



## COMING EVENTS

•**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.** - General Meeting. The October program, **Osprey and Their Survival in Wetlands**, addresses both wetlands and the magnificent Osprey. Guest speaker, **Michael Barker**, has knowledge and experience in both fields. He has banded Osprey, a task which is not for the faint of heart! He is a program representative for the Wetland Habitat Fund, with responsibility for five counties, including Northumberland. The Fund promotes sound uses of wetlands to meet the needs of waterfowl, wetland wildlife and, last but not least, people. Cobourg Public Library. Visitors welcome.

•**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.** - General Meeting. **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.

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

## WALLACE BIRDATHON 2001

by E.R. (Ted) McDonald

On Sunday, May 20, there was time between rainy days to try to do a Birdathon around the neighbouring area. The weather had been cold, wet and we had not been out much to see what birds were around on their spring migration. Starting early, we were able to cover the area of Lake St. marsh, Gage's Creek Trail, the Ganaraska Conservation Area Trail, Cobourg and Port Hope Harbours and the ravine at Larchmere Golf Course at Creighton Heights. Birds were hard to find, and there were very few warblers or shorebirds. A number of common birds which should have been easily found. In spite of the weather, the total for the day was 75 species of birds.

Many thanks to all the sponsors who once again have supported the Wallace Birdathon. Total received was \$490.00 which will be used for Willow Beach Wetlands Projects.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to Ted for once again being the Wallace Birdathon's guest birder. - N.W.*

## FON YOUNG NATURALIST

WBFN sponsored Mitchell Barrette to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' Young Naturalists Camp in the summer of 2001. Mitchell attended our September meeting to give a report and he also brought photos which he had taken at the camp. These pictures are now in the WBFN files. If anyone wishes to see them, contact Carol Payne (see below).

I am sending you a few pictures that I took when I was at the Leslie M. Frost Centre in Dorset. I have written a description on the back of each picture. I really learned a lot of things about the outdoors. My best experience was the full day canoe trip. I would like to thank you for sending me to Dorset.

From Mitchell Barrette

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Brenda Crossley and Donald Blackler,  
Nicholas Blackler, Colborne

## FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS NATURE RESERVES

After the September meeting, many WBFN members expressed interest in visiting the FON Nature Reserves which had been featured. Our guest speaker's supply of maps was depleted very quickly. Maps are available on the FON web site: [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org) or by phoning 1-800-440-2366.

## THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Terry Stopps.....	905-372-1028	.....	stopps@eagle.ca
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*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlw. Copy for the November 2001 issue should be received by October 31, 2001. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the October Curlw. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3W4."*

# The Northumberland Stewardship Council

Working toward improving and sustaining the health of our land, forests and water.

*Bill Wensley*

*Chair, Northumberland Stewardship Council*

## The Stewardship Council

Early in 1996 I had a call from Cath Oberholtzer who asked me if I would be interested in becoming a member of a new group that would be working on land stewardship in Northumberland County. Cath, who at that time was the FON representative for WBFN, explained that the Provincial Government, under the general auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources, was establishing Stewardship Councils across Ontario, and the FON had been asked to nominate possible candidates to serve on the Councils.

I agreed, was appointed and attended my first meeting in February 1996. My work on the Council has been and continues to be a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable experience. Our Council has fifteen members, including farmers, woodlot owners, representatives from the Ganaraska and Lower Trent Conservation Authorities and others with biology, forestry, teaching and naturalists backgrounds. All are from Northumberland County.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), provides us with a modest budget (this year will be \$10,000. for projects) and also makes available the services of a full-time coordinator. Our coordinator is Glenn McLeod, a forester and former manager of the Orono Tree Nursery. Glenn has an office at the MNR in Peterborough, but spends most of his time in Northumberland County working on our various projects, meeting with people and doing field work. The Stewardship Council has been given wide latitude with respect to its activities. Naturally we have to operate within certain guidelines, but are free to choose our own projects, set priorities, disburse funds and form partnerships with various other groups. As Council members we meet regularly to discuss projects and priorities based on our experience and contacts with the community and various farm, environmental and other groups. Perhaps the best way to describe our work is to tell you about our Goals, established by the Council late in 1996.

## Goals:

- To ensure the long term sustainability of the land, its resources and the amenities it provides;
- To improve and sustain the long term health of our forest, land and water resources;
- To service landowner needs with respect to our natural resources with and through the community;
- To protect and enhance natural ecosystems and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat.

Within the framework of these goals we have focussed on:

- Reforestation
- Woodlot Management
- Education
- Marketing and Council Services
- Stream Improvement
- Wildlife Habitat

Each year we develop a program, establish priorities and prepare our budget. Since we do not have too much money we try to form partnerships with other groups and provide seed money for various projects. We plan our seminars and workshops on a cost recovery basis as much as possible.

Now for some of our projects:

## Trees:

We decided early in our deliberations that trees should have a high priority. The closure of Provincially operated tree nurseries such as Orono has made it more difficult for landowners to get seedlings and the down-sizing of the MNR has reduced the help formerly available from Ministry field people. So getting seedlings, planting them and promoting proper woodlot management and silviculture techniques has become a major part of our work. We buy tree seedlings in bulk, sell them at cost

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to landowners and make large quantities available to other Stewardship Councils. For example, this year we distributed or planted some 76,000 seedlings, including pine, spruce, cedar, oak, ash and other species.

In cooperation with local schools we organize tree planting outings – pairing High school students with Junior grade students (a “buddy” system) has proven to be very popular. We also have resurrected (literally) two tree planting machines for use in larger scale tree planting exercises. These are available on a rental basis. In addition to sponsoring, along with other groups, seminars and conferences on trees and woodlot management, we have collaborated on the production of a booklet to help people care for their woodlots and, if selling timber, to do so wisely. This “Landowners Guide to Selling Standing Timber” is available on request. Another major project was the collaboration with WBFN and the Trillium Foundation in a study of the woodlots in our County. This study, which involved ground and aerial surveys, revealed what we had long suspected that a significant portion (over 50%) of the upland hardwood forests in Northumberland have been “high graded” (logging that removes the largest, high quality trees to the extent that natural regeneration of good stock is virtually impossible). The report was widely circulated and has had a significant impact on public awareness of this problem. Since the study was completed Northumberland County passed a new Tree Conservation By-law.

### Stream Improvement and Water Quality

Northumberland has many cold water streams and rivers running down off the Oak Ridges Moraine into Lake Ontario and eastward into the Trent River. There has been considerable interest in improving these streams through bank rehabilitation, increasing riparian vegetation and other initiatives such as providing alternative watering sources for livestock, thus restricting their access to streams. The Council has worked on two Salt Creek improvement projects, two Cold Creek projects and with other groups concerned about streams and rivers in the County. Our most recent water quality project is the establishment of a series of “vegetative filter

strips” as demonstration sites on farms with barnyards and feedlots. This system treats run-off from livestock yards through settling, filtration, absorption and dilution. Nutrients are utilized through the vegetation that can be harvested as forage, fibre or mulch. Possible sites are being visited this fall by a special committee of the Council and a grant from the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative (just announced) will enable us to get this project underway early in 2002.

### Education

One of our primary roles is to provide information and make resources and practical opportunities available to students and the general public. We do this for students through participation in school related projects such as tree planting, stream rehabilitation, Envirothon and Ontario Stewardship Rangers. Extensive printed information on wetlands has been collated and presented to the School Board and individual Schools.

We sponsor either on our own or with other groups, various conferences and workshops, for example our Backyard Habitat workshops in Cobourg (with WBFN) and Brighton (with Brighton Presqu’ile Naturalists) were well attended and feed back was very positive. We also distribute a wide variety of brochures and pamphlets and have prepared a Northumberland Landowner Services Directory.

### The Future

The stewardship of our land, forests and water resources requires the continued cooperation of landowners, environmentalists, government, educators, naturalists and the general public. The Stewardship Council appreciates the support received to date from so many individuals and groups and we look forward to even more opportunities to work together in the future. We welcome your ideas.

Bill Wensley  
Chair  
Northumberland Stewardship Council

**To reach us:**  
Tel. (705) 755-3298

## Reflections on a First Week in Peru

by *Dave Geale*

In early May, I received an offer from Gunnar Engblom to work with his Lima-based bird tour company, Kolibri Expeditions, for half a year. I landed in Lima on April 20th, and the next morning set out for an incredible inaugural week of birding in central Peru with Pierre and Alma (two Dutch birders), Gunnar's two Peruvian aides, Juvenal and Goyo, and of course Gunnar himself.

We began our journey by driving up the Santa Eulalia Valley, hoping especially for Rufous-breasted Warbling-Finch, a rare Peruvian endemic whose song Gunnar was hoping to record for the first time. Although we had no luck with this particular species, the birding along the road was spectacular. Great Inca-Finches, another endemic, were seen frequently, as were Peruvian Sheartails with their long tail streamers. As we searched a shrubby hillside for the Warbling-Finch, Pierre called "Condors!" and we spent a few minutes admiring two majestic Andean Condors soaring below us. Giant Hummingbirds cruised around looking remarkably like Bee-eaters; they were one of seven hummers seen that first day. We set up camp to the sound of the distinctive "Pacific" race of Peruvian Pygmy-Owl calling from an open perch directly above our heads!

On our second day we continued up the valley, seeing such South American classics as Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper before reaching a hydro-electric station where we found many birds. Among them were two more Peruvian endemics, Black Metaltail and Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail as well as Thick-billed Siskin and White-winged Cinclodes. A landslide prevented us from taking the planned route, so we returned to the main road to drive over Tiquio Pass. The detour proved interesting, as we found our best bird so far at the pass – a family of the very local and endemic White-bellied Cinclodes. We found some typical Andean waterfowl at a lake just across the pass including Crested Duck, Andean Goose and Silvery Grebe. We drove on to camp outside Satipo at the eastern base of the Andes.

We spent the next three days exploring the Satipo Road, an area which hadn't been visited by birders for over thirty years due to terrorist activity in the area. Now that the area is safe to bird again, the road is sure to become a popular destination soon – we found incredible birds at all elevations along the

way! We spent the first day working up to about 1000 m., seeing fourteen tanagers including such gems as Paradise, Green-and-gold, Black-faced and Beryl-spangled Tanagers and Blue Dacnis. We encountered Andean Cock-of-the-rocks twice during the day, and an Amazonian Umbrellabird appeared to be a fitting conclusion to a great day of birding – but, as dusk closed in, an encore appeared in the form of a Lyre-tailed Nightjar as we set up our tents! The next day we continued up the road, seeing a kaleidoscope of tanagers again and many other incredible birds! The morning was highlighted by an obliging pair of Lanceolated Monklets and a Fasciated Tiger-Heron, while in the afternoon Chestnut-breasted Coronets and many Booted Racket-tails put on quite a show as we prepared to camp at 1500 m.

Our final day on the road was perhaps the best, although the first two were hardly disappointments - I added over 50 species to my life list that day, and many of them were stunning birds! The morning produced crippling views of a Chestnut-crowned Gnateater and a pair of Blue-browed Tanagers as well as some gaudy Versicoloured Barbets. The tanagers were again colourful and numerous, including many Mountain-Tanagers (Lacrimose, Hooded, Blue-winged, Buff-breasted, Chestnut-bellied and Scarlet-bellied!) as we ascended into true montane habitat. Around 2000 m we found an incredible flock including, among many of the tanagers mentioned above, Streaked Tuftedcheek, three Brush-Finches, Violet-throated Starfrontlet and Spectacled Whitestart. After a few more goodies, including Sword-billed Hummingbird and Collared Inca, we stopped just outside a small village above the tree line for a hummer someone had spotted from the car. It turned out to be a Peruvian endemic – Fire-throated Metaltail. As we watched it, Goyo made the best discovery of the trip so far – an Eye-ringed Thistletail! Another endemic, this one not seen by birders in thirty years! We watched it breathlessly as it skulked in a thicket until we all had seen it well. What a bird to complete our exploration of the Satipo Road – sure to become rival for the world-famous Manu Road as it is visited by more birders!

After arriving in the small village of Punto late at night, we awoke in the chilly Andean dawn

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anticipating another exciting day, which we got! We hiked down to an area known as Otuto hoping to find the recently described Black-spectacled Brush-Finch, although it had previously only been found in a nearby valley. We were distracted from our search by many great birds, including what appears to be a new taxon of wren, possibly an isolated subspecies of Plain-tailed Wren or maybe even a species new to science! After great looks at Mountain Caracara, Rufous Antpitta, Black Siskin and Shining Sunbeam, we did find the Brush-Finch and got pleasing views of it too! We made the trek back up to the village for a meal with the president of the community, and over some of the world's best potatoes and cheese, we discussed with him the potential for ecotourism around his remote village. Satisfied, we headed for Huancayo for a night in civilization.

Although waking up to car horns instead of bird songs was a bit unpleasant, we had all enjoyed a night in a bed, and we settled back into the van for the drive to Marcopomacocha. Although we'd left the humid heat of the lowlands just days before, we drove through fairly serious snow on the way. However, the afternoon weather was acceptable as we found four Furnariids, including two more Peruvian endemics – Junin Canastero and Dark-winged Miner. In the same area were four species of Ground-Tyrants, including the first Lima Department record of Black-fronted. However,

the best bird of the day was the last – great looks at a Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, a sought-after species that Gunnar has not yet missed at this site! We drove on down to Lima, stopping in San Mateo for a well-earned and hearty meal.

To conclude my first week of Peruvian birding, I made a day trip with five other birders to Lomas de Lachay, a desert oasis north of Lima. The hour's drive up was through an incredibly desolate sand-and-rock landscape, and it was somewhat surprising when a Coastal Miner appeared out of the bleak desert while we ate a roadside breakfast. It was the first of three endemic Furnariids on the day; we spent quite a bit of time getting everyone looks at the most difficult – the Cactus Canastero. At the oasis itself we found a very cooperative Thick-billed Miner and also had great looks at Burrowing Owls and Least Seedsnipe.

It was a week of climatic extremes – brief tropical downpours in the lowland heat of Satipo, thick snowfall and biting winds at Tiquio Pass and scorching desert hills on the coast – and these extremes of habitat produced an amazing variety of bird life. South America earned its reputation as "the bird continent" with me by producing 259 species in my first eight days, including many vibrant tanagers, skulking canasteros, dainty flycatchers and countless other brilliant birds!

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Ted McDonald*

Great Blue Heron	Oct 5	1	Port Britain Creek	AKS
Turkey Vulture	Sept 21	6	Garden Hill area	DW
	Sept 28	200	Lakeshore Rd PH to Wesleville	RI MC
	Sept 29	129	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Mute Swan	Sept 29	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Snow Goose	Sept 28	1 (blue morph)	Garden Hill C.A	AF
Canada Goose	Sept 28	800	over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Green-winged Teal	Sept 14	14	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Pintail	Sept 16	1	Willow Beach marsh	RF EK
Northern Shoveler	Sept 12	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Lesser Scaun	Sept 23-Oct 4	8-10	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Long-tailed Duck	Sept 23	1 (imm )	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Hooded Merganser	Sept 10	3	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Common Merganser	Sept. 26	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG

## Sightings - cont'd.

Osprey	Sent 14/28	1/1	over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Bald Eagle	Sent 15	4	over Durham St PH	RF EK
	Sent 15/28	1/1	over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Sent 28	4	Lakeshore Rd PH to Wesleville	RI MC
	Sent 29	4	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Northern Harrier	Sent 28	2	Lakeshore Rd PH to Wesleville	RI MC
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Sent 28	47	over Durham St PH	EK
	Sent 28	40	Lakeshore Rd PH to Wesleville	RI MC
	Sent 29	132	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Cooper's Hawk	Sent 28	20	Lakeshore Rd PH to Wesleville	RI MC
	Sent 29	12	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Northern Goshawk	Sent 21	1	Garden Hill area	DW
	Sent 29	1	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Red-shouldered Hawk	Sent 29	1	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Red-tailed Hawk	Sent 13	1	Lakeshore Rd PH	AKS
	Sent 29	104	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Broad-winged Hawk	Sent 15	14	over Durham St PH	RF EK
	Sent 28	1	over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Sent 28	50	Lakeshore Rd PH to Wesleville	RI MC
	Sent 28	4	over Durham St PH	EK
	Sent 29	4	over Durham St PH	RF EK
American Kestrel	Sent 28	4	Lakeshore Rd PH to Wesleville	RI EK
	Sent 29	17	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Merlin	Sent 29	1	over Durham St PH	RF EK
Peregrine Falcon	Sept. 21	1 imm.	over Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Oct 3	1	Dorset St W PH	DSv
Ruffed Grouse	Sent 27	1	Larchmere Golf Course	ERM
Wild Turkey	Sent 19	15	Wesleville area	AKS
Black-bellied Plover	Sent 28	6	Cobourg Harbour	CEG MB
American Golden Plover	Sent 24/26	1/1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Red Knot	Sent 28-29	1 juv	Cobourg beach	MB
White-rumped Sandpiper	Sent 26	3	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Baird's Sandpiper	Sent 16	1	Willow Beach marsh	RF EK
	Oct 1-4	1 juv	Cobourg Harbour	MB
American Woodcock	Sent 18	2	Port Britain	AKS
	Oct 2	1	7 <sup>th</sup> Line Hope Twn	AF
Great Black-backed Gull	Oct 1	1	Bewdlev area	DW
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Oct 7/8	18 banded	Candlewick Woods	RF EK
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Sent 23	1	Ontario St Cob	AEW
	Sent 25	1	Centennial Dr PH	ERM
	Sent 30	3	Sherbourne St PH	A&AMcl
	Oct 8	1	Augusta St & Pine PH	DS
Belted Kingfisher	Sent 23	1	Port Britain area	AKS
Red-bellied Woodpecker (m)	Oct 4-6	1	Port Britain feeder	AKS
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sent 20	1	Durham St PH	EK
	Sent 23	3	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Oct 2	1	7 <sup>th</sup> Line Hope Twn	AF
	Oct 6	1	Port Britain area	AKS
Hairy Woodpecker	Sent 31	1	Gage's Creek Trail PH	SM AT
Pileated Woodpecker	Oct 9	1	Young St PH	EB
Northern Flicker	Sent 16	1	Peter St & Rose Gled Rd PH	FRM
Least Flycatcher	Sent 6	1	Larchmere Golf Course	FRM
	Oct 6	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
Eastern Phoebe	Oct 1-6	1	Durham St PH	RF EK
	Oct 6	1	Port Britain feeder	RF
Blue Jay	Sent 20-24	3000	over PH/Cobourg area	M Obs
	Sent 23	5000	over Durham St PH	RF EK
	Sent 25-28	5000	over PH area	M Obs
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sent 13-30	2	Port Britain feeder	AKS
	Oct 3	4	Dorset St W PH	DSv
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sent 15	7	Durham St PH	RF EK
	Oct 5-6	1	Port Britain feeder	AKS
Brown Creeper	Oct 4	2	Port Britain feeder	AKS
Marsh Wren	Sent 19	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept. 30	10	Gage's Creek Trail, PH	AM, AT

Sightings - cont'd.

Eastern Bluebird	Sept. 15	20	Hope 7 <sup>th</sup> Line, w. of Jamieson Rd.	LS
	Sept. 21	6	Garden Hill area	DW
	Oct. 1	2	Garden Hill area	DW
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Sept. 13	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Sept. 21	1	Albert St., Cob.	MB
Swainson's Thrush	Sept. 20	2	west end Port Hope	EK
	Oct. 6	1	Young St., PH	NW
Brown Thrasher	Sept. 27	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
American Pipit	Sept. 23	20	Cobourg beach	MB

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