



The Swallow



Volume 20, # 1
Autumn 2002

Directors:

President: Carey Purdon	625-2610	Jean Brereton	Rob Cunningham
Vice-President: Leo Boland	735-7117	Merv Fediuk	Myron Loback
Treasurer: Bernd Krueger	625-2879	Chris Michener	Elizabeth Reeves
Secretary: Manson Fleguel	735-7703	Benita Richardson	Gwen Purdon



Sandhill Cranes in Westmeath Provincial Park, photographed by
Chris Michener on September 8, 2002.

Membership in the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists is available by writing to: the PAFN, Box1242, Pembroke, ON K8A 6Y6. 2002/2003 dues are: Student \$5, Senior \$5, Individual \$7, Family \$10, Individual Life \$150, Family Life \$200.

Editor, The Swallow: Chris Michener, R.R.1, Golden Lake, ON K0J 1X0 - Submissions welcome!

ph: (613) 625-2263; e-mail: cmichener@renc.igs.net

PAFN internet page: <http://www.renc.igs.net/~cmichener/pafn.index.html>

e v e n t s

Westmeath Dunes (2 walks)

Dates: Sunday, Sep. 29 at 8 AM., and
Saturday, Oct. 5 at 8 AM.

Place: Both trips start from the municipal dock in the town of Westmeath. Coming from the west on County Road 12, turn left in Westmeath before the gas station at the blue building and continue down to the water. Species sometimes encountered are Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur as well as some shorebirds, gulls, ducks and geese. We will drive from the town west to Sand Point Road for the walks. Trips organizer Chris Michener. (ph 613-625-2263 or e-mail at cmichener@renc.igs.net)

Lake Dore Birds

Date: Nov. 2 at 9 AM

Place: Meet at the parking area at Hwy 41 and the Lake Dore Rd. (Cty Rd 30). The focus of this trip will be water birds, but a few songbirds may still be frequenting the riparian habitat. Some species that have been seen on Lake Dore in the first week in Nov. are Red-throated Loon, Tundra Swan, Brant, the three grebes, the three scoters and the three mergansers. Trip organizer Chris Michener. (ph 613-625-2263 or e-mail at cmichener@renc.igs.net)

Pembroke Christmas Bird Count

Date: Saturday, Dec. 14

Place: In a traditional 15 km. diameter circle. Feeder watchers count birds in their yards, while field participants drive, ski or walk a pre-designated area keeping track of the numbers of birds. Reports are given to the compiler, Manson Fleguel, after the Count.

Participants are invited to meet at Manson & Judy's around 5 PM to go over

results and enjoy pizza courtesy of the Club. Field Participants are asked to contribute \$3.00 for publishing costs in the Audubon CBC yearly report.

To view the Count circle map and download forms, go to our web page. (see cover for URL) Please contact Manson to confirm participation, 613-732-7703 - email: mfleguel@nrtco.net.

Eganville Christmas Bird Count

Date: Sunday, Dec. 15

Place: Eganville circle includes Augsburg, the town of Golden Lake, Green Lake, Lake Dore, Mink Lake and more. Participation as for the Pembroke Count. Please see web page.

After the Count, participants are invited to gather at Carey & Gwen Purdon's home at 5PM to go over results and share a meal. They are the first house on right, south of Hwy. 60 on Island View Dr. This is about 3 km. west of the town of Golden Lake. Please contact Carey to confirm participation. ph. 613-625-2610 - email: purdon@renc.igs.net. To view the map and download forms, go to our web page. (see cover for URL)

Killaloe Christmas Bird Count

Date: Saturday, Dec. 21

Place: Circle is centred in Killaloe. Participate same as Pembroke Count. Please see web site for forms and map.

Meet at Golden Sands Restaurant in Deacon at 5 PM after Count to share experiences and tally results. Please contact Chris Michener to confirm participation. 613-625-2263 - email: cmichener@renc.igs.net)

Trip Reports

Bellows Bay Field Trip

April 20, 2002

by Manson Fleguel

After a week of unusually mild weather, where the temperature soared into the low 30C's, the cold wind pounding the 15 participants of this years trip was a reminder that summer was definitely not here yet! However, the highest flood waters on the Ottawa River in quite a few years, made for an interesting outing.

As usual, we met at the Marina parking lot. This year the looks over the Ottawa River were short and we took shelter behind the stacks of docking to get out of the wind. A few Common Mergansers, Ring-billed Gulls, American Crows and Common Ravens and a lone Merlin were the sightings. The water level was such that the marina breakwater was partly submerged and the boardwalk was sandbagged to prevent it floating away.

A House Finch was spotted in Town as we checked again for the Cardinal's song (no luck) and we continued towards Bellows Bay. As soon as we came within sight of the Ottawa River, it became clear that we might not have to walk the kilometer to the River at our usual location, because the high water made shorelines extend into every low lying field. The Canada Geese and puddle Ducks were making good use of each of these inlets and it was not possible to pass these without a stop to scan the hundreds of birds present. Wood Ducks, Blacks, Mallards, Green-winged Teals, Blue-winged Teals, Northern Pintails, and American Wigeon were all present in good numbers so everyone could get a look. On our return trip, a lone Snow Goose was observed among the thousands of Canada's. One of the first vehi-

cles to stop also saw a Bald eagle making his rounds.

Ron Laderoute was again a gracious host at his farm, allowing our passage to the Bay. The ice had left in the last week and the water was so high we had to stand well back in his field and peer through the trees at the dozens of Ring-necked Ducks, Common Goldeneye, Buffleheads and Greater and Lesser Scaup on the bay. For the second year in a row, Redheads were observed. A Bald Eagle made a second appearance, soaring in perfect view for all. Rusty Blackbirds were singing, as well as American Tree and Chipping Sparrows. A pair of Eastern Phoebe's entertained as we waded to a small cottage for a better vantage point of the bay. A lone Double-crested Cormorant soared in from points unknown, on set wings, presumably landing somewhere out of sight, on the bay. Turkey Vultures also took advantage of the stiff breeze. A Yellow-rumped Warbler and an early White-throated Sparrow were noted. Purple Finches were singing only a partial warble, probably saving their full song till a territory was necessary to defend.

This year 3 younger birders were welcomed on the trip. They made sure to test the depth of the flood waters and when necessary, allowing an adult to ferry them through the deeper parts.

The trip ended after the walk back to the road. The final tally for the morning was 53 species. Other species not previously mentioned were Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Rock and Mourning Doves, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, European Starling, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow,

Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird and House Sparrow.

Thanks to all the participants for making the trip worthwhile again. It is always amazing to see so many migrants

Petawawa Terrace Field Trip,

May 12, 2002

by Myron Loback

Thirteen people attended on a cool overcast day... 10C. Forty species were identified:

Common Loon, Canada Goose with 4 downy young, Mallard, Wood Duck, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, American Bittern, Common Snipe, Ruffed Grouse, Broad-winged Hawk, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, American Crow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Nashville War-

bler, Ovenbird, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch.

The Pembroke Marina Bird Walk

by Ken Hooles

The Pembroke and Area Field Naturalists Pembroke Marina Walk held on Saturday, August 17, was successful in terms of weather, participants and birds. This year ten participants enjoyed seasonal temperatures, and for their efforts were able to identify a respectable 42 species of birds during the walk. This number was four species less than last year and 16 short of the marina record of 58 species established in 1998.

The low count this year was not due to lack of effort on behalf of the participants but more the fact that the shorebird and warbler migration was only in its beginning stages.

The highlights of the count included Least and Spotted Sandpipers, Osprey, a Wilson's Warbler, Solitary and Philadelphia Vireo, Great-crested Flycatcher, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

There were only a few waterfowl



Pembroke Marina sand flat, photographed by Chris Michener on September 8, 2002.

species this year, which included Black Ducks, Canada Geese, and a lone Cormorant. In the same habitat as the waterfowl, the group spotted Ring-billed Gulls, Common Terns, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer and Great Blue Herons.

This year the songbirds were well represented. There were sightings of Red-eyed, Warbling, Philadelphia and Solitary Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Peewee, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird and Great-crested Flycatcher. However, there were only a few warblers located on the walk. These included Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Wilson's and Nashville Warblers.

Other notable sightings were the sighting of Song, Chipping and White-throated Sparrows, Northern Flicker, both Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Chimney Swift, both Gold and House Finches, and other common birds such as Starlings, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Crows and Robins.

Noticeably absent were the variety of ducks that frequent the marina at this time of the year, migrant shorebirds, Merlin, Scarlet Tanagers, Blue Jays and several of the migrant Warblers such as Blackpoll, Bay-breasted and Tennessee.

The Marina walk continues to be one of the club's more popular excursions. I know the participants look forward to next year for more enjoyable birding and perhaps a new marina record.

5th Lake Dore Odonate (Dragonfly) Count., August 3rd, 2002

by Carey Purdon

Goal: to record the number of individuals and species of odonates and note their relative abundance in the predefined area, (circle of 7.5 km radius centered on Biederman Park on Lake Dore) within a 24 hour period.

This year 9 very keen 'odonaters' found 1,682 odonates of 40 species with 12 new count high's and 2 new species. (bringing the total to 58 for the 5 years).

Jason Dombroskie and "the crew" from Algonquin Park had an outstanding day covering the Shaw Pond and the Bonnechere River System, two of the area's hot spots. Each of these two ecosystems has approximately 40 species recorded in and about them.

Chris Michener and Lauren Trute covered the speciality areas of the back country with some excellent finds.

Geoff Post was back this year bringing a very enthusiastic beginner, his daughter Jen, with him. We covered the basics of damselfly I.D. and then off for some practice in the surrounding area. Great weather, wonderful people and



Please see next page for the results of five years of the Dragonfly Counts.

Cobra Clubtail, *Gomphus vastus*,
photographed by Chris Michener on
the Ottawa River north of La Passe.
July 13, 2002.

some co-operative odonates, made for, all in all, a super day...!! Thanks to all, particularly to those who traveled from afar. (Jason and friends, Geoff and Jen). See you all next year!

Carey.

Lake Dore Odonate Count Summary 1998-2002

Bold indicates first time recorded on Count

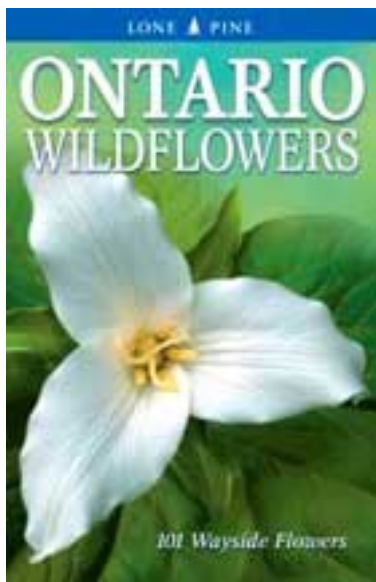
Scientific Name	Common Name	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1 Calopteryx maculata	Ebony Jewelwing	51	44	97	150	251
2 Calopteryx aequabilis	River Jewelwing			1		
3 Lestes congener	Spotted Spreadwing		1		4	
4 Lestes disjunctus	Common Spreadwing	9	26	123	54	3
5 Lestes dryas	Emerald Spreadwing	1	1	1	12	
6 Lestes forcipatus	Sweetflag Spreadwing		1	1		
7 Lestes rectangularis	Slender Spreadwing	7	6	5		
8 Lestes unguiculatus	Lyre-tipped Spreadwing				1	1
9 Lestes vigilax	Swamp Spreadwing		71	75	69	7
10 Argia fumipennis violacea	Variable Dancer	13	72	125	109	151
11 Argia moesta	Powdered Dancer	155	233	357	294	480
12 Enallagma carunculatum	Tule Bluet		984	16	6	6
13 Enallagma ebrium	Marsh Bluet	6		68	63	49
14 Enallagma exsulans	Stream Bluet	4	71	151	206	44
15 Enallagma geminatum	Skimming Bluet		126	303	146	54
16 Enallagma hageni	Hagen's Bluet	5		4	7	8
17 Enallagma signatum	Orange Bluet		5	1	1	2
18 Enallagma vesperum	Vesper Bluet		2	15	1	
19 Ishnura posita	Fragile Forktail	2	1	7	2	
20 Ishnura verticalis	Eastern Forktail	44	328	163	100	87
21 Nehalania irene	Sedge Sprite	2		14	33	25
22 Aeshna canadensis	Canada Darner	12	11	31	5	2
23 Aeshna constricta	Lance-tailed Darner		1	6	1	1
24 Aeshna eremita	Lake Darner		1			
25 Aeshna interrupta	Variable Darner	1	1			2
26 Aeshna tuberculifera	Black-tipped Darner			1		
27 Aeshna umbrosa	Shadow Darner	2			1	
28 Anax junius	Common Green Darner	7		1	4	1
29 Boyeria vinosa	Fawn Darner				10	2
30 Dromogomphus spinosus	Black-shouldered Spinyleg		2		5	1
31 Gomphus exilis	Lancet Clubtail			1	2	1
32 Gomphus spicatus	Dusky Clubtail				1	
33 Hagenius brevistylus	Dragonhunter	2	3	3	7	12
34 Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis	Rusty Snaketail		4	4	4	
35 Sylogomphus albistylus	Least Clubtail		1	1	6	6
36 Dorcordulia libera	Racket-tailed Emerald				1	2
37 Epitheca cynosura	Common Baskettail	1		1	1	
38 Epitheca princeps	Prince Baskettail			1	1	
39 Neurocordulia yamaskanensis	Stygian Shadowfly (exuvia)	6				
40 Somatochlora walshi	Brush-tipped Emerald					1
41 Somatochlora williamsoni	Williamson's Emerald			1		
42 Celithemis elisa	Calico Pennant		25	2	17	76

43	<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>	Eastern Pondhawk	1	5	59	28	42
44	<i>Leucorrhinia frigida</i>	Frosted Whiteface					1
45	<i>Leucorrhinia glacialis</i>	Crimson-ringed Whiteface	2				
46	<i>Leucorrhinia intacta</i>	Dot-tailed Whiteface			7	13	17
47	<i>Leucorrhinia proxima</i>	Red-waisted Whiteface			3	3	21
48	<i>Libellula incesta</i>	Slaty Skimmer	1	12	10	21	16
49	<i>Libellula (Ladona) julia</i>	Chalk-fronted Skimmer			1		1
50	<i>Libellula luctulosa</i>	Widow Skimmer		5	94	84	45
51	<i>Libellula (Plathemis) lydia</i>	Common Whitetail			7	3	3
52	<i>Libellula pulchella</i>	Twelve-spotted Skimmer	3	10	47	10	22
53	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Four-spotted Skimmer			4	2	2
54	<i>Sympetrum costiferum</i>	Saffron-bordered Meadowhawk	5	24	1	5	
55	<i>Sympetrum internum</i>	Cherry-faced Meadowhawk	1	2	6	41	2
56	<i>Sympetrum obtrusum</i>	White-faced Meadowhawk	6	77	244	94	128
57	<i>Sympetrum semicinctum</i>	Band-winged Meadowhawk	2	4	5	31	7
58	<i>Sympetrum vicinium</i>	Yellow-legged Meadowhawk	69	276	370	114	100
	<i>Enallagma</i> sp				63	101	13
	<i>Lestes</i> sp			14	12		11
	<i>Aeshna</i> sp			7	110	17	59
	<i>Boyeria</i> sp		3	1			
	<i>Somatochlora</i> sp		4		4		
	<i>Ophiogomphus</i> sp		1				
	<i>Libellula</i> sp			1			
	<i>Sympetrum</i> sp			5			
	Total Individuals		428	2464	2438	1773	1765
	Total Species (includes genus sp., if no species was identified)		31	35	45	46	40
	New Species		28	14	10	4	2
	Total species to date		28	42	52	56	58



Book Reviews

Editor's note: Shelley Braiden, Marketing & Promotions, Lone Pine Publishing, wrote and asked if I would be interested in reviewing 2 new books her company had released. I asked number of people I thought would be interested. I received 3 reviews for the flower guide and 1 for the mammal guide.



Ontario Wildflowers: 101 Wayside Flowers By Linda Kershaw, 2002, Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton AB, Canada

Review by *G. A. Bickel

This book is a field guide and an introduction to the identification and appreciation of wildflowers. As defined in the subtitle, only 101 wayside flowers (found in Ontario) fall within the scope of this guide. Wayside wildflowers are those that are found in abundance along highways, pastures, orchards and abandoned

lots. A single page is devoted to each species and includes: two color photographs (habit and close-up), notes on natural history and human uses, and a verbal description of the plant. The book introduction provides discussions on identifying wildflowers, guidelines for picking, risks (poisonings and allergic reactions), naming conventions, and use of a key. The book also features an illustrated glossary.

Linda Kershaw has a clear and simple mission in mind for this book - to get people of all ages to appreciate wildflowers. She chooses accessible, easily identifiable wildflowers and provides interesting discussions about each. Those choices help to minimize the frustration of wildflower identification often encountered when using more comprehensive field guides. The sections found in the introduction are very informative to the beginner. The illustrated key to the 101 flowers described in the book, serves as a simple example for understanding how to navigate a dichotomous key. The book also offers an excellent perspective on wildflower picking and collecting. One unique section, entitled: "Fun With Flowers", provides some ideas on arts and crafts using dried flowers. All of these features makes this book very enjoyable and educational and should stimulate the interest of many potential naturalists.

**Grant has a passion for native orchids, is an excellent photographer and loves nothing better than slogging through bogs in pursuit of new plant species.*

Review by *Lauren Trute

Ontario Wildflowers will be an excellent book for the beginner naturalist and gardener alike. The pictures are excellent, and the close-ups are an added bonus. The book is organized by family and flower structure, which is practical, but may be confusing to beginners. The colour guide to the flowers at the beginning of the book is a quick 'match the picture' reference and should be especially useful. The majority of the information for each plant consists of traditional or historical uses.

In my opinion, two things hinder the book's usefulness: the use of common names and the lack of habitat information. The common names used in the book are not necessarily those found in *Ontario Plants* (the MNR's official list of Ontario plants) or other field guides to Ontario flora. As a result, a plant may be more difficult to look up, if the user is not familiar with the scientific name.

Since many of the flowers are 'way-side' flowers that have adapted to many different environments, it would be difficult to describe every habitat in which they are found. However, information such as soil type (e.g. sandy) or associated forest or plant species (e.g. coniferous forests) would have been a useful addition.

The quality of the photographs in *Ontario Wildflowers* makes this book a worthwhile addition to a plant guide collection, however, it would not be my first choice to take in the field.

**Lauren is a biologist and Species-at-Risk Technician with the MNR, Pembroke District. She enjoys identifying creepy-crawlies and things that eat them, especially if they have wings.*

Review by *Manson Fleguel

When I was asked to review this book, I thought to myself, "I know almost nothing about plants in our area, so this should be a learning experience for me", and it has been! The following comments are from a complete novice in this field.

The book has an inviting cover, having a white Trillium on a green background on the front cover and a mini



Fringed Polygala in Algonquin Park, photographed by Chris Michener on June 3, 2002

grouping of the main flower types (in colour) on the back. The price, \$16.95, is clearly shown there also. The spine shows the author as Linda Kershaw.

As a field guide, the first 5 pages inside show thumbnail pictures of all 101 flowers inside for speedy identification without having to page the entire book to find the particular plant you are interested in. The flowers are arranged logically from orange, through yellow, white, pink, red, mauve, purple and blue. A page number is indicated below each thumbnail for more detailed information about the species.

The next few pages deal with tips on identification, issues such as picking or only enjoying, scientific versus common names and the traditional uses made of

these 'weeds'. A key to identification is next with 8 pages dedicated to teaching novices how to classify and identify a particular plant they may be looking at. This section guides one to ask, "Is the flower large or small?" The answer sends the reader to a second stage where another series of questions guides him to more closely examine the structure of the flower, and further questions till only a very few species are possible as the answer.

101 pages are dedicated to larger pictures of each of the species in the book. The colour pictures are excellent, there is a biography of each as well as information on the general plant structure and height. Timing of flowering is given, together with possible fruit, the habitat where the plant is likely to be found and its distribution in North America.

The final pages are dedicated to a glossary and index. I had taken the time to look at the book before a trip to the East Coast. A few species somehow stuck in my mind and one, Common Tansy, was present on almost every roadside there and even on the hillside just below the fortifications in old Quebec City! Previously, I would have thought it another form of Goldenrod! Another, the Spotted Knapweed was very common in large patches in Nova Scotia. To my eye, it looked somewhat like a field of Canada Thistle with its mauve blossoms nodding in the breeze.

The book is written clearly, the pictures are realistic, allowing the reader to get a sense of the plant size and leaf and stem makeup as well as the colour of the flower. Plants that could be hazardous, such as Poison Ivy or Stinging Nettles are shown in their own section as such. Other plants, which could be uncomfortable to the touch, such as Canada Thistle, are noted in the text for that species. The price is certainly reasonable for a book such as this. There is a soft cover that

allows one to use it in the field easily.

On the negative side, the book only has 101 species. This limits its use as a field guide, even though it covers most of the common species. Also, size is 5.5 by 8.5 inches, a bit large. My perfect guide would be a full colour, soft cover, and small book containing ALL the possible species in Ontario. My only comparison book is the Peterson guide which, I presume has all the species, but has many of the plant species as black and white drawings (albeit in the appropriate colour section of the book).

My overall opinion: The book will be a beautiful addition to anyone's library.

**Manson is a birder by passion but likes to know what he's stepping on.*



Ontario Mammals By Tamara Eder, 2002, Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton AB, Canada

Review by *Nancy Hiscock

Generally speaking I found it to be a good reference guide, very 'nature-friendly' so to speak. It not only con-

tains identification guides, but material on life history and behavior, as well as overviews of habitat types, which I find quite interesting and helpful.

The 'Introduction' section was quite informative, particularly the summarization of each region of Ontario (including human altered landscapes), 'Seasonality' and 'Watching Mammals' subsections. I like how this chapter helps pull things together, i.e., which species are found where and why.

The description for each mammal is very good, including the comparison to similar species; again, not too much information, but enough for a reasonable overview.

The drawings/photographs are also very good. I do find the range map illustrations confusing though. At first glance, the colours used are difficult to differentiate. Perhaps these could be clearer?

I find it easy to follow and very reader-friendly; it could easily be applied by adults and older children alike. (One question - on pg 14, is 'paper birch' a common alternative for white birch? I guess I'm just not used to hearing the former term used very much.)

I like the colour-coding of the pages and certainly appreciate the quality of paper used for the book.

Overall, for the price, a nice little treasure!

**Nancy is an Ontario Living Legacy Resource Technician with the MNR, Pembroke District. Nancy prefers exploring wetlands on hot buggy days and always carries 'extra' cold juice and granola bars.*



****Notes from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) and affiliated Clubs.**

Motivating Youth to Protect Nature

Debbie Farmer, FON's Education summer student has developed an *Environmental Action Plan* for high school students outlining environmental conservation, monitoring and awareness projects that can be used as part of the required 40 hours of community service that students must perform to receive their high school diploma. The Plan is available to schools, FON member groups and anyone looking at motivating youth to protect nature.

Nature Notes

Fall 2002 *Nature Notes* is on Helping the Environment. It is geared to 12 to 15 year olds and outlines environmental projects that high school students can use to fulfil the required 40 hours of community volunteer service.

Atlas Update

The second atlas field season has just wrapped up, and it was another successful year! This year, a number of point counts were completed which will be a big help in meeting our coverage goals. Also, a few atlasers set out by canoe, helicopter and foot, to atlas some of the more remote areas of the province. Stories of these adventures will be featured in our fall newsletter.

Draft maps of species distributions based on results to date can be found on our web page <www.birdsontario.org> (Atlas Data & Maps/Atlas Maps). Even though it's still early in the project, striking examples of range expansions are already apparent. Check out the maps for Merlin, Northern Cardinal or Sandhill Crane for examples!

A training CD-ROM has been produced for the atlas. **Bluebird** was released in May 2002 and distributed to atlasers. The CD-ROM includes a picture and song for species that breed in

Ontario. The birds are grouped into different learning lists (by habitat, song type, atlas region, or taxonomic group) and there is a quiz function that allows you to test your song id skills, visual id skills or both on any of the lists. We hope this will be a valuable tool in helping people to learn their bird songs!

The next atlas newsletter will be mailed out to participants in October, 2002. It will feature information on results to date, stories of atlassing adventures in the north, an early atlassing calendar and other atlas updates. We welcome all stories, articles and drawings for future newsletters. Please submit to the atlas office. Previous newsletters can be found on our web page. Nicole Kopysh
atlas@uoguelph.ca
www.birdsontario.org

Autumn Leaf Fundraiser Walk for the Alfred Bog

Organized by the Vankleek Hill and District Nature Society

Date: Sunday, September 29, 2002

Event: Fun Family Walks (3, 5, or 10 km circuits)... or come run, bike or rollerblade!!

Place: Voyageur Provincial Park (Formerly Carillon Park)

Registration: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. *Entrance Fees:* Adults \$ 5, Child (7-16 yrs) \$2.50, Child (<6 yrs) Free, Family \$15

Guided Tours

- Bird Walk (9:30 a.m.)
- Botany Walk (10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.)
- Photography Walk (10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.)
- Telescope Stations for Duck Observation (starting at 10:30 AM)
- Food & Beverage (proceeds to the Alfred Bog Fund)
- Several Alfred Bog Displays
- Door Prizes

For additional information, contact Monika Vogel at 613-678-6603.

Editor's note: the PAFN Board of Directors recently voted to send \$200 to the Alfred Bog Fund, a project of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

Mississippi Mills Moves to Protect Turtles

At several noted locations along the roads of Mississippi Mills, turtles cross over with great regularity during the summer, in a migratory move to t r a d i t i o n a l feeding and nesting sites. Many don't make it; they get run over by vehicles. In a move to save as many of these important wetland creatures as possible, Mississippi Mills Council recently passed a motion to approve the installation of turtle crossing signs at specific active locations throughout the municipality.

The initiative to encourage the crossing signs came from the organization Turtle S.H.E.L.L. and was supported by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN). The initials S.H.E.L.L. stand for safety, habitat, education and long life. The mission of Turtle S.H.E.L.L. is to protect our indigenous turtle species from extinction through education, habitat awareness and placing of road signs at migratory sites.

Mississippi Mills Council is to be commended for taking this initiative to help protect this important wildlife species. The move shows the municipal leaders care about the environment and its natural creatures.

Turtle S.H.E.L.L. can be contacted by calling 613-446-4995 or by e-mail at motherturtle@look.ca.

Long-Awaited Bancroft Hawk Watch Platform Takes Flight

by Joanne Healy "Bancroft This Week" August 2, 2002

The fledgling hawk viewing plat-

form on top of Eagles Nest in Bancroft is ready for action after four years of planning and several months of building, says Charlie Christy of the Bancroft Field Naturalist Club.

The Eagles Nest observation deck is the baby of the Bancroft Field Naturalists but they had many partners involved in the rearing, says club member, Pat Potter. These include the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council, Town of Bancroft, Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Bancroft Area Youth Partnership.

“It initially started as a hawk watch platform and has evolved into a two-level observation deck and educational centre,” explains Mr. Christy, who did a majority of the carpentry work that began last fall. Besides the two-tiered deck, the club plans to build an additional level with a roof for protection from the elements behind the existing platform. “This area will be used for education”, says Ms Potter.

The Bancroft Field Naturalists will provide guided tours and special events throughout the year.

“We’ll be encouraging young and old to learn about the natural world” says Ms Potter. “Our message is we need to appreciate and respect the creatures we share the earth with.”

House Of Commons Passes Species-At-Risk Act

For the 402 species officially listed as at risk in Canada, June 11, 2002, was a good day. After many ups and downs, the House of Commons finally passed Bill C-5 (an act respecting the protection of wildlife species at risk in Canada) and has referred it to the Senate. The bill received first reading on February 2, 2001, and since then it has been the subject of parliamentary debate, committee hearings and public scrutiny –

including input from Federation of Ontario Naturalists and many of the organization’s supporters.

The fate of the bill itself had frequently seemed at risk, and improvements made at the committee stage seemed to have been lost by the time the bill got back to caucus. A back-bench revolt and the hard work of several Members of Parliament (including Karen Kraft-Sloan, Clifford Lincoln and Charles Caccia) forced some significant changes to the bill, which resulted in it getting enough votes to pass through the House of Commons.

While Bill C-5 is not as strong as many people had hoped, enough last-minute gains were made to make it worthwhile, and most conservation organizations are at least modestly pleased and have congratulated the government. Canada is now poised to fulfil an international commitment it made 10 years ago at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. By signing and ratifying the United Nations’ Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada made a legal commitment to conserve biological diversity.

Among the positive amendments to the bill is that listing of species will be left largely to scientists rather than politicians (cabinet would have to veto, within nine months, decisions of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). Provisions to protect habitat — the loss of which is the greatest threat to wildlife — have also been improved, and mandatory protection is now in place for areas of federal jurisdiction, such as federal lands and aquatic species. Unfortunately, the bill contains no specific additional provisions for birds, beyond the provisions already existing for federal lands and provisions in the existing Migratory Birds Convention Act.

The ultimate value of the new legislation will be determined by how effective it is in helping wildlife and safeguarding habitats. Its effectiveness will

depend, in part, on the federal funding in place for implementation and on cooperation with the provinces and territories to provide a meaningful safety net for species at risk.

Ontario's Endangered Species List — Another Kind Of "Deficit"

While discussions of species-at-risk legislation bring to mind the numerous federal attempts to establish a federal act, Ontario does already have an Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA, which came into effect in 1971, includes provisions to protect listed species *and* their habitat and it will ultimately form part of a federal-provincial safety net for species at risk. Ontario's ESA, though, protects only some of the province's endangered species. While three additional species received protection in 2001 and decisions regarding seven other species are pending, as of July 2002 there were still 31 Ontario endangered species missing from the provincial list, which also does not include an additional 39 threatened species.

With representation from Sierra Legal Defence Fund (SLDF), FON filed an application for review in 1999 of Ontario's endangered species list and made a formal complaint in March 2000 to the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario. The review was declined, but SLDF and FON have now refiled their application for review and have urged the commissioner to address the situation. In the meantime, a great many of Ontario's endangered and threatened species remain unprotected — bad news for species such as northern bobwhite, Acadian flycatcher, barn owl, American ginseng, and wavy-rayed lampmussel. FON urges Ministry of Natural Resources to address the deficit in Ontario's ESA.



**conservation updates for member groups. FALL 2002

FON grants permission for use of (this) information... in member group newsletters.

Birdwatch

By Ken Hooles

Between May 20 to 22, I had the good fortune to be able to do some birding in the Shenandoah National Park in northwest Virginia.

It was not the best weather during that period. The temperature averaged 15-16 C during the day and near the freezing point at night. It was often misty with occasional light showers. Yet despite this cool weather, the birding was excellent.

It appears the cool weather that extended as far north as Pembroke delayed the northward movement of many of the songbirds, warblers and hawks. The park was inundated with several of these bird species.

The Shenandoah National Park encompasses 194,600 acres of the Blue Ridge section of the Appalachian Mountain chain in Virginia. When the park was formed in 1936, much of the area had been logged or was being farmed. With the establishment of the park, the trees invaded these clearings, and today, many stages of scrub and second growth forest provide habitat for nesting birds.

Older forests provide habitat for Veery, Wild Turkey, and Barred Owl. A few clearings provide habitat for sparrows and feeding grounds for Woodcock.

It is interesting to note that Common Ravens, uncommon in the eastern United States, are year round residents at Shenandoah. Due to the elevation of the park (maximum of 4,049 feet above sea level) several Canadian species are found here. Some of these include Veery, Wood Thrush, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Indigo Bunting, Gray Catbird, Scarlet tanager and White-breasted Nuthatch.

There have been 205 bird species identified at Shenandoah National Park. The park also has a large deer and bear population. Because it is primarily mountain terrain, waterfowl and shorebirds are almost non-existent, with the exception of Mallards and Canada Geese.

During our three days there, my wife, Pat, and I recorded a respectable 71 species in and around the mountains. The Raptor family was well represented with 9 species; these included Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Northern Harriers and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

The Warbler family was also plentiful, with 13 species identified. Some of these included Northern Waterthrush, Blackpoll, Magnolia, Black-throated Green and Canada Warblers.

Some of the highlights of the excursion included two Golden Eagles, Wild Turkey, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Acadian Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Eastern Towhee.

Another unexpected highlight was the inundation of hundreds of Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers throughout the park.

It was a truly an exciting and memorable birding excursion !



Eastern Towhee in Tennessee, photographed by Chris Michener on May 28, 2002.

