



# THE WAKE-ROBIN

Newsletter of the  
Sault Naturalists - Ontario and Michigan

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Volume 48, No. 2 - September 2002

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## Meeting Place

Sept.-Nov. Meetings: **Sault, Ontario:** Sugar Shack, 5th Line. Time: 7:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of each month.  
Dec. 2002, Jan.-March, 2003: **Sault, Michigan,** at the Central Methodist United Church, corner of Spruce and Court Streets. Time: 7:30 p.m.

## Addresses for the Sault Naturalists

The Sault Naturalists can be reached at the following postal address. If the outing leaders or committee chairs are unavailable, you may contact Mary to be directed to the proper person:

Sault Naturalists  
P.O. Box 21035  
292 Northern Ave  
P6B 6H3

Mary Ryckman  
194 Old Garden River Rd.  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON.  
P6B 5A6 (705) 253-6352

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## Field Trip Highlights (details pages 5)

- Sept. 7** (Sat., Mich.)- Fall Bird Migration.
- Sept. 8** (Sun., Ont.)- Outdoor- cooking Potluck.
- Sept. 14** (Sat., Ont.)- Hike the Gros Cap area.
- Sept. 21** (Sat., Mich.)- In search of mushrooms.
- Sept. 22** (Sun., Ont.)- Sedges and grasses work shop.
- Sept. 28** (Sat., Mich.)- Bicycle west of Brimley.
- Sept. 29** (Sun Mich.)- Late season flora.
- Oct. 5** (Sat., Ont.)- Uranium mining and the environment.
- Oct. 12** and **Oct. 19**- To be announced.
- Oct. 27** (Sun., Ont.)- Mosses workshop.
- Nov. 2** (Sat., Mich.)- Map orienteering.
- Nov. 9** (Sat., Ont.)-. Hike with Gail.
- Nov. 16** (Sat. Ont.)- Hike the Lonely Lake area.
- Dec. 14** (Sat., Ont. & Mich.)- Christmas Bird Count.
- Dec./Jan.** (Sat.)- Ski, snowshoe or hike.

## Sault Naturalists Website

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/don.hall2/index.html>

If you have any comments suggestions or photos to contribute contact Don Hall at (705) 248-1834.

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## The Border Birder Hotline phone number is:

(705) 256-2790.

Please make sure that, when reporting a sighting - particularly of rare birds, you include your name, phone number, location and date of sighting, the species and number of birds sighted.

Sightings that are unconfirmed, because Bob cannot contact the caller to verify the sighting, will NOT be included in the monthly reports.

## Potpourri

### Current Executive

President.....	Carl Linhart.....	(906) 635- 9891
Vice President.....	Helen Hutchinson.....	(705) 254-3648
Secretary.....	Gordon Van Midde.....	(705) 253 9746
Treasurer.....	Gail Andrew.....	(705) 942-0768
Outings.....	Chuck Bosley.....	(906) 248-3287
	Evelyn Simon.....	(705) 949-8206
Programs.....	Dieter Ropke.....	(705) 942-9636
	John Lehman.....	(906) 635-5095
Bird Observations.....	Bob Knudsen.....	(705) 942-2127
Property.....	Gladys and Cliff Wallwork.....	(705) 779-3098
Membership.....	Ron Prickett.....	(705) 254-1533
Publicity.....	Catherine Lauzon.....	(705) 942-9379
Environmental Action.....	Don Marles.....	(705) 254-6344
Newletter.....	Betty & Gerry Bennett.....	(705) 254-7214
Botanical Records.....	Sue Meades.....	(705) 777-0496
Telephone Convener.....	Mary Ryckman.....	(705) 253-6352
F.O.N. Rep.....	Tony Walker.....	(705) 759-6151
M.A.S. Rep.....	Chuck Bosley.....	(906) 248-3287
Web Page Maintenance.....	Don Hall.....	(705) 248-1834

### Forest Management Concerns?

Are you interested in learning more about forest management in the Algoma forest? Do you have concerns with forest management on crown lands? The Local Citizens Committee (LCC) advises the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources on forest management issues, and the local naturalist community is represented on the LCC.

If you would like to attend an LCC meeting, or have concerns brought forward on your behalf call Don Hall (705-248-1834) or email [don.hall2@sympatico.ca](mailto:don.hall2@sympatico.ca)

### Wanted! Outing Reports

Members look forward to hearing about our outing experiences, especially those members who can no longer participate. You are all invited to contribute outing reports, articles or illustrations for future newsletters. Submissions for the winter/spring newsletter must be received by the November meeting. Contributions may be sent to Gerry or

Betty Bennett, at 123 LaSalle Court, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6B 4R5 or e-mailed to [gbennett1@shaw.ca](mailto:gbennett1@shaw.ca).

### Bird Studies Canada

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) has recently taken responsibility for the Christmas Bird Counts held in Canada. They have an offer for those who wish to join BSC. An annual membership - \$25 Canadian for an individual - not only entitles you to a subscription to their quarterly magazine *Birdwatch Canada*, but also entitles you to participate in several projects, including the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS), Project Feederwatch (PFW), and the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) at no charge.

For more information and application forms, please contact Don Wilshere, CBC compiler, 946-3393, email [dandk.books@sympatico.ca](mailto:dandk.books@sympatico.ca).

## Potpourri (Continued)

### Membership

Ron Prickett is our Membership chairperson. Please send Ron any last minute address changes or questions about dues. Ron's number is (705) 254-1533.

### Invitation to Participate - Algoma Highlands Park Planning Process

I know we are all busy, but the club really should have some input into the park planning process. If we don't participate and the finished plan is not to our liking, do we really have a right to complain?

"The Algoma Headwaters Signature Site includes Algoma Headwaters Provincial Park, the Goulais River Waterway Provincial Park, the Aubinadong-Nushatogaini Waterway Provincial Park, and the Ranger North Conservation Reserve. The area is termed a "distinct natural heritage area" with exceptional scenery, old growth white pine, and outstanding recreational opportunities.

A strategy is being prepared for the site, to guide in the protection and management of resources, visitor use, and overall development. The strategy will lead to a park management plan. Now is the time for

naturalists, and all interested parties to have their say in the planning process.

The five planning stages are:

- 1) July 31 to September 13 - Terms of Reference Posted at <http://www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com/algoma/termsofreference.pdf>.
- 2) Fall/Winter 2002 - Background Information Released - resource inventory, resource data, use patterns.
- 3) Fall/Winter 2002 - Issues and Plan Alternatives document released to outline all possible options for management, protection, and operation.
- 4) Spring/Summer 2003 - Preliminary Strategy Prepared.
- 5) Fall 2003 - Approved Signature Site Strategy will be completed.

For information, to provide input or to have your name placed on the mailing list, contact: Chris Caldwell, Project Manager, Algoma Headwaters Signature Site, Ministry of Natural Resources, 64 Church Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 3H3 Phone (705) 949-1231 ext. 282 Fax (705) 949-6450"

(The above was from an e-mail by Don Hall to all on-line Sault Naturalists. eds)

## Fall and Winter Programme (2002/2003)

**September 10.** Ruth Abbot, local artist and photographer. *Sailing on Lake Superior, a slide-fest.*

**October, 8.** Jim Saunders, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. *Moose Management in Ontario.*

**November 12.** John Lenters, Physics professor, Lake Superior State University (LSSU). *Global Warming and Its Impact on the Great Lakes Region.* Dr. Lenters will present an overview of the global warming problem, along with a specific look at potential impacts on sectors such as health, agriculture, and water resources, with particular emphasis on the Great Lakes region.

**December 10.** A special program to surprise and

delight you as we move into the holiday season.

**January 14.** Marshall Werner, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, LSSU. *The Human Genome Project: Environmental and Social Implications.* Dr. Werner will discuss the science and methodologies behind the Human Genome Project and the impacts of the project on the environment and society.

**February 11. Annual Dinner Meeting. Details to be announced.**

**March 11.** Roger Blanchard, Adjunct Professor, LSSU. *Future Prospects for the Global Oil Supply and the Effect of Oil Production on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.*

## Sault Naturalists - Fall and Winter 2002 Outing Reports

### Red Rock Ski /Snowshoe Outing

On a perfect sunny warm? March 1st, 23 adventure-some naturalists from four to four score enjoyed this spectacular outing. The youngest member gamely snowshoed and when fatigued, hiked via papa's backpack. The snow had finally set up so that skiers



flew, and snowshoers zipped along the Lake Superior shoreline. In the virgin snow otter tracks and many slide tracks were seen-evidence of the fun time the otters had. Lunchtime revelry provided many stories, jokes and puns as we sat around the high bonfire. After lunch many of the group wanted to continue farther along the shore as this was probably the last winter outing of the season. (The following weekend saw the big melt.) After cavorting on the ice piles came the long trek homeward. How come it is so much easier going out on an adventure than in the return?? Many thanks to Jim Miller for a wonderfully planned outing.

By Evelyn Simon

### Cedarville Bird Outing - May 25, 2002

Forecasts of rain and wind could not keep the seven intrepid naturalists from traveling to Cedarville in search of warblers. As it turned out the morning was calm with clear skies, and actually very pleasant despite what was predicted. Chuck, Evelyn, Burt, Roger, Ruth and Rob left the Michigan Visitor's Centre at 7:00 a.m., and met up with Rich in Cedarville. Finally having four people with a first name beginning with 'R' we could finally start birrrrding

Our first stop was made at 8:16 a.m. just east of

McKay's Bay where 25+ (occupied) swallow boxes were out in the wetlands. A **broad-winged hawk** was perched on the power lines, and an **osprey** soared overhead. **Savannah, song, and chipping sparrows** sang from the grasslands nearby.

Next stop was at one of the many coves of Lake Huron along Hwy. 134 where we got our first taste of some warblers.. **Black-throated green, chestnut-sided, and Tennessee** were audible, but no good viewing yet.

When we arrived at the Albany Creek mouth at about 9:10 a.m., Chuck was not certain if the number of warblers he saw the previous day would have remained in the area. However, from the time Roger spotted the **Wilson's warbler**, and for the next two hours we were rewarded with great viewing of **American redstart, bay-breasted, yellow, myrtle, chestnut-sided, blackpoll, magnolia, blackburnian, and Cape May warblers** seen by all. Rob was the only one to see the **Canada warbler**, as was Roger to see a **Connecticut warbler...** but everyone still believed them. Two **American goldfinches** were briefly mistaken for pine warblers. Non-warblers at the site were **gray catbird, house wren, merlin, killdeer, and white-throated sparrow**.

We moved up the road to a picnic area at 11:30 a.m. for lunch, and observed a (legitimate) **pine warbler**. We turned back at this point making a stop at the Gerstucker Trail where a great look at a **black-throated blue warbler** maxed out our warbler count at 21 species. Evelyn found some interesting false morels, and gave us a great recipe for poisoning flies with a milk-based *Amanita* soup.

After an ice cream stop in Cedarville, we made one last excursion to the Hessel area where Chuck had staked out a spot where *Arethusa bulbosa* ("calypso orchid") was growing. Ruth got down and dirty to get the perfect photo of this pretty little flower. Now the weather got ugly, but it was fine with us because we had many Spring sightings to keep us happy. Special thanks to Chuck and Evelyn for organizing a great trip.

By Rob MacIver

Outing reports continued on page 7

## Sault Naturalists - Fall and Winter 2002 Field Trips

Outings may be changed or cancelled for unforeseen reasons. **Please call to register** for the outing with the leader or with the outings committee (Chuck or Evelyn),

**Sat. Sept. 7** (Mich.) M.W.C. 8:00 a.m. *Fall Bird Migration*. Observe the sights and sounds of fall migrating birds along the Michigan northern shore of Lake Huron in the Point Vital, Cedarville, and St. Ignace areas. Bring binoculars and lunch. Leader: Carl Linhart (906) 635-9891.

**Sun. Sept. 8** (Ont.) *Outdoor-cooking Potluck*. Bring along your favorite camping/outdoor dish (or the ingredients, if quick and easy to prepare) and recipe. We feast on the best our members have to offer, and then compile the recipes for all to share. Later in the evening, enjoy stories around the campfire. Meet at the Hall's house near Echo Bay. Call for details. Leaders: Don and Vivian Hall (705) 248-1834.

**Sat Sept. 14** (Ont.) Market Mall 10:00 a.m. *Hike the Gros Cap area*. This is a moderate hike to view fall colours. Wear sturdy boots. Leader: Betty Nassoioy (906) 248-5452.

**Sat Sept. 21** (Mich.) M.W.C. 10:00 a.m. *In search of mushrooms*. Join the "fun guys" exploring and identifying the local mushrooms and "toad stools". Leader: John Lehman (906) 635-5095.

**Sun. Sept. 22** (Ont.) *Sedges and grasses workshop*. Call for time and meeting place. Learn how to identify the local sedges and grasses with our club botanist. Bring along any species you wish to have identified. Leader: Sue Meades (705) 777-0496.

**Sat. Sept. 28** (Mich.) M.W.C. 10:00 a.m. *Bicycle west of Brimley*. The fall colours of the maples should be at their peak along the back roads, making for a spectacular bicycle ride. Leader: Ron Prickett (705) 254-1533.

**Sun. Sept. 29** (Mich.) M.W.C. 10:00 a.m. *Late season flora*. Join Mark, our Michigan Botanist in searching for, and identifying fall plants including sedges and grasses in our area. Leader: Mark Jaunzems, and Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287.

**Sat. Oct. 5** (Ont.) Wellington Square Mall. 8:30 a.m. *The relationship between geology, uranium mining and the environment in the Elliot Lake area*. A fine dinner overlooking beautiful Dunlop Lake is optional. Please call the leader Gerry Bennett (705) 254-7214 no later than Sept. 28.

**Sat. Oct.12 and Sat. Oct. 19**. *To be announced*. Call Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287.

**Sun. Oct.27** (Ont.). *Mosses workshop*. Call for time and place to meet. Join Sue in a class on the Bryophytes (non-vascular plants) in the area. Leader: Sue Meades (705) 777-0496.

**Sat. Nov.2** (Mich.) M.W.C. 10:00 a.m. *Map orienteering*. This is a special outing to provide instruction in map reading with hands-on experience using a G. P. S. and compass. Leaders: David Szlag (906) 253-9150 and Gerry Bennett (705) 254-7214.

**Sat. Nov. 9** (Ont.) Market Mall 10:00 a.m. *Hike with Gail*. A moderate hike. Call for details. Leader: Gail Andrew (705) 942-0768.

**Sat. Nov. 16** (Ont.) Wellington Square Mall 10:00 a.m. *Hike the Lonely Lake area along the Voyageur Trail*. This is a fairly easy hike. Leader: Judy Falkins (705) 942-3749.

**Sat. Dec. 14**. *Christmas Bird Count*. Don Wilshere, compiler for Sault Ste. Marie, has set the date for this year's Christmas Bird Count for Saturday, December 14 (bad weather date will be Sunday the 15th). A potluck will follow at Don and Karen's - 55 Thorneloe Cres., Sault Canada, starting at 5:30 p.m. Those who would like to participate and have not in the past may call Don at (705) 946-3393.

**Saturdays of December and January**. *Ski, snowshoe or hike*, depending on snow conditions. Call any member of the following group if interested in an outing: Ron (705) 254-1533, Evelyn (705) 949-8206, Betty (906) 248-5451 or Chuck. (906) 248-3287.



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### *Field Trip Guidelines*

An outing may be cancelled due to weather or other reasons; so **always phone the trip leader** or a member of the Outings Committee before setting out. Phone numbers are provided with each outing description.

Please remember to dress warmly, especially during our frigid deep-winter weather conditions! Also remember to bring binoculars, notebook, cameras & film, WATER snacks, etc. Remember to bring lunch and plenty of drinking water on day-long excursions.

All field trip leaders are volunteers. Participants do so at their own risk.

Remember the Naturalists' Code: **Take only photographs, leave only footprints.** Leave your pets at home and carry out all of your garbage. Leaders would appreciate no collecting unless by permission. Occasional specimens may be collected by the leader for a scientific record (herbarium collections), but no needless picking is permitted.

If you have questions or need a ride, please call the leader or organizer, whose number is listed with each outing, or call the Outings Committee, Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287 or Evelyn Simon (705) 949-8206. If you do not have a car, there's always room in a car pool; someone in the outings committee will be happy to arrange a ride if you do not know a driver.

#### ***Where we meet:***

**Michigan** - Michigan Welcome Center (M.W.C.)

Follow the blue directional signs immediately south of the bridge toll booths.

**Ontario** - Wellington Sq. Mall - Follow Highway I7 E to the Mall. Turn right into the entry lane. Park between the restaurant and the entrance, facing the latter.

**Ontario** - Zellers Plaza North - Enter A&P/ Zellers Mall (formerly K-Mart Plaza) from Great Northern Road or Northern Avenue. Park west of Pennington's Store.

**Ontario** - Market Mall - Located on Second Line (Hwy 550) at Korah Rd. Meet at the N.W. area by the video store.

**REMEMBER TO BUCKLE UP -" IT'S THE LAW"**

Continued from page 4.

### St Joseph Island Plants

On Sunday, June 9, 2002, Sue Meades led us on a hike to Gravel Point on St. Joseph Island, where we made several stops. In the understorey and edges of a white cedar forest elevated 25 feet above the eastern shore of the island, we saw fringed polygala (*Polygala paucifolia*), a violet flowered member of the Milkwort family that closely resembles an orchid. It is variously known as gaywing, flowering winter-green, and, because it was believed to stimulate milk production of nursing mothers, fringed milkwort. We discerned tiny white flowers belonging to thyme leaved sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), an introduced species. Also noted were buffalo berry (*Shepherdia canadensis*), bear berry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*), and wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia medicalulis*).

Farther into the trees we discovered rare shade loving calypso orchids (*Calypso bulbosa*) growing on a thin limestone-based forest floor. Each plant had one distinctive pleated leaf. Nearby sprouted its companion plant, the green leaved rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*). We also found *Viola labradorica* (Labrador violet), *Viola renifolia* (kidney leaved violet), *Viola pubescens* (downy yellow violet), *Lonicera canadensis* (fly honeysuckle), and *Petasites palmatus* (sweet coltsfoot) that has deeply divided leaves. We also saw *Mitella nuda* (naked mitrewort), *Botrychium virginianum* (rattlesnake fern), and Mnium moss. We descended ten metres or so to the level of the beach, but there wasn't a grain of sand to be seen anywhere: the shoreline was composed exclusively of rocks bearing the remains of ancient crinoids, bryozoans, and ancestral Nautilus.

Upon ascent to our previous level, we heard the song of a Nashville warbler, and distinguished the fossil of a large sea creature imbedded in exposed limestone. We drove a kilometre or so farther along, then stopped to walk, and found cut-leaf anemone (*Anemone multifida*), ragwort (*Senecio*), St. Johnswort (*Hypericum*), blueweed, common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), prickly black currant (*Ribes lacustre*), snakeroot (*Sanicula sp.*), and wolfberry that has oblong leaves (*Symplocarpus alba*). We saw a pin cherry tree in blossom (*Prunus*



*pennsylvanica*), downy dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*), and balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*). We also heard a magnolia warbler's song, and the sounds of a northern flicker. Several kilometres farther, we concluded our hike with a stop at a meadowlike area to exchange glances with blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*), while northern bog violet (*Viola nephrophylla*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), and wild rose (*Rosa acicularis*) all patiently waited to catch our collective attention.

By Joe Benderavage

### Pukaskwa Campout

The Pukaskwa campout weekend planned for June 29-July 1 was actualized on July 6-8th. After many cancellations and conflicts in scheduling, 5 of us in a 2-car tandem, set off from the Sault at 9:00 a.m.; of course, we stopped at Tim's to get fortified with coffee etc. before our long trek. Upon arrival, we were dismayed to see so few campers in the park grounds. Our group settled for 3 campsites next to the Mertensia Trail. Except for one wimp (me) the group tolerated the swarms of biting insects by sitting next to the smoking campfire. I communicated through the net of the screened tent, which Chuck fortunately brought with us. It is surprising how much can be stashed inside a 9' x 12' screened house especially when one morning the bugs were particularly fierce and we ate breakfast inside.

In spite of the mosquitoes etc. we did canoe the coves and hiked various trails in pursuit of our list of plants. Linda our botanist whose thesis is "Botrychiums" was ecstatic with so many species found in Pukaskwa. We often saw Linda's backside up in the air as she was usually ogling her beloved plants. Mark munched his way through the varieties of greenery as he tested the edibility of various interesting looking foodstuffs. Carl kept tabs on the bird species while Chuck kept the party alive with his puns and Evelyn was the *ad hoc* storyteller and camp historian. Gray jays were very bold as they ate out of our hands; the winter wrens were continually serenading us until we almost wished for peace and quiet; thrushes thrilled us with their ethereal songs and loons hollered at us as we canoed the coves.

Our group missed the planned Pukaskwa scheduled park walk as the guide left ahead of time- (we really weren't late!)- so we viewed a video on white-water canoeing. Animals seen were: two cow moose with calves, one cross fox and a lynx. Plants to note: alpine bilberry (*Vaccinium ugliginosum*), rock cranberry (*V. vitis-idaea*), moonwort and grape ferns (*Botrychium* spp.), fragile fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*), lungwort or northern bluebell (*Mertensia paniculata*), lime-crested saxifrage (*Saxifrage aizoon*), pearlwort (*Sagina nodosa*), Franklin's ladyslipper (*Cypripedium passerinum*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) just to name the alpine plants seen. The group wants to thank Chuck for his persistence in locating the *Cypripedium passerinum* when the rest of us were giving up on its existence. An enjoyable outing with good company reduced the sting of the bugs. I survived!

By Evelyn Simon

### Pumpkin Point Aquatic Plants

On August 10, 2002, Sue Meades led us in hot pursuit of aquatic plants. We began in a swampy area at Pumpkin Point lookout, wandering out about 25 metres from the roadway before encountering any water more than ankle deep.

The place was crawling with aquatics. We found water hemlock, with its pinnately compound leaves; blue vervain; and touch me not, known as a folk remedy/antidote for poison ivy rash. Also present were smooth rose, meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*), boneset, and creeping harebells, which has its barbs bent back on its stem. Further along, we saw swamp candle (*Lysimachia terrestris*); American water horehound (*Lycopus americanus*); Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), which often has galls caused by insects; a sedge with dangling pendants; softstem and hardstem bulrushes; and common skullcap, AKA "mad dog" skullcap. Northern white, or Labrador, bedstraw; blue flag iris; and *Verbena* were also visible.

Bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata*), stipitate sedge (*Carex stepata*), smooth bulrush (*Juncus effusus*), water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), woolly grass, of which the fruits are longer than the scales, and young ash trees, were thick as thieves. Thistle, reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and bristly crowfoot

(*Ranunculus pennsylvanicus*) lurked everywhere. Back along the roadside, Canada anemone and wild blue lettuce were found concealed in a ditch.

We traveled from there to Echo Lake dam, accessible only by a rugged washboard dirt road. We ate lunch amidst the agrimony, enchanter's nightshade, common burdock, fringe brome grass (*Bromus ciliatus*), wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), and spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*). But no aquatics; so we thundered back along that alleged road, which skirted the east shore of Echo Lake, to chase those slippery aquatic plants. We had to make many roadside stops en route, to I.D. dogbane, fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), maiden pink (*Dianthus deltoides*), blunt leaf or round leaf dock (*Romex uptisalata*), glaucous white lettuce (*Prenanthes racemosa*); and white lettuce (*Prenanthes alba*) and fringed sedge (*Carex crinita*).

Occasionally we could see the lake, as well as yellow wood sorrel (*Oxalis stricta*), rose twisted stalk, panic grass (*Panicum*), white geum, jewelweed, and enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea quadrisulcata*). A rare sighting of water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle americana*) was made in a damp roadside embankment. Could this be the key to the location of the cagey aquatics? Knotweed (*Polygonum*), pearly everlasting, northern bugleweed (*Lycopus uniflorus*) and *Clintonia* tried to distract us, but to no avail. We were resolute.

At the last minute we burst through the undergrowth and were able to stride to the Echo Lake shoreline, confronting, on their own silt, carpenter's edge (AKA "three edge"); maidenhair (*Myriophyllum*); hardstem bulrush, creeping crowfoot, sweet gale (*Myrica gale*), arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*); a mussel shell; pineappleweed; boneset (*Eupatorium*); white dead nettle; Kalm's or brook Lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*); and knotweed (*Polygonum pennsylvanicum*). They surrendered to our scrutiny without a struggle, and several were taken into custody for further investigation.

By Joe Benderavage





**Sault Naturalists Annual Point Pelee Trip - May 12-16, 2002**

This year's camping trip to Point Pelee National Park was record-breaking in more ways than one: First, it was a banner year for numbers. The official tally for bird species seen by members of the group



was 155! Second, perhaps the largest group (17) of Sault Naturalists attended. Third, it may well have been the coldest and the wettest trip in the entire history of camping.

The good numbers of species were obviously a result of the mixed weather and the greater number of observers. When the weather is warm and sunny, many passerines reach the Point with ease and fly right over. When the weather is cold and rainy, however, the smaller birds consider themselves lucky to have made land and drop, rather tired, on the beach among the delighted birders and photographers.

.A complete list of birds seen by the group is on page 10; however, some birds prompted more smiles and cheers than others. They included: **Louisiana waterthrush**, at the first platform past the park entrance; the **olive-sided flycatcher** that hawked from perch to perch around the campground at Sleepy Hollow; the obliging **red knot** that posed graciously on the east beach at The Tip; the beautiful

black-and-white cross formed by several **red-headed woodpeckers** as they flew around the beach and the trees; the many shorebirds, much less confusing in their full breed-

ing plumage, scattered about several locales; the many hundreds of **common terns** that rose periodically in great wheeling clouds around The Tip; and, of course, the usual plethora of wood warblers, feeding everywhere, unmindful of happy birders pointing and gesturing to each other.

As in other years, there were several species that

seemed to be everywhere: **yellow-rumped warblers** were numerous, of course, and **common terns**, and **house wrens**, and **thrushes** of all kinds, **Baltimore orioles**, **catbirds**, and, surprisingly, more **white-crowned sparrows** than any of us had ever seen in our entire lives! Of course, supplementary fun was provided by the ever-present British birders, identified not only by their strong accents and all-weather jackets, but by their lack of field guides. Also present were the 'twitchers' - communicating by means of radios: "I am just now passing by the north picnic table, heading for the bicycle path ..." and, especially, being very secretive. Photographers were, as usual, in good numbers, carrying equipment that more closely resembled howitzers and mortars than SLR's.

Newcomer to Point Pelee - and champion camper of the entire group - was 8-year-old Ross Aitken, who earned the undying gratitude of his father when he found the **Townsend's solitaire** that had been reported near Sleepy Hollow: "Is that the bird you're looking for over there, Daddy?" As usual, many thanks and kind regards go to Don and Vivian Hall for organizing this trip once again. Remember to call them early to book for next May!



*By Don Wilshere*

Come forth into the  
light of things,  
Let nature be your  
teacher.

*-William Wordsworth (1770-1850)*

## Point Pelee Bird List

### Waterfowl

Common Loon  
D. C. Cormorant  
Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Am. Wigeon  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
N. Shoveler  
Canvasback  
Redhead  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck

### Raptors

Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk

### Grouse, Herons, & Crane

Am. Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Ring-necked Pheasant  
Virginia Rail

American Coot  
Sandhill Crane

### Shorebirds

Black-bellied Plover  
Killdeer  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Willet  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Red Knot  
Sanderling  
Dunlin  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Am. Woodcock

### Gulls and Terns

Little Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Common Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Black Tern

### Passeriformes

Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Common Nighthawk  
Whip-poor-will  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher

### Woodpeckers

Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker

### Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird

### Lark, Pipit & Swallows

Horned Lark  
Am. Pipit  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Barn Swallow

### Corvidae, Nuthatches & Creeper

Blue Jay  
Am. Crow

Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
**Chickadees, Wrens & Mimics**  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher

### Gnatcatcher, Kinglet & Thrushes

Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
Townsend's Solitaire  
Veery

Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Swainson's Thrush  
Hermit Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
Am. Robin

### Starling, Waxwing & Vireos

Eur. Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo

### Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler  
Golden-winged Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Northern Parula Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Cape May Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated

Green Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Black-and-White Warbler  
Am. Redstart  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
Mourning Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Wilson's Warbler  
Canada Warbler  
**Blackbirds, Tanager & Orioles**  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Rusty Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Scarlet Tanager  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
**Cardinal, Grosbeak & Finches**  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Am. Goldfinch  
House Sparrow  
**Emberizids**  
Eastern Towhee  
Am. Tree Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
  
Group total: 155

## Sault Naturalists Membership Form

C/o Ron Prickett, Membership Chairperson, Sault Naturalists; Telephone (705) 254-1533  
 P.O. Box 21035, 292 Northern Ave., Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, P6B 6H3, Canada

### Categories and Fees

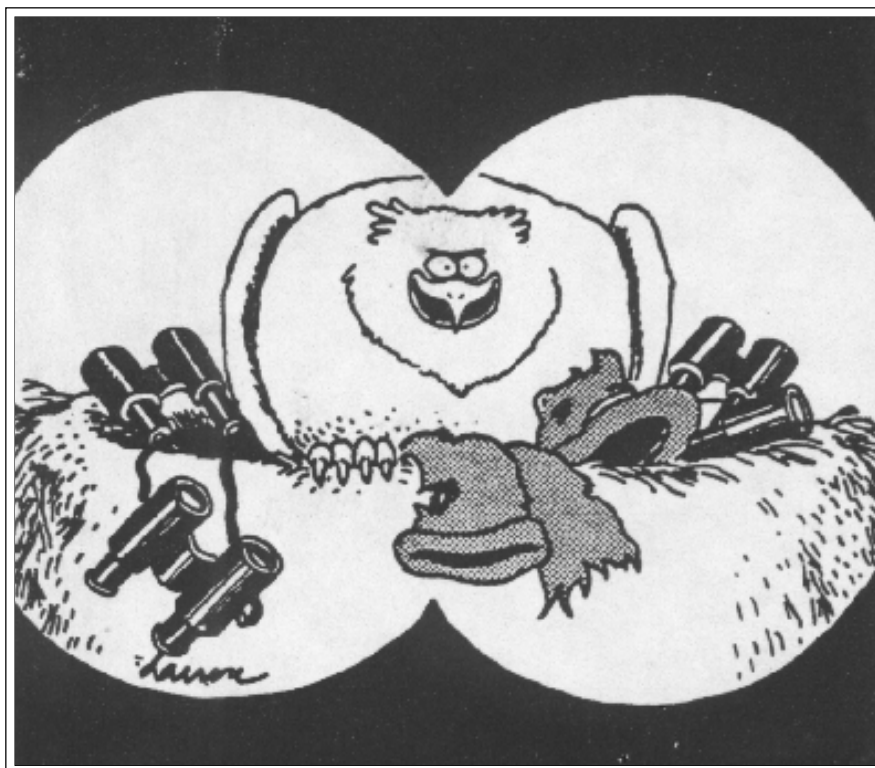
- |                                     |                                  |                          |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal    | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10.00 CD<br>\$ 7.00 US | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | 15.00 CD<br>11.00 US |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Family  | 20.00 CD<br>\$15.00      | <input type="checkbox"/> Life       | \$225.00 CD          |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country & Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

The date on your address label indicates the date on which your membership is due. If you wish to renew, please fill out this membership form and sent it to Ron. If your membership has expired and you do not renew, we will assume that you no longer wish to receive future newsletter or other club information.



Garry Larson

Drawings are from Northwoods Wildlife, Key Porter Books, Trees, Shrubs and Flowers to Know in Ontario, J.M. Dent and Sons.

