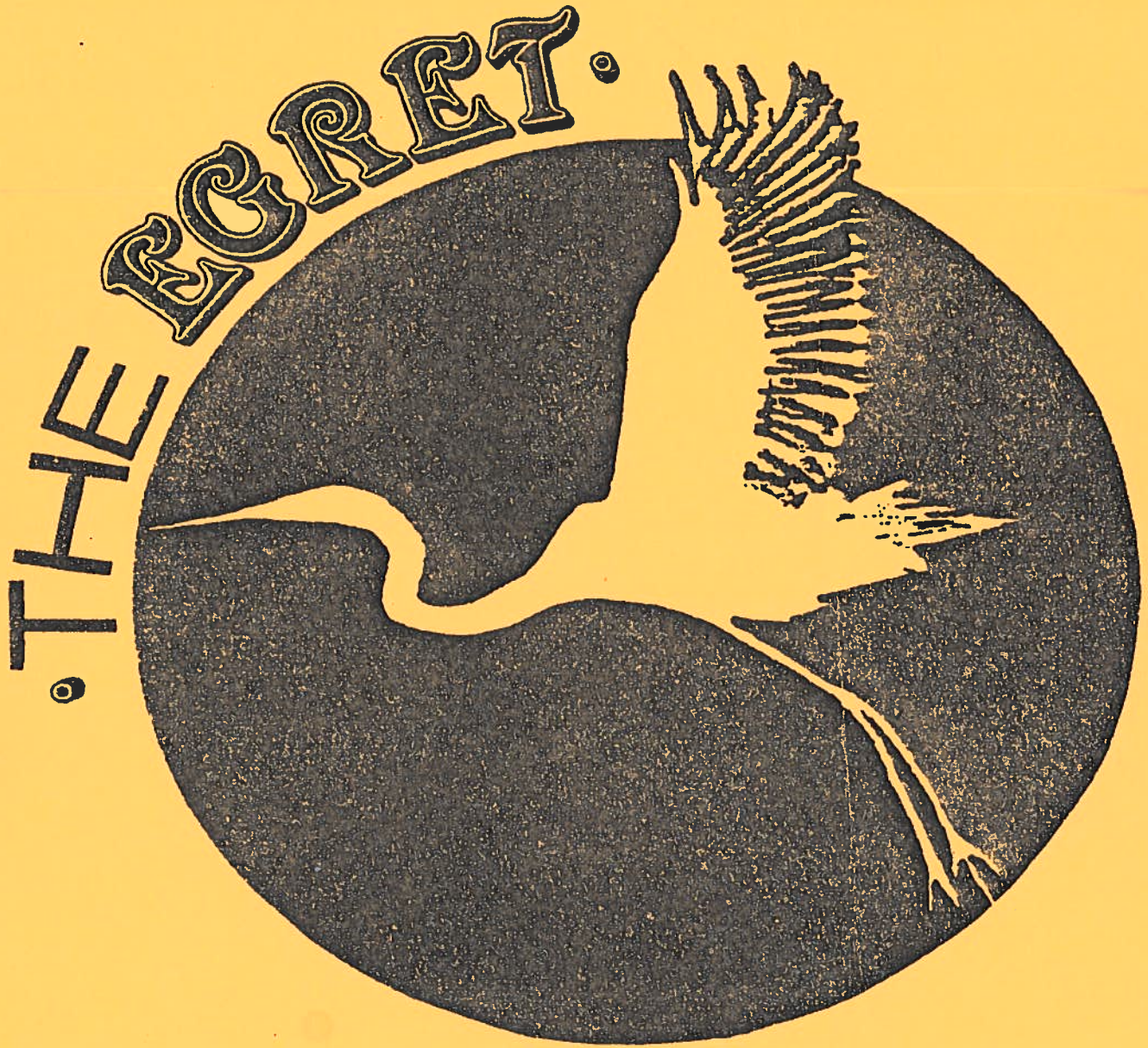


VOL.8, NO.3
OCTOBER, 1991

Essex County
FIELD NATURALISTS'
CLUB





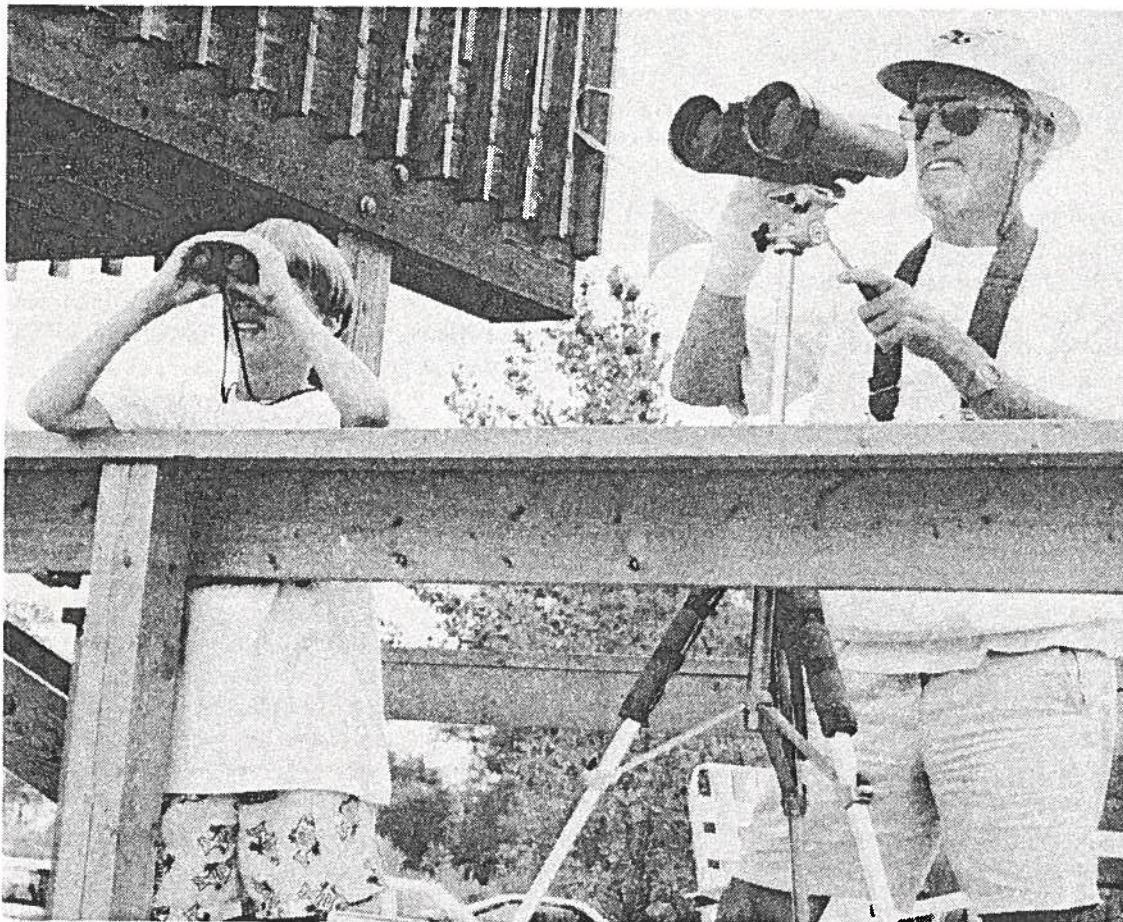
Essex County FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB



Volume 8, Number 3, October, 1991

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Scanning the skies for raptors from the Holiday Beach hawk tower are 10-year-old John Baker and Henry (Falcon) Hunt, both of Windsor. The two were among visitors attending the annual Hawk Festival in mid-September.

Photo courtesy of Chris Abbott, St. Clair College Journalism Dept. Additional photo on Page 15.

BLUEBIRD COMMITTEE REPORT

MORE TRAILS LIKELY FOR NEXT BREEDING SEASON

By **Don Bissonette**,
Bluebird Committee Chairman

"Thank You" to all those people who helped make our first year a successful one. Many people were involved with building boxes, establishing trails and monitoring them. Several people volunteered to monitor trails, but we didn't have enough trails to go around. Don't worry, we have not forgotten you! Next year with more trails and better organization, everyone will have his or her own trail to monitor.

Several property owners have contacted us, expressing an interest in establishing trails. Many hope to monitor the boxes themselves. This fall and winter we Bluebird Committee people hope to check out these properties to see if they're good Bluebird habitat.

All the monitors expressed enjoyment over their duties. The monitors visited the trails every seven to 14 days. I myself enjoyed watching the properties go through seasonal changes. Apart from bird watching, I came across lots of wildflowers, interesting native trees and shrubs. I even had a close encounter with a White-tailed Deer.

As you can see by our chart, our boxes had 14 pairs of Bluebirds. Most nested twice; some even a third time.

The chart shows one column for "Visiting Bluebirds." This is significant because often a visiting Bluebird will return and nest the following spring.

We've met several property owners who have their own trails. Karl Schuck's trail produced 34 Bluebird fledglings this year. Our own Pleasant Valley Trail is close to Mr. Schuck's trail. Thank you Mr. Schuck for all your help, encouragement and advice.

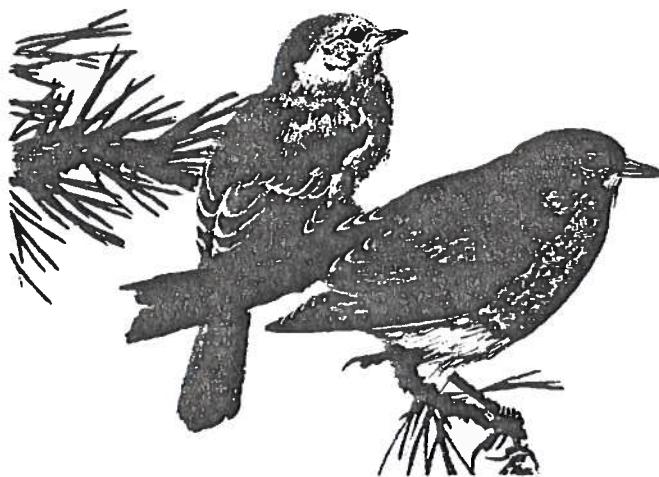
A big thank you goes out to those who made donations. Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment fund got this whole project rolling with a grant of \$1,600! Club members also donated money, T-bars, wood and a post-pounder. Thanks to all of you.

John Moore allowed us to use his workshop to build houses. Thanks, John! A thank you also goes out to his Better Half, who supplied snacks and drinks. Thanks Betty!

Thanks also to the staff at Ojibway Nature Centre who allowed us to use their picnic shelter to build houses.

What did we learn?

- Predator guards discourage English Sparrow nesting by about half.
- Raccoons will eventually learn to open the eye-and-hook boxes. Some raccoons can climb T-bars.
- Indigo Buntings look like Bluebirds from a distance. Some days we felt like classifying these Indigo Buntings as "nuisance birds," along with the Starlings and English Sparrows.
- Tree Swallows will jump around several nest boxes for up to two weeks before deciding where to nest.
- House Wrens enjoy nesting on top of old Tree Swallow nests. They move in just as soon as the Tree Swallows fledge.
- House Wrens and Bluebirds can have three broods a year.
- Flying Squirrels are still present in Essex County.



— Tree Swallows usually have two broods a year. However, in dry years such as this one, when the mosquito population is low, most Tree Swallows this year had only one brood in the spring.

— Much more; we could go on and on!

We had very few problems in our first year. One of our monitors unfortunately twisted her ankle while out on a trail. Thank goodness two young men were with her for assistance. After a few days rest, she was completely recuperated. The things people do, just to get time off work!

The Bluebird Committee will make a presentation at the February general meeting.

A Contest

Get out the table saw and tool-box! We're having a Bluebird house contest. It's open to club members and their families. There's no entry fee. All bird houses entered become property of the Bluebird Committee. Judging will take place at the February meeting. In the next Egret we will run more details about this contest. We will also have some birdhouse plans.

Last but not least, "thank you" to the Bluebird Committee heads, Anne Barbour, Betty Learmouth and Bill Balkwill for all the enthusiasm, hard work and dedication.

Three full surveys demonstrate success of Pleasant Valley trail

By **Betty Learmouth**

The 1991 Eastern Bluebird box project undertaken by the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club appears to have been highly successful. The majority of the boxes were located in Gosfield South and Colchester Townships, while other boxes were located in a variety of locations around Essex County. Three complete surveys of the Pleasant Valley Eastern Bluebird Box Trail were conducted and these surveys have provided some useful and intriguing information regarding the nesting of this species.

The three surveys were conducted on May 18, June 21 and July

26, 1991. On May 18, some 72 boxes were checked by the census takers and it was determined that 37 were occupied. Seven boxes were occupied by Eastern Bluebirds; House Wrens had chosen to nest in 11 boxes, and 18 nesting boxes were homes to Tree Swallows. During the June 21 census, 76 boxes were examined and it was discovered that 44 of these had occupants. There were 11 Eastern Bluebird families in resident and five of the nestings were second efforts. House Wrens accounted for 16 occupied boxes and Tree Swallows were raising families in 17 boxes.

During the July 26 census it was determined that nine Eastern Bluebirds were still nesting and four of these broods were third nestings. House Wrens were found in just five of the boxes and Tree Swallows had completed their nesting and appeared to have virtually moved from the area, as just a few Tree Swallows were observed about the area of the survey.

A tally of the Eastern Bluebird nesting indicates that 52 young fledged or expect to be fledged from the boxes of the Pleasant Valley Trail. The breeding season of the Eastern Bluebird is certainly a long period of time as the first egg-laying was observed in mid-May and egg-laying and raising of young has been found to continue into late July and early August. The success of the Bluebird trail can be attributed to the location of the nesting boxes in suitable habitat and also in an area that has

had an Eastern Bluebird population over a period of years and which has been nurtured through the efforts of individual landowners.

One Eastern Bluebird enthusiast in Colchester South Township has had a successful year as the bluebirds on his property have raised 34 young this season. There was some loss of the young to unknown predators, thus the 1991 tally was less than the 1990 tally of 41 fledglings.

Predation of the Pleasant Valley Eastern Bluebirds was restricted to just a few nesting boxes. Evidence of raccoons visiting several boxes were the bits of hair left about the nest box opening and also tiny scratches along the sides of the boxes and some smears of mud on the metal posts. Predation by insects was minimal as evidence of maggots was found in only several boxes.

Undesirable inhabitants of the nesting boxes, such as House Sparrows, were evicted. Eastern Bluebirds actually moved into boxes that House Sparrows had been removed from and raised young, which indicates that regular and close monitoring of nesting boxes can have a beneficial effect on the success of the Eastern Bluebird's breeding. Starlings did not attempt to nest in any boxes and although the Great Crested Flycatcher was seen in the area of Pleasant Valley, this bird did not breed in any

The ECFNC Bluebird Committee Data — 1991								
Trail	#boxes	#boxes occupied	#pairs Bluebirds	visiting Bluebirds	#pairs Tree Swallows	#pairs Hse. Wrens	#pairs Tuft. Titmice	#Bluebirds fledged
Wheatley	5	5		yes		5		
Harrow ANSI	8	4		yes	3	1		
Onion Fields Leamington	3	1		no	1			
Wilamette Farm Maidstone	12	6		yes	5		1	
Woodslee	4	1		no	1	1		
Pleasant Valley See other report	76	44	11	no	19	16		52
Brunet Park LaSalle	9	4	1	yes		3		4
Arner Point	12	12	1	no	4	6		4
Arner Nut Grove	10	9		no	3	6		
Titcombe Road	1	1	1	no				9
Totals	140	87	14	4	36	38	1	69

Eastern Bluebird boxes although it was reported in several Purple Martin houses.

Other successful nestings of Eastern Bluebirds were reported from Brunet Park in LaSalle. Four young were observed there as they were attended by the adults. The Titcombe Road area adjacent to the Prairie Nature Reserve in the City of Windsor was also the site of successful Eastern Bluebird nesting as a pair raised two broods. The Cedar Creek Trail had one nesting of Bluebirds. Some 17 young were raised from these county locations and other locations reported House Wrens and Tree Swallows as successful nesters.

Eastern Bluebird enthusiasts are now looking forward to next year's nesting season. Some new nesting box designs with improved entrance and box depth are being examined with a view to ensuring greater breeding success. Boxes will need to be

repaired and some will need to be relocated to more suitable habitat.

Anyone who knows of the successful nesting of Eastern Bluebirds is asked to notify the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 3421, Tecumseh, Ontario, N9W 3C4 in order that these successful sites should be recorded and nesting boxes placed on adjacent properties to provide additional nesting locations in future years.

The Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society conducts a yearly survey of successful nesting and reports yearly on the status of the species' nesting in Ontario.

The ECFNC will be submitting its Eastern Bluebird nesting results to the Ontario society. In 1989, 8,260 Eastern Bluebirds were fledged in Ontario, according the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society.

THE 1991 BAILLIE BIRDATHON

By Tom Hurst

Every year the Long Point Bird Observatory sponsors an event called the Baillie Birdathon. Each May birders are encouraged to go out and count as many bird species as possible within a 24-hour period. Before this is done, however, the birder is expected to canvass pledges from the public at large for each species seen the day of the count. The Long Point Observatory uses the money raised by this event to pay for its bird-banding operations and to fund many worthwhile research studies on bird behavior. The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club has always supported the observatory's efforts through participation in the Baillie Birdathon.

And so it came to be that at 6 a.m. on Saturday, May 11th, the president and the vice-president Richard Bilinski met the first train to the trip of Point Pelee National Park. Upon arriving at our destination we were joined by Carl Maiolani, John Zoch and Betty Learmouth. Each of us was anxious to begin what would surely be a fine day of birding.

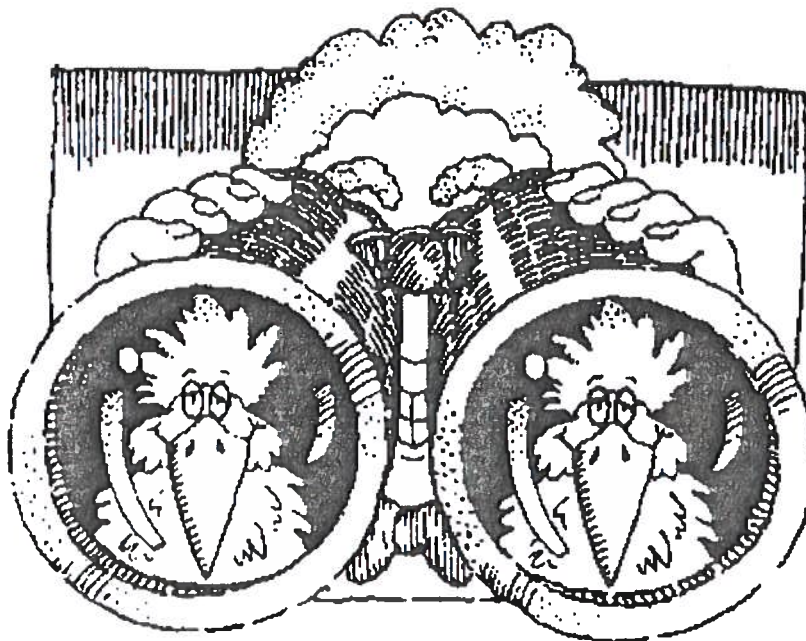
The weather was unseasonably warm and the sky overcast at the outset, but by noon it would be sunny with highs in the eighties. The weather had been unseasonably warm since April and the resulting lush foliage was to add another challenge on our "big day." However, for the participants it was much more

comfortable than the challenge of the wind and the rain the previous year.

This year's strategy also differed from the previous year. Instead of going to the point early in the morning, the club's birdathoners had seen the sun rise over Rondeau Provincial Park. This year we hoped a better showing would be made by cutting down on travel time. We did miss, however, the pine siskins we spotted at a Hwy. 3 bird feeder the year before. The species total for 1991 increased slightly over the 1990 total: 113 species were seen, compared to 103 in 1990.

The club birders' first stop was the tip of the Point. In May the Point's tip often presents a spectacular array of species. Unfortunately, this particular day it was somewhat disappointing. There were very few shore or water birds and John Zoch's spotting of a Common Loon was probably the most exotic. On the other hand, a vociferous Tufted Titmouse, which in many previous years would have been a good sighting, was the most obvious bird at this

location. Undeterred, we made a slow search of the wooded area between the Tip and the Sparrow Fields. Here again the number of birds was low, but the lush foliage forced the party to spend an inordinate amount of time searching for birds that were not there. Still the time spent there was quite pleasant as there were certainly enough birds to make a good day of birding on a normal day. We dallied somewhat at the sightings of Parula and Hooded



Warblers, represented by both sexes, as they were both beautiful and "lifers" for some of us.

Spending extra time getting to the Sparrow Fields ensured that we missed the shrike John had seen there only the evening before. Alas there were not any sparrows here either. We did, however, spot a weasel upon leaving the site, but there was no spot for it on our checklist.

Bird activity was quiet on our trek north to Tilden Woods. Fortunately, once there things were slightly more active. Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Bay-breasted Warblers were in great abundance over the water sink at the Tilden boardwalk. Other warblers and vireo species lurked in the surrounding woods, but abundant leaves demanded great vigilance on our part to spot them. Finding even one Palm and one Wilson's Warbler seemed fortuitous at this point. Tilden's Woods was also the site of our only Cuckoo and Waterthrush for the day. It was now time for lunch.

After a quick stop at Sleepy Hollow for an unseen Screech Owl, we, minus John who had other commitments, moved on to the Onion Fields. In a convoy of cars we spotted Horned Larks, Black Bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstones, Caspian and Forster's Terns and one pheasant from the dusty gravel roads.

From a vantage point on the south side of Hillman Marsh the group added a few duck species to the list. This was also the site for an invigorating discussion over whether among those distant

birds a Black Duck or a Common Tern resided. Several innocent bystanders were drawn into the discussion before it was time to move on to check off the neighboring Bald Eagle.

The eagle was not home, but Carl found a Black-crowned Night Heron near its usual haunt just down the road. This was a good thing because the day was getting short and it was time for Betty to leave.

After a refreshing dinner in Wheatley, Carl, Richard and I dashed off to Two Creeks Conservation Area. We were specifically after the elusive Eastern Meadowlark. For many weeks they had never failed to be there. They were not there.

Richard retired for the day while Carl and I made a desperate dash to Tremblay Conservation Area. There were not many hours of daylight left. At the Tremblay parking lot we met Jeff Larson who was aiding some friends on their "big day." I couldn't help but wince as Jeff listed numerous species he had seen at sites we hadn't managed to get to that day. But Jeff also mentioned species we had not yet listed that he had just seen at Tremblay. Thus encouraged, Carl and I circled the marsh. Here we added Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black Tern, Common Moorhen, American Coot and Sora to the checklist.

It was in the dim light of twilight that Carl and I parted company. Sure I could have now gone on and looked for owls and other night birds, but my arthritis suggested it was time to stop. As I drove home nursing a fresh cup of Stoney Point coffee, I mulled over how I might have planned and executed the day for better results. That is, until I considered it had been one of the most pleasant days that I have experienced.

It had been a lovely warm sunny day and I had been doing what I most enjoyed doing. Best of all I had some wonderful companions to do it with. I quite often prefer to go birdwatching by myself, but I couldn't remember when I had enjoyed it more than I had this day. Betty's usual cheery disposition had set the tone for the outing. Her obvious enjoyment in looking at the birds was reflected by all of us. Carl's keen ears frequently drove me to distraction with bird calls I didn't recognize or hadn't noticed. John, on the other hand, entertained us repeatedly by describing when, where and how he had first seen the bird species we had just spotted. Richard, besides being a worthy companion, kept track of what we had seen that day.

I can safely say that a good time was had by all that day. Without reservation I would recommend participation in a Baillie Birdathon to anyone interested in birds. To those of you who are not enamoured by the thought of "listing" or "big days," let me assure you it is most enjoyable when done in the company of Essex County Field Naturalists. I hope to see you out there next May doing your part for the Baillie Birdathon.

ATLAS OF THE MAMMALS OF ONTARIO UPCOMING WORKSHOP AT OBJIBWAY

Representatives from the Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario will be conducting a workshop on small mammal trapping on October 24, 1991 from 7-10pm at Ojibway Nature Centre. Participants will be shown how to set up Sherman live-traps and dry pitfall traps as well as how to identify small mammals. All mammal atlas volunteers should attend. For more information, please call Paul Pratt, regional co-ordinator, at 966-5852.



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AUTHORITY EXPANDS ITS EFFORTS ON ESAs

Editor's Note:

On June 20, the Essex Region Conservation Authority approved a report which proposed a multi-pronged approach to the protection of Environmentally Significant Areas in our region. Before approving the report, the ERCA members heard delegations from both the Field Naturalists and from the Citizens' Environmental Alliance. Both stressed the urgency of protecting ESAs in the Windsor-Essex County area.

Since many of our hopes for resisting development pressures appear to rest on the successful implementation of ERCA's recommendations, we felt it would be worth viewing these in some detail. What follows then is a somewhat abridged version of the report on ESAs prepared in April by ERCA biologist Gerry Waldron and ERCA Water Management Supervisor Stan Taylor.

The Report on ESAs

By Gerry Waldron and Stan Taylor

The ESA concept

Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) are remnant natural, or in many cases, man-modified ecosystems which contain features such as significant landforms, linkage systems, migratory stopovers, communities, habitats, diversity, rare species, large size, research or educational value and aesthetic or historical value.

Environmentally Significant Areas serve to protect and provide habitat for all species of flora and fauna (rare, endangered or otherwise), as well as protecting representative examples of plant associations, landforms, and other features that are part of our natural heritage. Many ESAs are also floodplains, valleys, or are otherwise hydrologically significant.

The ESA concept is part of a large issue: how to continue consuming the earth's resources without destroying the planet's life-sustaining properties.

Even though strong arguments can be made for natural area preservation, good arguments can often be made for other land uses. Many of the benefits of preservation do not accrue to the landowner in a manner similar to profit -- the benefits may accrue to the whole of society rather than the individual, or in the future rather than immediately.

The ESA is at the lower end of a hierarchy of natural area preservation which conventionally begins with national parks. The term natural area is difficult to define. In Southwestern Ontario natural is not wilderness. In our situation a useful definition might simply be: those areas least disturbed by man. To add to the confusion, there was, in the early '70s, a proliferation of terms to label natural areas. "Environmentally significant" has become widely accepted.

The preservation of Ontario's natural heritage has a long history. The problem of preservation has been addressed in several ways: landowner stewardship, incentives, easements, legislation and acquisition.

The 1947 Ontario Planning Act created two major planning

tools for municipal use, the official plan and restricted area bylaws. Under the act, municipalities can be very restrictive on the uses of private land. A fairly standard set of criteria for ESA studies evolved over the decade from 1970-1980. The criteria emphasized biological, geological and hydrological features. The designation of ESAs was pioneered by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo in 1975, although previous planning areas (Metro Toronto and Ottawa-Carleton Region) had set the tone by introducing natural resource concepts. Since then 25 other areas have completed ESA reports.

The ESA concept has been readily accepted by conservation authorities because of their legislated mandate "to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, reforestation, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and mineral." Also the designation of hazard lands under fill and construction regulations, although primarily oriented to the floodplain and steep slopes, included many significant natural areas. Acceptance of the ESA concept influenced conservation authorities' planning, acquisition priorities and land management.

History of ESA activities in the Essex Region

ERCA initiated a survey of biologically significant natural areas (BSAs) of the Essex Region in 1977. The survey ranked 36 areas according to six criteria: size, habitat, species diversity, condition, uniqueness and rare species. Johnson and Wannick (the researchers) recommended that the 23 highest ranked areas be studied further. M. Oldham, ERCA biologist, used the

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recommendations of Johnson and Wannick and other sources to identify 63 candidate ESAs in 1981-82. Oldham defined an ESA as "a remnant natural, or in many cases, man-modified ecosystem which contains features such as significant landforms, linkage systems, migratory stopovers, communities, habitats, diversity, rare species, large size, research or educational value and aesthetic or historical value."

Of the 63 candidate sites, 33 were eventually given ESA status on the basis of satisfying at least 2 of the 10 selection criteria. Many of the other candidates did not receive adequate evaluation due to time constraints. In 1983 the project culminated in the publication of a 426-page document titled Environmentally Significant Areas of the Essex Region. At the time, this document was the most complete inventory of regional natural areas in Ontario and it became the model for reports in other regions.

The report was also unusual in that it was done "in-house" by the authority, rather than using outside consultants as commonly done elsewhere.

In 1983 policies regarding ESAs were incorporated into the Conservation Plan for ERCA. The objective of these policies was: "to protect environmentally significant areas." The first policy stated that the conservation authority would "assume responsibility for the protection of environmentally significant areas," and in policy 7, "promote the establishment of suitable policy statements for the protection of environmentally significant areas in all municipal planning documents."

In 1984 copies of the ESA report were sent to member municipalities and the Essex County Planning Department with the hope that ESAs would receive protective designation in official plans and zoning bylaws. Between 1984 and 1986 a

ESA sites	Municipality (and other notes)	Approximate size-hectares
Canard River Scout Camp	Anderdon	35 ha
Canard River Kentucky Coffee Tree Woods	Anderdon (E - partial)	100 ha
Ojibway Prairie Complex	Windsor & Sandwich W. (G - partial)	235 ha
Fish Point	Pelee (G)	154 ha
Lighthouse Point	Pelee (G)	113 ha
East Sister Island	Pelee	53 ha
Middle Point	Pelee	39 ha
Stone Road Alvar	Pelee (E)	46 ha
Kopegaron Woods	Mersea (E)	11 ha
Hillman Marsh	Mersea (E - mostly)	362 ha
Point Pelee	Mersea (G)	2,140 ha
Big Chicken Island	Pelee	0.4 ha
Canard River Mouth Marsh	Anderdon	250 ha
Allied Chemical Brine Wells	Anderdon	180 ha
Big Creek Marsh	Malden (E, G - partial)	1,177 ha
Sheridan Point	Pelee	22.3 ha
Red Cedar Savannah	Pelee	85 ha
Sandwich West Woodlot	Sandwich West (G - partial)	116 ha
Ojibway Black Oak Woods	Windsor (G - partial)	46 ha
Cedar Creek	Gosfield South & Colchester S (E - partial)	715 ha
Arner Pin Oak Woods	Gosfield South	66 ha
Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp	Colchester South	40 ha
Arner Spleenwort Woods	Mersea	10 ha
Leamington White Oak Woods	Mersea	37 ha
Hillman Sand Hills	Mersea	24 ha
Hillman Cinnamon Fern Woods	Mersea	9 ha
Hillman Three Birds Woodlot	Mersea	9 ha
Middle Island	Pelee	46 ha
Springarden Road Prairie	Windsor	48 ha
Upper Big Creek Woodlot	Anderdon & Amherstburg	97 ha
Upper Hillman Creek Woodlot	Mersea	26 ha
Devonwood	Windsor (E)	44 ha
Ruscom Shores	Rochester (E)	36 ha
		Total 4,230 ha (Excluding Point Pelee)

Note: Sites are not listed in any order of priority.
Legend: (E) - ERCA-owned, either entirely or partially
(G) - Owned by other government body (municipal, provincial or federal) either entirely or partially.

presentation of ESAs was made to municipal councils (with two exceptions -- Pelee Township and Windsor) having ESAs within their jurisdictions.

Land ownership was determined for all the privately owned ESAs and landowner contacts were completed for the five ESAs which were also Carolinian Canada sites. A report presented to the full authority in 1987 indicated that several ESAs were identified in municipal official plans and zoning bylaws. Most frequently these were designated as Open Space, Recreational or Watercourse. In this same report three recommendations were approved by the full authority.

1. That administration continue to contact all remaining landowners of ESAs in the region, to inform them of the natural significance of their lands, and where appropriate, to inform them of the Natural Heritage League Agreement/Award Program.

2. That the authority, in co-operation with affected municipalities, promote the identification of ESAs in municipal planning documents and the adoption of policies in planning documents to encourage protection of ESAs.

3. That the ESA report (ERCA, 1983) be used as a guide in establishing priorities for future land acquisitions and as criteria for providing comments on development proposals which might adversely affect an Environmentally Significant Area.

The list of ESA sites (in the adjacent box) was adopted by the Authority. This table also indicates public ownership and approximate size of each site. It is interesting to note that the total area of all ESAs, excluding Point Pelee, is about 4,200 hectares, or about 2% of the Region's area. Subsequent to this report, the list of ESAs established priorities for both future land acquisitions and landowner contacts. In 1988 an application was made to the Ontario Heritage Foundation for funding to support ESA Landowner contact, but was apparently rejected. No further landowner contact program was carried out.

Several new ESAs have been proposed since the publication of the 1983 document, but have not been researched or documented because of staff limitations. Additional candidate sites, including all class wetlands, need evaluation and/or documentation.

In December, 1987 the Authority also adopted "Policies, Guidelines and Procedures for Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways Regulation and Review of Planning Documents and Development Proposals." While the emphasis in this document was on floodplain management and related hazards to development, there were components aimed at preventing impacts on the natural environment.

Through these regulations the Authority can support municipalities in their efforts to protect ESAs, particularly where floodplain management or other hazards-related issues are also involved on a particular site.

At present about one third of the ERCA ESAs have received a "Natural" designation (Natural Environment or Environmental Protection) in Municipal Official Plans. A further 15% have been designated Watercourse or Open Space. Therefore approximately half of the ESAs currently have appropriate designation.

The Essex Region has had an active program of public acqui-

sition of ESAs. Although several sites have been acquired, relatively few sites can be protected in this manner, due to limited funds. If the Authority is to succeed in the protection of all ESAs, a more comprehensive approach is required, along with more specific policies; in partnership with the landowners, and the municipalities.

In addition, the province can have an important role in this regard. The adoption of provincial policy on the protection of Natural Areas would greatly enhance the ability of the local municipalities and Conservation Authority to carry out this program. The provincial policy on Wetlands for example, is currently in draft form and has not been adopted. However the Ministry of Natural Resources does administer other legislation which can help to protect natural areas.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations will enhance the Authority's ability to conserve the Regions's natural heritage.

1. That the Authority strive to conserve and protect the significant physical, hydrological and biological features of identified ESAs.

2. That the Authority encourage development which may seriously alter the significant features of ESAs to local outside these ESAs.

3. That the Authority continue to request member municipalities to recognize identified ESAs in their Official Plans and zoning bylaws, and to adopt policies providing for their protection.

4. That the Authority support member municipalities in the protection of ESAs through provision of available data, technical comments and assistance in the preparation and presentation of planning documents.

5. That the Authority have regard for ESAs in preparation of its comments in the municipal plan review process and in the consideration of application submitted pursuant to the Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways Regulations.

6. Where the physical, hydrological or biological features of an ESA may be significantly altered by a development proposal, including a public work proposal, that the Authority may require the proponent to undertake an Environmental Impact Study.

7. That the Authority participate in the preparation of guidelines and terms of reference for the preparation of Environmental Impact Studies, in conjunction with the local municipalities.

8. That the Authority have regard to the protection of the significant physical, hydrological and biological features of ESAs, with respect to developments and projects on Authority lands.

9. That the Authority continue its program of contacting and assisting landowners of ESA sites, in recognition of the important role of these private landowners in the protection and management of the sites.

10. That the boundaries of the ESAs be regarded as general in nature, with the precise boundaries to be established at such time as specific development proposals affecting the ESA are reviewed.

11. That the ESA sites be evaluated from time to time to determine whether they continue to meet the criteria for adop-

tion as ESAs which may result in the addition or deletion of areas.

12. That administration provide a report by mid 1991 on specific recommended additional ESA sites.

13. That the authority develop a system of categorization and related implementation strategies for ESA sites.

14. The Authority continue to actively investigate alternative methods of protecting ESA sites.

Help restore Ojibway's Prairies!

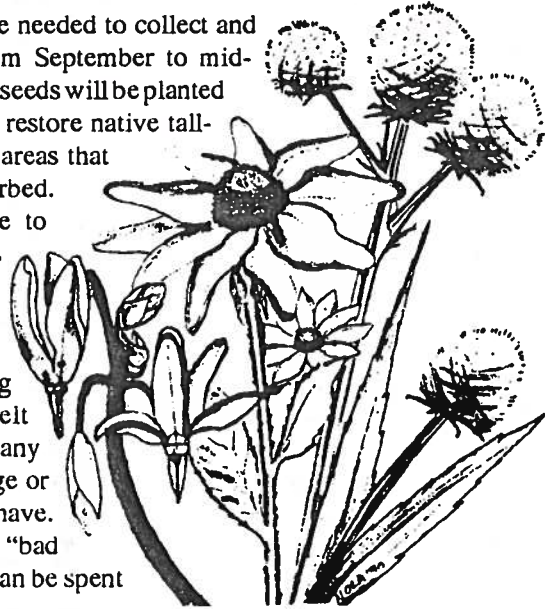
SEED COLLECTION DAYS

Volunteers are needed to collect and clean seeds from September to mid-October. These seeds will be planted in the spring to restore native tall-grass prairie to areas that have been disturbed.

The best time to collect seeds is in the afternoon when the sun's heat has dried the plants. Bring scissors, a felt marker, and any paper bags (large or small) you may have. Mornings and "bad weather" days can be spent cleaning seeds.

This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about native tallgrass prairie plants!

Volunteers are welcome any day of the week, but please call the Ojibway Nature Centre at 966-5852 to arrange a time.



Prairie seed collecting

Here is a short list of prairie plants which set seed from late August to mid October. Common species are shown in boldface.

- Big Bluestem** *Andropogon gerardi*
- Little Bluestem *Andropogon scoparius*
- Poverty Grass *Danthonia spicata*
- Wild Rye *Elymus canadensis*
- Prairie Switchgrass** *Panicum virgatum*
- Prairie Cord Grass** *Spartina pectinata*
- Nodding Ladies'Tresses *Spiranthes cernua*
- Great Plains Ladies' Tresses *Spiranthes magnicamporum*
- Hog-peanut** *Amphicarpa bracteata*
- Showy tick trefoil** *Desmodium canadense*
- Bush-clover *Lespedeza capitata*
- Wand-like Bush-clover *Lespedeza intermedia*
- Slender Bush-clover *Lespedeza virginica*
- Wild Indigo *Baptisia tinctoria*
- Thimbleweed *Anemone cylindrica*
- Butterfly Milkweed** *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Indian Hemp *Apocynum cannabinum*
- Closed Gentian *Gentiana andrewsii*
- Fringed Gentian** *Gentiana crinita*
- Purple Gerardia** *Gerardia purpurea*

- Slender Gerardia** *Gerardia tenuifolia*
- Bergamot** *Monarda fistulosa*
- Virginia Mountain Mint** *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
- Culver's Root** *Veronicastrum virginicum*
- Sky-blue Aster** *Aster azureus*
- Heart-leaved Aster** *Aster cordifolius*
- Heath Aster** *Aster ericoides*
- Smooth Aster** *Aster laevis*
- Calico Aster** *Aster lateriflorus*
- New England Aster** *Aster novae-angliae*
- Hairy Aster** *Aster pilosus*
- Willow Aster** *Aster praealtus*
- Arrow-leaved Aster** *Aster sagittifolius*
- Late Aster** *Aster simplex*
- Flat-topped Aster** *Aster umbellatus*
- Field Thistle** *Cirsium discolor*
- Tall Coreopsis** *Coreopsis tripteris*
- Tall Thoroughwort** *Eupatorium altissimum*
- Joe-pye Weed** *Eupatorium maculatum*
- Common Sneezeweed** *Helenium autumnale*
- Woodland Sunflower** *Helianthus divaricatus*
- Tall Sunflower** *Helianthus gigantea*
- Rough Hawkweed** *Hieracium scabrum*
- Tall Blue Lettuce** *Lactuca biennis*
- Dense Blazing Star** *Liatris spicata*
- Rough Blazing Star** *Liatris aspera*
- White Lettuce** *Prenanthes alba*
- Glaucous White Lettuce** *Prenanthes racemosa*
- Grey-headed Coneflower** *Ratibida pinnata*
- Prairie Dock** *Silphium terebinthinaceum*
- White Goldenrod** *Solidago bicolor*
- Late Goldenrod** *Solidago gigantea*
- Riddell's Goldenrod** *Solidago riddellii*
- Gray Goldenrod** *Solidago nemoralis*
- Hard-leaved Goldenrod** *Solidago rigida*
- Tall Ironweed** *Vernonia gigantea*

COLLECTING HINTS

1. Collect ripe seed.
2. Store seed in paper bags.
3. Work gloves & clippers are helpful.
4. Collect on a dry day when seeds are not wet.
5. Label bags with date, species, location.

CONTRIBUTORS:

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Lizanne Bacon
Karen Cedar



SEASONAL CHANGES AND OTHER THOUGHTS

By William H. Balkwill

As summer wanes and fall comes to view I notice increasing numbers of migrating birds scouring trees and shrubs for insects. I hear the patter of falling hulls dropped by an unseen squirrel high among the boughs of a hickory.

The number of flickers probing our lawn grows slowly larger.

The hawks come riding gracefully up the thermals high into the clouds. Early in the morning the buteos are perched at the edge of the wood, watching for birds or small mammals, but usually settling for insects, grasshoppers, crickets and the like. Some accipiters perch along wooded trails; others spread through the trees and shrubs hoping to scare some unlucky bird into making a mistake so the hawk can satisfy its hunger.

A band of kestrels comes like mischievous children, harassing creatures far too large to be their prey. First it's the flickers on the lawn. Then after they are chased off they run the blue jays from the trees. Then it's the pigeons' turn. The kestrels harass them until they hide in the barn.

Soon the cheeky squirrel is spotted on the front lawn. Next they have him streaking to a nearby tree with a cavity where he disappears. The kestrels perch nearby with much bobbing of heads and tails. I could almost swear they were laughing. One hour later when I walk past the tree I could hear the squirrel still complaining bitterly. It did not seem that he was a bit amused.

A stroll through the ever-changing fall woods is always a pleasure: The rustling of leaves underfoot; the soft light of an early morning sunbeam streaming through the trees, illuminating the waiting morning mist. When no one's nearby to see my folly, I enjoy the lovely blooms of common weeds such as the clumps of goldenrod and the pretty white, blue and purple of wild asters. Come October I take my weekly Sunday morning walk beginning at the tree-lined lane that leads to the wood. This

lane is probably the remnant of an old logging road dating somewhere between the early and mid-1800s. A white ash clothed in deep purple stands at the foot of the lane. If you were with me as we walk beneath the tunnel formed by the boughs of the hard maples lining the lane, you might see halfway back to your right a crimson mound of staghorn sumac and next to the sumac, the sassafras, clad in yellow, orange and red-purple leaves.

In the woods we might see a white oak with brick-red leaves. In an open glade a question mark with outspread wings basks in the sun on the path in front of us. It takes flight, then alights facing downward on the trunk of a nearby tree. We come upon soft maples, the morning dew still glistening on their leaves. We would stop to admire the leaves that look as if elves had painted them, some red, some green, others half red and half green, and still others with crimson lobes.

As we turn to walk on, a deer crashes up from the forest floor, runs a few paces, stops to survey us for a moment, then turns and trots away, its wide white flag nearly obscuring from our view its receding body.

If by chance we were still in the woodlot when the sun sets over the western horizon and the dusk of the evening settles on the woods, we would witness the yellow leaves deepening into gold. With the dark trunks of trees and other colors darkening, you get the feeling you have stepped into a beautiful tapestry.

Walking back home I find myself wondering if all the beauty and tranquillity will still be here for future generations. Will the squirrel still scold from its perch in the tree? Will birds still flutter in the treetops? Will butterflies still bask in the open glades? Will owls still call from the woodlands and coyotes sing in the still night air or will it all be obliterated in the name of progress?

OJIBWAY FALL COLOUR FESTIVAL — SUNDAY OCT. 20

Fall is here with its spectacular colours and Ojibway Park is the place to enjoy them!

Come out for the Fall Colour Festival and take part in guided nature hikes, nature crafts and lots more.

Participate in a special program offered by Phil Roberts on "Birds as Environmental Indicators." Festival activities will run from 1 until 5 p.m. A new handicap-accessible entrance, improved bridges and trail markings enhance public access throughout the park. Remember to enjoy some hot apple cider and take advantage of the 10% discount offered on all bird seed!





AN AMATEUR NATURALIST'S HONEYMOON

By Tom Hurst

As it is for most people, my leisure time is severely limited by the necessity of making a living. Since discovering nature a few years ago, I try to spend as much of my leisure time as possible "communing with the great outdoors." Given that weekends do not allow much scope for long distance travelling, a two-week summer vacation is precious indeed to one who wishes to experience natural habitats outside his own locality.

A trip to the Maritimes was to make 1991 an especially fine summer. Not only were the Maritimes entirely new to me, but I hadn't been near an ocean since I took an interest in nature. I was looking forward to a fine experience when an unexpected event interposed -- marriage. My summer vacation suddenly became a honeymoon.

On past vacations, Peggy, who enjoys camping, has tolerated with good grace my wandering off alone in the woods. However, a honeymoon is a once-in-a-lifetime event and similar behavior might only lead me to grief. I would have to strike a balance between my desire for a continuous field trip and Peggy's notions of togetherness and relaxation. Peggy was planning the wedding and it was my job to plan the honeymoon.

At the outset I considered that there were five priorities that

must guide my planning. The first obvious three were destination, means of transportation and recreational activities. However, since it was a honeymoon, I felt that the trip should also include some special features and perhaps a little mystery.

The destination -- the Maritimes -- had already been decided before there were any plans of marriage. Having never been there I wished to see as much of the region as possible. Since we both enjoyed camping, I figured that this could be accomplished by visiting as many national parks as could be managed in such a short time. Most national parks are located on the basis of preserving a unique regional habitat. Thus I hoped to see a broad spectrum of maritime habitat by the time we finished the tour. A circuitous route from Moncton to Fundy, Kejimikujik, P.E.I. and Kouchibouguac National Park was laid out. A side trip to Machias Seal Island was added because there are puffins there.

Although all these areas shared regional geographic similarities, most contained mixed deciduous-boreal forests and peat bogs, still each location was unique. Fundy National Park featured the rugged ocean shoreline of the Bay of Fundy. Machias Seal Island featured nesting colonies of pelagic birds, while Kejimikujik is noted for its network of lakes and rivers. P.E.I. National Park is a remarkable sand dune habitat and Kouchibouguac is as close to a true boreal forest habitat as we were to

visit in the Maritimes. Obviously my criteria were met by these diverse habitats, but Peggy's needs were not forgotten. Each campsite met her minimum requirement of containing appropriate hammock-hanging trees.

As far as transportation was concerned, our tight schedule indicated that flying to Moncton would allow us the maximum amount of time to visit the Maritimes. Baggage restrictions meant that not all our camping gear could be taken with us. Nevertheless, it was amazing how much gear Peggy was able to cram into the largest suitcase either I or the airline receptionist had ever seen. Once in the Maritimes our transportation needs were met by a Dodge mini-van. Peggy who believes that camping should not be too rugged was pleased to find that all our gear could be accommodated without piling anything on top of anything else. The back door was hinged at the top, hatch-like, and doubled as a dinner-time dining roof and reading light source. Although never needed, the van offered the security of emergency sleeping quarters. I liked the van because it handled not much differently than an automobile. This was appreciated many times during the 2,500 kilometres of the trip.

Probably the most important factor in insuring a harmonious honeymoon was planning my birding expeditions around Peggy's priorities. This was easy on the first day in Moncton. Being in an urban setting I was content to visit the usual tourist stops such as the Magnetic Hill, the Tidal Bore and the Crystal Palace. Nevertheless, I did manage late in the evening and early in the morning to track down a dozen species on the hotel grounds and neighboring woodlot while Peggy recovered from "jet lag."

Once in the national parks it was not so easy to curb my zeal. I was only saved by the fact that while of vacation Peggy does not become fully active until 10 a.m. or so. If I arose at 5 a.m. I could satiate my appetite with three or four hours of early birdwatching, then return in time to prepare breakfast. Afterward, I was more willing to give my new wife the attention she deserved. Casual hiking and canoeing were often shared afternoon pleasures.

The need to be back for breakfast meant that I could not wander too far from the campsite. This was of little consequence as every campsite turned out to be an excellent birding spot. I found several "life birds" within a stone's throw of my tent, including White-winged Crossbill, Boreal Chickadee and a Barred Owl family. It was only a fifteen-minute drive to spot my first Eider Ducks, Black Guillemot, Sharp-Tailed Sparrow and Piping Plover. Still the temptation to dawdle was strong and



after lingering over a Hudsonian Godwit in P.E.I. one morning I found myself grounded the next. Of course, visiting Woodleigh Replicas, the Stanley Bridge Aquarium and several boutiques and craft shops wasn't such a bad thing to do on one's honeymoon.

This is not to say that Peggy did not share my enjoyment of the area's natural attributes. In our travels she often pointed out things of interest such as a Calopogon Orchid in Peggy's Cove and a nesting Osprey in Pictou. As well, the sighting of our first whale (a Minke) on the Machias Seal island cruise was a shared experience to be cherished. All in all, I think a reasonable balance was found between our honeymoon expectations.

I realize that a camping trip is not everyone's idea of a perfect honeymoon. But then again, not every bride's husband is prepared to take her to three provinces, on five oceanic cruises and to four theatre productions on her honeymoon. Well yes, the provinces were small, the ferry rides allowed me to do some pelagic birding and the parks' evening programs were not exactly Stratford, but it's the thought that counts, isn't it?

And if the honeymoon was not unique enough for these reasons, I tried to heighten the romance by keeping Peggy in constant suspense. By never telling her where we were going next or how long we were going to stay, I freed her from the drudgery of schedules and planning. For one who is usually most comfortable when in control of the situation, she seemed to enjoy the chance of pace. So there you have it. My five-point plan for a harmonious vacation. I hope it is of some assistance in planning your next major outing with your loved one.

MORE MARITAL TRADE-OFFS

Or don't take your spouse on a pelagic trip

By Susan MacKenzie

The guy's T-shirt said it all: "Pelagic birding is a cold, wet, nauseating, boring job, but someone has to do it."

White cotton, stretched taut across a beer belly, the shirt was far too prominent for my reluctant husband to miss as we stood on the North Carolina dock at 5 a.m. waiting to board the boat that was going to take us 50 miles out into the Gulf Stream.

A few would-be birders from the waiting list were clamoring

to join the trip and Bob was getting ready to graciously waive his seat in favor of the dedicated. Unfortunately, as it was later to prove, we were herded aboard before the moment of decision.

The boat was the Country Girl, out of Manteo, North Carolina, a small harbor on the Outer Banks just south of the more famous Nag's Head. The boat had been chartered by a North Carolina birder who advertised his trips in the annual pelagic issue of *Winging It*, the American Birding Association's monthly news-

letter. At \$85 for a the Gulf Stream trip, plus a land expedition the following day for local specialties, it seemed like a good deal, especially when only one of us was going to look at the birds. Still the advertising promised whales and dolphins for which Bob has been known to exert himself.

The Country Girl was obviously taking a holiday from her usual sport fishing run. Five well-anchored fishing chair dotted her stern platform, with only narrow (and very wet) benches along both sides of the boat for the other observers. The interior cabin, once it had been filled with coolers and personal gear, barely held half the 23 passengers, a fact easily overlooked in the scramble to get under way.

After easing his craft gently through the narrows, without warning the captain opened full throttle as he pounded through the incoming surf. Down below, three cameras, with very long, very expensive lenses sailed off the bulkhead with a resounding thud. Owners, up on deck saluting the dawn, not pleased at all. Communication, though, was limited to gestures and grimaces in the deafening roar of the boat's diesels.

Out on deck, a combination of a gentle rain and lashings of spray combined to soak the few birders who were afraid they might be missing something if they went below. Bob, who despite years of sailing hates to go below, sat hunkered down in the rear fishing chair, his hood rather fortunately obscuring his face. Down below was drier, but rougher as the bow slammed into the wave troughs bouncing us all several inches off our seats. Well-braced, I tucked myself into an interior corner and noted with some detachment as the trips to the rail began. What I failed to note at the time was that anyone who couldn't make it to the stern rail was going to be upchucking all over my spouse's feet.

Seasickness has never been a problem for me (just don't ask me to fly). Through a legendary North Atlantic storm, I ate almost alone in the cavernous dining room of the old Empress of Canada. Since then I have come to appreciate my body's unusual tolerances, but still I never eat or drink until I am successfully acclimated to the boat's motion. Here, as the pounding continued, that seemed highly unlikely.

My fellow passengers apparently had no such notion. As fast as they fed the fish one breakfast they came below and consumed another. Few, it appeared, had taken even the most elementary precautions against seasickness. Down below, the atmosphere grew rank contributing undoubtedly to the nausea. Two hours of this our tour leader promised, and then we'll be in position for some nice birding. The groans that followed signified real pain.

Closer to three hours out, the captain throttled down and we did start looking for birds. First, I checked on Bob. He was decidedly under the weather, his shoes stained where a

fellow passenger had vomited. That had been too much for him and he had joined the other unfortunates at the rail. How much longer, he wanted to know. I had to tell him -- about nine hours. The response was unprintable.

The rain continued and the birds were definitely sparse and all too frequently on the other side of the boat. While the pounding had ceased when the boat slowed, an unsettling yaw had replaced it. More people were sick and eyes glazed over in a combination of misery and disappointment.

But when a bird was spotted, the sufferers would snap out of their private agony, rush to the appropriate side of the boat, note the bird, lean over the rain and return to their seat until the next call to action. Illness seemed to have made many of them insensitive to their

fellows and one could count on being firmly elbowed aside at any prime location. Anyway, in the dull light and rain, field marks were difficult for a novice like me to pick out. As a result, much of what we recorded was accepted on faith: Cory's and Greater Shearwaters, black-capped Petrel, Wilson's, Leach's and Band-rumped storm petrels and one very distant Pomarine Jaeger. Those at least the trip leaders agreed upon. They also had a list of "maybes" which included a Bridled Tern and other desirables.

Lighting up the long waits in between birds were great storms of flying fish; huge schools leaping the length of the boat several feet above the water. It was a new spectacle for me and considerably

easier to appreciate than dim, distant bird shapes.

The alarms were infrequent. A petrel flying at high speed roused the trip leader to request a pursuit. At 30 knots, we closed enough to make identification possible. It was indeed a band-rumped storm petrel which seemed to please everyone.

Everyone, that is, except Bob. He had shown a fleeting interest in the flying fish, enough to prove that he wasn't comatose, but for the rest sat glowering in his fishing chair, his legs stretched out to deter any future defilement. Fortunately, the air temperature was in the high 80s, and we both had on our sailing rain gear which left only our feet soaked. Still it was pretty obvious what he thought of pelagic trips in general and of me, as perpetrator of this outrage.

Hours passed with almost no sightings to mark them; most of the passengers huddled below decks. By then the most frequent sighting was of one's watch. Relief was written broadly across most faces when a surge of power indicated we were homeward-bound. Another three hours for sure, but the anticipation made it tolerable.

By then, Bob and I shared the stern deck alone in adjacent fishing chairs, great sheets of rain slanting off the deck. Mild though it was, this is not what a holiday is about. I felt compelled to apologize for my folly, since my next day's birding was clearly at risk. In a feeble attempt at humor I ventured, "What do I owe you for this?"

He even smiled. Then he calculated slowly, "It's worth two Philadelphia double-headers, an overnight (sailing) race and a trip to my mother's."

"Aack!" in the immortal words of Cathy with whom I identify easily in moments of crisis. Never, ever, take your spouse on a pelagic trip.

What's a pelagic trip worth to him? . . . two Philadelphia doubleheaders, one overnight (sailing) race and a trip to his mother's.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH COUNTS WINDOW BIRD TOLL

By Dr. Erica H. Dunn
Project FeederWatch Co-ordinator

What's ubiquitous, nearly invisible and deadly to birds? The windows on your house. Birds often fly full tilt into unseen windows; some are killed, others are left stunned and vulnerable to predators. A recent study by Project Feederwatch provides insight into just how many birds meet death by collision each year.

Project Feederwatch, launched in 1987, is a long-term survey of the numbers and kinds of birds at backyard feeders in North America. Over 7,000 volunteers participated in 1990-91. Scientists at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York and Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan, Ontario - the organizations that sponsor Feederwatch -- use the data to track changes in resident songbird populations.

During the winter of 1989-90 FeederWatchers recorded the number of birds killed in window collisions at their homes. Nine per cent of all FeederWatchers reported finding one or more window-killed birds, with an average of 2.0 deaths per home reporting kills.

Homes where window kills occurred typically had above-average numbers of bird feeders (and therefore large numbers of birds visiting). Window kill sites were usually located in rural areas close to woods and open water, and the yards had plenty of vegetation.

FeederWatchers documented 66 different species of birds killed in window strikes. Most were common feeder visitors: Pine Siskin; American Goldfinch, and Dark-eyed Junco together amounted for almost 44 per cent of all window-killed birds.

The most frequently killed species died approximately in proportion to their abundance at feeders. A few species, however, seemed to be unusually unlucky. For example, Purple Finches make up 4.1 per cent of all window-killed birds, but accounted for only 1.8 per cent of all the birds counted at FeederWatch sites. All the over-represented window-killed birds (Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Downy Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush and Cedar Waxwing) are woodland or tree-loving species; thus, these birds are often present at the homes FeederWatch has identified as being prone to window strikes.

Most window strikes probably happen because a bird just isn't paying attention. FeederWatchers don't always witness the events leading up to a window strike. But in 16 per cent of the window strikes reported, observers saw a panic-stricken bird escaping from a raptor. In an additional 1.5 per cent of window kills, the victims had been chased by other birds or startled by loud noises or passing cars.

The exact number of birds killed in window strikes each year is difficult to determine. Predators and scavengers quickly remove stunned or dead birds; in this study, for example, some FeederWatchers saw hawks grab birds as they bounced off the window. But extrapolating from the 1989-90 study period, scientists estimate that 0.55 birds per FeederWatch home per year are killed in window collisions.

How does that compare to other window kill studies? To date, the best estimate of total annual window-strike deaths in the United States comes from Dr. Daniel Klem at Southern Illinois University. He believes that one to 10 birds are killed annually for every building in the country, for a total of 95 to 950 million victims. Our data suggest Klem's lower estimate may be the more realistic one. Still, 95 million birds is one or two per cent of the estimated total autumn population of birds in the United States -- not a trivial number. We should strive to prevent window kills, particularly because the birds that die have been lured close to our houses by our feeders.

Recently, Klem also published the results of the first rigorous study of window strike-prevention devices: the hawk silhouettes, wind-socks, one-way films, and screens that are sold by many bird feeding supply outlets. Under Klem's experimental conditions, these commonly used deterrents did not reduce window strikes. The most effective window guard turned out to be a closely spaced grid of adhesive strips.

Few people, however, want to obscure their windows to this extent. FeederWatch participants who have had problems with window strikes recommend a less intrusive contraption: black plastic garden-protection netting mounted on frames installed about a foot away from the window. At one FeederWatch home where as many as seven collisions a day had occurred, bird mortality went down to a total of only nine over the entire winter.

Birds killed at FeederWatcher homes in winter, 1989-90 Total number of birds killed = 945

Species	% of all window kills	% of all birds seen
Pine Siskin	16.9	11.1
American Goldfinch	13.2	13.9
Dark-eyed Junco	12.9	8.6
Northern Cardinal	8.8	4.1
Mourning Dove	5.5	6.4
House Finch	5.1	7.0
Purple Finch	4.1	1.8
Evening Grosbeak	3.7	3.6
Black-capped Chickadee	3.2	3.3
Pine Grosbeak	2.1	0.6
White-throated Sparrow	1.9	1.8
Common Redpoll	1.6	3.2
Downy Woodpecker	1.5	1.3
House Sparrow	1.5	6.3
Tufted Titmouse	1.1	1.6
Hermit Thrush	1.1	<0.5
Cedar Waxwing	1.1	<0.5
Cassin's Finch	1.1	0.6
Blue Jay	1.0	2.5
American Robin	1.0	0.6
Red-winged Blackbird	0.6	2.1
Chipping Sparrow	0.3	2.3
Common Grackle	0.3	1.4
European Starling	0.1	2.2

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- Wednesday, Oct. 9 — ECFNC monthly meeting; 7:30 p.m. Jo Barten will discuss wildlife research in the coastal lowlands of James Bay.
- Wednesday, Oct. 16 — Weekday Raptor Romp, organized by Ojibway Nature Centre; Holiday Beach Conservation Area, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Saturday, Oct. 19 — to Sunday, Oct. 20 — Migration Festival in Kingsville; club will have a table in Lion's Hall.
- Sunday, Oct. 20 — Fall Color Festival at Ojibway Nature Centre; wildlife walks, bird-feeder construction.; 10 % discount on all birdseed purchases; 1 to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 27 — Tentative date for last of fall migration field trips organized by Ojibway Nature Centre. Possible site: Uppewash. Confirm with Nature Centre at 966-5852.
- Wednesday, Oct. 30 — Weekday Raptor Romp, organized by Ojibway Nature Centre; Holiday Beach Conservation Area, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Saturday, Nov. 9 — ECFNC annual dinner; speaker: Mike Cadman, co-ordinator of Ontario Rare Breeding Bird Atlas and the new mammal atlas. Tickets at September meeting.

THERE IS NO GENERAL MEETING FOR NOVEMBER BECAUSE OF THE ANNUAL DINNER

- Wednesday, Dec. 11 — ECFNC monthly meeting; 7:30 p.m. Members' night; members are invited to give slide presentations with "natural" themes such as birds, parks, natural areas etc. Keep each presentation under 15 minutes.
- Wednesday, Jan. 8 — ECFNC monthly meeting; 7:30 p.m. Anne Barbour will give a slide show on her recent trip to the Okanogan Valley in British Columbia.
- Wednesday, Feb. 12 — ECFNC monthly meeting; 7:30 p.m. Presentation by members of the Bluebird Committee.
- Wednesday, Mar. 11 — ECFNC monthly meeting; 7:30 p.m. Betty Learmouth will present "Parks of Tanzania," a slide show focusing on Lake Manyara National Park, Serengeti National Park and Ngorongor National Reserve.



Hawk counters Bob Petit of Monroe, Mich., (left) and Dick Benoit of Grosse Pointe share the duties.

Another name change?

By Kent Glauser

As most naturalists know, the official common names of many birds and the scientific names of many plants have been changed in recent years. In the case of birds the changes have often been unnecessary and even a bit silly. In the case of plants the changes have usually, by contrast, been necessary in light of new technical discoveries.

In light of the evidence of history, perhaps the scientific name for the human species, *Homo sapiens sapiens* is a misnomer and should be changed. Humankind's behavior toward the earth's natural environment, which is, after all, our only real home, certainly has not been sapient.

Therefore, I hereby submit the name *Homo sappy sappy*!

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Address correction requested

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