

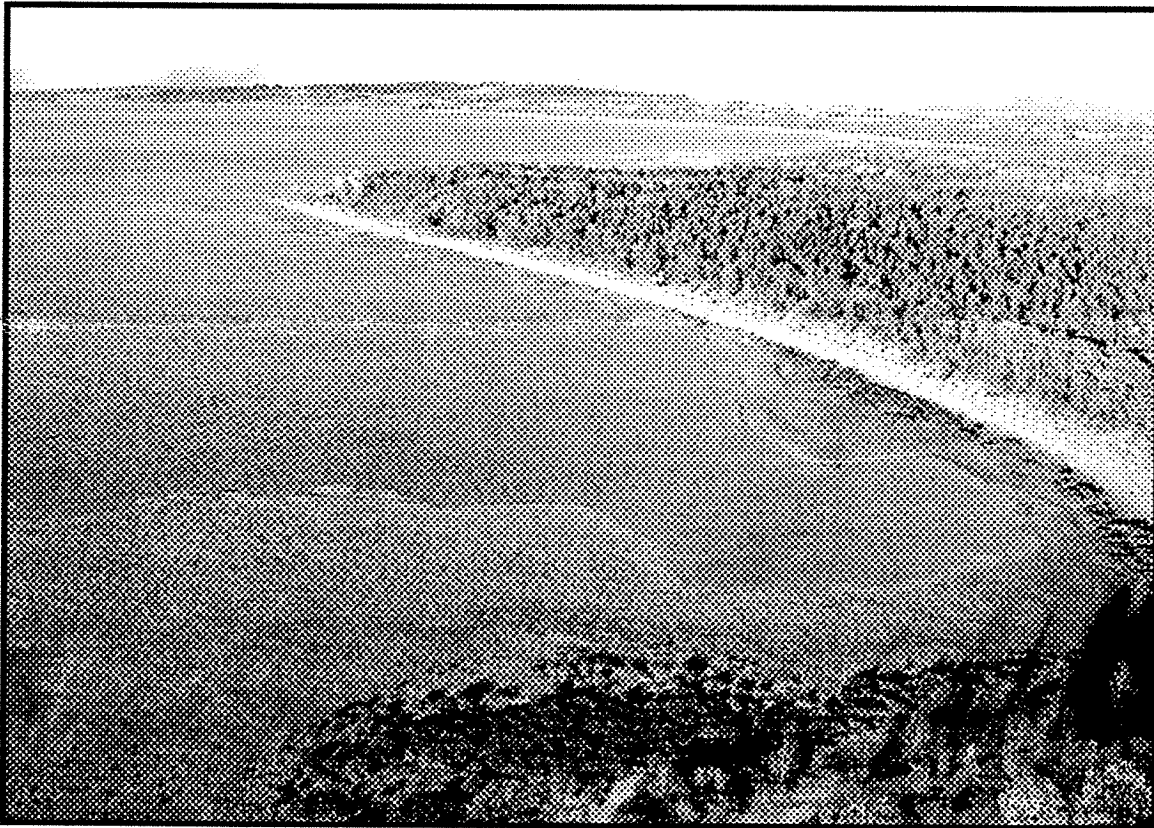
# The Swallow



Volume 23, # 1  
Autumn 2005

## Directors:

President:	Leo Boland	735-7117	Grant Bickel	Jean Brereton
Vice-President:	Rob Cunningham	732-8402	Bruce Burnett	Merv Fediuk
Treasurer:	Bernd Krueger	625-2879	Myron Loback	Mike MacDonald
Secretary:	Manson Fleguel	732-7703	Sandra MacDonald	Chris Michener
			Benita Richardson	



Wetsmeath Provincial Park beach and shoreline from the air. Sharp-tailed Sparrow Fall migration habitat is in the lower left. photo: by Daryl Coulson

Membership in the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists is available by writing to: the PAFN, Box 1242, Pembroke, ON K8A 6Y6. 2005/2006 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

a colour copy of the Swallow is available for download (.pdf) at:

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

# • E v e n t s & T r i p s •

## **Kiwanas Walkway Nature Walk - in Pembroke along the Ottawa River**

**Date:** Saturday, September 24 at 8 AM.

**Place:** Riverside Park Beach parking area. This is at the west end of the walkway.

The Walkway is a proven bird 'trap' for Fall migrants. Western Kingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Connecticut Warbler have occurred along the walkway in the past few years. The plant, Glandular Touch-me-not, has also recently been found along the path. This is a showy bushlike flower from overseas.

**Organizer** Chris Michener: 625-2263.  
cmichener@renc.igs.net

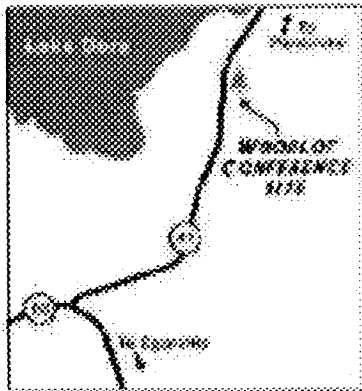
## **Renfrew County Woodlot Conference**

**Date:** Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005.

9 am. to 3 pm

**Location:** On the Terry Martin Woodlot, 36252 Hwy 41, Lake Dore, Ontario

**Admission** \$5. Lunch available for purchase from the Douglas Lions Club.



### **Features:**

- Management Options for Hardwoods;
- Taking Stock; •Tree Marking;
- Demonstrations/Displays; •Woodlot Management for Maple Syrup Production;
- Utilization of Hardwoods.

### **For more Information Contact:**

Mitch Baldwin, Stewardship Coordinator  
732-5523; mitch.baldwin@mnr.gov.on.ca

## **Astronomy "Sky Walks"**

The Ottawa Astronomy Observers Group (OAOG) outing is to be held on Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and which might be held at the Foymount viewing location. The exact location and date will depend on weather conditions among other factors. For how to find Foymount viewing location, go to: [www.oaog.ca/foymount.htm](http://www.oaog.ca/foymount.htm)

For other events, see: <http://www.oaog.ca/events.htm>

Before heading out, people should check for a final "GO" or "NO-GO" confirmation which is posted on the afternoon of event at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaog>

**or call** Jean Brereton: 625-2263; email: [jbrereton@renc.igs.net](mailto:jbrereton@renc.igs.net)

or OAOG [http://members.aol.com/\\_ht\\_a/whershberg/page/](http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/whershberg/page/)

## **Westmeath Provincial Park beach walk**

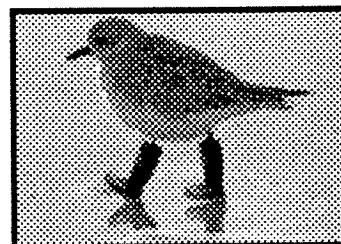
**Date:** Sunday, Oct. 2 at 8 AM.

**Place:** Trip starts from the municipal boat launch in the town of Westmeath. Coming from the west on County Rd. 12, turn left in Westmeath before the gas station at the blue building and continue down to the water.

Sometimes encountered are Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur as well as various shorebirds, gulls, ducks and geese. Dark morph Leopard Frogs are numerous.

We'll drive west from the town to Sand Point Road for the walk.

**Organizer** Chris Michener, pH: 625-2263; [cmichener@renc.igs.net](mailto:cmichener@renc.igs.net)



**Ontario Nature – Federation of Ontario Naturalists -ONTARIO EAST REGIONAL MEETING – Fall 2005.**

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2005

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

Location: Alfred College in Alfred Hosted by the Vankleek Hill and District Nature Society and held at Alfred College, in Alfred, east of Ottawa. This is a great location and there will be a guided tour of the Alfred Birding Trail at the end of the meeting so don't forget your binoculars.

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM Introductions and Update on Club Activities: Reps/ Presidents. Our representative with Ontario Nature is PAFN director Bruce Burnett.

10:30 AM to 11:00 AM Ontario Nature Update: Helena Rusak (Executive Assistant) and Cliff Bennett (Regional Director) will give an update on conservation issues as well as news from the Ontario Nature board.

11:00 AM to 11:30 AM Special Presentation: The Ontario Nature Greenway, How you can to play a role. Helena Rusak will provide an update on Ontario Nature's greenway initiative, including opportunities for your group to be involved (the Greenway includes Eastern Ontario).

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM Lunch will be kindly provided compliments of the Vankleek Hill & District Nature Society and partners. Bring a mug for coffee in the morning.

12:30 PM to 2:30 PM Special Workshop: Launching a Conservation Campaign; Capacity Building in Dealing with Conservation Issues: Cliff Bennett and Jacques Bouvier of the Vankleek Hill group will lead a planning and strategizing exercise to develop action plans for addressing conservation issues. The potential development at the Alfred Sewage Lagoons is an issue the Vankleek Hill group is undertaking and will it be used as a real life model for this exercise. We will discuss how to Help this Municipality Manage its Sewage Lagoon in a Bird Friendly Manner.

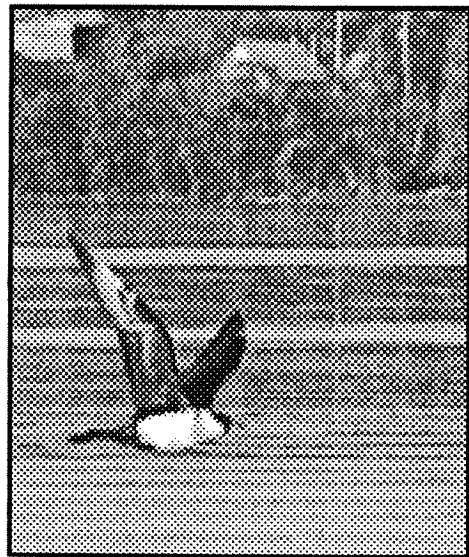
2:30 PM 4:00 PM After the Meeting Come discover the Alfred Birding Trail with the Nature Society of Vankleek Hill and District. The Alfred Bog and the Alfred Sewage Lagoons will be the featured stops. Bring your Binoculars! For information about the trail, visit: [www.easternontariostewardship.org/prescott-russell/projects.alfredbirding\\_e.aspx](http://www.easternontariostewardship.org/prescott-russell/projects.alfredbirding_e.aspx).

**Lake Dore Birds**

Date: Oct. 29 at 9 AM

Place: Meet at the Wilberforce Twp. beach & picnic park. From the intersection of Hwy 41/Lake Dore Rd., go south on Hwy. 41 over the Snake River Bridge and make the next right.

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 at this time of year are Red-throated Loon, Tundra Swan, Brant, the three grebes, the three scoters and the three mergansers. Organizer Chris Michener: 625-2263; [cmichener@renc.igs.net](mailto:cmichener@renc.igs.net)



Pomarine Jaeger on Lake Dore on June 12, 2002. photo from Manson's boat - CM

### **Pembroke Christmas Bird Count**

Date: Saturday, Dec. 17

Place: Within 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.

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

Cost: \$3.00 for field participants

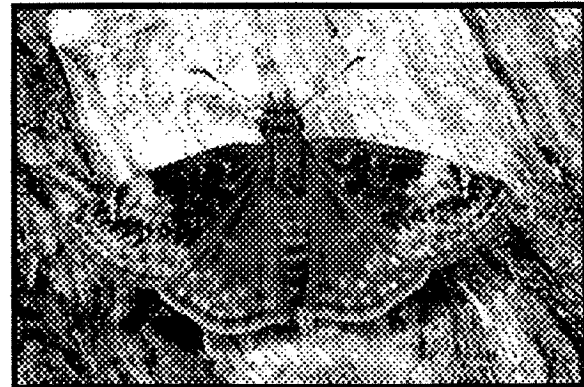
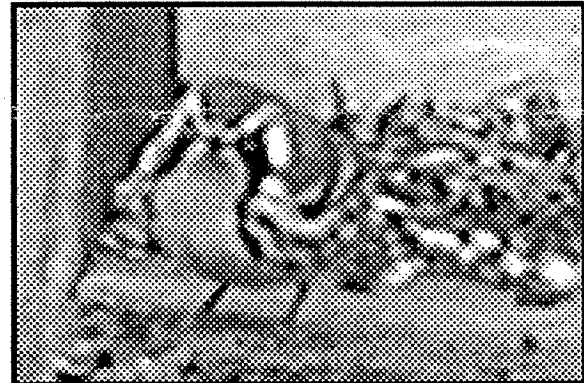
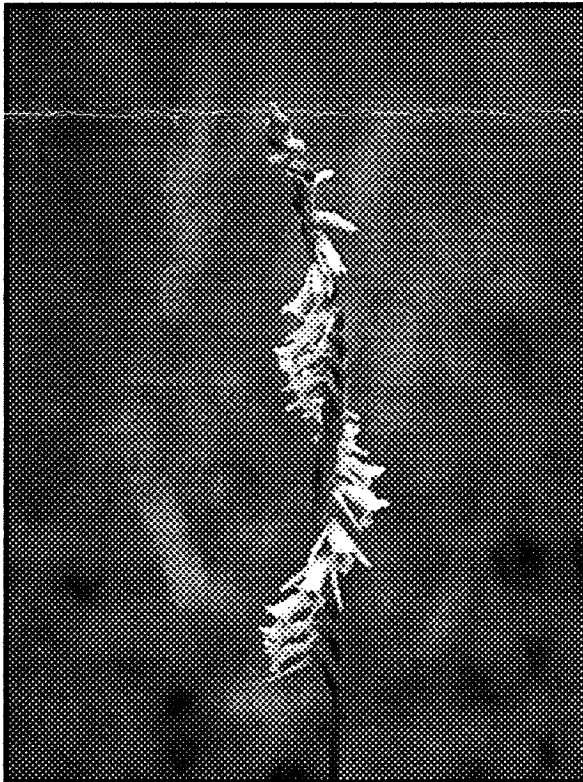
### **Eganville Christmas Bird Count**

Date: Sunday, Dec. 18

Place: Eganville circle includes Augsburg, the town of Golden Lake, Green Lake, Lake Dore, Mink Lake and more. To view the Count circle map and download forms, go to the PAFN web page. (see front cover)

After the Count, participants are invited to gather at the home of the compiler, Chris Michener, and partner Jean Brereton at 5PM to go over results and share a meal (pot-luck). They are at 1311 Burchat Rd. Please contact Chris to confirm participation. pH. 613-625-2263; email: cmichener@renc.igs.net.

Cost: \$3.00 for field participants



From the photography of Bernd Krueger we have the beautiful orchid, *Spiranthes lacera* - Northern Ladies' Tresses, the very rare, Yellow-throated Warbler from November 5, 2001 at his home and the butterfly, Juvenal's Duskywing, from his property near Golden Lake.

# Trip Reports

## **Owling Night Report - April 1, 2005** by Chris Michener

Owling Night is a an occasion when people meet others for the first time and by the end of the evening they are great friends, even though they have no idea what anyone looks like.

Sixteen people were treated to a very cooperative Barred Owl at the Shaw Woods. After Erin Hitchins used his duck call in a very respectable imitation of the Barred Owl, we started hearing the owl respond. Using tape playback, the owl made an appearance in a roadside poplar tree and stayed for 10 minutes, long enough for most to get a close-up look in the spotting scope.

We drove to the Pine Valley area listening for Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl but heard neither. We also tried to entice a Northern Saw-whet to respond after a couple of people heard it briefly near the Shaw Woods, but weren't successful. Everyone was elated with the great appearance of the Barred Owl, though, and I hope the owl returns next year, as well as the humans.

## **Bellow's Bay Field Trip - April 23, 2005** by Manson Fleguel

Twenty-one persons were willing to brave the wind and impending rain as we gathered at the Pembroke Marina. The river level had risen about a foot overnight so we knew that the flooded trees around the Bay could impede our access. However, the birds were out and we made the best of the situation.

Birding the marina walkway turned up most of the expected species. (This trip had attracted several smaller children so the participants broke into 2 loose groups; those who were short enough to view birds through a low scope and those who were taller. Thanks to the adults who helped lead the latter group (Chris and Ken)). A Common Loon actually swam into the marina basin. Several duck species flew by or landed and a Double -crested Cormorant was also seen. An Osprey was seen, both here and at the Bay. A Song Sparrow sang lustily for us.

After a short time in the cold wind, we car pooled to the Miller Street area in Town and some of the group were fortunate enough to hear a Northern Cardinal, the target species for this stop. This is the first time we have actually been able to identify this species in quite a few years. Another uncommon species at this stop was a Common Redpoll that was especially tame.

From here we travelled to the Westmeath area and the farm of Ron Ethier. On the way, the flooded fields gave us good views of Wood Ducks, Northern Pintail, American Widgeon and Green-winged Teal. Canada Goose was numerous. Cars almost filled the yard at the farm and mud and cow patties made the trip to the river interesting. (The kids seemed to enjoy it). A Pileated Woodpecker winged his way

over the open fields, American Crows cawed everywhere. A few Dark-eyed Juncos flitted in the fence rows.

As expected, high water prevented us getting to the edge of the Bay; the trees in the flooded area between field and bay restricted views. However, several good views were available of Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye. A pair of Rusty Blackbirds called from a swamp maple overhead. Some of the more adventurous group made it deeper into the wooded area and saw Greater Scaup and Hooded Merganser.

The following species were also seen at some point on the trip, making a species count of 42 species. Great-blue Heron, Mallard, Common Merganser, N. Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, Rock Pigeon, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle.

Thanks to all who came out. I enjoyed your company.



### **Pembroke Marina Walk**

August 20, 2005

by Chris Michener

Fourteen eager birders showed up for this walk led by Ken Hooles. Fifty-six species were seen, which is a record for this walk. Highlights included Merlin, Pectoral Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo and Blackpoll Warbler.



### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - April 13, 2005 7:00 PM**

by Manson Fleguel, Secretary

Leo Boland called the meeting to order at 7:12. A total of 21 persons attended the meeting. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting and welcomed those attending.

Manson read the minutes of the 2004 AGM. There being no corrections or omissions, he moved for acceptance and Jean Brereton seconded that.

Leo provided the President's report. He thanked all those who help out with club functions and those members of the community who report rare birds and then graciously host birders wanting to see it. He also provided an entertaining account of his first "birding" outing.

Bernd Krueger provided a detailed treasurers report that is attached to these minutes. There was one correction in that there should have been one life membership shown as received during the year (no change in the overall finances, just a relocation

of the \$150 membership money). The amended treasurer's report was accepted by Chris Michener and seconded by Manson Fleguel.

There was no business arising from any of the previous reports.

Under new business,

- Leo advised that the Club's Charitable Status had been reinstated recently.
- Bruce Burnett, as the new PAFN rep with Ontario Nature, provided material he had received from that organization for Club members to pick up.
  - Jean Brereton and Benita Richardson spoke of a PAFN fundraiser, a golf nine and dine to be held on June 17, 2005 at the Island Brae Golf Club. The cost will be \$35.00 per person, there will be lots of prizes and they invited everyone to provide their ideas and help for the event.
- Manson reminded those present that PAFN membership dues were now due.
- Manson provided some information on the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists workshop to be held at Long Point in July / August 2005. This is a free week provided to 13 to 17 year olds who are interested in birding.
- Chris Michener reported that the Natural History day will be held this year at Mat e Way Park in Renfrew.
- Chris also reported that the documentation on the possible Slaty-backed Gull that had been found at the local landfill site in 2003, was not sufficient to confirm the species, so it will not be added to the local bird list as hoped.
- Edith Hanatschek provided a petition on farmers and their seed production for those present to consider signing.

Manson then read the nominating report. The list of candidates include Merv Fediuk, Myron Loback, Jean Brereton, Chris Michener, Robin Cunningham, Leo Boland, Benita Richardson, Manson Fleguel, Bernd Krueger, Bruce Burnett, Mike MacDonald and Sandra MacDonald. There was one further nominations from the floor, Grant Bickel. His name was added to the list and all were declared elected upon a motion by Manson, seconded by Merv Fediuk. This slate fills the 13 director positions available on the PAFN board.

Benita looked after the door prizes and a coffee break followed. Then Chris Michener introduced Jason Dombroskie as our guest speaker. He presented a very entertaining and animated slide show and talk on the insects of the local area. Leo thanked him and then presented him with a token of our appreciation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

## The Butterfly and Odonate Counts of 2005

by Chris Michener

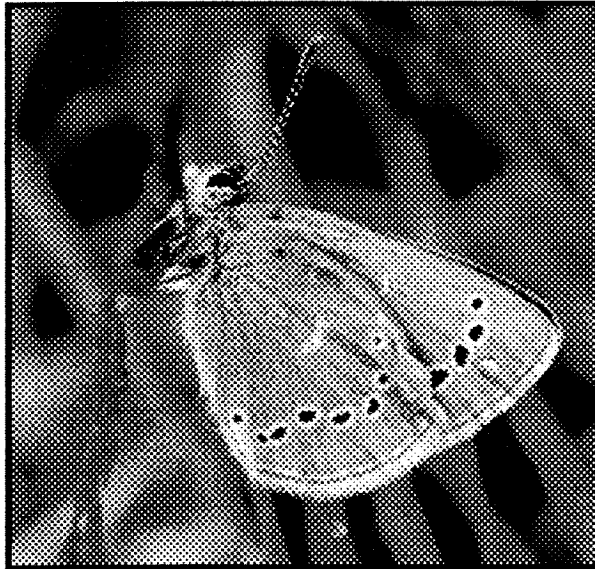
Two butterfly Counts and one dragonfly Count were held as usual this year.

Forty species were seen on the **Lake Dore Butterfly Count** (July 2) and 1,015 individual butterflies were recorded. Highlights were: 1 Black Swallowtail, one each of Acadian, Banded and Striped Hairstreaks, 2 Baltimore Checkerspots and 1 Appalachian Brown (new to the Count and second for our area).

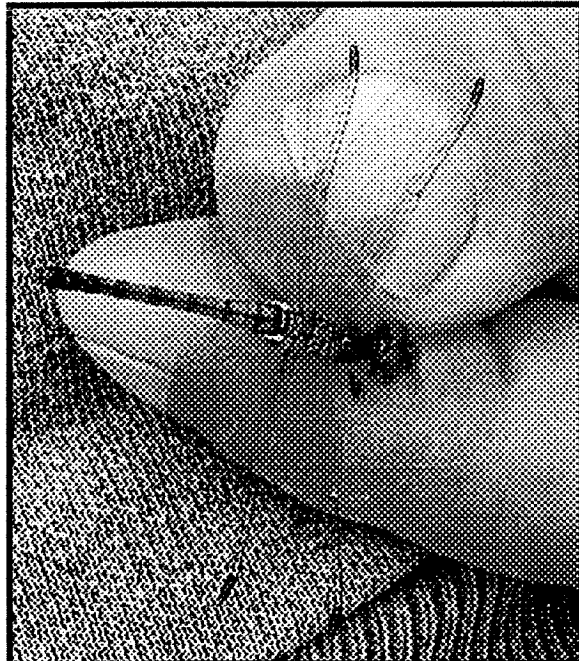
Twenty-eight species were seen on the **Hog Island Butterfly Count** (July 16) and 481 individuals were recorded. Highlights were: 1 Coral Hairstreak, 6 Columbine Duskywings, 1 Arctic Skipper, 2 Crossline Skippers, 6 Northern Broken Dash and 6 Delaware Skippers (new to our area with one on Allumette Island, QU and 5 in Westmeath Township, ON).

Thirty-five odonate species were seen (August 6) on the **Lake Dore Odonate Count** and 519 individuals. Highlights were: 2 *Lestes forcipatus* (Sweetflag Spreadwing), 1 *Enallagma civile* (Familiar Bluet) (new to Renfrew County), 1 *Aeshna eremita* (Lake Darner), 1 *Boyeria vinosa* (Fawn Darner), 1 *Macromia illinoensis* (Illinois River Cruiser) (new to Count) and *Celithemis eponina* (Halloween Pennant) (new to Count).

Special thanks go out to Jason Dombroskie who attended all three Counts and added 3 of the new species to the Counts. Jason lives in Huntsville and works in Algonquin Park.



Silvery Blue. photo: Nancy Hiscock



Band-winged Meadowhawk. photo: Lauren Trute



## **The 2005 Triwing Challenge Result from June 24 - 26, 2005**

by Chris Michener

This year 5 teams, the Solitary Buttchecker, the Lone Boghunter, Egretta garzetta, the MacRaptors and The Birding Barbies, found 111 species of birds, 41 species of butterflies, 33 species of odonates. In 2004, 184 total species were found; this year there were 185.

The Birding Barbies with Benita Richardson, McKayle Campbell, Jansen Campbell, Logan Boland, McKenna Boland and Leo Boland saw 52 bird species, 13 butterflies, 13 odonates for a total of 78 total species.

The MacRaptors with Mike and Sandra MacDonald saw 75 bird species, 14 butterflies, 11 odes and totaled 100 species.

Egretta garzetta with sole team member, Jean Brereton, saw 26 burd species, 13 butterflies for a total of 39 species.

The Lone Boghunter decided to stick to butterflies and Ethan Anderman took home the high butterfly species trophy with 33.

The Solitary Buttchecker with one member, Chris Michener, took the trophies for top bird total with 99 species, top ode total with 27 and total species with 139 species. He saw 13 butterfly species.



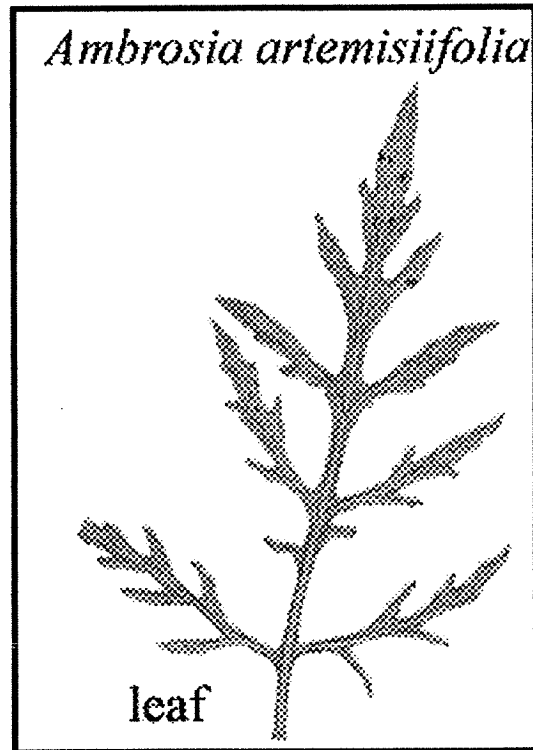
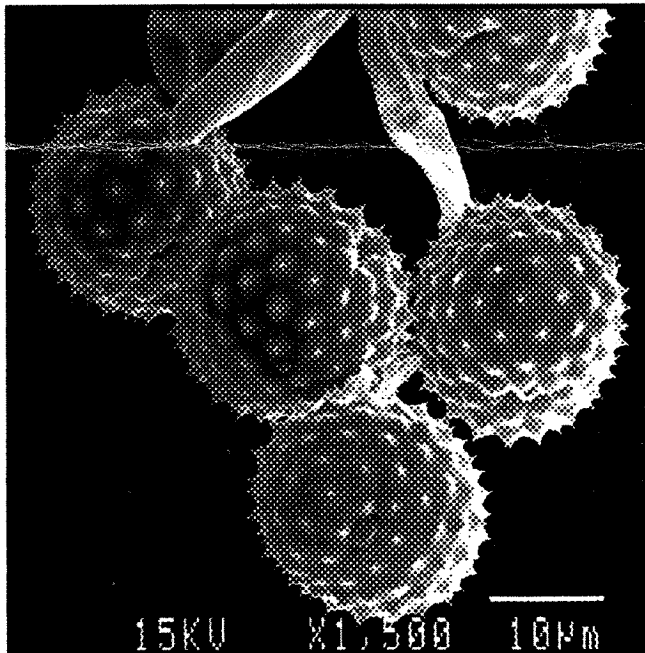
Triwing Challenge participants with Jean behind the camera

## Ragweed: Not A Pretty Wildflower

by: Grant A. Bickel

Common Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) is one of the most common wildflowers in North America. It prospers in cultivated fields and gravelly roadsides. It is a coarse annual with deeply dissected "raggedly shaped" leaves. The leaves emit a very pleasant clove-like odor when crushed. The seeds are an important food source for birds and wildlife.

However, Ragweed is not appreciated by humans and is considered a noxious weed. In August and September, the tiny non-descript green staminate flowers release copious quantities of pollen into the air. Shown here is a scanning electron micrograph of Ragweed pollen. The pollen in this fascinating image look like medieval weapons but they are barely 20 micrometers in diameter – that's less than 1/1000 of an inch and invisible to the human eye! Inhaling this wind-borne pollen seems unavoidable and causes miserable hay fever for those people who react to the Ragweed pollen allergen. In fact,



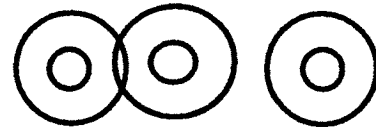
Ragweed pollen is the primary cause of hay fever in humans. Goldenrods (which are more showy and bloom at the same time as Ragweed) are often accused of causing hay fever. However, that is only a myth; Goldenrods are insect pollinated with pollen too large and heavy to become windborne or inhaled.

Ragweed is also a nuisance for the agricultural industry. Ragweed is very quick

to colonize and dominate disturbed areas and fallow fields. Once established, it produces chemical compounds that reduce the vigor of nearby plants. Research has shown that Ragweed has even evolved resistance to some herbicides.

Ragweed has become a plant of concern in the global warming issue. Research has shown that higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide will greatly increase Ragweed pollen production. Alas, this plant that causes so much human discomfort is actually nurtured by thoughtless human activities.

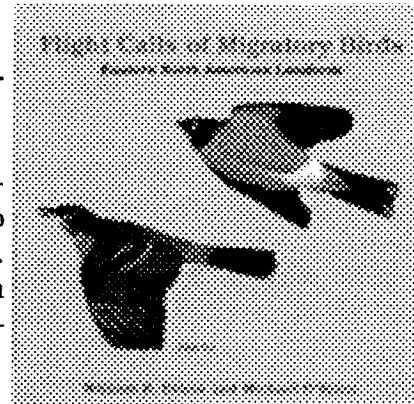
## Web sites with nature CD's



by Chris Michener

### **Flight Calls of Migratory Birds, Eastern North American Landbirds**

Two years ago, in the Autumn 2003 newsletter, I mentioned Old Bird, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to facilitating acoustic monitoring of avian night flight calls. The site encourages recording and analysis of avian flight calls and has downloadable software and microphone tips for recording night sounds.



The following web page, <http://www.oldbird.org/fcmbirds.htm> has a CD for sale which is a multimedia CD-ROM reference guide to the flight calls of 211 species of migratory landbirds in eastern North America and contains audio recordings, spectrograms, and information on migration and calling behavior. For those who are trying to figure out thrush calls in the Fall, this will be a big help.

The website also encourages enthusiasts by giving tips on night recording, microphone design and offers downloads of various software for thrush call identification.

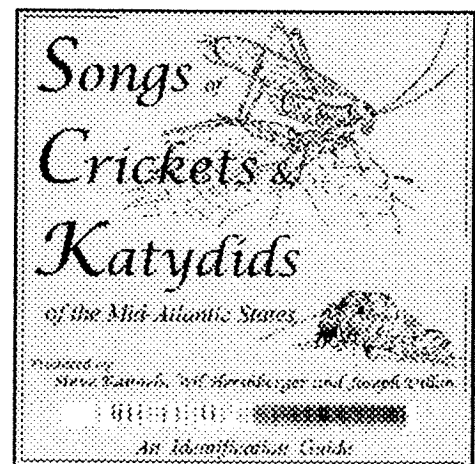
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### **Songs of Crickets & Katydid's of the Mid-Atlantic States.** By: Steve Rannels, Wil Hershberger and Joseph Dillon

[http://members.aol.com/\\_ht\\_a/whershberg/page/](http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/whershberg/page/)

This is a CD for people who want to know more about the sounds of summer. These sounds are constant, day and night, and yet we barely notice them. Cricket and katydid calls are recognizable, these authors tell us. But as with birds, you have to listen to inflections, frequency, tone, etc. I've used this CD to recognize some insects, but my favourite is the Curve-tailed Katydid. In fact, it's allowed me to find and video this beautiful singer.

To be honest, the hardest part of having this CD is knowing which species to expect in Renfrew County. Because the recordings are for the mid-Atlantic States, only some of the species will be found this far north. Looking at different lists, it seems the majority can be heard in Ontario, many of those in the Ottawa area and enough in this area to make a purchase worth while. We need to learn more about the range in Renfrew County, with this we stand a chance!



# Book Reviews

**Compact Guide to Ontario Birds-** Lone Pine Publishing List Price, \$12.95

Reviewed by Mike and Sandra MacDonald

The introduction to this book gives the new or non-birder some useful information upon entering the realm of birding in Ontario. It provides up to date contact lists with functioning web addresses and phone numbers. It also tells the reader that there are over 400 species of birds in Ontario and that only 83 of them are featured in this book. It also explains that the plumages featured are only of adult as they are most often viewed in Ontario, not that of both breeding and non-breeding or immatures.

The description of each species characteristics and traits succeeds in bringing each bird to life for the reader. Prominent field markings are clearly recognizable on large illustrations. The book would have served multi-generations had both metric and imperial measurements been included. Description of habitat is very general and does not include specific sites to best locate the species. Range maps are similar to those found in most field guides. Similar birds are featured, but limited to only an illustration. There is no explanation to help compare species. The description of nesting and nesting habits provide interesting facts such as shape, size, clutch size, incubation size, etc. Including an egg photo seems unnecessary for a compact guide. Rarely do casual birders find bird eggs and variations in color makes identification difficult. This may unintentionally encourage a disturbance of nests and nesting areas. The introduction does discourage this practice.

All of the information is provided in an easy to read format with a glossary and anatomical diagram in the back. There is a checklist of 319 species regularly seen in Ontario with risk categories indicated.

This book would be a great addition to the family cottage, vacation, or camping trip. It's compact size makes it manageable for all ages in the field, and easily fits in a pocket, backpack, or glove compartment. The species descriptions, "Did You Know?" and "Look For" features provide interesting tidbits and helpful identification information for all levels of birding. Great rainy day reading! This is not a field guide for the experienced birder or a good first choice for those embarking into the hobby of bird watching. This would be a great gift to encourage an appreciation for Ontario birds. Pair it with a pair of binoculars or a bird feeder and you have a great gift for a housewarming, retirement, parent or child.

