

**Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday March 22, 1997**

08:30 - 09:15	Registrations \$4.00 members, \$5.00 non-members) Viewing of Bucket Raffle Prizes and Display Table
09:30 - 10:00	Introduction and Business Meeting.....Bill Read Treasurer's Report.....Bill Read Baillee Birdathon.....Sylvia VanWalsum 1996 Executive
10:15 - 10:35	Kestrels - Bill Read will discuss setting up and monitoring a Kestral nestbox trail.
10:35 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 11:20	Wood Ducks - Don Wills will discuss his work and success with Wood Ducks in the area near Caledonia
11:25 - 11:50	Bluebird Video
11:45 - 1:15	Lunch
1:15 - 2:00	Workshops Don Wills                      Prothonotary Warblers Ted Kelly                      Wood Ducks Bill Read                      Kestrels T.B.A.                          Purple Martins T.B.A.                          Screech Owls
Five groups or workshops will be formed with each group making a short summary presentation. You may join any group. <b>Bring information or nestboxes, etc.</b>	
2:15 - 2:30	Coffee Break
2:35	Bucket Raffle
2:40 - 3:20	Ted Kelly Wood Ducks - Ted will talk about his work with wood ducks in Quebec.

**Bucket Raffle Prizes**

If you would like to contribute a nestbox or book, etc., you can bring it to the meeting and we will gladly enter it in the raffle.

**Display Table**

If you have any item you feel would be of interest to other birders, i.e. nestboxes, House Sparrow traps, etc., bring it along and we will put it on the display table.

**Royal Botanical Gardens Headquarters, 680 Plains Road, Burlington, Ontario**

**From Toronto:**  
Take the QEW west to Burlington, then continue on Hwy 403 west towards Hamilton. Take the Hwy 6 north exit. At the first traffic lights, turn right onto Plains Road. At the next lights, turn left (this is still Plains Road). The Royal Botanical Gardens Centre is about 1 km down on the right at Botanical Dr. Parking is available behind the building.

**From North or West of Hamilton:**  
Take Hwy 401 to Hwy 6 south to Hamilton. Stay on Hwy 6 past the intersection with Hwy 5. Continue down a long hill (this is the Niagara Escarpment) until you come to at of traffic lights (about 2 km past Hwy 5). Turn left and travel about 0.5 k onto another set of traffic lights (Plains Road), Turn left here. The Royal Botanical Centre is about 1m along Plans Road on your right at Botanical Dr. Parking is available behind the building.

**From South or West of Hamilton:** Take Hwy 403 east through Hamilton, then take the exit to Hwy, 6 north. About 0.3 km past the exit ramp there is a set of traffic. Turn right here. Go about 0.5 km to another set of traffic lights (Plains Road) and turn left here. The Royal Botanical Gardens Centre is about 1 km along Plains Road on your right at Botanical Dr. Parking is available behind the building.

## Urban Cooper's Hawk Nesting Habitat Study Victoria, B.C.

With help from the Baillie Fund, 1996 marked the first year of a three-year project to study the breeding biology and habitat requirements of Cooper's Hawks found in Greater Victoria. Organized and coordinated by Andy Stewart, the project already shows that the Cooper's Hawk is much more resilient and adaptable than was previously believed and in fact may be flourishing in some urban landscapes.

During February 1996, 22 volunteer naturalists were trained to conduct surveys for breeding Cooper's Hawks in Victoria. Each volunteer was assigned a section within the study area to conduct nest searches. In addition over 600 newspaper carriers were asked to report Cooper's Hawks observed or heard during their early morning deliveries. To assist with training, a phone line was set up for paper carriers and the general public to listen to recordings of Cooper's Hawk vocalizations. Public involvement alone resulted in several new nests being reported.

In total, 32 nests were found within the 11,000 hectare study area. Of these, 15 nests were found on public lands (parks and boulevards), 11 were on private residential lands and 6 were on institutional lands (schools, hospitals and golf courses). Nest data were collected at each site. Nests were situated at an average height of 23 metres, most frequently in Douglas firs.

Nest trees were climbed during two periods: once during incubation to determine clutch size, and later to determine brood size and to band nestlings. The average clutch size was 4.2 eggs and brood size averaged 3.6 young. In total 96 nestlings were colour-banded, weighed and measured. In addition, the remains from 500 prey items were collected throughout the breeding season. Preliminary analysis indicate that the diet is predominantly medium-sized songbirds. Introduced species (European Starlings and House Sparrows) accounted for over 60% of the prey.

Public reaction to the project was extremely positive and supportive. Two major newspaper stories were carried by the Times-Colonist, one of which was featured on the front page. A third article was carried nationally by The Globe and Mail, and the study was the topic of interviews with CBC Radio and CHEK TV in Victoria. All landowners cooperated by allowing research activities on their property and many helped by collecting prey remains and keeping field notes. The project also enjoyed a very high level of volunteer participation and support from the five municipalities involved.