

## Celebrating Natural Connections Wildwood Conservation Area

It was a great day for two members representing the Stratford Field Naturalists to join with other groups to celebrate Natural Connections at the Wildwood Conservation Area. Ken Clarke and Terry Crabe staffed a display that demonstrated a number of different methods to help participants discover and identify birds. Props used included binoculars, spotting scope, sound recordings, bird silhouettes in the adjoining woods, bird guides as well as an introduction to birding apps like Merlin. The hit of the day was an ample supply of binoculars which were quickly mastered by the children who readily sought out the 5 species of hidden birds. They also discovered if you use them backwards - people are further away. It was rewarding to see so many excited about discovering birds!

Birds on display at the event included Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Barred Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl.

