



The Egret

The Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Volume 34 – Number 1 – March 2018

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Upcoming Events at a Glance

- April 11** – ECFNC Meeting - Jeremy Bensette
“Breaking Birding Boundaries: My Ontario Big Year”
- April 15** – Reptile, Amphibian & Nature Walk
- April 21** – Spring Bird Walk at Holiday Beach
- April 22** – Earth Day Bake Sale
- May 5-6** – 24th Annual ECFNC Pelee Island Trip
- May 9** – ECFNC Meeting – TBD
- May 26 or 27** – Sturgeon Creek Restoration Planting Event
- July 21-22** – Point Pelee Bioblitz



2017 Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count Summary

By Jeremy Hatt

The Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017. 37 volunteers participated in the count, an increase from 2016, with 35 people making observations in the field and one person observing feeders. A total of 53 party hours were tallied: 20 hours by foot, 33 hours by car, and 2 hours of feeder watching. A combined total of 512km of distance was travelled for the count including by foot and by car.



Unlike the mild 2016 Holiday Beach CBC, the temperature for the 2017 count was very cold with temperatures ranging from a low of -16C to a high of -9C (temperatures in 2016 ranged from a low of -1.5C to a comfortable high of 3.5C). The coldest areas

were those exposed to strong winds out of the west, particularly along the lower Detroit River and in open fields (many performed their counts along the back roads from the comfort of their car!). Wind gusts of up to 40km/h were recorded. Snow depth was 6 inches on the ground from previous snowfalls and on the day of the count, there was a light snow in the mid afternoon and cloudy skies. The waters of the Detroit River and Lake Erie were mostly frozen but several smaller areas of open water contained waterfowl on the river. All inland waters including Big Creek and the Holiday Beach Marsh were frozen.

A total number of 44,776 individual birds were counted of 72 species. This is one species higher than the count in 2016. Highlights included 5,530 Canvasback on their winter staging grounds in the open water at the mouth of the Lower Detroit River, 2 Lesser Scaup in the open waters off Boblo Island, one Double-crested Cormorant flying high over Boblo Island, one Turkey Vulture at Holiday Beach, 41 Bald Eagles (including many on Lake Erie on the ice off of Holiday Beach), one Red-shouldered Hawk in the area west of Big Creek, a single American Coot off Boblo Island, one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, four Ruby-crowned Kinglets in various locations, a resident Northern Mockingbird in Amherstburg, 25 Eastern Meadowlarks, and singles of Chipping Sparrow and Fox Sparrow. Birds added during count week included Merlin, Gray Catbird, and Rusty

Blackbird.

Many species counts were low this year, undoubtedly due to the colder temperatures this winter. The only new high counts for the circle were Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4), Dark-eyed Junco (423), and Eastern Meadowlark (25). No new species were added to the count.

The roundup was held at Brews & Cues in LaSalle with a good turnout of volunteers and area leaders to enjoy some warm food and drink. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped organize another successful Holiday Beach CBC!

***Area 5 (Boblo Island and south Amherstburg) group selfie***

From left to right, front row: Jeremy Hatt, Kathy Lesperance, Joan Afflack, Larry Onysko
Back row: Betty Learmouth, Kalie Cavanaugh, Nikole Otcenasek, Kory Renaud

24th Annual ECFNC Weekend Trip to Pelee Island, Ontario

Saturday May 5 & Sunday May 6, 2018

By Dave Kraus

- Leave at 10:00 am Saturday from Leamington Dock aboard the M.V. Jiimaan (be at the dock by 9:20 am)
- We will return to Leamington Dock by 5:45pm Sunday

We will likely see: migrating waterfowl & warblers, wildflowers such as trilliums & waterleaf, basking turtles and snakes, bullfrogs, historic sites, and hear a chorus or two of American Toads, to suggest a few of the many enjoyable experiences on Pelee Island in spring. We should also get a chance to visit the Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO bird banding station) and some of the recently acquired Nature Conservancy of Canada properties: Red Cedar Savannah ESA, Stone Road Alvar ANSI, Brown's Point and Woods, and Brown's Road Alvar. We will have plenty of time to walk, observe, and relax on the excursions to some of Pelee's most beautiful natural habitats, including: Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve, Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve, the Stone Road Alvar Complex, Sheridan Point ESA, and many other stops along the way (including natural habitat restoration work completed on my property).

Should we experience inclement weather, we can visit the Pelee Island Heritage Centre, tour the island in the comfort of our rented bus and/or lounge at the Anchor and Wheel Inn. I have arranged for bus transportation while on the island – no other vehicles are necessary on the trip.

There is parking at the Leamington Dock area. I have reserved space on the ferry for all registered, walk on passengers attending this trip - we will meet in the ticket office at the dock on Saturday morning by 9:30 am.



Accommodations have been reserved at the Anchor and Wheel Inn. The motel and bed and breakfast style rooms are rustic, but comfortable and are situated on spacious grounds. Reservations are generally set for two persons per room. However, people do not need to register in pairs or groups - everyone is welcome and will be accommodated based on their wishes and room availability.

The Anchor and Wheel Inn contains a clean

and comfortable restaurant where I have arranged for our delicious meals. We will break for meals regularly (lunch at noon and dinner at 5:45 pm on Saturday, breakfast at 8:30am and lunch at 12:45 pm Sunday) and hot meals and snacks are also available on both ferry crossings.

The total cost will be \$200 this year. This cost will include: the two ferry trips, weekend bus transportation, four hot meals, overnight room accommodations, and all taxes and tips. The \$200 cost will include all expenses for the weekend other than alcoholic drinks, souvenirs, and snacks or meals on the ferry.

All interested persons need to do is sign up with me and then show up at the Leamington Dock by 9:20 am Saturday morning with warm outdoor clothes and accessories, overnight necessities, \$200 cheque (payable to David Kraus) or cash per person, and a few additional dollars for extra snacks, etc. if desired. The trails are mostly elevated and dry, but you may wish to bring along rubber boots to access some swampy areas on my property and at the bird banding station, especially if it has been rainy. Carl will hopefully arrange for good weather as usual!

I will contact each person that registers should any time or location changes for the ferry occur, otherwise the above outline is the basic schedule, rain or shine. I will hand out more detailed schedules on the

Saturday morning ferry trip, but with our own driver and rented bus, we can be flexible and able to visit various sites depending on the weather and the group's wishes.

To register for this trip: see me at the ECFNC meetings, call, email or text:

Dave Kraus

Phone: 519-825-7491 (leave message)

Email: david.kraus@publicboard.ca

Text: 519-257-8674

I look forward to your company on this ECFNC outing!



Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Celebrates Thirty Years of Progress with New Story Map Tool

By Gina Pannuzio & Detroit River Canadian Cleanup

From its role in facilitating the industrialization of Windsor and Detroit to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and its designation as an Area of Concern, the Detroit River has a rich and vibrant story to tell. The Detroit River has served an important role in the history of the Windsor-Detroit area and is one of the busiest waterways in the world; connecting Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron to the St. Lawrence Seaway. The River is designated an American Heritage River and a Canadian Heritage River, the only river to have this dual designation.

When the Windsor-Detroit area underwent rapid industrialization at the turn of the 20th century, the Detroit River became notoriously polluted. These environmental issues have been identified as being related to, or the cause of, the impairment of several beneficial uses. The 1970s and 1980s saw the development of a massive conservation effort aimed at cleaning up the Detroit River.

A new interactive mapping tool that tells the cleanup story of the Detroit River is now available to explore. Remediation efforts on the Canadian side in the Detroit River include sediment cleanup, habitat restoration, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment infrastructure upgrades, non-point source pollution

management as well as a suite of ongoing studies, investigations, monitoring, research, education and outreach. The story map highlights the projects that have taken place over the past thirty since the river was designated as an Area of Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

There are many organizations, groups and individuals that work together under the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup umbrella to work towards ecological recovery and preservation. The past thirty years have brought progress to the Detroit River, and this story map archives those collective improvements. As more projects are implemented and more research and monitoring is conducted, the story map tool will continue to grow. The goal is to remove the Detroit River from the list of Areas of Concern.



(Credit: detroitriver.ca)

To explore the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup’s Story Map visit

www.detroitriver.ca/storymap.

The Detroit River Canadian Cleanup implements the Remedial Action Plan on behalf of a community-based partnership working together to protect, restore and enhance the Detroit River ecosystem.



(Credit: detroitriver.ca)

Mapping our Progress

detroitriver.ca/storymap

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Story Map

What does thirty years of cleanup and progress look like along the Detroit River? Explore the DRCC Story Map to see all the habitat, monitoring and research, pollution prevention as well as education and outreach projects that have taken place!

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup

Over the past 30 years, extensive remediation, research, monitoring and outreach has taken place, in the Detroit River. This interactive map tells that story!

Restoring Our River Together!

Habitat | Pollution Prevention | Monitoring and Research | Education and Outreach

 1 Lake Sturgeon Habitat Restoration at Fighting Island Fish	 2 Expansion of the Fighting Island Fish	 3 Detroit River Shoreline Assessment Project
 4 Windsor Riverfront Shoreline Stabilization	 5 LaSalle Riverfront Park Shoreline Habitat	 6 Shoreline Fish Habitat Restoration at Lafarge
 7 Mill Street Waterfront Improvements and	 8 Canard River Park Shoreline Restoration	 9 McKie Park Fish Habitat Enhancement Project
 10 Fort Malden Shoreline	 11 Detroit River Shoreline	 12 Restoration Alternatives

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup’s Interactive Story Map

Earth Day Bake Sale – Sunday April 22, 2018

Please join us at Malden Park for a Heritage Committee fundraiser 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We need a lot of bake goods to make this fundraiser a success, so please donate generously. If you can't help by donating bake goods or by helping out at the booth, please drop by and buy some goodies!

If you are donating cookies or squares please package in 6's or 12's for easy pricing. Please cover all baked goods with clear plastic wrap or put in baggies. (Board of Health Regulation) Also since many people have allergies or restricted diets, it would be helpful if you could label all bake goods with a list of ingredients.

Remember, you don't need to belong to the Heritage Committee to help out! Please contact Cathy Lapain at 519-819-5089 or email at aclapain@gmail.com to volunteer to help sell bake goods at our booth this year.

Great Canadian Birdathon – www.birdscanada.org/birdathon

This May, the time you spend birding can help the very birds you're looking at. Join the Great Canadian Birdathon and conserve birds and biodiversity across Canada!

It's so easy to participate. All you have to do is gather your sponsors and go birding or just sponsor someone else that is participating. You can even donate a portion of the funds you raise to your local naturalist club. Over the years, participants have directed a portion of what they raise to our very own Bluebird Committee. There is potential to get up to 50% back if the "birder" raises \$5001.00 or more - see chart below.

Amount Raised	To Club Programs	Great Canadian Birdathon & Bird Studies Canada
\$1 – 3000	25%	75%
\$3001 – 3500	30%	70%
\$3501 – 4000	35%	65%
\$4001 – 4500	40%	60%
\$4501 – 5000	45%	55%
\$5001 – Up	50%	50%

Looking to donate to a participating ECFNC member? Stay tuned for more updates on club participants.

Breaking Birding Boundaries: My Ontario Big Year

By Jeremy Bensette

2017 was a year like no other for me birding-wise! I committed to completing a Big Year in my beautiful home province of Ontario, and held onto that goal right until dark on the last day of the year. I planned for years, and in the months leading up to 2017 I formulated a rough timeline for catching up with every species possible. I saved up some money and drummed up social momentum among our birding community.

With the support and help of hundreds of great friends, family, clubs, and my sponsors at Vortex Optics, I managed to identify and list 346 bird species across Ontario, breaking the previous provincial record of 343 set in 2012 by my friend Josh Vandermeulen.



(Pictured: Josh Vandermeulen, Jeremy Bensette & Tim Arthur)

There were far too many highlights to list here, but some of my favourite sightings include Slaty-backed Gull (#42), Violet-

green Swallow (#301), Magnificent Frigatebird (#306), the “sexy ugly” Wood Stork (#317) at Point Pelee National Park in my hometown of Leamington, Northern Gannet (#344) to break the previous record, and Barn Owl (#345) at a secret location due to its endangered conservation status. There were of course a few surprise missed species too, but this was always expected and it is not a big point of focus.



(Photo by Jeremy Bensette – Wood Stork)

Highlight trips and locations include multiple drives through beautiful Cochrane and Thunder Bay Districts, a crazy drive to Rainy River and back, and camping in my car virtually everywhere in Southern Ontario.

I fully recognize that I would not have been able to take on and complete a journey of this magnitude alone. I owe plenty of thanks for emotional, logistical, birding, and sometimes monetary support from countless friends, family, mentors, fans, organizations, and clubs from all over Ontario. To the members of the Essex

County Field Naturalists and Ontario's birding community at large, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. It is no coincidence that we are one of the strongest regional birding communities in North America and perhaps the world, and Essex County is unquestionably one of the highest quality birding counties in the region. It was the support of our community that has enabled me to enjoy such success.



(Photo by Jeremy Bensette – Fork-tailed Flycatcher)

A handful of very close friends stood by me throughout the year, and I am especially grateful for their support. Tim Arthur, a great friend and fellow employee of our Bird Studies Canada Marsh Monitoring team was present for over 75% of this wild ride. Tim was without doubt the captain of my Big Year team. Josh Vandermeulen, the previous record holder, was a very supportive and encouraging friend as always. I was so proud to be by Josh's side as a groomsman in his 2017 wedding. Sarah Lamond shared many special highlight moments with me, and provided super company and high quality birding support through much of the year. Bruce DiLabio, a great friend and mentor of mine and a seasoned lifelong birder, provided so much psychological and birding support to keep things on track. Alan

Wormington, one of my closest friends and mentors, sadly lost his battle with cancer just months before the year began, but his spirit ignited a fire in me to do him proud through the year.



(Photo by Jeremy Bensette – Magnificent Frigatebird)

I must note that a 102,000 km "vacation" was not the most environmentally friendly way for a conservationist to spend a year, but I also never plan on repeating it. My number one career goal as a naturalist is to promote wildlife appreciation, natural history, and conservation among as many members of our society as possible in hope that they too will get involved. The most effective way to do that in my opinion is to inspire those not currently very interested through stories like this one, and to promote curiosity and action.

It still shocks me that this Big Year story has gained so much traction in media outlets across Canada, but I think the popularity of this story is a huge step toward the above goal. The work I do professionally supports a purely conservation-based project, building up data regarding the health of the Great Lakes. I also spend much personal

time, thought, and energy on volunteer conservation efforts, and I particularly aim to inspire young people to do good for the natural world.



(Photo by Jeremy Bensette – Violet-green Swallow)

While leaving home for my final search, I sent the following text message to a close friend. Though I did not realize it at the time, these words really sum things up and have been ringing in my ears ever since. “One last

bird chase. One more late night, one more near meltdown, one more dice roll. One more two-hour radio concert with Tim. Tomorrow is the last day of the best year of my life and the last day of the worst year of my life - but I won't remember that side of it - before the first day of the rest of my life begins. One more day in this prison of ideal freedom. I did not expect to feel this much sentiment on this day, and maybe I will forget it when I wake up early and hit the cold air for one more search. I did not expect to have a bird to chase on this last day.”

This Big Year is worth so much more than a bird list, and will perhaps remain the most special set of memories I ever collect. For that reason, I am continuing to document it with more details and images on my blog. I invite you to read about the journey at www.jeremybirder.com.



(Photo by Jeremy Bensette – Black-necked Stilts)

2018 WEP Birds ‘Depths of Winter’ List Summary

By Dan Greenham

Another February has passed us by and with it the book closes on another Windsor-Essex-Pelee (WEP) Birds Depths of Winter challenge. The community was able to find an impressive 108 species this year and while that does not quite approach last year’s record of 117 it is still a fine showing.

The uneven weather that the region experienced this year might have been a factor in falling short of last year’s total. We experienced daily record highs, lows, snowfall and rain. The old adage about not liking the weather and waiting a minute for it to change certainly seemed to apply this month.

Only one new species was added to the historical list this year. Kory Renaud’s fantastic discovery of a Townsend’s Solitaire at the Point Pelee Visitor’s Centre was the clear and obvious highlight of the count period. Many birders were able to see this rarity and add it to their life or regional lists. Insofar as I have been able to ascertain this was the twelfth record of Townsend’s Solitaire for the Point Pelee area and the first since one was discovered in 2010 at Wheatley Provincial Park.

The one significant miss of the count was Field Sparrow. This species had been annual until this year. Certainly, this failure to locate one was not the fault of observers. The number of individuals from the area that are contributing their sightings via

eBird and WEP Birds continues to grow and helped to provide reports this year.



(Photo by Kory Renaud – Red-shouldered Hawk)

With another February now firmly in the rear-view mirror we can now turn our attentions to spring. Even though snow is falling outside my window as I type this spring is being dreamed. As of this writing the early expected migrants have returned to this area and it will not be long until their more colourful cousins join them. I wonder what our birding community will be able to discover next.

To see the full WEP Birds Depths of Winter list or to share your bird sightings, visit www.wepbirds.com.

Sharing Your Nature Sightings – A Benefit to Science

By Kory Renaud & Mark Nenadov

It is a well-known fact that Essex County is a very biodiverse area. Many common, interesting, and even rare species of flora and fauna are reported right here. Some species may have been easily overlooked if it weren't for people reporting sightings through public forums, websites and citizen science projects. The science community benefits greatly from data being collected and shared by the general public.

Sharing your sightings not only benefits the science community, it can also lead to others' increased enjoyment of the natural world. Take birders for example. If a rare bird is reported, many will go out of their way and even shift their schedules around for a chance to see it. So there is more of a "fun" aspect to it as well.

Can you overshare? Sometimes reporting your nature sightings can have detrimental effects, especially when it comes to sensitive species. You have to use caution and common-sense when reporting these. Wildlife preservation and conservation should always come before the simple enjoyment of others. Some citizen science projects have now stepped up to help by hiding certain sensitive species reports from public view.

You may be asking yourself, "How can I get involved?" Well you have quite a few options. Here are some of the popular ones:

iNaturalist

www.inaturalist.ca - Android & iPhone apps also available

With iNaturalist, users are enabled to share wildlife observations, connect with others, and learn more about nature. They are given excellent tools to identify wildlife and verify identifications with a consensus. Scientists then get access to the data. Typical observations include a proposed identification, a photo, a location on a map, and eventually others weighing in on the identification.

Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas

www.ontarionature.org/atlas - Android & iPhone apps also available

The Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas is a citizen-science project that tracks the distribution and abundance of reptiles and amphibians across the province. By reporting sightings through the app, you play a key part in increasing the knowledge base of reptiles and amphibians in Ontario. The app includes a comprehensive field guide to assist in species identification.

eBird

www.ebird.ca - *Android & iPhone apps also available*

As the name implies, eBird is a tool for recording bird sightings from around the world. It tracks your sightings, photos, and even audio recordings. All of the data is freely available for use in science, conservation and educational efforts. eBird also makes it very rewarding for you as well. You're able to use it to find birds or birding hotspots around the world, keep track of your lists, and even alert you when species are reported by others. According to ebird.ca, eBird is the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science project.

eButterfly

www.e-butterfly.org

eButterfly is an online checklist for tracking butterfly sightings and locations. You can add photos, explore range maps and even use it to find butterflies you've never seen before. Records on eButterfly, are used in science and conservation efforts.

Windsor-Essex Nature Sightings Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/windsorsexnature

Windsor-Essex Nature Sightings page on Facebook is designed for reporting and documenting flora and fauna sightings in Essex County. You do not have to be a Facebook user to view it, but you will need an account to share a sighting. While on Facebook, look for other pages that focus on

nature sightings around the world.

Windsor-Essex-Pelee Birds (WEPBirds)

www.wepbirds.com

WEPBirds is a local online birding group where members can post sightings, ID questions, general tips, and anything else bird related. The group is open to ALL experience levels from beginner to 'expert' and is absolutely free. As new topics are posted, you can be alerted by email.

Blogger/Wordpress – Personal Blog

www.blogger.com or www.wordpress.com

If you don't have one already, consider setting up a FREE personal webpage with easy-to-use tools from sites such as Blogger.com or Wordpress.com. A website can become a digital journal complete with stories and pictures and you don't even need to be a coding expert! The tools take you step-by-step to help you share your adventures. Some examples of local nature blogs (a little shameless self-promotion) – www.cerebralescape.com
<http://birds.marknenadov.com>
www.jeremybirder.com
<http://dwaynejava.blogspot.ca>

Now that you have an idea of some of the tools at your disposal, grab your field guides, notebook and camera (if you have one) – explore the natural world and share! The more you share, the more that can get into the hands of the experts. You just may be the one to find the next new species for our area, country or even beyond!

Townsend's Solitaire – A Rare Visitor from The West

By Kory Renaud – Cerebralescape.com

On a cool Saturday morning in early February, I was out birding, as I often do all year, at Point Pelee. I pretty much had the park to myself on this day but that quickly changed. As I was walking up to the Visitor Centre, a medium-sized grey bird flew up in front of me. It must have been down low near the small pond in front the centre. With my bare eyes I noticed an intriguing wing pattern in flight. I knew right then I had to get a better look at the bird. Lucky for me, it landed up in a bare tree close by just posing for me. I noticed the white eye-ringing and I gasped a little. I knew I had a Townsend's Solitaire. A rare visitor from the west. A life bird for me and a self-found one at that!

Townsend's Solitaires are thrushes normally found in mountainous forests in the west but occasionally venture down to lower elevations and may even wander to the east. According to reports, this appears to be approximately the 12th record for the Pelee area of this species.

I quickly got the word out to the birding community. Many local birders then joined me and were rewarded with fantastic looks at this bird. It actually stuck around for a few weeks so even some out-of-town birders were able to get down to the park to see it. To view more photos of the bird and of my other sightings, you can check out my blog at www.cerebralescape.com.



(Photo by Kory Renaud – Townsend's Solitaire)



(Photo by Kory Renaud – Townsend's Solitaire)

Upcoming Events

For full details and the latest updates, visit www.essexcountynature.com/events

Ojibway Nature Centre Spring Birding Trips (Fee Program)

For more info, call 519-966-5852.

March 17 (Saturday) meet at the Tip parking lot, Point Pelee at 8:30 am

April 14 (Saturday) meet at the Visitor Centre, Point Pelee at 8:30 am

April 28 (Saturday) meet at the Visitor Centre, Point Pelee at 8:30 am

May 5 (Saturday) meet at the Rondeau Provincial Park Visitor Centre at 8:30 am

May 16 (Wednesday) meet at the Visitor Centre, Point Pelee at 8:00 am

May 23 (Wednesday) meet at the Visitor Centre, Point Pelee at 8:00 am

ECFNC - Essex County Nature Meeting – April 11

Breaking Birding Boundaries: My 2017 Ontario Big Year - Point Pelee area birder and naturalist Jeremy Bensette had a very successful Big Year in 2017, travelling to the far reaches of his home province of Ontario in pursuit of every bird species he could possibly cross paths with. This presentation touches on many of the highlights, lowlights, statistics, results, and antics of his Big Year. Join Jeremy at 7:30 pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre for a summary of his year-long competitive and very social birding journey that turned out to be so much more rewarding than he expected!

Reptile & Amphibian Survey, Tree Identification, Birding, and Nature Appreciation Walk – April 15

Meet at Dave Kraus' property at 1515 Mersea Road 7, Leamington. Lots of parking on the grass laneway before the barn. Walk will be lead by Steve Marks and Dave Kraus and will start at 2 pm.

Spring Bird Walk at Holiday Beach – April 21

Join members of the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory (HBMO) at Holiday Beach for a spring birding walk to explore the Big Creek Important Bird Area followed by a presentation on attracting hummingbirds, pot-luck lunch and HBMO spring meeting. Meet at the Holiday Beach hawk tower at 9:00 am.

Dark Sky Event, Point Pelee – April 21

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) sponsors Dark Sky Nights at Point Pelee six times per year. Upcoming program nights include April 21 in association with Pelee's "What's Croaking" program at 7:00 pm in the Visitor Centre followed by star gazing with the RASC in the VC parking lot. Visit Pelee's web page for future dates and more info.

Earth Day Bake Sale - April 22

10 am-3 pm at Malden Park – see article in this newsletter for additional details

Pelee's Festival of Birds – May 1 - 21

Celebrate spring migration at Point Pelee National Park. Daily birding hikes, Lunch and Learn sessions, Birder Breakfast and Lunch and so much more. Visit www.festivalofbirds.ca for more details.

24th Annual ECFNC Pelee Island Trip – May 5 - 6

Register early with Dave Kraus as it often sells out fast! See article in this newsletter for additional details

ECFNC – Essex County Nature Meeting – May 9

7:30 pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre. All are welcome. Details to come.

Sturgeon Creek Restoration Community Event – May 26 or 27 (June 2 and 3 are rain dates)

Save the date - The community-planting event will take place on either Saturday May 26 2018 or Sunday May 27 2018 (TBD). The following weekend (June 2 and 3 2018) are also marked for rain dates. See www.essexcountynature.com/events for updates.

Point Pelee Parks' Day BioBlitz - July 21-22

In celebration of Point Pelee's 100 years of conservation and even more years of ecological study and monitoring, you are invited to join our first all park, all species BioBlitz. Over a 24-hour period, the park's resources conservation staff will be joined by national experts and local naturalists to conduct an all search for all different kinds of species in the park. Join experts for talks and hikes on different groups of species found in the park or volunteer your time and assist with the count. Contact the park for more information or to register: pelee.info@pc.gc.ca or 519-322-2365.

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club – Stay in Touch

ABOUT US

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club is a non-profit, open-to-the-public volunteer organization that focuses on promoting the conservation and restoration of the diverse natural heritage of Essex County and the surrounding region. We also strive to provide educational opportunities for the people of Essex County to become acquainted with and better understand the natural environment.

CONTACT US

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essexcountynature@gmail.com

Website:

www.essexcountynature.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/EssexCountyNature

Twitter:

@ECFNC

ECFNC MONTHLY MEETINGS

Except for our annual dinner in November, monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Ojibway Nature Center, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor. All are welcome! We also have monthly outings posted in the 'Events' section of this newsletter as well as on our website.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Paul Pratt (pratt.paul@icloud.com)

Vice-President: Steve Marks
(steve.marks66@gmail.com)

Secretary: JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056)

Treasurer: Cathy Lapain (aclapain@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Carl Maiolani
(carlmaiolani@cogeco.ca, 519-972-1399)

Directors:

Linda Menard-Watt (519-734-1879)

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Jeremy Bensette (jeremy_bensette@hotmail.com)

CHAIRPERSONS/LIAISONS

Ontario Nature Liaison: Steve Marks

ERCA Liaison: Gina Pannunzio

Bluebird Committee: Don Bissonnette

Ojibway Liaison: Carl Maiolani

Citizens Environment Alliance Liaison: Andy Paul

Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee: Jesse Gardner Costa

Canada South Land Trust Liaison: Dave Kraus

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Liaison: Gina Pannunzio and Steve Marks

COMMITTEES

Egret Editorial: Kory Renaud (acting)

Field Trips: Alexis Hand (chair), Ian Woodfield, Amy Weinz

Junior Naturalists: Kory Renaud, Andy Paul, Jeremy Bensette, Sarah Renaud

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)

Fish Book: Dave Kraus

Website & Social Media: Kory Renaud

Membership: Jeremy Hatt (chair), Paula O'Rourke, Carl Maiolani, Jessica Rose

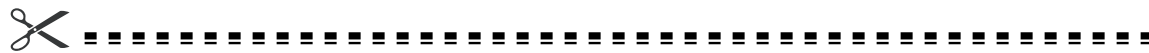
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Your annual membership fees help to support the local efforts of the club. To learn more about becoming a member, please contact our membership secretary, Carl Maiolani.

- Receive the quarterly newsletter *The Egret* via email
- Enjoy guest speakers at the monthly meetings
- Explore our natural heritage with a guide
- Help restore and protect Essex County’s natural heritage

Online Payment Option

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Please contact me to volunteer at ECFNC events!

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