

The Swallow



Volume 26, # 1
Autumn 2008

Board of Directors:

President:	Leo Boland	Grant Bickel	Barbara Beimers
Vice-President:	Rob Cunningham	Jean Brereton	Merv Fediuk
Treasurer:	Mike MacDonald	Ted Hiscock	Myron Loback
Secretary:	Manson Fleguel	Sandra MacDonald	Chris Michener
		Benita Richardson	



On Sunday, May 25th, our birdathon team, the Mighty Ducklings, starting from the Ross Road wetlands and ending in Pembroke, counted 69 species of birds. From left, André Renault, Max Jeffrey, David Beimers, Sophie Krueger and driver, Chris Michener.

Membership in the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists is available by writing to: the PAFN, Box 1242, Pembroke, ON K8A 6Y6. 2008/2009 dues are: Student \$10, Senior \$10, Individual \$15, Family \$20, Individual Life \$150, Family Life \$200.

Editor, The Swallow: Chris Michener, 1311 Burchat Rd. - RR1, Golden Lake, ON KOJ 1X0
ph: (613) 625-2263; e-mail: cmichener@renc.igs.net - Submissions welcome!

a colour copy of the Swallow is available for download (.pdf) at:

PAFN web site: <http://www.renc.igs.net/~cmichener/pafn.index.html>

● E v e n t s & T r i p s ●

“The public is welcome at all events”

Renfrew County Outdoor Woodlot Conference: ‘Managing a Mixed Forest Woodlot: From Productivity to Biodiversity’

Date: Saturday, October 4th, 2008

Place: Property of Dr. Bill Burwell, 190 Fraser Road, north of Calabogie Rd. and west of Burnstown Rd.

Topics (Tentative):

- 1) Natural succession and resilience of young hardwood forests;
- 2) Around the water; pond ecology, wildlife, habitat and best forest practices;
- 3) Red Pine plantations; second thinning and beyond;
- 4) Biodiversity makers in woodlot ... and others.

Westmeath Provincial Park beach walk

Date: Sunday, Oct. 5 at 8:30 AM.

Place: Trip starts from the municipal



LeConte's Sparrow, at Westmeath Provincial Park.
photo: Christian Renault

boat launch in the town of Westmeath. Coming from the west on County Rd. 12, turn left in Westmeath before the gas station at the blue building and continue down to the water.

This year, as of Sep 21, the water level is very high and the grassy/shrubby habitat is partially flooded, so I can't say what species will be found.

We'll drive west from Westmeath, to Sand Point Road for the walk.

Organizer Chris Michener, pH: 613-625-2263; cmichener@renc.igs.net

Lake Dore Birds

Date: Oct. 25 at 9 AM

Place: Meet at the Wilberforce Twp. beach & picnic park. From the intersection of Hwy 41/Lake Dore Rd., go south on Hwy. 41 over the Snake River Bridge and make the next right. The park is at the northeast corner of Lake Dore.

The focus of this trip will be water birds. Expect diving and puddle ducks, American Coot, at least 3 species of gulls and 3 grebe species.

Organizer: Chris Michener: 625-2263; cmichener@renc.igs.net

Combined Social Night with The Ottawa River Institute.

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2008

Place: Algonquin College, Room 321.

Feature speakers: Ray Metcalfe and his daughter Ailsa Eyvindson from Deep River canoed from the headwaters of the Ottawa River in Central Quebec to Deep River but finished their journey by skiing from Deep River to Ottawa in March. Come, hear all about this extraordinary adventure. **Free**, but donations accepted.

Eganville Christmas Bird Count

Date: Sunday, Dec. 14

Place: Eganville circle includes Augsburg, the town of Golden Lake,

Green Lake, Lake Dore, Mink Lake and more. To view the Count circle map and download forms, go to the PAFN web page. (see front cover for URL) After the Count, participants are invited to gather at 5 pm at the home of the compiler, Chris Michener, and partner Jean Brereton to go over results. They are at 1311 Burchat Rd. Please contact Chris to confirm participation.

pH. 613-625-2263;
email: cmichener@renc.igs.net.

Cost: \$5.00 for field participants

Pembroke Christmas Bird Count

Date: Saturday, Dec. 20

Place: Within a traditional 15 km. diameter circle. Feeder watchers count birds in their yards, while field participants drive, ski or walk a pre-designated area keeping track of the numbers of birds. Reports are given to the compiler, Manson Fleguel, after the Count.

Participants are invited to meet at Manson & Judy's around 5 pm to go over results and enjoy pizza courtesy of the Club.

To view the Count circle map and download forms, go to our web page.

(see front cover of The Swallow for URL)
Please contact Manson to confirm participation.

pH. 613-732-7703;

email: mfleguel@nrtco.net.

Cost: \$5.00 for field participants



Last winter was the year of the Hoary Redpoll. This was one of several that showed up at the feeder of Jean Brereton near Golden Lake.

photo: Chris Michener



Blue Jays will get along side by side at a feeder if you spread the seed over a large area. As many as 30 Blue Jays can co-exist this way. Other birds such as doves, grosbeaks and sparrows will also join the gang and make the ground a who's who of winter.

photo: Chris Michener

Trip Reports

Bellow's Bay Field Trip - April 19, 2008 by Manson Fleguel

Despite one of the coldest, snowiest winters in recent memory, spring finally arrived and the return of the birds was so anticipated! Even the river was giving up on its solid ice. The day was warm and calm, smaller streams were at peak flow while the Ottawa still awaited the heavy flows from the north.

Nineteen birders showed off their ID skills at the waterfront where it was easy to use spotting scopes. Only a few species were identified here. One of our members, Benita Richardson, assured us we could find Northern Cardinals on Doran Street so we all convoyed there. Alas, the only Cardinal we saw was one she had photographed the day before in the tree we were parked under!

On to Westmeath. No flooding of the Ottawa River shoreline meant there were few wet areas to view waterfowl from the road. This road has been redone recently and the shoulders were narrow and steep so parking along the road was limited. It was a good thing, as few ducks were observed as we drove.

Once again, Ron Laderoute graciously allowed our party to cross his farm. After the 0.6 kilometre walk across his fields (which were almost dry), we were only able to get to the mid point of the brushy edge of the Bay so viewing was through branches. The Bay was still partly frozen but quite a few diving and dabbling ducks were present. A major highlight of the trip was the finding of a pair of Gadwall by Chris Michener. Gadwall ducks appear in our area very sporadically. Another nice find was the good number of American



The Bellow's Bay walk in April is a good opportunity to see many species of ducks as they stage, before moving on to their nesting grounds. photo: Chris Michener

Wigeon. Most of the group got to see this colourful species through telescopes, one of the exciting aspects of a bird walk. After an hour, no more new species were forthcoming, so it was time to leave. The group dispersed at the farmhouse after another pleasant outing.

This year the group found 45 species! Here is a listing of the birds identified:

Common Loon	Pied-billed Grebe	Double-crested Cormorant
Turkey Vulture	Canada Goose	Wood Duck
Gadwall	American Wigeon	American Black Duck
Mallard	Green-winged Teal	Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup	Bufflehead	Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser	Common Merganser	American Kestrel
Killdeer	Ring-billed Gull	Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove	Belted Kingfisher	Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe	American Crow	Common Raven
Tree Swallow	Black-capped Chickadee	American Robin
White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown Creeper	European Starling
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Tree Sparrow	Song Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow	Common Grackle
Red-winged Blackbird	Brown-headed Cowbird	House Sparrow

Thanks to everyone who came along and made my day!



“Smells pretty good... but is that a surveillance camera?” photo: Lauren Trute

Shaw Woods: Wildflower and Nature Walk - May 10, 2008
By Grant Bickel and Bernd Krueger

Twenty naturalists enjoyed a warm and sunny spring day looking for wildflowers, birds, salamanders and taking photographs in the Shaw Woods. The trees were beginning to bud and the ephemeral wildflowers were blooming in abundance. White Trillium, Red Trillium, Blue Cohosh, Yellow Trout Lilies, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Strawberries and Bellflower were frequently encountered along the trail.

One highlight was finding a color variant of the Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*) having cream coloured petals with a red-maroon overlay. Red-berried Elder (*Sambucus racemosa*) and Fly Honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*) were the blooming shrubs. Rounding out the list of blooming plants this year were the violets: Dog Violet (*Viola conspersa*) and Northern White Violet (*Viola mackloskeyi*).

The younger participants also enjoyed finding Red-backed Salamanders under rocks and logs. The warm and sunny weather brought out several dragonfly and butterfly species. The photographers found the Mourning Cloak, Mustard White and Spring Azure butterflies very cooperative basking in the sun or nectaring on violets and dandelions. Special thanks to the technical expertise of Chris Michener who provided his digital recording of the bird sounds of Shaw Woods to all participants. Thanks also to the participants who made this outing very rewarding.



Trout Lily. photo: Chris Michener



One has to get down to their level to appreciate the bold beauty of violets. photo: Chris Michener

Pembroke Marina Walk - August 16, 2008 **by Ken Hooles**

Unlike last year, the weather for this year's Pembroke Marina Excursion held on Saturday, August 16, was ideal. This year, the weather was warm and there were no ominous whitecaps on the Ottawa River. Unfortunately, the water level on the Ottawa River was probably the highest I have seen it for years at this time of year. This resulted in the sandbars at the mouth of the Muskrat River being completely covered, leaving no place for shorebirds to land.

Fourteen persons participated in the event and were successful in locating a respectable 44 bird species. This was only fourteen shy of the record of 58 bird species established in 1998.

This year, the waterfowl species were almost non-existent with only three species located on the excursion. This is highly unusual and I can only contribute these low numbers to the water level of the Ottawa River. These included Black Duck, Canada Geese, and several Cormorants sitting on the rocks. This year there were no signs of any teal, Common Mergansers, goldeneye, loons or Mallards. Also notably absent on this year's walk were members of the hawk, sparrow and shorebird families.

It was only an average outing for warblers. The group was able to locate six warbler species including Common Yellowthroat, Nashville, Yellow, Black-and-white, American Redstart and Chestnut-sided Warbler. The fall migrant warblers such as Wilson's, Tennessee, and Blackpoll appear to have been delayed.

Other highlights of the walk included the sighting of Osprey, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Belted Kingfisher, Spotted Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, a female Scarlet Tanager, Gray Catbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Least Flycatcher, Herring Gull, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Northern Cardinal and several other common birds.

The Pembroke Marina Walk began in 1988. Between 1988 and 2008, a total of 120 bird species have been identified on this excursion over the years. This year, we did not add any new species to the list.

It may not have been a record-breaking excursion, but it certainly was an enjoyable and successful outing! Thanks to all of you who turned out for the walk.



Westmeath Provincial Park Walk - Sep 8, 2007 **by Leo Boland**

Mosquitoes were the topic of the day. Even though it was a gorgeous day with dry warm weather and clouds evaporating as the morning moved on. Even though twenty-one brave souls showed up to go on our walk into the wilds of Westmeath. Even though a few minutes into our walk a few bold birders nearly came face to face with a big black bear while others silently stalked two large slithering snakes. Even though we saw a respectable 37 different birds (two being lifers for me). Even though we had 10 new participants who were new to wilderness walks and the concept of brisk birding. Even though we had birders with fancy digital cameras who took superb shots of a bravura Bald Eagle soaring overhead in the azure sky. Even though we heard the call of one solitary Sandhill Crane and then were surprised by 9 swooping Sandhill Cranes in goose-



like formation flying overhead. Even though we made it to the Ottawa River and soaked our hot achy feet in the cool of the river. Even though we experienced all this; the talk of the trip was the mosquitoes.

They were big, black and ugly and they were out for blood. Only ten to fifteen minutes into our trip, 4 of our gang decided that they had had enough of swatting, swallowing and squishing mosquitoes and they decided to leave. About fifteen minutes after that another

two succumbed to blood loss and they, too, had to leave. While at the beach (the midway point of this Amazonian-type walk) about half of the remaining explorers decided that they had enough and were going to run back to the starting point in hopes of avoiding as many bugs as possible – we didn't see them on the way out so either they got out alive or were carried off by some of the bigger mosquitoes. And then we were five. Five remaining voyagers



who were going to take the road less traveled and visit the pond to see what waterfowl were wading there. Five characters who were full, not from lunch, but from being unable to avoid ingesting the thick mist of mosquitoes. Five characters who should have known better, than on this bug infested day, to try and see waterfowl by a soggy swampy mosquito contaminated marsh. In the end, four of us made it to the park gate (one insane soul decided to stay a little longer to look at butterflies). The four of us were hot, sweaty, pale and dehydrated due to blood loss, red and black (red from the welts of the bites and black from all of the bug body parts smushed on our skin) and tired (it takes a lot of effort to swat and kill millions of mosquitoes).

We were going home to a well-deserved calamine lotion and oatmeal bath with a slight smile on our faces knowing that we survived the wildly wonderful Westmeath Provincial Park walk of 2008.



This dragonfly, photographed from the park beach during this outing, is only the second location for this species in Renfrew County. The 1st sighting of this darner was by Mike Runtz and his son, Harrison, in the Little Lakes, Beachburg, July 1999.

photo: Harry Adams and Janet Nelson

The birds seen were: Blue Jay, Common Grackle, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Eastern Wood-pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, American Goldfinch, American Robin, American Crow, Belted Kingfisher, Sandhill Crane (9), Black-and-white, Wilson's, Black-throated green, Pine, Blackburian, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Warblers, American Redstart, Solitary Sandpiper, Common Raven, Great Blue Heron, American Kestrel, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Canada Goose, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Loon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Harrier.

Other interesting wildlife that was seen: Black Bear, American Toad, Leopard Frog, Monarch, Bronze Copper, Garter Snake, numerous dragonflies and damselflies.



My Summer Vacation by Leo Boland

(or What the teacher got you to write on the first day of school to take up time while she were busy getting lessons ready for the first few days of the school year)

You know it's going to be an extraordinary trip when you are alone with your thoughts, on a luminous sun-drenched day, floating on the ocean blue, making your way to Grand Manan Island only to have a Harbour Porpoise accompany you. The constant rise and fall, the dorsal fin submerging and re-emerging as the gentle waves dissipate over the moving porpoise as it keeps pace with you in the boat you're on. The rhythm of the boat as it gently matches the rise and fall of the porpoise which slices gently through the water is a magical thing to witness and feel. A superb start to what turned out to be a tranquil, yet adventure-filled vacation to Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy, by the rugged coast of New Brunswick.

My family and I spent seven days exploring Grand Manan and her sister islands. We experienced early morning fog (reminding me of my Newfie roots), afternoon sunshine, 52-foot sailboat trips [I didn't get seasick even once (some Newfie, eh?) even though we had three foot seas], whale-watching, bird-watching, seal-watching, porpoise-watching, sunset-watching, sunrise-watching (but only once – do you know how early the sun comes up?), landscape-watching, ocean-watching and people-watching. We did more than watching, we did a lot of walking and exploring the trails, lighthouses and bakeries of Grand Manan. We went ocean kayaking where we were introduced to a young gray seal pup, which swam alongside my daughter's kayak for a few breathtaking minutes and the three harbour porpoises that were just a stones throw away from our kayaks in a fishing weir gorging themselves on herring. I took my kids swimming in the ocean – a lifer for them. You should have seen the scared-shocked-surprised-distasteful look on my daughter's contorted face as she had her first taste of salty ocean water. Really, really disgusting salty water according to my daughter. She did not like it Sam-I-Am, she did not like it here or there, she did not like it anywhere. Nor did she like dulse and for that matter neither did the rest of us.

What is dulse? It is an island delicacy that is harvested right there on the island at Dark Harbour. It is seaweed that is dried in the sun. At a local farmer's market one person had dulse for sale. I decided to try it. I asked the vendor what dulse was like. He said it is very tasty. Very popular in the bars and goes very well with beer. That alone should have stopped me from proceeding because I don't like beer (some Newfie, eh). He

said that it tastes almost like potato chips. (I don't think his definition of 'almost' comes anywhere near my definition of the word 'almost'). So the brave adventurer that I was asked the vendor (the devil in disguise if you ask me now) if I could try a piece before I bought a bag. He said sure and gave me a piece.

I took it. I held it in my hands. I looked at it. I stared at it. I turned it. I examined it. I think subconsciously I was stalling.

"NO I CAN'T EAT IT". THROW IT BACK AT HIM AND RUN. I said in my mind, my intuition talking to me. But did I listen. NOOOO.

I moved the piece of dulse towards my mouth. You know how some traumatic things in life when you look back on them, it is as if the whole incident runs through your mind in very slow motion. Yes, this is one of them. I had to have the assistance of my other hand to help the right hand move the dulse to my mouth.

My mouth opens, the dulse moves closer to my mouth and finally it's in my mouth. It's not too late to turn back for it's only in my mouth – not touching anything. Just suspended in my very open mouth not touching any interior part of my mouth. I then close my mouth and take a bite - or try to.

IT'S BURNING. MY MOUTH IS ON FIRE. THERE IS SO MUCH SALT IT'S BURNING A HOLE THROUGH MY TONGUE AND CHEEKS. I THINK IT'S COMING OUT THROUGH MY NOSE. THERE ARE FLAMES EVERYWHERE, EVEN GOING INTO MY GUT. OH MY GOD, I THINK – WHAT HAVE I DONE. WHAT HAVE I EATEN. I KNOW IT'S MY BIKE'S INNER TUBE, WETTED AND DIPPED THREE TO FOUR TIMES IN SALT.

I stick my tongue out and try desperately to scrape my tongue with my hands and



A Merlin hunts along the Bay of Fundy with the Point Lepreau Generating Station in the background.
photo: Chris Michener

fingers. I mumble to anyone that would listen.

"Guft tif huf" I say, "GUFT TIF HUF" I SHOUT. I'm trying to say 'Get it off' but with my hands in my mouth and my tongue and cheek swelling at an exponential rate nobody could understand me. My eyes were as big as saucers. I had the eyesight of a bald eagle able to see a mite on a hare some two miles away. My eyes were watering. My kids should not have to see a grown man cry – especially their dad. My gut is churning and boiling and feels like hot poker dancing around in my stomach.

I want the pain and nausea to go away. I reunite with God, offering to do his holy work if only he would help me. Why would he desert me in my time of need. Where are the floods that were produced in the bible? I need a drink! I now know why the vendor (the devil in sheep's clothing) said this stuff would go well with beer. Oh I wish I was a better Newfie and have carried a beer in my back pocket. My kingdom for some water.

A little child tugs at my pant leg (after seeing the distress on my face) and says "Hey mister, want a beer". I look down and see this little child, an angel to me (Thank you God I say) and with nice proud tears in my eyes this time (not painful ones) I proceed to take the root beer he had offered (In my disillusioned state I could of sworn he said beer). He

pulled the root beer away as I moved toward it and said that it would be \$4 dollars. What the!!!! I'm in the middle of a scam here. So much for the little angel. I quickly looked for the money and give it to him. I grabbed the root beer and chugged it down. Now that felt better.

The vendor asked me how it was.

"Not bad" I say "But a little chewy and salty. And you're right it does go well with beer. My kind of beer." I left the vendor with my piece of half eaten dulse.

"Hey Logan and Mckenna", I say "Want to try some dulse?"

But I digress the main reason for the article is to tell you about the birds that I saw on my various excursion.

Some of the highlights were....

However my three favorite which were also lifers, were Peregrine Falcon, Razorbill and Black Guillemot.



Species in Focus – American Ginseng

Another species at risk? Time to Panax...I mean panic! Wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is now listed as an endangered species in Ontario, and we have some right here in Renfrew County. Wow, we live in an interesting place!

American ginseng is part of the Araliaceae family, which also includes spikenard and sarsaparilla (aka sasparilla). It is a perennial herb that is very slow to grow and is very long-lived. Kind of sounds like those Blanding's turtles we talked about a few issues ago, doesn't it?

This plant prefers to grow in mature hardwood forests on rich, moist sites. It ranges from central eastern Ontario and south western Quebec in Canada to the south eastern United States (excluding Florida). While it is very widespread in its distribution, it occurs in very low numbers at each site and many of these sites have completely disappeared.

American ginseng can be identified by its leaves (or prongs) which grow out in a circle from a single point on the stem. Each leaf generally consists of three to five leaflets. It is easily confused with



photo courtesy of the MNR, Pembroke District

a number of other herbs. Small yellowish flowers are produced in the spring, and emerge from the central stem; red berries are produced in the fall. Ginseng has a large root, similar to a ginger root, which produces wrinkles or growth rings each year. The plant reproduces by root, as well as by seed, which are distributed by mice, squirrels and other rodents. American ginseng takes at least four years to mature and produce fruit.

Now, how did this plant end up as an endangered species? Similar to the turtles it has been affected by habitat loss, fragmentation and alteration, but primarily from over-harvest. The root of wild American ginseng is highly prized for medicinal purposes and unregulated and indiscriminate digging has obliterated populations throughout its range. Only the large, mature plants are dug up, leaving small immature plants that are not yet able to produce seed.

The active ingredients in ginseng (American and Asian) are called ginsenosides, found primarily in the root. Ginsenosides are thought to have various beneficial effects including boosting the immune system, antioxidant properties, the ability to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease and possibly lowering the blood sugar of diabetics.

When ginseng is harvested, the root is dried and eventually made into a powder for inclusion in tablets and tinctures. The larger the root is, the higher the commercial value.

American ginseng is grown commercially across its range. In Ontario, these operations are overseen by the Ontario Ginseng Growers Association. These growers use artificial shade to mimic a natural environment, but unfortunately, "wild" ginseng garners a higher commercial value.

So, what does ginseng's new endangered status mean? In a nutshell, it means that it is now illegal to pick/harvest, possess, buy or sell wild American ginseng in any of its forms (root, seed, whole plant, etc.) in Ontario. However, commercially grown ginseng can be harvested, bought and sold, providing a number of provisions are met. Land alterations of any sort should also take ginseng into consideration so that the alterations do not negatively impact the plants.

How can we help ginseng? The best and most obvious way is by not picking it and leaving the plants undisturbed. Hmm, kind of like those turtles again....at least ginseng doesn't try to cross the road!



Five teams are pictured here, lined up after the potluck picnic at Lake Dore, to tally the weekend totals of the Triwing Challenge. Between June 20th and 22nd, 122 species of birds, 35 species of butterflies and 28 species of dragonflies were seen. From left are: Christian and André Renault (the Dragonhunters), Leo Boland (the Birding Barbies), Ethan Anderman (the Lone Boghaunter), Jean Brereton (Egretta garzetta) and Chris Michener (the Solitary Buttchecker).

Book Reviews

Bear Attacks in Canada, By Erin McCloskey. 224 pages. Lone Pine Publishing, lonepinepublishing.com. List price: \$18.95

Reviewed by Jeremy Inglis

A good entry level book on bear attacks from all three species of North American bears including detailed accounts of attacks as current as Fall 2007. The three attack types; defensive, offensive and predatory are thoroughly covered as are a persons response behaviour to those attacks. The author also covers bear biology and ecology giving the reader an understanding of Black Bear, Grizzly Bear and Polar Bear behaviour and what motivates them to sometimes come into conflict with humans. A good section of the book is dedicated to bear prevention and deterrent techniques in a very detailed and comprehensive manner. From bear spray to whether or not to count on the family dog for bear protection is covered. An all-round good book for anyone who camps, hikes or otherwise enjoys the outdoors in bear country.

[editor: includes section on terminology, bear food plant index, bear populations estimates and references.]

Ontario Nature Guide by Krista Kagume. 224 pages. Lone Pine Publishing, lonepinepublishing.com. List price: \$19.95

Reviewed by Lauren Trute

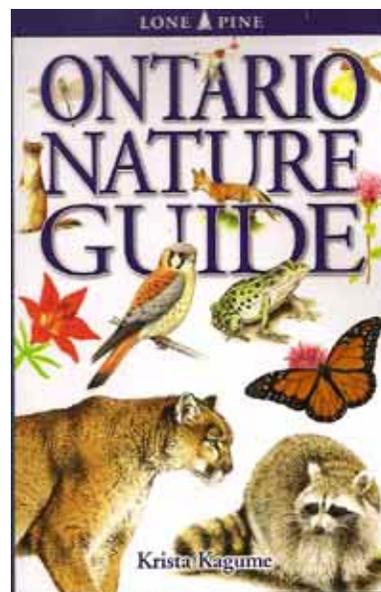
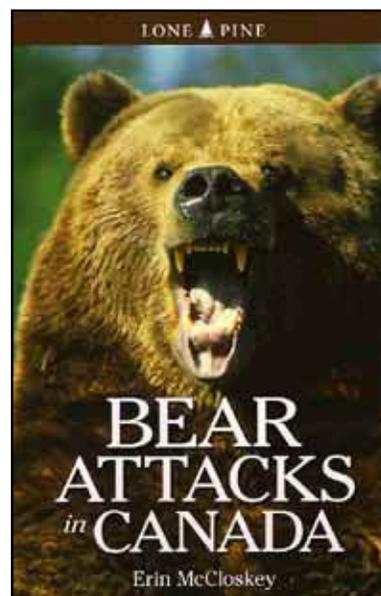
Ontario Nature Guide by Krista Kagume is a great introduction to all things furred, feathered, scaled, or rooted in Ontario. This book provides an overview and introduction to mammals, birds reptiles, amphibians, fish, trees and plants, all neatly organized and colour-coded.

The illustrations are ery well done, especially in the plant section. Also included in a Glossary are line diagrams, labeling the features of plants, flowers, birds, insects and fish that are used when trying to identify species. An excellent tool to refer to when the more complicated guides are asking you about “stepals” and “stigmas”...what???

The book describes a wide variety of species – from polar bears to badgers - and would be useful across the Province. The “Where Found” section is a little misleading when it speaks to species occurring in specific areas, but the habitat descriptions as a whole are good. I tried hard to over look the repeated misspelling of “Pembroke”!

I would definitely give this book to someone visiting or new to Ontario or just looking to learn a bit about the nature around them. Another good addition to the Lone Pine series.

[editor: includes 242 species of animals, 140 species of plants; a full colour Quick Identification Guide; colour illustrations were hand-painted; index and references]



SPECIES OF ONTARIO CRAYFISH



Orconectes virilis Virile Crayfish
max carapace length 55mm

Most widespread native stream & lake species; reddish or brownish, like clams



Orconectes immunitis Calico Crayfish
max carapace length 48mm

Native pond, slow stream & burrowing species; mottled with irregular light mid-lana band



Orconectes propinquus Northern Clearwater Crayfish
max carapace length 30mm

Small, native, stream & lake species; active in daylight



Orconectes obscurus Allegheny Crayfish
max carapace length 40mm

Small non-native stream & lake species; rarely to lake



Orconectes rusticus Rusty Crayfish
max carapace length 51mm

Large non-native stream & lake species; mostly active in daylight



Orconectes limosus Spinycheek Crayfish
max carapace length 90mm

Large potential stream species; spreading westward from Quebec; strongly mottled & speckled



Cambarus diogenes Devil Crayfish
max carapace length 55mm

Large native burrower; brown



Fallicambarus fodiens Digger Crayfish
max carapace length 38mm

Small native burrower; mottled



Cambarus bartonii "Common" Crayfish
max carapace length 38mm

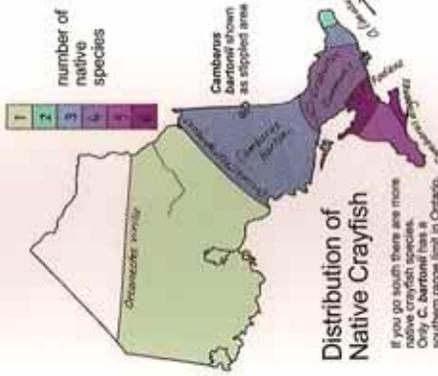
Small native stream & lake species; very common in reddish



Cambarus robustus Big Water Crayfish
max carapace length 57mm

Big native stream-species with large claws; brownish or reddish

ONTARIO CRAYFISH



Distribution of Native Crayfish
If you go south there are more native crayfish species. Only *C. bartonii* has a southern range limit in Ontario.

Because crayfish distributions are changing so rapidly, you may be the first to identify and report a particular species in a place where it has not been known to science.

FIND OUT

- What to record
- Tips for observation
- Safety and ethics
- What and when to collect
- Who to contact

CONTRIBUTE TO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CRAYFISH
WWW.CRAYFISHONTARIO.CA

Design and watercolours © ALETA KARSTAD 2008
Dorsal views of crayfish © Premik Vlam, details of parts from "Crayfishes of Ontario", Crooker & Barr

This is part of a laminated, fold-out card that Sandra brought to our last Director's meeting. The 11 by 17 colour card can be purchased through the above website. The program is sponsored by Ontario Nature, the Toronto Zoo and Bishop's Mills Natural History Centre.

JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
Count for Fun, Count for the Future
February 13-16, 2009
by Pat Leonard and Delta Willis
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

New York, NY and Ithaca, NY--Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13-16, 2009. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future".

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards – whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these 'citizen scientists' collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

"The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide bird-monitoring projects," said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John Fitzpatrick. "With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over the past decade".

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube; some will also be featured on the GBBC web site.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, ext 16.

Visit www.birdcount.org to learn more.

Special Announcement

Twenty-five Years and Counting.

By Chris Michener and Benita Richardson

"Our Club is at the perfect moment in time to remember and document how we got started and the journey we've taken. We would like to develop a scrapbooking project with the help of current and past members. Benita will be coordinating this Club project and has expertise in the art of scrapbooking.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Club. The first meeting was on August 10, 1983 and the name chosen was The Pembroke and Area Bird Club. Up to that point, there was an informal Pembroke and Area Birding Group, led by Jacques Bouvier and a few active birders in the area. Many latent bird-lovers came out of the shadows when the 1st Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas was started in 1981. Jacques was the local coordinator. When it became apparent that there was enough support to start a Club, a meeting was held, Officers were elected, committees were formed and the Club had 23 members after that first meeting.

The first Directors were: President, Jacques Bouvier; Vice-President, Myron Loback; Secretary, Manson Fleguel; Treasurer, Marie Fick.

The committees were: Education and Public Awareness (Manson Fkeguel), Bird Study and Management (Jacques Bouvier), Social Activities (Teresa Frechette), Fundraising (Marie Fick), Special Projects (Jacques Bouvier). The first issue of the newsletter was Winter 1983 and the editor was Chris Michener. A swallow silhouette was used from day one and the newsletter eventually became named, 'The Swallow' in Summer 1985.

We would like to offer the scrapbook as an annual retrospective. This is probably the best way to organize all the material we hope to receive. If you have photographic prints, slides, newspaper clippings, memories, we would like to hear from you. Copies of your materials will be made and your materials will be returned upon request. For photos in a digital format, please email Benita to discuss the best way to deliver the material. (Benita Richardson <childrensgarden@nrtco.net>).

We're looking for clippings, photos, memories, etc. that tell the history of our first 25 years.

Our Club address is on the front cover. Please help with this project. Material from any of the past 25 years will be appreciated.



On October 10th, 2001, Manson and Chris boated on Lake Dore in search of jaegers. The bird you see over Manson's shoulder is 1 of 2 Parasitic Jaegers that occurred on Lake Dore that day. The first of two was found by Bruce Di Labio and the follow-up search found another. Manson calls these trips 'popcorn pelagics' as the bait for attracting gulls is popcorn. A

Lesser Black-backed Gull was encountered this way on August 27th, 1989.

photo: Chris Michener