

# NATURE IN THE CITY <sup>2017</sup>

A six-part series of illustrated talks on nature within the City of London

The goal of the Nature in the City series is to contribute to the preservation and enjoyment of nature. Let's do this together by sharing information and stimulating an interest in the natural world around us.

JANUARY 17

## WARNING: WINTER BIRD WATCHING MAY CAUSE YOU TO EMBRACE THE COLD

Snowy Owls are irresistible. But once you realize how many other raptors and waterfowl species can be seen around London from January to March, you may fall hard for winter birding. **Paul Nicholson**, the birding columnist for the London Free Press, will highlight this area's winter bird species. He will describe local hot spots and touch on changes in winter bird populations.

JANUARY 24

## INVASION OF THE HABITAT SNATCHERS

When people first see the opulent plumes of phragmites or the glossy leaves of a buckthorn, they may be impressed, but these and other invasive species are outcompeting our native plants. **Dr. Daria Koscinski**, the Thames Talbot Land Trust's conservation property manager, will help us to sort out the friends from the foes. She will describe the impacts of nasty invasives, and shed light on helpful legislative and local responses.

JANUARY 31

## LEARNING FROM THE PAST SO WE DON'T REPEAT IT

Did bears once roam around downtown London? Did Passenger Pigeons litter the skies over London? What did our natural world look like centuries ago? **Dr. Mhairi McFarlane**, Nature Conservancy of Canada's conservation manager, will paint a picture of what our city and county were like and will reflect on the lessons this might hold for us for today and tomorrow.



Co-sponsored by

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FEBRUARY 7

## DO BIRDS HAVE POSH OR COCKNEY ACCENTS?

It's already a challenge to learn the calls of different bird species. We would have to have bionic ears to pick up on bird dialects. Research led by **Dr. Beth MacDougall-Shackleton**, a biology prof at Western University, has found that there are indeed geographic variations in birdsong. She will explore why this happens and will describe the importance of birdsong in mate selection.

FEBRUARY 14

## SAVE A LITTLE LOVE FOR WETLANDS!

Celebrate Valentine's Day by learning about marshes, bogs, and swamps. Bad jokes about swampland for sale have given wetlands a bad rep, but wetlands are critical parts of a healthy biodiversity mosaic. **Prof. Dr. Chris Smart**, a hydrogeologist with Western University's geography department, will share his knowledge of the wetlands in and around London and describe how best to manage these valuable habitats.

FEBRUARY 21

## MAGICAL MEADOWLILY: A FOUR-SEASON OASIS

Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area is tucked in along the south branch of the Thames River in southeast London. This E.S.A. includes city-owned land as well as property owned by the Thames Talbot Land Trust. Through every season this area reveals special birds and wildlife and diverse flora. London naturalist **Dave Wake** will describe the history and highlights of this magical place.



photo courtesy of Paul Nicholson

**7-8:30 PM**  
**TUESDAYS**  
January 17 –  
February 21

**CENTRAL  
LIBRARY**  
251 Dundas St.  
Wolf Performance Hall

**Families are welcome!**  
(with children 10 and up)

**Free admission!**

2 hours free validated parking in  
Citi Plaza during Library hours



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