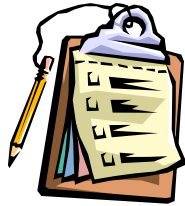


# Field Notes

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

April 2006

## Surveys at Oak Hammock



The biodiversity of wetlands is second only to tropical rain forests. Here at Oak Hammock Marsh 300 different species of birds have been recorded. We also have 30 species of mammals, 7 species of fish, 5 species of amphibians, 3 species of reptiles and hundreds if not thousands of species of invertebrates.

To help us better understand what is here, when it is here, and in what kind of numbers, we run a series of surveys. The surveys cover a wide range of species including: frogs, dragonflies, fish, butterflies, birds, and ladybeetles.

Everyone is able to participate in our surveys so come out and visit us!

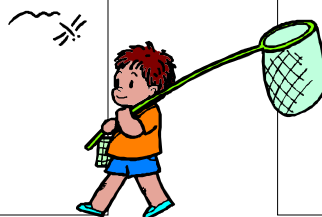


### Frog survey

The frog survey is done to give us an idea of where each species occurs, when their breeding seasons start and end and may even indicate possible numbers. In Manitoba we have 12 species of frogs and toads. Here at Oak

Hammock you may hear these types of frogs and toads: Canadian toad, Boreal chorus frog, Wood frog, Northern spring peeper, and Northern leopard frog.

The survey is done at 4 pm daily during the breeding season of the frogs: as soon as the frogs start singing (mid-April) to when the frogs stop singing (mid-July).

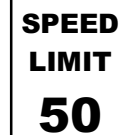


## Did you know?

That Green Darners migrate to Mexico.



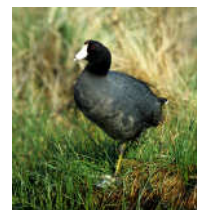
That the fastest butterflies can fly at speeds of up to 50 km/hr.



That male fathead minnows build and defend a nest.



That in 2002, we counted 6558 American coots on the Summer Bird Census.



# Field Notes

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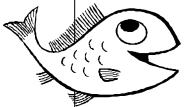
## Dragonfly survey

The dragonfly survey is designed to inventory Manitoba's dragonflies and to identify habitats they use, as very little is known about them. Dragonflies are used as indicator species to assess habitat and water quality in a variety of wetlands around the world.

We have 5 different families of dragonflies here in Manitoba: darners, clubtails, cruisers, emeralds, and skimmers. At Oak Hammock we have identified 36 species.

The survey is done Thursdays at 3 pm, when dragonflies are active from mid-May to mid-September.

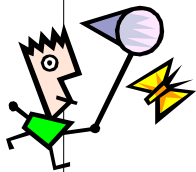
## Fish survey



The fish survey done to give us an idea of what species occur at the marsh. The status of fish populations is strongly linked to the health of habitats that meet their needs. As these areas deteriorate or disappear, associated populations also decline. In Manitoba we have approximately 84 species of freshwater fish.

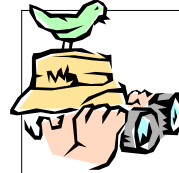
The survey is done Wednesdays at 3 pm, when fish are active from mid-May to mid-September.

## Butterfly survey



The butterfly survey is done to give us an idea of what species occur at Oak Hammock Marsh. By monitoring butterfly numbers and distribution we gain insight into the state of butterfly habitat. In Manitoba we have 111 species of butterflies and 33 species of skippers. At Oak Hammock we have identified 24 species.

The survey is done Mondays at 3 pm, when butterflies are active from mid-May to mid-September.



## Bird surveys

Three different bird surveys are run here at Oak Hammock Marsh: the Summer bird census, the Christmas bird count, and Songbird banding.

The Summer bird census helps to determine which species of birds nest at the marsh. Teams of volunteers go out and walk a section of the dike system, recording everything seen and heard. This year's census is on June 25th.

The Christmas bird count lets us know what birds are staying in and around Oak Hammock during the winter. Teams of volunteers go out and cover part of a 24-km diameter circle and record everything they see and hear. This year's count is on December 16th.

Songbird banding allows a close up look at birds you might not normally see as well, this gives us an idea of what species are moving through our willow bluff during migration, and, during the summer months, which ones nest there. Banding is done Friday at 8 am from the first week of May until the last week in September.

## Ladybeetle survey



Different species of lady beetle have been introduced from Europe, Asia and Australia to help control pests such as aphids in crops. These introduced species may be out-competing native ladybeetles for food and space. By doing the ladybeetle survey the information can be used to determine trends in native and non-native populations. There are 16 species of interest that can be found in Manitoba. If these, 13 are native species and 3 are introduced species. The introduced species are widespread and increasing in population at a rapid pace.

The survey is done Tuesdays at 3 pm, when ladybeetles are active from mid-July to end of September.

