



COMING EVENTS

•**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 northwest 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, 7:00 p.m.** - District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope **Annual General Meeting.** *Please note the change of starting time from that previously published.*

(*More details on page 2.*) Speaker: **Bill Crowley.** Topic: **Potpourri.** A selection of slides from Bill's outstanding collection of nature photographs.

•**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.

Friday, April 1, 2005, 7:30 p.m. - Cobourg Public Library (*Please note that this is the "March" meeting, scheduled so to avoid Easter weekend.*)

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.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 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 also the regular February meeting

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and Bucket Raffle Viewing with Ticket Sales.
- 7:30 p.m. Annual General Meeting - Election and Reports.
- 8:00 p.m. Announcements and Guest Speaker.
Bill Crowley presents a **Potpourri** - A selection of slides from Bill's out standing collection of nature photographs.
- 9:00 p.m. Bucket Raffle.
- 9:30 p.m. Adjournment

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Norbert Kuehn and Martha Robinson, Port Hope
Diana Storen, Cobourg

Alnwick/Haldimand's Heritage Day

is to be held upstairs at the Grafton Township Hall on Saturday, February 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be an exhibit of tallgrass prairie sites, species, etc., put up by Ed Heuvel. Barry King plans to be there with some drawings of historic buildings.

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
2nd Vice-pres.	Michael Biggar	905-372-7407	mbiggar@eagle.ca
Secretary	Jean Wilson	905-372-6930	
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FON Rep.	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	smerey@nhb.com
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 March 2005 issue should be received by February 28, 2005. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the March Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

WBFN President's Report 2004-05

Members of the Executive Board conduct monthly meetings to manage the affairs of our club and on your behalf; appreciation is extended to the following members of the Board for the many hours of time they have devoted to the Board's activities and deliberations:

Officers:
Past President Carole Payne
1st Vice President..... Simone Merey
2nd Vice President..... Michael Biggar
Secretary..... Jean Wilson
Treasurer Janette Johnston

Directors:
Alison Elliott
Roger Frost
Russell Lake
Bill Newell
Jim Tedford
Audrey Wilson

Activity Co-Ordinators:
Bird Counts Roger Frost
Education Bruce Parker
Meeting Programs Louise Schmidt
Outings Ben Walters

Special thanks are extended to retiring Secretary Jean Wilson for diligently recording our discussions and decisions for both Board meetings and Membership meetings during the past two years.

During this past twelve months, the Executive Board addressed many issues and initiated several activities, most of which are summarized as follows:

- Undertook a protracted planning exercise to identify issues, projects, objectives and concerns of the club, resulting in the preparation of a work plan which will be printed soon in the Curlew
- Successfully nominated Bill Newell for an Ontario Volunteer Service Award
- Participated in the Cobourg Pitch-in Week
- Conducted the Northumberland Bird Count in June, the Christmas Bird Count in December and the Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey in January
- Updated the WBFN promotional pamphlet
- Sponsored an environmental award program for local elementary and secondary schools
- Sponsored a Youth Photography competition for the Port Hope Fall Fair
- Conducted an expanded Outings Program with monthly activities in the field
- Submitted a concern to the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the Presqu'isle Double-Crested Cormorant hunt
- Endorsed the cancellation of the Algonquin Park wolves hunting and trapping season
- Endorsed the Province's Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt Proposal
- Endorsed the additions to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk proposed by Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada
- Participated in the Port Hope Natural Homestead Tour
- Assisted the Cobourg & Area Environmental Committee to dissolve and allocate funds to the Cobourg Ecology Garden and Arboretum
- Prepared a table display for Nature Conservancy Canada's celebration for the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative
- Toured The Owl Foundation facility at Vineland Station
- Established a Website Committee to investigate the feasibility and purpose of a website for the club
- Established a Committee to explore options for membership meeting locations in Cobourg and the Brighton-Colborne area
- Welcomed Barry and Margaret Robinson as new distributors of the *Curlew*
- Monitoring the impact of the Port Hope Sewage Plant expansion project on the A.K. Sculthorpe Woodland Marsh
- Monitoring the Tucker Creek land development proposal in Port Hope

- Participating in the Ontario Parks Management Planning process for Peter’s Woods and Burnley-Carmel
- Participating in the development of a Restoration Strategy for the Oak Ridges Moraine with the Northumberland Stewardship Council and Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
- Fostering a consultative relationship with Presqu’isle Park Management staff
- Provided with opportunity to participate in review of Port Hope Waterfront Revitalization Concept Plan
- Participating in the land use planning process for North-east lands in Cobourg
- Provided the John McGuirck family with a complimentary membership in appreciation of their hospitality to allow access to their property to view the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher which visited Western Northumberland in August
- Approved a contribution of \$1,000 from the Property Account to Northumberland Land Trust to assist with start-up costs
- Reviewing a request from Ontario Nature for a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to continue an initiative for the implementation of the Southern Ontario Greenway Strategy
- Considering a donation to Nature Conservancy Canada for the acquisition of the Windmill Ranch property on the Carden Alvar
- Approved four \$100 donations to Avian Care and Research Foundation, Bird Studies Canada, Flight Light Accident Prevention, and The Owl Rehabilitation Foundation
- Approved a donation of \$65 to the Outdoor Education Centre for tall grass prairie plantings
- Prepared a recommendation to the membership to increase annual fees
- Provided eight entertaining and informative programs for general membership meetings
- Provided eight entertaining and informative editions of the Curlew

The Executive Board depends on the contributions of many volunteers to carry out the mandate and programs of WBFN. The Board is pleased to acknowledge and thank the following members who willingly provide many services throughout the year:

Auditor: Bill McCarthy
 Cobourg Land Use: Clive Goodwin, Russell Lake, Terry Stopps
 Curlew Circulation: Carole Payne/Barry and Margaret Robinson
 Curlew Publication: Elizabeth Kellogg and Norma Wallace
 FON Representative: Simone Mérey
 Kawartha Highlands: Bob Short
 Lone Pine Marsh: Marilyn and Bob Harris
 Peter’s Woods: Russ Lake
 Port Hope Land Use: Carole Payne
 Raffles – Monthly Meetings: Sharon Pickering and Andy McLaughlin
 Raffle – Annual Meeting: Barry Walker
 Waterfront Trail: Petra Kennedy

The Board also extends appreciation to Judy Grimshaw, General Manager of Victoria Retirement Living in Cobourg for generously donating accommodation and refreshments for our monthly Board meetings.

Two members of WBFN have made significant contributions to our Club recently and we are pleased to recognize Minnie Pennell for her donation of a Saul Williams limited print and Bill Crowley for his donation of three photographic prints which will be the subject of a raffle lottery this year with the winning tickets to be drawn at 2006 Annual General Meeting. Thanks Minnie and Bill. Of course, thanks is conveyed to all the donors who willingly provide prizes for our monthly meeting draws and the annual bucket draw to raise funds to provide programs and activities for members of WBFN.

In conclusion, members of your Executive Board look forward to serving the membership during the next year with a plan of action that includes the continuation of successful programs and the introduction of new activities for all members of our club. We invite your participation in the opportunities that will be provided to accomplish our objectives.

Respectfully submitted,
 Bryan Baxter, President.
 February 25, 2005.

Minutes of Willow Beach Field Naturalist Annual General Meeting February, 27, 2004

1. Call to Order

Carole Payne called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm at the Port Hope Health Unit. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Sixty nine people were present.

2. Minutes

Jean Wilson read the annual general meeting minutes of February 23rd,/03 and moved the acceptance of the minutes. Motion seconded by Jack Goering. Carried.

3. President's Report

Carole Payne noted that her report had been published in the Curlew. She wanted to add that Emma (Gregg) Sandham and Barbara Edwardes-Evans names should have been included as the people looking after name tags for each meeting. Carole noted one correction. The attendance at the 50th anniversary meeting was closer to 200 than the 400 mentioned. There were no questions. Carole then asked Ben Walters to show three clips from the 50th anniversary video. She thanked people, especially the birders for teaching her.

A motion to ratify and confirm the actions of the WBFN Executive Committee since the last AGM was moved by Bill Newell, seconded by Andy McLaughlan. Carried.

4. Financial Report

Janette Johnston presented her financial report and answered questions. Moved by Bob Short seconded by Jack Goering that the financial report be accepted as read. Carried.

5. Election of Officers

Bob Short Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee put forward the following names for two year terms:

President: Bryan Baxter; 1st Vice President: Simone Merey; 2nd Vice President; Michael Biggar; Treasurer: Janette Johnston; Directors: Russell Lake and Alison Elliott

Nominations were called for from the floor. None forthcoming. Moved by Geoff Dale, seconded by Barry Walker to close nominations. Carried.

Moved by Rod Lee, seconded by Bonnie Walker to elect to the board the names presented. Carried

6. Appointment of Auditor

Moved by Elizabeth Kellogg, seconded by Russell Lake to accept the WBFN recommendation of Bill McCarthy as auditor for WBFN. Carried.

7. Other Business

No other business except Carole wanted to thank Bryan Baxter again for all his work on the Land Trust.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the AGM by Elizabeth Kellogg, seconded by Russell Lake. Carried. Time: 8 pm,

Recording Secretary: V Jean Wilson

**WILLOW BEACH
FIELD NATURALISTS**

2004 Financial Statement

				<u>04 Totals</u>	<u>03 Totals</u>	<u>02 Totals</u>
OPERATING ACCOUNT 2004		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>2 Years Ago</u>
Opening Balances	01-Jan-04			\$ 10,725.59	\$ 10,503.81	\$ 10,305.14
	Bank Balance		\$ 1,991.93			
	Petty Cash		\$ 20.00			
	Total Cash		2011.93			
	<u>Investments</u>					
	GIC Royal Bank	Maturing Nov. 29, 2004	\$ 8,713.66			
Revenues				7,341.00	14,770.33	6,886.55
	Memberships		\$ 3,164.00			
	Donations		1,401.00			
	Raffles		325.05			
	Video Sales 50th		200.00			
	GST Rebate		94.50			
	Cobourg Area Environmental Association		950.56			
	Wallace Birdathon		811.00			
	Baillie Birdaton		220.00			
	Interest Income (GIC + Bank)		174.89			
Expenditures				8,216.51	14,548.55	6,687.88
	Curlew	\$ 1,794.80				
	Canada Post (postage + box)	573.57				
	Meetings (room rentals+ speakers)	685.40				
	Donations	1,060.00				
	Insurance (Liability and D & O)	1,065.00				
	Town of Cobourg for ecology garden	950.56				
	General Expenses	324.76				
	Peter's Woods	97.20				
	Soft Science Video	356.85				
	Property Account from W. Birdathon	811.00				
	GST	210.07				
	Bird Counts	38.35				
	ON membership fee	150.00				
	Walking Sticks (speaker gifts)	80.00				
	Miscellaneous (book gift)	18.95				
Surplus or Deficit (2004)				-875.51	221.78	198.67
Final Operating Balance Dec.31, 2004				9,850.08	10,725.59	10,354.53
	Bank balance		941.67			
	Petty cash		20.00			
	Total		961.67			
	Investment GIC Royal Bank		8,888.41			
	maturing Nov.29, 2006					

Operating Account Notes:

1. General Expenses include: supplies, photocopying, etc.

PROPERTY FUND 2004		Debit	Credit	Current Year	Previous Year	2 Years Ago
				2004 Totals	2003 Totals	2002 Totals
Opening Balances	01-Jan-04			36,358.90	39,783.38	38,074.88
Cash			\$ 275.88			
Investments						
1. GIC maturing May 16, 2004			10,719.71			
2. GIC maturing May 23, 2004			10,375.00			
3. GIC maturing Nov. 28, 2004			14,988.31			
Credit Transactions				1,595.67	1,575.52	1,708.50
Interest on GICs			784.67			
Donation from Wallace Birdathon			811.00			
Debit Transactions						
Northumberland Land Trust (appendix 2)		1,000.00		1000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Closing Balances	31-Dec-04			36,954.57	36,358.90	39,783.38
Cash			86.88			
Investments						
1. GIC maturing May 17 2005			10,961.56			
2. GIC maturing May 25, 2005			10,609.72			
3. GIC maturing Nov. 29, 2005			15,296.41			
WBFN TOTAL ASSETS, OPERATING AND PROPERTY ACCOUNTS				46,804.65	47,084.49	50,137.91
Appendix 1: Donations made in 2004 (from Operating Account)						
Bluebird Project, Hazel Bird			65.00			
Port Hope Agricultural Society			20.00			
Cobourg D.C.I. West			250.00			
C.R. Gummow Public School			250.00			
Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre			75.00			
Avian Care and Research			100.00			
Owl Foundation			100.00			
Fatal Light Awareness Program			100.00			
Long Point Bird Observatory			100.00			
Northumberland Land Trust		1,000.00				
Total Donations 2004				2,060.00	6,415.00	1,057.00
Appendix 2: Northumberland Trust Donation came from Property Account						

PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK Waterfowl Festival

March 12, 13, 19, 20, 2005

Come celebrate the return of spring! Volunteer naturalists will help you view and identify over 25 different species of ducks, geese and swans. Also, check out the carving displays and daily children's activities.

Membership Fee Increase Proposal

The Executive Board has prepared budgets to project revenues and expenses for the next two years and unfortunately is projecting a deficit in both years primarily due to an increase in expenses (i.e. insurance costs, *Curlew* printing and distribution costs, meeting room costs). While the Board continues to address various means to reduce expenses and increase revenues, it has reached the conclusion that membership fees should not only be increased but the structure should be adjusted as well. Therefore, the Board recommends that the annual membership fees be \$25.00 per family and \$23.00 single, effective January 1, 2006. The current membership fees are \$20.00 per family, \$18.00 single, \$18.00 Senior Couple, \$16.00 Senior Single. The budgets for 2005 and 2006 are as follows:

WBFN Budget for 2005 and 2006		
	2005	2006
Revenue		
Memberships	3,200	4,395
Donations	1,300	1,300
Raffles	300	300
Special Raffle	1,000	500
Baillie Birdathon	200	200
Interest	175	175
GST	90	90
Total	6,265	6,960
Expenditures		
Curlew & Postage	2,500	2,600
Meetings (Accomod. & Speakers)	1,000	1,000
Donations	1,000	1,000
Peter's Woods	100	100
FON Fees	150	150
Insurance	1,200	1,400
General Expense	300	300
GST	200	200
Bird Counts	100	100
Miscellaneous	300	300
Curlew Binding	640	
Total	7,490	7,150
Deficit	1,225	190

OWL BANDING AT CANDLEWICK WOODS - 2004

by Roger Frost

Two thousand and four was the eighth year of owl banding at Candlewick Woods. The 43 Northern Saw-whet Owls banded were the lowest number since 1998. Candlewick Woods is a small woodlot on the north shore of Lake Ontario about 4 km. west of Port Hope. On 12 nights between September 26 and November 3, banding attempts were made, resulting in 45 hours of banding effort. This was a much reduced effort than last year's 96.5 hours and 17 nights.

As in previous years, the owls were attracted into the nets using a tape recording of Northern Saw-whet Owl calls. The calls were broadcast from a speaker hung about 6.5 feet up a White Cedar tree, which was surrounded by a triangle of 3 - 2.3/8" mesh 40' mist nets.

The low number of owls banded at Candlewick was due mostly to the much reduced banding effort this year. On the night of October 11, a saw-whet was killed in the net by a raccoon. This caused me to immediately shut the station down. Over the next several nights, I made 3 attempts to live-trap and relocate the raccoon(s), without success. The station did not re-open until the evening of October 26. The rest of the season, I spent much of the time sitting by the nets in order to ward off potential predators. Unfortunately, this also frightened off some owls as well. The loss of this critical two weeks at, what historically has been the peak for the Candlewick station, was the biggest factor in the low banding total. Fortunately, there were no more casualties this season. This was the first banding casualty in the history of this project.

This year's peak night was October 26/27 when 12 owls were banded. The flight was quite different than last year's. This year's flight was dominated by adult birds (53%). Last year, only 34% were after hatch year and 66% were hatch year. Most other

eastern North American owl banding stations also reported a large movement of adult birds. This large number of adult birds migrating strongly suggests that there was a crash in the prey populations in the boreal forest. The large irruption of northern owls later in the fall and winter would also support this theory.

The sex ratio was somewhat different this year. Females, as always, dominated, with 65%. Males were only 7% and unknown sex birds 28%. This is a very high proportion of birds where sex could not be determined. Since sex is determined by a combination of weight and wing length, most of these unknown sex birds were probably under-weight females. This would also support the theory of the prey populations crashing in the boreal forest.

No foreign banded owls were captured this year. However, 4 Candlewick banded owls were recaptured elsewhere. Three of these owls were retrapped at Long Point Bird Observatory. One, one-year after banding, one, three years after banding, and one, four years after banding. In addition, a saw-whet banded at Candlewick in 2003 was recaptured at Ridgely, Maryland on November 11, 2004.

The highlight of the season occurred on the evening of November 3, when the last owl captured that night (and for the season) was a Boreal Owl! This was a new species for both the station and for me. No other species of owls were banded this season. Great Horned Owls were heard on most evenings, and a Long-eared Owl was seen on October 28.

Thanks to Bob Sculthorpe for again allowing the use of Candlewick Woods for this project. Also a big thanks to Ted and Louise Schmidt for clearing net lanes and erecting nets at the beginning of the season. Ted may have recovered from the case of poison ivy by now!

BRAND CREEK BANDING - FALL 2004

by Roger Frost

In the fall of 2004, the Willow Beach Banding Group started a new project. With Alison Elliott and Ben Walters now living on Brand Road, we had the opportunity of netting along the creek behind their house. On September 10, with the permission of Lynn and Tony Prower, Ben Walters, Elizabeth Kellogg and myself set up three mist nets among the hawthorns and buckthorns along the creek. Our efforts were rewarded that evening when we captured the first bird at the new station, a Least Flycatcher.

The next morning, with much anticipation, only 2 birds were caught. One Song Sparrow and one Northern Waterthrush. Sunday, Sept. 12 was more productive with 12 birds banded. Mostly, these were a variety of warblers, flycatchers, and chickadees.

On September 14, the station banded its first rarity, when a hatch year Connecticut Warbler was captured.

Generally, the banding totals increased through September and peaked in early October. On October 1, the station had its largest catch when 54 birds were banded. October 5 was another big day when 45 birds were banded. The reason for this peak was the arrival of large numbers of White-throated Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. To aid in the capture of the sparrows, two ground traps, baited with seed, were also used. Banding totals remained good well into October until they tapered off at the end of the month.

Overall, the station operated on 20 days

from September 11 to October 29. In that time, 433 birds of 39 species were banded. Included in the banding highlights were Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blackpoll Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Tennessee Warbler.

On most of the 20 days the station was covered, the nets were only open for 2 or 3 hours in the morning, or a couple of hours in the evening. Occasionally, if we were able to, and the birds were still active, the nets would be open for 5 or 6 hours.

In between net runs, we often had time to do some observing as well. On many mornings, there were large flights of Blue Jays and blackbirds. Sometimes, there were also flights of other songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Some of the more notable sightings were: Black-crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk and Northern Mockingbird.

The station closed on November 9 when the nets were taken down. The last bird of the season was banded when a Black-capped Chickadee blundered into one of the open nets.

Thanks to Ben Walters who assisted in the banding on most days. Thanks to Alison Elliott for assisting on a few days, as well as for numerous cups of teas and goodies. (She doesn't realize this will only encourage us!) Thanks to Graydon Bowman for assisting on several days. Finally, thanks to Winky Thomas, Lynn and Tony Prower for the use of the property for this project.

Ottawa Yorkshire Terrier Attacked by Great Horned Owl

Ottawa-area dog owners recently put Caillou, a three-year-old Yorkshire terrier, weighing about 1.6 kg, outside as usual before bedtime. Fortunately, the owners were looking out the window and saw an owl swoop down and grasp the dog by the neck with its talons. One owner ran outside barefoot in the snow and, grabbed the owl and shook the bird until it released the bloodied pet. Fortunately, the puncture wound on the dog's neck did not need stitches. Birder Bruce Di Labio examined feathers at the scene and suggested that the predator was probably a great-horned owl.

Source: Canadian Press. Submitted by Don Davis

ANOTHER BANDED OWL ENCOUNTERED

On February 3, 2005, as we were beginning to collect material for the February Curlew, Norma Wallace received a telephone call from Eileen Mountain. Her son, Brad, lives at Port Britain and had come across the remains of a dead bird, he thought an owl, which had a band on its leg. Band Number 120427432 proved to be a Northern Saw-whet Owl banded at Candlewick Woods on November 1, 2004, one of the last birds handled last season.

This recovery marks the first time we have received a report of one of our banded owls from a member of the public, and the first time one has been reported because it was dead. All other recoveries from the Candlewick project have been from other banders of birds captured in the course of banding operations and released. It is also interesting that this bird did not migrate, but remained in the area, only about half a mile from the banding site. Candlewick birds have been encountered from such far away locations as coastal Virginia and central Wisconsin, although the majority have been from Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory and Long Point Bird Observatory.

A Barred Owl has been seen regularly in the Port Britain area this winter. Since big owls eat little owls, it is very possible that this saw-whet was a meal for the Barred.

Elizabeth Kellogg

HELLO, MR. OWL

by Gary Little

Mom and Dad had been talking about the recent invasion of northern owls and promised their 2 1/2 year old son, Dalen, my grandson, that they would take him to see one. On a tip from friend, Chris, we planned an outing to Candlewick Woods. As I got into the car, Dalen exclaimed, "Hi Pops. I'm going to see Mr. Owl!" He showed me his new orange, blue and yellow Christmas binoculars. They were 'beauts' and they worked well enough that he could see me from the back of the car!

We made our way out the Lakeshore. His dad, Matt, and I took turns carrying Dalen across the muddy fields to the woods where he could manage largely on his own. After considerable searching, we spotted a Great Gray Owl about 50 feet distant and a second owl further away. Dalen was in awe and quiet for the first time. With considerable reverence, he quietly whispered, "Hello, Mr. Owl."

Almost immediately, the first owl attacked the second owl. In its attempt to escape, the owl confusingly half tumbled, half flew through several saplings, unable to extend its wings. Mr. Owl quickly recovered as it reached the clearing and abruptly veered in our direction at eye level. Matt and I leaned backwards as the owl flew by close enough to touch.

Dalen, mouth agape, watched incredulously as the owl silently flew within 2 feet of his head! Binoculars? Forgotten for now. What a first outing for this little guy, his dad and grandfather.

We had to get home and tell Mommy about "Mr. Owl"!

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Ted McDonald

Red-throated Loon	Jan. 3	1	of Port Hope harbour	AA, TM
Common Loon	Dec. 11	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Horned Grebe	Dec. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 8/11	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Red-necked Grebe	Nov. 21	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Double-crested Cormorant	Dec. 23	1 imm	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Turkey Vulture	Jan. 26	1	Hwy. 401 & Burham St., Cob.	MB
Cackling Geese	Jan. 17	2	PH Harbour	BW
Wood Duck	Jan. 11	2	Brand Creek, PH Ward 2	BW
Gadwall	Dec. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Wigeon	Jan. 1-30	2 m	Cobourg lakeshore	MB, CEG
Northern Pintail	Dec. 16	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Green-winged Teal	Jan. 8	1	Port Hope Harbour	EK
Redhead	Dec. 23	100	high count - Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 3	11	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Greater Scaup	Jan. 11	21	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Lesser Scaup	Jan. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	RF
Bufflehead	Jan. 10	23	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
White-winged Scoter	Dec. 28	20	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 9	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 7-25	1-4m	mouth of Cobourg harbour	MB
	Jan. 11/14	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Jan. 25	4 m	Port Hope Harbour	MB
	Jan. 30	3	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Harlequin Duck	Jan. 1-25	3	Port Hope Harbour area	M.Obs
Hooded Merganser	Dec. 15	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Red-breasted Merganser	Jan. 11	8	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Bald Eagle	Dec. 14/28	1	over Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Dec. 14, 25-26	1 imm	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 26	1	Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	JS
	Jan. 1	1	over Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	GL
	Jan. 4	1 juv.	Port Hope Harbour	MB
	Jan. 4	1	Perrytown Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 3	1	Dickinson Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	MP, DP
	Jan. 6	1 first yr.	Baulch Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 8	1 imm	Port Hope Harbour	GC
	Jan. 24	1 m	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Harrier	Dec. 25	2 imms	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 9	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 9	1	Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 15	2	Cornish Hollow Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JuG
	Jan. 22	1 m	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Dec. 29	1	Lakeshore Rd, Cob.	LW
Cooper's Hawk	Jan. 1	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	GL
	Jan. 6	1	Lakeshore Rd, Cob.	LW
	Jan. 8	1	Durham St., PH	EK
	Jan. 10-25+B83	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 17	1	Choate Rd., PH Ward 2	MH
	Jan. 27	1	Garden Hill area	DW
Northern Goshawk	Jan. 8/11	1	Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	LW
	Jan. 18	1	Garden Hill area	DW, MW
Red-tailed Hawk	Jan. 27	3	Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	GMCD, JGo
Rough-legged Hawk	Jan. 4	1	Wesleyville OPG property	RF
	Jan. 18	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	ERM, BW

Sightings - cont'd.

Merlin	Jan. 11	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 12/14/19	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
	Jan. 28	1	Peter & Hope St., PH	EB
0	Dec. 8	1	dark morph, Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Ruffed Grouse	Jan. 24	1	Harwood area	HB
	Jan. 27	1	Wesleyville area	GMCD, Jgo
Wild Turkey	Jan. 4	25	Beagle Club Rd. & Bowmanton Rd.	RF
	Jan. 10	30+	Hwy. 2/Roseberry Rd., PH Ward	MB
Thayer's Gull	Jan. 4,7	1 ad.	Cobourg Harbour	RF, MB
Iceland Gull	Jan. 1-15	high 2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, MB
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Jan. 2	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 4	1 ad.	Cobourg Harbour	RF
	Jan. 7-25	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 9	1ad, 1 2nd yr.	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Glaucous Gull	Jan. 1-29	high 6	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, BW
Great Black-backed Gull	Jan. 10	3	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Great Horned Owl	Jan. 5	2 calling	7th Line & Knoxville Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Northern Hawk Owl	Jan. 1-31	1	Kellogg Rd. & Hwy. 2, PH Ward 2	M.Obs.
Barred Owl	Jan. 4	1	Sylvan Glen Rd. nr. 4th Line, PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 6	1	Baltimore area	BJ
	Jan. 7	1	e. of Archer Rd., Cob.	AEW
	Jan. 11	1	Port Britain area	RI
	Jan. 11	1	Wesleyville area	RI
	Jan. 30	1	Port Britain, PH Ward 2	Outing
	Jan. 30	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	Outing
Great Gray Owl	Jan. 1-31	max. 4	Lakeshore Rd., PH Ward 2	M.Obs.
	Jan. 4	1	Harris St., PH	RW
	Jan. 8	1	Lakeshore Rd. w. of Lakeport	MB
	Jan. 9	5	Golden Beach to Roseneath	DS
	Jan. 10	1	7th Line & Beech Hill Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 20	1	Westwood Dr., Cob.	BF
	Jan. 21	1	Guideboard Rd., Welcome	GT
	Jan. 21	1	e. of Grafton	JT
Short-eared Owl	Jan. 30	1	Wesleyville OPG property	RF, EK
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Jan. 18	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 18	1	Port Hope Conservation Area	RF
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Dec. 30	1	William's Rd., Cob.	AEW
	Jan. 1-20	1 f	Durham St., PH, feeder+D128	EK
	Jan. 11-23	1 m	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2, feeder	BW
	Jan. 4	1 m	Perrytown Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 25	1	Kennedy Rd., Camborne	BE-E
	Jan. 30	1 m	Port Britain, PH Ward 2	Outing
Northern Flicker (m)	Jan. 21/25	1	Kennedy Rd., Camborne	BE-E
(f)	Feb. 3	1	Kennedy Rd., Camborne	BE-E
Pileated Woodpecker	Jan. 2	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 3	1	Legion Fields, Cob.	BL
	Jan. 22	1	Guideboard Rd., Welcome	KMcH
	Jan. 28	1	Bickle Hill Rd., Hamilton Twp.	ERM
Northern Shrike	Jan. 9, 15	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 22	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 11	1 juv.	Harris St., PH, eating House Sparrow+D121	JA, EK
	Jan. 15	4	Lakeshore of PH Ward 2	CEG
	Jan. 17	1	4th Line & Barrie Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 18	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 20	1	Colborne area	JF
	Jan. 22	2	Wesleyville Rd. n. of Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	CP, SM, AT
	Jan. 25	1	Baulch Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 30	1	Wesleyville Rd. @ railroad tracks	ERM
	Jan. 31	1	4th Line & Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	BW

Sightings - cont'd.

Common Raven	Jan. 25	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Horned Lark	Jan. 8	11	Lakeshore Rd., Lakeport	MB
	Jan. 10	50	Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 22	6	Marsh Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM
	Jan. 16/27	16-Dec	Cornish Hollow Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JuG, MB
	Jan. 27	50	Mast Woods Rd., PH Ward 2	GMCD, JGo
	Jan. 31	10	Mast Woods Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Brown Creeper	Jan. 4	1	Perrytown Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 29	2	blue trail, Northumberland Forest	BW
	Jan. 30	1	Garden Hill area	DW
Winter Wren	Jan. 30	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	RF
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Dec. 11	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Jan. 6	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Eastern Bluebird	Jan. 4	5	Anderson Rd. & 4th Line, PH Ward 2	HM
	Jan. 7	1	Kellogg Rd. & Massey Rd., PH Ward 2	BL
	Jan. 30	4	Kellogg Rd.N., PH Ward 2	ERM
American Robin	Jan. 9	1	5th Line & Cty. Rd. 10, PH Ward 2	MHo
	Jan. 11	2	Colborne area	JF
	Jan. 31	5	Mast Woods Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Cedar Waxwing	Jan. 4	50	Wesleyville OPG property	RF
	Jan. 8	77	7th Line & Knoxville Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
American Tree Sparrow	Jan. 18	3	Telephone Rd., Hamilton Twp.	RL
	Jan. 22	6	Lakeshore Rd.W., PH	ERM
Field Sparrow	Jan. 4	1	Wesleyville OPG property	RF
Vesper Sparrow	Jan. 24-30	1	Cornish Hollow Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JuG
Song Sparrow	Jan. 5/6/10	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Jan. 8	1	Hayward St., PH	EK
	Jan. 11	1	Brand Creek, PH Ward 2	BW
White-throated Sparrow	Nov.11-Jan. 31	3	Brand Rd. feeder, PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 5-30	1	Deblaire St.N., PH	GMCD
	Jan. 8	4	Kellogg Rd.N., PH Ward 2	GC
	Jan. 10	1	Durham St., PH	EK
Harris's Sparrow	Jan. 1-17	1	Kellogg Rd.N., PH Ward 2	M.Obs
White-crowned Sparrow	Dec. 26-Jan. 31	1	Brand Rd. feeder, PH Ward 2	BW
Snow Bunting	Jan. 27	40	Cornish Hollow Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JuG, MB
	Jan. 28	30	Gage's Creek area, PH	EB
	Jan. 29	40	Lakshore & Brand Rd., beach	BW
	Jan. 31	6	Mast Woods Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Red-winged Blackbird	Jan. 24	1	Harwood area	HB
	Jan. 29	38	Wesleyville Rd., n. of Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	MB
Rusty Blackbird	Jan. 22	1	Wesleyville Rd. n. of Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	CP, SM, AT
	Jan. 29	2	Wesleyville Rd., n. of Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	MB
Common Grackle	Jan. 29	1	Wesleyville Rd., n. of Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	MB
Brown-headed Cowbird	Jan. 27	2	Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	GMCD, JGo
Pine Grosbeak	Jan. 25	15	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 29	12	blue trail, Northumberland Forest	BW
Purple Finch	Jan. 9	2	Canton area	MH
House Finch	Jan. 1-26	60	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	MAC, RC
White-winged Crossbill	Jan. 28	3	Northumberland Forest	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

Common Redpoll	Dec. 25	5	Bruton & Victoria St., PH	KMcH
	Jan. 2-29	max. 6	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 8	2	Perrytown Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jan. 8-12	6-24	Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW
	Jan. 20	20	Telephone Rd., Hamilton Twp.	RL
	Jan. 22	35	Cornish Hollow Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JuG
	Jan. 25	10	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 28	6	Deblaquire St.N., PH	GMCD
	Jan. 29	10	Wesleyville feeder, PH Ward 2	MB
Pine Siskin	Jan. 1	3	Durham St., PH	EK
Evening Grosbeak	Jan. 12	1 m	McKeown Rd., Haldimand	MJ
Red Squirrel	Jan.4/10	1/2	Colborne area	JF
White-tailed Deer	Jan. 30	3	Wesleyville area	ERM
Coyote	Jan. 21	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG

Observers: AA=Anne Anthony; JA=Jan Alford; EB=Eric Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; TB=Tony Bigg; HB=Hazel Bird; GC=Geoff Carpentier; MAC=Mary Anne Cooper; RC=Ron Cooper; GMCD=Geoff Dale; BE-E=Barbara Edwardes-Evans; BF=Brad Foster; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGoe=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JuG=Judith Goulin; MHo=Matt Howard; MH=Marguerite Hugging; RI=Ray Inch; BJ=Bill Johnson; MJ=Mike Johnston; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; GL=Gary Little; BL=Bill Logan; RL=Rita Lortie; ERM=Ted McDonald; KMcH=Kathryn McHolm; KM=Kathryn Mills; SM=Simone Mérey; M.Obs.=Many Observers; MP=Malcolm Pacey; DP=Diane Pacey; CP=Carole Payne; DS=Dave Shirley; BS=Bob Short; DSv=Daphne Svenningson; JS=Jim Sculthorpe; AT=Anne Tesluk; GT=Glen Thompson; BW=Ben Walters; DW=Doug Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; RW=Roger Watkins; AEW=Audrey Wilson

OUTING REPORT - JANUARY 30, 2005

On Saturday Jan. 30th 17 naturalists assembled in Gilmer's Home Hardware parking lot at the early hour of noon for a leisurely drive out Lakeshore Road. The trip began with an impromptu detour to visit the magnificent, famous Northern Hawk Owl. Following great views of the Owl on the hydro wires of western Welcome, we ventured on down sun-soaked Lakeshore Road. A beautiful, calm, sunny day led us from Port Hope to Bond Head near Newcastle. During the 4 hour drive we were granted great views of a grand total of 37 species. For dog lovers there was also the sighting of one very cute 4 month old chocolate lab puppy named Lily, the only flower of the day. If you can believe it, we did not see one Great Gray Owl. The following is a list of the observed species:

Northern Hawk Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Horned Lark
Ret-tailed Hawk (3)	Rock Pigeon	Ring-billed Gull
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Ruffed Grouse	Canada Goose
Barred Owl (2)	Wild Turkey	Greater Scaup
Hairy Woodpecker	Cooper's Hawk	Common Merganser
Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal	Red-breasted Merganser
Black-capped Chickadee	Rusty Blackbird	Common Goldeneye
Northern Shrike (3)	Brown-headed Cowbird	Mallard
House Sparrow	Common Redpoll	American Black Duck
American Tree Sparrow	House Finch	Trumpeter Swan
Dark-eyed Junco	European Starling	Redhead
Northern Harrier	Mourning Dove	American Crow

Thank you to all of those who turned out for this outing. We experimented with communication by two-way radios and I feel that it was a big success

Hope to see you at the outings

Ben Walters

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