



The Esfret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists

Volume 13, Number 3

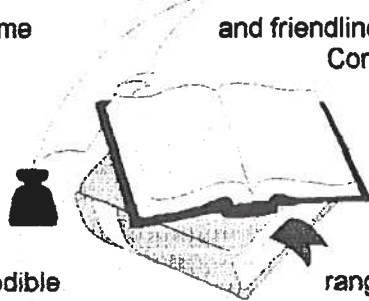
Fall 1997

The President's Report

When it was first proposed to me that the ECFNC make application to host an Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, I must admit I had some feelings of trepidation. The benefits of such an undertaking were obvious and compelling. The Club's profile as a credible and effective organization would be highlighted both provincially and locally. It would be a useful tool in the recruitment of new members. And most importantly, the level of commitment and cooperation by all Club members demanded by such a major undertaking would result in a more integrated and effective organization. In essence an organization, a club, better equipped to meet the goals of its mission statement. Still I wondered whether a relatively inexperienced group less than a decade old had the membership commitment to successfully stage a provincial and what later became a national event stretched over four days.

How foolish I was! The 1997 joint AGM of the FON and the CNF from all reports was an outstanding success. I spent a good deal of time the last two days of the conference accepting compliments on behalf of the Club from individuals and groups. Everything from food to venue to organization to programs was given positive comment. Visitors were most taken by the numbers

and friendliness of Club volunteers at the Conference. Truthfully, so was I.



Denise Hartley, the volunteer coordinator, was able to muster fifty individuals who willingly gave up their free time to make the conference a success. These ambassadors

ranged from charter members to those whose ink was not yet dry on their membership application. They donned their Club T-shirts and lent a hand wherever it was needed. In some instances, introverts became presenters or salesmen and white-collar types became movers and technicians. In many instances individuals exhibited qualities that until the conference had remained unrecognized by me. In all cases the volunteers worked hard and made our visitors welcome.

Of course not everyone's contribution was made during the four days of the conference. Indeed this project was three years in the making. Many helping hands went into the preparation process. These tasks were too numerous to list but taking the banquet centrepieces as an example, it is obvious that no task was uncomplicated. Once Pauline and Juliet Renaud had done the brainstorming it still remained for John Moore to bake the cornucopia centrepieces and for Pat Watson and Anne Barbour to decorate them. The

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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:



The EGRET
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Windsor, Ontario
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Information

ECFNC Birding Hotline
252-BIRD

Ojibway Nature Centre
966-5852

Point Pelee National Park
322-2365

E.R.C.A.
776-5209

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President: Tom Hurst (519) 839-4635

Vice-President: Dave Kraus

Secretary: Linda Kennette

Treasurer: Peg Wilkinson

Directors: Denise Hartley, Pam Simpson, Phil Roberts, Michael Malone, Donna Sale, Karen Cedar, Gerry Waldron, David D'hondt

Liaisons:

Membership Secretary: Denise Hartley

Public Information Officer: Pam Simpson

Meeting Speaker Co-ordinator: Gerry Waldron

Egret Editor: David D'hondt

F.O.N. Liaison: Phil Roberts

E.R.C.A. Liaison: Michael Malone

Friends of Heinz Bush Liaison: Donna Sale

Point Pelee Liaison: Richard Bilinski

Tree Study Chairpersons: Linda Kennette & Donna Sale

Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonnette

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

FON Conference Coordinator: Karen Cedar

Hotline Co-ordinator: Jim McAllister

E.C.S.N. Liaison: Tom Hurst

Ojibway Liaison: Dave Kraus

Two Creeks Liaison: Richard Bilinski

Tremblay Beach Liaison: to be announced

Oakwood Bush Liaison: to be announced

Chairpersons/co-ordinators:

Bluebird Committee: Don Bissonnette

Heritage Committee: Betty Learnmouth

Field trip Committee: Heritage Committee

N.H.R.P. Committee: Donna Sale

F.O.N. Conference Committee: Karen Cedar

Heinz Bush Committee: Donna Sale

Fund Raising Committee: Tom Hurst

General Meeting Committee: Peggy Hurst

Committees:

Egret: David D'hondt, Karen Cedar, Betty Learnmouth, 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 Learnmouth, Phil Roberts, Karen Cedar, Lizanne Bacon

Bluebird: Don Bissonnette, Betty Learnmouth, Don Tupling, Carl Maiolani

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

Heritage: Betty Learnmouth, 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.

seed collection efforts of the NHRP committee and the Friends of Ojibway Prairie were indispensable to the assembly of the clay pot banquet give-a-ways created by Club members at the August monthly meeting. And these tablesettings still had to be delivered and displayed at the Cleary Convention Centre.

There were numerous separate tasks, which demanded individual and cooperative efforts. It was amazing to me that all these components were orchestrated into a cohesive smooth-running event. Success does not happen by accident but rather through meticulous planning, organization, and direction. Karen Cedar, the Conference Coordinator is the epitome of these qualities. Her involvement in organizing several recent international conferences ensured she knew what had to be done and how to best accomplish it. Despite many distractions in her personal life she spent untold hours directing and motivating her Coordinating Committee. Ultimately we all have Karen Cedar to thank for the success of the conference. Thank you Karen for gently telling us what to do.

Now Karen did have some help of course. During its life span the Coordinating Committee had the generous input of a dozen and a half individuals. All of them are heroes in their own right but I would like to make special mention of four individuals.

Working without fanfare Betty Learmouth has always had a central role in most aspects of the ECFNC operations. Arranging speakers, sponsors and audiovisual equipment were only a part of her contributions to the conference. Most of all she was a role model for the rest of the committee to emulate. Paul Pratt, a man of many talents provided humour, catering, art, transportation and field trip leaders among other things to the committee. And finally, I'd like to thank Hillary Bruner and Candace Newman, both Parks Windsor staff for their roles as registrars, event coordinators and tiers of numerous loose ends. I would like to thank these people and those who made their jobs easier.

The ECFNC also has many outside the Club to thank for making this conference successful. There are too many to thank but the City of Windsor and especially Lloyd Burrige's Parks Department went out of their

way to help us. The city made it financially possible to hold the banquet at a world class venue, the Cleary. The Ojibway staff with Tony Albano's leadership put on our very popular barbecue while the Parks Department generously allowed us to utilize their very capable staff in many aspects of the conference. The Windsor Photographic Association with Larry Onysko as their front man did an excellent job of organizing and presenting the FON photo salon.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority provided both staff and equipment and sponsored a field trip lunch at Holiday Beach C.A. The Friends of Point Pelee also provided a lunch as well as some merchandise distributed at the conference.

The Walpole Island First Nation was gracious enough to open its doors and assisted us in conducting our most subscribed field trip to their beautiful native prairies.

From the private sector, Remark Farms, Loeb's, Zehrs, Chrysler Canada, A&P, Maidstone Tree Farms, Turek's Camera, Shopper's Drug Mart, and Pure Water Brand Ltd. Were all very generous with donations. The most generous donation came from Pelee Wings in Leamington. Joan and Mike provided the handsome cloth "goodie" bags that are a must at all FON conferences.

I have only scratched the surface in acknowledging those responsible for the 1997 FON/CNF AGM. The FON and CNF had pivotal roles and contributions at their conference but it was the local component that gave this conference its spirit. Your unselfish contribution has made me proud to be associated with the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club.

Gratefully Yours,

Thomas Hurst

Please recycle the newsletter, let a friend read it!



BIRDING IN OAXACA STATE, MEXICO: FEB. 27-MARCH 6, '98

Join Paul Pratt and Michael Malone for a week of exciting birding from the coastal mangrove lagoons to the 9,000' pine-fir-oak mountain forests of rugged Oaxaca state. We'll see over 250 species of birds including tropical parrots and passerines, Mexican endemics, and western migrants, as well as tropical butterflies, herptiles, and mammals. The price of \$1,895. Cdn. includes accomodations, meals, transporation and internal flight. For trip itinerary, reservation and flight details, contact Michael Malone at 519-241-1111.

Treasurer's Report - 1996

January 1 to April 30

by Peg Wilkenson

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Bluebird Committee		125.52	
..... Trail Upkeep	92.98		
..... Bank Charge	6.16		
..... Raffles, bake sale		175.65	202.03
Current Acct.		1072.32	
..... Egret	239.12	25.00	
..... Membership		2034.10	
..... Services	513.14		
..... Sales (book)		484.00	2863.16
E.C.S.N.		34570.88	
..... Honorariums, etc.	350.20	10.00	
..... Meetings, Meals	876.66	50.00	
..... Interest		31.88	
..... Unknown Expense	95.49		
..... Grants Rec.		22500.00	55840.41
F.O.N. Conference Grant		3000.00	
..... Bank Charge	27.57		

..... Registration		5515.00	8487.43
Heinz Com.		43507.27	
..... Interest		291.45	43798.72
Heritage Com.		26,776.56	
..... Interest/Donations		5654.27	32430.83
N.H.R.P.		5120.81	
..... Grants	4999.99		
..... Sales		1034.36	
..... Shipping Etc.	42.62		1112.56
Reserve Acct.		2990.01	2990.01
Woodlot Owners		1975.00	
..... Bank Charges	20.00		1955.00
Total			149680.15

THE TREE BOOK

Tree Species and Restoration Guide for the Windsor-Essex Region

by

G.E. Waldron

"Provides direction and practical recommendations for making the right decisions in restoring the natural landscape - an especially important reference - helps ensure a good match of the right species for the site being planted."

Dr. John Ambrose, Past President
Ontario Chapter
Society for Ecological Restoration

NOW AVAILABLE at:

Pelee Wings Nature Store - Leamington
Southshore Books - Windsor

Tempest Books - Amherstburg
Williams Nursery - Leamington

E.C.F.N.C. Discount Price \$32.00 - at Club meetings or 839-4635

Field Trip Review

by *Betty Learmouth*

Pelee Island Treasures

Fourteen ECFNC members celebrated summer's arrival by visiting Pelee Island's Stone Road alvar, Canada's most southerly alvar on June 21, 1997. Rueben Boles and Rita Morbia along with Mary and John Celestino introduced excursion participants to the alvar and its plants. What is an alvar? In an article printed in *The Canadian Field Naturalist*, Volume 109, 1995 entitled "The Extent of Confinement of Vascular Plants to Alvars in Southern Ontario," by Paul Catling, the term is well explained as follows: Alvars are natural openings where essentially flat limestone rock is at or near the surface. The sometimes sparse vegetation cover is comprised of herbs and shrubs with trees scattered or absent. Several major plant associations occur on alvars, the most prevalent being grasslands, pavement edges, pavement ridges and savannas.

Being seasonally moist, but subject to severe periodic drought, alvars represent a special habitat and, not surprisingly, have a distinct native flora. Alvars occur primarily in southern Ontario and to a much lesser extent in southwestern Quebec, New York, Vermont, Ohio and Michigan. Alvars are similar to limestone barrens to the north and east, to dry limestone prairies to the west, and to cedar groves to the south.

Within Ontario, their main area of occurrence in the Great Lakes region, alvars are restricted to a relatively small portion of the southern part of the province including the regions of limestone plains and more or less flat melanic brunisol soil landscapes. To some extent these features occur in the most densely populated and heavily impacted parts of Canada and consequently some of the botanically richest sites have been partially or totally destroyed over the past several years. The need to protect these sites has recently been publicized and the Nature Conservancy has established several characteristic alvar plant communities as "globally imperiled." Alvars are important as (1) habitats for numerous rare plants and animals, (2) distinctive environments affording special opportunities for certain kinds of scientific research, (3) as sources of native germplasm of drought-tolerant races of certain crops and crop relatives such as

strawberry, saskatoons and currents, (4) areas of exceptional natural beauty in terms of wildflower displays, and (5) sensitive benchmarks for documentation of effects of environmental change.

Upon arrival at Stone Road, our group spent an hour identifying plant species adjacent to the mixed forest community in the north part of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists property. We encounter Hairy Beardtongue, Alum Root, Lesser Skullcap, Downy Arrow Wood, Hackberry, Rough-leaved Dogwood and a Hop Tree in bloom. Warm weather had made conditions favourable for butterflies. Spectacular Giant and Tiger Swallowtails were spotted up and down Stone Road as well as the Common Wood Nymph. Everyone attention was captured by the call of a Black-billed Cuckoo which eventually flew across Stone Road into the ERCA property. A colourful Indigo Bunting was seen, likely on its nesting territory.

Mary and John Celestino invited the group to the comfort of their cottage's sunroom. We enjoyed truly southern hospitality as we ate our lunches and sipped cooling drinks while enjoying the resident Eastern Bluebirds and the nesting-over-the-screen doors Barn Swallows. Mary and John shared some of their experiences of living in a cottage where the southerly winds first strike Canadian soil. We could feel the alvar's heat which can affect the unwary, particularly visiting cyclists on the island. Mary and John have rescued exhausted cyclists on the South Shore Road on several occasions.

In contrast, cooler weather will bring storms to Lake Erie. Spring and fall gales cause waves that actually move the barrier rocks along the South Shore Road. The Celestino's feel that the climate of the southern portion of Pelee Island, particularly the alvar, differs from the northern portion. Besides being hotter, the alvar receives less rainfall than the northern portion of the island. The dividing line appears to be the East West Road. Mary and John's cottage was built in the fifties although the Celestino's have owned the comfortable cottage for just seven years. Many lively fishing parties were held by the previous owner in the cottage over the years which boasts, as Mary laughingly describes it, Pelee Island's longest bar. Fondly remembered are the Christmas parties held in the cottage for the Island's children with extraordinary visits from Santa who would descend from the attic on the "disappearing stair." Now, Mary's paintings, depicting Pelee Island's renowned natural areas such as Fish Point and the Stone Road Alvar and the dramatic cuts in the limestone quarries, catch

visiting naturalists' attention.

After lunch, our group headed back to the FON property. We entered at the Blue Racer Lane and made a large circle back to the roadway. We found some "alvar pavement" where portions of limestone is exposed in particularly shallow areas of soil. These are good areas to check for provincially rare plant species later in the blooming season. Some of the plant species encountered were Fragrant Sumac, Ninebark, Clasp Leaf Dogbane, Alum Root, Prickly Ash, Lesser Skullcap, Hairy Beardtongue and Corn Salad. Mary declared one particular spot to resemble a garden plot as the Alum Root, Mouse-ear Chickweed and Snowberry resembled a family garden. A particular exciting find was a plot of Whorled Milkweed with perhaps hundreds of plants. Another special find was a cluster of seven Pale-Spike Lobelia. As we left the FON property, we found Wild Garlic, American Vetch and a number of Miami Mist plants still in bloom in a savanna community. Thank you to all our leaders who introduced us to this remarkable Pelee Island natural area. Ojibway's

Io Moths, Dobsonflies and More

Seven naturalists joined Jeff Larson on the evening of June 28, 1997 at Bill Balkwill's farm in Gosfield South Township for an evening of moth watching. At the edge of the woodlot, Jeff had hung a sheet on a clothesline along with a 15 watt black light placed in front of the sheet and powered the light via an extension cord to his car battery.

Our first moth was a small nondescript moth called the Isabella. The Isabella moth larva is well known as the woolly bear caterpillar frequently encountered in the fall creeping across roadways and in natural areas. As the natural light faded, numerous micro moths were attracted to the light. These tiny moths have no common names. Various small black beetles were also attracted to the light. Jeff exclaimed when a Tiger Moth landed on the sheet, but the group's attention was completely diverted when a Waved Sphinx Moth noisily flew into the lighted area. Jeff netted this large moth, then showed everyone the single white spot field mark on the upper fore wing and the intricate waved patterns on the lower hind wings.

The night's first Io Moth brought exclamations of delight from all but especially from those who were not familiar with this beautiful giant silkworm moth. By the evening's conclusion,

seven Io moths, all males, had been attracted to the light. These beautiful golden hued moths have a distinctive eye spot on the upper surface of the lower hind wing with tints of pink that can vary from intense to subdued. As a child, Jeff recalled that he had handled the Io's spiny larvae which caused a painful rash. Widespread, the Io Moth larvae feed on a variety of plant species including maples, corn plants, elm, willows, oaks and many other plants.

Other interesting insects that were attracted to the light during the two hour mothing session were a Crane Fly, Caddis Flies, the native Cockroach, three Dobsonflies, a single Mayfly and a large unidentified metallic green parasitic beetle. The Dobsonfly is a large soft-bodied insect characterized by four membranous wings with a wing spread of over two inches.

Another Waved Sphinx Moth landed on the sheet with a real "whoosh." We were pleased to have an opportunity to view the lovely Rosy Maple Moth, another species of Giant Silkworm with its delicate hues of beige and pink. A mottled web moth visited the sheet with our last moth visitor a Virginia Ctenucha Moth with its distinctive blue iridescent abdomen. If we shone our flashlights upward, we found that hordes of micro moths were flying about above our heads. The moth activity seemed to diminish as midnight approached. Not even the possible emergence of Luna Moths at 2:00 a.m. could not entice us stay on into the morning hours.

Many thanks to Jeff who introduced us to the diverse population of flying insects found in Essex County during the early summer. Bill Balkwill always makes us feel welcome on his farm. As well, Bill provided us with an evening that was virtually mosquito free.

On the Eastern Bluebird Trail

Our Eastern Bluebird Chairperson, Don Bissonnette, again shared his knowledge of the local population of breeding Eastern Bluebirds on June 29, 1997. Seventeen naturalists gathered for an evening walk that began at the Harrow Research Station. We crossed over Highway 18 to a section of the Research Station through which the first accessible portion of the Greenway passes. Our group strolled along the fences where we encountered several nest boxes.

Don spoke about the situation of the boxes which tend to face east and are usually placed in grassy areas with nearby fruit trees or woodlands

which provide convenient perches for hunting. Don pointed out one particular nesting box that had been used by Eastern Bluebirds at least once a year for four years. A uniquely designed box, called the Peterson's box, was examined but not opened as Tree Swallow young inside were close to fledging. The hole opening into the Peterson's box was an oval, rather than the traditional round hole. These boxes all featured thick sides and roofs as snug boxes seem to encourage the Eastern Bluebirds to nest earlier.

As we were leaving the area, Don pointed out a physical feature on the Harrow Research property called an esker. This land form was formed by aglacial waterfall dropping rocks and gravel. These ridges have not been farmed on the Research Station as they are so stony. We departed the Research Station via the Greenway and drove to an Eastern Bluebird trail located on the 4th Concession of Colchester South Township on Hickory Acres Road. This is a newly created trail on private property. Landowners were approached and were pleased to have nesting boxes placed on the properties, much of which has been newly planted with trees thus providing perches. The area around the trees is being maintained. Our group checked several boxes and found Eastern Bluebird eggs in one. Then we spotted a male Bluebird on a nesting box and a female nearby. Don asked the group how many were seeing Eastern Bluebirds for the first time. Nearly every hand was raised. The difference in plumage between male and female Eastern Bluebird was explained as well as the birds' hunting technique.

As the walk ended, one of the participants spotted Eastern Bluebirds using the wires of a nearby vineyard as perches. We had excellent looks at this pair as the birds moved about the vineyard. Through the efforts of many individuals, Eastern Bluebirds are breeding well in such places as Ontario where the 1995 year end tally of young fledged from Eastern Bluebird trails was 4,980 representing 1,084 adult pairs from 5,653 monitored boxes as indicated in eighty-nine surveys. As a result, this species has been removed from the endangered animal category of vulnerable as this species now has good numbers after a number of years on the endangered species list.

Many thanks to Don who enthusiastically showed us a portion of the Harrow Research Station Trail and the newly established Hickory Acres Trail.

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Seventeen naturalists joined naturalist Paul Desjardins for a closer look at our local population of dragonflies and damselflies on July 12, 1997 which was a perfect day for watching these fascinating insects as the weather was sunny and hot. At our orientation, Paul explained that dragonflies often have a stouter body than damselflies. When at rest, dragonflies tend to hold their wings in an outstretched position whereas damselflies will hold their wings above their body or in a slightly divergent position. Dragonflies' eyes are compound and often occupy most of the head. To assist with dragonfly and damselfly identification, a number of books must be consulted. Two new publications are expected which will aid with the identification of these insects. A hand lens is needed to look at certain details for proper identification. Worldwide there are about 5,000 dragonfly and damselfly species with about 450 in North America and 84 species locally. These insects are of a very old order that has survived for 300,000,000 years.

Our group visited several wetland areas on the Ojibway Prairie Complex, including Turkey Creek in front of the Nature Centre, a drainage ditch under the power lines on Titcombe Road and the pond near Titcombe Road. We saw damselflies with names such as Emerald Spreadwing, Slender Spreadwing, and Ebony Jewelwing. Dragonflies seen were Eastern Pondhawk, Blue Dasher formerly known as the Blue Pirate, Ruby Meadowhawk, Twelve Spot and White-tailed. Some of the behaviours observed included egg laying by a female Eastern Pondhawk in Turkey Creek. A Ruby Meadowlark showed how these insects thermo-regulate their bodies by body alignment with the sun. A territorial dispute was observed as two male Ebony Jewelwings engaged in rapid flight and intricate manoeuvres over a trickling water course in a drain under the Titcombe Road hydro line. At the Titcombe Road pond, copulation was observed as well as hunting techniques.

We wish to thank Paul for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm of the damselflies and dragonflies that we frequently encounter on our summer outings.

Visit the Essex Region Conservation Authority's web site for up to date hawk migration information:

www.wincom.net/~erca

Changes announced to AOU Checklist

by Paul Pratt

The 41st Supplement to the American Ornithological Union (AOU) Check-List of North American Birds (the 7th supplement to the 6th edition) was just published in the July 1997 issue of the AUK. The 40th supplement in 1996 gave us such "new" species as Eastern Towhee, Bicknell's Thrush and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. A few old names were restored like Green Heron and Baltimore Oriole.

These latest changes can be summarized as follows:

NOMENCLATURE

There were extensive changes to nomenclature and the ordering of species, families and orders. Our local lists will still begin with loons and end with House Sparrow but there are many changes in between.

ENGLISH NAME CHANGES

Cape Verde Islands Petrel is renamed Fea's Petrel.

Falcated Teal is renamed Falcated Duck.

Mexican Crow is renamed Tamaulipas Crow.

SPLITS

Long-billed Murrelet is split from Marbled Murrelet. The latter is the common west coast species and Long-billed Murrelet is a stray from Siberia to interior and eastern North America.

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet is split from Canary-winged Parakeet. Yellow-chevroned Parakeet may not be established in North America (in Florida and California) and can be told by the lack of white in the wings.

Plain Titmouse is replaced by Oak Titmouse and Juniper Titmouse. Oak Titmouse occurs west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California in Oregon while Juniper Titmouse is the interior species of the Great Basin.

Solitary Vireo is replaced by Cassin's, Plumbeous and Blue-headed Vireo. Blue-headed Vireo is common from NE British Columbia to the east coast. Cassin's Vireo is found in southern British Columbia and down the west coast to California. Plumbeous Vireo occupies the central southern Rockies and Great Basin region of the US.

CHANGES TO ONTARIO LIST

The Long-billed Murrelet, a stray from Siberia has been recorded in Ontario and this name will replace Marbled Murrelet on future editions of the Ontario checklist. Blue-headed Vireo replaces Solitary Vireo and Plumbeous Vireo is added. There is a single record of Plumbeous Vireo for Ontario. It was found at Point Pelee this spring.

More changes will be forthcoming in 1998 when the AOU will publish the 7th Edition, Birds of North America.

Visit the Ojibway Nature Centre web site at:

<http://www.city.windsor.on.ca/parkrec/ojibway.htm>

We have added new pages on wildflowers, dragonflies, underwater moths, bats, amphibians, reptiles and birds.

4th ANNUAL WINDSOR BUTTERFLY COUNT

Paul Pratt & David D'hondt

Twenty-eight participants enjoyed a full day of butterflying on Saturday, July 5, 1997. The Ojibway Prairie Complex received the majority of coverage. David D'hondt and Paul Pratt covered the Spring Garden Prairie ANSI, Karen Cedar led in Ojibway and Tallgrass Prairie Parks, Brenda and Ben Kulon at Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Jeff Larson and Maurice Bottes at Black Oak Heritage Park, and LaSalle Woodlot ESA. David and Fox D'hondt, Candace Newman, and Jim McCoy covered McGregor Sewage Lagoons, Canard River Conservation Area, and McCauliffe Woods Conservation Area. The count was hosted by the Ojibway Nature Centre, Windsor Parks & Recreation. The Friends of Ojibway Prairie provided a picnic lunch for all participants.

Last year 28 counts were held in Canada and 301 counts in North America. Windsor reported the highest total for Canada and was 9th overall with 56 species.

We also recorded the highest count for hickory hairstreak in North America. This year 25 participants logged 30.5 party-hours to record **2,821 butterflies of 50 species.**

Most people have heard of Christmas Bird Counts but butterfly counts are just beginning to gain popularity. They are carried out in a similar fashion using a count circle fifteen miles in diameter. Counts are sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. The centre for the Windsor count was chosen to include Windsor, LaSalle, the lower portion of the Canard River, McGregor,

The unseasonably cold spring definitely hampered this years results. Most of the butterflies observed were those typically seen during the month of June. European skipper observations increased 300%, from 361 in 1996 to 1001 this year. Silvery checkerspot observations increased by 475% (46 in 1996 to 217 in 1997). Count totals for the following species experienced significant declines; banded hairstreak, great spangled fritillary, mourning cloak, silver-spotted skipper, Delaware skipper, and black dash. Butterflies missed in 1997 included spicebush swallowtail Acadian hairstreak, striped hairstreak, Aphrodite fritillary, hop merchant, hoary-edged skipper, common sooty wing, mulberry wing, dion skipper, and Duke's skipper. Two species new to the count in 1997 were Baltimore and columbine dusky wing.

1996 NABC Participants:

Maurice Bottes, Karen Cedar, Gerry Clements, Cathy Crowell, Paul Desjardins, David D'hondt, Fox D'hondt, Ryan Giroux, Brett Groves, June Hurley, Russell Jones, Muriel Kasimatis, Ben Kulon, Brenda Kulon, Jeff Larson, Kathy Lesperance, Jim McCoy, Vicki McKay, Ron Morneau, Candace Newman, Larry Onysko, Paul Pratt, Andy Simko, Elaine Sinnott, Thelma Walker. Deb Waugh catered lunch.

Species Results:

PAPILIONIDAE: Swallowtails

BLACK SWALLOWTAIL	
<i>Papilio polyxenus asterius</i>	24
GIANT SWALLOWTAIL	
<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	3
TIGER SWALLOWTAIL	
<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	23

PIERIDAE: Whites and Sulphurs

CABBAGE BUTTERFLY	
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	316
CLOUDED SULFUR	
<i>Colias philodice</i>	74
ALFALFA BUTTERFLY	
<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	67

LYCAENIDAE: Hairstreaks and Blues

BRONZE COPPER	
<i>Lycaena hyllus</i>	1
CORAL HAIRSTREAK	
<i>Satyrium titus</i>	3
EDWARDS' HAIRSTREAK	
<i>Satyrium edwardsii</i>	1
BANDED HAIRSTREAK	
<i>Satyrium calanus falacer</i>	12
HICKORY HAIRSTREAK	
<i>Satyrium caryaevorum</i>	2
EASTERN TAILED BLUE	
<i>Everes c. comyntas</i>	2
SPRING AZURE	
<i>Celastrina agiolus</i>	2
NYMPHALIDAE: Brushfoots	
GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY	
<i>Speyeria c. cybele</i>	29
MEADOW FRITILLARY	
<i>Boloria bellona toddi</i>	11
SILVERY CHECKERSPOT	
<i>Chlosyne nycteis nycteis</i>	217
PEARL CRESCENT	
<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	47
NORTHERN PEARL CRESCENT	
<i>Phyciodes selenis</i>	68
crescent species	
<i>Phycoides sp.</i>	19
BALTIMORE	
<i>Euphydryas p. phaeton</i>	3
QUESTION MARK	
<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	3
MOURNING CLOAK	
<i>Nymphalis a. antiopa</i>	6
MILBERT'S TORTOISE SHELL	
<i>Nymphalis milberti</i>	1
AMERICAN PAINTED LADY	
<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	24
PAINTED LADY	
<i>Vanessa cadui</i>	1
RED ADMIRAL	
<i>Vanessa atalanta rubria</i>	8
RED-SPOTTED PURPLE	
<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	3
VICEROY	
<i>Limenitis a. archippus</i>	40
NORTHERN PEARLY EYE	
<i>Lethe anhedon</i>	13
EYED BROWN	
<i>Lethe e. eurydice</i>	3
APPALACHIAN EYED BROWN	
<i>Lethe appalachia</i>	1
LITTLE WOOD SATYR	

<i>Megisto cymela</i>	342
COMMON WOOD NYMPH	
<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	75
MONARCH	
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	59

HESPERIIDAE: Skippers

SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER	
<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	58
SOUTHERN CLOUDY WING	
<i>Thorybes bathylus</i>	16
NORTHERN CLOUDY WING	
<i>Thorybes pylades</i>	32
COLUMBINE DUSKY WING	
<i>Erymnis lucilius</i>	1
WILD INDIGO DUSKY WING	
<i>Erymnis baptisiae</i>	1
LEAST SKIPPER	
<i>Ancyloxypha munitor</i>	38
EUROPEAN SKIPPER	
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	1001
PECK'S SKIPPER	
<i>Polites peckius</i>	10
TAWNY-EDGED SKIPPER	
<i>Polites themistocles</i>	6
CROSS-LINE SKIPPER	
<i>Polites origenes</i>	12
LONG DASH	
<i>Polites m. mystic</i>	7
NORTHERN BROKEN DASH	
<i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>	25
LITTLE GLASSY WING	
<i>Pompeius verna</i>	30
DELAWARE SKIPPER	
<i>Atrytone l. logan</i>	4
HOBOMOK SKIPPER	
<i>Poanes hobomok</i>	68
BLACK DASH	
<i>Euphyes c. conspicua</i>	1
DUN SKIPPER	
<i>Euphyes vestris</i>	3

**Reserve Saturday, July 6, 1998
for next year's count.**

Activities Calendar Fall 1997

Further information regarding ECFNC 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.

October

Oct. - ECFNC Fall Activity - Call Donna Sale (733-9972) for an update on NHRP seed collection days during October.

Oct 4/5 - Holiday Beach Migration Observatory's third Hawk Weekend with all the events as mentioned above. Hawk talks and banding demonstrations will feature various raptor species. Please contact Denise Hartley (735-1926) to volunteer a few hours of your time towards assisting at the food concession.

Oct 4/5 - Point Pelee National Park Fall Migration Festival featuring fall birding, canoe and kayak races and much more. Contact the Park for details.

Oct. 4 - Ojibway Nature Centre Fall Birding Field Trip.

Oct 5/Oct 10 Tom Hince is organizing a birding tour to Cape May to observe the fall migration which will include the Peregrine Falcon migration. A delightful inn on the ocean, Avalon-by-the-Sea, will be the base for this tour with daily excursions to all the birding hot spots. Price \$629.00

(Can) includes round-trip transportation by motor coach, breakfast and lunch daily, accommodation, guided birding and more. There are a wide selection of restaurants for evening dining. Contact Paul or Angie at Robert Q's Travel (948-9578).

Oct. 8 - ECFNC Monthly Meeting, Union Gas Building, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: ECFNC member Charles Wilson will present a slide talk on Saskatchewan's natural history.

Oct. 13 - Ojibway Nature Centre Fall Colour Festival.

Join in the festivities on Thanksgiving Day for nature walks, environmental exhibits and activities the whole family will enjoy from noon until 4:00 p.m. Free admission.

Oct. 17/18 - The Hawk Cliff Foundation in co-operation with The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Novacks (a London sports store) and Wildbirds Unlimited present "A weekend with Bill Clark," a world renowned expert on birds of prey identification and migration. On this weekend Bill Clark, author of the Photographic Guide to North American Raptors, will be giving two lectures at the London Regional Art Gallery (Ridout & Dundas, London) at 8:00 p.m. both evenings. A social hour before (both evenings) from 7:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. with feature displays, the author's books and equipment. Tickets per evening are \$12.00 per person. Tickets are available from Novacks - 211 King Street, London (519-434-2822), Wildbirds Unlimited - 502 Springbank Drive, London (519-657-0745) and the Hawk Cliff Foundation (contact person is Tom Bolohan (519-657-5440) or Ellen Smout (519-434-5884).

Bill Clark will also be at Hawk Cliff on Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. to enjoy the migration and meet with fellow hawk enthusiasts.

Oct. 18 - Ojibway Nature Centre Fall Birding Field Trip.

Oct. 19 - ECFNC Fall Excursion. Enjoy the fall colours during a walk with Bill Balkwill in Bill's Gosfield South woodlot. Meet at 2:00 p.m. in the Cedar Creek Conservation Area parking lot.

Oct 25 Point Pelee National Park with be offering the family program

"Creepy Creatures" from 5.30 p.m. through 7:30 p.m. Meet at the Visitors Interpretive Centre. There is a charge of \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per child under twelve and for a family \$5.00.

Oct. 25 - ECFNC Fall Excursion. Visit the Haehnle Audubon Sanctuary in Michigan to view the migrating Sandhill Cranes with Carl Maiolani. We will meet in Ojibway Nature Centre's parking lot at 1:00 p.m. to carpool to the Sanctuary which is about a 1 1/2 hour drive along I-94 for which we will provide maps. There are trails in the area that we can explore as well as view the late afternoon fly in by the largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes in Michigan. You will want to bring a lunch as we will not return to Windsor until early evening.

Oct. 26 - ECFNC Fall Excursion. Participate in an introduction to sea kayaking with kayaker Mike Malone of Pelee Wings Nature Store. Learn the basic strokes, safety tips and rescue techniques, and enjoy wildlife viewing. The

excursion will take place at Cedar Creek Conservation Area from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Be sure to bring a lunch, wear warm clothes and bring your binoculars. A kayak, life jacket, spray skirt and paddle will be supplied for each kayaker. The cost will be \$25.00 per person with registration limited to just twelve persons. Your cheque given to either Muriel or Mike (326-5193) will guarantee you a place for an enjoyable introductory kayaking experience.

Oct. 29 - ECFNC Executive Meeting

Oct. 31 - Ojibway Nature Centre Program. A Halloween Sleepover is planned for children 8 through 12 years from 7:30 p.m. on Friday through to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Activities include a night hike and prowl, a campfire, crafts, games, movies and breakfast with the birds. Pre-register by October 15. Cost is \$28.00 plus \$7.00 materials fee.

November

Nov. - ECFNC Fall Activity- Call Donna Sale (733-9972) for an update on NHRP seed collection days during November.

Nov 1 - Ojibway Nature Centre Fall Birding Field Trip

Nov 1 Point Pelee National Park with be offering the family program "Creepy Creatures" from 5:30 p.m. through 7:30 p.m. Meet at the Visitors Interpretive Centre. There is a charge of \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per child under twelve and for a family \$5.00.

Nov 2 - Pelee Island land owner and tree farmer, John DeMarco, has generously offered ECFNC members an opportunity to purchase Scots Pines for Christmas. John has been maintaining a grove of Scotch pines on his Island property. A suggested donation of \$20.00 to \$30.00 per tree would be a donation to the Heritage Fund. Horticulturist Don Bissonnette has offered his expertise re cutting and tying coniferous trees cut for Christmas plus transporting them off the island for anyone who wishes to reserve a tree. If you wish to request one of John's trees, please call Betty Learmouth (944-0825). Initially, we had planned this day as a club excursion for Christmas tree cutting. When we called the ferry transportation for reservations in mid July, we were lucky to find a single space available for the truck!

We have visited John's tree farm on which the Scots pines are growing. The Scotch pines have been pruned so are very thick, ranging in height from several feet to six feet. Perhaps we can arrange to have photos available at the October members' meeting of some of the larger trees.

Nov 8 ECFNC and Friends of Point Pelee Fall Excursion - Joint Point Pelee National Park Interpreter Dan Dufour for an exploration by canoe to rarely visited corners of the Point Pelee marsh. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Marsh Board Walk. We will use the Friends of Point Pelee canoes. Please dress for fall weather.

Nov 12 - ECFNC Monthly Meeting, Union Gas Building, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Adventurer Steve Lutsch will present a program on kayaking through 30,000

Islands National Park, Georgian Bay and in Lake Superior. Please note that the next annual ECFNC dinner is scheduled for next fall during November 1998.

Nov 16 - ECFNC Fall Excursion. Join ECFNC member Chris Allsop for an afternoon walk that will take us through the River Canard area, one of the most attractive sections of the Greenway. Meet in the parking lot of McGregor's Catholic Church at 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 22 - ECFNC Fall Excursion. Alan Wormington will be our host as ECFNC members visit Point Pelee National Park for late fall birding. Meet Alan in the gravel parking lot near the Interpretive Centre at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Nov. 28-29 - Carolinian Canada Forum "Working together for Conservation." Share ideas with others concerned about conservation in the Carolinian life zone of Canada, help chart a strategy for the next ten years, help set goals to conserve species and habitat in the region, join the Carolinian Canada Coalition and make it happen! Entertainment and keynote speaker. \$40.00 registration, \$25.00 for students. Cost includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and snacks, from 5 p.m. Fri., November 28 to 4 p.m. Sat. November 29. This is a great opportunity to learn about conservation efforts in Carolinian Canada, tell others what you're doing and would like to do, and help establish priorities and a fresh partnership to achieve conservation in the region. For more information and a registration form, contact Doug van Hemessen, Carolinian Canada, 659 Exeter Road, London, Ontario N6E 1L3

Telephone 519-661-2744; fax: 519-661-2809; e-mail: vanhemo@carolinian.org; web site: <http://www.carolinian.org>.

December

Dec 7 - ECFNC Fall Excursion. Ontario Tree Atlasser Paul Desjardins will introduce us to an interesting area that Paul has been tree atlassing. Meet in the parking lot of the Cedar Creek Conservation Area at 2.00 p.m. for this two hour excursion.

Dec 10 - ECFNC Monthly Meeting. Union Gas Building, 7:30 p.m. This meeting is traditionally Members' Night when members share a selection of their favourite slides or share

home baked cookies with other members. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our last meeting before Christmas.

Dec 20 - Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count - A popular count that attracts many birders who count crows then head off into the County for sightings of wintering birds. Contact Ojibway Nature Centre for details of this count and other local CBC's. Everyone who enjoys our winter birds is welcome to assist at the area's CBC's. Enjoy bidding with a small group and learn the location of winter birding spots. Perhaps be lucky enough to see a "life" bird species.

Dec 21 - Rondeau Christmas Bird Count - Rondeau offers a diversity of habitats and good

birding

Dec 22 - Point Pelee National Park Christmas Bird Count - Birders travel from other parts of the province to participate in this count.

Dec 27 - Rockwood Christmas Bird Count - The Rockwood count is an interesting half day count in the Amherstburg area with the main portion of the count in Rockwood, Michigan.

Jan 1 - Detroit River Christmas Bird Count - Despite the date, this enjoyable count is attended by good numbers of birders as many participate for half a day with the group meeting for brunch in a LaSalle restaurant.

ESSEX COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



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Tom Hurst