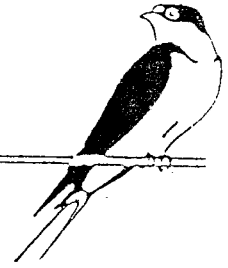


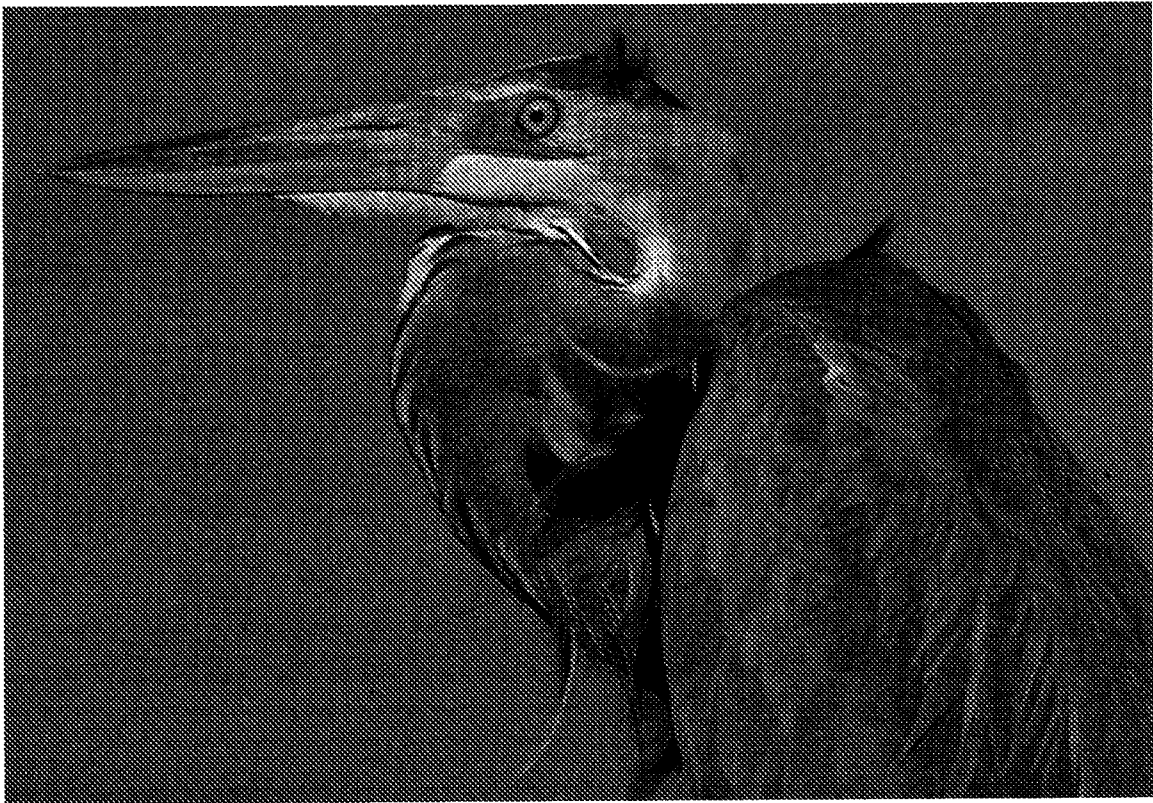
The Swallow



Volume 14, # 1
Autumn, 1996

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Membership in the Pembroke & Area Bird Club is available by writing the PABC, Box 1242, Pembroke, Ont K8A 6Y6. 1996/97 fees are: Senior \$5.00, Individual \$7.00, Family \$10.00.

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PABC Events Autumn 1996

Pembroke Christmas Bird Count '96

Date: Saturday, Dec.21, 1996. The Count Area is a 15 mile diameter circle with its center being the west-end microwave tower on Hwy. 62. You participate by counting birds while walking, skiing or driving. This kind of participant is called a *Field Participant*. It's best to call the Count compiler, Manson Fleguel (732-7703) to determine an area to survey, so as to avoid duplication. The results of all Counts in North America are published in a journal by the National Audubon Society. In order to defray these costs, we ask each participant to contribute \$3.00. The actual cost is US\$5.00 per Field Participant, but the Club pays the difference.

You can also count birds at your feeder and become a *Feeder Watcher*. There is no fee to become a Feeder Watcher.

After the Count, on Count Day, participants are invited to meet after 5 PM to tally results and share in free pizza (courtesy of the Bird Club). We'll meet at the home of Manson and Judy Fleguel on the B-Line Road. For more info call Manson at 732-7703.

Eganville Christmas Bird Count '96

Date: Sunday, Dec.22, 1996. This is the fourth annual Eganville CBC. For the first three Counts, we were very fortunate to have Valley Films of Eganville sponsor the Count. This year, Bernd and Valley Films are stepping aside. On behalf of the Pembroke & Area Bird Club, I wish to thank Bernd for his support in the past. He was instrumental in getting this Count off the ground. Hope to still see you in the field, though, Bernd!

Please see the Pembroke Count for background info on CBC's. For more info, contact Carey Purdon (625-2610) or Chris Michener (625-2263), who are the co-compilers this year. Fee: \$5 for Field Participants. The Bird Club will make up the difference. Carey & Gwen Purdon are inviting Eganville CBC participants back to their home around 5 PM on Sunday to compile the results and drink a hot cup of something.

PABC Events. Autumn 1996

Marina/Waterfront Bird Walk.

Date: Saturday, August 24, 1996 at 8 AM.
 Meet at the Pembroke marina at the mouth of the Muskrat River. Nice relaxing walk for easy-going bird watchers. Binoculars are a must, field guide optional.
 During the years we've been holding this walk (maybe 10 years?), we've seen a lot of changes along the waterfront. Development encouraged the roosting swallows to go elsewhere and trees and shrubs have disappeared in favour of buildings and grass lawns. However, that being said, we set a record last August with 50 species.

Tree Hike to The Shaw Woods

"Hey, there's a Scarlet Tanager."
 "Where?"
 "Up there in the top of that White Ash."
 "Which tree is the White Ash?"

Well let's find out. Join club members and forestry whizzes Robin Cunningham and Alain Vallieres for an outing to the Shaw Woods on Sunday, September 15, 1996. The Shaw Woods, on County Road 9 near Hwy.41, is a gem of a woodlot in our backyard. It has been 'spared the axe' for many years and is a valuable example of relatively undisturbed forest. An agreement for protection of the woods was made between the Shaw family, The Nature Conservancy of Canada and The National Museum of Natural Sciences. It has a diversity ideal for lessons in tree identification and for 'listing'; our identification data can be contributed to the Ontario Tree Atlas Project.

Botanizing, birding, and discussions of forest ecology are other activities that may happen on this walk.

Remember that September is the best time to enjoy the forest in leaf without the bugs. Some of the leaves will be starting to turn scarlet while that male Scarlet Tanager will be starting to turn green.

Date: Sunday, Sept.15, 1996 at 9 AM. at the NW corner of Hwy.41 and County Road 30. We can car pool from there.

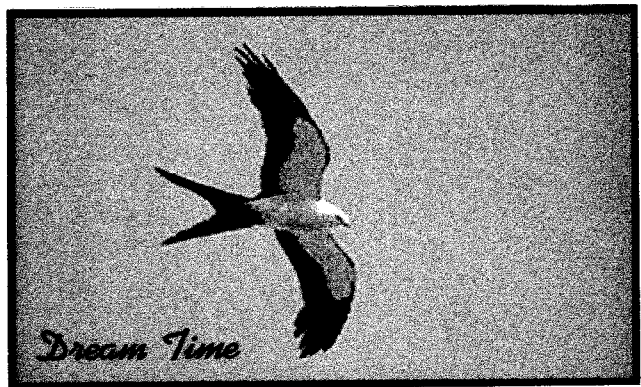
Westmeath Dunes

Dates: Saturday, Sept. 28 at 8 AM. at the Westmeath Municipal Dock. We'll drive a few miles from there to get to the birds.

and

Sunday, Oct. 6, at 8 AM., same place.

These are identical trips on successive weekends. The main purpose of these bird walks is to track down Sharp-tailed Sparrow, which can sometimes be found in the vegetation along the beach. We also expect to see gulls, shorebirds and other songbirds. For more info, call Chris Michener at 625-2263.



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Annual Bellows Bay Waterfowl Trip

April 20, 1996

After seeing such a good turnout for the Annual General Meeting a few nights before, I wasn't sure how many people to expect for this trip. After all people had seemed interested, and the Ottawa River was still mostly frozen, making the trip into the shallow bay seem even more promising. We could expect to find a real concentration of ducks.

I drove to meet the rest of the gang at the Pembroke Marina for 9 AM and true to form, the die hard birders were there, but no crowds lined the parking lot! (I guess they knew what they were doing.) We waited a few moments and then decided to tour the waterfront. Our efforts were rewarded with several species including Snow Bunting, Am. Tree Sparrow, Osprey and Common Loon. Most of these species were first of the year birds for me. Susan, one of our tour participants, invited us to see the Merlins, which were usually very vocal in the tall trees surrounding her waterfront home. I say usually, because, when we arrived, the rain had started to fall and the birds were silent.

We carpoled from here in 2 cars, driving slowly towards Westmeath. Ken and Chris both spotted the only Northern Shrike we were to see on this trip. Other species were also noted in the wet areas of farm fields as we drove. The rain had slowed a bit as we approached the Laderoute farm we usually walk through to get to the Bay.

A knock on the farmhouse door did not get an answer so we took a peek at the Bay from beside the house. To our dismay, only ice filled our binoculars where open

water should have been!! The decision was made to proceed to the Westmeath dock to observe the River and the mouth of the Bay from there. While we were disappointed, I think it was the right choice.

From the dock, we were able to see a large number of ducks, mostly Common Goldeneye, Greater Scaup, Common Merganser, Bufflehead and Canada Goose. Chris also found a Yellow-rumped Warbler and Eastern Phoebe singing in the brush nearby. An early Purple Martin tried to land on the light standard above our heads. Rain had started to fall in earnest so we proceeded towards the Cobden area wetlands.

The large wet area behind Jack Faught's farmhouse was full of ducks. Northern Pintail, Mallard, Am. Black Duck and a much higher than usual number of Green-winged Teal were here. Anyone who ventured out of the cars was quickly drenched so from here on, our sightings were out the car windows.

The wet areas along the Bromley/Westmeath Township line gave us our only sightings of Greater Yellowlegs. We proceeded north and west to what I call the 'Micksburg Slough' - famous a few years ago for the Garganey found there. Very few birds here.

At the 'Micksburg Swamp', rain and few birds shortened our stay so the trip ended (sort of). When we returned Susan to her home, the Merlins greeted us. The trip yielded 52 species, which was very successful, when the weather is considered. Hopefully, next year we can make it to our proper destination.

Manson Fleguel



Fish Hatchery Field Trip Report

May 12, 1996

The seven participants that took part in this year's excursion held on Sunday, May 12, were greeted by cold and windy weather. Not only should this brave group have worn their winter coats, but they should have come equipped with hip waders.

As if the poor weather was not bad enough, the group was unable to reach the river at the Hatchery due to severe flooding conditions caused by Beaver. This eliminated the hope of observing Grebes or other waterfowl.

With these constraints, the small group headed by Myron Loback were still able to locate 23 species of birds. No one kept count of the aquatic species in the newly formed lake created by the Beaver.

Some of the highlight sightings included: Eastern Phoebe, White-crowned Sparrow, Virginia Rail, Swamp Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher and Palm Warbler. The Cape May Warbler was not found this year, probably due to the late Spring! Needless to say, Myron anticipates better results next year! Hats off to the group that hung in there to the end!

Other species: Common Loon, Green Heron, Canada Goose (with 4 young), Mallard, gull sp., Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and American Goldfinch.

