

Nature London

2018-19 Annual Report



Nature London

“To Preserve and Enjoy Nature”

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August 31 marks the end of our fiscal year and, as such, is a time of renewal within the club. While many will be continuing in their respective volunteer capacities, some are moving on to other endeavours and new people are stepping in. I would like to extend my thanks both to those who have served the club so well this past year and to those who have offered to take on new roles. Your willingness to “step up to the plate” is what keeps our club vibrant. Several program areas within the club will have substantial changes in leadership come September including Indoor Meetings, Field Trips and Birding Wing. We welcome the influx of new energy and ideas that you will bring to these and other positions.

At the Board level, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contributions that Henry Przysiezny and Muriel Andreae have made during their tenure. Henry is stepping down after having served as Treasurer extraordinaire for the past five years. In this capacity, he has been a model of efficiency, processing deposits and payments promptly and keeping the Board well apprised of the club's financial status through his monthly reports. Henry has also served on the Finance Committee – which makes recommendations to the Board regarding the budget and the management of the club's assets – as well as the Eco-Grants Committee. We wish Henry the very best as he now has a little extra time to pursue other activities including bridge and cycling. Thank you, Henry!

The end of the month marks the completion of seven years on the Board for Muriel after serving as Vice President (2 years), President (3 years) and Past President (2 years). Such extended service in a variety of demanding positions represents a tremendous commitment and contribution to the club. During this time, she has also served on the newly-minted Awards Committee and *The Cardinal* Committee, helping steer it successfully through a time of transition. We will miss her thoughtful input around the Board table, but we know she is only a phone call away should the need arise. Thank you, Muriel, and best wishes as you enjoy more time with your grandchildren and gardens among other things.

In September, we welcome to the Board Lesley Pergau who steps into the role of Treasurer. Thank you, Lesley, for offering your experience and skills to the club as you take on this critical role within the organization. I would also like to formally welcome Nick Bell, husband of our Secretary, Liz Bell, to the Board. (Welcome to the club's newest power couple!) Nick was appointed to the Board at our May meeting, and we are delighted to have him as one of our Directors at Large.

I am pleased to report that our on-line auction of two sets of donated stamps yielded \$75 in revenue for the work of the club. Perhaps just as importantly, these two wildlife stamp collections have found new homes with collectors who highly appreciate them – a real win-win situation! Our appreciation goes out to Liz Bell and Chris Baldock for their assistance with the auction process.

Despite our best efforts, a bus trip to Walpole Island was not to be this summer, but we are hopeful that one can be arranged at some future date. Feedback regarding the two previous bus trips was most positive, and we look forward to arranging additional trips in the coming year.

On June 18, my wife, Christine, and I were pleased to host Nature London's annual Dessert Social in recognition of the diverse efforts of our volunteers. Approximately 50 people gathered under ideal weather conditions that day (one of the few days it wasn't raining in June!) to enjoy each other's company and some amazing desserts supplied by Board members. I never cease to be amazed by what is accomplished by this entirely volunteer-run organization.

On Sunday, June 23, several Nature London members were on hand to mark the official dedication of the Eco-Meditation Garden at First-St. Andrew's United Church in London. The project had been supported by a Nature London Eco-Grant in 2018 (see Spring 2019 issue of *The Cardinal*). Treasurer and Eco-Grant Committee member Henry Przysiezny offered congratulations and official remarks on behalf of the club as part of this inspiring and beautiful ceremony.

Eco-Grant recipients for 2019 were awarded to support the WILD CHILD playgroup (\$3000) to support their outdoors based experiential learning program and to the Antler River Guardians from The Four Directions (\$10 000) to support a Chippewa, Munsee and Oneida environmental stewardship program geared towards youth. Nature London is pleased to support these initiatives to foster an enhanced connection to nature in our children and youth.

This summer marked the first stage in the revision of our *Guide to the Natural Areas of London and Region* publication. A small army of volunteers, coordinated by Mike Channon as well as Ros and Jim Moorhead, are revisiting over 100 sites in order to update information for the new edition of the publication. If all goes according to plan, the next edition of the *Guide* could be ready as early as the fall of 2020.

As my term as President draws to a close, I would like to thank all those who have assisted me in carrying out my duties. It has been a genuine privilege. You have, without exception, been incredibly kind and helpful to me. Thank you as well for bearing my inevitable shortcomings so graciously.

Come September 1, Gordon Neish steps into the presidency. He brings a wealth of experiences and skill sets to the role, and I know the club will be well served with him at the helm. Thank you for all your contributions and support as Vice President this past year, Gordon.

If I have a departing message for you, it might be to persevere in your efforts. Many of you will be aware of the United Nations report on declining biodiversity issued this spring. In the face of such sobering news, paralysis is not an uncommon response. As a counter-measure, I leave you with these words by Richard Heinberg:

“Even if we do all we can, there is no guarantee that problems will be solved, extinctions prevented, collapse forestalled. But paralysis only guarantees the very worst outcome. In the words of the Bhagavad Gita, ‘The wise should work, without attachment to results, for the welfare of the world.’ Act from love with the best understanding you have, and always seek to improve your understanding. It’s all that any of us can do.” (Richard Heinberg, Museletter, May 2018)

And when you’ve had enough of writing letters or reports, of sending or reading emails, or advocating, seek solace and renewal among family and friends and the wonderful, wild world that still surrounds us – outdoors, naturally!

Bernie VanDenBelt

PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The Nominations Committee had another busy year, meeting to discuss potential volunteers and share the challenge of making “cold calls” to find new volunteers. I would like to thank Norm Corrin for continuing to be our Volunteer Coordinator, and successfully finding new volunteers among our membership.

The Cardinal continued with a dedicated and experienced editorial board. Leslie Rockwell continued her role of collecting the club’s news and events, and added other items of interest to our membership, for each issue. Tom Reaume continued as layout editor, adding creative touches to each issue. The membership was encouraged to view the Cardinal on-line in full colour and not to receive a paper copy, and more members chose this option.

The Awards program also reflects club activity, as the W.E. Saunders Award of Merit was presented to Karen Auzins, Conservation Awards to Kee and Pat Dewdney, Thom McClenaghan and the Thames River Anglers, the Special Recognition Award to Paul Nicholson and Suncatcher Awards to Ken Dimson, Cathy McCrae, Winnie Wake, Lisa Bilty, Paul Nicholson, Ron Martin and Leslie Kostal. Anita Caveney and Karen Auzins joined me as valuable members of our Awards Committee.

Over the last seven years, it has been my privilege to work with many volunteers who nurture and sustain Nature London. My thanks to the Board members, and to our appointees, coordinators and representatives for the support and dedication you bring to Nature London.

Muriel Andreae

ARCHIVES

Storage of Nature London (NL) fonds

The NL fonds is housed in the restricted-access area of the London Room of the Central Public Library (LPL). NL is grateful to LPL for making this space available free of charge. The space allotted to NL is currently inadequate for the volume of our holdings though, in January of 2019, LPL made an additional shelf available.

In June, NL Board member Liz Bell contacted the Archives at Western University to explore the possibility of moving the NL archives there. She learned, if that were to happen, materials in the NL archives would become the property of Western. Under the present arrangement with LPL, NL retains ownership of the materials in its archives. This allows the archivists, when appropriate circumstances arise, to temporarily remove selected materials for displays and other purposes; this would not be permitted at UWO.

As it is hoped additional space may become available at LPL in the future, it was decided to take no action at this time.

Acquisitions

Documents from various sources, including the NL Board (e.g., minutes), accumulate on an ongoing basis. Currently, recent accruals are stored in the archivists' home. These have been sorted and categorized and tentatively assigned to Series, etc. but, until they can be transferred to the NL archives, they will not be formally accessioned.

Activities carried out in response to requests

- Contributed information to and/or wrote memorial tributes in *The Cardinal* for four NL club members.
- Prepared historical vignettes on the club's history for inclusion in *The Cardinal*. Three were published in 2018/19.
- Provided info to Ontario Nature re the Federation of Ontario Naturalists conference hosted by NL in 1981.
- Assisted a Public History student at Western seeking info on a former NL member.

Historical Display for Doors Open at Civic Garden Complex, Sep 16/18

The 2018 Doors Open theme was "History Comes Alive". At the NL Board's request, the archivists researched and developed a display entitled "Nature London, Then and Now: Going Strong Since 1864." Three table-top display units highlighted the club's historic and recent activities in Conservation, Education and Citizen Science. These provided a major component of the club's presence at Doors Open. The archivists were among NL members staffing the display and fielding questions from more than 400 visitors.

Winifred and David Wake
Archivists for Nature London

AWARDS BANQUET

Greenhills Golf Club again hosted Nature London's Annual Awards Banquet on the evening of November 16, 2018. Everyone was put in a very festive mood when they looked into the main dining room and saw how lovely it was with the beautifully decorated big Christmas tree and the tables all so beautifully set.

As in previous years, the August issue of *The Cardinal* included the form for members to renew their membership along with the opportunity to purchase their banquet tickets that had been prepared and printed by Hugh Casbourn. Members could also purchase their banquet tickets on-line by visiting Nature London's WEB page. Gail McNeil, Membership Secretary, kept track of both purchased and complimentary tickets and made sure they got their tickets either by mail or at the door. On the evening of the banquet 108 guests attended.

Again this year saw an excellent turn out of Nature London's board members. Bernie VanDenBelt, President; Muriel Andreae, Past President; Gordon Neish, Vice President; Norm Corrin, Director at Large; Paul Stevens, Director at Large; Liz Bell, Director at Large and John Berry, Director at Large.

As guests arrived they were greeted by Gail McNeil and Susan Relecom at the reception table. Susan Relecom had prepared special name tags for the board members, the award recipients and our guest speakers. Other guests filled in the stick on name tags Gail McNeil had brought and put their tickets in the door prize jar hoping to win one of the prizes. Bernie VanDenBelt and Muriel Andreae welcomed guests to the banquet and directed them into the Bistro area where they could purchase their raffle tickets and then choose where to put them in hopes of winning that item; view the silent auction items and place their bids on ones they wanted. This year a new category of gift was created for which special tickets could be purchased and then placed into the container of the item desired. And, of course, everyone enjoyed the social time with fellow guests.

Deb Gorman-Smith did an outstanding job again this year looking after all the duties related to the bucket raffle, silent auction, special ticket items as well as the door prizes. Duties included receiving items from donors not able to attend and keeping them at her home until it was time to bring them to the banquet; creating all the signs for each item; preparing the bidding forms for the silent auction items and special tickets for the special ticket items; wrapping up the door prizes and creating a list to keep track of all the items and their donors. As you can see this is a big job and I wish to extend a special thank you to Deb for all her hard work.

Once again, Norm Corrin asked various "nature related" businesses to donate items and our own members were as always very generous in their donations for the door prizes, the bucket raffle, special ticket items and silent auction items. Please refer to Deb's article in this issue of *The Cardinal* thanking everyone for their generous donations that raised \$981. which should cover all the banquet costs along with some left over for other club expenses.

Margaret Arthur assisted Deb at the banquet by helping guests who had brought a raffle item find the spot on the raffle tables reserved for it; explaining to the guests about new special ticket items and being very helpful and welcoming to the banquet attendees. She assisted Deb at the break helping draw the winning numbers and at the end of the evening handing the items to the board members in the order their numbers were called so they could be delivered to the winners.

Numbered envelopes filled with like numbered tickets were again prepared by Joan Taylor. Leslie Rockwell and Cathy Quinlan started off as bucket raffle ticket sellers and special item ticket sellers for the first half hour of the social hour and Norm Corrin and John Berry sold the tickets for the second half hour. This gave each team a half hour to enjoy the social time too.

Liza Bilty prepared the banquet brochure this year and a copy of the brochure was put at each place setting. Liz Bell picked up the unique and colourful centre pieces crafted by Sue Read and placed them in the centre of each table and, at the end of the evening, a guest could take one home. Stan Caveney placed on each table various brochures describing properties owned by Thames Talbot Land Trust.

At the end of the social hour, President Bernie VanDenBelt, the master of ceremonies for the evening, asked us all to take our seats and Bernie said grace. Then we all enjoyed a wonderful traditional turkey dinner with soup as a starter and a lovely chocolate mousse for dessert. Special dinners were prepared for those who had ordered them in advance.

After dinner it was time for the presentation of this year's awards.

Nature London's Conservation Action Committee recommends to the board candidates for the Conservation Awards. Bernie asked Anita Caveney, a member of the Conservation Action Committee, to come forward to chair the presentation of these awards. Pat & Kee Dewdney's Conservation Award citation was prepared by Betsy Baldwin and Hugh Casbourn and was presented to Pat and Kee by Betsy Baldwin. The Conservation Award citation for The Thames River Anglers Association was prepared by Sandy Levin and presented to The Thames River Anglers Association's president, Rob Hubert, by Paul Stevens. Thom McClenaghan's Conservation Award citation was prepared by Bill Maddeford and presented to Thom by Bill Maddeford.

Nature London's Board of Directors receives recommendations for candidates for Nature London's Special Recognition Award and W. E. Saunders Award of Merit. Bernie asked Gordon Neish, Nature London's Vice President, to come forward to chair the presentation of these awards. Paul Nicholson's Special Recognition Award citation was prepared by Gail McNeil and presented to Paul by Gail McNeil. Karen Auzins' W. E. Saunders Award of Merit citation was prepared by Muriel Andreae and presented to Karen by Muriel Andreae.

Nature London's Indoor Meeting Committee again arranged for a unique and extremely interesting presentation by special guests Jarmo Jalava and his son Noah who brought us songs, stories and slides for a multimedia presentation about nature and conservation. Jarmo and Noah were introduced by Stan Caveney and thanked by Carol Agocs.

At the end of the evening, Bernie called out the winning numbers for the bucket raffle items. It was easy for everyone to look at the envelope and see if the number called was theirs and could put up their hand while the item was delivered to them by one of the members of our board. The winners of the silent auction items had been announced at the break and were directed to see Deb Gorman Smith in the bistro to pay for and collect their item(s).

Thank you all so much for all you did to make this banquet such a special evening and thank you to Jim Moorhead, Norm Corrin and David Wake for taking all the wonderful photographs.

Karen Auzins, Awards Banquet Coordinator

BIRD RECORDS SECRETARY

The job of the Bird Records Secretary is to gather and report on the bird sightings made in Middlesex County and to oversee the accreditation of those sightings into legitimate records.

We no longer publish a period summary of sightings in each *Cardinal*, but rather publish an Annual Birds Records Report. It usual appears in the Spring *Cardinal*, and on our website at that time as well.

The Annual Birds Records Report for 2018 was published in the Spring 2019 edition of *The Cardinal*, and it included details on sightings, unusual bird species recorded but the chart showing the comings and goings of avian life in Middlesex County was only available online. The annual Birds Records Report was also available on the Nature London website. A total of 234 species was recorded, some of which were rare and accidental.

The London and Middlesex Birds Records Committee, overseen by the Bird Records Secretary was not active in the 2018 year as it is only called upon for extreme and difficult to identify rarities or new birds to the County. We had no new bird species for the County in 2018.

Most of the records for Middlesex County now come from the many thousands of sightings reported to eBird.org, though a number of people still prefer to submit their records directly to me.

Pete Read, Bird Records Secretary since 1983

BIRDING WING

The Birding Wing Committee members for 2018/2019 were Gail McNeil, Laure Neish, Ian Platt, Joan Taylor and Margrit Johnston. Together, at a meeting, we planned the upcoming year from our own suggestions or ideas shared from Nature London members. The contacts were then done by telephone or emails.

Ric and Sandy Symmes, Nature London members, started off our new season on October 26th, speaking about their favourite bird, the Osprey. They had followed the Osprey for 30 years in Georgian Bay and the London area. We learned much about this exciting bird that we welcome home every April. They also led us on an outdoor excursion in late August to view several nests and young.

On November 23, James Cowie, Director of Photo Tours Trekkers, shared an amazing presentation on the birds of the Galapagos.

Starting off 2019, on January 25th, Pete Read, Nature London member, retired teacher and trip leader with Quest International, took us to the Wild Antarctica. We viewed many seabirds and mammals that live in the cold.

In February, Paul Roedding, an avid birder and nature photographer, residing in London, shared his beautiful pictures and some of his favourite places to bird in London and vicinity.

March was our final meeting with Debbie Lefebre, Nature London member and who is with Swift Care Ontario. We learned what life is like living with baby Chimney Swifts. Debbie loves her little charges and compassionately cares for them through the summer until she releases them in the fall.

All meetings were held at the Civic Garden Centre on Friday evenings, starting at 7 p.m. Each meeting started with Gail McNeil making welcoming remarks, reviewing recent bird sightings, sharing birding announcements and leading a bird-themed “teaching segment”. The featured presenters then followed a brief break during which attendees could purchase Nature London items, socialize, etc. Quinten Wieggersma agreed to assist us during meetings as a tech to keep the audio-visual components working smoothly. Our Board liaison was Liz Bell.

Gail McNeil, Birding Wing Committee Member

BOOK DONATIONS

Nature London created the Book Donations Coordinator appointment for the first time in 2017 / 2018. Ann Henderson had been handling sales of donated used books and puzzles along with her regular book sales, as she noted in her Sales Coordinator's report for 2017 / 2018. Starting in spring 2018, I looked after the donation table at Nature London meetings, selling nature books and puzzles donated by eight donors; Ann included the revenue with hers.

During 2018 / 2019, 21 donors gave nature books and puzzles, as well as a few other nature-themed items, to the club. Most were sold at club meetings; total revenue was \$404.80. Some special books became bucket raffle prizes at the 2018 banquet. At the end of the year, a small number of unsold books were taken to a used bookstore or donated to the London Public Library for their annual sale.

Nature London received a special donation of nature books in summer 2018 from Dr. John and Marie Parker of Toronto. Based on his experiences as a teen member of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists, John wanted the books to be donated to young Nature London members. Notices were placed in *The Cardinal* and online, and all the books went to young members or the classroom of a club member.

I have also been handling sales of the remaining copies of the club's 2015 publication, *150 Years: The Nature London Story*. In 2018 / 2019, these generated \$25; in 2017 / 2018, \$106.

Betsy Baldwin

BUTTERFLY COUNT

The 20th official, (actually 23rd) North American Butterfly Association (N.A.B.A.) Skunk's Misery count was held on July 7th this year, as customary, the first Sunday in July. When results were tallied, the 28 participants were happy to find they had tallied an impressive 50 species, although less individuals than the prior year (2,498 in 2019 vs. 3,526 in 2018 vs. a 20-year average of 3,582).

Best finds were 1 Harvester (which was captured and brought to the luncheon for participants to examine – a life butterfly for many in attendance!), 1 Mustard White, 1 Northern Cloudywing and 1 Mulberry Wing. Native skipper numbers were down dramatically again in 2019. However, 2019 also saw a rather dramatic drop in the European Skipper counts, with only 754 seen in 2019 vs. 1,502 in 2018.

In 2018, the Skunk's Misery count had North America's highest number of Little Wood Satyrs at 608, Banded Hairstreaks at 63, Eastern Commas at 47, and European Skippers at 1,502. As summer progressed in 2018, more butterflies emerged, and later counts also set records. The Clear Creek count, located just southwest of the Skunk's Misery count circle, held on July 28, for example, set new total count records for a number of species, especially Monarchs (347), Spicebush Swallowtails (32) and Black Swallowtails (49), but also counted North America's highest number of Giant Swallowtails (175). This area of southwestern Ontario has significant butterfly diversity and population density and so it is very worthwhile for us to continue to monitor and report results.

This year, the count started at 8.30 a.m. and lasted until around 5p.m. At lunchtime, participants were treated to a delicious meal courtesy of the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT), in honour of Ann White, butterfly leader emeritus, who made a generous donation to the TTLT to further butterfly habitat conservation. A beautiful cake with a picture of a Red Admiral was also shared with everyone present. Ann was joined by her family, including son David and grandson Dan. Joan Platt gave a moving speech about her and her husband Ian's many memorable adventures with Ann and her never-ending love for butterflies and birds. After lunch, the group gathered at the Wardsville Woods for the unveiling of a lovely plaque, again with a Red Admiral on it, to commemorate Ann's generosity and to memorialize her passion for butterflies.

At the end of the day, everyone gathered in Rodney, where Bill and Marjorie Prieksaitis kindly hosted our BBQ supper once again. Most of the participants were there, and we had a great time with heaps of food! The Prieksaitis family provided the hamburgers, sausages, buns and beverages and participants provided desserts and salads. It was a great celebration that everyone enjoyed after a hot day of combing the fields and roadsides for butterflies!

I would like to thank all the participants who have turned out over the last 20 years, many of them from our early beginnings, and I hope they will still continue to do so - it is truly one of the most productive and enjoyable butterfly counts anywhere in Ontario. I would also like to thank Anne White for her continued support and involvement in the count - it wouldn't be the same Skunk's Misery Butterfly Count without her!

The Skunk's Misery Butterfly Count will be held again in 2020 on the first Sunday in July - mark July 5, 2020 on your calendars and see you there!

George Prieksaitis

THE CARDINAL

The Cardinal Committee lost a valued member with the passing of Susan Thauer in February of 2019.

The Nature London photo contests continued with the themes of "weather" for the second and "reflections" for the third.

The Cardinal, as usual, was published four times in the year and continues to be available online to members only. The online version is in full colour, has clickable links and may be printed at home as required.

The current members of the Cardinal committee are: Muriel Andreae, Barbara Bain, John Berry, Mike Channon, Ron Martin, Tom Reaume and Leslie Rockwell.

Both Tom Reaume and Leslie Rockwell will be leaving the committee in 2020.

Mike Channon

CEDARCROFT REPORT

Highlights of Cedarcroft Committee Meetings Nov 26, 2018 and April 11, 2019

The “Introduction to Cedarcroft walks” in 2018 were successful attracting new members to Cedarcroft and was done again in 2019. Jeff is completing the third bridge and the Committee decided to celebrate the opening of the Northern Trail and the completion of the three bridges by having a corn roast on September 28 combined with the introductory walk. The control of periwinkle was completed in October, 2018.

The third bridge was completed by Jeff. We thank him for making it possible to now walk and view the Cedarcroft property. The last window in the cabin had a Plexiglas window installed making it easier to see and work inside the cabin. Our willing ladies completed a clean-up of the cabin complete with curtains for the windows. Herb gave a slide presentation on Cedarcroft at Member’s Night on Feb. 15. The Northern Trail was flagged (thank you, ladies) and cleared of woody debris with steps were installed at the entrance and exit to the third bridge. Our ladies placed plant identification tags for the spring walk. Evelyn faithfully kept the trail to the cabin and front grass mowed to a safe walking level.

Introductory Walk at Cedarcroft, Oct 26, 2018

Very foggy driving there but cleared for the walk then started raining as we finished. Some mud but trails are in good condition. All participants walked the Beech, Pine and River trails. Jeff Paul, our hard working bridge builder, along with his two sons, were busy carrying wood down the steep hill to start bridge #3. Participants are always interested in looking through the cabin, now that there is Plexiglas on all the windows but one, making it a lot brighter. New members were very pleased to see and experience Cedarcroft, some anxious to take pictures. Few birds were seen this time, maybe due to the weather. As usual after our walks, we enjoyed homemade cookies and apple cider. Nice finish to our walking tour. Evelyn Rogers had the grass around the cabin all cut for the walk and treats after.

Introductory Walk at Cedarcroft, May 11 2019

After several rainy and cloudy days, the sun came out for our walk at Cedarcroft on May 11th. We had 18 folks show up to enjoy the sunshine. It was definitely muddy and most wore water-proof footwear. Daisy McCallum gave a brief talk about the history of Cedarcroft. Then we walked the Beech and River Trails looking at the spring flowers in bloom and listening for birds. We walked on the newest bridge but we did not tackle the Northern



Trail because of the muddy conditions. Participants seemed to enjoy themselves and were willing to contribute to identifying plants and viewing/listening to twenty four birds.

We had a very busy year and a note of thanks again to the hardworking Cedarcroft Committee members who make it possible to carry out the maintenance activities and enjoy Cedarcroft.

Herb Bax, Cedarcroft Manager

CHIMNEY SWIFT PROGRAM

This account covers the 12 months from Nov 1/18 to Oct 31/19, a time period that enables reporting on a single (April-to-October) season of swift activity in London.

Introduction

It was a banner year for Nature London's multi-pronged program of Chimney Swift initiatives.

Sandy Symmes organized by far the biggest and most visible component – regular evening monitoring. A new pilot tested the feasibility of using daytime monitoring to assess fledging success. In one way or another, about 55 core and 10 casual volunteers participated in monitoring.

Under the conservation umbrella, input was made to several planning processes that may impact local swifts; advice was offered to chimney owners where construction, alterations, repairs or demolition were planned or underway; and information obtained during monitoring helped Swift Care Ontario determine optimal release sites.

Outreach endeavours included dissemination of educational materials (e.g., via website, displays, flyers, articles, reports, PowerPoint presentations); making contact with chimney owners and the public; promotion of biodiversity gardens to produce swift food; and the development of strong connections with other swift stakeholders in Ontario and beyond.

Read on for details of the many activities of Nature London's dedicated swift community in 2019.

Monitoring / Data Collection

- Recruited volunteers via *The Cardinal* and at Nature London meetings, Jan to Mar 2019.
- Established NL's monitoring programs as independent from BSC (but continued to share data).
- Organized orientation session at downtown library, Apr 27 (attendance 37).
- Developed new NL evening protocol, manual, field form and online data-entry system.
 - Commenced evening monitoring May 1, continued to Oct 6, mostly weekly.
 - Hosted outdoor training session for evening monitors, May 21 (attendance 13).
 - Held ~25 monitoring evenings at 13 chimneys, each followed by report to participants.
 - Collected sightings of Common Nighthawks.
 - ~320 monitoring visits to 13 chimneys (7 held roosts), ~30 visits to 14 other chimneys.
 - During fall migration, numbers peaked much earlier and at a lower level than in 2018.
 - For the first time, peak number of fall migrants was lower than peak of spring migrants.
 - In 2019, swifts were present in London from April 30 to Oct 2.
- Established a pilot project to assess feasibility of using daytime monitoring to gain info on success rate of nesting swifts.
 - Developed protocol, created manual, field form and online data entry system.
 - Eight volunteers monitored 14 chimneys (mid-May to early Aug); 12 weekly reports sent.
 - ~175 monitoring visits, 265 hours of observations (10 to 26 hours per chimney).
 - Conclusion: one to two hours per week is inadequate to reliably determine nest outcome.
 - Likely outcomes at monitored nest chimneys:

▪ Success or possible success	5	Failure or probable failure	4
▪ No nest (but activity at 2 sites)	4	Too little info to determine	1
 - By mid-Aug, some non-breeding swifts stay in roost chimneys till mid-morning or later.
- Provided support for some independent monitoring; three new active chimneys found.
- Hosted monitors' end-of-season gathering at Cherryhill library, Oct 17/19, (attendance 34).
- Prepared detailed end-of-season reports for both daytime and evening monitoring.
- Liaised with Bird Studies Canada (now Birds Canada) Ontario SwiftWatch program:
 - Participated in conference call Nov 18/18 for swift monitoring groups around Ont.
 - Encouraged development of better approaches for monitoring swift populations.
 - Shared data from NL's two monitoring programs via weekly spreadsheets.

Conservation

- Submitted information relating to swifts to the One River Environmental Assessment.
- Urged city politicians, during redevelopment of old psych hospital lands, to retain some natural habitat for production of food for area swifts.
- Successfully advocated to have protection of chimneys used by swifts included in Old East Village Secondary Plan.
- Made input to SoHo riverfront planning process, recommending natural habitat be included to create healthy foraging opportunities for swifts and swallows.
- Supplied info on timing and other adjustments for ongoing or planned construction and roof/chimney repairs for eight active swift chimneys on five buildings.
- Provided advice on possible approaches for saving a swift chimney in Woodstock.
- Shared ideas re chimney-top modifications that allow swift entry but reduce water damage to heritage chimneys.
- Helped Swift Care Ontario identify two suitable release locations for 14 hand-reared swifts.

Education/Outreach

- Provided information in response to phone and e-mail inquiries.
- Prepared swift display materials (Doors Open, Sep 16/18; UWO Envirocon, Mar 23/19).
- Created flyer of general info on swifts and distributed swift info “postcards”.
- Contacted businesses, institutions and others, supplying tips for accommodating swifts.
- Promoted biodiversity gardens as a means of producing swift food (airborne insects).
- Gave PowerPoint on swifts to Ingersoll District Nature Club, Nov 25/18 (attendance 45).
- Welcomed Debbie Lefebvre to Birding Wing to speak on Swift Care Ontario, Mar 22/19.
- Led swift walk in downtown London, May 26/19 (attendance 32).
- Published articles in *The Cardinal* (photo essay on swifts nesting in a chimney, report of 2018 NL swift initiatives, updates on Nature London eco-grant for swift sign and viewing bench).
- Board reps participated in eco-meditation garden opening, First-St. Andrew’s church, Jun 23/19.
- Updated and added materials to swift page on Nature London website, Mar 2019.
- Enlisted Paul Nicholson to write column in *London Free Press* to mark World Swift Day (Jun 7).
- Exchanged information and ideas with other swift stakeholders in Ontario and elsewhere.

UWO: Western University; NL: Nature London; BSC: Bird Studies Canada, Ontario SwiftWatch.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Sandy Symmes for organizing evening monitoring and much else, Ric Symmes and Dave Wake for data portals and weekly charts, Barb Stewart of Manitoba for advice on daytime monitoring, Nature London for financial support (data portals, room rentals). Collectively, NL volunteers donated thousands of hours to swift initiatives in 2019. Special thanks to those who helped collect data, which inform much of what we do: Amir Abbasi, Bev Amey, Marguerite Annen, Betsy Baldwin, Leslie Baker, John Berry, Emily Birss, Cayley Bower, Erin Boynton, Helen Carey, Linda Chanyi, Ruth Dickau, Jane Edwards, Ryan Fraser, Gerry Gedcke, Sandy Grant, Shelagh Grant, Alison Greenhill, Leanne Grieves, Rick Hayman, Mary Ann Hodge, Steve Jarrett, Morag Kinchlea, Debbie Lefebvre, Ann MacPhail, Bill and Joanne Maddeford, Rick Martin, Maribeth McCluskey, Kathy McCoy, Cathy McCrae, Gail McNeil, Adam Moron, Theresa Morrissey, Olga Nemerovski, John and Vianne Ninnes, Bob and Margaret Ohashi, Bruce Parker, Jenn (Symmes) Plaskett, Susan Price, Susan Relecom, Paul Roedding, Evelyn Rogers, Brendon Samuels, Judy Shaw, Joe Stephenson, Susanne Sutherland, Kiara, Ric and Sandy Symmes, Amy Tanner, Paul Thomas, Pat Tripp, David and Winifred Wake, Brian and Libby Wheeler, Frits, Lynda and Quinten Wiegersma, Garry and Heidi Williams, Barb Yeo, Lori Ykema. A million thank-yous to every-one! (Apologies to anyone whose name may have been omitted – your contributions are still appreciated!)

Winifred Wake, Chimney Swift Liaison for Nature London

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This report is for the 110th London CBC from December 15, 2018.

Our participation list included 138 people, and temperatures were around +3 with cloudy conditions. Snow hampered our movements. Some of the still water was open and running water was open so a few extra species were gleaned from that. About 50 birders and friends gathered at Riverside United Church for the Pot Luck supper at the end of the day.

Our total numbers of species was 72 and individuals were at 17, 602. Both are below 10 year averages.

Likely the snow and cold just before the Count drove lingering species out, and of course as it was harder to get around, it was more difficult to find birds. No new species were found, and winter birds were present but in low numbers for the most.

A full report of the unusual species and trends found on this CBC were put on the Nature London website, and possibly printed in *The Cardinal*.

Pete Read, London CBC Coordinator since 1983

CONSERVATION ACTION COMMITTEE

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

CAC = Conservation Action Committee
EEPAC = Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
ESA = Environmentally Significant Area
LHSC = London Health Sciences Centre
MECP = Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MMAH = Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
NL = Nature London
TAG = Trails Advisory Group
UTRCA = Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

This year's Conservation Action Committee consisted of 7 Nature London members:

Sandy Levin, Chair; Jack Blocker, Susan Blocker, Anita Caveney, Margo Does, Bill Maddeford, Roslyn Moorhead, and Dave Wake. The CAC met 4 times during the period of this report: September 5 and November 1, 2018, and February 8 and June 6, 2019. Two members of the CAC also serve on the City's Trails Advisory Group, which makes recommendations to City staff on trail siting and maintenance in London's ESAs.

Work Undertaken: The CAC monitored numerous items and attended events and public meetings during the year. The CAC corresponded with the City of London, Provincial Ministries, and Ontario Nature for the purposes of stating the CAC's support, opposition or recommendations. For some issues, comments were submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario. Issues monitored or items addressed included:

- **TAG Site Visits:** TAG site visits were undertaken 1) in January 2019 at the Metamora Crescent entrance to Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South) in connection with railing replacement and crib-stair installation; and 2) in June 2019 at Meadowlily Woods ESA in connection with trail re-alignment, and boardwalk or short bridge installation, east of the underground sewer right-of-way.
- **Invasive Plants Article:** The *Invasive Plants: Noxious Alien Invaders* article, compiled by two CAC members, was published in the Spring 2019 issue of *The Cardinal*, and posted on the website. A slightly modified version was printed as a brochure.
- **One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment (EA):** CAC members attended the Stage 2 Public Information Centre for the One River Master Plan EA held at the Central Branch of the London Public Library on October 3, 2018. Stage 2's objective was to "develop a unified One River Strategy", and participants completed a questionnaire about the following Preliminary Preferred alternatives from Stage 1: 1) Partial Dam Removal for Springbank Dam, including all hydraulic parts and possibly the pump house; 2) Suspended

Walkway with Softscape Terracing for the Forks of the Thames; and 3) Strategic Access and Use in the River Corridor. The River Management Plan was also available for viewing.

- **Environmental Management Guidelines Update:** Two CAC members attended an Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) meeting on August 15, 2019 to hear a presentation by City Ecologist Emily Williamson on the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the update of the Environmental Management Guidelines, 2007. The CAC submitted comments about the draft ToR to the City.
- **Enviro Hero Awards:** Three Enviro Hero Awards were presented at NL's regular meeting on January 18, 2019. Two of the award recipients were London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and its contractor Clintar Landscape for efforts to protect nesting grassland birds and their habitat on the LHSC Parkwood property, and the third to Murray Hunter, the creator of the Garden4Bees project. LHSC and Clintar had agreed to leave part of the grassland at the southeast corner of the intersection of Wellington and Commissioners Roads uncut during the nesting season of Eastern Meadowlarks, which are seen there. Murray Hunter established the Julia Hunter Memorial Fund in memory of his daughter to support community gardens, because gardens are places of renewal, peace and beauty. He worked in conjunction with the London Community Foundation and started the Garden4Bees project with Anglican churches. The citations were read, and the awards presented, by CAC member Susan Blocker.
- **Conservation Award:** Conservation Awards for 2018 were presented at the 2018 Awards Banquet to 1) Pat and Kee Dewdney for their commitment to conservation, especially the protection of Newport Forest; 2) Thom McClenaghan for his contributions to conservation, especially fundraising for projects in the Coves ESA; and 3) Thames River Anglers Association for its efforts to have a free-flowing Thames River retained, and for influencing City Council to decommission the Springbank Dam.
- **Carolinian Canada's Go Wild Grow Wild Expo:** CAC members, along with other NL members, staffed the NL booth at Carolinian Canada's Go Wild Grow Wild Expo at the Metroland Media Agriplex on April 6, 2019.
- **City of London's Strategic Plan for next four years:** CAC members submitted comments to City Councillors to encourage them to include protecting the natural heritage system as part of the Strategic Plan. An initial survey on the City's website under "Get Involved" had nothing on the natural heritage system.
- **Ontario Government proposal to establish a hunting season for Double-crested Cormorants:** CAC members submitted comments to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry opposing the establishment of a hunting season for Double-crested Cormorants proposed by the Provincial Government.
- **Ontario Government 10th Year Review of Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007*:** A CAC member submitted comments of concern to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) about the *Endangered Species Act* Review Discussion Paper, and potential weakening of the protection of species and habitats under the existing Act.

-
- **Ontario Government Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018*:** Proposed policies for Bill 66 would allow municipalities, with the consent of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to pass an "open-for-business by-law" which would allow them to override critical environmental requirements under existing legislation. Of particular concern was Schedule 10 of Bill 66. CAC Chair, Sandy Levin, and NL President, Bernie VanDenBelt co-signed a letter to City Council urging the City to oppose the intent of Bill 66 and to propose inclusion in the Bill, if passed, a provision that "no natural heritage, environmental or health and safety policies, such as safe drinking water policies, whether in the London Plan, provincial or federal policies, shall be overridden." Other CAC members also submitted comments to the MMAH to oppose Schedule 10 of Bill 66. (Schedule 10 was eventually removed from the Bill.)
 - **Ontario Government Bill 108, *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019*:** Proposed policy changes to the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* in Schedule 5 of omnibus Bill 108 would facilitate development at the cost of species at risk and their habitats. Members of the CAC submitted comments strongly opposing Schedule 5 to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
 - **Letter from MECP to Conservation Authorities:** When the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks asked Conservation Authorities to begin to "wind down" programs such as tree planting, soil conservation, and other watershed services deemed as "non-core," the CAC generated an Action Alert to members who had signed up to receive Alerts. NL members were asked to write to the Minister, opposing cuts without consultation. The effort must have had an impact as the Minister began consultations with Conservation Authorities in September.
 - **Invitation to City Councillors to visit ESAs:** With the NL Board's permission, the CAC invited new City Councillors to accompany them on a visit to an ESA of their choice. Two Councillors took up the offer.
 - **The Coves ESA:** In June, a CAC member reported serious invasions of Asiatic Bittersweet, Tatarian Honeysuckle, and Wild Chervil along the trail on the east side of the East Pond to City staff. The UTRCA's ESA Management Team agreed to herbicide-treat and/or remove these plants in late summer or fall. CAC members monitored a restoration planting, after an earlier herbicide treatment to remove non-native plants, alongside the granular pathway in Euston Park.
 - **Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA:** When it carries out road work on Wellington Rd for the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network, the City plans to install oil grit separators to prevent the oil in runoff water from the road from entering the ponds. The CAC requested answers from the City about water levels and water sampling of the Ponds for pollutants.
 - **Warbler Woods ESA:** CAC members visited Warbler Woods ESA on June 14, 2019 to monitor encroachments and invasive species. A list of issues noted was submitted to City staff for follow-up by the UTRCA's ESA Management Team.

Complete information on the above items is detailed in the CAC meeting minutes. Selected details were published in the Conservation section of *The Cardinal*, flights 253, 254, 255 and 256.

Anita Caveney on behalf of the Conservation Action Committee

E-MAIL COORDINATORS

Nature London E-News and Events is published twice monthly, normally on the 1st and 15th of each month. E-News is a concise reminder service for members of events within the coming three weeks. The content is coordinated with the quarterly “Cardinal” and links to the Nature London web page that has the capacity to provide more detail, images and maps. A separate email service, “Conservation Alerts” responds as required with information from the Conservation Action Committee for members who sign up for alerts.

There are two sections, “Nature London Events”, and “Other Events that May be of Interest”.

The E-News mailing list uses the free services of MailChimp to hold and maintain our list. Members have the option of “unsubscribing by an easy link at the bottom of each issue. Despite this ease of exit, our list of subscribing members grew from 460 to 500. This number exceeds the number of “memberships” because some families have requested more than one regular email recipient.

We also respond to emails arriving at info@naturelondon.ca, answer where we can or refer messages to the appropriate Nature London volunteer.

We very much appreciate the support and cooperation of the Cardinal Editors, Webmaster, Conservation Committee, Field Trip Coordinators and other volunteer officers of the Club who provide the information and responses that are the heart of the E-News and Events.

Ric and Sandy Symmes

FACEBOOK REPORT

As of November 2019, the Nature London Facebook page has 596 “Likes”, an increase of more than 25% in the past year. NL’s Facebook presence is integrated with the website, *The Cardinal* and the email newsletter.

Mady Hymowitz

FIELD TRIPS

Date	Location	Leader/s	Length	No. of participants	Weather	Highlights
Sept. 16/18	Civic Gardens Complex	C. McCrae, S. & A. Caveney, G. McNeil, E. Rogers	2 hours	24	mostly sunny, humid, 30°	- Part of Doors Open London - Painted and Spiny Soft-shelled Turtles; few birds
Sept. 22/18	Greenway Park	C. McCrae	2 hours	16	partly sunny, 18°	- Osprey, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Pine Warbler
Sept. 30/18	Long Point Bus Trip	M. Gartshore, P. Carson, K. Richardson, A. Heagy	8 hours	51	rainy, cloudy, 15°	- Backus Woods: old oaks, fungi - Casier site in Big Creek forest block: meadow species - Lake Erie Farms, Jackson Gunn old growth forest
Oct. 6/18	Cedarcroft	D. McCallum, B. Kaiser	2 hours	11	foggy, then clearing, then rain	- newt, raccoon, toads, asters, goldenrods, ferns
Oct.21/18	Westminster Ponds ESA	C. McCrae	2 hours	9	cloudy, 4°, ice pellets	- 30 bird species: over 1,000 migrating crows, both Kinglets, American Redstart
Nov. 4/18	Kettle Point & Pinery P.P.	C. McCrae	8 hours	16	partly sunny, seasonal	- 46 bird species including Longtail, Green-winged Teal and Ruddy ducks, American Tree Sparrow, dark phase Rough-legged Hawk
Nov. 24/18	Fanshawe C.A.	P. Nicholson, Z. Fedder	2 hours	8	light rain, some ice and mud	- 17 bird species including Hooded Merganser and Common Goldeneye; Red-breasted Nuthatch

						ate from hand
Dec. 1/18	Civic Gardens Complex and Springbank Park	C. McCrae, B. VanDenBelt, E. Rogers, Q. Wiegersma	3 hours	28 (12 kids)	1°, mostly cloudy	- fifth annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids - 29 species, 494 birds (lower than usual, mild fall)
Jan. 1/19	Greenway Park	C. McCrae	2 hours	50	-4°, overcast	- 16 bird species; birding was slow again due to lack of snow)
Jan. 27/19	Sarnia & St. Clair River	C. McCrae	1.5 hours	16	-11°, snow west of Strathroy	- unable to make it to Sarnia due to snowstorm; saw Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Snowy Owls
Feb. 17/19	Huron Woods/ Winnett Swamp	C. McCrae, G. Cameron, M. Channon	1.75 hours	24	-5°, mostly overcast, windy	- 13 bird species including Song Sparrow, interesting ice formations
Mar. 9/19	Medway Valley ESA	C. McCrae	2 hours	35	2°, sunny	- 11 bird species including Red-Bellied Woodpeckers pairing up, American Bladdernut tree
Mar. 24/19	Aylmer W.M.A. & Sewage Lagoons	C. McCrae	2.5 hours	36	cool, windy, a little sun	- 26 bird species including Tundra Swans, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Bluebird, and Sandhill Crane; fewer ducks than expected
Apr. 14/19	Hullett W. M. A.	C. McCrae	5.5 hours	10	2°, rainy, windy	- 56 bird species including Rusty Blackbird, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Pintail; fewer ephemeral ponds than usual
Apr. 24/19	Kilally ESA	C. McCrae	1.5 hours	50 +	cool, overcast	- limited performance by

						American Woodcock; saw Merlin, Osprey - heard Eastern Screech Owl
Apr. 27/19	Rondeau P.P.	C. McCrae	8.5 hours	9	cool, windy, partly sunny	- 77 bird species including Yellow-rumped Warbler, Sandhill Crane, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, White-winged Dove, Willets
May 1/19	Westminster Ponds ESA	N. Garber	2 hours	3	a little rain, 15°, muddy	- 22 bird species including Palm Warbler, Buffleheads, Osprey - Beaver in Saunders Pond; Trout Lilies
May 8/19	Hurons Woods/Winnett Swamp	C. McCrae	2 hours	20	windy, cool, mostly overcast	- few birds: Philadelphia Vireo, Carolina Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wild Turkey
May 11/19	Cedarcroft	B. Kaiser, D. McCallum	2.5 hours	18	cool, mostly cloudy	- very muddy - 22 bird species - at least 22 plant species including red and white Trilliums, Hepatica, and Canada Mayflower
May 13/19	Meadowlily ESA	D. & W. Wake, C. Quinlan, G. McNeil, S. & A. Caveney	2 hours	21	6°, cloudy, some sprinkles of rain	- many wildflowers including Jack-in-the-pulpit, Trilliums, Blue Cohosh - 16 bird species including Eastern Towhee and Rose-breasted Grosbeak
May 15/19	Sifton Bog	R. Huizer	2 hours	22	seasonal	- bog succession

	ESA					and plants discussed including Labrador Tea and Black Spruce - fauna included deer, 9 warbler species and Ruby-throated Hummingbird
May 17-20/19	Bruce Peninsula	C. McCrae	3 days	19	cool, overcast with some light rain	- over 115 bird species identified including American Bittern, Sora, Bobolink, Prairie Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-crowned Night Heron
May 22/19	Port Stanley Harbour and Sewage Lagoons, Fingal WMA	C. McCrae	2 hours	21	cool and windy, then improved	- raccoon climbing oil tank in harbour - Bank Swallow - Northern Shoveler, Eastern Kingbirds - beaver at Fingal
May 26/19	First St. Andrew's Church area	W. & D. Wake	1.5 hours	32	partly sunny, pleasant	- discussed and observed Chimney Swifts and the chimneys that they use
May 29/19	Kains Woods ESA	E. Rogers, G. McNeil	1.5 hours	28	17°, partly cloudy	- few birds, mostly heard including Belted Kingfisher - blooming May Apples, Wild Geranium and Columbine

June 5/19	The Coves ESA	S. & A. Caveney	1 hour	24	20°, sprinkles of rain	- flora included Tartarian Honeysuckle, Alternate-leaved and Gray Dogwood, Spatterdock - Spittle Bug, Eastern Forktail, Carpenter Bee - approx. 20 bird species
July 7/19	Skunk's Misery Butterfly Count	G. Prieksaitis	8.5 hours	28	warm, mostly sunny	- 50 species but fewer individuals - species included Harvester and Northern Cloudywing
July 14/19	Dakota Place & east end of Windermere Road	L. & S. Symmes	1 hour	22	clear and sunny	- viewed and discussed two nesting Osprey pairs with young
Aug. 23/19	Kelly Stanton ESA area	R. Huizer	2 hours	25	sunny, 27°	- Bluestem grasses, Goldenrods, Wild Bergamot, Ladies Tresses and Green- fringed Orchids

FRIENDS OF THE COVES

The Friends of the Coves (FOTC) group was instrumental in obtaining funding to establish erosion control on upper Silver Creek in the Coves Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) watershed. Erosion has been an increasing problem along the Silver Creek watercourse. A bridge across the upper portion of the creek at Euston Park is anticipated to decrease erosion while allowing residents to cross safely. The Coves will be featured in a February *Nature in the City* talk. The FOTC organization continues to help make the Coves ESA one of the City of London's best.

Bill Maddeford

GIVING PROGRAM

The Giving Program continued to generate thank you letters to donors, advising families of memorial gifts and sending thanks for special gifts made to help in achieving Nature London's goals.

A marketing plan to help encourage gifts was presented to the Board at its May 2019 meeting. The Eco-Grants Program will be presented as an opportunity for donors to make a real impact in protecting nature and educating our community about preservation and appreciation of nature in Southwestern Ontario.

Susan Relecom

GUIDE TO THE NATURAL AREAS IN LONDON AND REGION

The Natural Areas Guide continued to sell well. 241 copies were sold in this fiscal year. In May, another 300 copies were printed to replenish the original inventory of 2000 books (1500 from June 2015 and 500 from August 2017). The need to reprint sparked a discussion as to whether a new updated edition was necessary. It turned out a number of revisions were necessary for some of the sites, so it was decided to start work on a 6th edition. Mike Channon joined the editorial team. Many sites were visited over the summer by volunteers who updated the area information as necessary, and that work will continue into the next fiscal year. Plans are to print the revised edition in the summer of 2020.

Jim & Roslyn Moorhead

IMAGE DATABASE

A major update of the database hardware and software has just been completed. The Board had authorized an expenditure of up to \$1200 in the current year's budget to support this.

The update addressed several issues: principally that the system was being run on an older (Windows XP) computer belonging to the photo coordinator. That hardware could not accommodate more recent software versions, and was undergoing significant issues of stability and reliability. It was also preferable to have the system on a dedicated computer that could be easily passed on to another person if needed.

Accordingly, a large screen laptop (HP 17" ZBOOK) was purchased; a refurbished model with a three year warranty from Microcad systems in London. Current versions of IMATCH (the database software) and Photoshop were also purchased. Shareware backup software is also being used to provide regular backups of the photograph files and the indexing database.

The IMATCH version used up to now was over ten years old and no longer supported by the company. However, they were extremely helpful (via a long distance email exchange of requests for help) in providing advice. The file structure had changed totally (from an XP to Windows 10 environment) and this required the creation of an entirely new database. However, it was possible to import all the file information, categories and other indexing from the old database, so no information was lost (despite a few tense moments!).

The new system is much faster and efficient with an interface that makes entering and updating data about individual (or batch) photos much faster. The database contains some 14,000 items. A significant number had been stored without any indexing that would permit searching for particular items such as all images of a specific bird or plant or taken at a specific location. I am hoping during the current year to go through the files systematically and fill in as many gaps in the indexing as possible. What we now have should serve our needs well for years to come.

John Berry

INDOOR MEETINGS

Sept 21 2018

Andrew Peregrine (Professor and Clinical Parasitologist, Veterinary College, University of Guelph)

“Lyme Disease: What is Happening in Ontario?”

Andrew spoke about Lyme disease and how to prevent it. He identified the ticks that can be found on dogs and people in Ontario and the tick responsible for Lyme disease. Data were presented to indicate how the risk of exposure to the organism that causes Lyme disease is changing across Ontario and what will likely happen in the future. Strategies to reduce the risk of infection in both dogs and people were discussed.

Oct 19 2018

Chantelle Richmond (Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health and the Environment and Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Western University)

Chantelle Richmond (Bigitigong Anishinabe) heads a research program based on a community-centred model of research that explores the intersection of Indigenous peoples' health and knowledge systems within the context of global environmental change. Along with colleagues and community partners in Canada, Hawaii and New Zealand, Chantelle's current research examines concepts and applied processes of environmental repossession.

In her presentation entitled "From the Perspective of a Geographer: Indigenous Health and the Environment," Chantelle discussed her observations and research findings about Indigenous health and the environment in Southwestern Ontario. She addressed the question of how the health of Indigenous peoples is bolstered or affected by features of the natural environment, some complexities that underlie this question, and some of the hard truths.

Banquet - November 16, 2018

Jarmo Jalava and his son Noah Jalava entertained and inspired us with a multimedia presentation entitled "Soulbird: Relationships with Nature as Told through Slides, Stories and Song".

Ecologist, writer and songwriter Jarmo Jalava and Noah Jalava, also a songwriter and performer, explored perspectives gained working and traveling as ecologists and naturalists in a range of cultures and settings across Ontario and around the world. They provided a rich experience with their photos, videos and performance of songs they had written, accompanied by guitars, as well as interesting personal narratives about their encounters with nature.

Jarmo Jalava has authored or coauthored more than 140 articles on ecology and the environment, released three albums of music, and is an avid lifelong birder. For his contributions to landscape-level conservation planning in Ontario (which include Carolinian Canada Big Picture vision, ecological surveys of the Niagara Escarpment and the Eastern Georgian Bay Coast, and Alvars of the Bruce Peninsula), Jarmo received Ontario Nature's Steve Hounsell Greenway Award in 2013.

January 18, 2019

Ron Gould, Protected Areas Specialist, Ontario Parks (Southwest Zone), spoke about "Mole Salamanders of Southern Ontario: Exploring the Surprising Ecology and Habits of Our Ambystoma Species".

Ron noted that many of us have encountered mole salamanders that live in our local woodlands and wetlands; however, few understand the ecology and astonishing abilities of these small, mostly subterranean amphibians. Ron reviewed the genetic relationships, habitat and seasonal movements, and perils these species encounter, as well as ways we can improve our environment for salamanders and our chances of seeing them in the wild.

February 15, 2019

Steve Bucchiarelli, President, Predator Bird Services, London, accompanied by three of his birds, spoke about **“Working Eagles, Hawks and Falcons”** and introduced us to these charismatic birds and how he works with them and trains them.

A lifelong birder, Steve uses falconry to raise and train bald eagles, Harris hawks and falcons to frighten seagulls and other unwanted bird species away from landfills, airports, agricultural and nuclear power sites. Using photos, he presented examples of some of these interesting and important assignments in a variety of locations, local and international.

March 15, 2019 - Members’ Night

The following Nature London members made interesting illustrated presentations at this popular annual event:

Herb Bax, “Update on Cedarcroft, Nature London’s Forested Property”

Diane Micaly, “Wildlife rehabilitation and other topics”

Stan Caveney, “Dumbledore and the Railway”

Report on Youth Nature Education programs in the London region

Suzanne Southon, “Wildlife and Landscapes of Churchill, Manitoba”

Brian Wheeler, “Videos of Nature at a Local Creek and on the Bruce Peninsula”

April 26, 2019

Kevin Tipson (Orangeville), an orchid enthusiast and photographer, shared his knowledge and passion for “Orchids of Ontario”. He presented photos and stories of his adventures searching for these iconic wildflowers.

Carol Agocs, Kathy Ellis and Diane Weiler

LONDON ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HERITAGE

Built heritage is the main focus of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH). No issues with relevance to natural heritage were dealt with this year.

While built heritage is the main focus of LACH, the preservation of heritage homes often includes the preservation of the surrounding mature vegetation as demolition of a heritage home usually results in total removal of all trees and shrubs and an increase in the new building footprint leaving no room for replanting. Development continues to be the biggest threat to all aspects of heritage preservation.

There was some discussion at the Stewardship Subcommittee this year about compiling a list of potential cultural heritage landscapes in London. Two of the areas so far suggested are the Coves and Meadowlily Woods. This work will be on going for some time.

Jim Cushing

LONDON ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

"Green Drinks" continues to be a major component of LEN programming. These informal social gatherings of LEN members offer an opportunity to network, collaborate and generally share insights regarding the London environment. Each meeting normally includes a fifteen minute guest speaker presentation. Here is a list of some of the presenters/topics at Green Drinks gatherings this year:

- London Cycle Link
- City of London
- Big Bike Giveaway
- River Stewardship and our Direct Connection to the Thames
- Thames Talbot Land Trust
- London Electric Vehicle Association

One of the most successful "Green Drinks" gatherings featured a display of electric vehicles and a presentation by the active London Electric Vehicle Association (LEVA). The same meeting provided attendees with a tour of the Sifton West 5 energy efficient office / retail / residential lifestyle complex (Oxford Street West, Byron).

We used "Green Drink" gatherings to engage informally with LEN members sharing hard copy listings of NL programming (indoor & outdoor), Natural Areas Guides and *Nature In the City* topics. As a LEN member organization we received LEN newsletters, the contents of which

were forwarded to the NL Board's liaison so that any information pertinent to NL members could be disseminated. This year LEN was working on updating its Strategic Plan. As a member organization NL was able to take part in a focus group to provide input to help LEN set its priorities for 2020-2023.

In our opinion, LEN provides an excellent opportunity for a Nature London representative to promote the club to a receptive audience. We recommend NL continue membership and involvement with LEN.

Gerry Pierce and Susan Price

MANUAL SECRETARY

No updates to the manual were made this year. It is anticipated that an update will be forthcoming in September of 2019.

Cathy Quinlan

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Our membership for 2018/19 held steady with the previous year with 446 memberships and at least 781 individual members. Three complimentary memberships were given this year. Three of our members chose to give a membership to Nature London as a gift. Thirty-seven (37) percent of our members or new members paid online using PayPal. Twenty-four (24) percent of our members declined to get a paper copy of *The Cardinal*.

Let us continue to enjoy the many activities of Nature London and encourage others to be part of this growing club.

Membership Database

Hugh Casbourn continued to provide support for the membership database. No significant modifications were needed this year. Summary reports were created as needed and some ad hoc questions about our database were answered.

Gail McNeil, Membership Secretary

NATURE IN THE CITY

Nature in the City 2019 The 2019 edition of Nature in the City was again a great success. This joint initiative of Nature London and the London Public Library generated an average attendance of about 260 per session during the six consecutive Tuesday evenings in January and February. Three presentations generated almost a “full house”: 1. Ducks in London, Raeanne Muir 2. The Thames River: Its Present and Future, Ian Wilcox 3. Celestial Events and Night Skies over London, Ryan Fraser The balance of the presentations also proved to be popular, but winter weather sometimes affected attendance. 4. Groundhog Day: The History, Culture and Biology of Hibernation, Alan MacEachern and Jim Staples 5. London’s Urban Forest, Amber Cantell of Reforest London 6. Woodland Restoration from the Ground Up, Roseann McKay

This year the Library again provided excellent support through its technical staff and in the production of publicity posters and brochures. Also, the Library provided volunteers to act as ushers. Thanks to Ann Henderson, Nature London’s Sales Coordinator who sold many copies of the Guide to the Natural Areas of London and Region, fifth edition, over the six evenings, raising a total of \$185 for the club. A special acknowledgement must be extended to Paul Nicholson who highlighted each session in his weekly column in the London Free Press. We also want to acknowledge the support of Nature London members who attended the sessions. The participation and enthusiasm of the general public was wonderful as well.

Lisa Bilty “retired” from the committee and we were fortunate to recruit Carolyn Doyle who joined us in September. Joanna Kerr is the London Public Library’s representative. Other 2019 Nature in the City Committee members were Leslie Rockwell and Michael Boucher. The committee has received many positive comments and suggestions which will certainly assist in the preparation of the 2020 season.

Pat Tripp - Chair, Nature in the City Committee

NATURE LINE

Every week throughout the year one of the three volunteers, Bob McGee, Gail McNeil or Rick Martin collected information about bird, butterfly & other sightings in the area that would be of interest to naturalists. Along with information about NL’s indoor and outdoor activities, a recording is prepared each Thursday for inclusion on the Nature Line (519-457-4593). People dialing this line would then be able to hear this message, and they could leave a message as well. If a message was left, one of the three volunteers would endeavour to contact the caller and provide an answer.

Gail McNeil

ONTARIO NATURE (FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS)

Nature London (NL) representatives attended the fall and spring meetings of the Carolinian West Region (CWR) of the Ontario Nature Network, hosted by member groups. These meetings provide an opportunity for naturalists to exchange ideas and report on successes and failures of programs they have undertaken, discuss natural heritage issues of concern, and seek advice from the umbrella organization. Staff representatives from Ontario Nature (ON) give an update the organization's conservation science programs, Nature Network, youth programs, educational programs, and advocacy campaigns. Through these Nature Network regional meetings, NL is able to keep abreast of regional and provincial matters relating to natural heritage. Member groups are the "grassroots" of the federation, and the McIlwraith Ornithological Club was one of FON's founding member groups in 1931.

This year, regional meetings were hosted by West Elgin Nature Club at Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne on October 27, 2018, and by the Lambton Shores *Phragmites* Community Group at Lambton Centre in Lambton Shores on March 30, 2019. Bernie VanDenBelt and Anita Caveney represented NL at both meetings. The meetings were chaired by ON's CWR Director, Anita Caveney. Reports of these meetings were published in the Winter 2019 and Summer 2019 issues of *The Cardinal*.

Five members of NL (who are also members of ON) represented the club at ON's 88th Annual Gathering. *Be the Change: Inspiration for the Future*, at Mohawk College, Hamilton, May 31–June 2, 2019. The program included a Natural History Quiz, guest speakers, workshops, the AGM and Conservation Awards Ceremony, a banquet, and field trips.

Some ON highlights of the year are listed below:

- ON completed a report titled "Protecting Critical Caribou Habitat and Supporting Forestry in Ontario" that outlines an economic case for caribou habitat protection, and ways to achieve this while maintaining the forestry industry.
- ON's Protected Places Declaration has 8 partner organizations, and had received support from 131 endorsing organizations and 7,086 signatures (as of September 2019).
- ON led co-ordination of the ENGO response to the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) review, including a "concise guide" for responding to the government discussion paper, and development of an Environmental Registry of Ontario submission endorsed by 40 organizations, including 28 Nature Network groups.
- ON received donations of \$50,000 and \$15,000 from Lambton Wildlife Inc. and Sydenham Field Naturalist clubs, respectively, for an ecological restoration project at the Sydenham River Nature Reserve in SW Ontario.
- ON led advocacy campaigns against the Ontario Government to oppose: 1) the closing of the office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario; 2) the provincial government's Schedule

10 of Bill 66; 3) the proposal to establish a hunting season for Double-crested Cormorants; and changes to the ESA proposed in omnibus Bill 108.

Nature London—ON interactions during the year included the following:

- NL and/or some of its members responded to ON Action Alerts. NL was a signatory on ON's letters to the Ontario Government expressing concerns about: 1) the closure of the office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario; 2) the proposal to establish a hunting season for Double-crested Cormorants; 3) Schedule 10 of Bill 66; 4) the ESA review; and 5) the changes to the ESA proposed in Bill 108.
- NL's nomination of the Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) for the 2018-2019 Ontario Nature Corporate Award was successful, and the award was presented to the CCC at ON's Annual Gathering on June 1, 2019.
- NL sponsored a local youth to attend ON's 2018 Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership, held at YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia in September, 2018.
- Anita Caveney completed her maximum 6-year term as the Carolinian West Regional Director on the ON Board.

Anita Caveney. Ontario Nature Representative

REFRESHMENTS COMMITTEE

This year the Refreshment Committee is pleased to have been given an third shelf in the storage cupboard. We now have room to store the coffee maker which makes for less carrying from home.

The introduction of decaffeinated coffee this year has been a success. We do still serve regular coffee, pots of regular tea and herbal teas.

Three more cookie (buy or bake) contributors signed up in September which makes it more likely no one member is asked to contribute more than once per season.

It is also encouraging that more members are bringing their own travel mugs and fewer using the ceramic mugs we provide. Hence, over the last several years - through our provided mugs and members' own mugs - we have successfully eliminated styrofoam cup use.

Linda and Jim Bristow

SALES COORDINATOR

	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Total Revenue	993.00	1,477.15	1,785.90	3,088.80
Expenses	269.17	401.65	376.00	402.50

The expenses in my report are only for the books we buy from St. Thomas Field Naturalists plus a book of stamps. Revenue on the other hand is for ALL books from all sources.

Sales are down again this year, probably due to the fact we had no new books for sale so just getting new members and visitors sales. At our indoor meetings our total sales was \$238.

Nature in the City sales were disappointing this year, one night no sales. Two nights only one book sold. Average sales were \$29 a night, last year was \$70 so a grand total of \$185.

On September 16th we went to Open House London and sold \$ 130 of books.

On March 2nd we went to Seedy Saturday and sold \$115 of books.

On April 6th we went to Go Wild Grow wild and sold \$215 best sales record at an outside venue.

In May and June I sold books to T.V.T.A. members while hiking and folks came to our home for a total of \$110.

If anyone has thoughts for new items for sale please let me know.

Ann Henderson

SAUNDERS LIBRARY (LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY)

For many years Nature London has been making a donation to London Public Library to buy books for London Public Library.

The following is a list outlining the Library purchases, usually multiple copies of each title, for the period of September 2018 to August 2019.

Children's titles

Birds from Head to Tail Roderick, Stacey

First Book of Canadian Birds Miller, Andrea

Robert Bateman: The Boy who Painted Nature Ruurs, Margriet

Dive in: Exploring our Connection with the Ocean Eriksson, Ann

Adult titles

100 Plants to Feed the Bees: Provide a Healthy Habitat to Help Pollinators Thrive Xerces Society Staff

Building Soil: A Down-to-earth Approach: Natural Solutions for Better Gardens and Yards Murphy, Elizabeth

Grow a Living Wall: Create Vertical Gardens with Purpose - Pollinators, Herbs and Veggies Coronado, Shawna

Marsh Builders: The Fight for Clean Water, Wetlands and Wildlife Levy, Sharon

Plastic-free: How I Kicked the Plastic Habit and How You Can Too Terry, Beth

Pollinator Friendly Gardening: Gardening for Bees, Butterflies and Other Pollinators Fleming Hayes, Rhonda

Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Ranchers are Tending the Soil to Reverse Global Warming Ohlson, Kristin

All titles can be reserved at London Public Library's web page at www.londonpubliclibrary.ca and picked up from your nearest branch library.

Pat Tripp, Saunders Librarian

THAMES TALBOT LAND TRUST

The idea of establishing a local land trust developed within the McIlwraith Field Naturalists (Nature London) in the late 1990s. In the year 2000, the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) was launched as a separate entity. TTLT is a registered Canadian charity, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

From these early beginnings to the present, Nature London and TTLT have worked together to protect ecologically significant land in the London region. The trust employs a small staff

consisting of an Executive Director, Conservation Property Manager, Stewardship Coordinator and an Administrative Manager. As noted below, students joined us again in the summer of 2019.

This report covers Thames Talbot Land Trust activities during the period September 2018 to August 2019.

A highlight this year was the launch of the new “Passport to Nature” program. A series of 13 special outdoor events was developed and promoted through Passport to Nature booklets. Booklets were published in March 2019, for free distribution through libraries, municipal offices, at Go Wild Grow Wild, and commercial outlets. The Passport to Nature program helped to introduce TTLT to a wider audience in the community and assisted TTLT financially through the sale of sponsorships. Response to the program has been very positive. Watch for the next passport booklet in the spring of 2020!

On Sunday July 7th, members and friends of TTLT celebrated the opening of the Ann White Butterfly Meadow at Wardsville Woods. More than 50 people were on hand to recognize Ann’s long-standing commitment to butterfly monitoring as well as her generosity towards the Land Trust. The celebration took place during the annual Skunk’s Misery Butterfly Count.

Later in the month, TTLT hosted the official opening of the Auzins Community Wildflower Garden at Hawk Cliff Woods. An accessible trail is now in place leading from the gate to the garden. The wildflower garden project has received support from Trillium Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment, O’Neil Funeral Home, and from Karen and Eric Auzins.

As Bernie VanDenBelt reported in the Summer 2019 edition of *The Cardinal*, TTLT was the recipient of a 2018 Nature London Eco-Grant in support of work at Joany’s Woods. This funding, in combination with other contributions, enabled TTLT to complete habitat surveys, species inventories and the monitoring of species at risk. In addition, invasive plants were removed and two culverts on the Inch Trail were replaced with short sections of boardwalk. Volunteers made essential contributions to this work.

The Trust increased its land holdings during 2018 and 2019, and prepared groundwork for a new fundraising campaign. In 2018, in West Elgin, a 75-acre extension to Lusty Family Woods was purchased. This acquisition more than doubled the size of this reserve in West Lorne Woods. In 2019, the 104-acre Mud Lake Nature Reserve, in Oxford County, was donated to TTLT in 2019 by Don and Ruth Bucknell, who have lovingly nurtured this valuable site for 57 years. This generous gift is the first TTLT reserve in that county.

Also, in 2019, TTLT was successful in negotiating the purchase of two properties in the Skunk’s Misery Natural Area in Southwest Middlesex, using resources from TTLT’s Opportunities Fund. Skunk’s Misery is one of the largest and most significant forested blocks remaining in the Carolinian Region of southern Ontario. Natural habitats within the Carolinian zone are considered critically endangered due to widespread and intensive agricultural and industrial land uses. The 50-acre Sitler Woods links two parcels that are owned by the County of Middlesex and features many mature trees. The Bebensee Tract Extension (75 acres) is immediately adjacent to

the Trust's existing 64-acre nature reserve, acquired in 2014. The enlarged area under protection will enhance ecological integrity in the long term. With completion of these recent acquisitions, TTLT now has direct ownership of more than 1600 acres of land and protects another 100 acres through a Conservation Easement.

As reported in the Summer 2019 edition of *The Cardinal*, the Trust is beginning a new fundraising campaign, Vision 20/20. The campaign will support purchase of the three properties described above, and long-term stewardship activities for a specified group of donated and purchased properties. Donations will also help to replenish the Opportunities Fund, so that the Land Trust will be ready to purchase additional properties in future, when strategic lands become available. Funding from this campaign will also help the Trust to carry out necessary work such as property appraisals, surveys, and legal fees. A portion of the money raised through the campaign will support the Jane Bowles Legacy Fund, which provides essential salary dollars for property management staff.

Again in 2019, TTLT was fortunate to receive federal funding for summer students. Students undertook activities such as inventory and monitoring of native species (including species at risk) and removal of invasive species. Indoors, students helped with many important administrative activities.

Volunteers are essential to the operations of TTLT and assist in many ways. New volunteers are always welcome! Opportunities include serving on the board and committees, as well as "hands-on" work at properties. Spring and fall work days are scheduled for maintenance of trails and removal of invasive species such as garlic mustard, buckthorn and autumn olive. Once the invasive plants have been removed, native species may recolonize the site, or may be encouraged through planting.

There are several ways to keep up to date on the activities of TTLT. Members and friends of TTLT receive a newsletter, the *Tattler*. Electronic communications include email updates, the website (www.ttl.ca), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

TTLT thanks Nature London and its members for ongoing support. We look forward to working together on more projects in future.

Dave Wake, TTLT Liaison

URBAN LEAGUE

The League's vision:

We believe that engaged and informed Londoners are the building blocks of a vital, successful and sustainable city. We believe that strong and connected communities are critical to bringing them together. Building these connections and advocating for our members is what we do.

The Urban League (UL) is an umbrella group whose membership includes 44 neighbourhood and community organizations. These groups represent the interests of neighbourhoods, heritage, the environment and much more. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month except for June, July, August and December. At each meeting, there is an educational component and the opportunity for members to share information. Here's a list of some of the topics presented by guest speakers this year:

- Affordable housing
- City of Neighbourhoods Day
- Electoral reform
- YIMBY, Yes in my backyard
- Neighbourhood Watch for Heritage
- Age Friendly London

Urban League celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019. To commemorate this milestone, UL held a 50th Anniversary Celebration at Museum London, and it also ran the very successful first annual Place Matters Conference at Museum London. The conference was very well attended. The keynote speaker was Brent Toderian, a city planner and urbanist. He spoke about the climate crisis and what London is doing right and wrong to address it. There were also opportunities to learn about forest bathing, creating a unique neighbourhood identity and Microneighbourliness among other topics. There were tours of the new Dundas Place, Old East Village and a co-sensory nature walk. Over the lunch hour, there was a Civic Fair where attendees were able to connect with various City of London service areas and community organizations.

In my opinion, membership in the Urban League provides the Nature London representative many opportunities to promote Nature London by networking with other community organizations. Nature London representatives in turn can keep abreast of what is going on in the city and pass on any pertinent information to the club. I recommend Nature London continue membership and involvement with Urban League.

Susan Price

WEBSITE

In addition to the usual administrative tasks (posting quarterly e-Cardinals, AGM reports, bird counts, over 50 calendar events, late-breaking notices, monthly Featured Member Image, Featured Stories, bi-yearly Columbia Employee Store invitations, etc.), the following additional initiatives were undertaken:

- A secure Treasurer report was created for Henry Przysiezny to aid in the tracking and analysis of payments received from the website.
- The Privacy Policy was updated at the request of Bernie VanDenBelt.
- The Nature London Eco-Grants program was refreshed for 2019 as requested by Bernie VanDenBelt.
- The Chimney Swift Monitoring & Conservation and Resources webpages were refreshed and reorganized under the guidance of Winnie Wake.
- An Enviro Hero Award webpage was setup courtesy of Jack Blocker.
- Club contact information was reorganized with the assistance of Muriel Andreae. The Board of Directors was published on a public webpage. Club appointments were published on a secure, members-only webpage.
- A process for changing the eCardinal password yearly (or however often is desired) was developed by Gail McNeil, Bernie VanDenBelt, and the Webmaster.
- A detailed Webmaster job aid was created as part of contingency planning. The intent is to mitigate risk and ensure continuity should the role suddenly become vacant. The job aid was filed with the Manual Secretary Cathy Quinlan.
- At the request of Muriel Andreae, the Q&A article Invasive Plants: Noxious Alien Invaders was posted.
- A password-protected membership survey was posted at the request of Bernie VanDenBelt.
- Pictures galleries were created for the Long Point bus trip (September) and Weather Photo Competition (May).
- A job aid was created to provide guidance on how to download and open the eCardinal in an e-reader application.
- The Giving Program Donate menu was updated to provide direct links to the various types of giving.
- Audit Disposition materials and an announcement were posted at the request for The Board.
- Details of a stamp auction to raise funds were posted at the request of Bernie VanDenBelt.
- Webpages were created for two of the eco-grant awards to help raise the profile of the initiative and the club.
- A free eBook created by Tom Reaume was posted.
- The online order form “thank-you” webpage and email confirmation were revamped to make them legible and customer-friendly.

Once again, we would like thank Sylvia White who is providing the Nature London web hosting services. We would especially like to thank Sylvia in the additional role of Postmaster for the assistance working through our email challenges.

AWARDS

W.E. Saunders Award of Merit

Karen Auzins

Special Recognition Award

Paul Nicholson

Conservation Awards

Pat & Kee Dewdney

Thames River Anglers Association

Thom McClenaghan

Thank You (Suncatcher) Awards

Lisa Bildy

Ken Dimson (awarded posthumously and accepted by Gail Dimson)

Leslie Kostal

Ron Martin

Cathy McCrae

Paul Nicholson

Winifred Wake

Enviro Hero Awards

Murray Hunter

Clintar Landscaping

London Health Sciences Centre

APPOINTMENTS 2018-2019

Archivists	Dave & Winifred Wake
Audio / Visual Technicians	Paul Stevens, Ric Symmes
Awards Banquet Coordinators	Karen Auzins & Deb Gorman-Smith
Bird Records Secretary	Pete Read
Birding Wing Program Coordinators	Margrit Johnstone, Gail McNeil, Laure Neish, Ian Platt, Joan Taylor
Book Donations	Betsy Baldwin
Brochure Producer	Ray Robertson
Butterfly Count Coordinator	George Prieksaitis
<i>Cardinal</i> Layout Editor	Tom Reaume
Chimney Swift Liaison	Winifred Wake
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator	Pete Read
Conservation Action Committee Chair	Sandy Levin
E-Newsletter Coordinators	Ric & Sandy Symmes
Facebook Coordinator	Mady Hymowitz
Friends of the Coves Representative	Bill Maddeford
Guide to Natural Areas Editors	Roslyn & Jim Moorhead, Mike Channon
Heritage Liaison	Jim Cushing
Indoor Meetings Coordinators	Carol Agocs, Kathy Ellis, Diane Weiler
London Environmental Network Rep	Gerry Pierce, Susan Price
Manual Secretary	Cathy Quinlan
Membership Secretary	Gail McNeil
Membership Database Support	Hugh Casbourn
Nature in the City Coordinator	Pat Tripp
Nature Line Coordinators	Bob McGee, Gail McNeil, Rick Martin
Ontario Nature Representative	Anita Caveney
Publicity Administrator	Vacant
Refreshments Coordinators	Jim & Linda Bristow
Sales Coordinator	Ann Henderson
Saunders Library Liaison	Pat Tripp
Thames Talbot Land Trust Liaison	David Wake
Urban league of London	Susan Price
Volunteer Coordinator	Norm Corrin
Web Host	Sylvia White
Webmaster	Chris Baldock

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

President	Bernie VanDenBelt
Past President	Muriel Andreae
Vice President	Gordon Neish
Treasurer	Henry Przysieszny
Recording Secretary	Liz Bell
Director at Large	Nick Bell (as of May 2019)
Director at Large	John Berry
Director at Large	Mike Channon
Director at Large	Norm Corrin
Director at Large	Irma Harris
Director at Large	Paul Stevens

The Nature London 2018-19 Annual Report was compiled by Bernie VanDenBelt.