



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'd like to welcome everyone to the 2008-2009 season for our Naturalists' Club. Although it's taken us a little while, we have some interesting speakers this season. I hope everyone had a good summer season and I look forward to **hearing** about any trips you have taken. I'll see all of you at the meetings.

Dan Whittam

DRAGONFLIES

Who can imagine a summer or fall without these gems of the landscape?

Dan Whittam is our expert on these lovely creatures, and he has given us this article on identification:

Key to Dragonfly and Damselfly Families

By Dan Whittam (after Walker, 1958)

Wings held flat parallel to resting surface when at rest (to the side of body)

Dragonflies...1

Wings held together over body or only slightly separated while resting

Damselflies...2

1. Dragonflies

Triangles on both wings elongated in the long axis of the wing...2

Triangles of forewings elongated transversely, those of forewings longitudinally...5

2. Larger dragonflies, appearing mostly later in the summer and in to the fall. Eyes meeting in the middle for an appreciable distance. Rectangle (called a pterostigma) on tip of wing with a brace vein close to the body of the dragonfly...Darners (Aeshnidae)

Smaller dragonflies, most appearing early in the spring and summer. Eyes separated or barely meeting in the middle...3

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Midland-Penetanguishene Field
Naturalists Club
Box 393
Midland, Ontario L4R 2J8
www.csolve.net/~mpfnc

President: Dan Whittam
Vice President: David Whitehead
Treasurer: Carolynn Fishleigh
Secretary: Lyn Barnett
Past Presidents: Greg Lutick and
Adrienne Jex



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To study and appreciate nature.
To protect and preserve wildlife and
the environment.
To stimulate public interest in, and
promote protection and
preservation of
nature.*

Schedule



Here are the club meetings for the next period. Check the brochure for more information

PHOTOGRAPHY

Thursday October 23, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
(NOTE SPECIAL DATE)

INVASIVE SPECIES

Thursday November 20, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK AND 109th AUDUBON BIRD COUNT

Saturday December 20, 2008 6:00 p.m.
Register with David Schandlen 526-8320

NATIVE PLANTS

Thursday January 15, 2009 7:30 p.m.

AWENDA PARK

Saturday January 17, 2009

Good news for birds



Last year was the first time in 30 years that **Piping Plovers** successfully nested on the Ontario shoreline of the Great Lakes. This summer plovers nested again, and it's thought that a total of three birds fledged from four nests (two nests at Wasaga Beach, one at Sauble Beach, and one at Oliphant). Hopefully, these little birds are headed south for the winter.



In Ontario, the news of a male Loggerhead Shrike – found tending a nest on the Carden Alvar, near the City of Kawartha Lakes – was celebrated by researchers and conservationists. What makes the observation truly special is that it presents additional tangible evidence for the success of a sophisticated captive-breeding and release program that has been implemented recently to help this endangered songbird in eastern Canada.

This is the third captive-bred shrike so far that has been known to successfully learn to migrate south in the fall, over-winter in the U.S., migrate back north to Ontario, and actually be found again breeding in the wild. With the entire known, wild, breeding population in Ontario now numbering only 20-25 pairs, these results offer hope that the release program can help forestall further declines.



CLUB NEWS

The **June potluck at Tiny Marsh** was a success. A short 45 minute walk at the beginning saw many spring birds such as Grey Catbird and Yellow Warbler still present. I pointed out a few dragonflies such as the dot-tailed whiteface which is a small black dragonfly with a white face and a yellow dot near the end of the abdomen on the male. This dragonfly is a very common one in marshy areas and the dot only becomes distinct when the male insect is mature.

Floyd Tilson showed us pictures on his laptop from the orchid festival including many orchids present there. We had a questionnaire after dinner which we all enjoyed with the usual obscure and not so obscure questions. *Dan Whittam*

On Sept. 20/08, eight members went to Grant's Woods for a walk. We viewed many plants and their different types of berries, which you do not see at other times of the year. A very pleasant outing was enjoyed by everyone. *Sid Hadlington*

Two days Birding in Serbia

I have been to Europe many times, but never on a birding trip. In April 2007, while I was in Belgrade I was determined to change that. I was lucky enough to come across Dragan Simic while surfing the net. Dragan is one of Serbia's top birders, and he agreed to take me out with him for 2 days. He brought along a young man named Marko Rakovic, who proved to be another excellent birder! How lucky for me! I was in good hands. I was staying in Belgrade, so we had to stick to areas accessible from the city. We left at 8 AM each day, and returned after 7 PM. Long days, but very rewarding. We counted 101 species seen or heard in the 2 days. This is a very good count, since I was too late for most land and waterfowl migrants, and too early for some breeding species. By my calculations I saw 81 of those species, with 13 life species for me, a record I cannot surpass for a long time I think! Dragan and Marko were most amiable and knowledgeable birders, and I enjoyed my time with them immensely. I would definitely recommend birding in Serbia, and I hope to go again sometime.

Dorothy Harper

TIP WHILE TRAVELLING ; Look for pamphlets from local field naturalist clubs at Information Centres. Locals can provide priceless info & assistance. *Sid Hadlington*

continued from page 1;

3. Eyes closely approximated or barely meeting. Ovipositor or egg-laying organ extending beyond the end of the abdomen (females). Yellow and black patterned insects occurring near streams...Spiketails (Cordulegastriidae). Eyes widely separated with ovipositor never reaching the end of abdomen (females)...4

4. Abdomen without a club. Grey insects with dark brown markings found near seeps and perching vertically on tree trunks...Petal tails (Petaluridae). Abdomen with a club at the end (sometimes just a small club)...Clubtails (Gomphidae).

5. Smaller yellow and brown insects with a brown stripe on each side of the thorax (neck or middle), frequenting rivers or streams...River Cruisers (Macromiidae). Metallic or colourful insects without a single stripe on side of thorax...6

6. Colouration usually metallic (this is almost always present at least to some extent on the thorax). Anal loop (small loop near base of hind wing) shaped like a foot without a distinct toe...Emeralds of green-eyed skimmers (Corduliidae). Colouration never metallic. Anal loop shaped like a foot or boot with a distinct toe...Common skimmers (Libellulidae).

***Once you become experienced at identifying dragonflies, you will be able to recognize families just by looking at them. The identification of genus and species is a little more involved but if you are interested in this I would suggest a book such as dragonflies through binoculars by Sidney W. Dunkle or the Odonata of Canada and Alaska (three volumes, which include damselflies) by Walker and Corbett. Damselflies are a little more difficult so I'll leave them for a future newsletter.



Financial Report

Income

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Memberships | \$675.00 |
| Festivals, Crafts, Beans | \$152.50 |
| Total | \$827.50 |

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Program Printing | \$49.72 |
| Room Rental | \$450.00 |
| Postage | \$40.95 |
| Bean Supplies | \$108.71 |
| Speaker Gifts & Fees | \$100.00 |
| Total | \$749.38 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Opening Bank Balance Aug 27th | \$2,437.84 |
| Income | \$ 827.50 |
| Expenses | \$749.38 |
| Balance at Sept.23rd,2008 | \$2,515.96 |
| Actual Bank Balance at Sept.23rd | \$2,515.96 |
| Add back float | \$ 70.00 |
| Funds available at Sept.23rd | \$2,585.96 |

Carolynn Fishleigh

SITE 41

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

The development of the landfill has been delayed until next year due to the lack of a permit to take water. The County continues to withhold the Modflow information from the Community Monitoring Committee. The opponents of site 41 are still working to stop it.

For more information visit
www.stopdumpsite41.ca

Related contacts are:
Water Guardians Network
Water Champions



Got your copy on email?

I hope you are enjoying printing out your full-colour copy of the newsletter. Because of email, we can now do this.

We are still looking for members' input for the newsletter. After all, it is yours! Recipes, nature jokes, photos, poems and personal trip reports are most welcome. Or maybe you have something else to contribute. Send it to me, cdharper@xplornet.com, or give it to a Board or committee member. *Dorothy Harper*

Happenings

A lot is going on within the Ontario Nature organization (formerly known as the FON). Go to their web site, www.ontarionature.org to learn about the Latournell symposium, the Carden festival, and new Green Gift ideas.

Read about the Ontario government's landmark commitment to protect over half of Ontario's northern boreal forest. It is the biggest protected areas announcement in Canada's history.

