



Vol. XLV No. 3

March 2000

**COMING EVENTS**

- Friday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.**, Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope. WBFN member, John Ben Oliel will speak about the Herptilians of Southern Ontario with special emphasis on frogs and their spring songs..
- Friday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.**, Cobourg Library: Feature presentation by photographer, Daphne Svenningson, *Wildlife of Our Area*.
- Saturday, April 1, Waterfowl Viewing**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. View migrating waterfowl in our area: Hope Township, Port Hope, Cobourg. Meet at the parking lot at Garden Hill Conservation Area at 10 a.m. or call Alison Elliott (905)797-1123 for carpooling and information. Bring a lunch.

*Editor’s Note: Please see page 2 for a complete list of spring outings.*

**THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS**

|                |                                                      |               |          |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Past Pres.     | Terry Stopps, 1092 Ontario St., Cobourg .....        | K9A 3C7 ..... | 372-1028 |
| President      | Bob Short, R.R.#4, 7106 Telephone Rd., Cobourg ..... | K9A 4J7 ..... | 885-1420 |
| 1st Vice-pres. | Rod Lee, 79 Pine St.S., Port Hope.....               | L1A 3G2 ..... | 885-1161 |
| 2nd Vice-pres. | Carole Payne, 80 Brown St., Port Hope .....          | L1A 3E3 ..... | 885-6135 |
| Secretary      | Mary Lou Adams, 262 Sinclair St., Cobourg .....      | K9A 2Y4.....  | 373-6083 |
| Treasurer      | Janette Johnston, 329 Ball St., Cobourg .....        | K9A 3J1 ..... | 373-1432 |
| FON Rep.       | Joan Norris, R.R. #5, Cobourg .....                  | K9A 4J8.....  | 372-9957 |
| Curlew Ed.     | Norma Wallace, 64 Young St., Port Hope.....          | L1A 1M6 ..... | 885-5552 |
|                | Elizabeth Kellogg, 14 Durham St., Port Hope.....     | L1A 1G7 ..... | 885-9615 |

*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the April issue should be received by March 31, 2000. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552). Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3W4."*



## WBFN SPRING OUTINGS SCHEDULE

•**Saturday, April 1, Waterfowl Viewing**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. View migrating waterfowl in our area: Hope Township, Port Hope, Cobourg. Meet at the parking lot at Garden Hill Conservation Area at 10 a.m. or call Alison Elliott (905)797-1123 for carpooling and information.

•**Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.- 12 noon:** Opening of Peter's Woods. Contact Russ Lake, 372-3636 for more information and to arrange car pooling.

### Thursdays in May - Evening Walks, 7 - 8 or 8:30 p.m.

•**May 4** - Port Hope Waterfront Trail – East Pier to Gages Creek. Meet at parking lot by Rainbow Cafe/East Beach at the foot of Mill Street South.

•**May 11** - Laurie Lawson Outdoor Ed. Centre, Telephone Rd. Meet at parking lot on Telephone Rd.

•**May 18** - Candlewick Woods, Port Britain. Meet at ValuMart/Home Hardware parking lots, Toronto Rd., Port Hope

•**May 25** - Cobourg Harbour - Birds & Botany, led by Clive Goodwin. Meet at Cobourg Yacht Club

•**Friday, May 26** - Annual Willow Beach Outing

•**Saturday, May 27 Mt. Ararat** - A Natural History Tour of Former Catherine Parr Trail Land, 1 - 4 p.m. Now Owned by WBFN Members Sharon Keogh & David Acoma. Meet at Highway 45/401 commuter parking lot at 12:30 or call Alison Elliott (905)797-1123 for information.

•**Saturday, June 10 Algonquin Park** - If Not January, Why Not June? 6 a.m. - ? A second shot at Algonquin during 2000, this time in search of breeding birds and hopefully not too many blackflies. Meet at Highway 28/401 commuter parking lot (across from Arby's) at 6 a.m. or call Alison Elliott (905)797-1123 for information.

•**Monday, June 12:** Annual Bluebird and Whip-poor-will walk with Hazel Bird

•**June 17 and 18:** Northumberland Bird Count. Contact Roger Frost, 885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca for more information.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER**

Petra Kennedy, Grafton

## 1999 BLUEBIRD REPORT – UPDATE #24

by Hazel Bird

Nineteen ninety-nine came in bringing the first real snow of the winter – by the halfway point of its very first month it had earned the distinction “The Year of the Snows”! Three storms passing in quick succession had also made a new record for this area: more snow in the first fifteen days than in all of 1998! Then a complete turnaround came on January 17, an unbelievably beautiful day, cloudless sky, brilliant sunshine with snow melting rapidly in temperatures well above the freezing point. This heralded the return of milder weather which remained, for the most part, until the Eastern Bluebirds returned in early April to their Willow Beach Field Naturalists’ project nesting grounds near Harwood, and the outlook seemed bright for an early nesting season. Nature intervened once more, however, with a sudden change to unseasonably cold weather over the 24<sup>th</sup> of May weekend. This was at a crucial point for the bluebirds when large rapidly-growing first-brood young were on the verge of fledging – a period in which a constant dawn-to-dusk feeding programme is a necessity for their survival. The storm was brief but disastrous and, after three days of cold, biting winds ending with a day of steady rain, all of the young were dead – nine nests with four or five in each – 40 bluebirds in all – huddled together in the nests. Just those in the egg stage survived but a significant percentage of the promising first nesting had already been lost.

On the positive side, however, the House Sparrow menace of last year proved to be a non-issue in 1999, due perhaps to a natural trend or to a new control measure that was being tested in boxes already occupied by these unpopular invaders. In the affected boxes the checking rounds were increased to weekly visits and on each one the eggs were

removed but the nests left intact. This kept the adults busy for several weeks, replacing the eggs and trying to begin incubation – until finally giving up and leaving the scene. From the start of the season, the sparrows had, as usual, claimed a good number of boxes in certain farms in close proximity to active barns but their interest seemed to be confined to their own box sites and no predation of bluebird nests was recorded.

Last year, in desperation, we had considered the use of sparrow live traps but that programme did not get off the ground for various reasons: the large number of boxes involved and insufficient time and manpower needed to carry out the continuous, day-long, half-hour check (as bluebirds and tree swallows would also be at risk). As well, some club members questioned the ethics of such a practice. This new, less drastic approach should prove to be a more acceptable method and, we hope, a successful one. Time will tell.

Early this spring, upon being informed of the need of drivers for the upcoming box-checking season, Norma Wallace, our *Curlew* editor and bluebird liaison, replied: “You could use some volunteers; leave this with me and I shall approach the club.” Then she waved her wand and, like magic, drivers appeared (who also wished to walk the box circuits) – headed by several “season ticket holders” (all long-walkers) who booked for Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the season – just like that! Others were ready to fill in for any remaining dates and to substitute for the regulars, if and when needed – so, with this promising beginning, it was possible to set up the agenda for the first month in advance! Later, as the season progressed, some adjustments were made to the existing daily routine to accommodate

this new work force: weekends were left free (unless requested) – which led to the relaxing of the bi-weekly checking so that now the former nine seasonal rounds became eight; still the monitoring remained adequate and consistent. The choice of date, starting time and duration of the walk was left to the volunteer of the day, including the final stop back at the Bird house –tea, apple juice, goodies and backyard birding, anyone?

Special interests were considered and time taken to explore along the way as seasonal changes brought a succession of new flora and fauna to enjoy. In the past, daily fall bluebird patrols had been carried out – driving along back roads and walking through fields to record migration movements and numbers. Though omitted last year, these walks will be offered in 2000 as an option. Unstructured, they could be arranged on a casual basis for those who would like to participate and experience the autumn in bluebird country – it's worth the drive to Harwood!

Many thanks to these volunteer box-checking drivers and monitors: Bill and Lori Wensley, Mondays, 18 trips; Audrey Wilson, Tuesdays, 16; Lou and Audrey Levto, Wednesdays, 10; Bryan and Louise Baxter, Thursdays, 11; Andrew Taylor and Barbara Evans, 7 (one with Sheila Joel); John and Hazel Lyons and Alan Croxall (Peterborough), 5; Barbara Brown, Robert Tap, 3; Rosemarie Byers, Lynda Lapeer, with Janet McVicker, 2; Susan Hamilton, Lee Kobalskyj, Lawrence Holmes, Ferris Cole, Bill Crowley, Janice and Steve Street – all one-timers, who also play an important role in the checking routine. Twenty-six participants made 102 separate trips (and happily my dog, Spark, was included on every one!). As always, on our list of important volunteers, we must include the landowners who, since the first boxes were put up in 1968, have provided free bluebird habitat, essential for the success and survival

of our project. One repeat visitor was Ed Heuvel, of Stirling, who works in the field of reclamation and restoration of natural prairie vegetation – particularly in propagation of seed.

Annual WBFN Bluebird Walk – As though to compensate for her inhospitable treatment of the bluebird walkers in 1998, Mother Nature had nothing but the best for the group of 40 veterans and newcomers who took part in this year's event on June 7: the weather was ideal, the birds in good numbers and the wild strawberries were ripe!

In May and June these fields are alive with ground-nesting birds so it is very important to emphasize our unwritten rules when walking, whether singly or in a group. If by accident a bird is flushed from its nest, "Stop. Stand still. Quickly observe the details of the nest – then BACK OFF!" (Should the adult try to lure you away with its "broken wing" act, by all means follow it.) Report your find later for the records. Moving on to the Whip-poor-will stop, several new species were added, bringing the total checklist to 33: Eastern Bluebird, Great Blue Heron, Sparrows – Song, Field, Vesper, Grasshopper, Chipping, Blue Jay, Tree and Barn Swallows, Flicker, Chickadee, Eastern Kingbird, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Upland Sandpiper (in 2 areas), Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Crow, Horned Lark, Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher. At the second stop: Savannah Sparrow, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, Veery, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, Nighthawk, Great Crested Flycatcher, Mourning Dove, Whip-poor-will (first heard, 9:10 p.m.). Firefly.

One positive by-product of the walk was the acquisition of new volunteers for the bluebird box checking.

Side Interests: No Eastern Hognosed Snakes to report this year, but tangible evidence was found to indicate that this species is still active in its Beaver Meadow

habitat. On June 15, at the box-checking entrance to this particular farm, Lori Wensley and I came upon the shed skin of a Hog-nosed Snake – complete and in perfect condition, from the painted, upturned snout, or nose (a useful tool for digging toads out of the sand) to the uniquely tapered tail. Since it was still glistening with a film of moisture, especially around the head, we conjectured that the actual transformation had taken place just minutes earlier. The skin, about 30 inches in length, had been anchored firmly by the weaving path of the snake, in and out in a rough circle among the fine, upright grass stems. By parting these carefully, inch by inch, the skin was freed, undamaged, to be placed on a rigid car floor mat and transported to my home where it may be viewed upon request – no charge.

| <b>Statistics:</b> .....             | <b>1999</b> ..... | <b>1998</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| My first bluebird sighting.....      | Apr. 5.....       | Mar. 28     |
| First egg found .....                | Apr. 21.....      | Apr. 21     |
| First young found .....              | May 14.....       | May 13      |
| First nest fledged .....             | May 27.....       | May 20      |
| Nesting starts .....                 | 44 .....          | 52          |
| Non-successes .....                  | 11 .....          | 11          |
| No. of nests fledged.....            | 33 .....          | 41          |
| No. of boxes in use.....             | 119.....          | 126         |
| My last bluebird seen (season) ..... | Oct. 16 .....     | Nov. 13     |
| No. of checking rounds .....         | 8.....            | 9           |

Presumed egg or young losses: 11. Weather – 9; Unknown – 2 (eggs abandoned).

**Bluebird Observations: WBFN territory – Harwood area,** sightings by several observers.

**Pre-season:** Apr. 5, Apr. 11. **Late summer and fall:** July 30 – flock of 8-10; Aug. 18, 19 – 1 pr. and 3 prs.; Aug. 26 – flock of 5-6 around farmhouse – also on Oct. 2 up to 10 feeding on driveway; Sept. 1 and 24 – pair on overhead wires, pair at birdbath; late Aug.-early Sept. – up to 15-20 on lawn; Oct. 14 – 4 or 5 on overhead wires. Oct. 16 – my last sighting – twice – pr. over my back and front lawns calling.

**Tree Swallow Notes:** First seen – Apr. 5; first egg – May 10; first nest fledged – June 10; No. of nests fledged – 42; Outcome uncertain – 9. Small numbers observed gathering on overhead wires.

**Bluebird sighting from outlying areas:** (numerous sources): Castleton, Baltimore, Roseneath, Port Britain, Alderville, Bewdley.

Nests fledged – June 18 – 5 young being fed in box area near Baltimore – John Lyons; Aug. 19 – fledged brood remained in area – near Bewdley – Daphne Svenningson. Unsuccessful nestings – end of season reports – 2 with 4 eggs in each – 4 punctured, 4 abandoned; 1 nest with eggs gone – tree swallow takeover.

### Financial Statement for 1999

|                                       |                 |                          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1998         |                 | \$1,165.86               |
| <b>Receipts:</b>                      |                 |                          |
| Donations: N. Wallace                 | \$ 25.00        |                          |
| A. Johnstone                          | \$ 25.00        |                          |
| Colin Jones                           | \$ 25.00        |                          |
| J. Jayson (exch. U.S.)                | \$ 5.00         |                          |
| Viking Nursery                        | \$ 50.00        |                          |
| Life Membership donation H.B.         | <u>\$ 16.00</u> |                          |
|                                       | \$146.00        |                          |
| Box Sales – 2 @ \$12.00*              | <u>\$ 24.00</u> |                          |
| Total Receipts                        |                 | \$170.00                 |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                      |                 |                          |
| Labour – special checks, box repairs  | \$ 67.00        |                          |
| Materials                             | <u>\$ 50.00</u> |                          |
| Total Expenses                        |                 | <u>\$117.00</u>          |
| Excess receipts over expenses         |                 | <u>\$ 53.00</u>          |
| <b>Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1999</b> |                 | <b><u>\$1,218.86</u></b> |

\*Boxes purchased by J. Jayson – 2.

**Special thanks** to the Gordon Reed family for photocopying ;60 copies of the #23 Bluebird Report, free of charge; these are made available to all non-members who support the bluebird operation.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Several of our members have suffered recent bouts of ill health. We send best wishes to **A.K. Sculthorpe, Mary Lou Adams** and **Ray Stacy**. We hope that by the time this issue of the Curlew is finished, you are all on the road to recovery.
- WBFN members **Sharon Keogh** and **David Acoma** have recently completed a series of six one-half hour television programs, called *Down to Earth*. Each program features a different person - artists, a musician, writers, photographers and conservationists - in the landscapes that inspire them - from Toronto's Scarborough Bluffs to the shores of Lake Superior. *Down to Earth* airs Tuesdays, starting April 18 at 8:30 p.m. on Vision TV. It is the network's salute to Earth Week, which begins April 15.
- WBFN will be sponsoring two young people to the Federation of Ontario Young Naturalists Summer Camps, one each to the Junior and Senior Camps. Watch for more details in the April *Curlew*.
- Best wishes to **Hazel Bird**, who, in February, celebrated a special birthday.

## RECENT OBSERVATIONS

compiled by Ted McDonald

| Species                | Date           | No.    | Location                         | Observers   |
|------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Great Blue Heron       | Feb. 22        | 2      | n. of Colborne                   | JF          |
| Gadwall                | Feb. 27        | 1      | Garden Hill Pond                 | EK, RF      |
| King Eider             | Dec. 1-10      | 1f     | Cobourg Harbour                  | M.Obs.      |
| White-winged Scoter    | Jan. 31        | 1m, 1f | Cobourg Harbour                  | MB          |
| Ruddy Duck             | Dec. 5-8       | 1f     | Cobourg Harbour                  | MB          |
|                        | Feb. 1-Feb. 29 | 1f     | Port Hope yacht basin            | M.Obs.      |
| Golden Eagle           | Feb. 28        | 1      | Gully Rd. & Hwy. 401             | JK          |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk     | Jan. 11        | 1      | Lakeshore Rd., PH                | JG          |
|                        | Feb. 1/25      | 1      | Durham St., PH                   | EK          |
| Cooper's Hawk          | Feb. 2/14      | 1      | Durham St., PH                   | EK          |
|                        | Feb. 7         | 1      | Lakeshore Rd., PH                | JG          |
| Merlin                 | Feb. 13        | 1      | w. of Welcome                    | RE, RT      |
| Ring-necked Pheasant   | Feb. 6-7       | 1      | Lakeshore Rd. Haskill's area     | M.Obs.      |
| Wild Turkey            | Jan. 18        | 100+   | Pig farm n. of Brighton          | MB          |
| Sora                   | Dec. & Jan.    | 1      | Lake St. marsh, PH               | MB, M.Obs.  |
| American Coot          | Dec. & Jan.    | 3-4    | Cobourg Harbour                  | M.Obs.      |
| Killdeer               | Feb. 26        | 1      | Toronto Rd., PH                  | CL          |
| Purple Sandpiper       | Dec. 1-Jan. 9  | 1      | Cobourg Harbour                  | CEG, M.Obs. |
| Bonaparte's Gull       | Jan. 4         | 4      | Cobourg Harbour                  | MB          |
| Iceland Gull           | Jan. 1-31      | 1-3    | Cobourg Harbour                  | M.Obs.      |
| Glaucous Gull          | Jan. 1-31      | 1-3    | Cobourg Harbour                  | M.Obs.      |
| Great Horned Owl       | Feb. 17        | 1      | Gages Creek                      | PM          |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl  | Feb. 5         | 1      | Lakeshore Rd., PH                | JG          |
| Snowy Owl              | Dec. 2         | 1 imm. | Cobourg Harbour breakwater       | MB          |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | Feb. 7         | 1      | Port Britain feeder              | AKS         |
|                        | Feb. 11        | 1      | Port Britain feeder              | ERM         |
| Hairy Woodpecker       | Feb. 22        | 1      | Dunbar Rd. w. of Beagle Club Rd. | AW          |
| Pileated Woodpecker    | Feb. 16        | 1      | Dorset St. W., PH                | DSv         |
|                        | Feb. 22        | 1      | Dunbar Rd. w. of Beagle Club Rd. | AW          |
|                        | Feb. 24        | 2      | Harwood                          | HB          |
| Horned Lark            | Feb. 5         | 60     | w. of Welcome                    | RE, EK      |
|                        | Feb. 17-19     | 1-3    | Lakeshore Rd., PH                | AKS         |
| Tree Swallow           | Feb. 29        | 1      | Elizabethville & Ctv. Rd. 9      | AE          |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch  | Jan.-Feb. 2    | 2      | Lakeshore Rd., PH                | JG          |
| Eastern Bluebird       | Jan. 5         | 20     | Wesleyville                      | MW          |
|                        | Jan. 20-31     | 4      | Wicklow                          | MR, MB      |
|                        | Feb. 19        | 5      | nr. Harwood                      | GM          |
|                        | Feb. 23        | 4      | Harwood Rd. nr. Hatchery         | RB          |
| American Robin         | Feb. 16        | 20-30  | Harwood area                     | RB          |
| Bohemian Waxwing       | Jan. 2         | 60     | n. of Port Hope                  | MB          |
|                        | Jan. 7         | 120    | Wesleyville                      | MB          |
| Northern Shrike        | Feb. 19        | 1      | w. of Welcome                    | EK, RF      |
|                        | Feb. 27        | 1      | Cold Springs Camp Rd.            | AE          |
| Northern Cardinal      | Jan.-Feb. 2    | 2      | Lakeshore Rd., PH                | JG          |
|                        | Feb. 14        | 1f     | Bedford St., PH                  | DSv         |
| Song Sparrow           | Feb. 29-Mar 2  | 1      | Deblacquire St., PH              | GMCD        |
| White-throated Sparrow | Mar. 4         | 1      | Deblacquire St., PH              | GMCD        |
| Lanland Longspur       | Feb. 5         | 2      | w. of Welcome                    | RE, EK      |
|                        | Feb. 12        | 7      | w. of Welcome                    | RE, EK, RT  |

Observations - cont'd.

| Species              | Date        | No.        | Location                            | Observers     |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Snow Bunting         | Feb. 5      | 200        | w. of Welcome                       | RF, EK        |
|                      | Feb. 17     | 75         | 6 <sup>th</sup> Line, Hamilton Twp  | DSv           |
|                      | Feb. 20     | 20         | Lakeshore Rd., Haskill's            | AKS           |
|                      | Feb. 22     | 150        | Lakeshore Rd., PH                   | AKS           |
| Red-winged Blackbird | Feb. 26     | 3          | w. of Welcome                       | RT            |
|                      | Feb. 26     | 30         | Richardson's Lookout, Hope Twp.     | DL - ONTBIRDS |
| Common Grackle       | Feb. 27     | 1          | Durham St., PH                      | EK            |
| Purple Finch         | Feb. 16     | 3          | Harwood Rd.                         | RH            |
| Red Crossbill        | Feb. 16     | 4          | Harwood Rd.                         | RH            |
|                      | Feb. 20     | 14         | Dunbar Rd. e. of Centreton          | AW            |
| Common Redpoll       | Jan. 29     | 2          | Ontario St., Cob.                   | AW            |
|                      | Feb. 7      | 2          | Port Britain feeder                 | AKS           |
|                      | Feb. 14     | 5          | Close Pt. Feeder                    | AW            |
|                      | Feb. 20/21  | 3/4        | Port Britain, Hope Twp.             | AKS           |
| Hoary Redpoll        | Feb. 14     | 1          | Close Pt. Feeder                    | AW            |
| Pine Siskin          | Jan. 12     | 3          | Cobourg backyard                    | MB            |
| Evening Grosbeak     | Nov. 25     | 1          | Lakeshore Rd., PH                   | JG            |
|                      | Feb. 17     | 1          | 6 <sup>th</sup> Line, Hamilton Twp. | DSv           |
|                      | Feb. 26     | 80         | n. of Ganaraska Forest Centre       | DL - ONTBIRDS |
| Snow Fleas           | all of Feb. | "zillions" | when skiing the Dunbar Trails       | AW            |

**Observers:**

*MB=Margaret Bain; HB=Hazel Bird; RB=Randy Bird; GMCD=Geoff Dale; AE=Alison Elliott; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JG=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; RH=Reese Hunt; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; JK=Jony Knippel; DL=Doug Lockrey; CL=Chris Lyons; GM=George May; PM=Peggy McCarthy; ERM=Ted McDonald; M.Obs.=Many Observers; ONTBIRDS=Ontario Field Ornithologists ListServ; MR=Maureen Riggs; AKS=A.K. Sculthorpe; DSv=Daphne Svenningson; RT=Robert Taylor; MW=Mike Williamson; AW=Audrey Wilson.*

## SNOW BUNTING BANDING AT WELCOME, 2000

*by Roger Frost*

In the brief period this winter when there was actually some snow cover, Elizabeth and I attempted some winter banding at the Kellogg farm near Welcome. The weekend of February 12 and 13 was very successful with 80 birds banded over the two days. The following weekend, despite a similar trapping effort, we only caught one bird. In total, 66 Snow Buntings, 11 Lapland Longspurs, and 4 Horned Larks were banded.

Although Lapland Longspurs make up a very small percentage of the flocks of buntings and larks, they always get captured at a disproportionately higher rate. While there were 200-400 Snow Buntings and about 50 Horned Larks on the farm over this period, I never saw more than 4 Lapland Longspurs.