



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

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25th Anniversary of ECFNC

This year marks the 25th year of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club. WOW and CONGRATULATIONS!!

Our calendar will be full of events to help celebrate this exciting milestone including kayaking, star gazing, bat watching and not-to-be-missed updates on what is happening in our county. This spring look forward to presentations from the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ojibway Nature Centre (including a tour).

Our September Egret and December meeting will be dedicated to highlights of the past 25 years. Please share with us your thoughts, memories and stories and dust off those old photos and slides, there will be prizes!

Our Annual Dinner will be November 7 at the Fogolar Furlan Club, Udine Hall. Mark your calendar because you don't want to miss this "out of this world" event!



About the Club ...

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was incorporated in March 1985. We are a registered charitable organization which promotes the appreciation and conservation of our natural heritage. ECFNC provides the community opportunities to become acquainted with and understand our natural world through identification, maintenance and preservation of the natural areas within 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:

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

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Chairpersons/Liaisons:

Membership Secretary: Denise Hartley
Ontario Nature Liaison: JoAnn Grondin
ERCA Liaison: Phil Roberts/Tom Hurst
Carolina Woods Liaison: Ruth Junge
Point Pelee Liaison: Phil Roberts/Mike Malone
Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonnette
NHRP Seed Collection: Bruno Sfalcin
Special Events Coordinator: Karen Cedar
Essex County Stewardship Network Liaison: Linda Menard-Watt
Ojibway Liaison: Karen Cedar
Citizens Environment Alliance Liaison: Phil Roberts
Windsor Planning Advisory Comm. Liaison: Phil Roberts
Canada South Land Trust Liaison: Tom Hurst
Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Liaison: Phil Roberts/Ian Naisbitt

Committees:

Egret Editorial: Betty Learnmouth, Karen Cedar
Speaker: ECFNC directors
Field Trip: JoAnn Grondin, Margaret Jennings
Heritage: JoAnn Grondin (coordinator), Margaret Jennings, Dave Kraus, Betty Learnmouth, Muriel Kassimatis, Jim McAllister, Bruno Sfalcin, Gerry Waldron, Peg Wilkinson, Shirley Grondin, Cathy Lapain
Annual Dinner: Heritage & Special Events Committees
Little River Enhancement Group: Ian Naisbitt, Tom Henderson

**Fifteenth Annual ECFNC
Weekend Trip to Pelee Island
Saturday May 2 & Sunday May 3, 2009.**

Leave at 8:00 am Saturday from Kingsville Dock aboard the M.V. Jiimaan (be at dock by 7:20 am). We will return to Kingsville Dock by 3:45 pm Sunday

We will very likely see: migrating waterfowl & warblers, wildflowers such as trilliums & phlox, basking turtles and snakes, bullfrogs, historic sites, and hear choruses of American Toads, just a few of the many enjoyable experiences on Pelee Island in spring. We should also get a chance to visit the Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO bird banding station) and some of the recently acquired Nature Conservancy of Canada properties: Red Cedar Savannah ESA, Stone Road Alvar ANSI, Brown's Point and woods, and Brown's Road Alvar. We will walk, observe, and relax on the excursions to some of Pelee's most beautiful natural habitats, including: Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve, Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve, the Stone Road Alvar Complex, Sheridan Point ESA, and many other stops along the way. Should we experience inclement weather, we can visit the Pelee Island Heritage Centre, tour the island in the comfort of our rented bus driven by ECFNC member Sharon Medeiros, or possibly take in the hospitality at ECFNC members John and Mary Celestino's Mill Point cottage.

I have arranged bus transportation while on the island - no vehicles are necessary or desired. Parking is at the Kingsville Dock area (small fee). I will reserve space on the ferry for all registered participants attending this trip. Meet in the dock ticket office Saturday morning.

Accommodations have been reserved at the Anchor and Wheel Inn. The motel rooms are comfortable and are situated on 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 and will be comfortably accommodated !!! The Anchor and Wheel Inn contains a clean and comfortable restaurant where I have arranged for our delicious meals. We will break for meals regularly (lunch ~ noon and dinner ~ 6:00 pm on Saturday, breakfast ~ 8 am and lunch ~ noon Sunday) and hot meals and snacks are also available on both ferry crossings.

The total cost will be \$170 this year. This cost will include: the two ferry trips, weekend bus transportation, four hot meals, overnight motel accommodations, and all taxes and tips. The \$170 cost will include all expenses for the weekend other than alcoholic drinks, souvenirs, and snacks or meals on the ferry. All interested persons need to do is: sign up with me and then show up at the Kingsville Dock by 7:20 am Saturday morning with warm outdoor clothes and accessories, overnight necessities, \$170 cash or cheque (payable to David Kraus) per person, and a few additional dollars for extra snacks, etc.

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, but with our own driver and rented bus, we can be flexible and able to see many more sites now.

To register for this trip: see me at the ECFNC meetings, call, or write:
Dave Kraus phone: 519 825 7491 email address: david_kraus@gecdsb.on.ca
mailing address: 1515 Concession 7, RR 3, Wheatley, Ont. N0P 2P0

I look forward to your company on this ECFNC outing !!!

Looking for Long-ears or Sawwhets or Screeches

Peggy Hurst, photographs by Jim Frith

On January 11, 2009, Tom Hurst once again attempted to bring the joy of the owl to a group of eleven other hardy souls.

We had received several inches of snow recently, and the temperatures hovered around -6°C . The Holiday Beach Conservation Area parking lot before the locked gate had been plowed previously, but the recent snowfall made access challenging.

We arrived at 1:30 p.m. so that Tom could scout around for owl sign. I sat in the warm car and watched dog walkers and cross country skiers come and go, secretly hoping that no one would show up. To me, it was balaclava weather, the kind you wear to rob a variety store.

But, there was Margaret Jennings, bundled up and raring to go, waiting for us. The roads were poor enough she had left with plenty of time to get to the hike. Nine more hardy owl lovers arrived, and Tom led us down the road and out of the park to the pine/spruce plantation across County Road 50.



The highlight of the tour flitted towards us almost immediately, as we noticed in the spruce trees along the road, a very large flock of White-winged Crossbills. Estimates ranged from 300 to 501 individuals. The males ranged from dark red to near Northern Cardinal brilliance, with those distinctive white bars on their wings, and a need to orthodontia (Beakidontia?). The females were varying shades of greenish yellow. The birds seemed to mob the tree tops, feeding on the spruce cones, ebbing and flowing like the fall flocks of European Starlings.

A lovely male Northern Harrier flew over several times, hunting, causing them to scatter and return to the food, shifting from one area to another. The birds had no fear of us, as their summer range is relatively people free.

We had some great looks and some opportunities to photograph. Before Tom had finished observing them, we pushed on into the plantation itself, following the trail from north to south. Then, we spread out to cover the woods more thoroughly from south to north, paying attention to the sides of the pines, searching for streaks of white wash, indicating an owl roost.

We found neither owls nor owl sign, but several pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches entertained us, as they searched for insects under the bark.

We returned to Holiday Beach Conservation Area and most of us, ever hopeful, followed the trail beginning near the parking lot. We left no conifer uninspected. There were no owls. Near the end of our walk, a flock of as many as fifty American Robins passed overhead, and another nine were in a tree along the road. Bruno immediately thought it was Spring and wanted to go swimming.

So, we saw no owls, but boy, did we have Crossbills!



White-winged Crossbills

The ONTBIRDS messages when we got home suggested that small flocks were seen all over southern Ontario that day, but we were the lucky ones, finding them at their destination, and in such numbers.

Spotted Towhee: Pelee's Latest Celebrity

Article and photographs by Cherise Charron



Spotted Towhee (left), Eastern Towhee (right)

Spotted Towhee

A male Spotted Towhee has been spending time at Point Pelee in the company of a male Eastern Towhee and White-throated Sparrow (The three amigos).

The male Spotted Towhee was initially spotted by Alan Wormington in early November 2008 near the sparrow field. Steve Pike took some great pictures of the birds that are at website ofo.ca. I had missed the bird that time around. Later on in early December the bird had moved further south near the train loop and the pathway leading to the east beach.

On December 8, 2008 in the afternoon, I was fortunate to see this western bird with his eastern counterpart. Also with those two was the third amigo, the White-throated Sparrow. Late on the towhee was joined by a Carolina Wren. The towhees were foraging in the snow, flipping over leaves in search of food. The birds were quite neat to watch.

Thank you to Richard Carr for pointing out the towhees to me and Marianne Reid that day. I managed to get some pictures (proof shots). It was hard to get pictures as the birds were foraging in among tangles of brush.

I had heard that Tom Hurst also managed to see the towhee. Congratulations, Tom! Tom had been looking for the towhee since November as well.

The towhee was so famous that it was also mentioned by Tom Hayman in the *London Free Press* on December 13, 2008 in his *The World Outdoors* column.

Wildlife Abounds at the Mall

Betty Learmouth

That Nature Guy Phil Roberts (a.k.a. the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club's President) and broadcaster Barbara Peacock spoke during a CBC special Christmas program held at the Devonshire Mall food court on December 11, 2008. Barbara remarked that Devonshire Mall was not a place that a naturalist might think of when thinking about wildlife. Phil then proceeded to describe a recent wildlife incident at the Mall.

Phil told Barbara that he had received a call in late spring that many gulls were on the Mall's roof. When Phil went to investigate he found 500 gulls on the roof of the Mall. The Ring-billed Gulls were nesting in a colony with incubation of eggs underway.

Phil explained that the Mall's roof consists of 1,000,000 square feet of space or the equivalent of 26 or 27 acres of flat terrain. The Mall's roof resembles a big open beach similar to the spit at Point Pelee National Park. The area is a ballasted roof with fine material that is especially attractive to nesting gulls.

Within a gull colony, at nesting time, everything is happening at the same time. Eggs are being incubated, chicks are being feed and young are fledging.

Many birds were in the air above the Mall at 3,000 to 4,000 feet which was proving to be a hazard for aircraft at the nearby Windsor Airport.

Following nesting, distress calls were broadcast. The Mall roof is now gull free.

Little River Enhancement Committee Annual Report April 2008 to March 2009

Ian Naisbitt, Chair Lil' Reg Committee

On Saturday, April 19, ECFNC member Tom Henderson and I attended an announcement on Fighting Island in the Detroit River, LaSalle between 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The governments of the U.S.A. and Canada announced \$178,000 in funding to construct a Lake Sturgeon spawning reef off Fighting Island in the Detroit River. Reef construction will take place in 2008 – 2009. This is the first time both Canadian and U.S. money is being pooled for a common fish habitat rehabilitation project in the Great Lakes.

Participants were fortunate enough to view a female Lake Sturgeon, which had been caught the day before and released today. These magnificent fish were present when the dinosaurs ruled the world. In Canada, the fish has been identified as threatened. Lake Sturgeon is native to the Great Lakes and the Huron-Erie corridor was one of the most productive waters in North America.

In 2001, Lake Sturgeon spawning was documented in the Detroit River for the first time in over 20 years. Lack of habitat spawning areas is one of the factors the numbers of Lake Sturgeon are still low. Over the past 6 years, spawning habitat has been constructed off Belle Isle in Detroit, off McKee Park in Windsor and off Fort Malden in Amherstburg.

On Tuesday, April 29, community volunteers assisted students, their parents and teachers from A. V. Graham Public School in the Town of Tecumseh. We planted 60 red cedars and 60 hardwoods in Millennium Park and on AVG school property in the Town of Tecumseh. Students from Mrs. McGregor's grade 7 and Mr. Reaume's grade 8 classes did the lion's share of the work between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. Topsoil and mulch were placed around all of the trees and shrubs planted. A job well done! This also marks a special occasion for the Little River Enhancement Group; we have planted over 20,000 trees and shrubs since May 1990!

The weather cooperated with clear skies. The early morning was brisk, but it warmed up as the sun rose. It was a very successful day and all participants want to do another planting in the autumn.

Environment Canada provided the funding for the planting stock through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund. The Town of Tecumseh provided staff, labour and supplies to support the volunteers' efforts. A special thank you to Ken Colthurst for working with the Essex County

Field Naturalists' Club to make this project happen. Also, we were very appreciative of Brett Groves/ Essex County Stewardship Network for helping us by picking up and delivering the plant stock. Brett worked diligently to get the job done properly. As well, we appreciated volunteers from the Canadian Auto Workers Local 200.

In the afternoon, volunteers traveled to the Riverside Sportsmen Club where we replaced 5 memorial trees and planted 20 trees along the walkway to their new tent pad. We placed topsoil and mulch around all the trees that we have planted at this site.

We will return to both planting sites and enhance the area with more trees and shrubs. All of our efforts assist the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, which strives to improve the ecosystem health of the Detroit River Watershed.

On Saturday, September 20, volunteers participated in our 33rd cleanup in the Little River Watershed. As part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, we targeted the section of river between Lauzon Road and Tecumseh Road. Our group has cleaned up this site 10 times since October 1996. The weather was perfect for a cleanup: blue sky and moderate temperatures in the morning. We met at 9:00 a.m. and worked until noon.

The largest group of volunteers was from the University of Windsor (MacDonald Hall and the Environmental Studies Club.) They did a great job, 480 kilograms of junk was removed from the area! There was quite a collection of garbage: patio umbrella, 1 ice skate, inflatable dingy, fire extinguisher, bedsprings, vacuum cleaner, 2 tarpaulins, pool ladders, construction wood, scarf, 4 bicycles, canoe paddle, pair of in-line skates, 2 car tires, section of downspout, and copious amounts of litter of course. We were pleased to remove only 4 shopping carts this time. The Computers for Kids truck was loaded with as much recyclable metal as possible: wire, fence posts, pipes, and carts.

Volunteers were also fortunate to see a Great Blue Heron fly by, heard a Carolina Wren and saw 3 Black-crowned Night Herons cavorting about the trees.

A special thank you to Caroline Biribauer/ Essex Region Conservation Authority for organizing the event. Also, thanks to Natalie Green/ Detroit River Canadian Cleanup for treating the volunteers to a pizza lunch after their successful cleanup.

On Saturday, October 4, we were invited by Bill Roesel/ City of Windsor to participate in a planting event at the new Windsor Family Credit Union Centre (new arena) site. Community volunteers planted trees and shrubs in the naturalized areas created on the arena site.

On Tuesday, November 4, we were invited by Caroline Biribauer/ Essex Region Conservation Authority to participate in a planting event at Realtor Park in east Windsor. 100 large stock trees were planted in the park by students from Riverside Secondary School and Concord Public School.

On Wednesday, November 5, we were invited by Casey Colthurst/ Town of Tecumseh to participate in a planting event at Millennium Park. Grade 7 M students, their parents and teacher from A. V. Graham Public School helped plant more red cedars in the park to expand the naturalized area.

All ECFNC members are invited to our cleanup and planting events in the Spring and Autumn seasons.

**HELP CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
WINDSOR ESSEX EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS!**

April 26, 2009

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Mic Mac Park

Call Ojibway Nature Centre at 519-966-5852 for details.

Winter Raptors, December 31, 2008
Comments and photographs by Cherise Charron



Adult Cooper's Hawk



Immature Cooper's Hawk

The adult and immature Cooper's Hawks were in a tree in the Charron's yard on County Rd 37.



The Peregrine Falcon was seen at Erieau.



The Red-tailed Hawk was cruising near Hillman Marsh.



The Rough-legged Hawk was observed near the Pelee Peninsula Onion Fields.



I've also included some unique snow patterns that I saw on the beach at the tip of Point Pelee and on the East Beach. It is amazing how much of the East Beach has been eroded by winds, weather, et cetera.

Winter Waterfowl Excursion

Margaret Jennings

On February 1, 2009, three field naturalists met our leader Paul DesJardins in the Ojibway parking lot for the winter waterfowl excursion. Because the lakes were still frozen, Paul proposed that we go along the river.

Our first stop was under the Ambassador Bridge, where we had a good look at a male Peregrine Falcon through the scope. One of the security guards who stopped to check us out also enjoyed seeing the falcon.

We made several stops at parks along the Detroit River. Because the group was small we had good chances to view the waterfowl in the scope, and practice our identification skills. We saw Buffleheads, Common Goldeneye, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Canvasbacks, Mute and Tundra Swans, and a Great Blue Heron.

Thanks to Paul for planning and leading an informative and interesting trip.

Cherise's Winter Bird Report from Hillman Area and Point Pelee

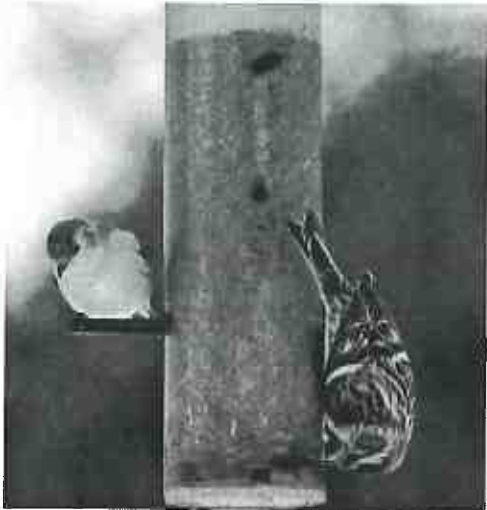
Report Date: February 10, 2009

Cherise Charron

The feeders in the yard have seen most of our usual suspects: House Sparrows, American Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Mourning Doves, American Goldfinches, Blue Jays, White-crowned Sparrows, and Northern Cardinals.

This year we have had a high total of ten Northern Cardinals at one time at the feeders, five males and five females. It's been quite a year for the Northern Cardinals.

At the suet feeders we had male and female Downy Woodpeckers, plus the male and female Red-bellied Woodpeckers. I think they live across the road in the neighbour's trees. Of note this winter are some Pine Siskins, a couple of Common Redpolls, one lone Song Sparrow, one lone Snow Bunting, and seven Horned Larks. One day we had one Horned Lark (perhaps a scout) and the next day we had seventy-one!



American Goldfinch (left), Common Redpoll (right)



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Since we have birds we also have raptors cruising the backyard. We have had both adult and immature Cooper's Hawks trying their luck. In the corner near the tree line we watched an immature Cooper's Hawk feast on a junco. We did this through a scope we set up in the kitchen. After the Cooper's Hawk had finished eating I went to the spot where it was and saw small gray feathers so that's how I knew what it had eaten.

Back to the raptors. We also have had an immature and adult male Northern Harrier cruise through the yard looking for a meal.

Meanwhile at Point Pelee, the Spotted Towhee continues to make appearances for the people who visit the Tip. I last saw him on February 8, 2009. There have been American Robins on the move around the park as well as Cedar Waxwings. American Tree Sparrows have been sighted with the Spotted Towhee. Also in the park I have seen Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Cardinals, kinglets, and Carolina Wren.

The Tip is much longer than in the spring and the east side has a much wider expanse of sand than in the spring. People are coming to the Tip to walk to the end and to check out the big mounds of ice and snow. It is so neat to see the changing scenery. While at the Tip on February 9, 2009, I saw three Horned Larks on the Tip's sand.



Carolina Wren

Also at the Tip were some mergansers and scaup species flying by. The Common Goldeneyes were also in flight as you could hear their whistling wings as they flew by.



Point Pelee ice



Point Pelee ice mounds

Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count, 2008

Betty Learmouth

The fourth annual Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on December 14, 2008. This count is located in the Town of Amherstburg, side by side with two other count circles, Michigan's Rockwood CBC and Essex County's Cedar Creek CBC. Most CBCs are circles of a 15 mile radius. Due to its location between these two other count circles, the Holiday Beach CBC resembles an apple core in shape.

The Holiday Beach CBC samples winter bird species in a variety of habitats including Big Creek Marsh, woodlands in both the Town of Amherstburg and the Town of LaSalle, hedgerows, agricultural lands, restoration sites, Lake Erie and its shoreline, the Detroit River and its shoreline.

Some species seen during the count (with numbers in brackets) included Mute Swans (233), Canada Geese (6659), Wood Duck (1), Green-winged Teal (1, new species for the count), Mallard (4544), Northern Pintail (2), Gadwall (1), Hooded Merganser (1), Ruddy Duck (2), Bald Eagles (11, a conservative number), Red-shouldered Hawk (2), Wild Turkey (44), Eastern Screech-owl (6), Great Horned Owl (2), Long-eared Owl (1), Short-eared Owl (3, over Big Creek Marsh), Eastern Phoebe (1), Tufted Titmouse (6), Carolina Wren (23), House Wren (2), Winter Wren (3), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Eastern Bluebird (10), Hermit Thrush (6), American Robin (71), Yellow-rumped Warbler (19), Eastern Towhee (1), and Fox Sparrow (1). Seventy-six species were observed for a total of 13,937 individuals.

Thank you to the count participants who birded in six different areas from Holiday Beach Conservation Area to the Town of LaSalle: Karen Cedar, Cherise Charron, Celia Chui, Jessica Cuthbert, Shirley Grondin, Daniel Hanley, Denise Hartley, James Higginson, Kerry Higginson, Tom Hince, Bob Hall-Brooks, Betty Learmouth (compiler), Dan Loncke, Jim McCoy, Anne Muir, Ron Muir, Karan Odom, Claude Radley, Janet Tuite, Bob Wickett, and Ian Woodfield. Thank you to Karen Cedar who recorded each species on a laptop computer, generating the number of species observed and the number of individuals.

POINT PELEE BIRDS — ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2008

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This 2008 summary pertains to the Point Pelee Birding Area, which is a CBC circle centred slightly north of Concession Road D. The area includes all of Wheatley and Wheatley Provincial Park to the northeast, and all of Seacliff and Leamington to the northwest.

As in 2007, it was again noted that fewer birders are visiting Point Pelee. This trend was particularly obvious during the fall season. It is truly remarkable that one can go birding on a weekend at Point Pelee during the height of fall migration — and no other birders are encountered!

Despite the ongoing decline of visiting birders, 2008 was nonetheless a fabulous year at Point Pelee with a long list of significant observations to report. A total of 285 species was found, which is above the long-term annual average of 279.8 species dating back to 1980 inclusive (n = 29). During these 29 years the highest annual totals were in 2005 (301 species) and 2003 and 1981 (both 289 species). The lowest annual totals pertain to 1989 and 1984 (both 271 species).

The 2008 list does not include Wild Turkey. Although birds are well established (especially within Point Pelee National Park), technically they are not “countable” until after ten generations have occurred. I will include the species in about five-years’ time, if the population remains viable.

The following species were *not* found at Point Pelee during 2008, but are somewhat regular in occurrence. For example, they typically occur 2-3 times or more during a 5-year period. If anyone is aware of any of these species being observed during 2008, please let me know.

Ross’s Goose — *first time not recorded since 2000*
Eurasian Wigeon
Harlequin Duck
Snowy Egret
Piping Plover
Chuck-will’s-widow
Yellow-throated Warbler — *first time not recorded since 2003*
Le Conte’s Sparrow — *first time not recorded since 2002*
Blue Grosbeak
Dickcissel — *first time not recorded since 1999*

Finally, the following sections detail only significant observations that were made during 2008. There were, of course, many other sightings of note including early and late migration dates, unusual wintering and summering records, breeding records, record-high counts, etc., but these are too numerous to be detailed here.

Thanks to everyone for providing their sightings, even if they could not be included in this summary.

— ONTARIO RARITIES at POINT PELEE in 2008 —

Listed below are provincial rarities as designated by the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC). The final status of these records await decisions by that body, at least for those sightings that were in fact documented and submitted to the OBRC for review.

Mottled Duck

May 1–June 6 — one male, NW Hillman Marsh (Dean J. Ware *et al.*)

– a NEW species for Point Pelee, Ontario and Canada; species # 385 for Point Pelee.



Ontario's first Mottled Duck at Hillman Marsh, May 6, 2008 – Stephen T. Pike

Little Blue Heron

April 26 — one adult, NW Hillman Marsh (Edward P. LeBlanc, Michael A. Biro, Robert J. Cermak)

Black Vulture

May 9-14 — one, Northwest Beach to East Beach (Richard Salembier *et al.*)

– due to ill health, on the last date this bird was captured and taken to *Wings Avian Rehabilitation Centre* in Amherstburg; here it was determined to have a neurological disorder, possibly caused by botulism or West Nile virus. A release in the spring (2009) is anticipated.



Black Vulture at East Beach of Point Pelee, May 13, 2008 – Gary A. Houghton

Mississippi Kite

May 5-6 — one adult, NW Hillman Marsh (5th) and PPNP (6th) (G. Tom Hince *et al.*)

Arctic Tern

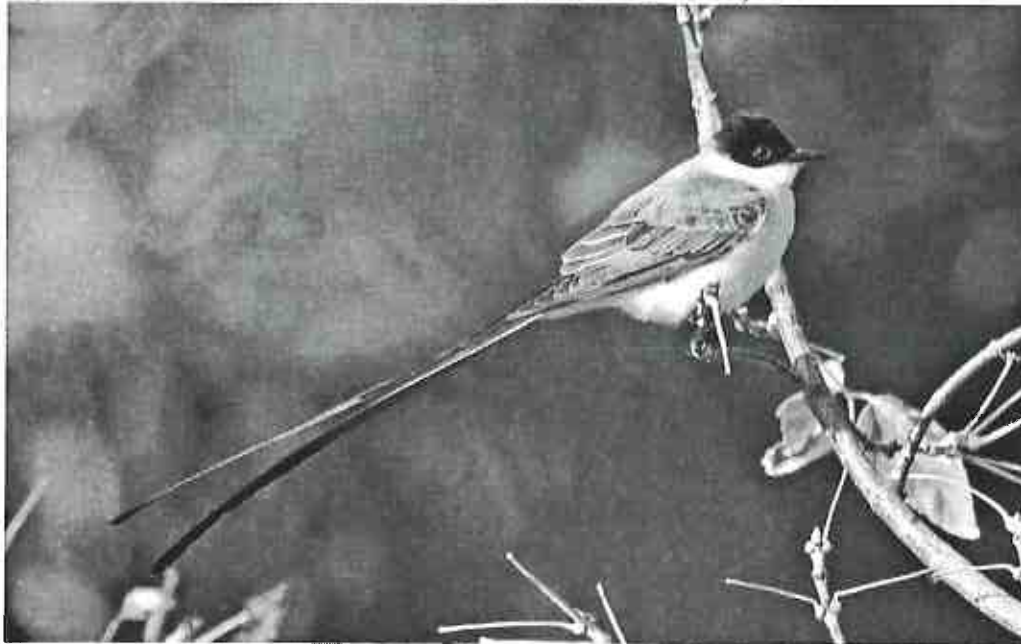
May 18 — one adult, Wheatley Harbour (Alan Wormington)

- this represents the 2nd record for Point Pelee, but the first during spring migration.
- during the spring there was a mini-invasion into southern Ontario, with additional sightings at Ottawa (May 20–June 1), Presqu'île Provincial Park (May 22) and Cobourg (May 29); a late spring in combination with excessive east winds created the perfect conditions for these inland occurrences.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher

October 22 — one nominate *savana* immature, Concession Road D (Brad M. Ouellette *et al.*)

- this represents the 2nd record for Point Pelee (11th for Ontario) of this South American species; the first Point Pelee occurrence was on December 5-6, 2004.



Point Pelee's second Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Concession Road D, October 22, 2008 – Robert Epstein

Fish Crow

May 7-8 — two (pair?), Woodland Nature Trail to Tip to PPNP Cemetery (D. Keith Sealy *et al.*)

Cave Swallow

November 8 — two, flying south off Tip @ 9:05 a.m. (AW, KAM, Blake A. Mann)

November 8 — four, east side of Tip @ 11:35 a.m. (BAM, AW, KAM)

November 8 — two, flying south off Tip @ 12:10 p.m. (BAM, AW, KAM)

November 9 — one, flying south off Tip @ 9:35 a.m. (Richard P. Carr, Stephen T. Pike, AW)

November 9 — one, flying south at NE Beach @ 2:35 p.m. (STP); Tip @ 3:15 p.m. (GTH)

- presumably the same bird was involved in both of these observations.

“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler

May 25 — one male, east side of Loop Woods (Catherine L. Carroll)

December 13 — one adult male, north of Tilden’s Woods (AW)

– these observations represent the 13th and 14th records for Point Pelee.

Kirtland’s Warbler

May 15 — one male (unbanded), west side of Tip (Brandon R. Holden, Eric W. Holden *et al.*)

Spotted Towhee

November 11–December 31+ (present into 2009) — one adult male *arcticus*, Tip (AW *et al.*)

– 3rd record for Point Pelee; the previous two were on January 28, 1979 and October 18, 1995.



Point Pelee’s third Spotted Towhee, west of Sparrow Field on November 12, 2008 – Stephen T. Pike

Lark Sparrow

October 11 — one, West Beach (Michael A. Kielb)

Lark Bunting

May 11 — one male, west side of Tip (Gordon Atkins *et al.*)

– this represents the 5th Point Pelee record (second in spring)



The fifth Lark Bunting for Point Pelee, at Loop Woods on May 11, 2008 – Andrew Keaveney

Henslow's Sparrow

May 2 — one, south of DeLaurier Trail (AW)

May 2 — one, Tip (Tirzah Harter *et al.*)

May 13 — one, Northwest Beach (M. Striganuk)

— **ADDITIONAL RARITIES of NOTE (not OBRC)** —

Greater White-fronted Goose

March 24 — two adults (pair), SW Hillman Marsh (DJW)

March 24 — one adult, NE Hillman Marsh (DJW)

December 27 — two *frontalis* adults (one shot), Hillman Marsh (DJW *et al.*)

December 28 — two, Hillman Marsh (DJW *et al.*)

– presumably both of these are different from the bird not shot on December 27.

Brant

November 9 — one, flying E - W past Tip @ 8:45 a.m. (AW, RPC); on Tip @ 3:15 p.m. (GTH)

– presumably the same bird was involved in both of these observations.

King Eider

January 6 — one immature male, Northeast Beach (DJW, Adam C. Pinch)

April 8 — two females, West Beach (AW *et al.*)

Red-necked Grebe

November 10 — one, east side of Tip (AW, RPC)

Eared Grebe

December 8 — one, flying north at east side of Tip (AW, RPC, Cherise A. Charron)

American White Pelican

May 12 — two, Tip to Northwest Beach (many observers; finders not known)

– the same birds were subsequently seen on May 13 at Middle Island; presumably the same birds were also present earlier at Rondeau Provincial Park, on May 9-12.

July 17 — one, East Cranberry Pond (Regina Meyes)

Cattle Egret

May 3-4 — one, NW Hillman (3rd) and Concession Road D to Sturgeon Creek (4th) (DJW *et al.*)

May 8 — one, Concession Road E (Jean François)

King Rail

May 12-June 3 — one, NW Hillman Marsh @ Lebo Creek Bridge (AW *et al.*)

– two birds were present on May 17; presumably the birds could have nested at this site.

May 21 — one, SW Hillman Marsh @ dike around main marsh cell (Henrietta T. O'Neill)

May 29-31 — one, NW Hillman Marsh @ shorebird cell (DJW)

August 14 — one adult, NW Hillman Marsh @ main marsh cell (CAC)

American Avocet

April 19 — 40, NW Hillman Marsh (RPC *et al.*)

– this also represents a record-high count for Point Pelee.

April 23 — 12, Wheatley Harbour (J. Michael Tate, RJC *et al.*)

May 2 — four, NW Hillman Marsh (Ronald G. Tozer, RJC *et al.*)

September 28–October 9 — one juvenile male, Sturgeon Creek (STP *et al.*)

November 9 — two juvenile males, Tip (RPC, AW)



A record flock of 40 American Avocets, Hillman Marsh, April 19, 2008 – Cherise A. Charron

Purple Sandpiper

December 3 — one, flying east to west past Tip (AW)

Red Phalarope

May 4 — one in basic plumage, Lake Erie north of PPNP entrance (RS, Robert R. Taylor)

– this represents only the second spring record for Point Pelee; the first was on May 9, 1978.

October 31–November 1 — one, Wheatley Harbour (Thomas P. Hurst *et al.*)



Red Phalarope, on Lake Erie just north of PPNP, May 4, 2008 – Robert R. Taylor

Laughing Gull

May 3 — one adult, west of Wheatley Harbour and NW Hillman Marsh (Kenneth G. Burrell, Michael V.A. Burrell *et al.*)

May 6 — one adult, flying east to west past Tip (Kevin A. McLaughlin, William G. Lamond)

May 8-9 — one adult, NW Hillman Marsh (8th) and Concession Road D (9th) (Karl R. Overman, Will Weber *et al.*)

- May 13-21 — two adults, East Beach @ Sparrow Field (Mark Hubinger *et al.*)
– these two birds were acting like a mated pair; perhaps they nested somewhere on Lake Erie.
May 29 — one adult, East Beach @ Sparrow Field (Adam J. Hall, Rosalee A. Hall)
– this bird probably was *not* one of the two adult birds as listed above.

Franklin's Gull

- May 24 — one second-summer immature, Wheatley Harbour (AW)
November 8 — 22, flying south (southeast) off Tip (AW, KAM, BAM)
– a compact flock of mostly first-winter immatures, with at least one adult.
November 9 — one first-winter immature, Tip (AW, STP, RPC)
November 15 — one first-winter immature, fields N of Wheatley Harbour (AW)

Black-headed Gull

- June 10 — one first-summer immature, NW Hillman Marsh (AW)

Sabine's Gull

- August 28 — one juvenile, resting / feeding at Tip (AW)
September 8 — one juvenile, flying west to east past Tip @ 8:40 a.m. (AW, Marianne B. Reid)
September 8 — one juvenile, flying west to east past Tip @ 9:05 a.m. (AW, MBR)

Black-legged Kittiwake

- November 13 — one first-winter immature, Tip (GTH)

Pomarine Jaeger

- September 14 — one light-morph juvenile, flying west to east past Tip (AW, JMT, BAM)

Long-tailed Jaeger

- September 5 — one intermediate-morph juvenile, flying west to east past Tip (AW)
September 20 — one intermediate-morph juvenile, flying west to east past Tip (AW, JMT *et al.*)
September 30 — one intermediate-morph juvenile, flying west to east past Tip (AW, MBR)

Snowy Owl

- November 9-11 — one, Onion Fields (Jason Telasco, Wayne Telasco *et al.*)
November 10 — one immature, NW Leamington (JT, WT)

Tufted Titmouse

- April 29 — one, Tip (Tim Snieder, Dominic Cormier)
May 8 — one, Pioneer Picnic Area (Greg Boyce)

Yellow-headed Blackbird

- May 3 — one male, NE Hillman Marsh (G. Brock May)
May 10 — one, flying over Tilden's Woods (J. McDonald)

Brewer's Blackbird

- November 16 — three males, Concession Road E (AW)

White-winged Crossbill

November 11 — five, flying north over DeLaurier Parking Area (AW)

November 20 — 55, Wheatley Provincial Park (STP)

December 26 — 22, Wheatley Provincial Park (James T. Burk)

— SIGNIFICANT OCCURRENCE DATES —

With a history of bird study dating back to 1877, it seems remarkable that *any* record-early or record-late date could be established at Point Pelee. Yet every year we continue to push the biological limits of these migration categories.

RECORD-EARLY SPRING:

Greater White-fronted Goose — two on December 27 (DJW *et al.*) — 27 days record-early

– on December 28, an additional two birds were found (DJW *et al.*).

Snow Goose — 12 on December 28 (DJW) — 3 days record-early

– on December 30, an additional eight birds were found (DJW).

Gadwall — two on December 27 (DJW *et al.*) — 7 days record-early

– three additional birds on December 28 (AW), and another ten on December 29 (AW).

American Wigeon — two on December 29 (AW) — 5 days record-early

American Black Duck — two on December 27 (AW) — 4 days record-early

Mallard — 12 on December 27 (DJW) — 4 days record-early

Northern Shoveler — two on December 27 (DJW) — 4 days record-early

– on December 28, an additional four birds were found (AW).

Northern Pintail — 300 on December 27 (DJW *et al.*) — 4 days record-early

– 320 additional birds on December 28 (AW), and another 265 on December 29 (AW).

Green-winged Teal — two on December 27 (DJW) — 7 days record-early

– on December 28, an additional six birds were found (AW).

Ring-necked Duck — seven on December 28 (AW, DJW) — 6 days record-early

Peregrine Falcon — one on March 19 (AW) — ties record-early

Red Phalarope — one on May 4 (RS, RRT) — 5 days record-early

Black Tern — one on April 25 (AW, JMT) — 1 day record-early

Acadian Flycatcher — one on April 26 (AW, RJC, JMT) — 4 days record-early

Willow Flycatcher — one (seen and heard) April 27 (JMT, RJC, EPL) — 7 days record-early

Blue Jay — three (flock) on April 18 over Loop Woods (AW, HTO) — 1 day record-early

Nashville Warbler — one on April 16 (AW) — ties record-early

— Notes on the December 27-30 waterfowl observations —

On December 27 an unprecedented event took place across the lower Great Lakes, in an area including northern Indiana, southern Michigan, northern Ohio, northwestern Pennsylvania and southern Ontario. Across this broad area a significant number of waterfowl arrived from the south, all in response to a "heat wave" when temperatures at some locations increased by 22°C (40°F) in less than 24 hours. On December 27 the temperature soared to 25°C (77°F) in Illinois, 23°C (73°F) in Indiana, 22°C (71°F) in Ohio, 18°C (64°F) in Michigan, and 17°C (62°F) in Ontario (at Delhi). Associated winds were strong from the south and (excluding Ontario) overnight lows above 10°C (50°F) were widespread.

The most conspicuous species during this influx was Northern Pintail, when pure flocks were observed throughout the area as described above; numbers involved were obviously in the thousands. Greater White-fronted Goose also characterized this event. In addition to the four birds at Point Pelee, in Ohio there were numerous sightings including flocks of 17, 12 and 12; another eight birds were found east of Point Pelee at Erieau (December 28-29). Perhaps the most significant high count was along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Indiana on December 27, where 108 Green-winged Teal were tallied including a pure flock of 90 birds!

Are these birds really spring migrants? This point can be argued endlessly, but how else can one categorize such sightings? Had this event occurred just three weeks later, we probably would not hesitate in calling them definite spring migrants. After a cold December across much of the United States, the development of a strong warm front and south winds obviously sparked a great number of birds to surge northward. They were thus acting like typical spring migrants, even though categorizing them as such may be difficult to accept.

A review of historical Point Pelee records reveals that a similar waterfowl event took place in late December 2003 and early January 2004, but at the time went unrecognized as pertaining to "spring" migrants. The exact same species were involved; a similar warm front also passed through the lower Great Lakes, with a high of 13°C (55°F) registered on January 3 at Windsor; and arriving species were also reported elsewhere in southern Ontario.

For both events, one wonders where these birds could have originated. An examination of weather maps for the respective periods reveal a remarkably similar pattern — developing LOWS in the border region of Oklahoma and Texas, with intensifying southwest winds and rising temperatures over a broad area. In Missouri, in 2008, it was stated that most small bodies of water were frozen prior to the warm front, and in that state species such as Northern Pintail are not common in winter. Thus the origin of the birds was even farther to the south, and based on the weather patterns and species involved the region of north-central Texas to Louisiana is a plausible source area.

RECORD-LATE SPRING:

Cackling Goose — three on May 6-13 (DJW, STP *et al.*) — 14 days record-late

Stilt Sandpiper — one on June 7-8 (AW) — 9 days record-late

Bonaparte's Gull — 12 adults at Wheatley Harbour on May 25 (AW) — 4 days record-late

– 60 adults were also present at Wheatley Harbour the day before on May 24 (AW); the presence of so many late adults was the result of a very late (cold) spring.

Olive-sided Flycatcher — one on June 14 (HTO) — 2 days record-late

"Audubon's" *Yellow-rumped Warbler* — one on May 25 (CLC) — 4 days record-late

RECORD-EARLY FALL:

Peregrine Falcon — one juvenile on August 2 (WGL, AW, KAM) — 4 days record-early

Glaucous Gull — one (worn) adult on August 29 (AW) — 13 days record-early

– categorizing this out-of-season adult as an early fall migrant is valid, since Point Pelee also has a record of a juvenile bird on September 19, 1981 (which was a definite fall migrant).

Sabine's Gull — one on August 28 (AW) — 2 days record-early

RECORD-LATE FALL:

King Eider — one on January 6 (DJW, ACP) — 5 days record-late

Black Scoter — one on January 6 (DJW, ACP) — 1 day record-late

Upland Sandpiper — two on September 23 (AW) — 5 days record-late

Red Knot — one on November 6 (AW, KAM) — ties record-late

Wilson's Warbler — one on December 3 (AW) — 30 days record-late

– this is a classic example supporting the theory that many exceptionally-late fall occurrences at Point Pelee are the result of reverse migration. In other words, this Wilson's Warbler probably arrived from the south of Ontario (as a reverse migrant) rather than being a late-lingering bird from within the province. Weather conditions on December 3 could certainly have facilitated a reverse migrant from the south — during the previous night the winds were southerly, and the temperature was rising. The maximum temperature for the day reached 5.5°C (42° F), which was the warmest recorded since November 15. Also the bird was at the Tip, a typical location for these kinds of late occurrences.

Clay-colored Sparrow — one on November 23, in Onion Fields (AW) — 38 days record-late

— ESCAPED / RELEASED BIRDS —

Lady Amherst Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*)

April 7–May 21 — one adult female, Tip area (MBR *et al.*)

– in last year's summary this bird was listed as Chinese Golden-Pheasant, even though there was no real basis for doing so; it was observed at the Tip from September 19–October 15, 2007. Photos taken in 2008 (by MBR) indicate that the bird is now an adult, with richer markings compared to the fall of 2007. What is remarkable about this bird is the fact that it apparently overwintered either at or near the Tip, an area that is quite inhospitable at this time of year; how it was able to survive the winter remains a mystery.

The Birds of Point Pelee

Point Pelee bird sightings (current or historical) can be sent to:

wormington@juno.com

The Point Pelee database is used for multiple purposes: Annual Summaries (such as this current one for 2008); seasonal sightings that are published in *North American Birds*; and for a major publication which is currently in progress — *The Birds of Point Pelee*.

Mark Your Calendar – Canada South Land Trust Events

February, March, April, May 2009

The Canada South Land Trust has several upcoming events planned which we hope you will attend. Please call Betty at 519-944-0825 with regard to any of these upcoming events.

Throughout the next twelve months as of February 2009, the Canada South Land Trust will be a part of the Caboto Club's Pasta Nights to be held on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning February 4, 2009. These popular Pasta Nights support 12 local charities. Funds raised over the next year will be distributed equally among the twelve charities. The Canada South Land Trust will be host of the July 8, 2009 Pasta Night. Dinners are \$7.50 each and are served 4:30 p.m to 7:30 p.m. A generous take out dinner that serves 2 or 3 persons is available. Plan to attend the Caboto Pasta Nights and support the Land Trust as well as eleven other charities. Thank you for your support.

Our first Land Trust dinner and fund raising silent auction will be held on Friday, April 3, 2009 at the Caboto Club in the Marconi Room. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar and bidding on the silent auction. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be artist and author and Land Trust member Mary Celestino who has chosen Pelee Island as her topic. Tickets are \$35. Call Betty Learmouth at 519-944-0825 to purchase your tickets. Seating is limited. Donations towards the silent auction are welcome.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 3, 2009 to enjoy a spring walk on the Balkwill Lands. Meet for the walk at 2:00 p.m. at 1880 Concession 2 West, Town of Kingsville. Bill Balkwill and Jack Balkwill will be our hosts. Refreshments will be served.

Enjoy a walk in David Ainslie's 25 acre woodland on Sunday, May 9, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. This walk will be devoted to identifying spring woodland plants in bloom. Please bring your wildflower guide books. A donation of \$20.00 towards the Canada South Land Trust Legacy Fund would be appreciated. David's woodland is located south of Staples. Take Highway 77 south to Mersea Concession 10. Turn east and go 2.5 km to the woodland entrance on the north side of the concession. The closest 911 number is 1039. Call Betty to register.

**Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Membership Form**

Individual membership \$20.00 / year _____ Family membership \$25.00 / year _____
Sustaining membership \$30.00 / year _____ Life membership \$500.00 / year _____
(tax receipt eligible)

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone Number _____

E-mail _____ I wish to receive the Egret by email.

Make cheques payable to: Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Devonshire Mall P.O., P. O. Box 23011, Windsor, Ontario N8X 5B5

Thank you!

ECFNC Activities and Excursions, March '09 – June – '09

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, contact JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056), or Margaret Jennings (519-250-0705). Let us know about your ideas for upcoming excursions. Consider volunteering as an excursion leader.



“Thank you” to those who have volunteered to lead an excursion.
We appreciate leaders sharing their time and expertise with others.

March 11 – ECFNC Annual Members Meeting – Enjoy an evening of updates from the various ECFNC committees and a stimulating quiz with prizes. Meet in the Essex Civic Centre at 7:30 pm, **Room C**.

March 17 or March 19 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Wildlife Discovery. Youth aged 7-11 discover how plants and animals survive in the wild in this hands-on camp. Program runs Tuesday or Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with early dropoff at 8:00 am and late pickup until 5:00 pm. Fee is \$30. Call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852) to register.

March 16 or 18 or 20 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Frogs, Snakes and You. Children aged 3-6 enjoy a morning or afternoon filled with activities about slimy, scaly critters. Program runs from 10:00 am to noon OR 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Fee is \$10/2 hours. Call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852) to register.

March 19 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Thrilling Thursday – Owl Prowl 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Preregistration is required, please call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852). Fee is \$6/adult, \$5/child.

March 24 – May 26 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Spring Hiking at Ojibway. Discover the many signs of spring while visiting our local natural areas. Tuesdays from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Fee is \$39/10 weeks. Call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852) to register.

March 29 – ECFNC Spring Excursion – Join club members for an early spring walk. Meet in the Ojibway Nature Centre parking lot at 2:00 pm.

April 3 - Canada South Land Trust First Annual Dinner with Guest Speaker and Silent Auction in the Giovanni Caboto Club's Marconi Room. Call 519-944-0825 for more information.

April 8 – ECFNC Members Meeting –Speaker: Melody Cairns, Topic: Species at Risk: an Essex Update. Meet in the Essex Civic Centre at 7:30 pm, **Room C**.

April 14 – Friends of Ojibway Prairie - Ojibway Park Cleanup 1 – 3pm. Supplies provided. Call 519-966-5852 for more information.

April 16 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Thrilling Thursday – Deer Hike & Other Animal Clues 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Preregistration is required, please call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852). Fee is \$6/adult, \$5/child.

April 19 – Friends of Ojibway Prairie Annual General Meeting. Ojibway Nature Centre 2pm. Tour Ojibway's new signs and test out new activity backpacks which were made possible through a generous grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation. Refreshments provided. Call 519-966-5852 for more information.

April 20, 27, May 4, 11 – Ojibway Nature Centre – ‘Possum Pals, for parents and tots ages 2-4. Children not ready to leave the pouch? Join us for this exciting and fun parent/tot adventure in nature. Mondays 10am - noon. Preregistration is required, please call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852). Fee is \$31/4 weeks.

April 21 – Friends of Ojibway Prairie Spring Cleanup 10am – 3pm. Lunch and supplies provided. Call 519-966-5852 for more information.

April 26- Earth Day at Mic Mac Park- Help celebrate the 20th anniversary of Windsor-Essex Earth Day Celebrations with over 40 exhibitors, food, entertainment and more! ECFNC members will again be participating with our bake sale and display. Please bake, bake, bake. Donations are to be individually wrapped or wrapped in the amounts to be sold; eg, wrap cookies or muffins individually or in packages of 2, 4, 6, etc. Individual loaves or pies are to be wrapped as well. If you are able to help at the sale call Cathy Lapain at 519-776-~~6087~~.

April 4, 18, May 2, 23 – Ojibway Nature Centre - Spring Bird Migration Field Course
A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life that migrates through Southwestern Ontario. Meet on Saturday morning at 8:30 am (except May 23, meet at 8:00 am) at Point Pelee Visitor Centre. Fee = \$15/trip

April 29, May 13, 20 – Ojibway Nature Centre - Weekday Birding at Pelee. Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a series of morning field trips during the peak of spring migration. Wednesdays, 8:30 am to noon. Fee = \$15/trip

Apr 29, (Wednesday) meet at 8:30 am at the Marsh Boardwalk, Point Pelee

May 13, (Wednesday) meet at 8:30 am at Hillman Marsh C.A.

May 20, (Wednesday) meet at 8:30 am at the Delaurier Trail, Point Pelee

May date to be announced– ECFNC Spring Excursion – Bonnie Ross will again be organizing an inspection and maintenance tour of the Shaughnessy Cohen Memorial Savannah and the Ontario Nature Stone Road Nature Reserve on Pelee Island. This is an overnight trip with several hours work on the nature reserves and an opportunity to enjoy other areas of the island such as the Fish Point Nature Reserve. Call Bonnie at 519-969-4247.

May 2 & 3 – ECFNC Annual Pelee Island Trip. See details in article on page 3. Note change to Kingsville Dock. For more information or to register, call Dave Kraus at 519- 825-7491.

May 2 and May 16 – Ojibway Nature Centre - Native Plant and Tree Sales. Attract wildlife to your yard with flowers, trees and shrubs.

May 2 - Saturday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm at Lanspeary Park Greenhouse.

May 16 - Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Ojibway Nature Centre.

May 2 –18 - Point Pelee Festival of Birds

May 3 - Canada South Land Trust spring walk on the Balkwill Lands. Meet for the walk at 2:00 pm at 1880 Concession 2 West, Town of Kingsville. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday May 6 or Saturday May 16 - Ojibway Nature Centre - Big Day Birding. A full day of birding for people seeking over 100 species of birds in a single day! Meet at 6:00 am at the Marsh Boardwalk, Point Pelee. Fee = \$25/day

May 9 - Canada South Land Trust walk in David Ainslie's 25 acre woodland at 2:00 p.m. See information on page 21.

May 9 & 10 – Hillman Marsh Shore and Songbird Celebration – join in the festivities at Hillman on Mother's Day weekend. The Blue Kestrel café will be open from 9am – 2 pm on Saturday and Sunday. If you can help on either day, call Shirley Grondin at 519-972-5781. Plus – lots to do – enjoy the up-close and personal banding indoors, kids crafts, all the birding and hiking you want.

May 13 – **ECFNC Members Meeting** – Speaker: Natalie Green. Topic: Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Accomplishments and Future Projects: Meet in the Essex Civic Centre at 7:30 pm, **Room C**.

May 18 – **ECFNC Spring Excursion** – The Point Pelee birding walk has become a regular spring event for ECFNC members and friends. Meet at 8:30 am at the Interpretive Centre. We will bird in the woodland for the morning and eat lunch at the picnic tables. You can brownbag it or support the Friends of Point Pelee by buying lunch at their food booth.

May 21 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Thrilling Thursday – Pond Scooping with Frogs & Turtles 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Preregistration is required, please call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852). Fee is \$6/adult, \$5/child.

May 22-25 & May 28-31 – Ontario Nature Annual General Meeting. The Huron Fringe Birding Festival runs for two weekends. This festival is hosted by the Friends of MacGregor Point and MacGregor Point Provincial Park, and offers a wide variety of outings. The Ontario Nature AGM will be held on Saturday, May 30th in Southampton. Further information is available from Friends of MacGregor Point: www.friendsofmacgregor.org, or through Ontario Nature.

June 7 – **ECFNC Spring Excursion** – Join ECFNC member Gerry Waldron for a walk through the Canard Valley (Canard River) Conservation Area. Bring bug repellent. It could be wet and muddy if we have had a lot of rain. Directions: from Windsor head south on Howard Avenue of Walker Road toward McGregor. From Howard Ave turn left onto County Rd 10 (Middle Sideroad) at Fox Glen Golf Club; the next road is Conc. 8 – turn right. The Conservation Area is less than one km on the left hand side, just before the bridge. The driveway is on a bit of an angle and leads to a low lying parking lot. From Walker Road, near the south end of McGregor, turn right on County Rd. 10 (Middle Sideroad) and left at the next road – Conc. 8. Meet at 2:00 pm.

June 10 – **ECFNC Members Meeting** – Ojibway Nature Centre: Guided tour of Ojibway's new exhibits, signs and other improvements. If the weather cooperates, join us for a spring prairie hike. Meet at Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor, 519-966-5852.

May 31 **June 14** – **ECFNC Spring Excursion** – Join ECFNC member Don Bissonnette for a Sunday morning outing to see a nice variety of birds, maybe father bluebirds singing and mother bluebirds sitting on eggs, wild turkey and white-tailed deer. Due to the properties we will visit, we ask that you please not bring any dogs. There could be some wet spots, so wear waterproof boots if possible. Meet at 9:30 am in the Greenway parking lot at the Arner Town Line. After the outing we could go for brunch at a local restaurant.

June 18 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Thrilling Thursday – Butterfly & Bug Hunt, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Preregistration is required, please call Ojibway Nature Centre (519-966-5852). Fee is \$6/adult, \$5/child.

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Income Statement 01/01/2008 to 12/31/2008

REVENUE

Donations	8,974.66
Memberships	2,734.25
Revenue from Fund Raising	5,681.74
Sales - Tree/Seeds	2,000.00
Sales - Books	298.00
Grant - M.N.R.	55,950.00
Grants	187,614.00
Events Revenue	4,196.15
Administration Fees Revenue	2,502.50
Interest Revenue	2,350.26
Miscellaneous Revenue	7,277.50
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>279,579.06</u>

EXPENSE**General & Administrative Expenses**

Accounting Expenses	1,618.97
Advertising & Promotions	4,260.74
Admin. Fees	2,315.00
BB Committee Supplies	929.05
Annual Dinner	1,587.48
Books & Periodicals	915.86
Courier & postage	47.03
Donations	9,530.00
Dues & Membership Fees	210.00
Egret	513.14
Fund Raising Expenses	673.70
Insurance	599.40
Interest & Bank Charges	16.72
Office Supplies	438.13
Meeting Expenses	1,542.63
Miscellaneous	500.00
Eagle Monitoring	15,000.00
Seminars/Presentations	4,120.00
Program & Project Expenses	13,159.56
Restoration Project Expenses	616.46
Tools & Equipment	77.75
Trees & Seeds	13,977.96
Tree Planting - Supplies & Expenses	5,576.86
Transportation & Travel Expenses	1,221.65
Big Creek Marsh Project	412.61
Wetland Fund Expenses	76,072.83
Total General & Admin. Expenses	<u>155,933.53</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>155,933.53</u>

NET INCOME123,645.53

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Balance Sheet As at 12/31/2008

ASSET**Current Assets**

Petty Cash	0.00	
W.C.U.- Current Acct.II - 49182	1,860.08	
TD Canada Trust - BBC - 5000534	368.96	
Woodslee Credit Union - ECSN-33692	250,590.40	
WCU-ECNS- Term deposit	23,133.36	
TD Canada Trust - Heritage -5000227	6,144.97	
W.C.U.-Quilt/Bucket Raffle - 36409	1,767.67	
TD Can.Trust- LREG - 5000324	9,227.74	
W.F.Cr.Union - Spec.Events- 9322439	1,514.29	
W.F.C.U.- Nat.Area Pro.Fund-9339730	44.01	
S.Cohen Mem.Savannah-WFCU-9386012	296.76	
W.C.U.-Eagle Project - 140523	1.65	
Total Cash		294,949.89
TD Can.Trust - GIC - Heritage		9,428.74
GIC - WFCU - Special Events		6,101.00
GIC - W.F.C.U- Special Events		3,000.00
Life Members - GIC - TD Can.Tr.		6,910.09
TD Canada Trust - GIC - Lifers		2,079.98
TD Canada Trust - GIC-Heritage		12,118.06
Total Current Assets		<u>334,587.76</u>
Capital Assets		
Equipment - Trailer		5,382.20
Computer Equipment	1,645.95	
Net - Furniture & Equipment		1,645.95
Total Capital Assets		<u>7,028.15</u>
TOTAL ASSET		<u><u>341,615.91</u></u>

LIABILITY**Current Liabilities**

GST Charged on Sales	6.21	
GST Paid on Purchases	-2,026.05	
GST Owing (Refund)		-2,019.84
Total Current liabilities		<u>-2,019.84</u>
TOTAL LIABILITY		<u>-2,019.84</u>

EQUITY**Retained Surplus**

Retained Surplus		219,990.22
Current Earnings		123,645.53
Total Retained Earnings		<u>343,635.75</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>343,635.75</u>

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY341,615.91