



## COMING EVENTS

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

● **Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, 7:30 p.m.** - Terry Fox Public School, 1065 Riddell Ave., Cobourg  
Speaker: **Dr. Nick Eyles**. Topic: **When the Ground Rumbles: Earthquakes in Ontario**. This talk will examine why earthquakes occur in Ontario, the record of past earthquakes and earthquake hazards. Dr. Eyles is a Professor of Geology at the University of Toronto, where he has been since 1981. He is the author of *Ontario Rocks* and with Andrew Miall, the forthcoming *Canada Rocks*. He has been heavily involved with CBC on their new six-part series *A Geologic Journey* to be aired in early 2007.

● **Sunday, Jan. 28, 2006 - Outing to Petroglyphs Provincial Park**. Meet in Port Hope at the carpool parking lot on Phillips Rd. opposite Arby's at 9 a.m. From there, we will go to the carpool lot in Cobourg on Hwy. 45 north of Hwy. 401 at 9:30 a.m. We will travel to the Petroglyphs from there, but as we may make stops along the way, there is no time set to meet at the park. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. We will stop at Lakefield Tim Horton's on the way back. Contact Ben Walters at 905-885-8586, benjaminwalters@trentu.ca for more information or to arrange car pools.

● **Friday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.** (Note the starting time is earlier than regular monthly meetings)  
- Beatrice Strong Public School, 90 Rose Glen Rd.N., Port Hope. **Annual General Meeting**. The Agenda and more details about this meeting will be published in the February *Curlew*. The Nominating Committee Report is printed on page 8.

● **Saturday, February 17, 2007 - Lake Ontario shoreline Outing**. Meet at the convenience store at the entrance to Presqu'île Proivncial Park at 10 a.m. The outing will travel west, birdwatching at stops along the Lake Ontario shoreline. It is expected to finish at Port Hope by 4 p.m. Participants should bring a packed lunch and snacks and dress for very cold weather (Boots, hats, mitts, winter coat and so on). Although travel will be in cars, there will be frequent stops to get out and scan the lake. Contact Ben Walters at 905-885-8586, benjaminwalters@trentu.ca for more information or to arrange car pools.

## AUDITOR NEEDED

WBFN is in need of an auditor to audit the books for 2006. By the time members receive this issue of the Curlew, this position may have been filled. However, should anyone be interested in taking on this job, please contact President Simone Mérey at 905-885-8347, [smerey@nbh.com](mailto:smerey@nbh.com)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

● **Doug Watkins** is recovering from a broken shoulder suffered in a fall last November.

● **Maureen Riggs** ended the Christmas Bird Count season at Belleville Hospital, suffering from a broken wrist. We wish her a speedy recovery, so that she will be able to lift binoculars again for spring migration.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Bill and Anita Edmunds, Cobourg  
Richard and Felicity Pope, Cobourg

**Welcome back to**  
Bill Holmes, Cobourg

## Northumberland Land Trust Annual Gala Dinner

Thursday, February 1, 2007 at  
Northumberland Heights Resort and Conference  
Centre  
Social hour 6 p.m. & Dinner at 7 p.m.

Guest Speaker:  
Mr. Gord Miller  
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario  
Silent Auction

Tickets: \$50.00 each (tax receipt for \$25.00)  
Includes 2007 NLT Membership.

Tickets are available from:  
Dr. Doug Galt, 905-355-2394  
Russell Lake, 905-372-3636  
Audrey Wilson, 905-372-3937

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

## THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Bryan Baxter	905-372-6273	<a href="mailto:bbaxter@eagle.ca">bbaxter@eagle.ca</a>
President	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	<a href="mailto:smerey@nbh.com">smerey@nbh.com</a>
1st Vice-pres.	Michael Biggar	905-372-7407	<a href="mailto:mbiggar@eagle.ca">mbiggar@eagle.ca</a>
2nd Vice-pres.	Louise Schmidt	905-797-1059	<a href="mailto:wingbeat@sympatico.ca">wingbeat@sympatico.ca</a>
Secretary	Karen Drew	905-342-2904	<a href="mailto:drew@eagle.ca">drew@eagle.ca</a>
Treasurer	Janette Johnston	905-373-1432	<a href="mailto:jjohn@eagle.ca">jjohn@eagle.ca</a>
FON Rep.	Carole Payne	905-885-6135	<a href="mailto:bookbind@cogeco.ca">bookbind@cogeco.ca</a>
Curlw Ed.	Norma Wallace	905-885-5552	
	Elizabeth Kellogg	905-885-9615	<a href="mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca">ekrf@eagle.ca</a>

*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the February 2007 issue should be received by January 31, 2007. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost at 905-885-9615, [ekrf@eagle.ca](mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca), or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the February Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."*

# Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count 2006

by Roger Frost

On Saturday, December 16, 2006, the 26th Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count took place. The clear calm and mild weather made for a pleasant day. However, the lack of snow cover made birds difficult to find, as they were not concentrated along roadsides and at feeders. Fifty field observers covered the circle from Willow Beach in the west, to Lucas Point in the east, and Lake Ontario in the south, to Rice Lake in the north. In addition, 10 feeder counts were received.

Altogether, 16,597 birds of 81 species were observed. This is about the average number of birds counted over the past 10 years, but the second highest species total ever for the count!

Two new species for the count were found this year. A flock of 5 Cackling Geese was seen at Cobourg harbour (This small goose has just recently been separated from the larger Canada Goose, of which it was formerly considered a subspecies). Three different parties reported single American Pipits which no doubt lingered due to the mild weather.

Other highlights included one Red-throated Loon off the east end of Cobourg, 3 Red-necked Grebes on Rice Lake, two Wood Ducks in the Ganaraska River north of Port Hope, one Red-shouldered Hawk near Bewdley, two short-eared Owls west of Port Hope, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Hermit Thrush in the Cold Springs area, and a Northern Mockingbird near Port Britain.

The post-count pot luck supper was held at Welcome United Church. This was a delicious ending to a beautiful day in the field!

Species	Total
Red-throated Loon	1
Horned Grebe	5
Red-necked Grebe	3
Double-crested Cormorant	CW
Great Blue Heron	5
Mute Swan	7
Cackling Goose	5
Canada Goose	2305
Wood Duck	2
American Black Duck	61
Mallard	1220
Northern Pintail	CW
Redhead	CW
Greater Scaup	15
Lesser Scaup	5
Scaup Sp.	3
White-winged Scoter	18
Oldsquaw	235
Common Goldeneye	384
Bufflehead	165
Hooded Merganser	2
Common Merganser	106
Red-breasted Merganser	577
Northern Harrier	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7
Cooper's Hawk	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	70
Rough-legged Hawk	4
American Kestrel	4
Merlin	2
Ruffed Grouse	20
Wild Turkey	11
American Coot	1
Bonaparte's Gull	2
Ring-billed Gull	190
Herring Gull	167
Iceland Gull	CW
Great Black-backed Gull	7
Rock Dove	716
Mourning Dove	732
Eastern Screech-Owl	5
Great Horned Owl	9
Short-eared Owl	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2
Owl Sp.	3
Belted Kingfisher	6

Species	Total
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3
Downy Woodpecker	121
Hairy Woodpecker	48
Northern Flicker	3
Pileated Woodpecker	13
Horned Lark	42
Blue Jay	538
American Crow	868
Common Raven	3
Black-capped Chickadee	1660
Red-breasted Nuthatch	38
White-breasted Nuthatch	130
Brown Creeper	3
Winter Wren	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Hermit Thrush	1
Eastern Bluebird	27
American Robin	166
Northern Mockingbird	1
Cedar Waxwing	188
Northern Shrike	9
European Starling	2794
American Pipit	3
Northern Cardinal	85
American Tree Sparrow	392
Chipping Sparrow	1
Field Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	8
Swamp Sparrow	3
White-throated Sparrow	8
Slate-colored Junco	522
Lapland Longspur	3
Snow Bunting	66
Common Grackle	CW
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Purple Finch	11
House Finch	162
Pine Siskin	7
American Goldfinch	840
House Sparrow	712
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>16597</b>

## 'THREE-TOED' WOODPECKERS

By Clive E. Goodwin

Most woodpeckers have four toes – two pointing forward and two back – but the two species that live in the coniferous forests of the north have only a single hind-toe, and hence, three-toed woodpeckers. The larger of the two, the Black-backed Woodpecker, also has the more southerly range, and has nested occasionally in suitable habitat in the south. Birds have summered at Presqu'île, and a bird was located in the County during the Atlas fieldwork in 2005. The American Three-toed Woodpecker, on the other hand, with ladder-like black and white back striping, is largely confined to Northern Ontario in the breeding season.

If you think 'three-toed woodpecker' is rather a mouthful, the thought apparently also occurred to the bird-naming authorities [the American Ornithologists' Union] over the years, but without much in the way of a solution. These two species have been subject to a positive orgy of name changes. My first Peterson field guide, in 1949, referred to Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker and American Three-toed Woodpecker respectively. But by 1951 Snyder's *Ontario Birds* had replaced American Three-toed Woodpecker with Common Three-toed Woodpecker, and in 1957 the AOU *Check List* then changed the two to Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Northern Three-toed Woodpecker. In 1998 the AOU changed again, introducing Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpecker. But this refreshingly brief nomenclature only lasted until 2003, when ornithologists decided our three-toed was a different species from its look-alike in Europe, so we now have American Three-toed Woodpecker again. It's all enough to give the birds an identity crisis - if they could read.

Why only three toes? The Black-backed in particular feed on the grubs of long-horned beetles, which tunnel down into the sapwood of fire-killed trees. The woodpecker has several adaptations to enable it to bore into this tough wood. One is the ability to deliver a very hard blow with its bill, and while doing this the bird's toes are spread and the heel raised, with the heel and lower leg rolling back onto the trunk as the stroke is completed. The theory is that a fourth toe would interfere with this action.

Whatever their names, these two are distinctly different from the rest of our woodpeckers, both in their plumage and behaviour. They appear to be thinly distributed across the coniferous forest belt, with the Three-toeds favouring spruce bogs and the Black-backed drier habitats, and particularly burns. Indeed, the Black-backed could be considered a burn specialist, capable of responding rapidly to the new food sources burns present, with dramatic increases in numbers. Some idea of the sheer size of the influxes that can be involved is offered by the count of 161 birds in burnt forest along 21 km. of highway north of Thunder Bay in January 1999. This is many more Black-backed than most birders can hope to see in a lifetime!

The down-side to this is that if there are no burns there's nowhere for all these birds to feed, so fire suppression and salvage logging have likely combined to depress the species' numbers. In pre-settlement times regular forest fires must have been a major element in the ecology of the north.

Our main interest in the two comes from those times when they move south. These irruptions are usually in the late fall

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

and winter, with birds sometimes remaining into spring, and indeed occasionally over the following summer. They are driven, one assumes, by shortages of food and suitable habitat, and although the Black-backed typically predominate in these movements, Three-toeds often appear as well. Clearly this species will also respond to localized food concentrations, even if it is not as fire-dependent as the Black-backed, and it too will irrupt if conditions warrant.

Southern Ontario records show small winter movements of Black-backed in most years from the 1950's on, with the occasional Three-toed. Our own first Black-backed record was in 1953. The first big invasion was in 1956-7, at a time the Dutch elm disease was at its peak. A study by Dave West and Murray Speirs found a total of 28 Three-toeds and 114 Black-backed reported in the Province that winter. Northumberland recorded 3 and 11 birds respectively [interestingly about 10% of the Provincial total], and we had one of our five summer records in 1956. Numbers then continued relatively high each winter until 1966. By then the elm disease would probably have been tapering off.

Since then one or two Black-backed Woodpeckers have continued to appear here in most winters, but only 1974-5 and 1992-3 have yielded larger numbers – 3 Black-backed and a single Three-toed in both years, and since 2000 there have been no winter records of either species. Until this winter:

the past fall and early winter saw a movement of both species into southern Ontario, and we had several reports from Presqu'île. At the time of writing probably at least 2 Three-toeds [the first since 1993] and one Black-backed were involved, but there's still time for more, and if past years are any guide, we can expect more.

But they're not easy birds to find. They've variously been described as enigmatic, elusive, and ghost-like. Ironically they're often quite tame, but they're so unobtrusive that you can completely overlook them. On the breeding grounds they're noisier, but in winter they call infrequently if at all, and often the only clue to their presence is a persistent soft tapping. They will spend an hour or more quietly working over a tree trunk, steadily scaling off the bark and periodically drilling small holes to reach beetle larvae below the bark. The resulting tree often has a very distinctive appearance, with the entire trunk stripped to expose the reddish underbark, pitted with small holes.

It seems likely that much of the foraging by both species in their incursions into the south is on bark and engraver beetles. These insects live just under the bark, which lends itself to the scaling technique described above. These are not the only species to scale a tree in this manner – Hairy Woodpeckers will sometimes do so – but it's worth keeping an eye on trees showing signs of recent scaling. Who knows, you might find a three-toed woodpecker!

## **MORE ON eBIRD CANADA**

In the November Curlew, we reported that Bird Studies Canada was launching eBird Canada. Clive Goodwin reports that he has been working with Dick Cannings, the eBird Coordinator, over the past few months with the objective of entering all the records in the Northumberland database into eBird. There have been a number of procedural issues to work out, but these are well underway, and Clive hopes our records will gradually be made available to eBird over the coming year.



**WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS  
FUNDRAISING DRAW**

**2 FABULOUS PRIZES  
GENEROUSLY DONATED BY THE ARTISTS**

**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: Award-winning Nature Photograph  
by Bill Crowley (framed size 23" x 17")**

**2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE: Award-winning Redhead Duck Decoy  
Carving  
by Dr. Michael Biggar**

**Draw: Friday, February 23, 2007 in Port Hope  
at the Annual General Meeting of WBFN**

**Tickets \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00**

**Tickets will be available at the January meeting or any  
time from  
Louise Schmidt, 905-797-1059**

**Members who have tickets are reminded to get the money from sales  
and any unsold tickets to Louise before the AGM on February 23.**

*Lottery Licence # M273792*

## WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

### Peter's Woods Maintenance & Operation Report 2006

#### VISITORS

Registered visitors totaled 1,441 - up 206 from last year. May was up, but June and July were down from last year.

#### MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

May	232	June	87	July	124
August	214	September	253	October	495

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Local Visitors (within 1 hour drive)	1060
Ontario Visitors	249
Other Canadian Visitors	58
US Visitors	20
Visitors from other countries	54

#### GROUP VISITORS

1st Baltimore Cubs  
Forest Bird Monitoring (Audrey Wilson)

#### SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

Forest Bird Monitoring	June 15 (5:45 am - 7:05 am)
	June 23 (5:40 am - 7:05 am)

#### VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- opening was well attended
- grass cut
- filled in pot holes in road
- cleaned outhouses and supplied toilet paper
- replaced trail guides
- removed tree branches
- cut 2 fallen trees (August 5th)
- cleaned away debris and garbage
- closing was attended by Russell Lake, Dave Johnson, Chris Drew and Petra Hartwig.

Thanks to Petra Hartwig and Chris Drew for coordinating the maintenance of Peter's Woods in 2006. If you would like to participate in this project, contact Petra at 905-372-4301 ext. 4102 ([phartwig@cobourg.ca](mailto:phartwig@cobourg.ca)) or Chris at 905-342-2904 ([drew@eagle.ca](mailto:drew@eagle.ca))

## **WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS**

### **2007 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

WBFN's Constitution provides that a Nominating Committee shall bring forward a slate of candidates for election at the Annual General Meeting and further nominations from the floor shall be accepted, with the nominees' prior consent, provided they are proposed and seconded.

This year's Nominating Committee consists of the undersigned, Past Presidents Carole Payne, Bob Short, Terry Stopps, Russell Lake and members Michael Biggar and Petra Hartwig.

During the February 2005 Annual General Meeting, Bill Newell, Roger Frost and Audrey Wilson were elected as Directors and Karen Drew was elected as Secretary, all serving a two year term which expires February 2007.

The four members have been contacted and we are pleased to report that Audrey, Bill, Karen and Roger have each consented to let their name stand for election for another term. Therefore, the Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for election at the 2007 Annual General Meeting, each serving a two year term:

Directors: Roger Frost  
Bill Newell  
Audrey Wilson

Secretary: Karen Drew.

Please let us know in advance if additional candidates will be nominated during the AGM.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee

Bryan Baxter, Chair.

---

#### **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

Mark your calendars for the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16-19, 2007. Count the birds in your neighbourhood and submit a checklist. Organized by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this event provides a snapshot of the birds across North America on these days. For more information, log onto [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).



## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Roger Frost*

Greater White-Fronted Goose	Dec. 20	2	7th & Mill St., PH Ward 2	BS
	Dec. 24	2	Garden Hill Pond	EK, RF
Snow Goose	Dec. 18	1	7th & Mill St., PH Ward 2	BW, MObs
Cackling Goose	Dec. 9	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Dec. 14-31	5	Cobourg Harbour	BW, MObs
	Dec. 18	1	East Beach, PH	ERM
Gadwall	Nov. 3-5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Black Duck	Dec. 28	40	Garden Hill Pond	EK, RF
Northern Pintail	Oct. 30	3	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Canvasback	Nov. 1-5	1f	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
Ring-necked Duck	Nov. 23	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Harlequin Duck	Nov. 5	1m	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	BDiL
	Nov. 23	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Surf Scoter	Oc. 22/29	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
White-winged Scoter	Oct. 29	41	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Dec. 11	20	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Black Scoter	Oct.28/29	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Hooded Merganser	Nov. 21	5	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Red-breasted Merganser	Oct. 21	6215	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Oct. 29	8310	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Ruddy Duck	Nov. 5	1	Water Tower Pond, Cob.	ERM
	Nov. 6-10	1imm	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
	Nov. 7	6	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	BDiL
Ruffed Grouse	Nov. 10	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	GMCD, BP
Wild Turkey	Dec. 10-18	12	Ramsey Rd., PH	WG
Red-throated Loon	Oct. 21	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 6	7	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	BDiL
	Nov. 6	1	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 21	2	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
Common Loon	Nov. 6	500+	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	BDiL
	Nov. 6	45 (high)	off Cobourg	CEG
	Dec. 28	2	Rice Lake off Bewdley	EK, RF
Horned Grebe	Dec. 10	3	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Red-necked Grebe	Oct. 19	75	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Dec. 14-31	1	Monk's Bay, Cob.	MB
Double-crested Cormorant	Dec. 1	1 imm	Port Hope harbour	MB
Cattle Egret	Nov. 11	1	Hwy. 7 w. of Bethany	LS
Bald Eagle	Nov. 17	2 ad	off Roseneath Landing	DS
	Nov. 21	1	Glen Valley Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
	Nov. 24	2	Vimy Ridge Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	RB
	Dec. 13	1 imm, 2 ad	off Whites Island, Rice Lake	DS
	Dec. 20-Jan. 1	up to 3 daily	off Whites Island, Rice Lake	DS
	Dec. 30	1	Gage's Creek, PH, in flight	GL
	Dec. 31	1	Bowmanton Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	EK, RF
	Dec. 31	1	over Hope St. nr. Bloomsgrrove, PH	EB, RB
Cooper's Hawk	Dec. 30	1imm	Cty. Rd. 18, Upper Cold Springs	SW
Northern Goshawk	Dec. 28	1	s. of Colborne	JF
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov. 16	1	Chub Point, Alnwick/Haldimand Twp.	SMcL
	Dec. 27	1light phase	Bowman Rd., Cold Springs	SW
	Dec. 30	1	Dale Rd., n. of Cob.	MB
Golden Eagle	Nov. 22	1	Port Granby	GL
	Dec. 13	1 imm	off White Island, Rice Lake	DS
	Dec. 17	1 ad	Vimy Ridge Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	DS
Sandhill Crane	Nov. 4	1	e. of Brighton Sewage lagoon	DMcR,
	Nov. 24	8	Vimy Ridge Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	RBc
Killdeer	Nov. 6, 7	32	flooded field, Dale Rd.	MB

## Sightings - cont'd.

Greater Yellowlegs	Nov. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Pectoral Sandpiper	Nov. 3, 6	8	flooded field, Dale Rd.	MB
Purple Sandpiper	Nov. 5	2	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	BDiL
Bonaparte's Gull	Oct. 21	59	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 5	54 (high)	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Iceland Gull	Dec. 19	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Black-legged Kittiwake	Nov. 9	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DoS, MR
Eastern Screech Owl	Nov. 14	1	Gore's Landing, Hamilton Twp.	GL
Great Horned Owl	Dec. 10	2 duetting	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Dec. 17	1	Danforth Rd. w. of Gully Rd.	DP
Long-eared Owl	Nov. 21	3	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Dec. 18	1	Waterfront Trail, PH	CL
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Nov. 29	1	Waterfront Trail, PH	EB
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nov. 12	1	w. of Camborne, Hamilton Twp.	TE
	Nov. 18	1	10th Line, PH Ward 2	HS, CS
	Dec. 30	1m	Rice Lake Dr. s. of Cty. Rd. 9	JT
Black-backed Woodpecker	Nov. 10	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DS
	Dec. 28	1	Northumberland Forest	EK, RF
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Nov. 12	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	FH
Northern Shrike	Nov. 5	1	Chub Point, Alnwick/Haldimand Twp.	MJ
	Dec. 20	1	Danforth Rd., Haldimand Twp.	CEG
Common Raven	Nov. 12	1	s. of Baltimore	AB
Carolina Wren	Nov. 12	2	w. of Camborne, Hamilton Twp.	TE
	Nov. 17	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Eastern Bluebird	Dec. 25	3	Cornish Hollow Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JG
Hermit Thrush	Nov. 21	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Dec. 20	1	Cobourg backyard, eating berries	MB
Wood Thrush	Oct. 20	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
American Pipit	Nov. 21	3	over No Frills, Division St., Cob.	EK
	Dec. 6-16	1	Lake St. nr. Esco, PH	GL
Bohemian Waxwing	Dec. 22	2	Roseneath Landing	DS
Nashville Warbler	Nov. 4	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	EK
Cape May Warbler	Nov. 6	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	BDiL
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Nov. 21	1	AK Sculthorpe Marsh, Lake St., PH	GL
Yellow-throated Warbler	Nov. 27-Dec. 7	1	Shoal Pt. Rd., Brighton Twp.	DoS, MObs
Fox Sparrow	Oct. 21	1	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Lapland Longspur	Nov. 2	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 21	20	Dickinson Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
Snow Bunting	Oct. 30	25	Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	Nov. 30	1	Brighton feeder	MC, RL
Dickcissel	Nov. 12-14	1	Payne Cres., PH	AT
Red-winged Blackbird	Dec. 7	1	s. of Baltimore	AB
Rusty Blackbird	Nov. 1	5	Wicklow	CEG
Red Crossbill	Dec. 28	3	Northumberland Forest	EK, RF
	Dec. 29	2+	Northumberland Forest	MB
White-winged Crossbill	Nov. 15	2	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	CEG
	Dec. 28	3	Northumberland Forest	EK, RF
	Dec. 29	3+	Northumberland Forest	MB
Garter Snake	Nov. 23	1	s. of Colborne	JF
Frogs - green & Leopard	Dec. 28, 29, 30	1	puddle nr. Esco, PH	GL
Spring Peeper	Dec. 17	peeping	Art Lang Rd., Hamilton Twp.	SW
Woolly Bear Caterpillar	Dec. 17	7	Waterfront Trail, PH	EB
Monarch	Nov. 23	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DB
Clouded Sulphur	Nov. 23	1	Presqu'ile Provincial Park	DB
Timber Wolf	Oct. 28	1	Lakeshore Rd. & Wesleyville Rd.	JMcG

**Observers:** MB=Margaret Bain; EB=Erich Bahr; RB=Reinhard Bahr; RBe=Rick Beaver; KB=Kim Braat; AB=Ann Brightman; DB=David Bree; MC=Maureen Campeau; GMCD=Geoff Dale; BDiL=Bruce DiLabio; TE=Terry Essery; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; CEG=Clive Goodwin; WG=Wendy Gordon; JG=Judith Goulin; FH=Fred Helleiner; RH=Reese Hunt; MJ=Mike Jones; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; RL=Rod Lee; GL=Gary Little; CL=Chris Lyons; ERM=Ted McDonald; SMcC=Sherwood McClernon; DMcR=Doug McRae; JMcG=John McGuirk; KN=Ken Niles; DP=David Pelton; BP=Bob Popham; MR=Maureen Riggs; LS=Louise Schmidt; DoS=Don Shanahan; DS=Dave Shirley; BS=Bob Short; CS=Colin Soutter; HS=Helen Soutter; AT=Anne Tesluk; JT=James Thompson; BW=Ben Walters; DW=Doug Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson; DWWh=Diane Whitman

## AIR ATTACK

An hour and a half north of Port Hope, up at the cottage, I throw peanuts out on the deck for the chipmunks, often feeding the delightfully trusting little chipmunks by hand. The constancy of supply suggested that they had it made (i.e. they had me well trained.) A year or so ago, competition flew in: Blue Jays discovered the bonanza. Thus was the Battle of the Peanut begun.

Now, within seconds of throwing peanuts out on the deck, a Blue Jay would arrive, loudly proclaim to the whole world that food's on and grab a peanut. Almost immediately, another three or four jays would arrive and do the same, before the chippies got it. Often they would try one peanut, drop it, bounce over to another, drop and finally fly off with a chosen one.

What do Blue Jays do with them? Well, sometimes they would just fly up to a nearby tree and hammer it on a branch until the shell broke. Then they would gulp down the nut and come back for another. More often, though, they would purposely fly off through the forest to places unknown, seemingly never flying the same direction twice. One day, I happened to be outside when a nut-laden Blue Jay flew by. I stopped what I was doing and watched. It landed in the deep bush and simply buried the peanut in the leaves, just as would a chipmunk.

I wonder who got it next?

## WBFN AIDS NCC

At the November executive board meeting, the WBFN Board decided to send a \$1500 contribution to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to help with the purchase of a property adjacent to the Red Cloud pioneer cemetery on the Rice Lake Plains. The Van Hove and Evens Property had been slated for residential development. This purchase will add to tallgrass prairie and savannah remnant already protected in Red Cloud cemetery.

## BIRD LECTURE IN TORONTO

January 28, 2007, 3 p.m., Medical Sciences Auditorium at University of Toronto

The Embarrassment of Riches: The Ecological Consequences of Increasing Numbers of Arctic Geese

Robert L. Jefferies, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Botany, University of Toronto

Many arctic goose populations that winter in farmland in Europe and North America have shown, in recent decades, a geometric increase in numbers, primarily the result of an agricultural food subsidy and the presence of nearby reserves where the birds are protected. Hunting is either restricted or has little effect on population sizes. Increased numbers of birds return to the Arctic in early spring where they forage on wetland vegetation, which has been damaged or lost in coastal areas of Hudson Bay and elsewhere as a result of this feeding. In sharp contrast to geese, some populations of shore birds that breed in polar regions are declining, possibly because of loss of habitat and food supplies along migration routes and on wintering grounds. This difference in response to changes in land use indicates the complexity involved in attempting to conserve wildlife populations.

*The Curlew* is published 8 times per year, January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

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.



Willow Beach Field Naturalists  
P.O. Box 421  
Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3

