

December 2011
January 2012



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If you have not done so please renew your membership. Commencing with the Dec/Jan issue of The Heron, the newsletter will only be mailed to those who have a paid up membership for 2011-12 as of November 22nd.

Next Club Meeting:

January 23 2012 at 7:30 PM
Wing 404/Rotary Centre, Dutton Dr., Waterloo

Becoming an Ecotourist

Our lives are slowly turning "green". We are building ecofriendly homes, buying hybrid cars and purchasing eco-products. So, why not incorporate a little "eco" into our vacations and travel plans? A former Board Member of the Ontario Ecotourism Society, and specialist in ecotourism and adventure tourism, Kristen Martyn explores what ecotourism is about and how we can become an ecotourist when travelling. She also explores the importance of ecotourism for our planet and the impact that tourism can have on the places we love to visit. Kristen will also share some photos from her eco-adventures! This is a must hear for anyone considering getting away this year to a local campground, or travelling somewhere more exotic.

Kristen Martyn is a Birding/Naturalist Guide and specialist in Ecotourism. Her strong passion for the natural world, led her to pursue a BSc. in Zoology and complete a Post-Graduate course in Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism Management. Kristen is an avid birder and has spent time birding throughout Central America. In 2010 Kristen launched Natura Tours, with the goal of bringing people closer to nature, while helping to conserve wildlife through ecotourism.

77th Kitchener Christmas Bird Count

The 2011 installment of the Kitchener CBC will be held Saturday, December 17, 2011. New field participants are always welcome. Anyone interested in participating should contact Mike Burrell as far in advance as possible. Regular participants should expect to be contacted in late November.

6th Linwood Christmas Bird Count

The date of this count is still TBA but contact Mike Burrell if you are interested in participating. Mike Burrell phone - 613-442-0020 email - mike.burrell.on@gmail.com

KWFN Contacts for the 2011/2012 Season

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Submissions for the Heron need to be received by the 15th of the month.

Submit via email,
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or mail to 30 Calmcrest Drive,
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Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287, fn.gib@sympatico.ca

On Thurs (Nov 10), I attended a meeting at GRCA headquarters to provide input on behalf of the KWFN regarding their new Water Management Plan. Their previous document was from 1982 and they wish to bring it up to date, with a target completion of early 2013. Members of the public are invited to review and provide feedback on this document, specifically the broad objectives, and it can be viewed online at:

[http://www.grandriver.ca/index/document.cfm?
Sec=87&Sub1=0&sub2=0](http://www.grandriver.ca/index/document.cfm?Sec=87&Sub1=0&sub2=0)

I invite you as private individuals to inform yourself and make any relevant comments to the GRCA through their online survey- just be aware, the deadline is tight- Dec 2 is the closing!

Karen Buschert
Conservation Director

Wanted

Bird guides for Costa Rica
Contact Neil Taylor 519 893 6469

Information for everyone

Nominations for Conservation Award -

Due December 15, 2011.

The Conservation Award acknowledges the contribution(s) made by an individual, group, organization or corporation toward the conservation/preservation of the natural environment of the Region of Waterloo. † The nominee shall have participated in or instigated or increased public awareness of (an) endeavour(s) that has/have contributed to the conservation/preservation of the natural environment of the Region of Waterloo.

On behalf of KWFN, the President invites members to submit, in writing, nominations for this award. Prospective nominators must contact the President to receive a copy of the Award Criteria, prior to submitting a nomination. (Please see page 2 for contact information.)

Nominations for Honorary Life Membership Award -

Due December 15, 2011

This prestigious award acknowledges the valuable and exceptional service made by an individual to the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists. † The recipient must be a long-time KWFN member who has demonstrated outstanding personal service and made a significant contribution to KWFN, over a long period of time.

On behalf of KWFN, the President invites members to submit, in writing, nominations for this award. Prospective nominators must contact the President to receive a copy of the Award Criteria, prior to submitting a nomination. (Please see page 2 for contact information.)

Welcome to our New and Returning Members

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Peter Bisset | Kevin Dance |
| George Greer | Julian Greer |
| Maureen Kinahan | Carmen Peter |
| Heather Redden-Greer | Mary Sander |
| Paul Schnarr | Owen Weir |

Thanks to our Donors

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| Cameron Bates | Owen Weir |
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| Brenda and Walter Zimmerman | |
| Jim and Joanne Lackenbauer | |
| Maya and Leela Keshav | |
| Robert and Sandra Dick | |

Cambridge Christmas Bird Count Sunday December 18th, 2011

As usual, a chilli and Pot-luck dinner to follow the count at Wrigley Corners Outdoor Education Centre (2366 Sprague Rd.). New participants are welcome, little to no experience necessary, interest in birds recommended.

If you are new to the Cambridge CBC and would like more information or want to participate please contact the compiler (Levi Moore) as early as possible. Regular Participants and area leaders will be contacted shortly. If you live in the area of the count (24km diameter circle centred on Branchton) and have the time to watch your bird feeder for a part of the day please let us know in advance so that we can collect your information and count you as a feeder-watcher.

Contact: Levi Moore (lcmoore_04@yahoo.ca, 519-747-2080)

Young Naturalists Update

At our October gathering, we planted native flowers around the Laurel Creek Nature Centre. We also spent some time writing in our nature journals and did leaf rubbings. We took our 2nd photo graph of the pond and could already see it's started to change now that fall is well underway.

Join us on the Young Naturalists blog where you can see photos and read more about our programs:

<http://kwfnyn.blogspot.com/>.

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****And now at the Stratford Farmers Market****



Native Plant Nuts

By Wayne Buck

Wahoo

When native plants are your interest, every time you go for a walk there is the possibility that you could make discoveries. This is especially true when you walk on trails (as opposed to side-walks or roads) through forests and wetlands or through fields or meadows where you can see natural vegetation. Although it's not always native or indigenous plants, it's interesting to observe the changes that naturally occur over a period of time, whether it's the changes that occur with the seasons, or the changes that occur with the passage of longer periods of time when natural succession causes some species to decline and others to increase.

I was recently in an area of the Phillipsburg ESL that I have been in many times, it being not too far from our place just west of New Hamburg. The KWFN Native Plant Nuts had an outing there in 2005 and Fraser Gibson and I were there in 2008 looking for ferns. To date 22 fern species have been identified in this small area which includes some rare ones like Hay-scented fern of which there are only 2 other populations in the Region. Fraser and I were also there more recently looking for trees in The Great Tree Hunt.

One of the plants that I found most exciting on this recent outing was Witch Hazel in bloom. I had no idea this species was in this area! It's Carolinian! The

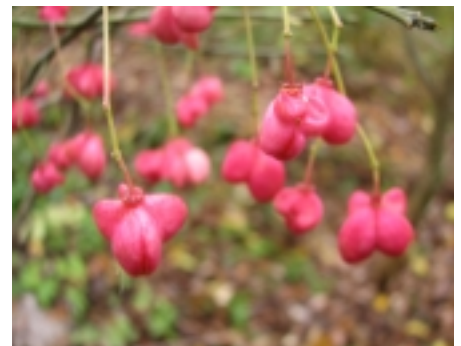
other exciting find was Wahoo or Burning Bush with the beautiful pink 3-4 chambered capsules with the bright orangish-red soft fruit inside. What a sight! I have seen this only a couple of times before.

A week or so after this occurred; I was out raking walnuts in our field when I looked over at the shrubs growing just south of our house, going towards the creek. I saw something pink that caught my eye, so I walked over to investigate. Imagine my surprise when the pink colour turned out to be the same pink capsules on a Burning Bush that we had planted 10 or more years earlier but had never bloomed. I was so thrilled that I ran into the house and got the camera to record this wonderful sight.

Wahoo or Burning Bush (*Euonymus atropurpurea*) is in the same genus as Running Strawberry (*Euonymus obovatus*), a low-growing plant commonly found in wet shady habitats such as Montgomery and a more southern species Strawberry Bush or, its more romantic name, Hearts Bursting With Love, (*Euonymus americanum*). All of these have a pink capsule that bursts open to reveal a soft bright red berry (aril) that contains a single white seed. Wahoo or Burning Bush is heavily browsed by White-tailed Deer. Wikipedia states: "Because of the shape and color of the fruit, it used to be called Hearts Bursting with Love. The fruit is poisonous to humans, but

is eaten by several species of birds, which disperse the seeds in their droppings. It grows in low meadows, open slopes, open woodland, stream banks and prairies, in moist soils, especially thickets, valleys, and forest edges." The University of Texas tells us: "The powdered bark was used by American Indians and pioneers as a purgative. Wahoo was the native term for the plant. The Latin species name, meaning dark purple, refers to the color of the fruit."

I think with its beautiful fruit so late in the fall, it would be a beautiful addition to any native plant garden.



I found these quotes in The Record which I thought were insightful.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. —Albert Camus (1913 – 1960) French writer

For man, autumn is a time of harvest; of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing; of scattering seed. Edwin Way Teale (1899 – 1980) U.S. author and naturalist



~ Fraser Gibson

Ontario Nature-Great Lakes West-Fall Regional Meeting

KWFN was very well represented at the Great Lakes West Regional Meeting, which was held in Stratford on Saturday November 5. I was joined by Janet Ozaruk, Marg and Graham Macdonald and Mary Ann Vanden Elzen. Members from eight clubs were in attendance as well as an Ontario Nature board member representing the Carolinian East Region. After the clubs shared their initiatives and challenges, ON staff updated us on the resolutions passed at the 2011 AGM, Nature Reserves, Reptile/ Amphibian Atlas, staff changes at ON and the very successful Youth Summit.

Mark your calendars for The Ontario Nature AGM to be held at Opinicon Resort Hotel in the Kingston area, June 8 to 10, 2012.

Another Successful Youth Summit!

Submitted by Sarah Hedges, Ontario Nature

On the weekend of September 23-25, 80 young people from across the province joined Ontario Nature and other youth mentors for the 2011 Youth Summit for Biodiversity & Sustainable Living. The event was held at the YMCA Cedar Glen just north of Toronto, and included workshops on Ontario's species at risk, green transportation, and sustainable food & agriculture. Participants also learned how to make their own eco-friendly cosmetics and fly fishing lures. The Ontario Nature Youth Council has already begun planning for next year's Summit. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months. A special thanks goes to the Naturalists Clubs and Nature Network members that sponsored one or more youth to attend the Summit.

Ontario Nature Office Moving

Submitted by Lisa Richardson, Ontario Nature
Ontario Nature's tenure at 366 Adelaide St. West is coming to

an end. This fall our head office will be moving around the corner to 214 King Street West. The move is scheduled to take place November 24. Staff telephone, fax, and email contacts will remain the same.

Bank Swallows in Ontario

Submitted by Kathy Jones, Bird Studies Canada

Did you see a colony of bank swallows this summer? Bird Studies Canada's Ontario Region is looking for information on bank swallow colonies. These highly colonial birds nest in eroding vertical banks along shorelines, rivers, and gravel/ sand pits. If you know of a bank swallow colony, we ask that you submit this information (including location, colony habitat type & number of burrows observed) at www.surveymonkey.com/s/bankswallow. For more information on bank swallows and the Bird Studies Canada Ontario Bank Swallow Project, visit www.birdscanada.org/research/speciesatrisk/bans/.

Annual Festive Holiday Potluck
We welcome you and your family for our informal social gathering intended for all members and is a great opportunity to join together for some fun and fellowship.
Tea, Coffee, punch and dinner rolls will be provided. The rest is up to you!! We rely on our members and guests to contribute a dish .
A-H =Dessert, I-P=Entrée, P-Z=Salad
As always, we are striving to reduce waste, so please bring you own plates, cutlery, and mugs/ cups.
We can always use any assistance with this event, so if you can help in any way (setting up tables, decorations, clean-up etc.) or provide any entertainment please sign :
"Volunteers for 2011" list
Or contact April Morrissey 519-696-3677

Outings Schedule



By Mary Voisin

Huron Natural Area (HNA) **Tuesday, December 6, 2011** **Meet, Greet and Explore**

Meeting Time/Place
9:30 am at the Pavilion area
– 801 Trillium Park Dr.
Directions – Take Strasburg Rd. south from Bleams Rd. to Trillium Drive . Turn west (right) about 1 km. to the parking lot on south side (left).

Meet at the given location.
Greet your fellow naturalists.
(experienced and new) Guests are always welcome.

Explore together. Share your questions and knowledge as you enjoy your hike together.

This valuable wildlife area is the City of Kitchener's largest park. It contains an amazing representation of this area's biodiversity. There is a diverse habitat including Class I Provincially Significant Wetlands, kettles, ponds, upland maple/beech forest, cultural meadows, as well as pine plantations.

Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part I **Saturday, December 10th, 2011** **Neil Taylor 893-6469**

Meeting Time/Place:

9:00 a. m. Parking lot of Doon Presbyterian Church (with permission) at 35 Roos St., Kitchener, (off Old Mill Rd. in Doon).

The annual Christmas Bird Count for Kitchener will take place later on December 18th. New participants are needed to complete this census and make it successful. If you would like to take part in the count but are unsure of what's involved, then join Neil to learn the basics and gain self-confidence to volunteer for this year's CBC. Dress warmly and bring your binoculars, field guide, notepad, and pen/pencil. To volunteer, see the notice elsewhere in this month's Heron or see the Web Page for contact information. Neil confesses that he is also using this outing as a means of scouting out his area for rare birds in advance of the count itself. You may and really should register for

the CBC in advance of this event. Sturdy hiking footwear is suggested. (3 hours)



Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part II **Sunday, December 11th, 2011** **Neil Taylor 893-6469**

Meeting Time/Place
1:00 pm at the parking lot of Pioneer Memorial Tower. From Fairway Rd., take King St. E. past Riverbank Dr. and Highway 8. Turn right onto Deer Ridge Dr. and follow to the end, ignoring Pioneer Tower Road. Turn right onto Lookout Lane and proceed to the parking lot.

This is a repeat of the Decem-



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ber 10th outing, but in a new location in the area of Doon Pioneer Tower. See the earlier information.

Mill Run, Cambridge
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Marco DeBruin
519-658-5372

Meeting Time/Place
9:30 at the Mill Run Trail parking lot where Clemens Ave. meets Sheffield in Cambridge. (Clemens Ave. can be accessed from Fishermills Road. Fishermills Rd. is a continuation of Sportsworld Dr.)

Come for a leisurely walk along the Mill Run (Riverbank Trail), which follows the Speed River past a variety of habitats. This trail is fairly level and has some boardwalk along its length. A good variety of waterfowl frequent

the area along with other birds. Beavers and muskrats might also be seen along this trail.

Laurel Creek Nature Centre
Saturday, January 14, 2012
Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667

Meeting Time/Place
9:00 am at the entrance to Laurel Creek Nature Centre on Beaver Creek Road in Waterloo

Join Dale for a leisurely Saturday morning hike through the fields and woods around the nature centre property. We'll look for fresh animal tracks, try our hand at winter tree identification, and also do some winter birding. Bring some seed for the chickadees, your binoculars, field guides, and a drink for this approx. 2 hours outing. Be sure to dress properly for the weather. If time permits, we'll

check out the wooded area on the other side of Beaver Creek Road as well.

Health Valley Trail
Saturday, January 21, 2012
Meet, Greet and Explore

Meeting Time/Place:
9:30 a.m. at the Riverworks parking lot, St. Jacobs, at the extreme east end (follow the signs for buses and campers)

The Health Valley Trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail, from St. Jacobs to Martin's Creek and back. Varied habitats are seen along the trail that follows the river through woods, cross open pastureland and skirt some backwater ponds. Bring a drink and snack for this leisurely 2-½ hour hike. Binoculars, field guides and appropriate footwear would add to the enjoyment of this outing.

NEWSLETTER: PRINTED OR DOWNLOADED

submitted by Larry Hamel

At our May 2011 meeting interest was expressed in giving Members a choice: between receiving a printed copy of The Heron and downloading The Heron from our web site.

Beginning with the February 2012 issue of The Heron we will only print copies for the Memberships that want a printed copy. *You may change your preference at any time by notifying the Membership Director.*

The newsletter will be available on the web site the Thursday before the General Meeting each month, beginning January 19, 2012. Once we get it up and running, each 'Downloader' will receive an email notification each month indicating that that current newsletter is available on our web site.

To download your copy of The Heron:

1. Go to www.kwfn.ca.
2. Click on the Newsletter button.
3. On the Newsletter Page, in the Current Year 2011-12 section, click on the link for the desired newsletter.
4. Once you have the newsletter on your screen, you can read it and/or use the options available in the File menu to save or print a copy.

Turtle Summers

June 2009 - On one of our weekly walks through Lakeside Park we came upon a most intriguing sight – three turtles – one Painted and two Snapping – digging holes and laying eggs. We watched, mesmerized. Most of us had never before witnessed such a sight.

The following week we returned - to a scene of horror! Dug up holes and broken shells scattered everywhere. The nests had all been predated.

This was particularly upsetting because Snapping Turtles had just been listed as a species 'of special concern' under both the Ontario Endangered Species Act and the federal Species at Risk Act.

We determined to take action.

We contacted Josh Shea, the City of Kitchener's Natural Areas Coordinator, and voiced our concerns. Fortunately for us, the City had just initiated the Urban Turtle Conservation and Stewardship program. The goal was to better understand turtles and to educate and involve citizens so they could actively increase turtle populations in the urban setting. Wonderful! That's just what we were looking for! Josh agreed that Lakeside, an already active and organized community, presented a unique opportunity to pursue these goals.

June 2010 - We, Lakesiders, took the first step – monitoring and recording turtle behaviour. Thus began our first summer of turtles. Although interesting, it was also dismaying; nest predation continued. We were eager for the next step – protecting nests. As a species 'of special concern,' we had a particular interest in the Snapping Turtles at Lakeside.

To work with Snapping Turtles (or any wildlife species, threatened or not) the Ministry of Natural Resources requires that a wildlife scientific collectors permit be obtained. Only individuals with proper experience and/or knowledge should protect turtle nests. If done improperly, more harm than good can be done!

Josh secured the necessary permit and the protective turtle nest cages.

Different types of cages are available depending on the turtle species and the area where the nest is located (i.e., in a public visible area or a private and protected area). Since Lakeside is a public park, cages that can be buried below the soil were specifically chosen to hide them from any misguided or curious onlookers. Bottomless with a removable lid at the top, they are 1'x1' wide, approximately 1' deep, and constructed of ½" metal hardware cloth.

June 2011 – Nesting Snapping Turtles were observed and the location of nest sites recorded. We, then, accompanied Robin and Crystal (City of Kitchener staff) to excavate around the nests and lower protective cages into the chambers.

Nests are most vulnerable during the first two weeks. It is essential that lids be removed to allow the hatchlings to emerge. Theoretically, this can occur anytime after this period. We, however, chose to remove them just before the end of the 80-day incubation period.

In the meantime, volunteers continued their daily checks. Nighttime diggings and scratchings by skunks and raccoons did occur, and sometimes left cages partially exposed. Monitors raked the sand back into place. No protected nests were ever successfully predated.

August 29 - The big day! Turtles were hatching at Lakeside! We rushed over. It was surprising just how many turned up - turtle monitors, curious passersby, neighbourhood grandparents with children - all drawn in by the lure of the little turtles.

Tiny Snappers, completely covered in grains of wet sand, were pawing their way to the surface. Each one, writhing and squirming, was carefully set into a blanketed cardboard box. Using a clam shell, Crystal and Robin dug out the nests revealing young ones at various stages of development. Some just "born" still retained their curled-up shape with legs tucked in and tail circled under-

By Josh Shea and
Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

neath. These tiny babies clearly had a yolk sac on their bellies. (One fellow had an umbilical cord.) The sac is very susceptible to tearing and thus prone to infection. These "preemies" aren't yet ready to make their way out of the nest and travel to water. So Crystal took them home for TLC and later release.

Carrying the more mature hatchlings in the box, we all tramped down to the pond. A young girl picked out the first baby. Clasping the squirming life gently between her fingers, she carefully released it into the pond. Pushing on four stubby legs, with its tail swinging rhythmically behind, the youngster eagerly embraced its new life. We watched as it skimmed just beneath the surface out into the open water occasionally lifting up its head for a breath. After quite some time, well past the lily pads, it disappeared from view.

Number two basked briefly on a log and then splashed into the shallow water, stirring up a mud cloud from below. It poked about, then vanished beneath the submerged twigs and decaying leaves.

Number three clung with its front legs to a tiny stick and peered up at us, motionless, for the longest time. What was it thinking? "I'm scared!" We were relieved when it finally took off.

And so they went.

Over the next few days, approximately 100 baby Snappers were released. It was the culmination of three turtle summers at Lakeside. All involved felt that something very gratifying

and worthwhile had been accomplished. And we discovered something surprising - baby Snappers are very cute!



Neil E. Taylor
Waterloo Stewardship Network
November, 2011



Waterloo Stewardship Network (WSN)

“providing Waterloo Region with knowledge necessary to continue responsible stewardship of the natural resources we all share”

Project Updates

Trees for Woolwich – This project is progressing well with keen interest in the community receiving attention from the media. A planting at Woolwich Reservoir was held in late October to compliment the one in Bloomingdale.

Aquatic Renewal Workshops - The second in the series of workshops was held at Puslinch on November 5-6. There were 33 participants learning about stream assessment techniques. The last workshop will be held in early December. Involvement with Trout Unlimited and the University of Guelph should see this become a university level course. WSN would embrace this if there is still room and access for field practitioners that are raving about these workshops.

Laurel Creek - The committee invited to a meeting in September has been relatively. Steve May will follow up on deliverables from the initial meeting. Temperature data loggers placed in the creek this summer are mostly recovered. Information from these will be compiled.

Strasburg Creek - Through a meeting with City of Kitchener staff, it appears that there is interest and some issues that could benefit from research and actions to improve this water course and its use in the community. Items like the health and monitoring of a soft maple swamp, fishing concerns in the Board of Education pond and general health of the stream were on the agenda. The local high school is a possible source of community involvement.

Grow Native Program - Seed has been collected and is stratifying. There is a need to have a planning meeting shortly so that teachers can be made aware of the program for in-class activity to start immediately after March Break.

Drynan Activities – Wayne Buck and Steve May planted acorns in a large portion of the site. Fencing still needs to be looked at in the back portion of the property. The plaque still requires installation.

Doon Demo Forest - Access through the cemetery needs to be done so harvest may be completed and the signs installed.

Envirothon - The second field event for students is November 24 at Marden Creek. The previous one was held at

Huron Natural area was very well received with about 70 students in attendance. Josh Shea was of great assistance..

Incorporation of the WSN – A motion was passed at the November 14th meeting that the WSN pursue becoming an incorporated entity. Discussion followed concerning the process and the challenges to follow. The use of other council materials will be pursued and used by a steering committee to help this process through. Quotes concerning insurance options will also be sought.

Elections - Wayne Buck, Josh Shea, John Dadds, Jim Gilhuly, Pat Deacon and Neil Taylor were re-elected as members of the WSN with Wayne Buck as Chair, Josh Shea as Vice chair, Jim Gilhuly - Secretary /Treasurer. Peter Kyle Larry Lamb, Elaine Gosnell and Robin Boles have also been nominated and elected as members of the WSN, pending their acceptance of the nomination.

Member Recruitment - Steve May is to contact Warren Yerex and Dennis Martin to determine if they are interested in working with the WSN.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil

Early Morning Ritual

She climbed silently out of bed in the early morning hours and quietly gathered her supplies before leaving the house. Driving out of the city, she took a rural exit and eventually reached a desolate back road. There she pulled her car to the shoulder at a spot where the tall dark silhouettes indicated a forested area hugged the road. She manually turned out her car lights, stepped out of the car, and quietly closed the car door. The night was quiet and the air still. She listened intently and waited. Then she heard it - a faint Whoo-hoo-hoo, who-who. Momentarily a deeper and similar call came from a somewhat closer position! The sound of communicating great horned owls brought a smile to her face. She recorded GHOW on her list. Her Christmas Bird Count had just begun!



The first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on Christmas Day in 1900 with Toronto ON and Scotch Lake NB being the only two Canadian locations par-

ticipating. The count was a new and much more conservative approach to the traditional Christmas hunt.

All CBCs are conducted in a designated 15-mile (24 km) diameter circle, between December 14 and January 5. Every bird seen or heard on the single specified day is counted.

I don't know what appeals to me about the count but I am always eager. One year my partner and I continued throughout the day even though the fog was so thick at times we could barely see across the road. By day's end we had more sightings than any other group! Unbeknownst to us, the count had been postponed mid morning due to the extremely poor visibility! No cell phone had left us out of the loop and the fog had made us look and listen even more carefully than normal.

On another occasion I had been suffering from a kidney stone and shortly after beginning owling I had an attack. The pain became so severe I was sick to my stomach. I returned home for several hours but rejoined my group later. There is something about the count that drives me to keep looking. There is always hope of finding something unusual or of spotting an additional common species. Over the years I have been fortunate in finding several unusual species

including red-shouldered hawk (RSHA) and barred owl (BDOW).

If you have never participated in a Christmas Bird Count, I recommend doing so. There are three local counts. The Kitchener Count, centred at the site of Kitchener's old city hall began in 1934, the year of KWFN's inception. The Cambridge Count began in 1978 and is centred at Branchton. The Linwood CBC is centred in Linwood and even though it has only been running for 5 years has already set a mark as a CBC with a very high raptor count.

Sign up and try it for yourself. There is no need to be an experienced birder as you will be partnered with a veteran CBCr. You can begin your day early with owling or sleep in a little longer and start when it is daylight. Take the challenge and give it a try. You might end up hooked!

Contact information:
Cambridge Sunday Dec 18
Levi Moore
lcmoore_04@yahoo.ca
519 747 2080

Kitchener Saturday Dec 17
Mike Burrell
mike.burrell.on@gmail.com

Linwood date not set yet
Mike Burrell
mike.burrell.on@gmail.com

BEREAVEMENT

We note with sympathy the passing of Helen Jean La Ronde on November 8, 2011. Helen was the mother-in-law of Elaine LaRonde, a current member and a past president of KWFN. A card from KWFN has been sent to Elaine and her family.

If you know of any member who has experienced a loss in his/her family or who is seriously ill, please inform the Membership Director so appropriate action may be taken.

December and January Outings – - refer to page 6 of this Heron for full outing details

December 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Huron Natural Area 9:30 am | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Birding Doon Area 9 am |
| 11 Birding 1:00 pm | 12 Festive Potluck | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Kitchener Bird Count – contact Mike Burrell |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

January 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------------|-----|-------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Mill Run 9:30 am | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Laurel Creek 9:00 am |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Health Valley Trail 9:30 am |
| 22 | 23 KWFN Meeting | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Update from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on November 7th, the following items were discussed.

Updates to the Conservation Award and the Honorary Life Membership Award guidelines have been approved

Approval of the Retention Schedule

Review of the membership report and the Treasurer's report

Update about *The Heron* editor volunteer position

Update about the member's choice to receive a paper copy of *The Heron* or to download a copy of *The Heron* from the website

Updates from the Archives committee

The Board will meet again Monday, December 5th. The minutes of the November meeting will be approved then. Once they are approved, they are filed in the Library, so they can be viewed at the KWFN general club meeting. Alternatively, you can receive the minutes by email by contacting Kelly Holdaway.



317 Highland Road East
Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6

Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Canada Post Publication
Mail Sales Agreement
No. 40037542

Membership Fees September to August (After Feb. 1/12 - 1/2 price*)

* new members only
(senior = 60 yrs)

Family/Couple
\$35.00

Senior Couple
\$30.00

Adult Individual
\$30.00

Senior Individual
\$25.00

Student \$25.00

18 and under Free

Bring payment for membership to the next meeting or mail to KWFN at 317 Highland Rd E Kitchener N2M 3W6

Objectives of the KWFN

- to acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history
- to protect and preserve wildlife
- to purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for the advancement of conservation
- to support public interest in nature and its preservation by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by other means as falls within the scope of the Corporation

General Information

Meetings are held monthly from September to May, on the fourth Monday of the month with the exception of December. Our meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Outings are scheduled almost every month.

KWFN is a registered charitable organization. Membership fees and all donations are tax deductible. KWFN is affiliated with Ontario Nature (FON).

www.kwfn.ca



"The Heron" is the official publication of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists' Club and is produced by volunteer members of the club. It is published nine times yearly from September to June, except for December.

Copies of "The Heron" are available at meetings but will be mailed (free of charge) to members if not picked up.

Articles reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily the views endorsed by the KWFN club.

Pesticides in Ontario It is KWFN's policy not to use pesticides on any club property or during any club activity. (November 2000) In April 2009 the use of pesticides for commercial reasons was banned in the province of Ontario. This ban overrides all municipal by-laws. The main exceptions are for agriculture, human health and safety, golf courses, sports fields (though not parks), forestry, and in some instances to protect natural resources. Any pesticide identified as Class 9 is not allowed for residential or cosmetic use. To report non-compliance with the ban please contact the Guelph OMNR office at (519) 826-4955. For more information go to:
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/>