



COMING EVENTS

- Friday, September 28, 2001, 7:30 p.m.** - General Meeting. Erin McGauley from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists will speak about the FON's Nature Reserves, giving an overview of the reserves and their environmental significance. Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope. Visitors welcome.
- Saturday, September 29, 2001. Sandbanks Provincial Park.** Learn about this area's interesting ecology and view migrating birds. To car-pool meet at 8 a.m. at the Arby's commuter lot in Port Hope, or at 8:15 at the Hwy 45 commuter lot in Cobourg. Bring a lunch and wear strong walking shoes. Binoculars recommended. A vehicle entrance fee may apply. Call Alison Elliott (905) 797-2584 for information or directions.
- Saturday, October 20, 2001** - Peterborough Crown Game Preserve. Enjoy fall colours and fungi on this hike. Possible sightings of Canada Jays, Common Ravens, and lots of deer. Trails are hilly and cross beaver dams. To car-pool meet at 8 a.m. at the Arby's commuter lot in Port Hope. Bring a lunch. Call Alison Elliott (905) 797-2584 for information or directions.
- Friday, October 26, 2001, 7:30 p.m.** - Michael Barker, Wetland Habitat Fund. Osprey - Illustrated talk on Ospreys and their survival in wetlands. Cobourg Public Library
- Saturday, November 10, 2001** - Warsaw Caves. Explore the geology of this area including kettles and caves. Sturdy shoes or boots are important. Bring a lunch. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Arby's commuter lot in Port Hope. Call Alison Elliott (905) 797-2584 for information or directions.
- Friday, November 30, 2001, 7:30 p.m.** - Terry Sprague, Quinte Region Conservation Authority. Sandbanks Provincial Park – Sun, sand and some more. Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope.
- Saturday, December 15, 2001.** All day. Annual Christmas Bird Count. Contact Roger Frost at

905-885-9615 if you wish to take part.

- Friday, January 25, 2002, 7:30 p.m.** - Wasyl Bakowsky – Natural Heritage Information Centre. Rare Vegetation in Ontario.
- Friday, February 22, 2002, 7:30 p.m.** - Doug Guay – Accomplished nature photographer. Birds of Presqu'ile - Up close to the birds (and some other critters) of Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope.
- Friday, March 22, 2002, 7:30 p.m.** - Larry Lamb – University of Waterloo. Prairies in Ontario - Past, present and future of prairies in Ontario. Cobourg Public Library.
- Friday, April 26, 2002, 7:30 p.m.** - James Kamstra – Durham Field Naturalists. Butterflies - Illustrated talk on these often colourful and attractive insects. Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope.
- May, 2002** - Evening outing to Willow Beach Marsh
- June, 2002** - Annual Bluebird and Whip-poor-will walk with Hazel Bird.
- June 8 & 9, 2002**- 6th Annual Northumberland Summer Bird Count. Contact Roger Frost, 905-885-9615 for information.

Please watch future issues of the *Curlew* for additional outings and more details of upcoming programs.

We have a new secretary!

Petra Kennedy has agreed to take over for the balance of the current term. Currently, Petra is secretary to the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer (who was WBFN member Bryan Baxter until his recent retirement) for the Town of Cobourg. Please welcome Petra.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Nick Ferrari and Linda Romano, Port Hope
 Ken and Norma Hope, Cobourg
 Gary Little and Susan and Keelan Reynolds, Port Hope
 Jane Weeks and Thomas Hall, Gore's Landing

THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Terry Stopps.....	905-372-1028	stops@eagle.ca
President	Bob Short	905-885-1420	mb.short@sympatico.ca
1st Vice-pres.	Carole Payne	905-885-6135	bookbind@eagle.ca
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Treasurer	Janette Johnston	905-373-1432	jjohn@eagle.ca
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Curlew Ed.	Norma Wallace	905-885-5552	
	Elizabeth Kellogg.....	905-885-9615	ekrf@eagle.ca

The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the October 2001 issue should be received by September 30, 2001. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the October Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3W4."

2001 SUMMER BIRD COUNT REPORT

by Roger Frost

The 5th annual Northumberland Summer Bird Count was held on June 9th and 10th, 2001, and was the most successful yet. As in previous years, it covered a 15 mile diameter circle centered north of Centreton. The circle was divided into the same 6 sections as in previous years.

The coverage was as follows:

- Area #1** (NW section): John Geale, Rinchen Boardman, Rod Lee
- Area #2** (NE section): Russell Lake, Bryan Baxter, Louise Baxter
- Area #3** (W-central section): Bob Short, Marg Short, Bill Newell, Alison Elliott, Paul Appleman, Kurt Appleman
- Area #4** (E-central section): Roger Frost, Elizabeth Kellogg, Martha Robinson
- Area #5** (SW section): Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin, Lori Wensley, Bill Wensley
- Area #6** (SE section): Margaret Bain, Phill Holder, Stan Davies

The 22 participants this year were 2 more than last year. These participants put in a record 121.5 party hours, and covered 937.5 km, including 90 on foot.

The weather for the weekend was ideal. Both days had clear, cool mornings that warmed up nicely into the mid-20s. The winds were light enough that they never really hindered hearing bird song.

With these great conditions, a record 11,103 birds of 130 species were recorded. This was more than 1,400 birds and 8 species more than last year. This included 7 new species. Also, 58 species either tied or surpassed the previous record counts. The 7 new species were as follows:

Caspian Tern: 8 birds recorded by 4 different groups. All were fly-overs except one roosting in a field with Ring-billed Gulls in Area 6.

Short-eared Owl: One bird seen in Area 3

Marsh Wren: one bird found in Area 1

Northern Mockingbird: one bird found in Area 2

Cerulean Warbler: one bird found in Area 6.

"Slate-colored" Junco: one bird seen in Area 1

Pine Siskin: 8 birds seen in Areas 1 and 4. These birds represent some of the breeding birds from earlier in the spring in the Northumberland

Forest.

As usual, waterbirds were scarce. Double-crested Cormorants were recorded for only the second time, with 4 birds in two areas. Canada Goose tripled its previous record high with 352 birds recorded. Most ducks were seen in lower numbers than last year, with the exception of Hooded Merganser, which was seen for only the second time with 3 birds in areas 4 and 6.

Raptors had their best showing ever, with 10 species seen and 7 in record numbers. Area 1 continued its monopoly on Osprey with 7 birds. Area 2 found the only Sharp-shinned Hawk. Three Cooper's Hawks were found in Areas 2 and 3. Five Northern Goshawks were seen in Areas 2, 4, and 6. Single Red-shouldered Hawks were in Areas 3 and 4. Five Broad-winged Hawks were seen in Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6.

All 3 Gallinaceous species were present in record numbers. Single Ring-necked Pheasants were in Areas 2, 4 and 6. Ruffed Grouse numbers continue to climb with 44 recorded this year. Wild Turkeys were reported in Areas 1, 3, 4 and 6 for a total of 18 birds.

Rails had mixed results, with Sora being missed for the first time, but Common Moorhen being seen for the first time since 1998 in Area 6. Virginia Rails were recorded in Areas 1, 4 and 6 for a total of 8 birds.

All the expected 5 shorebird species were seen this year. Area 4 had the only Spotted Sandpipers (the first since 1998). A record six Upland Sandpipers were found in Areas 1, 2 and 6. Common Snipe were found in only 2 areas, totaling only 3 birds. American Woodcock were in 3 areas with a record 6 birds.

Ring-billed Gull was again the most numerous species with 1,043 counted (who knows how many went uncounted). Area 1 was also able to find a record 3 Herring Gulls. All of these gulls were probably from the Presqu'ile Colony.

After being missed last year, Black-billed Cuckoo was recorded with one in Area 5.

Owls had their best showing ever. In addition to the Short-eared owl, there were single Great Horned Owls in Areas 1, 4 and 6 and single

Barred Owls in Areas 3, 4 and 6.

The only Common Nighthawk was in area 4 and the only Whip-poor-wills were in Areas 3 and 4.

Area 3 had the only Chimney Swifts. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were found in much higher numbers this year, with a total of 24. The previous high was only 9 in 1999 and 2000.

Most woodpeckers were found in average numbers with only Hairy and Pileated posting record highs. For the third year in a row, no Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen.

Flycatcher species were found in good numbers with Eastern Wood Pewee, Alder, Willow, and Great Crested posting record highs.

Five of the six swallow species also had record high counts. Only Barn Swallow was found in lower numbers. The 24 Purple Martins in Areas 1 and 6 were most encouraging. The previous high count was only 6 in 1997. Four areas managed to find the ever scarce Cliff Swallows.

For the third year in a row, Common Ravens were found in the Northumberland Forest with 4 birds in Areas 3 and 4.

The record high numbers of Black-capped Chickadees (186) and Red-breasted Nuthatches (38) may have been reflections of the large cone crops of last winter.

Area 4 reported the only Brown Creeper. Winter Wrens were seen in only 3 areas. Single Golden-crowned Kinglets were in Areas 4 and 6.

Thrushes were seen in about average numbers with no species recording record highs.

Brown Thrashers were in recorded high numbers with 49 birds, surpassing the previous high of 30 in 1997. All three common species of vireos had record high counts. Red-eyed Vireo surpassed its previous high by nearly 100 birds! and was easily the most common forest bird. Yellow-throated Vireo was missed completely.

A record 19 species of Warblers were seen, with 7 species posting record highs. Common Yellowthroat, Yellow, and Ovenbird were the most common warblers. Area 6 had the only Blue-winged. Areas 3 and 4 had single Golden-winged. Four areas found Nashville. Areas 4, 5 and 6 had single Magnolia. Area 4 had all 5 Black-throated Blue. Three areas found "Myrtle" Warblers. Three areas had American Redstart.

Four areas had Canada Warblers.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks both posted record highs for the second year in a row. Indigo Buntings hit their 3rd record high in a row with 92.

The 9 Eastern Towhees seen was a record low with only 3 areas reporting them. Other sparrows fared better, with Chipping, Field and Song all posting record highs. Area 1 had the only Clay-colored Sparrows with a total of 5 birds in one colony.

Bobolinks and Meadowlarks were in about average numbers. Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird were all counted in record numbers. Area 1 had the only Orchard Oriole for only the count's second record of this species.

Aside from Pine Siskins, the finches were rather ordinary. Five areas reported Purple Finch; only four reported House Finch. No Red Crossbills were found this year. However a White-winged Crossbill was seen the day before the count.

After 4 years of leading in total species, Area 6 was surpassed by Area 4. Despite finding 103 species, Area 6 could not top the 107 species found in Area 4. The secret to Area 4's success was about 35 hours of Atlasing in the Northumberland Forest before the count. (Although too many hours in the field and a little luck helped). Top honours this year go to the team of Elizabeth Kellogg, Martha Robinson and myself. Actually, it was quite a race this year, because the team in Area 1 (John Geale, Rinchen Boardman and Rod Lee) also found 100 species.

Aside from the birds, the most remarkable thing about this count was the amazing numbers of chipmunks in the woods. There were times when the din from the chipmunks was so loud that it was hard to hear the birds!

Thanks to all who participated. Hope to see you all again for 2002's Summer Bird Count.

SPECIES TOTALS - 2001 NORTHUMBERLAND SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Species	TOTAL				
		"Yellow-shafted" Flicker	53	Maanolia Warbler	3
		Pileated Woodpecker	12	Black-throated Blue Warbler	5
		Eastern Wood Pewee	94	"Myrtle" Warbler	9
		Alder Flycatcher	64	Black-throated Green Warbler	23
		Willow Flycatcher	19	Blackburnian Warbler	3
		Least Flycatcher	54	Pine Warbler	16
Double-crested Cormorant	4	Eastern Phoebe	44	Cerulean Warbler	1
		Great Crested Flycatcher	91	Black and White Warbler	43
		Eastern Kingbird	146	American Redstart	9
		Horned Lark	9	Ovenbird	123
		Purple Martin	24	Northern Waterthrush	16
		Tree Swallow	283	Mourning Warbler	60
		Northern Rough-winged Swallow	18	Common Yellowthroat	178
		Bank Swallow	775	Canada Warbler	6
		Cliff Swallow	16	Scarlet Tanager	26
		Barn Swallow	191	Northern Cardinal	17
		Blue Jay	228	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	86
		American Crow	325	Indigo Bunting	92
		Common Raven	4	Eastern Towhee	9
		Black-capped Chickadee	186	Chipping Sparrow	235
		Red-breasted Nuthatch	38	Clay-colored Sparrow	5
		White-breasted Nuthatch	9	Field Sparrow	57
		Brown Creeper	1	Vesper Sparrow	43
		House Wren	95	Savannah Sparrow	137
		Winter Wren	6	Grasshopper Sparrow	66
		Marsh Wren	1	Song Sparrow	388
Great Blue Heron	14	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	Swamp Sparrow	46
		Eastern Bluebird	28	White-throated Sparrow	47
		Veery	83	"Slate-colored" Junco	1
		Hermit Thrush	13	Bobolink	147
		Wood Thrush	32	Red-winged Blackbird	591
		American Robin	593	Eastern Meadowlark	124
		Gray Catbird	46	Common Grackle	384
		Northern Mockingbird	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	155
		Brown Thrasher	49	Orchard Oriole	1
		Cedar Waxwing	168	Baltimore Oriole	90
		European Starling	802	Purple Finch	17
		Blue-headed Vireo	14	House Finch	16
		Warbling Vireo	78	Pine Siskin	8
		Red-eyed Vireo	282	American Goldfinch	312
		Blue-winged Warbler	1	House Sparrow	70
		Golden-winged Warbler	2	Total Species	130
		Nashville Warbler	17	Total Individuals	11103
		Yellow Warbler	168		
		Chestnut-sided Warbler	43		
		Green Heron	9		

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Congratulations to **Minnie Pennell** who, in July, was presented with a provincial honour, Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Volunteer to the Community, by the Lieutenant-Governor in Toronto.
- Best wishes to **Nancy Stopps** as she returns to school this fall to begin teacher training.
- Summer 2001 was a bad year for club members breaking bones and suffering other medical problems. Best wishes to **Gretchen Harris**, **Cath Oberholtzer**, and **Lori Wensley** who are all recovering from broken bones. Others on the sick list included **Barbara LeSueur** and **Ted Schmidt**. We hope that all are recuperating.

Wood Duck	23

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Ted McDonald

Red-Throated Loon	Apr. 27	1	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob.	LW
	Aug. 20-27	1	off Cobourg Harbour	MB
Horned Grebe	Apr. 29	25	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob.	LW
Red-necked Grebe	Apr. 29	51	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob.	LW
Double-crested Cormorant	Apr. 28	1 161	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob.	LW
American Bittern	June 8	1	Lake St. Marsh. PH	ERM
Green Heron	June 12	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	June 27	1	Shelter Valley Creek S.	BL
	Aug. 11	4+	Willow Beach marsh	MB
	Aug. 16	5 (family)	former Pratt's Pond. Cob.	AEW
Great Blue Heron	Aug. 5	19	Willow Beach marsh	MB
	Aug. 23	1	Port Britain Creek	AKS
Black-crowned Night Heron	Aug. 11	1 imm	Willow Beach marsh	MB
Turkey Vulture	May 30	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Aug. 10	2	over Port Hope	ERM
	Aug. 21	1	Port Britain area	AKS
Snow Goose	June 7-8	1	Burnham St. n. of 401	JG
Brant	May 20	150	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	June 26	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Wood Duck	May 6	1 pair	Close Point	AEW
Gadwall	June 2	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	June 22	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Shoveler	May 15	5	Lake St. marsh. PH	MC
Lesser Scaup	June 1-July 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 16-30	1 f	Cobourg Harbour	MB
White-winged Scoter	Aug. 22	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Hooded Merganser	Aug. 3-21	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 18	2	Willow Beach marsh	RF
Common Merganser	Aug. 22	5	Cobourg Harbour – flying west	MB
Osprey	Aug. 6-27	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG MB
	Aug. 11	1	Willow Beach marsh – carrying fish	MB
	Aug. 30	2	over Durham St. PH	EK BT
Bald Eagle	Sept. 9	1	Garden Hill Pond	RF
Northern Harrier	Aug. 9	1	Flying west very high over downtown	MB
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Aug. 15	1	over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Peregrine Falcon (juv.,	Aug. 20	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Wild Turkey	Aug. 20	10	off Lakeshore Rd. PH	AKS
Northern Bobwhite	June 23	1	Hastings (probably escape)	CEG
Virginia Rail	May 20	1	Close Point	AEW
Sora	May 12	1	Lake St. marsh. PH	RL
Black-bellied Plover	May 30	107 in 3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	June 6	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 11	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Golden Plover	Aug. 27	1 juv.	Cobourg west beach	MB
Semipalmated Plover	Aug. 24	6	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Whimbrel	Aug. 27	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Ruddy Turnstone	June 5	35	foot of D'Arcy St. Cob.	BL
	June 5	250	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 17-24	2-4	Cobourg west beach	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

Red Knot	May 18	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 23	1	Port Hope west beach	RF
Sanderling	Aug. 19	15	Cobourg west beach (max. count)	MB
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Aug. 20	22	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Least Sandpiper	Aug. 20	9	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
White-rumped Sandpiper	May 22/ Aug. 21	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug. 10	1 adult	Lake St. marsh, PH	RF
	Aug. 23	4	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 23	8 juv.	Cobourg Harbour (max. count)	MB
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug. 10	5	Lake St. marsh, PH	RF
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Aug. 26	1	Cobourg Harbour east pier	MB
Short-billed Dowitcher	May 19	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Little Gull	June 22	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Bonaparte's Gull	May 3	350	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Aug. 19	3 juv.	Cobourg Harbour – with several adults	MB
Forster's Tern	June 12	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
	Aug. 5	1 imm	Willow Beach	MB
Black-billed Cuckoo	July 10	1	Jamieson Rd., Hope	LS
Common Nighthawk	May 26	3	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	June 14-30	1	off & on over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 23	47	over Durham St., PH	RF, EK
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May 3	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Aug. 12-27	2	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Red-bellied Woodpecker	June 8	1	Port Britain	AKS
	June 20	1	Grafton area	CEG
Red-headed Woodpecker	May 5	1	Jamieson Rd., Hope	LS
	May 9	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	June 28	1	D'Arcy & King St., Cob.	BL
	Pair on Sydenham St., Cob. have at least 1 fully fledged young since Aug. 5			MB
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Aug. 18	1	Willow Beach	RF, GL
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Aug. 11	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
	Aug. 13	1	Cobourg backyard	MB
Least Flycatcher	Aug. 12	1	Candlewick Woods	ERM
Great Crested Flycatcher	May 3	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Eastern Kingbird	Aug. 20/21	20 per day	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Aug. 24-28	40	PH to Campbellcroft	ERM
Philadelphia Vireo	Aug. 12	2	Candlewick Woods	RF
Red-eyed Vireo	Aug. 12	2	Candlewick Woods	ERM
	Aug. 29	1	Larchmere Golf Course	ERM
Cliff Swallow	May 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Common Raven	May 20	2	Grafton	CEG
	June 5	1	Grafton	CEG
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	May 2	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Hermit Thrush	May 15	1	Northumberland Forest	AEW
Gray Catbird	Aug. 12	6	Candlewick Woods	ERM
American Pipit	Aug. 24	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 27	3	Cobourg Harbour, west headland rocks	MB
Cedar Waxwing	May 21	100+	Durham St., PH	SB
Golden-winged Warbler	Aug. 24	1 f	Cobourg backyard	MB
Nashville Warbler	Aug. 12	7	Candlewick Woods	RF/ERM
Yellow Warbler	July 27	5	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Aug. 26	10	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Aug. 12	15	Candlewick Woods	RF/ERM
Magnolia Warbler	Aug. 12	12	Candlewick Woods	RF/ERM
Cape May Warbler	May 18	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG

Sightings - cont'd.

Black-throated Blue Warbler	Aug. 12	4	Candlewick Woods	RF
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Aug. 12	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
	Aug. 18	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
Blackburnian Warbler	Aug. 12	2	Candlewick Woods	RF

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