

H.F.F.N.



Fringe Notes

December, 2007

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, Box 143, Kincardine ON. N2Z 2Y6

~~ Founded 1985 ~~



Season's Greetings!

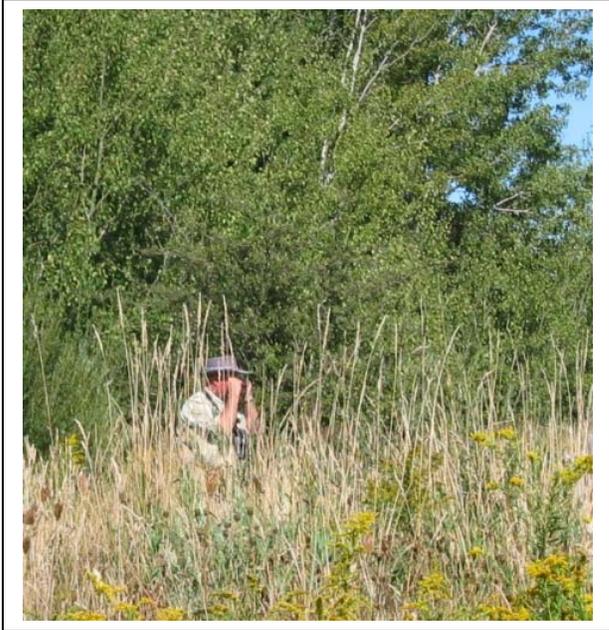


Welcome to:
New Member
Virginia Danton
of Fordwich. 
We look forward
To meeting you soon,
Virginia!

Members,
Fall is upon us and our birdfeeders are full. Before we know it, it will be Christmas. The HFFN organization continues to be involved. Linda and Jack Campbell and Tom Lobb and I met with 2 of the executive from Ontario Nature on October 19th at the Newton Reserve (South of Goderich). Give yourself a pat on the back for all the fine work you have done there. On Saturday November 4th, Tom and I represented our group at the Ontario Nature Regional Meeting at the Wildwood Conservation Authority located near St. Mary's. Visit the Ontario Nature website: www.ontarionature.org. Ralph Knowles and John Gamble were out in October maintaining the Bluebird boxes. I was fortunate to experience one-half day with them. The least fun part was the "jumping mice". Safe travelling!
Maithel Lee

OUTING REPORTS

CORN ROAST, September 8th



Over thirty members enjoyed a glorious late summer afternoon for a walk and corn roast. Once again we were fortunate to have Art and Janice as hosts at the Ark. After a walk through the fields to see Art's progress with returning the Ark to its natural habitat we had Tom's corn and hotdogs with potluck salads and goodies. Where Art has developed a small pond we sighted many bird species that depend on such a natural setting. We all went home well fed, well exercised and well educated.

- J. Armstrong

Let's see if anybody recognizes this birder! (J.Pepper photo)

Individual Highlights:

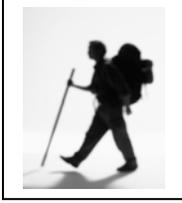
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We're on the Web!
SEE US AT:
www.huronstewardship.on.ca

GREENOCK SWAMP September 22nd

Eight members explored the Greenock Swamp north west of Chepstow. Driving in the Lake Schmidt Road and parking at the second right hand turn we walked west on a short trail leading to the Schmidt Lake observation platform. Most water birds had migrated but there were Canada Geese and a pair of Cormorants. We then drove to the end of the road and walked towards Bester Lake. Although we tried every trail we could see, we failed to catch a view of Bester Lake. The trail became too over grown. Again most birds have headed south, leaving the forest to the chickadees.
- J. Armstrong



HFFN Executive

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Maithel Lee Wilson 395-5086

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J. Campbell

Vice-President: VACANT

Secretary:

Jayne Miltenburg 529-3241

Treasurer

Rhodora Doughy 396-4368

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Dennis Donnelly 396-8265

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Joy Munn 395-3570

Jim Armstrong 396-5856

Newsletter:

S. & J. Pepper 395-5616

Member-at-Large:

Greta Thurber 395-4144

~~~~~

*Social Convenors:*

Pat Armstrong 396-5856

Elaine Holmes 396-7107

*FON Rep:*

Tom Lobb 482-3342

*Website Administrator/*

*Email reminders:*

Steve Pepper 395-5616

*Advertising:*

Elaine Holmes 396-7107

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Fringe Notes is published three times a year for members of HFFN. Membership is \$12/ year for single and \$18/ year for family.

October 13th Excursion to SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Saturday Oct. 13th 2007 was a cold, windy morning and our planned excursion coincided with 'Doors Open Kincardine'. However, two members decided to make the trip to the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Headquarters near Hanover, because they had not hiked there before. It proved to be a very enjoyable and interesting morning. We saw numerous Canada Geese preparing for their fall migration, and also many woodland birds, which moved too swiftly for us to identify without the help of more expert members. We enjoyed viewing several species of exotic pheasants caged on the premises. The resident white tailed deer are very tame and obviously accustomed to handouts from humans. The adults permitted close scrutiny, but their dappled young were rather more cautious.

There is a spot where a sulphur spring bubbles up from the earth at a constant temperature (9 degrees C.) and at a constant velocity (sufficient to fill 27 bath tubs per hour), and feeds into the local surface drainage system. We found this absolutely fascinating. For anyone who has never seen it, this spring in itself is well worth the trip!

- J. Clements



Point Clark Birding and Barbecue - Saturday, 20th Oct., 2007

The day was mild with a 40km plus wind. Four birders were out for the birding at 0900 and were well rewarded for their efforts; 22 species recorded.

Common Tern	Greater Scaup
Glaucous Gull	Ringneck Duck
Canada Goose	Willet
Double Crested Cormorant	Lesser Yellow-legs
Wigeon	Greater Yellow-legs
Mallard	Sanderling
Red-breasted Merganser	Dowitcher
Common Merganser	Chipping Sparrow
Bufflehead	Pine Siskin
Common Goldeneye	Song Sparrow
Green Wing Teal	Blue Jay

The number of shorebird species was a surprise.

After birding all returned to Maithel Lee's, where twenty people gathered for a great social time and a delicious Barbecue and dessert.

Many thanks to Maithel Lee.

- L. Thurber

~~ OUTINGS and EXCURSIONS ~~

2007 Kincardine Christmas Bird Counts

The 24th Annual Kincardine Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on **Friday December 28** and is the 108th year that Christmas Bird Counts will be held in North America. As in past years, The National Audubon Society along with Bird Studies Canada will be coordinating the program. Apart from its attraction as a social, sporting and competitive event, the annual count reveals interesting and scientifically useful information on the early-winter distribution patterns of various bird species and the overall health of the environment.

Continued next page....

Christmas Bird Counts *continued...*

Our club has over the years provided volunteers to make the Kincardine CBC a success and this year we are again appealing for participants to provide a good coverage of our area. Therefore please consider contacting me if you can help out. **

This is a full day of birding but if you are able to help for half a day, you are welcome. As well, **those with beginner birding skills are welcome** and will be accompanied by a more advanced birder. After a full day of identifying and counting birds seen, there is a wrap-up and summation of the results usually held at a local restaurant.

- R. Knowles

** *Ralph also has a listing of all the other area CBC's if you are interested.*

Ralph Knowles
519-396-5580 remak@bmts.com
519-396-5581



EAGLE WATCH- Saturday February 23rd 2008

When: Saturday February 23 2009
Time: 1:00pm
Where: Meet at Zehr's parking lot in Kincardine
Contact: Jim Armstrong 519-396-5856
Details: Join the group for a chance to see eagles along the Lake Range Road near Bruce Power and at the lakeshore. Perhaps we will see hawks, wild turkeys and deer.



~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21.



Social Time: 7. 30 pm ~~~~~ Meeting: 8:00 pm

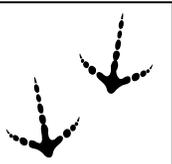
LUG-A-MUG ... BRING YOUR OWN MUG TO THE MEETING!

November 27, 2007

Speaker: Leslie MacDonald from the Nature Conservancy in Guelph.
Topic: What the Conservancy does. Leslie will also give us ideas for "Outings and things to do."
NOTE: This is also our Christmas meeting. Do you have your Raffle Tickets?



>>>>> **NOTE: WINTER MEETINGS.** <<<<<<
If all or part of highway 21 is closed, consider the meeting cancelled.



January 22, 2008

Dr. Andy McKee of the Ministry of Natural Resources will give us 'Turkey Tales'the reintroduction of wild turkeys.

February 26th, 2008

This is Member's Night. Bring in your nature-oriented hobby, photographs, or other items to share. Do you have any fossils, birds' nests, or 'neat things' you found in the woods or on the beach?



REGULAR MEETINGS, Continued....

March 25th, 2008

Donald Kirk - Southern Brazil – National Parks and Natural History

Donald recently visited Southern Brazil, an area with an amazing diversity of landscapes and ecosystems, including the Atlantic Coastal Rain Forest or "Mata Atlantica", one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Don's visual journey will take us from Rio to the nearby coastal mountain rain forests, outstanding national parks, cerrado (savanna) habitats of the interior, waterfalls such as the world famous Iquacu Falls, as well as the Pantanal, one of the largest inland wetlands in the world.



ARE YOU EXPIRED?

To verify your HFFN membership expiry date, check your mailing label. You will see beside your name either a '07' or '08' which denotes when you are paid up until, i.e. April 07, April 08. The membership year runs from May 1 to April 30.

We hope that you will consider renewing your membership. Mail to: Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6

By doing this you will help ensure having a continued roster of top quality speakers. Other clubs have increased their dues by quite a lot, so if you could help recruit new members it would help keep dues low. Thanks to all for your continued support of your club.

Count the snows – Feb, '07



BITS 'n BOBS

....pickin's, snippets and queries, et al....



- With winter on its way, members have been wondering about its possible severity. Our resident bat, which roosts behind a hanging sign on our front porch, left us a full week before October, when usually we miss it a week or two into October. Hmmm!

- Members reported hummingbirds arriving around May 4th and leaving around the 2nd to 25th of September. ☹️
Juncos were reported to have arrived about September 23rd. I always like to see their little black boots! 😊

- Pat McKillop, wife of John Pyatt, reports, "I'm not the birder that John is but I had an interesting experience today. A bird smacked into the window and I saw it sitting outside looking quite stunned. I picked it up with no problem and brought it inside to get over the shock. I looked it up, and it turned out to be a Pine Grosbeak. John tells me that's fairly rare in this area. It recovered and started making quite a racket, so I let it go."

- Thanks, Pat!

....Do you have a small comment, tip, query, or sighting to share? Send to the Editor via e-mail or phone!

'When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the Shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail....' - Wm. Shakespeare



GARY TRACK
owner/chef

Watercross
B I S T R O

829 Queen Street, Kincardine ON, N2Z 2Y2
519.396.5727

Hours:

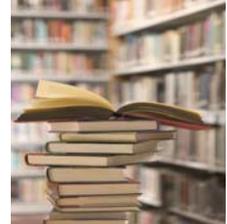
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The Ark Native Plants
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