



Vol LII No. 4

April 2007

COMING EVENTS

●Friday, April 27, 2007, 7:30 p.m. - *****PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING*****

KPR Health Unit, Rose Glen Road, Port Hope

Topic: **Peter's Woods Provincial Park - Ecology and Planning**. Speaker: **Susan Grigg**, Park Planner and **Corina Brdar**, Ecologist, Southeastern Zone, Ontario Parks. Susan and Corina will tell us about the interesting natural features of Peter's Woods (including the Burnley-Carmel addition) and vegetation restoration actions, and will provide an overview of the new park management plan.

●**Saturday, April 28, 2007 - Opening of Peter's Woods**. If you can help, contact Petra Hartwig, phartwig@cobourg.ca, 905-372-4301 ext. 4102 or Chris Drew, drew@eagle.ca, 905-342-2904

●**Saturday, April 28, 2007 - Participate in Cobourg Pitch-in Day**. Meet at the Marina Car Park, Cobourg at 9:00 a.m. Garbage bags, gloves, etc. will be provided by the sponsor of the event.

●**Saturday, April 28, 2007 - Outing: Woodcock and owls in the Northumberland Forest area - 7:00pm to 9:30pm**. Although we will be calling for owls, the main focus of this outing is to search for Woodcock displays and, if warm enough, Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will. The area around the Northumberland Forest can be, if not is, one of the best places in the County for these species. Meet at the Cross-country ski area parking lot on Beagle Club Road Parking lot. **Directions:** Follow Highway 45 north. There is a sign for the cross-country ski trails 1 km before the turn-off. Turn west (left) onto Beagle Club Road in the same direction as the Cross-country ski trail sign points. The parking lot is the first entrance on the left, a little

(Continued on page 2)

ways down the road. Please dress warmly, i.e. bring a toque and mitts, as it can get quite chilly in the evening.

●Sunday, May 6, 2007 - Outing: Murray Marsh in the evening 6:30pm – 8:30pm

This outing will be to explore the early season happenings at Murray Marsh. We hope to hear Bitterns, Rails and who knows what else. We will also see some spring wildflowers on a short walk. Since this is an evening outing, there will not be an organized car pool but we do hope you will make personal arrangements with friends. Expect that there may be some biting insects around. **Directions:** Turn east off County Rd. 30 onto Goodfellow Rd. At intersection of Goodfellow Rd. and Cameron Rd. ensure that you remain left on Goodfellow Rd. Goodfellow Rd. will make a 90 degree left handed turn, then a right handed 90 degree turn, before becoming straight again. There will then be a sign indicating the entrance to the Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area. Follow the road to the north at this sign. Continue until the end at the parking area. We will meet at this point. Because parking space is limited at the site, we would like as many people as possible to meet at the carpool lot at County Road 30 and the 401 for carpooling at 6:00pm, sharp.

●Saturday May 19, 2007 - Outing: Wilmot Creek

This outing will be a walk along Wilmot Creek in the Provincial Fishing Area. The walk will be approximately 3.0 km on this section of the waterfront trail and will go from Cobble Dick Rd. to Toronto Rd. **Directions:** Follow Highway 2 west through Newcastle (King Ave.) to Cobble Dick Rd. At Cobble Dick Rd. turn south to the parking area at the junction with Service Rd, just beyond the railroad tracks. We will meet at the Port Hope carpool lot on Phillip’s Rd. at 9:00 am and then meet at the trail’s parking lot at 9:30am.

●Sunday June 3, 2007 - Outing: The Ganaraska Forest

(Continued on page 11)

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

THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

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The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlw. Copy for the May 2007 issue should be received by April 30, 2007. 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 May Curlw. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CROWS

by Clive E. Goodwin

I first came to Canada in the fall of 1949. It was October before I had a chance to do any real birding, and I was just in time to see my last crow of the year. To my English eyes then it seemed as though everything left for the winter, used as I was to a large population of resident birds all winter long. It was March 1950 before I saw any more crows, and by March 5 long straggling flocks were flying over, and their cawing could be heard all day long. It turned out that crows were not quite so rare in winter as that implies, but for many years a crow on one's Christmas Bird Census route was noteworthy – perhaps a little like Hermit Thrushes or Yellow-rumped Warblers today. [Ironically, when I visited the UK in the winter of 1995 what struck me most was the absence of landbirds, but that's another story].

Times have changed. But were crows equally scarce in winter here in those days? After all, I lived in Weston at the time, and while it was not so wholly submerged in the metropolis as it is now, it was still the outer suburbs of Toronto, and hence far more urban than Northumberland.

Fortunately we have our own CBCs to give a picture of our winter crow numbers, and they indeed reveal that the birds were very scarce in winter in the 1950s. The initial counts were in the early years of the Club, with the first I have records for from December 1954. No crows were seen that year, and only one on the next count, held in January 1956. The census routes then were far different from the ones we follow now, and a much more extensive area was covered. Gradually numbers increased, but the decade from 1956 to 1965 still only averaged 12 birds annually.

By 1967 we managed 215 birds on the count, but then in 1971 the census was reorganized to fit the standardized circle used by National Audubon [the organizers of the count], and the smaller area put us back in double digits again. Still, the 1966-75 decade averaged 106 birds per count, and numbers have increased steadily since. Between 1976 and 1985 we were averaging 461 birds, in the 1986-1995 period it was 837, and the 10 years up to 2005 reached 1286. Now, of course, crows are one of the species we can be reasonably sure of seeing on any winter birding trip.

Unfortunately we have no way of knowing whether there was an overall increase in crow numbers, rather than simply more of them wintering. My guess would be a bit of both: more birds wintering, but that in turn could have led to more surviving, and hence some increase in actual numbers. However, once we start to look at overall totals we run into the perennial problem with the database, that not only were there fewer observers in the early days, but many records have been lost and [a challenge still with us] not many persons bothered to count common birds. In fact, even today, in many months there are no crow records whatsoever in midsummer!

But now not all is well in the crow world. In 1999 West Nile Virus appeared in New York,

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

and Corvids – the crow family – were particularly hard-hit. Readers will be well aware that the presence of dead crows is being used as an indicator of the disease. Apparently evidence suggests that crow die-offs precede an increased risk for human illness by 2 to 6 weeks, so monitoring of dead birds can provide an early warning signal that West Nile Virus is active.

In 2001 infected crows were recorded around the west end of Lake Ontario and in the south-west of the Province. By the following year there were human cases, and infected crows found across southern Ontario. By 2004 the disease seemed well established, and in 2006 the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit reported 12 infected crows from 42 dead birds tested, or just under 30%, which was slightly lower than the 220 cases from 696 birds tested in the Province as a whole to mid-October. Twelve birds don't sound like very many, but these were just the ones persons found and turned in for testing, which can only be a tiny fraction of the ones that actually died.

In 2004 all this led me to look at the crow numbers for Northumberland, but I couldn't see any real evidence of a decline in crow numbers at that time. It turns out that I may have been too early, because our gross totals for the last decade now do indeed seem to suggest a decline. They are:

Annual Totals of American Crows Reported from Northumberland: 1997-2006

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
4753	6376	5481	4799	5277	4935	8214	3693	3422	1365

Certainly the totals for the past three years are progressively smaller than those in the preceding years. But the figures are extremely variable, with 2003 being over double the totals of those in subsequent years, the product largely of a huge flock of 2000 birds reported from the fall. All in all, I felt the figures were rather ambiguous, so I looked for additional support for the decline.

I then realized that, embedded in the annual totals are the results of our own visits to Presqu'île. We count all crows seen on these trips, with the birds seen en route separated from those recorded in the Park. The trips are regular enough – about 36 annually - to provide a consistent picture of the number of birds present, but not enough to totally dominate the annual totals above. Their combined [Park plus route] results are:

Annual Totals of American Crows Recorded on visits to Presqu'île: 1997-2006

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1102	1882	1267	1338	1331	734	881	828	368	523

Again we see the pattern of a decline over the past few years, but this time it is much more pronounced. Using a set of data from a single source like this introduces more risk of distortion due to unrelated matters, notably variations in the number of visits. Indeed, 2002 had only 25

trips, with fewer birds as a result. Other lower years were 1999 and 2005, with only 31 trips each and correspondingly lower totals, but 2003, 2004 and 2006 all had more trips than usual, 40 or more, and yet this was the period when numbers seem to show a marked drop off – by some 40% - and if the very low counts of 2006 are any indication the decline is continuing. In fact, it would be rather surprising if crows hadn't declined as a result of West Nile, but all this is too recent to give us a real picture of the impact of the disease.

In the case of House Finches, which were devastated by conjunctivitis some years back, the collapse of the population appears to have stabilized, but numbers are still below their former levels. However, that situation was different in that the disease spread from bird to bird, and hence the size of the House Finch flocks could well have had a relationship to the impact of disease. As West Nile is mosquito-borne the conditions are different, so we can only wait to see what the future holds. Crows may not be everyone's favorite birds, but they certainly pose some intriguing questions!



GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION
40TH ANNIVERSARY

INVITATION

The Pine Ridge Club of the GHTA invites all WBFN members to attend a presentation to WBFN members Pat Lawson and Jack Goering for their work in conceiving and establishing the trail.

The ceremony will be held Saturday, May 26th at 10:00 a.m. at the GHTA trail marker on the bank of the Ganaraska River opposite the Port Hope Town Hall

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Andrea Haight, Port Hope
Donna and Gordon Presley, Cobourg

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR 2008 AGM

A fundraising silent auction will be held at the February 2008 AGM instead of our annual raffle. No selling or buying tickets! Just bid on the item(s) you really want. There will be something for everyone, new or slightly used items, inexpensive or not! Louise Schmidt is collecting the items to be auctioned off. Already, she has a Glen Loates print, books and other items generously donated by Don Davis. Louise suggests that the items for auction could also be a service. Use your imagination. Anyone wishing to donate an item for the auction can reach Louise at 905-797-1059 or wingbeat@xplornet.com.

Trees Ontario Foundation invites you to attend a free Tree Seed Crop Forecasting Workshop

The Ontario Tree Seed Plant and the Forest Gene Conservation Association have identified that there are increasing shortages of zone appropriate tree seed due to lack of coordinated collection and poor seed years. There is an urgent need to replenish seed inventories to ensure that restoration and conservation plantings continue with appropriate stock.

General Information

A key component of restoration planting and generally increasing the level of tree planting on private land is the development of a network of qualified environmental field workers and volunteers to identify and assess tree seed development and potential collections. This workshop will improve your ability to identify cone and seed development for our major reforestation species and estimate crop quantities. Participants will receive both in-class and in-field instruction including a review of the new TOF web reporting system to record field observations, stock demand, and other details.

Instructor

Your workshop instructor will be Brian Swaile. As the former manager of MNR's Ontario Tree Seed Plant in Angus, Brian has extensive, expert knowledge in tree flowering, seed development, collection, storage and inventory management. Barb Boysen, coordinator of the Forest Gene Conservation Association, has developed the content of the workshop with Brian and the Foundation.

Local Workshop Locations

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority June 14, 2007

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority June 16, 2007

Please register your attendance by contacting the Trees Ontario Foundation at 1-877-646-1193 or info@treesontario.on.ca

The workshops will be offered free to all participants. Beverages and a light lunch will be provided. OPFA Continuing Education Credits will be assigned.

Note: This workshop should not be mistaken for the Certified Seed Collectors workshop. For more information on the Certified Seed Collectors, contact Barb Boysen, 1-705-755-3284.

More on the LIVING GREEN FAIR

(notice on facing page 8)

News Flash: Peter Love, Ontario's Conservation Officer is going to open the Living Green Fair at 11 a.m. on May 5. Plan to attend to welcome him.

Willow Beach Field Naturalists will have a display at this event. Carole Payne is arranging teams of volunteers to staff our display. If you could volunteer for this event, please contact Carole at 905-885-6135 or bookbind@cogeco.ca.

Second Season of prescribed burns planned for globally rare habitat on the Oak Ridges Moraine

This spring, experts will again be conducting a number of prescribed burns to restore and revitalize rare tallgrass prairie and savanna habitat in Northumberland County. The burns will take place within the Northumberland County Forest, The Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) Barr Property, Peter's Woods Provincial Nature Reserve (Burnley-Carmel Property) as well as sites in the Ganaraska Forest, Hamilton Township and Alderville First Nation.

Prescribed burns are fires intentionally set by professionals to burn an area within pre-determined boundaries under strictly controlled circumstances for purposes of restoring the sites. Fire clears away scrub and brush allowing sunlight to penetrate the ground, awakening dormant seeds and clearing the way for grassland species to return. Fire also extends the growing season for native plants and shortens the season for invasive species. Burning takes place under specific weather conditions that allow a safe and controlled burn.

For safety reasons, the public will not be allowed access to the prescribed burns areas during the actual operations. Prescribed burns are weather-dependent and very site-specific. Typically, they occur in early to mid April, after all snow has melted and the sites are dry.

- from press release from NCC, GRCA & Northumberland County

View the Birds of Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Ontario, on eBird Canada

When a birding colleague died in the late 1990s, Clive Goodwin was struck by the loss of an important set of bird sightings records. Clive began to accumulate records from Northumberland County, Ontario, so that similar datasets would be available for future birders and biologists. With the help of his wife Joy and programmer Steve Furino, Clive has amassed over 260,000 bird records in a project now sponsored by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Clive is gradually uploading the database into eBird Canada. The latest upload consisted of 75,552 records from Presqu'ile Provincial Park, most of them sightings by Joan and John Thomson. Presqu'ile is a birding mecca, particularly in the spring and fall, and this database provides a wonderful way for eBirders to explore its riches online. Simply go to www.ebird.ca, click "View and Explore Data," click on "All Birds at a Location," select Hotspots in Ontario, then select Presqu'ile Provincial Park. You'll see a bar graph checklist that includes 274 species - based on 1720 checklists painstakingly entered by Joy and Clive. Read more about their project on The Birds of Northumberland County website.

-Bird Studies Canada - Latest News - March 9/07

The Port Hope Heritage Ecology Garden

LIVING GREEN

FAIR

Port Hope Fall Fair Centre, McCaul St.

May 5th, 2007, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The second annual Living Green Fair, which aims to promote solutions for sustainable, ecologically sound living, will be held May 5th, 2007 at the Port Hope Fall Fair Centre. Come and find out about how you can make a difference in making our planet a better place by checking out displays, products, services and ideas dedicated to a greener lifestyle.

So far, this year's Fair included the following exhibits:

- Energy Efficient Stoves and Furnaces
- Fuel Efficient Vehicles
- Solar Panels and Geo-thermal Heating
- Environmentally Friendly Personal and Household Products
- Green Apparel and Accessories
- Ecological Gardening and Sustainable Farming Practices
- Healthy Food Choices
- Vermiculture
- Water Source Protection and Drought Resistant native Plants
- Government Incentive Programs

You will be able to discuss Northumberland's Recycling Program, find out how to plant a butterfly garden, eat a bison burger, enjoy solar brewed coffee and cookies baked by the Trailer Park "Boy" in his converted Airstream Trailer. Food for the mind includes a presentation and opportunity for questions about the film "An Inconvenient Truth" with Victoria Serda, a municipal councillor from Grey-Bruce who has been trained by the Al Gore team and who brings a Canadian perspective to the discussion. Be entertained by high school students from Newmarket's Otesha project, who will be presenting a form of environmental theatre as they make fun of everyone in the "Hopeful High School Hooligan" skits.

This year, we have approached senior elementary and high schools in Port Hope and Cobourg to take part in a solar cook-off as part of their environmental curriculum. Each school will conduct its own competition, which will include best design and most success at cooking something edible. Best ovens will be displayed at the Fair and will qualify for cool prizes. We are also seeking environmental Science Fair projects to show off our students' creative abilities in this area. Younger students have been encouraged to participate in a province-wide essay contest sponsored by Ontario Nature on the topic "What will the Environment be Like in 2050?" Make sure you drop by the students' exhibit to admire their work. And if you have younger children, we have students to help them keep busy at the kids' table while you get a chance to look at the exhibits.

It's a family affair and at these prices everyone can afford to come... Admission of \$2 includes a chance for a door prize - and children and youth 15 and under are free.

Check out our website for updates: www.eagle.ca/livinggreen

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Snow Goose	Feb. 21	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
(white)	March 12-20	1 imm	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Cackling Goose	March 23	1	over George St., Brighton	RDM
	March 25	10	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
	March 28	1	Garden Hill pond	RF
Trumpeter Swan	March 1-31	1, #817	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 4-23	1 no tag	Port Hope west end	EK
Tundra Swan	March 25	5	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Wood Duck	March 31	10 (5pr.)	Beaver Meadow Rd.area, Hamilton Twp.D71	SW
Gadwall	March 10	4	Lake Ontario off Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
American Wigeon	March 9/13	15/11	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	March 31	7	Fudge's Mill, Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	LS
Northern Shoveler	March 23	2	Lake St. March, PH	EK, RF
Northern Pintail	March 25	3	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Green-winged Teal	March 10	3m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 13	3	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Canvasback	March 10	4m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 13	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	March 4	1	off east beach, PH	EK
Ring-necked Duck	March 14	72	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 28	75	Garden Hill pond	RF
Harlequin Duck	March 14-28	1m	Lucas Point	RP, MObs
White-winged Scoter	March 1-31	2-6	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 12	17	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Black Scoter	March 4	1m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 11	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Bufflehead	March 5	120	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Common Goldeneye	March 5	120	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Barrow's Goldeneye	March 11	1m	Presqu'ile PP	EK, RF, MObs
Hooded Merganser	March 10	10	Eyman's pond, Morrish Church Rd., PH Ward 2	PB
	March 28	20	Fudge's Mill pond, Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	RF, LS
Red-breasted Merganser	Feb. 27	265	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
Ruddy Duck	March 11-28	4	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Ring-necked Pheasant	March 27	1m	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Ruffed Grouse	March 18	3	Covert Hill Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	RF
Red-throated Loon	March 25	2	off Cobourg west beach	MB
Pied-billed Grebe	March 11-28	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Horned Grebe	March 24	20	Chub Point	MB
Red-necked Grebe	March 24	12	Chub Point	MB
Double-crested Cormorant	March 24	1200	Wicklow Bay, flying east	MB
Great Blue Heron	March 13	1	over White's Rd., Brighton	RDM
Turkey Vulture	March 18	1	Rapley Blvd., PH	BS, MS
Osprey	March 11	1	Garden Hill area	DW
	March 26	1	Sylvan Glen Rd., PH Ward 2	SW
Bald Eagle	Feb. 21	1	off Lakeshore Rd., Cob.	LW
	March 6	1 ad.	3 km. e. of Castleton	RDM
Red-shouldered Hawk	March 27	1	w. of Burnley, doing display flight	BN
	March 27	1	n. of Brighton, doing display flight	RDM
Rough-legged Hawk	March 11	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
American Kestrel	March 15	2 (pair)	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	March 15	2 (pair)	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	SW
Peregrine Falcon	March 11	1	Garden Hill area, PH Ward 2	DW
Killdeer	March 16	1	Gage's Creek, PH	EB
American Woodcock	March 14	2	Dale Rd. & Garland Rd., Hamilton Twp.	BM

Sightings - cont'd.

Laughing Gull	March 4-31	1 fw	Cobourg Harbour. First seen Mar. 4 (Matthew Francey) but thought to be a Franklin's; ID by Ken Niles Mar. 5	KN, MObs
Thayer's Gull	March 3-22	1 ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Iceland Gull	March 1-26	1-6	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Lesser Black-backed Gull	March 2	1	over Brighton	RDM
Glaucaous Gull	March 1-26	1-3	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 30	1	w. of Burnley, Alnwick/Haldimand	RDM
Long-eared Owl	March 7	1	Abbott Blvd., Cob.	RJ
Short-eared Owl	March 10	1	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW, AE, MObs
	March 11-13	2	Haskill Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW, AE
Red-bellied Woodpecker	March 26	3	Kennedy Rd., Hamilton Twp.	BE-E
Black-backed Woodpecker	March 18	1	Covert Hill Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	RF
Pileated Woodpecker	March 23	2	Baltimore area, Hamilton Twp.	AB
Eastern Phoebe	March 22	1	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW, AE
	March 27	1	Lakeshore & Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	DT
	March 27	1	Kennedy Rd. & 6th, Hamilton Twp.	SW
Northern Shrike	March 24	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Common Raven	March 25	2	Garden Hill area	DW
	March 27	3	over Brighton	RDM
Tree Swallow	March 28	3	Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile	AEW
Barn Swallow	March 19	2	s. of Colborne	KB
Carolina Wren	Feb. 17-March 31	1-2	Lakeshore Rd, Cob.	LW
House Wren	March 31	1	Port Britain, PH Ward 2, singing	BW
Winter Wren	March 25	2	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	March 27	1	Jobe's Wood Trail, Presqu'ile	AEW
Eastern Bluebird	March 31	6 (3 pr.)	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2 - checking houses	LS
Hermit Thrush	March 22, 26, 28	1	Cobourg backyard - eating bird seen on the ground	MB
Cedar Waxwing	March 5	~50	Victoria St.N., PH	WO
Eastern Towhee	March 22	1m	Brand Rd. feeder	BW, AE
	Apr. 2	1m	Lakeshore Rd., Cob. feeder	BP
Field Sparrow	March 25	3	Brand Rd. feeder, PH Ward 2	BW
Fox Sparrow	March 27	2	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	March 29, 30	1	Cobourg feeder	MB
	March 29	1	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
	March 31	2	Brand Rd. feeder	BW, AE
Song Sparrow	March 25	~40	Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Swamp Sparrow	March 27	2	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
White-crowned Sparrow	March 15-17	1ad	Cobourg feeder	MB
Eastern Meadowlark	March 27	1	Kennedy Rd. & 6th, Hamilton Twp.	SW
Rusty Blackbird	March 23	1	Brand Rd. feeder	BW
Brown-headed Cowbird	March 19	85	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Pine Siskin	March 4	5	Northumberland Forest	RF
Red Crossbill	March 4	5	Northumberland Forest	RF
White-winged Crossbill	March 4	1	Northumberland Forest	RF
	March 5	1	Church & King St., Cob.	BH
American Goldfinch	March 24	90	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
White-tailed Deer	March 25	5	Kennedy Rd., Hamilton Twp.	BE-E
Coyote	March 8	pack	Mill Golf Course, Cob., yelping at 10 p.m.	AEW
Ermine (white)	March 14	1	crossed Ontario St. at Elgin, Cob.	AEW
Raccoon	March 22	6 dead	in 2 mile stretch of Hwy 28, n. of Port Hope	AEW
Skunk	March 13	1	Port Hope Agricultural Park - 6 a.m. sprayed dog and owner	PI

Observers: EB=Erich Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; KB=Kim Braat; PB=Paul Bridges; AB=Ann Brightman; BE-E=Barbara Edwardes-Evans; AE=Alison Elliot; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; CEG=Clive Goodwin; BH=Betty Hewson; PI=Peter Irwin; RJ=Rosemary Jones; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; GL=Gary Little; BL=Bill Logan; ERM=Ted McDonald; RDM=Doug McRae; MObs=Many Observers; BM=Barney Mills; BN=Bill Newell; WO=Walter Osborne; BP=Bruce Parker; RP=Richard Pope; LS=Louise Schmidt; DS=Dave Shirley; BS=Bob Short; MS=Marguerite Short; DT=Davidson Tate; BW=Ben Walters; DW=Doug Watkins; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson

How to Find These Sites

A good map of Northumberland County is available at local tourism offices for a small price. The map includes a map of the entire county and street maps of Port Hope, Cobourg and a host of smaller towns and villages. It is a very useful resource for wandering birders wanting to find locations of reported birds. Be warned that some road names occur in more than one township. For example, there is a Jamieson Rd. in both Port Hope Ward 2 and Hamilton Township; a Telephone Road in both Hamilton and Cramahe.

BIRDATHONS, 2007

- Roger Frost has again agreed to be the official birder for the **Wallace Birdathon**. Norma Wallace would be pleased to accept your pledges at 905-885-9615 or at the April meeting. Funds raised will go to the property account and hence to the Northumberland Land Trust for habitat protection within Northumberland County.
- Ian Tate will again this year take part in the **Baillie Birdathon**. This is a fundraiser for Bird Studies Canada, but a proportion of the funds raised will be returned to WBFN.

(Continued from page 2)

We will be in search of the breeding birds, butterflies and plants of the Ganaraska Forest on this outing. This outing will involve a fair amount of walking. Remember to bring water and a snack as it can be quite hot and dry in the Ganaraska Forest. We will hopefully get to see Hooded Warbler and hear Louisiana Waterthrush and other species of large forests. This is a good opportunity to get reacquainted with some of the forest bird songs before the Summer Bird Count. We will meet at the Ganaraska Forest Centre at 8:00 am or at the Port Hope carpool lot on Phillip's Rd. at 7:15 am. Directions: **To get there**, from Highway 28, follow County Rd. 9 west to Cold Springs Camp Rd. Turn right on Cold Springs Camp Rd. under the large signs indicating the entrance to the Ganaraska Forest Centre.

● Saturday, July 7, 2007 - Outing: Alderville Savanna

Although later than the usual annual bluebird walk, this outing is a replacement for that walk. There are typically a few pairs of bluebirds nesting at the Alderville Savannah. Also we will get the chance to view numerous wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies and birds that inhabit this large amount of savanna. We will meet at the Alderville Savanna at 10:00am and prior we will meet at the Cobourg carpool lot at the junction of Highway 45 and the 401. **To get to the Savanna** directly, follow Highway 45 north to County Rd. 18, just before Roseneath. At county road 18, turn left. The Savanna and parking are on the left hand side, a little ways up the road just past Sandercock.

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