



## COMING EVENTS

•**Friday, January 26, 2001, 7:30 p.m.** - General Meeting. **James Duncan** - *Options for Conserving Canada's Biodiversity* - an illustration presentation re: protecting properties of ecological interest throughout Canada. Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope. Visitors welcome.

•**Saturday, February 3, 2001 Owl Prowl on Amherst Island.** Meet at Port Hope (Arby's) commuter parking lot at 8 am or Cobourg (Hwy. 45) commuter lot at 8:15 to carpool. This will be an all day trip so pack a lunch and dress warmly. Good chances of seeing Northern Saw-whet Owls, Long-eared Owls and Rough-legged hawks. Possibly also Snowy Owl, Boreal Owl, Ivory Gull. Call Alison Elliott (905) 797-1123 for information or for car-pooling.

•**Friday, February 23, 2001, 7:30 p.m.** - Annual General Meeting. WBFN member, Bill Crowley will present *Alvars - An Introduction*, an illustrated talk on Alvars which are limestone plains found in limited areas in the vicinity of the Great lakes. The amount of soil on an alvar varies from almost none to enough to support grass and scrub trees. The climate of an alvar is harsh; thus, the vegetation is special, including the spectacular globally rare Lakeside Daisy. Cobourg Public Library.

•**Saturday, March 3, 2001 Astronomy Night 7 - 8 or 9p.m.** Gather at Richardson's Lookout Conservation Area on County Road 9 west of Garden Hill at 7 p.m. Bring scopes and/or binoculars, lawnchairs, and dress very warmly. In case of full cloud cover, alternate night is March 4. Call Alison Elliott (905) 797-1123 for details.

**Look for more outings in the spring including a Murray Marsh/Lone Pine Marsh trip and Thursday Evening Walks in May.**

## SIGHTINGS REQUESTED

As part of the process of building the Millennium Project trail and demonstration gardens adjacent to the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority office at Highway 28 and 401, Dave Charette, Coordinator of the project, is developing a list of birds, animals and plants seen in the area. He has asked if members of the club who bird or walk in the area would make a note of their sightings around the office and in the Port Hope Conservation Area and leave them at the desk, marked to his attention. If anyone records sightings outside of office hours, David can be reached at 885-8173 or

## BAT HOUSE II

*by Norma Wallace*

On December 19, 2000, WBFN members Rachael and Peter Irwin of Port Hope noticed a sleepy Big Brown Bat clinging to their bedroom curtains!! Peter was able to retrieve the intruder using a pillow case. Capture and release outdoors was not an option on that cold, snowy day. The squeaking creature was therefore placed in an unheated attached shed at the rear of the Irwin home. Sweet dreams until spring!

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

William and Nancy Logan, Cobourg  
David Charette, Trenton  
Joyce and Kathryn Mills, Toronto  
Jeremy Sculthorpe, Port Hope

### 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
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Secretary	Nancy Stopps .....	372-1028 .....	stopps@eagle.ca
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Curlw 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 Curlw. Copy for the February 2001 issue should be received by January 31, 2001. 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."*

## OWL BANDING AT CANDLEWICK WOODS - FALL 2000

*by Roger Frost*

This was the 4th season of owl banding at Candlewick Woods, a woodlot on the north shore of Lake Ontario, just west of Port Hope, ON. Although the banding totals were somewhat lower than last year's record, it was still a very interesting season. In total, 50 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded. Banding attempts were made on 16 nights from Oct. 3 to Nov. 6. These attempts resulted in 48.5 hours of banding effort, which was more than last year's 41.5 hours.

As last year, the owls were attracted into the nets using a tape recording of Northern Saw-whet Owl calls. These calls were broadcast from a speaker hung about 6.5 feet up in a cedar tree which was surrounded by a triangle arrangement of 3 - 2 3/8" mesh 40' mist nets.

In addition to the 50 banded Northern Saw-whet Owls, two foreign banded Saw-whets were captured. NSWOW #1204-26219 was banded at 8:10 p.m., October 21 at the north end of Pigeon Lake (northwest of Peterborough, Ontario). It was recaptured at Candlewick Woods at 10:40 p.m. the same night. Pigeon Lake is about 75 km. directly north of Candlewick Woods, so that Saw-whet was flying at at least 30 km. per hour!

NSWOW #624-73457 was no less interesting. It was banded on October 10, 1999 at Steven's Point, Wisconsin. It was recaptured on October 28, 2000 at Candlewick Woods. Why would this bird migrate around the west end of the Great Lakes in one fall, and the east end of the Great Lakes the next?

Most stations in Ontario experienced a much smaller flight of NSWOWs this fall compared to last year. The Candlewick Woods Station fared better than most, but the catch rate still fell from 1.40 birds/hr. in 1999 to 1.07. Also, the make-up of the flight

was very different from 1999's. In 1999 about 70% of the birds captured were Hatch Year and 30% After Hatch Year. In 2000, only 42% were Hatch Year and 58% were After Hatch Year. Not only does this point to a poor breeding season for the Saw-whets, but a poor year for their food supply, since so many adult birds were moving. Of these After Hatch Year birds, almost 2/3 were Second Year birds (i.e. hatched in 1999), thus reflecting last year's great breeding season.

The peak night came on October 19 when 19 NSWOWs were banded, breaking the old station record of 17. As a bonus, the station's first Barred Owl was banded on the last net round, making an even 20 owls for the night! No other species of owls were banded this season. However, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl and Screech Owl were seen once each and Great Horned Owls were heard nearly every night.

There was a record total of 32 visitors at the station this season. Every single one of them saw owls banded! Most of the visitors were Willow Beach Field Naturalists members, but also included were 7 members of the Durham Field Naturalists.

On the night of October 28, there was an amazing show of the Northern Lights. On this night, the Aurora spread across the entire northern half of the sky as we left the woods at 11:30 p.m.

Thanks again to Bob and A.K. Sculthorpe who kindly allowed the use of Candlewick Woods for the continuation of this project.

NSWOW=Northern Saw-whet Owl

## REVIEW OF TWO NEW BUTTERFLY BOOKS

by Daphne Svenningson

There has been considerable interest in butterflies over the past few years. We now no longer take them for granted.

Two new books are really worth having as they are both excellent. Elizabeth Kellogg kindly lent me her copies so I could comment on them and one is of special interest to us living in this area.

Presqui'le Provincial Park has had a beautiful little paperback published listing 58 species recorded in the park (over 70 species are known to occur in Ontario). The booklet measures 6 3/4" X 4 1/4", ideal to fit into a pocket, the perfect guide to take into the field. What I particularly liked is the clarity of description for each butterfly, short, concise, with an accurate colour photograph. Listed is the host or food plant and the range. I can't wait to get my copy. This little gem is a bargain at \$4.00.

Elizabeth also lent me *Butterflies Through Binoculars* by Jeffrey Glassberg, a field guide to butterflies of Eastern North America. This is a much bigger paperback, retailing at \$18.95 U.S. Again, the photographs are very good, each one accompanied by a map of North America which, of course includes Canada, with locations clearly marked. It is a book for the serious reader who wishes to enlarge his/her

knowledge of the many look-alike butterflies as well as extensive information on the sub-tropical species in the southern United States. Well laid out, it is well worth the investment.

I rely on my long standing favourite, *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies*. I like this book because it shows some eggs and pupae, which neither of the preceding books do. If watching butterflies emerging from their chrysalises is a hobby, it is essential to know what they look like, and there is no description in either of the former books, although the host plant is mentioned. But this is not enough. For instance, nettles are host plants to many species, including Mulberry Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and Commas, but their eggs and chrysalises are quite different from each other.

For the conservationist who likes to collect and protect chrysalises from birds and small animals, the little Golden Books series have adequate illustrations, but for the butterfly observer, the *Butterflies Through Binoculars* is a beautiful book and the Presqui'le booklet a "must".

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Congratulations to **Paul Appleman**, WBFN's Marathon Man, on the completion of the Philadelphia Marathon in late November 2000.
- Sympathy of the club is extended to **Maureen Campeau** on the recent loss of her sister.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2000

by Roger Frost

On 16 December 2000, the 30th Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count was held. A total of 44 field observers and 8 feeder watchers covered the 15-mile diameter circle from Willow Beach to Lucas Point and north to Bewdley. In total, 17,835 birds of 75 species were counted. Both of these totals were improvements over last year's 14,547 birds of 65 species. In addition, 10 other species were seen during count week. Highlights included 4 Northern Goshawks, 8 Rough-legged Hawks, 1 Wild Turkey, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 Barred Owl, 1 Northern Saw-whet Owl, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 Common Raven, 1 Eastern Bluebird, 11 Bohemian Waxwings, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 2 Field Sparrows and 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler. Count week highlights were King Eider, Merlin, Short-eared Owl, Carolina Wren and Dickcissel.

Species	Total
Great Blue Heron	CW
Canada Goose	1663
American Black Duck	149
Mallard	1584
Mallard hybrid	3
Northern Pintail	1
Gadwall	CW
American Wigeon	1
Greater Scaup	14
King Eider	CW
Oldsquaw	340
White-winged Scoter	14
Common Goldeneye	468
Bufflehead	187
Hooded Merganser	3
Common Merganser	80
Red-breasted Merganser	37
Duck Sp.	20
Bald Eagle	CW
Northern Harrier	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9
Cooper's Hawk	4
Northern Goshawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	52
Rough-legged Hawk	8
American Kestrel	8
Merlin	CW
Ruffed Grouse	28
Wild Turkey	1
Bonaparte's Gull	5
Ring-billed Gull	343
Herring Gull	818
Iceland Gull	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1
Glaucous Gull	7
Great Black-backed Gull	67
Gull Sp.	60
Rock Dove	624
Mourning Dove	1348
Eastern Screech-Owl	1
Great Horned Owl	CW
Barred Owl	1
Short-eared Owl	CW
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
Belted Kingfisher	4

Species	Total
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Downy Woodpecker	50
Hairy Woodpecker	31
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	5
Horned Lark	41
Blue Jay	482
American Crow	1740
Common Raven	2
Black-capped Chickadee	752
Red-breasted Nuthatch	19
White-breasted Nuthatch	34
Brown Creeper	8
Carolina Wren	CW
Winter Wren	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	26
Eastern Bluebird	1
American Robin	158
Bohemian Waxwing	11
Cedar Waxwing	129
Northern Shrike	15
European Starling	2839
Myrtle Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	81
Dickcissel	CW
American Tree Sparrow	497
Chipping Sparrow	2
Field Sparrow	2
Song Sparrow	16
Swamp Sparrow	2
White-throated Sparrow	5
Slate-colored Junco	945
Snow Bunting	285
Red-winged Blackbird	106
Rusty Blackbird	13
Common Grackle	CW
Brown-headed Cowbird	221
Purple Finch	12
House Finch	445
Common Redpoll	3
Pine Siskin	5
American Goldfinch	414
House Sparrow	471
<b>Total Species</b>	75
<b>Total Individuals</b>	17835

### BAILLIE BIRDATHON 2000

WBFN has just received notice of its share of the Baillie Birdathon proceeds for 2000. Birding for our club in May 2000, John Geale, Ian Tate and A.K. Sculthorpe raised an amazing \$1,553.90. Of this, \$388.40 will return to WBFN for use in our own projects. Thanks to the three

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Ted McDonald

Common Loon	Nov 1	24	off Cobourø Harbour	CEG
	Nov 8	12	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Horned Grebe	Oct 22	56	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
	Nov 16	18	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Double-crested Cormorant	Dec 1	1	vacht basin PH	ERM
Great Blue Heron	Nov 14	1	Ganaraska River Molson St. PH	ERM
	Nov 24	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
	Dec 5	1	Port Britain Creek	AKS
<b>Great Egret</b>	<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Cambhelfcroft area</b>	<b>BT</b>
Brant	Nov 11-20	2	foot of D'Arcy St. Cob	M.Obs
	Dec 4	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
	Dec 7	1	foot of D'Arcy St. Cob	MB
Snow Goose (Blue)	Nov 7	1	Garden Hill Pond	MB
Mute Swan	Nov 12	3	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
	Nov 14-19	2	Cobourø Harbour	M.Obs
Wood Duck	Nov 25	1	Cobourø Harbour	ERM
Northern Pintail	Dec 4	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
	Dec 10-18	1f	Cobourø Harbour	MB
Gadwall	Nov 17	3	Cobourø Harbour	MB
	Nov 20-23	10	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
	Dec 6	10	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
American Wigeon	Nov 7-8	1	foot of D'Arcy St. Cob	MB
	Dec 1-21	1m	Cobourø Harbour	MB, CEG
Black Duck	Nov 16	3	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Green-winged Teal	Nov 26-27	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
Redhead	Nov 5-30	1	Cobourø Harbour	MB
	Nov 28	10	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
Lesser Scaup	Nov 8	1	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
<b>King Eider (imm. male)</b>	<b>Nov 16-Dec 13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>foot of D'Arcy St. Cob</b>	<b>MB, M.Obs</b>
Surf Scoter	Nov 6	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
White-winged Scoter	Oct 17	115	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
	Nov 22	8	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
Long-tailed Duck*	Nov 14-16	86-212	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Bufflehead	Nov 7	2	Garden Hill Pond	MB
	Nov 18	100	off D'Arcy St. Cob	M.Obs
Common Goldeneye	Nov 15	137	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Hooded Merganser	Nov 17	1	Cobourø Harbour	MB
	Nov 22	3	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
Common Merganser	Nov 25	1	Yacht Basin PH	ERM
Red-breasted Merganser	Oct 18	1257	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
	Nov 9	252	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Ruddy Duck	Nov 18	1	east of D'Arcy St. Cob	MB
Turkey Vulture	Dec 1	1	n. of Wesleville	MB
Bald Eagle (imm)	Dec 13	1	Garden Hill area	DW
	Dec 14	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore Hone	PB
Northern Harrier	Dec 18	1	Deer Park Rd N. Hone Twn	AKS
	Dec 23	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Dec 20	1	Port Britain	AKS
	Dec 20	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
	Jan 3	1	Choate Rd. Hone Twn	SM
Cooper's Hawk	Nov 24	1	Durham St. PH	EK
	Dec 28	1	Locelyn St. PH	ERM
Northern Goshawk	Dec 29	1	Port Britain area	AKS
Broad-winged Hawk	Oct 13	2	over Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Red-tailed Hawk	Dec 15-30	3	Lakeshore Rd. PH	M.Obs
Rough-legged Hawk	Dec 9	6	Lakeshore Rd. PH	MB
	Dec 9	1	Bowman farm. Welcome	EK, RF
	Dec 12	1	Cobourø Harbour	CEG
	Jan 4	1	Kelloøø farm. Welcome	SM, AT
Golden Eagle (adult)	Nov 14	1	n. of Grafton	MB
Merlin	Nov 3	1	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
<b>Gyr Falcon (gray)</b>	<b>Jan 1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Bowmanton Rd. area</b>	<b>CEG</b>

Sightings - cont'd.

Ruffed Grouse	Nov. 5	1	Candlewick Woods	ERM
Wild Turkey	Dec. 18	1	Willow Beach Rd.N.	IS
American Coot	Nov. 4	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK
	Nov. 27	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 29	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Spotted Sandpiper	Oct. 1-8	2	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
White-rumped Sandpiper	Nov. 3	1	off D'Arcy St., Cob.	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

White-crowned Sparrow	Oct. 19	3	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Dark-eyed Junco	Nov. 13	11	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW

**Observers:** EB=E. Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; PB=Paul Bridges; BB=Bob Brightman; DB=Doris Brightman; GMCD=Geoff Dale; AE=Alison Elliott; SF=Sheila Fletcher; RF=Roger Frost; JG=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JG=Joy Goodwin; SH=Susan Hamilton; LH=L. Hoover; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; RL=Rod Lee; ERM=Ted McDonald; SM=Simone Mérey; BN=Bill Newell; RN=Rob Nisbett; M.Obs.=Many Observers; AKS=A.K. Sculthorpe; IS=Ian Sculthorpe; BT=Brian Taylor; AT=Anne Tesluk; NW=Norma Wallace; DW=D. Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley

\*"Long-tailed Duck" is the new name of the "Oldsquaw".

<p><b>MEM P 2001</b> The membe for the 2001 due. In continu your <i>The</i> ask our remit dues as possibl out the and the remitta</p>	Lapland Longspur	Dec. 31	30	Kellogg farm, Welcome	RF	<p><b>BERSHI FEES -</b>  annual rship fees WBFN are now order to e receiving newsletter, <i>Curlew</i>, we members to their 2001 soon as e. Please fill form below return it and appropriate nce to the</p>
	Snow Bunting	Nov. 7	40	Garden Hill area	MB	
		Nov. 19	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, JG	
		Dec. 31	30	Kellogg farm, Welcome	RF	
	The	Dickcissel (male)	Nov. 28	1 (male)	Albert St., Cob., feeder	