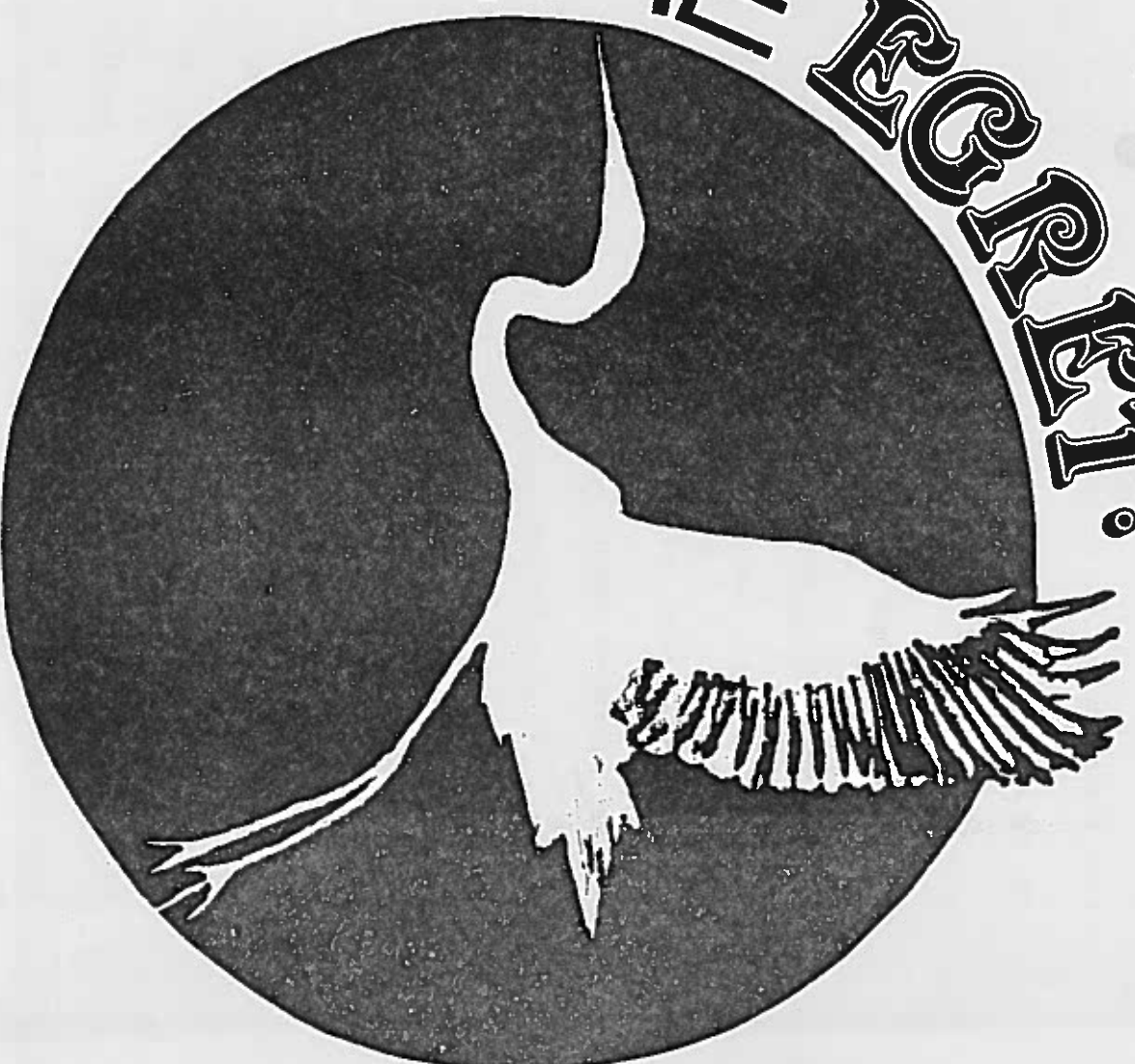


**Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS'
CLUB**

**VOL. 2, NO. 1
MAR. 1985**

THE EGRET.



THE EGRET, Vol. 2, No. 1, March 1985

newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 3421, Tecumseh, Ont. N8N3C4

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3rd week

4th week

* Lawns and Gardens, at Essex Civic Centre, Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call Bev at 776-5209.

* Smelt Party, at Point Pelee on the weekend of April 19th , call information line, 326-1161.

* Birding for Beginners, at Hillman Marsh C.A., Saturday, April 20, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

* Spring Wildflower Walk, at Kopegaron Woods C.A. on Sunday, May 12th at 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For information call Bev at 776-5209.

. Bird migration in full swing.

* Naturalist Club Camping Weekend at Point Pelee, Friday, May 24th to Sunday, May 26th. Limited spaces so book now. Call Bev at 776-5209.

* Botany Walk, at Oxley Swamp on Saturday, April 27th at 10:00 a.m. to noon. For information call Bev at 776-5209.

An Introductory Nature Photography Course starts April 25th at Ojibway Park. For information call 966-5852.

An Introductory Bird Watching Course starts April 30th at Ojibway Park. For information call 966-5852.

* Bird Walk at Point Pelee on Saturday, May 25th at 7:00 a.m. For information call Tom Hince at 326-1124.

Nature Centre & Erie Wildlife Rescue Open House at Ojibway Park on May 26th. For information call 966-5852.

* Incredible Edibles course on wild edibles at Ojibway Park on May 28th. For information call 966-5852.

. Beginning of mosquito season!

NATURE CLUB CALENDER

month 1st week

2nd week

month	1st week	2nd week
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for early spring wildflowers: Spring Beauty, Hepatica, Bloodroot, Spring Cress, Barbling-of-Spring. Spring Peepers and Chorus Frogs will be starting to call. 	<p><u>Rondeau Park, slide presentation by Al Woodliffe, at Marlborough Community Centre, Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Bird Migration Field Trips offered by Ojibway Nature Centre start April 11th. For information call 966-5852. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers start to return.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tillulums in bloom. Watch for early warblers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird Bonanza, at Point Pelee, a week long event, for information call 326-1161. Cameo, slide presentation by Mary Dyer, at Marlborough Community Centre, Wednesday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. Nature in Slides and Art, at the Essex Civic Centre, Wednesday May 8th at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For information call Bev at 776-5209. Nature Photography Workshop, at Cedar Creek Conservation Area, on Saturday, May 11th at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information call Bev at 776-5209.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birdwatchers interested in the Bird Aclassing Project for June - July, please contact Paul Pratt at 966-5852. River Canard Cane Race at River Canard Community Centre, for information call Bev at 776-5209. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECRNC Indoor Program, topic to be announced (call Tom Hince, 326-1124), Marlborough Community Centre, Wednesday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. Action Day for Birdwatchers, June 15th, call Paul Pratt at Ojibway, 966-5852. Cedar Creek Cane Hike at Cedar Creek C.A. on Saturday, June 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For information call Bev at 776-5209.

EDITORIAL

Inside this issue of THE EGRET are a variety of articles which we hope you will find enjoyable and informative. Included is our first seasonal bird sightings summary, compiled by Tom Hince, which we hope will be a regular feature in future newsletters. In this issue Tom summarizes sightings from 1 January to 28 February. Next issue (June 15) will cover 1 March to 31 May. All birdwatchers, whether casual or serious can help by sending your sightings (promptly on 31 May or before) to Tom Hince, c/o Point Pelee National Park, R. R. 1 Leamington, Ontario N8R 3V4. We are also always looking for articles, notes, poems, drawings, etc. for THE EGRET; send them to me, c/o The Essex Region Conservation Authority, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6. Deadline for material for the summer issue is 31 May.

Each issue of THE EGRET may look like a fairly easy undertaking, but believe me, it is anything but that. First articles have to be coaxed from willing, but often busy and procrastinating contributors. This sometimes takes repeated phone calls and letters. Submitted articles are sometimes typed two or three times (following corrections and revisions) by two dedicated and competent ERCA typists, Ava Sweet and Diane Hansen. Most artwork and graphics come from the talented pen of Pat Woolston. Deb Gorman-Smith contributes the Junior Naturalist section each issue, and Bev Christensen contributes the Nature Club Calendar. Printing is in the capable hands of Skip Cassan.

A number of others have helped with each issue, and to all I am very grateful.

Mike Oldham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNIOR NATURALISTS' CLUB

For about 15 minutes after the April monthly meeting (Wednesday the 10th) there will be an informal meeting of any adults interested in helping to organize a junior naturalists' club.

ESSEX COUNTY PLANT LIST - CORRECTION

On page 22 of the December 1984 EGRET it was announced that Wilf Botham's "Plants of Essex County" is available from the E.R.C.A. office for \$10.00 a copy. The price is actually only \$5.00 a copy, a real bargain, for a book no local naturalist should be without.

POINT PELEE CAMPING WEEKEND

Spaces are still available for the ECFNC camping weekend at Point Pelee from Friday, May 24 to Sunday, May 26 (2 nights). Call Bev Christiansen (776-5209) for further information.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to offer my sincere apologies to the eight individuals who travelled to Point Pelee on Sunday, March 3rd for a scheduled ECFNC Owl Provi and Star Walk. Due to an unfortunate mix-up one of the leaders was unable to attend and the hike had to be cancelled. We regret the inconvenience and disappointment of the eight people who came for the hike and the other leader. The Board of Directors has taken steps to ensure that this problem does not occur again.

Jim McAllister

WORD SEARCH
INSECTS

The names of 21 insects can be found in the puzzle square. The names may be found forward, backward or diagonally. One letter may be used for more than one name. Circle the name of each insect as you find it and cross it off the list. Good Luck!

M	G	B	Z	E	S	A	X	T	D	C	O
R	R	U	L	I	T	R	N	I	L	R	G
K	L	O	T	A	E	I	H	T	O	I	N
L	A	N	W	L	C	P	M	A	U	C	A
W	A	T	W	A	K	C	R	S	K	T	
M	E	A	Y	L	O	H	F	G	E	E	L
S	R	E	F	D	T	L	T	L	A	T	G
C	S	L	V	O	I	I	G	D	Y	M	R
V	E	R	M	I	N	D	A	I	O	R	A
A	W	A	S	P	L	C	F	L	Y	O	S
Y	L	F	E	R	I	F	T	B	E	W	S
E	E	B	T	C	T	R	E	P	P	O	H

- ant
- aphid
- bee
- blackfly
- cicada
- cricket
- firefly
- flea
- fly
- glowworm
- gnat
- grasshopper
- katydid
- louse
- mantis
- moth
- roach
- termite

- wasp
- webworm
- weevil

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

FUN FACTS ABOUT INSECTS

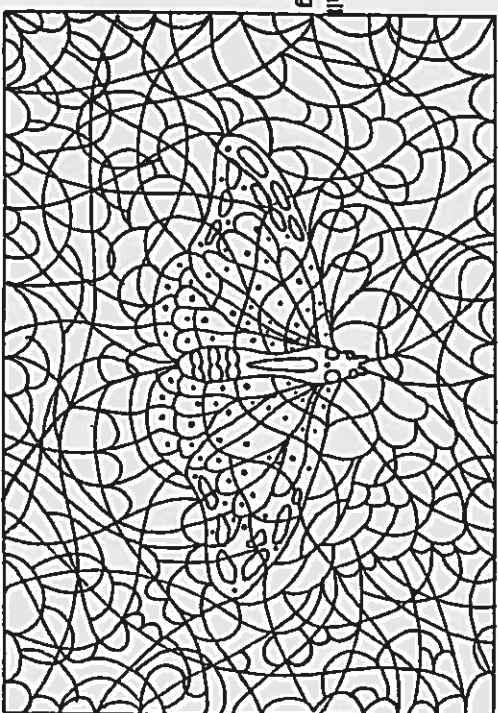
There are approximately 703,500 species of insects that have been described. That is more than all the number of species of plants and animals combined. Of all those species of insects, over 86,600 have been found in North America.

Did you know an insect's body has three parts to it? The body is made up of the HEAD, the THORAX and the ABDOMEN. On the insect's head are the eyes, the antennae and the mouth parts.

On the thorax or middle section are six legs and the wings if that insect has them. All insects always have six legs. Different species of insects may have no wings, one pair or two pairs of wings. The abdomen usually does not have any parts on it. Is a spider an insect? Look carefully!

Who's Hiding Here?

Use an orange crayon or marker to colour all the spaces with dots. You'll see who's hiding here.



1985 RENEWED MEMBERS

Allan & Libby Kidnew	734-6898
Victor Priebe	944-7196 / 256-4914
Shannon Sanborn	253-3007
Tom Hince	326-1124 (days) / 326-6927 (evenings)
Marie Elias	258-8392
Joan & Bill Brack	738-3173
Darlana & Phillip Horn	735-0127
Ian Robertson	948-0930
John Pilkington, Gord Cupchuck	969-6943
James McAllister	254-1854
Myrtle & Wilfred Besette	256-2867
Ralph Thomas	948-8038
Pat & Dave Skyles	969-6973
Fred & Callie Israel	258-3186
Chris Hospes	255-1457
Arlie Joswick	258-2044
Mel Reader	253-7650
Marielle Dellisle	613/733-3386
Bertha & Harold Sweetman	738-2585
Jim & Pat Watson	326-8457
Bill Morzink	944-5108
Betty Learmouth	944-0845
Marlann & George Stone	735-9777
Charles Wilson	736-5380
Mike Oldham	776-5617
Dave Hunco	948-4164
Barbara Robertson	945-7867
Bessie Schroeder	258-4259
Bill & Frances Langlots	969-5518
David & Germaine Osborn	733-6505
Terry & Paul Pratt	326-1050
Phil Roberts	254-8960
Susan Morrison	738-6037
Peter Bondy	735-2376

NEW MEMBERS

BIG TREES

Mr. Les Dickerson
877 St. Louis Avenue
Windsor, Ontario
N8S 2K4
945-3735

Mrs. Ruby Tighe
P.O. Box 3008
Windsor, Ontario
N9E 1Y5
969-3911

Mr. Thomas H. Walley
536 Isack Drive
Windsor, Ontario
N8S 3M5
945-0518

Shirley and Einar Lund
1287 Matthew Brady
Windsor, Ontario
N8S 3K2
948-6046

Wilfred Botham
R. R. 1
Cottam, Ontario
N0R 1B0
899-4436

Chris & Anne Turton
866 St. Luke Road
Apt. #1
Windsor, Ontario
N8Y 3M5
256-0117

Robert & Phil DeWalt
2569 Alexandra Avenue
Windsor, Ontario
969-5676

Heather & Gary Drouin
1456 Felix Avenue
Windsor, Ontario
N9C 3H2

Dick Taylor
260 Estras Place
Windsor, Ontario
N8S 2M5
945-5246

Linda Menard Watt
1405 Laurier Drive
Windsor, Ontario
N9J 1N2
734-1879

Keith Baja
324 Edgewater
St. Clair Beach, Ontario
735-4210

Clifton & Diane Molyneux
3195 Askin Blvd.
Windsor, Ontario
N9E 3J4
969-7734

Tony & Joan Burton
41 Palmer Drive
Kingsville, Ontario
N9Y 3R5
733-3978

Joy Hamilton
69 Rankin Street
Amherstburg, Ontario
N9V 1E7
736-3167

Gerald Waldron
R. R. 1
#167
Amherstburg, Ontario
N9V 2Y7
736-2978

Helen Kay
1545 Ouellette Avenue
Apt. 603
Windsor, Ontario
N8X 1K6
253-2944

Graham & Shirley Jenkins
4265 Mitchels Crescent
Windsor, Ontario
N9G 2G1
969-4697

James M. Meredith
842 Villalre Avenue
Windsor, Ontario
N8S 2S4
945-3104

Phyllis Stidworthy
175 Willow Drive
LaSalle, Ontario
N9J 1W7
734-6100

This summer a gentleman approached me at the desk of the Point Pelee Visitor Centre and asked to be directed to the record size Hackberry tree behind the DeLaurier Parking Lot. He said his hobby was seeing all the trees on the Ontario Honour Roll. Now, I knew this was the largest Hackberry in Ontario (girth 16'5") and knew of the existence of the Honour Roll, but I hadn't actually seen the list. At my request the gentleman sent me a copy. It turns out that the largest Hop-tree with a girth of 1'9" is also registered from Point Pelee. Other interesting local giants include:
Blue Beech, girth 4' 8 1/2", Hwy. 18, Kingsville
Black Oak, girth 15' 11", Kingsville
American Chestnut, girth 5' 14", Cedar Creek
Sassafras, girth 11' 9", Cedar Creek

There may be others, too, waiting for someone to find, and measure. To me I get a real tingle standing under big trees and I hope more people on this old ball learn to see much more in them than just so much lumber. If there is anyone interested in having a copy of the 1983 Honour Roll of Ontario Trees, I would be happy to provide a copy. Contact me, Don Wilkes, through the Visitor Centre at Point Pelee National Park.

Don Wilkes

Don Wilkes
Linda Ferguson
Chris Yaki
K. McLaughlin
B. Conroy
R. Ridout
D. Toner, P. Toner

Kinglets through Warblers: Kinglets were seen in small numbers with many "disappearing" after the late January storm. A Ruby-crowned on Jan. 5th was notable (KO). A nice warm-up for spring were several large flocks of Cedar Waxwings gorging themselves on Wild Grape at Pelee throughout February (m. ob.). The only Northern Shrike sighting was Jan. 7 at the Pelee Visitor Centre (TH). Despite the snowstorm in late January, two very hardy Yellow-rumped Warblers survived the winter at Point Pelee. No other warblers were reported as expected!

Blackbirds, Finches, Sparrows: By Feb. 18 male Red-winged Blackbirds were pouring in, to tune up for spring. Included in this incursion of blackbirds were several Yellow-headed Blackbirds. One was at a feeder in Point Pelee (JB), and two were seen at the Watson's feeder in Leamington. Paul Pratt's keen eyes picked out a spring migrant Brewer's Blackbird Feb. 26 on Matchette Road in Windsor.

House Finch numbers continued to escalate with an estimated 250 to 300 birds in the Leamington area and other sightings at Windsor (CK) and Wheatley (PP). It was a poor year for finches overall, only one Evening Grosbeak report (Jan. 24 - Leamington - PP), a smattering of Goldfinches and Purple Finches. One bright spot however were the 35 Whit-winged Crossbills north of Wheatley on Feb. 9 (PP et al.). Sparrows provided standard fare except for the nice find of an overwintering Fox Sparrow which appeared at Pelee on Jan. 18 (BG). Rounding out the season's sightings were a nice selection of Longspurs and Snow Bunting reports. Tops among these were 400 to 500 Buntings, Longspurs, and Horned Larks that pleased observers through January and February at Pat Watson's feeder!

Spring is not far now. Please send us your bird sightings for the spring season (March to May) no later than JUNE 5TH to get included in the next EGRET. Good birding! Thank you to all the contributors.

*Maryanne Cloughly, Peter
Bob Feilding, Quampdyn*

Cited Observers: Jim Bantow (JB), Peter Bondy (PB), Mark Brunton (MB), Mireille Delisle (MD), G. Fisher (GF), Bill Foot (BF), Lorraine Foot (LF), Gus Girardin (BG), Tom Hince (TH), Carol Kopchuk (CK), Sue Morrison (SM), many observers (m. ob.), Dennis O'Grady (DO), Mike J. Oidham (MO), Karl Overmann (KO), Paul Pratt (PP), Terry Pratt (TP), Ralph Thomas (RT), Pat Watson (PW), Alan Worthington (AW).

Tom Hince

POINT PELEE CHRISTMAS COUNT 1984

Each December birdwatching and socializing combine to form that unique and treasured event - the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). 1984 marked the 85th year of counting "Christmas" birds in North America and the 33rd time it has been done at Point Pelee. From the first Pelee count in 1920 until 1959, counts were done sporadically but from 1960 on they have been an annual event. During that time a cumulative list of 143 species have been penned into Pelee CBC record books. Rather an amazing diversity for such an apparent 'cool' period for bird activity.

It must not be underestimated that the true CBC ingredient is the observer. Come rain or shine, hail or sleet, through snow and ice the counters always appear at dawn of the appointed day. Wrapped in layers of clothing, thermoses in hand with a brisk step and a defiant smile they forge through woods and creek valleys into marshes and muck in search of the elusive "Christmas" birds. Many observe a tradition and hike with friends for perhaps the only time that year. For others the tradition may just be starting in this their rookie year. Whatever the weather it seems a bond, a camaraderie builds within the counters as they battle the elements in their quest. At the end of "The Day" ruddy skinned bodies assemble to tell stories of their defeats and, or course, their triumphs!

This 'compilation' as it is known is the moment of reckoning for the counter. No matter how seasoned or how green it always happens that everyone has something to contribute.

This year's CBC was as memorable as ever. But before I thank this year's participants I would like to thank a number of long-time Pelee CBC counters

who could not come due to the new count date this year (December 22). Thank you very much for your supportive efforts in past years and we hope you can join us in 1985 on the Centennial Bird Count.

For those hardy souls who did brave the 40 km/hour winds of this year's CBC I also say a big thank you! Your perseverance combined to make this one of the most successful Pelee CBC's ever. The total of 81 species recorded was second only to the high of 83 species seen only a few years ago. The number of individuals seen (38,452) was the largest ever for the Pelee CBC. In addition 3 new species not seen before on the Pelee count were observed. First three Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen flying in and around the Tip area. Second a Pectoral Sandpiper the first ever recorded on an Eastern Canadian CBC was seen at the Wheatley Sewage Field. Finally, two Tree Swallows were found sheltering themselves from the wind on the sand of the East Beach in the afternoon. There were many other highlights too numerous to mention but the numbers of Bonapartes' Gulls (17,500) surely was what will be remembered by most participants. They streamed by the Tip, Leamington Dock and Wheatley all day long in loose flocks.

After the big day was over everyone assembled at Camp Henry in the Park. Friends of Point Pelee generously donated funds to offset the cost for a dinner for the ravenous and weary troops. This was greatly appreciated by all as was the super chilli prepared by Doug Golangers of Pelee Drive! Thank you to all who helped out with the meal.

Below is a list of the birds recorded on the CBC and observers who participated. I enjoyed compiling the event and look forward to seeing you all again next year. Good birding in 1985!

Red-shouldered Hawks were received, all in the eastern end of the county. Most interesting was a movement of Harriers south off the tip of Point Pelee prior to the large snowstorm of Jan. 21. About a dozen birds were observed over a 3-day period. Rough-legged Hawks were present in small numbers around Essex (PP,MJO,TH). An interesting observation was a tagged Bald Eagle seen flying at the tip of Pelee on Jan. 3 (GF). Anyone seeing a tagged eagle should record the colour, shape of tag, and wing it is on and send the information to Point Pelee. A nice spring note was the return of the Cedar Creek nesting pair of Bald Eagles, who were seen repairing the nest on Feb. 25 and 26 (MB).

Among the lingerers were several hardy Great Blue Herons; one was at Pelee on Jan. 4 (LF,BF), and a surprising 3 were at Holiday Beach on Feb. 2 where no open water was seen (MJO,MD)! A record early American Coot joined the northward influx of migrants Feb. 25 at the Onion Fields (AW). Shorebird sightings as expected were few, but two spring arrivals were noted. The first of a number of Killdeer arrived Feb. 26 at the Onion Fields (AW). The same day American Woodcock were displaying by the Pelee Visitor Centre (AW).

Gulls, Owls, Woodpeckers: A large number of gulls lingered into January as ice was late in formation. Notable among these were 150 Bonaparte's Gulls at Pelee on Jan. 13 (PP). There were three sightings of Glaucous Gull, including a returning bird on Feb. 23 (PP,PB,SM,RT).

Most notable amongst owl sightings were a Snowy Owl at Windsor Airport on Feb. 20 (TP,PP) and a Northern Saw-whet at Wheatley on Jan. 7 (RT,PP,PB). Woodpecker species were in expected numbers with a smattering of Red-bellied reports, several Flickers at Pelee and Ojibway, and one Red-headed Woodpecker (PP et al.).

Horned Lark through Thrushes: The first migrant Horned Larks arrived on schedule in mid February regardless of the weather. Several flocks overwintered, including about 100 at Pat Watson's feeder in Leamington. Blue Jay numbers were low.

The infamous Essex Crow roost was counted on the 11th of January as the birds came in for the night. Four strategically placed observers (MJO,PP,MB,DO) counted the hordes as they came to roost. The final tally: 89,925!! Or was it 89,926 Mike? Black-capped Chickadees were scarce with only a few sightings. Only one Carolina Wren was reported, Jan. 5 on the Woodland Trail at Pelee (KO). Small numbers of Robins overwintered with some spring arrivals joining them by late February. One or two Hermit Thrushes overwintered at Pelee (m. ob.), as did two Eastern Bluebirds.

Tom Hince

BIRD SIGHTINGS --- JANUARY 1 to February 28, 1985

This is the first column in a regular series of columns of bird sightings in Essex County. Each column will roughly cover a season. This one "The Winter Season" covers January and February. The next column will cover from March 1 to May 31 inclusive. If you have any sightings for that period, please send them to me NO LATER THAN JUNE 5TH or they cannot be included. The more people participating, the better the results. My address is Tom Hince, c/o Point Pelee National Park, R.R.#1, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4.

Weather: After a rather mild December, Lake Erie had little ice and many small streams and ponds were still open in early January. Shortly after the New Year however winter set in and for a 35 day period from mid January to late February the thermometer did not rise above freezing once. Snow was greater than average with two notably severe storms, the worst of which occurred around January 21 closing many facilities and virtually shutting down towns and cities throughout the county. The cold snap broke on February 21 when a large warm moist air mass moved through southern Ontario for four days, melting snow, causing severe flooding and bringing many spring migrants. The general warming trend continued through the end of February, though several cold days occurred before the month ended.

Loons through Ducks: Due to the large amount of open water many mergansers and goldeneyes and an assortment of other species were still present in early January. The four Mute Swans at Wheatley on January 21 were most unexpected (TH). Also of note there was a female Hooded Merganser on the same date. Among the assortment of overwintering ducks on the Detroit River were 50 Canada Geese, 1 Pintail, and 2 Greater Scaup (PP,PB). The first spring migrants occurred February 18 when 3 Redheads and 500 Goldeneye arrived at Wheatley (AW). Following that many species returned within just a few days -- Black Duck on Feb. 24 (AW - Onion Fields); Gadwall, Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback (all AW - Feb. 25 - Onion Fields at Pelee); American Wigeon (Feb. 26 - Wheatley - AW); and Bufflehead (Feb. 27 - Hillman Marsh - AW). Among the first migrant Canada Geese were 25 at Hillman Marsh on Feb. 27 (LF,BF). The first Tundra Swan arrived all on its own on Feb. 27 at Hillman Marsh (LF,BF).

Hawks, Herons, Shorebirds: Among the more interesting overwintering raptors were Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Bald Eagle. Seven reports of

Common Loon	1	Horned Lark	26
Great Blue Heron	5	Blue Jay	15
Canada Goose	76	American Crow	965
Am. Black Duck	63	Black-capped Chickadee	3
Mallard	131	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5
Redhead	1	Brown Creeper	15
Greater Scaup	1	Carolina Wren	2
Lesser Scaup	2	Winter Wren	3
Oldsquaw	1	Marsh Wren	1
Black Scoter	9	Golden-cr. Kinglet	55
Surf Scoter	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Common Goldeneye	1	Eastern Bluebird	5
Bufflehead	67	Hermit Thrush	1
Hooded Merganser	14	American Robin	1
Common Merganser	2	Water Pipit	21
Red-breasted Merg.	178	Cedar Waxwing	17
Bald Eagle	58	Northern Shrike	123
Northern Harrier	1	European Starling	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1808
Cooler's Hawk	1	Common Yellowthroat	16
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Northern Cardinal	1
Red-tailed Hawk	5	Am. Tree Sparrow	90
Rough-legged Hawk	6	Field Sparrow	388
American Kestrel	1	Song Sparrow	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	Swamp Sparrow	92
Virginia Rail	20	White-throated Sparrow	149
Little Gull	1	Dark-eyed Junco	38
Bonaparte's Gull	9	Snow Bunting	9
Ring-billed Gull	17500	Red-winged Blackbird	294
Herring Gull	4312	Common Grackle	6100
Thayer's Gull	1393	Brown-headed Cowbird	36
Great Black-back Gull	1	Purple Finch	187
Pock Dove	117	House Finch	254
Mourning Dove	41	American Goldfinch	4
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	House Sparrow	83
Great Horned Owl	15	New Species	64
Short-eared Owl	1	Pectoral Sandpiper	1890
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Black-legged Kittiwake	1
Dummy Woodpecker	20	Tree Swallow	3
Hairy Woodpecker	1		2
Northern Flicker	12		

Total Species: 81

Total Individuals: 38,452

Participants:

Brad Arner, Jo Barten, Dick Benoit, Peter Bondy, Mark Bruntton, K.J. Burk, John Cartwright, Norman Chesterfield, Bill Fielding, Bill Foott, Lorraine Foott, Tom Hince, June Hurley, Mark Jennings, Edward Keith, Betty Learmouth, Dave Martin, Paul Pratt, Terry Pratt, Ian Richards, Ross Snider, Ralph Thomas, Pat Watson, Don Wilkes, Bruce Wilson, Charles Wilson, Sandra Wilson, Linda Wladarski, Alan Woodliffe, Alan Womington.

and excitement, but then it isn't every small town where you'll see a moose walk down main street and stop to take a drink from a neighbours bird bath!

Seeing the Exotic Birds in and around Miami

In order to find these birds we were advised to go to the Tropical Audubon House for directions to their present location. They keep an up-dated file on these locations.

We asked about the following:

The parrots and parakeets and were advised to go to the Parrot Jungle on Red St. and sit in the parking lot. These birds fly in and out from time to time. They also gave us a map giving directions to the Parrot fly-in and Roost. Every evening at sunset hundred of them come here. Between these two places we saw, Canary-winged Parakeet, Monk Parakeet, Blossom-headed Parrot, White-fronted Parrot, Red-ored Parrot, Red-crowned Parrot and Yellow-headed Parrot.

While waiting for the parrots to fly-in three white-crowned pigeons landed on a wire overhead.

The Ringed Turtle Dove and were advised to go to Homestead to a pine lot behind the Hospital and were lucky enough to find one sitting on a wire beside this lot.

The Red-whiskered Bulbul and told we would find them at 140 and 76th S.W. Just past the tennis court and waiting for us were three on a telephone wire and two in a tree just across the street.

The Painted Bunting and were advised we would see them at feeders in Castello Hammock Park near Homestead. We had a long look at three males and two females.

If you want to see these birds I would advise you to visit the Tropical Audubon House at 5530 Sunset Dr., S.W. 72nd St. South Miami or Telephone 305-666-5111. They are very happy to give you information as to location and how to get there.

Archie Joswick



Whitetail Deer

tracked most often and one of the oldest deer of the group of 17 that had collars. Ludgate (as we called her) was located just east of Grundy Provincial Park on Hwy #522. Her summer habitat was centered around the old sawmill town of Ludgate. The town of Ludgate, we were told, was once a thriving metropolis but had lost most of its 25 inhabitants when the sawmills in the area closed some time ago. At any rate, Ludgate was tracked continually during the spring months and found to occupy an area of approximately 1 square mile as her summer habitat. In early spring using the tracking technique, it was possible to find her approximate location and walk in on her, in hopes of getting a sighting, or at least the flash of her yellow collar as she bounded through the woods. In May Ludgate gave birth to twins, and it was no longer possible to get a visual on her, as she evaded us at all costs. We realized her protective reasons for doing this and persisted at our attempts to see her just long enough to verify our prediction of twins. Numerous small deer tracks could be seen in the area, each one small enough to be covered by a quarter.

In the fall Ludgate again set out for the Golden Valley area with her two fawns, a distance of about 20 miles. Ludgate was one of the first deer to be collared (approximately 2 years ago) and we believed that she was somewhere between 5-7 years of age. She had cleverly managed to escape from hunters for numerous hunting seasons. (As a point of interest I was recently talking with a person who worked in Golden Valley over the fall and apparently they were able to track Ludgate during the hunting season. Surprisingly she had not yet moved from her summer range. Even though many local hunters knew of her approximate location, within that 1 square mile she was able to elude the hunters gun.)
BRAV077211

As well as the tracking technique mentioned above, the crew at Golden Valley were also responsible for aerial tracking, pellet surveys, behavioral studies and an initial project at collaring newborn fawns. Ah, but then again that's a different article.

It will take many years of research and study to reach any conclusions about the different combinations of grain feed and their effects on the health of deer. It was possible though in just 1 year of study to follow deer from their wintering grounds in Golden Valley to as far east as Hwy #69 (a few miles N. of Parry Sound), as far west as Hwy #11, south to Sundridge and north as far as the French River, S. of Lake Nipissing. The farthest winter/summer range was approximately 35 miles as the crow flies (one way), the shortest distance travelled was approximately 15 miles.

Golden Valley certainly couldn't compare to Toronto for the wild night life

NOTES FROM A NATURALIST

On a membership renewal form for the Essex County Field Naturalists Club was written: "Please take a few moments and jot down your particular natural history interests on the back of this renewal form." With a certain amount of bravado and much audacity I typed this:

The Universe: moons, planets, meteors, comets, suns, galaxies, galactic clusters, black holes, quasars, etc.

Rocks and fossils.

Bacteria, viruses, protozoa.

Fungi, lichens, algae.

Mosses, liverworts, stoneworts.

Vascular plants - a vast array.

Sponges and coelenterates.

Worms - flat, fluke, tape, round, hook, horseshair.

Crustaceans and insects.

Centipedes, millipedes, spiders & kin.

Fish and herptiles.

Birds and mammals.

The Roomin Been - It struggles to excel, its achievements and failures.

Some sage once wrote: "Man was given an imagination to compensate for what he is not, and a sense of humor to console him for what he is."

One has to admire this creature for what it has accomplished, while at the same time prodding it with gentle banter lest its ego become too inflated.

Some of you will remember a talk I gave to the Sun Parlour Nature Club, with the title "From Quarks to Quasars."

That was the end of what I wrote on the back of the form.

The list of non-life and life forms is more or less in the traditional sequence.

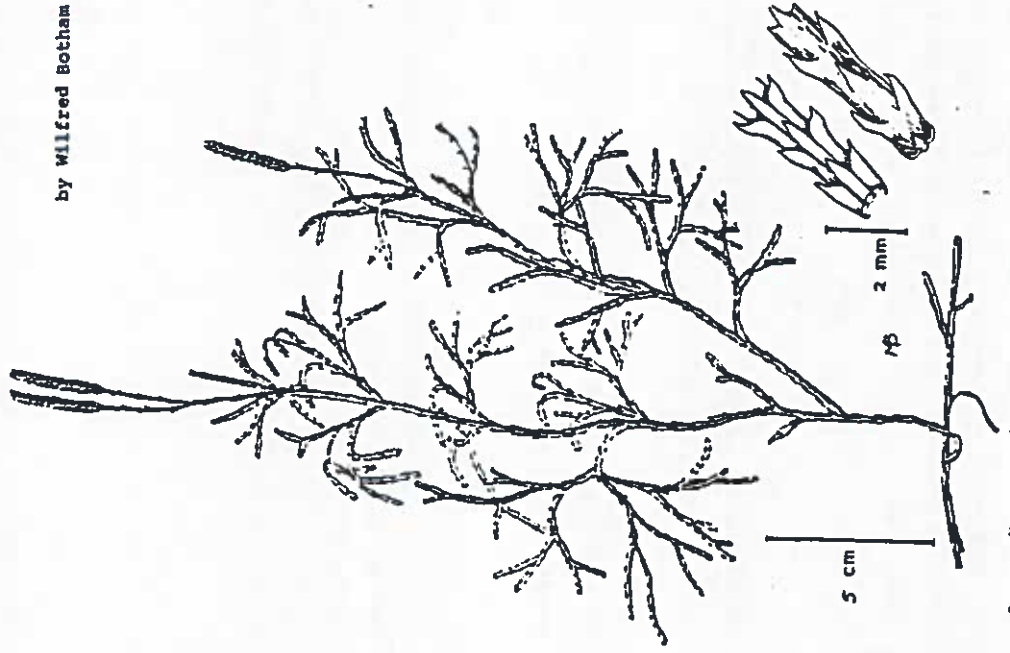
The talk "From Quarks to Quasars" was a summation of what is presently known

in the biological and related fields of science. I offered no original thoughts.

I merely compiled from what I'd read. Many years ago I submitted a sample of

my handwriting to a graphologist, learning from the diagnosis that I would not originate any new ideas, but that I would be good at such routine work as bank clerk. Please don't be offended, you bank clerks, routine work is still very important in our society. Some people, including I, have sneered at graphology, but over the years I have come to respect that early graphologist's reading of my handwriting. As a sop to my hurt pride I now say: How many of us originate new ideas anyway!

by Wilfred Botham



Lycopodium complanatum L. Ground-cedar, ground-pine.

THERE'S DEER IN THOSE HILLS!!!

Last year I had the privilege of working on a deer study in the North Bay/ Parry Sound District from March - July. The study took place in a small town (very small) called Golden Valley, located on Hwy #522 approximately mid-way between Hwy #69 and Hwy #11. This town was chosen specifically because of its central location in the Loring Deer Yard. (A deer yard is a given area where deer migrate to every winter, rich in food supply and able to support hungry deer much longer than their regular summer habitat.) It is said that the Loring Deer Yard is the largest and most successful yard in Ontario.

The program was initiated in Queen's Park and became possible through the organization and cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources in Maple, Queen's Park (Wildlife Branch), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters in North Bay and finally the Canada Manpower Centre, also in North Bay.

First of all, a number of deer feeders were constructed in the Golden Valley area, each one containing different mixtures of feed. Part of the purpose of the program was to study the health conditions and survival rates of the deer while using any one particular feeder. In this way, we could better understand the essential nutrients required by deer to survive harsh winter conditions. The second purpose of the program was to study the winter/summer ranges of deer. Just how far do the deer travel from their regular summer habitat to the deer yard in the winter. Also, would the same deer go back to the same location in the winter, year after year?

In order to answer some of these questions it was necessary to have some sort of tracking system for the deer. In the winter of 1984, 14 deer were radio-collared in the Golden Valley area; 3 had been collared in years prior to 1984 for a total of 17 deer with radio-collars. Each individual collar has a frequency number that could be picked up with a receiver. In this way, when within 5 km of any particular collared deer, we could tune into the proper frequency and receive a signal on the deer telling us (by specialized beep modes) if the deer was stationary, moving, close or far from our tracking point, or even dead. A special antenna hooked up to the receiver and mounted on a truck enabled us to locate the direction of the deer (by the loudness or softness of the beep). We would then take a compass reading off the antenna and plot this angle on a map from where we were located. By taking another reading similar to this at another location on an angle of at least 45° from the first point we were able to determine the location of the deer to within 200m².

To pick one deer as an example, I'll use my favourite deer, one that I

I would suggest that you choose a good day for this trip or you'll spend most of the day avoiding pools of water as we did. Rain gear would help but the abundant bird life inhabiting the forest and meadow are unavailable on such days. Warblers of many types (15-20), fox sparrows and woodpeckers are abundant; whn dickcissel and lark sparrow are sometimes spotted. Our first sharp tailed sparrow was seen here in tall grass in a pouring rain singing away. Even in such weather the display of wildflowers is impressive and the gnarled trees and shrubs bent out of shape by a relentless wind provide an eerie sight.

For some unknown reason, double crested cormorant populations seem to be exploding. One new colony on a rocky outcrop a couple of hundred metres offshore on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Chaleur, had caused the complete denuding of the vegetation and the smell when the wind was from the west (as it usually is) was quite strong. The locals were thinking of doing something to end this "nuisance" when we were there. Great cormorants were seen only at Percé, on Cape Breton, and at Prince Edward Island National Park but double crested cormorants were one of the most common sea birds we saw.

Although we only skirted the coast of New Brunswick, what we saw certifies its claim as the "picture Province". Our impression was of a vast wilderness sprinkled randomly here and there with towns. Kouchibouguac National Park along the eastern shore is a real gem. The bulk of the park consists of coniferous and mixed deciduous forest with bogs and the sighting of beaver, moose, and bear is almost guaranteed. All the boreal species of birds can be seen here especially woodpeckers, pine grosbeaks, gray jays, chickadees, crossbills, and spruce grouse. The highlight for us however, was the coastal area with its bays, lagoons, and broad sandy beaches and dunes. Piping plover, can be seen away from the public beaches along with other shore birds while Common and Arctic tern abound just offshore. Gannets by the hundreds can be seen doing their dives about a kilometre or so offshore. Both gray seals and harbour seals are usually seen at the mouth of the St. Louis River. The warm sunny weather we experienced here reminded us of sea islands of Georgia to which this area in the summer compares very favourably.

On our way south from here we decided to take in the salt marshes south of Sackville on the border of Nova Scotia. This area is so vast and inaccessible by road that unless you are prepared to walk long distances lugging scope, lunch and camera equipment you should forget it. If you have the time,

ANSI'S (AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST) IN ESSER AND KENT COUNTIES

ANSI is the latest in a series of acronyms used by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (M.N.R.) to denote natural areas worthy of protection. In Essex County. These Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest include some locations which are very familiar, such as Point Pelee and Ojibway Prairie, and some which are much less well known, such as Oxley Swamp. Regardless, each ANSI has been chosen for a specific purpose, and together, the ANSI's in this area provide a good representation of the diversity of natural features remaining in our highly modified landscape.

BACKGROUND

Much of the original identification and fieldwork for the Ministry of Natural Resources' present ANSI's was initiated as part of the International Biological Program (I.B.P.) which was undertaken from 1967 to 1972 in 75 countries. The Ontario I.B.P. program was particularly successful and resulted in the identification of 350 sites. The original intent of the project was that the 'best' of these sites would become candidate nature reserves. For a number of reasons, most of these were never officially designated under Ontario's Provincial Parks Act. In northern Ontario, conflicts developed with mining and logging operations; in the south, the I.B.P. areas were mostly privately owned and money was not available in the public coffers for large-scale land purchases.

The M.N.R., however, still retained its mandate to "protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario". The evolution of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (E.S.A.'s) in various counties in Ontario clearly demonstrated that there was an important role for government agencies to play in the preservation of ecologically significant areas that were privately owned.

As with E.S.A.'s, identification as an ANSI does not necessarily indicate an intent on the part of the Ministry to purchase the land, as this is simply not affordable. Neither does it represent an attempt to restrict or prevent any private use of land. The goal of the Ministry is to mitigate impacts on these ANSI's. This is done by ensuring that landowners are aware of the natural features on their property and by seeking the owner's cooperation in

protecting these features. District and municipal land use plans are also used to protect the integrity of these natural sites.

Further refinement in the ANSI selection process was initiated in 1980. Biologist Rose Klinkenbergh was contracted by the Ministry of Natural Resources to produce a report on the provincially significant natural areas within site district 7-1 (Figure 1), comprising Essex County, half of Kent County, and a small portion of Lambton County (an area considered fairly uniform in terms of physiography). Her objectives were:

1. to organize and describe the ecological diversity of site district 7-1
2. examine provincial and national parks already protected
3. define biophysical types that were not protected
4. identify and document opportunities for protection
5. grade candidate sites

For this review, people knowledgeable about the natural history of the area were consulted, existing literature on sites was perused, and air photo interpretation and fieldwork was conducted. Rose concluded that the site district contained five distinct vegetation-landform features which were representative of the area. She also determined that there were 35 significant natural sites that were not already protected in the provincial or national park systems. By evaluating sites with similar features in terms of representation, diversity, condition, ecological considerations, and special features, the eight best-quality sites were selected as provincial ANSI's. These eight sites, combined with Wheatley, Rondeau, and Pelee Parks; Ojibway Prairie and East Sister Island Provincial Nature Reserves; and Fish Point and Lighthouse Point Park Reserves; comprise an excellent parkland system, especially in view of the fact that less than 5% of the site district remains in a natural condition. The 27 sites not selected as ANSI's complement this system and are still considered to be regionally significant and worthy of protection. The cooperative efforts of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (E.R.C.A.), Parks Canada, M.N.R., the World Wildlife Fund, the Natural Heritage League, special interest groups such as Erie Wildlife Rescue and the E.C.F.N.C., and, of course, the landowners of the ANSI's, will go a long way towards contributing to the preservation of these privately owned areas. What follows is a brief overview of the eight private land ANSI's in site district 7-1.

Kittiwakis, gullenots, gulls, cormorants, gannets, eider and black ducks were the most conspicuous species. The nature programs at Forillon were exceptional, especially those that dealt with the sea.

Following the coast to the town of Gaspé one passes many salt marshes and mud flats that are alive with waterfowl and shorebirds which begin their southward migration in mid July. Sharp tailed sparrows are always present in summer but are more often heard than seen. Glossy ibis, yellow rail, little blue heron, sandhill crane, willet, and greater white fronted goose are a few of the rarities that are occasionally spotted up to mid summer here. Gaspé was celebrating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Jacques Cartier in mid July while we were there. There is a new museum and 5 large bronze tablets in a park overlooking the bay depicting this event. There is a salmon hatchery in town worth a visit too.

The town of Percé is the closest thing to a tourist trap, excepting Peggy's Cove, that we saw in eastern Canada. Notwithstanding the crowds, which were not too bad really, the place is worth a stop of at least 2 - 3 days. Percé rock is truly massive and especially impressive when viewed from the Canadian Wildlife Service Interpretive Centre. The C.W.F. offers programs with exceptional films continuously all day. There are special programs at night also. The naturalists lead walks early in the morning around Percé rock describing the area's geology, wildlife and vegetation. At low tide it is possible to walk out to the tip without getting drenched. Unfortunately for me, the tide wasn't low enough when I tried it.

A trip to l'Isle Bonaventure is a must. One should plan on catching the early tour boat and spending the day exploring the island. The tour boat first circles the island very close to the cliffs allowing a close up view (and smell) of the incredible profusion of bird life here - gulls, Kittiwakis, gullenots, murres (thin and thick billed), razorbills, and most impressively 50,000 nesting gannets. The once common puffin however, was nowhere in evidence. Although they can't be seen, the stormpetrels which nest in burrows along the tops of the cliffs create an unbelievable din in evening as they return from far out to sea to feed their young.

If you land on the island, it is possible to walk to the gannet colony and approach to within a few feet of nesting pairs. It is truly an unforgettable experience to witness the antics of thousands of these magnificent birds to say nothing of their headlong 100' dives into the sea.

MARITIME ODYSSEY, PART 2

Travelling can at the same time be both exhilarating and frustrating; exhilarating because of all the new sights and experiences one has and frustrating because there are always still other things you wanted to see or experience but didn't and the lingering doubt that you might never again have the chance. It was with this awareness that we travelled to Maritime Canada hoping to see as much of five provinces as we could, but knowing full well we were giving only superficial treatment to an area deserving of much more attention.

There is much to commend each of the areas of eastern Canada and it is always interesting to hear travellers extol the virtues of their favourite vacation spot which they have discovered after much wandering and comparing and to which they unflinchingly return. These devotees make a convincing argument for their choices and by noting their tips we greatly enhanced our enjoyment of the area.

The Gaspé had always seemed to me as some vague, undistinguished area save for Perce rock but something that we should endure because we were so close on our way to New Brunswick; and anyway, shouldn't we see Perce rock?

Shortly after entering the Gaspé we began to comprehend why one family we met enroute, returned each year to the Gaspé for its holiday. Leaving the St. Lawrence at Ste. Anne des Monts for the interior, you soon enter the Parc Gaspésien, a very large provincial park with over 240 km. of hiking trails and a variety of flora and fauna probably unmatched anywhere in eastern Canada. The chic-droc mountains offer over 150 species of alpine flowers on the 30 km² top of Mt. Albert; Mt. Jacques Cartier is close to 4,200' high (1,268 metres). Guided walks to the tops of these mountains are provided by the park naturalists and woodland caribou are likely to be seen here. Moose, deer, and bear abound in the park as well as close to 250 species of birds including all the boreal species, warblers and some arctic species. Osprey are quite common and their nests are often seen as one peers out over the valleys.

Continuing east on Highway 132, a two to three hour ride brought us to Forillon National Park, a 240 km² park with a variety of trails that offer boreal forest, bogs, tundra, waterfalls, and magnificent sea scapes. The trail to cap de Gaspé comes within a few feet of the edge of cliffs that rise in places almost 700 feet above the booming surf below. It is along this trail that one is most likely to see whales and seals; ravenous ravens are always heard. The meadows were full of flowers and the sky was alive with bird life.

LAKE ST. CLAIR MARSHES

These 650 hectare marshes at the southeastern corner of Lake St. Clair offer the best-quality representation in the site district of shallow marsh vegetation complexes (Point Pelee is a deep water marsh). Communities found here include cattail marsh, reed marsh, meadow marsh, submerged aquatics, swamp forest, and barrier beaches. The area is very significant as a staging and breeding area for thousands of waterfowl and is particularly well known by naturalists for its concentrations of Tundra (Whistling) Swans. Rare flora and fauna here include the white form of Swamp Rose Mallow (Hibiscus palustris), Yellow Star Grass (Hypoxis hirsuta), Arrow Arum (Peltandra virginica), Spotted Turtle and Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle. The site is a remnant of the extensive marshes and prairies which sprawled across the northern half of Kent County at the turn of the 19th century. Today, it is mainly privately owned with the St. Clair National Wildlife Area being the only property in public hands.

BIG CREEK MARSH

This 1160 hectare site south of Amherstburg is one of the best shoreline cattail marshes in the site district and the largest wetland in Essex County. It differs from the Lake St. Clair marshes in providing greater expanses of shallow open water interspersed with cattail stands and more extensive representation of swamp forest thickets. It also contains upland forest communities and some representation of beach vegetation. It is a major waterfowl staging area and provides one of the few nesting habitats for Bald Eagles in southwestern Ontario. In 1986, one young eagle was fledged. The herpetofauna is particularly rich at this site with Spotted Turtle, Musk Turtle, Ribbon Snake, and Blue-Spotted Salamander being some of the rare Essex County herps recorded here.

Notable rare plants include: Green Dragon (Arisaema dracontium), the largest population of Prairie White Fringed Orchids (Ptilanthera leucophaea) in the County, and an obscure Little sedge known as Hemicarpha micrantha. Rediscovered this past summer by Mike Oldham, this species had not been seen in the province in over 80 years. Not surprisingly, it was last collected by John Macoun in 1901.

Most of Big Creek is privately owned and is threatened by encroaching development and declining water quality.

CEDAR CREEK

Located four kilometres west of Kingsville, this 560 hectare site provides the best representation of a creek valley system with adjoining uplands in the site district. It includes mature Oak-Hickory-Maple forests, floodplain forests, abandoned fields, shrub communities, and seepage slopes. Some idea of its significance is that it contains a total of 68 provincially rare plant species. Included are such specialities as Veined Skullcap (*Scutellaria nervosa*), American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), Square-stemmed Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), and excellent stands of American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), Golden Seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) and Dense Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*). The site also provides habitat for the Bald Eagle; for the first time in several years, two eaglets were fledged in 1984. Other rare fauna include Eastern Mole, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Orange-spotted Sunfish.

With the exception of several small parcels owned by E.R.C.A., Cedar Creek is privately owned by approximately 60 different individuals. Preservation of the site is critical as some 15 hectares of woods has been cleared in the last 5 years and a 15 hectare area of marshland at the mouth of the creek has been drained and converted to agriculture. The nearest comparable marshes are 15 kilometres to the west at Big Creek and the same distance to the east to the Sturgeon Creek marsh.

STONE ROAD ALVAR

This 100 hectare site on Pelee Island provides representation of a limestone plain or alvar of a southern type not represented elsewhere in Ontario. Vegetation communities include alvar prairie, open grasslands, abandoned fields, Chinquapin Oak-Blue Ash savannah, and Ash-Sugar-Maple-Basswood forest. Significant features include the only Canadian locations for Corn Salad (*Valerianella umbilicata*) and Yellow Horse Gentian (*Triosteum angustifolium*), and excellent stands of Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), Alum-root (*Heuchera americana*), and Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*). The site is also inhabited by the Blue Racer, an endangered species now apparently restricted in Canada to Pelee Island.

Most of the alvar is privately owned, yet a 40 hectare section at the north end has recently been purchased by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

Gary Allen, District Botanist
Chatham

(the rest of Gary's article will appear in the next EGRET)

SUGAR MAPLE - A TRULY SIGNIFICANT CANADIAN TREE

Sugar Maple is the principle source of maple syrup and commercially important lumber. This tree is an important shade tree and produces the brilliant orange/red fall colours. The maple leaf is our national emblem and makes the maple tree a truly culturally significant tree.

Sugar Maples typically grow on fertile and well drained sandy loams. They do not tolerate flooding or ponding of water at any time during the year.

This is the reason why they occur on only 1/3 of the area of Essex County, mostly in the Leamington-Harrow area and some of the sandy ridges in the county. They will grow on fertile, heavy clays if good drainage is provided all year around. Sugar Maples and Norway Maples are very similar in these site requirements.

A typical remnant of a magnificent Sugar Maple beech forest is still preserved at the Kennedy Woods, immediately east of Jack Miner's. The commercial and privately operated Sugar Bush (Owned by Mr. J. Hunter), is near Jack Miner's on Essex Road #23.

Is it a Sugar Maple or a Norway Maple on My Lawn?

Sugar Maples have a watery sap in the leaf-petiole, while the Norway Maple has a milky sap. The seed keys of the Sugar Maple are parallel; the Norway Maple has the two keys at 180° angle!

