



EARLY SPRING, 2024... WALKS, MEETINGS & POTLUCKS.

ISSUES AVAILABLE FREE FROM OUR ADVERTISERS, SEE INSIDE.

THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

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Huron Fringe Field Naturalists
~ Since 1985 ~

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LIKE TO JOIN US?

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR., MAY** & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS (P. 2.) & MORE INFO INSIDE.

** except May, Annual Dinner at another venue.



Photo: Spring, Inglis Falls
J. Pepper

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE ROBERTS



A New Year, new resolutions and new commitment to nature.

I know this message won't be published until long after January 1st, 2024, but, as I write, it's still early days and my thoughts naturally turn to the coming year.

I don't make New Year resolutions but I can't avoid reading about them in that quiet time between December 25th and January 1st. This year an article caught my attention as it urged readers to think long-term and consider how they will be remembered.

In short, to adopt a 'legacy' mind-set. Ask yourself, "How do I want to be remembered? What do I want to leave the world?" I'm sure many of us have considered how we would like to be remembered by our families. I'm asking you to think about how the planet will remember you. Admittedly, there are precious few David Attenboroughs and Suzukis or even Tom Lobbs among us but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to build a legacy for nature.

A legacy project doesn't have to be something grand. It can be financial support of a group that does work that speaks to your values and interests.

It can be supporting young people through mentorship or it can involve volunteering for organizations that focus on environmental causes.

In our case, Jim loves turtles so we donate to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre and we taxi injured turtles whenever we can. We also volunteer for the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network, Ontario Nature and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Being involved with groups whose efforts will have a lasting, positive impact for nature makes us feel like we're leaving a legacy for future generations.

Christine Roberts

UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

APRIL 23rd: Audrey Armstrong/W. Waterton
Updating the Orchids, Bruce & Grey book.

June 25th:
Don Scallen,
writer, naturalist.

MAY 28th: Annual Dinner Meeting:
SPECIAL Speaker: Adam Shoalts,
traveller extraordinaire!
TICKET AND VENUE INFO INSIDE.

NOTE: No meetings
July and August.
See you in September!




~~~~ PAST MEETINGS:.... ~~~~

**Sept. 2023 meeting**

**Report and photos: Christine Roberts**



**Dale Matthies: Goderich-based photographer Dale Matthies presents a selection of his photographic work at the September meeting.**

**HFFN began the new season** of meetings September 26th with a presentation of outstanding photos by Goderich-based photographer, Dale Matthies.

Nearly 60 members came out to enjoy beautiful images of birds, wildlife, landscapes and butterflies. A number of spectacular photos featured the Goderich harbour at different times of the day and in different seasons and weather conditions.

Citing the virtue of patience for wildlife photography, Matthies entertained his audience with the stories behind the images.

Matthies' work has appeared over 20 times in publications such as Canadian Geographic, Reader's Digest Canada and Natural History Magazine. His work is enjoyed by many HFFN members on Facebook at Huron Sunset Photography. In other club business, two lucky club members went home with a painting and a book.

Donna Taylor, well-known local artist and humanitarian donated an original painting depicting the devastation wrought in forests by the Emerald Ash Borer. The striking landscape was won by Willa Schoffer. Kathy Harker, known for her devotion to gardening with native plants, donated the book, 'Nature's Best Hope: How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard', adapted by Sarah Thomson for young readers from Douglas Tallamy's 2020 book of the same title. It was won by Gord Brocklebank.

The proceeds from the draw were used to purchase 6 copies of the book; one for each of the elementary schools in the club's catchment area.

As a follow up to last season's advocacy work, and in recognition of the provincial government's reversal of Greenbelt development, a new letter to Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson was prepared by Christine and signed by a majority of the members present. It congratulated the provincial Minister of Agriculture for her government finally heeding the wishes of the population but warned that her constituents expected greater transparency and action dealing with climate change.

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**Environmental prizes: HFFN members Gord Brocklebank (left) holds his book prize and Willa Schoffer (centre) stands with the painting donated by artist Donna Taylor.**

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## PAST MEETINGS....



### October 27<sup>th</sup>: Madison Field, Alyssa Bourassa

Christine Roberts



Sacred Heart High School student Madison Field (left) and Alyssa Bourassa of the Lake Huron Coastal Centre presented to the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists October 24<sup>th</sup> in Point Clark. (Christine Roberts photo)

**We enjoyed two presentations;** one from an environmental scientist working on issues affecting Lake Huron and another from a potential future environmental scientist.

Madison Field is a grade 12 student at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton. Last year she completed the GENESIS environmental education program - a semester of high intensity outdoor activities involving environmental science and co-operative education. On the commendation of her GENESIS teacher, we offered Madison sponsorship for the 2023 Ontario Nature Youth Summit.

The summit took place September 22 – 24 at Camp Wahanowin near Orillia. As reported by Madison, 57 like-minded young people aged 14 to 20 shared cabins and passions at the camp. Participants signed up for morning and afternoon workshops according to personal interests and also enjoyed team-building activities and competitions.

Madison thanked us for the unique opportunity to meet and talk with other young nature enthusiasts and the exposure to other perspectives.

The second speaker was Alyssa Bourassa, Stewardship Program Coordinator for the Lake Huron Coastal Centre. She

organizes the plastic pollution and Coast Watchers community science programs. Her topic, "Plastic Pollution Solution", provided an overview of research, data collection and volunteerism in relation to plastic pollution in Lake Huron.

Alyssa explained the different ways plastic products enter the waterway, the numerous types of plastics and their negative impacts on wildlife, tourism and even humans through bio magnification – the concentration of toxins in organisms at successively higher levels of the food chain.

Acknowledging the gloom and doom nature of the data, she concluded by highlighting many active and passive ways people can have a positive influence on plastic pollution in the lake through avoidance, reduction and recycling.

She also encouraged people to get involved in community science programs such as shoreline clean-ups which have been organized by the Coastal Centre for 25 years.

Steve Pepper invited members to check out several new styles of club-branded head wear and took orders.

Susan Greco reported on the Beaver Valley hike and the beautiful scenery the participants enjoyed. One hiker, Mary Faubert, an artist at Victoria Park Art Gallery, Kincardine, enjoyed it so much that she was inspired to show her appreciation by donating a painting of Old Baldy to be used to fund raise at a future meeting.

Rhodora Doughty sent a report on volunteer preparations for the Ontario Nature Great Lakes West fall meeting we hosted November 4<sup>th</sup> at the

Anglican Church of the Messiah in Kincardine. Representatives from other naturalist clubs from Owen Sound to Guelph and Waterloo will gather to discuss topics of common interest and hear the latest updates on Ontario Nature programs and campaigns. The meeting will conclude with an afternoon hike on the trails along the North Penetangore River led by Susan Greco.



~~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~~

Thursday, December 7th: James Turland

December birding presentation

Christine Roberts



James Turland, presenting December 7th in Point Clark.

How to Participate

1. Most participants drive a specific area of the count circle stopping for short hikes. Keep records of all birds seen.
2. Works well with two person parties so one can drive and one record the sightings.
3. If you live within the count circle you can be a feeder watcher. Keep track of all the birds that come to your yard
4. Kincardine Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be on Thursday December 14th 2023
5. If you are interested in participating this year contact James Turland either by phone 886-365-3650 or email (jturland@gmail.com)

After a weather delay of over a week, we were treated to fascinating history and facts, beautiful photographs and remarkable stories by long time HFFN member and lifelong birder James Turland.

James is generous with his time and talents leading hikes for HFFN, the Bruce Birding Club and the Huron Fringe Birding Festival in addition to organizing the annual Kincardine Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and contributing to many bird-related research projects. Begun in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count is the longest running citizen science program in North America contributing vast amounts of data which is used to assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation efforts.

The Kincardine CBC was started by HFFN members Martin Parker, John Miles and Dave Schaus in 1984. A total of over 130 species have been identified.

There are 11 count circles in Bruce and Grey counties with this year's Kincardine event taking place December 14th. Homeowners are also encouraged to observe birds at their feeders and record the species and numbers.

James shared interesting facts and photos of some of the more remarkable species observed in past counts. He also demonstrated the various features of a popular bird identification app, Merlin. Once loaded on a phone, this free guide assists users to identify birds by comparing recordings of sounds and photos against a large data base.

We thoroughly enjoyed James' enthusiasm and engaging stories of the pursuit of uncommon species. We hope he will return later in the year to demonstrate other birding apps and share more stories.

In other club business, Christine thanked members for their generous donations of time and food for the Ontario Nature Great Lakes West Region which HFFN hosted November 4th in Kincardine.

She also reported on conservation efforts and upcoming trail improvements at the George G Newton Nature Reserve which the club stewards.

With Christmas on the horizon, Roberts encouraged members to show care for the environment through mindful shopping and using their imaginations to reduce holiday waste. Citing a recent article by Washington Post Climate Advice Columnist Michael J. Coren which claims that 'social comparisons' can be a powerful influence on behaviour, she encouraged everyone to set an example of climate care for family, friends and neighbours.



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~~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~~

**Potluck and photo contest, February 27th, 2024**

**Christine Roberts**

The 2024 edition of the HFFN annual potluck lunch and photo contest held February 27th was a roaring success with 55 members and guests enjoying a hearty and delicious variety of dishes while catching up with friends.



HFFN members enjoyed a hearty and delicious variety of dishes at the potluck lunch meeting February 27th. (photo: Catherine Hodges)



Fifty-five members and guests of the the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists enjoyed a potluck lunch, photo contest and presentations February 27th in Point Clark. (photo: Christine Roberts)



Doug Pedwell presented an overview of the Huron Fringe Birding Festival. (photo: Christine Roberts)

Following the meal, Doug Pedwell gave an overview of the Huron Fringe Birding Festival, an internationally-known annual event whose mission is to provide education and opportunities for birding and nature appreciation. A frequent workshop leader, Pedwell's presentation was replete with gentle humour and photos of previous festival highlights. This year's festival dates are May 24 to June 2<sup>nd</sup> with registration opening March 15. Interested persons are encouraged to preview the program and be prepared to register as early as possible as workshop lists fill quickly. The schedule is posted at [www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca](http://www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca). HFFN member and advocate for the preservation and restoration of urban forests, Doug McCallum spoke to the group about environmental impact concerns surrounding new housing development in the Inverhuron area that would result in the destruction of the forest habitat currently occupying the site. He can be contacted through the Kincardine Naturalization Projects' website, [www.kincardinetreets.com](http://www.kincardinetreets.com). Outings Convenor Susan Greco outlined some exciting plans for future day trips and Speaker Convenors Jayne Miltenburg and Jane Nielsen announced the speakers for meetings March to June. They are particularly enthusiastic about the May 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Meeting at Camp Kintail which will feature Canadian adventurer and author Adam Shoalts.

**PHOTO CONTEST**

The theme of the photo contest was "Seasonality" and featured over two dozen images of animals, plants and landscapes from which members chose their three favourites. Top finalist was Jeff Bathurst followed by Christine Roberts and Debbie Willis. Members also shared nature-related hobbies with displays that included photos, paintings, knitting, crafts and wood carving.



Donald Andrew and Willa Schoffer choose their top picks for the club's photo contest. (photo: Christine Roberts)



~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

PHOTO CONTEST

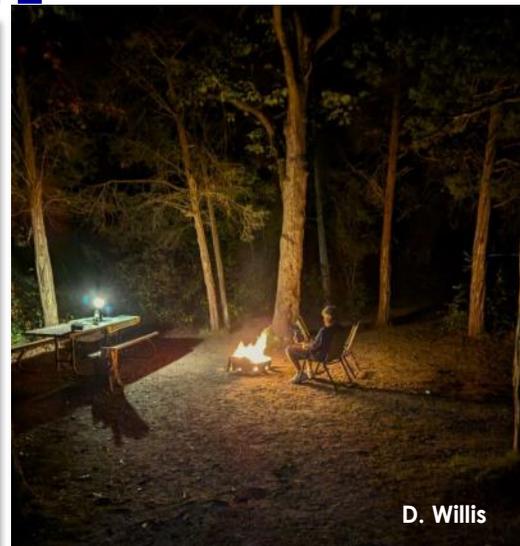
WINNING IMAGES



J. Bathurst



C. Roberts



D. Willis



HFFN 2024 photo contest finalists Christine Roberts (left) and Debbie Willis hold their winning images. (missing: Jeff Bathurst) (photo: Donna Murray)



Speaker Co-Convenor Jane Nielsen announced the plans for the May 28th Annual Dinner Meeting featuring Canadian adventurer Adam Shoalts.

The text on the poster reads:

Shoalts's expeditions range from mapping rivers to archeological projects, but he is best known for his long solo journeys including crossing alone nearly 4,000 km of Canada's Arctic. Named one of the greatest living explorers by CBC and even declared 'Canada's Indiana Jones' by the Toronto Star, Shoalts's latest adventure was a 3,400 km solo journey from Lake Erie to the Arctic the subject of his new national best selling book, *Where The Falcon Flies*.

(photo: Christine Roberts)



This lovely 16" X 20" painting of Old Baldy was generously donated by the artist, Mary Faubert and was put up for raffle over two meetings. It was won by Jorgen Larson. Congratulations, Jorgen! Mary, an artist at Victoria Park Art Gallery, Kincardine, had so enjoyed HFFN's fall outing to the Beaver Valley that she donated the painting as a fund-raiser. Thank you so much, Mary!

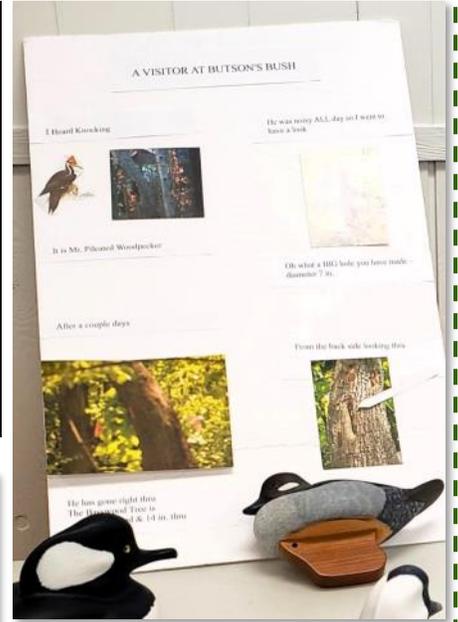
~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

**February: Shared nature-oriented crafts.**



**Left:** Sandra Florence's lovely wild bird cards were much admired,  
**Right:** Donna Butson shared a placard with a tale of the Pileated Woodpecker which got busy and pecked all the way through a 14" thick Basswood trunk.  
**Below:** Christine Roberts' art, so true to life, gives testament of the inspiration she draws from nature.

(J. Pepper photos)



*A big THANK YOU to the crafters who helped make this meeting so much more interesting!*



**Left & below right:** Art Doughty shared his beautiful wood carvings of waterfowl at the HFFN February meeting. (photo: Christine Roberts)

**Far left:** Ralph Knowles shares interest with Art. (photos: J. Pepper)



~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~



Left: A creative 'teasel tree' got a few of us thinking....pleasant way to spend snowy days! (Will the crafter please step forward?)

Right: Beautifully created knitting displayed by Cathy Milne.

Photos: J. Pepper



~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

ANNUAL CORN ROAST



**The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists kicked off another season** of hiking, touring, meetings and learning, with the traditional 'welcome back' corn roast and pot luck meal, Sunday, Sept. 10.

Nearly three dozen members converged on the idyllic recreational property of Lynn Johnson and Paul Zinn to enjoy a delicious meal outdoors among old and new friends. Many hands make light work as several dozen cobs of corns are prepared for the meal; photos by Jeni Pepper.



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**Membership Forms in our Issues...**

These are included in each issue for your convenience. Fill out, add your dues, and mail, email or hand in to join or renew.  
**Done!**

~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

BEAVER VALLEY FALL ROAD TOUR, October 24th

S. Greco



S. Greco

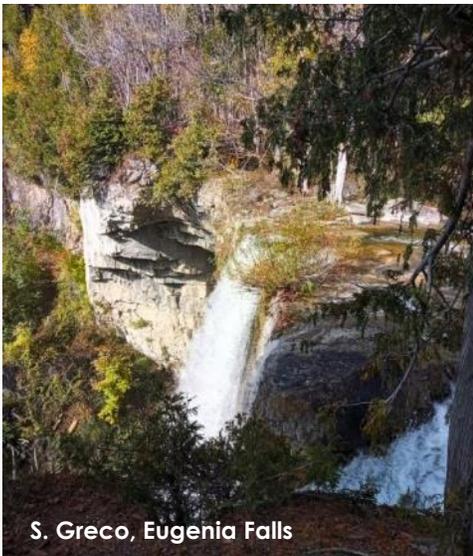
It was a spectacular Fall Trip to the Beaver Valley.

The disappointment was that so many people had signed up for the day we had to cancel, because of rain creating unsafe walking conditions, then so few people could make the rain date a week after.

So there were just four travellers. The day couldn't have been better; the views around Eugenia Falls, and up on Old Baldy, last stop at Epping Forest, all breathtaking, mingled in with a leisurely visit at picturesque Preposterous Pumpkin Farm, guided by friendly chickens, and an enjoyable lunch picnic at a pretty roadside rest area close to Kimberly. Perfect day! Repeated trip a must for next year.



S. Greco, Beaver Valley from Old Baldy



S. Greco, Eugenia Falls



S. Greco



S. Greco

Great Lakes West Nature Network regional meeting, November 4th, 2023

Christine Roberts

HFFN hosted the Fall 2023 Great Lakes West Nature Network regional meeting at the Anglican Church of the Messiah in Kincardine Saturday, November 4th.

It was attended by 16 representatives from 6 six different naturalist clubs, Ontario Nature, the guest speaker from Halton North Peel Naturalists and 7 of our own members. All were very appreciative of our warm welcome and generosity.



C. Hodges

Don Scallen from the Halton North Peel Naturalists gave a presentation on **Gems of the Greenbelt** showcasing species at risk in the Greenbelt. Each group shared highlights from the past six months and topics of mutual interest were discussed.

Following lunch, Susan Greco led a walk in the Stoney Creek Conservation Area.

A huge thank you to organizer Rhodora Doughty and her wonderful group of volunteers, who provided plentiful and delicious food, set up, cleaned up and served. **(continued...)**

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

**Great Lakes West Nature Network regional meeting cont:**

C. Roberts



Our own one-man tech support team, Jim Laliberte, helped work out glitches for the guest speaker's presentation. All in all a great club effort!



**At the pond again, February 11th**

Sue Greco

On a not-so-wintery day, Sunday 11th of February, a group of 18 HFFN members gathered at the driveway end of Lynn and Paul's 50 acre wooded sanctuary close to Holyrood. At the end of the road we continued on to the pond where we lingered watching the birds at the many feeders placed around the pond trail. The surviving rainbow trout in the pond caused great fascination when they came to the surface to feed on fish food. From the pond along the trail, one of several made by Paul, the trail loops, ending at the cabin where the group enjoyed treats and a social time while being warmed by a roaring fire in the wood stove. Many thanks to Lynn and Paul for so graciously sharing their delightful wooded sanctuary and pleasurable afternoon.

S. Greco



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S. Greco

S. Greco

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## KINCARDINE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

James Turland

Every December birders across the globe unite in the world's largest citizen science project, and collect data on Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). CBC's started as an alternate to the barbaric traditional Christmas Side-hunt where teams indiscriminately shot all birds and mammals just for fun. The first CBC was started in 1901.

On a typical CBC participants gather very early so that they are ready to start counting at daybreak. This year Kincardine conducted its 39th count on December 14. We were lucky to not cancel because a Bruce County squall threatened to close roads. Twenty-some participants equipped with binoculars and smiles scoured the count circle for our feathered kin. Participants search from dawn to dusk and then unite for the wrap up and Christmas dinner. Mild and open winter weather means birds are more widely dispersed and harder to find. Feeder watchers noticed the decline and recorded fewer birds than normal.

A highlight for me were the many Red-throated Loons, seen in feeding frenzies and mixed with several other diving species such as Mergansers. Red-throated Loons are smaller than the Common Loon and hold their beaks on a slight upward angle. They nest in the high Arctic and migrate through the Great Lakes on their way to and from the Eastern Seaboard. We seldom get to see them in their namesake breeding plumage; most birds are in a drabber winter plumage.



Red-Throated Loon. Photo: David Karná

Five species of gulls were seen count day including the Bonaparte's. This small gull is unique in that it nests in trees on the taiga\*; most gulls nest on the ground. It has a buoyant and graceful flight and eats smaller organisms than its bigger cousins. It has a black head in breeding



Bonaparte's Gull. Photo: Dick Daniels

plumage but seen here in December it only has a dark dot behind the eye.

Winter is a great time for gull watching, because there are about nine species possible. One of the best places to gull watch is at landfill sites. In summer just two gulls are abundant here, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls.

Normally several Snowy Owls are found count day, but this is an off year and there have been no sightings in the county. One red morph Eastern Screech Owl was found. Screech Owls come in two distinct colours; the more commonplace morph depends on region and habitat.

The 62 species found on this year's count is the second highest ever.



The two colour morphs of Eastern Screech Owl. Photo Jack Starret

The 22 Cackling Geese reported was a new high. The Cackling Goose is identical to the Canada Goose in plumage but is only about half the size. Also new to the count this year was a duck called the American Wigeon.

The American Wigeon is also called "baldpate" because the white stripe on its head resembles a bald man. Wigeons are common here in season but have almost all left the county by December. I am always amazed at what birds the participants can find even in December.

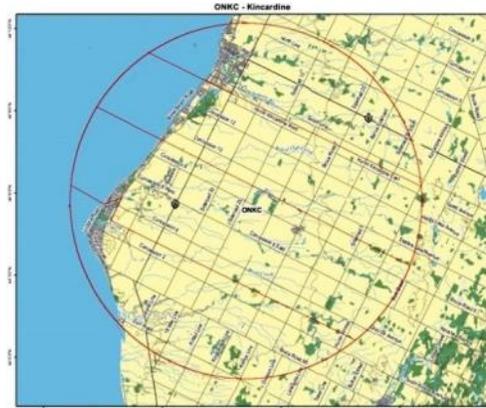
Congratulations and thanks to all who helped out with this year's count. Following is a complete list of birds seen. If you are interested in seeing any of these birds or joining the Bruce Birding Club contact James Turland. [jaturland@gmail.com](mailto:jaturland@gmail.com)

\*TAIGA is also referred to as Boreal Forest, composed mostly of thickly growing conifers.

## KINCARDINE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT....

| SPECIES                 | COUNT | SPECIES                 | COUNT |
|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Canada Goose            | 2073  | Belted Kingfisher       | 1     |
| Cackling Goose          | 22    | Red-bellied Woodpecker  | 4     |
| Mute Swan               | 2     | Downy Woodpecker        | 13    |
| Mallard                 | 180   | Hairy Woodpecker        | 5     |
| American Black Duck     | 8     | Pileated Woodpecker     | 2     |
| American Wigeon         | 1     | American Kestrel        | 2     |
| Redhead                 | 28    | Merlin                  | 3     |
| Greater Scaup           | 55    | Northern Shrike         | 3     |
| Lesser Scaup            | 30    | Blue Jay                | 40    |
| White-winged Scoter     | 8     | American Crow           | 420   |
| Long-tailed Duck        | 5     | Common Raven            | 19    |
| Bufflehead              | 55    | Black-capped Chickadee  | 204   |
| Common Goldeneye        | 66    | Horned Lark             | 2     |
| Common Merganser        | 47    | Golden-crowned Kinglet  | 1     |
| Red-breasted Merganser  | 149   | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | 3     |
| Wild Turkey             | 35    | White-breasted Nuthatch | 5     |
| Horned Grebe            | 2     | European Starling       | 1903  |
| Rock Pigeon             | 340   | Hermit Thrush           | 1     |
| Mourning Dove           | 57    | American Robin          | 26    |
| Ring-billed Gull        | 784   | Bohemian Waxwing        | 1     |
| Herring Gull            | 920   | Cedar Waxwing           | 84    |
| Bonaparte's gull        | 13    | House Sparrow           | 21    |
| Glaucous Gull           | 1     | House Finch             | 53    |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 1     | Purple Finch            | 3     |
| Red throated Loon       | 27    | Common Redpoll          | 1     |
| Northern Harrier        | 4     | American Goldfinch      | 235   |
| Cooper's Hawk           | 1     | Snow Bunting            | 466   |
| Bald Eagle              | 7     | American Tree Sparrow   | 30    |
| Red-tailed Hawk         | 7     | Dark-eyed Junco         | 228   |
| Rough-legged Hawk       | 9     | Common Grackle          | 2     |
| Eastern Screech-owl     | 2     | Northern Cardinal       | 34    |

## Count area for Kincardine, J. Turland



**As a member of Ontario Nature, HFFN** has access to a wider range of information about ongoing nature and environment issues. Members of our group are entitled to attend the Spring and Fall Regional Meetings, enjoy lunch provided by the hosting club, and often take tours of one of the host club's nature areas.

Club Presidents and Ontario Nature representatives will attend these meetings and may be accompanied by several interested club members. An RSVP is required, but otherwise just a knowledge of the meeting date is all that is needed. Host clubs include the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Ltd., Friends of McGregor Point, Friends of Sauble Beach, Nature Guelph, HFFN, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Rankin Resource Group, Saugeen Nature, Stratford Field Naturalists, Sunfish Lake Association, Upper Credit Field Naturalists, and Waterloo Region Nature.

The website is:

**<https://ontarionature.org/about/nature-network/>**

Interested parties can arrange there to be kept informed of the group's activities and nature news. ~ Ed.

**ROBIN REPORT:**

Late February saw American Robins sighted in London (Ont.). These earlier arrivals are said to be males who want to establish their territories. If snow hampers their feeding, an area of grass can be raked near trees and pieces of apple or suet, sunflower seeds, raisins left for them. Some robins stay, but arriving birds will need to eat after their trip.



# Members' Page...

## What Our Members are Doing!

Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 200 kbs....thanks!



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS  
EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME TO THOSE  
WHO ARE JOINING US.  
WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL  
ENJOY OUR PRESENTATIONS AND REAP  
THE BENEFITS OF ALL OR ANY OF THE  
WALKS OR HIKES YOU FANCY COMING  
ALONG ON!

**EAGLE EYES** - Outings co-ordinator Sue Greco was fortunate to spot this Bald Eagle on a December day at Boiler Beach and managed to get three fair shots despite the long distance. Here are two views. Sue commented, *Amazing encounter with this lone Bald Eagle perching high up on the tree watching me watching him/her and trying to get the best shot ever on my 6k beach walk today!*

Quick on the shutter, Sue!



### TELL US WHERE TO GO!

Know of any good places to enjoy nature? Please bring them to the attention of your HFFN Executive. You don't have to lead an outing unless you'd like to. We will arrange outings to these new places so that everyone can enjoy them. Talk to any of the Executive at any meeting, or use the Contact numbers on page 2...we'll do the rest!



Wear your HFFN clothing anywhere in the world, get a photo of yourself in it with a nice background, and send it to the Peppers.... we'll publish it!



# Members' Page....



Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 200 kbs....thanks!



CATHERINE HODGES discovered these pleasantly peculiar 'HOODOOS' on the beach recently. According to one explanation, water droplets freeze in sand, and if the wind and temperature permit, this is the result.

The name HOODOOS in general refers to rock formations like those in Bryce Canyon, Utah. But on a much smaller scale, these are indeed hoodoos!



## CAN YOU HELP?



**YOUR CLUB NEEDS WILLING INDIVIDUALS TO ASSIST HFFN'S BOARD. SOME NOTES TO TAKE, SOME PHONE CALLS TO MAKE, THREE MEETINGS PER YEAR;**

**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY -**

**WITH AN ADDED BONUS OF NEW FRIENDS AND SOME INTERESTING LOCAL NATURE INFORMATION.**

**APPLY ANYTIME: STEVE PEPPER, 226-396-5616**

## SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PUBLICATION

IF YOU HAVE A WRITE-UP, REPORT, OR PHOTO THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SUBMIT FOR AN ISSUE OF *FRINGE NOTES*, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS:

BEECHLEAJLP(at)GMAIL(DOT COM)

KINDLY PUT THE NAME OF THE ARTICLE OR SUBJECT OF THE PHOTO IN THE SUBJECT LINE. INCLUDE THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE EVENT OR PHOTO IN THE EMAIL, AND THE NAME OF THE WRITER OR PHOTOGRAPHER. IT WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND INCLUDED. PHOTOS NEED TO BE JPEG, BETWEEN 100 - 200 kbs IF EDITED FOR CONTENT; IF NOT EDITED, THEY MAY BE UP TO 2MBS IN ORDER TO EDIT.

THANKS! - THE EDITOR

"Is this a walk or a hike?"

Believe it or not, some of our members do need to know. The phrase, 'not a spring chicken' is often heard along the trails and byways....

As well as encouraging our outing leaders to comment on terrain in their announcements for outings, we assume that a 'walk' is just that: a country meander with perhaps a pause or two to admire whatever catches the eye.

Alternatively, a 'hike' is taken to mean a more rugged type of journey, 'up hill and down dale', the occasional hauling of bodies up steep inclines, over rocks and tree trunks, along unkept paths, through small lakes....

Happy trails!



## Word to the Wise:



People sometimes call to ask the date of a meeting. Perhaps it's worth reiterating that our meetings always take place on the *fourth* Tuesday of the months February through June, and September through November,

unless you are notified otherwise.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



# MEMBERSHIP PAGE

**HFFN has now set up an e-mail account** for the Club, to be used for paying membership dues by e-transfer, so that payments will go directly into the account. The membership form has been altered accordingly.

Payment by cheque is also accepted, or you can make cash payments to Barb Simpson, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting. The new address for the e-transfer: [hffn44.46@gmail.com](mailto:hffn44.46@gmail.com)

## Membership renewals ....

**MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:**  
Barb Simpson, 396-5486.

Membership/renewal forms are included in each issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the meetings. Renewals are generally made in September.

Those who have missed renewals will receive one reminder before being dropped from our lists.

Singing Sands, 2016. J. Pepper



## ~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 annual dues are \$25.00 per person. Under 18's are free. (New/renewal membership form at right.)

Come out and enjoy the company, the outings and the speakers.

Memberships for the 2024/2025 year are due in September and before February.

Those who have not renewed by the end of February will be sent one reminder before being dropped from our membership list.

If there are any questions about membership or changes to your contact information, please contact me.

Barb Simpson: 396 5486  
or [bsimpsonbob@gmail.com](mailto:bsimpsonbob@gmail.com)

*Thanks .... Barb*

## ADVERTISING:

**\$30 ANNUALLY**, call  
Jackie Clements,  
519-396-3655

## ~~ JOIN US OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ~~

*\*Note that our season runs from September to September.*

**Membership Cost:** \$25.00 per person. Youths 18 or under are free.  
Please mail completed form with payment to:



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or  renewal

SEPTEMBER 2024 to SEPTEMBER 2025

....or CATCHUP?

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists,  
C/O Bob Simpson,  
308, Lewis Rd., Kincardine N2Z 0A4

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Fringe Field  
Naturalists at: [hffn44.46@gmail.com](mailto:hffn44.46@gmail.com)

**Name(s): (Please print):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Post Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Cut out or scan this form.*

~~~ **UPCOMING MEETINGS:** ~~~

~~~ **REGULAR MEETINGS** ~~~

**Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Point Clark Community Center, 344 Lake Range Drive, during the months of February to June and September to November.**

February meeting is a potluck and photo contest/hobby display at 12:30 pm

**Meetings are cancelled in event of bad weather - you are advised to check the status of a meeting before leaving home.**

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

Arrival Time: 7.00 pm.



Meeting: 7:20 pm.



**Feed the Frog!**

**Beverages: 2.00; treats: free.**

**Arrival time: 7 pm, meetings start at 7:20.**

**Tuesday, March 26: Dave Rankine – Coyotes of Inverhuron Park**



**Dave describes himself** as a 'citizen biologist'. He is by training (York U '82) and profession, a visual artist, musician, writer, educator and lecturer but sciences have always been an interest. He has had a 60 year love affair with Inverhuron Park and started a study of coyotes in January 2020.

Dave will present a general slide show of the park and its animal population - in particular, the coyotes (Two Bays Pack). He will demonstrate, through visuals, his never before seen theory on coyote movement. The 'getting there' is an involved story full of blind alleys, tumbles, severe weather, skinned knees and sacred face to face encounters with these beautiful animals. **Michelle Gade will speak for 10**

**minutes** on her efforts to organize garlic mustard removal in Kincardine and Christine will talk about the **City Nature Challenge**.

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024: Audrey Armstrong/Willie Waterton - Orchid Quest**



**Audrey and Willy took on the enormous task** of updating the reference guide, **Orchids, Bruce & Grey** in 2021. Audrey and Willy will present their book and the stories of the undertaking. They will have the book and other items from the Owen Sound Field Naturalists. Audrey Armstrong and Willy Waterton's love for orchids goes back to their childhoods, in Willy's case his mother used **William Sherwood Fox's 1953 book The Bruce Beckons\*\*** to explore the Bruce Peninsula looking for orchids in the 1960's. Audrey's parents took her to see the Showy orchids at the Purdon Conservation Area in eastern Ontario. The two have continued searching for orchids in Bruce Grey over the last 47 years. Come and share Audrey & Willy's two year Orchid Quest to find and photograph the 49 orchid species of Bruce & Grey.



\*\*Fox's book **The Bruce Beckons** is available at the bookshop in Tobermory Harbour - Ed.

**ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, Tues., May 28th, 2024:**



**Camp Kintail, 85153 Hwy 21 (Presbyterian Camp Rd., Kintail.)**

**DOORS OPEN 6.15.**

**ADAM SHOALTS - PROFESSIONAL ADVENTURER, AUTHOR AND PUBLIC SPEAKER.**

**Shoalts's expeditions** range from mapping rivers to archeological projects, but he is best known for his long solo journeys including crossing alone nearly 4,000 km of Canada's Arctic. Named one of the greatest living explorers by CBC and even declared 'Canada's Indiana Jones' by the Toronto Star, Shoalts's latest adventure was a 3,400 km solo journey from Lake Erie to the Arctic, the subject of his new national bestselling book **Where The Falcon Flies**.

**TICKETS: Steve Pepper, 226-396-5616; \$35 member, \$45 guest**



~~~ UPCOMING MEETINGS: ~~~



Tuesday, June 25th, 2024: Don Scallen: Spectacular Salamanders

Don Scallen is a writer, naturalist, and former president of the Halton North Peel Naturalist Club.

For decades, Don has visited springtime ponds to witness the wondrous spectacle of Spotted Salamander and Jefferson Salamander breeding. He will share pictures and video of this special springtime activity as well as the nocturnal behaviour of various salamander species including red eft – juvenile, red-spotted newts – and red-backed salamanders. (Photo - Bob Taylor)



~~~ UPCOMING OUTINGS: ~~~

**Black Legged Ticks are in Bruce County; use appropriate protective clothing and tick-approved insect spray.**

**Saturday, March 23 - Who made those Those Tracks and Why?**



Afternoon Outing in Bognor Marsh Conservation Area **led by Jeff Kichin.** Learn to observe and recognize

Nature's clues during a tracking tutorial in the great outdoors. Jeff will lead you on this late winter hike and a fun time.

**We will meet in Sobey's car park 10.30 am to leave by 10.45 am.**

**Pack a lunch, dress for weather and comfortable waterproof walking boots., walking poles or stick (helpful but optional).** Easy to moderate walking, snowshoes welcome if there is snow!

**There is a fee for Jeff's leadership services. Per person approx \$15 -\$20 (depending how many people participate). RSVP for your commitment please! Text or call Susan 905 967 5094 or email [lim-eyesue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:lim-eyesue2000@yahoo.ca) (include your cell phone #)**

**HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL, MacGregor Point Provincial Park**  
**May 24 - May 27, & May 30 - June 2nd, 2024**

Registration for this popular event started MARCH 15th. It fills quickly, so if you want to go, time to check out the online information.

The brochure is available to view online. The website is:

[www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca](http://www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca)

There are events planned for Easy, Moderate, Difficult and Mobility Limited participants.

You are required to wear sturdy footwear and have drinking water on all outings. Bring walkie-talkies if you have them, for vehicle events.

Black Legged Ticks are in Bruce County; use appropriate protective clothing and tick-approved insect spray. See online for further details.

**TUNDRA SWAN MIGRATION VIEWING - SELF GUIDED**

There are people mentioning seeing swans in various locations around, however the traditional viewing area is a field just north of the Lambton County Museum near Grand Bend. The Museum has been updating their viewing calendar: <https://www.lambtonmuseums.ca/en/lambton-heritage-museum/tundra-swan-migration-calendar.aspx>

M. Coates, 2015



Dress for the weather and wind, take good binoculars and zoom lens camera if you have one, and hope for good parking!



**Celebrating Birds**

**Huron Fringe Birding Festival**



**May 24 - May 27  
& May 30 - June 2, 2024**

[www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca](http://www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca)

One of Canada's Premier Birding Festivals

MacGregor Point Provincial Park

~~~ UPCOMING OUTINGS: ~~~

The HFFN ANNUAL BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER:
Tuesday May 21st, 22nd, 23rd, option for May 24th.

INTEREST SIGN-UP* list will be available at the March meeting or call Steve (see below).

*Signing the interest sheet indicates your interest in receiving more information.
 Please print your name, address, and contact information (email, phone).

This year's trip begins on **Tuesday, May 21st** (after the long weekend) **with an option** to stay any number of nights until Friday, May 24th. Some of the group may stay to relax, do their own thing or just enjoy the area nature, leaving on Friday afternoon or evening. **Note that these dates will not interfere with the May meeting or dates for activities during the Huron Fringe Birding Festival (with the exception of Friday, May 24th.)**
The trip always takes place during the week after the May 24th holiday weekend.

Accommodation information, what to bring, and details of the day's trip up the Peninsula will be sent closer to the time to those who sign.

Briefly, the group leaves Kincardine the morning of the start date and travels together, stopping at points of natural interest enroute and taking a picnic lunch. Supper is arranged for those who wish at the Princess Hotel's Pharos Restaurant. The following days will include walks or hikes to some of the beauty spots and places of interest. Breakfast is usually as a group, but optional. A potluck supper and perhaps a pizza night for those staying two or three nights. Please note that we will be taking the 'gentler routes' this time around. The trip will be hosted and led by Donna Murray and Steve and Jeni Pepper. Any enquiries between now and the trip may be sent to the Peppers: [trek66.sp\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:trek66.sp(at)gmail.com) or **226-396-5616**



Halfway Log Dump, 2014 Explorer.
 Photo: J. Pepper

OUTINGS INFORMATION:

Outings Co-Ordinator Susan Greco will email Christine on any pop-up outings during the seasons, so keep an eye on that Inbox!

Changed/cancelled) outings, WE WILL NOTIFY BY EMAIL, so check for changes before setting out.

Please verify details before leaving for an outing.

Text or call Susan; 905 967 5094
 or email limeysue2000@yahoo.ca

Coming on an outing? Stay informed!

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meeting, please check your email for any additional information before you leave home, in case the event has had to be cancelled or changed. We do try to have rain dates for walks, but cannot always arrange these in time for publication.

If in doubt....suss it out!

Remember to bring a map or directions with you, and a charged cell phone if you carry one.



THE SMALL PRINT:

On Your Feet! Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park....but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain, or call the contact number. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!

OUTING CHECKLIST: cell phone, car phone charger, hat, water, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, bug repellent, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves, folding umbrella.



....AND DON'T FORGET THE DIRECTIONS TO THE HIKE!

