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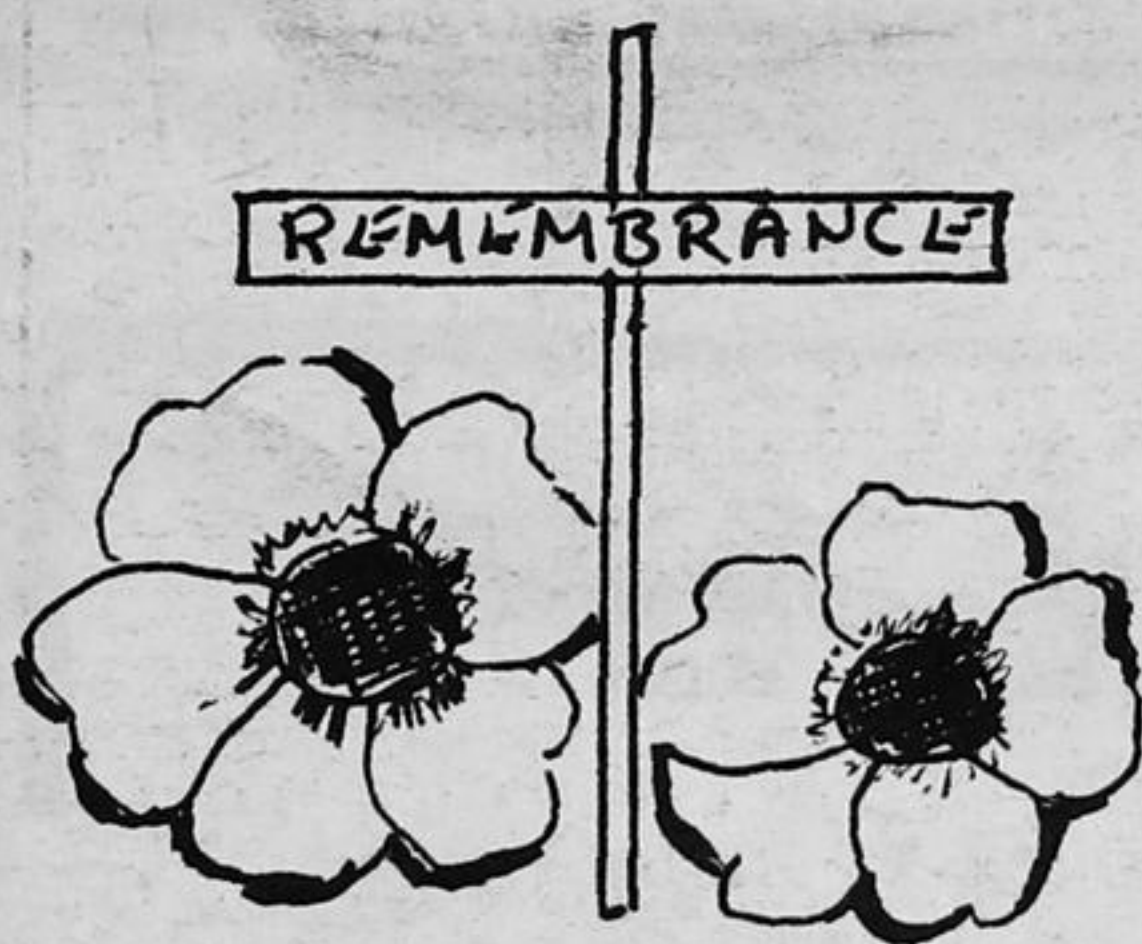
**HOURS**  
Mon., Tues. - 9 to 5  
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## ATTENTION

ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF, AND INCLUDING 12 YEARS OF AGE, BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE LEEDS LANTERN. WATCH FOR CONTEST RULES AND DETAILS ON HOW TO WIN ONE OF SANTA'S BEST HELPERS.

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## LATE FLASH

Fans and friends of Vanessa Moulton can watch her on the Tommy Hunter Show Nov. 7 at 8 pm Channel 4 or on Nov. 13 at 8 pm on Channel 11.

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

by M. Hendrick

The birding world enjoyed a flurry of excitement this month when a relatively new birder, Tony Beck, discovered a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Soon thereafter hundreds of avid birdwatchers flocked to the site hoping to add the flycatcher to their Canadian and Ontario lists.

Most Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers are found in Mexico or further south, though some summer in the southernmost mountains of Arizona, they winter in South America. The bird under discussion probably suffered from what is termed mirror-image navigation; somehow its internal compass ran amock, and instead of migrating southward it flew north. For a bird that normally inhabits the woodlands of southern mountain canyons at elevations between 5,000 and 6,000 feet, and where insects are abundant, Presqu'ile, with winter's cold approaching must have seemed inhospitable. The sad part is that the bird is doomed, for it will perish when insects disappear.

The Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher has never been found in Canada before and the sighting will have to be documented to be officially recognized. Documentation involved making a sketch or taking a picture, recording the field marks of the bird, stating the type of binoculars used, light conditions etc. as well as other things pertinent to the observation. Then the appropriate experts decide if the sighting can be accepted. If it is not, it merely means that the facts presented were not sufficient to warrant acceptance - it does not necessarily mean that the observer was mistaken. There is little doubt that once a write up is done Tony Beck of Nepean will officially enjoy the recognition of being the first person to have found a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Canada.

Late summer and early fall birders like to look for migrating shorebirds hoping to find a rarity. On Sept. 18 Bill Cutfield was

one of the fortunate few who saw a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the grounds of Dupont Canada Inc. in Kingston. This fairly tame wader is a rare and local bird in the west North American Arctic, and winters in Argentina. It is fond of a short-grass habitat, the probable reason for its presence on the lawns of Dupont. It is usually seen mainly during migration through the Great Plains, but as Peterson says, "a few reach the East Coast in the fall".

A number of people have called about the flocks of Canada Geese seen by day or heard passing over at night. Most callers have mourned the passing of summer, and for them the honking of geese seems to underline the fact that winter will soon be here.

Elsie Goodman, alerted to the passing of geese by her husband John, took a good look and discovered that the Canada Geese had an interesting travelling companion - a Snow Goose. Snow Geese are white with black wing tips, and though they don't pass through this area in great numbers, they have become more plentiful in recent years.

Claire Mills was delighted to have Eastern Bluebirds frequent her yard well into the fall. A pleased Pat Hopkins phoned to say that "her" bluebirds had returned to their nest box. Zeleny, in his book "The Bluebird", records that bluebirds retain close family ties well into the autumn, and will sometimes return to inspect their former nesting spot. Other migrating bluebirds seem to simply be looking forward to next year, as they inspect various nest boxes along their way. For instance, the Goodmans, having hoped in vain for bluebirds all summer were amazed to see two investigating their boxes on Oct. 12.

While driving on Sept. 29 Myrtena McVean saw a marsh that excited her curiosity. Obeying a birder's instinct, she stopped to have a careful look. She was rewarded by the appearance of an American Bittern, and was able to have a close look at this shy and usually hidden marsh bird.

Many have complained of the rain this past summer; a problem to farmers and gardeners alike. However pools of water lying on lawns

have brought an unexpected reward. Bob Waterfield, whose surname aptly describes a portion of his lawn during the heavy rains, was amazed to see a Great Blue Heron standing there - presumably looking for a meal. Loree Smith described a similar situation where she was able to have a close look at a "great blue" which was standing in the water on her lawn.

In this area the latest sighting so far this year of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was on Sept. 16. If anyone has a later date, the information would be appreciated.

Many people have already put out their winter feeders and are enjoying the return of species that frequent them during the cold weather. Katherine Sides has Dark-eyed Juncos at hers and at another a Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared with the Black-capped Chickadees. Because of poor weather conditions owl banding at Prince Edward Point has been somewhat disappointing this year. However, a combined total of 115 Saw-whet Owls were banded on two out of the four nights that it was possible to unfurl the nets thus far. (Oct. 16) On those nights the banders were kept busy in order to finish their work by daybreak.

The North Leeds Birdwatchers (NLB) who have a weekly field trip were especially fortunate on their Oct. 15 trip to Wellesley Island. They had 44 species on their list including 3 Turkey Vultures, 2 Eastern Phoebe, 14 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 1 Bohemian Waxwing, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 2 Blackburnian Warblers, 1 Vesper Sparrow, 2 Gadwall and a raft of 700 Redhead (ducks). They had hoped to find Wild Turkeys and didn't, but the invigorating walk on a beautiful trail and the large number of birds they did find made the trip a great success.

The NLB will have their SLOW AND EASY FIELD TRIP on Wed. Nov. 5 - an outing for those unable to undertake strenuous field trips. Participants are asked to meet at the library in Elgin at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Please call 359-5178 for further information and with your bird sightings.

Until next month  
GOOD BIRDING!

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