



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

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**Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Annual General Meeting
March 9, 2005**

President's Annual Report

It is always a pleasure at this time of year to reflect on the activities of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club from the past year in preparing the "President's Annual Report." It is amazing the accomplishments of our little organization and more amazing is in the twenty years since our inception, this group has stayed rather uniform in membership, volunteer commitment and program offerings. From personal experience, there is from our region a recognition of consistency with respect to the Field Naturalists which is why our club often gets invited to participate in discussions, or, at least, have our views taken seriously when it comes to our natural heritage.

The strength of any volunteer group is foremost its membership and, in particular, those that offer to serve in decision making roles. This is my public opportunity to thank the 2004 Executive for all their time and efforts in administrating the functions of the club and keeping me out of trouble. There are some real voices of reason on this executive. If you get the opportunity to say thanks to Teresa Austrin, Mark Buckner, Karen Cedar, JoAnn Grondin, Denise Hartley, Dave Kraus, Betty Learmouth, Mike Malone, Joe Parent, Bruno Sfalcin, Gayle Smith, and Gerry Waldron, please take it.

**21st ECFNC Annual Dinner
Saturday, November 5, 2005
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Fogolar Furlan Club**

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. *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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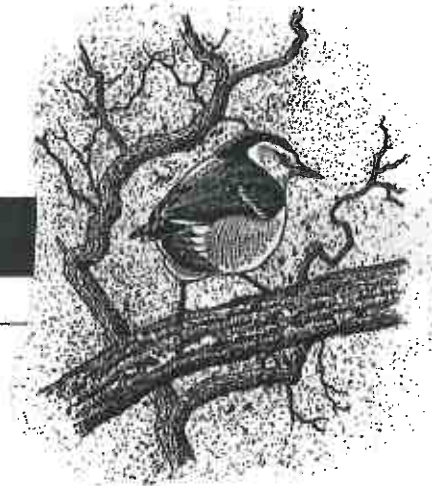
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E.R.C.A. Liaison:	Bruno Sfalcin
Carolina Woods Liaison:	Ruth Junge
Point Pelee Liaison:	To be announced
Bluebird Committee Chairman:	Don Bissonnette
Special Events Coordinator:	Karen Cedar
E.C.S.N.:	Tom Hurst
Ojibway Liaison:	Karen Cedar
Citizens Environment Alliance:	Mark Buckner
Planning Advisory Committee:	Mark Buckner
Canada South Land Trust Liaison:	Betty Learnmouth

Committees

Egret Editorial Committee: David D'hondt, Karen Cedar, Betty Learnmouth, Nicole D'hondt, Shirley Grondin
Speaker: E.C.F.N.C. Directors
Field Trip: JoAnn Grondin, Bert Harris, Margaret Jennings, Betty Learnmouth
Annual Dinner: Special Events & Heritage Committee
Heritage Committee: JoAnn Grondin, Margaret Jennings, Muriel Kassimatis, Dave Kraus, Betty Learnmouth, Jim McAllister, Patricia Rhoads, Bruno Sfalcin, Gerry Waldron, Peg Wilkinson



Also an additional thanks to all those members of the month, event volunteers (hawk festival, plant sales, Earth Day, field trips, clean ups, nest box monitoring) and most specifically to Peggy Hurst (and side kicks) for continually making the Monthly General Meetings a (profitable) pleasure to attend. I would encourage, invite, even cajole, all to participate in club activities, attend monthly meetings, or, invite a perspective naturalist to join us.

Some of the year's highlights for me this past year have been:

- Working again with Dr. John Spellman with increasing the buffer to Lypps Beach Provincially Significant Wetland from housing development
- Supporting the City of Windsor with their first ever and first phase tree cutting by-law
- 20th anniversary of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
- Starting the ECFNC wetland evaluation project designed to help identify wetlands which should be designated as significant.
- Starting the dialogue on the removal of duck hunting at Holiday Beach Conservation Area
- Supporting the Canada South Land Trust
- Helping secure funding and creating shorebird habitat at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area with the Essex Region Conservation Authority
- Recently securing funding for eagle monitoring in Essex County in partnership with Bird Studies Canada, the City of Windsor and the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup.

I look forward to another year supporting the efforts of the ECFNC and the obvious challenge ahead to protecting the significant natural features of Windsor from being paved over and trucked over. Thanks for your support.

Phil Roberts, President, Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Heritage Fund Committee Annual General Meeting, March 9, 2005

Report by *Betty Learmouth*

The Heritage Fund Committee had a busy year with fund raising projects. As well, the committee met several times to make decisions regarding donations to preserve our natural heritage in Essex County and in Chatham-Kent.

A number of volunteers were involved in our fund raising as we attended community events including the Fall and Winter Festivals at Ojibway Nature Centre. Other activities included providing light refreshments at the Hillman Marsh Song and Shorebird Festival in May 2004 and the Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach in September 2004. Volunteers baked for the Earth Day bake sale at Ojibway Nature Centre and then helped at the bake table. Volunteers donated to the silent auction at the annual dinner and then helped with the event in November 2004.

During 2004, the ten members of the Heritage Committee met to make important decisions regarding how the monies raised by the Committee might be best used. The intent of the committee is to donate to worthy causes that will preserve our natural heritage.

During March 2004, the committee made decisions to provide a \$10,000.00 donation to The Nature Conservancy of Canada towards the purchase the 170 acre Ed Hunter property at Cedar Creek along with a \$2,000.00 donation towards the stewardship fund of the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp, and a further \$1,000.00 towards the securement of 50 acres north of the protected Clear Creek property in Chatham Kent. These donations were supported by the ECFNC executive.

In May 2004, the Heritage Committee again met to make decisions with regard to donations. It was agreed to support the purchase of the Oakwood Bush in South Windsor with a \$1,000.00 donation. As well, a donation of \$4,100.00 was made to the Canada South Land Trust towards funds requested to assist with the Land Trust's first conservation easement donation by Bill and Jack Balkwill. Again, these decisions were supported by the ECFNC executive members.

A thank you to all those who volunteered and donated towards the Heritage Fund. Everyone's efforts have contributed towards the preservation of natural heritage in Essex County and Chatham-Kent.

The Heritage Committee received the Biological Inventory and Natural Heritage Management Recommendations for the Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savanna from compilers Gerry Waldron, John Ambrose and Lindsay Rogers in April 2004. This project was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation through a grant to the Heritage Committee.

The property is owned by the NCC and the Heritage Fund Committee acts as steward of this property. During May 2004 volunteers worked on Garlic Mustard removal and cleanup around the property's perimeter.

Ojibway Prairie Remnant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

Information materials provided by the Friends of the Ojibway Prairie during February 2005 in response to the Schwartz Report are provided on pages 4 through 7.

It is estimated that less than 0.5 % of our prairies and savanna remain, the largest remnants are within the Ojibway Remnants ANSI. There are more rare species in the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve than any other park in Ontario. Spring Garden has over 500 species of vascular plants alone of which 104 are rare, 121 species of birds have been found with breeding evidence for 72. These areas are protected, yet, within the Schwartz Report, there is a recommendation to put a four lane highway through



Wood-betony

Reserve.

The Friends of Ojibway Prairie feel it crucial to educate our community and decision makers concerning these significant areas. Please help in this educational process by writing a letter to the persons listed below. Below is an actual letter sent to the Hon. Jean Lapierre, federal Minister of Transport.

Dear Hon. Jean Lapierre:

I am a resident of Essex/Windsor who has read and viewed the Schwartz Report. There are grave concerns with the promoted roadway option recommendation (there are four in the report), "Option 3: Central Route B." This particular recommendation proposes the four land highway within the parameters of two important sites: Spring Garden and the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. This Roadway Option also runs quite close to Ojibway Park and the proposed truck clearance centre would be across the street from the Black Oaks Heritage Park. Collectively these sites are designated as the Ojibway Prairie Remnants Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Common sense would indicate a four land highway to have a negative impact on the natural features and ecological function within.

These areas are designated as Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and are protected by their designation and related flora and fauna within the Provincial Policy Papers, the Provincial Park Act, Endangered Species Act, and federally through the Species at Risk Act. It is quite disturbing this was even a recommendation. It is a dangerous precedent for Canada's parks and ANSI areas.

There is good reason why these lands have protection: they are rare jewels. Less than 0.5% of Ontario's natural prairie and savannah remain in Ontario. Of that 0.5%, the largest intact pieces lie in these sites. As a result of this small portion existing, the sites have many species that are rare, vulnerable, threatened or endangered. There are more rare species in the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve than any other park in Ontario. We need to preserve this limited gene pool.

The Environmental Assessment, particularly for Option 3: Central Route B will be long and at the end of the day, the answer had a high probability of being no highway. If yes, we severely compromise a rare jewel and set a dangerous precedent for other parks and ANSIs. Option 4: Northern Route in the Schwartz Report would avoid 1) lengthy and costly Environmental Assessment (EA), 2) compromising the 0.5% remaining prairie and savannah 3) setting a dangerous precedent 4) delayed truck route due to lengthy EA. The Schwartz Report itself suggests that "all Road Options need to be fully vetted." Schwartz himself stated, "We are only a link to the future, somebody did not look out for you in the past. You have an obligation to the future."

Please consider the above future decisions. I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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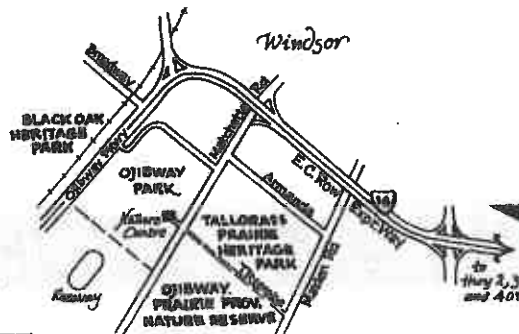
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Rare Ecosystem Threatened by City of Windsor Infrastructure Proposal

April 7, 2005 Press Release: Citizens Environment Alliance and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club Windsor, Ontario – The option recommended for a truck route with the Schwartz Report , <http://www.city.windsor.ca/001429.asp> and unanimously endorsed by the municipal and county governments of Windsor and Essex County – may seriously damage the Ojibway/Spring Garden ecosystem. The report recommends a large truck route (bypass) be built through one of the most rare ecosystems in Canada.

The Spring Garden Natural Area is part of the Ojibway Prairie Complex, designated an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) by the provincial government and an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) by the Essex Region Conservation Authority. The City of Windsor recently received provincial approval of its plan



*Black Oaks on the Ojibway Prairie
Provincial Nature Reserve, May 2005*

to acquire the properties within the ANSI, in order to protect the ecosystem.

“Resources, including public funds, have been applied from all levels of government to attempt to preserve some of the last remnants of rare flora and fauna in the Spring Garden and Ojibway area,” stated Derek Coronado, Research and Policy Coordinator of the Citizens Environment Alliance. “Losing additional acreage in such a unique ecosystem would speak volumes about our government’s commitment to the environment and public health. The recommendation represents the opposite of smart growth, undermines transportation demand management and will not be environmentally sustainable,” added Coronado.

The complex contains many species that are considered at risk within Ontario and Canada by the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSWIC). The rare, threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna that inhabit Spring Garden include: Purple Tway-

blade Orchid, American Chestnut, Colicroot, Dense Blazing Star, Wild Indigo Dustywing Butterfly, the Eastern Fox Snake, and the Massasauga Rattle snake. Spring Garden also features dry prairie, buttonbush swamp, wetland in the form of an old lagoon, oak savanna and woodland.

The Spring Garden Complex Environmental Evaluation Report recommends that no roadway cross through the complex, in order to preserve the integrity of the ecosystem. Indeed, the report recommends no further bike routes because of the potential impact on the ecosystem integrity of the complex.

All levels of government have committed resources to protect the Ojibway/Spring Garden ecosystem. For example, since 2001 the federal Habitat Stewardship Program has provided a total of \$1,250,00 to the Corporation of the City of Windsor's Tallgrass Prairie and Savannah Habitat Acquisition effort, otherwise known as the Spring Garden Prairie Project. Environment Canada has stated that it "is committed to the continued protection and enhancement of this important ecosystem."

"The Ojibway-Spring Garden natural area is unique and has been recognized as such. It was a shock to discover, in the Schwartz Plan, that a bypass through the area was the preferred option," stated Phil Roberts, President of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club. "We are trying to rehabilitate and enhance our natural areas. If this proposal is completed it would be a significant blow to our efforts and devastate the Ojibway-Spring Garden Area," said Roberts.

There is a small area of interior forest located in the complex south of Turkey Creek. An interior forest is defined as being >100 metres from the edge in any direction. Interior forest is vital to the survival of many animal species, particularly birds. Media reports have suggested that the proposed truck route could be as much as 200 metres from Todd Lane. The interior forest would be threatened, along with the animal species that depend upon this habitat, as a result of building the truck route 200 metres from Todd Lane.

Within the Schwartz Report is the recommendation for context sensitive design, specifically small parks atop short tunnels of the truck route. Ojibway is a nationally significant rare prairie ecosystem, immensely more important than a small park or other type of manicured parkland.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Ojibway Park Prairie Management Plan states: "The entire Ojibway Prairie site is zoned as nature reserve because of the distinctive tallgrass prairie and oak savannah ecosystems. Public use of the nature reserve is confined to designated trails, with the exception of approved research activities." Less than 0.5% of Ontario's tallgrass prairie and oak savannah ecosystem remain intact.

The Citizens' Environment alliance and Essex County Field Naturalists club intend to monitor the progress of the Schwartz Plan and continue to participate in the process of evaluating alternative and potential environmental impacts. Both organizations are committed to protecting, rehabilitating and enhancing the Ojibway/Spring Garden eco-system.

City Urged to Protect Ojibway Proposed west-side truck route called fatal to rare ecosystem

By Dave Battagello Star Border Reporter

In The Windsor Star, Friday, April 8, 2005.

Leaders of two local environmental groups went on the attack Thursday (April 7, 2005) against a proposed international truck bypass through protected lands in the west end's Ojibway complex.

Truck superhighway will lead to soil erosion, disruption of the water table, threaten endangered species and eventually lead to environmental demise of the natural area, according to Derek Coronado of the Citizens Environment Alliance and Phil Roberts of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club .

"We cannot sit by and not say something about this," Coronado said. "We want to see this area protected in perpetuity. We have been working over the years to do that – in conjunction with government. We were very surprised at the recommendation to go through this natural area."

The two-kilometre truck bypass is part of the city's \$1-billion border traffic solution created by New York traffic guru Sam Schwartz.

The new route would travel parallel to Todd Lane and cut through the Ojibway area down to a new truck management centre in Brighton Beach, according to the Schwartz Report.

The Detroit River Cleanup group and a residents' group called Citizens Protecting Ojibway Wilderness have also emerged to fight what's quickly becoming a controversial aspect of the city's border traffic plan.

"The idea there is this empty space out there to put a huge truck route is not accurate," Coronado said. "Certainly to propose to put it through such a rare and protected ecosystem that public money has gone into is ridiculous.

"There are many members of the community angry about that. They don't believe this proposal benefits the community."

Coronado said they will join with other groups emerging to fight the plan and contact politicians at every level to remind them of their commitments to protect these habitats and species.

Mayor Eddie Francis said there needs to be trust in the environmental process.

"There will not be development permitted to proceed until an environmental assessment (EA) is done and ensures any project selected will have no negative impact on environmental or ecological



Merrybells

aspects," Francis said.

The mayor believes the bypass can be done in an environmentally friendly manner.

"My point and Sam's point is this can be done in a way today that is very sensitive to the environment so fumes are filtered by trees as opposed to human lungs," he said. "The alternative is – what is the alternative?"

But Roberts said a lack of specifics about the proposed bypass has become one of the most frustrating aspects since the Schwartz plan was released in late January.

"We haven't seen any mapping, no survey stakes," Roberts said. "We asked for specifics and engineering drawings and none were forthcoming. We are dealing with a piece of paper and using a slide ruler trying to figure out the road and a buffer."

Roberts and Coronado say they are concerned details about the bypass roadway will be withheld until an EA and then it will be too late to initiate a fight. They also say an EA will not adequately protect the lands.

"I've seen roadways go through significant protected areas despite an EA process," Coronado said. "If people think the EA will be a panacea and the environment protected as a result, they will be shocked to discover that's not the way it works."

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club's Bluebird Committee Report for 2004 Don Bissonnette

In 2004, our Club's eighteen Eastern Bluebird (EABL) trails produced a total of sixty-three fledgling Bluebirds. The sixteen affiliate Bluebird trails produced only thirty-eight fledgling Bluebirds. That's a total of one hundred and one fledgling Bluebirds for our records.

It's scary to look at our statistics for the past few years. See Fledgling Bluebirds, 1994 to 2004 below. Our Essex County Bluebirds are barely hanging on.

Year	Nos. of EABL fledglings produced	Nos. of bird houses	Nos. of EABL fledglings per bird house
1994	114	231	0.49
1995	123	281	0.44
1996	156	259	0.60
1997	212	243	0.87
1998	232	227	1.02
1999	139	273	0.51
2000	160	244	0.66
2001	125	179	0.70
2002	116	191	0.61
2003	100	191	0.52
2004	101	320	0.32

According to the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society newsletters, it's the same all over Southern Ontario. Most Bluebirders reported a bumper crop of fledglings Bluebirds in 1998. That was our best year, with 232 fledgling Bluebirds. Ever since 1998, there has been a steady decline.

Weather is the main cause for this decline. There have been some severe ice storms in the past few winters. There were ice storms in Southern Ontario, and Ohio and Kentucky. So, our Essex County Bluebirds were hit hard, whether they stayed all winter, or migrated south.

There has also been a lot of bad weather in late March and early April. At this time of year, our Bluebirds are house hunting, and nest building. Bluebirds depend on fruit at this time of year. Unfortunately, it is often in short supply. If an ice storm or heavy snow storm hits at this time, some Bluebirds will starve to death.

Many Bluebirders often refer to the bad storm of early April 2003. Starting April 7, we had snow falls alternating with freezing rain, and sleet. It stayed cold for a few days, and it was April 12th before it felt like spring again. Some Bluebirders report their local Bluebird populations were cut in half by this storm. I know one female Bluebird vanished from the Harrow Research Station during this storm.

And, as always, part of the Bluebirds' decline can be blamed on the English Sparrow, European Starlings and loss of good habitat.

We Bluebirders will just have to keep doing our best. We can keep our bird houses clean and in good repair. We can keep looking for good bluebird habitat in which to set new bird houses. And last, but not least, monitor each bird house regularly.

English Sparrows

Over the past few years, some Bluebird monitors have been getting rid of English Sparrows in a unique way. Whenever these monitors come across the start of a sparrow nest in a Bluebird house, they removed the nest. Then, they secured the door in the open position for a few days. Then the pair of sparrows would "move on."

"Move on?" Yes, the sparrows move on, to the next bird house they see and settle in. This includes evicting or killing the Bluebirds or Tree Swallows that are nesting there. We strongly advise everyone to stop doing this. It's a deadly game of musical chairs, where the English Sparrow always wins, with some native cavity nester loses.

Here are some humane alternatives:

1. Keep removing the sparrow nest and eggs. This will keep the sparrows busy, but they will not relocate.
2. Keep removing sparrow eggs, but leave the nest in place. The results are the same as #1.
3. When the sparrow nest contains at least four eggs, remove two eggs. Put them in the refrigerator for twenty-four hours. Then mark them with a magic marker. A simple dot will do. Return these marked eggs to the nest and take out two more eggs. Put these eggs in the frig for twenty-four hours, mark them, and return them to the nest. Repeat this process until all the eggs have been chilled and marked.

The sparrows will stay at this house and incubate these sterilized eggs for three weeks or more. After the third week, they may build a new nest on top of the old one, and lay a new clutch of eggs. Again, you can chill these eggs two at a time.

English Sparrows have long been a problem in North America. Recently a friend lent me a small booklet entitled *The English Sparrow as a Pest*. This was first printed in 1912 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The booklet discussed the sparrows' problems, plans for building traps and their behaviour. The last chapter is called "The English Sparrow as Food." This chapter says that when the English Sparrow is "boned, broiled, and buttered, and served on toast, they are particularly good!"

The Harrow Research Station Trail

Alas, more bad news. In 2004, the Harrow Research Station started off with five pairs of Bluebirds. Unfortunately, the English Sparrow was numerous. Not a single Bluebird fledged that year at the Harrow Research Station. There were several nesting attempts but each one was destroyed by sparrows.

The only positive note from the Research Station is in regard to a pair of Tree Swallows. This pair laid a nest of eight eggs. All eight eggs hatched and all eight young Tree Swallows fledged.

The Altenof Trail

Johannes Franz took over this trail in the spring of 2004. He enjoyed his first year of Bluebird monitoring, despite a constant battle with the sparrows. Johannes had one successful Bluebird nest, which produced three fledglings.

At the Altenof's pond, Johannes often saw Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-herons, Great Egrets, a Belted Kingfisher, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and mink. Keep up the good work, Johannes!

The Mother-Wood Trail

This trail was set up in December 2002, on Penelope Potter's property. Clarence and Marg Calder began monitoring in the Spring of 2003. Bluebirds did visit this trail several times that year. Unfortunately, there were no Bluebird nests.

Obviously, some of the visiting bluebirds liked what they saw. Two pairs of Bluebirds returned in the spring of 2004 and nested. These birds produced fifteen fledglings.

"Thanks" to Marg and Clarence, for a job well done! Marg and Clarence's trails produced a total of twenty fledglings Bluebirds in 2004. They were the winners of the prestigious "Top Producer" Award for 2004, receiving their award at the Club's March 2005 Annual General Meeting.

The Kingsville Landfill Site

Maxine Hartley had seven nests of Tree Swallows on this site as well as a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, and a pair of Northern Mockingbirds. Her biggest thrill was to find a roosting Long-eared Owl last March.

Erie Shores Golf Course

Mary Wilson along with a few volunteers looks after the Bluebird houses and Purple Martin apartments at this golf course. They did not have any Bluebirds this year. However, they did fledge 343 young Tree Swallows and 394 young Purple Martins.

Orchard View Golf Course

Mary Wilson also monitors 45 Bluebird houses at this golf course. (Yes, the Mary Wilson mentioned in the above paragraph!). Here she had four pairs of Bluebirds which produced 19 fledglings. This trail also hosted 21 pairs of Tree Swallows which produced 89 fledglings. Keep up the good work, Mary!

Wintering Bluebirds

November and December 2004 were very mild and there were lots of Bluebird sightings.

In January and February 2005, there were still Bluebird sightings. Bluebirds were seen several times at the Harrow Research Station. In February 2005, Bluebirds were sighted a few times along the McCormick Side Road. Mrs. Vivian LaCroix saw a pair of Bluebirds at her home on Feb. 28, 2005.

Bluebirds and Pine Needles

Over the past few years, some of us Bluebirders observed that some Bluebirds liked to use dry white pine needles for nesting material. We found cases where the adult Bluebirds carried the needles over 100 feet from the tree to the bird house. On the ground below most White Pines, there is a thick layer of dry needles.

In March of 2004, some of us set dry White Pine needles out at some of the Bluebird trails. We placed needles at the base of every hunting perch where the Bluebirds would easily find them.

What were the results? The Bluebirds were happy to use our offered pine needles. Every pair of Bluebirds that were offered the pine needles used them! The nests were ten to eighty percent pine needles. Some Tree Swallows also used the pine needles for nesting material.

Perhaps the birds were aware of the insecticidal properties of pine needles. Or, perhaps it is a matter of finding dry nesting material. The spring of 2004 was unusually wet. After any rain shower, the pine needles dry faster than the dead grass, or any other nesting materials.

Thank you

Thanks to one and all, to everyone involved in this labour of love. Thanks to everyone who made a financial contribution to the Bluebird Committee. Everyone that contributes money will receive a charitable income tax receipt for tax purposes.

The 2005 nesting season is now in progress. Best wishes to all the Bluebirders for a productive spring and summer.

Summaries of trails monitored by ECFNC members appear on page 14 followed by a summary of affiliates trails on page 15.

Summary of Trails Monitored by ECFNC Members, 2004

Club Trail	Monitor	Nos. of houses	Nos. of successful pairs of EABL	Nos. of EABL's fledged
Altenof	J. Franz	6	1	3
Arner Point	D. Bissonnette	3	0	0
C. Balkwill	E. Learmouth	11	0	0
Broughton	B. MacDonald	4	0	0
Caney Creek	M. Jennings	2	1	9
Doyle-Goddard	M. Jennings	5	1	3
Grosso	M. & C. Calder	2	1	5
Harrow Research Station	D. Bissonnette	5	0	0
Hepner	B. MacDonald	4	0	0
Howling	D. Hartley	3	2	10
Hunter	G. Brown	5	1	3
Kurtz	M. & C. Calder	3	0	0
Lucchese	D. Bissonnette	3	1	1
O'Neil Pasture	A. & R. Muir	5	2	17
Pollard	E. Learmouth	3	1	4
Sartori	M. Jennings	2	1	4
Twin Creek C.A.	G. Brown	6	0	0
Woodiwiss	D. Hartley	4	1	4
Subtotals		76	13	63

Greenway Cleanup, Spring 2005, by Betty Learmouth

Nine enthusiastic ECFNC members met JoAnn Grondin on Sunday, March 20, 2005 for the first of the 2005 cleanups on the Chrysler Canada Greenway. Weather forecasts were predicting 40% chance of showers but the weather luckily remained overcast.

JoAnn Grondin instructed each two person group to walk towards each other, meeting at the mid way point, then turning and working their way back to the starting points (the parking lot on the Greenway, Ferris and McCormick Roads intersections with the Greenway). This would reduce the weight of debris that would have to be carried during the cleanup.

Due to regular cleanups over the last two years, most large items have been removed from this stretch of the Greenway. The groups involved in cleanup in the first section reported debris from the nearby public school in the ditch adjacent to the Greenway. It was determined during this cleanup that plastic material used for protection of tender crops pulled into piles during the last cleanup had actually been removed from the Greenway right of way. Farmers in this section have extended their agricultural activities into the Greenway right of way to a depth of five feet.

Birds seen during this cleanup included a Downy Woodpecker, a Blue Jay, several American Robins, two Northern Cardinals, and Common Grackles. An American Woodcock was flushed by Ron Muir from the ditch near the Greenway parking lot.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time and energy to this cleanup.

Summary of Affiliates Trails, 2004

Affiliate Trail	Monitor	Nos. of houses	Nos. of successful pairs of EABL	Nos. of EABL's fledged
Barrette	Barrettes	20	0	0
Dunn Road	A. Michinski	25	0	0
Erie Shores Golf Course	M. Wilson	75	0	0
Gorski-Klinec	G. Brown	11	0	0
Kingsville Landfill	M. Hartley	7	0	0
Kummer	L. Kummer	4	0	0
Matchette Road	Herrdegen	12	0	0
Mother-Wood	M. & C. Calder	6	2	15
Old MacDonald	B. MacDonald	7	0	0
Oates	J. Oates	7	0	0
Orchard View Golf Course	M. Wilson	45	4	19
Pleasant Park	L. Kennette	4	0	0
Rilette	B. Rilette	2	0	0
Poisson	M. Poisson	6	1	4
Stoney Cliffs	M. Celestino	6	0	0
Waldron	G. Waldron	7	0	0
Subtotals		244	7	38
Totals		320	20	101

Great Things are Happening on the Detroit River

Betty Learnmouth

Keynote speaker Phil Roberts assured his audience on Wednesday evening, March 23, 2005 that the title for his talk was indeed appropriate. Phil's presentation followed an afternoon of presentations as part of the *How Much Habitat Is Enough?* workshop organized by Mark Buckner of the Citizens Environment Alliance on behalf of the Outreach Committee of the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup.

Phil began his presentation with a series of slides indicating how man's activities are impacting on the Detroit River. The first showed a plume of chocolate coloured water after a rain storm on the Canadian side of the river near the Ford Foundry. Water in a River Canard swamp forest in the next slide was the same colour as the surrounding farmland. Housing development, big box commercial development with its extensive parking lots, and industrial activities are all impacting Detroit River water quality. Recreational use is usually considered sympathetic with the land around us but ATV's and Jet Skies are billion dollar industries that are prompting the development of a noise by-law in the Town of Amherstburg.

Wildlife including insects such as dragonflies, raptors, a number of other avian species and aquatic

species still have large concentrations that need the Detroit River as a good quality area. We are all part of the water cycle with quality as an issue.

Phil then turned his attention to a discussion of Bald Eagles, the Detroit River and an exciting new initiative that will closely monitor a local population of Bald Eagles. We don't control where Bald Eagles chose to live. Locally Bald Eagles have chosen Big Creek, Boblo Island, Fighting Island, River Canard and Peche Island as nesting sites. Bald Eagles are popular birds that can get people excited. Like human beings, Bald Eagles are at the top of the food chain.

The current Detroit River Bald Eagle project involves the following partners: the City of Windsor Parks and Recreation Services, the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Bird Studies Canada and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club.

Phil projected a dramatic slide of Peche Island showing the City of Windsor in the fore ground with the Detroit River and Peche Island in the background. The location of the current Peche Island Bald Eagle nest on the island's southwest shore was pointed out by Phil. This is Year 5 that these eagles have chosen to nest on Peche Island. None of the nests have survived from year to year until 2004 when young were finally fledged. This year the tree and nest site, which is subject to all kinds of disturbances, have been stabilized through efforts over the winter months.

Phil told us that plans involve outfitting all young eagles from the Peche Island nest with satellite transmitters which will track the juveniles as they move around North America following fledging. This kind of monitoring has been conducted with Tundra Swans and other Bald Eagles. There is the intention to involve students and the public in the activities of "our" eagles.

The location of this nest in an urban park is quite unusual as the activities close to the nest involve passing freighters in the nearby Detroit River, fishing boats and even dog walkers.

Phil said that the Peche Island Bald Eagles are fish eaters, feeding on carp and suckers. By contrast, the Bald Eagles at Hillman Marsh feed on muskrats, the skins of these rodents are found inside out on the marsh dykes.

In 1981, due to the tragic effects of DDT, the Cedar Creek Bald Eagle nesting site was one of two sites in Ontario where this species actually nested. Banding of the juvenile Bald Eagle population occurred from 1984 through 1993 but we still have no idea what happens to our juvenile Bald Eagles. Where do they go? Are they breeding elsewhere?

With this new Detroit River Bald Eagle project, "Eagle Watch," a Bird Studies Canada website will provide a link to the Detroit River Cleanup Committee's website. Visitors to the website will be able to follow the fortunes of the Detroit River Bald Eagles. Their journeys may be as interesting as that of one of the juvenile Long Point Bald Eagles which flew to Sault St. Marie, then on to the Florida Everglades.

Historically, Bald Eagles nested every mile along the north shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. Now there are Bald Eagles in overlapping territories in this area but still no nesting Bald Eagles along the Lake Ontario shoreline. With the upcoming Bald Eagle project, the pairs on Peche and Fighting Islands will be well scrutinized with their behaviours to be documented.

Ontario Nature's Carolinian West Regional Spring Meeting, April 2, 2005

GROUP UPDATES

Group Representatives presented group updates. (ON rep Jen Baker provided the following minutes):

- Lambton Wildlife Inc. has been busy with the initial planning stages of an urban tree inventory project, in partnership with the Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee. They are also holding a forest monitoring session with EMAN on July 23 in Port Franks. If people from your group are interested in forest monitoring, they might want to attend this event. Contact the group for more information. They are also working on developing a bird watching course as a way to reach out both to the community and to their group members. Future opportunities may be available for this course to be packaged and made available to other groups.
- The Sydenham Field Naturalists have been busy working in cooperation with the St. Clair Region CA to protect a natural and cropland area that contains 3.5km shoreline of the Sydenham River. The group has also worked with Stewardship Kent on two CFWIP grants to get some restoration projects going on private properties near Highgate and Fletcher in Kent County.
- The Friends of Pinery Park have hired a consultant to look at updating the exhibits in the Visitors Centre. The group is also partnering with Lambton Wildlife on a program to clean up the beaches.
- The Little River Enhancement Group has 3 spring plantings coming up. The group is also closely following traffic and border crossing issues in the Windsor area.
- The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club is gearing up for the Windsor truck route fight and is currently waiting to make comments on the traffic and border crossing issues in the Windsor area until the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment is released.
- The Ingersoll District Nature Club co-hosted a Carolinian Canada Big Picture presentation with the Ingersoll District Horticultural Group. The group is also looking at the possibility of expanding the Lawson Nature Reserve.
- The McIlwraith Field Naturalists held an awards banquet recognizing several long-term active members. The group also has several members that participate in local committees, such as the Westminster Ponds committee.
- The St. Thomas Field Naturalists are gearing up to distribute the next photo field guides on molluscs and wildflowers. It is hoped that the guides will be ready in 2005.
- The Friends of the Coves have released their subwatershed plan and are working with the City on developing an implementation plan. They are also continuing to work on the park naturalization corridor project, and the Yellow Fish road storm drain marking project.
- The Hawk Cliff Foundation is busy seeking funding to have a migration education person staff monitoring days at Hawk Cliff.
- The Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee is working with Lambton Wildlife on an urban tree inventory project (Neighbourwoods) and is waiting to hear back from Shell about potentially funding the project. To recognize the hard work Art Teasell has done in initiating and continuing to work on the committee, Sarnia City Council, on recommendation from the SUWC named one of their properties the Art Teasell Wildlife Refuge.
- The Grey-Bruce Children's Water Festival is working with the Owen Sound Sun Times and radio stations CKNX AM and FM from Wingham on a promotion of World Water Day on March 22nd. With the in-kind support of these local media outlets, the group has asked students from last year's event to explain how it

has changed their lives and the importance of water conservation. The newspaper will print over 20 student paragraphs and the radio station will broadcast a different 20 paragraphs voiced by local elementary school students. Both messages will appear on their website – www.waterfestival.ca.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO GREENWAY – Opening Remarks, Steve Hounsell

Steve provided some comprehensive opening remarks to Jen's presentation, which also serve as a summary of the greenway and its importance. The group had a good discussion and provided us with some great ideas to take back to the office. The discussion will continue in the fall when Ontario Nature should be able to provide more detail about our plans for implementing the greenway strategy. You can have a look at the *Southern Ontario Greenway Strategy* on our website - <http://www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/issues/greenway.html>. If you have any questions about the greenway, or follow up comments from Saturday's meeting please contact Jen.

What it is

The southern Ontario Greenway represents a land use vision for the future. It recognizes that if we want to protect and sustain the biodiversity of our southern Ontario landscapes, then we must also protect, restore and enhance the habitats upon which species depend.

We believe that the best way to protect and conserve biodiversity is through the development of a network of large habitat cores and interconnecting habitat linkages across the entire landscape. Those core areas will capture the entire ecological diversity of the southern Ontario landscapes – forests, wetlands, savanna, prairie, alvars, etc. Habitat linkages will ensure opportunities for species dispersal throughout the landscape.

Why must we do this?

As we all know, the southern Ontario region is regarded as the most ecologically imperiled region in all of Canada. Southern Ontario is characterized as a sea of agriculture and developed lands with scattered islands of green. It is the opposite of what once was – a sea of forest intermixed with wetlands, savanna and prairie. That transformation has come at great cost to southern Ontario's biota.

It is now time to put some balance back into the system. It is time to protect significant remnant natural areas, whatever they may be, in a quest to protect the ecological diversity of Ontario's landscapes and watersheds. It is time to reconnect the fragmented landscape of southern Ontario into a revitalized Great Lakes basin with connections to the north via the Canadian Shield, with connections to the Gatineaus in the east and connections to the Adirondacks in the south via the Frontenac Axis.

It is time to give our wildlife a fighting chance in their future imperative to find suitable habitat in a rapidly changing global climate. An interconnected system of habitat cores and habitat corridors, facilitating dispersal, may very well be their only hope for survival in rapidly changing climatic regimes, which dare I say is inevitable.

It is time to enter an age of ecological enlightenment and ecological restoration. It is time to restore ecosystem functions to enhance their natural ability to assimilate the wastes that we as a society produce, to provide clean air and water and provide renewable resources that sustain people. It is time to connect people to nature, because fundamentally we are a part of nature. It is time that people understood that healthy ecosystems with their natural diversity of life, sustain healthy people, and sustain a healthy, prosperous economy. It is time people made the connections. It is time to pursue a sustainable future for all of nature.

The time is ripe to move towards a southern Ontario greenway system that will protect and restore the ecological diversity of southern Ontario, protect productive farmlands in our country-sides and contain urban development through growth management plans and the stopping of sprawl.

What it builds upon

The greenway system is not a dream. Much work has already been done. It is science-based and builds upon the disciplines of conservation biology, landscape ecology and watershed science. At the broad scale much work has been completed – building upon Carolinian Canada's Big Picture, which then morphed into the Big Picture 2002, covering all of southern Ontario. Let me repeat, a systematic study has been completed of remnant habitat cores and possible interconnecting corridors which capture the ecological diversity of all of southern Ontario. We have further added significant woodlands that we have identified to that greenway vision. Much of the homework has been completed. And more is in the offering – "conservation blueprint" from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and watershed-based source protection planning.

Imagine the Possibilities

For those of you who think it cannot happen, let's go back a short 10 years ago to 1995. Now consider the following:

- Who at that time would have ever imagined that a Partnership for Public Lands, led by the FON, would have resulted in the formation of 378 new protected areas in northern Ontario, with a linked program, called "room to grow"?
- Who would have thought that a Conservative government would also bring in the Oak Ridges Moraine Act and associated plan?
- Who would have thought that in 2005 we would have a Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt Plan and a Growth Management Plan?

Just think about it! It would have been beyond our hopes. Yet it happened, largely because of the efforts of a dedicated few whose bold ideas caught on and came to pass.

What else do we have to build upon? Consider the following pieces of the legislative and policy puzzle:

- We have a strengthened Provincial Policy Statement - "shall have a regard for" is now "must be consistent with". A notable improvement!
- Improved protected areas legislation, consistent with enhancing ecological integrity, is imminent through a revised Provincial Parks Act.
- The province will be announcing an Ontario Biodiversity Strategy this spring, aptly titled, "protecting what sustains us". They have finally made the link between biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of human health and prosperity.
- We have a federal Species at Risk Act and through harmonization our own Ontario Endangered Species Act is being enhanced and many more species listed.

Recovery Planning teams are proliferating and now we have recovery teams addressing ecosystem recovery – Carolinian woodlands being a prime example.

The winds of change are blowing. We have precedence, largely through the Niagara Escarpment Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Act and Plan and the recent Greenbelt Plan, upon which to build. The province needs to act responsibly, to manage growth, protect productive farmland and to protect our natural heritage. We, Ontario Nature, want to show them the path forward and give them the support that they need to do what is in Ontarian's

best interest. The southern Ontario Greenway, does just that.

What is the relevance to your clubs?

- Does the protection and restoration of a natural heritage system in your area resonate with your values and interests?
- Do you want to see significant natural areas, your local gems, protected?
- Do you want to see significant investments in habitat restoration for the recovery of declining populations of species?
- Do you want improved water quality and air quality?
- Do you want to leave a living legacy for your children and grandchildren, here in southern Ontario?

I'm hoping to hear a resounding YES!!!

How you can help

Consider the strength of 140 clubs, 25,000 members and supporters and the staff and board of ON all united around a common vision, acting as a solid voice for Ontario's nature. We need to be bold and we need to imagine the possibilities. Great accomplishments do not arise from diminished goals. The window of opportunity is narrow to turn things around. Remember, another 4 million people are expected in southern Ontario in the next 25 years. Now is the time to plan for a better future.

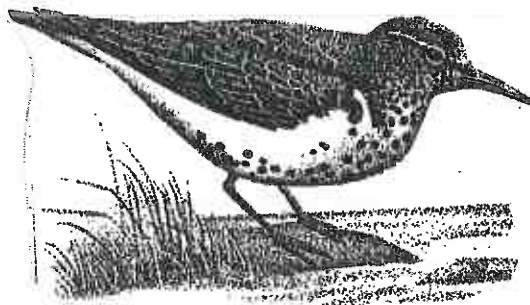
After the formal greenway presentation, we will be asking you:

- How can we make this happen?
- How can your clubs help?
- How do we launch a grass-roots campaign to accomplish in southern Ontario, what the Partnership for Public Lands (PPL) did for northern Ontario?

Support Ontario Nature's greenway work

Some of you asked about the details for this work and where your donation would be used and here are the points that have been passed on to other groups:

Your donation will be used to support the conservation and science department and its staff to implement the project through an integrated delivery approach that includes securing provincial policies, legislation and trust funds, fostering municipal and regional support, and creating local support through public outreach.



WEBSITES

Ontario Nature's *Southern Ontario Greenway Strategy*

<http://www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/issues/greenway.html>

Ontario Nature's new smart growth book - *A Smart Future for Ontario: How to Create Greenways and Curb Urban Sprawl in Your Community*

<http://www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/issues/sprawl.html>

Provincial Policy Statement (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing)

http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_8198_1.html

Ontario Nature's comments - <http://www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/issues/PPS.html>

Places to Grow (Ontario government's proposed growth strategy, through the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal)

http://www.pir.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/cma_4_35040_1.html

Comments due April 18

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy \t “_blank” www.obs-sbo.ca

It would be great if your group could send comments in support of this initiative through the EBR posting at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/024200ex.htm>

This initiative through the EBR posting at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/024200ex.htm>

Ontario Nature, Volunteer for Nature program

<http://www.ontarionature.org/action/index.html>

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas www.birdsontario.org

Environmental Bill of Rights and Environmental Registry through the Environmental Commissioners Office website

<http://www.eco.on.ca/english/registry/>

Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/cltip/>

OTHER CONTACTS

I thought you might be interested in having the contact information from some of the people who were at the meeting, but aren't from the Carolinian West region.

- Murray Smart – Grey Bruce Children's Water Education Council – msmart150@rogers.com or 519-473-0189.
- Kevin Thomason – working on conserving the Waterloo moraine - kevinthomason@mac.com or (519) 888-0519.

SUGGESTED SPEAKERS

Emily Slavic

Reptiles & Amphibians

Rondeau Provincial Park naturalist

(519) 674-1768

Dr. John Ambrose

Bickford Oak Woods, Guelph

519-821-8653 or cercis@sentex.ca

John Russell

Lake Smith Project

Contact Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Ben Porchuk

The Animal in You

Wilds of Pelee Centre

519- 724-9918 or info@wildsofpelee.ca

Dr. Fairburn

Nature Photography, emphasis on birding

Ingersoll

Contact Ingersoll District Nature Club

Dawn Laing

Bald Eagle Recovery

Bird Studies Canada – Port Rowan

dlaing@bsc-ecoc.org or (888) 448-2473 ext. 232

Stu McKenzie

Marsh Monitoring, Migration

Bird Studies Canada – Port Rowan

lpbo@bsc-ecoc.org or (888) 448-2473 ext. 223

Dave McCarter

Astronomy – Outer Space

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (London)

www.rasc/london

Clay Sutton

How to Spot Hawks and Eagles

capemaytimes.com

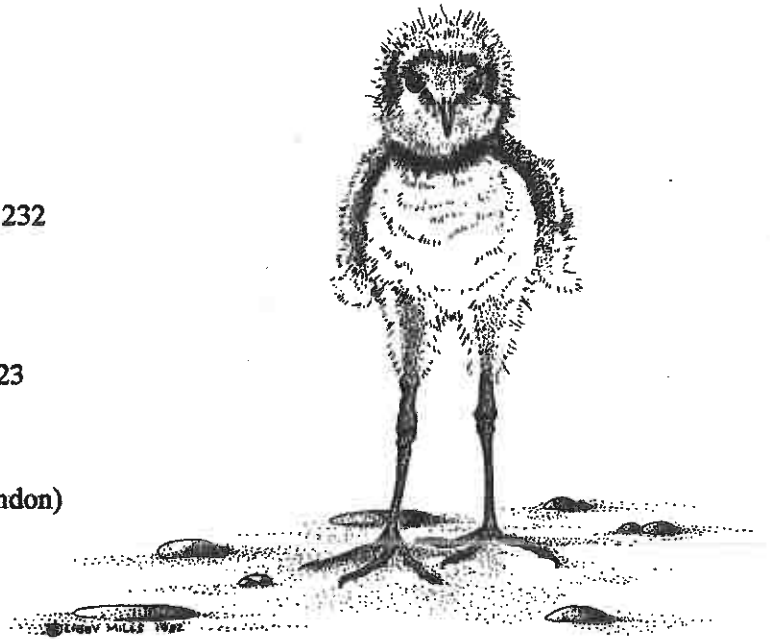
Brenda Gallagher

Wildflowers along the roadside

London area

Contact Karen Auzins from McIlwraith –

519-652-9483 or Karen@auzins.ca



Killdeer Chick

Scott Gillingwater
At risk reptiles in Ontario
London area
Contact Karen Auzins from McIlwraith --
519-652-9483 or Karen@auzins.ca

Peter Jedicke
Amateur Astronomy
Contact Karen Auzins from McIlwraith --
519-652-9483 or Karen@auzins.ca

Glen Coady & Mark Peck
Atlassing in the Hudson's Bay Lowlands
Contact Dave Martin from McIlwraith
519-269-3262

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

- greenway updates and focus on specific projects

NEXT MEETING:
Fall 2005 – October 29
Hosted by: Lambton Wildlife Inc.
Spring 2006 – March 25
**Hosted by: possibly the Friends of
Pinery Park**

Many thanks to the McIlwraith Field Naturalists for hosting the event and for providing lunch. Suggestions for future agenda items gratefully accepted - contact Ontario Nature.

**Jennifer Baker, Southern Regional
Coordinator, Ontario Nature**
Email: jenniferb@ontarionature.org;
Phone: 905-527-9477

Earth Day Celebrations 2005, by BettyLearmouth

Earth Day, April 24, 2005 will be remembered for a blizzard of white *Save Ojibway* T-shirts, as well as a winter storm which dumped 30 centimetres of snow on the area. Organizers had again prepared the lawn surrounding the Ojibway Nature Centre with tents for exhibitors who worked in snowy and blustery conditions. Attendance was reported to be 1,000 persons who used the shuttle bus from Mic Mac Park to attend and tour the exhibits.

Essex County Field Naturalists Club members were out in full force, looking after the annual fund raising bake sale and the ECFNC display and bucket raffle. Baking for the sale was donated by the following persons: Linda Brightmore, Marg Calder, Donna Cowie, Barbara Hill, Shirley Grondin, JoAnn Grondin, Ruth Hart, Barb Hill, Margaret Jennings, Cathy Lapain, Betty Learmouth, Kathy Lesperance, Jim McAllister, Betty Moore, Helene Parks, Mary Schultz, Pauline Renaud, Donna Roemmele, and Mary Jane Winterton. A special "thank you" to Mary Schultz (Shirley Dunlop's mother) who baked and donated six Empire Apple pies which were snapped up by astute shoppers at the sale.

Volunteers at the bake table from noon until two o'clock were Shirley and Rob Dunlop, Denise Hartley and Pauline Renaud. From two until four o'clock volunteers were Ruth Hart, Barb Hill, Margaret Jennings, and Kathy Lesperance. When all those loonies and toonies were added up, the sale raised \$375.00 for the Heritage Fund.

The ECFNC display was set up by Shirley Dunlop who also promoted the fund raising bucket raffle as well as membership in the field naturalists.

Notable at this Earth Day were several volunteers who sold T-shirts through the Citizens Protecting Ojibway Wilderness (CPOW). Also available was a newsletter from CPOW with suggestions for reaching our politicians and making our views known regarding a bypass road through the Ojibway Prairie Complex. A petition objecting to a by pass as recommended by the Schwartz Report was available which will be presented to Prime Minister Paul Martin on April 26, 2005 during a visit to Windsor when the Prime Minister will be meeting with the County Warden and the Mayor of Windsor.

A Walk in the Balkwill Woods

Betty Learmouth

Thirteen ECFNC members met Bill Balkwill on April 17, 2005 for an early spring walk through Balkwill Woods. The day's weather was sunny and warm, a perfect day for a woodland walk in mid April. Our walk took us along the grassy laneway on which we observed American Robins, an Eastern Bluebird and a foraging Chipping Sparrow. Overhead we noted Tree Swallows. A cluster of Dutchman's Breeches blooms caught our attention as did the flowers of Spring Beauty and Trout Lily, all blooming under the laneway's old growth Sugar Maples.

Upon approaching the pond next to the woodland, we flushed a Mallard. As we admired the pond and prairie restoration beyond the pond, we heard both Blue Jay and Northern Flicker calling. Bill mentioned that he had recently seen a Blue-winged Teal on the pond, and he called our attention to a nesting box which Eastern Bluebirds have chosen as a nesting site this season.

Leaving the pond, we ambled along the laneways that allow access and good viewing of the woodland. Bill pointed out an American Plum that is just at the edge of the woodland and called our attention to clusters of Wild Leeks that have thrived since being introduced from the Anderson Paw-Paw Woods. In the single specimen of Black Oak found in the Balkwill Woods, we spotted a sleeping Raccoon.

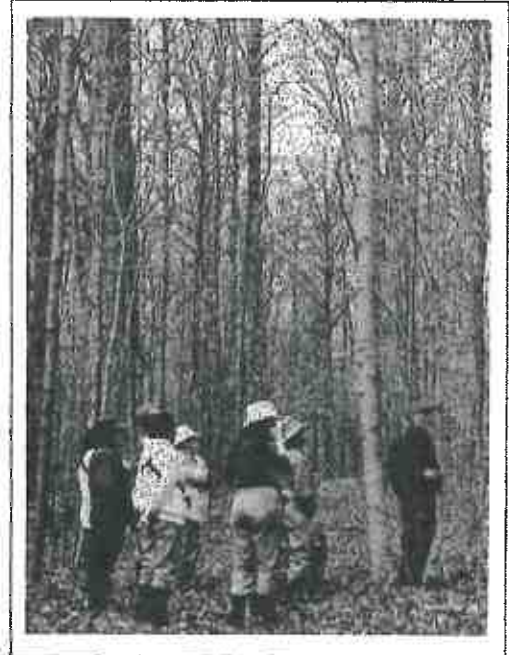
Woodland plants identified on the walk included Running Strawberry Bush, emerging Mayapple leaves, clusters of Purple Cress in bloom, the red spikes of emerging Jack-in-the-Pulpit, a few leaves of a Meadow Rue species along with last year's woody stems, the leaves of Wild Geranium, the leaves of Wild Strawberry, the delicate Wood Anemone in bloom, and Virginia Waterleaf's water marked leaves. Dry leaves underfoot rustled as we walked, reminding us of the sound of fall rather than a spring walk.

Trees of interest included Shumard and Red Oak. In the wetter portion of the woodland we found Pumpkin Ash with its rounded, buttressed root. Bill showed us the stumps of ten ash trees which has been recently cut in an attempt to curb the infestation of the recently discovered Emerald Ash Borer in the Balkwill woodland. The insects had begun their work in the upper portion of the ash trees with three trees showing particular infestation. Limbs and trunks will be burned.

Walking back along the laneway that skirts the woodland, we observed soaring Red-tailed Hawks, heard a woodpecker drilling, caught a glimpse of a White-breasted Nuthatch and watching a circling Turkey Vulture. We admired the majestic 150 year old Burr Oak which stands on the edge of the woodland. Near a Swamp White Oak on the woodland's edge, Bill pointed out clusters of daffodils planted there in the late 1950's by his sister.

Bill and Jack Balkwill are working on the donation of a conservation easement for the natural heritage on their property to the Canada South Land Trust to ensure the woodland, pond and prairie restoration site and old logging road/laneway are protected in perpetuity.

Many thanks to Bill for a wonderful walk through the Balkwill Woods.



E.C.F.N.C. Pelee Island Trip, April 30 & May 1, 2005

Mary Celestino

Sunny skies and fair weather blessed this year's annual trek to Pelee Island. After a week of snow, sleet and freezing temperatures it was a delight to venture into the warm arms of spring and embrace the lures of Pelee Island. Credit for this good spell must be attributed to Dave Kraus and Carl Maiolani for interceding with the forces of nature.

Some 20 members of the ECFNC crossed the waters of Lake Erie early Saturday morning accompanied by our most accomplished nature guide, Dave Kraus, his charming wife Michelle and their young son, Justin, a budding naturalist.

We boarded a bus at the West Dock and drove along the scenic route to Anchor & Wheel Inn, our home for the next two days. It was a clear day which allowed good views of the islands in the lake, vividly outlining the American Bass Islands to the south and Hen, North Harbour and East Sister Islands to the west.

After unloading our luggage at the Inn, we headed off to Sheridan Point, the northeast tip of Pelee. An old stone house built in the late 19th century still stands nobly on the north shore, a testimony of its proud Scottish heritage and long-lost craft of stone masons. Limestone for the structure was taken from the nearby quarry and often times from the site itself. We traced our way along the century-old path encompassing the ancient quarry. Steep and overgrown, it has now become a haven for waterfowl, amphibians and other aquatic wildlife. Painted Turtles were basking on moss-covered logs. Tree Swallows swept over the still waters to the serenade of Robins, Red-wings and Grackles. Spring was delayed and life in the swamps was not yet fully awakened.

Approaching another century ruins we turned our attention to Vin Villa. It too had seen greater days of glory, its arches balancing precariously overhead. This was once a prosperous dwelling with store houses of wine-making equipment. Barrels of wine were hauled out to a ramp leading down to the lake and transported to the mainland. Alas, as the wine industry fell upon hard times, so did the stone structure that bore it. Tree Swallows and Yellow-rumped Warblers flitted about the remaining ruins. A Black-capped Chickadee rang out its familiar "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" while a Red-bellied Woodpecker beckoned us from the tree tops. A Downy Woodpecker led the way as we headed down the road toward the ancient cemetery.

Following our visit to Sheridan Point, we traveled to Dave Kraus' nature reserve. Consisting of 37 acres, part of the land is still being cultivated, but most of it has been set aside for natural restoration. The Red Cedars Dave planted only a few years ago are now over 6 feet tall. Their density and height provide an effective windbreak which not only protects and harbours wildlife, but it is beneficial to the surrounding farmlands. Sheet erosion caused by strong winds is the main cause of depleting valuable top soil.

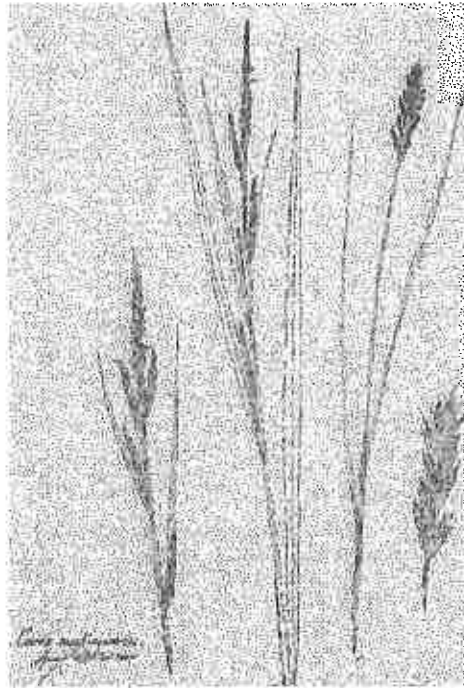
Parts of the restoration areas have been planted with indigenous trees, prairie grasses and wildflowers. Another portion of land has been left alone for nature to take over. Dave also plans to introduce a wetland to the site, as he pointed out an area which is conducive to natural flooding. Last year the rare Muskingum Sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*) was discovered on this site. It has a G4 and S2 ranking which means that this sedge is considered to be Very Rare in Ontario. Another rare vascular plant found on Dave's savannah area is the Wild Potato-vine (*Ipomoea pandurata*) of the Morning Glory Family. This interesting vine is ranked to be Rare in Canada, Ontario and Essex County. ¹

Our final destination for the day was Lighthouse Point which is located at the northeast corner of Pelee Island. It is ecologically diverse, providing a variety of habitats in attracting wildlife. To the west of the

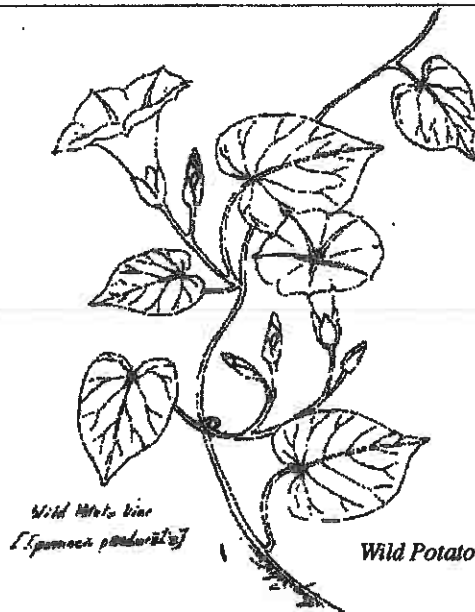
truncated point, lies Lake Henry, an area which was once farmed, but the high waters and strong north winds of Lake Erie in 1973 transformed the farm into a shallow lake. A path leading toward the lighthouse is flanked by two inland ponds protected by towering trees, shrubs and berms. Leading toward the lighthouse is a fine sandy beach which fluctuates year to year. On the west side, sand dunes have been overtaken by the invasive Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) which was virtually unknown to the island until 5 years ago. These sandy berms have a tentative existence depending on the lake levels but are a great resting place for waterfowl.

On the east beach near the lighthouse, a dead Red-breasted Merganser was found. The name "red-breasted" can be deceiving to the novice birder, for the breast was more "dull-rusted" than "red" and not easily seen from a distance. The winds on the beach picked up so we turned back and followed the trail flanked by inland ponds. Here, sheltered from the elements and basking in the sunshine, we came upon a large sluggish bullfrog, the first seen at this site in many years. A Blanding's Turtle displayed its bright yellow throat and a Painted Turtle was found on another log nearby. Close to the edge of the embankment, a muskrat made its way through the murky waters. Large leaves of water-lilies floated on the surface of the water preparing for June to display their white fragrant flowers.

The open vista of Lake Henry engaged most of our attention. The soft rustling of a Garter snake nearby reassured us that spring had truly arrived. We focused our sights into the distant sand dunes. Along the sparse edges of shoreline, we could see Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets, some resting and others in search of food. Double-crested Cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls jostled for space on the open sand spits while others perched themselves on top of dead tree stumps. Some 8 to 10 Turkey Vultures swept over the southern end of the lagoon. Common Terns hovered over the water, skillfully diving after their prey. Mating pairs of Mallards, Canada Goose



Carex muskingumensis



Wild Potato Vine
Ipomoea pandurata

Wild Potato Vine

and Greater Scaup fished the waters while above Tree Swallows, Red-wings and a persistent Carolina Wren filled the air with their chorus of songs.

The next morning, the group arrived at Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve which is the most southern tip of inhabited Canada. Among the birds spotted within the dense Carolinian woodlands were the Cardinal, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. At Fox Pond another bullfrog was seen as well as Purple Martins and a Great Egret. In the open waters, Blue-winged Teals, Bonaparte Gulls and Common Terns fished for food. A Bald Eagle soared high above us much to our delight.

The woodlands were carpeted with frolicking Dutchman's Breeches, White Trillium, Cut-leaved Toothworts and Downy Yellow and Blue Violets. Only in spring do the woodlands of Essex County light up with gaiety and colour as the sun beams through barren branches and ignites the forest floor.

We next ventured to the Wilds of Pelee. Ben Porchuk and his staff Jan Waterbury and James Thomas gave us a tour of the several restoration and scientific projects underway. Within 5 years, the "Wilds" have restored over 200 acres of land on Pelee Island. Ben, a noted herpetologist and famous for his research on the Blue Racer Snake, led us to several basking sites constructed for the reptiles in the area. These "hot rocks" are 2 1/2 feet deep with slabs of limestone piled on top. In 2004, 135 Brown Snakes, 169 Garter, 13 Fox and 2 Lake Erie Water Snakes were recorded. The "Wilds" are a composition of alvar, tallgrass savannah, ponds and Carolinian woodland. Small ponds scattered throughout the land attract a variety of wildlife including the island's rare Grey Fox "which is barely bigger than a cat," said Ben. The more diverse the island, the more imperfections it has, the greater success there is in attracting a wider range of wildlife and developing a healthier gene pool as opposed to mono-culture i.e. a soybean field.

An osprey platform will be erected this spring as it is not uncommon to see Bald Eagles and Ospreys sweeping over the area. It wasn't long before we sighted a couple of buteos which could not be identified.

Some of the other projects underway at the "Wilds" include the clearing of non-native trees and introducing alvar species such as Chinquapin Oak and Blue Ash. A 10 acre field will also be turned into a Red Cedar Savannah with other alvar vascular plant species. The staff is also busy planting cedars on the 100 acre Pelee Island Winery Red Cedar Savannah. Over 150 trees have already been planted under the Habitat Stewardship Program.

However, the most exciting enterprise for this year will be the return of a 40 acre site to the wetlands it once was over 100 years ago when the marshes on Pelee Island were drained for agricultural use. This will be done by breaking the existing underground drainage tiles and allowing the water to fill in naturally. There will be no canal tapping at all. Nature will simply take its course and reclaim what was her's in the beginning.

It will be interesting to see the results next year and we are all eager for a return visit to the "Wilds," and help celebrate this great event.

Our journey thus ended, it was time to board the "Jiimaan" and bid farewell to Pelee Island. Much was learned and much discovered.

Our thanks and appreciation to the great time we all had with our leader Dave Kraus, his family and our gratefulness to Carl for lifting the "hex" on the weather.

¹ 1998 Ontario Plant List, by S. G. Newmaster, A. Lehela, P. W. C. Uhlig, S. Murray and M. J. Oldham, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

A Visit to Tulley's Bush

Betty Learmouth

On Sunday, November 7, 2004, following Bruce Kershner's talk to Essex County Field Naturalists' Club members at the Club's 20th annual dinner, Bruce lead a field trip to Maidstone Conservation Area to locate and identify old growth trees in that woodland. Bruce then visited Tulley's Bush in the Town of Essex and another woodland in the Town of Leamington. Bruce reported that he found old growth trees in Tulley's Bush and thus the ECFNC excursion's committee made plans to visit this woodland with an intention to visit the Town of Leamington woodland at a future date.

John Brownell, interpreter with Point Pelee National Park, volunteered to research the ownership of Tulley's Bush and found that it was owned by the Town of Essex. Doug Sweet, Town of Essex's director of Parks and Recreation, indicated that walking trails are planned for the area and expressed interest to know more about this remnant woodland. The excursions committee chose May 15, 2005 as the date to visit Tulley's Bush. An invitation to attend the excursion was extended to neighbors on Woodview and Oak Drives.

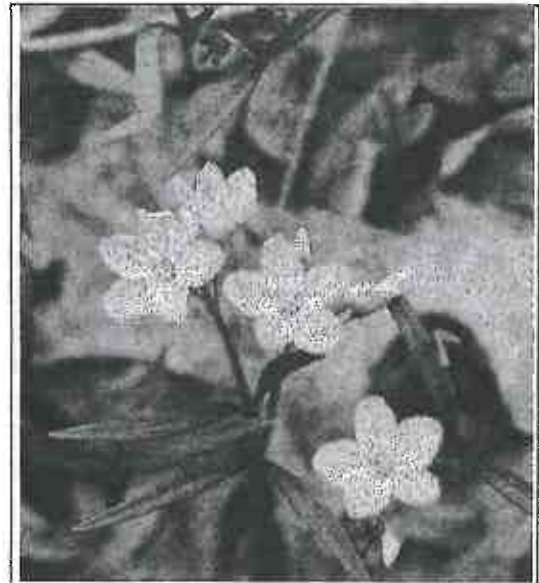
On the day of the excursion, six ECFNC members were in attendance along with several residents. We entered the woodland through the ash plantation, examining the woodland floor for native plants. We identified Canada Moonseed, Cleavers, Jack-in-the Pulpit, Running Strawberry Bush, Sedge species, Spring Beauty, Virginia Creeper, Upright Carrion Flower (vine), Virginia Waterleaf, and Wild Black Current. Poison Ivy was found which was looked at carefully so that it would be recognized in the future.

Then we turned our attention to the woodland trees. Luckily Bill Balkwill had joined us, calling our attention to a Shellbark Hickory which Bill declared a mature tree, likely 200 years old. The tree showed damage from falling trees but was in good condition otherwise. JoAnn Grondin had a tape measure on her key chain, so through a cooperative effort we measured the hickory, finding it had a circumference of 5 feet and 10 inches.

Our next old growth tree was a Shumard Oak which measured 7 feet and 11 inches in circumference. Bill Balkwill picked up a leaf from this tree, pointing out its features including its eight lobes and rounded scallops as well as tufts of tiny hairs visible on the underside of the leaf at the junctions of the main vein.

As we approached the eastern edge of the woodland, we found a grove of old growth trees in damp conditions including Pin Oak, Shumard and Burr Oak. The Burr Oak measured 11 feet and 5 inches in circumference. Georgia Fox, a young resident, summed up our thoughts very nicely regarding this massive tree, "Holy Mackerel, it's big!"

We walked along the woodland's eastern edge towards another Burr Oak that we determined measured 10 feet in diameter. Resident Denisa Blackburn joined us while we measured "her" Burr Oak, then pointed to a nearby ash which had been struck by lightning about seven years ago as the Denisa and her husband watched during a thunder storm. Bill Balkwill identified this tree as a Pumpkin Ash which measured 6 feet and 11 inches



Spring Beauty

in circumference.

Denisa pointed out her morning "weeding" activities with a plant she did not recognize but knew it was not native. We all pitched in to pull dozens of Garlic Mustard plants on a mound of earth that we suspected had included seeds of this exotic and invasive plant.

Denisa told us about some of the birds she had seen in the woodland including Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl and Scarlet Tanager. Birds seen during our walk were two Gray Catbirds and a young American Robin. Other birds seen recently in the woodland have included a roosting Turkey Vulture, nesting Blue Jays, White-throated Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird.

Leaving the woodland, we walked through Denisa's yard, admiring the Red Oak on her front lawn. A well rounded Chokecherry (a native tree) growing on the lawn of a neighboring home caught our eye. This small tree was covered in blossoms and would surely be a magnet for foraging neighborhood birds when the fruit ripens.

We noted a pathway into the northern portion of Tulley's Bush so decided to quickly explore what appeared to be a young woodland. We found decaying stumps throughout this portion of Tulley's Bush, evidence of logging a number of years ago. Luckily loggers had overlooked the grove of trees to the south which are now old growth to be admired by all.

Pelee Island Garlic Mustard Pull, May 19 – 20, 2005

Betty Learmouth

This year's Garlic Mustard pull on Pelee Island was organized by Bonnie Ross. Our group of four (Shirley Grondin, Margaret Jennings, Betty Learmouth, and Bonnie Ross) departed May 19, 2005 on the M.V. Jiimaan at 6:00 p.m., arriving on the Island at 7:30 p.m., providing an opportunity to do a drive by inspection of the alvar woodlands upon our arrival. We noted that there appeared to be a profusion of Garlic Mustard on the Ontario Nature property between the intersection of Stone Road and the East West Road and the old schoolhouse with lesser amounts on the Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savannah across Stone Road.

The next morning was sunny and pleasant with our pulling beginning at nine o'clock. We pulled steadily until 11:30 a.m., removing good numbers of plants which we did not bag as all were still in flower. It was quite satisfying to attack a cluster of tall Garlic Mustard plants and reveal native plants that had been completely covered only moments before by this exotic and invasive species.

We enjoyed the morning as we worked amongst Sweet-cicely, Mouse-eared Chickweed, Star-flowered False Solomon's-seal, False Solomon's-seal, Solomon's Seal, Fragrant Sumac, Blue Phlox, and Running Strawberry-bush. Our morning ended as we pulled a few Garlic Mustard close by the old schoolhouse where we discovered several Large-seeded Forget-me-not in a damp area.

At noon, we stopped in to visit with John and Mary Celestino at their cottage. Mary served us coffee and cake, just what was needed to revive us after our morning efforts. Mary offered to show us the latest



Shirley Grondin working during the Garlic Mustard pull on the Ontario Nature Reserve

restoration efforts on the property. John mentioned that a Wild Turkey nest had been found on the west property line. A raccoon had predated the nest which had alerted the Celestino's to its existence. John showed us as a shallow scrap on soft soil with small dark feathers mixed throughout.

Slowly the Celestino's mowed lawn is being returned to its former natural state. The entire west edge has had Grey-headed Coneflower reintroduced. Mary said that she lifts one of the well established plants from the first restoration site near the cottage, cuts the plant into four portions, leaves part of the original root behind, and replants the cuttings in the new site. It is a great deal of effort, but the results are encouraging. So far, Mary has done this with over four hundred plants and has had good success. In the first restoration site, Prickly Pear Cacti is also growing well.

Mary then lead us along a series of paths behind the cottage to view the breath taking Wild Hyacinth which Mary has been nurturing for sixteen years. Some of these plants had been struggling for light and space in bramble thickets. Mary now trims these thickets each November so the Wild Hyacinth can grow in May without a struggle. We observed one patch of Wild Hyacinth in brambles which Mary will trim this fall. By contrast, we viewed a site where the brambles are regularly trimmed and the difference was readily seen as buds were in profusion, just waiting for a few warm sunny days to blossom.

The Celestino's have recently purchased a 1.17 acre property to the east of their present property which includes shrub thicket as well as alvar woodland with two young Blue Beech. Mary is looking forward to exploring the property more fully as wildlife seems to be drawn to the site, including a Red Fox which has been observed enjoying some pop corn kernels.

Reluctantly, we headed to the West Dock for our four o'clock departure, but with pleasant thoughts of Pelee Island's spring plants in blossom. Margaret consulted with everyone and tallied 34 bird species seen during our brief visit.

Victoria Day at Point Pelee National Park, 2005

Betty Learmouth

Eleven ECFNC members and friends gathered at 8:00 a.m. on May 23, 2005 to enjoy a morning of birding along the Woodland Trail. Luckily overcast conditions, despite a gloomy weather forecast, prevailed throughout the morning. We found the Pelee woodlands to be filled with the song of orioles and warblers.

Thirty-eight bird species were viewed over a four hour period. Of great interest was the breeding bird activity observed. The first nest found by Bonnie Ross was that of a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks who had built a nest of reddish twigs at eye-level in a small tree. We watched as the adults returned several times to the nest, feed young, settled briefly in the nest, then departed to return to attend to the young.

The next evidence of breeding activity was the discovery of a dozen Mallard ducklings in one of the water-filled sloughs along the trail. A Yellow Warbler was noted with food, likely a caterpillar. Baltimore Orioles were seen nest building. Tree Swallows were



Pelee woodland with ECFNC birders

observed entering a nesting box in a slough.

As we returned to the Visitors Interpretive Centre at noon, we watched a young House Wren beg for food from its adult parent. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen over the trail, then were observed to be carrying food which they took to a nest constructed directly on the main limb of a small tree. In a similar manner, as seen earlier at the Rose-breasted Grosbeak nest, one of the Gnatcatchers settled on the nest before flying off in search of more food. We watched as the Gnatcatchers returned several times to the nest which Marg Calder learned from an interpreter is constructed of spiderwebs and small bits of material.

In another nearby small tree, a Yellow Warbler was observed pulling the bleached nesting material from the remains of a Baltimore Oriole nest which had survived winter storms. On a fallen tree by the trail, we spotted a large nest (compared to that of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher) that another birder suggested could be that of a Wood Thrush.

As we ate our lunch at picnic tables beside the parking lot, an agitated European Starling carried food to young in a nearby tree cavity. Across the roadway, an American Robin feed young at a nest constructed in a Manitoba Maple. Several Grey Catbirds fussed about in small trees near the Manitoba Maple.

After lunch, Marg Calder lead us to a site in Tilden Woods where an Eastern Screech-owl had been observed roosting in shrubs on May 18, 2005. Marg commented that the birds in the area had been quite vocal on Wednesday but all was quiet during our visit.

As we arrived back at our vehicles, we felt raindrops that proved to be the beginning of a rainy afternoon. Our timing was perfect as we headed home after an enjoyable morning in each other's company.

Spring and Summer Activities, June 2005 – Fall 2005

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, contact Bert Harris (966-3263), JoAnn Grondin (734-0056), Margaret Jennings (250-0705), or Betty Learmouth (944-0825). "Thank you" to those who have 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 1 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Nature Hotspots – Discover the breeding birds and other special features of our local hotspots. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Fee: \$7/trip

June 5 - ECFNC Spring Activity – This is the fifth and last year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project. Join us for an opportunity to contribute to the atlas by participating in a series of walks to observe evidence of breeding bird activity. Meet in the parking lot of the Colchester North Public School. If you are at the corner of the Arner Townline and the Essex By-Pass, proceed south on the Arner Townline, watch for the first road to your right and proceed to the hamlet of Gesto, watching for the school on your left. Meet in the early evening at 6:00 p.m.

June 8 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting – Maia Iotzova's film *Grass Through Concrete: The Struggle to Protect the Red Hill Valley* will be shown. A Bulgarian immigrant and a recent graduate from the University of Guelph, Maia is an artist whose practice is influenced by her passion for social and environmental consciousness. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre.

June 12 – ECFNC Spring Activity - ECFNC Spring Activity – This is the fifth and last year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project. Join us for an opportunity to contribute to the atlas by participating in a series of

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June 15 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Nature Hotspots – Discover the breeding birds and other special features of our local hotspots. Meet at White Pine, PPNP for an atlas update. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Fee: \$7/trip

June 19 - ECFNC Spring Activity – This is the fifth and last year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project. Join us for an opportunity to contribute to the atlas by participating in a series of walks to observe evidence of breeding bird activity. Meet in the parking lot of the Colchester North Public School. If you are at the corner of the Arner Townline and the Essex By-Pass, proceed south on the Arner Townline, watch for the first road to your right and proceed to the hamlet of Gesto, watching for the school on your left. Meet in the early evening at 6:00 p.m.

June 22 - Ojibway Nature Centre - Nature Hotspots - Discover the breeding birds and other special features of our local hotspots. Meet at the Ruscom Shores Conservation parking lot. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fee: \$7/trip

June 26 - This is the fifth and last year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project. Join us for an opportunity to contribute to the atlas by participating in a series of walks to observe evidence of breeding bird activity. Meet in the parking lot of the Colchester North Public School. If you are at the corner of the Arner Townline and the Essex By-Pass, proceed south on the Arner Townline, watch for the first road to your right and proceed to the hamlet of Gesto, watching for the school on your left. Meet in the early evening at 6:00 p.m.

June 25 – Sept 5 – Point Pelee National Park – Daily interpretive programs

Tuesday, June 28 – ECFNC Executive Meeting

July 2 – 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 Fee: \$5 participant fee to North American Butterfly Association. Call for time to meet at Ojibway for a morning orientation.

July 13 – ECFNC Monthly Meeting – Meet in Ojibway Nature Centre's parking lot at 7:30 p.m. for a tour of areas that have been identified in the Schwartz Report as a bypass route through Spring Garden ANSI and the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. We will visit the Abbott and Bondy Street areas.

July 16 – Point Pelee National Park – Canada's Parks Day

July 27 – ECFNC Executive Meeting

July 28 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Prairie Days – A unique opportunity to explore the relationship between prairie plants and insects. Time: Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fee: \$7/trip

August 10 – ECFNC Monthly Meeting - No meeting is planned for this month.

August 19 – 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: Friday 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fee: \$7 for adults, \$6 for youths

August 24 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Warblers – Eliminate the confusion of fall warblers with these field trips at the peak of warbler migration Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Fee: \$11/trip

August 31 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Warblers – Eliminate the confusion of fall warblers with these field trips at the peak of warbler migration Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Fee: \$11/trip

August 31 – ECFNC Executive Meeting

September 7 – October 2 – Point Pelee National Park – Monarchs and More hikes, Wednesday to Sunday

September 10/11 – Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area

September 14 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting – Rachel Powless of the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory will provide us with the latest update on Monarchs and their migration. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre.

September 17/18 – Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area

September 24/25- Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area

October 12 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting – Dawn Laing of Bird Studies Canada will provide us the latest update on the Destination Eagle project. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre.

October 22 – Women of the Great Lake Basin – An evening of music at MacKenzie Hall to celebrate the Ojibway Prairie. More details to follow

November 5 – ECFNC Annual Dinner – This year's dinner will be held in the Dante Costa Room at the Fogolar Furlan Club. Mark your calendar for this exciting event.

Border Options to be Presented by the Detroit River International Crossing Project

Local residents will have an opportunity to view 15 to 20 or more potential border crossing routes at several locations including the Holiday Inn on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Holy Cross Elementary School in La Salle on Wednesday, June 11, 2005 and a third location downriver yet to be determined on Thursday, June 23, 2005.