



COMING EVENTS

Please note the change of location for the meetings in Port Hope.

● **Friday, Sept. 29, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** - Beatrice Strong Public School, 90 Rose Glen Rd.N., Port Hope
Speaker: **Ben Walters**. Topic: **The Ganaraska Forest and the Birds that Nest There**. Ben is a student in Environmental Resource Science, Trent University. Ben had the opportunity to work for Trent University's ornithology Professor Erica Nol during the summer of 2006. His job was to search for and monitor bird nests in and around the Ganaraska Forest. Following birds so intimately provides one with unique chances to observe some interesting behaviour. The Ganaraska Forest is one of southern Ontario's largest forests. This presentation will explain the history of this large scale ecosystem restoration, its ongoing changes and its uses, wildlife and the research project.

● **Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006, 10 a.m.** - Joint outing with the Oak Ridges Trail Association in the Northumberland Forest. Since the exact location of this outing has not been defined, we will meet at the Port Hope carpool lot across from Arby's at 9:15 a.m., then the Cobourg carpool lot north of Hwy. 401 at Division St at 9:30 a.m., continuing on the the trail from there . This is a great opportunity to meet other people who share similar interests and to create a relationship with other clubs, so mark this date on your calendar. The hike will be approximately 2 hours long and will include hiking with natural history stops.

● **Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006 - Outing to Candlewick Woods** - A fall outing to look for sparrows and lingering migrants. Meet at Phillip's Rd. car pool lot (across from Arby's in Port Hope) at 9:00 a.m., as parking space is limited. We will then be at Candlewick around 9:15 a.m. This outing will involve a fair amount of walking, although it is on mainly flat, dry ground. Contact Ben Walters, 905-885-8586 for more information or if you need a ride.

● **Friday, Oct. 27, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** - Terry Fox Public School, 1065 Riddell Ave., Cobourg
Speaker: **Graham Whitelaw**. Topic: **The Oak Ridges Moraine**. Graham is a Board member of STORM and an advisor to the Monitoring the Moraine project. He will tell us about some interesting features of the Oak Ridges Moraine, and the progress STORM is making to monitor and protect the moraine.

● **Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006 - Closing of Peter's Woods**

● **Sunday, November 4, 2006. Outing to Garden Hill Conservation Area** - A late fall outing to look for

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lingering sparrows and waterfowl. This outing will also go to any other nearby areas such as Rice Lake, Fudge's Mill. Meet at the Phillip's Rd. car pool lot (across from Arby's in Port Hope) at 10:00 a.m. We will then meet any others at the conservation area, which is on County Rd. 9 west of Hwy. 28 and Cty. Rd. 10 at 10:30 a.m. This outing will be mainly car-based, with some walking at the conservation area. Contact Ben Walters, 905-885-8586 for more information or if you need a ride.

●**Friday, Nov. 24, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** - Beatrice Strong Public School, 90 Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope
Speaker: **Ken Towle**. Topic: **Prairie Passion: Restoring Tallgrass Communities on the Oak Ridges Moraine**. Ken is an Ecologist with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. His presentation will provide a brief introduction to tallgrass ecosystems, some of the associated plant and animal species, and will review current efforts to restore degraded tallgrass remnants.

●**Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006 - Annual Christmas Bird Count**

●**Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, & 30 p.m.** - Terry Fox Public School, 1065 Riddell Ave., Cobourg
Speaker: **Dr. Nick Eyles**. Topic: **When the Ground Rumbles: Earthquakes in Ontario**. Dr. Eyles is a Professor of Geology at the University of Toronto. His presentation will examine why earthquakes occur in Ontario, the record of past earthquakes and earthquake hazards.

●**Friday, Feb. 23, 2007, 7:00 p.m.** - Beatrice Strong Public School, 90 Rose Glen Rd.N., Port Hope.
Annual General Meeting. Program to be determined.

●**Friday, March 30, 2007, 7:30 p.m.** - Terry Fox Public School, 1065 Riddell Ave., Cobourg
Speaker: **Elizabeth Kellogg**, Topic: **Update of the Willow Beach Banding Group projects**.

●**Friday, Apr. 27, 2007, 7:30 p.m.** - Beatrice Strong Public School, 90 Rose Glen Rd.N., Port Hope
Speaker: **Susan Grigg**, Park Planner and **Corina Brdar**, Ecologist, Ontario Parks. Topic: **Peter's Woods Provincial Park - Ecology and Planning**. Susan and Corina will tell us about the interesting natural features of Peter's Woods (including the Burnley addition) and vegetation restoration actions. They will also provide an overview of the new park management plan.

●**Saturday, June 9 & Sunday, June 10, 2007 - Northumberland Summer Bird Count**

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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 October 2006 issue should be received by September 30, 2006. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost at 905-885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca, 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."

WBFN members know Ted McDonald as the compiler of the Sightings' Records for the Curlew. His name has appeared at the top of this list from the beginning of the publication of the Curlew until the May 2006 Issue. On the occasion of his retirement from this job, we take the opportunity to honour his nearly half a century of contribution to the Club.

Ted McDonald, Keeper of the Records

I probably first met Ted McDonald when I went on a Christmas Bird Count with him in the late 1980s. Ted's area was Area 4, which included the town of Port Hope on the west side of the Ganaraska. Ted's day job was as a letter carrier for Canada Post. I now live in the walk that he had for many years. None of the other carriers wanted it because of the steep hills of Dorset Street West and Augusta Street! Ted, I'm sure, enjoyed the wooded ravines because he could bird while he worked. On the first Christmas Count I did with him, I was impressed that he seemed to know every bird feeder in the area and what to expect at it.

I also remember dragging Ted out to the family farm at Welcome in winter because I had seen a shrike. At the time, I didn't know that there were two shrike species.

Ted has always lived in Port Hope. He got his start at birding when his Grade 8 teacher at Central Public School, Phyllis Smith, gave the class the assignment of finding 10 species of birds.

Ted's father was a friend of Kip Reeve at Wesleyville, so Ted got to know him, too. The Reeves owned Willow Beach, after which our club is named. Ted was 22 years old when WBFN was formed. (In the May issue, we erroneously stated that he was not a founding member, but he was.) In the 1950s and 1960s, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature) used to hold an annual spring outing at Willow Beach, where Ted got to meet some of the best naturalists in the province.

Mr. Reeve, himself, was an expert on sedges, as well as a well-known birder. Other names that Ted mentioned as influences on his development as a naturalist were Gerry Bennett, who lived on Ontario St. in Cobourg overlooking Pratt's Pond (now The Mill golf course), Jim Simone who was a botanist, Roy John and Brian Olsen.

Peter Landry, who taught at Trinity College School in the early 1950s was very keen to have records of interesting or unusual sightings documented. He started keeping the club records. When he left for Montreal, he left the notes with Ted. Ever since, Ted has kept the WBFN records in a set of binders. These binders document the natural history of our area over a period of fifty years.

When asked about changes that he had observed in that time, Ted had a very interesting list. First, to see a Canada Goose in winter was very rare fifty years ago. It was something to be remarked upon. House Finches moved into the area in the early 1980s. Now they are common at almost all feeders. Northern Cardinal has become widespread. The Double-crested Cormorant

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population has increased substantially, after almost being wiped out by the use of DDT.

In 1946 and 1947, Ted went tree planting with the Boy Scouts on Ganaraska River Conservation Authority property. The Scouts stayed at what is now known as the Ganaraska Forest Centre. He remembers that the tree planting usually took place on a wet May weekend. The little trees which he helped to plant are now a sizeable portion of the Ganaraska Forest.

He feels that many more people maintain bird feeders. He remembers that a Red-bellied Woodpecker which visited Hazel Bird's feeder in Harwood brought her into WBFN.

He would like to encourage people to make notes of their field observations and report unusual sightings. Each person's field notes are an important record of the natural history of the region.

Ted's other interests include square dancing, the history of Port Hope (He has taken photographs of many of the town's old buildings.) and a more recently acquired interest in genealogy.

- Elizabeth Kellogg

Gleanings from the Northumberland Bird Database

FALL HAWK MIGRATION

By Clive E. Goodwin

Among the delights of fall birding are the movements of hawks and vultures. They can be among the most memorable of birding experiences: perhaps a Peregrine Falcon chasing shorebirds over the open waters of the lake, or a huge pin-wheel of Broad-winged Hawks spiraling upwards overhead, or even hawks soaring against the face of the clouds themselves, completely invisible to the naked eye. Fall is the time for these things. There is hawk movement in the spring, of course – mainly in April – but it does not come close to the autumn flights in the numbers seen; in fact, the totals of all the other months put together do not come close to the numbers we can see in September and October.

September is the pre-eminent month, with almost 23,000 individuals recorded over the years. October has fewer than half as many – some 10,000; but impressive though these totals may seem, they really pale in comparison to locations further west, where one-day counts alone in a good year can easily exceed them. Birds moving south across the Province arrive at the lakes and

then continue westwards, gradually swelling the numbers of hawks already moving there.

That passage is not uniform, either from day to day or year to year. Different species move at different times, and their patterns of migration differ as well. September is a big month primarily because Broad-winged Hawks move at that time – indeed, an old adage is that a Broad-wing after September 25 is late, and that seems very close to being correct. We have only one record of any numbers after the end of September, but well over 13,000 seen in that month. The other species that dominates the September movement is the Sharp-shinned Hawk, with 4366 birds recorded then. However, their flight also extends well into October, and we have had over 1200 birds seen during the course of that month.

Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks use very different patterns of migration. Broad-wings – and to a lesser extent the other Buteo hawks such as Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Rough-legged – migrate by soaring. The Broad-

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wings move in loose flocks, using columns of rising warm air [‘thermals’] to spiral upwards – forming a ‘kettle’ – until the lift runs out, and then setting off in a shallow glide. Traditionally mid-September has brought cool north-west winds and sunny days, and the warming ground generates the thermals that produce fluffy ‘cotton-wool’ cumulus clouds – perfect Broad-winged Hawk weather.

All the other hawks will take advantage of good soaring weather as well, so you’ll see Broad-wing flocks with Sharp-shins mixed in. But they’re not so dependent on soaring, and it’s usual to see them flying steadily westwards, following the lake shoreline. This pattern is even more pronounced with the falcons – Peregrine, Merlin and kestrel – and in fact the first two species will sometimes move well out over the lake itself.

The database reflects these differences very well. While the over 13,500 Broad-wings constitute over half of all hawks seen, there are only 160 records of this species – with as many as 4,000 in one day. Over 100 birds were seen 22 times, and we have only 62 singles. Contrast this with Merlin, where only 940 birds were seen in all, but we have 715 records, including 564 single birds. The largest single Merlin count? It was eight birds!

The emphasis on the lakeshore I mention above is less easy to tease out of the data because we have so many different locations. However, taking records from the towns of Port Hope and Cobourg [but not from specific waterfront areas], we have 8398 Broad-wings but only 25 Merlins, while Presqu’ile and Cobourg Harbour [both predominantly waterfront locations] yielded 801 Broad-wings but 687 Merlins.

Like the Sharp-shinned Hawks, the other diurnal raptors fall somewhere between these two extremes, partly because the weather in October tends to be cooler and good soaring days are far fewer. This is the time for Red-tailed Hawks to move, and with them much smaller numbers of Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks. It’s also the time of the big Turkey Vulture movement. All these birds make good use of the topography to help them move, using ridgelines and

hills to gain lift, rather than the rising air of a thermal. It’s probably no coincidence that our five highest Red-tail counts are from Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost’s home, which is on a ridge line, or that I have had only 4 Golden Eagles over Cobourg Harbour in 15 years; this species too follows ridge lines.

It would be nice to be able to use the database to assess whether species are declining or not. Unfortunately, while some birds may have declined the birders have increased. We’re getting many more records now than we used to have – not that I’m complaining; the more the merrier! – but it does make declines harder to identify. I’m pretty sure kestrels have declined seriously, but the fall migration figures don’t show it, although my own Cobourg Harbour records do suggest some decline in the last 8 years. Increases are easier to see: Merlins have increased dramatically – in the last 20 years we have gone from single digit totals annually to 50 and 60 each fall.

Even when there is some evidence of decline it isn’t always easy to be sure what is happening. It has been suggested that Sharp-shinned Hawks have declined – on east coast sites the birds certainly have – but in general our numbers have seemed fairly steady. Steady, until one looks at the highest counts, and the most recent of the six highest counts was in 1988, quite the reverse of what one would expect. So perhaps there has been some decline. On the other hand, there have been no high Broad-winged Hawk counts in the last five years, again not what one might expect. This time, however, there could be an alternative explanation. It cannot have escaped readers that recent falls have been unusually warm, and with such warm weather the cool crisp fall days with NW winds that have brought the Broad-wings down have become scarce. Maybe the birds moved further north and we have been missing them. So the database can sometimes raise more questions than answers, but without it we wouldn’t even know what questions to ask!

[This is the first of what I hope will be a series of articles on the information in the bird database. CEG]

2006 Northumberland Summer Bird Count

by Roger Frost

This was the 10th year for The Northumberland Summer Bird Count. On June 10 and 11, 36 observers covered the same 15 mile diameter circle used in previous years. The circle's centre is about 2 km NNE of Centreton. It ranges from Rice Lake and Roseneath in the north, to the 401 just north of Graf-ton in the south, and from Harwood Road in the west, to almost Morganston in the east. The circle was divided into the same 6 sections as previous years, with coverage as follows.

Area #1 (NW section): Bob Short, Marg Short, Anne Anthony, Jerry Ball, Dave Shirley, Kath Shirley, Ken Towle, Sue Prentice, Laura Mac-Court

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

Area #3 (W-central section): Ben Walters, Alison Elliott, Karen Drew, Susanne Williams, Bill Newell, Hans Maas

Area #4 (E-central section): Elizabeth Kellogg, Anne Tesluk, Simone Merey, Cathie Smith, Richard Smith, Roger Frost

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

Area #6 (SE section): Louise Schmidt, Margaret Bain, Janette Johnston, Gary Little, Matt Hayward

The 36 observers was a record high. These observers spent a total of 181.5 party hours in the field and walked 160 km. They also drove 1,078 km. The number of party hours was similar to last year's record high, but the number of kilometers walked and driven was much higher. How this is possible is beyond me, since I don't think people were walking and driving faster this year.

The weather this year was poor for counting birds. Saturday was cold, windy, and cloudy all day. The morning low was about 7°C with 25+ km/hr NW winds. Some observers wore their winter jackets and gloves! Sunday was still cold with a high only about 14°C. However, there was some sun and somewhat lighter winds on Sunday. The cold, dark and windy conditions did little to entice the birds to sing, and even the birds that did sing were hard to hear because of the wind.

Amazingly, despite the poor weather, a record 14,978 birds were counted, almost 1,000 more than last year! The 134 species was only 2 shy of last year's record high. Forty species posted record high totals this year, and many others had near records.

For the first time ever, no new species were seen. After 10 years, most of the regular breeding species have been recorded. Still, there are several species that should be found in the near future. My top 5 candidates would be Mute Swan, Merlin, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Sandhill Crane. There are also still a good number of late migrating songbirds and shorebirds that have not yet been recorded.

Common Loons were seen in record high numbers with 7 birds seen in 3 areas. Area 6 found the only American Bittern. Area 3 had the only Great Egret.

Raptors were well recorded this year. Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel all posted record highs. This was good news for the kestrels, since they had a record low last year. Areas 1 and 6 had the only Cooper's Hawks. Area 5 found the only Red-shouldered Hawk.

Ruffed Grouse numbers remained low with only 13 recorded. The 22 Wild Turkeys were two short of their record. Single Ring-necked Pheasants were found only in Areas 1 and 3.

Rails and shorebirds are always in short supply. There were no Yellow Rails found this year. Sora was recorded in Areas 5 and 6. A record 9 Virginia Rails were spread over 3 areas. For the first time ever, no Wilson's Snipe were found! This was probably due to the lousy weather conditions. After an amazing 18 Upland Sandpipers last year, the 2 in Area 1 were rather disappointing.

Cuckoos were also disappointing, with only single Black-billed in Areas 4 and 5, and a Yellow-billed in Area 5.

A record 7 Eastern Screech Owls were located in Area 1, thanks to Dave and Kath Shirley. It would be great if all parties did at least some owling. It would give us a much better understanding of owl distribution in the area, as well as other nocturnal species. However, when your day starts at 4:30 a.m.,

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it is hard to stay up until midnight.

Area 5 found the only other owl species, a single Great Horned. A total of 15 Whip-poor-wills found in Areas 3 and 4 were about average. Common Nighthawks were missed, however.

All woodpecker species were seen in above average numbers. The three Red-headed Woodpeckers in Areas 3 and 5 tied their previous high. The Red-bellied Woodpecker in Area 6 was only the second ever recorded on the count.

Most flycatcher species were seen in somewhat lower numbers than last year. The exceptions were Eastern Kingbird which smashed its previous record by some 60+ birds, and Eastern Phoebe which is still rebounding from a population "crash" in 2003. Area 6 reported the only Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.

Horned Lark had its best showing ever, with 22 birds spread over 5 areas.

Most swallows were also recorded in lower numbers than last year. Only 8 Purple Martins were counted. This is a species that has declined greatly in the last 25 years. The colonies at Roseneath Landing are already the only reliable place in the count circle to find them. Only about half as many Bank Swallows were seen this year as last. However, both Cliff and Northern Rough-winged Swallows posted record highs.

The corvids are doing well, with both American Crow and Common Raven recorded in record high numbers.

The record 10 Brown Creepers was a bit of a surprise. With such windy weather it would have been easy to miss their songs.

Both Winter Wren and Carolina Wren were found in record high numbers. For the Carolina Wren, this was only two birds, one in Area 1 and another in Area 4.

Area #3 found the only two Golden-crowned Kinglets.

The woodland thrushes were found in about average numbers. Eastern Bluebirds and Robins both far surpassed their previous record highs by wide margins.

All three mimic thrushes posted record highs. For the Northern Mockingbird, of course, this was only a single bird in Area 1.

The 368 Red-eyed Vireo was yet another record high, easily making it the most common wood-

land bird. Single Yellow-throated Vireos in Areas 4 and 5 tied the previous record high.

Nineteen species of warblers were found this year. Highlights were: 2 Blue-winged in Area 4; 4 Golden-winged in Areas 4 and 6; 2 Magnolia in Areas 4 and 5; 9 Black-throated Blue in Areas 3 and 4; 3 Blackburnian in Areas 3 and 4; and one Wilson's in Area 1. In addition, Myrtle Warbler, Pine Warbler and Common Yellowthroat all were found in record high numbers.

Nine species of sparrows were seen, with only Song and Swamp in record high numbers. The only highlight was a "Slate-colored" Junco seen in Area 3. For the first time Clay-colored Sparrow was missed, almost certainly due to the wind.

Of all the blackbirds, only Eastern Meadowlark was found in record numbers, although most other species were seen in near record numbers.

Of the three finch species, only House Finch had a record high.

The 132 House Sparrows was well above their previous high of 76. This increase is hard to explain. Were there really more House Sparrows this year, or did observers just make a point of counting them?

Louise Schmidt won the most interesting mammals award this year, with Short-tailed Weasel and Coyote.

This year, the Area 3 team led by Ben Walters won top honours, with 104 species. This is the first time a team from Area 3 has come in with the most species. The area does have a good mix of forested and grassland habitats. However, it does not have much water. What wetlands there are, are mostly along Baltimore Creek and Burnley Creek. The Area 6 team came in second with 102 species, followed by Area 4 with 100 species.

Over the past 10 years, most species seem to be holding steady. The data does not show any drastic declines or population explosions. Species that were uncommon 10 years ago still are uncommon; species that were common 10 years ago are still common. The upward trend shown in the number of species as well as number of individuals is certainly a result of more observers and overall better coverage.

Thanks to all who participated! Thank you also to Michael Biggar for hosting the post-count feast.

Species List for Northumberland Summer Bird Count, June 10 & 11, 2006

Species	TOTAL	Species	TOTAL	Species	TOTAL
Common Loon	7	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	"Myrtle" Warbler	16
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Eastern Wood Pewee	111	Black-throated Green Warbler	38
Double-crested Cormorant	2	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Blackburnian Warbler	3
American Bittern	1	Alder Flycatcher	91	Pine Warbler	36
Great Blue Heron	20	Willow Flycatcher	2	Black and White Warbler	53
Great Egret	1	Least Flycatcher	18	American Redstart	13
Green Heron	10	Eastern Phoebe	46	Ovenbird	199
Canada Goose	246	Great Crested Flycatcher	93	Northern Waterthrush	16
Wood Duck	9	Eastern Kingbird	226	Mourning Warbler	83
Mallard	68	Horned Lark	22	Common Yellowthroat	227
Blue-winged Teal	4	Purple Martin	8	Wilson's Warbler	1
Hooded Merganser	3	Tree Swallow	221	Canada Warbler	13
Turkey Vulture	100	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	34	Scarlet Tanager	32
Osprey	12	Bank Swallow	158	Northern Cardinal	49
Northern Harrier	8	Cliff Swallow	124	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	101
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	Barn Swallow	304	Indigo Bunting	148
Cooper's Hawk	2	Blue Jay	276	Eastern Towhee	22
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	American Crow	703	Chipping Sparrow	314
Broad-winged Hawk	6	Common Raven	12	Field Sparrow	78
Red-tailed Hawk	33	Black-capped Chickadee	225	Vesper Sparrow	52
American Kestrel	17	Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	Savannah Sparrow	156
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	11	Grasshopper Sparrow	45
Ruffed Grouse	13	Brown Creeper	10	Song Sparrow	629
Wild Turkey	22	Carolina Wren	2	Swamp Sparrow	66
Virginia Rail	9	House Wren	131	White-throated Sparrow	24
Sora	2	Winter Wren	13	"Slate-colored" Junco	1
Killdeer	49	Marsh Wren	9	Bobolink	198
Spotted Sandpiper	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	Red-winged Blackbird	1150
Upland Sandpiper	2	Eastern Bluebird	81	Eastern Meadowlark	131
American Woodcock	5	Veery	94	Common Grackle	700
Ring-billed Gull	1286	Hermit Thrush	20	Brown-headed Cowbird	225
Herring Gull	2	Wood Thrush	35	Baltimore Oriole	154
Caspian Tern	4	American Robin	1083	Purple Finch	13
Rock Dove	104	Gray Catbird	66	House Finch	25
Mourning Dove	407	Northern Mockingbird	1	American Goldfinch	497
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Brown Thrasher	73	House Sparrow	132
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Cedar Waxwing	203	Total Species	134
Eastern Screech Owl	7	European Starling	1429	Total Individuals	14978
Great Horned Owl	1	Blue-headed Vireo	8		
Whip-poor-will	15	Yellow-throated Vireo	2		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	28	Warbling Vireo	52		
Belted Kingfisher	18	Red-eyed Vireo	368		
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	Blue-winged Warbler	2		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Golden-winged Warbler	4		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	14	Nashville Warbler	17		
Downy Woodpecker	26	Yellow Warbler	167		
Hairy Woodpecker	24	Chestnut-sided Warbler	66		
"Yellow-shafted" Flicker	66	Magnolia Warbler	2		
Pileated Woodpecker	11	Black-throated Blue Warbler	9		

Kirtland's Warblers and Black-backed Woodpeckers

A Michigan birding adventure

by Margaret Bain

I have an American friend, Kay Goodhue, who is 80 going on 35 and has a world life-list of over 6000 bird species, but she had never seen a Kirtland's Warbler. This endangered species has hovered on the brink of extinction because of habitat loss and cowbird predation, but is being saved by an intensive restoration project in its only known breeding area, in Michigan's Jack Pine forests. And so, a trip was born.

On June 1st, Carole Payne, Anne Tesluk and I set off from Port Hope to cross the border at Sarnia. We stopped off to do a little introductory birding at Pinery Provincial Park on the Ontario shore of Lake Huron, where highlights were a self-important, fat, young Bald Eagle perched on a nest high in a lone pine and two beautiful Red-headed Woodpeckers at a nest-hole in a birch stump close to the Riverside Trail, and next morning we met Kay at the airport at Flint, Michigan.

Our destination was Grayling, a small town in the northern Lower Peninsula where Kirtland's Warbler tours run from mid-May to early July. Taking the scenic route, we drove up the western shore of Lake Huron to Nyanquing State Wildlife Area where extensive marshes are home to many Yellow-headed Blackbirds, the males with brilliant saffron heads and huge white wing-patches in flight. A Black-crowned Night-Heron flew below us past the observation tower, and we could hear the calls of Pied-billed Grebes, Virginia Rails, and moorhens hidden in the dense cattails. Our next stop was Tawas Point State Park, a lovely sandy peninsula stretching out into the lake like a mini-Point Pelee. In peak migration season this is a birding hotspot but it was quiet that day, though we did get great looks at a colony of Cliff Swallows busily building their domed mud nests among the wooden rafters of the wash-room building. We set off on the boardwalk to the tip of Tawas Point, but by this time there were drum-rolls of thunder, inky-black cumulus clouds were piling higher and higher, and when the lightning started to sizzle we retreated to the car and went on our way!

The Holiday Inn at Grayling is the centre for daily Kirtland's Warbler guided tours run

jointly by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Audubon Society. The tours are free, and participating birders even get substantially reduced room rates! Our tour started in the conference room at 7am the next morning with an outstanding video of Kirtland's Warbler biology, its very particular habitat requirements, and Michigan's extensive recovery program. Kirtland's Warblers nest only in Jack Pine stands at least 80 acres in area, preferably much larger, consisting of young trees from five to 20 feet in height. Stands such as these occur naturally a few years after a wildfire sweeps through a pine forest, the heat of a fire being necessary to pop open the pine cones and release their seeds, but most forest fires are no longer allowed to burn, so the warbler's habitat had become severely reduced. A second factor bringing the warbler population to critical levels was parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds, a species that moved in from the prairies as the eastern forests were opened up by logging. Cowbirds are "nest parasites" - they do not build nests for themselves but lay their eggs in the nests of other species, leaving the unsuspecting adoptive parents to lavish attention on a huge, greedy cowbird chick instead of their own nestlings.

Kirtland's Warbler was listed as endangered in 1973 when only 201 singing males could be found in all of northern Michigan. Large areas of public forest land then became dedicated to warbler management, Jack Pines were planted and harvested in rotation so there were always stands of the right age and size available for warbler nesting, cowbirds were trapped and removed, and nesting areas were closed to the public except for escorted tours. An annual census carried out each June tallied a record 1417 singing males in 2005. Attention also goes to the warbler's wintering grounds in the Bahamas where droughts and heavy logging may have contributed to its decline, but recent recovery of the Caribbean pine forests seems to be helping winter survival.

With all this fascinating information in our heads, off we went to see the birds themselves, and there they were, amazingly, males on territory

singing and singing from the tops of the young Jack Pines as if announcing that all was right with their world! Anne got wonderful frame-filling photos through my scope of the singers, heads thrown back, brilliant in blue-gray and gold and black, and we listened and looked in awe at what might well not have been. The chicken-wire cowbird traps brought us back to earth with a bit of a jolt, but we had to accept that here was an attempt to restore a balance originally upset by our own kind. And all the while around us were the songs of the other birds benefiting from these young pines on their sandy soil – Chipping, Field, and Clay-colored Sparrows, Brewer's Blackbirds, and even distant ravens and an Upland Sandpiper.

A hard act to follow! But as we were leaving we were given brochures of a Michigan Audubon day trip in the Upper Peninsula promising goodies like Spruce Grouse and Connecticut Warbler. Needing very little decision-making time, we were quickly back in Carole's car, heading north towards the Mackinac Bridge, the gracefully beautiful suspension bridge across the straits between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. We stopped at Pointe La Barbe where sandy beaches looked back to the bridge and the straits, and a female Red-breasted Merganser swam close to shore with almost a dozen tiny fledglings riding on her back. Then we tried to find Trout Lake, our destination for the night. Somehow, Carole didn't seem to appreciate the creative navigation supplied by Anne and myself as we took her on a scenic tour of some of northern Michigan's more picturesque forest roads, but we got there in the end, listening to distant Whip-poor-wills as dusk fell.

Mosquitoes, big ones, were in battalions next morning, even in the dining-room of the Castlewood Inn where we were having a pre-dawn breakfast. We were joined by several other birders, most of them already sensibly kitted out with bug hats. The outing was in support of the Michigan Important Bird Areas program and our knowledgeable leader was Caleb Putnam. On our way to our target bird, the Connecticut Warbler, Caleb spotted a female Spruce Grouse cryptically hidden in roadside undergrowth. Then we were in a wonderful spruce bog, soft and bouncy as a trampoline, full of lovely bog plants – Bearberry, Bunchberry, Wintergreen, Labrador Tea, Bog

Myrtle, and Pink Ladyslippers. Botanists drooled and discussed, birders listened to Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, a distant Olive-sided, the rollicking calls of passing Sandhill Cranes, and finally a Connecticut Warbler, singing its distinctive song 40 feet up in a tall spruce. Excellent scope views of this elusive ghost, another nice photo for Anne, a lifer for many there. Back on the road, warblers seemed to be everywhere - Nashville, Blackburnian, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Magnolia. A colony of Sedge Wrens sang from a roadside marsh. A pair of Sandhill Cranes with a leggy orange youngster dithered on a grassy bank. Then with a final flourish we were treated to a male Black-backed Woodpecker coming and going from its nest hole in a burnt pine stump, quietly calling to its mate, quietly peeling back pine bark for grubs to feed to its young. Yummy!

Full of the wonderful sights we had seen, we set off for home. We had directions to a singing Henslow's Sparrow (which would have been another lifer for Kay) in a field near Stittsville, south of Grayling, but we were unsuccessful in hearing its insect-call beside the busy road. But we did see and hear a gloriously-singing Western Meadowlark in the very top of a small tree in the field, and then a pair of Black-billed Cuckoos flew in right beside us, eyeball to eyeball in the scope, displaying and calling – a great end to a great trip.

This is a very doable, fun expedition for a long weekend in late May or early June. The roads are good, food and lodgings inexpensive, gas cheaper than in Ontario. The Internet is a mine of information, so everything is very easy to arrange. Our tour leaders and fellow birders were fantastic, and the birds of course were fabulous! A Henslow's Sparrow jaunt for 2007 comes to mind perhaps?

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ann Brightman, Cobourg
Jim and Felicity Campbell, Port Hope
Kenneth and Brenda Niles, Cobourg

COBOURG THANKS CLUB FOR WALKWAY INPUT

Over the past year, Russell Lake and Clive Goodwin have worked with the Town of Cobourg on our behalf to provide the copy for the interpretive signs along the new West Beach Walkway. We have now received the following letter of thanks from Mayor Delanty.:

“On behalf of the Town Council and staff, I want to express my appreciation for the fabulous work the Willow Beach Field Naturalists did to make the West Beach Walkway a unique experience.

I know your input, write-ups and photographs will make the walkway an interesting and thought-provoking journey.”

- *Clive Goodwin*

2006 Baillie Birdathon Report from Ian Tate

Tradition maintained! My files show that on May 14, 1991, I reported, “Well, we did it again” and goes on to say that A-K and I saw 73 species of birds for the Baillie Birdathon, that year. So I guess we started in ‘90. Goodness - 16 years ago!

This year, Sheilagh Fletcher, brother-in-law Jack Goering, Bob Sculthorpe and I covered this Port Hope/Cobourg area on May 19th, driving a total of 160.7 km!

Number of species: 54. Two more than last year. That’s around the average for the last five years.

Nothing extraordinary, except when driving along the Lakeshore Road back to Bob’s toward the end of the day, Sheilagh spotted what we first took to be a large black dog in a field. We stopped to check anyway. It turned out to be a large male turkey strutting his stuff with his tail fanned out most spectacularly for the benefit of a nearby lady turkey he was obviously trying to impress. Actually, he impressed us, too. Large black dog indeed!

Of a total of \$855 pledged, a quarter will come back to the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Membership News

- Condolences to **Bob Popham** upon the death of his wife, Elizabeth.
- Congratulations to **Chris and Karen Drew** on the arrival of Evan Samuel Drew on Wednesday, August 9. He is to make his WBFN debut when he accompanies Karen to the September Executive meeting.
- Best wishes to **Allyson Parker** as she begins her post secondary studies at the University of Guelph. In the May *Curlew*, we reported that Allyson had been the recipient of the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship. She has also been awarded one of 12 University of Guelph President’s Scholarships, valued at \$20,000 over four years, as well as a Government of Canada Millennium Excellence Award of \$4,000. Congratulations, Allyson!

They’re Back - 2006

Once again, a pair of Blue Jays started constructing a nest on top of the back door light fixture of the Laidlaw home in Port Hope. Their work started on April 24, 2006. This particular light fixture has been the preferred nest site of jays since 1992. Families of four or five have been successfully fledged, most years, since. Last year, a pair of robins took over the site, but the nest was predated. On June 24, the 2006 Blue Jay nest was predated.

- *Norma Wallace*

SIGHTINGS

Over the past several years, more and more of the space in the *Curlew* has been devoted to listing members' recent sightings. This is a good "problem" to have, as it shows that many members are submitting their sightings! However, due to space limitations in the newsletter, we cannot print every sighting we receive.

Over the next several months, we may try different methods of summarizing the sightings. Sightings will now have to meet certain criteria to be published in the *Curlew*:

- Rare or unusual species
- Large numbers of common species
- Out of season dates. (i.e. early arrivals and late departures of migrants)

We still encourage observers to send all their interesting sightings. Even if they are not published in the *Curlew*, they do go into the Northumberland Birds Database

The American Ornithological Union has recently revised the checklist order, to reflect recent discoveries of species' relationship based on DNA analysis. This issue of the *Curlew* will adopt the new order.

- Roger Frost

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Brant	May 14	120	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May 18	150	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Wood Duck	June 24	1f, 8young	Lake St. Marsh, PH	SM, AT
Northern Shoveler	June 6	2	Lake St. Marsh, PH	BL
Harlequin Duck	June 16	1 f	Ganaraska River @ Walton St., PH	SW
Surf Scoter	May 7	3	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
White-winged Scoter	Apr. 24	58	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Black Scoter	Apr. 21	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Long-tailed Duck	May 9	500	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Red-breasted Merganser	July 3	3	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Chukar (probable escape)	May 30	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cramahe Twp.	JGo, GMCD
	June 27	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cramahe Twp.	AEW
Northern Bobwhite (probable escape)	June 13	1m	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Red-throated Loon	May 4, 6, 8	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Common Loon	Apr. 17	78	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Horned Grebe	Apr. 18 & 23	24	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Red-necked Grebe	Apr. 18	12	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
American Bittern	May 3, June 18, July 11	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May 13	1	over east end Cobourg	MB
	June 29	1	over Donegan Park, Cob.	BL
Great Egret	July 29	1	Macklin Rd., Haldimand Twp.	DS
	July 29	5	Roseneath Landing	DS
Osprey	Aug. 17	2 at nest	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JG
Bald Eagle	May 30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	July 16	1	Durham St., PH	EK
	Aug. 29	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	J&JMcG

Sightings - cont'd.

Virginal Rail	July 5	1ad,2 young	Lake St. Marsh, PH	DSv
Sandhill Crane	May 5	1	Brand Creek	EK, KS
Black-bellied Plover	May 29	3	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Aug. 7	1 ad.	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Wilson's Plover	May 26	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DMcR
Piping Plover	May 30	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DSh
Lesser Yellowlegs	Aug. 27	115	Lake St. Marsh, PH	RF, EK
Solitary Sandpiper	May 13	5	Wicklow	MB
Upland Sandpiper	July 20	1	Hwy. 28 & 4th Line, PH Ward 2	LS
	Aug. 5	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Whimbrel	May 21	12	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May 21	10	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	May 25	75	off Candlewick Woods	RF
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug. 16	2	Cobourg Harbour west headland	MB
Red Knot	May 31	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Sanderling	June 1	40	Cobourg Harbour	BL
Western Sandpiper	Aug. 18	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DSh, IS
Baird's Sandpiper	May 27-28	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Aug. 10	1 ad.	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Aug. 27-29	2 juv.	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Stilt Sandpiper	Aug. 27	7	Lake St. Marsh, PH	RF, EK
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Aug. 18	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DSh, IS
Short-billed Dowitcher	Aug. 19	10	Lake St. Marsh, PH	RF
	Aug. 22	6	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Bonaparte's Gull	Apr. 23	100	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Iceland Gull	May 25	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Lesser Black-backed Gull	May 30	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
Caspian Tern	Aug. 6	73	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Arctic Tern	May 26	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	FH
Forster's Tern	May 26	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	FH
Black-billed Cuckoo	Aug. 25	1	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JG
Eastern Screech Owl	Aug. 22	1	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JG
Common Nighthawk	May 30	2	over Bloomsgrrove Ave., PH	MR
	Aug. 16	15	Harwood	DS
Red-headed Woodpecker	May 3, Aug. 12	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	June 2 & 6	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	June 16	1	King & D'Arcy St., Cob.	BL
	June-Aug.	2 ad.	Albert St., Cob.	MB
	July 29-Aug. 30	2 juv.	Albert St., Cob.	MB
	Aug. 1	2	Clyde St., Cob.	BK
Red-bellied Woodpecker	May 12	2	Durham St., PH	EK
	May 29 & 30	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Aug. 23	1	Bagot St., Cob.	MB
Yellow-throated Vireo	Aug. 11	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	CEG
Blue-headed Vireo	June 5	1	east end Cobourg	BL
Philadelphia Vireo	Aug. 15	2	Candlewick Woods	RF, EK
Common Raven	May 14	2	Colborne	JF
Purple Martin	May 21	3	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Carolina Wren	July 8	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Sedge Wren	June 25	1	Jewel Rd., Haldimand Twp.	RF
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	May 17	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
	May 24	1	Murray Marsh	RF, GL
	July 30	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Northern Mockingbird	May 21	1	Lakeport	BL
	July 30	1 juv.	Cranberry Rd., PH Ward 2	RF, EK

Sightings - cont'd.

Golden-winged Warbler	Aug. 15	1	Candlewick Woods	RF, EK
Nashville Warbler	July 30	1	Cobourg Harbour west headland	MB
Cape May Warbler	May 13	2	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
	May 22	1	Candlewick Woods	BL
	Aug. 22	1	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JG
Blackburnian Warbler	May 13	1	Chub Point, Haldimand Twp.	SMcL
	May 13	2	Lake St. Marsh, PH	GMCD
Pine Warbler	Apr. 27	2	Woodvale School Rd., PH Ward 2	LS
	May 2	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Louisiana Waterthrush	May 14	1	Ganaraska Forest	RP
Connecticut Warbler	Aug. 27	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	RF, EK
Hooded Warbler	July/Aug.	2 (pair)	Ganaraska Forest, PH Ward 2+D24	BW
Clay-colored Sparrow	May 9	1	Brand Creek	RF, EK, KS
	May 9	2	Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2	RF, EK
	May 9	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Vesper Sparrow	Apr. 27	4	Woodvale School Rd., PH Ward 2	LS
Fox Sparrow	Apr. 21	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Lincoln's Sparrow	May 5, 7, 22	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	May 25	2	Candlewick Woods	RF
White-crowned Sparrow	May 1	1	Cobourg feeder (since Dec. 13)	MB
	May 28	1	Peter's Woods	RF
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 13	10	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Dickcissel	July 17-27	1	Woodvale School Rd., PH Ward 2	CL
Bobolink	July 26	52	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Aug. 3	1	McClelland Rd., Hamilton Twp.	EB
Common Grackle	Aug. 9-13	200,000+	Garden Hill, PH Ward 2+D24	DW, MW
Brown-headed Cowbird	July 15	300	Lake St. Marsh, PH	RF, EK
Orchard Oriole	May 13	1	Chub Point, Haldimand Twp.	SMcL
	May 13	1	Colborne	JF
	May 16	2	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	June 25	2	Lake St. Marsh, PH	ERM
Pine Siskin	May 12	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	June 5-22	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
MAMMALS				
Coyote pup (roadkilled)	June 18	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Red Fox - albino	July 27	1	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	PAr
Porcupine	June 5	1	Bloomsgrove Ave., PH	FL
	June 12	1	Hwy. 2 & Bob Carr Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MB
Black Bear	July 24	1	8th Line, Trent Hills	CEG
River Otter	July 24	3	n. of Godolphin, Trent Hills	CEG
INSECTS				
Red-spotted Purple	July 24	1	Knoxville Rd., PH Ward 2	LS
Giant Swallowtail	June 24	1	Francis St., PH	RPa
Monarch	May 29	2	Presqu'île	AEW
Monarch larva	July 25	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	AEW
Giant Tiger Swallowtail	June 7	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Striped Hairstreak	July 31	1	Brighton	MC, RL
Variable Dancer	July 6	1	Lone Pine Marsh, 1st for Northumberland	CEG
Fork-tailed Bush Katydid	July 28	1	Young St., PH	NW
BOTANY				
Many-seeded Goosefoot	July 1		Cobourg west headland, second for Northumberland	CEG

Observers: PA=Paul Arthurs; MB=Margaret Bain; EB=Eric Bahr; MC=Maureen Campeau; GMCD=Geoff Dale; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JG=John Geale; JGo=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BK=Barry King; FL=Faye Langmaid; RL=Rod Lee; GL=Gary Little; BL=Bill Logan; CL=Chris Lyons; ERM=Ted McDonald; J&JMc=John & Joan McGuirk; SMcL=Sherwood McLernon; DMcR=Doug McRae; SM=Simone Merey; RPa=Rod Parrott; RP=Rayfield Pye; MR=Martha Robinson; KS=Katsu Sakuma; LS=Louise Schmidt; DSh=Don Shanahan; IS=Ian Shanahan; DS=Dave Shirley; DSv=Daphne Svenningson; AT=Anne Tesluk; NW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; DW=Doug Watkins; MW=M. Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson

Events of Neighbouring Organizations

- Saturday, September 23, 2006 - **Seed Collection** by the Nature Conservancy of Canada at the Barr Property through the Volunteer for Nature Program. Contact Todd Farrell at Todd.Farrell@natureconservancy.ca
- Sunday, September 24, 2006, 10 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m. - **Seed Collection** at Alderville Black Oak Savannah. In collaboration with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, a 10 acre old field adjacent to the Alderville property has been acquired. The seeds are needed for the restoration work on this new piece of property. Contact Alison Clark at 705-745-7309, arborvitea@hotmail.com, if you wish to help.
- Saturday, September 30, 2006, 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. - **Forest Ecology and Hardwood Woodlot Management Workshop** will be held in Cobourg, sponsored by the Northumberland Stewardship Council. For information or to register, telephone 705-755-3298
- Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006, 1-4 p.m. - Ganaraska Forest Centre - The **Ganaraska Forest Open House and Members' Day**. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a fun-filled fall afternoon in the Ganaraska Forest. A variety of activities is offered including guided hikes and an historical tour of the forest, activities for kids, horse-drawn wagon rides, a scavenger hunt on the trails, crafts, campfire cooking with hot apple cider and other light refreshments. No pre-registration necessary. FREE! GRCA
- Saturday, October 14, 2006, 10 a.m. to noon, 1074 Dingman Road. **Tree Planting Field Day**. Learn about site preparation, proper planting and follow up tending to make your planting project a success. Contact Northumberland Stewardship Council to register, 705-755-3298
- Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 317 Hunter St., Peterborough **or** Tues, Oct. 31, 2006, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Belleville Public Library, 254 Pinnacle St., Belleville - **Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Workshop**. For more information or to register, contact the Ontario Forestry Association at 1-800-387-0790 or info@oforest.on.ca
- Saturday, October 28, 6-9 p.m. - **Ganaraska Forest Centre - Nature at Night Halloween Event**. Get into the Halloween spirit during this spooky guided night hike. Pre-registration is required. Call 905-797-2721 or e-mail gfc@eagle.ca

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Membership in WBFN includes a subscription to *The Curlew*.

Annual membership fees are:

Family - \$25 Single - \$23

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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