



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex Count Field Naturalists' Club

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ECFNC Makes Donations to Nature Conservancy of Canada, Friends of Oakwood Bush and Canada South Land Trust

On March 23, 2004, members of the ECFNC Heritage Fund Committee met to consider a donation to the Nature Conservancy of Canada on behalf of the proposed purchase of the Ed Hunter property at Cedar Creek. The Committee then made a recommendation to the ECFNC executive on March 31, 2004 which was approved by the executive that \$10,000 be donated to the NCC towards the purchase of the Cedar Creek property with a further \$2,000 to be donated to the Oxley Poison Sumac stewardship fund and \$1,000 toward the Clear Creek purchase.

At a meeting of the ECFNC Heritage Fund Committee on May 18, 2004, the Heritage Fund Committee made a motion to provide funding amounting to \$4,100.00 to the Canada South Land Trust. ECFNC executive approved the resolution on May 26, 2004. This generous donation will allow the Canada South Land Trust to begin the process of accepting a conservation easement from Bill and Jack Balkwill which will be registered on the Balkwill property's title.

Funding will enable the CSLT to engage the services of lawyer Paul Peterson, who specializes in the writing of conservation easements. As well funding will provide for the services of forester Casey Colthurst who will work with the Balkwill brothers and the CSLT to draw up a forestry management plan. Funds will also provide for the services of Windsor lawyer Dana Young who will register the conservation easement as well as enabling Dana to become familiar with conservation easements.

As well, the ECFNC executive supported a resolution that \$1,000.00 be donated to the Friends of Oakwood Bush who are fund raising to complete the Oakwood Bush acquisition.



RED ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY

About the Club . . .

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was incorporated December 9, 1984. We are a registered charitable organization which promotes the appreciation and conservation of our natural heritage. ECFNC provides the community opportunities to be acquainted with and understand our natural world through identification, maintenance and preservation of natural areas of Essex County and surrounding regions. ECFNC is affiliated with Ontario Nature - Federation of Ontario Naturalists. *The Egret* is published quarterly. To receive information on the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club or to submit articles, letters, reports, etc., please write to:

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Committees

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Costa Rican Ecotour

Rob Dunlop

Courtesy of Eldertreks, an ecotour travel company based in Toronto (www.eldertreks.com or phone 1-800-741-7956), Shirley and I realized a long standing desire to visit Costa Rica. Leaving from the deep freeze of Detroit on February 16, 2004 at 6:30 a.m. we flew south to a short stopover in Miami; thence to San Jose with its 80 degree warmth.

The city cabs were modern and efficient and soon we were transported to a charming hotel on the hills above the capital. Gardens in full bloom afforded us our first birding treats: great kiskadees, golden-bellied flycatchers, and Nicaraguan grackles. Luckily a New Yorker in our group was an expert birder and added to the expertise of our Costa Rican guide, Victor. Since we had arrived a day early we visited the Gold and Jade Museums downtown; they recount the history of the natives as well as the Spanish incursions.

The next day 16 ecotourists bundled into a comfortable Toyota bus to begin the trek across to the Caribbean side. Victor assured us that the drive would be broken many times in order to see as many sights as possible. In addition, if he or the driver spotted anything of interest along the route, the brakes would be put on.

For a country the size of Lake Michigan, Costa Rica offers many microclimates and ecological zones. Tortuguero National Park was an example of a very wet rain forest; we reached it by a boat ride on an artificially made canal that parallels the more dangerous Caribbean Sea. Comfortable cabins near the park awaited us, surrounded by gorgeous treed gardens. Rufus-tailed hummingbirds, lattice-tailed trogons and Montezuma oropendolas delighted us! Our nature walks both on the resort grounds and at the National Park were filled with new flora and fauna: orchids, howler monkeys, tree frogs, toucans, egrets, herons, and many exotic birds and butterflies.

Victor was the Paul Pratt of Costa Rica! Without him we would have missed the camouflaged tree frogs, termite nests five feet up in trees, and so many hidden songbirds whose notes he recognized. He was conversant with the latest research, too. For example, scientists have recently discovered orchids can extract minerals from air electromagnetically. And some parasitic ticks can use hummingbirds to hitch rides between flowers, in the process of pollinating them!

Our second stop was in the LaFortuna area; on the way we visited a banana plantation and learned the complexities of growing that fruit. One interesting tidbit: wash your bananas when you get them home to remove the natural preservative coating them; they will then continue to ripen. A banana ethanol is made from the sap coming from the severed stem and preserves the bananas in transit. At the beautiful Hotel Tilajari we encountered jeweled birds in the sumptuous gardens and at breakfast the blue-gray and red-rumped tanagers, clay-coloured robins, black-headed trogons and long-tailed tyrants feasted on fruit on the patios.

The bus took us to the Arenal Volcano National Park where we walked on the remains of the last major eruptions. The 1968 one killed 81 villagers and formed the basis for Lake Arenal because the lava created an impermeable layer in a valley and filled with water. Subsequently manmade extensions were made to develop hydro power and today Costa Rica can even export electricity from Lake Arenal.

The afternoon saw many of us on horseback, touring various farms and pasture lands. So you can imagine our delight when we got to soak in the hot springs that evening, generously provided to the Tabacon Hot Spring Resort by volcanic thermal power!

The Arenal Hanging Bridges were a great trek through 600 acres of protected rain forest via upward slopes and seven suspension bridges. Some level of physical fitness is required in hilly Costa Rica, but Victor made ample time for slowpokes and there were options for those who found parts of the trip tough sledding.

While not exactly ecological (since you were moving rather fast!), some of the group experienced the "Zipline" where you are moving through the canopy strapped to a cable and zipping from platform to platform!

Our last stop was three days in the Monteverde area. Here the butterfly farms, Monteverde Nature Reserve, horseback riding through lush hills and valleys, and hummingbird sightings were the highlights. Walking through the Cloud Forest was magical and many birds, butterflies and flowers were sighted. It was wonderful to meet many student volunteers working at the Butterfly Farm; we had a Vancouver student take us around and our other group had a Polish girl. The level of ecological awareness is high in Costa Rica and even villages of 400 had recycling programs of merit. Victor also pointed out an agricultural college of world repute that has helped in the banana industry and in teak production as well.

A visit to a coffee plantation on our way back to San Jose was informative. The mandatory stop at a craft store proved enriching to the birders because neighboring fig trees were replete with toucans and songbirds! The crafts at a Women's Cooperative were excellent and the women were also proud of their political achievements in getting women the vote.

After a winding journey we ended up at a restaurant with a "buena vista" of San Jose for our last supper together. New friends had been made, adventures shared, and a real appreciation for the beauty and friendliness of Costa Rica had been formed. E-mails were passed out and farewells made, but Shirley and I promised ourselves that we would return someday to partake of the hospitality of the "Ticos!"

Two websites of interest are:

<http://centralamerica.com/cr/index.htm>

http://strayreality.com/dir_rainforest.htm

Eco-México: a Queen Anner Meets Up with Some of our Neighborhood Birds ... a Mite South

Maritza Ryciak

"Get ready to duck," yells Michael Malone, our Canadian tour guide, who bears a striking resemblance to "Crocodile" Dundee. "Pull in your shoulders and look forward, or you'll get whacked," he says.

Whacked? An aerial root hanging down from the mangrove tree in front of me swings into my shoulder and punctures my skin. Whacked.

"There are boa constrictors in these trees," says Malone with a shrug. "Let's try to keep them out of the boat. They aren't venomous - they just crush the life out of their prey, and they are kind of a hassle to deal with." I picture a boa constrictor falling into our 12-person boat; somehow hassle is not the first word that comes to mind.

It is 8:30 a.m. in the morning, and sun drops dance upon the still water of Manialtepec Lagoon. Manialtepec - translation: "a place where the water springs from the hills" - is a four-mile-long saltwater lagoon about 10 minutes west, by car, of Puerto Escondido, a small fishing village on the southern Pacific coast of Mexico. I am on a Hidden Voyages Ecotour birding adventure, and we, the binoculars-holding passengers, must duck as we enter a maze of mangrove trees.

Within the swamp, aerial roots cascade from the treetops while ground roots erupt from the muddy water. It is dark under the tree canopy, and a few moments pass before I see that the trees are ... pulsing: trunks and branches are coated with golf ball-sized, mangrove tree crabs. Their needlelike legs click as they move and feed on leaves.

"We have come to chaco de la plata, 'the silver pool,' an isolated part of the lagoon, to look for a specialized heron," explains Malone. I am still scanning the trees for dangling boas when someone spots the heron.

"Look at the beak, eh," says the Canadian woman in front of me. The boat-billed heron is a quirky bird with the standard body of a heron and a beak like Donald Duck. "It uses its big crushing bill to feed on mangrove crabs," explains Malone, the birdman of Puerto Escondido. He specializes in lagoons and has been running tours like this one for 19 years.

"We started this business," he says, "because people really wanted to see the beautiful birds in their natural environment." Ironically, Malone and his wife first came to Mexico for the same reason the birds do: "We were escaping winter," he says with a smile.

As the tour continues, I am surprised to see dozens of great blue herons, diving ducks, egrets, osprey and ibis. Malone is not the only Northerner who appreciates the warmth of Mexico during the winter months. "Many of our northern birds vacated their frozen forests, and they are down here in the mangroves," explains Malone. "This is a very important time for them to rebuild their strength."

I always knew that birds migrated, but somehow I never imagined a great blue heron flying alongside a tropical parrot. An orange-fronted parakeet flits around our boat while parrots the color of fresh green grass fly overhead. Lalo, our boatman, makes owl calls to bring birds out of the trees: "Pssshhheeepppp - Pssshhheeepp." A cinnamon hummingbird darts out of a tree and lands in front of our boat. Its magical wings are the color of sparkling cider. A snow-white egret gracefully lands in a nearby tree while a great blue heron stands next to a sunning iguana.

"These lagoons are critical to our North American birds," explains Malone. "The great blue heron could be down from British Columbia. The lesser scaup, osprey or fish hawk could be down from Washington." Or down from Queen Anne! I have fed these beautiful birds in the canal by the Seattle Pacific University campus since I was 8 years old.

According to Malone, Mexico has the fourth-richest biodiversity of anywhere in the world. There are more than 80 species of bats, and more than 700 of reptiles. "Both plants and animals are arriving from two different continents," says Malone. "We have anteaters from South America and white-tailed deer from North America."

As we round a bend in the river, I suddenly have a clear view of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Unfortunately, this perfect view is due to a swamp forest clear-cut. "Swamp forest is one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world, and we tear it down for cattle grazing," says Malone. "We lose thousands of species [that way]."

Cattle dung floats by me, and the mood of the tour has suddenly changed. "We have been trying for 15 years to get protection for this lagoon," says Malone. Each year, near Christmas, ranchers come into the lagoon and, using a backhoe, artificially drain all of the water into the ocean.

"Fish and shrimp are left high and dry," says Malone. And so are the birds. A feast-and-famine situation is created. The fish lose their home and the birds, after a few days of gorging on beached fish, lose their food. The lagoon ecosystem breaks down.

"If this area were in the U.S. or Canada, it would be a state park," clarifies Malone. "It would be protected." Lalo has begun a group called the watershed committee for the protection of Manialtepec Lagoon. It includes 17 different communities living on the river and on the lagoon. And last year Malone and his associates offered a birding course to guides working in and around Puerto Escondido. They provided binoculars, field guides and important environmental education about the surrounding ecosystems.

"Ecotourism is a new concept for Mexico," states Malone. "As an ecotourism operator I encourage the locals to leave the natural systems alone." The agapanthus lily, also known as Lily of the Nile, glows on top of the water, and fairy purple hyacinths peek from the tall, green grasses. "You aren't going to change the world," says Malone. "The ranchers who artificially drain the lagoon hold a lot of power."

Yet, as we start heading back, I am not so sure. Lalo, who is on a mission to clean up this river, maneuvers our boat near shore and picks up a bleach bottle floating among cattails. I am reminded of how powerful small gestures can be.

"Many of you should recognize this familiar friend from the North," says Malone, pointing to a duck known as the lesser scaup. "He's down here for about four months to enjoy the seafood." I recognize this "familiar friend," and almost instantly I am sitting on a bench with my father at the bottom of Queen Anne Hill. I have crumbled bread in my hand, and we, dad and daughter, are mesmerized by a family of ducks. It is a quiet moment, except for the quacking, and I feel close to my father.

Each year Malone documents the damage that is done when the lagoon is artificially drained. Each year more people learn about the delicate balance of ecosystems and the importance they play in our lives. Each year our world gets smaller, and "over there" quickly becomes "right here." My familiar bird friends in Mexico brought back wonderful childhood memories and reminded me of how interconnected we all truly are.

Elderflower Drink

The following recipe was submitted by Peter Redfern.

Ingredients:

- 1 gallon (8 pints) or 4.5 litres of cold water
- 5 large heads of elderflower which are picked when the sun is out. Remove the flowers from the stalks.
- 1 pound of sugar but corn syrup (500 gram) from the bulk food store is better
- 1 lemon cut up
- 1/4 pint (150 ml. wine vinegar)

Instructions:

1. Mix together in a food grade plastic pail.
 2. Leave for three days.
 3. Strain using muslim or a fine sieve.
 4. Place into plastic screw top bottles (500 ml.)
 5. Leave in a cool place for three to six months. A beer fridge is good.
 6. Drink should clear and pressure will build up in bottle.
 7. When you open the bottle you may stir up some sediment, but it is all natural. You can reseal the drink later.
-

Bluebird Season Starts Again

Margaret Jennings

On a sunny Saturday morning, March 13, 2004, Don Bissonnette, Johannes Franz and I cleaned out the Eastern Bluebird houses on the Doyle, Murray and Satori properties in the Town of Essex. We soaped the inside top of some boxes to discourage wasps and greased the poles with vaseline and cayenne pepper.

A sparrow was sitting on one nesting box and there was already the beginnings of a nest. We spotted Eastern Bluebirds near two of the boxes. Many American Robins were seen in the fields.

Greenway Cleanup

ECFNC's Greenway cleanup coordinator JoAnn Grondin was delighted with a turnout of ten persons who journeyed to Harrow for a two hour cleanup blitz on March 28, 2004. JoAnn suggested that we should break into two groups, so four persons headed to the McCormick Side Road and the remaining six worked eastward along the Greenway from the parking lot in Harrow.

Just as the cleanup got underway, the cloud cover which had been covering the area for days cleared and we were able to work under sunny skies and in warm temperatures. *(Continued on page seven)*

Atlasing Adventures

Following a successful Breeding Birds of Ontario Atlasing workshop on March 27, 2004 at Ojibway Nature Centre, coordinators Karen Cedar and Paul Pratt organized a series of evening walks to seek evidence of American Woodcock, Eastern Screech-owl and Great Horned Owl. Atlasing participants were invited to attend these Tuesday evening events to learn the techniques for locating these species and record the level of breeding evidence.

The first evening walk was scheduled for March 30, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. which proved to be a dark rainy evening attended by the organizers and two atlasers. While Paul Pratt went off to check out another site, Karen and the atlasers drove to the Tremblay Conservation Area, where the group climbed the tower and listened in the rain for the calls of Eastern Screech-owl as Karen played the owl call tape. Success! A single Eastern Screech-owl called repeatedly, then changed its location, calling from the trees around the nearby cottage.

We rejoined Paul, then drove to the Rowson Bush Conservation Area. Here we stopped on the roadway at the Conservation Area entrance and again listened in the rain as American Woodcock called. After parking our vehicles, we played the Eastern Screech-owl tape without success, then moved further along the edge of the woodland to again play the tape which attracted an Eastern Screech-owl that flew in over our heads, landing on a limb just in front of us. A flashlight beam allowed a glimpse of this small owl before it flew off. In the background, we could hear squabbling raccoons.

A week later on April 6, 2004, the location of the evening walk was at Fairplay Woods in the Town of Tecumseh. We meet at 8:00 p.m. with fine weather attracting five atlasers and two dogs accompanying their owners. Due to daylight saving time, the walk began at dusk, resulting in sightings of Fox Sparrows and a Red Bat which whirled around, then disappeared into the woodlot. Once we reached the agricultural lands, an American Woodcock was heard and as we returned there were distant calls from Eastern Screech-owls in response to the tape. Certainly the habitat at Fairplay Woods is favourable to Eastern Screech-owls as scattered large oaks in a former savannah likely have broken limbs and cavities that Eastern Screech-owls would utilize.

The coordinators and a few of the atlasers continued on to Maidstone C.A. There were no woodcocks calling at the field edges and for a while it seemed as though no screech-owl would respond to the tape. But finally patience paid off and a screech-owl flew in over our heads providing nice views for everyone.

The final stop of the evening was behind the Maidstone landfill. Although no woodcock were heard there were several frogs and ducks calling.

(Greenway Cleanup...continued from page six)

Members of the group collecting litter along the Greenway near Harrow reported their litter consisted mostly debris from the local elementary school which had become lodged around Greenway shrubs. Besides the usual chip and sandwich bags, we gathered plastic bottles and pop cans. Several pieces of rusted metal were found, along with several discarded tractor parts. We left a large garbage bag on the shoulder of the Greenway for ERCA staff to retrieve while other debris was carried back to the Harrow parking lot. Recyclable materials were retrieved and taken away for blue box pickup.

Members of the group collecting litter closer to McCormick Side Road reported mainly farm debris consisting of plastic baskets. One tire was retrieved from the ditch.

Birds seen or heard during the two hour cleanup were a single Turkey Vulture moving east along the Greenway, some noisy foraging Ring-billed Gulls on nearby agricultural lands, Mourning Doves, an Eastern Phoebe at the back edge of the elementary school property, Golden-crowned Kinglets in shrubbery along the Greenway, American Robins foraging on the Greenway, and several Northern Cardinals.

Friends of Ojibway Prairie Annual General Meeting

Betty Learmouth

Nancy Panchesan, President of the Friends of Ojibway Prairie, was chairperson of the organization's Annual General Meeting held on April 4, 2004. A number of events and topics were reported as part of an update of Friends and related Ojibway Nature Centre activities.

Nancy reported that the south side of Black Oak Heritage Park has been fenced, a consequence of the off road vehicle traffic that has caused considerable damage in Black Oak. Construction of a fence on the west side is underway with plans to plant next spring. Parks Canada is assisting with the costs of this expensive undertaking.

Under the Habitat Stewardship Program, a technician will be hired for the summer to work on the Massasauga rattle snake project.

A successful school program to introduce elementary school students to the endangered Massasauga rattle snake was conducted from January to March 2004. In late 2004, another program developed for Grade 4 students which will include a field trip component, will be offered with the intention to reach all Grade 4's.

There are plans to transform the grassland gardens near the Ojibway Nature Centre building. More native plants will be planted and signage will be included.

Highlights from 2003 included the 180 hours devoted to Massasauga rattle snake field research. Thelma's bench was dedicated in memory of Thelma Walker, a long time Friend of Ojibway and volunteer with the Friends. A combination scanner, fax and printer was donated by Friends of Ojibway executive member Russ Munro which has assisted Ojibway Nature Centre staff in their everyday work. Presently Ojibway Nature Centre is looking for the donation of a four drawer filing cabinet. Volunteers donated 682 hours to various projects around the nature centre.

Ojibway Nature Centre's Chief Interpreter Paul Pratt also provided some details of Ojibway Nature Centre activities over the past year. In 2003, \$250,000 was received from the Habitat Stewardship Program to purchase core properties within the Spring Garden Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). An application has been submitted for an additional \$250,000 for habitat purchase this year.

Paul reported that plans are underway to reestablish the Massasauga rattlesnake within the Ojibway Prairie which appears to be the best spot for this species long term survival. Presently there are 30 young Massasauga rattle snakes growing at the Toronto Metro Zoo along with four adult Massasauga rattle snakes.

The City of Windsor is considering the naturalization of up to 100 acres of park land within the city. This will connect natural corridors in parks as well as reducing the mowing in such places as Malden Park and along rail lines up to 100 feet from the rail line. This change in park management will require some education and the placement of signage.

Paul reported the prescribed burn at Ojibway is upcoming. There are plans to expand the Nature Centre and include a meeting room in the new expansion. The Nature Centre intends to apply for a grant to upgrade displays. A new piece of equipment that needs to be purchased is a digital projector and lap top computer as the present carousel projectors need to be replaced. A Human Resources Development Corporation grant would provide the labour to update the interior of the nature centre and develop hands-on displays for students.

Trails throughout the Ojibway Park have been upgraded over the winter. New directional maps are to be installed.

Following the meeting, Paul Pratt presented a slide presentation of a recent tour of Eastern Australia conducted by Paul and Tom Hince during the fall of 2003. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful descriptions and pictures of Australian wildlife seen by tour participants. Refreshments were served upon the conclusion of the annual general meeting.

Safe for Mayapples

Betty Learmouth

Readers of the March 2004 Egret will have noticed an invitation to join a group organizing an excursion to Pelee Island during early spring for the purpose of pulling Garlic Mustard. Trip organizer Bonnie Ross had a response from three persons, Shirley Grondin, Margaret Jennings and myself, who met with Bonnie on April 22, 2004 for the trip to Pelee Island.

Bonnie had made arrangements for a 2:00 p.m. departure aboard M.V. Jiimaan from the Leamington Dock. Upon our arrival on Pelee at 3:30 p.m., we drove immediately to Stone Road and chose the open savannah area of the Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savannah as our first assault on the Garlic Mustard. This savannah area is dry and rocky, but evidence of last year's abundant Garlic Mustard plants was all around us as we were surrounded by the dried stems of this invasive exotic. There were hundreds, if not thousands, of tiny garlic Mustard plants growing throughout the savannah, resembling as Bonnie remarked, tiny alfalfa sprouts. We literally brushed the plants from the thin soil. The familiar garlic odor arose from the crushed plants to our nostrils, confirming that we were indeed removing first year Garlic Mustard plants. We worked until 5:30 p.m., then headed to our B & B for the evening.

Next morning we were up early and on our way to Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve before 8:00 a.m. As we rounded the curve into the nature reserve, we were treated to a view of carpets of Dutchman's Breeches covering the vegetated dunes. In the nature reserve itself, walking along the trail, we enjoyed a further close up view of this wonderful display of early spring plants in bloom. The White Trillium were preparing to unfurl their petals, promising a fine floral display, perfect for the upcoming annual Pelee Island ECFNC weekend on May 1/2, 2004. Other plants of interest were Appendaged Waterleaf, Wild Garlic, Yellow Violet, Herb Robert, Cut-leaved Toothwort and Solomon's Seal.

We met Graeme Gibson Sr. on the trail who reported a Prothonotary Warbler along the marsh/woodland edge of Fox Pond. This bird had been seen by several persons over the last few days.

At 10:00 a.m. we headed back to Stone Road, where we worked along the edge of the Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savannah. Here the plants appeared to be second year plants, preparing to blossom. We worked diligently until noon. At one point, Shirley Grondin was behind the old wire fence, completely surrounded by unfolding Mayapple, busily pulling Garlic Mustard, making the site "safe for Mayapple." Plants noted along the roadway as we worked included Running Strawberry Bush, Wild Phlox, the leaves of Short's Aster and False Solomon's Seals.

During a quick cleanup conducted along the East West Road, six Common Garter snakes were seen basking in the sun, showing a range of colour phases from black to brown to tints of red and yellow. A large Clean Sweep bag was filled with debris including beer and pop cans, plastic bags, styrofoam containers and empty shot gun shells.

Bonnie suggested we had time to visit Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve where we enjoyed a walk to the restored lighthouse. Along the way we saw several Eastern Midland Painted Turtles and three very large, very black Bullfrogs enjoying the afternoon warmth.

From Lighthouse we drove to Sheridan Point for a short walk through the mature Hackberry forest that covers this area. Numerous turtles were observed basking on fallen logs in the old quarry. Then it was back to the West Dock and our journey home.

Birds seen or heard during our Pelee Island visit were: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Mallard, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant (we saw several pairs strolling around), Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Robin, Brown Thrasher (singing at dawn at Stonehill B& B from the top of a large maple in front of the house; a pair were seen near the house), Yellow-rumped Warbler (foraging at Fish Point), Eastern Towhee (on the vegetated dunes at Lighthouse), Red-winged Blackbird (we saw a flock of females at Fish Point as these birds arrived on their flight across Lake Erie), Common Grackle, and Purple Finch (Fish Point).

Earth Day, April 25, 2004

Earth Day, 2004 was celebrated at Ojibway Nature Centre on Sunday, April 25, 2004. Exhibitors and vendors began arriving in a light rain before 9:00 a.m. Drizzle and cloudy conditions persisted through the morning with early afternoon clearing to bright sunlight and balmy temperatures. By 11:30 a.m., all tables had displays in place. At noon the Town of Amherstburg Town Crier announced to all present (including any scalliwags or scoundrels) that Earth Day was underway. City of Windsor Transit buses brought 3,000 visitors from Mic Mac Park, eliminating excessive parking along Matchette Road.

A variety of activities ranging from face painting, the drumming of the Walpole singers and a silent auction as well as a guided nature hike were part of the day's events. The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was again part of the festivities, organizing their annual bake sale. Those who contributed baked goods included Linda Brightmore, Marg Calder, JoAnn Grondin, Shirley Grondin, Wanda Henderson, Lydia Hunt, Margaret Jennings, Cathy Lapain, Christine Lapain, Betty Learmouth, Kathy Lesperance, Jim McAllister, Betty Moore, Donna Roemelle, Bonnie Ross, and Mary Jane Winterton. The tables were full of containers of tempting cookies, cupcakes, quick breads, muffins, squares and even Betty Moore's homemade preserves with specially made decorative coverings crocheted by Sylvia Thyes. Those helping out with sales included Shirley Grondin, Denise Hartley, Margaret Jennings, Betty Learmouth, Bonnie Ross, Erica Schentag and Mary Jane Winterton. Thank you to Eleanor Sfalcin for her donation.

The Heritage Committee's display was looked after by Peggy Hurst. ECFNC member Patricia Rhoads was nearby with a display of plants from Woodland Farms. Other displays in the vicinity included the Canada South Land Trust display, Organic Growers, the Backyard Habitat Program, and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Over fifty displays were on view at this year's Earth Day.

A special thank you to all our ECFNC bakers and volunteers who helped to raise \$355.00 through their combined efforts for the Heritage Committee Fund.

Annual ECFNC Weekend Trip to Pelee Island

Bonnie Ross

On Saturday, May 1, 2004, twenty-one hardy souls gathered at the Leamington dock to board the Jiimaan for the annual Pelee Island weekend lead by Dave Kraus. The forecast was for a cool, cloudy and somewhat damp weekend. We were wondering where Carl Maiolani was.

After a smooth uneventful trip we were greeted at West Dock by John and Mary Celestino who joined us for the day. Twenty-two boarded the bus and we were off to check in at the Anchor & Wheel Inn.

Our first excursion was a walk to Sheridan Point, a tour of the cemetery and the Vin Villa ruins. Along the way Mary Celestino discovered a white Spring Forget-me-not (*Myosotis verna*), rare for Essex County. Dave Kraus also pointed out an old grove of Kentucky Coffeetrees.

After a substantial lunch at the Anchor & Wheel, we were off to Dave's property and looked at its restoration which features Rough-leaved Dogwood, and then on to Lighthouse Point. It was windy and cool, so some took the paths while others went exploring, circumventing Lake Henry Marsh. Much later they appeared off on the horizon, six multicoloured "Egrets" lead by their yellow-coated leader, all with red and white legs and blue beaks.

The usual shorebirds were there but we enjoyed watching several White-crowned Sparrows along the roadside.

A cold and weary group returned by bus to the Anchor & Wheel Inn for the "Big Island Buffet." After dinner some retired to quieter activities while others enjoyed a raucous game of Pit.

Sunday morning after a hearty breakfast, sixteen brave souls boarded the bus on a rainy, windy cold morning for an excursion to Fish Point. Some of the group chose to remain warm and dry at the Inn.

At Fish Point, the highlights were Great Egrets, Mallards, Lesser Scaup, Solitary Sandpipers, Eastern Kingbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Palm Warbler. White Trillium and Dutchman's-breeches were in bloom.

Wet and cold, we returned to the Anchor & Wheel to collect our luggage and the other group members and were shuttled to the Westview for lunch and to wait for the Jiimaan.

We soon found out that the Jiimaan did not make its mid day run due to the high westerly winds which made it difficult to dock. We waited anxiously to find out if it would leave Leamington at 4:00 p.m., or would we have to stay another night? Eventually we were all voted off the Island as the Jiimaan came over empty and did a quick turnaround; we left at 5:30 p.m.

A good time was had by all. Thank you to Dave Kraus, our leader, and Mark Emrich our "friendly" host at the Anchor & Wheel Inn.

Song & Shorebird Celebration, May 2004

The annual Song & Shorebird Celebration was held again this year at Hillman Marsh on May 8 and 9, 2004. Due to unsettled weather, all activities were held in the site's Interpretative Centre. Activities included bird banding by volunteers from the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, light refreshments provided by the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club and a hands-on children's table with materials organized by Bev Wannick. Rachel Powless arranged the colourful HBMO display boards along one side of the classroom, including the new "Monarch Magic."

HBMO banders had earlier set up mist nets in a nearby remnant woodland that has proven to be a magnet for migrants with recapture of banded birds indicating that migrants were returning to their summer territories. Phil Roberts, HBMO's principal bander and ECFNC President, was on hand at 9:00 a.m. (favouring a painful ankle that turned out to be a hairline fracture) to discuss the birds receiving bands. Among the first birds to be banded was a Gray Catbird which takes a 1A band. Phil remarked that the Gray Catbird likes to add snakeskin to its nest, but will substitute cellophane from cigarette packages.

The HBMO banders had a laptop computer set up for immediate banding data entry into which Cathy Evans entered data. As well, volunteer Rachel Powless was able to provide colourful Adopt-a-Songbird certificates which were very popular. HBMO volunteers included Cindy Cartwright, Kathy Evans, Bob Hall-Brooks, Dorothy McLeer, Carl Pascoe, and Jason Sodergren. Other volunteers for the day from Michigan were Sandy Church, Debi Hicks, and Beth Pent who were attracted to the Celebration by Rachel's enthusiasm for birds and the activities associated with them.

A number of children were at the banding demonstration including twelve Sparks, ages five and six, in pink sweatshirts who were accompanied by their three leaders. These young people enjoyed the hands-on children's activities as well as the banding demonstration which continued non stop throughout the morning and into the afternoon to a room crowded with spectators. Several children were invited to apply bands by the HBMO banders.

The male Common Yellowthroat was a favourite among banders and spectators alike with its black mask and lovely hues. Banders remarked that the female Common Yellowthroat is drab by comparison, causing some confusion in her identification. As the banders worked they were able to provide information about their materials such as the bands with range from size 0A to 9 with 30 variations in between. The number 9 band is a rivet band applied to eagles. Cindy Cartwright reminded everyone that hummingbirds are also banded but with a band that is made by the hummingbird bander.

Throughout the morning, ECFNC volunteers Marg Calder and Bonnie Ross served fresh coffee and homemade muffins as participants enjoyed close views of such species as Northern Waterthrush and a male Red-winged Blackbird. At lunch time, Shirley Grondin grilled hotdogs on the barbecue.

"Fuzzywinks," the Great Horned Owl, was on display outside the Interpretative Centre on both days of the Celebration with Bev Wannick who discussed the characteristics of this owl species.

Activities on Sunday morning, May 9, 2004 were off to a great start with 32 birds found in the first morning run at the mist nets. Bander Cindy Cartwright spoke about White-throated Sparrow and Northern Waterthrush as she applied bands to these species. Banders hold birds in cloth bags while processing the birds, inserting their hand into the bag to retrieve the bird. Sometimes "wrist runners," particularly tiny wrens, will allude banders as they attempt to extract the birds from these bags.

Banders were observed blowing on the breast of each bird as they attempted to determine if individual birds were exhibiting a brood patch. Individuals will actually loose feathers on the breast a day before laying eggs, allowing the eggs to be incubated against the warmth of the adult. As well, fatty deposits are checked which indicate the over-all health of the bird and its ability to face the rigors of migration. Individual male birds are examined for the descent of the testes with "0" is recorded if the testes are not visible to a score of 4 if the testes are fully visible.

Cindy discussed a female Yellow Warbler which was found to have pox of both legs. This is a progressive disease, thus a decision was made to release this bird without banding. The morning's surprise was a Baird's Sandpiper caught in the mist net. Cindy who has shorebird banding experience in Delaware showed spectators the proper manner in which to hold a shorebird. Both her hands were cradling the sandpiper, with its head the only visible portion of its body exposed. As there was no suitable band available (a stainless steel band that would not rust in salt water), the sandpiper was released unbanded. The proper release technique for sandpipers is one in which their feet are on the ground at the time of release.

At mid morning, Cindy Cartwright (who has received her master banding permit for hummingbird banding) spoke about hummingbird bands which are made individually by cutting along fine lines on a sheet which has been imprinted with numbers. Cindy told the group that hummingbird feeders had been hung near the Interpretative Centre, and if any activity was seen, then a Russell trap would be placed around the feeders. Luckily, a hummingbird was spotted at the feeders and about noon, a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was caught in the Russell trap. Cindy reported that the bird weighed 3.4 grams, a good weight for this tiny bird. The age of hummingbirds can be determined by the presence or absence of corrugations on the bill. This individual had no corrugations, indicating that it was an adult. Cindy told the group that due to the banding activity in the Gulf states, at least ten species of hummingbirds have been seen east of the Mississippi. In late fall in Ontario, if a hummingbird is seen about a feeder, the possibility is that the bird could be a Rufous Hummingbird.

Throughout the morning, ECFNC volunteer JoAnn Grondin served coffee and muffins. At noon hour Shirley Grondin was on duty as hot dog barbecuer. During the Celebration \$142.00 was raised for the Heritage Fund.

At 11:30 a.m. several Yellow Warblers were shown by Phil Roberts to the assembled group that had already been banded. A quick check of the data revealed that one bird had been banded on May 11, 2003 at Hillman. The second Yellow Warbler was wearing a band of a style that had not been used in five years. Recovery of these individuals prompted Phil to remark that these warblers show remarkable fidelity for their nesting site.

Rachel Powless entertained the group by relating her "flicker story" which resulted in the capture of a beautiful male Northern Flicker. As Rachel was walking towards the last mist net during a net check in the remnant woodland setup, a flicker crossed the path ahead of Rachel.. Rachel ran towards the flicker, causing it to fly into the net. In order to ensure the fllicker did not escape from the net, Rachel literally threw herself on the ground, then crawled under the net while holding the flicker in the net.

The summary below of Hillman Marsh banding for the weekend May 8 and 9, 2004 was provided by Carl Pascoe.
May 8, 2004

Species	Nos. banded	Species	Nos. banded	Species	Nos. banded
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	Palm Warbler	1
Northern Waterthrush	2	Common Yellowthroat	4	Gray Catbird	3
Song Sparrow	4	Swamp Sparrow	2	White-throated Sparrow	10
Northern Cardinal	1	Red-winged Blackbird	4	Common Grackle	1
Total banded	33				
Total Species	12				

May 9, 2004

Species	Nos. banded	Species	Nos. banded
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	Northern Flicker	1
Least Flycatcher	4	Warbling Vireo	1
Tree Swallow	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9
Veery	2	Swainson's Thrush	1
Gray Catbird	7	Nashville Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	8	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	Magnolia Warbler	5
Palm Warbler	5	Black-and-white Warbler	3
American Redstart	2	Oven Bird	1
Northern Waterthrush	5	Common Yellowthroat	15
Wilson's Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	5	Swamp Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	46	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Red-winged Blackbird	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Total banded	135	Total species	28
Total banded for the weekend	168	Total species for weekend	31

A Spring Walk in the Balkwill Woods

Responding to an invitation extended to the members of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, the Canada South Land Trust and readers of The Essex Free Press and The Kingsville Reporter as well as the Town of Kingsville mayor and councillors, twenty-five persons joined Bill Balkwill for an afternoon walk in the Balkwill Woods. Special guests were Town of Kingsville Councillors Bob Allen, Katherine Gunning and Bob Peterson, and Bob's wife Audrey. Volunteer guides were Terry Anderson, Peggy Hurst, Betty Learmouth and Patricia Rhoads. Dave Ainslie greeted visitors as they drove into the parking area, distributing plant lists.

As walk participants waited for the walk to begin, everyone was entertained by a pair of Eastern Bluebirds who were busily engaged feeding their young in a nearby nesting box. Luckily, the cloud cover that had been in the region for several days cleared at 2:00 p.m., enabling visitors to enjoy a walk in dappled sunlight in the Balkwill woodlot, while enjoying the newly emerging leaves of a variety of tree species, flowering plants and shrubs.

The 140 acre Balkwill farm was purchased in the 1920's by Bill and Jack's father. The Balkwill woodlot is reached by a walk along the farm's lane, which is flanked by elderly Sugar Maples. The lane is all that remains of a logging road that passed through this section of the Cedar Creek watershed, providing access to nearby woodlands and two mills in the vicinity.

At the north end of the lane, Bladdernut shrubs were in bloom, clusters of creamy blossoms hanging from a number of shrubs in the thicket. Mid way along the lane's east side is a stand of Sassafras trees, the only location of this tree species on the property. The leaves were unfurling in contrast to those of the Sugar Maples which were more advanced. Plants growing along the lane's edge are Horsemint which Bill remarked will grow to a height of six feet, and Horse-balm. Yellow Morel was found growing under Sugar Maple saplings

The Balkwill woodlot has several access lanes which make walking and exploring easy. The southern portion of the woodlot is dry while the northern part is wet. Visitors were able to walk several of the lanes, retreating when conditions became too wet. Among the plants observed blooming were Swamp Buttercup, False Solomon's Seal, Golden Ragwort (this species was growing in a particularly wet area which only those wearing rubber boots were able to access), Jack-in-the-pulpit, Mayapple, Solomon's Seal, Spring Avens, Narrow-leaved Spring Beauty, Running Strawberry Bush, Sweet Cicely, White Trillium, Wild Geranium, Blue Phlox, and Yellow Trout Lily. The Wild Geranium was particularly showy in the transition area between wet and dry forest. Blue Phlox graced the woodland edge. Remnants of Yellow Trout Lily hinted at

transition area between wet and dry forest. Blue Phlox graced the woodland edge. Remnants of Yellow Trout Lily hinted at the spectacular display of this plant species in late April which boasts three colour morphs in this woodlot: yellow, yellow with a crimson tinge and a creamy variation. Vines observed were Common Carrion Flower, Poison Ivy, Upright Carrion Flower, and Virginia Creeper.

Along the woodlot's southern edge visitors enjoyed the blooms of various species of Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.) which are under study by Bill. American Crabapple and Choke Cherry were in bloom as well. Trees observed in the woodlot included White Oak, Red Oak, Bur Oak, Black Oak (a single individual) Pin Oak, Swamp White Oak, Shumard Oak, Red Maple, Beech, Shagbark Hickory, Big Shellbark Hickory, White Ash, Red Ash, and Pumpkin Ash. The remnants of last year's Beechdrops, a parasitic plant, were seen at the base of several Beech trees in the woodlot's dry portion.

Upon completion of the woodland walk, Bill was accompanied by ECFNC members Linda and Ernie Kennette, Donna Sale and Larry Onysko who examined several plants in the prairie restoration site, located to the south of the newly created pond, identifying the plants as Compass Plant and Tall Coreopsis, spectacular prairie species that will reach six feet in height by mid August.

We wish to thank Bill for his invitation to visit and enjoy his woodlot's flowering plants, shrubs and trees. Thank you to David Ainslie who provided homemade cookies from Goldenrod Farms as refreshments upon the conclusion of the walk.

They're Returning

Jim Oates

What a pleasant surprise, my little friends are back. All lined up in proper order on the hydro line that runs from the house to the barn. I shouldn't have been surprised, they always return the same time each spring. When I approached, the Barn Swallows dropped off the line to hover about my head. With excited chirps, they scolded me for not having the barn door open for them when they arrived. With the barn door open, they fluttered about still chirping, then dashed in to inspect the nest sites. Soon they were carrying mouthfuls of mud to repair last year's nests or to build totally new ones.

The Barn Swallow is a delightful little bird whose aerobatic skills are matchless. Their ability to drink while skimming over a pond at top speed is a wonder to behold. They have the ability to catch insects on the wing. They swoop and snatch their prey without missing a beat. On a clear day the Barn Swallow can be seen at a great height, while on a dull day they feed at lower altitudes. You can almost predict the weather by just watching them. With a huge mouthful of mosquitoes or other insects, they will dive at breakneck speed as they go through barn door and up into the hayloft. The ever hungry hatchlings are there with their gaping mouths ready to receive whatever mom or dad has to offer.

The Barn Swallow is very easy to identify, the total length is 14.8 to 19.5 cm. They have a chestnut patch on the forehead. The rest of the upper parts and tail are a dark steelblue, each tail feather except for central pair has a patch of white on the inner web. The throat and middle breast is chestnut, bordered on the sides of the neck and breast by an extension downward of the same steel-blue of the upper body. The rest of the under parts are a cinnamon-rufous colour to a lighter cinnamon. The female is duller on the upper parts and paler below than the male, also she has a slightly shorter tail.

The Barn Swallow is our only swallow with a deeply forked tail. The chestnut throat and blue upper body separate it from all swallows but the Cliff Swallow. The Barn Swallow's uniformly blue back and rump, the cinnamon abdomen is visible in flight at a considerable distance. The long forked tail distinguishes it from other swallows.

The breeding range is from southern Yukon and from the Pacific coast clear across the country to southern Newfoundland. Their nesting site is within cruising distance of water for drinking, foraging and providing mud for nest building. They forage over water, marshes and open fields, often low but at great heights in fair weather.

They nest singly or in small colonies in protected places such as in buildings or under porch roofs. The nests are built of mud, bonded with grass and lined with grass, hair and feathers. Often nests are built on a beam in a building, on a ledge or plastered against a wall.

The swallow lays four to six white eggs that are variously spotted with bright reddish brown blotches.

At the end of the breeding season the swallows band together with all other swallows in the area and head south. I have seen the hydro wires lined with Barn Swallows, Tree Swallows as well as Cliff Swallows, all waiting for that signal to head southward. On that signal, only heard by the swallows, they all take flight to their southern habitat in western Florida and central Mexico.

Victoria Day Birding at Point Pelee National Park

Betty Learmouth

Twelve Essex County Field Naturalists' Club members met at 8:00 a.m. for a morning of birding on the Botham Tree Trail and Woodland Nature Trail behind the Visitor Centre. Margaret Jennings enjoyed the assistance of everyone as Margaret conducted her Baillie Birdathon in support of Bird Studies Canada and the ECFNC. Luckily the weather was cooperative and we had sunshine as we started out. From the parking lot we spotted a flock of Cedar Waxwings perched on bare branches, Tree Swallows over head and a handsome Orchard Oriole near the transit stop. Susan Ross, who was looking after coffee and goodies for the Friends of Point Pelee, asked us if we had heard the Field Sparrow singing.

We followed the trails in a clockwise direction, listening and watching intently. A little pishing brought in a Wilson's Warbler that Clary Calder spotted. Both Eastern Peewee and House Wren were heard. An Eastern Kingbird was seen in a thicket of Staghorn Sumac while a few minutes later another Orchard Oriole was spotted. Several persons were fortunate to see a weasel as it crossed the trail in front of them.

A Gray Catbird was noted as it sang its rollicking song. An American Robin was found incubating on her nest, having chosen a spot below eye level next to the trail between the twin trunks of a maple. Then an Indigo Bunting was seen, and several persons were fortunate to see a female Chestnut-sided Warbler. Luckily we met Gary and Dorothy Balkwill on the trail who offered to show us the Eastern Screech-owl which has been seen regularly over the last few weeks. Yellow tape beside the trail indicated that the Park's wardens were attempting to minimize damage caused by eager birders. The grey phase owl was hunkered down near fallen tree debris, a short distance off the trail.

Brown-headed Cowbirds and a pair of Yellow Warblers were seen moving around a thicket, which prompted speculation about the activities of the Brown-headed Cowbirds. Nearby two colourful male Northern Orioles were seen.

ECFNC executive member Gayle Smith had brought her video equipment, looking for good photo opportunities. A movement on the trail in the woodland south of the Visitors Centre caught Gayle's eye. A beautiful male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was nectaring at Wild Columbine blossoms which were at the trail's edge, allowing Gayle to capture some excellent footage, including the male's colourful throat. This sighting was followed by a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak preening in a small tree just above the trail.

The past month in Essex County record rainfall had been reported with the lush vegetation along the trails and the overflowing sloughs certainly proof of the precipitation. A number of native plants were identified including False Solomon's Seal, Appendaged Waterleaf, Herb Robert, Sweet Cicely, Wild Columbine, Wild Geranium, Solomon's Seal, Upright Carrion Flower, Common Carrion Flower, Mayapple, and Large-flowered Bellwort.

Bluebird Committee News

Don Bissonnette

Winter Business

Over the past winter, several of our club trails received renovations with birdhouse relocation. Hunting perches were planted near bird houses. Six year old rotting bird houses were replaced with new ones.

We also took down the Maidstone Conservation Area bluebird trail. When we set this trail up ten years ago, it was good habitat for bluebirds. Unfortunately, all the sunny meadows there have filled in with trees. Donna Cowie was monitoring this trail. Donna is staying on with the Bluebird Committee as Donna will be co-monitoring three trails with Margaret Jennings.

We also sold a total of thirteen bluebird houses. These were sold to people who wanted their own bluebird trails, or, who wanted to expand their existing bluebird trails. In most cases, volunteers with the Bluebird Committee set up the houses.

A big "thank you" goes out to all the people who purchased bluebird houses - Mike Booth, Jim Oates, Larry and Bonnie Rilett, Alex Gall, Cy and Monica Poisson, and Paul Pratt. All these people were offered free literature about Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds.

The Grosso Trail

The Bluebird Committee also set up a new trail with two bluebird boxes on the Grosso property. This site has grassland, stands of young trees, one stand of mature trees, a pond, and a hedge row. The Grosso property is located between two other club trails, the O'Neil Pasture Trail and the Luchesse Woods Trail.

Mary and Clary Calder monitor this new trail. The houses were set in place on April 3, 2004, along with several hunting perches. The Calder's report that this new trail has been successful. By Friday, April 16, 2004, one house held a complete Eastern Bluebird nest with five eggs. All five eggs hatched and all five young birds fledged in mid May.

Thank You

A "big thank you" goes out to the volunteers who helped with all the winter bluebird trail renovations. Some even helped set up bluebird trails for people who purchased out bird houses. These people were Chris Bowyer, Johannes Franz and Marg Jennings.

The Pine Needle Project

Over the past few years, some of us bluebirders made an interesting observation: most bluebirds like to use dry white pine needles for nesting material. We have found bluebird nests made of 50 % or more dry white pine needles. What was interesting was sometimes the closest pine tree to the bird house was two hundred feet away. These birds made the long haul for pine needles, even though there was plenty of dry, dead grass around the bird house.

Most pines produce dry needles that are hard and sticky with pine sap. White pines are different from most pines as their needles are soft, and not very sticky. I've never seen bluebirds use Scotch pine needles, or Austrian pine needles, just the white pine needles.

We can theorize why some bluebirds are making the "long haul" to collect white pine needles. Perhaps the birds are aware of pine needles' insecticidal properties. Possibly the pine needles will keep the blowflies away.

We know for certain that bluebirds only use dry material for nest building. After a morning dew or rain shower, white pine needles dry faster than dead grass. So this year some of us started the Pine Needle Project, placing handfuls of white pine needles at the base of hunting perches in February and March.

Every pair of bluebirds nesting close to the pine needles used them for nesting material. Some pairs of Tree Swallows also used the pine needles in nest building.

It's important to note that in early April, there were several rainfalls at which time the bluebirds were nest building. Since pine needles dry faster than dead grasses, the bluebirds were happy to use the pine needles.

The same is true for the Tree Swallow. They are nest building during the last two weeks of May. Since our May was so wet, the pine needles were often the only dry nesting material the Tree Swallows could find.

We'll definitely set out pine needles again next year in February.

Early Birds

The first bluebird egg this spring was reported at the Grosso Trail which was likely laid on or about April 11, 2004. The other "firsts" all happened at the Harrow Research Station: first Tree Swallow egg on Friday, March 26, 2004; start of a bluebird nest on Friday, March 26, 2004 and first Tree Swallow egg laid on Friday, May 13, 2004

Purple Martin Club

On the morning of Saturday, May 15, 2004, eleven members of the Essex County Purple Martin Association met with me at the Harrow Research Station. I gave them a tour of the Harrow Research Bluebird Trail. Then we were on the road and visited three more trails.

Everyone had a good time. The morning was interesting. Besides spotting many Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, we saw several species of hawks, Wood Ducks, a male Scarlet Tanager, and a Yellow Warbler. Most of us enjoyed lunch together at the Arner Stop Restaurant.

2003 Bluebird Trail Observations

At the Kingsville landfill site, Maxine Hartley watched a pair of Red-tailed Hawks raise their two chicks.

Last May, Bruce MacDonald reported one of his Tree Swallows was predated by a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Gerry Waldron reports that White-footed Mice have moved into a bird house atop a ten foot tall metal pole. The mice gain access to this house by leaping, squirrel-like, from a nearby tree.

Closing Comments

Well, all you bluebirders. Please remember to stamp down any tall grasses growing close to your bluebird houses. Also "grease" is the word, when it comes to keeping ants and predators away from your eggs and nestlings. Best wishes for the 2004 nesting season!

Naturalization Open House

Phil Aylesworth

Members and friends of ECFNC are invited to an open house at our home in Woodslee on June 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. We are at 346 South Middle Road, 2 km. east of Belle River Road. South Middle Road is the next road south of County Road 46 (old Highway 98), between County Road 46 and County Road 8.

This is a 20 acre property that was farmed with cash crops when we bought it in 1995. The former owner, Charles Chevalier, left the creek area to grow naturally and this provided an attractive feature to the property and a starting point for naturalization.

Once the house was built, we started to naturalize the property, digging 2 ponds to provide fill for around the house. We bought trees from ERCA and planted them around the house and around the border of the field. When we planted the grass we left some natural meadow area between the lawn and the field, which we continue to rent to the former owner. This buffer area grew each year as we decided that we didn't need to mow that much grass!

In 1999 when we heard that ECFNC was looking for land to restore, we volunteered our entire field to be naturalized. For us it was a win-win situation. Everyone commends us for doing such a good thing for the environment but we are so grateful to the Field Naturalists for fulfilling our dream. We were working bit by bit to do this but it would have taken the rest of our lives to complete it.

With a grant from the federal government, the Field Naturalists planted trees, shrubs, and water plants on the property. Organized by Patricia Rhoads and Peggy Hurst, school and community groups planted and mulched each tree by hand. Over eight thousand trees of 46 different species were planted during the fall of 2000 and the spring of 2001.

There is lots of life here and every year we see something new. While we are not dedicated birders, this year we saw for the first time Bobolink and Eastern Kingbird, and an American Woodcock nested in the field. Great Blue Heron are regular visitors to the pond to feast on the frogs and fish. The property also hosts Eastern Fox Snakes and Field Crayfish, which we seldom see but their burrows are everywhere. There are also a good number of the ubiquitous Garter Snake.

We see dragonflies and butterflies around at various times of the year: Viceroy, Monarch, Woodland Nymph, Yellow Sulphur, Cabbage White, Black Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, etc.

This year for the first time we heard (but never did catch a glimpse of) Eastern Chorus Frogs which adds a fourth frog to the list of frogs visiting or resident in the ponds. We have Green Frogs and Leopard Frogs living in the pond and every spring American Toads come in to lay their eggs. Then later in the summer we have little toadlets everywhere for a day or so. This was quite an event when the land was still barren. We could see hundreds of little toads emerging from the pond and some Garter Snakes hanging around for the feast. The drama has since taken cover under the abundant growth around the ponds.

We've decided that we need to move back into Windsor. This has been a tough decision for us because we will certainly miss the natural area and the solitude. We invite you to come out and see the project. Our property and house are also for sale so this event can double as an open house for the sale of our house if it is still for sale at that time. The house was designed and built for us and our two kids

and an attached self contained 1200 square foot apartment - handicap accessible - for my parents (who are now deceased). This apartment would be great for your parents or for home based business.

We are including a "Restrictive Covenant" to protect most of the property from being returned to farm use. The covenant is intended to be very open to allow the new owner to do what they want but to prevent someone from buying the property with the intention of farming it. It has a life of ten years and covers two thirds of the land to give the trees a chance to mature to a point where no one would want to remove them.

If anyone is interested in the property please contact us to have a look. We would love to sell it to someone who we know will appreciate the environment here. There are photos of the house and the text of the restrictive covenant on the web at <http://Aylesworth.ca/house>

In any event please join us on June 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. for a walk around the ponds and through the trees with someone who can help identify things for you. We invite you here as a thank you to ECFNC members for all you've done in this restoration project.

ECFNC Fall Meeting Locations

ECFNC President Phil Roberts invited responses to the idea of holding ECFNC Monthly Members meetings at one location throughout the entire year with the suggestion made to hold our meetings in the Essex Civic Centre. Twelve persons responded, eleven from the County and one from the City of Windsor. All were supportive of the Essex Civic Centre location. Consequently, our fall meetings will be held in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre. Further comments should be directed to our President.

Garlic Mustard Pull at Carolina Woods

Ruth Junge reported another assault on the Garlic Mustard at Carolina Woods in Leamington on May 30, 2004 by Linda Dawson, Peggy Hurst, Ruth, Betty Leamouth and Gayle Smith. The area adjacent to the main entry point to Carolina Woods was the target of two work sessions that resulted in two large piles of this exotic plant placed for Town of Leamington personnel to carry away by truck. The plants had finished flowering but have not yet set seeds, although the pods are formed.

Management Recommendations for Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savannah, Pelee Island

The Botanical Inventory and Natural Heritage Management Recommendations for the Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savannah, Pelee Island have recently been made available. Contributors to the report were John Ambrose, Gerry Waldron and Lindsay Rodger with field assistance from Peggy Hurst and Mary Celestino. The funding for this study was provided by a generous grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The management recommendation document includes the methods used to inventory plant species and conduct site evaluation. A plant list of the species found on the 20 acres site is included as well as a comprehensive management plan and discussion of specific management issues directed towards invasive exotic plants, lowland forests, alvars and old field shrub thickets. Copies of this document may be obtained from Heritage Fund Committee members.

ECFNC Activities and Excursions, June 2004 through November 2004

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, contact Bert Harris (966-3263), JoAnn Grondin (734-0056), Margaret Jennings (250-0705), or Betty Learnmouth (944-0825). "Thank you" to everyone who has volunteered to lead an excursion. We appreciate leaders sharing their time and expertise with others. Let us know about your ideas for upcoming excursions. Consider volunteering as an excursion leader.

June 9 – ECFNC Monthly Meeting – Guest speaker Dr. Maria Cioppa, Assistant Professor, Earth Sciences, University of Windsor will discuss Environmental Magnetism. Dr. Cioppa writes of her talk: Scientists at the Rock Magnetism and Paleomagnetism Laboratories at the University of Windsor research changes in the Earth's magnetic fields through time, as well as the rocks and minerals that carry the record of those changes. Environmental magnetic studies provide data that has been used to determine the spatial extent of anthropogenic pollutants, variations in past climate, and land use changes over time. In this presentation, I will discuss the concepts behind the use of environmental magnetism, and showcase several local and global studies ranging from Point Pelee National Park to Lake Matano, Indonesia. Meet in the basement meeting room at the Windsor Family Credit Union, 2800 Tecumseh Road East at 7:30 p.m. We will meet everyone at the back entrance of the Credit Union to direct you to the elevator.

June 9 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Nature Hotspots – Discover the special features of our local hotspots. Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. \$7.00

Sunday, June 13 – ECFNC Summer excursion – Join Penelope Potter for a walk on her farm where prairie and pond restoration projects have attracted wildlife. We will undertake a butterfly count as well as looking for evidence of breeding bird species. Meet at 2:00 p.m. Directions: From the Town of Essex, proceed south along the Arner Townline, watching for the sign for the Sixth Concession. Penelope's house number is 6875 on the left as you are heading west along Concession 6.

Wednesday, June 16 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Nature Hotspots – Discover the special features of our local hotspots. Tremblay Beach Conservation Area - 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. \$7.00

Thursday, June 17 – Join Sue and Phil Aylesworth for a summer evening walk on their property in Woodslee with its woodland restoration site through which a walking trail allows easy access. Our rain this spring have been beneficial to the native trees and plants which are growing well. As well a number of birds have chosen the site as home. Meet at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the walk. Directions: If you are coming from Windsor, proceed along County Road 46 to Woodslee at the intersection with the Belle River Road. At the intersection, turn right and watch for the next road to your left after the Scurve. This is Middle Side Road along which you will proceed for two kilometres to house number 346.

Saturday, June 19 – ECFNC Summer Excursion – Join Randy Groundwater for an evening of viewing our night time skies at the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's facility and a newly installed telescope on site in Comber, Essex County. To reach the facility from Windsor follow County Road 46 to the Rochester Townline. At this intersection, turn right (south) and watch for the next concession road, South Middle Road. Turn left onto South Middle Road which is a dirt road and proceed for two kilometres. Watch for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's (RASC) sign on the right. There is a big green barn and the white observatory building on the property. This area is the best site in Essex County for darkness as the area is farmland and woodlots. Meet at 9:30 p.m. If the evening is cloudy, Randy will give us a tour of the facility and an inside presentation. We visited last June for a very exciting evening so this year promises to be even more so with the new telescope installed.

Sunday, June 20 – ECFNC Spring Excursion – Enjoy an afternoon tour of several backyard natural habitat gardens in East Windsor. These natural habitat restorations include shaded woodland gardens, ponds, prairie restoration in sunny backyards as well as unique roof top gardens. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at Gerry Kaiser's home at 884 Matthew Brady. Matthew Brady is located two blocks west of Lauzon Road. Proceed north on Lauzon Road from Lauzon's intersection with Tecumseh Road East, proceed past Little River Road, watch for St. Rose Avenue at the next intersection, turn left, go two blocks to Matthew Brady and turn right and watch for Gerry's home on the right.

Sunday, June 27 - ECFNC Summer Excursion - Cleanup on the Greenway – This cleanup will be second of three that the ECFNC has agreed to do during 2004 as part of our adoption of Greenway section. ECFNC executive member JoAnn Grondin is the organizer for these outings to our ECFNC section of the Greenway which extends from the Town of

Harrow east to the McCormick Sideroad. We will meet in Harrow at 2:00 p.m. where Walker Road crosses the Greenway just by Colio Wines. Bring work gloves and wear clothing that you don't mind soiling during the cleanup.

June 26 – September 6 – Point Pelee National Park – Summer Interpretive Programs – Daily programs such as Creature Feature, Marshville, Weekend Freighter Canoe Tours and Pelee Express. Schedule available.

June 30 – ECFNC Executive Meeting

July (date to be announced) – Clear Creek Forest, Municipality of Chatham/Kent – Clear Creek Butterfly Count – As part of a North American Butterfly Association sanctioned count, you will collect data from the meadows of Clear Creek Forest that will help researchers understand the health, abundance and fluctuation of butterfly populations. To obtain more information on the date and meeting place, please call the Volunteer for Nature registration desk at 1-800-440-2366 extension 222 or e-mail at vfn@ontarionature.org

July 1 – Point Pelee National Park – Canada Day – Free admission. Canadian themed hat contest. Celebrate Canada's birthday and "Tip your hat to the Tip!"

July 3 – Point Pelee National Park – Murder Mystery Campfire – "A terrible crime has been committed at the Marsh Boardwalk and we need you to help to solve it!" Fun for all ages.

July 3 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Windsor Butterfly Count – Attention butterfly watchers! Join us for Windsor's tenth annual butterfly tally. Help us with this exciting and valuable field inventory of Windsor's butterflies. Time: sunup to sundown with a morning meeting at Ojibway Nature Centre. Fee: \$5 participant fee to North American Butterfly Association. Call for more details.

July 5 – July 29 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Captivating Critters (Ages 3–4) – Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set. The first day of the class (July 5 and August 9) are one hour introductory classes for parents and children. Time: Monday 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fee \$23/4 weeks plus \$4 material fee.

July 6 – 27 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Mad Science at Ojibway (Ages 8 –12) – This exciting new camp combines a half day of Mad Science fun with a half day of Ojibway's adventures in nature. We will have an early drop-off starting at 8:00 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:00 p.m. Time: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee: \$88/4 days plus \$30 material fee

July 7 – July 28 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Young Naturalist Day Camp (Ages 7 –9) – Swamp walks, nature games and crafts for children ages 7-9. Early drop-off from 8:00 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:00 p.m. Times: Wednesday 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. Fee \$88/4 days plus \$4 material fee.

July 8 – July 29 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Kids 'N Critters (Ages 5–6) – Wildlife viewing and nature-oriented activities for children. Times: Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00p.m. Fee: \$23/4 weeks plus \$4 material fee

July 14 – ECFNC Summer Activity - Meet at the Education Building at 7:30 p.m. in the Holiday Beach Conservation Area for an evening walk to view newly created wetland habitat and perhaps glimpse nesting Prothonotary Warblers. Refreshments following the walk. Directions: From Windsor take Howard Avenue to the intersection of County Road 20, and turn right. Proceed to Malden Centre and turn left at the intersection with County Road 50. Watch for the C.A. entrance on the right and drive through the park to the Education Building which is near the hawk tower. An admission fee of \$7.00 is collected at the C.A. entrance.

July 17 – Point Pelee National Park – Canada's Parks Day – A national day showcasing parks and historic sites across Canada. Free admission. Guided hikes and backyard pond workshop.

July 26 – 30 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Windsor Wildlife Watchers (Ages 7 –11) – Discover Windsor's wildlife through activities, hikes and field studies of our natural surroundings. We will be exploring Ojibway Park, Malden Park, Spring Garden Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park and Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. Early drop-off starting at 8:00 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:00 p.m. Time: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Fee: \$110/week plus \$8 material fee.

July 29 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Prairie Days – Explore the unique relationship between prairie plants and insects. Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fee: \$7

July 30 – ECFNC Executive meeting

August 1-31 - Pelee Island Heritage Centre - Daily nature walks at 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the Stone Road Alvar to view provincially rare plants and butterflies. Call for details. Fee.

August 3 - 24 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Outdoor Adventures (Ages 10 – 13) – Learn a variety of techniques for outdoor exploration, from map reading to first aid and from tying knots to wilderness camping. Early drop-off from 8:00 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:00 p.m. Time: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee \$88/4 days plus \$8.00 material fee

August 4 – August 25 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Young Naturalist Day Camp (Ages 7 – 9) – Swamp walks, nature games and crafts for children ages 7 - 9. Early drop-off from 8:00 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:00 p.m. Times: Wednesday 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. Fee \$88/4 days plus \$4 material fee.

August 5 – August 26 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Kids 'N Critters (Ages 5 – 6) – Wildlife viewing and nature-oriented activities for children. Times: Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fee: \$23/4 weeks plus \$4 material fee

August 7 - Point Pelee National Park – Annual Butterfly Count – All-day count. Includes butterfly workshop. Register by August 1st. Fee.

August 11 - ECFNC Summer Activity - Mike Malone and Joan Walker of Pelee Wings, 636 Point Pelee Drive, Leamington have invited ECFNC members to kayak on the calm waters of Sturgeon Creek. No experience is necessary to try the kayaks. Those wishing to kayak must register with Pelee Wings prior to August 8 so we know how many kayaks we need. There is no charge to use the kayaks. Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. There are twenty spaces available for kayaking. We will use stable one person and two person recreational kayaks. Bring appropriate footwear, either water shoes, or sandals, or old tennies that can get wet. Meet at 7:00 p.m. for kayaking.

Bring your own refreshments and snacks for a bonfire on the beach after 8:30 p.m. and a flashlight. Those who do not want to go kayaking can meet at Pelee Wings beach at 7:30 p.m. for socializing. Weather and clouds permitting, we will have an astronomy scope on the beach after dark. Please e-mail Mike and Joan to register for the kayaks at sales@peleewings.ca or phone the store at 326-5193.

August 9 – 13 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Windsor Wildlife Watchers (Ages 7 – 11) – Discover Windsor's wildlife through activities, hikes and field studies of our natural surroundings. We will be exploring Ojibway Park, Malden Park, Spring Garden Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park and Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. Early drop-off starting at 8:00 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:00 p.m. Time: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Fee: \$110/week plus \$8 material fee.

August 9 – August 26 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Captivating Critters (Ages 3 – 4) – Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set. The first day of the class (August 9) is a one hour introductory class for parents and children. Time: Monday 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fee \$23/4 weeks plus \$4 material fee.

August 17- Ojibway Nature Centre – Bugs, Bats and Beyond – Come out after dark and be a part of Ojibway's fascinating night life. See bats, owls, moths and fireflies. A family discount is available. Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Fee: \$8 for adults, \$7 for youths

August 18 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Warblers – Eliminate the confusion of fall warblers with these three field trips at the peak of warbler migration. Dates upcoming: August 25, September 1. Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. Fee: \$10/trip

August 25 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Warblers – Eliminate the confusion of fall warblers with field trips at the peak of warbler migration. Dates upcoming: September 1. Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. Fee: \$10/trip

August 25 - ECFNC executive meeting

September 1 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Warblers – Eliminate the confusion of fall warblers with this field trip at the peak of warbler migration. Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. Fee: \$10/trip

September 4 - Point Pelee National Park - Murder Mystery Campfire – “A terrible crime has been committed at the Marsh Boardwalk and we need you to help to solve it!” Fun for all ages.

September 8 – October 3 (Wed. – Sun.) - Point Pelee National Park – Monarch Hikes and More – Two hour guided hikes to the Tip. View migrating birds, dragonflies and the beautiful monarch butterfly. Fee.

September 8 - ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting - Guest speaker Caroline Biribauer of the Wildlife Habitat Council.

Location: Essex Civic Centre, Room C at 7:30 p.m.

September 11 - Point Pelee National Park – W.E. Saunders Birding Odyssey – Enjoy a day of birding and friendly competition. Beginning birders welcome. Teams are lead by an expert birder. Fee.

September 12 - Point Pelee National Park – Butterfly Gardening Workshop – Make your backyard a natural sanctuary with the help of local experts from the Backyard Habitat Program of Essex County and Windsor.

September 11 and 12 – Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area – Sharp-shinned Hawk Weekend, Monarchs and Hummingbirds, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Enjoy a weekend of activities including guided hawk watching from the hawk tower, banding demonstrations and talks about both raptors and passerines, and live raptor displays. There will be hands-on children's activities, slide presentations including hawk identification, an art display and environmental displays. Bob Pettit will present a hawk identification workshop on September 11, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. in the Education Building. Pelee Wings Nature Store's display will feature sales of binoculars, guide books, clothing and nature photography. Light refreshments will be served at the Blue Kestrel Café. ECFNC members are invited to volunteer to assist at the hands-on children's display, the display area including the ECFNC display, and the Blue Kestrel Cafe.

September 18 and 19 – Festival of Hawks, Holiday Beach Conservation Area – Broad-winged Hawk Weekend and Dragonflies, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Enjoy a weekend of activities including guided hawk watching from the hawk tower, banding demonstrations and talks about both raptors and passerines, and live raptor display. Hands-on children's activities, slide presentations including hawk identification, an art display and environmental displays will be featured. Pelee Wings Nature Store will provide a display and sale of binoculars, guide books, clothing and nature photography. Light refreshments will be available at the Blue Kestrel Café. Bob Pettit will present a hawk identification workshop on September 18, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. in the Education Building. Paul Pratt will lead a fall dragonfly migration walk at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 19, 2004. ECFNC members are invited to volunteer to assist at the hands on children's display, the display area including the ECFNC display and the Blue Kestrel Cafe.

September 18 - Point Pelee National Park - Annual Native Plant Sale organized by the Backyard Habitat Program of Essex County and Windsor.

September 19 – ECFNC Fall Excursion – Enjoy a guided tour at Ernie and Linda Kennette's new restoration project which should be very colourful on this date with goldenrod and asters in bloom. Meet in the late afternoon at 4:00 p.m. This will allow volunteers at the Hawk Festival to attend. Directions: If you are traveling from Windsor, take County Road 46 to the corner of Manning Road (County Road 19) and County Road 46. At this intersection turn right, and watch for Wayne's Woodcraft, then watch for the next roadway just to the south of Wayne's Woodcraft and turn left onto North Talbot Road. Proceed for 1 and 1/2 miles and watch for 306 North Talbot. Parking is available in the drive and at the second bridge.

September 25 - Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area – Peregrine Falcon Day and Fall Song-birds, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Enjoy a day of activities including guided hawk watching from the hawk tower, banding demonstrations and talks about both raptors and passerines, and live raptor displays. Hands-on children's activities, slide presentations including hawk identification, an art display and environmental displays will be featured. Pelee Wings Nature Store's display will include sales of binoculars, guide books, clothing and nature photography. Bob Pettit will present a hawk identification workshop in the Education Building at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments at the Blue Kestrel Café. ECFNC members are invited to volunteer to assist at the hands-on children's display, the display area including the ECFNC display and the Blue Kestrel Cafe.

(Note that Sunday, September 26 is a Memorial Forest day. Due to traffic congestion we will have full activities on Saturday with reduced activities on Sunday i.e. no banding demonstrations).

October 1 and 2 – Carolinian Canada Conference *Thinking Big - Sustaining Landscapes in Carolinian Canada 1984 - 2004 - 2024* at Port Franks – Contact Carolinian Canada, 1017 Western Road, London, ON N6G 1G5 or at 519-433-7077 for membership (\$20) and conference details or look on the web at www.carolinian.org

November 6 – ECFNC 20th annual dinner (first Saturday in November) with guest speaker Bruce Kershner.

November 7 – ECFNC excursion – Bruce Kershner will lead a walk to identify old growth forest in the County.

