



COMING EVENTS

● **Friday, April 25, 2008, 7:30 p.m. Trinity United Church, 15 Chapel St., Cobourg.** Parking and access is available on the south side of the building off Division Street.

Speaker: **Adrienne Brewster.** Topic: **Butterfly Miracles: from Metamorphosis to Migration**

Adrienne is the Curator and Entomologist at Wings of Paradise Butterfly Conservatory in Cambridge, Ontario. The talk will include general points of interest about butterflies from around the world, as well as a brief overview of butterfly metamorphosis. She will talk about the incredible migration of the Monarch Butterfly and will show photos from the ‘Millions of Monarchs’ tour which she leads every March into the transvolcanic mountains of Mexico to see the monarchs clustering within protected sanctuaries.

● **Saturday, April 26, 2008 - Cobourg Pitch-in day.** Meet at Cobourg’s west beach at 9a.m. for our annual Earth Week clean-up. In past years we have been finding that this area is much quicker to clean so we may spread out from that area. We will see what areas need coverage that morning from town staff. Please bring your family and friends to show Willow Beach’s support for cleaning up our urban green spaces. Plus there is usually something good to see in the harbour so bring your binoculars. Gloves and bags will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Ben Walters at benjaminwalters@trentu.ca, or 905-885-8586.

● **Saturday, April 26, 2008 - Opening of Peter’s Woods.** If you would like to help, contact Chris Drew, 905-342-2904, drew@eagle.ca or Petra Hartwig at phartwig@cobourg.ca

● **Saturday, May 17 - Outing to Lone Pine Marsh, 6:30 p.m.**

Meet at the Cobourg carpool lot on Hwy. 45 north of Hwy. 401 at 6 p.m. Directions: Take Hwy. 401 east to County Road 25 (Colborne exit). Travel north on Cty. Rd. 25 to Tubb’s Corners. Turn right (east) onto Turk Rd. Follow Turk Rd. east to the next road, Maple Grove Rd. Turn left (north) on Maple Grove. There is a parking lot a ways north on Maple Grove on the right hand side (east side). For more information, contact Ben Walters at 905-885-8586, benjaminwalters@trentu.ca

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● **Friday, May 30 - President's Walk - A.K. Sculthorpe Woodland Marsh, Port Hope, 6:30 p.m.**

From Peter St. in Port Hope (Hwy. 2 at the east side of town), turn south (towards the lake) at Hope St. S. This corner is the stop light at the west end of the Peter St. Plaza, opposite A&P. Travel south on Hope St. as far as it goes, then turn left (east) on Lake St. to the next corner. Meet in the parking lot at this corner.

● **Saturday, June 7 & Sunday, June 8, 2008 - Northumberland Summer Bird Count**

This involves parts of two long days in the field, identifying birds by both sight and sound. At the end of the second day, participants are invited to gather for a pot luck, location to be determined. For more information, contact Roger Frost at 905-885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca

● **Sunday, June 22, 2008 - Canoe outing in Bewdley, 7:00 a.m.** (Alternate: June 29, 7:00 a.m. if winds are strong or if raining)

Meet in Bewdley at the public parking spaces at the town park across from the Rhino restaurant. We will launch our canoes at the public launch and explore the area's marshes for a few hours. Canoes are not provided, so it is asked that you arrange for your own. Please ensure that you have life jackets and other safety equipments, such as a whistle, extra paddle, floating rope and bailing container. If you have any question or would like to come but don't have a canoe, please contact Ben Walters and we will try to arrange something. Inexperienced canoeists are welcome. There will be time for a refresher course on paddling or pair more experienced canoeists with less experienced. This is an outing that is suitable for the whole family. For more information, please contact Ben Walters at 905-885-8586 or benjaminwalters@trentu.ca

**WELCOME
TO NEW MEMBERS**

Donna Wootton and Roy Saunders,
Port Hope

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

THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	smerey@nhb.com
President	Michael Biggar	905-372-7407	mbiggar@eagle.ca
1st Vice-pres.	Louise Schmidt	905-797-1059	wingbeat@xplornet.com
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FON Rep.	Carole Payne	905-885-6135	bookbind@cogeco.ca
Curlew Ed.	Elizabeth Kellogg	905-885-9615	ekrf@eagle.ca
	Norma Wallace	905-885-5552	

The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the May 2008 issue should be received by April 30, 2008. 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 Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

Gleanings from the Northumberland Bird Database

OF SWANS, ERRORS AND RARITIES

by Clive E. Goodwin

Back on January 27 a swan with an all-black bill appeared in Cobourg harbour. It looked like a fairly typical Trumpeter Swan, but as time passed and the bird stayed around I became progressively more unhappy with this identification. Trumpeters are the largest of the swans, and male swans are bigger and normally more aggressive than females. This bird was noticeably smaller than the Mutes, but it was quite aggressive, like a male. This sent me to my swan references, which led me to think that the bird was in fact a rather off-beat, large male Tundra Swan. I'd no sooner announced this to all and sundry when the wretched bird spent the next month proving me wrong. It started herding a Mute Swan around, most un-Tundra behaviour, was joined by a young Trumpeter from somewhere, and finally called loudly. That settled the matter: it was a Trumpeter Swan. Somehow, it didn't even look particularly small any more. How embarrassing!

Veteran birders aren't supposed to make mistakes. They all do, of course, but normally with more circumspection. Which, if you're a new birder, or struggling with some of the trickier aspects of identification, will probably be both heartening and a little discouraging. Bird identification is certainly not an exact science, and some groups are particularly tricky. Swans are one of these, in this case because all the features we usually use to identify Trumpeters can occur in Tundras, and vice-versa. Many other species present similar problems – the Cackling/Canada Goose duo come to mind, and virtually all the larger gulls. Then for really rare birds, our sheer unfamiliarity with the species can make an error more likely.

For a database this presents some real problems. How do we know if a mistake has been made? We don't. Generally we rely on

numbers to overwhelm the occasional error. In the case of swans, we have 154 records of 333 Trumpeter Swans, and 291 records of 2098 Tundras. Clearly, if my swan had been entered incorrectly, it wouldn't have seriously influenced any conclusions we might arrive at with regard to the status of swans in Northumberland.

But for rarer species it could indeed make a difference, and 'rare' can be a seasonal matter as well as an absolute one – a Scott's Oriole would be exceptional whenever it appeared, but a kingbird report in January would be unprecedented as well. I used to think that a distinctive bird like an Eastern Kingbird would be pretty much unmistakable, but over the years some surprising misidentifications have surfaced. It seems there's no such thing as an unmistakable bird. So we try to obtain supporting details on sightings of birds that are particularly unusual or difficult to identify. We can keep copies of that support with the record in the database, and it is available to allow later users to make their own assessments about it.

To be requested to provide some 'documentation' for your sighting can be quite daunting. So in the rest of this article I'm going to try to give some suggestions about how to go about it, and equally important, some pitfalls to avoid. A good photograph is often ideal, but not always possible, and some observers supply sketches, which can be useful too, but in the end a written account can often give important information that no pictures can provide.

There are rarity report forms that try to help this process by asking relevant questions. Details about circumstances of the sighting, your previous experience with the birds, the location, time, position of the sun

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and a host of other information can be requested. These ancillary details are easy to supply and helpful in giving the reader context, but in the end the core of any such report is always to answer the question: 'Why did you conclude this bird was a Slaty-backed Mosquito Snatcher [or whatever]', which brings you back to describing the bird. Sadly, the files are full of reports that are admirable in every respect – except that they fail to answer that key question. In fact, I once saw a three-page account [plus maps] that never mentioned what the bird looked like at all!

So how do you go about writing that description? Probably the most frequent mistake is simply to assure the reader that the bird was 'just like the picture in the book'. A picture is a static object, and living birds only rarely look just like their pictures. By the same token, avoid simply listing the field guide characters as all seen and leaving it at that. Just as most birds don't look 'just like the picture', there's more to any bird than the characters given to identify it, and sometimes the guides fail to mention traits which can be very useful in identification, and which would help fill out your account. It's best to try to say what you actually saw, in your own words, with as much detail as you can gather.

All that said, it doesn't need to be in the least technical. For size, compare it to some bird you know well: 'a little bigger than a robin'. While you don't want to simply enumerate the characters listed in the guide, you could – and should - use those as a basis. It could even be in point form. Let's try a description of my swan:

1. Clearly a swan, with all-white plumage, and an all-back bill; smaller than the adjacent Mutes.

2. Very aggressive, chasing the Mutes, and 'herding' one Mute, as though they were forming a pair. In my experience Trumpeters do dominate Mutes.

3. Bill all black except a pinkish line

showing at times along the bill edge.

4. Black of the bill extending up in a narrow strip to join the eye.

5. Feathering above the bill extending down to form a shallow U where the bill met the forehead.

6. Top of the bill forming a fairly straight line from forehead to bill-tip, but close-up showing a slight concavity.

7. Call a loud raucous 'trumpeting' note, heard two or three times. I have heard this distinctive call from Trumpeters previously. It reminds me of a fog-horn! The Tundra call is higher pitched, more like a Canada Goose.

Characteristic Trumpeter resting position with neck partway along back not seen.

I identified the bird as an adult Trumpeter Swan based on the call, supported mainly by Points 2 and 3.

Point 1 sets the stage: it was a swan and its bill was black. Mute Swan bills are not black, so this species is eliminated at once. All the key identification characters as given in the guides are covered; some detract from the identification, some are rather ambiguous, but they all show the reader that these characters were considered. As the identification was based on the bird's voice, an attempt is made to give some more objective information as to how it sounded. This is one of those cases where a photograph wouldn't really have helped much. Finally, I say why I thought the bird was a Trumpeter Swan.

This is not an ideal description: it doesn't mention the shape of the head and body, the leg colour, and probably several other things [if we had chosen another species the account would have been completely different]. But I think it would probably convince a reader that I had seen a Trumpeter Swan, and if it didn't for some reason – well, that's what the account was for in the first place. And about the mistake – I'm always learning

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about birds, and I'll be careful about drawing conclusions from Trumpeter Swan sizes in future!

3rd Annual Port Hope Living Green Fair

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008, 10am - 4pm
Port Hope Fall Fair Building, McCaul Street
Local exhibitors, student demonstrations, and live entertainment.

Panel discussions throughout the day with speakers from the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, the International Slow Food Society, the 100 Mile Community, and more.

\$3 admission. Food and beverages available from Belch's Bison Burgers, the Trailer Perk solar powered mobile cafe and more.

April 28, 7:00 p.m., Port Hope Library - Showing of the movie "**Garbage 0 - The Revolution Starts at Home**". Organized by the Living Green Fair Committee. For more information about this movie, see <http://www.garbagerevolution.com/home>

Wallace Birdathon 2008

Once again, Roger Frost's waiting is almost over! He is chomping at the bit! The 2008 Wallace Birdathon will soon take place!

Roger has agreed to be the official birder for WBFN's annual event. Last year, Roger and partner, Louise Schmidt, sighted 148 species in Northumberland County. In 2008, Roger's target is to finally reach 150 species at least!

We are asking WBFN members to support Roger with their pledges. This can be done with a flat rate donation, or so much for each species seen. In 2007, the total amount raised for the Birdathon was \$1,180.50 - A RECORD.

Charitable donation receipts will be issued for all pledges received. Norma Wallace (905-885-5552) and Roger Frost (905-885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca) are collecting pledges. Better still, come to the April 25th WBFN meeting, and sign a pledge sheet, then and there. The money raised goes to the club's Property Account. From there, it will be directed toward the Northumberland Land Trust.

N.E.W.

AN OMISSION TO BE CORRECTED

Norma Wallace is also to be thanked for her contribution to WBFN. She proofreads each issue of the Curlew before it goes to the printer. She collects bird sightings by telephone and brings articles to the Editor (Elizabeth). She is missed at the Executive meetings, but she still has a very active role. Thank you, Norma.

Simone Mérey

A Thank You

For WBFN members: Dr. Elizabeth Howard of Journey North program thanks WBFN members for their ongoing support by sharing observations of the "first sighting" of target migratory species. This information is essential for this internet-based science program, now in its 20th year and utilized by about 700,000 students in Canada and the U.S.A. Next target species to watch for include Barn Swallow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Baltimore Oriole and Monarch Butterfly.

submitted by Don Davis

Alderville First Nation Presents

Black Oak Savanna Bonanza 2008

Come join us during our summer of wildlife inventory at the largest remnant Black Oak Savanna and Tallgrass Prairie in Central Ontario. As a volunteer citizen scientist you will learn about prairie and savanna species including species at risk and gain experience with the tools and techniques used for monitoring salamanders, snakes, frogs and toads, small mammals, and birds. Participate and share in the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of a globally imperilled ecosystem. To participate contact Janine or Alison at savannatours@eagle.ca

Laurie Lawson

Outdoor Education Centre

8000 Telephone Road, Cobourg.

NORTHUMBERLAND LAND TRUST'S

"FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION"

Saturday, 10th May, 2008

9.30a.m.—2.30p.m.

You are invited to explore the Outdoor Education Centre and learn about the work of the Northumberland Land Trust.

- Guided Spring Walks
- "Green" Scavenger Hunt
- Pond Life through the Computer Microscope
- Refreshments
- Draws

EL SALVADOR EXPERIENCE

by Paul Bridges

My wife, Evelyn, and I recently visited the tiny mountainous country of El Salvador, nestled between Guatemala and Nicaragua, with Honduras to the north. Honduras also has a small coastal area immediately to the east.

The scenery is dramatic. The country is only some twenty thousand kilometers square but has 23 volcanoes. All were “sleeping” while we visited the first two weeks of March of this year. Some are striking as their cones, devoid of vegetation, loom over the surrounding landscape, towering sometimes several hundred meters over the forested mountains in the vicinity.

We were drawn to El Salvador for the chance to visit four Mayan ruins, especially the justifiably famous “Joya de Ceren” site. This village has no imposing pyramids, but something equally impressive. Village living was captured and preserved by ash of the “Loma Caldera” volcano some 1400 years ago. The site was discovered in 1976 and archaeological work is on going. This site has been recognized by UNESCO as Patrimony of Humanity.

Many archaeological sites, including San Andres, Casa Blanca and El Tazumal (the other sites we visited) are still being excavated and restored as the country is only in the early stages of recovery after the conflict that gripped that area of Central America in the 1980’s.

Because of the poverty of the region, one is advised not to travel by cab or public bus. Armed security is everywhere, with rather intimidating weapon toting individuals guarding most commercial enterprises, even small convenience stores. Indeed, our tour bus had an armed police officer at front and back. I had hoped to see more bird species at the ruins, but by the time we arrived at the sites, it was mid-day and March is the hottest

month and the start of the rainy season. In the resort area there were, however, the usual bird species one can see anywhere along the Pacific coast with the added bonus of many wintering shorebirds. There are regular species you will find on the Pacific lowlands and others prefer higher elevations.

The resort we stayed at is the only one of its kind in El Salvador and employs 500 people who may never have had employment except for physical hard labor in cane fields or coffee plantations. It is located on the coast not far from Guatemala. Perhaps the most notable natural feature is the offshore rocky outcrops which provide a breakwater and protected sand flats at low tide. This provided a bounty of shorebirds and feeding area for the many egrets where a small stream enters the sea. As the breeding season had commenced, we especially enjoyed witnessing the courtship dancing and hooting of the Snowy Egrets.

Reddish Egrets use their own distinctive fishing techniques. They run about trying to corral fish and often use their wings spread out forward, umbrella-like to minimize reflection on the water and aid visibility below the surface. Little Blue Herons tended to prefer the quiet freshwater ponds, as do the Green Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons.

We enjoyed watching Wilson’s Plovers catching and disabling small crabs before devouring them. This plover has a very distinctive profile with its prominent heavy bill. A pair of Wandering Tattlers appeared on the beach with other shorebirds but tended to prefer clamoring on the surf drenched rocks. I was alarmed to see one bird swept off a boulder by a large wave but it literally flew out of the wave trough moments later.

I observed a pair of Green Herons

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building their nest platform. One bird stood on the nest while its mate carefully climbed about the tree, snapping off a single small twig at a time and presenting it to its mate. It was rewarded with a brief gentle preen.

Early morning every day, I went birding for perhaps an hour. The air was full of bird song and calls. Four species of dove were already nesting or building their nests. Other species were either nesting already or just beginning. Sassy Great Kiskadees were flying about with wads of nesting material. Their smaller relatives, the Social Flycatchers, were very active and vocal but didn't seem to be nesting yet. The common Rufous-naped Wrens were already busy feeding their young in the several nests I located. I found a pair of White-winged Doves nesting at the exposed base of a frond in a palm in the full sun. The diminutive Inca Dove was seen carting twigs to its nest. White-winged Doves are the predominant dove species here, followed by the Inca. We also saw Red-billed Pigeons and a Ruddy Ground-Dove.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owls were easily drawn to my imitations of the repetitious whistling and I was afforded a good look at a pair sitting about 2 feet apart in a lofty Ceiba tree (the sacred tree of the Maya). My favorite bird seen there commonly, is the Turquoise-browed Motmot. Often sedentary, it seems to rather wait for food to come its way than fly about searching for it.

There were no sparrows here, but the common tiny White-collared Seedeater is often heard singing sweetly from treetops in open areas. The lovely song of a boldly colored Scrub Euphonia drew my attention. It's very handsome with blue-black upperparts and throat and bright yellow forehead and underparts.

Orioles often forage in small flocks, sometimes of several species. The large Streak-backed Oriole dwarfs the Northern

and Orchard Orioles which can be seen with it. I found a lone Summer Tanager, his drab yellow winter plumage splashed with red, the beginnings of his breeding color.

The impressive long-tailed White-throated Magpie-jay, looking very exotic, was seen occasionally on my walks. Its recurved crest is a clump of plumes bobbing over its forehead, unlike the crests of our jays.

The woodpeckers I encountered were Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, superficially like our Red-bellied. As well as Belted Kingfisher, a much smaller Green Kingfisher was a regular on my walks.

I found Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler and Tennessee Warblers there - the Tennessees traveling about in groups of up to twenty individuals. The only parrot species was the Orange-chinned Parakeet, a small noisy bird that always greets the dawn chattering loudly as they search for food. I watched a single bird draw an olive-like fruit out of a change-purse sized pod that opens from the underside high up in a Ceiba.

In a brief visit to such a resort, you usually can find some natural vegetation in the vicinity and can manage to see at least the sixty-seven bird species we found. There are always some surprises like the several Yellow-winged Caciques seen on several occasions being a little out of their normal range. I enjoyed hearing Clay-colored Robins singing and emitting their loud "mew" calls. I only managed four lifers, White-faced Ibis, Wandering Tattler, Green Mango (a distinctively marked hummingbird), and the noisy White-bellied Chachalaca.

In closing, our experience in El Salvador was a favorable one; in the future, the country will hopefully become safer for tourism. The El Salvadorans are grateful for the Canadian tourists that visit their country.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Greater White-fronted Goose	Mar. 1	6	Port Hope Harbour	GC
Canada Goose	Mar. 26	1200+	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Trumpeter Swan	Mar. 1-22	1ad, 1imm	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG, LW
	Mar. 13	1	Lake Ontario at Gage's Creek, PH	EB
	Mar. 30	1 ad	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Tundra Swan	Mar. 10	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 20	8	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Mar. 27	1	Lakeport	CEG
	Mar. 28	2ad	stubble field, Lakeport	MB
Wood Duck	Mar. 25	20	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Gadwall	Mar. 9	3	Cobourg Harbour	LW
American Wigeon	Mar. 9	3	Cobourg Harbour	LW
American Black Duck	Mar. 21	25	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Shoveler	Mar. 25	3	Presqu'ile PP - first	FH, Ontbirds
Northern Pintail	Mar. 16	3	Garden Hill Pond	EK, RF
	Mar. 23	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Apr. 3	1m, 1f	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Green-winged Teal	Mar. 21	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Apr. 1	3 prs.	Wicklow Beach marsh	MB
Canvasback	Mar. 7	1m, 1f	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 18	700	Presqu'ile PP	RDM
	Mar. 29/30	550	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
Redhead	Mar. 14	4	Cobourg Harbour - high count	CEG
	Mar. 21	4	Yacht Basin, PH	EK, RF
	Mar. 29/30	1250	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
	Apr. 1	12	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Ring-necked Duck	Mar. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Mar. 14	23	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 14	4 m	Yacht Basin, PH	GL
	Mar. 18	3	Yacht Basin, PH	EK
Greater Scaup	Mar. 6	100	mouth of Ganaraska River, PH	GL
White-winged Scoter	Feb. 24	12	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Mar. 1	10	Cobourg Harbour - high count	MB
	Mar. 4	11	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Mar. 4 & 6	3	mouth of Ganaraska River, PH	GL
	Mar. 11	2	off Lake St., PH	EK, RF
	Mar. 16	10	Cobourg Harbour - high count	CEG
	Mar.3-Apr. 3	4	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Barrow's Goldeneye	Mar. 8	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Hooded Merganser	Feb. 17	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Mar. 16	2	Fudge's Mill pond, Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	Mar. 26	9	Cobourg Harbour - high count	CEG
Ruddy Duck	Mar. 29/30	2	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
Ring-necked Pheasant	Mar. 24	1m	Jewell Rd. s. of Cty Rd. 29	BP
Wild Turkey	Mar. 15	15	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 21	12+	Willow Beach Rd. n. of Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	RA, JB
	Apr. 2	12	Roseneath Landing, walking over ice to Whites Island	DS
Red-throated Loon	Mar. 30	3	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
Common Loon	Mar. 1	1	off Gage's Creek, PH	EB
Pied-billed Grebe	Mar. 17	1	Presqu'ile PP - first	FH, Ontbirds
	Mar. 18	1	Presqu'ile PP	RDM
	Mar. 27	6	Presqu'ile PP	RDM, Ontbirds
Horned Grebe	Mar. 15	1	Presqu'ile PP - first	FH, Ontbirds
	Apr. 3	2	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

Red-necked Grebe	Mar. 18	1	Presqu'ile PP - first	RDM
	Apr. 3	18+	Lucas Point, Cob. - 1 pr. displaying	MB
Double-crested Cormorant	Mar. 27	3	Presqu'ile PP	CEG
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 1	1	7th & Jamieson, PH Ward 2	BS
	Mar. 16	1	Hawkins Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	EO, NEW
	Mar. 22	2	over downtown Port Hope	MB
	Mar. 28	2	over 401 near Grafton	BC
Bald Eagle	Mar. 15	1	w. of Brighton over 401	PI
American Kestrel	Mar. 26	4	Hwy. 2, Hamilton Rd.-Bob Carr Rd.	MB
	Mar. 26	3	Gage's Creek & Hwy. 2	JGo
Peregrine Falcon	Mar. 22	1	Telephone Rd. nr. Easton's, PH	MH
American Coot	Mar. 29-31	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Killdeer	Mar. 18	5	Presqu'ile PP	RDM
	Mar. 27	1	Rapley Rd., PH	ND
American Woodcock	Mar. 24	3+	Wicklow Beach - displaying	MB
	Mar. 28	8	PH Conservation area	GL
	Mar. 29	1	McClelland Rd., Hamilton Twp.	EB
Thayer's Gull	Mar. 6	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	RDM
Iceland Gull	Mar. 6	5	Cobourg Harbour	RDM
	Mar. 12	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 13	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Glaucous Gull	Mar. 21	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Great Horned Owl	Mar. 7	1	Albert St., Cob. - chased by crows	MB
Barred Owl	Mar. 2	1	Little Creek nr. Clifton Rd., PH	ND, DD
	Mar. 9	1	Henry St. n. of King St., Cob.	AQ
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Mar. 8	1	Cty. Rd. 10 s. of 4th, PH Ward 2	MaB
	Mar. 13	1	Rutherford St., Cob., sitting on birdfeeder!	A&TW
	Mar. 25	1	mobbed by chickadees in cedars beside driveway, Albert St., Cob.	MB
Belted Kingfisher	Mar. 3	1	Garden Hill, PH Ward 2	RG
Red-headed Woodpecker	Mar. 24	1	Upper Cold Springs, Hamilton Twp.	SW
	Mar. 25	1	s. of Colborne	KB, JF
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Mar. 31	1	McClelland Rd., Hamilton Twp.	EB
Northern Flicker	Mar. 18	1	Willow Beach Rd. nr. RR tracks, PH Ward 2	GL
Northern Shrike	Feb. 28	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Common Raven	Mar. 27	1	Presqu'ile PP	CEG
Horned Lark	Mar. 5	~50	Dale Rd. & Sylvan Glen Rd., PH Ward 2	SW
	Mar. 9	100-150	Cranberry Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	GL
	Mar. 14	33	in flocks of 4-5 or so, all along Lakeshore Rd. on route to Presqu'ile	CEG
Tree Swallow	Mar. 29/30	1	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
Carolina Wren	Mar. 14	1	Presqu'ile PP	CEG
Eastern Bluebird	Mar. 20	5	Colborne, sitting on a snow bank	CEG
Bohemian Waxwing	Mar. 6	43	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 20, 21	175	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 23	90+	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 31	45	Chipping Park Blvd., Cob.	GK
Cedar Waxwing	Mar. 6	50	Yeovil St., PH	GL
American Tree Sparrow	Mar. 7	1	Cobourg feeders - unusual in town	MB
Fox Sparrow	Mar. 8	1	Baltimore	AB
	Apr. 1	1	Lakeshore Rd., PH	JGo
Song Sparrow	Mar.25-Apr.3	2	Cobourg feeders	MB
	Mar. 29	10m	Normar Rd., Cob., singing	MB
Swamp Sparrow	Mar. 11	2	John St. & Alexander, PH	GL

Sightings - cont'd.

White-crowned Sparrow	Mar.9-31	1 imm	Cobourg feeders - present on & off since Nov. 10	MB
	Mar. 22	1 imm	Deblaire St., PH	GMCD
Lapland Longspur	Mar. 11 & 12	1- banded	Lake St., PH	GL
	Mar. 23	6	Morrish Church Rd., PH Ward 2	BL
Snow Bunting	Mar. 5	~200	Dale Rd. & Sylvan Glen Rd., PH Ward 2	SW
	Mar. 5	60	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 9	100-150	Cranberry Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	GL
	Mar. 10	75+	Hawkins Rd. & Dale Rd., PH Ward 2	DSv
Red-winged Blackbird	Mar. 8	6	s. of Colborne	JF
	Mar. 10	1	Baltimore	AB
	Mar. 14	12	Wesleyville Rd. n. of Lakeshore	MB
Eastern Meadowlark	Mar. 28	8	stubble field, Lakeport	MB
Rusty Blackbird	Mar. 14	3	Wesleyville Rd. n. of Lakeshore	MB
	Mar. 26	1	east end Cobourg feeder	BL
Common Grackle	Mar. 14	2	Wesleyville Rd. n. of Lakeshore	MB
Brown-headed Cowbird	Mar. 28	22	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Pine Grosbeak	Mar. 2	17	Anderson Rd., PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	Mar. 23	18	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 30	20	Roseneath Landing	DS
Common Redpoll	Mar. 4	60	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 31	60+	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Hoary Redpoll	Mar. 6	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 29/30	1	Presqu'ile PP	BdiL, Ontbirds
Raccoon	Feb. 14	1	PH Conservation Area	GL
Coyote	Feb. 20	1	401 & Burnham St., Cob.	GL
	Mar. 11	1	Gage's Creek, PH	EB
	Apr. 3	1	Sherbourne St., PH	FC
Red Fox	Mar. 22	1	Ontario & Hope St., PH	GL
	Mar. 24	1	Yeovil & Hill St., PH	GL
Fisher	Mar. 25	1	Roseneath Landing, sitting in a tree	DS

Observers: RS=Ruth Andrus; JB=Jesse Bate; MaB=Marnie Bickle; MB=Margaret Bain; EB=Eric Bahr; AB=Ann Brightman; BC=Bill Crowley; FC=Felicity Corelli; GC=Glenn Coady; BDiL=Bruce DiLabio; GMCD=Geoff Dale; ND=Norma Draper; DD=Dave Draper; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGo=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; RG=Ron Getz; MH=Matt Hayward; FH=Fred Helleiner; PI=Peter Irwin; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; GK=George King; GL=Gary Little; BL=Bill Logan; RDM=Doug McRae; EO=Ellen Oliver; OntBirds=Ontario Field Ornithologists listserv; BP=Bob Popham; AQ=Amy Quinn; BS=Bob Short; LS=Louise Schmidt; DS=Dave Shirley; DSv=Daphne Svenningsson; NW=Norma Wallace; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams

OBSERVATIONS:

#1. On March 4, near the mouth of the Ganaraska River in Port Hope, Gary Little saw 3 White-winged Scoter. One, a female, after a dive, came to the surface with a fishing float attached to her right leg. Near the same location, on March 6, a female of a group of 3 White-winged Scoters, dove, coming up with a hook, attached to a bag of salmon eggs. Gary watched the scoter as it shook its head vigorously, until the hook and salmon eggs came free. On its second dive, the scoter surfaced with its beak overflowing with Zebra Mussels.

#2. On March 28, south of Haskill Rd., Gary Little saw 3 Northern Harriers. One female was on the ground eating prey she had caught. A few feet away from her, three crows were patiently waiting for leftovers, after the harrier had her fill.

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