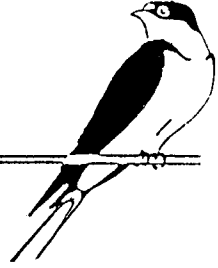


The Swallow



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Are you ready for your Winter visitors?

Membership in the Pembroke & Area Bird Club is available by writing the PABC, Box 1242, Pembroke, Ont K8A 6Y6. 1995/96 fees are: Senior \$5.00, Individual \$7.00, Family \$10.00.

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Marina Bird Walk, August 26, 1995

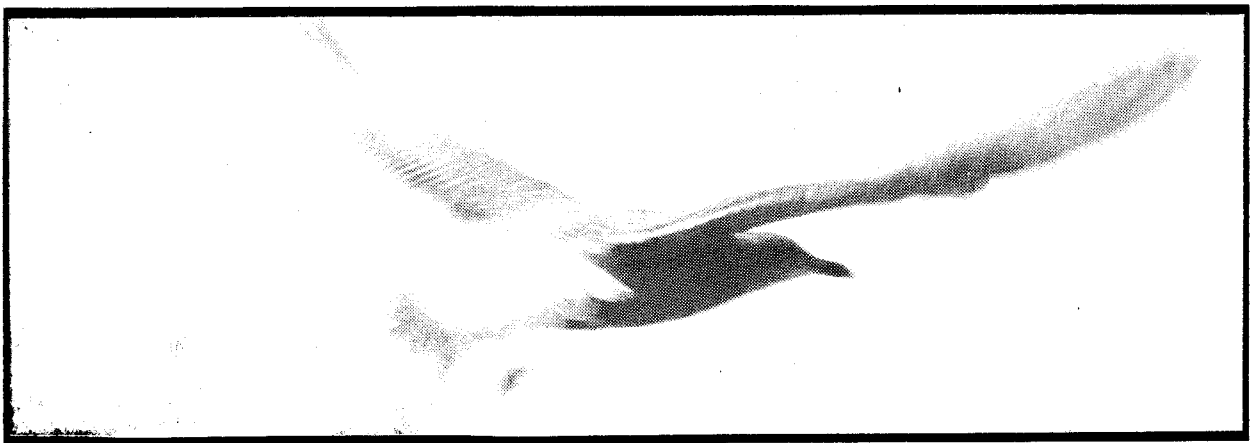
by Chris Michener

The marina, sand flats in the mouth of the Muskrat River, Willow Island, the shore and rocks in front of Supple Landing Apartments, the shrubbery below the Beer Store and the little woods East of there, offer pretty good birding. Jacques used to keep a list of the birds of the marina when he lived in Pembroke. Gyrfalcon, American Coot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Caspian Tern, Boreal Chickadee and Connecticut Warbler are some of the species that have been observed in the area within 400 meters of the mouth of the Muskrat River. This is why, every year at the end of August, the PABC holds a waterfront birdwalk. The new high count for this walk is 50 species, which we set this year (old record 45)!

Five people turned out for the walk and we had a good time. The following species were noted:

Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Osprey, Merlin, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.

It's a long time until next August, but even now I'm looking forward to it. See you then, Margaret, Viola, Pat and Ken! _____



Westmeath Provincial Park-April 22/'95

Spring 1995 Field Trip to Bellows bay April 22, 1995

The gathering at the Pembroke Marina was larger than usual and even though the weather was cold and windy, I was warm all over just to see the excellent turnout. When everyone was made to feel welcome we began to look for birds. The Marina area yielded few of the expected species so it was off to Westmeath for the main fare.

I had phoned the farmer, across whose field we would walk to get to the river, but when we arrived at his home and no one responded to my knock, we left the 7 vehicles in his driveway and headed for the bay. I'm not sure what the neighbours thought, or the farmer, (who appeared to arrive home after we left his yard) but hopefully he was prepared for that many visitors. Lets hope he says "yes" again in future years.

The walk to the river across the muddy farmyard and fields was almost the highlight of the trip: a huge bull made us detour in order to get past him; he had other interests when we returned: we made the trip safely. Another highlight: Martin's version of a Black-capped Chickadee's "spring time" kept us guessing as to the true origin of the call when he and an actual bird were calling!

This spring was unusually dry and the ice had left early off the Ottawa River, so Bellows Bay was not at it's best for viewing. The ducks seemed to be dispersed and not concentrated as in other years. However, the group was rewarded with a total of 10 duck species of an overall total of 45 species seen. We saw Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, N. Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Common Merganser. They all looked so spiffy in their new spring attire. (Especially the guys!)

Other birds seen on this trip included Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, N. Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove (I'm grasping for another species), Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, N. Flicker, E. Phoebe, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, European Starling (grasping again), American Tree Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple and House Finch, Pine Siskin and House Sparrow (last grasp). One last species, a Coopers hawk, was seen as we drove back, but not all the participants were lucky enough to see it.

My thanks to all the participants on the walk. I think it can be said that any day is a good day for birding, no matter the weather!

Manson Fleguel