



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

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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

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

June 28, 29 – The Inaugural Ojibway Prairie Bioblitz

August 29, 30, 31 – Harrow Fair Booth

September 13, 14 – Blue Kestrel Café at the Holiday Beach Hawk Festival

November 8 – ECFNC 30th Annual Dinner

Fox Snake on Pelee Island. Photo by: Carl Maiolani



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

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ERCA Liaison: Phil Roberts
ERCA Conservation Areas Advisory Committee for park management: Sarah Baldo and Tom Preney
Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonnette
Essex County Stewardship Network Liaison: Linda Menard-Watt
Ojibway Liaison: Tom Preney
Citizens Environment Alliance Liaison: Phil Roberts/Jesse Gardner Costa
Windsor Essex County Environmental Committy: Phil Roberts/ Jesse Gardner Costa
Canada South Land Trust Liaison: Dave Kraus
Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Liaison: Phil Roberts/Steve marks

Committees:

Egret Editorial: Sheeva Nakhaie (chair), Betty Learmouth, Sarah Baldo
Field Trip: The Executive
Heritage: JoAnn Grondin (coordinator), Dave Kraus, Betty Learmouth, Jim McAllister, Bruno Sfalcin, Gerry Waldron, Peg Wilkinson, Shirley Grondin, Cathy Lapain
Little River Enhancement Group: Ian Naisbitt (chair), Jesse Gardner Costa
Fish Book: Dave Kraus
Website: Sarah Baldo, Sarah Renaud, Sheeva Nakhaie (co chairs)
Social Media: Kory Renaud, Steve Marks, Tom Preney

20th Annual Pelee Island Field Trip May 3-4, 2014
by Carl Maiolani and based on fact.

As we all assembled at the Leamington dock to begin our trip we were troubled by the look of ominous clouds overhead. Hard rains had been present over many parts of the county that morning and we were concerned about how the day would unfold. This year the brave participants were Dave Kraus and his daughter Megan, Kory and Sarah Renaud and their daughter Emily, Therese and Meagan McCloskey, Denise and Maxine Hartley, Sharon Medeiros (our bus driver), Cathy Lapain, Bonnie Ross, Jessica Rose, Sarah Baldo, Jesse and Sheeva Gardner-Costa, JoAnn and Shirley Grondin, Paul Desjardins, and Carl Maiolani.

We had expected to be using the MV Jiimaan for our ferry trip over to the island but upon arrival we could see that was not to be. The Jiimaan was out in the lake apparently going around in circles on a test voyage as it was its first scheduled day of the season and someone later said they had problems with their compass! How could that be? However, the trusty Pelee Islander was there waiting for us to climb on and squeeze into the passenger area for our 1 ½ hour trip across some slightly choppy waves to the island. When entering the ticket area at the dock in Leamington we had noticed another ominous sign that said that hydro was off on the island but was expected to be restored by 4:00 in the afternoon. The weekend was certainly not turning out to be what was promised in the brochure that Dave had published in honour of this 20th anniversary trip.

The Pelee Islander left pretty much on schedule and fortunately it wasn't very long before the bubbling optimism of the youngest members of our group took over and gradually started to make the clouds part in the sky above us. From then on the weather was excellent for the entire trip. Someone attributed the improvement in the weather to the mysterious dance and chant that Carl did on the upper deck shortly after we departed. That could not have been because he stayed down on the main deck for the entire trip. Maybe it was only an apparition fueled by a longstanding legend.

Upon arrival at the West Dock we got off the ferry and piled into the bright orange school bus that Sharon quickly got in gear and started us on the way to the Anchor and Wheel Inn and lunch. Upon reaching that destination we checked out our rooms and discovered that not all the amenities worked, probably due to the lack of hydro. We were pleased to learn that lunch was still on and proceeded to polish off some food, many of us choosing to have some fresh perch sandwiches.

Over the course of the next 24 hours we enjoyed another 3 meals at the Inn, enjoying plenty of options and keeping most everyone happy. I didn't notice anyone suffering from starvation, which is always a fear of mine!

In the afternoon we took the bus and visited Dave's property and the Lighthouse Point Nature Reserve. Dave has done a tremendous amount of work on his property trying to create some wetlands. We did have some trouble keeping up with his daughter Megan who is obviously at home there. On the walk into the Nature Reserve we started to count turtles sunning themselves

on the fallen logs along the way. Of particular interest was a Blanding's turtle that kept its head proudly upright for everyone to see the bright yellow underside of his head and neck.



Blanding's Turtle. Photo by: Carl Maiolani

When we got back to the Inn we learned that hydro service had been restored because generators were now providing power to the island. Yippee! Apparently the cable providing hydro from the mainland had ceased to function!

After dinner that evening, many of us walked along the road toward Sheridan Point in order to enjoy the beautiful weather and nature that was all around us. On all our hikes Kory was really good about helping us identify a lot of the migrating birds. The cool weather may have kept the numbers down but we still managed to identify 84 species as a group over the course of the weekend. Of special note were really good views of the Virginia Rail and Sora, Marbled Godwit from afar, Pine Warbler, and some House Sparrows.



Virginia Rail. Photo by: Carl Maiolani

After it got dark some of us retreated to the dining room in the Inn where we played some cards, more specifically Crazy Eights. I learned two things that night. First of all Dave's daughter is a quick study when it comes to cards. Secondly, life is not simple especially when it comes to rules for Crazy Eights.

The following morning after breakfast we hopped on the bus and went down to the end of the West Shore Rd. where some people went down the Fish Point Nature Reserve Trail and others trudged through some really muddy swamp water in order to visit the Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO) banding station. The swamp that surrounded the station was particularly beautiful that morning and made the hike in very rewarding.

Everyone later joined in the hike down the Fish Point trail and most were treated to spectacular views of Virginia Rail and Sora. These normally secretive marsh birds could be easily seen about 20 feet away at the edge of a stand of Phragmites.

We returned to the Inn where we polished off lunch and gave Dave a greeting card thanking him for his organizing efforts over the past 20 years. Can't thank him enough. As it was Emily's very first birthday we also sang happy birthday for her while she proceeded to try and push a piece of chocolate cake off the table! We then took a short hike around the old quarry at Sheridan point where one of the highlights was a rusted-out sewing machine. Fortunately, no one fell down the cliff into the quarry and we were all able to get back on the bus for our trip back to the dock in time for our 4:00 voyage back to the mainland on the Jiimaan which apparently got its compass working! The trip back went smoothly and brought to an end a very successful and enjoyable weekend.



Emily Renaud on her 1st birthday. Photo by: JoAnn Grondin

I'd like to also note than both Therese and Meagan are now members of the field naturalists club. I hope they enjoyed the trip as much as we enjoyed having them long.

One of Essex County's Turtle Stars... The Stinkpot
By Steve Marks



Stinkpot. Photo by: Steve Marks

The adorable little Eastern Musk Turtle lives in scattered populations throughout southern Ontario, particularly in Georgian Bay, the Trent-Severn Waterway, and southwestern Ontario waters. It also ranges from southern Quebec, down into the Eastern United States all the way to Florida, and as far west as Texas.

This is a very small turtle, rarely growing to more than 12 cm. The hatchlings are Canada's tiniest turtle, with Ontario's baby Stinkies measuring an average of a mere 18mm (less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch).



Photo by: Steve Marks

The carapace (upper shell) is quite high, compared to other turtles, and younger individuals have a keel along the spine. The small plastron (belly shell) allows for lots of protruding flesh, so the turtle relies on stealth for protection, so is dark in colour, and usually supports algal blooms on its back, allowing it to blend right in with aquatic vegetation. The pointy head is usually black with a light coloured strip going through the eye, and tiny fleshy barbels.

It is lovingly referred to as the Stinkpot, because of the turtle's ability to exude a musky odour when attacked by a predator, in hopes of deterring the offending creature. The odour comes in

the form of a thick gooey liquid that oozes from the seams between plates in the side of the turtle's shell. If any of this liquid reaches the predators mouth, the turtle is usually dropped. The odour is quite stinky... hence the name!

Stinkpots are most active at night, relying on maximum stealth and camouflage for protection. Rarely leaving the water in the daylight hours, the little turtle might go abroad under the cover of darkness, to migrate to another water body, or to do a highly interesting behaviour... basking in the sun! Before dawn, a turtle will locate a tree limb that overhangs the water. It will climb the tree, finding a suitable perch to bask in the sun when it rises. If a predator appears, the turtle can drop instantly into the water, and dive to the bottom and safety. This behaviour leads to some very unusual encounters! A paddler may actually have a Stinkpot drop into their canoe!!

These interesting turtle preys upon aquatic invertebrates (snails, clams, worms, insect larvae including mosquitoes (!), crustaceans) and small vertebrates (fish, tadpoles, small frogs). They will also consume vegetation in the form of algae, seeds, and certain parts of higher plants. In Essex County, this turtle is distributed throughout most of the major waterways, yet very few naturalists will ever see one!

Tree Planting in the Airport Woodlot

Caroline Biribauer, Bill Roesel and Ian Naisbitt

Little River Spring Cleanup Event 2014

On Wednesday, April 23, Essex County Nature was invited by the City of Windsor and the Essex Region Conservation Authority to participate in a river cleanup. Windsor Casino's **Code Green** group coordinated and sent numerous volunteers to this event. Thankfully, Mother Nature cooperated by being sunny and mild.

About 50 volunteers cleaned up the section of Little River between Lauzon Road and Tecumseh Road East, adjacent to the Canadian Tire Store. They worked from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This notorious section of river is infamous for shopping carts. This was the 13th time the community has cleaned up the human debris from this site since autumn 1996.

Along with the **Code Green** group, there were volunteers from the City of Windsor, the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Essex County Nature and the Little River Enhancement Group. This hard working group pulled out 20 shopping carts (no surprise here), along with the usual human trash from the river. There was a disposal bin at the site and the garbage removed weighed approximately 1 360 kilograms/ 3000 lbs. Thank you to the disposal service at the Windsor Casino for providing the dumpster and sorting through the debris for recycling afterwards.

One of the unusual items removed from the river this time was a child's rocking horse! However, as usual, countless bags of human litter items were removed. One bicycle and one automobile tire are, regrettably, the norm for us.

We are always pleased to see local wildlife surviving in the Little River Watershed. During this cleanup we observed a Belted Kingfisher and several Black-crowned herons (also notorious at this location, they have been spotted each of the last several years).

We appreciated **Code Green** coordinating this cleanup event and look forward to working with them in the future.

Earth Day 2014 Planting Event

On Sunday, April 27, the Windsor – Essex community celebrated Earth Day by planting 1 850 trees and shrubs! Around 600 community volunteers participated in this event! Volunteers worked from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Essex County Nature was once again invited by the City of Windsor and the Essex Region Conservation Authority to participate in this event.

We planted in the Little River Corridor Park, west of Florence Avenue in east Windsor. This was the second time we have planted in this area. It looks like we will be able to plant in this location next year.

The weather in the morning was bright, sunny and a brisk 4 degrees Celsius. At noon it was 7 degrees, clouding over and a stiff breeze gave us a chill, but no sign of rain, thank goodness.

There was a bit of excitement when a Meadow Vole did a break away and ran for cover. Along with the vole, wildlife observed in the area included: a pair of Mute Swans, a Red-winged Blackbird, a Mallard Duck, a Killdeer and a White Egret.

A special thank you to the “How – To Crew,” they were very helpful from the beginning to end.

Arbor Week Celebration Planting Event

On Saturday, May 3, 2014, Essex County Nature was invited by the City of Windsor to participate in a planting event at Lakeshore Woods, west of Banwell Road in east Windsor. Trees were planted beside the existing woodland in the south end of the park. The woodland was flooded after the overnight rainfall and that also made it easier to dig the holes for the trees.

Tree Ontario and the Canadian Automobile Association sponsored the Arbor Week Celebration; volunteers appreciated the Tim Horton’s treats as well.

The weather was overcast and 10 degrees Celsius in the morning. The wind also gave us a chill, so layers of clothing were worn. At noon, the temperature was up to 12 degrees, in other words, a typical spring day!

Volunteers of all ages began planting at 10:00 a.m. and worked till 12:30 p.m. Potted trees were planted in the holes dug by the volunteers. Afterwards, we replaced the soil around the base of the tree, mulch was added and a tree wrap finished the job off.

YQG Swamp Planting Event

Ian Naisbitt, Caroline Biribauer and Claire Sanders

On Wednesday, May 28, 2014, Essex County Nature was invited by the City of Windsor (City), the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) to participate in a planting event at the Windsor International Airport (YQG). We planted along the Rivard Drain to complete Phase Two of this project to connect the Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) on the site. These “Airport Swamps” provide special habitat for unique species of flora and fauna that call Windsor-Essex home. Funding for this project was provided by the DRCC.

The sky was completely overcast, the UV Index was moderate; we left the sunscreen at home! The temperature hovered around 16 degrees Celsius most of the day, but no sign of rain. At least that was the forecast when we decided to go ahead with the planting event. More on the weather later! Phil Roberts told us when we arrived that the population of thirsty mosquitoes was biblical! He was kind enough to bring us some bug spray, but as it turned out, the mosquitoes stayed away. Phil also helped us by moving the woodchips closer to the planting site.

Dave Vial’s and Jason McGregor’s classes from Dr. David Suzuki Public Elementary School provided the muscle to plant the 150 trees. The students arrived and hiked to the planting site. Bill Roesel gave a presentation on the value of trees and the benefits of what the group was doing today. The event began at 10:30 a.m. and the potted trees were planted in holes dug by the students and adult volunteers (thanks Al Stephens and Dave Munro). Species of trees planted were determined by the existing trees and shrubs growing in the swamps (Basswood, Sycamore, and Silver Maple). Whilst we were having fun planting, the sky opened up and a sprinkle of rain began to fall. However, it got progressively heavier until all of us were soaked to the skin. As a matter of fact, the Canada Weather Office issued a “Rainfall Warning in Effect!” We certainly got that message! Of course, the water in the Rivard Drain was flowing quite well laden with particles of soil to give it a beige colour. That fine sediment will find a new home either in the Little River or Detroit River. Good news items: the mosquitoes did not like the rain and the trees got a watery boost to aid their growth in this new location. Planting in the rain was an exhilarating event for the volunteers and the experience will be fondly remembered.



YQG Planting Event. Pictured (left to right): Caroline Biribauer, Ian Naisbitt, Dave Munro, Al Stephens and Claire Sanders

After all the trees were planted, the group enjoyed a barbecue lunch provided by ERCA and Chefs Caroline Biribauer and Ali Carnevale, with assistance from DRCC Remedial Action Plan Coordinator Claire Sanders. Rain dogs were on the menu, with energy bars, apples and juice! There's nothing better than a soggy bun, hot dog and condiments! Our Spring time event did find the PSWs inundated, so our educational hike through the swamps was cancelled.

The Little River Enhancement Group is looking forward to working with the City, ERCA and the DRCC to continue to connect the YQG Airport Swamps for the benefit of wildlife and enjoyment of the citizens of our Windsor-Essex community.

Essex County Wildlife, Winter 2014

Betty Learmouth

Nancy Phillips, spokesperson with "Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre" spoke with host Bob Steele of the CBC afternoon radio program *The Bridge* on February 14, 2014.

Nancy Phillips told Bob Steele that wildlife in Essex County has suffered for weeks from high winds and snow which has made life for wild creatures very difficult. Nancy said that Wings normally has three hundred animals under care but this winter season there are five hundred animals.

The weather has resulted in frozen pipes which means water needs to be carried. Usually winter in Essex County will relent for a few days. This year the weather has been constantly cold, windy and snowy with no let up for weeks.

Owls and hawks have suffered from these severe winter conditions. An Eastern Screech-Owl was dropped off at Wings after having sat on a window sill for two or three hours. Nancy remarked that this little bird was hungry. Lacking body fat, it could go no further.

Opossums that have reached Wings have been hard hit. They are on the skinny side, in a rundown condition, exhausted and suffering from frostbite which has resulted in the loss of ears, tails and foot pads.

Wings intends to provide a warm spot for needy wildlife along with food and eventual release into the wild.

Donations to Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre would be welcome. The address is 5281 Middleside Road, Essex Road 10, Amherstburg, Ontario N9V 2Y9

Bird Life on the Detroit River, January 23, 2014

Betty Learmouth

January 23, 2014 started as a remarkably cold and cloudy morning over the Detroit River with the sun breaking through about mid morning. My friend Larry Onysko and I pulled into the City

of Windsor Marina about 10 o'clock. We parked at the furthest parking spot which gave us a view of Lake St. Clair, Peche Island, the docks at the Marina, and the Detroit River.

We looked over the thirty sleeping Mute Swans on the Marina ice edge with a few Canada Geese and Mallards also on the ice edge. In the background four hearty souls were setting up to ice fish next to the Marina docking facilities.

Other duck species seen near the Marina included two Common Goldeneye, a single Bufflehead and several Common Mergansers. A single Great Blue Heron was noted flying off Peche Island. Far out on ice covered Lake St. Clair we could see at least eight Bald Eagles which eventually flew to Peche Island, perching in trees and on the shoreline. Some disappeared around the back of Peche Island.

The water was open off shore from the Marina with a build up of ice down river from the Marina. We could see rafts of ducks slowly making their way in the portion of the river that we could view from the Marina. These ducks proved to be Canvasbacks, the males showing whitish backs and sides. Several rafts came to this open area, then worked their way back towards Lake St. Clair, only to repeat the process.

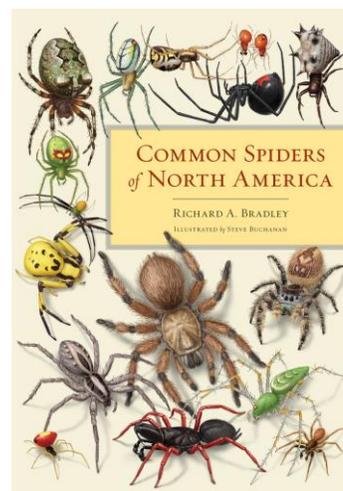
We surveyed the Detroit River on our drive to the Ojibway Nature Centre at 11:00 a.m., finding no more open spots on ice-filled Detroit River.

At the Ojibway Nature Centre, we observed a flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds enjoying a feeder full of cracked corn. Other winter birds included Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Tree Swallow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch.

Book Review - Title: Common Spiders of North America

By Russ Jones

Author: Richard A. Bradley
Illustrations: Steve Buchanan
Publisher: University of California Press, 2013
ISBN: 9780520274884
List Price: \$60



Summary: According to this book, 3807 species of spiders have been identified in North America at the time of writing. Most of them are tiny, going about their lives without ever being noticed. New species are discovered regularly and it is likely that the 3807 species so far

described represents only a fraction of their true diversity! They can live just about anywhere, indoors or out and hardly a day goes by in the spring, summer and fall when we don't encounter at least one. Identifying the spiders we find is often problematic, especially to the budding naturalists who may not be familiar with the most common families to help narrow it down further. North America was lacking a good spider identification guide, this book helps fill that void in a big and beautiful way. It includes 469 species (in 311 genera) of the most common, conspicuous and often encountered spiders. Each one is illustrated, both male and female, on about the most skillfully rendered plates I have seen in any field guide on any subject. The 82 colour plates are arranged in the first half of the book, the accompanying text in the back half. The species accounts provide information on identification, occurrence and seasonality, as well as remarks.

My thoughts: It is a beautiful hardcover book loaded with incredible artwork and information that fills an important niche on both the amateur and serious naturalists reference book shelf. It has a great introduction that is easy to understand and very enlightening, providing the reader with basic biology, anatomy, taxonomy, collection methods, identification features and much more. The species accounts are thorough, concise and up to date. There are no range maps, just an occurrence section that describes the known range, but it gives you a pretty good idea whether or not you are within the range of the spider in question. Frankly, there isn't much negative to say about it, but it could be improved in one important way. Before I ordered my copy I had read another review that pointed out the wasted space on the back of each plate. I agree with that reviewer, I don't like to see wasted space in a book that is only a bit too big to be a field guide. With different formatting, it might have been condensed into a smaller size more suitable to be brought into the field. Despite being a little bulkier than it might have needed to be, I highly recommend this book and with its help I am looking forward to identifying and learning more about spiders this upcoming season.

Reprints

Submitted by: Betty Learmouth

Monarch Butterfly Count in Mexico Dives - Numbers show continuing sharp decline
Tom Spears, Postmedia News Friday, March 28, 2014

Ottawa – This is the worst year on record for the monarch butterfly, with North America's entire population of the orange insects now squeezed into less than one hectare in Mexico. The monarchs spend winter packed together in a remote forest of the Mexican mountains, and researchers have been measuring how much land they occupy each year since 1994. A bigger area means more monarchs.

Numbers jump up and down a lot but not like this: The butterflies occupied between five and twenty hectares most of the time from 1994 to 2004. Since then, their colony has been shrinking.

Last year, at 1.19 hectares, was considered a disaster. This winter's cluster is just over half that size: 0.67 ha.

At the University of Ottawa, biologist and butterfly specialist Jeremy Kerr was stunned by the news.

“That’s the worst!” he said as the figures were read out to him.

“We’re talking about a 20th” of the population from the 1990s, when measurements began, he said “Or not even” that big.

“There’s a 20-year very strong trend for declining.”

Butterfly numbers always “bounce around a little,” between good and bad years, he said. “The problem is that it’s hard to escape once you are in this kind of vortex. They’ve been hit by a bunch of different things in a bunch of different places, and they’re all bad.”

Farm pesticides in their main flyway through the United States and Canada are one hazard, he said. The conservation group Monarch Watch also blames herbicide-resistant crops, which allow farmers to do a better job of killing weeds, including milkweed, the monarchs’ food source.

As well, the abnormally hot spring of 2012 sent many migrating too far north, Kerr said. He doubts any of those survived to return south.

Last month, the leaders of Canada, the United States and Mexico held a summit in Mexico and pledged to establish a working group to ensure conservation of the monarch calling it “a species that symbolizes our association.”

This came after scientists, environmentalists, writers and artists asked them to create a north-south corridor of milkweed and reverse declines in butterfly populations.

It takes several generations of butterflies, each living a few weeks, to migrate from Mexico to Canada. Butterflies born in Canada then head south in late summer.

Kerr said there are “serious and acute concerns that this butterfly’s astonishing animal migration event could be fading away.”

*Quack tracking - Researchers to equip ducks with solar-powered GPS
In The Windsor Star, April 1, 2014 - Sharon Hill*

Some mallard ducks on Lake St. Clair will be sporting an antennae on their backs this fall.

About 30 to 60 female mallard ducks will be fitted with little backpacks to carry solar-powered GPS transmitters so researchers can track where the ducks are hanging out around Lake St. Clair in key and threatened habitat.

“We don’t know really how they’re using the landscape,” University of Western Ontario and Long Point Waterfowl researcher Matt Palumbo said Monday.

Although mallards are a commonly seen duck, Palumbo wants to know more about which habitats the ducks spend the most time in, how that relates to their survival and how long they stay in the Great Lakes.

Palumbo, a 31 year old PhD student will catch mallard ducks beginning in the late summer and strap on the 30-gram device to gather the detailed tracking information within 18 to 26 metres. For \$1,000 groups can sponsor and name a GPS-equipped duck and the public will be able to watch the movement of mallards online through the Long Point Waterfowl Mallard Tracker. “It will be really interesting to see how these ducks move on a daily basis,” Palumbo said. Palumbo’s professor, Scott Petrie, who is executive director of Long Point Waterfowl which studies waterfowl and wetlands in the Great Lakes, said the research is more about Lake St. Clair than the mallard in particular.

Lake St. Clair is a crucial waterfowl staging area in the spring and fall and is the most threatened wetland complex on the Great Lakes, Petrie said.

“Not only have we lost a lot of habitat that resulted in major changes in the ecosystem there’s certainly a real fear that we could lose a lot more in the future,” Petrie said. Petrie fears with high farmland prices, more wetlands could be drained for farming.

Wind turbines, invasive species and changing farm practices have likely reduced the chances of mallard ducks finding food in the important migration stopover.

“The one thing we’re really concerned about is food availability.” Petrie said, especially during spring migration. “We’re getting down possibly to some critical thresholds where there’s not enough food.”

If the ducks don’t have enough food to put on body fat, it may decrease their survival and reproductive rates. While some mallard ducks stay year-round, most are arriving now from the United States to rest before they fly to breeding grounds north of the Great Lakes. They will come back to Lake St. Clair from August to October and November before heading south.

Petrie said farming practises have changed so there’s less leftover grain in farm fields for the dabbling ducks that also eat wetland plants and insects. There’s less food when phragmites, an invasive plant, has taken over wetlands.

Tracking the mallards will also help answer questions about the impact of the large number of wind turbines in Essex County and Chatham-Kent near waterfowl habitat, Petrie said. The mallard study and a Long Point Waterfowl report on the waterfowl and wetlands of the Lake St. Claire region should highlight the importance of protecting habitat, he said. To name a duck, and donate to the Mallard Tracker research, contact Greg Dunn at gdunn@longpointwaterfowl.org

Citizen scientists can help monarch butterflies - In Shoreline, April 4, 2014. Davis Suzuki: Science Matters

From the age of five, Fred Urquhart was fascinated by monarch butterflies in his Toronto neighborhood.

Born in 1911, he spent hours watching the orange and black insects flutter about, wondering: Where did they go in winter?

At school, he read voraciously about nature, especially monarchs and other insects. He eventually became a zoology professor and married Norah Patterson, who shared his love of butterflies, as did their son, Doug.

To answer the question that had nagged Fred since childhood, in 1940 they found a way to attach tiny labels to individual butterflies that read, “Send to Zoology University of Toronto Canada.”

They started the Insect Migration Association, now known as Monarch Watch, enlisting “citizen scientists” to tag butterflies.

They finally solved the mystery in 1975 – with the help of two citizen scientists in Mexico. Ken Brugger and Catalina Aguado had come across millions of butterflies in the mountains west of Mexico City.

The couple took the Urquharts there in 1976 and miraculously, Fred found one of his tagged insects within hours.

Their fascinating story is told in the documentary film *Flight of the Butterflies* and in an episode of CBC’s *The Nature of Things*, “*The Great Butterfly Hunt*.”

Drastically reduced

Now, monarchs are in trouble, their numbers drastically reduced from the days when the Urquharts pursued their passion.

And once again, experts and others are calling on citizen scientists — and politicians — to help. Monarch populations in Mexico plummeted to a record low of about 33.5 million this year from an annual average over the past 15 years of about 350 million and highs of more than one billion.

Causes include illegal logging in Mexico, herbicide use on genetically modified crops in the U.S. and climate change.

In February, in response to a letter by Mexican poet Homero Aridjis, signed by more than 100 scientists, writers and environmentalists including Canadians Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje and John Ralston Saul – U.S. President Barack Obama, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper agreed to “establish a working group to ensure the conservation of the monarch butterfly, a species that symbolizes our association.”

The letter to leaders said, “As Mexico is addressing the logging issues, so now must the United States and Canada address the effects of our current agricultural policies.”

Those problematic practices are mainly associated with large-scale planting of corn and soy genetically modified to resist the herbicide Roundup or glyphosate.

It doesn't kill crops – just pretty much everything else, including the milkweed monarchs need to lay their eggs and that is their caterpillars' main food.

We can only hope our leaders live up to their commitment, and we can speak up to hold them to it.

But we can also become citizen scientists to help researchers better understand the butterfly's breeding, migration and overwintering cycles and help monarchs survive.

Monarch Watch (*MonarchWatch.org*) offers classroom resources, student-scientist research projects and information about building monarch way stations, raising your own monarchs and planting milkweed and butterfly gardens.

The U.S. Monarch Joint Venture website (*MonarchJointVenture.org*) offers resources for citizens to track migration, count butterflies and monitor larval populations and disease for monarchs – as well as other butterflies.

The David Suzuki Foundation website also offers a range of resources and activities to help protect these pollinating insects.

And, as part of its Homegrown National Park Project, the foundation is launching a Toronto-based campaign in April to crowd-source a milkweed corridor through the city.

Fun way

Helping monarch and other butterflies and insects is a fun way to get kids interested in nature's wonders.

Planting milkweed and nectar-producing native flowers on balconies and in gardens, parks and green spaces will beautify the area around your home and bring bees and butterflies to the neighborhood.

Scientists still don't know everything about monarchs and their migration, but we know they play an important role in ecosystems.

And we know everything in nature is interconnected.

When something that travels such long distances through a range of habitats is removed, it can have cascading effects on those environments.

The world wouldn't know where North American monarchs travel if it weren't for the Urquharts and the continent-wide battalion of citizen scientists they inspired.

We can all help ensure monarch butterflies continue this wonderful journey every year. *With contributions from David Suzuki Foundation senior editor Ian Hanington. Learn more at DavidSuzuki.org*

The Birder hits theatres today - By Bob Stewart, Staff reporter, Tecumseh Shoreline, April 4, 2014

Local audiences, actors, cinematographers and producers alike are hoping the film industry in Windsor and Essex County takes off when *The Birder* hits theatres today.

The revenge comedy was filmed at locations around Essex County and features a cast and crew of a decidedly local feather, including writer-director Ted Bezaire, writer and co-producer Michael Stasko, producer Jeff Nadalin, actor Jim Annan, and associate producer Serge Forte. Rated PG-14, *The Birder* stars Tom Cavanaugh, Mark Rendall, Graham Greene, and comic legend Fred Willard.

“We have good people, we have the talent, we have the riverfront and we have great restaurants,” Forte said of his efforts to put Windsor and Essex County on the map as not only an internationally recognized birding destination, but also a film-making hot spot.

A retired media teacher from Sandwich Secondary School, Forte went door-to-door securing funding for *The Birder* after being brought on board by producers Nadalin and Gerry Lattmann. “There are people in this town with money,” said Forte, who also serves as the film’s public relations department.

“Many of them like film, and having such movies shot in this area could pave the way for this industry to blossom in our region.”

The Birder was screened at the Calgary Film Festival, the London Film Festival (England) and the Toronto International Film Festival.

A red carpet premiere was held last night at the Capital Theatre in Windsor. The film opens on screens across Canada (including Imagine Cinemas in Lakeshore) and Forte says the producers are hoping to see an international release in the future.

“When we came out of school, the possibility of making a film here was very remote,” said Forte’s wife, Donna Mancini, who studied theatre in school and now teaches at General Amherst Secondary.

“If this is successful,” Forte said of *The Birder*, “we’re going to do another film in this area.”

Locales

Those who see the film will recognize locales like the former St. Anne High School in Tecumseh, Ojibway Park and Nature Centre, and Old Sandwich Towne.

Forte said it's refreshing to see local sites and locales on the big screen – not just standard Hollywood backdrops of New York City and Los Angeles.

Snake discovery derails city's fire hall plans - Endangered species protected
April 30, 2014, Doug Schmidt, The Windsor Star

Windsor's multimillion-dollar plan to build new fire halls and redeploy fire equipment and crews within a tight, end-of-the year time frame has been thrown into disarray by the discovery of a small but endangered snake.

The city has cancelled the tendering process for a new station No. Five to be built at Northwood Street and Daytona Avenue after being advised by regional and provincial conservation authorities that a Butler's Gartersnake colony is located on an adjacent vacant property. A Ministry of Natural Resources spokeswoman said the province has reviewed the city's plan and provided it with direction on what's required before construction can proceed.

The city had rushed planning, budget approval, public meetings and tendering in order to meet a December 31 deadline set by a provincial labour arbitrator for Windsor to implement a recently awarded contract covering the city's firefighters.

Because of the snakes, fire Chief Bruce Montone said the new station No. 5 can't be finished by that deadline, but he insists the new plan will be implemented, albeit under the status quo coverage for Windsor's west and south.

The worst-case scenario is everything stays the same as it is now.... this will not impact implementation of the arbitration award," said Montone, adding that includes reducing the fire fighter workweek from 48 hours to 42 hours.

He said Engine 5 will remain for now at the existing Station No. 5, while Truck 4 will remain at Station No. 4. "This will delay that piece of the plan," Montone said.

Work is expected to commence shortly on the new Station No. 2 at Chandler and Miloy streets after city council recently approved a tender. The city has budgeted \$9 million for the two new stations, designed to improve fire protection coverage, on average, to more Windsor properties without a big operating budget increase.

"Issues come up on every project," city engineer Mario Sonogo said.

Until recently tightened provincial legislation, the presence of an endangered species triggers a required impact assessment followed by efforts at mitigation or compensation. It doesn't mean development can't occur; but city naturalist Paul Pratt said it might mean the city has to create a bigger and better home somewhere else for the species whose habitat is being impacted or sacrificed.

Sonogo said the city lot in question, just over an acre in size, isn't home to a snake colony but that one exists in an adjacent undeveloped property. Under the Endangered Species Act, the

city's proposed fire hall is close enough that mitigation is required.

To the untrained eye, there's little difference between the Butler's Gartersnake, which now only survives in some open and moist tallgrass areas near the Great Lakes, and the much more ubiquitous Common Gartersnake. Pratt said it's smaller with a shorter snout and head, as well as more brightly coloured with a distinctive yellow stripe located much higher on the side of its body.

The non-venomous Butler's loves worms and lives in open grass close to moisture. When startled or excited, rather than darting off, it vigorously wriggles from side to side in a much slower escape plan.

Pratt said the Butler's Gartersnake was recently re-evaluated by wildlife biologists, and its status was downgraded from threatened to endangered. Under the Ontario Endangered Species Act, the penalties "can be quite severe," he added, including fines in the million-dollar range and jail time.

Sonogo said the snake assessment now required, as well as satisfying the MNR's requirements, will delay the startup of the fire hall project by at least several months.

Montane said he knows very little about snakes and that he would likely "scream like a girl" if he ever encountered one.

"Regardless of whether they creep me out or not, we have to respect the process," Sonogo replied when similarly asked whether snakes give him the creeps.

Butler's Gartersnake (*Thamnophis butleri*; endangered)

- Small, non-venomous snake, 25 to 57 cm. long. Tiny head and yellow to orange stripes running lengthwise on a dark brown-black background. Looks very similar to the Common Gartersnake and is difficult to distinguish.
- Only place in the world: lower Great Lakes region. In Ontario: mainly within 10 kilometres of the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River.
- Prefers open, moist habitats, such as dense grassland and old fields, with small wetlands; loves eating worms. Gives birth to live babies. Wiggles side-to-side, rather than darting off to escape.
- Protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act; federal Species at Risk Act: designated as Specially Protected Reptile under Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Endangered Species Day celebrates area's rare plants and animals: Don't turn your back on barfy queensnake - Sharon Hill, In The Windsor Star, May 16, 2014

The endangered queensnake is more likely to throw up on you than try to bite you, and snake vomit aside, the harmless queensnake is a good example of why you should care about it and the other many rare species in Windsor and Essex County during Endangered Species Day Friday.

“If you have endangered species in an area such as the queensnake, it means that there’s high quality habitat which is not only good for the species but it’s good for human health as well,” Tanya Pulfer, Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Coordinator with Ontario Nature, said Thursday.

May 16 is Endangered Species Day in the United States and for the first time the conservation charity Ontario Nature is asking people to celebrate it and the diversity of plants and animals found here. And there’s lots Windsor can celebrate since the region has the most rare species in the province, Pulfer said.

There are more than 200 species at risk in Ontario and the Essex region has 88 of them. The non-venomous queensnake is only found in Canada in five areas of Ontario including a small population near the Detroit River: It needs clean water because it eats crayfish and likes shallow clear water with a rocky bottom.

It’s likely easier for most people to get excited about protecting an endangered orchid or a pretty prothonotary warbler than a snake that’s rarely seen.

But snakes are often in the news here – with stories on the parkway’s protective snake fence or the endangered Butler’s gartersnake that was recently discovered near the site for a new fire hall at Northwood Street and Daytona Avenue.”

Pulfer said it may take more time or planning but rare species and development can mix. “Windsor should be proud of how much it’s done to help conserve habitat for a number of endangered species and that really can be a model of how development and endangered species can coexist with the right planning,” she said.

What’s rare here?

The Essex region has 88 species at risk including 30 plants, 17 birds and two mammals, the threatened grey fox and the eastern mole, a species of special concern.

There are a handful of turtles along with the endangered Fowler’s toad, the small-mouthed salamander and the common five-lined skink on the list. The rarities continue underwater with 12 fish and eight mussels. There are seven snakes but the only venomous one is the Massasauga rattlesnake.

Falcons spotted in Michigan - Banded birds easy to track
Reporter Sharon Hill, The Windsor Star, May 12, 2014

General Brock seems to have switched over to the American side.

The peregrine falcon hatched in 2012 at the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor has been hanging out at the Grosse Point Yacht Club on Lake St. Clair.

His sister Viper is nesting in Lansing, Mich., at the Lansing Board of Water and Light's Eckert power station. A webcam there shows she has three eggs.

"That was just thrilling because she's two years old and we watched and helped keep her safe when she was a new fledge," Windsor Peregrine Falcon Watch volunteer Marilyn Weller said recently.

"So I kind of feel like a grandmother."

Weller said it was exciting to hear news of peregrine falcons from Windsor. Because the chicks are banded, peregrine watchers can identify the birds by the numbers on a leg band and report sightings.

The two peregrine falcons at the Ambassador Bridge are both from Ohio and are named Freddie and Voltaire. They have been nesting on a ledge of the bridge pillar since 2008 and produced their biggest hatch with four chicks in 2012, including General Brook and Viper.

This week, Weller heard General Brook has been seen with an unidentified female and the two may be nesting on a tower at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Some students from General Brook School witnessed the banding in 2012 and principal Anne Adamson said last week it's lovely to hear news of the falcon since sometimes they don't make it. The students were having a read-a-thon and will soon hear about the peregrine falcon they named.

"Well at least he picked a good neighborhood," Adamson joked of his yacht club perch.

Windsor Peregrine Falcon Watch volunteers lucked out since Viper is at a site with a webcam. You can see photos of Viper and her Lansing, Mich., nest site at www.lbwl.com/falcon.aspx. The pictures from the webcam are refreshed every 15 minutes and there are some videos. Weller said she expects it will be June before those eggs hatch.

Here, in Windsor, there could be chicks at the Ambassador Bridge any day now, Weller said. The nesting tray was moved to the eastern side of the ledge this year and Weller said the peregrine pair adapted to that. Weller said Voltaire appears to be sitting on eggs and keeping them warm but volunteers can't see eggs to count them.

Peregrine falcons had been listed as endangered but after the ban on DDT and improvements in their population they are now considered a species of special concern.

Rare bird spotted near Pelee - Species more common in Midwest
Reporter Chris Thompson, The Windsor Star, April 30, 2014

There was a buzz in the local birding community (April 29, 2014) after reports of an extremely rare sighting of a species normally west of here.

Two Smith's Longspurs were first reported around 10:30 a.m. in the Pelee Birding Area, a field next to Hillman Marsh on Mersea Road 21.

“(It) is bird that spends the winter out on the prairies, sort of Oklahoma, that part of the Midwest, and then it goes up to the treeline in the Arctic to breed, but it comes down through the Prairie provinces down to the States and rarely shows up this far east,” said Paul Pratt, naturalist at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

Three birders reported seeing the pair to Pratt, who has seen the species around Hudson Bay and the Yukon. He was waiting to hear of more sightings later in the day to see if it was worth driving to Leamington. According to the National Audubon Society, the Smith's Longspur is a sparrow-sized bird with distinctive buff-coloured markings that winters in the plains territory from Nebraska south to Texas, and congregates en masse in Illinois before migrating north to the treeline in Canada.

If the birds are spotted here repeatedly over a period of time, they could attract birders from further afield, Pratt said.

“Despite thousands of birders birding Pelee every year for a hundred years or more, they've never had one before in the county here,” said Pratt.

“I'm sure there's lots of people out looking for it. If they stick around, they'd definitely draw some people. There's nothing like a few rare birds turning up to get a lot of people thinking about coming down to Pelee for a weekend, or a quick trip.”

Pratt believes the strange S-shape of the jet stream that have been plodding across the U.S. Midwest may have pushed the birds off course to the east.

“The storms could very well have just pushed them further east than they intended,” said Pratt. “They regularly show up migrating through Illinois in the spring, which isn't that far away. They don't have to get pushed that far east, but they rarely do. It's an exceptionally rare bird for us here. Normally what you have to do is you have to go up to the Arctic.”

David Allen Sibley Interview, May 4, 2014

Betty Learmouth

In the last half hour of the CBC's Sunday morning radio program *Fresh Air*, a previously recorded interview with David Allen Sibley was aired at 8:30 a.m. on May 4, 2014. It was announced that David was unavailable for an on air interview as he was leading a birding hike at Point Pelee National Park at that hour.

David Allen Sibley is well known for his guide to the birds of North America published some fourteen year ago. A new revised guide is available which is felt to be the finest bird guide to North American birds.

David Allen Sibley's guides are so well regarded that the books are simply referred to everywhere as "Sibley."

When the interviewer asked David how he became interested in birds, David replied that his father was an ornithologist. Thus there was an interest as family and friends enjoyed birds in nature and also in books. David enjoyed drawing from age five.

David remarked that in the 1970's it would be rare to encounter another birder. Now we can encounter hundreds of birders in one location such as Point Pelee National Park. David said that his parents watched birds and were in tune with nature.

Those who watch birds are a real mix of persons, a real cross section of society. David feels he learns something every day and as an artist he wishes to make small revisions. The new edition has simplified images.

There are still a few birds that David has not seen. For those portraits David uses photographs and drawings by other artists.

The cover of the new Sibley is a Magnolia Warbler which was chosen by the publisher Random House. The publisher knew that the Magnolia Warbler was special to David. When David was a child living in California where his father was engaged with a banding project, David was shown a beautiful Magnolia Warbler which was a new bird for the location and a new species for him. David remembers that Magnolia Warbler as a great birding moment from early days.

Mute Swans on the Detroit River, Winter 2014

Betty Learmouth

A radio interview with Wildlife Rehabilitator Nancy Phillips and CBC broadcaster Bob Steele of the afternoon program *The Bridge* aired on April 24, 2014, concerning the plight of Mute Swans on the Detroit River.

During this year's cold snowy winter, Mute Swans at the Lake View Marina were not doing well. Reports of swans in difficulty were reported to Wings and the Humane Society. With help, the swans were simply picked up, placed in Humane Society vehicles and taken to Wings in the Town of Amherstburg where the swans were confined to the Wings waiting room area. The entire centre needed to be moved around to accommodate forty-four swans. Thirty seven swans survived and were returned to Lakeview Marina on April 24, 2014. The rescue took place over several weeks as small groups were admitted.

Nancy remarked that the swans had no body fat thus their energy levels were low.

The Mute Swans curled up and slept on the ice at the Marina. Ice cubs were hanging from their bodies and heads as they were rescued.

Upon arrival at Wings, the swans were provided with soft dog food. Duck pellets dissolved in water bowls was swallowed in the process of drinking. Within forty-eight hours of beginning feeding there was a noted improvement of the swans.

Hard corn was not offered to the recuperating swans as they would have had to grind the corn. The swans were colour marked so each could be evaluated.

At Wings, the winter weather was trying as the water pipes froze. Water had to be carried by hand. Vehicles broke down in the extreme weather.

At the Lakeview Marina on April 24, 2014, a number of persons attended the release of the swans. Volunteers helped with the swan release by carrying the swans to a boat ramp and allowing the swans to swim away with much stretching of wings.

Nancy remarked that there is no break from animal care this year. The “baby” season has brought a baby Great Horned Owl and baby squirrels.

Wings Wildlife Rehab Centre provided a thank you/information sheet at the swan release. “Wings was surprised by the numbers of frozen and starving mammals and birds entering their humble doors looking for immediate care.”

“To date, Wings has released over 40 ducks that came in starving. Owls and hawks, opossums and squirrels that could not find a food source have stayed with us long enough to put some weigh on and are now ready to fly and scamper to freedom. Waiting to be set free are our 10 bats that have wintered over at Ojibway Nature Centre and were hand fed by Karen Cedar.”

“Wings Rehab is excited to release some of the swans that came to us freezing and starving in late February. We are delighted to share this release today for all to view, here at the Marina where they were found and rescued by Ted Foreman and the dedicated workers of the Windsor Essex County Humane Society. These swans brought to Wings Rehab Centre have had a warm bed, loads of food and people who cared for them for many weeks now, but the time has come to bid them farewell and send them back to their natural habitat.”

Activities and Excursions!

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, visit www.essexcountynature.com. Let us know your ideas for upcoming excursions. Consider volunteering as an excursion leader.

June 11th – ECFNC Members’ Meeting – Charles Wilkins is the author of fifteen books. In 2011, Wilkins undertook the most exhilarating and daring of his numerous adventures as a writer. At the age of 63, he joined a crew of 16 and, after a year of intense training, rowed across the Atlantic Ocean in a fragile experimental rowboat. He was motivated (in his own words) “by a lifelong fascination with exotic travel, by a deep curiosity about the planet, and by a question: What would happen if rather than merely enduring risk and uncertainty as we add years, we decided instead to embrace risk, to juice up on it... reclaim our bodies... re-establish ground.” The result of that Atlantic crossing is Wilkins’ most recent book, *Little Ship of Fools*, published by Greystone Books.

June 28th-29th, 2014 – The Inaugural Ojibway Prairie Bioblitz - A 24hr event starting on Saturday, June 28th at 10am and ending on Sunday June 29th. This event will take survey the Ojibway Prairie Remnants in the City of Windsor and LaSalle. A Bioblitz is an event where expert and amateur volunteers survey natural area and catalogue as many species as possible within the 24hr period. We will be leading hikes and teaching others to identify species in addition to the surveys taking place throughout the day. Everyone is invited to attend this event! Although Essex County has relatively little natural area compared with the rest of Ontario, the county is extremely biologically diverse and is home to numerous provincially rare and at-risk species. This event will promote conservation, increase public awareness, provide records of important species and generate interest in our natural areas. We hope to eventually cover all the natural areas in the county with future Bioblitz events. We are in the middle of the most diverse ecosystems in the province and we’re hoping to prove it! Volunteers are needed so please contact us if you are interested in helping out! Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ojibway-Prairie-Bioblitz/615547621853145>

July 9th – ECFNC Members’ Meeting – Bioblitz Recap – Join us for a recap of our first inaugural Bioblitz! We will be recapping the event and highlighting some of our exciting sightings. The presentation will be followed by a short and very interesting documentary on the Cane Toad.

August 13th – General Membership Meeting – Bird Song Research from the Tropics, Temperate Zone, and Arctic – Come and listen to club member, Sarah Baldo, speak on the ornithological research she conducted while at the University of Windsor. During her undergraduate degree, Sarah studied the vocal repertoire of a vulnerable Neotropical species, the Great Curassow. She also worked with Point Pelee National Park and the university on a study comparing automated recordings to in-person point counts. She completed her graduate research in the Canadian Arctic, where she studied the link between Snow Bunting song and physiology.

August 29th, 30th & 31st – Harrow Fair Booth – We will be selling Lynda Corkum’s *Fish Book* and Mary Celistino’s *Wildflowers of the Canadian Erie Islands* book at the Harrow Fair.

Volunteers are needed to help in the booth. Volunteers can enter the Fair for free. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Sarah Baldo (519-300-0039).

September 10th – General Membership Meeting – Wastewater: Where Does It Go? –

September 10th – ECFNC Members’ Meeting – Have you ever wondered what happens to water and other substances when they are flushed down our drains and toilets? It shouldn’t be a mystery, and the City of Windsor and the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup initiative have partnered to create a wastewater video to help de-mystify the topic, and educate viewers. Everything we put down our drains can have a big impact on our home and our environment. For example, there are many household items that are branded as ‘flushable’ that really shouldn’t be put down the toilet. Same goes with old, expired medication—wastewater treatment plants were never designed to remove those substances from water. Join City of Windsor Environmental Coordinator, Karina Richter, and Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Remedial Action Plan Coordinator, Claire Sanders, for a screening and discussion of the short video “Wasterwater: Where Does it Go?”

September 13th-14th – Blue Kestrel Café at the Holiday Beach Hawk Festival – We will be organizing this fund raiser through a Committee this year. If you would like to volunteer for this Committee to help organize this event, please contact JoAnn Grondin – 519-734-0056.

November 8th – Save the date for our 30th Annual Dinner – Dr. Denis Tetreault will be speaking on evolution. More information to follow.



**Essex County Field Naturalists’ Club
Membership Form**

Individual membership \$20.00 / year _____ Family membership \$25.00 / year _____
Student (full-time) \$10.00 / year _____ Sustaining membership \$30.00 / 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

Name _____
Street _____ City _____
Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone Number _____
E-mail _____ I wish to receive the Egret by email.

Please contact me to volunteer at ECFNC events!

Thank you!

Make cheques payable to: Essex County Field Naturalists’ Club
Devonshire Mall P.O., P. O. Box 23011, Windsor, Ontario N8X 5B5