Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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THE EGRET

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A special thank you to all our contributors. Please forward articles for your June issue as promptly as possible to B. Learmouth, 2405 Princess St., Windsor, Ont. N8T 1V2

Monteverde Reserve

In March 1986, the Ontario Field Ornithologists' first tour to Costa Rica was a tremendous success. On this Top Flight Tour, organized by Terry Pratt, 20 lucky participants were treated to numerous birding delights and countless spectacular tropical wonders. Some of these memorable moments were shared with the **Essex Field Naturalists** this February by way of a slide presentation by Ron Ridout.

Monteverde, a preserve run by The Tropical Science Center with the support of The World Wildlife Fund, was one of the tour highlights. It is home to mythical creatures such as the **Resplendent Quetzal** and the **Golden Toad.** Acquisition of an adjacent valley, (The Peñas Blancas) is critical for the protection of the Quetzals as well as the **Bare-necked Umbrellabirds** and the **Sunbitterns** found there.

It is with appreciation of and concern for these wonders that we are asking you to join with us to help preserve some of them.

All donations made through World Wildlife Fund Canada are tax deductible and the full value will be sent to Costa Rica. Cheques should be made payable to the World Wildlife Fund and noted for the Monteverde Fund.

A few dollars go a long way in Costa Rica. Land prices fluctuate with the dollar but somewhere around a $100 Cdn. will buy 4 acres of untouched rainforest. $250 will purchase 10 acres of pristine habitat used by many of our migrants. An acre of this lush area is as reasonable as $25. All donations will be used solely for the purchase of land in the "Ontario Tract" of the Peñas Blancas Valley of The Monteverde Reserve.

Please, take a minute to make a donation to ensure the continued existence of this natural paradise.

send contributions to:

World Wildlife Fund Canada
Monteverde Fund
60 St. Clair Ave. E. Suite 201
Toronto, Ont.
M4T 1N5.

Please forward my donation of $ ..... to the Ontario Tract of the Monteverde Rainforest Reserve.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Postal Code:.....

Please send me more information about this important project. ☐

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Here is another fine edition of the Egret hot off the press. If anyone has the mid winter blues, this newsletter should certainly help disperse them.

At our December meeting, the draw for Ron Parker's print entitled 'Autumn Foraging - Moose' was held. Stephanie Bebbington drew the winning ticket. The winner was Carol Kopchuk with ticket number 527. Congratulations Carol! Thank you to everyone who helped sell tickets.

A new board of directors was appointed at the December meeting. The board members for the 1987 calender year are: Gary Allen, Jo Barten (dinner chair-person), Myrtle Bessette (secretary), Peter Bondy (vice-president), Mark Brunton, Deb Gorman Smith (president), Chris Hospes, Bill Langlois, Betty Learmouth (Egret editor), Dick Taylor (membership), Ralph Thomas (treasurer) and Ella Walker.

On Saturday, February 7, the judges for the Winter Bird Gardening Contest set out to do their job. After visiting the gardens and many cups of coffee, a decision was finally reached. First place was awarded to Bryan and Marg Lassaline at 7620 Broderick Road, Sandwich West. The Lassalines were presented with a Spirit of Windsor collector plate at the February meeting. Honourable mentions are extended to: Marcia Bebbington, Amherstburg, Charles Wilson, Amherstburg and Ann Rasmusson, Windsor.

Our newly formed Committee to Investigate the Acquisition and Management of Property is underway and doing an excellent job. Jim McAllister is the chair-person. Please speak with him if you have or require any information regarding property in Essex County.

The next few months promise to be interesting with field trips and guest speakers. Read all about them in the following pages. Happy Spring!

--Deb Gorman Smith

Hepatica
Hepatica americana

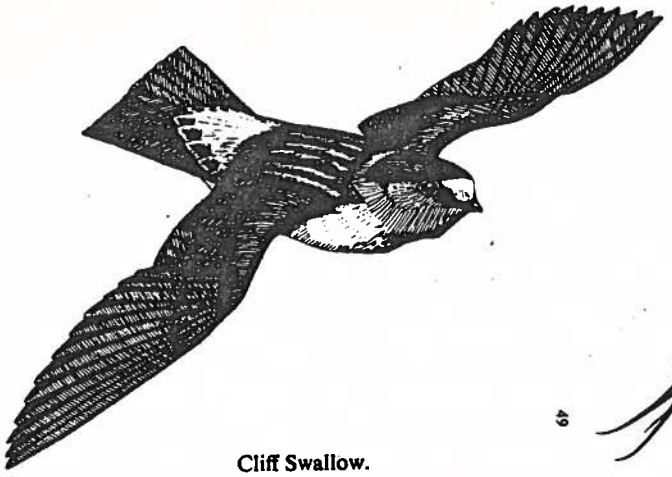
SUMMER BIRDING IN SASKATCHEWAN

In July of 1986 Carol and I flew out to her home in Sheho, Saskatchewan, on a combination visit to her parents' farm and a province wide camping/birding trip. Our plan called for two or three days of short day trips around the farm area (forty miles west of Yorkton), then some nine days touring the province. Carol's sister and brother-in-law had volunteered the use of their Ford pickup truck and camper and even volunteered to go with us. Little did they know that in just a few days they would be transformed from normal people to blear-eyed birders investing hundreds of dollars in scopes, binoculars, bird books and tape recordings. But that's another story.

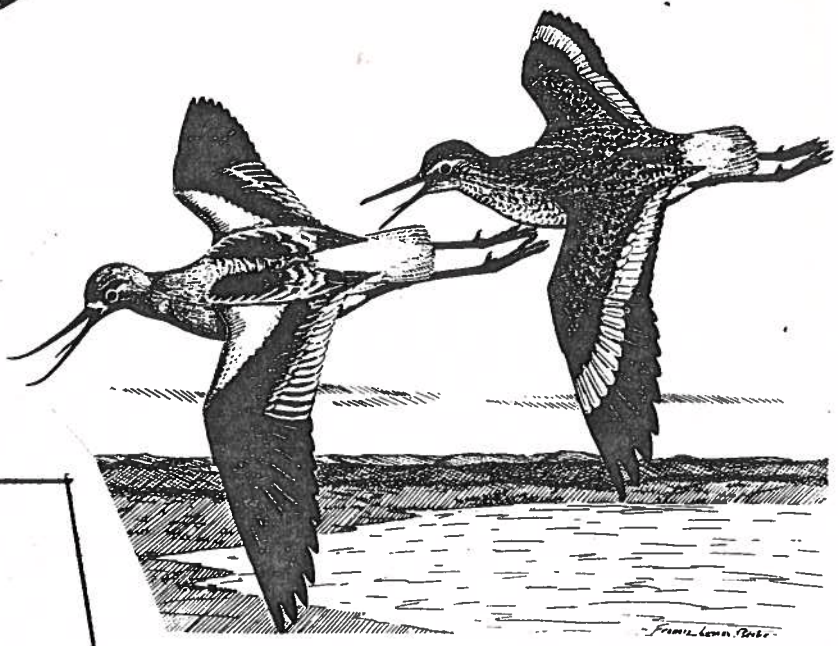
Leaning heavily on the book "A birdfinding guide to Canada", we would head west along Highway 16 to Quill Lakes then south and west to the huge sanctuary at Last Mountain Lake. From there we would travel south through Moose Jaw and then west across the southern wheat belt to the Cypress Hills Provincial Park on the Alberta border. From here we'd turn north to Kindersley with its nearby population of Ferruginous Hawks and then turn east and north to Prince Albert National Park, an enormous forest complex of 3,875 km^2 astride the 54th degree of latitude (over 800 miles north of Windsor). It's the area Gray Owl chose to build his cabin and where three of his famous books were written. Finally we would return via Nipawin to the farm for a couple of days' rest (that means more birding) before leaving for home.

Ten minutes after arriving at the airport in Regina, we chalked up our first life bird for the trip, an unconcerned Swainson's Hawk atop a fence post along the road. It competes with the Red-tailed Hawk for commonest buteo in the Aspen Parklands but for us it was a good start. Further along, every pond and slough held its own population of duck or wader species but approaching darkness and the one hundred and thirty mile drive kept us from checking them out in depth.

Next day we began our exploration of the backroads around the farm and in no time at all had a short list of about fifty species. Most were familiar birds,



Cliff Swallow.



Avocet. Willet.

Burrowing owl.

particularly the ducks and waders, but we also came across Magpies, Brewer's Blackbirds, the Western Wood Pewee, Mountain Bluebirds and Clay-coloured Sparrows. Early in the evening we drove north to the Whitesand River. Turning a corner in the road we found the river had overflown its banks and flooded the road to a depth of about six inches. Half a dozen fence posts stuck up out of the water to mark the way as we inched across and on the top of one sat a Marbled Godwit, on another a Willet, and on a third a Common Snipe. And they didn't move. What a thrill! Further along, as we got back onto dry road, we came across a couple of other Marbled Godwits walking through the long grass plucking insects off the stems at every step. We watched enthralled from only a metre or two away.

Another day trip took us back to the Whitesand where we located a colony of about fifty Cliff Swallow nests under a bridge. Adults flew overhead but wouldn't enter their peculiar "jug-shaped" nests while we stood there, unlike the Barn Swallows at Point Pelee. We kept going east until we reached Good Spirit Lake where we looked up a well known birder, Bill Anaka. He was very friendly and directed us to a spot where Baird's Sparrow had been seen in past years but we combed the area without success (note: the site was not in the park). We did sight our first of several Western and Red-necked Grebe in the park. Following Bill's suggestion we located a pair of Pine Siskins and their brood raised in a tall spruce in the middle of Theodore, a small town nearby.

Our camping trip began on Tuesday, July 15th. By early afternoon (didn't get going until mid-day) we were just south of Quill Lakes and questioned such an early stop after a late start. We decided on a quick "peek" and made our way across a half mile of waist-high shrubs that turned out to be "Saskatoons" and were soon filling a couple of pails with the sweet berries. As we wandered about picking our dessert, we flushed a mother Sharp-tailed Grouse and her brood and even located a few nests, including an Eastern Kingbird's with three eggs and a Brewer's Blackbird nest with a single egg. The lake shore, our original destination, held a nice surprise - a group of shorebirds included a Baird's Sandpiper

and, off by itself, a single Piping Plover. Gulls here were mostly Franklin's, but among a group of Ringbills one was slightly different, just a bit larger, somewhat darker. In the scope the dark eye and red spot on the bill confirmed it as a California Gull.

It took us until early evening to cover the seventy-five miles to Last Mountain Lake. Every pond invited inspection but we reluctantly had to pass up many of them. Near Stalwart we found a campground and settled in for the night. After a breakfast of pancakes smothered in "Saskatoons" we headed for the Wildlife Management area at the north end of the lake. Ducks and waders were abundant but all very familiar. Highlight of our day was a small flock of White Pelicans. After straining to see them with the scope at half a mile we turned around to find one had landed right behind us. That's birding for you! Raised dikes lead all through the area affording interesting trails to hike (some open to vehicles). In between were open water and mudflats, some teeming with shorebirds. Willet, Marbled Godwit, Avocet, Northern and Wilson's Phalarope were all common. We spent a whole day here without encountering another person which probably explains how a Killdeer had managed to produce a clutch of four eggs right in the middle of the only fireplace in the picnic area.

With rain threatening towards dusk we opted to stay over in the same campground. A break in the downpour allowed us to grab a quick breakfast and right in the middle of it we spotted our first Western Kingbirds with their bright yellow fronts. By 10 a.m. we were off on a long leg of the trip into the very southwest corner of the province. The changing scenery was fascinating as we left the bright green of the Aspen Parklands and entered rolling range country. Later, the hills took on a tabletop look, sliced here and there with gullies and covered in short, dry grasses. Around Shaunavon we passed through heavy grasshopper infestation. Cars and trucks gave only a hint of their original colour, the insect bodies so densely packed and baked onto the paint by the blistering sun that all vehicles looked a dull sage green.

What a welcome change when we reached the Cypress Hills. This remarkable park is a disjunct portion of Rocky Mountain foothills, 45,000 acres of lodgepole-pine studded highlands rising 2,000 feet above the surrounding plain. The air is cool and wonderfully pine scented. Campgrounds are superbly arranged and maintained with ample free firewood and good washrooms. We'd recommend at least a week if you plan to visit. We had only two days, but as we definitely intend to return in the future, we were content with exploring the area in general.

An unusual feature is "The Gap", a wide, rolling valley that separates two segments of high land. The area looks entirely devoid of animal or bird life at first glance but keep your eyes open. Perhaps you'll find as we did - Badger, Coyote, Mule Deer, Porcupine and the elusive Sprague's Pippit.

Time permitted a visit to only one of the several nature trails. "The Valley of the Beavers", unfortunately no longer active, was still worth the effort as we had a memorable encounter here with a Short-tailed Weasel. We met one another on the narrow path. In an instant he dropped the dead Meadow Vole he was carrying and bolted off into the long grass. Figuring he'd want his hard-earned meal back, we froze in our tracks. A few minutes later he reappeared, picked up the vole and scurried back the way he came and not a camera between us at the time.

On short strolls around camp we came across our first Dusky Flycatcher, a single Red Crossbill and a harried Yellow-rumped Warbler feeding a huge Cowbird chick. The Juncos here showed great variation, some decidedly pink-sided, others leaning to the Oregon and Eastern type. Amphibians were scarce but we did manage to find a Red-sided Garter Snake and a Tiger Salamander.

On Sunday morning we left this fascinating area and headed north for Kindersley, believing we had missed our chance to see the scarce Burrowing Owl, more often seen in the southern districts. Rounding a curve on a side road we took more or less as a shortcut, we spotted a colony of what appeared to be Prairie Dogs. As the colony was unusually close to the road we slowed down for

a good look and were delightfully surprised to see the owls, only a couple at first, but later a total of eight. Occasionally they would hop down out of sight into the burrows or pop up out of nowhere to stare at us. Directions to the spot are long-winded but if you are going out that way just give us a call and we'll gladly share our information. It seems the population has been declining over the years so we'd suggest you go to a known area if you hope to see them.

Further along the way we saw our first Chestnut-collared Longspurs and later, a Loggerhead Shrike. We had great views of hawks on fenceposts but all turned out to be the Swainson's so we dug out our Birdfinding Guide and followed the excellent directions to an area where the Ferruginous Hawk has been known to nest. This is called an S.F.R.A. or Saskatchewan Farmer's Rehabilitation Area (it's the land, not the farmer they're rehabilitating.) The book gets you as far as the manager's residence. He was busy breaking a horse for his son to ride but pointed the way to a deserted homestead. The buildings were long gone but a few trees of the original shelter belt still stood and precariously perched on a limb of one of them was a huge pile of sticks that looked more like the leftovers of a flood than a nest. No hawks were in sight so we walked on over a low ridge and here we spotted four adults just standing on the ground on the far side of a creek. They were, no doubt, watching over youngsters in the low scrub. Later, a pair took to the air and sailed nearly overhead. To keep our disturbance at a minimum we left soon after. The helpful S.F.R.A. manager had suggested we check out a nearby lake. There we found a remarable sight - about 200 Wilson's Phalarope feeding just off shore. We've read since that Phalarope congregate in hugh numbers during their molt period and suspect this could have been such a group.

Moving on, we headed into Biggar to spend the night at Carol's nephew's. At this point in the story it is appropriate to warn anyone driving in western Saskatchewan at dusk about the deer hazard. On two occasions we had very near misses with Mule Deer bounding across the highway, quite a "waker-upper" when

you're exhausted from a long day in the field.

The soft comfort of real beds and fresh linen were heavenly but we dragged ourselves out of bed in time for an early start on another long leg of the trip to Prince Albert National Park. We wanted extra time to continue our practise of checking out interesting sloughs or ponds along the way and while we added waterfowl species to our list, it was discoveries like a Great Horned Owl with two huge youngsters that provided more excitement. Further north Ravens appeared and Ruffed Grouse (one family group crossing the road were run down by a careless camper. Yahoos are alive and well out West too). Just inside the park you can see foxes along the roadside. They dig their dens into the soft sandy banks and seem quite used to passing cars.

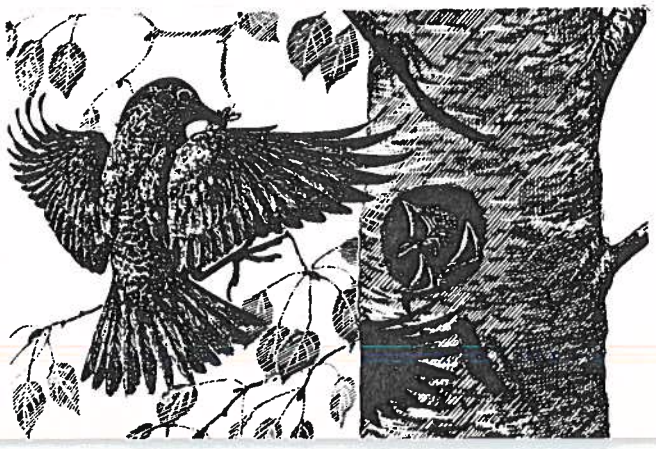
Stop-off point in P.A.N.P. is the "town" of Waskesiu, really a collection of cabins and service stores. We asked for a fairly remote area and were directed to an area called "The Narrows", unofficially reserved for adult campers. It was a good choice with well-separated sites cut into the towering pine forest. Over the next two days we hiked a few of the many tails, although birds were extremely difficult to locate in the dense growth. Several warblers are known from this area but we could only locate some familiar ones like Cape May, Black-throated Green, etc. We had more luck with the raptors, including an immature Golden Eagle that stared down with disdain as we waved our arms, slammed car doors and yelled in an effort to make it fly (talk about Yahoos). A family of Merlins put on quite a show as they swooped down on each other as if playing a game of tag, good practise for the young aerialists.

Carol and her sister went for an early morning walk by the lake and spotted a group of Moose at the water's edge. One was a mother with a very small calf, hardly able to walk. As they watched through binoculars, a Timber Wolf walked out along a fallen log to within sniffing distance of the little one. Just then the mother wheeled round and charged at the intruder, driving it off into the forest. Seconds later she was back browsing in the water as if it was nothing

to get excited about.

On the 23rd we had to leave for the farm and a promised visit with relatives. The downpour that lasted all day gave our eyes a rest and made it just a little easier to leave the park behind. A couple of days later we did manage to escape long enough for a quick run out to the nearby Quill Lakes again. This time we came in from the northeast and discovered a dam built by Ducks Unlimited. Their work is to be commended when you see results like this as thousands of waterfowl dotted the surface of the newly created habitat. Here too we added Sandhill Crane and a few more shorebirds, including Stilt Sandpiper. We had read somewhere that they like to associate with Dowitcher and sure enough, they had plunked down in the middle of a group of Long-bills. A nearby meadow housed a noisy colony of Grasshopper Sparrows and as we left for home we edged our way through a flock of Willet and Marbled Godwit that had decided to commandeer the highway as a roost. In the nearby slough were just about every shorebird species we'd ever seen in Canada. Quite a sight.

While we did expect to see some life birds on this trip, we were totally unprepared for the diversity and huge numbers of birds we encountered. To cover the hundreds of miles we did meant hours of driving and with cooking, tending fires and other camp chores, we really had little time for serious birding where we could "beat the bushes" as we say for rarer species. In spite of this we racked up a total of one hundred and thirty-five birds over all, including twenty-five of the thirty-two life birds or rareties we set out to see. Just think what you could do with good planning and no relatives to visit. If you decide to go we have a stack of maps, pamphlets and notes you're welcome to borrow.



--Carol Kopchuk
--John Pilkington

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

Public concern about water pollution, such as the recent "toxic blob" scare from the St. Clair River, has caused the governments of Canada and the United States to recognize the need for control and management of waste waters from public and private sources. Fortunately, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) was signed in 1972 (later amended in 1978) to address these issues. The agreement is designed to restore and/or maintain the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. It is separate from other arrangements for the regulation of water levels and fisheries resources. The agreement is constructed in such a way as to provide direct pollution control enforcement, scientific research to determine the effects of pollution, and periodic surveillance and monitoring of new and potentially harmful forms of pollution.

In 1972 most scientists agreed that the increased productivity of the Great Lakes was caused by excessive phosphorus loadings, from improperly treated sewage and industrial waste products (i.e. detergents). In addition, phosphorus was chosen as a target nutrient because removal of small amounts could significantly clean up a water body. Thus, a lower limit of 1 mg/litre for phosphorus was set, and thought to be a suitable pollution management scheme for the Great Lakes. However, toxic contaminants, such as organic solvents (i.e. dioxin, PCB's) and heavy metals (i.e. Pb,Hg,Cd), were discovered as a major problem after 1972. Toxic contaminants accumulate in the tissues of most aquatic life important to the food chain (especially fish), thus posing a great threat to the unwary fisherman. Many toxic contaminants are known carcinogens to man, as well as lower animals, and have been known to cause massive "die offs" in aquatic communities. Some of the highest rates of tumors (up to 100%) in the world have been found in the St. Clair river. Despite reports by the Fisheries Department of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, no fish in Lake St. Clair or Lake Erie are fit to be eaten in any great quantity. In addition, the extreme volatility

of toxic contaminants allows them to be found in high concentrations in terrestrial life forms (i.e. vegetables and grains). Fortunately, the GLWQA was amended in 1978 to include a directive for the virtual elimination of toxic contaminant discharge by 1988. Unfortunately this directive is obviously not being fulfilled.

It is the responsibility of the International Joint Commission (IJC) to oversee and implement the aims of the GLWQA through the assistance of its boards (the Water Quality Board, the Science Advisory Board) and the Great Lakes Regional Office - Windsor. The IJC is an independant agency established by the Border Waters Treaty of 1909 between Canada and the United States. Three members from each country are appointed by the Prime Minister and President but they are expected to act objectively concerning issues of national concern. Even though the treaty gives the IJC limited powers to regulate water levels, shipping and shore properties its major concern is the preservation of aquatic ecosystems.

For over seventy-five years the IJC has provided a model for the world for peaceful co-operation in the management of international waterways. Much progress has been made towards slowing eutrophication in the Great Lakes as indicated by fewer algae blooms, fewer anoxic (without oxygen) areas, clearer water and the re-introduction of natural fish species (i.e. walleye in Lake Erie). Toxic contaminants have not been "cleaned" from the Great Lakes to any extent but much has been discovered about the sources, effects, and fate of these chemicals through studies by the GLWQA. However, the future of the GLWQA is in jeopardy for the following reasons:

(1) Citizen lobby groups and local politicians are not concerned with its existence

(2) Long term financial commitment to research is not provided

(3) Arrogant and partisan political actions by both countries are impeding simple solutions

As a result, the IJC is severely restricted in its fulfillment of GLWQA goals.

This year both the Canadian and American governments will again be reviewing the agreement. This review will only be effective in identifying and solving

problem areas with input from concerned citizens, lobby groups and local politicians. If you are interested in making a difference to the outcome of the present review, are concerned about water pollution problems, or want to know about upcoming meetings contact the following:

Windsor & District Clean Water Alliance / Rich Coronado - 735-3574

Great Lakes Institute / Dr. Marie Sanderson - 253-4232 (ext. 2188)

IJC Great Lakes Regional Office / Sally Cole-Misch - 256-7821

Essex County Water Quality Liason Committee / Kirk Windibank - 735-7993

If you want to report specific pollution spills contact:

SLIMESTOPPERS - Windsor & District Clean Water Alliance - 735-3574

Ministry of the Environment - 254-2546

Pollution Control Branch, City of Windsor Public Works - 253-7218

--Greg Bull

FROG NOTE

A placid little lump of Gray Tree Frog suddenly takes a bulldog stance and puffs his body until he resembles a small frog-shaped balloon. He weaves and strains in a series of weird contortions as a hind foot reaches up and pushes forward to release a transparent skin from its body hold. One swallow, then another, and another, and another, until the transparent mass disappears down his throat.

He tucks his forefeet underneath his chin and settles with the expression of a contented cat. One blink and the lower eyelids half close. Once again, a very placid little lump of Gray Tree Frog.

--Joanne Barten

CULTIVATION OF NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, AND FORBS IN A YARD IN ESSEX COUNTY, SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Wilfred Botham, R.R. 1, Cottam, Ontario NOR 1B0

When we moved into this house in 1940 there were not many trees in the yard. A few apple, several dozen peach, and about three boxelder. Most of the peach trees died within a few years, and as the apple trees ceased to bear edible fruit they were removed.

The upstairs of the house was so hot in summer that it was difficult to get to sleep. It seemed to me that a few trees might improve the situation, at that time I was thinking only of the shade they might cast over the house. I planted anything that was available in the vicinity, and also sowed some seeds. None of the plants were bought, all they cost me was the time and some car gas, plus lots of water-carrying until the roots became established. The soil north of the house is heavy Brookston clay, plants on that side do not require so much watering. The soil south of the house is part sand, anything planted there requires frequent watering for the first few weeks, and longer if there is little rain.

When the boxelders and other saplings I had planted became tree-sized there was a dramatic change for the better inside the house. At present it can be uncomfortably cool in the lower part of the house early in the day. As soon as the sun warms the air a little in the mornings I open the windows to let in a little heat! Even if temperatures remain at 33°C for several days in a row it does not become too hot in the house.

Over the years I have learned that it is not the shade that makes the difference - not much shade falls on the roof anyway - it is the evaporation from the thousands of leaves that is cooling the house. The shade makes a pleasant place to sit on hot days, and the grass remains greener beneath the trees, but the shade probably does not contribute all that much to cooling the yard.

We also have a lot of juniper (Juniperus virginiana) in the yard, most of which were obtained from beneath the utility wires that cross over the yard. The junipers grow from seeds that have been voided by birds as they sit on the wires. As soon as I notice a little juniper showing itself in the grass, I transplant it to another part of the yard - they cannot be left to grow under the wires. I do not know how much the junipers contribute to the cooling of the air, but they do help to break the force of the wind in the winter.

So much for the trees and their influence on the microclimate. Planting the herbs was, and is, done for an entirely different reason. When I began making regular botanical walks I got into the habit of writing down the names of all plants in flower. Collecting the flowering dates seemed to be a useful project and this information was included in my book, The Plants of Essex County. As I concentrated on herbs, other growth forms were neglected. Even so, I soon realized that some herbs would be visited so infrequently that I would not get a realistic picture of their flowering dates. That is when I began bringing home plants to transplant into the yard. Some of the rare plants were salvaged from areas slated for development. The flowering dates that I obtain from transplanted plants may not be exactly the same as those for wild plants, but they are close enough.

Other results of my propagation experiments, whether or not the plants survived, appear in Tables 1 and 2. The type of substrate (sand or clay) is indicated because it may have some bearing on plant survival. I have not included information about many of the species propagated in the last couple of years because their fate is yet to be determined.

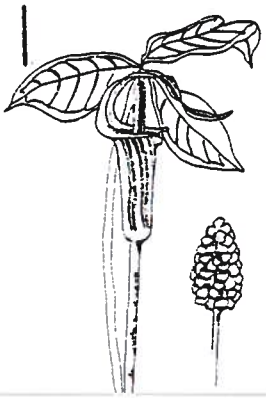
Some readers may question why my experiments favour transplanting rather than use of seed. I have planted thousands of herb seeds but none have germinated. Most shrub seeds were similarly uncooperative. Cultivated plants are no problem - throw some seeds on the ground and up comes a plant. If they did not germinate easily they would not be cultivated.

Recently I have been trying a different method of propagation. That is, attempting to get twigs and stalks of herbs to develop roots. One method is to put the twig or stalk in water and wait for it to develop roots. House plants are often propagated this way. Another method is to stick the twig or stalk in the ground, place a jar over it, and a sunshade over that. I have some old tomato baskets that I use for shade. I water around the jars every day and when I see new leaves appearing, it probably means that roots are developing. I have had some successes and some failures with this method, but it is too early to make a meaningful report.

Table 1. Native and naturalized plants that continue to thrive in the author's yard. The symbol + indicates plants that are not native.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	METHOD OF PROPAGATION	SUBSTRATE	DATE
(TREES)				
+ Acer platanoides	norway maple	plant	sand	10 April 1955
A. saccharinum	silver maple	seed	sand	1960's
+ Ailanthus altissima	tree-of-heaven	seed	sand	1960's
+ Catalpa sp.	catalpa	seed	sand, clay	1960's
+ Cercis canadensis	redbud	seed	sand	1960's
	Last winter (1984-85), for the first time, the rabbits did not chew off the tips of the branches. I have hopes that it may flower in 1986 (if I can protect it from the rabbits this winter!)			
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	plants	sand, clay	1940's
	Both varieties have been planted and both do well.			
+ Gleditsia triacanthos	honey locust	seed	sand, clay	1940's
	These are the thornless cultivar. The first one planted is sterile, the second is fertile and has produced up to 1500 pods in one year.			
Juglans nigra	black walnut	seed	clay	1960's
Morus alba	white mulberry	plants	sand	10 April 1955
	There were 2 plants. One died about 10 years ago, but numerous seedlings come up each year. The remaining original tree has an interesting relationship with the cicadas that emerge each year. I collect the cast nymph skins each morning, and invariably the majority are from around this mulberry. There were more than 200 one year, from all trees in the yard. 544 in 1985!			
+ Populus cinerea	poplar	plant	sand	1974
P. deltoides	cottonwood	forgotten	clay	1960's
Quercus rubra *	red oak	seedlings	sand	ca. 1941
	Six were planted, later thinned to three. The largest is still only 15 cm DBH.			
Ulmus americana	american elm	plants	sand	10 April 1955
	Two plants, one is now dying from Dutch elm disease.			
U. americana	american elm	seedlings	sand, clay	13 May 1946
	57 were planted along 3 sides of the yard. When the Dutch elm disease came through it spared 3 of them. The disease is again taking trees in the vicinity.			

* Since some of Essex County's "red" oaks have been identified as shumard oak (Quercus shumardii) it is possible that our three trees are that species.



Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Arisaema atrorubens

(Table 1 continued)

(SHRUBS & WOODY VINES)				
Campsis radicans	trumpet creeper	plants		17 July 1965
Cephalanthus occidentalis	buttonbush	plant	clay	25 April 1980
Euonymus atropurpureus	burning bush	seed	sand	1940's
	It grew to about 5 m before the rabbits finally girdled it. It lives on in shoots coming up from the spreading roots.			
Hamamelis virginiana	witch hazel	plant	sand	6 Oct. 1974
Menispermum canadense	moonseed vine	plant	sand	7 July 1965
Ptelea trifoliata	hop tree	seed	sand	1960's
	Numerous seedlings appear each year on the lawn, but the lawn mower gets most of them.			
+ Rosa rugosa	rugosa rose	twig		31 Aug. 1979
R. setigera	prairie rose	twig	sand	27 June 1979
Smilax hispida	bristly catbrier	plant	sand	6 July 1965
Staphylea trifolia	bladdernut	plant	sand	1970's
Viburnum lentago	nannyberry	plant	sand	1 July 1965
V. rafinesquianum	downy arrow-wood	plant	sand	1 July 1965
(FORBS)				
Agrimonia parviflora	agrimony	plant	sand	14 July 1981
Allium canadense	wild onion	plants	clay	?
A. cernuum	nodding onion	plant	clay	ca. 1970
A. cernuum	nodding onion	plants	sand	13 July 1974
Amorpha fruticosa	false indigo	plant		6 June 1975
+ Artemisia vulgaris	mugwort	plant	sand	30 Aug. 1978
Asarum canadense	wild ginger	plants	sand	1960's
	For a number of years the patch increased in size, then in recent years it has been decreasing.			
+ Campanula rapunculoides	creeping bellflower	plants	clay	25 July 1971
	These plants proved to be too aggressive and had to be very severely dealt with.			
+ Centaurea maculosa	spotted knapweed	seed	sand	1967
+ Chrysanthemum balsamita	costmary	plants	clay	24 July 1975
+ Cichorium intybus	chicory	plant	sand	28 June 1976
	Slow to become established, after that it has to be spudded out to prevent its spreading all over the yard.			
Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens	large yellow lady's-slipper	plant	sand	1976
Dicentra canadensis	squirrel-corn	tubers	sand	21 May 1978
	Has not yet produced flowers.			

(Table 1 continued)

Dioscorea villosa	yam	plants	sand	7 July 1965
These plants are sterile, and numerous sowings of seeds have failed to produce fertile plants. The plants are handsome anyway.				
Euonymus obovatus	running strawberrybush	seed or plant		1 July 1965
Erigenia bulbosa	harbinger-of-spring	bulb	sand	7 April 1981
E. bulbosa	harbinger-of-spring	plant	sand	3 April 1982
Erythronium albidum	white trout lily	plant	sand	28 April 1976
Eupatorium altissimum	joe-pye-weed	plant	clay	26 Aug. 1975
E. altissimum	joe-pye-weed	plant	clay	1977?
+ Euphorbia platyphylla	broad-leaved spurge	plant	clay	15 July 1979
+ E. platyphylla	broad-leaved spurge	plant	clay	21 June 1980
Galium obtusum	bedstraw	plants?	sand	1970's
At first these increased, now there are only about 4 plants.				
+ G. verum	yellow bedstraw	plant	clay	15 July 1979
Geranium maculatum	spotted cranesbill	plants	sand	19 April 1976
Geum vernum	avens	?	sand noted	12 May 1982
Hepatica acutiloba	liverleaf	plants	sand	1950's
At first they increased, but in recent years have been decreasing.				
+ Heuchera americana	rock-geranium	plant	clay	13 July 1974
Hydrophyllum virginianum	john's-cabbage	plants	sand	1960's
Impatiens capensis	spotted jewelweed	? first recorded flowering in 1972		
+ Inula helenium	elecampane	plant	clay	18 June 1979
+ Iris brevicaulis	lamance iris	plant	sand	18 June 1979
+ I. pseudacorus	yellow iris	plants	clay	12 June 1981
Lilium michiganense	michigan lily	plants	clay	1 July 1965
Had increased to a very healthy patch, then in 1984 some animal cut each stalk down as it came into flower. In 1985 it produced no flowers, and the stalks that did appear soon turned brown. In 1986 it produced stalks and about a dozen flowers - presumably the bulbs had enough energy in them to make a recovery.				
+ Linaria vulgaris	yellow toadflax	plants	clay	1970's
Liparis liliifolia	lily-leaved twayblade	plant	sand	21 June 1968
+ Lysimachia nummularia	moneywort	plants		1948?
+ Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	plant	clay	15 July 1979
+ Mentha spicata	spear mint	plants	clay	20 Sept. 1970
+ Oenothera pilosella	evening primrose	plant	sand	25 June 1979
+ Papaver rhoeas	corn-poppy	plant	sand	25 June 1979

Trout Lily
Erythronium americanum

(Table 1 continued)

Phacelia purshii	scorpion-weed	plant	sand	15 May 1980
Phlox divaricata	blue phlox	plants	sand	29 April 1976
Platanthera flava	tubercled orchid	plant	clay	19 July 1976
+ *Polygonum scandens*	climbing false buckwheat ? probably came in on some vehicle			
Potentilla simplex	cinquefoil	plant	sand	21 June 1968
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium	mountain mint	plant	sand	2 July 1980
P. virginianum	mountain mint	stalk in water	sand	July 1980
Ratibida pinnata	prairie coneflower	plant	clay	13 July 1974
Sanguinaria canadensis	bloodroot	plants		1960's
Scutellaria nervosa	skullcap	plants	sand	8 June 1974
	Increased for some years, then decreased			
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie-dock	plant	clay	27 May 1976
	This year (1985) it had 14 flowering stalks!			
Thalictrum dasycarpum	purple meadow-rue	plant	sand	1960's
Thaspium trifoliatum	meadow-parsnip	plant	sand	1976
+ *Torilis japonica*	hedge-parsley	seeds	sand	2 June 1978
	Too aggressive. I am spudding them all out as they appear.			
Veronicastrum virginicum	culver's-root	plant	sand	21 June 1968
+ *Vicia tetrasperma*	four-seeded vetch	seeds	sand	27 July 1979
Viola palmata	violet	plant	sand	16 May 1982
V. striata	cream-violet	plant	sand	12 June 1982
+ *Vinca minor*	periwinkle	plants	clay	30 April 1963
	Once established it becomes aggressive. It is in full sunlight, but I have seen it doing very well in shade.			
Zizia aurea	golden alexanders	plant	sand	20 May 1982

Table 2. Native and naturalized plants that have failed to thrive in the author's yard. The symbol + indicates plants that are not native. Plants died the same year they were introduced to the yard unless stated otherwise.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	METHOD OF PROPAGATION	SUB-STRATE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE OF DEATH
(TREES)					
Populus balsamifera	balsam poplar	twig	clay	lived 1 or 2 years;	died 1978
+ *Robinia pseudoacacia*	black locust	plant	clay	Apr. 1977	

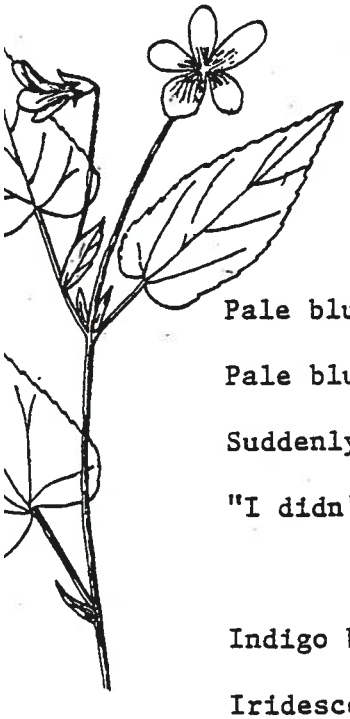
(SHRUBS & WOODY VINES)				
Cephalanthus occidentalis	buttonbush	twig	clay	20 July 1979; did not root
Clematis virginiana	virgin's-bower	plant	clay	1940's; died about 1978
C. virginiana	virgin's-bower	plant	clay	April 1977; died
C. virginiana	virgin's-bower	twig	clay	2 Aug. 1979; did not root
+ *Elaeagnus angustifolia*	russian olive	seedling	sand	May 1978; died 1979
Salix discolor	pussy willow	twigs	?	15 Apr. 1981; did not root
S. discolor	pussy willow	twigs	?	14 July 1981; did not root
Sambucus pubens	red-berried elder	twigs	?	15 Apr. 1981; did not root
S. pubens	red-berried elder	twigs	?	14 July 1981; did not root
Symphoricarpos albus	thin-leaved snowberry	twig	?	24 June 1978; did not root
(FORBS)				
Agrimonia gryposepala	agrimony	plant	sand	7 Sept. 1981; died
Amaranthus tuberculatus	pigweed	plant	?	20 Aug. 1978; died
Anemone quinquefolia	wood-anemone	plants	sand	1 May 1976; died
Anemonella thalictroides	rue-anemone	plant	sand	15 May 1980; died 1983
Aquilegia canadensis	wild columbine	seed	?	19 July 1979; did not germinate
Aralia nudicaulis	wild sarsaparilla	plant	?	18 June 1978; died
+ *Arenaria serpyllifolia*	thyme-leaved sandwort	plants	sand	29 Apr. 1976; died?
Arisaema triphyllum	jack-in-the-pulpit	?	sand	? died in 1977
Aster macrophyllus	large-leaved aster	?	sand	1970's; died ca. 1983
A. subulatus	aster	plants	?	30 Sept. 1975; died
Campanula rotundifolia	harebell	plant	?	13 July 1974; died same year
+ *Carduus nutans*	nodding thistle	plant	clay	1975; died?
Centaurium pulchellum	centaury	plants	sand	19 July 1976; died
Convolvulus sepium	hedge bindweed	plant	?	April 1977; died
Coreopsis lanceolata	coreopsis	plants	clay	1974?; died ca. 1980
+ *Coronilla varia*	crown vetch	plant	sand	12 June 1981; died 1983
+ *Cynoglossum officinale*	hound's-tongue	plant	clay	4 June 1978; died
Dioscorea villosa	yam	seed	sand	13 Apr. 1981; did not germinate
+ *Echium vulgare*	blueweed	plant	?	18 July 1978; died
Gentiana crinita	fringed gentian	plants	?	30 Sept. 1975; died
Geum aleppicum	yellow avens	plant	sand	3 July 1978; died
Hepatica americana	liverleaf	plants	sand	22 Apr. 1975; died 1983
+ *Hieracium caespiticium*	hawkweed	plants	?	27 May 1976; died
Hypericum punctatum	spotted st. john's-wort	plants	?	14 July 1981; died 1983
Isanthus brachiatus	false pennyroyal	plant	?	22 June 1975; died
+ *Kochia scoparia*	kochia	plants	?	7 Sept. 1981; died

(Table 2 continued)

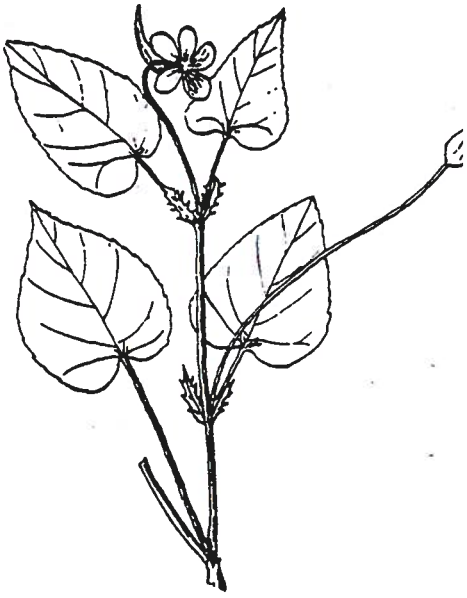
+ *Lamium purpureum*	purple dead-nettle	plant	?	16 May 1975; died same year
+ *Lathyrus latifolius*	everlasting pea	plant	sand	23 July 1980; died
+ *L. latifolius*	everlasting pea	seed	sand	15 Sept. 1980; died
+ *Leucanthemum maximum*		plant	clay	5 July 1979; died 1980
+ *L. vulgare* (=*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)	ox-eye daisy	plant	clay	10 June 1976; died
Leucospora multifida (=*Conobea multifida*)		plant	?	13 July 1976; died
+ *Linaria dalmatica*	dalmatian toadflax	seed	clay	1977; did not germinate
Liparis loeselii	loesel's twayblade	plant	?	4 Aug. 1978; died
Lonicera dioica	limber honeysuckle	plants	sand	19 April 1976; died
+ *Lotus corniculatus*	bird's-foot trefoil	plant	?	20 June 1976; died
+ *L. corniculatus*	bird's-foot trefoil	seed	?	27 July 1979; did not germinate
Lycopodium digitatum	crowfoot clubmoss	plant	?	8 July 1980; died before winter
+ *Marrubium vulgare*	common horehound	plants	?	4 June 1978; died
+ *Matricaria chamomilla*	wild chamomile	plants	sand	22 July 1981; died 1983
Mentha arvensis	field mint	plant	?	17 August 1981; died 1982
Mitchella repens	partridge-berry	plant	sand	25 June 1974; died same year
M. repens	partridge-berry	plant	sand	9 May 1980; died April 1981
Mitella diphylla	coolwort	plant	?	20 May 1978; died ca. 1983
+ *Myosotis macrosperma*	forget-me-not	plant	?	15 May 1980; died
+ *M. verna*	forget-me-not	plant	?	18 May 1975; died
Phyla lanceolata (=*Lippia lanceolata*)	fog-fruit	plants	clay	2 July 1981; died 1984
Phacelia purshii	scorpion-weed	plant	?	?18 May 1975; died?
Physostegia virginiana	false dragonhead	plant	clay	24 July 1973; died ca. 1980
+ *Plantago psyllium*	psyllium	seeds	sand	2 July 1978; died 1983
Pluchea purpurascens	marsh-fleabane	plant	?	30 Sept. 1975; died?
Polygonum hydropiperoides	mild smartweed	plant	clay	17 Aug. 1981; died
Potentilla argentea	silvery cinquefoil	plant	?	18 May 1975; died?
Pyrola elliptica	shinleaf	plant	?	25 June 1974; died same year
Ranunculus fascicularis	early buttercup	plant	sand	1975; died ca. 1982
+ *Salvia nemorosa*	woodsage	plant	clay	16 Aug. 1974; died 1984
Scutellaria lateriflora	mad-dog skullcap	self-established		died in 1970's
Senecio aureus	golden ragwort	plant	clay	16 Apr. 1981; died 1983
Sida spinosa	prickly mallow	plants	?	6 Oct. 1975; died?
S. spinosa	prickly mallow	plant	?	20 Aug. 1978; died
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	plant	clay	27 July 1975; died ca. 1982
Sisyrinchium albidum	blue-eyed grass	plant	?	27 May 1976; died
+ *Solidago sempervirens*	seaside goldenrod	plants	?	30 Sept. 1975; died ca. 1980
+ *Spergularia marina*	sand-spurrey	plants	?	6 Sept. 1975; died ?

(Table 2 continued)

+ S. marina	sand-spurrey	plant	?	22 Sept. 1976; died
+ S. marina	sand-spurrey	plant	?	15 July 1979; died
Spiranthes cernua	nodding ladies'-tresses	plant	clay	25 Aug. 1975; died?
+ Tancetum vulgare	tansy	plant	clay	17 Aug. 1981; died
Tiarella cordifolia	foam flower	plant	sand	20 May 1978; died ca. 1982
Triphora trianthophora	nodding pogonia	plant	sand	25 Aug. 1975; died same year
+ Tussilago farfara	colt's-foot	plant	?	17 Apr. 1976; died
Valerianella umbilicata	corn-salad	plant	?	18 May 1975; died?
+ Verbena simplex	vervain	plant	?	13 July 1974; died same year
V. stricta	hoary vervain	plant	?	15 July 1974; died
Vernonia gigantea	tall ironweed	plant	clay	1975; died?
+ Veronica arvensis	corn speedwell	plants	?	29 Apr. 1976; died
Viola conspersa	dog-violet	plants	sand	1970's; died ca. 1980
V. incognita	white violet	plant	sand	16 Apr. 1981; died
+ V. kitaibeliana	field-pansy	plant	sand	15 May 1980; died
V. papilionacea	stemless blue violet	plant	sand	20 May 1978; died ca. 1983
V. rostrata	long-spurred violet	plant	sand	4 May 1982; died



Point Pelee Spring



Pale blue violets embroider the nature trails,
Pale blue butterflies float above.
Suddenly a child's voice shrill with wonder,
"I didn't know that flowers could fly."

Indigo buntings bloom on the red-bud trees,
Iridescent swallows float above.
A weather-beaten face reflects the child's joyous wonder,
"There is goodness and beauty here for all the days of our lives."

--Caylee

RATTLESNAKES IN ESSEX COUNTY

One of the questions most frequently asked of biologists, naturalists, and interpreters is "Are there any poisonous snakes in the rea?" In Essex County the answer is a definite "yes", but with the qualifier that the average visitor or resident is very unlikely to see one. Even resident naturalists such as myself, Paul Pratt, and Wilf Botham, who spend countless days in the field looking for things like rattlesnakes have never encountered a wild rattlesnake in Essex County.

When the first settlers arrived in Ontario, rattlesnakes were not uncommon in the southwestern portion of the province. At that time, two species occurred, the large Timber Rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus) and the smaller Eastern Massasauga (Sistrurus catenatus catenatus). The Timber Rattlesnake was persecuted to extirpation in Ontario, the last one being seen in the Niagara Glen in 1941. It is unlikely that Timber Rattlesnakes still exist in Canada. The Massasauga fared better, and still survives in considerable numbers in less accessible portions of the Bruce Peninsula and southeastern Georgian Bay. However, even here it is frequently killed by man, and is probably declining.

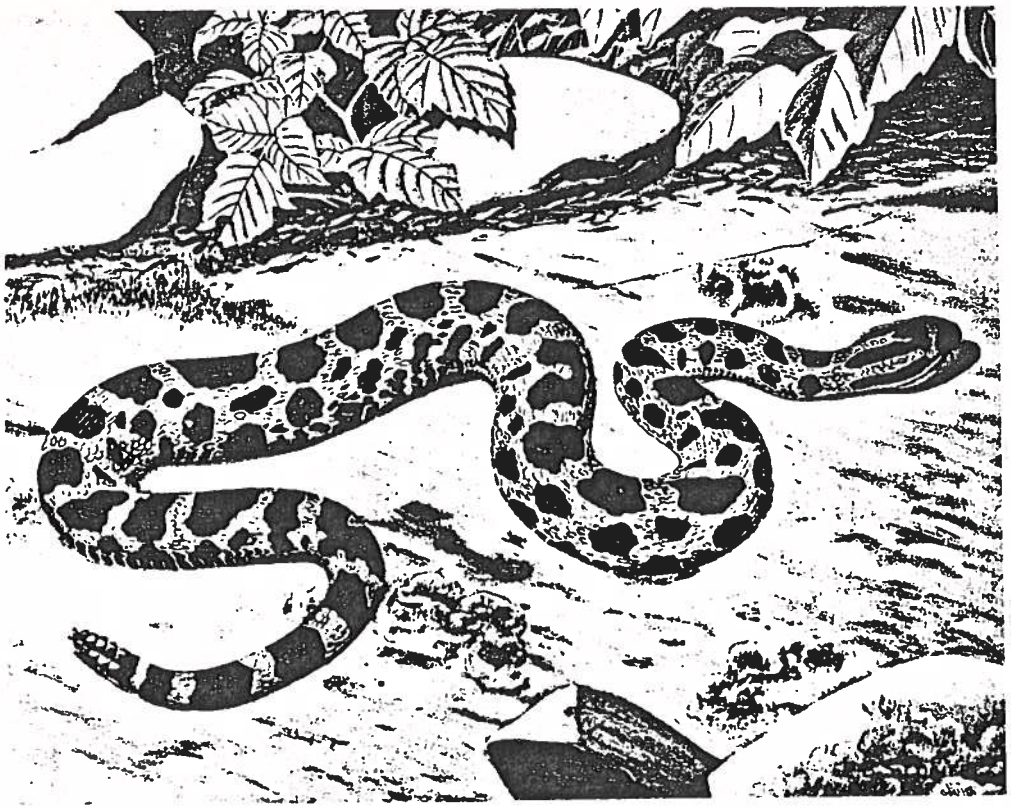
It seems remarkable to me that Massasauga rattlesnakes could have survived this long in such a heavily agriculturalized and industrialized portion of Ontario as Essex County. The evidence however, is indisputable, they do survive in small numbers in the Ojibway area of Windsor, and in adjacent Sandwich West Township. Every year or two another rattlesnake hits the pages of the Windsor Star, usually with a photograph showing its battered body being displayed by its discoverers, who promptly clubbed it to death. The only other well-documented Massasauga population remaining in Southwestern Ontario is in the Wainfleet Bog in the Niagara Peninsula, although it is possible that there may be a few other small populations in large, remote woodlots.

Massasauga's are not as great a threat as most people would make them out to be. To start with, they are so rare locally that the chance of encountering

one is almost nil. They are also a relatively small and docile rattlesnake, rarely over 75 cm in length. Although they do have toxic venom, bites are very rare and with medical attention fatalities are virtually unheard of, and complete recovery is the rule. In North America more people are killed each year by being struck by lightening, then die from poisonous snakebite.

Most reports of rattlesnakes in Essex County turn out to be Fox Snakes, a much commoner and completely harmless snake. Each year I receive three or four calls from landowners who claim to have killed a rattlesnake. I usually drive out to examine the corpse, which to date has always turned out to be a Fox Snake. Massasaugas can be confused with three harmless snakes occurring in the County: Fox, Milk, and Water Snakes. All are generally some shade of brown, grey, or black, and are blotched or banded. Both Milk and Fox Snakes sometimes vibrate their tail if angered, but they lack a true rattle. The presence of a rattle is the most reliable distinguishing feature of a Massasauga. Once you have seen a live Massasauga you will be unlikely to confuse it with other species. Anyone who has never seen a live Massasauga should visit the City of Windsor's Ojibway Nature Centre and take a close look at the adult on display there. Despite rumours of Copperheads, Water Moccasins, Blowing Vipers, Hissing Adders, and other supposedly deadly serpents, rattlesnakes are the only venomous snakes occuring in Canada.

In order to learn more about the distribution and abundance of rattlesnakes in Essex County, I would be interested in hearing from anyone who knows of recent or historic sightings. Any sightings documented by a photograph, rattle, or newspaper clipping would be especially appreciated, but I would also like to hear about reliable sight records. Please record the date (as accurately as possible), exact location, circumstances of the sighting, how the snake was identified, your name and address, and any other information which might be relevant, and send it to me at the Essex Region Conservation Authority, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario, N8M 1Y6 (519-776-5209). Special cards on which to record the information



Eastern Massasau

can be provided if desired. If enough responses are received, I'll report the results in a future issue of THE EGRET.

There will be few tears shed when the last Essex County rattlesnake is killed, but I for one will be saddened by the realization that another piece of our unique natural heritage has been eliminated, never to return.

--Mike Oldham

THE ESSEX COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

ANNOUNCES OUR

THIRD ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

ON

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1987

AT

THE RIVERSIDE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
1286 LAUZON ROAD
WINDSOR, ONTARIO

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Adults $15.00
Children $ 8.00

THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE DINNER,
A GUEST SPEAKER, DOOR PRIZES AND AUCTION

SECOND ANNUAL CEDAR CREEK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT *** 20 DECEMBER 1986

— Paul D. Pratt

On Sunday, December 20th, 28 birders participated in the second annual Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count. The 24 km. diameter circle is centred 5.3 km. northeast of Harrow. Mild weather in December resulted in ideal conditions and the count produced 78 species. Highlights included excellent numbers of owls, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Boreal Chickadee and Lincoln's Sparrow. Browse the following list for the complete results of both counts.

OBSERVERS:

Kingsville: Mireille Deilsle-Oldham, C. Hospes, Mike Oldham(co-compiler), T. Walley, Don Wilkes. Cedar Beach: Bill Balkwill, Wilf Botham, S. Dickson, Deb Gorman-Smith, T. Hince, B. Learmouth. Essex: Gary Allen, Peter Bondy, Bruce Ford, Carol Kopchuk, A. Merritt, J. Pilkington, R.Thomas. S. Colchester: Mark Brunton, Keith Burk, Thomas Hurst, B. Larson, Jeff Larson, J. Ralston. Harrow: Jo Barten, Jim McAllister, Steve Pike, Paul Pratt(co-compiler).

RESULTS:	1985/6	1986/7		1985/6	1986/7
Great Blue Heron	1	5	White-breasted Nuthatch	55	37
Tundra Swan		6	Brown Creeper	16	22
Canada Goose	8,554	5,810	Carolina Wren	1	3
Wood Duck		10	Winter Wren	5	4
American Black Duck	5	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	38
Mallard	21	71	Eastern Bluebird	3	3
Common Goldeneye	4	3	Hermit Thrush		3
Bufflehead		3	American Robin	27	3
Common Merganser	106	10	Gray Catbird	1	
Red-breasted Merganser	1	11	Northern Mockingbird	1	
Bald Eagle	4	2	Cedar Waxwing	102	79
Northern Harrier	19	13	Northern Shrike	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	European Starling	3,390	5,797
Cooper's Hawk	6	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	2
accipiter species	1		Northern Cardinal	184	202
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	Rufous-sided Towhee		7
Red-tailed Hawk	84	67	American Tree Sparrow	1,858	531
Rough-legged Hawk	22	8	Chipping Sparrow		11
American Kestrel	21	61	Field Sparrow	14	33
Peregrine Falcon	1		Vesper Sparrow	1	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	4	Savannah Sparrow		4
Bonaparte's Gull		1,089	Fox Sparrow	1	
Ring-billed Gull	3	267	Song Sparrow	111	287
Herring Gull	40	559	Lincoln's Sparrow		1
Great Black-backed Gull	4	43	Swamp Sparrow	68	90
gull species	4		White-throated Sparrow	97	195
Rock Dove	383	573	White-crowned Sparrow	20	16
Mourning Dove	1,081	1,831	Dark-eyed Junco	859	783
Eastern Screech-Owl	13	56	oregon junco	2	
Great Horned Owl	4	26	Lapland Longspur	8	
Long-eared Owl	4	14	Snow Bunting	1,048	
Short-eared Owl	3	1	Red-winged Blackbird	40	15
Northern Saw-whet Owl		4	Rusty Blackbird	157	2
Belted Kingfisher		2	Common Grackle	5	7
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	9	Brown-headed Cowbird	633	252
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	10	Purple Finch	3	18
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	House Finch	67	99
Downy Woodpecker	91	164	Common Redpoll	451	
Hairy Woodpecker	3	10	Pine Siskin		23
Northern Flicker	14	50	American Goldfinch	235	432
Horned Lark	3,152	99	Evening Grosbeak	26	4
Blue Jay	164	712	House Sparrow	4,490	5,804
American Crow	20,653	48,090	TOTAL SPECIES	71	78
Black-capped Chickadee	3	341	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	48,479	74,8780
Boreal Chickadee		1	NUMBER OF FIELD-OBSERVERS	26	28
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	14	TOTAL PARTY-HOURS	117	118

NINTH ANNUAL NATURALISTS' WORKSHOP, May 23 - May 30, 1987.

The Biology Department of Queen's University is offering its ninth annual residential workshop in May.

The purpose of the workshops is to increase the participants' skills in field identification and their knowledge of the ecology of plants and animals found in south-eastern Ontario. An intensive series of field trips is preceded by seminars and displays on the taxonomy and ecology of the organisms, with emphasis on the use of field guides, recordings and other aids to field identification. Each field trip is led by at least three instructors and the workshop is limited to twenty participants.

The instructors are familiar with the variety of habitats close to the Biology Station in the Rideau Lakes area: some are engaged in research at the station. This year, we will have a particularly diverse mix of returning and new instructors. The workshops are designed for amateurs and professionals and for both novices and experts. In past years, groups have included high school students and senior citizens, interpreters and naturalists with parks and conservation authorities, and teachers and professional biologists: we welcome a broad mixture of interests. An opportunity for participants to follow their particular interests in a stimulating atmosphere is provided.

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LOCATION. The workshop will be held at the Biological Station on Lake Opinicon, one of the Rideau Lakes, north of Kingston. The university's land includes about 1000 ha of forest, wetland and farmland.

Accommodation is in small dormitories or cabins; the Station has laboratories, a library, a dining hall, and a variety of boats. Accommodation is comfortable for a field station, but is not 'plushy'. During the summer, about forty-five research workers are in residence and large numbers of students attend courses run by the Ontario Universities Programme in Field Biology.

CREDIT. The workshop is not a credit course and will not include tests or reports. A diploma will be issued by the University to participants attaining competence.

ENROLMENT. Maximum 20.

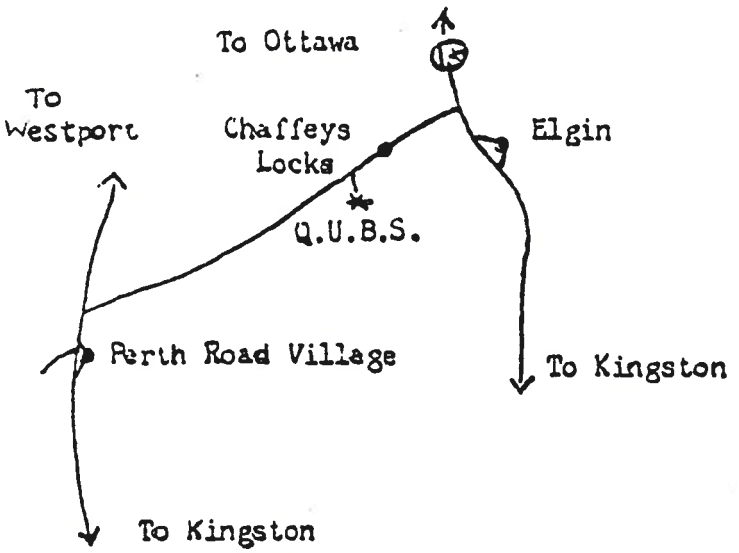
REGISTRATION. A form is enclosed. Please return it by April 30 to Floyd Connor, enclosing a cheque payable to Queen's University.

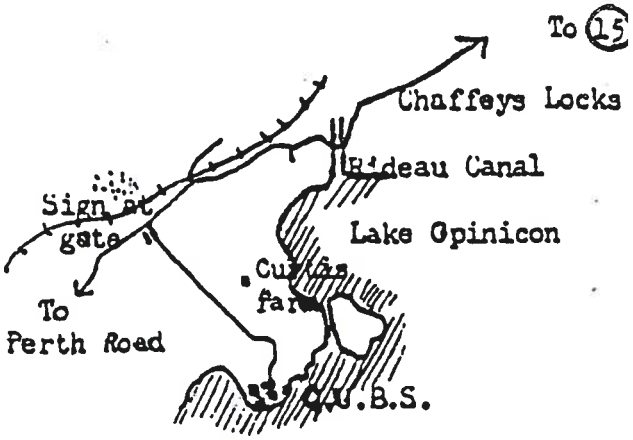
COST. $330.00 This includes accommodation, food, local transport and tuition (includes a manual). Cost to undergraduates or senior high school students is subsidized and is $230.00.

TRANSPORT. Free transport from and to Kingston or Elgin is provided on request. There is parking for cars or trucks. Some boats at the Station are available for use, but you might like to bring a canoe.

EQUIPMENT. Please bring: sleeping bag or bedding, pillow, towels, flashlight, field glasses, lens, clipboard, your favourite field guides, rubber boots, waterproof clothing, and insect repellant. Very old clothes and soakable sneakers will be useful for exploring wetlands. You may like to bring snorkelling equipment and/or orienteering compass.

ADDRESSES. Queen's University Biological Station, Box 31, R.R. 1, Elgin, Ontario, K0G 1E0. Director: Dr. R. Robertson; Manager: Mr. Frank Phelan; Assistant Manager: Mr. Floyd Connor. Direct inquiries to Floyd Connor at 613-359-5629.





JUNIOR NATURALISTS

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Amphibians and reptiles are jointly called herptiles. These animals are _____ blooded. This means that they cannot keep their body temperature constant.

AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians skin is relatively smooth and _____. They usually live in _____ or in damp places so they will not dry out.

Amphibians hatch from eggs which were laid in shallow water. The eggs do not have shells so they depend on the weather for survival. The amphibians are called gilled larvae (the immature form) when they emerge from the eggs. Tadpoles are gilled larvae of _____ and _____. After eating and growing, the larva will develop into an adult amphibian. The larvae or young are completely different in appearance from the adult. One important difference between the larvae and the adult is the way they breathe. The larvae live in water so they breathe by using _____. The adults live mostly on land, so they have _____ for breathing. Adult amphibians also use their skin to breathe which is why it must be soft and permeable. The fluttering of the throat that looks like swallowing in toads and frogs is actually breathing. These vibrations force air down into their lungs.

Some amphibians, such as newts and salamanders, have tails. Frogs and toads, however, only have tails as larvae and are tailless as _____.

Amphibians hibernate in the mud at the bottom of _____ for the winter. During hibernation, the animals have very low metabolism or body function rate and the mud and leaves around the amphibian supply the little air it needs.

Common Toad

Toads generally have dry, warty skin, but one does not get warts from handling a toad. They have brown, tough skin which lessens water loss through evaporation. They do find shelter during the day. Toads have skin gland secretions which tastes unpleasant to their predators and can be irritating to people's eyes and mouth membranes. Toads breed in the spring in ponds. One will notice the tadpoles and then six to eight weeks later the tiny toads on land. Toads have long, sticky tongues to catch their food with. Their diet consists of:_____

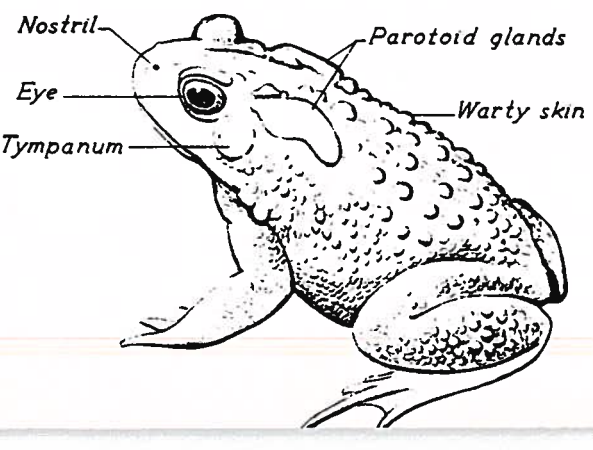


Diagram of a toad

Leopard Frog

The leopard frog is a green coloured frog with brown or black blotches on it. This frog is usually about _____ centimetres long. They may be found near ponds or in meadows. They have long, powerful hind legs which enables them to hop long distances. Not like the toad which moves in short hops. Frogs have long, sticky tongues to catch their prey. They eat: _____.

REPTILES

Reptiles have _____ skin that is covered with _____. Except for some snakes, reptiles lay hard-shelled _____. The eggs are usually laid in a shallow nest in sandy soil. After eggs hatch, the young are on their own to dig out of the nest and to find food or to be eaten. The little reptiles look the _____ as the adults.

Water snakes, garter snakes, brown snakes, red-bellied snakes, queen snakes and massassauga rattlesnakes are all live-bearers. What does this mean? _____.

Snakes hibernate during the winter. They will hibernate in groups of up to 2,000. If you were a snake, where would you like to curl up for the winter? _____.

Turtles hibernate in the mud at the bottom of _____.

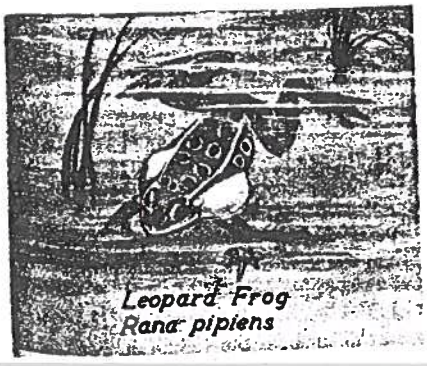
Eastern Garter Snake

The eastern garter snake is the most common snake in this area. These snakes are usually dark green with _____ stripes running the length of their body. Their _____ is yellow. Garter snakes colouring and brightness can vary from snake to snake. Some will have a red stripe down their side and some are completely dark green or almost black. Adults range in size up to 100 centimeters, but most are 62 to 80 centimeters long. They eat: _____.

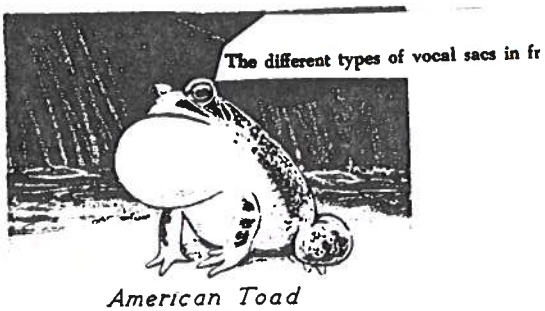
Butler's Garter Snake

The butler's garter snake is similar to the eastern garter snake. The butler's are brighter coloured, have a smaller head, grow to be only about _____ centimeters long and will curl up in your hand. This snake likes to live in the tall grass prairie, which is why we can find it in southwestern Ontario.

Bullfrog
Rana catesbeiana



Leopard Frog
Rana pipiens



American Toad
Bufo americanus

Red-Bellied Snake

The red-bellied snake is the smallest snake we can find in this area. Its full grown size is up to _____ centimeters. This snake has a bright _____ belly and its back will be either a reddish brown or _____. They like to hide under stones, wood or other ground cover during the day. This snake comes out in the evening in search of food. Its diet consists of: _____ _____.

Eastern Fox Snake

The eastern fox snake is the largest snake in this area. An adult can grow up to _____. Where did this snake get its name from? _____ _____.

A lot of peolpe have killed a lot of fox snakes because they were mistaken for rattlesnakes or copperhead snakes. A copperhead snake has never actually been found in Canada. Make sure you can tell the difference between a fox snake and a massassauga rattlesnake so you can tell people the differences between them. Fox snakes like to eat: _____.

Eastern Massassauga Rattlesnake

The massassauga rattlesnake is the only poisonous snake in Ontario. It can be found in some locations in Windsor. A rattlesnake can be identified by its bony, loosely segmented rattles at the tip of the tail. A new segment is added to the rattle each time the snake sheds. The rattle may be lost during the snake's life. How can this happen? _____ _____.

Rattlesnakes can also be identified by their triangular shaped head and the vertical cat-like pupils in their eyes. These snakes do not pose a great threat to humans because of their retiring nature and their relatively small size. An adult is usually about _____ long. People have been bitten trying to kill a rattlesnake or by carelessly handling a dead rattlesnake. The best advice is to leave them alone and if you do get bitten by one, seek medical help as soon as possible because their venom is potent. Rattlesnakes diet consists of: _____.

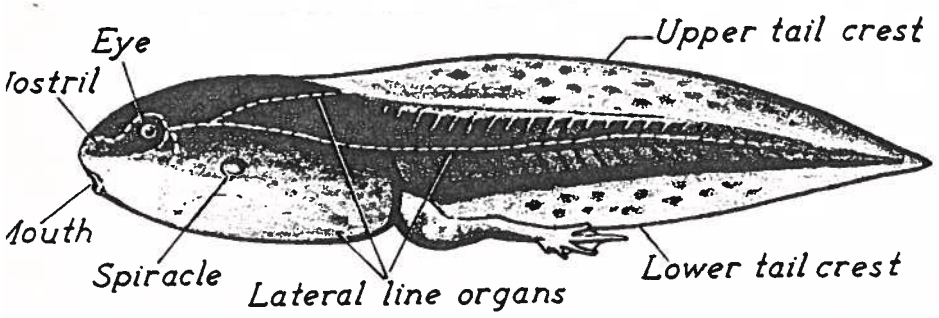


Diagram of a mature frog tadpole

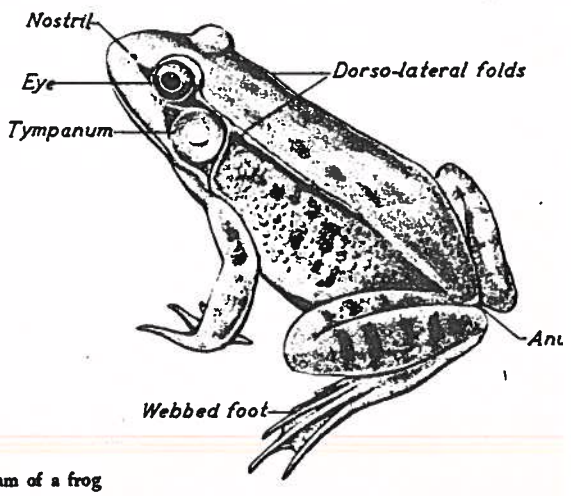


Diagram of a frog

ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS AS A CONSERVATION PROJECT

Attention has been focused recently on the destruction of the Hillman Sand Hills, an Environmentally Significant Designated Area. I would like to make Environmentally Significant Areas our Conservation Project for 1987.

What are some of the things we can lobby the politicians for? How are we going to initiate new efforts to conserve Environmentally Significant Areas?

For some years now the F.O.N. has lobbied for wetland conservation called "Wetlands Awareness Campaign". I suggest we set up an "Environmentally Significant Area Awareness Campaign". I don't think the F.O.N. will object. There is not much difference between wetlands and Environmentally Significant Areas - they are both very important.

In September 1981 a conference was held at the Ryerson Institute in Toronto dealing with Ontario's Wetlands, but other topics concerning conservation were discussed. What we have to do is substitute Environmentally Significant Areas for Wetland.

There was one paper presented by Mr. Russ Powell regarding what should be done to preserve wildlife habitat entitled "Wetlands--The Role of Conservation Authorities". He cited the following:

1. The Trees Act should be changed and put under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Authorities who would regulate cutting of trees. Also for each tree cut, two more must be planted and this should be strictly enforced especially in headwater areas.
2. The Drainage Act should be amended so that no environmentally significant area can be drained unless the person can show it is cost effective. This Act should also be administered by the Conservation Authorities.
3. The Planning Act should be amended so that the Environmentally Significant Areas would be brought under the umbrella of the Act, and designated Provincial Heritage Areas to be administered by the Conservation Authorities.
4. The Conservation Authority Act should be amended to give the Authorities control over The Trees Act and The Drainage Act and authority to administer Provincial Heritage Areas.

If the above changes were made it would make it more difficult to cut trees, drain wetlands and destroy habitat.

A reprint of "Wetlands -- The Role of Conservation Authorities" by Russ Powell is attached for your perusal. Nothing much has changed!!

We have made some advancements in wildlife conservation through the preservation of habitat with the Conservation Authorities Act, but not enough. Some of the Authorities have done a marvellous job, but others have failed miserably because their hands have been tied by local politicians with their sacred cows.

We have taken stock of the present during the last five years. Teams of biologists and environmentalists have roamed this land and identified Environmentally Significant Areas. In November 1985, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Ontario Heritage Foundation and World Wildlife Fund of Canada issued a "Final Report" identifying thirty-six Critical Unprotected Natural Areas. Some of the authorities have also designated areas in their jurisdictions that are Environmentally Significant. Even though these areas have been identified, they are being destroyed at an alarming rate, and the Conservation Authorities are powerless to do anything about it.

At the present time the Honourable Vince Kerrio is reviewing the Conservation Authorities Act and our group must lobby for the above changes. The F.O.N. is also lobbying for the changes as is Wildlife 87.

I repeat, these areas are being destroyed at an alarming rate. We have lost the "Bothwell Woods" and "Thamesville Sand Plains" to the chainsaw. Currently the "Hillman Sand Hills" are being destroyed along with many rare species of plants, some growing nowhere else in Ontario. Sinclair's Bush is also being threatened.

Call or write your local politician NOW and tell him your feelings. The F.O.N. is lobbying at Queen's Park. It is being discussed at Question Period today. WE HAVE TO PUT THE HEAT ON LOCALLY.

If we can all get together maybe we can get some action from the politicians. It is no use preaching to the converted, we have to get to the unconverted.

--Robert G. Hawker

WETLANDS — THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Russ Powell
Conservation Authority Chairman's Committee

The preservation of wetlands in southern Ontario will not be accomplished unless Conservation Authorities insure, directly or through persuasion of other agencies, that the following things happen.

1. A proper inventory and classification of wetlands is undertaken with priorities assigned for preservation and, if necessary, acquisition.

2. There is a recognition of the fact that wetland preservation runs counter to many of our society's basic policies.

3. Existing legislation which could protect wetlands, or which could be administered in a less detrimental manner, is made to function in a more effective manner.

4. Acquisition programs are accelerated and management programs are begun.

Inventory, Classification and Priorities

The technology to classify, inventory and priorize wetlands exists - as it has for many years. The political and bureaucratic will to implement this technology does not exist - as it has not existed for many years. The only problem we have with a wetlands inventory is that no such creature exists. After 35 years of wringing our hands, one inescapable conclusion emerges no one in this province has the commitment to undertake an inventory and classification of Ontario wetlands. The logical agency to implement such a task - the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources - has historically preferred to produce learned documents on the problem than to have to deal with it. The situation should occasion no surprise from a Ministry which often seems more concerned with the process than the product. Staff committees meet in suburban hotels while the bulldozers and backhoes accomplish their inevitable end. The ultimate irony may occur, if and when the MNR inventory system finally emerges, only to find few wetlands exist worthy of recording.

At the risk of being termed cynical, may I suggest the recently released MNR Discussion Paper entitled "Towards a Wetlands Policy for Ontario" will be characterized by the following treatment.

1. Expressions of support by those special interest groups who are already "born again" wetland preservationists.

2. Deafening silence from those special interest groups which benefit from the elimination of wetlands. They will hold their fire unless the Ministry actually appears to be going to do something, rather than simply talk to the converted.

3. Equally deafening silence from the general public.

4. The provincial civil service will rise to the ultimate challenge: more studies. Task forces will convene from all directions; inter-governmental, inter-ministerial and intra-ministerial. Following a suitable period of incest, they will give birth to committees, sub-committees, study groups, and reports indecipherable to mortals trained only in the Queen's English. The best inventory system, who should be in charge, development of planning, technical, financial and administrative guidelines, goals and objectives, the need for public participation, program priorities. Glorious stuff. The debate will be furious; we'll all be so involved. Years will pass.

5. Conservation Authorities will continue to quietly buy up wetlands.

Sacred Cows, Sacred Swamps and Other Matters

There is an unfortunate presumption - Galbraith's biological equivalent of the "conventional wisdom" - that there is no such thing as a bad wetland. In actual fact, many Ontario wetlands, particularly the smaller units, might well serve a more useful purpose in some other occupation. Or they might not. I think we should at least keep an open mind on the subject. There is nothing inherently wrong with draining a wetland - like the families you marry into, it's all relative.

We should recognize that not all sacred cows have four feet - some resemble Black Spruce trees in a mat of Sphagnum Moss. Their elimination is not necessarily the end of the world - it may well be the logical consequence of our society's values. You cannot negate those values unless you are prepared to address the presumptions on which they are based.

No farmer, forced to the wall by today's beef prices and interest rates, is going to lay awake very many nights over the clearing of the last 10 acres of wetland on the family farm.

The prospect of feeding future generations tends to be subordinated to the feeding of the present one. The Canadian policy of cheap food, regardless of the consequences, insures the conversion of land unsuitable for agriculture - wetlands included. What we must recognize is that the fault lies not with the farmer - it lies with the economic situation within which our political leaders have dictated the farmer must exist.

Finally we must deal with the mentality - and I use that word advisedly - of the professional planners in this country. That mentality views all lands that are not currently developed for residential, commerical, industrial or related urban purposes as being on hold pending their ultimate conversion. That any part of this country might remain rural, or natural, in perpetuity, is a concept with which many of our planners are congenitally incapable of coping.

Conservation Authorities are our first line of defence against the conversion of wetlands to other uses. That defence must, however, be tempered by a realization of three abiding rules.

1. Not all wetlands are worth saving.

2. The economics of Canadian agriculture encourage the use of land unsuitable for that purpose.

3. The land-use planning process is almost totally urban oriented. Wetlands are "undeveloped" - they thus are, by definition, anathema to our planners.

Legislation

There are four (4) pieces of legislation which could, should, or would, guarantee the preservation of our wetlands; these are discussed in turn.

1. The Trees Act

This is probably the most singularly useless piece of legislation ever enacted by the province of Ontario. It has the intent of preventing the clearing of forest lands - which probably cover at least 75% of our wetlands. It has its administration entrusted to the very people who benefit most from its violation - rural county council politicians. Do not look to any relief from this Act, or the people who administer it - even when enforced, the fines it prescribes constitute nothing more than a licence for your bulldozer.

2. The Conservation Authorities Act

Section 27(1) states that:

"Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, an Authority may make regulations applicable in the area under its jurisdiction,

(a) restricting and regulating the use of water in or from rivers, streams, inland lakes, ponds, swamps, and natural or artificially constructed depressions in rivers or streams;

(e) prohibiting or regulating or requiring the permission of the Authority for the construction of any building or structure in or on a pond or swamp or in any area susceptible to flooding during a regional storm, and defining regional storms for the purposes of such regulations;

(f) prohibiting or regulating or requiring the permission of the authority for the placing or dumping of fill of any kind in any defined part of the area over which the Authority has jurisdiction in which in the opinion of the authority the control of flooding or pollution or the conservation of land may be affected by the placing or dumping of fill."

A Conservation Authority can effectively stop any undesirable activity in a swamp except drainage or clearing. But if you can't stop drainage and clearing, to what end does fighting severances, fill and building permits take us?

3. The Drainage Act

The following provisions in this Act are instructive, albeit inoperative.

"6. (1) Upon receipt of a notice from the initiating municipality under subsection 1 of section 5, a local municipality, Conservation Authority or the Minister of Natural Resources,as the case may be, may send to the council of the initiating municipality within thirty days a notice that an environmental appraisal of the effects of the drainage works on the area is required, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the party who requested it.

7. (2) The council of the initiating municipality may obtain a benefit cost statement on its own ititiative, the cost of which shall be paid by the municipality from its general funds."

Contrary to virtually every other environmentally significant public activity in Ontario, drainage remains an especially sacred, and well-protected cow. The proponent has no responsibility to determine if the project is environmentally or financially sound; only the opponent can be assessed the costs. Nor should any help be expected from the drainage engineering profession; the larger the drain and the more frequent the need for its reconstruction, the larger the fee. Inefficiency brings its own rewards. Obviously any Conservation Authority is reluctant to request an environmental appraisal where it has no control over the direction of said appraisal or of the costs of same which it must absorb.

4. The Planning Act

The Planning Act remains the only generally accepted piece of land-use legislation in Ontario. If we really want to save our wetlands, we must act, at the local level, through the Planning Act.

Wetlands, if worth saving, should be so identified as policies in the official plan and appropriately zoned in the restricted area by-law. Conversion to other uses would then require public debate and approval of the Ontario Municipal Board. Conservation Authorities, if they are really serious about preserving our significant wetlands, are in the best possible position to influence that preservation via the Planning Act. Planning Boards, and even, on occasion, planners, listen to local people who have credibility on an issue. There is no justification for Conservation Authorities that ignore this avenue, only excuses.

Acquisition and Management

At the end of 1980, the 39 Conservation Authorities had paid $1,737,870 in taxes on 271,820 acres of land; lands exempt from property taxes under municipal agreement probably bring total holdings to the area of 300,000 acres. Many of these holdings are wetlands, although no inventory exists of acreages or classes of wetlands or of the degree of management.

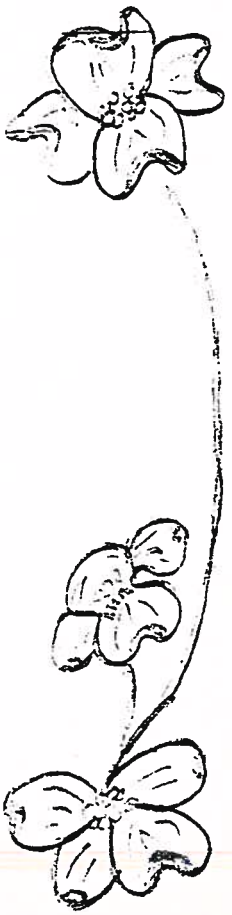
Conservation Authorities have unquestionably been the single largest purchaser of Ontario wetlands in the past 30 years. In the absence of any provincial policies or, for many years, even federal ones, individual Authorities have developed their own geared to local needs. Wetlands are purchased because the money is available or someone makes a donation or a property comes up for sale or simply on the theory that there is no such thing as a bad wetland. I find this a perfectly logical way of getting things done but recognize that it tends to put provincial policy analysts off their feed.

The system isn't perfect - no one denies a province-wide policy on wetlands preservation, acquisition and management is badly needed. But until it comes, life goes on and so will protection and acquisition by Conservation Authorities to the best of their abilities. It may not be a very tidy system - it hasn't been for 30 years - but there would be a lot less wetlands in Ontario today if the Authorities hadn't gone ahead on their own.

LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD

An old and beautiful legend has it that at the time of the Crucifixion the dogwood was comparable in size to the oak tree and other monarchs of the forest. Because of its firmness and strength it was selected as the timber for the cross. But to be put to such a cruel use greatly distressed the tree.

Sensing this, the Crucified Jesus in his gentle pity for the sorrow and suffering of all said to it, "Because of your sorrow and pity for My sufferings never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a gibbet. Henceforth it will be slender, bent and twisted and its blossoms will be in the form of a cross--two long and two short petals. In the centre of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints--brown with rust and stained with red--and in the centre of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see this will remember."



Focus on Flowering Dogwood with Bill Langlois---May 9th.

POINT PELEE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1986

On Monday, December 22, 1986 the 35th Point Pelee Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held. A record thirty-five (35) observers in fourteen (14) parties and two (2) observers at feeders participated. After last year's record high species total who would have expected another new record! The hard working CBC'ers tallied a remarkable 93 species shattering last year's mark by five (5) species! In addition, all time Pelee record high CBC counts were set or tied for 30 species! Three new species were added to the count list: Sandhill Crane, Merlin and Ring-necked Duck. Other exceptional finds included Tree Swallow (2nd record) and Eastern Phoebe (3rd record). There were also many other unusual species which the list below details.

Legend: * Record High Count ** Ties Record High Count **Merlin**-new count species

Common Loon	3*
Great Blue Heron	13*
Tundra Swan	2
Canada Goose	604*
American Black Duck	9
Mallard	96
Gadwall	4*
American Wigeon	1**
Redhead	6*
Ring-necked Duck	3
Greater Scaup	1
Scaup (sp.)	2
Oldsquaw	2
Common Goldeneye	184
Bufflehead	27
Hooded Merganser	7
Common Merganser	2085
Red-breasted Merganser	4834*
Ruddy Duck	1
Bald Eagle	1(adult)
Northern Harrier	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4
Cooper's Hawk	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Red-tailed Hawk	15
Rough-legged Hawk	2
American Kestrel	18*
Merlin	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	23
Virginia Rail	1
Sandhill Crane	1
Bonaparte's Gull	4050
Ring-billed Gull	2610
Herring Gull	2390
Great Black-backed Gull	191*
Rock Dove	185*
Mourning Dove	309*
Eastern Screech-Owl	4
Great Horned Owl	15**
Snowy Owl	1
Long-eared Owl	4
Short-eared owl	2**
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3*
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2
Downy Woodpecker	141*
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Northern Flicker	41
Eastern Phoebe	1**
Horned Lark	158
Tree Swallow	1
Blue Jay	94*
American Crow	2758
Black-capped Chickadee	567*
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	12
Brown Creeper	93
Carolina Wren	6
Winter Wren	8
Marsh Wren	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	102
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7
Eastern Bluebird	6
Hermit Thrush	6
American Robin	17
Brown Thrasher	1
Cedar Waxwing	65
Northern Shrike	2
European Starling	2457*
Yellow-rumped Warbler	12
Common Yellowthroat	1
Northern Cardinal	209
Rufous-sided Towhee	3
American Tree Sparrow	1008
Chipping Sparrow	2**
Field Sparrow	31
Savannah Sparrow	1**
Song Sparrow	169
Swamp Sparrow	204*
White-throated Sparrow	155*
White-crowned Sparrow	48
Dark-eyed Junco	386
Snow Bunting	4
Red-winged Blackbird	3600
Rusty Blackbird	14
Common Grackle	428**
Brown-headed Cowbird	483
Purple Finch	9
House Finch	292*
Common Redpoll	5
Pine Siskin	30
American Goldfinch	196
Evening Grosbeak	9
House Sparrow	1248

Total Species: 93 Total Individuals: 32,828

After the CBC observers met at the Visitor Centre for a dinner generously provided by the Friends of Point Pelee. Thank you to Lea Martell for orchestrating the meal and for the FOPP's continued support of the Point Pelee CBC. Last but not least thank you to all the participants who worked very hard to produce such excellent results. They were:

Dick Benoit, Marilyn Boissonneault, Peter Bondy, Wilf Botham, Keith Burk, Norm Chesterfield, Steve Dickson, Brian Eaton, Gladys Fisher, Deb Gorman Smith, G. Tom Hince (compiler-PPNP, R.R. 1, Leamington, Ont. N8H 3V4), Mark Jennings, Brendon Larson, Jeff Larson, Betty Learmouth, Chris Lemieux, Jim McAllister, John McLean, Dave Martin, Alan Merritt, Janice Miller, Mike Oldham, Karl Overman, Steve Pike, Paul Pratt, John Ralston, Pete Read, Brian Rennie, Ron Ridout, Dennis Rupert, Dale Smith, Ross Snider, Marion Thorpe, Jim Watson, Pat Watson, Don Wilkes, Alan Wormington.

Thanks again!! See you in 1987.

HOLIDAY BEACH HAWK WATCH - THE THIRTEENTH SEASON - 1986

Since the fall of 1974 the Hawk Watch at Holiday Beach Provincial Park near Amherstburg, Ontario has evolved into one of the premier hawk watching sites in North America. This year alone over 80,000 hawks were counted flying past the park, which brings the thirteen seasons total to over 800,000!

This season, which began in late August and ran until the end of November, was the third most successful in total of hawks counted. The highest number of hawks of six species were recorded this season: Turkey Vultures numbered 10239; Bald Eagles 41; Cooper's Hawks 761; American Kestrels 4442; Merlins 32; Peregrines 22.

HAWK COUNT DATA TABLE HOLIDAY BEACH FALL 1986

SPECIES	TOTAL
TURKEY VULTURES	10239
OSPREYS	99
BALD EAGLES	41
NORTHERN HARRIERS	978
SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS	16135
COOPER'S HAWKS	761
NORTHERN GOSHAWKS	37
RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS	777
BROAD-WINGED HAWKS	43251
RED-TAILED HAWKS	6762
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS	160
GOLDEN EAGLES	36
AMERICAN KESTRELS	4442
MERLINS	32
PEREGRINE FALCONS	22
UNIDENTIFIED HAWKS	363
TOTAL HAWKS	84135

This environmental project can only succeed due to the dedication from a group of volunteers who this past season covered the site for ninety-six days. Esther Cusick and Audrey Weir who have been with the hawk watch since its inception have searched the skies for over 1200 hours, and again this year were rewarded with the big Broad-winged day of over 38,000 hawks. Allen Chartier completed his tenth season, Brian Eaton his sixth season, Mike Kielb and Laurie Yorke their fifth fall. Will Weber, Carl Siebert, Joanne McIntyre, Freeman Davis and Tom Hince also contributed weekly observations for the second season.

--Dick Benoit

SOCIETY'S SCENARIO

Some things never change. This platitude is unfortunately accurate when the issue of environmental pollution is investigated. Society continues to destroy our habitat. Not only do we annihilate precious land with tractors, steam-rollers and bulldozers but we contaminate nature's resources with pollutants and litter. The thoughtless act of dropping our garbage on a park's lawn is common; however, as we stand there spilling our candy wrappers and pop cans, we examine in horror the building being constructed across the street where a pond had previously existed. The hypocracy of people!

Point Pelee is an ideal place for a family outing. Year after year, hundreds if not thousands of people, gravitate to this park for a day of "healthy, clean family fun." They pack up their lunches, refreshments and suntan oil, head out to "The Point" and simply enjoy. Essex County is not blessed with a tremendous amount of recreation spots; consequently, this beach is used during the summer months by many zealous beach lovers. Perhaps the biggest beach lovers of all are the children who look forward to their family outings. Point Pelee is large enough and has a plentiful supply of sand. This allows these children to build castles and maybe even lose their parents for a few hours. If lucky, they can take a dip in the water. On a good day the smell isn't too bad and if they don't drink too much of the lake they're likely to remain healthy.

Sundays are usually the perfect opportunity for families to be together. The day starts off early but the fun usually begins after lunch when the barbecued hamburgers or cold Kentucky Fried Chicken has been devoured and mom or dad wraps up the debris and disposes of it. Sometimes it even ends up in a receptacle if one is nearby. "Why walk the extra twenty feet to the nearest garbage can. It's my day off. There's gotta be some kid who gets paid $3.50 an hour to do this. Why take his job away from him?" says dad, perfectly content with his explanation for leaving his chip bag on the sand.

Apr. 26 - Film festival : Celebrating the year of Wildlife
2 p.m. at Hillman Marsh
Call E.R.C.A. for details

26 - "Sun" Flowers of Early Spring (Photography)
Field Trip - 1:00 p.m.

29 - E.C.F.N.C. Board Meeting

May 2 - Birding for Beginners Field Trip

3 - Spring at Ojibway
Open House : 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

9 - E.C.F.N.C. Field Trip
Photo field trip to Cedar Creek with Bill Langlois
Emphasis on the Flowering Dogwood.
Call Hotline for details

9 - Ojibway's Spring Bird Migration Field Trip

10 - Wildflower walk
Meet at Cedar Creek Conservation Area for a walk at Arner Point
2:00 p.m.
Call E.R.C.A. for details

10 - Birding for Beginners Field Trip

13 - E.C.F.N.C. Monthly Meeting
Marlborough C.C. - 7:30 p.m.
Speaker : John Ambrose
Topic : Carolinian Canada

16, 17 & 18 - E.C.F.N.C. Field Trip
Weekend trip to Camp Mahngotase in Northern Michigan
Leader : Jim McAllister
Call Hotline for details

22 & 24 - Annual meeting of the Ontario Field Botanists
Call Ojibway N.C. for details
A special weekend of activities is planned

26 - Plants and people
Ojibway N.C. - 7:30 p.m.

27 - E.C.F.N.C. Board Meeting

29, 30 & 31 - Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual General Meeting and Conference
Hosts : Norfolk Field Naturalists in Port Dover, Norfolk County

30 - Plants and People Field Trip - 1:00 p.m.

June 2 - Things that Go Bump in the Night
Ojibway N.C. Field Programme at Cedar Creek - 9:00 p.m.

7 - Canard River Canoe Race
Call E.R.C.A. for details

10 - E.C.F.N.C. Monthly Meeting
Marlborough C.C. - 7:30 p.m. Speaker : TBA

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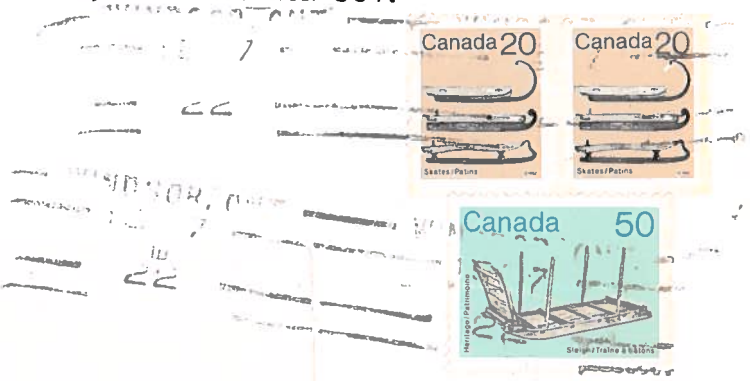
Address correction requested.



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