Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

VOL.4,NO.3
SEPT., 1987

THE EGRET

CONTENTS

PEREGRINE FALCON WATCH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 198

POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

This report is my last one as president and member of the E.C.F.N.C. Board. My resignation was accepted at the June board meeting. I will, however, still be the Club's representative to the F.O.N. Peter Bondy will be president for the remainder of the year, leaving the position of vice-president open at the present time.

By the time this edition of the 'Egret' is dispersed, Arnold and I will be getting settled in Oshawa. It is with a great deal of sadness we leave this area and all the wonderful people we know here, but the anticipation of a new start is very great.

The executive would like to extend our thanks to everyone for helping organize another successful Dinner Meeting. Jo Barten, dinner chairperson, did a terrific job of organizing all the details. Betty Learmouth and Ella Walker are owed a tremendous thanks for writing letters for door prizes. A complete list of acknowledgements will be included in this newsletter and the December's issue.

Our monthly meeting format will be changed slightly in response to the need for more information-discussion periods by the general membership. The beginning of the meeting will see the secretary reading the highlights from the previous general meeting and the previous board meeting. The treasurer will also give a financial report. Following that any old business will be discussed and then a period for discussion on new issues/business. This change in format will permit more input into the direction of the Club by the membership by allowing time for comments discussion and/or criticism.

Enjoy reading another wonderful edition of 'The Egret.'

--Deb Gorman Smith

SOUTHERN ISLANDS

Twenty-one islands lie in the shallow waters of western Lake Erie south of mainland Essex County. Nine of these are Canadian; but, with the exception of Pelee Island, which has regular ferry service, they are nearly as inaccessible and mysterious to the non-nautical naturalist as a Pacific atoll. In size they range from the 4,040 hectare Pelee Island to Chick Island which is only one hundred metres long, during low water periods.

On the islands the naturalist can see, in an undisturbed state, the limestone and dolomite rocks that underlie Essex County. The only mainland outcrop at Amherstburg has been quarried for over a century. The rock is of Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian age and rich in fossils. Crinoids, brachiopods, corals, snails and even the occasional trilobite can be found. In places, evidence of glaciation can be seen in some excellent glacial grooves.

The soils are thin, often just a couple of centimeters deep. In spite of this the vegetation is lush, even rank. This is because the biomass deposited on the islands to eventually decay and enrich the soil comes not only from the island itself but also from the lake. It comes to the islands as driftage and in the feces of the birds that reap the harvest of the surrounding waters.

The richness of flora and fauna is more of less directly proportional to island size. Pelee has about 600 plant species whereas tiny Chick supports only half a dozen or so herbaceous plants, when it is above water.

There are few, if any, permanent large predatory mammals on the islands and this makes them attractive to nesting birds. Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Blue Herons, Herring Gulls, and more rarely Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Double-crested Cormorants, Cattle Egrets, possibly even Yellow-crowned Night-Herons have all been recorded as nesting. The presence of the birds, often in large numbers, somewhat lessens the islands attractiveness to less avid humans. The noise and smells can cause the mind to reel. A hat is an absolute necessity.

The Timber and Massasauga Rattlesnakes are gone now; however, the remaining

species of snake are no less interesting. Pelee is the only island, in fact probably the only place in Canada, with the Blue Racer Snake. It is not our largest reptile, but, at nearly two metres, is still impressive. Eastern Fox Snakes, Lake Erie Water Snakes and the melanistic form of the Common Garter Snake also inhabit the islands. It is curious that the island environment has promoted opposite responses in colouration in the last two species. The Lake Erie Water Snake, given full subspecies status, lacks the dark banding of the Northern Water Snake. Individual snakes can be entirely unmarked - a uniform light grey colour. Conversely the melanistic Garter Snakes are solid black. The explanation of this contrast lies perhaps in habitat preference. The Water Snakes are frequently found on the light grey rocks near the water's edge. In such a situation, dark, strongly marked snakes are more visible to their predators (mainly gulls). Although Garter Snakes are also occasionally found on the rocks, they are more often in the thickets and grassy areas. However, even in such areas the normal striped form seems less visible. On the other hand, the melanistic form, like all black objects, is more efficient at capturing the warming rays of the sun. For a cold-blooded animal living in a climate tempered by the cool lake waters in spring this increase in efficiency likely leads to enhanced breeding and feeding success, and thus tips the balance away from the increased predation the black form must experience.

The islands act as stepping stones for plant and animal species migrating to Lake Erie's north shore. Today they are a refuge for species which have lost their tenuous hold on the mainland such as the Cricket Frog and the Blue Racer. Many visiting botanists have had the pleasure of reporting species new to Canada. For example, the Redbud Tree is listed in our flora from a single specimen found on the west beach of Pelee Island by John Macoun in 1892. It hasn't been seen since and is presumed to have fallen in the lake without reproducing. Perhaps on some island beach another Redbud seed is germinating.

The climate here is decidedly moderated, both daily and yearly, by the surrounding water. The average date of the last spring frost is April 15, in con-

trast with May 10 at Woodslee Weather Station and the first killing frost is around October 30 compared to Woodslee's October 6. When Lake Erie freezes over, however, temperatures can go as low as on the mainland.

If we sail into Lake Erie from the Detroit River the first island we encounter is Middle Sister Island. There are three Sister Islands but they hardly make a natural grouping, being spread over 23 km. of water. Middle Sister, as the name suggests, is centred between American West Sister Island - a U.S. game preserve, and legendary haunt of Simon 'Dirty' Girty, and Canadian East Sister Island. Middle Sister Island is a lovely little island with rocky headlands and gravel beaches. Except for a navigational marker at the north end it shows almost no disturbance despite its historic use as a fishing station. The vegetation is dominated by magnificent specimens of Hackberry with a scattering of other species including Kentucky Coffee-tree. Although one of Canada's rarest trees, the Kentucky Coffee-tree grows on every island large enough to support forest. A colossal Honey-locust near the centre of the island has a Great Blue Heron nest in its top. In early summer Herring Gull chicks scramble down well-worn paths in the lush undergrowth. The gull nests are constucted above the drift line around the islands perimeter.

To those familiar with the turbid water near the shore of Lake Erie, the clarity of the island water comes as a pleasant surprise likely to evoke memories of more pristine environments on the upper lakes of Huron and Superior.

Twelve kilometres east-southeast lies East Sister Island with North Harbour Island just above. North Harbour is really an islet of a hectare of so, once covered by Hackberry and Maple but now dominated by a large cement mixer. The island's owner has decided to go one-on-one with Lake Erie's record high waters and is fortifying his island with bulwarks of cement. So far the contest is a draw.

East Sister is a low, nearly flat island of dolomite bedrock and cobble beach. A portion of its fifteen hectares have been cleared and farmed in the past but today it is a Provincial Nature Reserve. A swampy area occupies the interior

of the island. Here we again find the Kentucky Coffee-tree, persisting but not entirely happy to get its feet wet in the recent high lake levels. The north-east corner is higher and supports a forest of Hackberry and Black Maple. Under the trees are the few remaining signs of human habitation - just the odd can and bottle or piece of wire fencing. Dense shrub thickets ring much of the rest of the island.

The most notable animals here are nesting herons and gulls. In 1980 there were about five hundred nests of Black-crowned Night Herons, two hundred and twenty-seven of Great Blue Herons, one hundred and eight of Great Egrets and over nine hundred of Herring Gulls. Other nesters recorded are Double-crested Cormorants, Cattle Egrets, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and Bald Eagles.

Continuing east southeast a further 5½ kilometres brings us within a group of islets called the Chicken Islands. Oddly named considering the birds which inhabit them, they do show a fanciful similarity to a hen with her brood. Thus the biggest and uppermost island is called Hen. At a mere two hectares, "biggest" can hardly be called big; still seventy-four plant species were listed for the island in 1948. Some of these such as lilac and hollyhock show the disturbed habitat associated with a recreation club which existed there until recently. The island is forested with the usual mixture of Hackberry, Black and Sugar Maple, Red and Blue Ash, Cottonwood, Chinquapin Oak, American and Red Elm and, of course, Kentucky Coffee-tree.

Two kilometres below Hen lie the islands of Big Chicken, Little Chicken, and Chick. The latter is also called Chicken Reef which gives an indication of its character during periods of high water. Little Chicken is also submerged now although formerly it supported up to eighteen species of plants and Double-crested Cormorants nested here as recently as 1972.

Big Chicken is basically a mass of limestone shingle built on a nucleus of bedrock. During low water periods it had fifteen species of plants including some woody ones, but, by 1981, this number was reduced to three. However, the oldest

of the three Double-crested Cormorant colonies is still found there.

Thirteen kilometres southeast of the Chicken Islands and directly below Pelee Island is Middle Island. In size it also ranks below Pelee Island as the second largest Canadian island. It is the most southerly piece of land under our sovereignty. Ironically, but perhaps appropriately, it is owned by a large U.S. corporation. An executive clubhouse is still standing but it has new occupants. Barn Swallows fly in and out the paneless windows and nest on the convenient ledges provided by picture frames - an almost Gothic image of desolation. The bluegrass lawns have grown to meadows and the airplane runway has become a tangle of dogwood and sumac.

Despite the past disturbance, the island is remarkable for its plants and animals. Two hundred and twenty-nine species of flowering plants have been found on just forty-six hectares. Twenty-four of these are provincially rare. It has both the Lake Erie Water Snake and the melanistic Common Garter Snake. It is note worthy too for colonies of herons and gulls, and is an obvious and documented stepping stone to Point Pelee during bird migration.

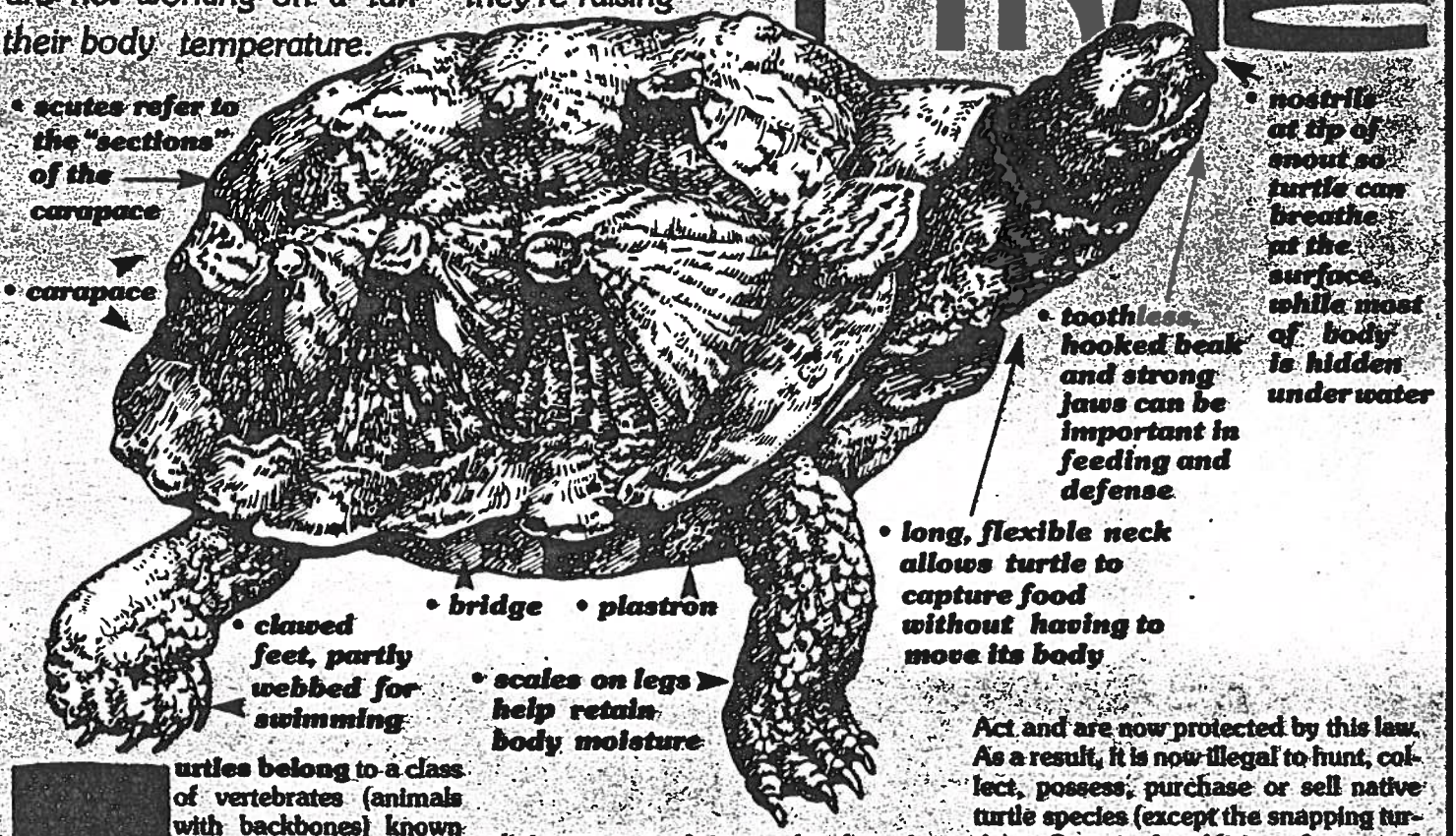
The less disturbed areas are covered with the typical Erie Island forest dominated by Hackberry. Middle Island is solid bedrock except for places along the shore where limestone slabs predominate, and a sand and gravel spit at the west end. It is considered to be the richest in fossils of all the Erie Islands. A twenty-three metre long glacial groove is found on the southeast shore. Oriented to the northeast, the groove indicates the direction of the ice lobe which sculpted the region.

To this point most of the Erie Islands have thrived on management best described as benign neglect. In view of their value to wildlife, a significant portion of which is rare, and their past and future use to science and education, they all deserve a more active programme of protection.

--Gerry Waldron

TURTLE TIME

The "lazy, hazy days of summer" bring out all kinds of sun worshippers - including turtles. Unlike you, however, turtles are not working on a tan - they're raising their body temperature.



Turtles belong to a class of vertebrates (animals with backbones) known as REPTILES. Unlike mammals and birds, reptiles are cold-blooded. This means that they are unable to maintain a constant body temperature and must rely on outside temperatures to warm or cool their bodies. Other characteristics of reptiles include: a covering of scales, shields or plates; toes with claws (except the clawless Leatherback sea turtle and, of course, snakes); and young which are miniature replicas of the adults, unlike amphibians which go through the tadpole stage. In addition to turtles, crocodilians, lizards, snakes and the rare tuatara are also reptiles.

Throughout history, turtles have fascinated, mystified and inspired people of all ages. Some North American Indian tribes believed that before the world, as we know it, was created, a giant turtle floated in a primitive sea with all of the animals living upon its back. According to this legend, earth was built on the foundation of the turtle's back by crayfish, which competed with the beaver and muskrat in a diving contest to bring mud up from the sea bottom to build dry land.

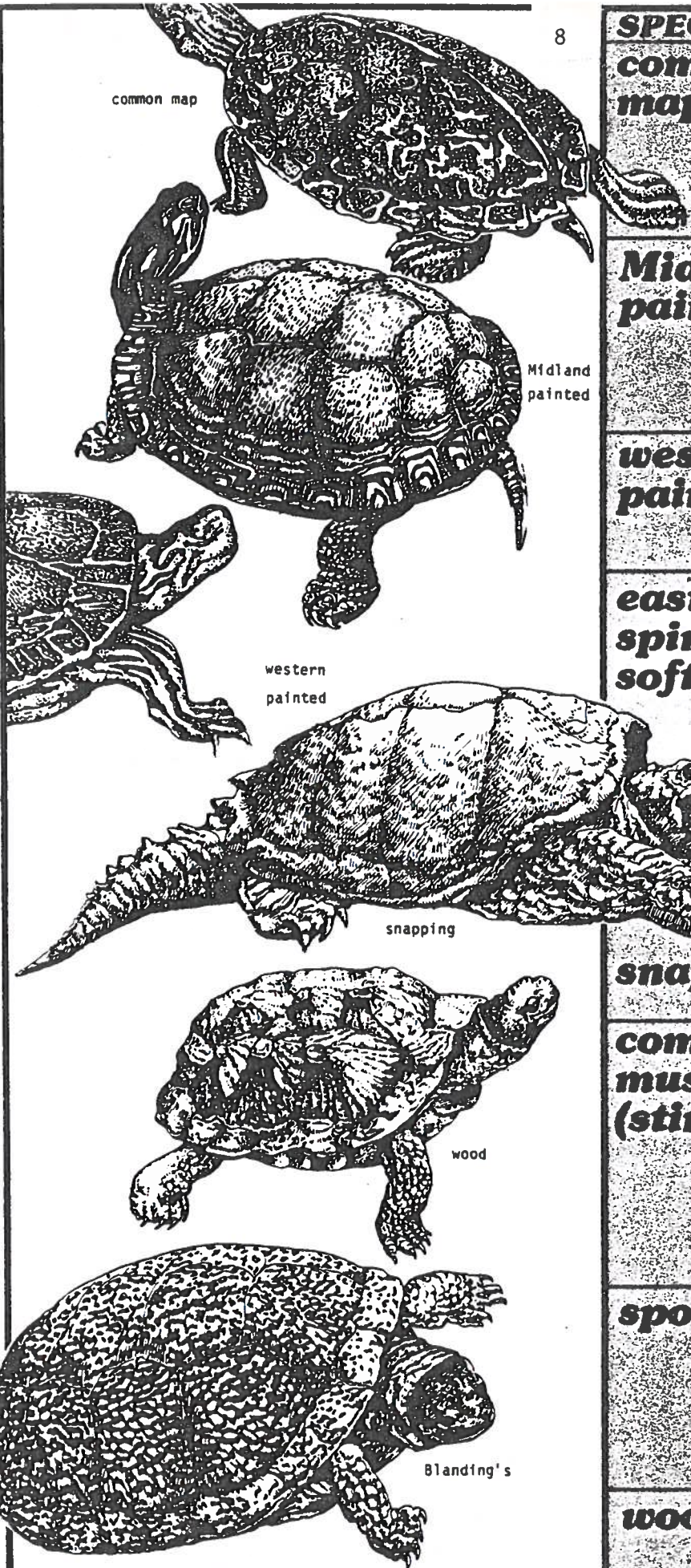
Although Ontario can claim eight different turtle species (and one subspecies), only two species are considered widely distributed: the snapping turtle and the Midland painted turtle. Many of our other species are found in low numbers or in restricted areas of the province, and are therefore not readily seen. Unfortunately, some turtles are suffering a population decline. The three major reasons for these losses are: loss of important wetland habitat for feeding, breeding and maturing sites, pet collectors, and water pollution which can not only directly affect the species, but can also alter its food supply.

What is being done to protect Ontario's turtle populations? A combination of legislation, research and public awareness will hopefully improve the future prospects of these intriguing animals. In June, 1984, eight Ontario turtles (all except the snapping turtle) were listed under the Game and Fish Act and are now protected by this law. As a result, it is now illegal to hunt, collect, possess, purchase or sell native turtle species (except the snapping turtle) in Ontario. In addition, the spotted turtle was designated as rare in Ontario and a status report is currently being updated on the eastern spiny soft-shell turtle. Designation of a species can mean the first step toward protection.

The conservation of key habitats may be vital to the future of several turtle species. Since almost all of Ontario's turtles can be found in the Carolinean forest zone in southwestern Ontario (see map in Summer '85 issue of **Seasons**), protected areas within this zone may be of particular importance. Long Point National Wildlife Area, Rondeau Provincial Park, Point Pelee National Park and the many conservation areas represent the efforts of several jurisdictions to safeguard sections of this rich ecosystem, found nowhere else in Canada.

You can help by supporting the conservation of wetland habitats, reporting your observations of Ontario turtle species (see ***Tracking Turtles*** on back page), and by spreading the word that turtle collecting and trading is now illegal in Ontario.

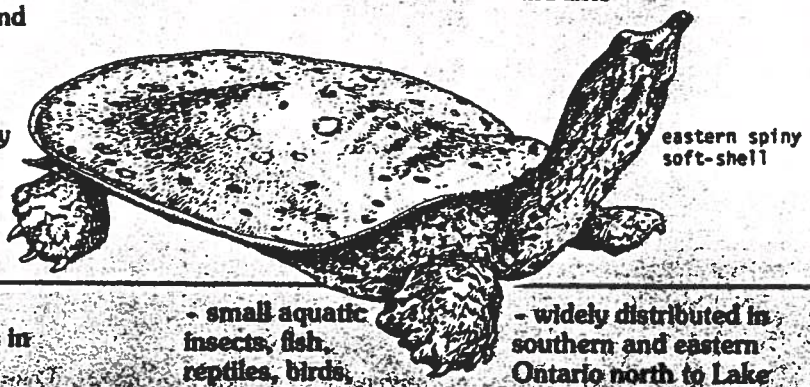
pplement to SEASONS — Summer 1985 THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ont., M3B 2W8 (416) 444-8419



SPECIES	DESCRIPTION
common map	- large, brownish-green turtle with map-like pattern of hill-shaped plat on shell - head, neck and limbs are olive green with longitudinal greenish-yellow lines - greenish-yellow spot behind eye
Midland painted	- smooth, olive to brown shell with red and black margins - plastron yellowish with a dark blotch in cent - head with yellow stripes changing to red further down neck - limbs striped and spotted with red tail with yellow and red stripes
western painted	- largest of the painted turtles - light brown with very little red on edge of carapace - net-like lines on carapace, with ba along margin
eastern spiny soft-shell	- leathery shell without scutes - olive-gray to yellowish, with dark spots (esp. on male) and narrow yellow margin - tiny projections on surface of mal carapace makes shell feel like sandpaper - long neck with pointed snout - dark-boardered yellow line on eac side of snout, through eye, on the neck and on tail - limbs spotted black
snapping	- large size - large head, small plastron - long, saw-toothed tail - colour ranging from black to ligh brown
common musk (stinkpot)	- small size, usually dark brown - looks vaguely like a miniature snapping turtle but with a high, dom smooth shell - two light yellowish lines on head; o below eye, one above, extending on t neck - plastron yellowish - gives off powerful scent when disturbed or handled
spotted	- small, dark brown or black with orangish-yellow spots on carapace - large spot on each side of head above and behind ear, and yellow spots on legs - male has dark brown eyes and da jaws, while female has light orange eyes and yellow jaws
wood	- brownish-gray, sculptured carapa - orange throat and underside
Blanding's	- large, high and convex shell - yellow throat and chin - dark-coloured carapace with

* although the ranges given may appear large, this does not mean that the populations are also large. Many of these species have been sighted in localized areas within the given range, and are not necessarily found continuously across the

HABITAT	FOOD	RANGE/NOTES
- lakes and larger rivers - basks in sun	- mostly snails and clams	- Lakes Erie, Ontario and Huron and Georgian Bay - Ottawa River region
- ponds, marshes, ditches, edges of lakes where water is shallow, thick vegetation, and soft, muddy bottom - often found basking on logs, stumps or rocks	- aquatic vegetation, insects, crayfish, small mollusks and carrion - its success is due in part to its varied diet	- widely distributed in southern Ontario north to the Sault Ste. Marie area
- similar to Midland painted turtle	- aquatic vegetation, insects, crayfish and small mollusks	- from Lake Nipigon, west in Ontario
- prefers rivers, but also occurs in small lakes where sand and mud bars are accessible - in Ontario, inhabits sandy marshes	- mainly crayfish	- southwestern Ontario, along lakes St. Clair and Erie
- fresh-water - rarely basks in the open	- small aquatic insects, fish, reptiles, birds, mammals, carrion and vegetation	- widely distributed in southern and eastern Ontario north to Lake Nipissing
- quiet water in lakes, slow streams, marshes and ponds	- mainly carnivorous (flesh eating)	- southern Ontario from Manitoulin south and east
- small bodies of shallow water - spends much time on land	- insects, snails, crustaceans, earthworms, spiders, frogs, fish and vegetation	- scattered, localized populations in central, eastern, and southwestern Ontario
- in spring and fall - ponds and streams - in summer - meadows and woodlands	- insects, snails, earthworms, fish, berries and leaves	- southwestern Ontario, Muskoka and Sault Ste. Marie districts, Carlton, Halton, Huron, Renfrew and York regions
- shallow marshes and ponds - spends much	- insects, snails, vegetation etc.	- southern Ontario from Manitoulin and Essex Counties east to Ottawa and as far north



Suggested References

The following publications are recommended for turtle enthusiasts of all ages.

Ontario Turtles by Barbara Froom. Dept. of Lands & Forests, Conservation and Information Section. 1971.

A Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America by Robert Conant. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Second Edition, 1975.

Foul and Loathsome Creatures by Harry Parsons. Parks Canada, 1976.

Introduction to Canadian Amphibians and Reptiles by Francis R. Cook. National Museum of Natural Science, Ottawa. 1984.

Other Reptiles Native to Ontario

Snakes

blue racer	ribbon
Lake Erie water	Butler's garter
northern water	milk
fox	red-bellied
hog-nosed	eastern garter
black rat	smooth green
queen	ring-necked
timber rattlesnake	little brown
Massasauga rattlesnake	

Lizards

five-lined skink

Turtle Talk

The term **Herptiles** refers to both amphibians and reptiles.

A **Herpetologist** is someone who studies amphibians and reptiles.

If you'd like to further your interest in turtles, or in herptiles in general, you may like to join the **Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society (CARCS)**. Membership in this national group is $4.50 for all ages, and you will receive an informative newsletter written by people who share your interests. Contact:

Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society
9 Mississauga Road North,
Mississauga, Ontario
L5H 2H5

Tracking Turtles

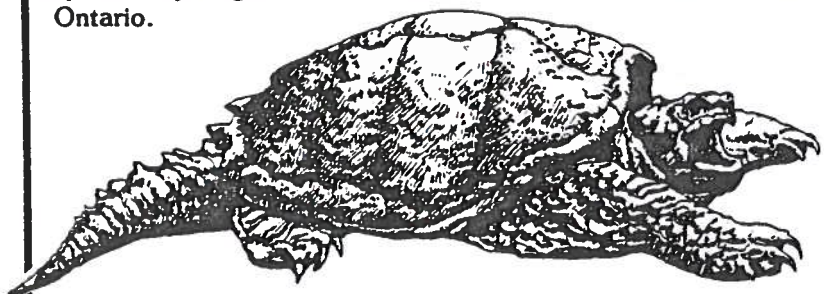
Announcing . . . an opportunity for you to make an important contribution to the research concerning Ontario's turtle populations. Because many of our species are uncommon or localized, it is difficult to find and study them. That's why Dr. Francis Cook, of the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa, would like to hear from you. While you're out enjoying nature, you can also help those who are trying to protect it. If you observe turtles in the wild, take the time to note a few details (see ***Observation Card*** below) and send the information to:

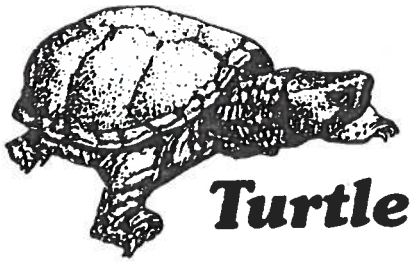
National Museum of Natural Sciences
Herpetology Section
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0M8
c/o Dr. F.R. Cook

The following information is especially needed:

- **time of nesting**
- **time of hatching**
- **observation of hatchlings (young turtles)**
- **sightings and numbers of common musk, spotted, wood, Blanding's, common map, western painted and eastern spiny soft-shell turtles**
- **sightings and numbers of snapping and Midland painted turtles at the northern edge of their range**

The conservation of our wildlife and habitats is everyone's responsibility, so get involved and do your part to help the turtles of Ontario.

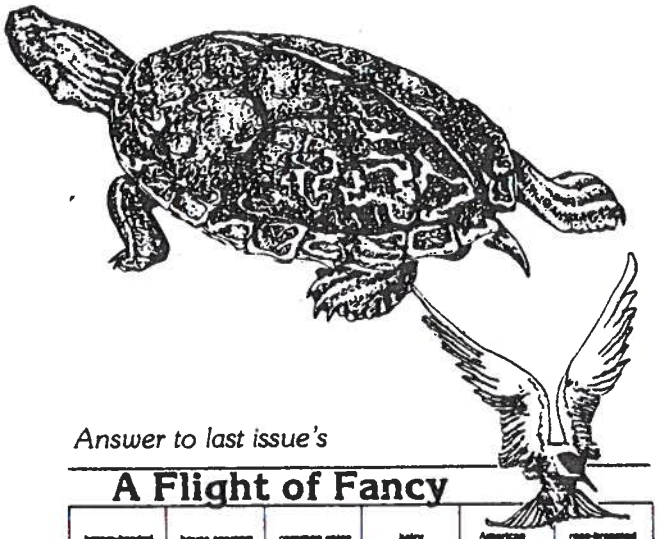




Turtle Treats

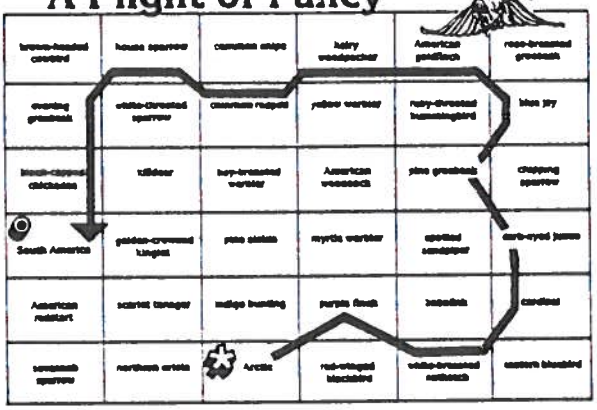
Turtles feed on a variety of plants and animals. Unscramble the following "turtle treats".

frycashi	ihfs
anssil	gsrof
scients	tpnals
crraion	kllosums



Answer to last issue's

A Flight of Fancy



SEASONS' Family Supplement is written by Pamela Hickman. Artwork by Judie Shore

Replica of An Official Observation Card:

Observations only ☐ , **Mark-release** ☐ , **Identified by** _____

Locality _____

County/Dist. _____ **Province** _____ **Country** _____

Date _____ **Time (start)** _____ **dawn** ☐ **day** ☐

Time (finish) _____ **dusk** ☐ **night** ☐

Collector(s) _____

Weather _____

Habitat (vegetation/water type/human impact/temp/topography)

_____

_____

_____

Capture data _____

INSECT TRIVIA !!!

Did you know that . . . . . .

- insects have existed for some 300 million years.
- they are so incredible in their diversity and adaptability, that they have surpassed all other organisms in development.
- there are so many insects today that not more than 1/2 - 2/3 have been named.
- as it stands today, there are some 800,000 species of insects - this makes the insect group larger than all the other animal groups combined.
- a bee can haul a burden 300 times its own weight - this is equivalent to a human pulling three 10 ton trailer trucks at the same time.
- if a human had the same jumping ability of a grasshopper, he could jump 1/3 the length of a football field.
- man has fewer than 800 muscles, grasshoppers have 900 and the caterpillar has more then 4,000.
- if our eyes equalled that of a fly's in proportion to our body, they would extend out as great projections, bigger than our fists.
- the very scent of flowers was not created for our benefit but for the purpose of attracting insects to pollinate them.
- it takes as many as 3,000 cocoons to produce only 1 pound of raw silk.
- the fibres from silk have a tensile strength of about 64,000 lbs./sq. in., nearly as great as steel.
- it takes 40,000-80,000 trips of a honey bee and just as many visits to flowers to find and assemble enough nectar to make a pound of honey - with an everage trip of 1½ miles, this works out to be a distance of twice the distance around the world.
- nectar is collected from a flower and it is then mixed with the saliva, swallowed and stored in the bees crop. The contents are then emptied into hive cells and extra water is then removed by the insect beating its wings for rapid air movement.
- every time bees make $5.00 worth of honey they make $100.00 worth of seeds and fruit.

--Shannon Managhan

THE MARSH IS WHERE IT'S AT!

The Essex Region Conservation Authority has expanded their education programs! As well as the marsh/water studies taught to grade 4's out at Hillman Marsh Interpretive Centre, they have now also erected a portable classroom out at Holiday Beach Conservation Area to teach grade 6's.

Tucked into the woods to offer a more natural setting, the portables' large windows allow the children a view of nothing but nature. Just off to one side, E.R.C.A. has also constructed a boardwalk for a closer look at life in the marsh. Supplied with everything from rubber boots to fishing nets and microscopes, grade 4's and 6's are now learning and having fun at the same time, and why not!

Everyday offers a new adventure. Starting with an outdoor morning hike the children can view first-hand the frogs, snakes, turtles, birds and a multitude of other animals and invertebrates as they live in their own marsh environment. Fun and games end the morning as the children play a touch tag game of "carnivores verses herbivores", designed in a way that children can't help but understand the natural food chain orders.

Grade 4's start their afternoon with an amusing cartoon film that dramatizes the adventures of water in a water cycle, starring Chief, the wise water droplet. The raindrops fall from the clouds and in an entertaining fashion go through everything from dams, to fish gills and purification systems. At one point they are swallowed by a human being and then even take on the beasties and nasties (pollution) for a grand finale. The grade 6's begin their afternoon with an educational slide show on causes and solutions of soil erosion.

For both groups the next activity includes a demonstration around a large stream table. Resembling a shallow tub, sand is used to depict land areas around watercourses, with small play houses and all to give the impression of a populated watershed. Water is actually then jetted out two small spouts in the tub to depict what flood waters could actually do to a community built too close to the water.

The day is finally wrapped up with the carnivore/herbivore game again. However, there is a small alteration from the morning game where play elements such as food and pollution, are used to depict the real life dangers of chemical accumulation in higher carnivores.

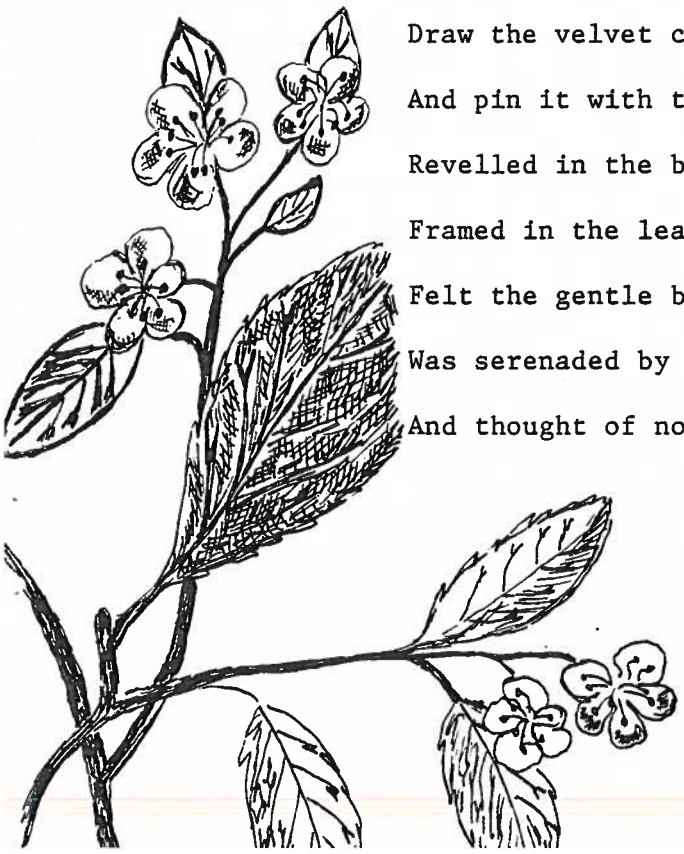
All these activities are designed to help a child become more familiar with the environment and most importantly understand the way organisms interact with each other as well as the essential roles they play in the delicate balance of nature. Understanding is the key to protecting the environment that we all need, whether it's a marsh, woodlot, or soil ecosystem. Learning occurs naturally when you're allowed to explore the real thing.

--Shannon Managhan

Contentment

I stood in my backyard the other evening,
Basking in the afterglow of the sunset.
I had watched the last rays of the setting sun
Draw the velvet curtain of night across the sky,
And pin it with the evening star.
Revelled in the beauty of a waning moon,
Framed in the leafy boughs of a hawthorn tree.
Felt the gentle breeze caress my face,
Was serenaded by a robin,
And thought of nowhere else I'd rather be.

--Marcia Bebbington



ARE YOU ABLE TO TAKE A CALL?

Erie Wildlife Rescue is a group of volunteers in Essex County who are dedicated to the care of wildlife that have been injured or have been separated from caring adults. This organization has become very well-known in our area and the numbers of animals offered to its care has steadily increased.

Volunteers can assist Erie Wildlife Rescue in various capacities. Some volunteers offer their homes as "receiving homes" where wildlife may have a temporary shelter before being moved to another location. Other volunteers specialize in the care of birds, rabbits, raccoons and raptors. And a number of volunteers transport wildlife to the various receiving and treatment homes and to the examination clinic.

If you have a little spare time and wish to assist with the work of Erie Wildlife Rescue, you might consider becoming a volunteer driver. This involves committing yourself to drive during a certain time period weekly, although you may be called upon to drive when other drivers are unavailable. Certainly, a driver for Erie Wildlife does not have a dull time! The following diary describes some of the experiences a volunteer driver might expect. Please read on!

April 18: Near the marsh boardwalk at Point Pelee, several of our birding group noticed two young boys petting a small brown creature. Of course, we had to see the animal they had found. It was an adult muskrat that appeared to have had received injuries in a road accident. We transferred it to a box, and secured the container well for the drive to Nancy's examination clinic.

At the clinic, Nancy carefully moved the muskrat into a receiving cage for evaluation of its injuries.

April 21: This was a scheduled driving evening and the anticipated phone ring came at 5:30 p.m. There was an adult pheasant at the Windsor Humane Society and a baby squirrel at Ruby's receiving home - both to be transported to the examination clinic near McGregor.

At the Humane Society, there was another call regarding a baby squirrel in

LaSalle. Eventually, accompanied by a very active pheasant (would the scotch tape actually hold the box lid in place?) and the two baby squirrels, I arrived at the clinic.

Every available counter space at the clinic held a small cardboard box, electric cords protruding from each box. The day before, fourteen baby squirrels had been received by the clinic and they all had to be kept warm on heating pads. The two new arrivals would join others of the same size.

On the previous Saturday, the Windsor Star had published a lengthy article about Erie Wildlife which certainly appeared to have raised the public's awareness of a wildlife rescue service in Essex County.

April 26: Today, I picked up and transported an injured female Cardinal from Roberta's receiving home, a baby squirrel with eye problems from Lauzon Road, and an injured Mourning Dove from Ruby's receiving home.

April 28: Tonight's driving was fairly uneventful. There was a small sparrow at Julie's receiving home and a Rock Dove at Ruby's home, both to be taken to the examination clinic.

At the clinic, Nancy invited me to see the latest admissions. The new arrivals were six young foxes. Their den, near Harrow, had been destroyed by excavation equipment. The workmen brought the foxes to Nancy, rather than leaving them exposed. It was a difficult decision.

May 5: Tonight was an extremely busy evening with five animals transferred and two visits to the examination clinic.

The animals collected were a baby squirrel from Julie's receiving home, an injured Robin from Howard Avenue, an emaciated Mourning Dove from Ruby's receiving home, a tiny Kildeer chick from Essex and an injured young Cottontail rabbit from Colleen's receiving home in LaSalle.

The baby foxes are growing. Their fur is no longer dark but quite light, and their little noses are pointed!

May 12: This night was not as busy as last week. Picked up an injured adult

Grackle on Lauzon Road and dropped it at Ruby's receiving home and later dropped off a Starling at Julie's home.

Julie and her family are foster parents to two baby racoons. These animals were not well when Julie received them, but they have been nursed back to health and now are beautiful babies.

May 17: Dropped off a donation of supplies at the examination clinic, and had an opportunity to visit the foxes. It was exercise time and they were wandering about the clinic. Now they do look like foxes!

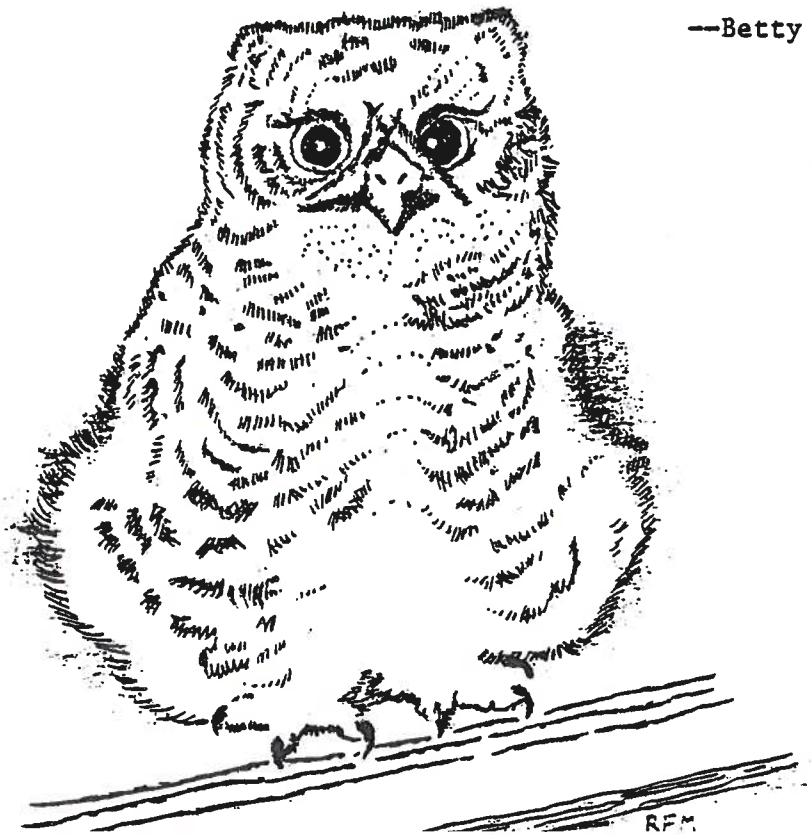
A call for the pickup of a young Screech Owl came while we were visiting the clinic. We drove to Colchester South Township and returned with a beautiful young owl, which will be released once it develops adult plumage.

This juvenile was the first Screech Owl to be brought to Erie Wildlife during 1987. Last year sixteen Screech Owls were given temporary homes.

And so the "driving" continued throughout a very busy spring season.

If you wish to join and support the work of Erie Wildlife, please send your membership fee of $10.00 to - Erie Wildlife Rescue
R.R. #4, Box 72
Amherstburg, Ontario. N9V 2Y9

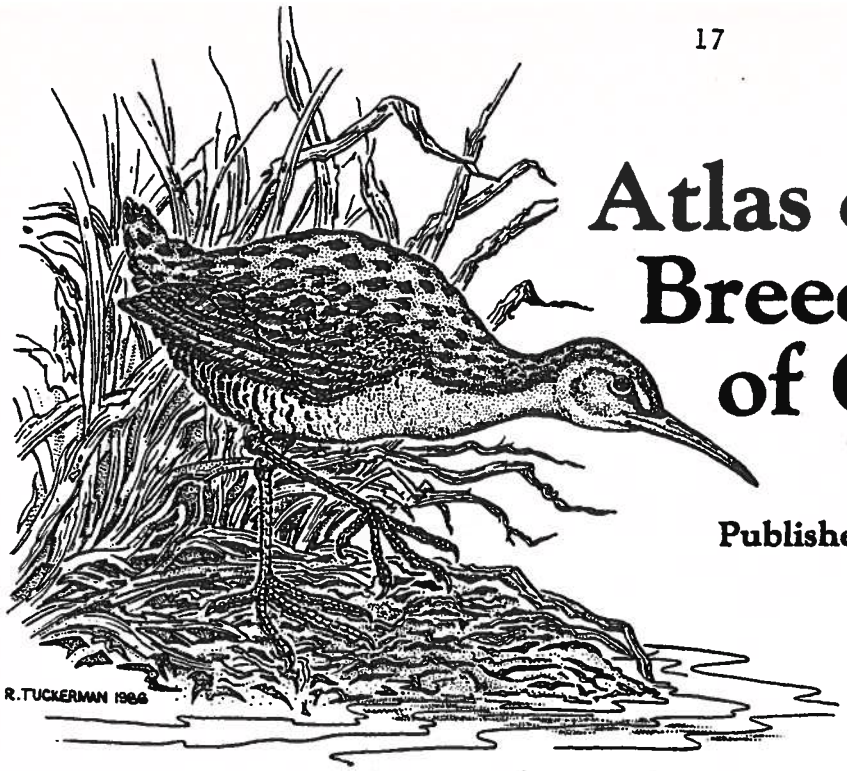
--Betty Learmouth



EASTERN AMERICAN SCREECH OWL *(Otus asio)*, juvenile, from a drawing by Rod MacFadyen.

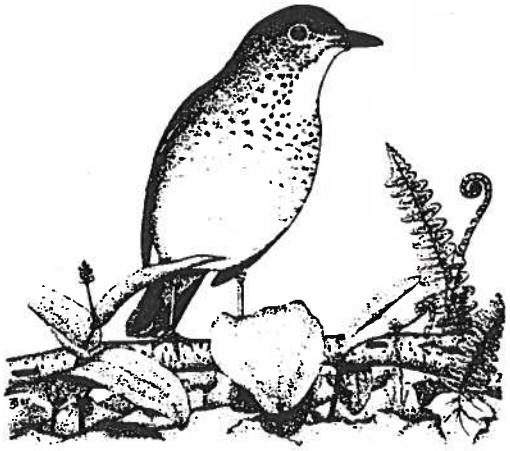
Widespread across the temperate zone of Eastern North America; the only small owl with ear tufts; has yellow eyes, pale beak, feathered legs; plumage grey or reddish; crepuscular; average weight about 175 grams; standing height to 20 cm ; preys on rodents, insects, fish, and frogs.

Support the work of The Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation which operates a centre for the care and breeding of injured owls at R.R. 1 Vineland, Ontario, Canada L0R 2E0.



Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario

Published by University of Waterloo Press



After 5 years and 180,000 hours of fieldwork by Ontario's naturalists, 400,000 field records have been amassed to provide the first up-to-date and comprehensive picture of the distribution of the birds that nest in the province. The results of that outstanding project, sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Long Point Bird Observatory, will be available soon in the **Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario.** This order form can be used to purchase the Atlas.

Ontario is an immense landmass: over 1600 km east to west as traversed by spring hordes of Tundra Swans, and an even greater distance north to south as the Red-throated Loon flies. From the Carolinian forests of the south to the tundra and salt marshes of the Hudson Bay coast a great variety of ecosystems provides breeding habitat for a fascinating diversity of birds.

Only the concerted effort of a network of enthusiastic and knowledgeable naturalists could reveal the secrets of bird distribution and abundance of so large and diverse an area. That effort has resulted in the **Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario** - a landmark in Canadian ornithology, and a benchmark against which all future studies will be compared.

Every naturalist should own a copy of the Atlas: it would make a valued gift. The book will provide perspective for your own observations, helping you to know what to expect anywhere you travel in Ontario. If you find a rarity, you'll know how unusual or significant that sighting is. Take it out and have fun with it - the Atlas is a book that you will use for many years.

What you get

The Atlas will be published in September 1987. The book is over 600 pages long, has a hard cover, and is filled with facts and maps. The dust jacket is illustrated by Robert Bateman. Inside, 292 species are illustrated, and 292 state-of-the-art computer-produced maps are attractively pre-

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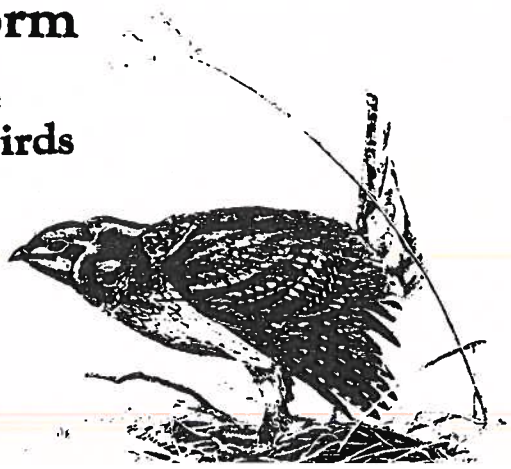
Order Form

Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario



All orders must be accompanied by a cheque or money order payable to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. (Your cancelled cheque or money order stub is your Atlas receipt.)

I enclose a cheque ____ or money order ____ for:

$53.50 for each copy ordered.

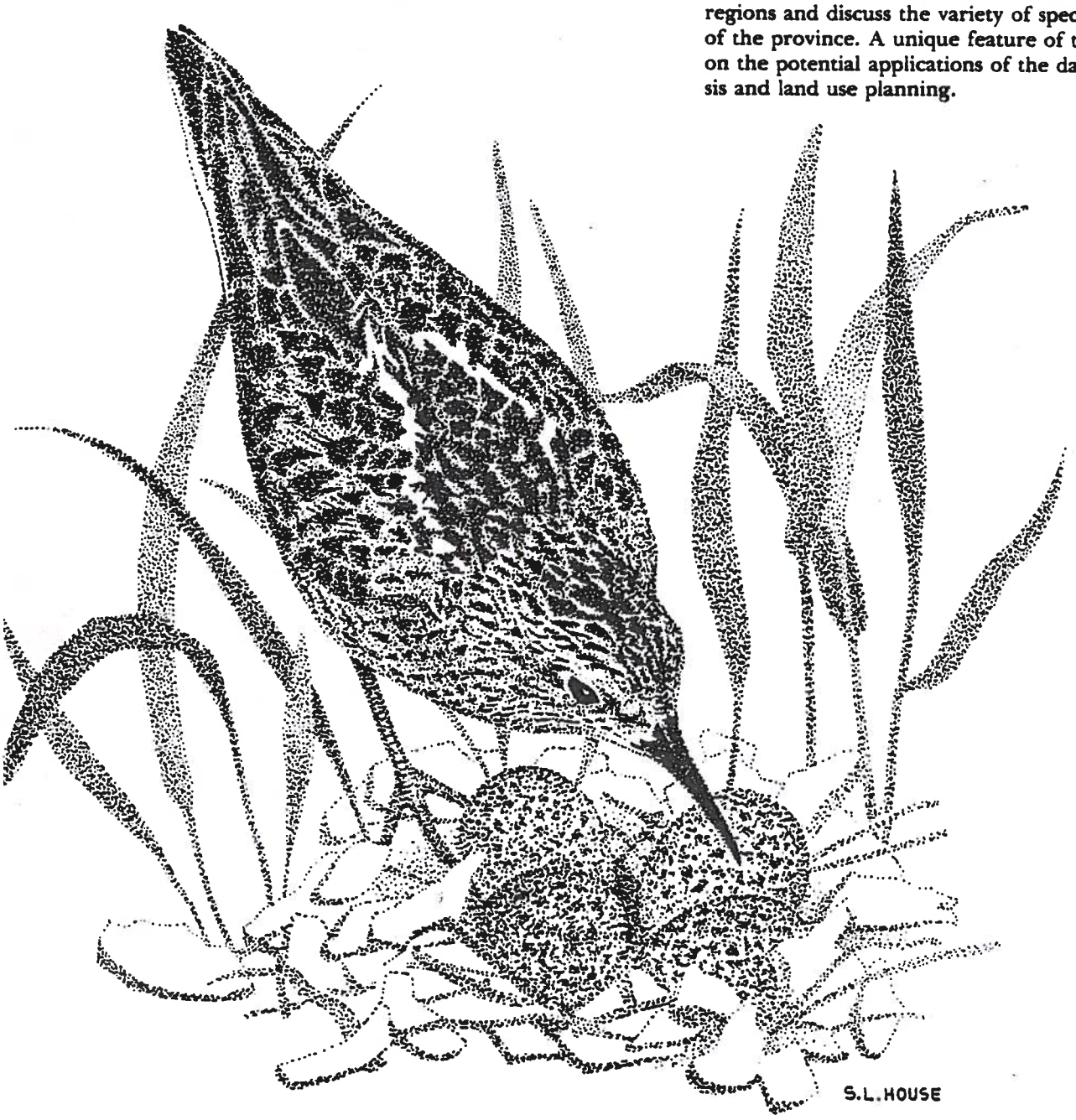
Number of Atlases ordered _____ X $53.50= $_____

For each book ordered outside Canada please remit $53.50 in US fu

printed in two colours for easy interpretation. More than 80 expert ornithologists have written the text. They provide insight into each species' history, status, distribution, abundance and detectability, making the Atlas an invaluable reference. The book is being compiled by Michael D. Cadman, Paul F.J. Eagles and Frederick M. Helleiner.

The names of all those who contributed are listed within - an appropriate tribute to the people whose effort this book represents.

Other sections explain how complete coverage of the province was achieved, introduce Ontario's biogeographical regions and discuss the variety of species in different parts of the province. A unique feature of the atlas is a section on the potential applications of the data to scientific analysis and land use planning.



Please mail this form and your cheque or money order to:
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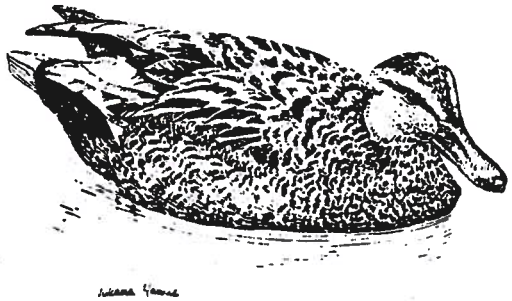
c/o University of Waterloo Press
Dana Porter Library
University of Waterloo
Waterloo ON N2L 3G1



Mail my Atlases to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Code _____

E.C.F.N.C. Dinner Meeting and Auction September 9, 1987

The E.C.F.N.C. wishes to acknowledge the generous donations which the following persons and publishers have made to our dinner meeting. All the contributions are very much appreciated and will ensure the success of our third annual dinner meeting. Other donations will be acknowledged in a later issue.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Glen Loates prints / donated by Anne Barbour

Songs of the Seasons (recording) / donated by Gladys Fisher

SUBSCRIPTION DONATIONS

Two one-year subscriptions to "Birdfinding in Canada" / donated by Gerry Bennett, editor of "Birdfinding in Canada"

One-year subscription to "Ducks Unlimited" / donated by Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

One-year subscription to "International Wildlife" / donated by Canadian Wildlife Federation

One-year subscription to "Landmarks" / donated by Ministry of Natural Resources

One-year subscription to "Nature Canada" / donated by Canadian Nature Federation

Back issues of "Ontario birds" / donated by the Ontario Field Ornithologists

One-year subscription to "Outdoor Canada" / donated by Outdoor Canada Publishing Ltd.

One-year subscription to "Seasons" and membership to F.O.N. / donated by The Federation of Ontario Naturalists

One-year subscription to "Sierra" / donated by "Sierra", San Francisco, California

CALENDAR DONATIONS

Canadian Birds 1988 calendar / donated by Key Porter Books Limited

Canadian Nature Wall Calendar 1988 / donated by Key Porter Books Limited

Weatherwatcher's diary / donated by the National Museum of Natural Sciences

BOOK DONATIONS

All nature sings, by Margaret Clarkson / donated by R. G. Mitchell Family Books Inc.

Bird of life, bird of death : a naturalist's journey through a land of political turmoil, by Jonathan Evan Maslow / donated by General Publishing Co. Limited, Don Mills, Ontario

Birds of North America : a guide to field identification, by Chandler S. Robbins / donated by Whitman Golden Ltd.

City critters : how to live with urban wildlife, by David M. Bird / donated by Eden Press

Dowry of owls, by Larry McKeever / donated by Lester and Orpen Dennys Ltd.

A field guide to the birds east of the Rockies, by Roger T. Peterson / donated by Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.

A guide to animal tracking and behaviour, by Donald Stokes / donated by McClelland and Stewart

A guide to Waterton Lakes National Park, by Heather Pringle / donated by Douglas & McIntyre Ltd.

Handbook of the Canadian Rockies, by Ben Gadd / donated by the author

How to draw and paint fish and game, by Roy Ovington / donated by Prentice-Hall Canada Ltd.

Looking for the wild, by Lyn Hancock / donated by Doubleday Canada Ltd.

Native trees of Canada, by R. C. Hosie / donated by Fitzhenry and Whiteside

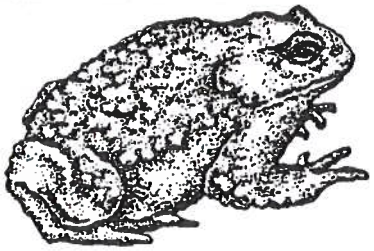
The perfect fishing trip, by Mike Baughman / donated by Prentice-Hall Canada Ltd.

Point Pelee, by William Reynolds / donated by Point Pelee National Park

Walk on the wild side, by Jean Burgess / donated by Friends of Elk Island Society

Wildflowers of Canada, by Tim Fitzharris / donated by Oxford University Press

Wood notes : a companion and guide for birdwatchers, by Richard H. Wood / donated by Prentice-Hall Canada Ltd.



Federation of Ontario Naturalists
Conference '88
at Guelph - May 27-29-1988

ONTARIO CONSERVATION NEWS

THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF ONTARIO 202-74 VICTORIA ST. TORONTO, ONTARIO M5C 2A5 (416) 362-2218

MAY, 1987 VOL. 14, No. 7

BUILDING A STRATEGY FOR NATURAL AREAS

NEW INITIATIVES CONTRIBUTE TO NATURAL AREA PROTECTION

'UNTAXING NATURE' PART OF RURAL TAX CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN BUDGET

The long-awaited tax rebate for natural areas was finally announced in the May 20 provincial budget as part of a package of tax rebates in rural areas.

In general, the government intends to restructure rural area taxation to place the emphasis on residences and other buildings. In so doing, it hopes to remove some of the development pressures on both farmland and natural areas.

The changes, as outlined in the budget, are as follows:

* The farm property rebate will increase from the current 60 per cent of property taxes assessed, to 100 per cent. The rebate will apply to farm land and outbuildings only.

* Farm residences and associated structures, such as garages, will be assessed separately from the farmland and will no longer be eligible for the rebate. The value of one acre of the highest class of farm land on the farm will be added to the farm residence as a site value.

* The overall taxable assessment on the property will remain unchanged, as both components will continue to be assessed as farm property.

* The requirement that 60 per cent of the property taxes be paid before becoming eligible to receive the rebate will be eliminated.

* The Managed Forest Tax Reduction Grants program will also be revised, with the tax rebate increasing from 60 per cent to 100 per cent, beginning with the 1987 taxation year. There will be a maximum rebate of $25,000 per owner. All other aspects of the program remain unchanged. In addition, wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest will become eligible for a similar rebate of taxes.

As it's stated in the budget, Untaxing Nature appears to be an add-on to agricultural and managed woodlot programs.

At the Council Meeting of May 27th, it was noted that the proposal should differentiate between natural and agricultural land. If the tax incentives are the same for farmland as they are for wetlands and other natural areas (100%), then it will fail to provide any tax advantage for natural areas over agriculture.

Another problem the untaxing nature proposal will have to contend with is the increased pressure for development over time. The preservation of natural areas requires a long term commitment, not just an annual rebate on taxes.

...cont'd.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

This issue was addressed at the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, held May 29th at Port Dover. A resolution commending the Ontario Government on untaxing nature was passed which called for:

a) the property tax rebate to be equal to, or greater than existing rebate programs for managed forests and agricultural lands;
b) the rebate to apply to a wide range of heritage land types, including Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Environmentally Significant Areas designated by municipalities and Conservation Authorities, areas protected under the Niagara Escarpment Plan, Class 1, 2, and 3 wetlands, and lands protected by conservation groups or individuals under a formal conservation easement;
c) the inclusion of a long term formal agreement to discourage development in future years.

These and other concerns will hopefully be answered when the Ministry of Natural Resources releases the details of the program in June.

$3.6 MILLION CAROLINIAN CANADA PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The Ontario Government, through the Ministries of Citizenship and Culture and Natural Resources, has allocated $1.8 million for the protection of natural areas in the Carolinian Canada zone. These funds will be matched by Wildlife Habitat Canada ($900,000), The Nature Conservancy of Canada ($750,000), and World Wildlife Fund ($150,000) for a total of $3.6 million.

The Carolinian Canada zone lies south of an imaginary line connecting Grand Bend and Toronto, extending along the north shore of Lake Erie from the Detroit River to the Niagara River. A total of 36 areas have been singled out for preservation, including 26 MNR-designated Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and eight of the province's significant wetland areas.

Under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two ministries, the 36 areas will be protected through a land protection program involving both private stewardship and land acquisition.

Acquisition of designated lands will be considered for only the most significant areas, after all attempts at private stewardship have been exhausted.

Under the private stewardship component, landowners of designated areas will be encouraged to maintain the land in its natural state. This will be achieved through:

* awards for private stewardship;
* a tax rebate program;
* agreements with property owners;
* advice and assistance on land management.

Overall, the program provides a much-needed push for preserving the last remaining stands of Carolinian Canada. The program deserves special credit since it was developed through the cooperation of several organizations, government, and university researchers.

AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: MNR RELEASES ITS IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Ministry of Natural resources has released an implementation strategy for protecting Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs). This strategy is designed to complement the existing Provincial Parks System in protecting provincially significant natural features and landscapes, and provide a framework for the Ministry to work cooperatively with the Natural Heritage League.

The ANSI program has two main thrusts: identification and protection.

Identification: The Parks and Recreational Areas Branch of MNR will maintain a registry for all Provincial Parks an ANSIs. This registry will provide an up-to-date listing of Ontario's provincially significant protected areas and provide a method of measuring the extent to which these areas satisfy Provincial Park protection targets.

ANSIs will be classified as being either 'nominated' or 'protected'.

A Nominated ANSI is one which has been identified and recommended for protection by any government, or nongovernment,

agency or individual. All ANSIs identified by the Ministry in its District Land Use Guidelines are considered to be Nominated ANSIs. If a new proposal is approved for formal designation as a Nominated ANSI, an official amendment will be made to the District Land Use Guidelines.

Protection: MNR will play an active role in protecting provincially significant ANSIs. It will also encourage, but not actively pursue, protection for areas of regional and local significance.

The ANSI program provides for a number of alternatives for protecting Nominated ANSIs:

1. Provincial Nature Reserve: Crown land ANSIs that are of provincial, or greater, significance and which are highly sensitive, threatened, or endangered, may be regulated as nature reserves under The Provincial Parks Act.

   Private Land ANSIs that meet similar criteria may also be regulated as nature reserves. This will normally occur when areas have been acquired and the cost of the acquisition has been shared by the Ministry, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Ontario Heritage Foundation or others. Only the most significant areas will be acquired.
2. Conservation Easements: A legal agreement may be arranged with private landowners (or government agencies) in order to afford total protection or a high degree of partial protection to an ANSI. The type of protection provided will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending upon the character and traditional use of resources and the wishes of the landowner.
3. Management Agreements: These can be either a formal or informal arrangement between the Ministry and a landowner. Participation would be voluntary and not legally binding, but the agreement would attempt to accomplish the same protection as a formal easement.
4. Land Use Designations: A land use designation may be a special policy area, or a formally zoned and managed area that provides varying degrees of protection. The nature of this protection will be determined, and resource conflicts will be resolved, on a case-by-case basis based on the area's significance, sensitivities and traditional uses.

   On Crown land, all provincially significant ANSIs should be officially designated in the Ministry's Land Use Guidelines. A management plan will protect the area's values, while permitting other compatible uses of the areas natural resources.

   On private land, the Ministry will assist conservation authorities, municipalities and other agencies in developing programmes to protect provincially significant ANSIs.

Overall, the Implementation Strategy provides a number of options for promoting natural area conservation. Whether it will provide the momentum required to reverse the current trend of habitat loss remains to be seen. The strategy emphasizes voluntary private stewardship and compatible uses for the resources - both of which are weaker than a strong preservationist stand.

Much of the regulation of land use requires action at the municipal level, or through conservation authorities, and may still involve considerable financial costs.

Taken alone, the ANSI Implementation Strategy is unlikely to solve the problem of dwindling natural habitats, especially in southern Ontario where the development pressures are highest. But it does provide a framework for cooperation between private landowners, conservation groups and government and will likely form an important contribution to the development of a comprehensive conservation strategy for natural areas in Ontario.

STONY SWAMP: A CASE STUDY

In spite of our best efforts to identify and preserve the significant natural areas within the province, it is never difficult to find an example of a prime site being lost to development.

Isolated examples show our successes, but they also point to the gaps in our preservation programs we need to work on.

For example, the Summer 1987 issue of Seasons magazine mentions the loss of 8% of a prime privately-owned Carolinian forest to logging. And through the efforts of a local naturalist club, we learn of a development project slated for the Stony Swamp, located partly in the City of Kanata, near Ottawa.

In a letter to Environment Minister Jim Bradley, the President of the Ottawa Field Naturalists, W. K. Gummer, describes the problem:

"The wetland in question is Stony Swamp: 2000 hectares of this large wetland are owned and managed by the National Capital Commission as the Stony Swamp Conservation Area. However, an important remainder of 400 hectares is in private hands and is slated for residential development with this action beginning almost at once."

"The Stony Swamp has apparently undergone no wetland evaluation, although the National Capital Commission has carried out various natural resource inventories. On the basis of these studies, an assessment by one consultant indicates that the Stony Swamp is at least of regional and perhaps of greater significance."

"Stony Swamp is actually a wetland complex composed of wetlands, natural hardwoods, planted conifers, and abandoned pasture. This combination of vegetation types makes the area highly productive for wildlife. The swamp is also the headwater of five different stream systems."

The Ministry of Natural Resources was consulted when the area was originally designated as a natural area in the City's official plan. However, when the designation was changed to allow for the residential development, the local MNR office was not consulted. Even if MNR had been given the opportunity to comment and present information on regional and provincial natural area requirements, this information would have been in an advisory capacity only.

Environment Minister Jim Bradley, in a letter to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, pointed to similar constraints:

"Wetlands management and conservation in general is the mandate of the Ministry of Natural Resources, but the Ministry of the Environment does comment on official plans and plans of subdivision. The final approval of these plans rests with the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing."

"As you say, the lands in Kanata are presently zoned low density residential. My staff will carefully review any plans of subdivision in order that there will not be any adverse environmental effects on the water courses in the Swamp."

Whether wetland preservation or Carolinian forest, so much of our programs for natural area preservation rests on responsible action on the part of local authorities and individuals. As Stony Swamp demonstrates, this can be a weak link, since the local priorities may differ from the provincial, national, or international concerns.

Addressing this and other such problems is essential if we are to progress from a series of interrelated programs to a coordinated conservation strategy.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Natural Resources Technicians of Ontario
Bruce Trail Association
Canadian Institute of Forestry
Canadian Land Reclamation Association (Ontario Chapter)
Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists (Ontario Chapter)
Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario
Environmental Science Teachers Association of Ontario
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Inc.
Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations
Federation of Ontario Naturalists
The Foundation for Aggregate Studies
Garden Clubs of Ontario
Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario
National Campers and Hikers Association of Ontario
Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association
Ontario Association of Landscape Architects
Ontario Camping Association
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Federation of Labour
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Institute of Agrologists
Ontario Medical Association
Ontario Professional Foresters Association
Ontario Professional Planners Institute
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Ontario Workers' Occupational Safety and Health Centre
Quetico Foundation
Sierra Club of Ontario
Soil Conservation Society of America (Ontario)
Wilderness Canoe Association
Wildlands League

The Conservation Council of Ontario is a Provincial association of major organizations sharing a common interest in conservation and environmental protection.

OCN is published 11 times each year. Annual Subscription $20.00. ISSN 0383-6479
Editor: Chris Winter

TERN SURVEY, 1987

Quick Facts For Tern Surveyors At Point Pelee National Park

* Terns are birds that are found worldwide. The sub-family of terns, Sterninae, has forty-two species. We regularly observe three of these species in Essex County.

* Terns are graceful, adept flyers found chiefly along coastal and offshore waters, rivers and inland marshes.

* The wings of terns are long and pointed, and generally the tails of these birds are also long and forked.

* Many tern species have a plumage that is white, gray and black with a dark head cap that becomes reduced in size outside the breeding season.

* Most terns are long-lived and generally pair for life.

* Tern surveyors may expect to observe the Caspian Tern, a large tern that is cosmopolitan in its range about the earth. The Caspian Tern nests in various locations around the Great Lakes including the Georgian Bay area. This species winters in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean and the West Indies.

* The Forster's Tern is another tern species that census takers will observe. It breeds in inland marshes such as the Lake Saint Clair marshes, and it winters from Virginia in southern Florida and along the gulf of Mexico from western Florida to Mexico.

* The Black Tern is an attractive tern that census takers are likely to observe. Its distinctive dark plumage and its smaller size are diagnostic for identification. The breeding habitat is mainly interior marshes. This species has successfully bred in the Point Pelee marsh and various sewage lagoons in Essex county. This delightful little tern winters coastally in northern and western South America.

* Terns seek isolated locations for breeding purposes and this resource is becoming more and more rare as man's activities in wetlands and along coastlines encroach upon tern breeding locations. Some species of terns have been severely reduced in numbers by man's activities whereas other species are maintaining numbers.

***** ***** *****

* Consider volunteering a few hours of your time to contribute to the census taking of terns at Point Pelee N.P. during the early Fall of 1987. Contact Cathy Barrett at Point Pelee for more information.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Hotline	252-BIRD
E.R.C.A.	776-5209
Ojibway	966-5852
Point Pelee	322-2365

Sept. 3 - Fall Bird Migration Course
Ojibway Nature Centre
7:30 p.m.

5 - Fall Bird Migration Field Trip

9 - Annual Dinner Meeting

10 - Wildlife Around Us Course
(35 species of mammals in Essex County)
Ojibway Nature Centre
7:30 p.m.

11, 12 - Hawk Watch
Holiday Beach C.A.

15 - Fall Wildflowers Course
Ojibway Nature Centre
7:30 p.m.

17 - Wildlife Around Us Field Trip
Ojibway Nature Centre
7:30 p.m.

18 - Owl Prowl
Maidstone C.A.
8:00 p.m.

19 - Fall Bird Migration Field Trip

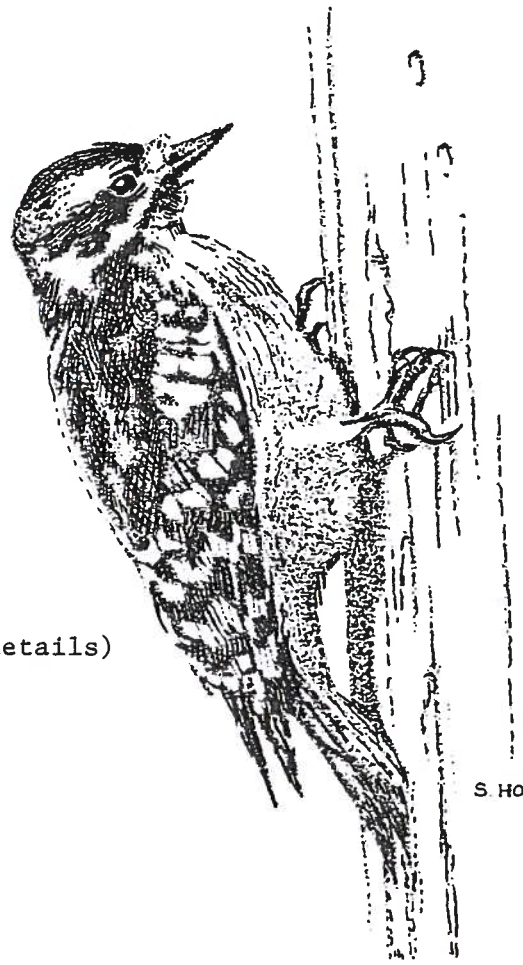
20 - Fall Wildflowers Field Trip
1:00 p.m.

26 - Peregrine Falcon Festival
Point Pelee National Park
Peregrine Falcon "Watch"
Guest speaker, films
(call 322-2367, extension 206 for details)

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

Oct. 3 - Fall Bird Migration Field Trip

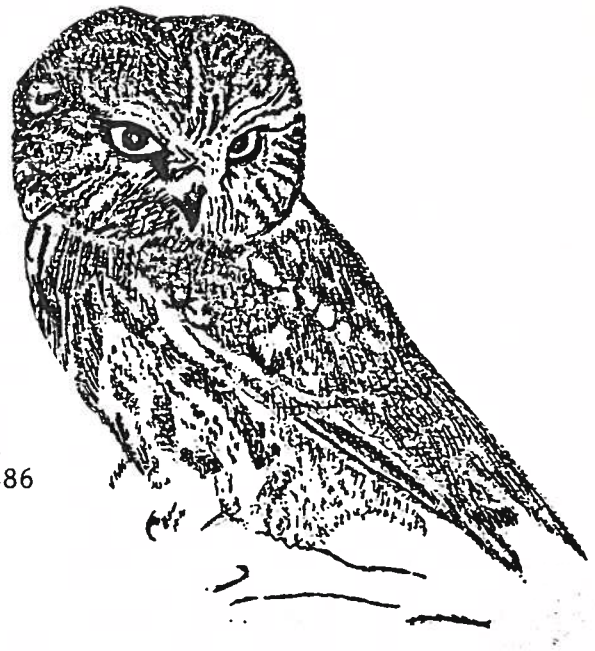
14 - E.C.F.N.C. Monthly Meeting
Marlborough C.C. - 7:30 p.m.
Speaker : Paula Verbanac
Topic : Australia, crocodiles



Oct. 16, 17 - Wildlife '87 : "Our natural landscape". A seminar and workshops designed to encourage participation in the protection and preservation of our natural heritage. Hosted by the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London. Field trips to be organized for Sunday. Please register in Sept. Inquiries Tom Rule, 285-2342 or Mary Smith, 439-1912

17 - Fall Bird Migration Field Trip

18 - E.C.F.N.C. Field Trip
Sandhill Crane Migration and fall colours
Meet at the Tourist Bureau parking lot near the Tunnel at 3:30 p.m. for a one-hour drive via I-94 to the Haehnie Sanctuary. Maps and directions to be provided



23, 24 - Halloween Hike
Maidstone C.A.
6:30 p.m.

25 - Ojibway Fall Open House
Ojibway Nature Centre
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Nov. 7, 8 (tent.) - Waterfowl Viewing Weekend
St. Clair N.W.A.
Sponsor : Canadian Wildlife Service
Contact : Janet Planck (519) 681-0486

11 - E.C.F.N.C. Monthly Meeting
Speaker : Mike Walsh
Topic : Clean Water Alliance

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

29 - Christmas for the Birds
Hillman Marsh C.A.
2:00 p.m.

Dec. 9 - E.C.F.N.C. Monthly Meeting
Marlborough C.C. - 7:30 p.m.
Members' night. Please bring a selection of 12-15 of your favourite slides to share with everyone. Extra slide trays will be available.

5, 6 - Christmas in the Country
John R. Park Homestead
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

12, 13 - Christmas in the Country
John R. Park Homestead
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

TERN SURVEY VOLUNTEERS

Contact Cathy Barrett at the Visitors' Centre, Point Pelee, to volunteer to assist with the tern survey on Saturday evenings (duration 2-3 hrs.), Sunday mornings (duration 2-3 hrs.) throughout September and until mid October.

– Sept. 8 8PM
London
– Min. Nat Res - Cochin Work
Oct 1.
Briarwood Inn
9AM

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THE EGRET, Volume 4, Number 3, September 1987; newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 3421, Tecumseh, Ontario. N8N 3C4.

Address correction requested.

Thomas Hurst,
R.R. # 3,
Cottam,
Ont
NOR 1BO