

**Minutes of the Bird Wing Meeting
April 24, 2018**

Prepared by Connie Sturge

Treasurer's Report

\$188.52

Birds Seen since last meeting

Discussion around the small amount of open water currently in which many water birds are huddled together.

Luanne Chowns – Eastern Phoebe (Laurier Woods) and American Woodcock
Gary Chowns – Northern Flicker and Double-crested Cormorant
Brent Turcotte – Glaucous Gull and Northern Shoveler (both at Chippewa Creek)
Jim Hasler – Barred Owl (owl survey) and Common Raven
Lori Anderson – Tree Swallows and Barn Swallow
Ken Gowing – Sandhill Crane and White-throated Sparrow
Marc Buchanan – Belted Kingfisher and Hooded Merganser
Grant McKercher – Osprey (Callander nesting platform) and Song Sparrow
Curtis Irish – Canadian Geese and Chickadees
Connie Sturge – Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Hemlock Road) and American Kestrel
Matt Procunier – Red-breasted Nuthatch and Great Horned Owl (Maple Hill)
Gary Sturge – Broad-winged Hawk (Hemlock Rd) and Brown Thrasher
Dick Tafel – Hermit Thrush and Rusty Blackbirds (both at Laurier Woods)
Fred Pinto – Rough-legged Hawk and Turkey Vulture

Other birds seen – Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Shrike, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Woodpeckers (Downy, Hairy and Pileated), Great Blue Heron, Ducks (Mallard, Wood, Ring-necked, Black, Goldeneye, Green-winged Teal), American Robin, Sparrows (Tree, Savannah, Chipping), Dark-eyed Junco, Brown Creeper, Snow Goose, American Coot, Trumpeter Swan, Purple Finch, American Crow, Killdeer, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Snow Bunting, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, and House Sparrow.

Ontario Field Ornithologist (OFO)

Lots of information on the OFO website, including a checklist of 496 species of Ontario birds that does not include the Chukar.

Annual convention is September 28-30 in Leamington, near Point Pelee.

Ontario Newsletter for February includes an article by Fred about Louise de Kiriline Lawrence (see April's issue of *The Woodland Observer* to see a copy of Fred's article); an article about Jeremy Bensette and his 2017 Ontario Big Year during which he saw 346 birds; and Year of the Bird (more about this later).

Online Bird Course

National Geographic offers a bird course made up of a 24 lectures, each lasting 31 minutes. For details see: <https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/the-national-geographic-guide-to-birding-in-north-america.html>.

Dick got a special deal for \$30.00 US, perhaps because he subscribed to National Geographic magazine or perhaps he was an early bird who got the worm! However, the cost without the deal seems to be approximately \$250.00 US. Dick, reports it is an excellent course.

Magazine articles

BirdWatching - Good article on how to photograph hummingbirds.

East Ferris Edition, Spring and Summer 2018 - Article by Dick on birds expected to be seen this spring in East Ferris.

Nocturnal Owl Survey

Marc, Fred, Louise Simpson and Sarah Wheelan did Tower Drive. They had owls at two stops.

Dick, Jim, and Lori Beckerton did McConnell Lake Road. They had 3 Barred Owls at the last stop, but none at the first 9.

Lori and Ken did the Graham Lake Route. They saw 1 Barred Owl and heard 4, one of which was a dueting pair.

Doug Jr. and Doug Sr. Patterson did Hwy. 533 near Mattawa. They heard 2 Barred Owls.

Oriana Pokorny and her friend did Sand Dam Road. They heard only one Barred Owl.

April McCrum and Corey Witham did the Restoule route. No report yet on what they heard or saw.

Gary, Connie and Rachel Sturge and Matt had not done their route at the time of the meeting.

Fred described why he is holding a Barred Owl in the **photo below taken by Sarah Wheelan**. Just before Trout Lake, the four team members saw two young people on the side of the road holding the owl. They had picked it up from the middle of the highway. They thought it may have been hit by a car. The police also stopped. The plan was to take the owl home and if it still hadn't flown away, they would drive it to Sudbury to the wildlife refuge centre. Fred is unsure what happened to the owl. I checked the wildlife refuge centre site and it currently has Barred Owls in its care.



A designated person from each of the owl survey groups is to submit a report to Renee Levesque for judging to determine the 2018 holder of the Owl Survey trophy. Will the Sturge team get it again this year or will they have to hand it over to another team? A package consisting of everyone's reports and the announcement of the winner should be known by early June. **Please get your reports to Renee as soon as possible.**

Great Canadian Birdathon

May 26 to 27.

Teams will bird for 24 hours and document all species identified.

Get a team together for this important fund raiser, with funds raised going to Bird Studies Canada for bird research and preservation. There is a local trophy for the most successful team, the team that sees and hears the most birds.

All team members and all those who love birds and recognize their importance should make a donation to the Great Canadian Birdathon. You can donate to the Great Canadian Birdathon, Bird Studies Canada, via Dick Tafel, either online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/bird-studies-canada/p2p/birdathon/team/tafelot/captain/richard-tafel/> or in person.

Year of the Bird

National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology promote a yearlong celebration of birds to honour the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. See: <http://www.audubon.org/yearofthebird>

Bird Your World:

Small actions can make a big difference.

You are warden of your backyard.

Take care of the birds and you take care of most of the big problems of the world.

Drink bird friendly coffee.

Submit more sightings to eBird.

See: <https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/flyway> and <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/6-resolutions-to-help-you-birdyourworld-in-2018/>

Birdology, by Sy Montgomery

Birdology is an engaging book, read by many Bird Wing members who have reported on their favourite chapter. Grant recently read it and agreed with the other readers that it is a great read. His favourite chapter is “Hawks, Birds are Fierce”.

Next Bird Bash:

Weekend of **May 26 and 27**, same weekend as the Great Canadian Birdathon.

First Bird Wing Outing of the Year:

From May through to August, indoor meetings will be replaced by field outings. The first outing is in Laurier Woods on **Sunday, May 20, at 9:00 a.m.** For the last couple of years, this May outing was held on Tuesday morning, but so those who work can join the outing, it has been moved this year to a Sunday morning. Meet in the Brule Street parking lot.

Meeting adjourned to Laurier Woods Brule Street parking area for American Woodcock observations. If you haven't been to this area to hear or see the American Woodcock's spectacular courtship display, consider going. Best time is about 20 minutes after sunset on clear evenings, or 10 minutes or so earlier on cloudy evenings. This courting display should last until early June.