



## COMING EVENTS

•**Wednesday, April 28, 8:30 p.m. - Outing to Trinity College School Observatory.** Entrance to the Observatory is off Deblaquire St., Port Hope. Take Deblaquire St. north, past the main gates to the sign for Boulden House, the Junior School. Turn east (right) into the parking lot. For more information, contact Ben Walters at 905-885-8586, [benwalters@sympatico.ca](mailto:benwalters@sympatico.ca).

•**Friday, April 30, 2004, 7:30 p.m. HKPR District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope**  
**SPEAKER: Joe Cebek, PhD, Department of Biology, Trent University**  
Joe Cebek has been a professor in the biology department of Trent University since 1993. His research interests centre on ecology/conservation issues. He worked with frogs and bats before moving to turtles. He's been interested in Ontario's "herps" since he was a teenager and still finds himself eagerly anticipating another field season.

**TOPIC: Turtles at the Crossroads**

There are 8 native species of turtles in Ontario and 6 are of conservation concern - a pretty high proportion! Our speaker will probe what's going on with our turtles by looking first at how the Ontario situation compares to the status of turtles globally. Then he will explore some of the unique features of turtle biology and life history in general, before getting into specifics about turtles found locally. He'll let us know how to get involved with TurtleWatching, just in time for this coming spring/summer.

•**Saturday, May 1 - Opening of Peter's Woods.** Contact Russell Lake, 905-372-3636, [russelllake@sympatico.ca](mailto:russelllake@sympatico.ca), for more information or to arrange car-pooling.

### THURSDAY EVENING OUTINGS IN MAY, 7-8:30 p.m.

**May 6 - Cobourg Harbour** - Meet in the parking lot at the west side of the harbour.

**May 13 - Lake St. Marsh, Port Hope** - Meet at the parking lot at the west end of the marsh. From Peter

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St., turn south on Hope St.S., turn east (left) at Lake St., past the gazebo. Continue to the parking lot.  
**May 20 - Cobourg Conservation Area** - Meet in the parking lot at the County Building on William St.  
**May 27 - Millenium Conservation Area, Port Hope.** Meet at the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority head office on the west side of Hwy. 28 just north of Hwy. 401.

For more information, contact Ben Walters at 905-885-8586, benwalters@sympatico.ca.

•**Friday, May 28, 2004 - Outing to Peter's Woods.** Meet at **6:30 p.m.** in the parking lot at Peter's Woods. Directions: From Cobourg, drive north on Hwy. 45 to Centreton Rd. Turn east (the only choice of direction) on Centreton Rd. to the flashing caution light at Centreton. Turn north on McDonald Rd. to Peter's Woods, about 5 miles. Contact Bryan Baxter, 905-372-6273, bbaxter@eagle.ca, for more details or to arrange car pools.

•**Monday, June 7, 2004 - Annual Bluebird and Whip-poor-will Walk with Hazel Bird.** Please note that this is a tentative date which may be changed in the *May Curlew*, depending on the stage of nesting of the bluebirds. See the *May Curlew* for meeting place and time.

•**June 12 & 13, 2004 - Northumberland Summer Bird Count.** Contact Roger Frost, 905-885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca for more information.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Irene Ebsen, Cobourg  
Sharon Foster and Family, Newtonville  
Hans and Marlene Maas, Roseneath  
Sherwood McLernon and Family, Grafton  
Verne and Lois Meadows, Port Hope

## THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Carole Payne	905-885-6135	bookbind@eagle.ca
President	Bryan Baxter	905-372-6273	bbaxter@eagle.ca
1st Vice-pres.	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	archangel@nhb.com
2nd Vice-pres.	Michael Biggar	905-372-7407	mbiggar@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 May 2004 issue should be received by April 30, 2004. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the May Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."*

## CHANGES

### **FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS**

**becomes**

**ONTARIO NATURE**

Effective in spring 2004, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists has changed its name to Ontario Nature. Their quarterly publication, formerly called *Seasons* has also been renamed *ON Nature*. The name changes have been adopted in order for the organization to seem more inclusive. That is, one doesn't have to be naturalist to join the organization. It was felt that the new name would be more welcoming to all those who were interested in conservation of the natural world, whether they considered themselves "naturalists" or not.

To find out more about the work of Ontario Nature, go to [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org)

### **STAFF CHANGE AT ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION**

*On March 31, I received the following e-mail from Rick Beaver.*

Hi to everyone:

Please note that as of April 1, 2004, I will no longer be the Natural Heritage Coordinator for Alderville First Nation. My health has dictated moving on to the less strenuous occupation of artist. My replacement is Amanda Newell and you will no doubt be hearing from her in the future regarding our savanna projects. To those of you whom I have made commitments, rest assured that they will be honoured. In fact though I am looking forward to a less structured role in the savanna's future, I will nevertheless continue to be involved.

I would just like to add what a very great pleasure it has been working with you all.

Very sincerely,  
Rick Beaver at Sweetgrass Studios

*WBFN wishes Rick the best in this new chapter of his life. Thank you, Rick, for the generous gift of your time and knowledge to the club. We are sure to enjoy your company at meetings and on the savanna in the future.*

*Welcome to the new Natural Heritage Coordinator, Amanda Newell. We look forward to the continued association between Willow Beach Field Naturalists and Alderville First Nation savanna.*

## WELCOME SNOW BUNTING BANDING 2004

*by Roger Frost*

With the arrival of the very cold and snowy weather in January of this year, I thought it might be worthwhile to try some Snow Bunting banding. It had been several years since Elizabeth and I had done any Snow Bunting banding and the conditions seemed perfect. Also greatly encouraging me was Graydon Bowman, who was very eager to see some winter banding.

On January 17, Elizabeth, Graydon, and I selected a field, on the Kellogg farm, west of Welcome to bait with bird seed. This site was about 1/2 km. west of where we had previously done our Snow Bunting banding. This site had the advantage of being visible from the Bowman's house, where we were now banding the birds, making checking the traps much easier.

With Graydon faithfully baiting the field every day, the birds quickly found the spot. Within a few days of baiting, Graydon phoned to tell us that flocks of Snow Buntings were now feeding on the bait. We made plans to begin trapping that Saturday.

On Saturday morning, January 24, we set out 3 ground traps on top of the baited spots. The buntings quickly returned to the area, but seemed a bit confused about the traps. However, hunger soon won out and within 25 minutes, we had caught 14 Snow Buntings. By mid-afternoon, we had banded 68 Snow Buntings and 1 Horned Lark!

We made banding attempts on the following 3 Saturdays, with diminishing results. On January 31, we banded 11 Snow Buntings, 26 Horned Larks and 1 Lapland Longspur; on February 6, 14 Snow Buntings, 12 Horned Larks and 3 Lapland Longspurs; on February 14, 2 Snow Buntings, 1 Horned Lark and 1 Lapland Longspur.

By February 17, the birds were able to find food elsewhere so they were very reluctant to enter our traps. Soon after this, the snow cover began to melt, exposing even more natural food and making trapping almost impossible. Our final totals were 95 Snow Buntings, 40 Horned Larks and 5 Lapland Longspurs.

Thanks to Lloyd Kellogg for allowing us to trap on his farm. Thanks also to Graydon Bowman for slogging down to the field every day to bait. Thanks to the Bowmans for allowing us to invade their porch to use as our banding station - and for several very welcome hot

### WALLACE BIRDATHON 2004

The Annual Wallace Birdathon will be taking place in May 2004. Roger Frost, guest birder in 2003, has offered to repeat his performance. Last year, Roger saw 140 species in a 20 hour period. Doubtless, he'll be hoping to equal, or surpass that total! I am asking WBFN members to consider being sponsors of the Wallace Birdathon, at a flat amount, or so much per species. Last year, \$750.00 was raised, the money going into the property fund, which will eventually provide seed money for the Northumberland Land Trust. All pledges are tax deductible.

The Wallace Birdathon has been ongoing for more than 15 years. Please contact me with your pledges at 64 Young St., Port Hope, ON L1A 1M6, or by calling 905-885-5552. Roger will also be pleased to take pledges at 905-885-9615.

## Doug Tarry Young Ornithologist's Workshop

The 2004 Young Ornithologists Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory from Friday 30 July to Sunday 8 August 2004. The intensely packed week of activities focuses on field ornithology and includes bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding field trips, guest lectures and much more. Come make new friends from across the country with similar interests in the world of birds. Six lucky applicants ages 13-17 will be selected for the Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards and recipients will have all expenses except travel costs paid. Applications are due 30 April 2004. For additional information and an application form contact: Landbirds Program Coordinator at Bird Studies Canada (e-mail: [lpbo@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:lpbo@bsc-eoc.org)), or visit the BSC web site ([www.bsc-eoc.org.lpbo/yow.html](http://www.bsc-eoc.org.lpbo/yow.html)).

### FOLLOW-UP ON GUEST SPEAKERS

- Ted Cheskey, the guest speaker at the February meeting, is very active in the **Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory** at Cabot Head, Ontario. To find out more about the work of BPBO, log on to [www.bpbo.ca](http://www.bpbo.ca) or write the observatory at Box 411, Tobermory, ON, N0H 2R0
- Stuart Kenn of the **Ontario Puma Foundation** spoke at our March meeting. For more

## ONTARIO NATURE - Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual General Meeting

The 73rd Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 29, 2004 at Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto. This promises to be a full day of meetings and field trips. Members of all member groups of the Federation (i.e. Willow Beach Field Naturalists) are welcome at the meeting, but preregistration and prepayment for the Gathering (\$60 per person) and Field Trip (varied costs, some free) is required. For more information contact Deanna Coop, Ontario Nature, 355 Lesmill Rd., Toronto, ON M3B 2W8, 1-800-440-2366, [deannac@ontarionature.org](mailto:deannac@ontarionature.org). Register online at [ontarionature.org](http://ontarionature.org). WBFN Rep. to Ontario Nature is Simone Mérey, 905-885-8347, [smerey@nhb.com](mailto:smerey@nhb.com)

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Ted McDonald*

Pied-billed Grebe	Mar. 24	1	Chub Point	MB
	Mar. 27	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Horned Grebe	Mar. 18	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 25	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 28	15	Chub Point	MB
Horned Grebe	Feb. 23-24	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Double-crested Cormorant	Mar. 24	4	flying NE over Presqu'île	MB

## Sightings - cont'd.

Long-tailed Duck	Mar 8	84	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Bufflehead	Mar 1	1	Port Hope Yacht Basin	SW
	Mar 29	20	Lake St. nond	EK RF
Common Goldeneye	Mar 1	4	Port Hope Yacht Basin	SW
Hooded Merganser	Mar. 6/26	2/6	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 7	2 mating	s. of Colborne	JF
Common Merganser	Mar 1	1	Port Hope Yacht Basin	SW
	Mar 9	52	off Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Red-breasted Merganser	Feb 17	252	passing Lakeshore Rd. Cob	LW
Osprey	Mar 29	1	Hwy 28 s. of Ctv Rd 9	DS
Northern Harrier	Mar 30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Feb. 19	1	Lakeshore Rd. Cob.	LW
	Mar. 3	1	Hwy. 2 & Dickson's Flooring	GL
Cooper's Hawk	Feb. 20	1	Lakeshore Rd. Cob.	LW
Northern Goshawk	Mar 13	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar 28	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar 28	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7 <sup>th</sup> PH Ward 2	LS
American Kestrel	Mar 28	1	Candlewick area	EK RF
Merlin	Mar 25	1f	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Wild Turkey	Mar 31	1 pair	Beech Hill Rd. male displaying	MB
American Coot	Mar 25	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
	Mar. 27-29	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	BL, EK,
Killdeer	Mar 11	1	Cobourg beach	MB
	Mar 24	1	Lake St. PH	DSv
	Mar 26	1	Lucas Point Cob	AEW
	Mar 27	3	Lake St. PH	EK RF
	Mar 27	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Mar 28	4	Candlewick area	EK RF
	Mar 29	3	Lake St. PH	EK RF
American Woodcock	Mar 9	1	Lake St. PH	EK RF
	Mar 28	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Mar 30	1	Burnley	BN
Iceland Gull	Mar 6/26	2/1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Glaucous Gull	Mar 2/26	3/1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Great Black-backed Gull	Feb. 22	2	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob. being chased by a	LW
Great Horned Owl	Mar 12	2	w. of Welcome	GB
	Mar 31	1	s. of Colborne	JF
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Mar 5	1	Lakeshore Rd. e. of Cobourg	MB
	Mar 30	1	Burnley	BN
Belted Kingfisher	Mar 28	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Mar 1	1m	Dorset St W PH	EK
	Mar 5 17	1f	Durham St PH	EK
	Mar 4	1f	Lakeshore/Wesleyville Rd	MB
Northern Flicker	Mar 29	1	Durham St PH	EK
	Mar 29	1	Lake St. PH	EK
Pileated Woodpecker	Mar 13	1	s. of Colborne	KB
Eastern Phoebe	Mar 29	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Northern Shrike	Mar 1	1	Lakeshore Rd. PH	GL
	Mar 15	1	4 <sup>th</sup> Line PH Ward 2 nr #28	ERM
	Mar 30-31	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7 <sup>th</sup> PH Ward 2	LS
Common Raven	Mar 8	2	dive-bombed by 5 crows n. of Garden Hill	DW
Tree Swallow	Mar 28	1	Candlewick area	EK RF
	Mar 29	5	over Lake St. PH	EK RF
	Mar 30	1	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG
	Mar 30	1	Roseneath Landing	DS

## Sightings - cont'd.

Red-breasted Nuthatch	Mar. 29	2	Jamieson Rd. & 7 <sup>th</sup> , PH Ward 2	LS
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mar. 28	12	Candlewick Woods	EK, RF
	Mar. 29	1	Lakeshore Rd., PH	JGo
	Mar. 29	3	Lake St. trail, PH	EK, RF
Eastern Bluebird	Mar. 22	2 pair	Lakeshore/Wesleyville Rd.	MB
	Mar. 27	1	Lakeshore Rd. w. of Wesleyville	MP
	Mar. 29	2 pair	Jamieson Rd. & 7 <sup>th</sup> , PH Ward 2	LS
American Robin	Mar. 4	15	Cobourg Harbour area	CEG



**Observers:** KA=Kurt Appleman; EB=Erich Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; GB=Graydon Bowman; BEE=Barbara Edwardes-Evans; KB=Kim Braat; GMCD=Geoff Dale; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGo=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; MH=Marguerite Huggins; RH=Reese Hunt; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; GL=Gary Little; BL=Bill Logan; BN=Bill Newell; MP=Malcolm Pacey; LS=Louise Schmidt; DS=Dave Shirley; BS=Bob Short; DSv=Daphne Svenningsson; NW=Norma Wallace; DW=Doug Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson

## GANARASKA FOREST CENTRE EVENTS

### **Mother's Day Wildflower Walk - Sunday, May 9, 2-3:30 p.m.**

Take in the fresh spring air and enjoy the spring flowers on a guided walk through the forest. Join us for hot tea afterward.

### **Herptile Day - Saturday, June 5, 1-4 p.m.**

Learn about the lives of frogs and other amphibians and reptiles. An exploratory hike around wetlands and ponds near the Ganaraska Forest Centre is included so rubber boots are recommended.

### **Family Fishing Weekend Event - Sunday, July 11, 8 a.m.-noon**

Location to be announced. Hosted by GRCA and Sedge's Fish Guiding Service

Public events are held at the Ganaraska Forest Centre and pre-registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register for an event, please call 905-797-2721 or e-mail [gfc@eagle.ca](mailto:gfc@eagle.ca)

## ASTRONOMY

### **NEW PLANET DISCOVERED**

Astronomers using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope have discovered the most distant object ever found in the solar system. The new planetoid was named Sedna after the Inuit goddess who is said to have created Arctic sea animals. This new planet is more than 12.9 million km from the sun and never gets above minus 204.4°C. Sedna is said to be one of the reddest objects in the solar system. It is about three-fourths the diameter of Pluto, which would make Sedna the biggest object found in the solar system since Pluto's discovery in 1930.

*- submitted by Don Davis*

## CANADA POST TO ISSUE NEW POSTAGE STAMPS PORTRAYING BIRDS

On May 14, 2004, Canada Post will issue the 2nd of a 3-year series of postage stamps depicting portraits of birds painted by John James Audubon. While there are 4 copies of the printed edition of "The Birds of America" owned in Canada (only 200 copies were printed in the first edition), Canada Post chose to work with slides of the Audubon originals, now owned by the New York Historical Society, as the colors in the published elephant portfolios had changed and faded with time.

Five new stamps are being released. The four stamps at the domestic rate (49 cents) depict Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-winged Crossbill, Bohemian Waxwing and Boreal Chickadee. One stamp at the U.S. rate (80 cents) portrays the Lincoln's Sparrow.

*- 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 3Z3. 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.



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