

WILDLIFE
OBSERVATIONS AT
THE FLETCHER
WILDLIFE GARDEN
IN 2006

Christine Hanrahan

ARACHNIDS OF FWG - 2006

ARACHNIDA

ARANEIDAE

Araneus marmoreus

Argiope aurantia

LINYPHIIDAE

Helophora sp.?

PHALANGIDAE

Phalangid sp.

PISAURIDAE

Pisaurina sp.

SALTICIDAE

Eris militaris

TETRAGNATHIDAE

Tetragnatha sp.

THERIDIIDAE

Theridion sp.?

THOMISIDAE

Misumena vatia

SPIDERS, MITES, TICKS

ORB WEAVERS

Marbled Orb Weaver

Black and Yellow Argiope

SHEET-WEB WEAVERS AND DWARF SPIDERS

HARVESTMEN

NURSERY WEB SPIDERS AND FISHING SPIDERS

JUMPING SPIDERS

LONG-JAWED ORB WEAVERS

COBWEB WEAVERS

CRAB SPIDERS

Goldenrod Spider

BIRDS OF THE FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN-2006

ANATIDAE

Branta canadensis

Aix sponsa

Anas rubripes

Anas platyrhynchos

ARDEIDAE

Ardea herodias

Ardea alba

Butorides virescens

ACCIPITRIDAE

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Accipiter striatus

Accipiter cooperii

Buteo jamaicensis

DUCKS

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

American Black Duck

Mallard

HERONS

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Green heron

HAWKS

Bald Eagle

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Cooper's Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

FALCONIDAE

Falco sparverius

SCOLOPACIDAE

Charadrius vociferus

Gallinago gallinago

LARIDAE

Larus delawarensis

Larus marinus

COLUMBIDAE

Columba livia

Zenaidura macroura

FALCONS

American Kestrel

SHOREBIRDS

Killdeer

Common Snipe (unverified observation)

GULLS

Ring-billed Gull

Great Black-backed Gull

DOVES

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove

STRIGIDAE

Bubo virginianus
Strix varia
Aegolius acadicus

TROCHILIDAE

Archilochus colubris

ALCEDINIDAE

Ceryle alcyon

PICIDAE

Sphyrapicus varius
Picoides pubescens
Picoides villosus
Colaptes auratus
Dryocopus pileatus

TYRANNIDAE

Contopus virens
Empidonax minimus
Sayornis phoebe
Myiarchus crinitus
Tyrannus tyrannus

LANIIDAE

Lanius excubitor

VIREONIDAE

Vireo solitarius
Vireo gilvus
Vireo olivaceus

CORVIDAE

Cyanocitta cristata
Corvus brachyrhynchos
Corvus corax

HIRUNDINIDAE

Tachycineta bicolor
Hirundo rustica

PARIDAE

Poecile atricappilus

SITTIDAE

Sitta canadensis
Sitta carolinensis

OWLS

Great Horned Owl
 Barred owl
 Northern Saw-whet Owl

HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated
 Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker

FLYCATCHERS

Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Kingbird

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike

VIREOS

Blue-headed Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo

JAYS AND CROWS

Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Common Raven

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallow
 Barn Swallow

CHICKADEES

Black-capped Chickadee

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch

CERTHIIDAE

Certhia americana

REGULIDAE

Regulus satrapa
Regulus calendula

TURDIDAE

Catharus fuscescens
Catharus guttatus
Turdus migratorius

MIMIDAE

Dumetella carolinensis
Mimus polyglottus

STURNIDAE

Sturnus vulgaris

BOMBYCILLIDAE

Bombycilla cedrorum

PARULIDAE

Vermivora peregrina
Vermivora ruficapilla
Parula americana
Dendroica petechia
Dendroica pensylvanica
Dendroica magnolia
Dendroica caerulescens

Dendroica coronata
Dendroica virens

Dendroica fusca
Dendroica castanea
Dendroica striata
Mniotilta varia
Setophaga ruticilla
Seiurus aurocapilla
Seiurus noveboracensis
Oporornis philadelphia
Geothlypis trichas
Wilsonia canadensis

EMBERIZIDAE

Pipilo erythrophthalmus
Spizella arborea
Spizella passerina
Passerella iliaca

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES

Veery
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin

**MOCKINGBIRDS,
THRASHERS**

Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird

STARLINGS

European Starling

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing

WOOD-WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Black-throated Blue
 Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Green
 Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart
 Ovenbird
 Northern Waterthrush
 Mourning Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Canada Warbler

SPARROWS

Eastern Towhee
 American Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow

<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-throated Sparrow
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco

CARDINALIDAE	CARDINALS
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak

ICTERIDAE	BLACKBIRDS
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole

FRINGILLIDAE	FINCHES
<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	Pine Grosbeak
<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Purple Finch
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American Goldfinch

BUTTERFLIES OF FWG - 2006

Hesperiidae
Ancyloxypha numitor
Thymelicus lineola
Polites peckius
Polites mystic
Poanes hobomok
Euphyes vestris

PAPILIONIDAE
Papilio polyxenes
Papilio canadensis

PIERIDAE
Pieris rapae
Collas philodice

LYCAENIDAE
Satyrium calanus
Satyrium liparops
Everes comyntas
Celastrina ladon
Glaucopsyche lygdamus
Celastrina neglecta

NYMPHALIDAE

Skippers
Least Skipper
European Skipper
Peck's Skipper
Long-dash Skipper
Hobomok Skipper
Dun Skipper

Swallowtails
Black Swallowtail
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail

Whites and Sulphurs
Cabbage White
Clouded Sulphur

Gossamer-winged Butterflies
Banded Hairstreak
Striped Hairstreak
Eastern Tailed Blue
Spring Azure
Silvery Blue
Summer Azure

Brush-footed Butterflies

Speyeria cybele
Phyciodes tharos
Phyciodes cocyta
Nymphalis vaualbum
Nymphalis antiopa
Nymphalis milberti
Limenitis arthemis
Limenitis archippus
Megisto cymela
Coenonympha tullia
Cercyonis pegala
Danaus plexippus

Great Spangled Fritillary
 Pearl Crescent
 Northern Crescent
 Compton Tortoiseshell
 Mourning Cloak
 Milbert's Tortoiseshell
 White Admiral
 Viceroy
 Little Wood Satyr
 Common Ringlet
 Common Wood-nymph
 Monarch

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF FWG - 2006

TOADS AND FROGS

<i>Bufo americanus</i>	American Toad
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Gray Treefrog
<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Wood Frog
<i>Rana clamitans</i>	Green Frog

TURTLES

<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Snapping Turtle
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Midland Painted Turtle
<i>Emydoidea blandingi</i>	Blanding's Turtle

INSECTS FOUND AT FWG (EXCLUDING LEPIDOPTERA) - 2006

* = non-native species

EPHEMEROPTERA

Ephemeroptera sp.

MAYFLIES

Mayfly

ODONATA
 Suborder Zygoptera
Lestidae
Lestes rectangularis

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES
Damselflies
Spreadwings
 Slender Spreadwing

Coenagrionidae
Enallagma sp.
Ischnura verticalis

Pond Damsels
 Bluet Sp.
 Eastern Forktail

Suborder Anisoptera
Aeshnidae
Aeshna canadensis
Anax Junius

Dragonflies
Darners
 Canada Darner
 Common Green Darner

Libellulidae
Libellula julia

Skimmers
 Chalk-fronted Corporal

Libellula luctuosa
Libellula pulchella
Sympetrum vicinum

Widow Skimmer
Twelve-spotted Skimmer
Yellow-legged Meadowhawk

MANTODEA

**Mantis religiosa*

MANTIDS

European Mantis

ORTHOPTERA

Orthoptera, many species

GRASSHOPPERS, CRICKETS, AND KATYDIDS

Grasshoppers

Gryllidae

Gryllus pennsylvanicus
Oecanthus sp.
Tettigoniidae
Scudderia sp?

House and Field Crickets

Field Cricket
Tree Cricket
Shield-Backed Grasshoppers and their Relatives
Bush Katydid

HEMIPTERA

Aphidae

**Aphis nerii*
Aphid sp.

TRUE BUGS

Aphids

Oleander Aphid
Aphid

Belostomatidae

Belostomatidae sp.

Giant Water Bugs

Giant Water Bug

Cercopidae

**Philaneus spumarius* (?)

Spittlebugs

Meadow Spittlebug

Cicadidae

Tibicen sp.

Cicadas

Cicada

Cicadellidae

Cicadeliidae sp.
Graphocephala coccinea

Leafhoppers

Leafhopper
Leafhopper

Lygaeidae

Oncopeltus fasciatus

Seed Bugs

Large Milkweed Bug

Membracidae

Ceresa alta

Treehoppers

Buffalo Treehopper

Miridae

Miris dolabratus
Neurocolpus nubilus

Plant Bugs

Meadow Plant Bug
Plant Bug

Nepidae

Ranatra sp.

Water Scorpions

Water Scorpion

Notonectidae

Notonecta sp.

Backswimmers

Backswimmer

Pentatomidae

Pentatomid sp.

Stink Bugs

Stink Bug

Phymatidae
Phymatidae sp.

Ambush bugs
Ambush Bug

NEUROPTERA
Chrysopidae
Chrysoperla plorabunda

NERVE-WINGED INSECTS
Green Lacewings
Common Green Lacewing

COLEOPTERA
Cantharidae
Chauliognathus pensylvanicus
Cantharis rotundicollis
Cerambycidae
Megacyllene robiniae

BEE TL ES
Soldier Beetles
Pennsylvania Leatherwing
Soldier Beetle
Long-horned Beetles
Locust Borer

Cicindelidae
Cicindelidae sp.

Tiger Beetles
Tiger Beetle

Chrysomelidae
Chrysocus auratus
Deloyala guttata ?
Diabrotica barberi
**Galerucella* sp.
Lema daturaphila
Trirhabda canadensis

Leaf Beetles
Dogbane Beetle
Tortoise Beetle
Northern Corn Rootworm
Loosestrife Leaf Beetle
Three-lined Potato Beetle
Goldenrod Leaf Beetle

Coccinellidae
Brachiacantha ursina
Coleomegilla maculata
**Coccinella septempunctata*
**Harmonia axyridis*
**Hippodamia variegata*

Lady Beetles
Lady Beetle
Spotted Lady Beetle
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle
Asian Lady Beetle
Variegated Lady beetle

Curculionidae
Curculionid sp.

Weevils
Weevil

Lampyridae
Photinus sp.

Fire Flies
Firefly

Meloidae
Epicauta fabricii?

Blister Beetles
Blister Beetle sp.

Scarabaeidae
Macroductylus subspinosus
Phyllophaga sp.
**Popillia Japonica*

Scarab Beetles
Rose Chafer
June Bug
Japanese Beetle

DIPTERA
Agromyzidae
Agromyzidae, several species

FLIES
Leaf-mining Flies
Leaf-miners

Asilidae
Asilidae sp.

Robber flies
Robber Fly

Cecidomyiidae

Cecidomyiidae, several sp.
Rhopalomyia solidaginis
Schizomyia impatiens

Gall Midges

Gall Midges
 Goldenrod Gall Midge
 Jewelweed Gall Midge

Chironimidae

Chironimidae, several species

Midges

Midges

Culicidae

Anopheles sp.

Mosquitoes

Mosquito

Muscidae

Muscina assimilis

Muscid Flies

Muscoid Fly

Syrphidae

Eristalis sp.
Sphaerophoria sp. (?)
Spilomyia sayi
Temnostoma alternans
Toxomerus germinatus
Toxomerus marginatus

Flower Flies or Hover Flies

Syrphid Fly
 Syrphid Fly
 Syrphid Fly
 Syrphid Fly
 Syrphid Fly
 Syrphid Fly

Tephritidae

Eurosta solidaginis

Fruit Flies

Goldenrod Gall Fly

Tipulidae

Tipulid spp.

Crane Flies

Crane Flies

HYMENOPTERA**Apidae**

Apis mellifera
Bombus sp.
Bombus impatiens
Bombus ternarius

SAWFLIES, WASPS, BEES AND ANTS**Bumble bees, Honey bees**

Honey bee
 Bumble bee
 Bumble Bee
 Bumble Bee

Braconidae

Braconidae 2 spp.

Braconid Wasps

Braconid Wasps

Cynipidae

Diplolepis rosae

Gall Wasps

Rose Gall Wasp

Formicidae

Formicidae spp.

Ants

Ants

Halictidae

Agapostemon sp.

Sweat Bees and their Relatives

Sweat bee

Ichneumonidae

Ichneumonid sp.

Ichneumonid Wasps

Ichneumonid Wasp

Sphecidae

Sceliphron caementarium

Thread-waisted Wasps

Mud Dauber

<i>Sphex pensylvanicus</i>	Great Black Wasp
Tenthredinidae	Common sawflies
* <i>Arge ochropa</i>	Imported Rose Sawfly
Vespidae	Yellowjackets, Hornets and their Relatives
<i>Dolichovespula maculata</i>	Bald-faced Hornet
<i>Eumenes</i> spp.	Potter Wasps
* <i>Polistes dominula</i>	Paper Wasp
<i>Polistes fuscatus</i>	Paper Wasp
<i>Vespula maculifrons</i>	Eastern Yellowjacket

MAMMALS OF FWG - 2006

<i>Condylura cristata</i>	Star-nosed Mole
<i>Marmota monax</i>	Groundhog
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Meadow Vole
<i>Mustela vison</i>	Mink
<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Muskrat
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Deer Mouse
<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	White-footed Mouse
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Grey Squirrel
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Eastern Cottontail
<i>Tamias striatus</i>	Eastern Chipmunk
<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Red Squirrel
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox

MOTHS OF THE FWG- 2006

* = Non-native species

SPHINGIDAE

<i>Hemaris thysbe</i>	Hummingbird Moth
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GEOMETRIDAE

<i>Haematopis grataria</i>	Chickweed Geometer
<i>Heterophleps triguttaria</i>	Three-spotted Fillip
<i>Synchlora aerata</i>	Wavy-lined Emerald
<i>Tetracis cachexiata</i>	White Slant-line
<i>Trichodezia albivittata</i>	White Striped Black
<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet

ARCTIIDAE

<i>Cisseps fulvicollis</i>	Yellow-collared Scape Moth
<i>Ctenucha virginica</i>	Ctenucha moth
<i>Haploa confusa</i>	Confused Haploa
<i>Pyrrharctia isabella</i>	Isabella Tiger Moth (Woolly Bear)
<i>Spilosoma virginica</i>	Virginia Tiger Moth

NOCTUIDAE

<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Black Cutworm Moth
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<i>Amphipoea interoceanica</i>	Ear Moth
<i>Amphipyra pyramidoides</i>	Copper Underwing
<i>Caenurgina crassiuscula</i>	Clover Looper Moth
* <i>Calophasia lunula</i>	Toadflax Brocade
<i>Catocala amatrix</i>	Sweetheart Underwing
<i>Cucullia convexipennis</i>	Brown-hooded Owlet
<i>Euclidea cuspidata</i>	Toothed Sombre-wing
<i>Feltia tricosa</i>	Tricose Dart
<i>Idea aemula</i>	Common Idia
<i>Lacinipolia renigera</i>	Bristly Cutworm Moth
<i>Lascoria ambigualis</i>	Ambiguous Moth
* <i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing
<i>Palthis angulalis</i>	Dark-spotted Palthis
<i>Rivula propinqualis</i>	Spotted Grass Moth
<i>Schinia florida</i>	Primrose Moth

PYRALIDAE

<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>	European corn borer
<i>Synclita oblitalis</i>	

PTEROPHORIDAE

<i>Pterophoridae</i> sp	Plume moth
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PSYCHIDAE

* <i>Psyche casta</i>	Bagworm Moth
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TORTRICIDAE

<i>Sparganothis pettitana</i>	Maple Basswood Leaf-roller
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WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS - WINTER -2006

Birds

The Red-tailed Hawk, present around the farm since mid-July 2005, continues to be seen regularly as of this writing (early February). Cooper's Hawk nested in the Arboretum in 2001 and have been consistently seen around the farm and the FWG ever since. This past fall and winter they have been particularly noticeable.

A Northern Shrike was spotted in early February.

Several Pine Grosbeaks were found feeding on crabapples on December 7th. The last time I saw this species at FWG was the winter of 1994. Small flocks of Pine Grosbeaks continue to be seen occasionally in the Arboretum. Also in late January, approximately 8 robins were found. A White-throated Sparrow has stuck around the BYG since fall and can be found almost daily feeding with the House Sparrows. A second White-throated Sparrow was present in early January for awhile.

Other Fauna

After an absence of more than a year, it seems that foxes have returned to the farm. The winter of

2004-2005 was characterized by a dearth of fox sightings or signs (scat, tracks), while the den sites were all quiet. In late fall 2005 a couple of reports came in from people who thought they'd seen a fox around the fields but neither report was verifiable. When the first snow came I went down to the pond to look for tracks and found one set of what could only be fox tracks. Cause for hope! I checked the farm fields frequently and found only occasional sets of tracks, but one day in mid-January I finally saw a very healthy looking fox outside one of the traditional den sites! If all goes well we may be lucky enough to see this animal on a more regular basis again. And perhaps our rabbit population will return to some sort of balance!

WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS - SPRING 2006

Birds

By 10th March Red-winged Blackbirds were back and by early April crows could be seen carrying nesting material, House Sparrows and starlings were feeding young, and Killdeer, Canada Geese, Common Grackles, Song Sparrows and American Robins were found in good numbers. A pair of kestrels once again arrived at the red barn and hung around for some weeks in the large trees just south of the building. However, by late April they had vanished and the only birds seen coming out of the kestrel nest box were starlings. Tree Swallows arrived at FWG on 5th April, but their numbers didn't increase substantially for another week.. At the time of writing (mid-May) many have claimed nest boxes around the garden and are busy mating and building nests. From mid-April on it was easy to see new arrivals almost daily. By the time International Migratory Bird Day rolled around on the second Saturday in May (as usual), many warblers had arrived including Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Nashville Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler. All of these plus a Great Egret flying over the garden were found on the guided birding walk led by Peter Fuller that day. A Northern Mockingbird was found next to the Interpretive Centre on 24th April, and on 25th April a new bird for the FWG list was found by Gretchen Denton, an Eastern Towhee (Rufous-sided Towhee) bringing the total number of species to 128. A pair of Green Herons arrived back in early May, checking out their 2004 nest site. As I write, there are still lots of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and a host of other birds around the garden. None of these will nest at FWG, but it is always a treat to see them.

Other Fauna

A large Blanding's Turtle was observed basking on a hummock of dried cattails in the pond on the morning of 10th April. It has been at least 7 or 8 years since we last saw one. A few weeks later, a Painted Turtle appeared, possibly the same one that was around last year. Over near the Ash Woods a Snapping Turtle was attempting to lay eggs, but we're not sure if she was successful. A few Wood Frogs began calling in mid-April but the full chorus didn't occur until later in the month. Green Frogs were heard in late April and American Toads and Gray Treefrogs by early May.

Raccoons may be more common at FWG than we know, but if so, we rarely see them. However, I did spot one curled up high in the branches of an Amur Corktree in the Ravine. Foxes are back at their usual den site on the farm, although no sign of any young yet. We're hoping that if the

fox population is restored, they will control the small rodents, bringing them down to a more acceptable level.

Groundhogs are scarce at FWG, though not on the farm. One is living in a well hidden spot at present. Apart from a higher than usual number of chipmunks this spring and the regular complement of Red Squirrels and Gray Squirrels, the only other mammal to report on is the muskrat which still seems to find our pond to its liking. Muskrats relish the roots of cattails and it may be that this animal is responsible for the cat-tail die-back we've noticed lately (not that we are complaining). Last summer the muskrat was also eating Flowering Rush roots.

A Compton Tortoiseshell was the first butterfly of the season, found in the Ash Woods in early April. This large, attractive species overwinters as an adult and like the more familiar Mourning Cloak, can be found on warm days of early spring flitting through the woods. A few Mourning Cloaks, Cabbage Whites, and Spring Azures are the only other species found to date.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS - SUMMER 2006

Birds

Green Herons were present almost daily from early May onwards. Although they didn't nest in the garden, they apparently did so near Hartwell Locks. One day in early July they arrived at the pond with three youngsters in tow! For about 9 days all five were easily observed as they hung out at the pond putting a dent in the frog population. For awhile two green herons were seen in the company of an adult Black-crowned Night Heron near the Rideau Canal.

American Kestrels brought their youngster to feed at the FWG, although they didn't nest at the garden this year.

Red-winged Blackbirds had about 5 active nests. I watched females several times carry nesting material to the pond and unable to find a nest site, drop the material and fly off. Also fewer in number this year were Tree Swallows. In early July I did a quick check of about 12 boxes near the pond and found that many had either no nest or a partly built nest. Unusually, 5 pairs of swallows were late nesters, still sitting on eggs or feeding young in the box in early August, long after other swallows had nested and left the garden. I usually clean the boxes in the fall and will have a full report for the next update. By the time of writing, mid- August, there were still a few tree swallows around, joined occasionally by several Barn Swallows.

We have just updated our FWG Bird List which now stands at 131 species. Copies are available from the Interpretive Centre.

Other Fauna

It has been a remarkable year for butterflies in the region, and no less so at FWG. For the first time in several years we saw



Female Black Swallowtail

good numbers of Common Ringlets and Least Skippers, as well as Silvery Blues. Clouded Sulphurs, however, continue to be seen infrequently. Monarch butterflies are probably the stars of the butterfly world in any year, but particularly in 2006 when they were easily the most common species found. They arrived in early June and their numbers built until at least a dozen, sometimes far more, could be seen on any given day at FWG. They were observed laying eggs on both milkweed and its close relative, Pale Swallowwort. Quite a large number of Monarch caterpillars were also found. The first Eastern-tailed Blue for 2006 at FWG was found by Diane Lepage in mid-June near the Butterfly Meadow. A few weeks later I found one in the New Woods and after that we saw them often. On 7th August Diane saw 4 in the Butterfly Meadow. A female Black Swallowtail with a stunning brilliant blue band on the tail was found in late July. It is highly unusual to see such an extreme band of colour on the female. More typical but no less striking was a second female Black Swallowtail that hung around for a day or so before vanishing. Males of the species were very common at the garden through to the time of writing (mid-August). Other species found included Hobomok Skipper, Long-dash Skipper, Peck's Skipper, European Skipper, Dun Skipper, Banded Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak, Great Spangled Fritillary, Northern Crescent, and Little Wood Satyr, White Admiral, Viceroy, and Milbert's Tortoiseshell.

Eastern Forktail damselflies were common at the garden, along with scores of Bluet species, Slender Spreadwings, Twelve-spotted Skimmers and Widow Skimmers. Canada Darners began to appear all around the garden in July. Other insects included Pennsylvania Leatherwings, Ambush Bugs, Large Red Milkweed Beetles, Milkweed Bugs, Japanese Beetles by the hundreds, various plant bugs (Miridae), scores of lady beetles including the introduced 7-spotted and Asian Lady Beetles, the native Spotted Lady Beetle, and the minute *Brachiacantha ursina*. Cicadas began calling several weeks earlier than their usual 'start-up date' of early August.

Moths were also abundant. Hummingbird Moths (Hummingbird Clearwings) were very common. When the Evening Primrose bloomed, one small strikingly pink Primrose Moth was found. Diane Lepage and I set up a sheet with a black light to look for moths one night, and added a number of species to the FWG moth list.

Frogs continue to do well in our pond and we saw and heard good numbers of the regular breeding species: Wood Frogs, American Toads, Green Frogs, and Gray Treefrogs. The Blanding's Turtle found in the spring had either left or was lying low (as this species is wont to do once summer arrives) because it was not seen again, but a Painted Turtle was noted occasionally throughout the summer months.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS - FALL 2006

Birds

Cleaning out of the nest boxes in August revealed that many nests were poorly constructed with a paucity of nest material. Unusually, a number of Tree Swallows nested quite late, with young

still being fed in the boxes by the end of the first week in August, after the majority of swallows had left the garden. Thirty-eight nest boxes were checked, and 14 were successfully used by Tree Swallows. House Sparrows nested in five of the boxes, while others were unused or were unsuccessfully used. A complete copy of the nest box report can be found at http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/our_animals/bird-boxes2006.php

The saga of Box 8-98: this box sits amidst a thick patch of wild raspberry and goldenrod and is reasonably well protected from human intrusion. Perhaps because of this, it proved to be a very popular spot. It was first used by a pair of Tree Swallows who successfully raised a brood there. Once they left, a family of red squirrels moved in sharing quarters with two Gray Treefrogs. I didn't clean out the box in August because of all the activity, but in October, I decided to have a quick check. Inside was a beautifully formed Tree Swallow nest, the best of the bunch for 2006. On top of the nest was a tangle of fine grasses indicating some other occupant had taken possession. Sure enough, gentle prodding produced a White-footed Mouse who popped out and stared at me for about 10 seconds until I closed the box and retreated.

Several interesting observations included a Northern Saw-whet Owl on October 18, and two sightings of a Barred Owl by Marilyn Ward, also in October.

September saw a good variety of warblers, primarily in the Ash Woods, including a number of Black-throated Blue Warblers. Later, a Common Snipe was reported to David Hobden, but we were unable to verify the ID. Small numbers of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows arrived in early fall, Song Sparrows stayed around until mid-October, and a few Tree Sparrows were noted in late October, otherwise there were few sparrows around. A Red-tailed Hawk, first spotted in late summer, has been seen regularly around the Arboretum and FWG, and was still present in November. This species has been commonly found around the CEF for the last 6 or 7 years, usually in winter, but sometimes from summer right through to spring.

Other Fauna

The last Monarch Butterfly I saw at FWG, was on October 16 in the BYG, nectaring on remaining Phlox blossoms. Eastern Tailed Blues were found right through until September 15, although I continued to see the occasional one on the CEF through to about October 7. Cabbage Whites and Clouded Sulphurs were still present in early October.

Early fall was the time to find good numbers of the brilliant, metallic green Sweat Bees (Halictids), nectaring with many syrphids (Flower Flies or Hover Flies) and various wasps and bees on goldenrod and aster. They are present much of the summer but seem more common by fall. *Polistes dominula* wasps built a 'highrise' nest structure in the posts holding the Bill Holland sign near the Centre.

Red squirrel numbers appear to have increased dramatically at FWG in recent years. Little wonder when you consider the ample food supply, safe denning and nesting sites and few predators. Both Gray and Red Squirrels enjoy walnuts and thanks to the quantities dispersed and buried primarily by Gray Squirrels, the number of Black Walnut trees at FWG has doubled. Annie Belair did a survey in the summer, and found another 33 trees to add to the 34 trees that Dale Crook counted on his initial inventory in 2004

http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/our_plants/nut-inventory.php).

A dead mink was found on November 10 by volunteers working on buckthorn control in the Ash Woods. It appears to be a young female and it had a small chest wound. How it arrived there is a mystery, but was perhaps chased and or killed by a dog. A sad end for such a beautiful animal.

A few toads were still trilling in the pond on September 15, and one was found in a window well of the nearby Insect Quarantine Bldg. on November 8. I put him in the ravine where hopefully he will find a suitable hibernation site. Unlike some frog species, toads cannot produce the 'anti-freeze' necessary to prevent ice formation in their body. Instead, they burrow deep into the ground, or beneath some well protected spot such as a building, to wait out the winter below the frost line.