"THE CURLEW"

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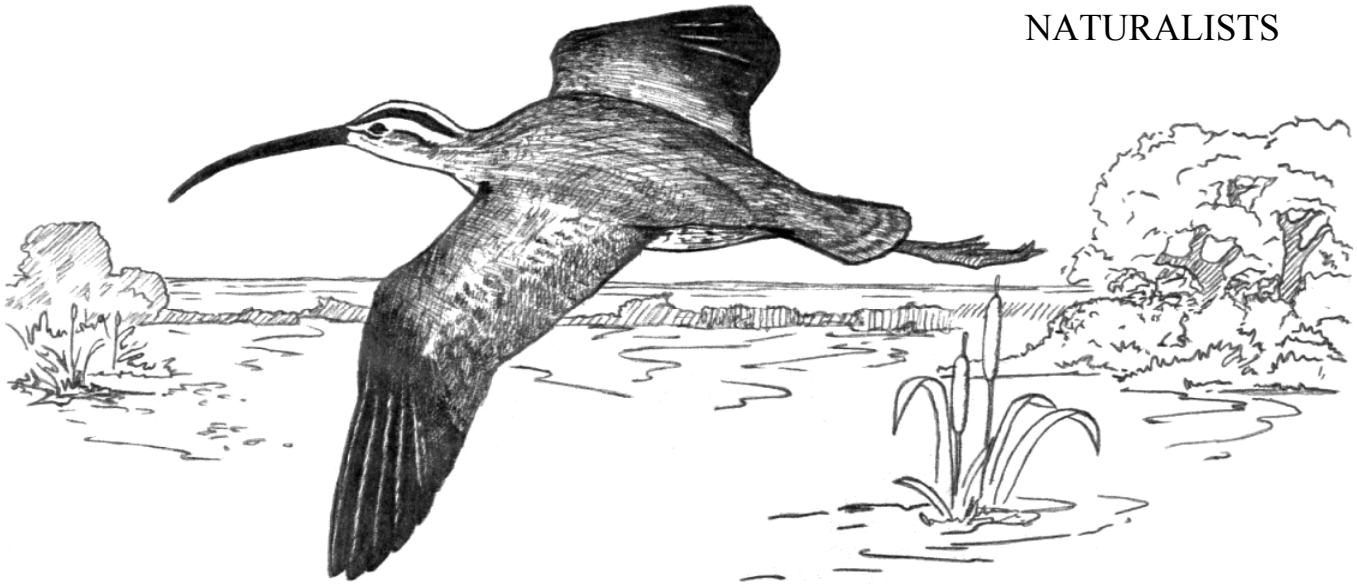
WILLOW BEACH FIELD
NATURALISTS



Vol L No. 4 April 2005

COMING EVENTS

•**Friday, April 29, 2005, 7:30 p.m.,** District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope
Speaker: **Vic Orr**; Topic: **Watching Warblers**. Learn about the lives of the warblers that breed in Eastern North America. A video depicts the nesting, feeding and migration habits of this colourful family of birds.

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

•**Thursday May 5, 7:00PM - Walk at A.K. Sculthorpe Woodland Marsh.** A short walk for early flowers and migrants. Please meet at the Lake St. parking lot between wastewater treatment plant and the gazebo.

•**Sunday May 15th. Outing to Ganaraska Forest.**
This is a joint outing with the Durham Region Field Naturalists and the Peterborough Field Naturalists. We will explore the Ganaraska Forest where it meets in the three counties. This will include mixed forests, conifer plantations, wetland, old field and a prairie restoration site. There will be a lot of walking of medium difficulty. Please bring a snack and water. We will first meet at the Port Hope commuter lot (off Phillip's Road across from Arby's) for car pooling at 7:55am, then at the Ganaraska Forest Centre parking lot at 8:15am for anyone who would prefer to meet there. From there we will drive into the forest to meet at 8:30am at the W1 parking lot located on Cold Springs Camp Road near the boundary road intersection.

•**Friday May 27th. May Monthly Meeting Annual Walk,** Gooderich Loomis Conservation Area. 7:00pm. Alison Elliott will lead a hike at the conservation area through a variety of wooded creek, old field and hardwood habitats.

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NEW DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE FOR CURLEW

In an effort to reduce WBFN's expenses, the executive has decided, on a trial basis, to change the manner of distribution of the *Curlew*. The *Curlew* will be available for pick-up at the monthly meetings. If members regularly see a member who is not at the meeting, they are asked if they might deliver a copy to them. Copies left at the end of the meeting will be mailed on the next business day following the meeting.

We stress that this system is a trial. The executive would be happy to receive comments from the members about this process.

REMINDER: 2005 Membership dues are now due. Please submit them to the Treasurer by mail at the P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3Z3 or bring them to the next general meeting. **This will be the last Curlew for those who have not paid 2005 dues.**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

•Deepest sympathy to WBFN member, Barb Winfield upon the death of her father, Bill Keyes, on Marh 27, 2005

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Betty Knight, Cobourg
Shane & Kathy Maclean, Cobourg
James Quelch, Peterborough

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

THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

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The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the May 2005 issue should be received by April 30, 2005. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the May Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

A Note from Hazel Bird: On an early fall day Spark, my Corgi-mix and I did just that - we fell early! Still attached by her leash, we sailed down five icy steps to the ground below, she landing on all four feet, I upside down - and my plans, for several seeks to come, were quickly predetermined by circumstances beyond our control. A cast on the writing hand of a person dictates what can be done by that hand and, in this case, very little was accomplished over those lost weeks.

During those weeks, Hazel decided to retire from her bluebird project. Folloowing is a note from her good friend, Audrey Wilson and two notes from bluebirders from the 2004 season.

TRIBUTE TO HAZEL BIRD

In the 1960's Eastern Bluebirds were in big trouble, their numbers declining rapidly.

On March 2, 1968 five carloads of 20 grade 3 and 4 students, their teacher and 9 enthusiastic members of WBFN drove to Harwood to meet Hazel Bird. The children's precious cargo consisted of 25 boxes constructed in class to help the vanishing bluebird. Hazel had already selected good locations to erect these boxes. Whoever would have guessed that the co-operation exhibited that afternoon by all concerned would lead to such great things? The WBFN members wanted to see the idea continued. Hazel graciously stepped forward to co-ordinate and lead the effort and WHAT A GREAT EFFORT it turned out to be, lasting nearly 40 years!

Indeed by the spring of 1969 not only 25 houses but 225 boxes were ready to go! Hazel numbered each box to facilitate accurate record keeping. As each new problem arose, solutions were worked out e.g. predator guards evolved that could outwit even the most clever of feral cats or masked bandits. As early as July 1970, some 96 bluebird nests were recorded. For the ensuing years, Hazel faithfully co-ordinated this program - acting as liaison to local land owners, scheduling volunteers to assist in monitoring the boxes, keeping records and building and locating new boxes as needed. Over the years all these efforts did not go unnoticed. Hazel was the recipient of many well-earned and prestigious awards. However, I am certain her biggest sense of success came in knowing the vanishing bluebird has now become a species listed by COSEWIC as NOT AT RISK!

Here in Canada we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources. But with those resources comes the responsibility to protect and educate at all levels. Hazel has certainly stepped up to the plate in these regards. Fellow members of WBFN take our hats off to Hazel and thank her sincerely for all the devotion, time and effort on behalf of the bluebirds!

Yes, there is a season and a time for everything. Hazel has indicated her decision to retire from this project. She and her many volunteers have achieved what they set out to do in 1968. As we all go forth, continue to be entranced by the Eastern Bluebird, symbol of happiness and hope. Every time we listen to the soft gurgling warble or see the familiar flash of blue we will think of Hazel and her faithful companion "Sparky". Thanks Hazel for a job so well done!

Your friend,
Audrey E. Wilson

Bluebird Report from Ken and Bea Rauch
2004

We have lived at 9138 Danforth Road East, just on the outskirts of Cobourg since June 2003. We have about 2 acres of lawn, wildflower gardens and mature deciduous trees defining property line on the east and mature deciduous trees about 200 yards behind our property with a field in between the trees and our property. We had not seen any bluebirds the first year we lived here.

March 27 - we put up 3 nesting boxes, 2 "Hazel" boxes and one Peterson box.
April 2 - we saw our first bluebird! It visited all three boxes
April 17 - chose to nest in the Peterson box.
April 26 - 4 bluebird eggs in the Peterson box (#3) and a Tree Swallow in Nest Box #1.
May 3 - we put boxes #4 and #5 in the neighbour's field.
May 11 - bluebirds hatched, and we set up a blind near the box and took photos.
May 11 - swallow eggs in Box #1 - nothing in Box. #2.
May 28 - we were in Ottawa for a few days, and when we returned, the bluebirds had fledged. We discovered at least 3 baby birds in the trees behind our property and the adult birds were feeding them there.
May 28 - swallow nests in Boxes #4 and #5 with eggs. Box #1 still empty.
June 3 - three juvenile birds feeding on our lawn.
June 19 - second family - bluebird box #3 has 4 eggs.
July 1 - two juvenile bluebirds in the bird bath together - about 20 feet from the kitchen window!
July 3 - bluebird eggs hatched - 4 tiny babies and the adults are feeding them.
July 9 - swallows in boxes #4 and #5 fledged.
July 9 - second swallow nest in Box #1. Box #2 still empty although both swallows and bluebirds sit on the roof often.
Between July 10 and July 15 - we took photographs from the blind near the nesting box, and the bluebirds continued feeding the young as we unobtrusively photographed them.
July 12 - Logan, our 2-year-old granddaughter accompanied me to the blind, and was in awe as she observed the bluebirds brings 'bugs' to feed the babies.
July 20 - bluebirds fledged - sitting on house and near-by perches.

We are happy with our first year of blue birding.

June - put up a box at our daughter's in Castelton - cleaned out wren twigs two times - no bluebirds in the box, but we did sight a male on their deck.

July 7 - Henry DeJong has many boxes on his farm on Burns Road near Baltimore and I checked 7 in a row on a fence near the sheep enclosure. Four boxes were empty, one had a wren nest with eggs, one had an empty swallow nest and another had BLUEBIRDS - five baby birds almost ready to fly - both adult birds were nearby.

- Ken and Bea Rauch

Close Encounter of the Bluebird Kind

Close encounter of the bluebird kind is what I call my first foray of the season with Hazel Bird on April 14, 2004. She said the bluebirds were back, but we had not seen any that morning as we checked boxes. Hazel assured me that there were bluebirds at her son's place. As a matter fact he said they were "bothering" his car.

We decided to go over to see for ourselves and we were not disappointed. We parked in his driveway near two bluebirds boxes, where we observed a bluebird pair checking out the real estate. The male of the pair approached the van and fluttered, as if looking for a place to perch. After an unsuccessful try at landing on the roof, he slid down a vertical curved surface along the back of the vehicle. Then he discovered a perch on the back windshield wiper.

We were inside, looking out at a bluebird looking in at us! He fluttered there for a long time. Perhaps he mistook his reflection for another male invading his territory. Hazel suggested that we leave, for the good of the bluebird pair.

As we drove slowly away the tenacious bluebird stayed with us. What a sight it was to be driving along, looking into the rear view mirror at this spectacular-looking hitchhiker riding along on the wiper!

Close Encounter of the Cow Kind

When we checked boxes the next week, we had a close encounter of the cow kind! In the course of checking boxes, we had to cross a pasture. All of the cows decided to follow Spark, which meant that they were following us also. As a matter of fact, we were practically surrounded by cows.

I have a personal rule which is: "Never trust an animal bigger than me." Needless to say, I was feeling a little threatened by all of this unwelcome bovine company. Fearless Hazel shooed them away - even bopped one of them on the nose with her carryall bag. She said they were just curious about Spark, and just as she predicted, once she put Spark on her leash, the cows lost interest in following us.

This is one city woman who was happy to have a country woman by her side that morning

- Judith Goulin

More information about operating a bluebird trail can be found at two web sites:

Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society, www.ontarioeasternbluebirdsociety.org

North American Bluebird Society, www.nabluebirdsociety.org

NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST – A REPORT

On August 19th 2004, the provisional Board of Directors from the Willow Beach Field Naturalist (WBFN) turned over the management of the Northumberland Land Trust (the Trust) to a successor board. After several informal meetings, the new board elected, on October 28th its executive which consisted of; President - Doug Galt, Vice President – Paul Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer – Frankie Liberty and Directors – Brenda Beck, Joan Chalovich, Russell Lake, Bill Logan and Audrey Wilson with Brian Baxter as President of WBFN an ex officio member. Following this meeting a press release announcing the establishment of the Trust was prepared and issued to the media serving Northumberland County. The board was expanded in early 2005 with the addition of Lewis Dunk from the Trent Hills area

As a number of property owners had expressed interest in having their properties protected, it was evident that the Trust had to establish priorities on properties to be considered for either acquisition or establishment of Conservation Easements. Therefore a priorization workshop attended by the Trust's Board members and other interested parties was held at Victoria Inn on January 15th, 2005. This meeting resulted in the establishment of broad priorities with which the Trust will use for property selection and external relations. At present the Trust is negotiating with a property owner for its first protected piece of land.

Membership in the Trust is now open to individuals interested in protecting and conserving the landscape of the County. The cost of membership is $20.00 and is valid until January 1st, 2007. The members of WBFN will find membership of interest for as properties are acquired for conservation each will require biological inventorying and on-going monitoring/ stewardship. In addition the Trust is a registered charity and anyone considering a donation or a bequest to the Trust can contact any member of the executive.

The Trust can be reached by mail at Northumberland Land Trust, 16 Ross St., Port Hope ON, L1A 1J2 or, in the near future, by E-mail at nlt@eagle.ca.

- Bill Logan

Gateway To Nature

74th Annual Ontario Nature and Nature Canada Annual General Meeting

June 3, 4, 5, 2005

Program and registration brochures for this conference will be mailed out with the Spring 2005 issue of ONTARIO NATURE. However, those wishing to get a preview of the conference program can go to:

http://www.nipissing-naturalist.com/ON/conference.htm

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Monday, June 20, 7 p.m. - Outing to Alderville Black Oak Savanna, County Rd. 18 west of Hwy. 45. Amanda Newell, Natural Heritage Coordinator for Alderville First Nation will lead us on a hike through this special habitat. Many of our members have helped in the ongoing restoration work at this site. Detailed directions will be in the May *Curlew*.

Saturday August 27th. Presqu'ile Provincial Park 7:00 a.m.
Roger Frost will lead an expedition to find and, more importantly, identify shorebirds at the Park. We will meet at the Port Hope commuter lot across from Arby's at 6:15am, then at the Cobourg commuter lot at county road 45 and the 401 at 6:25am. We will then meet at Audrey and Jean Wilson's cottage at 7:00am for shuttling people into the park. Anyone with a season Park pass please bring it.

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

Another Behaviour Note

After reading last month's behavioural note from Barbara Edwardes-Evans I would like to tell a story about an opposite situation with a Red-bellied Woodpecker. We had a male visiting our feeder throughout the winter but it only fed on the platform feeder and on the ground pile. This woodpecker was a tyrant, especially to the Blue Jays and Mourning Doves. Whenever it visited or was visiting, and others showed up, it would immediately take a lowered posture and with neck extended it would attempt to spear the surrounding birds, much like a medieval jouster.

- Ben Walters

FIELD GUIDES

Following is a list of very good field guides published by the Owen Sound Field Naturalists. Bill Crowley's personal copies of these guides will be available at the April meeting for you to examine. If you are interested in obtaining one, Bill has offered to pick some up for WBFN members, thereby saving purchasers the cost of shipping. Prepayment is necessary; cost is $10 per book.

1. ***Photo Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Southwestern Ontario***, Ian Carmichael, Alistair MacKenzie, Brad Steinberg, 72 pages, The Friends of Pinery Park, R. R. 2, Grand Bend, ON, N0M 1T0, 2002, ISBN 1-895212-06-5
2. ***The Checklist of Vascular Plants for Bruce and Grey Counties Ontario***, Bruce-Grey Plant Committee, 2003 ISBN 0-9680279-5-4, 51 pages
3. ***First Book of Ontario Wildflowers***, Joan Crowe, 106 pages, Le Corbeau Press, R. R. #5 Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N7, 2004, ISBN 0-9735363-0-6
4. ***The Asters, Goldenrods and Fleabanes of Gray and Bruce Counties***, Includes approximately 50% of Ontario species, The Bruce-Grey Plant Committee, 56 pages, ISBN 0-9680279-3-8
5. ***The Ferns of Gray & Bruce Counties, Ontario***, The Bruce-Grey Plant Committee, 119 pages, ISBN 0-9680279-2-X
6. ***Rare and Endangered Species of Grey and Bruce Counties***, The Bruce-Grey Plant Committee, 143 pages, ISBN 0-9689279-4-6
7. ***The Orchids of Bruce and Grey Counties, Ontario***, The Bruce-Grey Plant Committee, 106 pages, ISBN 0-9680279-1-1

Monarch News

The overwintering monarch colonies have been measured and the news is bad. In aggregate, the colonies only measure 2.19 hectares. This is the all time low recorded since the monarch overwintering areas became known to science in 1975. There were no new colony sites and all the colonies had low numbers. The largest population, 1.3 hectares (59% of the total), was found at El Rosario, the site most often visited by tourists.

Noted monarch butterfly biologist Dr. Lincoln Brower, who conducted a lecture tour in Ontario last fall and visited Presqu'ile Provincial Park, puts most of the blame for the low numbers of monarchs this year on the loss of monarchs due to the winter storms in early 2004, the low numbers of monarchs in the spring migration, and the extremely cold summer, but also points to the ongoing degradation of the forests and the extensive illegal logging in several of the core areas of the Reserve.

The good news is that this winter has been favorable for the overwintering monarchs. There has been a generous rainfall in the southern states and milkweed is thriving. Monarch butterflies are now flowing into Texas. Toronto Entomologists Association past president Dr. Phil Schappert, now a professor at the University of Texas, reported his first monarch at Smithville Texas on March 25, 2005

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Teacher training courses on using the monarch butterfly in the classroom will be again held in Ontario this July at Kingston and Merrickville . Information about this course and a registration form can be found at:

http://www.eirc.org/content/global_connections/teaching_with_monarchs/info_ontario_teachers.html

Registration deadline is June 1st. The instructor is Eric Mollenhauer of New Jersey, assisted by Kingston-area teacher Anne Powers (powersa@limestone.on.ca.

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Naturalists and butterfly enthusiasts are again invited by Journey North and Monarch Watch to report their first sighting of a monarch butterfly, first monarch egg, first monarch larva and first milkweed plant. Reports can be made directly by registering at www.learner.org/jnorth, or by sending your data, including date of sighting, name of observer, place of sighting and particulars to T.E.A. member Don Davis at: Donald_davis@yahoo.com. Other Journey North target species include first loon, first oriole, first hummingbird and first barn swallow.

- Don Davis

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Ted McDonald

Pied-billed Grebe	Mar. 21-23	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
Horned Grebe	Mar. 29	8	Lucas Point, Cob.	MB
	Mar. 29	8+	Chub Point	MB
	Mar. 29	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Red-necked Grebe	Mar. 27	9	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 29	18	off D'Arcy St., Cob.	MB
	Mar. 29	12	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 29	54	Lucas Point & Chub Point	MB
Great Blue Heron	Mar.14	1	Garden Hill Pond	BW,AE
	Mar. 19	1	Mercer's Pond, Campbellcroft	DW
	Mar. 23	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Mar. 27	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EB
Turkey Vulture	Mar.17	2	Lakeshore Rd., PH Ward 2	AE
	Mar. 20	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Mar. 26	2	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 30	1	Shelter Vally Rd.	CEG
Cackling Goose	Feb. 27	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Mar. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 27	1	Garden Hill Pond	RF, EK
	Apr. 5	2	Garden Hill Pond	KA
Canada Goose	Mar. 11	3000	Garden Hill Pond	DW
	Mar. 30	1650 (high)	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Mute Swan	Mar. 11	2	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	all March	2 ad, 2 yg.	Cobourg Harbour (4 yn earlier in winter)	MB
Trumpeter Swan #659	Mar. 21	1	Presqu'ile Bay	GMCD
Trumpeter Swan #817	Mar 27-Apr. 5	1	Garden Hill Pond	KA, RF, EK
Tundra Swan	Mar. 31	2	Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
Wood Duck	Mar. 20/22	1/2	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
Wood Duck	Mar.20	26	Brand Creek scared out by person walking	BW
	Mar. 28	4	n. of Garden Hill	DW
Eurasian Wigeon	Mar. 28-Apr. 2	1 m	Presqu'ile Bay, found by Parkers	BP, AP, MObs
American Wigeon	all March	2 m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 31	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Black Duck	Mar. 30	75	Fudge's Mill Pond, Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
Mallard	Mar. 15	400	field s. of Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2	M.Obs.
Northern Pintail	Mar.14	1	Fudge's Mill, Grist Mill Road, PH Ward 2	BW,AE
	Mar. 20	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 26	12	mouth of Brand Cr., PH Ward 2	RF, EK
	Mar. 31	44	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Green-winged Teal	Mar. 31	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Canvasback	Mar. 7	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Mar. 19	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Redhead	Mar. 13	2	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Mar. 6, 23	2	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Ring-necked Duck	Mar. 17	2m, 2f	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
	Mar. 20	3	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Mar. 30	120	Garden Hill Pond	MB
	Mar. 31	18 (high)	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Lesser Scaup	Feb. 25	10	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Mar. 15	6	Port Hope yacht basin	M.Obs.
Greater Scaup	Mar. 3-4	80	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Mar. 20	230	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF

Sightings - cont'd.

White-winged Scoter	all March	3-6	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
	Mar. 11	7 (high)	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 12	5	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Black Scoter	Mar. 7 on	1f	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 13-20, 30	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 24	1m	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Bufflehead	Mar. 11	10	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Common Goldeneye	Mar. 12	13	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Mar. 15	10	Port Hope yacht basin	ERM
Hooded Merganser	Mar. 15 on	6	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 19	15 (high)	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 29	3	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Common Merganser	Mar. 15	2	Port Hope yacht basin	ERM
Red-breasted Merganser	Mar. 10	64	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Osprey	Mar. 24	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Bald Eagle	Mar. 4	1	Garden Hill area	DW
Northern Harrier	Mar.7	1	Lakeshore Rd. and Brand Rd.	BW
Northern Harrier	Mar. 31	1	Perrytown area	DW
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar.1	1	Perrytown Road	BW, RF
	Mar. 2	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 22	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Mar. 28	1	Garden Hill area	DW
Cooper's Hawk	Mar. 3-26	1	Young St. & Hope St.N., PH	NW
	Mar. 7	1	Elgin St.N., PH	MP
	Mar.8	1	Jocelyn St. Port Hope	BW
	Mar. 15	1	Deblaquire St.N., PH	GMCD
Northern Goshawk	Mar. 9/10/22	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Red-tailed Hawk	Mar. 6	1	Elgin St.N., PH	MP
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar. 16	1	Lakeshore Rd.W., PH Ward 2	KA
	Mar. 19	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	BL
	Mar. 20	1	Welcome area	DW
American Kestrel	Mar. 19	1	Highway 2 east of Grafton	BW,AE
	Apr. 4	1	Hwy. 28 & 4th Line, PH Ward 2	ERM
Merlin	Mar. 11	1	Lakeshore Rd.W., PH Ward 2	KA
	Mar. 13	1	Young St. & Hope St.N., PH	NW
Ring-necked Pheasant	Mar. 20	1 m	Roseneath Landing	DS
Ruffed Grouse	Mar. 4	1	Lakeshore Rd. & Baulch Rd., PH Ward 2	JGo, GMCD
Wild Turkey	Mar.2,3	29	Barrie Road	BW
Wild Turkey	Mar. 13-14	30	Garden Hill area	MW, DW
Killdeer	Mar.17	1	Lakeshore Rd. and Brand Rd.	BW,AE
	Mar. 23	1	over downtown Cobourg	MB
	Mar. 24	1	PH sewage treatment plant	BL
	Mar. 27	4	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Mar. 31	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Woodcock	Mar. 17	1	4111 7th Line, Perrytown	BW
	Mar. 24	1	Wicklow Beach	MB
	Mar. 29	1	A.K. Sculthorpe Woodland Marsh: on trail	BW
	Mar. 30	1	Choate Rd., PH Ward 2	NW
	Mar. 30	1	Pine st.S., PH	PB
Bonaparte's Gull	Mar. 31	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Herring Gull	Mar. 9/10/22	3000	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Iceland Gull	Mar. 17/22	2/1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Mar. 10/23	1imm, 2ad	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Glaucous Gull	Mar. 28	1	n. of Garden Hill	DW
	Mar. 30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG

Sightings - cont'd.

Mourning Dove	Mar. 18	80+	in yard Brand Rd. (Large number)	BW, AE
Great Horned Owl	Mar.6	1	Wesleyville Rd. north of Lakeshore Rd.	BW
Snowy Owl	Mar.12-16	1	but 2 birds, Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Hawk Owl	Mar. 1-17	1	Hwy. 2 w. of Welcome	GB, MObs
Barred Owl	Mar. 11	1	Lakeshore Rd.W. & Wesleyville Rd., PH Ward 2	KA, BW
	Mar. 15	2	Wesleyville area	ERM, BW, AE
Great Gray Owl	Feb.27	1	Runnall's Rd.	BW,RF
	Feb. 27	1	Dunn Rd.	BW,RF
	Feb. 27	1	5th Line west of Cty. RD. 65	BW,RF
	Mar. 4	1	Lakeshore Rd. & Baulch Rd., PH Ward 2	JGo, GMCD
	Mar.6,11,12	1	Willow Beach Rd. and Lakeshore Rd.	BW
	Mar.7	2	4th Line and Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Mar. 11	2	Port Britain, PH Ward 2	MB
	Mar. 11	1	4th Line east of Barrie Rd., PH Ward 2	BW,RF,GB
	Mar. 11	2	Kellogg Road n, of 4th Line, PH Ward 2	BW,RF,GB
	Mar. 15	1	west of Wesleyville OPG	BW,AE
	Mar. 15	3	Lakeshore Road and Willow Beach Rd.	BW,AE
	Mar. 16	1	Port Britain, PH Ward 2	MB
	Mar. 18	1	County Rd.45 Roseneath	BW,RF
	Mar. 18	1	Racetrack Road, Roseneath	BW,RF
	Mar. 18	1	5th Line Roseneath	BW,RF
	Mar.19	1	7th Line & Knoxville Rd.	BW
	Mar.20	1	7th Line & Campbell Rd.	BW
	Mar. 20	1	6th Line & Campbell Rd.	BW
	Mar. 20	1	6th Line & Grist Mill Rd.	BW
	Mar. 20	1	10th Line & Gilmour Rd.	BW
	Mar. 18	1	MacDonald Road	BW,RF
	Mar.26	1	Oak Hill and Dean's Hill Rd.	BW,AE
	Mar. 26	1	4th Line, PH Ward 2	RF, EK
Long-eared Owl	Mar. 10	1	Port Britain Rd. & Lakeshore	AE, BW
Short-eared Owl	Mar. 6	1	Lakeshore Rd. at Wesleyville	BW, LS
Belted Kingfisher	Mar. 24	1	Rotary Park, Cob.	NL
	Mar. 18	1	Colborne area	JF
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Mar. 1-7	1	Kennedy Rd., Camborne	BE-E
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Apr. 2	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Pileated Woodpecker	Mar. 6	1	Elgin St.N., PH	MP
Eastern Phoebe	Mar.21	1	Brand Rd.	AE
	Mar. 31	2	Roseneath Landing area	DS
	Apr. 3	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	MB
Loggerhead Shrike	Apr. 3	1- banded	Thomas Rd., Wicklow	MB
Northern Shrike	Mar.2	1	Cranberry Road and Dale Raod	BW
	Mar.3,7	1	Haskill Road and Lakeshore Road	BW
	Mar. 4	1	Lakeshore Rd.W. & Baulch Rd., PH Ward 2	JGo, GMCD,BW
	Mar.4	1	Lakeshore Rd. and Weslyville Rd.	BW
	Mar.8	1	Lakeshore Rd. and Brand Rd. eating Cardinal	BW
	Mar. 11	1	Lakeshore Rd. and Willow Beach Rd.	BW,RF,GB
	Mar. 18	1	Lakeshore/Wesleyville Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
	Mar. 26	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 28	1	Beech Hill Road and County Road 9	BW
American Crow	Mar. 3	400	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Common Raven	Mar. 15	2	Northumberland Forest	RF, GB
	Mar.18	2	County Rd. 65 north of 4th Line	BW,AE
Horned Lark	Mar. 8	6	Jamieson Rd. s. of 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Tree Swallow	Mar. 24	1	Garden Hill area	DW
	Mar. 31	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Mar. 31	1	Lake St. Trail, PH	EB
	Mar. 31	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Winter Wren	Mar. 20	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF

Sightings - cont'd.

Eastern Bluebird	Mar. 12	1	Wicklow orchard	MB
	Mar. 24	1	Garden Hill area	DW
	Mar.31	1	Port Britain on Lakeshore Road.	BW
American Robin	Mar. 1	100	County Road 10, Canton, PH Ward 2	BW, RF
	Mar. 14	3	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
American Pipit	Mar. 27	1	10th Line and Gilmour Rd.	BW
Bohemian Waxwing	Mar. 15	65	Northumberland Forest	RF, GB
Fox Sparrow	Mar. 31-Apr.3	1-2	Cobourg backyard	MB
Song Sparrow	Mar.14	2	Lakeshore Rd. & Brand Rd: first singing	BW,AE
	Mar. 24	1	Bayview Cres., Cob.	BL
	Mar. 25	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
	Mar. 31	4	Durham St., PH feeder	EK
White-throated Sparrow	Mar. 1	4	Port Britain Rd.& Lakeshore Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Mar. 1-31	2	Brand Rd. feeder, PH Ward 2	BW
White-throated Sparrow	Mar. 11-31	1	Deblaquire St.N., PH	GMCD
Dark-eyed Junco	Mar. 10-15	6	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Lapland Longspur	Mar. 6	1+	Burnham St., n. of Hwy. 401	MB
Snow Bunting	Mar. 6	150+	Burnham St., n. of Hwy. 401	MB
Red-winged Blackbird	Mar.14	1	Lakeshore Rd and Brand Rd: first of year	BW,AE
	Mar. 16	1	Lake St. Trail, PH	EB
	Mar. 17	1	Colborne area	KB
	Mar. 18	8	Lakeshore/Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2, singing	MB
Eastern Meadowlark	Mar. 29, 30	1	Cobourg Harbour west headland	MB
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Mar. 31	1	McClelland Rd. n. of Dale Rd.	EB
Rusty Blackbird	Mar. 1	1	Hwy 28 south of Lakeview Rd.	BW
Common Grackle	Mar. 1	2	Hwy 28 south of Lakeview Rd.	BW
	Mar. 18	4	downtown Cobourg feeder	MB
	Mar. 21	1	Deblaquire St.N., PH	GMCD
Brown-headed Cowbird	Mar. 2	1	n. of Garden Hill	MW, DW
	Mar. 11, 18	10	Lakeshore/Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
Pine Grosbeak	Mar. 13	2 - pair	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
House Finch	Mar. 3-15	4	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Common Redpoll	Mar. 2	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Mar. 5/12	6/8	Deblaquire St.N., PH	GMCD
	Apr. 4	3	Bloomsgrove Ave., PH	MR
Hoary Redpoll	Mar. 5/12	1	Deblaquire St.N., PH	GMCD
Pine Siskin	Mar. 17/31	2	Durham St., PH feeder	EK
Eastern Cottontail	Mar. 12	1	Young St., PH	NW
Red Squirrel	Mar. 2	1	Bloomsgrove Ave., PH	RB
	Mar. 12	1	downtown Cobourg backyard	MB
	Mar. 27	1	Young St., PH	NW
White-tailed Deer	Mar. 12	1	s. of Colborne	JF
Red Fox	Mar. 16	1	Hope St.S. & Lake St., PH	EB
Eastern Chipmunk	Mar.6	1	first day out this year	AE,BW
	Mar. 7	1	Camborne area	BE-E
	Mar. 18	1	downtown Cobourg backyard	MB
	Mar. 26/27	2	Young St., PH	NW
	Mar. 30	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Long-tailed Weasel	Mar. 3	1	Kennedy Rd. nr. Vimy Ridge Rd. Hamilton Twp.	LS
	Mar. 30	1	Camborne area	BE-E
"Wolf"	Mar. 22	3	Garden Hill area	DW
Coyote	Mar. 1	1	4th Line Hope township	BW,RF
	Mar. 21	1	Deer Park Rd. and Hwy 2.	BW,RF
	Apr. 2	2	on ice off Roseneath Landing	DS
Otter	Mar. 27	1	Fudge's mill, Grist Mill Rd.: playing in snow	AE,BW
Mink Frog	Mar. 28	1	Lakeshore Rd. nr. Willow Beach Rd.	AT, IT, MT
Spring Whitlow-grass	Mar. 31	(flower)	Cobourg campground	CEG

Observers: *KA-Kurt Appleman; EB=Eric Bahr; RB=Rheinhard Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; KB=Kim Braat; PB=Paul Bridges; GB=Graydon Bowman; GMCD=Geoff Dale; AE=Alison Elliott; BE-E=Barbara Edwardes-Evans; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGo=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BL=Bill Logan; NL=Nancy Logan; ERM=Ted McDonald; M.Obs.=Many Observers; MP=Malcom Pacey; MR=Martha Robinson; LS=Louise Schmidt; DS=Dave Shirley; AT=Abigail Tate; IT=Isabelle Tate; MT=Marshall Tate; NW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; DW=Doug Watkins; MW=Marie Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley*

WEB SITE REVIEWED

The April 2005 edition of *Ontario Birds* (Vol. 23, No. 1) carried a review of Clive Goodwin's web site *The Birds of Northumberland County:* http://homepage.mac.com/wings_4d/bonc/bonc_index.html

Clive, assisted by his wife, Joy, and by Steve Furino who provided the technical computer expertise, has been working on this site for several years. It summarizes bird records for Northumberland County as far back as 1817. The source for a large number of these records is this publication, *The Curlew*, and the records which Ted McDonald has been keeping for over 50 years. This project is and will always be, a work in progress, since records are being added on a regular basis.

This is a valuable tool for anyone doing research into the avifauna of Northumberland.

WALLACE BIRDATHON 2005

Roger Frost has agreed again this year to be the official birder for the Wallace Birdathon. For one 24-hour period during the month of May, Roger will run around Northumberland County trying to see as many species of bird as he can. Norma Wallace (905-885-5552) is collecting pledges. Supporters can pledge either so much per species seen, or a flat rate donation. Last year, Roger found 145 species and the Wallace Birdathon raised over $800 for the WBFN Property Fund. Charitable donation receipts will be issued for all donations received.

BAILLIE BIRDATHON 2005

Ian Tate has expressed his intention to participate in the Baillie Birdathon. This event asks the participants to see as many species of birds as they can during a 24-hour period during the month of May and to collect pledges. The Baillie Birdathon supports the work of Bird Studies Canada, but 25% of the funds raised can be designated to go to a group of the participant's choice. In Ian's case, the support is directed to WBFN. Ian can be reached at 905-885-7475.

An April Chuckle

Early in April, three intrepid Saturday morning birders were checking out the feeders at Wesleyville. Car window open, one "pished" to see what could be roused. Suddenly, a chickadee dive bombed the car and almost came through the window. Moral of this story: "Be careful what you pish for..."

- Carole Payne

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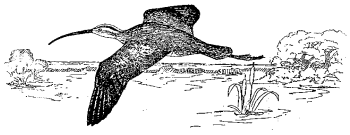
Family - $20 Single - $18 Senior Couple - $18 Senior Single - $16
Cheques for membership should be made out to Willow Beach Field Naturalists and sent to: The Treasurer, Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3Z3. A receipt for Income Tax purposes will be provided for your membership fee as well as for any donation. Willow Beach Field Naturalists is a Registered Charitable organization.



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