



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
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BOX 421
PORT HOPE, ON L1A 3Z3

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 |
| 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 AC- COUNTS | | | | 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 | Deblaire 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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