

**Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists – Minutes of Regular General Meeting
Monday, May 30, 2011
Municipal Wing-404 Building on Dutton Dr., Waterloo**

Call to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. **Welcome** by Mary Ann Vanden Elzen.

2. **Announcements**

a) Baillie Birdathon – Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

Jim, Mike and Ken Burrell completed their Baillie Birdathon. Summaries are available from Jim.

b) Laurel Creek Citizens Committee – Dale Ingrey

Dale invited people to participate in activities planned by the Laurel Creek Citizens Committee. A newsletter with upcoming events is available at the back of the room. The next event, transplanting wetland species, will be held June 18.

c) Baillie Birdathon – Neil Taylor

Neil is still pumped! He has surpassed his goal by raising \$3481.00 by tonight's meeting, with more to come. This is a new record for both Neil and the club. Neil asked people who had pledged him to see him during the break.

d) Plant Exchange – Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

The plant exchange is happening outside the doors in the parking lot. Mary Ann thanked everyone who contributed.

e) Archives – Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

Six boxes of KWFN Archives were donated and transferred to the Region of Waterloo Archives on May 17 and have already been arranged in archival file folders and boxes. They are described in the Region's new online public access catalogue called 'Archives Online'. The link to this website will be available on KWFN's website tomorrow. The Region of Waterloo Archives can also be visited on the 2nd floor of 150 Frederick Street in Kitchener, which is the Region of Waterloo headquarters building. Charlotte Woodley and Lesley Webb, the Region of Waterloo archivists, gratefully acknowledged the donation of records from the KWFN. It was a great day for Betty Cooper! Betty will continue to be the club's Archivist.

f) Great Smokey Mountains – Harold Russell

Harold's mother, Dorothy Russell, who was a life member of the KWFN, attributed her interest in nature to two uncles, one of whom lead tours of the Great Smokey Mountains. Harold has inherited a lot of correspondence from his family which highlights the Great Smokey Mountains, the focus of this evening's presentation. This material is available for viewing at the back of the room during the break.

g) Volunteer Thank You – Fraser Gibson

As the Vice President, it is Fraser's duty to thank all the volunteers. Their names have been printed in the *Heron*. Fraser apologized if anyone was missed.

3. New Members and First Time Visitors

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen and Fraser Gibson welcomed 1 first time visitor to the meeting. A copy of the ON Nature magazine, avian species observation recording card, and *The Heron* was given to her. She found out about the club through a search on the Internet.

4. Sightings – facilitated by Elaine LaRonde

- Scott Beemer saw a coyote near Guelph and a harrier near Mount Forest.
- Jane Schneider didn't see a bird on her property, but Ted Cheskey. He told her there are hooded warblers in her woods. He also said the birds in Forested Hills are really declining, likely because of the urbanization around its periphery. Jane hoped the birds displaced from Forested Hills could find a new home on her property.
- Meg Slater is thrilled her son and daughter-in-law are taking an interest in birds. They recently moved to a home in southern Kitchener backing onto a forest. Meg's daughter-in-law was excited to have seen two rose-breasted grosbeaks.
- Fraser Gibson observed a common nighthawk between the pond in Erbsville and the David Fisher Residence.
- Jim Burrell's highlight of his birding trip at Pelee this spring was a 1m long fox snake on the trail just in front of him!
- Louise Litwiller has had a rose-breasted grosbeak and common yellowthroat in her yard this spring.
- April Morrissey observed three Baltimore orioles in her yard.
- John Pries was excited to report that he has surpassed 100 species on his property on Hawkesville Road. Recently he observed blackpoll warbler, Wilson's warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, Philadelphia vireo, and an indigo bunting at his feeder. John is also proposing an outing to his property on June 15 to observe turtle nesting.
- Julie Tripp reported seeing the following on her property: rose-breasted grosbeak, black and white warbler, indigo bunting, and a pair of Swainson's thrush.
- Roger Suffling saw a common nighthawk fly over his property and he recounted a story about a very aggressive short-tailed weasel.
- A large amount of ants swarming over each other were seen by Michael Frind.
- Another member saw a great blue heron in the pond behind West Heights school, and observed how young Canada geese were very confused by this other species.
- Thelma Beaubien had her first butterfly observation in her yard on May 8. It was a question mark.
- Anne Morgan recounted the beautiful carpets of trillium she saw on the Bruce Peninsula, as well as seeing her first yellow clintonia.
- Meg Slater lives on Queen's Blvd. near a pond where she saw a huge beaver, many turtles, and a heron.

Break from 7:33 – 7:46

5. Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM are printed separately.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion: "That the minutes of the April 18, 2011 general meeting be accepted as printed."

Moved by Michael Frind, seconded by Larry Hamel. Carried.

6. Presentation – Janet Ozaruk introduced Walter Muma, who gave a presentation of his photographs of wildflowers from the Great Smokey Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

President (Mary Ann Vanden Elzen)

Secretary (Katharina Walton)