

**Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS'
CLUB**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL by Mike Oldham.....	2
PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Jim McAllister.....	3
IN REMEMBRANCE OF ED KEITH by Susan Morrison.....	4
E.C.F.N.C. BANQUET by Myrtle Bessette.....	5
A LETTER TO THE MEMBERS by Wilf Botham.....	6
THE 1985 MONARCH MIGRATION by Mireille Delisle-Oldham.....	7
MARITIME ODYSSEY - PART IV by Jim McAllister.....	10
"ADOPT A WOODS" by Wilf Botham.....	13
BIRD SIGHTINGS SUMMARY by G. Tom Hince.....	15
PRETTY TO LOOK AT - A MENACE TO WILDLIFE by Robert G. Hawker.....	20
FALL FIELD TRIP TO MAIDSTONE CONSERVATION AREA by Betty Learmouth...	22
AMAZING ANIMALS THE PAINTED TURTLE by Deb Gorman Smith.....	25
CROW-SPUR SEDGE NEW TO ESSEX, ONTARIO AND CANADA by Wilf Botham.....	28
SOUTH MORESBY ISLAND	30
IBIS SIGHT RECORD FOR ST. CLAIR N.W.A. by C. Kopchuk & J. Pilkington	31
MORE BIG TREES by Mike Oldham.....	34
ASTRONOMY WORD SEARCH by Deb Gorman Smith.....	35
CLUB CALENDAR by Deb Gorman Smith.....	36

EDITORIAL

As this is my last issue as EGRET editor, I would like to thank those members who contributed articles and those who gave suggestions or assistance regarding our newsletter. I am happy to report that there was actually an excess of articles for this issue of the EGRET, and I am able to pass on three or four articles to the next editors. Starting with the first issue in 1986 (March), the EGRET will be in the capable hands of Betty Learmouth and Russ Monroe. Please continue to show your support and help Betty and Russ by contributing at least one article to the EGRET in 1986 (a good New Year's resolution!). Send articles to Betty Learmouth at 2405 Princess Street, Windsor, N8T 1V2 (944-2292; during the day).

To start the new year, our first event will be the first annual Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count, on Sunday, January 5th. This count has been organized by E.C.F.N.C. members and we hope it will become an annual club event with many members participating. The Cedar Creek count circle (15-mile diameter) will be centered on the Arner Townline (County Road 23) at the junction of the 4th Concession of Gosfield South Township, and will include most of the Cedar Creek watershed, the towns of Essex, Kingsville, and Harrow, about 11 miles of Lake Erie shoreline, some of the largest wooded areas in the county including upland and lowland woods, 5 sewage lagoons, the Jack Miner Wildlife Preserve with its large numbers of wild geese and other waterfowl, and of course the Essex crow roost. This crow roost is thought to be the largest in Canada, and we are hoping that the Cedar Creek count will get the Canadian high count for crows. Whether a beginner or advanced birder you can help census the circle on January 5th. For further information contact myself (776-5209) or Paul Pratt (966-5852) --- see you on the 5th.

Mike Oldham

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the end of December a new board and a new president will take over and this I think, will signify an evolution of the club from shaky toddler to self confident youth.

There was never any doubt in my mind after the first organizational meeting two years ago, that the club would succeed. The enthusiasm, experience and interest of those who helped form the club, some of whom stayed on as board members, helped us avoid many of those mistakes which cause other new groups to stumble.

It sustains one's great faith in people to find so many people willing to do those many things that need doing without a fuss. Mike Oldham deserves special thanks both for helping get the idea of the club off the ground and for taking on the publication of the Egret, which involved prodding for articles, typing and editing--almost a one man operation. His input on the board will be sorely missed. I also want to thank all those other board members for their unfailing dedication and cooperation that made serving with them a pleasure and now welcome the new board members. Best of luck to Mark Brunton as he moves to Toronto.

Our club has moved into the computer age. John Blacker has put or will soon put most of our data on computer, including membership, phone lists and finances; address labels are also available, thanks to John's printer.

With membership around the two hundred mark and attendance at monthly meetings about seventy, we are no longer a fledgling club. We should acquire charitable donation status early in the new year and our roster of speakers is complete for at least the next year. A Junior Naturalists group is in formation and many of our members are capable and willing to lead field trips.

I, on behalf of the club, have written to the Prime Minister and Premier, as well as local politicians expressing concern on a variety of subjects, such as duck hunting in Point Pelee, toxic chemical dumping, disappearing farmland, wood-lots and wetlands, cutbacks to the C.W.F., lead auto emissions, and the preservation of South Moresby and Meares islands as natural areas. I would guess that the new premier of Quebec, who is determined to dam every river in Quebec for hydro development and James Bay for water diversion both for sale to the U.S. at inestimable ecological cost will give environmentalists fits and test our will to mobilize, over the next few years.

In Barry Commoner's book "The Closing Circle" he concludes that every change to the environment has an effect and cost that can't be avoided only delayed. How many of our songbirds are threatened by the destruction of the rainforest and persistent use of dangerous chemicals like DDT in tropical America? Are whales disappearing from the St. Lawrence basin and off the lower B.C. mainland because of toxic chemicals? Will the fish of Lakes Erie and St. Clair be rendered inedible by toxic chemicals as are those of Lake Ontario?

Those of us who love nature realize that environmental damage done in Peru, around James Bay or in the St. Clair River will affect our enjoyment of nature and have profound implications for our future well being. As Marshall McLuhan said, we really do live in a global village; failure to recognize this and begin dealing with global problems puts the whole environment at risk. As naturalists we must continue to educate and speak out on those matters which concern us all, while recognizing that the environment will always be under attack and we must be ever vigilant and tenacious.

Jim McAllister.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ED KEITH

I had the privilege of being introduced to Ed Keith at one of our club meetings last year. He and his close friend, Ruth Grant, gave a slide presentation on his involvement in the Monarch Butterfly banding study.

Beneath his forceful personality was a deep level of caring for others. Ed had many interests and pursued each with whole-hearted enthusiasm. He was once asked to describe his hobbies, so he sat down and wrote out this list: bowling, golf, bridge, boating, boat building, swimming, archery, astronomy, telescope making, woodworking and carving, auto mechanics, chess, travel, photography, bird banding, taxidermy, fishing, hunting, and constructing hifi's and radios from kits.

He held a collecting permit from the Dept. of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources and collect he did: rocks, maps, coins, birds nests, fossils, etc.

Over the years, Ed was president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Windsor District), treasurer of the Photographic Guild of Detroit, and president of the Sun Parlor Nature Club. Ed held memberships with the Detroit Astronomical Society, as well as the Detroit Audubon Society.

In my estimation, Ed was the ultimate in the term of "participation". He loved to be involved in life rather than be a spectator of it.

Ed Keith held a record for being one of Chrysler Canada's longest employee's, being a Cost Accountant for the company in windsor for 46½ years.

I feel that Ed condensed more living into his 70 years that most people would in 170.

Most of us will remember him best for his most recent project of Owl Banding. Ruth Grant and he would spend every night from September 1st till the end of November patrolling the mist nets they had set up for the study.

His dedication and enthusiasm should be an inspiration to us. Ed Keith died on November 11, 1985 and will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Susan Morrison

E.C.F.N.C. BANQUET

On September 11, 1985 The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club held their first fund raising dinner. It was held at the Croatian Centre on Tecumseh Road East in Windsor. 106 people attended. After a delicious buffet dinner Jim McAllister on behalf of the club presented Wilfred Botham, Essex County's famous botanist, an engraved plaque and an honorary life membership. After a few words of thanks from Wilfred, the speaker of the evening, Dick Benoit of the Detroit Audobon Society was presented. He spoke on the Hawk migration at Holiday Beach and showed some very interesting slides on the subject which everyone enjoyed. Afterwards he was given a book from the club.

There were also quite a number of door prizes that had been donated. They were presented to the lucky winners as their numbers were drawn.

It was an enjoyable evening and the members who planned it and worked so hard are to be commended for a job well done. It is to be hoped that it will be an annual event.

Myrtle Bessette

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERS

My heartfelt thanks to you, members of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, for the awards presented to me on the occasion of your annual meeting and banquet.

I was so overwhelmed that I could hardly speak, but I could not help but remember what Konrad Lorenz, a student of animal behaviour, wrote in his book, "On Aggression" (1966):

"When my unforgettable teacher, Ferdinand Hochstetter, at the age of seventy-one gave his valedictory address at Vienna University, the then Chancellor thanked him warmly for his long and inspired work. Hochstetter's answer was: You are thanking me for something for which I deserve no gratitude. Thank my parents, my ancestors who transmitted me to these and no other inclinations. And if you ask me what I have done throughout my life in the fields of research and teaching then I must honestly say: I have always done the thing which, at the moment, I considered the greatest fun."

I am in much the same situation. I did it because it is fun, never for one moment dreaming that I would one day receive an award for having all that fun. All of you are naturalists so you know that the hobby of natural history is fun. Added to all the fun I have had I now receive these generous awards. This evening's events will certainly be a high point in my long life. I thank you all most warmly.

When I look over the list of favours you have granted me I am distinctly impressed. They are:

An engraved plaque

A scroll done in script

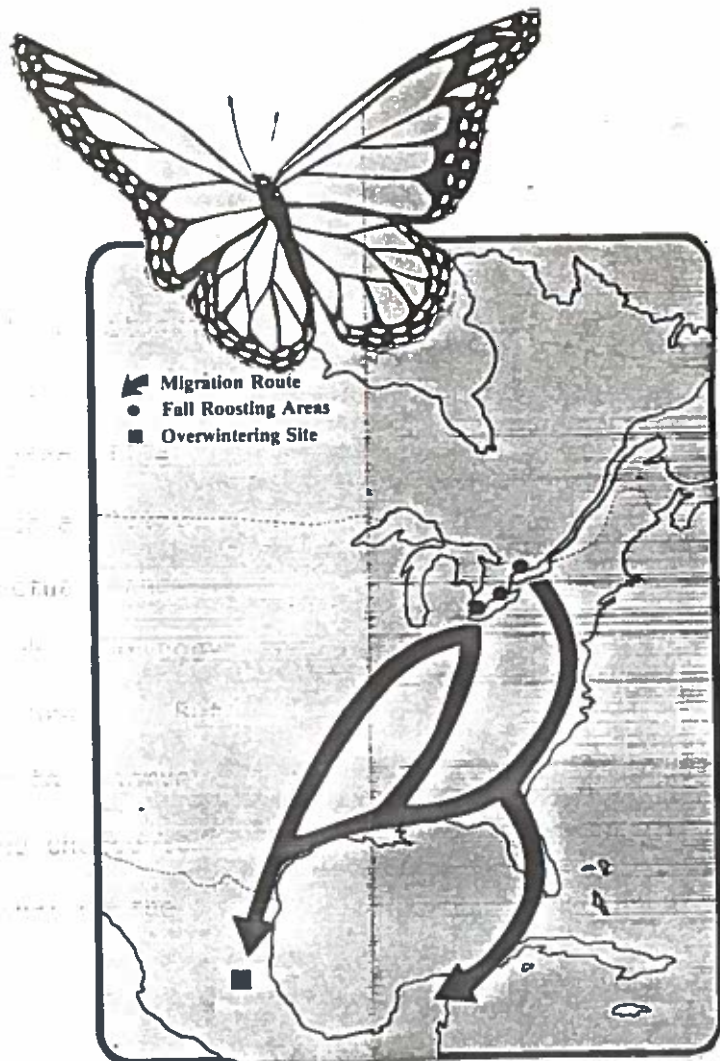
An honorary life membership in the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Two free banquet tickets for my wife and myself

A most flattering account of me in your club magazine "The Egret"

I love and hug you all.

THE 1985 MONARCH MIGRATION



In Essex County, we have the great privilege of being on the pathway of many migrating birds. With the Kingsville Migration Festival, and much activity at the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary and at Point Pelee National Park, everybody seems to have birds on the brain... But the many visitors who come to observe the birds may also have the chance to catch another migration, that of the monarch butterflies.

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

is widespread over Eastern and Western United States, and Southeastern Canada. The first females of the season, arriving to our area in May, lay their eggs on the milkweed plants (*Asclepias* spp.), and the hatching larvae feed exclusively on its leaves. The full grown striped caterpillars form chrysalids from which the next generation of butterflies emerge. The full cycle takes about a month, and is repeated two or three times throughout the summer. The generation born at the end of the summer has the urge to migrate to overwintering grounds. The Western population moves towards the Pacific Ocean and spreads along the coast between Santa Monica and Monterey. The Eastern population makes its way south, to a small area in the Sierra Madre mountains in Mexico.

By the beginning of September, large groups of monarch butterflies gather in Essex County. They often will have to stop, on tips of land on the north shore of Lake Erie, waiting for favorable winds to make their crossing. Lucky observers may then catch a sight they will never forget, trees covered with thousands of orange butterflies, quietly waiting, slowly waving their wings in the morning's first rays of sun. Such spectacular assemblings occur sporadically at Point Pelee National Park. This fall was one of the best for butterfly migration. Small groups of monarchs were seen flying off the tip as early as August 11th, and a first fairly big wave stopped at the tip around the 27th of August, when Tom Hince, park naturalist, counted over 400 butterflies scattered on a few trees near the tip trail. The next few days were quite good to see monarch butterfly gatherings, and during the whole month of September, the park staff tried to keep a daily record of the monarchs sighted at the tip:

Sunday Sept. 1st:	1000	8:150	15:100	22:1000
Monday	2nd: 300	9:150	16:50	23:200
Tuesday	3: 200	10:300	(5000by aft) 17:100	24:100
Wednesday	4: 150	11:2000	18:100	25:100
Thursday	5: 200	12:1200	19:50	26:75
Friday	6: 200	13:300	20:100	27:75
Saturday	7:100	14:100	21:50	

As numbers started to get very low, the daily count record was dropped eventhough a few monarchs were still on their way south. A surprising late wave was caught on the mornings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday October 7th, 8th and 9th by Tom Hince and other naturalists who estimated numbers of 500, 2000 and 2500 monarchs respectively to be at the tip. The late monarchs had been stopped at the tip by strong southeasterly winds, but by Thursday, when the wind direction changed, they had all made their crossing.

Fewer and fewer monarchs were seen during the rest of October. On November 1st, Don Wilkes, assistant chief park naturalist, observed two monarch butterflies on the west side of the tip trail. These so far would be the latest record of migrants for the season.

The monarch butterflies have now left our climates, and many of them have probably reached the Sierra Madre mountains, where they will overwinter. Next spring, they will mate, and the females will attempt to make their return journey north, to the United States and Canada, laying eggs along the way. How do they find their way to their small wintering grounds? What makes them fly south in the fall, and then north in the spring? Some scientists have proposed that the monarch butterfly, of tropical origin, expanded its range as its host plants, the milkweeds, spread northward to our climates, over many thousands of years of plant migration process. The butterflies, not able to survive our winter would have to go back south every fall. But the mechanism of the monarch butterfly migration, and the reason for its pattern are yet to be fully discovered, and I stand always amazed at the sight of these beautiful insects, who cleverly survive by finding their way around the world.

Mireille Delisle-Oldham

Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank Point Pelee National Park and its staff for the use of its pamphlet on the monarch butterfly, and for the use of its 1985 data on monarch butterfly migration.

MARITIME ODYSSEY - PART IV

We had concluded that our trip east would be incomplete without a tour of the Cabot Trail. The Trans Canada Highway from the causeway to Sydney along Bras d'Or Lake can be quite busy but the scenery makes it worthwhile. From North Sydney which has considerable camping facilities and from where one boards the Newfoundland ferry, there are two interesting side trips; one was to Louisburg, a marvellously restored French fort and village and the other was a boat trip to the Bird Islands.

A tour of Louisburg takes a full day but is unmatched for affording a feel of 18th century Canada. The staff dress in period costume and many are engaged in work and crafts of that era. Very authentic and very interesting. The trip to Bird Islands costs about \$10.00 for the three hour tour. Besides seals, most of the alcids can be seen here - a wonderful trip if the weather's good.

From North Sydney, you can begin the eastern leg of the Cabot Trail. There is mature forest, some fire ravaged areas and some new growth and as the road alternately rises steeply and then plunges, all the while hugging the coast, you are provided with a magnificent panorama of blue and aqua crashing against the shore carpeting the rocks with white foam.

The campgrounds of the National Park are quite extensive but fill early. Many of the people are there just to drive the coastal road and the miles and miles of trails in the park were virtually untrodden. These trails yield a wide variety of landscapes from seashore to alpine meadow and vegetation from mixed forest to tundra with a correspondingly wide variety of birds including all of the boreal species, warblers, thrushes, ptarmigan and assuredly the bald eagle.

One should allow a full day to drive the Cabot Trail from Ingonish to Cheticamp to allow for the many pull offs to soak in the many spectacular

seascapes. We were richly rewarded when we took a side trip to Cape St. Lawrence just as the boats were returning with their catches of queen crab. Our purchase provided one of those unforgettable meals.

We never did make it to the western end of Nova Scotia but I understand a trip to Brier Island just down the coast from Digby offers some of the best birding in the Maritimes. Most of the area's land species pass through here in migration and when you add to this the southern and western species that often turn up here along with most of the alcids, shorebirds and the occasional stray from Europe, you have a variety of species hard to match anywhere. Additions to life lists are almost guaranteed, so I'm told.

P.E.I. is a lovely pastoral province more to the liking of the conventional tourist. It offers wonderful beaches and swimming, country style lobster dinners, clam digging, summer theatre and musicals, deep sea fishing, golf, amusement parks for children and arts and crafts for the shopper.

The bird life here is less varied but interesting nonetheless. Hudsonian godwits, piping plovers and great cormorants were seen; great blue herons are very common and the black headed gull which is now established on the east coast is likely. It is sad to note that the ubiquitous three wheel vehicles and trail bikes are destroying the vast dunes of the island and have already eliminated the already endangered piping plover from all but the national park.

We decided to make Fundy National Park our last stop before returning home because we just had to visit Mary's Point after reading about it in Finley's book. We were very optimistic that mid August would yield lots of migratory birds and it did beyond our expectations. Following Shepody Bay south from Moncton you are struck by the presence of the tides as you scan the vast mud flats and the high water mark along the exposed bank. Hopewell Rocks in just

a few hours vividly demonstrated the 46 foot tides, some of the highest in the world.

The drive from Fundy back to Mary's Point leads through mud flats and salt marshes alive with shorebirds, hawks and the occasional peregrine falcon. Sharp tailed sparrows were often seen. The Majka's (Mary and Mike) and David Christie who wrote many of the descriptions of New Brunswick's birding hot spots live together in a lovely restored farm house that overlooks Mary's Point and the bay below. They are very hospitable and glad to share their home and expertise especially if you're a birder. For the better part of two days they entertained us with stories about their experiences (Mike claims to have seen a blue grosbeak at Pelee one May) and educated us on the natural wonders of the area especially the migration of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds including about 100,000 semipalmated sandpipers alone.

Coincidentally, the September issue of Audubon magazine has an article on the Bay of Fundy in which it features the Majka's and the migration. The Bay of Fundy and Mary's Point particularly is one of the largest staging areas for migrating shorebirds in North America; all this would be threatened by the development of tidal power in the Bay of Fundy. These birds gorge themselves on the abundant mud shrimp before flying non-stop to South America. To see these sandpipers huddled together in such large numbers along the shore at high tide is awe inspiring to be sure. Let's hope these wonders will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

A trip to this region should also include a visit to Machias Bird Sanctuary, Grand Manan, Deer Island and Campobello for the great birding they offer but time ran out for us. They and other spots like Brier's Island and Newfoundland are the lure that will surely draw us back east.

"ADOPT A WOODS"

At your September meeting I made an appeal for volunteers to "adopt a woods". The hope is that each volunteer will visit his/her woods every week or ten days, beginning in mid March, or even earlier if the weather is sunny and warm. In this way new early flowering dates could be recorded, or even new plants for the county could be found. So many new areas for plants already on the plant list have been found in 1985, and several very interesting new plants for the county were also found. All of this will go into an update of The Plants of Essex County.

So that participants will know what recognition they will receive for their efforts I will briefly outline the plans for the update. I was a little unhappy that I received the lion's share of the credit for The Plants of Essex County: A Preliminary List. I had made it clear in the introduction that many others had contributed to the work and that I was only compiling their and my work, I suppose it was inevitable that one name would be singled out when referring to the book and of course it had to be mine. In order to counteract that tendency to some extent the update will state on the title page that it is the work of Essex County field naturalists. On an inside page will be a list of the contributors, similar to the way it is done in American Birds.

The plant list is to be alphabetic. What will go under each plant name has not yet been decided. If any of you have suggestions I would like to hear them. The recent Peel County list might be a good guide to follow. The same area codes will be used as was used in A Preliminary List, except that it will be in four rows rather than two. That will leave more space for the text. The code symbols will be used only if a plant has been collected in that area, and only plants collected from 1960 on will be coded. Earlier collections could be mentioned in the text. Sight records will be indicated by a dot in the appropriate space for that area.

Ideally every woods in the county would have its regular visitor or visitors. I know that is impossible, although some of us will visit more than one woods.

It is not too early to pick out a woods. It need not be a woods, it could be a meadow, a marsh, a railroad, etc., but for early spring records a woods is probably best. Permission to enter the property must be sought from the owner, explaining why entry is required.

Identification of plants will be a big problem. There are several good botanists in the county who would be glad to help. The E.R.C.A. herbarium ought to be very helpful. Collecting will be necessary in some cases and this ought to be discussed with the landowner, assuring that person that rare plants will not be collected. Pictures could be taken of the plant, or one of the more knowledgeable botanists could be asked to go in and look at the plant. Some plants might have to be sent to one of the larger herbaria for more expert identification. This has already been done extensively in the past.

I hope everyone will think of this book as his/her book, despite the fact that I will decide the format of the publication. Should I become incapable of continuing the task then surely someone else will pick up where I left off.

Wilf Botham



BIRD SIGHTINGS SUMMARY (SEPT./OCT./NOV)

INTRODUCTION

Fall migration in Essex County is probably our most exciting season for birding. Though spring has the colour and the song, fall brings even greater numbers and more unpredictable birds. In addition, Point Pelee is clearly the "hotspot" in the spring but in the fall this distinction is not so clear.

The second hotspot in the fall is of course Holiday Beach. Most people are aware of its importance as an area of raptor concentrations. However, it also is a significant site for diurnal migrants, in particular finches. Unfortunately the totals for the Holiday Beach migration watch are still being tallied for a few more weeks so very little data is available.

Also of note this fall was the inclusion of reports from Alan Wormington from the Southeast shoal lighthouse off the Tip of Pelee. From Alan's personal notes: "Southeast Shoal Observations:

There were two days in particular when passerines arrived in abundance. In both cases it was dead calm the night before. Birds became ridiculously tame and some died due to extreme exhaustion. Under normal conditions I suspect disoriented birds use whatever wind is available (just before or at sunrise) to take them to any shoreline. However with no wind the extra effort (after flying all night) just isn't possible; therefore they head toward anything that is available (e.g. Southeast Shoal). On September 15th there were 18 passerine species (79 individuals in total) and on October 14th, 24 passerine species (184 individuals in total). Birds spend the day on the rocks available, walls, window ledges, railings etc."

MIGRATION

Migration was steady through September as warm weather prevailed. The first strong North winds and cool temperatures on Sept.12 brought the "Big" day for Broad-winged Hawks this fall, as predicted by Dick Benoit! Late September had few days with fallouts of migrants but the 27th was one notable exception. On this day 90 species were found along the Tip Trail of Pelee in only two hours. Later in September and throughout October major movements of Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, and Evening Grosbeaks occurred at Pelee and Holiday Beach. November brought some major movements of northern birds particularly on the 5th, 11th, and 14th. Many birders felt it was only an average fall for goodies at best, but perhaps reflection is necessary. Long-tailed Jaeger (2), Purple Sandpiper (3), Black-backed Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, Sandhill Crane, Little Blue Heron, and Lesser Black-backed Gull (4) - sounds like an impressive list of highlights to me!

SPECIES SUMMARY

LOONS - CORMORANT The only report of Red-throated Loon was at Pelee on Nov. 17 (PDP). Common Loons moved in normal numbers with high counts of 13 Oct.25 (TH), 10 Nov.11 (CL), and 27 Nov.27 (AW,TH). An interesting report of the very rare Red-necked Grebe came from Holiday Beach without details (AC).

LOON - CORMORANT Cormorants were present in good numbers (several hundred at peak) but the large concentrations of last fall did not occur.

HERONS - WATERFOWL Only one report of Least Bittern was recorded on Sept 7 at Hillman. The Little Blue Heron immature found on Sept.5 at Hillman was last seen at that site Sept.7 (PW,SW). Cattle Egrets were seen Oct.8 (2) at the Pelee Visitor Centre Parking Lot (CL,TH) and a late individual Nov.21 at Ruthven (AJR).

Tundra Swans appeared widespread in good numbers through early to mid November. Several thousand birds were seen at Victoria Rd. and Highway 3 and smaller groups at Malden Rd., Pelee, and Holiday Beach. Notable sightings of Snow Geese included two large flocks of 30+ birds at Holiday Beach and an early group of 4 at the same location Sept.15 (BE). Canada Geese (48) at Pelee Sept.11 were a bit early. Among the thousand of Canadas at Miners were 7 "Richardsons" Canadas Nov.15 (AW). A trip to Harrow and Kingsville lagoons on August 24th revealed the following migrant dabblers: Green-winged Teal (3); Northern Pintail (3); Blue-winged Teal (450); Gadwall; American Wigeon and Bufflehead (AW, PL,AJR). Oldsquaw were only reported in small numbers all from Pelee, in late October and November. All three scoters were reported the most noteworthy of which was Black with reports on 6 dates and a high count of 23 Nov.23 at Pelee (NC,PW). The same date yielded 60 scoter (sp.), 4 Surf and 2 White-winged at Pelee. The 159 Hooded Mergansers at Pelee Nov.12 were an impressive sight (PW). Red-breasted Mergansers invaded Pelee in hordes with a peak of 40,000+ birds in late October. One of the exciting birds this fall was Brant. The following were Brant sightings this fall: Nov.11 a flock of 7 and one of 8 at Pelee (DAW); Nov.15 (1) at Wheatley (AW); Nov.17 (1) at Pelee (AW,KB) and Nov.25(35) at Pelee (TH,TP). These records appear to be part of a number of sightings in southern Ontario this fall.

VULTURE - CRANE Holiday Beach hawk watch figures are not included in any of the numbers indicated here. Pelee had about 25-30 Ospreys including a late individual Nov.5th at the Tip (DAW, TH). There were 14 sightings of Bald Eagle at Pelee including a wing-tagged bird Nov.14th (PW,KJ). This bird was part of a release program and was originally released in upper New York state near Lake Placid in late summer. It was last seen in that locality in late September. Anyone sighting other tagged Bald Eagles should report them to : Bald Eagle Release Program, Canadian Wildlife Service, 152 Newbold Court, London, Ontario N6E 1Z7 or phone 681-0486 (London). Accipiter numbers were low to average. The most notable accipiter movement was the 6 reports of Northern Goshawk, Oct.6 through Nov.14 at Pelee. Sept.12 brought an unusual high count of over 1000 Broad-wings to Pelee. The same day yielded 30,000+ Broad-winged Hawks at Holiday Beach. The 10 sightings of Golden Eagle at Pelee Oct.23-Nov.17 were above normal.

VULTURE - CRANE

Both Peregrine and Merlin showed off well at Pelee with 48 and 34 sightings respectively, mostly at the Tip. The peak of Peregrine migration was the Oct 5 and 6th with about 12-15 birds on the weekend. Peregrines Oct.8 and 10th on the Southeast Shoal were interesting. One bird was seen sitting on the railing 4 feet from the lighthouse window (AW).

Three calling Virginia Rails Nov.17 at the Pelee marsh may be indicative of how late this bird stays in the fall (TH,LG). A bewildered Sora was amongst the fall of migrants grounded at the Tip of Pelee Sept.27. A Sandhill Crane, always scarce in our area, was seen at Holiday Beach Oct.28 (BE).

PLOVERS - TERNS

Most notable among the relatively few shorebird sightings (due to lack of habitat!) were the following: 5 Willets Sept.15 at Pelee; 4 Hudsonian Godwits Oct.10 at Pelee, and single birds Oct.9/11 at Holiday Beach and Oct.11 at Pelee; 11 Knots at Hillman Sept.29; 70 Sanderlings at Pelee Sept.22; Bairds Sandpiper at Kingsville Sept.14; and 4 Red-necked Phalaropes at Essex Sept.13-18. Clearly deserved of more recognition were sightings of Purple Sandpiper Nov.15 at Pelee (JF) and Nov.24 (2) at Marentette Beach (AW).

Among the 12 Parasitic Jaegers reported a flock of 5 juveniles Oct.8 at the Southeast Shoals (AW) and late birds Nov.16 and 17 at Pelee (AW,TH) were notable. The two sightings of Long-tailed Jaeger Sept.17 at Pelee (adult, TH) and Oct.4 at the Southeast Shoal (juv.,AW) were most surprising. The Pelee bird was watched harrying two phalaropes off the water. The observer was so intent on the jaeger that he forgot to look at the phalaropes!

The normally rare Laughing Gull was seen Sept.6,14,17(2),19 and 29 at Pelee (m.ob.). Five individuals were also on the Southeast Shoal Aug.7,8-9, 13 and 20 and Sept.5. Nearly all these birds were juveniles rather than the adults usually seen on Lake Erie. These sightings and others of 20+ birds in Ohio are likely related to a late summer tropical storm. Single Franklin's on Sept.19 and 26 were about normal. However, the 3 Little Gulls (Sept.24, Nov.7 and 16) were well below normal. This may be due in part to the low numbers of Bonapartes Gulls. Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls Oct.5-13 and 31(2) at Wheatley (AW,TH et al) and Sept.30 at Holiday Beach (BE) were a good number. This bird has been seen with increasing consistency the past four years. Single Black legged Kittiwakes (both juv.) were at the Tip of Pelee flying southwest on Oct.22 and Nov.16 (TH,AW,KB). Only two Thayer's were reported, a first-winter Oct.22 (Wheatley) and an adult Nov.16 (Pelee). The large roost of Caspian Terns at Pelee had dwindled to 70 birds by Sept.27. Common (3) and Forster's (1) Terns were last seen Oct.22 at Pelee (TH). An interesting sighting of 60 Common Terns resting on the water by the Southeast Shoal (Oct.15) may be indicative of a typical behavior not normally noted close to shorelines (AW).

DOVES - HORNE LARK Late Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Pelee Oct.6 (KM et al). Eleven Great Horned Owls at Pelee on Nov.25 was an excellent count (TP). Sightings of scarce owls included: Long-eared Oct.7 at Pelee, Nov.24 and 25 (2) at Holiday Beach; Short-eared Nov.17 (2) at Pelee; and Saw-whet Oct.7 and Nov.18 at Pelee. A Saw-whet at Southeast Shoal was last seen being harried by gulls (Nov.11).

Late Common Nighthawk (Oct.6) and Whip-poor-will (Oct.12) were both at Pelee.

A male Black-backed Woodpecker at Holiday Beach Sept.14-15 was an excellent find. It was seen by several large groups of observers and well photographed. Noteworthy flycatcher sightings included Olive-sided Sept.11 and 15 and a late Eastern Wood-Pewee Oct.6 all at Pelee.

On Nov.5th and 11th several hundred Horned Larks were flying North across Lake Erie at both Pelee and Southeast Shoal (m.ob). These birds were probably pushed out over the lake and headed back to the land they left from.

SWALLOWS - WAXWINGS An albino Tree Swallow at Essex Sept. 17 (JB,TL) must have caused some trouble for the observers!! A group of 2200 at the Tip of Pelee Oct.11 was a good late concentration (TH). Late swallows included single Bank and Cliff at the Tip of Pelee Oct.10 (TH).

Blue Jay migration was early and spectacular. Daily maximums of 17,000 and 35,500 were recorded at Pelee and Holiday Beach respectively. The fall total for Holiday Beach was an astonishing 350,000+ birds!!!! The scarce Tufted Titmouse was seen at Pelee Oct.19 (KO) and Holiday Beach Oct.25(2, BE).

Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches moved in small numbers through Sept. and into late October. The only Carolina Wren was on the West Beach at Pelee NOV.25th (TP). A high count of 160 Winter Wrens along the Tip Trail, Pelee Oct.11 was notable (TH). Three reports of Sedge Wren Sept.13 and 27 at Pelee, and Oct.14 at Southeast Shoal were above average. On Oct.11 Ruby-crowned (350+) and Golden-crowned (450+) Kinglets invaded the Tip Trail of Pelee. Also noteworthy were 18 Ruby-crowned and 45 Golden-crowned on the Southeast Shoal Oct.14th. The most significant thrush sightings were 55 Hermits Oct.11 at Pelee, a late Wood Thrush at Pelee Nov.5 (TH) and 18 Eastern Bluebirds at Holiday Beach Oct.11 (BE). Two Mockingbirds at Harrow Sept.17 and an individual at Pelee Sept.29 were the only sightings. A single Bohemian Waxwing joined the mobs of Cedars at Pelee Nov.14-17 (PW et al). It represents only the second record for Pelee.

SHRIKES - WARBLERS

Late Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers were at Pelee Sept. 11 and 10 respectively. Noteworthy high counts of warblers at Pelee were the following: Black-throated Blue (30) Sept.27; Palm (35) Sept.27; Northern Parula (3) Sept.27; and Yellow-rumped (400+) Nov.14. Noteworthy highs on the Southeast Shoal were 9 Magnolia and 28 Bay-breasted on Sept.15th (AW). A late Wilson's lingered at Pelee Oct.11th. The four September (10,11(2),14) Connecticuts were normal for Pelee.

TANAGERS - ORIOLE

A late Indigo Bunting was at Pelee Sept.27th. Two Dickcissels were reported Oct.2 on the Woodland Trail at Pelee.

The two fall reports of Grasshopper Sparrow were Sept.27th and Oct.12 at Pelee (TH). A count of 25 Fox Sparrows Nov.14 at Pelee was notable (PW). The Sept.27th flight at Pelee included 25 Lincoln's, 30 Swamp, 60 White-throated, 40 White-crowned and 15 Savannah on the West Beach (TH). Oct.14th was the sparrow day at Southeast Shoal with 2 Chipping, 1 Song, 3 Lincoln's, 3 Swamp, 11 White-throated, 5 White-crowned and 11 Dark-eyed Juncos (AW). A high count of 1200 Juncos were at Pelee Nov.14 (PW). An impressive flock of 200 Lapland Longspurs lingered near Anderdon Oct.22-23 (BE). Holiday Beach yielded a single Yellow-headed Blackbird Oct.25th (BE). A flock of 750+ Rusty Blackbirds at Hillman Marsh Nov.7 was a good concentration. Eastern Meadowlark and Rusty Blackbird were at Southeast Shoal Oct.14(AW).

FINCHES - EXOTICS

Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch and Evening Grosbeak were moving well throughout late September and October. Notable highs of 250 Goldfinches Oct.22 and Nov.5; 60 Siskins Oct.12 and Nov.5; and 500+ Evening Grosbeaks Nov.5 were all at Pelee. The first Common Redpoll appeared Oct.26 (PDP) with others on Nov.22(1) and 25(11) at Pelee (TH,TP). Several hundred were also seen at Holiday Beach in late November (fide BE). Reports of scarcer finches were 3 Pine Grosbeaks Nov.11 (PW) and a single White-winged Crossbill Oct.23 (TH et al) both at Pelee.

Rounding out sightings were a Green Parakeet (m.ob.) at Pelee to Nov.9th and a Black-hooded Parakeet at Amherstburg from Oct.29th to the end of November (BE) - both obvious escapees.

OUTLOOK

Finch movements have been good this fall. Redpolls are moving in slowly and may increase. Watch for other Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Grosbeak reports.

Good birding and enjoy the Christmas Counts and Holiday Season.

CONTRIBUTORS

Joe Bens, Keith Burk, Alan Carpentier, Norm Chesterfield, Brian Eaton, Joe Faggan, Linda Guzman, Tom Hince, Ken Jock, Paul Lehman, Chris Lemieux, Tony Leukering, Kevin McLaughlin, Karl Overmann, Tom Plath, Paul D. Pratt, Alan J. Ryff, Peter Whelan, Donald A. Wilkes, Alan Wormington, Sherri Wright and a host of others! Thank you to all who contributed!

G. Tom Hince

PRETTY TO LOOK AT - A MENACE TO WILDLIFE

It is pretty enough to be sold as a garden flower. Seed companies sell it as an ornamental. Beekeepers are encouraged to plant it in wetlands near their hives as the nectar yields a tasty honey. One town, Hillsdale, Michigan, even has a festival for it.

It was introduced to North America in the 1800's and is spreading to wetlands across much of the country, especially in the Northeast and Great Lakes regions.

It grows up to eight feet tall in marshes and wet soil. It displaces cattails, sedges and other native plants that have developed over eons, to fill specific niches in wetland ecosystems. No native bird or mammal is known to eat the plant or its seeds; muskrats won't even use the stalks to build their houses.

Once established it is very difficult to eradicate. One plant can produce up to 300,000 seeds over its July to September flowering season. One acre of the plants can produce 24 billion seeds per acre. They have the ability to regenerate themselves. If any part of the plant falls on moist soil, it can sprout a completely new plant. It spreads rapidly in wetlands. At the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge at Seneca Falls, N. Y. it was first observed in 1950; by 1967 some 267 acres were infested; by 1979 the plants dominated 1000 acres. In 1984 it is a very serious threat to the habitat.

So how can it be eradicated or controlled? Most attempts to remove the weed fails. Herbicides that kill the plant also wipe out any other

plants. Wetlands that have been altered by fire, drought and other disturbances promote the spread of the weed.

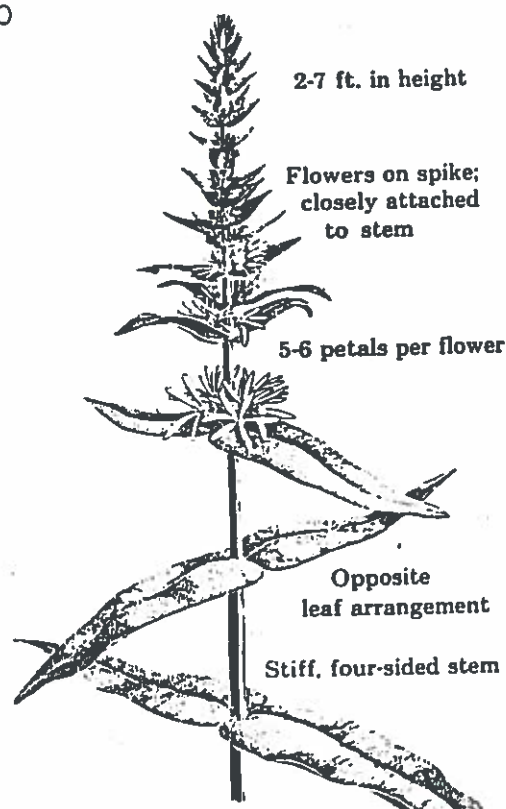
In Eurasia, it is kept in check by insect predators and parasites whose range does not extend to North America. Consideration has been given to introducing these insects to control the plant, but they could upset nature's balances and cause more harm than good.

The best way to prevent their spread is to dig them up, roots and all, transport them away from moist soil, dry them and dispose of them. If you see any flowering, cut off the flower and then return and dig up the plant.

What is the name of this plant? It is Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). It offers virtually nothing to North American wildlife.

If you see any, take the above precautions, then notify the Purple Loosestrife Task Force, UWM Field Station, 3095 Blue Goose Road, Saukville, WI 53080

Robert G. Hawker



A FALL FIELD TRIP TO THE MAIDSTONE CONSERVATION AREA

A series of fall field trips are proposed by Bill Morsink. These field trips will focus on the four forest types found in the tri-counties. Bill has chosen fall for his trips as the woodlands are relatively dry at that time of year, the insect population has declined and fall colour is everywhere in our counties' woodlots.

Bill lead a group of E.C.F.N. members into the Maidstone Conservation Area on November 2, 1985. The plan was to look at a woodlot typical of the mid-western clay plains forest type. Most woodlots in Essex County are of this type of woodland.

In general terms, we were told, a mid-western clay plains woodlot has approximately two feet of organic material over dense clay material. Surface water accumulates over these two layers of soil, and this excess water is evident when the woodlands are visited in the springtime. All of us have been discouraged by flooded trails in clay plains woodlots when we have attempted early spring woodland walks. Maidstone C.A. has a series of boardwalks over areas which are particularly flooded in springtime. The mid-western clay plains woodlands gradually dry by fall, although wet conditions for much of the growing season allow the hardwood trees to grow vigorously.

We were warned to expect a few surprises in the Maidstone C.A.!

As we entered the woodlot and walked along the boardwalk, we noted typical trees of the clay plains hardwood forest type that can withstand springtime flood conditions ie pin oak, white elm, blue beech, burr oak and shumard oak. And here was the first surprise!

A lively discussion developed as we spoke about shumard oaks. These oaks are a major timber source of high quality oak in the mid-west, particularly the Mississippi River and delta area, but these oaks have only been

identified in Essex County since 1980. It appears that the shumard oaks of Essex County have been misidentified as red oaks and have been lumbered as red oaks for over one hundred years in the county. Shumard oaks, which can live hundreds of years, reach a height of one hundred feet or more, and attain a massive trunk diameter of two to three feet, grow well in clay soils and can withstand the spring flooding that occurs in clay plains woodlots. Red oaks prefer soils with better drainage, thus we should look for red oaks in the Wheatley area. It should be noted that shumard oaks grow in conjunction with pin oaks and this results in variable species reflected by colour variances in fall foilage.

As we continued our stroll through the conservation area, we noted a gradual transistion in t ree species as we approached the Puce River. Red ash is displaced by white ash and this change in ash tree species is very dramatic if the woodlot is visited earlier in the fall. The yellow fall colour of red ash is replaced by the purple fall colour of white ash. Mid-October would be an ideal time to observe these striking fall hues.

At the Puce River we observed the basswood trees which are large and robust, obviously taking advantage of a well-drained site. White oak is also found in this drier area.

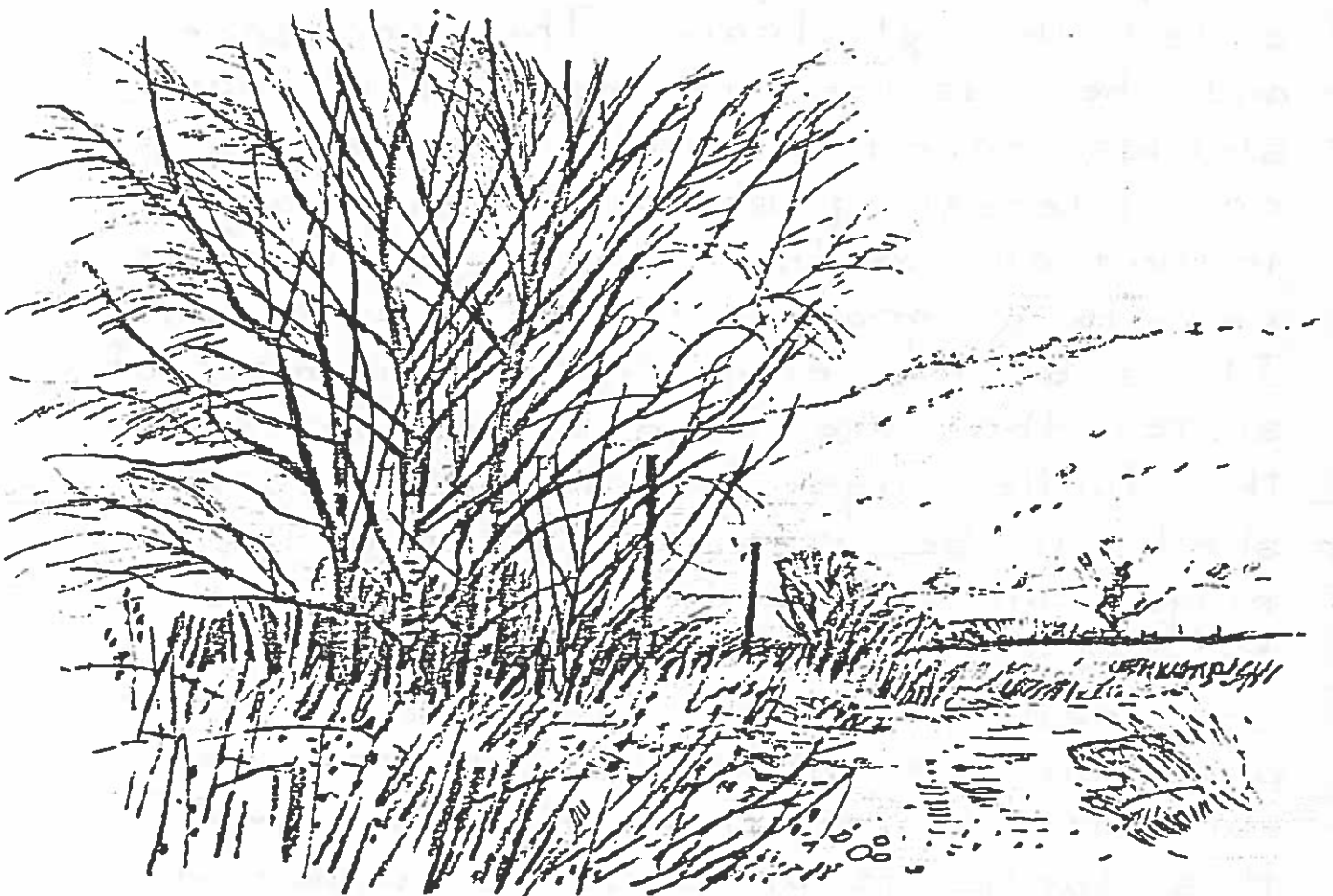
As we approached marker #14 on the boardwalk, we were treated to yet another surprise!

The golden glow of the fall foilage of a mature sugar maple was an expected delight. In this small area, a sandy well-drained knoll of soil exists and trees that favour extremely well-drained sites have established here. Along with the mature sugar maple and several immature sugar maples, we found a group of ironwood trees, American beech, bladdernut, hickory and two large witch-hazel shrubs. Spring-time trilliums that bloom in this small area are another indicator of an island of well-drained sandy soil.

The Maidstone Conservation area is a very rich and diversified woodlot. This woodlot illustrates well the very specific site requirements that particular tree species possess. Over time the various tree species in the woodlot have located in sites that will allow each species to thrive.

Future fall field trips will examine river and shoreline forests along the Thames River near Thamesville and Carolinian upland hardwood forests along Lake Erie and oak savanna woodlands. Plan to attend these field trips to learn more about our woodlands.

Betty Learmouth



AMAZING ANIMALS THE PAINTED TURTLE

Many people know the painted turtle or Chrysemys picta (for those science-minded people) by their bright yellow and red markings on a dark shell and body. But, what else do you know about painted turtles?

Turtles are unique because of their shell. The top part is called the carapace and the lower part is called the plastron. The carapace and the plastron are made up of hard shields called scutes. The scutes are interesting because they grow individually as the turtle grows. This results in growth rings on each scute. It is by the rings, not the number of scutes that are counted to determine the turtle's age. Some older turtle's shell can be very smooth and the rings can be hard to see.

Painted turtles shells are brightly coloured and the carapace and plastron are different colours. The carapace is relatively flat because this turtle is an aquatic inhabitant.

Their length is usually six to seven inches - oops, excuse me, 15 to 17.5 centimeters - but some will grow to almost ten inches or 25 centimetres. The males are slightly smaller than the females. Male turtles have longer front claws, a longer tail and their plastron is concave. Female's plastron is either flat or slightly convex.

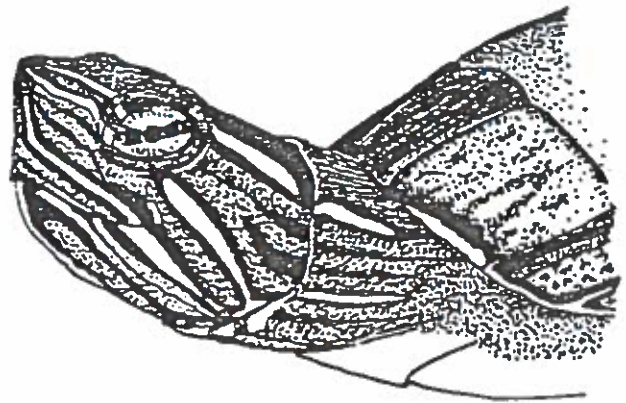
Painted turtles are the most widespread turtle in North America. They can be found in just about any freshwater, quiet, marshy habitat. Although they are aquatic, these turtles are known as sun-bathers as they like to lay on logs or rocks and sun themselves until they are disturbed.

Painted turtles are omnivorous. This means they eat both plant and animal material. Their favorite foods include: insects, earthworms, fish, snails, crayfish, frogs, carrion and aquatic plants. The majority of their diet is aquatic matter because of the necessity to have their head submerged when swallowing. Painted

turtles do not have teeth to break up their food with. Instead, they rely on their powerful jaws and front claws to help tear their food. Turtles are air-breathers and have lungs. Because of this, they cannot and do not stay underwater for prolonged periods of time except during hibernation.

Have I aroused your curiosity about turtles? There are a number of good books available to provide more information or ask at Point Pelee Interpretive Centre or Ojibway Nature Centre.

Deb Gorman Smith



Carex crus-corvi Shuttlew.

(Cyperaceae). Crow-spur Sedge

A sedge new to Essex County. New to Ontario. New to Canada.

On 20 May 1985, I found a sedge that I did not recognize. Indeed, the top part, the inflorescence, was more grass-like than sedge-like in appearance at that early stage of development. It was growing in a depression at the edge of a small woods on the west side of Big Creek in Tilbury West Township, Essex County. That part of the woods is on the old floodplain of the creek. Although the depressions on the floodplain are water-filled in the spring months, it no longer functions as a floodplain because of the high banks on both sides of the creek that have been built up with soil that was dredged from the creek over the years.

At the time of discovery only one clump of about 20 stalks was seen. I collected several stalks, unconscious of the fact that the species could be rare! However, no underground parts were collected. I showed my specimens to Michael J. Oldham, at the Essex Region Conservation Authority, in Essex. Mike was as mystified as I.

On 10 June, Dr. A.A. (Tony) Reznicek, from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Ms. Jocelyn Webber, from the University of Toronto were in Essex County to do some sedge hunting. When I showed them a specimen of the new sedge they both said without hesitation: "Carex crus-corvi". It is the first record for Canada.

On a later visit to the site, 12 June, in company of Mike Oldham, at least 20 more clumps of Carex crus-corvi were located. They were within the woods, but in the same depression where the original plants were found. A few clumps were also found in a woods just to the south, this second woods being part of

the Tilbury West Conservation Area, which is administered by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

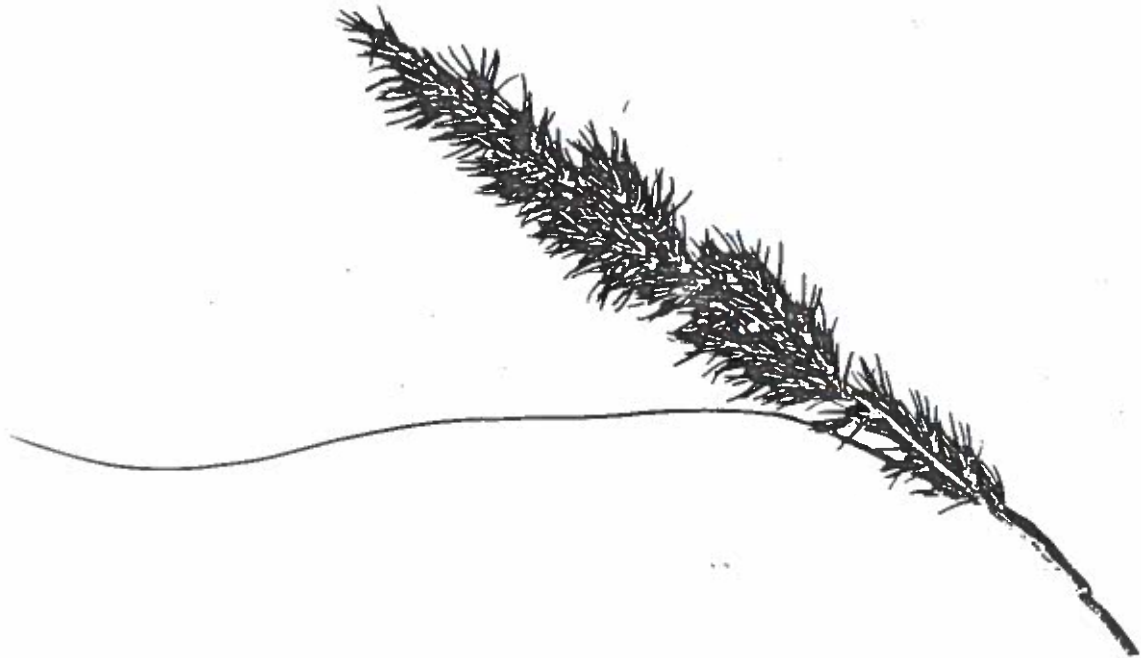
On a still later visit to the woods, 25 June, in company of Mike Oldham, Tony and Susan Reznicek, Dr. Paul Catling, and Vivian Brownell, many more plants were located. The total number of clumps so far seen is probably in excess of 50.

Carex crus-corvi is found from Florida to Texas, north to Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and now Ontario, but is not common anywhere due to its restricted habitat of low, wet woods on floodplains, pond edges and sloughs.

Addendum:

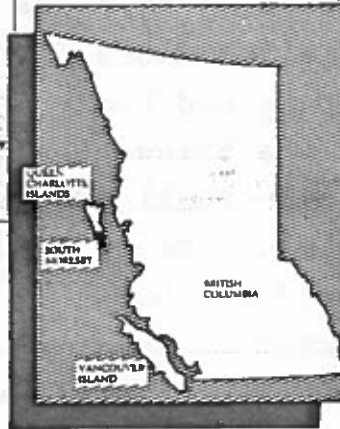
A few days following the above events Mike and Tony were exploring a floodplain in southern Lambton County, when they discovered a second Canadian location for Carex crus-corvi!

Wilf Botham



Would you let them destroy the pyramids of Egypt?

British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands hold treasures every bit as special as the pyramids. Yet these treasures may be lost forever!



Already centuries old when Columbus arrived in North America, the Sitka spruce, western hemlock and red cedar are among the largest trees on earth. But they are targeted for logging in South Moresby, the wildest and most beautiful part of the Queen Charlottes.

At this moment what is happening on the poor, old Charlottes resembles a desperate attempt to loot a treasure house before the owners, you and I, realize what's going on and take measures to stop it.

— Bill Reid, Haida sculptor

WHAT MAKES SOUTH MORESBY UNIQUE?

The world's largest concentration of the rare Peale's peregrine falcon and the largest nesting concentration of bald eagles in Canada;

Over one-quarter of all the nesting seabirds on the Canadian Pacific coast;

More than one-half of Canada's Steller's sea lions;

Eleven species of whales;

The world's largest black bears;

Plants, birds, mammals and insects found only on the Queen Charlotte Islands;

- Several hundred archaeological sites, including the Haida Indians' Ninstints village, a UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- Some of the most majestic scenery on earth.

WHY LOG IT?

South Moresby has only 2/10 of 1 percent of British Columbia's productive forest land. There are means to compensate the logging companies without loss of jobs.

WILL WE LOSE IT?

The federal and provincial governments must be shown that Canadians care about South Moresby.

Federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan and BC Environment Minister Austin Pelton have said that they place top priority on preserving the area. But they need strong public support to convince their governments that South Moresby needs to be preserved.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT; PLEASE ACT NOW!

Preserving bits and pieces (of South Moresby) is not good enough. It is like preserving a stately historic building and surrounding it with parking lots.

— Robert Bateman, artist

YOU CAN HELP.

Tell Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Premier William Bennett of British Columbia:

Stop the logging of South Moresby NOW. Preserve this world treasure as a park for ourselves and future generations.

WRITE or TELEPHONE:

Right Honourable Brian Mulroney
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
(613) 992-4211

Honourable William Bennett
Premier
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4
(604) 387-1715

You can support the effort to save South Moresby by sending donations to:
The Save South Moresby Fund
c/o The Canadian Nature Federation
75 Albert Street, Suite 203
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G1
Telephone (613) 238-6154
Donations are tax deductible, and receipts will be issued on request.



AN IBIS SIGHT RECORD FOR THE ST. CLAIR
CANADIAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA, DOVER
TOWNSHIP, KENT COUNTY, ONTARIO.

by Carol Kopchuk and John Pilkington

On Saturday, November 16th, in spite of driving rain, we left Windsor for an overnight trip to Pinery Provincial Park. Intending to check the St. Clair River south of Sarnia for ducks on the way up, we left Hwy 401 at Tilbury and headed north to pick up Hwy 40. Once across the bridge at Prairie Siding we began to see hunters in small groups and realized there would be little chance of seeing ducks on the river. Carol suggested we check the St. Clair N.W.A. instead and we cut west towards the refuge. As we approached, the sky began to clear slightly and just after 2p.m. as we pulled into the parking lot only a light drizzle remained. The area was alive with waterfowl, mostly puddle ducks, that rose up in alarm even as we climbed out of the car.

By 2:15 we were only about 100 yards in on the entrance path that runs out to meet the main roadway that runs north to south through the marsh. I was checking a pied grebe on our right. Carol was looking over a bunch of coot next to it when she asked "What's this with the curved bill?" I swung my binoculars to the right just as the bird raised its head again and simultaneously we exclaimed...IBIS. We had both seen one on a trip to Florida several years ago and I had the good fortune to be at the "Purple House" near Hillman's Marsh as a beginning birder in the mid '70's when a Glossy Ibis flew in. The genus was no problem but which species?

After a few minutes of viewing and making some notes in case it took off, I set up the scope, a Bushnell 20-45x zoom, and checked for details

as Carol looked up the difference between White Faced and Glossy Ibis in our Field Guide. The consensus of two books seemed to be that, outside of the breeding season, the two species can only be separated by the colour of the eye (brown in the Glossy...red in the White Faced) and by a very thin white line from the eye to the bill in the Glossy that would probably be impossible to distinguish at the range we were watching from...about 100 yards. Even when the clouds moved off and the whole area was suddenly bathed in bright sunlight we could not make out these tiny details to our satisfaction.

From our vantage point on the built-up path we had an unobstructed view across mostly open water as the few cattails on this side had long since dried up and been broken off short by the strong winds off the lake. As the sun came out the bird changed from a dull black to a bronzy brown on the head, neck and body and a glossy green on the wings...a full tone value deeper than the body. There was now no question that this was an adult bird as there was no hint of a paler, streaked pattern on the neck and breast. The long, heavy down-curved bill was a medium brown as were the long legs with their strangely bulging "knee" joints. The legs are somewhere between a coot's and a heron's in length and raise the ibis a little more than its own body height so that the feeding pose looks awkward with the head lowered and the bill actually upside down. In this position it picked through the vegetation mats, worrying and probing with the tip. We were unable to see the food supply but presumed it to be insect larvae or grubs as it worked each tiny platform of vegetation thoroughly before moving on to the next.

After reaching the end of a row of these small clumps, it rose into the air against the strong wind, soared about 50ft. up and, flapping slowly, swung back to the point where we first spotted it and began the whole process again on the same chain of vegetation

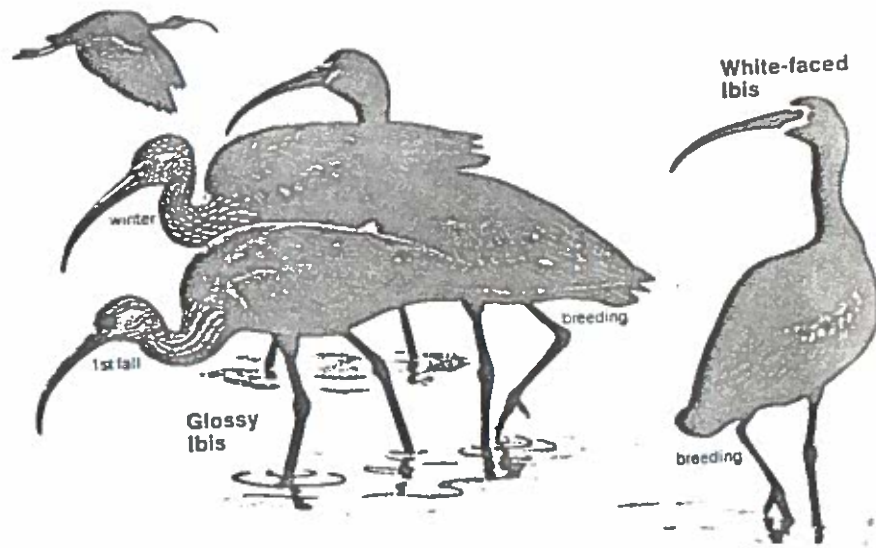
mats, half jumping and half flapping from one to the other. In the air the head and bill hung down in front while the long legs dangled oddly behind, well out from the short tail feathers.

After reaching the end of the chain of clumps for the second time, the bird made a longer hop to a new chain of mats and later to a small clump in a long gliding flight. Here, a strange thing happened as the ibis came down almost on top of a feeding coot and bullied it out of the way. After a few minutes of preening it resumed feeding for a moment then lifted off into the wind with strong flapping movements, then side-slipped across the wind to fly right over our heads. Crossing the path, it glided about 500 yards into the next marsh where it dropped out of sight in the heavy cattail cover. At this time, 2:50 p.m., we had observed this rare visitor for about 35 minutes.

Before leaving this area we had checked off nearly every pond duck on the Pt. Pelee checklist plus flocks of Canada Geese and Tundra Swans by the thousand. Two other surprises, an American Bittern and an immature Common Yellowthroat were added to our list just before we left at 4:30 p.m....as if we weren't already convinced we'd be back to check out this exciting area again in the future.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

On 19 Nov. Alan Wormington went to look for the ibis and flushed it alongside the entrance path. He got close enough to see the thin white line from the eye to the bill --- it was a Glossy.



MORE BIG TREES

In the spring EGRET, Don Wilkes wrote an article on big trees in Essex County. I recently received a copy of the 1985 Honour Roll of Ontario Trees, which contains some additional record size trees in our local areas. The Honour Roll is updated and published annually by the Ontario Forestry Association, and is available free of charge from them (at Suite 209, 150 Consumers Road, Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1P9). Some additional big trees in Essex County are:

- Black Alder, Kingsville, girth 226 cm, height 18.4 m
- Blue Ash, Middle Island, girth 270 cm, height 20 m
- Dwarf Hackberry, Pelee Island, girth 37 cm, height 6 m
- Hawthorn, Amherstburg, girth 160 cm, height 9.3 m
- Hop Tree, Middle Island, girth 75 cm, height 10 m
- Kentucky Coffee Tree, McGregor, girth 205 cm, height 25 m
- Chinquapin Oak, Pelee Island, girth 412 cm, height 20 m
- Pin Oak, Maidstone Cons. Area, girth 335 cm, height 28.4 m
- Red Oak, Arner, girth 211 cm, height 25.9 m
- Shumard Oak, Paquette Corners, girth 235 cm, height 15.6 m
- European White Poplar, Harrow, girth 488 cm, height 27.1 m

Mike Oldham



ASTRONOMY WORD SEARCH

There are 25 words that are associated with astronomy hidden in the puzzle square. The words may be found forward, backward, or diagonally. One letter may be used for more than one name. Circle each word as you find it and cross it off the list. Then you could find out where the planets and constellations (groups of stars) are in the sky. Good luck!

Aries
 Auriga
 Bootes
 Cassiopeia
 comets
 Dippers
 Earth
 Gemini
 Jupiter
 Leo
 Mars
 Mercury
 moons
 moving
 Neptune
 Orion
 planets
 Pluto
 Saturn
 sky
 stars
 sun
 Taurus
 Uranus
 Venus

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

CLUB CALENDER

Hotline 252 - BIRD
 Ojibway 966 - 5852
 Pt Pelee 322 - 2365

	First week	Second week	Third week	Fourth week
DEC.	7-18 Christmas in the Country Fox Creek C.A. 12-4	11. ECFNC Monthly Meeting Members Night Marlborough C.C. 7:30 14-15. Christmas in the Country Fox Creek C.A. 12-4	Are you feeding our feathered & furred friends yet? Lots of seed available at great prices at Ojibway N.C.	22. Rondeau Christmas Bird Count 23. Pelee Christmas Bird Count
JAN.	* At the time of printing this issue ERCA did not have their 1986 activities all planned. Please call them at 776-5209 for more information. 5. Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count	7. Winter Birds Course Ojibway N.C. 7:30 8. ECFNC Monthly Meeting Marlborough C.C. 7:30 11. C.C. Ski Course Ojibway N.C. 10:00		19. Winter Festival Ojibway N.C. 10-5 26. ECFNC Snow & Show c.c. ski, films, family activities Ojibway N.C. 1:00-5:00
FEB.		12. ECFNC Monthly Meeting Marlborough C.C. 7:30		
MARCH		12. ECFNC Monthly Meeting Marlborough C.C. 7:30	22. ECFNC Field Trip Lake St. Clair for swans, geese <i>Halley's Comet to be viewed at Point Pelee Time 188: Leader - James Meredith</i>	

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Field Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 3421, Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 3C4.

Address correction requested.