest Friends Association) has been completing a single track trail review. This has, among other things, been taking the conditions of the trail, ecological factors, degree of difficulty, and many other aspects into consideration.

In the future some of these trails may be incorporated into our map. (TO CLARIFY: IN AN EARLIER VERSION OF THE BLUE HERON I STATED WE HAD PRODUCED A MAP SHOWING THESE TRAILS. THIS IS NOT CORRECT. THE CURRENT MAP SHOWS THE DOUBLE TRACK TRAILS)

Many of our members have participated in the ecological studies along these trails (including the double track trails), and provided extremely useful information. Further input is encouraged. Areas where environmental impact may occur will be noted and, perhaps, sign posted.

On the ecological front water analysis of streams within the forest continues to take place. This is vital as the forest is the source for three principal rivers. Also removal of invasive plants continues to take place. For example Wild Parsnip was removed along the trail leading to the Ducks Unlimited Pond, as this invasive can cause problems for many people if they make contact with it. This work was carried out by the Youth Rangers, a group of students who have been doing many other activities benefiting the forest this summer.



What's upcoming?

The Board of Directors has approved a series of amendments to our by-laws and approval from a minimum of 10% of the membership is required. A special meeting will be held on September 20th, 2017 at the Horseshoe Resort boardroom next to the Crazy Horse Restaurant at 6 p.m. Please refer to our website for details of these proposed changes. Members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Our Annual Fall Fair takes place on Saturday September 30 at the ski chalet in Horseshoe Valley (Same location as previous years), from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

There will be many booths e.g., Ministry of Natural Resources Bikeland, Sojourn etc. gift certificates, nature activities, a tractor pulled wagon, activities for small children. The format will be more exciting this year. Also a barbecue lunch. Stay tuned for more complete details (after Labour Day)!

We hope to see everyone there!!

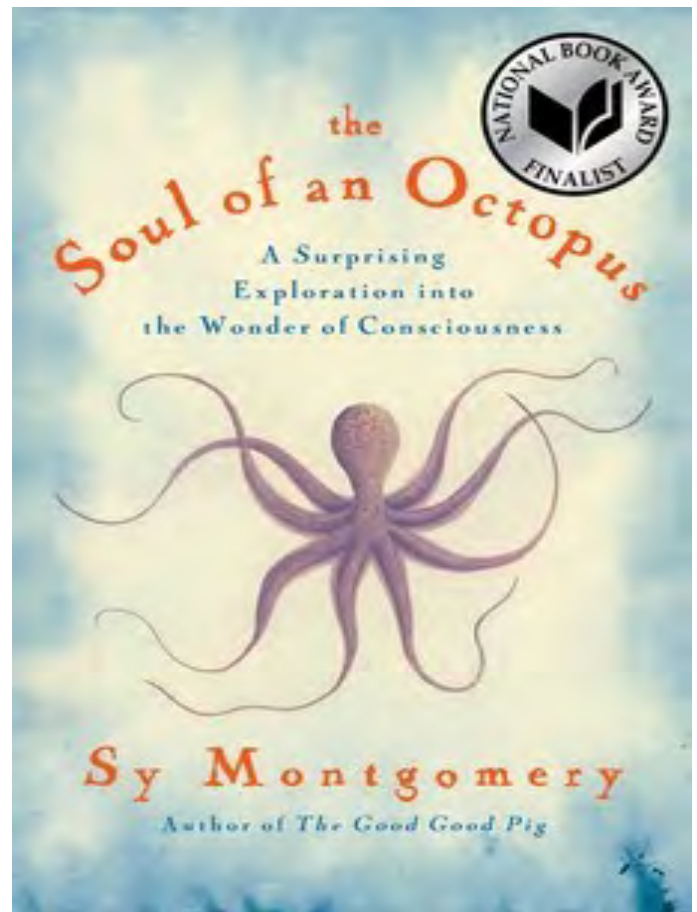
## Book Review - The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery

I was encouraged to read this book this astonishing book, by a young girl, who said it inspired her to learn more about the world in which she lives. At first I was completely enthralled with what I was learning but then it became apparent that there is only so much you can write about Octopii.

Sy Montgomery explores the emotional and physical world of the octopus, a surprisingly complex, intelligent, and spirited creature, and the remarkable connections it makes with humans.

Octopuses have varied personalities and intelligence they show in myriad ways: endless trickery to escape enclosures and get food; jetting water playfully to bounce objects like balls; and evading caretakers by using a scoop net as a trampoline and running around the floor on eight arms. But with a beak like a parrot, venom like a snake, and a tongue covered with teeth, how can such a being *know* anything? And what sort of thoughts could it think?

Scientists are currently establishing the intelligence of the octopus, watching them solve problems and deciphering the meaning of their color-changing camouflage techniques. Sy Montgomery chronicles this growing appreciation of the octopus in a funny, entertaining, touching manner.



## Curious Critters - Willow Pine Cone Gall Midge



This gall, in the shape of a pine cone, appears on willow stems and confuses many because of its resemblance to a pine cone.

It is, actually, home to the Willow Pine Cone Gall Midge (*Rabdophaga strobiloides*).

This midge is a small, two-winged fly. The adults emerge in the spring as the leaves are starting to sprout. They mate and the females lay individual eggs the on young leaves. The new, light orange, larvae hatch from the eggs and move to the developing branch tips, where they secrete a substance on the stem which causes the willow to go into overdrive, building a multi-layered chamber composed of hardened material that would have been leaves had the stem growth not been arrested.

If you split one of these cones open you will find the small pink/orange larva resting inside.

Although the galls remain on the branch after the larva has gone, they do not do lasting damage to the plant and may be pruned off the host.

## Members Photo Gallery



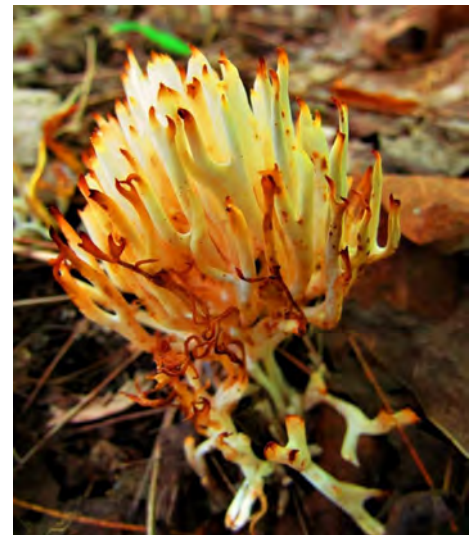
*Blood Root — Phyllis Tremblay*



*Sanderling to Darleen Demeert*



*Hummingbird chicks — Phyllis Tremblay*



*Coral  
Fungus -  
Ken  
McDonald*

## 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)**