THE WOODLAND OBSERVER

JANUARY 2016

Nipissing Naturalists Club

Endings precede new beginnings

Photo by Renee Levesque

January will be an exciting time for the Nipissing Naturalists Club as we head into our Annual General Meeting with our silent and online auction. Our AGM will be followed in January by a nature film festival at Nipissing University Theatre brought to us by *Forests without Borders*, of which Fred Pinto is co-founder. The films to be shown are compelling and most are award-winners, some of which won awards or were finalists at the prestigious *Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival*.

Also in January, we will find out whether our application for a provincial heritage plaque honouring Louise de Kiriline Lawrence will be accepted by Ontario Heritage Trust. If so, planning for a possible May installation of this plaque at Pimisi Bay will begin.

Fred was recently interviewed by *Tree Fest Ottawa* for his role as co-founder of *Forests without Borders.* I was given permission by *Tree Fest Ottawa* to reprint this interview which captures the spirit of *Forests without Borders.*

An edition of *The Woodland Observer* is not complete without some mention of birds and this issue is no exception. You can read about past president Angela Martin's Bald Eagles and Common Mergansers near her West Nipissing home and about the landfill site outing to see Arctic gulls arranged by another past president, Dick Tafel.

Yet another past president of Nipissing Naturalists Club, Steph Romaniuk, wrote the article on bats based on Rebecca Geauvreau's talk at the November meeting.

I look forward in 2016 to my continuing role as editor of *The Woodland Observer* thanks to the support I have received from members and the Board of Directors. I could not do it without this support and without members taking the time to write articles and provide photos. I wish all members a Happy New Year.

Renee Levesque, editor

‘Trees have always played an important role in all civilizations’

The article below in which Fred Pinto is interviewed is reprinted with permission from the website ***Tree Fest Ottawa****,* http://treefestottawa.org/about-avenue/.

Founded in 2015, ***Tree Fest Ottawa*** *connects people with trees, inspires dialogue and learning using the power of photographs and stories to capture public attention and encourage people to take action to protect the trees in our environment and plant new native trees.*

The City of Ottawa, together with environmental organizations such as Ecology Ottawa, businesses and the general public, intends to plant one million trees in Ottawa by 2017. ***Tree Fest Ottawa*** *hopes to inspire people to get involved with tree planting or other initiatives to protect and preserve our trees.*

In the interview, Fred, a forester and co-founder of Forests without Borders, discusses the role of community in restoring and benefiting from healthy forests. ***Photos used are courtesy of Trees without Borders.***

Do you have a favourite childhood memory related to trees?

I would go exploring natural areas with my brothers and friends. The trees were always great to climb, search for birds and other animals, or just daydream in.

From your perspective, what are the contributions made by trees that make them so important?

Trees have always played an important role in all civilizations. They were used, and still are, for fuel, construction, transport food, medicine, and clothing. Trees growing in large numbers make up forests that help recharge fresh water aquifers, are home to wildlife, and store large quantities of carbon to name just a few of the ecological services we get and usually take for granted in Canada. We should not forget that settlers removed large areas of forest in southern Ontario, causing rivers such as the Grand River to dry up and become prone to flash floods. Many areas also became sandy deserts. Foresters have helped restore the forests in these areas.

What effect does spending time in forests have on you personally?

I am in the forest almost every day. The sun, bird song, and scent of a forest invigorate me and brighten my spirit.

You helped create the organization *Forests without Borders* and you are the current Chair of the Board of Trustees. What motivated you to found this organization?

I and other foresters spoke to many people in developing nations about their needs. We found that local people knew how to solve their problems if they could access affordable materials such as water and fuel needed for their daily life.

A tree nursery in Nepal

THE WOODLAND OBSERVER

Forests without Borders **works directly with communities in developing countries to set up projects that support forest restoration and sustainable harvesting of wood. Can you give examples of where the projects have had the most impact?**

From a local perspective it is:

a) when they have clean fresh water and wood close to their village, so that women and children do not have to spend many hours each day collecting these items
b) when the air indoors is cleaner with the use of clean-burning wood stoves
c) when they use the money generated to help their vulnerable members

From Forests without Borders' perspective it is:

a) when changes in behaviour by the community mean that people do not destroy new forest
b) when children understand the importance of the natural environment for their own well-being
c) when natural ecological services, such as recharged aquifers and wildlife habitat, are restored

Many of the *Forests without Borders* projects have a self-financing or income-generating aspect to them. Why is this important to their success?

People living in rural communities in developing nations lack money, so we try and meet their need to generate an income. We try and let people see that they can obtain money and restore ecological services that benefit them directly, and that they can continue to have these benefits if they invest some of their returns in their forest and people. We help move them away from the idea that richer people will solve their problems and toward the idea that they can solve their challenges with their own resources.

We have linked some of our projects to schools. We have helped schools set up micro tree nurseries that can serve both an educational need and planting stock to restore forests. The challenge is to get these tree nurseries to become financially viable in regions where people have very limited amounts of money. In other cases, we are helping communities develop tree growing, planting and ecotourism businesses. We want these communities to be able to generate their own money, use the money to grow their forests and help their people.

As someone who has travelled extensively around the world studying forests and understanding the state of the forests in various countries, from your perspective what are the major threats facing forests around the world?

There are many threats, but I do not dwell on them. Each region requires its own solution and this reality needs people to work together. Local people must benefit directly from the resources and participate in controlling their own activities. Many well-intentioned activist groups propose

simplistic solutions that criminalize local people in the attempt to "protect a fragile ecosystem." I have yet to see this strategy work.

In 2011, you were a finalist for a United Nations Forest Hero Award for "volunteer work in forestry and inspiring people." What motivates you to actively engage with different communities – both in Canada and several developing countries – on forestry issues?

Where there is peace, people and forests can prosper. I have seen well-designed reforestation activities make a difference in people's lives in a very short time, with very little money, and using local skills that enable people to solve their own health, education, and social problems. The many volunteers in Canada also inspire and motivate me. All of the volunteers spend a considerable amount of their own money and time to ensure our projects are successful.

As a faculty member at the University of Toronto's Department of Forestry, what advice do you give forestry students about working in the forestry sector, both in Canada and in developing countries?

Growing native tree and plant species in Madagascar

First, that we are short of licensed professional foresters in Canada. So I tell them to enroll in programs that enable them to become licensed foresters. Then I tell them they are to serve their clients. Because our profession considers the long-term impacts of forestry, they have to help their clients figure out trade-offs and revise solutions as social and environmental conditions change. I have seen an interest in forestry change as people in the developing world realize that solutions to water supply, dust storms, agricultural productivity, and other benefits from nature require us to integrate our understanding of ecology with the available technology, human skill, and money.

Finally, do you have a favourite tree species that is native to Ontario?

White pine. I worked for the past 25 years on trying to understand its ecology. I used this information to develop forestry practices in Ontario, so that white pine regeneration was more successful. These practices were developed so that the various ecological functions in white pine forests are not degraded after forestry activities. Today these practices have been adopted by most forest managers across the range of white pine in eastern North America.

Where the gulls are

Glaucous Gull, photo by Renee Levesque

By Renee Levesque

On November 28, 2015, a hardy group of nine headed out on a field trip to gull paradise, also known as Merrick Landfill Site, on Sand Dam Road off the north highway. This may not be everyone's cup of tea of a wonderful outing, but it is usually the only place we are going to get a good view of the Arctic gulls as they migrate south. They need food for their long migratory journey and what better place than a landfill site? There was but a sprinkle of snow and the temperature was not much below zero, but once on the heights of the open site with a wind blowing, it was almost like being in the Arctic! It is certainly not a place for the faint of heart. The only good thing about the cold is that it keeps the smell at bay, although you can't

Iceland Gull, photo by Craig Hurst

escape some smell no matter how cold.

The two Arctic Gulls seen were Glaucous and Iceland. No adults of these species were seen, only the juvenile, first winter and possibly second winter, some also by me and others on prior and subsequent visits. The Glaucous Gull is a large bluish-gray or bluish-white gull of about 27 inches, slightly larger than our common Herring Gull of which there were at least 400, if not more, seen that day. The Iceland Gull is a slender and graceful pale gull of about 22 inches, larger than our very common Ring-billed Gull. (The Iceland Gull does not breed in Iceland, but does winter there. The Iceland Gulls we see here breed in the Canadian Arctic and are known as Kumlien's form, a form which can be confused with Thayer's Gulls.) Identifying gulls can get confusing because of their three to four-year cycle, with each cycle showing different colour characteristics. But birding would not be near as exciting if it were easy.

Iceland Gull, photo by Renee Levesque

Glaucous Gull, photo by Craig Hurst

Going to bat for bats

By Steph Romaniuk

Rebecca Geauvreau, Biologist and Species at Risk Specialist with FRi Ecological Services in North Bay, spoke to Nipissing Naturalists Club on November 10 about the bats of Ontario. She began her talk by saying, "I'm a lover of bats and not an expert."

There are eight species of bats found in Ontario and three of these, Little Brown, Northern Long-eared and Eastern Small-footed, are endangered. Of these three endangered species, Little Brown and Northern Long-eared are found in our area. The other species found in Ontario are Eastern Red (seen above), Tri-coloured, Silver-haired, Big Brown and Hoary, the latter three in our area.

Bats which migrate are the Eastern Red, Silver-haired and Hoary. The rest remain in Ontario where they hibernate for the winter in caves or abandoned mine sites in which they can maintain a reduced body temperature. To conserve their energy given a lack of food during this period, they must be able to reduce their body temperature to 3 to 6 degree Celsius.

Bats have a few interesting structural features, one of which is a tail with a wide membrane. This allows them to capture food, catch their pups during birth and keep them warm. Another structure near the ears is the *tragus*. Its purpose is unknown but thought to relate to echolocation.

How can bats hang upside down so long? Two reasons: 1) valves in their blood vessels prevent blood from pooling in the brain, and 2) under tension, their knees lock which clamp their claws to the underside of a branch or rock.

To fly around and hunt in the dark for insects, bats use a high frequency system called echolocation, similar to sonar. They call as they fly and listen to the returning echoes. In this way, they build up a sonic map of their surroundings. Flying bat species are identified by their call alone, using the lowest frequency of their call. During the warm nights we had in October and early November, Rebecca set up an acoustic recorder to record bats calls in her

neighbourhood. She detected Big Brown Bats up to November 5.

High frequencies are for quick feedback to avoid obstacles, as when dodging around tree branches, while low frequencies are used in open spaces. Can bats go deaf with all that screaming? Amazingly, they can shut off their hearing while screaming by dislocating the small bones in their ears, and then start listening as soon as the screaming stops.

A bat's frequency changes as it hunts. Once it closes in on its prey, a higher frequency is needed to determine size, texture, and other features to enable capture in close proximity. To avoid hearing the other's echo, two or more bats of the same species will communicate by using different frequency sweeps when foraging near each other.

The life cycle of bats involves mating in August/September, after which the female holds the sperm through the winter. The pups are born in June. They start life the size of a kidney bean with wings and take three weeks before they can fly and about 30 to35 days before being weaned from the mothers. Cave-dwelling bats – Little Brown, Big Brown Tri-coloured, Eastern Small-footed and Northern Long-eared – have a single pup per year and tree dwelling bats – Eastern Red, Hoary and Silver-haired – have at least two pups a year. The pups are vulnerable to threats and only half the pups survive the first winter.

The Eastern Small-footed Bat will also roost under rocks in rock barrens, especially around Parry Sound. This was discovered by a scientist looking for skinks, Ontario's only lizard.

Rebecca provided information on the eight bat species in Ontario: description, where they forage, what they eat, where they roost (maternity roosts too), and where they hibernate or if they migrate south. For more information, click on the following link: http://batwatch.ca/content/bat-species-central-canada.

The Eastern Red Bat, seen at right, is a moth specialist and often feeds around streetlamps in urban areas. Because it dives at its prey, it tends to be the bat that gets accused of bat attacks since it appears to be diving at your head as it hunts.

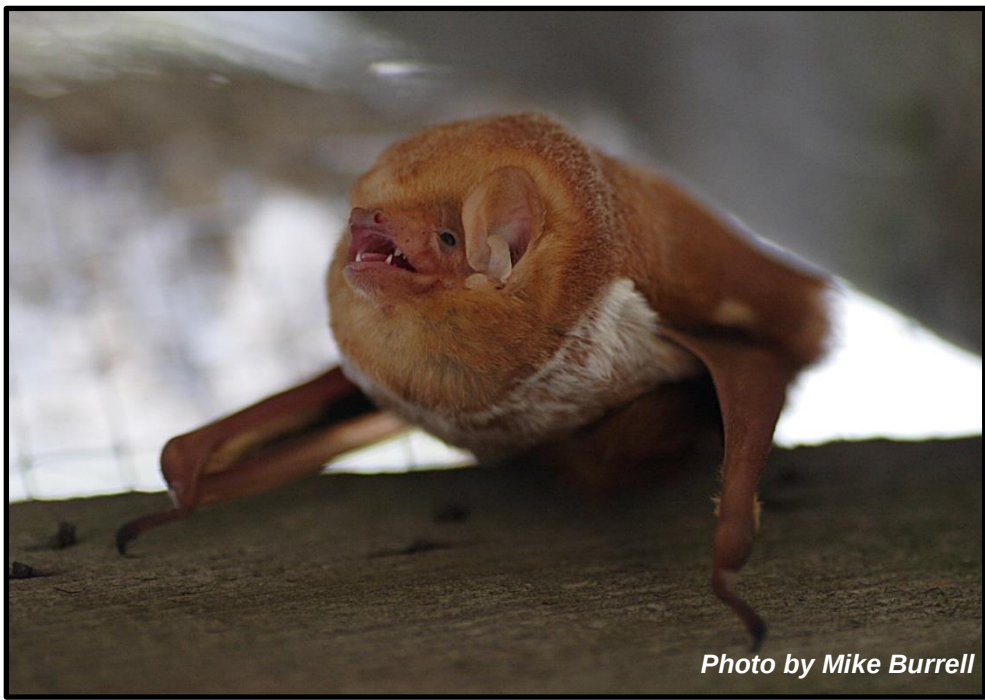


Photo by Mike Burrell

Our most common bat, the Little Brown, is a mosquito specialist. The female, weighing about the

same as 3,500 mosquitoes, will eat her weight each night.

Now the bad news. White-nose syndrome (WNS) found its way from Europe to New York in 2006 and was discovered in the Purdy Mine population near Mattawa in 2009-2010. The disease is called white-nose syndrome because the fungus sometimes leaves a white powdery residue around the muzzle of the bat. In cool, moist hibernation caves, the fungus spreads quickly from bat to bat and has a 90 to100% kill rate. Bats are found dead in the tens of thousands. More than six million bats have died since 2006. (Bat species in Europe evolved with the disease and appear to be immune.)

Two of the larger species, Big Brown and Hoary, have physical signs of the disease, but seem to be unaffected. Unfortunately, all bats that hibernate in large groups, such as the Little Browns (seen at right), are affected. WNS is thought to impair thermoregulation and moisture balance, infecting the skin of bats, especially the wings, and causing dehydration. The infection causes bats to awaken during hibernation. Because there is no food and limited water for the bats during the winter, they die from starvation and dehydration. Scientists are working on a cure. In Virginia, there is evidence that a compound in soil seems to slow the progression of the disease.

Photo by Renee Levesque

There are ways to help bats and listed below are some of them:

1. Little Brown and Silver-haired bats need to drop from a perch to fly. If you come across one on the ground, use gloves to get the bat into a pillow case and hang it up on a tree. The bat can then claw itself out.

2. Call the Ministry of Natural Resources if you want to find a home for an injured bat.

3. If the attic of your home is already a home for bats, don't seal it up until late August to allow the young time to develop and fly. If flightless young end up trapped in your attic,

they will starve and die there. (You can also build bat houses with multiple chambers, important for thermal regulation, or a four-sided maternity roost called a rocket-box.)

4. Avoid hibernation caves in the winter. Waking up bats expends their critical energy stores and can potentially spread WNS.

5. Nipissing Naturalists Club has applied for a grant to monitor bat populations in our area. If the grant is approved, details of the survey will be provided and volunteers requested. Definitely an exciting project for volunteers!

Much is still unknown about bats. They were always assumed to be abundant, but WNS hit hard and fast, and suddenly it became evident that data needed to be collected quickly to learn how to help them as they face this dire threat.

Hoary Bat at rest, photo by Mike Burrell

The eagles have landed

By Angela Martin

Photo by Kaye Edmonds

What makes nature so interesting is that every year is different. For example, some bird sightings are predictable, but many times you don't know what surprises are in store. Bird watching brings me joy and sharing this interest with others only increases that joy. Sometimes feeling good about what happens in the world can be difficult, but when you are surrounded by nature and you soak it in, you can experience a feeling of oneness.

We live in the country overlooking a lake and so our bird sightings are varied. Bald Eagles are staying year round, nesting in a tall pine beside the lake and wintering mostly at the closest landfill. Late summer is fun, when the young eagles fledge. They perch in the closest dead pine tree to have a good view of the surrounding forest and lake. They are not happy about leaving the nest and call constantly for a parent to bring them food. After at least a month, they venture out looking for a parent and/or a food source. A family of Bald Eagles quite often consists of two parents, the current year's young and the second year's young.

When a large flock of northern ducks arrive in late fall, Bald Eagles from other areas converge. They are looking for the fish scared up to the surface by the diving ducks, as well as looking for weaker ducks for sustenance. This year, there were at least nine Bald Eagles in my area for a few days. Watching their majestic flight as they follow the ducks and seeing their interactions with each other was exciting. And to see all of them perched

in the lakeside pines was truly wondrous! Two of the second year Bald Eagles appeared to be forming an attachment that may result in a life-long partnership.

There were Common Loons, Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers on the lake. The Common Loons and Common Goldeneyes were not affected by the eagles. There were several hundred Common Mergansers, sometimes together, sometimes split into several groups, always on the move and alert. They were the focus of the eagles. The Common Merganser in the photo below was on its own. An eagle flew nearby a couple of times and each time the duck dove, but only for a few seconds. However, on the third fly-by, the duck stayed down for what seemed to be a long time and the eagle moved on.

Photo by Angela Martin

People don't like to see animals and birds die, but it is the way of nature. We have watched birds and mammals feeding from a deer that succumbed to a fall in the ice. Food can be scarce at certain times of the year and the death of one individual can extend the lives of many others. Once you see and accept this, you can appreciate an element of life in our natural world.

Be observant to the nature around you and enjoy.

Editor's note: Angela Martin is Past President of the Nipissing Naturalists Club, Ontario Nature and Friends of Mashkinonje

White spruce needles come in many colours

By Fred Pinto

Ron Pittaway, well-known birder and author of the yearly Finch forecast, (http://ebird.org/content/canada/news/ron-pittaways-winter-finch-forecast-2015-2016/), contacts me yearly regarding the state of winter cone and seed crops in northeastern Ontario. In gathering information from experts about cone and seed crops, Ron can then make a determination which Ontario finches will be staying in our area for the winter and which will be heading south to partake of more abundant food sources. When I was contacted by Ron, he also asked me why white spruce has such a wide variation in needle colour from one tree to another.

White spruce has a tremendous natural geographic range. It grows right across Canada and into Alaska. This ability to grow in so many different conditions suggests that white spruce has a great deal of genetic variation enabling it to have adaptations to reproduce and grow in a variety of environments.

Studies show that white spruce survived in three different refugia during the last glaciation event. One refugium was in the northwest, another was south of the Great Lakes west of the Appalachians, and another east of the Appalachians. These three populations have now merged, but still show differences in various physical features and genetic attributes. This again tells us that white spruce is genetically diverse. These genetic differences are sometimes connected to differences in physical features.

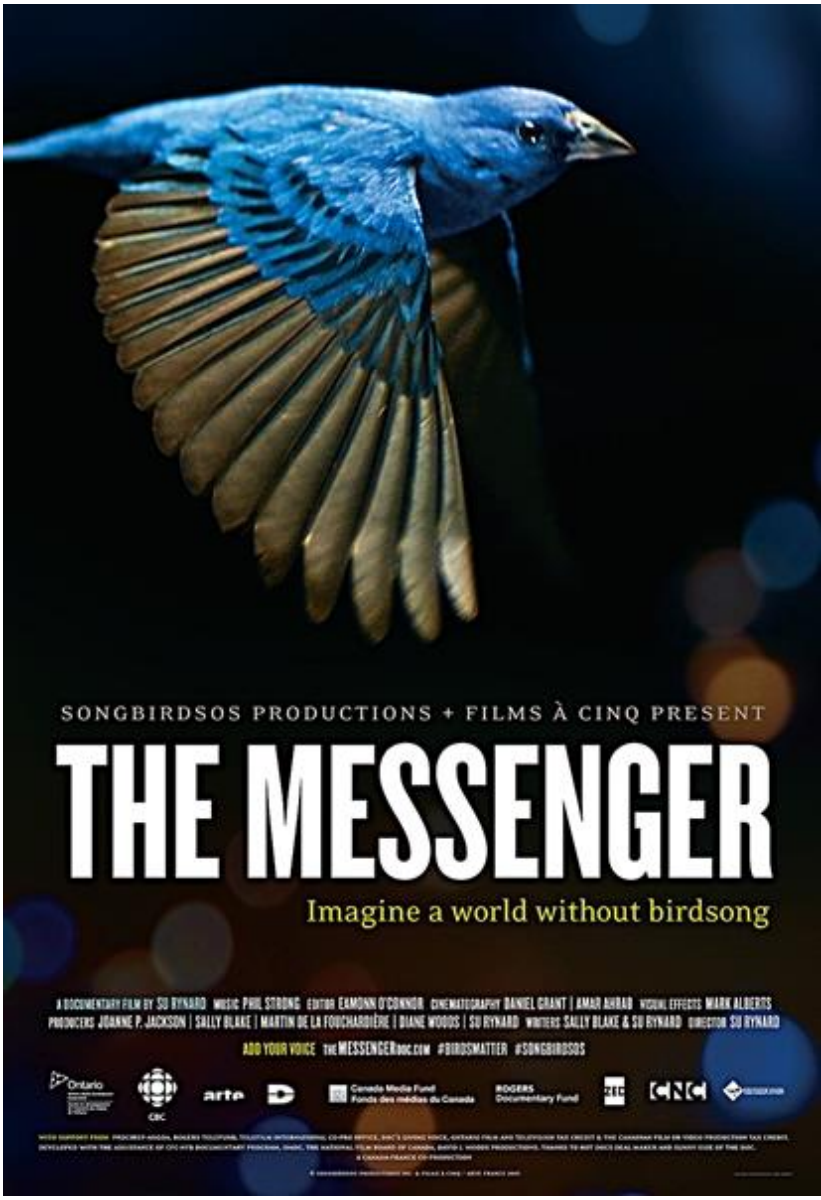
We do know that one of the ways the genetic differences in white spruce are expressed is in its chloroplast. Chloroplasts are the little green power-generating structures found in all plants and some algae. They convert light into sugar. The colour of these chloroplasts will vary with different levels of chlorophyll and other plant pigments.

I have a white spruce growing in my backyard that delays its production of chlorophyll for about three weeks after the needle buds have flushed. These new needles have a golden colour that turns a light green before becoming dark green in late spring each year. The golden colour seen in early spring in this tree is produced by yellow pigments called xanthophylls and orange pigments called carotenoids that are later masked by the green chlorophyll.

Some white spruce trees have needles that are bluish, while others are dark green. Anything that affects the absorption and reflection of light will change the colour we see. Differences in the abundance of plant pigments, as well as the whitish blush that covers white spruce needles, are all factors that affect the absorption and reflection of light and hence affect the colour of white spruce needles.

A smorgasbord of nature films

By Renee Levesque and Fred Pinto



A Nature Film Festival sponsored by *Forests without Borders* will be held at the **Nipissing University Theatre on Friday, January 22, from 7 to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, January 23, from 11 a.m. to 4.30 pm.**

The excellent and compelling documentaries to be screened include some of the award-winners from the *Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival*, held yearly for the past 13 years. This past year, hundreds of films were submitted from 27 countries and from those, the judges chose the best 23.

One of the main documentaries, the winner of the Best Conservation Program, is *The Messenger*. For thousands of years, songbirds have embarked on a remarkable and incredible migratory journey encompassing thousands of miles across continents and oceans. "But today, this journey is threatened by climate change, pesticides, predators and city lights, and songbirds are disappearing at an alarming rate." This documenatry is a "visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it means to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them."

Four other documentaries on birds are *Birds for Peace* about bird migration in the Middle East and how these birds which fly through worn-torn countries on their migration bring birders of warring countries together; *The Flight to Freedom, The Amur Flacon Story* about a migratory raptor which breeds in the jungles of East

Asia and the campaign to stop it being hunted in the thousands*; Bluebird Man*, an Emmy-nominated documentary about a 93-year old man and his role in the successful recovery of bluebirds (seen at right); and *Great Transitions: The Origin of Birds*, a finalist in the Educational/Institutional Program, about how animals gained the ability to fly.

Photo by Renee Levesque

Another documentary to be shown is entitled *Unnatural Selection*, a multiple award-winning documentary about the consequences of genetic engineering and how humans have accelerated this evolution. It shows some of the consequences that have occurred on the Galapagos Islands where the idea of natural selection was born. Charles Darwin's concept of evolution was fueled by the mockingbirds and finches on the Galapagos Islands. He developed his theory of natural selection based on the several species of finches he found there. For more on Darwin's finches click on: https://animalcorner.co.uk/animals/galapagos-finches/. The photos below taken by Fred Pinto show the Galapagos Mockingbird (left) and a Galapagos finch (right).

There will also be a documentary on climate change entitled, *Thin Ice: The Inside Story of Climate Science*, a Best Science and Nature program finalist, about a group of scientists from around the globe talking about their hopes and fears and their work, making a compelling case for the rising CO_2 as the main cause of changing climate.

Also to be screened is *Amazing Grace* which won the UN Forum on Forests Short Film Award for the African region. This short tells the story of a Zambian man who stopped cutting down trees for charcoal and started instead to grow and care for them.

Deadly Mission Madagascar, a finalist at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival in 2013, is also being screened. It is one episode of a BBC wildlife documentary aimed at young people, highlighting eight teenagers' experience with unique wildlife such as the endangered lemur (right), wildlife under threat in the rainforest of Madagascar. The film's popularity and critical acclaim led to a series called *Deadly 60*.

Madagascar, situated in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Southeast Africa, is the fourth largest island in the world. This island country is a biodiversity hotspot, with over 90% of its wildlife found nowhere else on earth.

A different film will run one after the other throughout both festival days, followed by experts speaking on the topics raised in some of the films.

Members will be provided with a screening schedule prior to the festival. From my quick review of the films, none are to be missed!

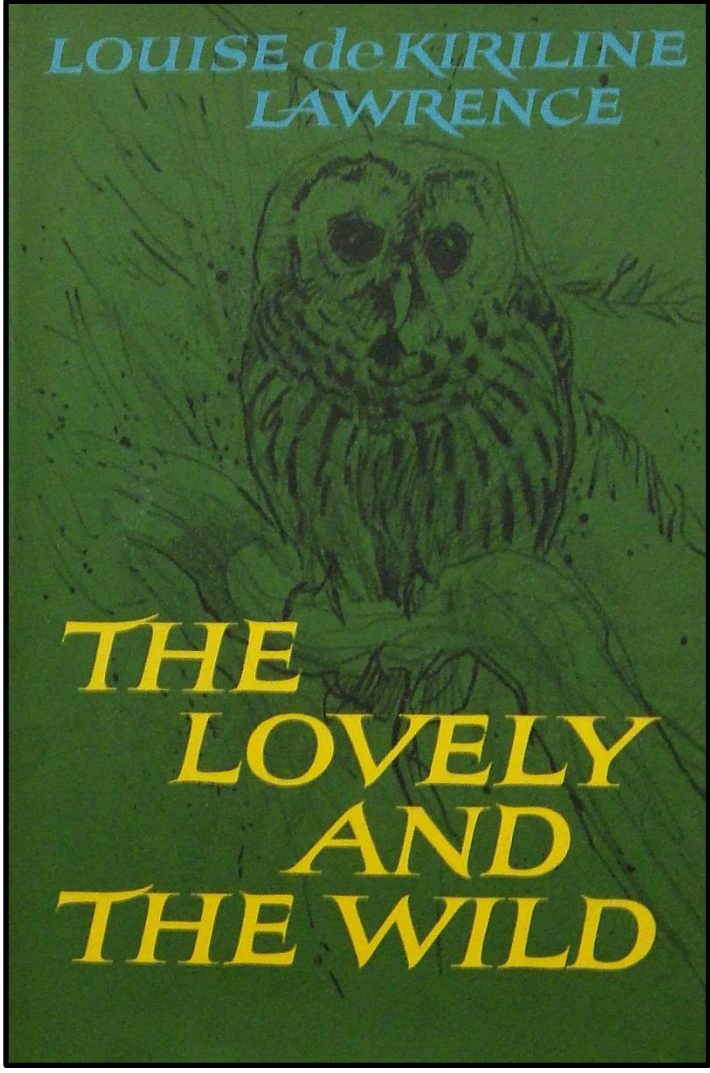
This is a free event, although a voluntary donation to *Forests without Borders* is appreciated. There will be door prizes and a 50-50 draw. Food will be available for sale.

Editor's Note: For information on Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival: http://www.jhfestival.org/2015-festival.html

Forests without Borders is a charity run by foresters across Canada to work with people who wish to restore or improve their forest landscapes for health, security, economy and the environment. Fred Pinto is the head of the charity.

For information on Forests without Borders: http://www.fwb-fsf.org/

A provincial plaque for a remarkable woman



By Fred Pinto and Renee Levesque

As we drive the highways and byways of Ontario, we all have seen the blue and bronze plaques that mark historic sites. The installation of these plaques was begun by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario in 1956. Today the Board is called the Ontario Heritage Trust. The Trust works with community groups, corporations and local governments to tell the stories of this province. To date over 1,250 plaques have been erected.

In September, the Nipissing Naturalists Club applied to Ontario Heritage Trust to have a plaque installed in recognition of long-time resident Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, a writer and naturalist who was the first Canadian to win the prestigious Burroughs Medal for nature writing in 1969 for her book, *The Lovely And The Wild.* Although she was born in Sweden, she immigrated to Canada in 1927. ***"In time I came to another country on the other side of the earth. And because the new land was in possession of immense space and magnificent diversified solitudes, I felt that I could bear to live there."***

The Nipissing Naturalists Club appropriately calls its annual nature festival, hosted in Laurier Woods Conservation Area, the Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Nature Festival. The festival is held on the third Saturday of August each year.

The club's submission, spearheaded by Dick Tafel, with assistance from Renee Levesque and Joanne Zytaruk, included a biography of Louise de Kiriline Lawrence; an extensive bibliography, including material in Archives Canada; permission from the Ministry of Transportation to install the plaque on land maintained by the Ministry; and agreement from Nipissing Naturalists Club to pay the necessary fees to make and install the plaque. If our application is approved, the plaque will be installed at the provincial picnic rest stop off Highway 17 at Pimisi Bay in Calvin Township. From this spot, one can see Louise de Kiriline Lawrence's home which she called her Loghouse Nest (depicted at left).

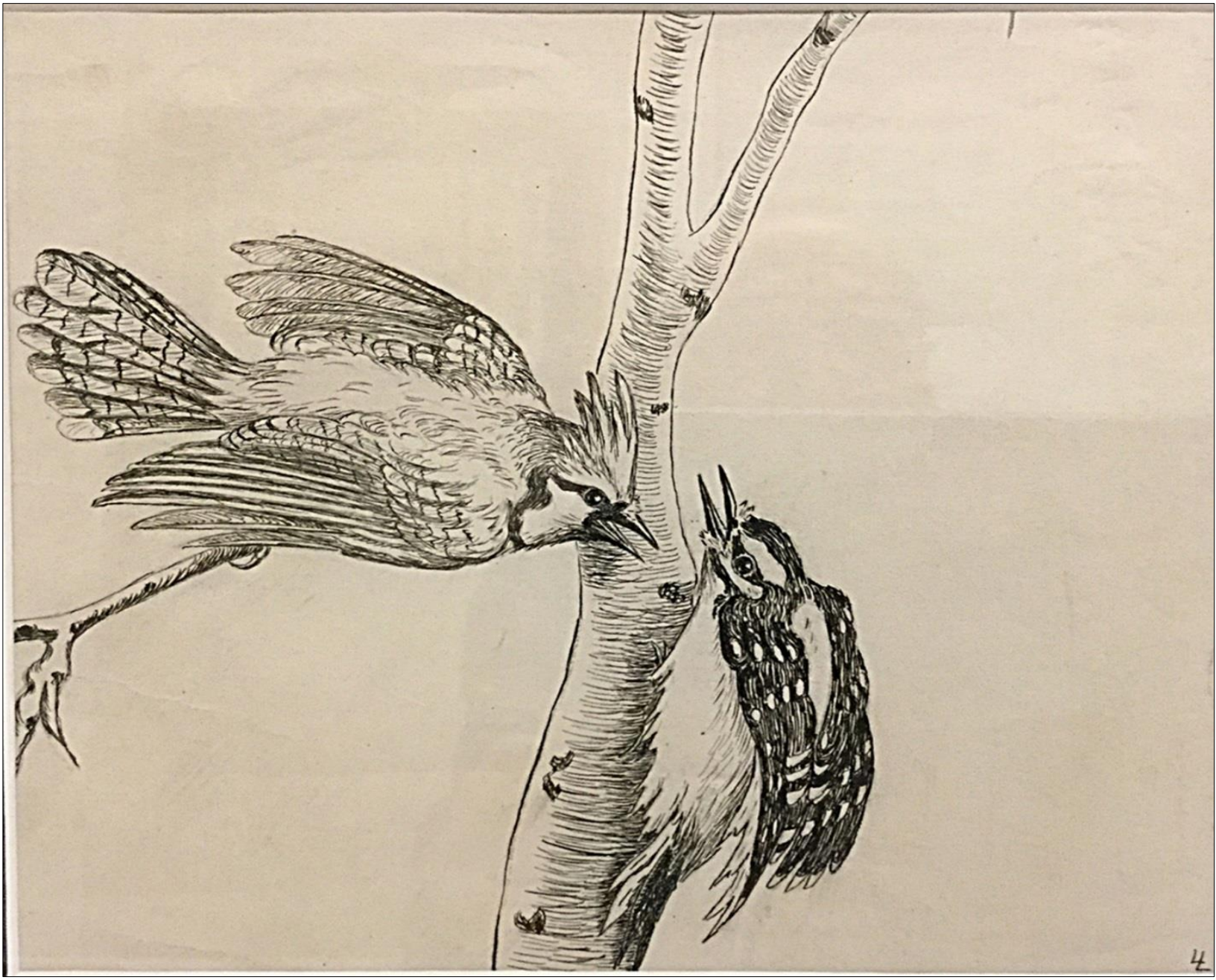
A financial contribution of $500 from the Township of Bonfield for the plaque has been received. This

contribution was obtained through the efforts of a new member of the Nipissing Naturalists Club, Steve Pitt. Additional money for the plaque, yet to be received from Bird Studies Canada, was collected by Dick Tafel and Fred Pinto as a result of their efforts in the Great Canadian Birdathon held in May.

To raise more funds, Nipissing Naturalists Club will auction online an original drawing by Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, donated by Grant and Shirley McKercher, who have had it framed. The photo of the drawing below is shown unframed. (See next article for more details on the silent and online auction.)

We should know by mid-January if our application is approved. In the meantime, if you haven't read Louise de Kiriline Lawrence's books, you can order some of them online through Amazon.ca at: http://www.amazon.ca/Louise-de-Kiriline-Lawrence-Books/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A916520%2Cp_lbr_books_authors_browse-bin%3ALouise%20de%20Kiriline%20Lawrence.

Pat Barclay wrote in *Books in Canada:* ***"Lawrence was quite possibly the most remarkable woman in Canada. Certainly she was a remarkable nature writer."***



Silent auction to benefit LKL plaque campaign

By Renee Levesque

During the first meeting of the New Year, on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016,** at our Annual General Meeting and pot luck dinner, there will be a silent auction, always a fun and exciting event. Will someone outbid you on the one item you really, really want?

Donations are required to make the silent auction a success. You can donate whatever you feel others might like. It doesn't have to be related to nature. Consider books, paintings, prints, ornaments, china, jewellery, carvings, jigsaw puzzles, historical documents, among other items. Whatever you would like to donate, please do so. Bring your donation item or items to **January's meeting to be held in the nature classroom of the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority, 15 Janey Avenue, North Bay, starting at 6:00 p.m.**

As seen in the collage below, many items have already been donated: books on wildlife and nature and trees; a carved loon by former Nipissing Naturalist Club member, John Ducharm; a 2016 Frank Pierce calendar featuring two birds from Laurier Woods; a wooden bird house; a sewing basket stuffed with balls of wool; a bottle of Couchiching Conservancy red wine from the Pelee Island Winery; and more.

The de Kiriline Lawrence drawing, as shown previously, will be displayed at the silent auction, but bidding will take place only online once the website to do so has been set up. There is a reserve bid of $200.00.

Paul Smylie's prints of his paintings will be for sale for $15.00 in person and at the silent auction or for $20.00 if bidding online. (The additional cost covers shipping charges.) He will have some prints, including the one of the Laurier Woods turtles (seen above) available for the silent auction.

Paul's original oil on board painting of Lake Superior (seen on the next page) will have a reserve bid of $80.00 and will be auctioned only online, although it will be displayed at the silent auction. Prints of it will also be available.

Money raised from the auction will go towards the Ontario Heritage Trust plaque to be installed at Pimisi Bay, if the application submitted in September is approved – and we should know by mid-January. It is time a woman of the stature of Louise de Kiriline Lawrence is recognized in this regard and we should be proud that it is our club which has been supportive of this endeavour.


PAUL EMYLIE '14

Upcoming speakers at monthly meetings

As you will see below and on the next page, a roster of informative and interesting speakers has been lined up for February, March and April. Our Annual General Meeting, auction and pot luck dinner will be held in January.

Meetings take place the second Tuesday of every month starting at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Casselholme.

On Tuesday, January 13, Nipissing Naturalists Club Annual General Meeting will be held at the **North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority, 15 Janey Ave., North Bay.** The business meeting will consist of the following:

- President's report of 2015 activities
- Bird Wing report
- Minutes of 2014 AGM acceptance
- Treasurer's report
- Election of Directors

There will be a potluck dinner, so be sure to bring a dish of your choice and your plates and utensils. There will also be a silent auction. Please bring an item(s) you wish to donate.

On Tuesday, February 10, Kathi Hunnisett, marine biologist and veterinary technician, will present *A Summer of Sand, Sun and Sea Turtles*, based on her research in Panama of Leatherback Sea Turtles (seen below). Kathi has a strong love and passion for the ocean and its creatures, especially sea turtles. In her talk, she will share her knowledge of sea turtles and how they have been affected negatively by humans, but how we, through education and conservation, can become a positive force.

Photo courtesy of allcreatures.org

On Tuesday, March 10, several students from Nipissing University will describe their experiences during their school trip to the Galapagos Islands. What can they tell us about the creature on the right, ***photographed by Fred Pinto*** who took the trip with the students?

On **Tuesday, April 12**, Paul Smylie will talk about *Bicycling the Dempster Highway: Whitehorse to Inuvik.*

Last summer, Paul spent two weeks cycling alone along Canada's only all-weather road that crosses the Arctic Circle. Learn from Paul about his amazing journey and what it is to cycle alone along a gravel road in the Arctic.

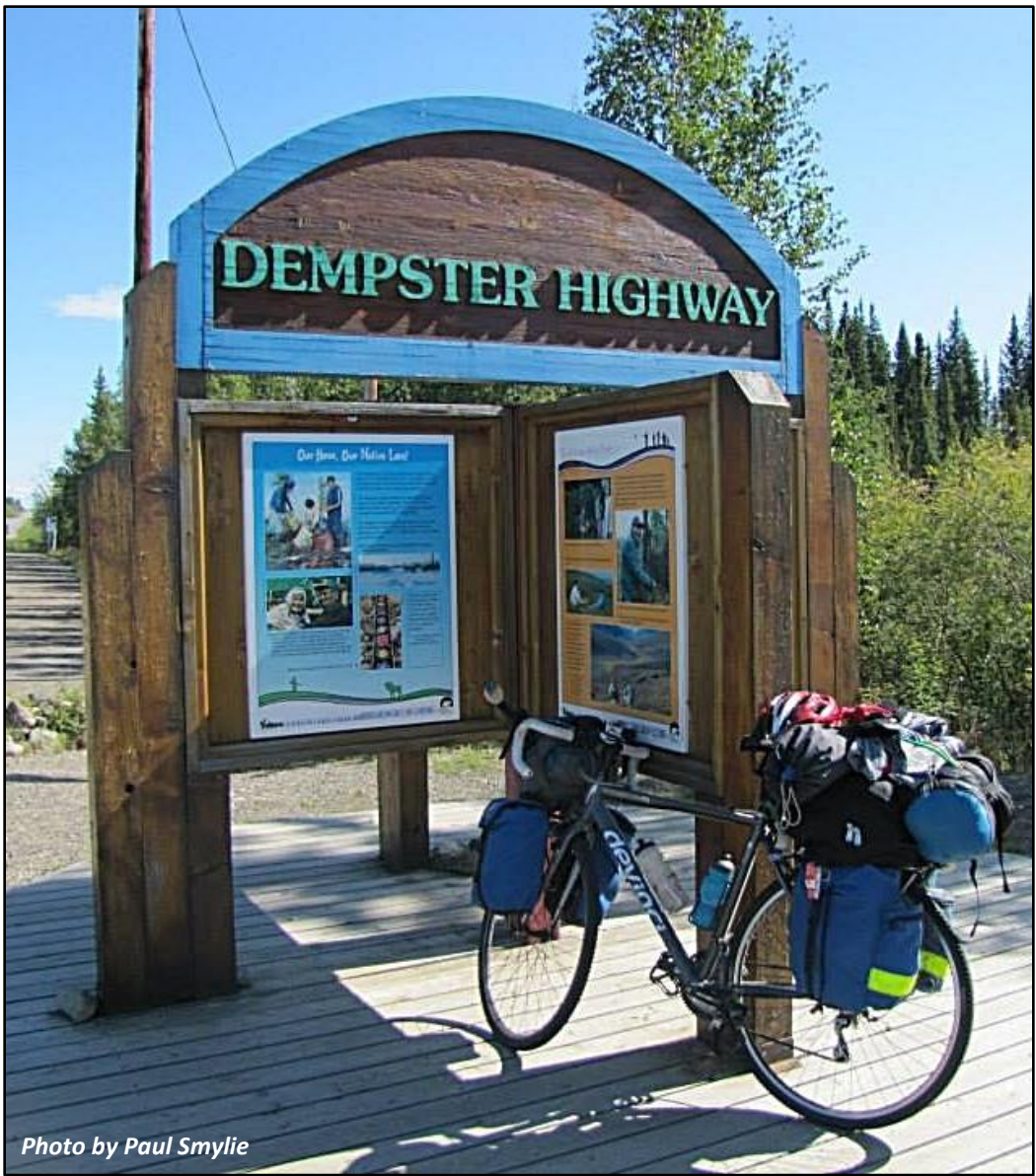


Photo by Paul Smylie

Board of Directors

Fred Pinto, President: fredpinto1@gmail.com. 705-476-9006

Marc Buchanan, Vice-president

Joe Boivin	Sonje Bols-Hill
Irene Kasch	Mary Marrs
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Angela Martin	Greg Boxwell	Jeremy St. Onge

Bird Wing

Dick Tafel, Chairman: rtafel@sympatico.ca. 705-472-7907

Gary Sturge, Treasurer

Renee Levesque, Bird Wing Scribe: rlevesque1948@gmail.com

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Contributors this issue: Kaye Edmonds, Craig Hurst, Renee Levesque, Angela Martin, Grant McKercher, Fred Pinto, Steph Romaniuk, Paul Smylie and Dick Tafel.

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Membership Fees

Yearly Nipissing Naturalist Club membership fees are: single, $20. 00; family, $30.00

There is an **additional $5.00 membership fee for Bird Wing** which meets the **fourth Tuesday of every month in the auditorium of the North Bay Public Library from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** That fee is paid directly to Bird Wing.

The Nipissing Naturalist Club is affiliated with Ontario Nature: http://www.ontarionature.org/.

The Nipissing Naturalist Club website is found at http://www.nipnats.com/. The *Woodland Observer* and the Bird Wing monthly newsletters are posted there under Newsletters and Bird Wing. Click on that link found on the left side of the home page.