

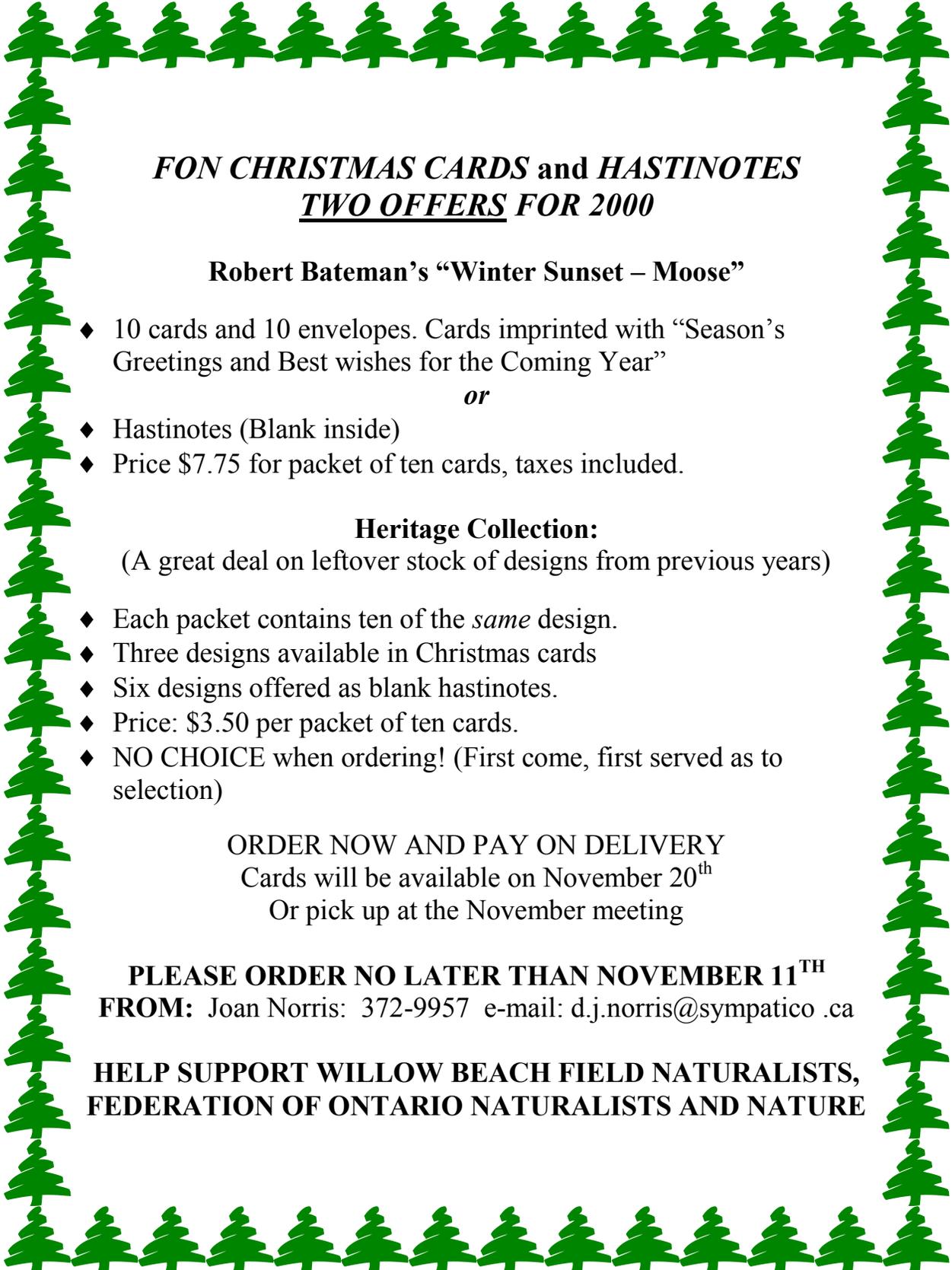
**COMING EVENTS**

- Friday, October 27, 2000, 7:30 p.m.** – General Meeting. Guest speaker: Bronwyn Salmon – *Ontario Birds* – Photography slide show – Illustrated talk on the birds of Ontario focusing on each species’ own habitat and history – Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope.
- Saturday, November 18 - Birding Durham Waterfront**, including Second Marsh, Cranberry Marsh, Whitby Harbour. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Carpool parking lot across from Arby’s in Port Hope. Dress warmly, bring lunch and binoculars/scopes. Call Alison Elliott for details at (905) 797-1123.
- Friday, November 24, 2000, 7:30 p.m.** – General Meeting. Steve Pitt – *Tree Identification 101* – A hands-on identification course. Participants will learn ways to better identify trees in the field. Cobourg Public Library.
- Saturday, December 16, 2000 - Annual Christmas Bird Count.** **Please note** that WBFN is trying a Saturday this year (instead of Sunday) to avoid conflict with neighbouring counts. Contact Roger Frost, 885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca for more information.

**THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS**

Past Pres.	Terry Stopps.....	372-1028.....	stopps@eagle.ca
President	Bob Short.....	885-1420.....	mb.short@sympatico.ca
1st Vice-pres.	Rod Lee.....	885-5483.....	simkev@nhb.com
2nd Vice-pres.	Carole Payne.....	885-6135.....	
Secretary	Mary Lou Adams.....	373-6083.....	adamsm1@eagle.ca
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Curlew Ed.	Norma Wallace.....	885-5552.....	
	Elizabeth Kellogg.....	885-9615.....	ekrf@eagle.ca

*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the November issue should be received by October 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."*



***FON CHRISTMAS CARDS and HASTINOTES***  
**TWO OFFERS FOR 2000**

**Robert Bateman's "Winter Sunset – Moose"**

- ◆ 10 cards and 10 envelopes. Cards imprinted with "Season's Greetings and Best wishes for the Coming Year"
- or*
- ◆ Hastinotes (Blank inside)
  - ◆ Price \$7.75 for packet of ten cards, taxes included.

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- ◆ Each packet contains ten of the *same* design.
- ◆ Three designs available in Christmas cards
- ◆ Six designs offered as blank hastinotes.
- ◆ Price: \$3.50 per packet of ten cards.
- ◆ NO CHOICE when ordering! (First come, first served as to selection)

**ORDER NOW AND PAY ON DELIVERY**

Cards will be available on November 20<sup>th</sup>

Or pick up at the November meeting

**PLEASE ORDER NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**FROM:** Joan Norris: 372-9957 e-mail: [d.j.norris@sympatico .ca](mailto:d.j.norris@sympatico.ca)

**HELP SUPPORT WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS,  
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS AND NATURE**

## F.O.N. ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2000

by Audrey Wilson

On May 26-28, I attended the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in Midland.

The opening keynote speakers were Mary and John Theberge speaking on *Wolves in Nature*. Their excellent slide presentation dealt with their 30 years of wolf research with emphasis on the Algonquin Park situation.

Ric Symmes, Executive Director of F.O.N. then did a session on *F.O.N. 2000 Plus*. It is easy to see why such good vibes are coming from F.O.N. these days with Ric at the helm!

The Saturday afternoon keynote speaker was Dan Stuckey. His topic was titled *Gone for a Walk – Reflections on Wildlife Watching, Watchers and Conservation*. He traced the progression of enjoying our environment from cave times through Audubon days to the present.

Friday night's field outing was held at the Wye Marsh with Terence Dickinson explaining the night sky. Following the banquet on Saturday, he spoke on the

*Universe of the Mind and Eye*. In this he utilized photos taken on the Apollo flight. Also at the banquet, long standing friend Fran Westman, known by many of our members, was honoured as "Mother of the Marsh".

One of the concurrent sessions that appealed to me was *Within the Cattail Marsh* by David Hawke.

At the 35<sup>th</sup> Photo Salon (now open to the public across Canada) some 230 entries by 71 participants had been submitted. I was fortunate in having 3 acceptances shown.

On Sunday, I went to a photo workshop at Ed Glanert's place where I sat in a blind for several hours waiting on an uncooperative kingfisher!

Overall, the conference was excellent and well worth the time involved even if it meant missing the W.B.F.N. annual outing. The F.O.N. celebrates 70 years of putting nature first at York University, June 14-17, 2001. Plan now to attend *Woods Talk – Community Action to Conserve Ontario's Woodlands*.

## MASTER BUILDERS - 2000

by Norma E. Wallace

Further to the report in the May 2000 issue of the *Curllew*, the millenium project of a pair of Blue Jays was successful!! Their nest was once again placed atop the back door light fixture of the Laidlaw home in Port Hope. This has been the preferred site since 1992 (only 1 year was missed). Construction started April 14, the first egg laid on May 8, and by May 12, four eggs were ready for incubation. Hatching took place on May 27-28. I am delighted to report that three fledglings left their twiggy home on June 15. The Laidlaws are looking forward to early April 2001. The avian builders might be back!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- At the Ontario Field Ornithologists Annual General Meeting on Sept. 16, 2000, held at the Kortright Centre, one of our members, **Craig S.A. McLauchlan** was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his regular updates and helpfulness to visiting birders regarding the Heermann's Gull in Toronto over the last year. Well done, Craig.
- WBFN extends sympathy to **Roger Frost** on the recent death of his mother.

# BIRDING IN TAIWAN

by Simone Mérey

In July, I went on a week long birding trip to Taiwan, a semi-tropical country with the migrants gone to the mainland for summer breeding. Taiwan has a double mountain chain running from north to south and so the birds vary from the coastal lowlands to tropical broadforest to alpine zone species. There are fourteen endemic species and we concentrated our efforts on those. We started in the Alishan region, where there are Taiwan Red Cypress giants (*Chamaecyparis formosensis* Matsum), 2300 year old trees of great majesty and beauty, in the cloud forest where everything is moss covered. There we saw and heard Steere's Liocichla, Taiwan Barwing and Little Forktail.

A year ago a major earthquake shook up the central area and the mountain slopes had huge gashes in them. This provided open areas for viewing species such as Ashy Wood Pigeon and Japanese Green Pigeon. The Collared Bush-Robin, the White-eared Sibia, the White-throated Laughing Thrush, the Gray-sided Laughing Thrush, the Hwa-Mei, the friendly Taiwan Laughing Thrush, the Whistling Thrush, all of these were endemics that we were able to see.

There were little birds that were chickadee-like in their behaviour, such as the Taiwan Yuhina, the Red-headed Tit, the Green-backed Tit, the Taiwan Tit, and the Coal Tit, in all 100 new birds seen and 5 more heard.

We saw the tracks of the Mikado Pheasant, and that was after three tries. Even the president of the Japanese Birding Society hasn't seen this endangered species. A great thrill was the Eurasian Curlew seen in the lowlands, (an out of season sighting), also the Coucal in the rice paddies and the Collared Pygmy Owllet in the mountains.

Our group varied from 7 to 10 individuals travelling in two four-wheel drive vehicles and one automobile. The first night we could not reach our destination due to a landslide blocking the road. The earthquake and the aftershocks, combined with a regular rainfall, had loosened the mountainside. On the last day, a small typhoon provided enough wind and rain that spectacular waterfalls loosened rocks and caused a delay in travelling.

When the birdlife died down in mid-day, out came the flower books. Many of our garden flowers grow wild over there, such as azaleas and fragrant white lilies that were growing out of the mountainside. Orchids grow on trees there and in shaded gardens.

We saw quite a few Formosan macaques (grey monkeys). There are ropes on top of the mountain roads to allow them to cross safely.

The food was great and, although forks are available everywhere, my pride insisted on coping most of the time with chopsticks. The group taught me how to make proper tea and saw to it that I had lots of tea to bring back and a tea set with cups without handles, plus a straw peasant hat. We did go birding the first day in a tea plantation.

Though I was at the opposite end of the globe, I felt quite at home. As birders we all had the same interests and we would detour and stop wherever there were birds. The weather was moderate in the mountains and on the Pacific coast. My tour leader said that November is the best month for birding, in case anybody is interested...

## **ONTARIO'S SECOND BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 2001-2005**

Ontario's second Breeding Bird Atlas project will get underway in the spring of 2001 and will run through 2005. Like the first atlas (1981-1985), the project's goal will be to produce detailed maps of the distribution of all the bird species breeding in the province. Volunteer birders, known as atlasers, take on one or more 10-km squares and look for breeding evidence of every species breeding in the square. This time, we are also hoping to collect information on the abundance of each species in each square.

Atlassing is fun and challenging, and the results are valuable. The first project was a great success, with over 1300 birders logging over 100,000 hours of field work, and amassing more than 400,000 records. The *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario* is the standard reference book on bird distribution in the province, and the atlas' computer data base has been used for numerous conservation and research projects.

If you would like to get some preliminary background on the project or register to participate, please visit the atlas web page at [www.birdsontario.org](http://www.birdsontario.org).

The regional coordinators for the Willow Beach Field Naturalists area are Margaret Bain (372-1202), Clive Goodwin (372-1065) and Roger Frost (885-9615). If you are interested in participating in this project, contact one of these people for more information.

## **BANDING RETURNS FROM LOCAL PROJECTS**

*by Elizabeth Kellogg*

Over the summer, we received some exciting mail from the Bird Banding Office. Two birds banded in local projects had been recovered at some distance from the banding site. A Pine Siskin banded in October 1999 by Elizabeth Kellogg in her Port Hope backyard was found dead in the spring 2000 in northern Georgia. A Northern Saw-whet Owl banded by Roger Frost at Candlewick Woods west of Port Hope in October 1999 was recovered by banders in coastal Virginia about a month later. This latter recovery is especially nice, since the bird was alive when found. Perhaps we will meet it again one day.

**9TH ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS AT PRESQU'ILE**  
Fine Arts and Crafts Sale and Tea Room  
November 4, 5, 8, 11, 12  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily  
For more information, call 613-475-4324

*At the time of her death, Louise Steele, one of the founders of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, had completed a history of the club up to 1971. Following is the second installment of this history.*

## **WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS HISTORY**

*by Louise Steele*

### **•1957**

In 1957, the John Mitchells continued to lend their recreation room for meetings, as did the Kellys their living room. Speakers at club meetings included Dr. George Stirrett, Canadian Wildlife Service; Mrs. Alma Wallis, who came to a meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Kelly with several other members of the Quinte Naturalist Club; Adrian Grant-Duff, who showed slides and told us about his summer on the ship which visited Arctic settlements; and Gerry Bennett, illustrating his trip to Churchill. Jim Simon showed slides on botany at Willow Beach Lodge following the September outing.

In February, an open meeting, with admission charge, was held at Dr. Powers School Auditorium, Port Hope, with Alf Bunker and his sister presenting the programme; and in November, at the Orange Hall, Cobourg, Dr. Madeleine Fritz gave a lecture on Ancient Life.

Outings included one to Carr's Marsh, a spring bird count in May, several joint outings at Willow Beach with clubs from Toronto, Oshawa and Peterborough. In September, Jim Simon led a botany walk and Ted McDonald a bird outing.

Two active members of the club moved away – Peter Landry and Gerry Bennett.

### **•1958**

The new officers elected January 1958 were:

President – Louise Steele  
Vice-president – Ted McDonald  
Secretary-treasurer – Eleanor Ralls  
Publicity – Mrs. John Mitchell

Indoor programmes – Florence, Reeve, Peter Schultz, Roy Burness

Outings – Audrey Wilson, Ted McDonald, Harold Reeve, Lazlo Udvarhelyi, Ted Niles

Telephones – Muriel Staples, Norah Harris

Refreshments – Mrs. J. Tweed, H. Miller

Indoor meetings in 1958 were held at John Mitchell's in Port Hope, Harry Gadd's in Cobourg, Dr. Kelly's for the Christmas bird census. Slides were shown at the meetings by L. Udvarhelyi, Harry Gadd and other members, also Ken Campbell from Peterborough.

Mrs. Alma Wallis delighted a large audience at an open meeting in Dr. Powers School, Port Hope, in March.

In November, Marshall Bartman showed his marvellous flower slides at an open meeting in the Orange Hall, Cobourg, and brought our club messages from the F.O.N.

There were outings to Presqu'ile in March; Carr's Marsh and Willow Beach in April; a joint outing with the Peterborough club at Clearstone Lodge in May; a spring bird count May 18, parties converging on Willow Beach for picnic supper; a regional gathering of the F.O.N. at Willow Beach May 28. Outings to Cavan Bog or to McDonald's Woods were planned for June. Willow Beach was visited in September, and the Christmas bird count was held December 28<sup>th</sup>.

It was decided to set up a loan library in the Mitchell's recreation room, Peter Schultz offering to contribute reference books and journals as a nucleus.

**RECENT SIGHTINGS**

compiled by Ted McDonald

Double-crested Cormorant	Oct. 5	6	Cobourg Harbour	ERM
American Bittern	Sept. 11	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	ERM
Snow Goose (blue phase)	Oct. 7	1	Garden Hill Pond	RF

Sightings - cont'd.

Eastern Bluebird	Sept.19-Oct. 9	12	6 <sup>th</sup> Line, Hope Twp	BLe
	Sept. 20	1	7 <sup>th</sup> Line, Hamilton Twp.	DSv
	Sept. 21	1	7 <sup>th</sup> Line, Hope Twp.	BLe
American Robin	Sept. 18-21	100	Larchmere Golf Course	M.Obs.
Swainson's Thrush	Sept. 30	8	Candlewick Woods	RF, EK
Hermit Thrush	Oct. 5	12	Candlewick Woods	EK