



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Inside this issue ...

Bluebird Award..... 1

ECFNC Contacts..... 2

Things that Go Bump in the Night.. 3

ECFNC 26th Annual Dinner 4

ECFNC Hike at Spring Garden 9

Festival of Hawks Sept 2010..... 9

Butterfly/Dragonfly Hike19

Ojibway Nature Centre Hikes.....21

Hillman Marsh Summer 2010.....27

Hillman Marsh Fall 2010.....29

Activities & Excursions.....32

Membership Form.....33

Fishes of Essex County34

Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society Conservation Award

This September at the North American Bluebird Conference in Hamilton, the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society recognized the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club for its education of members and the public with regard to Essex County's Eastern Bluebirds.

Bluebird Committee Chair Don Bissonnette accepted the award on behalf of the ECFNC.

Congratulations to Don and the Bluebird Committee for their tireless efforts and outstanding successes with local bluebird conservation!

ECFNC Monthly Meetings

Except for our outdoor meetings in July and August, monthly members' meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Windsor Airport's new community room at the west end of the airport terminal building. From Division Road (County Road 42) turn north on Duncan McColl Road (1st street west of airport terminal entrance) then turn right (east) on Hayes Road (1st right) and drive to the end. Park on south side of long white garage. Community room is adjacent and east of this parking area.



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**

Devonshire Mall P.O.
P. O. Box 23011
Windsor, Ontario N8X 5B5

Information

ECFNC website
www.ojibway.ca/ecfn.htm
Egret email
kcedar@city.windsor.on.ca
ECFNC fax # 519-839-4795

Ojibway Nature Centre
519-966-5852
Point Pelee National Park
519-322-5700
Essex Region Conservation Auth.
519-776-5209

ECFNC Contacts

President: Phil Roberts (519-776-8315)
Vice-President: Joe Parent (519-322-0004)
Secretary: Linda Menard-Watt (519-734-1879)
Treasurer: Teresa Austrin (519-322-0004)

Directors: Karen Cedar (519-966-5852), Denise Hartley (519-735-1926), Tom Hurst (519-839-4635), Dave Kraus (519-825-7491), Mike Malone (519-326-5193), Ron Muir (519-736-6507), Margaret Jennings (519-250-0705), Gerry Waldron (519-736-1276)

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 Learmouth, Karen Cedar
Speaker: ECFNC directors
Field Trip: JoAnn Grondin, Margaret Jennings
Heritage: JoAnn Grondin (coordinator), Margaret Jennings, Dave Kraus, Betty Learmouth, 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

Things That Go Bump In The Night! Friday August 13, 2010

By Tom Hurst

Ignoring the long standing tradition of holding Monthly Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, the ECFNC held its August Meeting on Friday the Thirteenth. More than two dozen people descended upon the Parent/Austrin residence in rural Mersea Township between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Most participants arrived early to enjoy "witches brew" stew and the bountiful and diverse buffet of food and beverages. The meal was enjoyed "al fresco" in the spacious and shaded yard with perfect weather conditions. This was a great contrast to the hot and humid temperatures we had been experiencing earlier in the day.

We were content with the idyllic setting, good food and interesting companions when V.P. Joe began the business part of the meeting. A galley copy of the "Fishes of Essex County and Surrounding Waters" was passed around while we were updated on the successful fund raising by Joe and Teresa for its imminent printing. It was obvious this new book would be an appealing and important addition to the understanding of local natural history. Michael Malone indicted that CALEWET efforts to ban wind turbines from environmentally sensitive Pigeon Bay was making progress. He urged field naturalists to visit the on line Environmental Registry to support and monitor new developments.

Joe asked for volunteers to become Club representatives on local environment committees. President Phil Roberts' family, work and club responsibilities have grown over time and it has come to the point where he can't attend all the meetings important to the Club. The Detroit River Cleanup Committee and the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee are groups that would benefit from having club members as alternates to attend when Phil cannot.

Joe Parent also gave us a timely outline of the lore surrounding Friday the 13th. Did you know that there can be up to three Friday the 13ths in a year, and that any month that begins on a Sunday will contain a Friday the 13th? Joe went on to implicate the Greeks, Romans, Norse and Christians as instigators of friggatrickaidekaphobia.

The discussion was cut short by the arrival of bats circling above the group. We arrived a little late to accurately count the bats exiting the house's front gable as we had done in past years. But it did seem as if there were fewer bats. Joe told us that he had not seen signs of white nose disease in their bats but some of the decline in numbers could be attributed to a nesting screech owl. This owl had discovered the bat's exit hole in the gable and regularly perched in front of it at sunset. Although happy for the owl and its chicks, Teresa said that she had found the nightly screams of bats unsettling.

After the bats, the rest of the evening could have been dedicated to the night sky or moth observation but everyone was content to gather round the campfire and socialize. This Friday the Thirteenth was a very enjoyable and relaxing evening.

ECFNC Annual Dinner, November 6, 2010

By Betty Learmouth

Photograph by Charles Wilson

Joe Parent, Essex County Field Naturalist's Club's Vice President and Master of Ceremonies for the evening, welcomed one hundred and two friends and members to the 26th Annual ECFNC Dinner, held this year at the Fogolar Furlan Club. The evening was in recognition of ECFNC member Lynda D. Corkum, author of a newly published book entitled *Fishes of Essex County and Surrounding Waters* which was published with the assistance of a number of organizations including TD Friends of the Environment (a major contributor), Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Essex County Stewardship Network, Faculty of Science, University of Windsor, Friends of the Detroit River, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, International Joint Commission, Town of Kingsville, Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan, Pelee Wings Nature Store, Pelee Island Winery and United Communities Credit Union.

Dinner was served as a delicious buffet, featuring a tray of celery sticks, olives, and carrot sticks, followed by a mixed green salad, chicken in a white sauce, stuffed manicotti, sweet potatoes, and baby carrots. Delightful desserts, including cookies and squares, were prepared by ECFNC members which were displayed on a dessert table.

A variety of items of interest to naturalists were available to be bid upon in the silent auction arranged around the perimeter of the hall.

At 8:45 p.m. MC Joe Parent introduced Bluebird Committee Chair Don Bissonnette who had attended the North American Bluebird Conference in Hamilton during September 2010. The ECFNC was recognized for its education of members and the public with regard to Essex County's Eastern Bluebirds. Don accepted the award on behalf of the ECFNC.

Next on the agenda was the Outstanding Achievement Award "via satellite in Mexico" from ECFNC President Phil Roberts. Phil stated that the Outstanding Achievement Award is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. This year the recipient of the award is Dr. Lynda D. Corkum who has written a terrific guide to the fishes of our area. As well, Lynda is an ambassador for natural heritage in the Essex Region and has been a great resource to and supporter of the Club. On behalf of the Club, Joe Parent and Teresa Austrin presented Lynda with a lovely glass decorative piece that may be displayed.

Our guest speaker, Lynda Corkum, was introduced by Tom Hurst, an ECFNC executive member. Lynda is an aquatic ecologist who teaches at the University of Windsor, and who studies the behaviour and ecology of freshwater fishes and life history strategies of the burrowing mayfly, *Hexagenia*. Her particular interest is on the behaviour of the invasive round goby. The Corkum Lab is at the forefront of research in the fields of aquatic ecology and animal behaviour. Lynda has been awarded the Anderson-Everett Award by the International Association of Great Lakes Research for her outstanding contributions to the IAGLR as both the President and the Site Chair of the Annual Research Conference.

Lynda told her audience that Windsor is the top urban fishing area in North America. Some seven million persons live in our watershed. Species of note in our watershed are Muskie, Long-nosed Gar, Silver Bass, Largemouth Bass and Walleye. These fishes are top of the line if you are into fish.



Lynda then introduced her newly published book indicating that she would highlight the contents of her book. Much of the book describes the waters around Essex County with beautiful drawings by Mary Celestino throughout the book.

In Part 1: Background Information & Species Distributions, the author looks at Lake St. Clair and its fishes, Detroit River and its fishes and Lake Erie and its fishes. Three wetlands within surrounding waters, Humbug Marsh, the Walpole wetlands, and Point Pelee National Park, have received special status. Other topics discussed are fish species at risk and potential invaders.

Part 2 of Lynda's book examines Fish Hatcheries, Fish Decoys and Ice Fishing. Lynda acknowledged the assistance that Don Tupling provided to Lynda as she researched the Sandwich Dominion Hatchery on the Detroit River.

Part 3 of Lynda's book looks at species accounts. Fishes in the surrounding waters are represented by 25 families for a total of 102 species.

While putting the finishing touches on her book, Lynda mentioned to Joe Parent that she had no photographs of women with fish. Joe provided Lynda with a photograph of his mother and her two sisters as they posed about 1955 with a large Muskellunge caught in Lake St. Clair. This

photograph appears on page 28 of Lynda's book.

Teresa Austrin thanked Lynda for her fine presentation, including the reciting of a limerick that Teresa had composed especially for the occasion which is reprinted here.

There once was a girl who's amazed
By a woman who seemed unfazed
Saying "Hornyhead Chub"
In front of the Club
Without even an eyebrow raised!

A door prize draw was held with Joe Parent announcing and JoAnn Grondin drawing the names of door prize recipients. Winners of the silent auction items were assisted by Bonnie Ross, Pauline Renaud and Cathy Lapain.

Thank you JoAnn Grondin and Karen Cedar for their excellent organization of the dinner and silent auction.

Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner.

ECFNC 26th Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 6, 2010

By JoAnn Grondin, Heritage Committee Coordinator

We had an exceptionally great Annual Dinner this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people for their help with our 26th Annual Dinner.

- ◆ Set up – Betty Learmouth, Larry Onysko, Pauline Renaud, and Karen Cedar.
- ◆ Desserts – Margaret Jennings, Linda Menard-Watt, Teresa Austrin, Sandra Wilson, Eleanor Sfalcin, and Caroline Williams
- ◆ Reception – Margaret Jennings, Pauline Renaud and Marg Calder
- ◆ Cashiers – Cathy Lapain, Bonnie Ross and Pauline Renaud.
- ◆ Betty Learmouth for contacting her Publisher friends for auction items.
- ◆ MC Joe Parent
- ◆ Joe Parent for introducing Don Bissonnette; Don had accepted an Award while at the North American Bluebird Conference
- ◆ Phil Roberts for introducing our Outstanding Achievement Award recipient – Lynda Corkum
- ◆ Guest speaker – Lynda Corkum for her very entertaining and informative talk on her fish book
- ◆ Tom Hurst and Teresa Austrin for introducing/thanking our guest speaker.
- ◆ All the people who donated auction items (listed separately) or door prizes.
- ◆ All those who attended.
- ◆ Karen Cedar for her great coordinating with the Fogolar Furlan.

Once again, thank you everyone so very much. It is great to see so many people pull together for our great Club! I apologize if I have missed anyone.

Article/Name	Donated by
Ballie Birdathon 1994 T Shirt	Claire McAllister
Encyclopedia of Insects and Spiders – book	Claire McAllister
Organic Teas from Nepal	Claire McAllister
Basket of jams – 5 jars	Shirley Grondin
Basket of jams – 4 jars	Shirley Grondin
Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America – book	Cathy Lapain
Optech Bino/Camcorder Harness	Cathy Lapain
Basket of jams	Cathy Lapain
Basket of jams	Betty Moore
Large Humming Bird Calendar	Caroline Williams
Spotting Scope	Bushnell Outdoor Products
Wildflowers of the Canadian Erie Islands (book) & 4 Water Colour Note Cards	Mary Celestino
Scrapbook Kit	Teresa Austrin
Voices from the Wild – book	Teresa Austrin
A colour guide to familiar Garden and Field Birds Eggs and Nests – book	Teresa Austrin
Hamlyn nature guides Birds – book	Teresa Austrin
A Nature Guide to Ontario – book	Teresa Austrin
Kateri Tekakwitha – Mohawk Maiden – book	Teresa Austrin
The Oxford Book of Birds – book	Teresa Austrin
Arboretum America Birds – book	Teresa Austrin
The Cottage Homes of England – book	Teresa Austrin
Royal Ontario Museum Guide to Birds of Ontario – book	Tom Henderson
Spring Walk Notecards	Betty Learnouth
DinoStaxx	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Pincher with Sound – Cardinal and Bluejay	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Action Figure with Sound – Steve Irwin and Crocodile	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Sea Monsters – 50 piece large floor puzzle	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Wild Calls – Two stuffed chimpanzees	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Cuddlekins – Stuffed Largemouth Bass	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Audobon Birds–Stuffed Downy Woodpecker, Bluejay and Northern Mockingbird	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
10” Stuffed Dolphin	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Nature Accents – Bluejay Votive Candle Holder	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Nature Accents – Woodpecker Votive Candle Holder	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
Primates Rig and Aquatic Rig	K & M Toys/Wild Republic
The Ultimate Book of Cocktails – book	JoAnn Grondin
Growing Trees from Seed – book	JoAnn Grondin
The Complete Book of Pets & Pet Care -book	JoAnn Grondin
The Library of Congress World War II Companion – book	JoAnn Grondin
Insects – Their Natural History and Diversity (slightly used) – book	JoAnn Grondin
Oxford American Dictionary & Thesaurus – book	JoAnn Grondin
Nature’s Predators – book	JoAnn Grondin
Volcano – A Visual Guide – book	JoAnn Grondin
Turtles & Tortoises – book	JoAnn Grondin
Atlas of Bird Migration – book	JoAnn Grondin
Reptiles and Amphibians – book	JoAnn Grondin
Set of 3 Glass Candlesticks	JoAnn Grondin
Bath Set	JoAnn Grondin
Glimpses of Paradise – book	Bonnie Ross
The Hummingbird Book – book	Stuart Selby
Peterson Field Guides – Western Birds – book	Stuart Selby
Field Guide to the Birds of North America – book	Stuart Selby

Guide to Birdwatching Sites – Eastern U.S. – book	Stuart Selby
Watershed – Reflections on Water – book	Stuart Selby
Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers – book	Stuart Selby
Watchable Birds of the Southwest – book	Stuart Selby
Ancient Forests of the Northeast – book	Stuart Selby
John James Audubon – book	Stuart Selby
World of Facts – book	JoAnn Grondin
The Birdwatcher's Book of Lists	Linda Menard-Watt
Trees of the Carolinian Forest – book	Linda Menard-Watt
Unforgettable Journeys to take before you die – book	Linda Menard-Watt
Encyclopedia of Scrapbooking – book	Linda Menard-Watt
A Gardener's Journal (Slightly used) – book	Linda Menard-Watt
Potpourri	Linda Menard-Watt
Crystal Robin	Linda Menard-Watt
Bird Feeder	Linda Menard-Watt
Small Cabin Puzzle	Linda Menard-Watt
Bird Call	Linda Menard-Watt
Robin Plate with Stand	JoAnn Grondin
Coffee Gift Basket	Starbucks Coffee, Devonshire Mall
Forillon National Park – book	Charles Wilson
Matted Hummingbird Print	Caroline Williams
Living Things We Love to Hate – book	Stuart Selby
Newcomb's Wildflower Guide – book	Stuart Selby
i-bar	Bob Hall-Brooks

Title	Authors/Company	Donated by Publisher
Animals at the Edge: Saving the World's Rarest Creatures	Baillie, Jonathan and Marilyn Baillie - Maple Tree Press, Toronto, 2008	Owlkids Publishing
Flights of Imagination: Extraordinary Writing About Birds	Cannings, Richard, Vancouver: Greystone Books, 2010	
Animal Snoops: The Wondrous World of Wildlife Species	Christie, Peter - Toronto, ON: Annick Press, 2010	
100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth's Most Endangered Species	Corwin, Jeff - Emmaus, PA: Roldale, 2009	
Mysteries of the Komodo Dragon, Deadliest Lizard Gives Up Its Secrets	Crump, Marty Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010	
Coyote at the Kitchen Door: Living with Wildlife in Suburbia	DeStephano, Stephen - Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010	
The Nature Treasury; a Look at the Natural World	Flatt, Lizann - Maple Tree Press, 1994	Owlkids Publishing
Manmoth Bones and Broken Stones; The Mystery of North America's First People	Harrison, David L. - Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010	
Not Your Typical Book About the Environment	Kelsey, Elin - Toronto: Owlkids Publishing, 2010	
Adventure Beneath the Sea: Living in an Underwater Science Station	Mallory, Kenneth - Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010	
Seed, Soil, Sun: Earth's Recipe for Food	Peterson, Cris - Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010	
Cicadas! Strange and Wonderful	Pringle, Lawrence - Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010	
The Living Shore: Rediscovering a Lost World	Rowan, Jacobsen - New York: Bloomsbury, 2009	
Settled in the Wild	Shetterly, Susan Hand - Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2010	
This is My Planet	Thornhill, Jan - Toronto, Maple Tree Press, 2007	Owlkids Publishing
Try This at Home: Planet-Friendly Projects for Kids	Toronto: Owlkids Publishing, 2008	
Path of the Pronghorn	Urbigkit, Cat - Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010	

ECFNC Hike in the Spring Garden Natural Area

By Margaret Jennings

On Sunday, September 26, 2010, Paul DesJardins and I joined Ian Woodfield for a walk in the Spring Garden area. At the beginning of our hike the sky was cloudy and, although we were in the good butterfly habitat, there were none to be seen. But when the sun came out there were butterflies everywhere!

In all we found fifteen species: American Lady, American Copper, Buckeye, Cabbage White, Eastern Tailed Blue, Pearl Crescent, Wild Indigo Duskywing, male and female Common Checkered Skipper, Crossline Skipper, Fiery Skipper, Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, a female Black Swallowtail, Monarch and its smaller cousin, the Viceroy.

We spotted thirteen species of birds, including a cedar waxwing murdering a Hickory Tussock Moth caterpillar.

It was a rewarding day. I saw several new species of butterflies and explored an area I was not very familiar with. Thank you to Ian for planning the trip and thanks to both Ian and Paul for helping me see so many butterflies.

Festival of Hawks, September 2010

By Betty Learmouth

Photographs by Betty Learmouth

Day 1: Saturday, September 11, 2010

The annual Festival of Hawks was underway early on September 11, 2010 with activities centered at the hawk tower under the big white tent. Gerry Peltier brought a fine display of raptor and passerine photography. Mike Malone of Pelee Wings Nature Store arranged a selection of clothing, books and optics. Hawk and passerine adoption paper work was undertaken by HBMO member Dorothy McLeer. John and Chris Craft volunteered to look after memberships, hat and raffle ticket sales along with HBMO publications. Visitors joined hawk watcher Jim Pawlicki on the hawk tower.

Hawk demonstration talks and passerine talks were featured each day at the Festival stage from early morning into the afternoon. Principal speakers were Passerine bander Bob Hall-Brooks and HBMO President Bob Pettit.

Passerine bander Bob Hall-Brooks reported that some twenty birds were netted during the early morning including three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, a Northern Parula and a Northern Waterthrush.

At 9:24 a.m. Bob Hall-Brooks discussed the plumage of an immature female Magnolia Warbler and an immature Swainson's Thrush. Swainson's Thrushes are among the top three most numerous species to be banded at Holiday Beach.

The banding area was busy all day with the passerine migration. Five University of Windsor students who were working to improve their banding skills assisted with removal of birds from the mist nets as well as observing banding procedures.

At 9:45 a.m. Bob Hall-Brooks and Todd Pepper discussed migration at Holiday Beach and passerine species recently banded. Members of Detroit's Taiwan Birding Club were among the thirty birders and the *Essex County Crier* reporter who gathered for the talk. Among the species discussed was a Swainson's Thrush with its creamy colour on the head and its prominent eye ring. A Hatch Year American Robin had feathers developing. The sex of this young bird was unknown. Bob showed the group the unique mauve coloured feathers undertail coverts of this bird. Bob Hall-Brooks commented that the oldest hummingbird he has banded was seven years of age. The oldest known Ruby-throated Hummingbird was twelve years of age.

A number of passerine species were discussed for about thirty participants at 11:00 a.m., in place of the regularly scheduled hawk talk for which no hawks had been captured. Among the passerine species discussed were Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Bob Hall-Brooks discussed the fall plumage of these species and their fall migration destinations. The beautiful male Black-throated Blue Warbler was a favourite and definitely not a confusing fall warbler.

More passerines were displayed at the 12:00 p.m. song bird talk with such species as Philadelphia Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Between 12:15 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. these species were discussed, Wilson's Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, and Warbling Vireo.

Bob Pettit presented his program on raptor identification at 1:00 p.m. in the classroom.

During the morning, the sun had shone brightly but by early afternoon a cloud cover had moved in. Todd Pepper drew everyone's attention at 2:00 p.m. to an immature Bald Eagle flying high above Big Creek Marsh in a southeast to northeast direction across the grey sky.

Summary of the day's raptor migration as compiled by Jim Pawlicki:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
Turkey Vulture	2
Osprey	7
Northern Harrier	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	52
Cooper's Hawk	8
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1
American Kestrel	9
Peregrine Falcon	1
Total	86

Day 2: Sunday, September 12, 2010

Organizers of the Hawk Festival were on hand early to put displays in place including Gerry Peltier who brought his fine photographs and Mike Malone who set out a display of books, clothing and optics from Pelee Wings Nature Store. A display of Holiday Beach Migration Observatory publications, hats, raffle tickets and memberships were looked after by John and Chris Craft. Dorothy McLeer looked after the paper work for the adopt a bird program.

Hawk watcher Jim Pawlicki was joined by many hawk watchers on the tower.

The first raptor of the day from the hawk banding set up was a handsome hatch year male Northern Harrier which was adopted by Gwen Gidge.

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was brought from the passerine banding area for adoption.

Bob Hall-Brooks gave a bird banding talk to a group of sixteen persons at 10:15 a.m. Passerines discussed were Blackpoll Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo and Nashville Warbler. Bob had some

Gwen Gidge & Northern Harrier



Bob Hall-Brooks - bird banding talk



interesting remarks concerning the Blackpoll Warbler which resembles both the Pine Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler in fall migration, although these species are not often seen at Holiday Beach in migration. The base of the feet of the Blackpoll Warbler are yellow which aids in its identification during fall migration.

The Cape May Warbler on display was the first captured this year. This species migrates at night to avoid predators such as hawks during the day. The Red-eyed Vireo has a slightly larger bill than a warbler, enabling this species to capture larger insects. The Nashville Warbler is one of our smallest warblers.

The cloud and fog at Holiday Beach began to clear after ten o'clock with clear blue skies and lots of sun by 11:00 a.m. Sharp-shinned Hawks were passing over the tower individually and in small flocks. Monarch butterflies were overhead, heading in a southerly direction towards Lake Erie.

Bob Hall-Brooks gave a bird banding talk to a group at 11:00 a.m. The species discussed were Canada Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Warbler, a female Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler.

At 11:20 a.m. Bob Hall-Brooks gave a raptor talk with a group of Sharp-shinned Hawks provided by the raptor banders. Sharp-shinned Hawks are woodland accipters which feed upon warblers. Bob was concerned with regard to handling the Sharp-shinned Hawks as their talons are sharp and these talons are all important to successful hunting. These young birds all exhibited a brown back which will begin to turn blue next year as the birds mature. Bob showed the difference in size between the larger female Sharp-shinned Hawk and the smaller male Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Several passerines were brought to the festival area by Bob Hall-Brooks at 12:25 a.m., including a Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, and Swainson's Thrush.

Festival organizer Bev Wannick wished to collect some Monarch butterflies for tagging but the Monarchs were intent on their migration and flying high, beyond the insect nets. Assistants gathered other species which were placed in the butterfly tent including Black Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, copper species, Buckeye, Question Mark, and Viceroy.

Other sightings included a Praying Mantis and a tiny Blanding's Turtle found at the Trout Pond by a young visitor to the Festival.

Bob Pettit gave his hawk identification program at 1:00 p.m. in the Education Building.

At 2:00 p.m. the watchers on the tower drew everyone's attention to two Broad-winged Hawks circling over Big Creek Marsh.

Naturalist Claire McAllister reported a few days later that she was visiting with friends in South Windsor at 6:30 p.m. on September 12, 2010. Someone glanced skyward to discover hundreds of birds streaming overhead. Everyone was amazed at this movement of Broad-winged Hawks.

Summary of the day's raptor migration as compiled by Jim Pawlicki:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
Turkey Vulture	5
Osprey	9
Bald Eagle	8
Northern Harrier	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	587
Cooper's Hawk	2
Broad-winged Hawk	7
Red-tailed Hawk	4
American Kestrel	106
Merlin	9
Peregrine Falcon	1
Unidentified Buteo	1
Total	756

Day 3: Saturday, September 18, 2010

Activity was underway early on the third day of the Festival of Hawks as vendors set up their displays. Vendors included the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club serving coffee and muffins with grilled sausages served during the noon hour. Gerry Peltier brought his fine photographs of raptors. Mike Malone arranged the Pelee Wings Nature Store display of books, clothing, and optices. Halton Conservation brought a display of raptors including a Great Horned Owl, a Broad-winged Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Turkey Vulture. Zoo to You displayed various creatures including a wallaby at the children's activity site near the Educational Building. Native plants were on display with grower Vic Bernyk. Homemade soap was on display by a Harrow craftsperson.

Hawk demonstrations were conducted throughout the day by Bob Hall-Brooks and Bob Pettit. On the tower, Jim Pawlicki monitored the raptor migration with assistance from spotters.

As usual, banders were on duty early, bringing a continual stream of raptors and warblers to the display area. At 8:00 a.m the first Sharp-shinned Hawk of the day was discussed and released, followed by a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was taken to the tower for release.

At 9:05 a.m. a Swainson's Thrush was discussed and released followed by a Blackpoll Warbler. Bob Hall-Brooks showed the audience the feet of the Blackpoll Warbler which are yellow-brown and aid in the identification of this species which can resemble other warbler species in the fall such as the Bay-breasted Warbler and Pine Warbler. A hatch year male Chestnut-sided Warbler was discussed and released, followed by a hatch year Magnolia Warbler.

Overhead at 9:50 a.m., the day's migration was underway with a Bald Eagle seen along with a Northern Harrier and Sharp-shinned Hawks. A flock of Cedar Waxwings flew through the area.

At 10:00 a.m. naturalist Paul DesJardins led a walk to observe butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies. Cloudy weather depressed the number of butterflies observed on the first walk with more and different species encouraged to fly by sunny conditions at noon.

At 10:20 a.m. Bob Pettit conducted a hawk talk for 25 persons with a Sharp-shinned Hawk brought from the hawk blind. Bob discussed how Sharp-shinned Hawks are able to fly through woodland with their short rounded wings. An immature male Sharp-shinned Hawk has a yellow eye which will change colour with age, becoming orange in the second year. In its third year, the Sharp-shinned Hawk's eye will be red. Streaky "noodles" on the bird's breast will become finely barred. Bob suggested that the bill of a Sharp-shinned Hawk looks like a clown's nose. The tongue of a Sharp-shinned Hawk is hollow which allows this small raptor to swallow prey whole. Bird mortality is high in the first year of a raptor's life as 80 percent of young birds will not survive the first year. Hawk adoptions were underway with Dorothy McLeer looking after the paper work for the adoptions.

Bob Pettit was busy with a series of hawk talks later in the morning, sharing his knowledge of Sharp-shinned Hawks. Female Sharp-shinned Hawks are larger than male Sharp-shinned Hawks. If one touches the leg of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, the ridge can be felt which gives this hawk its name. Blood was observed on the talons of one Sharp-shinned Hawk, likely that of a warbler as warblers are hawk food.



Bob Pettit – hawk talk

At 11:15 a.m. Bob Hall-Brooks gave a warbler talk to 28 persons. Bob provided some background information on warbler banding at Holiday Beach. There are 16 mist nets for the capture of passerines. In the banding lab, each bird is given an identity with the addition of a band and its unique number. This information is submitted to the Canadian banding lab which shares its information with the lab in Washington, D C. The data is computerized so that response to an inquiry is quick. Over the years some twenty-plus species of warblers have been caught and banded at Holiday Beach.

At 11:35 a.m. as the sun was emerging, Bob Pettit gave a hawk talk to 22 persons. Bob displayed a Sharp-shinned Hawk, discussing its newly applied band which gives the young bird an identity. The raptor's back was brown with noodling on the breast and its eye colour was yellow. Bob demonstrated how Sharp-shinned Hawks fly through woodland with gyroscopic abilities to keep their head on a plane with their prey.

Bob Pettit – hawk talk



With improving weather at 12:20 p.m., Bob Hall-Brooks gave a hummingbird talk to 60 persons. The tiny male Ruby-throated Hummingbird lives on insects and nectar. Its fat index was 3, in the middle range. This bird may cross the Gulf of Mexico so its needs to bulk up a bit for that journey.

Following the hummingbird talk, Bob Pettit discussed an adult male American Kestrel before 50 persons which was adopted by the 2nd Leamington Scouts before its release.

Volunteers at the Essex County Field Naturalists Club Blue Kestrel Café included Claire McAllister, Jim McAllister, Sarah McAllister, Donna Cowie, Shirley Grondin, Helene Parks, Dave Puglia and Bonnie Ross.

At 1:10 p.m. Bob Hall-Brooks brought another Ruby-throated Hummingbird to the festival stage area. This individual was beginning to develop some stipling as a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The male's bill is 14 mm in length while a female's bill is 17 mm in length. Adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds leave our area by the end of July.

In early afternoon, reporter Jeff Bolichowski of *The Windsor Star* was on hand to interview and take photographs of the activity.

Bob Pettit gave his hawk identification workshop in the Education Building at 1:00 p.m.

Near the Education Building, activities were enjoyed by numerous children, supervised by Bev Wannick and volunteers.

Summary of the day's raptor migration as compiled by Jim Pawlicki:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
Turkey Vulture	2
Northern Harrier	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	284
Cooper's Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1
American Kestrel	11
Merlin	4
Total	310

Day 4: September 19, 2010

September 19, 2010 began cloudy and cool. On hand were staff from Halton Conservation with their birds of prey display. Gerald Peltier brought his fine photography of raptors and other bird species. Pelee Wings Nature Store provided a display of clothing, books and optics. John and Chris Craft looked after the sale of HBMO publications, the sale of hats and raffle tickets and HBMO memberships. Vic Berynk provided a display of native plants. Volunteers at the Blue Kestrel Café included Shirley Grondin, Kathy Lesperance, Claire McAllister, and Pauline Renaud. Children's activities took place by the Education Building.

Hawk watcher Jim Pawlicki was joined by many hawk watchers through out the day on the hawk tower.

The first talk of the day at 9:25 a.m. was by Bob Hall-Brooks who discussed a hatch year female Ruby-throated Hummingbird for an audience of twenty persons. At 9:30 a.m. a Sharp-shinned Hawk was discussed and adopted through the Adopt a Hawk program. Larry Onysko was the volunteer throughout the day looking after paper work for the adoptions.



Hawk adopters



Charles King, a reporter with the *River Time News*, interviewed Bob Pettit regarding the history of hawk watching in the eastern United States and at Holiday Beach, beginning in the 1950s.

Eighteen persons gathered at 9:50 a.m. as Bob Hall-Brooks discussed a banded hatch year Swainson's Thrush, this bird making its first migration to Central America.

At 9:55 a.m. seven Broad-winged Hawks soared overhead, then streamed to the west.

Bob Pettit discussed an immature Cooper's Hawk at 10:25 a.m., which was adopted by a hawk enthusiast.

Paul Pratt gave a dragonfly walk around the Holiday Beach Conservation Area at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m. a Merlin was observed diving at flocks of migrating Blue Jays. A Swainson's Thrush was displayed at 10:30 a.m. by Bob Hall-Brooks. This is a thrush that lives low in woodlands.

By 10:35 a.m. some blue sky was in view although there was still a coolness in the air.

At 10:40 a.m. a Gray-cheeked Thrush was discussed. Flocks of Blue Jays were flying over the hawk watch site.

Shortly after 11:00 a.m., the fog disappeared, producing a beautiful day for the Festival which brought out many visitors.

Bob Hall-Brooks brought three warblers from the banding station, a Cape May Warbler not often seen at Holiday Beach, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, and a female hatch year American Redstart. Also discussed were a Gray-checked Thrush, a hatch year Magnolia Warbler and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Twenty persons enjoyed the talk.

A passerine talk at 11:55 a.m. included an after hatch year House Wren previously banded thirty-one days earlier on August 19, 2010 at Holiday Beach, a Red-eyed Vireo and an after hatch year female Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Migration was in full swing at 12:15 p.m. as Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted flying through the site along with Chimney Swifts and flocks of Blue Jays in migration at tree top height. Broad-winged Hawks were high over the site, noted as they streamed across white clouds. At 1:05 p.m., several hundred Broad-winged Hawks were noted as they streamed over the hawk watch site.

Bob Pettit gave his hawk identification workshop at 1:00 p.m. in the Education Building.

Throughout the afternoon, Bob Hall-Brooks discussed various species of warblers including Tennessee Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, a male American Redstart at well attended talks.

At 3:40 p.m. two hundred Broad-winged Hawks passed overhead. Blue Jays continued to pass in flocks along with Turkey Vultures.

Summary of the day's raptor migration as compiled by Jim Pawlicki:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
Turkey Vulture	53
Osprey	3
Bald Eagle	6
Northern Harrier	37
Sharp-shinned Hawk	269
Cooper's Hawk	3
Broad-winged Hawk	7,687
Red-tailed Hawk	19
American Kestrel	88
Merlin	3
Peregrine Falcon	2
Total	8,170

Thank you to all who attended the Festival off Hawks. Thank you to all our volunteers who gave of their time and expertise over the four days of the Festival.

Festival of Hawks Butterfly and Dragonfly Walk September 11, 2010

By Ruth Hart

Photographs by Larry Onysko

Buckeye



We met at the hawk tower area with Paul Desjardins. The main part of our walk consisted of going around the stocked fishing area which is surrounded by shrub dogwoods and other smaller plants. The morning was overcast and rather cool, which reduced the number of species we could find.

Our first species was a butterfly, a Least Skipper. This is a very small orange butterfly. It stays near water and tends to weave through the grasses where it mates and the caterpillars feed. The other butterflies we saw on this walk included: an Orange Sulphur, a Pearl Crescent (smallish orange and black butterfly), Monarchs, Sulphur (yellow) and Buckeyes which we saw sitting spread-winged on the beach.

We did not try to identify any adult moths, most of which are active at night, but we did see some. Paul pointed out that they seem to land abruptly compared with butterflies and to sit with their wings tented over their bodies.

Our first find of the order Odonata or Dragonflies (dragonflies and damselflies) was the Eastern Forktail. The females of this species are gray blue all over, while the tip of the abdomen of the male is a striking neon blue. This was the damselfly species we found most commonly with a count of twenty-eight compared with two or three of everything else.

Eastern Forktail

We saw Familiar Bluets, very blue damselflies, and two Tule Bluets, which are more black than blue. We saw two Orange Bluets which are yellow-brown in colour and two Fragile Forktails. An unknown damselfly was on the foliage, newly emerged from the water. Paul explained that the identifying colouration of dragonflies doesn't show up until after the insect has hardened its skin and become completely mature.



Some dragonflies turned up at the shore of the fishing pond, but we saw even more of the big dragonflies in the parking lot and on the beach. The first one was a Blue Dasher. This is a pond skimmer (Libellulida family). It tends to hover. The Blue Dasher has a thin abdomen and the male is a powdery blue colour, referred to as “prunose.”

Other dragonflies we observed were the Green Darner and the Common Pondhawk aka Eastern Pondhawk. The male Green Darner has a blue abdomen, a green thorax and a “bull’s eye” marking on its head. The female has the green thorax, but no blue. It also has the bull’s eye which separates them from the other blue and green dragonflies. We got a good look at the Green Darner on a tree trunk in the parking lot. The male Common Pondhawk is also powdery blue in colour. The female, though, is very green with a stripe on the thorax. We got a good look at the female Pondhawk on the tire of someone’s van. Our final dragonfly of the morning was the Black Saddlebags, named for the black spots on either side of its thorax on otherwise clear wings. The Saddlebags were slower flyers than the Dashers and Pondhawks. We found them over the open gravel area by the hawk tower. According to Paul, there are three species of Saddlebags found locally. Two of them migrate to our area from the south each spring, but the Black Saddlebags (*Tamea lacerata*) overwinters here.



Caterpillar



Smartweed Caterpillar

When we returned to the hawk tower, we met a family who expressed an interest in the butterfly and dragonfly tour. Paul obligingly did another walk in slightly warmer sunnier weather. This walk yielded another set of species of butterflies: Gray Hairstreak, Silver-spotted Skipper, Cabbage, Bronze Copper, Fiery Skipper (small, with yellowy-orange colour and black spots), and many Viceroy (which look very much like Monarchs, but are slightly smaller and fly in a more “decisive” manner).

They saw another species of damselfly: Autumn Meadowhawk, which is red with yellow legs. Paul also identified three species of caterpillar: Cattail Caterpillar, Smartweed Caterpillar and two yellow Woolly Bears. As a “bonus” they also found a snake in the foliage.

A walk even a little later in the day netted a 12-Spot Dragonfly and male and female Ruby Meadowhawks which were joined and laying eggs. There was also a Fiery Skipper which was enamored of potted Lobelia on the table of one of the vendors and stayed there for a long time.

Ojibway Nature Centre Hikes

By Betty Learmouth

Photographs by Betty Learmouth

A Walk on the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, September 7, 2010

Walk leader and Ojibway Nature Centre staff person Tom Preney was joined by eleven nature enthusiasts on a sunny September 7, 2010 morning for a walk on the colourful Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Preserve.

As the group was leaving the nature centre, Tom identified a nectaring female Tiger Swallowtail that provided an opportunity for the group to note she was more heavily streaked with much more blue on the hind wing than the male.

As the group paused by the Ojibway Creek, Tom said he had counted 16 turtles within the creek on his way to work. At the nature centre parking lot entrance, a tree has fallen which was totally engulfed in a Bittersweet vine. Tom provided an update on the local trees by forester Bill Rossell who states existing elm trees within the City of Windsor have been hard hit this past growing season by the Dutch Elm disease.

Upon entering the Nature Preserve, Tom commented that the goldenrod in bloom all around us was Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), not Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) as previously thought. Botanist Tony Reznicek identified Tall Goldenrod during a botanical walk on September 26, 2009.

Along the trail to the left, Tom pointed to Beggar's Ticks which adhere to clothing and Wild Lettuce, a tall lanky plant. This trail has numerous Flat-topped white Aster which produce an impressive display.

Hikers had an opportunity to distinguish between Glaucous White Lettuce and Tall Blue Lettuce. Glaucous White Lettuce is very hairy or pubescent while Tall Blue Lettuce is smooth.

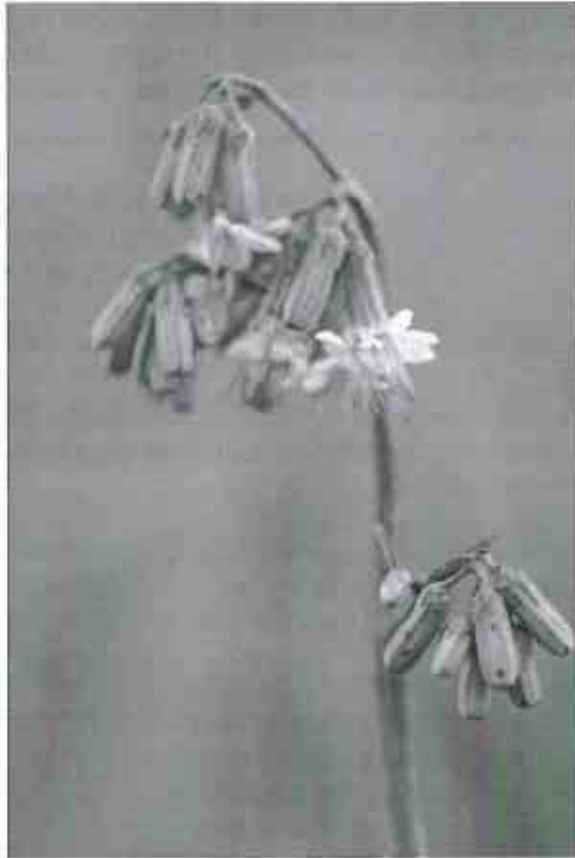
Tom pointed out the various fern species along the trail including Royal Fern, Marsh Fern and Sensitive Fern. The recent hot spell had affected the Sensitive Fern which is now quite dry.

Other plants along the trail included Tall Ironweed with its seed heads already formed, pink flower heads of Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed in bloom, Prairie Dock with its very large, very rough leaves, Smooth False Foxglove with a few of its attractive yellow tubular blooms still to be seen, and Tall Coreopsis with its yellow blooms on display.

Prairie grasses were on display as well, some towering well over the hikers. Species taller than the hikers which were observed were Big Bluestem and Cord Grass.



Glaucous White Lettuce



Tall Blue Lettuce

Near the end to the left hand trail, Smooth Aster and Round-headed Bush-Clover were observed.

The hikers continued along the trail where the hikers viewed at least ten individual plants of Nodding Ladies Tresses. Two orchid species bloom on the Ojibway Prairie in late summer, the earliest of which is Nodding Ladies Tresses, followed by the Great Plains Ladies Tresses. Scattered throughout the area where the Nodding Ladies Tresses are located were Swamp Lousewort with its creamy coloured blossoms. The delightful Sneezeweed with its bright yellow blossoms was also seen in the same area.

A stalk of Riddell's Goldenrod was identified. Both Slender Gerardia and Purple Gerardia were seen closely together for comparison.

Nearby Silver Rod or White Rod, a goldenrod, was beginning to bloom. Its white blossoms are a delightful sight. Another goldenrod species identified by Tom was Grass-leaved Goldenrod which has spots of fungus on its narrow leaves.

As the hikers headed towards Titcombe Road, they paused to admire Indian Grass with its golden seeds sparkling in the morning sun. Tom showed the hikers a stand of Little Bluestem which is only a few feet tall and a different colour from the nearby Big Bluestem.

An ant mound was noted along the trail. Most of these mounds are hidden by prairie vegetation until a burn exposes the many mounds on the prairie. Tom remarked that ants work up to six years to create a mound.

Butterflies seen on the hike other than the species mentioned previously include Viceroy, Eastern Tailed Blue, Buckeye, Monarch (several seen nectaring on Prairie Thistle), a faded Great Spangled Fritillary, Black Swallowtail, and Giant Swallowtail (nectaring on thistle as it fluttered at the thistle).

Thank you to Tom for leading this walk during which we observed an array of plant and insect species.

Ojibway Park Walk, September 14, 2010

Five hikers joined Ojibway Nature Centre staff person Tom Preney on September 14, 2010 for a morning walk in Ojibway Park. At the exit door near the new under construction nature centre, two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were observed nectaring at the Tropical Sage. One hummingbird, an immature male, had pollen on the top of its head, gathered during its foraging. Tropical Sage is an annual species that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds find attractive.

In the Ojibway Creek, we observed a tiny Eastern Midland Painted Turtle on a partially submerged tree trunk. Tom thought this small turtle may have hatched during the past spring and would hibernate in the muck of the Ojibway pond.

Hikers viewed one large log in the creek occupied by nine Eastern Midland Painted Turtles and two Red-necked Sliders. Red-necked Sliders are non native turtles which should not be released in our ponds. Tom commented the Nature Centre received three calls the previous week regarding this turtle species. Red-necked Sliders grow large in captivity, requiring a proper diet and regular cleaning of their living quarters. One Windsor resident has dedicated his entire basement to the care of unwanted Red-necked Sliders.

Tom said that around the world there are 280 species of turtles, with one third of these species considered endangered. Habitat loss and human consumption of turtles is the main factor for the decline in turtle population.

The trail to the Ojibway pond had several plants still in bloom including Tall Thoroughwort and Biennial Guara, an uncommon plant that flowers in the early morning, displaying white petals that turn pink by day's end.

To the left of the board walk, the season's first Bottled Gentian was in bloom. Tom said to expect Fringed Gentian blooms in two weeks' time. Nearby Boneset was in bloom, a plant was used in the past for the treatment of "break bone fever."

At the pond, the hikers had a close look at a Solitary Sandpiper, which has the unusual trait of nesting in trees. Two Mallards lounged at the back of the nearly dry pond. Also noted at the pond was an immature Red-headed Woodpecker.

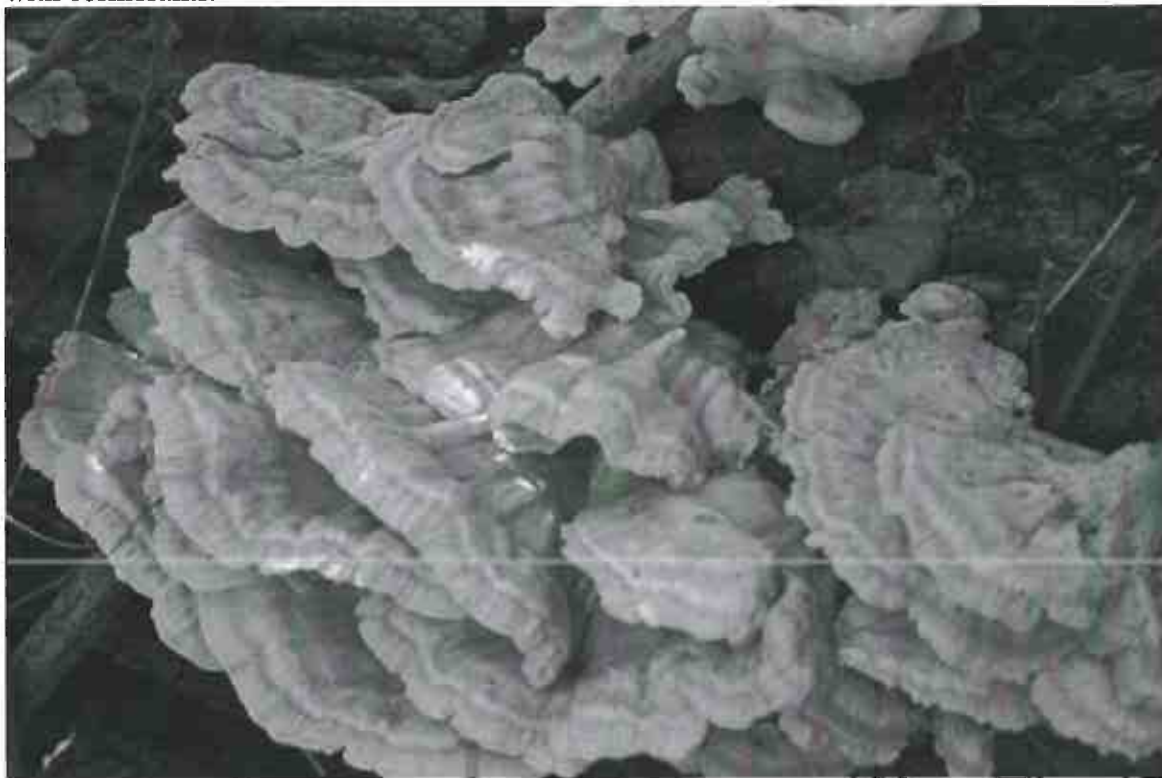
The group hiked through the Black Oak Savannah which was a park with a parking lot some

fifteen years ago. We noted a number of uncommon White Goldenrod in bloom which are sometimes called Whiterod or Silverrod.

We could see movement all around us as migrating song birds fed about the Black Oaks. Tom identified Tennessee, Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Green Warbler. Other species included Cedar Waxwing, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush and Northern Flicker.

On a weekend visit to Hillman Marsh, Tom had observed a Great Egret tagged with a large pink tag. Apparently this egret has been at Hillman Marsh for several weeks. According to Environment Canada ornithologist Chip Weseloh, this egret was banded as a flightless young on June 24, 2010 at Nottawasaga Island near Collingwood, wandering from that area to Hillman Marsh.

While kayaking on September 12, 2010, at Point Pelee National Park, Tom discovered five dead Double-crested Cormorants and another close to death. Tom asked a warden about these birds, learning that they were affected by Newcastle's Disease, a neurological disease first reported in Newcastle, in the north of England, during 1929. This particular strain is commonly associated with cormorants.



Chicken of the Woods

Before departing, the hikers viewed a colourful Chicken of the Woods fungus growing on a fallen tree a few feet from the parking lot edge.

Thank you to Tom for another enjoyable and informative guided walk around Ojibway Park.

Spring Garden ANSI Hike, October 5, 2010

Nine hikers joined Ojibway Nature Centre staff person Tom Preney for a walk in the Spring Garden Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) on the morning of October 5, 2010. Before leaving Titcombe Road Park, Shirley Grondin showed the group a Bottled Gentian at the park edge. Tom remarked that certain moth species pierce the flower of this species, pollinating the blossom. For those who wish to see a Fringed Gentian, Tom suggested that they take the right hand trail on the Ojibway Provincial Prairie, walk 80 steps and look for the Fringed Gentian on the right hand side of the trail.

Shirley also provided an update on Great Plains Ladies Tresses. This orchid species has been discovered in the same area of Titcombe Road Park as many Colicroot plants which were revealed by chance due to the reduction in mowing by the City of Windsor since 2009.

Tom told the group that the Ojibway Nature Centre has been receiving calls regarding the presence of coyotes in neighbourhoods, particularly in LaSalle and along train tracks. Recent research has determined that the Eastern Coyote is in fact a hybrid between the Gray Wolf and Eastern Coyote. The coyote/wolf hybrid is a very intelligent animal and is quite a biologically different animal from coyotes in the West.



We need to be responsible pet owners to ensure our cats and small dogs are safe at all times, especially with the knowledge that the Eastern Coyote/wolf hybrid is here to stay.

An update from Tom regarding the DRIC construction close to E.C. Row was provided. A study by DRIC biologists indicates that Butler's Gartersnake habitat abuts the E.C. Row, indicating that the snakes are using this area for thermoregulation. There is talk of pushing the population back from the E.C. Row. This situation will likely have an impact on the Butler's population which is found in a few isolated populations in Southwestern Ontario.

Along the Spring Garden trail the hikers enjoyed the large purple flower heads of New England aster, the pale blue Willow Leaf Aster with its weeping willow leaves, colourful yellow, orange and scarlet Sassafras, Flat-topped Aster, Smooth Aster, Heath Aster and Ontario Aster.

Sassafras

On the dry Spring Garden prairie, the hikers observed Rigid Goldenrod, Purple Love Grass, Rough Blazingstar, and Tall Thoroughwort.

Bird species observed during the walk were Golden-crowned Kinglets, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a flock of migrating blackbirds, Downy Woodpecker, Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, House Wren and Palm Warbler.

Tom remarked that this season has been exceptional for butterfly species in our area as many southern species have been noted. As an example, Tom reported the sighting of a Pipevine Swallowtail at Point Pelee during the past weekend. Another exciting discovery occurred on September 30, 2010 at Holiday Beach Conservation Area when Bev Wannick and the class accompanying Bev for the day visited the beach to discover hundreds of Buckeye butterflies streaming along the beach.

Tom reported the latest tally of dragonfly species within Essex County now totals 171. On September 28, 2010 on the East Beach at Point Pelee National Park, a Striped Saddlebags was observed by Bob Curry.

Upon returning to the Titcombe Road Park, the group walked to the portion of the park that is not mowed. Everyone was delighted to discover prairie plants growing well including many plants of Little Bluestem, several clusters of Big Bluestem along with Ironweed and Virginia Mountain Mint.

Thank you to Tom for another enjoyable and informative walk.

Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve and Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, October 12, 2010

Twelve hikers joined Ojibway Nature Centre's staff person Tom Preney on October 12, 2010 for a hike across the Ojibway Prairie, followed by a circular walk around the Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park wetland.

Tom paused at the entrance of the Ojibway Prairie for an update on the Friends of Ojibway Prairie's seed collection. The seed collection crew meets on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. FOOP President Bonnie Ross stated the seed collectors are presently focused on Big Bluestem and Switchgrass collection. Through the winter, volunteers sort, package and label seeds for persons who wish prairie seeds for their gardens.

Tom, with his interest in reptiles, brought the hikers up to date on his weekend visit to Illinois. Along with twenty-five persons from Ontario, Tom visited Shawnee National Forest's Snake Road, a road located between a swamp and a limestone bluff over which reptiles pass on their journey to hibernation sites.

Altogether 51 species of reptiles were observed. A "lifer" for Tom was a Copperhead, of which four were seen. This area in Illinois is the northern extend of the Copperhead's range. The Western Cottonmouth was the most commonly observed reptile, with over one hundred seen.



Willow Aster

During the hike across the Ojibway Prairie, a Red-bellied Woodpecker called, as well as an Eastern Towhee which repeated a single note over and over. Young Pignut Hickories glowed golden in the morning sun.

Tom remarked that this particular part of the Ojibway Prairie with its oaks and hickories would more correctly be called an oak savannah, rather than a prairie. Some plants in bloom along the left hand trail included Heath Aster, New England Aster, Smooth Aster, and Willow Aster. A single Broad-winged Hawk flew over the hikers.

The hike continued across Titcombe Road as the group hiked the trail around the wetland. A flock of American Robins flew through the area. Other bird species included a singing Carolina Wren, a flock of migrating and cackling Common Grackles, a Black-capped Chickadee, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, a handsome Blue-headed Vireo feeding on grapes, a Fox Sparrow scratching in leaf litter, a Downy Woodpecker called and a Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen foraging.

The Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park is managed by the City of Windsor while the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve is managed by Ontario Parks.

Thank you to Tom for an enjoyable hike.

Bronze Copper

Hillman Marsh, Summer 2010

By Cherise Charron

Photographs by Cherise Charron

Hillman this summer has been hot and dry. However this has been great weather for the butterflies and dragonflies. Lots of Monarchs and sulfurs, and Northern Crescents. The highlight for me was a Bronze Copper feeding on some milkweed about 25 metres from the Visitors Centre. Also in September I observed a Red-spotted Purple.

Of the dragonflies, Common White-tail was most plentiful. Also good numbers of Eastern Pondhawk, Black Saddlebags, and Common Green Darner. Damselflies were also out in good numbers. In September I found a Lance Tip Darner.



The water levels in July and August were basically too high for shorebird habitat most of the time. However there were brief periods of 1-2 days where water levels were low enough to create mud flats for shorebird habitat. In August a baker's dozen of strikingly coloured Short-billed Dowitchers stayed for a few days. Also making appearances were Least Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpipers.



Short-billed Dowitchers

Water levels were drawn down around September 10, 2010, providing much more shorebird habitat. The exposed mudflats brought in more shorebirds including Pectoral Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Plovers, Stilt Sandpipers, Sanderlings, White-rumped Sandpipers and also Baird's Sandpipers. Baird's Sandpipers have been pretty plentiful in Ontario and Michigan's Pointe Mouillee State Game Park this fall.

The hot weather this year reached up far north providing warming temperatures for the breeding shorebirds up north. It must have been a good season for the shorebirds and passerines.

Over at the new soccer pitches in Leamington from August 20-30, American Golden Plovers (moulting adults and juveniles)



Greater Yellowlegs

plus two Buff-breasted Sandpipers hung around for several days. Thank you to Peggy and Tom Hurst for posting this sighting to Ontbirds.

Also at Hillman there are big numbers of Great Egrets and Great Blue Egrets enjoying the lower water levels. There is a Great Egret with a red tag, 10E. I also saw a Great Egret with two red leg bands. On the top leg band I could only make out "7-0." I couldn't figure out the middle number, perhaps a "6."

Last, but not least, good numbers of ducks with the shorebirds including Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Wood Ducks and Mallards.

Raptors spotted at Hillman March included Sharp-shinned Hawks, Merlin, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers including male, female and juveniles, Bald Eagles (adults and juveniles) and two Osprey.

Early Fall Sightings, Hillman Marsh, 2010

By Cherise Charron

Photographs by Cherise Charron

Early Fall was great for butterflies and dragonflies.

First note was my close encounter at the beach with a lone juvenile American Golden Plover.

On October 1, 2010, there were good numbers of sparrows and other assorted passerines including phoebes and warblers. However, on this day there were also big numbers of dragonflies on East Beach going north from the Tip. There were lots of Black Saddlebags and Common Green Darners. Amongst these dragonflies were such gems as Wandering Glider and Red Carolina Saddlebags. There were many dragonflies sunning themselves on low lying bushes.

As you can see in the one photo when the sun hits Black Saddlebags at a certain angle, the hind wing patch appears purplish. Looking at the photo of the Wandering Glider note speckles of blue in the wings when the sunlight hits the wings at a certain angle. I think the brown saddlebags photo is a female Red Saddlebag. I'm thinking Red because there are visible windows at the base of the hindwing patch.



American Golden Plover

Black Saddlebags



Wandering Glider



There was also a report of Striped Saddlebags by Bob Curry. I missed out on this dragonfly, but I was pleased with the species I did get.

On October 7, 2010, I had Spot-winged Glider. I also had one earlier in the season.



Red Saddlebags



Spot-winged Glider



Carolina Saddlebags

On October 11, 2010, I walked along the West Beach trail up to the West Beach parking lot. About half way up the trail I was pleased to see many Turkey Vultures roosting in trees and sunning/roosting on the beach. There must have been hundreds of Turkey Vultures! For myself I think that these are the most beautiful flying birds that I watch. When these birds catch a thermal their flight becomes effortless, and with the slightest wing movement can quickly alter course.



Turkey Vultures

Last note: If you want to see a Barnacle Goose and save a trip to Alaska, head down to Jack Miner's as they recently purchased one for their collection. It is a beautiful looking goose and roams/swims freely with the Canada Geese and Mallards.



Barnacle Goose

ECFNC Activities and Excursions, Dec. '10 – March '11

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.

December 8 – ECFNC Members Meeting – Join Club members as we view our favourite camera shots and delicious desserts. Meet at the Windsor Airport Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Bird Counts

Wednesday December 15 - Lakeshore (phone June Hurley 519-979-8126)
Saturday December 18 – Cedar Creek (phone Ojibway 519-966-5852)
Sunday December 19 – Rondeau (phone Keith Burk 519-676-2570)
Monday December 20 – Pt. Pelee (phone Pt. Pelee 519-322-5700)
Monday December 27 – Holiday Beach (phone Betty Learmouth 519-944-0825)
Thursday January 1 – Detroit River (phone Ojibway 519-966-5852)

December - March – Ojibway Nature Centre – Winter Hiking at Ojibway. Exercise your body and brain! These brisk morning walks with one of Ojibway Nature Centre's naturalists will introduce you to the many plants and animals in our area. Explore the Ojibway Prairie Complex, other sites in Windsor and meet new friends. Senior discount available. Call Ojibway for hike locations and to register (519-966-5852). Fee = \$34/8 weeks
Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:00 am. December 7, 21, Jan 4, 18, Feb 1, 15, March 1, 15

January to February - Ojibway Winter Birding Field Course

A series of morning field trips to observe winter birdlife in Essex County. Saturday morning field trips (8:30 am - noon) \$15 each (dates are tentative).

January 8, meet at the Point Pelee tip parking lot

January 22, meet at Lakeview Marina, Windsor

February 5, meet at the Point Pelee tip parking lot

February 19, meet at Hillman Marsh C.A.

January 12 – ECFNC Members Meeting – Guest speaker: MNR Chatham biologists on Coyotes. Meet at the Windsor Airport Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

January 16 – ECFNC Winter Excursion – Join ECFNC member Tom Hurst for our annual Owl Prowl. Meet at the entrance to Holiday Beach Conservation Area at 2:00 pm. We may drive to another location. This excursion is an excellent introduction to techniques for observing owls, especially long-eared owls which often roost in the Holiday Beach area.

February 9 – ECFNC Members Meeting – Guest speaker: Dr. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu on the Recycling of Car Parts. Meet at the Windsor Airport Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

February 13 – ECFNC Winter Excursion – Join the Principal of the Dr. David Suzuki Public School for a tour of this demonstration site for innovative energy and environmental technologies. Meet at 2 pm at the front of the school, 6320 Raymond Ave. (at Jefferson).

February 27 – ECFNC Winter Excursion – Join ECFNC member Paul Desjardins for our annual winter waterfowl excursion. Paul checks out the location of waterfowl prior to the trip and leads us to the best viewing areas. Meet in the Ojibway Nature Centre parking lot at 1 pm. Note the change in time.

March 3 – Canada South Land Trust Event - The Land Trust will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2011 in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre at 7:30 p.m. An update on Land Trust activities will be provided. Our guest speaker will be Holiday Beach Migration Observatory President Bob Pettit who will present a program on the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos Islands were declared a World Heritage Site in 1979, recognizing the Galapagos Islands as one of the world’s most significant natural areas. Call Betty (519-944-0825) to indicate you will be attending. Refreshments will be served.

March 9 – ECFNC Annual General Meeting – Enjoy an evening of updates from the various ECFNC committees and a stimulating quiz with prizes! Meet at the Windsor Airport Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

April 8 – Canada South Land Trust Event - The Land Trust will hold its Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on Thursday, April 8, 2011 in the Marconi Room of the Caboto Club. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Ruby-throated Hummingbird bander Carl Pascoe who provides a lively and enjoyable program. Tickets are \$35.00 each. Call Betty (519-944-0825) for tickets.

May 11 – ECFNC Members Meeting – Guest speaker: Dr. Rupp Carriveau on Wind Turbine Research. Meet at the Windsor Airport Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

.....
Essex County Field Naturalists’ Club
Membership Form – Due January 1, 2011

Individual membership \$20.00 / year _____ Family membership \$25.00 / year _____
 Student (full-time) \$10.00 / 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!

As of
November 23,
533 books
have been
sold, do you
have your copy
yet?

Fishes of Essex County and Surrounding Waters

By Dr. Lynda D. Corkum

A comprehensive field guide to fishes in Canadian
and adjacent American waters

- 102 freshwater fishes described and illustrated in over 150 colour photographs
- Species identification guides
- Checklist of fishes in the region, including Point Pelee National Park and nearshore waters of Pelee Island
- Description of Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and western Lake Erie
- Details on fish hatcheries, fish decoys and ice fishing
- Information on species at risk and potential invaders

FISHES OF ESSEX COUNTY AND SURROUNDING WATERS

By Lynda D. Corkum

\$25.00 (plus shipping)

Purchase online at
www.fishesofessexcounty.com



Or by mailing this card to Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
At Devonshire Mall P.O. Box 23011, Windsor, ON, N8X 5B5

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/ State _____

Postal/Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiry Date _____ Visa/MasterCard _____

Signature _____

Or you may enclose a cheque payable to ECFNC

For further information contact fishesofessexcounty@hotmail.com