



COMING EVENTS

● **Friday, September 30, 2005, 7:30 p.m.**, - Terry Fox School, 1065 Riddell Ave., Cobourg
Speaker: **Jean Iron**. Topic: **The Carden Alvar**, east of Lake Simcoe, is a globally rare habitat with special birds and plants. An early summer tour explores scenic back roads where grassland birds, wildflowers and butterflies are abundant. This informative and entertaining presentation features excellent photos of Loggerhead Shrikes and grassland specialties.

● **Sunday October 2, 8:30 am - Meadows' Farm**. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at the Port Hope commuter lot across from Arby's. From there we will venture up to the farm located on the 5th Line of Hope Township. It is old agricultural land being reverted to mostly coniferous forest. As well, it has open old field and forested creek. It is in its third generation of ownership in the Meadows' family and is now owned by club member Vern Meadows' son. Thank you Vern for this opportunity.

● **Friday, October 28, 2005, 7:30 p.m.** - Terry Fox School, 1065 Riddell Ave., Cobourg
Speaker: **Kelsi Prince**. Topic: **The Arctic and Antarctica**. Kelsi will talk about her recent travels in the past year and a bit - twice to the Arctic and once to Antarctica with Student on Ice Expeditions. She will share with us what she has learned as to how climate change is affecting the Polar Regions and some possible solutions to take into consideration.

● **Friday, November 25, 2005, 7:30 p.m.** - District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope
Speaker: **Otto Peter**, Topic: **Thickson's Woods**. Otto Peter of the Thickson's Woods Land Trust will present a slide show entitled **Thickson's Woods: An Urban Treasure**. Birds, plants, butterflies and history of Thickson's Woods.

● **Saturday November 26, 9 a.m.- Port Hope Harbour, A.K. Sculthorpe Marsh and Cobourg Harbour**. An early winter outing to look for waterfowl.

(Continued on page 2)

- **Saturday, December 17, 2005 - Annual Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Roger Frost, 905-885-9615
- **January, 27, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** - Terry Fox School, Cobourg
Speaker: **Mark Rupke**, Topic: **Plankton**. Learn about the base of the aquatic food chain, diatoms, spirogyra and daphnia. Mark has been looking through the microscope studying and photographing plankton for 20 years. Come and listen while he shares what he has learned.
- **Sunday February 19, 8:30 a.m. - Outing to Kendal Crown Land.** A winter outing to look for birds, mammals and owls in a parcel of crown land just north of Port Hope.
- **Friday, February 24, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** - District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope
Annual General Meeting and Social
- **Saturday March 18, leave Port Hope at 8 a.m. Hamilton Harbour.** Outing to look for waterfowl in Hamilton Harbour and area as well as stopping at other areas on the way for other birds of interest that may be in the area. *This will be a carpool only event as we will not be meeting at a specific time in Hamilton.*
- **Friday, March 31, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** - Terry Fox School, 1065 Riddell Ave., Cobourg
Speaker: **Michael Measure**, Topic: **Fatal Light Awareness Program**
Michael Measure, the founder of FLAP, will talk about his efforts to reduce the number of bird collisions with Toronto's lit-up skyscrapers.
- **Sunday April 8, leave Cobourg at 8 a.m. - Petroglyphs Provincial Park.** Late winter outing to look for winter finches, woodpeckers and kinglets. *This date may change depending on when the waterfowl festival at Presqu'ile P.P. will be scheduled.*
- **Friday, April 28, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** - District Health Unit, Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope
Speaker: **Dave Phillips**. Topic: **Weatherlore**. Dave Phillips, Senior Climatologist with Environment Canada, will share some of his favourite weather sayings and explain why some have stood the test of scientific scrutiny over centuries.
- **Saturday May 13, 7 a.m.- Lucas Point.** Morning walk to look for migrants.
- **Sunday May 21, 8 a.m.- Darlington Provincial Park.** Morning walk to look for migrants on trails and at beach area.
- **Saturday May 27, 7 a.m.- Thicksen's Woods.** Morning walk to look for migrants and early spring wildflowers.
- **June 10, 11, 2006 - Northumberland Summer Bird Count**
- **Sunday June 17, 8:30 a.m.- Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area.** This walk will look at a restored area of Brook Trout habitat, as well as searching for migrants and wildflowers.
- **Saturday July 8, 11 a.m.- Charleston Lake Provincial Park.** This walk will concentrate on ferns as well as wildflowers and will also view a heronry.
- **Sunday July 30, 9 a.m.- Lone Pine Marsh.** This outing will concentrate on dragonflies and butterflies, please bring your own field guides if possible as no materials will be provided but aid in identification will be provided. *Dragonflies Through Binoculars* and the *Kaufmann*

(Continued on page 3)

Focus Guide to Butterflies are both good choices for field guides). This is a good outing for the whole family.

•Saturday August 19 8:30 p.m. – **Brand Rd.** This evening (night) outing will concentrate on insects of the night, in particular, moths. This would be an ideal outing for the whole family.

Watch future editions for more details of meetings and outings.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Sympathy is extended to **Petra Hartwig Kennedy** upon the death of her father, Otto Hartwig, on June 26, 2005
- Best wishes to **Audrey Wilson** who is convalescing at home from a broken back, the result of a terrible car accident in early August. After a remarkably short stay in Kingston Hospital, she was fitted with a brace which allows her to walk around, although sitting is difficult. (See note from Audrey at the right.)
- Congratulations and best wishes to **Ben Walters** and **Alison Elliott** on the occasion of their marriage on August 4.
- Sympathy is extended to **Anne Tesluk** on the death of her mother in mid-August.

THANKS!

Audrey Wilson wishes to thank the many members of WBFN who sent cards of encouragement or made phone calls to express their concern following her accident. Each one was genuinely appreciated.

Welcome to New Members

Joan Chalovich, Grafton
Pam Lancaster, Port Hope
Connie, Katsu and Joey Sakuma, Port Hope

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THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

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Curlew Ed.	Norma Wallace	905-885-5552	
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The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the October 2005 issue should be received by September 30, 2005. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Ted McDonald (885-4764) or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the October Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

MY TEDDY BEAR

by Hazel Bird

On May 18, 2005, as I reached up to draw the drapes over my living room window, I noticed some movement outside on the ground below. At first, I could not believe that I was eye to eye with something that reminded me of an overgrown Teddy Bear, all puffed up! As the creature trotted past me in the direction of the neighbouring swampy, wooded area, I recognized it as a quite young black bear. After his first circle of the house, I went outdoors hoping to see some tracks. I bent down to look, but, finding none, I straightened up - just in time to make eye contact with the bear and cross paths at a distance of about five or six inches. We were fully aware of each other, but made no sound.

While the bear was circling my house and lawn areas - driveways, garden, porch and road - we met again and continued on, passing silently. After the third time around, the bear paused, sniffed the air and headed for

a large oriole feeder filled with sugar-water which was hanging from a low branch of a tree.

Standing on its hind legs, it could barely touch the large plastic globe and soon gave up, to continue on its original path. Then, just as we were about to come together for the fourth time, a sudden loud noise from a passing vehicle caused the animal to turn abruptly and gallop away at full speed into the wooded area and it was soon lost from sight.

In order to get some idea of the bear's size, I stood beneath the same tree and, on tiptoe, could barely touch the feeder. (My height is 4 ft. 8 in.) The time from beginning to end of this adventure was about 45 minutes. I feel very fortunate to have witnessed such an unforgettable event, simply by being in the right place at the right time.

Karen Drew lives with her family on the edge of the Northumberland Forest. She agreed to share some recent correspondence with club members.

Monarch Butterfly Note

We've been watching the entire monarch butterfly lifecycle here in our garden, courtesy of healthy milkweed plants. The caterpillars crawl to our porch and enter the cocoon phase. We were fortunate on Sunday (Aug. 14th) to actually see the skin of the caterpillar splitting open and the chrysalis forming.

On August 30, she reported: Now we have 2 chrysalis hanging from the bottom of the leaves of canna lily plants right beside the milkweed (These butterflies should be emerging shortly.), 2 arrived next on a chair on the porch, and the latest are 2 attached to the railing. It seems they know the porch offers shelter! Plus, I counted another 4 caterpillars of various sizes on the 5 milkweed plants, still munching away.

Outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park

Eighteen Willow Beachers participated in a very successful outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park on August 27th. We met at Audrey and Jean Wilson's cottage and began our day with a little flock of Pied-billed Grebes off their deck.

From this area we then moved on to the beaches to look for shorebirds and anything else that may turn up on the beach. Led by Roger Frost, we were lucky to get good looks at many shorebirds including close looks at a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a pair of Stilt Sandpipers and a few Baird's Sandpipers. We also visited the Brighton constructed cell wetlands where we were granted good looks at as many as 18 Common Moorhens as well as hearing their "songs".

On our way to the sewage lagoons we made a brief stop at the causeway which yielded very little birdwise, but Alison Elliott did find the smallest snapping turtle any of us had ever seen. It was no more than 7 centimetres in length.

After shorebirding we went back to the Wilson cottage where Jean and Louise Baxter prepared warm drinks for us. We enjoyed lunch on their lawn and then were treated to a Monarch tagging demonstration and interpretive talk about the process and the data it provides. We were also given an impromptu talk on the shorebird study at Presqu'ile by Melissa Rose, the biologist who has the contract to perform the study. All in all it was a very filled and extremely enjoyable outing. Thank you very much Jean, Audrey and Louise for the preparations, hot drinks and demonstrations. I can't express my gratitude enough.

Ben Walters

Some of the birds seen by the group were: Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Sanderling, Greater Yellowlegs, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, American Golden Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Great Egret, Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, Mallard, Wood Duck, Scaup sp., American Coot, Common Moorhen, Northern Harrier, Common Loon, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Mute Swan, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, European Starling, House Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird; *sorry if I'm missing any.*

Northumberland Land Trust Note

The Northumberland Land Trust was the subject of Bill Johnson's column, which appeared in the Port Hope Evening Guide and the Cobourg Star on June 30. If you missed it, you can read it on the Land Trust's web page: www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca

An annual Membership in the Land Trust is \$20.00, which, since it is a new organization, will run to the end of 2006. This can be sent to the Treasurer c/o 16 Ross St., Port Hope, ON L1A 1J2.

2005 NORTHUMBERLAND SUMMER BIRD COUNT

by Roger Frost

The ninth annual Northumberland Summer Bird Count was held on June 11 and 12, 2005. The same 15 mile diameter circle, centered north of Centreton, as used in previous years, was covered by 28 observers. The circle stretched from Rice Lake and Roseneath in the north, to the 401 just north of Grafton in the south, and from Harwood Rd. in the west to almost Morganston in the east. The circle was divided into 6 sections, with coverage as follows:

Area #1 (NW section): Bob Short, Marg Short, Ron Cole, Debra Panko, Mike Johnston, Barry Walker, Dave Shirley

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

Area #3 (W-central section): Alison Elliott, Susanne Williams, Karen Drew

Area #4 (E-central section): Elizabeth Kellogg, Martha Robinson, Karen Drew, Graydon Bowman, Roger Frost

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

Area #6 (SE section): Margaret Bain, Louise Schmidt, Gary Little

The 28 observers this year was 4 less than last year. However, these observers spent many more hours in the field, tallying 183 party hours. This was 29 more party hours than last year's record high. The observers also covered 108 km on foot and 925 km by car.

Unlike 2004, this year's count had warm weather. Saturday, early morning fog gave way to hot hazy conditions with temperatures around 30°C in the afternoon. Sunday morning had more cloud and humidity, but not rain. Both mornings started calm, with a light breeze developing as the day warmed up.

This year's record effort produced both record totals for number of birds (13,999) and number of species (136). The record high number of birds was a result of 57 species being counted in record high numbers, and is certainly a reflection of the large increase in effort. The 136 species found this year is 4 more than the previous high in 2002.

Four new species were seen on the count this year. A Black-crowned Night Heron was found just south of Castleton in Area 6, a Trumpeter Swan at

Sandy Flats Sugar Bush in Area 2, a Red-bellied Woodpecker on Community Centre Rd. in Area 5, and a Carolina Wren in Burnley in Area 4. None of these species was unexpected. Black-crowned Night Herons breed at Presqu'ile and forage over a wide area. Trumpeter Swans are being reintroduced into Southern Ontario and are found in this region in the summer. Red-bellied Woodpeckers are expanding into Northumberland County and are becoming more common. Carolina Wrens are sporadically found the year-round and may breed locally.

Waterbirds were scarce, as usual. Area 2 had the only Common Loon and Pied-billed Grebe. Area 6 had a Great Egret and a record 3 Least Bitterns, to add to the Black-crowned Night Heron. Area 5 had the only Hooded Merganser.

Of the raptors, only Osprey and Cooper's Hawk were found in record numbers. The four American Kestrels were the lowest total ever for the count. Both Northern Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk were missed.

Ruffed Grouse continued their decline with the 12 this year being the lowest total since 1998. Wild Turkey (24) and Ring-necked Pheasant (4), on the other hand, were seen in record numbers.

Rails provided some highlights again this year, with a Yellow Rail heard calling in Lone Pine Marsh for the second year in a row. Area 5 produced the only Sora and Moorhen.

The highlight of the shorebirds was an amazing 18 Upland Sandpipers, mostly in Area 1. Only 3 areas reported Wilson's Snipe and Spotted Sandpiper. Only Areas 2 and 4 located American Woodcock.

Ring-billed Gulls had their second highest total ever. Only one herring Gull was found in Area 4. Caspian Terns smashed their previous high, thanks to 18 of them on Rice Lake in Area 1.

The 400 Mourning Doves was easily a new record high and reflects the increased observer effort this year. Area 4 had the only 2 Black-billed Cuckoos.

An increase in owling effort resulted in a record 4 Eastern Screech Owls in Area 1. Area 1 also had the only other owl, a Great Horned. Barred Owl was missed this year. The increase in "owling" paid off with a record 5 Common Nighthawks and 20

(Continued on page 7)

Whip-poor-wills.

Only Area 6 was able to find a single Chimney Swift.

Seven species of woodpeckers were found this year. Area 6 had the only Red-headed Woodpecker. The 15 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were a new record high.

Three species of flycatchers were found in record high numbers. Olive-sided Flycatcher (2), Eastern Wood-Pewee (150), and Alder Flycatcher (98), all posted record highs. Area 6 had the only 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers, as well as the only Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Three species of swallows also posted record highs. These were Northern Rough-winged (24), Barn (380), and Cliff (80). The 80 Cliff Swallows were about 5 times their average, with almost all of them found in a single colony in Area 6. Area 1 again had the only Purple Martins.

West Nile Virus seems so far, not to have had much of an effect on the American Crow population, as this species was recorded in record numbers. This year only Areas 4 and 6 reported single Common Ravens.

Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creepers were all found in record high numbers.

All of the wren species were recorded in record high numbers. Area 6 had 8 of the 10 Marsh Wrens, but one at Sandy Flats Sugar Bush was new for Area 2.

Three groups found a record total of four Golden-crowned Kinglets. Although they breed in many of the spruce plantations locally, they are very hard to find because of their high-pitched calls and songs.

Most of the thrushes were found in record high numbers. Only Hermit Thrush numbers were down, with their lowest total since 2001.

Both Gray Catbird and Brown Thrasher were in record or near record numbers. Cedar Waxwing posted its lowest total since 1997, after having a record high last year.

For the second year in a row, Blue-headed Vireos were in low numbers. A total of only 3 birds were seen between Areas 3 and 4. Red-eyed Vireos were in record high numbers. The impressive 330 birds easily made it the most common forest bird.

Seven of the 18 warbler species found on the count posted record highs. For the first time since

2001, Golden-winged Warblers (3) outnumbered Blue-winged Warblers (1). This year all the Golden-wings and Blue-wings were found in Area 4. Both Chestnut-sided (87) and Black-throated Green Warblers (54), far exceeded their previous highs. Both were found in numbers about double their averages. Single Magnolia Warblers were found in 4 areas, to tie their previous high count. Single Black-throated Blue Warblers were found in 3 areas. Blackburnian Warblers were more widespread this year, with 8 birds found over 4 areas.

Scarlet Tanagers were found in smaller numbers than the past two years, but still above their average. Both Northern Cardinal and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were seen in record high numbers.

Towhee numbers were down slightly from last year's record high.

Only 3 of the 9 sparrow species posted record highs. The high totals for Chipping and Song Sparrows can be explained by the big increase in observer effort. The large increase in number of Field Sparrows in much harder to explain. The 94 Field Sparrows were double their average. Grasshopper Sparrows had their best numbers since 1997. Only Areas 1 and 4 managed to find Clay-colored Sparrows.

Most blackbirds were found in record high numbers. Bobolinks surpassed their previous high by almost 100 birds. Red-winged Blackbirds smashed their previous high by more than 300 birds. Common Grackles, too, broke their previous high by 200 birds. Baltimore Orioles were also in record highs, but only by 33 birds. Eastern Meadowlarks had their highest total since 1999. Area 4 found the only Orchard Oriole.

American Goldfinch numbers dropped from last year's record high. House and Purple Finches were only seen in average numbers.

For the second year in a row, a Black Bear was seen. This year, it was Elizabeth Kellogg's turn to find one in Area 4.

This year's battle for top honours was a tie between the groups in Area 4 and Area 6, both of which tallied 107 species. Congratulations to both teams.

Thanks to all participants and to Carole Payne for hosting a wonderful post-count gathering.

Next year's count will be Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11.

SPECIES TOTALS - 2005 NORTHUMBERLAND SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Species	TOTAL
Common Loon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Double-crested Cormorant	4
Least Bittern	3
Great Blue Heron	25
Great Egret	1
Green Heron	13
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1
Trumpeter Swan	1
Canada Goose	106
Wood Duck	40
Mallard	87
Hooded Merganser	1
Turkey Vulture	48
Osprey	15
Northern Harrier	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4
Cooper's Hawk	4
Broad-winged Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	17
American Kestrel	4
Ring-necked Pheasant	4
Ruffed Grouse	12
Wild Turkey	24
Yellow Rail	1
Virginia Rail	4
Sora	1
Common Moorhen	1
Killdeer	69
Spotted Sandpiper	4
Upland Sandpiper	18
Common Snipe	3
American Woodcock	2
Ring-billed Gull	1151
Herring Gull	1
Caspian Tern	22
Rock Dove	134
Mourning Dove	400
Black-billed Cuckoo	2
Eastern Screech Owl	4
Great Horned Owl	1
Common Nighthawk	5
Whip-poor-will	20
Chimney Swift	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	25
Belted Kingfisher	14

Species	TOTAL
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	15
Downy Woodpecker	26
Hairy Woodpecker	21
"Yellow-shafted" Flicker	46
Pileated Woodpecker	15
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2
Eastern Wood Pewee	150
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1
Alder Flycatcher	98
Willow Flycatcher	3
Least Flycatcher	33
Eastern Phoebe	34
Great Crested Flycatcher	124
Eastern Kingbird	182
Horned Lark	12
Purple Martin	20
Tree Swallow	246
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	24
Bank Swallow	324
Cliff Swallow	80
Barn Swallow	380
Blue Jay	294
American Crow	535
Common Raven	2
Black-capped Chickadee	234
Red-breasted Nuthatch	16
White-breasted Nuthatch	18
Brown Creeper	6
Carolina Wren	1
House Wren	146
Winter Wren	13
Marsh Wren	10
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4
Eastern Bluebird	46
Veery	101
Hermit Thrush	15
Wood Thrush	65
American Robin	864
Gray Catbird	62
Brown Thrasher	63
Cedar Waxwing	114
European Starling	1234
Blue-headed Vireo	3
Warbling Vireo	71
Red-eyed Vireo	330

Species	TOTAL
Blue-winged Warbler	1
Golden-winged Warbler	3
Nashville Warbler	13
Yellow Warbler	173
Chestnut-sided Warbler	87
Magnolia Warbler	4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3
"Myrtle" Warbler	12
Black-throated Green Warbler	54
Blackburnian Warbler	8
Pine Warbler	27
Black and White Warbler	49
American Redstart	9
Ovenbird	121
Northern Waterthrush	19
Mourning Warbler	87
Common Yellowthroat	175
Canada Warbler	10
Scarlet Tanager	25
Northern Cardinal	54
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	101
Indigo Bunting	136
Eastern Towhee	20
Chipping Sparrow	338
Clay-colored Sparrow	10
Field Sparrow	94
Vesper Sparrow	42
Savannah Sparrow	130
Grasshopper Sparrow	67
Song Sparrow	445
Swamp Sparrow	41
White-throated Sparrow	26
Bobolink	258
Red-winged Blackbird	1262
Eastern Meadowlark	126
Common Grackle	795
Brown-headed Cowbird	98
Orchard Oriole	1
Baltimore Oriole	164
Purple Finch	13
House Finch	19
American Goldfinch	426
House Sparrow	61
Total Species	136
Total Individuals	13999

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Ted McDonald

Red-throated Loon	May1,3	1	Lakeshore at Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Common Loon	all June	2-4	Cobourg Harbour	LR
	Jun-16	2	Killoran Lake	CEG
	Jun-20	5	off Carr's Marsh, calling, all in breeding plumage	MB
	Jul-31	1	flying south over Cobourg calling	MB
Pied-billed Grebe	Jun-01	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	CP
Red-necked Grebe	May-05	2	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Bittern	May-12	2	Macklin Rd., Roseneath	DS
Least Bittern	June 11/12	3	Lone Pine Marsh	MB, LS
Great Blue Heron	Jul-31	19	Willow Beach marsh	MB
Great Egret	May-17	1	Wicklow Beach Marsh	BL
	May-24	3	Wicklow Beach Marsh	MB
	Jun-01	1	Wicklow Beach Marsh	MB
	Jun-12	1	Castleton pond	MB, LS
	Jul-02	1	Purdy Rd. pond, Grafton	CEG
	Jul-17	1	Close Point area	JN
Black-crowned Night Heron	May-28	1	Brand Rd. nr. Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
	Jun-12	1ad	Castleton pond	MB, LS
	Jul-18	4	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
	Aug-23	1	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
Green Heron	Jul-18	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
	Jul-31	2ad, 4 yg	Willow Beach marsh	MB
Turkey Vulture	Jul-18	1	over Choate Rd., PH Ward 2	MH
	Aug-30	6	over Garden Hill, PH Ward 2	MW
Snow Goose	May-31	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Brant	May-16	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May-24	80	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Mute Swan	Jul-04	30	off Lakeshore Rd, Cob.	LW
	Jun-20	27	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Wood Duck	Jul-18	3	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
Northern Shoveler	Aug-23	1	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
Green-winged Teal	Aug-10	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Sep-01	7	Cobourg east pier	MB
Redhead	Jul-27	2f/juv	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Lesser Scaup	Aug. 26-31	1m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
White-winged Scoter	May-21	13	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Black Scoter	Jun-01	3	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Long-tailed Duck	Jul-24	1	L. Ontario off Cobourg Harbour	MB
Hooded Merganser	Jul-31	4 juv.	Willow Beach marsh	MB
Red-breasted Merganser	Jun-26	25	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Osprey	Jul-31	1	Cobourg west beach, carrying fish	MB
	Aug. 9, 11	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Bald Eagle	May-30	1 imm	mouth of Cobourg Creek	TW
Northern Goshawk	Aug-07	2	Northumberland Forest	RF
Red-shouldered Hawk	Jul-07	1	7th Line, Perrytown, PH Ward 2	BW
American Kestrel	May-26	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Jul-03	2 (pair)	Wilson Rd., Alnwick-Haldimand Twp.	CEG
Merlin	Jul-02	1	over Young St., PH	NW
	Jul-28	1	PH west beach, chasing Spotted Sandpiper	MB
	Aug-23	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Aug-29	2	Lake St. marsh, PH	EB
Peregrine Falcon	May-22	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Wild Turkey	Jul-31	1	Hwy. 401 e. of Cobourg	BC
	Aug-23	2 ad, 3 imm	Telephone Rd. & Hamilton Rd.	BC

Sightings - cont'd.

Yellow Rail	Jun-11	1	Lone Pine Marsh	MB, LS
Sora	May-15	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	KA
Sandhill Crane	May-16	1	over Dalewood Golf Course	RL
Black-bellied Plover	May 24,29	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Golden Plover	Aug-28	1ad	Cobourg west beach	MB
Semipalmated Plover	July 28-31	1-2	Cobourg west beach	MB
	Aug-28	5	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Killdeer	Jul-31	95	sod farm, Sylvan Glen Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
Greater Yellowlegs	May-04	5	Cobourg water-tower pond	MB
	Jul-13	2	Lakeshore Rd. radioactive waste ponds	BW
	Jul-18	2	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
	Aug-23	1	Cobourg harbour	MB
Lesser Yellowlegs	May-04	2	Cobourg water-tower pond	MB
	Jul-18	15	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
	Aug-06	8	Wicklow Beach Marsh	MB
Solitary Sandpiper	Jul-13	2	Lakeshore Rd. radioactive waste ponds	BW
	Jul-18	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
	Aug-25	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	GMCD, JGo
Spotted Sandpiper	May-04	1	Cobourg water-tower pond	MB
	Jul-18	3	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
Upland Sandpiper	May-06	2	Sylvan Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Jul-26	1 juv	sod farm, Sylvan Glen Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
Whimbrel	May-02	17	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	May-25	11	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	May-28	11	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	May-28	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Ruddy Turnstone	May-13	1	Cobourg Harbour breakwater	MB
	May-27	16	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May-28	15	Port Hope Harbour	CEG
	Jun-08	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Sanderling	July 21-29	1ad	Cobourg west beach	MB
	Aug-25	6	Lake St. marsh, PH	GMCD, JGo
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Jul-18	6	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
Least Sandpiper	May-13	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
White-rumped Sandpiper	Jul-27	1 ad	Port Hope west beach	MB, RF
Baird's Sandpiper	Jul-29	2 ad	Cobourg west beach	MB
	Aug. 5, 6	1 ad	Cobourg west beach	MB
Pectoral Sandpiper	May-15	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May-10	1	Campbell Rd. & 6th Line, PH Ward 2	BW
Dunlin	May-01	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	May 27-28	50+	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jun-03	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Stilt Sandpiper	Jul-18	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	RF
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Aug-22	2	sod farm, Hawkins Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
	Aug-23	3	sod farm, Hawkins Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
Short-billed Dowitcher	Jul-18	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	MObs
Wilson's Phalarope	Jul-25	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	RF
Ring-billed Gull	Aug-15	~1830	Brand Rd., going onto lake at dusk, PH Ward 2	BW
Glaucous Gull	Jun-01	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Caspian Tern	Jun-12	2	Castleton pond	MB, LS
	July 21-29	54	Cobourg Harbour breakwater	MB
Forster's Tern	Jun-15	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Black-billed Cuckoo	May-25	1	Woodvale School Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Great Horned Owl	Aug-08	1	Westwood area, Cob.	BF
	Aug-23	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Long-eared Owl	May-12	1	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2, calling	BW

Sightings - cont'd.

Common Nighthawk	May-19	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Aug-22	1	Hawkins Rd, PH Ward 2, flying south	MB
	Aug-23	4	Brand Rd. beach, PH Ward 2	BW
	Aug-24	1	Pine St., PH	BW
	Aug-27	1	Dale Rd. - roadkill	MB
Whip-poor-will	May-18	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Aug-16	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Chimney Swift	May-08	4	over Cobourg	MB
	May-10	6	over Young St., PH	NW
	May-16	40	over Cobourg	MB
	Jun-01	2	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May-12	1	Durham St., PH, nectaring at hyacinths	EK
	May 12-31	1-2	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Aug-31	8	Garden Hill area	MW
Red-headed Woodpecker	May-10	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	May-12	1	Kennedy Rd., Cambourne	BE-E
	Jul-02	1	Port Granby area	JGo
	May 18, June 18	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May 15th-July	2 ad	Albert St., Cob.	MB
	July 13,16	1 juv.	Albert St., Cob.	MB
	Aug 1-Sept 1	1ad, 1-2juv	Albert St., Cob.	MB
	Jul-20	1 ad	King/D'Arcy St., Cob	MB
	Jul-28	1 ad	Queen/Henry St., Cob.	MB
Red-bellied Woodpecker	May 5/12-18	1f/1m	Durham St. PH feeder	EK
	May-15	2	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
Northern Flicker	Aug-30	1	Lakeshore Rd.W., PH	JGo
Pileated Woodpecker	July-Aug	2	Larchmere Golf Course	ERM
Olive-sided Flycatcher	June 11/12	2	Castleton area	MB, LS
	Jun-18	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Aug-09	1	Loyalist Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May30, June 1	1m	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Jun-11	1	Castleton area	MB, LS
	Aug-22	2	Albert St., Cob.	MB
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Jun-04	1	Morgan's Rd. & Lakeshore (Durham)	MP, DP
Philadelphia Vireo	May-13	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
Red-eyed Vireo	May-28	30	Candlewick Woods	RF
Common Raven	May-17	2	A3 Forest nr. Woodvale, PH Ward 2	LS
	Jun-15	1	n. of Garden Hill, carrying a black squirrel	DW
Purple Martin	Jun-22	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Bank Swallow	Jul-05	640	Chub Point	CEG
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Jul-02	3	Lakeshore Rd.W., PH	JGo
Carolina Wren	July 2,20	1	Chub Point	CEG
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Aug-11	1	Cobourg boatyard	MB
Eastern Bluebird	May-11	2	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Jun-21	2ad, 5yg	McDonald Rd., Alnwick-Haldimand Twp.	DP
Gray Catbird	Aug-01	1	Lakeshore Rd.W., PH	JGo
Northern Mockingbird	Jun-30	1	Westwood Dr., Cob. - chasing a crow.	MB
Brown Thrasher	all May	2	Cobourg downtown	MB
American Pipit	May-19	60	Woodvale School Rd.	LS
	Aug-30	4	Cobourg headland rocks	MB
	Sept. 1	2+	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Cedar Waxwing	Jun-05	24	Garden Hill area, PH Ward 2	DW
Blue-winged Warbler	Jun-15	1	Brown's Rd., PH Ward 2	KA, PA
	Jun-17	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Jul-05	1	Chub Point	CEG

Sightings - cont'd.

Tennessee Warbler	Aug-09	2	Candlewick Woods	RF
Orange-crowned Warbler	May-13	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
Northern Parula	Jul-19	1	Ganaraska Forest blue trail ponds, singing	BW
Cape May Warbler	Aug-16	2	Cobourg backyard	MB
Black-throated Blue Warbler	May-10	1	Queen St., Cob.	HK
	May-29	1 singing	East Ganaraska Forest	LS
Black-throated Green Warbler	May-18	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Jun-15	1m	downtown Cobourg, singing	MB
Blackpoll Warbler	May 24-29	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Cerulean Warbler	May-16	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
Ovenbird	May-16	1	Larchmere Golf Course	ERM
Northern Waterthrush	May-15	1	Lake St. trail, PH	ERM
	Aug-25	1	Lake St. marsh, PH	GMCD, JGo
	Sep-01	1	Cobourg ecology garden	MB
Louisiana Waterthrush	Feb-05	1-2	Ganaraska Forest, both sides of Cty. border	RP
Mourning Warbler	May-19	1m	Cobourg backyard	MB
Hooded Warbler	May-15	1m	Cobourg backyard, singing strongly	MB
	May-28	1 singing	East Ganaraska Forest	LS
Wilson's Warbler	May-29	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Aug-15	1juv	Cobourg ecology garden	MB
Canada Warbler	May-23	1m	Cobourg backyard, singing	MB
	May-25	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Aug-23	1	Cobourg west headland	MB
Eastern Towhee	May-14	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
Clay-colored Sparrow	May-11	6	Choate Rd., PH	MH
Field Sparrow	May-13	1	Durham St., PH feeder	EK
	May-19	1	downtown Cobourg feeder	MB
Song Sparrow	Jun-01	2	Young St., PH (nest with 4 eggs on ground)	NW
White-throated Sparrow	May-01	100+	Brand Rd., scattered around property, PH Ward 2	BW
White-crowned Sparrow	May-11	~40	Brand Rd. feeder, PH Ward 2	BW
Dark-eyed Junco	May-29	3	Brown St., PH	CP
	Aug-12	1	east end Cobourg	BL
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	June 22-July 18	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Blue Grosbeak	May 26-28	1 SY male	Durham St. PH feeder	RF, EK
Indigo Bunting	May-03	1	Cobourg feeder	RC, DP
	May-13	1	Victoria St.S., PH	MM
	May-30	3 males	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Bobolink	May-12	1	Chub Point Rd.,	HMCL
Brown-headed Cowbird	Jul-27	1 juv	Lake St. Marsh, being fed by sev. Yellow Warblers	MB
Orchard Oriole	May-10	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May-10	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	May-11	1	Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	RI
	May-14	1	Colborne area	JF
	Jul-25	1f	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2, attempting nest building	BW
	Jul-31	1m	Willow Beach marsh	MB
	Aug-20	1	Colborne area	JF
	Aug-20	1	n. of Garden Hill, PH Ward 2	MW
Baltimore Oriole	Aug-31	5	Garden Hill area, PH Ward 2	MW
Purple Finch	May-05	5	Durham St. PH feeder	EK
	May-06	1m	Cobourg backyard, singing	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

Red Fox	May-12	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
Fisher	May-14	1	Harwood Rd.	RH
Black Bear	May-18	1	Harwood area	HB
	Jun-02	1	Oak Hills Rd.	EM, RM
	Jun-06	1	Garden Hill & Cty. Rd. 10	DW
	Jun-14	1	Gully Rd.	KP
	Jul-04	1	Bowmanton Rd. nr. Beaver Meadow Rd.	HA
Smooth Green Snake	Jul-01	1	Russ Creek Rd.	RF
Painted Turtle	Aug-12	1	Albert St driveway, downtown Cobourg!	MB
Monarch Butterfly	Jun-20	1	Garden Hill area	DW
White Admiral	Jul-13	1	Young St., PH	NW
Black Swallowtail butterflies	Aug 23-Sept 1	1-2	Cobourg west headland	MB
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	July 17-24	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Question Mark	Jul-25	1	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Compton Tortoiseshell	Aug-17	1	Trefusus St., PH	BW
Fireflies	Jun-12	2	Colborne area	JF, KB
Cicada	Jul-20	1	Young St., PH	CPe, LPe
	Aug-22	1	Colborne area	JF, KB
Carrion Beetle	Aug. 22	1	Gregory St., PH	BT (RP)
Walkingstick	Aug-25	2	Larchmere Golf Course	ERM
Chalk-fronted Corporal	Jul-02	1	Chub Point - dragonfly, likely first for county	CEG
Little Glasswing	Jul-24	5	A Loop, Ganaraska forest	BW

Observers: KA=Kurt Appleman; PA=Paul Appleman; HA=Helen Ashton; EB=Eric Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; HB=Hazel Bird; KB=Kim Braat; BC=Bill Crowley; GMCD=Geoff Dale; BE-E=Barbara Edwardes-Evans; BF=Brad Foster; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGo=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; MH=Marguerite Huggins; RH=Reese Hunt; RI=Raymond Inch; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; HK=Harry Knapper; RL=Russell Lake; BL=Bill Logan; HMCL=Helga McLernon; ERM=Ted McDonald; AMcL=Andy McLaughlan; MM=Marlene Minnaker; MObs=Many Observers; EM=Eileen Mountain; RM=Russ Mountain; JN=Joan Norris; DP=Diane Pacey; MP=Malcolm Pacey; KP=Kate Passmore; CP=Carole Payne; RP=Rod Parrott; DP=David Pelton; CPe=Cindy Peters; LPe=Larry Peters; LS=Louise Schmidt; DS=Dave Shirley; BT=Barb Trumper; NW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; DW=Doug Watkins; MW=Marie Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley

CORRECTION: April Curlew - The animals seen on the ice off Roseneath Landing of April 2, by Dave Shirley were two Otter, not Coyote, as reported in the Recent Observations. *ERM*

In addition: 2 Merlin nests were found in Port Hope this year, one near the site of last year's successful nest on Bloomsgrrove Ave, and a second one on the west side of town. The school crossing guards at Ontario St. and Martha St., Shawn Hamilton and Kelli Brooking, noticed some very noisy birds and mentioned them to Norma Wallace. Norma let Roger Frost know about this, and they were positively identified as Merlins. Shawn also does lawn mowing on a property on the west side of town and noticed what he took to be the same sort of birds making a commotion in the area where he was working. Again, Roger and Elizabeth Kellogg were notified and they confirmed the nest. Kathryn Mills' mother lives next door to the nest and Kathryn watched the nest whenever she visited her mother. In late summer, she was able to take photographs of the fledglings roosting on a television antenna. The outcome of the east side nest is uncertain, but Merlins were seen in the neighbourhood into the late summer.

Elizabeth Kellogg

Following is an invitation from NCC to WBFN membership to participate in a volunteer event. The September 24th event is a bit tight for the Curlew publication schedule, but we decided to publicize the event anyway. We will also attempt to pass this notice on to members by word-of-mouth. This is one more opportunity for Willow Beach Field Naturalists to make a contribution to restoration of Northumberland County's natural heritage.

Nature Conservancy of Canada Volunteer Event Scot's pine removal September 24

Rice Lake Plains

The Rice lake Plains is the easternmost section of the Oak Ridges Moraine, located south of Rice Lake, near Centreton. This area of the Moraine is known to be the historic location of unique habitats including Black Oak Savanna and Tallgrass Prairie. Over 99% of the global tall-grass communities have been destroyed to date, increasing the importance of protecting the globally rare habitats that still exist in the Rice Lake Plains today.

NCC Property

This property is located in the heart of the Rice Lake Plains, and is currently in the process of being donated to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. This diverse site contains woodlands, forests, prairies and savannas.

When: September 24, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. on site

Work

This one day volunteer event will begin with a brief tour of the site led by NCC staff. Afterwards, we will begin removal of invasive Scot's Pine. Trees to be removed will be small in size, and will be cut at the base of the tree using hand-saws. Invasive species even change the structure and composition of natural habitats and reduce the number of native species able to live in an area. Invasive species are a threat to our natural heritage and biodiversity everywhere.

Snacks and drinks will be provided. Volunteers should bring their own lunches. There is a limit to the number of volunteers for this event, so please register ASAP if you can attend. If you are interested in registering, please RSVP via e-mail and directions will be forwarded to you. Waiver and health form information will be filled out on-site.

Todd Farrell
Central Ontario Stewardship Co-ordinator
Nature Conservancy of Canada
e-mail: todd.farrell@naturconservancy.ca
cell phone: 705-749-6604

WANTED: BREEDING BIRD RECORDS

If you have been involved in the Breeding Bird Atlas and attended any of the meetings, you may recall my commenting that the Northumberland data base has very few breeding records. In fact, of almost 250,000 records, there are fewer than 1500 entries recording Probable or Confirmed nestings. This information could be very useful to anyone interested in the dates for local nesting, including the helpers in the next atlas. The present Atlas offers an ideal opportunity for correcting this deficit. Unfortunately, however, the atlas format makes it virtually impossible to gather this information unless the individual atlasers provide the information to me directly. and that's the reason for this note.

The information needed is the species, the date [very important], location, the breeding descriptions, and, of course, the observer's name. The atlas codes for these items is quite acceptable [for example, NE or nest with eggs are both equally good]. I specify Probable or Confirmed because the first category [Possible nesting] is hardly worthwhile unless the species is a rarity, as most birds we encounter in the summer are in suitable nesting habitat, and very many are in song.

Obviously everyone is busy now with getting information in to the Atlas itself, but sometime - perhaps this winter, when birding is slow and our part of the atlas is over - any records you can send in would be most valuable. You can send them to me at 1 Queen St., Ste. 405, Cobourg K9A 1M8, or e-mail at clivegoodwin@sympatico.ca

Many thanks to those of you who can help.

Clive Goodwin

TWO ROBIN TALES

Since 1992, a pair of Blue Jays have successfully nested on top of the back door light fixture at the Laidlaw home in Port Hope. In the latter part of April, 2005, a pair of robins started construction at that location. They beat the jays to the punch! Five blue eggs were laid. Alas and alack, around Mother's Day, the nest was predated.

In the spring of 2004, a pair of robins raised their young on a nest built just inside the doorway of the back porch of a house in Ward 2, Port Hope. The nest remained in place over the winter.

This spring, robins tried to build a nest in a most unsuitable location at the same house. The owner kept removing the partial structure, while the robins persisted in rebuilding. One morning, the home owner glanced into the abandoned nest. Abandoned it was not! Three blue eggs were in its hollow!

Was this a matter that Mother Robin could wait no longer? Or, was all the rebuilding of the 2005 nest a decoy?!

Even in the avian world, the concept of reuse and recycle is practiced.

Norma Wallace

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Annual membership fees are:

Family - \$20 Single - \$18 Senior Couple - \$18 Senior Single - \$16

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



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