
TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Barbara A. Adams
Nick A.T. Arnott & Family
Philip Cheffins & Family
Teresa O'Donovan
Mike Ewing & Family
Ms. Diane S. Karson
R. Kerwin/C. Brockelbank-Kerwin
Karen Krueger
John M. McKay & Family
Meaghan T. Murphy
Nancy Stevens
Catherine A. Stewart
Francesca I Taylor & Family

Gatineau Area

Lisa Béchamp & Family

Henry Steger
Chair, Membership Committee
August 2011

The Yearly Rhythm of the Club

Fall 2011

Canadians are strongly attuned to the rhythm of the seasons and naturalists probably pay attention even more than most. However, the yearly rhythm of the working of the Club is less well understood. Knowing ‘what happens when’ helps you to participate in the Club and reduces last minute surprises.

Like the rest of society, September is a busy time for the Club with the fiscal (financial) year ending September 30. If you have spent money on the Club’s behalf then get your receipt submitted early in September. As one year is closed, Council develops the budget for the next year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) including committee budgets. If you have an idea that requires funds then this is the time to speak up.

Members of Council and committees are appointed for a year starting in January. At the January Annual Business Meeting the financial statements are presented. At the same time the nominations for Council members and Committee Chairs are proposed and voted upon. New faces on Council are most welcome. If you think you would like to give it a try then contact myself or any of the council members in October or November. There is just one meeting a month (third Monday evening) except in July and August.

Come February we are ready to establish committee membership. Committees are eager to get new members so please indicate your interest in the fall to be approved for the new calendar year—although you can join any time.

The fall is also the time for renewal of your membership and CFN subscription (both run on a calendar year). We now have an agreement with the Museum of Nature that Club members will get a 13th month on their annual Museum membership. In turn, Museum members get a \$4 (about 10%) discount on their OFNC membership. Double dipping (getting both the discounts) is encouraged.

I could not leave any discussion of the Club’s calendar without mentioning the Soirée in April. Look at the website for the award criteria and consider nominating someone this spring. Then come to the event and enjoy the party.

This is a very simplified overview of the Club’s yearly rhythm but it should allow you to anticipate developments. Now, which committee was it that you wished to look into? Who was it you wanted to nominate for an award?

Ann MacKenzie

The W. E. Saunders Natural History Award

Frank Pope



Diane Lepage, the official OFNC Representative for Ontario Nature presents Christine Hanrahan with the W. E. Saunders Natural History Award

On June 11, at the Annual General Meeting of Ontario Nature, Christine Hanrahan was awarded the W. E. Saunders Natural History Award. This award is presented annually to an individual or group who have accomplished a significant goal related to some aspect of natural history or natural science research; e.g., key natural resources such as atlases, inventories or studies, raising public awareness of natural history or demonstrating local leadership. Christine qualifies on all accounts.

Christine coordinated volunteers in most of Eastern Ontario for both Ontario Breeding Bird Atlases. She was instrumental in the creation of inventories of the flora and fauna of the Larose Forest, exhibiting the natural value of this large forest

reserve. Her regular blog of the flora and fauna of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, supported by an excellent photo gallery, introduces the public to life in the garden over the seasons. Christine has also been a leader in both the Birds Committee and the Conservation Committee.

Photo credit: Diane Lepage

After the Ball

Jack Holliday

Saturday morning, July 9, 2011, dawned clear and warm. As is the habit of many of us, I pulled the drapes to one side to look out upon the garden to “see what was what.” On the outside of the window glass was a tiny mayfly, the size of a mosquito. Transparent body, it had a black section near its posterior. There is another, and yet more. I counted 50.

Mayflies, when they emerge from the water where they have lived as nymphs, are not yet completely adult. They require a further molt. They fly to a selected place, often a vertical surface, attach themselves firmly (a method unknown to me) and over a period of several hours, complete a “change of clothes.” If one has patience, one can watch the process.

After breakfast, I circled the house to see where they were attached. As I circled, I saw hundreds on the north and west walls; none on the south and a few on the east wall where it was shaded by a tree. It appears that they “knew” that the rising sun would heat the east and south walls to perhaps fatal temperatures before they could complete the “change.”

By noon, all had crawled away from their old “clothes” still attached to the surface. Next, for them, was the “mating dance.” I did not know if it was to be an afternoon, evening, or night-time engagement.

At 3 p.m. it began. No music required. At least none that I heard. So tiny and transparent, one had to look toward the afternoon sun to see them. Up and down they flew, seemingly everywhere, from four feet above the ground upward, beyond my sight.

It was not the frenzied, close encounters of the caddisflies. No, a leisurely waltz, glinting in the sunlight. Unless one actually looked for them, unseen.

By 5 p.m. the “Ball” was over. I looked at nearby shrubs and objects, but saw not one. Remember, they are mosquito size. Undoubtedly, they had mated.

Next the males would quietly expire, the females would battle the winds back to the river to deposit their eggs, to secure the next generation.

Today, July 10, a circuit of the house, outdoors, revealed only one mayfly, a different species. The multitudes of yesterday were gone.

One wonders what the signal was for the complete emergence from the nearby Ottawa River (three blocks from my home) of the whole population of this particular species? Phase of the moon, the first quarter was July 8? The temperature of the water? A chemical signal emitted by one or more nymphs? Whatever the invitation, all accepted. And now the dance is over.

A tune runs through my mind. My mother, Alice, sang it frequently as she went about her endless chores. I can hear her now, on her knees, scrub pail beside her, wiping the linoleum of the kitchen floor with a cloth.

After the ball is over,
After the break of morn—
After the dancers’ leaving;
After the stars are gone;
Many a heart is aching,
If you could read them all;
Many the hopes that have vanished
After the ball.

Membership Savings for members of the OFNC and the Museum of Nature

Ann MacKenzie

We are delighted to advise OFNC members that effective September 1, 2011 their membership in the Club earns them an additional month on their Museum of Nature membership. It gets even better. A Museum of Nature membership gives you a \$4.00 discount (about 10%) on your OFNC membership starting in 2012. This is double dipping working for you. Not only does it reflect the long standing close ties between the Club and the Museum, it also recognizes that the club and the museum appeal to the same group of people in the Ottawa area.

The OFNC membership forms and renewal forms will now reflect this discount. Below you will find the formal invitation from the Museum of Nature. I hope many members of the OFNC will take advantage of this offer. There is so much to learn and enjoy in the newly renovated museum—don't let the kids have all the fun!

Invitation from the Museum of Nature to all OFNC Members

“We are happy to invite all Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club members to become members of the Canadian Museum of Nature. When you activate a membership you will get one additional month to enjoy all of the benefits. Visit the Museum of Nature to activate your membership now! Please use the promo code “OFNC-2011” in reference to this promotion at the point of purchase, or bring this with you. You can also join online. Enter the same promo code in the field that says “Special Shipping Instructions or Comments.” Please call 613-566-4271 if you have any difficulties or to activate your membership immediately.

C'est avec plaisir que nous invitons tous les membres du Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club à devenir membres du Musée canadien de la nature. L'activation d'une adhésion vous donne droit à un mois additionnel gratuits, et vous permettra de bénéficier davantage de tous les bénéfices. Visitez le Musée canadien de la nature maintenant pour activer votre adhésion! Veuillez utiliser le code de promotion « OFNC-2011 » relativement à cette promotion sur le lieu de vente, ou imprimez ce courriel et apportez-le. Vous pouvez également nous joindre en ligne. Inscrivez le même numéro de code de promotion dans le champ qui indique: « Instructions spéciales de livraison ou Commentaires ». Si vous éprouvez des difficultés, ou pour activer votre adhésion immédiatement, veuillez composer le 613-566-4271.

Marissa Croteau, Museum of Nature

Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*): First known record for the Ottawa 50 km area

Christine Hanrahan



The Blue Dasher is a small dragonfly that, until the summer of 2010, had not knowingly been recorded within the OFNC's 50 km study area. On August 17, 2010, I visited the Baxter Conservation Area located on the Rideau River, to look for butterflies. While in the "Nut Grove" close to the river, a small blue dragonfly landed directly in front of me. At first glance I thought it was a male Common Pondhawk (*Erythemis simplicicollis*), but immediately realized not only that it was smaller, but that it had a white face, not green as with the latter species. As I was running the ID possibilities through my mind, the dragonfly flew up and caught an insect, eventually landing in front of me again with the prey all but consumed (save for a pair of long antennae sticking out of its mouth). I managed about six photos before he flew off. Although I stayed in that general area for approximately 30 minutes, and then explored along the shores of the river, I was unable to relocate it.

Back home, I searched my field guides and determined that it was likely to be a male

Blue Dasher, a species I hadn't seen before. The "Checklist of Dragonflies and Damselflies of Ottawa-Hull" (Bracken and Lewis 2008) showed that the species had not been recorded for the Ottawa region. However, not trusting my own identification of a new-to-the-region species, I sent the photos to Chris Lewis and Bob Bracken who very kindly confirmed the ID.



According to Chris Lewis, in recent years the Blue Dasher has been found just outside the area, near Burritts Rapids (*pers comm*). I have no doubt that this species was within our area prior to my observation in 2010 but, with so many areas, many difficult to access or not routinely explored by naturalists, it is not surprising that it evaded notice.

It seems that the Blue Dasher is relatively common throughout its range, which is mostly south of the Canadian Shield. The Ontario Odonata Atlas (NHIC) shows the majority of records for this species south of the Ottawa area, with the majority clustered along the Lakes in southern Ontario. Jones et al (2008) comment that while it has not been recorded in Algonquin Park (at least as of 2008), there have been "several records recently from north of the usual range." They surmise that possibly as a result of climate change, the species may be "expanding its range northward" (Jones et al 2008). Interestingly, 2011 saw a veritable explosion of this species within the Ottawa district, with sightings at Petrie Island and Mud Lake at Britannia, both along the Ottawa River. Blue Dashers were also found and photographed in a backyard of a residential neighbourhood not far, as the odonate flies, from the Ottawa River in the vicinity of Green's Creek (*pers comm*). I'm betting there were more locations, but no observers to record the species.

In discussing the spread of Blue Dashers with Chris Lewis, she noted that in her experience “*odonates are always pushing the limits of where they can reproduce and survive. Sometimes they succeed and persevere, sometimes they don't.*” She also commented that “*Bob and I and others have observed literally 100s of a certain species in one location in one year, then one individual the next year . . . then NONE AT ALL at the same location for years afterwards!*” So who is to say whether the many Blue Dashers being seen this year, will be seen again in subsequent years. For sure, many of the odonate watchers will be keeping an eye out in 2012.

Acknowledgements:

I'd like to thank Chris Lewis for answering queries about the Blue Dasher and providing information, and Chris Lewis and Bob Bracken for confirming ID of the species.

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Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

It is time to think back and consider those OFNC members (and, in two cases, even non-members) who, by virtue of their special efforts and talents, are deserving of special recognition.

The Club has seven awards: Honorary Membership, Member of the Year Award, George McGee Service Award, Conservation Award for OFNC Members, Conservation Award for Non-Members, the Anne Hanes Natural History Award, and the Mary Stuart Education Award. A description of each award and past recipients may be found at the OFNC website (www.ofnc.ca/awards.php).

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, you can complete the nomination form, also found on the website, and return the form to the Chair of the Awards Committee at ofnc@ofnc.ca. Nominate as many individuals as you like, but be sure to give your reasons. **The deadline for the submission of nominations is December 31, 2011.**

The Road Ecology Circuit in Leeds & Grenville

Frederick W. Schueler¹ and Kari E. Gunson²

The road system is the largest human artifact, and it has profound ecological effects through direct mortality, fragmentation of habitats, increased human access to populations, and changed drainage patterns.

To help understand the effects of roads, to allow evaluation of the harm that planned roads will do, and to facilitate the planning for mitigation, Eco-Kare International, working with the Ontario Road Ecology Group, has calculated a GIS (Geographic Information System) projection of how many forest and wetland-dwelling animals are likely to be found on every 15 metres of road in southern Ontario, based on the distribution of these habitats within 200 metres of the road segment.

Since forests and wetlands are the habitat of the majority of Species at Risk (SAR, the source of our initial funding), and of many other animals in southern Ontario, Eco-Kare used the available regional geospatial layers (the Southern Ontario Land Resource Information System (SOLRIS), and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) road network) to score the proximity of these habitats to every 15 metres of road in southern Ontario. Within the SOLRIS layer, wetland (swamps, fens, bogs, marshes, and open water) received the highest score (100), forest habitat (forest, mixed forest, deciduous forest, and plantations) received a score of 50, and all other features (agriculture and built-up) received a score of zero. The score of the pixels within a 200 m radius of every 15 m road pixel was summed to create a habitat suitability index (HSI) ranging from zero to 55,000.

To evaluate this model, we selected a rectangular 232 km circuit along county roads (and short stretches of connecting township roads) around the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville between the Rideau and St Lawrence rivers, straddling the

¹ Bishops Mills Natural History Centre/Ontario Road Ecology Group, 30 Main St., Bishops Mills, RR#2, Oxford Station, Ontario K0G 1T0, email: bkcdb@istar.ca.

² Eco-Kare International, 644 Bethune Street, Peterborough, Ontario, K9H 4A3, Canada, email: kegunson@eco-kare.com, cell: 647-519-4080.

Frontenac Axis/limestone plain boundary (Fig. 1). In the circuit there were 18 hotspots (HSI score > 30,000) and 23 coldspot stations (HSI score < 10,000).

We've now run this circuit for three years, targeting the end of the turtle nesting season, when we'd expect to see the greatest number of spring-killed carcasses along the roads. Each circuit is barely accomplishable by two early-rising observers in one day, since it takes a minimum of nine hours when it's not interrupted by thunderstorms, or prolonged by the difficulty of prying tiny frog carcasses out of rough pavement. Usually there are a few stations that must be finished-up on the following day. It then takes two person-days of data entry and specimen processing to deal with a circuit from written notes. It would probably be faster to do data entry on the road, but this would require a slower pace, and a circuit that would take up almost all of the midsummer daylight hours.

As we drive the circuit, we waypoint all dead on road (DOR) vertebrates, and nonvolant alive on road (AOR) vertebrates, stopping for all that may be SAR or related species (snakes or turtles). At each station, the investigators follow their Global Positioning System (GPS) units to the computer-generated centre of the transect, park on the roadside, and then walk 100 metres along the road in both directions, until the GPS unit reads 100 m distant from the station, returning on the other side of the road. We pick up all centimetre-scale roadkills seen on the pavement or gravel shoulders, and record nonvolant species seen alive on the pavement and shoulders. We also record turtle nest excavations and predation, and various incidental road-related phenomena (including Anuran calling, and invasive plants and gastropods).

The circuit is complemented by daily records, starting in 2003, of animals found on 246 m of the streets around the BMNHC in the village of Bishops Mills, going out, whenever there is a possibility that something might be on the road, and recording what's there (Schueler 2007). This gives us a basis for comparison with the road circuits.

We've run the circuit, with the assistance of Aleta Karstad and Corey Wood, on 19 June and 3 July 2009, and 18 June 2010. Roadkills were much more frequent at hotspots than at coldspots, validating the simple premises of the model (Gunson et al, 2009, Table 1). On 13 July 2011, we, with Sophie Finlayson-Schueler, again ran the majority of the circuit. (FWS and SF-S finished the last four stations, along County Road 18, between Bishops Mills and Kemptville, on 14 July).

This year the Green Frog was the species most often encountered, at 21 of 41

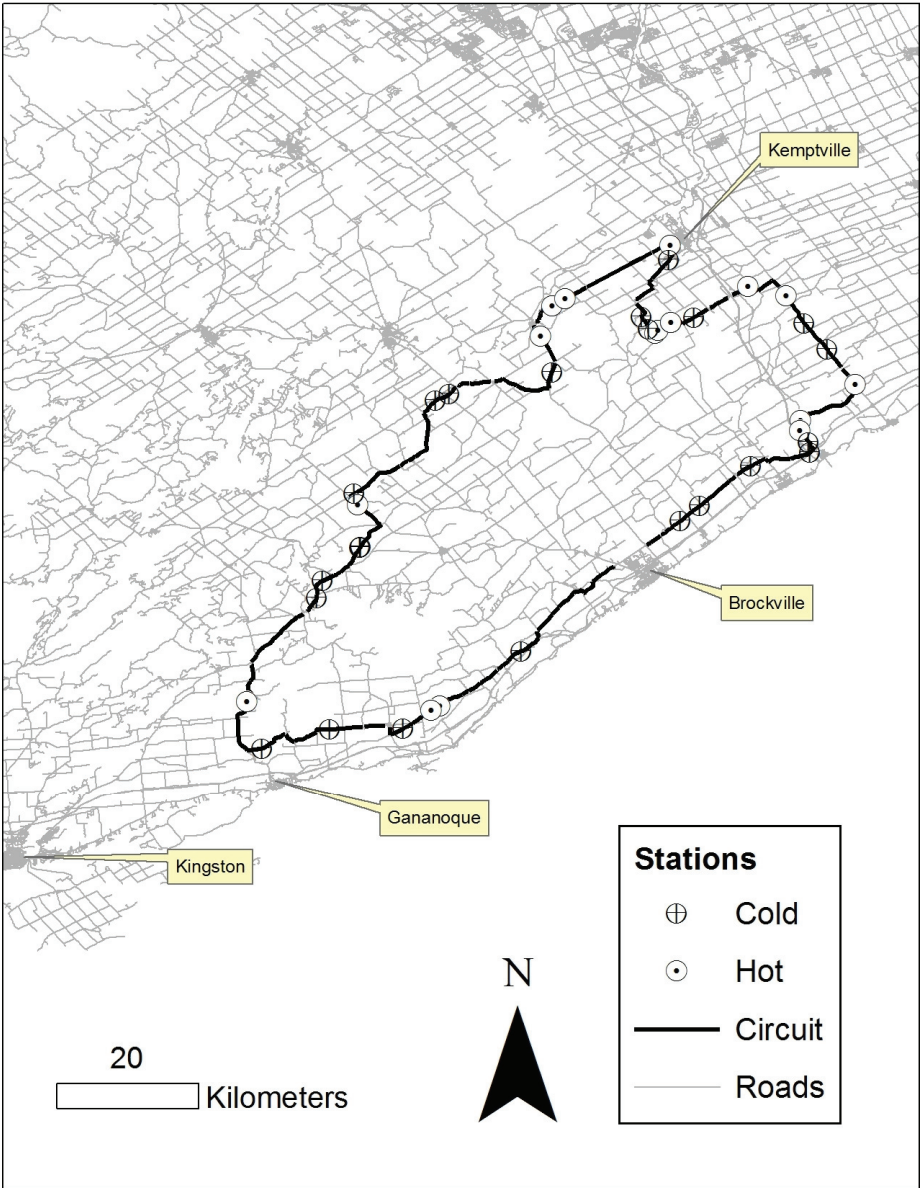


Figure 1. Surveyed circuit in Leeds & Grenville United Counties in eastern Ontario showing hot- and cold-spot stations used to systematically validate the predefined hotspot model.

stations, with 129 identified roadkills, though most of 86 unidentifiable frogs at 14 stations were probably also this species. Leopard Frogs (13 at 7 stations), Mink Frogs (6 at 2 stations), and Bull Frogs and American Toads (1 each) were less frequent. The frogs were almost all small juveniles, and the relative abundances reflect their date of transformation from the tadpole—a week later juvenile Leopard Frogs would have been much more prevalent (see data from Bishops Mills in Figure 2).

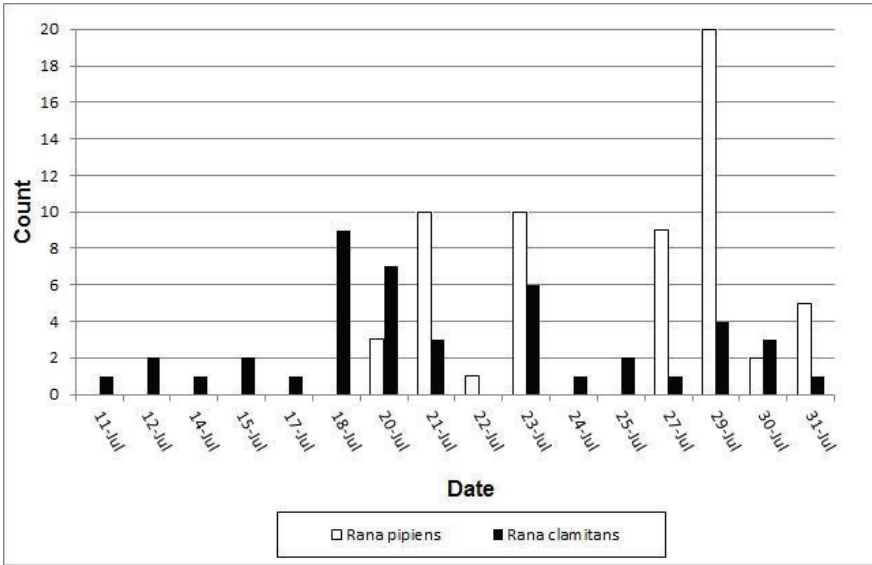


Figure 2. Green (Lithobates [=Rana] clamitans) & Leopard (Lithobates [=Rana] pipiens) Frogs on the streets of Bishops Mills, in the period around the road circuit (14 July).

Among turtles, 8 Painted Turtles were found at four stations, with one Snapping Turtle and one Blanding’s Turtle. No mammals were found in the transect stations, and only eight road-killed insects (bumble bees, dragonflies, butterfly, and moth) were recovered.

Running the circuit points up the problems with all such surveys, which were made flagrant by the pairs of crows hopping and poking along the road: between scavengers and disintegration, the length of time a carcass remains on the road may be very brief, and the species encountered are often a function of immediately preceding weather conditions. For example, on 13 July, the circuit was twice interrupted (12h50-13h50 and 18h10-18h25) by thunderstorms, and for a while after

the noontime interruption we were picking up freshly-killed juvenile Green Frogs, from pavement where any of the smaller previously-present crispy critters had been damply disintegrated by traffic.

The low numbers of dead turtles seen this year is a reflection of a relatively brief egg-laying season this spring, an apparent increase in driver avoidance of turtles on the road (Schueler and Karstad 2007), and the recent grading of the shoulders of Highway (County Road) 43 in the wetland hotspots east of Merrickville, which removed almost all carcasses where much of the turtle mortality usually occurs. In 2009 (with the circuit run twice) and 2010, 30 and 7 Painted Turtles, 2 and 1 Snapping Turtles, 3 and 0 Blanding's Turtles, and 1 and 0 Stinkpot Turtles, but only 55 and 21 frogs, respectively, were found roadkilled at the transect stations.

The model is strikingly effective and the hotspots include all the traditional scenes of roadside slaughter that we knew of along its route. A few cases where "coldspots" had a fair number of creatures on the road were places where the SOLRIS data layer missed small ponds and wetlands.

We are currently seeking funding to continually collect and promote circuit type data throughout southern Ontario. For example, the Raisin Region Conservation Authority has collected data from a similar circuit through their territory in 2010. We will then integrate province-wide roadkill data with other correlates, *e.g.* species, season, topography, bridge location, streams, and Ecological Land Classification, into the model for validation purposes, and branch it out into models for particular species.

Roadkill is an important source of mortality for many species, and this model will both document where it occurs, and point out sites where mitigation can be undertaken. It's only when we know something about the movements of each species that we'll be able to understand the extent to which roads fragment the landscape.

Such models are grand hypotheses about where animals are likely to cross roads. This developing model has the potential to tie the whole province together, and to tell quantitative stories of seasonal, historic, and habitat patterns in the movements of many species. We often know about breeding or nesting migrations, but there are multitudes of subtler patterns, triggered by subtler stimuli than the onset of spring, which will only begin to be understood by analysing data from many sites over many years.

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Editor's Note: This article was modified to fit *T&L* style and does not reflect the senior author's opinion on capitalization of the English names of higher taxa of organisms. To read Frederick Schueler's views on this see F. W. Schueler. 1999. What's in a Name? *EOBM Almanack*, Summer 1999 1(3):4-5. <http://pinicola.ca/m1999b.htm>.

The 2011 Fall and Christmas Bird Counts

Chris Lewis

Ottawa-Gatineau Fall Bird Count

The annual Fall Bird Count will be held **Saturday October 15 - Sunday October 16, 2011**, beginning at 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday, and ending at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. The post-count compilation (free pizza, coffee, soft drinks and dessert for all participants!) will be held after the count on Sunday, at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre from approx. 4:30-8:00 p.m. Please contact the OFNC phone number (613-722-3050) or birdcounts@ofnc.ca.

Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count

This year's Ottawa-Gatineau CBC will be held on **Sunday December 18, 2011**. Please contact the OFNC phone number (613-722-3050) or birdcounts@ofnc.ca.

*Details re: the post-count compilation and dinner will be provided to participants by the sector leaders, closer to the date of the event.

* PLEASE NOTE: birdcounts@ofnc.ca was recently created as a GENERAL contact email address for people interested in participating in the Ottawa-Gatineau Bird Counts. Specific details re: CONTACT PERSONS and SECTOR LEADERS will be made available as soon as this information is confirmed.

Dunrobin-Breckenridge Christmas Bird Count

Another traditional local CBC, featuring more rural habitats than the Ottawa-Gatineau count, and not that far out of town! This season's date is **Thursday December 29, 2011**. Please contact count coordinator Bruce Di Labio for details at 613-839-4395 or bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca.

We encourage you to come out for these great traditional birding events in the Ottawa-Gatineau area! You don't need to be an "expert" birder to join in—even counting birds at your feeder from the comfort of your own home can be an important contribution. The more participants the better, to discover what's out there in our area during the fall and winter seasons!

Swimming fishing technique—Black-crowned Night Heron

Dave Moore

On two occasions recently, June 24 and June 28, 2011, I observed Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) sitting on the water as opposed to standing on a rock or partially submerged branch or other aquatic perch. Both observations took place at the Britannia Conservation Area on Mud Lake. [N45 22.373 W75 47.768 WGS84]

In the first instance, I was scanning the lake with 10x42 binoculars when I saw what I at first thought to be some large sea bird. At a distance of about 250 m I was unable at first to determine exactly what it was, but it turned sideways to me and I could see that it was an adult (with plumes) night heron swimming through a patch of aquatic vegetation. I attempted to move closer but lost sight of the bird when I went around a patch of trees, and could not relocate it when I had a clearer view.

The second instance occurred while I was watching one night heron sitting on a large floating lily pad root. As I watched this individual from a distance of about 35-40 m, another night heron flew in and attempted a landing on a much smaller root. Root, bird and all sank until the bird was sitting on the water, much like the earlier one I had seen. Instead of flying to another perch, the bird started to swim slowly through the lily pads, always searching from side to side. After swimming in a zigzag path for approximately 20 m, it lunged and caught a fish. All I could see of the fish, as it was obscured by the aquatic vegetation pulled out with it, was the tail, but from the color and approximate size I believe it was a Brown Bullhead, about 15 cm long. The heron then took flight and flew out of sight carrying its prey.

A search on the internet showed that this was not a new behavior, although it was the first time I have observed it. This is what I found:

The Black-crowned Night Heron is an expert at still fishing. It can stand motionless for long periods in shallow water, on pilings, or on floating docks watching and waiting for its prey. A thrust of its bill into the water catches small fish. *These herons can also swim when searching for food (http://www.honolulu zoo.org/black-crowned_night_heron.htm).*

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compiled by K. McLachlan Hamilton

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Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait until the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance, so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Monthly meetings are held in **the theatre in the basement**. Attendees may have to pay \$5 parking per vehicle.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 613-860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 613-860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Tuesday
11 October
7:00 p.m.
Social & Club
business

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
**CLIMATE CHANGE: LIFE OR DEATH FOR COLD-
LOVING ANIMALS**

Speaker: Kenneth B. Storey, Carleton University
Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod
Streets.

7:30 p.m.
Speaker

The earth is warming up, bringing with it not just altered thermal conditions but a host of intertwined effects on micro- and macro-environments that will impact the lives of all organisms on the planet. Current and upcoming changes to Earth's climate may be particularly hard on organisms that are adapted to and depend upon cold conditions. Tonight we will look at some of the molecular mechanisms that animals use to attain cold hardiness or freezing survival and the options for adapting to environmental stress, with examples from his lab's 30 years of study of the biochemistry of winter survival by amphibians and reptiles in the Ottawa valley.

Saturday
15 October
3:00 p.m.
to
Sunday
16 October
3:00 p.m.

OTTAWA-GATINEAU FALL BIRD COUNT

This annual count begins on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and ends Sunday 3:00 p.m. The post-count compilation will be held after the count at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre.

See page 161 for further details. * **PLEASE NOTE:** *birdcounts@ofnc.ca* was created as a GENERAL contact email address for people interested in counting birds in the Ottawa-Gatineau area during these organized events. Specific details re: CONTACT PERSONS and SECTOR LEADERS will be made available as soon as this information is confirmed.

Sunday
16 October
12:45 p.m.
to
4 p.m.

**NATURE WALK ON THE MACNAMARA TRAIL,
ARNPRIOR *Kid Friendly***

Leader: Michael Runtz

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assay Road near Pizza Pizza. Alternate meeting point is 2 p.m. at the entrance to the trail.

Directions: www.mfnc.ca/macnamaratrail.html

This nature walk will be a joint event with the Macnamara Field Naturalists Club, led by OFNC president Michael Runtz on their own trail near Arnprior. Along this interpretive trail and boardwalk we can expect to see resident and fall migrant birds along with many unusual plants in high-quality forest and wetland habitats.

Sunday

30 October

10:00 a.m.

rain date:

5 November

URBAN GEOLOGY OF DOWNTOWN OTTAWA

Leaders: Geof Burbidge and Bruce Summers

Meet: Park at or near Lisgar School, east end of Lisgar Street (it is one way, access is off of Cartier from Somerset or Cooper).

We will walk slowly about 5 km around downtown Ottawa, noting and commenting on the great and interesting variety of building and decorative stone around us. Bring a lunch to enjoy outside the World Exchange Plaza. Hand lenses or magnifying glasses will be very useful if you have them. Rain will cancel the walkabout. If so, the event will be Saturday November 5.

Thursday

3 November

7:30 p.m.

AFFORDABLE CAMERA ADAPTATIONS FOR WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Speaker: Doug Luoma

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, off Prince of Wales Dr.

Do you have old film camera lenses of various brands that you wish could be mounted on your digital SLR? Would you like to discover how your spotting scope and digital point and shoot camera can turn into an excellent long imaging lens? Are you interested in macro photography but don't want to purchase elaborate equipment? Doug will show you some simple and inexpensive ways to take better images of the natural world. Feel free to bring along your cameras and lenses.

Saturday

5 November

1:00

to

4:00 p.m.

MACOUN CLUB HOSTING A TRIP TO THEIR STUDY SITE

Leaders: Members of the Macoun Club

Location: Stony Swamp Parking Lot P6, Richmond Rd, under the hydro lines.

Come out and see what the children have discovered in several different habitats in their nature study area. They would particularly like to introduce other children to the trees that each of them have chosen to study, and to the fun they have as members of this Club.

<p>Tuesday 8 November 7:00 p.m. Social & Club business</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Formal program</p>	<p>OFNC MONTHLY MEETING IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS: SITE CONSERVATION FOR BIRDS Speaker: Ted Cheskey Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod. It has been over 15 years since the IBA program was introduced to Canada. Ted Cheskey, manager of bird conservation programs for Nature Canada, will explain how the program has evolved since its inception. We will explore some of its challenges and opportunities, and discuss the importance of local engaged volunteers to the program's success. The Lac Deschenes IBA and the Prince Edward County South Shore IBA will be used as examples.</p>
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<p>Thursday 17 November 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>THE CANADIAN BOREAL FOREST AGREEMENT - A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY Speaker: Alan Young, Director of Corporate Programs of the Canadian Boreal Initiative. Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, off Prince of Wales Dr. The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement, recently signed by 21 forestry companies and nine national environmental organizations, is the subject of discussion. This marks the first time environmental groups have forged a relationship with a wide range of companies in the forestry industry, in this case to protect vast areas of habitat for the endangered woodland caribou in our boreal forest as well as advancing sustainable forest management practices. Alan will present the history of the agreement, its objectives and its progress to date. This will be followed by an open discussion of the ramifications on this agreement.</p>
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<p>Tuesday 22 November 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>WINTER BOTANY IN MARLBOROUGH FOREST Leader: Eleanor Thomson (613-269-3523); Holly Bickerton (613-730-7725) at Lincoln Fields. Meet: At the northeast corner of the Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre parking lot off Richmond Road, or call Eleanor if you wish to meet the group at Marlborough Forest. The Marlborough Forest has a diversity of woodland and wetland habitats, perfect for taking a closer look at many species of trees, shrubs, and even wildflowers in early winter. We will look at everything (botanical and otherwise) that captures our interest. Bring a lunch and a warm drink, and dress for the weather (rain or shine). You may also want binoculars, a handlens, and a camera.</p>
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Sunday
27 November
8:00 a.m.
to
about
12:00 noon

HOW "GULLABLE" ARE YOU?

Leaders: Mark Gawn and Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: At the northeast corner of the Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre parking lot off Richmond Road.

Gulls. Love them or hate them, gulls are an important part of the avian landscape. They are also one of the most vexing groups of birds to identify, with over a dozen species, each undergoing a complex molt sequence. The purpose of the workshop will be to find and identify Ottawa area gulls with an emphasis on aging; like shorebirds, knowing what age class you are looking at can help make the call. The trip will go to wherever the gulls are concentrated, most likely in west-end locations, with the exact route to be determined on the day. The trip will last for a half day and will proceed rain or shine.

Tuesday
13 December
7:00 p.m.
Social & Club
business

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

BIRD MIGRATION MONITORING IN SPAIN

Speaker: Justin Peter

Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Each autumn, millions of birds that breed in Europe will go to Africa to spend the winter. The trip is not necessarily a direct one, though. Spain tends to act as a "funnel" for migratory birds and many end up crossing the Strait of Gibraltar to Morocco. This concentration of birds makes it an ideal location to study migratory patterns of European birds as well as changes in their populations. In 2010, OFNC member Justin Peter volunteered for a non-profit organization that monitors bird migration at the Strait of Gibraltar, with a particular interest in raptors and other soaring birds. In this illustrated talk, Justin will shed some light on bird migration across the Strait of Gibraltar and on his experiences there.

Sunday
18 December

OTTAWA-GATINEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

To participate, please contact birdcounts@ofnc.ca.

* Details re: the post-count compilation and dinner will be provided to participants by the sector leaders, closer to the date of the event. See page 161 of this issue for details and contact information.