

## COMING EVENTS

- OCTOBER 24, 2003**                      **WBFN 50th Anniversary Celebration**                      **6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**  
**Town Park Recreation Centre, Port Hope**

To commemorate the Club's 50th Anniversary, the Anniversary Committee is hosting a fun evening featuring 20 tables of Exhibits, refreshments, a dessert pot-luck and a chance to socialize with friends old and new. Join us as we look back at 50 years of accomplishments with guest speaker and WBFN founding member Peter Landry who is coming all the way from Montreal for this special event. *(See insert for more details.)*

- Saturday, November 1, 2003** - **Closing of Peter's Woods** - Contact Russell Lake, 905-372-3636, if you would like to help.

- Saturday, November 8, 2003 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**    **Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory**  
Escape the dreary November weather in this beautiful indoor pavillion. A \$9 admission fee applies. Bring a lunch. If time allows, we will stop to view gulls on the Niagara River. Meet at the Port Hope Arby's commuter lot at 8 a.m. Call Alison Elliott (905) 797-2584 for more information or to arrange car-pooling from Cobourg.

- NOVEMBER 28, 2003**                      **7:30 pm**                      Cobourg Public Library  
**SPEAKER: Colin Jones, MNR**

Colin Jones is a contract biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough and a lifelong naturalist. He has been studying dragonflies and damselflies since 1993 and along with Paul Catling and Paul Pratt has been responsible for the latest Toronto Entomologists' Association publication, the annual dragonfly and damselfly summary entitled "Ontario Odonata".

**TOPIC: Ecology and Diversity of Ontario's Dragonflies and Damselflies**

Colin will speak on the diversity of dragonflies and damselflies in Ontario as well as their fascinating life history. He will also speak of the importance of the annual summary data to the conservation of dragonflies and damselflies.

- Saturday, DECEMBER 20, 2003** - **Annual Christmas Bird Count** - Contact Roger Frost, 905-885-9615 or [ekrf@eagle.ca](mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca) for more information.

**Willow Beach Field Naturalists**

**host**

**Federation of Ontario Naturalists Regional Meeting**

**Saturday, October 25**

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority offices in Port Hope

The public is invited to attend a special session on the "Ecological Footprint". Unfortunately, more detailed information about this session has not arrived in time to meet our publication schedule. Watch local newspapers or contact Carole Payne, 905-885-6135 or [bookbind@eagle.ca](mailto:bookbind@eagle.ca).

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Marguerete Huggins, Port Hope  
Faye Langmaid and Paul Laing, Port Hope  
David Pearo, Gore's Landing  
Douglas Robertson and Family, Brighton  
Diane Taylor, Port Hope

**THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS**

Past Pres.	Bob Short	905-885-1420	<a href="mailto:mb.short@sympatico.ca">mb.short@sympatico.ca</a>
President	Carole Payne	905-885-6135	<a href="mailto:bookbind@eagle.ca">bookbind@eagle.ca</a>
1st Vice-pres.	Bryan Baxter	905-372-6273	<a href="mailto:bbaxter@eagle.ca">bbaxter@eagle.ca</a>
2nd Vice-pres.	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	<a href="mailto:archangel@nhb.com">archangel@nhb.com</a>
Secretary	Jean Wilson	905-372-6930	
Treasurer	Janette Johnston	905-373-1432	<a href="mailto:jjohn@eagle.ca">jjohn@eagle.ca</a>
FON Rep.	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	<a href="mailto:archangel@nhb.com">archangel@nhb.com</a>
Curlew Ed.	Norma Wallace	905-885-5552	
	Elizabeth Kellogg	905-885-9615	<a href="mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca">ekrf@eagle.ca</a>

*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the November 2003 issue should be received by October 31, 2003. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the November Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3W4."*

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

On the occasion of our club's fiftieth anniversary, it seems appropriate to look forward as well as back as we celebrate half a century of interest in birds, animals, plants and planets. Over the last dozen years or so, the club has become increasingly involved in environmental issues, and last month our executive spent time looking at the future direction of the club. Each person took the opportunity to express his/her views.

The overwhelming consensus was that the club is on the right track. Of course the focus will remain on birding and observing and enjoying the natural world. But everyone expressed the opinion that if we do not protect habitat, soon there will be nothing left to observe. Protecting habitat means involvement in environmental issues.

Your executive was clear that we must continue to follow this direction, but in a way that is thoughtful and based on the best evidence we can find. We will be advocates of nature, but not in an outlandish way. We will try to persuade by interest and reason, but it will not be our policy to lie down in front of the bulldozers.

Thus our decision to form a land trust, separate from Willow Beach but with the same values, to protect environmentally sensitive land that is endangered. Thus our submissions to Port Hope on environmental issues arising from proposals for development. Thus our support of efforts to restore tall grass prairie at Alderville First Nation and Red Cloud Cemetery. We will continue to work with others at every opportunity in pursuing these goals.

We have good relations with the Stewardship Council through Bill Wensley, and with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority through Bill Newell. We have representation on the Waterfront Trail Committee (Cobourg end) through Petra Kennedy and myself. Terry Stopps, Russell Lake and Clive Goodwin speak for WBFN on environmental issues to the Cobourg Council. One of our members, Margaret Bain, who helped us in the initial planning stages for our Land Trust, is a founding member of Thickson's Woods Land Trust. We have good working relationships with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Jim Faught, the Executive Director of the FON has willingly given up his Friday night to join us in the celebration of our 50th.

And a reminder to all Willow Beachers and others who are interested - there will be a FON sponsored public meeting on Saturday the 25th at the GRCA office in Port Hope on the impact of our "Ecological Footprint."

As we celebrate our 50th, let us also celebrate the Ontario Volunteer Awards given to Alison Elliott, Clive Goodwin, Terry Stopps and Bill Wensley for years of service to the club. Congratulations all. Come and join us on the 24th. Let the party begin!

*Carole Payne  
President, WBFN*

*For members interested in more information about shade-grown coffee and a few sources where it can be purchased, Sandra Znajda, who spoke at our September meeting, provided the following list.*

## **Where you can Buy Shade/Bird-Friendly Coffee**

September 2003

### **On the Web**

- **Café Campesino:** <http://www.cafecampesino.com/>  
Fair Trade, Organic and Shade Coffee
- **Café Canopy:** <http://www.cafecanopy.com/>  
Organic and Shade Coffee
- **Thanksgiving Coffee:** <http://www.thanksgivingcoffee.com/>  
Organic and Shade Coffee

### **In Stores**

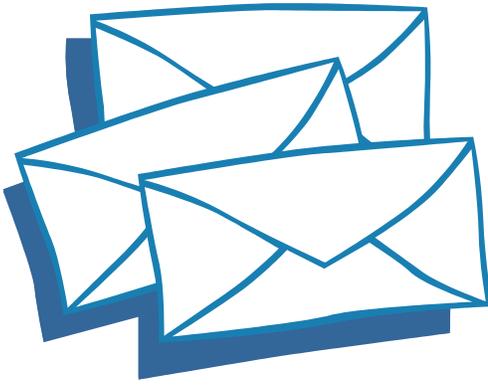
- **Alternative Grounds** – 333 Roncesvalles Ave., Toronto, Ontario.  
[www.alternativegrounds.com](http://www.alternativegrounds.com).
- **Birds and Beans Inc.-** A-2415 Lake Shore Blvd., Toronto, ON. (416) 913-9221.  
[www.birdsandbeans.ca](http://www.birdsandbeans.ca)
- **Cameron's Coffee** - 167 North Port Rd., Unit 1. Port Perry ON. (905) 982-0072.  
[www.cameronscoffee.com](http://www.cameronscoffee.com)
- **Green Earth Organics** - Food delivery service. [www.greenearthorganics.com](http://www.greenearthorganics.com)
- **Moonbeam Café** – Kensington Market, Toronto
- **Starbucks** – occasionally has Mexican Shade-grown coffee. (Joint project with Conservation International)
- **Wild Birds Unlimited** - 951 Gordon Street, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4S1, (519) 821-2473

### **For more information on Shade Coffee:**

Smithsonian Migratory Bird Centre: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/default.cfm>

Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign: <http://www.seattleaudubon.org/shadecoffee/>

Las Nubes Centre for Neotropical Conservation and Research: <http://www.yorku.ca/lasnubes/index.htm>



*Board Member, John Geale, has taken a leave from the Board for a sojourn in New Zealand. We hope to hear from him from time to time, and he would be pleased to hear from WBFN members.*

Hi, Carole – just thought I'd send you an update; if the Curlew is desperate for copy and there's anything you want to extract for them, feel free to do so.

We have moved into the house we will be renting for the next 14 months, right in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand and a city of just over 200,000. A little different from the 6th

Line in Hamilton Township! It's about a 20 minute walk to downtown, which is good for Dorothy, and various routes through the Botanical Garden are possible. San Francisco has nothing on Wellington when it comes to hills – they are long and steep here, so a walk downtown and back is quite a good workout.

When I arrived on Aug. 15, we had 3 days of beautiful sunny weather with mild temperatures – up to about 15° C, I'd say, but since then it has been cool (almost cold), cloudy, windy and rainy – typical winter here, I suspect. This hasn't really been a problem so far, because the house needed a LOT of cleaning and Dorothy has been working, so we wouldn't have been doing much outdoors anyway. However, once we buy a vehicle and get some decent weather I'm looking forward to getting out of the city into some good-looking hiking (they call it "tramping") country not far away.

My birding diary is pretty empty so far. However, walking around town and through the Botanical Garden we've seen lots of introduced species - Eurasian Blackbird, Common Redpoll, Chaffinch, and Mallard, for instance, as well as three unmentionable species which are also common in Port Hope. Perhaps the most interesting non-native species was a flock of about 50 Yellowhammers feeding on the rugby pitch at the big stadium in town as we watched the local Lions narrowly defeat a team from somewhere near the south end of South Island. A few native species also occur in town: Kelp and Silver Gulls, Silver-eye, Gray Fantail, Tui, and Little Black Cormorant have been spotted, and there are supposed to be others which I haven't seen yet.

There is also a wildlife sanctuary about 20 minutes' walk from here, and I spent a couple of hours there last Sunday, hoping to find more native birds. The 250 ha is completely enclosed by supposedly predator-proof fencing to protect the native species from introduced cats, rats, ferrets, etc., but they also have many traps for such animals scattered around the reserve, as they occasionally find their way in anyway. I did find New Zealand Scaup, Little Pied Cormorant, Welcome Swallow, Saddleback, Gray Gerygone, Whitehead, and New Zealand Robin, but there are more to be had there (including Little Spotted Kiwi and Weka), so I expect to be back there several times.

I'll send more news from time to time. And of course, any WBFN members are welcome to drop in if they are in the neighbourhood – I'll take them tramping! For anyone wishing to contact us, my e-mail address is

johngeale@yahoo.com

and our phone number is [011-64-4]-475-3851.

Cheers,

John

## **IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Fred A. Urquhart**

Professor Emeritus Frederick Urquhart, an internationally renowned expert in the field of Insect Migration, died Nov. 3, 2002, at the age of 90. Born in Toronto, Urquhart began his career at the university as a student, graduating at the top of his class in 1935. He completed his MA in 1937 and PhD in 1940. Following graduation he joined the meteorological division of the Department of Transport and taught meteorology to students in the RCAF until the end of the war. In 1945 he became the assistant director of zoology at the Royal Ontario Museum and in 1948 was cross-appointed as an assistant professor in zoology. The following year he became director of zoology and paleontology at the ROM and in 1961 he assumed full-time duties as an associate professor of zoology, becoming a full professor in 1963. Among Dr. Urquhart's students was noted Canadian author Farley Mowat.

In 1966 Urquhart became one of three initiators and organizers of the zoology teaching and research program at Scarborough College, retiring in 1977. Urquhart was one of the few people at Scarborough to produce a highly successful television lecture series. Although his research interests were broad – with four books, a monograph and 62 papers in refereed journals and countless scientific reports and popular articles relating to a wide range of biological subject matter to his credit -- Urquhart's first love was butterflies. He longed to answer the question: Where do monarch butterflies go in the winter? Urquhart's first attempt in 1937 to follow the monarch by marking individual butterflies met with limited success. But by 1940 he'd developed a method of tagging that worked and after the war he and his wife, Norah,

whom he married in 1945, tagged thousands of monarchs, affixing a tiny label to the wing, reading "Send to Zoology University of Toronto Canada." In 1952 he issued the first appeal for volunteers to assist with the tagging and over the next 20-odd years thousands of people had participated. In January 1975, these efforts paid off. In 1976 the Urquharts were able to see the spectacular sight for themselves.

Now over a dozen sites on five mountains have been identified as winter habitat for monarchs and these are protected as ecological preserves by the Mexican government, largely through Urquhart's early influence and advocacy. In Canada, Fred was an advocate for a reduction in the use of pesticides and herbicides, and for the planting of milkweed, the sole food plant of monarch butterfly larva.

"Large numbers of people were encouraged to be citizen-scientists and a lot of people got involved internationally. It had quite an electrifying effect on butterfly migration studies," said U. of T. Zoology Professor David Gibo."

It is noteworthy that until later years, when the National Geographic Society provided grants for insect migration research, this program operated on very limited funding provided by the Urquharts and their volunteer "Research Associates".

Fred and Norah's program had many ties to Northumberland County. Records of monarchs tagged in 1956 at Port Hope are noted in Fred's 1960 book "The Monarch Butterfly". WBFN member Audrey Wilson made many valuable contributions to the project, including acting as editor for the Insect Migration Studies newsletter. In recent years, a number of Urquhart-tagged monarchs

from Northumberland County were later recovered in Mexico. One particular individual tagged by E. R. McDonald was recovered at Havana, Cuba.

Fred was involved in the formation of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Until recently, a framed collection of photos from the 1941 "Limberlost Camp" hung in the reception area of the FON Headquarters. In one of these photos, Fred Urquhart was shown stirring a huge cast-iron pot with a large staff.

As a result of successful nominations

supported by members of the WBFN club, Fred and Norah Urquhart were awarded the W.W.H. Gunn trophy by the F.O.N. In 1998, Fred and Norah were appointed to the Order of Canada. The Urquhart Butterfly Garden near Dundas, Ontario was named in their honour.

Fred Urquhart is survived by his wife, Norah and his son, Doug and family from Whitehorse, Yukon.

*prepared by Don Davis*

Reader's Digest, September 2003 contains an article called "Hunting the Monarch" by Doug Urquhart (son of Dr. Fred Urquhart)

---

*John Geale took part in the Baillie Birdathon on May 20, 2003 in Texas, birding in support of WBFN and Bird Studies Canada. Following is his report from an exciting day.*

### **Baillie Birdathon, 2003 May 20 - Texas**

Taking the opportunity to do this year's Birdathon in Texas resulted in fewer species seen than usual, but from a birder's viewpoint they were "high quality" birds, as many of them were species the I would be very unlikely to see anywhere near home. Included were five species which I had never seen anywhere before this trip - a happy event for any birder!

Somewhat before dawn on May 20, I was awakened near the town of Liberty Hill by one of those new species, a Chuck-will's-widow (yes, that's really its name, because that's what says! sort of like a Whip-poor-will) sounding as if it was singing in the tree right above my tent. Putting on my headlamp and venturing out, I was able to catch several glimpses of it as it flew from perch to perch, its large eyes glowing a deep orange. Since other birds were now beginning to sing, I spent some time exploring near my campsite. The best birds for me here were a Painted Bunting and a White-eyed Vireo - if you don't know what a Painted Bunting looks like, I recommend that you find a bird book

and check it out - spectacular! Also nearby were a Greater Roadrunner (yes, the coyote's friend really exists!) and a pair of Common Ground-Doves.

My next stop was the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, a very important area which preserves the habitat of two endangered species: Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler. Walking the trails of this refuge, I did spot the warbler, but not the vireo (fortunately for my life list, I had seen one the previous day!), as well as Summer Tanager, Lesser Goldfinch and Blue Grosbeak among various more common species.

Heading for the town of Junction where the South Llano State Park is located, I elected to travel by back roads - a fortunate choice, as I was able to stop frequently without interference from traffic. It seemed most bridges had colonies of Cliff Swallows nesting under them, and a stop at a random bridge produced a few Cave Swallows as well. Much of this area was ranch country, and in this habitat I was able to find Northern

Bobwhite, Cactus Wren, Cassin's Sparrow and Crested Caracara. At a river crossing I heard two birds singing angrily back and forth at each other; these proved to be Bell's Vireos, a species new to me.

I was greeted at the office of the State Park by several Black-chinned Hummingbirds disputing ownership of the feeders. Wandering along the many trails, I located Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Ladder-

backed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, and quite a few other species to bring the day's total to 68. Having ahead of me a 3-hour drive back to Austin, I was glad to call it a day at sunset.

For those who are interested, the whole list is below - underlined species are those unlikely to be found here, and bold are those new for my life list.

1. Canada Goose	24. <u>Ladder-backed Woodpecker</u>	47. House Sparrow
2. Great Blue Heron	25. <b><u>Acadian Flycatcher</u></b>	48. <u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>
3. Great Egret	26. Eastern Phoebe	49. House Finch

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Ted McDonald*

Red-throated Loon	Aug. 31	1	off Plast Rd., Haldimand Twp.	BL, NL
	Sept. 1,2	1	off Cobourg Harbour appeared badly oiled	MB
Common Loon	Sept. 1	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Sept. 28	30	off Candlewick Woods	RF
Horned Grebe	Sept. 28	4	off Candlewick Woods	RF
Double-crested Cormorant	Aug. 21-30	10000	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW

Sightings - cont'd.

Red-headed Woodpecker	Sept. 10	1 juv.	Durham St., PH	EK
	Sept. 21	1 ad.	Walton St., Cob.	MB
	Sept. 21	1 imm.	Albert St., Cob.	MB
Red-bellied Woodpecker	June 2	1	Lakeshore Rd.W., PH	JGo
	Sept. 29	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sept. 28	4	PH Conservation Area	AT, SM

Sightings - cont'd.

Common Grackle	Sept. 11	225	over Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
----------------	----------	-----	--------------------------	----

**Observers:** MB=Margaret Bain; GMCD=Geoff Dale; DD=Don Davis; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JGo=Jack Goering; PI=P.Irwin; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BL=Bill Logan; M.Obs.=Many Observers; SM=Simone Mérey; ERM=Ted McDonald; AMcL=Andy McLachlan; DSv=Daphne Svenningson; AT=Anne Tesluk; NW=Norma Wallace; DW=Doug Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; EW=Eva Weyrauch.

--	--	--	--	--

**GIANT SWALLOWTAIL REPORTED  
FROM PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK**

On August 15th, about 5:10 p.m., park staff Ian Shanahan and Ethan Anderman first observed the giant swallowtail near the lighthouse area, and it landed on a thistle. This is the first-ever sighting of this species of butterfly in Presqu'ile Park. The next day, August 16th, about 1 p.m., Ian Shanahan, Martha Dowsley and Julie Empey spotted a giant swallowtail just west of the lighthouse near the Denson Cottage.

There have been about 9 other sightings of Giant Swallowtail in the Toronto area in 2003, one by the writer in Oakville on the weekend of August 23/24.

*- Don Davis*

--	--	--	--	--

**NEW TREE SPECIES FOR CANADA**

A new tree - the Swamp Cottonwood - has been discovered by three nature Conservancy of Canada scientists at the Bickford Oak Woods protected area on the St. Clair River, south of Sarnia. This may represent the 6th new tree species identified in Canada over the past 30 years. The new specie was found last November (2002) when the three scientists were conducting an ecological survey.

*- submitted by Don Davis*

--	--	--	--	--

*The Curlew* is published 8 times per year, January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Membership in WBFN includes a subscription to *The Curlew*.

Annual membership fees are:

Family - \$20    Single - \$18    Senior Couple - \$18    Senior Single - \$16

Cheques for membership should be made out to Willow Beach Field Naturalists and sent to The Treasurer, Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3W4. A receipt for Income Tax purposes will be provided for your membership fee as well as for any donation. Willow Beach Field Naturalists is a Registered Charitable organization.



Willow Beach Field Naturalists  
P.O. Box 421  
Port Hope, ON L1A 3W4

