

THE EGRET



THE ESSEX COUNTY FIELD
NATURALISTS' CLUB

JUNE , 1993 VOL.10, #2

THE EGRET

Volume 10, Number 2, June 1993

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EGRET SUBMISSION DEADLINES

September Issue -- Due August 10th
December Issue -- Due November 10th

TREASURER'S REPORT: JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL

Balances Forward;	Reserve.....	2532.84	
	Heritage.....	11433.57	
	Current.....	1064.83	
	Bluebird.....	39.50	
	N.H.R.P.....	1119.38	16190.12

Income;	Memberships.....	720.00	
	Raffles.....	389.67	
	Interest.....	13.37	
	Gifts.....	55.00	
	Grants.....	11600.00	12778.04

Expenses;	Postage.....	64.52	
	Printing.....	88.00	
	Phone.....	50.38	
	Bank Charges.....	36.75	
	Annual Dinner.....	150.00	
	Dues.....	165.00	
	Donations (Heinz)	4000.00 c	
	" (N.H.R.P.)	13100.00	
	" (LP Bio)	50.00	
	" (F.E.F.)	.04	
	Sponsorship.....	600.00 c	
	Sales Items.....	215.00	
	Office Supplies.....	1.49	
	Fax.....	10.00	
	Travel Expenses.....	28.04	
	Rent (Earth day)....	10.00	
	Provincial Tax.....	25.00	
	G.S.T.....	14.42	
	P.S.T.....	6.19	
			18614.83
			<u>10353.33</u>

Balances;	Current.....	316.01	
	Bluebird.....	59.11	
	N.H.R.P.....	-106.73	
	Reserve.....	2535.87	
	Heritage.....	7549.07	10353.33

**POSITION OF POWER
PROJECTING THE FLOWER**

Your field naturalist club is a dandy bunch of folks. You, the person next to you, the one who asks the funny question, the one who asks no questions, the novice, the Bettys, Toms, Karens, Pauls, Joes and us, make up THE club that considers the world around us.

In some ways we have taken the world under OUR wings: The Bluebird committee, Heritage committee, Friends of Hienz Bush committee, Birdathons, Island of Green, NHRP committee, and the informative monthly talks that educate. This is only some of our ongoing and already accomplished deeds we have put our collective hands to. Very good for a young club. The hundreds of hours and dollars show very well.

This summer brings new challenges. If we are to continue spreading our nurturing and protective wings, we must strengthen them. At this point we are running not at a deficit, but we need to be in a stronger position. As nature looks to us for protection, we need to be ready.

FUND GATHERING To take part in.

THINGS TO RECYCLE Call 733-2371 [TERRY OUELLETTE] to describe the article, I will arrange pickup. The things will be sold and money will be gathered

B-B-Q's Dates will be announced.

T:SHIRTS **THEY ARE COMING**

ALSO SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

It seems to me that the two most powerful tools on earth are prayer and money.
LET'S CONTINUE TO USE THEM!

FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN..... TERRY OUELLETTE

The President's Report

Spring is an enjoyable time for all field naturalists. It is the season in which every aspect of nature demands our constant attention in order to keep up with its renewed vitality and rebirth. During the spring season neither flora nor fauna will wait till we have time to explore their most recent developments. The wonders of the natural world are most noticeable in spring making it the prime season for all responsible naturalists to promote its value to the public at large. This along with the constant demands of work and family makes the past season an especially hectic period for many of us.

With this in mind I would like to thank those who have found time to give a little extra for the benefit of all of us. It was obvious that it was no personal hardship for Randy Stewart to track down 125 species during the Bailey Birdathon. But the money raised during the process will be appreciated by both the Long Point Bird Observatory and our Club. I hope each of you who were good enough to sponsor him will make the task of pledge collecting as easy as possible. Thanks also to those of you such as Carl Maiolani and Betty Learmouth who conducted their individual Bailey Birdathons in May.

From all reports the Club's World Series Birding Team had a wonderful time roaming New Jersey on May 15. Karen Cedar, Steve Pike, and Dave D'Andts efforts have raised in excess of \$1500 towards natural habitat preservation programs in Essex County. They have our sincere gratitude.

During the Earth Day celebrations at Little River in April, while I was birding; Denise Hartley, Peggy Hurst, and Sylvia Thys spent the afternoon raising the public's consciousness at the Club's display table. Denise, I am sorry I wasn't in time to bring that Cerulean Warbler to your attention. Two days earlier Terry and Barb Ouellette undertook similar duties at the Point Pelee Nature Center. And even though it was Mike Malone's peak retail season he took time out to be our official representative at the Sturgeon Creek N.H.R.P. site dedication. Nor was he hesitant in assisting the Ouellette's and the Hurst's second annual Chili Cookoff to raise money for the Natural Habitat Restoration Program. Thanks to those mentioned and to everyone including the other Canadian World Series Team who lent a hand in the efforts to enhance our environment this spring.

The first tangible results of the Natural Habitat Restoration Program were evident this spring as the Conservation Authority's planting team treed ten separate sites in less than a month this spring with M.N.R. provided Carolinian Species. It was a remarkable achievement. The Field Naturalist's Club is proud to be the lead agency in this project and looks forward to increased involvement by individual members. Contact Barb Ouellette to take your place in this project which will eventually change the face of Essex County.

On another just as important front a major step was taken by the Essex Region Conservation Foundation which kicked off its "Islands of Green Fund". As you know they hope to raise 2.5 million dollars over three years and use interest earned from this fund to purchase and preserve natural habitat in Essex County. Thank goodness the Authority has undertaken this essential long term project despite Federal and Provincial government "cutbacks" and neglect of the least "natural county" in Canada. Despite its meager resources, the Club has pledged \$1000 towards this campaign and urges businesses and individuals to give the "Islands of Green" campaign their utmost support.

On a less positive note we were shocked to hear of the Provincial funding cuts to Conservation Authorities. The 32% cut is of particular concern in Essex County. Of all public agencies only ERCA has attempted to preserve the last remnants of natural habitat in the region. Such drastic funding cuts is sure to be detrimental to ERCA's natural projects and programs. Obviously the Provincial government has not yet recognized the unique situation of Essex County and the importance of nature in its priorities. I urge everyone to take the time and effort needed to chastize our ministers and members of Parliament for their short-sitedness.

In the mean time I wish everyone good fortune in their continuing exploration of nature through the "dog days" of summer. I look forward to seeing you and your friends at Club meetings and outings.

Respectfully,
Thomas Hurst

Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS'
CLUB



ECFNC

May 17, 1993

HONOURABLE HOWARD HAMPTON
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DEAR SIR:

The members of the Essex County Field Naturalist's Club were very displeased to hear of your plans to impose a 32% cut in grants to local Conservation Authorities in 1993. We are dismayed that you also plan to eliminate the Conservation Land Tax Program as well. We believe that this shows an incredible lack of foresight on the part of the Government.

Individuals throughout the Province have increasingly demonstrated a concern for the enhancement and preservation of the natural environment. Nowhere is this concern more justified than in the County of Essex. With less than 4% of its area forested and the vast majority of its wetlands lost; natural habitat is on the verge of extinction in Essex County. This is especially disheartening as the County is part of the unique and provincially small Carolinian Zone in Ontario. It is in the interest of all Ontarians to preserve this rich natural resource for future generations.

Aside from the protection afforded Point Pelee National Park, the only public agency undertaking the task of preserving this valuable Provincial Resource has been the Essex Region Conservation Authority. It has undertaken an ongoing program to purchase and preserve the County's rare natural remnants. In fact, while your ministry announced its cuts the Authority announced its local fundraising campaign, "Islands of Green"; to finance future natural habitat purchases. Your Ministry's pronouncements have put the Conservation Authority's efforts in jeopardy.

While like most Ontarians the ECFNC believes that the provincial deficit must be addressed; we do not believe it should be done in a manner that will cause the irrefutable harm your proposals would create. The increasing demands on land by agriculture and urbanization in Essex County necessitates immediate action to preserve its remaining natural habitat. By severely limiting the resources of ERCA what little habitat remains will either be lost or become prohibitably expensive by the time the Provincial government gets its financial house in order.

The elimination of the Conservation Land Tax Program would in essence make the ownership of irreplaceable natural habitat a liability to Conservation Authorities and would certainly discourage them from protecting natural habitat. Not only should the Land Tax Program be retained, but in Essex County, new natural habitat tax abatement programs should be introduced to encourage private landholders to protect their natural heritage.

Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS'
CLUB



ECFNC

The Ministry of Natural Resources does not provide facilities or staff in Essex County to educate or enhance the experience of nature for county residents. This important task instead has been undertaken by the Essex Region Conservation Authority. No doubt the severe financial cutbacks proposed will adversely affect the Authority's ability to provide these services. At a time when most agree that the public environmental education is very important to the future quality of life for all Ontarians it makes little sense to diminish its availability.

The Essex County Field Naturalist's Club urges you to collaborate with Conservation Authorities in protecting the natural heritage of Ontario.

Respectfully
Thomas Hurst

President
ECFNC

c.c.

GEORGE DADAMO

M.P.P. ESSEX - KENT
M.P.P. WINDSOR - RIVERSIDE
M.P.P. WINDSOR - SANDWICH
M.P.P. WINDSOR - WALKERVILLE

ESSEX REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Artificial Snake Hibernaculum Design and Construction

Artificial hibernacula can be constructed to ensure that suitable overwintering sites are available to local snake populations.

An artificial hibernaculum essentially consists of an underground chamber that has at least one entrance/exit tunnel to the surface. The chamber must be situated below the frost line. Therefore the top of the chamber should be buried at least 1 meter (3.3 feet) below the surface grade. Ideally, 2 or 3 plastic pipes or hollow logs will lead to the chamber.

The hibernaculum should be placed in an area concealed from human activity. Another consideration is the presence of mammalian predators. Remember, snakes are cold-blooded and therefore sluggish in cool weather, especially in early spring (March, April) and late fall (October, November) when entering or emerging from winter hibernation. At these critical times, snakes are very vulnerable to cats, dogs, raccoons, and human activities.

Hibernacula should be situated in the snake's natural habitat away from roads and other dangers such as lawn mowing. Transition or edge habitat such as a woodlot-natural grassland interface is a prime location for a hibernaculum.

An ideal method of concealing the entrances, attracting and protecting the snakes (even in a backyard garden or fencerow) is to pile rocks, logs, and/or brush around the entrance pipes. When doing so, remember to leave a passage the same size as the entrance pipe.

Another important consideration is spring runoff and groundwater levels. Do not build hibernacula in low swampy areas where the chamber will fill with water, drowning or forcing the occupants out in unsuitable weather. It is a good idea to have a raised berm of soil around each entrance pipe to protect it from surface runoff in heavy rains.

Consideration of the snake species occurring in your area will determine the appropriate diameter of the entrance pipes. A maximum inside diameter of 3 inches will allow access for our large snakes (eg. Fox Snake) and still exclude skunks and other larger predators. Unfortunately, shrews, weasels and other small predators can still enter, however the presence of large snakes will discourage most small predators. To protect small snake species (eg. Brown Snake), and juveniles of larger species, you may wish to build a smaller hibernaculum with 1.5 to 2.0 inch diameter entrances.

In loose soils it is necessary to line the hibernaculum chamber with solid, rot resistant materials (eg. concrete blocks, tin sheets) to prevent the chamber from collapsing. It is also a good idea to leave soil mounded on the surface above the chamber. This will reduce water seepage and increase the insulation value.

Within the chamber, use large rocks or concrete blocks to hold up the ceiling material (eg. tin or heavy plywood) and to provide smaller crevices and chambers. The entrance/exit pipes should be gradually angled, easily accessible from within the chamber, and the interior surface roughened to allow for easy escape. Avoid toxic materials and coatings (eg. chemically treated lumber) as these could leach into the damp chamber.

A sheet of old roofing tin placed in a sunny location near the hibernaculum will provide a warm, above-ground shelter for your guests. Periodically looking under the tin provides an opportunity to observe and monitor potential hibernaculum occupants. Try to minimize disturbances and provide brush piles or other escape cover near the tin sheet and hibernaculum entrances, should predators or people with less admiration for snakes happen along. Use sticks or small stones to prop the tin slightly above the soil surface and never step on the tin sheet for obvious reasons.

An alternative method of building a hibernaculum does not require any pipe, tin or blocks, only natural debris such as rocks, logs, brush, and stumps. This method is less complicated but the final product is probably less durable. Location, provision of escape cover and other previously described considerations are still applicable.

Dig a two meter deep hole that is approximately one and a half meters square. Loosely fill the hole with large rocks, stumps, logs, brush, broken concrete (not asphalt - toxic leachates), leaves, etc. in a manner that provides chambers and tunnels. Cover the filled hole with a layer of logs and stumps, having at least one hollow log leading to the center of the filled hole. Cover the hollow log (entrance/exit) and filled hole with additional rocks, brush and natural debris. Add a layer of soil, making a mound approximately one meter high. Loosely pile brush or other cover materials around the open end of the hollow entrance log. The remaining soil can be used to build a berm outside the perimeter of the hibernaculum.

Increasing critical and limited resources, such as hibernacula, can aid in the stabilization and growth of local snake populations. Snakes have suffered needlessly at the hands of uneducated and intolerant people. Educate yourself and others about the benefits of healthy snake populations. Snakes prey on many crop, garden and household pests as well as being an interesting part of a healthy ecosystem.

The only poisonous snake species in Ontario is the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake. It has a shy temperament and very rarely exceeds 75cm in length. It's tail ends in a rattle, rather than a tapered point as do all other Ontario snake species. The Eastern Massasauga is very rare and a threatened species in Ontario. A small local population of Massasaugas exists around Ojibway Nature Reserve. Similar appearing snakes can produce a rattling sound by vibrating their tails against the ground or leaves.

To familiarize yourself with the identification and behavior of our local reptile and amphibian species; read Bob Johnson's "Familiar Amphibians and Reptiles of Ontario" (Published by Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., P.O. Box 69, Postal Station H, Toronto, Ontario., M4C 5H7) ~\$12.00.

To help contribute to the ongoing distribution and status monitoring of Ontario's amphibian and reptile populations, send detailed sightings information to the Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary, c/o Ministry of Natural Resources, 353 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, Ontario, N5H 2S8.

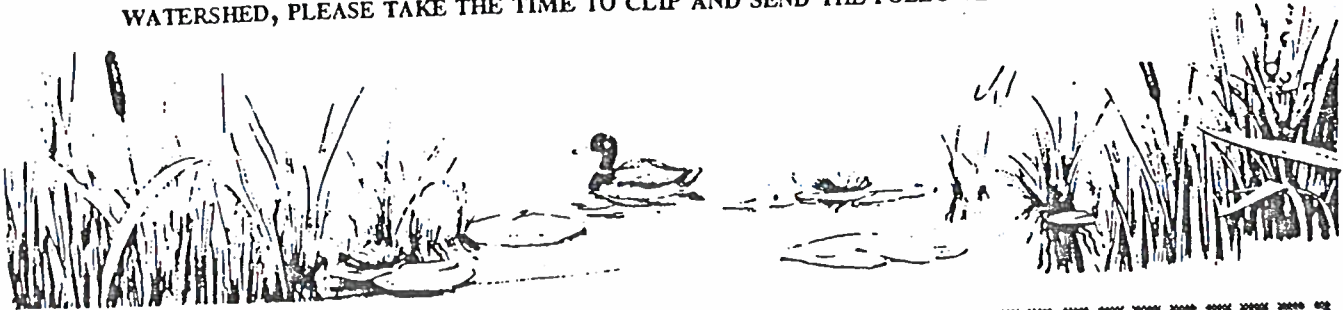
David Kraus
February 1993



edited by: Gerry Waldron
Tom Hurst

Conservation Lands at Risk

On April 23, 1993 the Provincial Government announced a 20% cut in operational grants to Conservation Authorities across the Province of Ontario. In addition, the elimination of the Conservation Land Tax Rebate Program on public lands owned by Conservation Authorities was eliminated. For some Conservation Authorities, who own large tracts of public land, these cuts are devastating. These lands have been accumulated by Authorities over the past fifty years for the benefit of future generations. They also comprise some of the most valued natural areas within the Province of Ontario. Conservation Authorities will be forced to institute a number of measures to pay the taxes on these lands, one of which includes the selling of conservation lands. If this happens, these lands could be lost to future generations - forever.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN YOUR WATERSHED, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CLIP AND SEND THE FOLLOWING LETTER.



Honourable Howard Hampton
Minister of Natural Resources
99 Wellesley Street West
Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

Dear Sir:

As a citizen concerned with the natural environment, I find it appalling that the ability and the initiatives of the Conservation Authorities of Ontario have been cut off by your decision to eliminate the Conservation Land Tax Rebate Program.

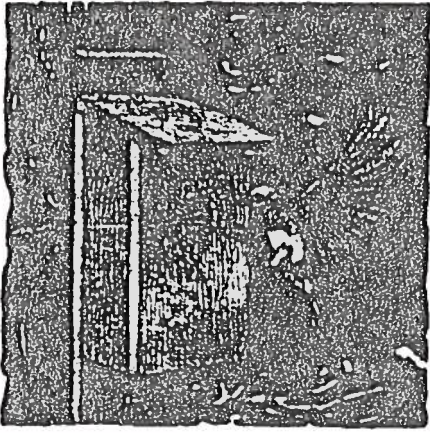
Please reinstate the full Conservation Land Tax Rebate Program to Ontario's Conservation Authorities so that our vital natural resources may be protected for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

We support our local Conservation Authority.

Yours Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____



NATURE: BOXES FOR BLUEBIRDS

ONE INCIDENT DECADES AGO CONVERTED me to bird-watching: it was the sight of a bluebird — a flash of brilliant iridescent blue — that seemed to light up an overcast spring sky. Had I never seen this beautiful little blue and white thrush, or just failed to notice it?

North America, the only place in the world where bluebirds are found, is home to three species — eastern, mountain and western bluebirds. Half a century ago, they were so common they were called blue robins. But populations of all three species have been shrinking. Reasons for their dwindling numbers are complex and varied, but most are connected in some way with human activity.

The main problem is a housing shortage. Because bluebirds rely on existing holes in dead trees and fenceposts for nesting, changing farming practices, such as replacing wooden fenceposts with metal ones, combined with fewer wooded areas and sprawling urban growth, have spelled the loss of bluebird habitat. To make matters worse, they must vie for the few remaining natural nest sites with two introduced birds, the house sparrow and the starling, which are also cavity nesters and are far more aggressive. Finally, insecticides poison many of the insects the bluebirds eat and even kill the birds themselves.

But the news is not all bad, thanks to public outcry and the contribution of legions of people across North America dedicated to bluebird revival. Organizations such as the North American Bluebird Society and Friends of the Bluebirds have sprung up over the past 20 years, and thousands of nest boxes have been erected in backyards and along highways and country roads.

If you are interested in providing safe nesting sites for bluebirds, keep in mind a few key points. Build and mount the houses by mid-March so that they are ready for the first spring arrivals. Do some research on design, materials, positioning and pest control — two books I recommend are *The Bluebird: How You Can Help Its Fight for Survival* by Lawrence Zeleny (Indiana University Press, 1978) and *The Bluebird Book* by Donald and Lillian Stokes (Little, Brown & Company, 1991). The size of the entrance hole must be large enough for bluebirds to pass through but too small for starlings and sparrows. Even more important is the placement of the house: bluebirds have very specific demands. Choose an open area where insects can be easily seen, and situate the houses close to a few scattered trees, shrubs or fenceposts so that fledglings have a safe landing site. At least once a week, monitor the houses to evict intruders, check on the birds' health, keep progress reports and discourage predators.

One danger to be aware of is *Procalliphora*, a type of blowfly which dines exclusively on bird blood and which can be difficult to dislodge once established.

Researchers at the Royal Ontario Museum, in Toronto, and Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, have recently completed studies that link the health and welfare of the eastern bluebird with a tiny jewel wasp of the genus *Nasonia*. These minute wasps lay their eggs inside blowfly pupae, which become dinner for the wasps' hungry emerging larvae. The wasps pupate and overwinter in the bluebird nests and mature the following spring.

But because many bluebird managers routinely clean out nest boxes each fall, discarding used nesting material, the wasps are often destroyed. So any nesting material you clean out should be left nearby in a container covered with 12-mesh screen; when the tiny wasps hatch, they can escape, while the larger blowflies are trapped inside. Installing platforms made of hardware cloth (available at most building-supply centres) beneath the nesting materials also keeps down the number of blowfly infestations and increases the *Nasonia* population.

Putting up bluebird houses and encouraging the birds to move in can be a rewarding experience. Not only will you thrill to the antics of this beautiful North American bird, but you will help ensure that bluebirds stay around for a long time to come.

— Jody Morgan

Bat Detectors!

This summer the Mammal Atlas will again be loaning out bat detectors. Detectors are available to individuals or clubs for varied periods of time dependant upon the number of requests and the amount of use each applicant will make of one. Anyone who is interested should write Sandy Dobbyn at the Mammal Atlas office, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8. In your letter, please indicate the date that you want the detector, the minimum amount of time that you will need it for and if you will be using it on your own or with a group of atlassers such as a naturalists' or sportsmans' club. We will notify everyone who will be receiving a detector by early spring.

Thank You !!!

To all of the volunteers who adopted an amphibian monitoring route; including Gary Tetzlaff who has adopted the Pelee Island route. I hope everyone enjoys participating in this important project!

D. Kraus

BIRDATHON '93, OR THE ADVENTURES OF THE THREE BIRDSPEETERS

IN THE WEE, WEE HOURS OF SATURDAY MORNING MAY 9, THREE ADVENTUROUS SOULS GATHERED AT THE HUMBLE HOME OF THE WISE BEARDED ONE. THE SUN WAS STILL NOWHERE TO BE SEEN AND THERE WAS A DEFINITE CHILL IN THE EASTERLY BREEZE. THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO THE SOUTHERLY WINDS WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED THE NIGHT BEFORE BY THE GRAND WIZARD OF CSC METEOROLOGY.

A CERTAIN PREOCCUPATION WAS IN THE AIR AS PLEASANTRIES WERE EXCHANGED. AS THEIR SOPHISTICATED ORNITHOLOGICAL-LOCATING INSTRUMENTS WERE STORED CAREFULLY IN THE FOREIGN-LOOKING CHARIOT, A CALL RANG OUT FROM NEARBY, AND THEN ANOTHER ONE FROM HIGH IN THE AIR. THE HUNT WAS ON! SOME OF THE CALLS WERE EASILY AGREED UPON, OTHERS REMAINED A MYSTERY TO THIS EAGER TRIO OF FEATHERED FOLLOWERS.

THE CHARIOT WAS READYED AND OFF THEY SPED, ALWAYS ON THE WATCH FOR A FLEETING IMAGE OF ANY AIRBORNE CREATURE. THE FIRST STOP WAS AT THE NORTH END OF THE HILLMAN SEA. THE WATERS WERE QUIET AND THE REEDS WERE TOO. WAS THE AIR TOO BRIGHT OR THE SEASON TOO YOUNG? HAD THE FEATHERED FLIERS TAKEN A DIFFERENT INTERSTATE EARLY IN THEIR LONG JOURNEY?

SLOWLY THE WORLD UNFOLDED AS EXPECTED. FIRST A BLACKBERD, THEN A KILLDEER AND A BULL. THE SPECIAL ONEES STILL ELUDED THEM SO THE TRIO HOPPED BACK INTO THE CHARIOT AND SPED DOWN THE UNEVEN ROADS, KEEPING A VIGILANT EYE ON THE BLACK FIELDS NEARBY.

THEY CROSSED A MOAT AND CAME UP TO THE GATE WHERE THE GUARD PEERED DOWN AT THE CORNER OF THE WINDOW AND THEN WAVED THEM THROUGH WITH A SMILE. THE SEA TO THE EAST WAS STILL AND EMPTY AND THEY PASSED IT BY WITH WINDOWS OPEN. ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE MAIN FORT THEY LISTENED, ALWAYS EAGER, ALWAYS EXPECTANT.

THE NEXT DESTINATION WAS THE TIP AND THEY CLIMBED ONTO THE PARKMOBILE FOR THE SHORT RIDE. ALL AROUND THEM WERE STRANGERS SEEKING THE SAME KIND OF BOOBY (BOOTY?). UPON ARRIVAL, THEY PILED OFF AND STRODE CONFIDENTLY STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE VIEWING AREA WHERE A NEW ARTIFICIAL EYEDALL HAD BEEN INSTALLED FOR THE ILL-EQUIPPED. THE WIND WAS STRONG AS IT SEEMED TO COME DIRECTLY FROM THE RISING SUN. THE FLYING CREATURES WERE MORE PLENTIFUL HERE AND THE THREESOME COLT APART TEMPORARILY IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO CATCH THEM ALL IN A LEAD. THEY SHIFTED THEIR EFFORTS TO THE WEST WHERE THE WATERS WERE CALM AND THE FAT FLIES WERE BOSSING ON THE SWILLS. MORE SIGHTINGS AND MORE SEEKERS, THE NUMBERS GROWING WITH EVERY NEW ARRIVAL ON THE PARKMOBILE.

IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP TO A CAREFULLY PLANNED STRATEGY THEY DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE FORT WHERE THE CHARIOT WAS WAITING TO TAKE THEM TO THE BEACH IN THE NORTH COUNTRYE.

WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE FORT, THEY WERE SURPRISED TO SEE SIR HINCE, WHO OFFERED TO TAKE THEM ON A QUICK SORTIE INTO THE LAND OF WARBLERS. THEY ACCEPTED HIS GRACIOUS INVITATION KNOWING SIR HINCE'S REPUTATION FOR HAVING ONE OF THE BEST PAIR OF EARS IN THE COUNTRYE.

NO SOONER HAD THEY LEFT THE FORT, DID SIR HINCE START SPEAKING, AS IF IN TONGUES, "A SISKIN HERE, A SWAINSON'S THERE, AND

AN ORANGE-CROWNED BEHIND US". TRULY A REMARKABLE PAIR OF EARS. COULD HE NOT HEAR THE MYRIAD OF ROBINS CALLING THAT WERE OBVIOUS TO THE OTHERS? HE MAINTAINED A VERY SERIOUS LOOK THOUGH AS HE STRAINED TO HEAR THAT SPECIAL OUT OF PLACE CREATURE THAT WAS BOUND TO BE AROUND THE CORNER, OR JUST ABOUT TO ARRIVE. YOU COULD SEE THAT HE WAS ONLY PRACTICING FOR THAT REAL TEST OF SKILLS THAT WAS COMING UP IN A FEW DAYS IN THAT FAR AWAY PLACE, IN THE LAND TO THE SOUTH.

AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR SIR HINCE RETURNED US TO THE FORT AND BADE US FAREWELL, WISHING US GOOD SCOPING. WE TRUNDLED OFF IN OUR CHARIOT, NARROWLY MISSING SOME CYCLISTS AND SOME OTHER CHARIOTEERS. THE RIDE TO THE NORTH BEACH WENT QUICKLY BUT WE WERE SURPRISED NOT TO SEE ANY CREATURES HIGH IN THE AIR. WAS THIS ANOTHER OMEN OF DIFFICULTIES TO COME?

AS WE DROVE OUR BUGGY UP TO THE BEACH LOT, THERE WAS A CROWD MILLING ABOUT, LOOKING A BIT DISORGANIZED BUT RELAXED NONETHELESS. IT HAD TO BE THE LEGIONS OF PRINCE PRATT, THE PRAIRIE WIZARD. WE WERE TOLD THE GREEN SPACE HAD BEEN AS KIND AS IT HAD BEEN IN THE PAST AND WE QUICKLY TOOK UP POSITIONS TO DEFEND OURSELVES FROM ANY CREATURES ESCAPING FROM VIEW. OUR ANTICIPATION QUICKLY TURNED INTO APPRECIATION AS THE FEATHERS FLEW BY.

THE PRINCE STARTED THE SHORT TREK TO THE SEA OF SMELLS WHERE WE HOPED FOR MORE FLOATING FRIENDS. ALONG THE WAY WE LISTENED FOR SWAMP THINGS, FIELD HOPPERS AND FLOCKING SKYWRITERS AND WERE NOT DISAPPOINTED. UPON REACHING THE SEA, WE SCOPED THE HINTERLANDS AND WERE REWARDED WITH THE SIGHT OF YELLOW-HEADED CREATURES AND SPINDLY-LEGGED WADERS. WE RETURNED BACK TO THE BEACH LOT AND LEFT TOGETHER FOR THE BIG O, FORMERLY THE SWAMP OF COMBER.

THE PRINCE'S LEGIONS WERE THERE TOO, POINTING OUT BRIGHTLY COVERED TREE HOPPERS AND LEAF KICKER-UPPERS. WE CASUALLY LOOKED TOWARDS THE HEAVENS BEING SURE NOT TO MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE ANY SPECIALTY. AFTER SOME TIME WE TOOK OUR LEAVE AND TRAVELLED FURTHER SOUTH BACK TO THE HILLMAN SEA WHERE WE HOPED TO CONNECT WITH MR PHIL, THE BARNKEEP.

UNFORTUNATELY HE WAS NOWHERE. WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM? WE NEVER FOUND OUT. COULD HE HAVE BEEN CARRIED OFF BY THE GREAT BALDED ONE WHO OFTEN PERCHED NEARBY? ANYWAY, WE LEARNED OF GREAT SIGHTINGS DOWN THE WINDING PATH AND SET OFF, PASSING SIR PRATT'S LEGIONS AGAIN! THEY WERE EVERYWHERE. THIS TIME, OUR LEGS GREW WEARY AS OUR SIGHTINGS DECREASED. THE FIELDS HAD EMPTIED AND THE BUSHES SEEMED TO BE HOME FOR ONLY YELLOWS. BUT WE DID GET TO SEE A WISE YOUNG ONE PEERING OUT FROM HIS HOLE HIGH IN AN EMPTY TREE. WE RETURNED TO OUR CHARIOT TO CONTEMPLATE OUR FUTURE PROSPECTS. WE TOOK IN SUSTENANCE AND DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE SOUTH AND TAKE OUR CHANCES AT MR DELAURIER'S.

BY THIS TIME WE ACHED AND GREW WEARY BUT PUSHED ON WITH OUR SEARCH. MR D'S TRAIL TURNED OUT TO BE QUIET AND WITHOUT EXPERT ASSISTANCE WAS NOT AS PRODUCTIVE AS HOPED. WE CONTINUED ON TO THE MARCH TOWER WHERE WE LOOKED ONLY BRIEFLY BEFORE DECIDING TO CALL IT QUIT FOR THE DAY.

ALL IN ALL, THE ADVENTURE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL WITH MANY CREATURES SEEN. BOTH FEATHERED AND SLIMY. THE DESIGNATED ONE HAD SEEN 124 FLIERS WHILE THE MONEYLENDER HAD SEEN 117. BETWEEN THE

TWO OF THEM THEY HAD EARNED 590 GOLD PIECES FOR THEIR EFFORTS.
THE WISE BEARDED ONE DID NOT DIVULGE HOW MANY HE HAD SEEN.
KEEPING TRUE TO FORM UNTIL THE VERY END.

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE BIRDSKETEERS. (TH, RS, CM)

Carl Miaolani

Around Ontario

HABITAT NATURAL CAPITAL
1993 Annual General Meeting and Conference
Carleton University, Ottawa

Once again The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is pleased to be host for the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the FON. Cultivated gardens along the canal and driveways, some of the finest wetlands in Southern Ontario, the interesting geology of Gatineau Park; habitats that are indeed "natural capital".

The conference begins with presentations on the habitats, flora and fauna of the National Capital Region, then broadens to consider current challenges to natural habitats and concludes with an exploration of possible ways to meet these challenges. The Conference Planning Committee hopes that you find the presentations and field trips interesting, that you pick up ideas about how you can play a part in meeting the challenges, and that you depart with optimism.

While in Ottawa, why not extend your stay at Carleton by a few days to take part in some of the other attractions in the National Capital Region. In particular, the new MacMillan mineral exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Nature, the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of Civilization, two new buildings since 1983 when the FON last met in Ottawa.

The FON membership trip program is planning two pre-conference trips. The trips will allow you to explore some of the special natural sites of Eastern Ontario with an experienced naturalist/leader. The region contains a number of destinations dominated by the Ottawa River and the historical Rideau Canal system. For more information, contact FON Membership Trips, 428 Falconer Street, Port Elgin, Ontario N0N 2C2.

**10th ANNUAL
WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING**

Karen Cedar



The New Jersey Audubon Society challenged birders from North America and the United Kingdom to the 10th annual World Series of Birding on May 15, 1993. Forty-nine teams (a record total) representing almost 300 birders participated in the event which raised over \$350,000 for conservation. This was the first year a team sponsored by the Essex County Field Naturalists' entered the competition.

Why a World Series? For lots of reasons. Because:

- ✓ It draws attention to the needs of migrating birds.
- ✓ It generates a lot of money. The WSB is the largest one-day conservation fund raising event in North America.
- ✓ It focuses national media attention upon the challenge and adventure of birding.
- ✓ It is, pure and simple, a heck of a lot of fun.

The Essex County Field Naturalists' team of myself, David D'hondt and Steve Pike finished the day with 158 species (only two behind Roger Tory Peterson's team!) and placed 26th overall.

Species recorded that day included Red-throated Loon, Northern Gannet, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Gull-billed Tern, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Chuck-will's-widow, Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Black Bear (no bonus points!).

We were awake for over 31 hours and travelled 850 km on the Big Day. By gathering pledges from more than one hundred supporters we raised over \$1,500 for habitat protection in Essex County!

World Series of Birding - From the Driver's Seat

Kim Cedar

We started our adventure on Tuesday, May 11, when we left Windsor at 7:30 pm. Karen (my sister), David D'hondt and I drove down 1-75 and onto the Ohio Turnpike. We travelled across Ohio and entered Pennsylvania at 11:00 pm. The three of us took turns driving through the night, and we arrived at Stokes State Forest in northern New Jersey at 6:00 am Wednesday morning.

Steve Pike had left us a note saying he would meet us at 9:30, and to bird the Sunrise Mountain Loop. It's easy to understand why it's called Sunrise Mountain. The view of the sun coming up through the trees and over the mountain is breathtaking. There were lots of forest birds around including a hummingbird in its nest right over the road! At 9:30, we returned to the park headquarters to meet Steve, Tom Hince and Michael Carlson. Tom shared some ideas and off we went again to explore the Stokes area, with Steve filling us in on all the things he'd seen and done the last few days. We picked up some groceries and returned to Stokes to camp for the night.

It was a really cold night and by morning it was raining lightly. Once we had packed up, we drove down to Trenton marsh, in the central part of the state. It was a long drive that took us through a wide variety of communities from farmland, to ghettos. Once at Trenton, Karen, Steve and David walked around and I met them at the other end of the trail. Back in the car, we headed down to Brigantine NWA on the Atlantic Coast near Atlantic City. There were a lot of shorebirds, terns and geese with goslings there. We even saw a baby mud turtle. Up until now the birders were pretty good with the stopping and going. Now it was stop every 2 seconds, turn off the car, wait 3-4 minutes, move another 2 feet and do the same. There were so many little bugs biting me, but I couldn't roll up the windows because the birders needed to see. So I suffered and got bit over and over again for 45 minutes. After Brigantine we got back on the highway and drove down to Cape May, the southern tip of New Jersey. All of us were looking forward to having a shower and a good night's sleep at the motel. By the time we got there, it was too late for all of us to shower if they wanted to be on time for the swap meet (where the teams get together and share information).

We seemed to have a problem with getting lost while driving. Sometimes the exit we wanted appeared so quickly I didn't have time to get to it, other times the exits we needed didn't have a sign, so we spent a lot of time back-tracking, turning around and searching for the right way. However, we always managed to reach our destination. At the motel, I took a shower, drove them to their meeting and went off sightseeing. I knew this would be my only chance to see things other than birds, but as I drove around, I began to realize that everything was already closed. I was pretty disappointed and resorted to doing laundry and going to a grocery store.

Friday morning we had breakfast on the ocean shore with Paul Pratt, Bruce Di Labio and a couple of Piping Plovers. Then we packed up the car again and started to bird the Cape May area. At Reed's Beach we met Roger Tory Peterson. Little did I know that this is the man who wrote all those books I've seen Karen use. After I got the details about his accomplishments, I felt truly honoured.

There was a woman there who told us about the hordes of horseshoe crabs on the beach. That was really interesting and I learned about a very neat creature. The crabs and their eggs attract thousands of Laughing Gulls and shorebirds, an amazing sight when they all decide to fly up at once.

We drove all over, scouting out the places we would visit tomorrow - the Big Day. By the end of the day we needed a place to rest until the drive to Trenton, where we would start the day. The only safe, quiet place was the obvious--a cemetery. So we all tried to sleep in the car for a few hours. At 10:00 pm I started driving to Trenton while they snoozed. We arrived at 11:45 pm.

All 3 birders were hyper with excitement to finally be starting the Big Day. They got out and walked around as they had the other day. This time it was night and it was really dark. Sitting by myself in a marsh at midnight was not my idea of excitement. However I managed to survive, and when I saw the shining light signifying they were close to the car, I felt an enormous sense of relief. Off I drove, back up to the northern part of the state. Just before arriving at Stokes, I had requested a 20 minute rest since I'd been driving for a very long time. Karen said sure, Steve said I'd have time to rest at the sparrow fields. I couldn't wait to close my eyes for a minute. I was really looking forward to it. Well, by 8:00 am I still hadn't had my promised rest. When I stopped for them to get out and listen, I would close my eyes each chance I got, but it seemed only seconds later they were back in the car saying "let's go". Driving around the Stokes area was a little hectic. Every now and then (every 2-3 minutes) somebody would yell STOP! BACK-UP! PULL OVER! QUICK!! I must say they did know how to get my attention! At one point, I thought Karen was going to jump out of the moving car. She hollered "KIM STOP! BACK-UP! BACK-UP! QUICK!" As fast as I could, I reversed to see a big black bear sauntering down the path. I just about lost it there, my nerves couldn't take these sudden frequent outbursts of excited "STOP, BACK-UP, PULL OVER, SHUT OFF THE CAR, SPEED UP, QUICK QUICK!!!! AHHH!!! Well, little did I know, this was just the beginning, it was only 8:30 am.

By mid-morning their spirits were lifting. They were starting to see and hear a lot of birds. Once we finished the Stokes area, I drove on to Brigantine. All the little bugs were gone! We worked our way down to the south, and everywhere we stopped now, they would either see or hear what they needed to quickly and easily. By mid-afternoon all of us were very happy. We went to Belleplain State Forest and then headed down to Cape May. Once there, we stopped at a few places: the concrete ship, Reed's Beach, Higbee Beach, the airport, 2nd Avenue jetty, Jake's Landing and Goshen Landing. I finally got my promised rest while they waited for a Black Rail to call. It was 10:30 pm and I had been driving for 24 hours. Only 1.5 hours to go. The team was pumped with adrenaline (and chocolate covered coffee beans). We left Goshen Landing at 11:15 pm and at 11:25 we realized we were in North Cape May and needed to be in West Cape May! Quick navigation got us to the finish line on time. At 11:55 pm I pulled into the parking lot and we ran into the building to hand in the results. Their final total was 158 species and we found out that Paul, Tom and Bruce had won! Well, we had to celebrate--champagne and high spirits kept us going until 4:00 am.

On Sunday morning we went to the awards brunch with 500 other participants and sponsors. Before we started home, we took an hour to do some souvenir shopping. It was all over and time to begin the 14 hour drive to Windsor. I slept almost the whole way, and left the driving to David and Karen. I've never driven so much in such a short time. On the big day I drove 850 km in 26 hours. I'm not a birder and had never driven for, or with birders before. I had no idea what I was getting into! Overall, it was a great experience and I really enjoyed myself. Now I have a good idea of what big day birding is all about.

OJIBWAY PARK

YOUNG NATURALIST DAY CAMP

Swamp walks, wildlife viewing, nature games and crafts for children aged 7 to 11.

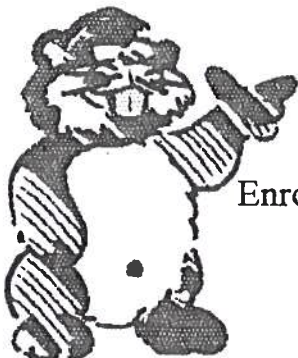
Each camp will run from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays during July and August.

PROGRAMME DATES

July 7, 14, 21, 28
August 4, 11, 18, 25

Registration Fee: \$14.00 per day

Just a reminder:



Enrollment is limited.

Registration:

KIDS 'N KRITTERS DAY CAMP

Nature fun for the younger set. Wildlife exploration and nature-oriented activities for children aged 4 to 6.

Each camp will run from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Thursdays during July and August.

PROGRAMME DATES

July 8, 15, 22, 29
August 5, 12, 19, 26

Registration Fee: \$6.00 per day

Bring a lunch and beverage!
Dress for outdoor activities!
Mosquito and sun repellent are recommended!

Ojibway Nature Centre
966-5852

Please register early!



Dear Club President or Secretary:

Judith McIntyre, a well known loon researcher, has referred to Common Loons and their eerie calls as "the symbol of wilderness, the positive affirmation of wild places, wild things, and wild sounds in the night." Unfortunately, loons may be suffering from human activities. The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS) is seeking to answer concerns about the loon's future in Canada by continuing to expand its network of loon watchers across the country.

The CLLS is a long-term monitoring program designed to determine the effects of acid rain and other human disturbance on the reproductive success of Common Loons on lakes across Canada. These aquatic birds are dependent on their nesting lake for resources to sustain themselves and raise their young. They may be extremely vulnerable to anything affecting water quality. Recent survey results suggest that loons may have difficulty raising young on lakes susceptible to acid precipitation. On severely affected lakes, loon chicks may starve to death because of low fish numbers. In addition to these obvious effects, increased acidity can release previously inert metals which then enter the food-chain and may accumulate and reach toxic levels in loons. The well-being of adults and chicks can be interpreted as a reflection of the state of the environment in their nesting area.

Lake acidity is not the only problem loons have to contend with in Canada, however. Loon legs are placed far back on the body, making loons powerful swimmers but virtually helpless on land. Loon nests are typically built right on the shore to minimize laborious climbs into and out of the water and provide a quick escape from perceived danger. Favourite sites include small islands, marsh edges or points of land. Cottages built on or close to the shore can displace a loon from its traditional nesting site. Fluctuating water levels can swamp a nest, or leave it stranded high out of the water and unreachable. The wake from motorboats can also swamp nests and wash out loon eggs.

Hundreds of volunteers are already surveying lakes across Canada, collecting important

information on the effects of pollution, development and other human disturbances on loon nesting and chick survival. The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey requires assistance from people who can visit lakes at least three times during the summer -- June to watch for resident adults, July to look for newly hatched chicks, and August to record the number of chicks surviving the summer. Information is needed from every type of lake -- from pristine wilderness retreats to busy cottage intersections. You don't even need a pair of nesting loons to do a survey on your lake. It is vitally important to know which types of lakes are not occupied by nesting loons and to determine which factors might exclude loons from an area. Each completed survey form will provide valuable information.

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer surveyor should send their name, mailing address, and the name and location of the lake or lakes they wish to survey to: Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, N0E 1M0, (519) 586-3531. A survey kit, complete with instructions, a report form, and information about conservation education signs and nest-site warning signs will be sent, free of charge, to anyone able to survey a lake or large river. All CLLS volunteers receive the annual newsletter each fall.

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is a project of the Long Point Bird Observatory, an independent, non-profit organization that conducts studies promoting the conservation of wild birds and their habitats. The CLLS is funded by Northern Reflections, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Environmental Partners Fund of Environment Canada, and charitable donations of CLLS participants.

Thank you for helping to spread the word about the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey!

Sincerely,



Harry Vogel
CLLS Project Biologist and Coordinator

BLUEBIRD REPORT

We 'Bluebirders' kept busy this winter. Boxes were re-located and repaired. A new trail was established at the South side of the Maidstone Conservation Area.

Our slide-show was presented a few times. In early March, some Kingsville area Cubs and Scouts gathered to see the slide-show. After the presentation, unassembled boxes were passed out, and the Boys nailed them together. Thanks Guys!

As usual, Bluebirds were spotted through the winter. Some of these Non-migrants were spotted along the Pleasant Valley Trail, and the Friends of the Environment Trail.

3 males showed up at the Harrow Ansi Trail on February 21. These could have been early spring arrivals, or perhaps wandering Non-migrants.

In early March, we had lots of Bluebirds! We monitors were predicting a productive year. However, some of these birds were Migrants, simply passing through. It is rewarding to know that we were able to provide shelter for these transients.

By April, we had over 20 pairs. However, as usual, some pairs started to build a nest, then left the area. A few pairs were chased away by English Sparrows. One female Bluebird was found dead on her nest of 5 eggs.

On the Harrow Ansi Trail, a House Wren came across a Bluebird nest. He decided he wanted that nest box, so he threw out the 5 eggs and most of the nest material.

One pair of Bluebirds built an unusually tall nest. In fact it went right up to the entrance hole. Unfortunately, a starling discovered this nest, and ate the 5 eggs. The nest was cleaned out, but the Bluebirds set up housekeeping in a nearby rotted branch.

Starlings cannot fit into our nest boxes. However, they can get their heads in. If the eggs are too close to the entrance, the starlings will pull them out, using their long bills.

Monitors, if you come across a tall nest, open the box and remove the bottom 2 inches of nest material. Then the eggs will be out of a predator's reach. We learned this trick from the Sydenham Field Naturalist's Club.

EARLY BIRDS!

One pair of Bluebirds on the Harrow Ansi trail, are very optimistic. On March 26, the Monitor was repairing some boxes on the trail. Although it was snowing, a male was singing his heart out, at one box. The box was opened, and there was the beginning of a Nest! This is surprising since late March was cold, snowy, and all around miserable.

Their nest was completed by April 8. The first egg was laid on April 16. Four more eggs were laid. All 5 eggs hatched on May 4, the earliest reported Bluebird hatching for this year.

As you can see on the Chart, our 20+ pairs of Bluebirds dwindled down to only 16 pairs by mid-May.

Almost all of our trails have Tree Swallows. Tree Swallows are often finicky nesters. They may start to build a nest, then she (yes, she) changes her mind and moves to another nest box. Some pairs spend a month on a trail before choosing their box.

By mid-May, some pairs had nests. Some were starting to lay. However, many pairs were still shopping around for just the right box.

MINATURE BLUE-JAYS?!!

A pair of Tufted Titmice were sighted on the Pleasant Valley Trail. They began nesting in one of our boxes! However, they were kicked out by a pair of House Wrens.

OTHER WILD-LIFE!

We Monitors have spotted other interesting animals on our trails. One of the Friends-of -the-Environment properties has a pair of Wood Ducks, and a pair of Rough-Winged Swallows. Deer and raccoons are spotted at Arner Point. The Harrow Ansi has Flickers, Orioles, and a Great Crested Flycatcher.

THANK YOU

To every-one who contributed, and participated with our raffle. The money raised will go towards building more boxes, and expanding our slide show.

We Monitors are amazed with the brooding habits of female Bluebirds. They get off the incubating eggs, quite frequently, for long stretches of time. The straw and small stagnant air space inside the nest box is obviously good for holding the heat. This is an advantage. The female bluebirds have more free time than non-cavity nesting birds.

HORNETS, WASPS

Remove these nests, using gloves, on cold mornings (the adults are most docile then.) Coat the ceiling with petroleum jelly. Also paint the top inch of the interior sides, back, and entrance board. This will prevent them from re-nesting.

Hornets and Wasps will prevent any birds from nesting. They will sting humans, especially Bluebird Monitors. AVOID getting stung! Depending on the Variety of insect, and your genetics, you could end up sick, swollen, or dead!

BLOWFLY LARVAE

These larvae crawl to the bottom of the box during mid-day. Lift your nest occasionally and look for these small larvae. They are the size of mice droppings and can be white, grey, or brown. Sweep them out and destroy them. Don't open the box if your young birds are 14 days old or more. At that age, they can be frightened into Premature Fledging.

ANTS

Sometimes, small black ants move into a nest. Using dry grass and your artistic skills, build a new nest. Remove the old nest and sweep the box out. Do this quickly, while storing the eggs, or young in a safe warm container. Placing a dry tobacco leaf under your new nest may discourage the ants from returning. Throw the ant-infested nest far away from any Nestbox. Again, don't attempt this if your young are 14 days old, or older.

MONITORS!

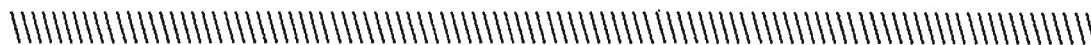
In late summer, or whenever your nesting season is finished, send your data to Betty Learmouth (Chief Monitor) or myself. I have an answering machine, so you can read your data over the phone. (Don Bissonnette 738-3279)

Your data should include:

- ...# Pairs of Bluebirds
- ...# Pairs of Tree Swallows
- ...# Pairs of House Wrens
- ...# Pairs of any other Cavity Nesters
- ...# of young Bluebirds fledged
- ...Any noteworthy interesting discoveries

GOOD LUCK MONITORS!

--- Don Bissonnette



BLUEBIRD TRAILS

<u>Club Trails</u>	<u># Boxes</u>	<u>#Pairs B'birds</u>	<u>Visiting B'birds</u>	<u>Tree Swallows</u>
Wheatley	6			x
Harrow Ansi	10	2	x	x
Brunet Park	4	1	x	
Arner Point	5		x	x
Arner Nut Grove	8		x	x
Pleasant Valley	37	5	x	x
Shell Trail	15		x	x
Friends-of-the-Environ	35	4	x	x
Maidstone Woodlot	8			x
Oionon Fields	3			

AFFILIATED TRAILS

Chewick	21	2		x
Linda's Goat Farm	6		x	
Paquette Corners	28	1	x	x
Wilamette Farms	10		x	x
River Canard	2			
Gore Road	4		x	x
Ruthven	6			x
Ambromvich	4	1	x	x
Lexi-Luck	8		x	x
Self-Song Farm	15			x
TOTALS	235	16		

ESSEX COUNTY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
June 9 - October 3

*Trips and special events exclusive to E.C.F.N.C. members in bold type

- Wednesday, June 9, 7:30 p.m. General monthly meeting. Jon Cartwright, F.O.N. Chairman.
F.O.N. and local clubs, Union Gas, Division Road.
- Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m. Mammal Atlas Workshop. Ojibway Park.
- Wednesday, July 7 - August 25
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Young Naturalist Day Camp (ages 7 - 11)
Ojibway Park. \$14.00/day.
- Thursday, July 8 - August 26
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. KIDS N' KRITTERS (ages 4 - 6)
Ojibway Park. \$6.00/day.
- *July 9, 10, 11
Fri., Sat., Sun.** **Niagara Escarpment Field Trip.**
Camping, Geology, Native Study, Bird Research Centre.
For details call Phil Roberts, 776-5209.
- Sunday, July 11
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Kid's Day. John R. Park Homestead
- Wednesday, July 14, 7:30 p.m. General Monthly Meeting
Hike with ERCA Biologist Gerry Waldron at the newly
acquired Arner property, meet at Arner Nut Grove parking
lot. Highway 18 and Arner.
- Sunday, August 8
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Folk Music Festival. Holiday Beach.
- Sunday, August 8
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Ice Cream Sunday. John R. Park Homestead.
- Sat., Sun., August 21 & 22
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Craft Fair & Blueberry Social. John R. Park Homestead.
- *Sunday, August 22** **Picnic and Members Day. Hillman Marsh.**
Fall Birding Hike (Point Pelee) 7:00 a.m.
Bird Banding Demonstration (Hillman) 9:00 a.m.
Picnic/Barbeque (Hillman) 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Dedication Ceremony (Hillman) 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 28
8:30 a.m. Hummingbird Extravaganza. \$7.00/person.
Ojibway Park Program at Point Pelee National Park.
- September/October Weekends
.September 18, 19 Hawk Watch Spectacle
Hawk Watch
Guided Hawk Watches
Photo Workshops
Raptor Banding Demonstrations
I.D. Workshops
- .September 26
Art and Naturalist Day
.October 2,3
Bald Eagle Weekend
Art and Photography Display Day
Displays, info, checklist.
- *Saturday, September 25**
9:00 a.m. **Raptor Research and Banding Demonstration.**
Holiday Beach Conservation Area
Meet at hawk tower. Hawk banding with Phil Roberts.

Tom Hurst