THE WOODLAND OBSERVER

SEPTEMBER 2017

NIPISSING NATURALISTS CLUB

From the editor:

Celebrating summer at summer's end

At the end of every summer for some years now I have said, as so many do, where did the summer go? I don't know too many people who say that about winter. It certainly was a rather cool and wet summer, but it was still summer.

This issue is filled with summer events that took place, with the exception of the Louise de Kiriline Nature Festival which will be featured in October's issue. Nipissing Naturalists Club events found in this issue are the climb to the Three Crosses in Mattawa; the tour of Dokis First Nation; the July and August guided walks through Laurier Woods; Oriana's camping cook-out at Gary and Connie Sturge's; a young birder's enchantment with birds based on her outings with some Nipissing Naturalists Club members; and the results of the Chimney Swift counts.

Bev Kingdon, a member of Nipissing Naturalists Club, received a prestigious award from Ontario Nature this past June for her dedicated work over these last decades with Trumpeter Swans. You can read about it in this issue.

Also featured are summer finds based on members' photographs of birds, snakes, turtles, butterflies and dragonflies that were seen this summer. **I would like to feature these finds more often, so be sure to send me photographs of animals**

and plants you think others might enjoy looking at and reading about. I am but an email away.

On August 21, we were fortunate to have witnessed a partial eclipse of the sun – about a 60% coverage in North Bay. **If anyone has photographs to share of this, I will be doing an article on it for October's issue.**

Fall is almost upon us, a time of vivid colours, a time when temperatures begin to fall and days start getting shorter than the nights. This year the Autumnal Equinox is on September 22. To learn to photograph the brilliant forest colours so detail is not lost, be sure to join Paul Chivers, noted photographer, as he takes us on a photography nature hike through Laurier Woods on Saturday, October 7.

The two speakers lined up for September and October's meetings will not be focusing on brilliant colour, but on ice! Fred Pinto will talk about the ice ages of Earth at September's meeting, the first meeting after our summer hiatus; and at October's meeting, Franco Mariotti of Ontario Nature will take us to Antarctica, a continent of mystery and intrigue, a continent most of us may never get the opportunity to visit.

And on September 16, just before summer officially ends, there will be a barbecue for members at the Sturges' Trout Creek property. Details inside.

Thanks to the many members and others who contributed to this issue. Quite a number of you sent me photographs, wrote or co-wrote articles and provided me with information. This is always welcome.

- *Renee Levesque, editor* rlevesque1948@gmail.com

Climb every mountain…

Renee Levesque

By Fred Pinto

Many club members had always wanted to hike up to the iconic Three Crosses overlooking the town of Mattawa. And so on June 3 on a sunny but cool spring afternoon, 13 members did just that! This opportunity to climb what is known as Quebec Hill was organized by Elmer Rose and others involved with the Mattawa Museum. (Last October, Elmer organized a club outing to the Bonfield location of the First Spike that was driven into the railway to begin the eastern leg of the transcontinental railroad that united British Columbia with central Canada.)

As a safety precaution in case a hiker got lost or injured, we first had to register at Crevier Gas Station in Mattawa. After that, we spent a short time at the Mattawa Museum where Frank Bastien gave us a brief history of Quebec Hill. Frank's grandparents moved to an area close to the Three Crosses in the late 1880s and his family lived there for almost a century. According to the information Frank received from his grandmother, the crosses were built towards the end of the 19th century.

We were then boated in small groups across the Ottawa River. The water was very high and the river fast flowing and we felt the boat shudder as it cut though different currents.

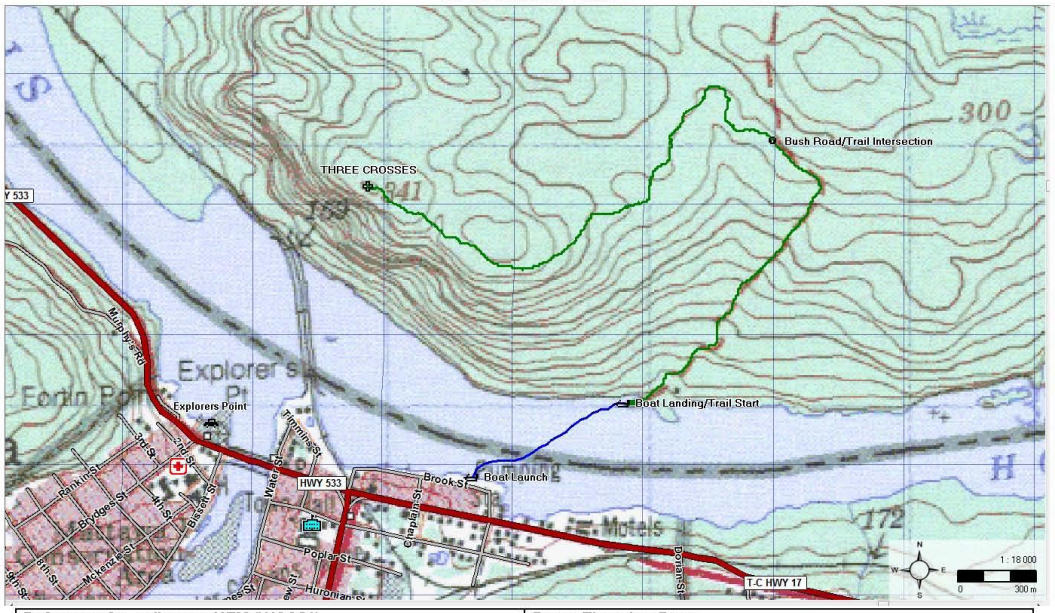
We gathered at the boat landing and set off on our trek to the songs of the Chestnut-sided, Nashville and Yellow Warblers. We noted a few large White Pines in the second growth forest that covers the lower slope of Quebec Hill.

The first third of the trail is a drivable road that climbs at approximately 135 m above sea level. Then, at an altitude of approximately 285 m, we branched left onto a walking trail. If needed, an ATV could also drive on this trail**. (See the map and elevation cross section on the next page provided by Karl Dittman.** Zoom in for better viewing**.)**

The walking trail then leveled off and followed the contour of the hill. There were Balsam Fir and Spruce on the mid-slope of the hill and it was here we heard Northern Parula and Mourning Warblers.

About half way along this trail, we came across a small graveyard with four crosses, three with names and dates of the people buried here and who were members of Frank's family. The oldest grave marker is dated 1892, although the wooden crosses that mark the graves were replaced in 2007.

Three Crosses Trail



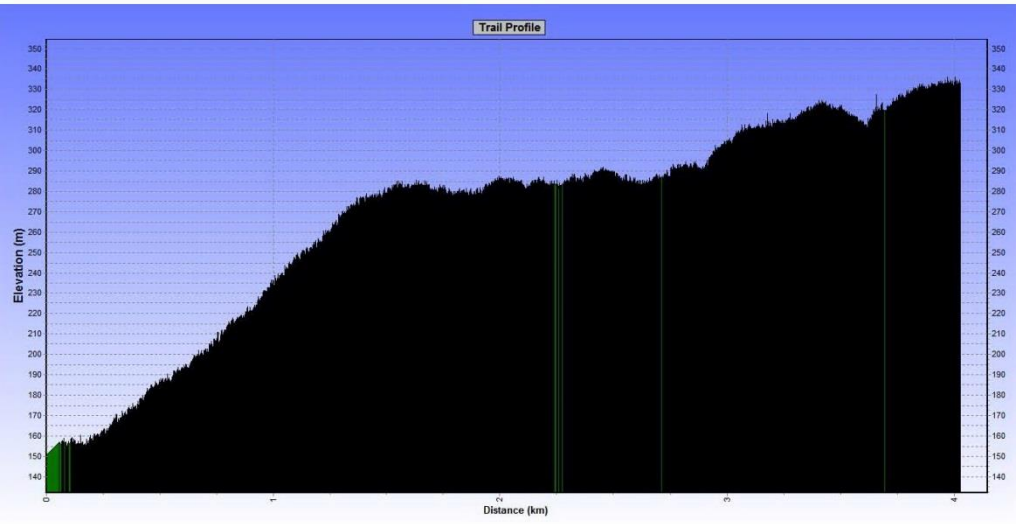
Reference Co-ordinates: UTM (WGS84)			Route Elevation Data:	
Boat Launch	17T 0677345	5131954	Trail Start	150.58 metres
Boat Landing/Trail Start	17T 0677921	5132237	Intersection	285.00 metres
Bush Road/Trail Intersection	17T 0678499	5133241	Three Crosses	336.12 metres
Three Crosses	17T 0676948	5133066	Total Climb	185.54 metres
Distances:	Boat Crossing 672 metres		Hiking Distance	4.03 km

Gridlines are 500 metres apart *Contour Interval is 10 metres*

Past the graveyard, there was evidence of the forest having been cleared by the people who had lived there. Wood would have been essential for fuel and building material.

The upper portion of the hill is well-drained, dry and covered with Red Oak, American Beech and some Red and White Pine. The trail starts to rise here again, but despite the elevation, it was pleasant walking through the forest with a fairly open canopy. We heard Blackburian, Mourning and Nashville Warblers, as well as Eastern Wood-Pewees. Through openings in the forest, we now could occasionally see the Ottawa River below us.

Three Crosses Trail Profile



Elevation at Trail Start (Mattawa River)	150.58 m
Elevation at Three Crosses	336.12 m

Total Trail distance 4.03 km

The three crosses were smaller than I had imagined them. They have small solar-powered LED lights and are guyed to the ground by wire cable. Some of the lights have been broken and many names have been written on the crosses.

Needless to say, the view from the site of the Three

Crosses is excellent. The Poplars just below the crosses add a vivid green that contrasts with the dark waters of the Ottawa. Where the Mattawa flows into the Ottawa, we could see a definite line that marks the clearer water of the Mattawa from the darker water of the Ottawa. We could see Highway 17 wind its way across the landscape, with the Town of Mattawa in the centre of our field of view.

The walk down was an easy hike. Cell phone coverage is excellent all along the trail and we were able to call the boatman as we made our way down to the landing.

Depending on one's level of physical fitness, it takes about 40 to 60 minutes to walk the 4 km hike and climb the 200 m to the top. It takes about 30 to 40 minutes to descend.

View of Mattawa and area, photo by Karen Major

….Ford every stream

By Karen Major

It was a beautiful, sunny day when 13 Nipissing Naturalists Club members climbed Laurentian Mountain to the Three Crosses overlooking the town of Mattawa.

The hike started at the Mattawa Museum with Elmer Rose giving us a history of the crosses. Apparently no one knows exactly why the crosses were originally erected, although there are a number of theories.

To get to the Three Crosses, you can either boat across to a landing that an outfitter uses and take an 8 km round trip trail or walk across at the train trestle and take a much shorter, but steeper trail. Elmer told us that when he was a train conductor and the train was coming down the mountain, the engineer would start to blow the whistle at a certain spot on the mountain. This gave those walking across the trestle time to get to a pedestal to be off the tracks by the time the train reached them. There is an obvious safety risk crossing the train trestle and, therefore, it is not recommended you take this route.

Frank Bastien also spoke about the Three Crosses. He was raised on a farm just before you get to the crosses and remembers going to the crosses as a boy – and still goes there to this day. Frank told us to look for a beautiful little spring partway up the mountain and to look for the clearing where his family's homestead had been. He also took us across the river in his boat and picked us up after the climb.

The trail starts out with a steep ½ km (approx.) climb up a very rocky road. It then veers off to the left and you follow an ATV trail parallel to the mountain for the remainder of the walk. As we walked up, we were able to listen to a variety of birds and see some gorgeous wildflowers. We also got to swat blackflies, which I found were worse on the road than on the ATV trail.

The clearing for Frank's homestead was quite apparent and a welcome place to catch one's breath. Just past this clearing was a little cemetery with crosses dating back to the 1800s. These are the ancestors of Monique Minor on her father's side of the family. (Thank you, Monique, for that information.)

Fred Pinto

Fred Pinto

As you walk along the ATV trail, enjoying the wildflowers and birds, you suddenly come to an opening and there you are at the Three Crosses! The view is absolutely spectacular! Looking down at the Mattawa Museum, you can see where the Mattawa River meets the Ottawa. There is actually a line where they meet that you can quite clearly see - the Mattawa, a clear blue colour, and the Ottawa, a muddy blue colour.

The only downfall of this hike was the amount of blackflies at the crosses. You would think that being in an open clearing on a hot day would deter them, but NO! If you were having a snack to regain some of the energy you spent climbing up, you were lucky not to get some extra unexpected protein. I know I did! However, this downfall did not in the least detract from the spectacular view.

Of course, the trip back down the mountain was faster with not as much huffing and puffing involved, and at the landing was Frank, waiting to chauffeur us back across the river.

A BIG thank you to Elmer Rose for arranging this hike and the water transportation, and a BIG thank you to Frank Bastien for being our water chauffeur and not even charging us. It was a great hike that I would definitely do again, even with the blackflies. The view was certainly worth it.

Kaye Edmonds

The Widow Skimmer and other dragonflies

By Brent Turcotte

On July 1, I led an outing in Laurier Woods to look for butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. If you recall, you know that the weather on Canada Day was rainy with some torrential downpours. The walk began and ended with a light rain and thankfully the heavy downpour did not start until after the walk!

Despite the weather, the turnout was surprisingly good with six enthusiastic entomologists accompanying me on the hunt. The butterfly and dragonfly activity was understandably low. We did not see any butterflies and the only odes we found were Marsh Bluets and Sedge Sprites, both small damselflies. Nevertheless, we all had a great time looking at all kinds of things and talking a lot.

A few days later, on July 4, I went to Callander Lagoon to look for the Widow Skimmer dragonfly that Kaye Edmonds discovered in late June and I saw a female and at least two males. The males of the Widow Skimmer are very nice looking. They have a gray abdomen instead of yellow and have white patches on their wings in addition to the dark patches. Kaye's sighting is of a female, as is Renee Levesque's when she saw one on July 19, also at Callander Lagoon. (See the top of the next age.) However, when you compare the two female sightings, you will see from Renee's photo on the right that the dark patches on the upper wings are not nearly as prominent. Perhaps they have faded or perhaps this is but an individual variation.

Kaye Edmonds ***Renee Levesque***

To my knowledge, Callander Lagoon is the first place I know where the Widow Skimmer has occurred in the Blue Sky Region. The *Field Guide to The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park and the Surrounding Area* lists it in our area as uncommon to rare. We are likely very close to the northern edge of its range here. Odonata Central shows a single Ontario record at 48 degrees north, further north than North Bay, which is at the 46th parallel.

The Widow Skimmer is one of our most striking dragonflies and it was a pleasure to see it, however briefly. The last time I saw this species was nearly ten years ago at Millbrook Conservation Area near Peterborough.

Speaking of dragonflies, I went on an odonate count in Algonquin Provincial Park in July. The group I was with got 36 species, and overall the count was over 60 species. The area leader I was teamed up with was Chris Evans. He is responsible for discovering the Hine's Emerald in Ontario, at Minesing Wetlands, in 2007 and getting it listed as an endangered species. A photo of the Hine's Emerald is seen at right, courtesy of Paul Burton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, https://www.fws.gov/midwest/insider3/December15Story18.htm.

Editor's Note: If anyone has a photo of the male Widow Skimmer, please send it to me for possible future use.

Paul Burton, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dokis First Nation and the French River

Text and photos by Renee Levesque

It was one of those pristine summer mornings when Nipissing Naturalists Club members set out from North Bay to visit Dokis First Nation with Norm Dokis and his partner, Tammy Cayer. The last time I was in Dokis was sometime in the 70s when the Chief Commanda made a stop there. The marina (below) has since been updated and the wharf where the Chief docked is no longer there, but still the area was recognizable.

We accessed Dokis First Nation this time not by boat, but by road, a 25 km gravel road off Hwy 64. We met up with Norm and Tammy at the Pow-wow

grounds where Norm provided a history of Dokis (right) and Tammy had bannock ready for us to eat. I happen to be one of those people who love bannock even without the jam and Tammy's bannock was one of the best I have tasted.

Norm is a major supporter of eco-tourism and in addition to his job with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Norm runs a lodge on the French River, Camp Petawachuan, www.frenchriverpark.com, named after his great-great-grandfather, Chief Michel. Petawachuan, which means *I hear the rapids far away*, was Chief Michel's spirit name.

Dokis First Nation consists of two large islands on the historic French River. The main community is on one of these islands, Okikendawt Island, the Island of Pots, so named because of the many pot formations in the rocks. To provide safe passage through the area, offerings of tobacco are often placed in the pots.

In 1850, Norm's great-great-grandfather, Michel "Eagle" Dokis, created the boundaries of Dokis First Nation, although settlement did not take place until the 1890s, with most of the settled families being Dokis and Restoule. (Dokis is of the Clan Eagle and Restoule, of the Clan Raccoon.) When lumbering replaced fur trading as the main source of income, the families sold the timber rights of their Dokis lands. By 1909, Dokis First Nation was the richest First Nation in Canada and the money enabled the community to build a church and a school, among other infrastructure.

Until the 1950s, Dokis was accessible only by boat and canoe in the summer and horse carriages in the winter. The isolation created a close community where people depended on one another. The road provided greater access to the outside world, but thereby affected, to some extent, the close bonding of community members.

Today local and band-owned businesses help keep the economy going, businesses such as marina operation, construction, tourism and eco-tourism, restaurant services, transportation, services to cottage owners on the French River and forestry.

Of significant economic importance is the Okikendawt Project, a hydro project jointly owned by Hydromega and the Dokis Nation. Construction of the hydro project began in 2013 and was completed in 2016. Not only does it provide employment to Dokis First Nations people, but the money derived from it is invested and used for economic development, community infrastructure and community services. For more information on this project, you can watch the You Tube video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhvY2700N5w.

Following our history lesson, Norm led us on a trail through the woods where he pointed out medicinal plants such as Prince's Pine, Bluebead Lily, Plantain, Heal-

all, Burdock and the fungus, Old Man's Beard, as well as interesting trees such as Striped Maple and Leatherwood and a berry plant, Partridgeberry, the berries of which are used to make jam.

At the top of the trail, graced by a totem or a *doodem* of an eagle, is a spectacular view of Cradle Falls.

Then it was back to the Pow-wow grounds for some lunch and socializing before heading off in our vehicles to the Chaudière Dam and the Okikendawt Project, built adjacent to the old Portage Dam to control the water flow in the French River and to maintain water levels in Lake Nipissing. When the project was completed in 2016, there was a dedication ceremony in May of that year in which a large

sculpture of a turtle by Martin Restoule, former Chief, was blessed. This large turtle sculpture with otters, fish, a woodpecker and an eagle on it, overlooks the French River and the hydro project. The turtle carries the weight of the earth on its back; the four otters point to the four directions, north, south, east and west; the

fish are the keepers of the water; the woodpecker or *pa-pa-say* is the messenger; and the powerful eagle, the connection to the Creator.

What followed was a boat ride in Norm's pontoon on the French River.

We made a stop and climbed to rocks with openings in them where Kaye Edmonds, on behalf of all of us, placed an offering for safe passage (right). Norm then demonstrated how these rocks can be clapped together to produce a thundering sound, warning the community of approaching visitors. You can listen to this on Fred Pinto's very short video on Nipissing Naturalists Club's Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/nipissingnaturalistsclub/. Scroll down to the posting of July 19. The video is on the right.

And from here was yet another spectacular view of the French River, a fitting place for Norm to tell us about Nanabush, a spirit

viewed with great respect, a hero and a teacher of humanity, but also a trickster who behaves mischievously.

From the boat we could almost touch the majestic rocks of the Great Canadian Shield that grace the French, ancient monuments of this sacred river. We saw on these rocks some faint pictographs, a caribou in particular. In the photo below, if you look carefully, you may see it.

And from the boat, we also saw all that remains of an old Hudson's Bay outpost - the stone fireplace and chimney.

With this the tour came to an end, but what a fitting way to end it. We headed home, some of us first taking a tour of the village, some of us stopping at a small gift store and some of us going on to the community centre for a pickerel dinner.

Miigwetch, Norm and Tammy. It was a very enjoyable visit with everything one could want in a day!

A remarkable achievement

Noah Cole

By Renee Levesque with Beverly Kingdon and Angela Martin

Beverly Kingdon, Nipissing Naturalist Club member, who divides her time between her home in Burlington and her cottage on Lake Nosbonsing, was the recipient of Ontario Nature's 2016 J.R. Dymond Public Service Award. It is an award given to an individual who has shown distinguished public service that has resulted in exceptional environmental achievement – in Bev's case, the reintroduction of Trumpeter Swans to Ontario.

Bev, who was nominated by Don Morrison and Joyce LeChasseur of the South Peel Naturalists, was presented with the award on June 3 at Kempenfelt Conference Centre in Innisfil, by Angela Martin, past president of Ontario Nature and Nipissing Naturalists Club. (Bev on left and Angela on right in above photo by Noah Cole, Ontario Nature.)

In presenting the award, a framed print of a cygnet, to Bev, Angela referred to Bev as Trumpeter Swan Lady and praised her for her work with the swans, work that has been a major passion of Bev's for 30 years now.

Over these 30 years, Bev helped bring back Trumpeters from the brink of extinction. Today the number of Trumpeters in Ontario is over 1,000! A remarkable achievement. (This summer Bev received notice that a pair of Trumpeters that nested in Timmins hatched three cygnets – wonderful news for Bev – and for Timmins – and for the Trumpeters!)

It is fitting that Bev was presented with the award by Angela because it was Angela, as a Nipissing Naturalists Club board member and chair of the Conservation Committee, who wrote a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources asking him to allow the release of Trumpeter Swans in Lake Nipissing. As a result, two sets of Trumpeters were released into Callander Bay, 12 in 2002 and 14 in 2003.

Bringing "home" 26 swans to Callander Bay, a bay in which Bev learned to swim, was a very special and joyous time for her, "the most exciting time of my life." And no wonder. Bev, who grew up in Callander, fell in love with swans at the age of 8. She loved them so much that she made a promise to herself that she would have swans at her home when she grew up. And she kept that promise, raising some on a property she owns in Chisholm Township, only to see them arrive on migration in Lake Ontario near her Burlington home. And thus began Bev's mission to save the Trumpeters with the backing of Harry Lumsden, biologist and research scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources (now retired), and help from other like-minded souls, including Bev's husband, Ray. (It was Harry who began a provincial re-introduction program of Trumpeter Swans in the early 1980s.)

Today, some of the swans migrate each year through the Lake Nipissing area.

"I worked with the swans because it was a loving passion and a pure joy. I never expected recognition."

Editor's Note: Angela Martin's term of nine years on the Ontario Nature Board of Directors is now complete and after 20 years of volunteering, Angela is retiring. She says she will take it easy and enjoy nature around her.

Renee Levesque

Summer finds

By Renee Levesque

Renee Levesque

Snakes:

We are used to seeing the **Eastern Garter Snake**, (at right) but what about the **Red-bellied Snake**, the only snake in Ontario with a red belly? It is actually a very common snake in areas of good habitat, but can be difficult to find. Generally, it is found in forest edges, fields and meadows with lots of ground cover consisting of logs, rocks, scrap piles and building foundations. On July 1, Brent Turcotte found and photographed the one below on Worthington Street in North Bay.

The Red-bellied snake is nocturnal, usually moving no more than 500 metres from its hibernation site over the entire summer. It is a good snake to control garden pests like slugs, earthworms, snails and grubs.

Brent Turcotte

It will display its red belly if it feels threatened, but Brent reports it was quite docile when he saw it and feels that maybe it was trying to warm itself on the pavement on our rather cool Canada Day.

There is no significant threat to the Red-bellied and so it is not considered to be in decline.

A less common snake found in our area is the **Milksnake** seen and photographed near Talon Chutes in late June by Dick Tafel. (See top of next page.) It is a snake listed as Special Concern under the Ontario Endangered Species Act; listed as Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act; and designated as a Specially Protected

Reptile under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

The Milksnake likes open habitats, such as rocky outcrops, fields and forest edges. It is attracted to barns by the abundance of mice on which it thrives. And because of this attraction to barns, it gets its name from the false belief that it takes milk from cows.

A significant threat to the Milksnake is human persecution. People often mistake it for the venomous Massasauga Rattlesnake because of its colour and patterning, as well as its tendency to vibrate its tail when threatened. It also makes a rattling sound when it comes in contact with dry vegetation.

Other threats include habitat loss, road construction and conversion of natural areas to agricultural uses. But like most snakes in Ontario, the Milksnake is commonly killed on roads.

Dick Tafel

Turtles:

I suspect many turtles were rescued from the roads this summer – at least I hope so. I know of two **Blanding's Turtle** rescues in July, one by Gary Sturge on Hwy 534 and one by Dick Tafel, with his helpers, Kaye Edmonds, Louise Simpson and me, on Hwy. 64. Dick's rescue is shown on the right.

As you see from the photo, Blanding's Turtles

Renee Levesque

have bright yellow chins and throats. No other turtle species in Ontario has this. They also have quite a domed upper shell or carapace that is often spotted with tan or yellow flecks, although these flecks may be absent or faded in some individuals.

Besides their bright yellow chins and throats, Blanding's are also unique because they travel overland further than any other Ontario turtle – several kilometres between summer habitats and nesting sites.

And although Blanding's are aquatic turtles, unlike most aquatic turtles they also eat on land.

The Blanding's turtle is currently listed as Threatened under the Ontario Endangered Species Act; listed as Threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act; and designated as a Specially Protected Reptile under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

The destruction of wetland, the alteration of wetlands, shoreline development and road kill all pose serious threats in Ontario to the remaining population of Blanding's. Additionally, as if that is not enough, Blanding's is removed illegally for use as food or pets.

Another turtle probably some of you have seen this summer is the **Snapping Turtle.** Canada's largest freshwater turtle. Rachel Sturge photographed the one at right in late June on Hazel Glen Road, Powassan.

Rachel Sturge

With its long tail of triangular spikes, the Snapper is Ontario's most prehistoric-looking turtle species, reminiscent of a stegosaurus.

Unlike most other Ontario turtles, the Snapping Turtle cannot withdraw into its shell for protection when threatened. On land, it defends itself by snapping repeatedly, but in water it rarely snaps at people or other potential threats. Instead, it will simply swim away.

The female generally lays her eggs in the early summer in a nesting site of loose soil, sand, loam, vegetation debris or sawdust in which she digs a nest 4 to 7 inches deep. She lays between 20 and 40 eggs that are the size and shape of a table tennis ball. Up to 84% of nests can be destroyed by predators – minks, raccoons and skunks.

Snappers can live for up to 100 years, but with such longevity, it takes them from about 15 to 20 years to reach sexual maturity. Therefore, renewal of the species is slow and so the loss of even a few adult turtles every year is enough to cause its population to decline. This makes the Snapping Turtle vulnerable to threats like road mortality, probably their greatest threat. (As of April 1, 2017, the hunting of Snapping Turtles was banned in Ontario.)

The Snapping Turtle is currently listed as Special Concern under the Ontario Endangered Species Act**;** listed as Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act; and has been designated as a Specially Protected Reptile under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Frogs:

In late June when I was out birding, I first heard the deep *jug-o-rum* call of the **American Bullfrog** (below) in a wet ditch by the side of a road in West Nipissing. It took a while to actually find it because it was quite camouflaged.

Renee Levesque

Bullfrogs are big frogs, the largest in North America. They vary in colour from pale green to dark greenish brown. Adult males have pale to bright yellow chins during breeding season.

Bullfrogs breed from mid-June to late July on warm, humid or rainy nights. The egg masses may contain up to 20,000 eggs. The tadpoles, which are also larger than other species, can take up to three years to change into frogs. After transforming into bullfrogs, males take another three years to mature, with females taking five or more years.

Befitting their size, bullfrogs eat any animal they can swallow - insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs, even other bullfrogs. But perhaps because they are so large, bullfrogs are eaten by humans! They, like other large frogs around the world, are harvested for food. The harvesting for food has resulted in bullfrogs being introduced to many areas in which they are not native and because they eat smaller frogs, this may contribute to the decline of those frogs which are not adapted to the presence of bullfrogs.

Neither the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario nor the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada has assessed the status of the American Bullfrog. The species has no protection under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Fred Pinto

Birds:

In June, Fred Pinto saw a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** on Homestead Road in Calvin Township. You may well wonder why this bird, which breeds in open habitat in the southern Great Plains and south Texas, was seen in Calvin Township. And this is not the first time it was seen in our area. In May 2015, Brent and Laura Turcotte saw one in Sunset Park. It seems this flycatcher, a member of the kingbird

family, *Tyrannas*, has an interesting tendency to wander widely on its way to and from its wintering grounds during spring and fall migration.

The Scissor-tailed is aptly named. It has a long and deeply forked tail as you will see from Fred's photo. Its tail helps it to make abrupt turns, twists and stops. It is a pale gray bird with blackish wings, a black tail with white edges and salmon pink flanks, seen best when it is in flight. If you are as lucky as Fred and Brent and see one in our area, it is more than likely to be perched on utility lines, fences and treetops watching for insects to prey upon.

For more information on birds seen this summer, check out the June and July Bird Wing and Bird Bash reports at: https://www.nipnats.com/club-activities/bird-wing/. August reports will be added sometime during September.

Butterfly and Damselfly:

I was walking along the along road that leads to Warren Lagoon when I spied the beautiful **White Admiral butterfly** on the dirt road. Nothing unusual about that. I also spied what I believe was a **Marsh Bluet damselfly**. Also nothing unusual about that. But what was unusual was to see the bluet fly up to the White Admiral and rest between its wings. I was able to quickly snap a photo (at right) before the butterfly fluttered its wings to rid itself of the damselfly.

Renee Levesque

On Karen's pond – *Castor canadensis*

By Renee Levesque; photo by Karen Major

In the July/ August edition of *Canadian Wildlife* magazine, there is an article by Kat Eschner entitled "The All-Canadian Beaver", our national animal since 1975. (Interesting the government at the time allowed us to have a national animal, but today's government would not give us a national bird.)

From this article, I learned that a recent genome study of the beaver by the Centre for Applied Genomics at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto showed that although 20 subspecies of beaver once existed across North America, only the beaver, *Castor canadensis canadensis*, associated with Canada's Hudson Bay region remains. (As an aside, "beaver" in French, Portuguese and Spanish is *castor*, and in Italian, *castoro*.)

Because beavers were once hunted to extinction by trappers, most beaver populations living today are reconstructed by introduced Canadian beavers. Therefore, we can say there are only Canadian beavers living in the United States. Just something else of which we Canadians can be proud!

Our enduring relationship with mushrooms

By Renee Levesque

Fred Pinto

An impressive group of 35 to 40 participants, from youngsters to seniors, came out on Saturday, August 5 during the Civic holiday weekend to follow Lucy Emmet (right) on a mushroom walk and talk in Laurier Woods. They were not put off by the less than ideal weather that Saturday because when better to find mushrooms than in wet weather?

Why are we so fascinated by mushrooms that we are prepared to wander through a wet forest looking for them? Perhaps because we have had a close relationship with mushrooms for thousands of years, relying on them for food and medicine. And perhaps because many of us grew up reading fairy stories about fairy rings and pixies and fairies sitting on or under toadstools.

In the mythical world, the world of folklore, fairy rings were often created by fairies and dancing elves on moonlit nights, and could be both benevolent and malevolent. Entering one could be fatal. In the real world, fairy rings are composed of mushrooms – about 60 types of mushroom – which grow in a ring pattern. They can be seen in many parts of the world, either in woods where they live in symbiosis with trees or in meadows where they are free, not connected with any other organism.

The photo below, by Josimda, from Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_ring, is of a fairy ring of Clouded Agaric near Buchenberg, Germany.

Pixies and fairies in our fairy tale books sat under or on perfectly formed domed-shaped toadstools – pure white-stemmed, red-capped mushrooms with white spots on the caps. These toadstools in our picture books, the most iconic of the toadstools, are one of the *Amanitas, Amanita muscaria* or Fly Agaric or Fly Amanita. The most common *Amanita* in our part of the world is the one with the yellow cap**.** (Photo at right.)

Renee Levesque

The genus *Amanita* consists of 600 species, some of which are noted for being very toxic and responsible for mushroom poisoning. The *Amanita muscaria,* the fairy tale mushroom, is noted for its hallucinogenic properties. The word toadstool comes from medieval Saxon, *toad-stuhl*, meaning death bud.

Mushrooms appear, grow and disappear within a few days and perhaps this is also part of our fascination. The part we see is the fruiting body of the mushroom cycle, its second cycle. The first cycle, the one we don't see, is the mycelium and it is in this first cycle that the mushroom spends most of its life, taking nutrients from the soil and protecting itself from invaders. The third and final cycle is the spore. Most spores, which are spread by wind, are so microscopically small that we don't see them. The only ones we generally see are those of the puffball (right).

Mushroom hunting or mushrooming forces us to look closely at the forest floor, to get down on our knees and really look and in so doing, see things we don't normally see. We are truly in the woods when we look for mushrooms, bending over looking for signs of life in low places, signs of life in tough places, and signs of life where we least expect them.

During the August Laurier Woods outing, Lucy and participants saw some yellow jellies (seen in the photo collage following this article) and coral mushrooms. They also saw Tinder Fungus, Chaga, Ghost Pipes, and many berries, all edible but the lovely holly, *Ilex verticillata* or Winterberry.

As fall approaches, look for even more mushrooms in the coming days and weeks ahead. Following this article is a collage of mushrooms that appeared in the December 2016 issue. You might also want to re-read Lucy's article from the same issue based on a walk in Laurier Woods that Lucy led with a few of us last October.

Photos by Renee Levesque

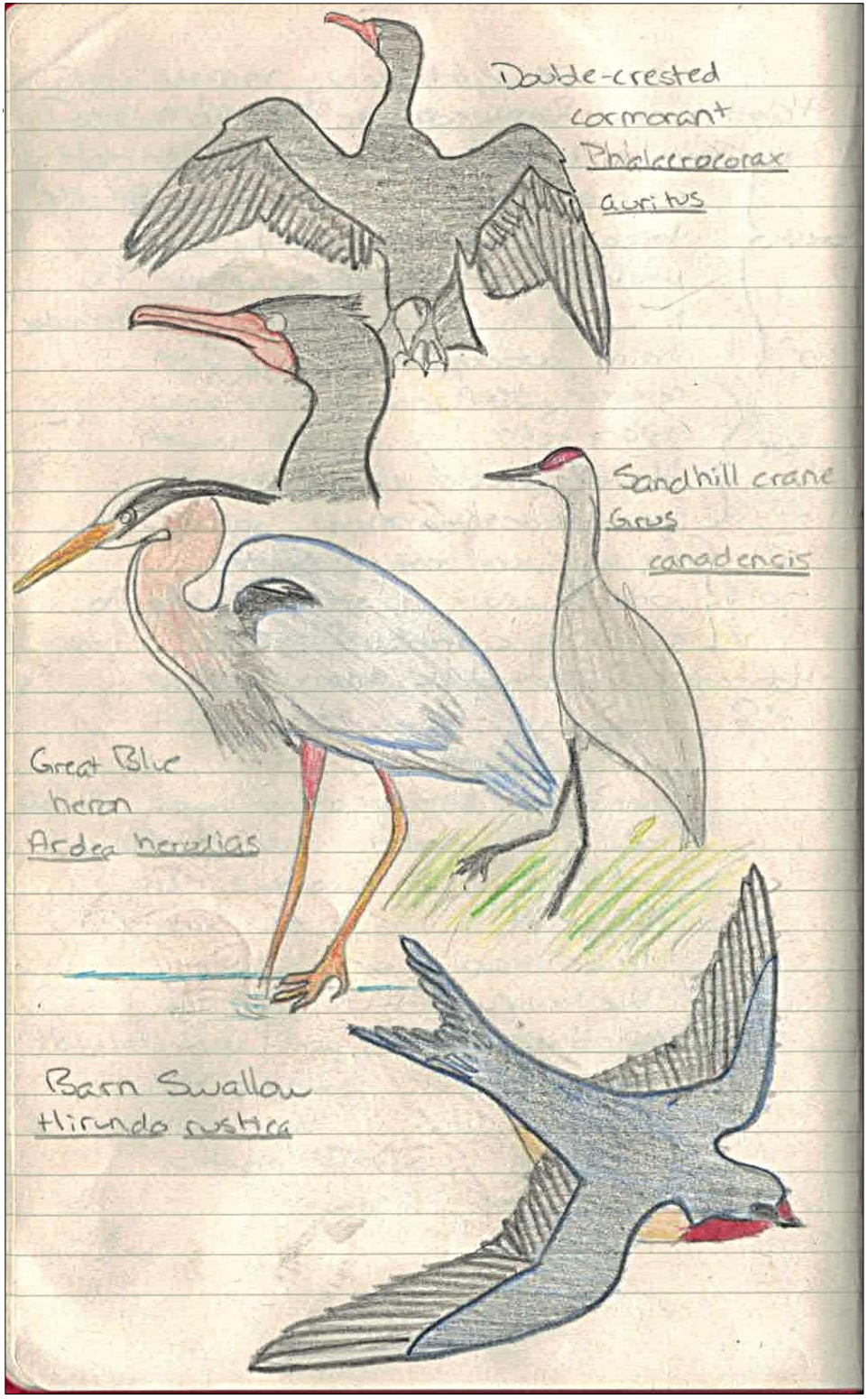
Top row, from left: Shaggy Mane, Suillius americanus, Horse Mushroom. Middle row: Red Jelly, Orange Jelly, Yellow Jelly. Bottom row: Russula emetica, Witches' Butter, Puffball.

Photos by Renee Levesque

The rebirth of a birder

Text and drawings by Carolyn Murray; photos by Renee Levesque

(Editor's note: In her little red book during her field outings, Carolyn meticulously took notes and drew pictures of the birds she saw. Some of these notes and drawings accompany this article.)



I never considered myself much of a birder. This may be a strange thing to hear from someone writing an article about birding, but it's the truth. Though I have always had a passing interest in our feathered friends, they were just another piece of the background. Honestly, I hadn't even heard of the term "birding" before this past May.

As a child, though, I spent many mornings staring at the newest arrival at our cluster of feeders, my half-eaten bowl of Cheerios long forgotten and soggy. In hopes of encouraging my interest, but more likely in exasperation at my torrent of questions, my parents dug up their old bird guide, a small, blue, soft-covered volume of feeder birds often seen in Southwestern Ontario. I loved it. Any time a new bird appeared, the first thing I did was reach for the book and try frantically to match the bird to the pictures before it flew off. I'd like to say that I was mostly correct in my guesses, but let's be realistic here. Weekends were spent refilling birdfeeders and trying to rake the seemingly infinite mounds of it off our lawn.

But as can happen over the years, my birding book was picked up less and less. I had little time to spend watching for birds from the window as school and commitments piled up. The book

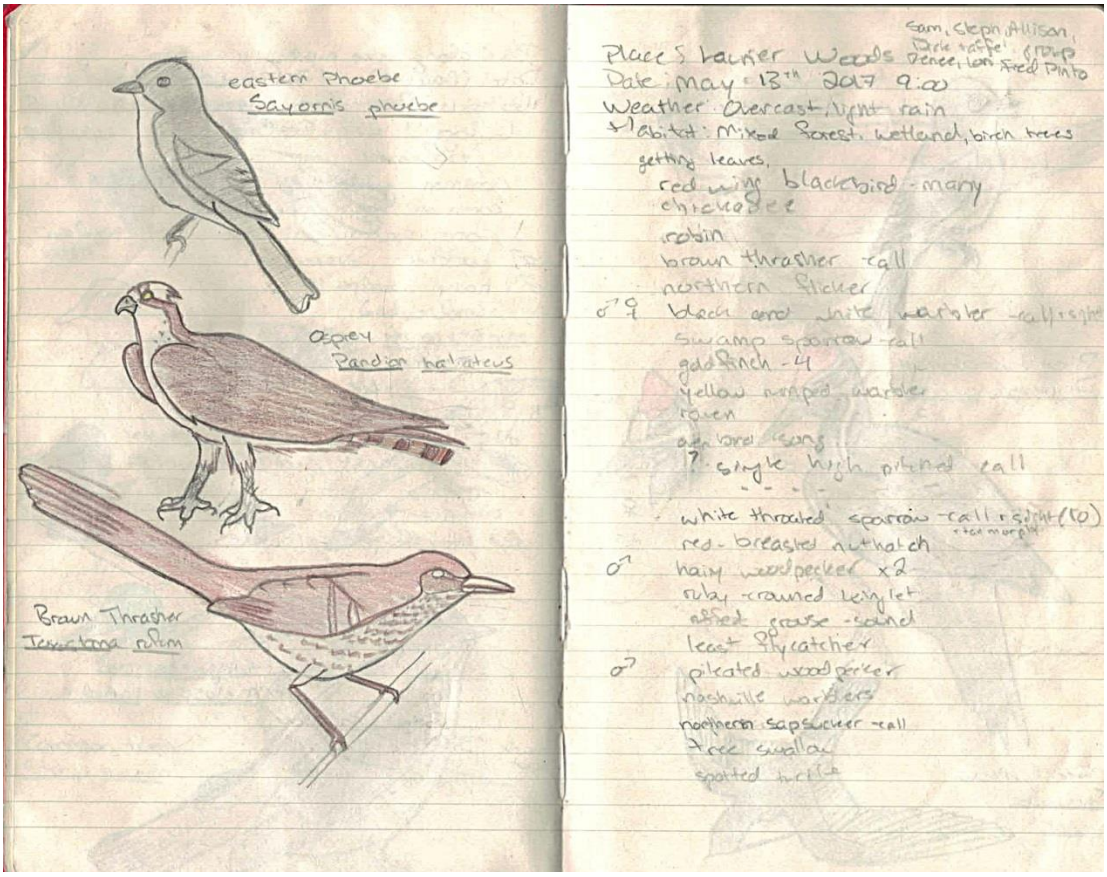
Carolyn in the middle with university friends during May Laurier Woods walk

was finally moved from its honorary position on the counter and relegated to a corner of a bookshelf by the time I started high school.

I arrived in North Bay from London three years ago to enter university. I knew nothing about the town except that the winters were long, the summers hot and that at some point there would be a near biblical infestation of shadflies, whatever they were. Every new discovery about the town made me fall in love a little bit more. I got used to the winter, found all the best places to beat the heat in the summer, and made many wonderful friends while doing it – although the shadflies lived up to everything I had imagined when I first heard of them.

This past March, as I was exploring options for post-graduation, I heard there would be an Ornithology course offered at Nipissing University over the spring semester. Because I needed the credits and because I would be in the city over the summer, I enrolled in the course. It was a small class – only ten students from many programs and with differing end goals.

At the helm of our ragtag crew was Oriana Pokorny, an experienced biologist, an avid outdoors enthusiast and, without a doubt, one of the most loved instructors in the biology department. She skillfully integrated detail-loaded lectures with practical excursions to as many habitats as possible.



Birding outings were spent with guests like Fred Pinto and Lisa Hackett who brought local knowledge and a quick eye for bird identification. Murph (Bruce Murphy) and the crew from the Hilliardton Marsh welcomed us to join in on their bird banding, teaching us the

importance of the work they do and testing us on our local birds. Kevan Cowcill brought his experience in career birding to teach us that all you need to succeed in ornithology is passion and a good pair of binoculars.

Learning didn't stop outside of class time. North Bay is blessed to have such a large, well-maintained green space within the heart of the city. During the first week of classes, Oriana recommended the weekend birding walks led by Dick Tafel. Curious, a group of us decided to take advantage of the extra practice. Armed with pairs of loaned university binoculars past their prime, birding journals and cameras, we met up on Saturday May mornings, eager to stretch our birding muscles. What we expected was to see some new species of warblers; what we found was a group of dedicated individuals who were only too eager to share their vast stores of knowledge and passion with a group of newbies. They patiently answered our questions and identified birds that to them were probably mundane, but were exciting and new to us.

We were kindly invited to participate in additional excursions that, while not pertaining directly to birding, were fascinating. Brent Turcotte taught us about the many versions of club mosses and lichen found in the area. Lori Beckerton taught a large group the medicinal uses of many common plants found within Laurier Woods. Although these additional expeditions focused on numerous environmental topics besides birds, there was still much bird identifying. Just goes to show you can take a birder away from birding, but you can't take birding out of the birder!

I walked into this course expecting to learn about the theory of birds – and I did, don't get me wrong. But I also learned so much more than avian flight adaptations, evolution, reproduction and life cycles. I learned about a passionate community lurking in the heart of our city, a community that takes great pride in maintaining one of their most prized green spaces and sharing their passions with the public. I met some wonderful people who taught me a lot about the world around us and, in so doing, about myself and what I wanted in the future. Mostly, what I found was a new passion and a group of incredible people with whom to share it!

From left: Kaye Edmonds, Carolyn Murray, Brent Turcotte and Sarah Wheelan

Bristle tails

By Renee Levesque, April McCrum and Grant McKercher

During six evenings in May and June, Grant and Shirley McKercher, Chimney Swift Stewards since 2013, counted the number of Chimney Swifts entering a chimney on Main Street West. The first two count evenings, May 14 and 18, were optional early counts. The next four count evenings, May 24, May 28, June 1 and June 5, were official count days as stipulated by SwiftWatch, Bird Studies Canada. Fred Pinto did a casual observation on June 12. Grant submitted all counts to SwiftWatch.

The number of Chimney Swifts seen entering the Main Street West chimney is as follows:
May 14: 118 – optional count day
May 18: 120 – optional count day
May 24: 211 – official count day
May 28: 97 – official count day
June 1: 472 – official count day
June 5: 345 - official count day
June 12: 110 – casual observation

For the official count days, the number of swifts observed entering the chimney varied from 97 to 472. Grant shot video of the birds entering the chimney and counted them in slow-motion playback for count accuracy.

How do these numbers on the official count days compare to last year's? Much higher! In 2016, the numbers on the official count days were 81; 70; 134; and 224. It could be thought that the higher numbers this year are as a result of a chimney on McIntyre Street West, the other chimney that had been monitored in previous years, being capped last fall. However, April McCrum, who monitored the McIntyre Street West chimney in 2016, saw only 60 on one of the official count days and those 60 did not enter the chimney. On the other official count days last year, April did not see any Chimney Swifts enter the McIntyre Street West chimney. So it would be appear the higher count this year at the Main Street West chimney is not necessarily as a result of the

Renee Levesque

capping of the McIntyre Street West chimney. It was interesting so few entered that chimney in 2016 when 320 entered it in 2015, and 370 in 2014.

During the week of June 19, Doug Patterson, member of Bird Wing and a resident of Mattawan, informed me that he saw 35 to 40 Chimney Swifts enter a chimney of a private home on Hwy. 17 in Mattawa. Doug also reported that on the night he watched the swifts enter the chimney, American Robins kept landing on the chimney and it seemed as if they may have disturbed the swifts from entering.

The next week, April and I drove to Mattawa and met up with Doug and his father, Doug Sr., to take a look at the chimney. We did not see any Chimney Swifts, but it was getting late in the swift roosting season and there was heavy rain that night. However, we were informed the swifts have been using the chimney for some years now and the owner of the home enjoys having them as visitors. A very good thing indeed! We are expecting this chimney will be monitored next spring.

Jim McCulloch, Wikipedia

Because of the capping of the McIntyre Street West chimney, April assessed possible chimney sites in North Bay. Her report is as follows:

"After some searching and finding a total of five suitable chimneys in North Bay, Mel Atkins and I decided we would monitor these from May 22 to June 6. We found that two birds entered a chimney at 291 Main Street West on May 30, and that two birds entered a chimney at 281 Main Street East on June 6. We suspect they are using these chimneys for nesting. The other chimneys we assessed did not appear to be used by any swifts.

"After the typical monitoring period, we found that in June 27, swifts were still using the most active roost in North Bay, with over 110 birds entering the chimney that evening.

"In the fall and into next spring during active roosting, we hope to continue monitoring active roosts within North Bay, as well as in adjacent communities.

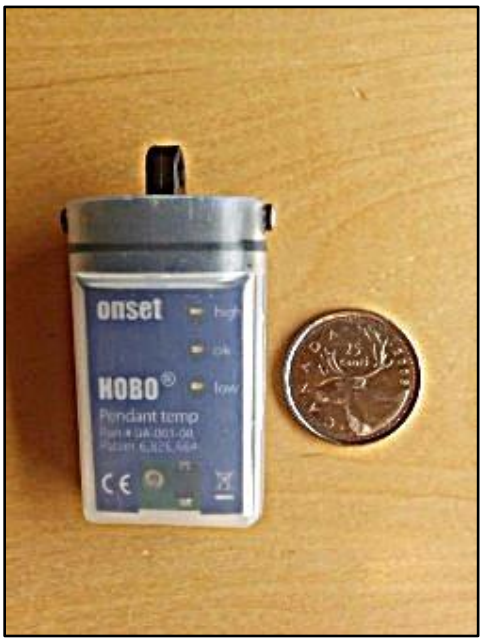
"Nipissing Naturalists Club hopes to work with landowners in the future to uncap suitable chimneys, such as those found in churches, schools and museums, and apply for funding to help with the associated costs of doing so."

April also reports seeing and hearing Chimney Swifts in the O'Brien Street area, and at Powassan Lagoon, Dick Tafel saw one on July 14; Luke Berg saw one on July 19; and I saw one on August 4. Seems there may be some uncapped chimneys in Powassan and area that are being used by swifts.

Doug's video of the Mattawa swifts was posted on Nipissing Naturalists Club's Facebook on July 10, and the video by Mel Atkins of the Main Street West swifts was posted on May 27. (There is also a video of the Main Street West swifts from Jacquline Manella posted on June 14.) Check out these videos if you haven't already done so: https://www.facebook.com/nipissingnaturalistsclub/.

There are at least 80 chimneys in Ontario now regularly monitored. On the four official count days, from 2830 to 3946 swifts entered roosts in communities from Windsor to Sault Ste. Marie, not including two very large roosts in Chalk River and Rolphton. (Available by the fall.)

This year, small temperature loggers (photo courtesy of Bird Studies Canada at right) were placed in a select number of chimneys to compare microclimate in sites used by nesting swifts vs. chimneys not used to help better understand Chimney Swifts' nesting habitat requirements. **SwiftWatch is looking for research sites and would like to place more of these loggers in chimneys in 2018. If there is a homeowner with an open chimney - no cap or screen or visible metal liner - and who is interested in participating in research of Chimney Swifts by collecting temperature data, please contact SwiftWatch at OntarioSwiftWatch@birdscanada.org.**



Courtesy of Bird Studies Canada

During July, Chimney Swift chicks hatched. If you saw adult swifts making frequent chimney entries and exits during the day, they were feeding the nestlings. Both parents do the feeding, sometimes as often as every 10-15 minutes

Editor's Note: *If you are curious about the heading of this article, it comes from the Chimney Swift's genus name,* ***Chaetura****, a combination of two Greek words,* ***chaite*** *meaning bristle or spine, and* ***oura*** *meaning tail. The Chimney Swift has 10 tail feathers that end in sharp, protruding points.*

Num num num!

By Oriana Pokorny

I was asked by Nipissing Naturalist Club to teach members how to bake over a fire and that is what I did on June 4 at Gary and Connie Sturge's property near Trout Creek. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a rainy and buggy day, and although the turnout was small as a result, our spirits were high!

I made apple crisp and peach cobbler before the rain had really started and once it started in earnest, we sat in tents that Gary and Connie had set up and ate and had tea. A great way to wait out the rain!

Deb Johnson

When the sun came out, we got down to the business of making bagels and cinnamon buns. The recipes for both these delicious and favourite foods are as follows:

Cinnamon Buns

2 tbsp. yeast

2 tbsp. sugar

½ cup warm water

5 – 5 1/2 cups white flour

1 ½ tsp. salt

½ cup sugar

¾ cup milk

3 eggs

¼ cup margarine

This is quite a large recipe. You can easily make two dozen cinnamon rolls – which is not too many as far as I'm concerned!

When camping, I make a few switches. I switch out the eggs for 3 tbsp. of powdered egg, and for milk, I use ¼ cup of powdered milk. Because of the addition of dry ingredients, if you do this switch, you need to use more water for the dough to roll nicely.

I also use quick yeast when camping because it proofs and starts to rise faster. I often leave out the margarine completely. If I add it, I add it as vegetable oil when I add the water.

You can also leave out the milk if you are dairy-free. But if you leave out the eggs, the dough just isn't quite right. I haven't found a good replacement yet, but I am working on it.

Step 1: Mix body temperature water with sugar and sprinkle on the yeast. Give it a few minutes to grow (with quick-rise yeast this happens quite quickly). This is called proofing. Yeast is a living organism that we store in a hibernation mode. It can die on our shelf for a number of reasons, so always check it before mixing your whole recipe.

Step 2: Mix your dry ingredients. Start with the 5 cups of flour and keep the extra ½ cup for later.

Step 3: Mix your wet ingredients together and get them warm. Now that you have your yeast out of hibernation and in a nice warm bath, you don't want to shock it with cold milk or cold water if you are using powdered milk and egg!

Step 4: Mix the dry and wet ingredients together. I usually start with a wooden spoon and then switch to my hands when it starts to get thick and gooey. Knead the dough thoroughly and add the extra flour if you find the dough is getting too sticky.

The reason you knead dough is to make sure the yeast is evenly spread so you don't get giant holes in your bread. This is super important when baking bread, but 5 minutes is plenty when baking cinnamon rolls.

Step 5: While you are kneading, get your lovely assistant to grease an 8 x 8 pan, or whatever pan you happen to have – it really doesn't matter. Just grease it well with the fat of preference.

Step 6: Roll out your dough. This recipe is large enough that I usually split it in half before rolling. You want as even and rectangular a roll as you can get.

Word to the wise: Make sure you flour your table/wanigan/canoe/cooler before rolling. Also flour your rolling pin - I usually use my water bottle – or a paddle if I am trying to show off - and re-flour your table part way through rolling because sometimes in your eagerness to roll, the dough will stick despite flouring.

Fred Pinto

Step 7: Spread a thin layer of margarine or butter over **every surface** of your roll. Then sprinkle brown sugar and cinnamon over the butter. The amounts are up to you. Try a few different proportions. I am sure you will find willing taste-testers.

You can also add raisins, dried fruit or nuts - smaller pieces are better.

Step 8: Once you are happy with your buttery, sugary, cinnamon flavoured oblong rectangle, start rolling. If you roll lengthwise, you will get more layers but fewer buns. If you roll widthwise, you will have more buns but fewer layers. Again, the choice is yours. Experiment.

Step 9: Take a good sharp thin knife and cut your rolled cinnamon log into 1 inch rounds. Again, this is an estimate. I usually cut it so the number of rounds equals the number of people I am feeding. Then place all those rounds on your greased pan. You want to see the swirls and you want to give them space to grow.

Step 10: Place your raw buns in a warm place to rise. They usually double in size. When camping, I place them on a sunny rock or near the fire, although not too near because you don't want to kill your yeast yet.

Step 11: When they look as if they have grown to completely overtake your pan, throw them in the oven. Here is where I can't help you. Over the fire I have them in a reflector oven and I rotate them every 15 minutes or so and take them out when they look and feel done. I don't know at what temperature to set your oven or how long to set the timer.

They are done when they are hard and not gooey or soft and when they spring to the touch.

Step 12: EAT! Num num num!!!

Fred Pinto

Bagels

2 tbsp. yeast

2 tbsp. honey

½ cup warm water

5 cups white flour

1 cup quick oats

2 cups whole wheat flour

This is also quite a large recipe. You can easily make two dozen bagels, but again, I don't see a problem with that!

Here the key is 8 cups of flour - any flours you like. White flour has more gluten than brown or rye. Bread flour has higher gluten content than cake flour even though they are both white flours. This mixture is one that has enough gluten for good gooeyness of bread, but whole grain enough to have some depth and flavour. However, you can create a mix that suits you!

Step 1: Get your biggest pot and fill it with water and start heating it. You want a rolling boil by the time you are done kneading.

Step 2: Mix body temperature water with honey and sprinkle on the yeast. Give it a few minutes to grow and with quick-rise yeast this happens quite quickly. Again, this is called proofing. And again, yeast is a living organism that we store in a hibernation mode. It can die on our shelf for a number of reasons, so always check it before mixing your whole recipe.

Step 3: Mix your dry ingredients. Leave a ½ cup of white flour behind to add later if required.

Step 4: Warm a bit of extra water.

Step 5: Add the flour to the wet ingredients, mixing a bit at a time. I usually start with a wooden spoon and then switch to my hands when it starts to get thick and gooey. Knead the dough thoroughly and add the extra flour if you find the dough is getting too sticky.

The reason you knead dough is to make sure the yeast is evenly spread so you don't get giant holes in your bread. This is super-important when making bread. You should probably knead for at least 10 minutes. I often knead until my hands tire.

Step 6: Roll your dough into a log shape and with a sharp knife start cutting off rounds. The more even they are, the more equal in size your bagels will be. If they are different sizes, you will have small and large bagels, sometimes a good thing.

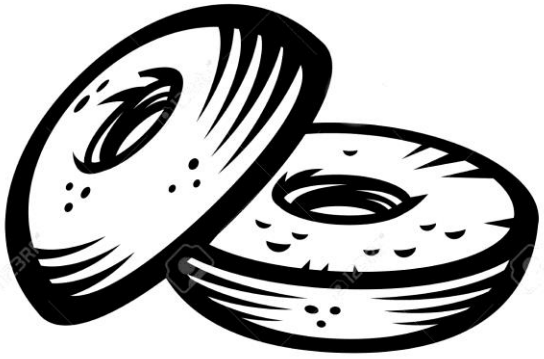
Take each round and poke a hole in the middle. Use your hands to shape it into a general bagel shape. Make the centre hole bigger than you think it should be. Because the bagel will double in size, a small hole will disappear.

Step 7: Put them someplace warm and give them a bit of time to rise, but not too long.

Step 8: In groups of 2 or 3 or 4 depending on your pot and bagel sizes, drop them into your pot of boiling water. They will sink at first. Give them a bit of a stir until they rise. Once they rise – and they need only a few minutes per side - fish them out.

Step 9: Bake them. When I do this over the fire it usually takes about 15-20 minutes per side. But once again, I can't help you on oven times or temperatures. I usually sacrifice at least one bagel to the fire gods in my attempts to get them perfectly cooked. Cut one open and see if it is still doughy. If it is, put it back and bake it more. It will still be edible – just not as pretty.

Step 10: EAT! Num num num!!!



Nipissing Naturalists Club BBQ

What better time to have an outdoor barbecue than in the almost-fall when it is not too hot or cold and when there are no mosquitoes! It will be especially great if it doesn't rain, but after a rainy June, July and August, we are prepared with a rain date!

The barbecue, to be held **Saturday, September 16, from noon to 5:00 p.m.,** is hosted by members, Gary, Connie, and Rachel Sturge at their property, **1229 Hemlock Road, Trout Creek**. **(Rain date is Sunday, September 17, same time.)** Rachel will demonstrate how to make and read wildlife footprints. And for those who like to walk, there are walking trails through a mixed forest - and maybe there will be some colourful leaves by then.

Directions: Exit onto Hemlock Road from Hwy 11. (north exit to Trout Creek) Hemlock Road eventually becomes a gravel road. Once it does, 1229 Hemlock is the first entrance on the south side.

The Sturges will supply hot dogs, veggie dogs, buns, condiments and soft drinks. **Cost is $5.00 a person** and any money left over will go towards the Motus Wildlife Tracking System.

Bring chairs, plates and cutlery, as well as deserts or salads to share.

So Connie can buy enough food to feed us, please let her know if you plan to attend. You can either email her at sturge@sympatico.ca or click that you will attend the event on Nipissing Naturalists Club's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nipissingnaturalistsclub/.

Ice field at Mount Everest, photo by Fred Pinto

Upcoming speakers at monthly meetings

After our summer hiatus, which included outings to Mattawa's Three Crosses and Dokis First Nation, monthly meetings will start up again in September. They are held the **second Tuesday of every month starting at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Casselholme.**

Speakers for September and October are:

On **Tuesday, September 12: Fred Pinto,** president of Nipissing Naturalists Club, a Registered Professional Forester and Chair of Forests without Borders, will speak on **Ice Ages of Planet Earth.**

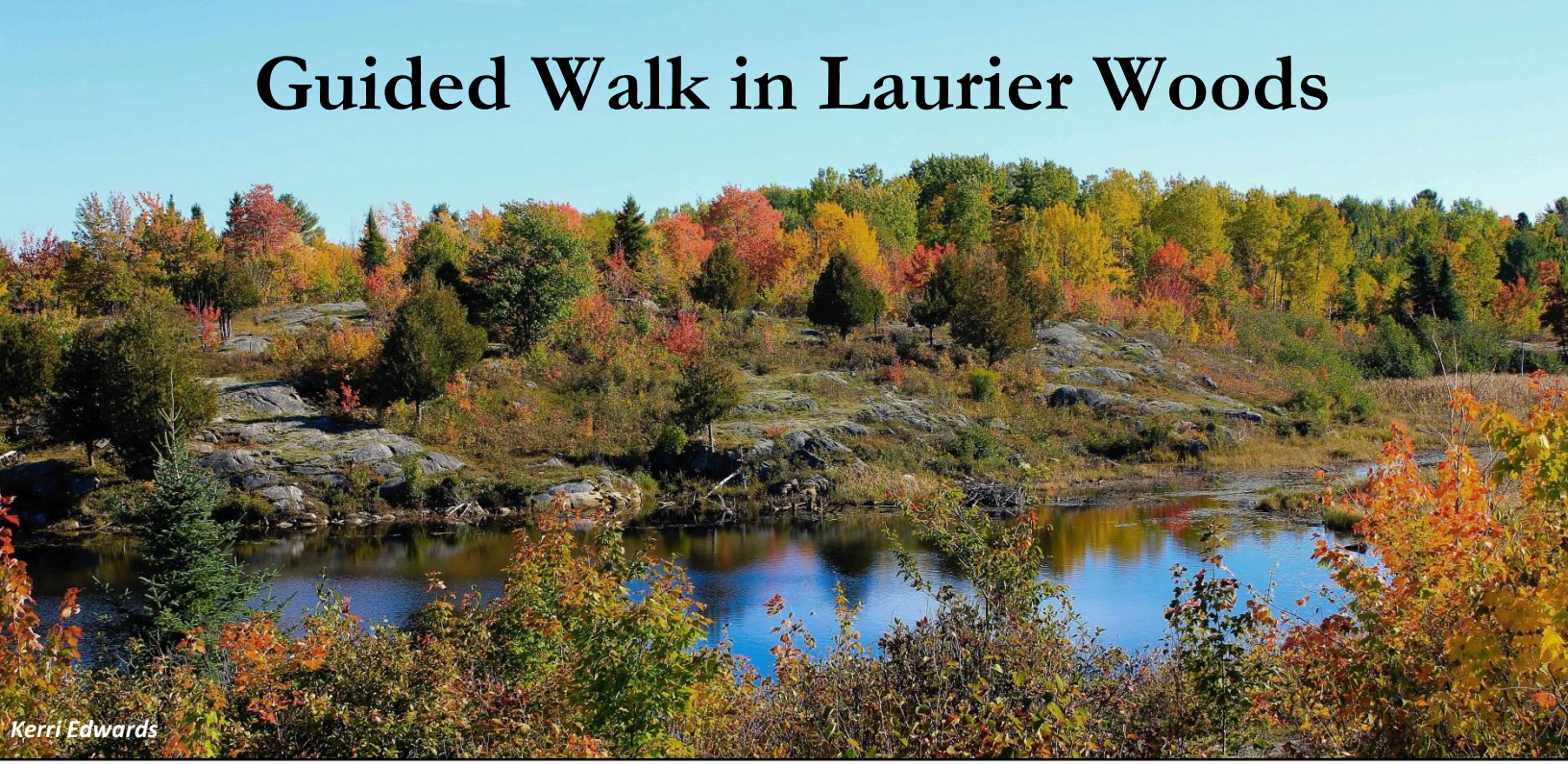
We became aware only in the last 150 years that our planet was covered several times by continent-wide ice sheets. Find out how our glacial history was determined, the causes of the onset and end of these glacial periods, and their effects on life on Earth.

On **Tuesday, October 10: Franco Mariotti,** Director, Ontario Nature, will speak on the **Natural History of Antarctica**

Photo courtesy of Franco Mariotti

Franco (seen at left) served as a naturalist aboard cruises to the Antarctica in 2016-2107. He will share his observations and knowledge from his visits to this intriguing and awe-inspiring continent, including some of the islands he visited in the Southern Ocean.

Guided Walk in Laurier Woods



On **Saturday, October 7, from 10:00 a.m. until noon**, **Paul Chivers**, noted photographer, will lead a walk on Nature Photography. Paul will talk about and demonstrate techniques to extract details of the spectacular autumn colours from the visual chaos of the forest as demonstrated in Paul's photo below.

Paul's photographs have been published in newspapers, books, magazines and promotional literature throughout North America, and his photographs have been shown at Canoe Expo; Wilderness Canoe Association Symposium; Canadian Heritage Rivers System; Celebration of the Wilderness; The Canadian Club; Nipissing University; Canadian Federation of University Women; and several Ontario Provincial Parks.

THE WOODLAND OBSERVER

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THE WOODLAND OBSERVER

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The Bird Wing newsletter is published each month, except December, and sent to members by email and posted on Nipissing Naturalists Club website under the link, Enter Bird Wing.

The Woodland Observer is published electronically each month from September to June and sent to members by email and posted on Nipissing Naturalists Club website, http://www.nipnats.com/ under the link, "Newsletter".

Editor: Renee Levesque: rlevesque1948@gmail.com

Contributors this issue: Paul Chivers, Noah Cole of Ontario Nature, Karl Dittman, Kaye Edmonds, Kerri Edwards, Debra Johnson, Bev Kingdon, Renee Levesque, Karen Major, Franco Mariotti, Angela Martin, April McCrum, Grant McKercher, Carolyn Murray, Fred Pinto, Oriana Pokorny, Dick Tafel, Brent Turcotte and Rachel Sturge.

Special thanks for photos and information: Paul Barton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Canadian Wildlife July/August magazine**;** Dokis First Nation website and Norm Dokis; Lucy Emmet; Ontario Nature website; Liz Purves, Swift Watch Coordinator, Bird Studies Canada; and Wikipedia, Chimney Swift and fairy ring.

Membership Fees

Annual Nipissing Naturalists Club membership fees are: single $20. 00; family $30.00.

There is an **additional annual $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.** This fee is paid directly to Bird Wing.

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