



### **An Observation by Wilton Corkern, June 30, 2006:**

After several months' worth of rain in a few days, the sun is a welcome sight. A walk around the Persimmon Trail brings the usual delights of summer. A blacksnake stretches across the path, sunning itself and probably digesting the day's haul of eggs from the chicken house. Briar patches are ablaze in red with not-yet ripe blackberries. The Farm Pond is full for the first time this summer. And the herons are back on the pond, where they belong (there was a Green Heron, perched on the paddock fence, presumably looking for fish in the flooded barnyard on Wednesday afternoon!) Canada Geese, done molting, are putting in their flight feathers; young are transformed from the awkward brown fuzzy goslings with stubby proto-wings, into slightly smaller versions of their adult parents. All will be flying around the farm soon, young indistinguishable from adults. Tiger Swallowtail butterflies flit from wildflower to mud puddle. Bees and other pollinators swarm around the milkweed flowers. Even the carrion-eaters, kept from their daily rounds by the torrential rains in the early part of the week, are glad to see the sun.



Turkey Vulture dries its wings in the morning sun.