



COMING EVENTS

•**Friday, January 31, 2003, 7:30 pm** Cobourg Public Library. **SPEAKER: Paul J. Wilson, M.Sc., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Biology Department Trent University; Research Scientist, Forensic Supervisor & Scientific Administrator of the Natural Resources DNA Profiling & Forensic Centre. **TOPIC: Eastern North American Wolves and Coyotes.** The presentation will focus on the identification of a new wolf species in eastern North America and its relationship with expanding populations of coyotes and gray wolves. Paul will present the biological and conservation implications of recent genetic findings.

•**Saturday, February 1, 2002, Owling on Amherst Island.** Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Port Hope Arby's commuter lot **OR** at 7:45 a.m. at the Cobourg Highway 45 commuter lot. Bring a lunch. Dress very warmly. Bathrooms are only available on the ferry or in the bush. Call Alison Elliott at (905)797-2584 for more information.

•**Friday, February 28, 2003, 7:30 pm** HKPR District Health Unit office, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope. **Annual General Meeting. SPEAKER: Ted Cheskey, FON, IBA Committee.** Ted Cheskey is the Ontario Provincial Coordinator of the Important Bird Area program of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Mr. Cheskey works part time for the FON in this capacity, and operates an outdoor education centre for the Waterloo Region District School Board. Mr. Cheskey holds a Master Degree in Regional Planning and Resource Management from the University of Waterloo. He has been an active field ornithologist and conservation advocate for birds for many years in Ontario. **TOPIC: Ontario's Important Bird Area Program - Past, present and future.** Ted will review the International, national and provincial Important Bird Areas programs. Specific sites that will be reviewed include: Presqu'ile, Napanee Plains and James Bay.

Notes from the President

The community lost another important person this month. Our sympathies go out to the family of Jane McColl, a long-time friend of WBFN, whose parents, Harold (Kip) and Florence Reeve were founding members of the club. Jane, of course, lived at Willow Beach, and once a year allowed all of us to share that special piece of marsh to look for all the birds that she so loved, on the club's annual Willow Beach Walk. We will surely miss her.

Kudos to six of our members for receiving the Province of Ontario Volunteer Service awards in Cobourg in November. Congratulations to Hazel Bird, Roger Frost, Elizabeth Kellogg, Russell Lake, Bob Short and Norma Wallace. Hazel and Norma have given more than 30 years of volunteer service to WBFN! Thanks to you all.

Two of our members have anonymously donated time and money to create a very handsome pin to commemorate the service our past presidents. These were presented by Geoff Dale at our last meeting to Pat Lawson, Peter Greathead, Jim Smith, Bill Wensley, Russell Lake, Terry Stopps and Bob Short. Bob Sculthorpe accepted A.K.'s pin on behalf of the family. I presented his pin to Geoff. Pins will be sent to Roy John, Bob Trennum and John McGlaughlin. These last three are still heavily involved in naturalist activities, in Ottawa, Peterborough and Brighton. Since 50 pins have been purchased, we have a long future ahead of us - another 76 years before we have to get another set!

Speaking of anniversaries, rumour has it that Willow Beach will be fifty years old in 2003. Definitely a time to bring together those who remember our beginnings. This is an opportunity to begin looking for old photos and other memorabilia so we can celebrate properly.

Carole Payne

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
 Brenda Beck, Gore's Landing
 Christine and Mariana Borsuk, Toronto
 Kent and Kellie McDonell, Newcastle

WALLACE BIRDATHON - 2002
by Norma Wallace

The annual Wallace Birdathon took place on the evening of May 4 and for the following 24 hours. Roger Frost offered to be this year's guest birder. He, and his friend, Dave Shirley, had a most successful birdathon with 136 species being sighted. What an impressive total for a "Big Best". Roger said this was his best day ever!

I am most grateful to all of the Wallace Birdathon sponsors. A total of \$576.00 was raised, to be used for WBFN's wetland projects.

My thanks to out to Roger for being the 2002 guest birder. He has offered to do a repeat performance for the year 2003. Please consider being a sponsor - all pledges are tax deductible.!!

THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Bob Short.....	905-885-1420.....	mb.short@sympatico.ca
President	Carole Payne	905-885-6135.....	bookbind@eagle.ca
1st Vice-pres.	Bryan Baxter	905-372-6273.....	bbaxter@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 February 2003 issue should be received by January 31, 2003. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the February Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3W4."

PORT HOPE-COBOURG CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2002

The 2002 Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 14th. Forty-five field observers and 4 feeder watchers counted over 17,000 birds of 72 species. Three new species were observed. These were Fox Sparrow along Grist Mill Rd. in Port Hope, Ward 2, a Ruddy Duck in Cobourg Harbour, and a Red-throated Loon on Lake Ontario just west of the town of Port Hope. Other highlights were Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Iceland Gull, Eastern Bluebird and Bohemian Waxwing. Ten species were found in record numbers, including Canada Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher, and American crow. Eleven additional species were seen during count week, including Trumpeter Swan, Red-necked Grebe, Merlin, Lesser black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Snowy Owl, and Barred Owl.

Roger Frost, Compiler

Species	Total
Red-throated Loon	1
Horned Grebe	4
Red-necked Grebe	CW
Great Blue Heron	3
Mute Swan	6
Trumpeter Swan	CW
Canada Goose	2216
Wood Duck	1
American Black Duck	85
Mallard	2155
Mallard hybrid	CW
Northern Pintail	1
Green-winged Teal	1
American Wigeon	CW
Redhead	CW
Greater Scaup	28
Lesser Scaup	5
Long-tailed Duck	288
White-winged Scoter	18
Common Goldeneye	671
Bufflehead	251
Hooded Merganser	1
Common Merganser	66
Red-breasted Merganser	276
Ruddy Duck	1
Duck Sp.	883
Northern Harrier	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10
Cooper's Hawk	8
Northern Goshawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	46
Rough-legged Hawk	1
American Kestrel	7
Merlin	CW
Peregrine Falcon	1
Hawk Sp.	1
Ruffed Grouse	17
Wild Turkey	35
Bonaparte's Gull	CW
Ring-billed Gull	582
Herring Gull	152
Iceland Gull	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	CW
Glaucous Gull	CW
Great Black-backed Gull	27
Gull Sp.	119

Species	Total
Rock Dove	770
Mourning Dove	727
Eastern Screech-Owl	2
Great Horned Owl	1
Snowy Owl	CW
Barred Owl	CW
Owl Sp.	2
Belted Kingfisher	8
Downy Woodpecker	55
Hairy Woodpecker	18
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	8
Horned Lark	7
Blue Jay	161
American Crow	1639
Black-capped Chickadee	877
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	42
Brown Creeper	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11
Eastern Bluebird	12
American Robin	236
Brown Thrasher	1
Bohemian Waxwing	1
Cedar Waxwing	159
Northern Shrike	5
European Starling	2835
Northern Cardinal	29
American Tree Sparrow	331
Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	15
Swamp Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	7
Slate-colored Junco	617
Snow Bunting	52
Red-winged Blackbird	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	CW
Purple Finch	26
House Finch	384
Pine Siskin	17
American Goldfinch	258
Finch Sp.	50
House Sparrow	364
Total Species	72
Total Individuals	17725

LAND TRUST UPDATE: During the November general meeting, WBFN's Land Trust Committee recommendations were approved with one revision. A six month process has now been initiated to establish The Northumberland Land Trust as reported in the last issue of *The Curlew*. Establishing the Trust includes the preparation of documentation for incorporation and registration as a charitable institution. In addition, funding for the maintenance of Peter's Woods was raised during presentation of the report and was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration. - *Bryan Baxter, Chair*

NEEDED!

Bob Short is preparing complete sets of *The Curlew* so that they can be bound. Copies will be placed in the Port Hope Library, Cobourg Library and the East Durham Historical Society Archives. One issue is missing: Volume 20, No. 2, February 1975. If anyone has a copy of this issue, please contact Bob at 905-885-1420 or mb.short@sympatico.ca

MASTER BUILDER – 2002

by Norma Wallace

After an absence of one year, a pair of Blue Jays once again nested on the top of the outside light fixture of the Laidlaw's home in Port Hope.

Construction started around May 10. By May 24, the mother jay could be seen sitting on four eggs. June 5 was "hatch" day. On June 21, one young jay "flew the coop", followed by four siblings the following day!

This particular outdoor light fixture has been the preferred choice of a pair of jays since 1992! Families have been successfully fledged each year since then, with one exception, when the nest was predated by crows.

HELP WANTED

A volunteer is needed to look after name tags at the monthly meetings. We have many new members and we would like to get to know each other by name. Contact President Carole Payne at 905-885-6135 or bookbind@eagle.ca if you could take on this job.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

•Honourary Life Member of WBFN, **Murial Braham**, has been awarded two honours in recent months. The Ontario Horticultural Association presented its prestigious Environmental Award to Murial for her work in acquiring Lone Pine Marsh and protecting it by creating a land trust for the property. As well, she was a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

OWL BANDING AT CANDLEWICK WOODS – 2002

by Roger Frost

This was the sixth season of owl banding at Candlewick Woods. Although it was not as successful as last year's record breaking year, it was very productive nonetheless. Candlewick is a small woodlot on the north shore of Lake Ontario, about 4 km. west of Port Hope. In total, 64 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded in 16 nights, between September 24 and October 30. These 16 nights resulted in a total of 74.5 hours of banding effort, which was much more than last year's 55.5 hours.

As in previous years, the owls were attracted into the nets using a tape recording of Northern Saw-whet Owls calls. The calls were broadcast from a speaker hung about 6.5 feet up in a White Cedar tree, which was surrounded by a triangle of 3 – 2 3/8" mesh 40' mist nets.

The 64 saw-whets banded were 24 fewer than last year's record high of 88. The 64 owls banded in 2002 are the second best total in the six years of this project. However, it took a much greater effort to band them than in previous years. The 0.86 owls/hour of effort was only about half of last year's 1.56 owls/hour. This is the lowest capture rate since 1998.

A drop-off in the numbers of migrating saw-whets was experienced by many other banding stations in eastern North America. This was especially true of stations directly south of us in the Appalachian Mountains, where captures were only about half of their 2001 totals. The 2 closest owl banding stations, however, actually had better seasons than in 2001. The station on the Oliver Property at Pigeon Lake, run by Trent University,

had a somewhat better year in 2002 after a very poor year in 2001. The station at Prince Edward Point had a much better year, with over double the number of owls captured in 2001. In total Prince Edward Point banded over 700 owls in 2002!

The decrease at Candlewick may have been due more to a lack of good migration weather than an actual drop in the number of owls. Candlewick has its best nights when the wind is light to moderate out of the north or northwest. These winds are probably necessary to push migrant owls south to the lakeshore. This fall, we had very few days or nights with north winds. When cold fronts did come through, the winds behind them were usually out of the west, rather than the north. This weather pattern was not only reflected in the poor catch of owls at Candlewick, but also in very poor hawk counts from the Lake Ontario shoreline. Many of these birds simply migrated well inland from the lakeshore.

Last year, there were four nights when 12 or more owls were captured; this year there was only one. This was Oct. 28, when 12 saw-whets were banded. There were two nights where 11 owls were captured (Oct. 5/6 and Oct. 13/14). However, both of these were dusk to dawn efforts.

This year's flight of Northern Saw-whet Owls was almost evenly split between hatch-year birds (53%) and after hatch-year birds (47%). Last year, HY birds made up the bulk of the flight with HYs at 70% and AHY at 30%. A lack of prey in the north may have led to a less successful breeding season in 2002, and also perhaps forced more adult birds to migrate.

The sex ratio this year was even more skewed this season than last. This year's birds were sexed as follows: Female 45

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(70%), Male 3 (5%), Unknown 16 (25%). Most other banding stations catch many more females than males. There probably is some differential migration between the sexes. However, some stations have found that males tend to be captured further away from the broadcasting speaker than females. Why this should be is unclear. In the Candlewick Woods set-up, the 3 nets are all very close to the speaker. Perhaps a few more nets further away from the speaker would increase the number of males captured at this station.

In addition to the 64 saw-whets banded, there were 2 foreign banded owls. Both were caught on Oct. 6. To date, we have only received information back on one of them. Northern Saw-whet Owl #1533-02160 was banded at Cabot Head, Ontario on Oct. 7, 2001 and recaptured at Candlewick on Oct. 6, 2002.

No other species of owls were banded this year.

The resident Great Horned Owls were the only other owl species seen or heard this season, and even they were not present as frequently as in previous years. The most unexpected bird sighting was a Sora on the laneway to the woods at dusk on Sept. 28. The same evening, we had a Whip-poor-will sing several times while we opened the

Recoveries of Northern Saw-whet Owls banded at Candlewick, 2002

Band #	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Location
0614-19750	Oct. 3, 2000	Nov. 4, 2001	near Madison, WI
0614-19833	Oct. 22, 2001	Oct. 17, 2002	Pigeon Lake, nr. Bobcaygeon, ON
0614-19870	Oct. 13, 2002	Oct. 14, 2002	Prince Edward Point, ON

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Ted McDonald

Red-throated Loon	Nov. 24	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 25	1	Wicklow Beach	MB
Common Loon	Nov. 12	310	Lucas Point	MB
Horned Grebe	Nov. 12	102	Lucas Point	MB
	Nov. 12	152	Wicklow Beach	MB
	Nov. 25	54	Lucas Point	MB
	Nov. 30	10	off Candlewick Woods	RF
	Dec. 1	5	Lucas Point	MB
	Dec. 11	8	Lucas Point	MB
Red-necked Grebe	Nov. 12	6	Wicklow Beach	MB
	Dec. 11	1	Lucas Point	MB
Double-crested Cormorant	Nov. 28-Dec. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Great Blue Heron	Nov. 26	1	Mill Golf Course, Cob	AEW
	Dec. 13	1	D'Arcy St. flying in off lake	MB
	Dec. 19	1	Bewdlev east marsh	DW
Turkey Vulture	Nov. 18	1	n of Dale e of #28	JGe
	Jan. 2	1	Lakeshore Rd. & Dickinson Rd., PH	AA
Greater White-fronted Goose	Nov. 2-Dec. 1	2	Garden Hill Pond	MB, RF
	Jan. 1-10	2	Cobourg waterfront	CEG, M Obs
Snow Goose	Nov. 11	18	over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 18	100	Dale Rd. & Ontario St	AEW, JGo
Snow Goose (white)	Nov. 2-4	1 ad	Garden Hill Pond	MB
Snow Goose (blue)	Nov. 2-16	1 ad	Garden Hill Pond	MB
	Nov. 18	3	Dale Rd. & Ontario St	AEW
	Jan. 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	SM, AT
Brant	Nov. 1-18	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
Trumpeter Swan	Dec. 7	1	Hamilton Rd. & Telephone Rd	BS, MS
	Dec. 17	1	Port Hope east beach	GI, BS, MS
Mute Swan	Dec. 27	1	Cobourg Harbour	FRM
Wood Duck	Dec. 14	1 m	Peace Park, Cob	MB
Gadwall	Dec. 7	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Wigeon	Nov. 1-Dec. 5	2-5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
Northern Shoveler	Nov. 1-2	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Pintail	Nov. 18/28	1	Cobourg Harbour/D'Arcy St	CEG
	Dec. 13-31	1 f	Cobourg waterfront	MB
Green-winged Teal	Nov. 7	30	Garden Hill Pond	MB
	Dec. 1-14	1	Cobourg waterfront	MB
Ring-necked Duck	Nov. 4	1 m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Greater Scaup	Dec. 17	60	Cobourg Harbour	M Obs
Redhead	Nov. 11	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 27	300	Cobourg Harbour	M Obs
Harlequin Duck	Dec. 4	1	off D'Arcy St, Cob	MB, RI
Black Scoter	Nov. 14-30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Hooded Merganser	Nov. 17	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 15	1 m	Port Hope waterfront	MB
	Jan. 3	1	PH vacht basin	SM, AT
Common Merganser	Dec. 27	3	Cobourg Harbour	FRM
Ruddy Duck	Nov. 5-Dec. 15	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
Northern Harrier	Nov. 21	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7 th PH Ward 2	I, S
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Nov. 5	1	Ontario St. N, Cob	AEW
	Dec. 27	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Cooper's Hawk	Nov. 20	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 26	1	over Sherbourne St, PH	FK
	Dec. 1	1	Bawview Cres, Cob	RI
	Dec. 8	1	Ontario St. N, Cob	AEW
	Dec. 12/14/29	1/2/2	Young St, PH	NW
	Dec. 24	1 ad	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 30	1 imm	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Goshawk	Nov. 26	1 imm	Cobourg Harbour – flying west	MB
Red-shouldered Hawk	Dec. 31	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Red-tailed Hawk	Dec. 23	1	Heneage St, PH	BB
Rough-legged Hawk (light phase)	Nov. 18	1	Woodvale School Rd, PH Ward 2	I, S
	Dec. 7	1	Grafton	MB
American Kestrel	Nov. 28	2	Workman Rd., Cob.	AS

Sightings - cont'd.

Merlin	Nov 2	1	Cobourg Harbour	CFG
	Dec 7	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
	Dec 15	1	Cobourg Harbour	CFG
Peregrine Falcon	Dec 14	1	Peace Park flying west	MB
Ring-necked Pheasant	Nov 1-Dec 5	1	Garden Hill area (calling)	DW
Ruffed Grouse	Nov 22	1	Hwy 28 & s. Rice Lake Dr	BI
Wild Turkey	Oct 31	5	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
	Nov 1/22	1/1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
American Coot	Nov 1-Dec 5	1-2	Cobourg Harbour	CFG MB
Black-bellied Plover	Nov 11	1	Gage's Creek mouth	EK
Killdeer	Nov 11	1	Off Waterfront Trail PH	EK
	Nov 14	1	Cobourg Harbour	CFG
Greater Yellowlegs	Nov 2-7	2-3	Garden Hill Pond	MB
	Nov 28	2	Cobourg Harbour	CFG MB
Sanderling	Nov 11	1	foot of D'Arcy St	MB
	Nov 11	2	Gage's Creek mouth	EK
White-rumped Sandpiper	Nov 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Pectoral Sandpiper	Nov 1-10	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Nov 4	5	Garden Hill Pond	MB
Purple Sandpiper	Nov 12-15	1	foot of D'Arcy St Cob	MB
	Dec 1	3	foot of D'Arcy St Cob	MB
	Dec 5	1	foot of D'Arcy St Cob	CFG MB
Dunlin	Nov 12	28	foot of D'Arcy St Cob	MB
Wilson's Snipe	Nov 12	4	Garden Hill Pond	MB
American Woodcock	Nov 1	1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
Bonaparte's Gull	Nov 26	12	foot of D'Arcy St Cob	MB
	Dec 1/12	2	foot of D'Arcy St Cob	MB CFG
	Dec 5	25+	foot of D'Arcy St Cob	MB
Thayer's Gull (2 nd winter)	Dec 27	1	Cobourg Harbour	CFG
Iceland Gull	Dec 9	1	Cobourg Harbour	CFG
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Dec 11-29	1	Cobourg Harbour	CFG MB
Glaucous Gull	Dec 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CFG

Eleven different Glaucous Gulls were recorded throughout the month of Dec. at Cobourg Harbour. 4 First winter (dark birds), 3 Second winter (paler birds), and 4 adults.

Great Horned Owl	Dec. 17	1	Gage's Creek marsh atop Osprey	BS, MS
Snowy Owl	Dec 13	1	Hwy 28 & 4 th Line	DSv
Short-eared Owl	Jan 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	BS, M Obs
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Dec 7	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
Belted Kingfisher	Nov 9	1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
	Nov 16	1	Mill Golf Course Cob	AEW
	Dec 8	1	nr Garden Hill	DW
	Jan 3	1	Sylvan Glen area	SM AT
Northern Flicker	Nov 21	1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
	Nov 25/26	1	Lakeshore Dr Cob	BI
	Dec 1	1	D'Arcy St Cob	MB
	Dec 5	1	north of Colborne	JF KB
	Dec 5	1	3138-7 th Line PH Ward 2	NG
	Dec 6	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CFG
	Jan 1	1	Water St nr D'Arcy Cob	NI
Pileated Woodpecker	Nov 26	1	Knoxville Rd & 6 th Line PH Ward 2	LS
Northern Shrike	Nov 16	1	Ontario St N Cob	AEW
	Nov 18	1	Woodvale School Rd PH Ward 2	LS
	Nov 26	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CFG
	Nov 28	1	Elain St Cob	AS
American Crow	Nov 21	200+	Jamieson Rd & 7 th PH Ward 2	LS
	Jan 3	500	Grist Mill Rd PH Ward 2	SM AT
Common Raven	Dec 8	1	Garden Hill area	DW
	Dec 28	2	Garden Hill area	DW
Horned Lark	Nov 6	8	Cobourg Harbour w headland	CFG
Brown Creeper	Nov 8	1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
Carolina Wren	Nov 6-14	1 m.	Cobourg backyard – singing	MB

Sightings -

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Nov 3	1	Cobourg Harbour west headland	CEG
Eastern Bluebird	Nov 18-Dec 31	5-10	Jamieson Rd & 7 th PH Ward 2	LS
	Dec 31	10	Roseneath Landing	DS
Hermit Thrush	Nov 10	1	Cobourg backward	MB
	Nov 22	1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
	Dec 7	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
American Robin	Nov 7	50	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Nov 16	100	Young St PH	NW
American Pipit	Dec 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Cedar Waxwing	Nov 22	25	Harris St PH	JA
	Nov 16	50	Young St PH	NW
	Nov 25	45	Cobourg backward	MB
	Dec 24	26	Garden Hill area	DW
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Nov 18	1	Gage's creek - foraging on the ice	EK
	Dec 5	1	Lakeshore Rd e of Cob	MB
Palm Warbler	Oct 31-Nov 1	1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
American Tree Sparrow	Dec 12	10	Jamieson Rd & 7 th PH Ward 2	LS
Chipping Sparrow	Nov 14	1	6 th Line Hamilton Twn	JGe
Fox Sparrow	Nov 17/18	1	Durham St PH	EK RF
Song Sparrow	Dec 11	3	Cobourg Harbour west headland	CEG
White-throated Sparrow	Nov 18-20	3	Cobourg backward	MB
	Nov 22	1	Durham St PH	EK
	Dec 3-31	1	Cobourg backward	MB
White-crowned Sparrow	Nov 7/21	1/2	Ontario St N Cob	AEW
	Jan 1	2	Choate Rd PH	SM
Dark-eyed Junco	Nov 16	16	Cobourg backward	MB
Snow Bunting	Nov 15	25	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Dec 14	2	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Red-winged Blackbird	Nov 14	1 m	Lake St marsh	EK
	Nov 17	6	n of Colborne	JF KB
Common Grackle	Nov 14/15	6/1	Young St PH	NW
	Dec 1-5	1	3138-7 th Line PH Ward 2	NG
Brown-headed Cowbird	Nov 25	2	Jamieson Rd & 7 th PH Ward 2	LS
Purple Finch	Nov 6	1	Durham St PH	EK
	Nov 17	8	Young St PH	NW
House Finch	Nov 8-10	3	Centennial Dr PH	ERM
Covote	Nov 10	6-8	n of Colborne	JF
	Dec 8	1	Woodvale School Rd PH Ward 2	LS
	Dec 24	1	Mill Golf Course Cob	AEW
Beaver	Nov 10/21	1	n of Colborne	JF
Eastern Cottontail	Nov 25	1	Burnham Blvd., PH	BC

Observers: AA=Anne Anthony; JA=Jan Alfred; MB=Margaret Bain; BB=Barbara Bolton; KB=Kim Bratt; BC=Bill Crowley; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; NG=Nelson Gardiner; JGe=John Geale; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JGo=Judith Goulin; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; GL=Graham Lawson; BL=Bill Logan; NL=Nancy Logan; ERM=Ted McDonald; SM=Simone Mérey; M.Obs.=Many Observers; LS=Louise Schmidt; DS=Dave Shirley; BS=Bob Short; MS=Marg Short; AS=Audrey Stacey; DSv=Daphne Svenningsson; AT=Anne Tesluk; NW=Norma Wallace; DW=Dave Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; AEW=Audrey Wilson.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

This is a reminder that the Membership Dues in Willow Beach Field Naturalists are payable on an annual basis, and are due at the beginning of the calendar year. Please use the enclosed slip to remit your dues at your earliest convenience, or bring your payment to the January meeting.

ASTRONOMICAL EVENT IN FEBRUARY

On Feb. 11, 2003, the moon is in conjunction with Saturn. Saturn will be easiest to locate on Feb. 11, when the moon is just two degrees from Saturn - a little more than the width of your thumb held at arm's length. Saturn is positioned above the head of Orion and easy to find at this date.

- Terence Dickson, Toronto Star, Dec. 29/02. Thanks to Don Davis for bringing this to our attention.