



# The Egret

*the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club*

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delights visitors by offering backyard tours. On his large urban property where he raises endangered plants and trees, visitors can discover a mini-urban wilderness and wildlife habitat.

Bruno's nominator states: "We all benefit from the labours and efforts of this one individual in our community and his total commitment to the environment should be recognized."

### ERCA Environmental Award 2005 Awarded to ECFNC Director Bruno Sfalcin

The following is the tribute paid to ECFNC member and director Bruno Sfalcin upon the presentation of the Essex Region Conservation Authority's 2005 Environmental Award at ERCA's Annual General Meeting on January 19, 2006:

Bruno Sfalcin has been a long-time, active volunteer with the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club. He presently serves on their executive and as their representative at ERCA meetings. A previous employee of the Ford Motor Company, he retired five years ago and now is a full time environmentalist, specializing in growing native endangered species. He is concerned about all aspects of the environment, and involved in saving natural areas and animal life. Bruno generously shares his time, energy, photography and knowledge of horticulture and nature by giving garden tours and audio visual presentations at naturalist and horticultural club meetings. He is a consistent volunteer during the Christmas bird count and the Crow count, and was a significant contributor to the Sandwich West Woodlot Citizens Committee.

Bruno donated a great deal of time and energy in establishing, developing and maintaining a natural habitat at St. John Baptist School in Belle River. This schoolyard habitat features two ponds connected by a man-made stream with water lilies, native fish, leopard frogs and turtles as well as native plants and prairie grasses. Not only does Bruno care for the habitat, but teaches school children and staff to understand and appreciate native plants and animals. He annually collects native trees, shrubs and perennial seeds and distributes them to gardeners and horticultural clubs at no charge to help increase the native plant numbers in our area.

Bruno is an advocate of pesticide free gardening. His beautifully cultivated front yard on Howard Avenue is a model for how to live a pesticide-free lifestyle. As well, Bruno amazes and

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## 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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President: Phil Roberts (776-8315)  
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Membership Secretary:	Denise Hartley
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Ontario Nature Liaison:	JoAnn Grondin
E.R.C.A. Liaison:	Bruno Sfalcin
Carolina Woods Liaison:	Ruth Junge
Point Pelee Liaison:	TBA
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

Thank you to **Nancy Murray** for the design of this issue of *The Egret*.

Speaker: E.C.F.N.C. Directors

Field Trip: JoAnn Grondin, Margaret Jennings, Betty Learnmouth

Annual Dinner: Heritage & Special Events Committees

Heritage Committee: JoAnn Grondin, Margaret Jennings, Muriel Kassimatis, Dave Kraus, Betty Learnmouth, Jim McAllister, Patricia Rhoads, Bruno Sfalcin, Gerry Waldron, Peg Wilkinson

## Henry Kock, 1952-2005

*Remembered by Gerry Waldron & Peggy Hurst*

Henry Kock died on Christmas morning 2005. The cause was brain cancer, so his death, was no surprise but still deeply grievous.

Many ECFNC members will remember Henry for his presentation to this club, the workshops on the propagation and culture of native plants that he conducted for other local conservation organizations and, for some of us especially, the friendships he cultivated locally.

Henry cut a striking figure striding to a lectern, across a campus or astride his bicycle, with a tall, lean physique, apparently unshorn, bilaterally asymmetrical beard and penetrating gaze under black, bushy brows. He had the appearance of a prophet and so he was. His mission, the conversion of the gardening public and the plant nursery industry from what he perceived as a perverted taste for exotic plants and chemical dependence in our landscapes. To this calling he brought the zeal of the born again. Henry spent his early years nurturing exotic species at the family business, Huronview Nurseries, near Sarnia in the shadow of chemical valley. He studied horticulture at the University of Guelph where you can be assured the emphasis in 1977 was not on native plants and ecosystem health. When exactly he travelled his road to Damascus we don't know. Maybe it was a journey of slow steps; maybe it came after he was hired as collections technician (soon also taking on the role of propagator) at the University of Guelph Arboretum and came into the orbit of confreres like Dr. John Ambrose, the Arboretum Curator. The Arboretum provided Henry with the pulpit from which to proselytize. He inspired thousands to nurture wild species, protect wild places and to liberate their gardens from "chemical addiction".

Henry did grow and appreciate plants from all over the planet. Many could be found on his home grounds. You could say he never met a plant he didn't like or at least one that didn't exhibit some redemptive quality. Over the years he and John Ambrose developed a home landscape style designed to nourish body and mind; a matrix of native vegetation within which non-invasive exotics provided surprise and delight.

We were fortunate to be among Henry's many guests at the 'Hotel of the Trees,' his eclectic home where theory became manifest in Guelph suburbia. No internal combustion engines or chemical fixes here – no lawn even. This home burst with ideas and artefacts – print media clippings, inspirational and dogmatic exhortations, taped, tacked and hung among a trove of natural objects displayed like sacred relicts – who, if anyone, got to dust all this? Here was the reliquary where spirited, late night, wine-fuelled discussions on the finer points of plant propagation, ecosystem restoration and the greater issues of the wider world were held. Solutions to the thorniest, most intractable global problems were epiphanized during these sessions. At the end, Henry was typically last man standing.

Recognition came to Henry in life – the Governor General's Award for Forest Stewardship and the Bonnie McCallum Environmental Award being two, but in man as in plant, blighted growth thwarts full flowering and fruition. Some of Henry's projects remain unfulfilled – elm recovery (his "dating service for lonely elms") and his magnum opus on native woody plant propagation among others. Several of Henry's devotees have vowed to carry these missions forward. Information on contributing in Henry's memory to the Elm Recovery Project can be obtained from the University of Guelph Arboretum (519-824-4120 ext. 52113) or via the web site: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/> where the Elm Recovery Project is explained and on-line donations can be made.

## Essex County Field Naturalists' Club Bucket Raffle Winners, 2005

The draw was held on December 15, 2005 in the Essex Civic Centre, Room C during the annual Members Night. Thank you to everyone who supported this fund raising raffle.

<u>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</u>	N.S. Birds; 80 Seashore & Water Birds (Book) Won by: Charles Wilson, Amherstburg, ON
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</u>	N.S. Birds: 120 Common Inland Birds (Book) Won by: J. Jensen, Essex, ON
<u>3<sup>d</sup> Prize</u>	Spirit of the Wild Dog (Book) Won by: Joan Walker, Leamington, ON
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Prize</u>	Ambassador to the Penguins (Book) Won by: Graham Brown, Kingsville, ON
<u>5<sup>th</sup> Prize</u>	Distkefink Feeder Won by: June Hurley, Belle River, ON
<u>6<sup>th</sup> Prize</u>	Black Bear (Book) Won by: Perry Fletcher, La Salle, ON
<u>7<sup>th</sup> Prize</u>	Life in the Cold (Book) Won by: Nancy Cristofoli, Windsor, ON
<u>8<sup>th</sup> Prize</u>	About Fish (Book) Won by: Sarah McAllister, Windsor, ON
<u>9<sup>th</sup> Prize</u>	Creation (Book) Won by: Jim McAllister, Windsor, ON
<u>10<sup>th</sup> Prize</u>	Throwin Way Leg (Book) Won by Len St. Louis, La Salle, ON

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## Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count, 2005

*Betty Learmouth*

This year marked the twenty-first annual Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count organized by compiler Paul Pratt. Local naturalists have enthusiastically supported this Christmas Bird Count (CBC) over the years. The CBC circle includes the Town of Essex in which a winter American Crow roost has traditionally been located. The 15 mile diameter circle ranges from Kingsville to Harrow to Essex and the Lake Erie shoreline, a very large expanse of Essex County which compiler Pratt has divided into five areas. Each area has a team leader who encourages the participation of any interested birder as the CBC takes place on just one day (this year the date was December 17, 2005) so there is a great deal to be done in a limited time. The day wraps up about 5:00 p.m. as darkness descends at which time CBCers make their way to Peggy and Tom Hurst's home for dinner and compilation.

The Cedar Creek CBC has had lots of interesting weather through the years ranging from clear and cold to steady rain. For the first time, the CBCers headed out into cold weather with quantities of freshly fallen snow from a major snow storm just two days prior to the CBC. The snow accumulation was just enough to make walking difficult as well as having a decided impact on wintering birds.

Over the years, CBCers figure out where they want to conduct their census within their areas for the best bird species return.

This is no different in the northern section of Area Two which takes in the Talbot Trail to North Ridge along County Road 34, then turns south to the By-Pass and includes all the concession roads south to the Road 2 W.D. in the Town of Kingsville, bounded on the east by the McCain Sideroad and on the west by the Arner Townline. South of this area, in the Cedar Creek watershed, the second team in Area Two composed of Paul DesJardins, Pauline Renaud, Bob Sanford, Bob Wickett and Ian Woodfield, has a number of woodlots and wetlands which provide good habitat for a wintering bird population.

Margaret Calder, Cherise Charron and Betty Learmouth, the team in Area Two's northern portion, met at 8:30 a.m. in Essex and toured along County Road 34 until reaching Betty Moore's home where we checked over Betty's pine plantation. We heard Black-capped Chickadees as we entered the plantation, then spotted a pair of Northern Cardinals, and, in a distant fence row, a perched Red-tailed Hawk. The walking was slow and laborious. Marg suggested we try walking up the plantation's centre to escape the wind which was an excellent suggestion as we were surrounded by a flock of Black-capped Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglet and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Our next stop was a few doors down County Road 34 to the east at the home of Elaine and Harry Bosveld who live in a home dating from the 1840s. It was apparent as we drove up that the Bosvelds were putting out seed as their yard was full of winter birds, likely every passerine in the immediate neighborhood. To our surprise, we noted a single Fox Sparrow feeding at the base of the main feeder amongst the usual American Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Northern Cardinals.

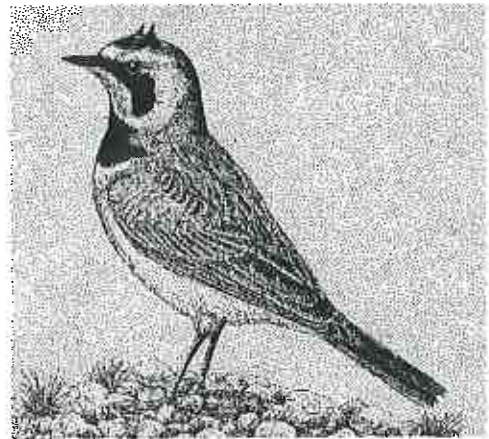
Elaine Bosveld came to her door to welcome us. We shared our Fox Sparrow discovery and Elaine showed us a photograph of a Cooper's Hawk that had hunted in their yard during the summer as well as showing us the Bosveld's 2005 Christmas card "Canadian Gothic" featuring a photograph of the Bosveld's with the house from "American Gothic" in the background.

Late in the morning, we began our tour of the concession roads traveling east and west from the Arner Townline to the McCain Sideroad. The landscape was entirely covered in snow with the only access to open soil along the road edges. Here we found Horned Larks and Song Sparrows looking for any morsel these birds might glean. Near Marsh Road we located a handsome Rough-legged Hawk which eventually settled on an open field. This was behind a fenced pasture into which four prancing horses had just been released. As we viewed the hawk, we had to look past the horses which were now rolling in the snow, while the dog in our back seat alternately barked, then growled at the horses.

Following lunch, we drove down the Arner Townline to Bill and Jack Balkwill's farm. As we drove along the concession road approaching the Balkwill gravel lane, we stopped by a weedy field in which a flock of American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were feeding.

The Balkwills met us and suggested that we look in their prairie restoration site for wintering birds. We trudged over the snow covered agricultural lands, directly into a cold west wind. We finally arrived in the lee of a neighboring woodland at the prairie site. With the early afternoon sun and in this protected spot, we actually felt the sun's warmth. As Bill had predicted, the prairie restoration site was a magnet for wintering birds, attracting over thirty American Tree Sparrows which flew back and forth between the prairie site and the nearby woodland.

We then decided to walk in the Balkwill's nearby woodland, walking along several of the lanes which allow access to the woodland. We were fortunate to view a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Red-tailed Hawk which glided away into the woodland at our approach.



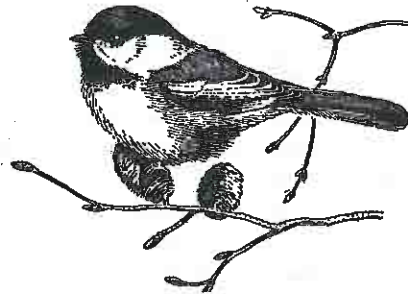
At mid afternoon, after our strenuous walk in the Balkwill woodland, we bide goodbye to the Balkwills. We decided that the remainder of the day we would complete our drive of the concession roads. We noted that at any house with a feeder, that there were good numbers of birds feeding. Along the road edges, we continued to see Horned Larks and sparrow species. We found a second Fox Sparrow at a crowded feeder and located another Rough-legged Hawk. We were lucky to glimpse an American Kestrel as it flew beside us on the Arner Town Line

By 5:00 p.m. we were on our way to dinner and the compilation at the Peggy and Tom Hurst's home. The following report prepared by Paul Pratt appeared a few days later on the Ontario Birds listserv: Eighty-eight species were recorded. Cackling Goose (3) was new to the count, bringing the total number of species recorded on all counts to 147.

Waterfowl and gulls were scarce this year as very little open water was present. The snow covered fields forced many birds to the few remaining patches of bare ground such as plowed road shoulders. Sparrow numbers were exceptional! Other noteworthy sightings included Turkey Vulture (4), Cooper's Hawk (19), Peregrine Falcon (1) and Merlin (2).

Record high counts were obtained for:

Mourning Dove	2,443
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
Black-capped Chickadee	886
Chipping Sparrow	83
Field Sparrow	61
Vesper Sparrow	4
Savannah Sparrow	15
Fox Sparrow	9
Song Sparrow	341
Dark-eyed Junco	1,833
Lapland Longspur	41
Snow Bunting	4,148
Common Grackle	636
Brown-headed Cowbird	3,309
American Goldfinch	497



Only 9 American Kestrels were counted. The Essex crow roost held 37,000 birds, down approximately 50% from last year.

Complete count results will be posted at:

<http://www.ojibway.ca>

Many thanks to Peggy and Tom Hurst who again kindly shared their home for the dinner and compilation. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the count and donated to the potluck dinner. A special thank you to Karen Cedar and Jacques Nicoletti who looked after keeping track of all the numbers on the laptop and calculator. Thank you to Paul Pratt who shared his enthusiasm with all of us.

## Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count, 2005

*Betty Learmouth*

Over the years at Christmas Bird Count (CBC) time, Ojibway Nature Centre's Paul Pratt has often been heard lamenting that the Holiday Beach area did not have its own CBC. The Big Creek Marsh area offers a variety of good habitats that could surely yield some exciting birds during a CBC.

The circumstances to establish a new CBC in the southwest corner of Essex County did not appear to be promising. To the west, the Rockwood Count, a Michigan based count across the Detroit River, occupies a portion of the Town of Amherstburg. To the east, the Cedar Creek CBC occupies parts of the Town of Essex within a side road of Howard Avenue or County Road 9. Placing a 15 mile diameter circle centred on Concession 5 in the Town of Amherstburg resulted in an overlap with both previously established counts.

With the approach of the 2005 CBC season, Paul Pratt mentioned to CBC coordinator Dick Cannings, that a potentially good CBC area was being neglected in Essex County due to the two previously positioned count circles. Coordinator Cannings felt that a new CBC could be established, as long as overlaps resulting in double counting did not occur. The Rockwood count within the Town of Amherstburg should continue with the results forwarded to the Michigan compiler. With that welcome proclamation by Coordinator Cannings, the meetings and phone calls were underway to establish the new CBC.

Paul Pratt provided a drawing of the proposed CBC showing its boundaries and overlaps. Roadways were included in the drawing. How should the new CBC be divided into areas? Paul suggested that several east to west roads would make good boundaries between the various areas.

Thus Area 1 was declared as south of County Road 20 from the Meadows westward to the Rockwood boundary in the Amherst Point area. Area 1 includes the Holiday Beach Conservation Area, Knapps Island and other private lands, representing hundreds of acres of natural habitat as well as Lake Erie shoreline.

Area 2 would be the lands north of County Road 20 and south of Texas Road. Ron Muir, who conducted an Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project in this area, volunteered to be leader for Area 2.

The Rockwood CBC in the Town of Amherstburg would still be conducted with CBCers mindful of the boundary. Boblo Island would be a part of the new Holiday Beach CBC as that area was not a part of any Rockwood count.

Area 3 was determined to be north of Texas Road and south of County Road 8, including woodlands in the River Canard watershed. A good expanse of the Detroit River shoreline would also be a part of Area 3.

Area 4 would be north of County Road 8 extending into the Town of LaSalle. Boblo Island was declared Area 5.

Prior to the count, e-mails and phone calls were necessary to explain the CBC's boundaries to all participants. Leaders for each area were designated with volunteers assigned to various areas or simply calling a leader to volunteer. Phone calls were made to arrange permission to walk on private lands. An astonishing thirty persons participated in the first year of this newly established CBC.



*Aboard the privately owned Boblo Island ferry.  
Photograph by Marg Calder*

December 28, 2005 was a calm, overcast day with temperatures hovering about the freezing point. Luckily heavy rain held off until 4:00 p.m.

Participants headed out early to their areas with one group in Area 1 arriving in the early morning darkness to conduct an owl survey. One group of five had made previous arrangements through Gerry Waldron to cross over to Boblo Island (Area 5) on the privately owned ferry. Ferry crew member Marcy welcomed the group, providing tips on locating the Bald Eagle's nest.

As instructed by Gerry Waldron, the group parked their vehicles at the condominium, continuing on foot to the island's tip where the Bois Blanc Island Lighthouse National Historic Park is located. We watched for ducks and gulls flying over head as well as any birds forging in the tangles along the water's edge. Several persons observed a bird drop into a tangle. It eventually emerged to fly to a nearby pine, allowing everyone good looks at a Great Horned Owl.

At the National Historic Park, we had good views of the area beyond the Island's southern tip. There was an expanse of open water, then a sheet of ice on which rested good number of waterfowl. Along the ice edge, various duck species could be seen.

After looking over the waterfowl, the group made its way slowly back to the vehicles and a tour of the roads in the housing area to the north. A Bald Eagle's nest was located in a wooded area. Upon arriving on the island, we had seen an eagle flying over the river. We spotted a Red-tailed Hawk and a Merlin perched in trees in the residential area. A herd of deer was observed as well a Red Fox which ran off through the residential area.

A summary of bird species seen on Boblo Island between 8:45 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. is as follows:

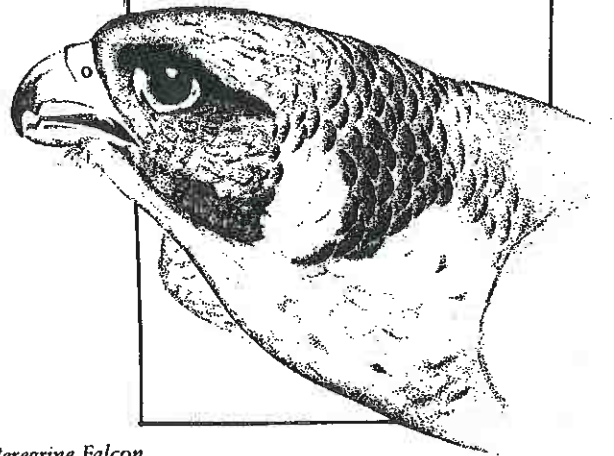
<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Observed</u>
Mute Swan	75
Canada Goose	622
American Black Duck	19
Mallard	2,513
Canvasback	26
Lesser Scaup	2
Bufflehead	2
Common Goldeneye	36
Duck species	85
Scaup species	12
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Bald Eagle	1
Merlin	1
Herring Gull	135
Rock Pigeon	34
Mourning Dove	35
Great Horned Owl	1
Downy Woodpecker	7
Blue Jay	4
American Crow	9



*Bois Blanc Island Lighthouse  
National Historic Site  
Photograph by Marg Calder*



Black-capped Chickadee	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	6
Brown Creeper	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6
European Starling	54
American Tree Sparrow	2
Song Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	14
Northern Cardinal	1
American Goldfinch	30
House Sparrow	3
Total Species	29



*Peregrine Falcon*

The compilation was held at the Ojibway Nature Centre following a potluck dinner. Eighty species were observed for a total of 27,306 individuals. A Peregrine Falcon and Tree Swallows were observed during Count Week.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to the staff at the Ojibway Nature Centre for allowing us to use their facilities. Thank you to Paul Pratt for providing guidance through the process of "getting a new CBC up and running" and to Karen Cedar for entering the data on the laptop.

Participants: Dorothy Balkwill, Gary Balkwill, Margaret Calder, Karen Cedar, Bert Cozens, Paul DesJardins, Kathy Evans, Kristen Fawdry, Bob Hall-Brooks, Tom Hince, Rene Kielbasa, Jeff Larson, Betty Learnmouth (compiler), Jim McCoy, Dorothy McLeer, Emily McKinnon, Jennifer McKinnon, Ethan Meleg, Ron Muir, Bob Pettit, Steve Pike, Paul Pratt, John Ralston, Lloyd Sayer, Janet Tuite, Dean Ware, Bob Wickett, Caroline Williams, Ian Woodfield, Fangwei Wu (30).



*Waterfowl off Boblo Island's southern tip  
Photograph by Marg Calder*

## Holiday Beach Owl Prowl, 2005

Betty Learmouth



Tom Hurst's annual owl prowls is very much a tradition with ECFNC members and friends. Tom usually selects a date in early January which gives Tom a little extra time following New Year's to scout out local owls.

The days flew by and suddenly it was January 15, 2006. Tom apologized to the fifteen persons who had joined

him in the Holiday Beach upper parking lot that he had not had time to look around for owls. But Tom told us that Phil Roberts had seen owls near the Education Building. Tom felt there might be a chance to find owls there.

We headed off on foot through the park towards the Lake Erie shoreline. One party during the Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count had seen a single Long-eared Owl in the cedars south of the camp ground. Tom checked out the cedars but no luck. At Carp Crossing the owl prowlers looked overhead as two Mute Swans winged their way to the east. The remnant woodland near Carp Crossing was checked over and a stately mature dead Burr Oak near the road was observed. Another large Burr Oak was noted further in the woodland.

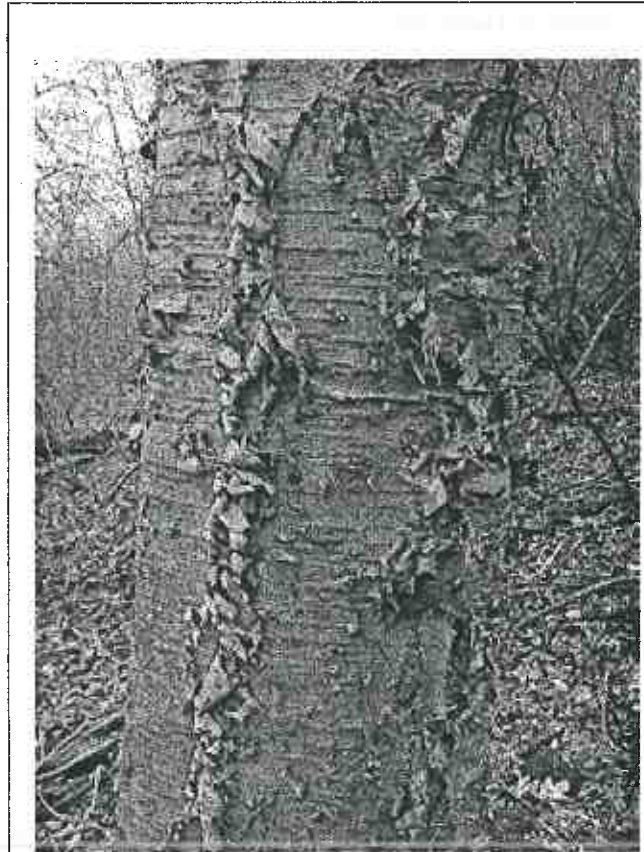
The weather was overcast but comfortable with no wind. The walk was enjoyable south along the road next to another remnant hackberry and oak woodland. Soon we arrived at the Education Building. We surveyed the poplar trees to the southwest but could see no Eastern Screech-owls. Someone suggested that if sunny conditions had prevailed our chances for an owl to be at a cavity entrance would have increased. We toured the passerine blind site, then walked over the dunes to the shoreline.

On the lake ice, which was at a distance, we could see good numbers of Canada Geese and swans swimming at the ice edge. Despite the distance, the birds could be seen well as the visibility was excellent.

We returned to our vehicles, glimpsing good

numbers of Canada Geese on the Big Creek Marsh ice. Tom offered the opportunity for anyone to continue the owl prowls in the pine plantation off Collision Road across from the Conservation Area. A group wandered about the plantation, finding one Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Thank you to Tom for again accepting the challenge of leading the annual owl prowls. We always enjoy the outing which is a wonderful start for our winter excursions.



*Swamp or Yellow Birch*

*Photograph by Wayne Wannick*

## Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp

*Betty Learmouth*

Every year during the Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count (CBC) compilation, the results of the wintering birds survey conducted by CBCers at the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp always cause a stir. On the Count date of December 18, 2005, CBCers waded through snow everywhere, finding the walking demanding. On the other hand, CBCers in the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp described their snow adventures as swimming through the drifts.

The ECFNC excursions committee had made plans to visit the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp on January 22, 2006, so news of "swimming through the drifts" was of some concern. Luckily, the weather changed dramatically by the excursion date, with a full scale January thaw underway.

Fifteen ECFNC members and friends joined Bernie Heaton and Bernie's son Jeffrey at their home adjacent to the southern portion of the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp. Jeffrey lead our group into the drier, most southerly portion of the wetland where we were delighted to find several Yellow or Swamp Birches with spectacular root buttressing. Nearby we found Pagoda Dogwood with its delicate horizontal limbs and upturned tips. Both tree species are rare in Essex County with the Yellow Birch found only in the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp.

Jeffrey lead us on a walk through the swamp which became wetter as we progressed northward. Luckily there was not a lot of standing water, just wet leaves over rich black muck. In one of the first mucky places, Jeffrey pointed to a Skunk Cabbage emerging through the leaf litter. Then we saw more and realized that in spring there would be thousands of these plants creating a spectacular display.

We noted the abundant fallen trunks of Yellow Birch which were moss covered. A few fern fronds were observed as were liverworts. Often we spotted Shunk Cabbage pushing up through mossy pillows.

We found more Yellow Birch, exclaiming over one tree which had a very strange trunk and others with bizarre buttressing. Everyone was looking for Poison Sumac which we eventually located. This species grows to be a robust shrub with gray bark. It appears not to have any twigs in winter but may have bunches of white berries clinging to the seed stalks. As we emerged from our swamp walk, Don Bissonnette showed us a large shrub which was identified as Winterberry or Michigan Holly, an uncommon shrub in Essex County.

Bernie Heaton provided us with some information about the sandy agricultural land just a few metres to the west of the swamp. When Bernie and his father farmed the 72 acre site of sandy soil, early crops were grown such as tobacco, early potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers and melons. Irrigation was necessary.

After Bernie's retirement from the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario in 1996, the Nature Conservancy of Canada purchased the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp and a nursery, which had been renting the sandhill since about 1975, purchased that portion. Soil conditions are perfect for the cultivation of grape seedlings with the aid of trickle water irrigation.

Our walk had brought us to the Black Oak Savannah which is on a sandy area between the agricultural land and the swamp. Nature Conservancy staff had marked out some study plots in the savannah but they have stated that they will likely encourage asters and goldenrods to repopulate the area rather than putting a great deal of effort into restoration. Don Bissonnette reminded us that the nearest Black Oak Savannah is at the Harrow Research Station. Native plants associated with a savannah have disappeared from that site as well.

Jeffrey lead us back along an old trail that skirted the swamp. Here we could see the work that had been undertaken in early October 2005 when White Mulberries were cut and then painted with herbicide in an effort to remove this species from the property. With the demise of the White Mulberry, hybridization will not occur with the native Red Mulberry. Following that work day, Bernie and Jeffrey continued work with the remaining White Mulberry which has now all been painted with herbicide.

Great drifts of hard packed snow had formed along the edge of the trail where vegetation had caught the blowing snow. We gingerly stepped onto the snow which held our weight, making our way to the sandy road above the swamp. We could only imagine the quantity of snow that must have been on this site during the December 18<sup>th</sup> CBC.

Thank you to Jeffrey for leading us on a wonderful walk through the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp. Thank you to Bernie for welcoming us and sharing with us the agricultural history of the lands adjacent to the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp.

## Ontario's Newest Nature Reserve

Betty Learmouth

Eighteen ECFNC naturalists and friends and two dogs met in the Chrysler Canada Greenway Arner parking lot in the early afternoon of February 12, 2006. A light dusting of fresh snow covered the ground. The sun was shining with not a breath of wind, making this a perfect day for a winter walk.

Our excursion leader Gerry Waldron always has a special area for us to explore on his traditional winter walk. From his truck's tailgate, Gerry told us we would be exploring what was likely Ontario's newest park.

The 160 acre Ed Hunter property at Cedar Creek was recently purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada with Parks Ontario taking over the management of the property. On hand for the walk was biologist Wayne Wannick who had inventoried the property some thirty years ago. Gerry had Wayne's original plant list which included several plant species of interest including Dense Blazing Star, Chestnut, and a rare moss called Spoon-leaved Moss which climbs a little way on tree trunks.

Within the property are three converging branches of the Cedar Creek. The eastern most branch begins in the Arner Pin Oak Wood Environmentally Significant Area (EAS), the Balkwill Woods ESA to the northeast is the source of the central branch, while the third branch flows from Pleasant Valley to the northwest.

As the group walked west along the Greenway, a single American Robin was spotted perched near the horse farm fence. Just at the point where the horse farm fence runs northward, Gerry pointed to a stake that is the mark between that property and the new Provincial Nature Reserve. We continued further along the Greenway, with Bill Balkwill pointing out a silky white *Promethea* Moth chrysalis clinging to a Sassafras branch at the trail's edge. Wayne Wannick remarked that thirty years ago the area next to the old CSX line was open, unlike the present situation where the woodland has grown to the trail's edge. Gerry stated that cattle had once grazed in this area.

Crossing over the foot bridge at Cedar Creek, we walked to a medium sized Pin Oak, noting a southwest corner stake just to the west of this tree. Gerry lead us onto the Parks Ontario property and the neighboring property as we made our way through a Red Cedar Savannah. In this open dry area next to a small Red Cedar, Gerry showed us a stalk of the provincially rare plant Dense Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*). Likely the area once was occupied by more plants of this species but has become overgrown.

We continued northward, arriving at a ridge above the creek on which we found a row of former fence row trees which we renamed the old growth fence row trees. Towering, knarled White Oak, Red Oak and Black Cherry graced the ridge. Continuing down the ridge to the bank of Cedar Creek, we found mink tracks while enjoying the woodland surrounding us. Across Cedar Creek we could see the debris left after lumbering occurred on the property when it was privately owned. At 3:00 p.m. an adult Red-tailed Hawk was seen circling overhead in a brilliant blue sky with a few cloud wisps.

We retreated back to the old growth fence row trees, enjoying the trees in a single line, their twisting branches creating a special scene as we approached from the east. From the old growth trees, Gerry lead us north towards the Greenway trail. Bill Balkwill pointed to the distinctive tracks of a Deer Mouse in the light snow cover. Luckily, Gerry spotted a few stems of Running Ground Pine (*Lycopodium complanatum* also known as *digitatum*) peeking through the snow. This species is known from only four locations in Essex County.

We walked east along the Greenway then stepped over the fence, walking along the ravine ridge with its view across the Cedar Creek flood plain. As we approached the property line, we turned and made our way back to the Greenway, finding more mature oaks at the property line along with Spoon-leaved Moss (*Bryoandersonia sp.*). Along the Greenway we saw a Yellow-rumped Warbler and heard the American Robin's distinctive call note.

Many thanks to Gerry for leading us on this memorable winter ramble to yet another little known corner of Essex County.

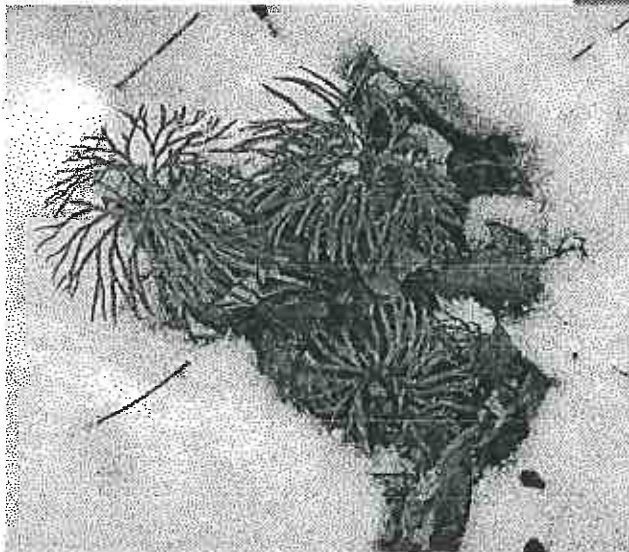


*ECFNC members from left, Margaret Jennings, Larry Onysko, Betty Learmouth, Shirley Grondin, Bev Wannick*

*Photograph by Wayne Wannick*



*Old Tree on eastern property line  
Photograph by Peggy Hurst*



*Running Ground Pine  
Photograph by Wayne Wannick*

## Our Woodlot: A Valued Friend

*Bill Balkwill*

We have always valued our woodlot for many reasons. Whenever we were feeling blue, angry or confused, a quick jaunt through the woods never failed to lift our spirits and make our day a bit brighter.

In the winter, by interpreting tracks in the snow, we could see where some animals had been foraging or where a predator had brought a life to an end. A weasel would leave a furrow in the snow where it had dragged the hapless victim's body to a hollow tree or log or a hole in the ground for safe keeping. If a hawk or owl were the predator, we would see where it had pounced on a victim or see fur or feathers blowing across the snow. In the case of a fox or coyote, we would usually see a lay mark, a bit of blood, bits of fur and usually one or more of the victim's feet. We have often observed winter birds foraging for a meal on a cold winter day.

After winter's snowstorms of soft snow, the dark trunks of the trees and limbs are trimmed with white. Drooping branches laden with snow make a beautiful Christmas card scene. The view of the woods after a sleet storm is exhilarating. The ice laden limbs and tree crowns are drooping almost to the breaking point, glittering, gleaming and twinkling in the after storm sunlight.

On cold winter moonlit nights, a walk in the crisp crunching snow, observing the ghostly shadows that dance with the breezes, is a special experience. Glistening snowflakes twinkle in the bright moonlight like a rainbow of coloured jewels. On some night walks we have heard a pair of Great Horned Owls calling back and forth, or a family of coyotes harmonizing in the bright clear night air.

When the warm days of spring arrive, the woods awaken with carpets of flowers, the calls of migrating birds are heard and over wintered butterflies bask in the sun along the trails. Some birds begin to mark their nesting territory.

Occasionally we have seen fawns hiding motionlessly in the underbrush. Several years ago, while searching for a cow and her calf, I spotted a doe nursing a fawn. When I glanced away for a moment, then turned back, they had vanished silently into the undergrowth. In the spring of 2005, as I walked the woodland trails, a pair of newborn fawns appeared in front of me. I believe they thought I was their mother returning from grazing or getting a drink because they came wobbling toward me on their spindly little legs. I avoided them by making a wide circle around them.

Come summertime, there are many species of butterflies and moths. The butterflies range from large swallowtails to tiny hairstreaks. The moths go from large native silk moths to the insignificant.

The fall woods are a kaleidoscope of colours including white, blue and purple asters, yellow golden-rods and fall leaves of brilliant hues.

During pioneer times to the early years of the twentieth century, logs were hewed into squared timbers to frame buildings. Ash, oak and walnut logs were split into rails for livestock fencing. In the early years, pole wood ash and oak were cut for fence and gate posts. Logs were sawn into lumber to make farm gates and sheeting for the roofs of farm buildings. Wooden tongues for horse drawn equipment such as doubletrees, singletrees and neck yokes were fashioned from woodland trees. Firewood heated the homes.

During the Depression wood product sales helped to pay the bills. Firewood in those days had to be of top lumber quality, no limb wood or worm holes or any signs of decay were allowed. Long, straight poles of hickory or ash were brought by commercial fishermen to fasten gill nets to. After the war, use of steel posts became common instead of wooden poles.

White oak posts were cut to build breakwaters. The breakwaters were made by driving two rows of large oak posts into the lake bed and spiking two inch oak planking to them, making an elongated crib that was filled with rocks. Once our father sold a local contractor large tall ash logs to make stringers for a makeshift bypass bridge while a new bridge was built over Cedar Creek on Highway 20 (now County Road 18). I believe this bridge has been replaced at least twice since then.

We had some logs sawed into lumber to remodel part of the old barn into a cow barn in 1950.

In 1976, on advice of a friend, we contacted what was then known as the Department of Lands and Forests, now the Department of Natural Resources, to mark trees for harvesting. The following year we signed a contract to have the Department of Lands and Forest to manage the woodlot for fifteen years. In that time they would mark the trees to be removed.

The first time they sent in their own crew to girdle the trees to thin the stand. After that they marked the trees to cull and we removed them. We preferred this method as it allowed us to leave or substitute to preserve a species. Their crew cut down a Downy Hawthorn that had a diameter of eight inches and a clean, straight, thornless trunk of more than forty feet. This tree was not marked. Because of the rarity of this species being so tall and thornless, we wish it had been left.

Some serious mistakes were made by us and Lands and Forests. Our mistake was to sign the forest management agreement before we cleaned up the tops of the harvested trees. In doing so we had a lot of dead wood that build a high population of wood boring insects during a time of high stress for the trees due to the shock of the harvest.

Flat headed borers that usually attack only deadwood attacked some of the weakened trees, mostly oaks, killing them. If we had waited a few years until the trees had recovered this would not have happened.

At that time Lands and Forests favoured ash and oak species. Beech and hickory were considered to be of low value and were to be eliminated where possible. The results of this has meant we have very few beech trees, only one known Pignut Hickory and we have lost some very thin shelled Shagbark Hickories.

In spite of these problems, we do not regret the harvest. At that time we were quite ignorant of what species of trees and shrubs we had in our woods. We knew the oaks only as Red, Pin and White Oaks, and hickories as Ridge (Shagbark) and Swamp (Shellbark). To properly manage the woodlot we had to learn to identify species of trees and shrubs after a leaf drop in order to thin the stands during the winter without losing some species.

There was to be a second harvest but we asked to have it not take place and the foresters agreed, thus we ended with a forest of all ages.

During March 2005, the first sign of the heartbreak that was about to follow became evident. The emerald ash borer infected a dozen ash trees on the east side of our woods. We cut and burned these trees, hoping we might be able to slow the spread, but it was of no avail. By February 2006, the emerald ash borer had spread across the woodlot in the low laying areas, infecting mostly Red Ash, Pumpkin Ash, and Black Ash. White Ash at that time did not show the infection.

We had two options. We could do nothing, leave the trees to die standing which could take several years, or to remove the dying trees to chip or burn. We decided to do the latter. We cut the trees at ground level using the wedge and hinge method to direct the felled trees to areas where the least damage would occur. The felled tree is then cut into movable lengths to be moved to the management lanes by wheel barrow or by carrying.

The blocks and brush are then stacked to the side of the lanes to be taken care of if weather permits. If the floor of the woods stays soft, we will have to leave the piles in the woods where they will become shelters for amphibians, reptiles, small animals and some species of birds.

To take machinery into the woods when the ground is soft would damage the tree roots allowing fungi to invade which in turn slowly kill the tree over several decades. The neighboring wood lots are infected and the owners intend to do nothing, so it will be an interesting study which method works the best over the long term.

The reason we are removing the trees is to let the sunlight to reach the floor of the woods to energize the seedlings. The tragic invasion of the emerald ash borer destroys years trying to restore quality specimens of all four species of ash to the woodlot.

We hope the woods will remain for many generations to walk the trails under the cathedral like canopy, to enjoy the beauty and the sounds of nature. We hope that sometime in the future the ash will again be restored to the woods.



Tree top cleanup crew,  
Winter 1977

Harvested  
American Beech,  
Winter 1977.



*Photos by Bill and Jack Balkwill*



## Essex County Field Naturalists' Club's Bluebird Committee Report for 2005

*Don Bissonnette*

In 2005, our Club's 16 Bluebird trails hosted 11 successful pairs of Eastern Bluebirds. These birds produced a total of only 52 fledglings. Our affiliate Bluebirders also had a poor year, producing only 30 fledgling Bluebirds. The downward trend continues.

Some of us Bluebirders were busy in February and early March. As usual, many bird houses were repaired. Posts were regreased. We also "planted" more hunting perches. Handfuls of dry White Pine needles were set below the hunting perches to serve as nesting material.

In March of 2005, the weather was nice. There were many reports of bluebirds inspecting the bird-houses. On March 25, the Calders reported the start of a Bluebird nest on the Mother-Wood Trail. The first Tree Swallow was reported on March 30, near the Harrow Research Station.

The first half of April was unusually warm. Denise Hartley reported that the first Bluebird egg, on the Woodiwiss Trail, on Sunday, April 19. By mid April, many Bluebirders were scratching their heads. The weather was nice, and most pairs of Bluebirds had completed building their nests by April 10. So, why were half of female Bluebirds not laying their eggs?

### *Snowstorm*

On April 21, our beautiful spring weather turned ugly. On April 25, I inspected 31 birdhouses on six trails. I found only 1 dead Tree Swallow. This Tree Swallow had wounds on the head, inflicted by English Sparrows, so the weather many have only been partly to blame for his death.

Most Bluebirders reported finding no dead Tree Swallows. Only a few dead Tree Swallows were reported. We are always surprised at the Tree Swallows' hardiness during cold spells.

There were a few reports of dead Bluebirds, just after the snowstorm. Most of these birds were females. When a female Bluebird is laying her clutch of eggs, she requires a diet high in protein. Bluebirds get their protein from insects. If a cold spell hits while a female Bluebird is laying her eggs, there's going to be trouble. When insects become scarce, the female Bluebird goes hungry. Unfortunately she cannot turn off her egg production. Once the first egg is laid, an egg is produced daily until there are five eggs, regardless of the bird's nutritional state. A starving female Bluebird will sacrifice protein from her muscles to produce the eggs. Unfortunately, some female Bluebirds starve to death, if their 5 days of egg laying coincides with a long cold spell.

Some Bluebirders are feeding meal worms and/or special suets during spring cold spells. This supplemental feeding can save the lives of Bluebirds.

### *Smart Bluebirds*

How smart is the Bluebird? As I mentioned earlier, over half of the female Bluebirds did not start egg laying at the usual time in mid April. These females began their egg laying in late April when the weather warmed up. It appears as if the Bluebirds knew a cold spell was coming. Despite the fact that the first half of April was sunny, with highs some times reaching 21degrees Celsius, the birds seemed to sense that winter and hunger would return on April 21.

## *Dry Pine Needles*

In February and March, we placed handfuls of dry white pine needles at the base of the hunting perches. Just like last year, the bluebirds and the tree swallows used the needles for nesting materials.

Whenever a pair of Bluebirds has the opportunity to use Pine needles in their nests, they do. We found Bluebird nests that were 90% Pine needles. I found one Bluebird nest that was only 10% Pine needles. Most of the nests were 50% Pine needles. The rest of the nest is made of dry grasses, and/or dry soya bean stems.

## *Helpful Hints*

While monitoring on the trail, some Bluebirders are keeping their notes in a vinyl covered clipboard. These clipboards have a cover which is also vinyl covered. This protects your notes from the rain.

I was monitoring the Pollard Trail one sunny morning last May. As I arrived at the last birdhouse, the sky filled with clouds. It began to rain. I ran back to my truck. I was soaked but my notes stayed dry inside the vinyl covered clipboard.

Mary Wilson monitors her birdhouses using a small voice activated tape recorder. She puts the tape recorder in a small fabric purse, and wears it around her neck. The microphone is clipped onto her shirt collar. All Mary has to carry is her screw driver. Later she plays the tape and writes the details into her book.

## *Bluebird Committee Fundraiser*

In the spring Graham Brown took some excellent photographs along the Balkwill and Pollard Trails. He took some great photographs of Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, using a photographer's blind. We turned these pictures into hasty note cards. Since all of the cards that Graham produces feature some aspect of nature, we call them NatureCards.

The Bluebird Committee is selling packs of NatureCards as a fundraiser. Each package of cards has 9 cards, 3 of each picture. The cards have a semi-gloss finish, and every card comes with an envelope. The price is \$14.95 which includes tax and mailing. Make payment to Don Bissonnette and write to Bluebird Fundraiser, 3718 Concession 3, R.R. # 2, Harrow, ON NOR 1G0

## *The Altenof Trail*

In early March, while washing out his birdhouses, Johannes Franz saw a pair of Bluebirds. This pair was in an area of good Bluebird habitat. He and I returned a few days later, and set up a new birdhouse. Every week, Johannes saw this pair of Bluebirds near the birdhouse. However, this pair did not build a nest. In late April, a pair of Tree Swallows moved into this new house.

In early May, we watched the male Bluebird catch an insect close to the new birdhouse. He carried the insect into an old willow tree. Then he climbed into an old woodpecker hole. He exited the hole a few seconds later, carrying a fecal sac. This pair of Bluebirds were nesting in a natural cavity, and their eggs had obviously hatched. The Altenof Trail had a second pair of Bluebirds which nested in a birdhouse.

## *The Harrow Research Station*

On July 17, I went to the Station to clean out birdhouse # 5. The summer nest of young Bluebirds fledged the day before. While cleaning the house, I could see something moving at the edge of the corn field, a few hundred feet away. Using my binoculars, I spotted the mystery animal.

It was a pup! This pup looked about 3 months old. It was a German Shepherd, or at least part German Shepherd. This pup was either lost or abandoned because I couldn't see its master anywhere. I thought to myself, "He'll starve out here for sure. I'd better take him home and check the "Lost and Found" column in the newspaper." I drove my truck toward him. He looked at my approaching vehicle and hid in a tall clump of grass. I parked the truck, and walked towards him. I whistled and clapped my hands, but he didn't come out to greet me. When I was

twelve feet from the clump of grass, I spotted him. Our eyes met, but he didn't move a muscle. That's when I realized that I was somewhat mistaken. I had the right genus, but the wrong species. This was not *Canis familiaris*, the domestic dog. This was *Canis latrans*, the coyote! As I returned to my truck, the coyote ran off through the corn. Hopefully, I'll see him or the rest of his pack again some day.

Thank you to everyone involved in this labour of love. Best wishes for the 2006 nesting season.

Table 1. Summary of Eastern Bluebird (EABL), Tree Swallow (TRES) and House Wren (HOWR) Nestings, 2005

Trails	Monitor	# of Houses	# Pairs of EABL	# EABL fledged	#Pairs TRES	#Pairs HOWR
<b>Club Trails</b>						
Altenof's	J. Franz	7	1	4	3	1
Arner Point	D. Bissonnette	3	0	0	3	0
Balkwill's	D. Bissonnette	8	1	3	7	0
Broughton's	B. MacDonald	4	0	0	0	0
Caney Creek	M. Jennings	2	1	5	0	0
Doyle-Goddard	M. Jennings	5	0	0	4	1
Grosso's	M.& C. Calder	2	1	5	0	1
Harrow R.S.	D. Bissonnette	5	2	10	1	0
Hepner's	B. MacDonald	4	0	0	1	0
Howling's	D. Hartley	4	0	0	3	0
Hunter's	D. Bissonnette	5	1	4	4	0
Lucchese's	R. Muir	3	1	5	1	1
O'Neil's	R. Muir	4	2	11	0	0
Pollard's	D. Bissonnette	3	1	5	3	1
Sartori's	M. Jennings	2	0	0	1	0
Woodiwiss	D. Hartley	3	0	0	2	1
	<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Affiliates</b>						
Dunn Road	A. Michinski	25	0	0	6	8
Erie Shores G.C.	M. Wilson	75	0	0	49	0
Kingsville L.	M. Hartley	7	0	0	7	0
Kummer	L. Kummer	8	0	0	3	1
Matchette Road	H. Herrdegen	12	1	4	2	1
Mother-Wood	M. & C. Calder	9	3	6	3	1
Oates	J. Oates	3	0	0	3	0
Old MacDonald	B. MacDonald	5	0	0	4	0
Orchard View	M. Wilson	45	2	13	14	0
Poisson's	C. Poisson	6	1	4	3	2
Stony Cliffs	J. & M. Celestino	7	0	0	6	1
Viv's	V. LaCroix	3	1	3	1	0
Waldron	G. Waldron	9	0	0	3	0
	<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>20</b>

## Carolinian Storeys

*Gerry Waldron Photograph: Wild Leek, Balkwill Woods, Spring 2004*

Seventy some species of trees grow in our Carolinian woodlands. They are a diverse lot. Some, such as Sycamore, Tuliptree, Black Walnut, many of the oaks, and formerly Chestnut and White Elm, are massive, reaching a lofty 40 metres and more and exceeding 4.5 metres in girth – three people arms outstretched cannot encircle these titans. Other species, for example Blue-Beech and Red Mulberry, attain a more modest stature that keeps them in a shady but protected environment.

The big ones, the trees of the overstorey, create a canopy of leaves – about three million per tree – that influence all aspects of the environment beneath them. Consider light. Even in gentle winds, the leafy overstorey creates sunflecks that dance over the woodland floor, subjecting the Trilliums, Hepaticas and all the rest of the understorey to wide swings in light intensity from second to second. Light is the most important factor – more important than moisture or nutrients - in determining species richness in our woodlands. Vertically challenged woodland plants have many strategies to deal with variable light, especially the seasonal variation. In response to the seasonality of light, plants have evolved as spring ephemerals, summer greens, wintergreens, evergreens and heteroptics (plants that produce different leaves at different seasons).

The defining feature of deciduous forests is, of course, that the trees lose their leaves in winter, but one of the most spectacular characteristics of some deciduous forests is the spring flora. There is a brief period after the ground has thawed, but before the tree canopy leafs out, when many forest wildflowers grow, flower and fruit in advance of the thickening tree canopy plunging the forest floor into gloom. Spring in the Carolinian Forest brings a burst of trilliums, violets, lady's slippers and spring beauties that seize the narrow window of light and warmth that comes before the trees leaf out. The earliest to emerge, called spring ephemerals, Virginia Spring Beauty is an example, may not have shade to deal with but they must be both frost hardy and photosynthetically efficient at low temperatures. Wild Leek leaves take the spring ephemeral path but the flowers wait until summer when their pollinators are active; then the naked flower stalks erupt from the leaf litter like parasitic plants. Putty-root Orchid leafs out in autumn. At first, during the period of tree leaf fall, the Putty-root leaves stand stiffly erect to avoid a leafy interment, later they recline on the bed of fresh fallen leaves where warmer temperatures improve photosynthetic efficiency during the cool months. There are unseen mechanisms at work as well; reflective lower leaf surfaces to shine what little light there is - usually between 1 – 7% of that received by the overstorey – back through the chlorophyll bearing cells; structures to scatter the light efficiently through the leaf tissue or specialized surface cells that concentrate the light like a lens onto the chlorophyll.

Spring ephemerals like Dutchman's-breeches and Trout Lily may have a brief annual appearance, yet be as long-lived as the trees. In general though, long-lived in herbaceous species translates to around fifteen to twenty five years. Although inconsequential in stature and mass to trees, the herbaceous species form the most diverse and dynamic component of the woods. In fact, there are thirteen times more herbaceous species than tree species in the Carolinian Forest. Although called the herbaceous layer, some of the constituent species like Running Strawberry Bush have woody stems.

The herbaceous layer harbours resident species and transient species. All the tree species and most of the shrubs are transients; nothing suits them better than a fast trip up and out of the layer. But the herbaceous layer is a filter as well as a springboard. Imagine the struggle, often futile, of a tree seedling growing in a dense stand of evergreen ferns. In this way, the humble herbaceous layer determines the succession to monarch of the forest. As in an Edwardian domestic drama, one wonders, who's in charge here, upstairs or downstairs? Should a tree seedling successfully emerge above the herbaceous plants, the table is turned. But then it faces the

competition from other tree seedlings and saplings. Ever rambled a Sugar Maple woods the summer after a big seed set? Obviously all the little maples in the seedling turf that you viewed are not going to be with us in two or three years.

Vegetative reproduction is the dominant mode of reproduction for woodland wildflowers – witness Mayapple and Dogtooth Violet colonies – but ultimately sexual reproduction is necessary for their persistence and spread. Trees tend to use wind, birds and mammals to disperse seeds. In contrast, many of the wildflowers use invertebrates, particularly ants. Some species such as Touch-me-not use ballistic dispersal. Whereas the seeds produced in the herbaceous layer may be small enough for ant transport – some even have a tasty (to ants) little handle attached – those of the overstorey can be large. Falling Shellbark Hickory nuts deliver a memorable blow. These big seeds, packed with nutrients for the seedling tree, are a powerful inducement to food-caching birds and mammals. Squirrels may be best known for this behaviour, but Blue Jays carry even large acorns to greater distances. Most seeds are consumed. True, some are capable of passing through an animal's gut unscathed – often, as in Nannyberry and Red Cedar, with enhanced germination; nonetheless most are destroyed. They run a gauntlet of molds, weevils, mice, turkeys, foxes and deer, all prepared to storm the defenses offered by husk, shell, spine and poison. The seeds' odds are poor. Yet the sheer abundance of seeds ensures some will survive. Not every year necessarily - the strategy of bearing at intervals helps keep seed predators in check. This phenomenon is often synchronous across the whole Carolinian Zone; a year notable for tonnes of Pin Oak acorns in Essex County, sees the same in Niagara. And reflect, over a tree lifetime of perhaps hundreds of years only a single offspring among these millions of potential trees need reach maturity to maintain the population.

The Carolinian forest is dynamic. Don't look upon old growth as a stable end point to succession - now we recognize that natural disturbances are forever stirring the structural and species stew. Disturbance through windthrow or ice damage has profound effects. Young trees that have been soldiering along in the shady understorey now have greater possibilities open to them and the herbaceous layer is even more dynamic.

Our woods were born in glacial trauma and in the last two hundred years have experienced an equal turbulence – fragmentation, isolation, pollution, selective cutting, edge effects, exotic species invasion, introduced pestilence and extinction. This story of perturbation was authored by ourselves. But what could you expect when you dump boatloads of industrious agrarian peoples into a wilderness of forest? Probably no original old growth of any great extent remains in the Carolinian Zone. True, there are old trees, even some patches of old trees and if we are patient and respectful more of these will appear. Thankfully we don't burn four hundred year old trees for potash anymore.

The appreciation of this diminished treasure has been slow to come. If we are to have old growth Carolinian woodland with all of its wondrous biodiversity it behoves our management agencies such as Conservation Authorities to keep this as a clear goal - even in fiscally challenging times. Because if we fail this, these Carolinian storeys will not have a happy ending.



## Twelveth Annual ECFNC

### Weekend Trip to Pelee Island: Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7, 2006

Photograph: Common Hackberries, Fish Point PNR

Leave at 10:00 am Saturday from Leamington Dock aboard the M.V. Jiimaan (be at the dock by 9:30 a.m.)

We will return to Leamington Dock by 5:45 p.m. Sunday.

We will hopefully see: migrating waterfowl & warblers, wildflowers such as trilliums & phlox, basking turtles and snakes, bullfrogs, historic sites, and hear a chorus or two of American Toads, to suggest a few of the many enjoyable experiences on Pelee Island in spring.

We may also get a chance to visit the "Wilds of Pelee Island" renewable energy and endangered species conservation education centre, and/or the Pelee Island Bird Observatory (bird banding station).

We will have plenty of time to walk, observe, and relax on the excursions to some of Pelee's most beautiful natural areas, including: Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve, Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve, the Stone Road Alvar Complex, Sheridan Point ESA, and possibly a few other stops along the way.

Should we experience inclement weather, (however, Carl Maiolani is arranging excellent weather for us - as usual) we will visit the Pelee Island Heritage Centre. The museum presents an interesting and diverse view of Pelee Island's rich natural and human history (as well as the Middle Island exhibit).

I have arranged for bus transportation while on the island - no vehicles are necessary or desired on this trip. There is parking at the Leamington Dock area (for a reasonable fee) or have someone drop you off. I have reserved space on the ferry for all registered, walk on passengers attending this trip - we will need to meet and form a group before boarding and I will purchase our tickets as a group (using the deposit money).

Accommodations have been reserved at the Anchor and Wheel Inn. The motel and bed and breakfast style rooms are very comfortable and are situated on treed, spacious grounds. Reservations are generally set for two persons per room. However, people do not need to register in pairs or groups - everyone is welcome!

The Anchor and Wheel Inn contains a clean and comfortable restaurant where I have arranged for our meals. We will break for meals regularly (lunch ~ 2 p.m. and dinner ("Big Island Buffet" including prime rib, veggie options, fish, etc.) ~ 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, breakfast ~ 9 a.m. Sunday) and hot meals and snacks are also available on both ferry crossings.

I am requesting a \$20 deposit (which will be applied to your fees for accommodations, etc.) from each person to secure reservations. I will also need to collect an additional \$130 from each participant once



on the island, to fully pay for the two ferry trips, weekend bus transportation, three meals, and overnight accommodations. This \$150 total cost will include all expenses for the weekend other than alcoholic drinks, souvenirs, or additional snacks or meals on the ferry. If there is any additional funds remaining after I pay for all of our trip expenses, I will donate the remaining money to the ECFNC Heritage Committee Fund which will be used to help purchase and protect Carolinian habitat in southwestern Ontario.

All interested persons need to do is: sign up with me & provide a \$20 deposit (cash or make cheques payable to Dave Kraus), show up at the Leamington Dock by 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning with warm field clothes and accessories (no need for rubber wading boots as the trails are elevated), overnight necessities, \$130 cash per person for me for the group trip expenses, and maybe a few additional dollars for extra snacks, etc. Please have cash to pay me for our group rated accommodations, meals, & transportation.

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

To register for this trip: see me at the ECFNC meetings, call, or write:

Dave Kraus phone: (519) 825-7491

mailing address: 1515 Concession 7, R.R. 3, Wheatley, ON N0P 2P0

I look forward to your company on this ECFNC outing!

### **ECFNC and Ojibway Nature Centre Spring Activities and Excursions**

For further information concerning ECFNC excursions, please contact JoAnn Grondin (734-0056), Margaret Jennings (250-0705) or Betty Learmouth (944-0825). Thank you to all who have volunteered to lead an excursion. Let us know about your ideas for future excursions. Considering volunteering as an excursion leader.

**March 8 – ECFNC Members Annual Meeting** – This meeting is the annual meeting of the ECFNC with reports from the various committees. The popular nature quiz will return this year with more exciting prizes. Meet in the Essex Civic Centre, Room C at 7:30 p.m.

**March 13 or 15 or 17** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Frogs, Snakes & You at Ojibway Park (ages 4-6) – Enjoy a morning or afternoon filled with activities about slimy, scaly critters. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fee.

**March 14 or 16** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Pond Pals at Ojibway Park (Ages 7-11) - Join us for swamp walks and nature fun. 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fee.

**March 20 – May 15** - Ojibway Nature Centre – Captivating Critters at Ojibway Park (ages 3-5) – Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set. Monday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fee.

**March 12** – Holiday Beach Migration Observatory – The Annual General Meeting will be held this year at Ojibway Nature Centre with a pot luck luncheon at noon followed by guest speaker ornithologist Dan Mennill of the University of Windsor's Biological Sciences Department. A business meeting will follow.

**March 18** – Citizens Environment Alliance dinner. Call CEA office for more details.

**March 18** – West Elgin Nature Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – You are invited to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the West Elgin Nature Club, which will be held at the St. Mary's Church Parish Hall, 132 Main Street, West Lorne, Ontario on Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. Ethan Meleg, a well known Canadian nature photographer,

will present a slide program entitled "The Passion of Nature Photography." A social hour will follow with refreshments. Admission tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under twelve. Advance tickets are available from Marjorie Prieksaitis at 519-785-0176 or Joanne Reive at 519-768-1365. Seating is limited so no tickets will be sold at the door. E-mail M. Prieksaitis at [wilmar@gtm.net](mailto:wilmar@gtm.net) or J.Reive at [joannereive@MSN.com](mailto:joannereive@MSN.com)

**March 25** – Carolinian West spring meeting to be held at the Pinery Provincial Park

**March 26** – ECFNC Activity – Meet ECFNC member Gerry Waldron at the active landfill restoration site in the Town of Essex for tree maintenance including pruning and placement of tree guards on young trees. Please bring your own shears. Meet at 1:00 p.m. for full instructions from Gerry and/or Peggy Hurst. Directions: Proceed south from the Essex by-pass on County Road 23 (Arner Town Line) watching for County Road 18 on your right with the sign for the landfill. Turn right at this intersection and meet at the entrance to the landfill. We will then drive to the restoration site.

**March 29** – ECFNC Executive Meeting

**April 1** – Cultivating Community – The 3rd annual Naturalized Landscape Conference

The Naturalized Habitat Network is looking forward to its third annual Naturalized Landscape Conference, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 1 in Windsor at the Hellenic Banquet Halls, 1019 Highway 3. We're proud to present this as an official *Doors Open to Ontario Nature* event in recognition of Ontario Nature's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! This year we extend an invitation to our member affiliates to join us for this special day of discussion and insights. Our impressive speakers list includes:

Wendy Francis, Director of Science and Conservation for *Ontario Nature* – "A Vision for Connecting People and Nature in Southern Ontario;" Native plant expert Craig Willette - Trends in the native plant industry; Dan Dufour, Senior Naturalist at Point Pelee National Park – Perspectives on restoration efforts at the Park over the last ten years; Environmental lawyer Jerry DeMarco - Citizen advocacy and the environment; Ecologist Paul Morris - Prairie potential: creating large and small prairies; Organic food specialists Linda Wonsel and Sue Morin - Choices and challenges: the organic industry in Southwestern Ontario; Environmental engineer Thomas Greenside - Wind and sun: Alternative energy opportunities; Tim and Joy O'Neal - Building a straw bale house; Derek Coronado - Citizens Environment Alliance. Plus a variety of displays and representatives from the region's environmental groups and businesses.

To learn more, visit our website at [www.naturalizedhabitat.org](http://www.naturalizedhabitat.org).

Costs are \$48 per person, or register with a friend for \$45 each. All registration includes lunch & refreshments. Please indicate your choice of chicken or vegetarian lasagna. Telephone registration only, call us at (519) 259-2407. Registration is required by Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

**April 8** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Spring Birding – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life which migrates through Southwestern Ontario. \$13/trip

**April 9** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Annual General Meeting of Friends of Ojibway Prairie – Join the Friends for an update on activities in the last year with a report by FoOP President. Guest speaker Paul Pratt will present a slide talk entitled "Unique Aspects of Ojibway." Refreshments will be served. Meet at 2:00 p.m.



**April 12 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting** - Our guest speaker will be University of Windsor student Jennifer Rosati who is studying forensic entomology. Jennifer has used the airport as her site to study bugs living on pig corpses. The type, timing and life cycle of a bug on a corpse indicates the time of death. Jennifer's presentation is about bugs (decomposers and partners and their life cycle). Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C at the Essex Civic Centre.

April 16 – Easter

**Tuesday, April 18** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Friends of Ojibway Prairie Spring Cleanup – Join the Friends of Ojibway Prairie as we help beautify our local natural areas. Lunch provided. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**April 22** - Ojibway Nature Centre – Spring Birding – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life which migrates through Southwestern Ontario. \$13/trip

**Sunday, April 23** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Earth Day – Fun for the whole family: environmental exhibits, entertainment, children's activities, food and much more! Free admission. All parking free at Mic Mac Park with a free shuttle bus to Ojibway Park. 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**April 26** – ECFNC Executive Meeting

**April 30 – ECFNC Excursion** – Enjoy a spring walk on the new Cedar Creek Ontario Parks Nature Reserve searching for migrating birds and to enjoy the spring ephemerals. Bring guide books as we can all contribute to the sightings. Meet in the Greenway parking lot on the Arner Town Line at 2:00 p.m. To find the parking lot, proceed south along the Arner Town Line (County Road 23) from the Essex by-pass to the hamlet of Arner at the intersection of Highway 20 and the Arner Town Line. Watch for the Greenway signs. Parking is on the left or east side of the Arner Town Line.

**May 1 – 30** – Point Pelee National Park – Spring Birding Festival

**May** – Bonnie Ross will again be organizing a **Pelee Island Garlic Mustard Pull** on the Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savannah and the Ontario Nature Stone Road Nature Reserve. This is an overnight trip (date to be determined) with several hours work on the nature reserves along with an opportunity to enjoy other areas such as the Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve. Please call Bonnie at 969-4247.

**May 3** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Birding at Pelee - Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a series of morning field trips at Point Pelee. Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. \$13/trip

**May 6** - Ojibway Nature Centre – Spring Birding – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life which migrates through Southwestern Ontario. \$13/trip

**May 6-7** – ECFNC Excursion - Pelee Island trip – See the article in this issue of *The Egret* for more details provided by trip leader Dave Kraus.

**Saturday, May 13** – Ojibway Nature Centre – Native Tree and Plant Sale at Ojibway Park – Attract wildlife to your yard with beautiful wildflowers, trees and shrubs. 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m

**May 10** – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting – Photographer and birder Steve Pike will present a program entitled "Spring Migration at Point Pelee National Park." Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre.

**May 12** - Friends of Point Pelee Fundraising Dinner. Join the Friends of Point Pelee for their fundraising dinner and silent auction on May 12, 2006. Bobby Harrison (Ivory-billed Woodpecker) will be our guest speaker. The proceeds will go to the *Keep the Songs Alive* fundraising initiative, as will the proceeds from the Dream Adventure Sweepstakes.

Call (519) 322-2365 ext. 200 or 1-866-PT-PELEE for details on purchasing your Fundraising Dinner tickets.

**May 13/14** – Hillman Song and Shorebird Festival – Activities are underway at 8:00 a.m. with banding demonstrations by Holiday Beach Migration Observatory banders. This is a wonderful opportunity to see spring migrants closely. ECFNC volunteers serve morning coffee, delicious muffins and a light lunch at noon. Activities continue until mid afternoon. The Hillman Marsh shorebird habitat is a short walk from the Festival activities.

**May 14** – ECFNC & Canada South Land Trust Excursion – Enjoy a Mother's Day woodland walk with Bill Balkwill as part of *Doors Open to Ontario Nature* which is a province wide invitation to enjoy our natural heritage and celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ontario Nature. Meet at 2:00 p.m. Directions: From Essex proceed south along the Arner Townline (County Road 23) to Road 2 West on your left in the Town of Kingsville. Turn left at this intersection and drive east watching for house number 1880 on your left. Proceed down the lane for parking.

**May 17** - Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Birding at Pelee - Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a series of morning field trips at Point Pelee. Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. \$13/trip

**May 22** – ECFNC Excursion – The Point Pelee birding walk has become a regular spring birding event for ECFNC members and friends. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Interpretive Centre. Shirley Grondin and Betty Learmouth will be hosts for this walk. We will bird in the woodland for the morning. Bring a lunch to enjoy at noon after the walk.

**May 24** - Ojibway Nature Centre – Weekday Birding at Pelee - Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a series of morning field trips at Point Pelee. Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. \$13/trip

**Saturday, June 3** – ECFNC Activity – Carolina Woods Garlic Pull – Meet Carolina Woods liaison Ruth Junge at 2:00 p.m. for a Garlic Mustard pull in an old growth woodland. Park your vehicle at the Zeller's parking in the Walmart Mall in Leamington, then walk around to the woodland where Ruth will meet everyone at the back entrance of Carolina Woods

**June 2-4, 2006** - Greenways & Waterways – Ontario Nature's 75<sup>th</sup> AGM & Conference

The Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists (KWFN) will be hosting Ontario Nature's 75<sup>th</sup> AGM and Conference on June 2 – 4, 2006 at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. A team of dedicated KWFN members have been meeting monthly for one year putting together an exciting conference.

Ontario Nature will open the conference with Provincial Issues Day followed with an evening BBQ to meet and greet. Saturday's program opens with a keynote speaker followed by numerous session presentations and panel discussions to choose from throughout the day, closing with a special presentation speaker and a 75<sup>th</sup> banquet celebration.

A large variety of field trips will also be available and are designed to illustrate first hand the topics discussed in the program sessions while showcasing the natural and cultural assets of the Region of Waterloo. These trips include among others, our heritage Grand River, rafting, unique geological and forested areas and visits to wet lands, areas of birding and botanical interest alight in spring with delicate flowers and regionally rare plants. There is a choice of outing for every interest.

Over the next few months, we will be providing more information on an outstanding 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. Please join us for this exciting event! Visit the conference website at <http://cobalt.golden.net/~kwfnconference/> for more information.

**June 11** – ECFNC Excursion - Grosse Isle Nature Conservancy and Humbug Marsh, Michigan – Bruce Johns of the Grosse Isle Nature Conservancy has kindly offered to lead ECFNC members on a walk to view the Conservancy's property on the southern part of Grosse Isle in Michigan. After lunch, we will proceed to the

nearby Humbug Marsh for a tour. Meet in the parking lot of the Ojibway Nature Centre at 8:30 a.m. We will carpool, drive across the Ambassador Bridge, proceed south on the I-75, watch for the exit to Grosse Isle, cross over the bridge to Grosse Isle, then proceed south to the Conservancy property. Our tour will begin at 10:00 a.m., ending in mid afternoon after the Humbug Marsh tour. Bring a lunch.

**June 14 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting** – Speaker to be announced. Meet in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre.

**June 18 – ECFNC Excursion** – Visit to Marg Calder’s home and to her newly planted native plant garden. More details in the June 2006 Egret.

**June 25 – ECFNC Excursion** – Visit Holiday Beach Conservation Area to search for nesting Prothonotary Warblers and other summer nesting birds. Bring your guides and we will all contribute to the sightings. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the entrance parking lot. To find the Holiday Beach Conservation Area, if you are coming from Windsor, drive out to the County along Howard Avenue to the Maldon Community Centre. At this intersection, turn right onto County Road 20 and proceed to Malden Centre. At Malden Centre, turn left and

## Essex County Field Naturalists’ Club

### Balance Sheet As at 12/31/2005

#### ASSETS

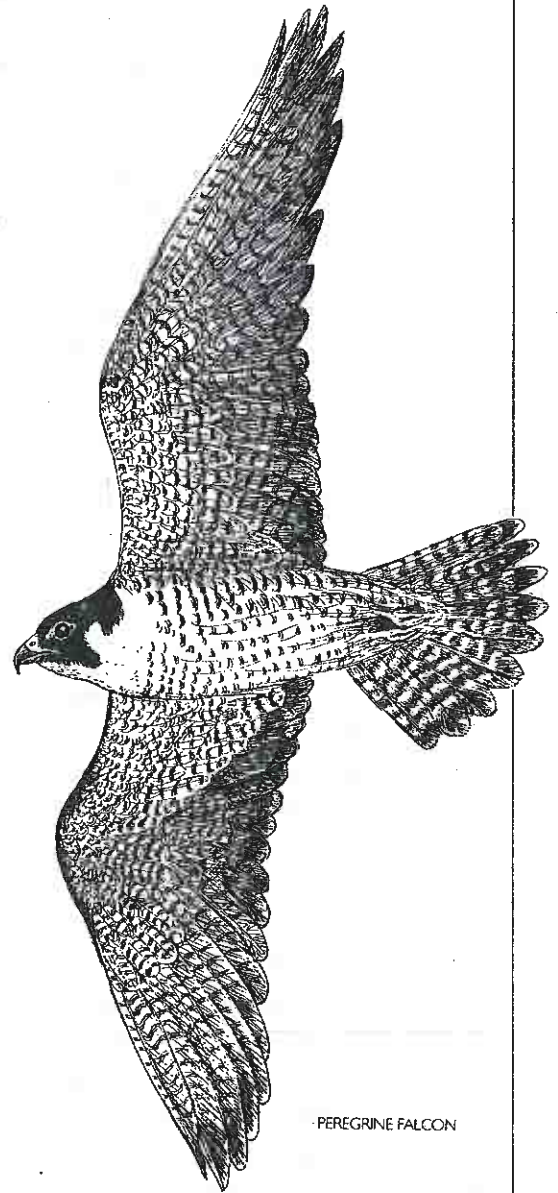
#### Current Assets

W.C.U.- Current Acct.11	3,529.86
TD Canada Trust - BBC	22.45
Woodslee Credit Union - ECSN	121,026.37
WCU-ECNS- Term deposit	21,262.05
TD Canada Trust - Heinz	0.00
Can.Trust-Term Dep.- Heinz	0.00
TD Canada Trust - Heritage Fund	5,143.02
W.C.U.- Bucket Raffle	90.26
Canada Trust - Marshfield	0.00
TD Can.Trust- N.H.R.P.# 1	2.04
W.F.Cr.Union - Special Events	8,113.84
W.F.Cr.Union - Woodlot Owners	0.00
W.F.C.U.- Natural Area ProtectionFund	367.17
WFCU. S.Cohen Memorial Savannah	602.51
W.C.U. - Eagle Project	14,908.61
W.U.C.- Backyard Habitat Program	0.00
Total Cash	175,068.18
TD Can.Trust - GIC - Heritage	0.00
GIC - W.F.C.U- Special Events	3,000.00



House wren

Life Members - GIC - TD Can.Tr.	7,342.61
NHRP- GIC - TD Can.Tr.	11,044.26
Quilt Raffle - GIC-WCU	1,451.57
Heritage - GIC-TD Can.Tr.	5,945.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Allowance for Doubful Accounts	0.00
Total Receivable	0.00
Prepaid Expense & Deposits	0.00
Inventory	0.00
Total Current Assets	203,851.62
Capital Assets	
Equipment - Trailer	5,382.20
Office Furniture & Equipment	0.00
Accum. Amort. - Furn. & Equip.	0.00
Net - Furniture & Equipment	0.00
Total Capital Assets	5,382.20
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>209,233.82</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Account Payable	0.00
Bank Loan - Current Portion	0.00
Loan Payable - Jackie Lucier	0.00
GST Charged on Sales	6.21
GST Charged on Sales - Rate 2	0.00
GST Paid on Purchases	-4,400.86
GST Owing (Refund)	4,394.65
Total Current liabilities	-4,394.65
Long Term liabilities	
Bank Loans	0.00
Mortgage Payable	0.00
Total Long Term liabilities	0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>-4,394.65</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Retained Surplus	121,527.46
Current Earnings	92,101.01
Tobl Retained Earnings	213,628.47
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>213,628.47</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>209,233.82</b>



PEREGRINE FALCON

**Essex County Field Naturalists' Club**  
Income Statement 01/01/2005 to 12/31/2005

**REVENUE**

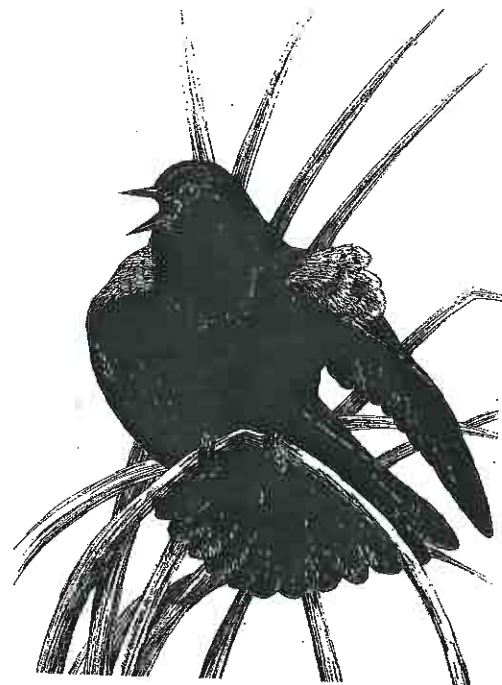
Donations	4,748.33
Memberships	2,352.69
Revenue from Fund Raising	2,723.40
Sales - Books	243.00
Grant - M.N.R.	71,500.00
Grants	130,632.00
Events Revenue	4,226.03
Administration Fees Revenue	850.00
Interest Revenue	707.53
Miscellaneous Revenue	52.43
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>218,035.41</b>

**EXPENSES**

General & Administrative Expenses

Accounting Expenses	1,426.23
Advertising & Promotions	443.23
Admin. Fees	850.00
BB Committee Supplies	522.76
Annual Dinner	2,310.89
Courier & postage	183.84
Consultants Fees & Expenses	0.00
Donations	2,050.00
Dues & Membership Fees	250.00
Egret	613.73
Fund Raising Expenses	68.69
Grants	750.00
Insurance	725.00
Interest & Bank Charges	14.00
Office Supplies	66.51
Per Diems & Honorariums	835.70
Pelee Island Prpoeriv Expenses	93.00
Printing & Copying	8.24
OMB Hearing Expenses	0.00
Meeting Expenses	266.29
Miscellaneous	9,573.94
Eagle Project - Nest Materials	24,383.12
Eagle Monitoring	330.03
Seminars/Presentations	135.00
Restoration Project Expenses	77,852.83
Trees & Seeds	1,869.94
Seed Co-ordination/Collection	0.00
Transportation & Travel Expenses	168.00
BYH - Dinner	0.00
BYH - Supplies & Expenses	0.00
Wetland Fund Expenses	143.43
Total General & Admin. Expenses	125,934.40
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>125,934.40</b>

**NET INCOME** **92,101.01**



*Red-winged blackbird*

