



COMING EVENTS

- 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.
- Sunday, January 30, 2005, 12 noon. Outing** - It will be a drive out Lakeshore Road west of Port Hope to look for shrikes, raptors and owls as well as anything else that might be along the way. It will be mainly a car-based outing with frequent stops. We will meet at the southwest corner of Gilmer's Home Hardware parking lot at noon for car pooling and continue on from that point. Please bring outdoor clothing, spotting scopes, a full tank of gas and personal 2-way radios if you have them. They will aid in communication among cars.
- Saturday, February 19, 2005- Outing to Petroglyphs Provincial Park**. We will meet at the Port Hope carpool lot on Philips Rd. at 9:00 a.m., then at the northeast corner of the Canadian Tire parking lot in Cobourg for carpooling and directions. This will be a walking outing, in potentially deep snow. We will look for signs of winter life in the Kawarthas.
- Friday, February 25, 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. The meeting is also the Annual General Meeting. See page 2 for more details.
- Sunday, March 13, 2005 - Owling Outing** - We would like to incorporate this outing with owling for the Breeding Bird Atlas. If you have owling left to be done in your square, please e-mail or call Ben Walters with information about the location of your square and which owls you need and the level of confirmation that you have. Ben will try to put a route together for approximately three adjacent squares. This will provide you with calling for owls and any response will need to be rechecked within the following week by your own party.

For Outing information, contact Ben Walters at 905-885-8586,

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

ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE AGM—February 25, 2005

The Board is trying this year to make more of an event of the Annual General Meeting. Coffee and goodies will be served at the beginning of the meeting to allow members a bit of social time. Barry Walker has agreed to coordinate a fund-raising bucket raffle along the lines of the one held at the 50th Anniversary Party. Some donations have already been received for the raffle. Contact Barry at 905-885-8250 if you have an item or service to donate. The AGM is the also the regular February meeting.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Sympathy of the club is extended to Marlene Minaker on the death of her husband, Ken, in early December.
- Our sightings' compiler, Ted McDonald had a bout of ill health in the late fall. We are pleased to report that he is quite recovered and started in on his 2005 year list with Northern Hawk Owl west of Welcome on January 1.
- Clive Goodwin has also been in poor health this winter, but is making a gradual recovery. We were pleased to encounter him recently in the field.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Alison Elliott and Ben Walters who have recently announced their engagement.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Daphne Clarke, Port Hope
Douglas and Catherine Galt, Colborne
Sabine and Kegan McDermott, Tearney
and Quinn, Colborne

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40790538
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSED TO
BOX 421
PORT HOPE, ON L1A 3Z3

THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Carole Payne	905-885-6135	bookbind@eagle.ca
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1st Vice-pres.	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	archangel@nhb.com
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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 2005 issue should be received by January 31, 2005. 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 3Z3."

WBFN Executive Board

During the December meeting, your Executive Board had further discussion on developing a long term plan for the Club and the following items were identified for immediate attention.

Media and Communications: The Board is seeking a member or members of the Club who have some experience with media relations and communication skills that will lead to improved relations with the news media and communication with the Club membership as well as the public.

Meeting Accomodation: The Board is seeking assistance from the Club membership to work with Janette Johnston in determining the availability of alternate meeting locations in Cobourg and a new location in the Brighton – Colborne area.

If you have an interest and time to assist the Club in these endeavors, please let Bryan Baxter know at our January General Meeting or contact me at 905-372-6273 or bbaxter@eagle.ca

MORE ON BEARS

The following note was received from Dr. Martyn Obbard, the speaker at the November general meeting. He spoke to us about black bears, but you may have seen him in a TVO documentary about Polar Bears in the James Bay lowlands which aired over the holiday season just past.

The editor of your club's newsletter was interested in the web site address for information on the Bear Wise program. People could access the general OMNR web site at: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/>, then click on the Bear Wise logo on the left hand side of the page.

Alternatively, to access the Bear Wise site directly, go to: <http://bears.mnr.gov.on.ca/>

I enjoyed talking to your club on Friday - thanks for the opportunity. Who would be the best person to contact if I wanted to obtain all the members' sightings of bears? I'm quite interested in the status of bear populations along the southern fringe of the range.

Best regards,
Martyn

In response to the query in the last paragraph of Martyn's note, Elizabeth Kellogg has agreed to collect Black Bear sightings and forward them to Martyn. Sightings from past years are also valuable, so search your field notebooks for records of bears and make note of any bears you encounter in coming seasons. Bear records include tracks and scat as well as actual face-to-face encounters. Include the date of the sighting and the location as accurately as you can. Many people carry GPS units now, so locations can be recorded in detail, but major crossroads or community locations would also be acceptable. You can contact Elizabeth at 905-885-9615 or ekrf@eagle.ca or 14 Durham St., Port Hope, ON L1A 1G7.

LONE PINE GROWS!

The Lone Pine Marsh has been given a generous donation of land from George and Patricia Wilkinson. The fifty acre parcel includes thirty acres of swamp and twenty acres of hardwood bush with Cold Creek flowing through it. The property is three kilometres north of Dundonald, and just downstream from Lone Pine Marsh. Plans for the area do not include any development of trails at the present time.

Marilyn Harris
WBFN Rep. to Lone Pine Marsh Board

Book Review

RAMBLES: Selected Writings of Northumberland's Naturalist Orval Kelly.

Published 2004 by Connolly Publishing Ltd., Brighton, Ontario

Rambles is a small 77 page book of selected writings of Northumberland's Orval Kelly, a well respected local newspaperman and early nature columnist; also a charter member of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. He died at the age of 63 years in December 1966. The book consists of 35 columns written for the *Brighton Ensign* and latterly the *Trentonian* between April 1948 and November 1966.

Interestingly, each page is set up in a three column format interspersed liberally with fascinating old-time black and white photos.

During the 1950's and 1960's, my parents and I frequented Presqu'ile Provincial Park on a regular basis. Nearly always, we conversed with Orval and his gracious wife, Verna, at the Park or at their place in Brighton on our way home. Since few birders were around in those days and certainly no hotlines or cell phones existed, it was always great to share your observations. So many memories were relived as I reviewed this book.

In his book, Orval Kelly makes reference to many people and locations known to WBFN members. He refers to the early writings of Charles Fothergill (early 1800's),

an early F.O.N. outing at Willow Beach led by the late Larry McKeever, an outing shared with Kip Reeve in 1950, WBFN club members such as Ted McDonald and the late Dickie and Ralph Carman of Salem. In his September 1965 column, he relates teaming up with WBFN members camping at Presqu'ile. How well I remember that weekend outing on shorebirds!

Interestingly, his first chapter opens with an account of a trip to nearby Scotch Bonnet Island to see the early cormorant colony along with other colonial water species. He notes in July 1948 that there were 270 cormorant nests, up from 40 nests in just 10 years. In October 1948 he states, "My most interesting observation this past summer was a second colony of cormorants on Lake Ontario's Gull Rock between Port Hope and Cobourg." I wonder what Orval's comments would relate regarding this past summer's Cull of 6,030 cormorants at the Presqu'ile colony?

In the 35 selections, each consisting of 2 or 3 pages in length, I was amazed at Orval's overall general interest, expertise and knowledge of the environment; as we basically knew him as an excellent birder. In his columns he featured the collecting of wild

rice at Sugar Island on Rice Lake, artesian wells at Gore's Landing, the implication of shad/alewives and smelt, paper wasps the original paper maker, mud dauber wasps in pottery making, the formation of ice banks at Presqu'ile, annual berry and nut collecting such as huckleberries and butternuts, nature's engineer the beaver, an excellent rundown on 20 early spring flowers, rehabilitation efforts for a young robin, and of course the many birds of Presqu'ile, e.g. waterfowl, warblers and shorebirds. He was particularly fond of Presqu'ile and visited it several times a day in peak seasons. His life list stood at 236 species with 192 being recorded at Presqu'ile. In early days one seldom ventured far afield to bird. However, in July 1950 he left his local haunts and travelled to Willow Beach to see Kip Reeve's nesting Orchard Oriole, a new lifer for him. On the same trip he was thrilled to see a lone Canada Goose. How times have changed!

An overriding theme or thread that ran throughout the book was his great, genuine concern for Northumberland's natural resources and, I might add, long before it was popular to do so! One article dealt with Northumberland and Durham County's bounty on foxes and all the resulting ramifications. He firmly felt tinkering with nature upset the natural and delicate balance of nature. He also expressed very diplomatically the contentious issue of predator control re: wolves and hunting in general, especially in provincial parks. A

severe dust storm over Murray Marsh raised a red flag for the necessity for soil conservation management. He expounded on wildlife populations. Many of the abundant species both flora and fauna he recorded are now struggling or non-existent due to land development, woodlot fragmentation and wetland drainage.

Orval Kelly wrote with a deep sense of appreciation for all living things. In his own quiet way he clearly inspired and educated his readers to protect their natural heritage. Through his regular columns, sprinkled liberally with a delightful sense of humour and an overtone of good conservation practices, he did just this.

The text copy itself is practically letter perfect. However, the Presqu'ile list of birds at the conclusion has a dozen or more typos. It makes one wonder if someone else tried to decipher handwritten field notes. Let's face it, there were not too many checklists available 45 years ago! Perhaps it was a modern day computer glitch, e.g. throated, as in White-throated Sparrow appeared as threated not once but for several species. However this can be easily rectified in subsequent printings. It gives me great pleasure to recommend this easily readable and thought provoking book. It contains many facts of our natural environment at a purely local level by one of our own county's gifted and talented naturalist writers - Orval Kelly

Audrey Wilson

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands died on December 1, 2004 of cancer. He was 93 years of age. Prince Bernhard helped found the World Wildlife Fund in 1961, and served as its first president.

submitted by Don Davis

Below are reprinted two articles which first appeared in the Curlew in 1972. Both are written by E.R. (Ted) McDonald. A Harris's Sparrow, found on the 2004 Christmas Bird Count, is still being seen as this issue goes to press, and has been attracting birders from far and wide to the north end of Kellogg Rd. Since Christmas, a large numbers of Great Gray Owls have been flooding into southern Ontario, creating a great deal of excitement in the birding community and causing many roadside gatherings at dusk along secondary roads. We hope you enjoy this bit of WBFN history. Thanks to Carole Payne for bringing these items to our attention.

From March 1972

A NEW BIRD FOR THE W.B.F.N. RECORDS

The great grey owl, one of Ontario's rarest owls, was spotted in our area this month for the first time. In previous years they have been seen in the surrounding areas. On March 27, 1960 one was seen at Presqu'île and in the month it stayed there, it was seen by many naturalists. In March of 1965, two separate sightings were made in the Peterborough area, then on March 6, 1966 another one turned up at Presqu'île Park.

In late February 1971, D. Sadler found two near Codrington. These stayed for over a month and could be seen regularly hunting along the road north of Codrington. They were seen by naturalists from near and far ... a most remarkable sighting of two in one area.

Now, finally, we have our first record of this large owl in our bird club area. This bird was reported to local birder R. John by Reed Marsh, a fellow worker at the Eldorado plant. He described a bird which hit their window while chasing a small animal. It then sat nearby in a tree where they were able to observe it at close range. The description led Roy to call other birders to go out to check it out. Along with E. McDonald he went to the area north of the Bethesda South Church and after a bit of hunting, found the large great grey in an elm tree just east of the road.

The next day, Saturday, it was seen by several naturalists and seen again on February 17th.

With this sighting, we can add to the W.B.F.N. record book: Great Gray Owl, one, February 11th, 1972.

Radio and newspaper editors please note: Do not give location to guard against the bird being shot by some thoughtless, trigger-happy person.

From April 1972

ANOTHER NEW SPECIES FOR OUR W.B.F.N. AREA

The latest addition to the local bird records is a bird from western Canada. An immature Harris's sparrow turned up at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. G. Ashdown on Ontario Street N. in Cobourg. On March 12th they saw an odd song sparrow which came to the feeder. After two or three days, they mentioned the unusual visitor to Miss Audrey Wilson who went to see it on March 16th and identified it as an immature Harris's sparrow. It has since been seen by several local naturalists.

Although it is quite out of its proper range, it is no stranger to southern Ontario. One immature wintered at Peterborough in 1962 for our closest sighting. They have been recorded in various places since and most recently an immature has been frequenting a feeder at Bronte since mid-February.

This sighting of the Harris's sparrow at Cobourg is our 285th species to be recorded within our club area.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Just before Christmas, several past presidents, the president, the first vice-president and an 'ordinary' member of WBFN met together with a current membership list in hand, to suggest names to fill the vacant positions on the executive. This depth of experience helps to ensure that as many people are considered as possible. A list is put together and prioritised. Then the immediate past president gets on the phone and begins the task of finding the person or persons who have the time and the interest to volunteer. (Terry Stopps called me three years in a row before I agreed to stand for second vice-president and then shook in my boots and tried to beg off the position until I actually took on the job of president....)

All this is background to demystify the process of how we come up with names to present to the annual meeting. Four positions for director are open for the two year period 2005-2007. We are grateful that three of our current directors have agreed to put their names forward for a renewed term: Bill Newell, Roger Frost and Audrey Wilson. We are especially grateful to Audrey who is continuing on the board of WBFN as she is concurrently working very hard with Russell Lake and others on its board to launch the newly constituted Northumberland Land Trust. As current chair of the nominating committee, I am delighted to report that we have found two excellent candidates to fill positions that have become vacant. Louise Schmidt, our current programme co-ordinator, has agreed to fill the position of director, replacing Jim Tedford, who has bowed out because of his teaching responsibilities. Karen Drew, one of our newest members, has agreed to be our secretary. She replaces Jean Wilson, who told us when she accepted the position that she would only serve one term. Jim added excellent ideas to the executive and Jean was a super secretary, who never let anything get by her and produced excellent minutes. Thanks to those who are leaving and to those who are joining.

Also, Bryan has reminded me to advise our membership that our club's constitution states in its policy about elections that "Further nominations from the floor shall be accepted, with the nominees' prior consent, provided that they are proposed and seconded."

Carole Payne, Chair, Nominating Committee

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

THE W. JOHN D. EBERLIE RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT

In memory of long-time member, W. John D. Eberlie, the Toronto Entomologists' Association offers a research travel award of \$300 to assist graduate or undergraduate students conducting original field research into Ontario insects. The award is intended as a travel grant to defray costs of travel to field sites used for research. The award will be made on the basis of merit and quality.

Eligibility: Applicants must be members of the Toronto Entomologists's Association and a graduate or undergraduate student at an Ontario university.

How to apply: Submit a properly completed application form, available from the T.E.A. The original application plus 3 copies must be submitted to the T.E.A., postmarked no later than March 25, 2005.

Application details, including an application form in PDF format can be found at: www.ontarioinsects.org.

PORT HOPE-COBOURG CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2004

On December 18th, the Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count was held. The 42 participants covered an area from Willow Beach to Lucas Point along Lake Ontario, and north to Bewdley. A total of 19,947 birds of 74 species was found with an additional 6 species seen count week.

One new species was seen. A Harris's Sparrow was found at the north end of Kellogg Rd. in Port Hope Ward 2. A Little Gull seen count week at Cobourg would also have been a new species if it had been seen on count day.

Other highlights were 4 Harlequin Ducks in Port Hope Harbour, 1 Turkey Vulture at Wesleyville interchange on the 401, 2 Common Ravens on Anderson Rd. in Port Hope Ward 2, and Brown Thrasher on Bickle Hill Rd. in Hamilton Township.

Roger Frost, Compiler

Species	Total
Horned Grebe	5
Great Blue Heron	5
Mute Swan	6
Canada Goose	4937
Green-winged Teal	1
American Black Duck	98
Mallard	953
American Wigeon	2
Redhead	8
Greater Scaup	113
Lesser Scaup	52
White-winged Scoter	33
Harlequin Duck	4
Oldsquaw	584
Common Goldeneye	627
Bufflehead	179
Hooded Merganser	CW
Common Merganser	34
Red-breasted Merganser	160
Turkey Vulture	1
Northern Harrier	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11
Cooper's Hawk	6
Red-tailed Hawk	49
Rough-legged Hawk	9
American Kestrel	1
Ruffed Grouse	6
Wild Turkey	86
Little Gull	CW
Bonaparte's Gull	CW
Ring-billed Gull	763
Herring Gull	777
Iceland Gull	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	CW
Glaucous Gull	8
Great Black-backed Gull	51
Rock Dove	914
Mourning Dove	594
Eastern Screech-Owl	5
Great Horned Owl	6
Barred Owl	CW
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2
Owl Sp.	2

Species	Total
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5
Downy Woodpecker	80
Hairy Woodpecker	49
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	8
Horned Lark	14
Blue Jay	437
American Crow	984
Common Raven	2
Black-capped Chickadee	1192
Red-breasted Nuthatch	26
White-breasted Nuthatch	97
Brown Creeper	2
Carolina Wren	CW
Winter Wren	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4
American Robin	433
Brown Thrasher	1
Bohemian Waxwing	16
Cedar Waxwing	71
Northern Shrike	17
European Starling	1810
Northern Cardinal	87
American Tree Sparrow	617
Song Sparrow	11
White-throated Sparrow	12
Harris's Sparrow	1
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Slate-colored Junco	887
Snow Bunting	309
Brown-headed Cowbird	3
Purple Finch	22
House Finch	351
Common Redpoll	144
Pine Siskin	3
American Goldfinch	669
House Sparrow	478
Total Species	74
Total Individuals	19947

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Ted McDonald

Red-throated Loon	Nov. 9	1	off Lake St., PH	RF
	Nov. 12	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 26	1	off D'Arcy St., Cob.	MB
	Nov. 30	1	PH west beach	RF
Common Loon	Nov. 8	86	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 9	200+	off Wicklow Beach	MB
	Nov. 29	1	in Cobourg Harbour	MB
Horned Grebe	Nov. 9	45	off Wicklow Beach	MB
	Nov. 16	12	Lucas Point	MB
	Nov. 12	19	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 29-30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 14	2	off Lucas Point	MB
Red-necked Grebe	Nov. 7/9	2/1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Great Blue Heron	Nov. 10	1	Cobourg Mill Golf	AEW
	Nov. 23	1	Garden Hill area	DW
	Dec. 3	1	Covert Creek, Cob.	MB
	Dec. 5	1	Cobourg Mill Golf	AEW
	Dec. 12	1	s. of Colborne	JF
	Dec. 17	1	over downtown Co-	MB
	Dec. 18	2	Cobourg Creek/Peace	MB
Brant	Nov. 1-6	2/1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
Snow Goose	Nov. 1-17	1 imm.	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
Mute Swan	Nov. 7-Dec. 31	2 ad, 4 imm	Cobourg lakefront	MB
	Nov. 12	6	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 13	6	off Lake St., PH	EB
Tundra Swan	Nov. 1-2	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 1/19	1	off Lake St., PH	RF/HMcL
	Nov. 19-21	1	Cobourg Lakefront	MB
	Dec. 22	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Wood Duck	Nov. 26	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Black Duck	Nov. 13	2	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Gadwall	Nov. 9	2	Garden Hill pond	RF
	Nov. 12/20	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Wigeon	Nov. 1-Dec. 31	3	Cobourg Harbour	MObs.
Green-winged Teal	Nov. 5	4	Lake St. Marsh, PH	MB
Canvasback	Nov. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Ring-necked Duck	Dec. 22	1f	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Bufflehead	Oct. 29	45	off Lucas Point	AEW
	Dec. 23	16	off Lake St., PH	DSv
Common Goldeneye	Nov. 8	48	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
White-winged Scoter	Nov. 12	2	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Black Scoter	Dec. 12	2	off Lake St., PH	RF, BW
Harlequin Duck	Dec. 12-18/Dec.	4/3	mouth of Ganaraska	RD, BW, MObs
Ruddy Duck	Nov. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Hooded Merganser	Nov. 5	1 yg. m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Nov. 15	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 19	1	Cobourg Harbour	HMcL
	Nov. 21	2	Peace Park, Cob.	CEG
Common Merganser	Nov. 11	8	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Red-breasted Merganser	Nov. 14	735	passing off Lakeshore	LW
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Dec. 6	1		JJ
	Dec. 16	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
	Jan. 2	1	Roseneath Landing	DS

Sightings - cont'd.

Cooper's Hawk	Nov. 11	1 imm	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Dec. 1	1 ad.	foot of Brook Rd.S., Cob.	MB
	Dec. 4	1	Deblaquire St., PH	GMCD
	Dec. 5	1	Victoria St.N., PH	WO
	Dec. 18	1	Young St., PH	NW
Northern Goshawk	Dec. 16	1 imm	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BL
Red-shouldered Hawk	Nov. 13	1 imm	Hwy 28 n. of PH on roadside hydro pole	MB
Red-tailed Hawk	Nov. 10	1	Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW
	Nov. 19	1	Hwy 401 & 28, PH	SMcL
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov. 27	6+	Lakeshore Rd. w. of PH	MB
(light phase)	Dec. 26	1	Choate Rd., PH Ward 2	CSAM
	Dec. 28	9	Lakeshore Rd. w. of PH	MB
Merlin	Nov. 9/12	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Peregrine Falcon	Nov. 7	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 30	1	Lakeshore Rd., PH	RF, JGoe
Wild Turkey	Dec. 2	25	Danforth Rd. & Brookside, Cob.	HMcL
	Dec. 16	20	Hwy 28 & 5th Line, PH Ward 2	BL
	Dec. 16	30	Mail Rd. & Wesleyville Rd., PH Ward 2	BL
	Dec. 22	25	Canton area	DW
American Coot	Nov. 1-25	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Black-bellied Plover	Nov. 19	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	CEG
Sanderling	Nov. 11	1	Cobourg west beach	MB
White-rumped Sandpiper	Nov. 12-18	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	CEG, MB
Purple Sandpiper	Dec. 3, 7, 8	1-2	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Dunlin	Nov. 6	16	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
	Nov. 5-19	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	MB
Wilson's Snipe	Oct. 24	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Little Gull	Nov. 8	1 ad.	off Brook Rd.S., Cob.	MB
	Nov. 15	1	off Roseneath Landing	DS
	Dec. 16	1 ad.	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	MB
Bonaparte's Gull	Nov. 7	160	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 15	20	off Roseneath Landing	DS
	Nov. 16	157	Cobourg Harbour & D'Arcy St.	MB
	Nov. 26-30	85	off Cobourg west beach	MB
	Nov. 28	500	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 16	78	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Iceland Gull	Nov. 7	1 imm	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Dec. 15	3	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Nov. 28	1 juv.	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 15	1 ad., 1 juv.	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Glaucous Gull	Dec. 15-31	1-8	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
Barred Owl	Nov. 9	1	PH Conservation Area	RF
	Dec. 2	1	Port Britain on fence post	MB
	Dec. 22	1	Baltimore area—catching & eating mice	SH
Eastern Screech Owl	Dec. 25	1	6th Line & Little Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MAC
Snowy Owl	Nov. 22	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 8, 9	1	Cobourg Harbour breakwater	MB
	Dec. 10	1	Theatre Rd. & Hwy. 2	LS
	Dec. 12	1	Cobourg Harbour	RF, BW
	Dec. 22	1	Gage's Creek nr. Lake Ontario	EB
Great Gray Owl	Nov. 26, 30	1	Lakeshore Rd., PH	ER, MR
	Dec. 28	3	Lakeshore Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
	Jan. 1	2	Cty. Rd. 18 & Beaver Meadow Rd.	SW
	Jan. 2	2	Roseneath Landing	DS

Sightings - cont'd.

Short-eared Owl	Dec. 25	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore	RF
Boreal Owl	Nov. 3	1 banded	Candlewick Woods	RF
Northern Hawk Owl	Dec. 24	1	Choate Rd. & Sleeman Dr., PH Ward 2	SM
	Jan. 1	1	Hwy. 2 & Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM, MObs
Belted Kingfisher	Nov. 14	1	Wicklow Beach	MB
	Nov. 21	1	Nawautin Shores, Grafton	BS
	Dec. 2	1	Nawautin Shores, Grafton	HMCL
	Dec. 9	2	Cobourg Creek Golf Course	AEW
	Dec. 18	1	Cobourg Creek/Peace Park	MB
Red-headed Woodpecker	Nov. 13	1	s. of Colborne	JF
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nov. 13	3	Kennedy Rd.	BE-E
	Nov. 17	3	Camborne Area	BE-E
	Nov. 23/Dec. 7/25-31	1 f	Durham St., PH	EK
	Nov. 30	1	Dorset St.W., PH	DSv
	Dec. 9/25	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMCL
	Dec. 26	1	Little Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MAC
	Dec. 30	1 f	Williams Rd.	AEW
Pileated Woodpecker	Jan. 2	2	Roseneath Landing	DS
Northern Shrike	Nov. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 7	1	Willow Beach Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	JMcG
	Nov. 20-29	1	Garden Hill area	DW
Gray Jay	Dec. 27	1	Jack Gordon Rd., Cold Springs	SW
Horned Lark	Nov. 6	50	west of Welcome	GB
	Dec. 1	4	Thomas Rd., Wicklow	MB
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Nov. 9	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMCL
Eastern Bluebird	Jan. 2	3	Roseneath Landing area	DS
American Robin	Jan. 2	1	Roseneath Landing area	DS
American Pipit	Nov. 8	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Bohemian Waxwing	Dec. 18	16	near Cobourg Creek	MB
	Jan. 2	100	Roseneath Landing	DS
Cedar Waxwing	Dec. 7	150	D'Arcy St., Cob.	MB
	Dec. 21	12	s. of Colborne	KB
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Nov. 15	1	Cobourg Harbour parking lot	CEG
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dec. 6	1	Cobourg Harbour w. headland—very late	MB
Savannah Sparrow	Nov. 11	2	Garden Hill area	DW
Song Sparrow	Dec. 6	1	Cobourg Harbour w. headland	MB
White-throated Sparrow	Dec. 13	1	Durham St., PH	EK
	Dec. 13/19/31	1	Deblaquiere St.N., PH	GMCD
	Dec. 26	1	Little Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MAC
	Dec. 30	2	Kellogg Rd. s. of Loyalist Rd.	MB
	Dec. 30	1	Welcome	KMcH
Harris's Sparrow	Dec. 18-31	1 imm.	Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	RF, MObs
Dark-eyed Junco	Nov. 1-15	11-12	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Dec. 24	22	Cavan Rd. & Cty. Rd. 9	DSv
Snow Bunting	Nov. 1	6	Cobourg Harbour w. headland	MB
	Nov. 8	30	Cobourg lakefront	MB
	Dec. 12	800	Lakeshore Rd. & Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
	Dec. 16	15	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BL
	Dec. 30	500	Choate Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
Redwinged Blackbird	Nov. 11	1	Garden Hill area	DW
Brown-headed Cowbird	Dec. 21	1	s. of Colborne	JF

Sightings - cont'd.

Common Grackle	Nov. 9	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
	Nov. 15-17	1	feeder, Albert St., Cob.	MB
Purple Finch	Nov. 3	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 4, 5	1f	feeders, Albert St., Cob.	MB
	Nov. 11	2	Deblaire St.N., PH	GMCD
House Finch	Dec. 6	10	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Common Redpoll	Nov. 25	1	Wicklow Beach	MB
	Dec. 14	64	Cobourg Harbour w. headland	MB
	Dec. 17	6	Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW
	Dec. 19	2	Deblaire St.N., PH	GMCD
	Dec. 20-25	50 max	Durham St., PH	EK
	Jan. 2	30	Roseneath Landing	DS
Hoary Redpoll	Dec. 22	1	Durham St., PH	RF
Pine Siskin	Nov. 2-5	15-20	feeders, Albert St., Cob.	MB
	Nov. 6-14	4-5	feeders, Albert St., Cob.	MB
	Nov. 3-4	5	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 11	2	Deblaire St.N., PH	GMCD
	Dec. 12	2	s. of Colborne	JF, KB
	Dec. 18	1	Cobourg feeder	MB
	Jan. 2	20	Roseneath Landing	DS
American Goldfinch	Nov. 9	29	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Red Admiral	Oct. 12	1	Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW
Coyote	Sept. 30	4	Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW
White-tailed Deer	Nov. 23	2	Canton area	DW
Muskrat	Nov. 30	1	s. of Colborne	KB
Dandelions in bloom	Dec. 1		Young St., PH	NW

Observers: MB=Margaret Bain; GB=Graydon Bowman; KM=Kim Braat; MAC=Mary Anne Cooper; GMCD=Geoff Dale; BE-E=Barbara Edwardes-Evans; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGoe=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; SH=Susan Hamilton; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BL=Bill Logan; ERM=Ted McDonald; JMcG=John McGuirk; KMcH=Kathryn McHolm; HMcl=Helga McLernon; SMcL=Sherwood McLernon; AMcL=Andy McLaughlin; CSAM=Craig McLaughlin; SM=Simone Mèrey; MObs.=Many Observers; WO=Walter Osborn; ER=Eric Rose; MR=Marilyn Rose; LS=Louise Schmidt; DS=Dave Shirley; BS=Bob Short; DSv=Daphne Svenningson; NW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; DW=Doug Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson

MORNING ENCOUNTER

Just before dawn, one December morning, I looked out our window and there, looking back at me was a BARRED OWL. He was sitting on a low branch of the maple tree about 15 feet away and his attention immediately went back to watching the ground intently. After a few minutes he lifted one foot and revealed the dead mouse or vole he had been clutching, then gobbled it down and resumed his scrutiny of the ground. Suddenly, he swooped down under the bird feeder and with a crunch of snow, snatched up another rodent and returned to his roost and ate it on the spot. (YES! One less mouse in our house!) We were rooting for a third but the next lunge came up empty.

By this time it was beginning to get quite light and our local posse of Blue Jays arrived and fanned out in the tree above him, squawking and scolding at this interloper. A few chickadees added to the racket. He bore it for few more minutes, then I swear he gave me one last glance, dropped of the branch and glided off through the spruce trees.

Susan Hamilton watches her feeders in Baltimore

PETER'S WOODS MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONAL REPORT 2004

VISITORS

Registered visitors totalled 1,330, down by 90 from last year. Several reports of visitors not signing in were noted. A field-mouse persisted in nesting in the visitor's record box, destroying some records before being discouraged. July showed a decrease of over 100 visitors, while August increased the same amount. This may have been weather related.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

May	197	July	127	September	204
June	200	August	277	October	325

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

903 local visitors (within 1 hour drive)

312 other Ontario visitors

25 other Canadian visitors

31 United States visitors

59 visitors from other countries

GROUP VISITORS

Durham Field Naturalists

Willow Beach Field Naturalists

Oak Ridges Trail Association

Oak Ridges Moraine Association

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

WBFN Summer Bird Census

Forest Bird Monitoring

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Six people attended the opening May 1:

Toilet interiors were swept out and washed, while a general clean up of the driveway and parking lot was done. The group walked the trail clearing debris, and branches.

Closing on November 6 consisted of securing toilet doors, repair to the large bench, and closing the gate.

Twenty-eight volunteers spent approximately 80 hours regularly checking, cleaning, providing supplies, cutting grass, etc.

COMMENTS

On October 3, the Hamiltons found rotting garbage strewn in the long grass NE of parking lot, and carried out all they could. They telephoned the Grahams, to advise them of the situation, and to be prepared. The Grahams picked up a large bag of "rotten freezer packages", wearing masks as the stench was so bad. These people are to be commended for their dedication to the care of Peter's Woods.

On July 19, the Stewardship Rangers placed 21 pieces of slab-wood over the north section of the trail, where walking was difficult due to water run-off.

Willow Beach Field Naturalists provided \$100 for photocopies of 500 newly designed Trail Guides.

Opening is scheduled for April 30, 2005 and closing November 5, 2005.

submitted by Russell Lake

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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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