



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists

Marshfield and Golf: Are They Compatible?

by Thomas Hurst

As early as 1970 Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources determined that the 330 acres known as Marshfield Clayplain was a regionally significant natural area. In 1994 the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) reiterated this position by declaring it an Environmentally Significant Area. The Authority's biologists found it met six of the ten criteria used to judge the significance of a natural area. Considering that only two of these criteria need to be met for a site to be significant, Marshfield passed with honours. In ERCA's report it was noted that Marshfield is "one of the largest

Broadleaf Swamp Forests in the region." When placed against the backdrop of Essex County which has less than 4% natural cover, the lowest in Ontario, the importance of Marshfield to local environmental health becomes clearly apparent.

Marshfield is one of the few remaining refuges for plant and animal species that are rare provincially and nationally. ERCA catalogued a total of 204 plant species in Marshfield of which 16 are considered rare. Marshfield benefits the surrounding region by purifying the headwaters of Cedar Creek and improving the air quality in Essex County. It also maintains a diverse gene

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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:



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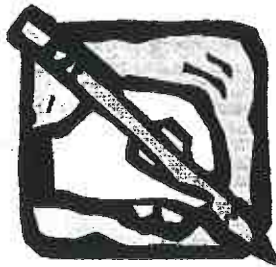
Field Trip: Heritage Committee

Annual Dinner: Heritage Committee

Bluebird: Don Bissonnette, Betty Learmouth, Carl Maiolani

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

Heritage: Betty Learmouth, Muriel Kassimatis, Jim McAllister, Gerry Waldron, Peg Wilkinson, Patricia Rhoads, Margerat Jennings



The President's Report

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the Essex County Field Naturalists Club's new Patron. As a matter of fact, Richard Webber of Bayfield Contracting Inc. is the Club's first and only Patron. Mr. Webber has generously offered to provide financial assistance to the Heritage and NHRP Committees of the E.C.F.N.C. His intention is to donate 5% of his company's gross receipts on backyard pond excavating jobs. These donations will alternate between the two committees. Neither the Club or Mr. Webber can predict the annual dollar amount of these donations as this is dependent upon the number and scale of requests he receives from customers for this particular type of job. Nevertheless, the Heritage Committee is pleased with the \$900.00 donation it has already received Bayfield Contracting Inc. Club members know that the volunteers of the Heritage and NHRP Committees will stretch the value of any donation through leveraging and free labour beyond the value of its dollar amount. Thus Mr. Webber can be confident that he will get "value for his buck" and that his generosity will benefit the quality of life of all Essex-Windsor residents. I am reassured by individuals such as Mr. Webber that within our local business community tangible support can be found for preserving and enhancing our natural environment. Let me take this opportunity to thank Rick Webber and welcome him as our new Club member and Patron. May the E.C.F.N.C. and Bayfield Contracting Inc. have a long and environmentally significant relationship.

I am also pleased to announce that the Essex County Stewardship Network has granted NHRP \$1,816.42 towards its education and promotional program to encourage the use of native seed stock in Essex County. This grant will cover 50% of the cost of new NHRP pamphlets and plant stake labels. The information in the original pamphlets is woefully outdated and incorrect. A new pamphlet is an indispensable tool to spread the word and gain community acknowledgment that native is best for our local environment. The plant stakes will inform consumers of the characteristics of the species

they have purchased and also provide a label of authenticity that the plant purchased is an offspring of Essex's native survivors. As I write this, Nancy (Dowson) Pancheshan is probing funding foundations for the remaining 50% needed to complete these two projects.

In recent years, the NHRP Committee has seen an increasing percentage of its seed sales going to buyers outside the Essex region. As NHRP was created to fill the need of native plant stock available for local restoration work this trend has been disheartening to volunteer seed collectors. However, this trend may soon end as ERCA is initially receptive to our request to use NHRP seeds for its various tree planting programs. In the past ERCA has purchased most of its seedlings from the Ministry of Natural Resources nursery in St. Williams which did not use locally collected seed. The newly privatized St. Williams nursery, Aqua North Forest Nursery, has a policy is to accept seed from its customers and return (sell) seedlings grown from those specific seeds. If this practice is adopted by ERCA we may soon see many thousands of NHRP trees planted in Essex in subsequent years.

Recent progress in the pursuit of NHRP goals accentuates the need for large seed co-ordinator (s) by the Committee. Donna Sale and Linda Kennette are finding it too physically taxing to transport and package the larger seeds such as hickory and oak. I am hopeful that some energetic Club members will come forward to share the load Linda and Donna have carried alone to date.

This may be your opportunity to join a fun and rewarding restoration project that benefits our community for generations to come. Club members who attended the March 1999 Annual General Meeting already know that The Nature Conservancy of Canada has negotiated with a Pelee Island land owner and has signed an Agreement of Purchase and Sale on January 13, 1999 for 60 acres of natural habitation on Pelee Island. The act that forty of the sixty acres are an ESA, an ANSI and a Carolinian Canada site adjacent to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Essex Region Conservation Authority alvar property make this a particularly valuable

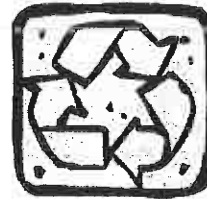
component of the County's natural heritage. We are pleased with the Conservancy's negotiations and proud of our Heritage Committee for playing a pivotal role in the development. After years of research and fund raising the Heritage Committee focused on this site as a possible first land purchase. In their efforts to facilitate this purchase the Committee did such a fine selling job of the project that the Conservancy decided to take the lead role as negotiator with the land owner. If further fund raising is successful the Conservancy will become the title holder of the property responsible for taxes and insurance while the E.C.F.N.C. will act as stewards of the property. Both the Conservancy and the Club will share fundraising and management for this property. Let us congratulate the Heritage Committee on its fine efforts and ensure the success of this project by continuing to contribute our time and money towards this worthwhile project.

Notice to everyone interested in the City

of Windsor's natural areas. The Working Draft of the City's Official Plan is now available for review. We all have until June to make comments on this draft. Be alert for notices of public meetings or contact the Planning Commission to review the contents.

Yours truly,
Thomas Hurst

Please recycle this newsletter!



Let a friend read it!

(Continued from page 1 . . .)

pool of plants and animals naturalized over centuries to the local environment. This gene pool not only provides the genetics pool to ensure the long term viability of surrounding natural habitats but could some day serve as a resource for the restoration of new sites.

It is not difficult to make the argument that Marshfield is an important and rare resource for the Essex region and should be preserved for everyone's benefit.

Does this necessarily mean that Marshfield, and particularly the 197 acres owned by The Hearn Group, can not also support uses other than preserving natural heritage? After all, the proposed new use for this property is not a residential or industrial complex but rather a golf course. Many people consider golf courses to already be "green" spaces. Indeed the developer has proclaimed the golf course would be designed in an "environmentally friendly way" and would cause "no net negative impact" on the many ecological features and functions of this site.

To answer this question one must look at two of the ESA criteria fulfilled at Marshfield: biological diversity and size of the habitat. Biologic diversity is not only the number of different species of plants and animals in a given area but also the interaction between these species. Every species is

dependent in some respect with every other species present for its existence. Each species provides food and shelter for its neighboring species in a manner which is highly complex and integrated. If one species is lost from the mix, its function to the local ecology is also lost and other species suffer or even disappear as a consequence. This is comparable to modern machinery which we know will suffer or fail even when the missing component is as small as a bolt or a gasket.

Recently scientists have found that biodiversity and habitat size are closely linked. In 1994 and 1995, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Long Point Bird Observatory and 200 landowners surveyed 287 Ontario woodlots. They found that there were many species of plants and birds that could only survive in what they termed as interior forest. Interior forest is the part of the natural habitat which is at least 100 metres in from the edge of the habitat. They found that any human incursions such as trails, roads or fairways dramatically affected the survival of interior forest birds and plants.

The reason for this is quite apparent if one realizes that remaining natural habitats are like "islands of green" in an ocean of agriculture and

urbanization. One's survival on such an island would depend on whether there was enough food, shelter, and space available on the island. One's survival is also dependent upon how well it is sheltered from the outside forces such as storms, parching winds or sun. On a small island it is often impossible to get far enough away from the shore to find refuge. Every road or fairway into a woodland swamp in effect creates several new islands where before there was one larger island more capable of sustaining life.

Scientists found that these smaller islands were immediately bombarded by outside forces. Increased sunlight allows exotic weed species to out compete the rarer native species. Climatic changes of increased sunlight and drier conditions eliminate habitat conducive to microorganisms and insects which provide food for the rare plants and birds. Song bird predators such as raccoons, brown-headed cowbirds, blue jays and house cats gain easy access to interior species through increased edge habitat adjacent to their breeding territory. In effect the

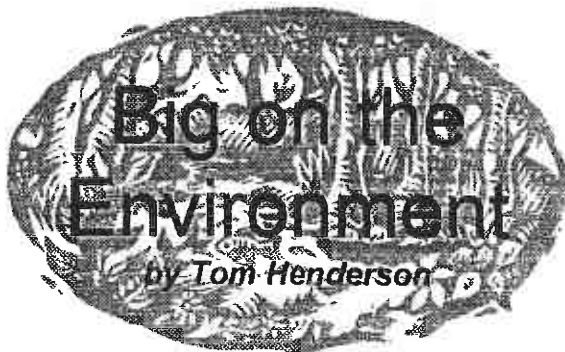
results were disastrous for these species which depend on interior habitat for survival.

Unfortunately, these interior species are the most colourful, unique and complex of species naturally occurring in Essex County. Unfortunate for the residents of the Essex region because there is a severe shortage of interior forest habitat in the County. Interior forests cannot be created overnight. It takes generations before any habitat can evolve into the complex interdependent relationships between flora and fauna necessary to support the species diversity of an interior forest. With these factors in mind it would be irresponsible to allow even one of these few sites to be altered. Essex County's rich soils and moderate climate virtually guarantees it should contain the greatest species diversity in the Province and perhaps the country. At a time when ecotourism is among the continent's fastest growing industries, it makes neither economic or environmental sense to turn Marshfield into the County's twenty-fourth golf course.

Every ECFNC Member Can Be an Egret Contributor

Every member of the ECFNC is welcome to make a contribution to the Club's newsletter *The Egret* which appears four times per year. *The Egret* welcomes submissions of all kinds that will share sightings, events, accounts of field trips or activities that are of interest to ECFNC members.

Everyone is invited to make submissions. Your submission may be hand written or typed, the form in which it is received is not important. Please forward your submission to typist Betty Learmouth who will be pleased to type your submission on her computer. Your submission will then be forwarded by electronic mail to *The Egret's* editor Dave D'hondt who will receive your submission on his computer. This means that the editor does not have to type or retype submissions, but can simply "flow" the submissions into an attractive newsletter format using a computer program, Corel WordPerfect, that specializes in that technique. To make the editor's job as easy as possible, we try to submit all articles to the editor up to a month but no later than two weeks before *The Egret* is scheduled to appear. For instance, the June 1999 issue of *The Egret* is to be distributed to members on June 9, 1999, then the articles need to be received by the Editor in mid May. Writing for *The Egret* is easy and fun. Share your experiences with fellow naturalists.



Ahh, the surging of Little River! Want to get that "far from the city" feeling without leaving Windsor? Head east to the end of Little River Road south of Wyandotte Street in the old town of Riverside. The Little River Enhancement Group, sometimes called Lil' REG for short has dedicated itself to the preservation and improvement of the Little River watershed.

It's the area that drains the streams and ditches flowing into Little River - an area of 60 square kilometres stretching from Sandwich South Township through east Windsor to the river's mouth opposite Peche Island in the big ol' Detroit River. Lil' REG is a group of 50 or so die-hard naturalists headed up by Ian Naisbitt, an environmental studies teacher at Concord Public School in Windsor. Naisbitt and the club want to improve the long term condition of Little River and its environs.

Ian grew up just a stone's throw from Little River, and as he explains, "As a kid, I was sickened by the sights and smells of what should have been a beautiful "little river," a place where fish swim and families enjoy themselves. But it was full of old tires and other urban garbage people had dumped there. I couldn't take it anymore and decided something had to be done."

In 1989 he got some interested adults together and along with the kids in his class and their parents, the first Little River cleanup was launched.

Since then, Lil' REG has participated in 19 cleanups, planted over 13,000 trees, and assisted in the development of nature trails and bridges. "With help from many organizations, public and private, we've pulled out hundreds of car parts, rusted autos, and old stoves, over 120 cubic metres of trash," Ian relates proudly.

Today the meandering section around the old river and the new channel, carved out to drain the watershed, supports habitat for wetland species. Nature lovers have spotted American Toads, Leopard Frogs, muskrats, turtles and other wildlife in the greenway. The City of Windsor has created two ponds, enhancing the wetland habitat and allowing fish and turtles to survive the winter. Trails and bridges for walking, cycling and roller blading cover a large portion of the watershed.

Besides the cleanups, Lil' REG projects include posting signs at river and road crossings, hiking and nature tours, and supporting Earth Day and National Wildlife Week. In 1991 the United Nations presented Lil' REG with the "Champion Defenders of the Planet Award," the only Canadian entry of 30 winners. Since then the club has been honoured by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Maclean's magazine.

The club will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 1999. "We're looking forward to a big project," brags Ian. Stay tuned.

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Fifteenth Annual ECFNC Dinner, November 6, 1999

Mark your calendars! The ECFNC annual dinner and fund raising evening will be held on Saturday evening, November 6, 1999 at Torino Plaza, 12049 Tecumseh Road East, Tecumseh (just west of Lesperance Road) in the facility's attractive banquet facilities. Biologist Jon McCracken, Program Manager at Bird Studies Canada/Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan, Ontario, has accepted our invitation to be our guest speaker. The title of Jon's 45 minute talk will be "Endangered Species Now and Then." Jon writes that his talk "is set up as three distinct segments (one of which is a hard-hitting but toe-tapping musical/slide show segment) that all work well together as part of the overall unit. Roughly half of the talk has to do with endangered species, gives the story and sets the historical context, and the other half is all about how we apply this knowledge to Prothonotary Warbler recovery."



Field Trip Review



Kopegaron Woods

by Mary Celestino

On December 6, 1998, twelve ECFNC "tree huggers" gathered together to study and identify the various trees and shrubs growing at Kopegaron Woods. Once again we were fortunate to have Wayne Wannick as our guide and instructor for the tour. As you may recall, Wayne is one of Essex County's foremost foresters and was in charge of the "Quest for the Chestnut" at Cedar Creek last fall. Wayne came fully prepared with books and trail guides which would enhance our knowledge of this unique woodlot.

It was a balmy Sunday afternoon with temperatures in the mid-sixties which was quite unusual for this time of year. However, this "heat-wave" was soon to end as clouds loomed over the horizon threatening rain and cooler temperatures.

Kopegaron Woods is one of the richest Carolinian forests in Essex County. It was purchased some twenty-five years ago by the Essex Region Conservation Authority and is still under their management. It is approximately 19 hectares (47 acres) in size and is located on Highway 3 between Leamington and Wheatley.

A boardwalk runs through the reserve providing the visitor with an excellent platform from which to view the many unique flowering species of Carolinian flora and the abundant trees growing in this area. It is also an excellent location for birding as many migratory birds pass through this region each spring and fall.

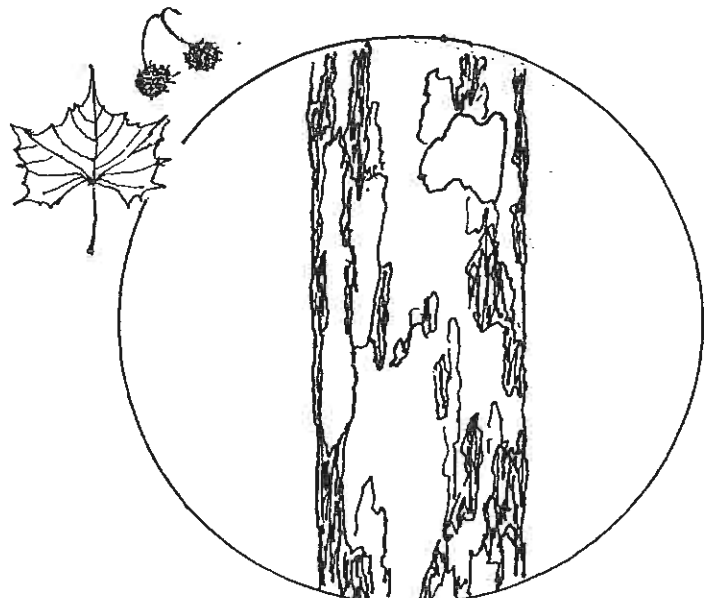
Wayne was also instrumental in the documentation and identification of the trees and shrubs at Kopegaron Woods. His expertise and methodical system of examining bark formations and tips of branches were to lead us to a greater understanding of tree identity in winter.

Our tour began at the parking lot where we noticed an abundant crop of Highbush-cranberries. Juncos and finches nearby ignored the tempting feast as they prefer to eat the berries after they have been frozen. Growing along side the cranberries were Red Osier Dogwoods

distinguished by their red branches, all the more visible because the leaves were gone.

Nestled among them were the alien White Mulberry and the Manitoba Maple more commonly known as the "weed tree." This tree, also called Box-elder or Ash-leaf Maple, is most aggressive and sprouts quickly wherever it takes root. It is the only maple with compound leaves.

The open park entrance has an interesting array of introduced species such as the Northern Catalpa, Pin Oak, Sycamore (A), Sunburst Locust,



Sycamore

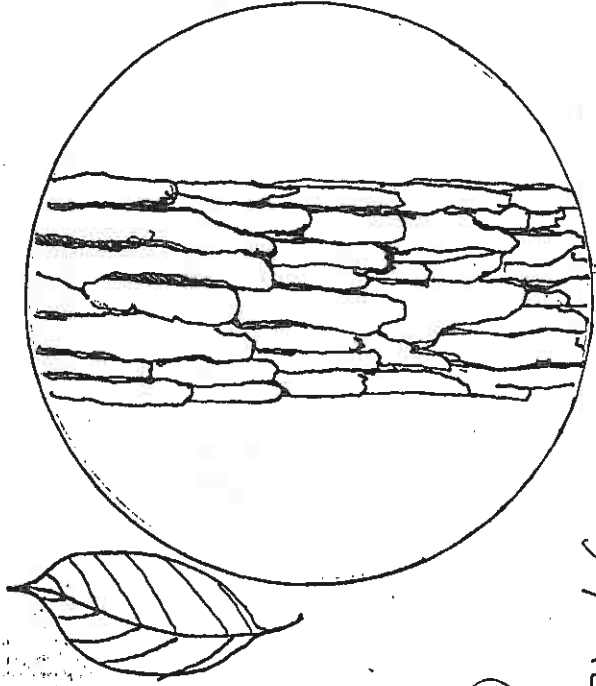
A

and Corkscrew Willow.

As we entered the trail to begin our journey through the woods, we encountered White Ash intermingled with Trembling Aspen and Silver Maple. From the boardwalk we observed the smooth, sleek surface of an American Beech (B) and the streaked, vertical ridges of a Red Oak.

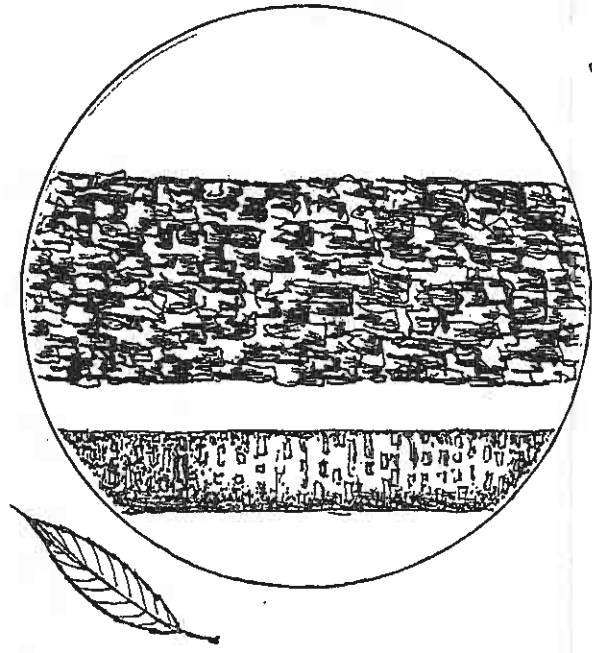
Our attention was soon diverted to the curiously twisted yellow petals of a Witch-Hazel (C). This intriguing shrub produces yellow flowers in the fall. The oils distilled from its twigs have long been known for their medicinal values in the treatment of insect bites, burns, and bruises.

Close by, the diamond-shaped ridges of a



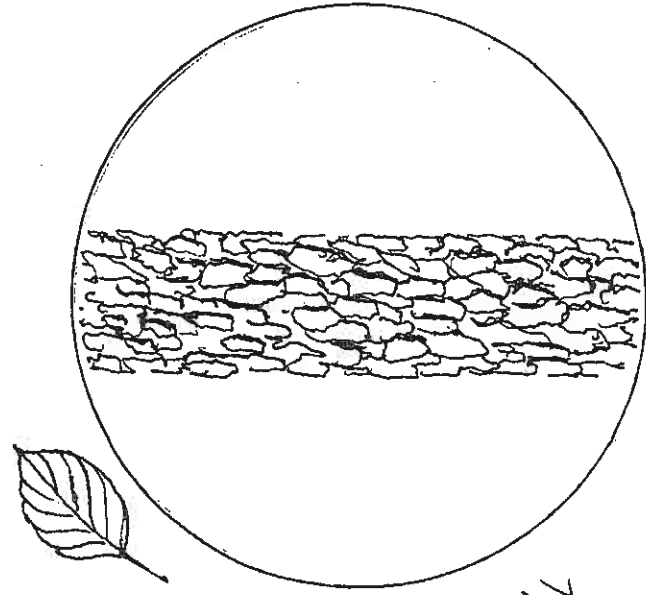
(N)

Black Gum



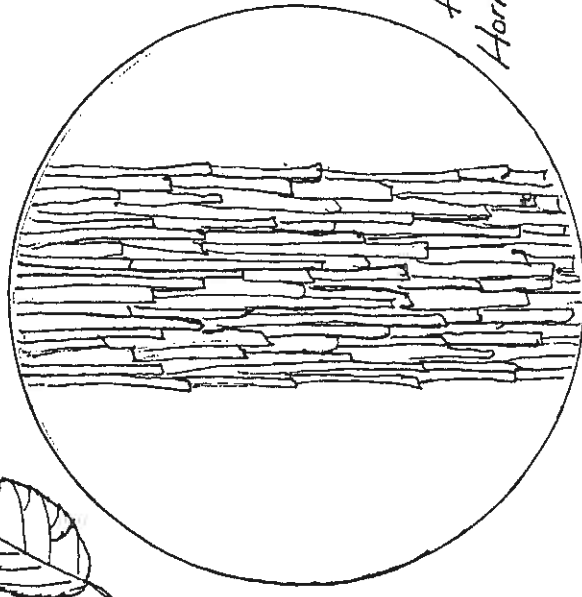
(I)

Black Cherry



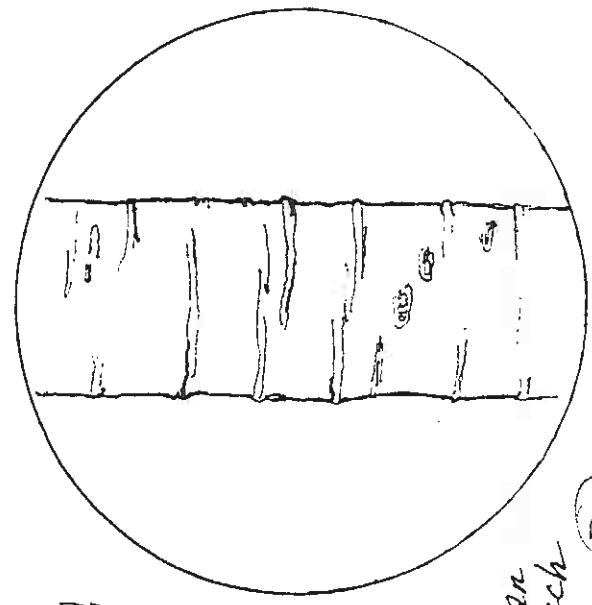
(K)

Flowering
Dogwood



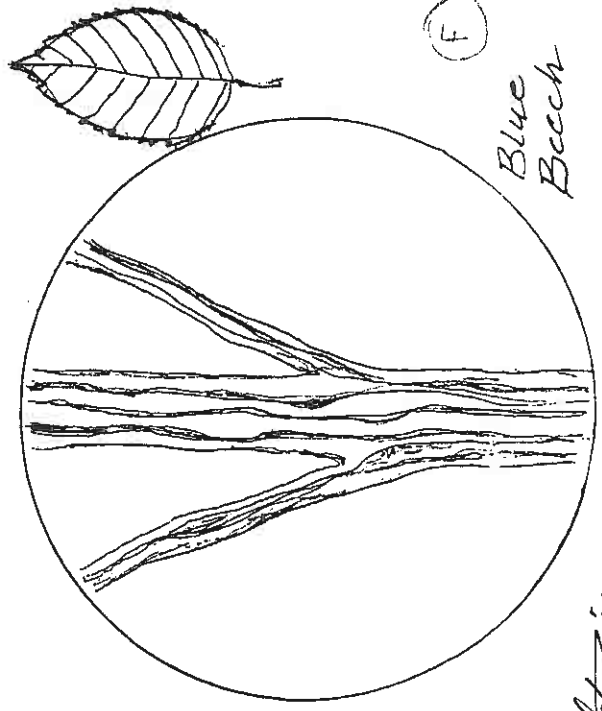
(E)

Hop
Hornbeam



(B)

American
Beech

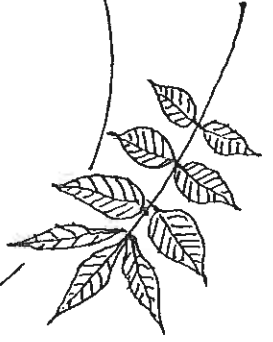
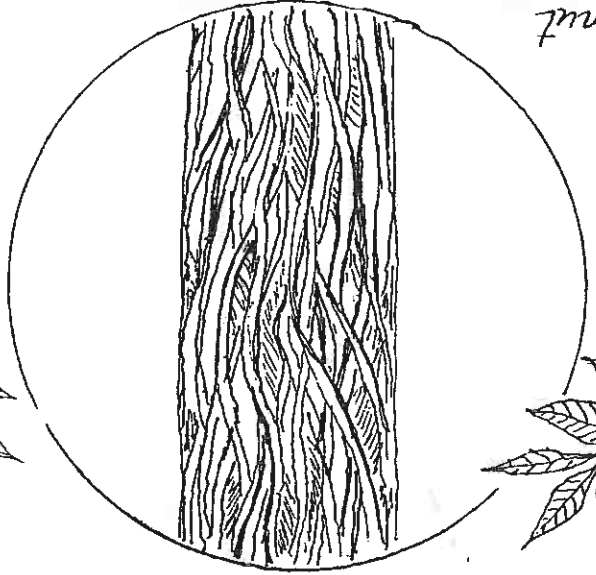


(F)

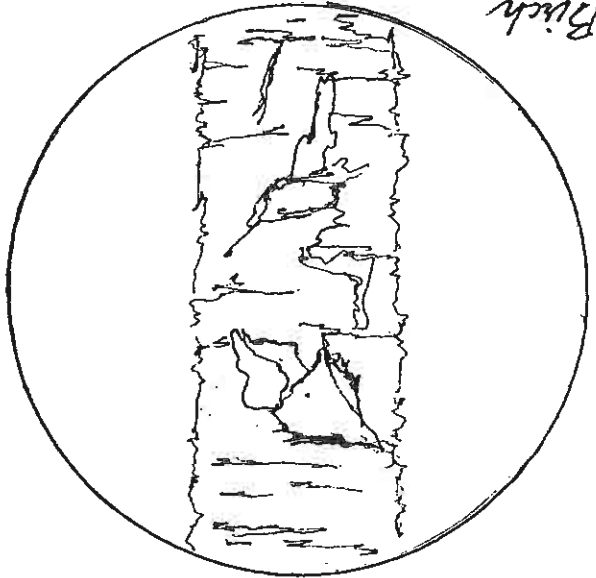
Blue
Beech

Mary Johnston '99

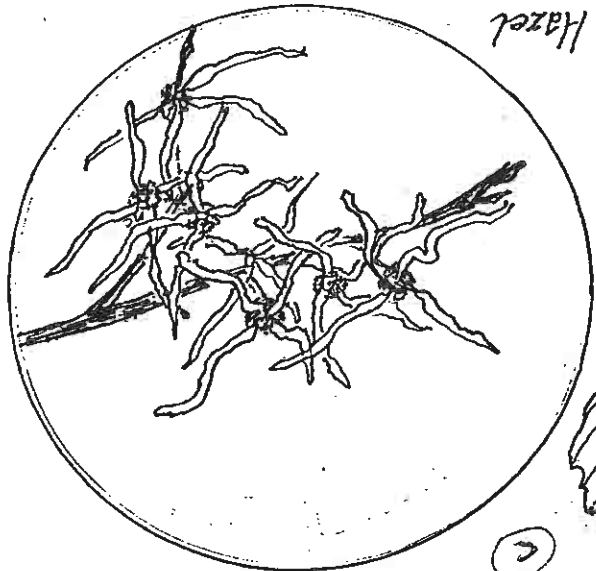
①
Bitternut
Hickory



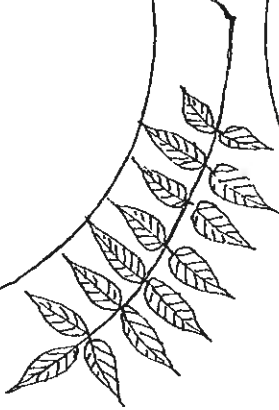
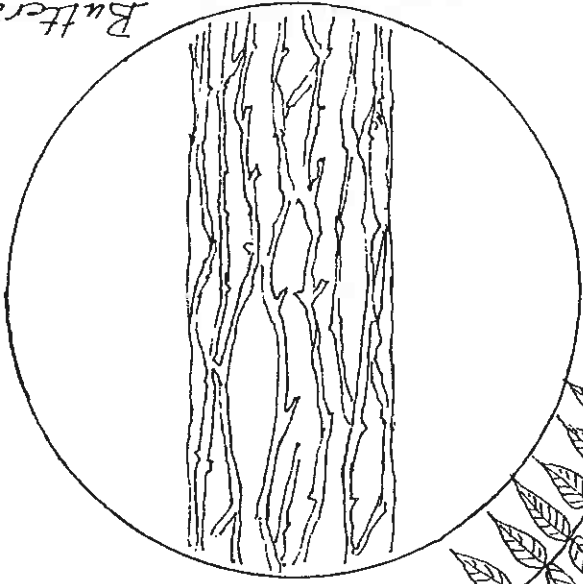
④
Yellow Birch



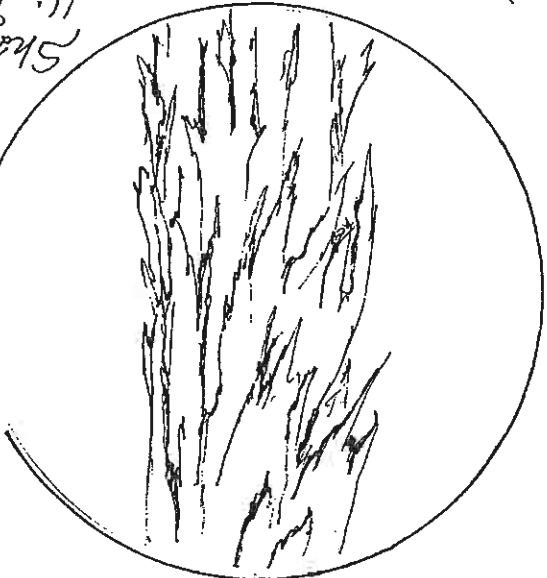
②
Witch Hazel



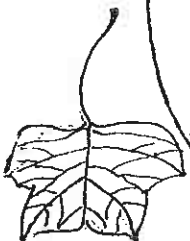
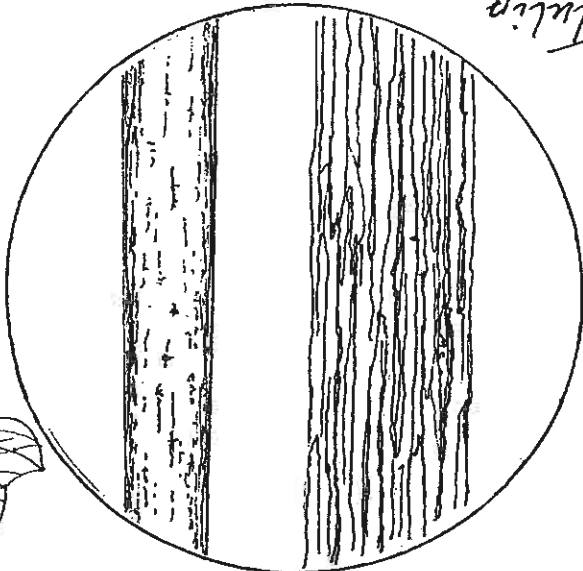
③
Butternut
White Walnut



⑥
Shagbark
Hickory



⑤
Tulip



⑦
Hairy Woodrats egg

Bitternut Hickory (D) clued us to its identity. Following our trail guide we came upon Post 1, where we observed a Hop-hornbeam (E), also called Ironwood, and a Blue Beech (F). We jumped down from the boardwalk to stroke its strained sinewy limbs which felt like the muscles of an elongated arm.

In the swampy area of Post 2, the shaggy bark of a Shagbark Hickory (G) immediately caught our attention. It was nestled amidst a stand of Swamp White Oaks. Shallow lobed leaves of the Swamp White Oak lay on the damp ground below. Other companion trees were the White Elm and White Oak which also has rounded lobes but are more deeply indented than the Swamp Oak.

In the Post 3 sector, Pin Oak was recognized by the short, stub-like branches growing horizontally from the trunk of the tree, similar to a vertical pin-cushion.

A Hairy Woodpecker was sighted tapping nearby as we worked our way through Silver Maples and Cottonwoods of immense sizes.

A marvelous Yellow Birch (H) caught our attention. We stopped to admire its golden hues and yellow scaly bark. At least four trunks emerged from the base of the tree. Specimens such as this Yellow Birch warrant a return trip simply to enjoy this fine Carolinian beauty. However, what ruined our aesthetic experience throughout the conservation forest was the large number of trees destined to be cut down with unsightly red splotches of paint sprayed on their barks.

It took us a while to recover as we questioned the logic behind such devastation. The naturalness of the reserve would be lost. It would look like a "park" in the city; all tidied up. Not having much time for deliberation we continued our journey.

From the tall to the lowest bush we crawled to view a Spicebush with its yellow "piggy-back" berries growing side by side, or an Elderberry crouching near the ground, then thrusting our heads upward to observe a raccoon huddled in the upper branches of a Sassafras (M). To the east of us we could see the buildings of a hog farm. From there, we ventured upon different terrain consisting of low-rolling sand dunes. We examined a Black Cherry (I) with its bark resembling black "corn flakes." And where there are Black Cherry trees, there will also be Tulip Trees nearby. We were not disappointed.

This stately Carolinian "pipce de rUsistance" soared some sixty feet in the air, its *Sassafras*

massive trunk free of branches until it broke through the upper canopy. Cone-shaped clusters of fruit dangled from the upper limits. The bark of the mature Tulip-Tree (J) is dark brown with long, finely knitted ridges. It was a pleasure to touch.

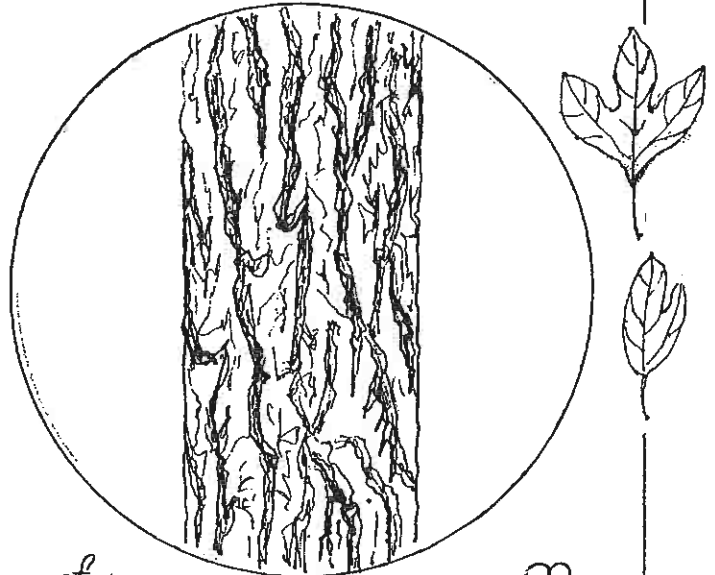
To our delight, a Bald Eagle flew overhead in a westerly direction. No doubt it was heading home, as eagle nests have been sighted in nearby woodlots.

After stretching our sights as far as the eagle flew, we resumed our ground search and came upon a Nannyberry bush with long-pointed lantern tips and a Flowering Dogwood (K) with its tell-tale "alligator" bark. The branches of the Flowering Dogwood have a tendency to sweep in a down and out fashion as if it were trying to hold something.

Because of the mild temperatures we had been having, traces of Royal and Cinnamon Fern and Spinulose Woodfern were still visible at Post 5, along with a Jack-in-the-pulpit sprouting through the earth.

At Post 6, we compared the weaving pattern of a Butternut (L) with the corky appearance of a Hackberry. Using this comparative method, Wayne pointed out the difference between the Black Oak and the Red Oak. Apparently both oaks have long vertical flat ridges. However, the bark of the Black Oak becomes checkered near the base of the tree while the bark of the Red Oak remains the same.

At Post 7, we studied the fine linear patterns created by the yellowish lenticels found on the bark of young Tulip Trees. Lenticels aid in the aeration of the bark through which oxygen penetrates to the



M

living tissues within. Lenticels are also found on the trunks of young Black Cherry trees in the form of short white dashes running across the bark.

We finally rounded the south end of the woods and came upon more sand dunes filled with Flowering Dogwood, Red, Black, and Pin Oaks and Choke Cherries. A Black-Gum tree (N) was noted for its deeply grooved bark which had a tinge of red over its dark-grey mass. The Black-Gum propagates itself through an adventitious sucker system and develops numerous spur-like shoots. Nearby we spotted Serviceberries and more Sensitive Ferns.

The weather suddenly turned cold and we headed back toward the parking lot. By now we had crossed the swampy terrain at Stop 13 which was filled with Silver Maples and Hawthorns when the sky folded and it began to rain. It was time to go home.

It was an adventurous afternoon and well spent. In just one afternoon we had learned so much. We shall always be indebted to Wayne for having shared his time and knowledge with us. We hope to follow Wayne again at another time and another woodlot. Thank you Wayne for a great tour.

Owl Prowl, January 1999

by Peggy Hurst

By the 10th of January, we had had quite a bit of snow, and the wind was blowing it enough to reduce the visibility on our thoroughfares. It was cold enough for full face balaclavas and designer neck warmers, multiple pairs of pants, chemical hand warmers, ski masks, and snowsuits. It was the kind of day to sit indoors with cocoa and a good book. Nevertheless, nine hardy souls joined Tom and I for a leisurely stroll through John Moore's woodlot, where at least seven Long-eared Owls had taken up residence for the winter.

We broke a trail through the crusty, knee-high snow and made it into the pine woods, where the snow was less deep. We spread out, to the point where if you stopped moving, you thought you were completely alone in the stillness. We walked. Some of us swished as we walked.

We arrived at the area preferred by the owls, about two-thirds into the woodlot, and found no traces that they had ever been there, no feathers or pellets. Our January blizzards had driven them to search for a more hospitable environment. However, we flushed pheasants and saw

interesting tracks in the snow. We saw goldenrod galls and bunch galls. We listened to a few happy, hardy sparrows singing, then turned around to blaze trails back through the woods farther west, hoping the owls had only switched locales. Alas, it was not to be. We regrouped at wood's edge, commiserated with each other a bit, then adjourned to the barn with its warm wood stove.

As we warmed up and dried off, our fearless leader, Thomas, noticed a wee gray face peeking out of the Eastern Screech-owl box nearby, enjoying the late afternoon sun. Instantly, previously unused scopes were planted in snowdrifts and an appreciative look was taken at Madam Screech-owl. An owl in the box is better than no owls at all, eh?

Detroit Zoo's Wildlife Interpretive Gallery

by Betty Learmouth

Dry winter roads and no precipitation made freeway travel easy for twelve naturalists who ventured to the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Michigan on January 24, 1999. We met in the oldest building at the Detroit Zoo, the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery, a beautifully restored building which houses a wildlife art gallery, a salt water aquarium with fish from the Pacific Ocean, a butterfly and hummingbird exhibit and a tropical bird exhibit. After admiring the art in the wildlife art gallery and exclaiming over the incredibly colourful fish in the aquarium, we stepped into the butterfly and hummingbird exhibit, where we all removed our winter wear in an attempt to adjust to the warm temperatures in the room.

For first time visitors, the gaudy tropical butterflies that flutter about the foliage are almost overwhelming. And, of course, everyone wants to know about these beautiful insects. Luckily Peg Wilkinson had brought along a useful guide book which the Niagara Parks has published as a guide to the butterflies of the Butterfly Conservatory in Niagara. We were quickly able to identify the various species about us and pass on the information to members of our group. This useful guide provided some additional interesting facts about each species as well as where the butterflies had originated.

The familiar Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cressphontes*) caught our attention immediately as this butterfly is at its northern limits in our County.

We noted this species nectaring on the Lantana blossoms. Butterfly pupa of various species are shipped to the Detroit butterfly exhibit from butterfly farms in various parts of the world. Giant Swallowtail pupa are obtained from farms in Florida. Last year when we visited the exhibit we were able to view the maturing pupa but recent federal restrictions have meant that the pupa have been moved to a more secure environment where hatching may be monitored more closely.

Everyone was thrilled to see the large Owl Butterfly (*Caligo* sp.), its wings approximately 4 3/4 to 6 inches in width, as the species fluttered about the exhibit or clung to the banana plants. Apparently these butterflies become more active at dusk, flying rapidly around in groups. In Trinidad, these butterflies are known as the "six o'clockers" for their habit of swirling together at dusk. As we entered the exhibit, we found an old specimen of an Owl Butterfly resting on a low brick wall. Normally this species rests with its wings folded together, displaying its well known large eye spot. This old specimen had its wings spread, showing its dusky blue and gray upperwings, in subdued contrast to the underwing pattern.

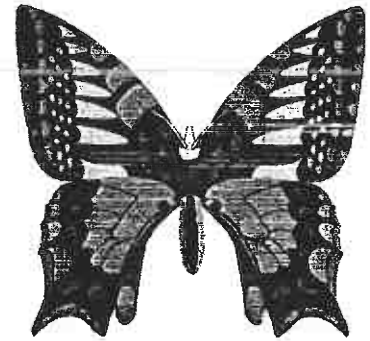
Several species of butterflies in the exhibit were longwings, which are readily identified as the wings of these colourful butterflies are elongated. The Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*), familiar to those who have visited natural areas in the Florida Keys, is an eye catching insect with its distinctive yellow striped pattern on black. At dusk, Zebra Longwings gather in a communal roost, where they resemble colourful leaves. Another species imported from Costa Rica is the Blue and White Longwing (*Heliconius cydno*), a very handsome butterfly which has white patches on its forewings, that sharply contrast with the dark blue outer tips of the forewings and all blue hindwings.

The Small Postman (*Heliconius erato*) is an attractive longwing which received its common name in Trinidad. Apparently its pattern of a bold red patch on each wing with a two pale streaks near the abdomen against black wings resembles the red epaulets and yellow pant strips of the postal uniform. This butterfly was attracted to the low Lantana flowering along the exhibit's walkway. The chrysalid of this species are imported from Costa Rica.

Other butterflies seen were the Tiger Longwing (*Heliconius hecale*), which has a distinctive wide, rounded apex to its forewing. The Taracina (*Tithora taracina*) has a slow flight, interspersed with pauses and gliding. This species resembles the Tiger Longwing but its rounder wing

tips distinguish it from the Tiger Longwing which is mimicking the Taracina. Apparently the wings of the Taracina are sturdy enough to withstand attack by birds. The Montezuma (*Parides montezuma*) is a dark gray butterfly with a distinctive row of pink marks on the hind wing. The Doris (*Heliconius doris*) is a species that has many colour combinations. The forewings are always black with white markings but the hindwings may be either orange, blue or green.

The spectacular Blue Morpho (*Morpho* sp.) thrilled us as these large butterflies flew among the tropical plants. This species' iridescent blue wings are breathtaking and almost unbelievable in their intensity. The blue may seem to make the insect readily visible but its colouration is apparently its protection. As this insect flies along streams in its native habitat, the blue shines brightly in sunlight. Then, as the insect flies into a shady area, the colour is lost, confusing any predator in pursuit of the insect. Blue Morpho pupa are imported from Costa Rica.



We were able to observe two hummingbird species well. A female Anna's Hummingbird perched frequently on a vine near a feeder, then flew to inspect nearby blossoms. As this bird moved about we could hear its short, sharp call note. As it landed, this tiny bird flared feathers at its throat, treating us to a momentary glimpse of brilliant red.

Behind the park bench to the right of the entrance, a female Black-chinned Hummingbird sat on the edge of a banana leaf, serenading the photographer in our midst with her sweet song. The staff person in the area said he could always identify this species as there were white feathers in the bird's wing, often visible as she perched.

After enjoying all the activity in the hummingbird and butterfly exhibit, we moved on to the tropical aviary exhibit. As we walked along the meandering walkway, we were able to identify Scarlet Ibis, Bleeding-heart Doves, Magpie Geese and Sunbittern. We found two Boat-billed Herons roosting in a tree, while nearby we found a Snowy Egret and Cattle Egret with Scarlet Ibis.

Our timing was perfect as a staff person was

offering meal worms to water fowl and other birds at a feeding station. This caused the birds to congregate so that we had good views of Spur-winged Plover, Crowned Plover, Hammerkop, Red-billed Hornbill, Lilac-breasted Roller, Speckled Mousebird (all birds found in East Africa) along with a eclectic group of birds including Emerald Starling, White-faced Whistling Ducks, Bali Mynah (a threatened species in its native habitat), Snowy-headed Robin-chat, Kai Parrot, Blue-gray Tanager, Crimson-backed Tanager, Inca Tern and Laysan Teal, an endangered teal species known only from a single Pacific island. We also saw unidentified lovebirds and a turaco, a colourful African species found in forest habitats.

Everyone expressed an interest to view the penguin exhibit which is located next door to the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. There are three viewing areas in this circular exhibit hall, featuring large windows which allow visitors to view a swimming area adjacent to the glass, with a rocky shoreline behind. Most of the penguins were congregated within the third viewing area, simply standing about, looking either very bored, very sleepy or simply very well fed after feeding. Penguin species on display were the stately King, Macaroni, Rockhopper (both with wild hair styles) and Fairy Penguin. We noted that all the King Penguins were banded which is a means to identify individual birds when they are fed supplemental vitamins to ensure their diets contain all required nutrients.

We found the exhibits to be uncrowded so that we could linger to enjoy all the activity. A visit to the Detroit Zoo's Wildlife Interpretive Gallery on a winter afternoon is a fine way to sample a little bit of tropical nature.

Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park in Winter

by Betty Learmouth

Six naturalists joined naturalists Karen Cedar and Paul Pratt for an afternoon walk on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1999 along the Ontario Hydro corridor that cuts through the Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park off Titcombe Road in Windsor.

Before the walk was over, the naturalists had decided that the afternoon's excursion should be called the "gall walk" as we were able to find a number of deformities on plants which are caused by insects laying their eggs, with the plants

responding by producing swellings. Karen found one ball gall on a goldenrod stalk which had a hole drilled into, likely by a Downy Woodpecker. Birds such as Black-capped Chickadees and Downy Woodpeckers frequently drill into galls, and nuthatches would like to, but their feeding method doesn't involve the efficient drilling of the chickadees and woodpeckers. Another frequently found gall is the elliptical goldenrod gall, caused by the larva of a moth.

We noted a willow shrub on which we found a number of willow pine cone galls which are shaped like small tightly closed pine cones. These attractive gray galls are found on the tips of the willow shrub branches. Apparently these galls are more common in the Great Lakes region than in the eastern section of the continent.

Karen showed us long slender galls on raspberry stalks. These galls appear to stunt and deform the plant. We were surprised to find galls on the stalk of an Ironweed, the plant's stem slightly enlarged. On a small oak growing under the power lines, we found oak apple galls which resembled a group of small tan balls.

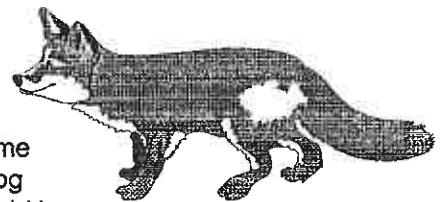
The area in which we walked under the power line appeared to be mainly invasive Phragmites, but when we looked more closely we were able to identify a number of prairie plant species mixed in with the Phragmites, including Big Blue Stem, Switch Grass, Indian Grass, Wild Bergamot, Virginia Mountain-mint, St. Johnswort, Yarrow, Spotted Water-hemlock, Sneezeweed, Boneset, asters, and the invasive Purple Loosestrife.

Recently, the Broad-winged Skipper, a butterfly species newly identified in Canada, and dependent upon Phragmites, has been identified in the Ojibway Prairie Complex. The caterpillar of this species feeds on Phragmites. A moth species, the Phragmites Borer, has also recently been identified in the Ojibway Prairie Complex. Its caterpillar bores into the Phragmites.

We walked by one wet area at which Karen remarked that in a month's time the Chorus Frog population would be

in full chorus. Then Paul drew our attention to the scat of a Red Fox, the tiny bones of its prey visible. We found the mud chimney of a Chimney Crayfish.

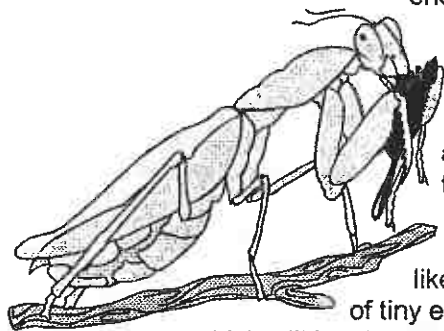
We stopped to exclaim over the plant known



as Seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*), which is notable for its attractive short, squarish pods. This plant blooms in wet areas on the prairie from June until August, but is often overlooked within the floral display of the prairie during those months.

Karen called our attention to two plant stalks, which after reflecting upon for a moment, we realized were the stems of Dense Blazing-star, a favourite with prairie seed collectors, who simply run their closed hands fists along the stem, collecting the seeds in a moment. Nearby, we found a native shrub, an American Hazel, its flowers set for spring, just waiting for spring's warmth to "fatten up" and bloom, and a single hazelnut still attached with a weevil hole visible in the nut.

Throughout the walk, we found the egg cases of Chinese Preying Mantis attached to stalks of goldenrod. The pale cases are rounded at one



end, and squared off at the other. In the fall, the insect exudes a foamy mass that solidifies. Inside each egg case are likely hundreds of tiny eggs,

which will hatch into hundreds of tiny predators. As we were leaving the area, we found a single egg case of the European Preying Mantis, resembling a tiny loaf of bread. This insect is considerably smaller than the Chinese Preying Mantis.

To the right of the hydro corridor, we were able to see a female Great Horned Owl incubating eggs at her nest, a former Red-tailed Hawk's nest. Only her head with her long ear tufts was visible.

We walked back to the Nature Centre, past the pond with the board walk. Paul remarked that normally the pond's water level would be to the wooden part of the boardwalk, so there is still a need for more precipitation to fill our ponds, wetlands and ditches. As we said our good-byes at the nature centre, we stood by a willow which was showing the first grey hints of its spring flowers. Another sign of spring!

Many thanks to Karen and Paul who "opened our eyes" to the prairie plants, insects and birds on the Ojibway Prairie in the winter.

Wanted: A Nut Collector

Love being outdoors? Exploring new areas? Observing and learning new things about nature? Then this is for you! NHRP is searching for a new body to help keep our seed collection program running. Donna and Linda can no longer cope with the heavy work involved with collecting, storing, processing and shipping acorns, walnuts and hickories (NHRP's big money makers). The nut collection will cease if we do not find a volunteer replacement with muscles. We will train the person who undertakes this very important job. We will help in finding appropriate trees, the collecting, processing, and shipping of the seeds. It would be desirable, but not necessary for the person to have free time during the week as well as Saturdays when most volunteers join us. The collection of these seeds starts in September - October and can continue into November. NHRP covers mileage and when finances permit a small stipend. If this sounds like your piece of "nut" cake, then phone Donna Sale (733-9972) or Linda Kennette (723-2262) for more details.

1999 NHRP Catalogue Available

If a stamped self addressed envelope is forwarded, the 1999 NHRP seed catalogue will be forwarded. Please send your request to Donna Sale, 1126 Campbell Lane, Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2G4

In Loving Memory of Myrtle Bessette

August 6, 1917 - December 12, 1998

by Thomas Hurst

The year 1998 has passed, taking with it one of the E.C.F.N.C.'s finest members. Myrtle Bessette passed away December 12th, 1998.

Myrtle had a passion for the natural world and a dedication to the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club. On January 30, 1985 Myrtle was elected Secretary, and she retained this position until January of 1995. For ten years, Myrtle not only fulfilled the legal obligations of being an Officer of the Club, but unstintingly performed the task of Recording Secretary. The Executive became dependent upon her for long term consistency in the Club's management. Her near perfect attendance at Executive meetings, combined with her long familiarity with Club business made her an invaluable resource during policy discussions. Her friendly and positive character did not forestall her from voicing her strongly held opinion in a straight forward down-to-earth manner. She was not one of the more outspoken Executive members, but it was surprising how one sentence from Myrtle could change the tone or direction of a debate. Her ability to deflate the swelling head of the President was an asset most prized by her fellow Executive members.

For many years, Myrtle took it upon herself to organize and distribute the refreshments at General Meetings. For years, no one had to give this important task a second thought, as Myrtle did it as a matter of course. Alas, I will miss the honour of receiving the first cup of coffee, hand-delivered by Myrtle at the adjournment of each meeting. I must admit it made me feel somewhat special.

Myrtle Bessette was a caring individual. She was critical of those who would injure or kill wildlife, and took delight in catering to the needs of the urban fauna of her backyard. Her minister described her as "grounded in nature." She also never missed an opportunity to commiserate with and encourage me in my struggle with Rheumatoid Arthritis. Most importantly, Myrtle's true nature was reflected in the care, support, and affection she gave Wilf, her husband, whose health and well being was a source of concern through this entire period.

Dear Myrtle, the E.C.F.N.C. misses you, I miss you, and our condolences go out to Wilf, your daughter Judy, and your grandsons. Thank you for sharing part of your life with the Field Naturalists. A part of you will always be a part of the fabric of the E.C.F.N.C.

Fifth Annual ECFNC Weekend Trip to Pelee Island

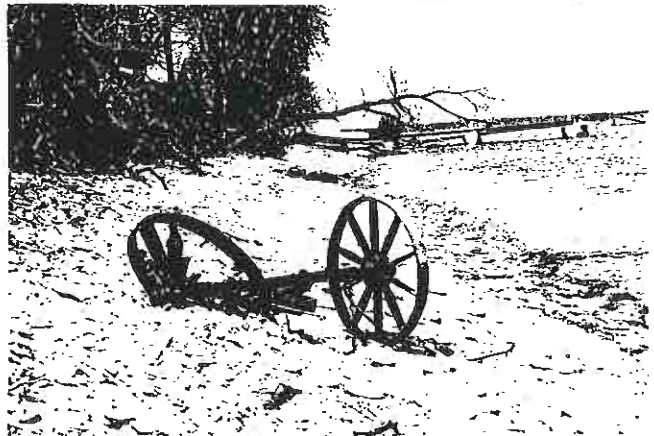
Saturday May 1 & Sunday May 2, 1999.

Leave at 9:00 am Saturday from Leamington

Dock aboard the M.V. Jiimaan

(be at the dock by 8:30 am)

Return to Leamington Dock by 6:00 pm Sunday



We will undoubtedly see numerous migrating birds (on their last stop before Point Pelee), abundant wildflowers such as trilliums and phlox, basking turtles and snakes, frogs, historic sites, and hopefully hear a chorus or two of American Toads; to suggest a few of the many enjoyable experiences on Pelee Island in spring. We will have plenty of time to walk, observe and relax on each of the three main excursions to some of Pelee's most beautiful natural areas, including Fish Point Provincial Nature

Reserve, Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve and the Sheridan Point Environmentally Significant Area. This time of year is my favourite on Pelee, as it is a chance to enjoy the spring awakening of diverse flora and fauna.

I have arranged for transportation while on the island - no vehicles are necessary or desired on this trip. There is parking at the Leamington Dock area (for a reasonable fee) or have someone drop you off. I have reserved space on the ferry (Jiimaan) for all registered, walk on passengers attending this trip - we will need to meet and form a group before boarding and I will purchase our tickets as a group (using some of the deposit money) in order to receive a 10 % group discount over and above senior and youth discounts - a group ticket purchase is also necessary in order for me to reserve space for our group.

Accommodations have been reserved at the Pelee Island Hotel. Each motel style room has two beds and one bathroom with a shower. Reservations are tentatively set for two persons per room. However, people do not need to register in pairs - everyone is welcome !!! Any family wishing a room with two double beds, or anyone wanting more or less than two persons per room (with accompanying cost adjustments), please let me know and arrangements can easily be made to accommodate your wishes. A Sunday morning all you can eat buffet breakfast is included as part of our group room rates.

The Pelee Island Hotel contains a home style restaurant where I have arranged for our lunch on Saturday (an all you can eat fresh Pickerel/Perch buffet or you can order from the menu - including vegetarian options). The hotel is also within a 5 minute walk to another restaurant and tavern, ice cream stand, Trading Post collectibles store, liquor/beer store, West Dock (ferry access), and the Pelee Island Heritage Centre. The Pelee Island Heritage Centre is next door to the hotel should we have inclement weather (however, Carl Maiolani is arranging excellent weather for us) or should anyone wish to skip an excursion and visit the museum instead. The museum and curator (Ron Tiessen), present an interesting and diverse view of Pelee Island's rich natural and human history.

We will break for meals regularly (lunch ~ 2 pm and dinner ~ 7:00 pm on Saturday, buffet breakfast ~ 9 am Sunday) and meals and snacks are also available on both ferry crossings. Costs for lunch and dinner on Saturday, snacks, etc. will be the responsibility of each individual. I have arranged for a barbeque (including veggie options), and wine making tour and tasting at the Pelee Island Winery on Saturday evening for those who wish to participate. The Winery tram will pick us up and drop us off at the hotel. Costs are reasonable (~ \$ 7 to \$ 15) and will depend upon your menu selections, level of participation, etc.

I will be requesting a \$ 20 deposit (which will be applied to your fees for accommodation and transportation) from each person to ensure reservations. I expect I will need to collect an additional ~ \$ 50 from each participant (a little less for seniors or several family group members in one room) once on the island, to fully pay for the two ferry trips, bus transportation, accommodations and Sunday breakfast. Including all costs for the rooms, island transportation, ferry transportation, snacks, meals, and winery tour, the complete trip will probably cost each person less than \$ 100.

All interested persons need to do is: sign up with me & provide a \$ 20 deposit (cash or make cheques payable to me), show up at the Leamington Dock by 8:30 am Saturday morning with warm field clothes and accessories (no need for heavy rubber wading boots as trails are elevated), warm overnight necessities, and I recommend about \$ 90 cash per person should cover your expenses for the weekend - even for a very hardy appetite. The restaurants do take a few of the major credit cards for Saturday's lunch and dinner, but please have cash to pay me for our group rated accommodations and transportation.

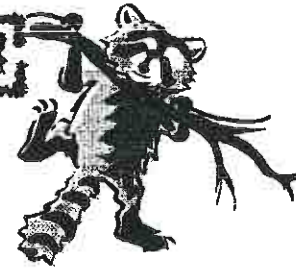
I will contact each person that registers should any time or location changes for the ferry occur, otherwise the above outline is the basic schedule, rain or shine. I will hand out detailed schedules on the Saturday morning of the trip.

To register for this trip: see me at the ECFNC meetings, call or write. I look forward to your company on this ECFNC outing !!!

Dave Kraus phone: 519 733 9578
mailing address:
1351 Oxford Ave.
Kingsville, Ontario.
N9Y 2S8

THE WILD SIDE

by Bob Wickett



Hydra: Danger for Daphnia

You are swimming along, enjoying the underwater world, when you accidentally bump into a tree like object. Suddenly you are enveloped by six long tentacles. The more you struggle the more they wrap and tighten. Every movement produces intense pain as multi-barbed needles pierce your skin. Paralyzing poison floods through your veins. You are helpless to stop the slow, steady movement toward the mouth of this terrifying creature. Swept inside, the last thing you remember before losing consciousness, is your flesh being eaten away by corrosive digestive fluids.

A bad dream? Well, for water fleas, this horrible fate is a distinct possibility. The terrifying creature with which waterfleas and other zooplankton have to contend with on a daily basis is called hydra. It even sounds like some fantastic creation of Greek mythology. In fact, hydra are a miniature freshwater relative of jellyfish, sea anemones and the deadly Portuguese man-of-war. Not to worry though, hydra are completely harmless to humans.

Similar to its namesake Hydra, the monster in Greek legend with many heads who grew two more whenever one was cut off, the regenerative powers of hydra are quite remarkable. A single hydra may be cut into many pieces and each will develop into a complete animal.

To find hydra, one needs only to look closely at any fairly stable underwater surface. Sooner or later you will find what appears to be a patch of fine brown/white fuzz. A closer look at the patch of white fuzz will reveal dozens of tiny animals (< 5mm) which resemble little palm trees. The "leaves" are actually tentacles covered with stinging cells called nematocysts. When triggered by something bumping into it, the nematocyst shoots out a harpoon like spear. When this spear punctures the skin of a potential prey item, a paralyzing toxin is injected. The combined action of a hydra's tentacles and nematocysts are an extremely effective method of ensnaring prey. Anyone who has been stung by a jellyfish has been subjected to this identical process on a much larger scale. Once captured, prey is moved toward the hydra's mouth located at the centre of the tentacles. The mouth leads to a large, expandable stomach cavity within the "tree trunk". A hydra that has just eaten a large daphnia looks much like a snake that has swallowed a large meal.

Hydra, like daphnia, reproduce in two ways; asexually (without sex) and sexually (with sex). Sexual reproduction of hydra involves the standard male/female, sperm/egg, fertilization stuff that we are all familiar with. Asexual reproduction of hydra is much more interesting. If you find a colony of hydra while on a dive, look carefully at each one. Several will have young hydra sprouting off their trunk. This process is called budding. When the young hydra gets big enough it will break off and attach to some nearby surface. Cool eh?

NEXT MONTH: "Seagulls"

Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count 1998 Food Delights

by Peggy Hurst

If you were at the Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count compilation, you will know the feast we had. If not, perhaps the following recipes may encourage you to participate next time. Call Paul Pratt to get in on the birding, and Peggy Hurst to participate in the feeding frenzy.

Broccoli Salad as prepared by JoAnn Grondin

Dressing

1 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup sugar

2 tbsp. lemon juice

Add to approximately one bunch of finely chopped

broccoli, sunflower seeds, raisins, and bacon bits, as much as you like.

Company Hash Browns as prepared by Peggy Hurst

2 pounds (1 kilo) bag of frozen hash browns
 1 500 gram container of sour cream
 up to 1 cup chopped onions
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 1/2 cup melted butter
 8 oz grated cheddar cheese
 Optional: Corn flakes sprinkled on top.
 Mix and bake for one hour at 375°F. Fills a 9 X 13 inch pan.

Veggie Bars as prepared by Shirley Grondin

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Base ingredients:

1 cup hard whole wheat flour
 1/3 cup white flour
 2 tbsp. brown sugar
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/3 tsp. baking powder
 1/4 tsp. baking soda

1 heaping tbsp. butter or margarine
 1/2 to 2/3 cup cool to warm water
 Form base into a soft dough, spread on a greased cookie sheet or 9 X13 inch pan. Bake for 10 - 12 minutes and set aside to cool.

Top

2 packages 250 gram packages of softened cream cheese
 3/4 cup Miracle Whip
 1 pkg. dry ranch dressing
 1/2 cup chopped broccoli
 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
 1/2 cup green onion
 1/2 grated carrots
 1/2 cup chopped tomatoes
 1/2 cup sliced olives
 3/4 cup shredded Colby cheese
 Mix cream cheese, Miracle Whip and ranch mix in blender. Spread on bread base. Layer veggies in order given. Sprinkle with cheese. Cover with waxed paper and press down. Chill for two hours and cut into bites.

The 1998 Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count, or the View From Area 2

by Betty Learmouth

The first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on Christmas Day 1900 when ornithologist Frank Chapman protested an annual hunt by turning it into an annual count. Now over 45,000 people from every Canadian province, all fifty states, the Caribbean, Central America, and the Pacific Islands participate in more than 1,700 counts held in the two and a half week period around Christmas. The Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count celebrated its fourteenth year this count. The following is an account of local birders who contributed towards another memorable Cedar Creek CBC.

Planning for a Christmas Bird Count begins weeks before the count. The phone rang on December 1, 1998 and it was Anne Barbour, the long time crow count co-ordinator of the Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count, asking if I would be interested to assist with the Essex crow count on December 19, 1998. Essex's crows and Cedar Creek's Eastern Screech-Owls had been on my mind for a few weeks as I knew Anne would be looking for crow counters. During last year's CBC, the Cedar Creek Eastern Screech-Owls were not inclined to call until nearly dawn, thus I had decided that I would devote the few precious hours of darkness before 7:30 a.m. this year to owling. Hopefully, Anne would be able to find volunteers for the crow count, at least it is not quite as early as the owling.

On December 7, 1998, I drove along Concession 3 of Gosfield Township South (now the Town of Kingsville), looking for a Landowner Stewardship sign we had noticed during last year's CBC. It appeared that the property was part of the large wooded area bordered by Concession 3, the Arner Townline and County Road 20. We would be in the area during the afternoon of December 19, 1998, following several hours of driving back and forth along concession roads and it would be a good chance to bird on foot. Upon receiving permission to walk on the landowner's property land, the landowner Mr. Langille assured me he had "lots of birds" and we were welcome to walk back along his lane to the woodlot. Driving north along the Arner Townline, I spotted six American Kestrels on the wires over grassy ditches. I hoped they

would be visible in twelve days' time.

During the December 9, 1998 ECFNC members' meeting, Denise Hartley reserved a spot in my vehicle for the December 19, 1998 count as did Margaret Calder. Earlier Muriel Kassimatis had indicated she would like to accompany us, then Kathy Lesperance called a day or so later, so we had a full vehicle. Ruth Junge asked if she could be a participant of the count, so we spoke with Paul Desjardins who was looking after the lower part of Area 2, in Carl Maiolani's absence. Ruth would be able to join Paul's group along with Ron Muir, thus we now had two Area 2 car parties. Area 2 extends from the Town of Essex south along the Arner Townline to the Lake Erie shoreline, with the eastern boundary at North Ridge and the McCain Side Road. The Cedar Creek area would be covered on foot by Paul's group. Cedar Creek's water level was low, so we were uncertain how the canoeists, Dave D'hondt and Bob Wickett, who had great success in 1997 on Cedar Creek, would fare during 1998. John and Betty Moore on County Road 34 would keep an eye out for bird activity on their property. Our area would be well covered.

At the ECFNC December members' meeting, Betty and John Moore told us about a winter population of owls on their County Road 34 property. I asked if I might come out for an orientation visit prior to December 19, 1998 and Betty said she would be pleased to see me at 10:00 a.m. the next morning. We meet on a delightfully sunny winter morning, enjoying our walk along the grassy lane beside the pine plantation. At a small nesting box, Betty ducked into the pines and I followed. We walked over a few rows into the plantation, looking about for signs of owls. In a moment, we were bending over, picking up gray soggy owl pellets. The pellets were under several pine trees, indicating that Long-eared Owls were likely roosting regularly in the area. Within minutes, we had accumulated a third of a grocery bag of

wet pellets, already reserved for the Sun Parlor Elementary School and Ojibway Nature Centre raptor appreciation programmes. Betty said she saw several owls flush among the pines, while I saw one dark shape fly behind a pine tree. For the CBC, we would need to form a plan that would allow several CBC'ers to see the area well for an accurate owl count.

John Moore meet us at the front of the pine plantation with a very long ultra light ladder. We walked toward the tallest tree on the property in which a large nesting box was nestled. John set up the ladder, instructed me to climb to the last rung, turn the L-shape screws on the nesting box door, then check the contents. The reward for ignoring my precarious perch was a very close view of a gray phase Eastern Screech-Owl sleepily slouched on his/her bed of pine needles. After a moment, realizing that one wall of

his/her box had disappeared, the small owl backed from view into a corner of the box. Who would the brave soul be that would check this box during the CBC?

Following a few more phone calls before the morning of December 19, 1998, we had decided where and when to meet. At 4:45 a.m.

American Birding Association Regional Conference, Chatham, Ontario, May 18 - 22, 1999

Over 20,000 birders around North America belong to the American Birding Association (ABA), which provides leadership to field birders by increasing their knowledge, skills, and enjoyment of birding, and contributing to bird conservation. Regular regional conferences are held at birding hot spots about North America with our area selected to host an upcoming conference this spring migration.

Some of our ECFNC members and local birders will be contributing towards the success of this conference. The field trip coordinator is ECFNC member Jim McAllister with exciting field trips planned for Point Pelee, Rondeau Provincial Park and St. Clair National Wildlife Area. Main speakers will include Tom Hince, and Paul Pratt and Glenn Gervais. Tom will speak about bird migration in our area, while Paul and Glenn will share their experiences at the World Series of Birding held yearly in Cape May, New Jersey. Out of town speakers will include Ron Ridout, Bob Curry, Katherine McKeever, and Bruce McTavish.

Information on the conference is available from ABA Regional Conference - Chatham, Ontario, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599

sharp on Saturday morning, Margaret MacDonald, the current librarian at Belle River High School, and I met at the corner of Talbot Street and the Arner Town Road in Essex for Area 2's first shift, the Cedar Creek owl prowl. We had done this shift together the previous year.

Perhaps the most memorable CBC's owling at Cedar Creek occurred the year the Sylvia Thys and I had heard ten Screech-Owls and then were lucky enough to see two more. Of course, the most remarkable Screech-Owl CBC experience belongs to the two Cedar Creek CBC'ers who played their tape from their vehicle's console tape deck, causing an Eastern Screech-Owl to fly into their vehicle.

Margaret and I drove quickly down the Arner Townline to the parking lot of the Cedar Creek Conservation Area at Cedar Creek. Standing in the dark, we pressed the play button of our tape recorder, and a toneless male voice said, "Screech-Owl - eight repetitions." Then we were treated to the sounds of calling and singing Eastern Screech-Owls for a few minutes. There were no answering calls, so we drove over to Cedarwin Boy Scout Camp.

On the camp's water front, we played the tape, again with no response. We walked back along a short road that runs south from the camp's building into the surrounding woodlands. A Screech-Owl quickly responded to the tape, raising our hopes that we would have similar luck elsewhere.

Last year the tape had jammed in the recorder as we began our owling, but Margaret had calmly adjusted it. I was fervently hoping that Margaret would again be able to come to the rescue, but the morning's owling went smoothly with no tape recorder problems.

We hurried off to our next stop, the Arner Woods woodlot south of Cedarwin. Here we hiked along the edge of the woodlot, our strong flashlights lighting the way, playing the tapes periodically, with no responses. The beams of our lights caught two pairs of eyes, but we couldn't see the bodies behind. Eventually the eyes disappeared as their owners wandered off into the woodlot.

At 6:00 a.m., we headed off to Arner Point on Cedar Creek, an Essex Region Conservation Authority property, that supports a population of Screech-Owls in its Carolinian woodland. We walked through the woodland, over the causeway and along the waterfront trail, playing our tape and listening closely for any response. For our efforts, four Screech-Owls responded, two together in the Tulip Trees, one from across Cedar Creek and one from the peninsula's eastern end.

Now we were on our way back to Essex for the 8:00 a.m. meeting with our other CBC'ers. We played the tape without receiving any response at the Cedar Creek tributary on Concession 3, Colchester South. Our last stop was at the corner of Concession 2 and the Arner Town line where dairy farmer Clifford Balkwill has maintained a small woodlot next to his barns. By now the time was 7:30 a.m. and we could see individual trees in the gloomy morning light. We pressed the play button and almost immediately an Eastern Screech-Owl flew and landed on a limb of a small tree on the woodlot's edge. We shone our light on the small gray owl, which glanced to the right and left. When we stepped closer, it flew back a few metres, landed on an old fence post, where it called and sang for a few minutes. Margaret had an appointment at the veterinarian's for her cats at 9:30 a.m., so we continued north on the Arner after this wonderful conclusion to our early morning owling.

At 8:00 a.m., we said goodbye to Margaret and greeted another shift of CBC'ers, Margaret Calder, Denise Hartley, Muriel Kassimatis, and Kathy Lesperance. Rain was falling as we drove east along County Road 34. We walked about in the drizzle for a few minutes at an apartment complex off County Road 34, catching sight of several Dark-eyed Juncos, the only Juncos we would see all day. Then we drove slowly along the road's shoulder, watching for the Starlings, House Finches, House Sparrows and Mourning Doves which we knew would be in this area. Muriel was our official compiler for the day, recording all our sightings.

Within a few minutes, we were at John and Betty Moore's home. Luckily the rain had diminished. Kathy spotted one of the resident Downy Woodpeckers. We were watching all movements in the neighborhood closely when we saw a raptor stoop through the trees to the east of the Moore's property. Denise called "Sharp-shinned Hawk" as the bird landed in a large poplar. We noted the Screech-Owl box and its presumed occupant. As we started down the laneway, a medium sized owl flew from the hedgerow into the pine plantation. Long-eared Owl! Then a coyote stepped out from the plantation, gave us one incredulous look, and stepped back into the plantation. This animal is well known in the neighborhood, with some caring persons feeding him. He certainly looked well, his fur appearing thick and well groomed. Later, Betty Moore said she had not seen the coyote for over a year even though he was often on their property.

Kathy and I went into the plantation several times with the intention of flushing owls. When we

emerged with a pellet to show that we had found one owl roost, our CBC'ers on watch informed us a Great Horned Owl had flown from the plantation, continuing across the agricultural lands to the east.

John Moore met us after our owling, inviting us into his greenhouses to enjoy his tropical plants. We admired Bougainvillea, an orchid and a Christmas cactus, all in bloom. Large Green Frog tadpoles swam in two aquarium, their water filtered by Zebra Mussels. Leaving Mr. Moore's warm greenhouses, we drove off into the rain, checking the area for any bird activity, eventually reaching North Ridge where we turned south towards the Highway 3 Bypass.

We crossed Highway 3, and began our drive back and forth along the concession roads of Area 2, always watchful for any movement. Once we had discovered a flock of Horned Larks just a few feet from the Bypass, about which we reminded ourselves. This rainy morning, we were delighted to find several American Kestrels on the hydro lines.

Beside the Marsh Road, a raptor flew low over green grassy edges. We speeded up, then stopped for a better look. A female Northern Harrier! We remembered one CBC a few years earlier, when we found an immature Northern Harrier in the same area. As we watched, the young raptor caught a vole, then consumed the entire animal. An old farmhouse and its buildings once stood along the Marsh Road, now a small rubble pile marks the passing of this old farm.

Denise, in the back seat, spotted a second Sharp-shinned Hawk that was perched in a small tree by a concession road. On Concession 6, movement caught our eye near a dairy cattle operation. Horned Larks! Later, at the evening compilation, we heard that the CBC'ers to the west of us had seen a Short-eared Owl fly across the busy intersection at the corner of the 6th and the Arner Townline.

Further south, along the Fifth Concession Gosfield North, we noted a flock of sparrows in a roadside drainage ditch. We stopped, stepping from the vehicle for a closer look. We had parked fairly close to a home, and one of the kittens there had spotted us. We watched with some alarm as a four month old fluffy black kitten tottered towards us along the road's shoulder. Then its companion, a slightly older Himalayan kitten, joined us, stepping gingerly over frozen farmland as it made its way to our vehicle. The kittens were delighted to see us, purring happily as we petted them. Eventually, we made our get away, glancing in the rear view mirror as the two kittens wandered back home along the concession road edge.

By now, it was nearly noon hour. We drove to Kingsville, planning to lunch at the Vintage Goose Restaurant on Main Street. This was our second year at this location, as we had lunched over the years at the Deluxe Restaurant and Granny's in the Town of Essex. When the restaurant's host learned we did not have a reservation, a table was quickly set up for us. The soup d' jour was delicious and the atmosphere in the restaurant made us want to linger, but it was time to return to our duties.

Instead of touring the remaining concession roads as we had done in previous years, we chose to walk in the area to the east of the Arner Towline between County Road 20 and Concession 2 of Gosfield South. A mix of woodlots, hedge rows and agricultural lands can yield good numbers of winter birds. We walked a lane along a fence line next to a stand of Red Cedars, "pishing" frequently to attract any birds in the vicinity. Sometimes, Yellow-rumped Warblers can be found here. Muriel was slightly ahead of us, alerting us to a hawk she had spotted over the woodlot ahead. As we entered the woodlot, we saw one circling raptor, then a second. Red-tailed Hawks!

We searched in vain for a flock of Dark-eyed Juncos that always seems to be in the hedgerows. Instead we found a flock of Black-capped Chickadees, a few Northern Cardinals, several Downy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tree Sparrows, and several White-throated Sparrows. By this time, it was 3:30 p.m. with fading light, so we drove over to the Second Concession where we walked back along Mr. Bangle's lane to his woodlot, but found no further birds.

By the time we arrived at the Tom and Peggy Hurst's home, our hosts for an evening meal and the day's compilation, good numbers of CBC'ers were on hand, just in time to greet Cedar Creek Compiler Paul Pratt with a chorus of "Happy Birthday." The singing certainly set the mood for the evening as area compilers excitedly met to share their sightings, and participants shared the day's findings. Muriel first added the numbers for Paul Desjardin's group, then included the figures provided by Bob Wickett, who had canoed and tramped through the mud of Cedar Creek with Dave D'hondt. The Moores were able to add Turkey Vultures to the day's tally.

Following a wonderful feast of food brought by those who had participated in the day's count and several other interested naturalists who wanted to hear the day's results, we settled down to hear the

compilation. Each area compiler called out that area's numbers, the numbers recorded on an easel chart. Ninety-three species were tallied, the second highest count for the Cedar Count in its fourteenth year. Paul commented on certain species counts as the numbers were called.

Three Horned Grebes and Green-winged Teal were high numbers. The nine Great Horned Owls seen were a record low number. American Crow compiler Ann Barbour reported that the American Crow roost in Essex had a record low number of 14,325. Two Barn Swallows and a single Northern Rough-legged Swallow reported from the McGregor sewage lagoons by Hank Hunt's group were new species for the count. Twenty-eight Carolina Wrens was a new high for 1998 compared to the 21 seen in 1997. Golden-crowned Kinglets set a new record of 98, breaking the old record of 68. American Robins set a new record with 70 birds seen, compared to the previous record of just 33 birds. House Finch numbers only reached 379, much lower than the record number of 1,682. Single sightings were recorded for Wood Duck, Canvasback Duck, Ruddy Duck, American Snipe, Little Gull, Short-eared Owl, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Northern Shrike, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Red-winged Black-bird, and Common Grackle.

Compiler Pratt reminded everyone that next year (1999) would be the one hundredth anniversary of Christmas Bird Counts. To celebrate that anniversary, Paul suggested that every participant at this year's count should invite two other birders to next year's count, with our aim to be one hundred participants in the 1999 Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count.

Everyone listened intently to the day's compilation, the Northern Shrike seen at the McGregor sewage lagoons of considerable interest, with Hank Hunt indicating the bird had been "pished" from the hawthorns just to the left of the lagoon's entrance.

The memories of Cedar Creek CBC's will linger for years, whether the sighting of Turkey Vultures on a gloomy winter day, Sharp-shinned Hawks stooping through trees, Eastern Screech-Owls singing just before dawn, new species sightings, exciting single species sightings, or friendly kittens met by chance.

Following the compilation of the Rockwood CBC on December 27, 1998, as CBC'ers gathered at the Amherstburg Tim Horton's, CBC'er Ron Muir mentioned that he gone to McGregor's sewage lagoons on December 20, 1998, seeking the Northern Shrike and the Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Ron saw the Barn Swallows, but the other birds were not found. I, too, had gone to the McGregor Lagoons, but not until December 25, 1998. By that date, the weather had turned cold with a wind chill, the surface of the lagoons frozen. I was startled to find one Barn Swallow foraging within inches of the lagoon ice, resting every so often to pull dead insects from its frozen surface.

Luckily, on the Rockwood CBC, Ron spotted a Northern Shrike, his first sighting of this species. The bird was perched alone, at the tip of a tall tree on Big Creek, attracting Ron's attention.

Help for the Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna

by Todd Farrell

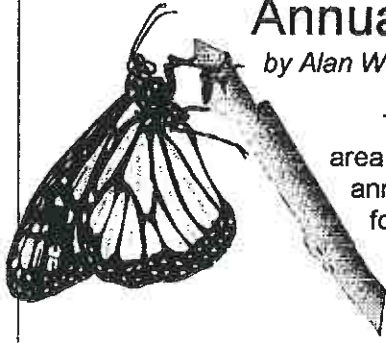
The **Ontario Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna Association- Tallgrass Ontario** for short, is a organization with the mandate of identifying, conserving, managing and restoring tallgrass prairie, savanna and related ecological communities in Ontario. The organization came together at the end of 1997 with the gathering of concerned individuals to form a volunteer steering committee. Subsequently, four working groups were initiated to focus on different aspects of prairies and savannas. These include the **Tallgrass Management, Research, Priorities, and the Propagation and Restoration Working Groups.**

Last year the organization promoted events with "Prairie Summer 98", a collection of various trips and talks about this endangered ecosystem that took place across Ontario. The organization is now looking for different events for "Prairie Summer 99", as well as addressing many other issues affecting this imperiled habitat.

So join the association, and help the prairies and savannas of Ontario. Your involvement in Tallgrass Ontario makes a difference. Watch for our newsletter **The Bluestem Banner** coming in March or check our website at <<http://www.carolinian.org/PRAIFACT.htm>> for more information.

Annual (1998) Point Pelee Butterfly Count

by Alan Wormington and Jason Boire



The third Point Pelee Butterfly Count was held on August 8, 1998. 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 butterfly count have been forwarded to the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), where it will be compiled and published with other counts from across the continent.

In 1998 the 45 observers (44 field observers + 1 garden observer) logged a record total of 85.5 party hours (79.5 on foot + 6 by car). The 1998 count produced 42 species and a total of 6461 individuals; an additional species was found during count week (CW), but not on count day. In comparison to the previous two counts, coverage outside Point Pelee National Park (PPNP) was exceptionally thorough with 22 counters covering this extensive (yet productive) area.

As expected, there were several southern species found including Little Sulphur (one north of Highway # 3), two Gray Hairstreak (North Dike east and Marentette Beach) and two Variegated Fritillary (DeLaurier Trail and SE Leamington). In the same category were two Fiery Skipper seen at NE Hillman Marsh; these were originally reported as European Skipper, but verified as Fiery Skipper on August 11th.

Every year we become increasingly more familiar with the extensive area of the count circle that lies north of PPNP. This year, at Kopegaron Woods Conservation Area, an extensive area of sedge (*Carex*) was discovered that harbours previously unknown colonies of Dukes' Skipper, Dion Skipper and Appalachian Eyed-Brown; an impressive total of 15 Dion Skipper was located at this site. Prior to the count (on August 6) a single Broad-winged Skipper was found in the concession block north of the Leamington Dump. This represents only the third known locality for this species in Essex County, but the site is only 1.5 km. northwest of where Broad-winged Skipper was discovered on last years count; both sites are rehabilitated quarry ponds with extensive stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites communis*), a known larval food plant. Unfortunately, on count days the species could not be found at either site.

Also of interest were the numbers tallied inside PPNP of four Silver-spotted Skipper (ties the one-day count for the second brood of the species); 64 Least Skipper (previous one-day count was 48); 336 Orange Crescent (previous one-day count was 55); and 52 Viceroy (previous one-day count was 50).

Count Participants: David Alderdice, Mary Lynne Alderdice, Jason Boire (Count Co-Compiler), Lloyd Brown-John, Suzan Campbell, Barb Casier, David Cattrall, Barbara Charlton, Jay Cossey, Susan Cossey, Gordon Crook, Tanya Dadswell, Paul Desjardins (Area 2 Leader), Lucille Dinyarian, Robert Dobos (Area 1 Leader), Dan Dufour, Judy Hall, Peter Hall, Barbara Hayes, Lawrence Heidinga, Ruth-Ann Hickey, Fraser Hopkins, Tom Hurst, Karl Konze, Ben Kulon (Area 3 Leader), Brenda Kulon, Dave Martin (Area 5 Leader), Kevin McLaughlin, Jose Medina, Jeff Mallow, Ashley Moffat, Henrietta T. O'Neill, Steve Pike, Gavin Platt, Beverley Porter, Pauline Renaud, Richard Roman, Sarah Rupert, Amy Tesolin, Dino Tesolin, Ann White, Bette-Jean Whittaker, Christine Wilson, Linda Wladarski, and Alan Wormington (Count Co-Compiler and Area 4 Leader). Count Sponsors: Point Pelee National Park and The Friends of Point Pelee.

The 1999 count will be held on Saturday, August 7th - hope to see you there!

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 (includes the west section of North Dike).

Area 3: Wheatley, Wheatley Provincial Park and Wheatley Harbour, etc.

Area 4: All areas north of PPNP between Leamington and Wheatley, north to include the east-west railway line north of Highway # 3 (includes the east section of North Dike).

Area 5: All areas west and north of Leamington, to include all areas west and north of Area 4.

For species accounts, see page 35

Christmas Bird Counts

by Betty Learmouth

1998 Pelee Island Christmas Bird Count, December 18, 1998

Sixty species were recorded on the Pelee Island portion of the Lake Erie Islands CBC which is an Ohio based count. Virtually all of Pelee Island, excluding Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve, is within the count circle.

1998 Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count

The Cedar Creek CBC covers the central southern portion of Essex County, Ontario including Kingsville, Harrow, McGregor, Essex and a portion of the Lake Erie shoreline. The fourteenth Cedar Creek CBC on December 19, 1998 attracted thirty-nine participants who tallied 94 species and 38,085 individual birds.

Record high counts were observed for seventeen species (numbers in bold) including Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird and American Robin. Horned Grebe, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Little Gull and Lincoln's Sparrow have been recorded on only a few previous counts. American Coot, Barn Swallow and Northern Rough-winged Swallow were new to the Cedar Creek CBC, bringing the total number of species recorded on all counts to 138.

The excellent results this year (only one species off the record high count of 95 species in 1994) was probably due to the record mild temperatures during the first three weeks of December and the persistence of all observers.

Participants: Area 1 Kingsville : (59 species/12.5 party hours) Tom Hince, Ethan Meleg, Dean Ware. Area 2 Cedar Beach: (50 species/21.5 party hours) Betty Learmouth, Denise Hartley, Paul Desjardins, Muriel Kassimatis, Kathy Lesperance, Margaret Calder, Margaret MacDonald, Ron Muir, Ruth Junge, John Moore, Peggy Hurst, David D'Ohondt, Bob Wickett. Area 3 Gesto (48 species/31.5 party hours) Anne and Brian Barbour, Bonnie Foley, Bernard Beneteau, Allan Merritt, Bernard Calhoun, Hank Hunt, John Zoch, Shirley Grondin, JoAnn Grondin, Jim McAllister, Phil Roberts, Andy Garlatti, Patricia Rhoads. Area 4 South Colchester: (64 species/17 party hours) Steve Pike, Thomas Hurst, Keith Burk, Jim Burk, Jeff Larson, Randy Horvath. Area 5 Harrow: (52 species/12.5 party hours) Paul Pratt, Elaine Sinnott, Karen Cedar, June Hurley, Lynda Corkum. After a long day of birding everyone descended on Tom and Peggy Hurst's for the tally and a pot luck dinner.

Point Pelee CBC, 1998

The Point Pelee Christmas Bird Count included the national park, Leamington and Wheatley area. Sixty-three field participants and six feeder watchers covered this area on December 21, 1998 and found 60,218 birds of 103 species (vs 94 species in 1997)

Wood Duck, American Woodcock and Brown Thrasher were observed count week but missed on count day. Swainson's Thrush and Harris's Sparrow were new to the count. Record high counts are shown in bold.

Amherstburg Portion of Rockwood CBC, 1998

The Rockwood, Michigan Christmas Bird Count includes a small portion of Ontario along the Detroit River between Amherstburg and the mouth of the Detroit River. Twelve people covered this area on December 27, 1998 and found 56 species by mid day. The entire count tallied 87 species this year. New species for the count are in bold.

Participants: Paul Desjardins, Glenn Gervais, Hank Hunt, Wes Kinnin, Rene Kielbasa, Betty Learmouth, Anne Muir, Ron Muir, Paul Pratt, Lloyd Sayer, Elaine Sinnott, and Robert Wickett.

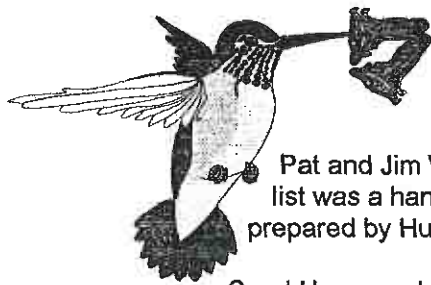
Detroit River Christmas Bird Count

The Detroit River CBC is held on New Year's Day each year. The results are shown below in the chart.

The CBC includes both the American and Canadian sides of the Detroit River. The totals provided in the chart are for the thirty per cent of the count which falls in Canada. The Ojibway Prairie Complex

and Detroit River shoreline account for the majority of the coverage in Windsor. Twenty-six observers found 61 species on the Ontario portion of the count (61 species were also recorded on the Michigan side). When combined with the Michigan portion a total of 74 species were recorded. Species recorded during count week but not on count day are shown as (CW). Participants: John Abati, Matt Baker, Anne Barbour, Brian Barbour, Liz Christie, Paul Desjardins, David D'hondt, Bonnie Foley, Michael Forton, Glenn Gervais, Henry and Vera Herrdegen, Hank Hunt, Lydia Hunt, June Hurley, Betty Learmouth, Don Loncke, Kevin Leddy, Cathy Lesperance, Sally Malcomb, Ron Muir, Kate Parr, Paul Pratt, Elaine Sinnott, Sylvia Thys, Fred Urie.

For species accounts, see page 36



Some Plants That are Attractive to Hummingbirds

Pat and Jim Watson provided this list of hummingbirds' favourite plants. The list was a handout at an American Birding Association Convention and was prepared by Hummingbird Bander Nancy Newfield of Metairie, Louisiana.

Coral Honeysuckle -
Lonicera sempervirens
 Japanese Honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica*
 Bergamont - *Monarda didyma*
 Shrimp Plant - *Beloperone gutatta*
 Columbine - *Aquilegia canadensis* and
Aquilegia formosa
 Ocotillo - *Fouquieria splendens*
 Penstemon - numerous species
 Cacti - *Opuntia imbricata* and *Echinocereus*
triglochidiatus
 Pinkroot - *Spigelia marilandica*
 Eucalyptus - numerous species
 Flowering Maple - *Abutilon* - numerous
 species
 Turk's Cap - *Malvaviscus grandiflora*
 Sultan's Turban - *Malvaviscus arborea* v.
drummondii
 Red Salvia - *Salvia splendens*
 Tropical Sage - *Salvia coccinea*
 Pineapple Sage - *Salvia rutilans*
 Anise Sage - *Salvia ambigens*
 Rocky Mountain Sage - *Salvia greggii*
 Mexican Sage - *Salvia leucantha*
 Mountain Sage - *Salvia regia*
 Lion's Ear - *Leonotis leonuris*
 Mexican Cigar - *Cuphea ignea* and *Cuphea*
micropetala

Trumpet Vine - *Campsis radicans*
 Cypress Vine - *Quamoclit pinnata*
 Red Morningglory - *Ipomoea coccinea*
 Cardinal Vine - *Quamoclit sloteri*
 Cardinal Flower - *Lobelia cardinalis*
 Cardinal Shrub - *Weigela florida*
 Scarlet Gilia - *Ipomopsis rubra* - several other
 species
 Firecracker Vine - *Manettia cordifolia*
 Red Hot Poker - *Kniphofia* sp
 Firespike - *Odontanema stricta*
 Horse Mint - *Monarda fistulosa*
 Tree Tobacco - *Nicotiana glauca*
 Cape Honeysuckle - *Tecomaria capensis*
 Impatiens
 Red Buckeye - *Aesculus pavia* var. *pavia*
 Pentas - *Pentas lanceolata*
 Century Plant - *Agave* sp. - numerous species
 Pagoda Plant - *Clerodendron*
speciosissimum
 Columnea sp. - several species and hybrids
 Christmas Cactus - *Schlumbergera* sp. and
Zygocactus sp.
 Easter Cactus - *Rhipsalidopsis* sp.
 Thanksgiving Cactus - *Schlumbergera* sp. and
Zygocactus sp.
 Indian Pink - *Silene* sp. - several species
 Fountain Plant - *Russelia equisetiformis*

Coral Bean - *Erythrina herbacea*
Erythrina sp. - several species
 Peruvian Lily - *Alstroemeria pulchella*
 Indian Paintbrush - *Castilleja* sp. - numerous species
 Mimosa
 Powderpuff - *Calliandra* sp. - several species
 Bottlebrush - *Callistemon* - several species
 Desert Willow - *Chilopsis linearis*
 Azalea - *Rhododendron* sp. - numerous species and hybrids
 Iris
 Japanese Plum, Loquat - *Prunus salicina*
 Fuchsia - numerous species and hybrids
 Desert Honeysuckle - *Aniscanthus thurberi* and *Aniscanthus insignis*
 Hibiscus - *Hibiscus* sp. - several species and hybrids

Lantana sp. - several species
 Larkspur - *Delphinium* sp. - several species
 Aloe - several species
 Scarlet Runner Bean
 Bird of Paradise - *Stroeleztia reginae*
 Citrus
 California Fuchsia - *Zauschneria* sp. - several species
 Flowering Currant and Gooseberry - *Ribes* sp. - several species
 Manzanita - *Arctostaphylos* sp.
 Woolly Blue-curls - *Trichostema lanatum*
 Chuparosa - *Beleperone californica*
 Bleeding Heart - *Dicentra spectabilis*
 Bleeding Heart - *Clerodendron thompsoniana*
 Barometer Bush - *Leucophyllum frutescens* and *Leucophyllum violaceum*

BIRD SIGHTINGS AT CHELSEA SPA AND RETREAT

by Ann Barbour

Located at 1245 South Malden Road in the former Colchester North Township, the acres at Chelsea Spa & Retreat are annually checked for winter bird residents in the Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count. This 15-mile diameter circle roughly covers the area from McGregor, east to Essex, South to Kingsville and west to Harrow.

On December 19, 1998, the counting began at 5 a.m. when an owling party of 3 volunteers stopped on the road at the bridge. They played a tape of a Screech Owl call. Since this nocturnal bird is territorial, any in the area will call back a reply to an intruder warning him that the area is already inhabited. After playing the call a few times, an answering call was faintly heard from a Screech Owl from the farthest corner of Chelsea Spa. The call was also returned by a Screech Owl on the north side of the road. These raptors are very beneficial to have around since their main source of food is rodents.

In the afternoon, 2 volunteers parked at the barn and took the west trail behind the houses to the open grassy area with hawthorns. We looked up and around and into the surrounding trees because this habitat has the potential for hawks and shrikes. Red-tails like to perch in a tree and scan the ground for rodents. These have been seen at Chelsea Spa & Retreat in previous years. On this cloudy day, our attention is drawn however, to some barely noticeable activity on the trunks of 2 trees in the clearing. It's a pair of Brown Creepers, 2 little insect eaters with long curved beaks that search in the tree bark for tiny insects and their eggs. These birds fly down to the base of a tree, then creep up the trunk in their search for protein bits. Although their bellies are white, their brown backs easily blend in with the tree trunks so that they are well camouflaged as they busily go about their gleaning work.

Next, to the watercourse, known as the McLean Drain, one of the feeder streams of the Canard River. Since water is essential to all life, any water source holds the possibility of many and varied sightings from any thirsty songbird to ducks and geese and egrets and herons. In fact, Wood Ducks had been known to nest in a box erected by a previous owner, on a tree overhanging the water. These perching ducks are quite a sight and unforgettable when seen for the first time up in a tree.

In the winter especially, any open water is an attraction for birds, so we eagerly walked to the back of the property to the stream. What a surprise we had when we saw that the streambed was dry, the result of a summer and fall of drought conditions. "Might as well walk down there" my partner Bonnie Foley said, so we climbed down the 8-foot bank. What a neat place to walk, sheltered from the wind, with only a ribbon of cloudy sky above. We spished a bit then waited. 'Spishing' is a vocal noise that to birds sounds like an 'alert' call. Most birds will curiously come for a look to see what the alert is all about. Sure enough, we were quickly surrounded by 8 Black-Capped Chickadees, a Golden-Crowned Kinglet, 2 Northern Cardinals and several American Tree Sparrows. How happy we were to see the chickadees, those forest 'clowns' that swing around on branches, calling out their name: Chickadee-dee-dee, scolding us for our false alarm.

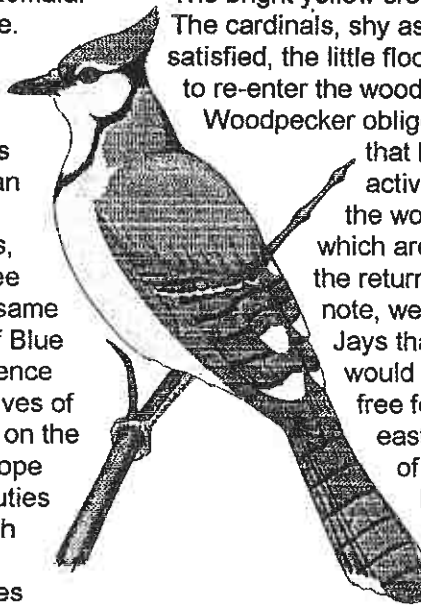
These curious little birds came within 3 feet of us. How we wished we had some sunflower seeds in our pocket, for chickadees are so bold that they are known to eat out of a person's hand. The tiny Golden-Crowned Kinglet was another treat. They are chiefly insect and spider eaters so never come to feeders but migrate south to Guatemala. The bright yellow crown patch with no hint of orange told us that this was a female.

Once their curiosity was satisfied, the little flock moved on and so did we. Bonnie and I climbed up the bank to re-enter the woods hoping to find some woodpeckers. A Downy Woodpecker obliged us, but not the much larger Hairy and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers that have been seen in previous years. Perhaps the increased human activity deep in the woods has the woodpeckers can tolerate. Perhaps the addition of suet feeders, which are a big attraction for woodpeckers in the winter, would see the return of more woodpeckers to Chelsea Spa and Retreat. On that same note, we realized that the woods were silently absent of the raucous call of Blue Jays that usually sound the alarm at the first sight of intruders. This absence would be easily rectified because Blue Jays are quick to avail themselves of free food at feeders.

On breaking out of the woods on the east side, we scanned the mowed clearing with our binoculars in the hope of spotting Eastern Bluebirds. These beautiful iridescent blue beauties hawk for insects that they find in the grass and supplement this with berries, especially in the winter. Therefore, the clearing, surrounded by hawthorn, dogwood and sumac bushes provides good habitat for this species; none were seen today, but maybe next year. Bonnie and I circled the grass, picking up lots of 'little brown bird' activity in the shelter of the thick shrubs. On flushing them out, we counted 22 Dark-eyed Juncos, 18 American Tree Sparrows and 1 Song Sparrow. These guys usually hang out together and sometimes there will be a bonus species or two with them such as White-Throated Sparrow and White-Crowned Sparrow. These will all come to feeders for seed, especially when the cold and snow cover increase.

Now back at the car, we've completed our survey and happily leave with a sense of contentment that always comes from a peaceful walk in one of Jehovah God's patches of paradise. Thank you Chelsea Spa and Retreat for sharing your treasure with us.

The above write-up was sent to the owners of Chelsea Spa and Retreat upon their request after the count. It never hurts and can only help if good relationships and a thankful attitude are shown to landowners who are an important part of Christmas Bird Counts. Permission should always be obtained from landowners before entering property, for the birder's benefit and protection, as well as the owners'. The only negative responses I've ever had about entering property, was from owners who were concerned about my welfare: hurting myself in rocky, uneven and swampy floodplain, or being hurt by hunters already given permission to be on the property.





Stone Road Complex, Pelee Island News

by Betty Learmouth

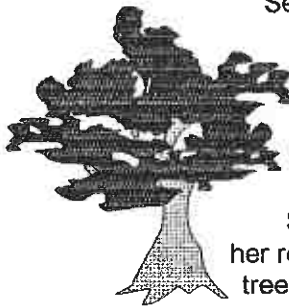
During the past fall (1998), The Nature Conservancy of Canada negotiated with a Pelee Island landowner regarding a 60 acre property located on the Stone Road Complex, a natural area in the southeast portion of Pelee Island that is noted for its outcroppings of limestone, shallow soils and associated provincially and nationally rare plants and animals. The Pelee Island land owner and The Nature Conservancy of Canada signed an Agreement of Sale and Purchase on January 13, 1999 with an agreement that the funds for the purchase be secured within 210 days of the signed agreement (August 11, 1999). The purchase price for the property is \$132,000.00.

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club has been fund raising over the years and will be making a contribution of \$39,386.00 towards the purchase of the property. On February 1, 1999, Carolinian Canada made a contribution of \$25,000.00 towards the purchase. The Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club will be co-operating to work towards raising the monies to acquire and protect this property as a nature reserve.

Contributions towards this property may be made to The Nature Conservancy of Canada, 110 Eglinton Avenue West, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1A3 or to the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club. Charitable income tax receipts will be issued.

"The Tree Book" Contributes to Detroit's Belle Isle Tree Identification

by Betty Learmouth



Senior Naturalist Suzan Campbell of Detroit's Belle Isle Nature Center had been mystified by certain red oaks on Belle Isle since her appointment as naturalist in spring 1996. Suzan had studied various tree identification guides for the State of Michigan, but still felt confusion regarding the trees' true identification. When *The Tree Book; Tree Species and Restoration Guide for the Windsor-Essex Region*, by Gerry Waldron was displayed for sale at the Ojibway Nature Centre, Suzan purchased a copy.

Suzan has described her purchase as "invaluable," as Suzan learned from her reading that the interior tree community on Belle Isle resembled flood plain tree communities of Essex County rather than any described Michigan tree community. During spring 1998, Suzan was able to identify the Belle Isle trees

using "The Tree Book."

The following article entitled "Rare Trees Rooted in Belle Isle Woods" appeared in the Detroit Free Press on December 10, 1998 and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the Detroit Free Press.

Rare Trees Rooted in Belle Isle Woods: Excited botanists say more discoveries await

Marty Hair (Free Press Staff Writer)

When plant hunters find something growing in a new place, it's botanical breaking news. And it happened a few days ago on Belle Isle, a city park more often associated with the Grand Prix

and picnics than rare plants.

On its 200 wooded acres, there are huge, aged trees - and not just any trees. Botanists over the weekend found shumard oaks and pumpkin ashes, trees not previously known to be on the island and considered highly rare in Michigan.

"My God, it's common here!" shouted Warren H. Wagner as he spotted not one, not just a few, but many shumard oaks growing in the woods along Nashua Creek in the center of the island. Wagner, a botany professor at the University of Michigan, is coauthor of "Michigan Trees" (University of Michigan Press, \$16.95).

Belle Isle's largest shumard oak is at least 200 years old, Wagner said. That tree, along with the island's tallest pumpkin ash, will be nominated for the Michigan Big Tree list, which includes the state's largest known specimens.

Nearby, Wagner and others poked the forest floor for signs of the pumpkin ash - narrow, pointed, bronzy leaves, seeds shaped like little canoe oars. They found many, which Bill Brodovich, another Ann Arbor botanist, stuffed into plastic bags to compare with samples in the U-M Herbarium.

The shumard oak was found in Michigan only about ten years ago, growing near Lake Erie. The pumpkin ash has been known in Michigan for about five years, reported just in Washtenaw County and in southwestern Michigan around Berrien County.

If the trees have been growing anyone noticed them? For one occasionally flooded habitats - they are considered southern hunters may not recognize, said U-M Herbarium.

"People have just "It's really startling and could still be unknown in

The gathering Saturday Suzan Campbell, senior Recreation Department's Belle working to identify plants on

When state botanist the early fall, he urged pumpkin ash and shumard oak, each other in woods that flood in

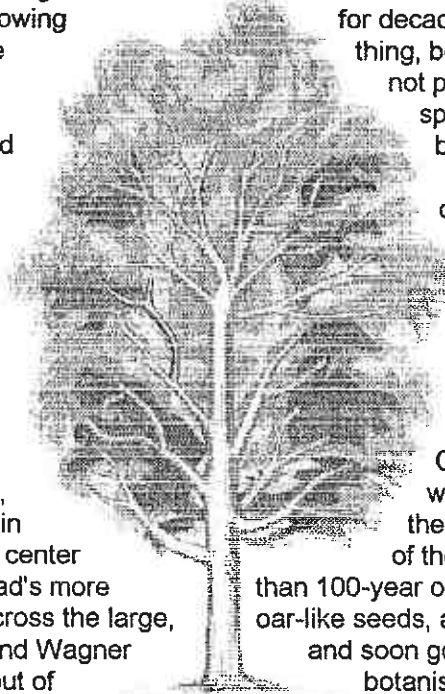
So Campbell went to the center predate Frederick Law Olmstead's more

Last month, she came across the large, She mailed some to Penskar and Wagner "I've never gotten such a rise out of Campbell said with a laugh. She of the island's plants among its visitors.

Scientists said finding these rare trees in Detroit's backyard is more than just botanical stamp collecting. It proves there are still many things to be explored, even in nearby sites that are taken for granted.

"It's a superb place, Detroit should certainly be proud of it," said Wagner after his first visit to Belle Isle last weekend. "It needs a lot of work, but it's a real ornament for the state of Michigan."

Finding the new species also shows how much there is left to identify and understand. That must be done, Penskar said, before critical decisions can be made about plant and animal populations, ecosystems and preservation.



for decades even centuries, why hasn't thing, both trees grow in wet, not pleasant places to botanize. Also, species, ones that Michigan plant botanist Anton Reznicek of the

completely missed them," he said. amazing that large forest trees Michigan."

came at the instigation of naturalist at the Detroit Isle Nature Center, who has been the 985-acre island.

Mike Penskar visited the island in Campbell to be on the lookout for which are sometimes found near the spring.

of the island, where the woods than 100-year old design for the city park. oar-like seeds, also called keys, of pumpkin ash. and soon got enthusiastic responses. botanists of such high caliber," hopes the discovery will raise the stature



Activities and Excursions

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, contact Muriel Kassimatis (252-4801) or Betty Learmouth (944-0825). Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to lead an excursion. We appreciate leaders sharing their time and expertise with others. Let us know about your ideas for upcoming excursions.

March

March 10 - ECFNC Monthly Meeting

Location and time: Ojibway Nature Centre at 7:30 p.m. Our annual meeting with presentations on the Club's committees' activities during 1998. This meeting is an excellent and worthwhile opportunity to learn about all the interests of our Club.

March 15 - 19 - Ojibway Nature Centre program Pond Pals for children ages 7 to 11.

Join Ojibway Nature Centre staff for swamp walks and nature fun. There will be an early drop-off at 8:00 a.m. and a late pick-up until 5:00 p.m. Time 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Fee: \$85.00 plus \$5.00 material fee.

March 21 - Friends of Ojibway Prairie Annual Meeting

This annual FoPP meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Enjoy a review of the year's activities, a guest speaker and social hour.

March 23 - ERCA Workshop - Tree Care Workshop

7:00 until 9:00 p.m. at the Essex Civic and Education Centre presented by ERCA Forester Casey Colthurst. Please call 776-5209 at least one week in advance to register. Cost of workshop is \$5.00.

March 25 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Bird Migration Field Course.

A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life which migrates through Southwestern Ontario. Thursday evening will be dedicated to improving birding skills. Fee: \$8.00/1 or \$39.00/all

March 27 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Bird Migration Field Course.

A Saturday morning field trip. Fee: \$8.00 or \$39.00/all.

March 28 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

Join ECFNC member and ERCA Land Management Supervisor Chris Allsop and ECFNC member and ERCA Biologist Dan Lebedyk for a guided hike along the Greenway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Greenway where it crosses South Malden Road. To find South Malden Road if you are driving from Windsor, drive along Walker Road and through McGregor. Watch for the first big curve in Walker Road after you leave McGregor (approximately five miles), then watch for the sign South Malden Road on your left. The Greenway is about a two minute drive from Walker Road. We will park on the shoulder of the road. Be sure to dress appropriately with good walking boots.

March 31 - ECFNC Executive Meeting.

April 10 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Bird Migration Field Course. A Saturday morning field trip. Fee: \$8.00 or \$39.00/all.

April**April 14 - ECFNC Monthly Meeting**

Brian Dixon, staff member in the University of Windsor's Department of Biological Sciences will discuss an African fish study project on which Brian worked. As well, Brian will discuss his present project in Essex County. This project is based in Point Pelee National Park and will involve fish, frogs and toxins in the environment. Location - Essex Civic Centre Time - 7:30

April 17

ERCA and Little River Enhancement Group are hosting a walk at McAuliffe Woods Conservation Area which is located on St. Alphonse off County Road 42 near the Manning Road corner in the Town of Tecumseh. Time: 10:00 - 11:00

April 18 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

Have you wondered about what happens to NHRP seed after its fall harvesting? City of Windsor Forester Bill Roesel will be our host as we visit two sites at which native trees and shrubs are grown within the City of Windsor. Meet Bill at 2:00 p.m. at the City of Windsor Parks and Recreation Building, 2450 McDougall Street (near the Windsor Stadium).

April 21 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Weekday Birding at Pelee.

Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a morning field trip at Point Pelee. Time: Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$8.00/ trip.

April 24 - ERCA Event

Earthday Cleanup at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area at 3:30 p.m. Barbeque following

April 24 - May 24 - ERCA Event

Call ERCA for more information concerning the Shorebird Migration, Hillman Marsh Conservation Area.

April 25 - Earth Day at Ojibway.

Fun for the entire family: environmental exhibits including the NHRP shrub and tree sale, entertainment, children's activities, food including the ECFNC bake sale, tree planting with the Little River Enhancement Group at Titcombe Road, ERCA's Sunoco sponsored tree planting at Malden Park and much more! Sunday from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

April 28 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Weekday Birding at Pelee.

Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a morning field trip at Point Pelee. Time: Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$8.00/ trip.

April 28 - ECFNC Executive Meeting**April 29 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Birding for Beginners.**

An evening programme devoted to the basics of bird watching, field guides and binoculars. Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. Fee; \$7.00.

April 30 - May 2 - ECFNC Camping at Point Pelee National Park

Participants may arrive at the group camp grounds any time after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30 with departure on Sunday, May 2. Contact ECFNC President Tom Hurst for further details.

May**May 1-2 - ECFNC Fifth Annual Pelee Island weekend excursion**

Participants are asked to preregister for this excursion. Meet at the Leamington Ferry dock by 8:30 a.m. for departure at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 1 with the group returning at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 2 to Leamington. The Nature Reserves will be visited for bird watching (spring migrants), observing rare snakes, turtles and wildflowers. Contact organizer Dave Kraus (733-9578) for registration, etc.

May 1 - 31 - Point Pelee National Park Spring Birding Festival.

Call the Park for more information about activities during spring migration.

May 1 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Bird Migration Field Course.

A Saturday morning field trip. Fee: \$8.00 or \$39.00/all.

May 6 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Wildflowers.

Explore the incredible diversity of the spring wildflowers of the Carolinian woodlands. Thursday 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$15.00/2

May 6 - ERCA Workshop

Shorebird talk by Alan Wormington from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area. Fee of \$5.00 includes coffee and dessert. Call ERCA for reservation.

May 7 - ERCA Workshop

Bird Song Identification with Bob Pettit from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Hillman Conservation Area. Fee of \$5.00 includes coffee and dessert. Call ERCA for reservation.

May 8 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Wildflowers.

Explore the incredible diversity of the spring wildflowers of the Carolinian woodlands. Saturday 10:00 a.m.

May 8 - Little River Enhancement Group

Little River Enhancement Group celebrates its tenth anniversary with tree planting and the dedication of a plaque at Derwent Park between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Lunch to follow, hosted by Place Concorde.

May 8 - Ojibway Nature Centre and NHRP Native Plant and Tree Sale at Ojibway Nature Centre.

Attract wildlife to your yard with beautiful wildflowers, native trees and shrubs. Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 9 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

Join naturalist Wayne Wannick for a guided flower walk at Kopegaron Woods at 2:00 p.m. in the Conservation Area's parking lot. Kopegaron Woods is renowned for its spring floral display. Migrating birds will also be observed. Kopegaron Woods Conservation Area is located on Highway 3 between Leamington and Wheatley.

May 12 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Weekday Birding at Pelee.

Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a morning field trip at Point Pelee. Time: Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$8.00/ trip.

May 12 - ECFNC Monthly Meeting

Our May speaker will be Rob Willson, a Masters of Science student in the Department of Zoology at the University of Guelph. During summer 1998, Rob began his radio telemetry studies of the Eastern Fox Snakes of Pelee Island. Rob has worked with Blue Racer and Eastern Massasauga species recovery programmes in Ontario. Using slides, Rob will discuss some of his studies and findings. Location - Essex Civic Centre Time - 7:30

May 15 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Bird Migration Field Course.

A Saturday morning field trip. Fee: \$8.00

May 15 - Ojibway Nature Centre and NHRP Native Plant and Tree Sale at Ojibway Nature Centre.

Attract wildlife to your yard with beautiful wildflowers, native trees and shrubs. Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 16 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

Join ECFNC members Muriel Kassimatis and Betty Learmouth for a visit to Point Pelee National Park at the height of the spring migration. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Visitors Centre. Plan to bring a lunch as we will meet for lunch at the picnic tables near the the Visitors Centre.

May 22 - Ojibway Nature Centre's Spring Bird Migration Field Course.

A Saturday morning field trip. Fee: \$8.00

May 23 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

ECFNC members Randy and Lisa Stewart will lead us about the Green Dragon Woods Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) which is adjacent to their home in the former Township of Anderdon (now Amherstburg) along the Canard River. If you are driving from Windsor, drive out into the County along Howard Avenue. Watch for the South Townline, with the next intersection the North Sideroad. Turn right and cross the 6th Concession. The house number is 5711 North Sideroad with the Stewart's home on your left.

May 26 - ECFNC Executive Meeting**May 30 - ECFNC Spring Excursion**

Joanne Goggin will lead us into her family's woodlot in Amherstburg to view plants, trees and nesting Wood Ducks. Bring your guide books as Joanne says she would like more assistance identifying plant species on her family's property. Joanne's home is at 863 Texas Road which is five houses past The Verdi Club if you enter Texas Road from Highway 18. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at Joanne's home.

May 28 - 30 - Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual Conference

"Protected Areas, from the international to local level will be explored through speakers, workshops and field trips," hosted by the Kingston Field Naturalists. For more information: FON Web site:

<<http://www.ontarionature.org>> KFN Web site:

<<http://psyc.queensu.ca/~davids/fon99.html>> or Telephone: (613)389-6742

June

June 6 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

Join teacher Elaine Bosveld and a few of her students from the Sun Parlor Public School in Essex for a tour of their school yard which has been naturalized. The Sun Parlor Public School is directly behind Essex High School. Meet at 2:00 p.m.

June 9 - ECFNC Monthly Meeting

Location - Essex Civic Centre Time - 7:30 and speaker - tba

June 13 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

Join Rondeau Provincial Park naturalist Elaine Wake for a guided walk along the Tulip Trail. Since we visited the Park last June, a severe storm has caused a great amount of damage in the Park. Elaine will bring us up to date on the storm's aftermath. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Visitors Centre in the Park or if you would like to carpool, met in the SilverCity parking lot at the corner of Provincial and Walker Roads at 8:00 a.m.

June 20 - ECFNC Spring Excursion

Butterfly enthusiast Alan Wormington will meet us at 9:30 a.m. at the Point Pelee National Park Visitors Centre for a morning of butterfly watching at areas that have good numbers of butterflies, with lunch afterwards at the Fish Place. This is an excellent opportunity for butterfly photography with good closeup views of a variety of species. Be sure to wear light weight garments for sun protection. Bring water to drink while we walk.

June 27 - ECFNC Summer Excursion

Eastern Bluebird Chairman Don Bissonette will share his love of Eastern Bluebirds with us on an evening excursion to view Eastern Bluebirds. Meet in the parking lot of the Harrow Research Station at 7:00 p.m. Our chosen location to view Eastern Bluebirds will be determined by nesting activity on the various trails.

June 30 - ECFNC Executive Meeting

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club is a Registered Charitable Organization

YES I WANT TO BE A PART OF THE E.C.F.N.C.



Name _____
Street _____
City _____ Province _____
Postal Code _____ Phone No. _____
Occupation _____

- Individual Membership \$20.00/year
- Family Membership \$25.00/year
- Sustaining Membership \$30.00/year
- Life Membership \$200.00/one payment

Make cheques payable to: Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Devonshire Mail P.O., P.O. Box 23011, Windsor, Ontario N8X 5B5

1998 Point Pelee Butterflies Count Results

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Total
Silver-spotted Skipper	3	1	-	-	2	6
Common Sooty-wing	-	-	5	38	12	55
Least Skipper	16	48	187	127	45	423
Fiery Skipper	-	-	-	2	-	2
Peck's Skipper	-	-	11	24	24	59
North Broken-dash	-	-	-	3	-	3
Broad-winged Skipper	-	-	-	-	CW	CW
Dion Skipper	-	-	-	19	-	19
Dukes' Skipper	6	-	-	4	-	10
Dun Skipper	1	-	-	-	1	2
Black Swallowtail	1	5	56	52	43	157
Giant Swallowtail	31	47	-	2	4	84
Tiger Swallowtail	8	7	13	11	4	43
Spicebush Swallowtail	11	4	7	62	31	115
Cabbage White	360	321	173	1063	670	2587
Common Sulphur	-	1	3	27	48	79
Orange Sulphur	1	10	4	183	148	346
Little Sulphur	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronze Copper	-	-	26	39	1	66
Olive Hairstreak	13	-	-	-	-	13
Gray Hairstreak	-	-	-	2	-	2
Eastern Tailed-blue	3	2	4	19	32	60
Summer Azure	32	13	1	10	7	63
Snout Butterfly	2	2	-	1	1	6
Variegated Fritillary	-	1	-	1	-	2
Great Spangled Fritillary	-	-	-	-	1	1
Orange Crescent (cocyta)	215	121	62	802	220	1420
Summer Crescent (tharos)	6	-	24	3	3	36
Question Mark	-	3	2	2	3	10
Eastern Comma	5	3	-	-	-	8
Mourning Clock	-	3	1	-	-	4
American Painted-lady	-	1	3	1	-	5
Common Painted-lady	-	-	-	4	3	7
Red Admiral	5	5	1	11	7	29
Common Buckeye	1	-	2	-	2	5
Red-spotted Purple	2	6	1	2	11	22
Viceroy	5	47	17	98	26	193
Hackberry Butterfly	3	6	-	-	-	9
Tawny Emperor	9	5	-	-	-	14
Northern Eyed-Brown	-	-	1	1	-	2
Appalachian Eyed-Brown	-	-	-	3	-	3
Common Wood-nymph	6	-	94	18	14	132
Monarch	26	29	39	195	69	358
Party hours (on foot)	10	14	9.75	25	20.75	79.5
Party hours (by car)	-	-	1.5	-	4.5	6
Party miles (on foot)	8.5	13.5	12	25.5	18	77.5
Party miles (by car)	-	-	30	-	57	87
Total species	25	24	24	32	28	42
Total individuals	771	691	737	2829	1433	6461

1998 Christmas Bird Count Results

Species	Pelee Island	Point Pelee	Cedar Creek	Rockwood	Detroit River
Common Loon	1	1	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	10	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	8	2	3	0	0
Red-necked Grebe	1	0	0	0	0
Double-crested Cormorant	1	1	0	0	0
Great Blue Heron	0	13	10	12	2
Tundra Swan	0	2	0	7	6
Mute Swan	0	2	0	0	12
Snow Goose	0	0	14	0	0
Canada Goose	0	391	5,422	1,015	1,410
Wood Duck	0	CW	1	2	0
Green-winged Teal	0	198	4	0	0
American Black Duck	11	18	10	3	10
Mallard	43	989	373	109	660
Northern Pintail	0	11	7	0	1
Blue-winged Teal	0	1	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	61	5	0	0
Gadwell	0	156	0	0	CW
American Widgeon	0	450	2	0	3
Canvasback	0	16	1	0	4
Redhead	8	8	2	0	14
Ring-necked Duck	0	49	0	0	CW
Greater Scaup	0	1,676	2	0	0
Lesser Scaup	0	10,428	0	0	0
scaup species	46	1,023	29	0	0
Oldsquaw	0	7	0	0	0
Black Scoter	0	7	0	0	0
Surf Scoter	0	103	0	0	0
White-winged Scoter	0	11	0	0	0
scoter species	0	6	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	26	45	8	20	41
Bufflehead	128	121	7	8	32
Hooded Merganser	2	317	4	8	0
Common Merganser	60	1,689	185	88	176
Red-breasted Merganser	1,770	3,096	471	37	8
merganser species	0	1,100	215	13	0
Ruddy Duck	0	5	1	0	0
duck species	0	0	82	41	0
Turkey Vulture	0	0	2	0	0
Bald Eagle	3; 2 ad, 1 i	2 adults	3	2 adults	0
Northern Harrier	0	4	10	0	0
Cooper's Hawk	2	3	4	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	4	7	0	2
Accipter species	0	0	1	0	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	3	0	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	8	20	40	5	18
Rough-legged Hawk	0	2	2	0	1
buteo species	0	3	0	0	0
American Kestrel	0	17	35	0	5

Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	0	CW
Ring-necked Pheasant	19	27	3	4	8
Virginia Rail	0	1	0	0	0
American Coot	0	930	1	14	0
Killdeer	17	3	19	0	CW
Sanderling	4	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	2	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	1	0	0
American Woodcock	CW	0	CW	0	0
Little Gull	0	0	1	1 adult	0
Bonaparte's Gull	295	2,612	2,284	154	30
Ring-billed Gull	87	12,109	398	230	375
Herring Gull	244	739	228	50	47
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	1	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	12	261	37	26	CW
gull species	0	801	37	1,800	76
Rock Dove	6	174	233	118	292
Mourning Dove	11	1,112	942	140	511
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	14	22	7	7
Great Horned Owl	9	12	9	1	4
Long-eared Owl	0	0	11	0	0
Short-eared Owl	0	0	1	0	0
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0	3	0	0	0
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	4	0	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	0	0	2	2	0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	9	29	1	3
Downy Woodpecker	76	135	150	21	44
Hairy Woodpecker	0	3	9	0	2
Northern Flicker	28	25	38	3	2
Horned Lark	75	289	60	7	306
N. Rough-winged Swallow	0	0	1	0	0
Barn Swallow	0	0	2	0	0
Blue Jay	103	114	378	29	67
American Crow	7	665	14,327	12	60
Black-capped Chickadee	201	55	100	2	142
Tufted Titmouse	0	5	26	0	25
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	0	4	0	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	9	20	2	16
Brown Creeper	57	40	35	2	1
Carolina Wren	49	21	28	2	9
House Wren	0	1	0	0	0
Winter Wren	3	4	8	2	0
Marsh Wren	0	1	0	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	121	199	97	10	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1	0	0	0
Eastern Bluebird	9	10	149	0	4
Swainson's Thrush	0	1	0	0	0
Hermit Thrush	2	15	4	0	1
American Robin	78	162	271	1	5
Northern Mockingbird	0	1	2	0	0
Brown Thrasher	0	CW	1	1	0
Cedar Waxwing	2	81	2	3	0
Northern Shrike	1	0	1	1	1
European Starlings	632	9,540	5,180	217	498
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	13	21	0	0

Common Yellowthroat	0	1	0	0	0
Northern Cardinal	124	395	318	35	166
American Tree Sparrow	261	1,728	947	135	296
Chipping Sparrow	0	3	1	0	0
Field Sparrow	0	7	6	0	1
Vesper Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0
Fox Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0
Song Sparrow	11	262	148	12	30
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	1	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	1	106	49	5	0
White-throated Sparrow	3	77	43	7	5
White-crowned Sparrow	0	129	49	0	17
Harris's Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0
sparrow species	0	2	0	0	0
Dark-eyed Junco	69	518	564	82	350
"Oregon" Junco	0	0	0	0	1
Lapland Longspur	1	11	1	3	0
Snow Bunting	417	240	675	5	289
Red-winged Blackbird	46	392	1	2	CW
Rusty Blackbird	0	137	6	0	17
Common Grackle	0	7	1	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	9	394	63	129	142
blackbird species	0	130	0	15	0
Purple Finch	0	9	5	0	0
House Finch	2	564	392	121	216
American Goldfinch	11	138	159	33	79
House Sparrow	173	2,293	2,502	290	488
finch species	0	0	0	17	0

Treasurer's Report 1998

Total \$143,718.84	Fwd.	Income	Expense	Balance
Bluebird Committee Donations Supplies	97	212.78 153.08	204.03	161.83
Current Account Memberships Sales profits Dues Egret ERCA Dinner Field Trips Insurance Postal Box Safety Deposit Box Speakers Supplies Travel Telephone	97	1,347.52 2,984.75 677.39	314.00 2,294.36 200.00 108.01 355.00 77.04 36.24 175.00 158.98 100.00 286.17	904.86
E.C.S.Network Grants Interest Per diem, mileage, etc. Rent - Hemp lands Supplies	97	74,784.95 21,500.50 1,051.50	34,307.37 16,587.45 7,299.78	39,142.35
FON - Fund Raising Conference expenses Conference Income Interest Profit - Mugs	97	11,923.32 1,771.90 17.80 2.88	9,473.59	4,242.31
Heinz Committee Interest	97	44,369.61 1,433.71		45,803.32
Heritage Committee Dinner Profit Donations Interest Raffles Sales	97	34,256.05 65.31 1,238.93 1,113.96 364.00 2,348.30		39,386.55
N.H.R.P. Book Sales Interest Plant & Seed Sales Plant & Seed Expenses Supplies	97	8,542.01 2,158.01 8.54 5,029.26	5,910.12 820.08	9,007.61
Reserve Account Life Member	97	2,990.01 200.00		3,190.01
Woodlot Owners Bank Charges	97	1,915.00	35.00	1,880.00

Mileage: 806.50
Program: 33,500.87

