

(cont.'d from page 11)

I'm happy I got to see this awesome sight as we start to head back to the bus. I am still somewhat disappointed I didn't get to see that close up look of the Great Egret, but I thought it was OK because I saw a lot of other cool birds. We're getting really close to the bus now, and out of the blue a Great Egret is on the shore for just a split second, and I get my close up look. I am ecstatic, I thought I wasn't going to be able to see it close up, but I did! I finally actually got a good look at the long yellow bill, long white neck, and the awesome white feathers of the Great Egret!

I finish this trip on a high note, and I fulfilled my goal of the day. My day at the wetlands was definitely awesome! I ended up seeing 28 species, and my class and I planted 250 plants for Clean Water Services at Fernhill Wetlands. I can't wait to see new birds at Fernhill Wetlands, and hey maybe next time I go birding I can make my goal to see a "Little Egret!" Can't Wait!



**Bald Eagle**  
by Jackson, Grade 7  
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Mrs. Mueller

Eagle's nest was, so I was excited to see that. While we were on the trail you could see the Bald Eagle flying back and forth to its nest. We saw a lot of neat birds on our way around the trail, but I was waiting to see the Bald Eagle. When we got to the closest point of the nest of the Bald Eagle I was excited. But sadly we came too late and it wasn't there. So we kept along the trail to finish our journey.

In the afternoon we came back to the undercover place and ate lunch. After lunchtime was over our guide, Christian, took us to this part of the trail that had plants all over but were not planted. I knew then that we were going to be the ones to plant them. On the inside I didn't really want to do it, but I knew it would be a good thing to do. During the community service we all got in groups and started to plant. To my surprise I actually enjoyed the planting; it made me feel good to know that I was helping out a community but also that I enjoyed the work. On our way back, Christian told us about the neat project they are working on to help the wetlands. After our adventure was over and we were walking back through the wet and muddy trail, something caught my eye. The majestic Bald Eagle swooped down over the lake to catch its prey! The Canada Goose just minding his own business, dived down into the lake to avoid being an afternoon snack. The Bald Eagle missed it by a fraction of a second, but to the goose's surprise the eagle was coming back for another go. It amazed me that I was lucky enough to see this magnificent sight. When the scene was over and we had to get going, it made me upset we couldn't stay longer. At the end of the day I got to see some awesome species I have never seen before and got to help out the community and now I have some good memories of Fernhill Wetlands. All I can say is that it was both a fun and productive day.

## The Day at Fernhill

by Corey, Grade 8  
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On our journey to Fernhill Wetlands, I was on the bus thinking of what birds I wanted to see. I kept hearing interesting stories about the Bald Eagle and its nest it has there, and I knew I wanted to see it. When we got there I was thrilled to see what kind of birds I could see right away. I didn't see any birds that really caught my attention, just the typical kind of birds. We stayed at an undercover structure when we got there because we were waiting for the weather to

clear up. While we were there we saw about 10 to 15 species! John Gatchet, the former superintendent of our school, came to go birding with our class. During our wait under the covered area he brought his spotting scope for the birds that were off in the distance. I was still waiting to see the Bald Eagle but there was no luck. Then I heard John Gatchet say that he spotted one through his scope. I wanted to be the first to see, and when I came to the scope and saw the Bald Eagle in its huge nest I was so amazed at how big and majestic it was.

What makes the Bald Eagle one of my favorite birds? For one it is a symbol of our nation. How it soars majestically through the air just takes my breath away. We finally got on the trail when the weather cleared up. The trail moved around the lake and by where the Bald