



# The Egret

*the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club*

## Inside this issue ...

ECFNC Activities at a Glance .....	1
ECFNC Contacts.....	2
Annual Dinner Summary .....	3
Swift Release Windsor.....	7
In Memory of Alan Wormington ..	10
Goatwing Sighting .....	12
TD Tree Days.....	15
American Bullfrog .....	16
IBA Program .....	18
Activities and Events .....	21
Membership Form .....	22

## ECFNC Monthly Meetings

Except for our annual dinner in November, monthly members' meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Ojibway Nature Center, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor, 519-966-5852. We also have monthly outings, posted in the 'Activities and Excursions' section of this newsletter as well as on our website. Visit our Website at [essexcountynature.com](http://essexcountynature.com)

A great big *Thank-You* to everyone who submitted articles and photos to the Egret this month. We always appreciate your submissions and couldn't run this newsletter without them!

## Upcoming ECFNC Activities

**January 11<sup>th</sup> – Nature Photography Talk**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wildlife Tracking Outing**

**January 28<sup>th</sup> - Waterfowl IBA Count**

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – Spiders of Ontario – “Eight Legged Friends” Talk**

**February 12<sup>th</sup> – Waterfowl Hike**

**February 25<sup>th</sup> – Waterfowl IBA Count**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> – Ontario's Reptiles and Amphibians - Appreciation and Conservation Talk**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual General Meeting**

**March 12<sup>th</sup> – Tree ID and Appreciation Walk**

## Upcoming Christmas Bird Counts

Local Dates are as follows:

Dec 14	North Shore	Glenn Gervais
Dec 17	Cedar Creek	Paul Pratt
Dec 18	Blenham	Keith Burk
Dec 19	Point Pelee	Sarah Rupert
Dec 27	Holiday Beach	Jeremy Hatt
Jan 1	Detroit River	Paul Pratt

## About the Club ...

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was incorporated in March 1985. We are a registered charitable organization which promotes the appreciation and conservation of our natural heritage. ECFNC provides the community opportunities to become acquainted with and understand our natural world through identification, maintenance and preservation of the natural areas within Essex County and surrounding regions. ECFNC is affiliated with Ontario Nature/Federation of Ontario Naturalists. *The Egret* is published quarterly. To receive information on the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club or to submit articles, letters, reports, etc., please write to:

### Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

c/o Ojibway Nature Centre  
5200 Matchette Rd.  
Windsor On, N9C 4E8

### Information

ECFNC website  
[www.essexcountynature.com](http://www.essexcountynature.com)  
Egret email:  
[roset@uwindsor.ca](mailto:roset@uwindsor.ca)  
ECFNC fax # 519-839-4795

**Ojibway Nature Centre**  
519-966-5852

**Point Pelee National Park**  
519-322-5700

**Essex Region Conservation Auth.**  
519-776-5209

## ECFNC Contacts

President: Jesse Gardner Costa ([zissoucosta@gmail.com](mailto:zissoucosta@gmail.com))  
Vice-President: Paul Pratt ([naturalist@primus.ca](mailto:naturalist@primus.ca))  
Secretary: JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056)  
Treasurer: Cathy Lapain ([aclapain@gmail.com](mailto:aclapain@gmail.com))  
Membership Secretary: Carl Maiolani ([carlmaiolani@cogeco.ca](mailto:carlmaiolani@cogeco.ca), 519-972-1399)  
Directors:  
Linda Menard-Watt (519-734-1879)  
Dave Kraus (519-825-7491)  
Kory Renaud ([koryrenaud@gmail.com](mailto:koryrenaud@gmail.com))  
Sarah Baldo (519-300-0039)  
Claire Sanders ([sanderse@uwindsor.ca](mailto:sanderse@uwindsor.ca))  
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Tom Preney ([tomprenney@hotmail.com](mailto:tomprenney@hotmail.com))

### Chairpersons/Liaisons:

Ontario Nature Liaison: JoAnn Grondin  
ERCA Liaison: Sarah Baldo  
ERCA Conservation Areas Advisory Committee for park management: Sarah Baldo and Tom Preney  
Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonnette  
Essex County Land Stewardship Liaison: Linda Menard-Watt  
Ojibway Liaison: Tom Preney  
Citizens Environment Alliance Liaison: Jesse Gardner Costa  
Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee: Jesse Gardner Costa  
Canada South Land Trust Liaison: Dave Kraus  
Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Liaison: Claire Sanders and Steve Marks

### Committees:

Egret Editorial: Jessica Rose  
Field Trips: Alexis Hand (chair), Paul Pratt, Ian Woodfield  
Heritage: JoAnn Grondin (coordinator), Dave Kraus, Betty Learmouth, Jim McAllister, Gerry Waldron, Shirley Grondin, Cathy Lapain, Rachel Hasson  
Little River Enhancement Group: Ian Naisbitt (chair), Jesse Gardner Costa  
Fish Book: Dave Kraus, Jesse Gardner Costa  
Website: Sarah Baldo, Kory Renaud (co chairs)  
Social Media: Kory Renaud and Sarah Baldo  
Membership: Jeremy Hatt (chair), Paula O'Rourke, Carl Maiolani, Jessica Rose

**ECFNC 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner**  
**Saturday, November 5, 2016**  
**by JoAnn Grondin, Heritage Committee Coordinator**

WOW! Thank you everyone for a really great evening. Our Annual Dinner is a cooperative event and I have lots of people to thank. Without their help, this dinner could not take place. So, thank you to many volunteers.

Ticket Sales: Carl Maiolani, Ojibway Nature Centre staff, Pelee Wings staff, and me.

Set up: Shirley Grondin, Carl Maiolani, Pauline Renaud and me.

Reception Desk: Pauline Renaud and Kathy Lesperance.

Cashiers: Shirley Grondin, Bonnie Ross and Cathy Lapain.

The following members brought desserts: Nuong Benoit (and appetizers), Cathy Lapain, Louise Masse, Carl Maiolani, Shirley Grondin, Peg Hurst, and me. I apologize if I have missed anyone.

Our MC: Dave Kraus did a fantastic job.

A special thank you to Therese McCloskey and Bob White for taking charge of the "Share the Wealth Draw". They were awesome! They collected \$350.00 from the ticket sales; this gave the Club \$175.00 and left \$175 to be used in the draw - 60% first prize of \$105.00 and 40% second prize of \$70.00 - were both won by Nancy Pancheshan. This sure was Nancy's lucky night. Congrats to Nancy!!!

A thank you to Jeremy Bensette for his tribute to founding member AlanWormington, who recently passed away.

Congratulations to Joan Walker and Mike Malone, the recipients of our Outstanding Achievement Award. Both have been very active throughout the years for this Club through actively opposing developments that would harm natural habitat and through Pelee Wings donations. Mike also served on the Executive for many years. The Executive also snuck in an Award for me too for my work on the Executive and the Heritage Committee. Thank you very much!

Our Guest Speaker, Brock Fenton, enlightened us with his specialty area of bats. His presentation was informative, entertaining, and also humorous at times.

To Steve Marks for introducing our guest speaker and Jesse Gardner Costa for thanking him.

A thank you to Pauline Renaud for drawing the names for the door prize winners.

A thank you to Louise Masse for collecting the name tags from people as they were leaving.

To the people who donated door prizes: I know that I don't have all the names of the people who donated door prizes, so rather than miss someone, I will thank everyone collectively.

For the donation of silent auction items from Mary and Bob Hall-Brooks, Therese McCloskey, Darlene Stracke, Dave Kraus, Regal Gifts, Brian and Carl Maiolani, Chris Longden, Shirley Grondin, Karen Padbury, Melisa Lucier, Cathy Lapain, Lynda Ruddock-Rousseau, Louise Masse, Lynda Menard-Watt, Heal Oasis (Tara Joi Smith), Claire and Jim McAllister, Essex Top Crop Sales, Bowman Renaud Tax Services Inc, Brock Fenton and me.

Thank you to Fogolar Furlan staff. The meal was very good, the service was great and the desserts were yummy.

Thank you to all who attended. It was a great crowd and a great evening!



<b>Donations - ECFNC 32nd Annual Dinner, November 5, 2016</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Article/Name</b>	<b>Donated by</b>
1	Table Runner	Mary Hall-Brooks
2	Wall Hanging - Winter Critters	Mary Hall-Brooks
3	Water Colour Painting	Therese McCloskey
4	2 Jars Zucchini Relish/1 Jar Corn Relish	JoAnn Grondin
5	1 Jar Zucchini Relish/1 Jar Corn Relish/1 Jar Chili Sauce	JoAnn Grondin
6	1 Jar Zucchini Relish/1 Jar Corn Relish/1 Jar Chili Sauce	JoAnn Grondin
7	Miscellaneous Items for anyone	JoAnn Grondin
8	Miscellaneous Items for anyone	JoAnn Grondin
9	Tea Pot/Creamer/Sugar bowl	JoAnn Grondin
10	Cross Cribb Card Game	JoAnn Grondin
11	Divergent/Allegiant/Insurgent - 3 Book Series by Veronica Roth - slightly used	JoAnn Grondin
12	Vegetarian Times Complete Cookbook	Darlene Stracke
13	Small Hand Knitted Shawl	Anonymous
14	Mountain Retreat - Harlequin Print , No. 384/500	Dave Kraus
15	Bufflehead Refuge Print, No. 345/500	Dave Kraus
16	Georgian Bay Goldeneyes Print, No. 195	Dave Kraus
17	Morning Light - Ross' Geese Print, No. 195/500	Dave Kraus
18	Small Bing & Grondahl Copenhagen Porcelain Plate - Hare and Young	Regal Gifts
19	Small Bing & Grondahl Copenhagen Porcelain Plate - Woodpecker and Young	Regal Gifts
20	Small Bing & Grondahl Copenhagen Porcelain Plate - Lioness and Cubs	Regal Gifts
21	Below the Peak: Antelope plate no. 6 - from a collection of limited-edition plaes	Regal Gifts
22	Tending the Lamp - Fine Bavarian hard-paste numbered plate by Nori Peter - No. 956	Regal Gifts
23	Beading Set	JoAnn Grondin
24	Bat Box	Brian and Carl Maiolani
25	Window Bird Feeder	Chris Longden
26	Bats of Ontario	JoAnn Grondin
27	Ultimate Dinosaur Activities Book	JoAnn Grondin
28	Anchor 14 Piece Glass Storage Set	JoAnn Grondin

29	Adult Colouring Book - Cozy Cats - and coloured pencils	Shirley Grondin
30	Trisha Romance Framed Print	Anonymous
31	Egret Print	Karen Padbury
32	12 Piece Liqueur Set	Karen Padbury
33	Watering Can	Karen Padbury
34	4 Piece Desk Set made of Seagrass	Karen Padbury
35	Aluminum Hanging Basket with Wall Bracket	Karen Padbury
36	Hand Drawn Zantangled Owl/Framed and Matted	Melissa Lucier/framed by Cathy Lapain
37	Handmade Glass Tray with Dragonfly on it	Lynda Ruddock-Rousseau
38	Owl Dreamcatcher	Cathy Lapain
39	Wood Owl/PC \$10.00 Gift Card	Cathy Lapain
40	Roulette Game/\$25.00 LCBO Gift Card	Cathy Lapain
41	Sky Calendar	Cathy Lapain
42	Birds and Blooms Colouring Book/Pencils	Cathy Lapain
43	4 jars of jam - 8 oz. each	Cathy Lapain
44	4 jars of jam - 8 oz. each	Cathy Lapain
45	In the Forest Chipmunks Framed and numbered -174/1200 by Ahmad Sakhavarz	Anonymous
46	Minature 1925 Ford Model T Pick Up and Coup	Cathy Lapain
47	Fiber Optic Angel Candle Holder	Louise Masse
48	Organic Gardening by John Fedor - Slightly Used	Linda Menard-Watt
49	The Wild Life of Bill Keay by Bill and Wanda Keay - Slightly used	Linda Menard-Watt
50	Endangered Spaces by Monte Hummel, ed - Slightly used	Linda Menard-Watt
51	Wine Trio - Wine Tour/4 Wine Glasses/Wine Bucket	Linda Menard-Watt
52	Damselfly Metalic Wall Hanger	Shirley Grondin
53	Wine Basket - Botle of wine/crackers/spinach spread	Shirley Grondin
54	Cherry Pie	Shirley Grondin
55	Apple Pie	Shirley Grondin
56	Gift Certificate for a half hour upper body massage - good until January 2017 - No. 704790 - value of \$35.00	Heal Oasis - Tara Joi Smith

57	Gift Certificate for a half hour foot reflexology session - good until January 2017 - No. 704789 - value of \$30.00	Heal Oasis - Tara Joi Smith
58	6 Crystal Wine Glasses	Claire and Jim McAllister
59	Freixenet Sparkling Wine with 2 Crystal Flutes	Claire and Jim McAllister
60	Planter	Claire and Jim McAllister
61	South & North - East & West book edited by M. Rosen	Claire and Jim McAllister
62	Something from Nothing by Gilman	Claire and Jim McAllister
63	Small Multicoloured Handbag	Claire and Jim McAllister
64	Whales and Dolphins of Newfoundland & Labrador (74) - used	ECFNC
65	On the Road with John James Audubon (100) - used	ECFNC
66	The Great Penguin Rescue by deNapoli (108) - used	ECFNC
67	Beauty and the Beast - The Hidden World of Wilfflowers by Runtz (140) - used	ECFNC
68	Pigeons and Doves of the World by Goodman (149) - used	ECFNC
69	The Flight of the Red Knot (151) - used	ECFNC
70	Faces of the Great Plains - Prairie Wildlife (144) - used	ECFNC
71	Bird Feeder and one 10 lb. bag of bird seed	Essex Topcrop Sales
72	Two 10 lb. bags of bird seed	Essex Topcrop Sales
73	2 Basic Personal 2016 Canadian Tax Returns	Bowman Renaud Tax Services Inc.
74	2 Basic Personal 2016 Canadian Tax Returns	Bowman Renaud Tax Services Inc.
75	A World of Science and Mystery - Bats	Brock Fenton
76	Vodka Tray	Bob Hall- Brooks

### **Swift Release in Windsor**

By Jeremy Hatt

On September 17, 2016, I received an email from Debbie Lefebvre, a wildlife rehabilitator. Debbie works with Ontario Swift Care, an organization that rehabilitates Chimney Swift hatchlings that have fallen from their nests and releases them into active roosts in the fall. Chimney Swift has Threatened status in Ontario. Debbie had emailed me and other members of ECFNC to try to find a suitably active roost in Windsor/Essex County to release three late hatchlings. Time was

running out and if a suitable roost wasn't located within a few days, the birds would have to be euthanized. The following emails are all published with express permission from the senders.

*Hi Jeremy,*

*I am a wildlife rehabilitator specializing in raising orphaned or displaced Chimney Swifts. Birds are sent to me from all over Ontario and even Quebec and Nova Scotia. While all my other birds were released by two weeks ago, I still have three youngsters that came from Toronto as a very unusual late hatch. Our active roosts in London have emptied before these little guys had a chance to become release-ready. Since missing migration would mean they would have to be euthanized, I am frantically trying to find an active roost to release them to. I had planned to drive them to a roost in Kingsville tomorrow afternoon but Liz Purves of Bird Studies Canada reported that the numbers had dropped to just a few birds last night. I phoned Ojibway to ask about roost activity at the chimney on Walkerville Collegiate in Windsor but they had no current data. Sandy Symes, a Swift Watch volunteer here in London, has been busy reaching out to birder colleagues and one gave your name. I am desperately hoping that you might be able to give me a lead on any viable roosts in Windsor. If necessary, I can delay the release until Monday.*

*Any guidance you can give would be deeply appreciated. These exquisite, healthy little guys of mine would be grateful too. Here is a "before and after" photo of one of them.*

*Sincerely,  
Debbie Lefebre*





ECFNC members Dan Loncke and Bob Sanford monitored the Epworth Church site in Kingsville the next two nights but numbers of Chimney Swifts had dropped quite significantly from previous weeks. Proper release site required a higher numbers of swifts. JoAnn Grondin and I were making phone calls to try to find sites in Windsor that would be suitable for the release. Eventually the information gathered from ECFNC members helped narrow down the release to two sites in Windsor, discussed in the following emails summarizing the importance of volunteers monitoring sites across Ontario. The first is from Winnie Wake, the Chimney Swift liaison for Nature London.

*Greetings to all 2016 London swiftwatchers,*

*I am writing to anyone I know of who has helped with monitoring swift chimneys in London in 2016. Some of you helped with the spring blitz, while others have been faithfully monitoring right through the season. Everyone's contributions, particularly when submitted to Bird Studies Canada's swiftwatch database (<http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/ai/main.jsp>) are invaluable in providing scientists with the data that help inform broad-ranging conservation decisions for Canadian Chimney Swifts.*

*What some of you may not realize is that your observations of London swift chimneys are also crucial to the success of a local conservation initiative. London-based Swift Care Ontario, a licensed wildlife rehabilitation centre that specializes in Chimney Swifts, serves as the Ontario referral centre for this species. Beginning in early July, orphaned young swifts begin arriving at SCO from all over the province. When each group of youngsters is sufficiently mature for release, SCO turns to London swift watchers for up-to-the-very-day information on the best release location, which is generally close to the roost chimney that held the largest number of swifts the previous evening. There the flock of swifts "adopts" the youngsters and mentors them as they develop the skills they will need to survive as wild birds.*

*This year, SCO's resident "swift mother", the indefatigable Debbie Lefebre, received a record number of orphaned swifts. Each of these exquisite little creatures was carefully nurtured through hourly dawn-to-dusk feedings of crickets, mealworms, calcium supplements, and more. Through August and into early September, Debbie successfully released batch after batch of healthy young swifts at locations that local swift monitors helped to identify. A challenge arose when three very young swifts came into care relatively late in the season; they would not be ready for release until at least mid-September. With migration well underway and as swift numbers began to drop off at London chimneys, the past two weeks became nail-biters for monitors who scurried about visiting all known local roost chimneys desperately trying to find one that still held roosting swifts. Alas, during the past week, all were rapidly emptying.*

*Late last week Debbie started to search for a still-active roost chimney south of London but still within Ontario. Liz Purves of Bird Studies Canada turned up some helpful leads but it was London swift watching stalwart Sandy Symmes who made the connections that zeroed in on the chimney that proved to be the perfect release site. Late yesterday afternoon, Debbie, assisted by Sandy, successfully released the last three little swifts of the season at a Windsor church.*

*My sincere thanks to each of you for your role in monitoring London Chimney Swifts in 2016. Your support has been invaluable in supporting Debbie's vital work in rehabilitating young*

swifts that otherwise would not survive to join the population of this declining species. Be sure to read Debbie's heartwarming account of the release (see below).

Best regards to all,  
Winnie Wake

From Debbie Lefebre:

*As exhausted as I am, I just had to give you an update. My "babies" had a successful release late this afternoon [Sept 18]. I decided to opt for the McEwan St church roost [in Windsor] rather than the one downtown on Ouelette Ave. Releasing young birds on a busy city street with tall buildings was not a suitable option even if, by chance, that roost had a better count. The church at least appeared on a map to have some open green space. It was pouring with rain as Sandy and I reached Windsor so I anticipated having to scrap the release. However, it had stopped by the time we reached the church and we decided to wait as the sky cleared. When about a dozen swifts appeared in the area, I let my guys go. Sandy and I stayed and watched for about 50 minutes. In the end, 115 birds, including my youngsters, entered the chimney. To say I am over the moon at this outcome is an understatement. I worked very hard to get these birds to be viable but the work of so many other dedicated people is what made this happy ending/new beginning possible. I am deeply grateful. I would like every swift monitor to know what a difference their hours of dedication can make. It is valuable to get a read on population numbers each season but, on a level that touches me personally, those counts are absolutely pivotal in supporting the release of hand-reared orphans. My work with these birds relies so much on the "eyes on the skies" provided by these amazing volunteers! I say a heartfelt THANK YOU!*  
Debbie

2016 was a successful first year for Chimney Swift monitoring in Essex County for Ontario SwiftWatch. Many new nesting and roosting sites were found but there is a lot of work to be done. Stay tuned next spring for volunteer opportunities for monitoring Chimney Swifts in Essex County. Contact me at [hattjeremy@hotmail.com](mailto:hattjeremy@hotmail.com) for volunteer opportunities in 2017.

**In memory of Alan Wormington (June 20, 1954 to September 3, 2016)**  
**By Jeremy Bensette**



For any of you who are not aware, it brings me great sadness to announce that Alan Wormington passed away on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year at age 62. He sadly lost a two and a half year battle with cancer, but spent much of that time having great fun and staying very active, surrounded by loving and affectionate friends. Alan was a

member of the founding party that created this club, and although he has not been a very active member in recent years, the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club would not exist if it was not for Alan and the rest of the club's founders. Many of us knew Alan to varying degrees, and although some of us have perhaps never met him or even heard of him, it's easy to understand and appreciate the impression Alan left on our world. To many of us who knew him or knew of him he was a titan in the world of wildlife, finding and documenting countless outlandishly rare wildlife species, writing dozens of published scientific articles, putting new hotspots on the map all over Ontario, and challenging others to do great things too.



Alan's reputation as a naturalist is that of legends. In my experience his skills and knowledge were nearly immortal. Let me first talk about the human side of Alan, which was perhaps his best kept secret. He was a great positive influence and role model to me and many others, both in our naturalism careers and in general life. Alan was without a doubt one of my closest friends. Although we can probably all agree that he wouldn't have made the greatest parent (with a laugh of course), he was a bit of a father figure in my life in the last number of years. He was a great listener, and always seemed to have useful and insightful opinions and advice. Alan was the main motivator behind my pursuit of a career in field biology, something I probably would not be doing today without his confident push. His apartment was like a second home to a number of us, stopping there to visit nearly every time we went birding at Point Pelee. He had a sense of humour that, although seldom seen by some, effectively entertained people of all ages and often caught us very much off guard. Alan would unwaveringly avoid telling us what the 'L.' stood for in front of his first name, giving us goofy answers as we tried to guess.

He regularly told us the ‘L’ was for ‘Lillybelle’. It turns out that his official first name is Laurie, a name that I think is pretty cool! He was incredibly generous with sharing his knowledge with people, whether they already knew him or not. Anyone interested in identifying birds, butterflies, or moths virtually anywhere in Ontario has much to thank Alan for in his life work as an ornithologist and entomologist.

Now I want to share a bit about Alan’s legend as one of the best. He currently holds the highest bird species life list for Ontario, having identified 447 of the 494 bird species seen total in the province’s history. Alan was the finder of the first ever sighting for 7 of those species, including Lesser Nighthawk (1974), Royal Tern (1974), Fish Crow (1978), Cave Swallow (1989), Plumbeous Vireo (1997), Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater (2010), and Kelp Gull (2012). He also holds the record highest ever Point Pelee Area bird list with 349 species identified. He saw 292 species in the Point Pelee area in the single year of 2005, a record that will almost surely never be surpassed. As I mentioned before, Alan was a founding member of Essex County Field Naturalists – this club – in 1985, and the Ontario Bird Records Committee in 1981, among the many clubs and organizations he had a role in starting.

To say that Alan was a significant member of the naturalist community is a massive understatement. Alan was arguably the most skilled butterfly and bird and watcher of his generation, and possibly ever, in our great province of Ontario. He very strongly influenced the world of field naturalism in our area, providing extensive work and data on so many common and rare species, much of which we now take for granted. He pushed us to always persist, to be honest, to be hard on ourselves, and to be proud of what we know and do. I am so proud to do my best to carry on his legacy, and I know that I share this desire with hundreds of great friends.

### **Goatweed Leafwing – A First Canadian Record**

Article and Photos by: Jeremy M. Bensette

October 29, 2016, marked a very significant milestone in my naturalist career... When I went out that morning, I had no idea that I would find the first record of the butterfly species Goatweed Leafwing (*Anaeas andria*) for Canada!



I was walking alone around lunch time in the Red Cedar savannah habitat of Sparrow Field near The Tip of Point Pelee National Park, only about 15 minutes after my friends and I parted ways for the afternoon. While studying the various insects that were nectaring on some of the remaining goldenrod (*Solidago*) and knapweed (*Centaurea*) flowers, I noticed an interestingly shaped orange and brown butterfly flying erratically. It eventually landed, revealing itself as unlike any butterfly I had seen before. This was a great rush, as I know my local butterflies quite well and therefore knew this had to be something pretty rare. I managed to fire off a quick photo of its open wings just before it flushed, landed, and flushed again. It landed on some vines in a dead tree a few metres off the ground, and had I not seen it land it would probably have never been refound! It sat between grape leaves for about an hour with closed wings no matter how close we stood under the tree, which I hear is rather unusual for this species.



After making a few phone calls, a number of my nearby friends arrived in a hurry to see the mystery butterfly. Luckily Steve Pike was able to help me identify it with his mountain of experience with wildlife south of here. It eventually opened its wings to gather some energy from the sun then made another short flight, landing between some vegetation and dead leaves at the edge of the beach. At this point it was pretty apparent that this individual was rather exhausted as it barely held itself upright in the subtle breeze. We all left in the early afternoon,

taking careful note of its location, but were unable to re-find it later in the afternoon. That was the last confirmed sighting of this wayward visitor.



Although this is an unprecedented find in Canada, this southwestern stray was certainly bound to be found here eventually. The BAMONA (Butterflies and Moths of North America) database lists 16 records of this species within 500km of Point Pelee, the closest by far being a record from Washtenaw County, Michigan, only ~150km away. It also lists at least 19 records further north than Point Pelee, all being west of here. This species is known to feed on Goatweed (*Capraria biflora*), Texas Croton (*Croton texensis*), and Prairie Tea (*Croton monanthogynus*) – the latter two found in localized patches in nearby states. The night and morning before my find delivered pretty strong southwest winds of 17-37km/h, likely leading this butterfly across Lake Erie and into Point Pelee.

As if the Goatweed Leafwing was not enough, as Jeremy Hatt arrived I spotted a Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*), also somewhat rare to Canada! Needless to say it was quite the afternoon at Point Pelee.



I was of course feeling the spirit of one of my best friends, the late Alan Wormington, that day as he was incredibly talented and renowned for finding rare butterflies and moths in this area. We'll be reminded of Alan time and time again through our sightings. Alan taught me to always persist, to be honest, to be hard on myself, and to be proud of what I know

and do. I, along with so many friends, am so proud to do my best to carry on his legacy.

## TD Tree Days

Caroline Biribauer, Paul Giroux, Stan Taylor and Ian Naisbitt

On Saturday, 1 October, **TD Bank** held their **TD Tree Days Windsor**; it was primarily an event for local TD employees. It was one event of many happening across the country. The site for our Windsor-Essex community was the parkland in the Twin Oaks Business Park, located in the Little River Watershed known as Twin Oaks Park. The Little River Enhancement Group (Lil' Reg) and Essex County Nature were invited to this event by Caroline Biribauer/ Essex Region Conservation Authority. A big thanks goes to Paul Giroux/ City of Windsor/ Parks and Forestry Department who helped make this planting happen, especially with the record rainfall that led up to the planting day.

Four days of steady rain preceded this planting event, which did have organizers wondering whether or not we would be able to proceed. But Mother Nature once again cooperated and the sky cleared in the morning and it was a lovely Autumn day for us. Mild temperatures of 18 C with a mix of sun and cloud with a slight breeze.

42 volunteers participated by digging holes; planting and mulching the trees! Most of these folks were TD employees and their families. One other notable volunteer, Pete Thomas from Lil' Reg, came out to lend a hand - many thanks Pete! Volunteers worked from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The general plan is to enhance this section of the Little River by creating these new riparian plantings. These plantings over time will not only enhance the habitat of the area and improve water quality, but will hopefully also help deter any unwanted motor vehicular activities that have occurred in the past. There is no doubt that these great community planting events are helping increase the forest cover in Windsor-Essex. This is the sixth time that Lil' Reg volunteers have helped plant trees in the Little River valley.

TD obtained their goal of planting 300 trees in this location, which will bring the watershed total to 36890 trees and shrubs planted. Native species of trees and shrubs planted at this event include: Burr Oak, Pin Oak, Freeman's Maple, Red Oak, Sycamore, Shagbark Hickory, Red Cedar and Dogwood.

History of the Twin Oaks site:

Originally, the land was developed as the Twin Oaks Golf Club. The former golf course owner drastically altered the river course from its original state. A concrete dam was constructed to restrict the flow of water, the river was dredged and the natural slope of the valley was filled with dirt, until it was nothing more than a U-shaped drainage ditch. Due to the severe slope of the riverbank, plants were unable to take hold and that made the banks erosion prone. Sections of the streambank "slumped" after the Spring thaw sending soil to the river bottom. Consequently, a "muddy river" would flow during high water levels. The *environmental quality* of the Twin Oaks section of Little River was identified in the

Little River Comprehensive Stream Study Report (1992) as being “*impaired or degraded.*”

In 1997, a Stream Restoration Project was set in motion with partners: ERCA, City of Windsor, Environment Canada and Lil’ Reg. The concrete dam was demolished and the debris removed from the valley. The entire amount of fill that had been dumped into the river valley was extracted and placed along the top of the restored valley slopes. It formed the base of the recreational trail that the City constructed along the east side of the river.

Bulldozers carved the slopes back into a functioning river valley and a meander was created in the riverbed. Tributaries with rock chutes have been added throughout the Business Park to help prevent erosion from the surface runoff. The entire area was then seeded. The 1 km of asphalt trail provides a unique recreational/ “connecting with nature” experience. Trail users will see excellent views of the meandering Little River and hopefully enjoy some local wildlife as well. The Stream Restoration Project was a tremendous achievement! It was, and is, an excellent example of a ‘multi-purpose’ project, which provided a trail for passive recreation, while greatly enhancing flood control, water quality and wildlife habitat. Basically, it is a demonstration project for a river valley restoration.

The TD Planting Event was just one more step in the recovery of this area:

- with all the community cleanups over the years;
- the addition of jersey barriers;
- assistance from the City of Windsor to remove the larger debris;
- regular spot checks by Lil’ Reg members: Tom Henderson, Ian Naisbitt, David Munro and thankfully, the Windsor Police Service;
- with development of the lots that border Munich Court, there are more ‘eyes’ on this area than ever before.

For these reasons, we are hopeful that we will continue to see a decrease in the amount of trespassing, off-road damage by ATV’s and illegal dumping. There is still a long way to go, so we thank the partners for their continued role in ensuring the newly planted trees are protected into the future.

### **A Canadian Giant... The American Bullfrog**

**By: Steve the Snake Guy (Steve Marks)**

Bullfrogs supposedly get their common name from a comparison to the sound they make when they’re trying to attract females... a deep bellow, but hardly bull-like! They are our largest frogs by far. Approaching 800g (1.8 lb) and measuring up to 8 in (20 cm) in body length, these truly are gigantic frogs! Typically, bullfrogs are found at the shores of small lakes that are bordered by trees, but they frequent many aquatic habitats. Permanent rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps, are all acceptable to this species, that will readily breed in all but fast moving water.



Most are surprised to learn what Bullfrogs will consume. Voracious is certainly an understatement when it comes to describing the appetite of this beast. They will literally eat any animal they can overpower and swallow. This includes insects, fish, various aquatic and semi-aquatic invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds! Bullfrogs have been recorded to successfully consume many unexpected species – including other huge frogs, snapping turtles, rattlesnakes, rabbits, birds, bats, and alligators!

American Bullfrogs belong to the genus *Lithobates*; these are the True Frogs. In Ontario, there are five other members of this genus – leopard, wood, pickerel, green and mink frogs. There's no confusing the adult bullfrog with any of these species, but new metamorphs are quite tricky to confirm. Young bullfrogs will almost always chirp as they flee into the water when you walk along the edge. The other species are silent.

An encounter with a bullfrog is usually quite amazing for those that take a moment to absorb the details! Use your smart phone to record sightings with the Ontario Nature Reptile and Amphibian Atlas app! This app offers information to help you maximize your observation experience, and citizen science really helps!

It seems as though every life stage in this species is huge! Typically, tadpoles remain in that form until the second – or even third year of life – unlike any other frog species! Second or third year tadpoles may grow to be larger than your hand!

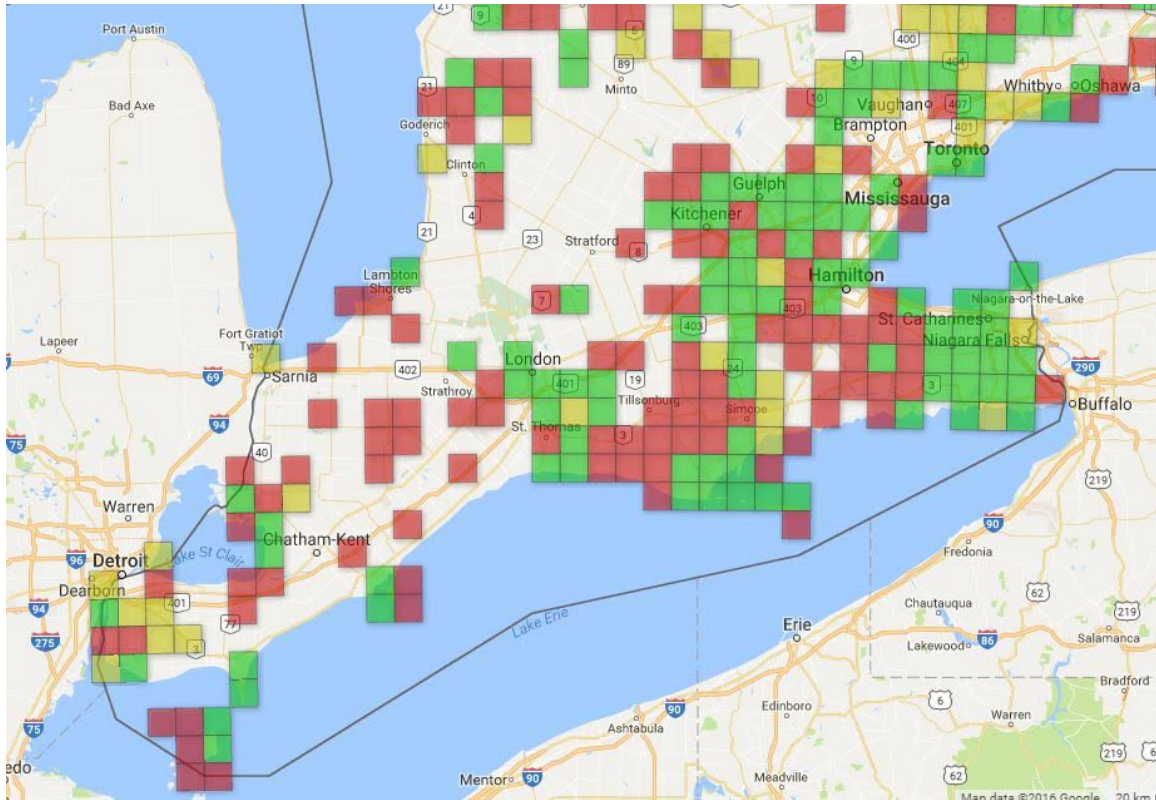
Bullfrogs are an important part of the food chain. They are taken by snakes, turtles, frogs, mink & other mustelids, raccoons, fish, birds – essentially every predatory species! People too. There is still pressure – even here in Essex County – for frogs' legs, and bullfrogs are regulated as a “Game Amphibian”.

A fairly recent threat to frogs and other amphibians around the world is Chytrid Fungus. It, along with Ranavirus and a few other pathogens, are severely threatening amphibian populations on a Global scale. These diseases are being introduced to new places by human activity.

Join me in educating anyone who's willing to listen... Education is the key to saving our environment!



Photo: An adult female American Bullfrog – Joe Crowley



Map: Bullfrog Range in Southwestern Ontario – Ontario Nature  
 Legend: Green: Both Recent and Historic sightings    Yellow: Recent sightings only    Red: Historical sightings only

### The IBA Program and Caretaker Network

By: Amanda Bichel – Bird Studies Canada

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Program is a global initiative of BirdLife International to identify, monitor, and conserve the world's most important sites for birds and biodiversity. Sites are designated using a science-based approach which sets criteria and thresholds for trigger species. In Canada, the IBA Program is run by Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada with regional and local partners, and IBAs are triggered mainly by threatened species, and significant congregations of birds. The exemplary IBA Caretaker Network (started in 2006 in B.C.) took off in Ontario in 2013. Caretakers are volunteers who monitor bird populations, report on threats to IBAs, work with partners on stewardship activities, and help build community awareness about the importance of IBAs.



ECFNC's Jeremy Hatt, Caretaker for the Lower Detroit River IBA. Photo: Amanda Bichel

### **Lower Detroit River Important Bird and Biodiversity Area**

The globally significant [Lower Detroit River IBA](#) which extends from the north end of Fighting Island to the mouth at Lake Erie (see map), is important for congregations of birds and waterfowl. Ring-billed Gulls were originally a trigger species (in 1990 there were 34,021 pairs, 3.9% of the North American population on Fighting Island). Recently the gull colony has changed, but Canvasbacks still occur in significant numbers (in 2015, birders counted 9000 along the IBA, 1.7% of its global population)! The IBA is also a winter home to Redheads (9011 recorded in 1997) and Common Mergansers. Pollution of the river and surrounding wetland areas is the main conservation concern due to the high population along the river (Windsor, Detroit, LaSalle, Amherstberg), and shipping traffic. Fortunately, organizations such as the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (working on the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan) and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club are taking action to protect the area.



The Lower Detroit River IBA at King's Navy Yard in Amherstberg. Photo: Amanda Bichel

Visit the [IBA Canada website](#) to learn more about the IBA Program, Caretaker Network, and how to get involved!



**We need your help counting waterbirds!**

**When:** January 28th and February 25th, 2017

**Where:** a section of your choice along the Lower Detroit River IBA

**Why?** Because it's fun! Because you love waterbirds!

To contribute to the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas database!

**For more details and to sign up, contact Jeremy Hatt at:**  
[hattjeremy@hotmail.com](mailto:hattjeremy@hotmail.com)



## **Activities and Events**

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, visit [www.essexcountynature.com](http://www.essexcountynature.com), or contact the executive (please see contact page). Let us know your ideas for upcoming excursions. Consider volunteering as an excursion leader!

**January 11<sup>th</sup> – Nature Photography Talk** - Glenn Gervais is a retired Police Detective with a passion for Nature Photography. He is also a well know birder in our area and has a keen interest in all aspects of our natural habitat. He has travelled across North America photographing many different animals and landscapes. He has lectured and given presentations on Wildlife Photography for the past 4 years. Glenn plans to provide instruction on his light hearted approach to capturing the images he does so that anyone with a camera can understand the basics and tricks to pursue better images.

**January 22 - Wildlife Tracking at Ojibway Prairie @ 11am.** Come out to learn to identify different wildlife tracks and get an understanding of what other wildlife signs can tell you.

**January 28<sup>th</sup>- Waterfowl IBA Count** – See poster above for details.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – Spiders of Ontario-** Tom Mason has more than 32 years' experience in the zoo world. He earned a BSc University of Guelph and a diploma in Zookeeping from Seneca College, and served as the Curator of Invertebrates at the Toronto Zoo and acting Curator of Birds at the Toronto Zoo. He has traveled and studied natural ecosystems on 5 continents. Today, he still leads tours for fish and reptile enthusiasts to Costa Rica. Tom has worked on three recovery teams for Ontario's endangered species, and has worked on conservation projects in Cuba and Costa Rica. In addition, Tom has coaxed more than 50 species of reptiles and amphibians to reproduce in captivity. Tom will be speaking on those eight legged creatures that most love to hate, the largely misunderstood Spiders of Ontario.

**February 12 - Upper Detroit River Waterfowl Hike** Meet Paul Desjardin at Lakeview Marina at 12 noon to see a variety of waterfowl and maybe even some bald eagles!

**February 25 – Waterfowl IBA Count** See poster above for details.

**Feb 26, Reptiles and Amphibians of Ontario** - Steve Marks (known locally as Steve the Snake Guy) will present an in depth talk about Ontario's Amphibians & Reptiles, how to responsibly appreciate them in the wild and how to actually help the populations we still have in our Province.

This presentation is lengthy, and will be held on Sunday February 26 @ 2 pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> –Annual General Meeting** – Join us for the AGM, try your hand at the Quizmaster's latest brain-busters, bid on some silent auction items, and enjoy light snacks and beverages.

**March 12<sup>th</sup> – Tree ID and Appreciation Walk** Join Dave Kraus for an informative walk around the Ojibway Nature Centre and surrounding trails as he shares knowledge and tips for identifying trees as well as interesting facts about them! The walk will begin at 2pm.

**Essex County Field Naturalists' Club  
Membership Form – Due annually**

Individual membership \$20.00 / year \_\_\_\_\_ Family membership \$25.00 / year

Student (full-time) \$10.00 / year \_\_\_\_\_

**Tax Receipt Eligible:** Life membership \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Publications: Wildflowers of the Canadian Erie Islands by Mary Celestino \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Fishes of Essex County and Surrounding Waters by Lynda D. Corkum \$25

\_\_\_\_\_  
[www.fishesofessexcounty.com](http://www.fishesofessexcounty.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me to volunteer at ECFNC events!

*Thank you!*

*Make cheques payable to:* **Essex County Field Naturalists' Club**

c/o Ojibway Nature Centre

5200 Matchette Rd.

Windsor On, N9C 4E8