



The Swallow



SUMMER 1991

VOLUME 8 #5



Jean-Luc Grondin

Newsletter of the Pembroke and Area Bird Club

THE PEMBROKE AND AREA BIRD CLUB

VOL.8, NO.5
SUMMER 1991

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|---------------------------|----------|
| PRESIDENT: KEN HOOLES | 735-4430 |
| TREASURER: PAT HOOLES | 735-4430 |
| SECRETARY: MANSON FLEUGEL | 732-7703 |
| DIRECTORS: MYRON LOBACK | 735-1278 |
| CHRIS MICHENER | 625-2263 |



| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| MEMBERSHIPS: SENIORS | \$4.00 |
| INDIVIDUALS | \$6.00 |
| FAMILY | \$9.00 |

PEMBROKE AND AREA BIRD CLUB
BOX 1242
PEMBROKE, ONT
K8A 6Y6

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: MAY 1 TO APRIL 30

COMING EVENTS

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AUGUST 9, 10, 11, 1991- FESTIVAL OF SWALLOWS

PARADE: THE PEMBROKE AND AREA BIRD
CLUB WILL BE ENTERING A
FLOAT IN THE FESTIVAL
PARADE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 - BIRD WALKS: BARON CAYON TRIP- MEET
AT THE THE PEMBROKE
MARINA AT 8AM.

LEADER: MASON FLEUGEL- 732-7703
THE TRIP INVOLVES A CAR DRIVE TO
ALGONQUIN PARK (\$5.00 ENTRY FEE PER
CAR) AND A HIKE TO AND ALONG THE
BEAUTIFUL CANYON. APPROX. 2KM OF
WALKING. WE SHOULD BE RETURNING TO
PEMBROKE BY 1:30PM.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 - EARLY MORNING MARINA WALK- MEET AT
THE PEMBROKE MARINA, AT 7:00 AM.
LEADER: MYRON LOBAK - 735-1278

SUNDAY, SEPT 8 - BIRD WALK TO NUNS BUSH: MEET AT
7:30 AM, NORTHWEST CORNER OF WEST
END MALL PARKING LOT. RUBBERS
SHOULD BE WORN.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

There were three highlights at this year's pembroke and area bird club's annual meeting held on April 25, 1991 at Algonquin College.

The first highlight was the appointment of 10 Directors to the board of our club. It has been many years since we have had that many individuals willing to take on the challenge of operating the club. The board members include:

Ken Hooles
Manson Flequel
Myron Loback
Pat Wolfe-Hooles
Chris Michener

Jack Rumbles
Marilyn Rumbles
Gwen Purdon
Carey Purdon
Joan Austin

WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS!!

The second highlight was the excellent presentation by Mr. Mike Cadman from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists on Rare birds of Ontario.

Finally but not the least was the awarding of Pembroke and Area Bird Club Award to Jacques Bouvier. This award is only presented occasionally to any person in the county who have made a significant contribution to the field of birding or the objectives of the Club. Jacques Bouvier was the founding President of our Club. He was primarily responsible for the Bird Atlas Co-ordination for our area, the development of the Wildlife Art Show, and the promotion of the Pembroke Swallow Roost. In addition, he wrote the local bird column "I'd rather be birding" for close to 5-6 years. For his efforts, Jacques was awarded a plaque and a "Framed" picture of the Swallow Roost done by a local artist. It was also an evening to thank Jacques and Christine and to wish them well in their new life in Hawkesbury.

PEMBROKE & AREA BIRD CLUB

(President's report 1990-91)

This past year the emphasis continued to be on re-organization and streamlining our services. This was necessary due to the heavy workload and our lack of Directors.

This past year, our organization continued to be blessed in that we have a dedicated executive and were able to achieve many results and if I miss any, my sincere apologies.

These included:

A. WILDLIFE ART SHOW

The Club was successful in transferring the show to Pam Dempsey of the Valley Arts Council. Several members were active in the Auction and Club table at the show and we were able to make close to 400 dollars. In addition, the club was an active participant in the Festival of Swallows, conducting bird walks and placing a float in the festival parade.

B. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Manson Fleguel organized another successful Christmas Bird Count this past December that involved many new people and revealed some interesting bird finds. ie: Oregon Junco.

C. BLUEBIRD CONSERVATION PROJECT

Myron Loback, Co-ordinator of this project and 40-50 Volunteers continues to make this effort by the Bird Club a worthy project. This was our second best year for the number of new Bluebirds fledged in the area.

D. FIELD TRIPS/NEWSLETTERS

Chris Michner did an excellent job co-ordinating the field trips and many thanks to the Executive members that led many of these trips in Chris absence. Procedures for our Newsletter were streamlined with the welcome addition of the Pembroke Association for Community Living assisting the club to put out our newsletter. Once again, thanks Chris!

E. COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

This past year the Club made three Community Presentations to three groups of Seniors in the Community. A Presentation on Renfrew County Winter Birds was conducted.

F. CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP

The Club belongs to the Canadian Nature Federation, the Federation of Ontario Naturalist, the Wetlands Coalition, the Long Point Observatory, Ontario Bluebird Society, the Xerefs Foundation, and the Ontario Environmental Network.

G. CLUB'S POSITIONS

The Club took a supporting position on the Canadian Wilderness Charter and supported the report of the Ontario Environment Network.

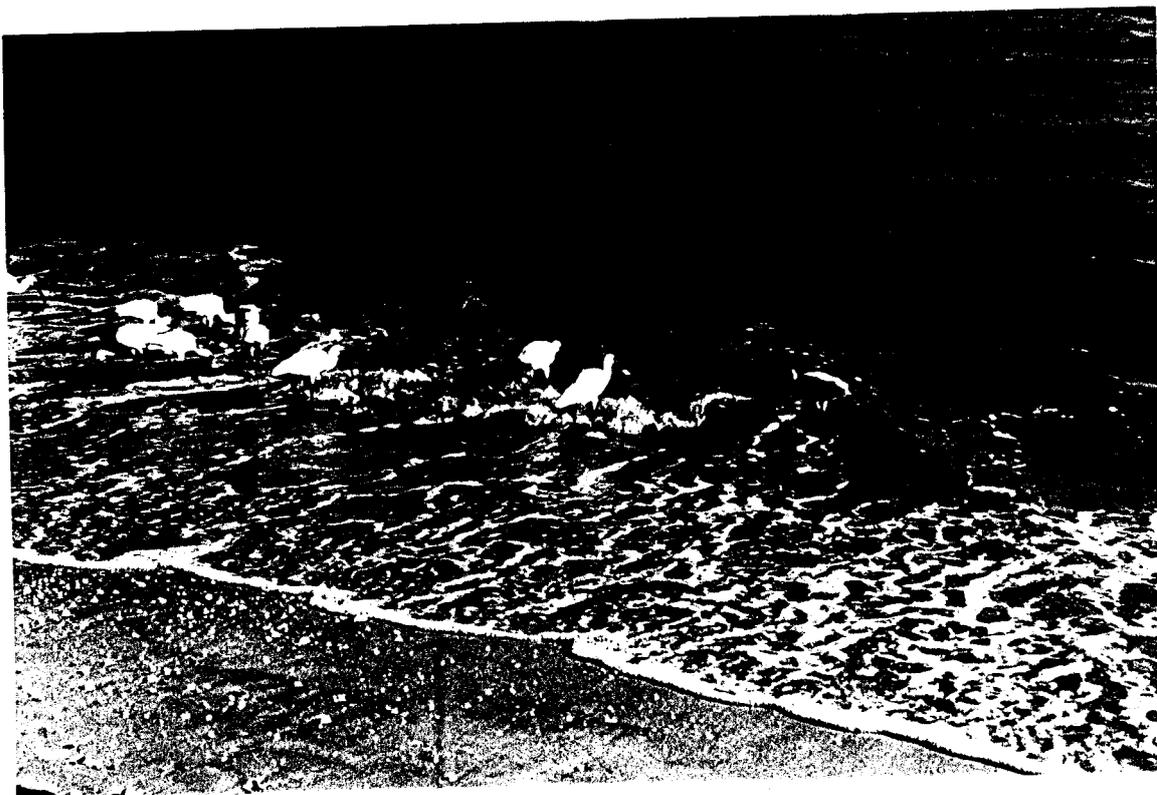
H. DONATIONS

- The Long Point Observatory.
- Avian Care and Research Foundation.
- Ottawa Bird Hospital - Kathy Nihi.
- Owl Rehabilitation Reserved Foundation.
- Canadian Nature Foundation.
- Sponsored Prize in the Wildlife Photo Contest Locally.
- Federation of Ontario Naturalist.

Once again, it has been an active and rewarding year. However, if our club is to continue to do the good work it will need a few more dedicated Directors. If you have some time to give; please volunteer!

K. Hoole

Ken Hoole
President



WHITE IBIS ON THE SHORE

Pembroke and Area Bird Club
Balance Sheet
As at March 31, 1991

| | <u>1991</u> | <u>1990</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Assets</u> | | |
| <u>Current Assets</u> | | |
| Cash | \$1,593 | \$9,284 |
| Term Deposit | <u>6,000</u> | <u>--</u> |
| | 7,593 | \$9,284 |
| <u>Other Assets</u> | | |
| Special Project Fund | <u>396</u> | <u>356</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>\$7,989</u> | <u>\$9,640</u> |
| <u>Liabilities and Surplus</u> | | |
| <u>Other Liabilities</u> | | |
| Unearned Revenue - Special Projects | \$ <u>356</u> | \$ <u>356</u> |
| <u>Surplus</u> | | |
| Balance at beginning of year | 9,284 | 7,837 |
| Excess of Revenues over Expenditures for the year | <u>(1,651)</u> | <u>1,447</u> |
| Balance at the end of year | <u>7,633</u> | <u>9,284</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Surplus | <u>\$7,989</u> | <u>\$9,640</u> |



MARILYN AND HER LOON



THE COBDEN MARSH TRIP

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June 1, 1991

by

Manson Flequel

I arrive at the Cobden Municipal dock about 7:45 am, sure that a good crowd would be waiting to see all the wonderful bird species lurking in the tall marsh grasses. Not a soul was in sight except for a lone fisherman and his dog. He spotted me standing there alone and came in to show me a large Pickerel he had just caught.

Oh well, maybe since I'm early, people will show up by 8 am.

By 8:05 am, I was still alone. So all that was left was for me to drive over to the marsh and enjoy.

The weather was clear and most of the dew was off the grass already. Several species of ducks scattered as I approached the wet area. After a few taped calls of Sora and Virginia Rails were played, I noticed movement about 6 feet away in the cattails, and then more movement and finally the harsh laughing sounds of at least six Virginia Rails who had come to see the intruder. Sora also could be heard in the taller cattails, but none were seen.

Yellow Warblers and Red Winged Blackbirds were everywhere. An unexpected bird was a male Housefinch in a tree along the elevated dike in the middle of the marsh.

After listening and watching here for a few more minutes, I proceeded back to the car.

Other interesting sightings on some of the back roads around Cobden, Meath Hill and Westmeath included several Red Tailed (and other unidentified Hawk species) circling in thermals: A Red Fox who looked like he had just awakened from a long nap, and seemed interested in the noises I was making to attract birds, Black Terns feeding over the ponds at the Micksburg swamp, and an Indigo Bunting singing his heart out.

In total, 64 species of birds were identified, so even though I was alone, I wasn't lonely.

Oh well, maybe next year!

Manson Flequel

SANIBEL ISLAND

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By
Marylin Rumbles

Sanibel Island Florida - a "birder's" paradise for shore birds and more - this is what we were told and it is true. March 18 1991 we arrived in Fort Myers and the first birds we saw were the Mocking birds as they are Florida's national bird, we thought that was appropriate. The next day crossing the cause-way over to Sanibel Island was wonderful, with large Brown Pelicans zooming overhead, just at car-top level and sitting on the railings. They were in various shades of brown and it was great watching them fly and dive for fish. There were many other shore birds, but we couldn't stop and decided to cross over another day. The next day we spent at the pool at the motel, just resting, and still the birds flew overhead. Twenty Vultures, red-headed and red-bellied Wood-peckers, Doves, Mocking birds and Thrushes were constant companions, for the entire day. On the 20th we changed motels to be at the ocean. How lovely it was to walk along the shore and see hundreds of birds and to be able to get so close to them, many of them would let you walk right up to them. The Glacius Gulls were there in great number, a few Franklin Gull, Herring Gull, Foresters Tern and the adorable Royal Tern were everywhere. Also there were Sanderlings, Semi-palmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstones, Willets, Killdeers and the short-billed Dowitcher. I know that there were several other species, but being "novices" we could not truly give a positive I.D. We were happy with what we could identify.

After spending a few days there we decided to drive through the Everglades National Park and down to the Keys and finally Key West. The Everglades, is always a thrill, seeing Alligators, Gammets, Great Egrets, White Ibis and hundreds of Double-breasted Cormorants sitting on wires all along the way. Crossing the 100 plus bridges in the keys, we saw Osprey everywhere, nesting on high hydro posts and were fortunate enough to find many with chicks in their nests and with our scope we had great clear viewing. The closer we got to Key West, the fewer the birds, so after 2 days there, it was time to head back to Sanibel Island and as planned stay at the same hotel.

Many of the same species of birds were there, but a new flock of White Ibis had arrived. Next an exciting day in the "Ding" Darling Bird Refuge. -Hérons- Little Blue Herons, Great Blue Herons and the very beautiful Tri-colored Heron. Red shouldered Hawks, red-breasted Mergansers and the Anhingas were something else to watch - "super fishermen", with there snake like neck, thus the nick-name "snake bird". Also there were Snowy Egrets and the magnificent Roseate Spoonbills. The guide told us that these birds are really doing well in the park and we saw at least a hundred.

We thought nothing could top that, until we drove around a sharp curve and on a small lake and saw what I thought were two

white paddle boats, but as they are not allowed there, what were they? They were two wonderful white pelicans. They were huge and a sight we will never forget, especially since they are so rare. This had to be the highlight of our trip. Right? Wrong.-

Early next evening, sitting at the beach, we heard what sounded like a loon - but didn't look like one to us. He swam back and forth in front of us and the waves kept pushing him closer into shore and were really battering this poor bird. I was very upset and waded into to the ocean to see if I could pick him up. He was very unhappy to let me hold him. He was very weak and I could tell he was very sick, otherwise I could not have picked him out of the water. My husband ran to our room and dialed the "bird-alert number" and was told they couldn't pick the bird up but could we bring him to the clinic (the picture you see is of me taking him in a towel to the clinic). All the way there, he nibbled at my hair and snuggled into my neck. Having loved these birds since I was a teen-ager, this has to be the ultimate. Please forgive me if that sounds a trite "corny". The bird was a male adult in winter plumage and had parasites, he could not fly because the wing feathers did not grow.

At the clinic we met two very nice young vets and all their patients which included - 3 Brown Pelicans, 1 Cedar Wax Wing, a Kestrel with a broken wing , 1 Great-horned Owl, 2 other Loons, several baby Mourning Doves, and a European Starling. Also 1 raccoon, 1 Possum and an Osprey that had fallen out of a tree and had fishing line wrapped around his legs.

Everything ended well, as "my loon" #453 was put in a tub to swim and was force fed for a few days. I've called since and he is fine, eating on his own and staying for the winter at the refuge. He will be released in the spring and who knows, perhaps next year, we will have one more loon in front of our home on the Ottawa River.

I'll end this by saying if you can ever vacation on Sanibel Island, you'll never be sorry. But I'm sure you won't top my experience with "my loon" "BIRD".

Wishing you all exciting birding!

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!!