



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists

Volume II, Number 4

Fall 1996

1996 Ballie Birdathon Results

by Ethan Meleg

I was honoured this spring to be asked to be the ECFNC birder for the Baillie Birdathon. I immediately began planning routes for the 'big day' in my mind - trying to maximize potential bird species around the county. An unexpected call, however, from a professor at the University of Alberta landed me a birding job in northern Alberta for the summer. Before I knew it, I was living in a tent in the boreal forest 3 hours north of Edmonton and getting paid to bird each day! Spring was cold and wet up there this year. The end of May (the birdathon deadline) was fast approaching. yet the bulk of the migrants were still far to the south. Knowing that there were tons of birds to arrive any day, Kept postponing my birdathon.

A pleasant surprise came on the morning of May 30 when I woke up for work at 4:00am to the south of birds. With only one day to spare, I knew it was time for the birdathon. My first bird of the day, a White-throated Sparrow serenading my tent, helped convince me to get up. Within 20 minutes I was up and out in the woods. I began my work (bird surveys) right at the crack of

sunrise - 4:55am. Being able to combine my work and the birdathon was a great way to kill 2 birds with one stone, so to speak.

By 9:30am I was officially done work and focussed completely on adding more bird species to my day's list. Travelling by ATV and on foot, I covered as many different habitat types as possible. I found many of the same birds you would encounter at Point Pelee during migration like Magnolia, Blackpoll, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers. An uncommon treat was getting excellent looks at both Connecticut and Mourning Warblers - secretive birds which are often difficult to see. By far, however, the bird of the day (a lifer for me) was an adult male Western Tanager singing near a small lake. As long as I live I will never forget the brilliant red, yellow and black colouration of that bird!

At the end of the day, my final tally was 87 species. Nothing spectacular by Pelee standards, but not bad for that area. I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me for the birdathon. Your pledges are a valuable contribution to continued bird studies in Canada.



Inside this Egret . . .

1996 Ballie Birdathon Results	1
About the Club	2
The President's Report	3
Bluebird News	4
HELP! Clever Hands and Inventive Minds Needed	5
FieldTrip Review	7
Point Pelee's Winged Beauties	10
Detroit's Peregrine Falcons 1996 Nesting Season a Success	11
Native Plant Seeds for Nurserymen and Gardeners 1996	13
1st Annual (1996) Point Pelee Butterfly Count	16
Heaven	18
Letter to the Egret Editor	19
Up From the Egg: Confessions of a Nuthatch Avider	19
Treasurer's Report	20
23th Hawkwatch Season Results	21
Activities Calendar	24

*Thanks again,
Ethan Meleg*

P.S. If you made a pledge, but haven't paid yet, please give your money to Tom Hurst as soon as possible. Cheques should be payable to Long Point Bird Observatory.

About the Club...

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was incorporated in March, 1985. We are a registered charitable organization which promotes the appreciation and conservation of our natural heritage. ECFNC provides the community opportunities to be acquainted with and understand our natural world through identification, maintenance and preservation of natural areas of Essex County and surrounding regions. ECFNC is affiliated with the *Federation of Ontario Naturalists* (FON). □

The Egret is published quarterly. To receive information on the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, or to submit articles, letters, reports etc., please write to: □



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Point Pelee National Park
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Point Pelee Liaison: Richard Bilinski

Tree Study Chairpersons: Linda Kennette & Donna Sale

Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonette

N.H.R.P. Committee Chairman: Dave Kraus

FON Conference Coordinator: Karen Cedar

Committees:

Egret: David D'hondt, Karen Cedar, Ian McInnis, Betty Learmouth, Carl Maiolani

Fund-raising: Pam Simpson, Peg Wilkinson, Tom Hurst, Pat Arseneault

Speaker: Gerry Waldron, Phil Roberts, Karen Cedar

Field Trip: Heritage Committee

Annual Dinner: Margaret Jennings, Betty Learmouth, Phil Roberts, Karen Cedar, Lizanne Bacon

Bluebird: Don Bissonette, Betty Learmouth, Don Tupling, Carl Maiolani

N.H.R.P.: Dave Kraus, Donna Sale, Gerry Waldron, Linda Kennette

Heritage: Betty Learmouth, Muriel Kassimatis, Margaret MacDonald, Lois Thurgood, Jim McAllister, Gerry Waldron, Peg Wilkinson

Tree Study: Donna Sale, Gerry Waldron, Dave Kraus, Linda Kennette, Pat Arseneault, Bill Balkwill.



The President's Report

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer as much as I did this year. The weather certainly cooperated as it seldom became oppressively hot and the lack of precipitation kept the mosquitoes down to a dull roar. This summer I discovered that as the excuses not to take a nature hike decreased the excuses not to concentrate on Club business proportionately increased. Club business does not take a summer vacation however and I was reminded of this on the absolute last day I could put off writing this report.

While waiting for a Fork-tailed Flycatcher discovered by Mike Malone to reappear; Ethan Meleg reported that the Club Baillie Birdathon he had conducted last May in Alberta had been quite remarkable. Now that he has returned from his western sojourn he is anxious to collect the pledges we made to the Birdathon last spring. Don Bissonette curious about the apparently impromptu meeting of field naturalists stopped to inquire as to the success of the Amer bluebird track. This reminded me of the countless hours put in by many volunteers on the Bluebird Committee this season. The efficacy of their efforts over the years is reflected by the fledgling success I saw on the Nutgrove, Amer Point and Kurtz trails before I turned them over to Les Kummer in July. Later, Jeff Larson expressed satisfaction with the results of the Ojibway and Point Pelee butterfly counts this summer. Again I was reminded of the willingness of club members to further conservation efforts in the area. I am certain the butterfly counts will become just as much an institution as the Baillie Birdathon and the C.B.C. are presently. And finally Keith Burke's parting reminder that it wasn't too early to think about the Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count caused me to reflect upon the value of those who organize and lead activities for the rest of us. This season's calendar of field trips is an indicator of the pool of selfless talented people in our membership.

I certainly hope our members' enthusiasm for contributing to the Club and the local environment has not waned for there will be many opportunities to express this commitment in the future. For example seed collection for native trees has already begun. Donna Sale and a handful of volunteers have already collected Sassafras seeds and with the season fully underway will willingly accept your help. The 1997 F.O.N. - A.G.M. Committee has been working all summer laying the groundwork for the convention. All of us will be participating in this historic event, so to claim your turf you should

contact Karen Cedar as soon as possible. While you are discussing the convention with Karen you would be wise to order your Annual Dinner tickets as seating is limited to only 80 people this year. Tickets are available at the Ojibway Nature Centre and Pelee Wings Nature Store. As well if you wish to donate an auction item now is the time to let Betty Learmouth know.

This year the ECFNC has joined forces with the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory and the Holiday Beach Hawk Banders to put on the annual Hawk Festival this month. The HBMO is going to count, the Banders are going to band and both groups are inviting guest speakers. The Naturalists' responsibility will be the food and beverage concession. All three organizations need funds to continue their work. The Holiday Beach Hawk Festival obviously (Birder's World, Oct. 96) has the potential to be one of the largest birding events in North America. Please give a little of your time to ensure its success. A very small effort on our part will reap enormous benefits for us and our region. This is one of the few jobs where you can witness a world famous phenomena right on the jobsite while collecting the rewards that come from giving of yourself. As a bonus ERCA is providing special edition T-shirts for the volunteers.

In September the Essex County Stewardship Network, of which ECFNC is a member, is hosting an event of international proportions. The Network is a new group set up to encourage environment enhancement by rural landowners in Essex County. They have invited the International Countryside Stewardship Exchange to visit from September 20th to the 26th. Volunteers from Great Britain and the United States will visit our farms, towns and natural areas to consult with local politicians, landowners, businessmen and stakeholder groups. They will help devise strategies to combine economics and the environment that will benefit all of us. This exchange is a unique opportunity to integrate our natural habitat into the consciousness and planning of all county residents and their leaders. Indeed it could determine the quality of life of the county's next generation. I suggest everyone look for the announcement of the public meeting begin held September 26 as it will be of interest to everyone.

Chris Allsop the Land Manager for ERCA dropped by the Club's August Executive meeting to keep us abreast of the Authority's plans. It was made clear that due to funding cutbacks by both the Province

and our municipal councillors, the upkeep of Conservation Areas will rely greatly on the efforts of volunteers like the Friends of Tremblay Beach, the Knights of Columbus in Maidstone and the Field Naturalists. So far the Authority's entire land management budget is to be derived from C.A. property income (rent, gate receipts, etc.) and Ontario Tax rebates on conservation land. Neither of these are lucrative fund sources for the largest owner of publicly accessible natural habitat in the region.

The revised tax rebate program will apply to all class one wetlands, property housing endangered species and managed natural areas. Thus ERCA will receive rebates for all its lands except for farmland and the Greenway. It also means ERCA must approve management plans for five C.A.'s in the near future. All of us should take an interest and provide input during the public consultation phase of this process.

Coinciding with these drastic budget cuts ERCA will have to also contend with the loss of its Land Manager. Chris Allsop is stepping down to spend more time with her growing family. ERCA will surely miss her input but we are very happy to welcome her as a new member of the ECFNC.

On a positive note the public advisory committee work on the Greenway is now complete. The concerns of adjacent landowners have been addressed and if donations are forthcoming there is a likelihood that the public will be able to utilize this

natural corridor in the foreseeable future. At Holiday Beach Sherway Construction has generously donated their resources to dig a pond near the Hawk Tower. ERCA and the FON have planned a fall burn on the Pelee Island Alvar to replace the spring burn cancelled by the weather.

Unfortunately the Heritage Committee has been forced to drop its bid for a 17.5 acre site on Pelee Island. The final asking price of \$100,000 U.S. was more than the Committee could justify spending. Undeterred the Committee is looking for an alternate site and we look forward to its recommendation. At the same time the Committee has on the Club's behalf undertaken to become the steward of the FON's Pelee Island Reserve.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a productive and enjoyable fall season.

Respectfully, Thomas Hurst



Please recycle the newsletter, let a friend read it!

BLUEBIRD NEWS

by Don Bissonnette

1 996 was a good year for Essex county's Bluebirds. Despite the cold spring, most Bluebirds began building their nest in late March, as usual. The first Bluebird eggs were laid in mid-April. The cold spring turned out to be a mixed blessing for the Bluebirds. The cold weather lowered hatching rates, and made insects scarce. The cool temperatures, fortunately, discouraged the English sparrow from nesting. Most years, the English sparrow starts nest building in late March, just like the Bluebird. This year, at least at the Harrow Research station, the first English sparrow nests were found in late April, one whole month behind schedule. By then, almost every box was occupied by Bluebirds or Tree Swallows. This one month head-start proved to be very good for Bluebirds.

We will publish all the 1996 Nesting Season results

in December's Egret Magazine. Speaking of nesting season result...

DATA SHEETS - Dearest Bluebird monitors, please fill out your 1996 Eastern Bluebird Nestbox Survey. These were sent to you in the spring, by Don Tupling. Many Thanks go to Don Tupling who has volunteered to be the official data collector of the Bluebird Committee. He has a big job to do, so, please Dear Monitors, give him your consideration, and mail off those surveys A.S.A.P.

IT'S CLEANING TIME!

In the past, some monitors worked on their trails in late Winter (February, and early March). This 'work' entailed washing, repairing and re-locating the Bird-houses, and greasing all the bird-house posts.

Many monitors encountered trouble during February

and early March. First, the ground is frozen, which makes bird-house relocation very difficult. Secondly, the weather can be rainy, snowy, or miserable. Thirdly, washing out a bird-house is very challenging when the wash water is freezing up, and your hands are numb with cold.

The solution? Work on those Bluebird trails IN THE FALL! Essex County is blessed each year with some beautiful Autumn days. Plan now to work on your bird-houses in late September, or October. The temperature is pleasant, and the mosquitoes are few, and bird watching is great.

The importance of washing out your bird-houses cannot be stressed enough. Cleanliness will add years to the bird-houses. A dirty bird-house is a rotting, and deteriorating bird-house. Both Bluebirds and Tree Swallows prefer nesting in clean bird-houses.

Also, during your fall outing to your Bluebird trails, grease each and every bird-house pole. This will prevent the mice from moving in.

THANK YOU to Carl and Chris Maiolani. They assisted the Bluebird Committee Chairman in washing out over fifty bird-houses last fall and winter. They also relocated about a dozen bird-houses. At

the same time, they learned a lot about Bluebird management.

Chris is a very sharp, observant young man. He is quick to find wildlife. Last November, he saw a Red Fox at the Maidstone Conservation Area Bluebird trail.

TO SUMMARIZE, Dear Monitors, you have a few tasks to do before the weather gets bad...

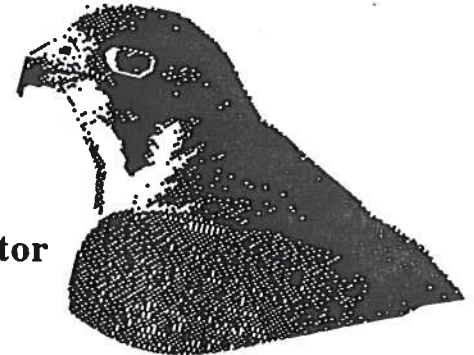
- 1) Fill out the Bluebird questionnaires, and mail them to Don Tupling A.S.A.P.
- 2) Wash out each and every one of your bird-houses. Fill an empty dish soap bottle with warm water and a tablespoon of bleach. Fill a second dish soap bottle with cold water.
- 3) Relocate any bird-houses which have not attracted Bluebirds or Tree Swallows in two years. If you need help with this, call our fearless chairman Don Bissonnette, for assistance.
- 4) Grease all the bird-house posts!
- 5) Repair any broken bird-houses.

HELP! CLEVER HANDS AND INVENTIVE MINDS NEEDED!

NHRP needs help from all of you inventors disguised as bird watchers. Many of you help us collect seed each year, but the work doesn't stop there. All of this seed has to be cleaned before being packaged and shipped. Some of you have helped clean seed and know what a labour intensive process it can be. Walnuts, butternuts and hickories have to have the hull removed, acorns the caps. John and Betty Moore clean walnuts and butternuts using a hand operated corn shucker. After collecting, nuts and acorns are left 2-3 weeks to give grubs, that are in the nuts, time to mature and exit. The nuts with grub holes must then be discarded. We do this visually, because we have found that while floating off grubby nuts works, it also gets rid of many good nuts too. Large hard fruits such as crabapples, have to be crushed. Last year I did this with a sledge hammer(not fun). Large bits of fruit were then washed away with water leaving behind seeds still attached to fruit. These were finished off in a blender with taped blades. Seeds in pods have to come out (Honey Locust and Kentucky Coffee Tree).

So... if any of you can think of better ways to clean seed, using existing machinery or gadgets, or inventing your own gadget we would appreciate your help. I wondered if an apple press for making cider would work for crabapples?? Does any one have one we could try? You don't have to be an inventor to help. Sign up for our seed collecting adventures and seed cleaning parties or phone Donna Sale 733- 9972.

**Essex County Field Naturalists' Club's
Twelfth Annual Dinner**



Guest Speaker

Judy Yerkey

Detroit's Peregrine Falcon Coordinator

A slide presentation entitled
**"Talons Across the Border :
Detroit's Peregrine Falcons"**

Fogolar Furlan Club
1800 E.C. Row
(North Service Road)
Windsor, Ontario

Saturday, November 16, 1996

Bar open: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$25.00 Children under 12: \$12.50
After October 9, 1996 : Adult Ticket \$30.00

Silent Auction

featuring

Numerous nature-related items and new nature book titles for all ages

Wonderful Christmas shopping ideas

Proceeds from silent auction to be used for protection of a local natural area

Door Prizes

A Non Smoking Event

Tickets Available From:

Ojibway Nature Centre: 966-5852
Pelee Wings Nature Store: 326-5193

FIELD TRIP REVIEW

Night Watch

Ten naturalists gathered after dark on Sunday evening, June 23, 1996 to view moths and other insects on the edge of Bill Balkwill's woodlot in Gosfield South Township. Jeff Larson, or knowledgeable leader, arrived early to prepare for our insect watch. When we gathered we found a white sheet hung between two trees with a battery-powered UV light in the front of the sheet. Nocturnal insects appear to be attracted to the light but are more likely to be disoriented by the light.

Our first notable insect of the evening was an elongated hornet look-alike beetle that Bill called a "burying beetle". It was a "lifer" or new species to Jeff, although Jeff was familiar with the beetle from photographs. This insect was collected from the sheet then placed in a collection jar with a magnifying lid. With the aid of flashlights, everyone had good looks at the beetle with its orange spots, spade like feet, orange clubbed antennae and parasitic mites about its' head. Jeff intended to give it to a lucky friend who is interested in beetles.

Other insects seen during the evening included an American Wood Roach, a Stonefly and a Click Beetle. The American Wood Roach was an insect we had seen the year before which is frequently found around woodlots. The Stonefly was a grey, two inch long insect. Part of its life cycle is associated with clean water in streams.

Fishermen know this, tying flies that resemble stoneflies. Jeff held the Click Beetle for us to see more closely. We could see that the front of the body was loosely joined to the back of the body as the insect was wrapped over jeff's finger. Faint clicks could be heard as the insect struggled to free itself.

The lo moth, a common medium-sized moth in Bill's woodlot, was represented by at least six males that flew into the sheet. We were able to admire several specimens of this lovely golden-coloured moth with black and blue "bull's eye" on the hind wings. Jeff told us that this family of moths extends from our area through Central America and into South America. The green larvae of this species have spines which can inflict a sting to the unwary. lo moth larvae have been found on a number of food sources, including cultivated crops such as corn.

Females of this species seem not to be attracted to lights so all the moths we saw were males. As the

last three naturalists were leaving an lo moth was spotted and captured on Bill's front lawn. It was a female lo, recognizable by its brown fore wings. The females are certainly less frequently seen than males, as Jeff has only seen two lo females during his many years of moth watching. Bill felt that he might see one female yearly on his property.

We were fortunate to view other species of moths. Quite lovely was the medium-small Spiny Oak-slug moth. When viewed through the collection jar's magnifying lens, this moth was chestnut-coloured with spots of vibrant lime green on its wings. The common Twin-spotted Sphinx moth gave us fine views of its lower wings with blue spots surrounding by vivid pink.

Jeff shared some tips on moth watching. Next year our group should pre-mix a concoction of beer, yeast and mashed, well-ripened bananas with perhaps just a bit of brandy added. This delightful mixture can be painted on tree trunks to attract moths, especially sphinx or hawk moths. Mid-August is another excellent time for moth viewing. Underwing moths can be found in good numbers along with an anticipated influx of more southerly sphinx moth species to our area.

We wish to thank Jeff for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for the insects that inhabit our woodlots. Special thanks to Bill Balkwill who is so willing to have us view his woodlot's insects. We always enjoy the firefly finale!

Don's Bluebirds

A beautiful summer evening drew fifteen naturalists to attend an excursion on June 30, 1996. Don Bissonette was our leader as we visited with the Harrow Research Station's population of Eastern Bluebirds. We drove our vehicles along the Research Station's roads, stopping at various locations to view nesting boxes, Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. The Research Station property supports about five pairs of bluebirds on a habitat that encourages Eastern Bluebirds to nest. Food, nesting locations, water, perch locations and a quiet location are available for these attractive birds.

Don told us that Eastern Bluebirds can vary greatly in their colours. The males may be blue or turquoise. The females can be powdery blue or grey blue. The breast patterns may be very distinctive so that individual birds may be recognized.

Don showed us several styles of nesting boxes. A conventional bluebird box with a front entrance was

on one fence post. This box was the nesting site of a pair of Eastern Bluebirds which we saw entering the box. Another box that we viewed was a Baldry Box with a roof opening covered by a screen. This design is intended to discourage house sparrow nesting, but it does not always work. The Peterson box offers another design that is more house sparrow effective. Five young Tree Swallows had successfully fledged from this box two days earlier.

Don had a number of management tips for a bluebird trail. Boxes should be placed facing the east to catch the light and warmth of the early morning sun, thus avoiding the heat of the four o'clock sun.

Greasing the poles is a good idea to prevent racoons from predated the boxes. Don reports that he sees at least one racoon on every visit to his bluebird trail. Bluebird trails should be visited weekly. If monitoring is neglected, then the bluebirds will not flourish. Sometimes Don can intervene if house sparrows are attempting a box take-over, otherwise Don simply records the progress of the nesting bluebirds and Tree Swallows.

Boxes need to be maintained. Don suggests that boxes be washed well as part of winter maintenance. This will freshen the boxes, encouraging nesting by Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Don illustrated this by telling us about a trail in Maidstone that has Tree Swallows in every box following good winter maintenance.

Bluebirds can be found at the Harrow Research Station beyond the nesting season. In late summer the Eastern Bluebirds form flocks. Don reports that he has visited the esker on the Harrow Research property at this season and has found it to be surrounded by as many as twenty or thirty bluebirds. In January and February, male Eastern Bluebirds can be found about the jumper trees in the hedge rows where they may be looking for spiders on warm days. During earlier spring as the snow is melting, the bluebirds feed on small black spiders found in the grassy areas.

Our tour concluded with a visit to the esker where we saw five bluebird eggs in this location's single nesting box. Don had originally placed many boxes on this esker but found that the bluebirds wanted more territory so the nesting boxes are now quite scattered about the Harrow Research property. The esker is fine bluebird habitat as trees are scattered along its length with discouraged grassy area that is mowed several times during the summer. Rocky soil has discouraged farming on this land.

Thank you, Don, for a wonderful evening with the

Eastern Bluebirds on your bluebird trail.

Insects of the Ojibway Nature Centre

Naturalists seeking insects, then examining their "catch", tend not to travel very quickly. If anyone was late for this excursion, finding the group was not a worry. Six naturalists joined insect enthusiast Erica Gunby on July 14, 1996 for a glimpse at the insects found around Ojibway Nature Centre.

The semicircular prairie garden yielded a selection of delicate damselflies, some golden brown, others with green heads and blue tipped abdomens, resting among the prairie grasses. Bright orange "milkweed bugs" were easily spotted on the common milkweed plants, along with a single Monarch butterfly larvae. The shiny golden Japanese Beetle caught everyone's attention. None of the naturalists had seen this insect previously although everyone knew that this introduced insect can destroy vegetation in a garden quickly. One naturalist mentioned that a friend's new linden tree had been stripped by these insects. Apparently this pest is making a "comeback".

An easily overlooked Lacewing with its delicate green wings and green body was admired. A single large grasshopper escaped our insect nets. Yellow aphids on a common milkweed flowerhead were examined.

Eastern Tent caterpillars were found and easily viewed on a drooping tree limb. We could see the empty tents that two groups of caterpillars had deserted, the twigs within the tents completely defoliated. Within the new tents the caterpillars were feeding on the tree's leaves, but would "dance" or vibrate in reaction to disturbance from the naturalists.

An attractive long horned beetle with green and black marking was examined. On the lawn we spotted a colourful Harvestman spider on its territory. The spider has only one main body part. A colourful leafhopper (graphocephala) was exclaimed over by the naturalists as the markings on this small insect are quite remarkable. One naturalist commented that this insect's markings reminded her of tiny Tetra fish colours. Tiny flowerflies, moving quickly, were spotted among the plants along the path.

At a rotting log by the path, Erica pointed out Springtails, minute wingless insects that are scavengers. Sometimes, on warm winter afternoons, Springtails known as Snow Fleas may be seen on the snow in a woodlot.

Thank you Erica for introducing us to the fascinating world of insects. Erica suggests that on our next insect excursion that we should set baited insect traps ie margarine containers set in the earth with bait such as hamburger that will attract tiger and carrion beetles. We'll look forward to another intriguing excursion into the insect world.

A Visit to the Fogolar Furlan Club's Property

A group of naturalists joined Bruno Sfalcin on July 22, 1996 for a walk around the Fogolar Furlan property which is located on the North Service Road of the E.C. Row Expressway. The naturalists admired the hickory forest that contains oak species such as red, pin and burr as well as basswood. In the springtime, dogwood violets bloom in this wooded area. The woodlot surrounds the main building and provides a wooded area that members enjoy in the summer as a picnic and meeting area.

Our group walked along a hedgerow that acts as a buffer to the adjacent property. A number of hawthorns are established in the hedgerow as well as a variety of plants which the group enjoyed identifying and discussing. Bruno has introduced Bloodroot into the hedgerow where it is thriving.

The Fogolar Furlan property is adjacent to the Udine Park which eventually will be a part of the Windsor walking trail. Native Essex County trees including Kentucky Coffee trees and Sumac have been planted on the edge of the Fogolar property. This area has the potential to be very attractive as more trees are planted locally. Local residents will enjoy the easy access to a pleasant recreational area.

On a berm to the right of the main entrance to the Fogolar property, a number of trees have been planted with Bruno's encouragement. The plantings have been done in the last two to three years with many of the trees grown from seed by Bruno. Many are native Essex County trees which are doing very well. We admired a Hop Tree with a tiny Giant Swallowtail larva on a leaf. Witch Hazel, Redbud, Osage Orange, Tulip Tree, Sycamore, an Elderberry, Serviceberry, Pumpkin Ash and a group of Paw Paw were thriving. Other trees added to the variety such as a Mountain Ash, Bamboo, Jack Pine, Turkish Hazel and a Dawn Redwood. These trees make an attractive entrance to the Fogolar Club which should be encouraged to continue the plantings around their large property.

Thank you Bruno for sharing your knowledge of the trees on the Fogolar Furlan property with us. We'll be watching these trees as they grow and thrive.

Spider, Spiders

The weather was very good for searching out spiders on Aug. 11, as all days are. The temperature was in the low 80's F. and few clouds could be seen. Nine enthusiasts met in the parking lot at the visitor centre of Point Pelee Park and viewed a few specimens that the leader, Carl Maiolani had brought along. Included in the specimens was a black and yellow argiope that Carl had brought from Tom Hurst's backyard, a long-bodied cellar spider, and a jumping spider. After a short introduction the group proceeded to scour the outside walls of the Centre for additional species.

We saw grass spiders (a funnel web species), garden or cross spiders (orb-weavers), longjawed orb-weavers, and more jumping spiders. Many of the species defied identification due to their small size and the limitations of our field guides, but the behaviour of the spiders fascinated all in attendance. Of special interest were the moving legs (previously separated from something's body) which were kindly provided by the youngest of the enthusiasts, Christopher Maiolani. During the trip we were also distracted by numerous insects which were everyone and just as curious in their shapes and behaviour as the spiders. After 1 1/2 hours we finished by going a short way down the Woodland nature trail where we were treated to congregations of a mysterious insect (thrips??) on many of the trees.

Despite the short duration of this trip, most of the members seems to be pleased with the sights and will probably be in attendance next year when a return engagement is organized.

Oakwood Bush

The morning of Aug 18 was downright beautiful, maybe even spectacular. Erica Gunby led a group of fifteen into the trails of the Oakwood bush in Windsor, where all kinds of special plant species too numerous to mention were seen and appreciated. Along the way, additional sightings seasoned the morning's offerings including spiders, caterpillars and butterflies. The walk took the better part of 3 hours despite Erica's need to depart on a long car trip the same day. Everyone on the walk was good at sharing their special knowledge of the flora and fauna that dared to peak out at the beautiful morning sun that day.

Point Pelee's Winged Beauties

Sixteen naturalists from such far flung locations as the Grey Bruce region of Ontario and Gainesville, Florida, joined lepidopterist Alan Wormington on July 27, 1996 for a closer look at the butterflies of Point Pelee National Park. This walk was sponsored by the Friends of Point Pelee. Alan has taken a long time interest in the butterflies of Point Pelee and for several years has conducted mid summer walks to share his knowledge of this butterfly population.

The weather was most cooperative for this excursion, still warm without being terribly hot. The sun shone brightly, encouraging the butterflies to be active. Our group walked along the West Beach where the alien plant species Spotted Knapweed in bloom attracts a variety of butterfly species. Then we explored the East Beach in the Tip's vicinity, followed by a short visit to the Sparrow Field.

We saw several Tawny Emperor butterflies, a Point Pelee butterfly specialty. The larva of the Tawny Emperor feeds only on the hackberry, a common tree within Point Pelee National Park. We observed one specimen feeding on wet mud from which the butterfly would extract minerals. This butterfly species has only one brood per season. The Tawny Emperor butterfly is restricted by its food host so beyond Point Pelee and Pelee Island it is rare in Canada.

Another butterfly species which is restricted to the hackberry for larval food is the aptly named Hackberry butterfly. This butterfly has two broods. The first brood was just ending its flight so many of the Hackberry butterflies we saw were very bedraggled. In August a new brood will appear.

One of the most frequently observed butterfly species on July 27 was the Summer Azure. Up until just a year ago this summer flyer was called the Spring Azure, but it is now recognized as a separate species. Spring Azures are represented by a few individuals that fly early in the spring. It was recently realized that the abundant azure species seen from June onward was worthy of further study, thus the recognition of a separate species. Other related species in this group are found in the Appalachians.

We were fascinated by the American Snout butterfly which is a tropical species that makes its way to this southern part of Canada. Again the hackberry is the larval plant food for this species. Alan expects

this species to be abundant in August as we saw good numbers of individuals. Several were resting on dry plant stems, mimicking leaf debris. Others would land on open areas, "disappearing" as their colouration mimicked the soil on which they were resting. Alan remarked that the numbers of this species can be quite variable from one year to the next. On one summer day in 1984, some 800 individuals of this species were counted.

Monarch butterflies were encountered all along the West Beach and in other sections of the Park. Alan netted a female which does not display the large dot or scent gland on the underwing which is shown by the male. The lines on the female's wings are heavier and thicker than those of a male. Alan is optimistic that this upcoming season will be a successful one for these highly migratory butterflies.

Pearl Crescent butterflies at Point Pelee National Park are being looked at more closely. Alan has noted that Pearl Crescents within Point Pelee National Park were producing broods at other times than expected. As well, the behaviour exhibited by the Point Pelee butterflies is of a different nature. DNA work is being undertaken at York University which may determine that a third species of Pearl Crescent could exist at Point Pelee National Park.

Alan netted a Question Mark butterfly that he identified as a female with its abdomen swollen with eggs. The summer form of the Question Mark has a dark hindwing. In the fall, this hindwing will be light, similar to the forewing.

The most common swallowtail butterfly encountered was the Giant Swallowtail. It appears that the broods for other Point Pelee swallowtails are late this year. In a week or two, there will be abundant numbers of these attractive butterflies, just in time for the first census of Point Pelee's butterflies, planned for August 10, 1996.

A number of other butterfly species were encountered such as the Cabbage White, the Common Sulphur, the Orange Sulphur, several hybrids of the Common and Orange Sulphurs, the Red Admiral, the Great Spangled Fritillary, the Blue Eyed Grayling or Common Wood Nymph and the Eastern Tailed Blue. Skippers were represented by the Silver Spotted Skipper, the Northern Broken Dash, the Dun Skipper and the

Common Sooty Wing.

Patches of Bouncing Bet displaying tubular flowers were noted as we walked along the trails. For persons eager to see sphinx moths, it is a good idea to come at dusk to these patches of blooming plants. Bring a flashlight to scan the plants which may yield some sphinx moths feeding at the flowers. Alan visits these sites at least once a week. So far this year Alan has observed Pandora,

Carolina and Great Ash sphinx moths. Late August and all of September are good times to observe sphinx moths as the best variety of species, perhaps 10-12, can be observed plus the rarities appear at that time.

Watching butterflies at Point Pelee is always a pleasure. Many thanks to Alan who shared his knowledge of Point Pelee's butterflies with us.

Detroit's Peregrine Falcons 1996 Nesting Season a Success

Detroit's Peregrine Falcons have had a notable nesting season with six chicks successfully hatched and fledged from two nesting sites in Detroit. The media has been most interested in the success of this year's nesting season, providing updates in the local press and on television news. Peregrine Falcon Co-ordinator Judy Yerkey has been extremely busy with monitoring and a variety of activities associated with the monitoring.

Peregrine Falcons Judy and Pop again nested at their nest site on the Book Building with the first egg laid on April 9, 1996. Due to the location of the box, monitoring is done by telescope from the Penobscot Building across to the Book Building. About June 1 two fluffy white young were observed in the nesting box with a third chick spotted on June 4, 1996. Banding of these three nestlings occurred on June 10, 1996 with the confirmation of two males and a female. The young will be named as part of a contest in which young Detroit Free Press Yak column readers were asked to submit appropriate names for the three chicks.

As June progressed the young at the Book Building did extremely well. The three young birds ventured away from the nest box along a four foot wide ledge that extends around the floor on which the nesting box is located. Judy and Pop continue to bring food such as Ring-billed Gulls and Rock Doves to the young while the young gained strength and the desire to make their first flight.

That first flight occurred on June 28, 1996 when the young flew from their ledge on the Book Building to the Book Cadillac Building sign. The adults will continue to feed the young birds while the young are taught the skills necessary to survive. Once the

young develop hunting skills they will disperse from the nest site area, likely about mid-August. On July 18, 1996 the young were named Gypsy, Orion and Thor as part of a contest for children sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources.

At the Fisher Building in the New Centre area, Peregrine Falcons H and Speedster chose a nest site behind a dome structure on the fifth floor above the Fisher's Grand Boulevard entrance. Full time incubation of the eggs at this site began on April 4 with hatching occurring about May 6, 1996. The confined space behind the dome structure did not allow for the proper development of the three young birds so plans were made to place a nesting box at a window just five feet away from the nest site on May 29, 1996.

The Detroit Free Press covered the banding of the three chicks in its May 30, 1996 edition. Readers were treated to large photos of the fluffy three week old chicks. While the banding operation and news conference was taking place, Department of Natural Resources staff installed the nesting box along with a camera that provided "live feed" to a monitor in the Fisher's entrance.

Falcon watchers, including employees within the New Centre area and many visitors, followed the progress of J.P., Fisher and Edison as they matured. Falcon coordinator Yerkey now possesses hours of tape that will be edited to provide some important moments in the young falcons' development. Highlights include the feeding behaviour and interaction of the young falcons among themselves with the adults.

On June 16, 1996, the first young falcon exited from the nest box prematurely, to be followed by the

others. After rest and recuperation at the veterinary hospital, the birds were returned to the nest box. Bars were put in place to prevent more of this behaviour. Despite the bars, one of the young slipped through the bars which were then placed more closely together. Peregrine Falcons H and Speedster continued to feed the young birds by thrusting prey through the bars.

When the bars were removed on June 21, 1996, Fisher and Edison immediately fledged while JP stayed for a while longer in the box. Concern had been expressed for the well being of the young falcons in such a busy area. Members of the Michigan Hawking Association agreed to assist with the daily monitoring and to provide aid to the young falcons if needed.

The young Peregrine Falcons at the Fisher Building are flying well and may leave the area by the beginning of August. Coordinator Yerkey says that the larger number of young birds cause the young to develop and disperse more quickly.

At the Whittier Building, Peregrine Falcon Sunrise attempted nesting with an unbanded one year old male falcon, "seven." Peregrine Falcon Coordinator Yerkey felt that this was not to be a successful match as the interaction between the falcons was not that of a mated pair. A single remaining unhatched egg was removed from the nest to be sent for analysis.

Coordinator Yerkey has been extremely busy as the sites must be visited daily. Notes and prey species lists must be maintained. Interviews with the media need to be coordinated with the Department of Natural Resources. Tours of the sites have been conducted for several groups of naturalists, including the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club and the Oakland Audubon Society, and families of students who have studied Peregrine Falcons. Throughout the nesting season Coordinator Yerkey has given talks at various schools and to seniors groups in the Detroit area.

FALL FESTIVAL Point Pelee National Park

LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO - Come and join us at Point Pelee National Park, on October 12 to 13 celebrate our first ever "Fall Festival". This fun filled extravaganza is a sure winner with the entire family. The festival will help us celebrate the magnificent migration of birds, bats and butterflies that pass through the park at this time of year. Activities include: World Tour - traditional dances and foods from the different communities in the area, Photo Contest, Enviro Mall, Birding, Bike and Canoe Hikes, Kids Programs, Friends of Point Pelee BBQ, Pancake Breakfast, Alternative Energy Exhibit Opening and much, much more!!!

For more information please contact Sara or Amy @ (519) 322-5700

NHRP Receives Grant from Canada Trust

The Natural Habitat Restoration Program (NHRP) has just received funding from the Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation in Leamington, to help establish its seed collecting program. The thousand dollar grant from the Friends of the Environment Foundation will be used to publish a seed catalogue for 1997, and buy equipment to process and store seeds. Equipment purchased to date include an electronic scale weighing up to 5 lb., and a legal for trade scale weighing up to 100 lb. Any members with accounts at Canada Trust should inquire as to how you can participate in the Friends of the Environment Program. NHRP and club members thank Canada Trust and Friends of the Environment Foundation.

NATIVE PLANT SEEDS FOR NURSERYMEN AND GARDENERS 1996 (THE NATURAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM)

by DONNA SALE

The Natural Habitat Restoration Program is a non profit program whose goals are to promote and protect the biological diversity of the Essex County Region. This program is supported by the following organizations: the City of Windsor Parks and Recreation Department, County of Essex, the Essex County Field Naturalists, the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the Harrow Research Station - Agriculture Canada, Landscape Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Point Pelee National Park.

To further its aims and goals, NHRP is offering for the first time, a list of plant seeds native to the Essex region, that can be purchased by growers. These seeds are collected by volunteers under the supervision of a naturalist with years of experience with native plants and habitats. For Southern Ontario growers, the advantages of Essex County seeds over seeds of other provenance, are freshness, rapid delivery, and adapted ecotypes. These ecotypes have evolved with our climate, soils, pathogens, and each other over thousands of years.

TERMS

PRICES - The listed prices are based on market conditions, seed availability, difficulty in extraction and cleaning. Prices are subject to change without notice. We will endeavor to notify customers of any price changes before delivery. Growers may purchase smaller seed lots at the fraction of the listed price (1/2 pound at 1/2 the 1 pound price) unless otherwise stated. Small packets of seed are available at \$3 each, minimum order \$15.

PAYMENT - Cash for the value of the order plus UPS rates and insurance, due within 30 days of receipt of invoice. Cheques made payable to Essex County Field Naturalists - NHRP, and mailed to Donna Sale, 1126 Campbell Lane, Kingsville, ON. N9Y 2G4.

ORDERING - We request that all orders be written with species, quantity and price clearly shown. Quantities smaller than those listed can be supplied. Seed marked 'spring' must be ordered by May 30. Orders for fall ripening seed should be made by August 30.

DELIVERIES - All seed will be shipped via UPS and travel at buyers risk. Claims for damage in transit must be taken up with the carrier. Please indicate on order form if insurance is wanted. Orders from growers in Essex County will be delivered by NHRP seed coordinators. Deliveries are made subject to crop yields.

STATEMENT OF POLICY - Large seeds are sold by weight from 1/2 pound lots up. Smaller seeds are sold by quantity. Quantity is calculated by average volume measurements, and are approximate only. Amounts as low as 100 seeds will be supplied upon request. Small packets of seed are available to hobbyist growers. The species listed are collected as they ripen and are sent to growers as soon after collecting as possible. Seed is cleaned unless marked otherwise. Because seed is collected as it ripens and is not stored, some seed listed may not be available due to lack of seed production. We will collect seed on consignment. Cut seed viability will be provided at the time of delivery. It should be noted that Sycamore and Tuliptree usually have low seed viability (10% - 20%). We endeavor to collect seed that is 80% - 90% viable by the cut seed test. All seed is collected from disease free plants. The elm trees we collect from are large mature specimens that have withstood several DED epidemics. We assume such trees are resistant to DED in varying degrees, but make no guarantees. Production of some species is always low and that seed will be sold in limited quantities on a first come basis.

Species	Description	\$/lb	\$/1000 seeds	Other
Acer rubrum, red maple	wings, SPRING		\$9.95	
A. saccharinum, silver maple	wings, SPRING		\$5.00	
A. saccharum, sugar maple	wings		\$5.50	
A. saccharum ssp. nigrum, black maple	wings, ltd-200			\$5.00/200
Aesculus glabra, Ohio buckeye		\$6.10		
Amelanchier arborea, downy serviceberry	SPRING		\$6.40	
A. laevis, smooth serviceberry	SPRING		\$5.05	

Asimina triloba, pawpaw	ltd-200		\$16.50/200
Carpinus caroliniana, blue beech		\$5.20	
Carya cordiformis, bitternut hickory	d.h.	\$13.70	
C. glabra, pignut hickory	d.h.	\$13.70	
C. laciniosa, shellbark hickory	d.h.	\$5.70	
C. ovata, shagbark hickory	d.h.	\$5.34	
Campsis radicans, trumpet vine		\$5.00	
Celtis occidentalis, hackberry	df	\$21.81	
Cephalanthus occidentalis, buttonbush		\$5.00	
Cercis canadensis, redbud*		\$12.00	
Cornus drummondii, rough-leaved dogwood	df	\$5.00	
C. florida, flowering dogwood	df, ltd-200		\$8.00/200
C. ammomum var. obliqua, silky dogwood	df	\$5.20	
C. foemina var. racemosa, gray dogwood	df	\$5.00	
Fraxinus americana, white ash	wings	\$10.20	
F. pennsylvanica, red ash - var. of green	wings	\$5.10	
F. profunda, pumpkin ash	wings	\$5.85	
F. quadrangulata, blue ash	wings	\$6.15	
Gleditsia triacanthos, honey locust - armed		\$5.00	
Gleditsia triacanthos, unarmed**	ltd-400		\$5.00/400
Gymnocladus dioicus, Kentucky coffee tree*	ltd-500		\$27.53/500
G. dioicus, Kentucky coffee tree	ltd-100		\$6.00/100
Hamamelis virginiana, witch hazel	ltd-200		\$4.95/200
Ilex verticillata, winterberry	df	\$5.00	
Juglans cinerea, butternut	d.h.	\$5.21	
J. nigra, black walnut	d.h.	\$2.81	
Juniperus virginiana, red cedar		\$15.00	
Liriodendron tulipifera, tuliptree	wings	\$15.20	
Malus coronaria, sweet crabapple		\$67.76	
Ostrya virginiana, ironwood	wings	\$5.00	
Platanus occidentalis, sycamore	collector's grade		\$5.00/oz
Prunus serotina, black cherry		\$5.00	
P. virginiana, chokecherry		\$5.00	
Ptelea trifoliata, hoptree	wings	\$5.00	
Quercus alba, white oak		\$4.22	
Q. bicolor, swamp white oak		\$6.80	
Q. macrocarpa, bur oak		\$5.96	
Q. muhlenbergii, chinkapin oak		\$8.98	
Q. palustris, pin oak		\$5.24	
Q. rubra, red oak		\$3.56	
Q. rubra var. maxima		\$7.10	
Q. shumardii, shumard oak		\$6.00	
Quercus velutina, black oak		\$5.75	
Rosa setigera, prairie rose		\$5.00	
Sambucus canadensis, elderberry		\$5.00	
Sassafras albidum, common sassafras		\$12.30	
Tilia americana, basswood	df	\$5.00	
Ulmus americana, american elm	wings, SPRING	\$8.20	
Viburnum acerifolium, mapleleaf viburnum		\$8.00	
V. lentago, nannyberry		\$5.00	

*Parent trees grown in Essex County from Michigan native stock

**Parent trees unarmed, progeny may be armed or unarmed dh-dehusked, df-dried fruit, ltd-100- limited to 100 seeds/customer

1st ANNUAL (1996) POINT PELEE BUTTERFLY COUNT

by Alan Wormington, Dan Dufour and Amy Tesolin

The first Point Pelee butterfly count was held on August 10th, 1996. The count area (a standardized 15-mile diameter circle) is the same as that used for the annual Christmas Bird Count. The results of our census have been forwarded to the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), where it will be compiled and published with other counts from across the continent.

Area coverage was quite impressive with 52 observers logging a total of 59 party hours. The count produced 43 species and a total of 7722 individual butterflies; an additional two species were found during count week (CW), but not on count day.

The comprehensive coverage produced a number of interesting sightings. These include significant counts of Black Swallowtail (392), Giant Swallowtail (170), Spicebush Swallowtail (211), Bronze Copper (62), Summer Azure (751), Summer Crescent (558), Orange Crescent (1062), Viceroy (163), Tawny Emperor (156) and Common Sooty-Wing (65); several of these will probably represent the highest numbers found on any count in North America during 1996. Other highlights were Banded Hairstreak (record-late date for PPNP), Variegated Fritillary (rare), Appalachian Eyed-Brown (record-late date for PPNP), Little Wood Satyr (late) and European Skipper (rare second brood). An unexpected miss on count day was Olive Hairstreak; in fact, the second brood went entirely unrecorded this season.

Several discoveries added to our knowledge of area butterflies. Three Hickory Hairstreaks found together at Wheatley Provincial Park indicates a permanent population exists at that locality. Along the abandoned railway line running west of Wheatley (towards Leamington), a very large population of Spicebush Swallowtail was found (Sassafras, a larval foodplant, is abundant at the site); also found at this location were numbers of Giant Swallowtail (where the larval foodplant is Northern Prickly-Ash).

Count Participants: Cindy Barrette, Mark Barrette, Matthew Barrette, Rebecca Barrette, Sarah Barrette, Lloyd Brown-John, Sandra Bulloch, Todd Bulloch, David Cattrall, Geoff Cattrall, Barbara Charlton, Diane Crook, Gordon Crook, Bob Curry (area leader), Paul Desjardins, Rob Dobos (area leader), Dan Dufour (non-participating co-compiler), Joop Fennema, Jim Flynn, Andy Garlotti, June Gordon, Robby Gorek, Harriet Greenwood, Robin Greenwood, Tom Hince, Rob Hornberger, Kim Howell, June Hurley, Pat Irwin, Ben Kulon, Brenda Kulon, Bill Lamond, Jeff Larson, Linda Maisonville, Matthew Maisonville, Claire McAllister, Jim McAllister, Bob McClanahan, Kevin McLaughlin, Steve Pike, Gavin Platt, Paul Pratt (area leader), Sandra Pusey, Juliet Renaud, Pauline Renaud, Elaine Sinnott, Ann Stewart, Amy Tesolin (co-compiler) Shawn VanDerlinder, Anton Van Eerd, Ann White, Irene Woods and Alan Wormington (area leader and co-compiler).
Count Sponsors: Point Pelee National Park and The Friends of Point Pelee.

The 1997 count is scheduled for Saturday, August 9th -- everyone welcome!

- Area 1:** PPNP, from the Tip north to include White Pine Picnic Area and Tilden's Woods.
- Area 2:** PPNP, all areas north of -- but not including -- White Pine Picnic Area and Tilden's Woods; also included is the west section of North Dike.
- Area 3:** Wheatley Provincial Park and the vicinity of Wheatley.
- Area 4:** All areas outside of PPNP (excluding the Wheatley area) to include the east section of North Dike, Hillman Marsh and Leamington, etc.

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Total
Black Swallowtail (<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>)	2	15	38	337	392
Giant Swallowtail (<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>)	35	120	3	12	170
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (<i>Papilio glaucus</i>)	4	4	6	3	17
Spicebush Swallowtail (<i>Papilio troilus</i>)	15	12	6	178	211
Cabbage White (<i>Pieris rapae</i>)	180	583	54	1107	1924
Common Sulphur (<i>Colias philodice</i>)	-	3	2	14	19
Orange Sulphur (<i>Colias eurytheme</i>)	130	189	47	442	808
Little Sulphur (<i>Eurema lisa</i>)	CW	-	-	-	CW
Bronze Copper (<i>Lycaena hyllus</i>)	-	2	-	60	62
Banded Hairstreak (<i>Satyrium calanus</i>)	1	1	-	-	2
Hickory Hairstreak (<i>Satyrium caryaevorum</i>)	-	-	3	-	3
Gray Hairstreak (<i>Strymon melinus</i>)	-	-	-	1	1
Eastern Tailed-Blue (<i>Everes comyntas</i>)	27	26	28	85	166
Summer Azure (<i>Celastrina neglecta</i>)	348	305	19	79	751
Snout Butterfly (<i>Libytheana carinenta</i>)	-	4	-	-	4
Variiegated Fritillary (<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>)	-	-	-	1	1
Great Spangled Fritillary (<i>Speyeria cybele</i>)	4	3	-	1	8
Summer Crescent (<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>)	118	28	38	374	558
Orange Crescent (<i>Phyciodes cocyta</i>)	5	11	4	1042	1062
unidentified crescent (<i>Phyciodes species</i>)	-	71	40	104	215
Question Mark (<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>)	5	8	1	4	18
Eastern Comma (<i>Polygonia comma</i>)	3	2	-	-	5
unidentified (<i>Polygonia species</i>)	-	-	-	1	1
Mourning Cloak (<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>)	1	5	-	1	7
Milbert's Tortoise-Shell (<i>Nymphalis milberti</i>)	-	-	-	1	1
American Lady (<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>)	2	2	-	2	6
Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	23	8	-	15	46
Common Buckeye (<i>Junonia coenia</i>)	1	-	-	2	3
Red-spotted Purple (<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>)	3	10	1	1	15
Viceroy (<i>Limenitis archippus</i>)	7	17	9	130	163
Hackberry Butterfly (<i>Asterocampa celtis</i>)	1	7	-	-	8
Tawny Emperor (<i>Asterocampa clyton</i>)	23	133	-	-	156

Northern Eyed-Brown (<i>Satyrodes eurydice</i>)	6	1	-	26	33
Appalachian Eyed-Brown (<i>Satyrodes appalachia</i>)	2	-	1	1	4
Little Wood Satyr (<i>Megisto cymela</i>)	-	-	1	-	1
Common Wood-Nymph (<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>)	6	7	38	43	94
Monarch (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	76	118	28	206	428
Silver-spotted Skipper (<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>)	3	1	2	3	9
Common Sooty-Wing (<i>Pholisora catullus</i>)	3	4	12	46	65
Least Skipper (<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>)	7	33	57	103	200
European Skipper (<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>)	-	-	-	3	3
Peck's Skipper (<i>Polites peckius</i>)	-	2	3	47	52
Tawny-edged Skipper (<i>Polites themistocles</i>)	-	-	-	CW	CW
Northern Broken-Dash (<i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>)	-	1	1	-	2
Dion Skipper (<i>Euphyes dion</i>)	-	1	5	1	7
Duke's Skipper (<i>Euphyes dukesi</i>)	7	-	3	3	13
Dun Skipper (<i>Euphyes vestris</i>)	3	1	1	3	8

TOTAL PARTY HOURS:	8	18	7	26	59
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TOTAL SPECIES:	31	34	27	35	43
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TOTAL INDIVIDUALS:	1051	1738	451	4482	7722
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Heaven

contributed by Bernard Spring

1915 - Rupert Brooke

Fish, (fly-replete, in depth of June,
Dawdling away their wat'ry noon)
Ponder deep wisdom, dark or clear,
Each secret fish hope or fear.
Fish say, they have their Stream and Pond;
But is there anything Beyond?
This life cannot be All, they swear,
One may not doubt that, somehow, Good
Shall come of Water and of Mud;
And, sure, the reverent eye must see
A Purpose in Liquidity.
We darkly know, by Faith we cry.
The future is not Wholly Dry.
Mud unto mud! -- Death eddies near --

Not here the appointed End, not here!
But somewhere, beyond Space and Time,
Is wetter water, slimier slime!
And there (they trust) there swimmeth One
Immense, of fishy form and mind,
Squamous, omnipotent, and kind;
And under that Almighty Fin,
The littlest fish may enter in.
Oh! never fly conceals a hook,
Fish say, in the Eternal Brook,
But more than mundane weeds are there,
And mud, celestially fair;
Fat caterpillars drift around,
And Paradisal grubs are found;
Unfading moths, immortal flies,
And the worm that never dies.
And in that Heaven of all their wish.
There shall be no more land, say fish.

Letter to the Egret Editor

by Carl Maiolani

For years now, I have thought of writing a letter that hopefully would stimulate some discussion in the club. The time has finally come. The following thoughts will not be new to members of the executive and especially Tom Hurst who often has patiently listened to me think out loud.

I believe that Club members should give some thought to What the Club Is, Where It's Going, and What It's Doing. I made a similar suggestion once before at an executive meeting and my idea evolved into a reinvigorated Heritage Committee. While the Committee's effort to purchase land for the Club is commendable, my intention had been to get some members thinking about the Club in broad terms.

In other words, let's do some Strategic Planning. The Club changes as the years unfold but I don't believe we're always conscious of what's changing and certainly there isn't a plan as to how it should change. I think we should have a plan. Our efforts would then be more constructive and rewarding.

For example, should we be trying to increase the membership of the Club? If so, is there a limit or ideal level of membership? If we increase the membership by 100 members, what will that mean in terms of a suitable meeting place, the cost of producing the Egret, the probability that we will be more accountable to the community as a whole, etc.?

In the area of finances, we should also have a plan updated every year so that our fund-raising efforts are focused and our results compared. We need to have monthly financial reports available to the executive so that they can easily make financial decisions and can monitor progress.

I believe the Club should stress our efforts at education and in this regard we have to continue our aggressive schedule of field trips and improve our selection of speakers at our monthly meetings. Many members believe that these activities are the core elements of our Club and therefore deserve more focus and effort.

Continued improvement in our Club may depend on the willingness of individual members to initiate action in areas where they can improve some part of the Club's operation. I hereby challenge each member to take some personal action this year.

Up From the Egg: Confessions of a Nuthatch Avider

Ogden Nash

Contributed by Bernard Spring

Bird watchers top my honours list.
I aimed to be one, but I missed.
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,
My aim turned out to be erratic.
And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed myself to comment jocular.
We don't need too much birdlore, do we,
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;
Yet I cannot, and never will,
Unless the silly birds stand still.
And there's no enlightenment so obscure
As ornithological literature.

Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?
You rush to consult your Nature guide
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks
Like its picture in the birdie books--
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,
Watching the clock instead of finches,
But I sometimes visualize in my gin
The Audubon that I audubin.

Treasurer's Report

by Peg Wilkenson

	Jan. 1/96		July 31/96
Bluebird Committee	37.72		
..... Donations	100.00		
..... Expenses		12.20	125.52
Current	797.11		
..... Brochure - Ex		1350.00	
..... Brochure - Grant	967.67		
..... Brochure - Donation	850.00		
..... Dinner		300.00	
..... Egret - Expense		437.30	
..... Egret - Income	125.00		
..... Donations	300.00		
..... Meetings		40.00	
..... Membership	1863.69		
..... Sales	10.00		
..... Services		499.17	2287.00
Heinz Bush	41867.63		
..... Interest	1290.87		
..... Misc. Expense		145.47	43013.03
Heritage	21853.11		
..... Donations	817.00		
..... Misc. Expense		198.01	
..... Interest	1639.06		
..... Sales	476.80		24587.96
NHRP	1167.71		
..... Grants Rec.	10559.40		
..... Grants Given		10000.00	
..... Misc. Expense		164.13	
..... Sales	2698.10		4261.01
Reserve	2757.13		
..... Interest	232.88		2990.01
Woodlot Owners			
..... Grant	2000.00		
..... Bank Charge		10.00	1990.00

23th Hawkwatch Season

September 1996

Holiday Beach Migration Observatory

Holiday Beach Conservation Area, Malden Centre, ON, Canada

Welcome! Join HBMO members and visitors and view raptors at the Hawk Tower located at Holiday Beach Conservation Area. The site is staffed from 7 AM to 4 PM daily. Bring birding equipment, dress for the weather (cool by the lake), and arrive by 9 AM. Best flight days have a north wind component. Most birds to be seen will be during September. The Hawk Festival begins September 14 & 15 with weekend activities through October. E-mail (UserBobPet@aol.com) for updates on the season or for subscription information to Hawk Migration Association of North America's Listserv.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 91-OS-14 Count Season Begins	2 US Labor Day 85-NH-53 87-NH-92 87-OS-12 94-AK-84	3 84-OS-8 89-TV-25 94-AK-101 94-BW-58 94-SS-191	4 79-OS-10 91-BE-9 92-BE-5 92-AK-56 94-SS-202 93-RTHU-243 84-RTHU-520*	5 84-BE-3 90-OS-12 92-OS-10 90-ML-5 91-BWTE-1,431 86-RTHU-103 89-CHSW-130	6 80-AK-486 81-AK-454 81-OS-22 91-BE-4 92-ML-4 94-SS-203	7 76-OS-8 94-AK-232

Keys to bird names are found throughout this Almanac. An * on species indicates a daily record. Hawks that migrate the farthest leave the earliest with the immature birds leaving first! **Hawk Festival Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th**




8 79-BW-7,128 80-OS-18 95-OS-14 BWs account for about 50% of the total hawks here.	9 87-OS-24 94-AK-327 95-NH-57 Swainson's with the Broadwings!	10 85-AK-386 89-ML-5 91-ML-6 94-BW-1,296 95-BW-4,350 86-BOBO-110	11 89-AK-251 91-BE-10* 91-OS-21 94-NH-72 94-BW-3,065 ✈	12 83-NH-61 85-BE-7 85-BW-30,404 85-SS-1,394 89-AK-400 91-OS-12 91-COLO-5	13 83-BW-15,994 86-SS-1,537 89-NH-111 91-ML-10* 89-OS-20 91-BE-4 86-RTHU-304	14° 82-NH-82 83-BW-17,906 88-SS-2,130* 93-ML-10* 93-PG-6 95-SS-607
15° 89-BW-17,864 84-BW-95,499* 81-BW-21,443 80-BW-12,017 89-BE-10* 89-NH-89 89-OS-14 84-SS-2,124	16 93-SW-2 86-BW-38,566 90-BW-28,777 84-SS-1,310 90-SS-1,280 92-BE-5 ✈ ✈	17 81-BW-33,959 90-BW-44,717 94-AK-852 91-AK-694 90-NH-107 89-SS-1,122 90-SS-1,125	18 74-BW-24,000 93-BW-63,400 95-BW-11,129 89-SS-1,736 76-AK-527 94-NH-69 87-OS-24 91-ML-5 92-PG-4 ✈	19 94-BW-43,175 94-NH-101 89-NH-40 95-CH-35 81-ML-3 86-EAME-26 ✈ ✈ ✈ ✈	20 91-BW-10,048 77-SS-1,473 84-SS-1,424 84-AK-330 94-NH-91 84-ML-4 ✈ ✈ ✈ ✈	21 Hawk Weekend 82-BW-15,515 88-SS-896 95-SS-755 87-OS-29 88-ML-4 93-COTE-3,200
22 87-BW-8,917 75-SS-1,375 79-SS-1,191 87-SS-1,367 77-AK-448 77-OS-18 92-ML-8	23 92-BW-14,377 87-SS-1,435 88-AK-512 92-RT-274 93-PG-9 92-All 15 regular raptor species seen.*	24 87-BW-6,074 91-CH-80 87-BE-7 Blue Jays peak 86-BLJA-49,280 91-BLJA-59,650 91-BBPL-39	25 87-OS-3 89-ML-3 89-CAEG-45 86-DCCO-300	26 89-TV-202 89-AK-513 74-PG-2 Peregrines likely on rainy, cold, SW winds.	27 83-SS-1,206 83-OS-5 86-OS-10 77-PG-2 88-PG-4 95-PG-2 85-ML-3	28 Hawk Weekend 89-TV-262 95-BE-10* 88-ML-3 95-PG-2 89-AMGO-4,572
29 89-PG-3 83-ML-7 94-ML-4 90-AK-407 94-AK-276	30 79-PG-8 95-PG-10 90-BLJA-51,470 92-BLJA-47,850 93-BLJA-87,000	The common migrant diurnal raptors of Holiday Beach Conservation Area BV = Black Vulture CH = Cooper's Hawk SW = Swainson's Hawk TV = Turkey Vulture NG = Northern Goshawk GE = Golden Eagle OS = Osprey RS = Red-shouldered AK = American Kestrel BE = Bald Eagle BW = Broad-winged Hawk ML = Merlin NH = Northern Harrier RT = Red-tailed Hawk PG = Peregrine Falcon SS = Sharp-shinned Hawk RL = Rough-legged Hawk				

23th Hawkwatch Season

October 1996

Holiday Beach Migration Observatory

Holiday Beach Conservation Area, Malden Centre, ON, Canada

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 95-PG-*18 95-ML-8 86-PG-5 74-AK-934 86-AK-1,059	2 91-ML-3 89-ML-3 89-PG-4 81-PG-4 86-OS-10 91-GRYE-18	3 87-CH-53 87-RL-2 91-ML-4 92-PG-7 94-TV-2,558 95-NH-45 95-OS-14	4 91-ML-5 89-AK-218 76-ML-4 81-ML-3 85-PG-3 92-HUGO-1	5 Hawk Weekend 91-PG-5 86-TV-1,761 91-STSA-11 
6 80-BE-8 83-AK-443 83-PG-11 86-CH-166 86-TV-1,264 86-TV-1,379 91-ML-4 91-PG-5	7 91-AK-522 76-OS-8 88-TV-1,551	8 91-ML-5 91-AK-572 87-TV-1,447 95-AMGO-4,548 91-NSWO-74 (banded)	9 95-TV-2,106 83-TV-1,854 91-ML-9 95-ML-7 94-PG-6 90-AK-689 86-CH-210	10 94-TV-1,391 93-TV-1,500 91-ML-4 91-TV-2,457 83-BE-3 79-AK-543	11 95-TV-2,047 90-TV-1,842 87-RS-62 87-BE-3 84-CH-110 89-PISI-4,293	12 95-SS-555 94-TV-1,590 88-TV-1,021 Red-shoulders peak
13 87-TV-1,622 91-TV-2,717 93-TV-2,594 91-CH-144 91-BE-4	14 Canadian Thanksgiving 94-RS-67 89-PUFI-1,654	15 95-TV-1,202 95-SS-1,104 95-AK-711 94-RS-100 89-ML-4	16 95-TV-1,880 95-SS-1,358 95-AK-530 	17 92-TV-1,691 91-PUFI-163 89-AK-1,105* 86-TV-1,601 78-RS-430*	18 91-CH-107 91-RT-983 91-RS-403 91-TV-3,200* 79-CH-227*	19 92-TV-1,902 77-BE-3 
20 83-RT-985 83-RS-283 85-RS-364 85-NH-142 88-CH-140	21 82-GE-3 91-OCWA-1	22 84-NG-9 77-RS-323 Red-tails peak in early November 86-CEWA-10,866	23 78-RL-71* 93-TUTI-4 91-FRGU-1 89-BBPL-264	24 82-RT-880 89-AMRO-651 91-NOPI-38 92-COCR-44,000	25 82-NG-25 82-RS-262 90-RS-321 87-RT-737 90-RT-1,002 87-GE-9	26 89-CH-114 88-RT-785 87-RT-353 92-GE-12 89-COCR-46,712
27 83-TV-1,509 91-EABL-825 91-KILL-122 91-HOLA-547 GE at noon on NW wind —best	28 91-RS-144 91-GE-9 81-GE-5 81-RL-33 87-NG-4 92-GE-7 91-EABL-1,348	29 88-GE-11 84-GE-8 81-RT-1,390 83-RL-35 87-RS-268	30 88-RT-871 86-GE-11 86-NG-8 91-SEOW-3 90-NOMO-1	31 Halloween 91-BV-1* 91-GE-10 90-GE-13 84-RS-253 87-RT-543 93-COLO-15 89-GBHE-89	Selective yearly totals. 89-AMGO - 37,122 89-AMRO - 2,248 89-COCR - 169,483 89-PUFI - 5,315 91-BLJA - 422,660	

Important non-raptor species four letter codes.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ABDU = American Black Duck | COLO = Common Loon | KILL = Killdeer | RNPH = Ring-necked Pheasant |
| AMAV = American Avocet | CORE = Common Redpoll | LALO = Lapland Longspur | RTHU = Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| AMCO = American Coot | COTE = Common Tern | NOMO = Northern Mockingbird | RTLO = Red-throated Loon |
| AMGO = American Goldfinch | DCCO = Double-crested Cormorant | NOPI = Northern Pintail | RUBL = Rusty Blackbird |
| AMRO = American Robin | EABL = Eastern Bluebird | NOSH = Northern Shoveller | SACR = Sandhill Crane |
| BBPL = Black-Bellied Plover | EAME = Eastern Meadowlark | NSWO = Northern Saw-whet Owl | SAGU = Sabine's Gull |
| BLJA = Blue Jay | FRGU = Franklin's Gull | OCWA = Orange-crowned Warbler | SEOW = Short-eared Owl |
| BOBO = Bobolink | GBBG = Greater Black-backed Gull | PISI = Pine Siskin | SNBU = Snow Bunting |
| BOGU = Bonaparte's Gull | GBHE = Great Blue Heron | PUFI = Purple Finch | STSA = Stilt Sandpiper |
| BWTE = Blue-winged Teal | GRYE = Greater Yellowlegs | RBGU = Ring-billed Gull | TUSW = Tundra Swan |
| CAEG = Cattle Egret | HEGU = Herring Gull | RBME = Red-breasted Merganser | TUTI = Tufted Titmouse |
| CEWA = Cedar Waxwing | HOLA = Horned Lark | | |
| CHSW = Chimney Swift | HUGO = Hudsonian Godwit | | |
| COCR = Common Crow | | | |

23th Hawkwatch Season

November 1996

Holiday Beach Migration Observatory

Holiday Beach Conservation Area, Malden Centre, ON, Canada

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Wind direction and clear skies become more important as the season progresses!			1 92-GE-4 91-RL-14 86-RS-136 92-RTLO-3 93-TUSW-359	2 87-RS-47 89-NH-37 86-COLO-14
3 89-RS-148 89-RL-16 89-GE-8 81-GE-5 87-KILL-90	4 95-GE-6 95-NH-23 95-RS-71 95-RT-1,605 95-TV-665	5 77-NH-77 95-NG-7 87-GE-4 80-RS-67 95-RT-951 92-RBME-195,000*	6 95-PG-2 95-GE-5 90-GE-8 87-RT-381 87-RL-47 87-GE-10	7 95-GE-3 94-RS-42 Red-tailed Hawk peaks	8 95-NH-23 95-RS-67 95-GE-8 91-TV-78 87-BOGU-8,808	9 95-RL-15 87-GE-6 87-RT-1,031 89-SAGU-1 91-ABDU-1,000 92-SNBU-250
10 94-GE-21 95-BE-9 91-NG-28* 91-GE-24* 80-RT-2,724* 91-RS-119 94-RT-1,264	11 Remembrance & Veterans Days 80-RL-48 94-RT-3,002 89-RS-211 94-GE-8 86-TUSW-672	12 90-RL-37 90-GE-17 89-RT-1,591 89-GE-7 79-GE-6 79-BE-6	13 77-RL-61 79-RT-1,040 92-CEWA-2,000 90-NOSH-1	14 95-CH-24 95-RS-118 95-RT-1,347 95-GE-8 75-RL-40 91-LALO-222 89-AMAV-1	15 95-RT-606 95-RL-44 95-GE-8 94-RT-1,178 94-RS-72 94-GE-19 77-RL-61	16 94-GE-4 94-RT-906 89-DCCO-1 (late) Large gull activity in late November
17 94-RT-52 86-RUBL-535	18 92-GE-4 86-RL-26 86-NH-155 86-LALO-186 86-SEOW-5	19 95-RS-55 84-RL-22 87-PISI-85	20 95-GE-2 84-RT-1,563	21 American Thanksgiving 89-RT-695 89-GE-7	22 95-GE-3 89-NH-77 89-RS-128 89-RL-68 93-RNPH-1	23 95-GE-4 89-RT-422 88-RT-583 83-PG-3 88-SACR-41
24 95-GE-2 989-RT-763 1-HEGU-500 91-RBGU-1,655	25 88-GE-2 94-GE-2 89-GBBG-53	26 89-RT-223 89-GE-7 94-GE-6 87-RL-20 93-GBBG-35 89-CORE-23	27 89-RT-158	28 95-RS-74 95-RT-333 92-AMCO-1 85-RL-27	29 95-RS-34 95-RT-348 95-GE-3 89-RT-115	30 98-GE-1 Official end of fall migration season!

Holiday Beach Conservation Area 1985-1995

YR	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	Total
85	5,351	60	15	1,011	14,975	483	37	1,059	42,588	5,247	69	17	3,481	18	14	368	74,792
86	10,239	99	41	978	16,135	761	37	777	43,251	6,762	160	36	4,442	32	22	363	84,135
87	9,828	190	49	1,085	18,604	638	43	1,400	18,376	9,317	246	58	4,839	22	20	241	64,956
88	12,365	97	37	1,006	16,158	903	14	1,111	27,420	7,494	106	35	3,571	42	15	172	70,546
89	12,567	144	30	1,636	15,845	847	20	1,102	30,171	7,686	197	64	5,732	65	31	174	76,311
90	8,645	90	31	1,184	14,007	751	20	1,048	76,271	6,331	204	87	5,375	63	38	216	114,361
91	16,692	157	96	937	16,190	1,083	78	1,354	19,478	5,884	315	82	5,747	94	54	339	68,580
92	14,790	113	43	680	11,712	651	43	1,449	23,941	9,834	127	59	2,164	68	42	137	65,853
93	14,236	111	47	1,612	13,933	977	78	1,667	72,443	6,649	71	63	3,238	75	50	239	115,485
94	19,407	106	36	1,522	10,375	481	17	863	50,820	8,961	80	87	3,429	52	55	102	96,393
95	16,468	199	53	1,341	15,376	765	59	902	22,431	11,393	171	75	4,929	121	83	58	74,424

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Further information regarding E.C.F.N.C. Excursions is available from either Muriel Kassimatis (252-4801), Betty Learmouth (944-2292, days), or Margaret MacDonald (252-3515). Let us know about your ideas for future excursions in the fall.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 11 - E.C.F.N.C. Membership Meeting

7:30pm at Union Gas Building. Speaker: Peter Sale on coral reef fish ecology.

Sept. 14 to mid-November - Natural Habitat Restoration Program Seed Collection

Meet Saturdays at 9:00am at Essex Civic Centre. Call to confirm with Donna Sale (733-9972) or Linda Kennette (723-2262).

Sept. 14 and 15 - Hawk Festival at Holiday Beach Conservation Area. Enjoy the Broad-winged Hawk migration and activities on the site such as displays, food, raffles and hawk talks including live raptor displays.

Sept. 21 and 22 - Hawk Festival at Holiday Beach Conservation Area. The hawk migration continues with a number of hawk species migrating through the area. Enjoy the on-site activities.

Sept. 21 - Ojibway Nature Centre Programme. Fall Bird Migration field trip. Contact Ojibway Nature Centre for details.

Sept. 25 - E.C.F.N.C. Executive Meeting Union Gas Building, 7:30pm.

Sept. 28 and 29 - Hawk Weekend at Holiday Beach Conservation Area. The hawk migration continues with Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons migrating through the region. Hawk watching at Holiday Beach C.A. will continue daily to the last official day of the watch, November 30.

OCTOBER

Oct. 5 - Ojibway Nature Centre Programme. Fall Bird Migration field trip. Contact Ojibway Nature Centre for details.

Oct. 5 and 6 - Hawk Weekend at Holiday Beach Conservation Area

Oct. 6 - E.C.F.N.C. Excursion. Explore the Poison Sumac Swamp in early fall with Gerry Kaiser and Bruno Sfalcin. Meet in the parking lot of the Harrow Research Station at 2:00pm.

Oct. 9 - E.C.F.N.C. Membership Meeting. 7:30pm at Union Gas Building.

October 14 - Ojibway Nature Centre's 20th Anniversary Celebration and Fall Colour Festival. Come celebrate at Ojibway Nature Centre on Thanksgiving Day with family activities, hikes, special activities, refreshments and more!

Oct. 19 - Ojibway Nature Centre Programme. Fall Bird Migration field trip. Contact Ojibway Nature Centre for details.

Oct. 27 - E.C.F.N.C. Excursion. Join Phil Roberts at Holiday Beach Conservation Area for raptor banding. Meet at 2:00pm at the new classroom which is near the hawk tower. Parking is available beside the classroom.

Oct. 30 - E.C.F.N.C. Executive Meeting. 7:30pm at Union Gas Building.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 - Ojibway Nature Centre Programme. Fall Bird Migration field trip. Contact Ojibway Nature Centre for details.

Nov. 10 - E.C.F.N.C. Excursion. Explore the River Canard Conservation Area for late fall birds with Jim McAllister. Meet in the parking lot of the McGregor Catholic Church at 2:00pm.

Nov. 16 - Annual E.C.F.N.C. Dinner and Silent Auction. At the Fogolar Furlan Club. Doors open at 6:00pm with dinner at 7:00pm. This year's guest speaker is Judy Yerdey, Detroit's Peregrine Falcon Coordinator who will present an entertaining slide presentation. Tickets are available at the E.C.F.N.C. September and October meetings for just \$25.00 or at Ojibway Nature Centre and Pelee Wings Nature Store. After the October meeting, tickets will be \$30.00 at Ojibway Nature Centre (966-5852) and Pelee Wings Nature

Store (326-5193). We have limited seating of 80 persons this year, so be sure to purchase your tickets early for another wonderful fun-filled evening.

Nov. 23 - E.C.F.N.C.

Excursion Join Denise Hartley and Betty Learmouth for an owl prowl in the Cedar Creek area. Meet in the parking lot of the Cedar Creek Conservation Area at the corner of the Amer Townline and Highway 18 at 8:00pm. Dress warmly for "standing around". Bring a strong flashlight if you have one. Let's hope that it will be a still night for "calling" the local population of Screech Owls.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1 - E.C.F.N.C.

Excursion. Enjoy a late fall walk for winter birds through a large woodlot in Colchester

South Township with Paul Pratt. Meet at the Harrow Research Station at 2:00pm.

Dec. 8 - E.C.F.N.C.

Excursion. Join Carl Maiolani to explore some birding sites around the town of Kingsville. Meet in the parking lot behind the Kingsville Post Office at 2:00pm. The post office is just one block north of the main intersection in Kingsville.

Dec. 11 - E.C.F.N.C. Members'

Night. 7:30pm at Union Gas Building. Bring a selection of your favourite slides for the program or a plate of Christmas goodies to share with other members.

Dec. 15 - E.C.F.N.C.

Excursion. Join the Excursions Committee members Muriel Kassimatis, Betty Learmouth and Margaret MacDonald for a walk in search of winter birds at one of the little known ERCA properties along

County Road 51 in the Big Creek area. Meet at 2:00pm outside the gates of the Holiday Beach Conservation Area for a short drive to the property right-of-way which is just opposite the Riley Enterprises on County Road 51.

Mid to Late December - Annual Christmas Bird

Counts. Take part in one of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) which are scheduled for our area such as the Cedar Creek CBC, the Rondeau CBC, the Point Pelee CBC, the Rockwood CBC, and the Detroit River CBC (Jan.1). You don't have to be an expert birder to join a CBC. Come out and learn about CBCs and our winter birds. Enjoy lunch at Tim Horton's (the Rockwood CBC) or a potluck supper following the Cedar Creek CBC. Contact Ojibway Nature Centre for details.

