



# Nature London

2023-24

# Annual Report

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## President's Report

It certainly has been a steep learning curve for me, coming into the role of President of Nature London, with its rich history, diverse interests and involvements within the organization and in getting to know the many dedicated volunteers who are central to operations of Nature London.

My deep thanks to Past Presidents Bernie VanDenBelt and Gordon Neish for their ever-present availability and advice. Gordon continued to assume a number of leadership roles throughout the year.

My thanks and appreciation go to recording secretary Liz Bell, who provided the Board with excellent minutes, and Lesley Pergau, who carried out her task as Treasurer in her usual attentive and accurate manner.

It was with great pleasure that the Board welcomed Jennifer Evans into the role of Vice-President.

I am indebted to the members of the Nature London Board, who bring not only their gifts of oversight, experience, and wisdom, but are always available with rolled-up shirt sleeves to do the hands-on work as required. Current members include Darby Alderson, Gary Cruickshank, Jennifer Evans, Brienna French, Grant Hopcroft, Stacey Jaczko, Gordon Neish, Matthew Palarchio, Cathie Penalagan, and Lesley Pergau.

Grant Hopcroft assumed the role of Chair of the Finance Committee at a time of significant demands and opportunities, including several substantial bequests generously made to Nature London. Along with discernment on how best to use these funds comes the demand that Nature London is required to initiate a full Review of Engagement for audit.

Ontario's new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act required a great deal of work, spearheaded in-house by Gordon Neish, to ensure that Nature London was compliant.

After attending a virtual course on "All About Boards" with Pillar Nonprofit Network, I developed a better understanding of the Board requirements of Nature London.

Nature London celebrated the return of the Awards Banquet in 2023. While it was challenging to pick up the work after an absence of several years, e.g. finding a new venue, dealing with inflated costs, and planning an event with people who had not attended before, the banquet was a resounding success on all accounts, thanks to the leadership of the Banquet Committee – Darby Alderson and the many others who contributed to the evening.

A highlight was the presentation of the W.E. Saunders Award of Merit to a most deserving candidate, Bernie VanDenBelt.

Nature in the City, a most popular series of public lectures held in tandem with the London Public Library, was relaunched by the Nature in the City Committee under the capable leadership of Kathleen Holland. Six excellent presentations were available for the public to attend.

Cedarcroft, our precious nature reserve and a focus for many Nature London outings for both young and old, came under the observant management of Carrie Long and Rich Voras. A number of issues were brought to the fore, including trails that had become more treacherous, liability risks, increasing use by non-members and a devoted but aging workforce. The Board took these concerns to heart and formed a task force to address the issues.

Field trips, so central to our motto of preserving and enjoying nature, were well led by a number of members. Great thanks go to Cathy McCrae for her co-ordination and leadership. There were numerous opportunities for gatherings both in person and virtually, at indoor meetings co-ordinated by Ruth Dickau, Rick Martin and Glenn Berry, and at Birding Wing meetings co-ordinated by Stacey Jaczko, Alice Kirk, and Leslie Baker.

The Community Eco-Grants Program has become a favourite project of Nature London. Community organizations present their environmental initiatives to the Eco-Grants Committee, chaired by Jennifer Evans, in the hopes of receiving a one-time grant to fund their projects. Presentations by last-year's recipients in January were a highlight. It is truly uplifting to hear of the work that the Eco-grant Program supports.

Members' Night in April provided an opportunity for members to showcase their own interests and passions.

2023-2024 continued to be a tumultuous year for conservation in Ontario. The Conservation Action Committee made us aware of regressive provincial policies. With the help of Ontario Nature, Nature London co-signed several letters sent to government officials that detailed opposition to their policies. In addition, several letters were mailed to regional MPPs, outlining our need to protect our sources of water and our wetlands, guarding against flooding, landslides and other environmental disasters.

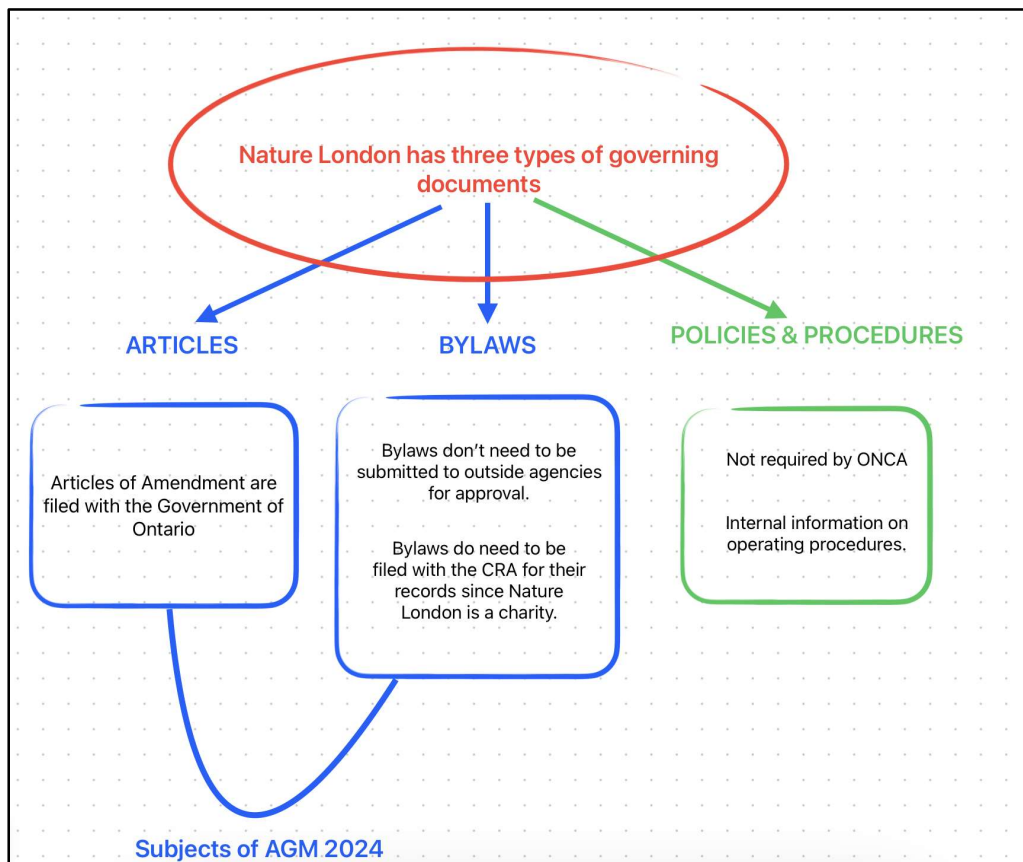
In closing, it has been an honour to serve as president of this organization dedicated to preserving and enjoying nature – an organization that exists because of the dedication of many volunteers.

*Submitted by Don Taves*

## Past President's Report

This is my third and last compilation as Past President so I will leave you with a few parting comments. First, I would like to thank the many volunteers who have dedicated, as they do every year, a substantial amount of time and effort to the many activities summarized below. Volunteerism is the soul of Nature London, and all your contributions are much appreciated.

My attention has been focused lately on governance. This is the not so exciting, but essential, part of Nature London that defines how we function as a charitable not-for-profit natural history organization. It consists of three parts as illustrated below:



The Articles and Bylaws have been recently updated, were discussed at the February 16, 2024, Annual General Meeting, and have been approved. A major task that needs to be completed going forward is a substantial revision of our policy and procedures manual. This work has begun, and I hope it can be completed by 2026 to bring Nature London's governance up to date. It is an internal document that is ours to devise, and it doesn't need to be approved or vetted by any provincial or federal authorities.

Finally, please do not be shy about volunteering for Nature London in whatever capacity suits your interests and abilities so that we can continue as a strong and dynamic organization focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment heritage.

*Submitted by Gordon Neish*

## Reports from Directors, Appointees and Committees

### Archives

#### Maintaining the Nature London Archival Fonds

The Nature London (NL) archival fonds, an independent holding, is housed, free of charge, in the stacks of the restricted-access area of the London Room of the Central Public Library (LPL). Access to the NL fonds is permitted only with authorization from the NL archivists.

In late December of 2023, following a week of steady rain, the library roof began leaking. Media reports stated that a leak occurred in the London Room. Library staff advised us that Nature London materials were not affected.

Due to insufficient space at LPL, for more than a decade, additional materials have been temporarily stored in the archivists' home. Looking ahead to 2024-2025, the Archivists hope to explore possible solutions to the space issue at LPL. At the same time, we wish to reorganize the materials into more appropriate categories. It is hoped that this will lead to more efficient use of available space.

Ongoing accruals include *The Cardinal* and club documents such as Board minutes, annual reports, and twice-monthly e-newsletters. Other items relevant to the history of Nature London are accepted as opportunities arise. For the most part, new materials are currently kept in the archivists' home, where they are stored according to the Series to which they have been tentatively assigned. As time passes, materials received are increasingly in digital format.

#### Other Activities

For *The Cardinal* the archivists contributed three pieces: "Who Was W.E. Saunders?" and In Memoriams for Debbie Lefebre and Joan Attridge.

During the year, a number of requests for information were received from club members and the general public. In most instances, the archivists were successful in providing the information sought.



For the NL Board, committees or appointees:

- history of the club-sponsored Saunders Library,
- history/background of the club's suncatcher awards,
- biographical information on the late Katherine Turner and the late Bruce Cooper,
- ownership records, history and management of Cedarcroft.

Two requests were received from non-club members:

- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority requested background on the naming of the Kirk-Cousins Wildlife Management Area,
- a consultant wanted to locate a 1978 report on Skunk's Misery by Brian J. Green (if anyone knows the whereabouts of a copy of this report, please contact the archivists).

*Submitted by Winifred and David Wake, Archivists for Nature London*

## Awards Banquet

After a three-year hiatus, Nature London's Award Banquet was held on November 17, 2024, at The Royal Canadian Legion Lambeth and catered by Jane Bruinink. A huge thank you is extended to our Board of Directors and in particular Bernie VanDenBelt and Darby Alderson for organizing the celebratory evening.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all who assisted behind the scenes in making this a very successful event. The volunteers are numerous and include Gail McNeil and her ticket selling and door greeting team; Darby Alderson and TLLT for accepting donations at their office; Joan Taylor for assembling the ticket envelopes; our four ticket sellers: Cathy Quinlan, Glen Winegarden, and Liz and Nick Bell; Norm Corrin, Grant Hopcroft, and Stacey Jaczko for contacting organizations for donations; Betsy Baldwin for accepting donations from our membership and storing the items; Stacey Jaczko and the decorating team for creating the beautiful centerpieces; and Rob Paterson, Darby Alderson, and Stacey Jaczko for setting up the Bucket Raffle tables. The generosity of the donors and bucket raffle ticket purchasers is tremendously appreciated, and your contribution adds to the enjoyment of the evening.

I would like to extend a heart-felt and huge thank you to the following people/organizations who very graciously and generously donated items to our bucket raffle and door prizes. This year's bucket raffle had an amazing array with 40 buckets to deposit our tickets in. We wish to acknowledge the following donors and their donated items:

**Carol Agocs & Catherine Burr:** Scarlet Macaw framed photograph; **Darby Alderson:** Chocolate Factory box of chocolates, 3 packages of hot chocolate; **Karen & Eric Auzins:** two Ontario Nature Spencer Burton sweatshirts, Silence of the Songbirds by Bridget Stutchbury, jigsaw puzzles: "Christmas Pies", "New Friends", "Sunrise Feasting", "Cardinal", "Visiting for the Holidays" ; **Chris Baldock:** A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica by F. Gary Stiles, Alexander F. Skutch, and Dana Gardner; **Liz & Nick Bell:** bottle of Jackson-Triggs

Cabernet Sauvignon wine; **Louise & David Bellhouse**: White Trillium & Red Trillium framed prints; **Camera Canada**: Nikon Binoculars Aculon A211 10x50; **Donna Chapman**: gift basket containing La Vieille Ferme-France red wine, cheese board, package of Rainforest crackers, a package of cheese and a packet of cocktail napkins; **Jette Collins**: "Meadowlark Pair" figurine, "Goldfinch" figurine, "Hummingbird & Morning Glory" figurine; **Columbia Sportswear**: men's winter jacket; **Pat & Kee Dewdney**: Mammal Tracks & Sign A Guide to North American Species by Mark Elbroch; **Featherfields**: Squirrel Buster Mini Wild Bird Feeder & bag of seed; **Friends of Nature London**: Birds of Southern Africa deck of cards, Yosemite National Park 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle, Cardinal bird feeder, Cardinal tea cup, Owl statue, decorative plate trio with wire hanger, little bird on branch, National Geographic Complete Birds of North America; **Ronnalee Goodhand**: Audubon Bird The Definitive Visual Guide; **Hoskin Feed & Country Store**: Jumbo Tube Feeder & bag of seed; **Eva & Al Hurst**: bottle of wine; **Hyde Park Feed & Country Store**: \$20 gift certificate; **Karen Schuessler Singers**: 2 tickets for concert of your choice for 2023-2024 season; **Leslie Kostal**: "Blue Jay" paper tole, "Wildflowers" paper tole; **London Symphonia**: two tickets for "Christmas with the McAuley Boys"; **Bill Maddeford**: A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica compact disc; **Dale McLeod**: gift basket containing Wayne Gretzky Pinot Grigio, cheese board, package of Rainforest crackers, a package of cheese and a packet of cocktail napkins; **Gordon Neish**: 2 6-packs of beer from Toboggan Brewery; **Laure Neish**: Birdsong For the Curious Naturalist by Donald Kroodsma; **Paul Nicholson**: Audubon's Birds of North America The Complete 500 Paintings, The Audubon Society Book of Water Birds by Les Line, Kimball L. Garrett, and Kenn Kaufman, Field Guide to Birds of Ontario by Chris Earley, bag of bird seed; **Lesley Pergau**: 3 jars of preserves (2-250 ml jars of pepper relish & apple butter, 1-500 ml jar of chili sauce), 4 packages of 5 handcrafted cards; **Cathy Quinlan**: 2024 Pass to Fanshawe & Wildwood Conservation Area; **Ravine Mushrooms Farms**: Downy Woodpecker house; **Estate of Tom Reaume**: Cameron T210PH Premium 3-way Pan Head Tripod **Leslie Rockwell & Glen Winegarden**: bottle of Tierra Rica Sauvignon Blanc wine, bottle of Chardonnay wine, "And Some Watched the Sunset" jigsaw puzzle, Mama's minestrone soup mix, Prairie Patch stew mix; **St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club**: bottle of wine; **Salthaven**: suet feeder, 3 bird feeders; **Sue Read**: quilted tote bag with batik fabric from Ghana; **Donald Taves**: "Family Tree" Cobble Hills Puzzle; **The Grand Theatre**: two tickets for the play "Clue"; **The Oxford Book Shop**: \$25 gift certificate; **Christine & Bernie VanDenBelt**: Mountain Equipment Company \$25 gift card, MEC tote bag, preserves & apple cider gift basket; **Winifred & Dave Wake**: basket of 3 250 ml jars of preserves, The Birds of Canada Revised Edition by W. Earl Godfrey, Birds of the Northern Forest Paintings by J.F. Lansdowne Text by John A. Livingston, Birds of the Eastern Forest: 1&2 Paintings by J.F. Lansdowne Text by John A. Livingston, Lansdowne Birds of the West Coast Volume One; **Wild Birds Unlimited**: lantern bird feeder filled with seed; and **Youth Opportunities Unlimited**: Charcuterie Board with Four Knives & Cranberry Chutney.

Dinner ticket names were drawn for five donated door prizes. Thank you to the following people for their donations: Adam Shoalts: autographed copy of his new book Where the Falcon Flies; Lesley Pergau for 2 packages of 5 handcrafted cards, Stacey Jaczko for a

beautiful candle, and Christine & Bernie VanDenBelt for a glass Cardinal decoration. Thanks to Cathy Quinlan for drawing the winning tickets.

Thank you all for an amazing evening!

*Submitted by Deb Gorman-Smith*

## **Bird Friendly London**

Bird Friendly London continued to advocate for the birds that live in the City of London. London was recertified as a High-Level Bird Friendly City by Nature Canada. It continues to be the only city in Canada with this designation. In addition to attending festivals such as EarthFest and promoting bird safety on social media, some of the events that Bird Friendly London participated in or hosted are listed below.

- Hosted a native plant and seed exchange at The Patch in October 2023
- Aided in the distribution of free window tape kits to prevent bird window collisions. This was prioritized for low-income households and community members in need
- Collected data on bird-window collisions for Global Bird Rescue
- Promoted responsible pest management to raise community awareness about safer alternatives to rodenticides which can poison birds that consume the rodents. This included publishing a video on this topic
- In partnership with Wild Birds Unlimited and Ontario Wildlife Removal sold Owl nest boxes to help naturally control rodent pests
- Participated in the City Nature Challenge with a “Big Sit” at Western University and a guided bird hike at the Coves ESA
- Collaborated on new educational displays at the London Public Library on how to prevent bird-window collisions

*Submitted by Stacey Jaczko*

## **Birding Wing**

The Birding Wing committee started the year with two members Alice Kirk and Stacey Jaczko. After our October meeting Leslie Baker volunteered to help and joined the committee for the rest of the year. All meetings were held at the Civic Garden Center. Glenn Berry oversaw the audiovisual equipment and was helped by Terry Kirk. The meeting dates, topics, and a brief description are listed below.

## October 27, 2023 – **Big Year Birding in Ontario**

Presenter - Susan Nagy

Susan is a local birder, photographer and Nature London member who in 2022 decided to do an Ontario big year. She set out to see and photograph as many birds as possible in Ontario in one calendar year and ended up seeing well over 300 birds. She shared her photographs and stories of what it takes to accomplish this.

We had a bonus start to the evening with Susan providing photographs and cards to play “bird bingo” which was a lot of fun. This was a hybrid event.

## February 23, 2024 - **The Long Point Bird Observatory**

Presenter – Kyle Cameron

Ontario projects biologist Kyle Cameron from Birds Canada gave a presentation about the Long Point Observatory and the history and importance of bird population monitoring. The discussion also included current threats to our wild birds and what we can do about it. Most of us are more familiar with Point Pelee or “short point” as Kyle called it so it was a great opportunity to learn about the Long Point area and its history. This was a hybrid event.

## March 22, 2024 – **The male American Woodcock - our avian harbinger of spring**

Presenter – Stan Caveney

With perfect timing for the spring return of Woodcocks long time Nature London member Stan Caveney gave a talk on the secretive terrestrial courtship rituals of the American Woodcock. Stan has spent many hours documenting these birds at the MeadowWoods nature reserve and was able to share the never-before-seen antics of these birds on the ground as they woo the females. We enjoyed fantastic photos, videos and sound and Stan described how he was able to document these courtship rituals.

Before Stan’s talk, we had brief presentations on Chimney Swift, Osprey and Meadowlark monitoring in London.

This was an in-person only event.

*Submitted by Stacey Jaczko*

## Book Donations

Nature London received seven donations of used nature books in 2023/2024, including two generous large donations of dozens of books each. Other nature-related items, such as puzzles, games, and nature magazines, were donated along with some of the books, and also on several separate occasions.

Books and other items were sold at Nature London meetings. Notices in each edition of *The Cardinal* said that donations and purchases could be arranged by contacting me directly, and a number of this year's sales were made directly. Books were sold at a Friends of the London Civic Garden Complex event in April. Others were donated to the public at events such as Earthfest, where Nature London was represented.

Total revenue from sales of used books and other nature-related items was \$312.50. This is only about a third of total revenue in 2022/2023, but much higher than in 2021/2022.

*Submitted by* Betsy Baldwin, Book Donations Coordinator

## *The Cardinal*

*The Cardinal*, as usual, was published four times in the year (issues number 273, 274, 275, 276) with a total of 160 pages. This is an increase over last year's page count of 140 pages, perhaps reflecting increased club activity post-COVID! *The Cardinal* continues to be available online on the Nature London website (accessed using the members' password). The online version is in full colour, has clickable hyperlinks and may be printed at home as required. In the print version circulated by mail, only the covers are in colour. An increasing number of members are opting for the online version only, which generates some printing and postage savings (unfortunately in a tight race with rising printing and postage rates).

We continue to use the back cover to feature a montage of striking nature photographs submitted recently by Nature London members. More submissions are always welcome.

The current members of *The Cardinal* committee are: John Berry, Susan Berry, (John and Susan are unrelated despite sharing a common surname!), Mike Channon, Ellen Mamandras, and Carrie Long. Muriel Andreae decided to step down after working with the committee for some years. Thanks are also due to our dedicated support people: Hugh Casbourn and Gail McNeil for current membership mailing labels, Glen Winegarden and Leslie Rockwell for stuffing envelopes, and Mike Channon for mailing.

*Submitted by* John Berry

## Cedarcroft

In September 2023, Evelyn Rogers led a slow, easy walk of the Pine and Beech Point trails for 14 members of Nature London to try to catch a glimpse of migrating birds, but the focus turned to the fungi that were abundant. Carrie Long who had spent a great deal of time at Cedarcroft at that time, with her husband Richard Voros and Evelyn photographing the wide variety of fungi on all the trails to showcase in the Autumn edition of *The Cardinal* (pp 22-23), tried to help identify the fungi on the walk. She was aided in this challenge by an eagle-eyed grandson of one of the members who eagerly found new species for the rest of the group to see. The cabin was open for members to look inside and Daisy McCallum was on hand to provide a history of the property. Barb Kaiser provided some tasty homemade cookies for the walk participants to enjoy.

Prior to that walk Evelyn Rogers, Carrie Long and Richard Voros provided maintenance to the Beech Point trail to help reroute areas where the path had narrowed and was too close to the edge of the ravine. There were other areas that should receive the same treatment. That fall Richard aided Jim Jarrett on the Northern Trail to install some additional metal posts and guide ropes to help members traverse the steep areas around Bridge 2.

In October, Barb Kaiser scheduled Fall Clean-up Day and passed the manager role to Richard Voros and Carrie Long. Barb and Carrie prepared the cabin for winter. Richard, Evelyn, and Phyllis Ebe brought 2 wood benches, and a small picnic table set into the cabin, while Jack Blocker cleared the eaves of leaves and debris. Later that week, Blaine Prentice used his gas-powered leaf blower to clear off the bridges and Jim checked the remaining trails for fallen trees.

Barb continued to provide guidance and valuable information she had learned during her tenure as Cedarcroft Manager.

In November, Rich lowered some guide ropes on the Northern Trail that were placed too high for optimal access. He also installed more metal posts for guide ropes to stop the girdling of trees which were being choked off by having tight rope wrapped around them.

A couple of members hiking the Northern Trail that day told the managers the need for the 'steps' leading to and from Bridge 2 to be repaired. They made a note to address that in the spring.

In the winter, Barb and Daisy kept the bird feeders by the cabin filled with seed and another feeder was used to hold peanuts. Barb, Daisy, Evelyn, Jack, Phyllis, Carolyn Stratton, Carrie and Rich each selected a month from November to April where they walked the upper trail to check on the cabin occasionally.

In January, a member alerted the managers that she found a shotgun shell on 'Jeff's Bridge'. This information was relayed to the board and talks of surveillance and signage took place. No Hunting signs began to be posted.

January also saw preparations for the annual Family Day event. Barb, Daisy, Jim, Evelyn, Herb and Phyllis, all who had experience of the event, met via Zoom to help the new managers understand what the day would involve. Unfortunately, Phyllis and Barb could not attend the event, so non-committee members were brought in to help. Gail McNeil served hot chocolate and Kathleen Holland provided wildlife education information and hands-on demonstrations. 31 members attended the successful event. That was double the number who had attended in many years. The fun day ended with a Treasure Hunt and every member went home with a hand-made nature related 'treasure'. A full report was provided in the Spring 2024 edition of The Cardinal (pp 10-11).

Also on page 11 was a report of the Night Hike led by Jim Jarrett later the same week.

On the night walk, a member fell while going up the steep slick incline when the group was returning to the upper cabin level. This highlighted the fact there were a lack of handrails or guide ropes to hold onto in that area.

Several members had also expressed to the managers their apprehension or avoidance to leave the upper level and explore the River or Northern Trails due to fear of falling on the only 2 access points that descend into the valley.

The committee discussed these topics via email, and it was suggested that signs be placed at the start of the River and Northern Trail entrances to provide more information of trail conditions so people unfamiliar with the property know what lays ahead. There also were signs placed on the box on the outside of the cabin that held the trail maps, and a sign on the window of how to contact the manager via email.

In March, attention turned more towards promotion of the property within the membership of Nature London. The Get to Know the Committee segment in The Cardinal provided information about the committee and Cedarcroft's history. (Spring 2024 edition pp. 18-19).

A brochure about the property was updated and handed to members who attended the April Indoor Meeting and was included in welcome packs mailed to new members.

Jim Jarrett had been gathering video footage of Cedarcroft wildlife on his trail camera for several seasons which he wanted to share with the membership but lacked the knowledge to compile such a promotional video. Carrie and Rich took on the project and Jim presented the video at the Indoor Meeting in April as part of the members' presentations. The video, which captured an array of different species, was positively received and one member emailed to say *"This video really brings home the peace and wonder of Nature. The added captions & background music are perfect."* The video was uploaded to the club's private YouTube channel for more members to enjoy. Several members said they became interested or had a renewed interest in Cedarcroft after watching the video.

The Spring Clean-Up was scheduled for late April and attempts were made to get help from a local Pathfinders chapter, but unfortunately that did not come to fruition. Evelyn, Phyllis, Herb, Carrie and Daisy cleaned up the cabin and surrounding Beech Point and Pine Trails while Rich started working on installing steps and guide ropes to lead off the upper level to the Northern Trail. A few days later, Daisy walked the Northern Trail spray painting tree roots that could be a tripping hazard and Carolyn cleaned up trash by Giles Bridge. Jim, who enjoyed carpentry projects, was later recruited to make directional arrow markers that were placed in an area on the River Trail where it was easy to miss the trail leading back up to the cabin area.

Jack had repaired the roof of the outhouse in advance of Clean-up Day, but it was clear that day, when the floor caved in and even though Herb tried to reinforce it, that the outhouse should be placed out of commission.

The managers noticed that members of the committee often had to take their own tools to the property and that could be inconvenient to have the required tools available when needed. The board suggested the committee request donations from the membership for tools to be used at Cedarcroft. Notices went into the May e-Newsletter and the managers picked up several useful items that a few members offered.

In April, the managers became more aware of the extent of the regular use of the property by guests of the neighbouring Airbnb. They learned where non-members were accessing the property from non-designated trail areas and creating their own well-worn paths and access points. They talked to a group of visitors who stayed at the Airbnb previously, and who had hiked Cedarcroft numerous times, who were led to believe that all the property belonged to the Airbnb. This was understandable because of the lack of signage and established boundaries between the two properties. Several members of the committee had suspected this for several years and had voiced their concern about the situation to the managers. The board was made aware of this situation. They asked the managers, who recruited the help of Evelyn, to change and add signage to various areas of the property.

It was also clear during the wet conditions of the winter and spring that areas of the Northern Trail could be very slippery causing treacherous walking conditions due to steep inclines, narrow and slanted paths, and proximity to ravines. Rich installed more metal posts and guide ropes in the area around Bridge 2 and other places on the Northern Trail, and it was obvious during the spring run-off that the area was experiencing erosion issues that were going to continue to cause problems. The board was made aware of these challenges, and questions of liability were raised which needed to be further investigated.

The time, effort, and hard-work involved to make the Northern Trail safer for members which involved substantial physical labour of the committee members involved was perhaps ill-conceived and being misused, because there was a noticeable increased use of the Northern Trail by guests of the Airbnb, as well as neighbours, who were not members of



Nature London, but who hiked with their off-leash dog daily because of the exercise the Northern Trail in particular provided them.

Darby Alderson, who has nature reserve experience, was appointed the new board liaison. It was decided several of the board members would explore the property in the upcoming months. The board discussed the need to develop a Task Force to dive into concerns regarding the property.

The managers still hoped to continue the momentum of increased member interest and engagement by providing new event ideas, such as a hands-on craft day to build bird houses, in the spring, but it was too ambitious with the lead time available. They scheduled a Nature Journalling event instead, but they contracted Covid and that had to be cancelled.

In early May Evelyn led a walk of the Beech Point trail which was attended by 15 members. Several of them were new members who were made aware of Nature London and joined the club because of the Nature in the City lecture series. Many were impressed with the property and enjoyed the many wildflowers still in bloom that day. The first week of June she also led a hike of 9 members of the Northern Trail. A more detailed report of the spring activities was in the Summer 2024 Cardinal on page 14 and the walk reports on pp 12-13.

During the summer the committee was busy with their own adventures and the mosquitoes took over the property. It was a particularly wet spring and summer, but Evelyn cut the grass occasionally when it was needed.

Rich, Carrie and Evelyn returned to the property in late August to access and clear the trails prior to a scheduled fungi walk on Aug 28th. Carrie led the 8 members who enjoyed learning about the fungi on the Beech Point, Pine and River Trails. A member provided this review of the walk *"I really enjoyed the walk today & learning more about mushrooms in the wild. Even if one or two were unknown specimens, your shared experiences in learning about fungi made the trek doubly worthwhile."*

In late August Rich continued to work on the steps and guide ropes installation he started in the spring. While there he saw several local youths riding their BMX bikes and they were found on the Northern Trail. They were in a dangerous area and were performing and recording their stunts. The managers talked to the youth about how dangerous this sort of behaviour was, that Cedarcroft is private property and not for the use of bikes and told them to leave the property. It was decided to prevent the risk of the youths returning to that area of the Northern Trail again in particular that the bridge access to the trail would be temporarily roped off and closed. The board was notified, and it was added to the agenda for when they reconvened in September.

The managers felt these growing challenges were beyond their expertise and comfort level and could not dedicate the time needed to give to the property. They resigned the position and left the future of the property in the hands of the Task Force.

*Submitted by Carrie Long and Rich Voros.*

## **Chimney Swift Program**

This account covers the 13 months from November 1, 2023, to October 31, 2024, a period that includes the 2024 swift season and the subsequent wrap-up period. In 2023/2024, the Nature London (NL) program was overseen by Glenn and Susan Berry with the mentorship of Sandy and Ric Symmes and Dave and Winnie Wake. Glenn and Susan undertook to continue the established program on a reduced number of monitoring dates, approximately twice a month.

### **Pre-season activities**

On October 19, 2023, Glenn and Susan sent a survey to all previous NL Chimney Swift Program monitors outlining plans for the 2024 monitoring season and asking monitors to indicate their intentions regarding monitoring in 2024 and their willingness to help in organizing the monitoring program. The results indicated that enough monitors would be available to cover most of the chimneys that were traditionally monitored. In addition, seven monitors (Shelley Garner, Ruth Dickau, Ron Martin, Susan Price, Marguerite Annan, Steve Jarret, and Leslie Rockwell) indicated their willingness to help organize the 2024 monitoring season.

Prior to beginning to monitor in the spring of 2024, Glenn updated the instructions for monitors on the website and these were reviewed by committee members and revised. Glenn also developed a new online observation reporting form to allow monitors to report their observations on the NL website, replacing the form that required a Wufoo license. The new form was revised after it was reviewed by Winnie and Dave Wake, Sandy and Ric Symmes, and organizing committee members. The seven committee members visited all of the chimneys to make any updates needed in the instructions to monitors regarding parking and other issues. On March 17, 2024, all monitors were provided with the monitoring dates for the season and asked to confirm their availability for those dates. We made them aware of volunteer opportunities to recruit new monitors at upcoming meetings and to help with outreach at the NL booth at EarthFest.

### **2024 Monitoring Results**

Monitoring began on May 7 and ended on September 17. We are grateful for the support of the more than 40 volunteers who provided observations, sometimes stepping up on short notice. Some monitored on a regular basis and others less frequently. A few new monitors were recruited during the season and were mentored by experienced monitors. All made valuable contributions in counting swifts and reporting observations of swift behaviour.

Between 4 and 18 chimneys were monitored on each occasion. Although our goal was to monitor 18 chimneys on scheduled monitoring nights, observation at two chimneys was discontinued during the season. One chimney was no longer used by swifts and one chimney was in a location that was considered unsafe for monitors to visit in the evening. As chimneys began to empty late in the season, fewer chimneys were monitored on each occasion.

Organized monitoring resulted in 197 visits carried out on 13 evenings. Throughout the season, the number of swifts counted ranged from 0 to 1279. After each monitoring date, a summary of the results and observations of the swifts' behaviour were posted on the Nature London website, and monitors were emailed a brief summary and reminder of the next monitoring date.

## **Additional Activities**

### **Education/Outreach**

Continuing the extensive education and outreach formerly provided by the Chimney Swift Liaison was beyond what was possible for us in our roles as Monitoring Coordinators. We suggested that a separate role, Outreach Coordinator, be created for NL's Chimney Swift program. This position was created by NL's board but has not been filled.

Some limited education/outreach efforts carried out include the revised monitoring and reporting information on the password-protected web page for monitors, the provision of business cards for monitors to distribute to community members who show interest in our monitoring activities, and several articles in *The Cardinal* (see following list of publications).

#### *Publications*

- NL's Chimney Swift Monitoring: From the Beginning to Now. S Berry, *The Cardinal* 275, Spring 2024, pp 34-38.
- Why Watch Chimney Swifts? S Berry, *The Cardinal* 277, Autumn 2024, p 22.
- NL Chimney Swift Monitoring: A Successful 2024 Season. G&S Berry, *The Cardinal* 277, Autumn 2024, pp 23-25.
- Successful Swift Release, Thanks to Volunteers. R&S Symmes, *The Cardinal* 277, Autumn 2024, p 26.

### **Conservation/Advocacy**

- Nature London's Chimney Swift Monitoring Program is the only one in Ontario that regularly monitors swift roosts through late summer until the end of migration. As such, it can provide information about the location of roosts large enough for the release of orphaned swifts. This season, seven young swifts from Destined to Fly in Harrowsmith, Ontario were released on August 31 and one swift from Le Nichoir in Hudson, Quebec was released on September 4.

- Nature London's Chimney Swift Monitoring Program monitored on the four dates of the National Chimney Swift Roost Survey. The survey was established by Environment and Climate Change Canada to help assess population trends and better guide conservation efforts for Chimney Swifts as a threaten species in Canada under the Species at Risk Act.
- Glenn provided complete data for the 197 chimney visits to Birds Canada's Ontario SwiftWatch program, adding significantly to their data collection.
- Glenn provided complete data for the 197 chimney visits to researchers at Western University to complement the 20 years of data already provided.

*Submitted by* Glenn and Susan Berry, Chimney Swift Monitoring Program Coordinators

## **Christmas Bird Count**

The Annual Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday December 16, 2023. We have had mild conditions before and in some ways, it is a welcome relief from snow-covered or icy trails and roads. Our total species count was 83, just one shy of our maximum. We also had eight Count Week birds. The 26,141 individual birds counted are higher than average, mostly due to the numbers of waterfowl. We had 53 routes this year, a new high for them, and 27 bird feeders. A few of the groups consisted of multiple generations, such as the Verbooms, and the Reads. By encouraging our kids and associates to join in the fun, the Count will continue to be successful. The most amazing bird had to be a long-lingering Philadelphia Vireo, first found by Reuven Martin in late November, in Pottersburg Creek Park, and re-found just before the Count. Also, a new species, a Black-billed Magpie, which had been hanging out at Dingman Constructed Wetlands since about December 2, was located on Count Day by Jason McGuire's team. Also, to be noted, more parties were out, giving us better coverage. We had a new high for parties, hours in the field, and distance walked. A lot of American Robins, which are usually found on our Count, were in such high numbers (648) that we smashed the high number we had up until now (502). Other thrushes included a sizeable number of Eastern Bluebirds (34) and an amazing 6 Hermit Thrush, both greater than their previous highs of 23, and 5 respectively.

All the participants must be thanked for their efforts beating about the bushes and intently watching their feeders. And, thanks to Glenn Berry, our submissions and tabulations were streamlined and produced more accuracy and speed in producing the final results. Thanks everyone.

*Submitted by* Pete Read

## Conservation Action Committee

### **Abbreviations used in this report**

CAC - Conservation Action Committee  
CMP - Conservation Master Plan  
ECAC - Ecological Community Advisory Committee  
EMS - Environmental Management Guidelines  
ESA - Environmentally Significant Area  
LTVCA - Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
NHS - Natural Heritage System  
PEC - Planning and Environmental Committee  
NL - Nature London  
UGB - Urban Growth Boundary  
UTRCA - Upper Thames Conservation Authority

### **CAC members and meetings**

CAC members in the 2023-2024 year were Sandy Levin (Chair), Anita Caveney, Margo Does, Bill Maddeford, Roslyn Moorhead, Wayne Tingle and David Wake. The committee met in person twice, on September 28, 2023, and August 27, 2024. The CAC discussed possible outreach visits, such as to schools, with university students, and talks about NL and the CAC with students at the school board's Environmental Education Centre at Westminster Ponds. The only field trip was with Councillor Rahman at Medway Valley Heritage Forest South ESA. On December 14, 2023, some members of the CAC attended a City Open House which was seeking input on work underway for the deferred Gloucester Trail Segment within the MVHF ESA CMP. The CAC decided not to continue its Eco-Hero program. The CAC is looking for volunteers to join the committee.

### **City Four-year Budget Finalized**

On February 27, 2024, the City Budget Committee received comments from the public on the multi-year budget (2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027). ESA Management - Business Case #62 was proposed to restore the staffing of the UTRCA's ESA Team to the 2014 level by adding one new member in 2024 and increase the ESA Team by another person in 2026. The ESA Team had four members, who were responsible for 1900 hectares in London's City-owned ESAs. The budget impact would be a 2024 increase of \$140,000 (0.02% - 63 cents on the tax bill); 2025 increase of \$6,000 (0.00% - another 2 cents); 2026 increase of \$143,000 (0.02% - another 64 cents); and 2027 increase of \$7,000 (0.00% - another 3 cents). The budget increase was needed because of increased use of the ESAs during the COVID pandemic, and this had not declined to pre-COVID levels; the ESA Team time was working with the City on encampment issues; the land being managed by the ESA Team had increased substantially without an increase in staffing, stretching resources even further; and 6,900

new housing units had been built within 500 m of ESAs. These had caused degradation of trails and nature in the ESAs. Adding one person to the ESA team would return the staffing level to what it had been in the previous 10 years.

Some CAC members had written to City Council to ask for an increase to the contract for management of London's ESAs. By a vote of 8 to 7, Council approved adding an additional member to the ESA Team. This team is responsible for the 12 City-owned ESAs and provides control of invasive species, manages trails, builds and repairs boardwalks, and enforces relevant City by-laws. If you are interested in how the Council voted on this, please write [s.levin@bell.net](mailto:s.levin@bell.net).

### **Environmental Management Guidelines Review**

The review of the EMGs began in 2023, with City staff consulting with the development industry and resource groups. These included representatives from the City's ECAC, UTRCA, LTVCA and NL. The EMGs provide guidance to the development industry when proposals are made to develop near parts of London's NHS. Some modifications to the EMGs were required due to Provincial Govt. changes to legislation. Dave Wake represented the CAC at consultations with City staff and the other stakeholders. The CAC is concerned about developers seeking weaker guidelines to reduce protection of London's remaining woodlands and wetlands. Another concern is that City Council will support weakening of the NHS in order to promote more housing. The final draft report will be presented to the City's Planning and Environment Committee late in 2024 or early 2025. It is hoped that the developers are satisfied with the agreed-to changes and don't ask for on-the-fly changes at the Committee meeting.

### **Expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary**

Based on projected requirements from the Province for land for development, and new population estimates from the Province that all municipalities in Ontario are required to use, City staff have projected that London needs to add roughly 1200-1400 hectares to its UGB, which was established in the 1990s through a full and transparent process. The CAC would like to know how much protection will be provided for parts of the NHS that will be incorporated into the new growth areas. Will the new boundary lines include a buffer zone? The CAC hopes to see the City retain its existing excellent NHS protection policies as stated in the EMGs. The development industry wants to see even more land included in the expansion. The number of hectares will be decided by Council in December 2024 with specific areas to be added reported in 2025.

### **Conservation Master Plans for Four Environmentally Significant Areas**

The City retained SLR Consulting from Guelph to undertake Phase 1 of the CMP process for Kains Woods, Lower Dingman, Pottersburg Valley and Warbler Woods ESAs. For each, this would include Life Science Inventory, Boundary Delineation, Management Zone Application

and Existing Trail Review, and Identification of Management Issues. A draft report was to be available for public comment and review sometime in 2024. At this writing, there was nothing available. A final draft would be part of a report to City Council's PEC asking for approval of Phase 1. Phase 2 will consist of implementing recommendations of the CMP.

### **Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA**

City Council approved the change to the trail that enters the Medway Valley from Gloucester Road at the west end of Windermere Road. City staff have been implementing a deferred recommendation from the CMP for this ESA. It involves the trails below Gloucester Road. Staff were expected to provide a report to PEC in the first quarter of 2024. A section of the trail near the sensitive area below Gloucester Road would be closed, and the CAC would work with City staff and the UTRCA's ESA Team.

City Council approved having the City's Parks and Forestry group consider the establishment of a trail on an unopened road allowance. This would enable access to the valley while bypassing the section of the ESA that contains the largest Canadian population of a species-at-risk plant. An unauthorized trail through this section of the ESA was recommended for closure when the original Master Plan for this ESA was prepared in the 1990s. The CAC advised NL members to keep an eye out for an Action Alert if any information sessions or meetings were scheduled for this matter.

### **ESA hike with Councillor Rahman**

CAC members took Ward 7 City Councillor Rahman on a site visit to the east side of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area and pointed out some of the challenges City staff and the UTRCA's ESA Team face in trying to keep people out of an area containing a large population of a species at risk. The CAC also pointed out an alternate route for people to use that avoids the sensitive area. City Parks Planning staff were reviewing the matter.

### **Stoney Creek Valley Connection to the Thames Valley Parkway**

The City of London is connecting the Stoney Creek Valley multi-use pathway system on the north side of Windermere Road to the Thames Valley Pathway North Branch, south of the Thames River, in 2024. This pathway is being installed on the north side of Windermere Road east of Stoney Creek Valley to the Stoney Creek Bridge on Windermere Road. East of the Stoney Creek Bridge, the path will switch to the south side of Windermere Road via a new pedestrian crossing and will continue east through the Windermere Fields towards Adelaide Street.

*Submitted by Sandy Levin and Anita Caveney*

## Eco-Grants Program

Eco-Grants Committee Members for 2024: Jennifer Evans (Chair), Lesley Pergau, Garry Cruickshank, Susan Hall, Bernie VanDenBelt, and Carol Agocs.

The 2024 Eco-Grants committee received 11 applications for consideration. Using our newly revised evaluation form and scoring we awarded five applicants with Full or Partial funding as shown in the table below.

One of the Eco-Grant applications proposed that an undergraduate student in Dr. Morbey's lab at Western University compile and analyze Nature London's Chimney Swift data. Since this project was closely tied to our organization, it was decided to fund the assignment from a different budget within Nature London instead of the Eco-Grant program.

All awarded projects below had complete applications, are qualifying organizations and have agreed to present at our indoor meeting in January 2025:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>
Thames Talbot Land Trust	Native Seeds for Restoration	\$3,200
ReForest London	Classroom to Canopy	\$3,000
London Environmental Network	Tiny Forest: Greening Western Fair District	\$3,000
Growing Chefs!	Growing Community Food Forest	\$3,900
Elmwood Ave Presbyterian Church	Elmwood Anniversary Pollinator Garden	\$1,900

*Submitted by Jennifer Evans*

## E-Newsletter & [Info@Naturelondon.ca](mailto:Info@Naturelondon.ca)

This program is a service to answer inquiries or relay email messages to the appropriate volunteer. Emails from members and non-member sources come to this address and are forwarded to the appropriate appointed volunteer. Common inquiries are answered with stock responses or referred to links on the Nature London website or The Cardinal. Spam and unsolicited marketing mail are deleted.

The most common inquiries are from:

- Related nature organizations with events and information
- Marketing and IT services soliciting business
- Members seeking help contacting some club resource
- Incoming items to be included in the E-Newsletter



Time is spent assessing each email and determining what action or referral is appropriate—perhaps 8 to 10 emails per week in addition to the E-Newsletter items. The SPAM filter diverts most commercial messages.

This program ran smoothly in the most recent fiscal year, thanks to the great support of the volunteer appointees, particularly the NL Webmaster, The Cardinal, Conservation Action Committee, and Membership Secretary.

## **E-Newsletter**

In the year ending August 2024, twenty-four E-Newsletters were delivered to more than 600 subscribers. Issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, the e-newsletter is a concise reminder service for members of events within the coming three weeks. The content depends heavily on material from the Nature London website or Facebook page. Many E-newsletter items include “links” to the website for details or registration. We also alert members to articles in *The Cardinal* online and in the printed version. Once on the website or *The Cardinal*, members can see other interesting items.

The E-Newsletter is a Nature London member benefit. Our circulation consists of members who allow us to “push” messages to their e-mail twice each month. We respect that privilege by keeping the messages brief without pictures or attachments. As a result, we experience very few “unsubscribes”. We often have more than one subscriber in each member household. As of August 2024, we had 615 subscribers.

There are two sections in each E-Newsletter:

- **Nature London Events**, that describe upcoming meetings, field trips, presentations and events.
- **Other Events That May be of Interest** are often sponsored by other natural heritage organizations in our region.

Priority is given to Nature London events, but where space permits, we include links for events sponsored by other organizations. Urgent conservation items are handled separately by the Conservation Action Committee and their “Action Alerts”

We enjoy a great partnership with *The Cardinal* and the Nature London website and YouTube Channel. These can offer pictures, videos (on the web), and details, but they must wait until members come to look. The E-News can alert members to this great content.

## **We are part of a Great Cooperative Effort**

We very much appreciate the support and cooperation of *The Cardinal* Editors, Webmaster, YouTube Coordinator, Conservation Action Committee, Field Trip Coordinators, and other

volunteer appointees of the Club, who provide the information and responses that are the heart of the E-Newsletter. Similarly, we greatly appreciate the critical support from the Membership Secretary and Database Manager, who provide the essential updates for our distribution list.

### **E-Newsletter Issues**

For more than five years, [Info@Naturelondon.ca](mailto:Info@Naturelondon.ca) and the E-Newsletter have used the free Mailchimp distribution system to maintain our mailing lists and distribute our twice-monthly newsletter while avoiding problems with spam filters. In 2023, our mailing list exceeded the 500 free threshold, and Nature London had to purchase a distribution subscription. The NL Conservation Action Alert program (CAC) used Mailchimp, and we were able to include approximately 500 CAC mailings under the same blanket subscription. Distribution has continued with excellent service from Mailchimp.

The Nature London Newsletter mailing list is very attractive to our partner organizations. Our model is very concise, current and limited in size. As a result, we experience very few “unsubscribes”. In the past year, one of our partner organizations expressed disappointment that one of their events was not publicized in the NL E-Newsletter. As a result, the editorial policy was reviewed and discussed with the Board Executive. It was decided that NL would continue with its NL priority and limited-size model. We continue to include interesting partner events in the “Other Events that May be of Interest” section where space permits. Member support of the E-Newsletter continued growing in 2024.

*Submitted by Sandy & Ric Symmes, [Info@Naturelondon.ca](mailto:Info@Naturelondon.ca) and E-Newsletter Coordinators*

### **Facebook Report**

In 2023/24, Nature London's Facebook page continue to increase its reach. As of December 2024, the Nature London Facebook page had almost 1,100 followers. NL's Facebook presence is integrated with the website, *The Cardinal*, YouTube channel, and the email newsletter.

*Submitted by Mady Hymowitz*

## Field Trips

1.

Date/Time	2024-08-28 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Carrie Long and Rich Voros
Location	Cedarcroft Nature Reserve
Participants	7
Conditions	Clear. After a rainfall. Some wet ground.
Observations:	
It was a fungus walk. We saw Chicken Fat Bolete, Indigo Milkcap, Turkey Tail, Pinecone Cap, Yellow Patches, Charcoal Burner and Red Russula. Waxycaps, Oyster, various Mycenas such as Orange Mycena and other Button types, and a polypore that was likely Dyer's Polypore. One fallen American Beech log had 3 diverse types of fungi on it. We saw a Hairy Fairy Cup and identified the start of Eyelash Cup, plus a jelly/coral species.	

2.

Date/Time	2024-08-09 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Cathy Quinlan
Location	Meadowlily NR to Shelborne Park
Participants	4
Conditions	22°C, humid, mostly sunny. Mostly easy, one steep crossing of a creek.
Observations:	
Birds - Osprey, Goldfinch, hawk nest in the hydro tower. Insects - monarchs, honeybees and native bees. Plants - purple coneflowers, bee balm, tick trefoil, red oak, pin oak, hackberry, cottonwood, bladdernut. Vines - moonseed, riverbank grape, Virginia Clematis, Virginia creeper.	

3.

Date/Time	2024-05-10 9:30:00 AM
Leader(s)	Cathy Quinlan
Location	Cade Tract
Participants	12
Conditions	pleasant 15 ° C, sun and cloud. The creek was too high to cross, so we travelled the drier foot trails, some somewhat overgrown.
Observations:	
Birds - American robin, Baltimore oriole, Orchard oriole, Brown thrasher, Common raven, Eastern kingbird, Field sparrow, Song sparrow, Gray catbird, Northern cardinal, Rose-breasted grosbeak, Red-winged blackbird, Red-bellied woodpecker, Short-billed dowitcher, Warbling vireo, Yellow warbler, Bobolink. Plants - Twinleaf, bloodroot, black cherries in bloom, marsh marigold and many others.	

4.

Date/Time	2024-06-01 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Evelyn Rogers
Location	Cedarcroft
Participants	10
Conditions	Difficult
Observations:	

5.

Date/Time	2024-05-13 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Stacey Jaczko
Location	Kilally Meadows ESA
Participants	10
Conditions	Sunny and pleasant. Flat walking paths - some overgrown areas.
Observations:	
	A total of 24 species of birds were observed. A warbler influx gave us 6 species of warblers with large numbers of Bay-breasted warblers everywhere.

6.

Date/Time	2024-06-04 6:30:00 PM
Leader(s)	Stacey Jaczko
Location	Komoka Provincial Park - Gideon Drive
Participants	11
Conditions	Overcast and pleasant. Flat terrain and gravel paths - easy walking.
Observations:	
	A total of nineteen species were seen or heard. Highlights were the Blue grosbeak, Black-billed cuckoo and Blue-winged warbler. Great looks at breeding Bluebirds and Indigo buntings were also enjoyed.

7.

Date/Time	2024-05-17 8:30:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Bruce Peninsula
Participants	13
Conditions	mostly sunny, highs of 20°C. mostly roadside and flat trails.
Observations:	
Over 105 species of birds total, including displaying American bittern, Green heron, Blue- and Golden-winged warblers, Wilson's warbler, Trumpeter swan, Black terns, Brewer's blackbird, Common nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed woodpecker, Northern waterthrush, Pileated woodpecker.	

8.

Date/Time	2024-05-08 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Evelyn Rogers
Location	Cedarcroft
Participants	19
Conditions	Slight wind, sunny and 22°C. easy.
Observations:	
Trillium, Foam Flower, Purple, Yellow and Long-spur Violets, May Apples, Wild Ginger, Bloodroot, Stinging Nettle, Hepatica, False Solomon Seal, ferns, Spice Bush, Honey Locust Tree, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Tulip Tree and Ohio Buckeye Tree.	

9.

Date/Time	2024-05-08 6:30:00 PM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Komoka Provincial Park
Participants	14
Conditions	mostly sunny, breezy, 14 °C. some hills and a little mud.
Observations:	
27 bird species identified including Eastern bluebird, Eastern meadowlark, Field and Grasshopper sparrows, Purple marten, Sharp-shinned hawk, Blue-winged and Pine warblers,	

10.

Date/Time	2024-05-05 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Cailin Kennedy and Cathy McCrae
Location	The Coves
Participants	12
Conditions	cloudy, humid, warm. grass, paths, field.
Observations:	
Mallards, Wood ducks, Canada geese, Blue Jays, crows, robins, grackles, starlings, Chickadees, Killdeer, Goldfinches, Red Tailed hawks, Turkey vultures, painted turtles. Bay-breasted warbler, Yellow warbler, Yellow-rumped warbler, Blackburnian warbler, Black-throated blue warbler, Baltimore oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mourning dove, pigeons, Rusty blackbird, Red-winged blackbird, Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, woodpeckers, Northern flicker, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, House, Song sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Grey catbird, Chimney swift, House wren, Carolina wrens, Brown-headed cowbird, Great crested flycatcher, Least flycatcher, Turkey vulture, Wild turkey, Osprey, Wood thrush.	

11.

Date/Time	2024-05-01 6:30:00 PM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Westminster Ponds ESA
Participants	14
Conditions	mostly sunny, light wind, 22°C. Some hills and muddy areas.
Observations:	
23 bird species including Warbling vireo, Yellow warbler, Barn swallow, Pied-billed grebe, American coot, Double-crested cormorant, Rose-breasted grosbeak, Gray catbird, House wren.	

12.

Date/Time	2024-04-19 6:30:00 PM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Meadowlily Woods ESA
Participants	18
Conditions	sunny, 13°C, light wind. Some hills and uneven terrain
Observations:	
18 bird species including Northern flicker, Hermit thrush, Tree swallow, Eastern phoebe, Winter wren. Nice display of wildflowers: Trout lily, Bloodroot, Blue cohosh, Hepatica, Spring beauty, Trilliums, Early Meadow-rue.	

13.

Date/Time	2024-04-04 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Kathleen Holland
Location	Komoka Provincial Park - The Ponds
Participants	16
Conditions	drizzle then overcast only, 2° C up to 7° C. Mostly level but some grades at start/end.
Observations:	
Bald eagles, Buffleheads, Eastern meadowlark, Amer wigeon, Eastern bluebird, Song sparrow, Northern cardinal, Red-winged blackbird, Northern flicker, Cooper's hawk, leopard frogs, American goldfinches, Tree swallows.	

14.

Date/Time	2024-04-07 8:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area
Participants	13
Conditions	sunny, high of 15°C, little wind. Some uneven ground and mud.
Observations:	
- over 45 bird species including Wood duck, Northern shoveler, Northern pintail, Sandhill crane, Bald eagle, Pileated woodpecker, Tree swallow - mammals: White and red squirrel, raccoon, White-tailed deer, muskrat, beaver.	

15.

Date/Time	2024-03-24 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Aylmer WMA and Sewage Lagoons
Participants	10
Conditions	sunny, 2°C, very little wind. Uneven paths at Sewage Lagoons.
Observations:	
over 35 bird species were identified including a blue -phase Snow goose, Tundra swan, Northern shoveler, Northern pintail, Green-winged teal, Red-head, Lesser scaup, Bufflehead, Common goldeneye, Ruddy duck, several types of sparrows.	

16.

Date/Time	2024-03-17 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. Kennedy
Location	Greenway Park
Participants	8
Conditions	sunny, cool, windy. Paved paths, muddy grass in some places.
Observations:	
Dandelion, Winter aconite, white and purple violets, Common mergansers, Muscovy ducks, Common grackle, Red-winged blackbirds, Turkey vulture, Killdeer, Merlins.	

17.

Date/Time	2024-03-10 1:00:00 PM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Gibbons Park
Participants	8
Conditions	windy, 0°C, snowy. flooded trail along the river.
Observations:	
19 bird species were identified including Carolina wren, White-throated sparrow, Common mergansers, Great-horned owls.	

18.

Date/Time	2024-02-19 11:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Carrie Long and Rich Voros
Location	Cedarcroft
Participants	30
Conditions	Perfect. easy.
Observations:	
A full report has been sent to <i>The Cardinal</i> .	

19.

Date/Time	2024-02-25 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Kathleen Holland
Location	Springbank Park
Participants	11
Conditions	Sunny, -11°C. bike path and dirt path beside it.
Observations:	
Red squirrel, Red-bellied woodpecker, Downy woodpecker, Cardinal, Golden-crowned kinglet, Great blue heron, Blue jay, Red-tailed hawk, American goldfinches, Red-winged blackbird, Eastern chipmunk.	



20.

Date/Time	2024-02-22 6:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Jim Jarrett
Location	Cedarcroft
Participants	16
Conditions	fair, mild. easy to moderate.
Observations:	
	Muskrat, listen for owls at night.

21.

Date/Time	2024-02-10 1:00:00 PM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Fanshawe CA
Participants	2
Conditions	partly sunny, cool wind, 6°C. a few hills and some mud.
Observations:	
	17 bird species including Bald eagle, Pine siskin, White-throated sparrow, Cedar waxwing; hand-fed Black-capped chickadees.

22.

Date/Time	2024-01-27 8:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Lambton County
Participants	18
Conditions	foggy at first, then partly sunny, 3°C. a little mud.
Observations:	
	over 40 bird species seen including Northern shrike, Rough-legged hawk, White-winged scoter, Hooded merganser, White-crowned sparrow, Long-tailed duck, Northern harrier, Tufted titmouse.

23.

Date/Time	2024-01-22 6:30:00 PM
Leader(s)	Lisette Verbeem
Location	Medway Heritage ESA Trail
Participants	9
Conditions	Sort of freezing rain, -4°C. snow covered trail, but overall, not too bad.
Observations:	
	Quiet night due to weather, but it was a first time for some to hike the trail and certainly a first time for night hike for most of the 8 participants.

24.

Date/Time	2024-01-01 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Greenway Park
Participants	31
Conditions	1 °C, partly sunny, light wind. mostly paved path, a little mud.
Observations:	
over 25 bird species identified including several duck hybrids, Common goldeneye, Common merganser, Great blue heron, Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers, Brown creeper, Golden-crowned kinglet, American robin, Cedar waxwing.	

25.

Date/Time	2323-12-02 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae, B. Vandenbelt, G. McNeil, L. Verbeem
Location	Springbank Park CBC for Kids
Participants	11
Conditions	cloudy, 6 degrees, damp. some hills.
Observations:	
16 species, 210 individuals including Belted kingfisher, Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers.	

26.

Date/Time	2023-11-19 1:00:00 PM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Fanshawe CA
Participants	12
Conditions	Sunny, breezy, 8°C. A few hills, a little mud.
Observations:	
17 bird species including Red and White-breasted nuthatches, Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned hawks, Red-bellied woodpecker, Dark-eyed junco, Golden-crowned kinglet, Hand fed Black-capped chickadees. Saw sleeping Raccoon.	

27.

Date/Time	2023-11-14 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	L. Verbeem
Location	Hodgins Trail, Lucan CA
Participants	7
Conditions	Sunny, 7°C, bit of breeze. Bit muddy/wet in spots, mostly flat
Observations:	
10 bird species including American robin, Bald eagle. Two small butterflies (yellow and white), black and white squirrels.	

28.

Date/Time	2023-11-05 8:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Strathroy, Forest, Ipperwash, Kettle Point
Participants	4
Conditions	fog, then sun, 11°C.
Observations:	
36 bird species including Green-winged teal, Bonaparte's gull, Sanderling, Belted kingfisher, Cooper's hawk, Wilson's snipe, American tree sparrow, Long-tail duck, American pipit, Northern shrike, Tundra and Mute swans, Greater yellowlegs, Wood duck.	

29.

Date/Time	2023-11-06 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Kathleen Holland
Location	Medway Heritage Forest
Participants	9
Conditions	overcast, 9°C. some uneven terrain. mostly level.
Observations:	
Raccoon, Downy woodpecker, Black-capped chickadee.	

30.

Date/Time	2023-10-15 9:30:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Komoka Provincial Park
Participants	6
Conditions	Windy, partly sunny, 12°C. Some fairly steep hills.
Observations:	
21 bird species including Bald eagle, Eastern phoebe, Red-winged blackbird, Red-bellied woodpecker, Nashville warbler, Brown creeper, Blue-headed vireo, Yellow-rumped warbler, Eastern bluebird, Yellow-rumped warbler, Cedar waxwing. Also saw an Eastern garter snake.	

31.

Date/Time	2023-11-01 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Jim Jarrett
Location	Coldstream CA, east section
Participants	5
Conditions	Snowy, no wind. Easy.
Observations:	
See report sent to <i>The Cardinal</i> .	

32.

Date/Time	2023-10-31 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Glenn Berry
Location	Harris Park
Participants	1
Conditions	Cold with snow on the ground. Sidewalks were bare and wet.
Observations:	
Dozens of Canada geese.	

33.

Date/Time	2023-10-12 10:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Jim Jarrett
Location	MacNaughton Trail, Exeter
Participants	8
Conditions	mild and sunshine. easy, level.
Observations:	
See complete report sent to <i>The Cardinal</i> .	

34.

Date/Time	2023-10-07 9:30:00 AM
Leader(s)	C. McCrae
Location	Westminster Ponds ESA
Participants	9
Conditions	Partly sunny, breezy, 10 degrees. Some stairs, small hills.
Observations:	
- lots of acorns and hickory nuts. - 27 bird species including Yellow-rumped and Nashville warblers, both kinglets, Rusty blackbird, Pied-billed grebe, Sharp-shinned hawk, Eastern towhee.	

35.

Date/Time	2023-10-09 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Kathleen Holland
Location	Kilally Meadows
Participants	13
Conditions	Partly Sunny, 5°C. fairly level terrain.
Observations:	
Kingfisher, Hermit thrush, Great blue heron, Mallards, Woolly bear caterpillars	

36.

Date/Time	2023-09-17 6:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Cathy McCrae
Location	Port Stanley and Hawk Cliff Area
Participants	15
Conditions	Mostly sunny and high of 23°C. Uneven ground at Hawks Cliff.
Observations:	
<p>- Tried for Roseate spoonbill at Springwater CA without success; did see Green herons, Red-headed woodpecker, Common nighthawks - Hawk Cliff woods pretty quiet: Yellow-rumped warbler, Yellow-bellied sapsucker, Red-eyed vireo, Hermit thrush, Blue jays heard regularly - Hawk Cliff Garden trail: Northern cardinal, Gray catbird, Broad-wing and Sharp-shinned hawk, Bald eagle by hawk count stand - Dexter Line: American kestrel, Eastern Bluebirds - Port Stanley Sewage Lagoons: Wood duck, Horned and Pied-billed grebes, American coot, Common gallinule, Northern harrier, Blue-winged teal - Flower species included: Great blue lobelia, Blue-stem goldenrod, Jewel weed, Bottle gentian, Fleabane, Devil's beggarticks, Rough cocklebur.</p>	

37.

Date/Time	2023-09-16 2:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Evelyn Rogers, Carrie Long,
Location	Cedarcroft
Participants	17
Conditions	Sunny and cool, 12°C. Easy.
Observations:	
<p>Very few birds: Hairy woodpecker, Blue jay. Trees and Bushes: honey locust, spice bush, beech tree with beech blight aphids (boogie-woogie aphids) who make aphid soot sponge and parasitic beech drops, sugar maple, tulip tree and white pine. Flowers: Solomon's seal, wild ginger, jack-in-the-pulpit, herb robert, white vervain, stinging nettle, zigzag goldenrod, teasel. Fungi: We saw a couple in the Russula family, including the white Russula brevipes on the Beech trail. Silky parchment (<i>Stereum striatum</i>) on a fallen branch by the shed. The four little Cup fungi just to the side of the trail, hairy fairy cup fungus also called brown-haired fairy cup (<i>Humaria hemisphaerica</i>) because it was so small. turkey tail and many coniferous caps growing on pinecones and some growing amongst the pine needles. A tree frog and a red-backed salamander.</p>	

38.

Date/Time	2023-10-02 9:09:00 AM
Leader(s)	Evelyn Rogers
Location	The Coves
Participants	16
Conditions	cloudy and 17°C. Easy.
Observations:	
	: Birds seen: Black-crowned night heron, Great blue heron, Double-crested cormorants, Wood ducks, Black-capped chickadees, American goldfinches. Birds Heard: Blue jays, Downy and Red-bellied woodpeckers, Robins and Gray catbird. Plants: chicory with blue and white flowers on one stem, jack-in-the pulpit, Solomon's seal, lily-of-the-valley, Virginia creeper, goldenrod. loosestrife, and ragweed. bushes: poke weed. gray dogwood and staghorn sumac.

39.

Date/Time	2023-10-01 9:00:00 AM
Leader(s)	Cailin Kennedy
Location	The Coves
Participants	7
Conditions	Sunny, paths, grass.
Observations:	
	Canada geese, egrets, blue herons, Kingfisher, cardinals, Blue jays, robins, Downy woodpeckers, Northern flicker, Red-headed woodpeckers, grackles, chickadees, cat birds, goldfinches, House finch, White-breasted nuthatch, White-throated sparrows, Field sparrow, hickory tussock moth caterpillars, snapping turtles and a cormorant.

*Submitted by Cathy McRae*

## **Guide To the Natural Areas in London and Region**

The inventory of guides is stored in the boxes from the printers, each box containing 20 guides. As of September 2023, 16 boxes are on hand. During the year 2023-2024 seven boxes went out on consignment. Nine boxes remain in stock.

One new retail outlet in 2024; Gift Shop at Strathroy General Hospital.

Thanks to the volunteers who stock the retail outlets: Ros and Jim Moorhead, Bernie VanDenBelt, Norm Corrin and Gail McNeil (distribution to email orders) and Ann Henderson (sales at Nature London indoor meetings).

*Submitted by Mike Channon*

## Image Database

The database continues to be housed on a dedicated HP 17” Zbook computer. Work continues on removing duplicate files and indexing images for easier search and retrieval. Backups are maintained on an external solid-state drive as well as the “cloud”. Members continue to contribute photographs of their nature observations and also as recorders of club meetings and field trips. Images used in each issue of *the Cardinal* are indexed for easy retrieval to ensure that our publications use a wide variety of images without significant repetition. The database now contains over 16,000 images. These include:

- Nature specimen photographs: birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, plants and wildflowers (Approximately 12,900 images),
- Views of natural areas,
- Photographs of club meetings, field trips, workshops, banquets, awards,
- Archival material including old photographs of historical interest,
- Drawings by members of birds, plants, etc.
- Graphics used in production of *the Cardinal*

We have many excellent photographers among the Nature London membership who continue to provide excellent images of plants, birds, insects, etc. These images are used by the *Cardinal* editors as needed to illustrate the various articles and news in *The Cardinal*. We feature the best recent images contributed by Nature London’s members on the back page (in colour) of *the Cardinal*.

*Submitted by John Berry*

## Indoor Meetings

During the 2023/2024 season, Nature London indoor meetings resumed full in-person meetings at the Civic Garden Complex, which were also live-streamed on Zoom and recorded (with permission) to be made available on the Nature London YouTube channel. Topics varied from under the water (aquatic life) to the atmosphere (meteorology). In 2024, we also resumed the coffee and cookies break (halted in 2020 due to COVID-19) at the April meeting with the help of Linda Bristow and her team, much to the delight of Nature London members.

September 22, 2023

### **Life in the Upper Thames River**

Erin Carroll, Director of Biology for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, spoke on the aquatic life and ecological relationships in the Upper Thames River, including local fish, freshwater mussels, and benthic macro-invertebrates.

October 20, 2023

### **Climate Change and Deep-Energy Building Retrofits**

Tom Davis, Professor of Building Technology at Fanshawe College, presented his research and his team's work on building sustainability. Through collaboration with industry, his students engage in retrofits in order to assess best materials and practices in building. This is part of a goal to make Fanshawe College net zero.

November 17, 2023

### **Awards Banquet: Lake Erie to the Arctic**

Adam Shoalts, adventurer and author, provided an entertaining and inspiring presentation on one of his latest excursions, paddling from Lake Erie to the Arctic, as well as shared humorous stories from some of his other adventures.

January 19, 2024

### **Eco-Grants Presentations**

The winners of the 2023 Nature London Eco-Grants gave short presentations on their work, showcasing the positive impacts Nature London support has on nature-related activities and education programs within the local region. This year's winners and presentations were:

- “Pollinator Pals: Hands-on Pollinator Education for Families”, by LOLA Bees. Unfortunately, the presenter, Ellie Cook, could not attend. The presentation was read by Glenn Berry.
- “Trees for the Greenway” Project, presented by Lily Vuong on behalf of Reforest London
- “Urban League of London: What We Do”, presented by Jon Bradford
- “Antler River Rally”, presented by Brendon Samuels and Tom Cull
- “City Nature Challenge”, presented by Kari Morelan on behalf of TTLT

February 16, 2024

### **Hiking with Kathleen**

Nature London member Kathleen Holland presented some of her favourite moments from her YouTube series “Hiking with Kathleen”, where she takes viewers on her outdoor adventures throughout the region, including videos of secretive wildlife and beautiful scenery.

March 8, 2024

### **The Northern Tornadoes Project (And Some Surprising Links between Meteorology and Nature)**

Dr. David Sills, professor at Western University and Executive Director of the Northern Tornadoes Project, presented how the data collected by his team is helping meteorologists understand tornadoes and the changing patterns of extreme weather occurrence due to climate change.



April 12, 2024

## **Members Night**

April's Indoor Meeting is traditionally reserved for Nature London members to present on topics of interest to them. This past year, we had five engaging presentations:

- Bill Maddeford gave a short but heartfelt presentation on his years of experience in conservation and with Nature London
- Don Taves presented his stunning photography on Wildflowers of Ontario
- Glenn Berry presented his observations and a recap on the Osprey monitoring program in London
- Winnie and Dave Wake presented a curious and beautiful spring wildflower, Dutchman's Breeches
- Jim Jarrett and his team presented a fascinating compilation of wildlife camera videos from Cedarcroft, and showed just what an active property it is, especially at night.

*Submitted by Jennifer Evans*

## **London Environmental Network**

The London Environmental Network (LEN) is an environmental charitable organization based in London. The LEN helps to protect our environment and build a more sustainable city by offering environmental programs and climate action opportunities for all residents. LEN's Vision – London is known as one of the greenest and most resilient cities in Canada. LEN's Mission- We build participation, collaboration and capacity in our community to co-create positive environmental change.

The London Environmental Network supports organizations with shared resources, and training, outreach and collaboration opportunities so they can become stronger and work more effectively together. It also connects groups to the London community, recruits volunteers, and promotes environmental events, initiatives and successes. LEN's membership is made up of over 40 community groups and nonprofits working in London's environmental sector.

Examples of membership benefits:

### **Increased exposure and outreach to the London community by:**

listing events on the LEN website and in monthly e-newsletters  
distributing brochures and information at the LEN outreach booths at community events  
providing networking opportunities at LEN events and quarterly meetings

### **Access to Shared Resources such as;**

materials in the environmental resource library  
presentation equipment i.e. - projector tents, tables etc.  
LEN meeting spaces at the Bruce Pavillion

## **Volunteer Recruitment**

Volunteer page - Members can submit their volunteer opportunities which are then posted on the LEN website Volunteer page.

Volunteer Bank - LEN has created a 'Volunteer Bank'. People who are looking for volunteer opportunities in the environmental sector can submit their interests to the 'bank' and then they are matched with the members' volunteer opportunities. These opportunities can range from being a board member, garbage pick-ups, planting a tree, event support etc.

## **New in 2023-2024**

This year Nature London improved its flow of information with other LEN members. Glenn Berry, Nature London's webmaster, added a link to LEN's event page under the new Community Events section of Nature London's website. Now Nature London members can easily discover the events being put on by others in the environmental sector.

LEN's mission and vision clearly aligns with Nature London's. Being a member of LEN provides Nature London opportunities to participate in a 'portal of environmentally minded Londoners'. LEN's impact is impressive. It is a vibrant organization which continues to expand by adding new initiatives. Nature London's relationship with LEN continues to be mutually beneficial.

*Submitted by Susan Price*

## **Manual Secretary**

The Manual Secretary is responsible for keeping the club manuals up to date on a yearly or as-needed basis. The format of the manuals (a series of five manuals), revised a few years ago, now make updates easier. Manual 4 was updated with new award recipients. More substantial updates to the other manuals will be made in 2025.

*Submitted by Cathy Quinlan*

## **Membership Secretary & Membership Database**

Our membership for 2023/2024 bounced up again to set a new high at 464 memberships representing at least 791 individuals. For ten years in a row membership has exceeded 400. Again this year, eight times someone chose to give the gift of a Nature London membership. 227 memberships were paid online using PayPal. 267 memberships received a paper copy of *The Cardinal*.

Our "Guide to the Natural Areas of London and Region" maintained its popularity with club members as well as non-members. 25 Guides were bought through membership during the club year of

2023/24. Thank you, Ros and Jim Moorhead, and Mike Channon.

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, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Summary reports were created as needed and some ad hoc questions about our membership were answered. Enhancements were made to the database to accommodate new procedures in membership.

*Submitted by* Gail McNeil, Membership Secretary

## Nature in the City

Nature in the City is an exciting and informative speaker series that began in 2006 as a joint venture between London Public Library (LPL) and Nature London (NL). The magic formula created back then is followed to this day. Over six consecutive Tuesday evenings in January and February, experts presented on nature-themed topics that are relevant to Londoners, at The Wolf Performance Hall, in the Central Library. This free event has been very well-received by Nature London members as well as the general public. Following the scheduled presentations in January and February 2020, the program went on a 3-year hiatus, initially due to the shut-down of public gatherings through the Covid-19 pandemic.

In March 2023, a new committee was formed to bring this popular event back to the stage at the Wolf Performance Hall. The 2024 committee consisted of Darby Alderson, Gosse Van Oosten, Susan Nagy, Sarah Caetano (LPL liaison) and Kathleen Holland, Chair. And once again, Londoners embraced Nature in the City, with lineups starting 30 minutes before "show time" each Tuesday night. The attendance ranged from 90 to 133 people as word continued to spread, and regulars returned week after week.

The date and presentation details from 2024 may be found below:

January 16 - **Bats as Beings:** New discoveries about bats suggest we need to think more deeply about these mammals. Brock Fenton, Professor Emeritus at Western University's Biology Department will discuss bats' long (for their size) life spans — over 30 years in the wild — to the distances they travel, as well as their resistance to many viral infections.

January 23 - **Building bird-friendly communities in London:** Birds in the city are struggling to coexist alongside people. Dangerous interactions with pets and feral cats, loss of habitat, and collisions with windows are common threats to birds that everybody can do something

about. Brendon Samuels, a Western Biology PhD candidate, will tell us about simple actions to support our relationships.

January 30 - **Some bugs suck!** Why the insects in your garden have a drinking problem - Even pest insects work hard to stay alive, especially on a liquid diet. Brent Sinclair, a Western Biology Professor will introduce us to the insects around London that get all their food from liquids, explain why that's a challenge, and the extraordinary adaptations that help them get away with it.

February 6 - **London's Naturals** - Always looking for a good story and adventure, Emily "Ranger Em" Febrey, a local conservation educator and communicator, will share some of her favourite local adventures and the people and organizations that inspire her along her journey.

February 13 - **London's Secretive Wildlife: Challenges Faced by Reptiles and Amphibians** - London is home to many rare and common wildlife species including some of the most at-risk reptiles in Canada. Scott Gillingwater, a Species at Risk Biologist with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, will discuss the impact of a growing city on reptiles and amphibians and how we can all help to ensure their survival.

February 20 - **Naturally Western** - Western University's Manager of Landscape Services, Michael Lunau will talk about the natural beauty of Western's grounds, how they are maintained and take us on a virtual tour to show us what we can see when we visit.

Video recordings were made of each presentation and uploaded to the Nature London YouTube Channel. Direct (unlisted) links were shared for each presentation in eNewsletters as well as in the article that appeared in Spring Edition of The Cardinal permitting Nature London members, and not the general public, to access the recordings. Those links are still live and may be found using this URL, entering your password and scrolling to page 14: <https://www.naturelondon.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Spring-Cardinal-2024-interactive.pdf>. Viewership for these recorded sessions may be found in the YouTube Administrator Report.

*Submitted by* Kathleen Holland, Committee Chair, Nature in the City

## **Ontario Nature (Federation of Ontario Naturalists)**

Regional meetings of Ontario Nature's Nature Network (NN) provide an opportunity for member clubs to exchange ideas and report on the success of programs they have undertaken, discuss natural heritage issues of concern, and seek advice from the Ontario Nature (ON) staff. ON staff representatives give an update on the organization's Nature Network, and ON's conservation science, youth, educational, and advocacy programs. Nature London (NL) is able to keep abreast of regional and provincial natural heritage

matters through these meetings. Member groups are the “grassroots” of Ontario Nature, and the McIlwraith Ornithological Club, an earlier name of NL, was one of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists founding member groups in 1931.

The Carolinian West (CW) Fall Regional Meeting of NN member groups of Ontario Nature was hosted by NL at Riverside United Church in London on October 28th, 2023. Thirteen members from seven nature clubs, two members of Ontario Nature and two speakers from Caldwell First Nation attended the meeting. It was chaired by ON Regional Director Mike Fisher, and was run by Lesley Rudy, Nature Network Organizer for ON. Guest speaker Zack Hamm, Environment and Consultation Department Manager for Caldwell First Nation (CFN) talked about the CFN and some things in which it was involved, such as serving on committees, land restoration and re-acquisition, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), being part of a National Urban Park, oversight of projects, and more. Guest speaker Jenna Kip, ON’s Protected Places Assessment Coordinator, spoke about the 30X30 protected areas target, how ON is involved, and the role of municipalities and how Nature Network groups can get involved. A PDF of Jenna’s presentation was later emailed to member groups. Lesley Rudy gave a report on ON programs and later emailed a PDF of these to member groups. Member groups presented summaries of recent activities, and all the submitted updates submitted to the online form were shared by Lesley in the meeting notes sent to member groups.

The CW Spring Meeting of the NN member groups was virtual, by Zoom, with two staff members of ON, and the President of ON, and 16 people representing eight member groups in attendance. NL’s President, Don Taves and ON Rep. Anita Caveney attended. The meeting was chaired by ON Regional Director Mike Fisher, and was run by Lesley Rudy, Nature Network Organizer. Sarah Hasenack, of the Ontario Nature Protected Places Team, gave a presentation on the loss of wetlands that is evident under changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) introduced last year by the Ontario Government. She covered Provincially Significant Wetlands, the OWES and how they changed; lack of oversight; how groups can get involved; and good municipal examples. Lesley Rudy gave a report on some things going on at ON and later sent a PDF of this to member clubs in her meeting notes. Mike Fisher gave an update on proposed changes to ON’s Board structure, and Lesley later shared a PDF of this with member groups in her meeting notes. Member clubs gave an update on happenings at their clubs in the last six months.

ON’s 93rd Annual Gathering, with the theme SPECTACULAR SAUGEEN, was an in-person meeting at Evergreen Resort, Saugeen Peninsula, May 31st-June 2, 2024. NL was represented by Dave and Winifred Wake, Matthew Palarchio, André Lachance, and Stan and Anita Caveney. Highlights were the Ontario Nature Quiz (won by a mostly Nature London Team); a Protected Places documentary; workshops on Nature Journaling, snake ID (complete with live snakes), and raptors; Wine and Cheese Reception; Banquet dinner; Conservation Awards Ceremony; and “Orchid Quest”, a keynote presentation by members of Owen Sound Field Naturalists. There were three concurrent field trips on Sunday, viz. 1)

Extreme Environments: Alvars, Sand Dunes, and Species That Call Them Home; 2) Biodiversity, Birds, and Beaches: Exploring fen and Beach Ecosystems; and Exploring Gchi-Bimadinaa (the Great White Cliff that Runs Along), with an Indigenous leader. Trip 1 was at Ontario Nature’s Saugeen Alvar Nature Reserve on the Bruce Peninsula, Trip 2 was at Parks Canada’s Singing Sands, Bruce Peninsula National Park at Dorcas Bay, and Trip 3 was at the Niagara Escarpment.

Nature London-Ontario Nature interactions during the year included the following:

- NL’s Board signed an ON letter calling for the Provincial Government to adhere to the Protected Areas Working Group guidelines that were recommended by their own government-appointed body in 2021.
- NL’s Ontario Nature Representative attended Carolinian West Regional meetings on October 28th, 2023, and April 6th, 2024.
- NL’s Board signed an ON letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and copied to Ontario’s Commissioner of the Environment and leaders of the Green, Liberal and NDP parties, to strongly oppose the proposed regulation regarding the Minister’s new permit and review power under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and urged the Minister not to proceed with the proposed regulation for several reasons related to the permitting process and decisions, as well as overriding of a conservation authority’s decision, and issue of a permit in place of a conservation authority.

*Submitted by Anita Caveney, Ontario Nature Representative*

## Osprey Monitoring

London Ospreys overcame much adversity in 2024 to fledge a record number of young birds. Canada geese occupied two Osprey platforms before the Ospreys arrived a few days later than usual, probably due to weather conditions. More importantly, four of 15 nests from the previous year were removed during the fall and winter. Two were removed from cell phone towers, one from the navigation lights at the Airport, and one from Labatt stadium lights. All but one were replaced or rebuilt, and one other was re-occupied. In total, 23 young Ospreys flew from their nests, a very successful year.

The City of London installed a new pole and Osprey platform near the restored wetland next to the Rotary Trail south of Gainsborough Drive. It was immediately occupied by a pair of Ospreys who raised a single young bird. This platform was a very timely addition as the nest on the nearby cell phone tower was removed last winter, and a metal “defeater” was installed to discourage nesting. Ospreys like this location probably because of the good fishing opportunities in the nearby flood control ponds and the Thames River.

This year, there was drama at the Labatt stadium, where Ospreys have nested on the lights for many years. The City replaced the stadium lights during the fall but did not install a nest platform above the new lights, a successful strategy used by Western University at Alumni

Stadium and Ontario Hydro at Clarke Road. Instead, the City expected that the Ospreys would occupy an existing lower platform on the stadium property. When the Ospreys returned in March, days were spent in unsuccessful attempts to build a nest on the new lights. When sticks repeatedly fell through the gaps between the lights, a nest was started on the low platform. This did not satisfy the female Osprey. She perched on the new light tower and added sticks to that location. After some experimentation, both adults constructed a stick nest on top of the new lights. These delays may have had some impact as the adults raised a single chick instead of the usual two or three.

In past years, the City installed a pole and platform near the Greenway water treatment plant, which is next to the Thames River. An Osprey family occupied this platform, which was very popular with walkers and photographers on the nearby trail. The platform was not occupied in 2023, but everyone was happy to see a pair of Ospreys arrive this April. Two young birds were raised and flew from the nest in August.

Many thanks are due to the Nature London Osprey monitors. Some provided regular reports and others filled in with occasional observations. The 2024 results are summarized in table form below.

### London Osprey Nesting – 2024 Results

Nest Location	Young Fledged	Notes
Clarke & Fanshawe Pk	2	Platform
Hudson Boat Works, Fanshawe Pk 1+		Lights
Airport - Huron & Dakota Pl	2	Lights New/Rebuilt
Sovereign & Belleisle	1+	Tower
River Rd & Gore Rd	1+	Tower
London Gospel Hall, Fanshawe Pk	1	Tower
Stoney Creek Baptist, Highbury	1+	Tower
Windermere & Adelaide, Soccer	2	Lights
Windermere Stoneybrook Ball	2	Lights New/Relocated
Adelaide St at South Thames	2	Chimney
Windermere at Kilally	0	Platform/Goose occupied
Windermere & Richmond	0	Tower Roof Nest gone
Western Alumni Stadium	2	Platform
Gainsborough & Hyde Park	0	Tower/Removed
Rotary Trail south of Gainsborough	1	Platform New
Labatt Stadium	1	Lights/Rebuilt
Greenway Park	2	Platform
Dingman & White Oak	2	Tower
Millar Berry Farm	0	Tower/Removed
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23+</b>	<b>15 Active nests</b>

+ indicates possible additions – not confirmed

Ospreys love high open nest sites. Since their wingspan is nearly six feet, and they fly in with a heavy burden of fish, they want to avoid obstacles that might interfere with their landings. The height provides a feeling of safety from climbing predators like raccoons and a clear view of predators approaching from above, such as Bald Eagles and other Osprey. As a result, Ospreys often select high nest locations – like cell phone towers or stadium lights. This provides a challenge for monitors. The great height and deep nests make it difficult to see the occupants in detail. We sometimes see feeding activity that suggests more than one small bird in the nest, but we often do not see how many birds reach the fledging stage. Confirmed young birds are shown in the table, but in some cases, we show a "+" for the possibility of additional but unconfirmed young birds.

### London Osprey Nesting Over the Years

Year	Young to Fledging Age	Active Nests
2024	23 +	15
2023	22+	15
2022	17+	12
2021	23	11
2020	19	10
2019	16 +	8+
2018	16	10
2017	13	8

*Submitted by Ric & Sandy Symmes, Nature London Osprey Monitoring Coordinators*

### Refreshments Committee

In April 2024 we restarted refreshments at the members meeting to see how they would be received. They certainly seemed to be very much enjoyed, if the many thanks offered by members was an indication of appreciation.

As we began our 2024/2025 season, we again offered cookies, teas and coffee and again received numerous enthusiastic thanks.

We will continue to offer them at next year's General Meetings, starting in January so do plan to attend, as along with very good programming, you can enjoy a tasty cookie and a warm cuppa.

*Submitted by Linda Bristow, Nature London Refreshment Committee*



## Saunders Library (London Public Library)

Adult collection titles				
Title	Author	Cost	Copies	Total Cost
50 ways to help save the bees	Coulthard, Sally	\$11.97	4	\$47.88
Birds of North America	Cirigliano, Jim	\$39.57	4	\$158.28
Growing an edible landscape: how to transform your outdoor space into a food garden	Pilarchik, Gary	\$22.79	6	\$136.74
Lakes: their birth, life, and death	Saylor, John Richard	\$20.97	4	\$83.88
The nature of our cities: harnessing the power of the natural world to survive a changing planet	Galle, Nadina	\$22.19	4	\$88.76
Old-growth forest walks: the future of Ontario's Greenbelt	Henry, Michael	\$17.97	8	\$143.76
			<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$659.30</b>
Children's Collection Titles				
Title	Author	Cost	Copies	Total Cost
An anthology of exquisite birds	Hoare, Ben	\$19.71	4	\$78.84
Around the World in 80 Endangered Animals	French, Jess	\$15.07	4	\$60.28
Bird, bee & bug houses: homes and habitats for garden wildlife	Behar, Susie	\$17.69	4	\$70.76
My first Ontario bird book: the birds you see in back yards, woods and waters of Ontario	Domm, Jeffrey	\$17.66	4	\$70.64
A tree is a community	Harrison, David	\$15.07	4	\$60.28
			<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$340.80</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000.10</b>

Submitted by Pat Tripp

## 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, hard-working staff consisting of an Executive Director, Conservation Director, Administration and Engagement Coordinator, a Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator, Land Protection and Conservation Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator. Staff resources were augmented seasonally in 2023-2024, through employment of students and interns.

This report for Nature London members touches on some highlights of Thames Talbot Land Trust activities during the period September 2023 to August 2024. TTLT's Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2023, are available at <https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/>. Click on the "About Us" tab, and then on Financial Statements.

During the past year, new lands were added to the TTLT portfolio of protected areas. In March, TTLT acquired an 8.56-hectare (21-acre) parcel, which is situated on the Lake Erie shore in the Municipality of West Elgin. This property, now named Lakeview Wetlands, is a Provincially Significant Wetland. Work is underway on expansion of the protected area through purchase of adjacent properties. Meanwhile, at Five Points Forest near Ingersoll, TTLT is in the process of acquiring Birch Hollow, thus increasing the extent of protected area in that forest complex.

As reported previously, in July 2023, TTLT was awarded a London Community Foundation Community Vitality Grant. This funding, which extends over three years, supports work by TTLT and other partners in establishing Conservation Easement Agreements (CEAs). A CEA is a voluntary, legally binding agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization that ensures conservation features are maintained in perpetuity. The first CEA developed under this program is the Livingstone Conservation Easement Agreement, which protects a 40-hectare (100-acre) property near Komoka. A second CEA for Springrush Farm near Lucan is in preparation. Other CEAs are under discussion, and TTLT continues outreach to communities in the region, to encourage even more participation in this valuable program.

TTLT's Passport to Nature program starts up each spring and continues through the following winter. Through this initiative TTLT introduces new participants to its nature reserves and demonstrates the importance of TTLT's work. Sponsorship revenue from Passport to Nature in 2024 was more than \$31,000. Thanks to Nature London for supporting this venture.

Volunteers are essential to the operations of TTLT and are especially helpful with outreach and stewardship activities. In 2024, more than 200 volunteers were active through the year, for a total of 1636 volunteer hours. Among these helpers, 143 people volunteered with TTLT for the first time.

Restoration activity continued in the expansion area at Hawk Cliff Woods Nature Reserve. This year, nearly 30 hectares (70 acres) of meadow habitat was planted. This included seed planting by a contractor and plug planting with volunteers and school groups.

Through the year, management of invasive species and/or habitat creation work took place at 20 TTLT nature reserves. This work saw the removal or reduction of at least 16 non-native species. Collecting seed from native plants helps with future restoration efforts. During the past year, seeds were collected from more than 60 species.

Did you know that TTLT lands are home to 72 species at risk? One area of special interest is the turtle monitoring program. Staff and volunteers monitor the status of resident turtles to help maintain and grow at-risk turtle populations, and to help educate community members about the importance of turtles to our ecosystems. Snakes are also being monitored in order to help with future management and protection.

You can sign up for regular updates on the activities of the Trust. Members and friends of TTLT receive a newsletter, the *Tattler*. Electronic communications include regular updates through email, Facebook, Instagram and the website. Financial contributions to support the work of TTLT are always welcome, and monthly donations are encouraged. Check the “Make a Donation” button at <https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/>.

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

*Submitted by Dave Wake, TTLT Liaison*

## **Urban League of London (ULL)**

The Urban League is an umbrella group whose members include a number of neighbourhood associations and community groups working to improve and connect our city. Individuals with an interest in urban or civic matters may also become members of the League.

### **Urban 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. It’s what we’ve been doing for over 50 years. Our main focus areas are: Community Engagement, Community Projects, Municipal Advocacy, Citizen Education.

Membership benefits:

- General Liability insurance for member events and room bookings
- Access to small internal funding opportunities when available
- Partnering on mutually beneficial projects when possible
- Monthly general meetings featuring special topics of interest
- Monthly newsletter
- Listing on our website
- Sharing of events on social media (tag us for retweets and Facebook share)
- Connections with neighbourhood associations and community groups

- Guidance and support from experienced community and neighbourhood association volunteers
- A collective voice on a city-wide and neighbourhood-specific issue
- Digital support with GSuite which includes Gmail, Google Site and Good Drive

Urban League meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month except for the months of June, July, August and December. At each meeting there is an educational component and the opportunity for members to share information.

### **Meeting topics this year:**

Graphic design for Small Groups; Basics of designing, fundamental design elements and the differences between designing for social media and print.

Neighbourhood decision making voting process.

Experiences of discrimination in London & Middlesex County.

Overview of the 2024-2027 Multi Year Budget.

London NeighbourGood Programming supports and how to participate.

Building Police and Community Relations presentation by Chief of Police Thai Truong.

London On Trivia Night in honour of Volunteer Appreciation Month. **(The Nature London trivia team came in second in the trivia contest. The prize the team selected was membership in the Urban League at no cost for 1 year. Next year's membership fee will be waived.)**

London Climate Action Opportunities: London's Green Bin Progress.

Housing and Homelessness in London

On the face of it, few of the topics of the monthly meetings directly relate to Nature London's mission and objectives. However, being an Urban League member helps keep Nature London in touch with what is going on at City Hall and in local neighbourhood and community organizations. Also, Urban League provides Nature London with opportunities to promote our events. Any Urban League member's events that we think will be of interest to Nature London members are added to Nature London's e-newsletter that comes out twice a month. In addition, this year Glenn Berry, Nature London's webmaster has added a link to Urban League events under the Community Events section of Nature London's website. When need be, the Urban League will advocate for issues related to the environment. It is important to continue to support the work of Urban League. Our voices are louder together.

*Real change begins when people come together to celebrate their passions and act as one to make positive changes in their community. These groups that come together under the League's umbrella represent the interests of neighbourhoods, heritage, the environment, and much more. (From The Urban League's website)*

*Submitted by Susan Price*

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

This year, Jennifer Evans temporarily stepped into the role of Volunteer Coordinator. One of the key initiatives was experimenting with volunteer engagement through the website by adding additional volunteer sign-up links and responding more proactively to online inquiries. These efforts aimed to make it easier for individuals to get involved.

Looking ahead, Bernie Vandenberg will assume the role of Volunteer Coordinator for the 2024-2025 term. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our incredible volunteers for their dedication, time, and passion—it is through their efforts that Nature London thrives.

*Submitted by Jennifer Evans*

## **Website**

The webmaster is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the website. This means the webmaster is responsible for the appearance, usefulness, performance, availability, and security of the website. The most time-consuming duties are clerical – managing the online events, announcements, and new reports.

Website activity reports show the overwhelming importance to members of online event information and online registrations. Hundreds of members access each issue of The Cardinal online. Each year, hundreds join or renew memberships online. The website also provides an online source of information about the club and its activities.

As the club expands and more functions are added, website usage increases about 10% annually.

Two online input forms were added using the same software as the membership form. First, the Chimney Swift Monitoring Program's monitors started submitting their observations to the website using a more user-friendly input form. Second, the Christmas Bird Count participants started submitting their observations to the website. This reduced the workload substantially for Pete Read, the coordinator.

The website was upgraded with new commercial grade email-handling software. This improved the reliability of emails sent from the website. The webmaster receives alerts of any failed deliveries. Up to 1000 emails per month include notifications, confirmations, and reminders to website users for events and online submission forms.

*Submitted by Glenn Berry, Webmaster*

## **YouTube Administrator Report**

The Nature London YouTube Channel has been getting some great traffic and use. Primarily it's a way of sharing presentation material that is recorded during our hybrid (In-person and Zoom) events for Indoor (Friday night) Meetings and for the Birding Wing. And new for this past year, it was a way for members to access Nature in the City presentations. That way, when members have a scheduling conflict with a presentation evening, the recorded presentations can be viewed anytime, using links provided in the eNewsletter, anytime at their convenience!

From September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, the following videos were added:

- One member contribution - Cedarcroft Trail Cam - 23 views\*
- Family Day Event at Cedarcroft - 69 views
- Two Birding Wing Presentations - views ranged from 16 - 51
- Six Indoor Meeting Presentations - views ranged from 9 - 51\*\*
- Six Nature in the City Presentations - views ranged from 16 - 45

\*Typically, member presentations are visible for all to enjoy, including the public. This one which focused on wildlife found at Cedarcroft was not made available without a link due to the sensitive nature.

\*\*Members Night proved to be the most popular Indoor Meeting Topic with 51 views.

- New this year, presentations are no longer being removed from the YouTube Channel. Rather they are kept in "unlisted" mode which prevents the public from accessing the video content without a direct link. A direct link and presentation description is available in eNewsletters for two cycles to ensure folks have a chance to view presentation topics. Additionally, they are available in a password-protected area of the NL website.
- Member video contributions (\*) are listed publicly for the viewing pleasure of NL members and beyond. Using a term from YouTube, these contributors are called Content Creators. It is only those videos which are publicly listed that YouTube tracks for the overall success of the Channel. These publicly listed videos when submitted with key words (identifying the content) in the title or description become searchable

across YouTube. That can make this NL YouTube Channel a locally important one when used as a resource by others.

Members are strongly encouraged to submit member videos to the Nature London YouTube Channel. In doing so, please consider the following:

### **Guidelines**

Videos should be:

- Two minutes or shorter in duration
- Nature sightings that have been recorded by you (therefore avoiding any copyright issues)
- Recorded by a current Nature London member
- Sightings from the London area or at least of flora and fauna found within the province of Ontario
- Limited to one favourite video a year. (I realize that this may become popular, and we want everyone to have the opportunity to share their content with our members.)
- Ready for public consumption. All our member videos are uploaded for the public to enjoy, as well as our members

Accompanied by a title, thumbnail, description and your name. A thumbnail is a photo that people will see which represents your video. For example, if your video subject is about a robin on its nest, take a photo of the robin or a screen grab of the robin from your video. A description should be one or two lines that highlight the content of your video. You will be given credit for providing the video.

### **Tips**

Avoid using/adding music tracks because the risk is that YouTube may flag them for a copyright claim. And the music track will have to be removed.

Edit your video to showcase your highlights

Thank you to those who've offered to liaise with presenters and forward their content to me, namely Glenn Berry. Pulling together presentation nights are big team efforts. Also, a big thank-you to members (Content Creators) who have submitted their own videos to the Channel. For those Content Creators who have their own YouTube Channel, a link to their Channel is added in the description of their video submission. This allows NL members and members of the public who are interested, another way to find more content by a Content Creator. It helps to put our members on the YouTube map! Together, may we all grow our Channels with exciting nature content!

*Submitted by* Kathleen Holland, [videos@naturelondon.ca](mailto:videos@naturelondon.ca), @HikingWithKathleen on YouTube

## AWARD 2023-2024

### W.E. SAUNDERS AWARD OF MERIT

Bernie VanDenBelt

## APPOINTMENTS 2023-24

Archivists	Dave & Winifred Wake
AV for Regular Meetings	Glenn Berry
Awards Banquet (AB) Coordinators	<i>vacant</i>
AB Prizes Coordinator	Deb Gorman-Smith
Bird Friendly City Representative	Stacey Jaczko
Birding Wing Program Coordinators	<i>vacant</i>
Book Donations	Betsy Baldwin
Brochure Producer	Ray Robertson
Butterfly Count Coordinator	George Preiksaitis
Cardinal Committee	Muriel Andraea, John Berry, Mike Channon, Carrie Long
Cedarcroft Manager	Barb Kaiser
Chimney Swift Liaison	Winifred Wake
Christmas Bird Count Compiler	Pete Read
Conservation Action Committee Chair	Sandy Levin
Cookie, Coffee & Tea Coordinators	<i>On hold</i>
E-Newsletter Coordinators	Ric & Sandy Symmes
Email Coordinators	Ric & Sandy Symmes
Facebook Coordinator	Mady Hymowitz
Field Trips Coordinator	Evelyn Rogers
Friends of the Coves Representative	Bill Maddeford
Giving Program Coordinator	Grace Edwards
Guide to Natural Areas Editor	Mike Channon
Image Database	John Berry
Indoor Meetings Coordinators	Ruth Dickau, Rick Martin, Glenn Berry
London Environmental Network Rep	Susan Price
Manual Secretary	Cathy Quinlan
Membership Secretary	Gail McNeil



Membership Database Support	Hugh Casbourn
Nature in the City Coordinator	<i>vacant</i>
Ontario Nature Representative	Anita Caveney
Osprey Monitoring Coordinators	Ric & Sandy Symmes
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	Glenn Berry
YouTube Coordinator	Kathleen Holland

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### Awards Committee

Muriel Andreae, Anita Caveney

### Eco-Grants Committee

Carol Agocs, Garry Cruickshank, Jennifer Evans, Susan Hall, Sandy Levin, Lesley Pergau, Susan Relecom, Bernie VanDenBelt

### Finance Committee

Garry Cruickshank, Grant Hopcroft, Sandy Levin, Lesley Pergau, Bernie VanDenBelt, Bob Wright

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

President	Donald Taves
Past President	Gordon Neish
Vice President	Bob Wright
Treasurer	Lesley Pergau
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Bell
Director at Large	Darby Alderson
Director at Large	John Berry
Director at Large	Garry Cruickshank

Director at Large  
Director at Large  
Director at Large  
Director at Large

Jennifer Evans  
Grant Hopcroft  
Stacey Jaczko  
Matthew Palarchio

The Nature London 2023-2024 Annual Report was compiled by Gordon Neish.