



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Fall 2012 Newsletter

Volume 24 No. 4

Birds and Bird-Watching at the Arboretum



Christine Hanrahan

American Robin, Arboretum

In 1903, William Macoun¹ summarized 16 years of breeding-bird observations on the Central Experimental Farm (CEF), including the Arboretum. Some of his records are of birds we can only dream of today (nesting least bittern in the marsh, breeding loggerhead shrikes), but others are as familiar now as then. Chipping sparrows are still ubiquitous, red-winged blackbirds continue nesting near the Canal.

Species composition at the CEF has shifted as habitats have changed, but the Arboretum and adjacent areas still attract birds and bird-watchers as they have from almost the very beginning.

Today, the mature trees of the Arboretum, the contrasting natural areas of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG), the marsh near the Rideau Canal, the canal itself, and the farmlands, combine to provide excellent birding habitats, all in the heart of the city. Each season brings something different.

While all of the above locations should be explored, some locations are particularly good for bird-watching. In fall, the exposed shoreline of the Canal can attract late shorebirds. The conifer thickets in the Arboretum are excellent vantage points in fall migration and the collections of fruit trees, particularly the crabapples, are magnets for hungry birds, especially in winter. In the FWG, the Ash Woodlot is a good viewing spot at any time of year, but especially in spring and fall. In early spring, horned larks frequent the farm fields, and in winter, snow buntings. However, there are so many good spots to watch birds that you will no doubt discover your own favourite locations.

Spring

Some birds live here year round (resident species) and therefore nest early, more adaptable than the migrants in withstanding spring bouts of cold. Black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, downy and hairy woodpeckers, and of course, northern cardinals, are some of the residents.

However, spring is really the time when successive waves of migrants flow through our area, most land birds flying all night, resting and feeding during the day. First the harder birds, such as red-winged blackbird, song and

chipping sparrows, tree swallow, eastern phoebe, and killdeer arrive, and nest in the Arboretum, FWG and around the Farm.

Then come the thrushes, flycatchers, vireos, Baltimore orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, indigo buntings, and the tiny colourful warblers, amongst a wondrous variety of other species. Most of these birds continue on their journey after brief refueling stops at the Farm, many heading to the boreal forest. Spring is a time of bird song and colour, and to experience it fully you need to get out early. The trees in the Arboretum can be alive with birds and the FWG is especially good for spotting migrants.

Continued on Page 3

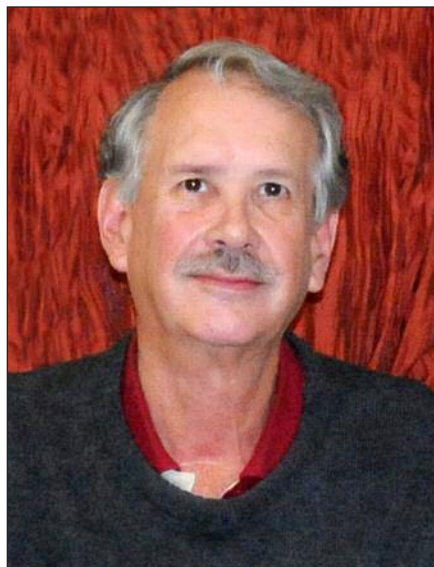
¹ Macoun W.T. 1903. The nesting of birds at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, The Ottawa Naturalist 17(2): 25-31

President's Message

First of all, a warm welcome to Suzanne Vinet, the new Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). I wish her well in this challenging new role and look forward to introducing her to the programs and achievements of the Friends of the Farm.

Autumn is upon us and the trees and flowers in the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum survived the hot and exceptionally dry summer remarkably well, even those not irrigated. The Shelterbelt did not fare as well: the weather was not kind to some of the newly planted lilacs and a few of the trees. And just when we lost hope of the grass coming back to life, it greened up following the welcome August rains. Nature can be surprising.

Once again, the Ornamental Gardens with its tremendous variety of plants and flowers looked splendid under the guidance and care of Sharon Saunders, her Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada crew and the many Friends' garden team leaders and volunteers. Crispin Wood and his AAFC team along with Friends' volunteers kept the Arboretum looking great despite the summer drought.



As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we've had a handsome new wall built in the Hosta Garden. The hosta plants have been moved "back home" from their temporary locations and, together with

the new wall, they are a wonderful sight. If you have a chance, take some time to explore the garden in the cooler shade along the hosta pathways.

The Friends of the Farm 2017 Committee has started looking at new projects to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in 2017. If you have any suggestions for the Committee, please forward them to Eric Jones at eric.jones086@sympatico.ca or leave a message for him at the Friends' office (613-230-3276).

We've completed most of our special events for 2012, mainly with great results. The one exception was the Strawberry Social held annually on Canada Day. This year, the retail stores were allowed to open on July 1, and with shopping and other Canada Day events competing for attendance, we didn't draw the usual numbers.

Many thanks to all the members who attended and the volunteers who gave their time and effort to make our fundraisers such a success. Without your continued support and hard work we'd be unable to stage our public events.

Chuck Craddock

Mots du président

Tout d'abord, je désire souhaiter une cordiale bienvenue à Suzanne Vinet, nouvellement nommée en tant que sous-ministre d'Agriculture et d'Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC), et le meilleur des succès dans ce nouveau rôle riche en défis. De plus, j'anticipe avec joie le moment de lui présenter les programmes et les réalisations des Amis de la Ferme.

À l'approche de l'automne, les arbres et les fleurs des jardins ornementaux et de l'Arboretum, sans compter le manque d'irrigation en certains endroits, ont survécu étonnamment bien à la période de sécheresse exceptionnelle de l'été. Par contre, le brise-vent n'a pas joui d'une telle chance, la température ne s'étant pas montrée clémente à l'égard des nouveaux plants de lilas et de certains arbres. Alors que nous avions perdu tout espoir de voir le gazon reprendre vie, nous l'avons vu reverdir grâce aux pluies d'août tant attendues. La nature nous réserve parfois des surprises.

De nouveau, les jardins ornementaux et leur étonnante variété de plantes et de fleurs se sont épanouis

sous les soins attentifs et avisés de Sharon Saunders, de son équipe du ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire (AAC) et des nombreux chefs d'équipes et bénévoles des Amis. Crispin Wood et son équipe de l'AAC, de concert également avec les bénévoles des Amis, ont maintenu l'Arboretum en excellente condition malgré la sécheresse estivale.

Tel qu'il a été indiqué dans un bulletin précédent, nous avons fait construire un nouveau mur dans le jardin d'hostas. De leurs emplacements temporaires, ces plantes ont été réaménagées dans leur « lieu d'origine » et, contre ce mur, elles offrent un spectacle saisissant. Si vous en avez l'occasion, prenez le temps d'explorer le jardin, tout en recherchant l'ombre rafraîchissante qui s'étend le long des sentiers d'hostas.

Le Comité des Amis de la Ferme 2017 a entrepris l'étude de nouveaux projets en prévision de la célébration du 150e anniversaire du Canada en 2017. Si vous avez des suggestions à proposer au Comité, veuillez les

transmettre à Eric Jones, à eric.jones086@sympatico.ca, ou communiquer avec lui au bureau des Amis au 613-230-3276.

La majeure partie de nos projets spéciaux de 2012 a été réalisée en général avec un franc succès. Cependant, la Fête des fraises, qui a lieu annuellement lors de la fête du Canada, constitue la seule exception. Cette année, les magasins de détail pouvaient rester ouverts le 1er juillet. Compte tenu du magasinage et de nombreuses autres activités qui sollicitaient la participation du public en ce jour, nous n'avons pas attiré le même nombre de personnes qu'à l'habitude.

Je désire offrir mes sincères remerciements à vous tous, les membres qui ont participé aux événements et les bénévoles qui ont donné de leur temps et de leurs efforts pour assurer le succès de nos activités de financement. Sans votre appui continu et votre travail laborieux, nous ne serions pas en mesure de mettre en place des événements pour le grand public.

Chuck Craddock

Birds and Bird-Watching at the Arboretum *(continued from Page 1)*



Juvenile Green Heron,
Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Summer

Summer is a quieter time as birds get down to the business of nesting. Shrubs and thickets host a variety of nesting birds, including yellow warblers and common yellowthroats. Great crested flycatchers nest in tree cavities in the Arboretum. Baltimore orioles frequently hang their sock-like nest from tall weeping willows. Rose-breasted grosbeaks, eastern kingbirds, mallards, black ducks and wood ducks all nest in the Arboretum. At the FWG, tree swallows, sometimes chickadees, and occasionally house wrens make good use of the nesting boxes. James Fletcher, for whom the garden is named, erected a nest box in his garden on the Farm, hoping to attract the house wren, and much to his delight, was successful (Macoun 1903).

Black-crowned night herons, great blue herons and green herons can all be found at the Arboretum, while the latter nest at FWG or nearby.

Autumn

As days cool and nights lengthen, a reverse migration occurs as birds head south. This time their numbers are increased by young of the year. Birds are quieter, their plumage less vivid, and there is an air of urgency as they flee before winter comes. Once again, a tremendous variety of birds pass through the Arboretum, peaking in mid-autumn, but some late migrants can still be found into November.

Saw-whet owls also migrate through in the fall, especially in October. These tiny owls make good use of thickets to sleep the day away.

Winter

Crisp, short days and frigid temperatures may not seem like ideal birding conditions, but winter can be surprisingly interesting. Failing cone crops and reduced vole populations up north drive many northern birds south to our region in winter. Pine siskins, pine grosbeaks, white-winged and red crossbills can sometimes be found in big flocks. They descend on the crabapple trees near Building 72 (location of the Friends of the Farm), often side by side with huge flocks of bohemian waxwings. Feeders at the FWG attract a diversity of birds in winter, as does the feeder by Building 72. Owls, including great horned



Yellow-rumped Warbler on
Aralia spinosa, Arboretum

and barred owls, may spend a day or the winter in conifer thickets in the Arboretum and FWG, and in some years, great gray owls may be found. Winter is also a time when unusual birds may arrive.

Christine Hanrahan

Christine Hanrahan is a long-time birder and naturalist, who was regional coordinator for both issues of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (1981-1985 and 2001-2005). She spends many hours a day outside attempting to photograph insects (a recent passion) and looking for birds.

Corrections

It was the Ottawa Horticultural Society that made the generous donation of daylilies to the Central Experimental Farm, not the Ontario Horticultural Society as stated on Page 1 of the summer issue of this newsletter.

And, on the same page, the Preston Heritage Daylily Collection should have correctly been identified as the Preston Heritage Lilac Collection.



Wood Duck family, Arboretum

Upcoming Events

For more information, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca or call 613-230-3276.

For the Love of the Farm Art Exhibition and Sale

(See Page 6)

- October 6 to 8, noon to 6 pm.
- A juried exhibition and sale featuring the work of 11 artists.
- Location: Building 72, Arboretum, CEF.
- Admission and parking free.



Used Book Drop Off

- Saturday, October 27, 2012, 10 am to 3 pm.
- Please note that we do not accept magazines, textbooks or encyclopaedias.
- Location: Building 72, Arboretum, CEF.



Crafts and Bake Sale

- November 17-18, 10 am to 4 pm.
- A fascinating selection of items to choose from.
- Don't forget to pick up some delicious baked goods.
- Location: Building 72, Arboretum, CEF.
- Admission and parking free.



Marjorie Pettigrew

Path from Estevan Lodge to the St. Lawrence at Reford Gardens (see below)

In Memory

One of our original Friends, **Janet Neatby**, passed away in London, Ontario, on July 29, 2012.

A dedicated and generous member and volunteer, Janet's initial connection with the Farm was through her husband, Kenneth W. Neatby, Director of Science Service at Agriculture Canada from 1946 until his premature death in 1958.

Another long-time Friend of the Farm, **Betty Sparham**, passed away in Ottawa on August 23, 2012.

Betty joined the Friends in our first year, 1988, and was a member and volunteer until the time of her death. She was an active supporter of Friends' programs, notably the Hosta Garden, for which she created a trust after her husband Ralph died.

Our deepest sympathies go to Janet's and Betty's family and friends.

Gardens of Quebec Bus Tour



We had superb weather for our July trip, with rain when we were on the bus and sunshine as we strolled through the gardens.

The Reford Gardens at Métis were at their best. "Thanks for taking us to the Gardens at Métis - a dream of a lifetime," wrote one participant after the tour. "I so enjoyed this trip, Reford, a dream come true," offered another. Alexander Reford, the keeper of the dream, boarded the bus just before our departure to give a bit of history and to salute the Friends of the Farm. It was a precious moment for the group.

On our way to Reford, a minor traffic accident on Highway 20 delayed our arrival at Le Domaine Joly-de Lotbinière and cut short our visit. (Note to self: "I must return!") This large garden-park overlooking the St. Lawrence River, 40 minutes west of Québec City, is recognized as one of the most beautiful gardens in North America.

We enjoyed the ferry ride to Charlevoix from Rivière du Loup. At La Malbaie, we visited a new garden under development at Cap à l'Aigle. How wonderful to stroll down to the St. Lawrence River and appreciate nature's bounty!

A group dinner on our return journey at the Willow Place Inn in Hudson was the icing on the cake. The venue was welcoming and the food delicious.

Denise Kennedy
Volunteer Tour Manager



Bird bath at the Rose Garden. Plaque reads: "Presented by W. Barnard Esq. of Lakeland Florida in memory and by the wish of his wife Mima Beach Barnard formerly of Kemptville to the Ottawa Humane Society. Erected on this public land in witness of the call for kindness to bird and beast and the need for humane understanding and conduct."

Janice and Paul Bertrand: Committed to Community Service

If there is such a thing as a "gardening gene," then Janice and Paul Bertrand certainly have it. Friends of the Farm volunteers since 2005, the Bertrands spend much of their summer in the garden – at home, at the Farm, and at their church.

Paul's dad set the stage for Paul's life-long interest in gardening. "My dad was THE gardener in the family. He was raised on a farm, and between the ages of 5 and 15, I spent my summers at the farm." Through a summer job as a teenager with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture in the Dominion Parasite Laboratory, Paul learned a lot about bugs and in adulthood has used that knowledge to identify and control the various creepy-crawlies that can wreck havoc on gardens.

Janice recalls her grandmother's "glorious gardens" and their visits to the Farm. "She loved to walk through the rock gardens, and," Janice adds with a wide grin, "always pinched a few seed heads to take home."

A year after their marriage in 1989, they bought a home in Barrhaven and together transformed a utilitarian yard into a showcase of delightful perennial beds, shrubs, and apple trees. It was to those gardens that Janice often turned to work off any stress at the end of a (sometimes hectic) day of teaching.

The Bertrands spent their working lives in the classroom — Paul retired in 1995 after 33 years with the Ottawa Board of Education and Janice in 2004 with 30 years to her credit. In the spring of 2005, Janice spied a Friends' ad in their community paper seeking garden volunteers and when she announced that she was going to the information session and intended to sign up, Paul's response was quick and simple: "I guess I will, too."

They joined the Iris/Daylily Team but were soon seconded by Joan Speirs, the Friends' resident lilac expert, to the lilac team. And for seven years, they've remained committed to both teams. Paul is now co-ordinator of the Friday lilac team, but always looks to Joan for direction. "It is amazing what she knows,"



Mary Ann Smythe

offers Paul, "and she is so patient and instructive. The longer I have her around as an advisor, the better it is for me."

They hold the same high regard for Carol MacLeod, leader of the Iris/Daylily Team. "Carol is so knowledgeable," they say, almost in unison. "She's eager to share that information with the team," adds Paul, and consequently, "we are learning new things all the time."

The Bertrands love being outdoors at the Farm but make it clear that it's the people who are the big draw – their team mates who have such interesting stories to share and the Farm staff who offer guidance and appreciate the volunteers' work.

As former teachers, Janice and Paul found this summer particularly rewarding because of the "absolutely wonderful, bright, and hardworking" group of students who worked on their garden teams.

The Friends of the Farm are only part of the couple's commitment to community service. The Bertrands are very active in their church. They both work in the church gardens and are part of the mission and outreach program.

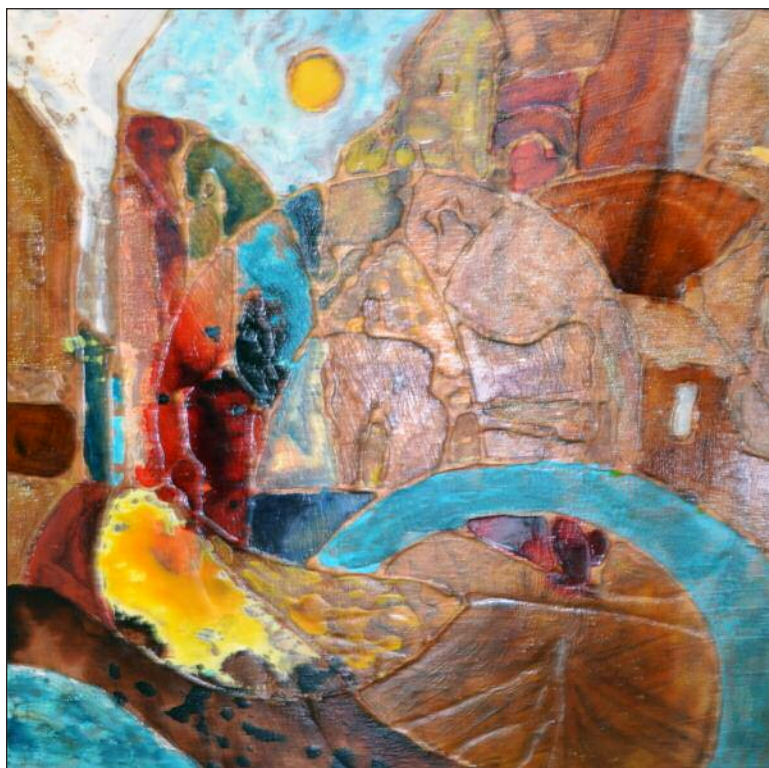
Janice helps with catering for groups that hold meetings at the church and also at post-funeral receptions. She also leads a group that helps maintain the gardens around the residences which house people with developmental disabilities at nearby Silver Spring Farms, and is a member of the Sunday school support team. Paul sings in the choir and sits on the board of the Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy.

One of Janice's favourite undertakings is Kids on the Block, an educational program that uses almost life-sized puppets to teach children from grades 3 to 6 what it is like to be disabled or different. Somehow she also finds time in her schedule to volunteer in the Queensway Carleton Hospital gift shop once a week.

The Bertrands live a full and rewarding life. "There's so much to do in the world," Janice explains, "and we want to be out doing it, not at home watching TV." Much of what the couple does is clearly community service and here, says Janice, their philosophy is very simple: "We'd like to think that we can leave the world a little bit better than we found it."

Mary Ann Smythe

For the Love of the Farm:



'Venice' by Galina Ponomarenko

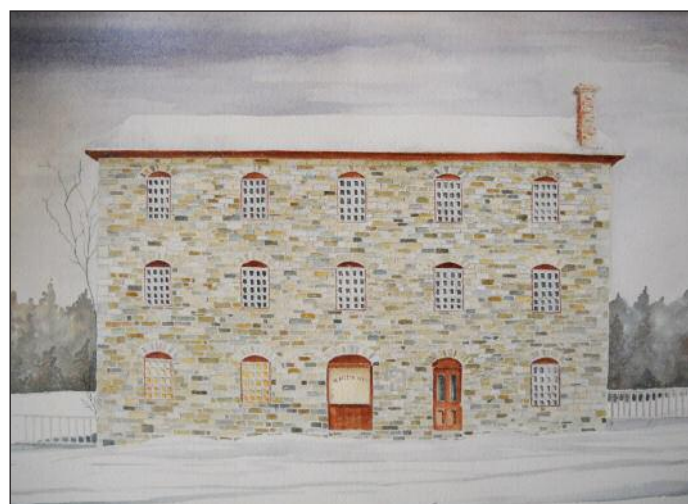
Jean-Paul Miner is a self-taught artist working mainly in acrylic, but who uses a variety of other materials, including textiles, glass and plastic. His love of colour and experimentation fire his unique "visions in abstract."

Judi Myers is "fascinated with our Canadian landscape, with portraying its vast expanse on a canvas or on a tiny oval of shell." She paints miniatures in acrylic on mother-of-pearl, abalone or paua shell.

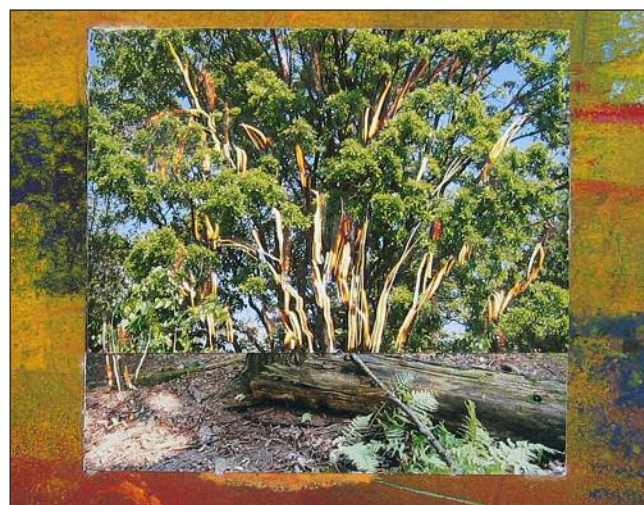
Basil Pessin (see Page 9) hopes the response to his abstract digital art is one of delight. He wants "the viewer to be entranced rather than contemplative, to be fascinated rather than curious."

Galina Ponomarenko expresses her vision through decorative composition. At the beginning it "is all very spontaneous, following my intuition, working with my heart." Then her head decides on the composition, shapes, colours and details of the final piece.

Before moving to Ottawa, **Eliane Saheurs** did photographic work in Europe, including studies of landforms, which has influenced her painting. She began art studies in Ottawa in 1985 and has exhibited her work since then.



'Old Delta Mill' by John Shea



'Courants de la nature XXXI' by Eliane Saheurs

Atract, intrigue, excite – this year's "For the Love of the Farm" fine art exhibition and sale will do it all. Eleven artists from the Ottawa area will present their work at the juried show from October 6 to 8.

Inspired by local scenery, wildlife and botanical subjects, **Heather Bale** has an eye for detail and a reverence for nature. Lately, she has worked mostly in oils, capturing birds, flowers and landscape scenes in, for example, exquisite miniatures.

Leslie Blackwell prefers to use watercolours and usually paints outdoors. Favourite places include the Gatineau Hills, old neighbourhoods and wild spaces in Ottawa, such as the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

For the past 25 years, **John Shea** has taught visual art in Perth. "Prior to teaching, I worked as an architectural renderer and this is reflected in my love of portraying local heritage buildings in and around the Rideau Lakes area."

A passion for wild birds was the inspiration for the wood sculptures of **Eric Tardif** (see Page 11). By steam-bending woods, he captures the natural elegance and gracious movement of birds. Recent three-dimensional wall pieces provide a new habitat for his wooden birds.

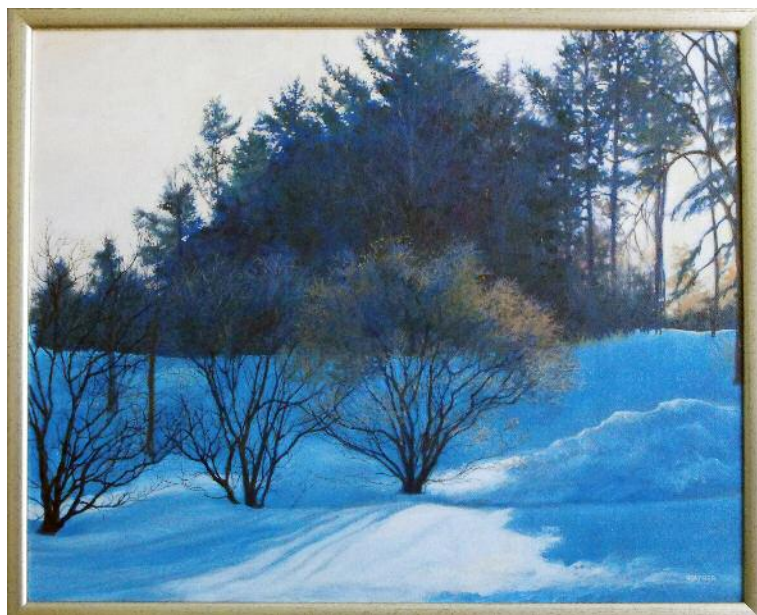
Fine Art Exhibition and Sale



'Wild Flowers' by Leslie Blackwell

Drawing inspiration from landscapes of Ontario and the North Sea, where she grew up, **Frances Taylor** uses natural fibres such as silk and wool, often embellished with embroidery, paints, inks, beads, stones and, occasionally, recycled metals.

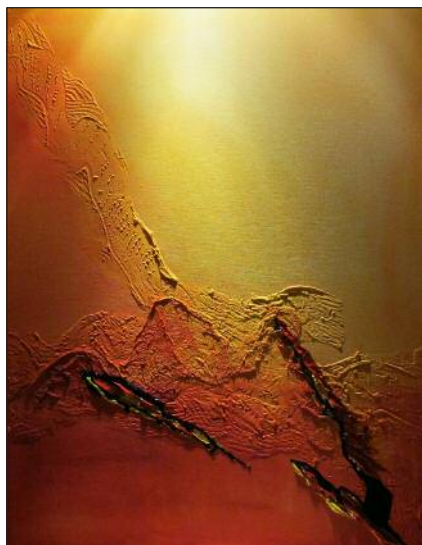
The art exhibition and sale, presented by the Friends of the Farm, raise funds for ongoing projects in support of the Central Experimental Farm. The show runs from October 6 to 8 at Building 72 in the Arboretum. Hours are noon to 6 pm. For more information, contact the Friends' office at info@friendsofthefarm.ca or 613-230-3276.



'Winter, Queen Juliana Park' by Heather Bale



'Alvar - Winter' by Frances Taylor



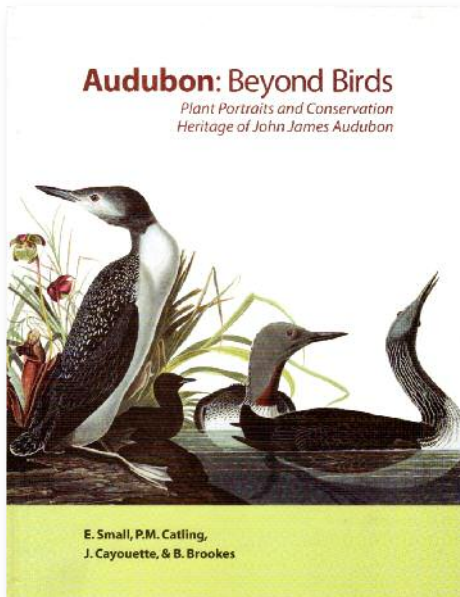
'Hope in Yellow' by Jean-Paul Miner



'Corn Field' by Judi Myers

Audubon: Beyond Birds

Plant Portraits and Conservation Heritage of John James Audubon



By E. Small, P. M. Catling, J. Cayouette,
and B. Brooks
NRC Research Press, Ottawa 2009
ISBN 978-0-660-19894-1

A mention of John James Audubon brings to mind beautiful paintings of birds, but there is more to his work than wildlife. In the background are superb portraits of plants, providing natural settings for his birds.

The authors of this book, scientists at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, focus on plants portrayed by Audubon. The book's theme is the importance of conserving natural biodiversity through the preservation of natural habitats, something that Audubon himself understood. Without plants, there would be no birds.

The plant, the bird, the painting

The central part of the book comprises 96 selected plates, which have been reproduced from the Canadian Library of Parliament's copy of Audubon's four-volume *The Birds of America*. The verso page for each plate gives details about each plate under the headings: The Plant, The Bird, and About the Painting.

Understandably, the reader will be attracted by the delightful postures and activities of the birds Audubon chose to portray. However, the wealth of detail on the plants, their range and their historical uses is equally diverting. The authors' relaxed and engaging narration lets the reader painlessly assimilate much diverse information.

Each plant is described in terms of its location, size, behaviour, and the birds and animals that eat its fruit, leaves, bark. There are also interesting facts such as a plant's health benefits and the diseases and insects that threaten it.

Impact of environmental destruction

On his forays into wilderness to find and paint hundreds of birds, Audubon (1785-1851) became aware of the impact of habitat destruction on species. Consequently, he can be credited for much of our understanding and appreciation of nature's biodiversity and the importance of maintaining it. By focusing on the plants portrayed in Audubon's book, the authors show the importance of habitat in conserving biodiversity.

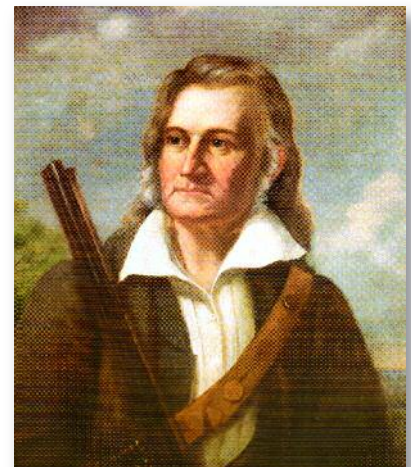
With the publication of *The Birds of America*, Audubon began the change in how we view nature and its creatures. His beautiful paintings of birds, his written descriptions of them, and his observations of environmental destruction that was threatening wildlife had an impact that continues today.

The continuing popularity of his paintings testifies to his influence and importance. In 2004, Canada Post issued a five-stamp series of Audubon's Canadian birds. On his 226th birthday in April 2012, Audubon was honoured with a Google doodle.

Courageous, determined and idiosyncratic

Those who have not looked into the life and fieldwork of John James Audubon are in for a treat with *Audubon: Beyond Birds*. The authors have included the personal history and achievements of this courageous, determined and idiosyncratic man. Audubon described himself as having muscles of steel and was "inordinately fond of his long thick hair..." which might be considered excessively vain if this wasn't a man who spent his life admiring, describing and painting the shapes and plumages of hundreds of birds.

The opening chapters give an interesting (even amazing) history of Audubon's life and adventures. As intrepid as any past explorer, he went into



John James Audubon, about 1841,
painted by his sons



Google doodle on his 226th birthday.
"Happy bird-day, John James Audubon, April 26, 2011"



Red-winged Blackbird and Red Maple
(detail)

uncharted areas to find different species of birds to paint. Audubon's methods in painting in the wilderness, the deprivations he survived, and the long and arduous efforts he made to get his major work into print are all here.

Noting that over 100 books and innumerable articles have been written about Audubon, the authors provide a selection of titles as well as several Audubon websites. For their book they have chosen highly interesting details and anecdotes about Audubon and his work and have made obvious his importance in today's efforts to conserve biodiversity.

Judy Benner



'Flutter' by Basil Pessin, one of the artists at the "For the Love of the Farm" art show (Page 6)

Welcome to Suzanne Vinet, Deputy Minister, AAFC

We extend a warm welcome to Suzanne Vinet, who was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), effective September 17.

Ms. Vinet returns to the Department where she began her public service career in 1984. After increasingly senior positions, she moved to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, returning to AAFC as Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, from 2005 to 2007. She was then Associate Deputy Minister at Health Canada and later at Transport Canada, and most recently served as President of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec.

A native of Vaudreuil, Quebec, Suzanne Vinet graduated from the Institute de Technologie agricole et alimentaire in Saint-Hyacinthe and Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo. She also attended the National Defence College of Canada in Kingston.



Bienvenue à Suzanne Vinet, sous-ministre, AAC

Nous souhaitons une chaleureuse bienvenue à Suzanne Vinet, qui a été nommée au poste de sous-ministre d'Agriculture et d'Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC). Son entrée en fonction est prévue pour le 17 septembre prochain.

Madame Vinet revient au Ministère où, en 1984, elle avait entamé sa carrière dans la fonction publique. Après avoir occupé des postes de direction de plus en plus élevés, elle a ensuite œuvré au sein des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international Canada. De retour à AAC entre 2005 et 2007, elle a agi à titre de sous-ministre adjointe, Politiques stratégiques. Par la suite, elle a été nommée comme sous-ministre déléguée à Santé Canada et, plus tard, à Transports Canada. Tout récemment, elle occupait le poste de présidente de l'Agence de développement économique du Canada pour les régions du Québec.

Originaire de Vaudreuil, Suzanne Vinet est diplômée de l'Institut de Technologie agricole et alimentaire de Saint-Hyacinthe et de l'Université Wilfrid Laurier, à Waterloo. Elle a aussi fréquenté le Collège de la Défense nationale, à Kingston.



The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm is a volunteer organization committed to the maintenance and protection of the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Membership in the Friends of the Farm costs \$25 per year for an individual and \$45 per year for a family, \$20 Seniors/Students. Membership fees support the many projects of the Friends of the Farm.

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Fine Display at Bird, Bee and Butterfly Buffet Bed

Jam-packed with nectar and seedbearing plants, our bird, bee and butterfly buffet (see summer newsletter for more details) bed is in fine form, despite the extremely hot and dry summer. The garden bed presents All-America Selections (AAS) winners and is one of 23 North American gardens participating in a first-ever AAS landscape design contest.

The kidney-shaped berm at the southern end of the Ornamental Gardens was created in 2011 for the 125th anniversary of the Central Experimental Farm and can be seen when entering the parking area from Prince of Wales Drive. The bed is protected by an Arborvitae hedge and nestled between plantings of hybrid blue spruces. The bed measures approximately 70' x 28' with a ridge elevation of 2'.

An array of perennials, sub-tropicals and, of course, AAS annuals figure prominently in the display. The plants we chose had to be tough, resilient and a favourite food source for birds, bees and butterflies. Many of the annual plants are paired with perennials.

The bed is full of flowering plants to entice our winged friends. Bees of all kinds are prevalent visitors – the Canada Agriculture Museum has honeybee hives on display. Salvia, sunflowers and corn-



flowers seem to be favourites. This year we have had many spectacular butterflies like Red Admirals, Painted Ladies and the Giant Swallowtail, which is not usually seen this far north. We haven't forgotten the birds; there are many nesting pairs of American goldfinches in our rows of lilacs. Sunflower, Cosmos, Rudbeckia and Echinacea are some of their preferred seed sources.

AAS winners are new plant varieties that have proven, after extensive trials, to be the best performers according to independent horticulture experts. We have incorporated 17 varieties of AAS winners and another 10 varieties are in the planting scheme. The bed has approximately 1,200 plants of which 900 are AAS winners.

Examples of winners that are in the bed are Alyssum 'Rosie O'Day', Coreopsis 'Early Sunrise', 'Jubilee Gem' Cornflower, Cosmos 'Sunny Red', Echinacea 'PowWow Wild Berry', Gaillardia 'Arizona Apricot' and 'Mesa Yellow', Nicotiana 'Perfume Deep Purple', Rudbeckia 'Indian Summer', Salvia farinacea 'Evolution', Salvia coccinea 'Lady in Red', 'Rocket Blend' Snapdragon, 'Ring of Fire' and 'Soraya' Sunflowers, and Zinnia 'Double Zahara Fire'.

Sub-tropicals and perennials in the display include Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, Lantana camara, Callistemon citrinus, Centranthus (Jupiter's Beard), various hybrid Echinacea, Sedum 'Autum Joy', Lobelia siphilitica, Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), annual Salvia farinacea 'White Evolution' and Eragrostis 'Wind Dancer'.



Painted Lady on 'Early Sunrise'
Coreopsis

Next year the bed will feature naturalized planting, in the New Wave style pioneered by Piet Oudolf.

Come and experience the beauty of these All-America Selections winners and don't forget your camera.

Sharon Saunders
Horticulturist, Ornamental Gardens
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
PROVINCE: _____
TELEPHONE #: _____
FAX #: _____
E-MAIL: _____

INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

YES ☐ NO ☐

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY	\$45/year
ADULT	\$25/year
SENIOR/STUDENT	\$20/year
BASIC CORPORATE	\$250/year
NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION	\$25/year
INDIVIDUAL LIFE	\$200
SENIOR COUPLE LIFE	\$250
DONATION	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to: "Friends of the Farm." A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations of \$10 or more.

We are located at Building 72 in the Arboretum. You can visit us or mail this part of the form with your payment to:

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM
Building 72, Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6

Telephone: (613) 230-3276

Fax: (613) 230-1238

Email: info@friendsofthefarm.ca

Website: www.friendsofthefarm.ca

Book Bonanza



Used book sale, June, 2012

Wonderful book donations and a huge effort by volunteers paid off in June at what was another successful book sale, says Denise Kennedy, co-ordinator of the event. In ideal weather, people flocked to the sale and the Friends of the Farm made \$6,000.

Book buyers were very complimentary, not only about the organization of the sale in general, but about the arrangement of

books by category and author. Throughout the winter, sorters spent hours in the basement of Building 72 categorizing books after the drop-off. Volunteer sorters also helped with the setup and tear down at the book sale. "Dedicated to the cause, they're proficient and efficient in whatever they're doing, and very adaptable to change!" says Brenda Lester, book sorting co-ordinator.

Other volunteers were involved in the setup – directing "traffic" in the basement, controlling placement of books on the tables and racks, and affixing book category signs. Keeping the shelves tidy, helping customers, looking after the cash and many other tasks kept volunteers busy during the sale, and at tear-down time, they again directed "traffic" and returned unsold books to the basement.

In total, about 55 Friends of the Farm volunteers were involved in the event. They were helped at both setup and tear down by Venturer Scouts, who were enthusiastic, hard working and fun to work with, turning chores into contests and games. Brenda comments "We were all very thankful for the 'young muscle' and enthusiasm – moving those books would have taken hours longer if we 'old folks' had to do it all!"

Please note: Drop-off is October 27 for next year's sale (see Page 4).

Bird Sanctuary at the Farm

Almost 100 years ago, the Central Experimental Farm became a bird sanctuary. In the spring of 1914, the Director of the Farm agreed to the placement of 160 nesting boxes around the Farm.

The impetus for the sanctuary came from Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, Dominion entomologist, who was dedicated to the protection of wildlife and, in particular, the birds of Ottawa.

As Dominion entomologist, Hewitt wanted farmers to be aware of the economic benefits of insect-eating birds nesting close to crops and orchards, but he was also aware of the aesthetic value of birds.

"The city is gaining in population and taxes at the expense of natural beauty. But as we cannot and should not wish to prevent such extension, we should take every means possible to offset the losses in natural beauty so occasioned," he wrote (The Ottawa Naturalist, XXVII, 1914, p. 169).

With its variety of trees and shrubs, especially those bearing fruit, Hewitt considered the Farm well suited to being a bird sanctuary. He asked the Boy Scouts to help by discouraging their peers from destroying birds and nests.



C. Gordon Hewitt

Library and Archives Canada, PA-143057

Hewitt also persuaded the Ottawa Improvement Commission (forerunner of the National Capital Commission) to establish a bird sanctuary at Rockcliffe Park and to provide and distribute 250 nesting boxes there.

Gordon Hewitt, Dominion entomologist at age 24

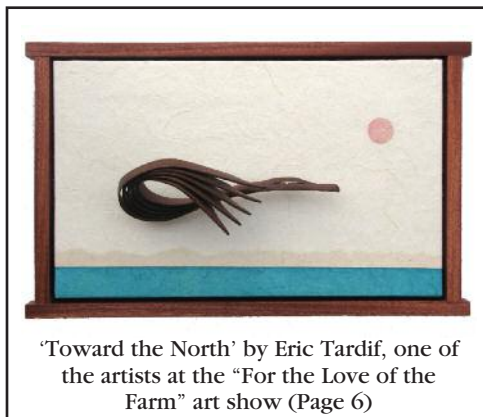
Born in England in 1885, C. Gordon Hewitt obtained a doctor of science degree in zoology from the University of Manchester at the age of 20. He lectured at

that university until 1909, the year James Fletcher, Dominion entomologist and botanist, died in Ottawa. The young Dr. Hewitt accepted a job offer as Dominion entomologist and arrived in Canada later that year.

Hewitt was Canada's chief negotiator for an international migratory bird treaty signed with the United States in 1916. The following year he was appointed consulting zoologist to the government of Canada, advising on the protection of birds and mammals. This was in addition to his duties as director of the Entomological Branch.

After an attack of influenza in 1920, Dr. Hewitt contracted pneumonia and died at the age of 35.

Richard Hinchcliff



'Toward the North' by Eric Tardif, one of the artists at the "For the Love of the Farm" art show (Page 6)

Trees and Shrubs for Birds

It's human nature to want what we can't have. We love the chase and revel in the chance to use our wit and wiles to attract and tame that which is wild and free. Few creatures represent this age-old struggle better than the bird on wing. From the splash of colour of a cardinal or blue jay against a white winter backdrop, to the robin and blackbird trumpeting the arrival of spring, birds represent the epitome of the untamed wild. As hunter-gatherers, we are driven to trap and catch, to contain, to identify, collect, number and catalogue, and when it comes to the bird world those instincts are manifested in bird-watching.

Over the last century, technology has infiltrated every part of our lives, and bird-watching is no exception. Technological advances have affected all staples of the craft, from binoculars to bird feeders. However, in the latter part of the 1900s, the environmental movement began looking to nature, not technology, to solve (or at least identify more sustainable approaches to) life's problems. In terms of bird-watching, the idea of attracting wildlife using wildlife was born: why purchase birdseed and erect man-made birdhouses, when one could simply plant a garden to emulate natural ecosystem patterns? Why use technology to reinvent the wheel, when nature already provides the food and shelter for the object of your attraction.

The wild and the wildlife

The simplest solution would be to allow one's property to fallow, and naturally return to "wild." The solution, however, is not without flaws, for example, the introduction of invasive species, limited biodiversity due to landscape fragmentation, not to mention disgruntled neighbours faced with the tangled mess of weeds that you explain as "natural landscaping." The more sensible compromise is to select a few plants that can provide both food and shelter for our little friends, while remaining part of a formal urban/suburban landscape.

There are hundreds of trees and shrubs that provide varying sources of food and shelter. Just Google "shrubs for birds" or something similar and you will find more fruit, seed and nut-bearing woody plants than ever imagined. The problem then becomes how best to sort through it to find the "right fit."



Northern Shrike and Hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) (Detail)

John James Audubon, from Audubon: Beyond Birds (see Page 8)

The most important thing to remember is that the best way to attract a bird is to give it what it's used to. When it comes to trees and shrubs, think native and/or indigenous. Look for plants that have historically grown in the region in which you live. Native and indigenous plants perform better in the environmental conditions in which they evolved, and they will also be better suited to providing food and shelter to those birds that have evolved (geographically) alongside them.

In short, animals are creatures of habit: they gravitate to what they know. Sometimes the best answer is the simplest. If you want to attract wildlife, plant something native, something from the wild.

When I say "wild," this doesn't mean transplanting a boring thicket of green from your local forest. In fact, many of our ornamental, flowering trees and shrubs are merely showy wild specimens, selected and bred for their landscape appeal.

Both ornamental and attractive to wildlife

There are many ornamental varieties of native species that can provide both a

beautiful landscape and food for the birds. Take, for example, *Amelanchier Canadensis* (Canada Serviceberry), a native small tree, grown for its showy spring flowers and small, urban-lot-suitable stature, yet still capable of producing a large fruit crop coveted by many of our native songbirds.

Other suitable choices for attracting wildlife, yet still remaining ornamental, would be any of the ornamental varieties of *Sambucus* (Elderberry), *Viburnum*, *Prunus* (Cherry), *Amelanchier*, *Cornus* (Dogwood) and *Crataegus* (Hawthorn). Should you be interested in plants that both hold their fruit and continue to provide shelter into the winter months consider *Myrica* (Bayberry) or a Juniper.

Once you have identified a particular plant or two, you might visit your local arboretum to get a good idea of what your choice looks like at maturity. This will allow you to choose a specimen best suited to the size of your property, or at the very least determine whether the form and structure of the plant are a good fit for your landscaping plans.

Crispin Wood
Horticulturist, Arboretum
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada