

Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society
2013 Spring Newsletter-Editor Bill Read
info@billreadsbooks.com

Welcome to the OEBS spring newsletter. The 23rd annual Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 16th, 2013 at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington**. This meeting will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society in 1988. Next years meeting will be held on **March 22, 2014** at RBG in Burlington. Up until February the winter has been average to slightly above average as far as temperature and precipitation. A major snowstorm on February 8th dumped 25 cm of snow or more in most areas of Southern Ontario. Areas of the eastern seaboard were hit especially hard which may affect bluebirds overwintering in those areas. The last three days of February dumped another 32 cm of snow. February at -1.3 degrees below average is the first month in the colder than average range since March 2011. This was the second snowiest February since records began in the area in 1914. Last year March was warmer than April, the first time this has happened since records have been kept in this area. This was especially bad for fruit farmers as the buds froze on the trees during the nights of April 23 and 24, 2012 resulting in fruit crops that were only 10-20% of what they should have been. Some of the record early bluebird nestlings also succumbed during this same period. Record numbers of bluebirds fledged in 2012. Because of last years success I am expecting good numbers of bluebirds will return this spring. Let's hope for a more normal March and April and a warm May.

I don't have the Christmas bird count numbers but it appears fewer bluebirds overwintered in the Carolinian regions of Ontario this winter. Not as many reports of bluebirds have been received. The Audubon site has not listed the Christmas Bird Count numbers for the last three years. The lack of rainfall over the summer may have adversely affected wild berry crops, although the sumacs seem to have healthy bunches of fruit. This may account for a lack of sightings. I saw 2 male Eastern Bluebirds across from Onondaga Farms south of Cambridge that were eating sumac on February 7th, 2013. On March 3rd I saw 10 bluebirds near Glen Morris, possibly early migrants but they could also be overwintering birds. Don wills reported 2 flocks of 4 and 5 bluebirds that overwintered near Carluke.

I would like to thank our members for their generous support and for the work they do for bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds. We would not have the numbers of bluebirds presently in Ontario or an Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society without our members, many who have been with us since the beginning. All should be proud of their accomplishments.

OEBS AGM Agenda March 16th, 2013.

8.30-9.00am	Registration-Wayne and Linda Buck
9.00-9.30am	President's Report and introductions-Bill Read
	Business Meeting
	Slate of executives for 2013- Tom Kott
	Membership Report-Anne Davidson
	Treasurer's Report –Anne Davidson
	Announcement of Conservation Award- Don Wills
9.30-10.15am	Member nest box reports
10.15-10.45am	Coffee Break and viewing of bucket raffle items
10.45-11.05am	Moult patterns in Eastern Bluebirds- Bill Read
11.05-11.50am	The current status of the American Chestnut- George Collin
12.00-1.30pm	Lunch
1.30- 2.25 pm-	Bats of Ontario- Heather Riddell
2.25- 3.00pm	Coffee Break and viewing of bucket raffle items
3.00- 3.30pm	Barn Swallow platforms –open discussion
3.30- 4.00pm	Bucket Raffle –Tom Hunt

Bucket Raffle- If you have an item for the bucket raffle please bring it along to the meeting.

OEBS Annual Eastern Bluebird Field Trip- This years trip is on **Sunday, May 19th, 2013**. We will meet at 9am at the **Orchard Home apple orchard**. The farm is located 1 concession north of St.George on Howell Road. See the home page of our website for more details. www.oeps.ca . Please confirm by email info@billreadsbooks.com or phone 1-519-620-0744 **Bill Read**

Baillee Birdathon

A special thanks to Sylvia Van Walsum for raising \$967.84 in last years Baillee Birdathon. A total of \$241.84 or 25% comes back to OEBS. This year's birdathon will be held on Saturday, May 11th. Sylvia will again represent OEBS at this year's birdathon. Pledges can be made to me by email or to Sylvia directly at our Annual General meeting on March 16th.

The following article was included in the Bluebird Winter 2012-13 Vol.35 No 1-P-29.

Are Parasites to blame for the decline of American Kestrels

American Kestrel populations have been showing widespread declines since the 1980's. The cause(s) of the declines are unclear, although researchers have pointed fingers at habitat loss, climate change, growing numbers of Coopers Hawks (a predator on

Kestrels), and West Nile Virus, among other problems. One area that has not received much attention is parasite loads on nestlings.

Ectoparasites (parasites that live on the outside of animals) can weaken and even kill nestlings. Depending on the parasite, nestlings may suffer blood loss, feather loss, skin irritation, secondary infections and other unpleasant conditions.

Researchers in New Jersey worked with a set of Kestrel nest boxes. At the start of the nesting season, they cleaned out all of the old nesting material from half of the active boxes. They returned at regular intervals to remove all of the ectoparasites from those nestlings and replace all nesting material with fresh material; they visited the nest boxes of the other group but did not remove nestlings or replace the nesting materials. When the nestlings were 20-22 days old both groups were weighted and measured.

The Result: All that careful work of removing parasites and replenishing the nesting material was for naught. There was no difference in size between the two groups and no difference in nestling survival.

Much scientific research is conducted to find out what isn't true, which is usually easier and more definitive than finding out what is true. This study was a good example of this approach. Although we still do not know what is causing the population declines among American Kestrels, we can probably scratch parasites off the list.

Mark J.Lesko and John A.Smallwood. 2012. Ectoparasites of American Kestrels in Northwestern New Jersey and their relationship to nestling growth and survival. Journal of Raptor Research 46:304-313

Editors Note – All animals have parasites, they usually have little effect on healthy well fed young. Most bluebird nests contain blowfly larva that feed on the bluebird nestlings by attaching to them and sucking their blood. **Far too often they are blamed for the death of the nestlings.** When nest box trail operators find dead bluebird nestlings with good numbers of blowfly larva they immediately assume that the blowflies caused this mortality. In most cases parasites do not kill their host. It is possible that this stress to their immune system may actually be beneficial. I have visited hundreds of bluebird nests with very healthy nestlings that contained good numbers of blowfly larva. The larvae are found in the nest material and on the nest box floor under the nest. Many bluebirders remove the blowfly larva. There is folly in this as these larvae have already consumed most of their blood meal and are getting ready to pupate. It is the tiny almost microscopic larva that will attach and then grow to the size of the ones you have just removed. The real question is **Do the larva cause the death of the nestlings?**

At least two studies have been published on the effects of blowfly parasitism on both Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow nestlings. The results of a study by **Karin Wittmann** and **Robert C Beason** on the **Effect of Blowfly Parasitism on Nestling Eastern Bluebird Development** (Biology department, State University of New York, Geneseo, New York 14454 USA) do not support the hypothesis that blowfly parasitism is detrimental to bluebird nestling development and survival. A total of 325 nest boxes located in western New York were studied. They found no difference in mass or the length of wing, tail or tarsus between parasitized and un-parasitized nestlings, nor was there any difference in the age of the young when they fledged. Survival to fledging did not appear to be adversely affected by parasitism.

Another study by **Daniel D. Roby, Karen L. Brink and Karin Wittmann** on the **Effects of Bird Blowfly Parasitism on Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow nestlings** (Wilson Bulletin., 104(4),1992,pp. 630-643) found there was no significant differences in nestling survival or fledging age among blowfly removal, addition, and control treatments for either species.

2012 Member Nest Box Reports

LUCILLE COLEMAN AND CATHY GIANCARLO: Lucille and Cathy teamed up this year for the first time. Lucille contacted the Niagara Falls Nature Club to inquire if one of their members would be interested in assisting with the management of her 58-box trail located in south rural Niagara Falls. Cathy, quite a nature lover and extremely talented photographer rose to the occasion thus becoming a valuable asset to the survival of this species. Their first completed nest was noted on March 21 with 5 eggs in the box by April 4th. All these eggs hatched, however, the weather turned significantly colder and all 5 young died. Last recording for a successful BB fledge was August 23. This was the best year for this trail with a total of **148** successful Bluebird fledges, **132** Tree Swallows and for the first time a Black-capped Chickadee took a liking to one of their boxes and fledged **6** young. Because bluebirding is so addictive (and way too much fun!) in 2013 they added another 4 boxes to their trail with a total of 62 boxes in all. **Lucille Coleman**

The Halton Bluebird Club had another successful year with **45** bluebirds fledged from 72 boxes. The nest boxes are located on the east and west side of Bronte Provincial Park.

Gerard Powers had his best year ever with **331** bluebirds fledged from 201 nest boxes. A total of **52** pairs were present which represents **6.37** young per pair from this well managed trail. Jerry also fledged 459 Tree Swallows, 12 House Wrens and 6 Black Capped chickadees. Out of a total of 394 eggs laid in 2012, 49 or **12.4%** were white. This is an unusually high percentage. Not including 2012 only 94 eggs (**2.58%**) were white out of 3642 eggs that were laid from 1995-2011. Including the 2012 totals 143 eggs were white out of 4036 eggs laid which represents 3.54%.

Kurt Frei and Peter Rea had an exceptional year with **84** bluebirds fledged from their 105 nest boxes located in Hamilton (94) and Burlington (11). A total of 13 pairs were present representing **6.46 young per pair**. Anything over 6 tells us that 2012 was indeed one of the best years ever for bluebird production. A total of 46 House Wrens and 455 Tree Swallows also fledged from this trail. All House Sparrows are trapped and the poles are greased to prevent climbing predators.

Long time members **David and Sharon Turner** fledged **66** bluebirds from their 51 boxes in Grey County. They had 11 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds which works out to 6

young fledged per pair. Also fledged were 18 nests of Tree Swallow, 2 of House Wren and 4 of Black Capped Chickadee.

Don Bissonnette who represents the **Essex County field Naturalists Club's Bluebird** Committee reports that **132** bluebirds fledged in 2012. This cooperative effort has 246 nest boxes located in Essex County. This trail represents 23 pairs of bluebirds or 5.74 young fledged per pair. They also had **780** Tree Swallows fledged from 170 nesting's (4.59 young fledged per nest) Don has maintained a nest box trail for 23 years.

Bob Majkut in Welland had 2 successful nests of bluebirds from 1 pair that fledged **9** young. He also had 1 nest each of Tree Swallow, House Wren and Black Capped Chickadee. They use a baffle to stop climbing predators.

Elwood Jones in Northumberland County fledged **77** bluebirds from his trail of 75 nest boxes. A total of 110 eggs were laid (70% of eggs laid fledged young). Elwood has managed his trail for the last 25 years. Congratulations on an excellent year.

John De Cloet in Norfolk County fledged **12** bluebirds from the 1 box that he monitored.

Delores Hamilton had her best year ever with **68** fledged bluebirds from 11 pairs. (6.18 young fledged per pair) Delores also had 11 nests of Tree Swallow and 1 nest of House Wren. One of the bluebird nests was destroyed by House Wrens.

Another long time member **Henry Bauer** from Welland fledged **11** bluebirds from the 12 nest boxes that he maintains. He also had 26 Tree Swallows fledge.

Dorothy Hayley and **Audrey Cook** fledged **98** bluebirds from their trail of 36 nest boxes in Lanark County. It was their best year ever despite 4 nest boxes with baffles being stolen.

Bob Hunt and **Lorne Smith** had another great year with **459** fledged bluebirds. Their trail of 901 nest boxes are located in Grey (767) and Bruce (134) counties. A total of 325 nests of Tree Swallows, 5 nests House Wrens and 6 nests of Black Capped Chickadees also fledged.

Dan and **Manley Baarda** report a good year overall with **63** bluebirds fledged from their trail of 50 nest boxes in Lincoln County in Niagara. They also had 126 Tree Swallows fledge.

Last year's recipient of the OEBS conservation award **Henry Miller**, reports a very good year with **248** bluebirds fledged. Henry monitors 243 nest boxes and volunteers who report results to him monitor another 144 for a total of 387 nest boxes. Every year he helps students in local schools to construct bird houses. Henry and his volunteers also fledged 374 Tree Swallows.

Willie Moore fledged **10** bluebirds from the 5 nest boxes he has in Norfolk County. He also fledged 9 house Wrens and 5 Tree Swallows. Unfortunately a Male House Sparrow killed 4 bluebird nestlings. Mr. Moore is very diligent about keeping the House Sparrows out but it is hard to stop a roving male that suddenly appears and does the damage before you can intervene. It has happened to all of us. I also lost 6 bluebird nestlings to a male House Sparrow in 2012.

Patricia Burgon fledged **5** bluebirds from a trail of 9 nest boxes she monitors in Grey County. Patricia also had 6 nests of Tree Swallows.

Noelle Andrews from Tottenham (Simcoe County) fledged **4** bluebirds from his trail of 8 nest boxes. He also had successful nesting's of Tree Swallow.

Ken Reger had his best year ever with **678** bluebirds fledged. His trail of 338 boxes is located north of Waterloo in Wellington County. Ken has operated his trail for 20 years and had no bluebirds the first 7 years. His main problem is with House Sparrows. He uses the sparrow spooker and also humanely disposes of any that are trapped. Ken also recorded 2 pairs that nested in natural cavities.

Another good year at **Ruthven Park** for both bluebirds and Tree Swallows. A total of **117** bluebirds and 649 Tree Swallows fledged. 113 of the bluebirds and 552 of the Tree Swallows were banded, including 1 adult female Eastern Bluebird.

Don Arthurs fledged **10** bluebirds from 2 pairs on his trail of 20 nest boxes in Wellington County. Four nests of Tree Swallows and 2 of House Wrens also fledged.

Bob Wells fledged **3** bluebirds from his 5 nest boxes in Dufferin-Mulmar Township.

Pat Duncan and **Rob Cook** fledged **33** bluebirds from the 61 boxes that they manage in Simcoe County. 51 of the boxes are the Dorrie style and 10 are Coker boxes. 80 Tree Swallows, 7 house Wrens and 5 Black Capped Chickadees also fledged.

Dave Wilson fledged **13** bluebirds from the 55 nest boxes he monitors in the Ancaster area of Hamilton Wentworth. Dave also found 2 pairs that nested in natural cavities.

Ruth and Vic Orr monitor a 126 nest box trail in the city of Kawartha Lakes for the Kawartha Field Naturalists. They fledged **107** bluebirds. Weather and House Wrens were identified as the number 1 and 2 presumed cause of nest failure.

Beth Anne Currie reports 14 successful bluebird nests from her 110 nest boxes in Grey County.

Long time members and movie producers **John and Janet Foster** report that **18** bluebirds fledged from their farm in Madoc, Centre Hasting County. This was from 2 bluebird pairs that each had 2 successful nesting's. They also fledged 93 Tree Swallows from the 40 nest boxes that they monitor. They report that a high number of Tree

Swallow eggs and young were lost early in the season (46 TRES eggs lost to House Wrens and 56 chicks lost to blowfly larva) Most were able to re-nest successfully. It was still far from their record of 170 Tree Swallows fledged last year.

Dan Welsh had his best year ever with **336** bluebirds fledged from 250 nest boxes. This is a record by 116 bluebirds. Dan had no white eggs this year and he told me that in 2011 there were at least 10 bluebird nests with white eggs. I only had 2 bluebird females that laid white eggs in 2012. This is down as well from other years. Dan also said that **Tree Swallows numbers were at record levels.**

Jerry and Ellen Horak of Glen Morris had a record year with **25** bluebirds fledged. House Sparrows were a problem initially but with due diligence there numbers declined and one bluebird pair was able to nest in their backyard as they have in recent years.

Dave Lamble reports that **75** bluebirds fledged from his 115 nest boxes in Dufferin County and **73** bluebirds fledged from his 368 nest boxes in Wellington County. This represents a combined total of 148 fledged bluebirds. A combined total of 65 bluebird pairs were represented which works out to 2.28 young per pair. Dave also had 191 successful nests of Tree Swallow, 6 of House Wren and 4 of Black Capped Chickadee. A total of 138 bluebirds were banded and 1030 Tree Swallows.

Linda Bere in Middlesex County fledged **4** bluebirds from a Wood Duck box beside her pond. **Wood duck Alfie** (Alfie Stanevicius) also had a successful bluebird nest in a Wood duck box. Linda had **8** bluebirds visit her yard for most of the summer that must have nested in natural cavities nearby. House sparrows were a problem and the choice of the Wood duck box may have been as a result of the sparrows near the house. All House Sparrow nests are removed.

Bob Burton and Joan Paget had 19 successful bluebird nesting's from a trail of 60 nest boxes in South Muskoka. Also successful were 24 nests of Tree Swallow, 3 of House Wren and 2 of Black Capped Chickadee.

Robert O'Donnell fledged **14** bluebirds from 3 pair on a trail of 42 nest boxes in Renfrew. Weather was cited as the number 1 cause of presumed nest failure. Bob tells us that the population of Eastern Bluebirds in his area has declined over the last 5 years.

Dennis Lewington had a good year with **86** fledged bluebirds. His trail of 84 nest boxes is located in Bruce County. Dennis started his trail in 1986. A total of 125 Tree Swallows, 22 House Wren and 5 Great Crested Flycatchers also fledged.

Vianne Ninness had 1 successful bluebird nest that fledged **4** bluebirds. To deter House Sparrows she used a sparrow spooker and for climbing predators a stove type pole guard. A bird cam was installed inside the box and they were able to watch hatching to fledging. She has a video of all four birds fledging.

Ron Yorke had **18** bluebirds fledge from 5 pairs on his trail of 16 nest boxes in Dufferin. Ron had 1 pair nest in March but they did not survive the cold April. He also said that House Wrens are becoming more of a nuisance.

Herb Furniss had his second best year ever with **168** bluebirds fledged. His best year was 225 in 1998. House Wrens and weather were recorded as the number 1 cause of presumed nest failure. His trail of 76 boxes is located in Victoria (City of Kawartha Lakes) on the Carden Plain. Herb had 25 pairs which represents 6.72 young per pair.

Brian Wyatt manages two nest box trails in Guelph, one of 87 nest boxes at the Guelph Arboretum and another of 64 nest boxes at the Guelph Turf Grass Institute. Three years ago Brian took over these trails from the University of Guelph. In 2012 the combined trails fledged **58** bluebirds and 318 Tree Swallows.

Ben Mancini of the **Ottawa Duck Club** reports **60** bluebirds fledged from their trail of 77 nest boxes in 2012. They also had 35 successful nesting's of Tree Swallow and 8 of house Wren. Boxes were checked weekly by 3 different monitors.

Eastern Bluebird recovered in a wood fireplace.

A home owner near St. George, Ontario reported to me that he had found a dead **banded** Eastern Bluebird in his fireplace on December 22nd, 2012. This ASY Male had nested successfully in his yard in 2012 but was prevented from a second nesting by a male House Sparrow that took possession of the box while the bluebirds were feeding their young. The home owner was able to get two other House Sparrows but try as he would was not able to catch this one. The bluebird probably investigated the chimney as a potential nest cavity and became trapped and could not get out. The story doesn't end there. I trapped this previously banded bluebird on May 26th, 2011 as a SY male a short distance further west in box PT-1. It fledged 4 young on the first nesting. I did not catch it on the second nesting which fledged 1 young. There was interference by a male house Sparrow that I was able to trap and dispose of. I did re-trap the female EABL which was the same bird as the first nesting. This now ASY male had been banded as a nestling (1451-25571) by Bryan Wyatt in Guelph in 2010 at the Guelph Turf Grass Institute. Brian manages two trails in Guelph, the other at the Guelph arboretum. I would suggest pairing boxes in this case and allowing the House Sparrows to nest and then remove them. Once they know you are after them they become very difficult to catch. Having extra boxes that are empty that the House Sparrows can go to will help. **House Sparrows should never be allowed to nest on your trail and I recommend humanely disposing of them.** Another home owner close by having seen the success I was having put up about 20 boxes around his property to attract bluebirds. This resulted in boxes filled with House Sparrows that have now spread out to become a problem for me and the first mentioned homeowner.

Since bluebirds will investigate chimney openings it is a good idea to put a screen over the chimney opening. Bluebirds will investigate any potential opening including Tubex tree Shelters. Tobacco barn smokestacks in the Southern United States were

responsible for the deaths of millions of bluebirds in the late 40's and early 50's when they were first introduced until the problem was corrected. J.R. Finch estimated that during the seven years following their introduction in 1947 approximately 2 million bluebirds died in these smokestacks. Most of these fatalities occurred when the burners were not in use. This was based on responses to a questionnaire that Finch sent out to users of the tobacco curing burners. After 1955 fewer bluebirds were recovered as the numbers had diminished in the areas where the curing barns were located. Finch theorized, probably correctly, that not only local bluebirds **but many that had migrated from further north must have died as well.** (The above information is included in **The Bluebird by Lawrence Zeleny** - Indiana University Press 1978 Page 39-40. Lawrence Zeleny is the founder of the North American Bluebird Society.

Meal Worm Offer- George and Alicia Oakley of Newhaven meal worms have offered to sell meal worms to OEBS members @ \$35 for 10,000. There is a minimum order of 10,000. It will soon be that time again. They are delivered by Canada Post. They are located near Shelburne. Call 519-925- 2571.

Eastern Bluebird Band Recovery. Eastern Bluebird bander Elizabeth Kellog had an exciting recovery when a bluebird nestling she banded was recovered in North Carolina. The bluebird was found dead on February 19th, 2011, 7 miles from Goldsboro, Wayne County, North Carolina. This bird was banded as a nestling (sex unknown) on June 13th, 2010 at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna, a nature reserve on the Alderville First Nation land , southwest of Roseneath, Ontario. This is on the south side of Rice Lake near Peterborough. **The Canadian Atlas of Bird Banding** shows there have been 6 other winter encounters of Ontario birds in Georgia (3), Kentucky, Florida and North Carolina. The encounter in Florida is particularly interesting. It was banded by a T.S.Hennessy in Ottawa on June 24, 1936 and recovered in Lake City Florida on March 3rd, 1937. I believe this is the bird painter that did the illustrations for P.A.Taverner's Birds of Eastern Canada in 1919. Four banded Eastern Bluebirds from Manitoba have been recovered in Kansas and Texas. The over wintering territories of bluebirds from Manitoba and Ontario do not overlap. I will have an article on bluebird fall migration in the next newsletter. Migration numbers at Long Point were high in the fall of 2012 with **616** Eastern bluebirds recorded at the tip (**412** on October 20th) and **332** at Old Cut (**63** on October 21st). Bluebirds returning from the tip would not be counted at Old Cut if they passed close to the Lake Erie beach side. The one day record for Ontario is **825** bluebirds recorded at the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory on October 27th, 1991. George North tallied **650** Eastern Bluebirds migrating on 27 October 1946, presumably past Woodland Cemetery in Burlington. (Birds of Hamilton). Thunder Cape near Thunder Bay recorded **740** bluebirds in the fall of 2001. These birds would be coming from boreal forest areas above Lake Superior. Wind direction is a major factor in determining how many bluebirds are counted at migration observation sites.

Nest Box Banding Protocol

A new protocol is being developed by **the Environment Canada banding office** to provide guidelines for banding at nest boxes. This should be complete by the end of March. **The major recommendation of this document is that all nest boxes where banding takes place must have adequate predator protection much like they do with the Long Point Tree Swallow grids.** Banding in boxes nailed to fence posts and trees will not be recommended. I will have more on this in the next newsletter.

This article is from the Bird Studies Canada Latest News 8th February 2013 – A peer-reviewed study published in the journal *Nature Communications* reports that outdoor cats are the greatest source of human-caused mortality for birds and mammals in the U.S. Research scientists from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Division of Migratory Birds reviewed 90 previous studies and found that free-ranging cats cause substantially greater wildlife mortality than previously thought. They estimate that free-ranging domestic cats kill **1.4-3.7 billion birds** and 6.9-20.7 billion mammals annually in the U.S., with about 69% of bird mortality from cat predation and 89% of the mammal mortality caused by un-owned cats (rather than owned pets). To read this article go to- “The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States” by Scott R. Loss, Tom Will, and Peter P. Marra.

As reported in **The State of Canada’s Birds 2012 Report**, outdoor cats kill an estimated 100 million birds each year in Canada. For details, stay tuned to the online scientific journal *Avian Conservation and Ecology* in the months to come. An article about bird predation by house cats in Canada will appear as part of a series of papers on anthropogenic sources of bird mortality. ACE is sponsored by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Bird Studies Canada.

Royal Ontario Museum Nest Record Card scheme

This past year at least 4 nest box trails recorded there first bluebird egg(s) in March. This represents a new early record for Ontario. I would suggest submitting these records to the ROM nest record card scheme. Nest record cards can be obtained by contacting Ross James, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queens Park, Toronto.ON. M5S 2C6 416-586-5521. The **40th full report** can be downloaded by going to the **Ontario Nest Record Card Scheme-ONRS 40.** .