



## COMING EVENTS

•**Friday September 24, 2004 7:30 pm, HKPR District health Unit, Port Hope**

**Topic: Conservation Lands in East Northumberland** Over 3,600 acres of natural open space are held in public trust by Lower Trent Conservation. They are special places in the watershed where the natural world comes first. Jim Kelleher and Marilyn Bucholtz will provide an overview of the 16 properties owned and managed by Lower Trent Conservation and highlight some of the natural areas throughout the watershed (primarily eastern part of Northumberland).

**Speakers: Marilyn Bucholtz** is the Marketing & Communications Advisor for Lower Trent Conservation where she has worked for 15 years. She is responsible for the communications, marketing, fundraising, and volunteer programs for the Conservation Authority. Prior to working with Lower Trent Conservation, Marilyn has worked in the field of communications, public relations and nature and cultural interpretation for various Conservation Authorities across the province.

**Jim Kelleher** has been working with local Conservation Authorities in various capacities for 30 years. He has been the General Manager at Lower Trent Conservation for the past 18 years. Jim is also the Co-Chair, Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Restoration Council, President of the Friends of the Trent Severn Waterway, a volunteer organization working with Parks Canada to promote the natural, cultural and recreational values of the Trent Severn Waterway, and Past Chair of the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition, a group of nine conservation authorities working together to improve management of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Jim actively participates in local, regional and provincial forums to implement and promote watershed conservation programs.

•**Sunday, October 3, 2004 - Outing to Orono Forestry/Wilmot Creek Outdoor Ed Center.** Meet at the carpool lot off Phillips Rd. at 8:00 a.m., or at Orono Forestry at 8:30 a.m. This walk will cover the edge of the Wilmot Creek, coniferous plantations, and natural forest. Trails are fairly easy and we are hoping to encounter a variety of birds in migration and enjoy some fall colours.

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Directions: Exit Taunton Rd. W. off Highway 35/115. Turn south on Oschanski Rd., follow to Station St. We will park opposite Station St. at parking lot on west side of road. Contact Ben Walters, 905-885-8586 for more information.

•**Friday, October 29, 2004**, 7:30 p.m., Cobourg Public Library

Speaker: **Doug Sadler**. Topic: **Spiders**. Slide presentation on the mysterious and fascinating world of spiders.

•**Saturday, October 30, 2004 - Closing of Peter's Woods**. Contact Russell Lake 905-372-3636 for more information.

•**Sunday, November 7, 2004. Outing to Second Marsh Wildlife Area**. Meet at Port Hope carpool lot off Phillips Rd. at 9:00 a.m., or at GM's west parking lot at 9:30 a.m. We will be hoping to see gulls and ducks on this well known marsh walk. Trails are well maintained and are easy walking. Directions: Follow Highway 401 west to Harmony Rd./Farewell St. exit. Follow Farewell St. south to Colonel Sam Dr. Take Colonel Sam Dr. east and follow to GM headquarters and park in west parking lot. Contact Ben Walters 905-885-8586 for more information.

•**Friday, November 26, 2004**, 7:30 p.m., District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope

Speaker: **Martyn Obbard**. Topic: **Bears**. A year in the life of a black bear in Ontario including ecological and evolutionary pressures that mould behaviour.

•**Saturday, December 18, 2004, Christmas Bird Count**

•**Friday, January 28, 2005**, 7:30 p.m., Cobourg Public Library

Speaker: **Audrey Wilson**. Topic: **Wild Things I Have Known**. Audrey's fascinating encounters with wildlife over the years. Learn while being entertained with funny and often poignant stories.

•**Friday, February 26, 2005**, 7:30 p.m., District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope

Speaker: Bill Crowley. Topic: Potpourri. A selection of slides from Bill's outstanding collection of nature photographs.

•**Friday, April 1, 2005**, 7:30 p.m., Cobourg Public Library

Speaker: Terry Sprague. Topic: 10 Days on the Rideau. Kayaking from Kingston to Ottawa. Terry discusses both the human history and natural history of the Rideau Canal.

•**Friday, April 29, 2005**, 7:30 p.m., District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope

Speaker: Vic Orr, Topic: Watching Warblers. Learn about the lives of the warblers that breed in Eastern North America. A video depicts the nesting, feeding and migration habits of this colourful family of birds.

•**Saturday, April 30, 2005 - Opening of Peter's Woods**. Contact Russell Lake 905-372-3636 for more information.

•**Annual May walk/outing**

•**June 2005 - Annual Bluebird and Whip-poor-will Walk with Hazel Bird**

•**June 11 and 12, 2005 - Northumberland Summer Bird Count**. Contact Roger Frost, 905-885-9615 for more information.

*Watch The Curlew for more details of meeting programs and additional outings throughout the year.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Winner of 6th prize in the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre Raffle was WBFN member **Lois Meadows**. WBFN enjoyed a presentation about the turtles on Ontario earlier this year.
- Congratulation to President, **Bryan Baxter**, on being named Chair of the Cobourg Police Services Board.
- Best wishes from the club to **Dennis and Dawn Smith** who have recently moved to Ottawa.

## MARSH NAMED TO HONOUR A.K. SCULTHORPE

Last May, with rather short notice, the Municipality of Port Hope officially named the marsh on Lake Street the "A.K. Sculthorpe Woodland Marsh". The official ceremony was attended by Port Hope dignitaries, many members of the extended Sculthorpe family, representatives from LCAC, the Waterfront Trail committee and a contingent from WBFN. A plaque, mounted on an impressive piece of granite, was unveiled by A.K.'s oldest son, Robert Sculthorpe. Take time to read it when you

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Panko and Ron Cole, Cobourg  
Joan and John McGuirk, Port Hope Ward 2

## WALLACE BIRDATHON

Roger Frost and Ben Walters found 146 species of birds on a rainy 24-hour period in late May, birding only in Northumberland County. Norma Wallace is pleased to report that their efforts netted \$811.00 for the WBFN property account which will provide seed money to the newly formed Northumberland Land Trust.

## 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
Secretary	Jean Wilson	905-372-6930	
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 2004 issue should be received by September 30, 2004. 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 3Z3."*

## Book Review

by W. Crowley

### *The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario*

by Timothy Dickinson, Deborah Metsger, Jenny Bull, Richard Dickinson  
Royal Ontario Museum and McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 2004

Over the last few years, I have met people from several natural science organizations. During this period, I have developed considerable respect for the staff of the Royal Ontario Museum. I believe that they are good solid scientists but what has impressed me most is their very practical approach to their science. It is for this reason that I waited with anticipation when I learned that the ROM was publishing a book on Ontario Wildflowers.

The 416 page book, which retails for less than \$30, is now available from most book stores. It describes 550 common Ontario wildflowers out of a total of about 2800 which are known to grow in Ontario. The book has over 1000 photographs which, in my opinion, are much more useful than the sketches used in some wildflower books. Personally, I believe the book is a good solid addition to a naturalist's library.

I have two criticisms. The reproduction of some of the photographs is a little weak, but they can be used for identification and at a price of \$30, one should not expect coffee table book photo quality. The book included common wildflowers which is probably a wise decision. However, I believe that at least some of the species only found on the Bruce Peninsula and Manitoulin Island should have been included. These are popular locations for botanizing. The plants to which I refer though common on the Bruce and on Manitoulin, are globally rare.

The introduction to the book is well worth its price. It contains a very short and concise description of:

- the types of wildflowers

- the geology of the province
- the vegetation regions of the province
- the habitats of wildflowers.

These descriptions aren't very profound, but they set the scene for the story which follows.

There is a two page guide on how to use the book to identify wildflowers, followed by a short complete guide to the anatomy of a wildflower. It's not all you needed to know about plant anatomy in two easy pages, but it comes close.

There are a series of keys which one can use to identify wildflowers. I'm a page flipper myself. I flip through pages until I see a photo that matches the wildflower I'm looking at. However, keys do work by enabling one to logically do the detective work to identify a wildflower.

Then, at last, come the descriptions of the various wildflowers. In general, only one wildflower is described per plate, with a few photos showing the flower, a group of flowers, leaves, seed pods, or fruit, etc. There are sections describing the habitat, description including flowers, flower cluster, leaves, fruit, etc. In addition, notes covering a mixture of interesting facts, and a section on related species. For each plant, there is a map of Ontario with the approximate areas where the plant grows shaded in - an educational feature.

The subject of Ontario wildflowers is virtually unending. I don't think any one book will ever cover the complete topic. The ROM has chosen a fair-sized chunk and I think that they have done a darned good job.

## 2004 NORTHUMBERLAND SUMMER BIRD COUNT

*by Roger Frost*

This was the eighth annual Northumberland Summer Bird Count. On June 12th and 13th, 32 observers covered the same 15 mile diameter count circle, centred north of Centreton. The area covered by this circle stretches from Rice Lake and Roseneath in the north to the 401 north of Grafton in the south, and from Harwood Rd. in the west almost to Morganston in the east. The circle was divided into the same 6 sections as in previous years.

The coverage was follows:

Area #1 (NW section): Bob Short, Marg Short, John Geale, David Geale, Dave Shirley, Kurt Appleman, Lee, Adele Coull

Area #2 (NE section): Bryan Baxter, Louise Baxter, Michael Biggar, Barry Robinson, Brad Sherwin

Area #3 (W central section): Bill Newell, Susanne Williams, Alison Elliott, Ben Walters, Bruce Parker

Area #4 (W central section) - Roger Frost, Elizabeth Kellogg, Karen Drew, Graydon Bowman

Area #5 (SW section): Clive Goodwin, Joy Goodwin, Lori Wensley, Bill Wensley

Area #6 ( section): Louise Schmidt, Bev Dahmer, Ted Schmidt, Gary Little, Matt Hayward, Ben Walters, Janette Johnston

The 32 observers this year were a record high. These extra observers allowed most groups to split up into 2 or more parties and significantly improve the coverage of their areas. This is also reflected in the record high of 144 party hours compared to last year's 119.5. However, observers did not walk as far this year, with only 93.5 km covered on foot, compared to 126.5 last year. While observers were not walking as much, they did drive more; about 130 km more than in 2003.

The weather for the count was unseasonably cool. Saturday morning was

downright cold. The low on Saturday morning was about 5°C with the afternoon high not reaching 20°C. However, it was a clear bright day with light to moderate winds, so not too bad for birding. Sunday was somewhat warmer with more cloud cover and some rain showers late in the morning. Other than keeping the birders well chilled, the weather did not have any negative effect on the count.

Not surprisingly, the record observer effort translated into a record high number of birds counted. The 12,284 birds were over 1000 more than the previous record high in 2001. The total species of 131 was only one shy of the record 132 from 2002. This increase was due in large part to a big increase in Ring-billed Gull numbers (almost double 2003 total). Record high totals for many of the common roadside species (i.e. Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch) also contributed to the overall record high count.

Only 2 species were found that were new to the count. Two Least Bitterns were found, one in Area 2 in a small marsh just north of Burnley, and one in Area 6's Lone Pine Marsh. Lone Pine Marsh also produced the other new species, a Yellow Rail! The Least Bitterns were probably breeding birds. Although this species is provincially rare, it was overdue to be found on the count, as it does nest in nearby areas. The Yellow Rail may not be so clear cut. The bird was found in appropriate breeding habitat, but the closest known breeding areas are well to our north. The mid-June date would argue against a late migrant. Lingering migrant? Yellow Rails have been noted at Presqu'ile Provincial Park the past 2 years. Perhaps a systematic search of all local grassy/sedgy marshes would turn up a small breeding population. In addition to

*(Continued on page 6)*

these two new species, 31 other species posted record high numbers.

Although few in number, waterbirds did provide some highlights. Common Loons were observed in Areas 1 and 6. Single Pied-billed Grebes were in Areas 1 and 2. Area 5 had the first American Bittern since 2000 with one seen flying down Baltimore Creek. Both Great Blue and Green Herons were seen in record high numbers. The common waterfowl species were all seen in below average numbers. The two Wood Ducks were the lowest ever for the count. Area 2 found the only Hooded Mergansers.

Four species of raptors were seen in record high numbers. Turkey Vultures, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, and American Kestrel posted these records, with Turkey Vulture and Harrier more than doubling their previous highs. Ospreys were found in two areas with the one in Area 6 the only one away from their Rice Lake stronghold. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen in areas 3 and 4. Single Broad-winged Hawks were in Areas 3 and 5. Area 3 came up with the only Northern Goshawk. Red-shouldered Hawk was missed completely.

Three species of Galinaceous birds were found again this year. Area 1 had the only Ring-necked Pheasant. For the first time ever, Wild Turkeys out-numbered Ruffed Grouse. The 16 grouse were the lowest since 1999.

Rails and Shorebirds showed mixed results. Soras posted a record high, with 4 birds in Areas 1 and 6. Common Moorhen was missed. Single Spotted Sandpipers were found in 3 areas. A record high 6 Upland Sandpipers were found in Area 1. American Woodcock was missed for the first time since 1998.

Ring-billed Gull numbers were the highest since 1997. Most of these birds were taking advantage of recently cut hay fields. At least some observers were really looking at their gulls, because Herring Gulls were found

in record high numbers. Four Caspian Terns were found in 3 areas, probably commuting between Lake Ontario and Rice Lake.

The 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Area 7 were only the second ever recorded on the count. The 4 Black-billed Cuckoos were the most since 1998.

Three species of owls were recorded this year. A record high 3 Eastern Screech Owls were found in Areas 1 and 6. Area 6 also had the only Great Horned Owl. Area 4 spotted the only Barred Owl because it was being mobbed by Downy Woodpeckers and Baltimore Orioles.

Area 3 saw the only Common Nighthawk. Whip-poor-wills were found in 3 areas, with 10 of them in Area 4.

The only Chimney Swift was seen in Area 3.

Woodpeckers were mostly found in average numbers with only Downy and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker posting record highs. Area 2 located the only Red-headed Woodpecker. Unlike last year, flycatchers were generally found in lower numbers, but still near their averages. The only flycatcher to show an increase was Eastern Phoebe, which posted a record low last year. Still, this rebound in Phoebe numbers did not bring them back to their pre-crash average.

The 3 Horned Larks were the lowest number ever found on the count.

Most swallows were found in higher numbers with Tree and Barn posting record highs. This was good news for Tree Swallows which had shown a large decline last year. Cliff Swallows were down somewhat from last year with only 3 areas reporting them.

All three Corvids were found in better than average numbers. The crow population seems to be holding its own even with West Nile Virus, as the 476 were a new record high. Ravens were only seen in areas 3 and 6. Area 1 was the only group to report Brown Creepers.

*(Continued on page 7)*

Wrens were found in good numbers this year. The nine Winter Wrens were the most since 1998. Bob Short canoed through some of the Rice lake marshes and a thorough search produced a record 8 Marsh Wrens. Previously, Marsh Wrens had only been seen twice on the count with single birds in 2001 and 2002.

Area 2 reported the only Golden-crowned Kinglet. Most thrushes were seen in average numbers, with only American Robin posting a record high.

For the fourth year in a row, Brown Thrashers have been found in record high numbers.

Cedar Waxwings were also found in record high numbers. Perhaps this was a response to the very wet spring and in increase in the wild fruit crop.

All the vireos were down compared to last year. The 2 Blue-headed Vireos were the lowest total ever on the count.

There were 17 species of warblers recorded this year, with almost all of them in smaller numbers than last year. Only Pine Warblers were seen in record high numbers. The highlight was a Cape May Warbler in Area 1, which was only the second count record. All 3 of the Blue-winged Warblers were seen in Area 4. Black-throated Blue Warblers were found in Areas 2 and 4. Area 4 had the only Blackburnian Warblers. The 14 Northern Waterthrush were the lowest total ever on the count.

Scarlet Tanagers equalled their record high of 35 last year.

Twenty-four Eastern Towhees was also a record high.

The 9 species of Sparrows showed mixed results. Chipping, Clay-colored, and Song all were found in record high numbers. The 135 Savannah Sparrows was the highest total since 2001. The other meadowland sparrows were all seen in smaller numbers than last year. The 45 Grasshopper Sparrows were only one more than their record low of

44 in 2002.

Red-winged Blackbird and Baltimore Oriole were the only two Icterids to past record highs. Both these species surpassed their previous highs from last year by more than 30%. Eastern Meadowlark numbers rebounded from their low last year, but are still short of the historic average.

After a record low last year of 129, American Goldfinch rebounded with a new record high of 560! This was over 200 more than their previous record in 2000. The lone Pine Siskin in Area 2 was only the second count record.

In addition to keeping track of all the birds, many observers made notes on the mammals. Some of the highlights were Moose in Area 1, 3 coyotes in Area 2, and a close encounter with a Black Bear in Area 6.

The great results of this year's count is even more amazing when you consider that 3 of the 6 areas were without their regular captains. Bob Short filled in for John Geale in Area 1. Bob's team didn't miss a beat and found 100 species, good for first place this year. Bryan Baxter filled in for Russ Lake in Area 2 and managed to find 79 species, the best total ever in Area 2. Louise Schmidt had the toughest job to fill in for Margaret Bain in Area 6. Since Marg's regular crew of helpers also were busy, Louise had to patch together a team, and still found 96 species! Thanks to all the area captains and all participants.

Also thank you to Alison Elliott and Ben Walters for hosting the post count get-together.

Next year's summer Bird Count will be on the weekend of June 11 and 12.

## SPECIES TOTALS - 2004 NORTHUMBERLAND SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Species	TOTAL
Common Loon	3
Pied-billed Grebe	2
Double-crested Cormorant	18
American Bittern	1
Least Bittern	2
Great Blue Heron	27
Green Heron	14
Canada Goose	87
Wood Duck	2
Mallard	43
Blue-winged Teal	4
Hooded Merganser	2
Turkey Vulture	73
Osprey	14
Northern Harrier	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	4
Northern Goshawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	27
American Kestrel	17
Ring-necked Pheasant	1
Ruffed Grouse	16
Wild Turkey	17
Yellow Rail	1
Virginia Rail	7
Sora	4
Killdeer	43
Spotted Sandpiper	3
Upland Sandpiper	7
Common Snipe	7
Ring-billed Gull	1212
Herring Gull	10
Caspian Tern	4
Rock Dove	105
Mourning Dove	292
Black-billed Cuckoo	4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2
Eastern Screech Owl	3
Great Horned Owl	1
Barred Owl	1
Common Nighthawk	1
Whip-poor-will	12
Chimney Swift	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	29

Species	TOTAL
Belted Kingfisher	16
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12
Downy Woodpecker	30

Species	TOTAL
Blue-winged Warbler	3
Nashville Warbler	8
Yellow Warbler	139
Chestnut-sided Warbler	41
Cape May Warbler	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3
"Myrtle" Warbler	8
Black-throated Green Warbler	33
Blackburnian Warbler	5
Pine Warbler	34
Black and White Warbler	32
American Redstart	12
Ovenbird	136
Northern Waterthrush	14
Mourning Warbler	56
Common Yellowthroat	151
Canada Warbler	10
Scarlet Tanager	35
Northern Cardinal	34
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	86
Indigo Bunting	115
Eastern Towhee	24
Chipping Sparrow	320
Clay-colored Sparrow	11
Field Sparrow	50
Vesper Sparrow	55
Savannah Sparrow	135
Grasshopper Sparrow	45
Song Sparrow	436
Swamp Sparrow	36
White-throated Sparrow	30
Bobolink	132
Red-winged Blackbird	938
Eastern Meadowlark	97
Common Grackle	522
Brown-headed Cowbird	141
Baltimore Oriole	131
Purple Finch	17
House Finch	23
Pine Siskin	1
American Goldfinch	560
House Sparrow	69
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>12284</b>



## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Ted McDonald*

Common Loon	May 12	27	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	July 1/2	2	off Lucas Point Cob	AFW
	Aug 15	36	off Lakeshore Rd Cob	IW
Pied-billed Grebe	May 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Red-necked Grebe	Apr 17	11	off Lakeshore Rd Cob	IW
Double-crested Cormorant	Aug 21	3000	off Cobourg beach	FRM
American Bittern	May 16	1	Murray Marsh	RF
Great Egret	July 2	1	Lake St Marsh PH	SM
	Aug 8/28	1	Wicklow Rd pond	BI NI DD
	Aug 28/Sept 1	1	Campbell Rd & 6 <sup>th</sup> Line PH Ward 2	BI AF
Green Heron	May 22	1	Cobourg Beach	NI
	July 9	1	Division St N & 401	GD
	Aug 16	1	Lake St Marsh PH	BI NI
Black-crowned Night Heron	May 6	10	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May 24	2	Lake St Marsh PH	BI
	June 28	3	Port Hope west jetty	GMCD
Turkey Vulture	Aug 21	1	over Cobourg waterfront	FRM
Brant	May 16	32	over Chub Point	MB
	June 3	21	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Mute Swan	July 11	4	off Lakeshore Rd Cob	IW
Wood Duck	June 11	2	Lake St Marsh PH	BI
Gadwall	July 13	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Blue-winged Teal	June 15	2A 4Y	Lake St Marsh PH	BI
	Aug 23	2F 1Y	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Northern Pintail	July 24	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Green-winged Teal	June 28	1	Lake St Marsh PH	RF EK
Redhead	June 29	1	Lake St Marsh PH	RF EK
White-winged Scoter	May 17	55	Port Hope Harbour	RF EK
Black Scoter	May 17	9	off Lucas Point Cob	MB
Long-tailed Duck	July 11	7	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Common Goldeneye	July 7	2	Archer Rd at Lake	CEG
	Aug. 31/Sept. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Common Merganser	Aug 8	55	off Candlewick Woods	RF
Red-breasted Merganser	June 23	100	off McGlennon Point Wicklow	CEG
	June 24	40	off Lakeshore Rd Cob	IW
Ruddy Duck	June 18	1	off Chub Point	CEG
Osprey	July 4-Sept 1	8	over Cobourg waterfront area	M Obs
	Aug 2	1	Garden Hill pond	MB
Bald Eagle	Aug 6	1	over Lakeshore Rd Cob	IW
Cooper's Hawk	Aug 2	1f	near Lucas Point park	MB
	Aug 6	1	Choate Rd PH Ward 2	MH
Northern Goshawk	May 15	1	over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Red-shouldered Hawk	Aug 6	1	over Choate Rd PH Ward 2	MH
Red-tailed Hawk	Aug 7	2	Lakeshore Rd W PH	DD
Rough-legged Hawk	May 18	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
American Kestrel	July 21	2A 1Y	Cavan Rd Bewdley area	DSv
<b>MERLIN</b>	Apr. 11- Aug. 18	pr. on nest. Fledged 2	Bloomsgrove Ave., PH	NW, M.Obs.
	May 5	1f	Cobourg Harbour area	MB
	May 27	1f	Albert St., Cob. plucking chickadee in branches of	MB
	July-Aug	1	regular over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Peregrine Falcon	June 29	1SY	Lake St Marsh PH	RF
	July 26-30	1adult	Port Hope Harbour	RF, EK, AE,
	Aug 7	1	Wesleyville OPG property	DD
	Aug 8	1	Lakeshore Rd W PH	BW AF
Sandhill Crane	May 16	2	Murray Marsh	RF
Common Moorhen	July 31	19	east of Grafton	CEG
Black-bellied Plover	Aug. 23	2	Cobourg Harbour	MB

## Sightings - cont'd.

Semipalmated Plover	June 1	1	Cobourg east beach	MB
	Aug. 14	2	Cobourg west beach	MB
Greater Yellowlegs	May 7	5	Grafton area	CEG
	May 22	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore	MB
Solitary Sandpiper	May 22	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore	MB
Whimbrel	May 17	5	Port Hope Harbour	RF, EK
	May 18	6	Cobourg Harbour breakwater	MB
	May 20/24	50	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 1	1	flying along Cobourg beach	MB
	Sept. 1	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Ruddy Turnstone	June 3	100	Cobourg Harbour	CEG

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Sightings - cont'd.

Red-bellied Woodpecker	May 10	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
Northern Flicker	Aug. 2	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Pileated Woodpecker	Aug. 30/31	1	Larchmere golf course	ERM
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May 23	1	Albert St., Cob.	MB

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Sightings - cont'd.

Coyote	May 17	1	Larchmere Golf Course	M.Obs.
Coyote – family group	July 1		Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW

**Observers:** EB=Erich Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; BC=Bill Crowley; GD=Godfrey Delisle; GMCD=Geoff Dale; DD=Don Davis; AE=Alison Elliott; RF=Roger Frost; CEG=Clive Goodwin; PG=Peter Greathead; PGoe=Peter Goering; AH=Alan Holdaway; MH=Marguerite Huggins; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; GL=Gary Little; BL=Bill Logan; NL=Nancy Logan; ERM=Ted McDonald; J & JMc=John and Joan McGuirk; AMcL=Andy McLaughlan; SMcL=Sherwood McLernon; Simone Mérey; M.Obs.=Many Observers; MM=Marlene Minaker; JN=Joan Norris; JP=Joan Parrott; RP=Rod Parrott; JS=Jim Smith; DSv=Daphne Svenningson; NW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; LW=Lori Wensley; AEW=Audrey Wilson

<p align="center"><b>MASTER BUILDERS - 2004</b> by Norma E. Wallace</p> <p>On May 10, a pair of Blue Jays began building their nest on top of the back door light fixture on the Laidlaw home in Port Hope. By May 22, the female could be seen sitting on the nest. Sadly, on May 29, the nest was predated, most likely by crows.</p> <p>This particular light fixture has been the preferred nest choice by jays, annually, since 1992. Families of four or five have been successfully fledged with the exception of three years. 2004 is the second predation. The area's crow population has noticeably increased over the past few years.</p>				
		1		
		1		
		1		
Milk Snake	My 3	1	Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW

**7th Annual Ganaraska Forest Open House & Members' Day**  
Saturday, October 2, 1-4 p.m.

Come and enjoy a fun-oriented fall afternoon in the Ganaraska Forest. Whether you are by yourself, with a friend or with the whole family, you can participate in a variety of activities. There will be guided hikes and a historical tour of the forest, activities for kids, horse-drawn wagon rides, a scavenger hunt on the trails, crafts, bannock, hot apple cider around the campfire and other light refreshments. No pre-registration is

*The following note was received recently from Amanda Newell, Natural Heritage Coordinator, Alderville First Nation. Unfortunately, it was received too late for WBFN members to participate in the event on September 18, but we're printing it anyway in order to update members on the events this season at Alderville's Black Oak Savanna. Contact Amanda (contact information at the end of the article) if you'd like to be take part in the seed collecting event.*

### **Hello from Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna!**

First of all, I'd like to thank those of you who have generously offered your time this season to help better the savanna and tallgrass prairie habitat in Alderville. We couldn't do it without you.

On that note, the season is not quite over. We have at least two more volunteer events happening in the next few weeks. On September 18th, the Nature Conservancy of Canada has organized an insect collection day at the site. Leafhoppers will be the main attraction, with the purpose of studying the biodiversity of leafhoppers in this type of habitat. Volunteers are needed to help collect insects with large butterfly nets. I'm looking forward to some new additions to our ever growing species list! For those of you who aren't quite sure what a leafhopper is, check out: <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/~dietrich/Leafhome.html>.

This first event will be an official Federation of Ontario Naturalists' Volunteer for Nature occasion, so although the cost will be waived, there will be some forms to fill out.

The other event happening this fall will be a seed collection day. I son't have the details worked out yet, but will let you all know when I do.

Please contact me by Monday, Sept. 13th to come out for the leafhopper collection event. Feel free to forward this email to anyone you think might be interested in coming out. September is an amazing time to visit the savanna, and I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

All the best.

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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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