

Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS'
CLUB

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** EDITORIAL **

Your editorial committee wishes to thank all our contributors to this issue of "The Egret." We are thinking about our September issue already and ask all contributors to submit their articles now as we would like to complete as much of the September issue in June as possible. Mail contributions to 2405 Princess Street, Windsor, Ontario. N8T 1V2. Thank you.



Prickly Pear Cactus
Opuntia humifusa

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear E.C.F.N.C. Members:

Well, another spring has flown by and the beginnings of a terrific summer are upon us. The executive has been busy planning the 'Second Annual Dinner Meeting.' It is on Wednesday, September 10th at the Riverside Knights of Columbus. Our guest speaker is Bob Graham from Point Pelee National Park. There will be door prizes and an auction. We are in the process of gathering items and any donations would be greatly appreciated. Tickets are advance sale only and must be purchased by August 23rd. Please contact either Pete Bondy (735-2376), Jim McAllister (254-1854), or Deb Gorman Smith (945-2684) for tickets. Help make this event a big success.

Our membership is slowly on the increase. We have just sold our third life membership to Peg Wilkinson. She joins the Ouellette family and Wilf Botham as E.C.F.N.C. lifers. It is easy to become a life member and not only ensures you receiving every 'Egret' but you also beat the inflation rate. Please talk to Susan Morrison (738-6037) regarding membership.

The participants - birders and sponsors - on the Baillie Bird-a-thon are to be congratulated for a job well done. Periodically, issues arise in some level of the Government that require either a positive or negative response. It is through letters that issues become reality, such as the declaring of Canadian Landmarks, or are altered or dismissed, such as the location of Windsor's Water Park. I urge you to write to parties involved regarding decisions that you support or are opposed to. The executive is aware of these concerns and is available for assistance in getting facts, addresses, etc. Just ask or comment.

Please let us know about ideas for field trips, guest speakers, or Egret articles. Remember this is YOUR club.

Have a safe and fun summer. Check the Hotline for any information update. See you on September 10th.

--Deb Gorman Smith



ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION IN THE WOODS

Probably none of us have been surprised at the recent additions of herbaceous species of plants to the flora of Ontario and particularly to the flora of Essex County. After all, with the exception of Point Pelee, the County has been largely ignored by the professional botanist since the era of Macoun and Dodge, leaving the field to a few amateurs (whose number could be counted on one hand or possibly one finger). Added to this is the fact that herbaceous plants are often small, ephemeral and restricted in habitat. Simply put, these plants are likely to be the least conspicuous elements in the landscape. A good example would be any one of the sedge species (Carex) - the sight of which will raise the blood pressure of only the very dedicated.

What is surprising is that several woody plant species have been added to our flora in the last decade. Three of these are trees and you can't get much more conspicuous than that. The one Essex County can almost claim for its own is Shumard Oak, Quercus shumardii. This very large tree has the greater portion of its Canadian range in the County. Another new oak for Ontario is Hill's Oak or Northern Pin Oak Quercus ellipsoidalis. Although it hasn't been found here yet, it is certainly to be looked for because its main range is to the west of us. The last new tree species is somewhat smaller and more restricted in its Canadian range. This is the Ohio Buckeye, Aesculus glabra. Our own Mike Oldham figured prominently in its discovery. To date it has only been found in large numbers in two places: Walpole Island and the floodplain of the Nith River near Ayr. In both of these stations it maybe an escape from cultivation rather than a true native but it is certainly a thriving and important component of the vegetation. Ohio Buckeye should also be looked for in the County because it is native to the Michigan shore. The last and smallest member of this woody foursome has recently been found

as a relic plant in the Oxley swamp. Betula pumila, the Dwarf or Swamp Birch, has the greater part of its range to the north and it can be considered a remnant of a more cold tolerant flora which occupied the land shortly after the retreat of the continental glaciers.

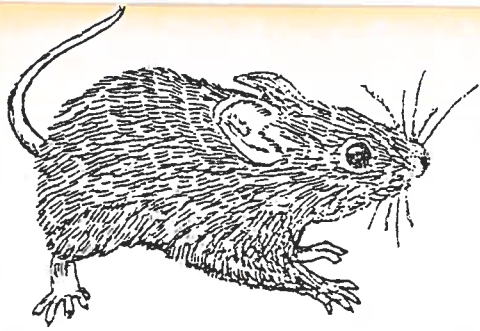
That covers the addition part of the story but what about the subtraction? Many of us can remember using the 1949 edition of Trees of Canada which included Scarlet Oak, Quercus coccinea; Chestnut Oak, Quercus prinus; and Mockernut Hickory, Carya tomentosa in our native woody flora. The eighth addition of 1979 still includes the latter two species. However, on the basis of recent field work and the examination of herbarium specimens, these three species should now be excluded. (Watch out for the Chestnut Oak in the old nursery area at Point Pelee - it's been planted). This doesn't mean they will never be found here. There are still lots of species out there waiting to be stumbled upon, and it's that expectation of discovery which lends an air of excitement to any nature outing.

--Gerry Waldron

OHIO BUCKEYE

- * LEAFLETS 5; LEAVES 4" - 15"
- * FRUIT HUSKS WITH WEAK THORNS
- * TWIGS ARE STRONGLY MALODOROUS WHEN BROKEN
- * PROMINENTLY RIDGED BUD SCALES ON EN BUDS
- * TREE HEIGHT TO 40'; DIAMETER TO 2'





THE FLOWING UNDERTONES OF LIFE

The sun was hovering brilliantly over the lush, living covering of the field. From this ornate carpet of plants shone forth the brilliant visages of flowers - clovers. The soft touch of wind whistling through them waved them back and forth like a horde of waving hands. Within their blossoms the distinct black and yellow, chubby, little bodies of bumble-bees hover for an instant, then, with nectar collected, they move on. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird, its wings beating to invisibility, flirts. It inserts its sickle-shaped bill into the mouths of the flowers and sips like a connoisseur the sweet fluid within. A Red-tailed Hawk soars past on shimmering wings, staring intently, no movement missed by its telescopic eyes. A vignette set in a Utopian wonderland.

Beneath the fragile, living layer above him a field mouse huddles, watching intently a pernicious hawk above. Under close scrutiny the mouse had a sapient aura about him and his darkly clouded hair and swarthy complexion added to this effect. Cautiously the mouse moved on after the hawk had drifted on with the ethereal wind. After a long trek the mouse could finally see the welcoming door of his best friend, Daucus' house.

After two short, resonant knocks on the tiny door a muffled voice within asked, "Who is it?"

After a slight pause, "Arisaema."

The door was thrown open and the occupant embraced him, their delight at seeing one another manifest. It took a few tear-inspiring moments before Daucus called out, "Arisaema is here." In no time at all Daucus' wife, Betula, and two children, Iris and Krigia came bounding up the narrow dirt passageway, also excited over the unexpected arrival. The embracing began for a second time.

Later, after eating a hearty meal with his hosts, Arisaema began the tale of his incentive for visiting them at this dangerous time when predators were so abundant. He began, eager to tell them of his wife and their discovery.

"Yesterday, Dianthus went to old Doc. Clematis for a swollen foot she's had. She came back later than expected and simply told me that..." He watched as the opalescent brown eyes staring back at him grew bigger and bigger with suspense. "She's going to bring some little mice into the world," he finally let out.

Iris and Krigia were delighted - tiny baby mice, with brownish, furless skin; their eyes unable to see; their entire self so reliant on everyone else - oh, what a thrill.

The rest of the night was spent in jovial celebration, the whole family sharing in Arisaema's evident joy. Late that night they lay securely in their beds, waiting for dreams to come.

Early the next morning Arisaema awoke to a beautiful day with the sun shining down pleasantly from above. After everyone had bade him good-bye and promised to visit in a few days, he set out for home.

Of all animals, the mouse is one of the smallest semi-intelligent beings there is. Arisaema could perceive better than any human the grandeur and majestic beauty of nature, due to his lowly perspective and habitat. He walked in a daze, sniffing in the redolent aroma of the air, the transcendent trees, the colourful flowers and even the fertile soil he walked upon. He ate a tender, burgeoning sprig of wild carrot and savoured the ambrosial flavour. There was not a worry in the world - freedom, and his wife anticipating.

From celestial height a Sharp-shinned Hawk caught sight of an unprotected mouse. Swiftly it swooped down, the sun shining glaringly, as its wings beat effortlessly. Not a worry in the world....

Arisaema's auspice came almost too late. The spell broke, and he dashed madly, for the safety of the underside of a log. From his vantage point he watched as the hawk alighted in a tree nearby, unwilling to let this tasty tidbit get away so easily. After what seemed like an eternity the hawk flew

off, gliding through the trees in the distance.

Once again Arisaema set out, but this time with a much higher degree of prudence, though the seductive beauty around him was enticing.

He soon arrived home and followed the familiar path up to his humble abode beneath a gigantic oak tree, and walked in.

His wife smiled as he came in, glad to see her husband who had been gone for nearly two days.

The most beautiful, charming wife in the whole world, he thought. He loved her profoundly, and he knew the feeling was mutual. Almost wan compared to her husband, she was light-haired with brown patches speckled on her. As they nosed each other, her brown eyes gazed into his lovingly. Soon, they would be a mother and a father. "How was it?" her voice cooed.

After eating they went outside and looked up at the night sky, the twinkling stars, and the bright moon in all its splendour. From the woods near their house they heard the resonant whinny of a screech owl and the melodious, repetitive "whip-poor-will" of a whip-poor-will as it called its name. From a pond in the forest came the vibrant "jug-o'-rum" of a bullfrog as it attracted a wife.

The next morning while Arisaema was inside, Dianthus received a visitor. Chirping loudly, their friend, a Field Sparrow named Slurtrill made his appearance. When Arisaema came out, Slurtrill proceeded to tell them the gossip of the area, as he always did. After his stories, Dianthus told of her news. With this he flew off ecstatically, telling the entire bird world, in their language, about the upcoming arrival.

The days wore on and with every day the simplicity and the cynosure of nature in spring grew greater and greater. Soon, all the flowers were in bloom, the stately oak trees were totally enveloped in leaves, the songbirds began fabricating their nests, and the insects began their nocturnal monotonous

humming, chirping, and cajolery.

A week after his visit, Arisaema found himself once again in the presence of his beloved friends. Intent on staying for a week, they would surely see the babies after birth.

Iris and Krigia were beside themselves with joy, as they had never seen newborn mice before and could hardly wait.

Being together gave the adults time for profound reminiscing about life and its origin. They spent leisurely hours watching the life around them and its subtle nuances, intricacies, and overwhelming, lucid beauty. They realized how unusual, in retrospect, was the life that they had. Dianthus' babies would bring with them an untainted life, triumphant and with rare undertones. Life was a gift that could never be repaid. At night they stared wonderingly at the ethereal stars that winked evocatively back at them.

The spell became more and more intense as the anticipation of the births grew and grew as the days went by. One fine night the waiting was over.

The bright, rainbow coloured sunset that night, overwhelming in its magnificence, may have been a good token as Arisaema started out with Dianthus to see Doctor Clematis.

The venerable Dr. Clematis, with his myopic, sparkling, blue eyes and scrawny silhouette welcomed them casually and they went in.

Two days later, Daucus and his family awoke to the endless chirping of birds. In the house was another surprise. Arisaema and Daucus were home and with them were four pinkish-brown, wrinkly-skinned, powerless infants. Iris and Krigia gaggled about them endlessly, carrying and holding them, feeding and cleaning them, doing anything to help with the babies.

The proud and joyous parents began the servile tasks of raising children, with the much needed help of their friends for the first week. All the while they celebrated life and its exquisite subtleties.

Soon, Daucus and his family left with encouraging words and good luck for the children.

The years passed and the children grew, and with each year their knowledge of life, love and friendship continued to flourish. Deep within the adults' hearts were treasured all of the feelings they had gained and reflected on in the fundamental joys of birth, children and growth.

--Brendon Larson

A SPRING FIELD TRIP TO THE CANARD VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA

The E.C.F.N.C. field trip, held on a warm sunny spring morning on April 19, 1986, had a late arrival. Twenty club members were gathered at Canard Valley Conservation Area to enjoy a walk through the area. Just as we approached the bridge, an egret circled overhead and landed in the creek. Members excitedly noted that this arrival of the club's symbol must be a splendid omen.

As a pair of Turkey Vultures and swallows circled the clearing, Francis and Bill Langlois led us through the E.R.C.A. managed conservation area which is located on the concession road southeast of the corner where County Roads 9 (Howard) and 10 intersect.

Bill and Francis and Jeff Larson had scouted the area a day earlier. Francis, a horticulturalist by profession, led the men, women and children to a carpet of Spring Beauties in the moist woods. Five specimens of Meadow-rue, Dog Violet, and Bloodroot were also discovered in full bloom. As the walk continued a Great Blue Heron flew down the river and a hawk circled high above.

The camera buffs had a field day as Bill Langlois came prepared to help club members get the best pictures of Wild Ginger, Dutchman's-breeches, May-apple, and Long-spurred Violet.

Spring bursts upon us and passes so quickly we were fortunate to experience so much in such wonderful conditions.

--Ian Robertson



THERE IT IS! : HALLEY'S COMET

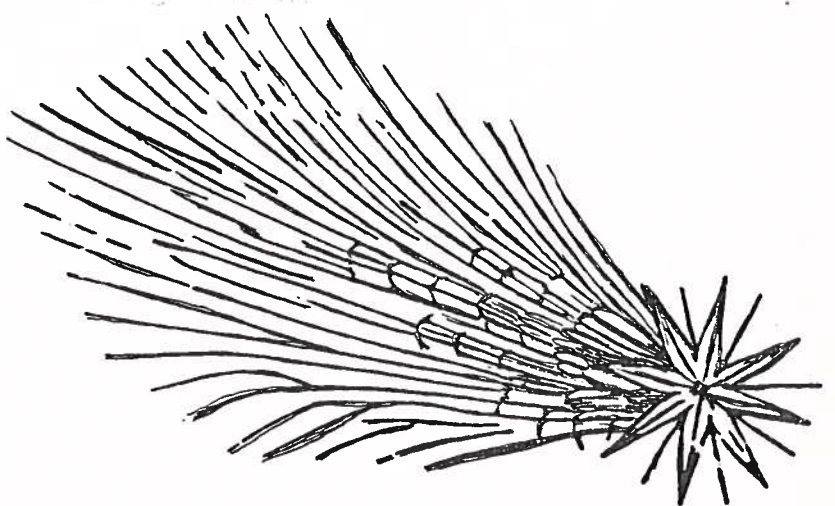
As we stood around stamping our cold feet in the dark of the night at the Point Pelee boardwalk, someone was heard to say laughingly, "There really must be a lot of 'nuts' in this club!" The sky was overcast when we arrived at about 3:30 a.m., and we had little hope of being able to see Halley's Comet. In fact, we had debated about driving out at all. Still, with our great desire and with our being a little 'nutty' we didn't give up right away.

We were back in our cars and wondering if we should be home and back to our warm beds, when off to the west there came a break in the clouds. The clearing trend moved slowly from west to east - very slowly. Would it clear in the southeast before daylight in time for us to get a glimpse of the comet? Such suspense and excitement as we watched the stars appearing as the cloud cover moved off!

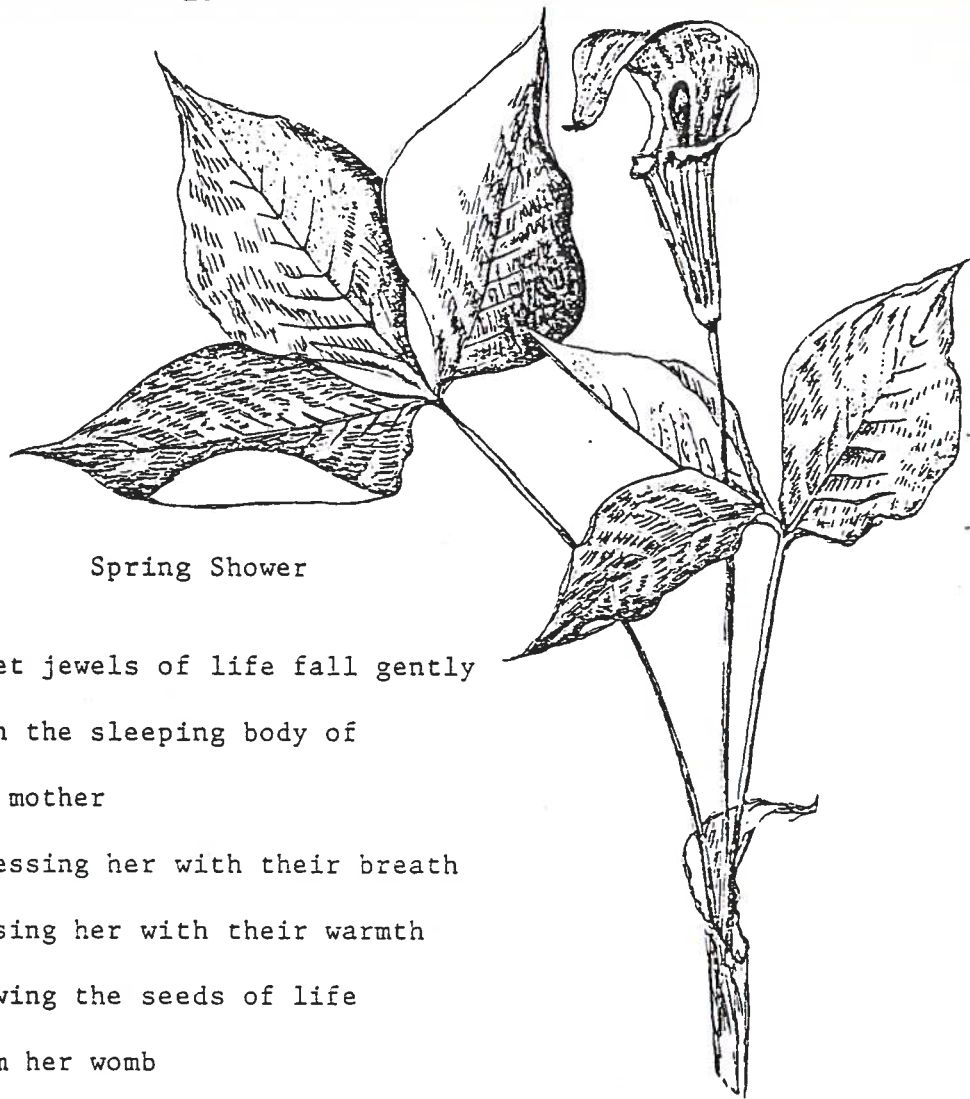
Up to the top of the lookout tower we went, binoculars in hand. Several telescopes were set up. The clouds in the southeastern sky gave way, and there it was -- Halley's Comet! We exclaimed excitedly: "THERE IT IS! THERE IT IS!" It was easy to see and appeared as a light coloured fuzzy spot. We were so happy that all of us 'nuts' had persevered for we were truly rewarded. We will remember the morning of March 22nd, 1986.

PEANUTS CHARLES M. SCHULZ

--Thelma Walker



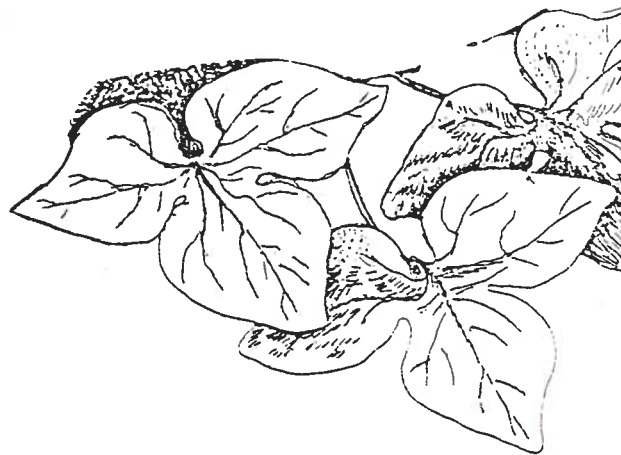
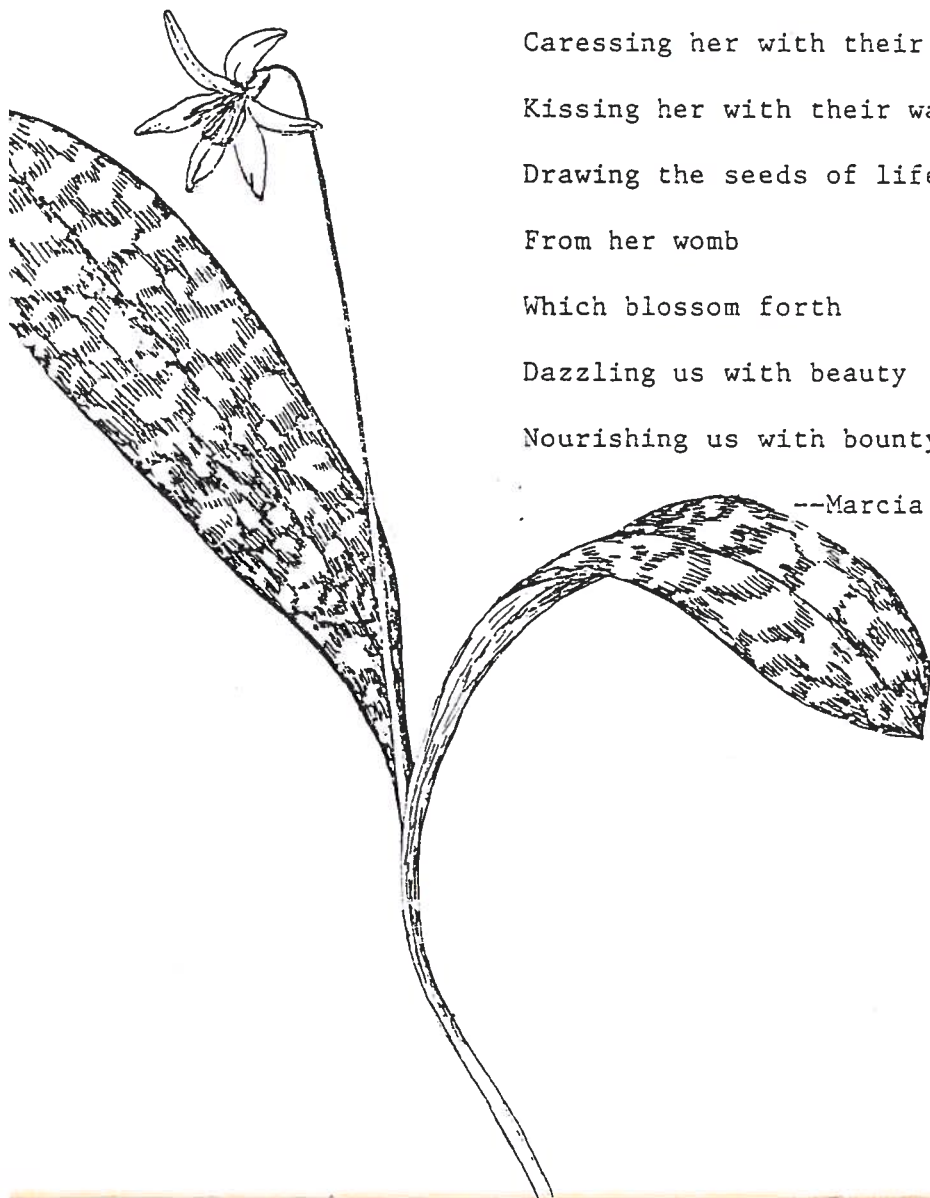
The spiky hedgehog impression of the first Halley's Comet to be drawn, that of nearly 400 years before the Bayeux Tapestry, but not issued until 1493 as part narrative of events in AD 684 in the Nuremberg Chronicle.



Spring Shower

Sweet jewels of life fall gently
 Upon the sleeping body of
 Our mother
 Caressing her with their breath
 Kissing her with their warmth
 Drawing the seeds of life
 From her womb
 Which blossom forth
 Dazzling us with beauty
 Nourishing us with bounty.

--Marcia Bebbington



IMPORTANT REMNANTS OF THE DECIDUOUS FOREST REGION
OR CAROLINIAN ZONE IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO



A giant tulip tree towered over the path and all around stood large sugarmaple and beech trees. Hoisting myself up a ridge I found that the forest had changed to mostly oak; trunks with long vertical ridges indicated red oak, while trunks with overlapping sloppy plates indicated white oak trees. Pignut hickories, black oak and sassafras were scattered through this stand as well.

Coming to the other side of the ridge, I climbed down to a forest of red ash, swamp white oak, shellbark hickory, shumard oak and many other species. As I continued my excursion

over the wet clay soil of this forest, I reached the edge of a creek. Large trees with stark black trunks and snaky coarse branches supporting giant beans stood tall in front of me: these must be the Kentucky coffee trees!

I jumped across the creek and soon I traversed a sandy shore line of a lake which supported a strange looking forest of trees with grey and bumpy bark, looking like hackberry trees. My thoughts floated through this lake shore forest until they reached an area of scattered pin oak, the openings filled in with tall grass and prairie sunflowers.

Then my daughter who stood all this time beside me asked, "Where are all these forests, Dad?"

"They are mostly gone, cleared for settlement during the last 150 years",

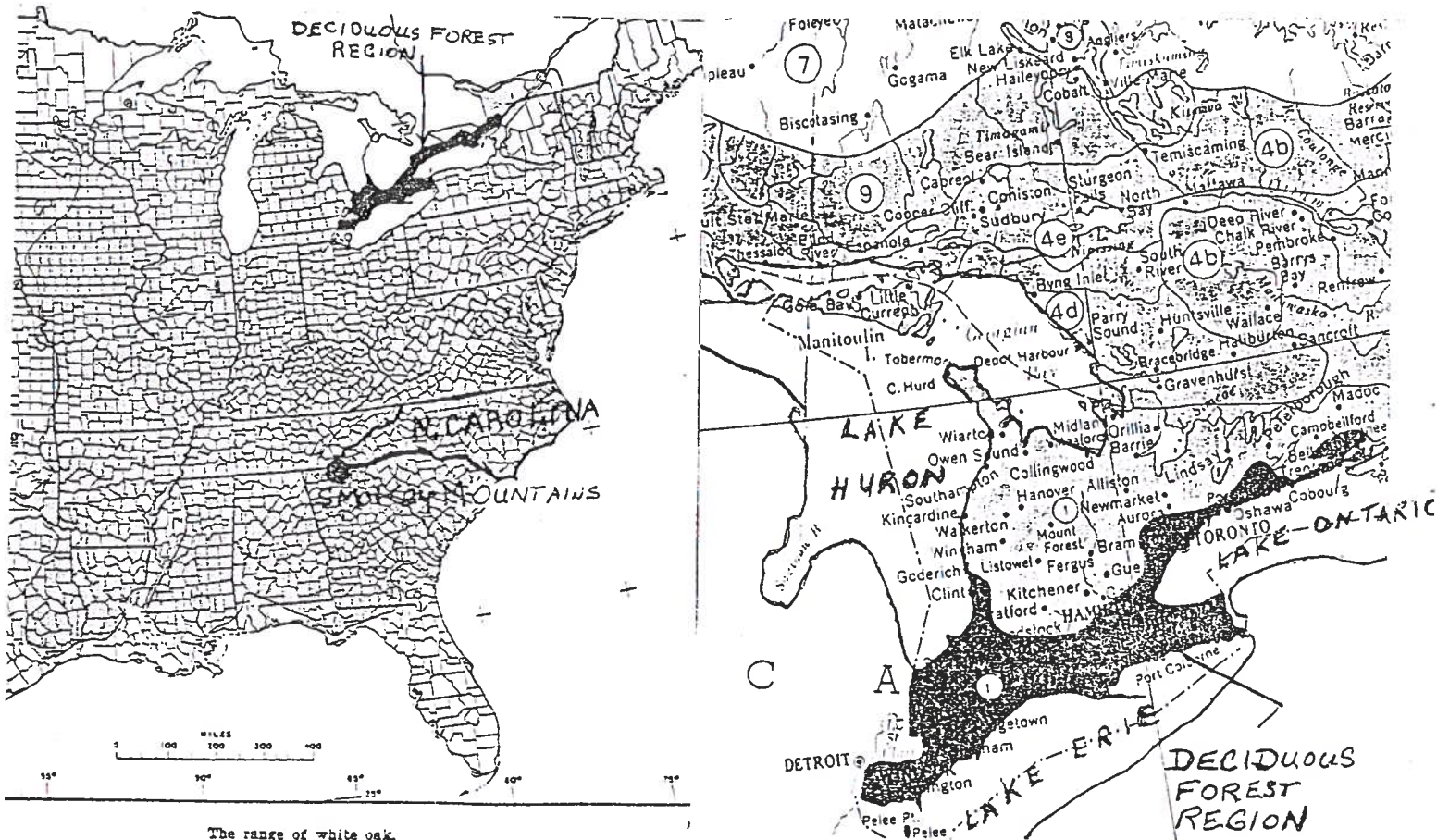
I said. "The logs were used to build the pioneer homes and to heat their dwellings. Some logs were even exported from the Park Homestead, which derived its reason for being from this deciduous forest with its Carolinian species."

"What is a deciduous forest and what are Carolinian species?" my daughter asked, and "Can we visit some of these remnants?"

So, I started to explain.....!

The deciduous forest and its Carolinian species

The deciduous forest region, which is also referred to as the Carolinian zone, is located in southwestern Ontario, stretching from Windsor in the southwest to Kingston in the northeast. Native Trees of Canada lists a large number of tree species that grow to the south of us in the central hardwoods region of the United States reaching south to the Carolinas and the Great Smokey Mountains. Our Canadian deciduous forest region is therefore also referred to as the Carolinian zone. Some 70 or so of these Carolinian tree species penetrated into southwestern Ontario to form the deciduous forest region.



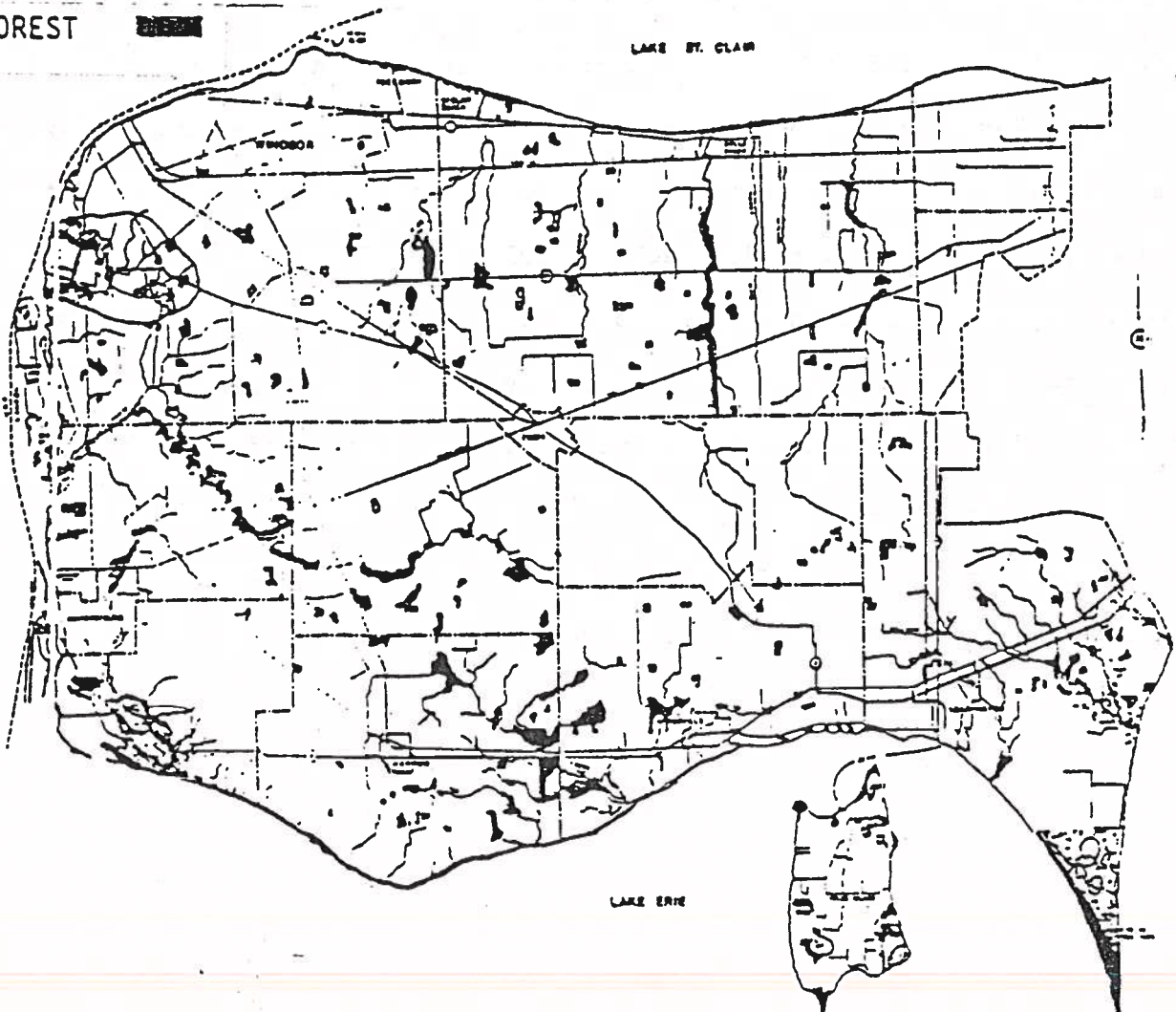
The range of white oak.

Remnants of the deciduous forest

This deciduous forest region coincides with the most densely populated urban region of Ontario; it has the best soils in combination with a most favourable climate for agriculture. So, the pressure for clearing this forest was strong and still continues. In Essex County less than 2 percent remains and even less of this original Carolinian tree cover will be around by the year 2000.

The few publicly owned wooded remnants, therefore, take on a special significance as heritage forest sites that we can show our children and grand children in the same way that historic heritage sites such as Fort Malden and the Park Homestead are preserved and specially treated to provide for historical-cultural interpretation.

MAP OF THE ESSEX REGION
FOREST



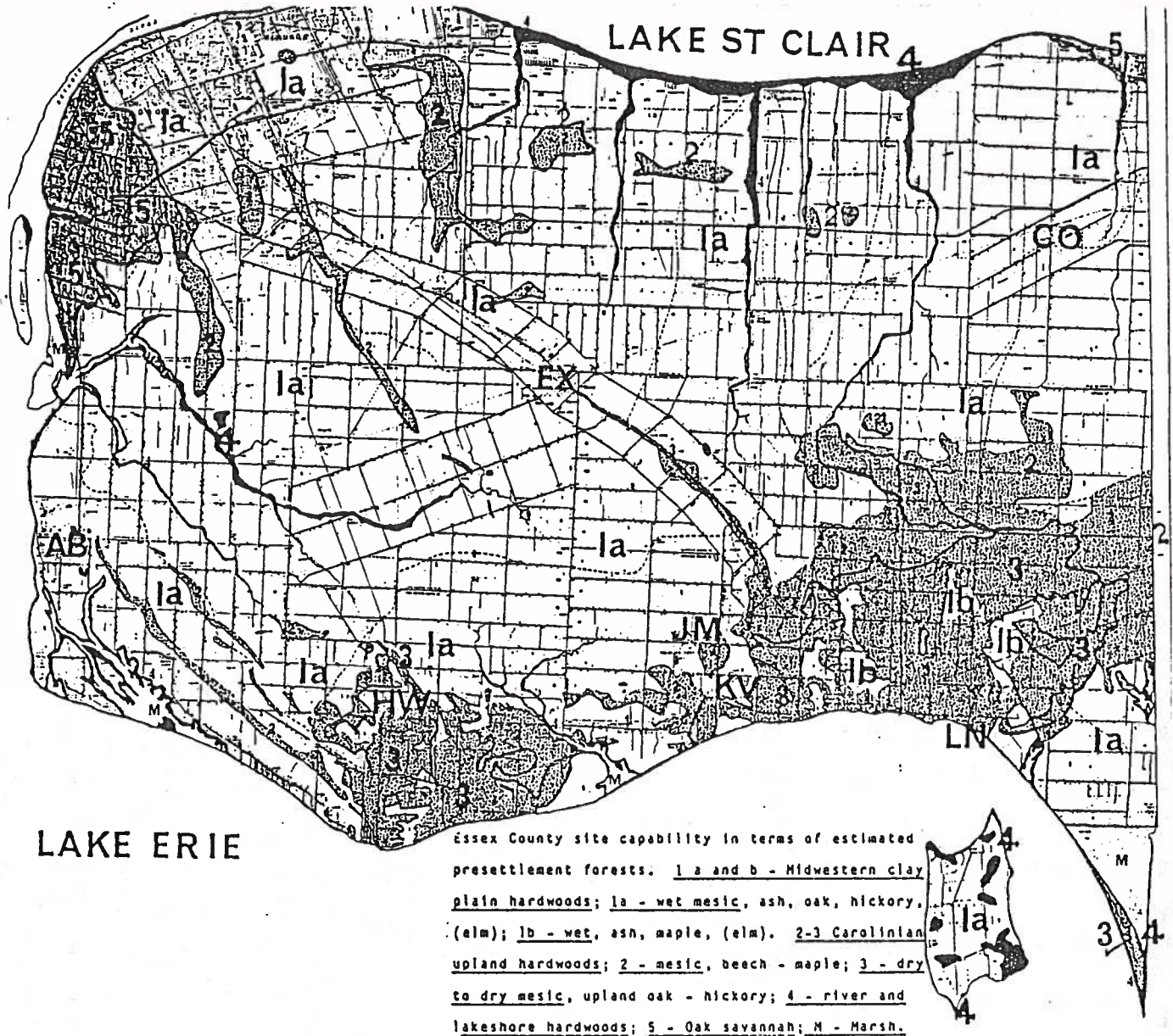
Several remnants of the deciduous forest show specific upland, lowland, river and shore line, and clay plains hardwood forest types which relate strongly to soil-drainage site conditions. Such subdivisions of the deciduous forest are presented in several of our publicly owned wooded conservation areas. They lend themselves ideally for interpreting the deciduous forest through a large outdoor display, located at the Park Homestead, for instance. Such an outdoor display of the deciduous forest with its Carolinian special would be an important tool in developing grassroot support for conservation programmes. Such a display would integrate the cultural-heritage interpretive programme at the Park Homestead with its former resource base the deciduous forest.

Major subdivisions of the deciduous forest in Essex County

Essex County was densely covered with forest less than 150 years ago, with the exception of the oak-savannah in the northwest and a number of marshy plains. A reconstruction of this presettlement forest showing major subdivisions is shown on the map of Essex County. Zone 1a represents the former extent of the ash-oak-hickory-elm, lowland species of the clay plains hardwoods. Silver maple-elm swamps, zone 1b, are shown in the Harrow-Leamington area. They are surrounded by zone 2 and 3, maple-beech-oak-tulip type Carolinian upland hardwoods. Zone 4, represents river and lake shore hardwood types, and zone 5 is the Ojibway oak-savanna. The scarcity of publicly owned examples of these subdivisions of the deciduous forest, including Point Pelee and the Ojibway prairie is shown on the map as well. Such areas, therefore, deserve environmentally significant treatment as heritage sites with the exclusion of wood product extraction. We will visit these priceless wooded remnants in public ownership in the next issue of the Egret.

(Article concludes with diagram on the following page.)

--Bill Morsink



LETTER WRITING STRATEGIES

From INFOETEX Vol. 2 No. 3 Friends of the Earth, Oct. 1985.

LETTER WRITING STRATEGIES TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE . . .

To bring about changes in the laws and regulations, letter writing can be very effective, if the following tips are utilized:

1. Keep your letter short. Make at most two or three points on a single sheet of paper.
2. Handwritten letters are as good as typed letters as long as they are legible. They indicate that you are serious about the ideas and are not just copying someone else.
3. To increase the impact of your letter, copy it to two or three other officials, members, or ministers.
4. Ask specifically that the person reply to your letter, or ask questions that indicate that you expect answers, or ask whether the person is willing to support your position. If you receive no reply within three weeks, write again or phone.
5. Do not threaten or try to intimidate the person. Remember, you are trying to gain their support.
6. Individual letters are more effective than group letters or form letters or petitions.
7. Send a copy of your letter to the environmental or recreational organization that is working on the issue. This lets them know how much support has been given in the form of letters. Otherwise, they don't know their strength.
8. Be sure to include "Hon." before ministers' names.
9. Send your letter today. The more you procrastinate, the less likely that your concern will reach the persons responsible in time.
10. Get in the habit of writing letters regularly. Once a week is a good number to keep in mind. Remember, they can be handwritten.

WOODCUTTING AT THE MAIDSTONE CONSERVATION AREA

These photographs were taken by Jeff Larson during April 1986 and show the results of woodcutting near markers #14 and #15 at the Maidstone C.A. This woodcutting has been ongoing since February 1986.

What is your reaction to woodcutting in this publicly owned wooded remnant?

Please express your opinion to:

MR. PHILIP R. HALE,
GENERAL MANAGER
ESSEX REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
360 FAIRVIEW AVENUE WEST
ESSEX, ONTARIO.
N8M 1Y6



GRACKLES

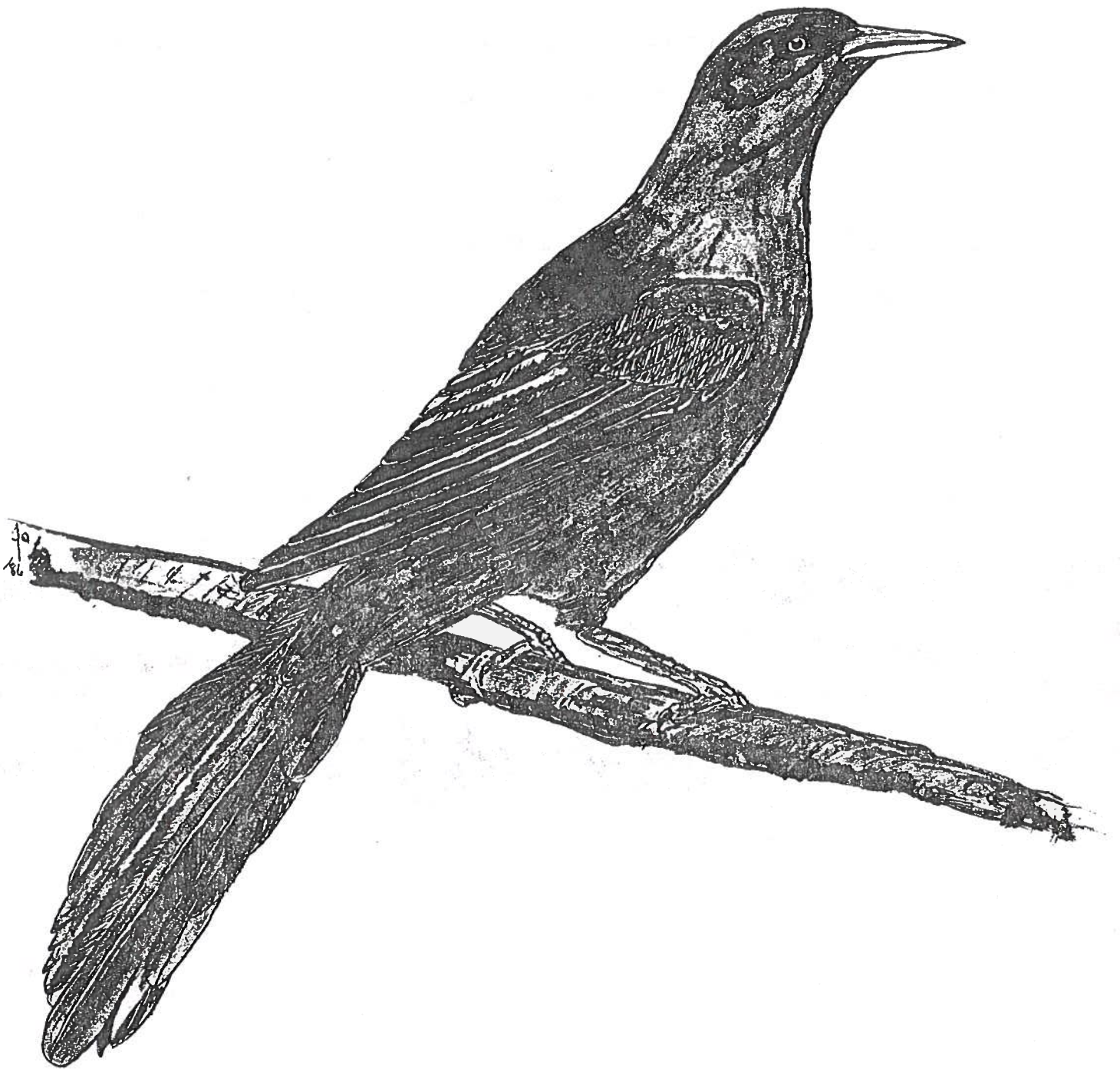
Several years ago, when I was vacationing in a small town, Buckeye, near Phoenix, Arizona, I saw a rather unusual looking bird one day. It was irrigation day in town and that requires an explanation for you.

Since the area is in the desert, the land must be watered artificially from canals bringing the water from the mountains fifty or so miles away. Accordingly, the property of a town resident must be prepared for irrigation by the building of a one to one and a half foot berm around it. And so, every two - three weeks, a town employee opens a valve in front of the property and fills the saucer-like lot with water and leaves it to gradually soak away.

It was on the neighbour's lot that I first saw the strange bird. I asked him its name, and he said that it was a Mexican Irrigation Bird. Well, of course, he didn't really know the name, but he did know that it seemed to fly in from the south, and was often seen around irrigation activities.

This day, there were several walking in the shallow water, holding enormous tails at a forty-five degree angle and feeding on the insects, etc., that floated to the surface. Later in National Geographic's Birds of North America, I read that it was Quiscalus mexicanus, the Great-tailed Grackle. For all intents, it is Quiscalus quiscula, our own purplish-headed grackle with another six inches of tail.

The Great-tailed seems to be about as numerous as our grackle is here. During my stay in the area this past winter, I saw a couple flying from one palm tree to another almost every day. And after I realized that they were the source of peculiar and very loud metallic noises, I realized they were around my home all day long. Later, when I went into the countryside looking for birds, I again saw them, perhaps six to eight at a time, at the corner of the field where the irrigation water was flowing in. They are really quite numerous in the area, and are readily found when you know their apparent



fondness for water.

So briefly, the bird is quite similar to the Common Grackle, but for its length - eighteen inches versus twelve and one-half inches. Our grackle tends to be quiet, but the Great-tailed is quite noisy, holding forth from the depths of the tallest trees of the area with loud chattering sounds - perhaps in competition with the mockingbirds doing the same. The unusual features of the sounds are the peculiarly metallic quality and the considerable variation.

--Russ Munro

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Joanne Barten is a 1984 graduate of W. F. Herman Secondary School, Windsor, Ontario. As an assistant naturalist at the Ojibway Nature Centre, Joanne's art expertise is very evident in the various displays about the Nature Centre. This winter Joanne studied water colour painting at St. Clair College and art history at the University of Windsor. Joanne plans to continue her studies this fall at the university.

ANSWERS TO MIX MATCHED INSECTS:

1. D
2. A
3. E
4. B
5. C

BIRD-WATCHING IN CUBA ... FROM ZAPATA TO LA GUIRA

On Saturday morning, March 1st, we settled back as Air Canada flight 976 roared down the runway. Somewhere among the hundred or so holiday makers aboard were fourteen other birders, our companions on a week long tour to Cuba's birding "hotspots" in the western end of the six hundred mile long island. We scanned the sea of faces but only one stood out as an obvious birder (under a "Tilley" hat). The rest blended in with the other tourists off for a week or so on the sun bleached sands of Varadero Beach, our destination about a hundred miles east of Havana. Cuba has been attracting more and more Canadians every year with its reasonable rates (one group aboard were returning for the fourteenth year in a row) but has just begun to wake up to the potential in special interest groups like birders. This was one of the first tours by a new Canadian group - and with no track record established, we were a bit apprehensive.

All our worries went out the window, however, when the group finally assembled after clearing customs and we were told rather casually that our bus was "missing". It didn't even elicit a murmur. Instead, people dived into their luggage for binoculars and spread out to scan the surrounding vegetation for anything that moved. Thank goodness - they were real birders after all. This was going to be a good trip!

Fifteen minutes later a brand new Toyota mini-bus was heading out with our group on board for our main base, the Hotel Playa Larga, a two hour drive south to the well-known Bay of Pigs area on the edge of the Zapata Peninsula. The trip gave us time to get acquainted with the others as we meandered through tiny villages and towns of the sugar cane and orange grove district. They were a mixed bag of teachers, students, retirees, authors (Frank Banfield, The Mammals of Canada) and what have you. Our leader was Graeme Gibson, a writer and naturalist from Toronto. His assistant was a young man in his early twenties

with what we thought was a surprising knowledge of birds for one so young until we learned that his father, also named John Livingston, wrote the text for that marvellous bird series illustrated by J. Fenwick Lansdowne.

After a filling late lunch at our hotel (all meals were more than adequate and served with surprising efficiency, even on short notice) we changed into comfortable clothes and set out to explore the extensive grounds. Birds were everywhere and by suppertime Carol and I had logged twenty-six familiar birds (warblers, Cattle Egrets, some Cuban birds from a previous holiday - Emerald Hummingbird, Yellow-faced Grassquit, etc.) and ten life birds - most within sight of the dining room. They included the huge Cuban Lizard Cuckoo, the West Indian Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-throated and Yellow-headed Warblers and all three grassquits (the Black-faced was later contested by an authority but I stand defiant). Then to cap off a great first day, after a delightful supper we all surrounded a tree with flashlights, and saw our first Pygmy Owl.

How we got to sleep after all the excitement I'll never know, but our routine called for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. most days and a couple of times at 6:00 a.m. By getting up an hour before eating, we found we could sneak in a few minutes extra birding on the way to the dining room. That's how intense the week was. The schedule called for a major outing to a particular life zone every morning, back for a quick lunch, then out again, usually at a more leisurely pace in the afternoon - and even a late trip one night to try for the Cuban Nightjar (we got it). The day by day activities would fill a book so we'll just hit the highlights. But first a bit of background.

Our transportation, dubbed the "Birdmobile", was a converted three ton truck fitted out with airplane seats and a tarp over the top. Not exactly stylish, but it took us down logging roads that would have left a bus in ruins. At the sight of something worth checking out, one of us would hammer on the cab roof and the driver would skid to a stop - as the younger birders scrambled

over the sides. It sometimes looked like we were on a police raid. Must have startled more than one unsuspecting farmer.

Our interpreter and "steward" was a likeable character named "Max(imiliano)", a sometime scuba instructor, party lover, and general helpful soul whenever we wanted help or advice. He was thoroughly convinced all birders were crazy to punish themselves running around in swamps and getting up so early. Why we didn't get drunk all night and sleep in all day, he couldn't understand.

Our bird finder extraordinaire was a remarkable man right out of a novel. Brought up in the woods, he moved with long tireless strides and responded to the slightest sounds of animals and birds. His keen eyes picked out the most secretive of birds in the leafy canopy overhead. After years as a charcoal burner in the area, he knew all the best spots for woodland species (doves in particular); and local farmers tipped him off about nestings and other bird activity. When his expertise reached the ears of the authorities, he was promptly recruited into the Natural Resources Department. He has become something of a folk hero to the rest of the villagers. Thanks to Rogelio's efforts, our stay in the area was most rewarding.

About midweek we were joined by another extraordinary Cuban, Orlando Garrido, a one-time tennis pro (Davis Cup material). He is currently producing The Birds of Cuba, to be released, hopefully, this year. He has a remarkable ear that never really turns off - stopping sometimes in mid-sentence to identify some call far off in the distance. He speaks perfect English and operates at one speed only - flat out, striding up and down mountain sides at a terrific pace.

Great moments were so plentiful it's hard to leave anything out, but seeing things like our first trogon in its brilliant red, white and blue plumage is an unforgettable experience, or the Cuban Green Woodpecker, the tiny jewel-like tody, the noisy parrots, the unbelievably patterned Striped-headed Tanager and

Red-legged Thrush. Top event of the week was undoubtedly our trip to Santo Tomas where we were transported by punts through a huge saw grass marsh. The area is strictly off limits to all but a few authorized people, as burning of the grass has almost wiped out three very local endemic species - the Zapata Rail, Wren and Finch. It seems the locals found it easier to locate turtles by setting fire to acres of grassland at a time, and naturally, the best time was just when the birds were nesting. The three are probably the rarest birds on the island. Our guides slogged around in the marsh for half a day and could only turn up one, but it was a stunning bird, the Zapata Finch. I say "stunning", because there we stood around it for several minutes at a range of only a few feet and not one of us snapped off a picture.

Every day brought its highlights - the long trip through scrub mangrove and open water flats to see flamingo, White Ibis and innumerable egrets, herons and other waders - the night John Livingston cleared out five tables in the dining room with just two words, "Stygian Owl". There it was, one of the rarest birds on our list and right out in the open on a dead limb, the only spot on that dense pine you could hope to see - the "canal", filled with thousands and thousands of wintering ducks and marsh birds including Masked and Fulvous Tree Ducks, colourful Jacanas, Purple Gallinules, etc. Overhead were flocks of spoonbills and on a nearby limb, a Snail Kite. What a sight!

Then there was the trip to Guama, famous for its crocodile farming (some forty thousand are raised for their skins), where we set out by boat across Treasure Lake to a restored Indian village. The Tainos retreated here to escape marauding pirates in the 1700's. As if the locals knew we weren't there for the history, we were greeted by a most co-operative Limpkin which continued to preen even when we had it surrounded. We had time only for a quick look about, then pressed on down a quiet backwater in a smaller boat with the noisiest motor I ever heard. It raised clouds of marsh birds at the end of

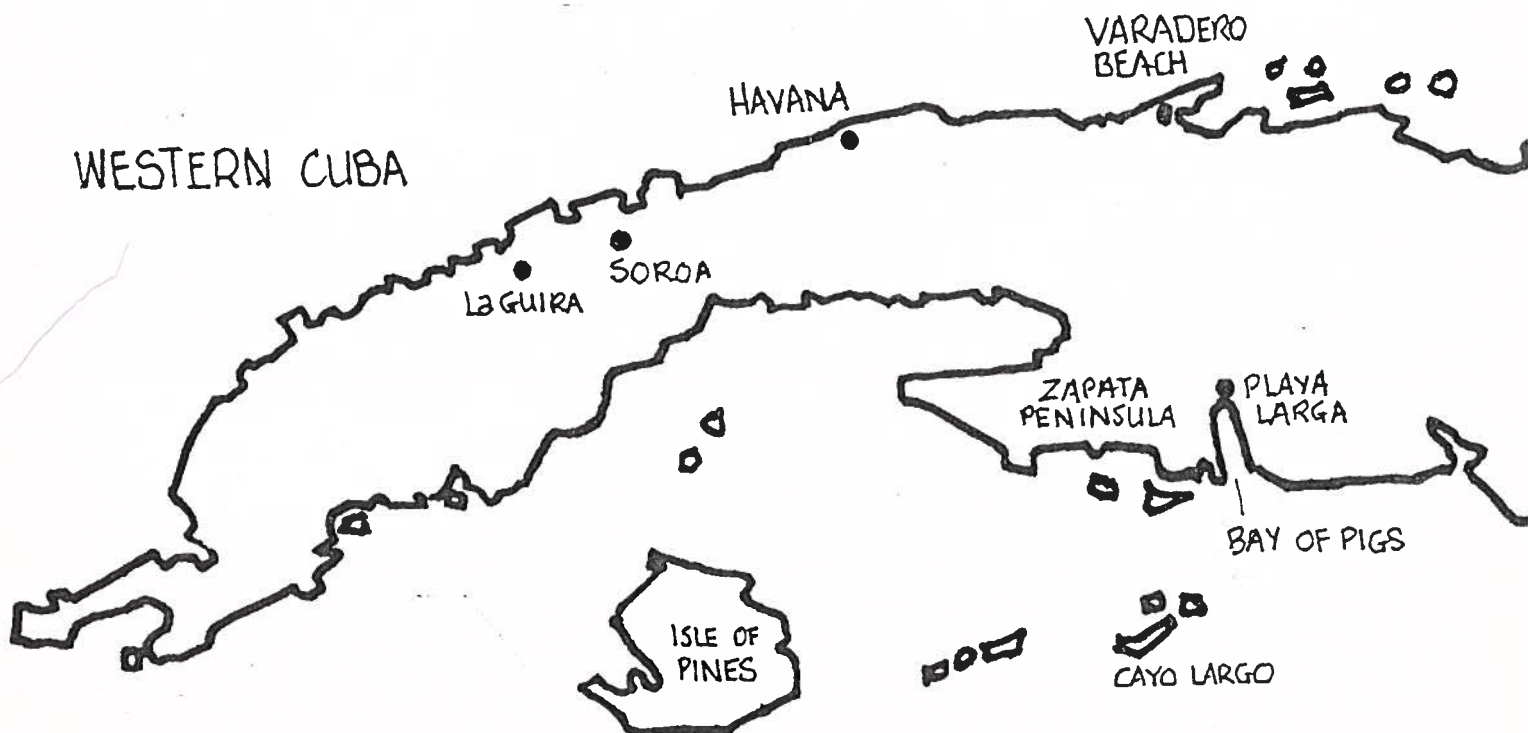
the creek - Glossy Ibis, Wood Stork, and White Ibis plus egrets and herons. Marvellous sight.

In human terms, our fondest memory is of the "Cuban Night" the hotel put on just for our little group. Tables were set up under the Sea Grape trees on the beach and a roaring bonfire built. After a delightful meal, Max translated our thanks to the chef and his staff for the much appreciated service of the past week. The sight of his beaming face and honest to goodness pride was something to remember. He had carefully decorated a huge cake with his own version of a Cuban Trogon. Robert Bateman doesn't have to worry, but it was a beautiful sight to us. Such genuine eagerness to please without a hand out for a tip is so rare these days in the rest of the world.

On Thursday evening we left this birding "hot spot" and set out for Havana where we checked in at the Havana Libre. Its former glory as a leading Hilton hotel has faded over the years, but they still serve sumptuous meals. Next day saw ten of us (some stayed behind to tour historic Old Havana and loved it) off on an optional trip to visit La Guira National Park high in the hill country, a couple of hours drive west of the city, and Soroa Mountain Resort where Fernandino's Flicker has been known to turn up (it did). At La Guira, our mountain goat guide, Garrido, led us on an exhausting hike up and down the rock strewn hillsides, but our efforts were well rewarded with an excellent sighting of the Cuban Solitaire singing its heart out. It took us almost half an hour to locate the bird as its bell-like call resounded off the rock walls in an echo effect that misled us even when we stood directly underneath it. While we were trying to track it down, we turned up some good warblers for our list, including the Worm-eating. At a nearby spot we finally added the beautiful Olive-capped Warbler with its bright yellow throat patch edged with a necklace of black dots. As we headed back to the city in time for supper and a farewell bash at the famous Tropicana, a horrifying discovery was made. We exactly tied

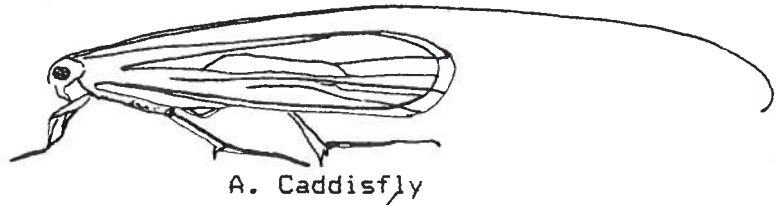
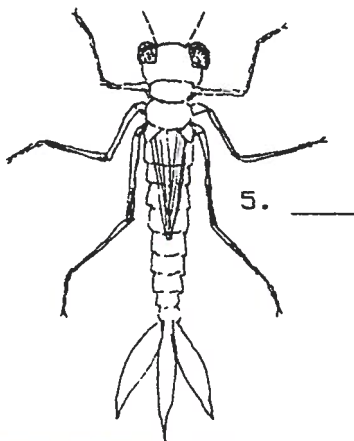
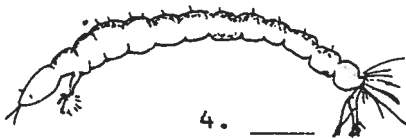
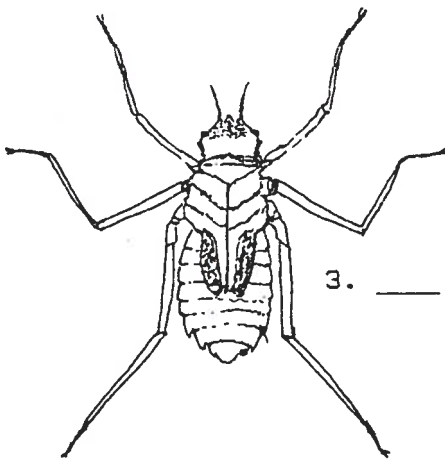
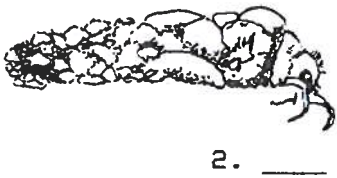
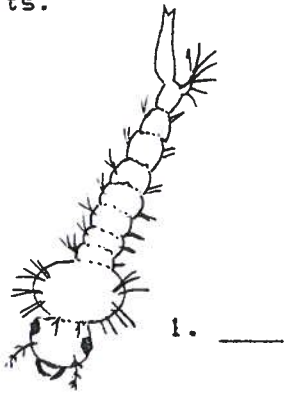
(by unofficial count) an earlier group of American birders that Garrido had led on a similar week long trip! Our nation's honour was at stake. We had to find just one more bird. Somebody prayed aloud for a seagull to fly over the bus, and Garrido suddenly remembered seeing gulls off the shore where he worked - a huge new development called the Hemingway Marina (which just happens to have a set of very trim tennis courts on the grounds). It wasn't far out of the way, and we held our breath as we roamed the miles of canals and plush bungalows under construction. Darkness was closing in. Suddenly BONANZA - the bus was in an uproar as a Herring Gull cruised along the shore. But wait...there...a couple more birds beside the sea wall. The bus driver, caught up in the excitement, screamed to a stop and we all piled out. In the next few minutes we added Ring-billed Gulls, two Laughing Gulls and a small flock of Least Sandpipers. Then as we went to get back aboard, a Black-bellied Plover swung in across the open sand. What a way to end a great week - 142 birds total (still unofficial) - forty plus "lifers" for Carol and I - and a victory over the Yanks.

--John Pilkington

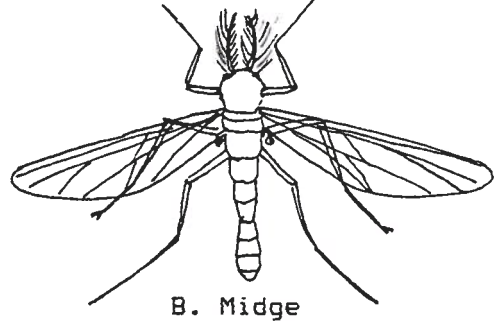


MIX MATCHED INSECTS

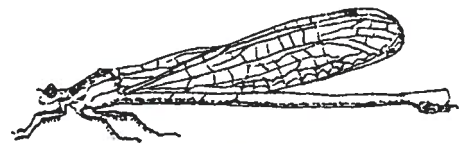
See if you can match the following nymphs and larvae with the correct adult insects.



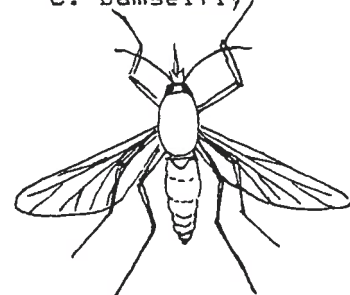
A. Caddisfly



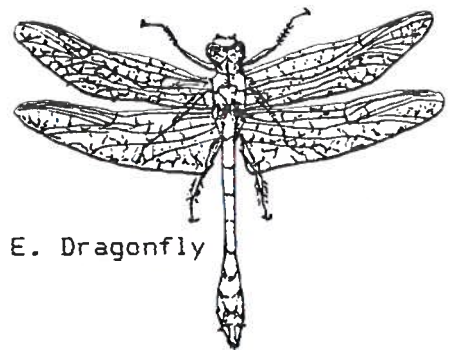
B. Midge



C. Damselfly



D. Mosquito



E. Dragonfly

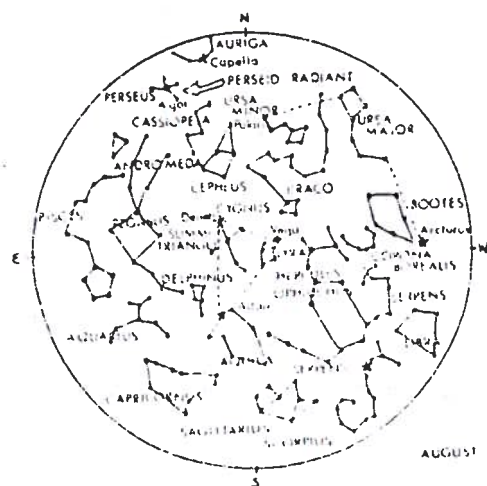
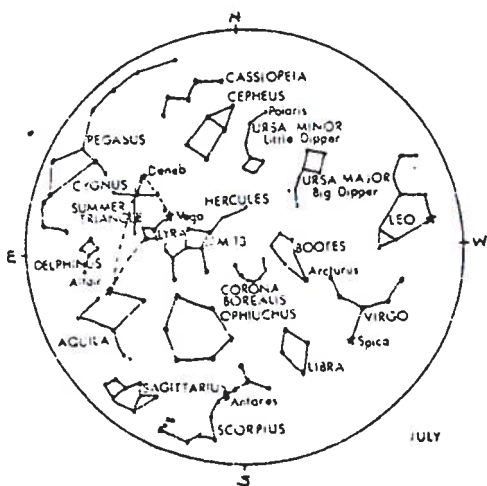
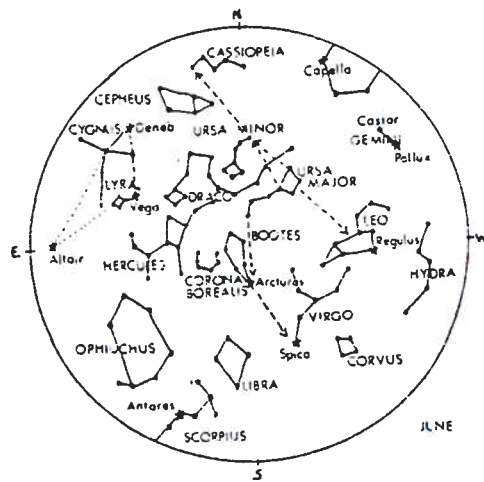
ASTRONOMY

Astronomy is the study of the heavenly bodies, that is the planets, stars and moons, and their movement.

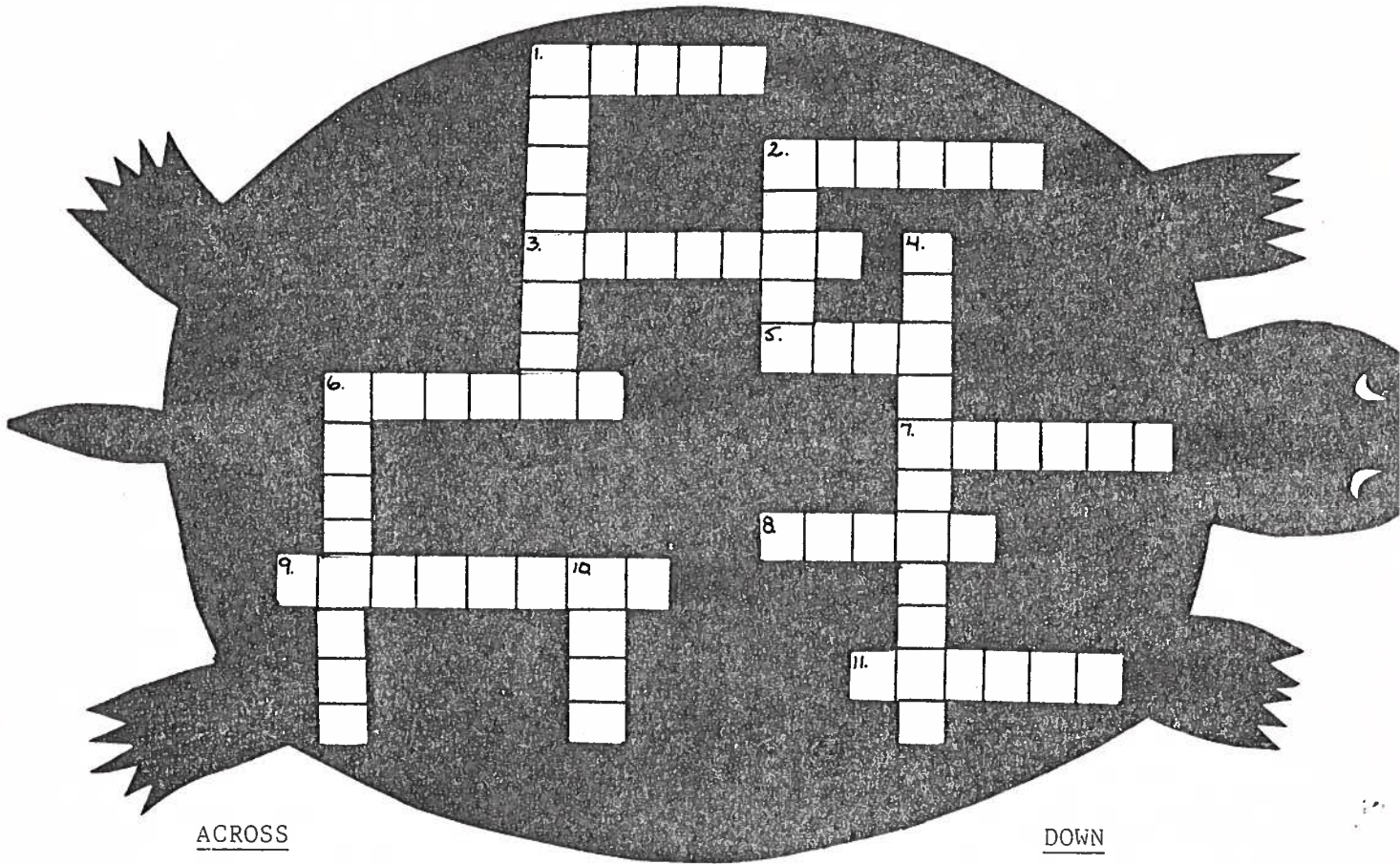
Our solar system has nine planets and some asteroids (small planets) that circle around the sun. The sun is the centre of our solar system and is what makes life possible on earth. The sun gives out its own light and heat. Light leaving the sun takes only eight minutes to reach the earth. Light travels at about 750,000,000 kilometres per hour. Wow!

Four planets have their own moons circling around them. These planets are Earth, Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. Moons are cold, lifeless bodies. Their light is reflected from the sun.

Below are some constellations that you should be able to see on a clear summer's night. Happy star gazing!



A WILDLIFE PUZZLE



ACROSS

DOWN

1. This mammal is black and white , and you can sometimes smell where it has been.
 2. This word describes animals that are white with red eyes.
 3. A masked animal that visits at night.
 5. Birds build these to lay their eggs in.
 6. On warm, sunny days these reptiles sun themselves on logs of rocks. They carry their homes with them and will disappear quickly into it when danger approaches.
 7. This poisonous snake is called the gentleman's snake because it warns you where it is.
 8. The birds have a red breast and migrate south for the winter.
 9. These small insects buzz around and the female likes blood for meals.
 11. This mammal may be seen hopping around in the early morning.
1. An animals that can be seen scurryin through the woods with its big bushy tail.
 2. This nut is from an oak tree. Squir often bury them in the fall.
 4. These crawl around before they devel their wings and are then called butt flies or moths.
 6. These are found swimming in ponds in the spring before they become frogs.
 10. Some people think these amphibians will give you warts.

BIRD SIGHTINGS SUMMARY (March/April/May)

by G. Tom Hince

MIGRATION

March 1st found Essex County's ground blanketed with half a foot of snow and local waters mostly iced over. Winter's icy grip held us until March 10th when warm overnight temperatures brought our first major wave of migrants. Firsts for the spring that day included Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Shoveler and a number of other waterfowl species. The next major movement occurred during the period March 26-29 when temperatures soared above 20 degrees, breaking many local records. A number of early arrivals and rarities were associated with this weather.

April migration was slow but detectable until about the 16th when migration seemed to halt altogether for about a week. This all changed quickly with warm, overnight temperatures on the 24th/25th night. The morning of the 25th brought a large wave of landbirds which included 15 species of warblers, and several scarce species such as Clay-colored Sparrow. April 27th and 28th brought a host of other arrivals which left the April warbler total at 27 species plus one hybrid!

Migration through May was overall about 'average'. There were as usual good days, bad days and a lot of 'not bad' days (this is a term used by birders to convince themselves that they really aren't in the right place at the wrong time!). Days that were notably good included May 3rd, 6th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 21st, and 28th. By the end of May, the only bird migrating in numbers was the Cedar Waxwing.

During these three months 261 species were recorded in the county. This is about average for a spring migration. These records represent gleanings from the Pelee "Sightings Book", contributed records and personal records I have come across by a variety of methods (from kind words to outright threats!). If you don't see your records in this report you didn't send them or I goofed up (let me know if it is the latter). If you wish to contribute to the next migration summary simply send the highlights of your observations during the period June 1st to August 15th to G. Tom Hince, c/o PPNP, RR#1, Leamington, ONT. N8H 3V4. Please do this by August 20th to ensure inclusion in the summary.

Due to the large number of species reported the emphasis of this report will be on rarities. Many common species not referred to in the report, of course, occurred in the period.

LOONS - HERONS

The only Red-throated Loon reported was seen at a distance off Wheatley March 29th (AW). Horned Grebe and Pied-billed Grebe both arrived at Pelee March 17th (TH, DAW). Other notable Horned Grebe observations included a high count of 187 at Pelee Apr.14 (TH, LG) and a bird tangled in fishing net near Ojibway May 15th (PDP).

Significant numbers of Double-crested Cormorants included 650 at Pelee May 4th (RS) and 200-300 at Lighthouse Pt., Pelee Is. (including 35 active nests; MJO et al). Mike Oldham's trip to Middle Island on April 23rd recorded the following ardid nest counts: Great Blue (20), Great Egret (4+), Black-crowned Night Heron (50-100). An early Least Bittern called at Pelee Apr.29th (TH, AW, II) to the surprise of some ears. A nice selection of 'southern' herons turned up including the following: Tricolored Heron at Tremblay Beach May 5th (EL, et al), Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Hillman Marsh May 15th and 16th (PW), Little Blue Heron at Pelee May 5th-20th (BL, et al), and Glossy Ibis May 3rd at Pelee and Hillman (MF, SF, et al). There were five reports of Cattle Egret, all in the Pelee area, from May 2nd through May 16th. All were individuals except for a pair at NE Hillman May 3rd-5th (TH, LG; MJO).

SWANS - RUDDY DUCK

Significant numbers of Tundra Swans were 480 at Pelee Mar.13th (DAW) and 420 at Pelee Mar.21st (TH). The wintering four-some of Mute Swans were last seen at Pelee Mar.15th. Otherwise a single April 11th at Essex Sewage Lagoons was the only sighting (MJO). The lone 'gray goose' reported with Canadas last December at Amherst Point may have finally been cornered. Brian Eaton relays a report from two separate parties of a Greater White-fronted Goose in late April there. Another of this rare westerner was at Wheatley Harbour in late March (AW). Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon and Greater Scaup all arrived in numbers at Pelee March 10th. Two Blue-winged Teal the same day at Hillman were record early for the Pelee birding area (TH). Significant high counts of waterfowl were: American Black Duck (345) Mar.19 at Pelee, Mallard (975) Mar.19 at Pelee, Blue-winged Teal (320) Apr. 16 at Hillman, American Wigeon (420) Apr.7 at Pelee, Canvasback (385) Mar.25 at Hillman, Ring-necked Duck (160) Mar.23 at Pelee, Lesser Scaup (1600) Apr.14 at Pelee, Oldsquaw (54) Apr.15 at Pelee, and Ruddy Duck (234) Apr.21 at Hillman. Certainly the spring's rarest duck

was a very cooperative drake Eurasian Wigeon at Hillman Marsh from Mar.26 through Apr.16th (AW, AJR, et al). A male Falcated Teal shocked observers with its showy plumage from Mar.27th to 29th at Hillman (AW, et al). Discussions with waterfowl specialists indicate that this is not a species one can be safe is wild. This species is now widely available in North America and there is a huge excess of males. It is now a captive breeder in some numbers whereas only 5 years ago all birds had to be imported from Asia. This species does however occur as a genuine vagrant in the western extremities of Alaska.

TURKEY VULTURE - SANDHILL CRANE

Bald Eagles continue to show optimistic reports of breeding in the county. Both the Cedar Creek and Big Creek nests have produced young this spring. In addition, adults were seen around Hillman Marsh well into April. Several young birds were at the same site into late May. A remarkable concentration of 6 Bald Eagles was noted at Pelee Mar.21st including 4 birds flying together (TH,CL)! Another notable eagle sighting was of a first-spring Bald Eagle at Holiday Beach Prov. Park Mar.13th (JL,MB). The bird had one of the bright green and yellow wing tags from the CWS release program mentioned last year. This may have been the same bird that was at Pelee last fall. Pelee recorded some early raptor arrivals including Northern Harrier Feb.28th (TH), Osprey Apr.7th (TH), American Kestrel Mar.5, and Merlin Feb.28th (MC,TH,DAW)! The six Merlin and eight Peregrines sighted at Pelee were average for the period.

King Rails put in a strong appearance again with up to 3 birds calling at Hillman marsh through mid-May and a single sighting at Tremblay Beach May 10 (RS). One of the Hillman birds put in an early appearance Apr.15th(TH). Patient birders waited for long periods throughout May to get a glimpse as this species weaved through the grass of Hillman Marsh. I cannot resist informing you that after everyone deserted Pelee, I took a tour of the often crowded 'rail' spot. About 7:00 in the evening I dropped by only to find the "elusive" King Rail walking out in the open mimicking the nearby Dunlin it shared the bare, open grassless mudflat with!! If only they knew... High water levels at Tremblay Beach continued to reward people with nice views of Sora and Virginia Rail. Rounding out sightings in this group was a Sandhill Crane at Pelee Apr.8-10 (TH;EL,SL).

PLOVERS - TERNS

A Black-bellied Plover at Hillman Apr.13th tied the provincial early date (TH).

Other early shorebird sightings included: Spotted Sandpiper Apr.10th at Pelee, Solitary Sandpiper Apr.19 at Pelee (JP), Lesser Yellowlegs Mar.19th at Hillman, Semipalmated Sandpiper May 5th at Hillman, Pectoral Sandpiper Mar.25 (2) at Pelee (LF,BF), and American Woodcock Mar.5th at Pelee. A truly incredible early date was the Red-necked Phalarope in full winter plumage Apr.12th at Comber Sewage Lagoons (TH,LG;MJO)! The previous earliest for the province was May 9th. A group of 40-50 dowitchers at Hillman Apr.7th were almost certainly Long-billed. They showed no signs of any spring plumage which strongly suggests this species (CD,SD). Short-billed Dowitchers moult prior to spring migration. In addition they are much later migrants than Long-billed (typically early May arrival).

Harrow, Essex, and Comber sewage lagoons all were good for shorebirds at some point in May. Good concentrations of several hundred Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpipers and many Lesser Yellowlegs could be found at all three sites. A smattering of scarcer migrants such as Solitary Sandpiper, Least, Semipalmated, and White-rumped Sandpipers, could be found as well. Rarer still among the masses of shorebirds were: Stilt Sandpiper (3) at Harrow May 12-16 (MC, et al), Ruff at Comber May 8-9 (TR, et al) and Essex May 10 (m.ob), Red-necked Phalarope at Harrow May 19 (TP). Pelee's four records of Willet (10 birds total) was a respectable showing. Wilson's Phalaropes put in a good showing too with a total of 11 birds reported May 9th through 24th.

Rare gull sightings included: Laughing at Pelee May 2-3 (MG,BM et al) and May 14 (DR et al); Laughing at Pelee Is. May 10th (MJO); single Franklins at Pelee May 9th (JD et al), May 19th (DM, AG), and May 20-21 (DM,KM); Common Black-headed at Pelee Mar.29 (AW), and May 11-14 (KM et al); Lesser Black-backed at Pelee Mar. 15 (TH). White-winged gulls were better than average with 5 Thayer's reports Mar.19-Apr.27, 5 Iceland's Mar.19-May12, and 7 Glaucous Feb.22-May 7th (all at Pelee). An unusually plumaged leucistic adult Ring-billed Gull had a remarkable resemblance to a miniature 2 year old Thayers Gull (Pelee May 1st, TH et al).

DOVES - FLYCATCHERS

Owls were notably scarce with only two sightings of Saw-whet, one of Long-eared, and none of Short-eared during the period. Two Chimney Swifts at Pelee Apr.21st were a bit early (TH,NS). An early Belted Kingfisher was among the influx of migrants Mar.10th at Pelee (TH). Red-bellied Woodpeckers put on an excellent show at Pelee with an estimated 15 to 17 birds through the spring (the highest total in 9 years). Only three reports of the scarce Hairy Woodpecker were acceptable from Pelee. A resident pair was present throughout at Ojibway (PDP).

An excellent find was the Northern ('Red-shafted') Flicker at Amherstburg on Apr.6 (SD,CD). This western form of the Northern Flicker used to be considered a recognizable and separate species from our eastern Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flickers.

The nine Olive-sided Flycatchers at Pelee in May were above average. Ten sightings of Acadian Flycatcher (through June 3rd) were normal. An Eastern Pheobe nest with 4-5 eggs at Holiday Beach Prov. Park May 13th was a good find (MJO). This is a very scarce nester in the county.

HORNED LARK - STARLING

A pair of Purple Martins near Harrow Mar.30th was early (fide BE). Considering the early March weather a Tree Swallow Mar.12th at Hillman was surprising (LF,BF). This was the second earliest ever for Pelee! Black-capped Chickadees continued scarce through the period with no detectable migration occurring. Tufted Titmouse, always scarce in this area, turned up at Pelee Apr.17-18 (SD,TH;NS) and May 3rd (PDP et al). The only report of Carolina Wren was of 3 on Middle Is. Apr.23rd (MJO)! There were no spring reports from Pelee. Two singing Marsh Wrens at Pelee Apr.12 were very early (TH). Forty Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were counted May 7th from the Tip to Delaurier in Pelee (RB).

A count of 125 Veeries, 60 Swainson's Thrushes and 16 Gray-cheeked Thrushes from Black Willow to the Dunes at Pelee May 11th was good (TH,LG). Pelee's 8 Northern Mockingbirds Apr.19th-May26th was typical.

The lone Northern Shrike report came from the Watson's superfeeder' Mar.4th (JW,PW). The very rare Loggerhead Shrike pleased birders at Hillman Marsh Mar.29th (WB,PW et al).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireos put on a rather poor showing with an estimated 20-24 birds at Pelee, the lowest in the past nine years. Twenty-seven species of warblers arrived in late April. None of these were exceptionally early. Numbers of southern overshoot species at Pelee were: Prothonotary (12-15), Worm-eating (10), Louisiana Waterthrush (6-7), Kentucky (9-11), Hooded (16-19). No exceptional high count day for any of these rarities was recorded. The seven "Brewster's" Warbler reports was quite good. Certainly the 'goodie' among warblers this spring was a Swainson's Warbler found near the Black Willow picnic area. It was reported over three days but only four observers managed to find the bird out of hundreds that scoured the area. The secretive habits of this species make it extremely difficult to observe. If accepted by the Ontario Bird Records

Committee this would be the fourth record for Canada and third for Ontario. It was seen May 10th, 12th and 14th (OA;RW;DS).

Outside of Pelee southern warbler sightings were few and far between. However there were three reports of Prothonotary May 1 at Comber (BE etal), May 17th at Fish Point on Pelee Is. (MJ0). The third report was even more notable. Mike Oldham observed a Prothonotary being chased by a Yellow-breasted Chat at Holiday Beach Prov. Park May 6th !

TANAGERS - HOUSE SPARROW

Summer Tanagers put on a remarkable show with 13-16 birds estimated at Pelee. This included three full adult males. Most Summer Tanagers in this area are first-year males or female plumaged (likely first spring females) birds rather than full adults. This is the highest number of individuals at Pelee in 9 springs. A count of 125 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks from Black Willow to Dunes at Pelee May 11th was good (TH, LG).

With all the fund raisers going on I am surprised no one had a guess at the departure date lottery for our famous winter guest. To tell you the truth I am amazed anyone could pull themselves away from the Lossing's hospitality! Jack and Grace - you are exceptional ambassadors to the birding community. Well, the Green-tailed Towhee did finally leave on Apr.24th.

Despite poor conditions Pelee recorded some early dates with Vesper Sparrow Mar.9th, and Savannah Mar.10th (TH). Pelee's 7 Clay-colored Sparrows Apr.25-May12 was normal. The 15 Henslow's reports Apr.19-May16th was above normal and rather encouraging.

The Watsons feeder had a surprising guest May 20th when a Lark Sparrow popped in. What may have been the same bird was on the tip trail at Pelee May 22nd (GM). Notable among late sparrows was a Fox Sparrow at Comber May 9th (OÁ).

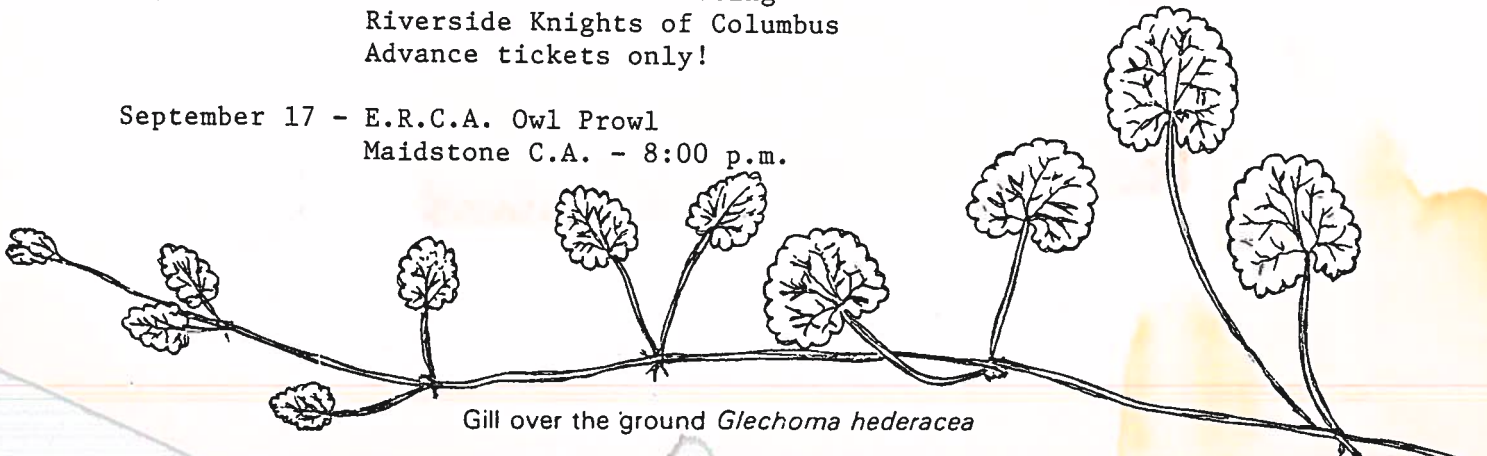
Yellow-headed Blackbirds provided colour at two Windsor area feeders Mar.9 (MB;PC). The colony at Tremblay Beach continues to hold a dozen or so pairs. Finch sightings were poor with a smattering of Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks and a few late Common Redpolls in mid-March. House Finches are still on the upswing with Pelee Island the latest new location (May11, fide MJ0).

CONTRIBUTORS: Onik Arian, Myrtle Bissette, Wilf Botham, Robert Bracken, Mark Brunton, Mike Carlson, Marylou Chomyshyn, Peggy Comber, Carmen Dickson, Steve Dickson, Steve Dubiel, Jon Dunn, Brian Eaton, etal (and others), Mike Fitzpatrick, Bill Foott, Lorra Foott, Sue Fortuna, Martin Garner, Alex Gray, Linda Guzman, Tom Hince (compiler), Ian Igglesden, Carol Kopchuk, Jeff Larson, Ed Leblanc, Chris Lemieux, Einar Lund, Shirli Lund, Dave Mark, Gary McLarty, Kevin McLaughlin, Bill Morton, Mike J. Oldham, John Pilkington, Paul D. Pratt, Terry Pratt, Tony Riggs, Dennis Rupert, Alan J. Ryff, Norr Sherwood, Rob Stamp, David Stirling, Jim Watson, Pat Watson, Robert Westmore, Peter Whelan, Don A. Wilkes, Alan Wormington and a host of others. Thank you! Good birding.

ACTIVITIES CALENDER

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| June 11 | - E.C.F.N.C. Monthly Meeting
Marlborough C.C. - 7:30 p.m.
Susan Weaver
Weed Ecologist, Harrow Research Station | Hotline - 252-BIRD
E.R.C.A. - 776-5209
Ojibway - 966-5852
Point Pelee - 322-2365 |
| June 21 | - E.C.F.N.C. Field Trip
Lake St. Clair Wetlands
Meet St. Joachim P.O. - 9:00 a.m.
Leaders: Betty Learmouth & Deb Gorman Smith | |
| June 25 | - E.C.F.N.C. Board Meeting | |
| 25 | - E.R.C.A. Cedar Creek Canoe Hike
Cedar Creek C.A. - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. | |
| July 6 | - E.R.C.A. Marsh Murals
Holiday Beach Park Office - 2:00 p.m. (For children) | |
| July 10 | - Insects
Ojibway N.C. - 7:30 p.m. | |
| July 12 | - Ojibway's Insects Field Trip | |
| 12 | - E.R.C.A. Wildlife Night
Holiday Beach Picnic Shelter - 8:00 p.m.
Featuring Erie Wildlife Rescue | |
| July 13 | - E.R.C.A. Marsh Canoe
Holiday Beach Park Office - 3:00 p.m. | |
| July 14-18 | - Junior Naturalist Camp
Call Ojibway N.C. for details | |
| July 19 | - E.R.C.A. Marsh Wildlife Walk
Holiday Beach Park Office - 3:00 p.m. | |
| 19 | - E.R.C.A. Nature Film Night
Holiday Beach Picnic Shelter - 8:00 p.m. | |
| July 20 | - E.R.C.A. Sandcastle Building Contest
Holiday Beach - 3:00 p.m. | |
| July 21-25 | - Junior Naturalist Camp
Call Ojibway N.C. for details | |
| July 26 | - Ojibway's Insects Field Trip | |
| 26 | - E.R.C.A. Amphibians & Reptiles of the Marsh
Holiday Beach Picnic Shelter - 8:00 p.m. | |
| 26 | - Film Festival at Point Pelee National Park
Evening Programme
Call for exact time of film presentations | |
| July 27 | - E.R.C.A. Corn Roast & Square Dancing
Holiday Beach Picnic Shelter - 3:00 p.m. | |

- August 2 - E.R.C.A. Nature Bingo Night
Holiday Beach Picnic Shelter - 7:00 p.m.
- August 3 - E.R.C.A. Field Insect Walk
Holiday Beach Park Office - 3:00 p.m.
- August 6, 13, 20 - Junior Naturalists at Point Pelee National Park
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Call for information
- August 9 - Ojibway's Insects Field Trip
- 9 - E.R.C.A. Evening Beach Volleyball Tournament
Holiday Beach - Beach Parking Lot - 7:00 p.m.
- August 10 - E.R.C.A. Holiday Beach Fishing Derby
- August 11-15 - Junior Naturalist Camp
Call Ojibway N.C. for details
- August 16 - E.R.C.A. Evening Canoe
Holiday Beach - 7:00 p.m.
- August 17 - E.R.C.A. Nature Puppet Shows
Holiday Beach Park Office - 3:00 p.m.
- August 18-22 - Junior Naturalist Camp
Call Ojibway N.C. for details
- August 21 - Confusing Fall Warblers
Ojibway N.C. - 7:30 p.m.
- August 23 - Ojibway's Confusing Fall Warblers Field Trip
- 23 - E.R.C.A. Nature Bingo Night
Holiday Beach Picnic Shelter - 7:00 p.m.
- August 24 - E.R.C.A. Let's Go Fly A Kite
Holiday Beach Picnic Shelter - 3:00 p.m.
- August 27 - E.C.F.N.C. Board Meeting
- September 3 - E.R.C.A. Evening Marsh Canoe
Hillman Marsh C.A.
Wetland Discovery Centre - 7:00 p.m.
- September 10 - E.C.F.N.C. Dinner Meeting
Riverside Knights of Columbus
Advance tickets only!
- September 17 - E.R.C.A. Owl Prowl
Maidstone C.A. - 8:00 p.m.



Gill over the ground *Glechoma hederacea*

The EGRET, Volume 3, Number 2, June 1986; newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 3421, Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 3C4.

Address correction requested.

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Ont
NOR 1B0



WINDSOR, ONT
JUN 18 1986