



Owen Sound
Field Naturalists



Hart's-Tongue Herald

The Newsletter of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists
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Editor: Cindy Cartwright



It's time for our annual Christmas Bird Counts!

Cindy Cartwright and Dian Woods located a Barred Owl on last year's Owen Sound CBC. At the tally later that evening, Dian learned that it was the first time this species had been observed on the Owen Sound count.

photo by James Turland

2007 Christmas Bird Counts in Bruce and Grey

To participate in any of the following Christmas Bird Counts, contact the compiler.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone / Email</u>
Saturday, Dec 15	Hanover/Walkerton	Dorothy Kings	519-389-5387
Saturday, Dec 15	Owen Sound	Freeman Boyd	519-538-4368 fboyd@log.on.ca
Sunday, Dec 16	Wiaraton	Joe Johnson	519-534-2736
Wednesday, Dec 19	Tobermory*	John Haselmayer	519-596-2444 ext. 302 john.haselmayer@pc.gc.ca
Friday, Dec 28	Meaford	Lynne Richardson	519-599-3618 lynne.richardson@mnr.gov.on.ca
Friday, Dec 28	Kincardine	Ralph Knowles	519-396-5580 remak@bmts.com
Wednesday, Jan 2	Saugeen Shores**	Cindy Cartwright	519-389-2585 pom@bmts.com

* There will be a social the night before at Tom and Sharon Williamson's at 53 Grant Watson Drive. The park can provide accommodation if anyone wants to come up the night before. There will be a pre-count breakfast at 7:00 a.m. on count day, and a post-count chili dinner and tally at 5:00. Both will be held at the Bruce National Park Visitor Centre.

** Participants for the Saugeen Shores CBC will meet at the Harvest Moon Café at 7:30 a.m. and the post-count dinner and tally will be held at MacGregor Point Provincial Park at 5 pm



Black-legged Kittiwake in the Southampton harbour in late November
- a potential new species for one of our area counts.

photo by Bonnie Collins



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Around the Bay Waterfowl Tour - November 10, 2007

by Fred Jazvac

A bright, sunny, autumn day greeted a small group of experienced birders who came to participate in the annual fall survey of loons, grebes, ducks and gulls. The loons and 2 species of grebes (Horned and Red-necked) co-operated by showing up in what appeared to be better than average numbers. Red-breasted, Common and Hooded Mergansers, flotillas of Greater Scaup and Redheads, were amongst the 33 species of birds seen that day. Birds that evoked excitement were Black Scoter, Snow Goose, and Long-tailed Duck. At our last stop, just before we got into our cars to go home, a silhouette of a bird appeared sitting in a nearby tree. We maneuvered behind it to catch the sun and what a good bye present it was - a Pine Grosbeak. We left smiling.

Adopt-a-Highway (MTO Program) Roadside Clean-up Completed

by Lis Falk

The Owen Sound Field Naturalists have participated in the Ministry of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway Program since 1999. Over the years, many members have volunteered their time to help clean the section of Highway 6 from Springmount to the Wilcox Sideroad.

OSFN's section of Highway 6 looks great again after the fall clean-up on October 26, 2007. Many thanks go to the following faithful members who came out to help: Anne and Stan Cathrae, Karen Saliwonchuk, Joan and Walter Crowe, Jamie Fay, Liz Squires, and coordinators Lis and Trevor Falk.

The next highway clean-up will be planned for late April or early May, 2008. Please consider volunteering to help us then. It really helps to have at least 10 people who can come out, and a few extra people as back-up, in case someone can't make it at the last minute. With 10 volunteers, it only takes about 2 hours to complete the clean-up. It would be wonderful to have some new volunteers!

If you think you might be able to help in the spring, please call Lis at 519-794-0889.



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2008 Winter Programmes

Thursday, January 10, 2008

GALAPAGOS: DARWIN'S ZOO

The "living laboratory" of the Galapagos is full of bizarre fauna that exist totally free and fearless of man. **Gord Cassidy's** slides of the fauna and flora of the Galapagos will please young and old!



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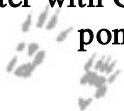
Saturday, January 19, 2008

EAGLES AT THE BNPD

Join **Cindy Cartwright**, the Huron Shore "Bird Lady" as she takes us eagle-watching at the BNPD. Time: 8:00 am. Limit of 9.



Register with Cindy at 519 389-2585 or
pom@bmts.com



Thursday, February 14, 2008

TIED UP IN KNOTS: RED KNOTS

Mark Peck of the ROM is part of an international team studying Red Knots on the breeding grounds of the Canadian Arctic, and staging grounds in the eastern United States, and wintering grounds in Florida and South America.



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Early to Mid-February, 2008

SIGNS OF WINTER WILDLIFE

Verle Barfoot takes us sleuthing for winter wildlife in the Bognor Marsh. Bring snowshoes or skis, depending on the conditions. Also bring a snack and thermos of hot drink. Limit: 20 people
Register by calling Anne at 519 371-2853.



Thursday, March 13, 2008

FRIENDS OF SAUBLE BEACH

Ken Frook will talk about their efforts and successes protecting the Sauble dunes, which contributed to the remarkable saga of the Piping Plovers in the summer of 2007.



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Thursday, April 10, 2008

VOICES OF THE BOREAL FOREST

Join **Jennifer Baker**, Ontario Nature for an informative and colourful presentation about Ontario's songbirds, the threats facing their boreal forest nesting sites, and what you can do to help. The Boreal forest is called Ontario's Songbird Nursery and is recognized as **THE** single most important breeding ground for birds in North America.



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Saturday, April 19, 2008

RED-NECKED GREBE SURVEY, DYER'S BAY

The **Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory** conducts an annual Red-Necked Grebe count when these birds are migrating through the region in great numbers. Join **Rod Steinacher** as he checks the five official count sites from Dyer's Bay and Cabot Head. Limit of 10. **Register with Dian: 519 422-1514 or saublebeach@hotmail.com**

Saturday, April 26, 2008

FROG PEEP SHOW DRIVING TOUR

Freeman Boyd leads us for an evening of spring frog song as local wetlands come alive with froggies in love! Bring binoculars for other marsh life, and waterproof footwear. Limit: 30. Register with Freeman at 519 538-4368.



Junior Naturalists

by Stephanie Hargrave

Our Junior Naturalists' season began on the last Sunday in September at the Grey Sauble Conservation. We have 23 children signed-up for this year's program. Most of the faces are familiar, but we are glad to say that there are a few new smiles in the crowd.

We spent our first meeting getting to know each other, pretending to be squirrels preparing for winter in the Arboretum and ended with a hike down to the river to see lots of salmon.

The next month, our group spent an October afternoon at the Bognor Marsh where we tried to search for frogs and water snakes. We played some games outside and again enjoyed being with friends.

Our November meeting was held back at the Conservation building with cold wet weather outside. That didn't stop our group from some sweating in the snow with several lively Fox and Geese games of tag. We talked about how seeds and nuts change underground during the winter while we planted the gathered nuts and seeds from our September meeting and made seasonal decorations.

We are well underway with the 2007-2008 year and we will meet again in January to begin to explore what nature has to teach us during the stillness of winter. Enjoy the quietness of the season!




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Name Tags at OSFN Meetings

by Fred Jazvac

Ever been at an OSFN meeting and wondered who you were talking to, or couldn't remember the name of the familiar face you were having a conversation with. Name tags to the rescue. The name tag concept is basically self serve. To get one, the process starts with you writing up a name tag for yourself to wear. You turn it in at the end of the meeting placing it into the appropriate alphabetized box with the strings tucked in. At the next meeting, a new computer printed name tag will be waiting for you.

What if I forget and take the name tag home with me?
Bring it with you to the next meeting.

What if I lose my name tag? Write up a new name tag for yourself and a new printed name tag will be waiting for you at the next meeting.

Why don't we just make a name tag for all of the members? Some of our members use the payment of membership to support our naturalist club but do not come to the meetings. Hence, not making a name tag for everyone saves on labour, expense and resources.

Area Events

The January meeting of the **Bruce Peninsula Environmental Group** will be "Guilt or Guts: Explaining the green trend in local politicians" Guest speaker will be Shane Jolley of the Green Party. More information about this group is available on their website www.bpeg.ca

There will be a **total eclipse of the moon** on February 20, 2008. This event will be visible from most of North America and is predicted to be very good in Ontario if there is no cloud cover. The partial eclipse will begin at 8:43 pm EST, with the total eclipse beginning at 10:01 pm EST and lasting approximately 50 minutes.

NASA has an excellent site with more details about this event and other upcoming eclipses.

<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/eclipse.html>

The speaker for the March 17th meeting of the **Saugeen Field Naturalists** will be Martin Quinn of Kincardine. Martin will give a presentation on landscaping with native grasses as people look forward to the spring gardening season. Visit <http://web.mac.com/reaumejohn/SFN/Events.html> for details of other SFN meetings and events.



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Festival of Northern Lights

by Cindy Cartwright

This may seem like an unusual event to mention in a Field Naturalist newsletter but it is directly related to the environment.

I couldn't help but notice as I walked around and looked at the lights along the river this year that some of the displays have switched to the more energy efficient LED lights that are available now. Imagine how much energy would be saved if every incandescent Christmas light across Canada was switched to an energy efficient LED. How many tons of carbon dioxide would be diverted from the atmosphere? What would this do for the environment?

I encourage all members of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists to switch to more energy efficient light bulbs when you buy new or replace existing Christmas lights.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

by Robert Frost (1923)

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.



Turning New Pages

The old year softly shuffles out, never to return;
The new year is welcomed with whistles and bells
and dancing at every turn.

The old year was our yesterday, unique one way
or another;

This year - still a mystery, will be unlike any other.
There's no rehearsal - one day at a time - each a new
page to begin;

A chance to do the things put off, so good memories
are stored within.

Joan Adams Burchell

Do you remember...

...memorizing poetry as a child in school?

...frost covering a window pane? It's a sight that
children in this day of energy efficient homes may
never see. Beautiful swirls and designs on the glass,
distorting the light into wonderful shadows and
colours.

Try completing this poem:

*"The frost moved up the windowpane against the
sun's advance,*

*in line and pattern weaving there rich scenes of old
romance.*

*Armies on the Russian snow, cockade, sword and
lance..."*

Membership Application & Renewal Form

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Membership Category: Single (\$18)..... Family (\$25)..... Renewal.....

Return with cheque to: Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Box 401, Owen Sound, N4K 5P7

Membership cards can be picked up at indoor meetings. Check here if you want your card mailed to you.

The Winter 2007/08 Program at a Glance

Indoor Programs

All indoor meetings will take place in the auditorium of the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library at 7 pm. Following a social time and announcements, the speaker of the evening will present at 7:30.

January 10

February 14

March 13

April 10

Galapagos: Darwin's Zoo

Tied Up In Knots

Friends of Sauble Beach

Voices of the Boreal Forest

Outdoor Programs

The outdoor program is designed to help members discover new areas, add to their knowledge of natural history, or just to enjoy a "stroll in the woods" with like-minded people. Note that each trip has its own specific time and meeting place. Registration is required for most outings. Please call the contact person indicated about a week before the outing.

January 19

early to mid-February

April 19

April 26

Eagles at the BNPD area

Signs of Winter Wildlife

Red-necked Grebe Survey

Frog Peep Show Driving Tour

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photo by James Turland