



THE WAKE-ROBIN

Newsletter of the
Sault Naturalists - Ontario and Michigan

Volume 49, No. 1 - January 2003

Addresses for the Sault Naturalists

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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	Mary Ryckman
P. O. Box 21035	194 Old Garden River Rd.
292 Northern Ave.	Sault Ste Marie, ON. P6B
Sault Ste Marie	5A6 (705) 253-6352
ON, P6B 6H3	

Annual General Meeting and Dinner February 10, 2003



Notice to all members:

An amendment to the Sault Naturalists constitution will be presented at the Annual Meeting as follows:

Resolved that the word "Chairman" be replaced with the word "Chairperson" wherever found in the constitution.

Further that all gender specific words and phrases be replaced with gender neutral equivalents wherever appropriate.

Example - "Each chairman shall call his committee" will now read "Each Chairperson shall now call His/Her committee" etc.

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
	Dan Schuurman	(705) 759-1147
Bird Observations	Ken McIlwrick	(705) 541-5643
Property	Gladys and Cliff Wallwork	(705) 779-3098
Membership	Ron Prickett	(705) 254-1533
Publicity	Vacant	
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

Sault Naturalists Website

[Http://www3.sympatico.ca/don.hall2/index.html](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.



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.

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.

Contributions may be sent to Gerry and Betty Bennett, at 123 LaSalle Court, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6B 4R5 or e-mailed to gbennett1@shaw.ca.

Sault Naturalists Dinner and Annual General Meeting

When: 6:00 p.m., **Monday**, February 10, 2003

Where: Odd Fellows Temple
124 Dennis St., Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Menu: Roast Beef Dinner with dessert

Price: \$12.00 Can. or \$8.00 U.S.

Speaker: Dr. Michael Doyle. *Scientific Expedition to Namibia (SW Africa).* Dr. Doyle will share with us some of his experiences in Namibia. He will show slides of the landscapes, and the unusual plants and animals of the Namibian Desert, particularly the Skeleton Coast.

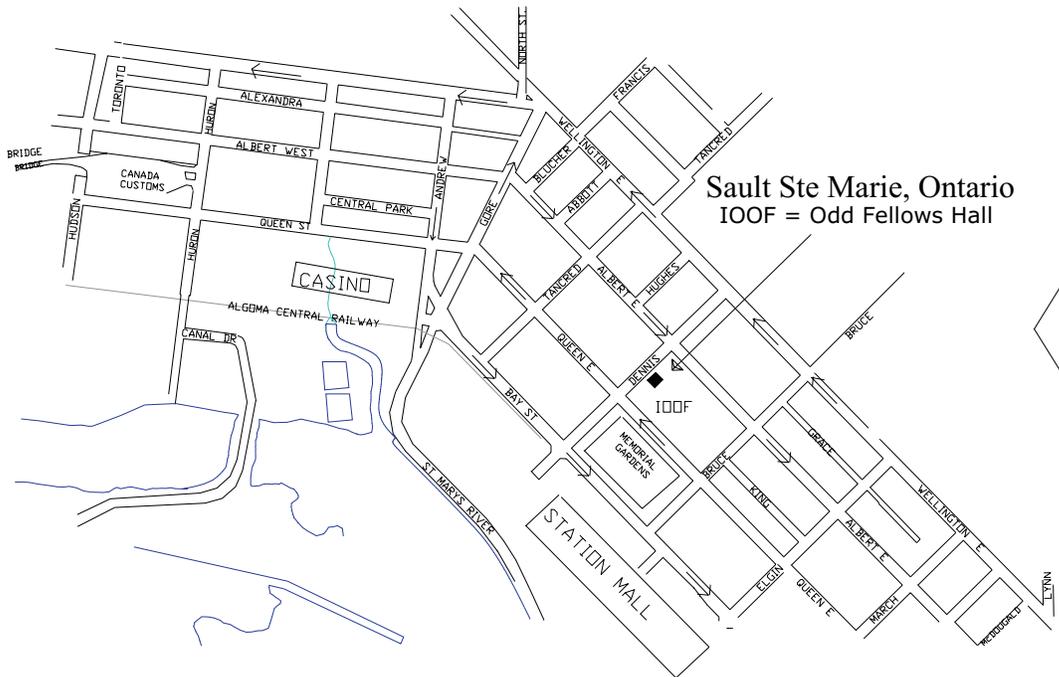
Deadline for ticket sales is Friday, February 7. All tickets must be prepaid. No tickets will be available at the door.

For tickets, please contact:

- John Lehman 906-635-5095
- Carl Linhart 906-635-9891
- Mary Ryckman 705-253-6352
- Dieter Ropke 705-942-9636 (will deliver tickets)
- Jean Cowen 705-254-3643

From the bridge, turn left on Huron S. to Albert S. Turn right on Albert and continue to Dennis S. Turn right on Dennis to IOOF Hall.

Limited parking at rear.



The Border Birder Hotline

Ken McIlwrick is now acting ornithological records chairperson and operator of the birding hotline.

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 Ken cannot contact the caller to verify the sighting, will NOT be included in the monthly reports.

A big thank you to Bob Knudsen for his years of hard work and dedication as Ornithological Records Chairperson and manager of the hotline.

The Border Birder Hotline
phone number is: (705) 256-2790.



Potpourri

Snow Fleas

In February or early March, not all the black flecks on the snow surface are dirt! Some are snow fleas, somersaulting through the air, revelling in the warmth of the lengthening



days. They jump by releasing a fork-like appendage (the furcula) on the underside of their abdomen..

The tiny, bluish-black snow fleas belong to a group of primitive, wingless insects called Collembola or "springtails".

In late winter adult snow fleas move up to the snow surface to graze on algae and fungal spores and to mate. As the snow melts they return to the litter to lay their eggs. The young hatch in late spring, feeding all summer in the litter and maturing in late fall. An important part of the soil community, they shred dead vegetation, helping to build the soil.

So look for them near the base of a tree when you're out on the trails on a warm sunny, late winter day - when the snow is grainy, and the air full of promises of spring!

Betty Bennett

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.

Sault Naturalists – Winter - Spring 2003 Outings

If you want to play in the snow during **January weekends** phone the *weekend ramblers* for details. Outings will depend on snow conditions.

Call: Betty: (906) 248-5451
 Chuck: (906) 248-3287
 Ron: (705) 254-1533
 Evelyn: (705) 949-8206

Sat. Jan. 25 (Mich.) M.W.C. 10:00 a.m. *Celebrate Ev's 50th +?? birthday by skiing the North Country Trail.* **Note:** This is an ungroomed ski trail. Bring hot dogs, etc. to cook over the bon-fire. Call leaders Ev Simon (705) 949-8206 or Chuck (906) 248-3287.

Sat. Feb. 1 (Mich.) M. W. C. 10:00 a.m. *Ski the North Country Trail with Betty.* **Note:** This is an ungroomed ski trail. Call leader Betty Nassoiy at (906) 248-5451.

Sat. Feb. 8 (Ont.) Market Mall 10:00 a.m. *Snowshoe the Gros Cap area with Jim.* Call leader Jim Miller at (705) 254-7494.

Sat. Feb. 15 (Ont.) Market Mall. 10:00 a.m. *Ski the Red Rock area with Ron.* Call leader Ron Prickett at (705) 254-1533.

Sat. Feb. 22. (Ont.) Wellington Sq. Mall. 10:00 a.m. *Ski or snowshoe with Val to the Desbarats bat cave.* Call the leader Val Walker at (705) 253-7044.

Sat. Mar. 1 (Ont.) Market Mall. 10:00 a.m. *A winter ski outing with Ron.* Call the leader Ron Prickett at (705) 254-1533.

Sat. Mar.8 (Mich.) M.W.C. 9:00 a.m. *Ski on one of John's favorite places.* **Note:** This may be an all day outing. Call leader John Lehman at (906) 635-5095.

Sat. Mar 29 (Ont.) Zellers Plaza North 10:00 a.m. *A memorable ski outing along the Red Rock Shore.* Call leader Jim Miller at (705) 254-7494.

Sat. April 5 (Mich.) M.W.C 10:00 a.m. *Ski / snow shoe the Betchler swamp* Call Ev at (705) 949-8206 or Chuck at (906) 248-3287 to check on snow conditions.

Sat. April 19 (Mich.) M.W.C. 10:00 a.m. *Early spring arrivals (flora and/or fauna?).* Call Chuck at (906) 248-3287 or Ev at (705) 949-8206.



Potpourri - (continued from page**Rare Bird List for Northern Ontario**

The following list of rare birds of northern Ontario was submitted for your information by Tracy Latulippe, a habitat specialist with Ducks Unlimited.

Source: Ontario Bird Records Review Committee, 2001 and Bob Knudsen, 2002.

Eared Grebe	Western Grebe	Northern Fulmar Leach's
Storm-Petrel	Northern Gannet	Brown Pelican
Least Bittern	Great Egret	Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron	Tricolored Heron	Cattle Egret
Green Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Black Vulture
Mute Swan	Eurasian Wigeon	Cinnamon Teal
Garganey	Tufted Duck	Harlequin Duck
Barrow's Goldeneye	Swallow-tailed Kite	Swainson's Hawk
Crested Caracara	Greater Prairie-Chicken	Purple Gallinule
Common Moorhen	Black-necked Stilt	American Avocet
Willet	Eskimo Curlew	Western Sandpiper
Little Stint	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Purple Sandpiper (pre1986)
Curlew Sandpiper	Ruff	Long-billed Dowitcher (pre 1981)
Pomarine Jaeger	Laughing Gull	Black-headed Gull
California Gull	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Black-legged Kittiwake
Ross's Gull	Ivory Gull	Black Skimmer
Atlantic Puffin	Band-tailed Pigeon	White-winged Dove
Inca Dove	Common Ground Dove	Groove-billed Ani
Barn Owl	Eastern Screech-Owl	Burrowing Owl
Common Poorwill	Green Violet-ear	Rufous Hummingbird
Lewis's Woodpecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Western Wood-Pewee
Willow Flycatcher	Dusky Flycatcher	Say's Phoebe
Tropical Kingbird	Couch's Kingbird	Western Kingbird (pre 1998)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo	Little Gull	Thayers Gull
Clark's Nutcracker	Violet-green Swallow	Rock Wren
Carolina Wren	Bewick's Wren	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Northern Wheatear	Mountain Bluebird	Townsend's Solitaire (pre 2001)
Varied Thrush (pre 1998)	Sage Thrasher	Sprague's Pipit
Blue-winged Warbler	Yellow-throated Warbler	Kirtland's Warbler
Prairie Warbler	Prothonotary Warbler	Hooded Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat	Summer Tanager	Western Tanager
Eastern Towhee	Spotted Towhee	Cassin's Sparrow
Field Sparrow	Lark Sparrow	Black-throated Sparrow

Lark Bunting	Baird's Sparrow	Grasshopper Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Chestnut-collared Longspur	Northern Cardinal (pre 1998)
Black-headed Grosbeak	Blue Grosbeak	Lazuli Bunting
Painted Bunting	Dickcissel	Great-tailed Grackle
Orchard Oriole	Bullock's Oriole	Scott's Oriole
Brambling	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	House Finch (pre 1995)
Forster's Tern	Franklin's Gull	Golden Eagle
Harris' Sparrow	Pacific Loon	Glossy Ibis
Smith's Longspur	American White Pelican	

Outing Report

A Day at Les Cheneaux

On Saturday September 7, a group of six individuals (Betty and Gerry Bennett, Evelyn Simon, Chuck Bosley, Carl Linhart, and myself) were lead by Carl down to the Les Cheneaux area along Lake Huron. This trip was to be a fall warbler outing but due to heat and a southerly breeze, the emphasis was shifted to botanical concerns. We observed death camas (*Zygadenus* sp.), grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*), nodding ladies tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*), Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), fringed gentian (*Gentiana crinita*), Lake Huron tansy (*Tanacetum huronense*), lance-leaved coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), brook lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*), small-flowered Gerardia (*Gerardia paupercula*), spatulate-leaved and round-leaved sundews (*Drosera intermedia* and *D. rotundifolia*), pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*), and boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*). In terms of birds, we observed horned grebes, common mergansers, a bald eagle, redstarts,

black-throated green warblers and black-throated blue warblers. In total we observed 28 species of birds. To top off the day we had an ice cream stop.

Roger Blanchard



2003 Winter –Spring Programme

Jan. 14. Marshall Werner, Department of Chemistry, LSSU. *The Human Genome Project: Environmental and Social Implications.* Dr. Werner will discuss the science and methodologies behind the Human Genome Project, the environmental and ecological impacts, and the legal and social ramifications of human genome research.

Feb. 10. Annual Dinner Meeting. Michael Doyle, Department of Biology, LSSU. *Scientific Expedition to Namibia (SW Africa).* Dr. Doyle will share some of his experiences in Namibia, with slides of the landscapes and the unusual plants and animals, of the Namibian Desert and particularly the Skeleton Coast.

March 11. Roger Blanchard, Department of Chemistry, LSSU. *The Future Prospects for the Global Oil Supply and the Effect of Oil Production on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.* Dr. Blanchard's presentation will assess the global oil supply situation and look

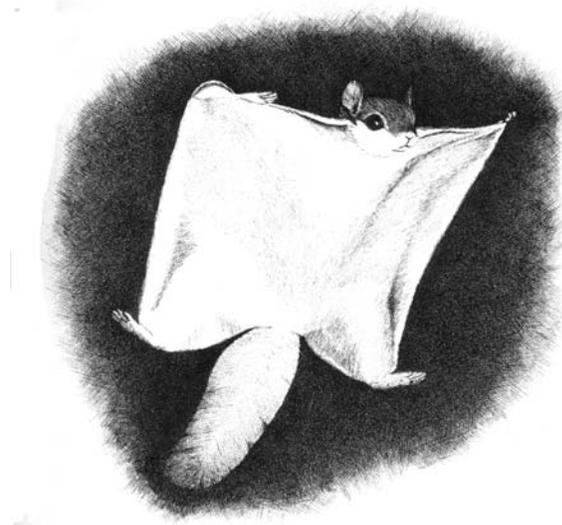


at the debate within the U.S. concerning oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

April 8. Barbara Keller, Department of Chemistry, LSSU. *Environmental analysis at Lake Superior State University.* Dr. Keller will describe the analytical capabilities available at LSSU, and then lead a tour of the labs to see the analytical instruments and explain how they operate. **Note: Meeting place: top (third) floor Crawford Hall at LSSU.**

May 6. Joe Sniezek, Manager of long-range planning, City of Sault Ste. Marie. *Recreational trails in Sault Ste. Marie and other northern cities.*

June 10. Tom Weise, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. *Wolves in the eastern U. P.*



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 \$ 7.00 US	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	15.00 CD 11.00 US
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	20.00 CD \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$225.00 CD

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country & Code: _____ Telephone _____

**The year on your address label indicates the year of paid-up membership.
The membership year is from January to December.**

Meetings

Time: 7:30 p.m, 2nd Tuesday of each month, except May (1st Tuesday)

Place: Sault Ontario, Sugar Shack, 5th Line

Sault Michigan, Central Methodist United Church, Corner of Spruce and
Court St.

Schedule:

Dec. Jan '03	Central Methodist-United Church
Feb. '03 (Monday)	Odd Fellows Hall, Sault, Ont. (Annual Dinner Meeting)
Mar. '03	Central Methodist United Church
April '03	3rd. Floor, Crawford Hall of Science, LSSU
May & June '03	Sugar Shack
Sept. - Nov. '03	Sugar Shack

Drawings by Howard Coneybear from
Mammals of Algonquin Provincial Park,
Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario
(1983).